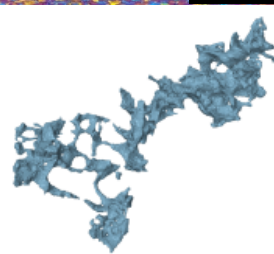
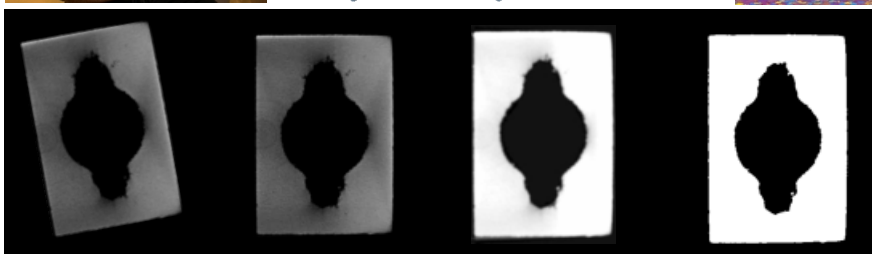
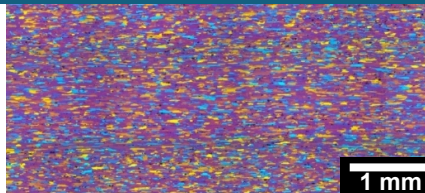
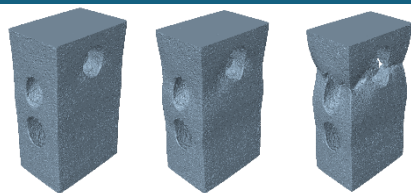


**MS&T18**  
MATERIALS SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY



# Assessing the Impact of Image Acquisition/Processing Method on 3D Reconstructions



**IMS**  
International Metallographic Society  
ASM INTERNATIONAL

MS&T 2018  
Wednesday Oct.  
17, 2018

PRESENTED BY

**Thomas Ivanoff, Jonathan Madison, Josh Koepke, and Bradley Jared**



## Why 3D Analysis?

### 3D Reconstructions and Assessment Metrics

- Common methods and measures

### Image Processing Workflow

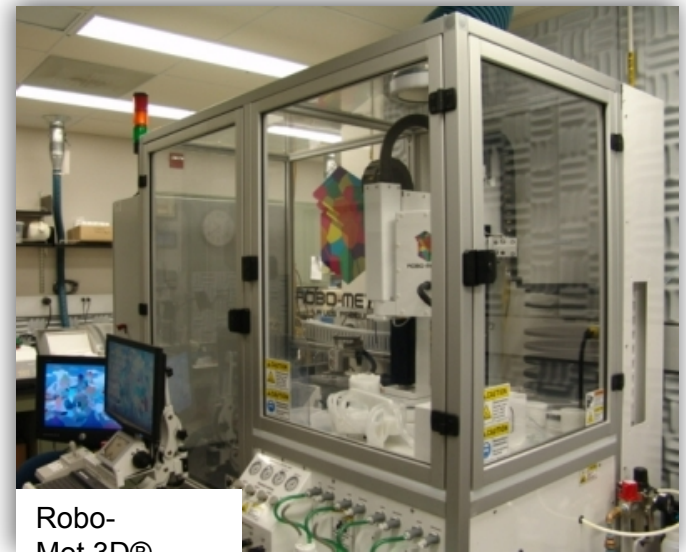
### Impact of Image Processing

- Area of focus: segmentation

### Impact of Acquisition Technique

- Microcomputed X-ray tomography
- Destructive serial sectioning Robo-Met.3D®

## Summary



Robo-Met.3D®  
UES, Inc.

## Why Study Microstructure/Structure in 3D?



2D characterization techniques are inadequate for characterization of certain 3D aspects of microstructure (e.g. morphology and topology)

3D shapes and distributions influence the mechanical and physical properties of materials

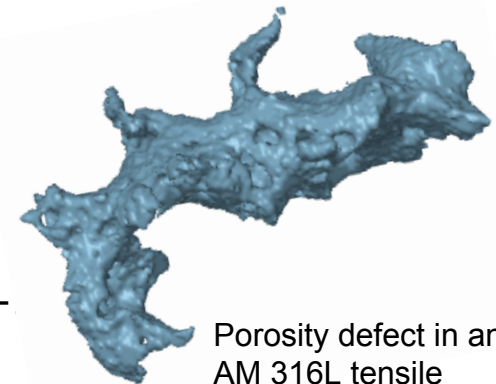
3D reconstructions used to develop and validate computational models

Powerful computer hardware is reasonably priced and commercial software packages are available for 3D reconstruction, visualization, and analysis

- DREAM.3D, Matlab, Paraview, IDL, Mimics, 3Matic, etc

Importance of 3D materials science is increasing:

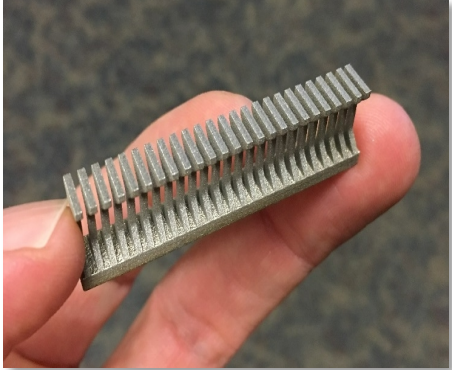
- *Materials Characterization*, 2017, vol. 124, pp. 241 – 249
- *Surface and Coatings Technology*, 2017, vol. 310, pp. 70-
- *JOM*, 2011, vol. 63, no. 3
- *MRS Bulletin*, 2008, vol. 33, no. 6
- *Scripta Materialia*, 2006, vol. 55, no. 1



Porosity defect in an  
AM 316L tensile  
dogbone



Part to be reconstructed

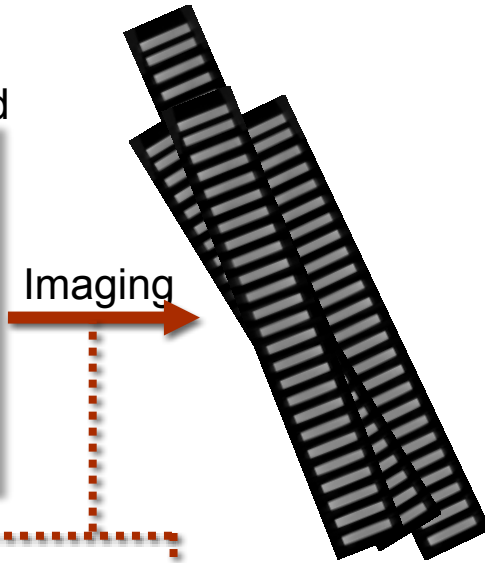




Part to be reconstructed



Imaging



Non-destructive

- Micro-computed tomography
- Synchrotron

Destructive

- Mechanical-serial-sectioning
- Tri-beam (SEM) serial sectioning



Nikon Avonix M2 225/450 kV  
Helical Scanner

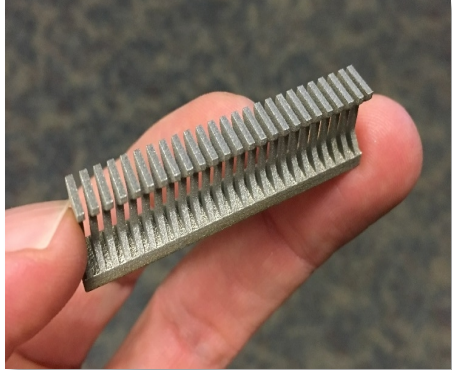


Robo-  
Met.3D  
UES, Inc.

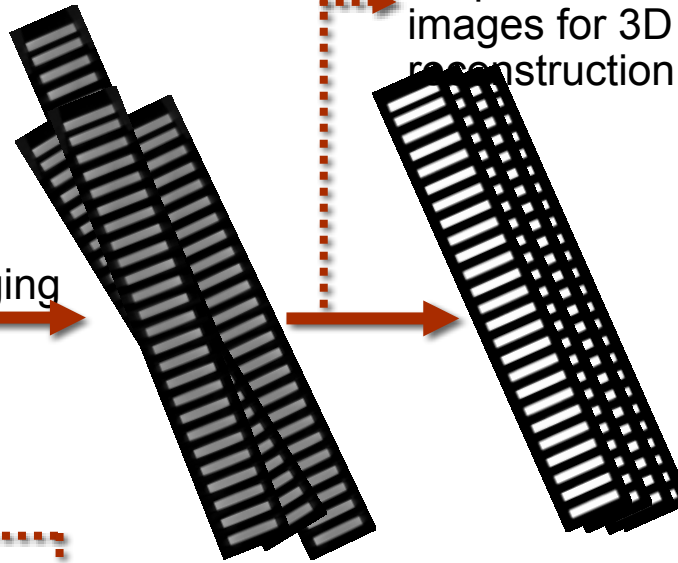




Part to be reconstructed



Imaging



Prepare 2D  
images for 3D  
reconstruction

Non-destructive

- Micro-computed tomography
- Synchrotron

Destructive

- Mechanical-serial-sectioning
- Tri-beam (SEM) serial sectioning



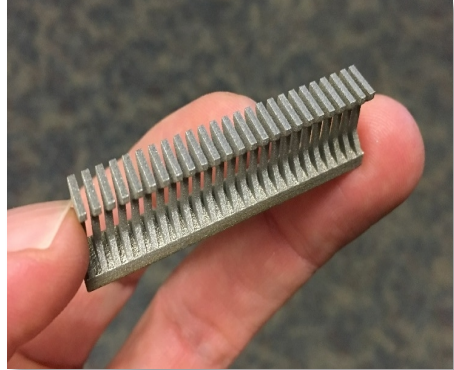
Nikon Avonix M2 225/450 kV  
Helical Scanner



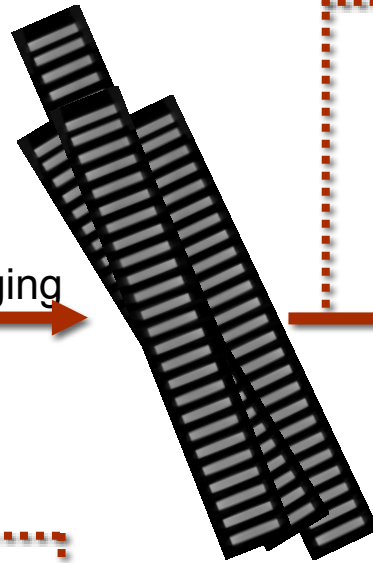
Robo-  
Met.3D  
UES, Inc.



