

Curriculum Vitae

Alessandro Tasora

Born 6-3-1971 in Milano.

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WORK EXPERIENCE

- 2014- Associate Professor, at the Department of Industrial Engineering, University of Parma, Italy.
- 2002-2014 Assistant Professor, at the Department of Industrial Engineering, University of Parma, Italy.
- 1998-2002 Researcher at the Dipartimento di Sistemi di Trasporto e Movimentazione and Dipartimento di Elettrotecnica, at Politecnico di Milano, Italy.

EDUCATION

Mechanical Engineering at the Politecnico di Milano, July 1998. Thesis: "*Simulazione multibody mediante algebra dei quaternioni*" ('Multibody simulation by means of quaternion algebra'. Mentors: Prof. G. Ruggieri, Prof. P. Righettini.).

Italian State Certification for enabling the public profession in Engineering, 1999.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Associate Professor, Università degli Studi di Parma, area ING-IND-13 09/A2 (Applied Mechanics), since 1/10/2014.

Honorary Associate at the University of Wisconsin Madison, USA, since 2009.

OTHER ACADEMIC TITLES AND ORGANIZING ACTIVITIES

National Scientific Qualification ASN 2012, enabling to apply for a university Associate Professor position (assessment published on 6/2/2014).

Member of the Committee for the PhD in Industrial Engineering, at the Università degli Studi di Parma, since 2002.

Member of the Committee for the assessment of PhD students in Industrial Engineering at the Università degli Studi di Parma, since 2013.

Member of the Exams Committee and Opponent for the PhD theses at Technischen Universität Kaiserslautern, Germany (24/7/2015),

Member of the Exams Committee and Opponent for the PhD theses at the Politecnico di Milano, Aerospace Engineering PhD (17/4/2009), Università degli Studi di Bergamo

(14/4/2010, 26/4/2012), Università di Roma La Sapienza (9/11/2012), Politecnico di Milano, Mechanical Engineering (30/3/2015).

Mentor of more than 40 theses at the University of Parma and at the Politecnico di Milano, mostly about automation, tribology, robotics and biomechanics.

Member of the State Commission for the Italian national certification for enabling the public profession in Engineering, at the University of Parma (2007).

Referee for the MIUR Italian Department of Education, University and Research, for the evaluation of national research projects.

Referee in the database of independent experts for European research and innovation

Member of the Wisconsin Applied Computing Center, since 2012.

OC Collaborator, ANL Argonne National Laboratory, Chicago, 18/12/2008-6/9/2013.

Member of the Patents Committee at the University of Parma, since 2013.

AREAS OF RESEARCH / KNOWLEDGE

Among the main research topics and consulting activities, I focus on theoretical mechanics and numerical methods for the simulation of three-dimensional mechanical systems, developing the Chrono::Engine multibody software (www.chronoengine.info). Such software targets the simulation of large multibody systems with constraints, actuators and frictional contacts, and it is currently used in many research centers in the world.

Other research topics are robotics (I developed three parallel manipulators exploiting pneumatic and electric actuators, with novel kinematic schemes, and two AGV robotic vehicles), and tribology.

Following is a more detailed list of research topics and knowledge.

- Physics of complex non-linear non-smooth mechanical systems (ODE and DAE algebraic-differential systems, DVI differential variational inequalities).
- Quaternion algebra: methods for Lie integrators and efficient dynamical simulation of constraints in multi-body mechanical simulations
- Supercomputing and HPC with GPU and MPI parallelism.
- Linear Complementarity Problem, Quadratic programming, Conic Complementarity, Variational Inequalities, as applied to unilateral frictional contact problems.
- Innovative numerical methods for granular flows, as applied to the refueling process in pebble-bed nuclear reactors.
- Implementation of numerical methods: Krylov methods, stationary methods, fast decompositions and factorizations of large sparse linear systems, involved in rigid body dynamics and kinematics.
- Computational geometry: sliding contact between freeform surfaces, topological and geometrical problems, fast collision detection.
- Development of parallel-kinematics robots. Three models have been built and tested (TORK, SLOTH, GRANIT, currently operational 16h/24h in an industrial environment).
- Development of the control system of AGV vehicles with autonomous guide.
- Development of experimental test beds for tests on elastomeric seals.

