



Characteristics of "resonance wood" as viewed by violin makers or by wood scientists: Part 2 – Characterisation and correlations of structural and mechanical properties

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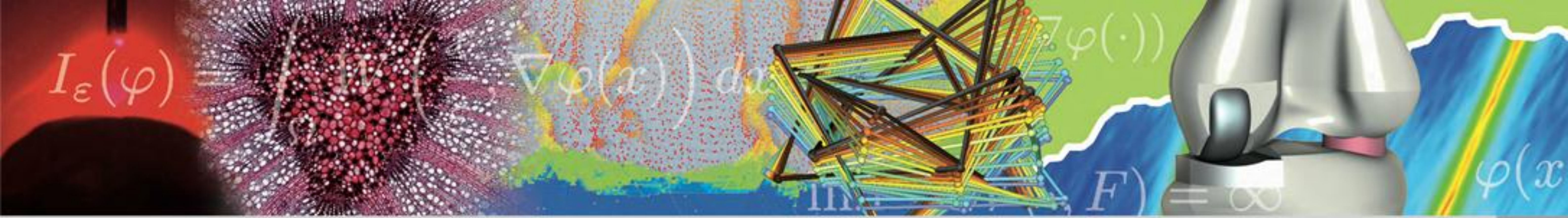
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« CHARACTERISTICS OF "RESONANCE WOOD" AS VIEWED BY VIOLIN MAKERS OR BY WOOD SCIENTISTS: PART 2 – CHARACTERISATION AND CORRELATIONS OF STRUCTURAL AND MECHANICAL PROPERTIES »

CARLIER Capucine¹, BREMAUD Iris¹, MATSUO Miyuki², OBATAYA Eiichi³, NAKAMURA Masashi⁴, ALMERAS Tancrede¹, GRIL Joseph¹

(1)LMGC, UMR 5508, CNRS, UM2, cc048, place E. Bataillon, 34095 Montpellier Cedex5, France

(2)Lab. Of Biomaterials Physics, Graduate School of Bioagricultural Sciences, Nagoya University, Japan

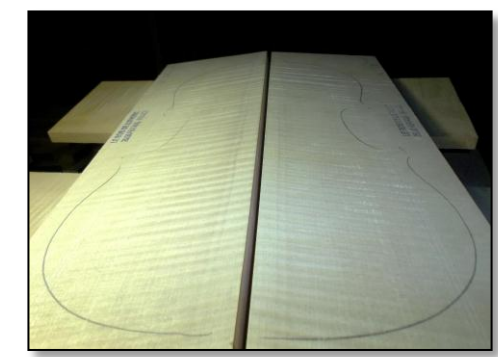
(3)Lab. Of Wood Science and Technology, Graduate School of Life and Environmental Sciences, Tsukuba University, Japan

(4)Lab. of Biomaterials Design, Graduate School of Agriculture, Kyoto University, Japan



1. Introduction

The objective of this study is to improve the understanding of the **interactions** between **physic-mechanical properties** of resonance wood, their **natural variability**, and the actual **expertise of violin makers** in the selection and qualification of their raw material.

