



# *Continuum mechanics in cardiovascular engineering and biology*



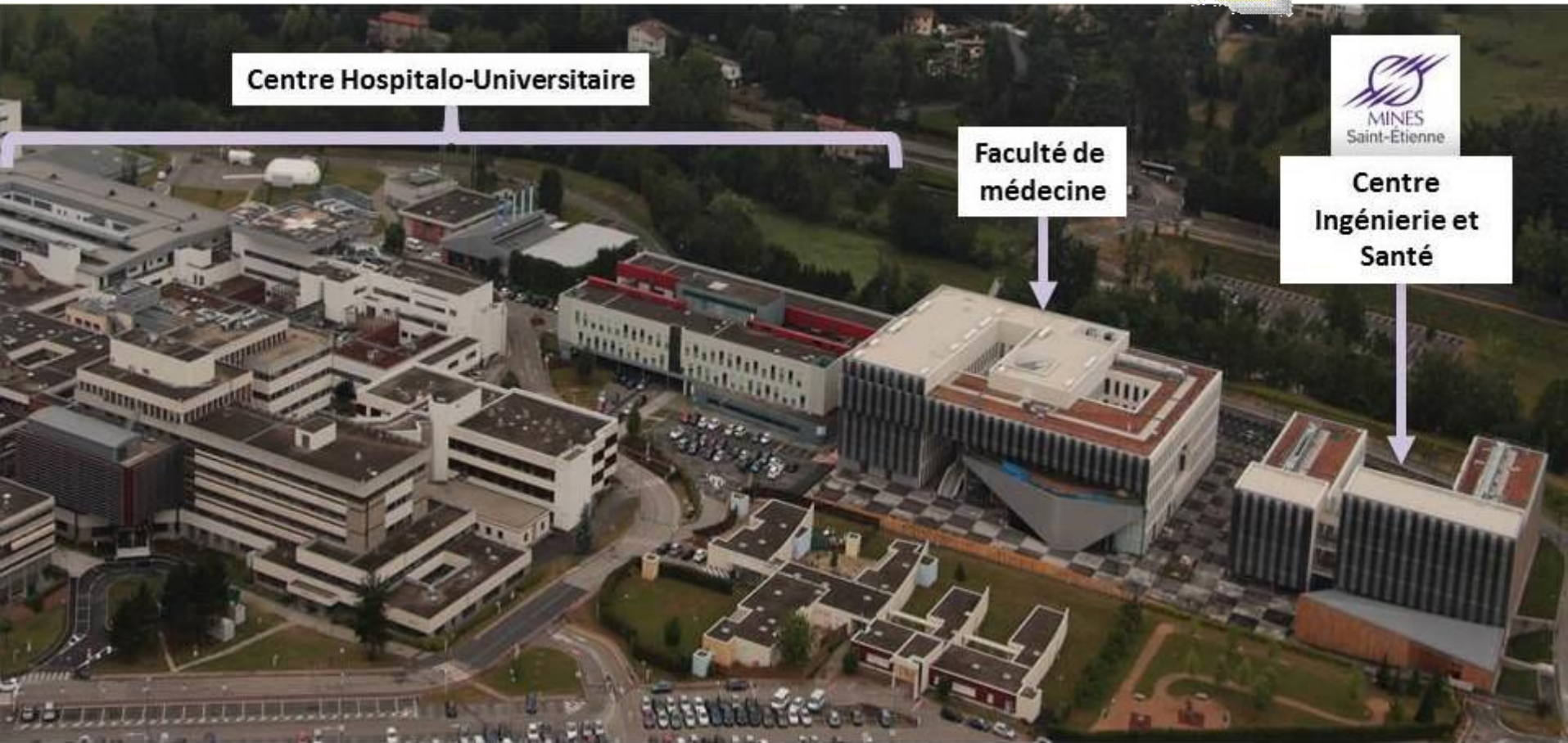
Prof. Stéphane AVRIL



**MINES SAINT-ETIENNE**  
First Grande Ecole  
outside Paris  
Founded in 1816



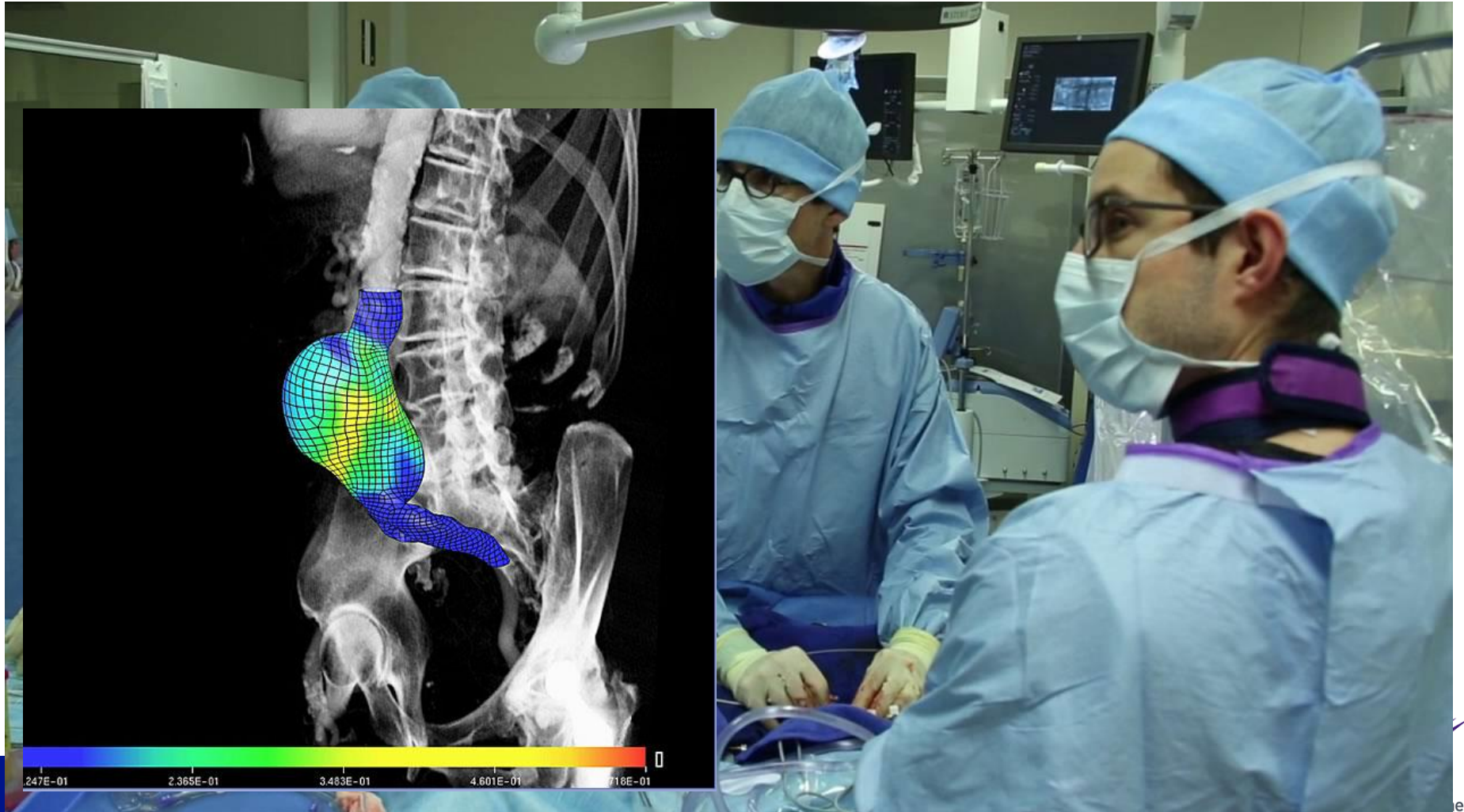
**AUVERGNE  
RHONE-ALPES**





# Computational mechanics in the OR for vascular surgery?

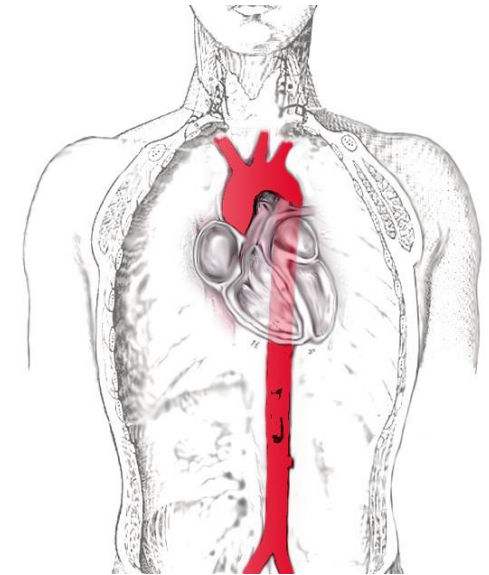
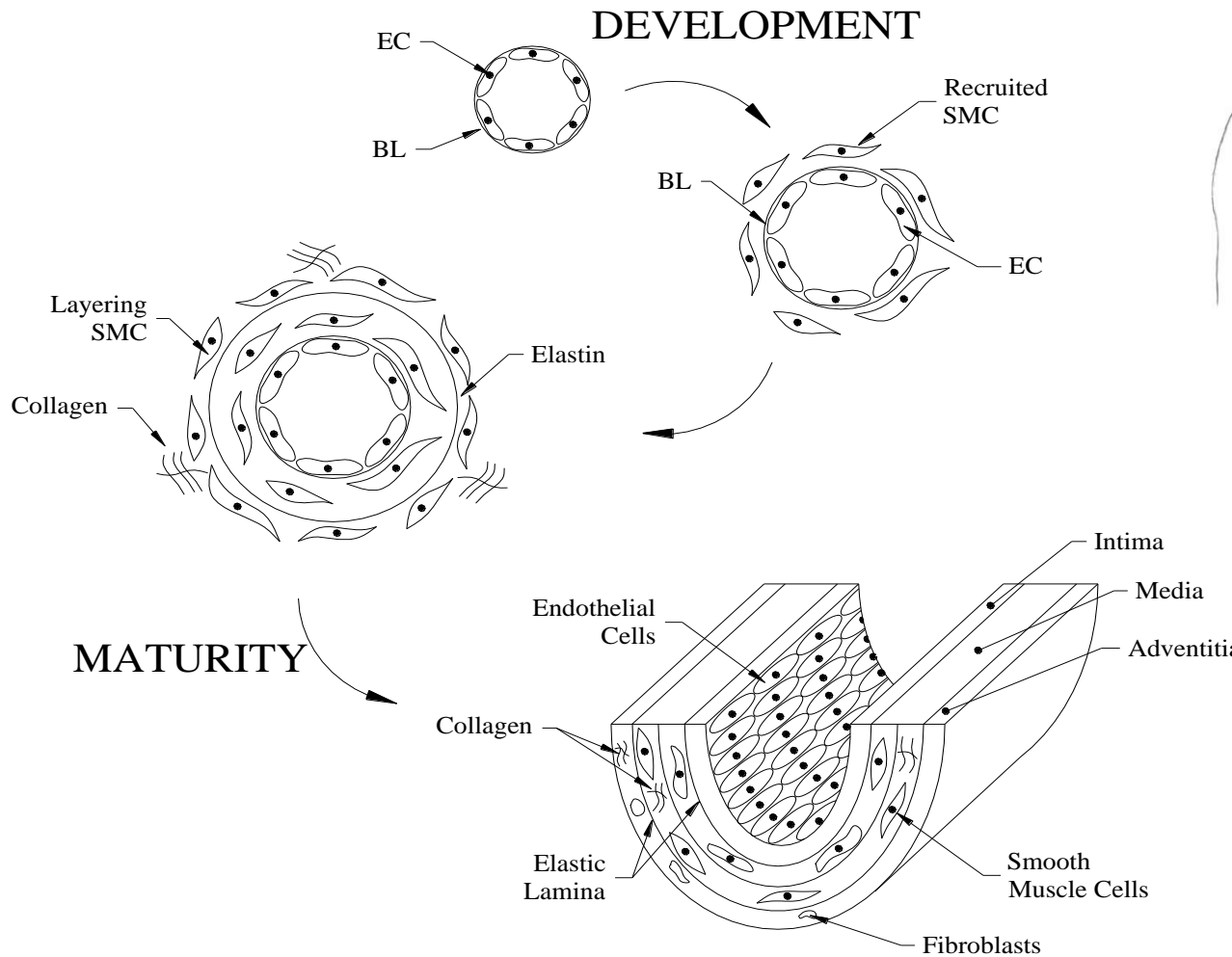
[www.predisurge.com](http://www.predisurge.com)



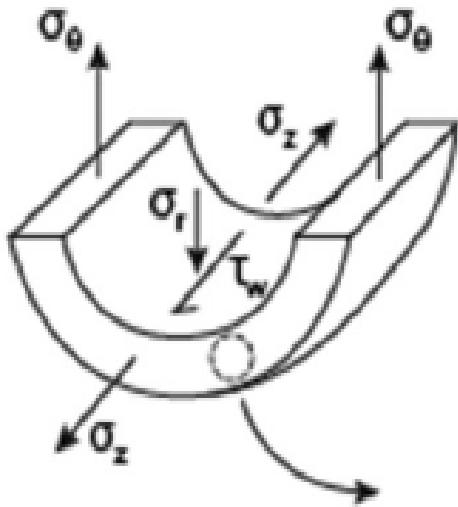


# Arterial biomechanics and mechanobiology – Position of photomechanics

# Schematic representation of aortic structure



# Basics of aortic mechanics

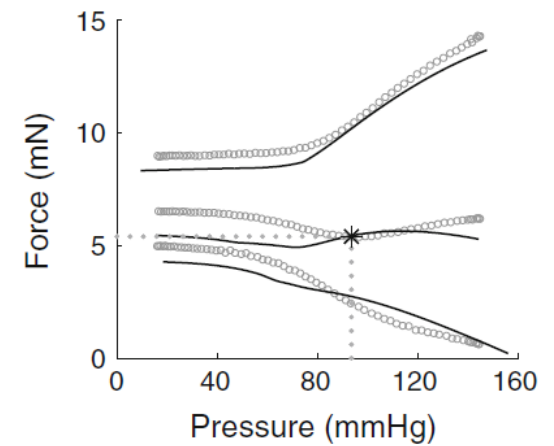
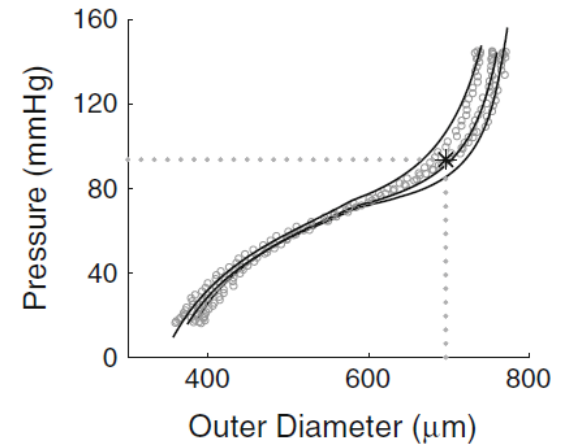
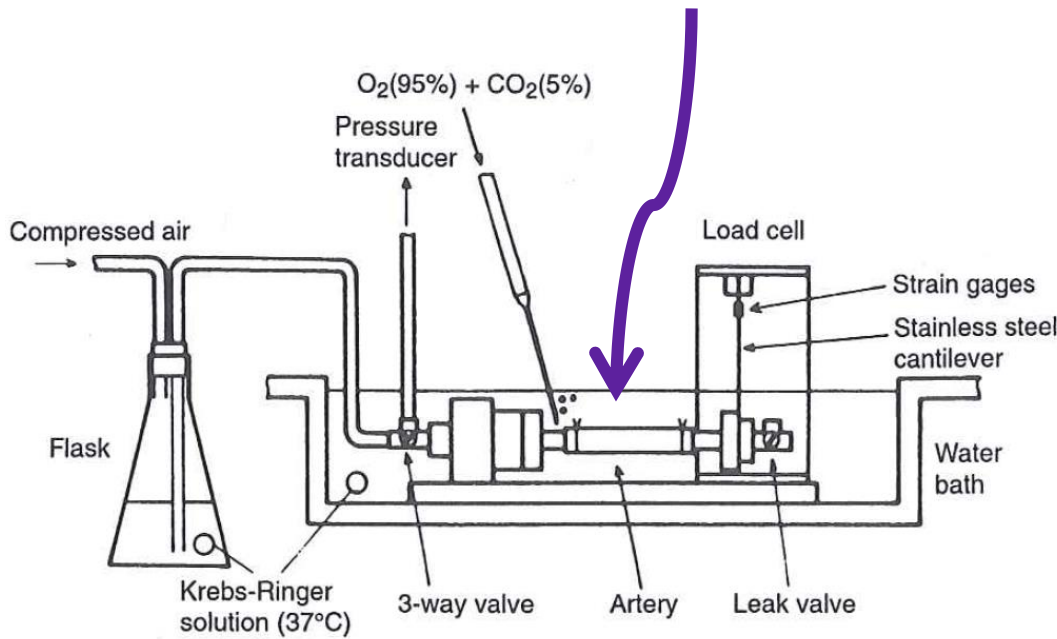


$$\tau_w = \frac{4\mu Q}{\pi a^3}, \quad \sigma_\theta = \frac{P a}{h}$$

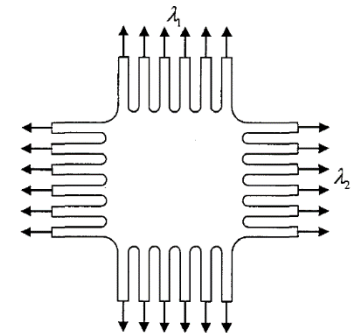
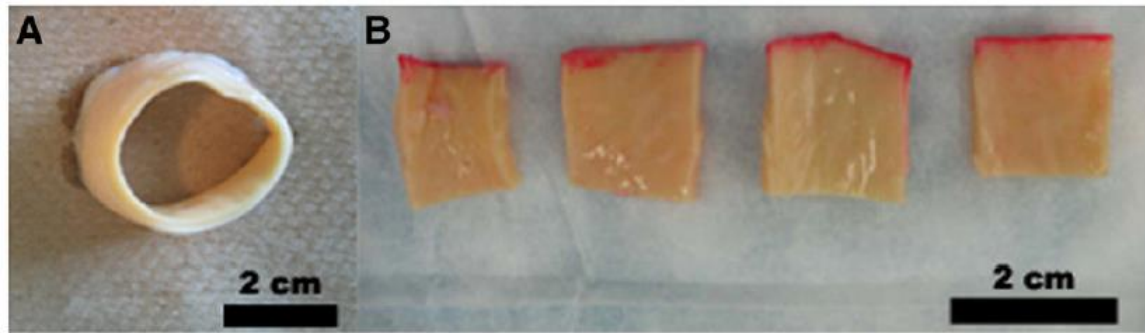
$$\sigma_z = \frac{f_z}{\pi (b^2 - a^2)} = \frac{f_z}{\pi h (2a - h)}$$

