
VICTRE Breast Phantom Documentation

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Welcome to the VICTRE Breast Phantom documentation!

This documentation provides information regarding how to download, install, and use the VICTRE Breast Phantom which is designed to generate random anthropomorphic voxelized whole-breast phantoms.



This software was developed as part of the [Virtual Imaging Clinical Trials for Regulatory Evaluation \(VICTRE\)](#) project at the [U. S. Food and Drug Administration](#).

The VICTRE tools provide a complete simulated imaging chain for mammography and digital breast tomosynthesis and are available as [open source software](#)

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The VICTRE Breast Phantom source code is available [here](#). It is written in C++ and therefore must be compiled for your system before use.

1.1 Operating System

This software has been developed and tested on Debian and Red Hat based Linux distributions. Compilation is via cmake and should be possible on any UNIX-like operationg system (including MacOS) with minimal modification to the build configuration in the provided CMakeLists.txt file, however the following distributions are recommended:

- Ubuntu 16.04
- Centos 7.x

The following build instructions are based on Ubuntu 16.04.

1.2 Compilation

First, install the packages necessary to compile the software (reminder: instructions are specific to Ubuntu, consult your operating system documentation for analagous package names and installation instructions) From a terminal command prompt:

```
> sudo apt-get install cmake vtk6 libvtk6-dev \  
                        libblas-dev liblapack-dev \  
                        libboost-dev libboost-program-options-dev \  
                        libproj-dev zlib1g-dev
```

Next, clone the git repository:

```
> git clone https://github.com/DIDSR/breastPhantom
```

From a suitable build directory generate a Makefile using cmake and run make:

```
> cmake <path to repository>
> make
```

where <path to repository> is the directory containing the cloned repository.

Note: when running cmake you may receive an error message related to references to files “/usr/lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libvtkRenderingPythonTkWidgets.so” and “/usr/bin/vtk”. This is a known VTK bug but since we are not linking to these files, the error can safely be ignored.

1.3 Installation

If the previous steps were successful, the executable `breastPhantom` should be present in the build directory. This file can be copied to a convenient location. No additional installation steps are required. Consult the next section which describes how to run the executable.

Running the Software

The executable `breastPhantom` is run from the command line and takes a single required command line argument:

```
> breastPhantom -c [FILE]
```

where `[FILE]` is a configuration file which specifies all the breast model parameters.

2.1 Configuration file

Several sample configuration files are provided, all ending with the extension `.cfg`. Configuration files can be modified with your favorite text editor. A configuration file has many parameters, please see [<ref>](#) for a complete list with brief explanations.

A few of the parameters that most users will probably want to modify are the following:

outputDir The directory where the generated phantom files will be written

imgRes The phantom voxel size (in mm). Typically this varies between 0.05 and 0.25 depending on application

targetFatFrac The desired breast density in terms of volume fractional fat content. Should be between 0 and 1, though for typical breasts should vary between approximately 0.4 and 0.95.

All configuration parameters are explained [<here>](#)

2.2 Generating a phantom

Once the desired configuration file is created, the software is run from the command line as above. Several status messages will be generated during the phantom creation process. The time required to generate a phantom can vary significantly and is highly dependent on the voxel size (`imgRes` parameter) and the processing capabilities of your computer. A low resolution phantom on a fast computer may require 30 mins of processing time, while a high-resolution phantom on a slow computer may take more than a day. Sections of this software are multi-threaded and should take advantage of multiple cores if available. The number of cores used can be controlled with the environment variable `OMP_NUM_THREADS` if desired. All cores will be used by default.

All phantom output files will be placed in the directory specified in the configuration file

2.3 Randomization

The phantom generation process is stochastic and relies upon a random number generator seed. This seed can be specified in the configuration file using the parameter *seed*, though the default behavior is to randomly generate a seed at runtime by reading from */dev/urandom*. In this mode each time the breast phantom generation code is run with a fixed configuration file, a different random breast will be generated that is consistent with the configuration parameters. This allows for the generation of random breast textures at fixed glandularity, for example.

