



# Study of innovative 3D-printed steel production for Structural Engineering applications

Vittoria Laghi

*Yearly assessment, SEHM2 PhD program, XXXIII Cycle, Bologna*

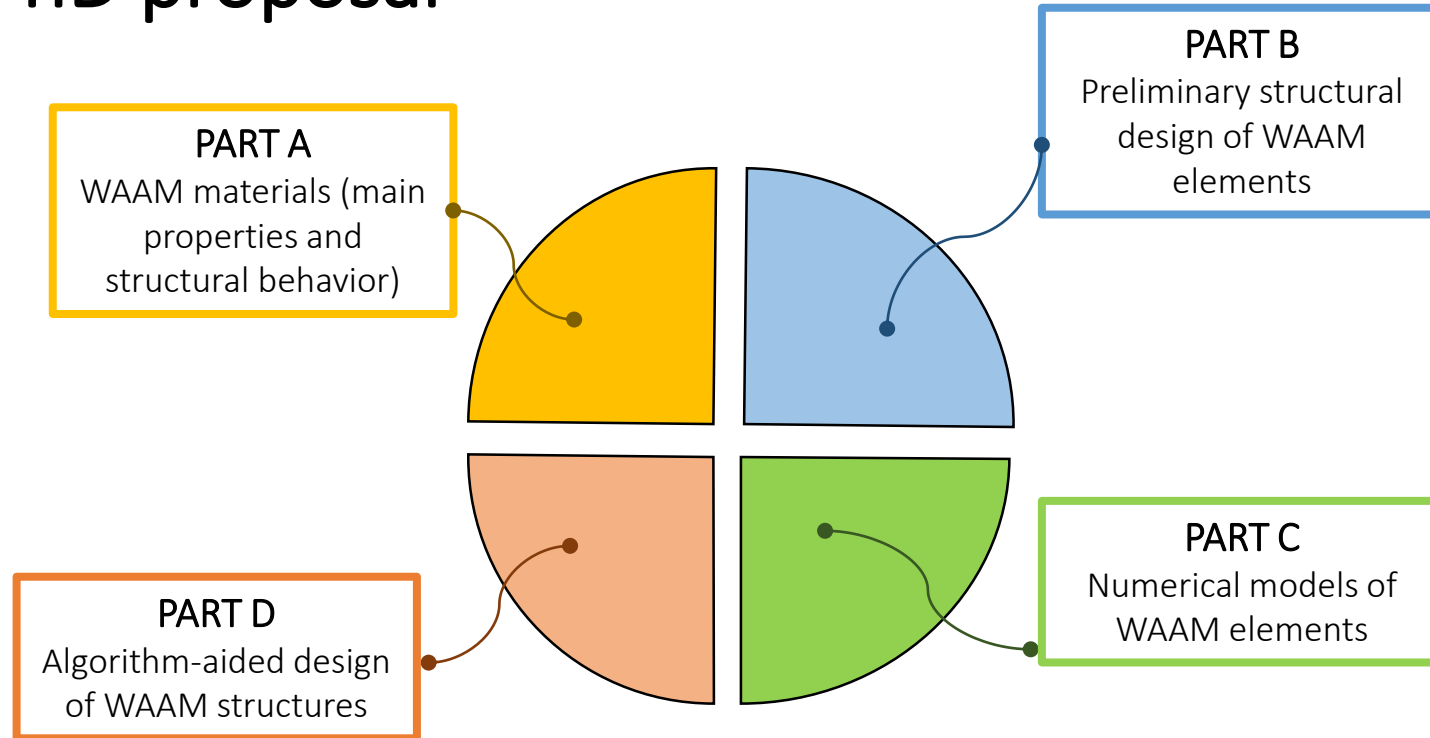
**Advisor:** Prof. Ing. Tomaso Trombetti

**Co-Advisors:** Prof. Ing. Giada Gasparini  
Dott. Ing. Michele Palermo

# OUTLINE

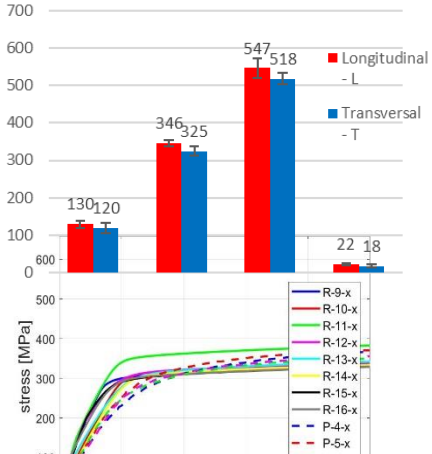
- PhD proposal
- Overview of the 1<sup>st</sup> year of research
- 2<sup>nd</sup> year of research
- Outcomes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of research
- Further studies

# PhD proposal



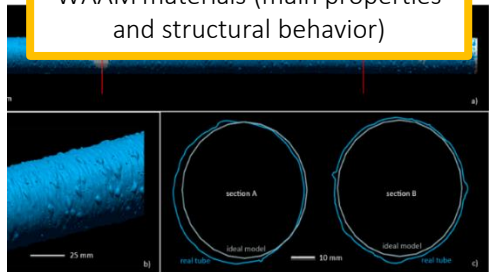
# PhD proposal

Overview tensile tests - WAAM plates



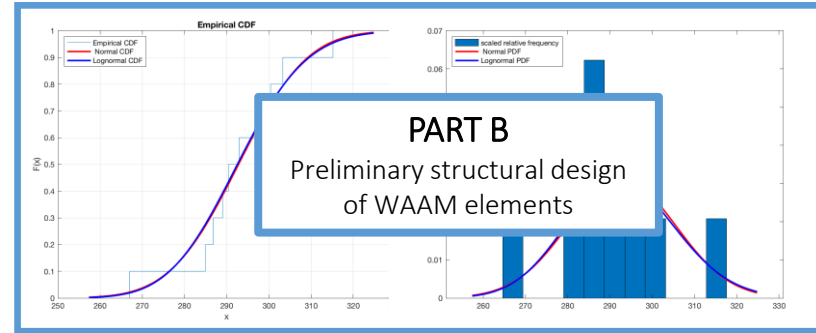
## PART A

WAAM materials (main properties and structural behavior)



