



UNIVERSIDAD
DE MÁLAGA

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X-RAY COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY

Inés Ruiz Salcedo, Laura León Reina, Estefanía Quintero Martos

Unidad DRX (drx@uma.es)

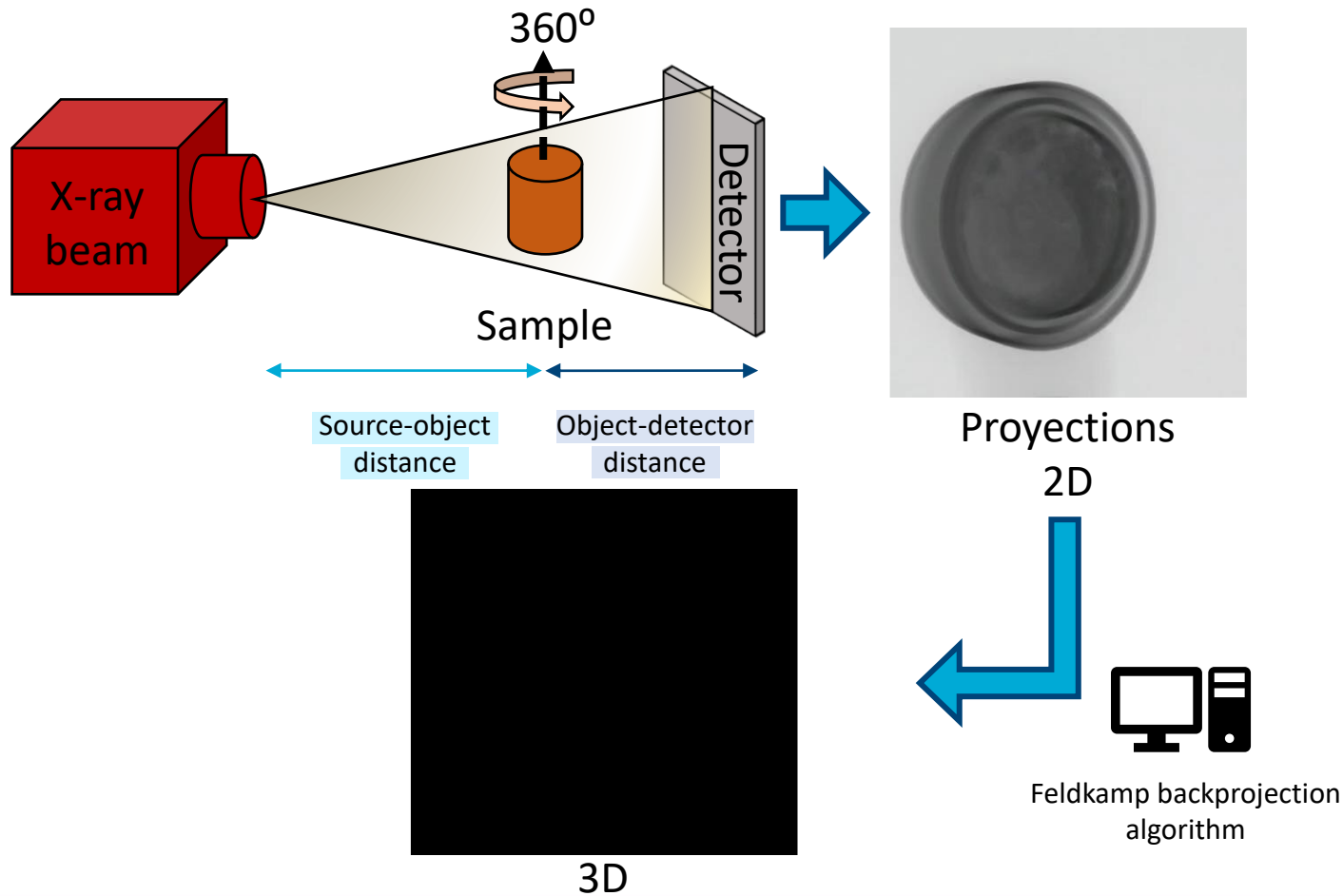
Servicios Centrales de Apoyo a la Investigación (SCAI)

26/10/2023

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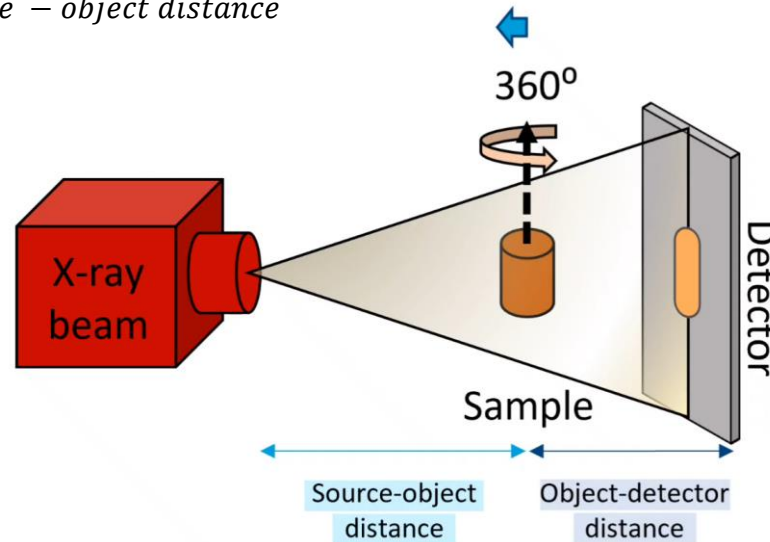
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 - 3.6. Imaging and analysis of fibers
 - 3.7. *In situ* and dynamic experiments

ACQUISITION & RECONSTRUCTION



MAGNIFICATION

$$\text{Magnification} = \frac{\text{Object - detector distance}}{\text{Source - object distance}}$$



Geometrical Magnification

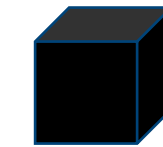
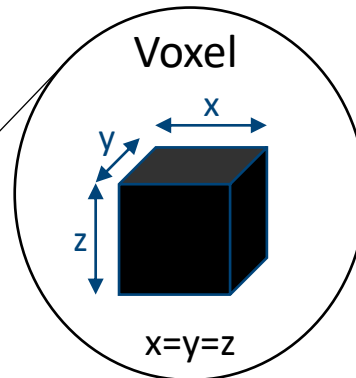
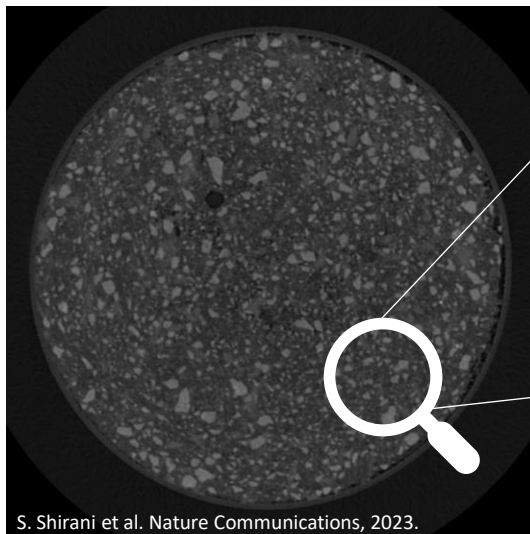


Higher source-object distance → Bigger voxel size → Lower spatial resolution

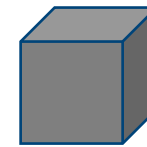
Lower source-object distance → Smaller voxel size → Higher spatial resolution

