



Spinner Final Event  
Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2021



# Modelling for spinal surgeries

ESR5: Marco Sensale



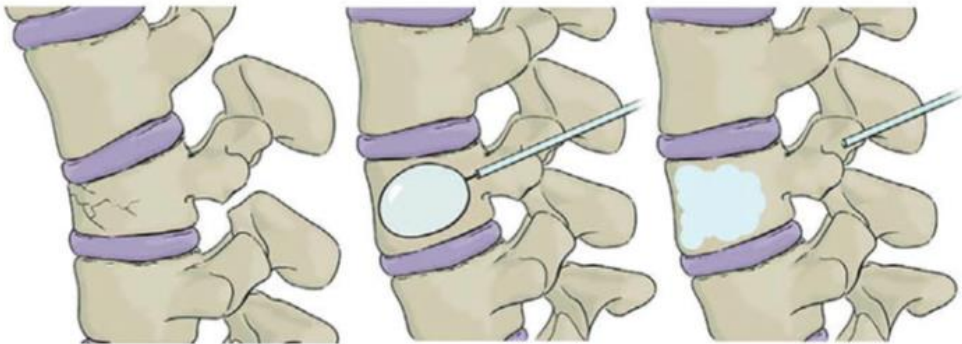


# Introduction



## Vertebral fractures

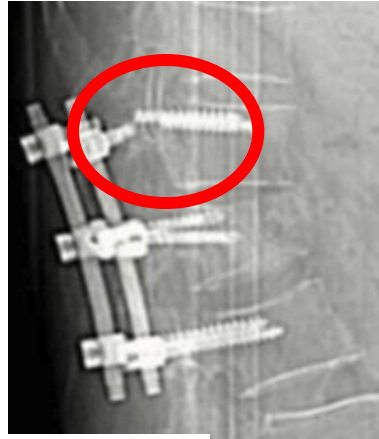
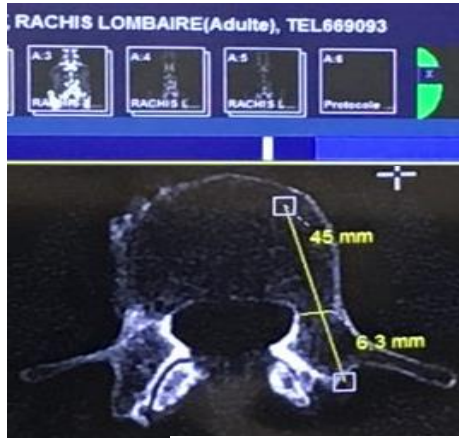
- ≈900.000 annual cases in the US [1]
- [2] • Osteoporosis, high and low energy traumas, metastases ecc.
- Minimally invasive techniques: posterior fixation, vertebroplasty, kyphoplasty



[3]

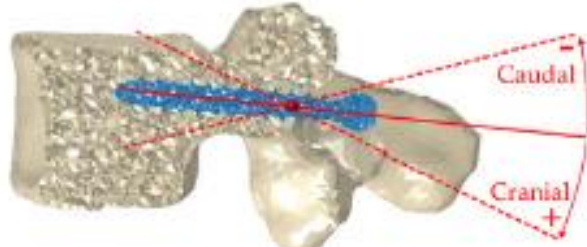


# Introduction

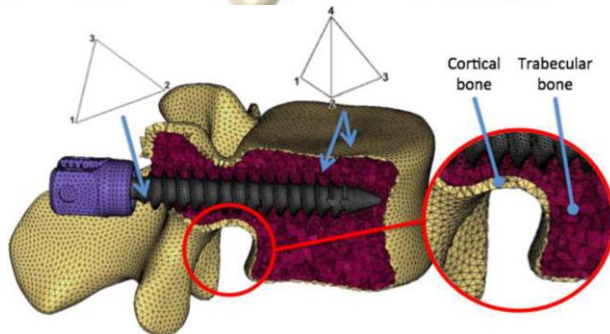


## Posterior fixation

- Post-operative complications: pain, kyphosis, loss of reduction etc.
- Parametric FE models: absence of verification, unestimated effect of parameters, high computational time



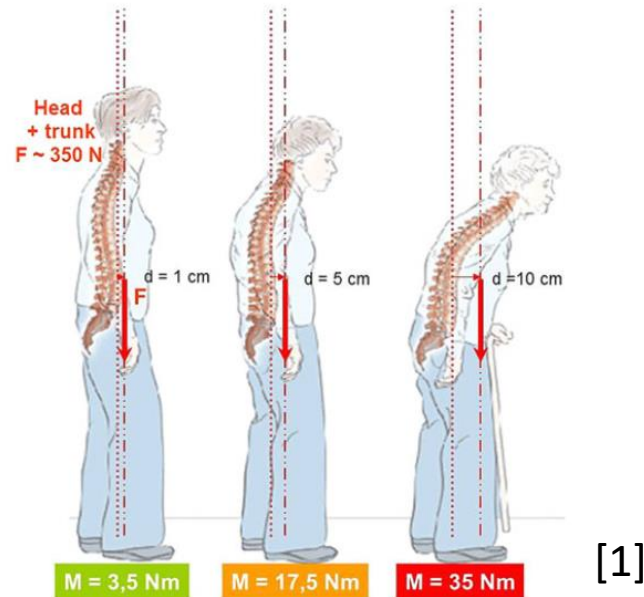
[1]



[2]

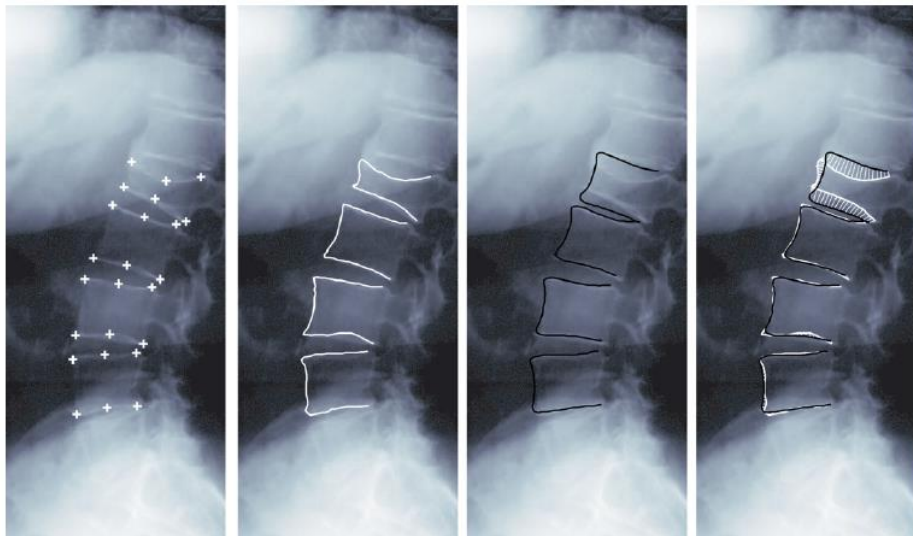


# Introduction



## Vertebral augmentation

- Cement leakage, adjacent vertebral fracture, kyphosis, loss of reduction etc.
- No geometric information before the fracture
- Pre-fracture shape predicted only in 2D case





# Objectives

- To verify subject-specific CT-based FE models of the human vertebra with two pedicle screws
  - To evaluate their sensitivity to the geometrical properties of the screws
  - To explore if reduced order models (ROM) can be used to improve the efficiency of parametric FE models to optimize the screws' properties
  - To develop and evaluate a methodology to predict the shape of the pre-fracture L1 from adjacent vertebrae
- } Study #1
- } Study #2
- } Study #3



The  
University  
Of  
Sheffield.