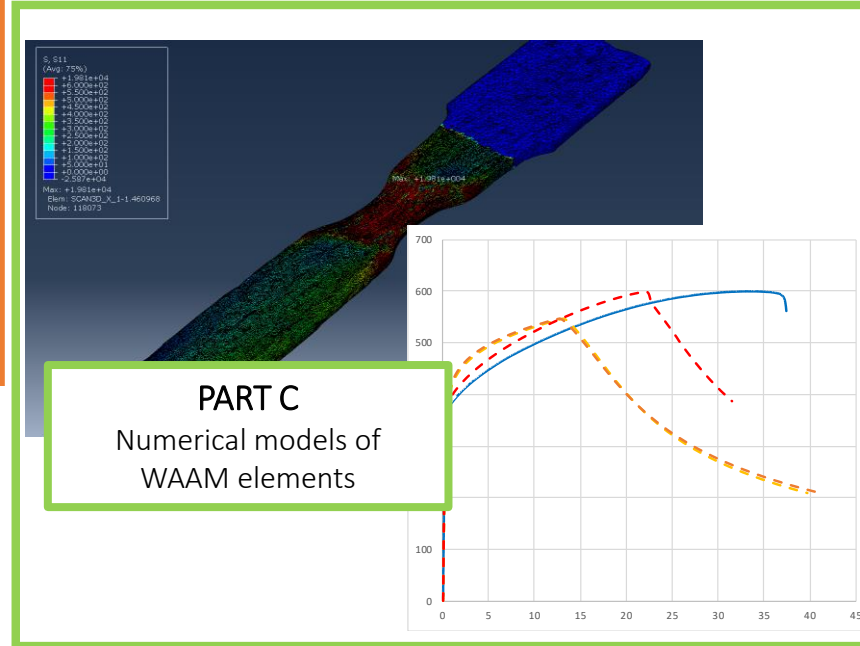
## PART D

Algorithm-aided design of WAAM structures



## PART B

Preliminary structural design of WAAM elements

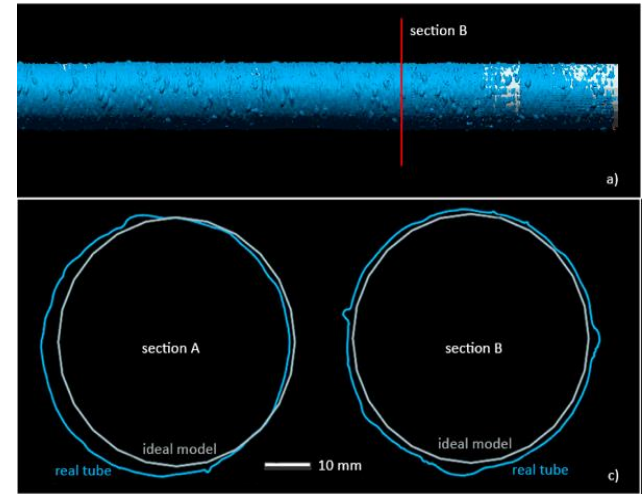
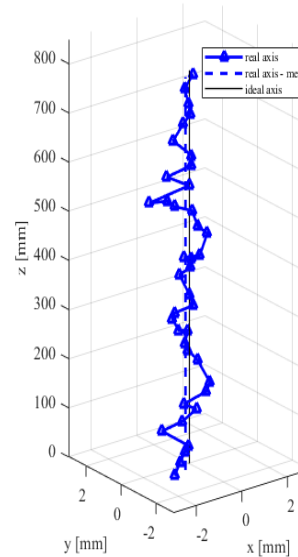
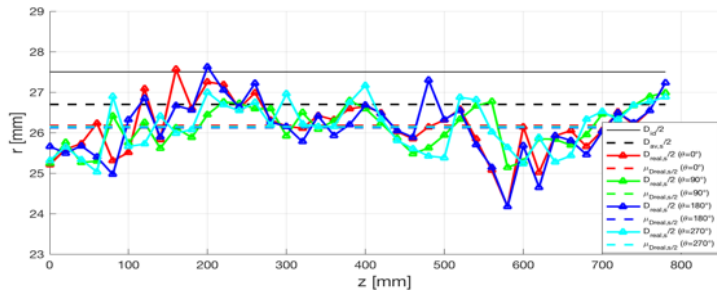


## PART C

Numerical models of WAAM elements

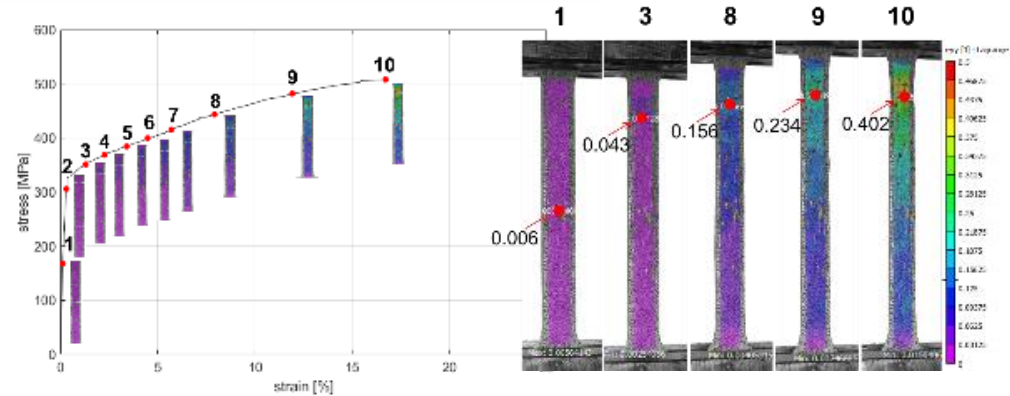
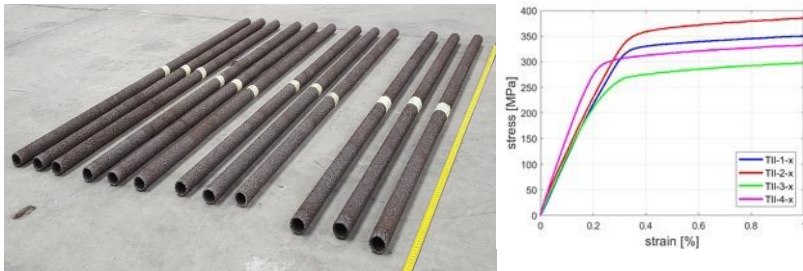
# 1<sup>st</sup> year of research

- **Geometrical characterization** of WAAM 308LSi stainless steel elements
  - Evaluation of the geometrical discrepancy between digital model and real printed outcome (manual measurements, volume-based measurements, 3D scan acquisition)



# 1<sup>st</sup> year of research

- **Mechanical characterization** of WAAM 308LSi stainless steel elements
  - Evaluation of the mechanical response of WAAM planar and tubular elements tested under tension, compression and buckling



# 1<sup>st</sup> year outcomes

- **Geometrical characterization:** the current 3D-printing process requires specific geometric factors to adapt the geometry taken from the digital model to the real outcome.
- **Mechanical characterization:** the 3D-printed stainless steel presents in general different characteristics with respect to the traditionally-manufactured one (half value of elastic modulus E, higher yielding point and higher ductility)

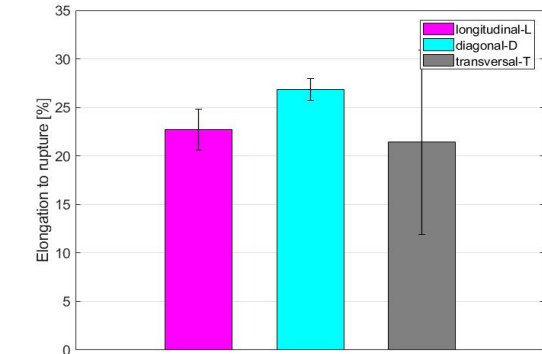
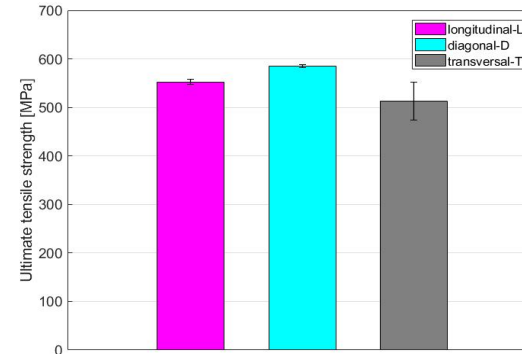
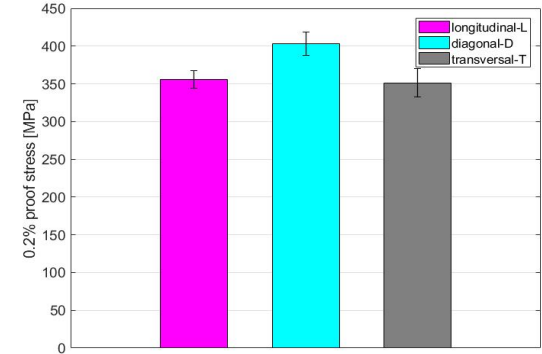
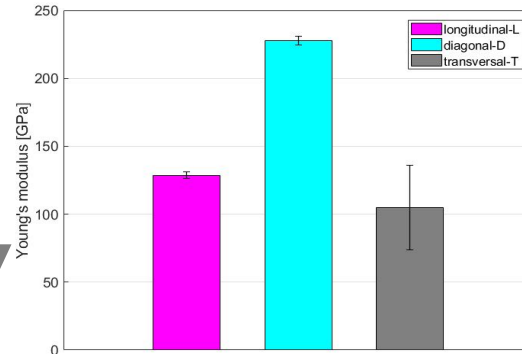
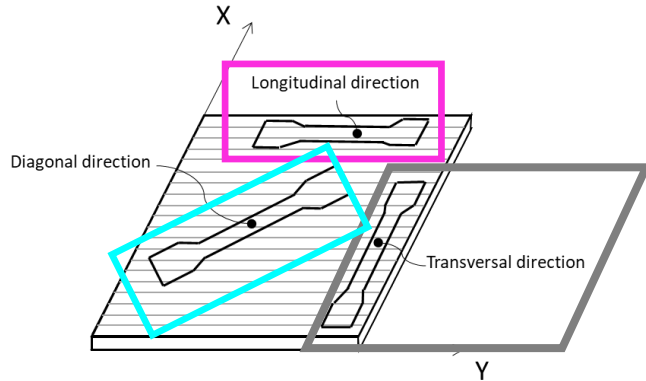
# 2<sup>nd</sup> year of research

- **PART A: Mechanical characterization** of WAAM 308LSi stainless steel
  - Evaluation of the response of WAAM elements under tensile loading depending on:
    - the orientation of the specimen with respect to the deposition layer
    - the printing strategy (“continuously” printed or “dot-by-dot” printed)
    - the surface texture (either “polished” or “rough”, i.e. as printed)