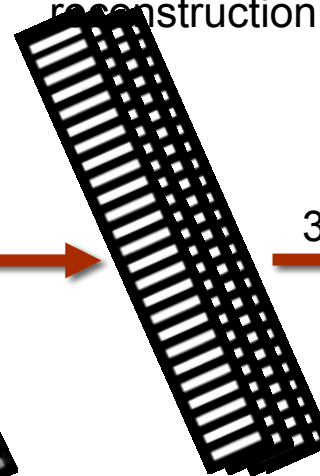
Part to be reconstructed



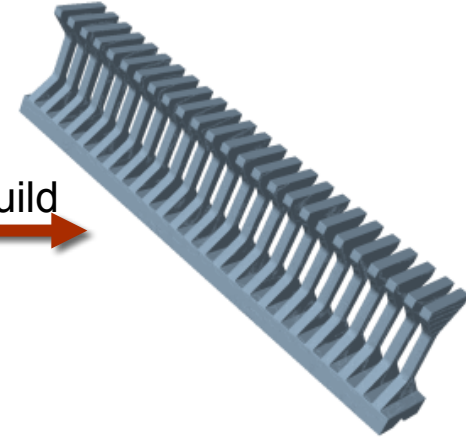
Imaging



Prepare 2D  
images for 3D  
reconstruction



3D Rebuild



Non-destructive

- Micro-computed tomography
- Synchrotron

Destructive

- Mechanical-serial-sectioning
- Tri-beam (SEM) serial sectioning

Focused ion beam



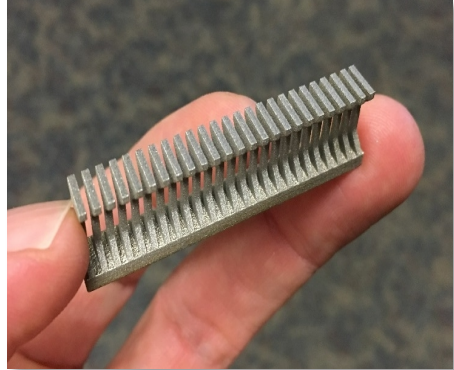
Nikon Avonix M2 225/450 kV  
Helical Scanner



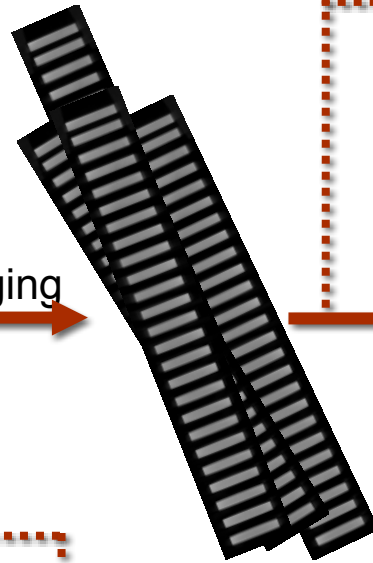
Robo-  
Met.3D  
UES, Inc.



Part to be reconstructed

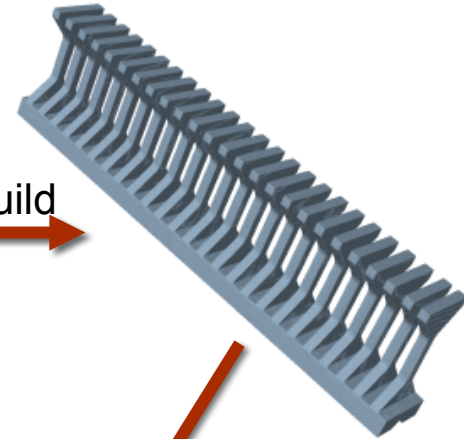


Imaging



Prepare 2D  
images for 3D  
reconstruction

3D Rebuild



Quantitative  
Analysis

Non-destructive

- Micro-computed tomography
- Synchrotron

Destructive

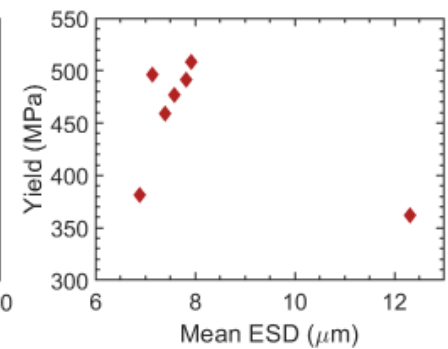
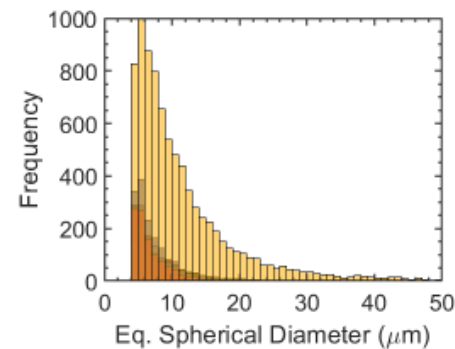
- Mechanical-serial-sectioning
- Tri-beam (SEM) serial sectioning



Nikon Avonix M2 225/450 kV  
Helical Scanner



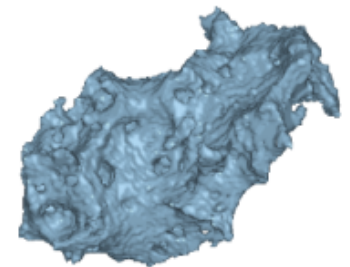
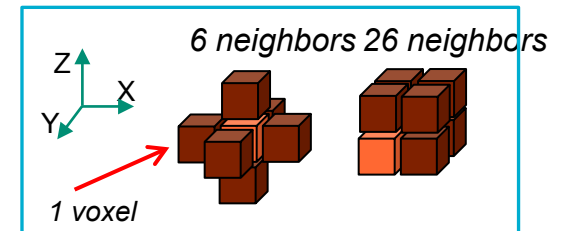
Robo-  
Met.3D  
UFS, Inc.



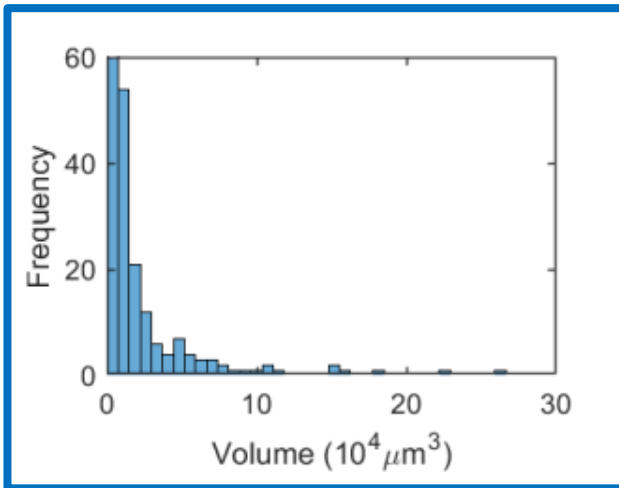




### 3D Voxels

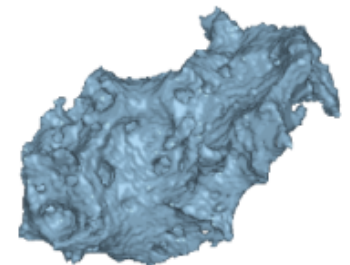


## First order



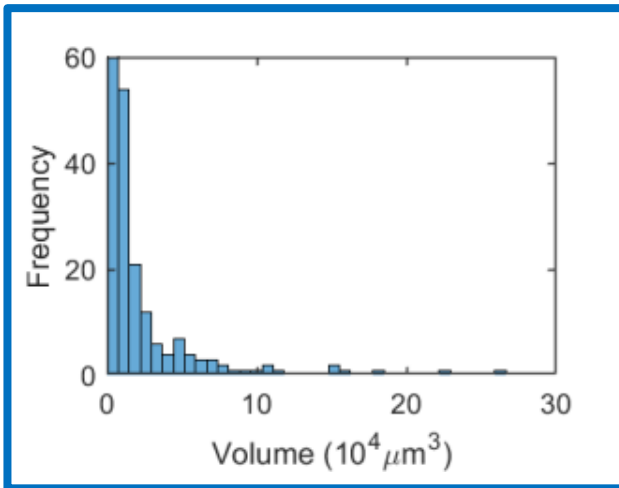
Characterize individual bodies:

- Measure volume by counting voxels
- Calculate equivalent spherical diameters

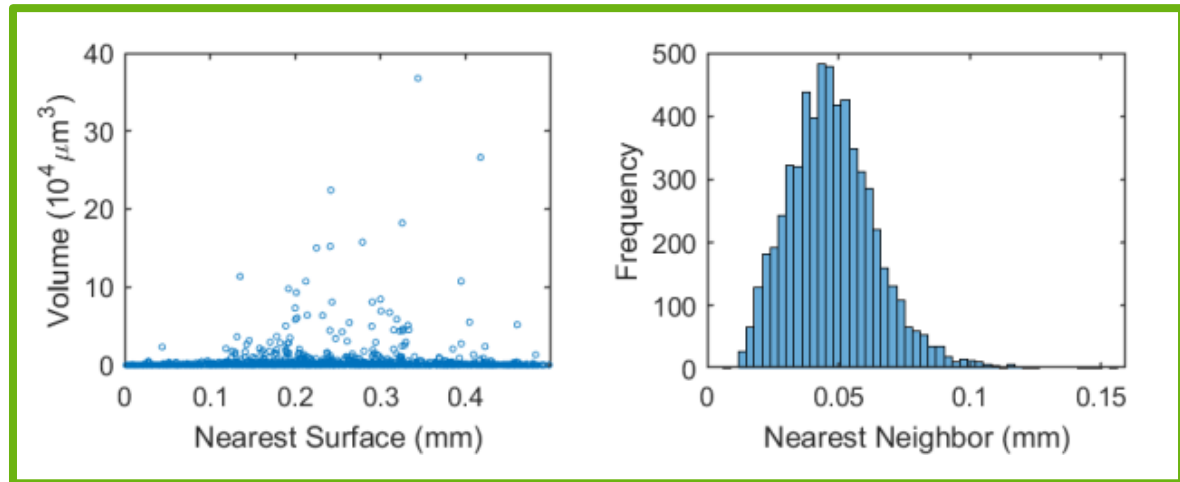




## First order

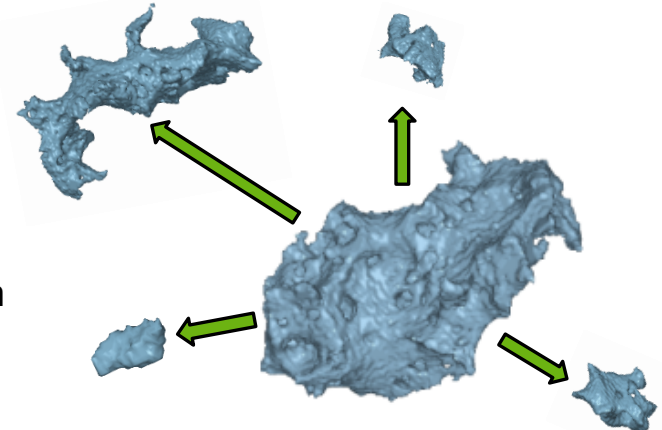


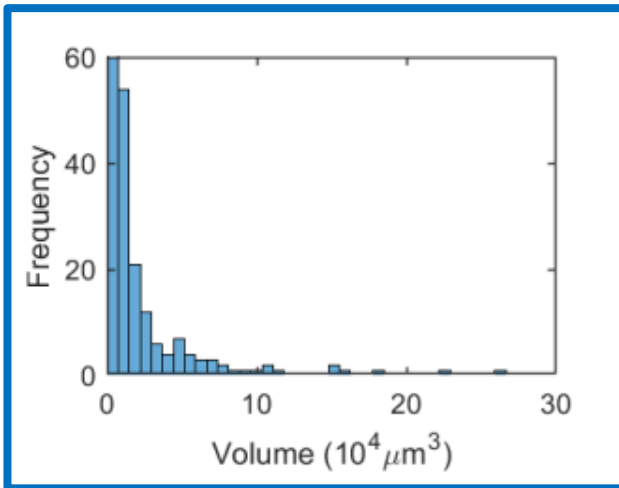
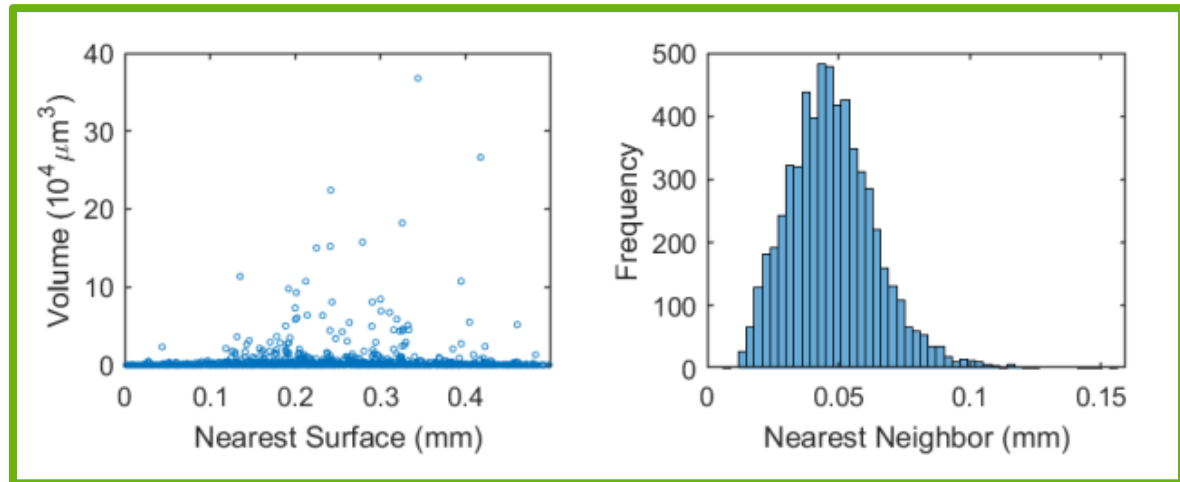
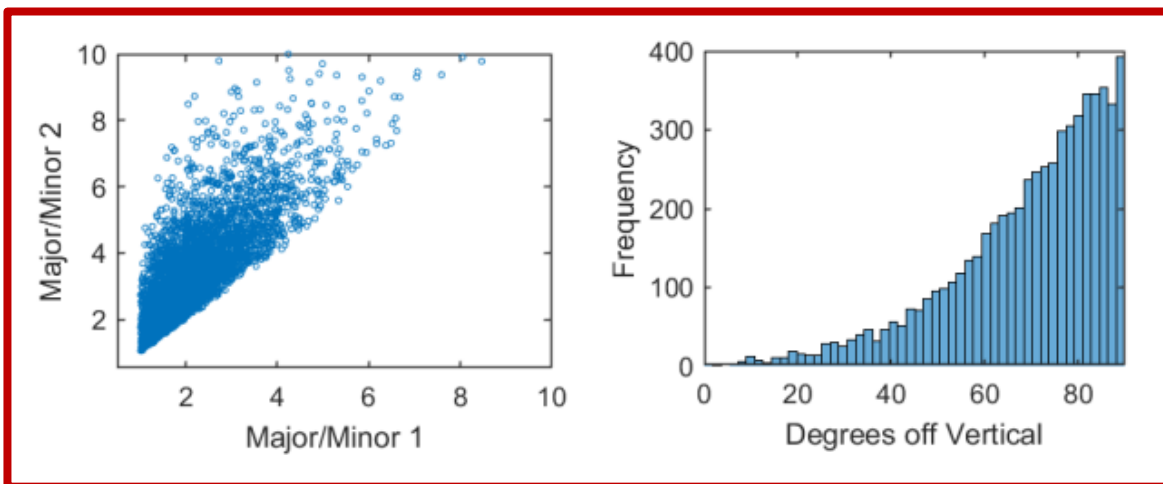
## Second order



Analyze body networks:

- Determine void locations within the specimen
- Find nearest neighbor distances
- Relate spatial information to other void metrics



**First order****Second order****Third order**

Characterize body shape, size and morphology:

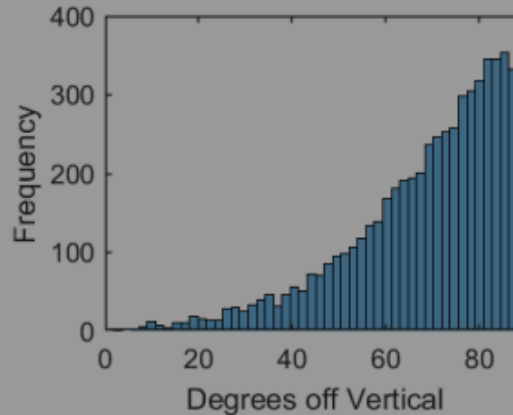
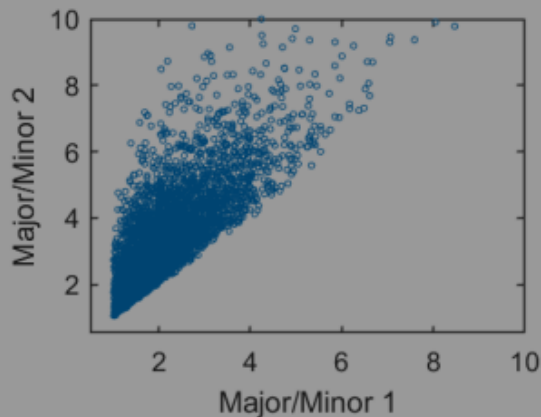
- Fit shapes to voids. Find aspect ratios and shape parameters
- Measure orientation of voids



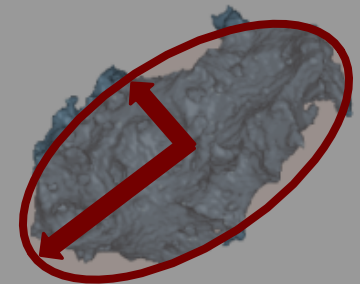
**Ellipse fit**

**First order****Second order**

- 1) How does image processing impact 3D assessment metrics?
- 2) How does imaging technique impact 3D assessment metrics?



- Fit shapes to voids. Find aspect ratios and shape parameters
- Measure orientation of voids

**Ellipse fit**

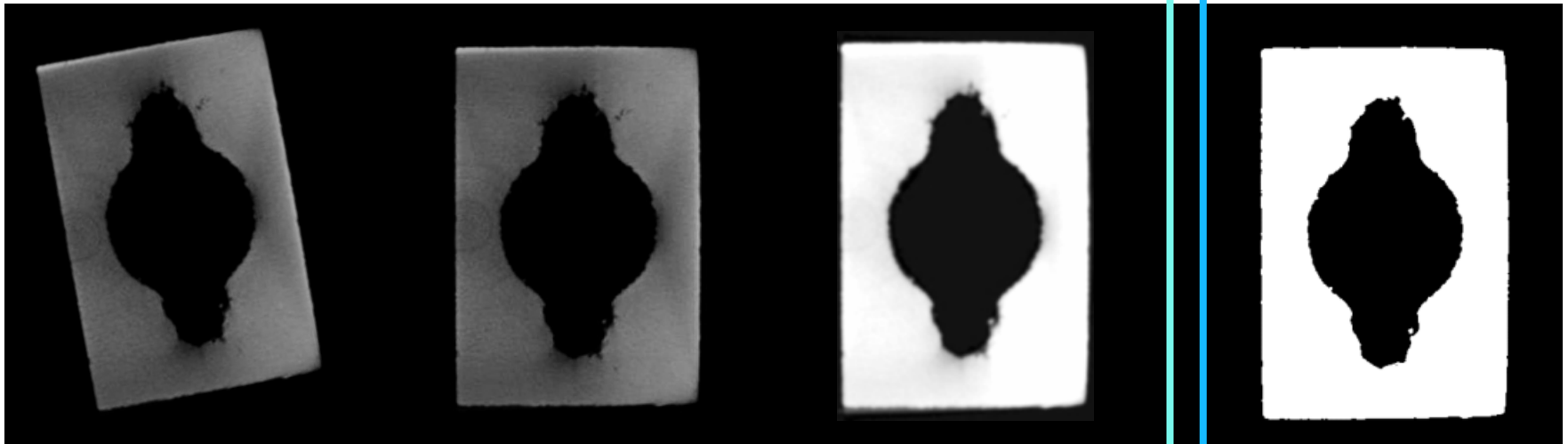


Images prepared for 3D reconstruction and porosity analysis by:

- Pre-processing to improve image quality, remove extraneous data and accentuate features of interest.
- Segmentation to create binary images. Individual voxels represent either material or voids.

Pre-Processing

Feature Identification



Raw Data

Image Preparation

Image Processing

Segmentation

n

# 7 Image Processing Toolbox



Over 20 image processing and three-dimensional analysis scripts created. Each is fully customizable and adaptable for different data sets. These scripts allow automated, batch processing necessary for organization and analysis of big data.

## Image preparation

(6)

Automated image preparation scripts:

- Rotations
- Cropping
- Image selection and renaming
- Image alignment procedures
- Region of interest definition
- Image noise reduction

File organization:

- Creates uniform file locations.
- Reports meta-data

Matlab  Dream3D   
Fiji/ImageJ 

## Image Processing (5)

Normalizing image intensity:

- Bimodal histogram analysis. Normalizes image intensity throughout an image stack

Image smoothing:

- Three dimensional smoothing filters with customizable options.

Advanced filtering:

- Removes uneven background intensity while preserving local image features

Matlab  Dream3D 

## Segmentation (4)

Global threshold:

- Multiple threshold values can be selected and compared.
- Different segmentations can be thresholded.
- Adapts to local image criteria. Accepts custom or established threshold methods.
- Full customization of local search areas and paths.
- Allows baseline

filtering.  
Matlab 

## 3D Reconstruction

(8)

Reconstruction:

- Interactive 3D visualizations.
- Create flythrough movies and rendered images.

Quantitative analysis:

- Individual features of interest and statistical distributions.
- Selectively analyze certain regions or features.
- Plotting and visualization of statistical measures.

