



**The Abdus Salam
International Centre for Theoretical Physics**



2272-7

**Joint ICTP-IAEA School on Synchrotron Applications in Cultural Heritage and
Environmental Sciences and Multidisciplinary Aspects of Imaging Techniques**

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SR based imaging techniques for 3D quantitative analysis of materials

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<http://www.elettra.trieste.it/experiments/beamlines/syrmep/>

The **Italian synchrotron** light laboratory - **Elettra**



<http://www.elettra.trieste.it>



The SYRMEP beamline @ Elettra

Designed and constructed in collaboration with *INFN* and the *Physics Dept. of Università di Trieste*. Devoted to **absorption** and **phase-sensitive** hard **X-ray imaging techniques**.

Medical applications

- *ex-vivo* experiments
- *in-vivo* studies

- mammography
- small animals

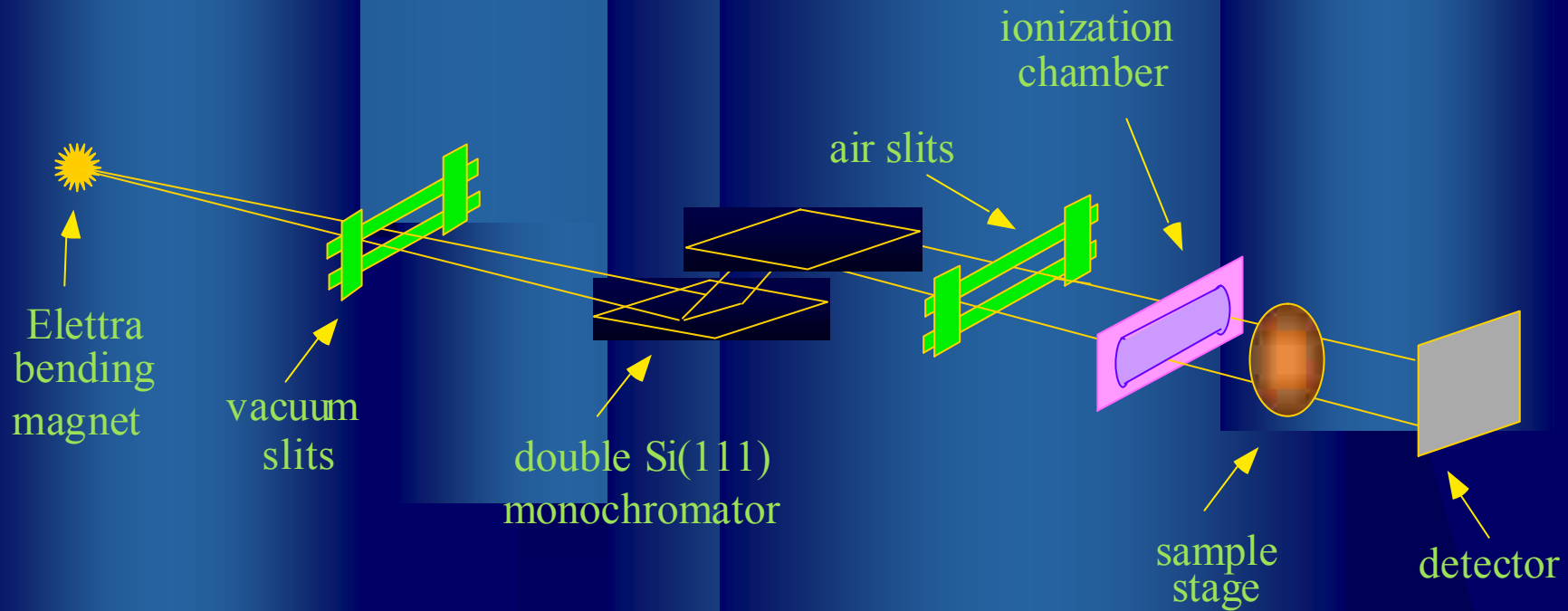
Material science and cultural heritage studies

- study of microstructural properties
- *in-situ* and real-time experiments

- in a very large range of materials
- growth processes
- mechanical and thermal treatments
- phase transitions



The SYRMEP beamline layout



- Energy range: **8.3 ÷ 35 keV**, Bandwidth $\Delta E/E \cong 2 \times 10^{-3}$
- Beam size at sample (**h x v**) \cong **150 mm x 4-6 mm**
- Source size (FWHM) **s** (**h x v**) \cong **230 μm x 80 μm**
- Typical fluxes @15 keV \cong **$7 * 10^8$ phot./mm² s** (@ 2.4 GeV, 180 mA)
- Source-to-sample distance: **D \cong 23 m**

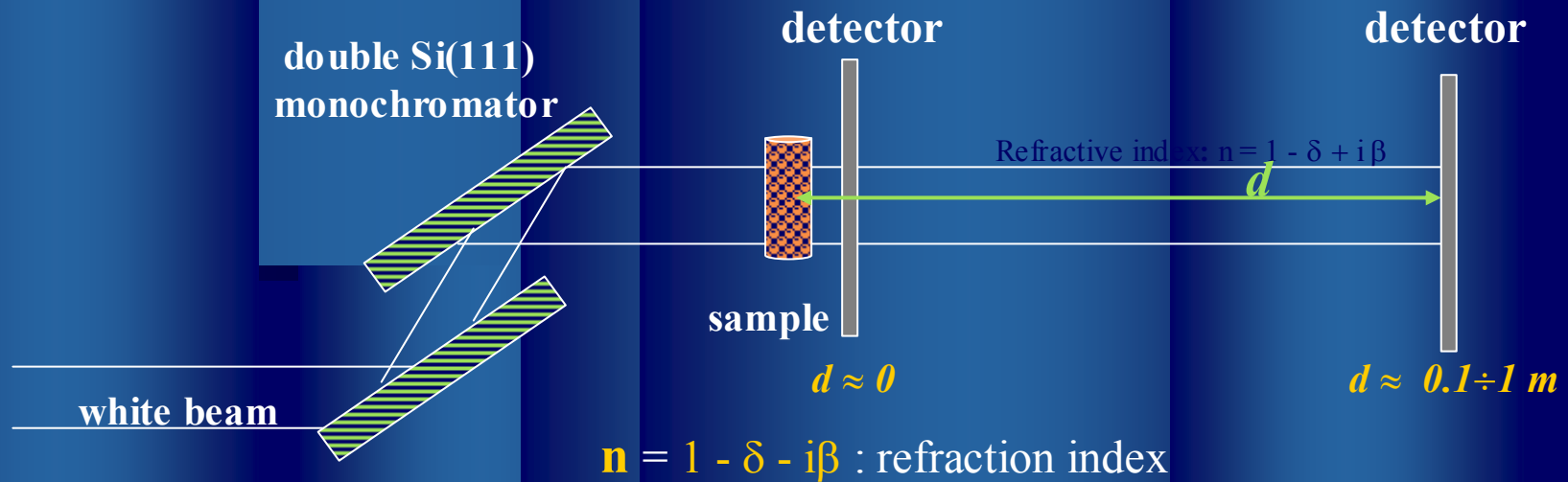
Why X-ray imaging at a 3rd generation SR facility?

- high energy photons and high flux
 - heavy and/or bulky samples in transmission geometry
 - tunability in a large energy range (dose reduction)
 - short exposure times
- small angular source size and big source-to-sample distance
 - high spatial resolution ($\rho = s d / D \lesssim 1 \mu\text{m}$ at SYRMEP)
 - possibility of big sample-to-detector distances ($d \lesssim 1\text{m}$ at SYRMEP)
 - high spatial coherence of the X beam ($L_c = \lambda D / (2 s) \cong 10\mu\text{m}$ @15keV)



Phase-sensitive techniques

Absorption and Phase-Contrast radiography



$$(\Delta I/I)_{\text{abs}} = e^{c \Delta \mu} - 1$$

$$\Delta \phi = 2\pi c \Delta \delta / \lambda$$



Fresnel diffraction

$r \ll a \Rightarrow$ *edge detection regime*

$r \cong a \Rightarrow$ *holographic regime*

$r \gg a \Rightarrow$ *Fraunhofer diffraction*

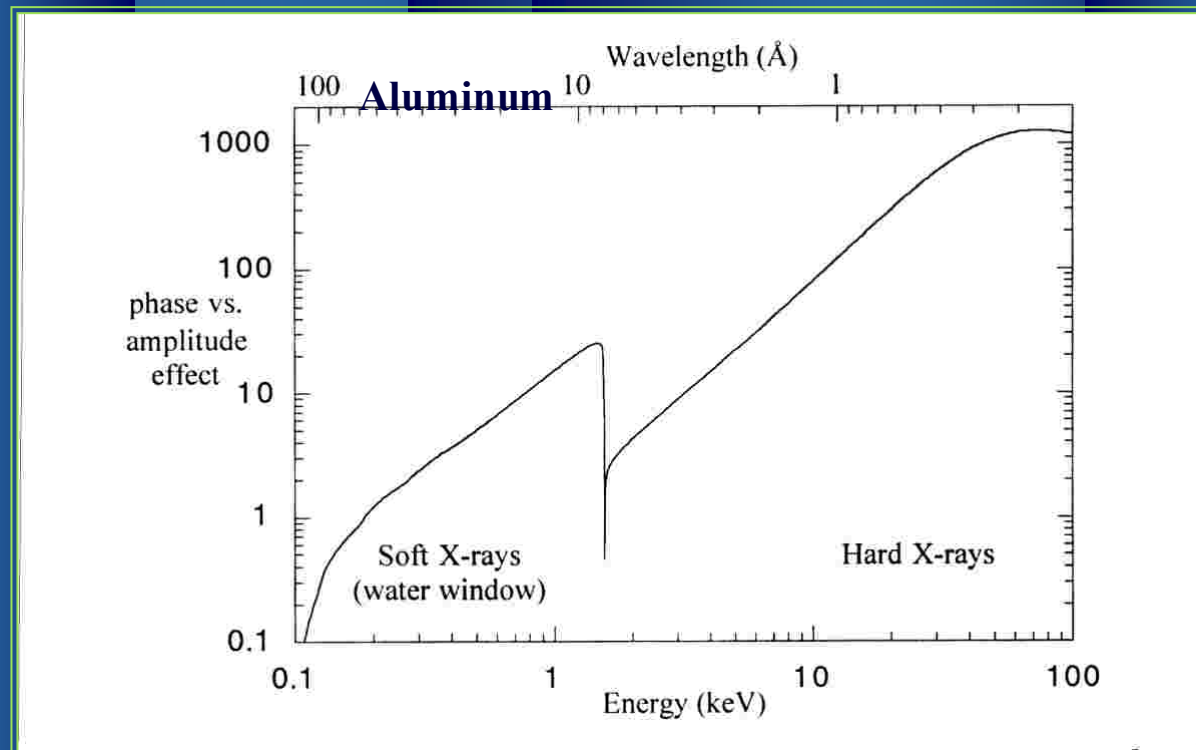
$\mu = 4\pi \beta / \lambda$: linear absorption coeff.

c : object size // to beam direction

a : object size \perp to beam direction

$r = (\lambda d)^{1/2}$: first Fresnel zone radius

Phase vs. amplitude effects with hard X-rays



*Thus it may be possible to observe phase contrast
when absorption contrast is undetectable*



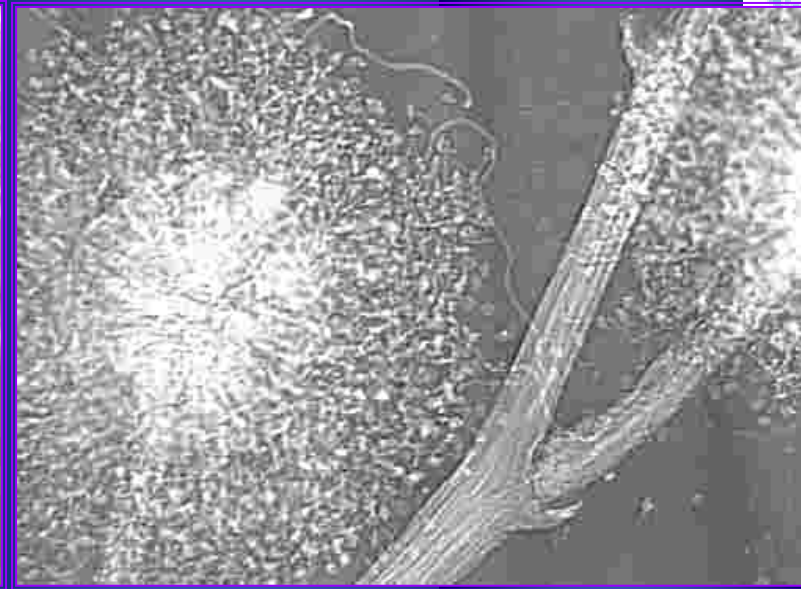
Images of a Mimosa flower (D. Dreossi & co.)



@ 10 keV



Absorption image

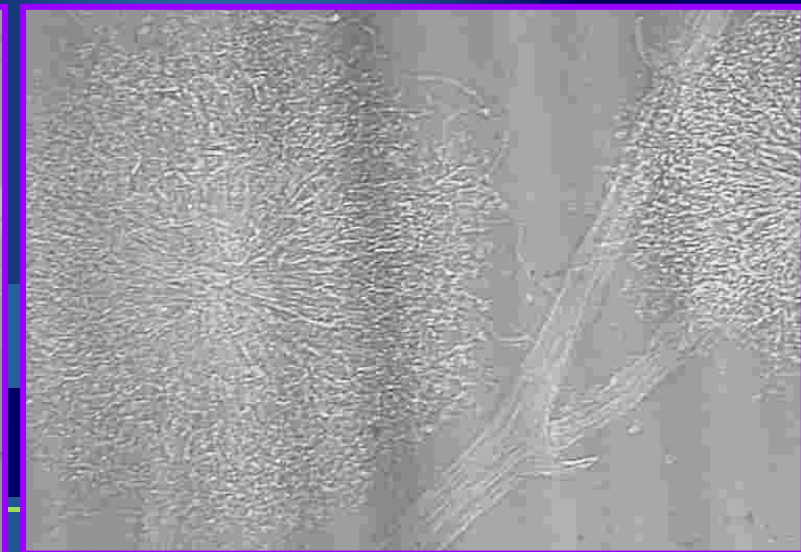


Phase-contrast image

@ 25 keV



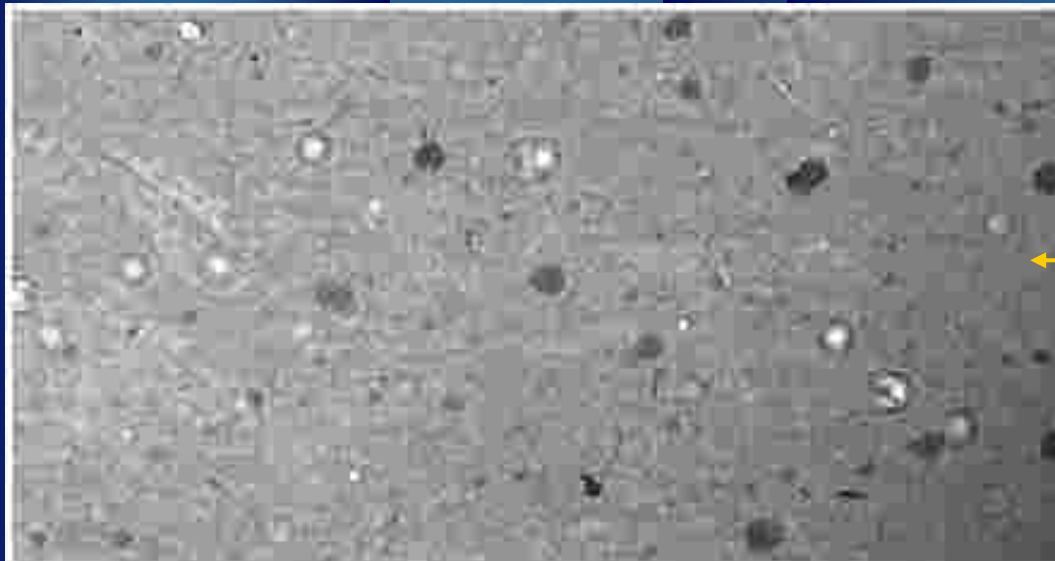
Absorption image



Phase-contrast image

Mancini L., PhD Thesis, 1998

Mancini L. et al., *Phil. Mag. A* 78 (1998) 1175

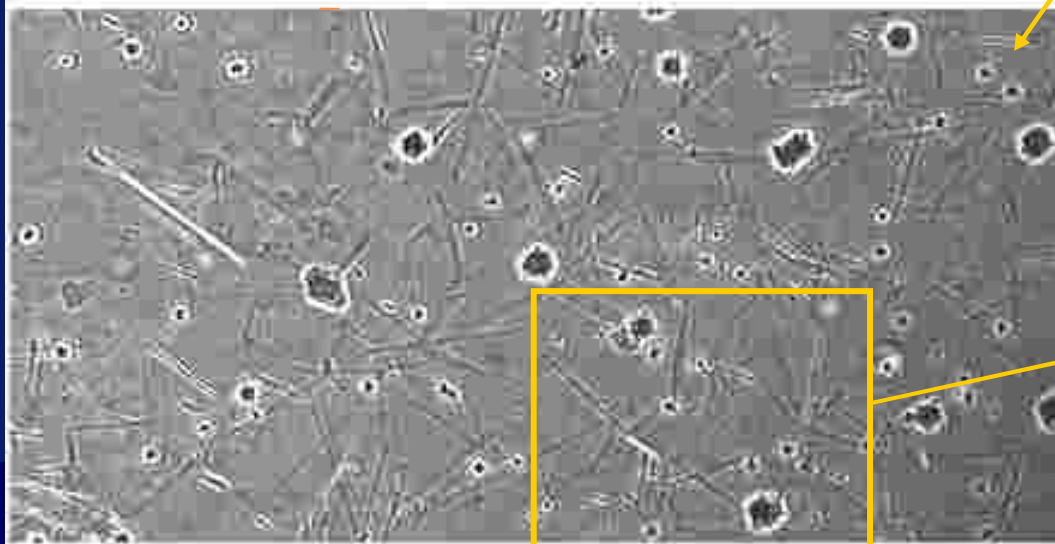


$d = 2 \text{ cm}$

Absorption radiograph

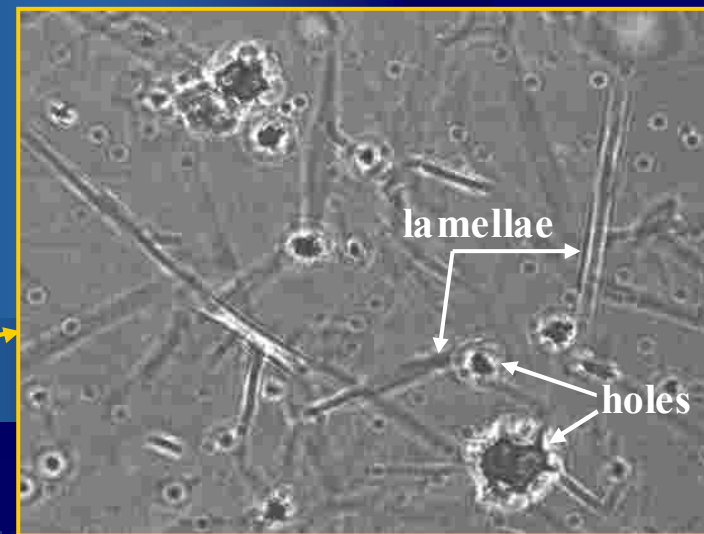
Phase radiograph

$E = 35.5 \text{ keV}$



400 μm

$d = 50 \text{ cm}$



lamellae

holes

200 μm

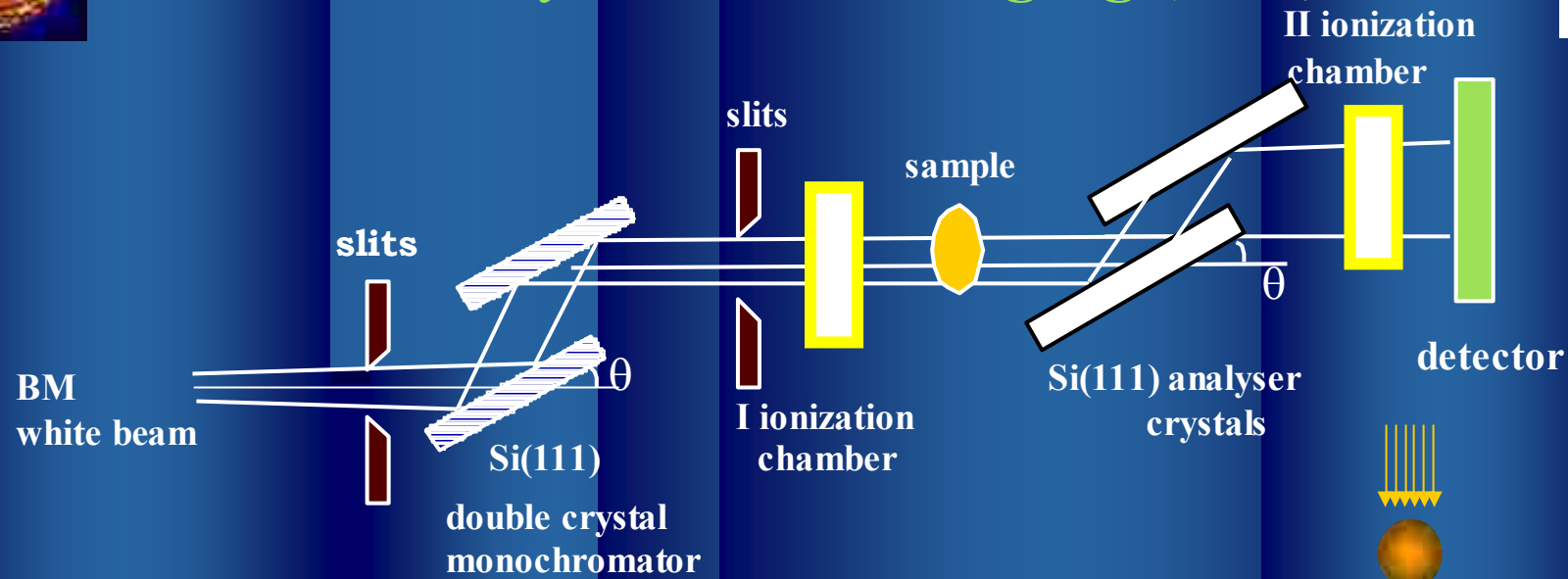


The Diffraction Enhanced Imaging (DEI) technique and the PHASY project

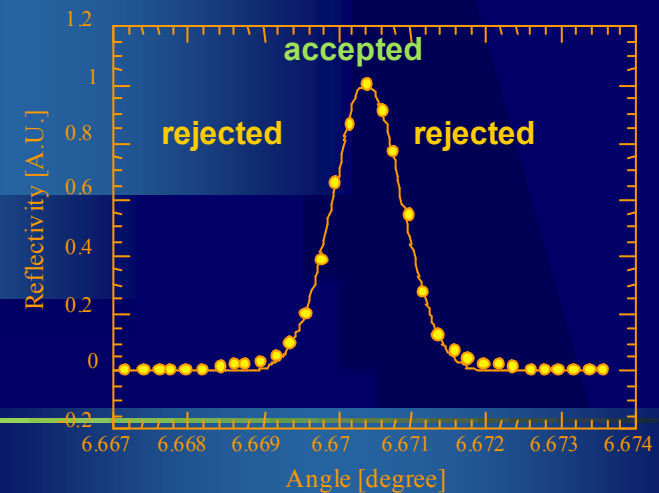
*PHASY: supported by the EC under Contract No HPRI-1999-CT-50008
coordinator Dr. R.-H. Menk (ELETTRA)*



