

**IIC International Training Centre for Conservation**  
13-18 Nov 2016 The Palace Museum, Beijing  
Non-Destructive Analysis in the Conservation of Cultural Heritage



# X-ray Computed Tomography

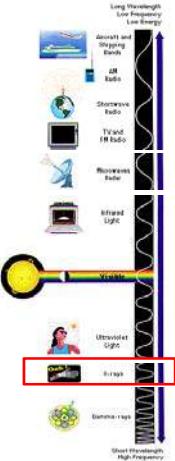
16 November 2016

Lynn Lee and David Carson  
Getty Conservation Institute

**IIC**

## Overview

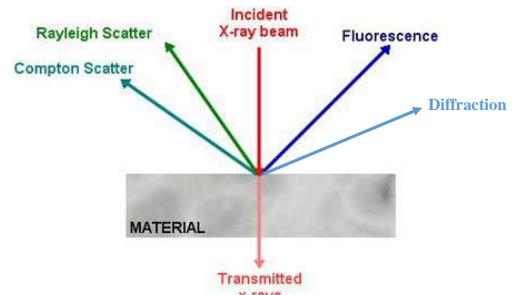
- Background on X-rays
- X-radiography: 2-D and 3-D objects
- Different types of Computed Tomography
- Medical CT example: JPGM Mummy
- Industrial CT example: GCI home-built scanner
- Tips and tricks
- Test objects and case studies



**What are X-rays?**

$\lambda=248000 - 0.124\text{keV}$     $\lambda=10^{-5} - 100\text{\AA}$

## Interactions of X-rays with matter



### X-radiography: 2-D objects

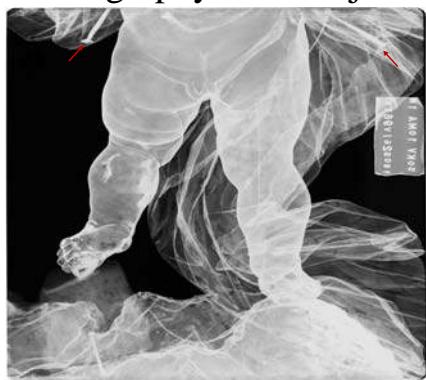


### X-radiography: 2-D objects



*An Old Man In Military Costume*  
78.PB.246  
J. Paul Getty Museum

### X-radiography: 3-D objects



### X-radiography: 3-D objects



*Christ Child*  
96.SD.18  
J. Paul Getty Museum

X-radiography: 3-D objects



X-radiography: 3-D objects



X-radiography: 3-D objects



- Quick way to see object at different angles
- Composite of X-radiographies stitched together to create video
- Difficult to see the different areas of object – cannot slice to specific level of interest

## What is CT?

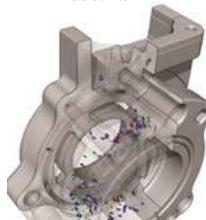
Combines a series of X-ray images taken from different angles and uses computer processing to create cross-sectional images

Medical



<http://www.radiologyinfo.org>

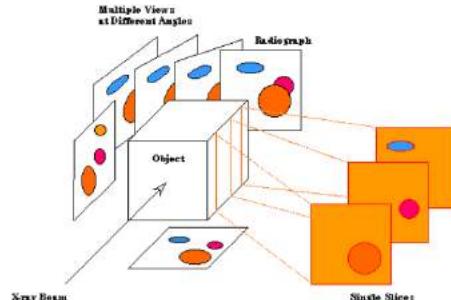
Industrial



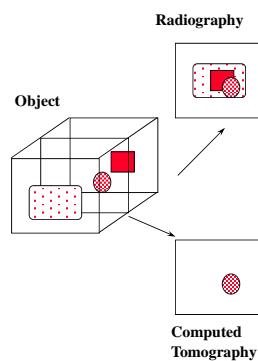
© Jgarant, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=42127619>

Multiple Views at Different Angles

Radiograph



Courtesy of Dan Schneberk, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory



Courtesy of Dan Schneberk, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory

## What is CT?

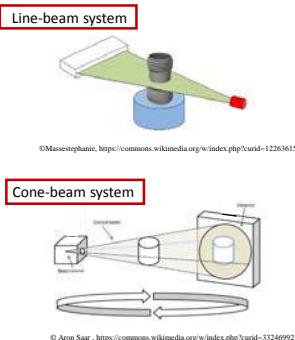
### Medical



- Detector and source rotate around object
- Optimized for the human body
  - Objects with similar materials and dimensions work best
- Lower X-ray power: max 160 kVp

