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NURBS-BASED ISOGEOMETRIC ANALYSIS OF A BI-VENTRICULAR HEART MODEL

R. Willems[1,*], C.V. Verhoosel[2] and O. van der Sluis[2,3]

[1] Eindhoven University of Technology, Department of Biomedical Engineering, PO Box 513, 5600 MB, Eindhoven, The Netherlands, { r.willems@tue.nl }
[2] Eindhoven University of Technology, Department of Mechanical Engineering, { c.v.verhoosel@tue.nl, o.v.d.sluis@tue.nl }
[3] Philips research, High Tech Campus, Eindhoven, The Netherlands

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Patients suffering from Ventricular Tachycardias (VTs, a fast abnormal heart rate), require ablation therapy to treat the scar tissue located on the left ventricle which causes VTs. Success rates are considered moderate (50-80%) and can be elevated using patient-specific three-dimensional computer models of the human heart, specifically the ventricles.

Current electromechanical ventricular models using Finite Element Analysis (FEA) are computationally expensive, which is impractical for clinical applications. Furthermore, patient-specific FEA models rely on accurate input data to produce meaningful results. We propose an approach in which the Isogeometric Analysis (IGA) paradigm [1] is applied to existing mechanical ventricular models subject to limited available input data. IGA enables the construction of smooth discretized geometries, which require fewer degrees of freedom, making them ideal for clinical applications.

In this contribution, we present a method for constructing a template bi-ventricle NURBS geometry comprised of two truncated ellipsoids, with a rule-based fiber distribution [2]. We target the mapping of the template geometry onto patient-specific ultrasound scan-data. Mechanical simulations are performed within the IGA framework and will be coupled to electrophysiological simulations. The novelty of our research resides in the implementation of IGA for a patient-specific electromechanical model that is based on scan-data. IGA is expected to reduce the computational effort when compared to the currently used methods in the literature while enabling an accurate representation of the development and behavior of VTs.

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