

# TEKSCAN PRESSURE MEASUREMENT ACCURACY FOR ORTHOPAEDIC BIOMECHANICAL JOINT CONTACT MEASUREMENTS

Herregodts, S., ir.<sup>1,2</sup> – Verstraete, M.A., PhD<sup>1,2</sup> – Victor, J., MD, PhD<sup>1</sup>  
– De Baets, P., PhD<sup>2</sup>

Dept. of Orthopaedics and Traumatology, Ghent University  
Dept. of Mechanical Construction and Production, Ghent University



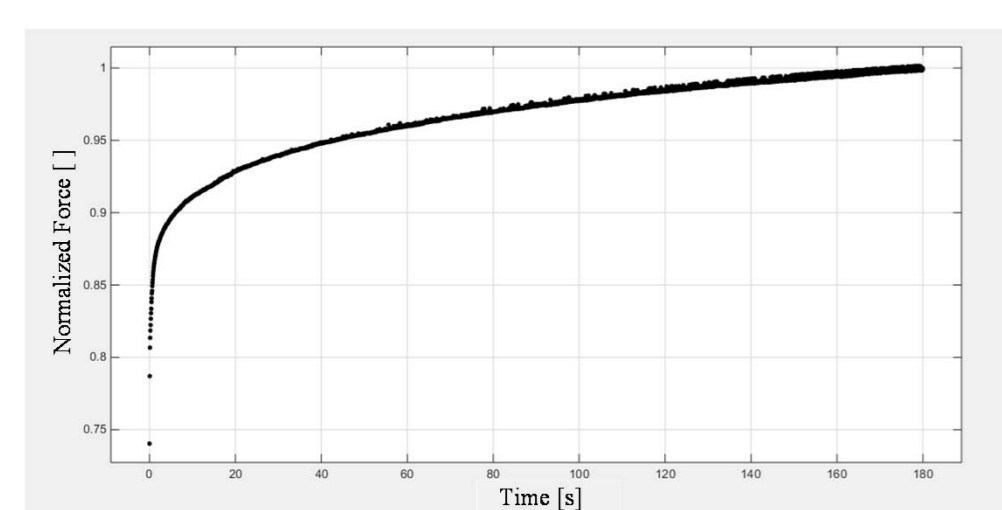
- Multi-axial test rig properties**
  - Compression testing
  - Biaxial testing
  - Adjustable degrees of freedom of specimens
  - Knee implant mounting
- Multi-axial test rig capabilities**
  - Research of the Tekscan sensor characteristics
  - Tekscan sensor automated calibration
  - Evaluation of knee implants: pressure distribution measurement and stability research



**Aim of this study:** Improve the accuracy and reliability of Tekscan intra-articular contact pressure measurements

## Sensor accuracy optimization technique

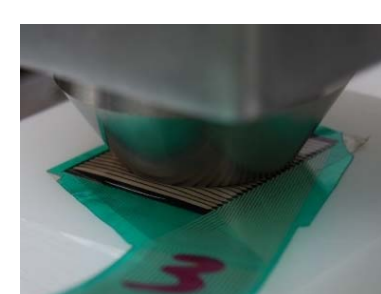
## Sensor position measurement method



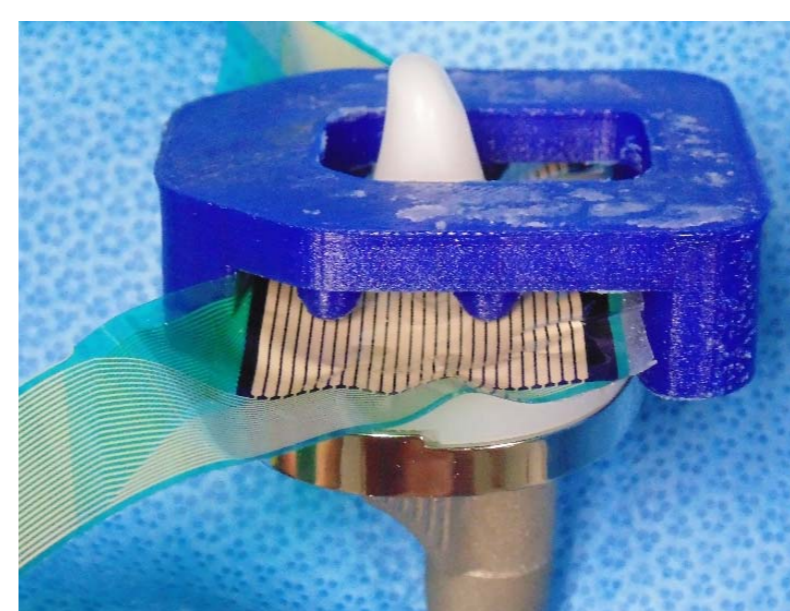
Automated sensor preconditioning and characterization  
Preconditioning cycle improves the sensor output stability  
Characterization of the sensor's step response allows for sensor drift compensating post-processing