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS AND PROJECTS

Collaboration with M.Anitescu, US Argonne National Laboratories, Mathematics and Computer Science Division, and University of Chicago, for developing novel numerical methods to simulate dense granular flow in PBR nuclear reactors. Since 2005.

Collaboration with D.Negrut (US University of Wisconsin, Madison), for implementing parallel methods for large-scale multibody problems with application to vehicle mobility. Since 2007.

Collaboration with Fraunhofer ITWM (Kaiserlautern, DE) about solvers for variational formulations, with application to the interaction between earth-moving machines and soil. 2010-2014.

Collaboration with Andreas Müller (University of Duisburg-Essen, Lehrstuhl fuer Mechanik und Robotik), about Lie groups and kinematics. 2012-2014.

Collaboration with J.L.Charles (LAMEFIP laboratories, Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Arts et Métiers), about granular flows and technology for vehicles, 2008-2009.

Collaboration with A.Pochyly (Department of Robotic Systems of the University of Brno, CZ) and R.Grepl (Institute of Solid Mechanics, Mechatronics and Biomechanics, VUT, CZ) for seminars and professors/students international exchange programs about multibody dynamics and robotics. Since 2006.

GRANTS AND FUNDED PROJECTS, WITH PEER REVIEW

Collaborator, in: Development of a scalable physics-based high performance computing (HPC) modeling, simulation, and visualization capability to support the analysis of ground vehicle mobility on deformable terrain. US Army Rapid Innovation Fund, No. W911NF-13-R-0011. 24 months. (2014).

Scientific responsible of the P4 unit of the CNR project "Highly Evolvable E-waste Recycling Technologies and Systems - WEEE Reflex" (2014).

Research collaborator for the High Performance Computing PAMMS project (Parallel variational method for the simulation of the seismic behavior of masonry structures), (2014).

National coordinator of PRIN 2007Z7K4ZB research project (2007).

Research collaborator for PRIN research project "Vibrazioni di pannelli e gusci sottili in presenza di interazione fluido-struttura" (2003).

Collaborator, in US National Science Foundation Project: Advanced Computational Multi-Body Dynamics for Next Generation Simulation-Based Engineering (60 months)

Collaborator, in US National Science Foundation Project: Leveraging New Numerical Methods and Multi-processor capabilities (36 months)

Collaborator, in US Army Research Office Project: A Homogenization-Driven Multiscale Approach for Characterizing the Dynamics of Granular Media and its Implementation on Massively Parallel Heterogeneous Hardware Architectures

INVITED LECTURES AND SEMINARS

Seminar at Czech Technical University in Prague: "Large Scale Non-Smooth Multibody Problems", 17 February 2015, Prague, Czech Republic.

Seminar at the PhD School of the University of Parma: "High performance computing for Engineering applications", 12 February 2015.

Keynote talk: "Chrono – a Software Capability for Computational Dynamics Problems", W-FACE 2014, May 2014, USA.

Seminar at Statoil/Multiconsult, Tromsø, Norway: "Numerical methods for nonsmooth dynamics" (October 2013)

Seminar at Fraunhofer Institute, Frankfurt, DE: "Off-road vehicle dynamics: methods for deformable and granular soil" (November 2010)

Seminar at University of Chicago (ANL): "A CPU/GPU Heterogeneous Computing Framework for Computational Dynamics Applications" (September 2010).

Seminars at Ferrari S.p.A: "Computational mechanics: software and methods" (May-June 2010).

