

## Phenotyping of beef calves BW and morphological scores based on 3D imaging and AI

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## Context : the beef breeding stakeholders interested in modernization of performance monitoring

- Performance monitoring = **Body Weight + 19 morphological linear scores**
  - Used for consultancy and animal selection
- **435 000 calves** phenotyped in 2022 (on 10 french breeds)



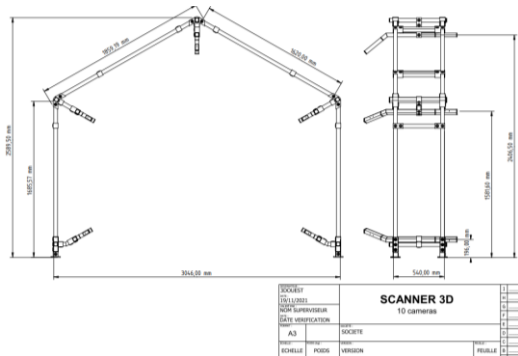
**A system that has worked for decades but which have now limits (cost of maintaining the skills in the operators)**



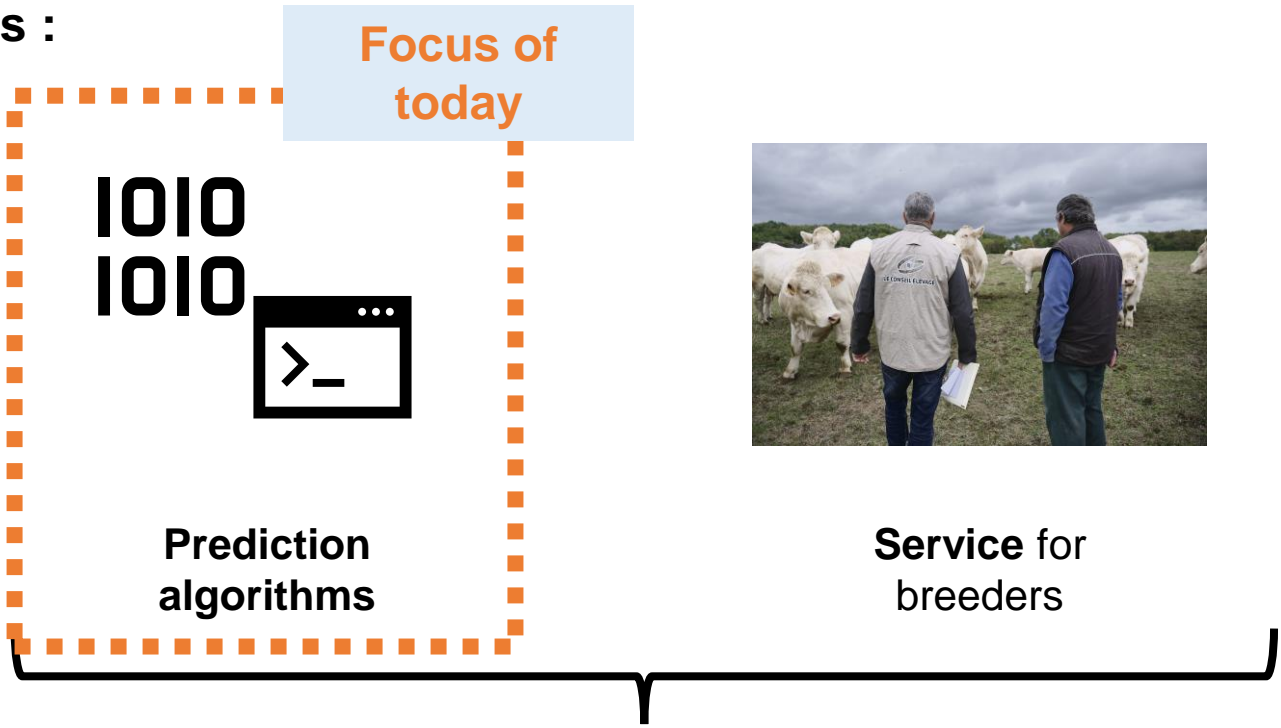
# The PHENO3D project

**Goal : Automate the collection of live weight and the 19 scores (done visually today) on 10 beef breeds**