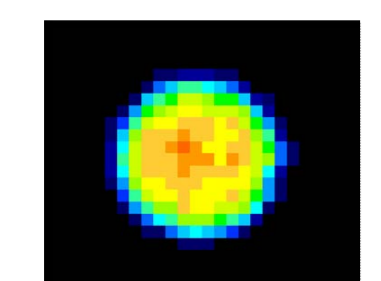
Sensor fixation to the implant



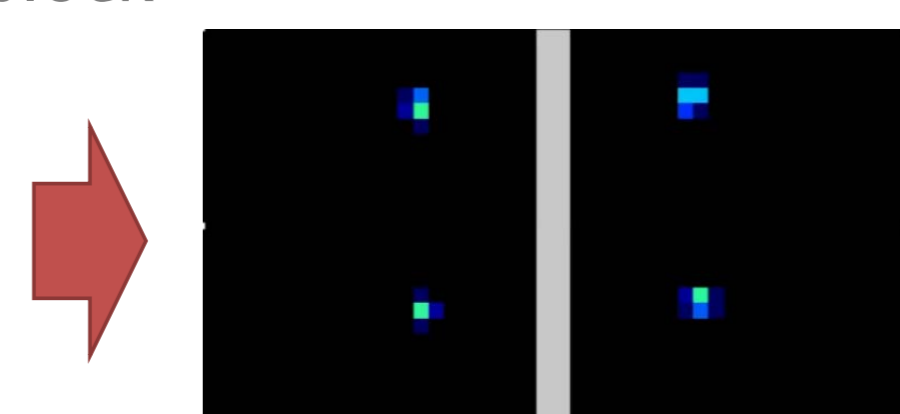
Automated multipoint calibration  
Optimal contacting surfaces  
Fully automated and synchronized process