Matlab  IDL 

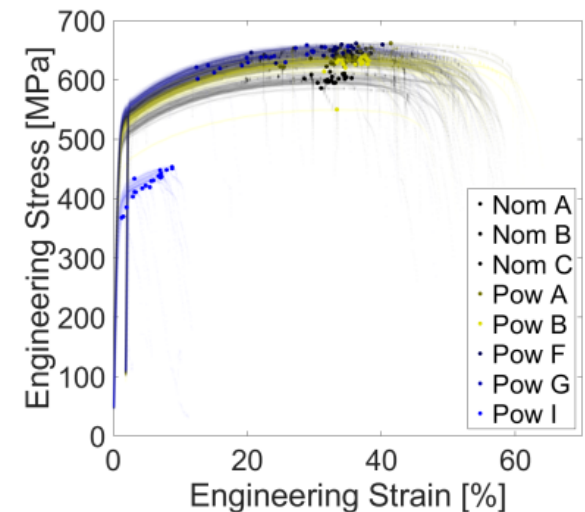
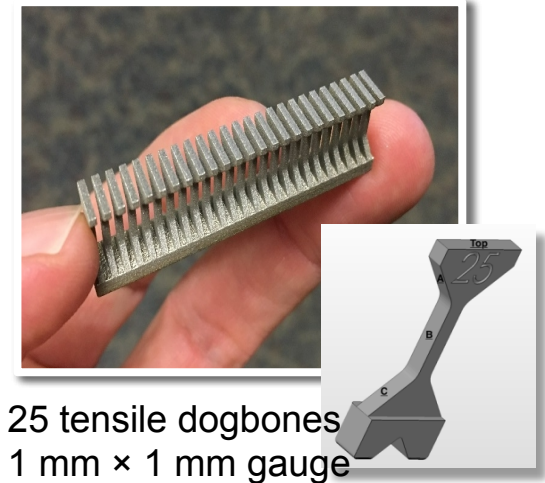
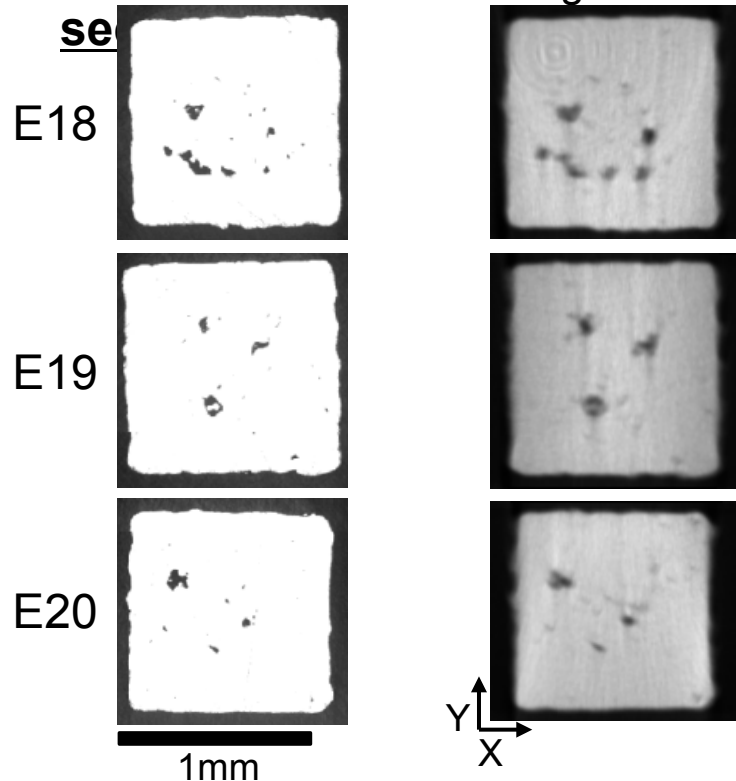
## Case Study

### Characterizing porosity in AM 316L stainless steel

- Structure-property relationships and qualifying AM components

Characterized gauge region in 3 tensile dogbones using:

- X-ray micro-computed tomography (CT)
- Serial sectioning** with Robo-Met.3D®



**High throughput mechanical test data from Nathan Heckman et al.**

# Image Processing: Segmentation

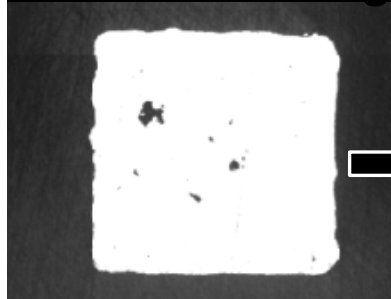


Global segmentation on 8-bit grayscale (voxel intensity between 0 – 255)

- Threshold values 10 – 45.
  - Voxel intensity value below threshold = black
  - Voxel intensity value above threshold = white

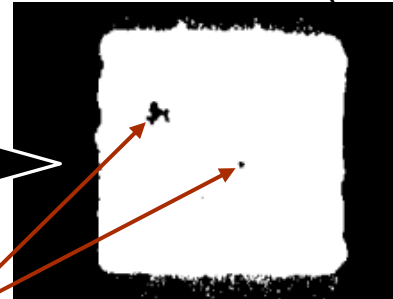
Quantify how threshold value impacts assessment metrics

## Serial sectioning



**Voids**

## Low threshold (80)



Lose image detail  
Create image artifacts

## Middle threshold (155)



Accurate representation

## High threshold (230)



Loses object edges  
False voids possible

# Image Processing: Segmentation

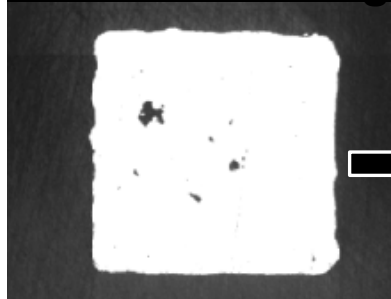


Global segmentation on 8-bit grayscale (voxel intensity between 0 – 255)

- Threshold values 10 – 45.
  - Voxel intensity value below threshold = black
  - Voxel intensity value above threshold = white

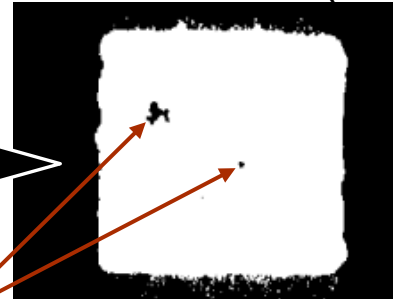
Quantify how threshold value impacts assessment metrics

## Serial sectioning



**Voids**

### Low threshold (80)



Lose image detail  
Create image artifacts

### Middle threshold (155)



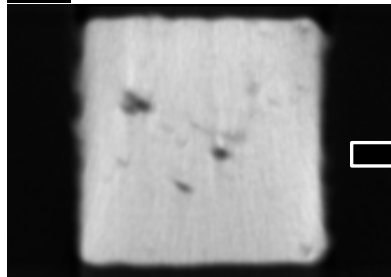
Most accurate  
representation

### High threshold (230)



Loses object edges  
False voids possible

## CT



### Low threshold (100)



Retain object edges  
Lose all void detail

### Middle threshold (160)



Retain object edges  
Capture some detail

### High threshold (210)



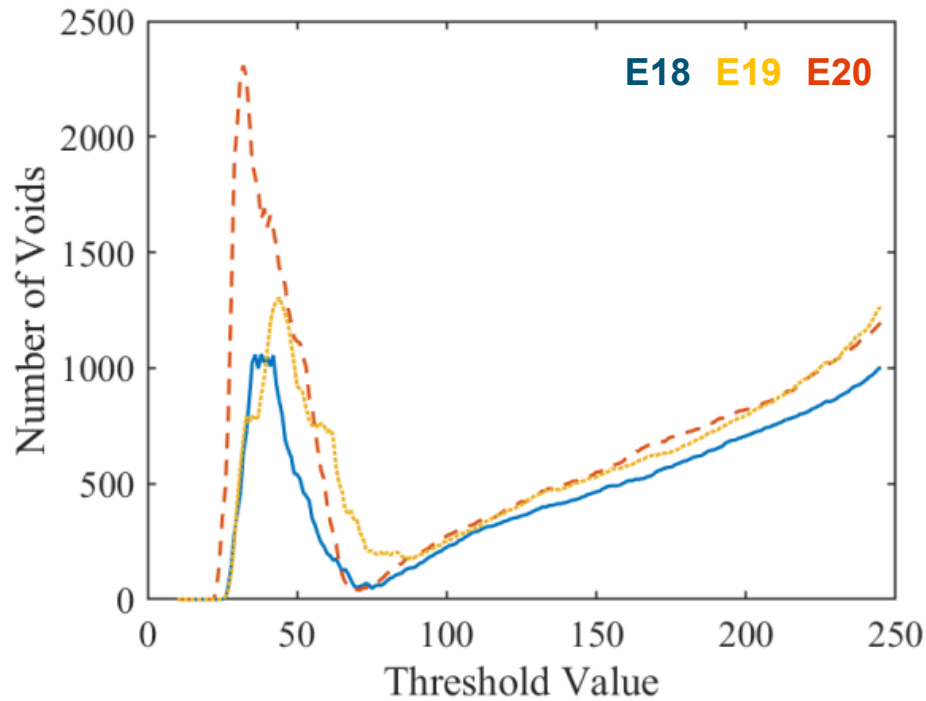
Lose object edges  
Capture voids (slightly  
enlarged)



## Impact of Segmentation: **Serial Sectioning**



### Number of Voids - **Scalar**

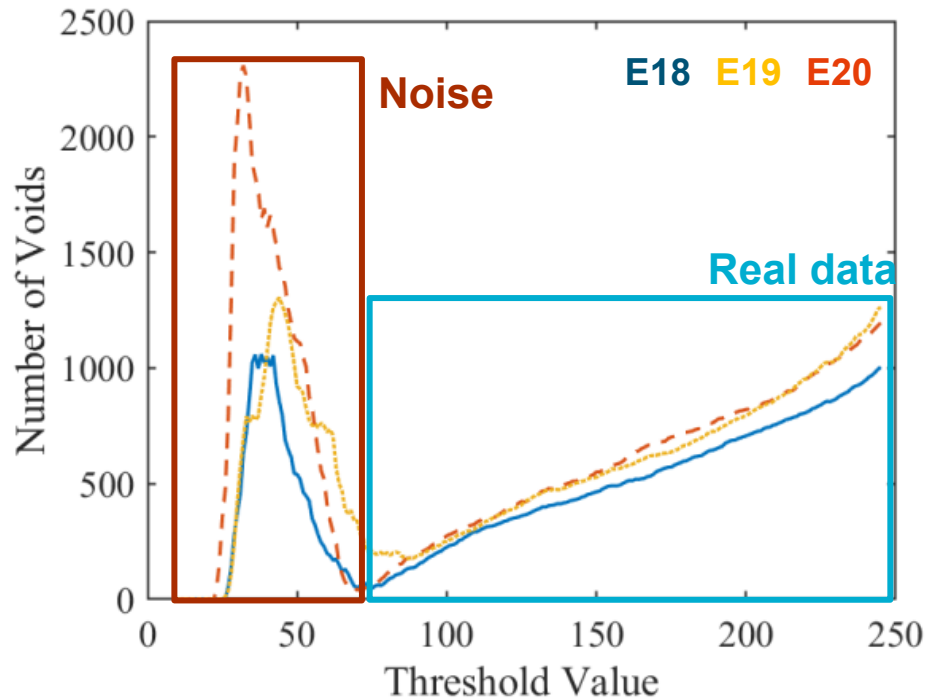


What is a 'good' threshold value?

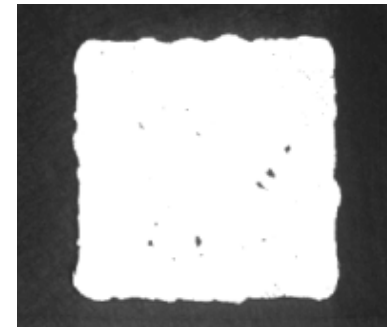
# Impact of Segmentation: **Serial Sectioning**



## Number of Voids - **Scalar**



What is a 'good' threshold value?