Seminar at the Politecnico di Milano: "From multi-body to many-body: software and methods" (November 2010)

Seminar at NASA, Jet Propulsion Laboratories, USA, "Large scale granular dynamics on the GPU" (September 2009).

Seminar at Nvidia Corporation headquarters, Santa Clara, USA, "Multibody solver on GPU parallel architecture" (September 2009).

Seminar at the Politecnico di Milano on: "Development of high performance software for multibody mechanical simulations" for the Ph.D students in Aerospace Engineering and Mechanical Engineering (November 2008).

Seminar at the Argonne National Laboratories, USA, "A new solver for large multibody systems and granular flows: computational and theoretical issues" (February 2008).

Seminar at the Politecnico di Milano on: "Computational Issues in MultiBody Simulation" for the Ph.D students in Aerospace Engineering and Mechanical Engineering (November 2007).

Seminar at the Politecnico di Milano on "Development of high-performance Multi-Body methods", for the Ph.D students in Aerospace Engineering and Mechanical Engineering (February 2007).

EDITORIAL ACTIVITIES AND CONFERENCES ORGANIZATION

Director of the Multibody Dynamics Workshop 2016 – 1st Italian Summer School on Multibody Dynamics, Parma, 11-15 April 2016.

ASME symposium coordination: "Software Tools for Computational Dynamics in Industry and Academia", International Conference on Multibody Systems, Nonlinear Dynamics, and Control, Charlotte, USA, 21-24 August 2016.

Member of the Editorial board of the International Journal of Vehicle Performance (IJVP) since 2015.

Member of the organizing committee of ECCOMAS Multibody Dynamics 2015, Barcelona, June 29-July 2, 2015.

ASME symposium coordination: "Contact and Interface Dynamics", ASME 9th International Conference on Multibody Systems, Nonlinear Dynamics, and Control, Portland, Oregon, USA, 4-7 August 2013.

ASME symposium coordination: "Contact and Interface Dynamics", ASME 8th International Conference on Multibody Systems, Nonlinear Dynamics, and Control, Washington DC, USA, 28-31 August 2011.

Organizer and chairman of the conference “The Lamborghini Computer-Aided Styling Process”, Parma, 11 November 2009.

Organizer and chairman of the conference “Metodologie di Computer Aided Styling presso il Centro Stile Lamborghini”, Parma, 19 Novembre 2008.

Member of the organizing committee at the “ISCSB VII International Symposium on Computer Simulation in Biomechanics”, Milano, 2001

Member of the organizing committee at the “AITC-AIT 2006 International Conference on Tribology”, Parma, 2006.

Member of the ECCOMAS scientific committee at the “III International Conference on Advances in Computational Multibody Dynamics”, Milano, 2007.

Chairman of various sessions at international conferences about mechanical simulation, robotics and tribology, since 2002.

Organized and chaired seminars for visiting / invited researchers:

- “A first order Nesterov method for multi body dynamics with frictional contact”, H. Mazhar, University of Wisconsin (Parma, 19/1/2015)
- “Interior point methods”, Prof. F. A. Potra, University of Maryland (Parma, 27/6/2013);
- “Introduction to Vehicle Dynamics”, Ing. A. Toso, Dallara Auto (Parma, 7/6/ 2011)
- “A parallel method for large scale collision detection problems”, H. Mazhar, University of Wisconsin (Parma, 4/6/2010)
- “High performance computing for mechanical simulation”, Prof. D. Negrut, University of Wisconsin (Parma, 25/11/2009)

Guest editor of Mechanical Sciences, special issue: “Recent advances and current trends in numerical multibody dynamics”, 2012.

Reviewer for peer-review activity in international journals (Springer, Elsevier, Wiley, etc.) in the field of mechanical engineering and applied mathematics: Mechanism and Machine Theory, Meccanica, Multibody System Dynamics, International Journal for Computational Methods in Engineering Science and Mechanics, Nonlinear Dynamics, SIAM Journal on Optimization, International Journal of Vehicle Systems Modelling and Testing, Mathematics and Computers in Simulation, ASME Journal of Computational and Nonlinear Dynamics, Wear, Algorithms, et al.