Humphrey JD (2002) *Cardiovascular Solid Mechanics: Cells, Tissues, and Organs*, Springer-Verlag, NY

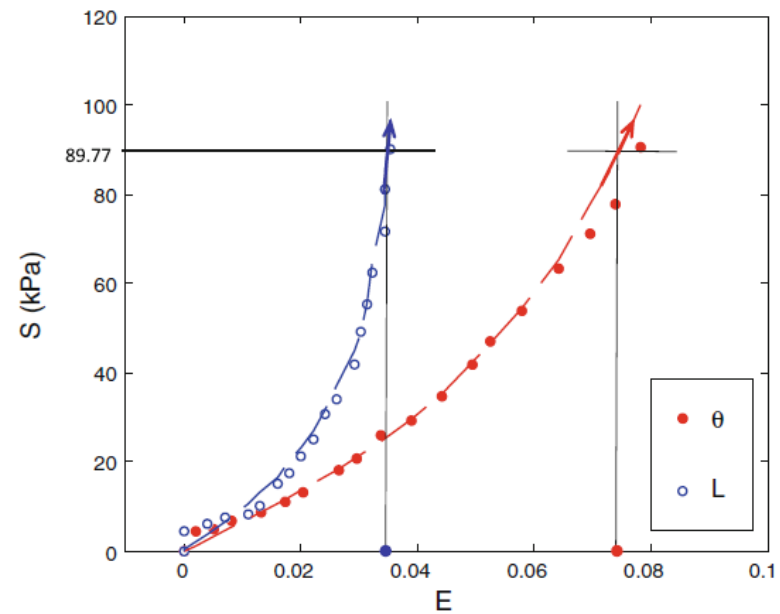
# Functional biomechanical behavior



# Material characterization and constitutive modeling

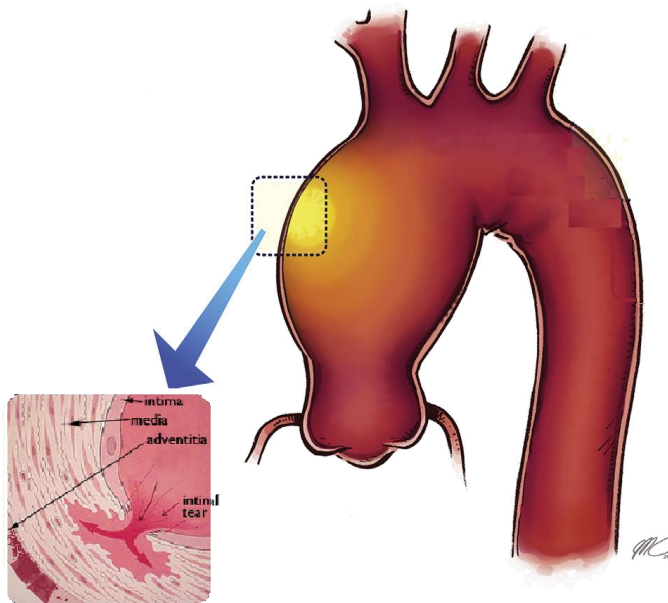
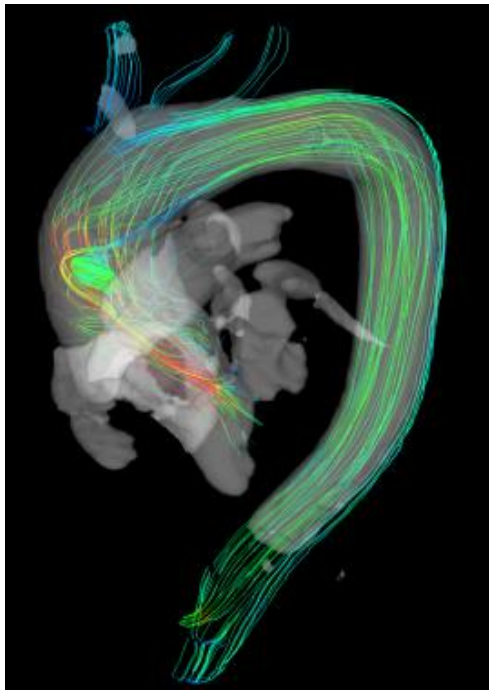


$$W = C_{10} (\bar{I}_1 - 3) + \frac{1}{D} \left( \frac{J^2 - 1}{2} - \ln J \right) + \frac{k_1}{2k_2} \sum_{\alpha=1}^N \left\{ \exp \left[ k_2 \langle \bar{E}_\alpha \rangle^2 \right] - 1 \right\}$$





# Prediction of risk of rupture and dissection



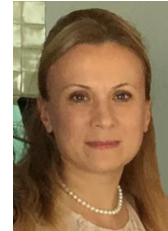
dissection



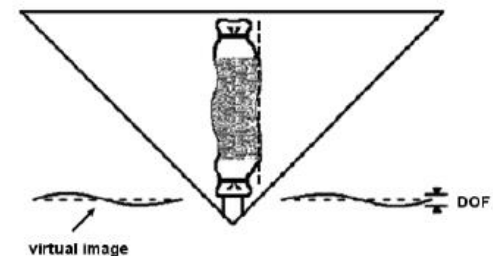
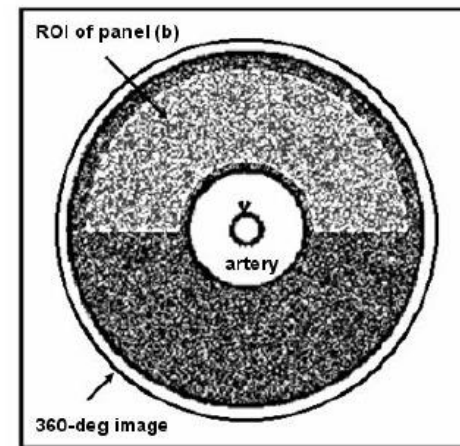
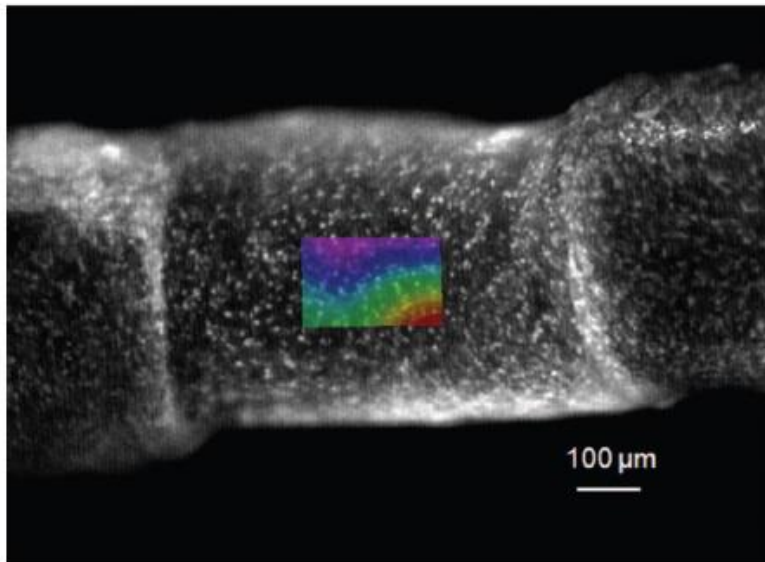
# MEASUREMENT OF THE RESPONSE USING DIGITAL IMAGE CORRELATION



classical



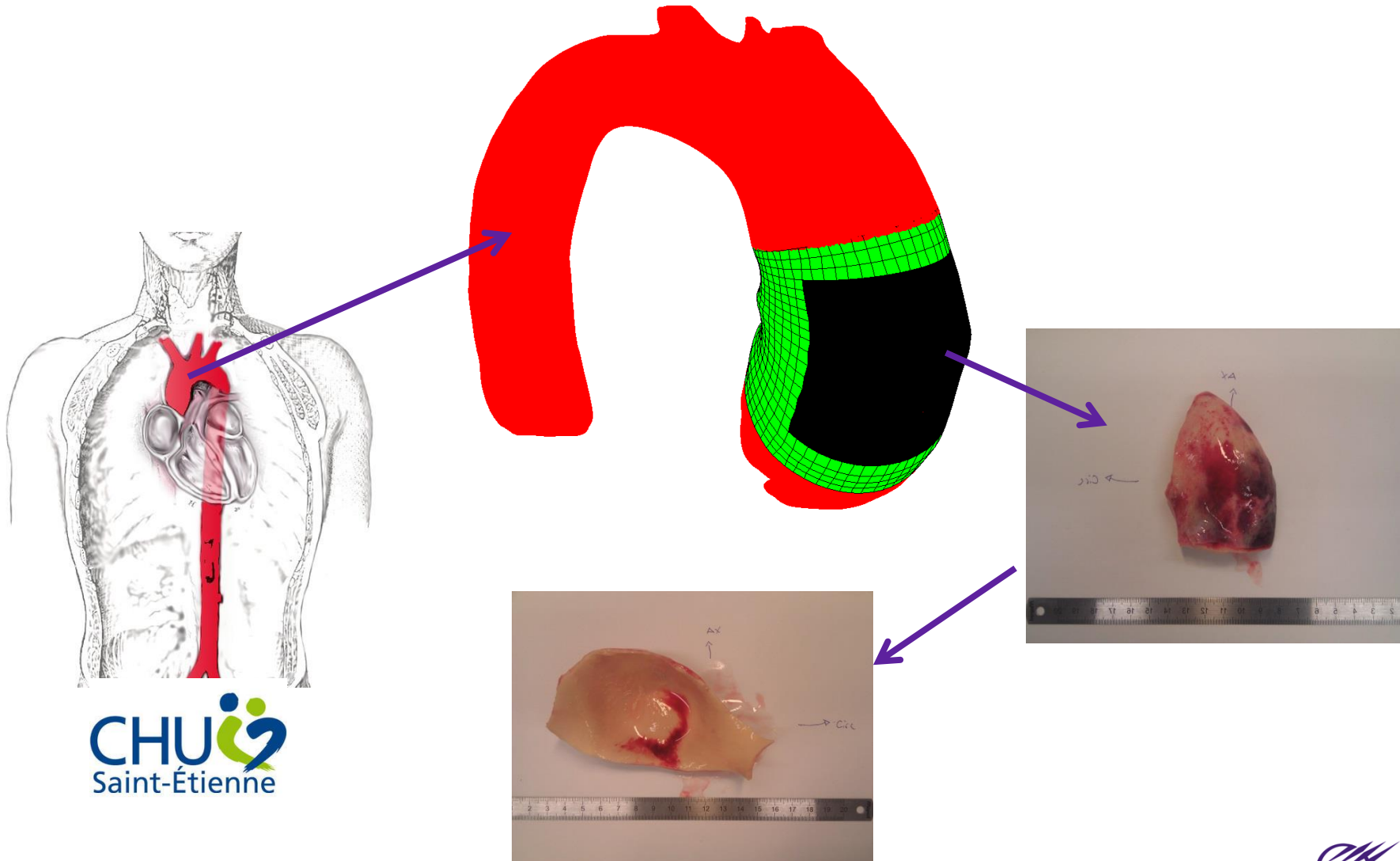
panoramic



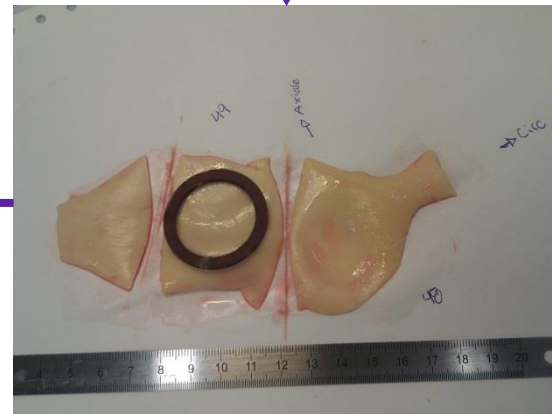
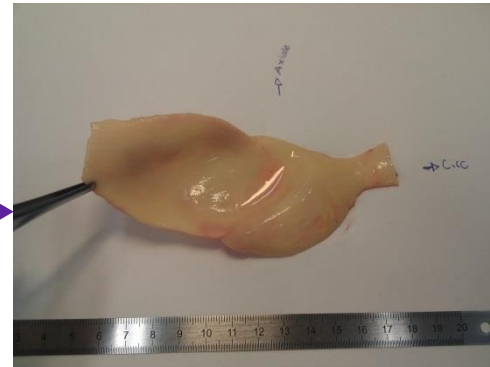
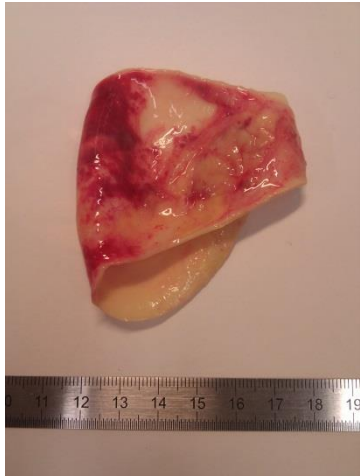
Badel et al. CMBBE, 15, p 37-48, 2012.

Genovese. Optics Lasers Eng, 47, p 995-1008, 2009.