DEI or Analyzer Based Imaging (ABI)

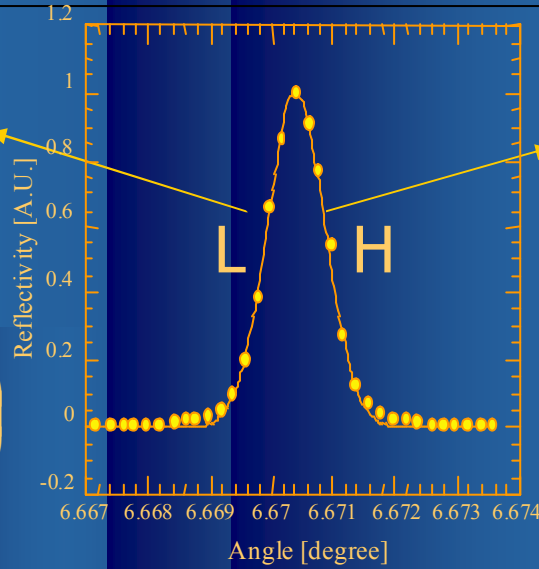
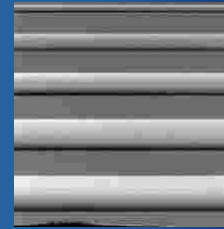
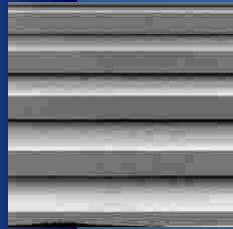


- An **analyzer** between sample and detector used as angular filter to select angular emission of X-rays. The filtering function is the rocking curve (**FWHM: 1-20 μ rad**). The detector collects the beam **diffracted** by the analyzer crystal.
- Image formation sensitive to variations of δ in the sample. Refraction angle roughly proportional to the **gradient of δ** .





DEI theory



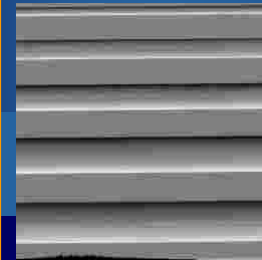
$$I_L = I_R \left(R(\Theta_L) + \frac{\partial R}{\partial \Theta}(\Theta_L) \Delta \Theta_z \right)$$

$$I_H = I_R \left(R(\Theta_H) + \frac{\partial R}{\partial \Theta}(\Theta_H) \Delta \Theta_z \right)$$

I_R = apparent absorption image

$\Delta \Theta_z$ = refraction image in the plane of the object

$$I_R = \frac{I_L \cdot \frac{dR}{d\Theta} \Big|_{\Theta_H} - I_H \cdot \frac{dR}{d\Theta} \Big|_{\Theta_L}}{R(\Theta_L) \cdot \frac{dR}{d\Theta} \Big|_{\Theta_H} - R(\Theta_H) \cdot \frac{dR}{d\Theta} \Big|_{\Theta_L}}$$



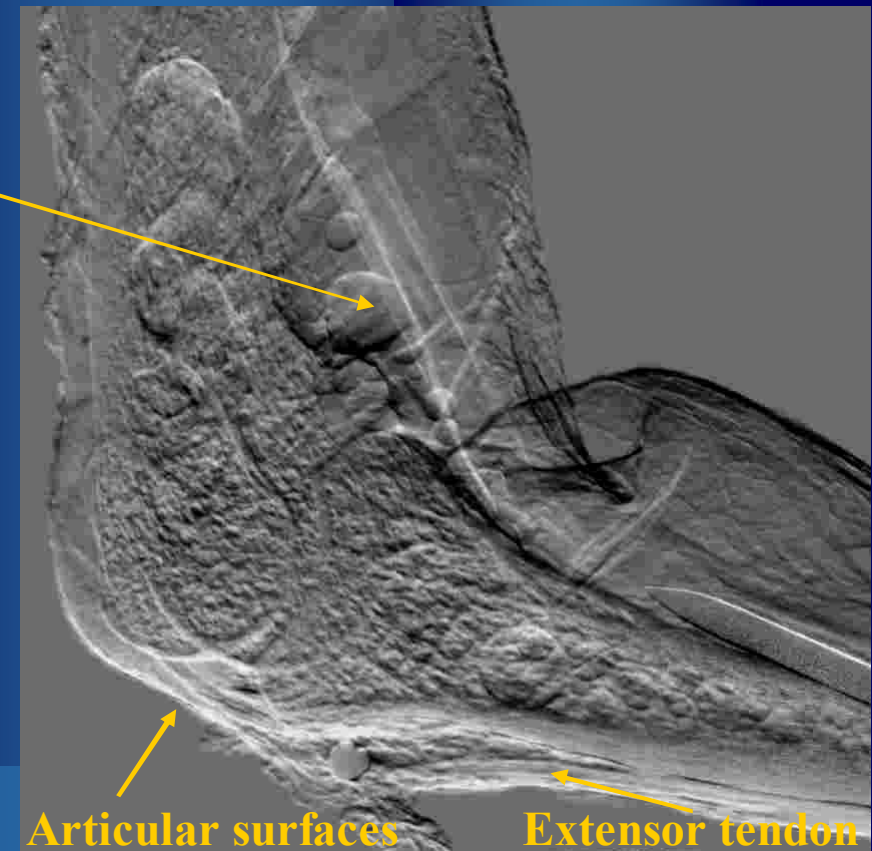
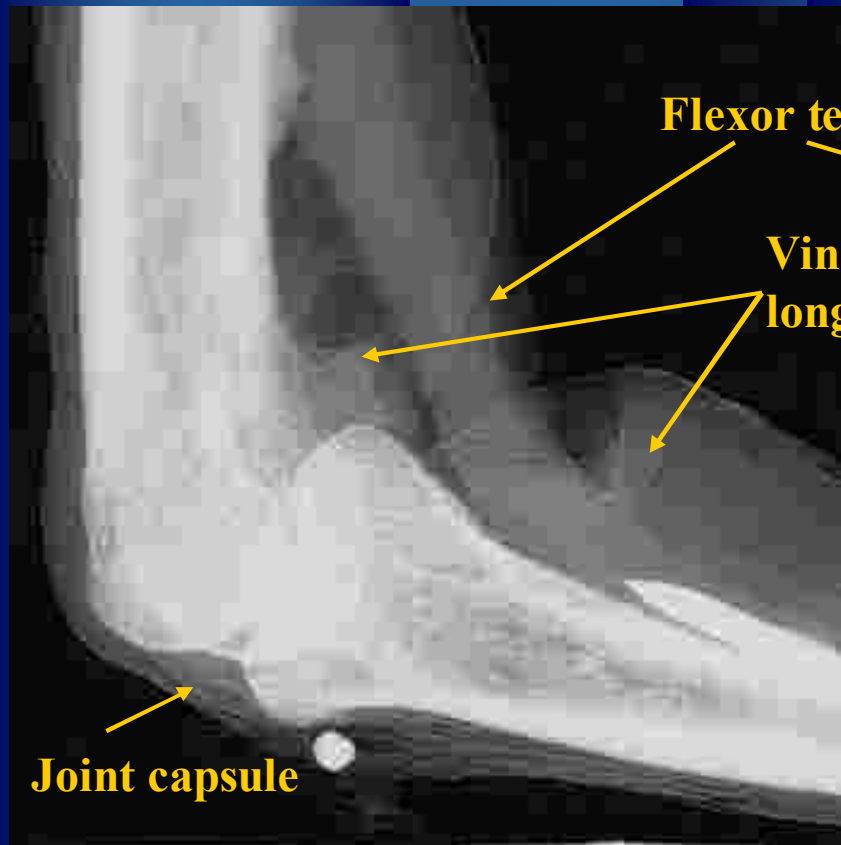
$$\Delta \Theta_z = \frac{I_H \cdot R(\Theta_L) - I_L \cdot R(\Theta_H)}{I_L \cdot \frac{dR}{d\Theta} \Big|_{\Theta_H} - I_H \cdot \frac{dR}{d\Theta} \Big|_{\Theta_L}}$$

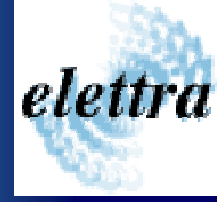


Human index finger proximal interphalangeal joint

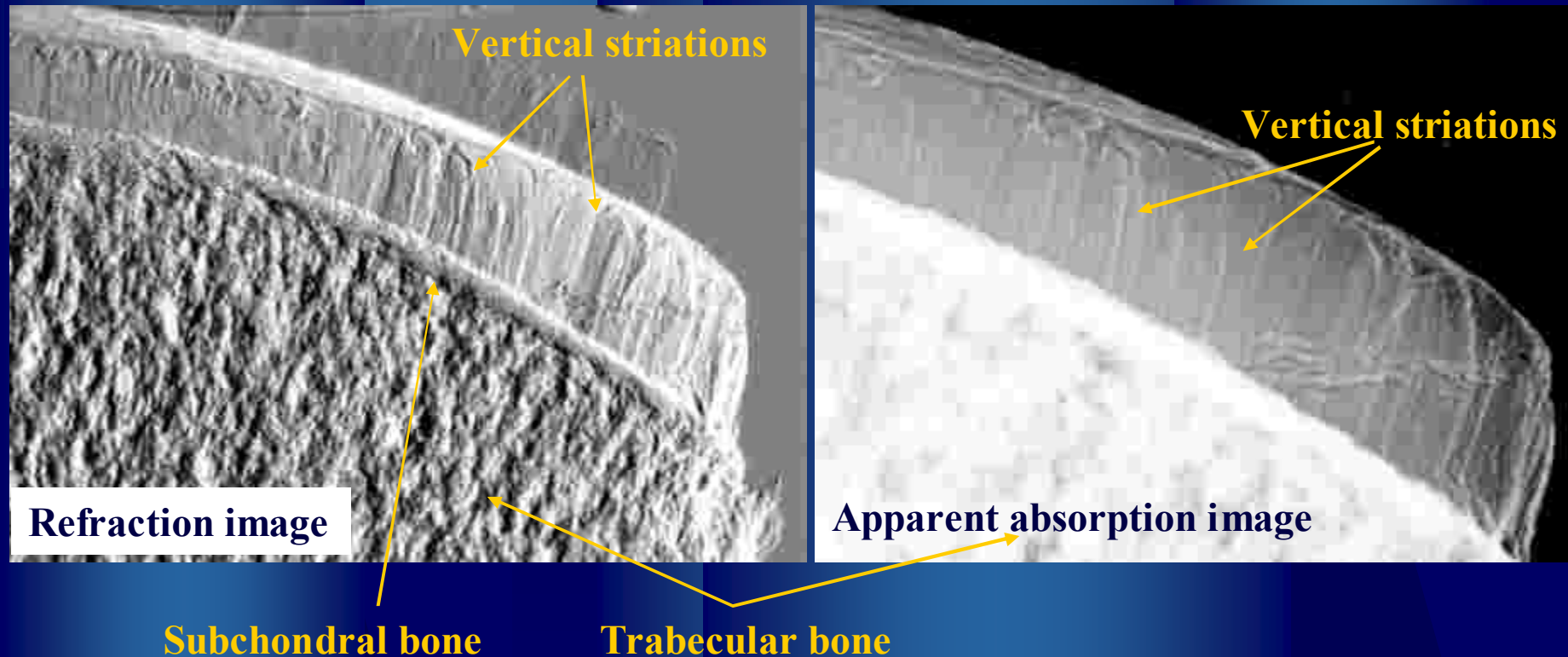
Apparent absorption Image

Refraction Image





Collagen arcades structure in femur head core cuts



- Collagen fibers switch from horizontal to vertical orientation increasing stiffness and material density

A. Wagner, et al., Nuclear Instruments and Methods A 548 (2005) 47–53.



Mouse lungs in DEI



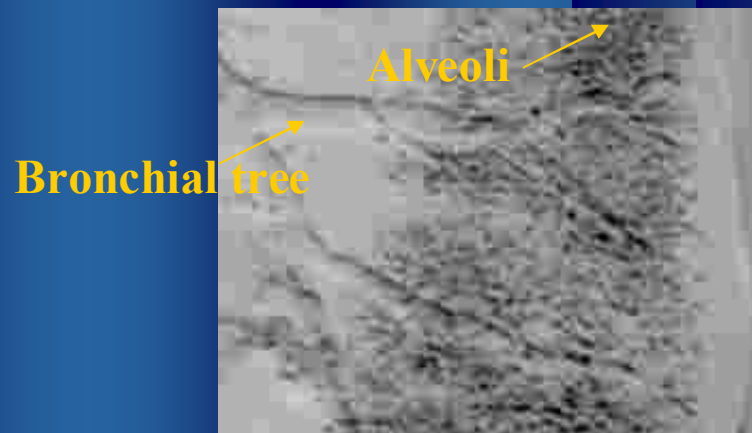
Transmission image



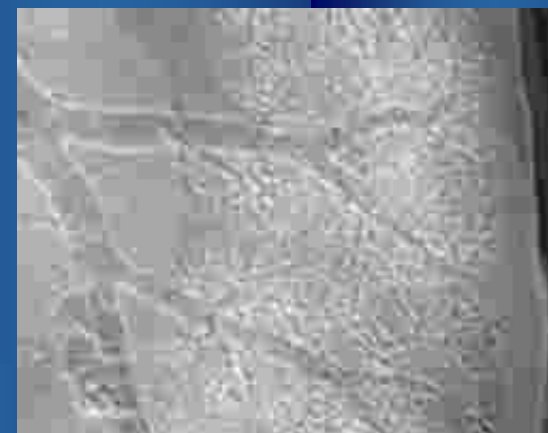
Apparent absorption image



Refraction image



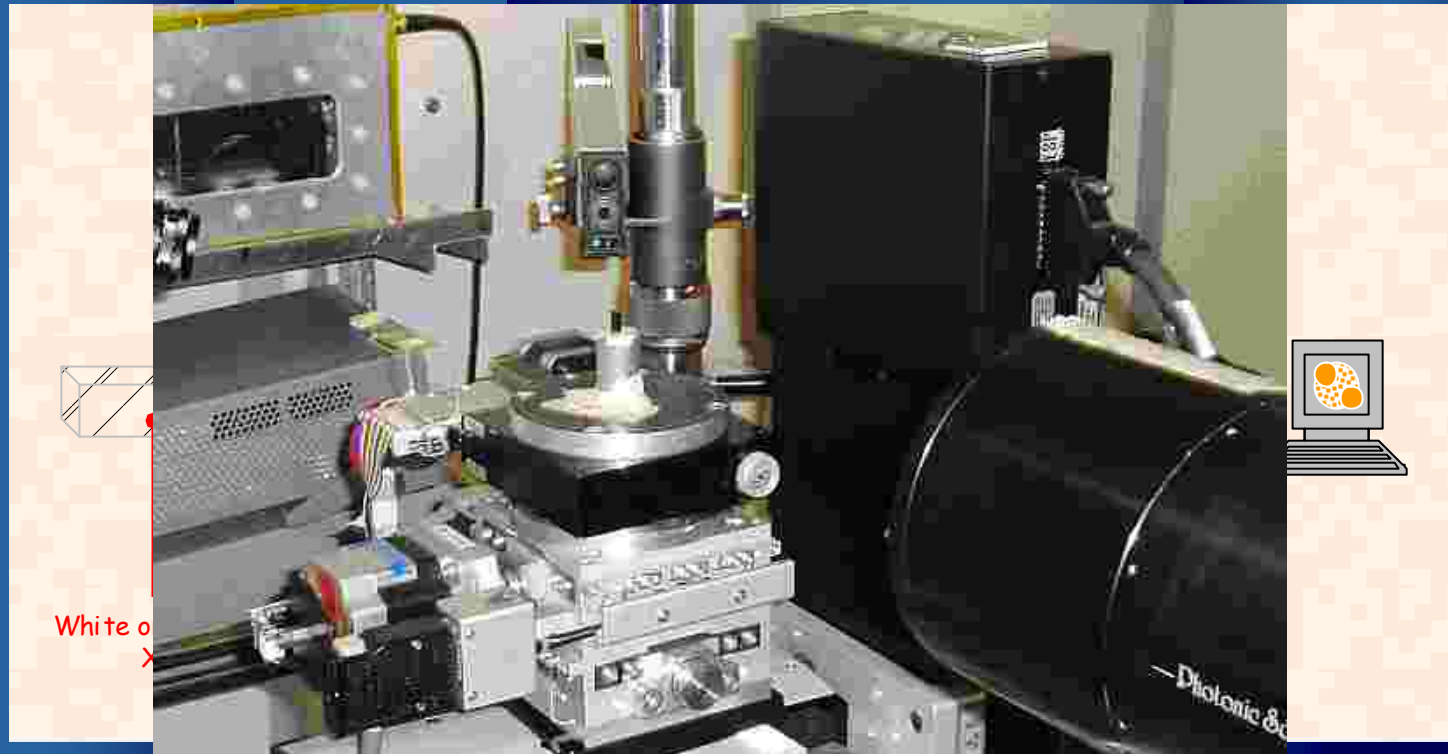
Zoom extinction contrast



Zoom reverse contrast



Synchrotron X-ray computed microtomography (μ -CT)



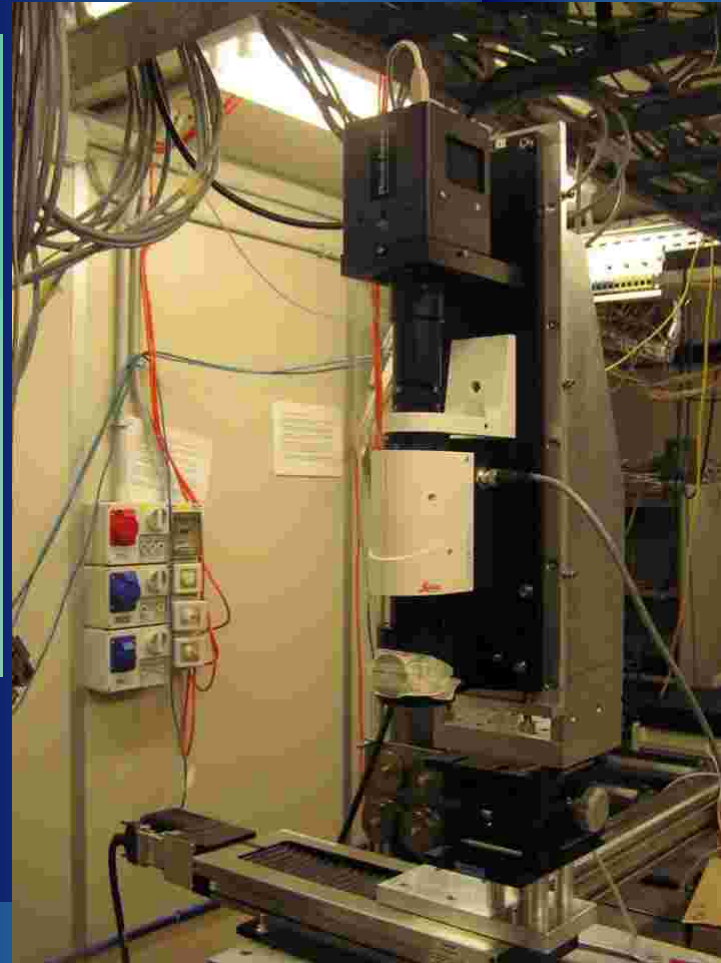
- Precious for investigation of internal features **without** sample **sectioning**:
 - in many cases the **sectioning procedure** modifies the sample structure
 - the sample can be after **studied by other** experimental **techniques**,
 - or submitted to several **treatments** (mechanical, thermal, etc...)



