

# Tree growth stresses, in situ measurement and properties of normal and reaction woods

Bernard Thibaut, Joseph Gril

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1	Title:
2	Tree growth stresses, in situ measurement
3	and properties of normal and reaction woods.
4	Running title: Tree growth stresses
5	Bernard Thibaut <sup>(1), (*)</sup>
6	Joseph Gril <sup>(2), (3)</sup>
7	<sup>(1)</sup> LMGC, Univ Montpellier, CNRS, Montpellier, France
8	bernard.thibaut@umontpellier.fr
9	<sup>(*)</sup> Corresponding author
10 11	<sup>(2</sup> ) Université Clermont Auvergne, CNRS, Sigma Clermont, Institut Pascal, Clermont-Ferrand, France
12	<sup>(3)</sup> Université Clermont Auvergne, INRAE, PIAF, Clermont Ferrand, France

## 13 Highlight

14 Experimental study of growth stains on trees restoring their verticality after some accidental

15 inclination combined to measuring of wood properties at the same position allows to discuss

16 the functions of forces created by living wood within trees in pre-stressing the woody skeleton

17 on one side, allowing verticality restoration on the other side.

## 18 Abstract

19 Living wood in the tree performs a kind of muscle action generating forces at the sapwood

20 periphery and thus residual strains in the dead sapwood fibres. Dissymmetric force generation

around tree trunk is a kind of motor system useful for movement, posture control and tree

22 reshaping after accidents.

Rather young trees are able to restore the verticality of their trunk after accidental rotation of the soil-root system due to wind or some landslide, leading to typical basically curved stems shape. The very high dissymmetry of forces for the motor action is associated with the

26 occurrence of reaction wood on one side of the inclined stem during many successive years.

A selection of 17 such trees coming from 15 different species (13 different families), tropical or temperate, hardwoods or softwoods, were selected and peripheral residual strains were measured in situ before felling, on 8 position for each stem. Associated wooden rods were sawn and measured for their mechanical and physical properties at green and dry state, allowing the estimation of tree growth strasses is a forces created by the living wood

31 allowing the estimation of tree growth stresses i.e. forces created by the living wood.

Thanks to the wide range of wood types, species and basic densities, simple and highly significant formulas are found for the relationship between green and dry wood properties

34 such as density, longitudinal modulus of elasticity, specific modulus and two shearing modulus

of elasticity. It was also possible to build easy to use conversion coefficients between growth

36 stress indicator (GSI), measured in situ by the single hole method, and growth strain and

37 growth stress with the knowledge of basic density and green longitudinal elastic modulus.

Growth strains, specific modulus and longitudinal shrinkage are indicators of the fibre wall properties independent from basic density. Combined to density, they offer a good set of variables in order to study growth strategy (strains and stresses) and important wood properties. Compression wood, normal wood and tension wood describe a continuum for growth strains but do not appear as a continuum for their relationships with the tree indicators. There should be other basic differences separating these wood types, in the chemical composition of the matrix and the ultrastructure of cellulose microfibrils.

Apart from compression wood, density, specific modulus and longitudinal shrinkage are
 largely inefficient for the prediction of growth stresses and a large experimental study is
 needed, at first on normal wood only, to investigate chemical determinants of growth stains.

#### 48 Keywords

49 Force genesis; growth strains; modulus of elasticity; wood shrinkage; tree biomechanics;50 wood

#### 51 Abbreviations and notations

52	MOE <i>, MOE</i>	modulus of elasticity in L direction
53	$E_g$	green MOE
54	E <sub>d</sub>	air-dry MOE
55	<b>Ε, Ε</b> <sub>L</sub>	Longitudinal modulus
56	G, GTL, GRL	Shear modulus
57	ρ	density
58	BD	basic density
59	DD	dry density
60	k	factor for shear contribution (5/6 for rectangular cross section)
61	SM <i>, SM</i>	specific modulus
62	SMb	basic SM
63	$E_L/\rho$	SM in L direction
64	$E_L/G_{TL}, E_L/G_{RL}$	anisotropy factor
65	GSI	growth stress indicator
66	$lpha_m$	maturation strain
67	$\sigma_m$	maturation stress
68	$\phi$	conversion factor $\alpha$ m/GSI
69	Ψ	conversion factor σm/GSI)
70	L, R, T	longitudinal, radial, tangential directions
71	<i>L</i> <sub><i>k</i></sub> , <i>R</i> <sub><i>k</i></sub> , T <sub>k</sub>	dimension in L, R, T direction for condition k
72	М	mass

73	DPx	distance to pith
74	RH	relative humidity
75	MC <i>, MC</i>	wood moisture content
76	VS, LS	volumetric, linear shrinkage
77	FSP	fibre saturation point

78

#### 79 Introduction

80 Tree biomechanics deal with the analysis of mechanical problems encountered by living trees, 81 including multiphysical couplings between the deformations and movements due to external 82 forces and the biology of cell formation and growth. A typical case is the classical experiment 83 of inclining a young tree at the beginning of cambial activity in Spring (Thibaut et al 2001, 84 Thibaut 2019). In agreement with the physics of viscoelastic materials, the immediate 85 response is a downward elastic flexure followed by a slow downward creep flexure during the 86 first 24 hours. But 5 days later the terminal shoot straightens vertically and 3 months later, 87 apart from a significant growth in length at the apical side, the existing stem shows a change 88 of curvature (restoration of verticality) opposite to the physical model prediction. The 89 biological process of wood growth, both in length (primary growth) and in diameter 90 (secondary growth) should be added to the physical model through appropriate biological 91 state variables complementing the physical state variables. Based on the functions of living 92 wood during the three successive phases of cell division, cell wall expansion and cell wall 93 thickening, three sets of biological variables can be set, in relation to geometrical changes, 94 mass changes and force generation.

95 Geometrical and mass changes are rather well documented in the literature on tree growth 96 (Trouvé et al 2015, Fourcaud et al 2008, Deleuze & Houillier 1997, Chave et al 2005). Their 97 related variables depend on time, genetic growth patterns (architectural model and wood 98 anatomy) and adaption to environment (climate, tree spacing ...). Forces are needed to 99 enhance bending strength through pre-stressing (Alméras et al 2018, Gril et al 2017, Thibaut 100 et al 2001) and to create motor systems (Alméras et al 2005b, Alméras & Clair 2016, Coutand 101 et al 2007) allowing posture control (vertical or inclined growth) or tree shape restoration 102 after accidents (apex breaking, rotation of root system ...). They are generated during fibre (or tracheid) wall thickening (Mellerowicz et al 2001, Plomion et al 2001, Gorshkova et al 2012) 103 104 and their level is adapted to the mechanical needs of the tree: high level for slender trees 105 (Loup et al 2013), with a clear asymmetry between two opposite faces of the wooden axis 106 when a motor action is needed (Alméras et al 2005b, Moulia et al 2006, Fournier et al 2014). 107 In the most asymmetrical situation, one side is made of the so-called reaction wood (Gardiner 108 et al 2014), that differs from normal wood in terms of cell wall ultrastructure and chemical 109 composition (Côté & Timell 1969, Dadswell & Wardrop 1955, Timell 1986, Yeh et al 2005, Yeh et al 2006, Ruelle et al 2007, Fagerstedt et al 2014) for the same tree. This is illustrated in 110 111 Table 1 for the case of sofwoods, with normal wood - comprising opposite wood, lateral wood, 112 juvenile wood, mature wood or flexure wood - clearly distinct from any type of compression 113 wood.