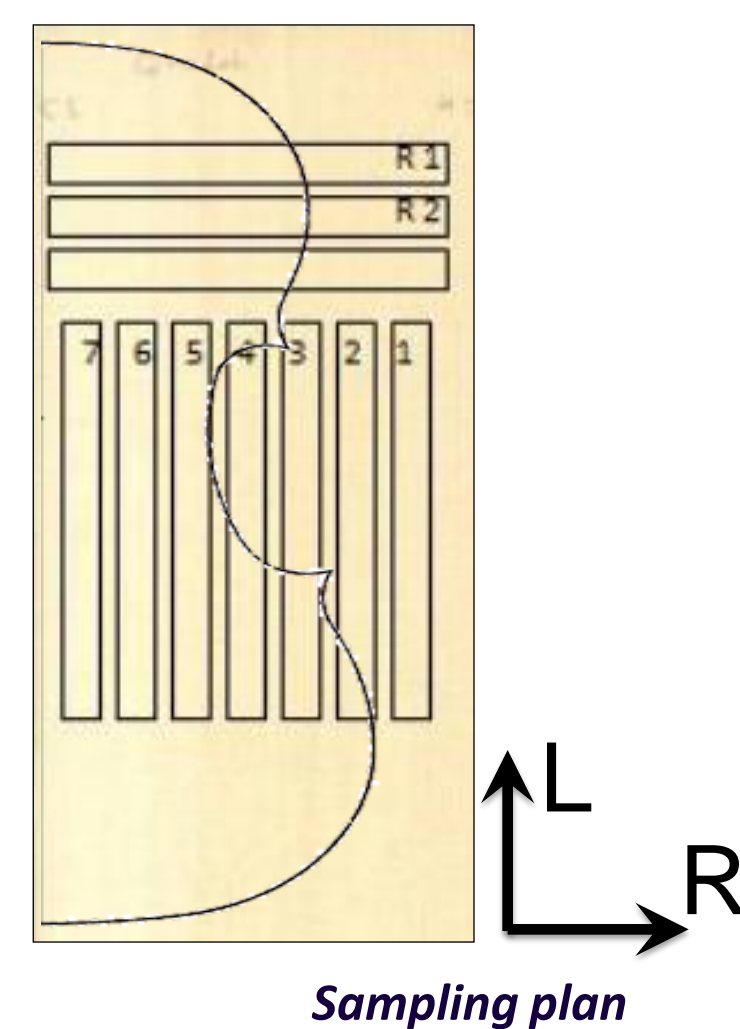


2. Visual and vibrational features of spruce

Material and Methods

○ Spruce (*Picea abies* [L.] Karst)

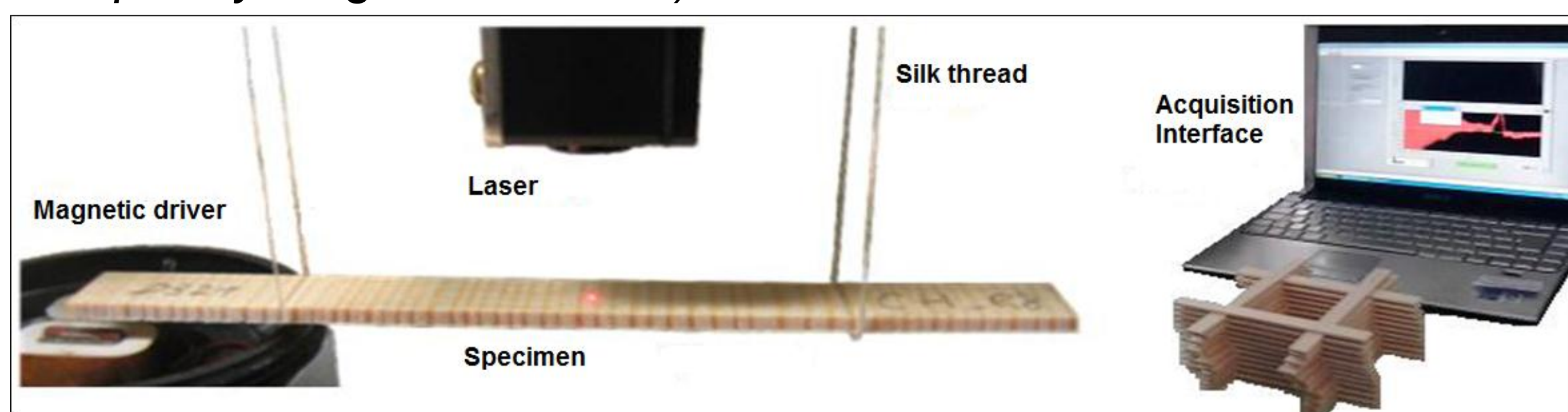
- 10 Viola and 14 violin soundboard, Quality grades "Excellent" and "Master grade"
- 72 samples in R radial direction (120 × 2,5 × 12mm, R × T × L) and 177 samples in L longitudinal direction (12 × 2,5 × 150mm, R × T × L).



