

# X-ray microtomography

**David Haberthür**

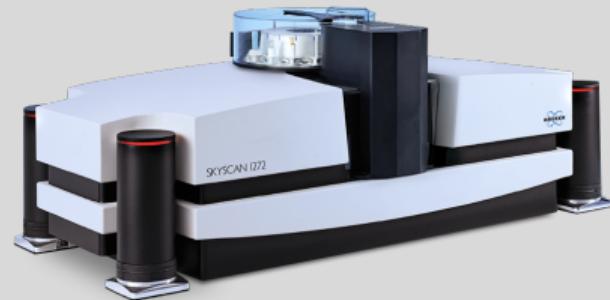
December 23, 2021 | 9256-HS2022-0: Advanced Microscopy

# Grüessech!

- David Haberthür
  - Physicist by trade
  - PhD in high resolution imaging of the lung, Institute of Anatomy, University of Bern, Switzerland
  - Post-Doc I: Tomographic imaging at TOMCAT, Swiss Light Source, Paul Scherrer Institute, Switzerland and working on the detector of the GlobalDiagnosiX project
  - Post-Doc II & currently: Tomographic imaging in the  $\mu$ CT group, Institute of Anatomy, University of Bern, Switzerland

# $\mu$ CT-group

- microangioCT [1]
  - Angiogenesis: heart, musculature [2] and bones
  - Vasculature: (mouse) brain [3], (human) nerve scaffolds [4], (human) skin flaps [5] and tumors
- Zebrafish musculature and gills [6]
- (Lung) tumor detection and metastasis classification [7]
- Collaborations with museums [8] and scientist at UniBe [9] to scan a wide range of specimens
- Automate *all* the things! [10]



[bruker.com/skyscan1272](http://bruker.com/skyscan1272)

# Contents

**Overview**

**Imaging**

**Tomography**

History

Interaction of X-rays with matter

Tomography today

**A scan, from *getting started* to *getting nice images***

**Example of a complete study (about teeth)**

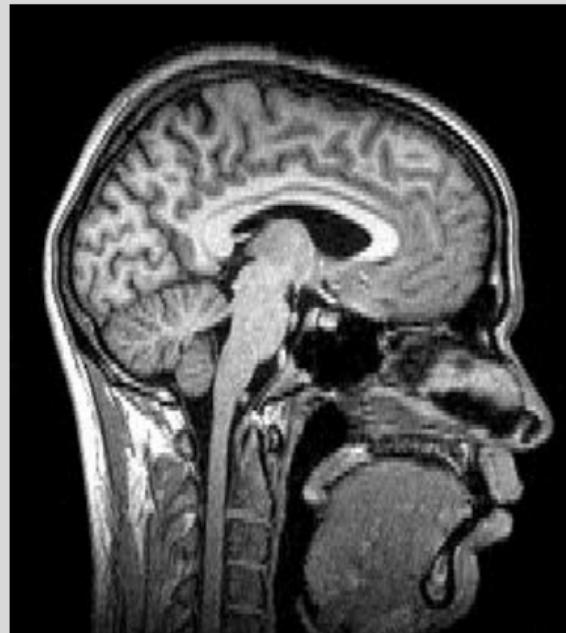
Overview

Materials & Methods

Results

# Biomedical imaging

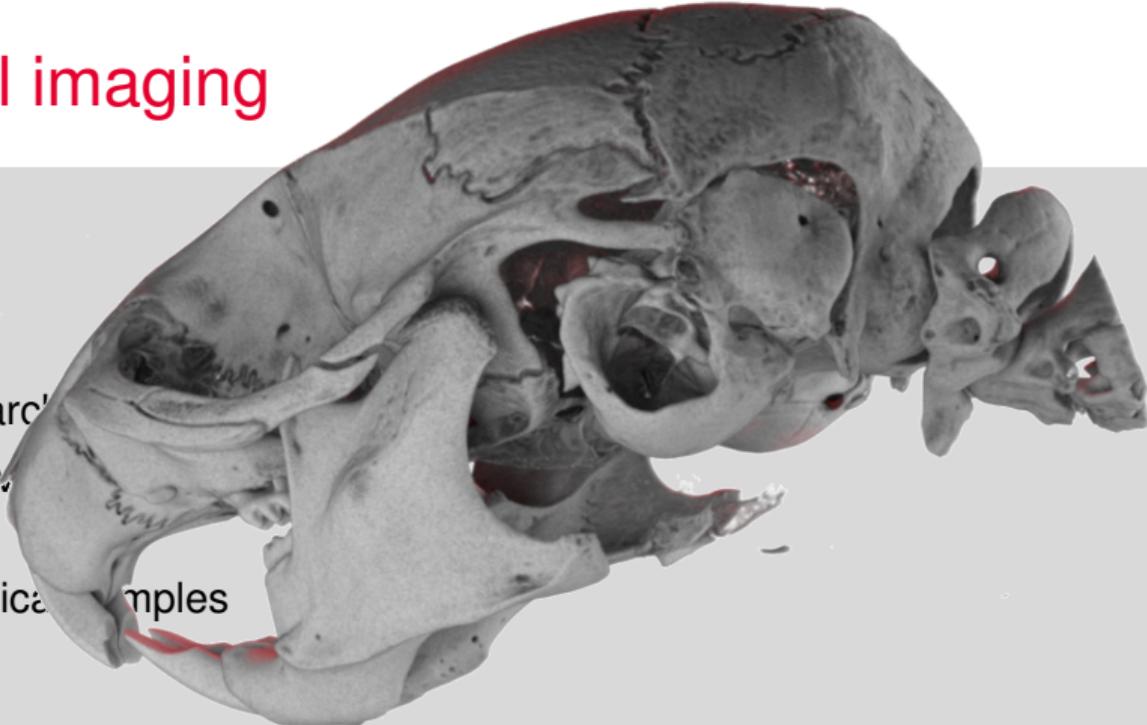
- Medical research
- Non-destructive insights into the samples
- (Small) biological samples



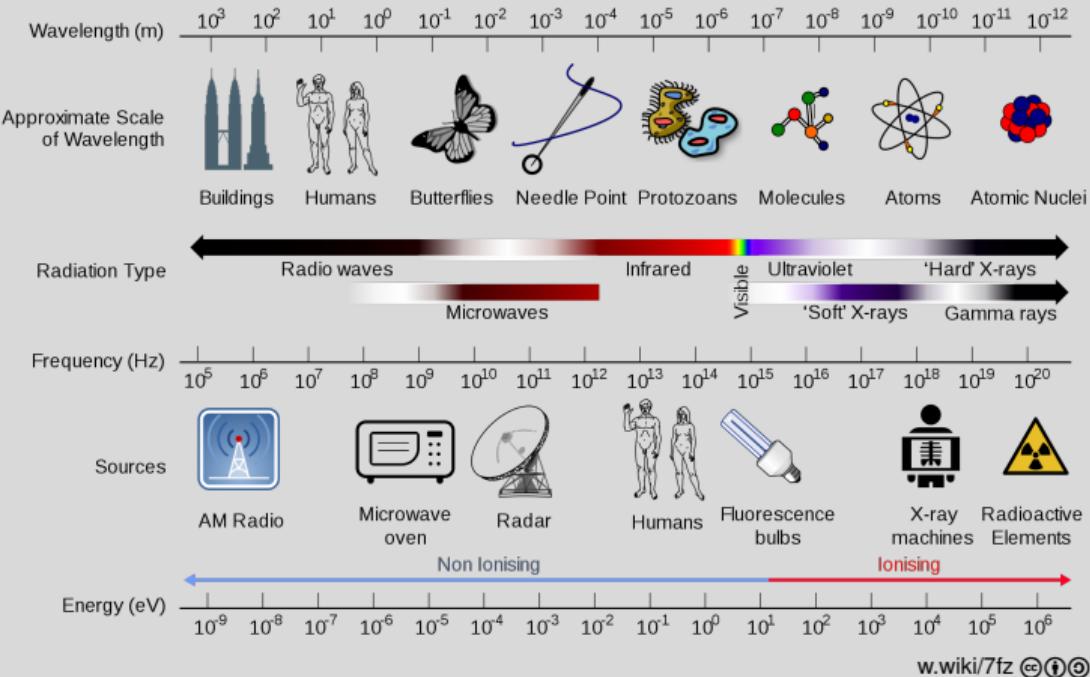
w.wiki/7g4 CC BY NC SA

# Biomedical imaging

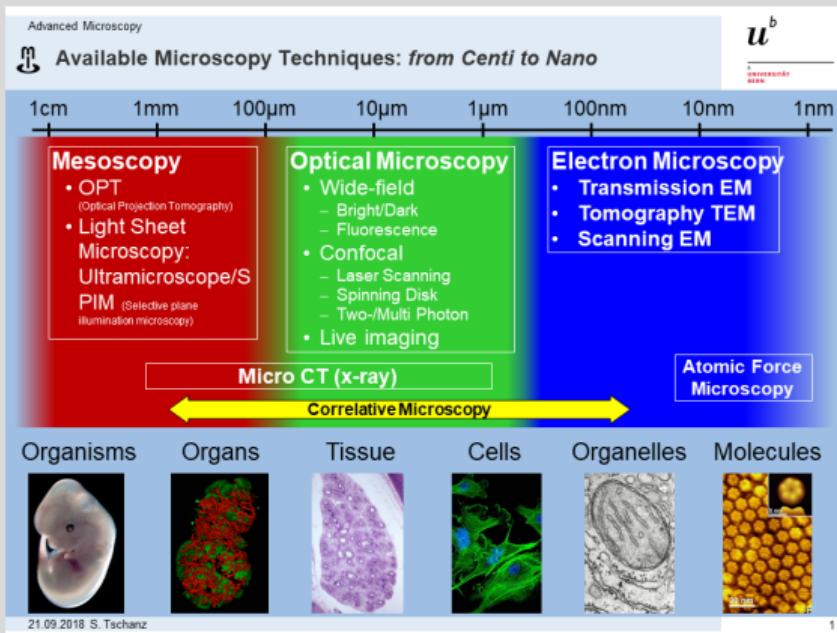
- Medical research
- Non-destructive analysis of the samples
- (Small) biological samples