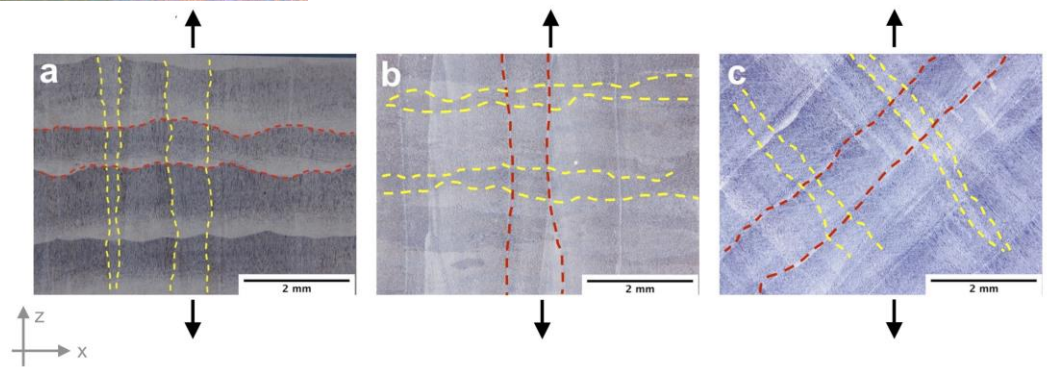
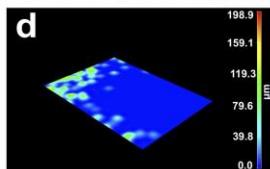
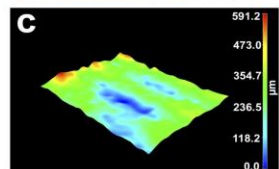
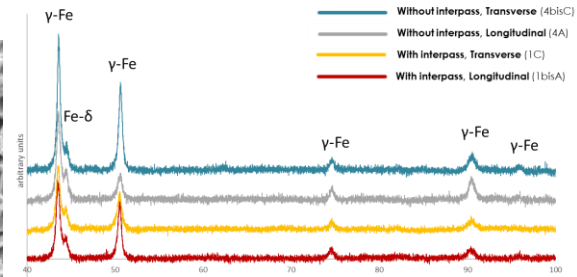
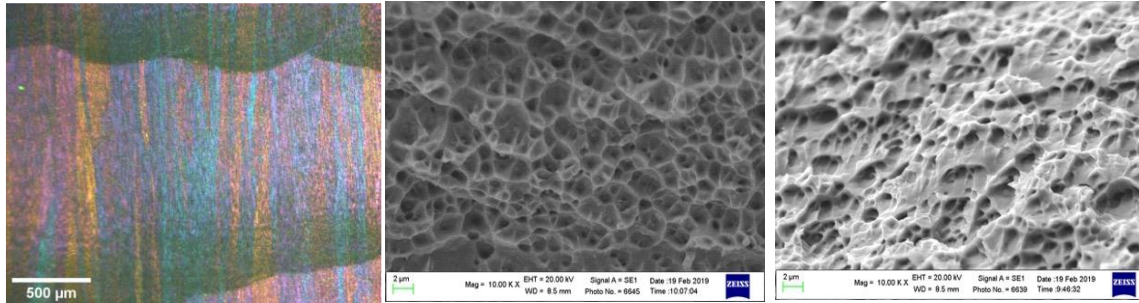
# 2<sup>nd</sup> year of research

- PART A: Mechanical characterization** of WAAM 308LSi stainless steel



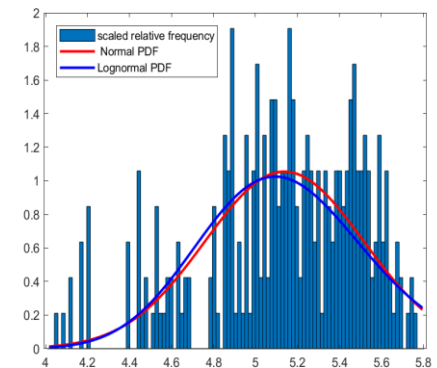
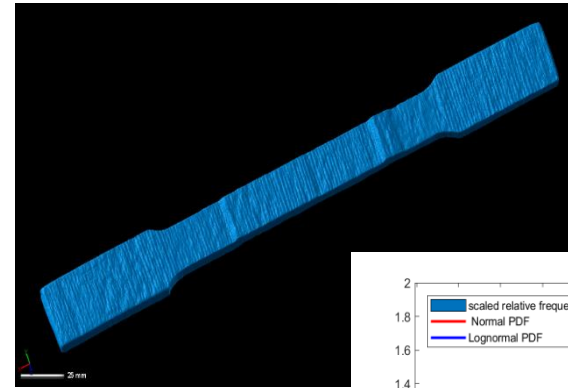
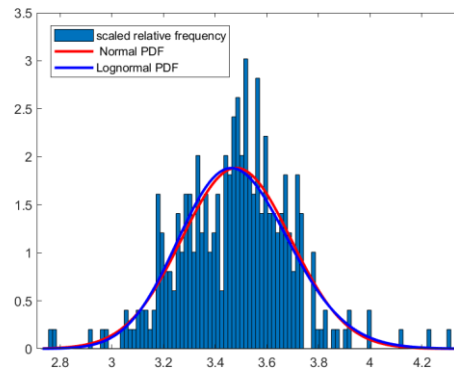
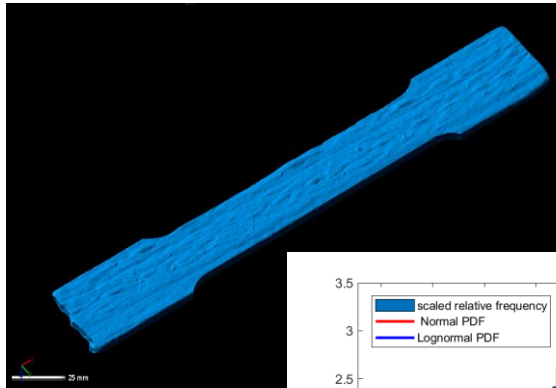
# 2<sup>nd</sup> year of research

- **PART A: Mechanical characterization** of WAAM 308LSi stainless steel
  - Microstructural analysis of the WAAM 308LSi stainless steel in collaboration with the Metallurgic department at University of Bologna



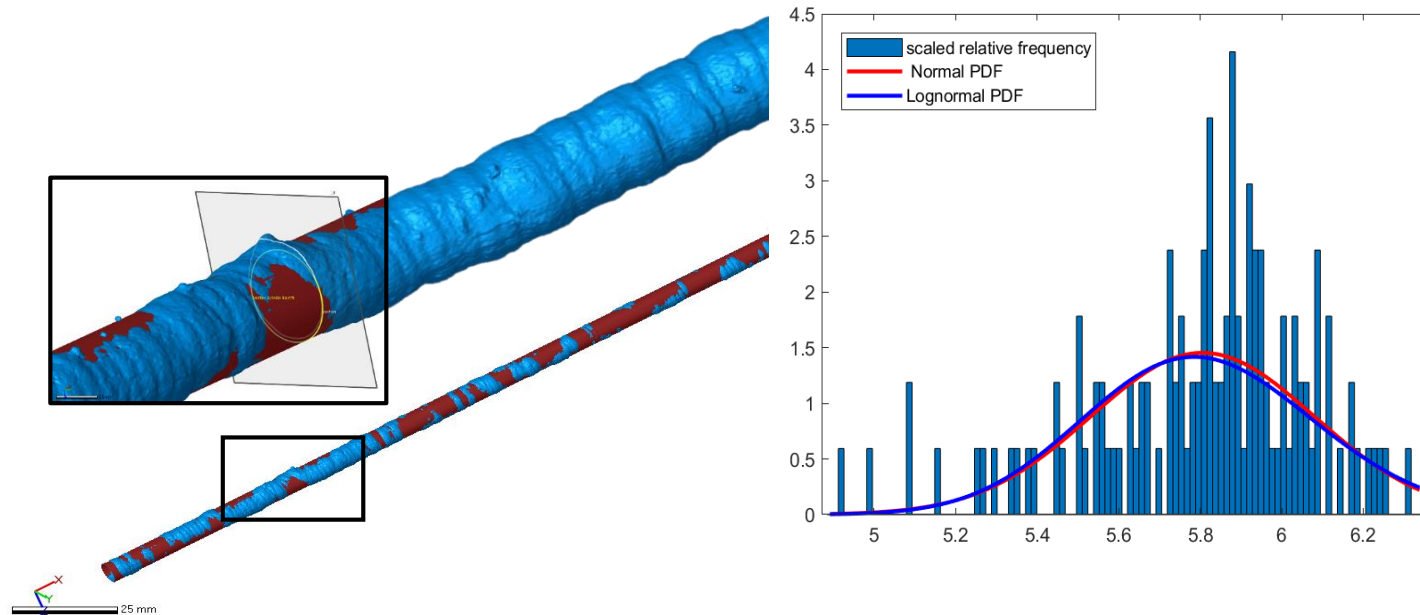
# 2<sup>nd</sup> year of research

- **PART A: Mechanical characterization** of WAAM 308LSi stainless steel
  - 3D scan acquisition of planar specimens (“continuous” printing strategy)



