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## Comparison of HR-MRI with $\mu$ CT arthrography for the morphological assessment of non-human primate models of osteoarthritis

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## Introduction

### Background:

- Several models of induced OA in small animals :
  - ⊗ do not mimic the complex human OA
  - ⊗ large genetic, phenotypic and pathophysiological heterogeneity between human and rodent
- > ineffective models in evaluating new treatments
- Similarities between monkey and human
  - 😊 monkeys more appropriate to model the human disease
- Non invasive techniques [1]
  - 😊 3D HR-MRI to assess the cartilage thickness on guinea pigs [2]
  - 😊 volume and thickness quantification of rat knee cartilage is possible using HR-MRI [3,4]

### Objectives:

- To develop a dedicated protocol for knee joint examination of primates at 1.5 T and with  $\mu$ CT arthroscanner.
- To compare morphological parameters based on MRI and  $\mu$ CTA acquisitions on a group of 10 old primates with spontaneous osteoarthritis (OA).

## Material and method

- 10 old female primates
  - between 12 and 18 years old (mean  $13.8 \pm 1.8$ )
  - spontaneous osteoarthritis
- 2 imaging modalities ( $\mu$ CT and MRI)
- experimental protocol approved by the Animal Ethics Committee of our institution

### $\mu$ CTA

- GE Locus  $\mu$ -CT (standard voltage and amperage)
- isotropic resolution of 90  $\mu$ m
- scan time/knee : 15 min

### MRI

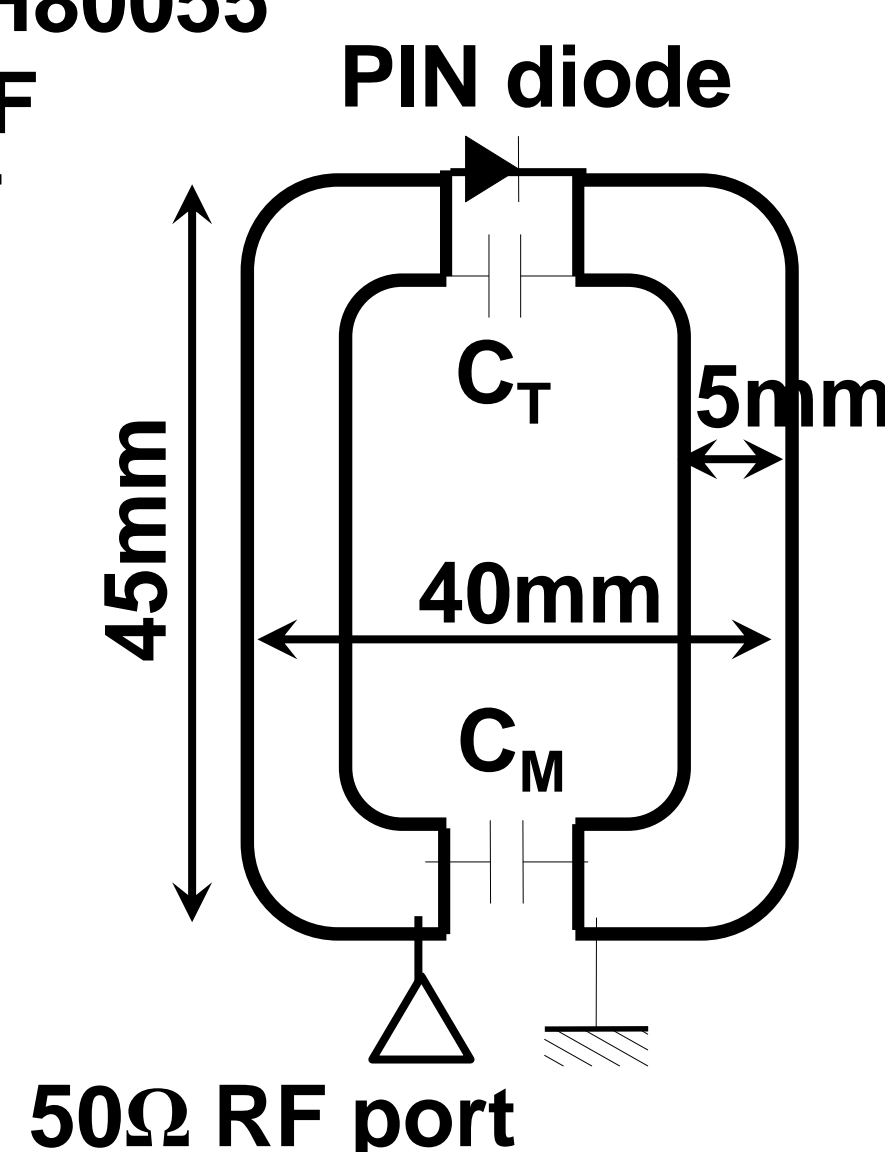
- 1.5T Siemens Sonata system
  - 3D water excitation FLASH sequence: 25° flip angle, 27 ms TR, 11.7 ms TE, 70 Hz/Pixel receiver bandwidth
  - a pair of homemade two-channel array coil
- in-plane pixel: 112x131  $\mu$ m<sup>2</sup>, thickness: 220  $\mu$ m
- scan time/knee : 20 min