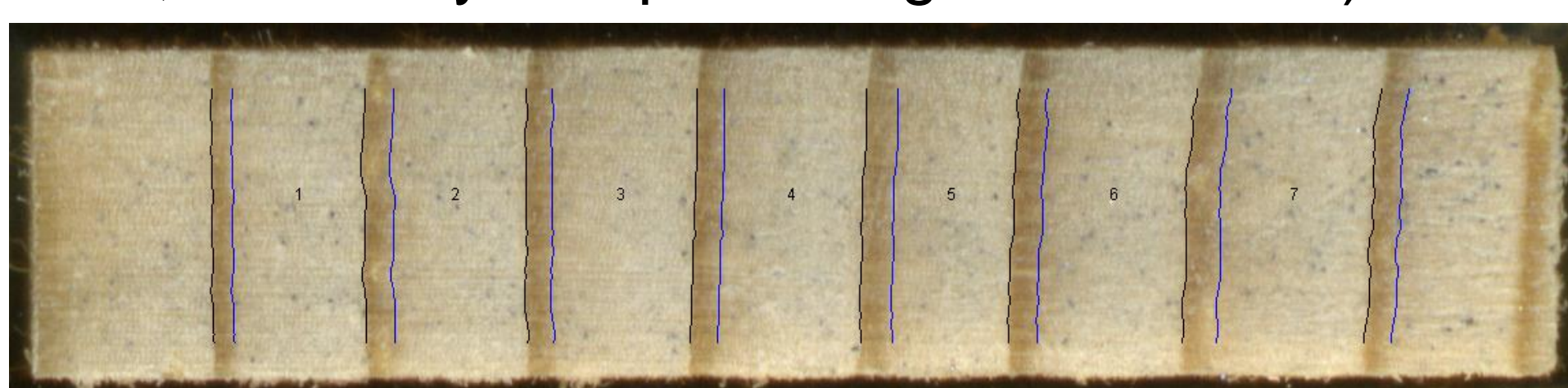
Measurement of physical and vibrational properties and the acoustical indexes of the specimens

- Specific modulus of elasticity E/ρ
- Damping coefficient / internal friction $\tan\delta=Q^{-1}$
- Characteristic impedance $z=\sqrt{E\rho}$
- Ratio of radiation $R=\sqrt{E/\rho^3}$
- Acoustic conversion Efficiency $ACE=R/\tan\delta$

(Longitudinal and Radial; 3 weeks at 65% relative humidity and 20° C, Frequency range 100-750 Hz)



Measurement of visual/structural characteristics (growth-ring width, uniformity and percentage of latewood).



Visual characteristics analyzed by an Image J plugin developed by Tancrede Almeras (LMGC)

Wood properties: variability and correlations

Correlations between visual characteristics and wood properties

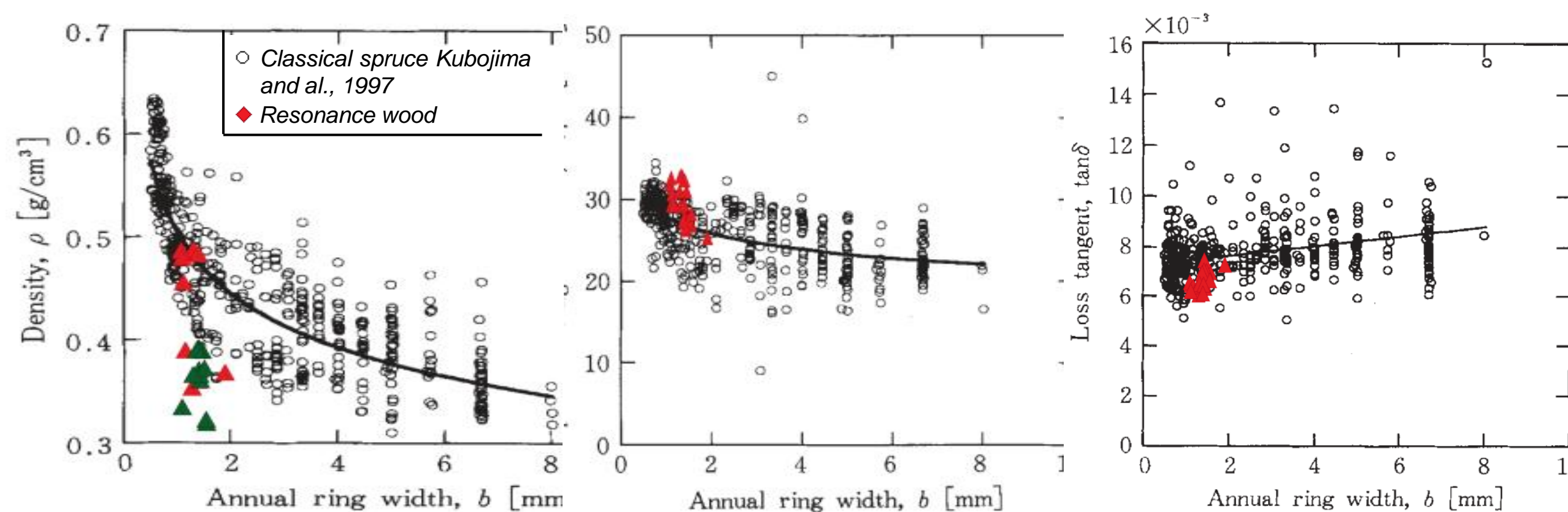
Density is mostly affected by latewood Proportion(Lw). Ring width (Rw) and Lw reflect vibrational properties. Density provides information on the acoustical indexes.