Author	Species	Origin	NW	OW	FW	JW	CW	mCW	sCW	JCW
Brennan et al 2012	Radiata pine		29	27.6	28.7		34.8			
Nanayakkhara et al 2009	Radiata pine	R3+4		27.9				32.9	38.6	
Nanayakkhara et al 2009	Radiata pine	R10		27.3				31.4	35.4	
Nanayakkhara et al 2009	Radiata pine	R15+16		27.1				31.3	35.6	
Nanayakkhara et al 2009	Radiata pine	R1		30			31.6			
Nanayakkhara et al 2009	Radiata pine	R2		27.7			34.9			
Nanayakkhara et al 2009	Radiata pine	Trunk		27			37			
Nanayakkhara et al 2009	Radiata pine	Branch		30.7			39.6			
Funda et al 2020	Scot's pine	Trunk	27.6			27.7				
Yeh et al 2005	Loblolly pine	T. Control	29.4							
Yeh et al 2005	Loblolly pine	T. Windy		28.9			36			
Yeh et al 2005	Loblolly pine	T. Bent		29.1			36.6			
Yeh et al 2006	Loblolly pine	Т. Тор				29.6				
Yeh et al 2006	Loblolly pine	T. Bottom	27.4			28.5				
Yeh et al 2006	Loblolly pine	T. Middle		28.4		28.6	37.4			37.5
Mean			28.4	28.3	28.7	28.6	36.0	31.9	36.5	37.5

#### 114 Table 1 Lignin content for different softwood types

- 115
- 116 Rx: ring number from pith; T.: trunk

117 NW: normal wood; OW: opposite wood; FW: flexure wood; JW: juvenile wood

118 CW: compression wood; mCW: mild compression wood; sCW: severe compression wood;

- 119 JCW juvenile compression wood
- 120 Bold characters: different lignin content in CW

Three parameters can be adjusted during cell wall thickening to fulfil the biomechanical needs of the tree: final cell wall thickness, orientation of cellulosic reinforcements, chemical composition of cell wall polymers. As a result of this adaptation, variations of physical and mechanical properties can be observed in the wood produced by the tree. In this project, trees

125 from various species and exhibiting active biomechanical movements were selected.

Laboratory tests on standard wood specimens sawn from the felled log were related to in-situ residual strain measurements that characterize the biomechanical action of the formed wood,

127 residual strain measurements that characterize the biomechanical action of the formed woo 128 covering as large a range of situations as possible.

#### 129 Material and methods

#### 130 Selection of standing trees

131 Biomechanical studies (Yoshida et al 2000, Jourez et al 2001b, Thibaut et al 2001, Coutand et 132 al 2007, Gril et al 2017) proved that young trees artificially inclined at angles above 20° restore progressively their verticality through the production of reaction wood (RW), either tension 133 134 wood (TW) on the top or compression wood (CW) on the bottom of the inclined stem. Wood 135 produced on other sides of the stem after inclination, either laterally or opposite, has quite 136 similar features both for anatomy and chemical composition. While restoring verticality, the 137 trees share a common type of bottom geometry with a basal curvature (Clair et al 2006). In 138 natural conditions, accidental inclination of the whole tree by root system rotation due to 139 strong wind or landslide can be observed, mostly for young trees. When these trees restore 140 verticality in the following years they share the same type of bottom geometry (Fig. 1). They 141 can be considered as natural experiments, and all trees were firstly selected based on this142 criterion.

To observe a wide diversity of situations, eleven trees were first selected in a tropical rain forest of French Guiana with the help of the botanical expert M.F. Prévost, each from a different family - one tree per species and one species per family. Three poplar trees and three conifer trees (spruce and pines) from temperate forest in France and China were added to the sampling in order to widen the selection (Table 2). For the spruce tree, two logs corresponding to two *GSI* measurement levels (see below) where used, at 1m distance from each other. The

149 mean diameter at breast height of these 17 trees was 26.5 cm.

150
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Code	Family	Genus	Species	DBH	RW					
1	Melastomataceae	Miconia	fragilis	23.6	GL					
2	Meliaceae	Carapa	procera	23.4	GL.					
3	Lecythidaceae	Eschweilera	decolorens	23.8	LGL					
5	Vochysiaceae	Qualea	rosea	30.3	LGL					
7	Cecropiaceae	Cecropia	sciadophylla	25.3	GL					
8	Lauraceae	Ocotea	guyanensis	30.9	GL.					
9	Flacouritaceae	Laetia	procera	29.4	GLc.					
11	Bignonaceae	Jacaranda	сораїа	21.7	NGL					
12	Myristiceceae	Virola	surinamensis	20.4	NGL.					
14	Cesalpinaceae	Eperua	falcata	27.9	GL.					
15	Simaroubaceae	Simaruba	amara	27.7	NGL.					
16	Salicaceae	Populus	hybrid	38.3	GL					
17	Salicaceae	Populus	hybrid	34.8	GL					
18	Salicaceae	Populus	hybrid	25.4	GL					
E1	Pinaceae	Picea	abies	24.9	CW					
E3	Pinaceae	Picea	abies	24.9	CW					
PM	Pinaceae	Pinus	pinaster	20.1	CW					
PS	Pinaceae	Pinus	sylvestris	23.0	CW					
	Mean			26.4						

Table 2 List of trees used in the study

151 152

DBH: diameter at breast height of the trees in cm

153

RW, reaction wood type: GL= tension wood (TW) with gelatinous layer, LGL = TW with a lignified G

154 layer, GLc= TW with a multilayer G layer, NGL= TW with no G layer, CW= compression wood

#### 155 In situ measurements of maturation strain

156 According to elastic models of residual strain field inside the trunk (Fournier et al 1994a, 157 Fournier et al 1994b), the peripheral longitudinal strain locked in recently formed wood is 158 directly associated to the maturation force just before fibre death (Thibaut 2019). This "maturation strain"  $\alpha_m$  is related to the "maturation stress"  $\sigma_m$  by Hooke's law  $\sigma_m = MOE^* \alpha_m$ , 159 where *MOE* is the modulus of elasticity (MOE) of mature wood in the longitudinal direction. 160 161 Several techniques exist for in situ estimation of maturation strain at periphery (Yoshida & 162 Okuyama 2002) Clair et al 2013, Yang et al 2005). Here the CIRAD single-hole method was 163 used. Two pins are inserted in the trunk surface in longitudinal alignment at 45mm distance 164 (Jullien 2013). This distance is measured with a linear displacement transducer before and after drilling a hole of diameter 20mm and depth about 20mm in the middle between the two 165 166 pins. The difference in µm between after and before drilling is called growth stress indicator

- 167 (GSI); it is positive for a tension force and negative for a compression force. Eight GSI 168 measurements are performed on each tree or tree level, equally spaced around the 169 circumference, beginning by the top of the inclined trunk for hardwoods, where tension wood is expected, or by the bottom for softwoods, where compression wood is expected. 170
- 171 GSI is theoretically (Archer 1984) related to maturation strain  $\alpha$  by the relationship:
- $\alpha_m = \phi^* GSI$ ,  $\alpha$  in microstrain ( $\mu \epsilon = 10^{-6}$ ), GSI in  $\mu m$ ,  $\phi$  in  $\mu \epsilon/\mu m$ 172
- 173 where the calibration factor  $\phi$  is calculated by modelling the drilling of an anisotropic material
- 174 occupying a half plane, though a complex equation using wood elastic constants and 175 geometrical factors (distance between pins and hole diameter), see Annex. For various species
- 176
- Baillères (1994) found  $\phi$  values ranging from 10 to 15  $\mu\epsilon/\mu$ m, and Jullien (2013) used 12.9 177  $\mu\epsilon/\mu m$  for beech.
- 178 Wood specimens for physical and mechanical properties measurements.





