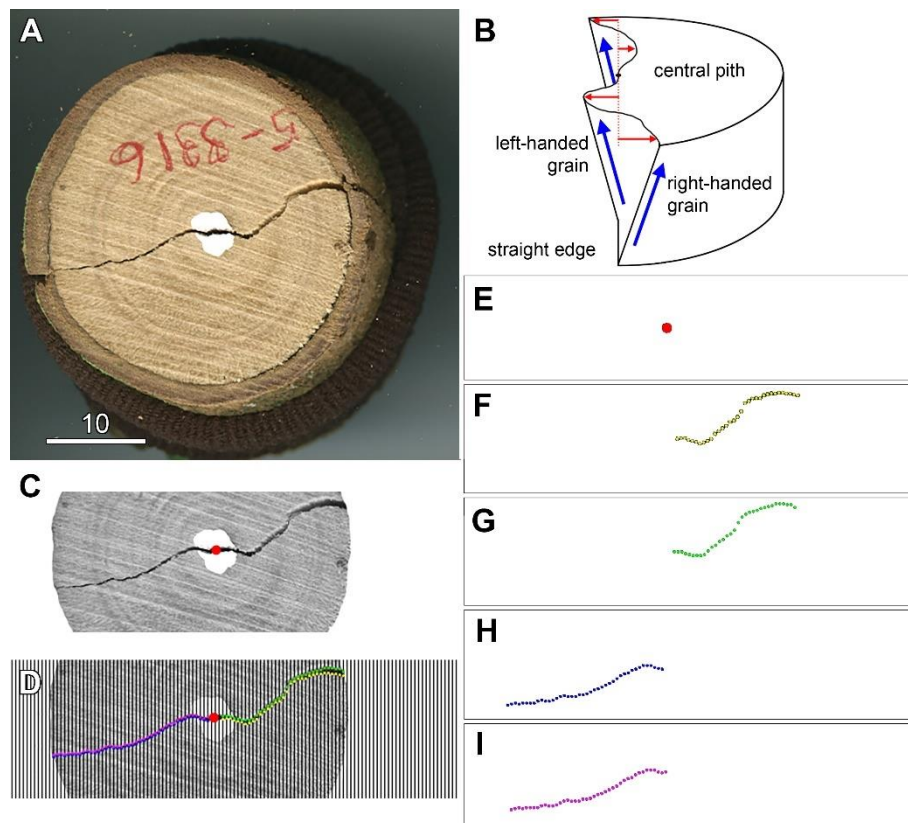


Supplementary Information 1



Supplementary Information 1. Protocol for measuring wood splitting angles. **A** Raw scan. The initially straight split generated by the chisel was aligned horizontally but resulted in an irregular split on the reverse face because of interlocked grain. **B** With the straight edge on the lower side of the block, variations in the grain angle caused the split to propagate unevenly through the wood disc. Right-handed grain generated an upward deflection of the split to the right of the pith, but a downward deflection on the left-hand side. **C** Background and bark were manually cropped from the image which was decolourised. A red circle was manually added to denote the centre of the pith. **D** A grid with 0.38 mm spacing was superimposed over the sample, and coloured dots of four different colours were added manually to indicate where the grid intersected with the fracture. **E-I** ImageJ was used to detect the coloured dots, and then to measure the centre of their locations. Side 1, on the left, was taken as the average location of the blue and magenta dots, while side 2 on the right was the average of the green and yellow dots. Bar in **A** = 10 mm for all images.