Visual parameters = indicators of wood mechanical properties

Link between specific modulus and density unexpected => microstructural explanation ?

	Rw (mm)	Lw (%) mean	Lw (%) r/r	Density ρ
Density ρ	-0.44	0.78	0.75	
EL/ρ	-0.63	0.86	0.86	0.69
ER/ρ	0.69	-0.55	-0.56	-0.36
tanδL	0.58	-0.63	-0.65	-0.28
tanδR	-0.74	0.73	0.73	0.59
zL	-0.51	0.84	0.82	0.98
RL	0.28	-0.58	-0.54	-0.93
ACEL	0.00	-0.25	-0.21	-0.72

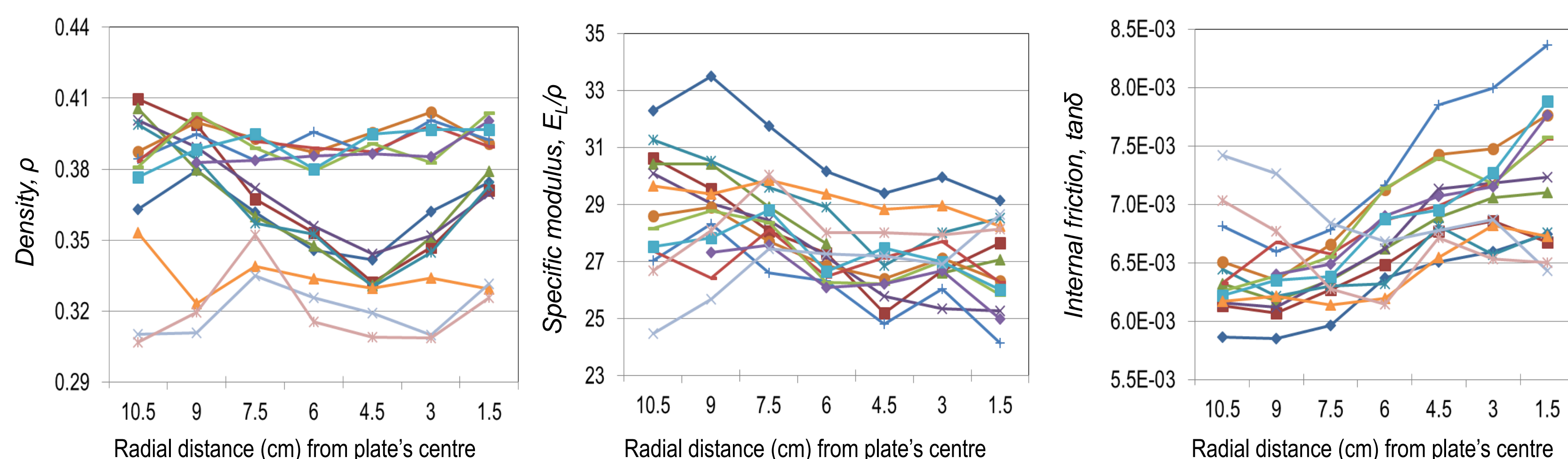
Correlations between properties, acoustical index and visual characteristics of wood



Relation between visual characteristics of spruce wood and its properties

=> Is the confidence of luthiers for their suppliers coming from the pre-selection of an uncommon material?