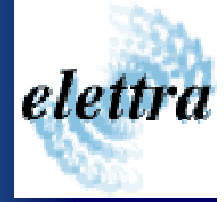
CCD detectors & optics



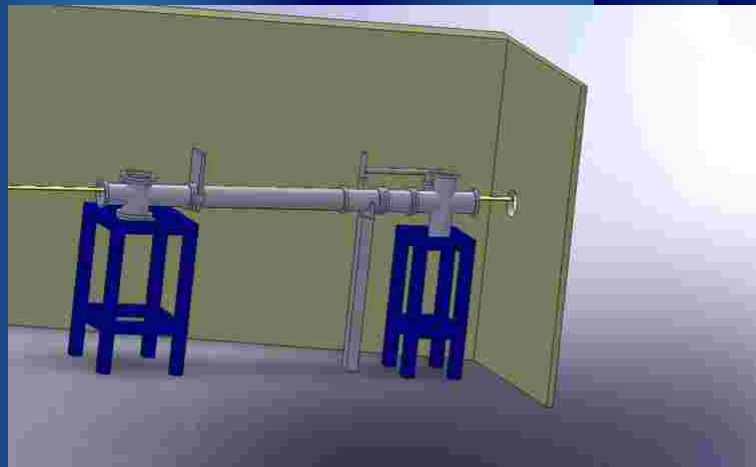
- Photonic Science Hystar
16 bit, 2048 x 2048 pixels²
pixel size: (3.85) 14 x (3.85) 14 μm^2
FOV: (8) 28 mm x (8) 28 mm
- Photonic Science VHR
12 bit, 4008 x 2672 pixels²
effective pixel size: 4.5x4.5 μm^2
FOV: 18 mm x 12 mm



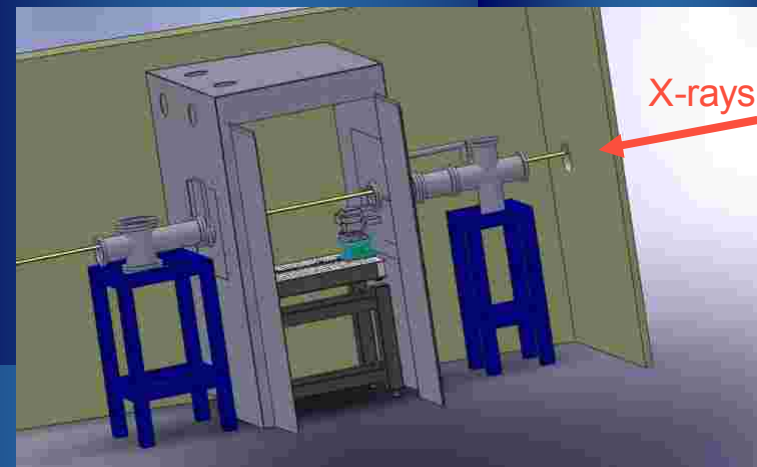
- Photonic Science Lens-coupled
16 bit, 2048 x 2048 pixels²
pixel size: 7.4x7.4 μm^2
FOV: continuously adjustable



Optics upgrade: access to **white beam** for HR imaging



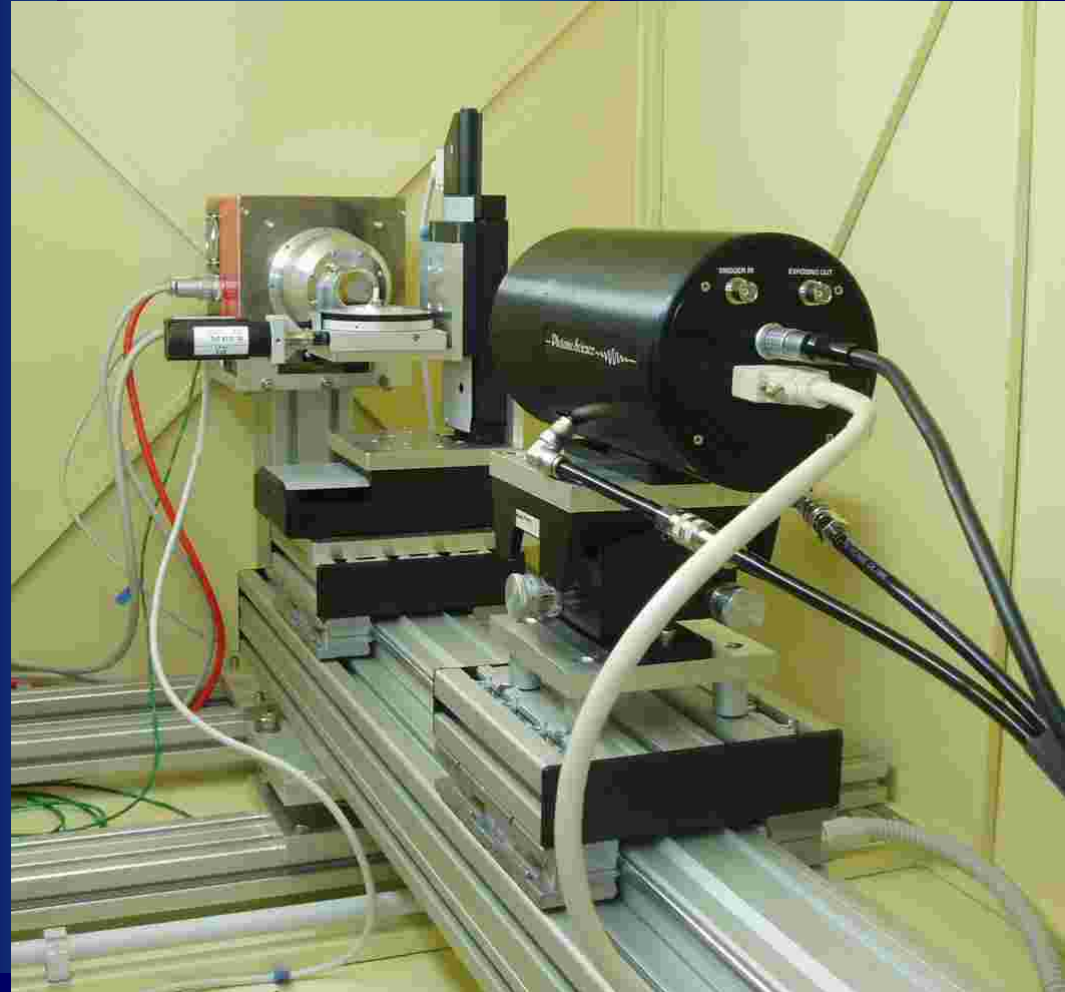
Monochromatic beam mode
(previous set-up)



White beam operating mode



TOMOLAB: a conventional μ -CT station at Elettra



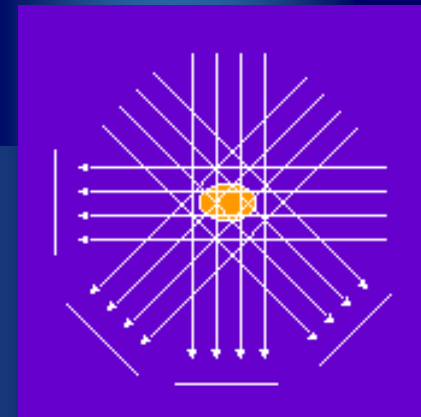
Designed at *Elettra* and constructed in collaboration with Georesources Dept. and Corso di Laurea in Odontoiatria e Protesi Dentaria - Facoltà Medicina e Chirurgia of the *Università of Trieste*.

$V = 40\div 130 \text{ kV}$, $P_{\text{max}} = 39 \text{ W}$, focal spot_{min} = $5 \mu\text{m}$

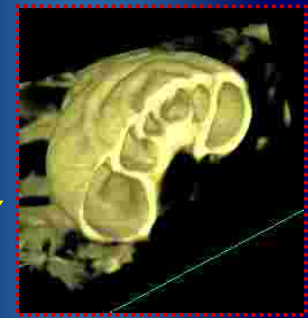
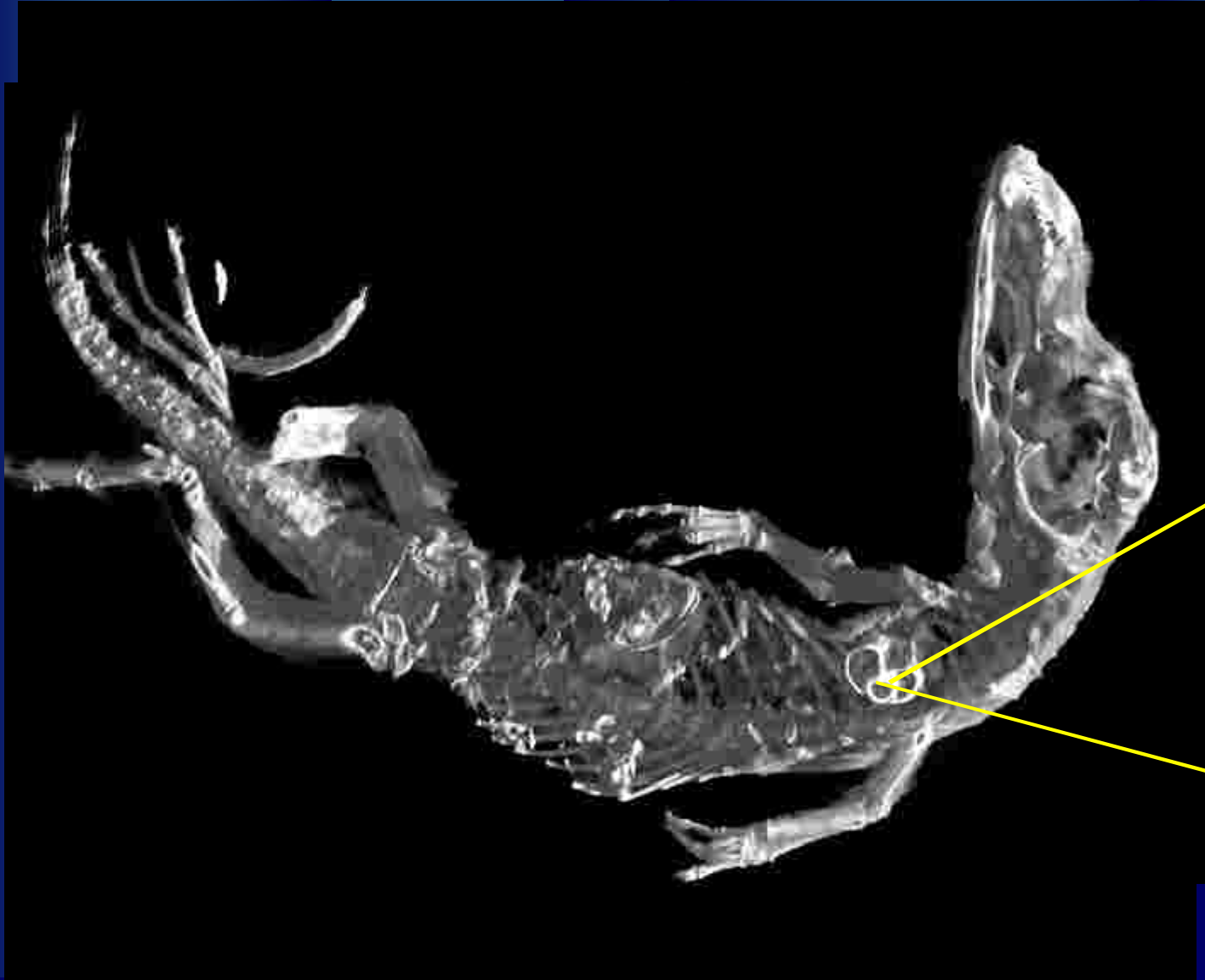


Elaboration of tomographic images

- Planar radiographs are elaborated by a **reconstruction procedure**:
 - **filtered backprojection** algorithm [*Herman, 1980*]
 - for each projection an **intensity map** is recorded in the xy detector plane
 - projections are submitted to **filtering procedures**
 - each intensity map is **back projected** along the normal to the projection itself
 - finally, the intensities are added for all the projections
- Reconstructed slices are then treated by a **rendering procedure**:
 - 2D slices visualized as **Stack**
 - 3D views of the sample can be obtained (**Volume rendering**)
- Rendered images can be elaborated applying filters, false colors, **segmentation tools** to extract quantitative information.



elettra



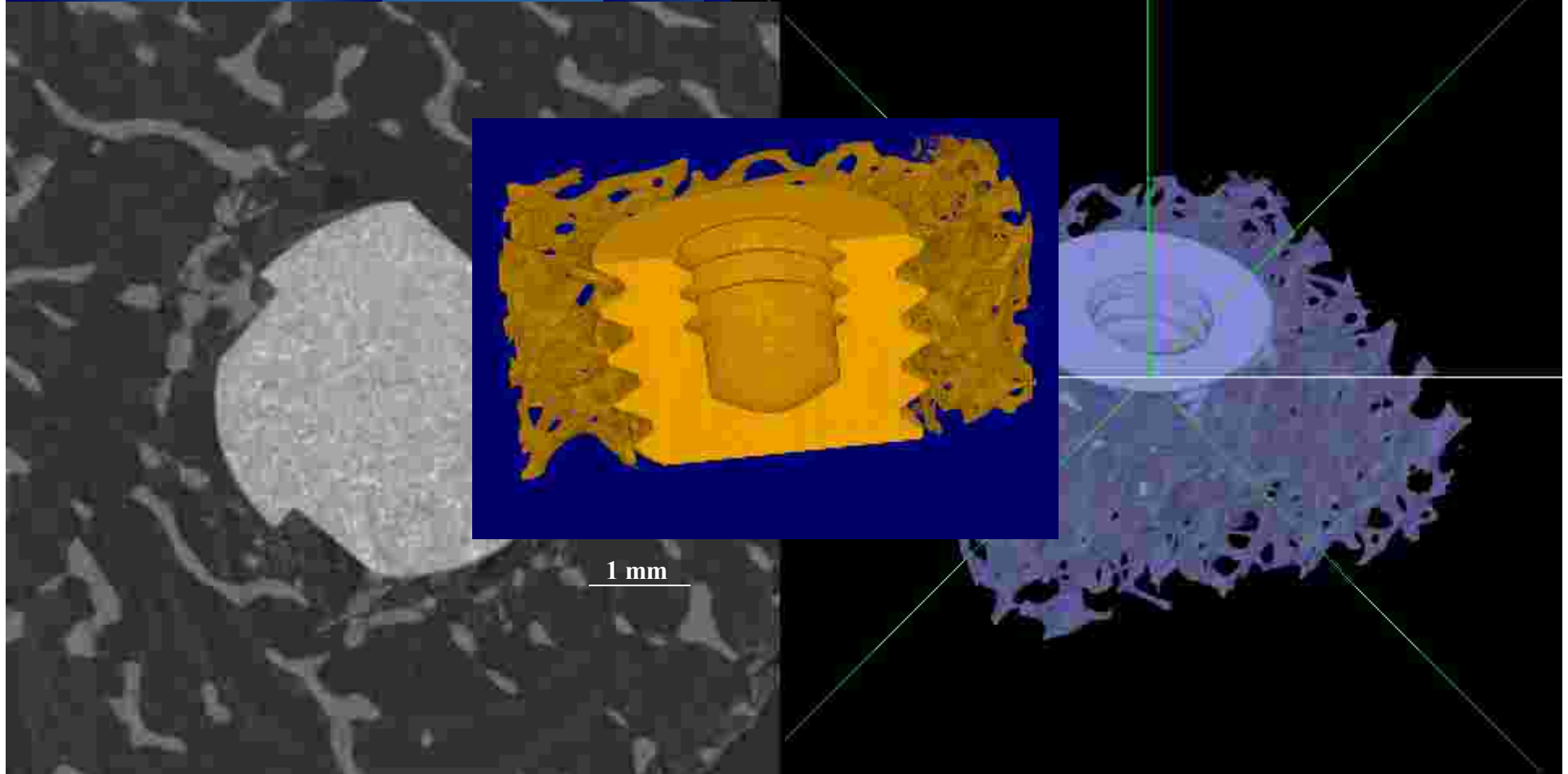
Lucertola



Biomaterials



Implanted bone



1 mm

$E = 29 \text{ keV}, d = 17 \text{ cm}$

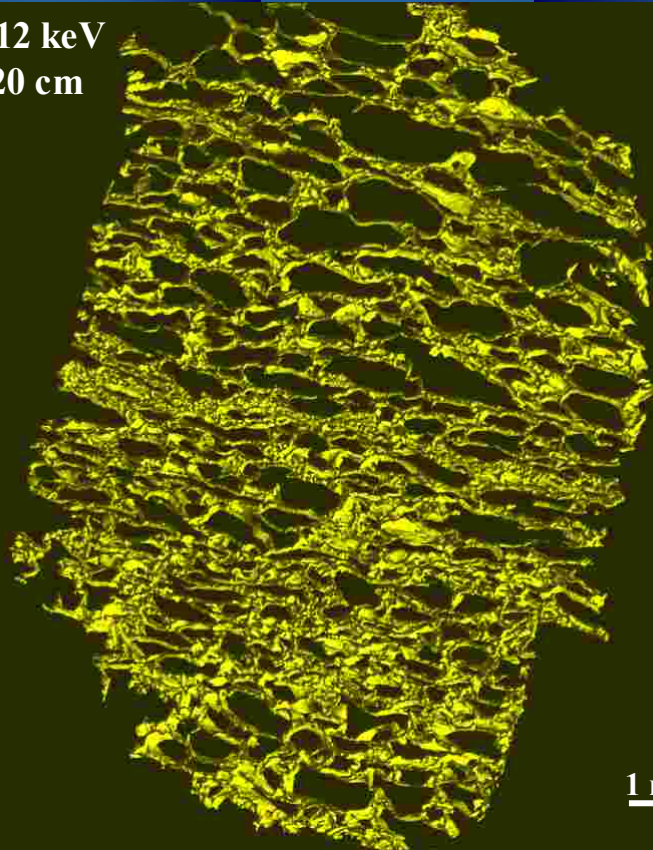
L. Tesei et al., Nucl. Instrum. and Meth. A, Vol. 548, Issues 1-2 (2005) 257-263.



