



Toward *In Vivo* Imaging of Cortical Architecture and Function

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Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute
of Child Health and Human Development



SQITS Members (DIR-Funded)



NIH

Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute
of Child Health and Human Development

Section Goals

- Discover fundamental structure/function relationships in the nervous system (and in ECM)
- Use this knowledge to invent, develop, and translate novel *in vivo* quantitative imaging ‘biomarkers’ to make key ‘invisible’ biological processes and features ‘visible’.

New Developments-- New Directions

Microdynamic
Imaging

Functional
Imaging

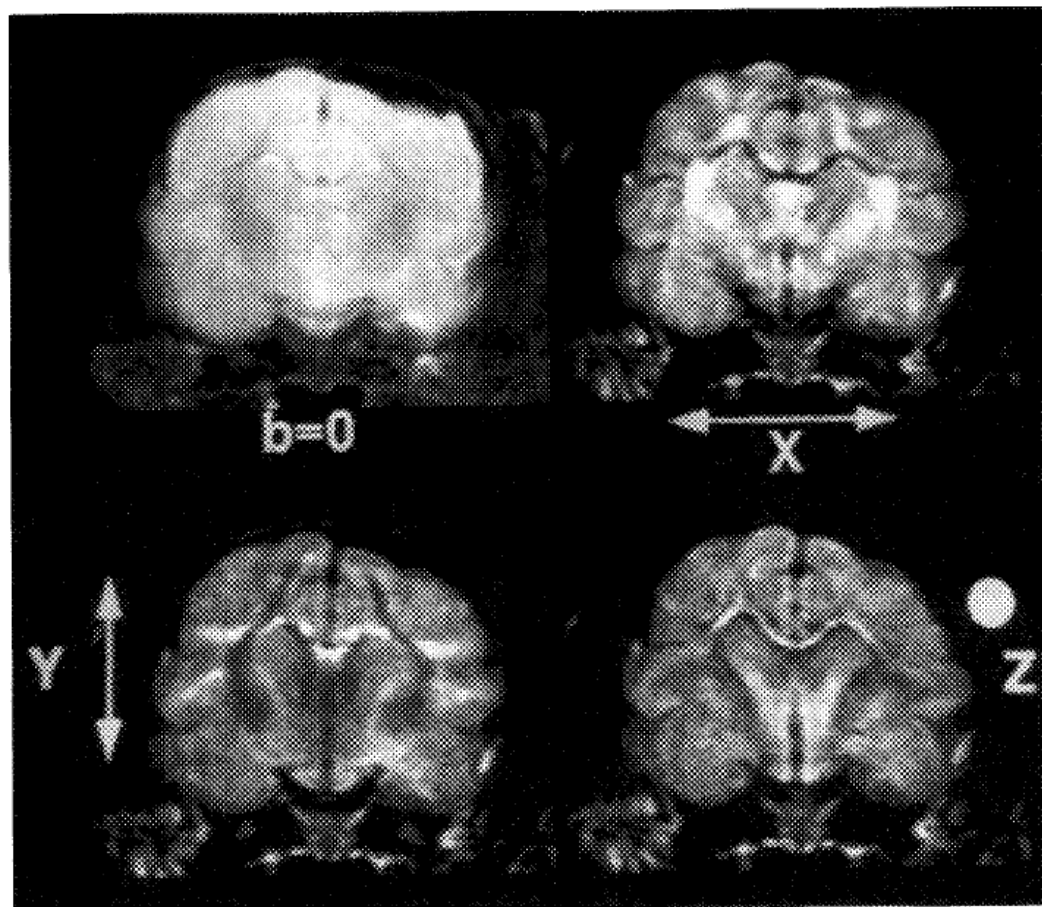
Microstructure
Imaging

Anisotropy in Diffusion-Weighted MRI*

MICHAEL E. MOSELEY, JOHN KUCHARCZYK, HALEH S. ASGARI,
AND DAVID NORMAN

Department of Radiology, University of California, San Francisco, California 94143

Received February 1, 1991



MR Imaging of Anisotropically Restricted Diffusion of Water in the Nervous System: Technical, Anatomic, and Pathologic Considerations

Joseph V. Hajnal, Mark Doran, Alasdair S. Hall, Alan G. Collins, Angela Oatridge, Jacqueline M. Pennock, Ian R. Young, and Graeme M. Bydder

Journal of Computer Assisted Tomography

15(1):1-18, January/February

© 1991 Raven Press, Ltd., New York

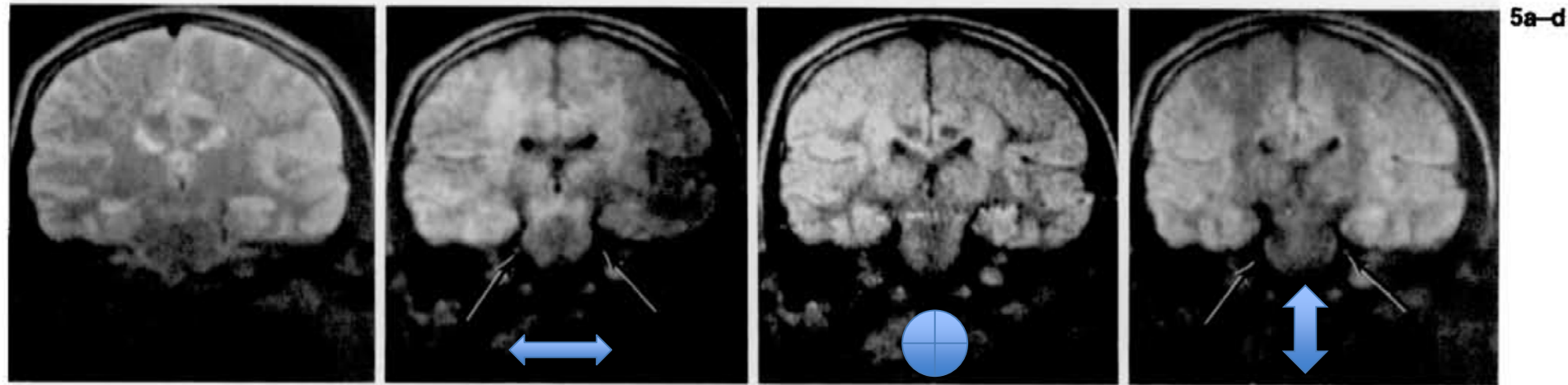
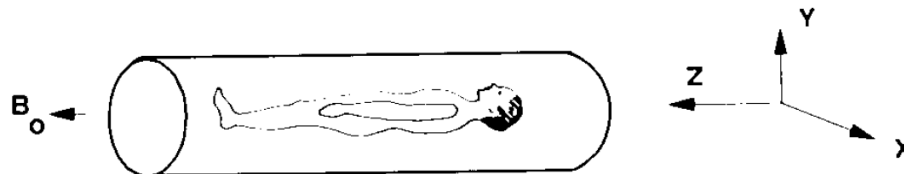


FIG. 5. Normal volunteer (male, 31 years old): 256 × 256 coronal SE $\approx 1,500/130$ (a), SE $\approx 1,500/130/1,0,0/44/550$ (b), SE $\approx 1,500/130/0,1,0/44/550$ (c), and SE $\approx 1,500/130/0,0,1/44/550$ (d) images. Ascending and descending projection fibres are of higher signal intensity in (b) and (c) than in (d). Tracts that run anteroposteriorly appear low in signal intensity on (c) but higher on (b) and (d). The trigeminal nerves are seen in (b) and (d) (arrows) but not on (c).



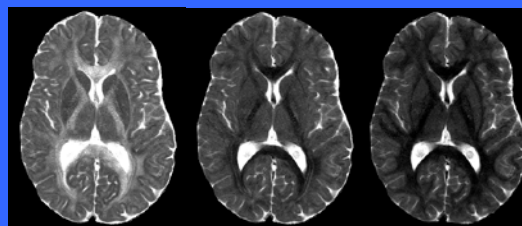
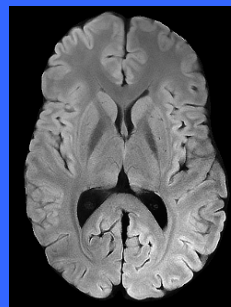
Basser, P.J., Mattiello, J., and LeBihan, D. (1994). Biophys. J. 66:259-267.

Pierpaoli, C., Jezzard, P., Basser, P.J., Barnett, A., and Chiro, G. (1996). Radiology 201:637-648.

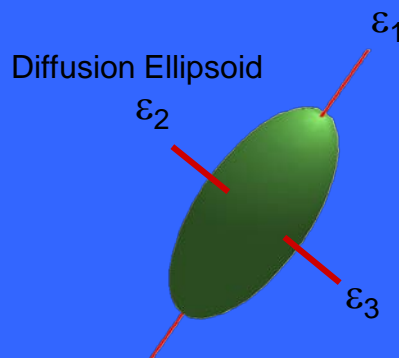
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1_BeCeDak3w

DTI "Pipeline"

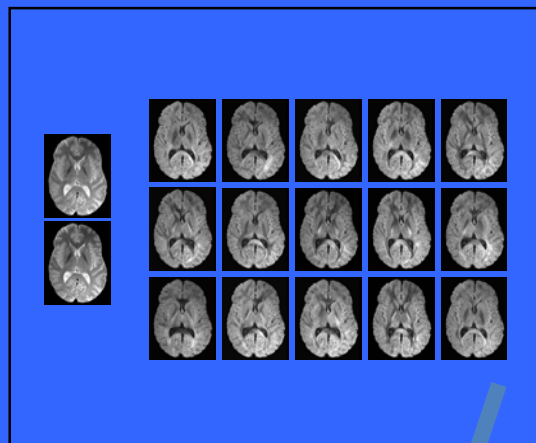
Non-Diffusion
Weighted MRI,
 $A(\mathbf{0})$



Three eigenvalues (principal diffusivities)

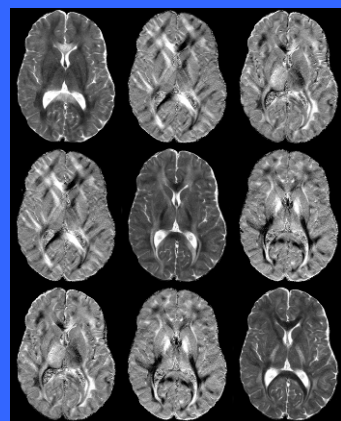


Three corresponding
eigenvectors (principal
directions)



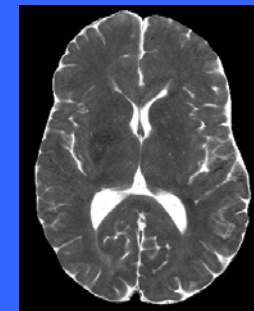
Estimate \mathbf{D} from Diffusion
Weighted MRIs using:

$$A(\mathbf{b}) = A(\mathbf{0}) \exp(-\mathbf{b} : \mathbf{D})$$

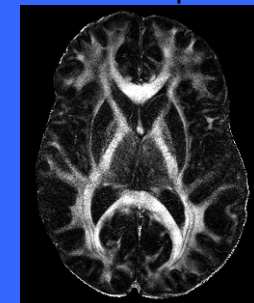


Diagonalize \mathbf{D}

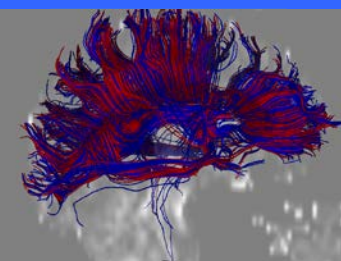
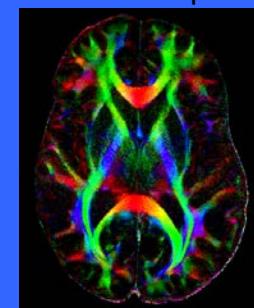
"Mean ADC" Map



FA Map

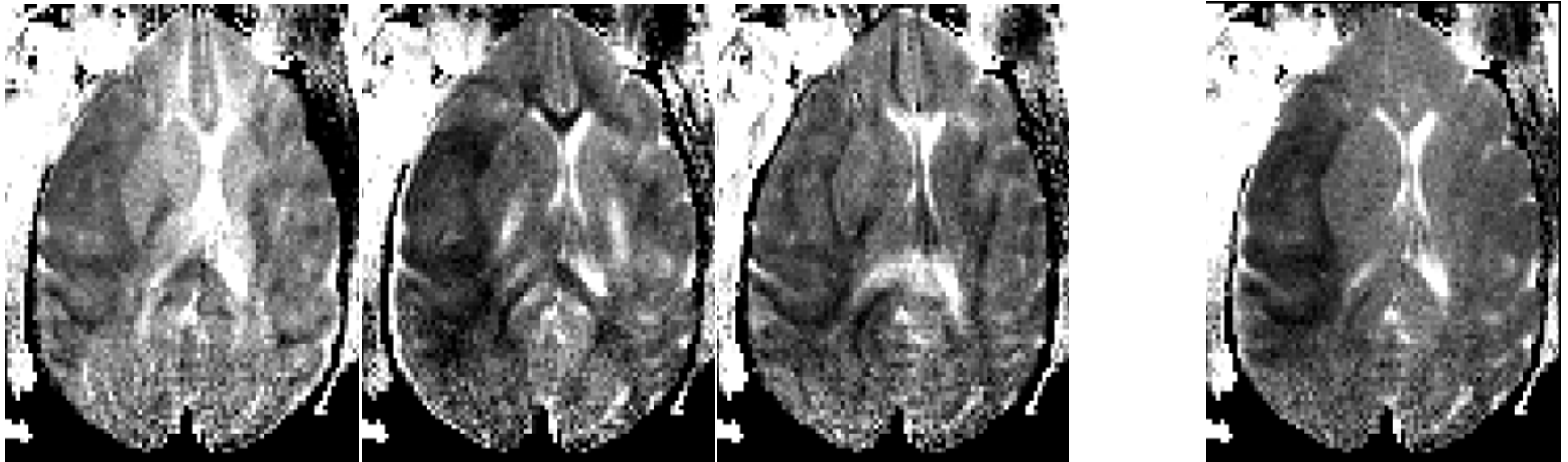


DEC Map



Ellipsoid Maps/Tracts

Trace(**D**) delineates (disambiguates) infarcted areas better than individual ADCs in Ischemia



D_{yy}

D_{zz}

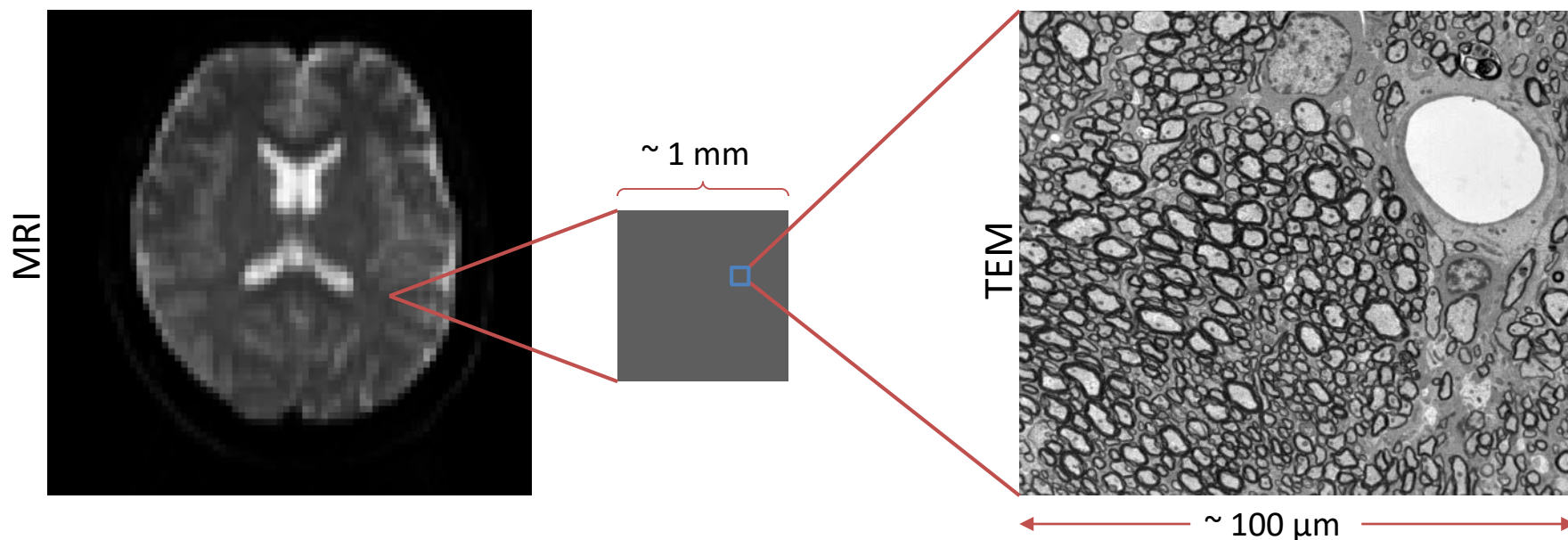
D_{xx}

$\langle D \rangle = \text{Trace}(\mathbf{D})/3$

Experimental validation in cats first shown in
van Gelderen P., et al. 1994. Magn. Reson. in Med. 31:154-163.

“Trace ADC”, “Mean ADC”
“Orientationally-averaged
ADC”, “ADC”, “mADC” ...

“Drilling Down into the Voxel”: Image Resolution vs Length Scale Probed



- Increase MRI voxel resolution.
- “*In Vivo MRI Histology*”: Use low-resolution *in vivo* MRI data and physical/mathematical models to obtain microscopic scale features that characterize the morphology, structure and/or architecture of cells and tissues.
 - Cell orientation
 - Cell shape
 - Cell size
 - Cell size distribution (e.g., axon diameter distribution or ADD)
 - Extracellular matrix (ECM) fraction
 - Intra-axonal fraction
 - Fractal dimension ...

Goal

To parcellate the human cortex (and other brain areas) *in vivo* in about 45 minutes.



Fig.1 Santiago Ramon y Cajal at work (From Cajal Institute; <http://www.cajal.csic.es/>).