Intra and inter soundboard variability

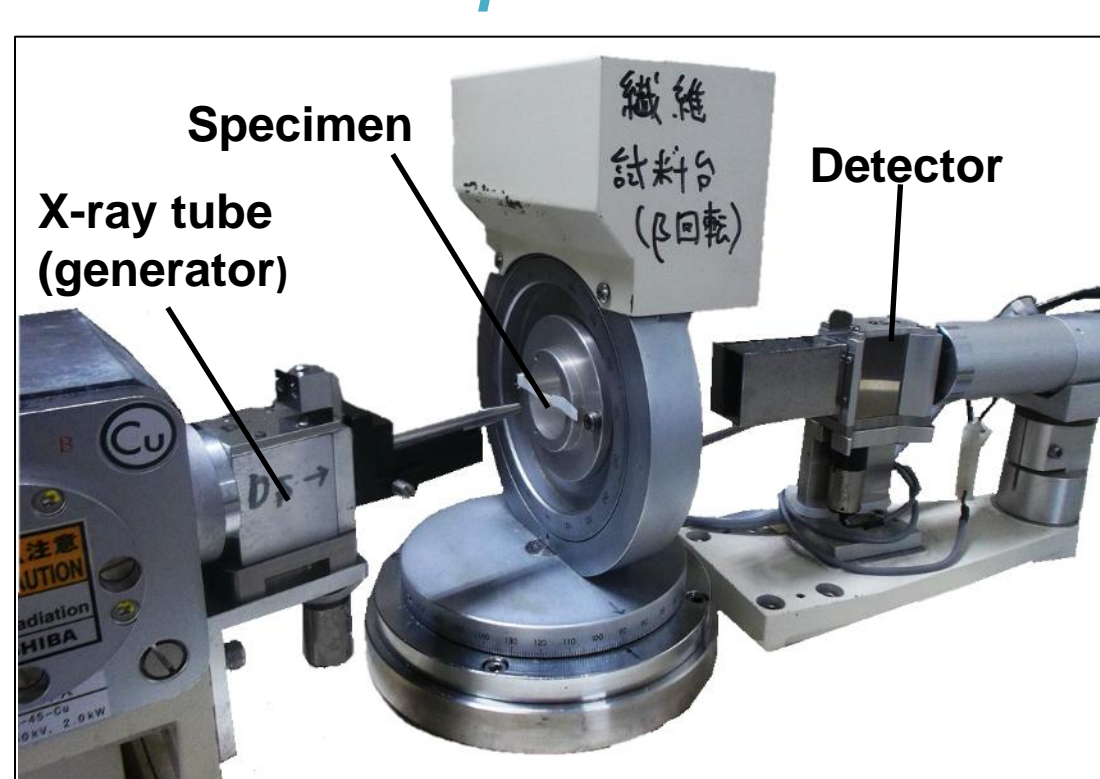


Evolution of density, specific modulus and damping within the radial direction of violins soundboards

High variability within and between plates → a single specimen may not be representative of the properties of the entire board.
=> Necessity to construct a model to evaluate the properties of a full violin plate from sampling fabrication offcuts

