

# A Cast3M function to solve bone growth and remodeling problems

M. Gastón Alonso\*, Alejandro A. Yawny and Graciela M. Bertolino

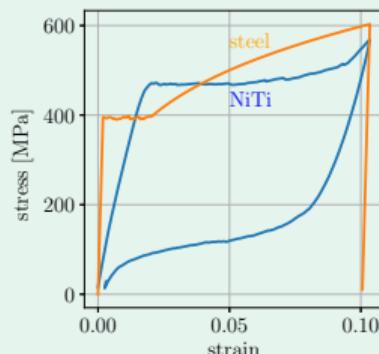
División Física de Metales - CNEA - Centro Atómico Bariloche - Argentina  
CONICET  
Instituto Balseiro, UNCuyo

\* [marcelo.alonso@cab.cnea.gov.ar](mailto:marcelo.alonso@cab.cnea.gov.ar)



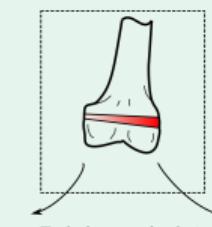
# Context and motivation

## SMA's mechanical behavior



## Research interest

Genu varo



Genu valgo

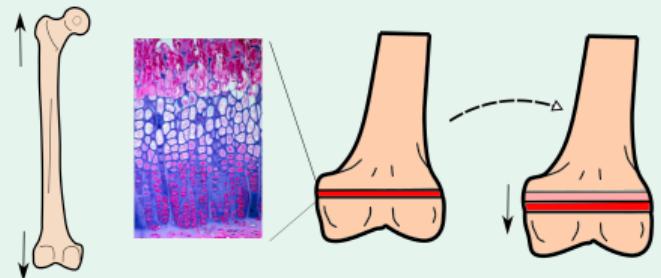


We know mechanical loads can alter growth.

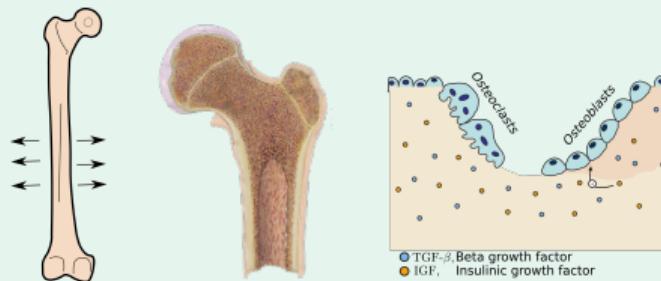
We need to define the magnitude of the load.

# Problem description

## Longitudinal growth



## Bone remodeling

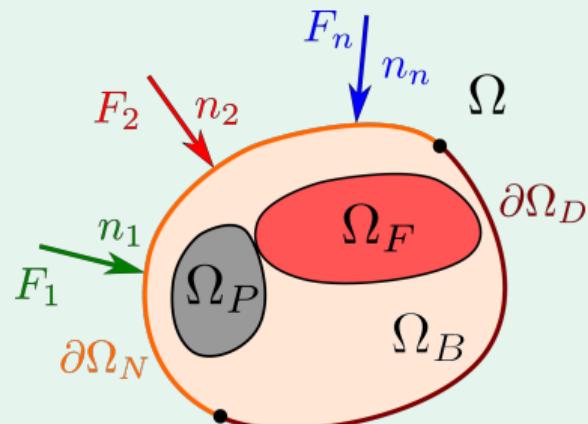


## Highlights

- Longitudinal growth stops at late adolescence.
- Both mechanisms depend on multiple (stochastic) factors.
- Mechanical loads interact with growth and remodeling.
- Distinctive speeds:
  - Longitudinal growth:  $\sim \frac{\text{mm}}{\text{month}}$
  - Remodeling:  $\sim \frac{\mu\text{m}}{\text{month}}$ .