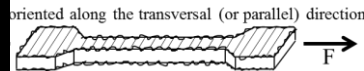
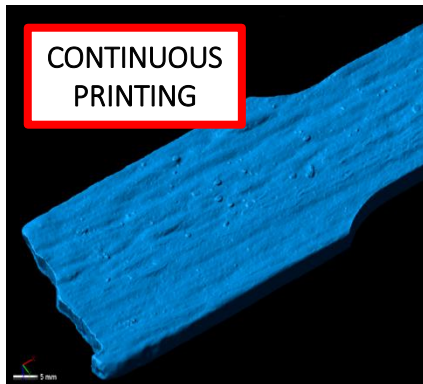
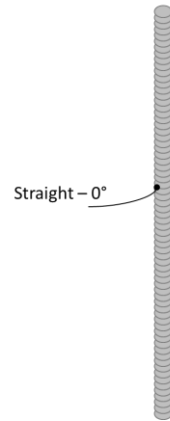
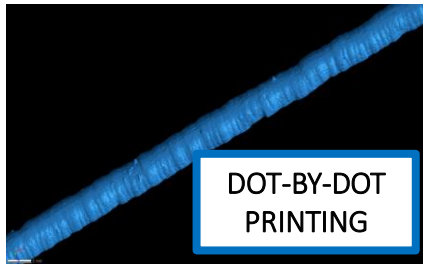
# 2<sup>nd</sup> year of research

- **PART A: Mechanical characterization** of WAAM 308LSi stainless steel
  - 3D scan acquisition of rod specimens (“dot-by-dot” printing strategy)

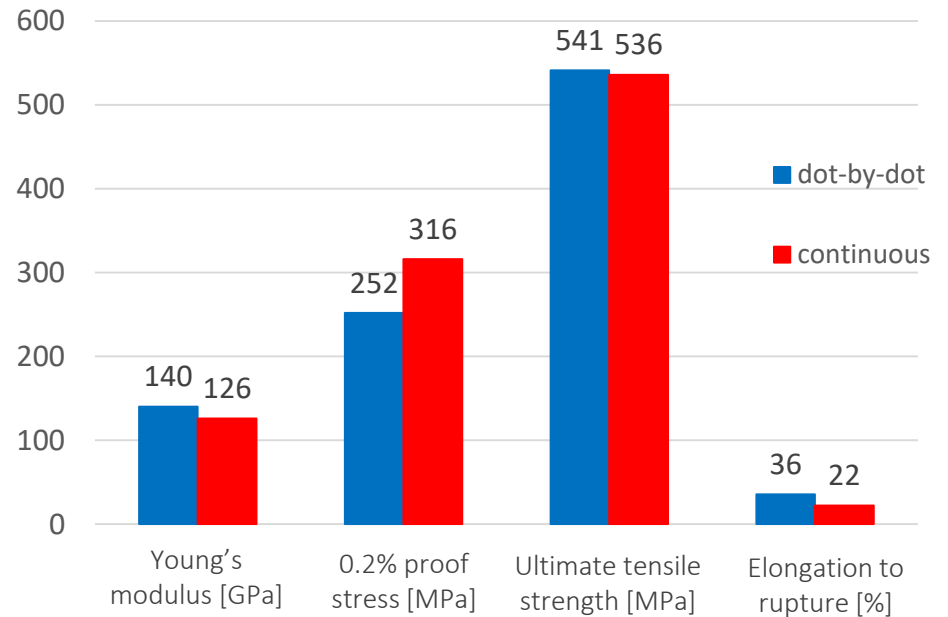


# 2<sup>nd</sup> year of research

- PART A: Mechanical characterization** of WAAM 308LSi stainless steel

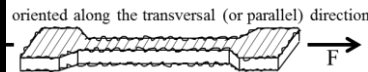
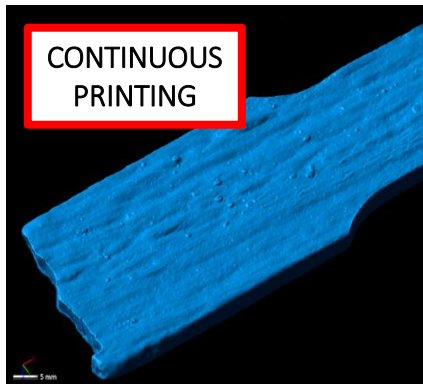
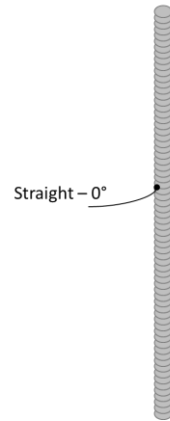
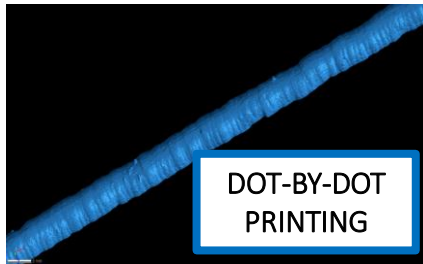


Overview mechanical response - WAAM

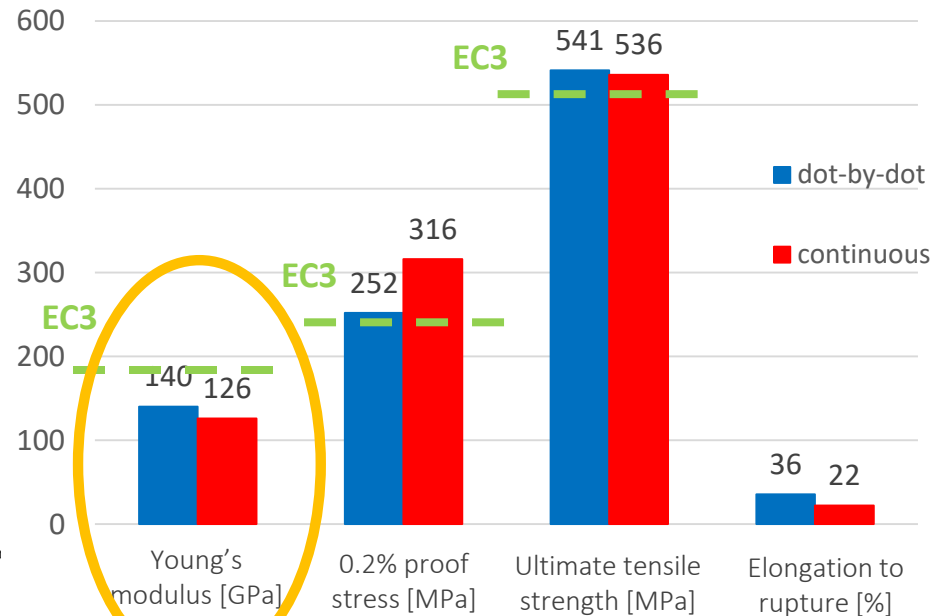


# 2<sup>nd</sup> year of research

- PART A: Mechanical characterization** of WAAM 308LSi stainless steel



Overview mechanical response - WAAM



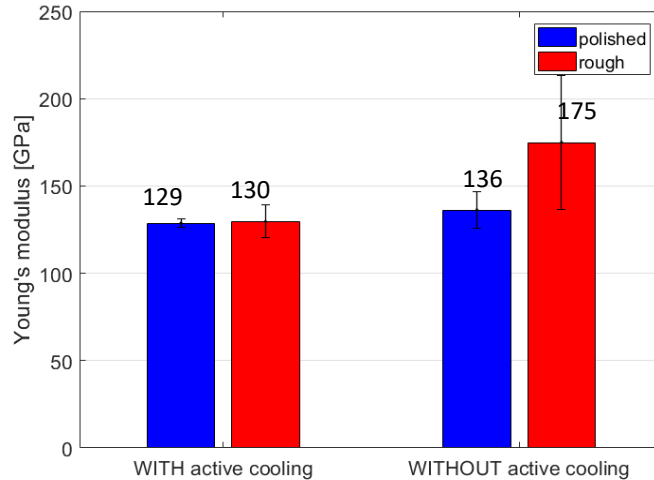
# 2<sup>nd</sup> year of research

- PART A: Mechanical characterization** of WAAM 308LSi stainless steel

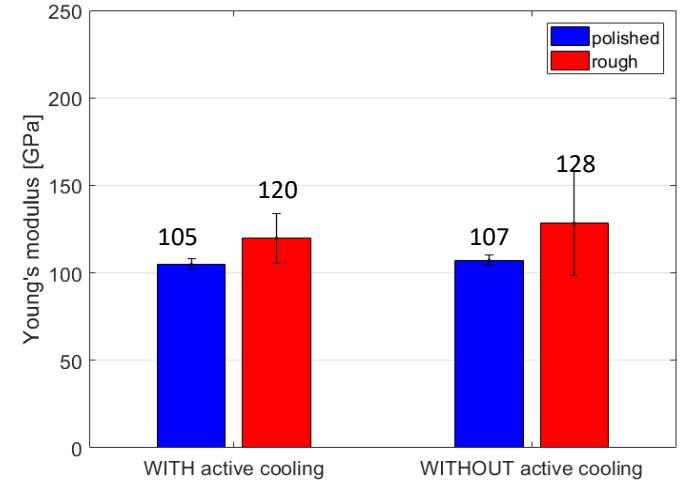
POLISHED



ROUGH



Longitudinal (L)



Transversal (T)