**3 bricks of project deliverables :**



**A 3D scanner for high-throughput phenotyping in farm**



**Service for breeders**

**Consortium Animal 3D**

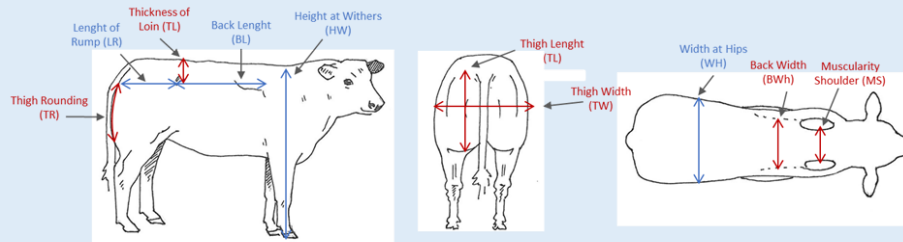
3D QUEST

Validated by Lebreton et al. (2023)



# M&M : Reference data collection

## Calves were weighed and scored



2 synthetic scores (rated from 1 to 100) : **Muscle development (MUS)** and **Skeletal development (SKE)**

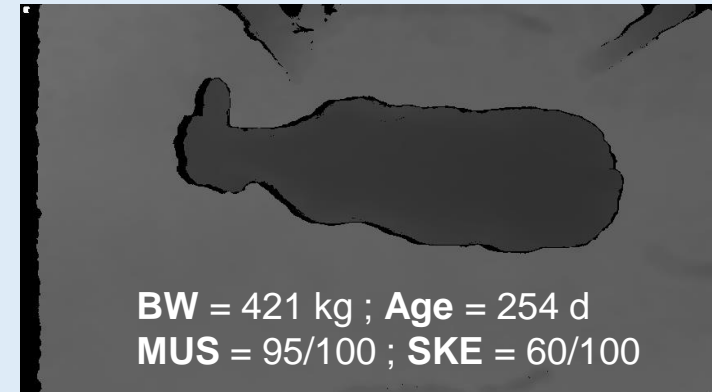
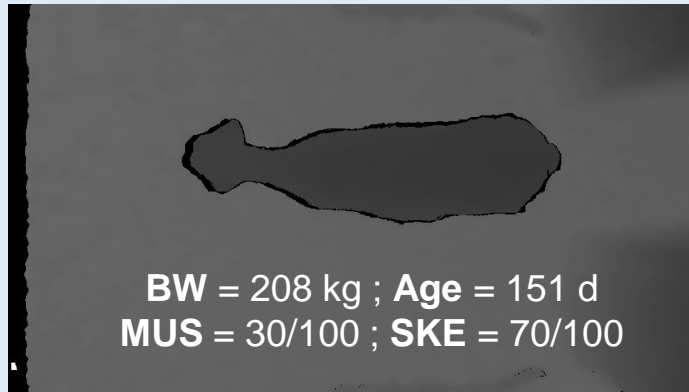
## BW prediction dataset

N = 1114 Charolais calves  
 Age : 4 to 18 months ;  $217 \pm 50,7$  d  
 BW =  $287,5 \pm 81$  kg

## SKE/MUS prediction dataset

N = 919 Charolais calves  
 Age : 4 to 12 months ;  $214 \pm 45$  d  
 BW =  $293 \pm 78,6$  kg