Fig. 1 Tree measured in French Guiana, wooden disk and rods sawn for each tree DP<sub>x</sub>: distance to pith from the x GSI point

182 Just after cutting each tree, a disk (2cm thick) was crosscut at the level of GSI measurements (Fig. 1). Distance from pith to bark  $(DP_x)$  for each GSI measurement position was measured. 183 184 Eight longitudinally oriented rods where sawn just above the disk, at the 8 GSI positions, the 185 closest possible to the bark, few days after tree falling, in CIRAD worksop in Kourou.. The 186 dimensions of the rods were 500mm (L, longitudinal direction) x 25mm (R, radial direction) x 187 25mm (T, tangential direction) and they were kept in green state, wrapped in food-grade

- 188 transparent cellophane, until the measurement of green MOE ( $E_g$ ). A total of 144 rods were 189 prepared.
- 190 A smaller rod (50mm x 25 mm x 25 mm) was cut from theses long rods for shrinkage study 191 after  $E_g$  measurement.
- The remaining long rods (430mm x 25 mm x 25mm) were air dried in the conditioned chamber at 65 % air relative humidity (RH) and 20°C temperature until equilibrium, corresponding to wood moisture content (MC) around 13%. The MOE was again measured on the air-dry rods as such giving a "crude" air-dry MOE. Rods were then planed on four sides to get standard airdry rods (400mm x 20mm x 20mm) and standard air-dry MOE (*E*<sub>d</sub>) was measured again.
- 197 *MOE measurements*
- 198 The flexure free-free vibration method analysed with Timoshenko model (Bordonné 1989, 199 Brancheriau & Baillères 2002) was used for all measurements. Dimensions in the 3 directions 200 (L, R, T) and mass (M) of the rods was measured with a good precision (0.1%). The rod was put 201 on 2 thin wires at the first vibration mode positions and tapped at one end, successively on 202 the radial (TL) and tangential (RL) face, corresponding to the RL and TL hitting plane, 203 respectively. The resonant frequency  $f_i$  was measured for the three first vibration modes ( $f_1$ , 204  $f_2$ ,  $f_3$ ). Using the approximate solution of free vibration theory of Timoshenko, Bordonné 205 (1989) proved that two useful variables  $x_i$  and  $y_i$  can be built from  $f_i$  frequencies, theoretically 206 linked by the expression:

207 
$$y_i = E/\rho - x_i * E/(k*G)$$

208 where E is the axial MOE of the rod (the MOE in L direction), G the shear modulus in the hitting 209 plane ( $G_{TL}$  or  $G_{RL}$ , depending on the orientation of the rod on the wires),  $\rho$  the rod density and 210 k a fixed factor. The 3 frequencies  $(f_1, f_2, f_3)$  give 3 points of coordinates  $(x_i, y_i)$  allowing to fit 211 the equation of a straight line with a regression coefficient that should be very close to 1.0. 212 The slope, the most sensitive to defects, and the intercept of the regression line are  $-E/(k^*G)$ 213 and  $E/\rho$ , respectively.  $E/\rho$  is the specific modulus (SM) and equals to the square of sound 214 speed in L direction (unit  $m^2/s^2$ ) while the ratio E/G ( $E_L/G_{TL}$  or  $E_L/G_{RL}$ ) describes elastic 215 anisotropy and is useful for the calculation of  $\phi$ . Density is calculated as mass to volume ratio 216  $\rho = M/(L^*R^*T)$  and MOE by the formula  $E = SM * \rho$ . Then G can be derived from E and E/k.G, 217 with k=5/6 for this geometry (Brancheriau & Baillères 2002).

- 218 Basic density and shrinkage measurements.
- Wood density depends on wood moisture content (MC). Basic density (BD), the ratio between anhydrous mass and green volume, is a well-defined parameter characterizing wood honeycomb structure. Wood volume remains constant for green wood until the beginning of drying, while green moisture content ( $MC_g$ ) can vary widely, typically between 30% and 80%.
- 223 Shrinkage behaviour of wood (Glass & Zelinka 2010) is necessary to establish relationships 224 between BD and dry density at a given moisture content (12% for example). This shrinkage 225 begins at a reference MC called fibre saturation point (FSP) and is maximum for anhydrous 226 state ( $MC_0$  = 0%). In order to measure FSP and shrinkage rate, the small rod (L=50mm x 227 R=25 mm x T=25 mm), initially green, is positioned successively in 3 conditioned chambers at 228 decreasing RH (RH = 80%, 65%, 30%) and room temperature (T=20°C), then finally in an oven 229 at 103°C to obtain the anhydrous state. For each five conditions, mass ( $M_k$ ) and dimensions 230  $L_k$ ,  $R_k$ ,  $T_k$  are measured. The moisture content is calculated as  $MC_k = (M_k - M_0) / M_0$  where k=0

231 denote the anhydrous state. The volume is derived from the rod dimension using the formula:

232  $V_k = L_k * R_k * T_k$ , and volumetric shrinkage (VS) at each moisture content is calculated by the 233 formula:  $VS_k = (V_g - V_k)/V_g$ . All the points of coordinates ( $MC_k$ ,  $VS_k$ ) are aligned along a straight 234 line of equation y = VS - x \* VS/FSP (Fig. 2) where VS is the total volumetric shrinkage.





Fig. 2 Measurement of volumetric shrinkage and fibre saturation point

237 Spec. 1-1.: specimen taken at the first *GSI* position for species Miconia fragilis

238 The intercepts between this straight line and y and x axes are the values of VS and FSP,

respectively. The total linear shrinkage in direction L (*LS*) is calculated by the formula:  $LS = (L_{g})^{-1}$ 

240  $L_0$ )/ $L_g$ ,  $L_g$  and  $L_0$  being the length of the rod in green and anhydrous state, respectively.

## 241 **Results**

## 242 Relationships between green and dry properties

243 Because there are more published data on dry than green wood, it is interesting to look at 244 relationships between values of useful properties for tree biomechanics (green state) and 245 wood mechanics (dry state). Concerning the green state, MC<sub>q</sub> was on average 89%, ranging from 38% to 182% (39% to 155% as tree average) and was strongly dependant on wood 246 247 density. The dry state, here, refers to the condition of the specimens after a long storage in a 248 room controlled for temperature ( $T = 21^{\circ}$ C) and air relative humidity (RH = 65%). The 249 corresponding equilibrium MC (MC<sub>d</sub>) ranged from 12% to 16% depending on the species and 250 wood type within the species.

251 For density, green density depending strongly on the seasonal variations of free water content

- in the xylem, *BD* is mostly used instead. The usual proportional relationship, with a very high coefficient of determination, was observed between *BD* and dry density (*DD*) for this sampling
- (Fig 3). The proportionality coefficient (BD/DD) had a mean of 0.826 and ranged from 0.77 to
- 255 0.86. It depended mainly on the total volumetric shrinkage (VS) (Fig 4).
- 256



Fig. 4 Dependence of the basic to dry density ratio to the total volumetric shrinkage.