Smaller **voxel** size → smaller **object** size

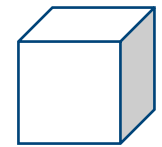
VOXEL SIZE & GREY VALUE



Grey value= 0



Grey value= 130

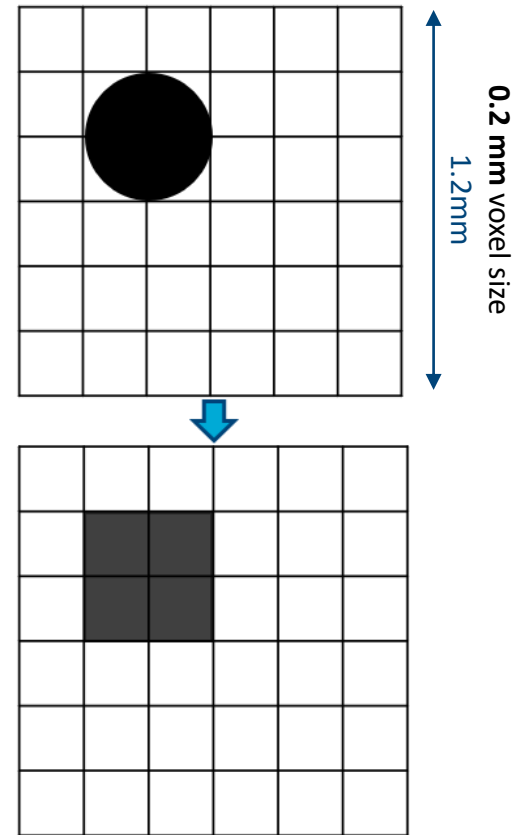
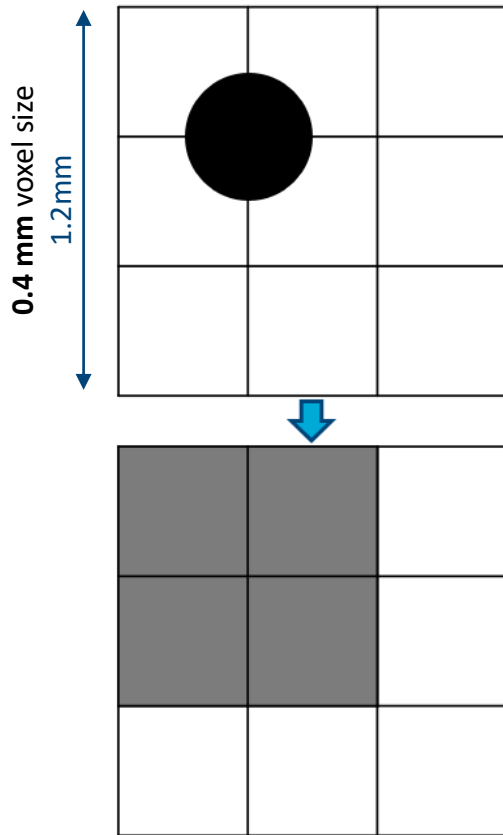


Grey value= 255



S. Shirani et al. Nature Communications, 2023.

VOXEL SIZE & GREY VALUE

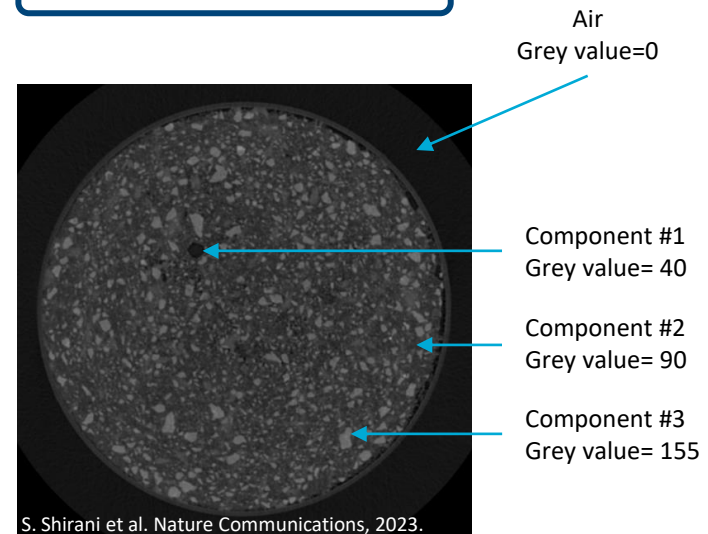
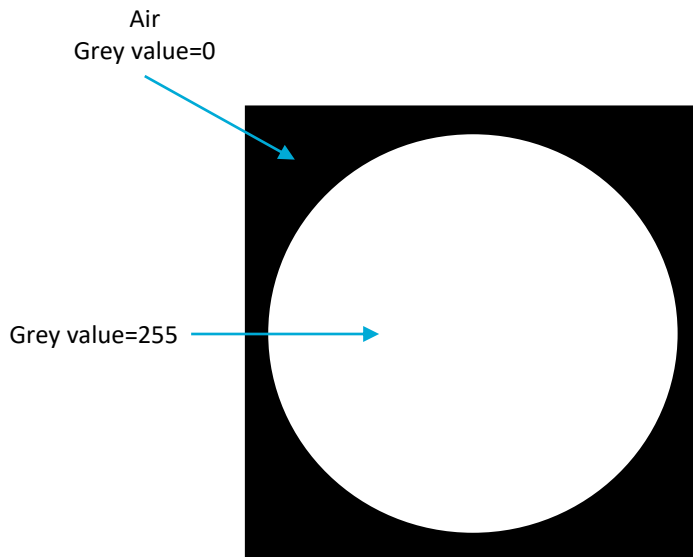


CONTRAST

X-rays pass through material and get attenuated → different absorption → **CONTRAST**

Absorption is related to:

- Density
- Atomic mass

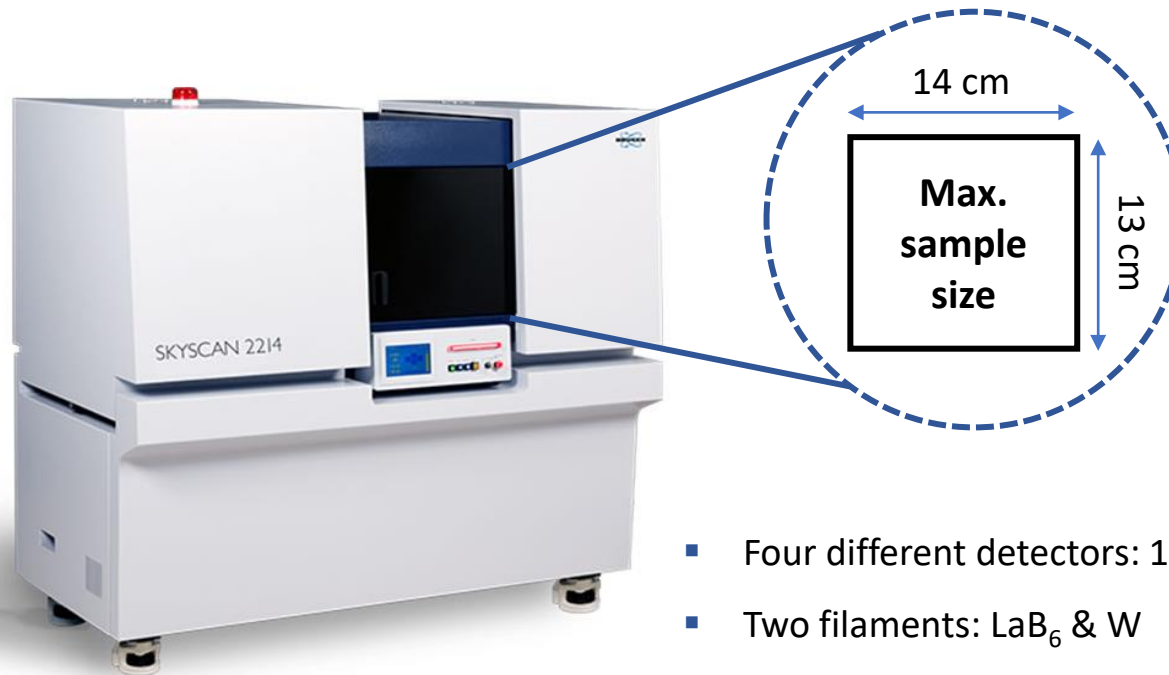


3D segmentation → Visualization and quantification

SUMMARY

- ✓ Non-destructive technique
- ✓ Information about internal details (tens of nanometers)
- ✓ Follow the structural evolution of materials in three dimensions in real time or in a time-lapse manner
- ! No information related to crystalline structure
- ! Sample size can compromise the resolution
- ! Contrast

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SkyScan 2214 (Bruker)

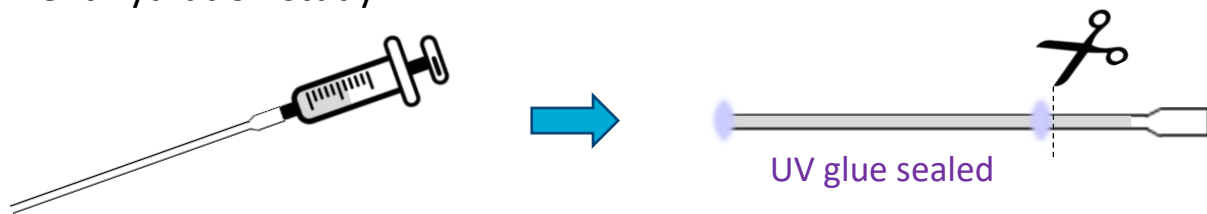
- Four different detectors: 1 Flat panel + 3 CCD cameras
- Two filaments: LaB₆ & W
- Temperature stages
- Tensile and compression: Deben Stage
- Down to 60 nm pixel size