**ORIGINAL RESEARCH article**

Front. Bioeng. Biotechnol., 10 March 2021 | <https://doi.org/10.3389/fbioe.2021.643154>



**frontiers**

in Bioengineering  
and Biotechnology

# Patient-Specific Finite Element Models of Posterior Pedicle Screw Fixation: Effect of Screw's Size and Geometry

M. Sensale<sup>a,b</sup>, T. Vendevre<sup>c,d</sup>, C. Schilling<sup>e</sup>, T. Grupp<sup>e,f</sup>, M. Rochette<sup>a</sup>, E. Dall'Ara<sup>b</sup>

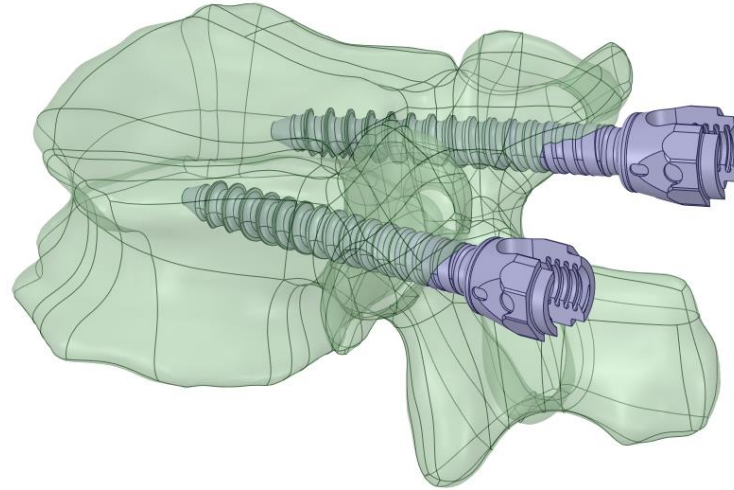




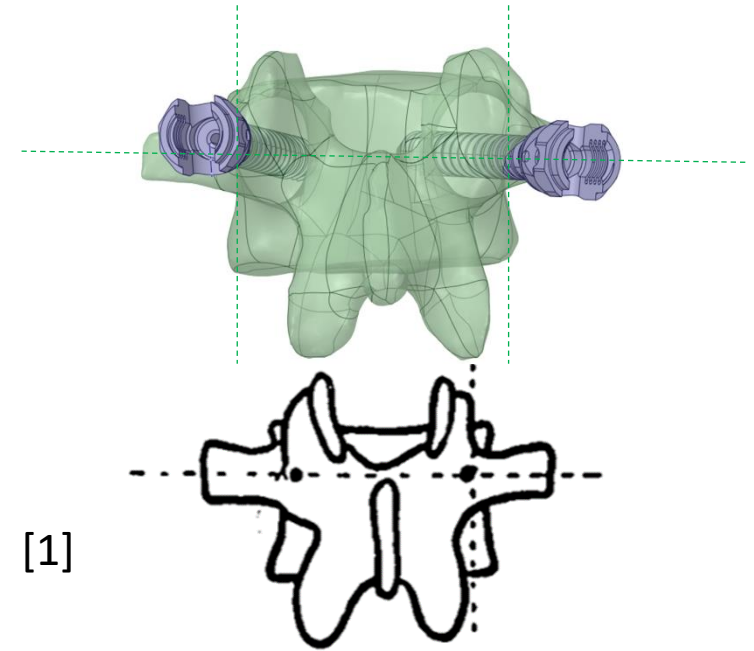
# Methods



Segmentation  
3D Slicer

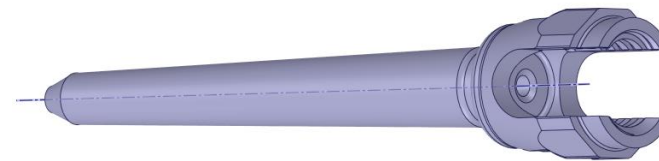


CAD modelling  
SpaceClaim

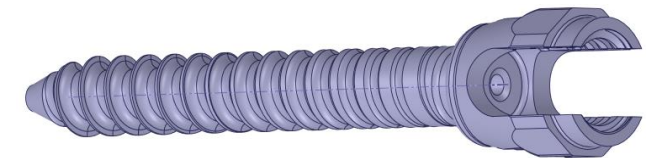


[1]

Pt	Voxel size (mm <sup>3</sup> )	Level
#1	0.98 x 0.98 x 1.25	L2
#2	0.88 x 0.88 x 1.00	L3
#3	0.68 x 0.68 x 1.00	L4



Simplified screw



Real Aesculap<sup>®</sup> S4<sup>®</sup> Element MIS  
Monoaxial screw

[1] Gertzbein et al. 1990



# Methods

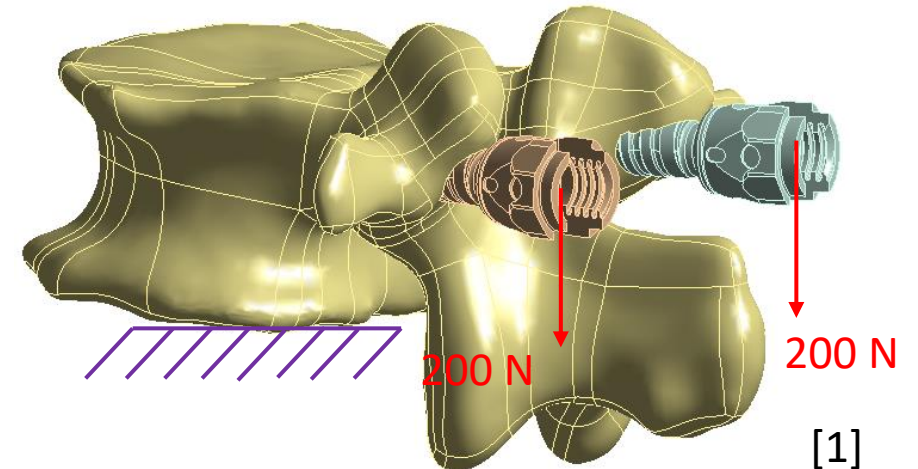
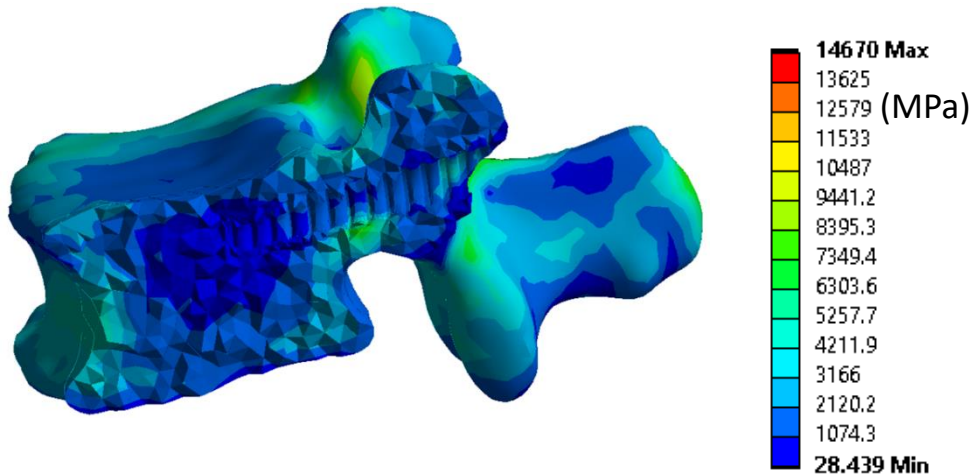
Bone:

- Heterogeneous
- Isotropic
- Linear elastic ( $\nu = 0.3$ )

Screws:

$E = 102 \text{ GPa}$ ,  
 $\nu = 0.36$  (Titanium)

Screws-bone interface:  
bonded



[1] Rohlmann et al. 1997



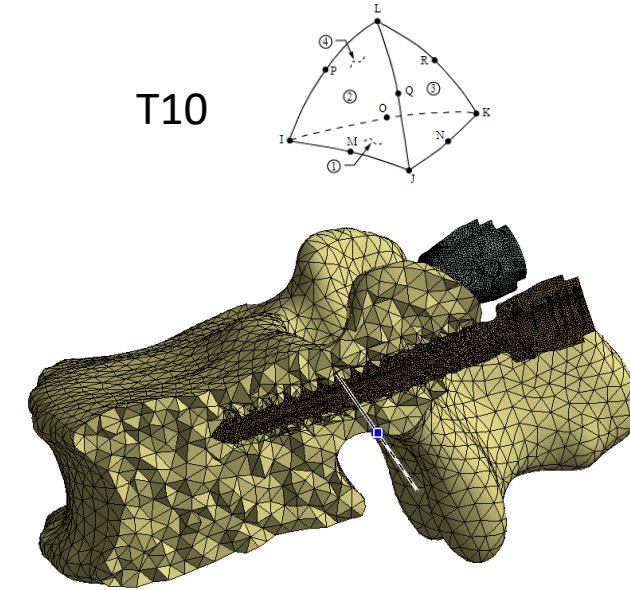


# Methods

- Verification for optimal screw size (D = 6.5 mm, L = 45 mm):

Max element size

- Screws: (0.4 mm – 1.2 mm)
- Bone: (0.9 mm – 3.0 mm)



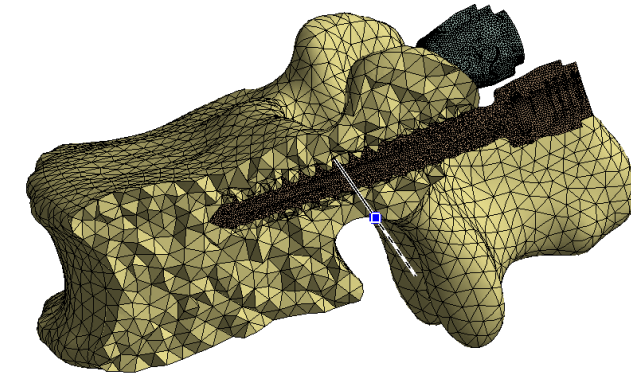
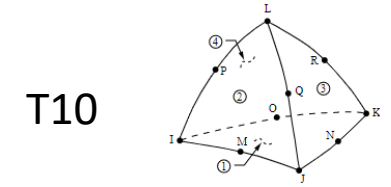


# Methods

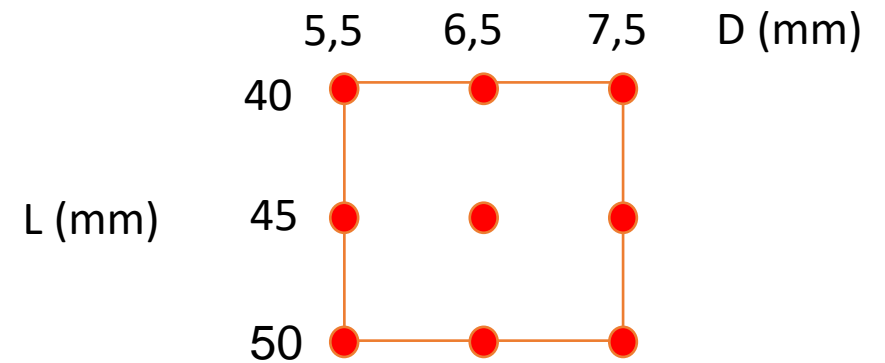
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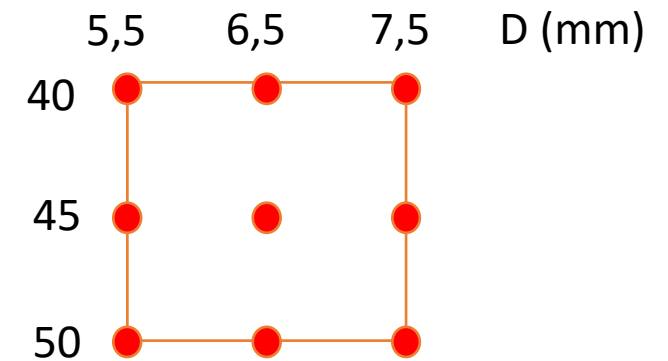
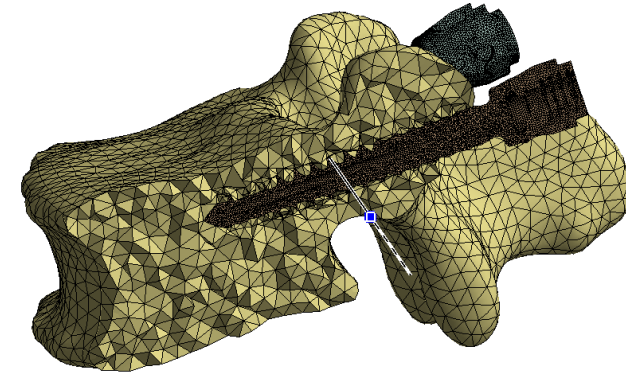
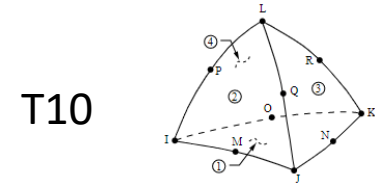


- Sensitivity analysis on Diameter and Length





# Methods



- Verification for optimal screw size (D = 6.5 mm, L = 45 mm):

Max element size

- Screws: (0.4 mm – 1.2 mm)
- Bone: (0.9 mm – 3.0 mm)