3.1 Voxel Values

The main output of the software is a 3D voxelized breast phantom where each voxel is an unsigned 8 bit integer tissue label (possible values 0-255). Here is a lookup table specifying the labels for each tissue type.

Tissue	Label
air	0
fat	1
skin	2
glandular	29
nipple	33
muscle	40
ligament	88
TDLU ¹	95
duct	125
artery	150
vein	225
cancerous mass ²	200
calcification ²	250
compression paddle ²	50

¹Terminal Duct Lobular Unit

²These tissues are not created by the phantom generation software, but can be added by other VICTRE pipeline software. They are included here for completeness.

3.2 Output Files

For each run of the breast phantom generation software several files are created in the output directory specified in the configuration file. The naming convention is that all output filenames begin with `p_` followed by the random number generator seed that was used and an extension specifying the type of output file. Here is a list of output files:

p_#####.cfg A copy of the configuration file used to generate the phantom

p_#####.vti The phantom volume stored in VTK image format (XML with zlib-compressed data element). This is a file format native to the Visualization Toolkit. See <https://www.vtk.org> for more information. This file can be opened in Paraview, an open-source, multi-platform data analysis and visualization application available for download at <https://www.paraview.org/>

p_#####.raw.gz The raw phantom volume stored as 8-bit unsigned integers in a gzip archive. There is no file header.

p_#####.mhd A metaImage header file containing information about the phantom data stored in the file `p_#####.raw.gz`. Parsing this header file will allow you to read and manipulate raw.gz phantom files. See <https://itk.org/Wiki/MetaIO/Documentation> for more information on the MetaImage format

p_#####.loc This file lists candidate locations for insertion of masses and calcifications. Each location is where a TDLU has been randomly generated. Terminal duct lobular units are a common site for cancer formation. Locations are stored in plain text, one location per line with comma separated coordinates in millimeters. See the phantom geometry section for an explanation of the coordinate system.