Original



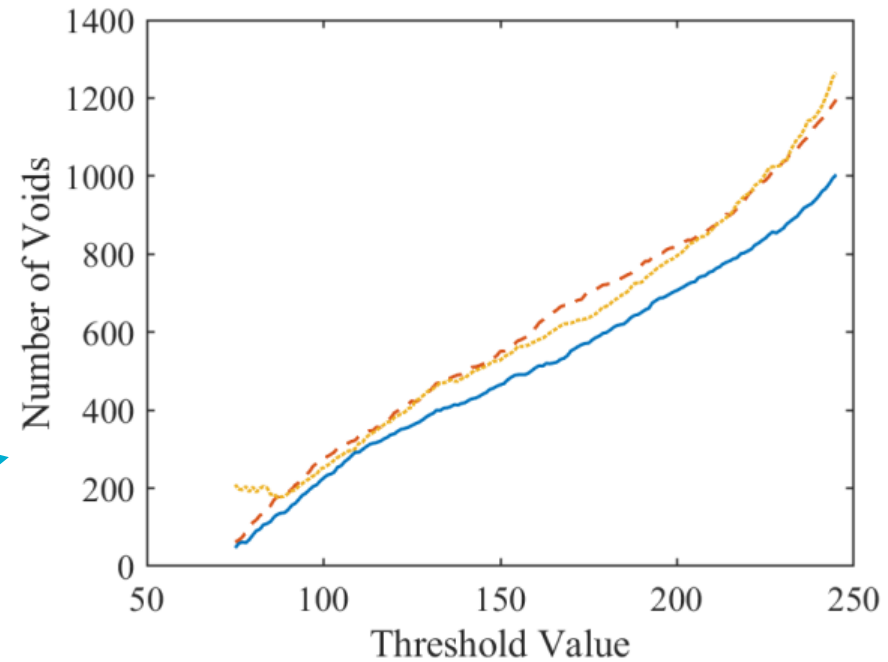
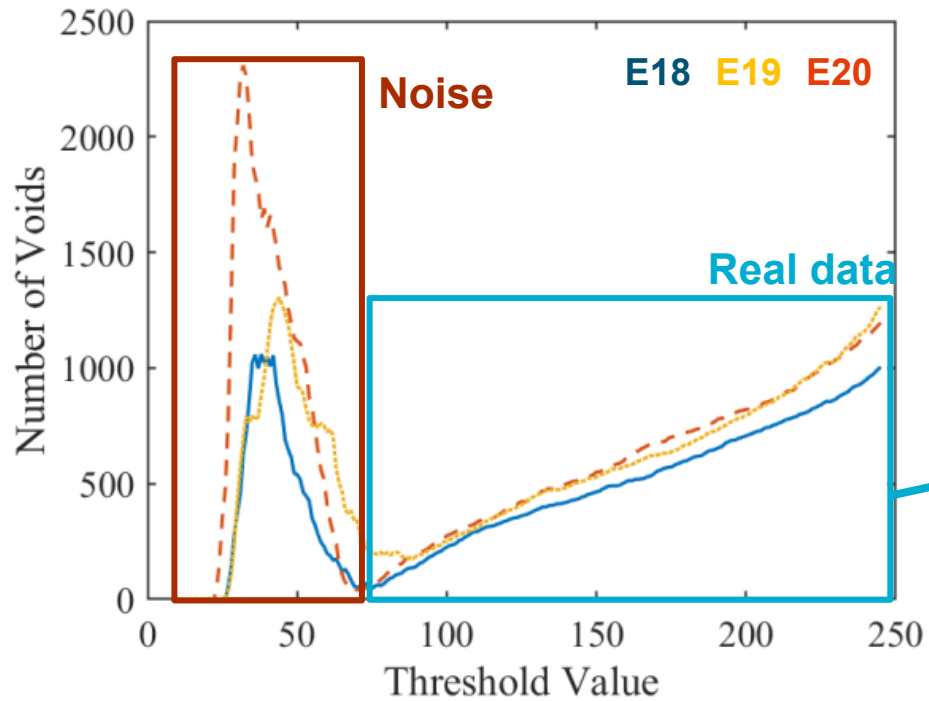
Threshold 50

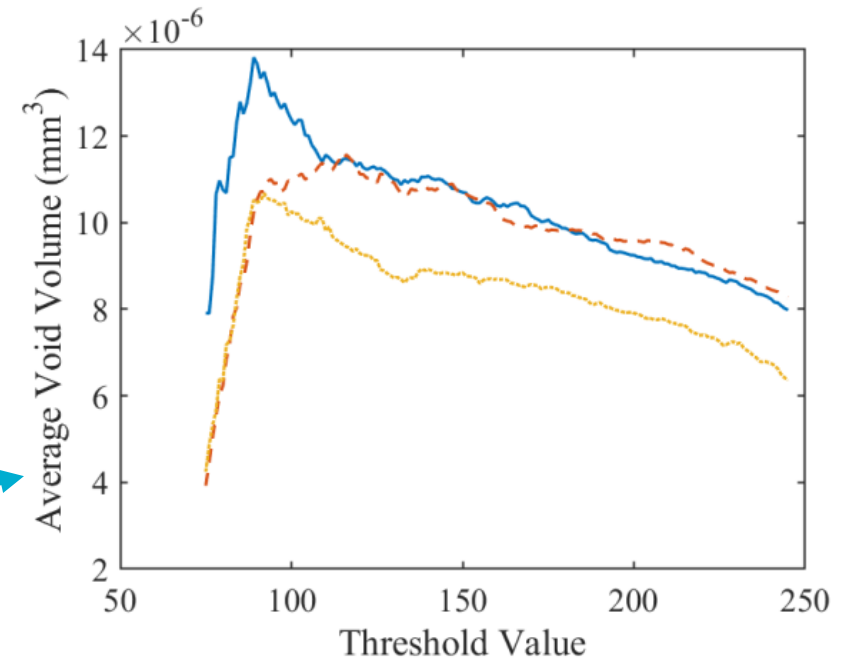
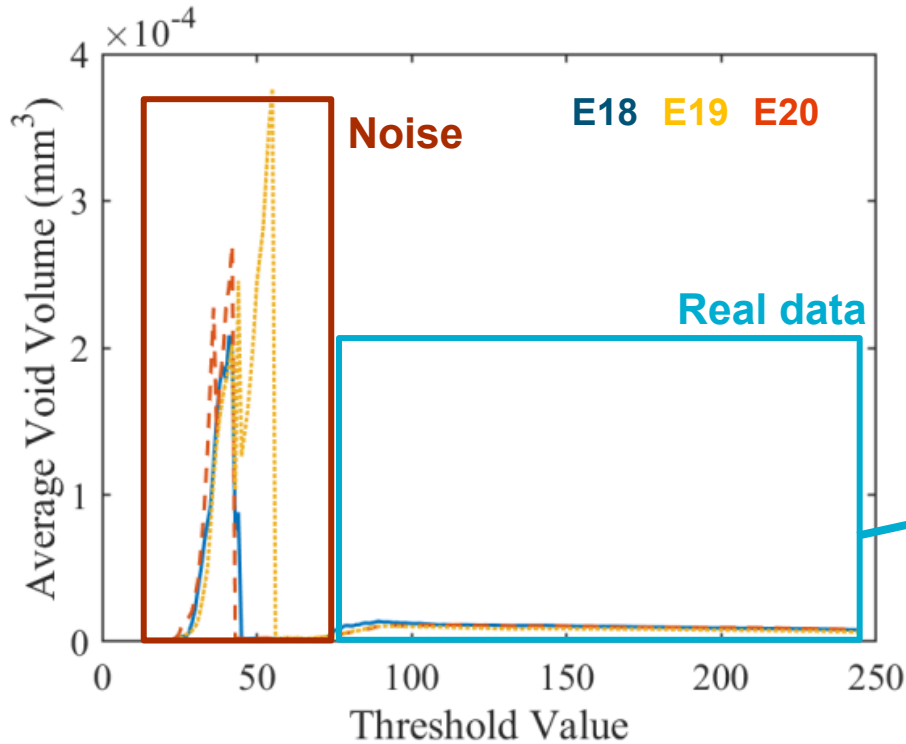


Threshold 150

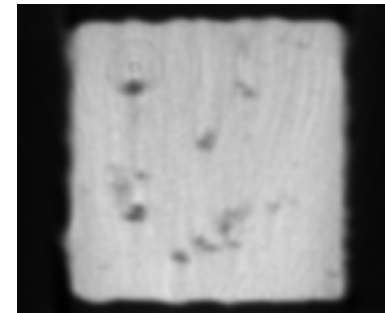
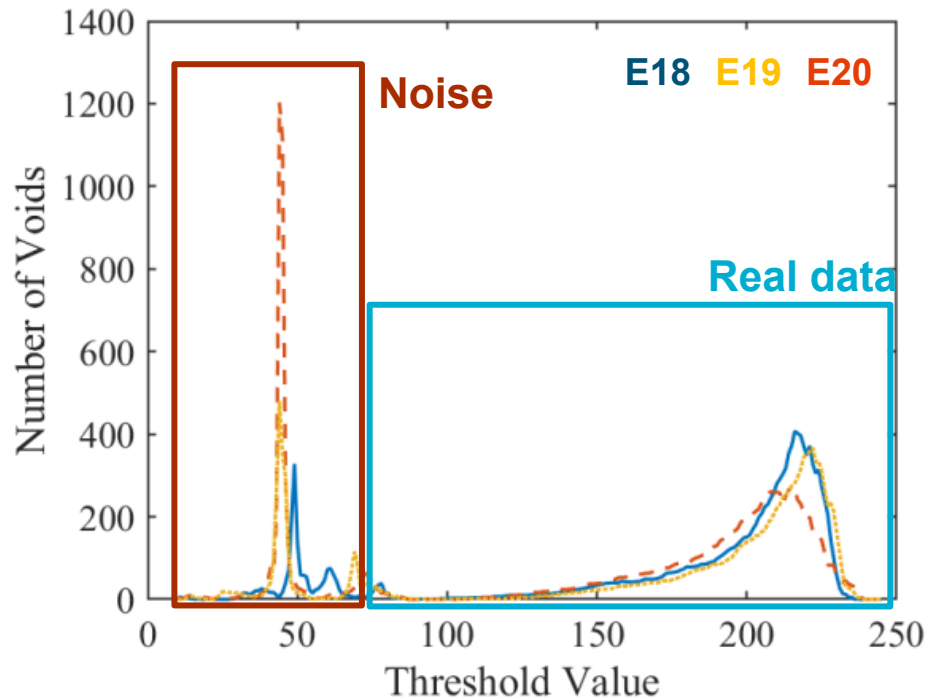