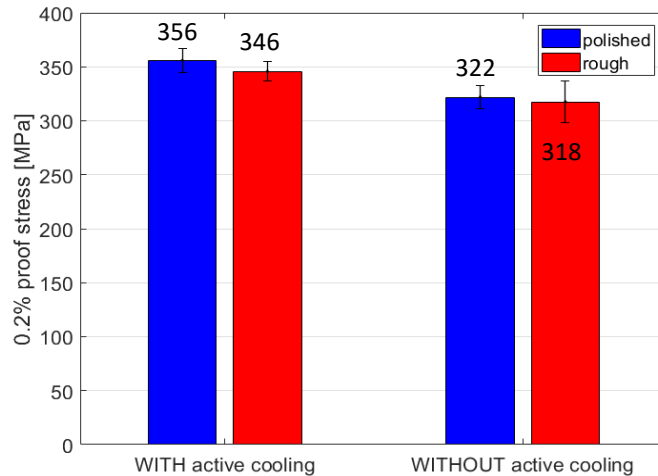
# 2<sup>nd</sup> year of research

- PART A: Mechanical characterization** of WAAM 308LSi stainless steel

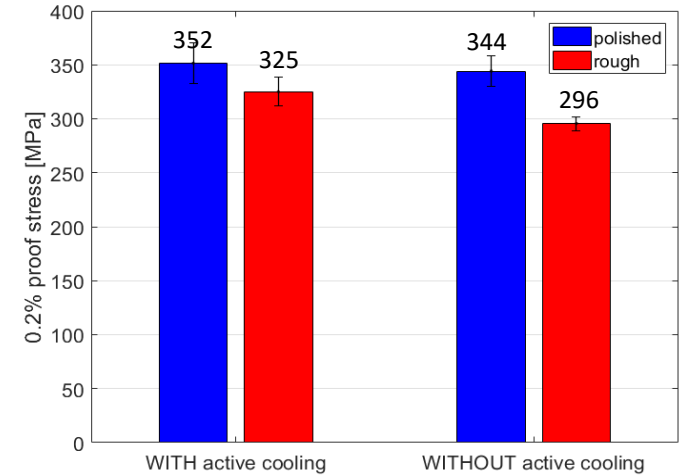
POLISHED



ROUGH



Longitudinal (L)



Transversal (T)



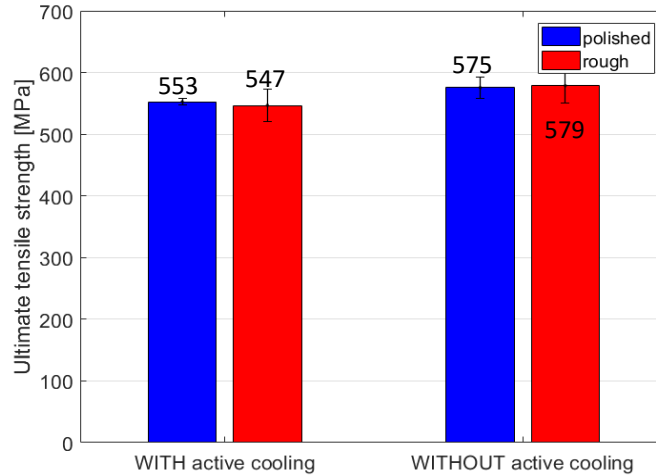
# 2<sup>nd</sup> year of research

- PART A: Mechanical characterization** of WAAM 308LSi stainless steel

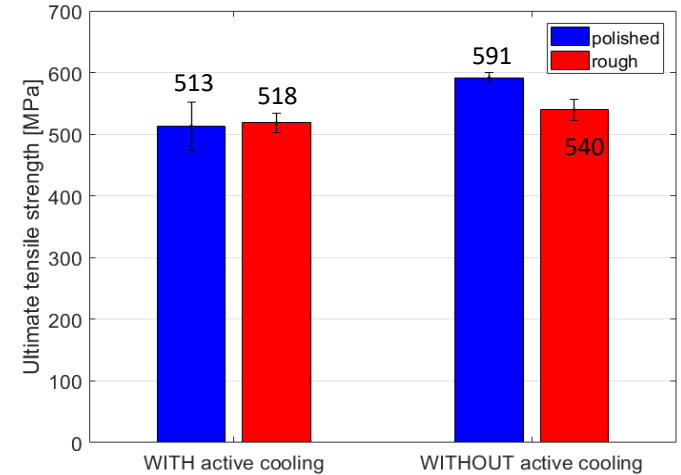
POLISHED



ROUGH



Longitudinal (L)



Transversal (T)

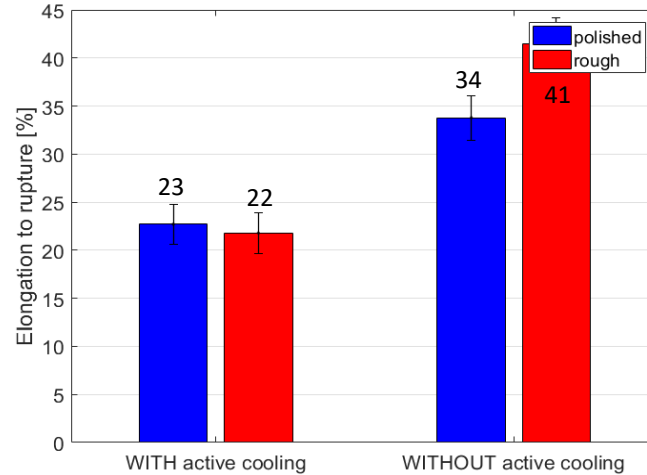
# 2<sup>nd</sup> year of research

- PART A: Mechanical characterization** of WAAM 308LSi stainless steel

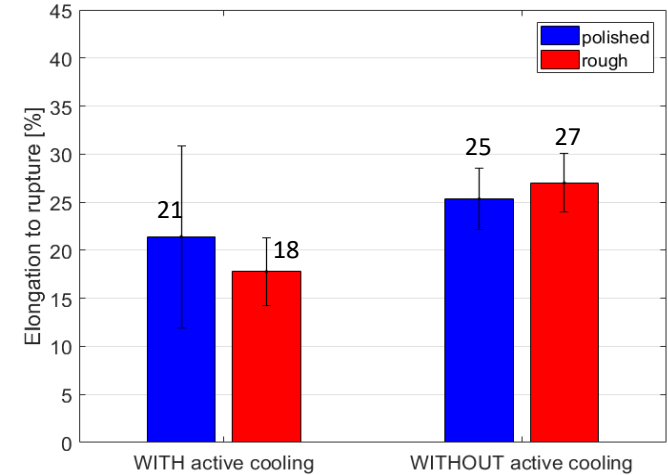
POLISHED



ROUGH



Longitudinal (L)

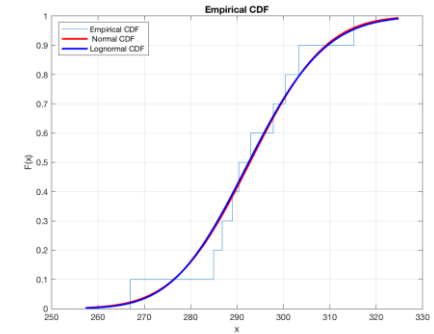


Transversal (T)

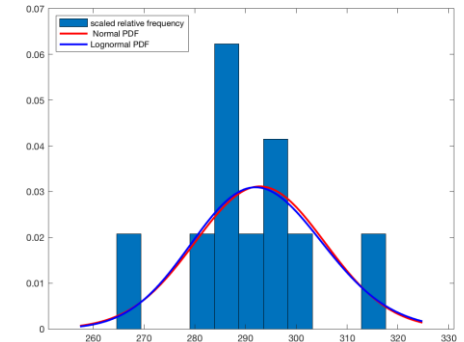
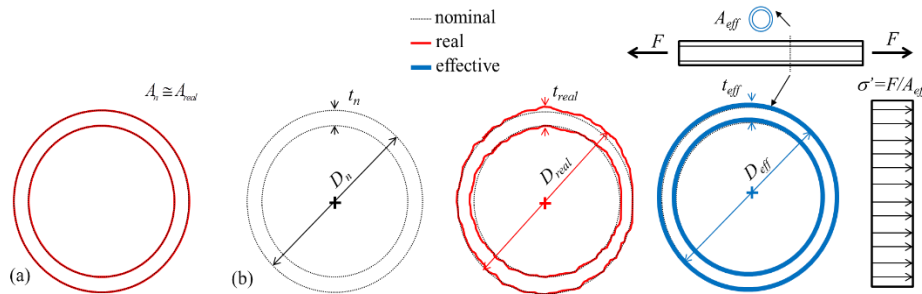
# Research period abroad

- PART B: Calibration of design values** of WAAM 308LSi stainless steel

- 4 main basic variables to be calibrated:
  - 0.2% proof stress -  $f_y$
  - Ultimate tensile strength -  $f_t$
  - Young's modulus -  $E_0$
  - Equivalent geometry factor -  $\varphi$



$$R = f_y \cdot A_{eff} = f_y \cdot \varphi \cdot A_{nom}$$



# Research period abroad

## • **PART B: Calibration of design values** of WAAM 308LSi stainless steel

- 0.2% proof stress –  $f_{yk}, f_{yd}, \gamma_{m1}$

Equivalent to  $\gamma_{M0}$   
(=1.10 according to EN1993:1-4)