Food science

Bread crumb

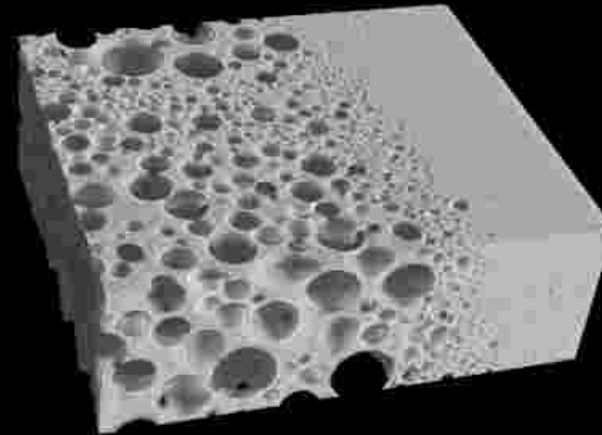
$E = 12 \text{ keV}$
 $d = 20 \text{ cm}$



1 mm

Aerated chocolate

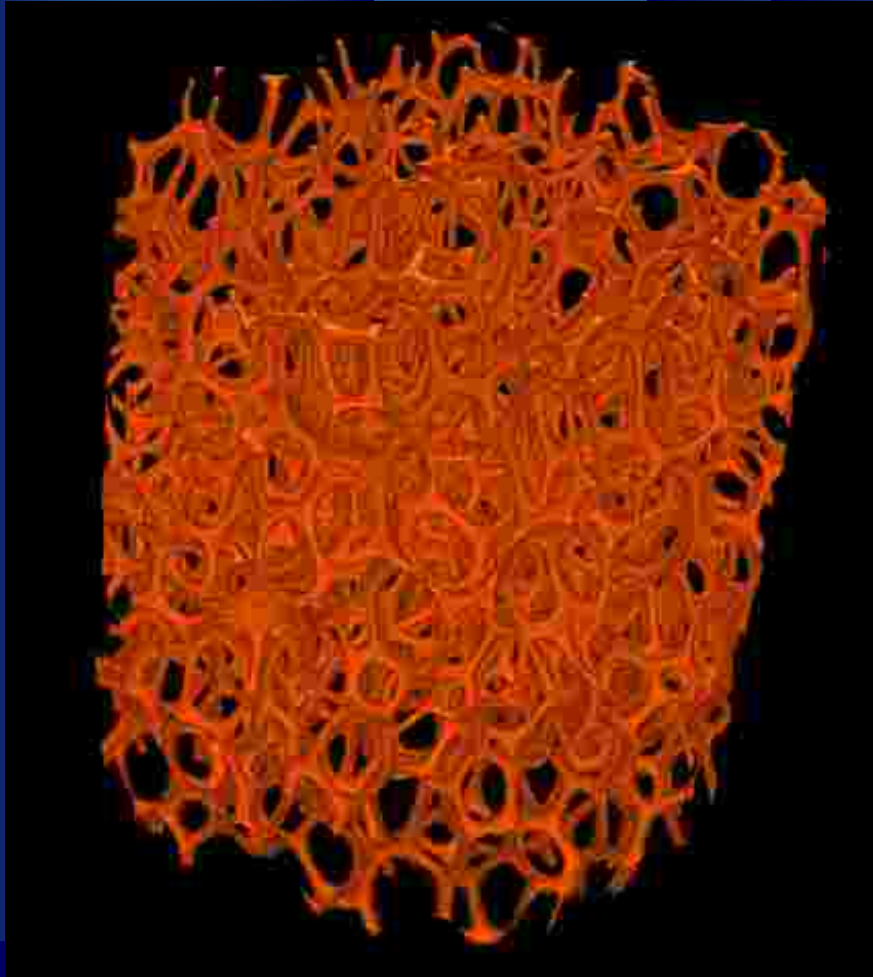
$E = 13 \text{ keV}$
 $d = 6 \text{ cm}$



$\text{Voxel} = (8 \times 6.78 \times 2.8) \text{ mm}^3$

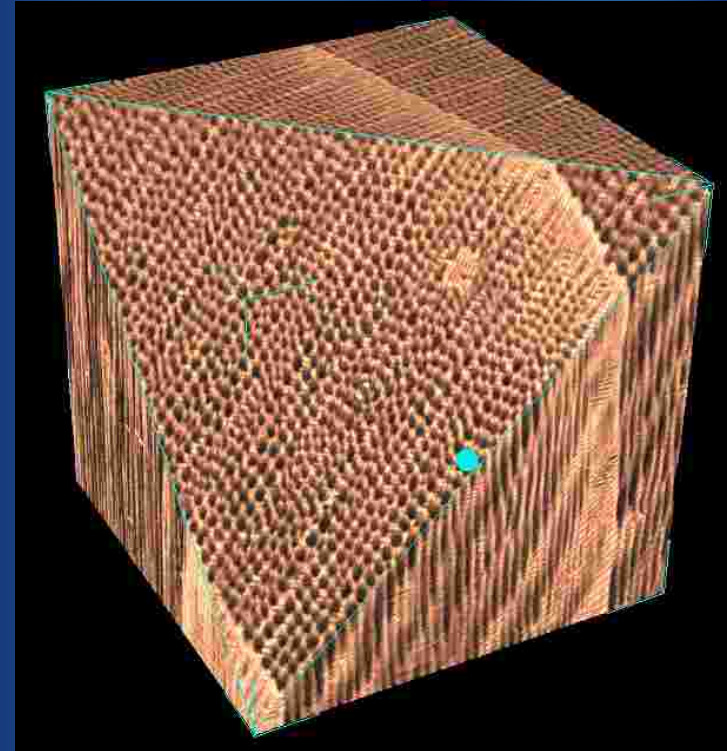


Polymeric foams



Courtesy of L. Bregant, Univ. of Trieste

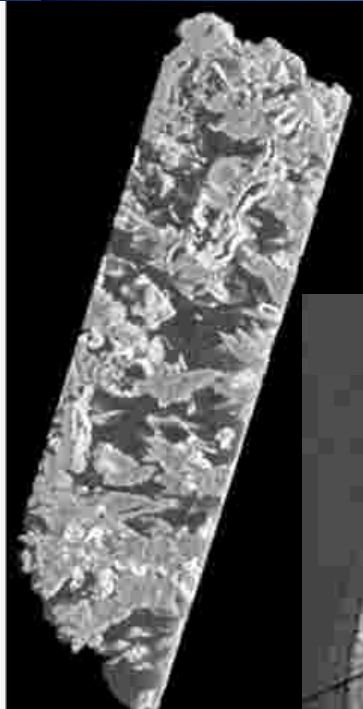
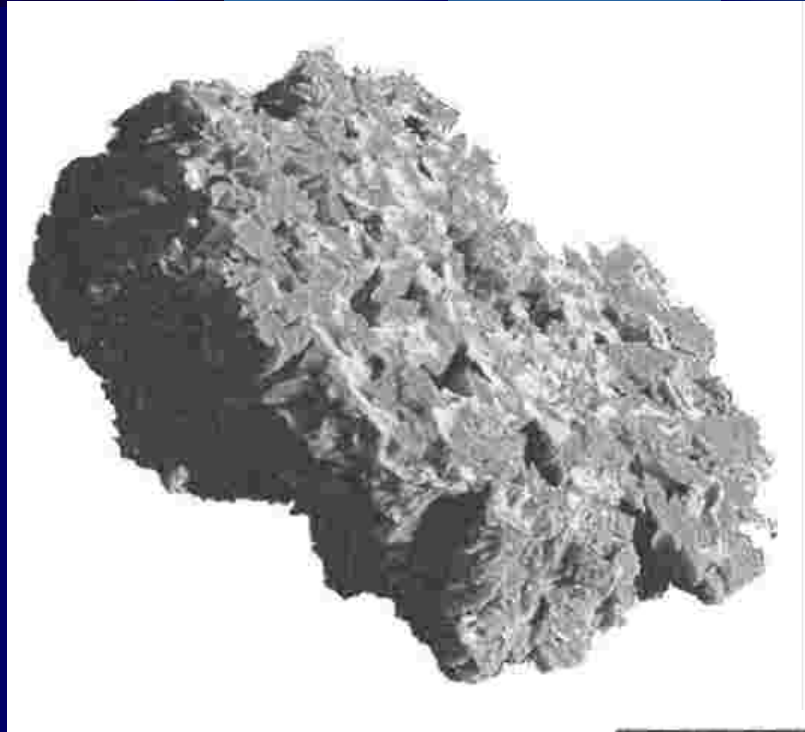
Wood samples



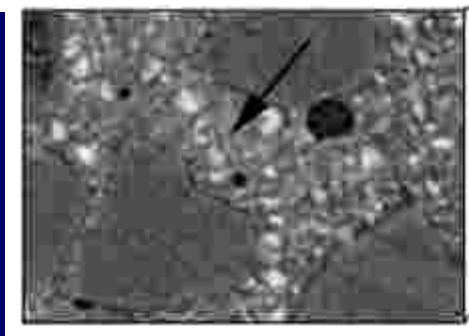
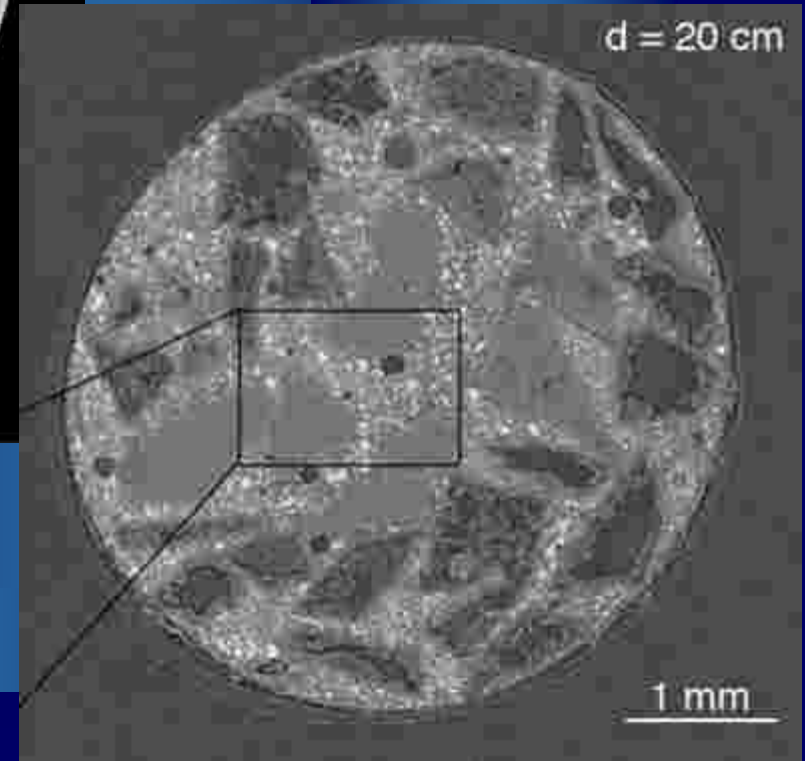
D. Dreossi et al., in Wood Science for Conservation of Cultural Heritage - Florence 2007, Firenze University Press 2010, Florence (Italy), pp. 34-39



Kidney stones



Cement-based materials



J. Kaiser et al., Urological Research, 39 (2011) 259-267.

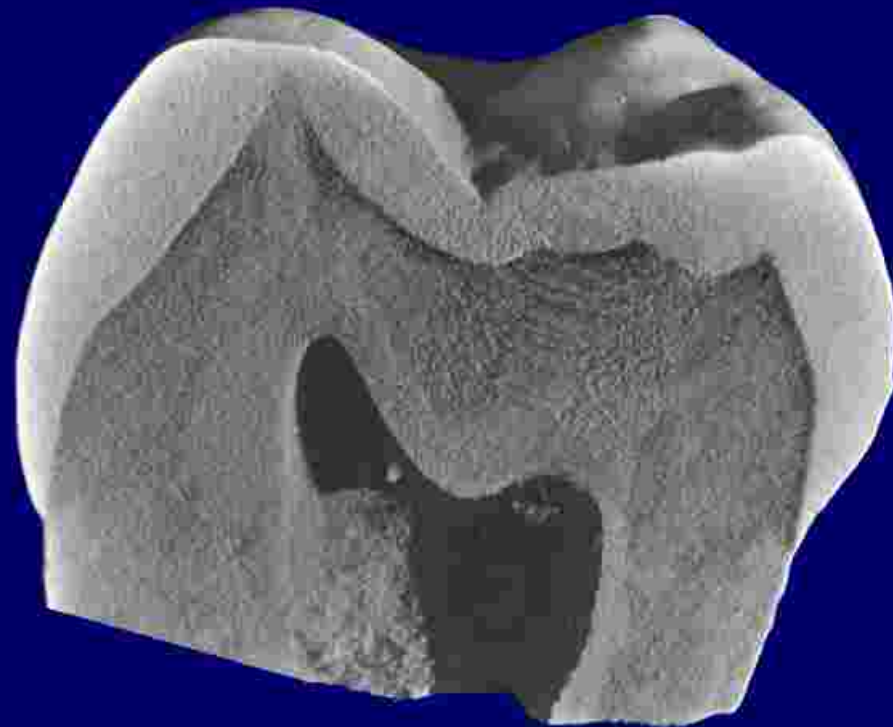
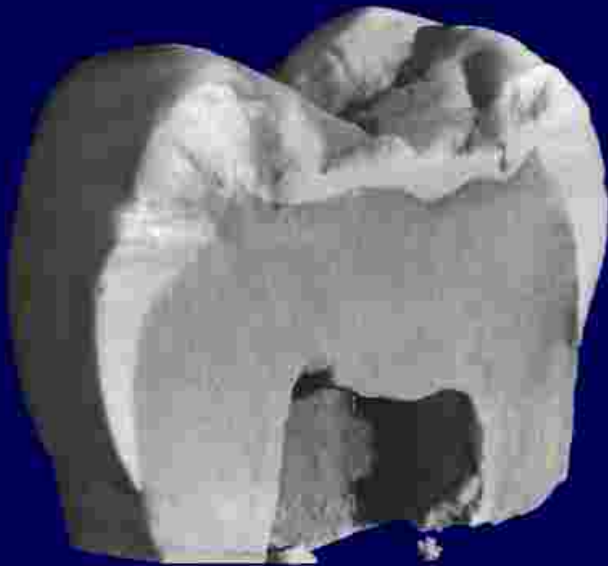
N. Marinoni et al., Journal of Material Science, 44 (2009) 5815-5823



Analysis of a Neanderthal tooth



Volume rendering



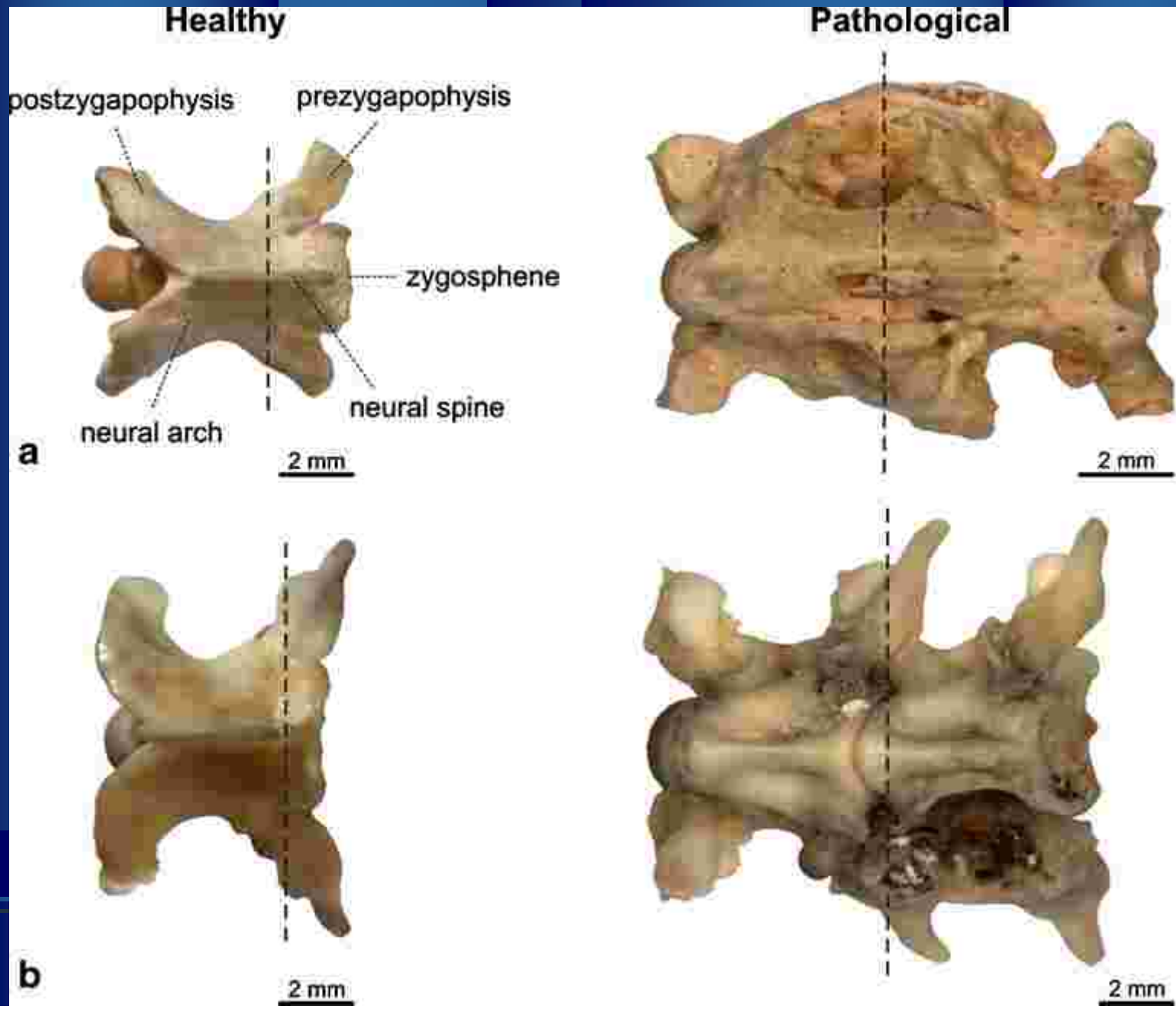
Volume: (1110 x 706 x 946) voxels³
voxel side = 10 microns

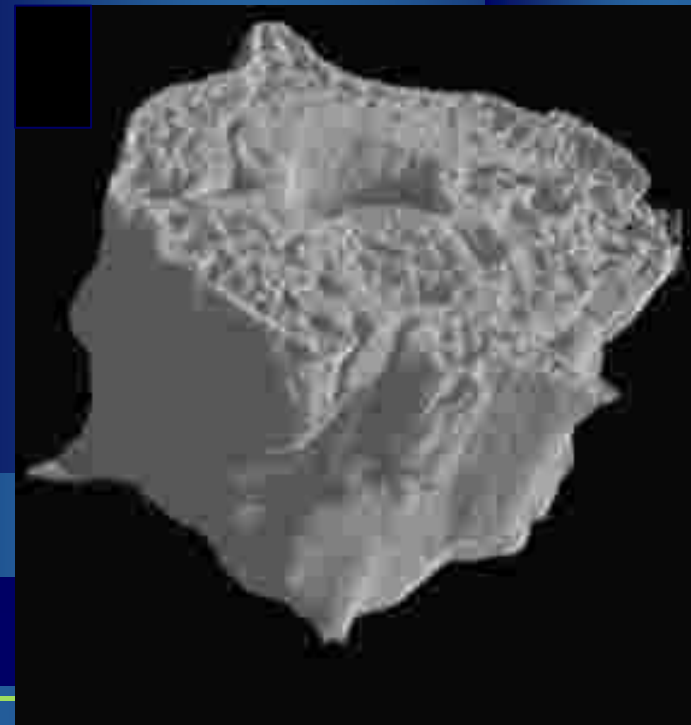
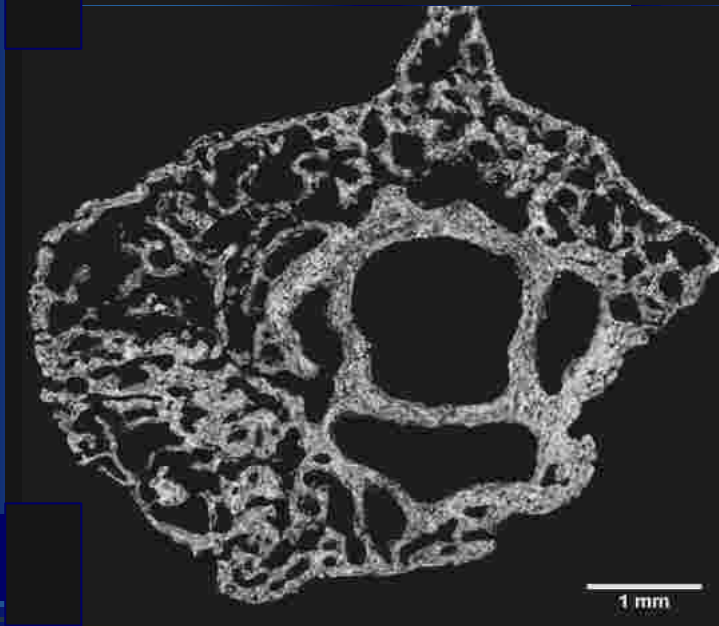
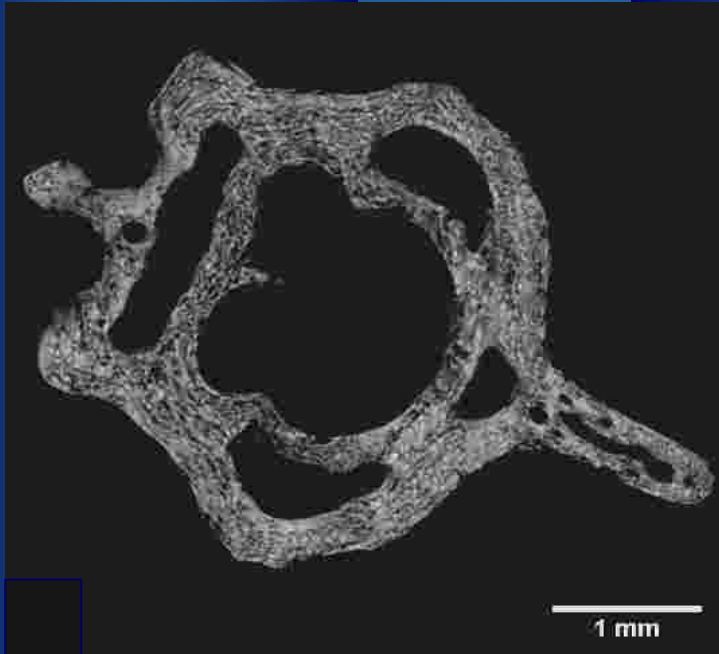
Courtesy of C. Tuniz