# Problem posing

## Mathematical domain



## 'State' functions

- $M(\vec{r}, t)$
- $\rho(\vec{r}, t)$

## Phenomenological equations

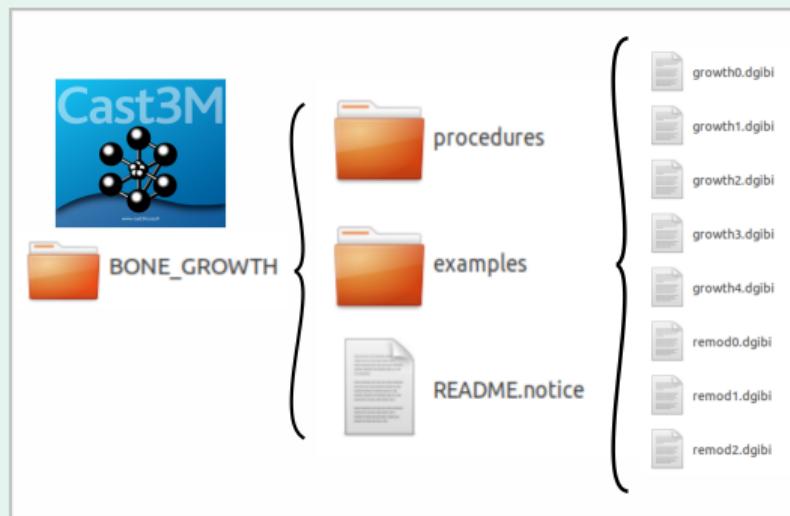
- $\mathbf{E}(\rho, M, \vec{r}, t)$
- $\dot{M}(M, \sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_n, n_1, \dots, n_n, \mathbf{E}, t)$
- $\dot{\varepsilon}(M, \sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_n, n_1, \dots, n_n, \mathbf{E}, t)$
- $\dot{r}(M, \sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_n, n_1, \dots, n_n, \mathbf{E}, \rho, t)$
- $S_v(\rho) \quad (\dot{r} \rightarrow \dot{\rho})$

## Initial conditions

- $\rho_0(\vec{r}), M_0(\vec{r}), \sigma_0(\vec{r})$

# Software

## Cast3M function



Highly customizable, verified code. Several implementation examples.

Significant improvements of growth algorithm.

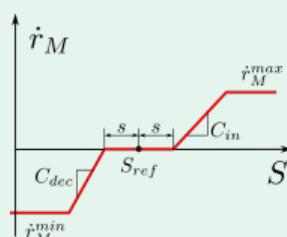
Devices optimization, from an engineering standpoint.

\* M.G. Alonso, A. Yawny and G. Bertolino, A tool for solving bone growth related problems using finite elements adaptive meshes. Journal of the Mechanical Behavior of Biomedical Materials (2021), doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jmbbm.2021.104946>. (In press)

# Default implemented model

## Remodeling equations

$$\dot{r}(\vec{r}, t) = \dot{r}_B(\vec{r}, t) + \dot{r}_M(\vec{r}, t)$$



$$S = \sum_i (n_i \bar{\sigma}_i^m)^{1/m}$$

$$\dot{\rho} = S_v(\rho) \rho_c \dot{r}$$

$$S_v(\rho) = \left(\frac{\rho}{\rho_c}\right)^2 \mathcal{P}^6(\rho)$$

Based on Beaupré G.S., Orr T.E., Carter D.R. An approach for time-dependent bone modeling and remodeling. application: A preliminary remodeling simulation J. Orthop. Res., 8 (1990), pp. 662-670