# Wavelength and scales



# Wavelength and scales

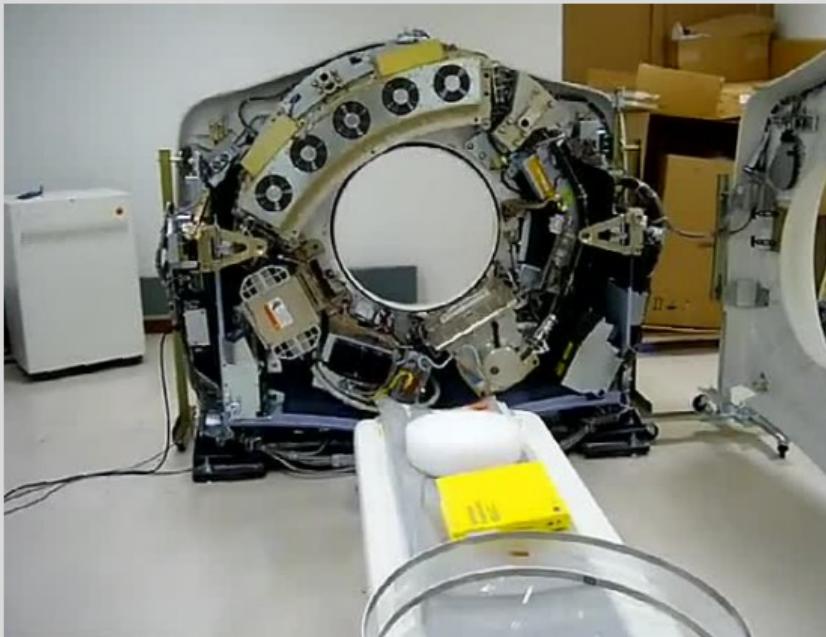


Stefan Tschanz, with permission

# Imaging methods

- Light (sheet) microscopy: see lecture of Nadia Mercader Huber
- X-ray imaging
- Electron microscopy: see lectures *Transmission Electron Microscopy* by Dimitri Vanhecke, *Scanning Electron Microscopy* by Sabine Kässmeyer & Ivana Jaric and *Cryoelectron Microscopy & Serial Block Face SEM* by Ioan Iacovache.

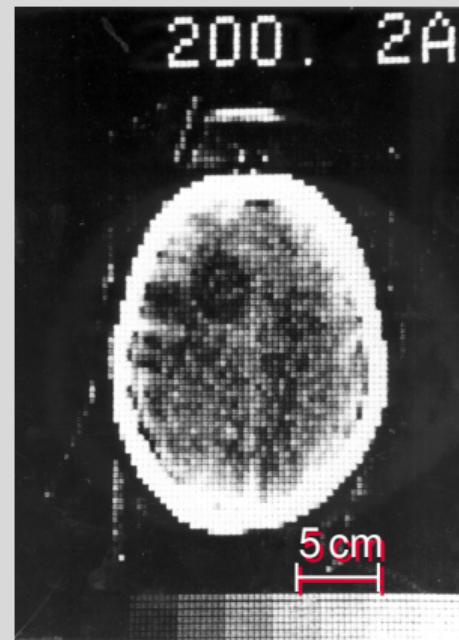
# CT-Scanner



[youtu.be/2CWpZKuy-NE](https://youtu.be/2CWpZKuy-NE)

# History

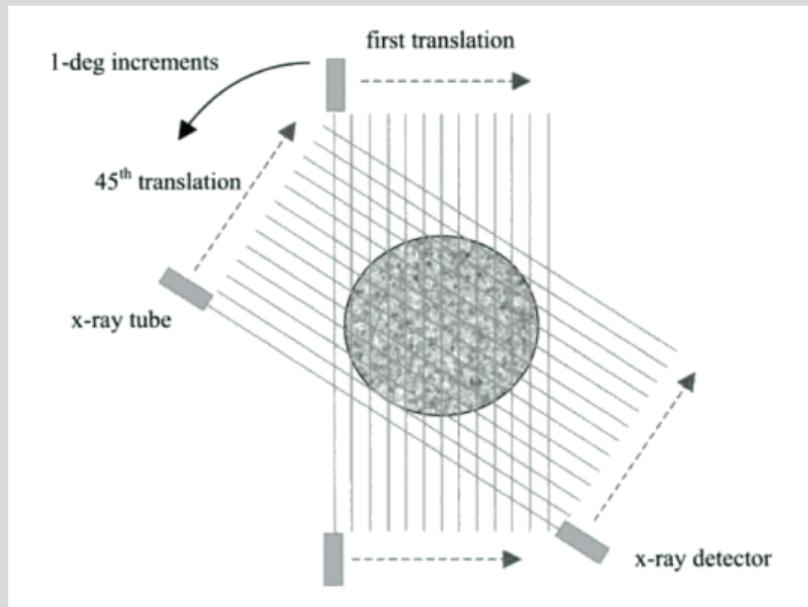
- Long history
  - 1963: Cormack used a collimated  $^{60}\text{Co}$  source and a Geiger counter as a detector [11]
  - 1976: Hounsfield worked on first clinical scanner [12]
  - Nice overview by Hsieh [13]



From [14], Figure 5

# History

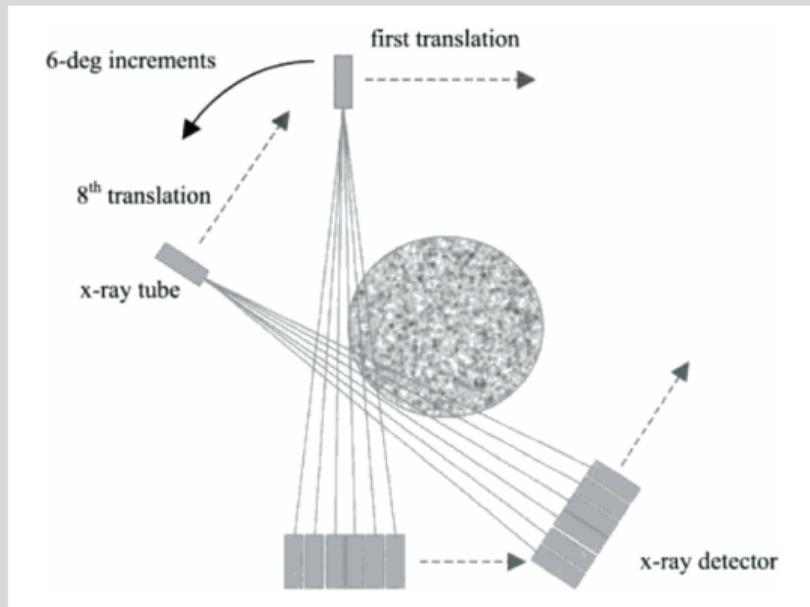
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  - Nice overview by Hsieh [13]
- CT scanner generations: First



From [13], Figure 1.12

# History

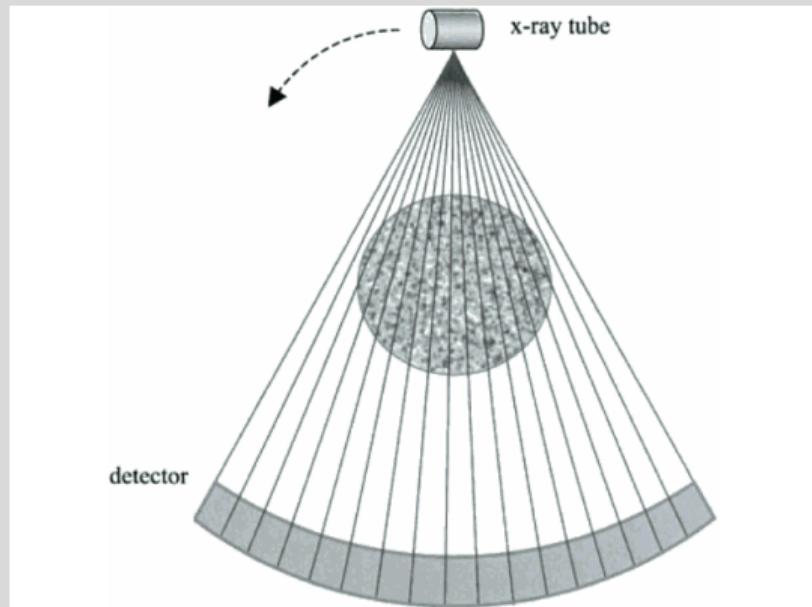
- Long history
  - 1963: Cormack used a collimated  $^{60}\text{Co}$  source and a Geiger counter as a detector [11]
  - 1976: Hounsfield worked on first clinical scanner [12]
  - Nice overview by Hsieh [13]
- CT scanner generations: First, second



From [13], Figure 1.13

# History

- Long history
  - 1963: Cormack used a collimated  $^{60}\text{Co}$  source and a Geiger counter as a detector [11]
  - 1976: Hounsfield worked on first clinical scanner [12]
  - Nice overview by Hsieh [13]
- CT scanner generations: First, second and third