Threshold 200

Number of Voids - **Scalar**

Average Void Volume - **Scalar**

## Number of Voids - **Scalar**



Original



Threshold 50

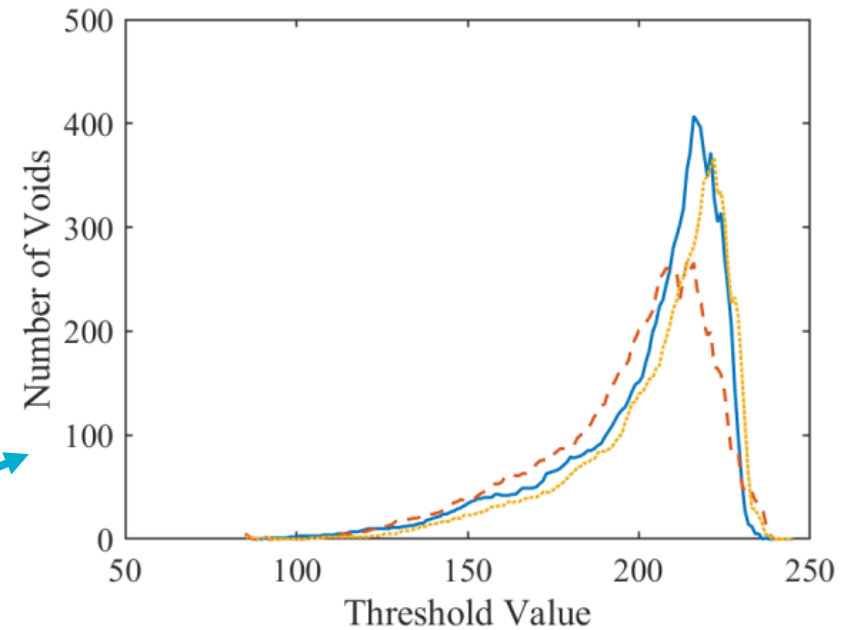
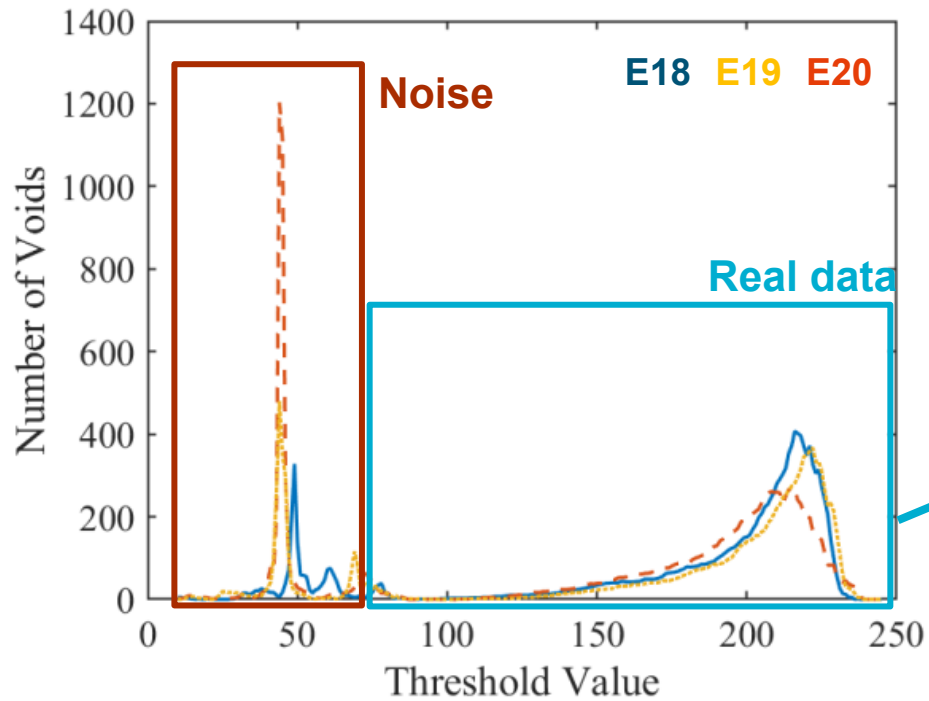


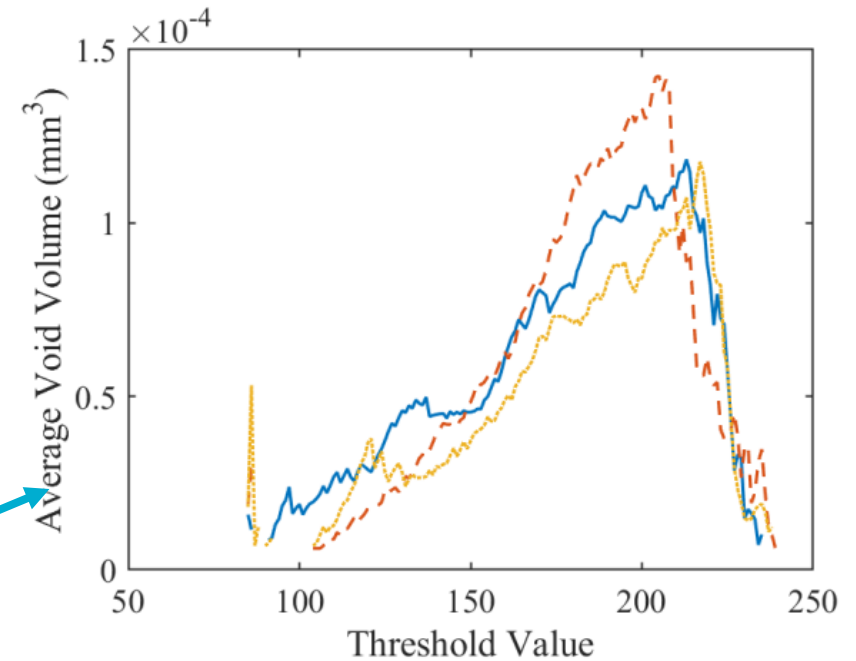
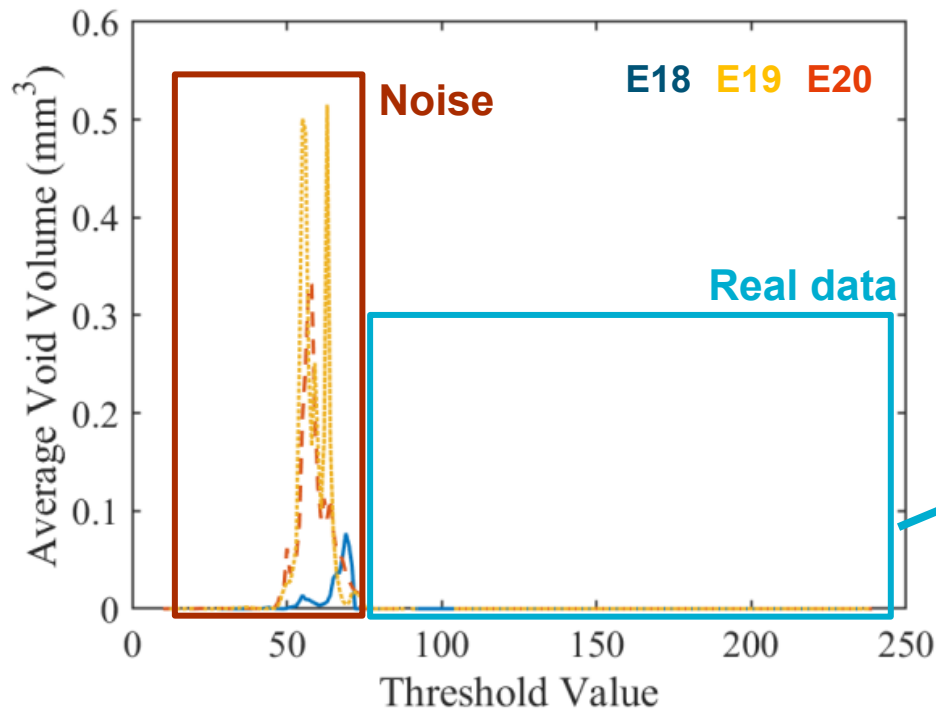
Threshold 150



Threshold 200



Number of Voids - **Scalar**

Average Void Volume - **Scalar**



Approximately equal minimum void volume

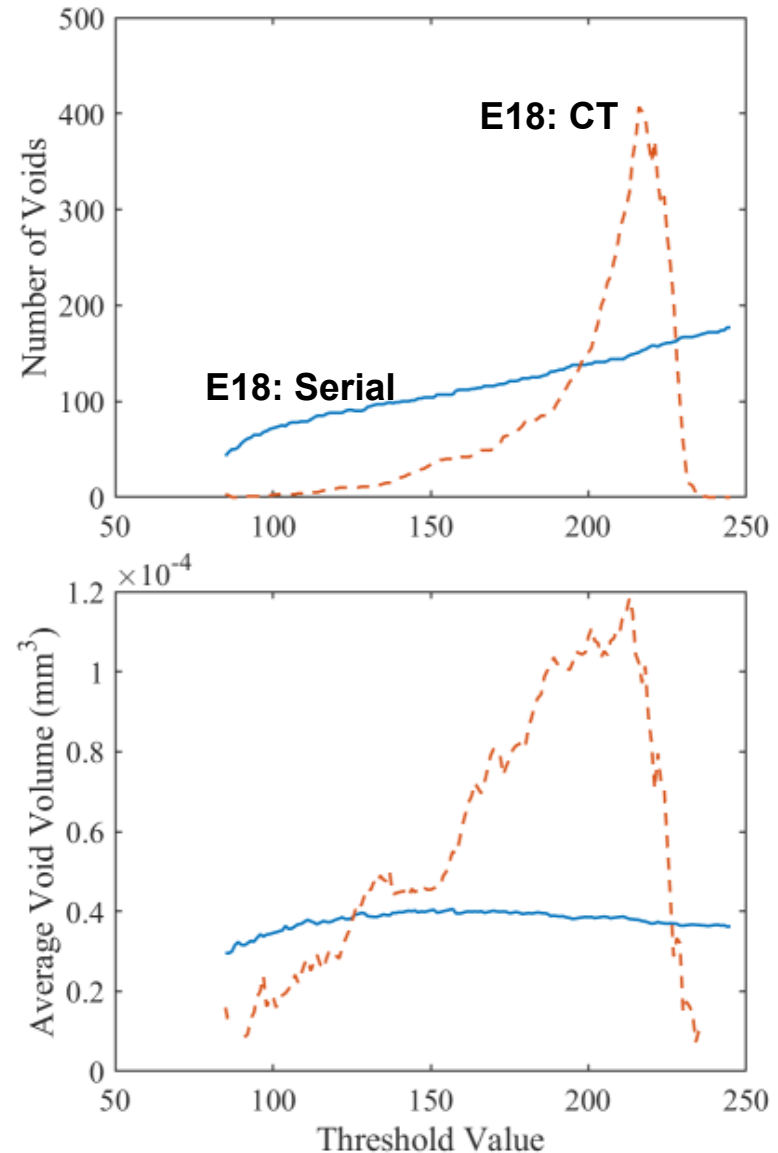
- Serial Sectioning: 64 voxels  $\sim 6144 \mu\text{m}^3$
- Micro-CT: 8 voxels  $\sim 5832 \mu\text{m}^3$

3D measurements from serial sectioning and CT data are different

- More variability noted in CT data

Potential causes for differences?

