

# Contents

<b>Abstract</b> . . . . .	<b>iii</b>
<b>Zusammenfassung</b> . . . . .	<b>v</b>
<b>Resumen</b> . . . . .	<b>vii</b>
<b>Resum</b> . . . . .	<b>ix</b>
<b>Acknowledgments</b> . . . . .	<b>xi</b>
<b>Abbreviations</b> . . . . .	<b>xvii</b>
<b>1 Introduction</b> . . . . .	<b>1</b>
1.1 Motivation . . . . .	1
1.2 Objectives of the Thesis . . . . .	2
1.3 Structure of the Thesis . . . . .	3
<hr/>	
<b>I Fundamentals</b>	<b>5</b>
<hr/>	
<b>2 Medical Fundamentals</b> . . . . .	<b>7</b>
2.1 Atrial Anatomy and Physiology . . . . .	7
2.2 Atrial fibrillation . . . . .	7
2.3 Anatomy of the human heart . . . . .	7
2.4 Histology of the heart . . . . .	10
2.5 Electrophysiology of the heart . . . . .	11
<b>3 Computational modeling of cardiac electrophysiology</b> . . . . .	<b>15</b>
3.1 Cardiac cell modeling . . . . .	15
3.2 Tissue and organ modeling . . . . .	16
<b>4 Electro-anatomical mapping</b> . . . . .	<b>19</b>
4.1 Intracardiac signals . . . . .	19
4.2 Mapping catheters . . . . .	19
4.3 Clinical maps . . . . .	21

---

<b>II Cellular level</b>	<b>23</b>
<hr/>	
<b>5 Human atrial myocyte electrophysiology . . . . .</b>	<b>25</b>
5.1 Methods . . . . .	25
5.2 Results . . . . .	27
5.3 Discussion . . . . .	30
<b>6 Human atrial myofibroblast electrophysiology . . . . .</b>	<b>31</b>
6.1 Methods . . . . .	31
6.2 Results . . . . .	32
6.3 Discussion . . . . .	33
<b>7 Myofibroblast Ca<sup>2+</sup> current and intracellular Ca<sup>2+</sup> handling . . . . .</b>	<b>37</b>
7.1 Methods . . . . .	37
7.2 Results . . . . .	38
7.3 Discussion . . . . .	40
<hr/>	
<b>III Tissue level</b>	<b>43</b>
<hr/>	
<b>8 Myofibroblast infiltration . . . . .</b>	<b>45</b>
8.1 Methods . . . . .	45
8.2 Results . . . . .	47
8.3 Discussion . . . . .	49
<b>9 Fibrosis composition . . . . .</b>	<b>51</b>
9.1 Methods . . . . .	52
9.2 Results . . . . .	53
9.3 Discussion . . . . .	55
<b>10 Computational modeling of intracardiac signals . . . . .</b>	<b>57</b>
10.1 Methods . . . . .	57
10.2 Results . . . . .	59
10.3 Discussion . . . . .	61
<b>11 Fibrosis characterization using machine learning . . . . .</b>	<b>63</b>
11.1 Methods . . . . .	63
11.2 Results . . . . .	67
11.3 Discussion . . . . .	71
<b>12 Determination of wavefront direction using transfer entropy . . . . .</b>	<b>73</b>
12.1 Methods . . . . .	73
12.2 Results . . . . .	75
12.3 Discussion . . . . .	77

---

<b>IV Clinical applications</b>	<b>79</b>
<b>13 Clinical fibrosis maps</b> . . . . .	<b>81</b>
13.1 Methods . . . . .	81
13.2 Results . . . . .	82
13.3 Discussion . . . . .	83
<b>14 Direct Graph - Transfer Entropy flow maps</b> . . . . .	<b>85</b>
14.1 Methods . . . . .	85
14.2 Results . . . . .	86
14.3 Discussion . . . . .	87
<b>15 Conclusion</b> . . . . .	<b>89</b>
<b>16 Outlook</b> . . . . .	<b>91</b>
<b>References</b> . . . . .	<b>93</b>
<b>List of Publications and Supervised Theses</b> . . . . .	<b>103</b>