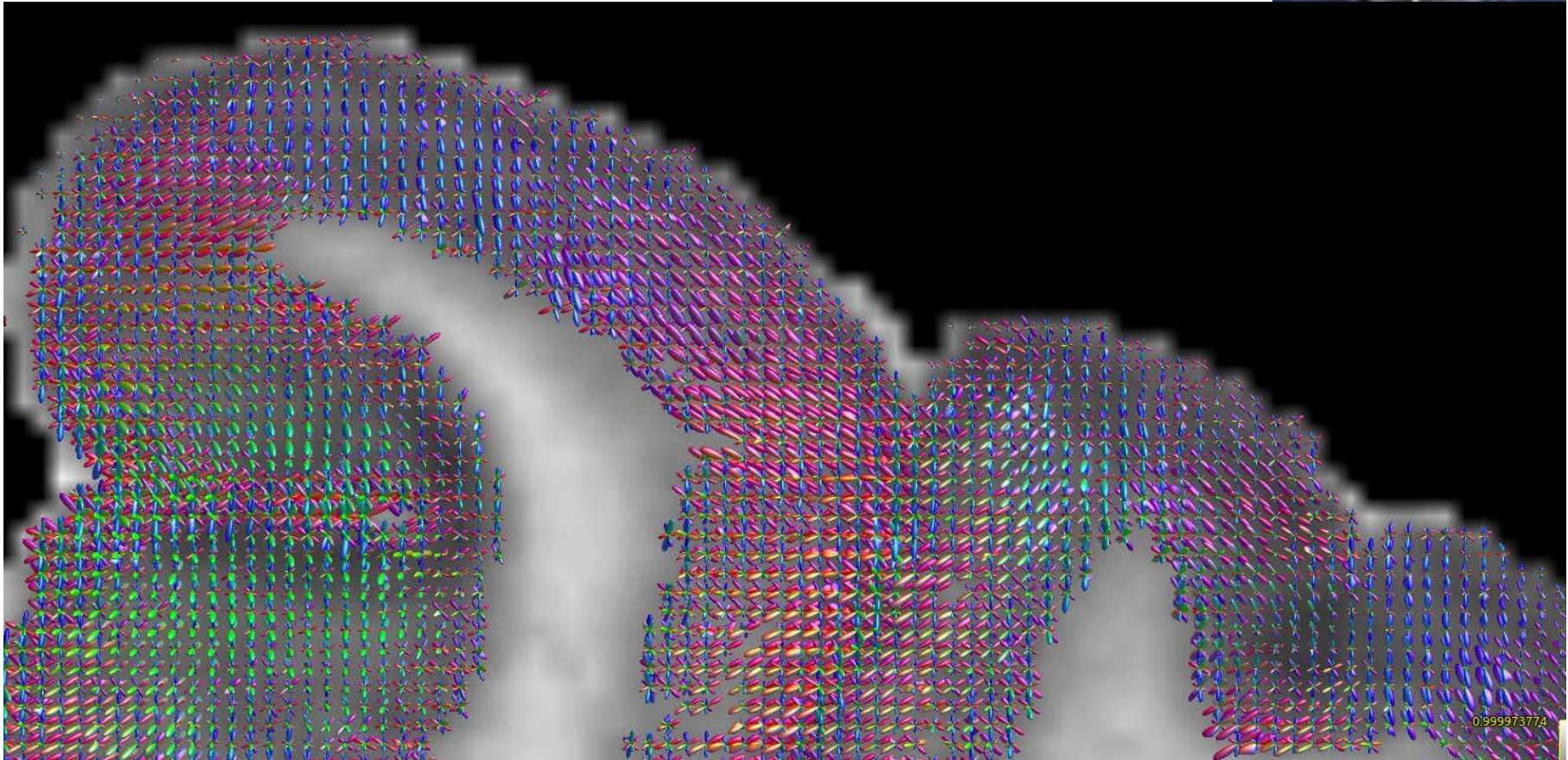


Cortical
surface

Sub-cortical
white matter

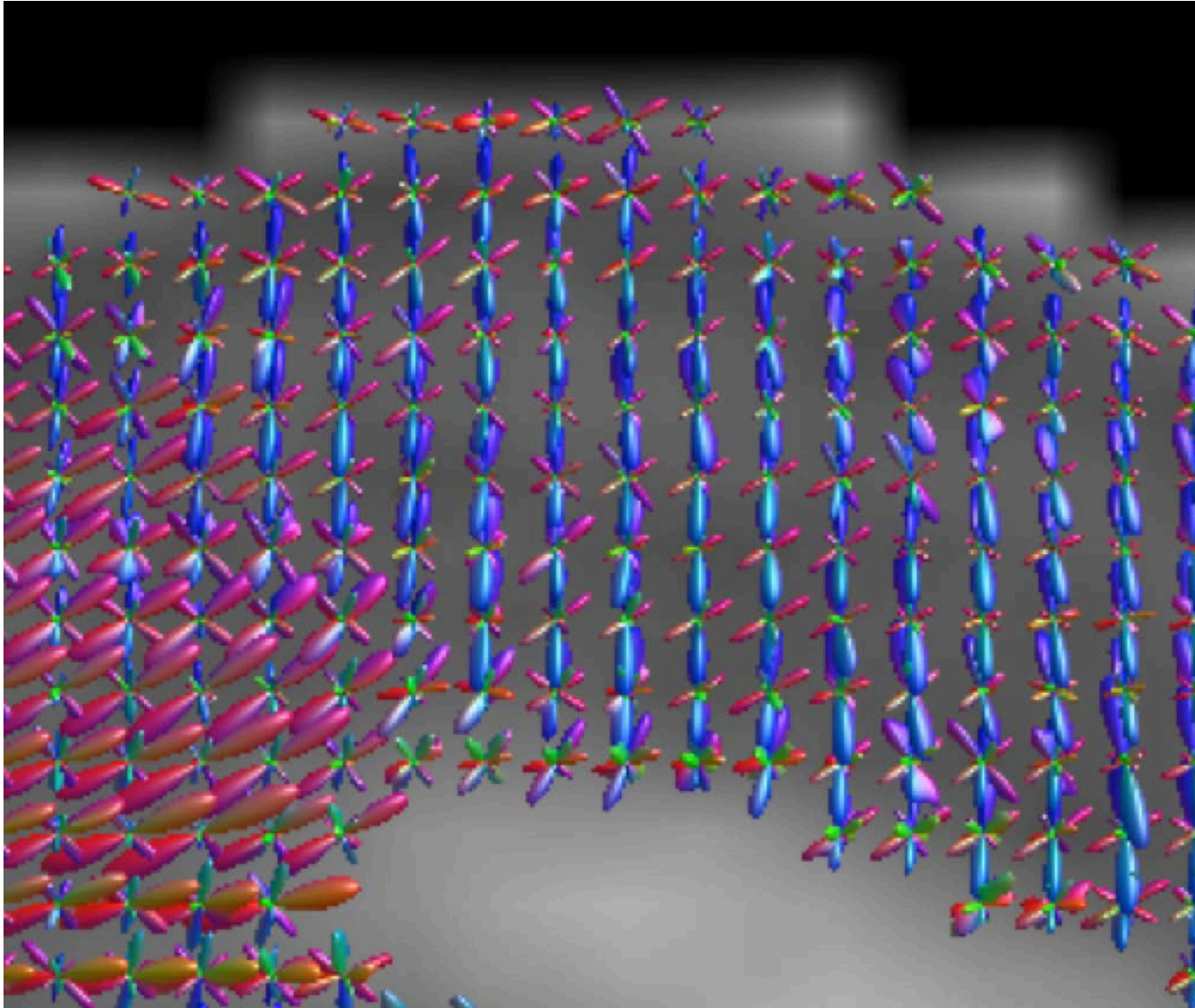
Mean Apparent Propagator (MAP) MRI

Evren
Özarlan

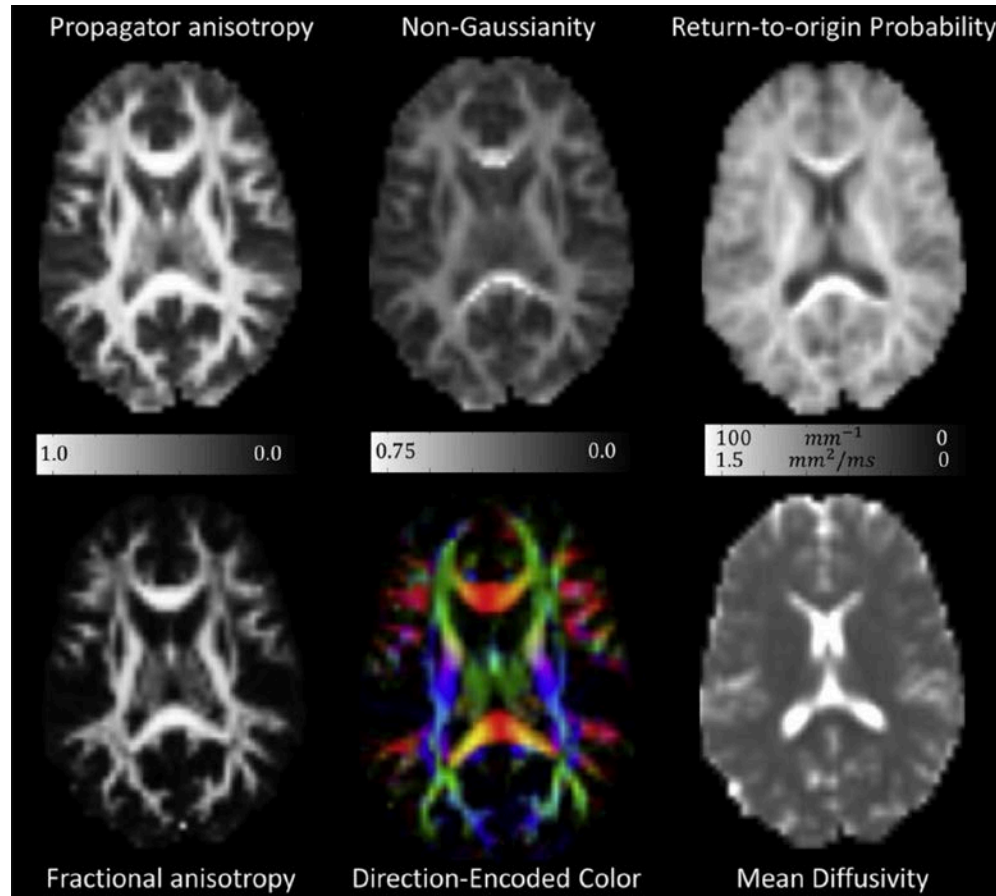


'glyphs' show size, shape and orientational features of the average propagator

Mean Apparent Propagator (MAP) MRI



Clinical Translation of Mean Apparent Propagator (MAP) MRI



Alexandru
Avram

Avram AV, Sarlls JE, Barnett AS, Özarlan E, Thomas C, Irfanoglu MO, Hutchinson E, Pierpaoli C, Basser PJ. 2016. Clinical feasibility of using mean apparent propagator (MAP) MRI to characterize brain tissue microstructure. *Neuroimage* 127:422-34.

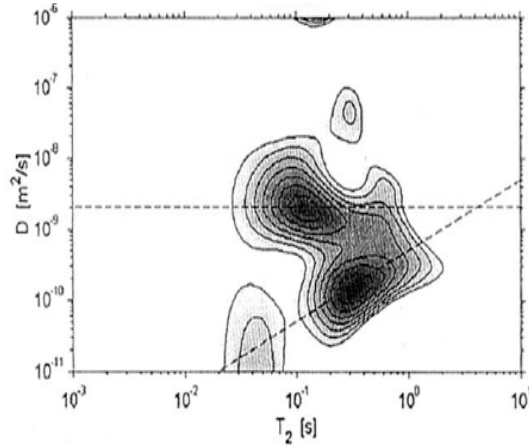
Developing new MRI Contrasts: Multi-dimensional relaxometry- diffusometry *MRI*

- 2D NMR relaxometry/diffusometry methods have been used in porous media NMR applications.
- Because of vast data requirements and complexity in reconstructing 2D spectra, spectral MRI has been infeasible—nigh impossible.
- We have recently invented and developed $p(T_1, T_2)$, $p(\text{mADC}, T_2)$, $p(\text{mADC}, T_1)$, ... MRI to reveal 'invisible' components and compartments within tissues and cells.

Examples of 2D Correlation NMR Spectroscopy

48,000 data points!

Berea sandstone

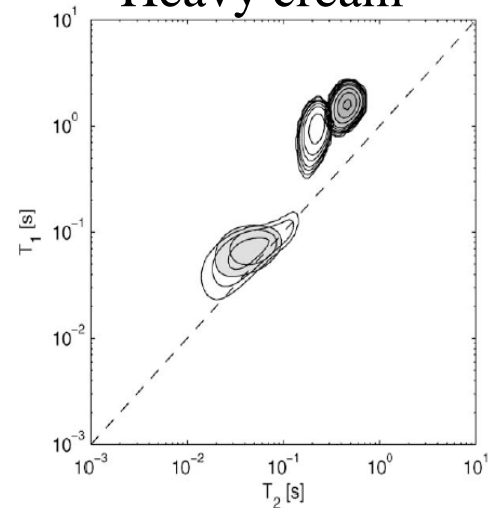


Hürlimann et al., 2003

$p(T_2, D)$ NMR

240,000 data points!

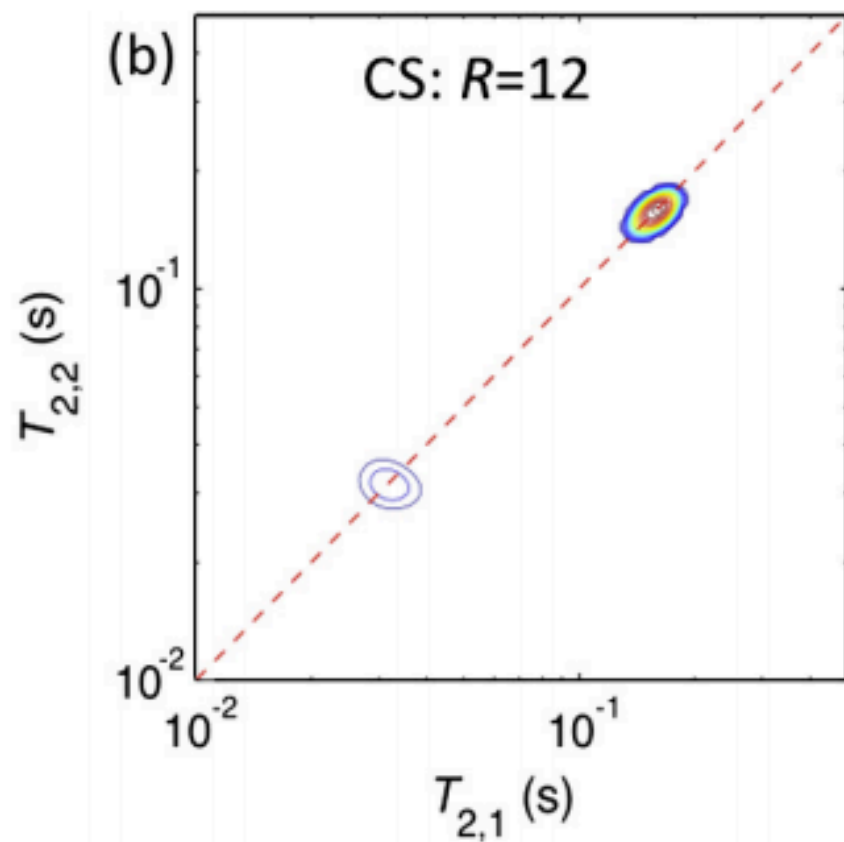
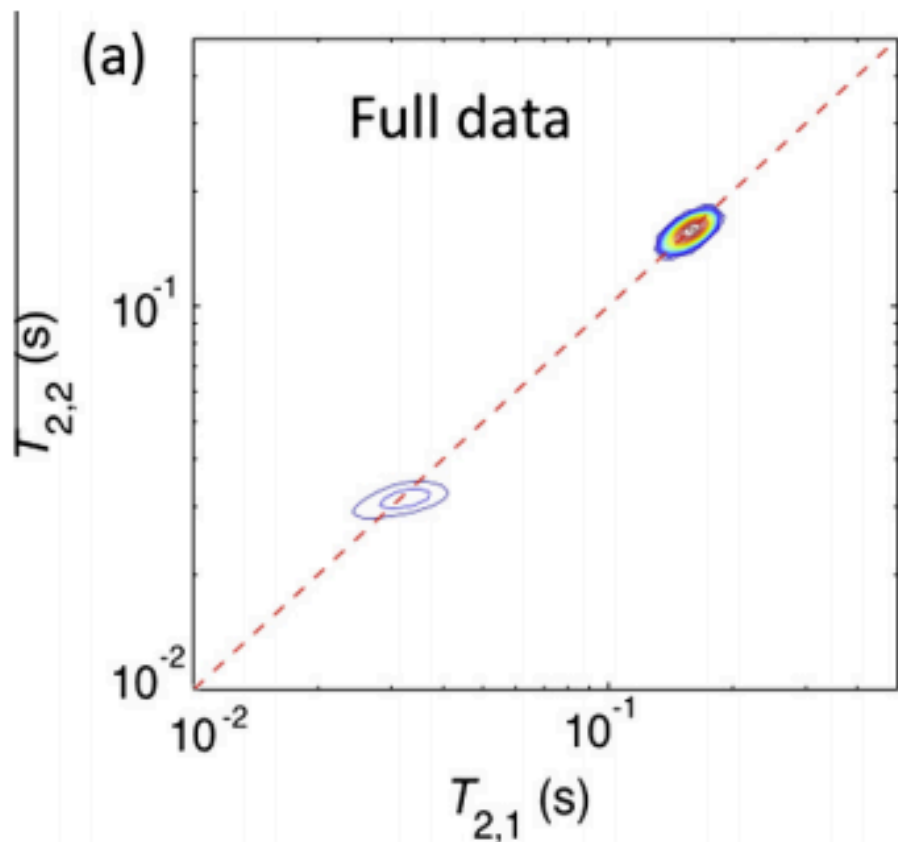
Heavy cream



Hürlimann et al., 2006

$p(T_2, T_1)$ NMR

2D Relaxometry with 'Compressed Sensing'



Efficient 2D MRI relaxometry using compressed sensing

Ruiliang Bai^{a,b}, Alexander Cloninger^c, Wojciech Czaia^d, Peter I. Basser^{a,*}

Journal of Magnetic Resonance 255 (2015) 88–99

BATTLESHIP

THE CLASSIC

NAVAL COMBAT GAME

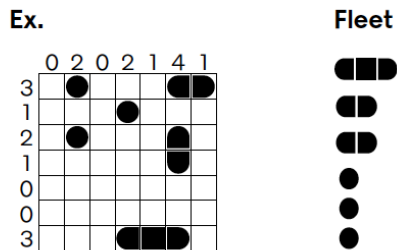


A Milton Bradley™ Game

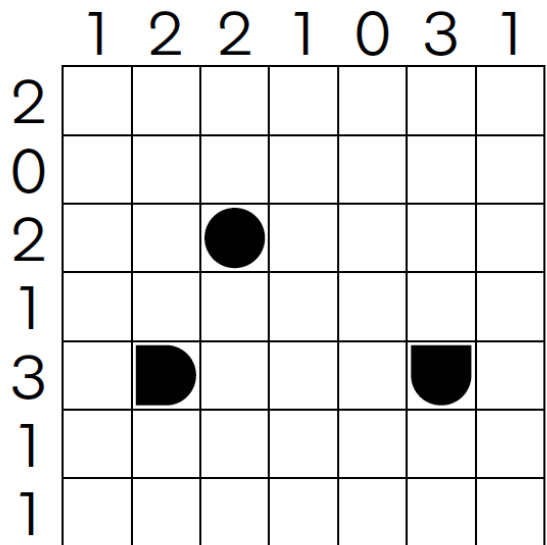
BATTLESHIPS

By Wei-Hwa Huang

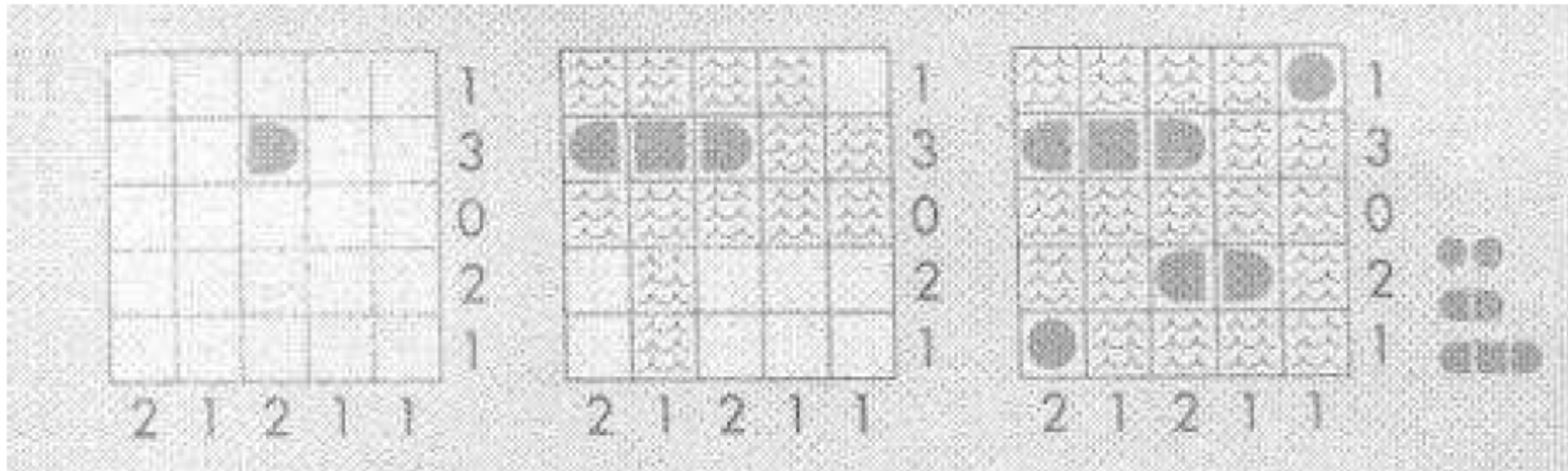
This is a puzzle version of the classic pencil-and-paper game. Place one cruiser (three grid cells, as shown), two destroyers (two cells) and three submarines (one cell) in the grid horizontally and vertically so that no two vessels touch, not even diagonally. The numbers at the side of the grid tell you how many cells in the corresponding rows and columns are occupied by vessels.



The New York Times,
Puzzles, "A little variety"
03/06/16; Editor:
Will Shortz

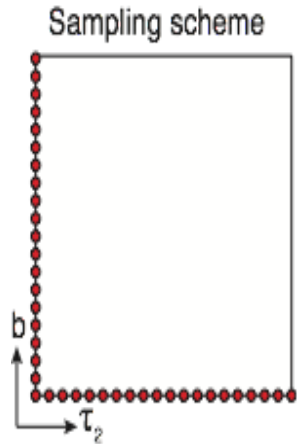


Strategy changes when you know “opponent’s” marginal distributions!



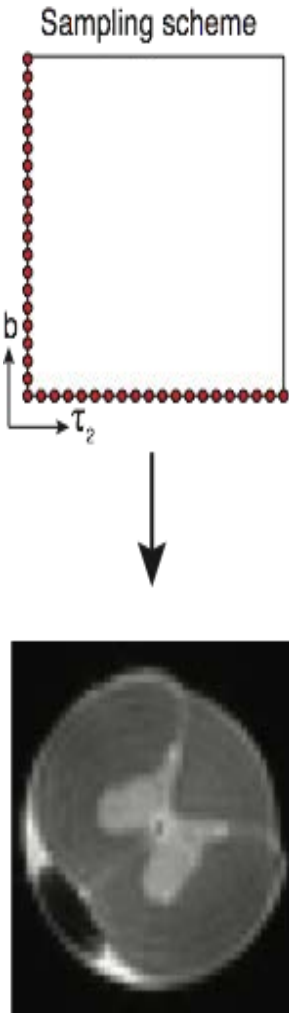
Rows and columns show partial sums from which marginal distributions can be calculated

