Influence of Population Variation of Physiological Parameters in Computational Models of Space Physiology

J.G. Myers\textsuperscript{1}, A. Feola\textsuperscript{2}, C. Werner\textsuperscript{4}, E.S. Nelson\textsuperscript{1}, J. Raykin\textsuperscript{2}, B. Samuels\textsuperscript{3}, and C. R. Ethier\textsuperscript{2}

\textsuperscript{1}NASA Glenn Research Center, Cleveland, OH

\textsuperscript{2}Department of Biomedical Engineering, Georgia Institute of Technology/Emory University, Atlanta, GA;

\textsuperscript{3}Department of Ophthalmology, U. Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham, AL.

\textsuperscript{4}Zin Technologies, Inc. Cleveland Ohio.
Model Credibility

- Verification
- Validation
- Data Pedigree
- Results Uncertainty
- Results Robustness
- Input Pedigree
- Use History
- M&S Management

NASA Standard 7009a – Credibility of Models and Simulation
Results Robustness

**Sensitivity Analysis**: Assesses whether or not the result from an M&S changes in a meaningful way upon relatively slight variations in input parameters.

A Modeling and Simulation (M&S) result is:
- Robust if output is relatively stable with respect to changes in input parameters
- Sensitive if small perturbations of particular input parameters produce dramatic changes in results

“Sensitivity Analysis is the study of how variation in the output of a model can be apportioned, qualitatively or quantitatively, to different sources of variation (input) and how the given model depends upon the information fed into it.”
- Saltelli

Intent is to elucidate the sensitivity of the real-world system to potential changes in the variables and parameters of the system
Partial Rank Correlation Coefficient (PRCC) Analysis
- Provides a measure of the linear relationships between input parameters and output parameters when all linear effects of other variables are removed after rank transformation.
- Rank Transformation: non-linear monotonic relations to linear.
- Used In Models of
  - Cell signaling pathways, infections disease progression, gene expression
Latin Hypercube Sampling (LHS)

- Sampling method without replacement
- Improved sampling of distribution “tails”
- Can achieve statistical convergence in fewer samples than standard Monte Carlo sampling by as much as 30%
- Is not affected by the number or size of the parameter space in achieving convergence efficiency

https://mathieu.fenniak.net/latin-hypercube-sampling/0
Lumped Cardiovascular System Model: Modified Lakin et al: 16-compartment model

- Lumped Spatial (0-D) unsteady model
  - 16 Compartments
    - 11 blood, 3 CSF, 1 brain, 2 interstitial lymphatic

\[ [c] \cdot \frac{dp}{dt} + [z] \cdot [P] = [Q] \]

- Compartments represented at 3 heights
  - cranial, upper, lower
- Baroreflex regulation of arterial pressure included
CVS Parameter Analysis

- 42 physiological parameters describe compartments
  - Supine steady-state parameters
  - For sensitivity analysis, each compartment utilizes mean supine pressures and flow rates with the physiological parameters to assess:
    - Fixed distensibility or compliance per compliance interface
    - Fixed inter-compartment resistance per flow interface

- Estimates of Parameter ranges
  - Range set at +/-10% (uniform distribution)
  - Model trained at cardiac output of 5000 ml/min
  - Simulations performed are at 6900 ml/min in supine and standing configurations for ~2.5 Minutes of simulation time

- Note: Pressures in mmHg, flows in ml/min
Histograms of Select Pressures

- Supine: Small variations in pressure, uniformly distributed
- Standing: Larger variations in pressure, near normally distributed

- Represents 1000+ trials, with 100 discretizations of each LHS distribution
- Convergence is estimated as < 0.002 change in output standard distribution per 100 trials
PRCC Sensitivity Analysis Results For Output Pressures

- Supine position sensitive to initial Central Arterial Pressure
  - Venous pressure dominated by variations in initial flow
  - CSF space by initial compartment pressure.

- Standing position sees the same types of trends
Supine: Pressure in the central arteries plays a dominant role—driving pressure coupled with no regulation controls the majority of the model responses.

Standing: The initial distribution of blood flow in the central and lower compartments exhibits a strong influence on model performance. Also noted as influential:
- Central Artery Pressure
- Lower capillary pressure, used to determine the reference lower capillary resistance as the base state of the regulation of capillary resistance

Note: Not Regression coefficients. These are relative ranking of highest rank compartment pressures.
VIIP Modeling: Structured Approach

The suite of lumped parameter models should have the following capabilities:

- Bridge the gap between whole-body fluid shift in $\mu g$ and biomechanical response of ocular tissues
- Identify parameters that have the most effect on IOP and ICP in $\mu g$
- Provide a platform to explore the physiological envelope and find patterns of behavior
How can this be used in the integrated model of VIIP?

Platform provides a set of **consistent** data for exploring the physiological envelope and for finding patterns of behavior in altered g scenarios.
Peak Strains in the Optic Nerve

Peak Compression

Peak Tension


Dotted gray box indicates the normal physiological strain range under 1g conditions.
Cumulative influence factor for all model inputs shows that:

- IOP and ICP are particularly influential
- ON and LC stiffnesses have large effect on ONH
- C1 – C4 represent the Mooney-Rivlin solid embedded with collagen fibers
Conclusions

- Sensitivity analysis of lumped CVS model identified parameters of strongest influence and population performance
  - As expected, most sensitive parameters change with model orientation
    - Central Artery Pressure, a corollary to MAP, is influential in both orientations
  - Arterial flow distribution appears to be the major influence in standing
    - Regulatory mechanisms likely damp some effects, although they exhibit sensitivities to calculated reference values of regulated parameters

- Extending uncertainty propagation techniques results in powerful method for examining the population parameter space
  - FEM-ONH study found that c. 47% of individuals would experience “extreme strains” in the optic nerve under assumed microgravity conditions
    - These strains may be sufficient to induce connective tissue remodeling
    - Note: This simulated population with extreme strains is comparable to the (presumably) 41% of astronauts suffering from VIIP syndrome
  - These CDFs also identified ICP, IOP, ON, and LC stiffness as influencing these extreme strains
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Results Robustness : Sensitivity Analysis

The characteristic that the result from an M&S does not change in a meaningful way to relatively slight variations in parameters.

- Robust if output is relatively stable with respect to changes in input parameters
- Sensitive parameters produce large changes in results from small perturbations

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Intent is to elucidate the sensitivity of the real-world system to potential changes in the variables and parameters of the system
How can this be used in the integrated model for VIIP?
Optic Nerve

- Strains outside the predicted physiological range with elevated ICP

Cumulative Influence Factor

• Cumulative influence factor for all model inputs
• C1 - C4 represent the Mooney-Rivlin solid embedded with collagen fibers
• IOP and ICP particularly influential
• ON and LC stiffness have large effect on ONH