3. To go further : Work in progress

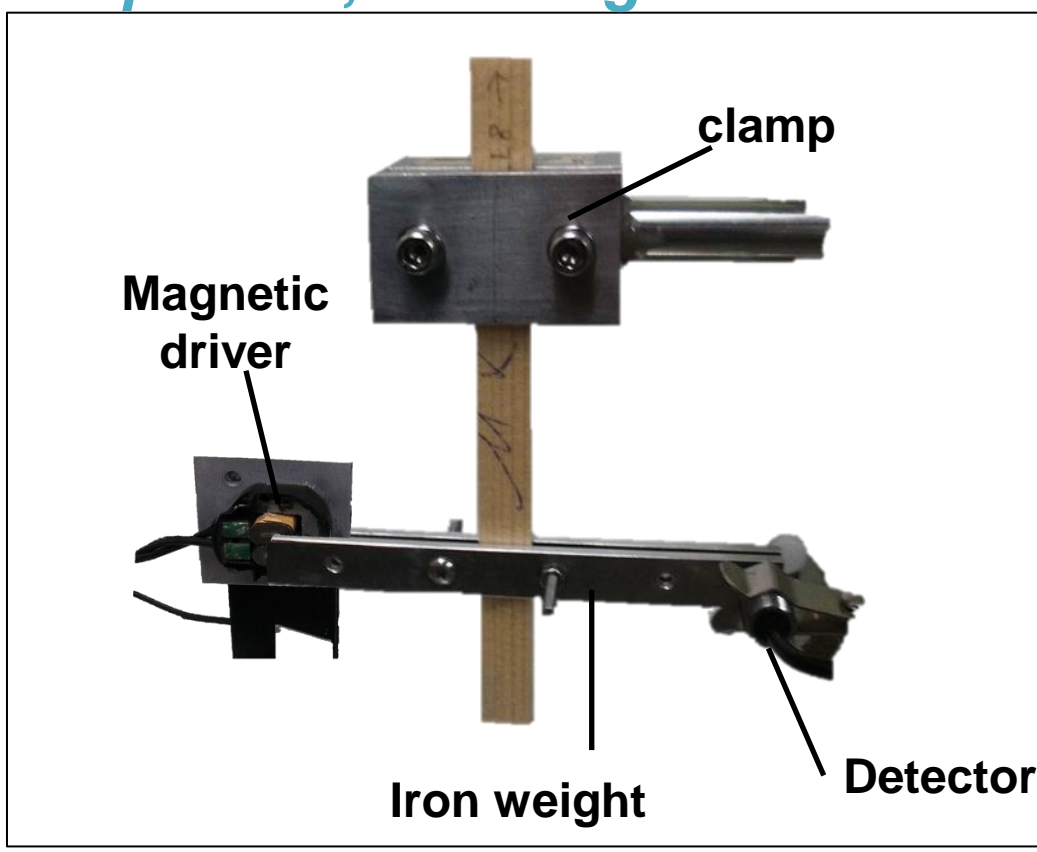
Can the microstructure of wood (microfibril angle) be the cause of the specificities of resonance wood ?



X-ray diffraction device

- Spruce (*Picea abies* [L.] Karst)
- 9 violin soundboard, 4 ≠ quality grade
- 10 samples of Ew + 10 samples of Lw by table
- MFA by Xray diffractometer

Vibrational tests: beyond indicators of "amplitude and response", how to get indicators of "timbre"?