Marginal Distribution Constrained Optimization (MADCO) for multispectral imaging

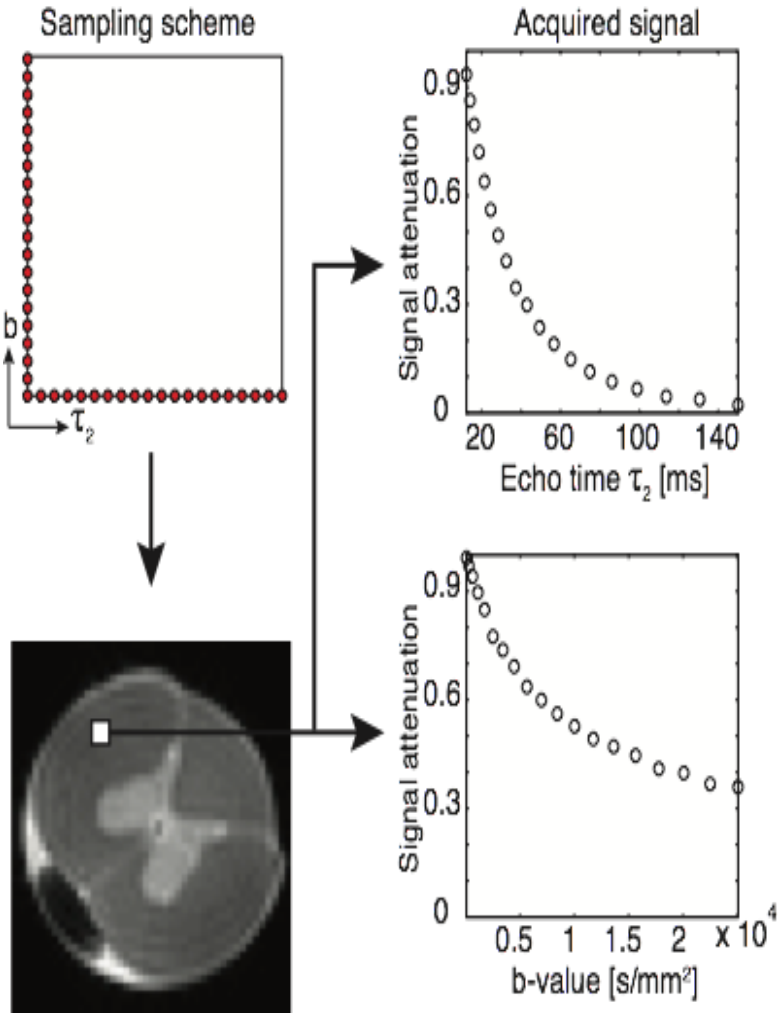


Dan Benjamini

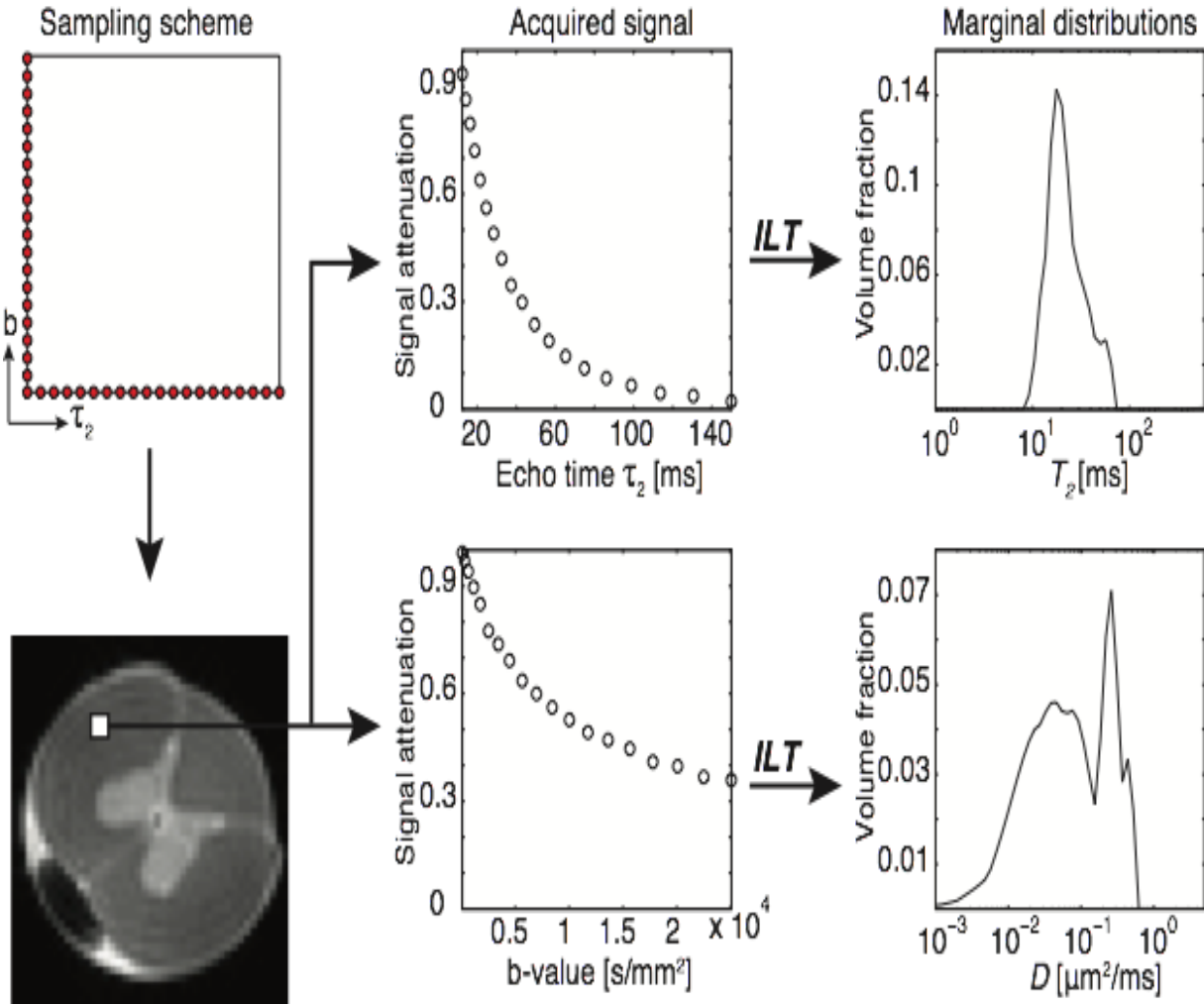
MADCO for multispectral imaging



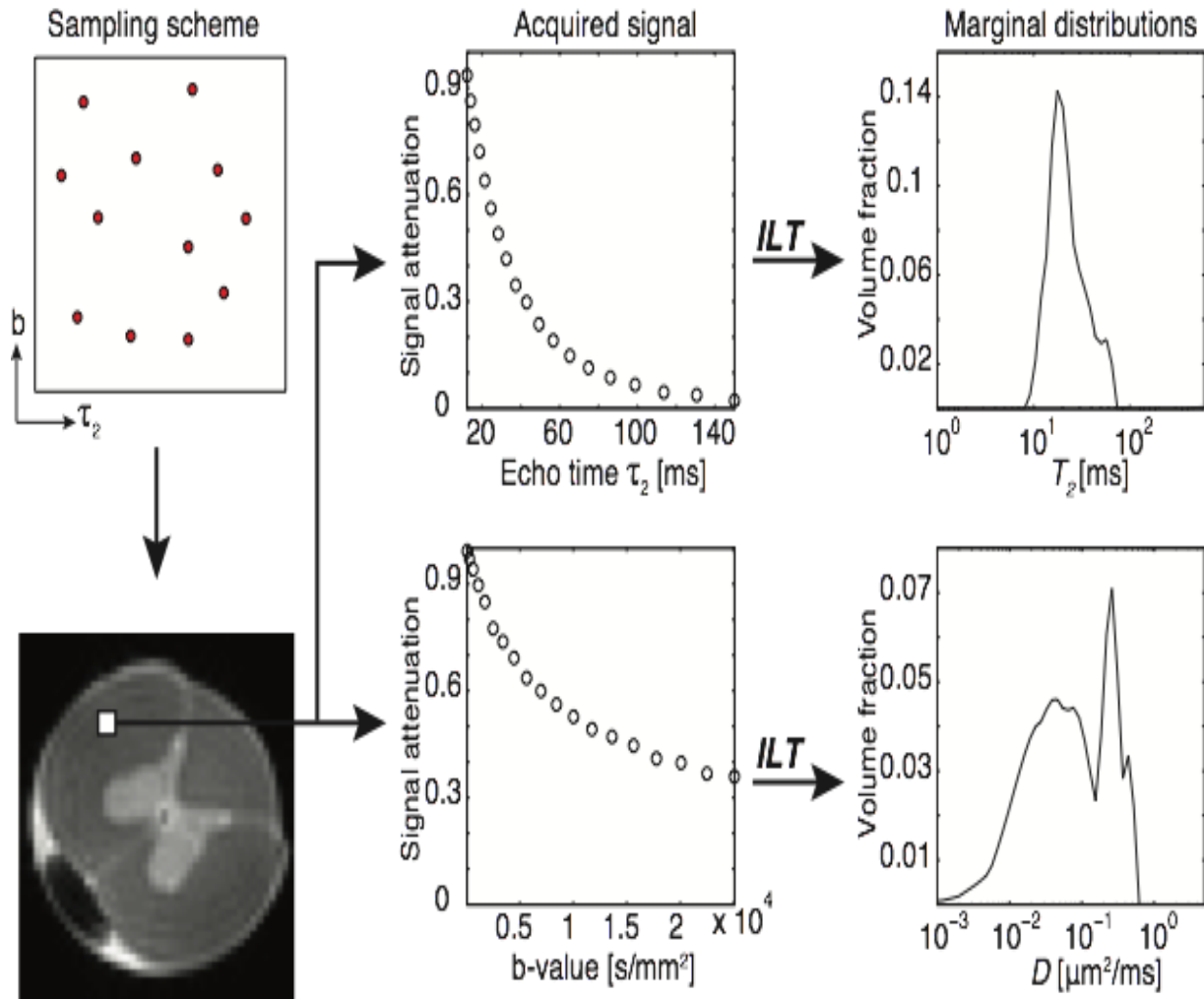
MADCO for multispectral imaging



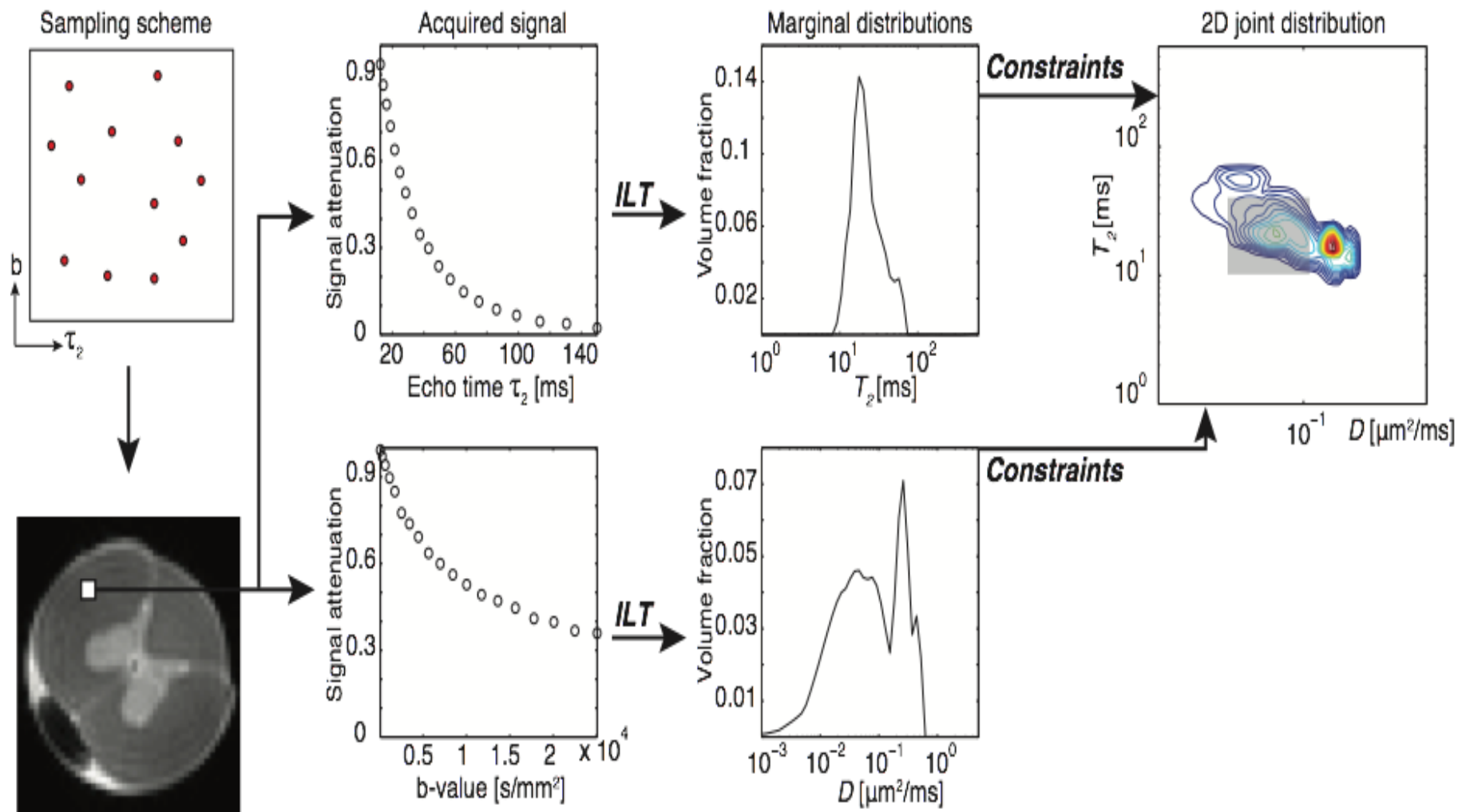
MADCO for multispectral imaging



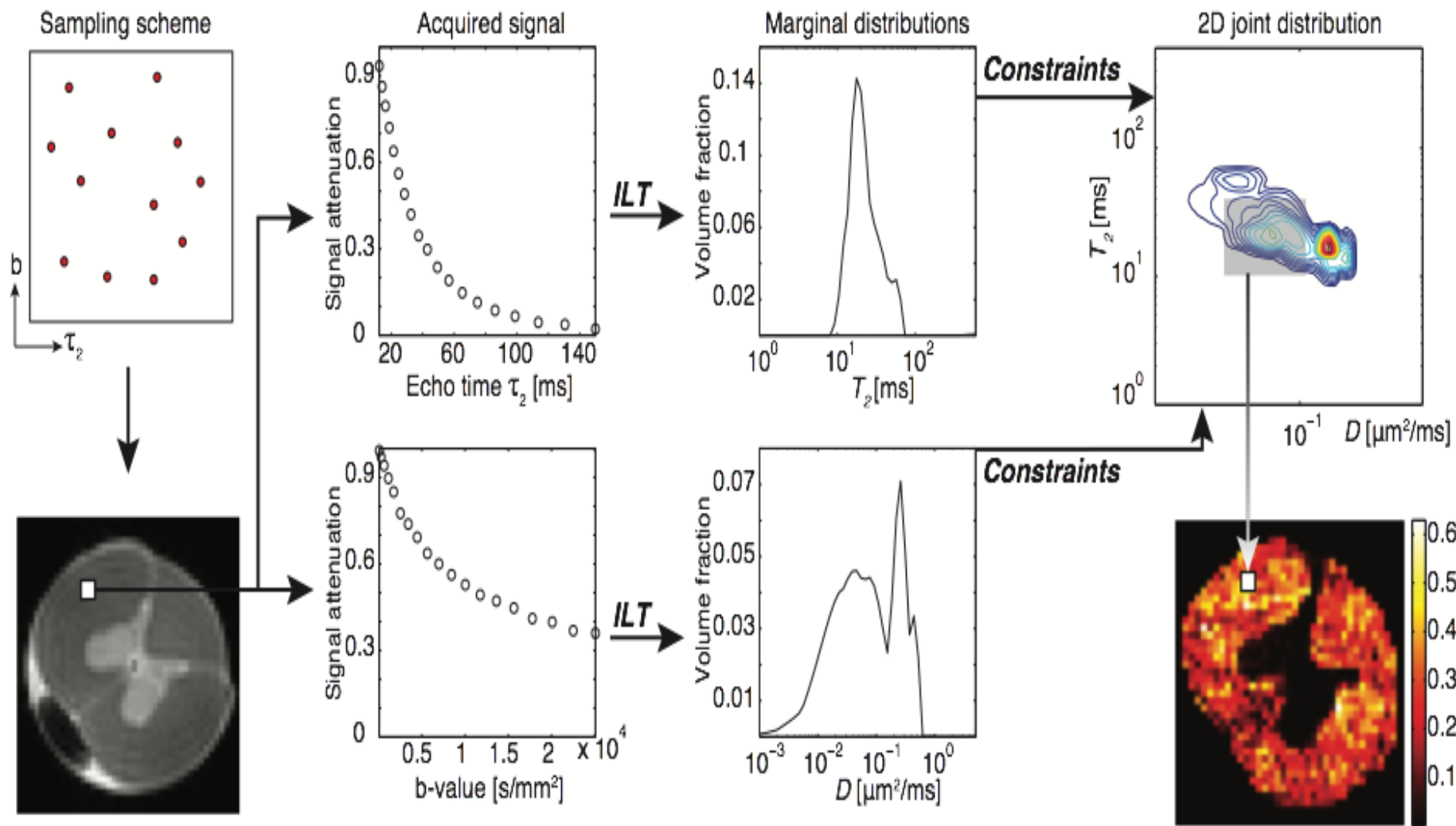
MADCO for multispectral imaging



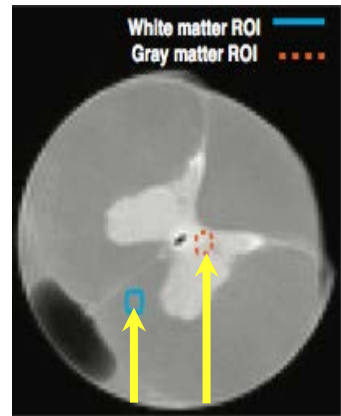
MADCO for multispectral imaging



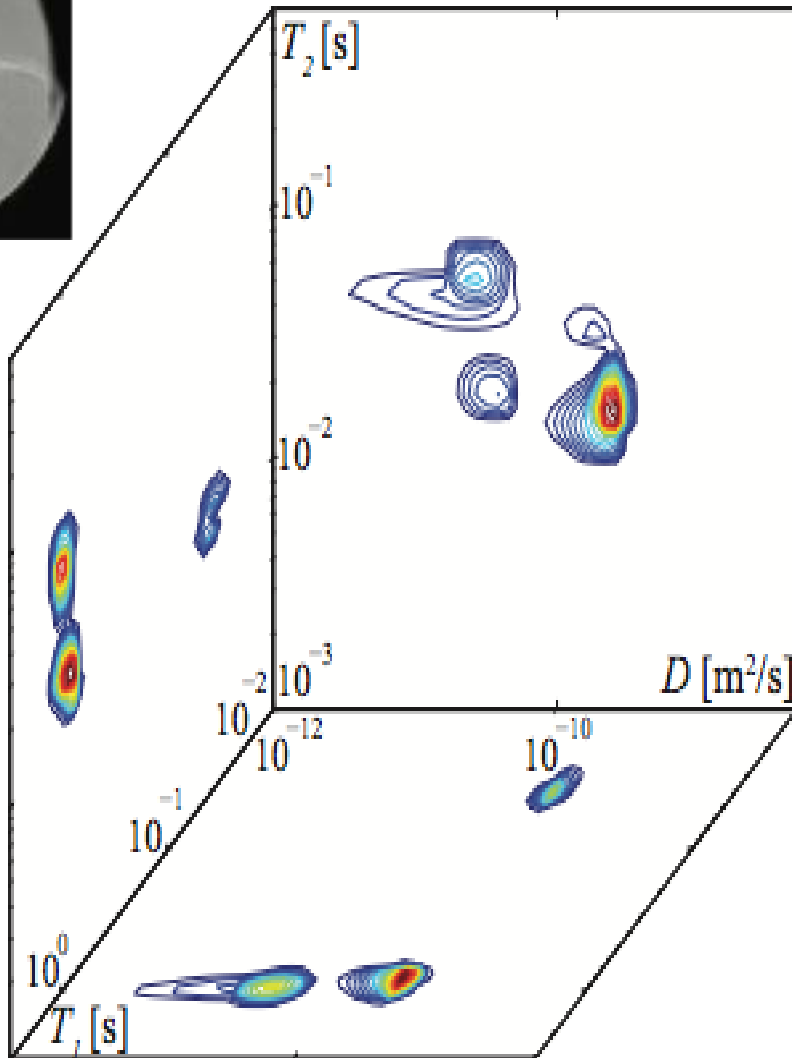
MADCO for multispectral imaging



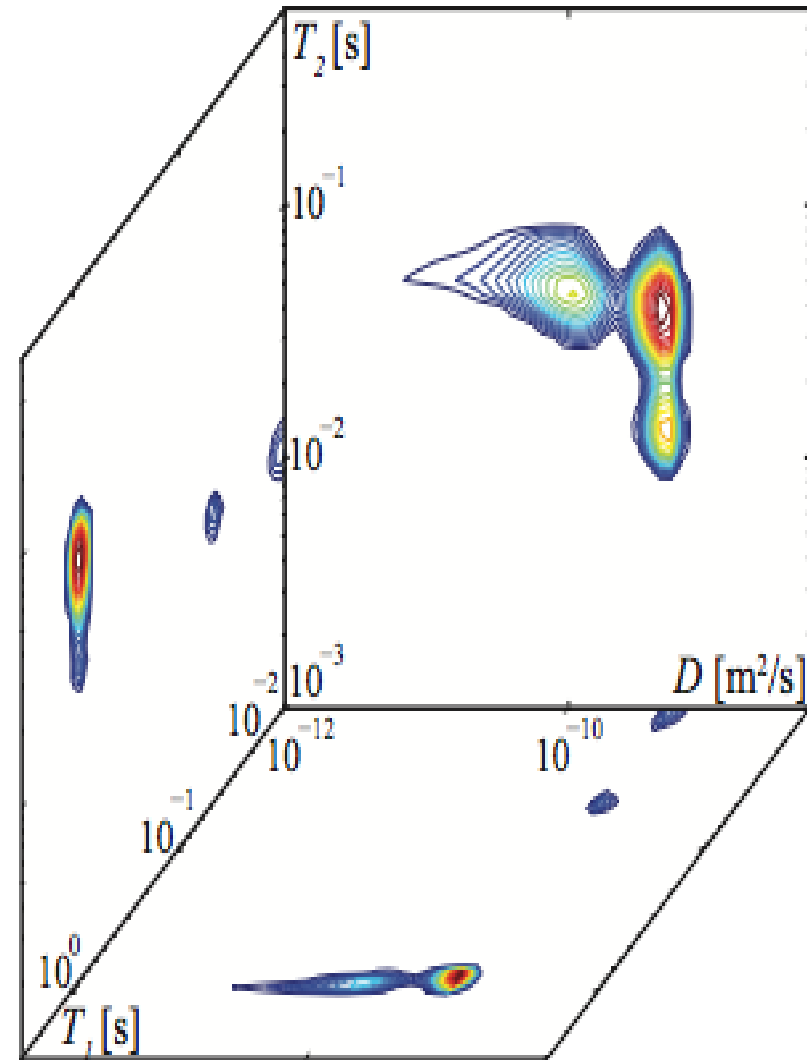
MADCO: *ex vivo* ferret spinal cord



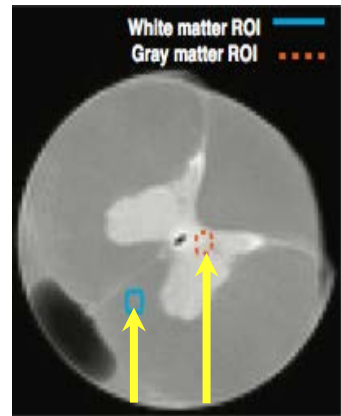
White Matter ROI



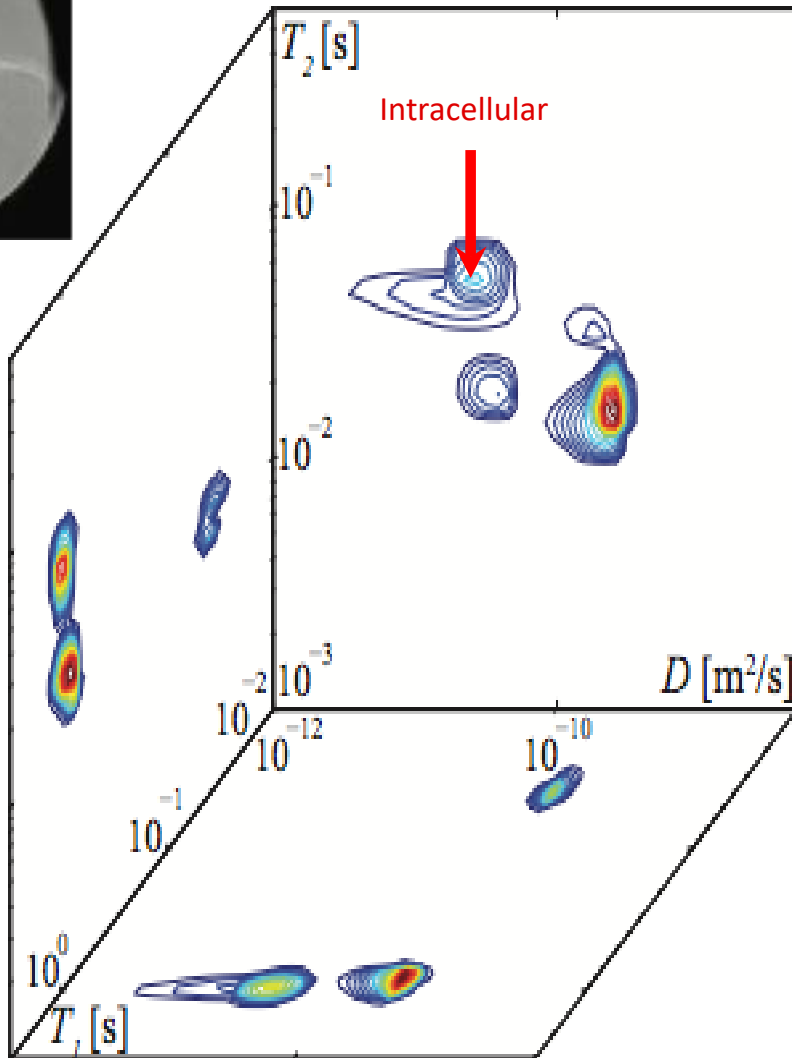
Gray Matter ROI