From [13], Figure 1.14

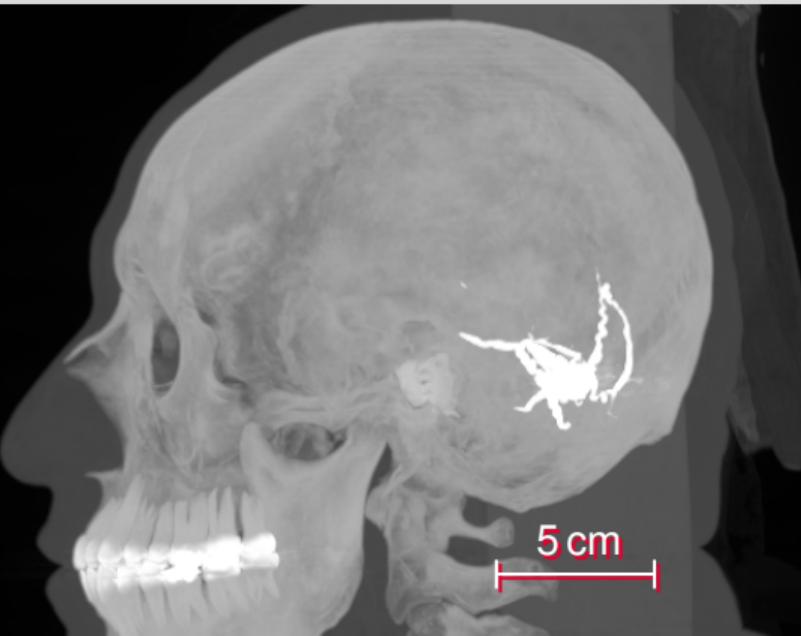
# X-ray interaction

- “X-rays interact with tissue in 2 main ways: photoelectric effect and Compton scatter. To a first approximation, the photoelectric effect contributes to contrast while the Compton effect contributes to noise. Both contribute to dose.” ([15])
  - Photoelectric absorption ( $\tau$ ) is strongly dependent on the atomic number  $Z$  of the absorbing material:  $\tau \propto \frac{Z^4}{E^{3.5}}$
  - Compton scattering is one of the principle forms of photon interaction and is directly proportional to the electron density and physical density of the material. Compton scattering does *not* depend on the atomic number:  $\lambda' - \lambda = \frac{h}{m_e c} (1 - \cos \theta)$
- Lowering X-ray energy increases contrast
- X-ray penetration decreases exponentially with sample thickness ([16, i. e. Beer-Lamberts law]  $I(t) = I_0 e^{-\alpha z}$ )

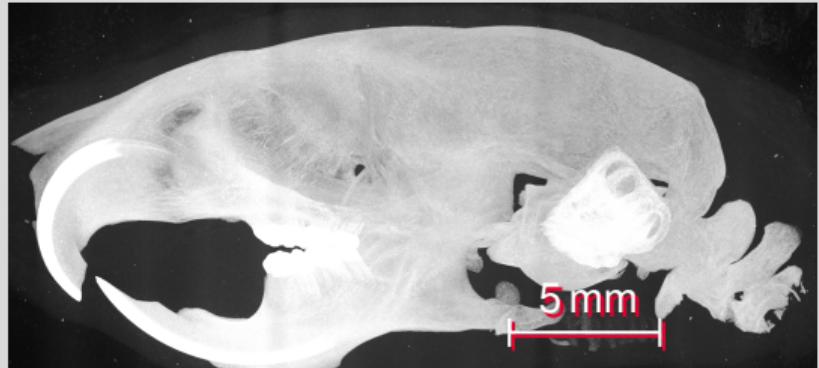
# Composition of biological tissues

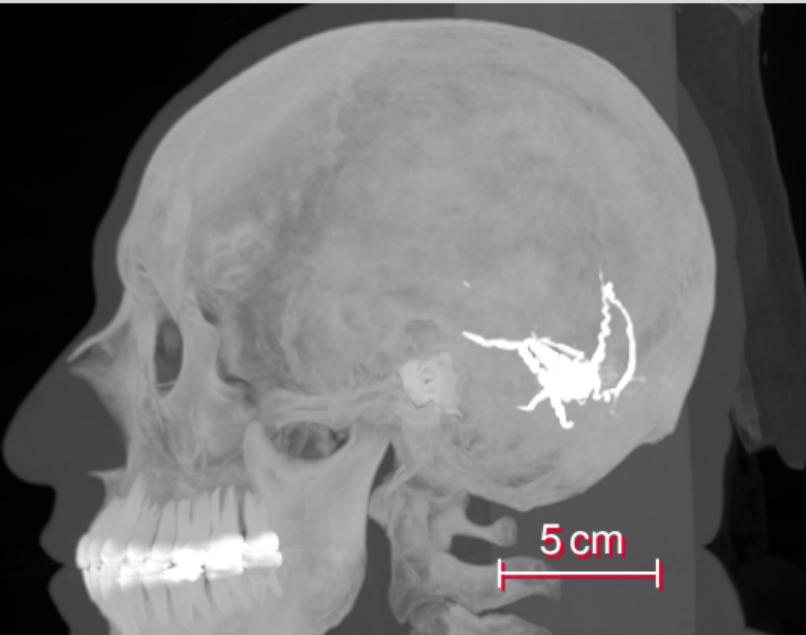
Tissue: content by mass percentage

Element	H	C	N	O	Na	P	S	Cl	K	Ca
Atomic number	1	6	7	8	11	15	16	17	19	20
Fat	11.4	59.8	0.7	27.8	0.1		0.1	0.1		
Water	11.2			88.8						
Blood	10.2	11	3.3	74.5	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.2	
Liver	10.2	13.9	3	71.6	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.3	
Brain	10.7	14.5	2.2	71.2	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.3	
Bone	3.4	15.5	4.2	43.5	0.1	10.3	0.3			22.5