Fossil snake vertebra (1 Ma. old)



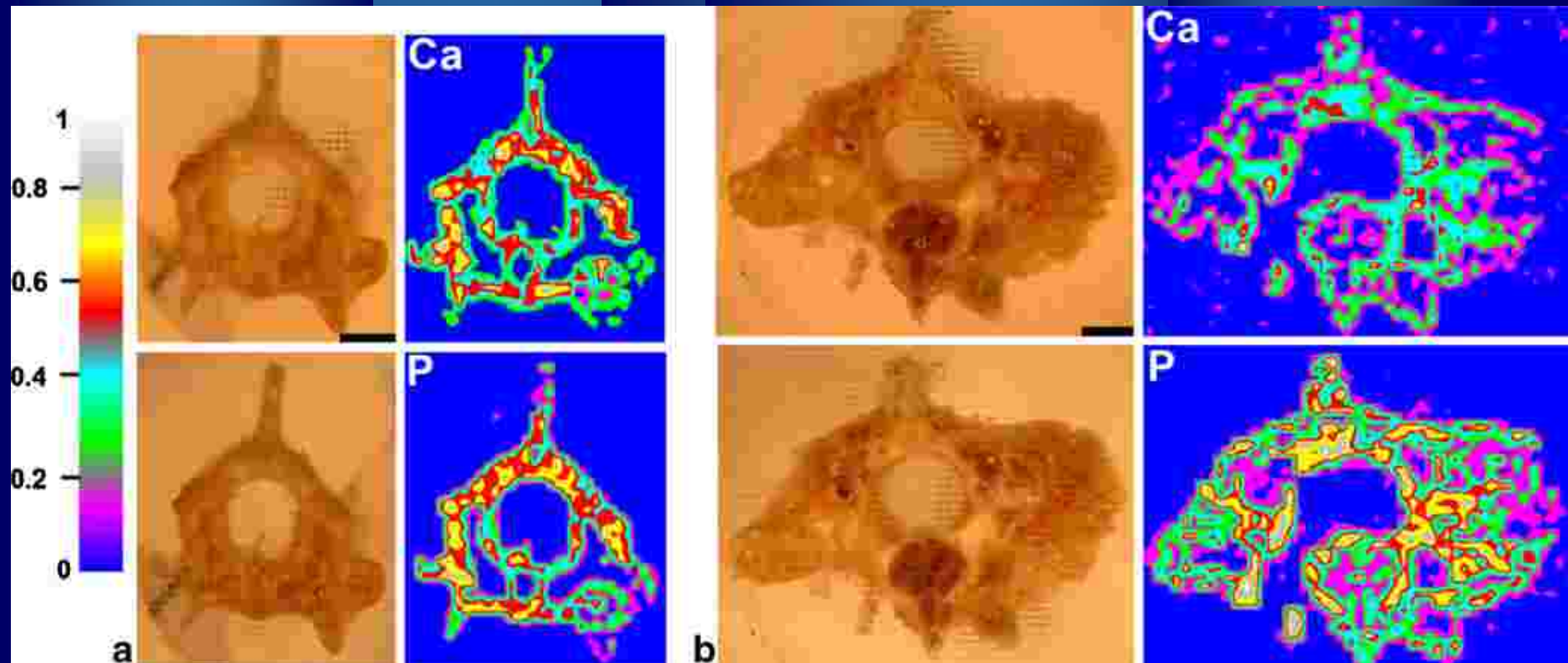
BRNO
UNIVERSITY
OF
TECHNOLOGY



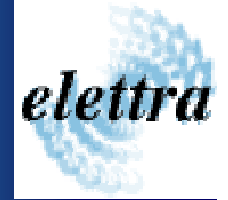


Healthy

Pathological



Spatial distribution of trace elements measured on fossil vertebra sections by DP-LIBS technique (bar length = 1 mm)



*3D analysis of the canal network of Stylaster sp.
(Cnidaria, Hydrozoa) by means of X-ray μ CT*



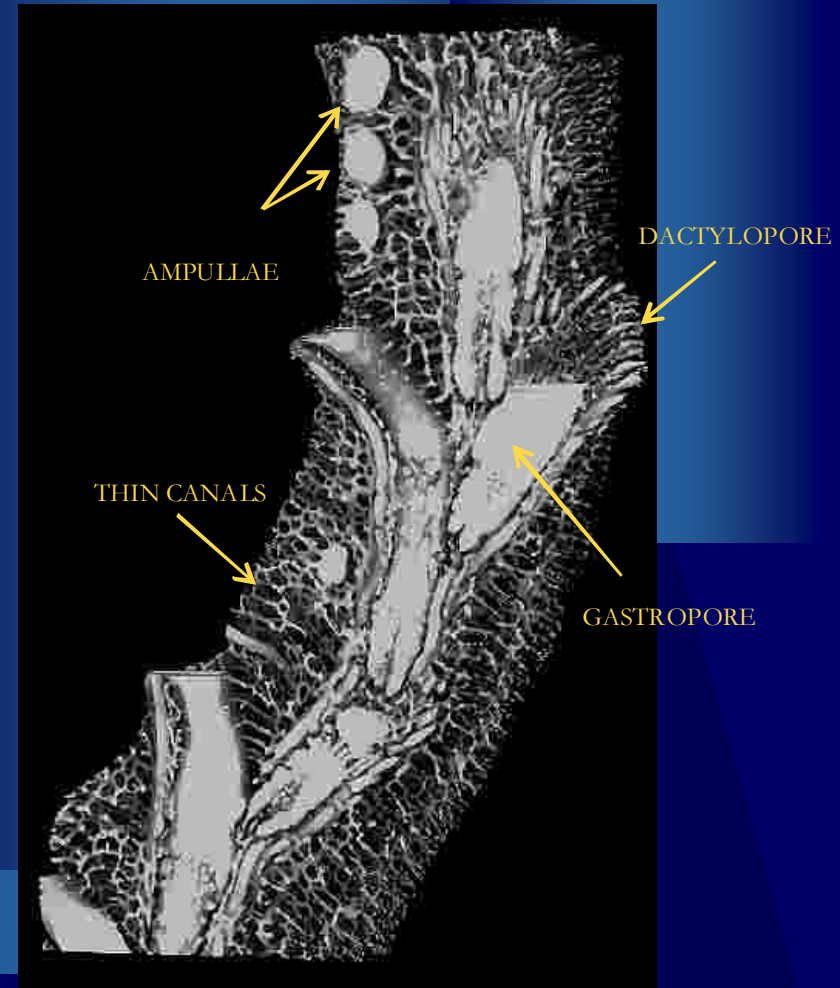
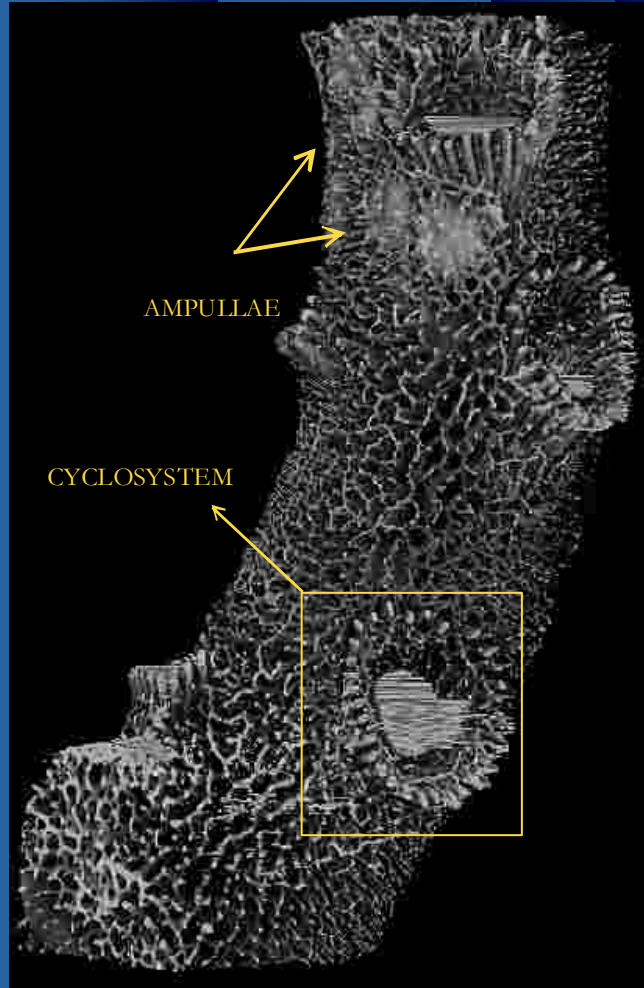
Colony in situ



3D rendering of a branch

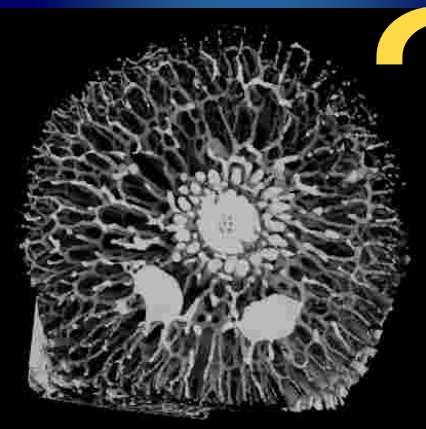
Branch of the colony without coenostem

Section of the branch

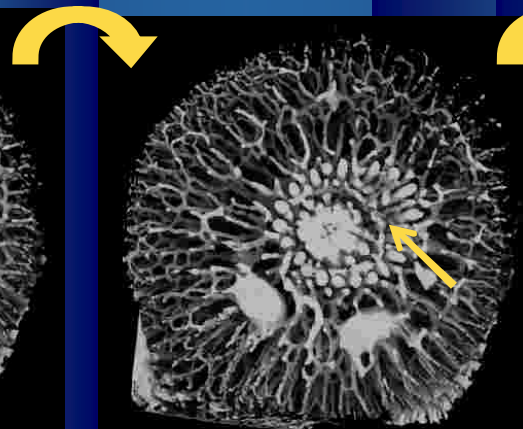




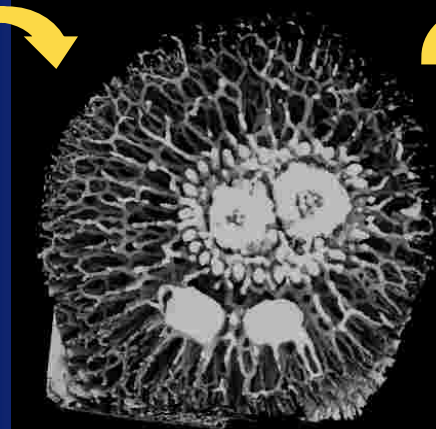
Study of the growth process



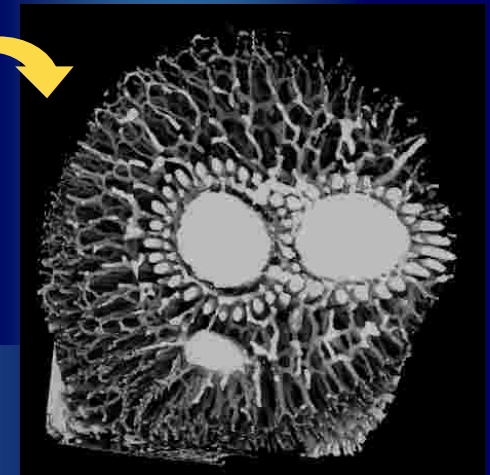
Cyclosystem



Cyclosystem enlargement



Old and new gastropores surrounded by a single ring of dactyloporous



Cyclosystems completely separated

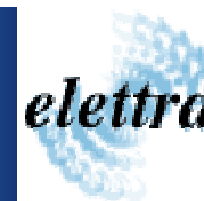
The analysis of a sequence of the coral's transverse sections revealed the reciprocal relationship between adjacent cyclosystems: each new cyclosystem appears to bud between the gastropore and the dactyloporous of the last formed one.



University of Bologna
Physics Department

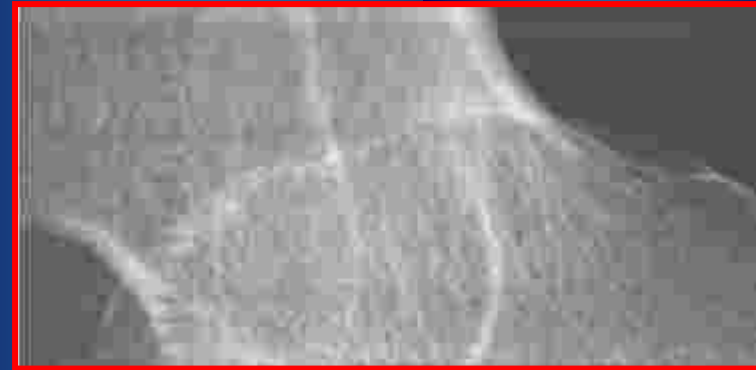


ISTITUTI ORTOPEDICI RIZZOLI



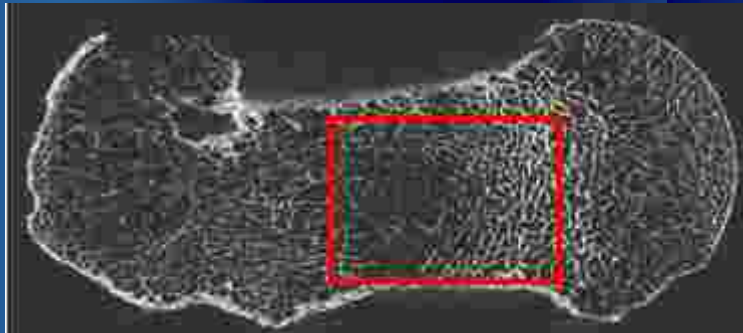


10 cm

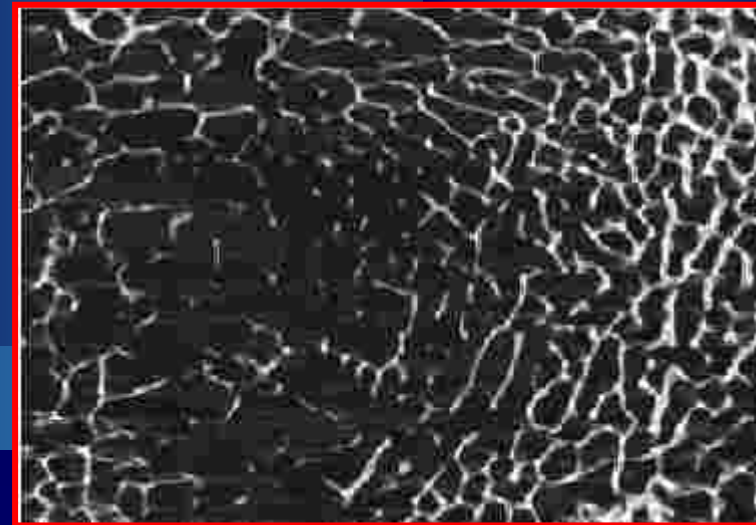


$E = 34 \text{ keV}$

$t_{\text{exp}} = 600 \text{ sec}$



Reconstructed slice



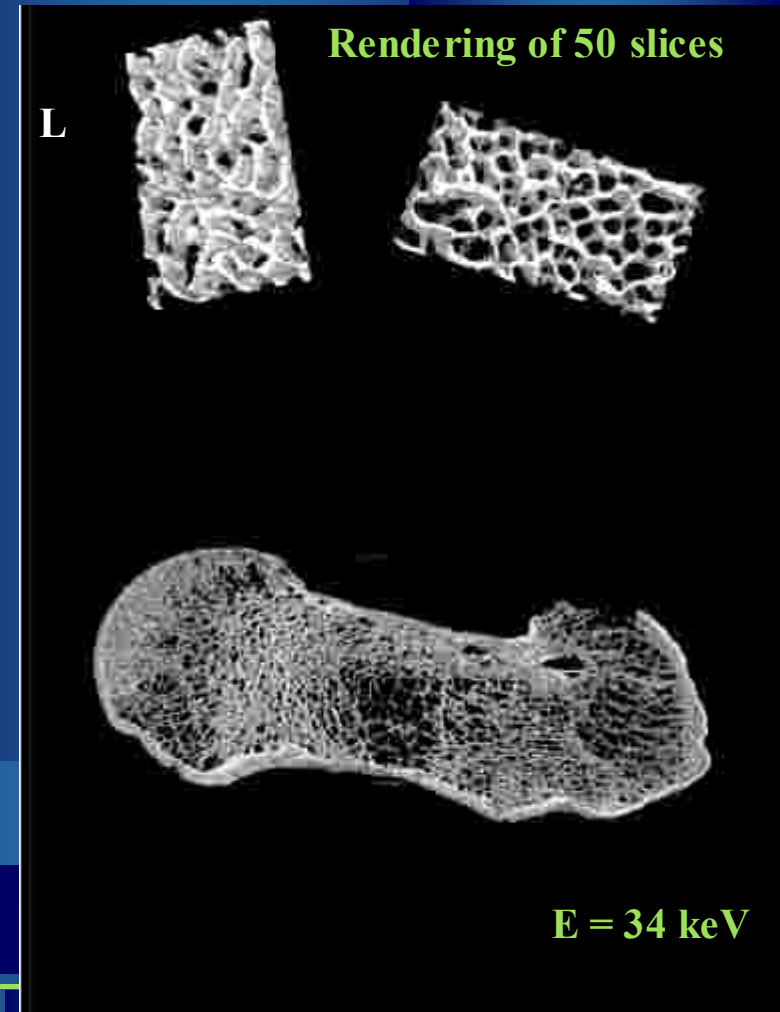


F. Baruffaldi, M. Bettuzzi, D. Bianconi, R. Brancaccio, S. Cornacchia, N. Lanconelli, L. Mancini, M. P. Morigi, A. Pasini, E. Perilli, D. Romani, A. Rossi, F. Casali



	BV/TV [%]	Tb.Th [μm]	Tb.N [mm^{-1}]	Tb.Sp [μm]
Left ROI	21.4 \pm 0.3	167 \pm 2	1.28 \pm 0.03	610 \pm 20
Right ROI	13.8 \pm 0.2	120 \pm 1	1.17 \pm 0.02	740 \pm 10

	BV/TV [%]	Tb.Th [μm]	Tb.N [mm^{-1}]	Tb.Sp [μm]
Big ROI	17.5 \pm 0.2	122 \pm 2	1.44 \pm 0.02	576 \pm 8





Original waterlogged glass, completely corroded

Fragment provided by the Museum of London

Stack of 130 slices

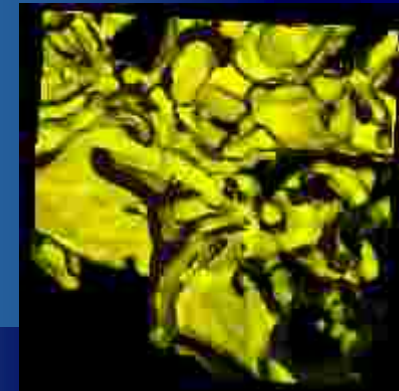
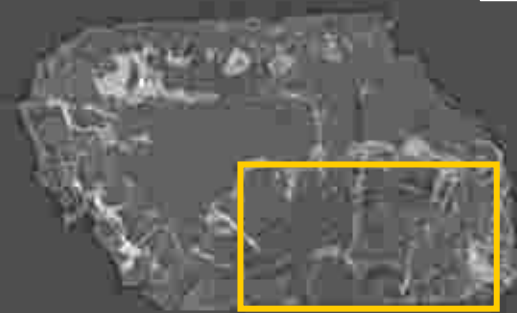