Measurement method  
Implant specific 3D printed calibration block



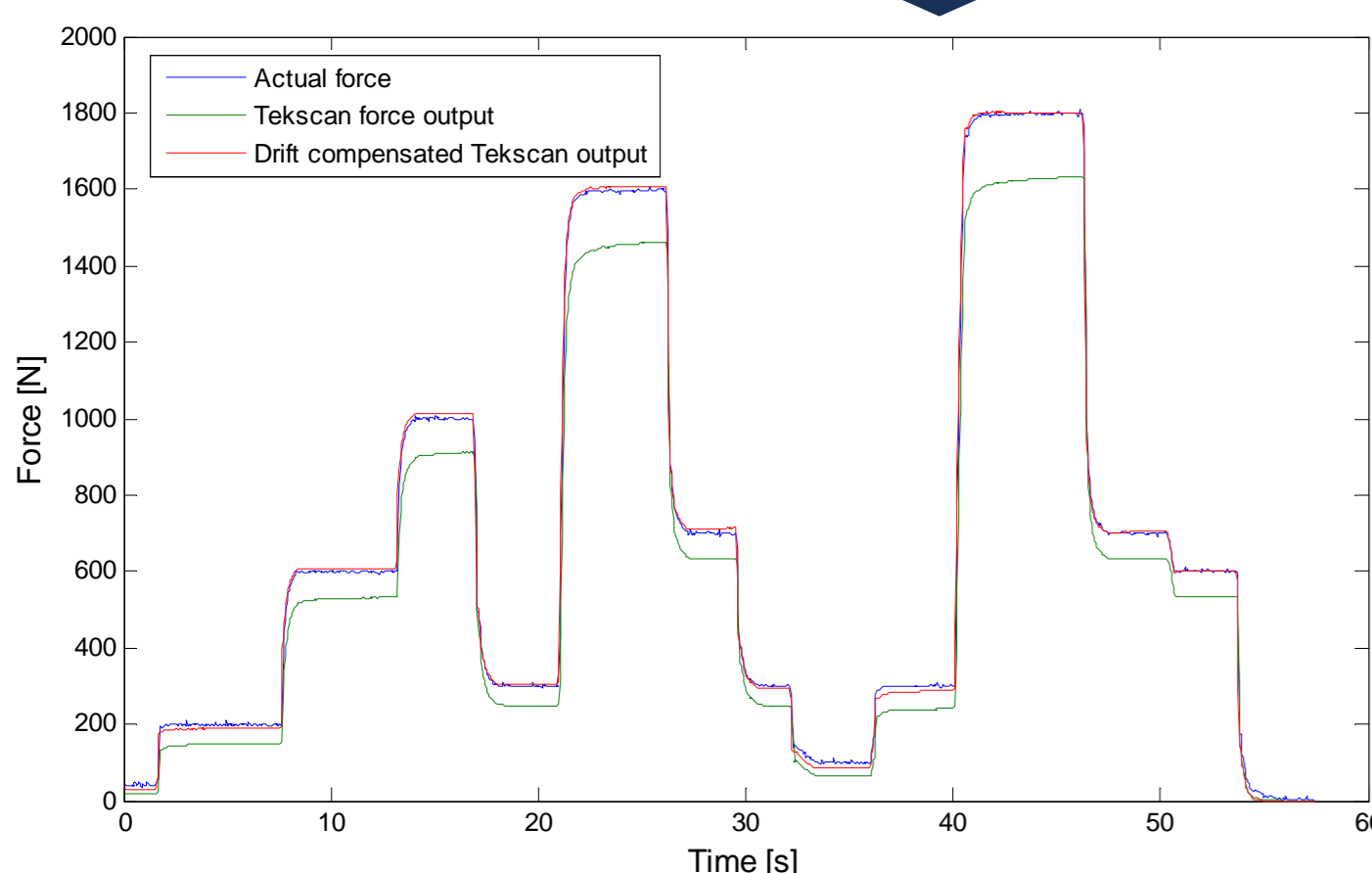
Contact pressure measurements



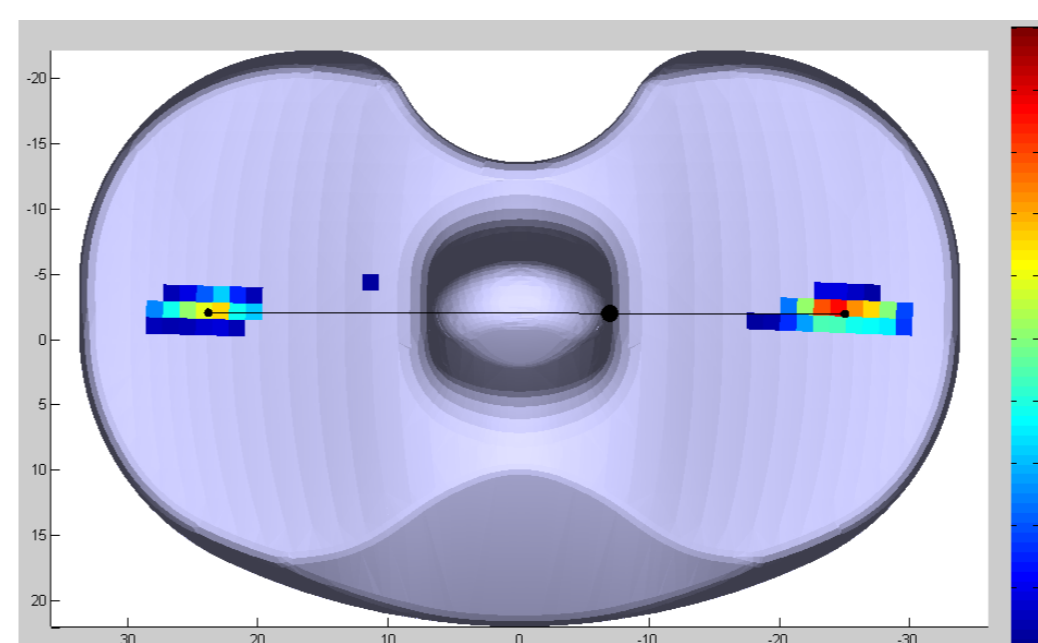
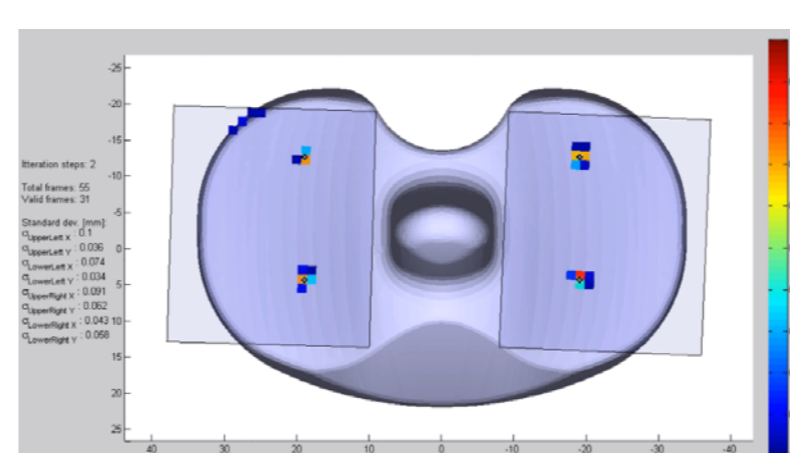
Sensor position computation  
Automated sensor position computation and visualization