- Sensitivity analysis on Diameter and Length

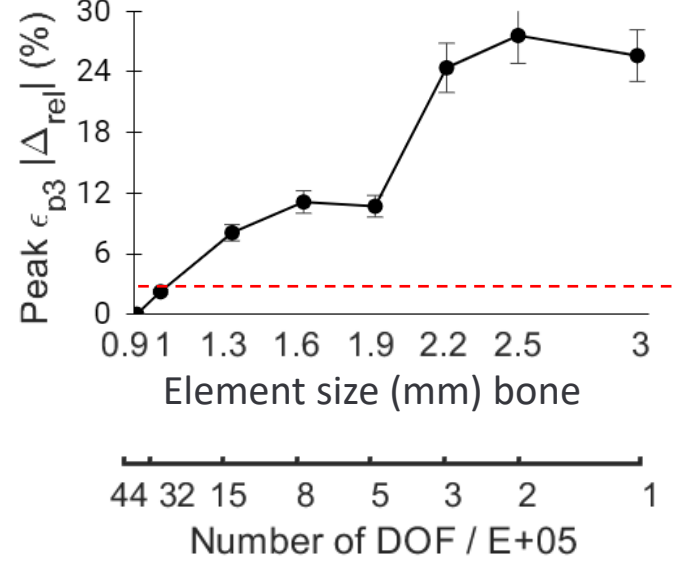
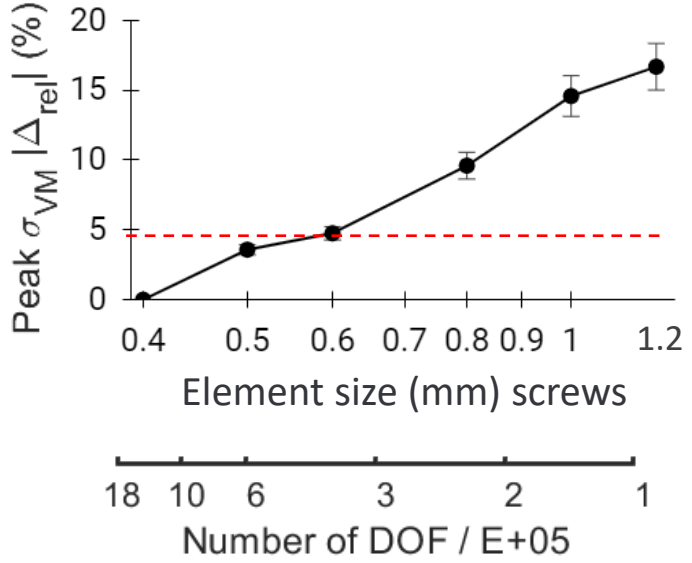
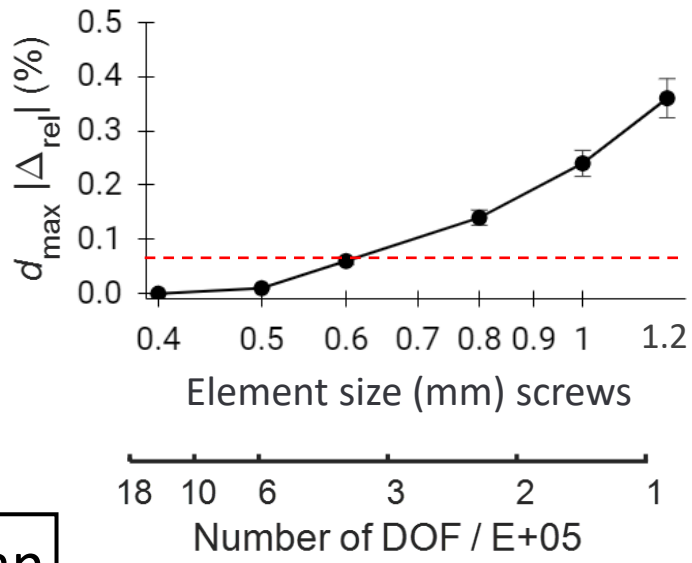
Metrics

Deflection Screw		$\sigma_{VM}$ Screw		$\epsilon_{p3}$ Bone	
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# Results

Deflection Screw		$\sigma_{VM}$ Screw		$\epsilon_{p3}$ Bone	
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— Mean

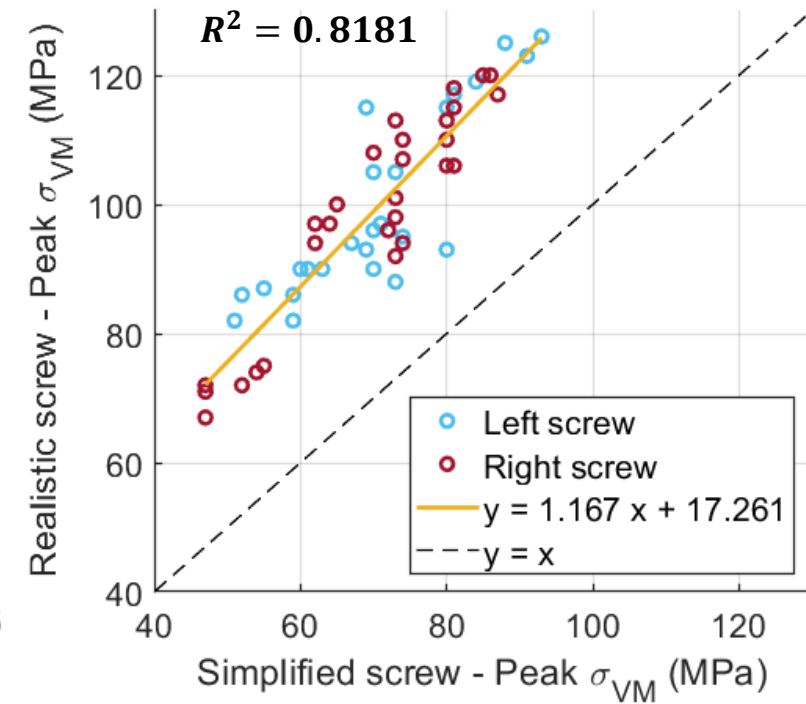
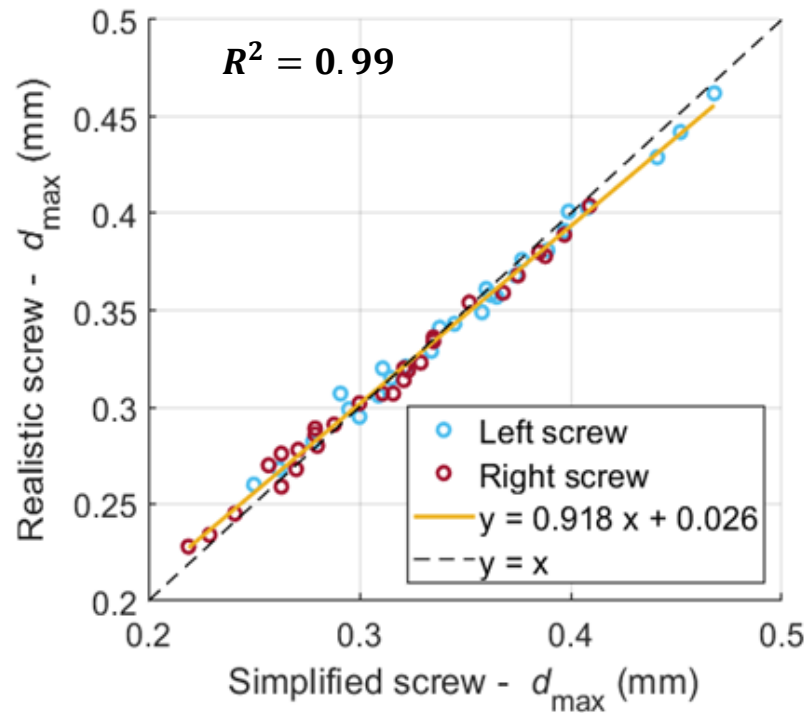
Chosen element size of 1.0 mm for the vertebra and 0.6 mm for the screws



# Results

		Diameter		
		7.5 mm	6.5 mm	5.5 mm
Length	40 mm	-10%	5%	21%
	45 mm	-16%	REF	18%
	50 mm	-20%	-3%	15%

- deflection screw
- $\sigma_{VM}$  screw
- $\epsilon_{P1}$  bone





## Conclusions

- Element size of 0.6 mm in the realistic screw and 1.0 mm in the bone
  - ➔ relative differences  $\leq 5\%$
- Relative differences similar for realistic and simplified screws
- Diameter more important than the length of screws



# Exploration of Reduced Order Modelling applied to FE models for studying the effect of the screws' size and orientation

M. Sensale<sup>a,b</sup>, L. Geronzi<sup>a,c</sup>, M. Biancolini<sup>c,d</sup>, T. Vendevre<sup>e</sup>, M. Rochette<sup>a</sup>, E. Dall'Ara<sup>b</sup>