- Ultimate tensile strength –  $f_{tk}, f_{td}, \gamma_{m2}$

Equivalent to  $\gamma_{M2}$   
(=1.25 according to EN1993:1-4)

- Young's modulus –  $E_{ok}, E_{od}, \gamma_{m3}$

Equivalent to  $\gamma_{M1}$   
(=1.10 according to EN1993:1-4)

- Equivalent geometry factor –  $\varphi_k, \varphi_d, \gamma_{\varphi}$

Resistance of cross-sections to excessive yielding including local buckling	$\gamma_{M0}$
Resistance of members to instability assessed by member checks	$\gamma_{M1}$
Resistance of cross-sections in tension to fracture	$\gamma_{M2}$
Resistance of bolts, rivets, welds, pins and plates in bearing	$\gamma_{M2}$

$\gamma_{M0} = 1,1$

$\gamma_{M1} = 1,1$

$\gamma_{M2} = 1,25$

# Research period abroad

- **PART B: Calibration of design values** of WAAM 308LSi stainless steel

- 0.2% proof stress

- $f_{yk} = 320 \text{ MPa}$
- $f_{yd} = 300 \text{ MPa}$

$$\gamma_{m1} = 1.10$$

(=1.10 according to EN1993:1-4)

- Ultimate tensile strength

- $f_{tk} = 495 \text{ MPa}$
- $f_{td} = 460 \text{ MPa}$

$$\gamma_{m2} = 1.10$$

(=1.25 according to EN1993:1-4)

- Young's modulus

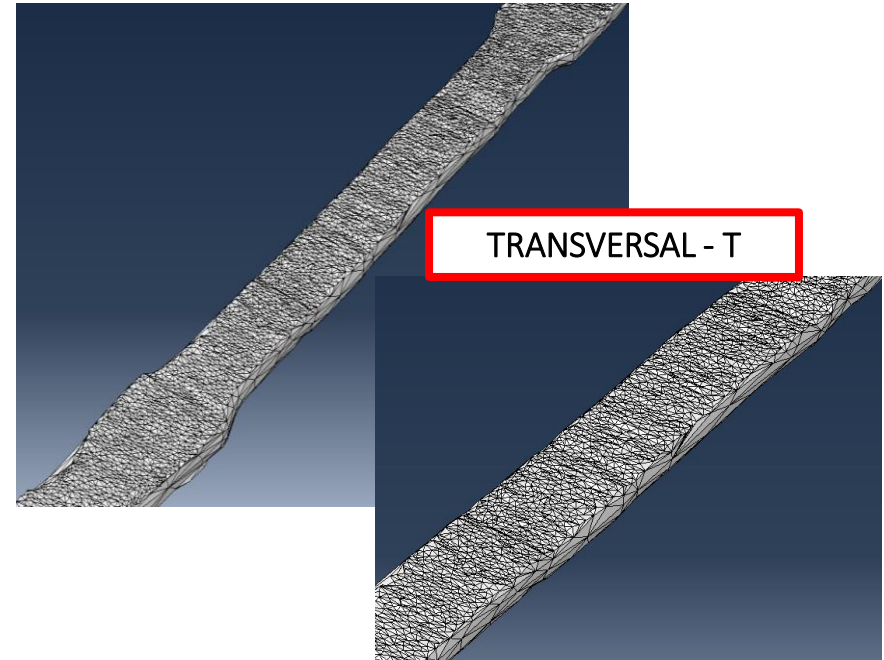
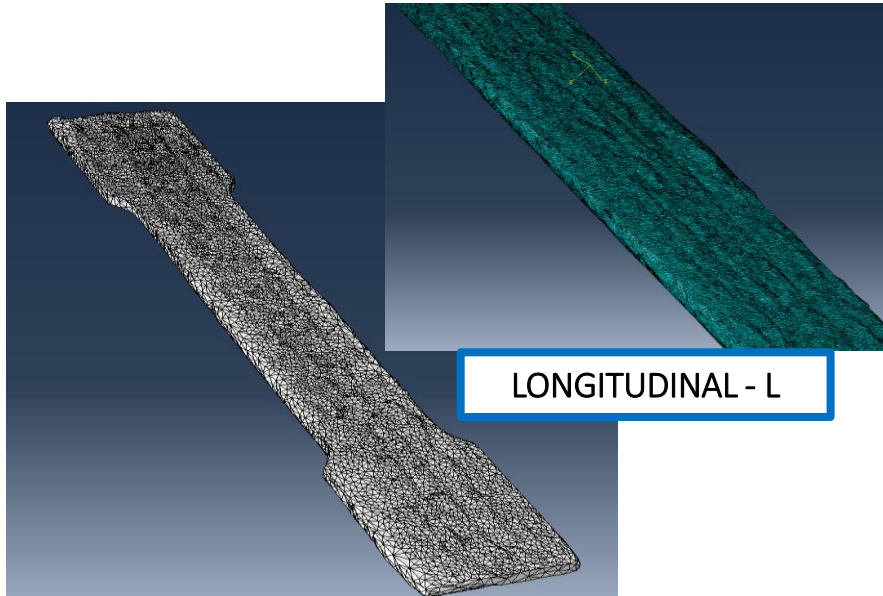
- $E_k = 150 \text{ MPa}$
- $E_d = 120 \text{ MPa}$

$$\gamma_{m3} = 1.10$$

(=1.10 according to EN1993:1-4)

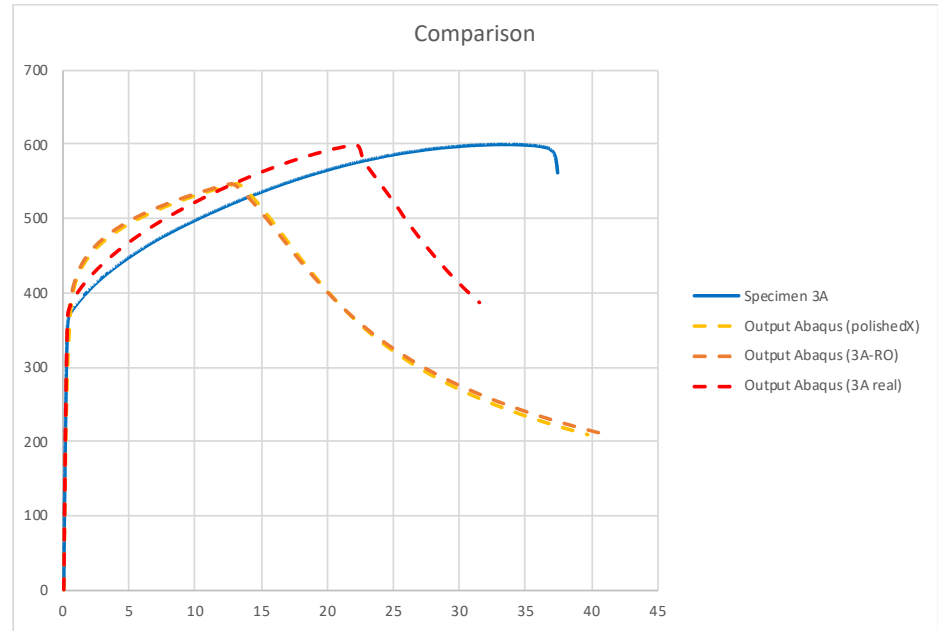
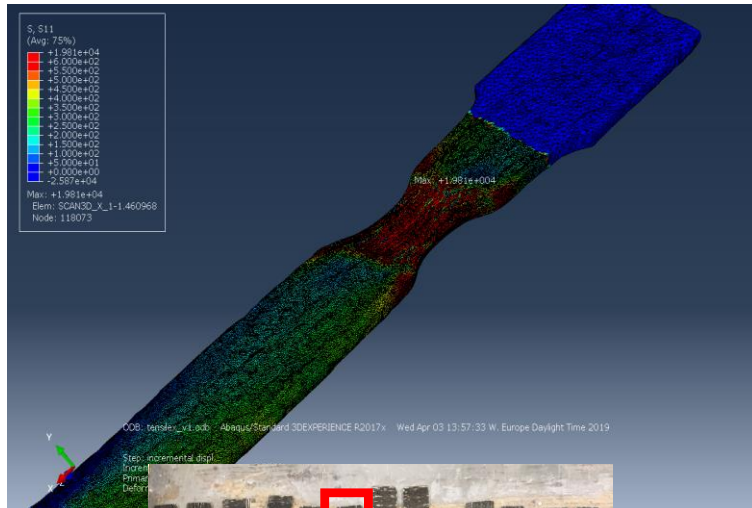
# Research period abroad