MEMBERSHIPS AND COMMITTEES

Member of the IACM, International Association for Computational Mechanics.

Member of the AIMETA Association for Theoretical and Applied Mechanics.

Member of the EUROMECH.

Member of the IADAT international scientific committee.

Member of the AIT tribology association.

Member of the AIMETA group 'Kinematics and Dynamics of Multibody Systems'.

Member of AssoMotoRacing.

Member of ATA, Associazione Tecnica dell'Automobile.

Member of the NVIDIA Professor Partnership Program.

Member of BioPharmaNET.

Member of NAFEMS MBD-WG

Member of ASME group: Multibody Systems and Nonlinear Dynamics

TEACHING ACTIVITIES

At the Università degli studi di Parma:

Appointed as teacher of the following courses: 'Robotics', 'Mechanical Design', 'Mechanics of Automatic Machines', 'Principles of Structural Mechanics', 'Robotics and Mechanical Actuators'. Since the academic year 2002/2003 to nowadays.

Teaching assistant for the courses of 'Applied Mechanics' and 'Principles of Theoretical and Applied Mechanics'. Since the academic year 2002/2003 to nowadays.

Supervisor of the laboratories of 'Numerical Applications' and 'Applied Mechanics and Machine Building'. Since the academic year 2002/2003 to nowadays.

At the Politecnico di Milano:

Teaching assistant for the following courses: 'Applied Mechanics' (for the nuclear engineering course, years 1999, 2000, 2001) and 'Functional Mechanical Design' (for the mechanical engineering course, years 2000,2001,2002).

Other teaching activities:

Invited lecturer at the University of Wisconsin Madison, for the Lindbergh Lecture Series (February 2008). Topics: parallel supercomputing for mechanical engineering problems.

Teacher of the courses "Theory of the Monte Carlo method, with Matlab applications" and "Technical and Industrial Design" within a MIUR financed project (DM 28621) hold at Procomac Spa, Parma (February, March 2008).

Teacher of "Principles of Software Engineering" for the post-graduate course "Validation of automated systems for pharmaceutical and other regulated healthcare industries". ENAIP - Parma (2006).

Teacher of 'Mechanical Design' for the Nettuno consortium (2002-2007).

Teacher of 3D computer graphics at the international BIT Movie expo, (1994, 1995).

Teacher of Robotics in a course about automation organized in Milano by Fondazione L.Clerici, Brugherio, Milano, sponsored by CEE, European Community (theory and practice with a Mitsubishi robot). (1999).

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Consultant for the development of an AGV robot, at Hands Company, from 2013.

Software developer of Chrono::Engine middleware for physical simulation. Since 2006.

Software developer of HyperOCTANT (high performance solver for massive NLCP problems arising in physical simulations). Since 2006.

Software developer of the Chrono::R3D plugin (multi-body interactive simulation plugin for the Realsoft3D rendering and animation software). Founder of DeltaKnowledge (licenses distributed worldwide through Realsoft OY, Finland). From 1998 to present.

Software developer of Revolution4D (solid modeling software plugin. Embeds OpenCASCADE, supports STEP, IGES, etc.). Distributed worldwide. From 2003.

Consultant for Ferrari S.p.A (modal analysis, NVH, EHD-TEHD lubrication), engine department, since 2010.

Research contract for developing a novel AGV robot at Pyxis Srl and implementation of the wireless control system. From 2006 to 2008.

Project leader for a robotics research at EMMETI SpA, from 2006 to 2007.

Designer of the GRANIT high-performance ultra-stiff parallel robot (2004-2006).

Consultant of the student team PR43100 about suspensions and frame of a Formula ATA car (which won the 2nd place in 2007).