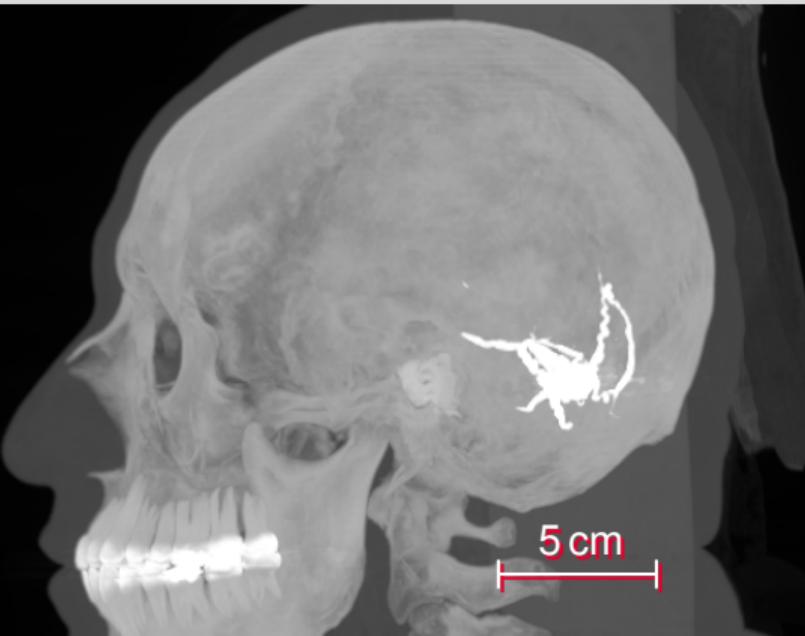
From [17], Subject C3L-02465



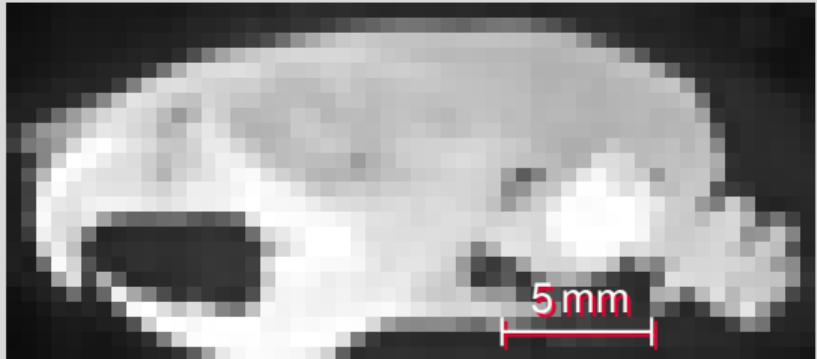


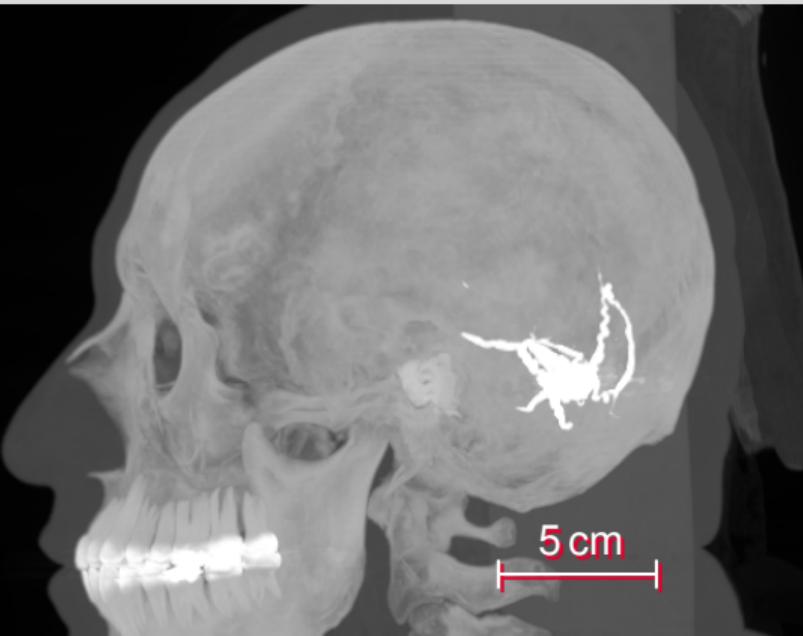
From [17], Subject C3L-02465



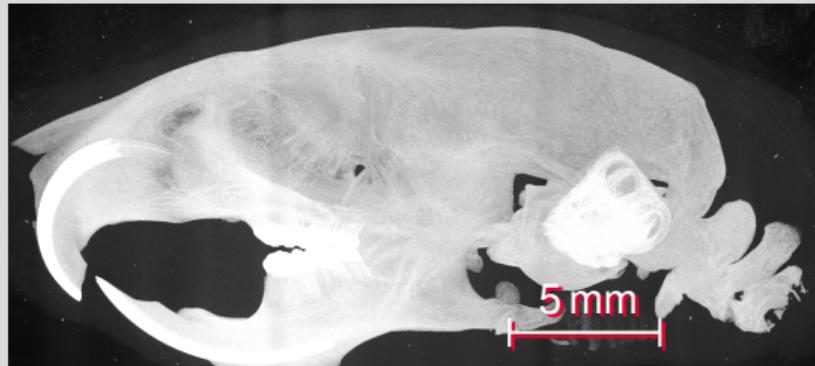


From [17], Subject C3L-02465

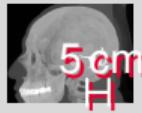




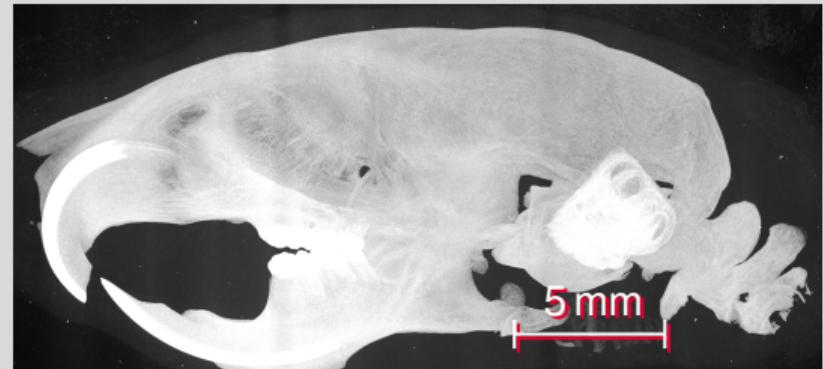
From [17], Subject C3L-02465



# Why $\mu$ CT?



From [17], Subject C3L-02465



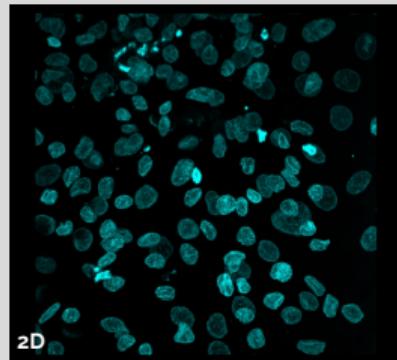
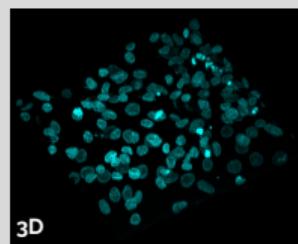
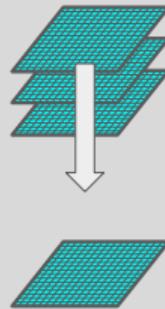
# Maximum intensity projection

## Projections

 $u^b$ UNIVERSITÄT  
BERN

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Reducing the dimensions of a dataset. For example projecting a volume (3D) to a surface by taking the maximum value across planes for each pixel.



# Machinery

- Hospital CT
  - Voxel size around 0.5 mm
- Lab/Desktop CT
  - Voxel size around  $7 \mu\text{m}$  (*in vivo*) or  $0.5 \mu\text{m}$  (*ex vivo*)
- Synchrotron CT
  - Voxel size down to 160 nm



flic.kr/p/D4rbom

# Machinery

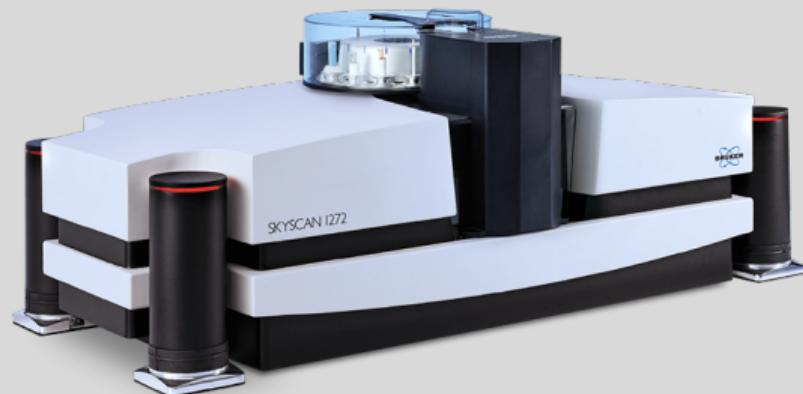
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flic.kr/p/fpTrGu

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[bruker.com/skyscan1272](http://bruker.com/skyscan1272)

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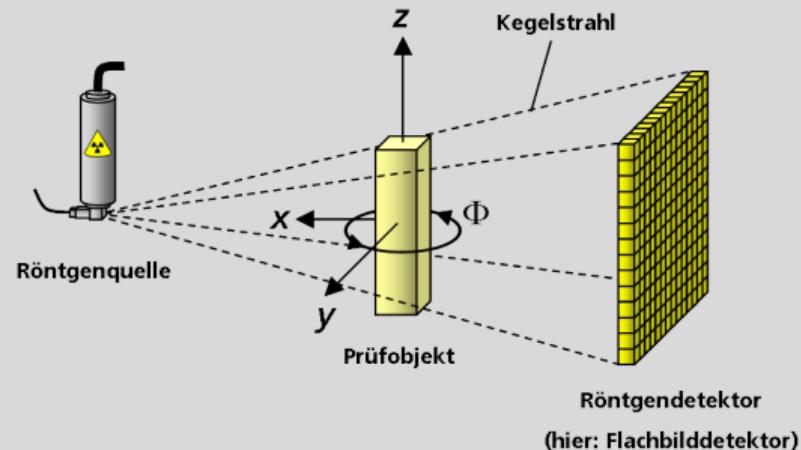


flic.kr/p/7Xhk2Y

# What is happening?

The basic components of a computer tomography device are always

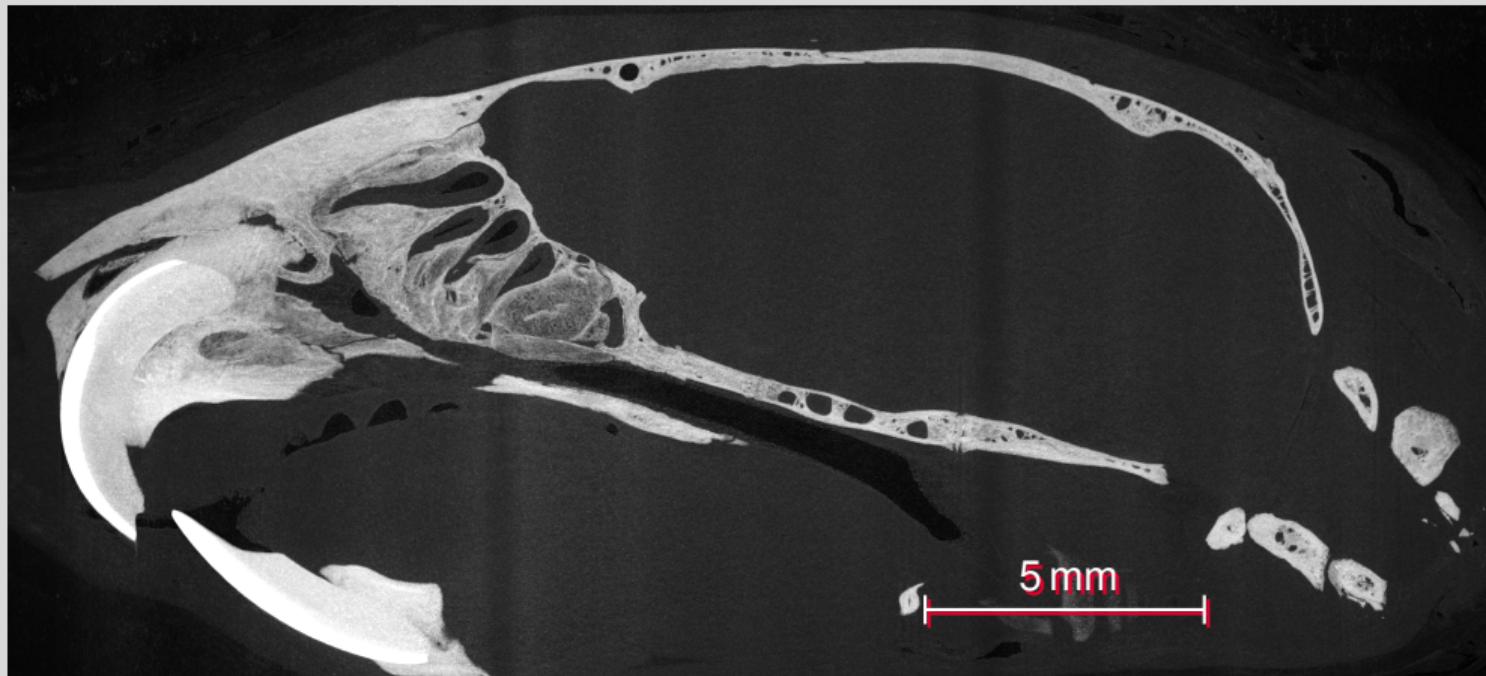
- an X-ray source
- something to image
- a detector