## What is CT?

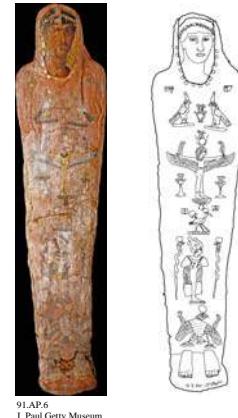
Industrial



- Line scanners: first generation of industrial CT scanners
  - X-ray beam is collimated to create a line and then translated across the object
- Cone-beam scanners
  - Object rotates
  - Cone of X-rays produce 2D images which are then processed to create a 3D volume rendering of the external and internal geometries of the object
- Higher X-ray power
  - Penetrate metals

## Mummies!!

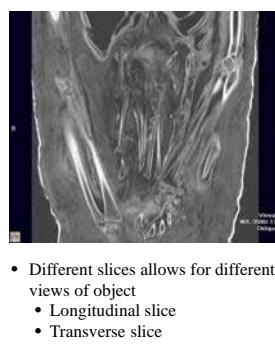
1<sup>st</sup> c. AD  
Roman Egyptian red shroud mummy



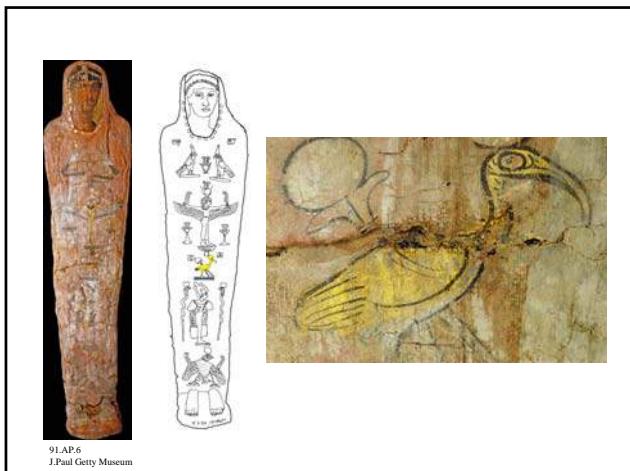
## CT at UCLA Medical Center



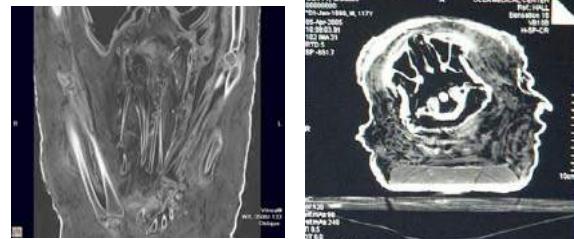
## CT at UCLA Medical Center



- Different slices allows for different views of object
  - Longitudinal slice
  - Transverse slice
  - Oblique slice
- Higher resolution compared to X-radiography



## CT at UCLA Medical Center



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## GCI home-built CT scanner

**Motivation**

- High resolution (< 100 microns)
- Compatible for large range of objects
- Have enough power to penetrate bronze
- Inexpensive

**Requirements:**

- Detector system
- X-ray source
- Rotation system

First iteration in 2004

Franco Casali group  
University of Bologna,  
Dept. of Physics

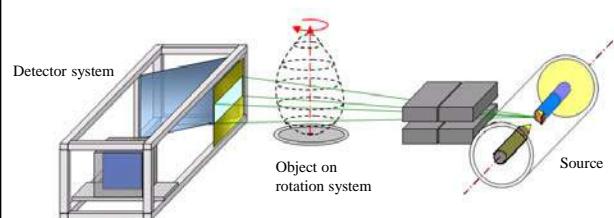
## Cone-beam based CT scanner

### Pros

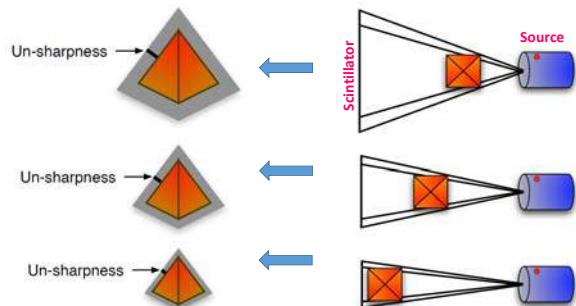
- Reduced scanning time
- Utilize non-specialized digital devices for detector system
  - CCD
  - CMOS
  - Flat panels