### Two-channel array coil:

- Two single coils overlapped with  $|S_{21}| < -20$ dB.
- Coil elements pasted on a thermoformable plastic support with about 32mm outer diameter to fit the animal's morphology.
- placed on the top of patella and encompassing the knee joint

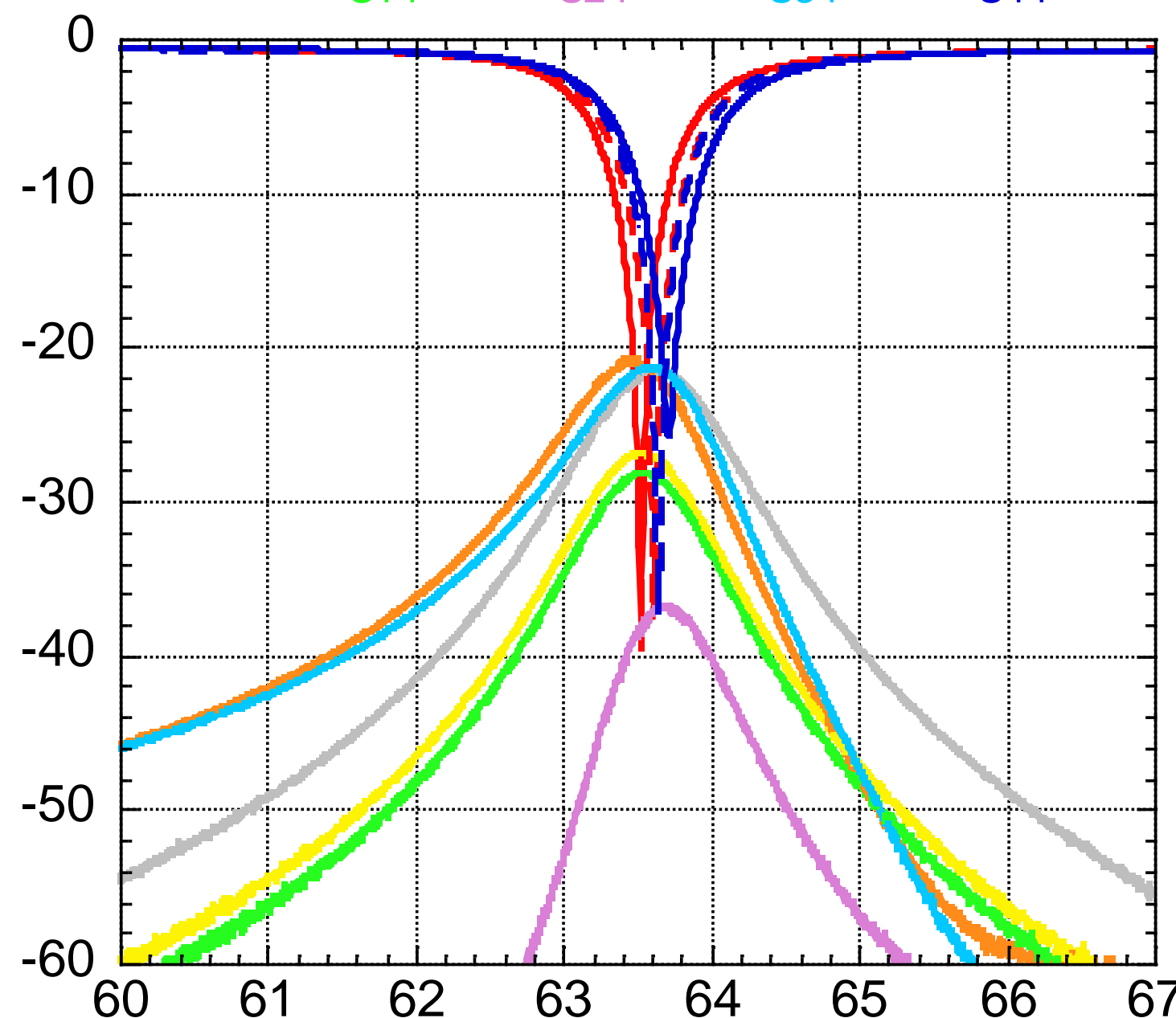
### Circuit of a single coil:

- Substrate: RT/Duroid 5880 (508 $\mu$ m)
- Copper: 35 $\mu$ m thickness
- diode PIN: DH80055
- $C_T = 620 \pm 20$ pF
- $C_M = 100 \pm 2$ pF

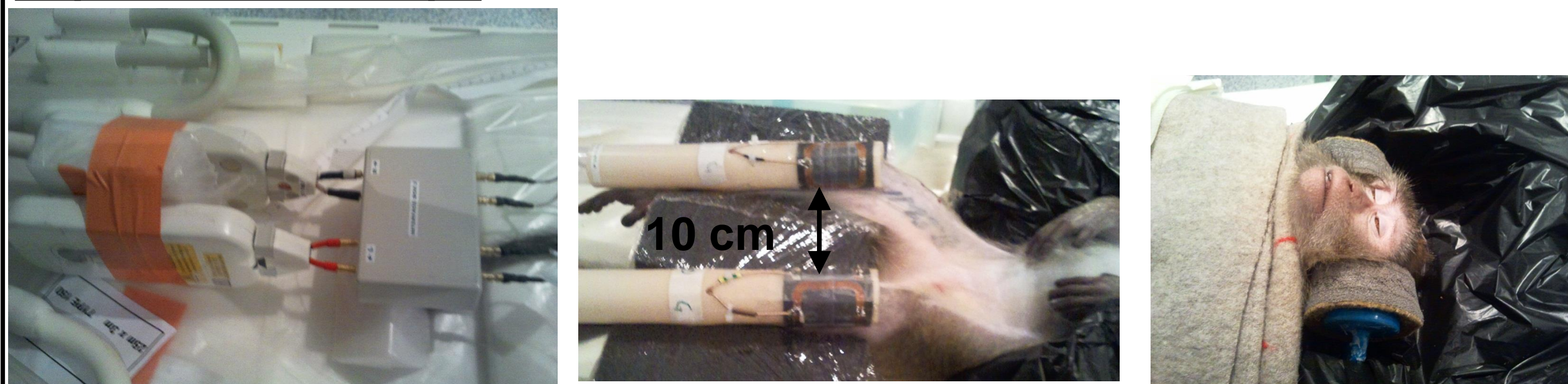


### S-parameters of the coils in experimental conditions:

- S11, S12, S13, S14, S21, S22, S23, S24, S31, S32, S33, S34, S41, S42, S43, S44