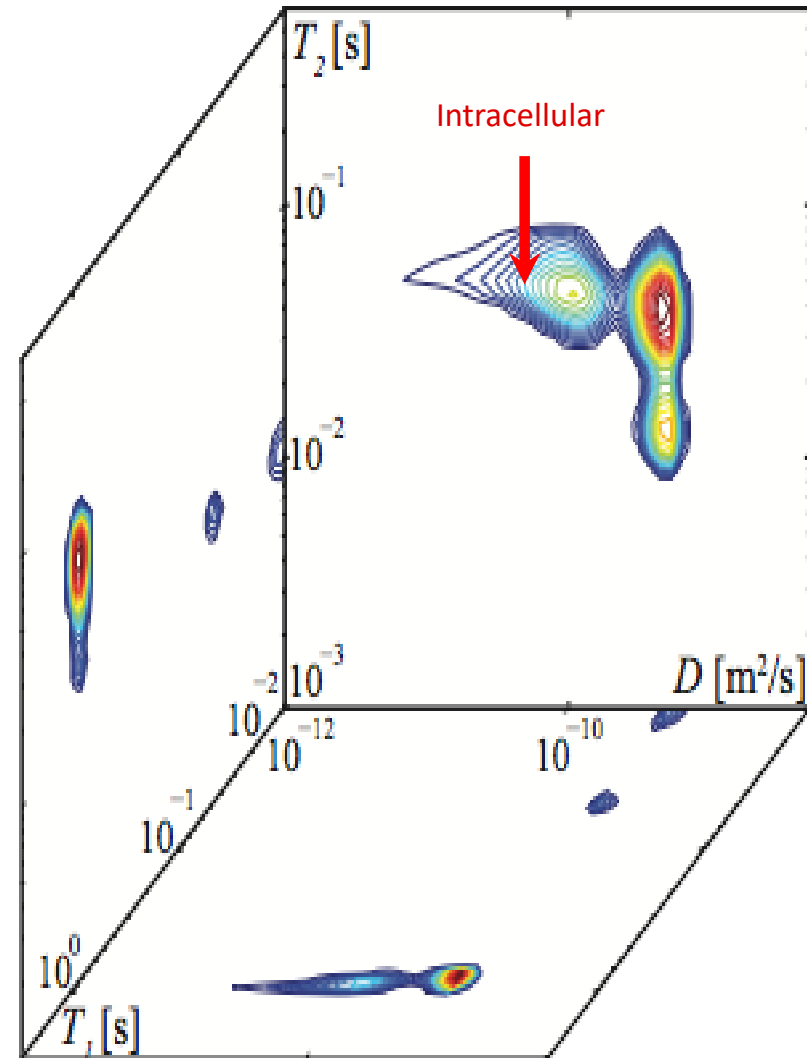
MADCO: *ex vivo* ferret spinal cord



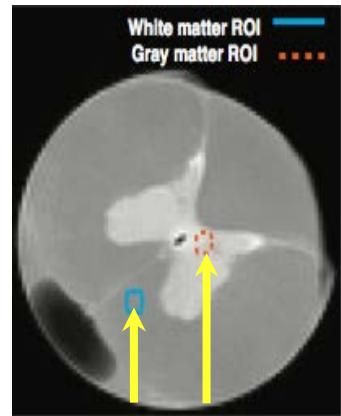
White Matter ROI



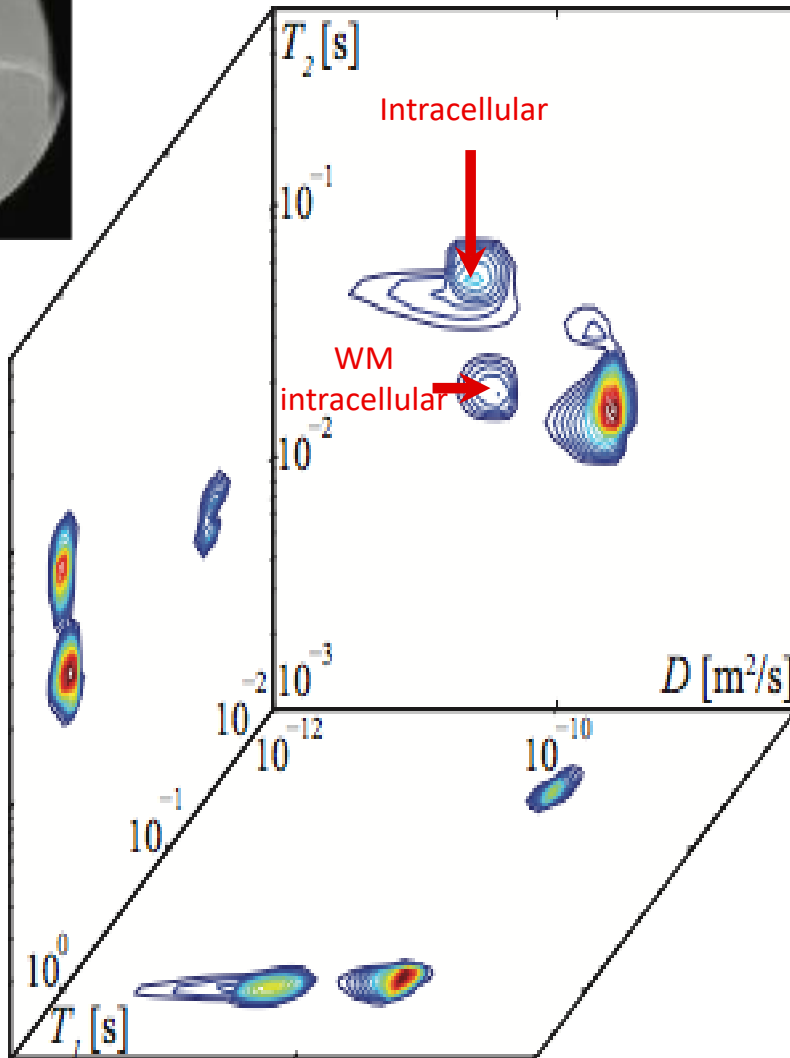
Gray Matter ROI



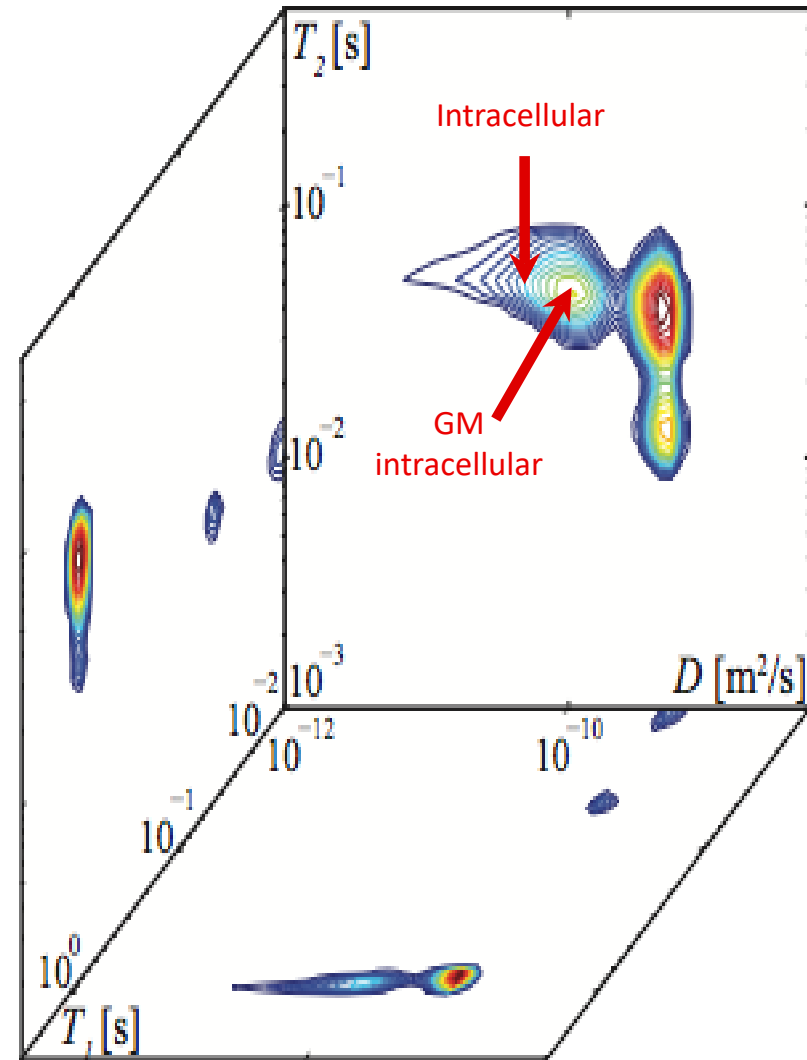
MADCO: *ex vivo* ferret spinal cord



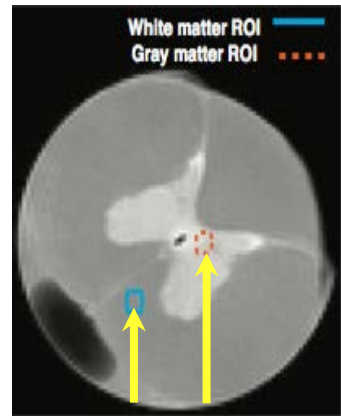
White Matter ROI



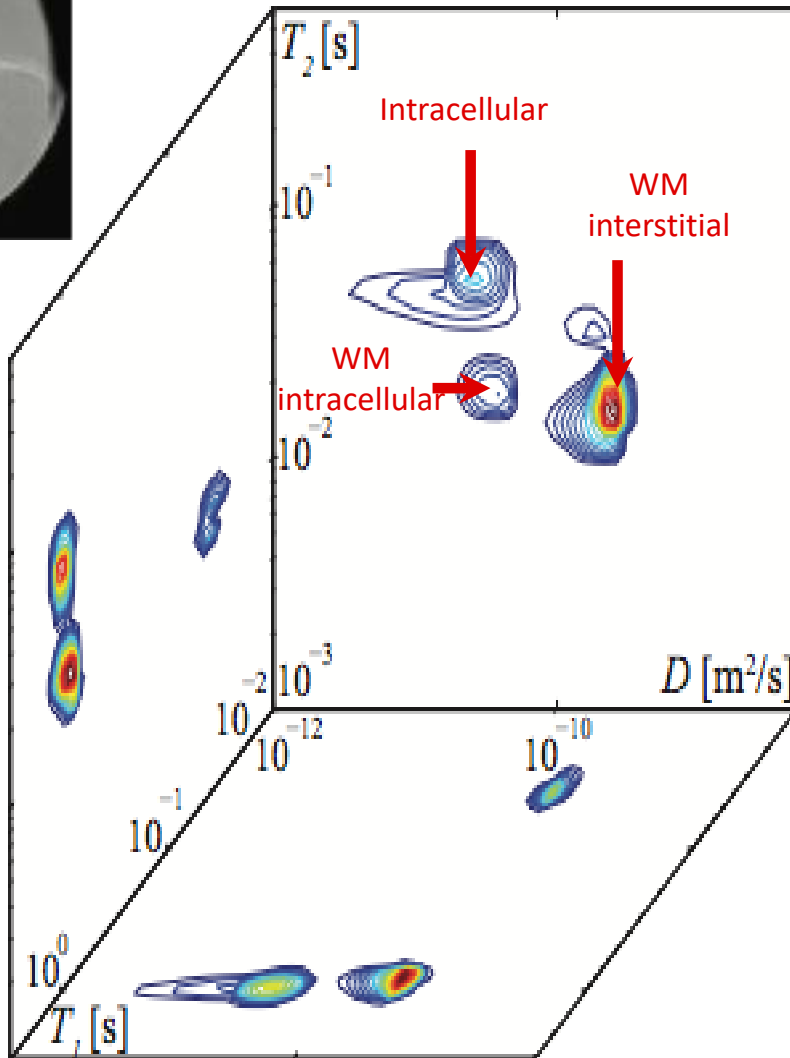
Gray Matter ROI



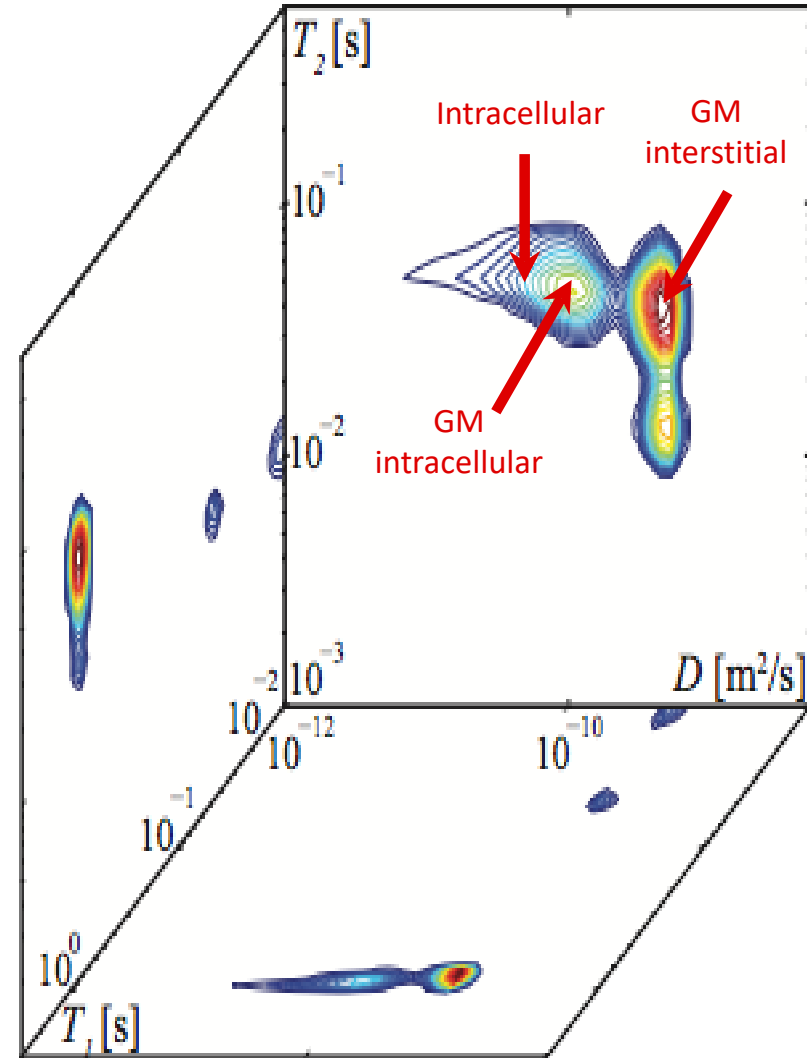
MADCO: *ex vivo* ferret spinal cord



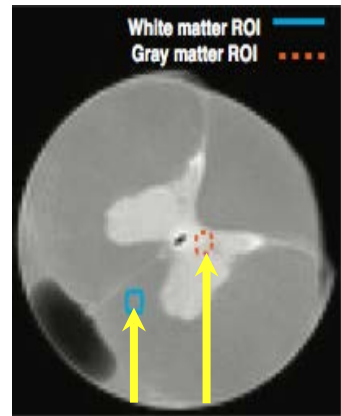
White Matter ROI



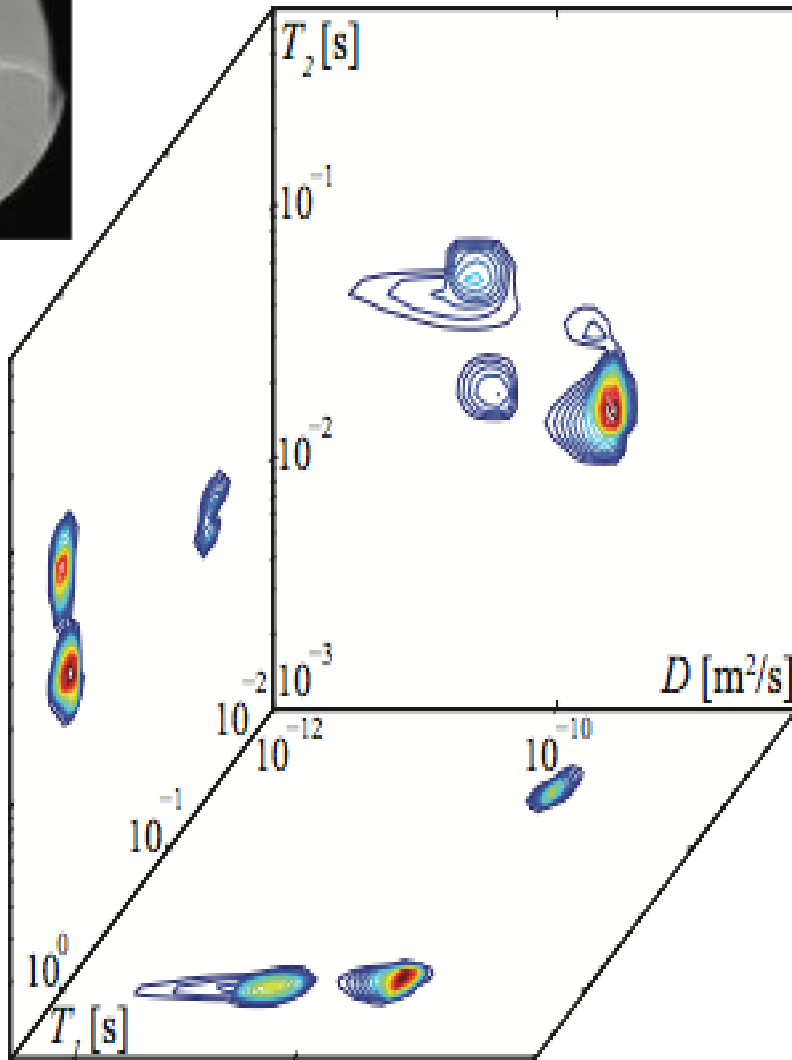
Gray Matter ROI



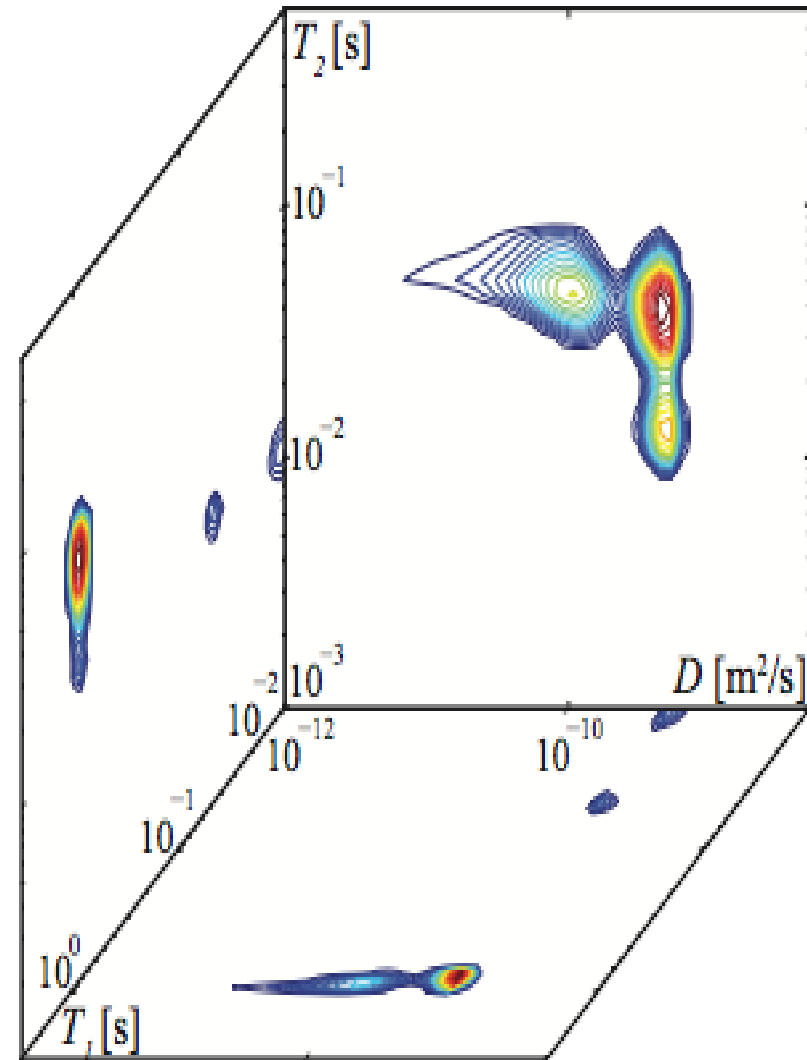
MADCO: *ex vivo* ferret spinal cord



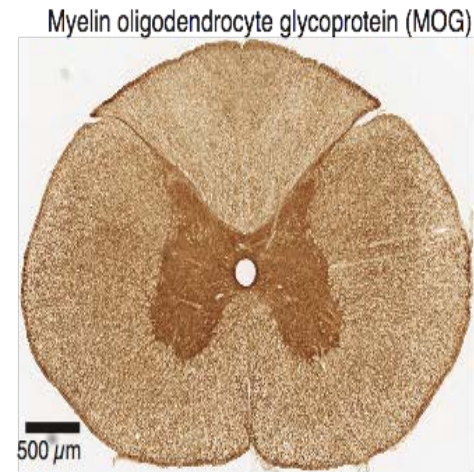
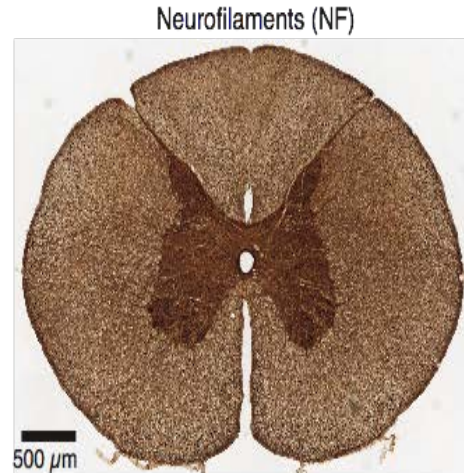
White Matter ROI