XRD & CT COMBINATION

Main goal: Better understanding of the hydration process of cements

- Evolution of the crystalline phases during hydration → **LXRPD** (Rietveld method)
- Porosity and amorphous content development → **μCT**

In situ cement hydration study:



Glass capillary $\Phi = 2\text{mm}$

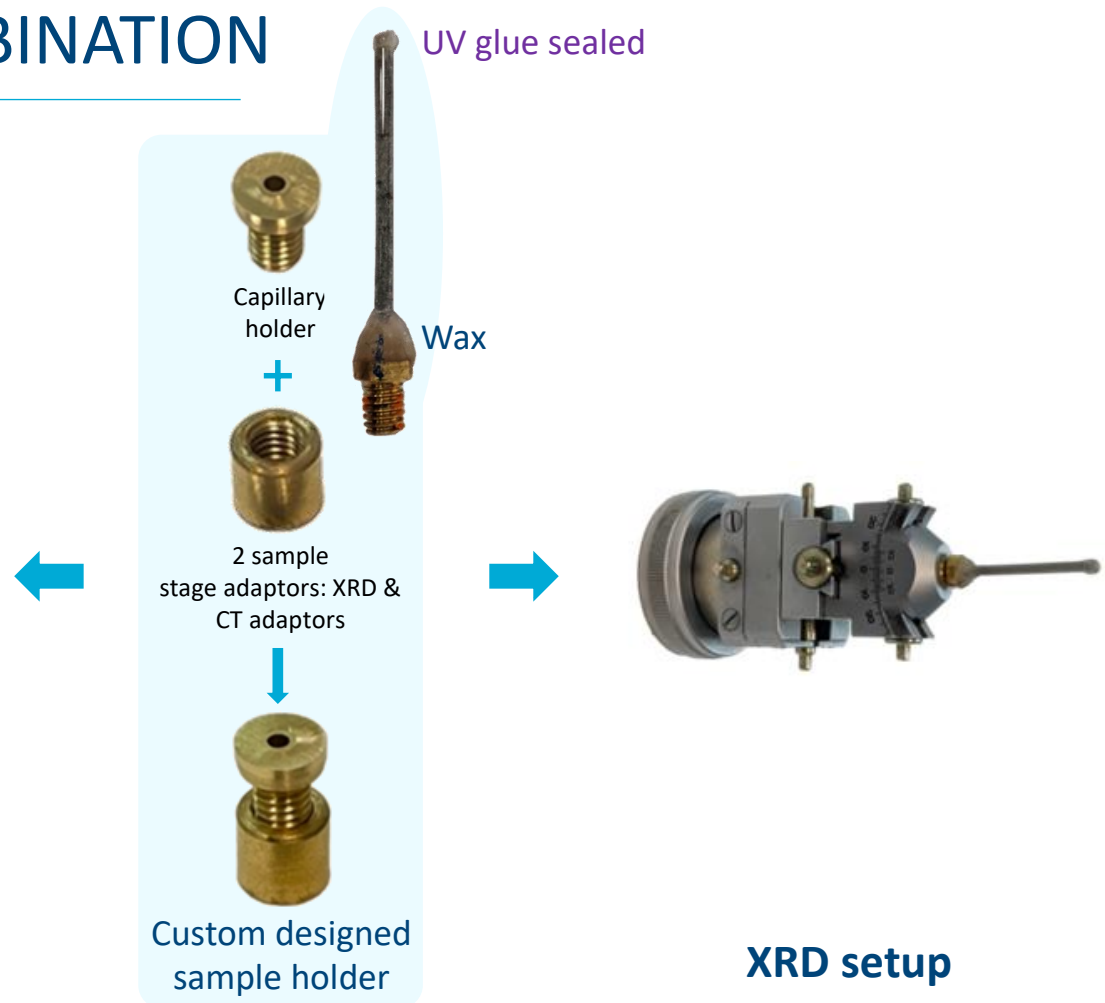
→ Thick capillary to avoid self-desiccation

Salcedo, I.R.; Cuesta, A.; Shirani, S.; León-Reina, L.; Aranda, M.A.G. Accuracy in Cement Hydration Investigations: Combined X-ray Microtomography and Powder Diffraction Analyses. *Materials* **2021**, *14*, 6953. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ma14226953>

Shirani, S.; Cuesta, A.; Morales-Cantero, A.; Santacruz, I.; Diaz, A.; Trtik, P.; Holler, M.; Rack, A.; Lukic, B.; Brun, E.; Salcedo, I. R.; Aranda, M. A. 4D nanoimaging of early age cement hydration. *Nature Communications* **2023**, *14*(1), 2652. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-023-38380-1>

Shirani, S.; Cuesta, A.; De la Torre, A.G.; Santacruz, I.; Morales-Cantero, A.; Koufany, I.; Redondo-Soto, C.; Salcedo, I. R.; León-Reina, L.; Aranda, M.A.G. Mix and measure - combining *in situ* X-ray powder diffraction and microtomography for accurate hydrating cement studies. Submitted to *Cement and Concrete Research* **2023**

XRD & CT COMBINATION



XRD & CT COMBINATION



μCT setup

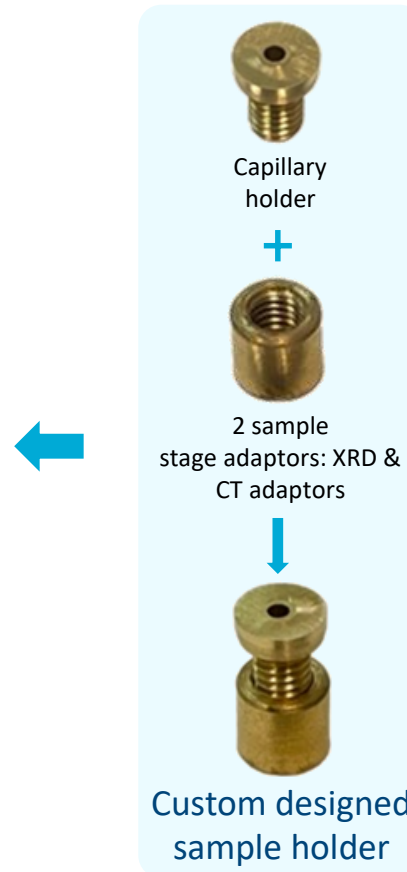


XRD setup

XRD & CT COMBINATION



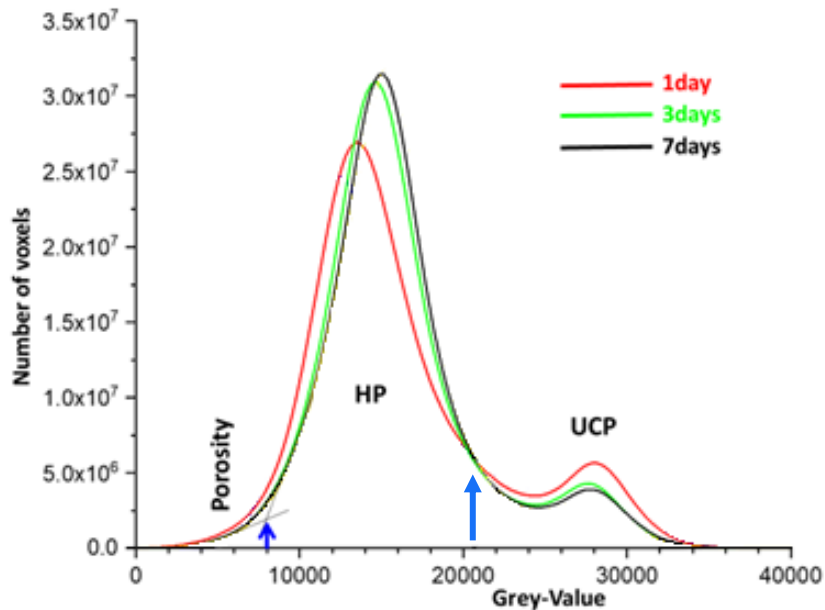
SKYSCAN 2214
(Bruker)



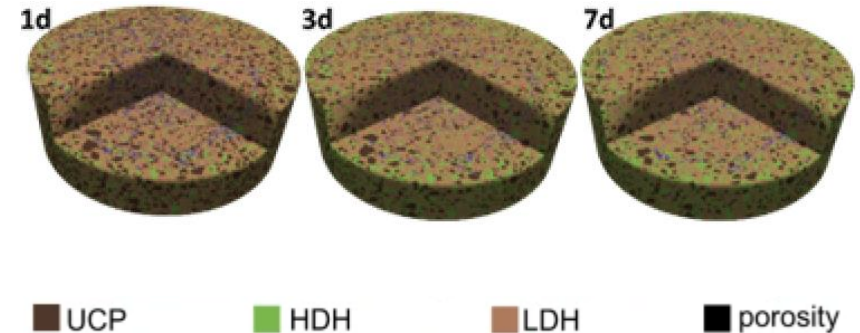
D8 ADVANCE
(Bruker)
Mo $K\alpha_1$ radiation