## Calves top-view examples

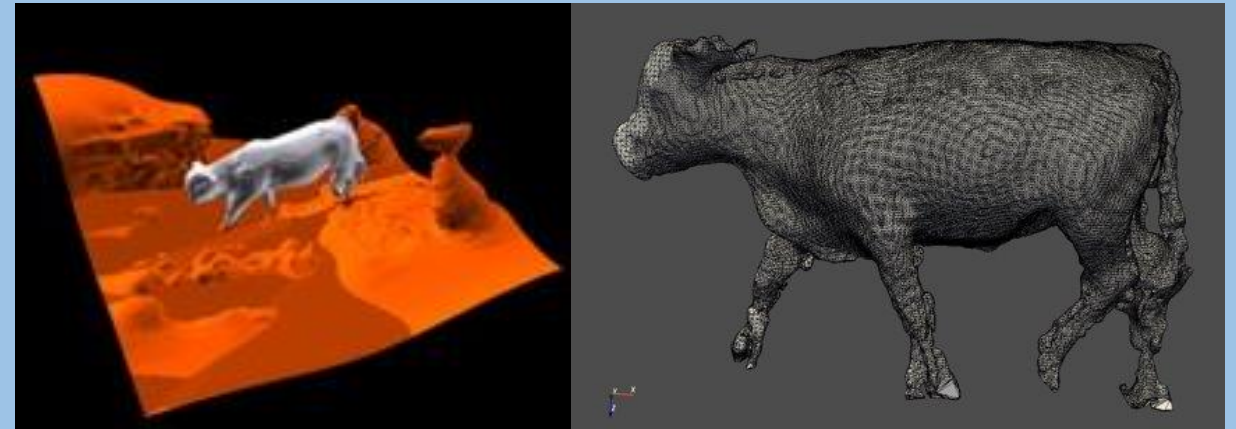




# M&M : 3D images data collection



**A movable gantry**  
Embedding 10 RGB-D sensors



**Proprietary algorithm:**  
**Merging** of 10 RGB-D images to a **unique animal 3D mesh**  
**Refining** images and **removing** noises

Scanner described and validated by Lebreton et al. (2023)

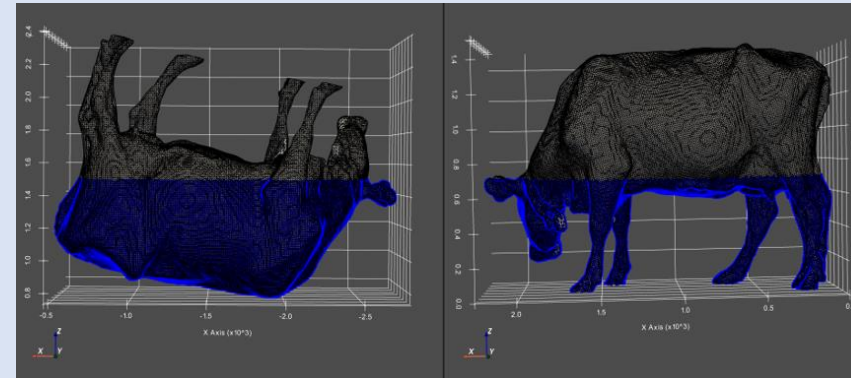


**Set up in 14 commercial farms in various conditions**  
**Most animals were scanned twice .**  
**Resulting in 2079 images**