- Lower resolution of CT compared to serial sectioning
- Alignment differences (serial data is slightly tilted)
- Imaging technique (imaging characteristics)





Approximately equal minimum void volume

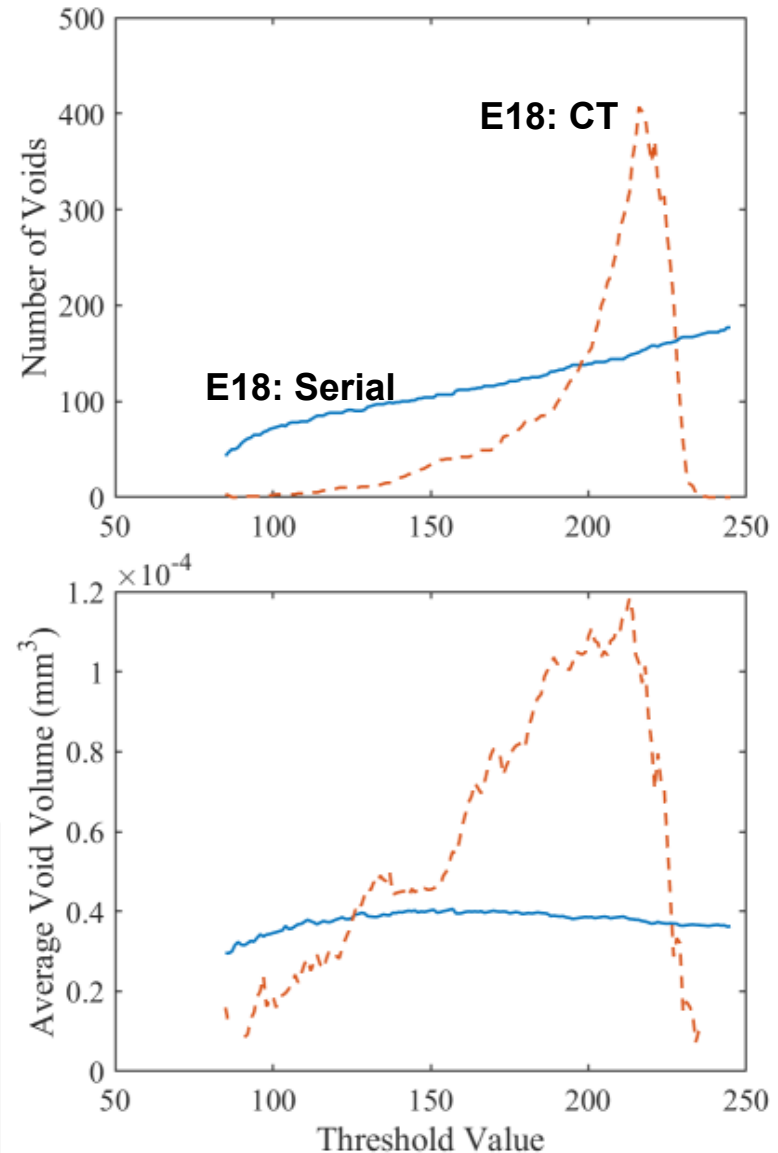
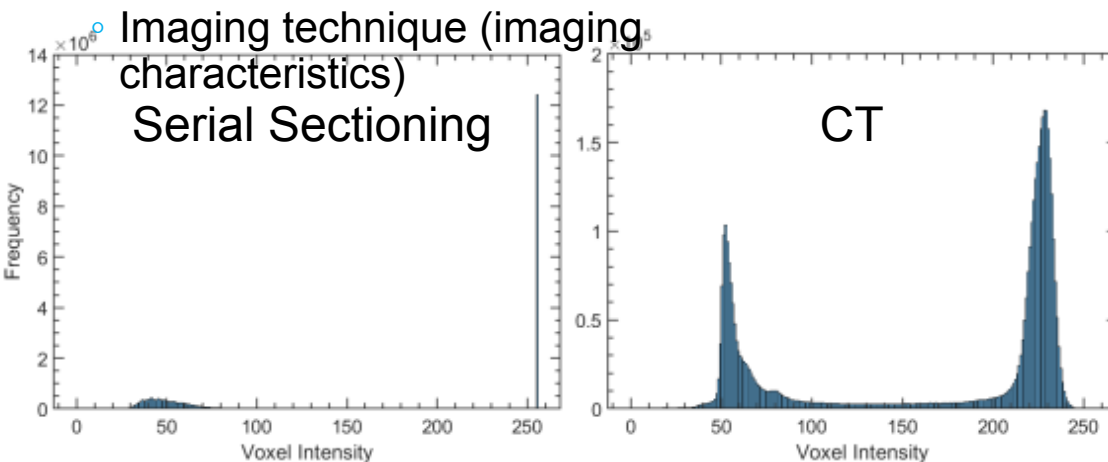
- Serial Sectioning: 64 voxels  $\sim 6144 \mu\text{m}^3$
- Micro-CT: 8 voxels  $\sim 5832 \mu\text{m}^3$

3D measurements from serial sectioning and CT data are different

- More variability noted in CT data

Potential causes for differences?

- Lower resolution of CT compared to serial sectioning
- Alignment differences (serial data is slightly tilted)
- Imaging technique (imaging characteristics)





## **Image Processing**

Segmentation value can significantly impact assessment metrics

- Sensitivity to segmentation value varies with assessment metric

First-order assessment metrics can change considerably with the image acquisition technique

- CT exhibited more variability than serial sectioning

Quantification of the impact of image processing decisions on assessment metrics are needed to:

- 1) Understand uncertainty in assessment metrics
- 2) Optimize imaging characteristics for particular assessment metrics
- 3) Move toward automated image processing

## **Recommendations**

Imaging characteristics should be optimized for feature identification and for a specific assessment metric of interest

It is worthwhile to determine uncertainties associated with different assessment metrics

Qualification/inspection criteria should be based upon an optimized imaging procedure and selected assessment metrics with acceptable variability



## Image Straightening



Images were initially tilted in the YZ and XZ planes

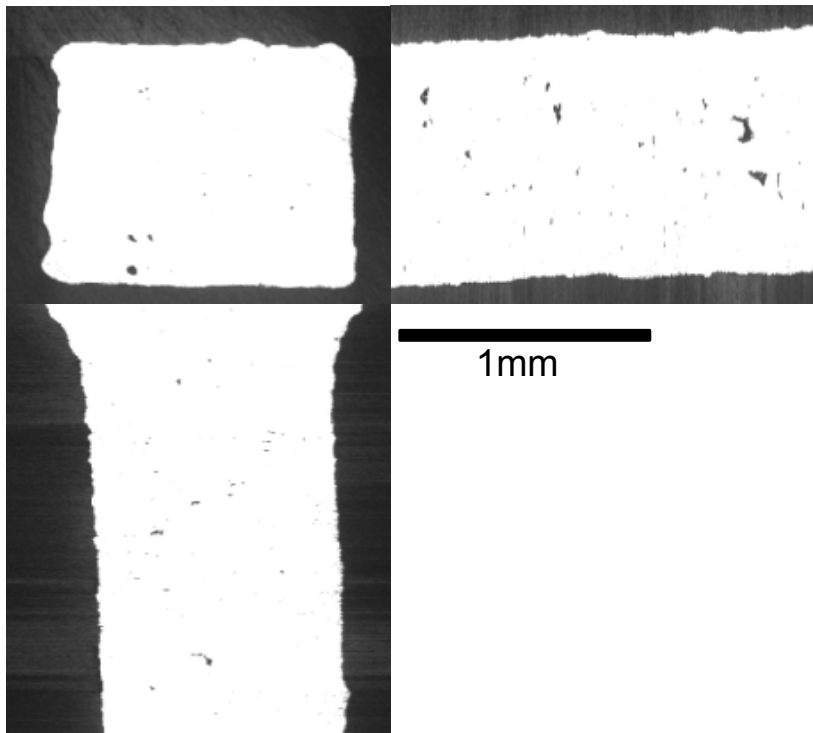
- Tilting is from their alignment in the metallography puck

Each specimen was straightened in these planes

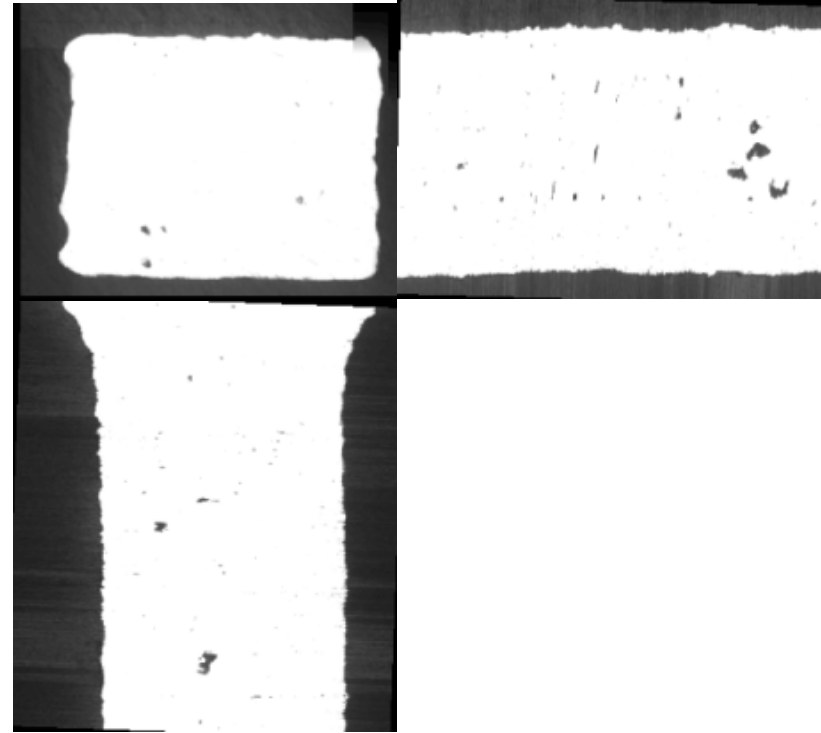
- Demonstrated on E20

Specimens were analyzed before and after straightening

Before straightening



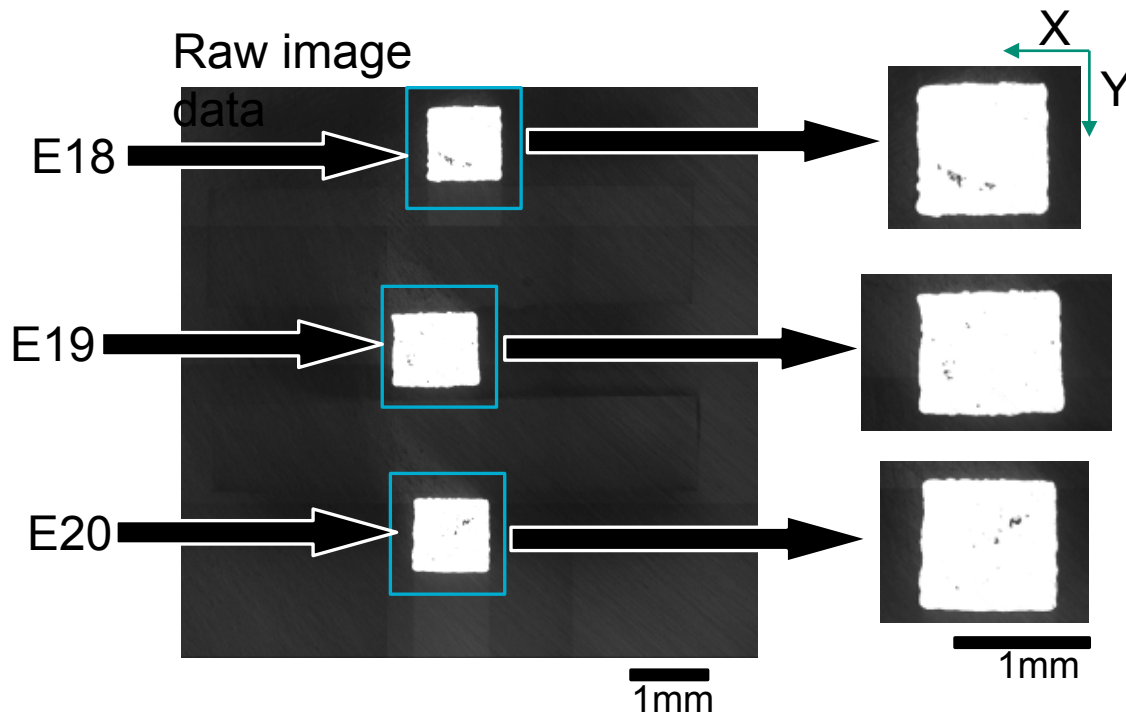
After straightening



Specimens were simultaneously imaged in the same metallography puck

Specimens were characterized individually by cropping each from the original image stack