## Growth equations

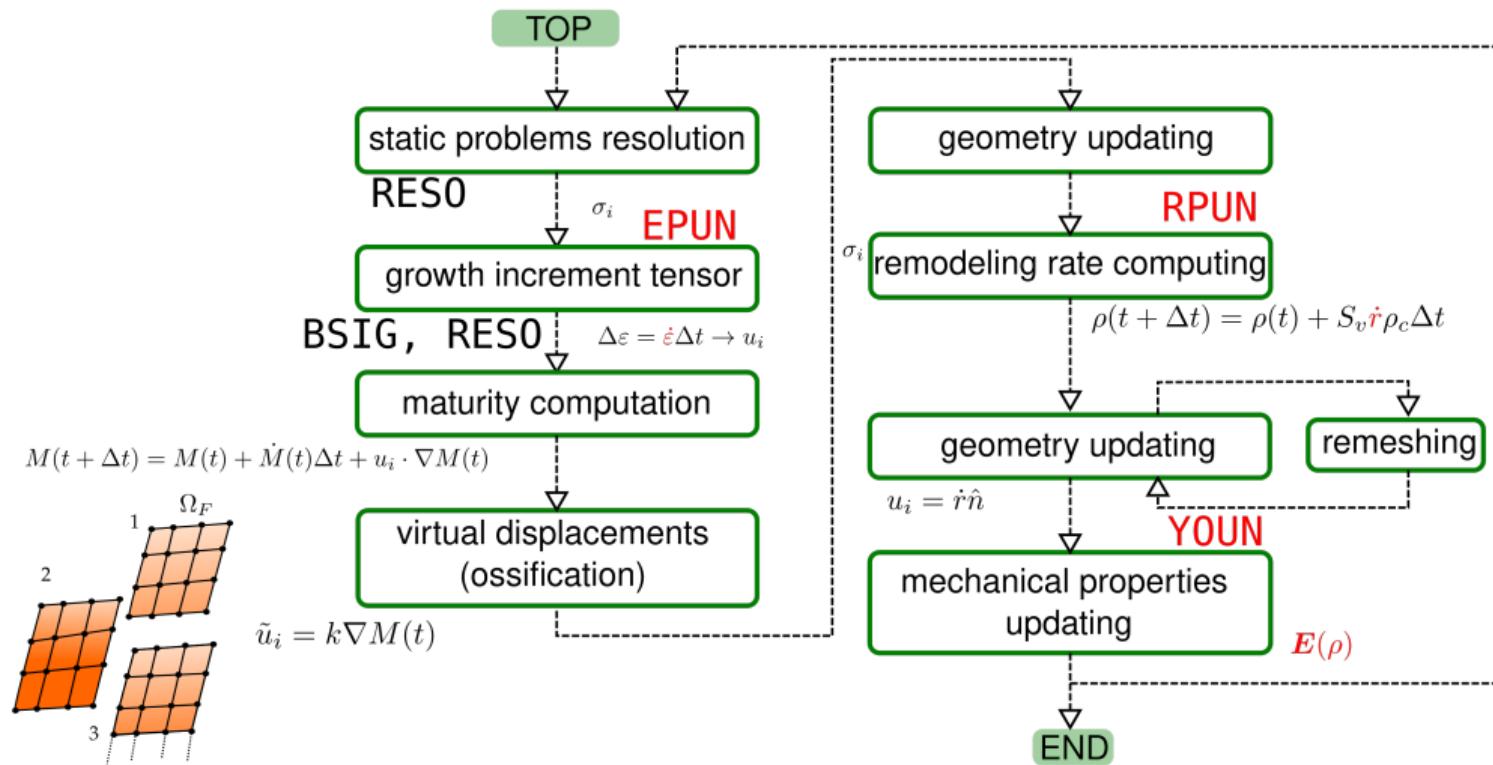
$$\dot{\varepsilon}_{ij} = (\dot{\varepsilon}_M + \dot{\varepsilon}_B) \varepsilon_{ij}$$

$$\dot{\varepsilon}_M = \kappa_M \sum_{i=1}^k n_i \sigma_{hi}$$

$$\dot{M}(\vec{r}, t) = \sum_i \dot{\varepsilon}_{ii}(\vec{r}, t)$$

Based on Giorgi M., Carriero A., Shefelbine S., Nowlan N. Effects of normal and abnormal loading conditions on morphogenesis of the prenatal hip joint: application to hip dysplasia J. Biomech., 48 (2015), pp. 3390-3397

# Algorithm



# Usage

## Input

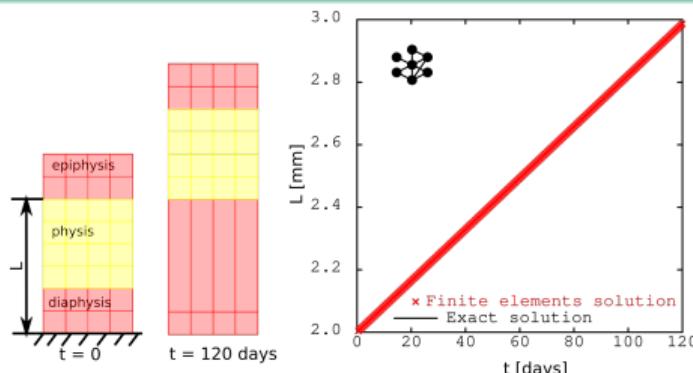
```
(TAB2 = ) BONE_GROWTH TAB1;  
TAB1 = TABL;  
TAB1.'BONE' (MAILLAGE)  
TAB1.'LOADS' (TABLE)  
TAB1.'DENSITY' (CHPOINT)  
TAB1.'CALCULATED_TIMES' (LISTREEL)  
(TAB1.'PHYSIS' (MAILLAGE))  
(TAB1.'PROSTHESIS' (MAILLAGE))
```