1 mm

$E = 25 \text{ keV}$ $d = 66 \text{ cm}$; acquisition time: 4h

Slice 207

1 mm



Cine rendering of channels
(9.0 x 9.0 x 0.2) mm³

It is possible to visualize:

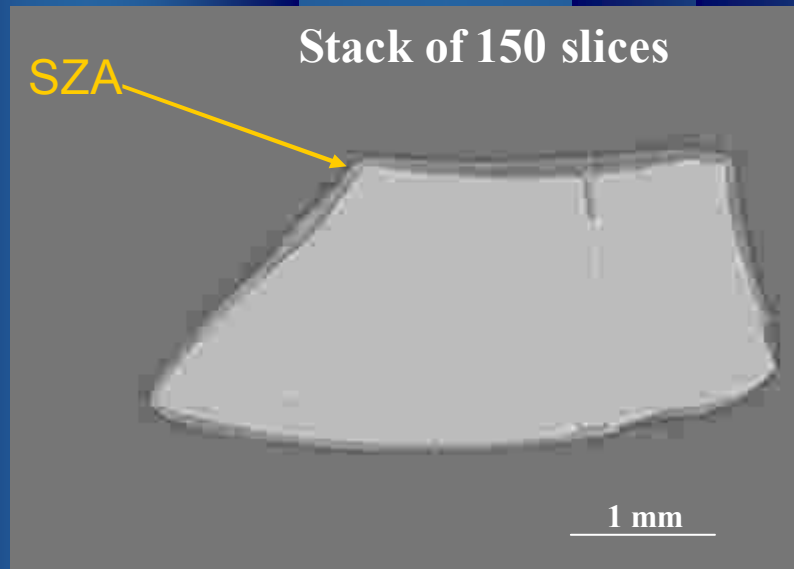
→ the gel-layer channels

→ the lamellar structure inside the corroded glass



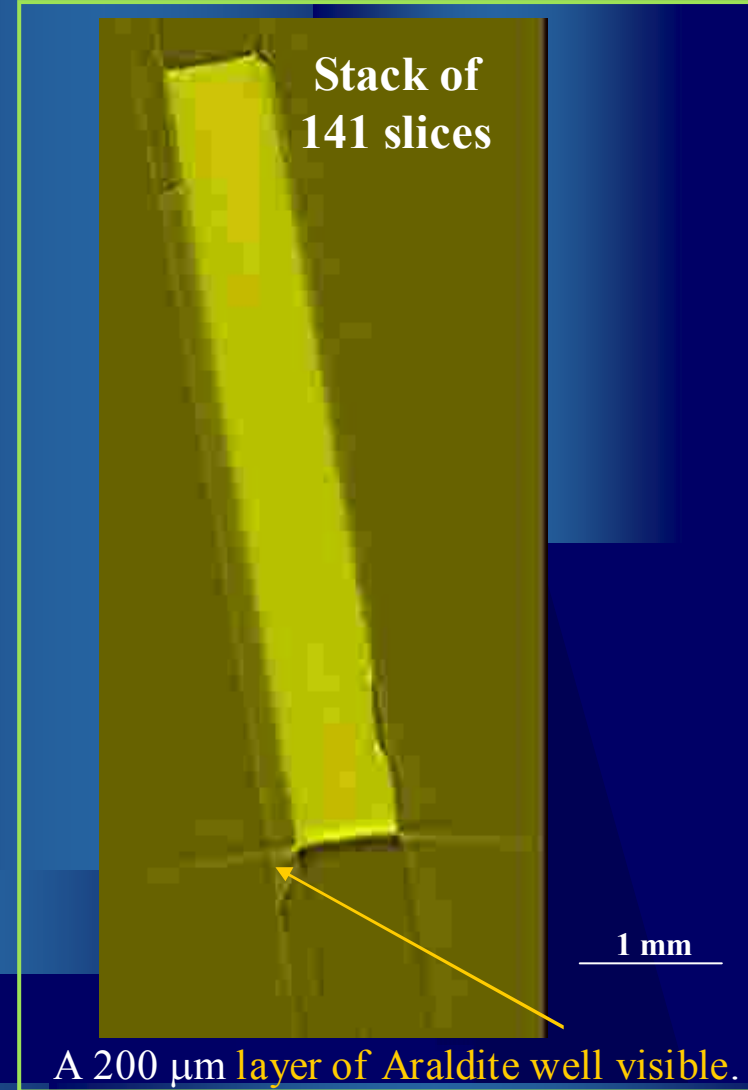
Model glasses covered by a polymeric layer

Bulk polymers (acrylates) are used as consolidant materials



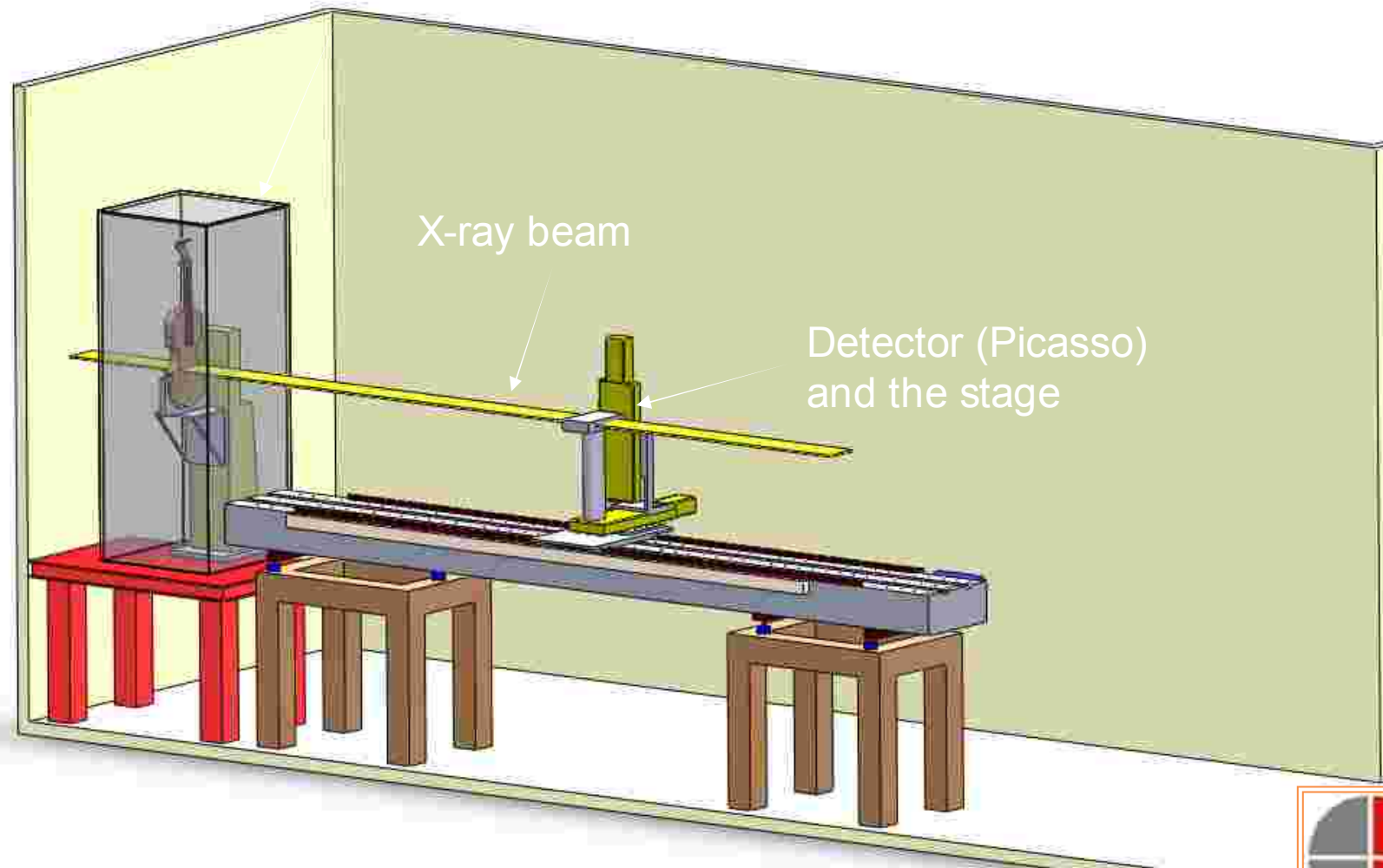
Inorganic layer based on **Silicium-Zirconium-Alcoxides (SZA)** well visible on the glass surface. SZA penetrates the crack on the upper surface. The channel is completely filled without formation of voids.

$E = 25 \text{ keV}$, $d = 66 \text{ cm}$



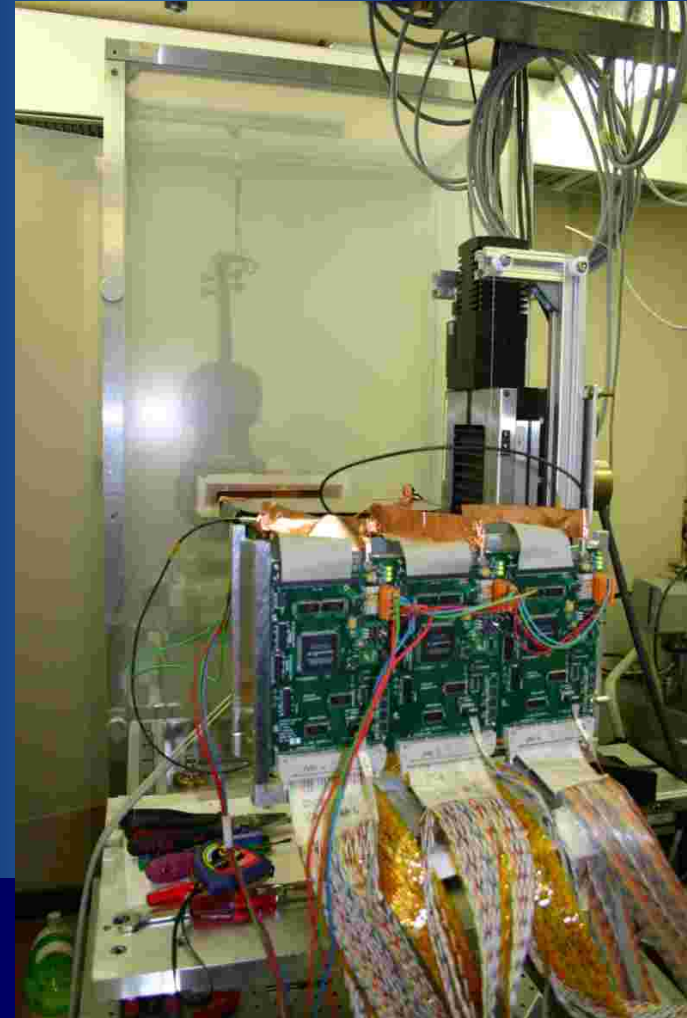
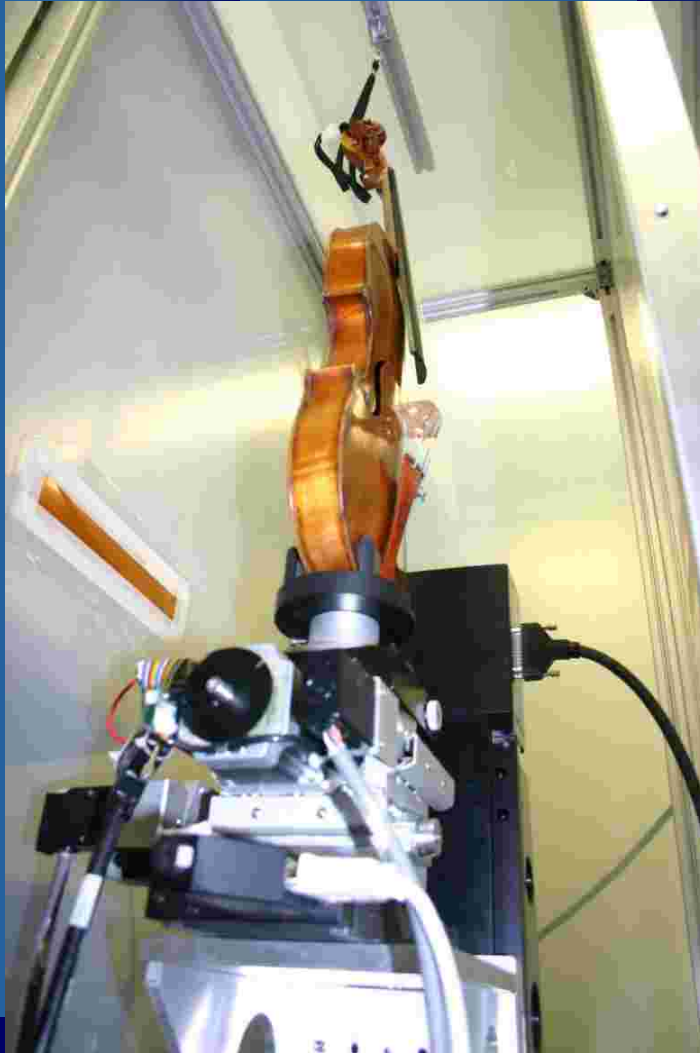


Non-destructive evaluation of musical instruments *elettra*





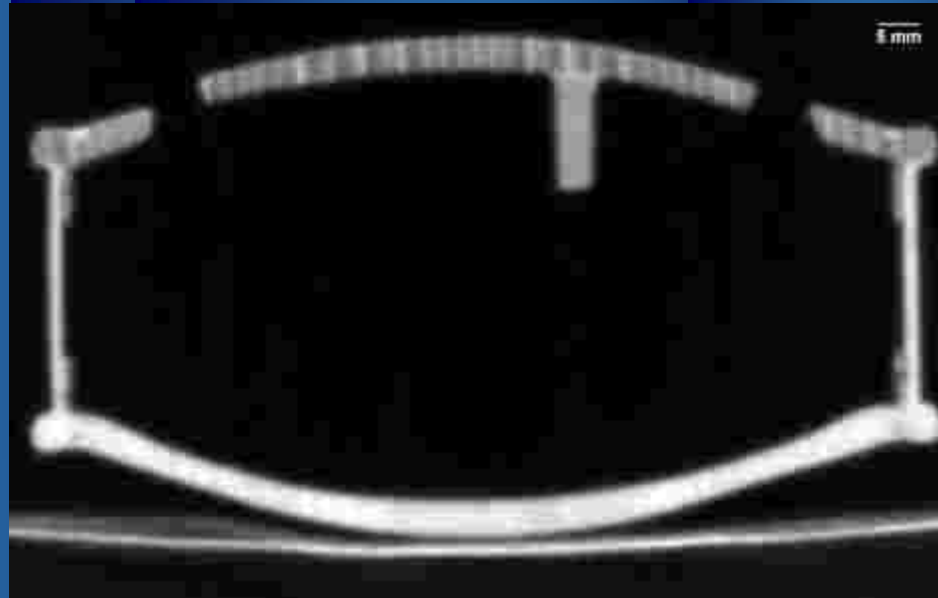
Non-destructive evaluation of musical instruments





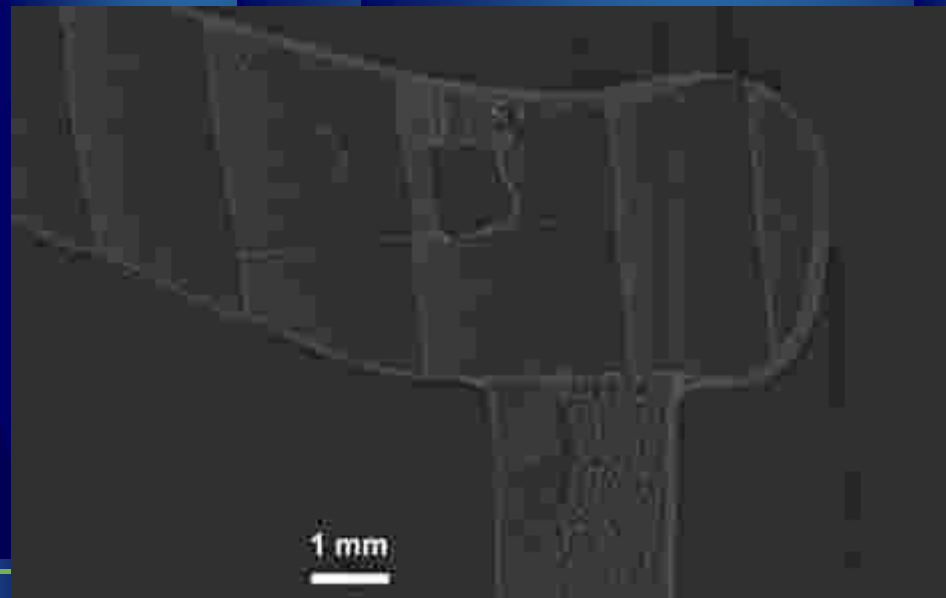
State-of-the-art clinical
instrument of the Azienda
Ospedaliera – University of
Trieste

SYRMEP





SYRMEP: details

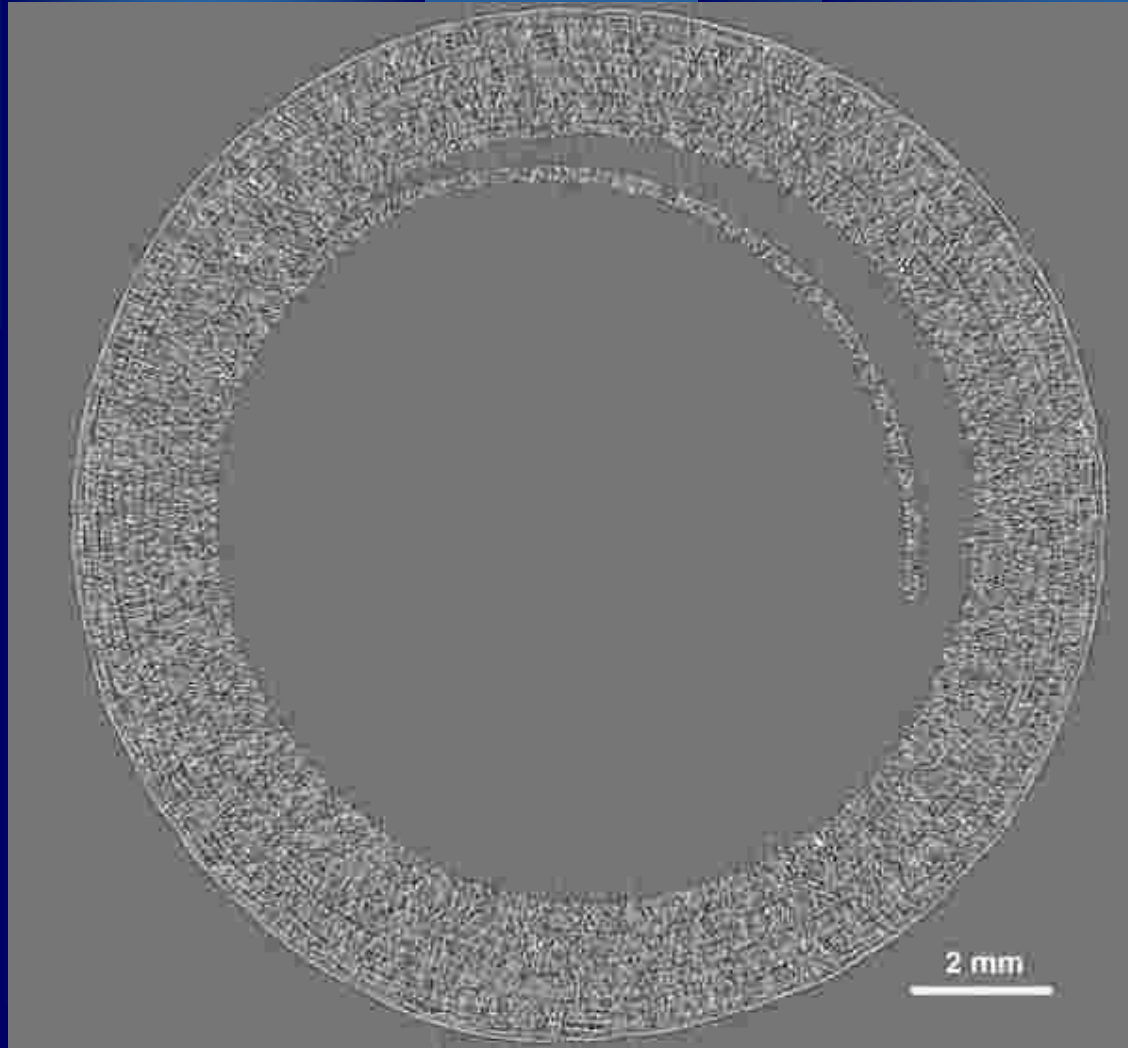


μ -CT of the organ by Lorenzo da Pavia

- Portable organ constructed in 1494 (Museo Correr of Venezia, Italy)
- Instrument of great historical and artistic relevance
- Pipes made with rolled and glued cardboard
- Structural characterization of the paper pipes to define strategies for restoration, conservation and possible substitution