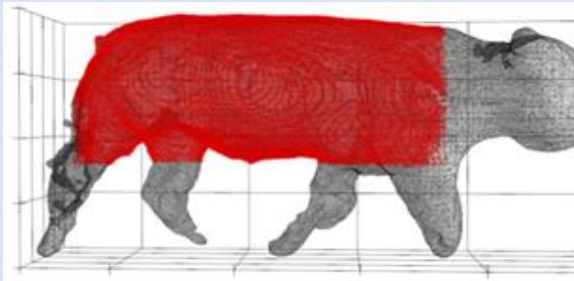


# M&M : 3D image treatment

## Step1 : Cow alignment

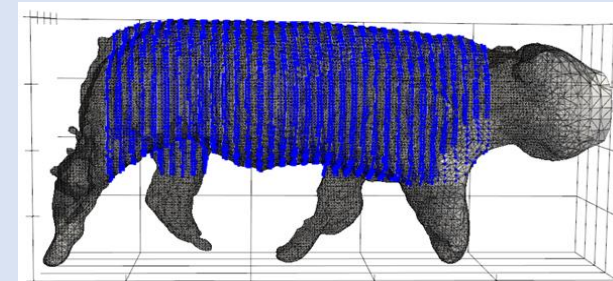


## Step 2 : Features extraction



**General view**

*Ex : Volume,  
Surface*



**Specific view**

*Ex : chest depth,  
sacrum height*

**283** features calculated for 2079 images

Described by Do et al. (2024)



# M&M : Models/AI development

## Data cleaning

Outliers detection algorithm based on Isolation Forest and DBSCAN

## Machine Learning methodology

Training set (80%)

*Algorithms tested :*  
*Xgboost, random forest,*  
*SVM, Lasso regression*

Testing set (20%)

*Models evaluation using **MAE** (Mean absolute error), **RMSE** (Root Mean Squared Error) and **Spearman rank correlation** ( $r_s$ )*



# Results : BW

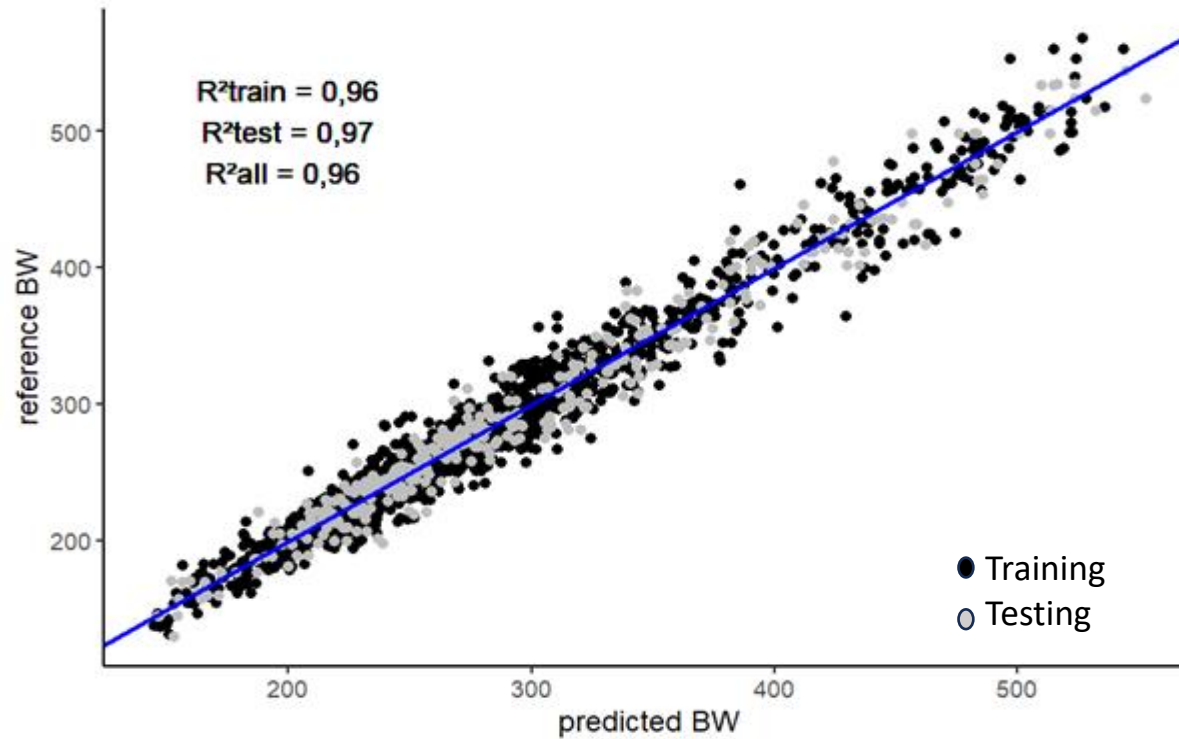
## Model's performance

MAE (testing) : 12,1 kg (4,2%)

RMSE (testing) : 15,6 kg

Spearman correlation for repeatability  
(images from the same animal)

0,98



The model achieves an error of 4,2%, with a good repeatability and is fully automated !