Automated measurement data post-processing  
Based on sensor specific behaviour and calibration data, sensor drift is eliminated during post-processing



Drift compensation technique reduces average error during realistic loading from **15,6 %** to **3,4 %**

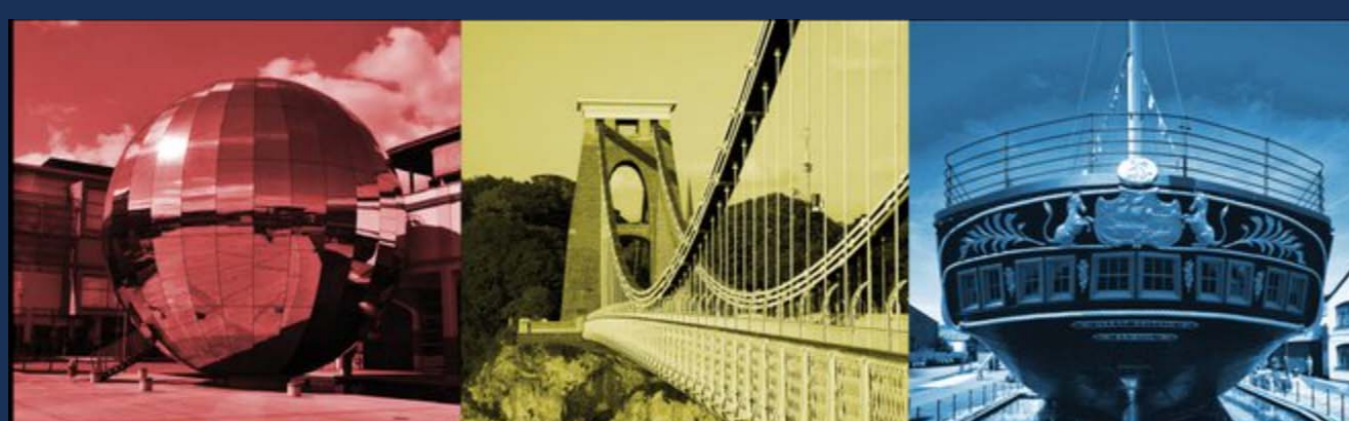


Pressure distribution visualisation  
Computation and visualization centres of pressure  
Animated and synchronized visualization  
Easy interpretation

## Conclusions

Optimized sensor preconditioning, sensor specific characterization and calibration combined with advanced data post-processing results in a 5 times higher measurement accuracy.

Sensor position measurement allows for intuitive visualization and interpretation of measurement data.



**EORS**  
2015 BRISTOL  
2-4 September 2015

*Corresponding Author*  
Herregodts Stijn  
Ghent University  
Stijn.Herregodts@UGent.be