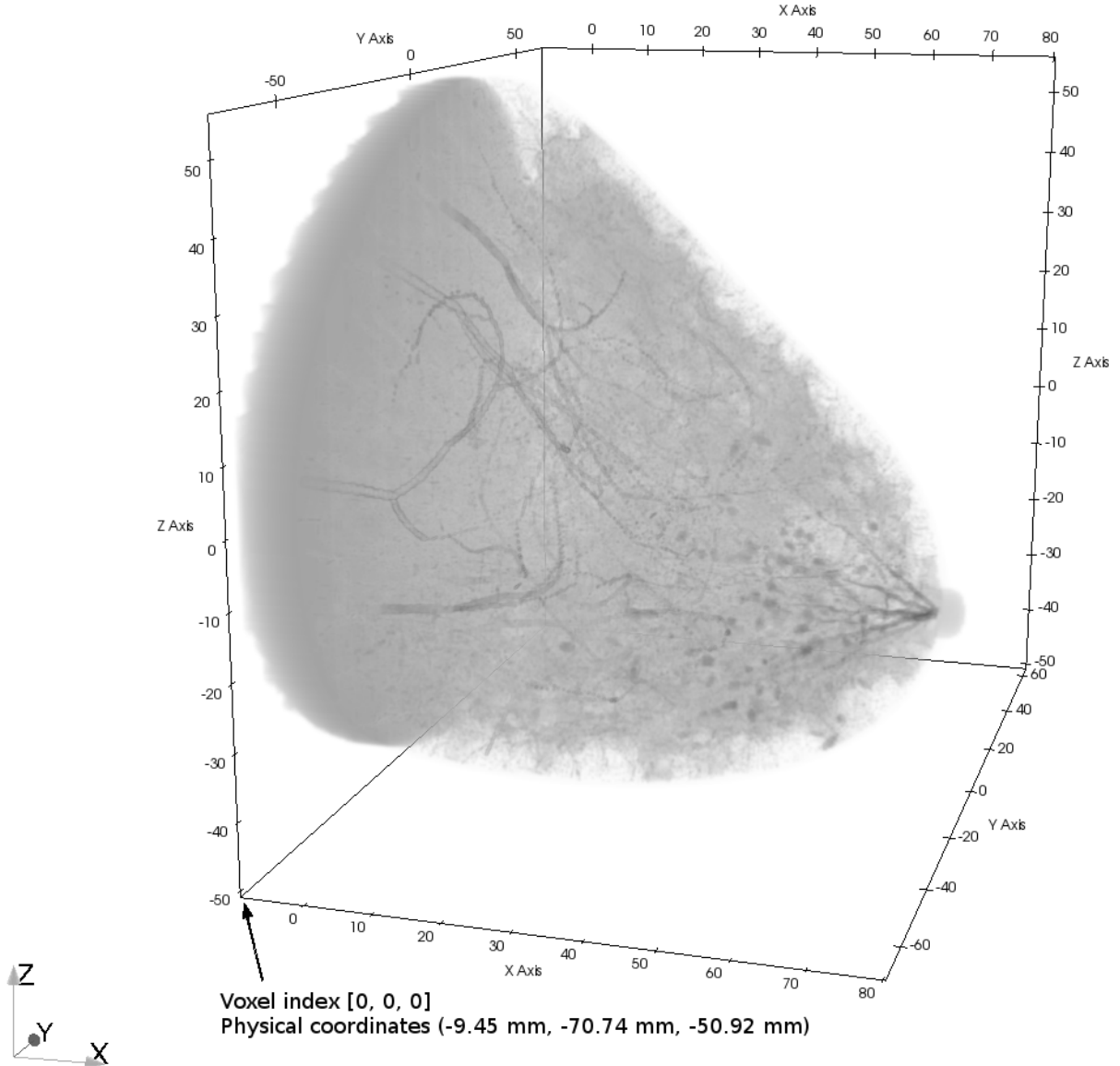
4.1 Visualization Software

A variety of software is available for visualizing phantom data. Raw data can be read using any programming language, Python, Matlab, etc. Here are some tips.

- Paraview <https://www.paraview.org> can read .vti files and .mhd headers. To read the phantom using .mhd header the .raw.gz file must first be extracted with gunzip
- When viewing phantoms in Paraview you may run into memory limitations. Uncompressed high resolution phantoms may exceed 8GB and cause Paraview to run slowly or crash. Slice view is more reliable than volume view for visualizing large phantoms in Paraview.
- Other software that may be useful for visualizing phantom files: ImageJ <https://imagej.nih.gov/ij/> , Amide <http://amide.sourceforge.net/>
- Large phantoms may cause memory problems and should be loading into memory directly as 8 bit integers when possible.
- Large phantoms may contain more than 2^{32} voxels, causing problems in for loops. Use of 64 bit integer indexing variables may be necessary.

4.2 Coordinate System

Each phantom has a physical coordinate system (millimeter units) and a voxel indexing scheme. The following figure illustrates the connection between these two systems.



- The x coordinate (first voxel index) is the chest wall to nipple direction
- The y coordinate (second voxel index) is the lateral (left-right) direction
- The z coordinate (third voxel index) is the inferior-superior direction
- Voxel index [0, 0, 0] is noted in the figure in the most inferior transverse plane

The corresponding mhd header file for this phantom contains the following lines:

```
Offset = -9.4500 -70.7366 -50.9244
ElementSpacing = 0.1000 0.1000 0.1000
DimSize = 899 1351 1068
```

This indicates the physical location of the voxel with index [0, 0, 0] is at physical location (-9.4500mm, -70.7366mm, -50.9244mm). The total number of voxels in the x , y , and z dimensions are 899, 1351, and 1068 respectively. Each voxel is a 0.1 mm cube.

Sample Configuration Files

The [VICTRE project](#) made use of four configuration files to represent four breast density levels. These configuration files can be found in the [cfg](#) directory of the github repository. In the VICTRE study 50 micron voxel size was used. For testing purposes it is advised to use the 100 micron voxel size configuration files as the factor of 8 reduction in total number of voxels reduces the phantom generation time by a similar factor. For further details of the VICTRE trial patient population please consult [the associated paper and supplementary material](#)

Note: These four configuration files do not capture the true diversity in breast anatomy and are meant to be starting points for further investigations of appropriate variations in configuration parameters

Configuration Files Parameters

The configuration file contains all the parameters necessary to generate a breast phantom. They are divided into several categories, primarily by tissue type. In the following tables each parameter is given a brief description.