### Cons

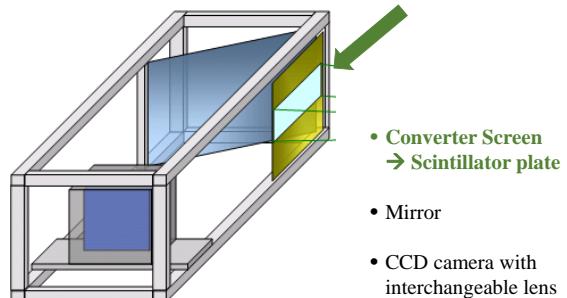
- Sensitive to diffuse radiation → lower resolution



### Sharpness, Magnification



### Detector box

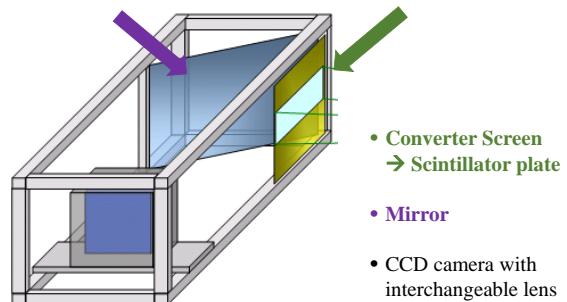


### Detector box: Scintillator plate



- Hamamatsu structured Cesium Iodide screen
- 1 mm CsI (Tl) thickness on 1mm Al substrate
- Imaging area: 44 x 44 cm<sup>2</sup>

### Detector box

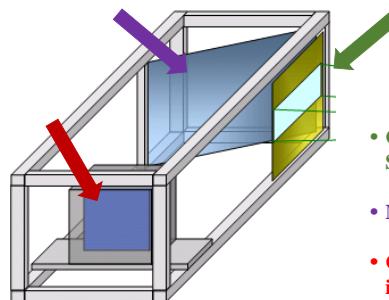


### Detector box



- First Surface Al mirror
- Avoid direct X-ray beam to the CCD camera

### Detector box

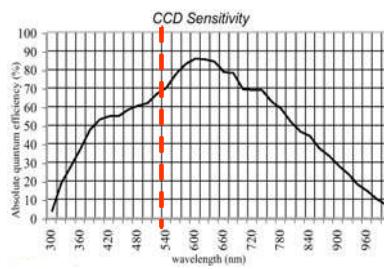


- Converter Screen → Scintillator plate
- Mirror
- CCD camera with interchangeable lens

### Detector box: Camera

Kodak Apogee U32  
(Astronomy Grade)

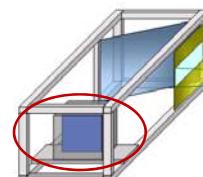
- 2184 x 1472 array
- 6.8 x 6.8 micron pixels
- 2 A/D Converters:
  - 12-bit speed 10 MHz
  - 16 bit speed 1 MHz
- Internal memory: 32MB
- PC interface: USB 2.0



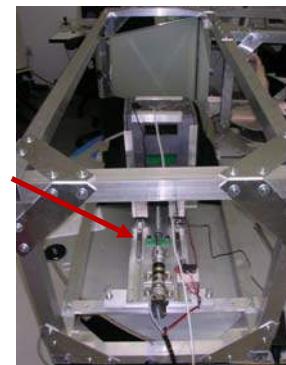
Lens

- Large field of view (Nikon 28mm / f 1.4)
- Small field of view (Nikon 50mm / f 1.2)
- Very small field of view (Nikon 128mm / macro)

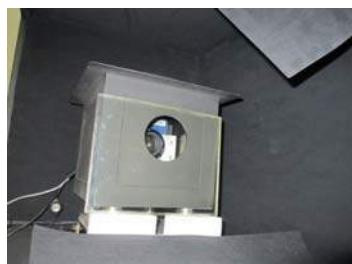
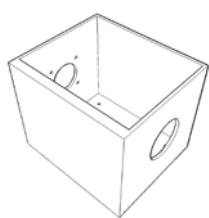
### Camera: Focusing