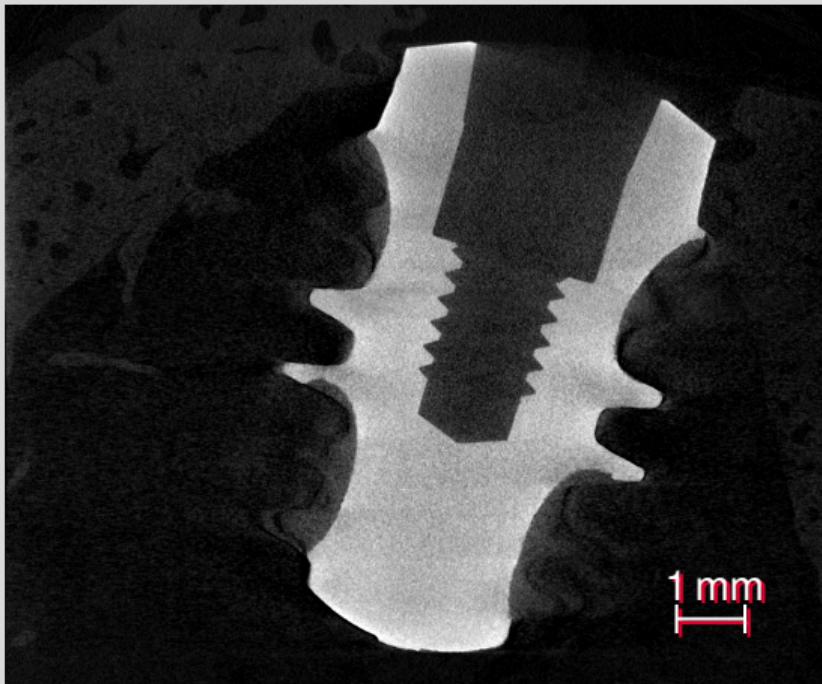
w.wiki/7g3 

# Machinery

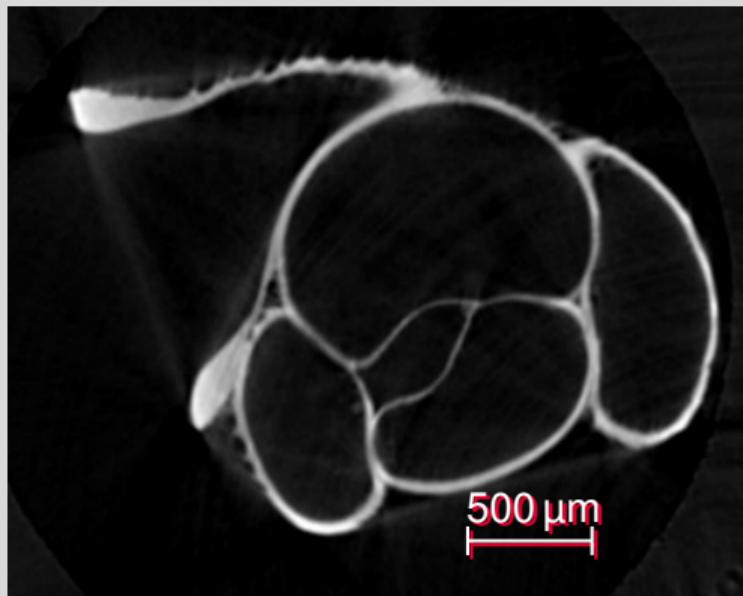
# Examples



# Examples

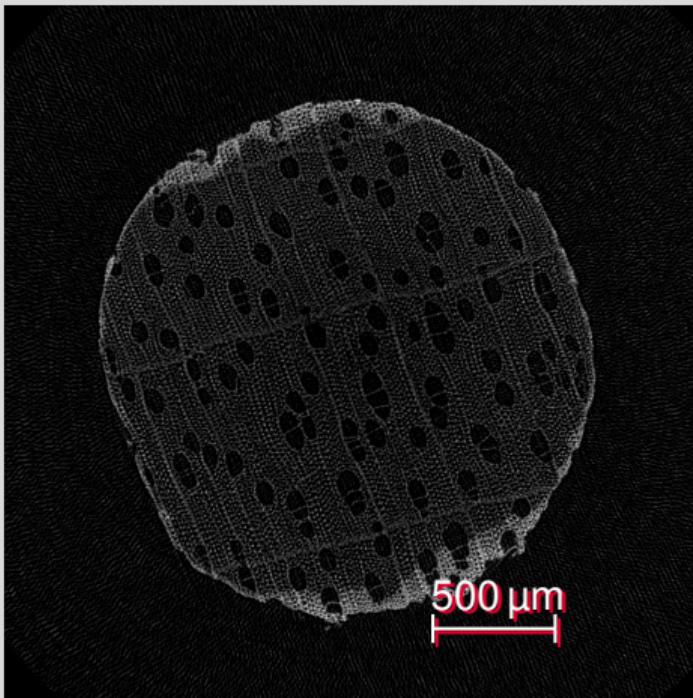


# Examples



From [8], *Diancta phoenix*

# Examples



# Examples



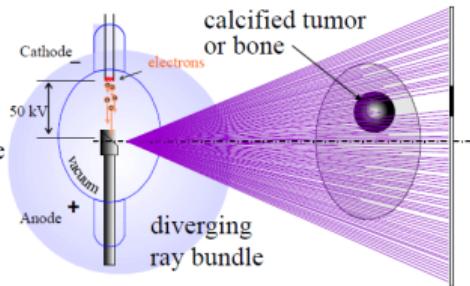
# Preparation

- Study design
- Sample preparation

# Projections

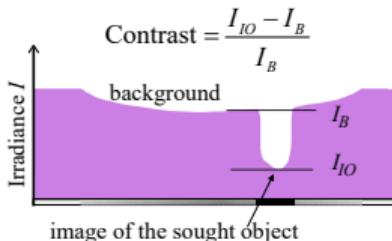
## X-ray generation and contrast

X-ray tube:  
nearly point like  
photon source



Contrast is given by  
absorption of intensity I

Note that contrast is negative  
X-ray shadowgraphy  
is a bright field technique



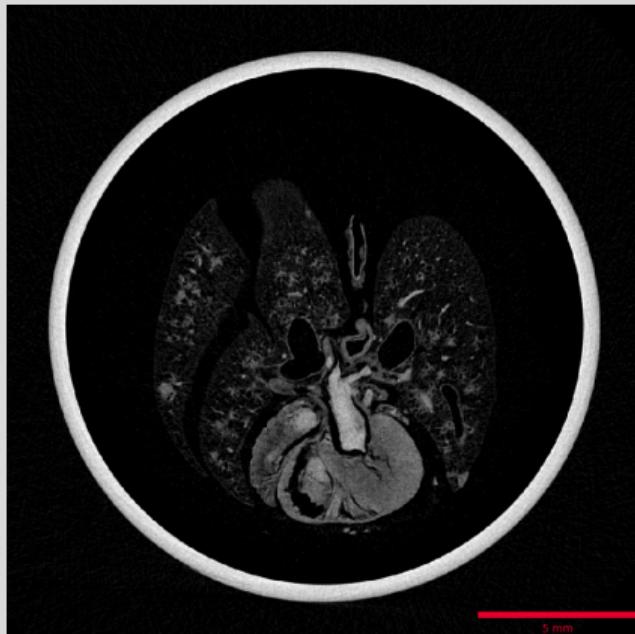
# Projections



# Projections

- A (micro-focus) X-ray source illuminates the object
- The X-rays penetrate the sample and are attenuated
- A scintillator converts the X-rays to visible light
- A (planar) X-ray detector collects (magnified) projection images.
- The projections are recorded on disk

# Reconstructions



# Reconstructions

- Based on hundreds of angular views acquired while the object rotates, a computer synthesizes a stack of virtual cross section slices through the object.
- Radon Transformation
- Filtered back projection
- Fan beam reconstruction
- Corrections (beam hardening, etc.)
- Writing to stack

# Visualization



# Visualization

- Based on the reconstructions, a computer synthesizes a three-dimensional view of the scanned sample

# What to use?

- ImageJ/Fiji [18]
- Also see *Fundamentals of Digital Image Processing* by Guillaume Witz
- Reproducible research
  -  in Jupyter [19]
  - `git`
  - Script all your things!
  - Data repositories; i. e. sharing is caring!