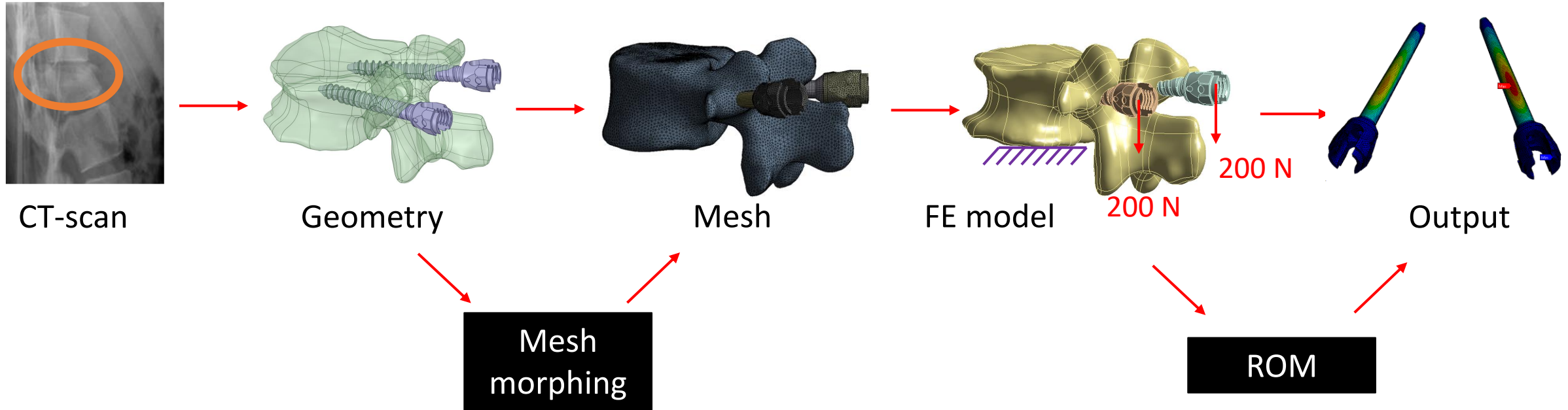
<sup>a</sup>ANSYS, France; <sup>b</sup>University of Sheffield, UK; <sup>c</sup>University of Rome "Tor Vergata", <sup>d</sup>RBF Morph srl, Italy; <sup>e</sup>Poitiers University Hospital, France

Presented at: ESB 2021 - JULY 11-14, 2021 - 26<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS OF THE EUROPEAN SOCIETY OF BIOMECHANICS





# Methods



- ROM of the deflection in the screws
- ROM of the von Mises stress in the screws
- ROM of the minimum principal strain in the bone



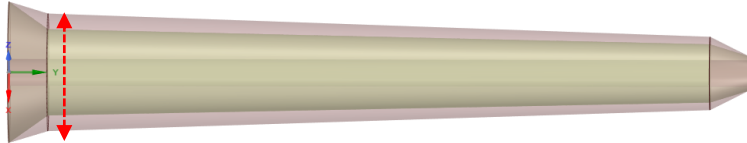


# Methods

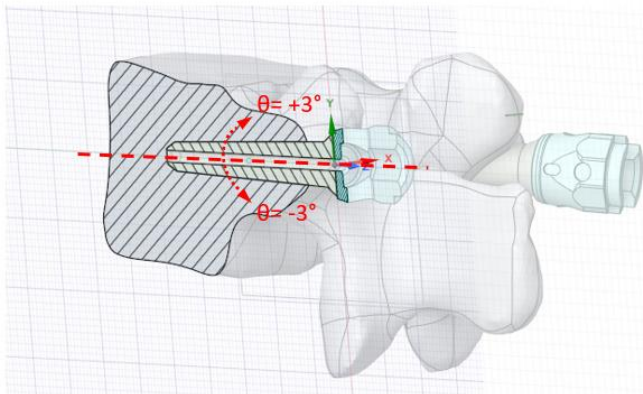
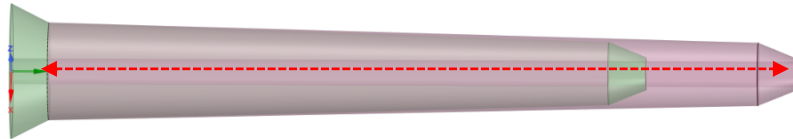
4 shape parameters:  
 $D, L, \theta, \varphi$



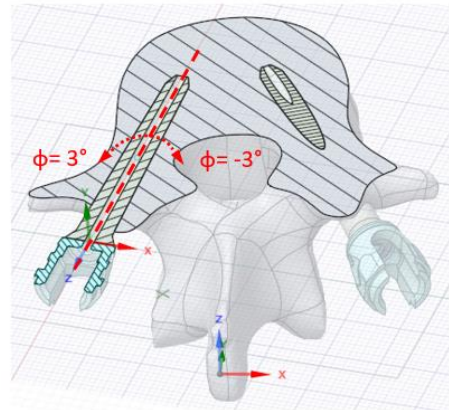
$D \equiv (5.5, 7.5) \text{ mm}$



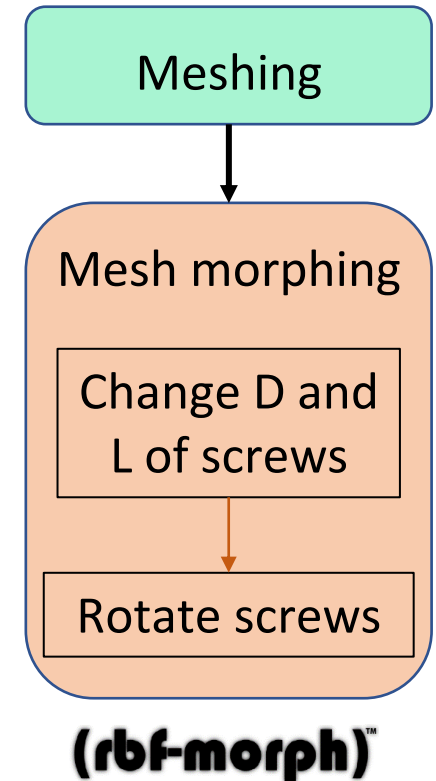
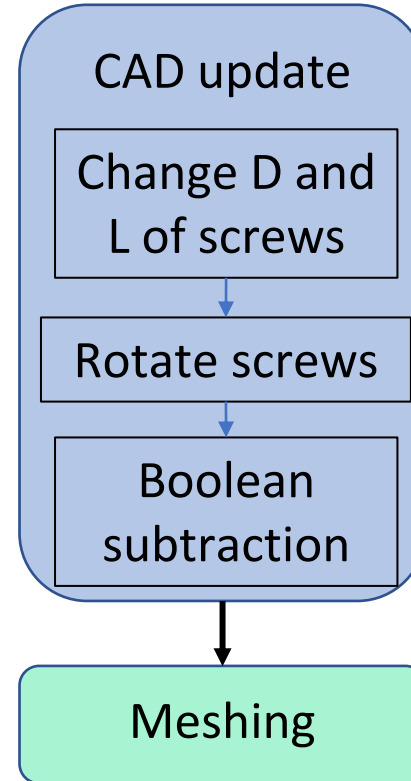
$L \equiv (40, 50) \text{ mm}$