261 For longitudinal elastic modulus (E), specific modulus (SM) and shear moduli ( $G_{TL}$  and  $G_{RL}$ ), 262 there is also a proportional relationship between green and dry values. The determination 263 coefficient (R<sup>2</sup>) is very high for E and SM (Fig. 5) and the influence of MC is relatively small 264 (around 10% decrease from dry state).





In the case of shear moduli, the proportional relationship is the same for the two directions (TL and RL) with a lower R<sup>2</sup> mostly due to the much higher sensibility of E/G (where G stands for either  $G_{TL}$  or  $G_{RL}$ ) to small heterogeneities along the rod (Fig 6). MC influence is more important (around 25% decrease from dry state) but not drastically.





Fig. 6 Proportional relationship between dry and green shear moduli

#### 274 Estimation of maturation strains and stresses

Using the single hole method to estimate residual strains in an orthotropic material requires the calculation of the conversion parameter  $\phi$  as described in Archer (1984). Baillères in his PhD thesis (1994) used this calculation for 13 different species. Using elastic orthotropic constants coming from statistical models built by Guitard and El Amri (1987), he obtained  $\phi$ values ranging from - 9.1 to - 14.9 µ $\epsilon$ /µm. However, special wood types such as RW were not

280 considered. Besides, we do not have the 9 elastic constants for the different species and wood 281 types (NW and RW) of this study. From Guitard and El Amri and other literature we have built 282 a data collection of the 6 diagonal moduli (EL, ET, ER, GLT, GLR, GTR) for different species with 283 known densities. We estimated the non-diagonal constants ( $v_{LT}$ ,  $v_{TL}$ ,  $v_{LR}$ ,  $v_{RL}$ ,  $v_{RT}$ ,  $v_{TR}$ ) using 284 Guitard's statistical models and then made the whole calculus of  $\phi$  values for these 96 cases 285 (Excel sheet in annex 1). In order to make that calculus, we have to find the 2 solutions of a 286 second degree equation, which is not possible if the determinant is negative. That happens 287 for a few cases (8 with very low E/G values). There was a very high correlation level between 288  $\phi$  and the ratio  $E/G_L$  and a logarithmic equation gives a very high R<sup>2</sup> (Fig.7). This equation: -  $\phi$ = - 77.57\*Ln(E/G) + 34.665 can be used to calculate  $\phi$  with only one anisotropic ratio. 289





Fig. 7 Relationship between conversion coefficient  $\phi$  and anisotropic ratio ( $E/G_{TL}$ ).

292 However, reliable shear moduli data are not always available, so that an alternative method 293 to estimate  $\phi$  is needed. Using the previous formula for the 144 GSI measurements, it appears that the calculated  $\phi$  was also very well related (R<sup>2</sup> = 0.81) to the basic specific modulus (*SMb*), 294 the ratio between Eq and BD (Fig. 8). The higher dispersion around the regression line can be 295 296 explained by higher uncertainty of G measurement as compared to E. Finally, this last formula: 297 -  $\phi$  = -0.4811\**SMb* + 25.45, was used for all specimens. For the very large range of specific modulus (from 4.6 to 34.6 Mm<sup>2</sup>/s<sup>2</sup> for a sampling including RW instead of the usual range 298 299 between 15 to 30  $Mm^2/s^2$  corresponding to NW only) the range of  $\phi$  values is rather large, -5.8 to - 23  $\mu\epsilon/\mu$ m instead of - 9.1 to - 14.9  $\mu\epsilon/\mu$ m in Baillères (1994). 300



301 302

303

Fig. 8 Relationship between conversion coefficient  $\phi$  and basic specific modulus. SMb: basic specific modulus (green modulus of elasticity/ basic density) in Mm<sup>2</sup>/s<sup>2</sup>

304 Maturation stress ( $\sigma_m$ ) is calculated as the product between maturation strain ( $\alpha_m$ ) and green 305 longitudinal MOE ( $E_q$ ). GSI being used for studies on tree reaction (Alméras et al 2005b) or 306 biomechanical adaptation to forest density (Jullien et al 2013), the relationship between GSI 307 and  $\sigma_m$  was examined at tree level and at population level (our sampling). For each tree there 308 are 8 pairs of GSI -  $\sigma_m$  measurements. For all the trees a proportional relationship was found with a very high R<sup>2</sup> level (all R<sup>2</sup>>0.97 and 72% of R<sup>2</sup> values >0.99). This result suggests that it is 309 310 perfectly suitable to use GSI as a proxy for tree biomechanics at tree level, the conversion 311 factor  $\psi = \sigma_m/GSI$  (in MPa/µm) ranging from 0.064 to 0.259 depending on the species (Table 312 3).

313

Table 3 Mean values of parameters per tree

Genus	Species	BD	SMb	Eg	Ψ	R²
Miconia	fragilis	0.71	26.92	19.0	0.232	0.9997
Carapa	procera	0.61	24.87	15.2	0.203	0.9941
Eschweilera	decolorens	0.78	25.92	20.2	0.259	0.9996
Qualea	rosea	0.56	21.29	12.1	0.199	0.9936
Cecropia	sciadophylla	0.35	34.95	12.3	0.107	0.9788
Ocotea	guyanensis	0.46	27.20	12.7	0.156	0.9903
Laetia	procera	0.66	21.97	14.4	0.218	0.9979
Jacaranda	сораїа	0.42	22.14	9.2	0.132	0.9916
Virola	surinamensis	0.29	36.89	10.8	0.084	0.9954
Eperua	falcata	0.70	22.99	16.1	0.234	0.9975
Simaruba	amara	0.30	28.40	8.4	0.096	0.9976
Populus	hybrid	0.29	28.04	8.2	0.110	0.9724
Populus	hybrid	0.34	29.19	9.8	0.114	0.9903
Populus	hybrid	0.38	19.37	7.4	0.128	0.9823
Picea	abies	0.51	20.61	10.0	0.152	0.9933
Picea	abies	0.49	18.10	8.4	0.142	0.9989
Pinus	pinaster	0.42	10.68	11.4	0.064	0.9793
Pinus	sylvestris	0.45	15.88	4.1	0.108	0.9882

314

BD: basic density (Kg/dm<sup>3</sup>); SMb: basic specific modulus ((Mm<sup>2</sup>/s<sup>2</sup>); Eg: green elastic modulus (GPa);

316 $\psi$ : conversion coefficient for maturation stress (in MPa/µm); R² regression coefficient of the317proportional relationship between  $\sigma_m$  and GSI within the tree.

The global relationship between the conversion coefficient and *BD*, for all positions in all trees, shows a very good proportional relationship ( $R^2=0.97$ ) when rods containing compression wood are excluded (Fig. 9). When no measurement of green elastic modulus is available, basic density can be used to calculate the basic specific modulus and then have a good estimation of the coefficient factor for maturation strain, this simple formula:  $\sigma_M=-0.321*BD*GSI$  ( $\sigma_M$  in MPa, *BD* in kg/dm<sup>3</sup> and *GSI* in µm) can be used for all cases when there is no compression wood in the measurement zone.





This is not true for positions with compression wood. A very good proportional relationship (R<sup>2</sup>=0.89) appears between the conversion coefficient and the modulus of elasticity (Fig. 10), but when the green elastic modulus is available, together with basic density, it is possible to use the conversion coefficient  $\phi$  for maturation strain and then calculate  $\sigma_M$ .