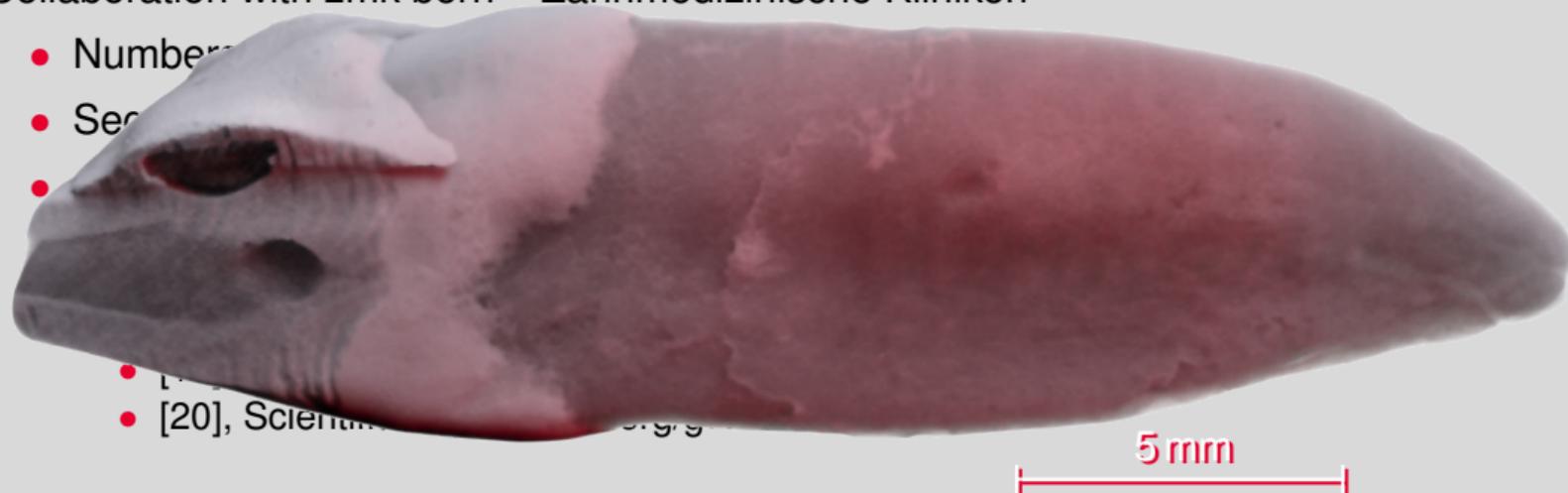
# Quantitative data

- Pretty images are nice, but we need quantitative numbers
- Segmentation
- Characterization

# Internal morphology of human teeth

Collaboration with zmk bern – Zahnmedizinische Kliniken

- Numbers
  - Sec
  - L [20], Scien



# Internal morphology of human teeth

Collaboration with zmk bern – Zahnmedizinische Kliniken

- Numbers instead of just pretty images
- Segmentation of teeth and root canal
- (Unbiased) Characterization
- Reproducible and automated image analysis ( in Jupyter [19])
- Two publications:
  - [10], BMC Oral Health, doi.org/gjpw2d
  - [20], Scientific Reports, doi.org/g7r8

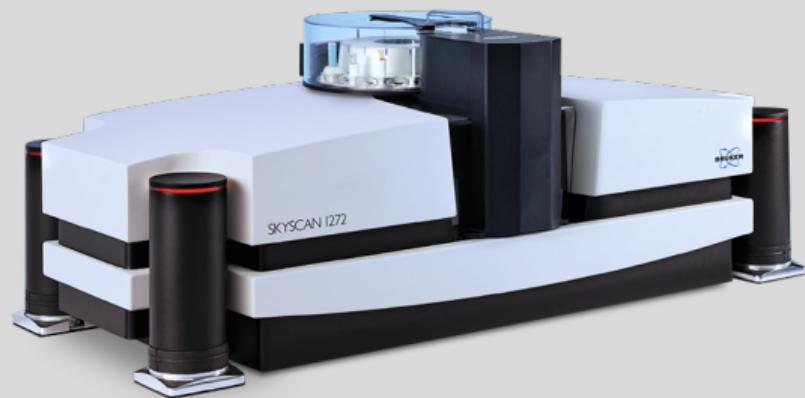
# How?

- 104 extracted human permanent mandibular canines
- $\mu$ CT imaging
- Root canal configuration, according to Briseño-Marroquín et al. [21]
- *Reproducible* analysis [22], e. g. you can click a button to double-check or recalculate the results yourself!



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[bruker.com/skyscan1272](http://bruker.com/skyscan1272)