$\theta \equiv (-3^\circ, 3^\circ)$



$\varphi \equiv (-3^\circ, 3^\circ)$

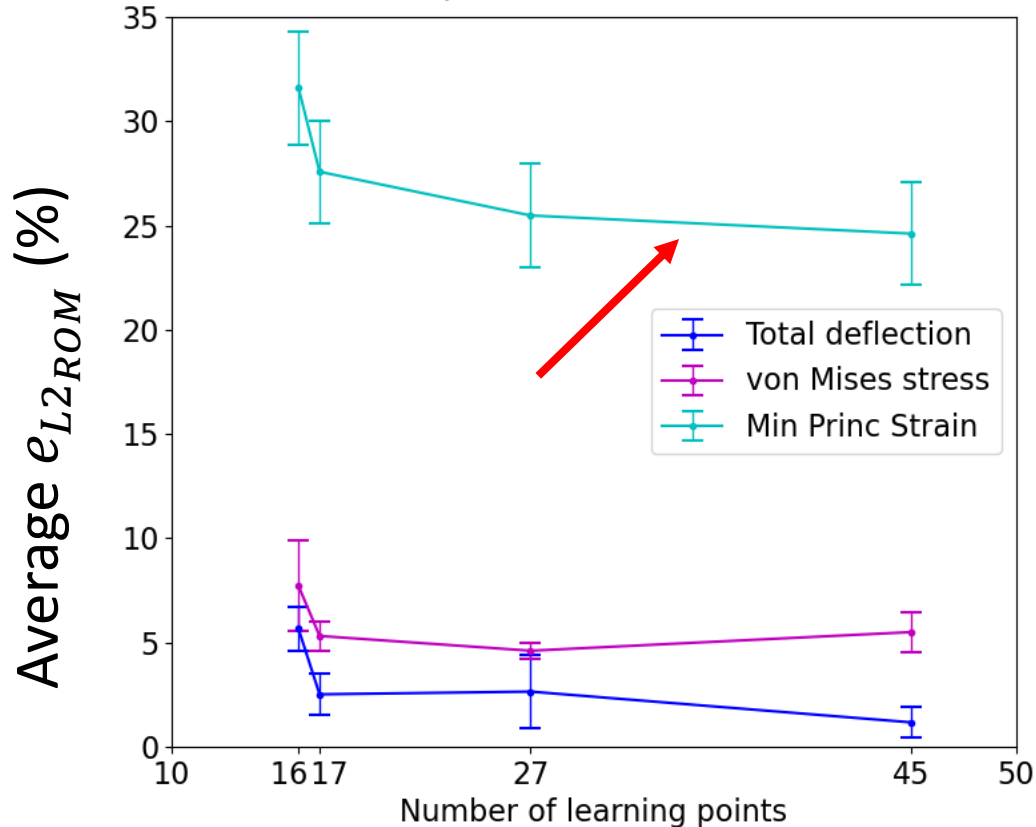




# Results

$$e_{L2ROM} = \frac{\|X_{ROM} - X_{FE}\|^2}{\|X_{FE}\|^2}$$

4 parameters



Factors influencing the performance of the ROM:

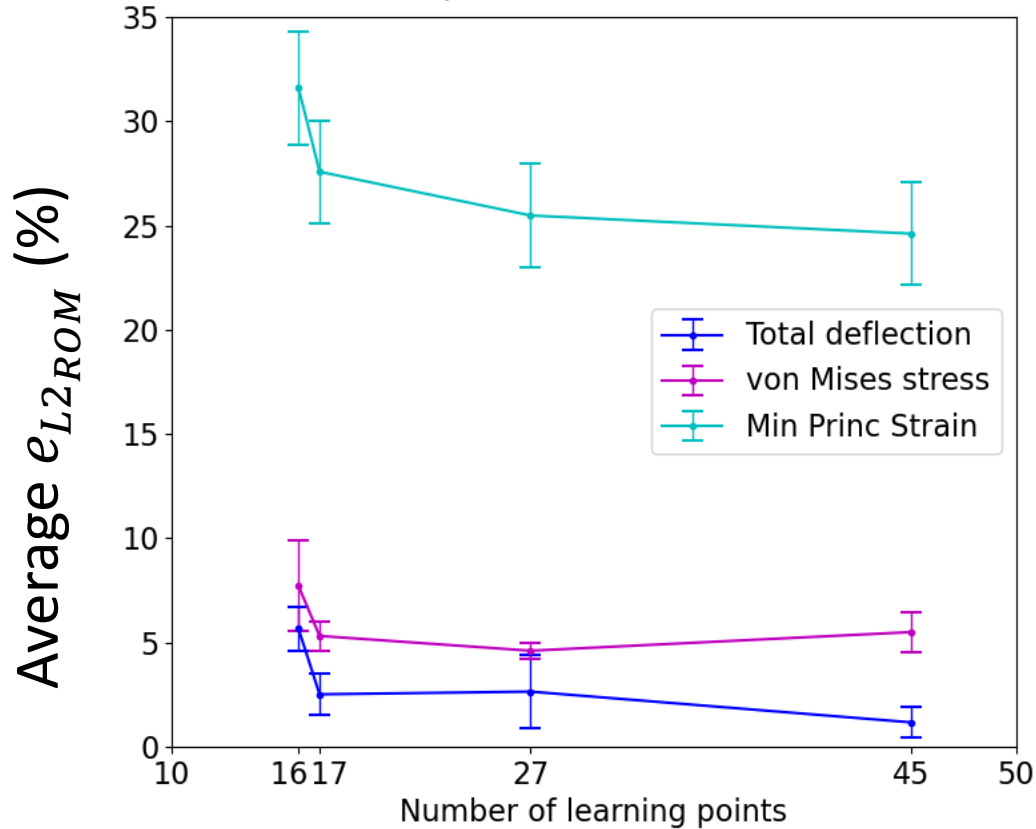
- Remeshing of the vertebra
- Heterogeneous properties
- Frictional interface