XRD & CT COMBINATION

Global Thresholding Segmentation → 3 components



Machine Learning Segmentation → 4 components



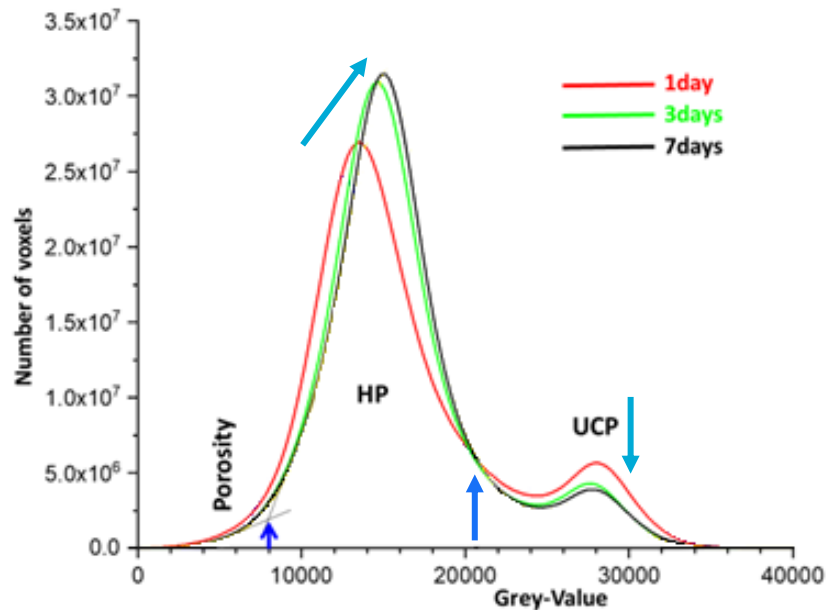
Porosity = air + water

HP (Hydrated Particles) = **HDH** (high-density hydrates: mainly portlandite + calcite) + **LDH** (low-density hydrates: mainly C-S-H gel + ettringite)

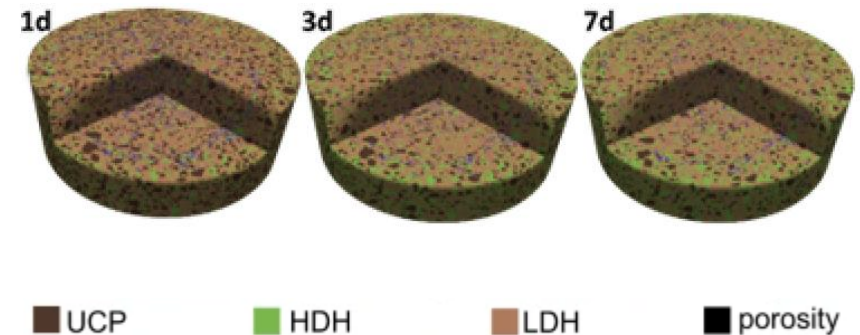
UCP (Unhydrous Cement Particles) = all unreacted clinker phases

XRD & CT COMBINATION

Global Thresholding Segmentation → 3 components



Machine Learning Segmentation → 4 components



Porosity = air + water

HP (Hydrated Particles) = **HDH** (high-density hydrates: mainly portlandite + calcite) + **LDH** (low-density hydrates: mainly C-S-H gel + ettringite)

UCP (Unhydrous Cement Particles) = all unreacted clinker phases

XRD & CT COMBINATION

Comparison of RQPA and μ CT results (vol%):

Hydration age	Components	LXRPD	Global Thresholding	Machine Learning*
1d	HP	78.5	79.9	76.2
	UCP	21.5	20.1	23.8
3d	HP	84.1	84.0	83.2
	UCP	15.9	16.0	16.8
7d	HP	85.5	84.8	84.2
	UCP	14.5	15.2	15.8

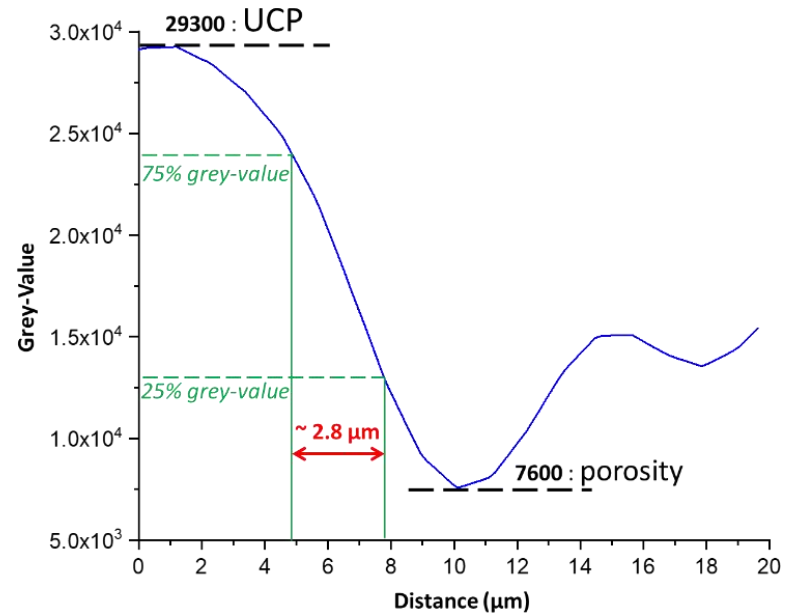
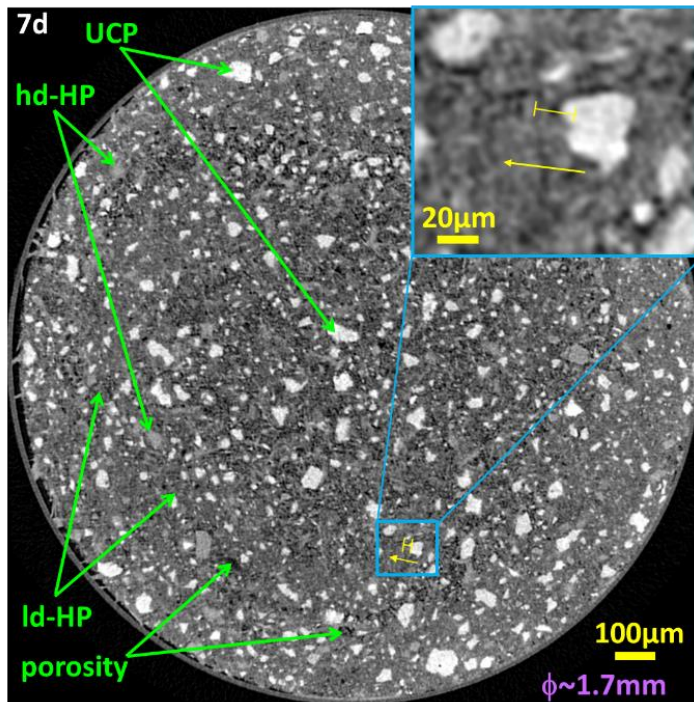
*LDH and HDH derived from ML have been summed as a single hydrate phase (HP) for comparison to global thresholding and LXRPD results.

Shirani, S.; Cuesta, A.; De la Torre, A.G.; Santacruz, I.; Morales-Cantero, A.; Koufany, I.; Redondo-Soto, C.; Salcedo, I. R.; León-Reina, L.; Aranda, M.A.G. Mix and measure - combining *in situ* X-ray powder diffraction and microtomography for accurate hydrating cement studies. Submitted to *Cement and Concrete Research* **2023**

XRD & CT COMBINATION

Spatial Resolution:

Voxel size = 1.1 μ m
Spatial resolution \sim 2.8 μ m



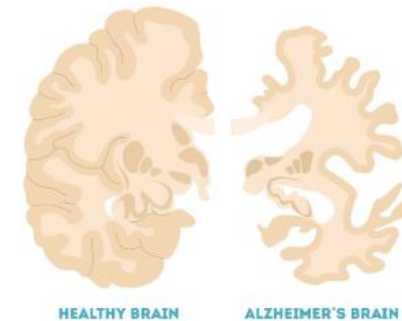
Shirani, S.; Cuesta, A.; De la Torre, A.G.; Santacruz, I.; Morales-Cantero, A.; Koufany, I.; Redondo-Soto, C.; Salcedo, I. R.; León-Reina, L.; Aranda, M.A.G. Mix and measure - combining *in situ* X-ray powder diffraction and microtomography for accurate hydrating cement studies. Submitted to *Cement and Concrete Research* 2023