### Experimental set up :



Interface box

## Results

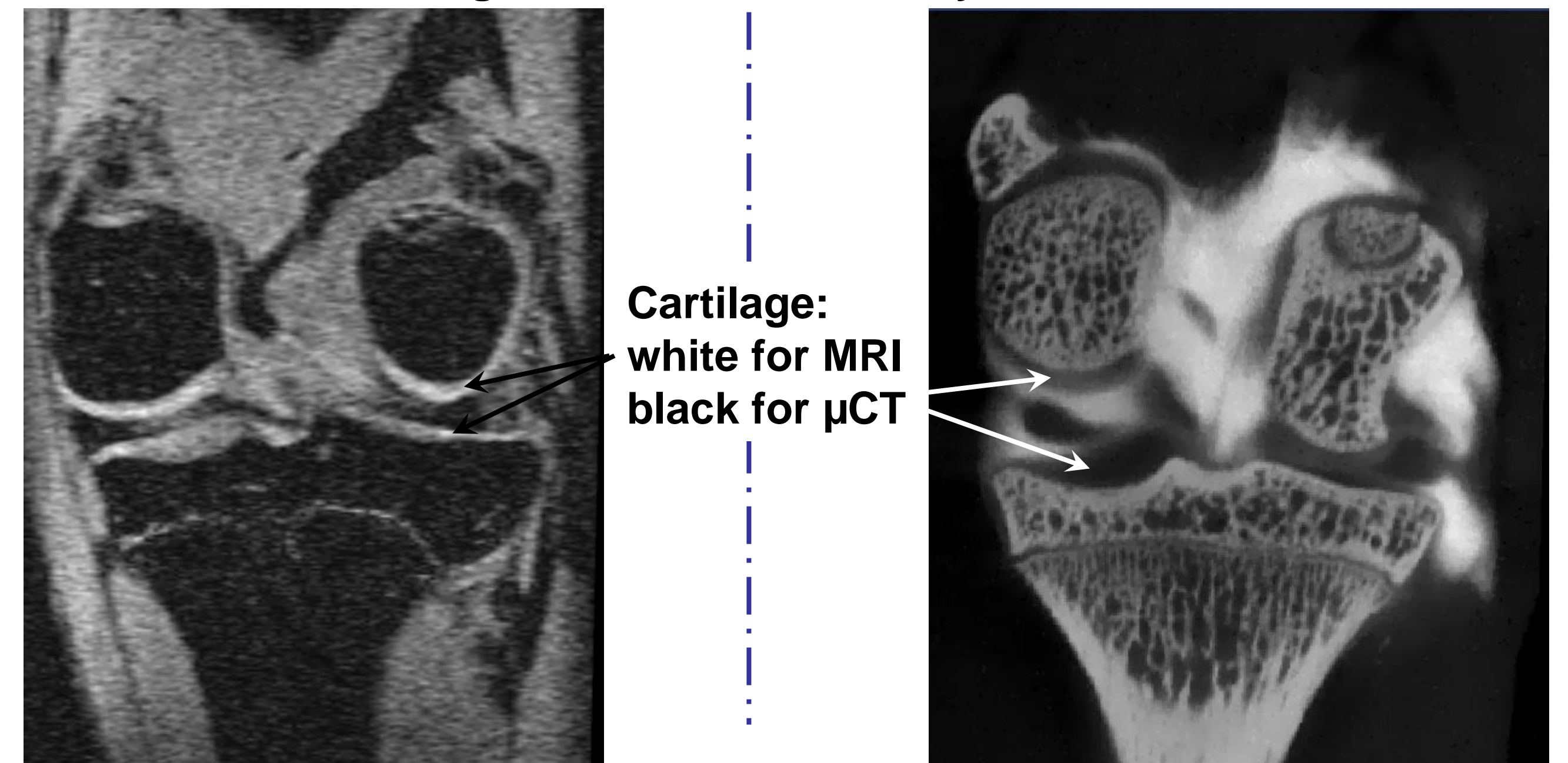
### MRI

- On phantoms (1,25g/L of NiSO<sub>4</sub>, 5g/L of NaCl):
  - SNR gain was 4.4 compared with a 40 mm diameter surface coil
  - With 16% signal uniformity in the region of interest