333 334 335 336 ψ: conversion coefficient for maturation stress (MPa/μm)
 337 Eg: longitudinal modulus of elasticity at green state (GPa)

338 Force generation and longitudinal wood properties

The maturation stress  $\sigma_m$  is the force created by the living wood per unit surface. It is the product of the maturation strain ( $\alpha_m$ ) and the green L MOE ( $E_g$ ), itself the product of basic density (*BD*) and basic specific modulus (*SM*<sub>b</sub>). *BD*, *SM*<sub>b</sub> and  $\alpha_m$  are the parameters resulting from the activity of the living wood until fibre death.

A correlation analysis (Table 4) shows that  $\sigma_m$  is mostly dependent on  $\alpha_m$  (R<sup>2</sup>=88%) then on SM<sub>b</sub> (22%) and on BD (8%). Moreover, the three parameters <u>SMb</u>,  $E_g/G_{TLg}$ ,  $E_g/G_{RLg}$  are very strongly correlated. They are all indicators of wood anisotropy. Correlation coefficients between LS and  $\alpha_m$  is weak, although it is known that RWs have strongly different values for this property (Jourez et al 2001a, Gardiner et al 2014).

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Table 4: Correlation (Spearman) coefficients between parameters.

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	αm	σm	BD	SMb	LS(%)	Eg	G⊤∟g	G <sub>RL</sub> g	E <sub>L</sub> /G <sub>TL</sub> g	E <sub>L</sub> /G <sub>RL</sub> g
αm	1	0.941	0.095	0.381	0.196	0.435	-0.049	-0.047	0.431	0.422
σm	***	1	0.290	0.467	0.137	0.685	0.059	0.058	0.559	0.495
BD		***	1	-0.346	0.196	0.593	0.790	0.783	-0.094	-0.178
SMb	***	***	***	1	-0.189	0.500	-0.499	-0.508	0.843	0.828
LS(%)	*		*	*	1	-0.074	0.271	0.277	-0.231	-0.175
Eg	***	***	***	***		1	0.289	0.255	0.619	0.534
G <sub>TL</sub> g			***	***	**	***	1	0.866	-0.516	-0.473
G <sub>RL</sub> g			***	***	**	**	***	1	-0.421	-0.587
E <sub>L</sub> /G <sub>TL</sub> g	***	***		***	**	***	***	***	1	0.877
E <sub>L</sub> /G <sub>RL</sub> g	***	***	*	***	*	***	***	***	***	1

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- 350 Bold characters: correlation significant at 0.001
- 351 \*\*\*: correlation significant at 0.001 \*\*: correlation significant at 0.01
- 352 \*: correlation significant at 0.05
- 353  $\alpha_m$ : maturation strain in micro-deformation;  $\sigma_m$ : maturation stress in MPa
- 354  $\phi$  and  $\psi$ : conversion coefficients between GSI and maturation strain and stress, respectively
- 355 BD: basic density (anhydrous mass/green volume) in kg/dm<sup>3</sup>
- 356 LS: total longitudinal shrinkage
- 357 *E<sub>g</sub>*: green longitudinal elastic modulus
- 358 *G*<sub>TLg</sub> and *G*<sub>RLg</sub>: green TL and RL shear modulus, respectively
- 359 SMb: basic specific modulus (green longitudinal elastic modulus/basic density) in Mm<sup>2</sup>/s<sup>2</sup>
- 360  $E_g/G_{TLg}$  and  $E_g/G_{RLg}$ : anisotropy ratio in the green state respectively in TL and RL case
- 361
- 362 Visual observation of the wood disks (Fig 11) allowed affecting a wood type to each tested
- 363 specimen: 1=CW, 2=both CW and NW, 3=NW, 4=both NW and TW, 5=TW. Wood types 2 and
- 364 4 were attributed to rods containing both RW and NW. Transverse sections 15µm thick were
- 365 cut from two NW and two TW rods (in the middle of the rod) in order to examine wood
- anatomy (Fig. 12 and Fig.13).





Pinus pinaster; Scale bar: 25µm

Fig. 12 Comparative anatomy of compression wood and normal wood for the conifer species
 NW: normal wood; CW: compression wood

For conifers, the difference between CW and NW is classical (Ruelle 2014). The mean microfibrillar angle (*MFA*) is always high for CW, and globaly lower for NW but with some overlap around 30-35° (Brémaud et al 2013). The trees were rather young (Fig. 11) so most of the NW can be considered as juvenile wood (JW).



Eperua falcata; Scale bar: 25µm





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Simarouba amara; Scale bar: 25µm

Fig.13 Comparative anatomy of tension wood and normal wood for three tropical species NW: normal wood; TW: tension wood

For hardwoods, a majority of G-layer type TW (3 poplars, Miconia, Carapa, Ocotea, Cecropia,
Eperua) were studied (Table 2), two species had a lignified G layer (Eschweilera & Qualea),
one a peculiar multi-layered G layer (Laetia) and three no G layer fibre (Jacaranda, Virola,
Simarouba), according to a recent classification based on 242 tropical species (Ghislain et al
2019). Measurement of *MFA* on the 3 species represented in Fig. 13 (Ruelle et al 2007) showed
lower values for TW (2° to 14°) than for NW (10° to 35°), with some overlap around 10°-14°.

The clear distinction between wood types for the parameters describing force generation (Fig. 14) results from the very definition of RW as force generator: compression (negative strain/stress) for CW, slight tension for NW, high tension for TW. Median maturation strain is very high, around 2200 µdef (0.22%) in absolute value for both RWs, much lower (620 µdef) for NW. Median maturation stresses are not so different, in absolute value, between CW (-9.5 MPa, compression) and NW (+6.6 MPa, tension), due to the low value of elastic modulus (median 5.5 GPa) for CW (10.2 GPa for NW). The difference increases a little for TW (+31 MPa, tension) due to the higher median value of elastic modulus (14.5 Gpa), so tensile stress is nearly 5 times higher in TW as compared to NW. For a small new ring portion of 100mm<sup>2</sup> (50 mm wide, 2mm thick) the force created in CW (around 1 KN) or TW (around 3 KN) sectors are very high.

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Fig. 14 Distribution of maturation strain and stress values for different wood types  $\alpha_m$ : maturation strain in micro-deformation;  $\sigma_m$ : maturation stress in MPa CW: compression wood; NW: normal wood; TW: tension wood

The parallel regular progression of values for anisotropy factor shown in Fig 15, reflects the fact that the *MFA* decreases from CW (up to 50°) to TW (near to 0°), with, however, a large overlap between NW and TW and a smaller one between NW and CW. This is not true for *LS* (Fig. 15 and Fig. 16): both RWs have a high *LS* while NW keeps a very low *LS* level (less than 0.4%).



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- 410 *LS*: longitudinal shrinkage,  $E_g/G_{TLg}$ : anisotropy ratio at green state. 411 same legend as Fig. 11
- 412 The relationship between LS and  $\alpha_m$  (Fig. 16),  $\alpha_m$  and SMb (Fig. 17) or LS and SMb (Fig. 18)
- 413 evidences different patterns for NW, CW and TW. It should be noted that  $\alpha_m$  and green wood
- 414 properties (LS and SMb) are not strictly measured on the same material and this contributes
- 415 to lower correlations between them.
- 416 *LS* grows with the absolute value of  $\alpha_m$  (Fig. 16) for both CW and GL-TW while *LS* keeps low
- 417 for all the NWs.