MORPHOMETRIC STUDY IN BONES



→ **D-Chiro-inositol (DCI)**

- Insulin signalling
- Antioxidant
- Anti-inflammatory



DCI
+
water



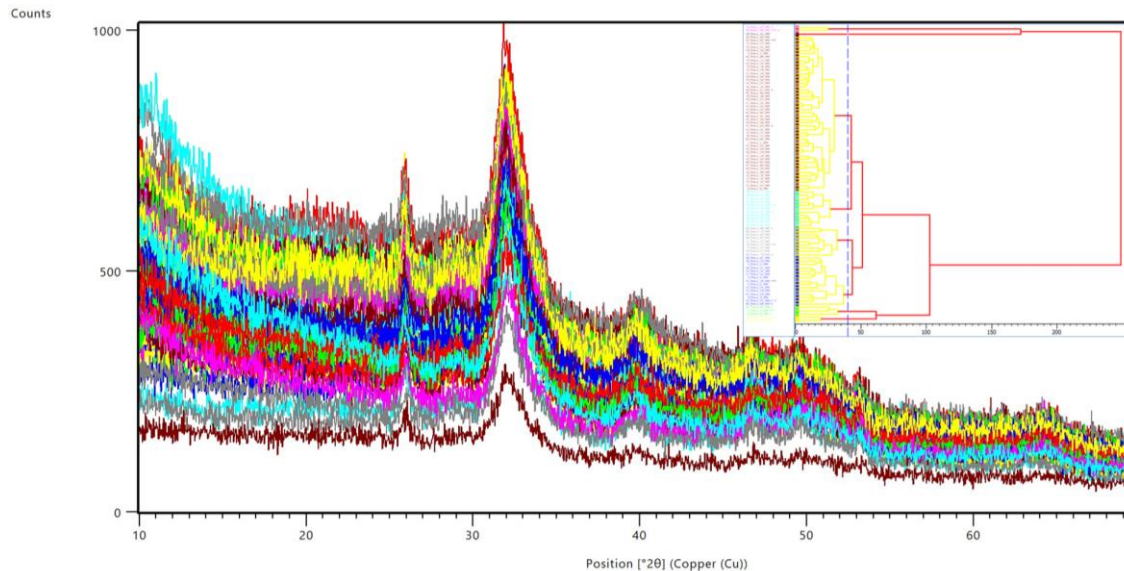
5xFAD
Age: 6-10 months

López-Gamero, A. J. (2022). Estudio de la eficacia de la administración dietética del D-Chiro-inositol en la señalización de insulina, neuroinflamación y alteraciones metabólicas en un modelo animal de la enfermedad de Alzheimer. Universidad de Málaga.

MORPHOMETRIC STUDY IN BONES

Alzheimer disease → lower bone quality

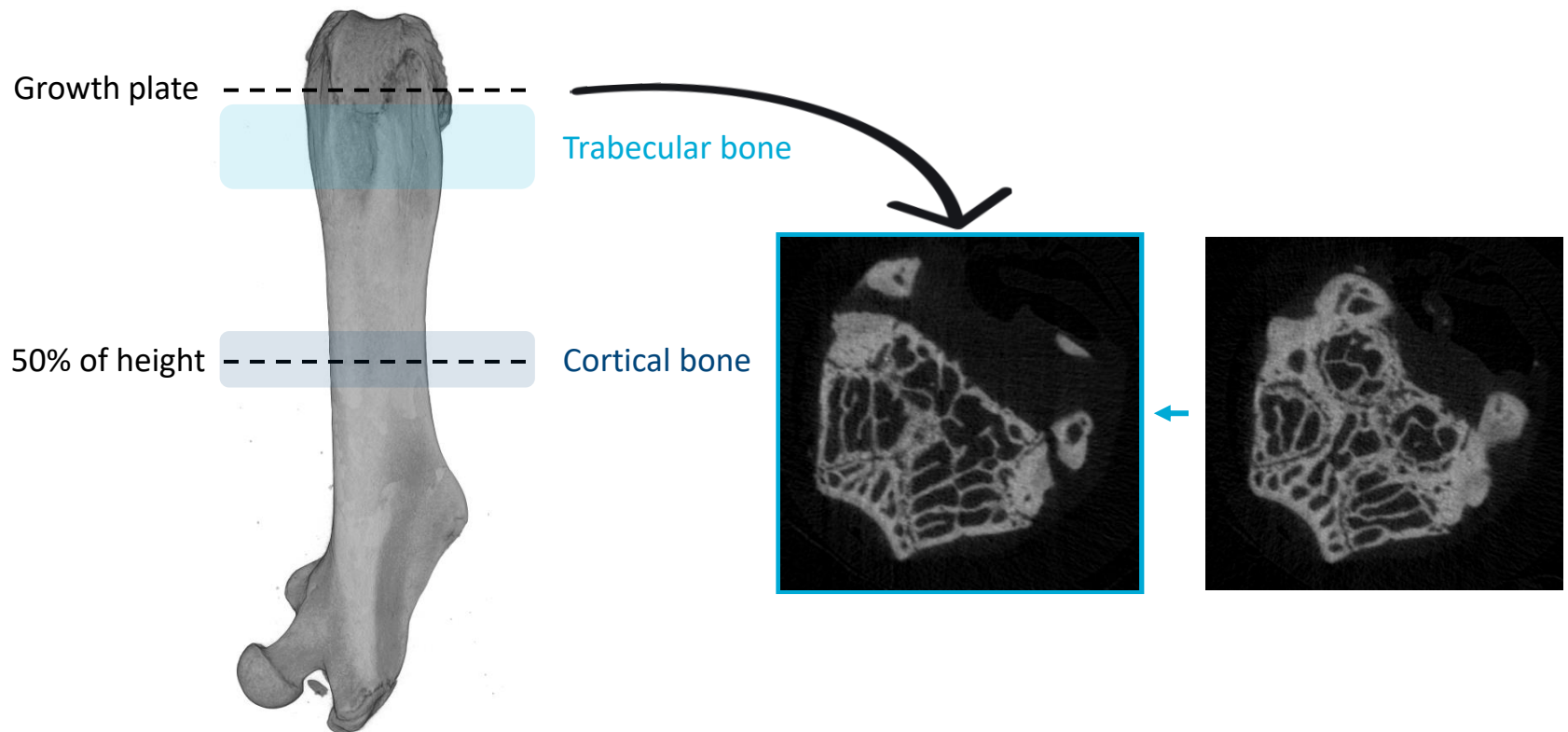
DRX: to study the hydroxyapatite crystal structure and the amorphous content variations.



Micro-CT: to determine possible structural alteration of bone microarchitecture.

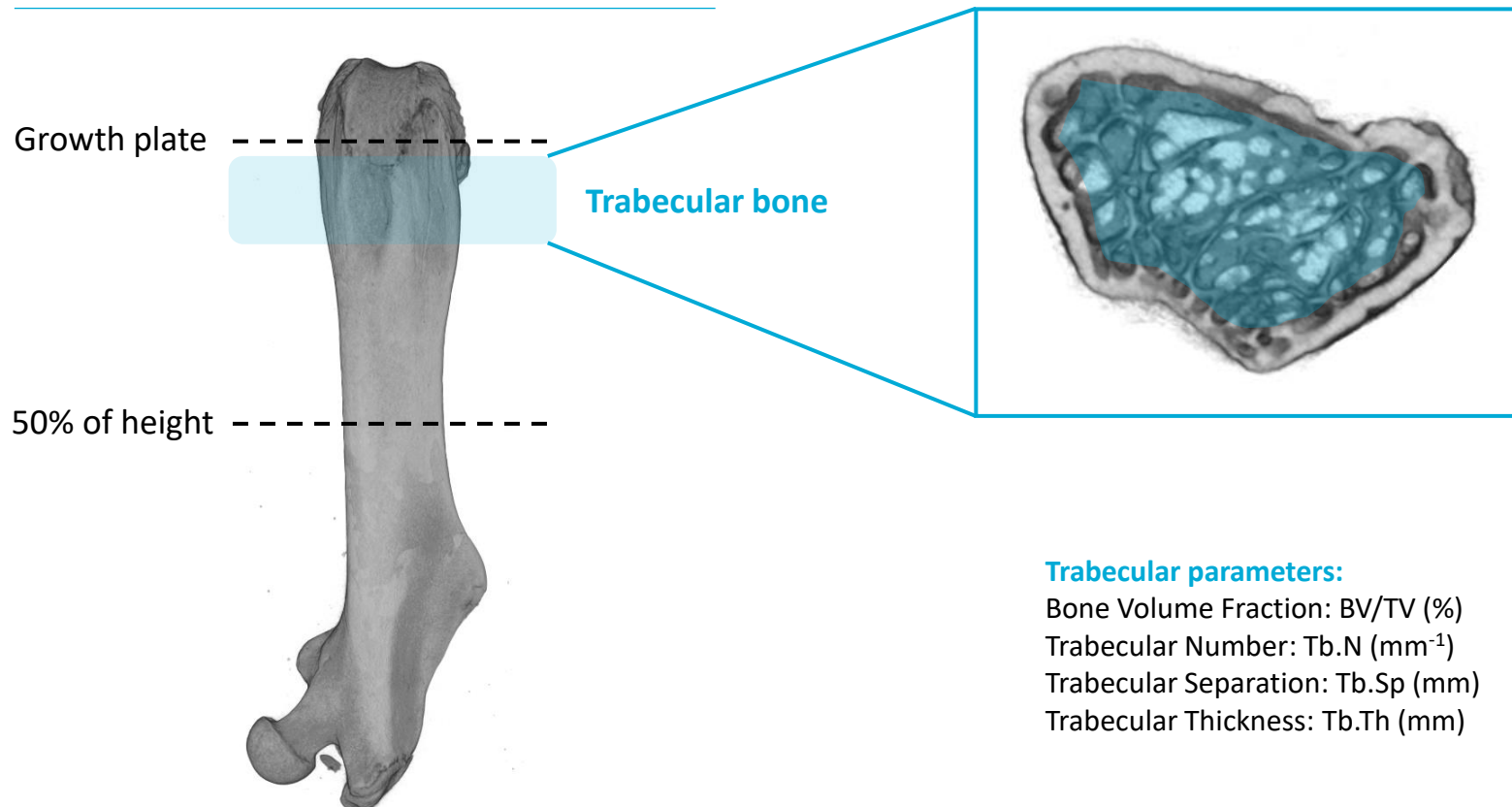
López-Gamero, A. J. (2022). Estudio de la eficacia de la administración dietética del D-Chiro-inositol en la señalización de insulina, neuroinflamación y alteraciones metabólicas en un modelo animal de la enfermedad de Alzheimer. Universidad de Málaga.