- **PART C: Numerical modeling** of WAAM 308LSi stainless steel



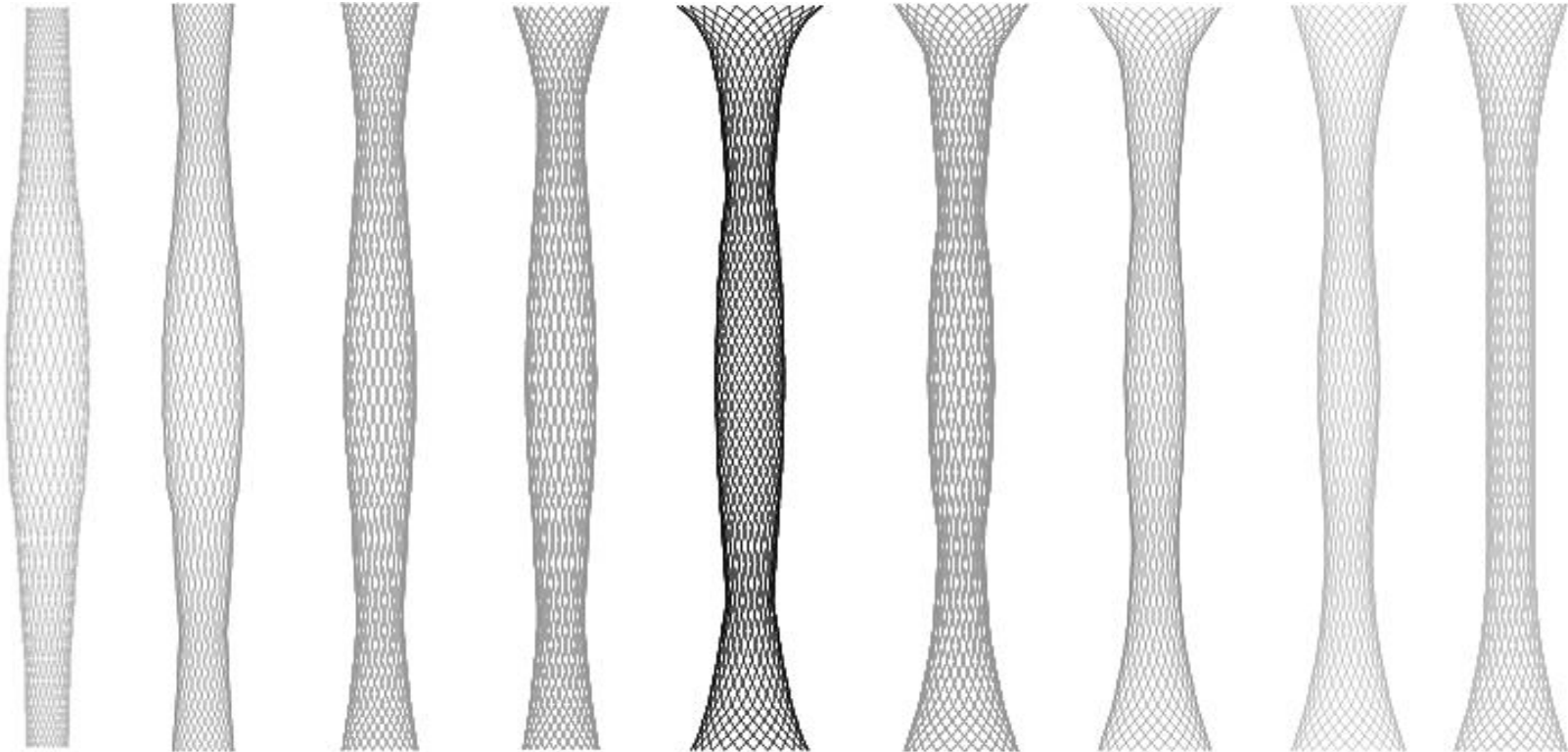
# Research period abroad

- **PART C: Numerical modeling of WAAM 308LSi stainless steel**



# Research period abroad

- **PART D: Algorithm-aided design** of WAAM structures



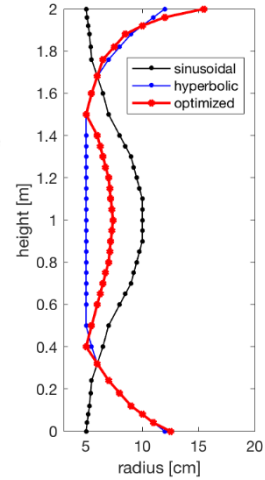
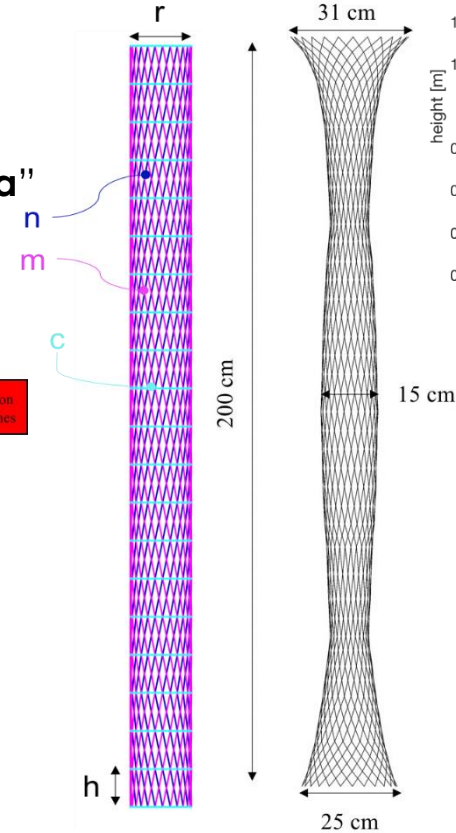
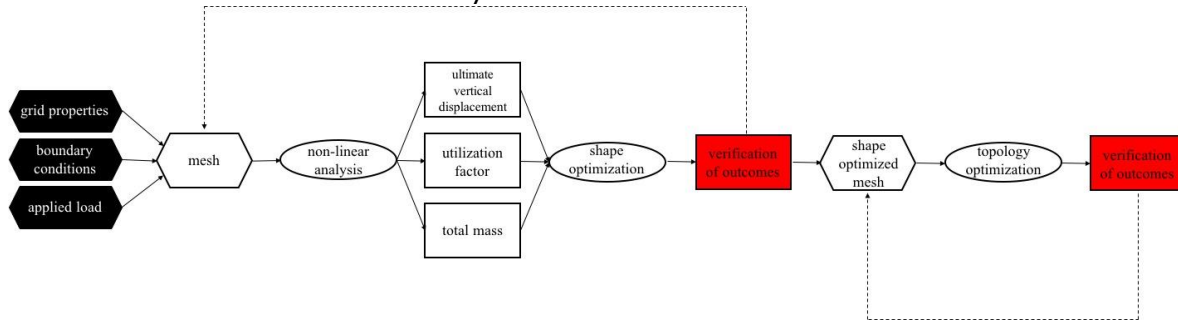


# Research period abroad

- **PART D: Algorithm-aided design** of WAAM structures

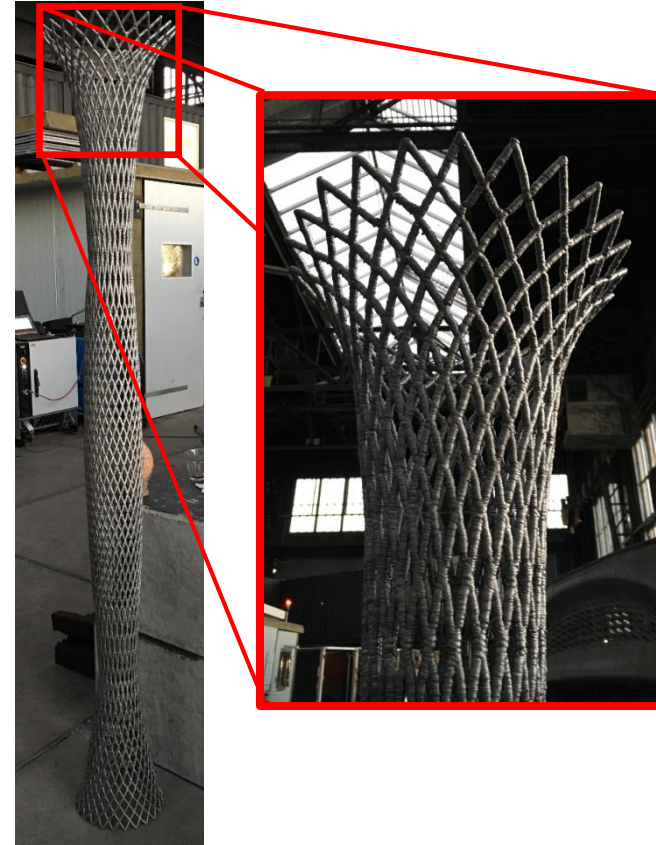
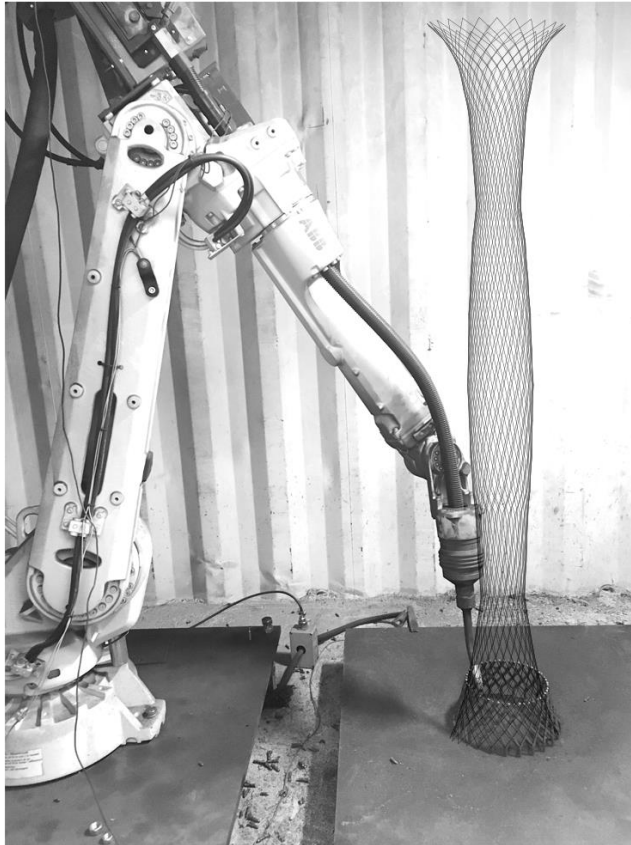
- **Shape optimization** through Grasshopper's "**Galapagos**" genetic algorithm