# Collection of the samples



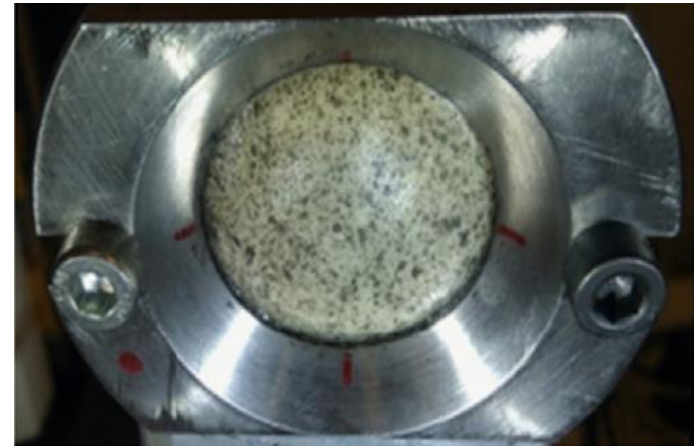
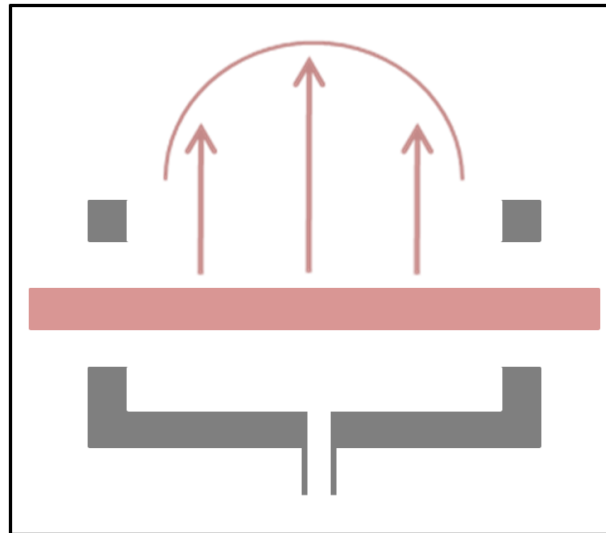
# Preparation



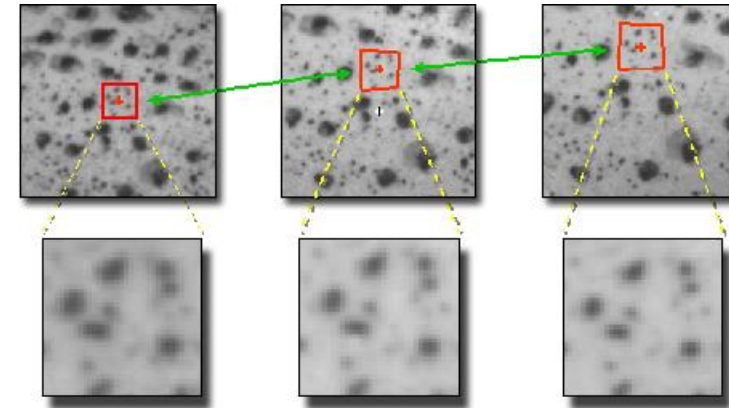


# Bulge inflation test

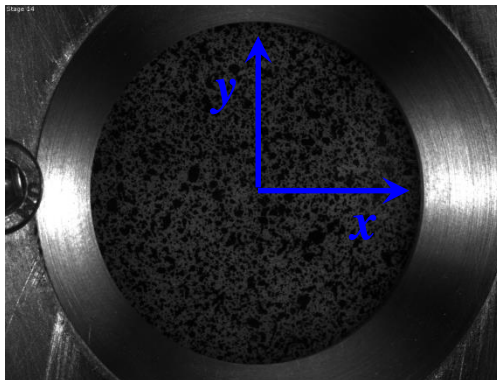
Romo et al. Journal of Biomechanics -2014.



# Full-field measurements using sDIC



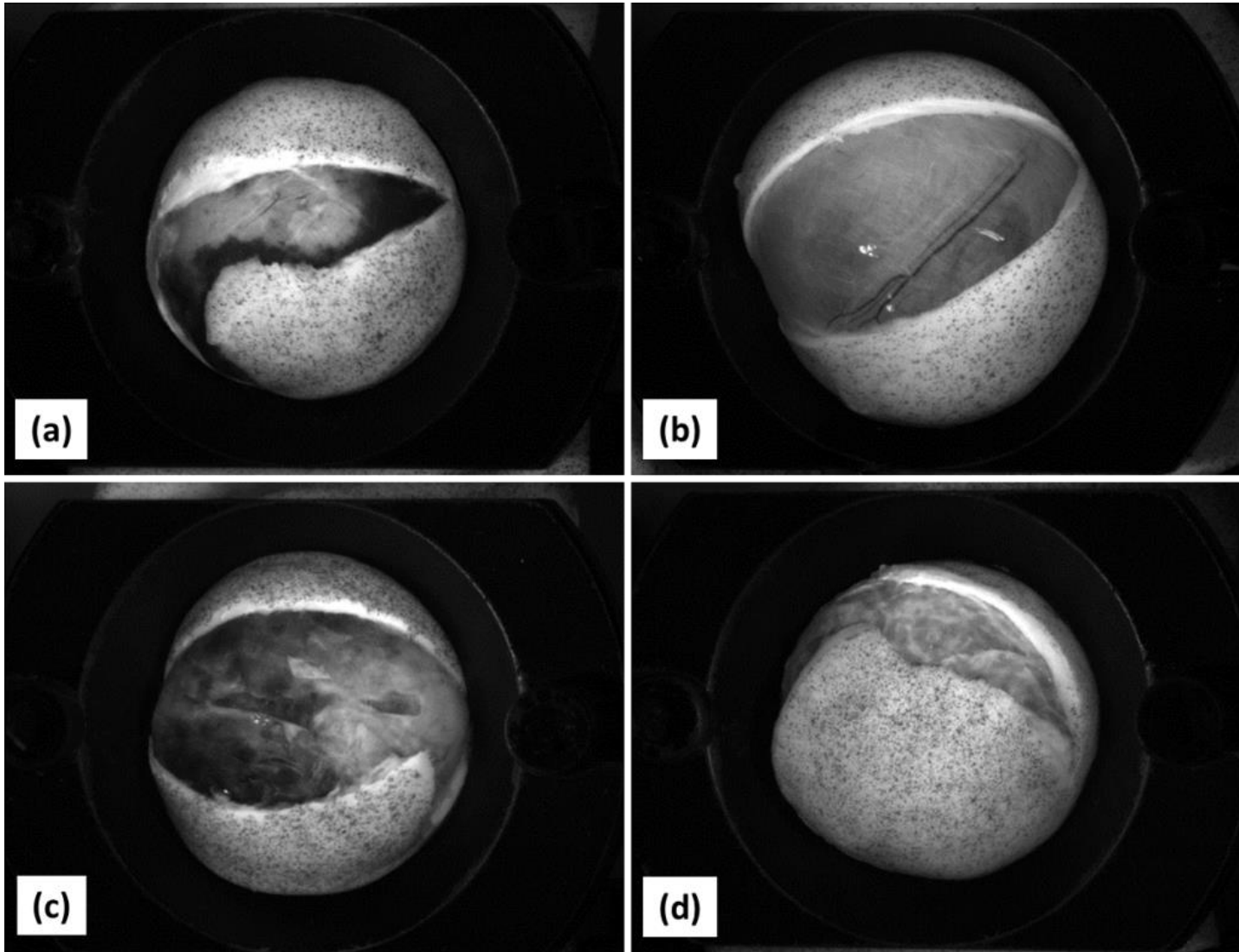
Undeformed



Deformed



# Rupture profiles



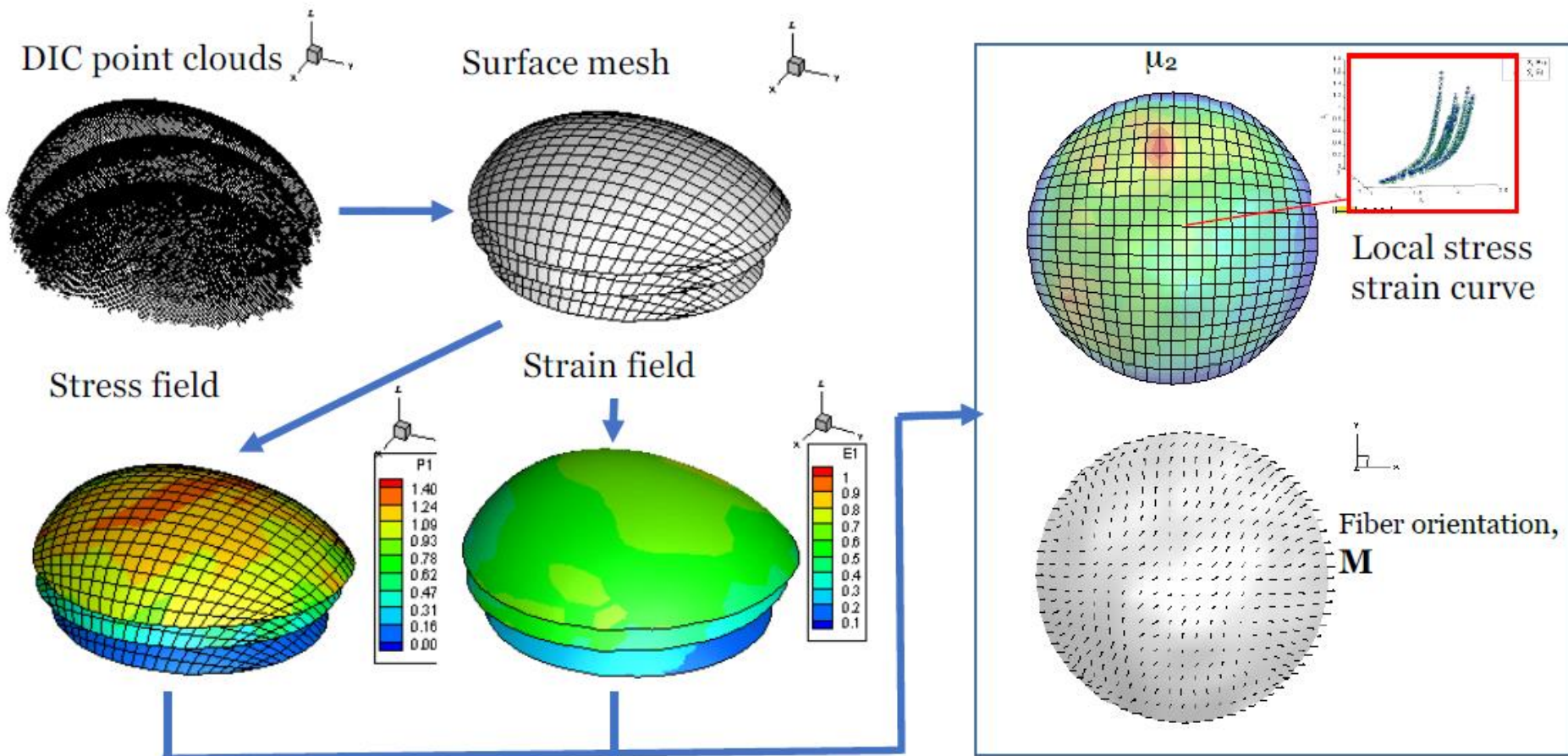
50% of aortas ruptured with an angle  $\theta$  equal to  $90^\circ$





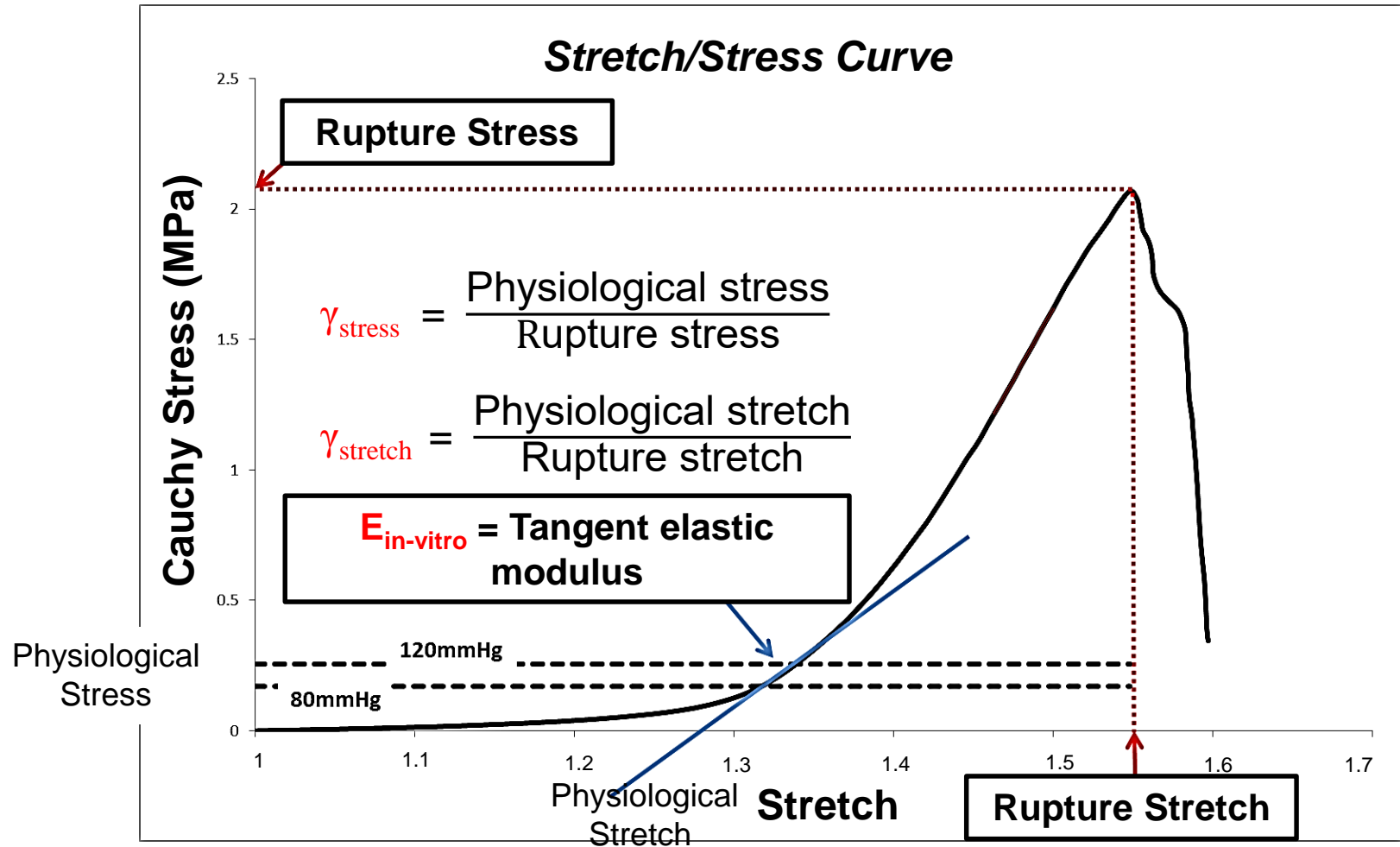
# Identification of local material properties

Davis et al. BMMB – 2015.  
Davis et al. JMBS – 2016  
Zhao et al. Acta Biomaterialia - 2016

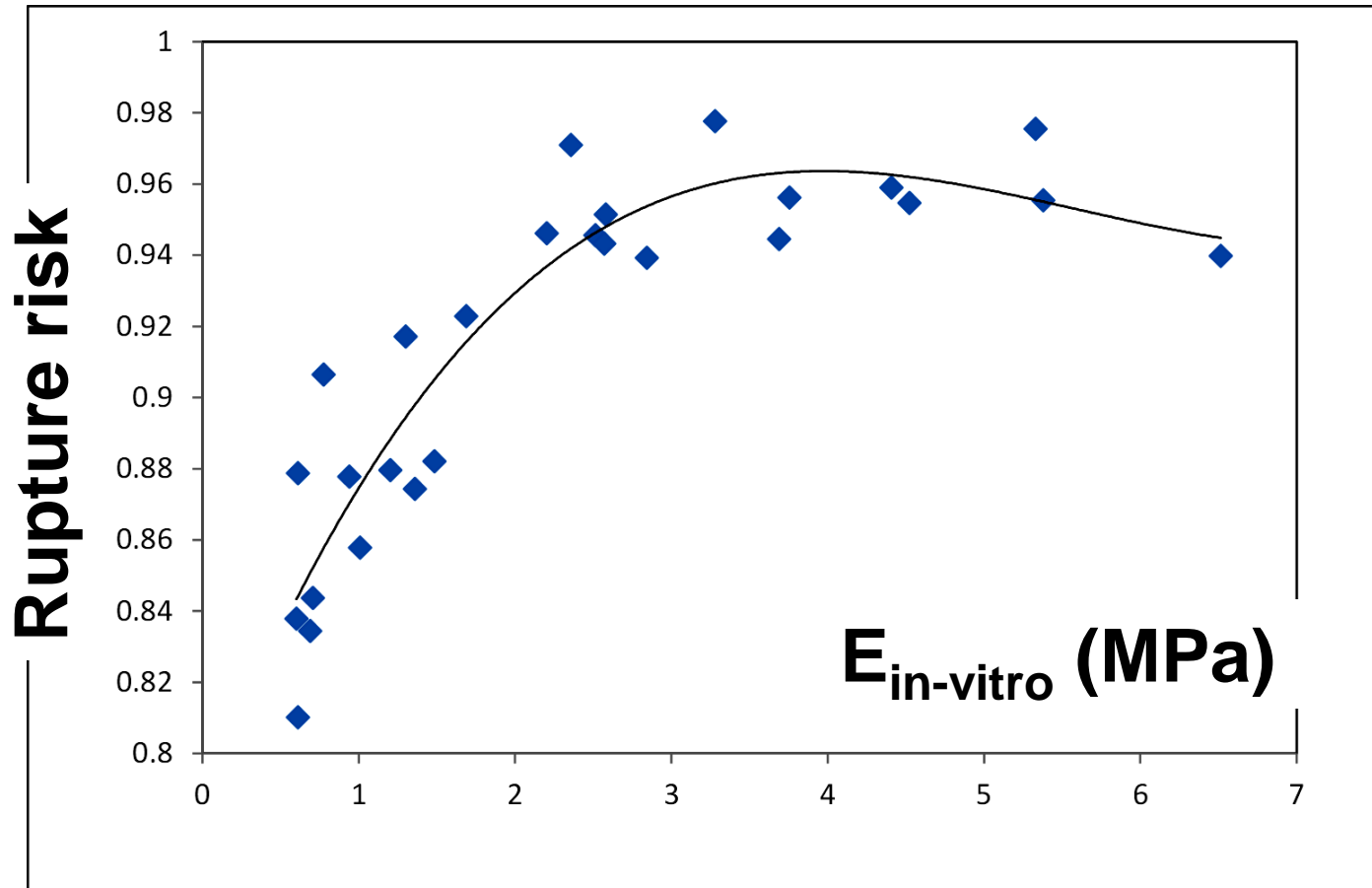




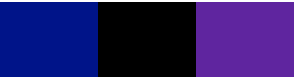
# Rupture risk estimation



# Correlation between the stretch-based rupture risk and the tangent elastic modulus



Duprey A, et al. Biaxial rupture properties of ascending thoracic aortic aneurysms. *Acta Biomaterialia* 2016.