Gray Matter ROI



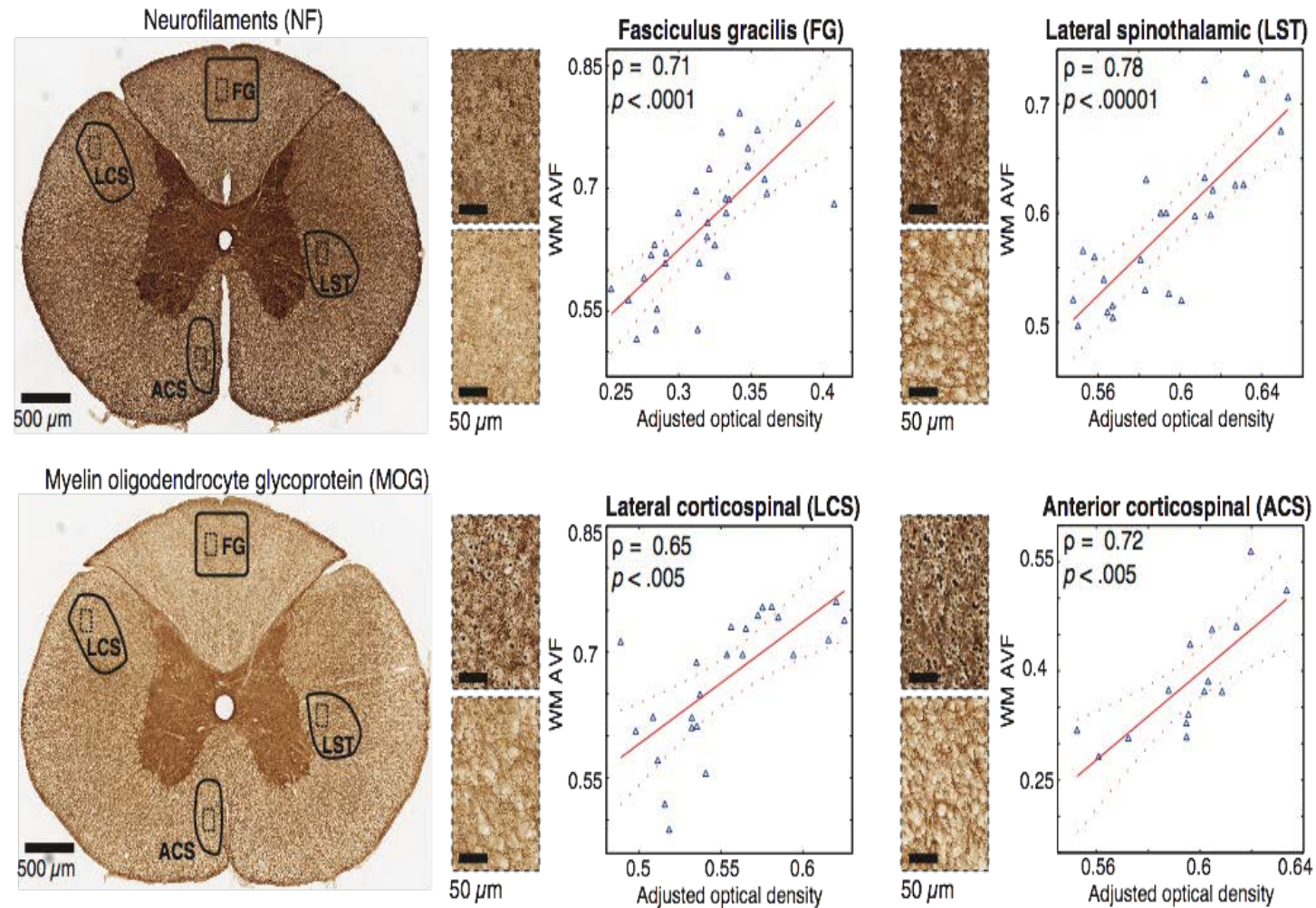
MRI / Immunohistochemistry Correlation



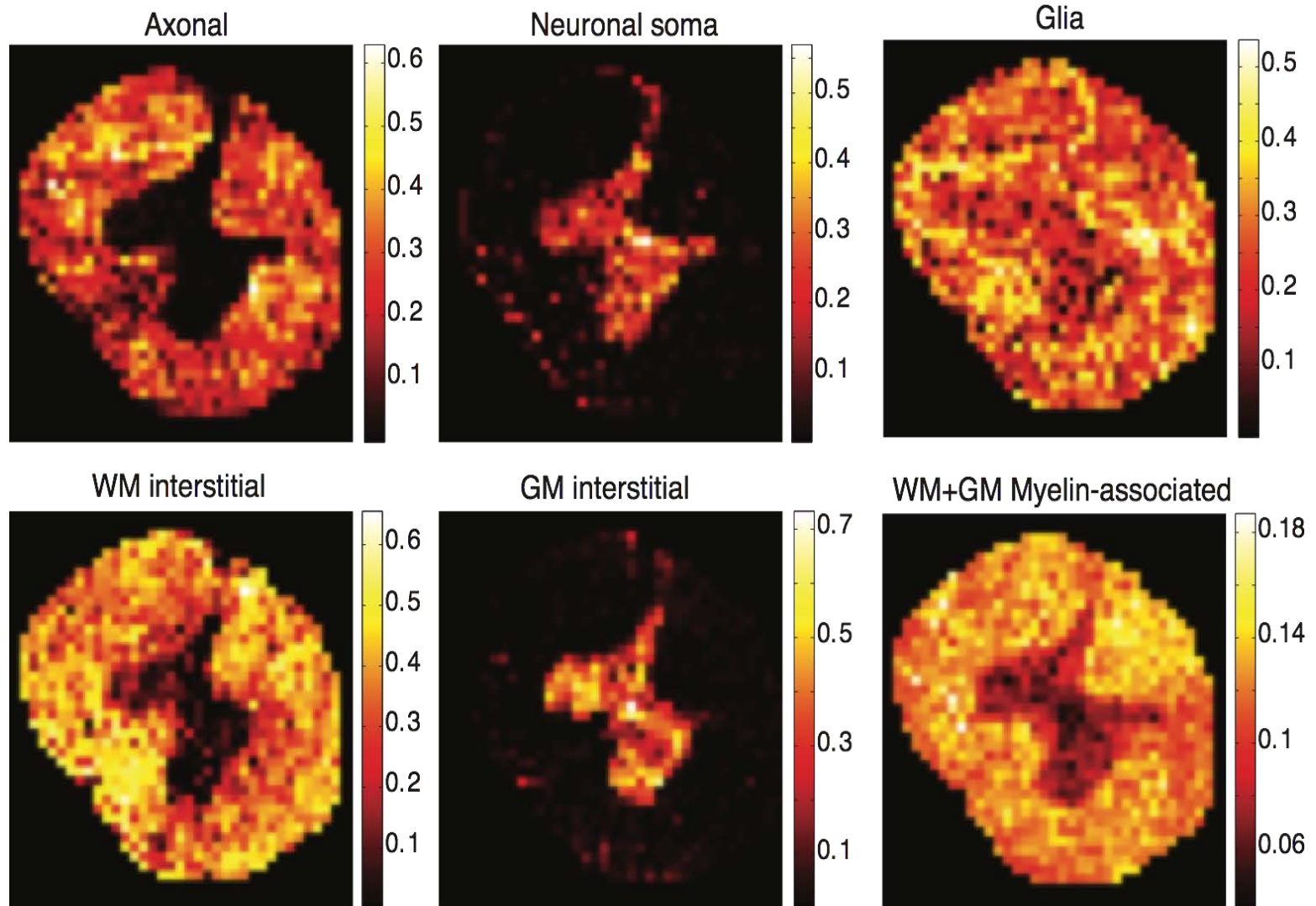
MRI and histology images are co-registered

Multivariate linear regression is used to correlate MRI and histology imaging data in ROIs (with optical density images used as the independent variables)

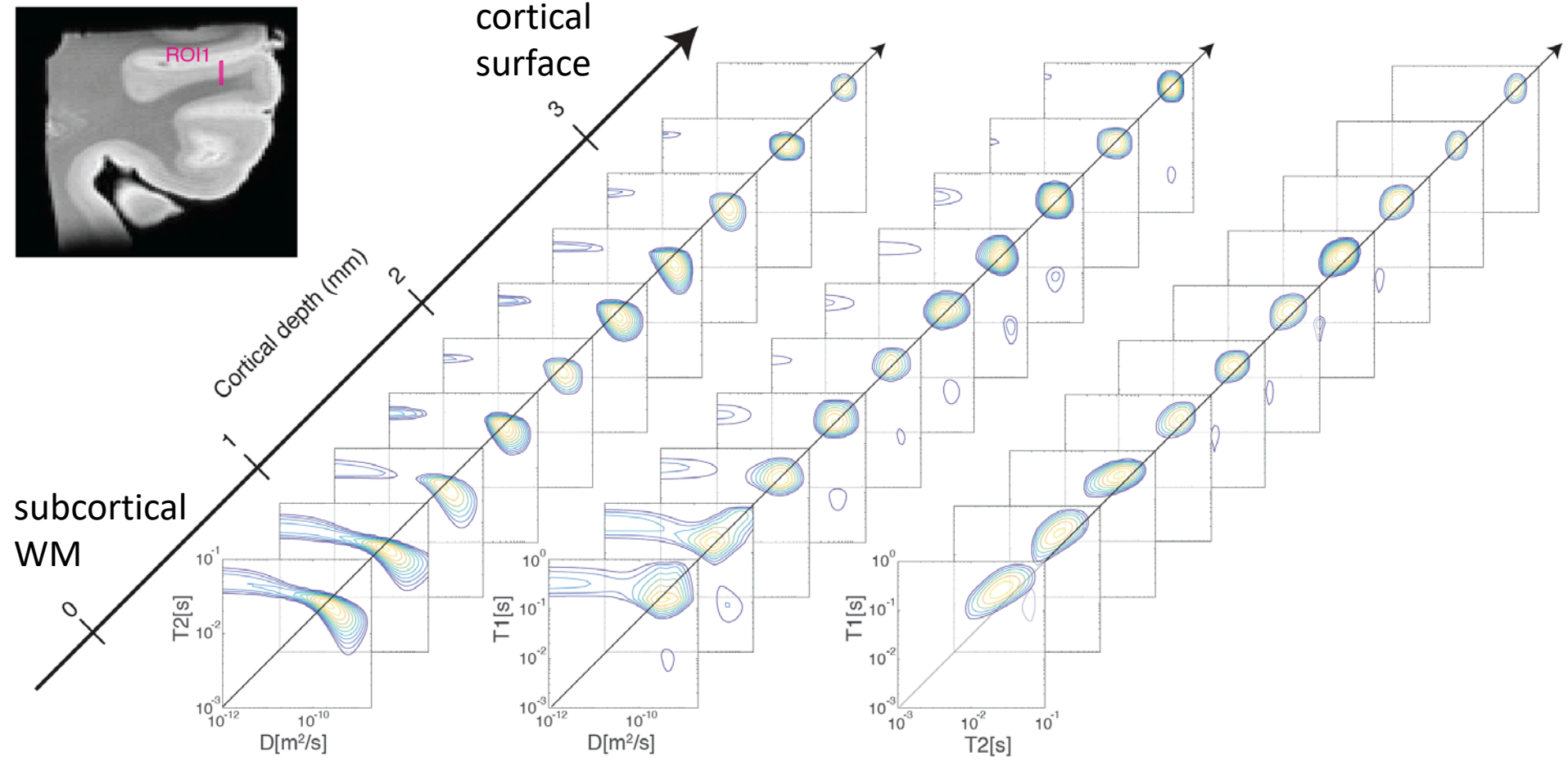
MRI / Immunohistochemistry Correlation



Apparent Volume Fraction MRI maps show distinct water microenvironments



Human Cortical Tissue Parcellation



First 2D relaxometry/diffusometry MRI data obtained in human brain tissue (unpublished) in BA17 from CNRM Neuropathology colleagues Drs. Perl, Rhodes and Iacono

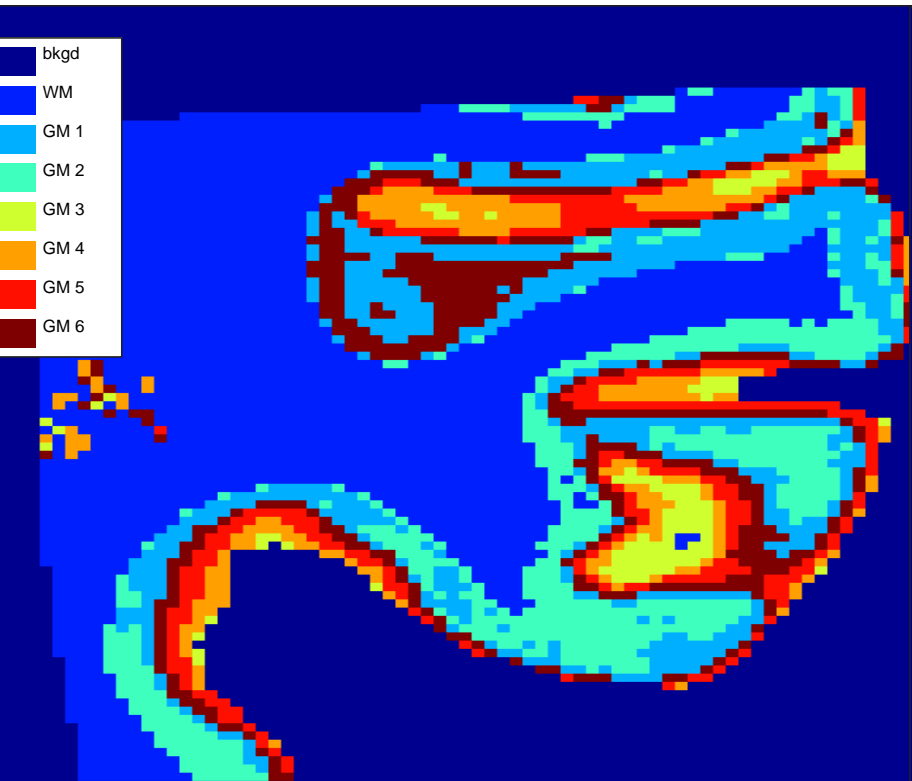
Unsupervised Cortical Parcellation

Segmentation of GM and WM
Clustering into 6 Cortical Layers
Clustering of Cortical Areas

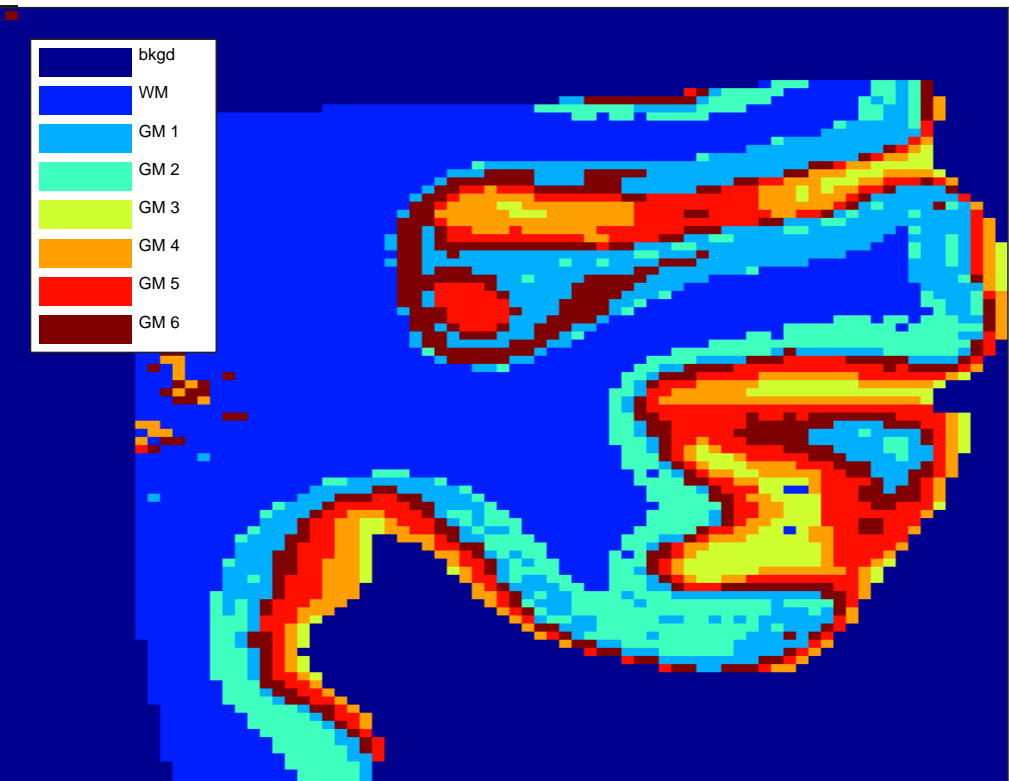


Shinjini Kundu
Unpublished Data

3D segmented tissues, 2D Euclidean, slice 28



3D segmented tissues, 2D Euclidean, slice 29



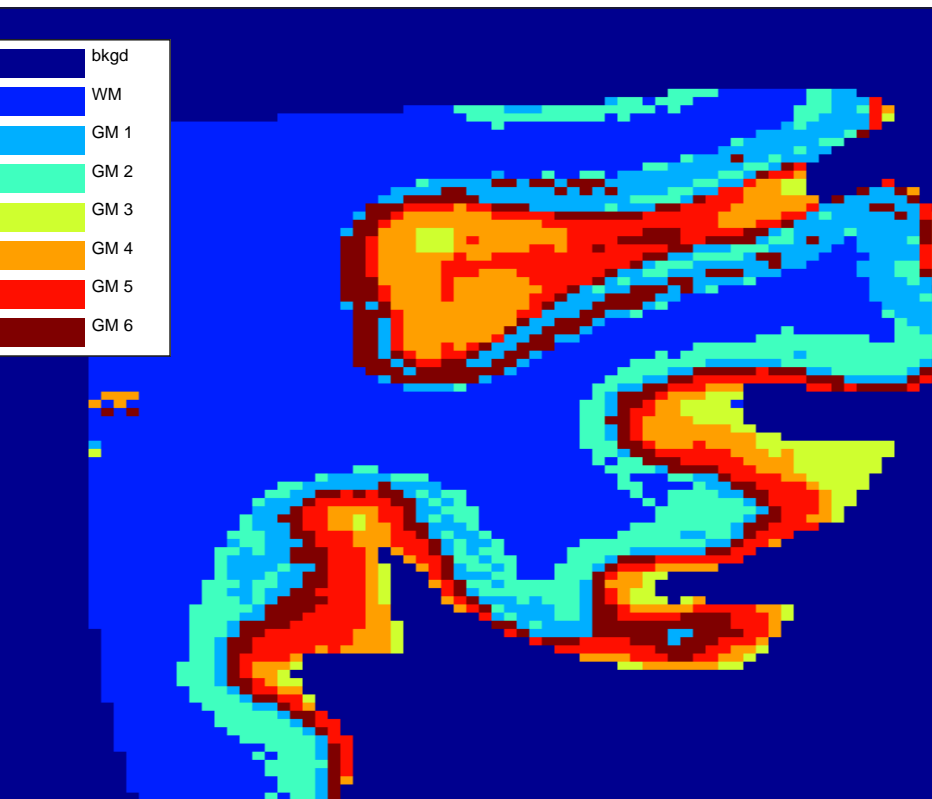
Unsupervised Cortical Parcellation

Segmentation of GM and WM
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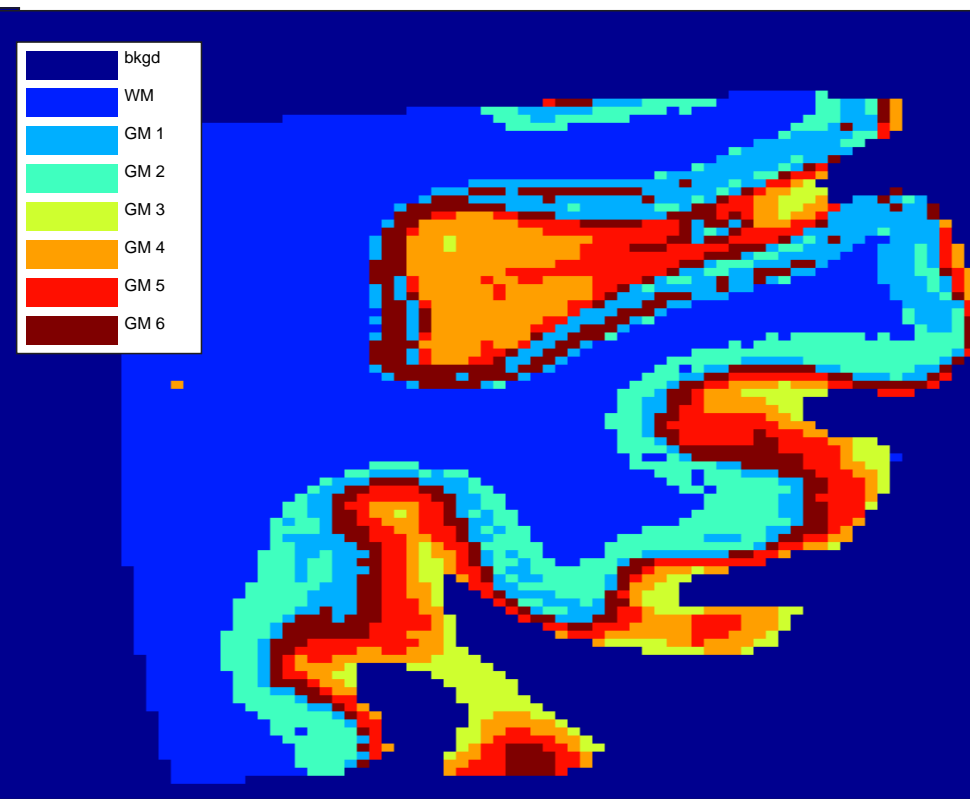