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López-Gamero, A. J. (2022). Estudio de la eficacia de la administración dietética del D-Chiro-inositol en la señalización de insulina, neuroinflamación y alteraciones metabólicas en un modelo animal de la enfermedad de Alzheimer. Universidad de Málaga.

MORPHOMETRIC STUDY IN BONES



Trabecular parameters:

Bone Volume Fraction: BV/TV (%)

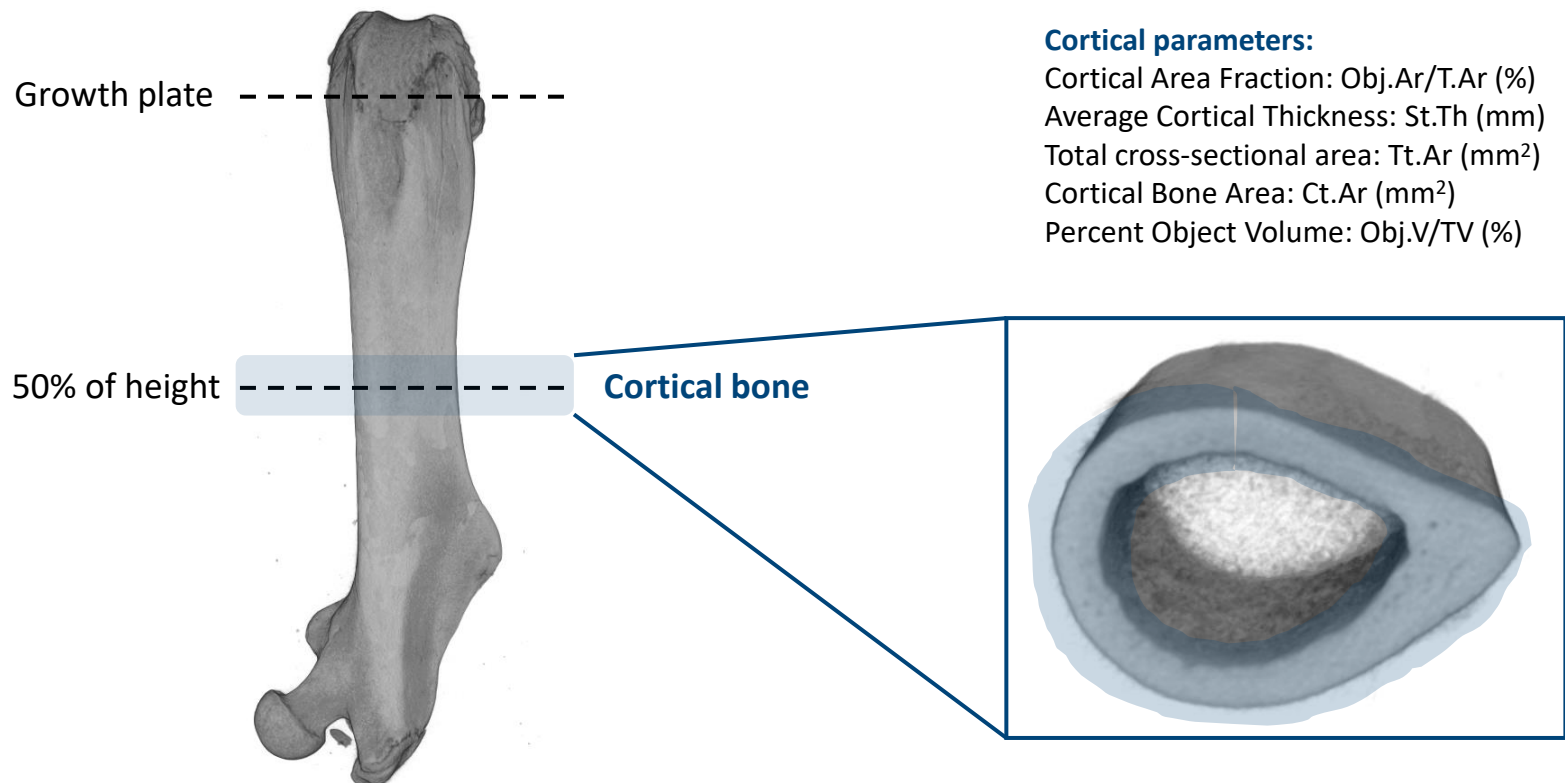
Trabecular Number: Tb.N (mm^{-1})

Trabecular Separation: Tb.Sp (mm)

Trabecular Thickness: Tb.Th (mm)

López-Gamero, A. J. (2022). Estudio de la eficacia de la administración dietética del D-Chiro-inositol en la señalización de insulina, neuroinflamación y alteraciones metabólicas en un modelo animal de la enfermedad de Alzheimer. Universidad de Málaga.

MORPHOMETRIC STUDY IN BONES

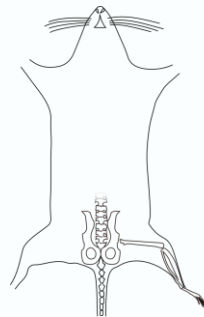


López-Gamero, A. J. (2022). Estudio de la eficacia de la administración dietética del D-Chiro-inositol en la señalización de insulina, neuroinflamación y alteraciones metabólicas en un modelo animal de la enfermedad de Alzheimer. Universidad de Málaga.

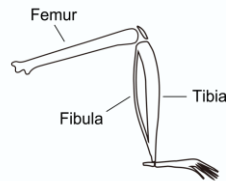
BONE MARROW ADIPOSE TISSUE

1

Mouse dissection:



Remove
soft tissue



2

Fixation of the bone:

- 10% neutral buffered formalin (O/N, 4°C with gentle agitation)
- Wash in running cool tap water (1h)

3

Decalcification of the bones:

- EDTA decalcification solution (~ 14 days)
→ remove mineral to allow optimal penetration of the Os
- Wash in cool running tap water (1h)

4

Osmium staining of the decalcified bones:

- Osmium tetroxide (48 h) at RT
- Wash under cool running tap water (2h)

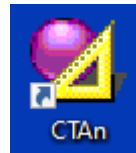


Scheller, E. L., Troiano, N., VanHoutan, J. N., Bouxsein, M. A., Fretz, J. A., Xi, Y., ... & Horowitz, M. C. (2014). Use of osmium tetroxide staining with microcomputerized tomography to visualize and quantify bone marrow adipose tissue in vivo. In *Methods in enzymology* (Vol. 537, pp. 123-139). Academic Press.

BONE MARROW ADIPOSE TISSUE



3D Volume Rendering



Distribution of MAT



16.3% MAT

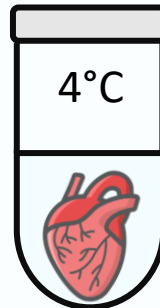
Scheller, E. L., Troiano, N., VanHoutan, J. N., Bouxsein, M. A., Fretz, J. A., Xi, Y., ... & Horowitz, M. C. (2014). Use of osmium tetroxide staining with microcomputerized tomography to visualize and quantify bone marrow adipose tissue in vivo. In *Methods in enzymology* (Vol. 537, pp. 123-139). Academic Press.