6.1 base parameters

Name	Type	Notes
base.outputDir	string	directory output files are saved to
base.imgRes	float (mm)	voxel size
base.skinThick	float (mm)	thickness of skin
base.nippleLen	float (mm)	length of nipple
base.nippleRad	float (mm)	radius of nipple
base.areolaRad	float (mm)	radius of thicker skin around nipple
base.leftBreast	Boolean	true for left breast, false for right breast
base.targetFatFrac	float (mm)	desired fraction of interior breast volume containing fat
base.seed	integer	random number seed (chosen randomly if not specified)

6.2 shape parameters

Name	Type	Notes
shape.ures	float	mesh resolution for breast shape
shape.vres	float	mesh resolution for breast shape
shape.pointSep	float (mm)	minimum point separation for point cloud
shape.ringWidth	float (mm)	thickness of muscle backing layer
shape.ringSep	float (mm)	mesh resolution for muscle layer
shape.featureAngle	float (degrees)	minimum angle to preserve during mesh smoothing
shape.targetReduction	float	fraction of triangles to remain after decimation

Continued on next page

Table 1 – continued from previous page

Name	Type	Notes
shape.a1b	float	scale of breast bottom
shape.a1t	float	scale of breast top
shape.a2l	float	scale of breast left side
shape.a2r	float	scale of breast right side
shape.a3	float	breast outward scale
shape.eps1	float	u direction quadric shape exponent
shape.eps2	float	v direction quadric shape exponent
shape.doPtosis	Boolean	if true include ptosis in shape
shape.ptosisB0	float	ptosis parameter B0
shape.ptosisB1	float	ptosis parameter B1
shape.doTurn	Boolean	if true include turn deformation
shape.turnC0	float	turn deformation parameter C0
shape.turnC1	float	turn deformation parameter C1
shape.doTopShape	Boolean	if true include top shape deformation
shape.topShapeS0	float	top shape deformation parameter S0
shape.topShapeS1	float	top shape deformation parameter S1
shape.topShapeT0	float	top shape deformation parameter T0
shape.topShapeT1	float	top shape deformation parameter T1
shape.doFlattenSide	Boolean	if true include flatten side deformation
shape.flattenSideG0	float	flatten side deformation parameter G0
shape.flattenSideG1	float	flatten side deformation parameter G1
shape.doTurnTop	Boolean	if true include turn top deformation
shape.turnTopH0	float	turn top deformation parameter H0
shape.turnTopH1	float	turn top deformation parameter H1

6.3 glandular compartment parameters

Name	Type	Notes
compartments.num	integer	number of glandular compartments
compartments.seedBaseDist	float (mm)	distance along nipple line of compartment seed base
compartments.backFatBufferFrac	float	fraction of breast at muscle layer forced to be fat
compartments.numBackSeeds	integer	number of back plane Voronoi seeds
compartments.angularJitter	float	compartment Voronoi seed jitter (fraction of subtended angle)
compartments.zJitter	float (mm)	maximum compartment Voronoi seed jitter in direction of nipple
compartments.maxFracRadialDist	float	maximum radial distance from base seed as a fraction of distance to breast surface
compartments.minFracRadialDist	float	minimum radial distance from base seed as a fraction of distance to breast surface
compartments.minScaleNippleDir	float	minimum scale in nipple direction
compartments.maxScaleNippleDir	float	maximum scale in nipple direction
compartments.minScale	float	minimum scale in non-nipple direction
compartments.maxScale	float	maximum scale in non-nipple direction
compartments.minGlandStrength	float	minimum gland strength
compartments.maxGlandStrength	float	maximum gland strength
compartments.maxDeflect	float	maximum compartment deflection angle from pointing towards nipple (fraction of pi)
compartments.minSkinScaleNippleDir	float	minimum scale skin seeds in nipple direction
compartments.maxSkinScaleNippleDir	float	maximum scale skin seeds in nipple direction
compartments.minSkinScale	float	minimum scale skin in non-nipple direction
compartments.maxSkinScale	float	maximum scale skin in non-nipple direction
compartments.skinStrength	float	skin strength
compartments.backScale	float	back scale
compartments.backStrength	float	back strength
compartments.nippleScale	float	nipple scale
compartments.nippleStrength	float	nipple strength
compartments.voronSeedRadius	float (mm)	radius from point to check Voronoi seed distance