Shinjini Kundu
Unpublished Data

3D segmented tissues, 2D Euclidean, slice 32



3D segmented tissues, 2D Euclidean, slice 33



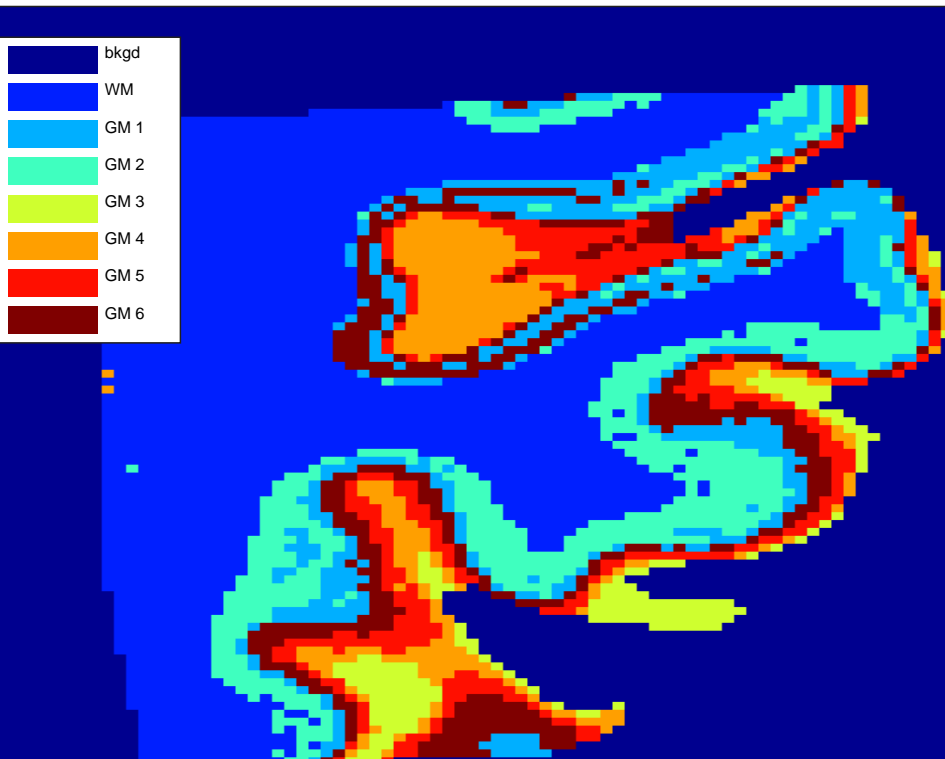
Unsupervised Cortical Parcellation

- Segmentation of GM and WM
- Clustering into 6 Cortical Layers
- Clustering of Cortical Areas

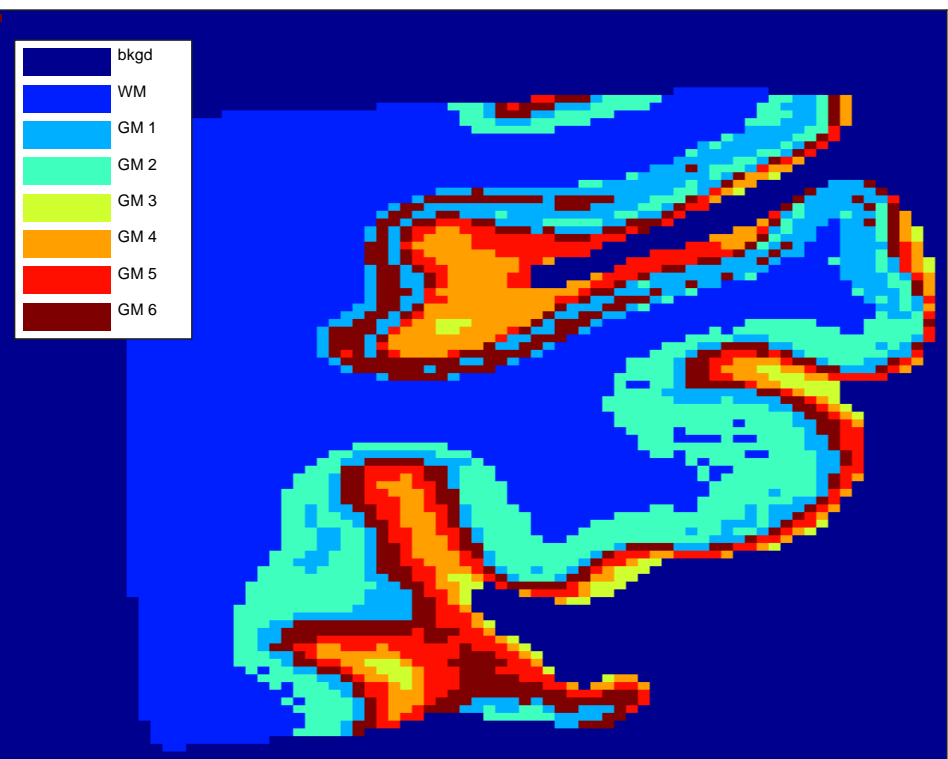


Shinjini Kundu
Unpublished data

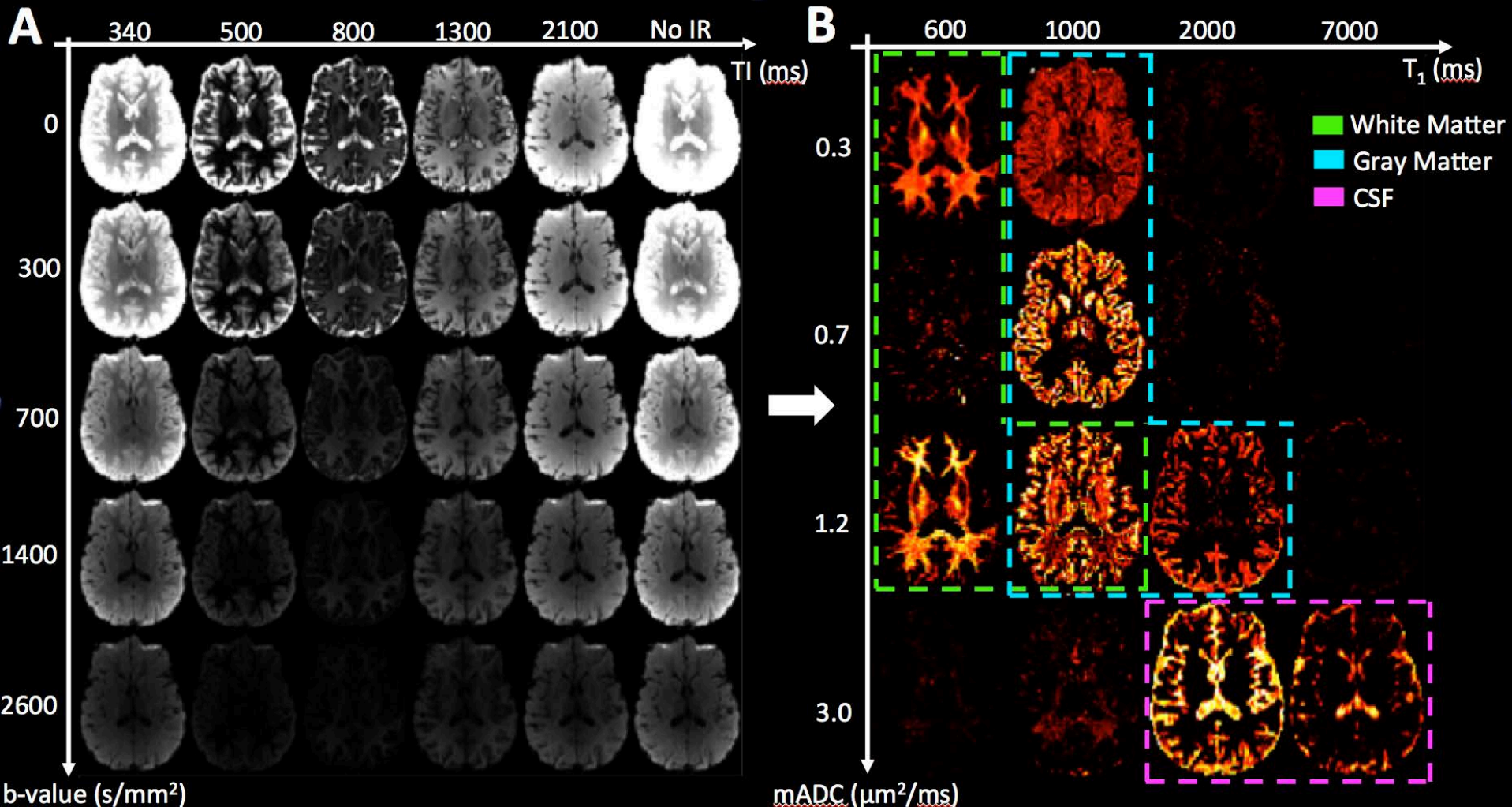
3D segmented tissues, 2D Euclidean, slice 34



3D segmented tissues, 2D Euclidean, slice 35

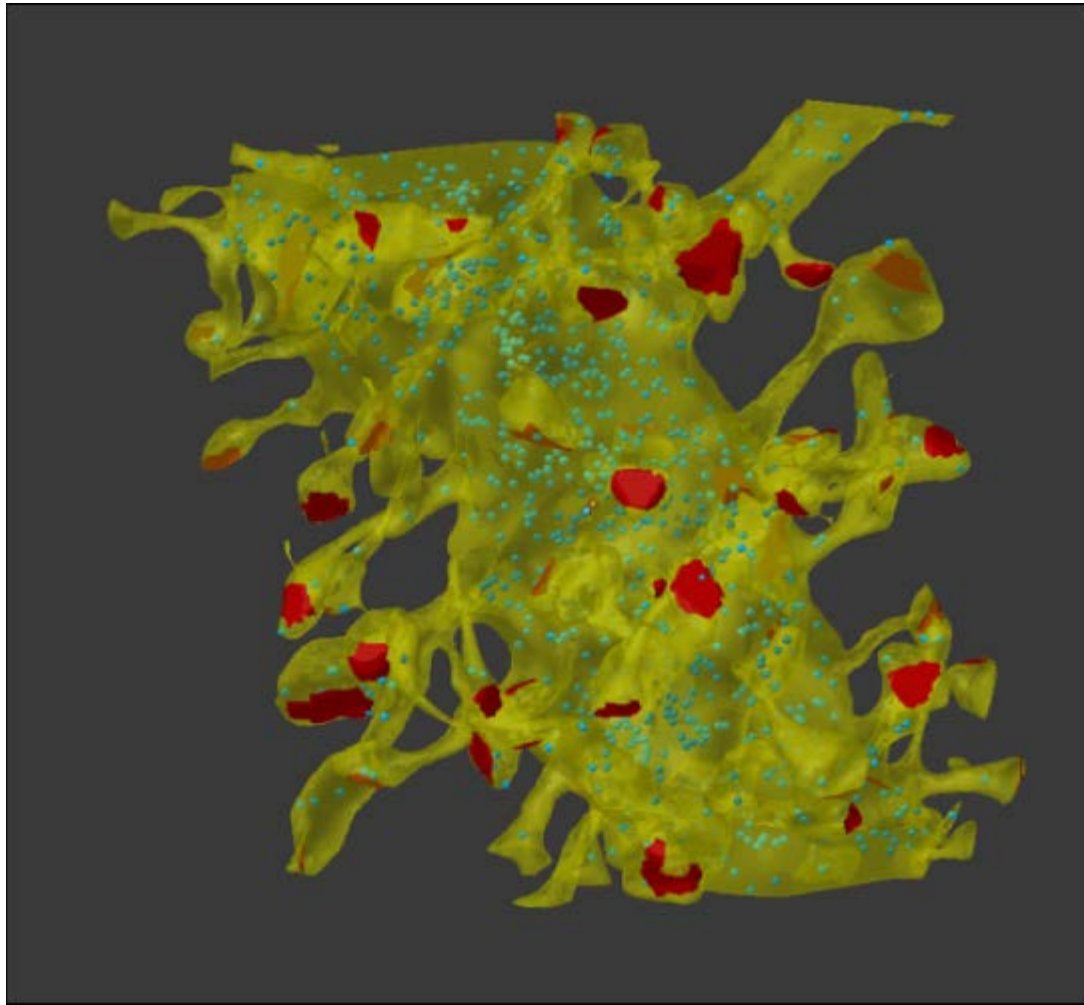


Clinical $p(T_1, mADC)$ Mapping



A.V. Avram, J.E. Sarlls, and P.J. Basser, *Estimating intravoxel joint T1-mean diffusivity probability distributions using a clinical MRI scanner* (in preparation)

DiffSim Monte-Carlo Modeling Framework



Adam
Bernstein

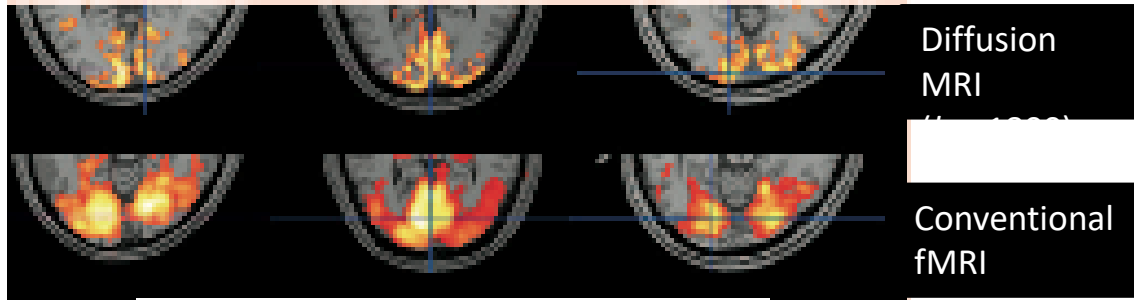
AS Bernstein; B Regner; GT Baxter; E Özarlan; PJ Basser; TJ Sejnowski; LR Frank, *Insights into double pulsed field gradient experiments in non-ideal geometries using Monte-Carlo simulations*, submitted, JMR 2018

Explore Novel Functional MRI (fMRI) Mechanisms and Image Contrasts

Can we discover new mechanisms that are more direct, sensitive, and specific than conventional Blood Oxygen Level Dependent (BOLD) fMRI?

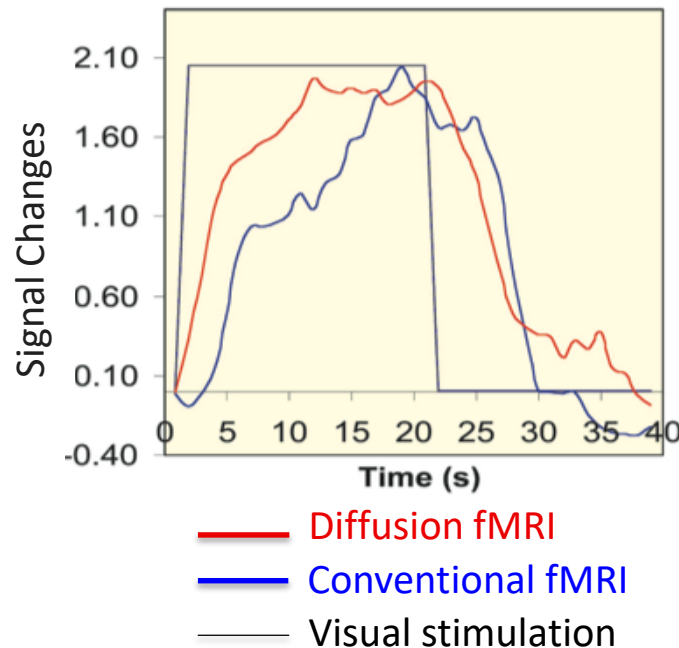
'Direct' fMRI via measuring changes in water diffusion?

- Claim: Functional diffusion MRI (fDMRI) detects microstructural changes associated with neuronal activity



fDMRI vs conventional BOLD fMRI during *in vivo* (human) visual stimulation.

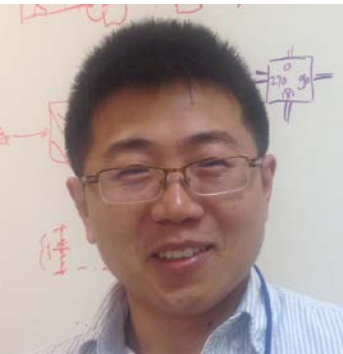
----- D. Le Bihan, et al., *PNAS*, 2006



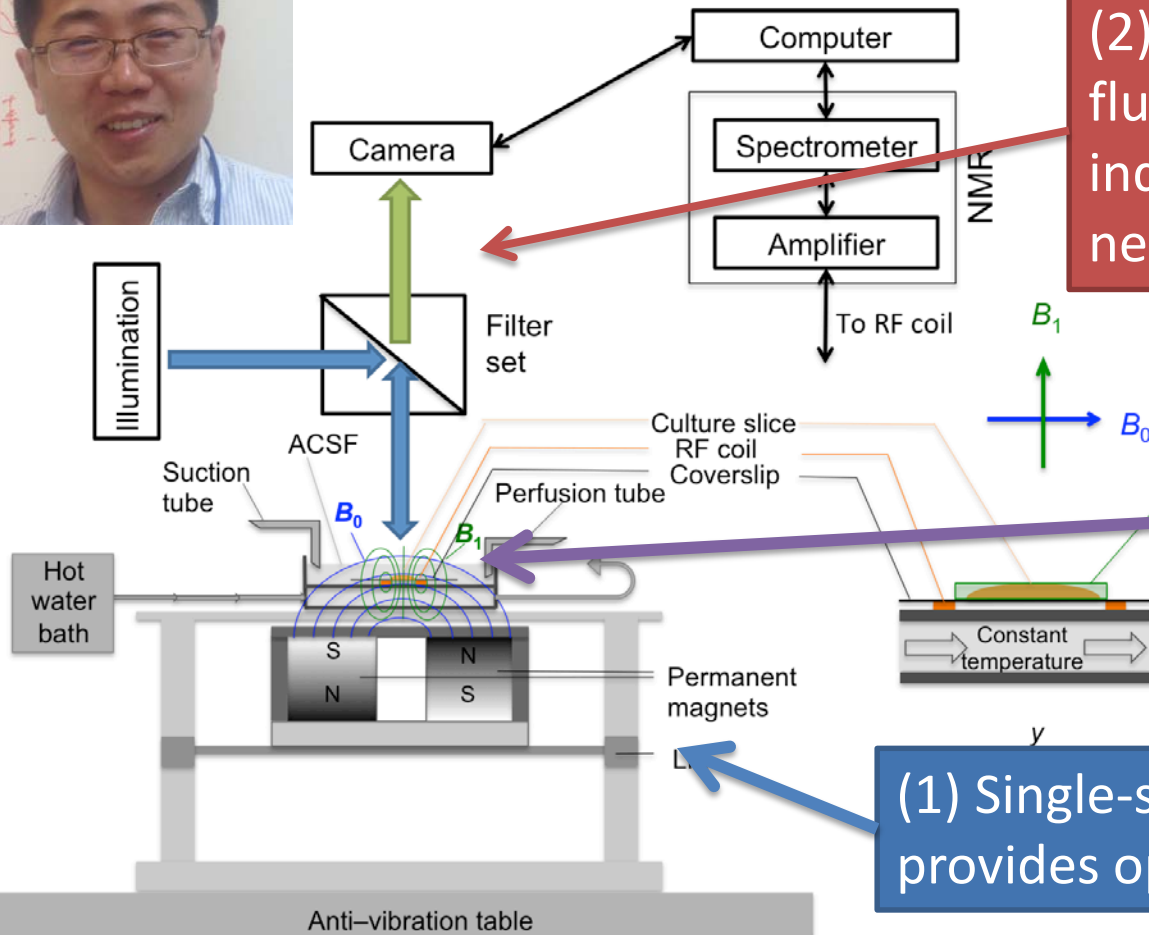
Authors reported fDMRI:

- Is more selective and accurate in localizing active brain areas
- Possesses faster temporal response
- Is more directly correlated with neuronal activity

A novel fMRI test system providing simultaneous calcium fluorescence imaging and MR acquisition in neuronal tissue and cell cultures



Ruiliang Bai



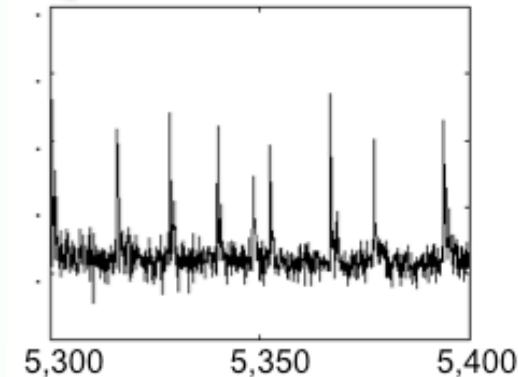
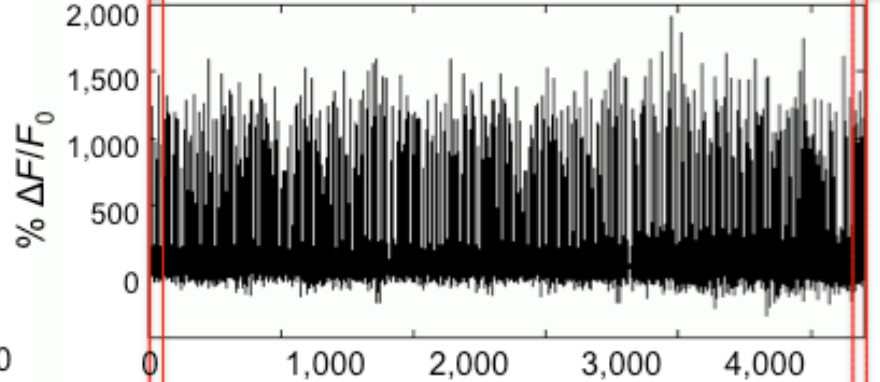
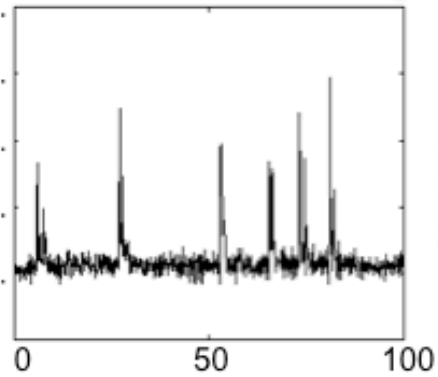
(2) Intracellular calcium fluorescence imaging provides independent measurement of neuronal activity