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425 There is no evident influence of  $\alpha_m$  on *SMb* (Fig.17) for NW while *SMb* increases when  $\alpha_m$ 426 decreases in absolute value for both TW and CW.

![](_page_20_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_20_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_20_Figure_2.jpeg)

![](_page_20_Figure_3.jpeg)

431 *LS* and *SMb* are measured on the same rod so the uncertainties are lower. For all wood types 432 *LS* decreases significantly when *SMb* increases (Fig. 18) but the evolution is rather steep or 433 very steep for TW and CW while it is smooth for all NWs. It should be noted that the TW of

434 species without G layer is similar to NW for this relationship. High L shrinkage is mostly present
435 when there is a G layer in the TW fibre.

![](_page_20_Figure_6.jpeg)

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## 439 **Discussion**

## 440 Green to dry wood properties

441 *BD* is now commonly used in ecological studies on carbon sequestration in forests. Using the 442 large CIRAD database (4022 trees) a very nice proportional relationship was found between

443 DD (12% moisture content) and BD with a proportional factor of 0.828 (Vieilledent et al 2018).

Here, with a quite different sampling, a factor of 0.826 was obtained. The very large range of
VS due to the presence of CW shows that this proportional factor ranges from 0.78 to 0.86
(Fig. 4) with a good prediction of the variation by VS which can be easily measured at the same
time as BD.

448 In our study, elastic properties are measured by vibration technique, namely high deformation 449 rate where little viscosity is active (no creep added to the instantaneous elastic strain). The 450 decrease between dry and green state is only around 10% for E and around 25% for G, either 451  $G_{RL}$  or  $G_{TL}$ . The Wood Handbook (Gretschman 2010) gives MOE values in the green state and 452 at 12% MC, as means for 64 hardwood species and 37 softwood species, using different rods 453 for each condition in order to measure also rupture strength. A very good proportional 454 relationship is also obtained (R<sup>2</sup>=0.86 for hardwoods, R<sup>2</sup>= 0.95 for softwoods), as compared to R<sup>2</sup>=0.97 in this study. The decrease between air-dry and green states is around 20% (22% for 455 456 hardwoods, 20% for softwoods), which is significantly different (two times greater). A small 457 part of the difference can be explained by a different equilibrium MC (from 12% to 16% for 458 air-dry wood in this study), but the greatest part is likely to originate from the experimental 459 method. In the Wood Handbook the measurements are performed in 3 points bending at slow 460 deformation rate, allowing some initial creep which is more important for green wood than 461 for dry wood.

#### 462 *GSI as a good indicator for growth stresses*

463 The single hole method has the advantage of being quick, easily operable in all field situations 464 and cheap, making it most appropriate for large measurement campaigns such as the 465 "Stresses in beech" EU project where 8,000 GSI data were collected in situ (Jullien et al 2013). 466 It requires, however, the use of a conversion factor ( $\phi$ ) from GSI to  $\alpha_m$ . The theoretical 467 computation of  $\phi$ , based on an orthotropic elastic model of residual stress (Archer 1984), 468 depends of wood anisotropy near the measurement zone and thus depends on the wood 469 species as well as the wood type. It can be practically estimated from the basic specific 470 modulus ( $SM_b$ ) that ranges from 5 Mm<sup>2</sup>/s<sup>2</sup> for severe compression wood to up to 40 Mm<sup>2</sup>/s<sup>2</sup> 471 for resonance wood with high sound speed. The range of resulting maturation strains found 472 in this study is very similar to values in the literature for CW (Yamamoto et al 1991, Huang et 473 al 2001, Yamashita et al 2007) and TW (Yoshida et al 2000, Fang et al 2008, Clair et al 2013), 474 around -4000 to +4000 µdef.

The 8 maturation stresses calculated for each tested tree were proportional to GSI values with very high regression coefficients ( $R^2>0.97$ ), so it is possible to use *GSI* as a proxy of growth stress within a tree, even when it contains severe CW or TW sectors. Furthermore, the conversion coefficient  $\psi$  between *GSI* and maturation stress is proportional to BD with a very good regression coefficient ( $R^2=0.97$ ), except in the case of CW occurrence. This means that for hardwoods, *BD* is the only parameter needed for the conversion coefficient  $\psi$ .

481 Strain, stress and force generation.

Force generation is one of the functions provided by fibres/tracheids during cell-wall thickening, and force asymmetry between both sides of a wooden axis is the motor of its posture control (Alméras et al 2005b, Alméras et al 2009). The force (*F*) produced by an angular portion of new living xylem equals the product of the area (*A*) of that portion, orthogonal to the force, by the maturation stress ( $\sigma_m$ ) generated in the xylem tissue during cell-wall thickening: *F*=*A*. $\sigma_m$ . *A* depends both on the amount of cell division in the cambium and on the cell expansion until the end of primary wall setting (Cuny et al 2012).  $\sigma_m$  is also the

- residual stress present in the last ring of sapwood after the programmed fibre death, and canbe measured in situ by classical residual stress measurement methods. The existence of this
- 491 pre-stress enhances the flexure resistance of wooden axes (Gril et al 2017) and thus
- 492 contributes to the skeleton function of wood in the tree.
- 493 Maturation stress  $\sigma_m$  is associated to maturation strain  $\alpha_m$  via Hooke's law:  $\sigma_m = E.\alpha_m$ , where 494 *E* stands here for  $E_g$ , the MOE of xylem tissue at the end of the maturation process.  $\alpha_m$  is 495 locked in the wood until stress release, e.g. by cutting. It is largely agreed that  $\alpha_m$ , as a result 496 of the whole lignification process, is the source of  $\sigma_m$ . As the new layer is glued on a solid rigid
- 497 core, the "natural" extension or shrinkage of the fibre cannot be expressed, resulting in stress
- 498 occurrence.
- This longitudinal expansion during secondary wall deposition is of the order of 0.1%, much smaller than the expansion occurring during primary wall building. But, at the end of the maturation process, the MOE of a xylem portion is very high, of the order of 10 GPa, thousands of time bigger than the modulus at the end of primary wall expansion. As a result, maturation stresses have high values allowing to produce large forces (of the order of kN) and large motor actions (Alméras et al 2005b).
- 505 In the L direction, thanks to the honeycomb-like microstructure of wood with a quasi-parallel 506 alignment of the wall of fibres or tracheids, wood MOE (E) is directly related to cell-wall MOE 507 (E<sub>w</sub>). Below FSP, when cell cavities (lumens) contain only air and water vapour, wood specific 508 modulus SM = E/d equals that of the cell-wall  $SM_w = E_w/d_w$ , where  $d_w$  is the cell-wall density; 509 both being equal to the square of the longitudinal sound of speed (Gibson and Ashby 1999). 510 Wood MOE can thus be expressed as:  $E = d \times SM = d \times SM_w = (d/d_w) \times E_w$ . In this expression the 511 relative density  $(d/d_w)$  represents the cell-wall proportion; it is a basic property of the cellular material, while  $E_w$  is a basic property of the cell wall. Both  $d_w$  and  $E_w$  depend on the properties 512 513 of the polymers composing the cell wall; while  $d_w$  variation is very small among wood species 514 and types ( $d_w \sim 1.5 \text{g/cm}^3$ ),  $E_w$  is highly dependent on the ultrastructural organisation of the
- cell wall such as the orientation of cellulosic microfibrils. The longitudinal maturation strain
- 516  $\alpha_m$ , like  $E_w$ , depends on cell-wall composition and organization.
- 517 Wood formation involves three successive processes: cell division, expansion and maturation: 518 the number of cells produced during a given period of time is controlled by cell division, their 519 size by cellular expansion and the properties of their wall by cellular maturation (taken here 520 in a broad sense, including the cell-wall thickening). Wood relative density  $(d/d_w)$ , 521 approximately proportional to the ratio between cell-wall thickness and cell diameter, is 522 controlled both by division and by maturation, while cell-wall MOE ( $E_w$ ) and maturation strain 523  $(\alpha_m)$  are mostly controlled by maturation. Wood MOE (E), as the product of  $E_w$  and  $d/d_w$ , and 524 maturation stress  $\sigma_m$ , as the product of E and  $\alpha_m$ , are both controlled by expansion and 525 maturation. When a layer of wood is deposited at stem periphery, the force produced by a portion of that ring, equal to the product of  $\sigma_m$  and the ring thickness, is controlled by 526 527 expansion and maturation, and by division - and so is the bending motor force produced at 528 the stem level, since it amounts, roughly, to the product of the driving forces on the two 529 opposite faces and the total diameter growth. The regulation of such a scheme is very complex 530 and is far from being fully understood today. Anyway, this regulation of forces is also, at the 531 end, a regulation of all wood properties because it affects chemistry, anatomy, and cell-wall 532 ultrastructure.