### $\mu$ CTA

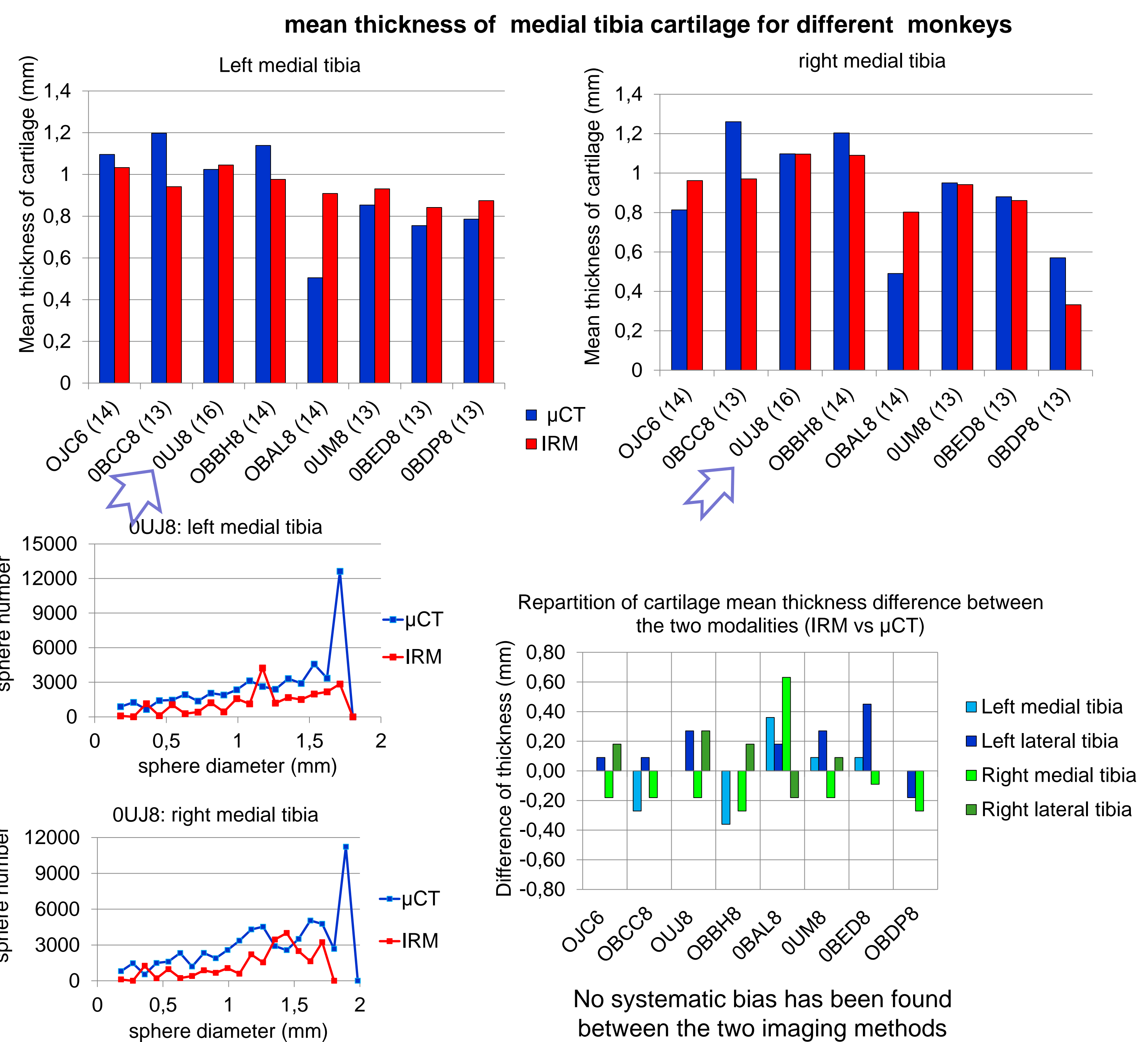
- Contrast agent injected in synovial capsule : Hexabrix 320mg/ml

Reformatted coronal images of the same monkey knee with the two modalities.



### Comparison MRI vs $\mu$ CTA

- manual segmentation
- 3D cartilage thickness measurement with Hildebrandt method [5]



## Conclusion

### MRI acquisitions :

- > the dedicated two-channel coils improve significantly the SNR
- > the suitable signal uniformity allow a good segmentation process leading to morphological cartilage parameters

### MRI and $\mu$ CTA modalities are valuable to measure cartilage morphology (volume, thickness).

### additional information can be obtained :

- Indirectly about cartilage structure (T2, T1rho...) with MRI
- Subchondral bone density with  $\mu$ CTA

### Perspectives

To validate  $\mu$ CTA method in comparison with MRI and to characterize an induced model of OA by transection of the anterior cruciate ligament (ACL).

### References

- [1] J. Tessier et al., Osteoarthritis Cartilage 11:845-53 (2003).
- [2] R. Bolbos et al., Osteoarthritis Cartilage 15:656-65 (2007)
- [3] A. Rengle et al., IEEE Trans Biomed Eng 56:2891-2897 (2009).
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