# Understanding aneurysm growth using mechanobiology and photomechanics

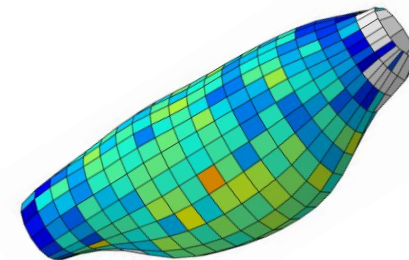
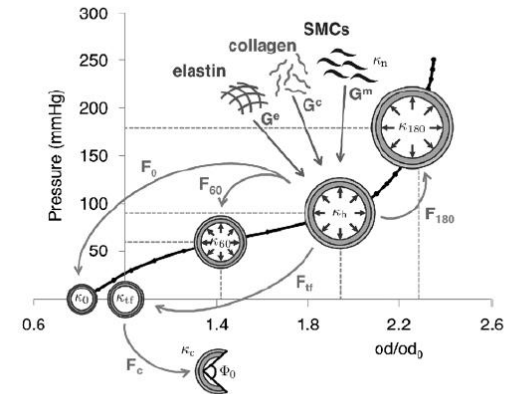
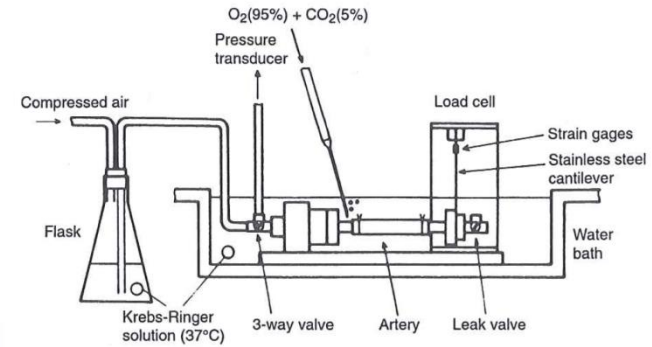
# Altered mechanics induce biological responses, including gene expression, protein activation and cell phenotype





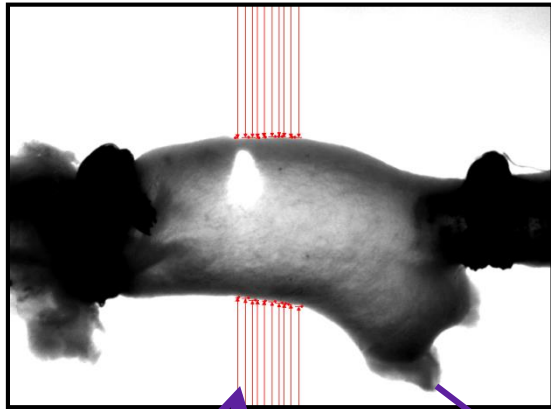
# APPROACH

1. Experiments
2. Material model
3. Inverse method

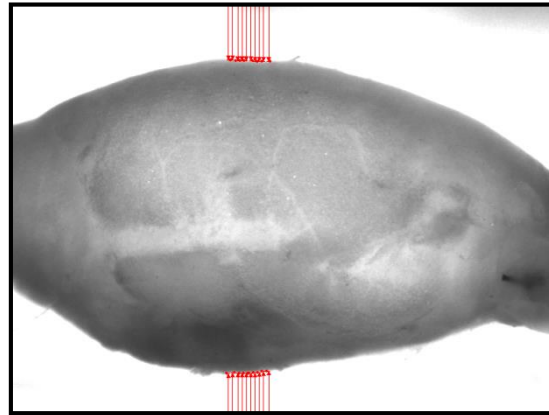


# Study Design

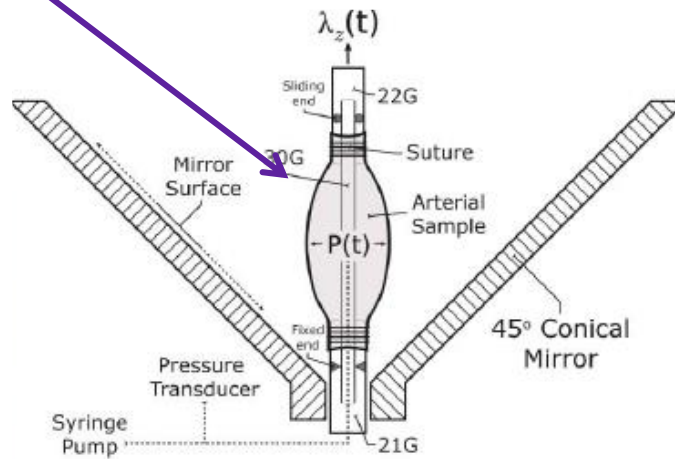
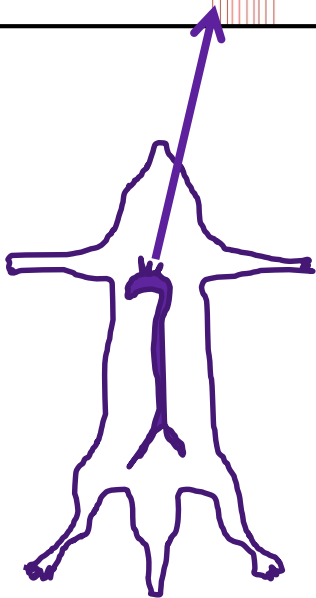
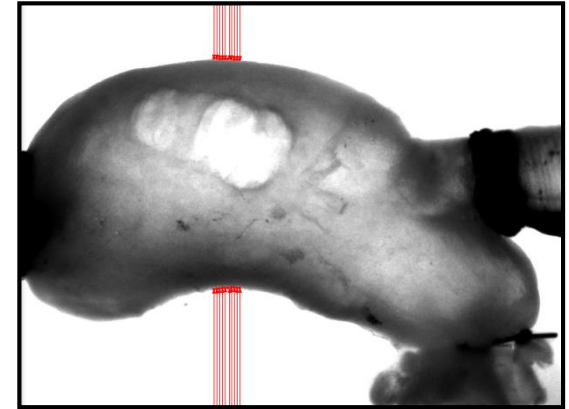
Control



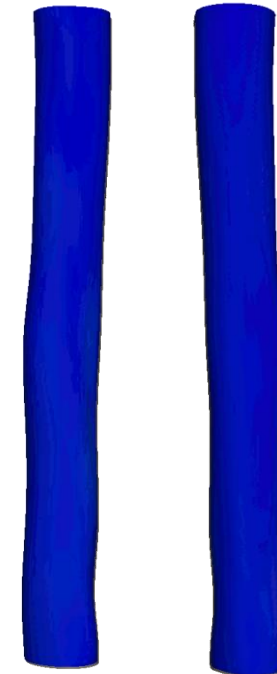
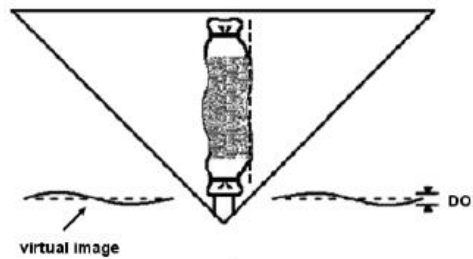
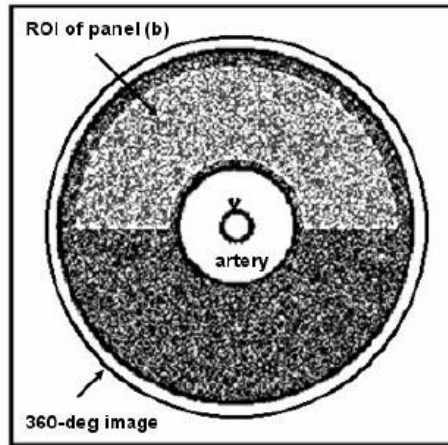
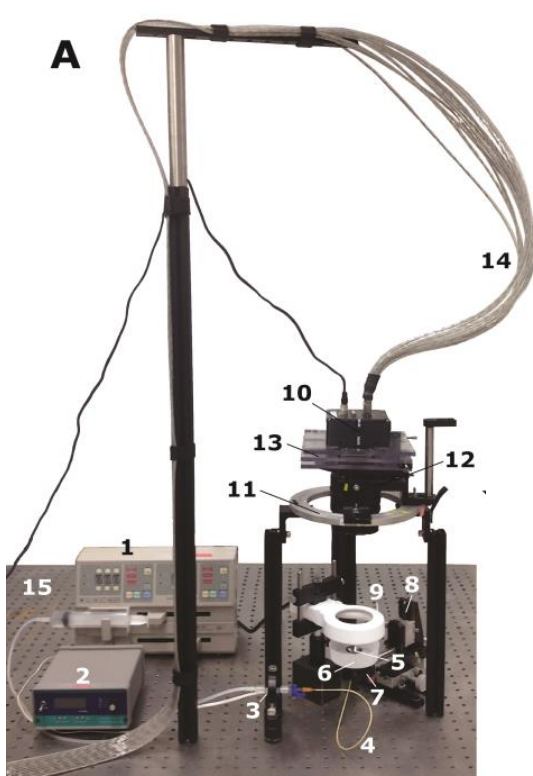
Fibulin 4 SMC KO



Fibrillin 1 *mgR/mgR*



# The pDIC technique



Posterior

Anterior

# pDIC measurements

Fibulin 4 SMC KO

Fibrillin 1 *mgR/mgR*

*ventral*

*dorsal*

*inflation*

*ventral*

*dorsal*

*inflation*

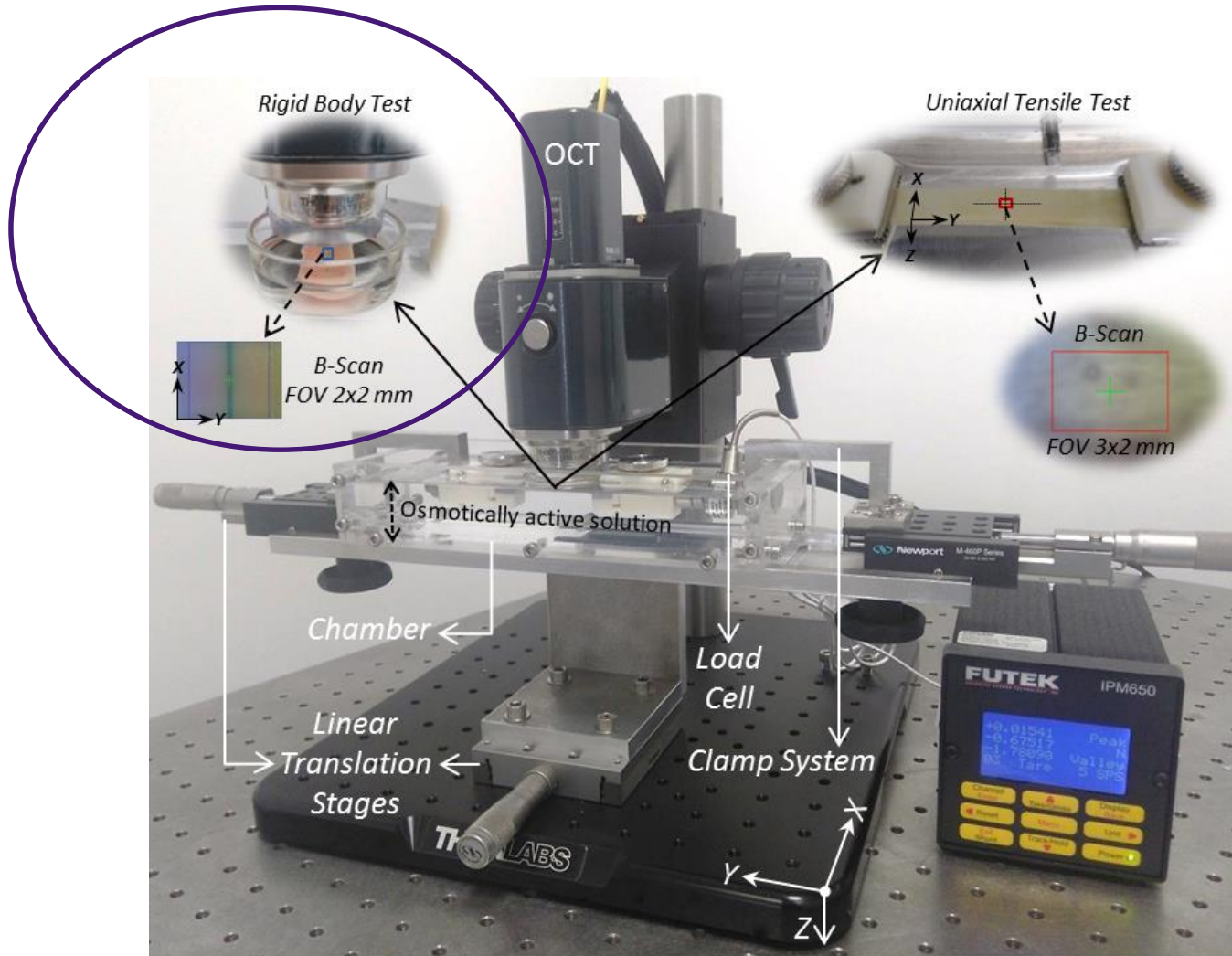
6852

CS38

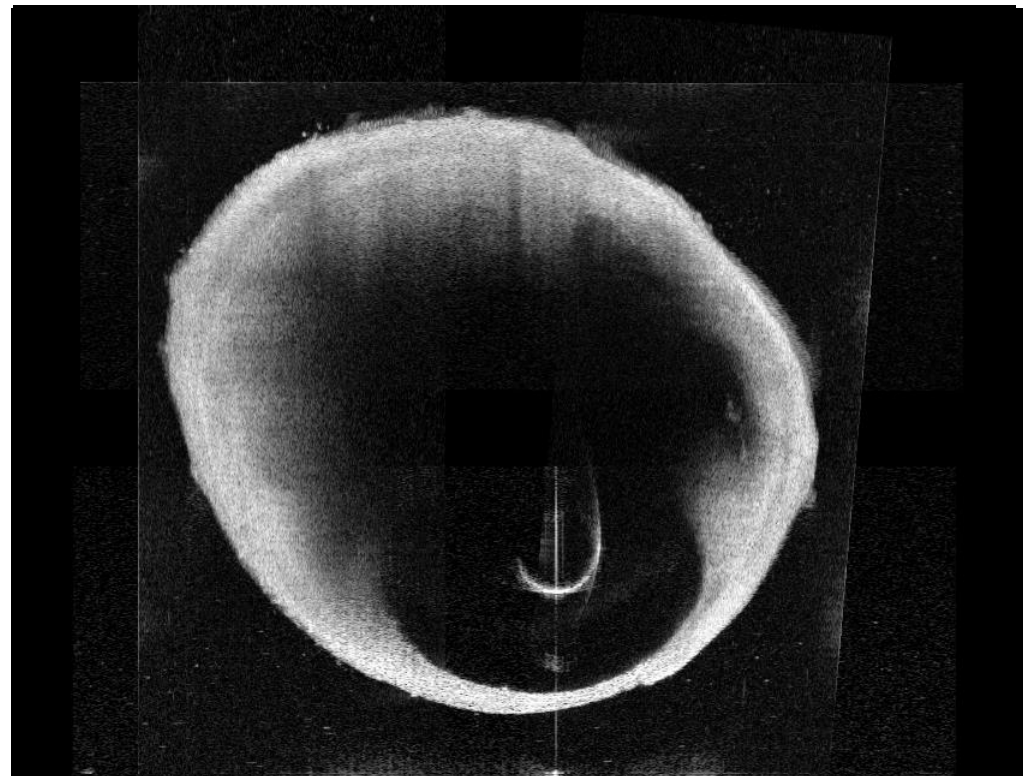
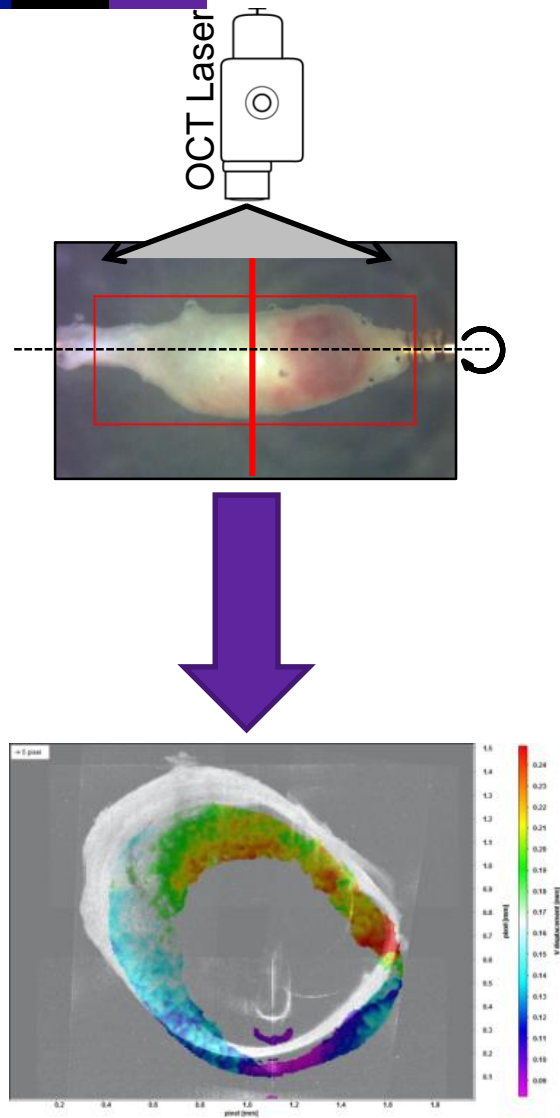