#### 533 Compression wood, normal wood and tension wood

534 It is natural and useful to use maturation strain  $\alpha_m$  as basic indicator of maturation because it 535 depends only on this living phase, but it is also the case of  $E_w$  as well as of longitudinal 536 shrinkage (*LS*), which depend essentially only the composition and structure of the cell wall.

537 Hence the relationships between these three parameters can provide information on what

538 happened during secondary wall thickening until programmed cell death.

539 The distinction between wood types is based on  $\alpha_m$ : CW produces positive  $\alpha_m$ , TW very large 540 negative  $\alpha_m$  and NW very low to rather high negative  $\alpha_m$ . All have a muscular action for the

541 control of stem curvature: NW alone for a moderate action, or combined with RW (either CW

- 542 or TW) for a strong action. Many papers highlight that triggering RW mobilise specific genes
- Gardiner et al 2014) and changes strongly the chemical composition of the cell wall matrix as
   compared to NW. This is probably what explains the different patterns in the relationships
- 545 observed in Fig. 15, 16 & 17.

546 For NW, no significant difference seems to exist between softwoods and hardwoods in spite 547 of chemical differences in chemical composition of the matrix, mainly for the hemicelluloses 548 (Gérard et al 2020). For all NWs there is a wide range of MFA, and consequently, in specific 549 modulus (Fig. 14), with a large range overlap for TW and a small one for CW (Brémaud et al 550 2013, Ruelle et al 2007). But no significant relationship was fond between  $\alpha_m$  and SMb (Fig. 551 17) although both have large variations. Many papers have described a very significant 552 relationship between MFA and  $\alpha_m$  but they combine NW and RW and the significance comes 553 from the RW (Yamamoto et al 1991, Okuyama et al 1994, Yamamoto et al 1998).

- For CW there is a strong relationship between  $\alpha_m$  and *SMb*; this is similar to all results from the literature and is consistent with models built on the assumption of a bulk shrinkage of cell wall matrix (Alméras et al 2005a, Yamamoto et al 1988, Guitard et al 1999). The models cannot be well adjusted to both NW and CW.
- For TW although it is admitted that *MFA* is always small or very small, the specific modulus is not as high as for NW with low *MFA*. A tiny tendency of lower  $SM_b$  for higher maturation strain (in absolute value) seems to appear for G-layer TW. *MFA* cannot explain the high maturation strain of TW, and there is no clear difference between G-layer, lignified G-layer and no G-layer types of TW regarding the relationship between *SMb* and  $\alpha_m$ .
- 563 One clear indication within each tree is the much higher *LS* for both RWs as compared to the 564 NW in the same tree (Table 5). But this difference is higher in the case of G-layer TW.
- 565

Table 5 Differences between normal and reaction wood

Туре	$\alpha$ m NW	αm RW	RW/NW	LS NW	LS RW	RW/NW	SMb NW	SMb RW	RW/NW	
SW	386	-2103	-5.4	0.15	2.10	14.4	21.08	9.01	0.43	
HW GL	796	2255	2.8	0.17	0.89	5.3	25.48	28.42	1.12	
HW GLc	522	3579	6.9	0.15	1.22	7.9	19.16	24.58	1.28	
HW LGL 668 2174 3.3 0.17 0.53 3.0 22.95 29.21 1.2									1.27	
HW NGL         637         1995         3.1         0.11         0.31         2.9         27.89         32.18         1.15										
SW: Softwood; HW: hardwood; NW: normal wood; RW: reaction wood										
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SW: Softwood; HW: hardwood; NW: normal wood; RW: reaction wood GL: gelatinous layer; GLc: multi-layered GL; LGL: lignified GL; NGL: no GL  $\alpha_m$ : maturation strain; *LS*: longitudinal shrinkage; *SMb*: basic specific modulus RW/NW: ratio between RW and NW values

- 571 For conifers, the difference of dependence between *LS* and *SM* for NW and RW was described 572 before (Watanabe & Norimoto 1996).
- 573 Models for longitudinal shrinkage of wood (Cave 1972, Yamamoto et al 2001) predict a steady 574 growth of LS with growing MFA over 30° and suggest a small inverse situation for small MFA 575 below 30°. Remembering that specific modulus is strongly decreasing (from 30 to 10 Mm<sup>2</sup>/s<sup>2</sup>) 576 when MFA increases from 10 to 30° (Cowdrey & Preston 1966, Cave & Hutt 1968, Brémaud et 577 al 2013), LS should increase when  $SM_b$  increases in the range 11 to 33 Mm<sup>2</sup>/s<sup>2</sup> (using the 578 conversion factor 1.1 between dry specific modulus and SM<sub>b</sub>). In fact, there was a very 579 significant negative correlation between LS and SM<sub>b</sub> for NW in that range. The same seems to 580 be true also for TW, but  $SM_b$  was supposed to be higher for the low MFA values in TW. 581 Moreover, G-layer TW has a much higher LS than NW for similar values of SM<sub>b</sub>.
- 582 The paradoxical situation of longitudinal shrinkage for G-layer tension wood was described in 583 the literature (Dadswell & Wardrop 1955, Jourez et al 2003, Clair & Thibaut 2014). Many 584 recent papers discuss the role of cellulose nano-fibres organisation within the microfibrils, 585 using both experiments and models (Clair et al 2008, Chang et al 2015, Alméras & Clair 2016, 586 Gorshkova et al 2018).  $\alpha_m$  and *LS* are considered but these models and could be also efficient 587 to predict the specific modulus "anomaly" for G-fibres.
- 588 Trade-off between active posture control and passive pre-stressing
- 589 The tensile pre-stressing of stem periphery enhances its flexure resistance, thanks to the 590 resistance in tension of wood being typically twice that in compression (Gordon 1978, Thibaut 591 & Gril 2003, Moulia et al 2006). In order to roughly quantify this, the relationship between 592 resistance to compression (CR) and basic density (BD) was examined on the data for green 593 wood in the wood handbook (Kretschmann 2010). CR can be predicted by a proportional 594 formula:  $CR = k^*BD$ , where k = 52.5 for softwoods and 46.1 for hardwoods with CR in MPa and 595 BD in kg/dm3. The specific resistance to compression (resistance/density) is rather unaffected by microfibril angle (Gindl 2001, Gindl & Teischinger 2002), specifically for CW (Pillow & 596 597 Luxford 1937, Cockrell & Knudson 1973), and the same ratio can be used for CW and NW.
- 598 The same database gives also values of green flexure resistance (MOR), roughly twice CR, that 599 can be used as a conservative value for tensile strength (Kretschmann 2010); green wood MOR 600 also can be predicted by a proportional formula:  $MOR = k^*BD$ , where k = 108 for both 601 softwoods and hardwoods. According to a smaller database (18 species), associated to the 602 large wood handbook database, the green ultimate tensile resistance is in average 60% higher 603 than green MOR for the same species (Markwardt & Wilson 1935). Published data of green 604 TW resistance are scarce. Clarke (1937) writes that tensile strength of TW is 10% higher than 605 that of NW for beech, while compression strength of TW is much lower, which is consistent 606 with the higher proportion of cellulose microfibrils in TW. It can also be accepted that green tensile strength of TW is around 60% higher than its green MOR. 607
- The crude approximation of *CR* and *MOR* in the green state, based on *BD*, was used for all tested rods. Table 6 summarizes, for NW, TW and CW, the mean values of *BD*, *CR* and *MOR*, together with the maturation stress  $\sigma_m$ . According to the pre-stressing represented by  $\sigma_m$ , in case of tree bending the maximum allowable compressive stress case is equal to the sum of *CR* and  $\sigma_m$ , while the maximum allowable tensile stress is the difference between *MOR* and  $\sigma_m$ .