6.4 TDLU parameters

Name	Type	Notes
TDLU.maxLength	float (mm)	maximum TDLU length
TDLU.minLength	float (mm)	minimum TDLU length
TDLU.maxWidth	float (mm)	maximum TDLU width
TDLU.minWidth	float (mm)	minimum TDLU width

6.5 Perlin noise parameters

Name	Type	Notes
perlin.maxDeviation	float	maximum fraction of radius deviation
perlin.frequency	float	starting frequency
perlin.lacunarity	float	octave frequency multiplier
perlin.persistence	float	octave signal decay
perlin.numOctaves	integer	number of frequency octaves
perlin.xNoiseGen	integer	x direction noise generation seed
perlin.yNoiseGen	integer	y direction noise generation seed
perlin.zNoiseGen	integer	z direction noise generation seed
perlin.seedNoiseGen	integer	seed noise generation
perlin.shiftNoiseGen	integer	shift noise generation seed

6.6 Compartment boundary noise parameters

Name	Type	Notes
boundary.maxDeviation	float	maximum fraction of distance deviation
boundary.frequency	float	starting frequency
boundary.lacunarity	float	octave frequency multiplier
boundary.persistence	float	octave signal decay

6.7 fat lobule boundary perturbation noise parameters

Name	Type	Notes
perturb.maxDeviation	float	maximum fraction of distance deviation
perturb.frequency	float	starting frequency
perturb.lacunarity	float	octave frequency multiplier
perturb.persistence	float	octave signal decay

6.8 fat glandular buffer noise parameters

Name	Type	Notes
buffer.maxDeviation	float	maximum fraction of distance deviation
buffer.frequency	float	starting frequency
buffer.lacunarity	float	octave frequency multiplier
buffer.persistence	float	octave signal decay

6.9 Voronoi segmentation variables

Name	Type	Notes
voronoi.fatInFatSeedDensity	float (mm ⁻³)	fat voronoi seed density
voronoi.fatInGlandSeedDensity	float (mm ⁻³)	fat voronoi seed in glandular tissue density
voronoi.glandInGlandSeedDensity	float (mm ⁻³)	glandular voronoi seed density
voronoi.TDLUDeflectMax	float	maximum deflection (fraction of pi)
voronoi.minScaleLenTDLU	float	minimum length scale
voronoi.maxScaleLenTDLU	float	maximum length scale
voronoi.minScaleWidTDLU	float	minimum width scale
voronoi.maxScaleWidTDLU	float	maximum width scale
voronoi.minStrTDLU	float	minimum strength
voronoi.maxStrTDLU	float	maximum strength
voronoi.fatInFatDeflectMax	float	maximum deflection (fraction of pi)
voronoi.minScaleLenFatInFat	float	minimum length scale
voronoi.maxScaleLenFatInFat	float	maximum length scale
voronoi.minScaleWidFatInFat	float	minimum width scale
voronoi.maxScaleWidFatInFat	float	maximum width scale
voronoi.minStrFatInFat	float	minimum strength
voronoi.maxStrFatInFat	float	maximum strength
voronoi.fatInGlandDeflectMax	float	maximum deflection (fraction of pi)
voronoi.minScaleLenFatInGland	float	minimum length scale
voronoi.maxScaleLenFatInGland	float	maximum length scale
voronoi.minScaleWidFatInGland	float	minimum width scale
voronoi.maxScaleWidFatInGland	float	maximum width scale
voronoi.minStrFatInGland	float	minimum strength
voronoi.maxStrFatInGland	float	maximum strength
voronoi.glandInGlandDeflectMax	float	maximum deflection (fraction of pi)
voronoi.minScaleLenGlandInGland	float	minimum length scale
voronoi.maxScaleLenGlandInGland	float	maximum length scale
voronoi.minScaleWidGlandInGland	float	minimum width scale
voronoi.maxScaleWidGlandInGland	float	maximum width scale
voronoi.minStrGlandInGland	float	minimum strength
voronoi.maxStrGlandInGland	float	maximum strength
voronoi.seedRadius	float (mm)	check seeds in radius