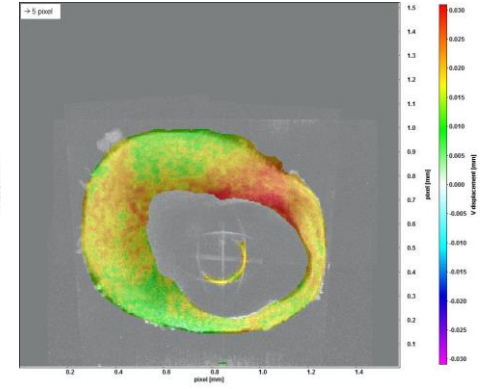
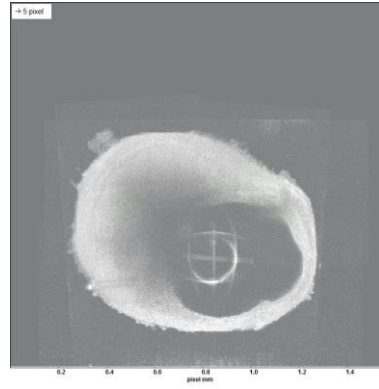
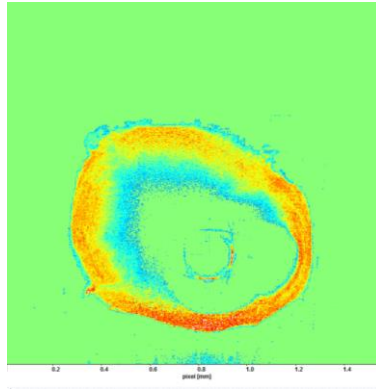
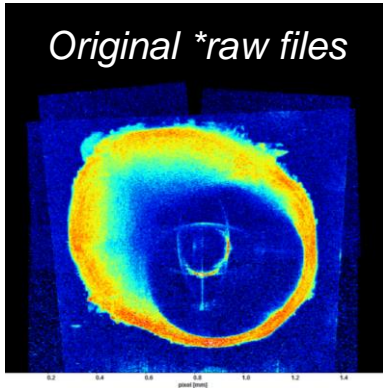
# OCT-DVC applied to arterial mechanics



# Measurement of bulk deformation fields by Digital Volume Correlation on OCT images



# Image Processing Methodology – Inflation Test



Title: REF

Width: 667 pixels

Height: 640 pixels

Depth: 100 pixels

Voxel size: 1x1x1 pixel<sup>3</sup> (2.38um)

Original  
Image Parameters

Pressures: 20, 40, 60, 80, 100, 120, 140

Lambda ( $\lambda$ ) 1 – 2 – 3

- **Algorithmic Mask – Threshold: 48**
- **Correlation window size [voxel]: 24 (8x8x8)**
- **Overlap : 75%**
- **Passes : 10**
- **Required valid voxel per window: 44%**

Correlation window sizes (setup up to six steps):

	Size [voxel]	Shape	Overlap [%]	Peak search radius [voxel]	Volume Binning	Passes
Step 1	24	1:1	0	8	8x8x8	2
Step 2	20	1:1	0	4	4x4x4	2
Step 3	16	1:1	0	2	2x2x2	2
Step 4	12	1:1	0	1	no	2
Step 5	10	1:1	75	1	no	2
Step 6	8	1:1	75	1	no	10

Intensity threshold for compression: 0 counts  
(only GPU: 0 counts <=> lossless)

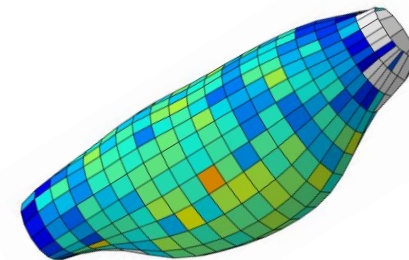
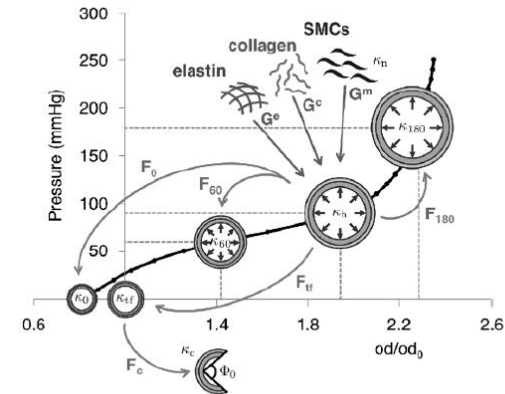
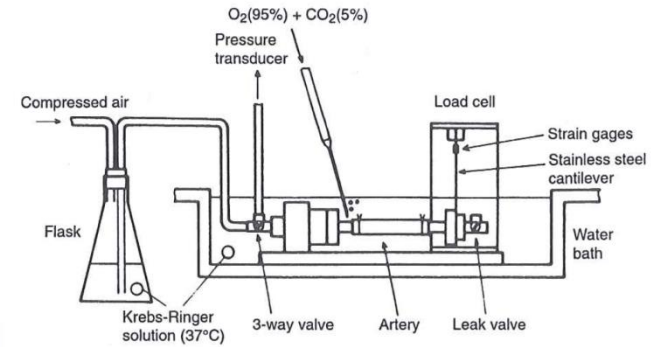
Required valid voxel per window: 45 %

Algorithmic mask with operation pipeline:

<input type="checkbox"/> local Stdev	over N pixel, N=	3
<input type="checkbox"/> sliding maximum	filter length N pixel, N=	4
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> below threshold	set to 0, enter lower limit	48
<input type="checkbox"/> erosion	erode mask N times, N=	95
<input type="checkbox"/> above threshold	set to 0, enter upper limit	3
<input type="checkbox"/> erosion	erode mask N times, N=	105
<input type="checkbox"/> above threshold	set to 0, enter upper limit	1
<input type="checkbox"/> eliminate 0 pixel	set to !=1 (recommended !)	

# APPROACH

1. Experiments
2. Material model
3. Inverse method





# CONSTITUTIVE MODEL

Strain energy functions:

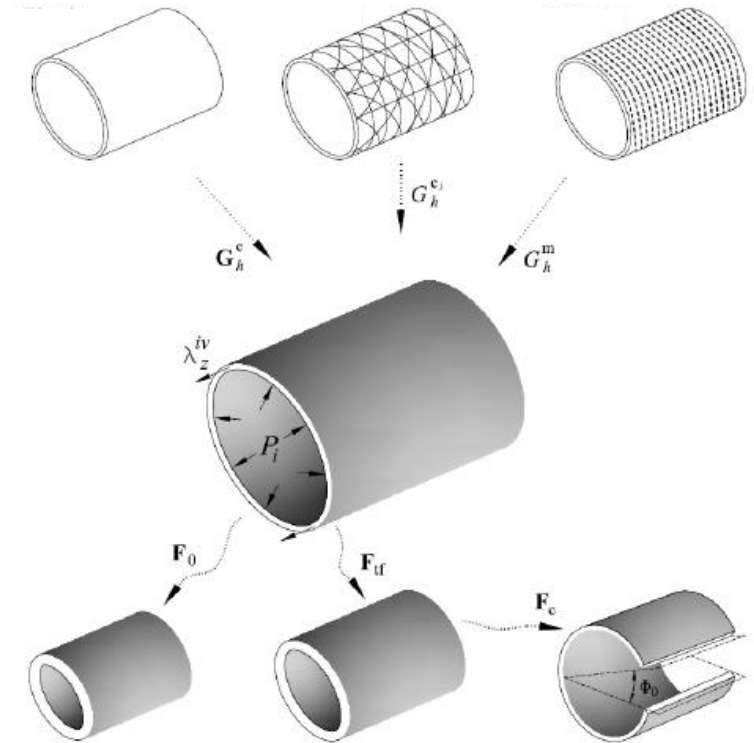
$$W = \phi^e W^e(\mathbf{F}^e) + \phi^m W^m(\lambda^m) + \sum_{j=1}^4 \phi^{c_j} W^{c_j}(\lambda^{c_j})$$

$$W^e(\mathbf{F}^e) = \frac{c^e}{2} \left[ \text{tr} \left( (\mathbf{F}^e)^T \mathbf{F}^e \right) - 3 \right]$$

$$W^m(\lambda^m) = \frac{c_2^m}{4c_3^m} \left[ e^{c_3^m ((\lambda^m)^2 - 1)^2} - 1 \right]$$

$$W^c(\lambda^{c_j}) = \frac{c_2^c}{4c_3^c} \left[ e^{c_3^c ((\lambda^{c_j})^2 - 1)^2} - 1 \right]$$

Bellini, et al., Ann. Biomed. Eng.,  
42(3), pp. 488–502, 2014





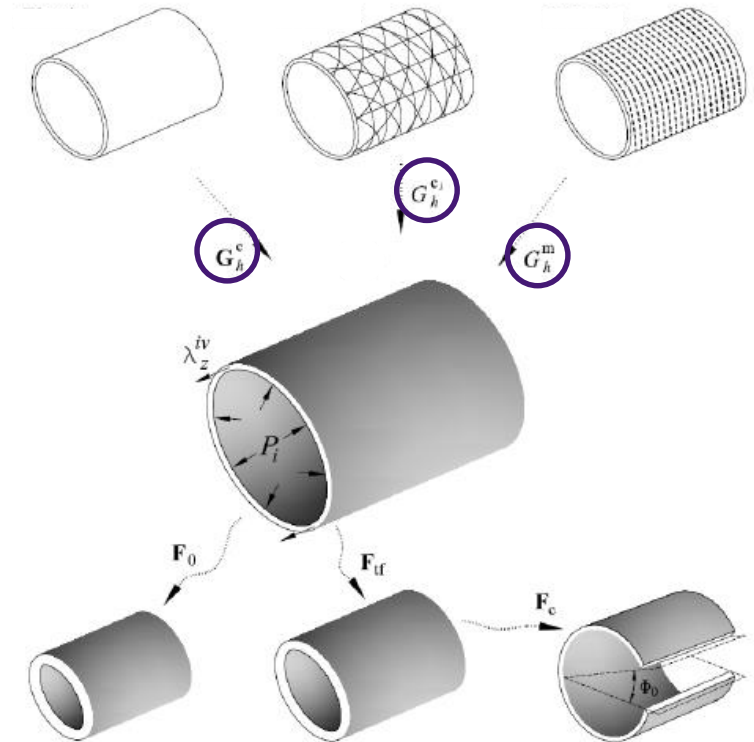
# PARAMETERS TO BE IDENTIFIED

$$W = \phi^e W^e(\mathbf{F}^e) + \phi^m W^m(\lambda^m) + \sum_{j=1}^4 \phi^{c_j} W^{c_j}(\lambda^{c_j})$$

$$W^e(\mathbf{F}^e) = \frac{c^e}{2} \left[ \text{tr} \left( (\mathbf{F}^e)^T \mathbf{F}^e \right) - 3 \right]$$

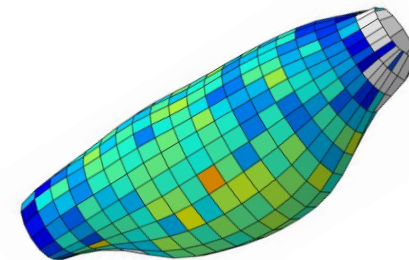
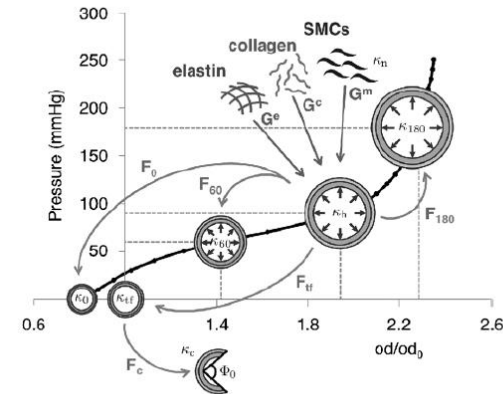
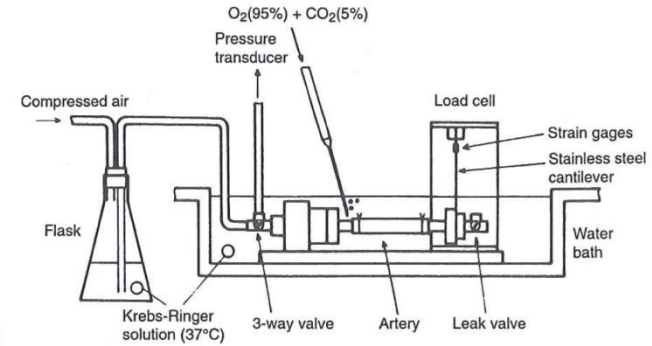
$$W^m(\lambda^m) = \frac{c_2^m}{4c_3^m} \left[ c_3^m (\lambda^m)^2 - 1 \right]$$

$$W^c(\lambda^{c_j}) = \frac{c_2^c}{4c_3^c} \left[ c_3^c (\lambda^{c_j})^2 - 1 \right]$$