(3) Organotypic cortical culture (OCC) is a well-established, avascular biological model of neuronal activity

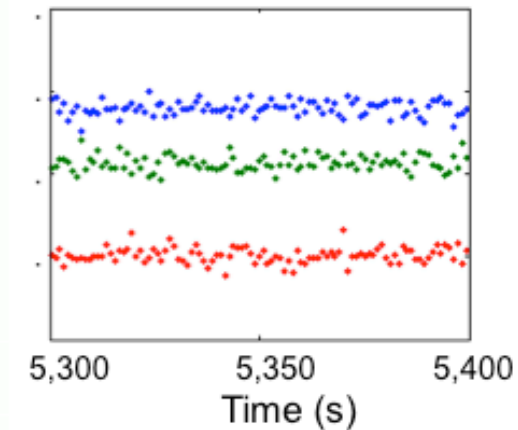
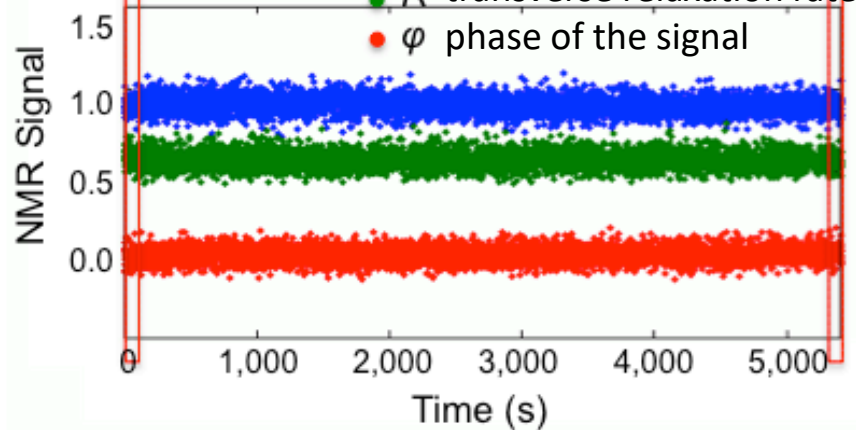
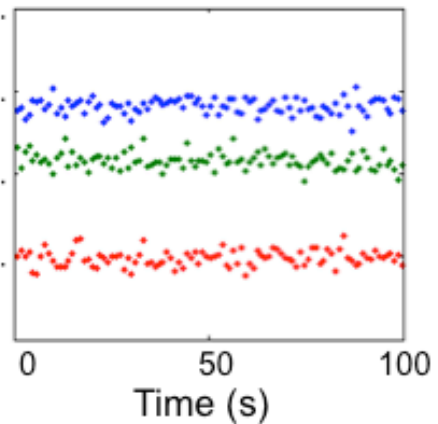
(1) Single-sided MR "profiler" provides open access to specimen

Stability of MR and Calcium Recordings: no systematic artifacts

(a) Fluorescence



(b) MR

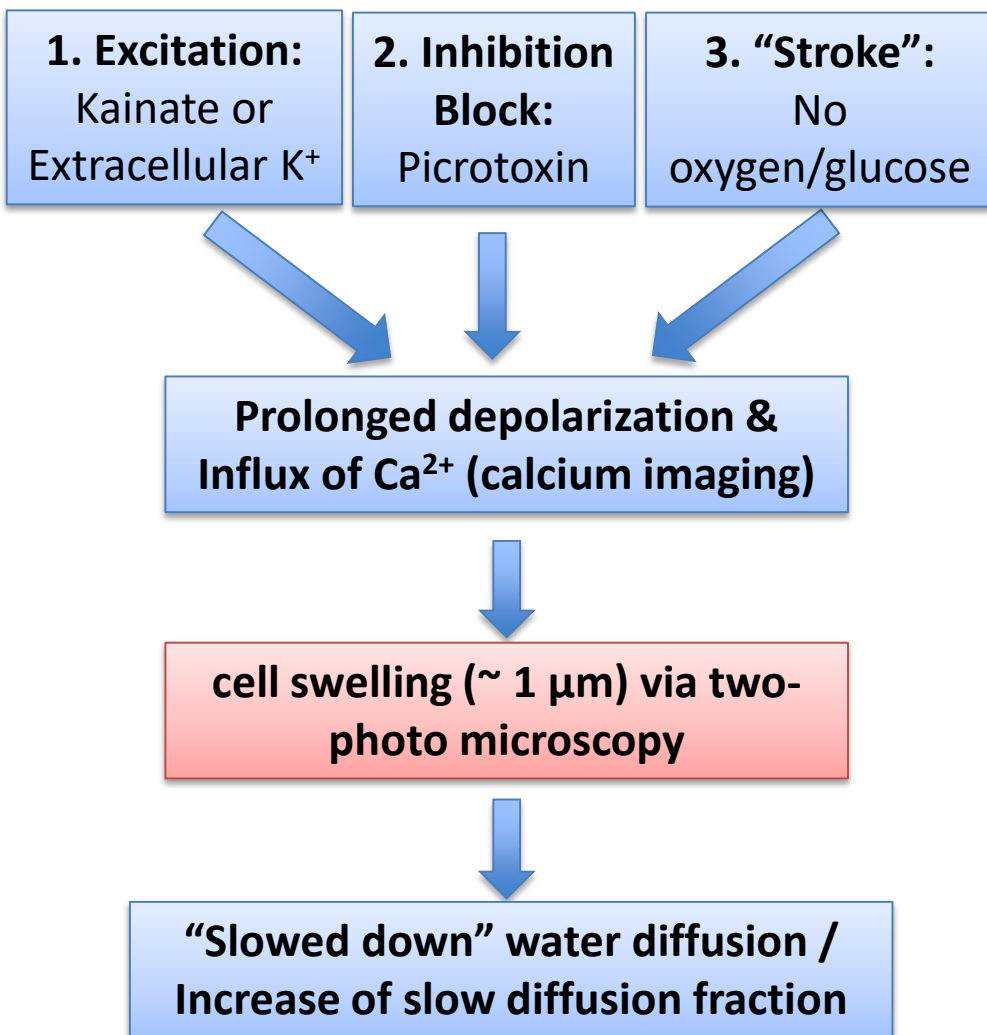


1.5-hour recording:

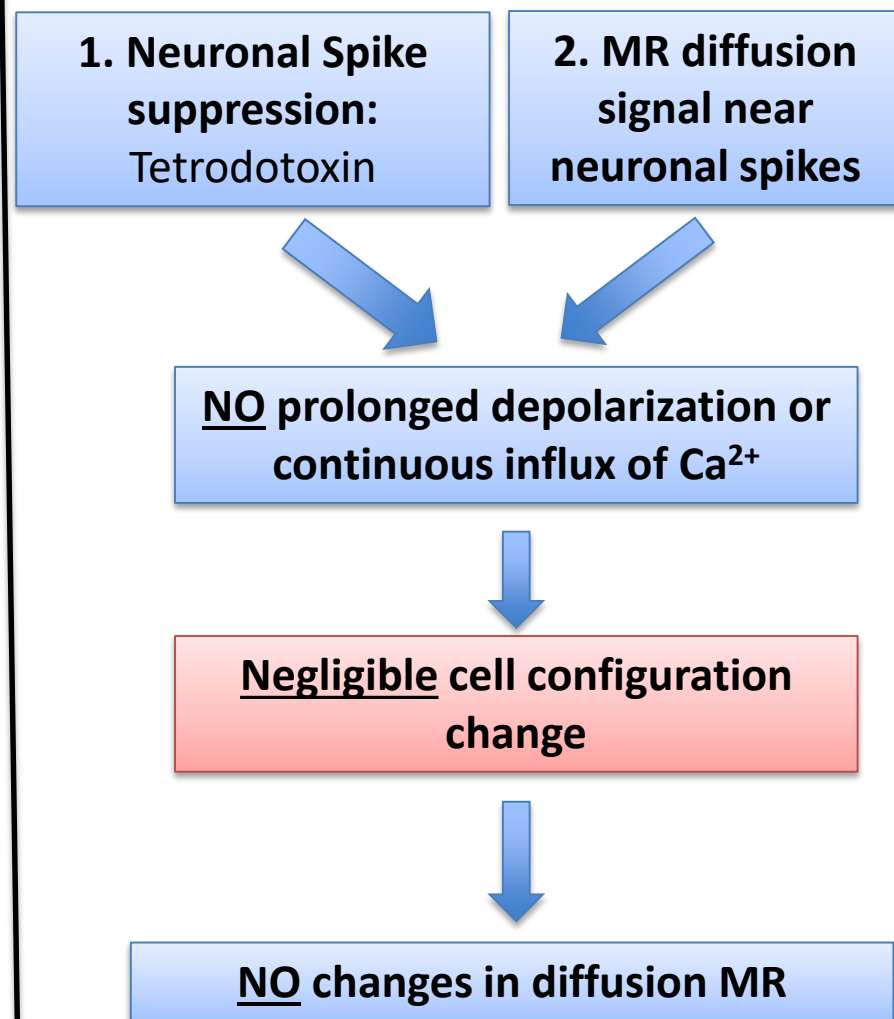
- Both MR and optical recordings are stable for several hours.
- Number of neurons showing spontaneous activity decreases after several hours.

Summary of Findings

Pathological Perturbations



Normal Neuronal Activity



Transmembrane Water Cycling Has Active and Passive Contributions!

$$k_{io} = k_{io}(a) + k_{io}(p),$$

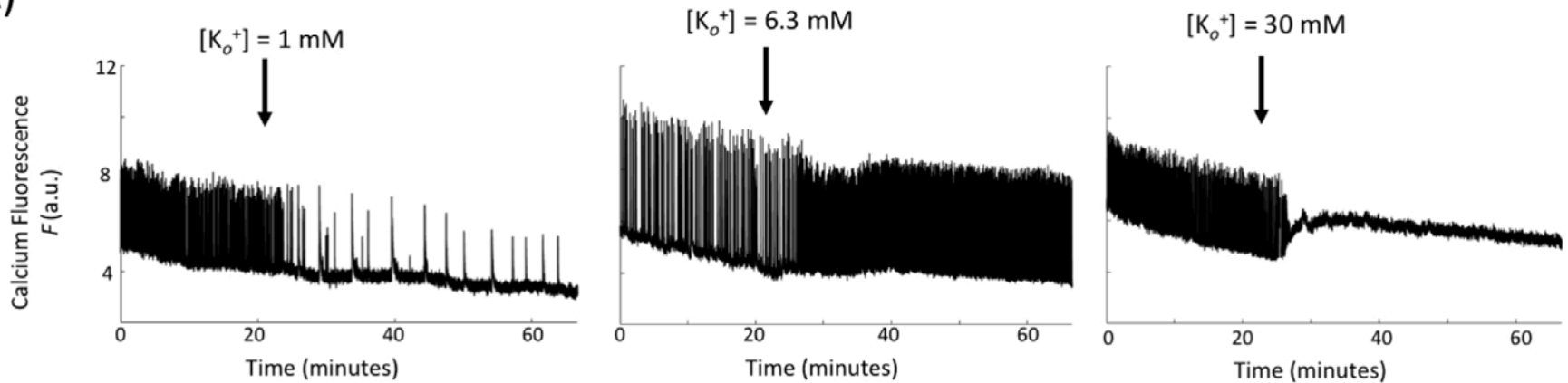
Active

Passive

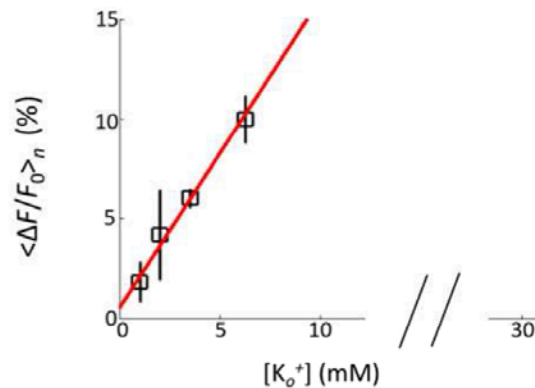
Bai R, Springer CS, Plenz D, and Basser PJ. 2018. Fast, Na⁺/K⁺ pump driven, steady-state transcytolemmal water exchange in neuronal tissue: A study of rat brain cortical cultures. *Magn Reson Med* 79:3207–3217. doi:10.1002/mrm.26980.

Active Transmembrane Water Cycling and its Relation to Neuronal Activity

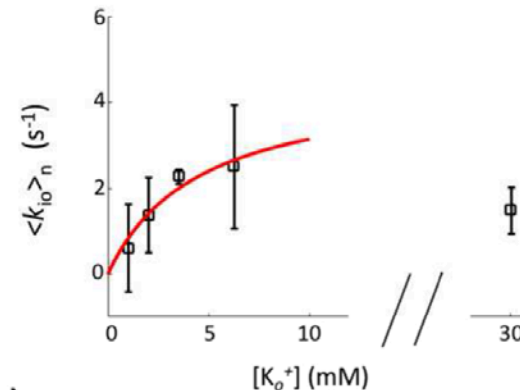
(A)



(B)

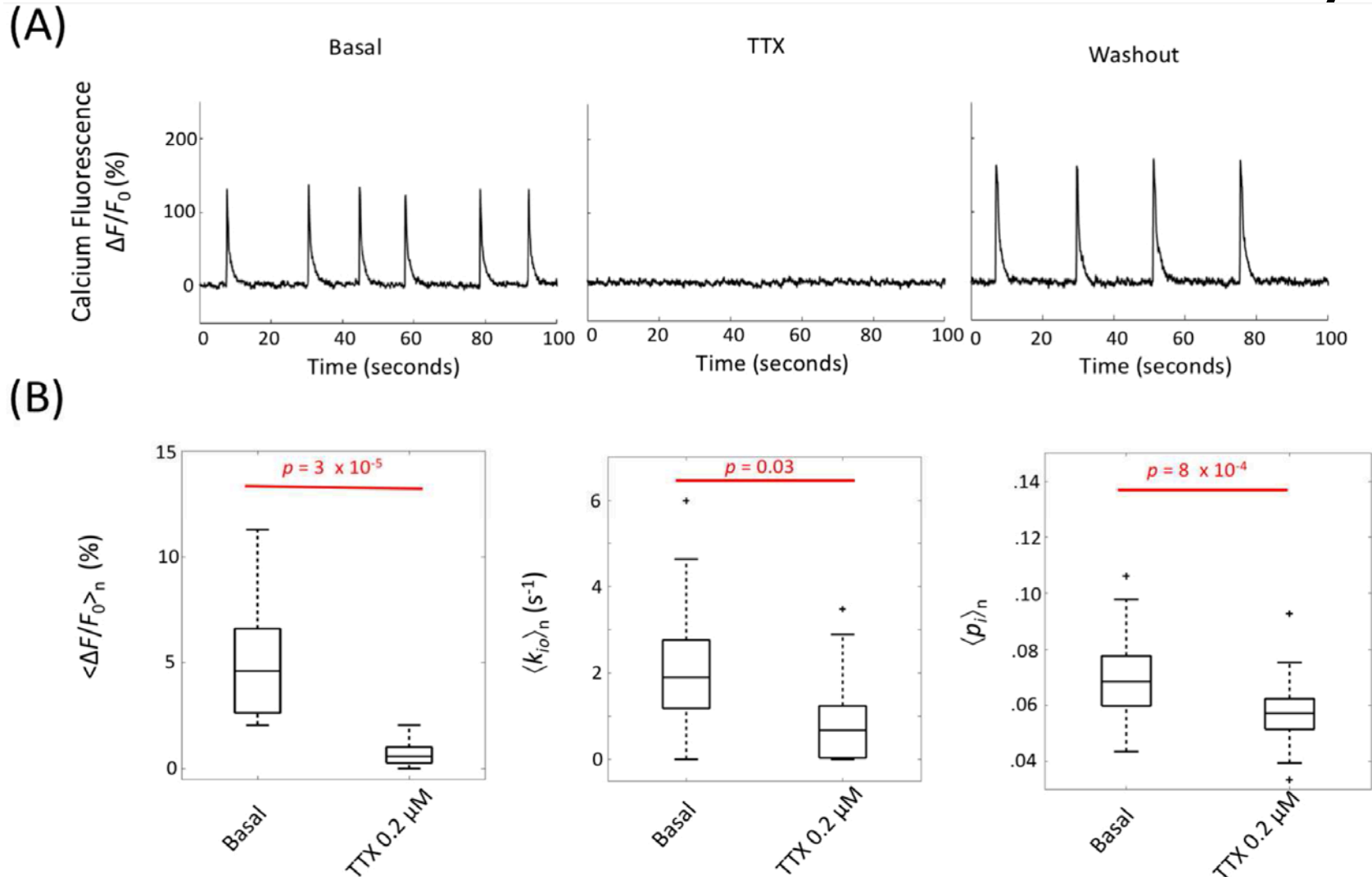


(C)



Bai R, Springer Jr, CS, Plenz D, Bassar PJ, *Brain Active Trans-Membrane Water Cycling Measured by MR Is Associated with Neuronal Activity*, MRM, (in press, 2018)

Active Transmembrane Water Cycling and its Relation to Neuronal Activity



Bai R, Springer Jr, CS, Plenz D, Basser PJ, *Brain Active Trans-Membrane Water Cycling Measured by MR Is Associated with Neuronal Activity*, MRM, (in press, 2018)

Active Transmembrane Water Cycling and its Relation to Neuronal Activity

Can this finding lead to a novel fMRI method?

Can water cycling be measured, monitored, and mapped without using contrast agents?

Summary

Our Brain Parcellation and Functional MRI (fMRI) research address significant, fundamental problems, and NICHD mission-critical challenges.

Our novel MRI 'stains' and 'contrasts' that are making 'invisible' processes and cell and tissue components 'visible', are grounded in recent scientific and technological breakthroughs in our laboratory.



Collaborators



“Blackboard”

Dan Benjamini
Sinisa Pajevic (CIT, NIH)
Shinjini Kundu (JHU)
Evren Özarlan (LU, Sweden)

“Bench”

Michal Komlosz (CNRM)
Nathan Williamson
Rea Ravin (Celoptics)
Ruiliang Bai (ZIINT, PRC)
Ferenc Horkay

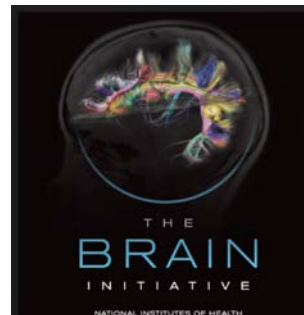
“Biological Models”

Dietmar Plenz (NIMH)
Beth Hutchinson (NIBIB/CNRM)
Charles Springer (UO)
Bernard Dardzinski (USUHS)
Neuropathology Core (CNRM)
Frank Ye (NIMH)

“Bedside”

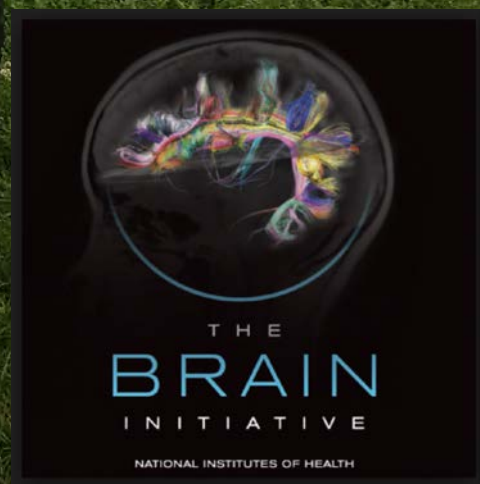
Alexandru Avram (NIBIB)
Joelle Sarlls (NINDS/NMRF)
Adam Bernstein (UA)
Carlo Pierpaoli (NIBIB)

<http://science.nichd.nih.gov/confluence/display/sqits/home>



Thank You!