- Motorized 60 cm axis
- Detector setup mounted on optical table



Camera: Lead box housing

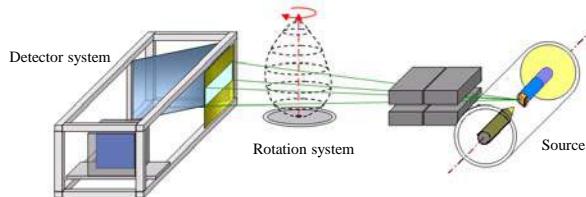


X-ray source

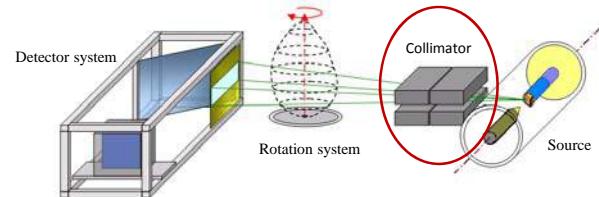


450 kVp X-ray tube

CT scanner schematic



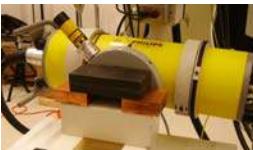
CT scanner schematic



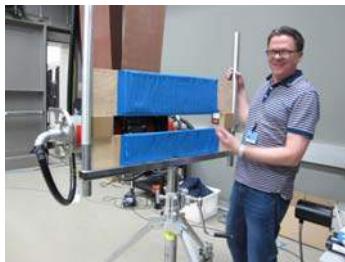
## Collimator

### Purpose:

Reduction of unwanted scatter radiation



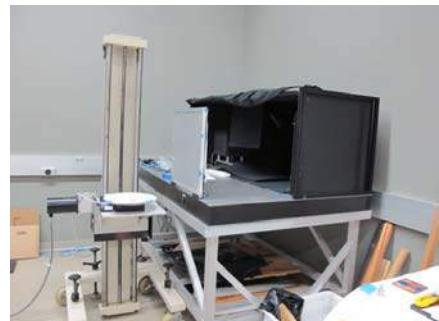
Lead bricks



Lead sheets: adjustable slit width

## Rotation stage

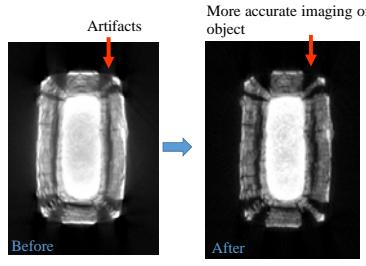
- Motorized stage
  - Stepper motor with high precision
- Sturdy frame
  - Stable for larger, heavy objects
  - Move object in vertical direction
- Scintillator proximity to object important factor in resolution
- Collimator slit images on portion of scintillator plate



## Artifacts due to X-ray attenuation and interaction with material



Geological sample:  
Limestone with sodium sulfate

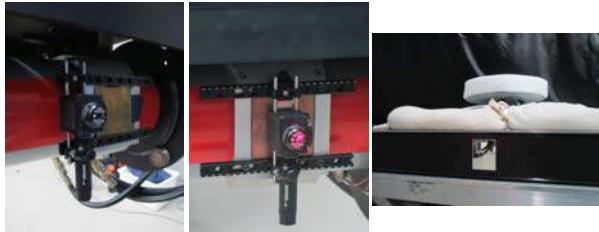


Correction with beam filtering and software post-processing

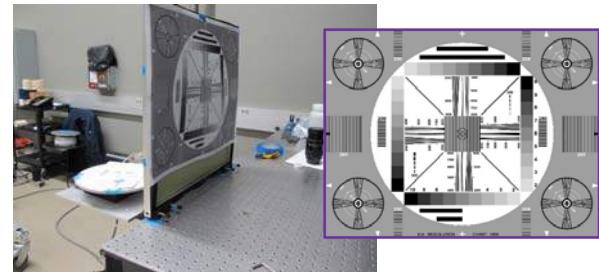
## Tips and tricks

- Alignment of X-ray beam to object and table
- Focusing (camera)
- Alignment with object to camera