Virtual slice of a paper pipe

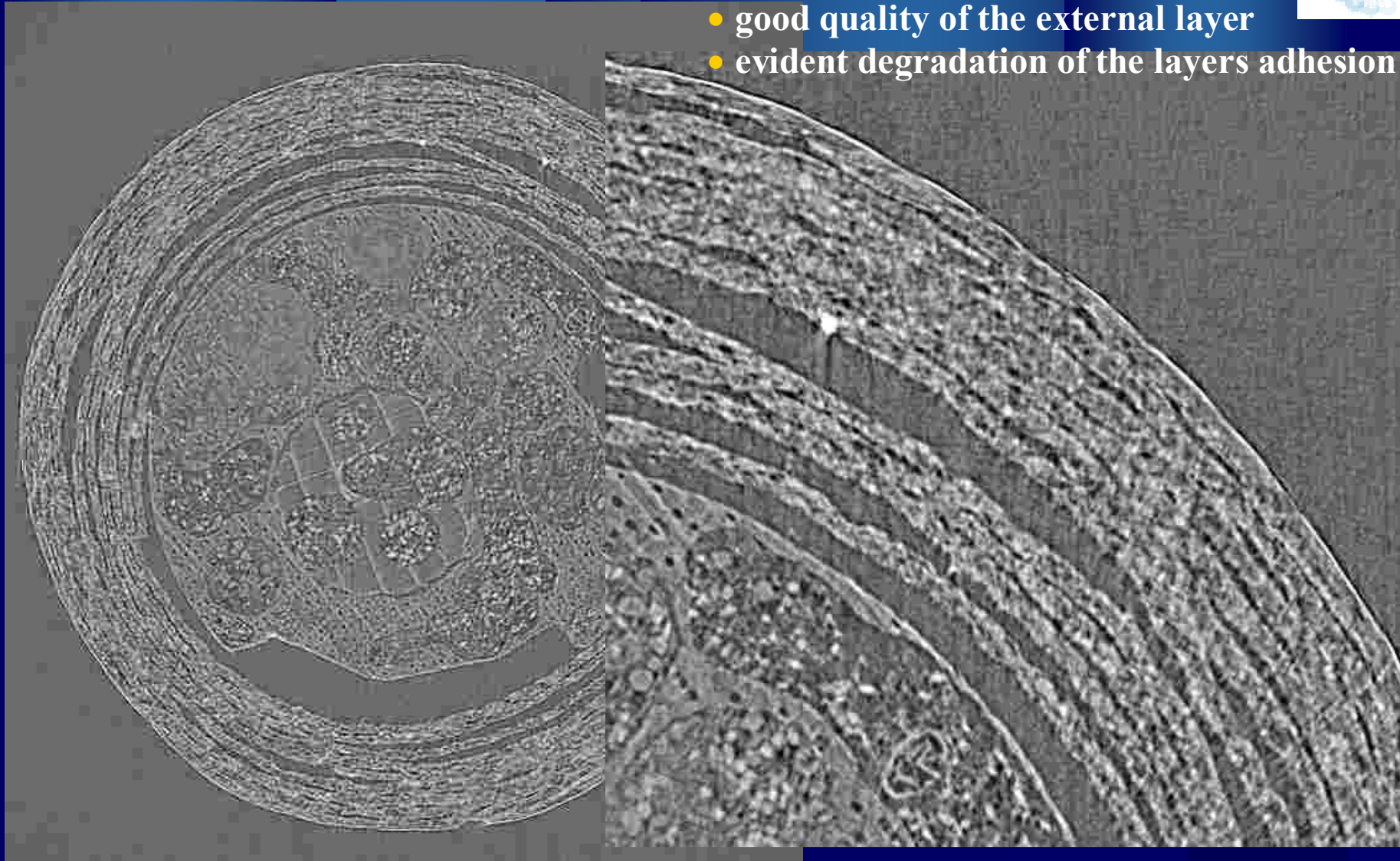


- 10 layers 0.25 mm thick
- good quality of external layer
- good adhesion of layers, except the inner one

Energy = 19 keV, Num. proj = 1440, D = 300 mm
exp. time = 1 sec, voxel size = 9 μm

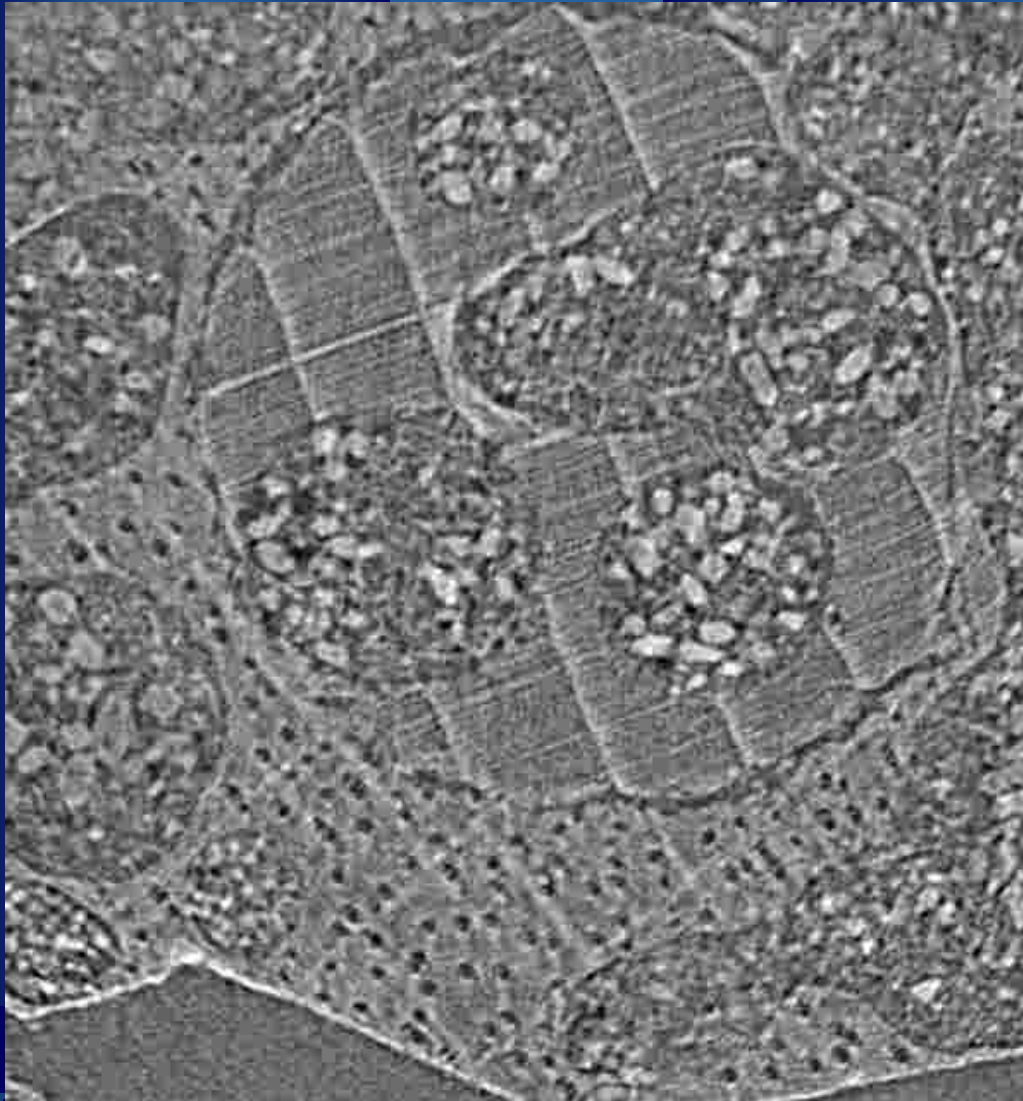
Slice at the wood foot position

- 10 layers 0.25 mm thick
- good quality of the external layer
- evident degradation of the layers adhesion

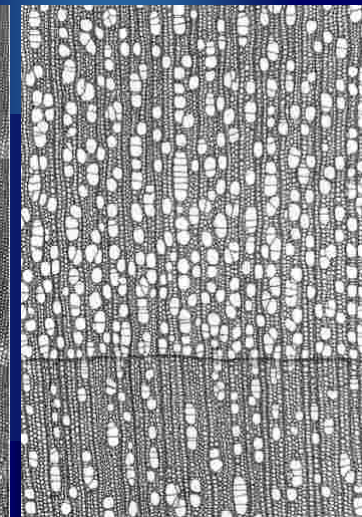


Energy = 23 keV, Num. proj = 1440, D = 300 mm
exp. time = 1 sec, voxel size = 9 μ m

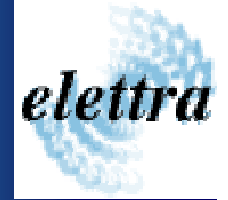
- presence of larvae
- possibility of wood species characterization



Picea abies

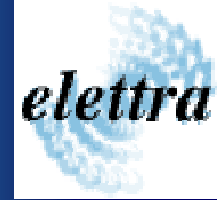


Alnus glutinosa

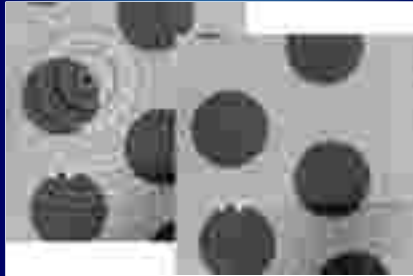


Why the Pore3D project?

- A sw library specifically designed for *X-ray -CT images* of porous media and multiphase systems, Manipulation of *huge datasets* with *common hw*.
- *Different strategies of analysis* as a function of the scientific application: *Pore3D* implements *several algorithms for each step* of the analysis, having *a full control of the parameters* of the algorithm and of the intermediate results.
- On the basis of *specific know-how* of the *SYRMEP collaboration* the main aim was to merge many of features implemented in existing software, in some cases customizing it or adding new tools.



Pore3D is a software tool for **3D image processing** and **analysis**



Filters

- Basic (mean, median, gaussian, ...)
- Anisotropic diffusion
- Bilateral
- Ring artifacts reduction
- Binary (median, clear border, ...)



Skeleton extraction

- Thinning
- Medial axis (LKC)
- DOHT
- Gradient Vector Flow
- Skeleton pruning
- Skeleton labeling



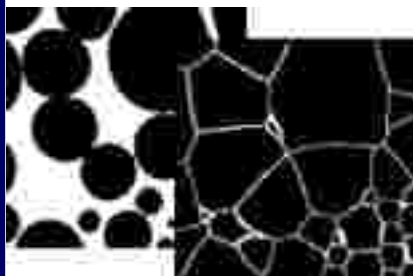
Segmentation

- Automatic thresholding (Otsu, Kittler, ...)
- Adaptive thresholding
- Region growing
- Multiphase thresholding
- Clustering (*k*-means, *k*-medians, ...)



Analysis

- Minkowski functionals
- Morphometric analysis
- Anisotropy analysis
- Blob analysis
- Skeleton analysis
- Textural analysis (fractal dimension, ...)

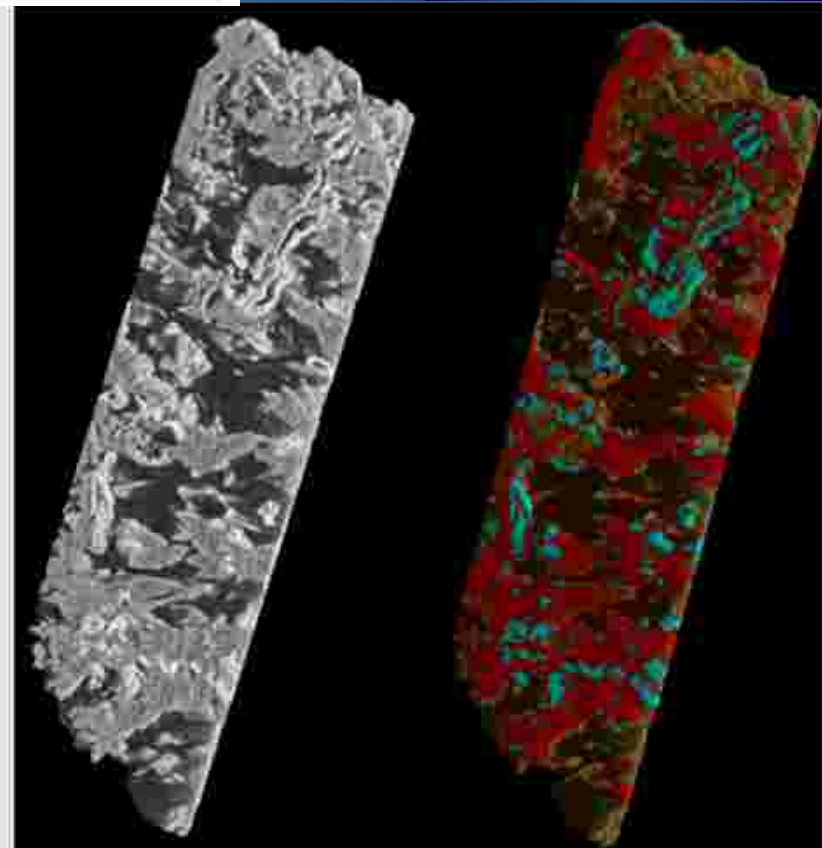
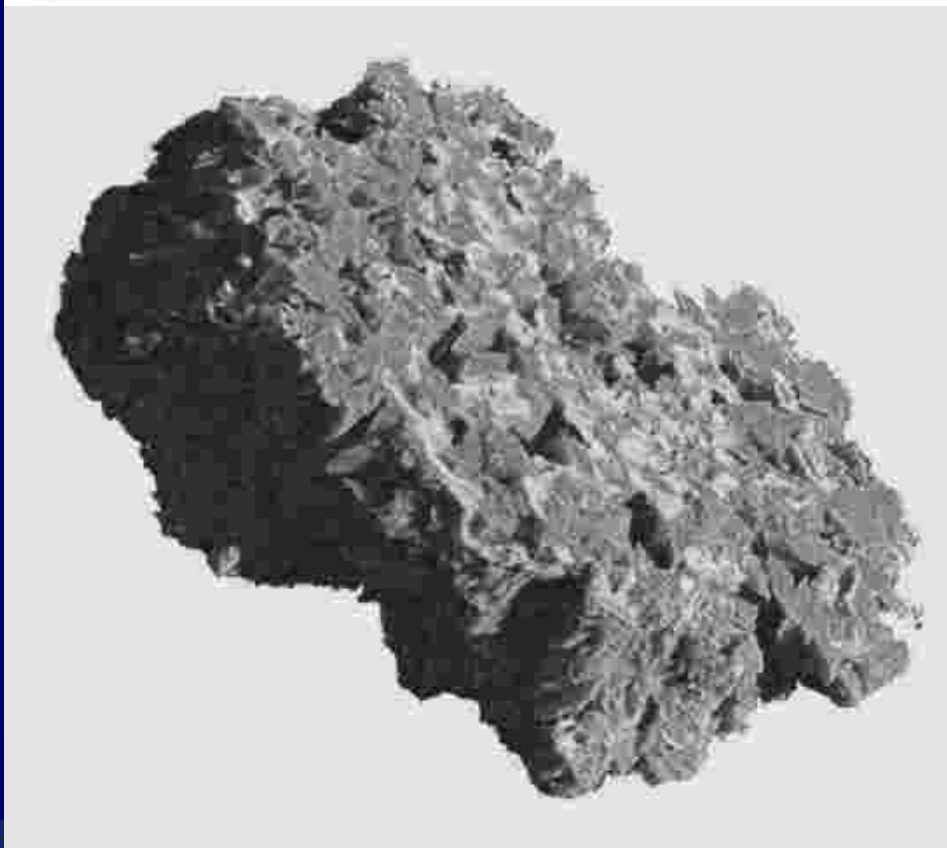


Morphological processing

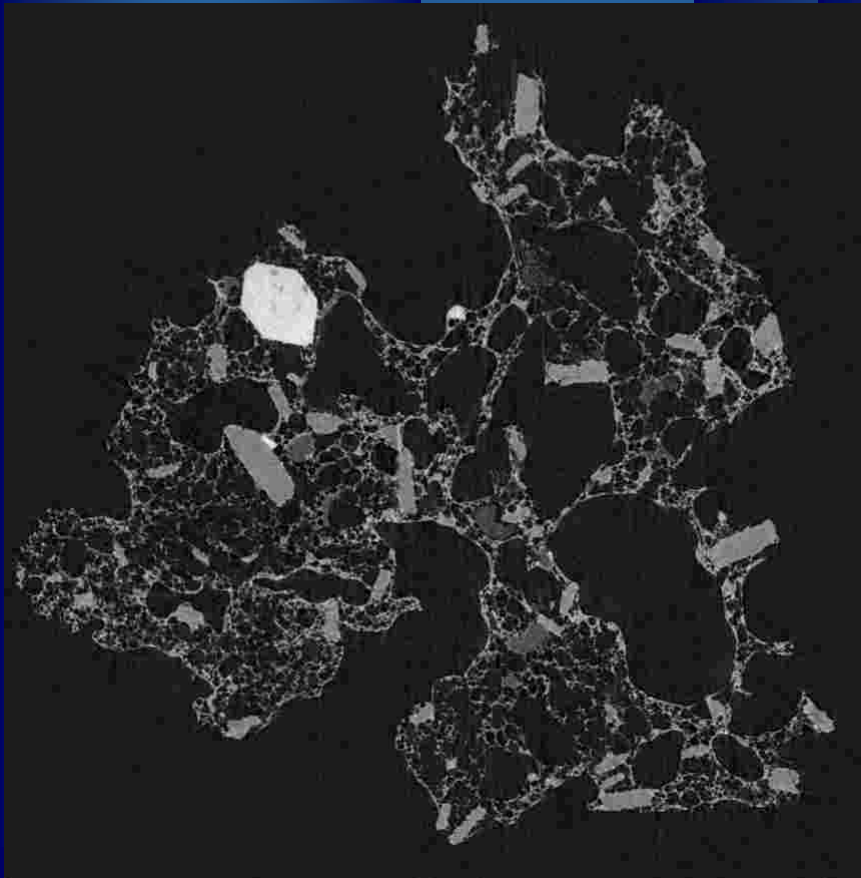
- Dilation and erosion
- Morphological reconstruction
- Watershed segmentation
- Distance transform
- H-Minima filter

Analysis of human kidney stones

11847	Crop_1	Crop_2	Whole stack	IRS results
Whewellite (%)	15.9	15.2	14.9	20
Weddellite (%)	50.5	51.1	52.7	45
Apatite (%)	33.6	33.7	32.4	35

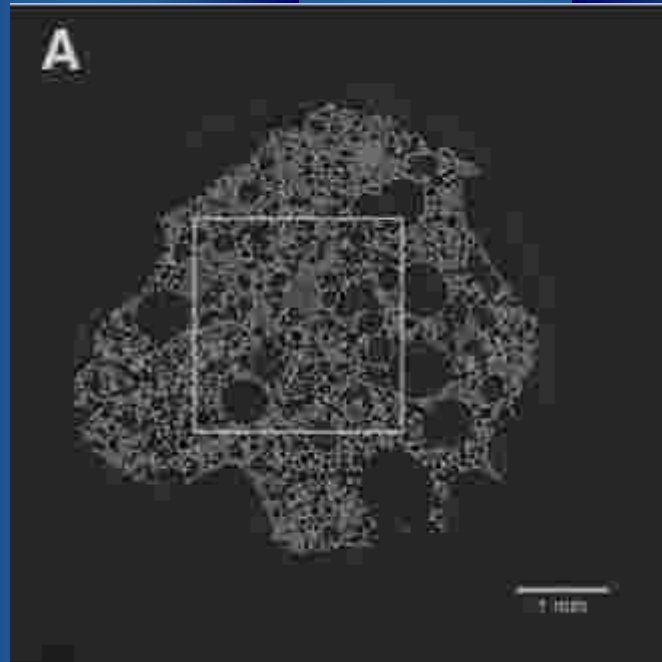


Volcanic rocks



Courtesy of M. Polacci

Scoria from Ambryn, vesiculated, low crystallized



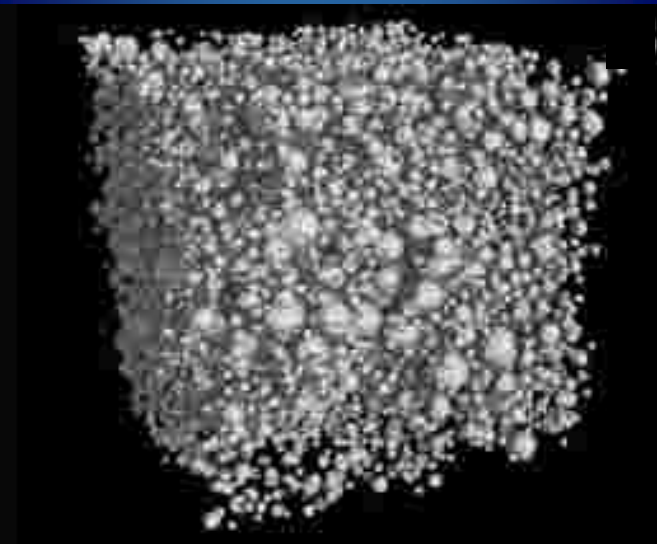
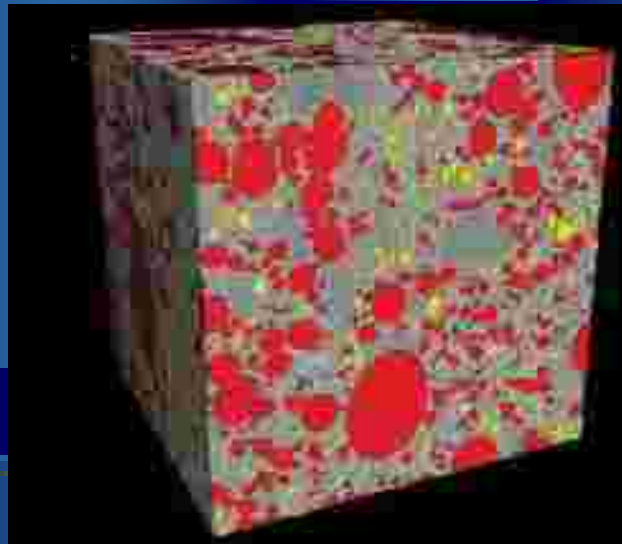
Abundance of isolated vesicles

Vesicles colored after
connected component analysis.