## Output

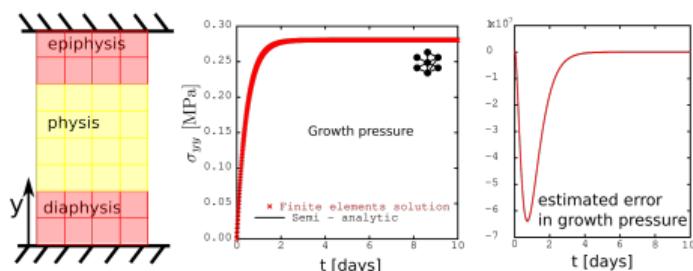
```
TAB1 = TABL;  
TAB1.'RESULTS'.(I) = TABL;  
TAB1.'RESULTS'.(I).'TIME' (REEL)  
TAB1.'RESULTS'.(I).'MODEL' (MMODEL)  
TAB1.'RESULTS'.(I).'DENSITY' (CHPOINT)  
TAB1.'RESULTS'.(I).'MATERIAL' (MCHAML)  
TAB1.'RESULTS'.(I).'STRESS' (MCHAML)
```

More details in file README.notice

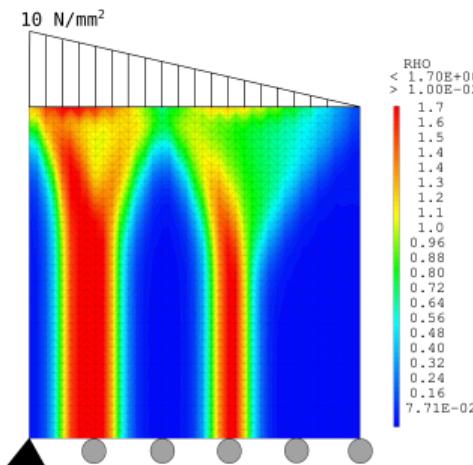
# Some validation cases



growth0.dgibi: Free longitudinal growth.

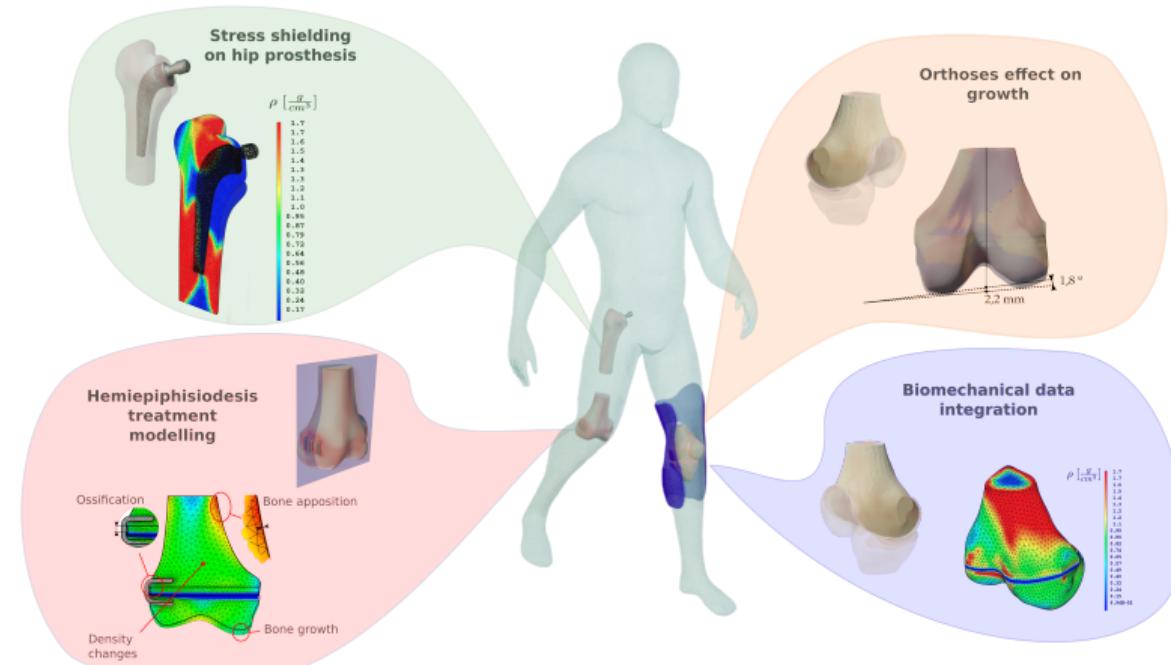


growth1.dgibi: Constrained longitudinal growth.