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Table 6 Pre-stressing and flexure resistance for different wood types

Tree	BD	DPrel	Eg	CR	MOR	$\sigma$ m	$\sigma$ m + CR	MOR-om			
mean CW	0.56	1.26	5.1	29.5	60.8	-9.3	20.2	70.1			
mean NW SW	0.46	0.91	10.9	22.4	46.3	3.8	26.2	42.5			
mean NW HW	0.47	0.93	11.4	21.7	50.9	8.1	29.7	42.8			
mean TW	0.51	1.16	14.4	23.3	54.8	34.3	57.6	20.5			

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BD: basic density (Kg/dm<sup>3</sup>); Eg: green modulus of elasticity (GPa); DPrel: ratio between rod distance to pith (DP) and mean DP for the 8 rods of the tree; CR: longitudinal crushing resistance (MPa); MOR: flexure resistance (MPa)

619 620 CW: compression wood; NW SW: normal wood of softwood; NW HW normal wood of hardwood;  $\sigma_m$ : maturation stress or pre-stress (MPa)

621 For a well-balanced tree containing no RW,  $\sigma_m$  is always positive (tension) on both sides of the 622 trunk under wind action, and the wind stress is maximum and the same in absolute value, on 623 the two faces: compression downwind, tension upwind. If the maximum wind stress is around 624 25 MPa for the mean trees of Table 6, the NW will be safe in all wind situations. But for both 625 types of RW the allowable resistance to compression (case of CW) or to tension (case of TW) 626 are similar and lower than a wind stress of 25MPa. Stresses due to strong reacting forces may 627 bring danger in case of wind action either on the compressed side for softwoods or the tensile 628 side for hardwoods.

As *MOR* is likely to be much lower than tensile strength, the situation may not be critical for a
 TW side, but for the higher tensile stresses there may be a small wind stress attenuation by
 ovalisation of the cross section inducing a growth of the second moment of inertia in the wind
 direction.

633 The compressive stress produced by CW is obviously dangerous in case of strong wind 634 opposite to the CW side. The trade-off between pre-stressing of the skeleton and high force 635 asymmetry for verticality restoration is managed in a rather sophisticated way as can be 636 examined on Fig. 11 and Table 6. For CW, density is higher, MOE is much lower and ring width 637 is much higher - with ovalisation of the cross section. A high compressive force in the newly 638 formed CW is achieved, despite the very low MOE, by higher density and much higher ring 639 width. CR is higher due to higher density and maturation compressive stress is limited by the 640 small value of MOE so that the maximum allowable compression stress is not so low. 641 Moreover, there is a large heterogeneity of MOE within the cross section between CW zone 642 and the rest. The neutral axis in bending under wind action will no more be in the geometric 643 centre of the section. As a result, the strain level at periphery will be 15 to 20% higher in the 644 low modulus portion (the compression wood side) and lower in the other side. As MOE is 645 much lower in the CW side (2 times lower), the compressive wind stress will be lower than 646 expected for a normal tree. Ovalisation of the cross section will bring a small additive security 647 factor and the sum of these compensations should be enough for wind safety in such a case.

## 648 Conclusion

649 The combined growth stress evaluation on standing trees and laboratory measurements of 650 wood properties on a large range of situations (different species and densities, NW and RW) 651 bring useful tools for this kind of studies. 1- very good proportional relationships were 652 established for the relationship between green and dry state for density, specific modulus, longitudinal elastic (MOE) and shearing modulus of elasticity ( $G_{TL}$  and  $G_{RL}$ ). Hence dry wood properties can be used whether there are no green wood data. 2 - a simple conversion coefficient ( $\phi$ ) was obtained between growth stress indicator (*GSI*) coming from the single hole method and maturation strain using the basic specific modulus (ratio between green MOE and basic density *BD*) and even maturation stress using only basic density for hardwood or softwood normal wood. The proportionality is true within a tree in all cases, hence *GSI* can be directly used for biomechanical studies at tree level.

660 Basic specific modulus (SM<sub>b</sub>) and longitudinal shrinkage (LS) as well as maturation strain ( $\alpha_m$ ) 661 are properties of cell wall material in the longitudinal direction depending only on the last 662 fibre living phase (maturation phase, i.e. secondary wall deposition). Microfibril angle (MFA) 663 in the secondary wall and chemical composition of cell wall polymers are the underlying parameters explaining the variations of these 3 properties.  $\alpha_m$  provides a continuum of wood 664 types from CW to TW through NW, but the analysis of SM<sub>b</sub> and LS proves that RW cannot be 665 666 considered as extreme case of NW but specific patterns as suggested by genomic studies. 667 Predictive models should be built separately for the 3 types, but the pertinent combined data 668 on  $\alpha_m$ , MFA and chemistry of main polymers is lacking mainly for NW which has an important contribution to muscular function of the living wood, even in posture regulation. For CW (Yeh 669 670 et al 2005) and for non G-layer TW (Baillères et al 1995) the relative composition in lignin 671 monomers (H/G for softwoods, S/G for hardwoods) was a good predictor of RW. These 672 parameters can be active also within NW without too much changes in lignin content.

673 By creating forces, the living wood generates tensile residual stresses within the internal 674 skeleton, improving its resistance to flexure forces as wind action on the compressive side 675 where the resistance to compression is lower. But high compression pre-stressing on one side 676 or very high tension pre-stressing on the other side by RW will bring dangerous situations in case of strong wind in the axis of RW. There is a necessary trade-off between efficient posture 677 678 control (by forces) and efficient pre-stressing (by stresses) and compression wood solution 679 (the most dangerous under wind action) is managed by a complex simultaneous regulation of 680 strain, modulus of elasticity (via the MFA), stress (via the density), force (via the ring width) 681 and global geometry (via the anisotropy of second moment of area of the section).

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