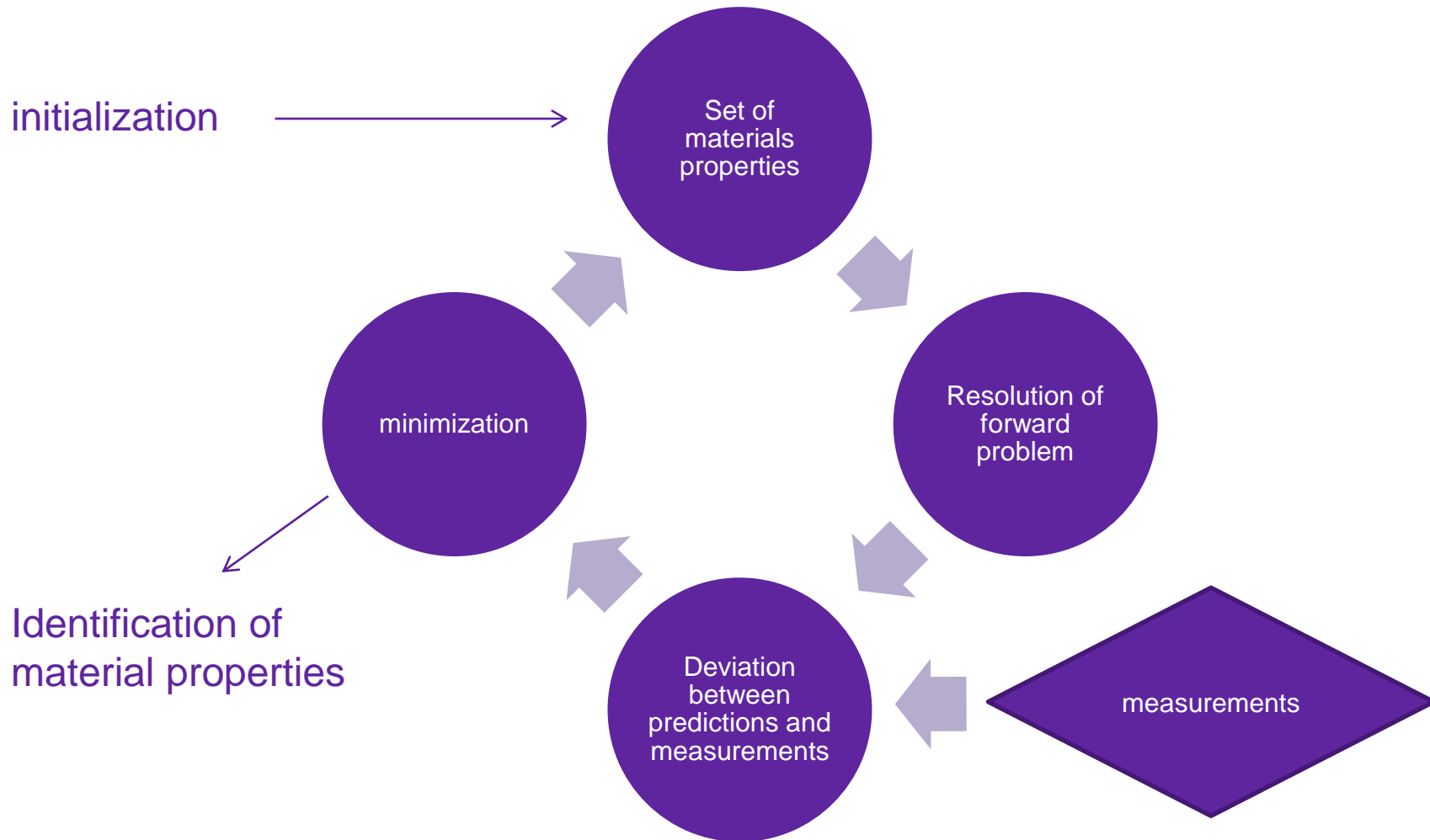


# APPROACH

1. Experiments
2. Material model
3. Inverse method



# Inverse approach – traditional approach

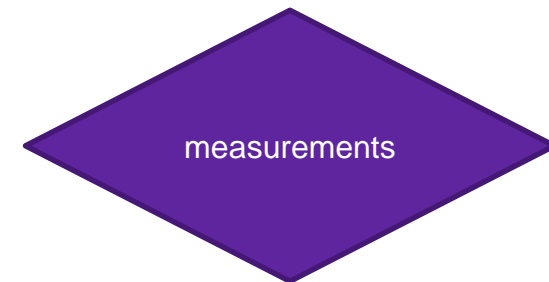
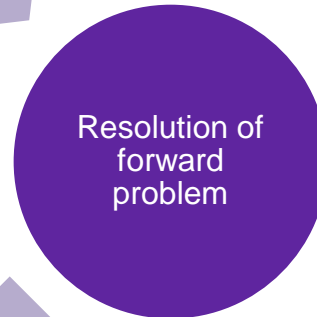
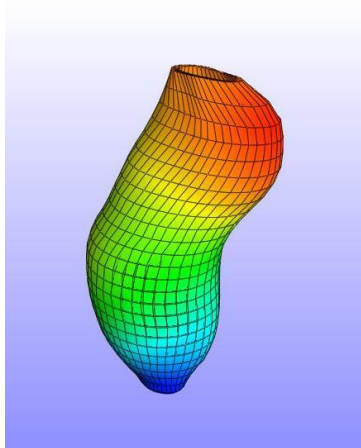


# Inverse approach – FEMU approach

initialization

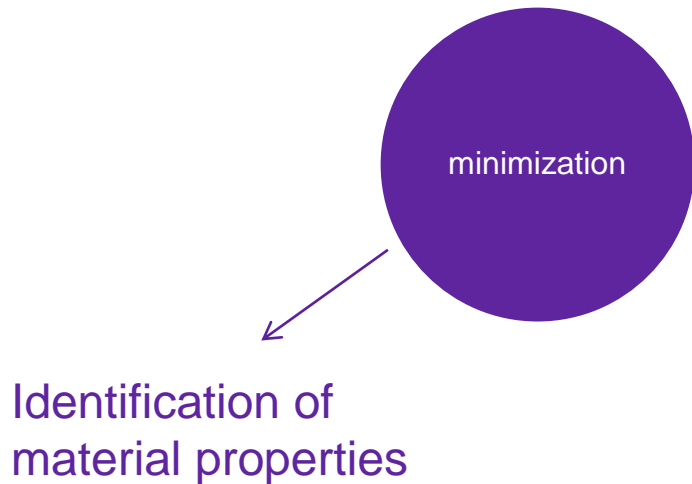


Oberai et al., Inverse problems, **19**, pp. 297-313, 2003



$$J(\mu) = \|T(u) - T(u^{exp})\|^2 + \frac{\alpha}{2} B(\mu)$$

# Inverse approach – FEMU approach

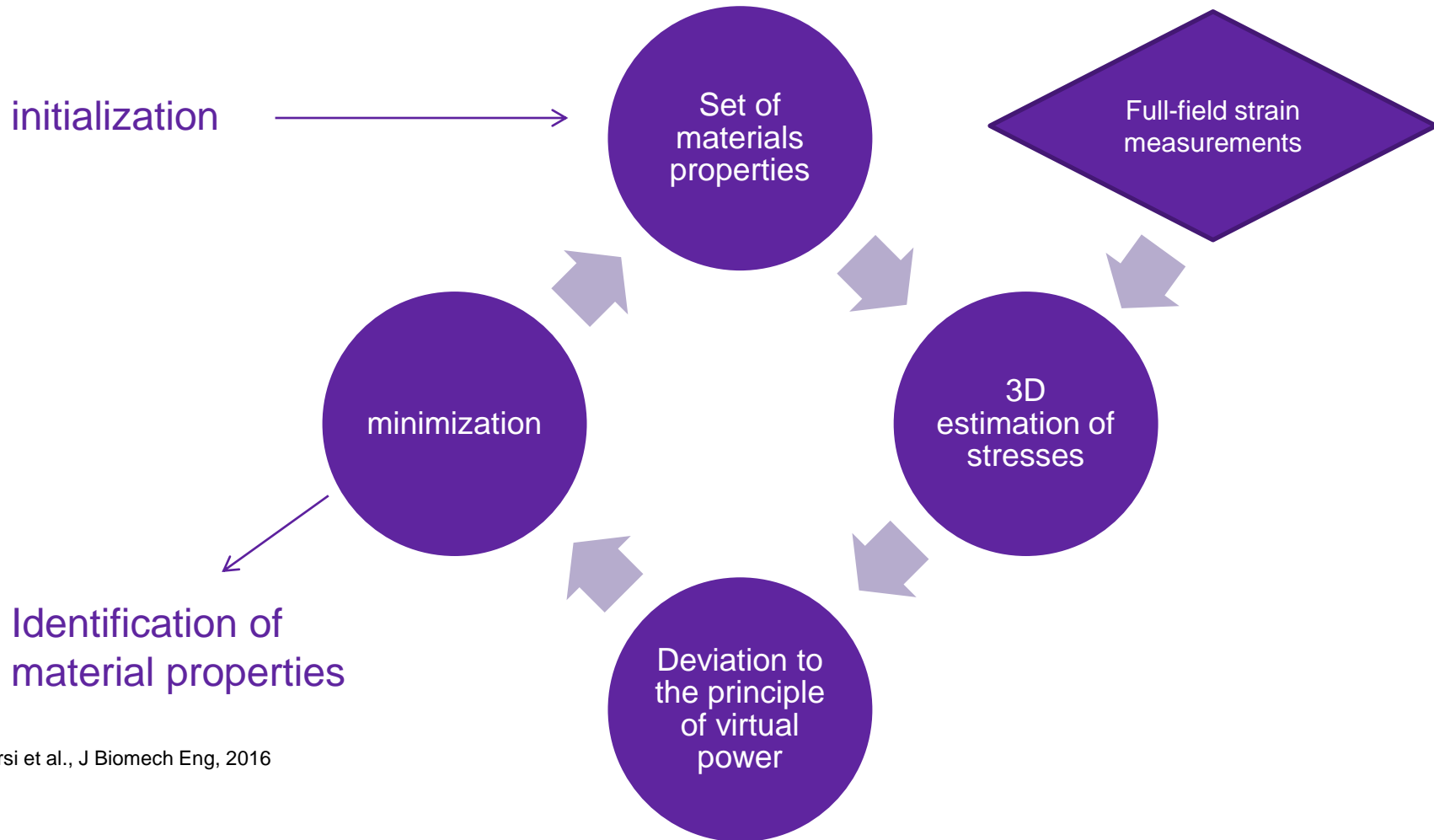


1. Use a gradient based method (steepest descent or BFGS)
2. Need to derive the gradient of  $J$  with respect to  $\mu$  at each iteration. With the adjoint method, this requires the resolution of 2 forward problems
3. Very unstable with hyperelastic models: **many risks that the forward problems have a poor convergence**





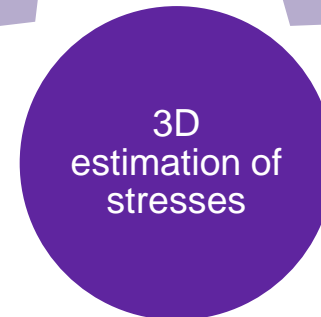
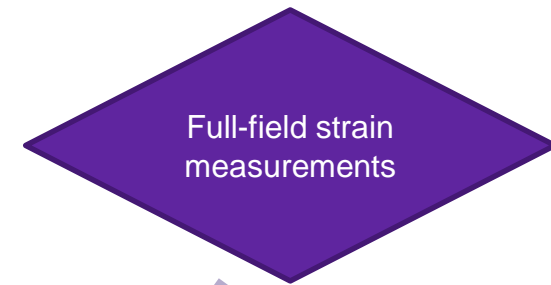
# Alternative inverse approach: the virtual fields method



Bersi et al., J Biomech Eng, 2016

# Full-field stress reconstruction

initialization



$$W = \phi^e W^e(\mathbf{F}^e) + \phi^m W^m(\lambda^m) + \sum_{j=1}^4 \phi^{c_j} W^{c_j}(\lambda^{c_j})$$

$$W^e(\mathbf{F}^e) = \frac{c^e}{2} \left[ \text{tr} \left( (\mathbf{F}^e)^T \mathbf{F}^e \right) - 3 \right]$$

$$W^m(\lambda^m) = \frac{c_2^m}{4c_3^m} \left[ e^{c_3^m ((\lambda^m)^2 - 1)^2} - 1 \right]$$

$$W^c(\lambda^{c_j}) = \frac{c_2^c}{4c_3^c} \left[ e^{c_3^c ((\lambda^{c_j})^2 - 1)^2} - 1 \right]$$

Simple application of the constitutive model for each element

# Minimization of the equilibrium gap using the principle of virtual power

minimization

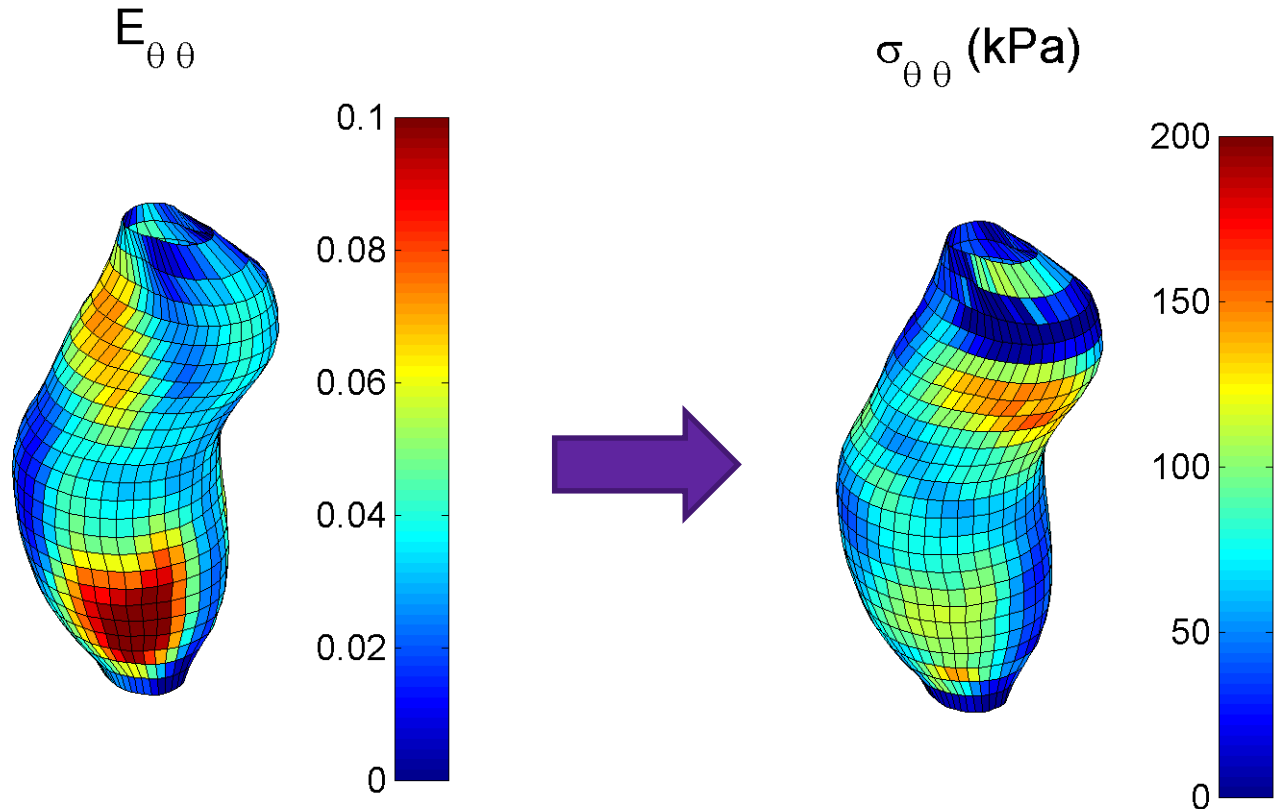
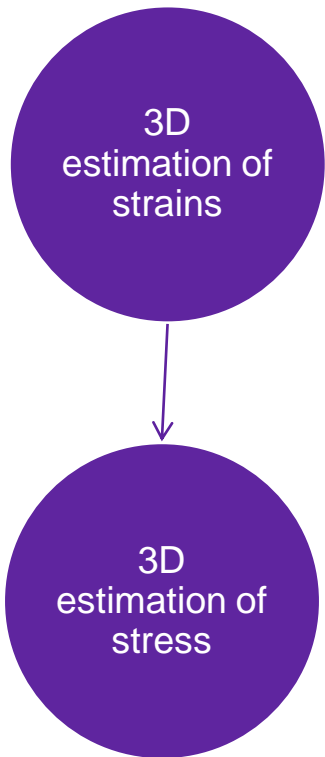
$$J = \sum_p \sum_\lambda \left( \underbrace{- \int_{\omega(t)} \underline{\sigma} : (\underline{\nabla} \otimes \underline{\xi}^*)}_{P_{int}^*} d\omega + \underbrace{\oint_{\partial\omega(t)} \underline{T} : \underline{\xi}^*}_{P_{ext}^*} ds \right)^2$$

Bersi et al., J Biomech Eng, 2016

Resolution:

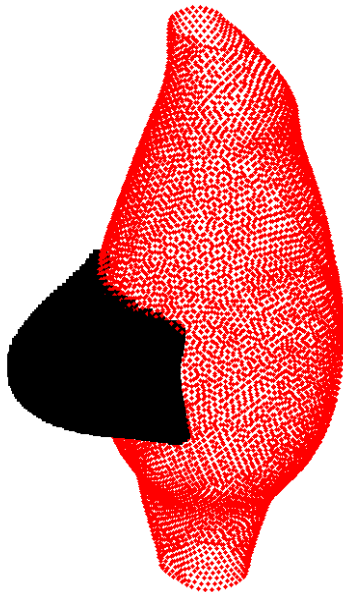
$$\min_{c_3^1, c_3^{2,3}, c_3^4, \alpha, \beta} \left[ \underbrace{\min_{c^e, c_2^1, c_2^{2,3}, c_2^4} \left[ \frac{J(u)}{A} + \frac{J(v)}{B} \right]}_{\text{Linear least-squares}} \right]_{\text{Genetic algorithm}}$$

# Derivation of stress tensor using layer specific constitutive behavior



# Virtual power 1

1. A local virtual radial “bulge”:  $\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}) = [f(\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{x}_0) / r^2 ] \mathbf{e}_r$



$$\underbrace{- \int_{\omega(t)} \underline{\underline{\sigma}} : \left( \underline{\underline{\nabla}} \otimes \underline{\underline{\xi}}^* \right) d\omega}_{P_{int}^*} + \underbrace{\oint_{\partial\omega(t)} \underline{\underline{T}} : \underline{\underline{\xi}}^* ds}_{P_{ext}^*} = 0$$

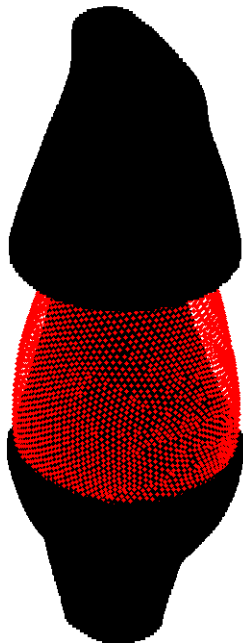
After deriving virtual strains (infinitesimal) local internal virtual work is derived at every Gauss point and integrated across the volume

The virtual field is normalized such as the external virtual work equals P.