remod0.dgibi: Theoretical cases studied by Weinans, H., Huiskes, R., Grootenhuis, H. J., "The behavior of adaptive bone remodeling simulation models", J. Biomechanics, Vol. 25. No. 12 pp 1425-1441, 1992

# Selected cases



+

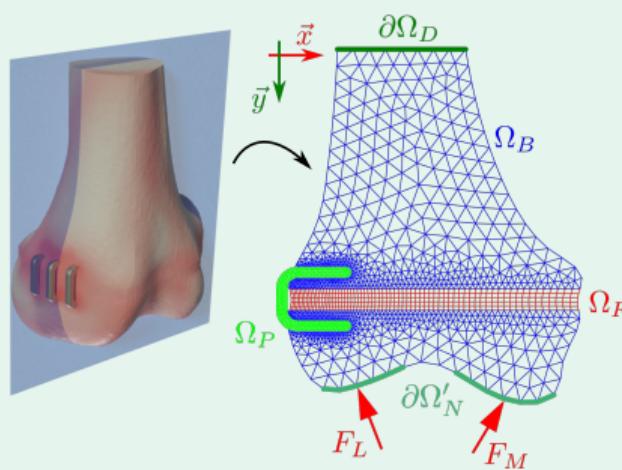


+



# 2D model of a hemiepiphysiodesis treatment

## Problem posing

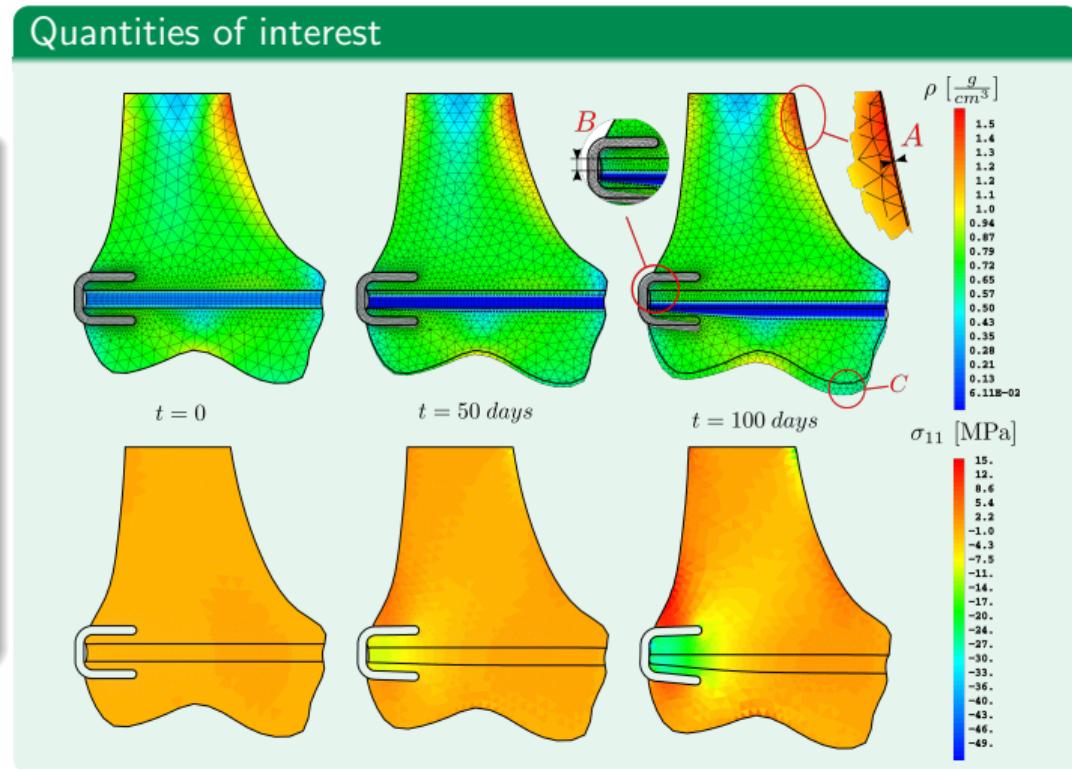


| Load state | $F_L$<br>[N/mm] | $F_M$<br>[N/mm] | $n$  |
|------------|-----------------|-----------------|------|
| 1          | 15              | 15              | 6000 |