SOFT TISSUE

1

Dehydration process:

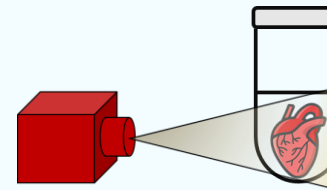
- PBS (1 day)
- EtOH 30% (1 day)
- EtOH 50% (1 day)
- EtOH 70% (1 day)
- EtOH:MeOH:PBS 4:4:3 (1h)
- MeOH 80% (1h)
- MeOH 90% (1h)



2

Staining process:

- 0.7% Phosphotungstic acid (PTA) + MeOH 90%

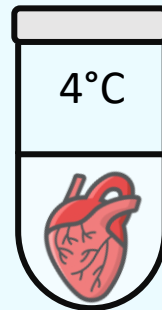


Rapid scan to ensure adequate stain penetration

3

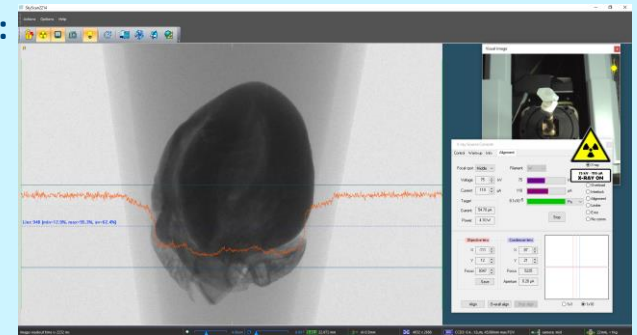
Rehydration process:

- MeOH 90% (6h)
- MeOH 80% (O/N)
- MeOH 70% (6h)
- MeOH 50% (O/N)
- MeOH 30% (1 day)
- PBS (1 day)



4

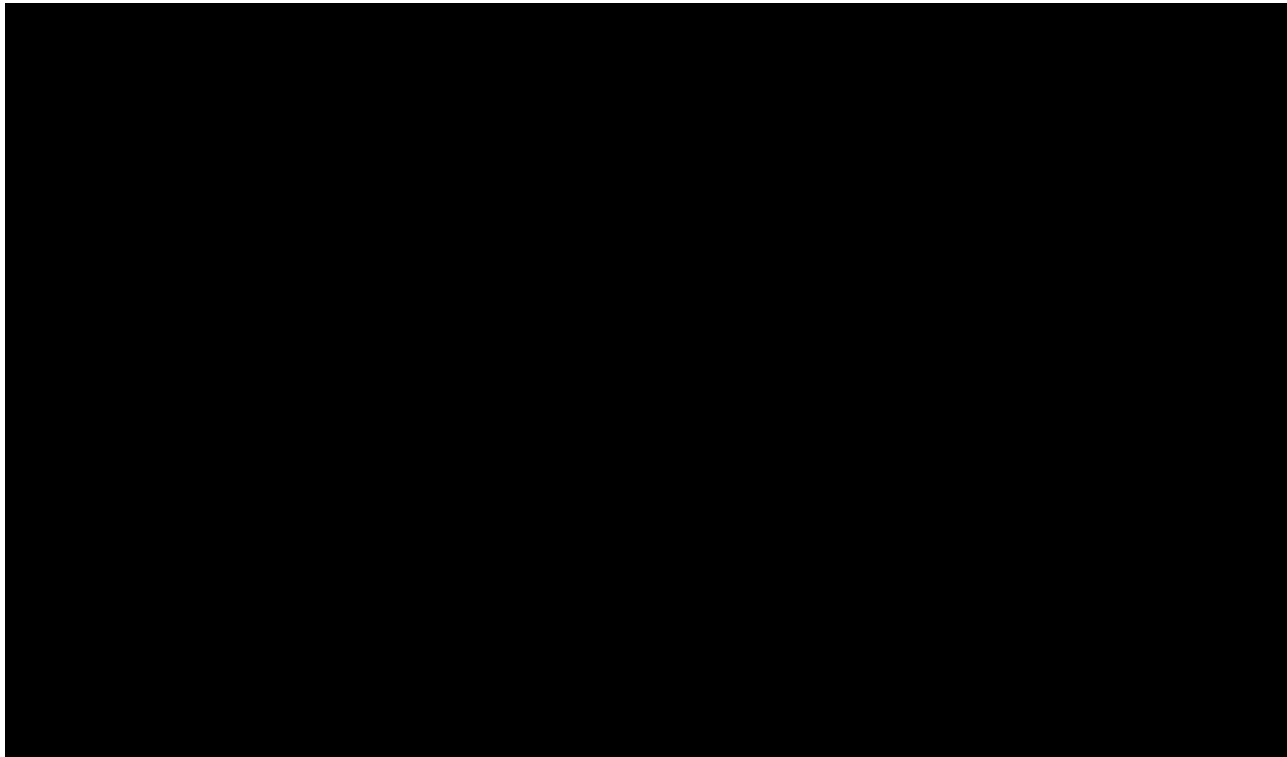
CT scan:



Lesciotta, K. M.; Motch Perrine S. M.; Kawasaki, M.; Stecko, T.; Ryan, T.M.; Kawasaki, K.; Richtsmeier, J. T. Phosphotungstic acid-enhanced microCT: Optimized protocols for embryonic and early postnatal mice. *Developmental Dynamics* **2020**, 249(4):573-585. doi: 10.1002/dvdy.136.



SOFT TISSUE



ELECTROCATALYSTS

Iron/Cobalt Phosphonate

Pyrolytic treatment
→
(H₂ or N₂)

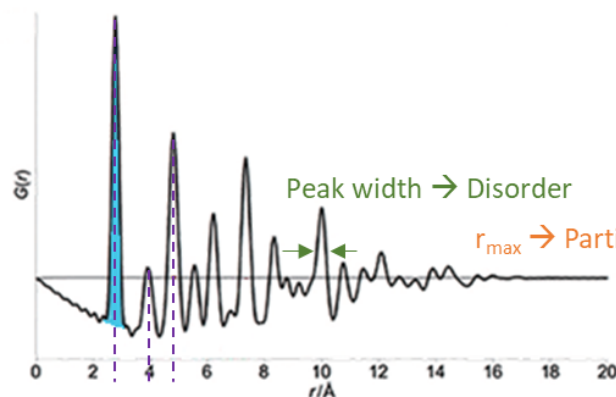
Pyrophosphate- or phosphide-
based iron/cobalt electrocatalysts

Characterization:

- Rietveld & Pair Distribution Function Analysis → Phase composition
- CT → Sample distribution in Carbon Paper (Spray and drop coating)

PDF information:

Peak area → Coordination number



Peak position → Atomic distances

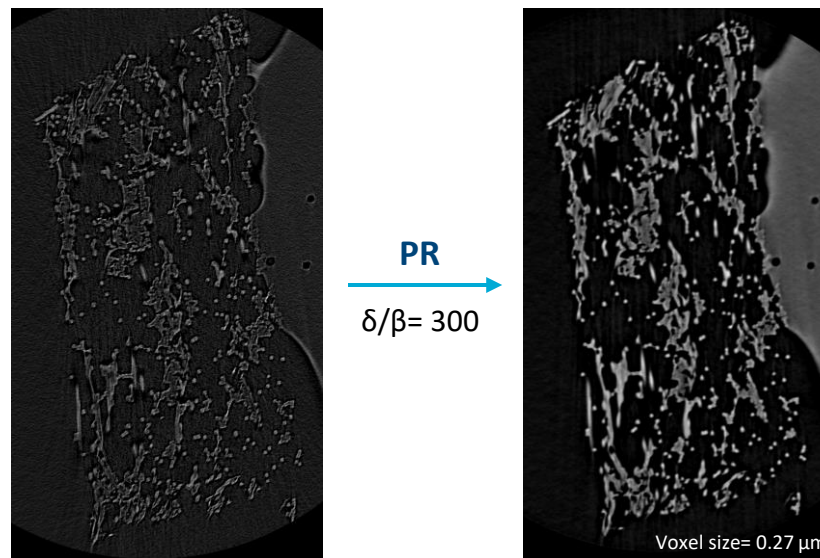
- Local order
- Phase quantification
- Identification of amorphous phase