### Tips and tricks: Beam alignment with object and table

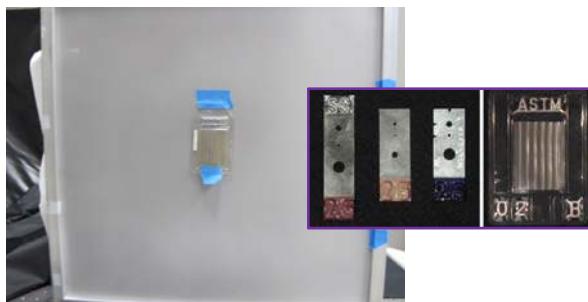


### Tips and tricks: Camera focusing



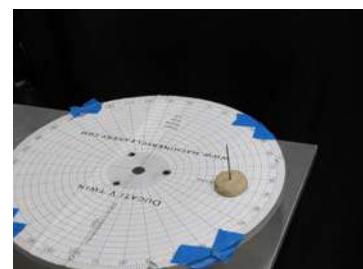
Rough camera focusing

### Tips and tricks: Camera focusing



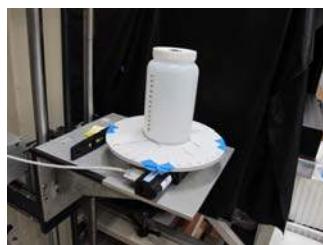
Resolution target used to refine image quality with X-ray beams  
(image quality indicators, IQIs)

### Tips and tricks: Aligning object

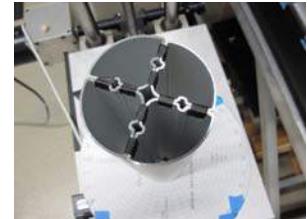
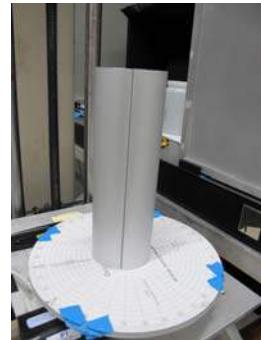


Aligning stage to camera

### Tips and tricks: Aligning object

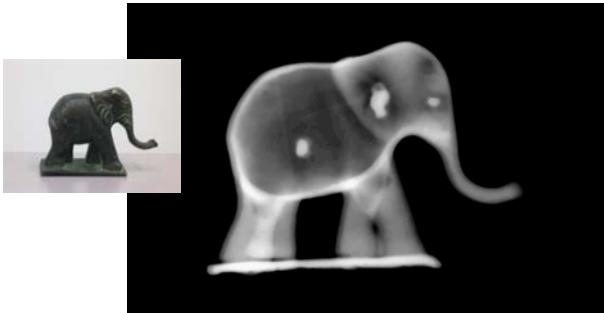


### Tips and tricks: Aligning object

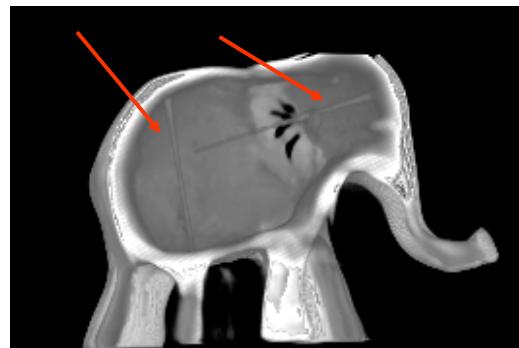


Final standard object: cylinder  
easiest geometry for optimization

### Test Object #1: Elephant



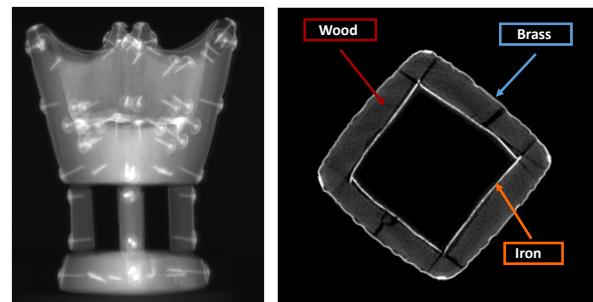
### Test Object #1: Elephant



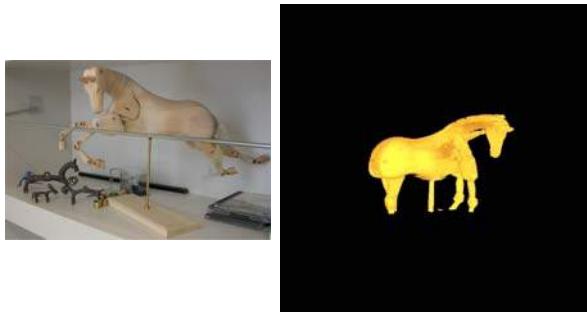
Test Object #2: Iranian incense burner



Test Object #2: Iranian incense burner



Test Object #3: Jumping horse  
(wood; metal armature and pins)