Image slices were then aligned in the XY plane



## Case Study

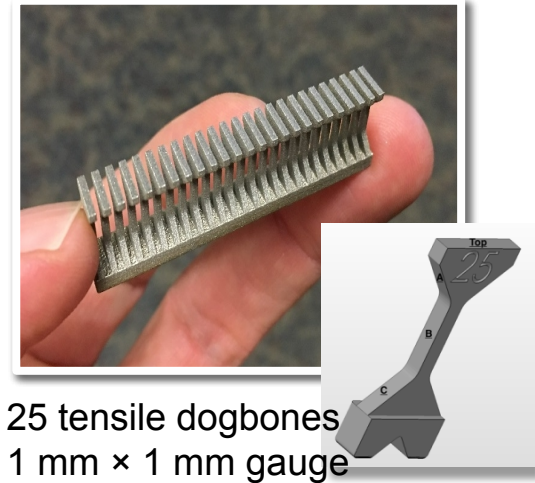


### Characterizing porosity in AM 316L stainless steel

- Structure-property relationships and qualifying AM components

### Characterized gauge region in 3 tensile dogbones using:

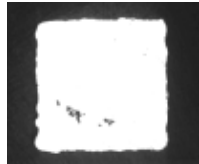
- X-ray micro-computed tomography (CT)
- Destructive serial sectioning with Robo-Met.3D®



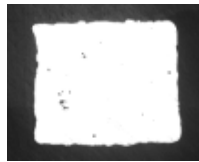
### Serial sectioning

#### data

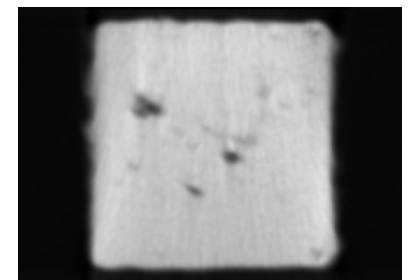
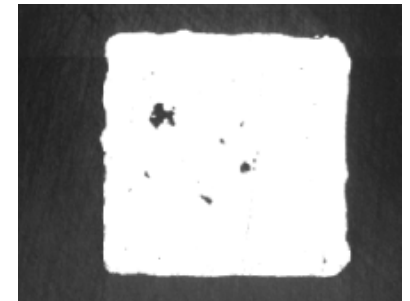
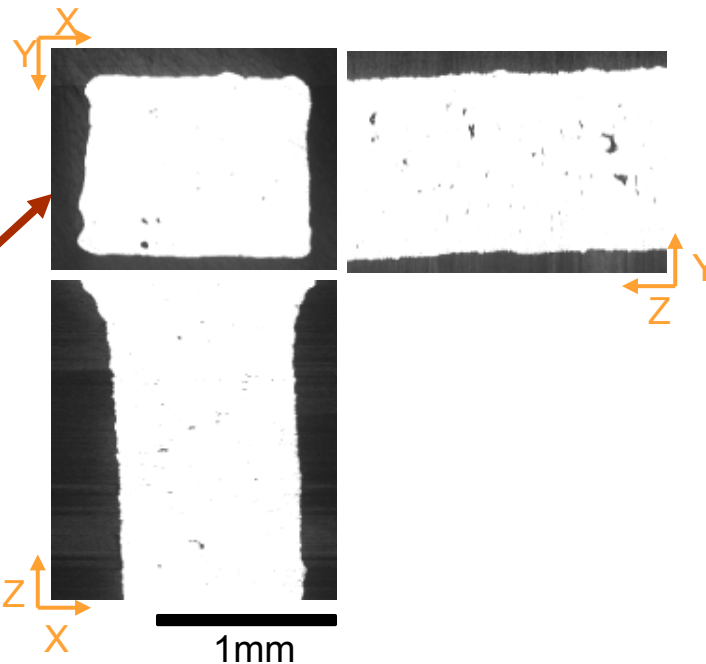
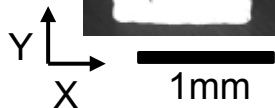
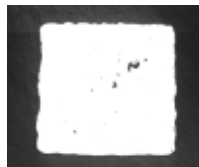
E18



E19



E20

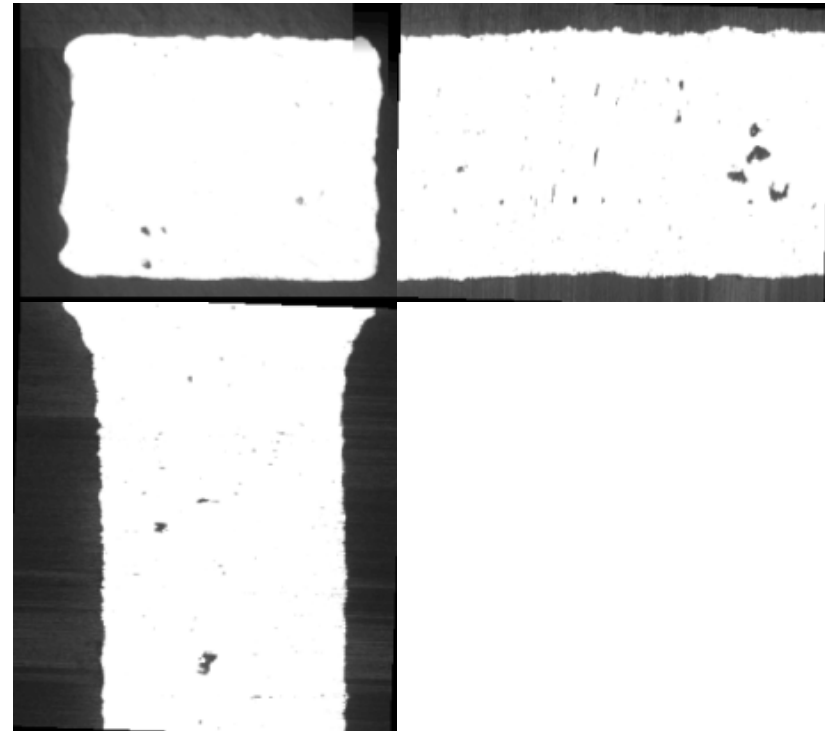
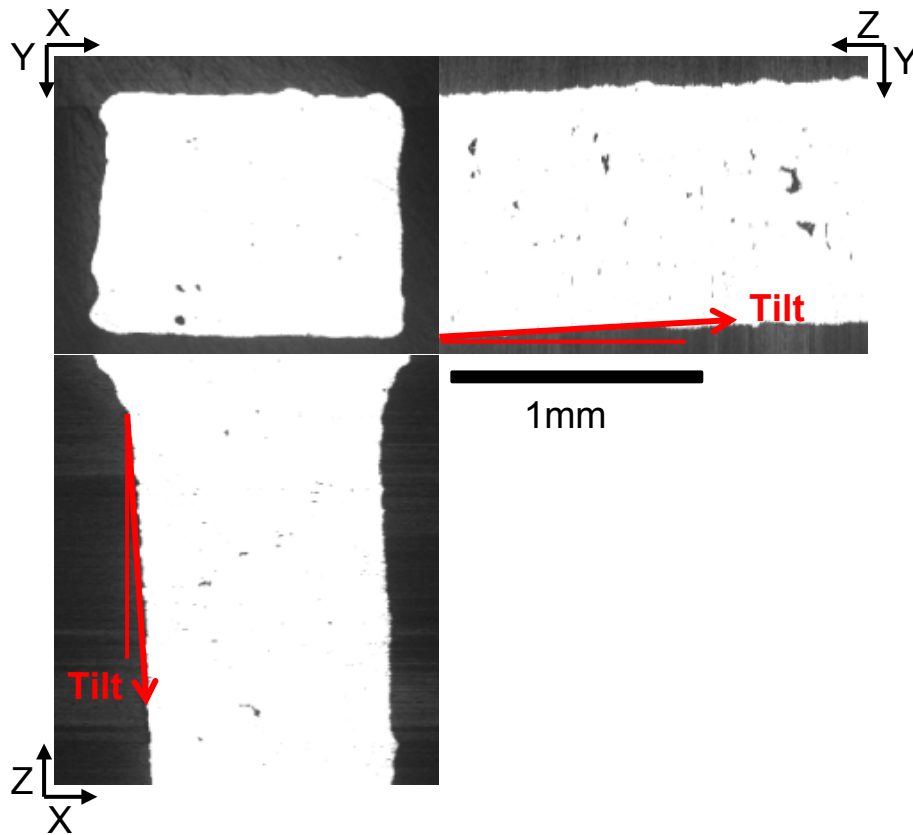


## Image Preparation: Serial Sectioning

Align images and perform tilt corrections

- Tilt corrected using a bilinear rotation algorithm

Specimens were analyzed before and after straightening



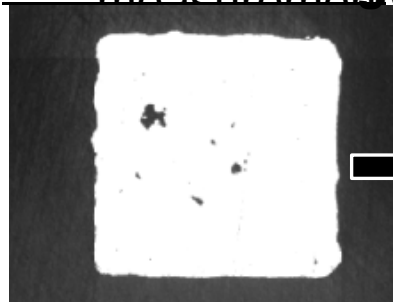
# Image Processing: Segmentation

Global segmentation on 8-bit grayscale scale (voxel intensity between 0 – 255)

- Threshold values 10 – 45.
  - Voxel intensity value below threshold = black
  - Voxel intensity value above threshold = white
- Voids are black. Material is white

Need to quantify how changing the threshold value effects 3D

## Serial sectioning



E20 image 143; Serial sectioning



Low threshold (80)



Loses image detail and creates image artifacts

Middle threshold (155)



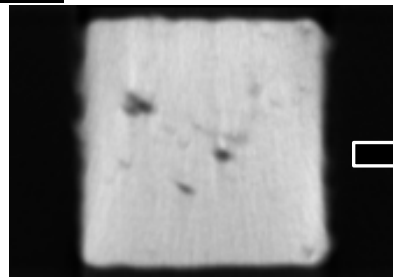
Most accurate representation

High threshold (230)



Loses detail around the object edges and creates false voids

## CT



E20 image 117; Micro-CT



Low threshold (100)



Loses all void detail but retains object edges

Middle threshold (160)



Retains object edges and catches some detail

High threshold (210)



Catches all voids (slightly enlarges their sizes) and loses detail around object