Best model : Extreme gradient boosting





# Results : SKE

## Model's performance

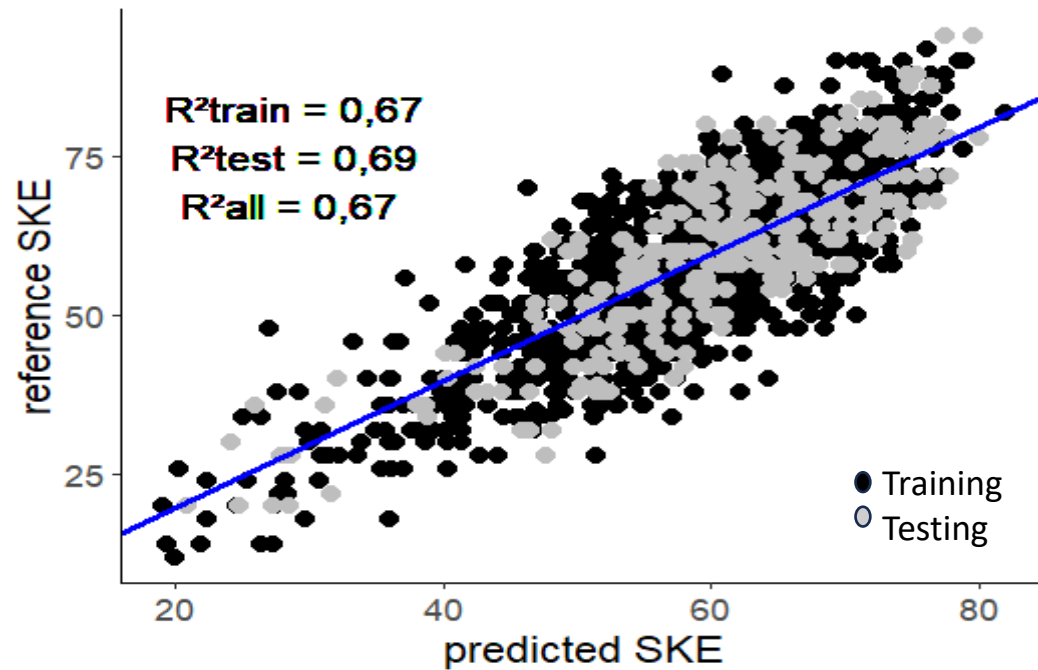
MAE (testing) : 6,3 (11,3%)  
rs (testing) : 0,78