Case Study: JPGM Eros

- 1<sup>st</sup> c. AD Roman
- 67 inches tall
- Copper alloy



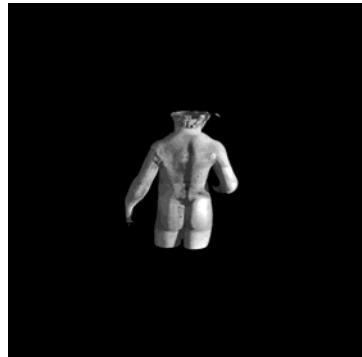
### Case Study: JPGM Eros

- 1<sup>st</sup> c. AD Roman
- 67 inches tall
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96.AB.53  
J.Paul Getty Museum

Bettuzzi, M., Casali, F., et al. (2015). "Computed tomography of a medium size Roman bronze statue of Cupid", Applied Physics A 118 (4): 1161-1169

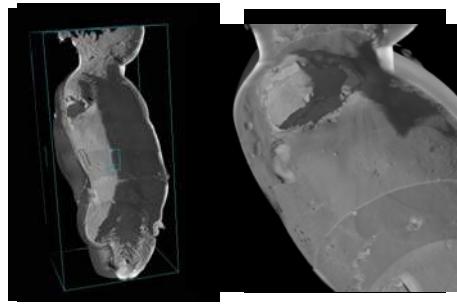
### Case Study: JPGM Eros

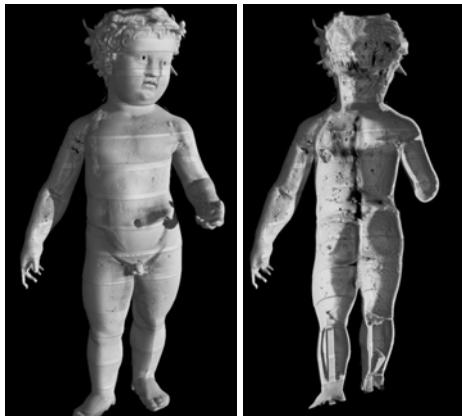
96.AB.53  
J.Paul Getty Museum

### Case Study: JPGM Eros

96.AB.53  
J.Paul Getty Museum

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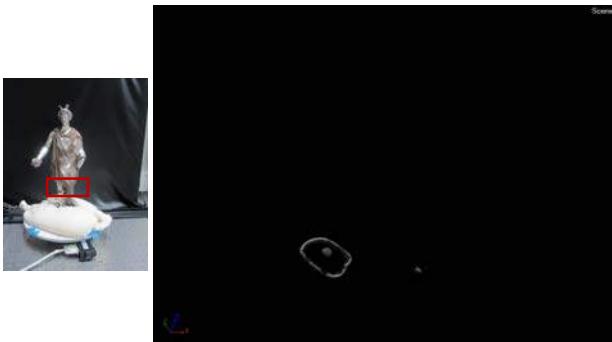




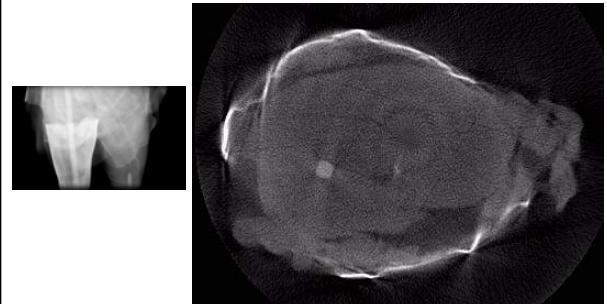
Case Study: Roman Silver Treasures  
(Bibliothèque nationale de France)



Case Study: Mercury statuette



Case Study: Mercury statuette



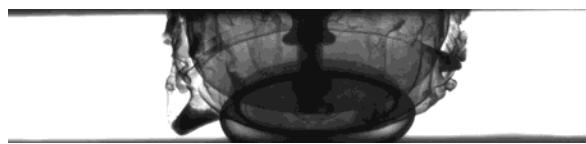
### Case Study: Repoussé Skyphos



### Case Study: Repoussé Skyphos



### Case Study: Repoussé Skyphos



### Conclusions

Why do you want to do it?

What is it good for?

What is it not good for?

Partnership with medical, industry or academia with computer science capabilities and resources