## Virtual power 2

2. Local virtual axial extension:  $\mathbf{v}(\mathbf{x}) = f(\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{x}_0) (z \mathbf{e}_z - x/2 \mathbf{e}_x - y/2 \mathbf{e}_y)$



$$\underbrace{- \int_{\omega(t)} \underline{\underline{\sigma}} : \left( \underline{\underline{\nabla}} \otimes \underline{\underline{\xi}}^* \right) d\omega}_{P_{int}^*} + \underbrace{\oint_{\partial\omega(t)} \underline{\underline{T}} : \underline{\underline{\xi}}^* ds}_{P_{ext}^*} = 0$$

After deriving virtual strains (infinitesimal) local internal virtual work is derived at every Gauss point and integrated across the volume

The virtual field is normalized such as the external virtual work equals F.

# Minimizing the equilibrium gap

minimization

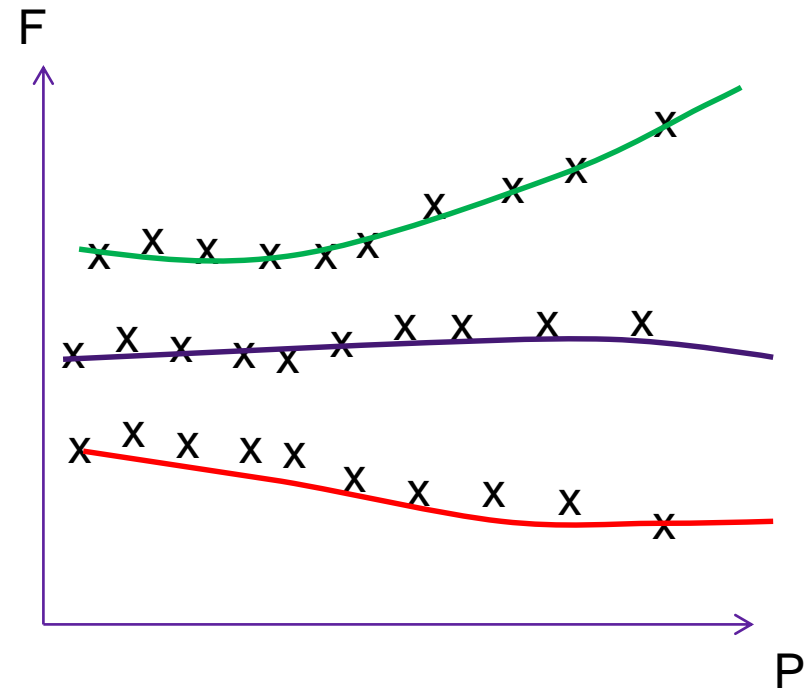
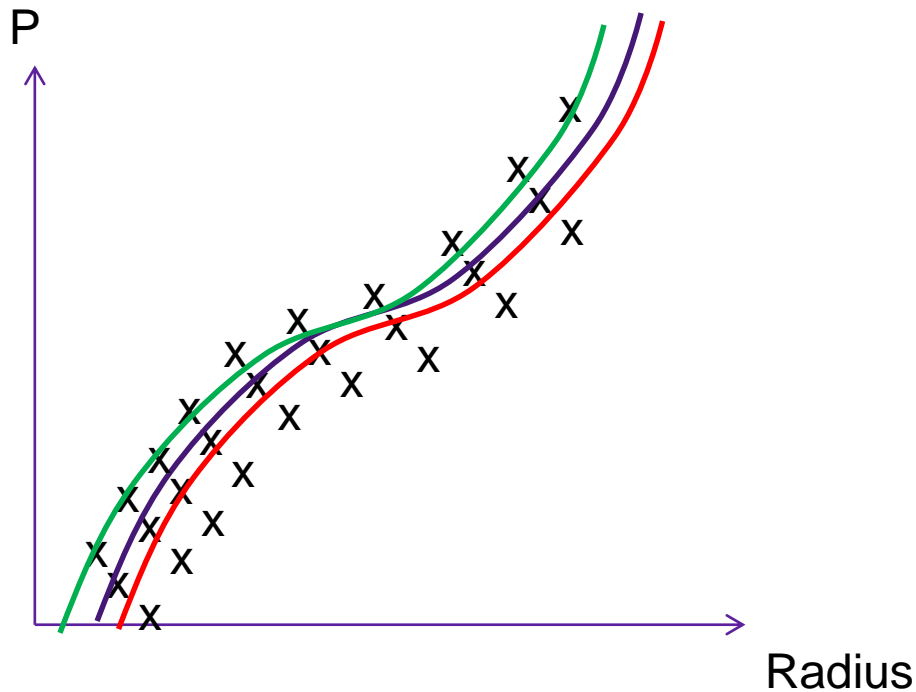
$$J = \sum_p \sum_\lambda \left( \underbrace{- \int_{\omega(t)} \underline{\underline{\sigma}} : \left( \underline{\underline{\nabla}} \otimes \underline{\underline{\xi}}^* \right) d\omega}_{P_{int}^*} + \underbrace{\oint_{\partial\omega(t)} \underline{\underline{T}} : \underline{\underline{\xi}}^* ds}_{P_{ext}^*} \right)^2$$

Bersi et al., J Biomech Eng, 2016

Resolution:

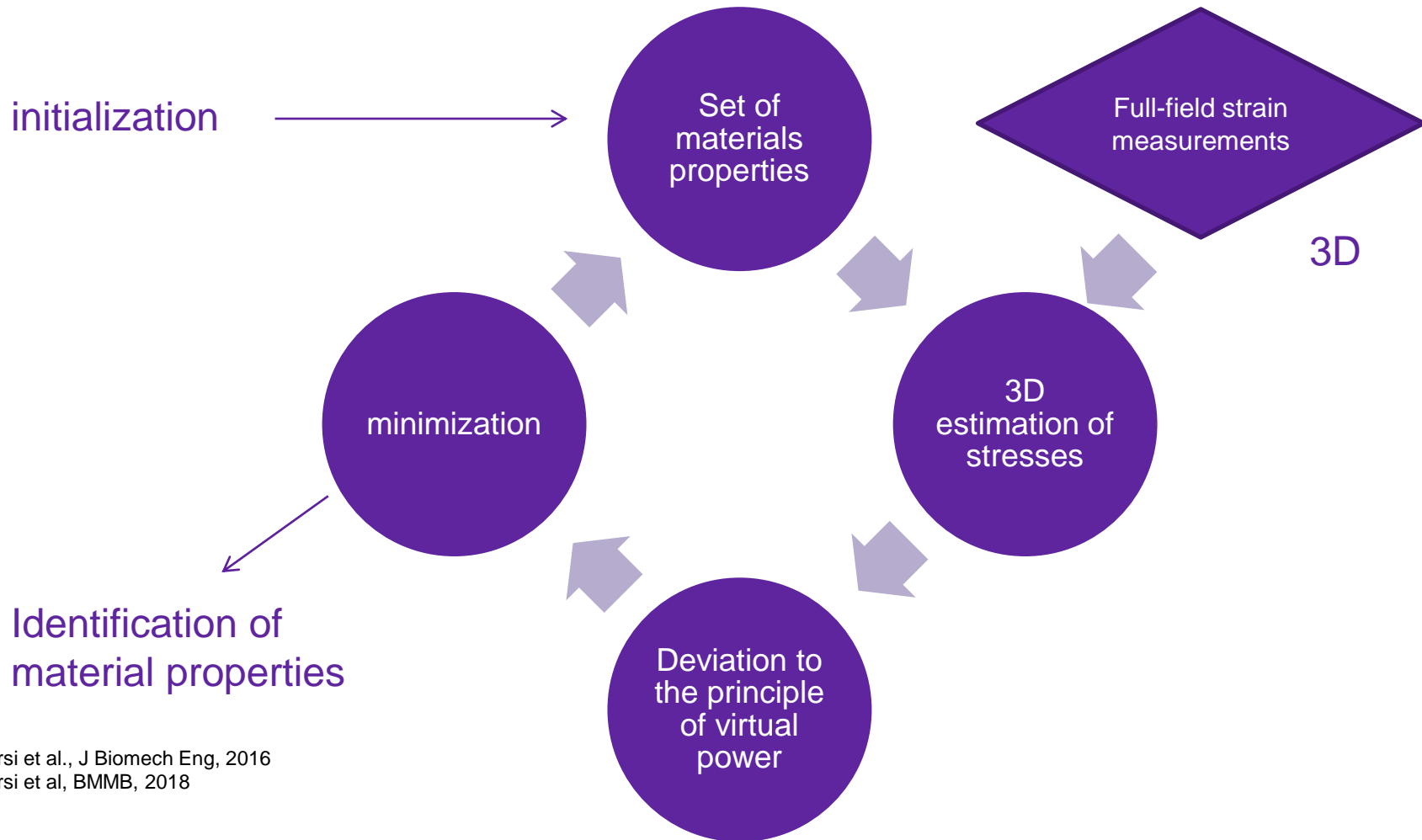
$$\min_{c_3^1, c_3^{2,3}, c_3^4, \alpha, \beta} \left[ \underbrace{\min_{c^e, c_2^1, c_2^{2,3}, c_2^4} \left[ \frac{J(u)}{A} + \frac{J(v)}{B} \right]}_{\text{Linear least-squares}} \right]_{\text{Genetic algorithm}}$$

## Similar to material fitting at every position



Crosses represent external virtual work for every pressure and axial stretch  
Solid lines represent internal virtual work  
The goodness of fit is evaluated with the  $R^2$  value

# Summary of the inverse approach



Bersi et al., J Biomech Eng, 2016  
Bersi et al, BMMB, 2018



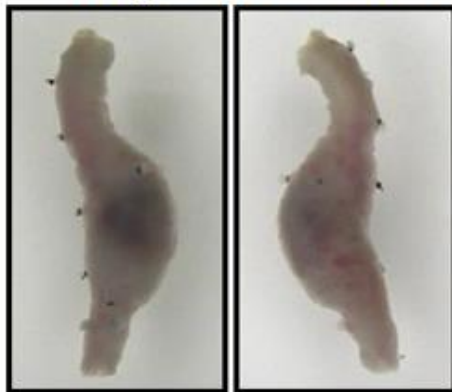
# Results - Highlights



# DISSECTED ANEURYSMS

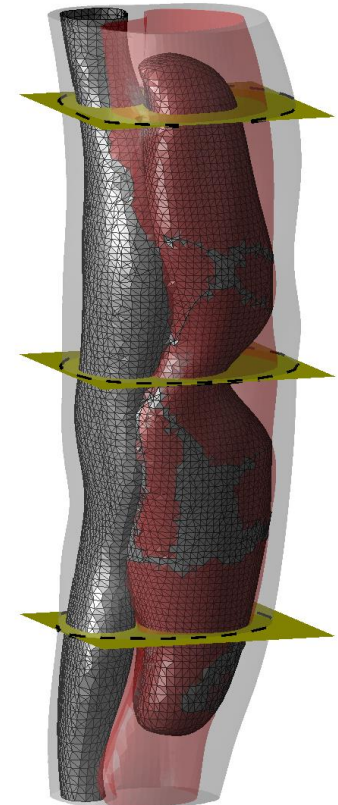
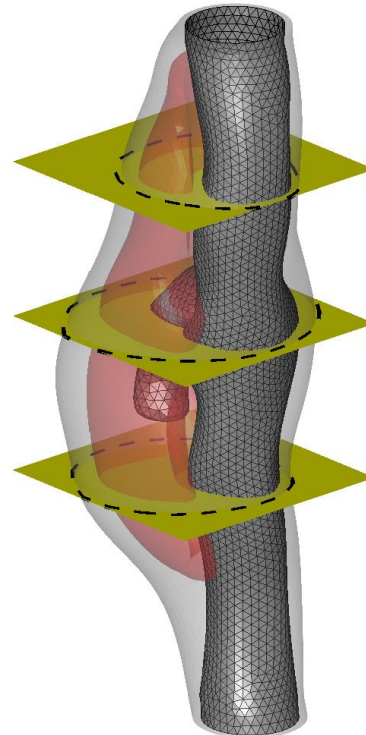


Dissecting Aortic Aneurysm

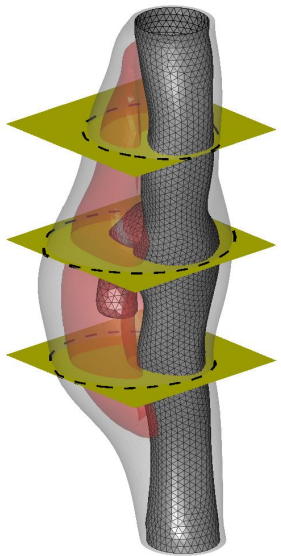


Anterior

Posterior



# Cross sectional results



Histology



$\lambda_\theta$



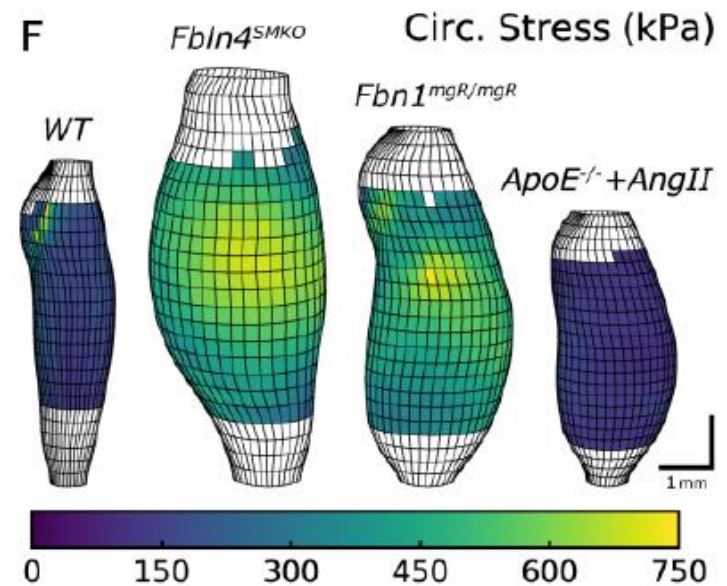
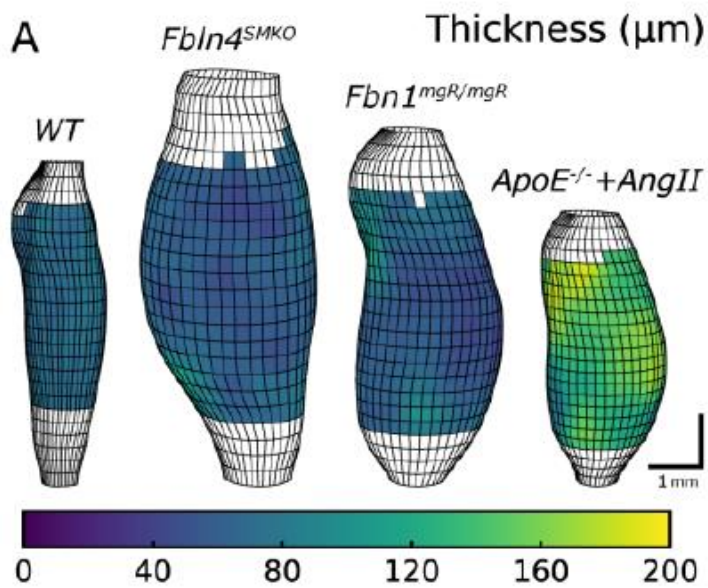
$\sigma_\theta$  (kPa)