6.10 fat lobule parameters

Name	Type	Notes
fat.minLobuleAxis	float (mm)	min lobule axis length
fat.maxLobuleAxis	float (mm)	max lobule axis length
fat.minAxialRatio	float	axial ratio min
fat.maxAxialRatio	float	axial ratio max
fat.minLobuleGap	float	minimum ligament separation between lobules
fat.maxCoeffStr	float	maximum of absolute value of Fourier coefficient as fraction of main radius
fat.minCoeffStr	float	minimum of absolute value of Fourier coefficient as fraction of main radius
fat.maxLobuleTry	integer	maximum number of trial lobules

6.11 ductal tree parameters

Name	Type	Notes
ductTree.maxBranch	integer	target number of branches
ductTree.maxGen	integer	maximum generation
ductTree.initRad	float (mm)	initial radius of tree
ductTree.nFillX	integer	number of voxels for tree density tracking
ductTree.nFillY	integer	number of voxels for tree density tracking
ductTree.nFillZ	integer	number of voxels for tree density tracking

6.12 ductal branch parameters

Name	Type	Notes
ductBr.minLen0	float (mm)	minimum and maximum branch lengths per level
ductBr.maxLen0	float (mm)	minimum and maximum branch lengths per level
ductBr.minLen1	float (mm)	minimum and maximum branch lengths per level
ductBr.maxLen1	float (mm)	minimum and maximum branch lengths per level
ductBr.minLen2	float (mm)	minimum and maximum branch lengths per level
ductBr.maxLen2	float (mm)	minimum and maximum branch lengths per level
ductBr.minLenDefault	float (mm)	minimum and maximum branch lengths per level
ductBr.maxLenDefault	float (mm)	minimum and maximum branch lengths per level
ductBr.maxChild	integer	maximum number of children
ductBr.childMinRad	float (mm)	minimum branch radius to have children
ductBr.childLevBound	integer	
ductBr.child00	float	
ductBr.child01	float	
ductBr.child02	float	
ductBr.child10	float	
ductBr.child11	float	
ductBr.child12	float	
ductBr.child20	float	
ductBr.child21	float	
ductBr.child22	float	
ductBr.child30	float	
ductBr.child31	float	
ductBr.child32	float	
ductBr.child40	float	
ductBr.child41	float	
ductBr.child42	float	
ductBr.minRadFrac	float	minimum starting radius as a fraction of parent end radius
ductBr.maxRadFrac	float	maximum starting radius as a fraction of parent end radius
ductBr.radFrac0	float	starting radius as fraction of parent end radius for first child
ductBr.minAngle	float	min angle between parent end direction and child start direction for children after first (fraction of pi radians)
ductBr.maxAngle	float	max angle between parent end direction and child start direction for children after first (fraction of pi radians)

6.13 ductal segment parameters

Name	Type	Notes
ductSeg.lengthBetaA	float	length distribution shape parameters
ductSeg.lengthBetaB	float	length distribution shape parameters
ductSeg.radiusBetaA	float	radius distribution shape parameters
ductSeg.radiusBetaB	float	radius distribution shape parameters
ductSeg.minLen	float (mm)	min and max segment length
ductSeg.maxLen	float (mm)	min and max segment length
ductSeg.maxCurvRad	float (mm)	maximum radius of curvature
ductSeg.maxCurvFrac	float	maximum length of segment based on curvature (fraction of pi radians)
ductSeg.ductSeg.minEndRad	float	min and max end radius as fraction of start radius
ductSeg.maxEndRad	float	min and max end radius as fraction of start radius
ductSeg.angleWt	float	cost function preferential angle weighting
ductSeg.densityWt	float	cost function density weighting
ductSeg.numTry	integer	number of trial segments to generate
ductSeg.maxTry	integer	maximum number of segments to generate before giving up and reducing length
ductSeg.absMaxTry	integer	total number of segment tries before completely giving up
ductSeg.roiStep	float (mm)	step size for checking segment is valid