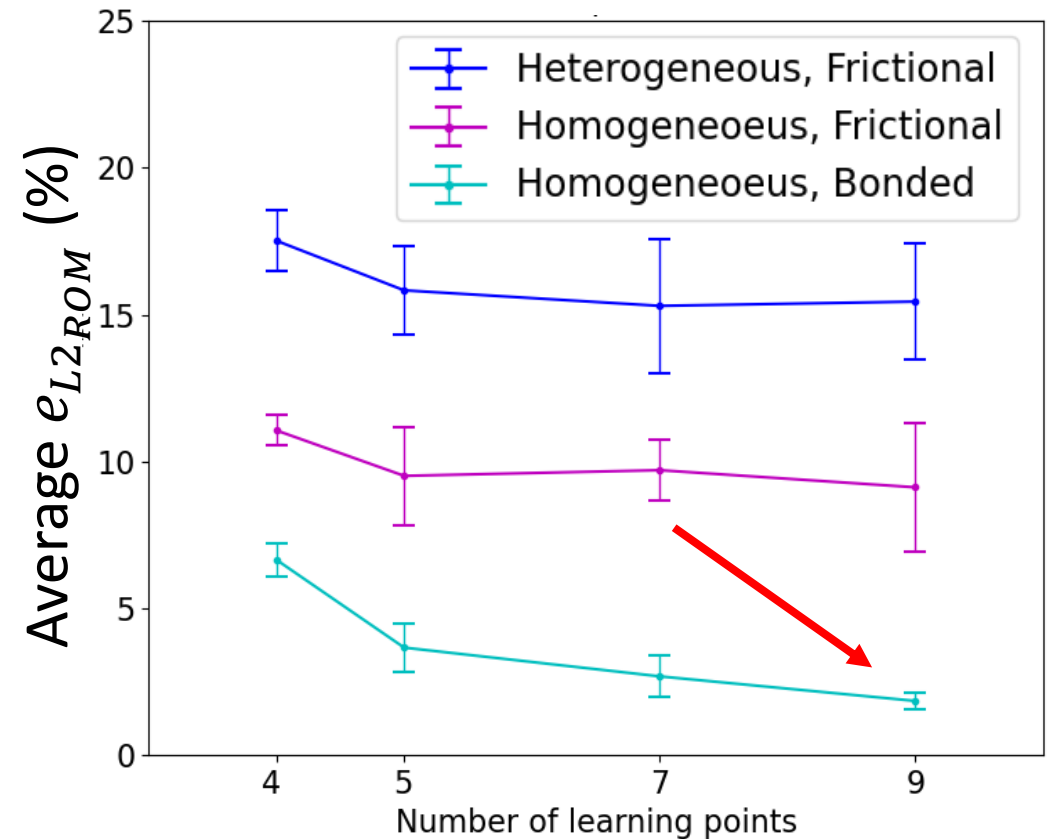
# Results

$$e_{L2_{ROM}} = \frac{\|X_{ROM} - X_{FE}\|^2}{\|X_{FE}\|^2}$$

### 4 parameters



### 2 parameters – Min Princ Strain





## Conclusions

- Complex ROMs (D, L,  $\theta$ ,  $\varphi$ ) hetero/friction: errors lower than 5% for metrics in the screws
- Simplified ROMs homo/bonded useful for metrics in both the screws and the bone
- Further analyses needed to optimize the ROM for the screws-bone frictional case



# Prediction of the shape of human lumbar vertebrae from adjacent ones by Singular Values Decomposition

M. Sensale<sup>a,b</sup>, T. Vendeuvre<sup>c</sup>, A.Germaneau<sup>d</sup>, C.Grivot<sup>a</sup>, E. Dall'Ara<sup>b</sup>, M. Rochette<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup>ANSYS, France; <sup>b</sup>University of Sheffield, UK; <sup>c</sup>Poitiers University Hospital, France;

<sup>d</sup>University of Poitiers, France

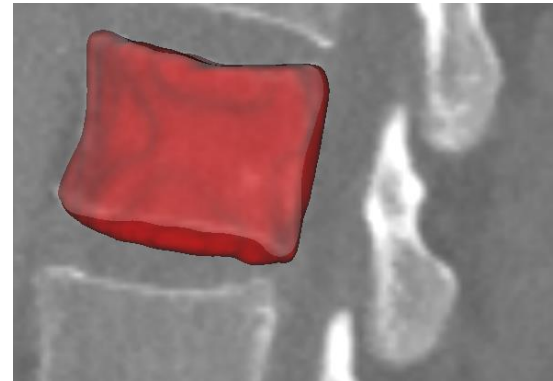
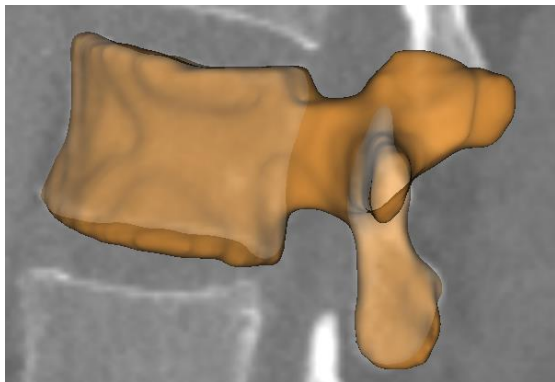


Presented at ISB 2021 conference, Stockholm, July 2021



# Vertebral body segmentation + Mesh registration

- 40 patients (22 men, 18 women)
- $40.9 \pm 15.9$  years
- Manual procedure (3D Slicer)



- Template mesh generation
- Semi-automatic procedure
- Mean registration error 0.14 mm



Anatomical landmarks

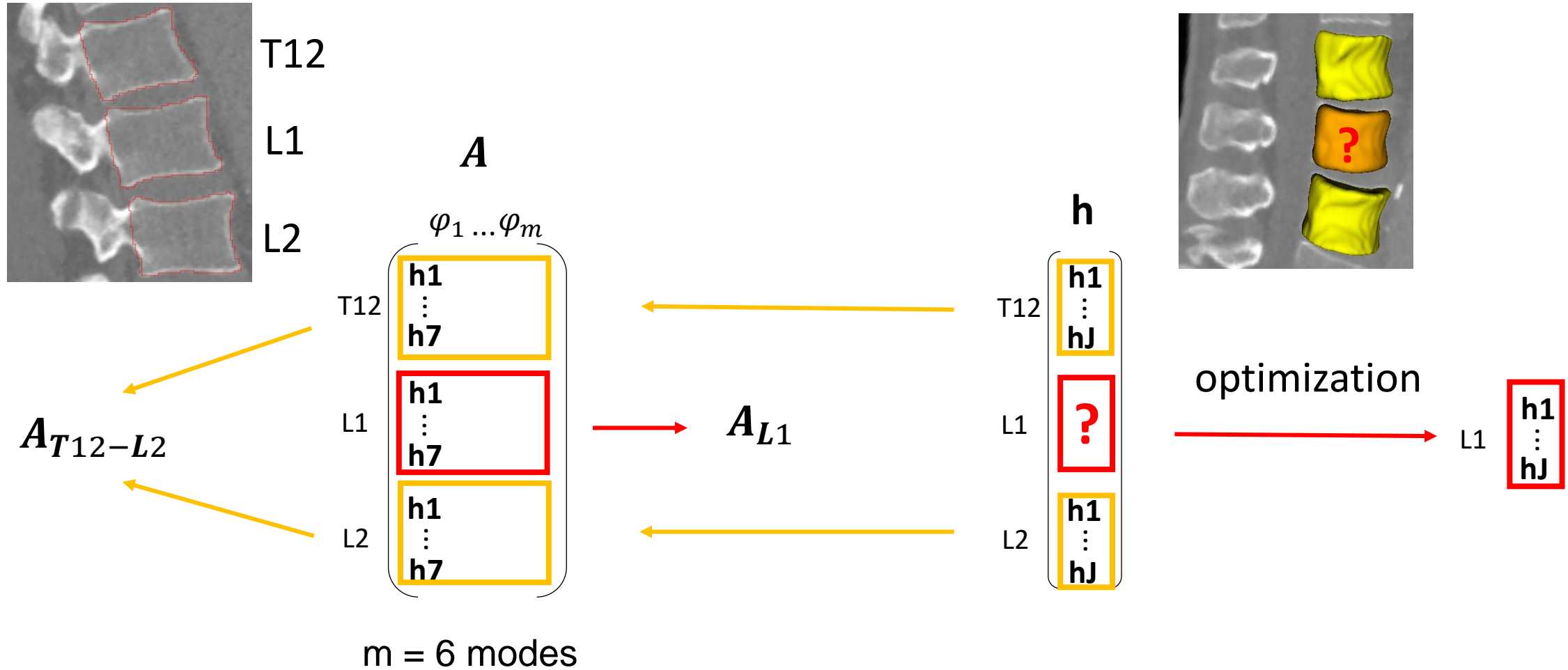


VerSe: Large Scale Vertebrae Segmentation Challenge

<https://github.com/anjany/verse> [1] [2]