Designer of mechatronic subsystems with digital motor control within the GHIBLI automatic assembly plant, at Gamma S.p.A., from 2004 to 2006.

Artwork for the book 'Cinematica e Dinamica dei Sistemi Multibody', ed.CEA, 2005 (also author of four chapters).

Forensic engineering (accident reconstruction), Piacenza, 2004.

Multibody analysis of a plant for fast cutting of large tubes (Marcegaglia – Oto Mills S.p.A.) 2004.

Developer of a novel articulator device for prosthetic teeth reconstruction, (Patent P.Simeone, PCT/IB2005/002685, September 2004)

Developer of the Gear-ON software for designing gears to be cut via EDM, for the PersonalMachine3D company (2003).

Consultant for the Hall of Milano about the assessment of the safety of two-wheeled vehicles running on uneven road pavements. (2002)

Designer of a prototype of a SOS system to be installed on highways, Ducati Sistemi Bologna, 2002.

Software developer of PHENOMENA, particle animation plugin for the animation software Real 3D, from 1995 to 1998.

Author of more than 100 monthly articles about 3d computergraphics on the italian EAR magazine (GR Edizioni), from 1992 to 1998, and reviews of 3d software for other italian computer science magazines.

Designer for the the Cyberfood™ device, Cyberfood GmbH Zurich, 1997.

Alpha and beta tester of the 3D modeling/animation/rendering software "Realsoft3d" from Realsoft OY, Finland, from 1996.

Illustrations for magazine covers, GR Edizioni, Italy, (1992-1998)

Pictures for advertising, computergraphics for Cd ROMs, animations for TV commercials (Zeneca), from 1992.

Designer of dynamic web sites with PHP and SQL technology.

OTHER TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SKILLS

Superior knowledge of object-oriented programming (more than 450'000 lines of C++ code).

Implementation of real-time multibody simulations, with man-in-the-loop feedback and real-time visualization for car simulation.

Advanced 3D computergraphics (procedural textures and shaders, automatic modeling functions, particle dynamics behavioral and procedural approaches, interface design, etc.)

Design of automatic assembly machines, with real-time full digital authority.

Knowledge of the 3d parametric CAD package SolidEdge

Knowledge of the 3d parametric CAD package SolidWorks and of its API.

Design of dynamic web sites with PHP and SQL.

Development of embedded systems using PIC and ATMEL microcontrollers, knowledge of CAD tools for designing electronic circuits and PCBs.

Development of custom MCU controllers with fieldbus for motor control.

Deep knowledge of software, APIs and SDKs for engineering, ex.: CUDA, MPI, FTP, SSH, VPN, Doxygen, SVN, CVS, Apache, LaTeX, CMake, Markdown, GNU tools, Android, NET and COM interop, Matlab, Simulink, SciPy, NumPy, VTK, MPICH2.

KNOWN PROGRAMMING LANGUAGES:

C, C++, RPL, FORTH, Pascal, Basic, ROOPS, Install Shield™ scripting, InnoSetup scripting, Java, Javascript, ECMA scripting, SQL, PHP, Matlab, Makefile, C++/CLI, Assembler, Python, C#.

PUBLICATIONS

[see the list at <http://dynamics.eng.unipr.it/tasora/publications.html>]

AWARDS

Best Paper Award, 2010, 5th Asian Conference on Multibody Dynamics (ACMD2010).

TOP 4 paper, 2011, 20th International Workshop on Robotics (RAAD 2011).

MEDIA COVERAGE

Relevant coverage about my researches appeared on international media, such as HPCwire, MyScience USA, TMCNews, SciDAC Review (DOE), WTN News, NewsWise, WISbusiness, eScienceNews, ScienceDaily, Science Centric, ChemEurope, Innovations Report, ACM Communications, Sole24Ore.

KNOWN LANGUAGES

Italian, English, French (basic)

OTHER

Hobbies: guitar, painting.

My Erdős number is 5.