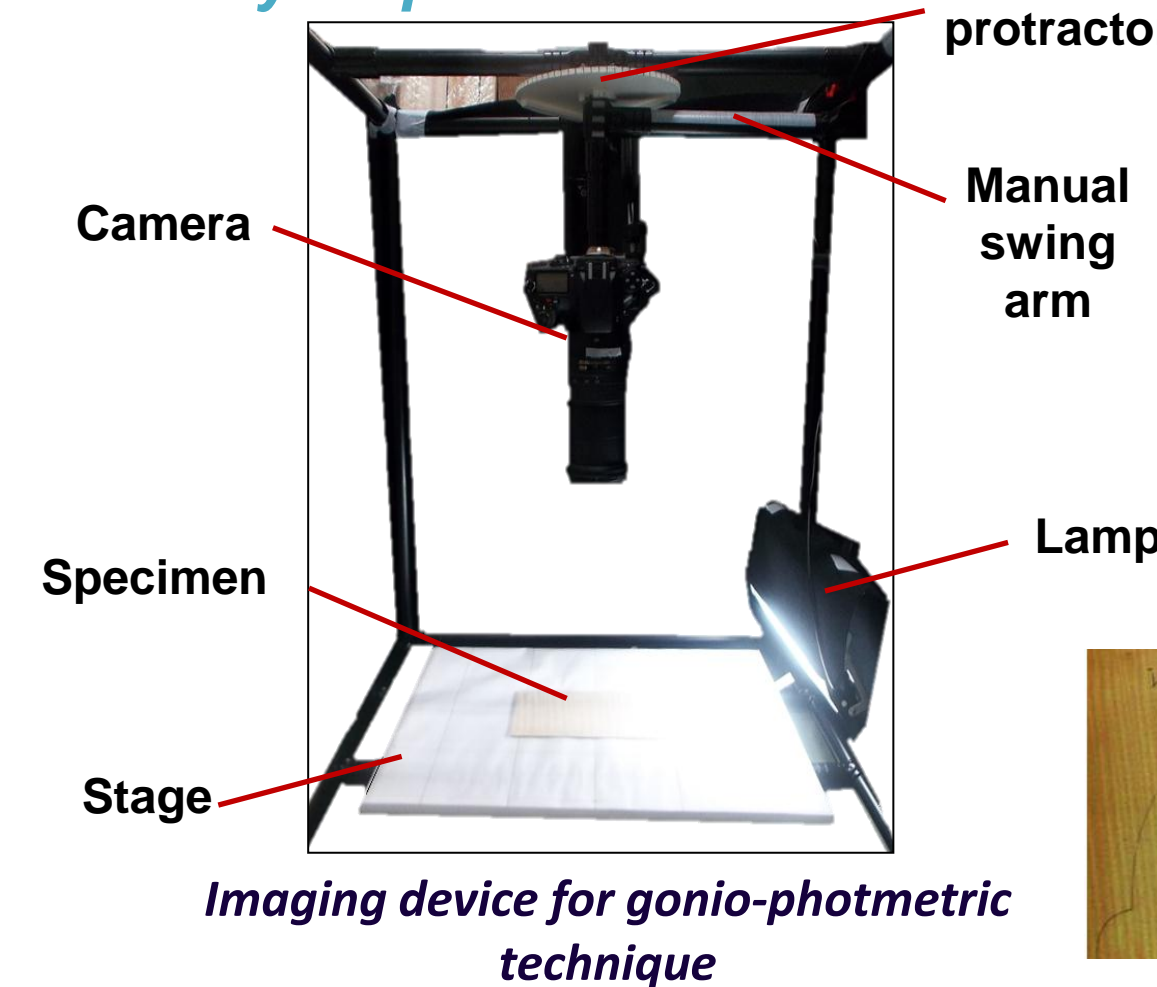


Torsional vibration device

- Spruce & Maple (*Acer pseudoplatanus* L.)
- 9 spruce soundboards + 8 maple back plates, 4 ≠ quality grade
- 4 small specimens per plate
- Determination of shear (torsion) modulus G , and damping $\tan\delta_G$ (+density ρ)

- G_{Acer} (maple) > G_{Picea} (spruce)
- **Spruce:** G from high quality plates are clearly lower than G from low quality plates (0.7 for 1st quality to 1.2 for 4th quality)
- No clear trend for $\tan\delta$

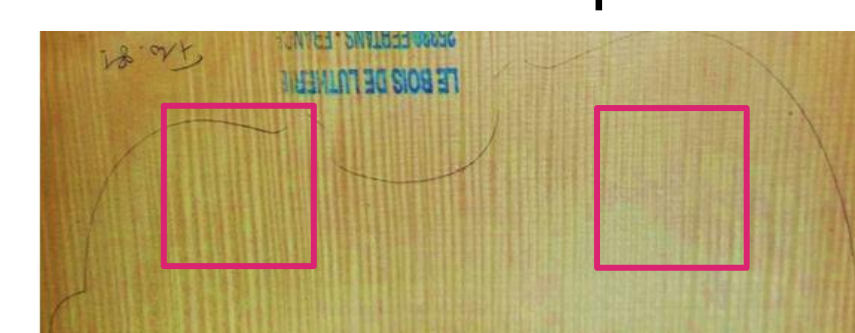
How can we determine the appearance of wavy grain of curly maple ?



- Noticeable features are changing by the lighting azimuth.
- Calculating differences of the lightness in local 3x3 area (local contrast) everywhere at every filter size

○ Maple

- 8 back plates, 4 different quality grades
- 2 areas observed for each plate



Analysis in progress

4. Conclusion and perspectives

This study shows the **peculiarity of spruce "resonance wood"** in regards to classical softwoods. Empirical choice by violin makers, based on **perceptual criteria** that can be visual, physic-mechanical, auditory, are **relevant to the acoustic properties** measured

⇒ Perspectives

- To construct a model to evaluate the properties of a full violin plate from sampling fabrication offcuts.
- To analyze microstructural features of resonance wood in regards to visual characteristics and wood properties
- To enlarge the study to 'fiddleback' maple.

⇒ Acknowledgments

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