# Prediction of the shape of L1: least-squares optimization

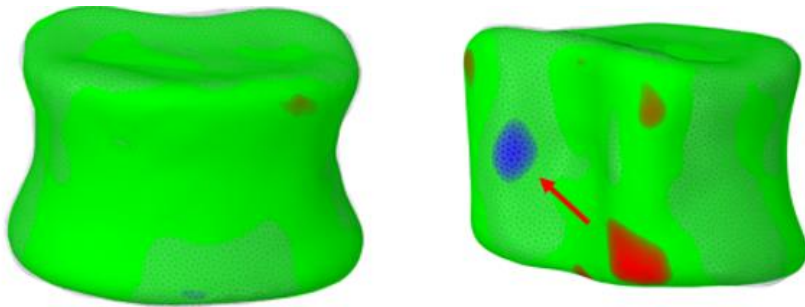




# Results

Level(s) used	Mean error (mm)		Hausdorff distance (mm)	
	Average $\pm$ st dev	(Min, Max)	Average $\pm$ st dev	(Min, Max)
T12 and L2	<b><math>0.51 \pm 0.11</math></b>	(0.29, 0.96)	<b><math>2.11 \pm 0.56</math></b>	(1.38, 4.52)

Patient #4

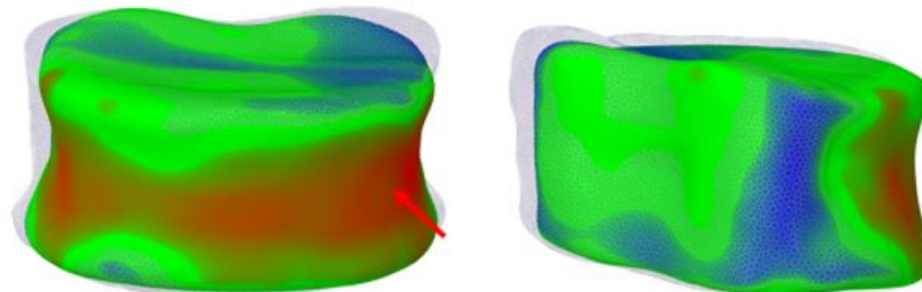


Lowest mean error = 0.29 mm  
Hausdorff distance = 1.40 mm



Patient #11

Highest mean error = 0.96 mm  
Hausdorff distance = 4.52 mm



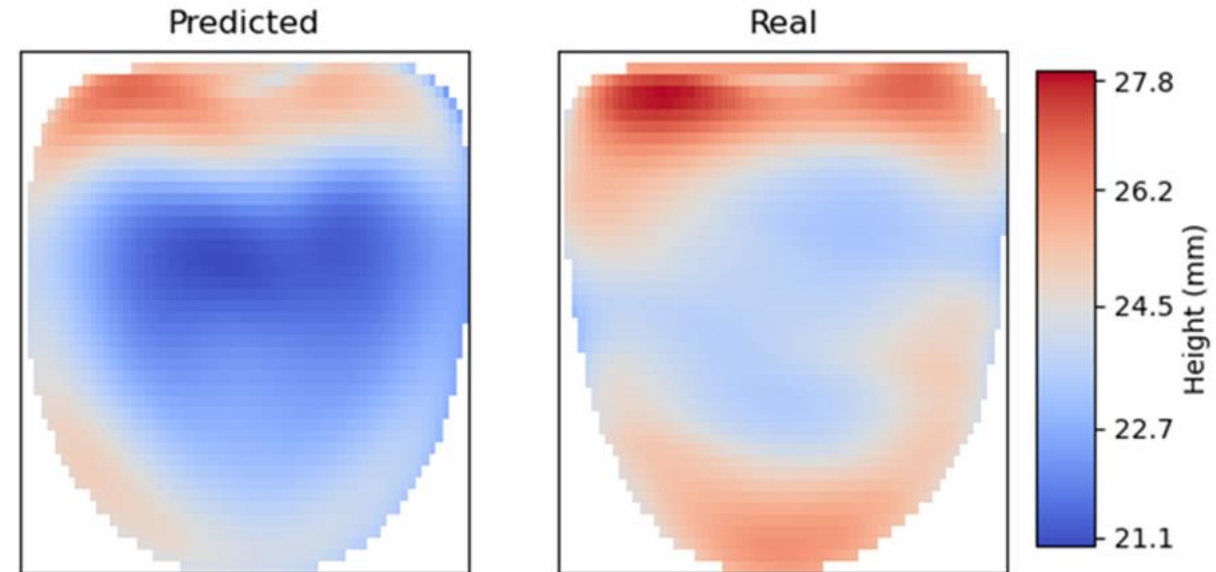
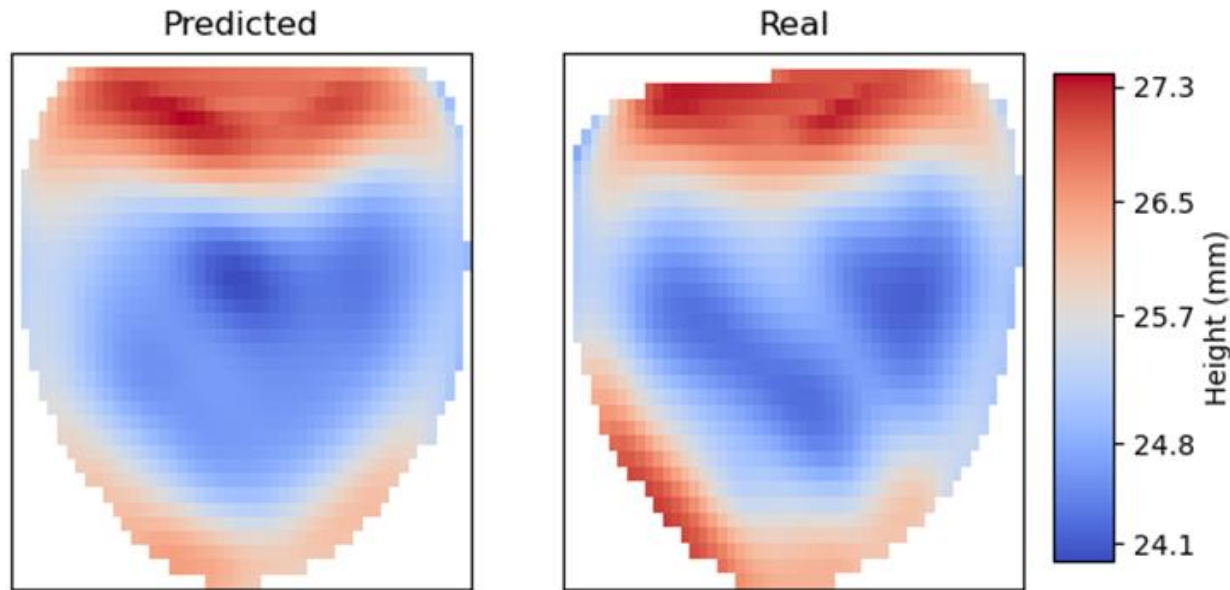




# Results

Patient #4 -> mean error 0.29 mm

Patient #11 -> mean error = 0.96 mm



Best mean error

Worst mean error



## Conclusions

- Mean reconstruction error lower than 0.6 mm
- Hausdorff distance lower than 2.2 mm (often localized at posterolateral part of the vertebral body)
- Distribution of heights accurately estimated



## Summary

- Element size: 0.6 mm (screws) and 1.0 mm (bone) → relative differences  $\leq 5\%$
- Diameter more important than length of screws
- ROMs of complex FE (D, L,  $\theta$ ,  $\varphi$ ) hetero/friction → metrics in the screws
- ROMs of FE homo/bonded → metrics in the screws & in the bone
- Prediction L1 pre-fracture shape → mean error lower than 0.6 mm



# Acknowledgments



Supervisors:  
Enrico Dall’Ara  
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Marco Biancolini



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Christoph Schilling



Cameron James  
Chloé Techens  
Denata Syla  
Jennifer Fayad  
Jose Rodrigues



Christelle Grivot  
Wenfeng Ye



Spinner Final Event  
Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2021



The University  
Of  
Sheffield.



Thank you!