**Spearman correlation for repeatability**  
(images from the same animal)

0,91

## Benchmark

rs (scorers) : 0,70  
Repeatability of scorers : 0,78



Best model : Random Forest

The model surpass the benchmarks in performance



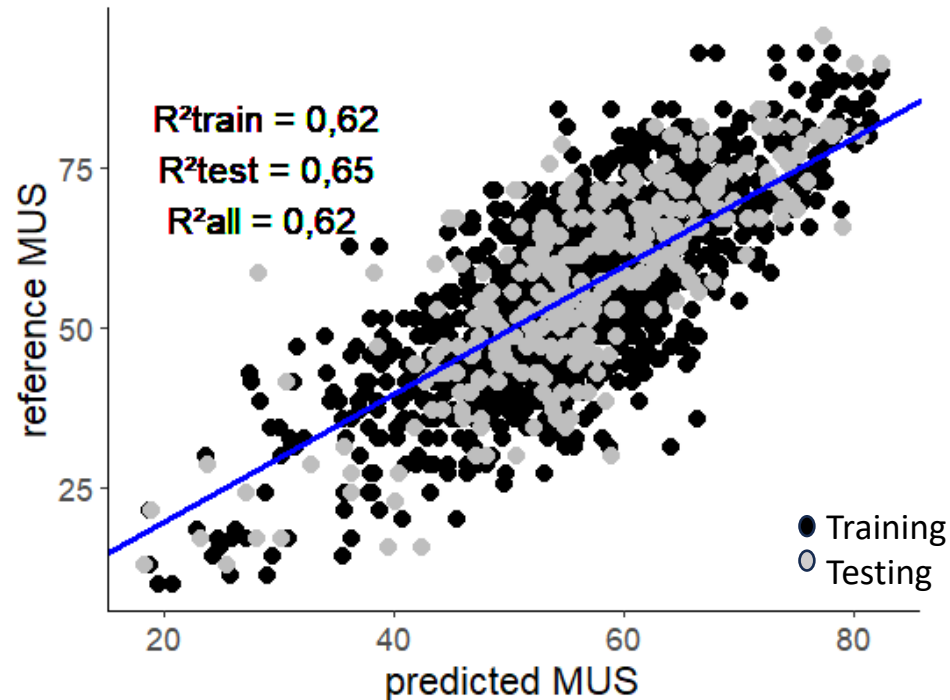
# Results : MUS

## Model's performance

MAE (testing) : 7,1 (14,5%)  
rs (testing) : 0,78

Spearman correlation for repeatability  
(images from the same animal)

0,81



## Benchmark

rs (scorers) : 0,69  
Repeatability of scorers : 0,75

The model surpass the benchmarks  
in performance

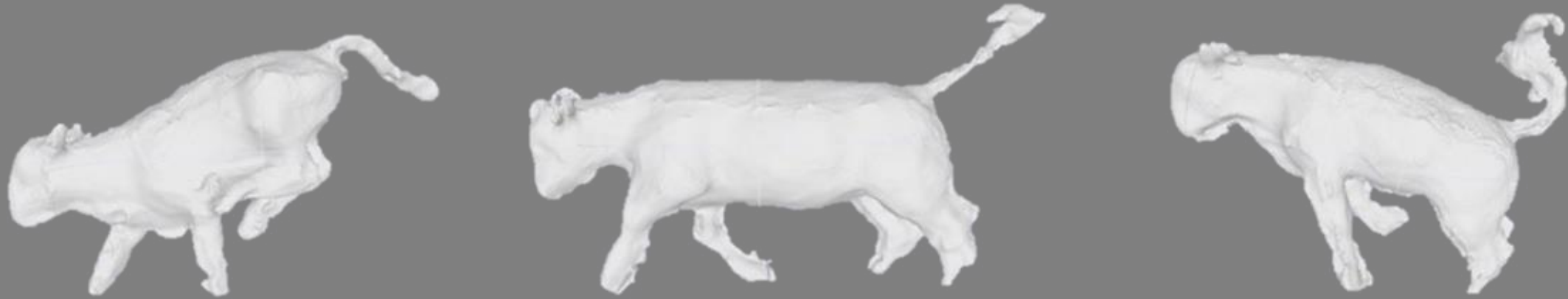
Best model : Extreme gradient Boosting



# Take home messages

- **Good and robust** estimation of **BW** utilizing three-dimensional imaging and IA techniques were obtained on **Charolaise**.
- Performances obtained with a lot of images and a **fully-automated** process
- It works for more complex indicators like MUS and SKE
- Limits : dealing with specific postures
- To do : Similar analysis for other breeds





# Thank you for your attention !

Contact : [adrien.lebreton@idele.fr](mailto:adrien.lebreton@idele.fr)

Session 42, Monday September 2nd - 17:15

Lebreton et al. (2023)  
Do et al. (2024)  
Dechaux et al (2024)

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# Scan videos



**Adaptation à la  
contention de  
l'élevage**