Red: connected component

Yellow: the others

Vesicles isolated after
watershed segmentation and
border cleaning.



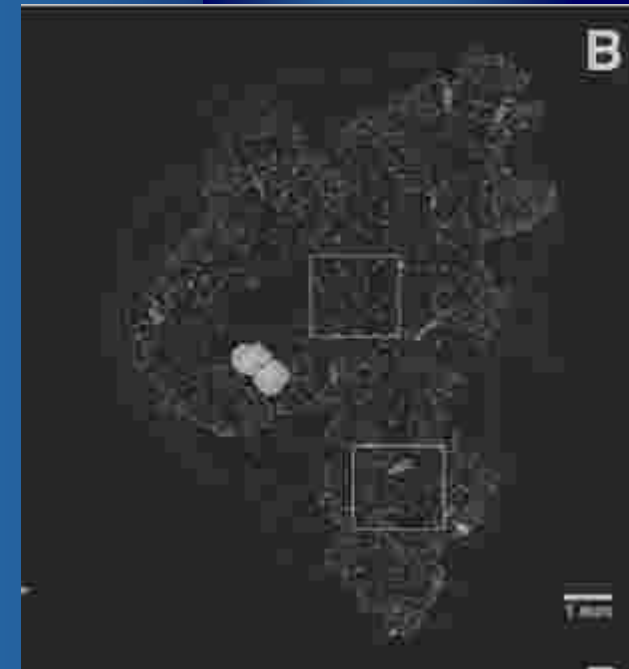
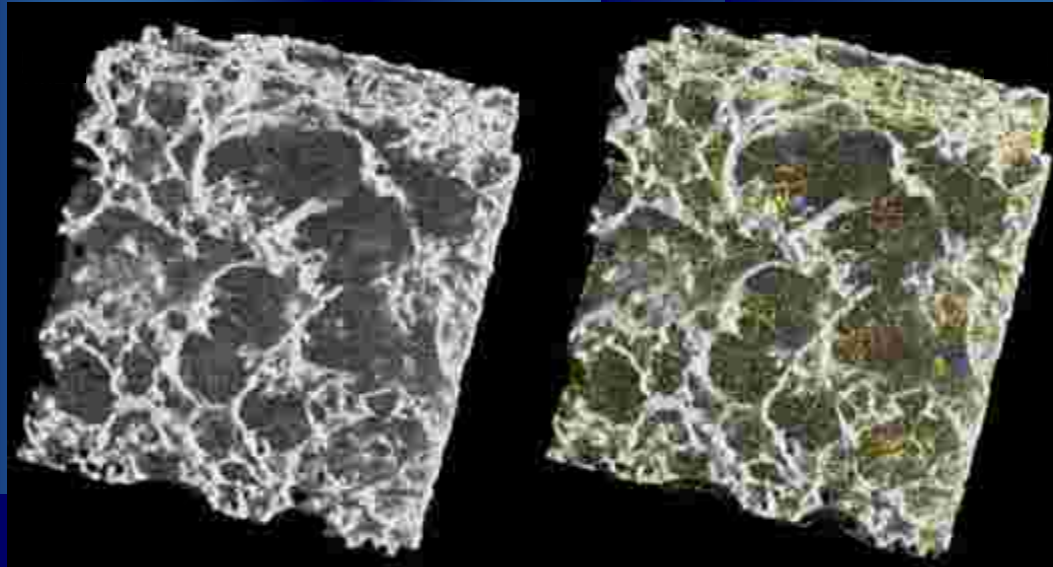
Pumice from Stromboli, highly vesiculated, low crystallized

Vesicles coalesce in isotropic aggregates

Skeletonization of the porous phase

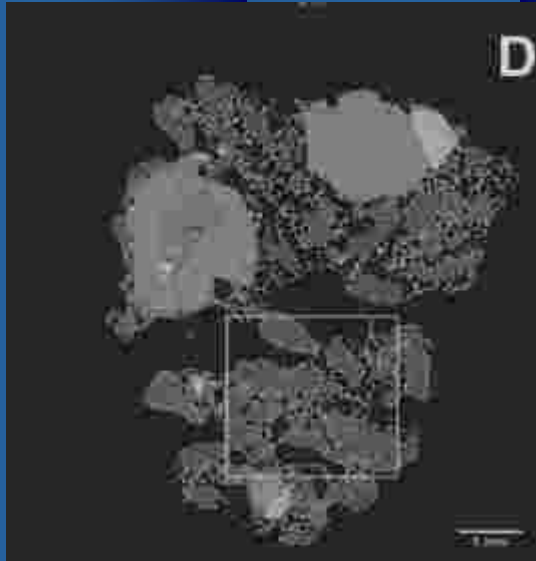
Red dots: **skeleton nodes**

Yellow lines: **node-to-node branches**

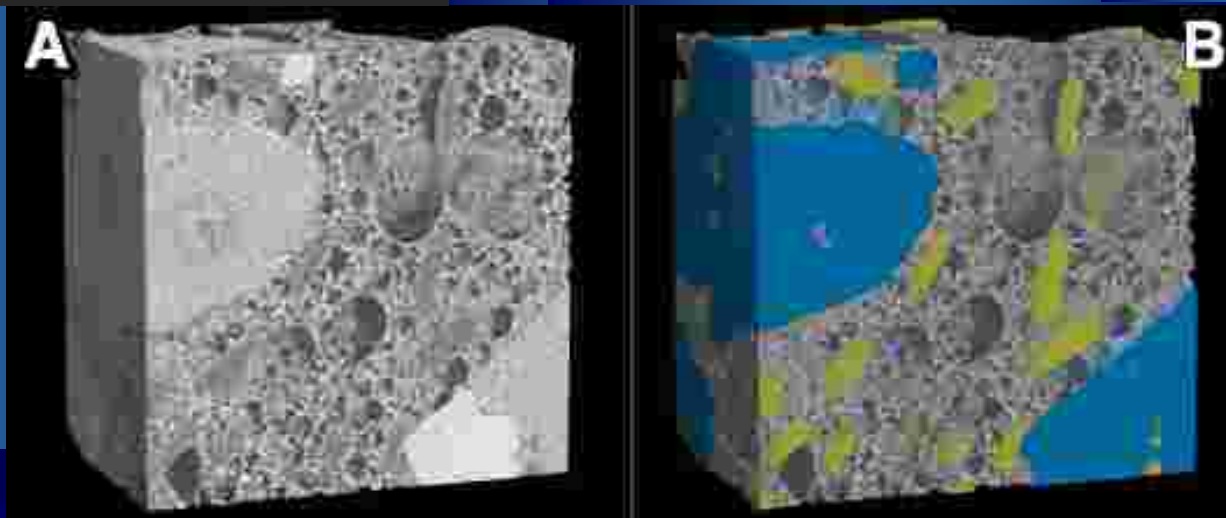


Quantification of
degree of vesicle
interconnectivity

Scoria from Stromboli, poorly to moderately vesiculated, highly crystallized

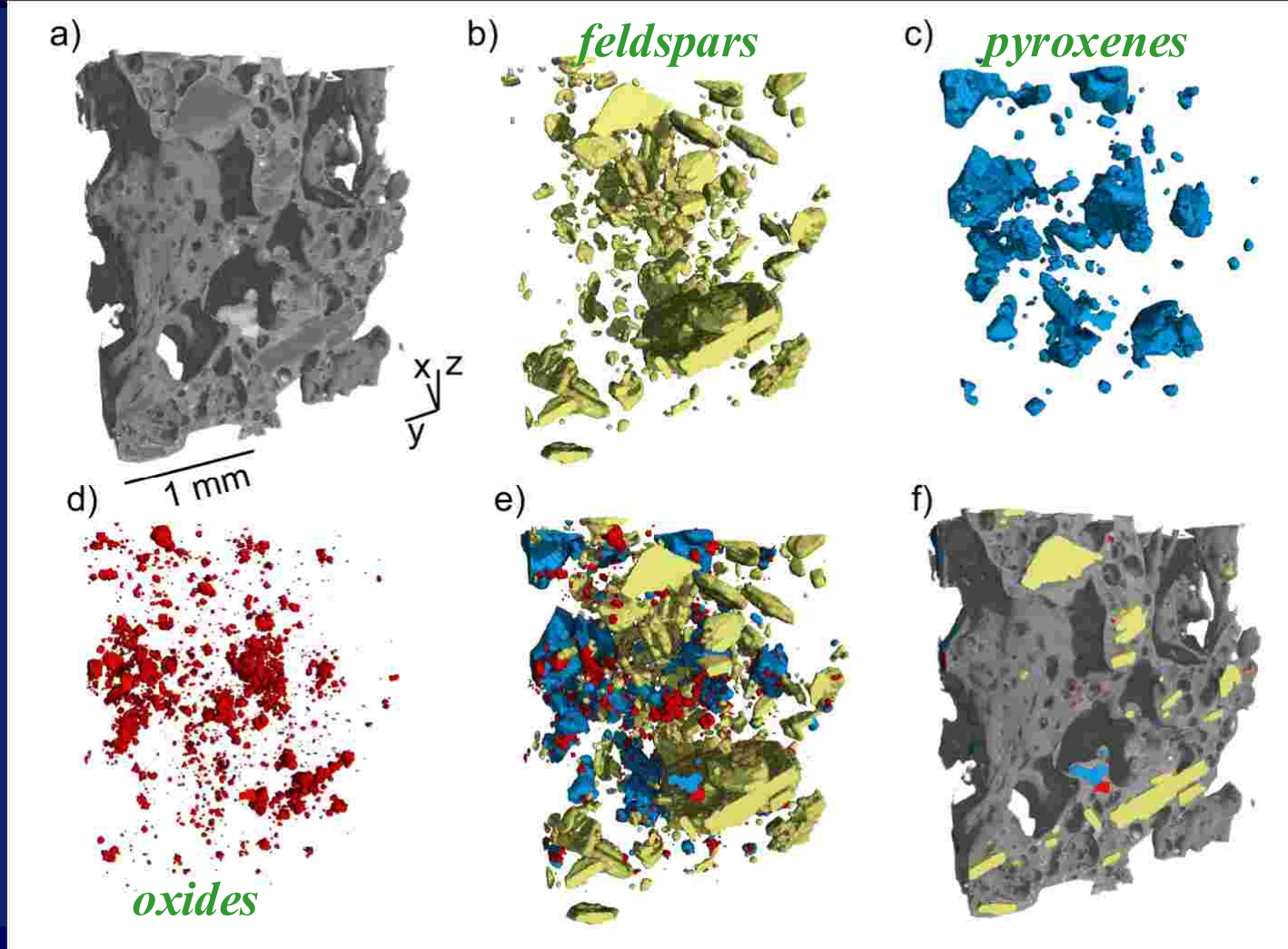


Blue: pyroxene crystals
Yellow: feldspar crystals
vesicles -> 36 %
pyroxenes -> 28%
feldspars -> 12%,





Scoria from Etna (experiments performed at the TOMCAT beamline at the Swiss Synchrotron Light Source, PSI)



voxel size: 1.85 μm

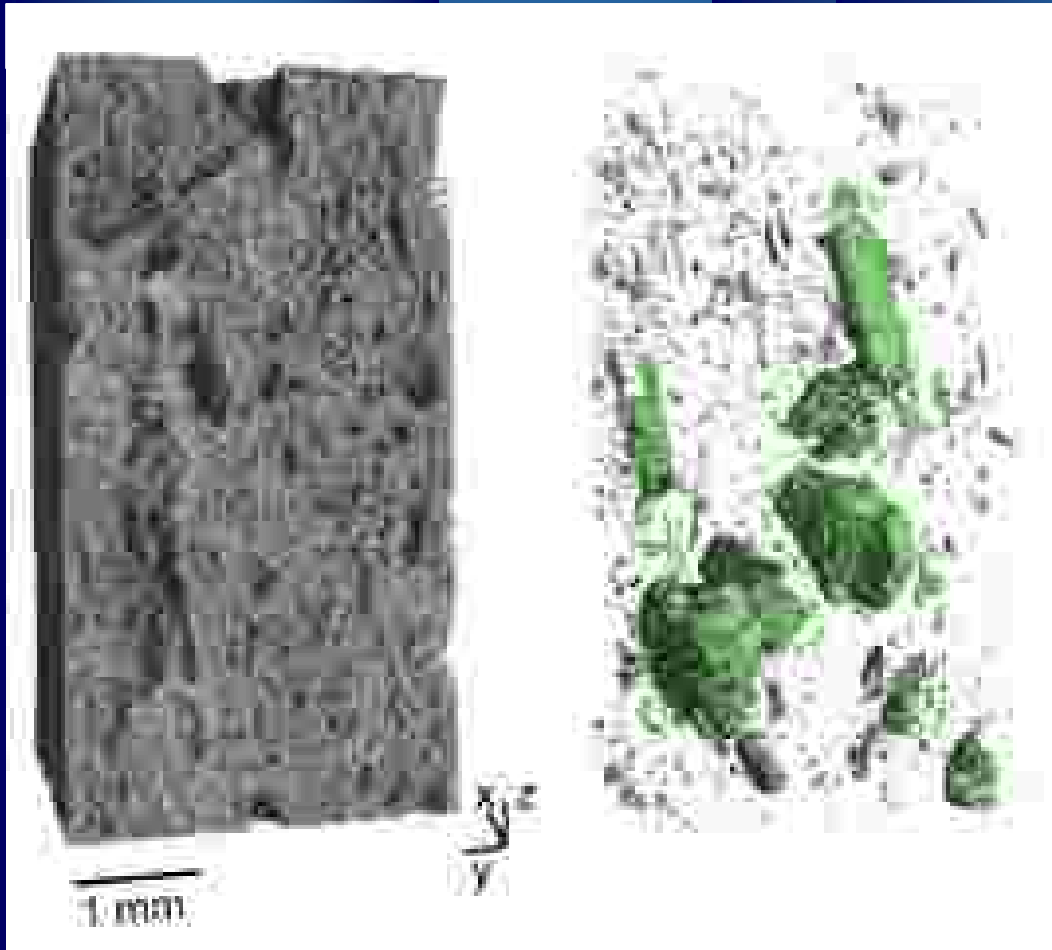
vesicles -> 68.9%, plagioclases -> 4.3%, pyroxenes -> 3.2%, "oxides" -> 0.7%, glass -> 22.9%.

M. Voltolini et al., J. of Volc. and Geothermal Res., 202 (2011) 83-95

Computed parameters by Pore3D

	STR1 scoria	STR2b pumice	STR2a pumice	AGN pumice	AMB scoria
Voxel (voxels)	314x314x204	200x200x200	200x200x200	300x300x570	268x268x268
Isotropic-voxel length [mm]	0.009	0.009	0.009	0.0067	0.009
Volume [mm ³]	14.66	5.83	5.83	15.43	14.03
Porosity	0.38	0.79	0.84	0.97	0.50
Specific surface area [mm ⁻²]	11.41	26.23	19.66	18.27	20.96
Integral mean curvature [mm ⁻²]	72	-551	-270	432	481
Euler characteristic [mm ⁻³]	-546	-4037	-4356	-68	-551
Fractal dimension	2.60	2.75	2.76	2.68	2.64
Structure thickness [mm]	0.09	0.01	0.01	0.07	0.05
Structure separation [mm]	0.05	0.05	0.08	0.04	0.05
Structure linear density [mm ⁻²]	7.54	14.47	10.83	9.30	10.81
Tribecular pattern factor [mm ⁻²]	-18.88	3.59	-1.24	-51.86	-56.01
N. connected comp./volume [mm ⁻³]	69.63	3.80	9.26	673.79	418.67
Skeleton N. nodes/volume [mm ⁻³]	104.48	778.46	499.49	253.03	547.45
Skeleton N. NODE-to-NODE branches/volume [mm ⁻³]	671.36	5758.23	5157.06	454.14	1945.93
Branches/nodes ratio	6.43	7.40	10.32	1.79	3.55
Isotropy index	0.83	0.90	0.84	0.60	0.92
Elongation index	0.08	0.03	0.05	0.33	0.05

Pumice from Campi Flegrei, vesiculated and crystallized



Quite strong *anisotropic distribution* of both vesicles and crystals: *almost axial*.

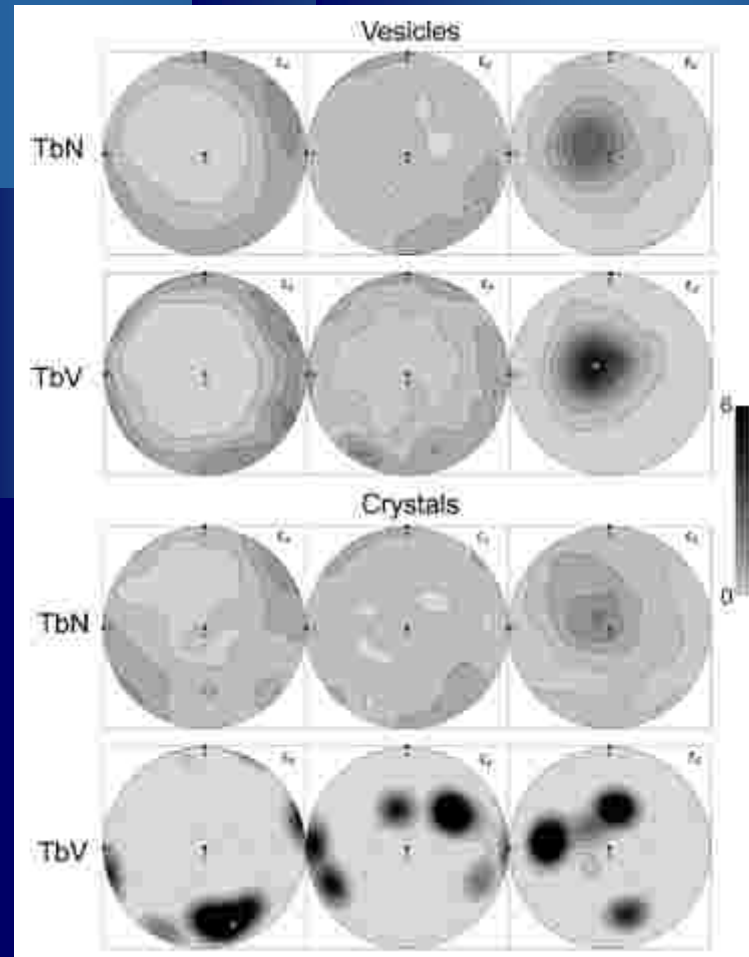
Vesicles -> 45.0%,
Crystals -> 3.4% (1.2% pyroxenes-
2.2% feldspars)



Different methods implemented in *Pore3D* as *Mean Interception Length* and *Shape Preferred Orientation (SPO)* analyses.

Pole figures for the pumice from Agnano Monte Spina

We developed a technique based on μ CT data to obtain the **SPO** of both crystals and vesicles, without the requirement of crystalline objects and using a 3D approach



Conclusions

● Many topics in *medicine, materials science, cultural heritage*, can be afforded by using 3D quantitative morphological and textural image analysis.

and perspectives

● *Phase retrieval* procedures applied to improve phase separation and quantitative analysis.



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