| 2          | 0               | 7.5             | 3000 |
| 3          | 7.5             | 0               | 3000 |

growth3.dgibi

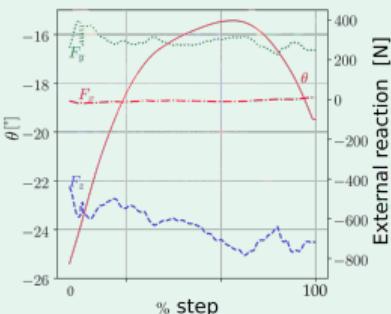
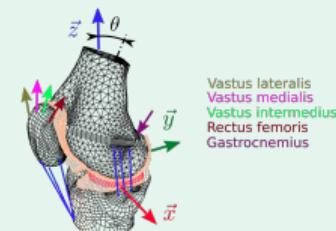
# Growth evolution

## Geometry evolution



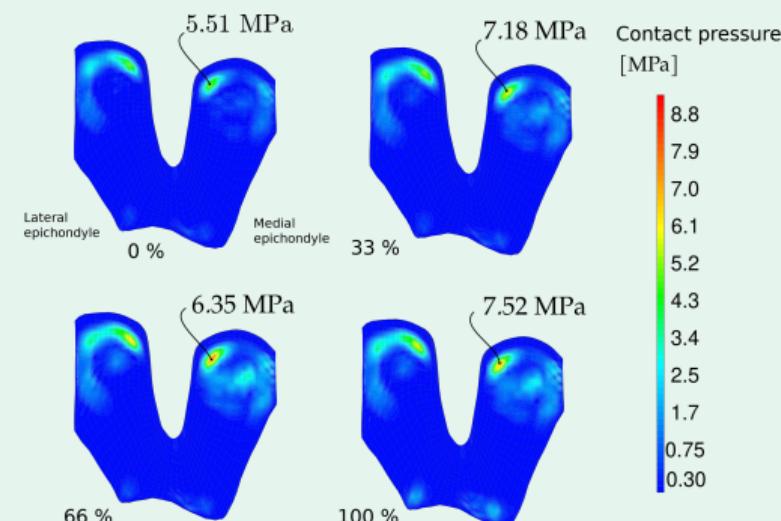
# Knee model

## Contact problem



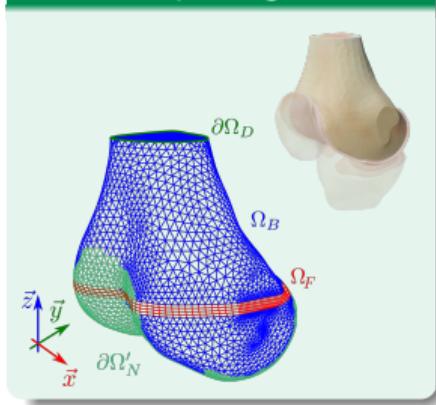
\* Steele K, Seth A, Hicks JL, Schwartz MS, Delp SL. Muscle contributions to support and progression during single-limb stance in crouch gait. Journal of Biomechanics 2010;43:2099-2105.