Vílchez-Cózar, Á.; Colodrero, R. M.; Bazaga-García, M.; Marrero-López, D.; El-refaei, S. M.; Russo, P. A.; Pinna, N.; Olivera-Partos, P.; Cabeza, A. Tuning the activity of cobalt 2-hydroxyphosphonoacetates-derived electrocatalysts for water splitting and oxygen reduction: insights into the local order by pair distribution function analysis. *Applied Catalysis B: Environmental*, **2023**, 122963. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.apcatb.2023.122963>

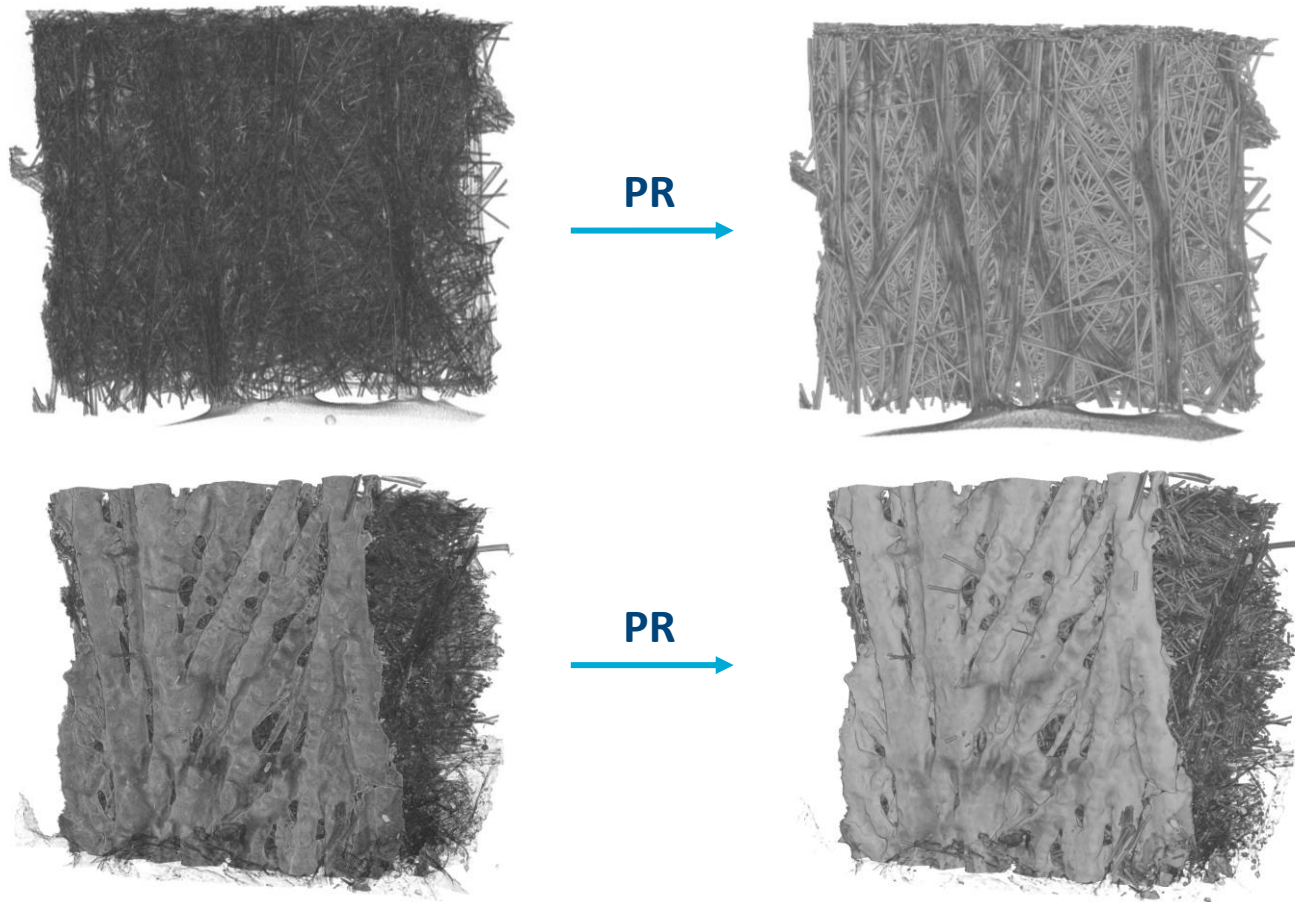
ELECTROCATALYSTS

Phase Retrieval (PR):

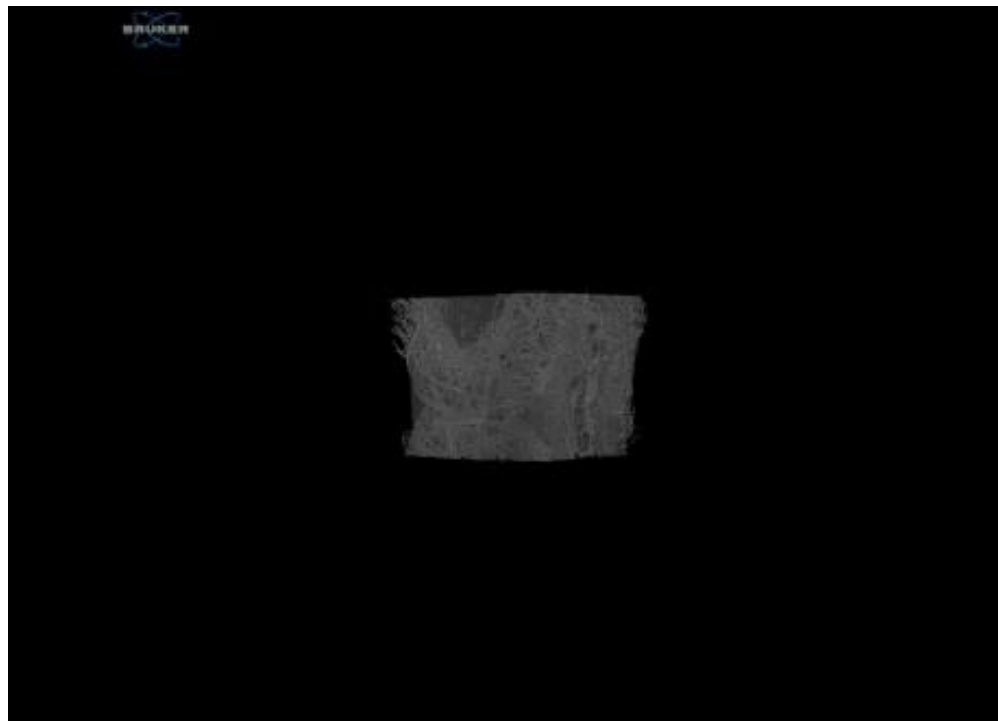
- Employed to enhance contrast from non-absorption interactions
- Method of processing X-ray projection images
- Useful for low dense materials



ELECTROCATALYSTS



IMAGING AND ANALYSIS OF FIBER



[Fiber Manufacturing | Bruker](#)

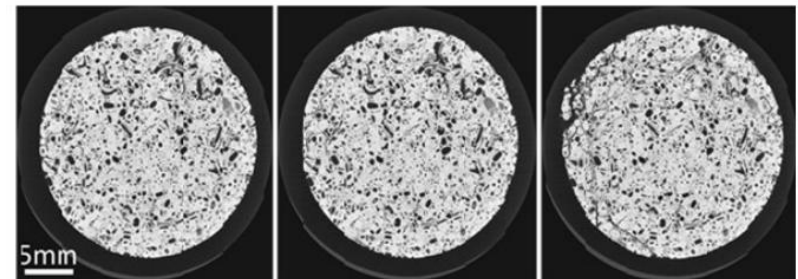
IN-SITU AND DYNAMIC EXPERIMENTS



Tensile and compression stage
DEBEN CT5000RT
Up to 5 kN



Temperature stages

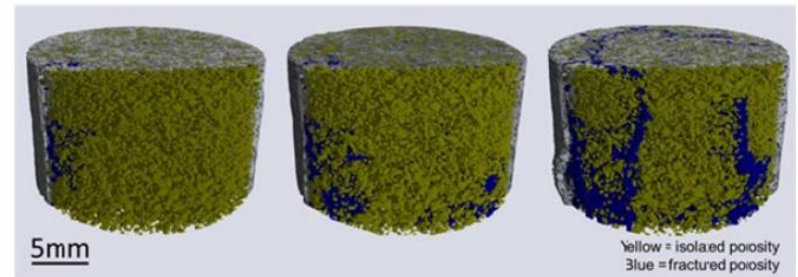


54% CS

75% CS

100% CS

CS = Compressive strength



5mm

Yellow = isolated porosity
Blue = fractured porosity

Rock specimens under increasing compressive load

[University-of-Ghent-CT5000-Geomaterials-Application-Story.pdf](#)
([deben.co.uk](#))

X-RAY COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY



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Thank you for your attention!

Contact: inesrs@uma.es