- **Preliminary design check** through Grasshopper's "**Karamba**" solver for structural analysis



# Research period abroad

- **PART D: Algorithm-aided design** of WAAM structures



# 2<sup>nd</sup> year outcomes

## SIGNIFICANT PUBLICATIONS:

Laghi, V., Palermo, M., Tonelli, L., Gasparini, G., Ceschini, L., Trombetti, T., “***Tensile properties and microstructural features of 304L austenetic stainless steel produced by Wire-and-Arc Additive Manufacturing***”, Additive Manufacturing, 2019, *in press*.

Laghi, V., Palermo, M., Gasparini, G., Girelli, V.A., Trombetti, T., “***Geometrical characterization of Wire-and-Arc Additive Manufactured steel elements***”, Advanced Materials Letter, 10(10): 695-699, 2019.

Laghi, V., Palermo, M., Gasparini, G., Girelli, V.A., Trombetti, T., “***Experimental results for structural design of Wire-and-Arc Additive Manufactured stainless steel members***”, Journal of Constructional Steel Research, 2019, *in press*.

Laghi, V., Palermo, M., Gasparini, G., Trombetti, T., “***Optimization studies on diagrid columns realized with Wire-and-Arc Additive Manufacturing process***”, Proceedings for 2019 IABSE Congress, New York City, 2019.

Laghi, V., Palermo, M., Gasparini, G., Silvestri, S., Trombetti, T., “***The application of weld-based additive manufacturing steel to structural engineering***”, Proceedings for 10th ISEC Conference, Chicago, 2019.

Laghi, V., Palermo, M., Pragliola, M., Girelli, V.A., Van Der Velden, G., Trombetti, T., “***Towards 3D-printed steel grid-shells: the main idea and first studies***”, Proceedings of the IASS Symposium, Boston, 2018.

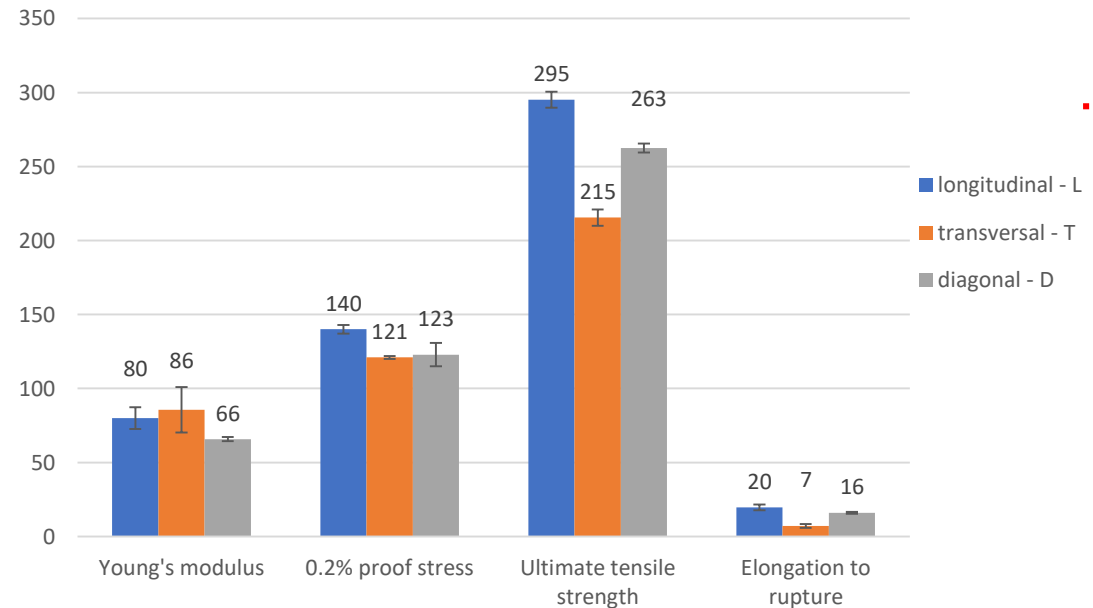
# 2<sup>nd</sup> year outcomes

## EXTRA RESEARCH:

- PART A: Mechanical characterization of WAAM AA5183 aluminum



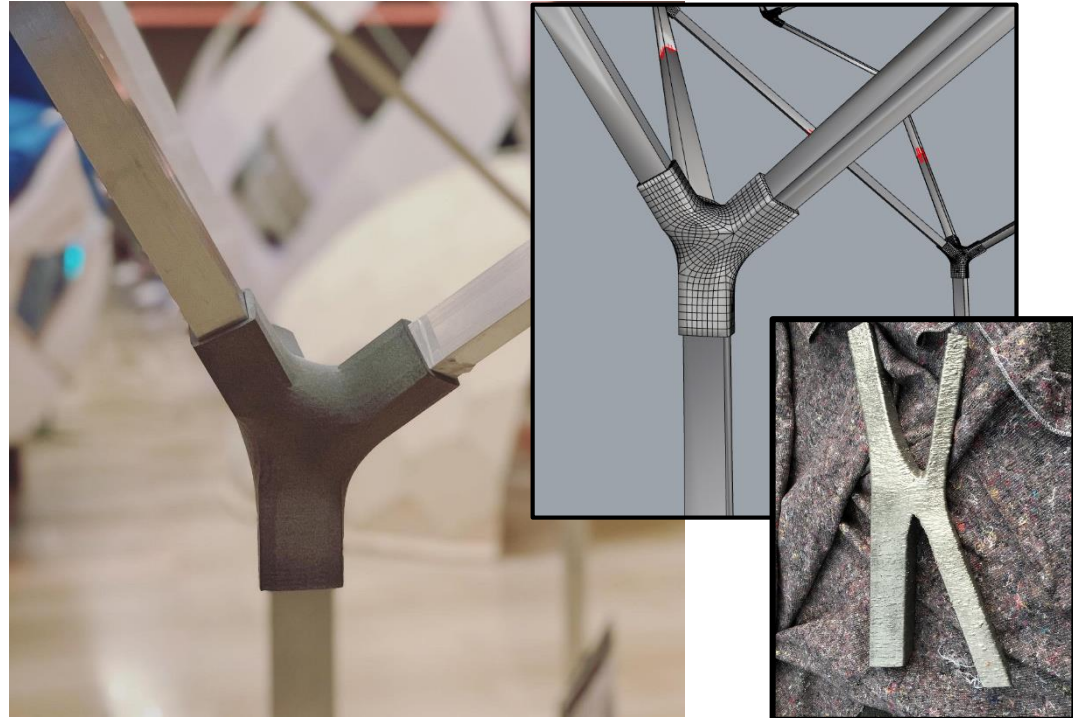
Overview mechanical response - aluminum



# 2<sup>nd</sup> year outcomes

## EXTRA RESEARCH:

- **PART D: Pavilion proposal** with ESO nodes realized with 3D-printed technology



## 3<sup>rd</sup> year of research

- **Detailed guidelines** for the structural design of WAAM 308LSi stainless steel elements
- **Study of the influence of surface roughness** (and geometrical imperfections in general) on the mechanical response of WAAM elements
- **Structural optimization studies** on free-form shaped structures to be realized with WAAM technology



**THANK YOU FOR THE ATTENTION**

Vittoria Laghi

Ph.D candidate  
*DICAM – University of Bologna*