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```
Scanner=SkyScan1272
Instrument S/N=15G09089-B
Software Version=1.1.19
Filename Prefix=Tooth045~00
Number Of Files= 482
Number Of Rows= 1092
Number Of Columns= 1632
Source Voltage (kV)= 80
Source Current (uA)= 125
Image Pixel Size (um)=9.999986
Exposure (ms)=950
Rotation Step (deg)=0.400
Frame Averaging=ON (3)
Filter=Al 1mm
Study Date and Time=02 Jul 2020 08h:23m:34s
Scan duration=0h:39m:51s
```

# How?

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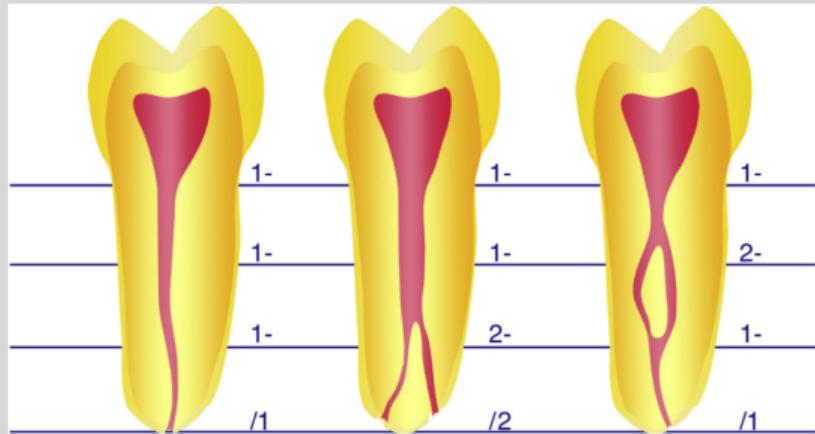
*Sample changer* on the SkyScan 1272

In total:

- 13 days of *continuous*  $\mu$ CT scanning
- 819 GB of raw data  
230 648 TIFF projections
- 326 GB data as input for analysis  
282 062 PNG reconstructions

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From [21], Fig. 2

# How?

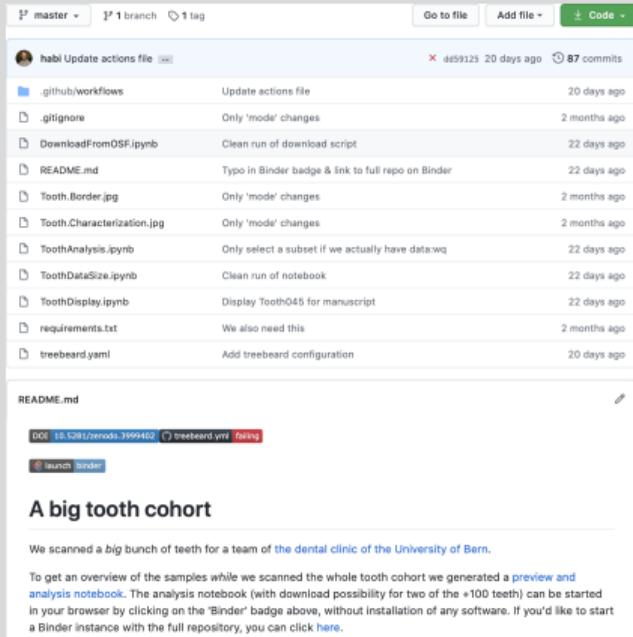
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gph.is/2nqkple

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The screenshot shows a GitHub repository page for a project named "habi". The repository has 1 branch and 1 tag. There are 87 commits from user "dab9125" made 20 days ago. The commits are listed as follows:

File / Action	Description	Date
.github/workflows	Update actions file	20 days ago
.gitignore	Only 'mode' changes	2 months ago
DownloadFromOSF.ipynb	Clean run of download script	22 days ago
README.md	Typo in Binder badge & link to full repo on Binder	22 days ago
Tooth.Border.jpg	Only 'mode' changes	2 months ago
Tooth.Characterization.jpg	Only 'mode' changes	2 months ago
ToothAnalysis.ipynb	Only select a subset if we actually have data:wq	22 days ago
ToothAxisSize.ipynb	Clean run of notebook	22 days ago
ToothDisplay.ipynb	Display Tooth045 for manuscript	22 days ago
requirements.txt	We also need this	2 months ago
treebeard.yaml	Add treebeard configuration	20 days ago

Below the commits is the "README.md" file, which contains:

DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.3969462 [treebeard.yaml](#) [filing](#)

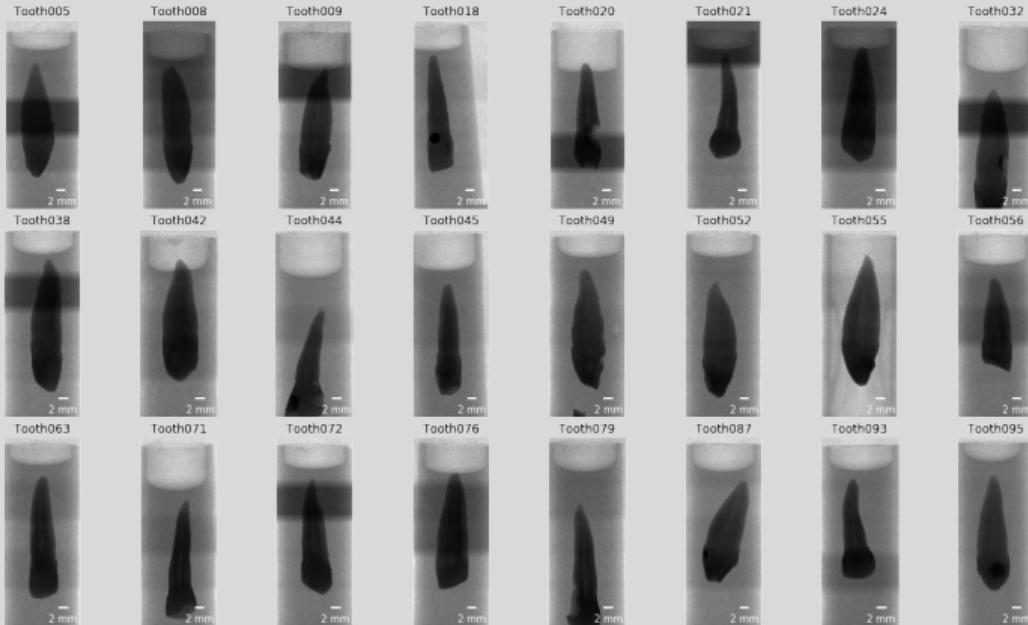
[launch Binder](#)

**A big tooth cohort**

We scanned a *big* bunch of teeth for a team of the dental clinic of the University of Bern.

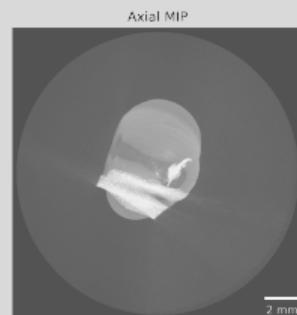