## Pressure distribution

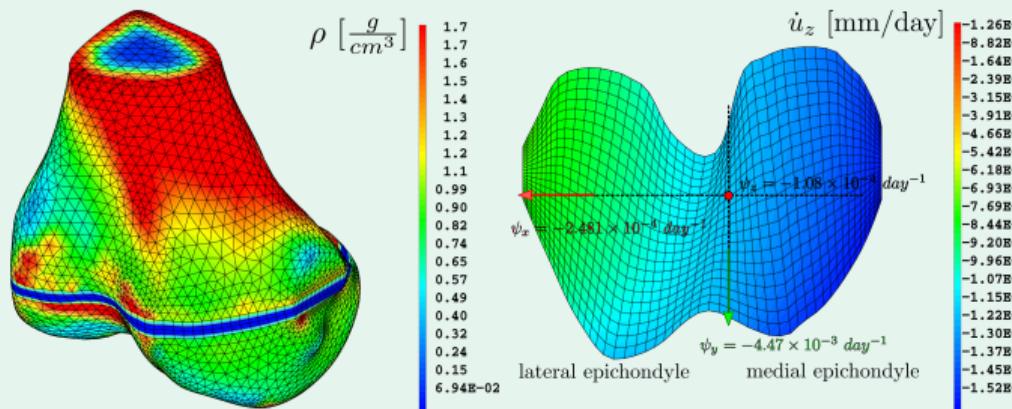


# Estimated growth and bone density.

## Problem posing

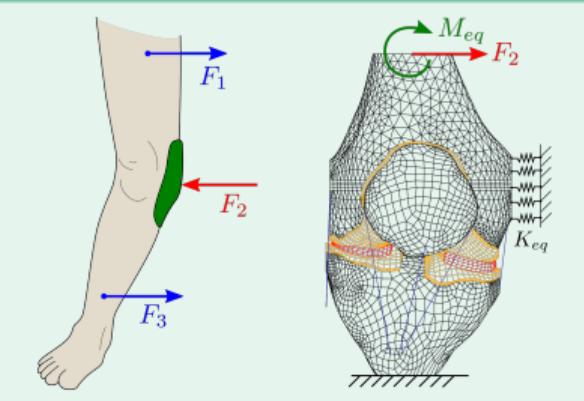


## Tissue density and growth speed

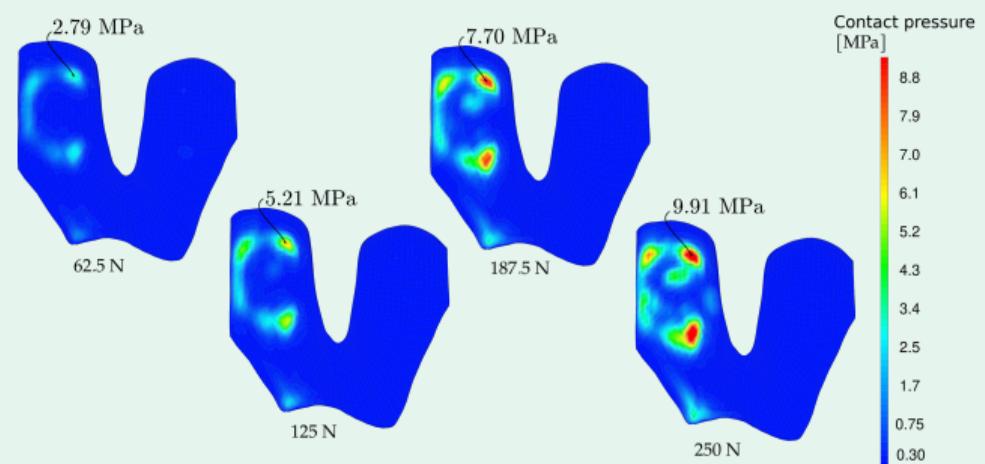


# Loads determination

## Contact problem

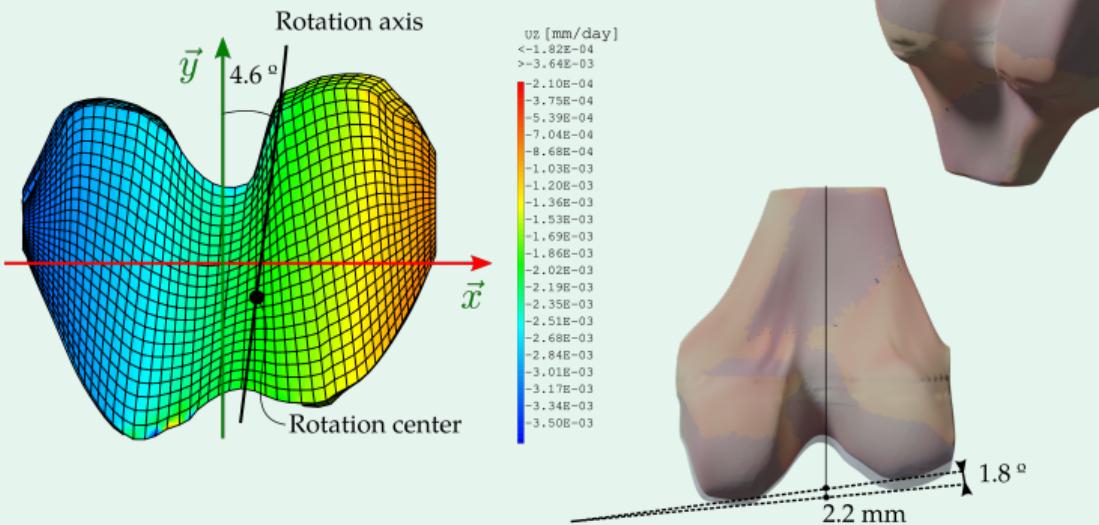


## Stress on the femoral cartilage



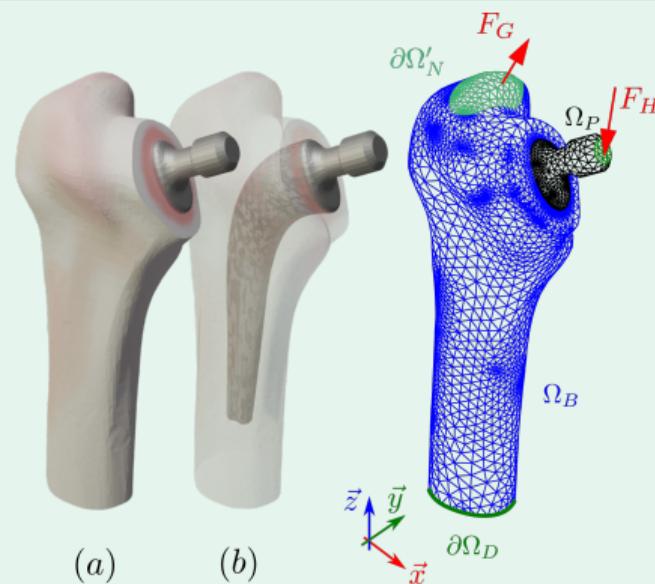
# Growth after three months

## Growth speed and geometry changes

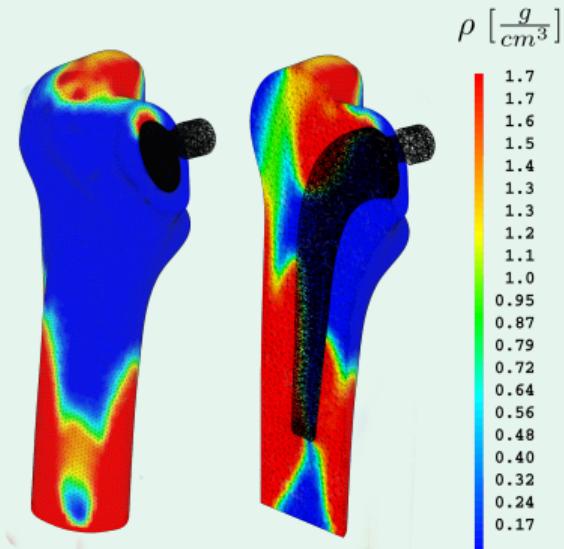


# "Stress shielding" on hip prosthesis

## Boundary conditions



## Equilibrium density distribution



\* Garijo N, Fernandez JR, Perez MA, Garcia-Aznar JM. Numerical stability and convergence analysis of bone remodeling model. Comput Methods Appl Mech Engrg 2014;271:253

# Conclusions

- An ad-hoc Cast3M function to solve bone growth and remodeling problems was created.  
A default phenomenological model was chosen.
- A significant computational cost reduction was achieved for growth problems (not shown here).
- Code was validated against analytically obtained solutions, or previously published data when possible.
- The software gives a foundation for solving practical interest problems, in which
  - an orthopedic device interacts with growing bone,
  - biomechanical data needs to be considered,
  - external orthotic devices are to be designed
  - or custom made orthotics need to be optimized.
- All the code, meshes and validation cases have been published (doi:  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jmbbm.2021.104946>)

# Thanks for your attention.

<https://fisica.cab.cnea.gov.ar/metales/>

marcelo.alonso@cab.cnea.gov.ar