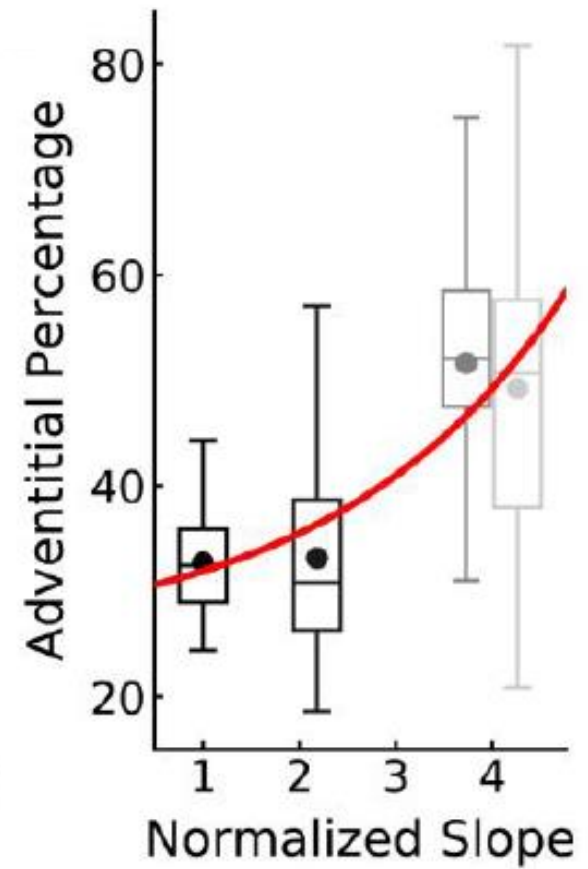
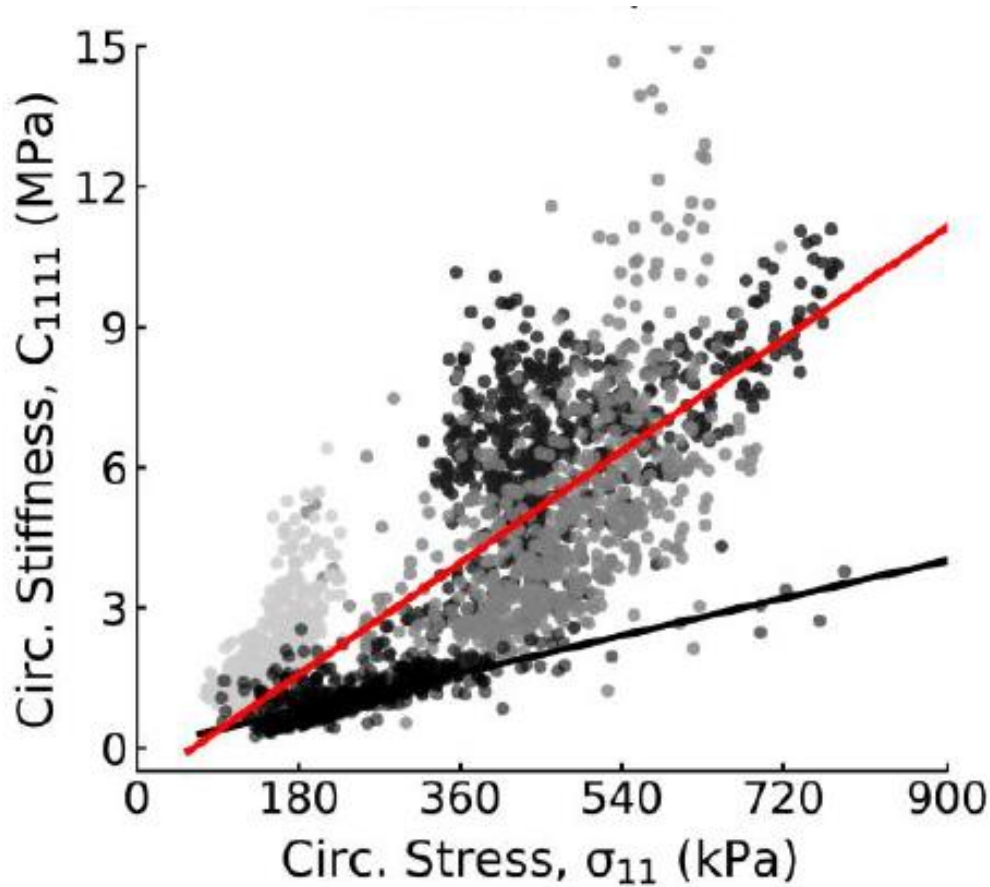
$C_{\theta\theta\theta\theta}$  (kPa)



# Full-Field Material Parameter Estimation vs thickness distribution

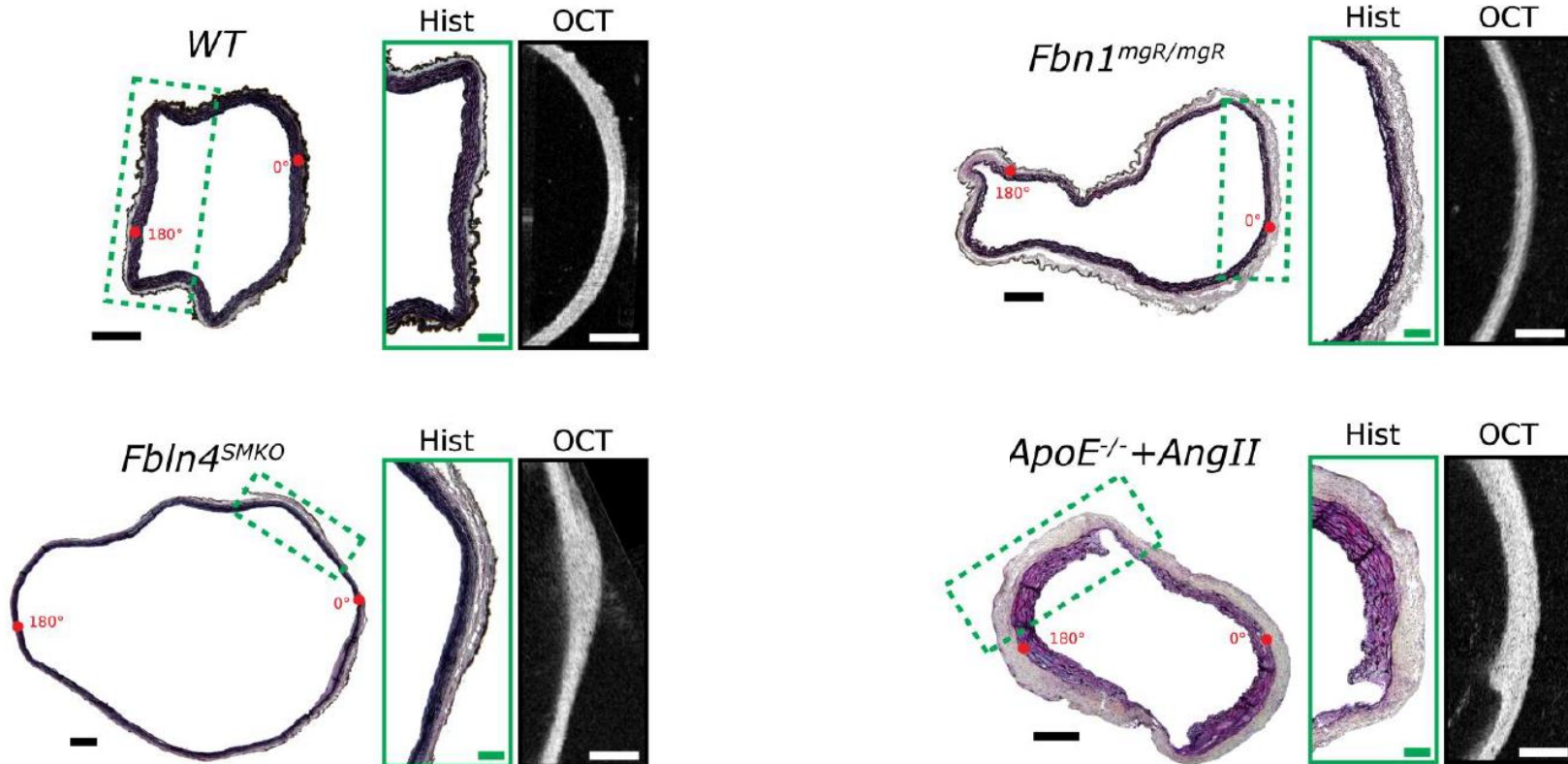


# Full-Field Material Parameter Estimation vs local stress



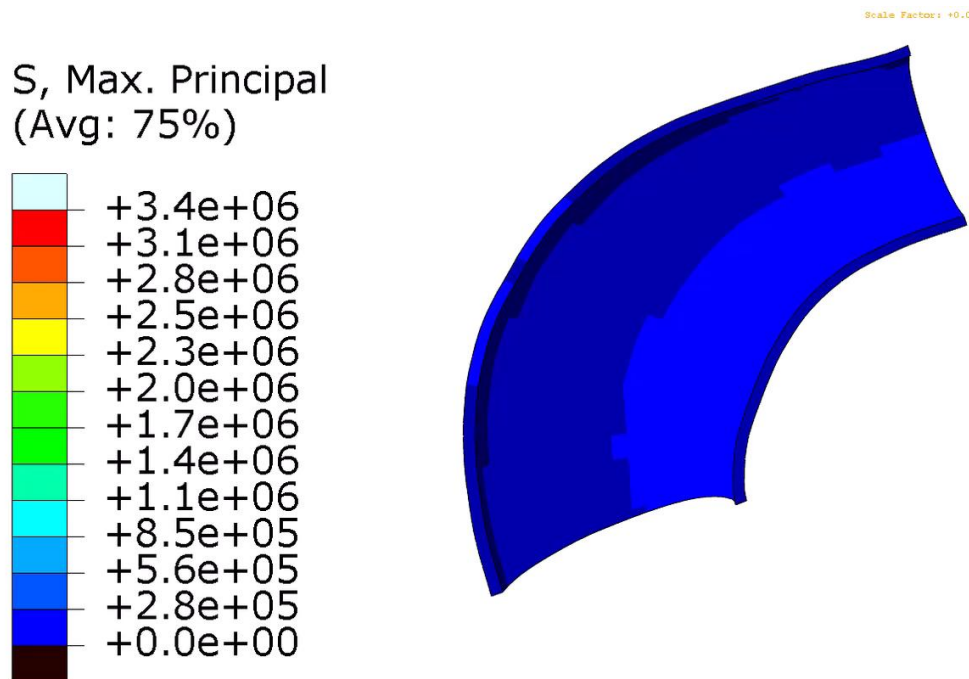


# Correlation with tissue $\mu$ structure



# Vision

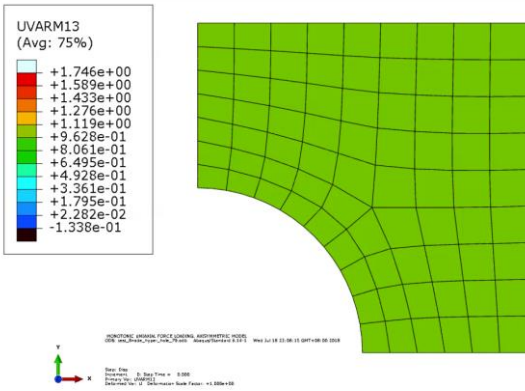
- Our vision is that the evolution of the strength and of the wall stress of the aorta during the growth of an aneurysm can be predicted on a patient-specific basis by a **computational model**.



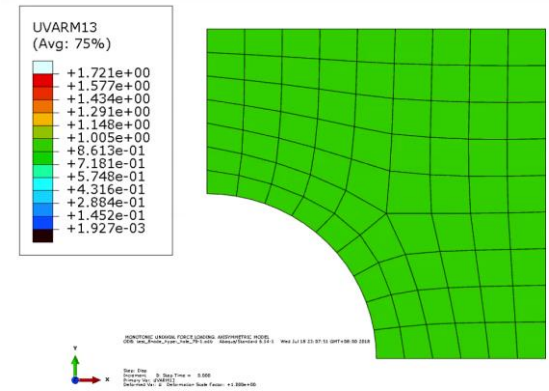


# Gradient-enhanced G&R healing model

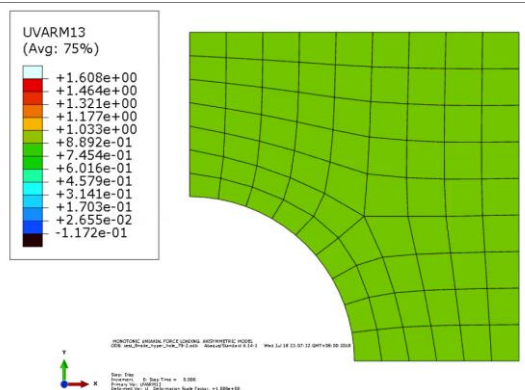
k=0



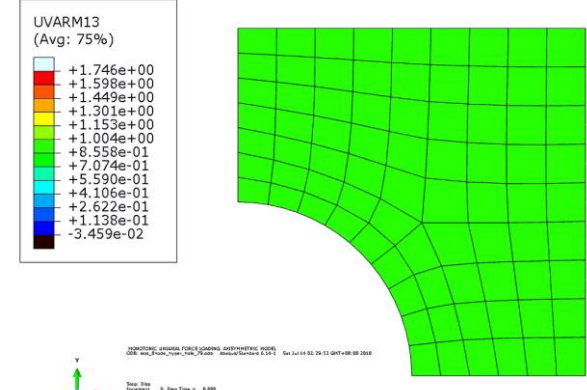
k=0.5



k=1.0

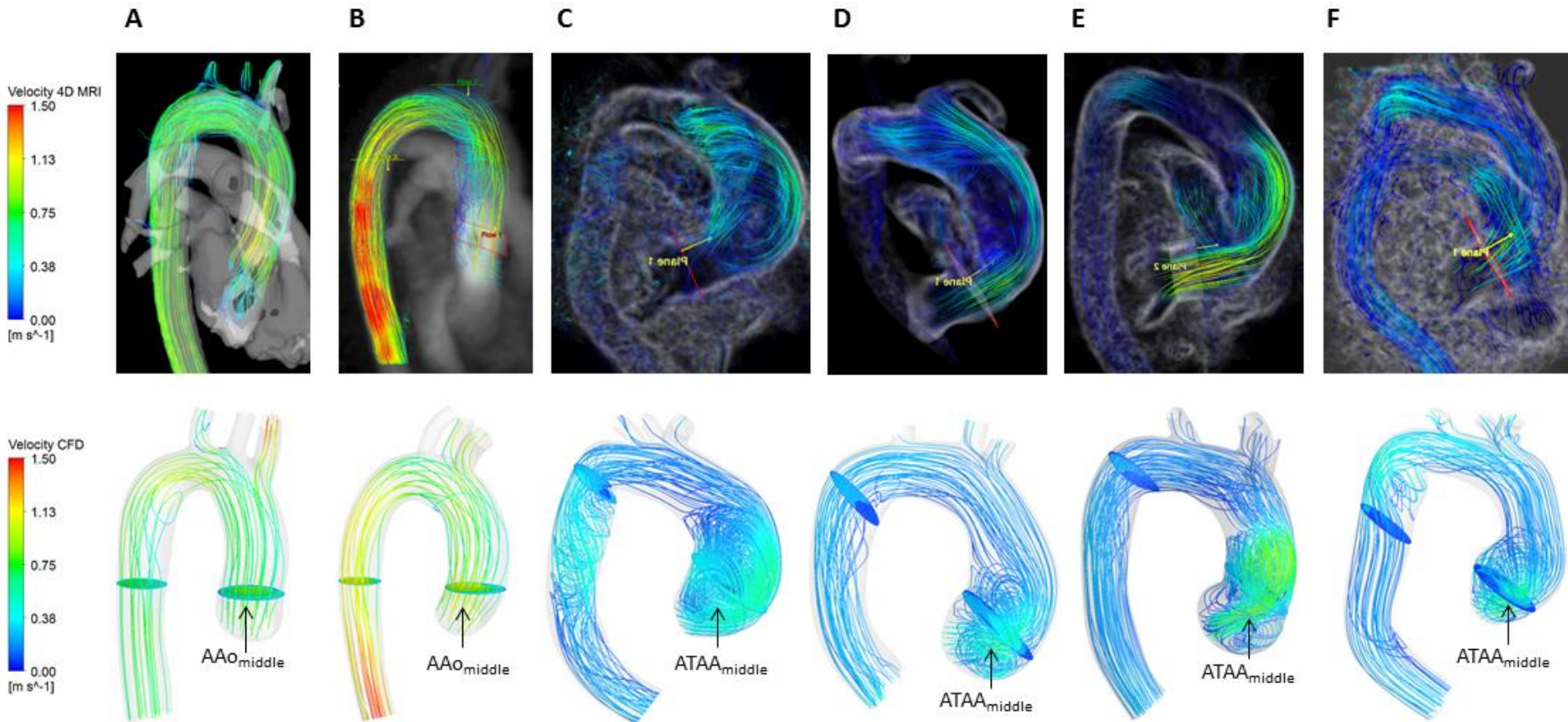


k=5.0





# Correlation with flow descriptors



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