To get an overview of the samples while we scanned the whole tooth cohort we generated a [preview](#) and [analysis notebook](#). The analysis notebook (with download possibility for two of the +100 teeth) can be started in your browser by clicking on the "Binder" badge above, without installation of any software. If you'd like to start a Binder instance with the full repository, you can click [here](#).

# $\mu$ CT imaging



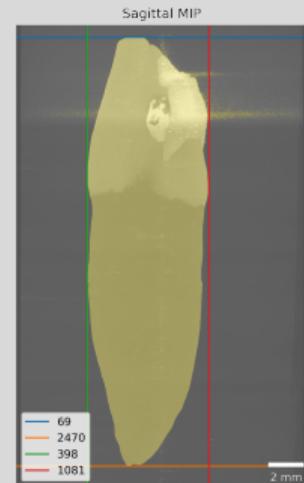
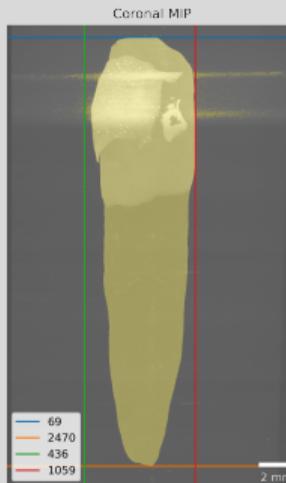
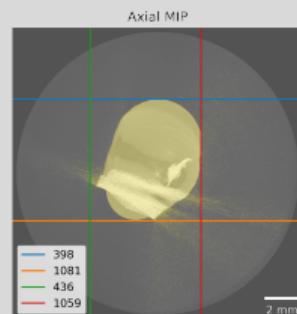
# Dataset cropping

- Full datasets: 326 GB
- Cropped datasets: 115 GB



# Dataset cropping

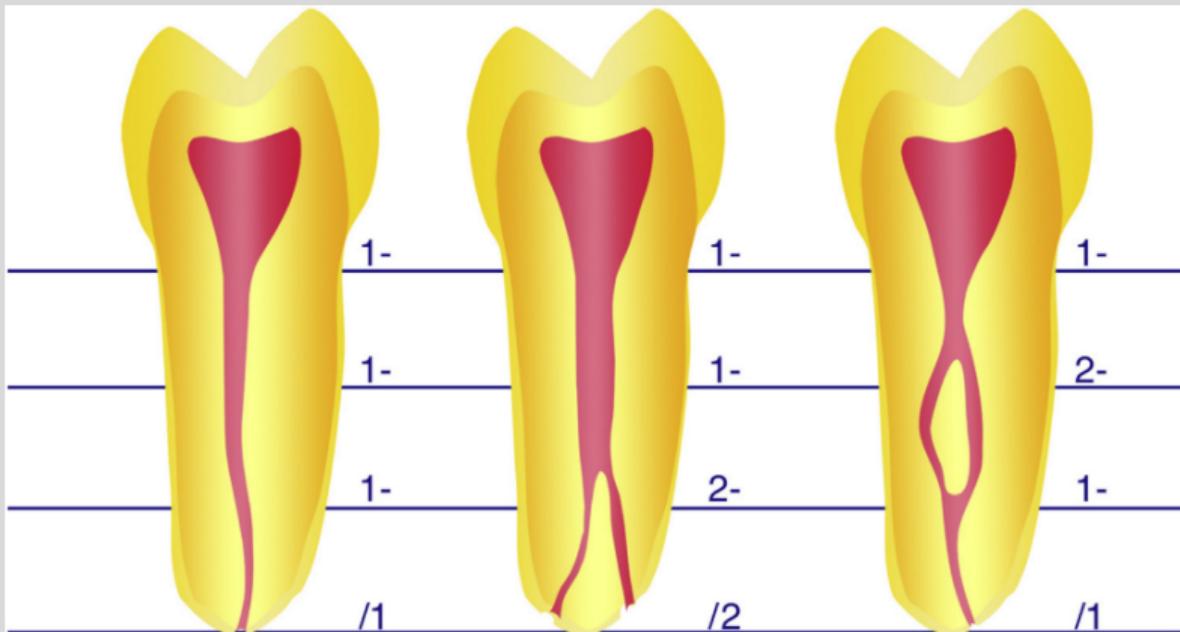
- Full datasets: 326 GB
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# Tooth morphology

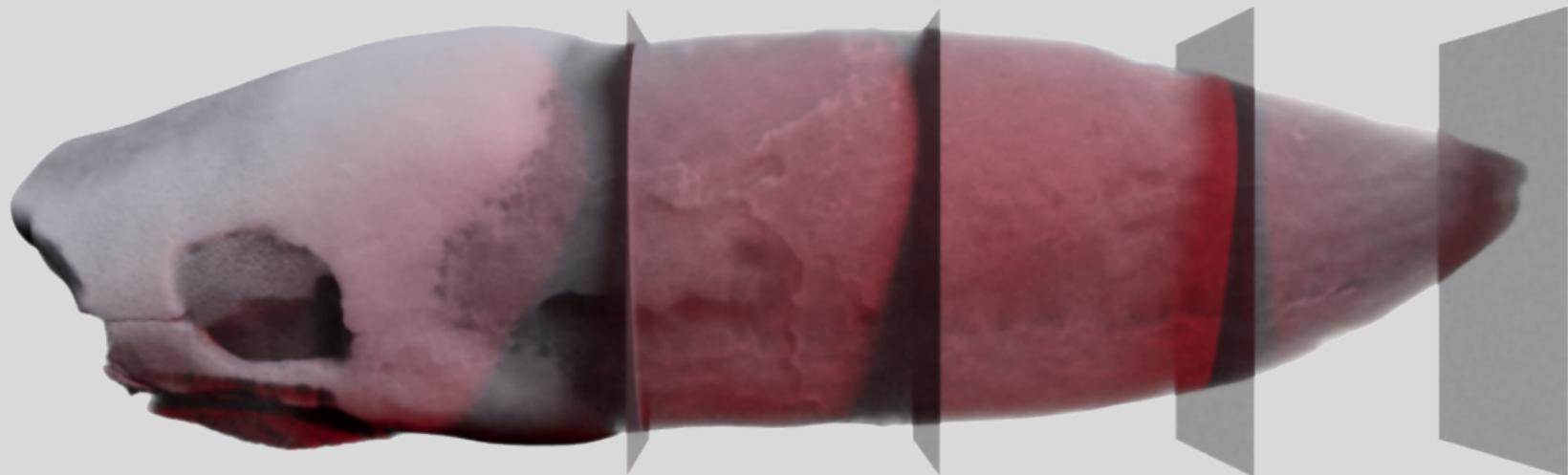


# Tooth morphology

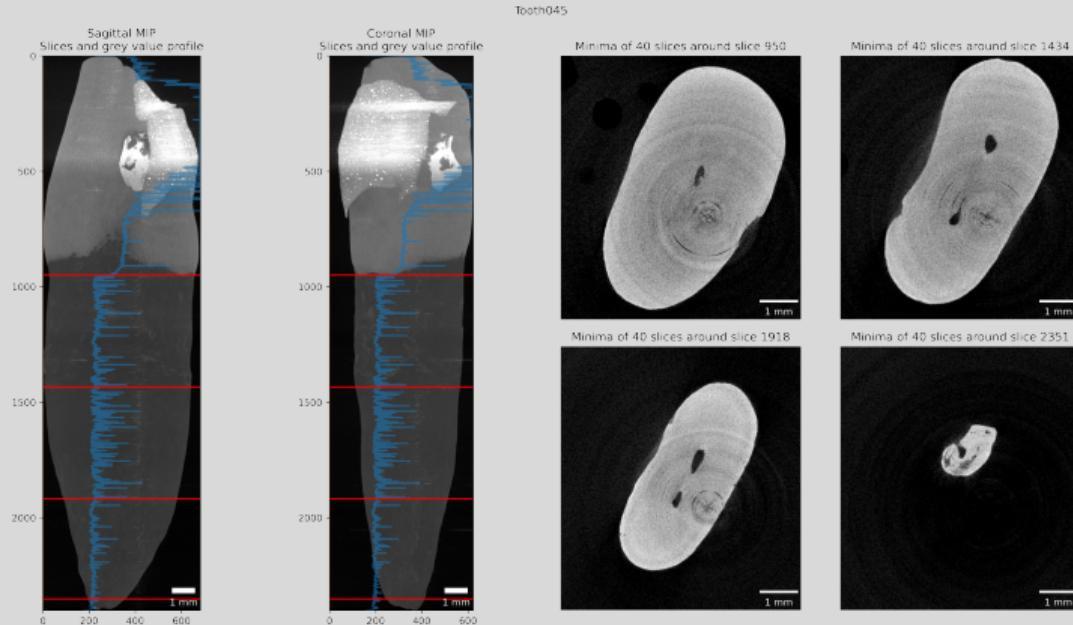


From [21], Fig. 2

# Tooth morphology

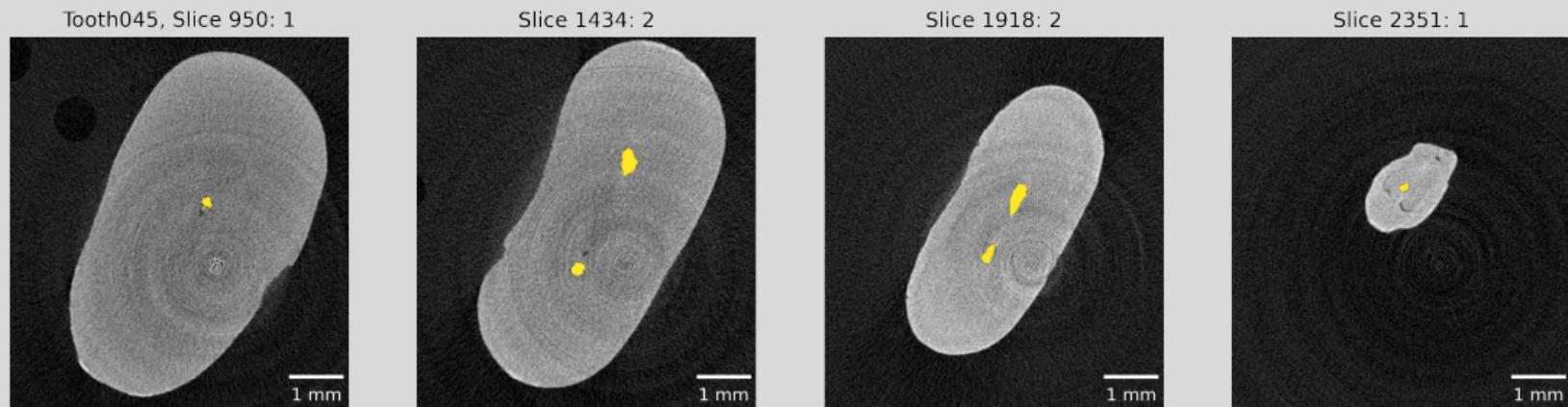


# Detection of enamel-dentin border

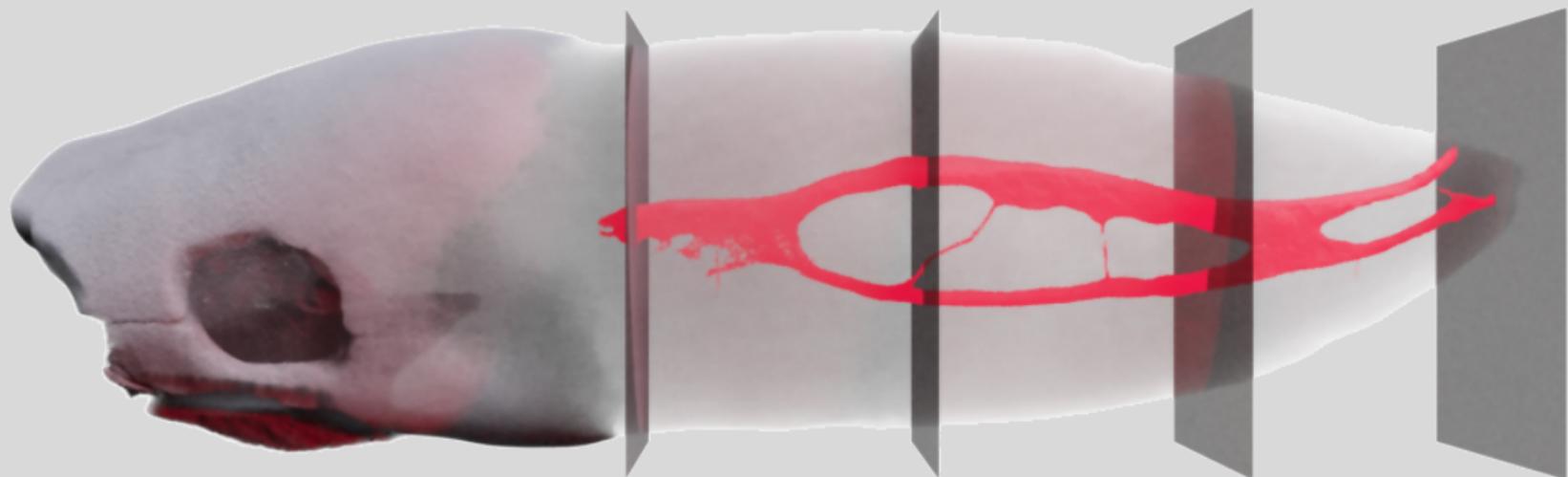


# Detection of enamel-dentin border

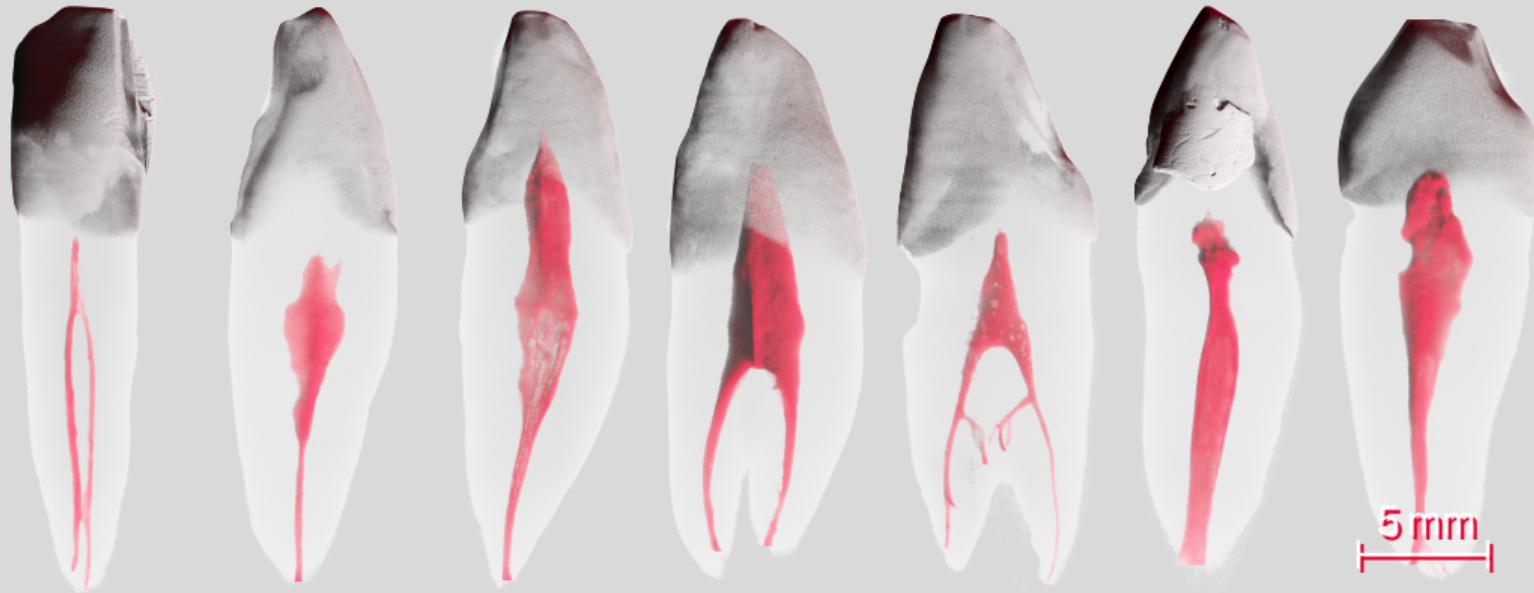
Tooth045



# Extraction of root canal space



# Results of root canal space extraction



# Conclusion

- Efficient use of time, e. g. more teeth does not mean more (human) work
- Reproducible analysis with *free and open-source* software, usable by *anyone*
- Objective analysis, e. g. no operator bias

# Thanks!

- Thanks for listening to me!
- What questions do you have for me?

# References I

- [1] Ruslan Hlushchuk et al. "Ex Vivo microangioCT: Advances in Microvascular Imaging". DOI: [10.1016/j.vph.2018.09.003](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.vph.2018.09.003).
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# Colophon

- This BEAMER presentation was crafted in  $\text{\LaTeX}$  with the (slightly adapted) template from *Corporate Design und Vorlagen* of the University of Bern.
  - Complete source code: [git.io/fjpP7](https://git.io/fjpP7)
  - The  $\text{\LaTeX}$  code is automatically compiled with a GitHub action [1] to a (handout) PDF which you can access here: [git.io/JeQxO](https://git.io/JeQxO)
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[1] Details on how this works are specified in a small test repository here: [git.io/JeOOj](https://git.io/JeOOj)