6.14 vessel tree parameters

Name	Type	Notes
vesselTree.maxBranch	integer	target number of branches
vesselTree.maxGen	integer	maximum generation
vesselTree.initRad	float (mm)	initial radius of tree
vesselTree.nFillX	integer	number of voxels for tree density tracking
vesselTree.nFillY	integer	number of voxels for tree density tracking
vesselTree.nFillZ	integer	number of voxels for tree density tracking

6.15 vessel branch parameters

Name	Type	Notes
vesselBr.minLen0	float (mm)	minimum and maximum branch lengths per level
vesselBr.maxLen0	float (mm)	minimum and maximum branch lengths per level
vesselBr.minLen1	float (mm)	minimum and maximum branch lengths per level
vesselBr.maxLen1	float (mm)	minimum and maximum branch lengths per level
vesselBr.minLen2	float (mm)	minimum and maximum branch lengths per level
vesselBr.maxLen2	float (mm)	minimum and maximum branch lengths per level

Continued on next page

Table 4 – continued from previous page

Name	Type	Notes
vesselBr.minLenDefault	float (mm)	minimum and maximum branch lengths per level
vesselBr.maxLenDefault	float (mm)	minimum and maximum branch lengths per level
vesselBr.maxChild	int	maximum number of children
vesselBr.childMinRad	float	minimum branch radius to have children (mm)
vesselBr.childLevBound	integer	
vesselBr.child00	float	
vesselBr.child01	float	
vesselBr.child02	float	
vesselBr.child10	float	
vesselBr.child11	float	
vesselBr.child12	float	
vesselBr.child20	float	
vesselBr.child21	float	
vesselBr.child22	float	
vesselBr.child30	float	
vesselBr.child31	float	
vesselBr.child32	float	
vesselBr.child40	float	
vesselBr.child41	float	
vesselBr.child42	float	
vesselBr.minRadFrac	float	minimum starting radius as a fraction of parent end radius
vesselBr.maxRadFrac	float	maximum starting radius as a fraction of parent end radius
vesselBr.radFrac0	float	starting radius as fraction of parent end radius for first child
vesselBr.minAngle	float	min angle between parent end direction and child start direction for children after first (fraction of pi radians)
vesselBr.maxAngle	float	max angle between parent end direction and child start direction for children after first (fraction of pi radians)

6.16 vessel segment parameters

Name	Type	Notes
ves-selSeg.lengthBetaA	float	length distribution shape parameters
ves-selSeg.lengthBetaB	float	length distribution shape parameters
ves-selSeg.radiusBetaA	float	radius distribution shape parameters
ves-selSeg.radiusBetaB	float	radius distribution shape parameters
vesselSeg.minLen	float (mm)	min and max segment length
vesselSeg.maxLen	float (mm)	min and max segment length
ves-selSeg.maxCurvRad	float (mm)	maximum radius of curvature
ves-selSeg.maxCurvFrac	float	maximum length of segment based on curvature (fraction of pi radians)
vesselSeg.minEndRad	float	min and max end radius as fraction of start radius
ves-selSeg.maxEndRad	float	min and max end radius as fraction of start radius
vesselSeg.angleWt	float	cost function preferential angle weighting
vesselSeg.densityWt	float	cost function density weighting
vesselSeg.numTry	integer	number of trial segments to generate
vesselSeg.maxTry	integer	maximum number of segments to generate before giving up and reducing length
vesselSeg.absMaxTry	integer	total number of segment tries before completely giving up
vesselSeg.roiStep	float (mm)	step size for checking segment is valid