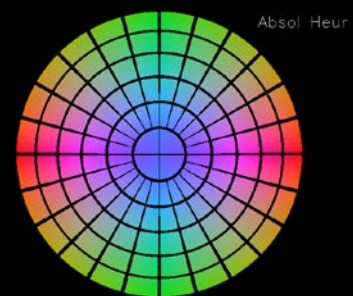
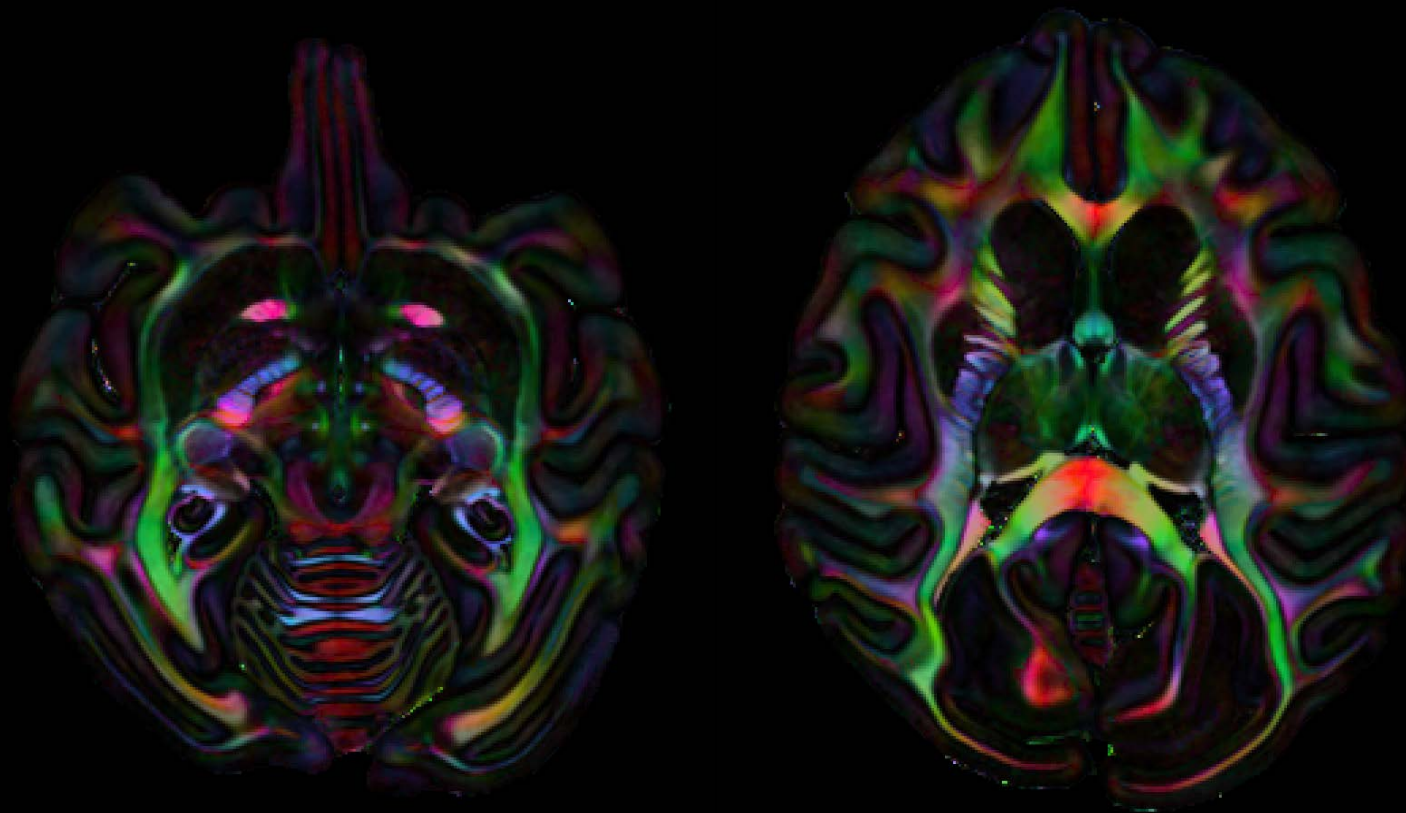
Non-DIR Funded Section Members



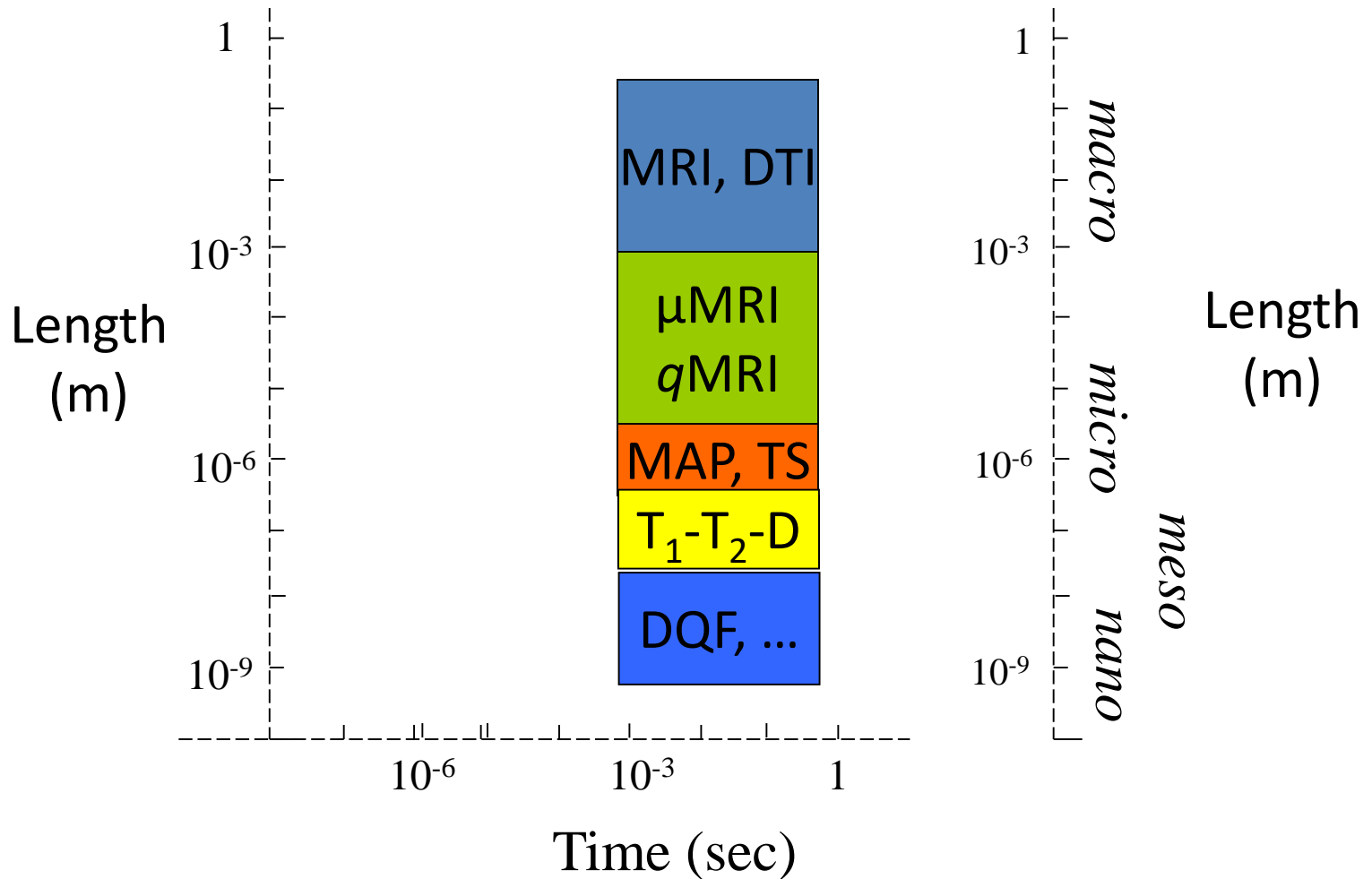
SQITS' Recent Highlights

- Developed new 'stains' and 'contrasts' for brain microimaging (μ MRI)
- Pioneered compressed sensing for 2D diffusometry/relaxometry MR
- Invented, implemented, and tested MADCO ('Battleship') method
- Invented and developed 2D diffusometry/relaxometry/exchange *MRI*
- Demonstrated their clinical feasibility
- Successfully translated MAP-MRI clinically
- Designed, built, and tested novel tandem MR/fluorescence microscope
- Used it to evaluate validity of functional diffusion MRI (fDMRI)
- Discovered evidence of active water cycling in neurons
- Discovered active water cycling increases during neuronal excitation
- Proposed active water cycling as a potential fMRI mechanism
- Developed quantitative collagen MRI method for ECM applications
- Developed novel biomimetic cartilage model
- Rolled out TORTOISE v.3 for quantitative diffusion MRI applications

High-Resolution White Matter Mapping



Probing Different Length Scales “from Macro to Nano”





R24 BRAIN Initiative “DREAM TEAM”



Mark Hallett, NINDS
Motor Control



Sini Pajevic, CIT
Comp. Neuroscience



Doug Fields, NICHD
Glial Biology



Zhen Ni, NINDS
Motor Control

Adam Bernstein
Michael Curry
Giorgio Leodori
Joelle Sarlls
Amber Simmons



Alexandru Avram, NIBIB
Clin. MRI, modeling



Richard Coppola, NIMH
MEG

R24 BRAIN Initiative: Measuring the “Latency Connectome”

CellPress

Neuron
Perspective

Glial Regulation of the Neuronal Connectome through Local and Long-Distant Communication

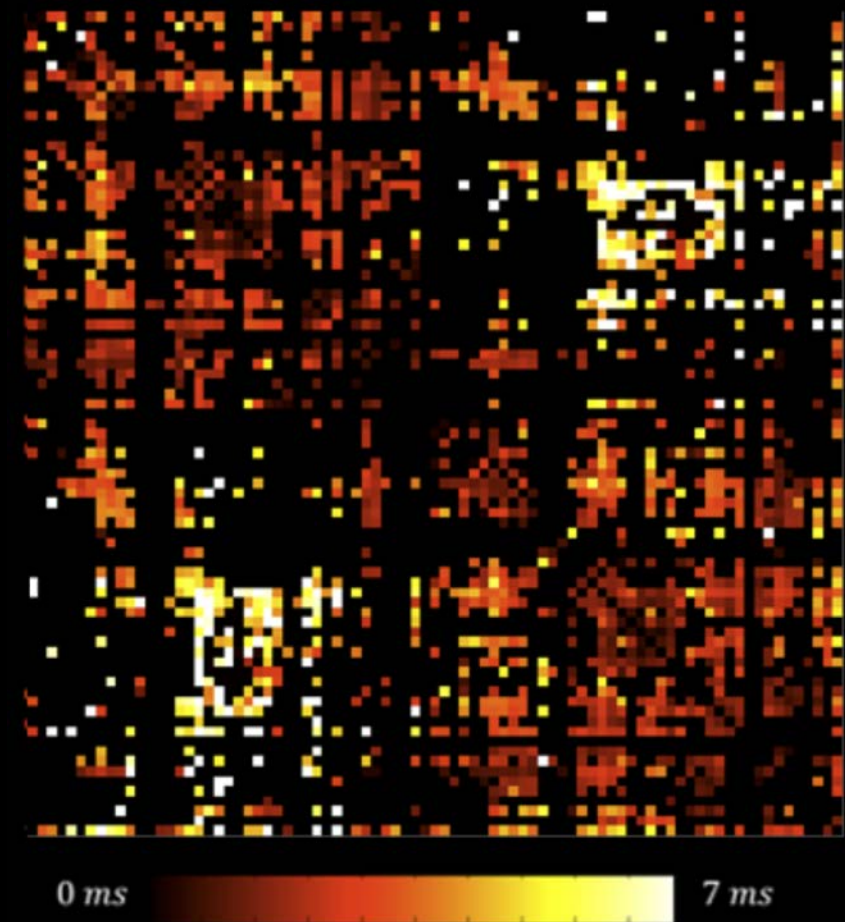
R. Douglas Fields,^{1,*} Dong Ho Woo,¹ and Peter J. Basser²

¹Nervous System Development and Plasticity Section, The Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, Bethesda, MD 20892, USA

²Section on Tissue Biophysics and Biomimetics, Program on Pediatric Imaging and Tissue Sciences, The Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, NIH, Bethesda, MD 20892, USA

Neuron, 2015 Apr 22;86(2):374-86. doi: 10.1016/j.neuron.2015.01.014

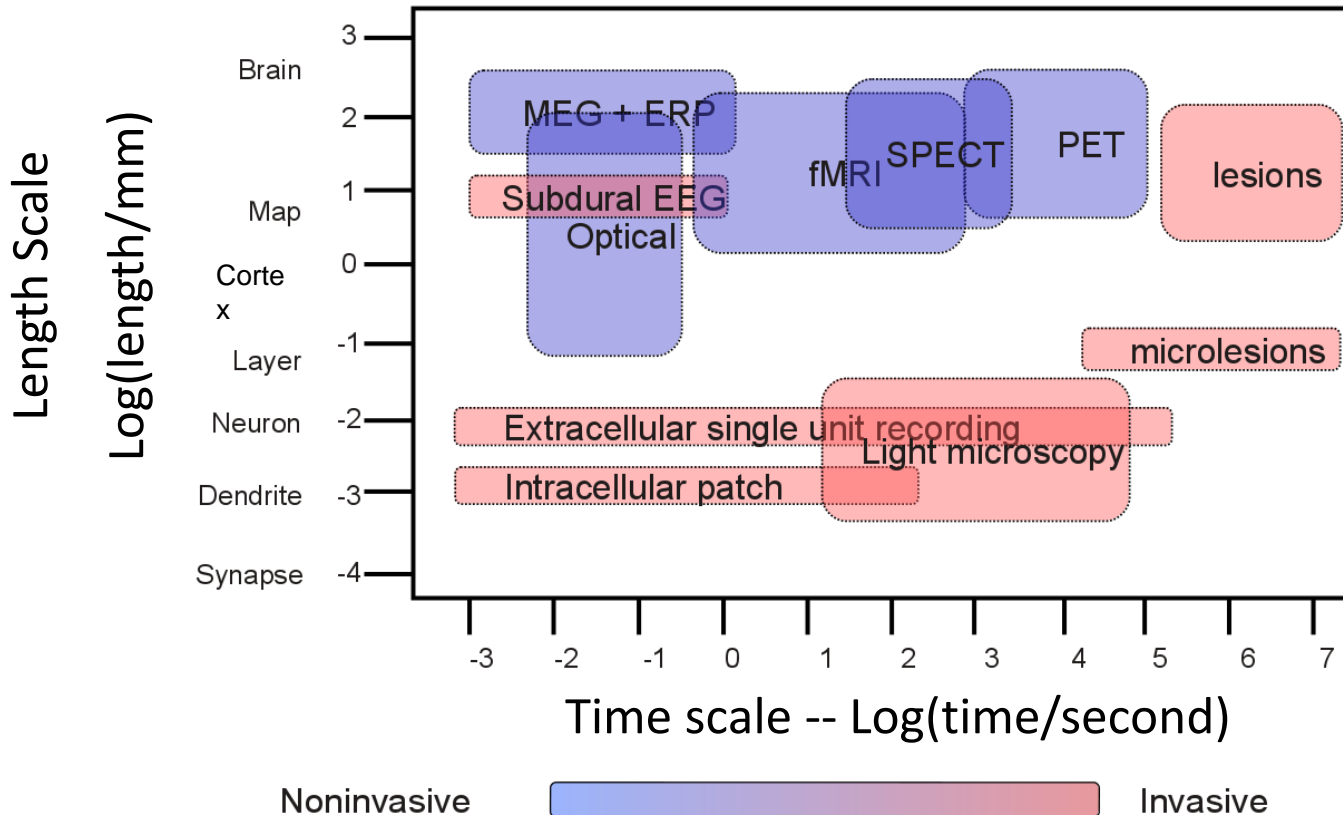
Mean Latency Matrix



Mean Latency Matrix

- The estimated mean latencies along all white matter pathways are collated into a Mean Latency Matrix (MLM)
- The MLM may provide important clinical and biological information about large scale brain network dynamics at the *millisecond* time-scale

Length and Time Scales of Different Neurophysiological and Functional Imaging Methods



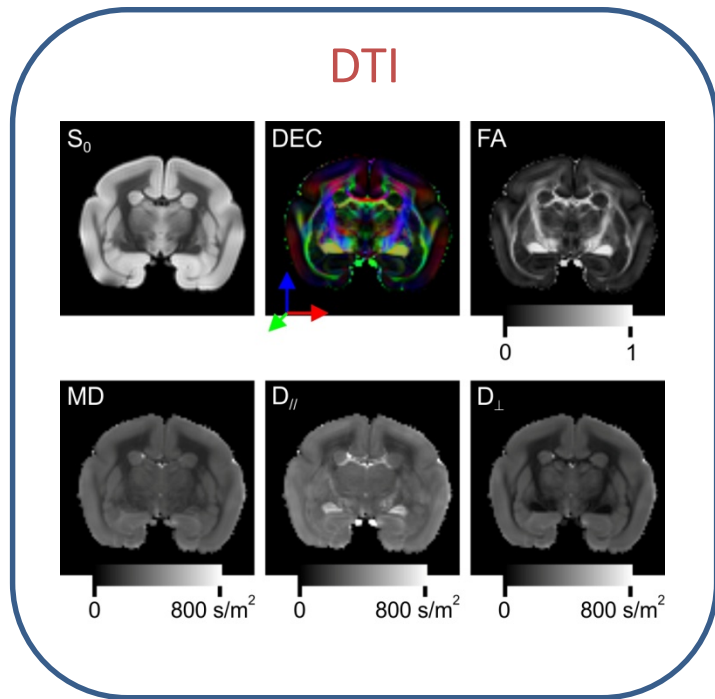
GLOSSARY:

Optical: near-infrared spectroscopy
EEG: electro-encephalography;
MEG: magneto-encephalography
PET: positron emission tomography
SPECT: single-photon emission computed tomography

Whole Brain Functional MRI (BOLD fMRI):

- spatial resolution: 1 – 5 mm
- temporal resolution: 1 – 1000 sec.
- does not provide a direct measure of neural excitation

Old and New Diffusion MRI “Stains”

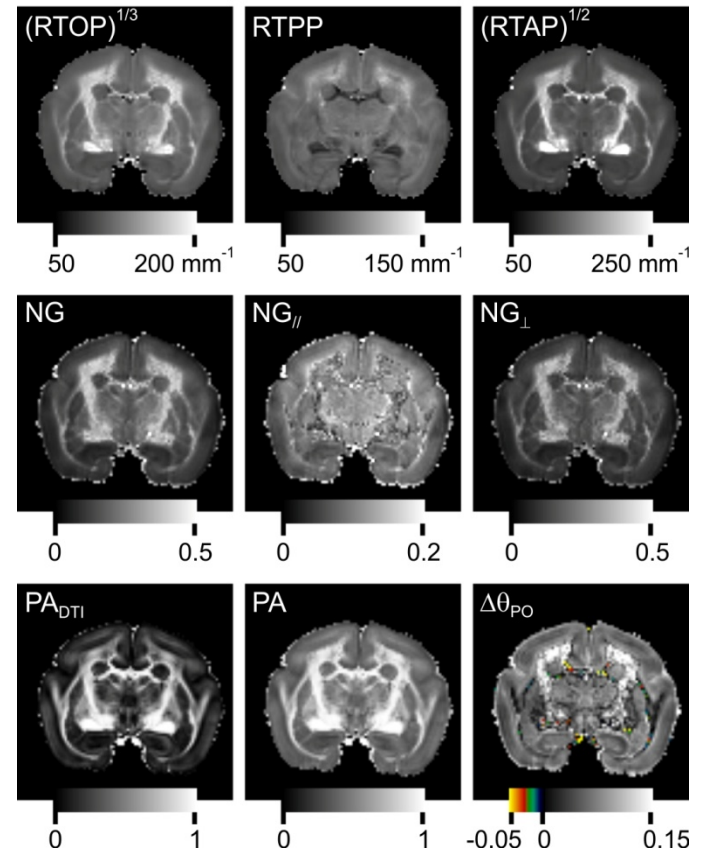


Zero displacement probabilities

Non-Gaussianity

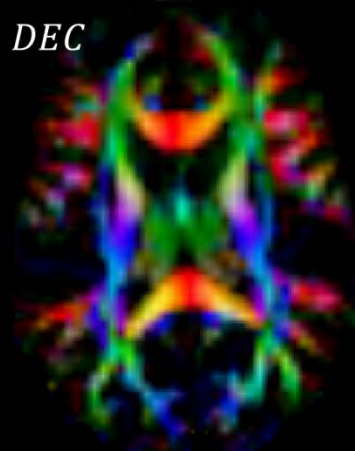
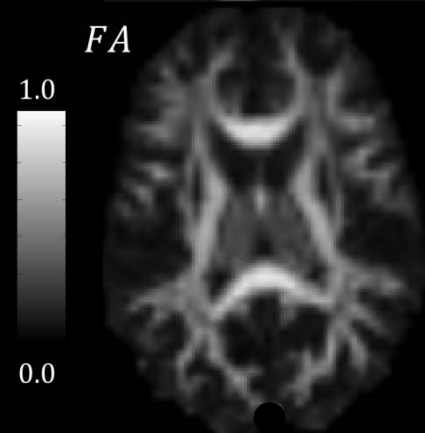
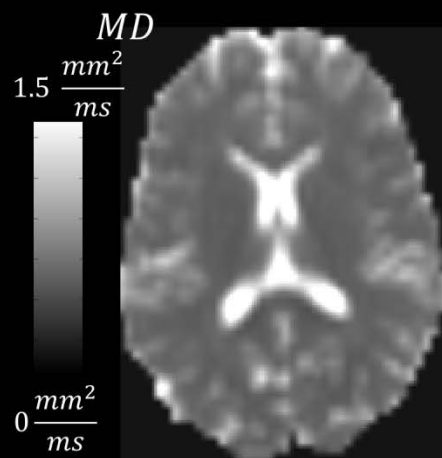
Average Propagator Anisotropy

MAP MRI

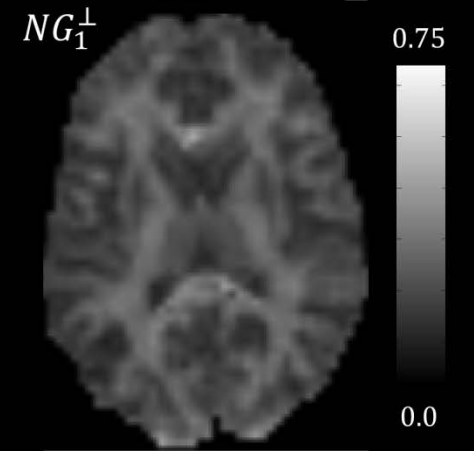
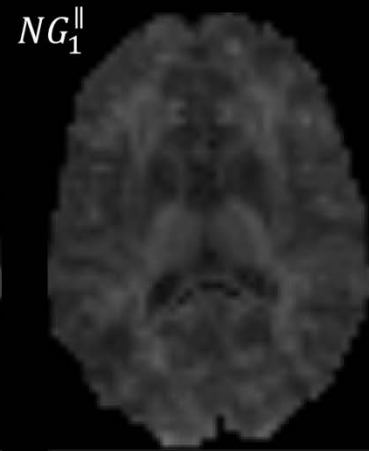
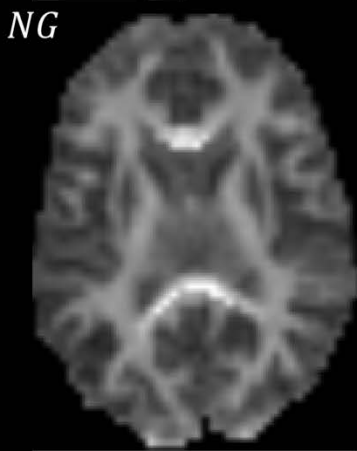
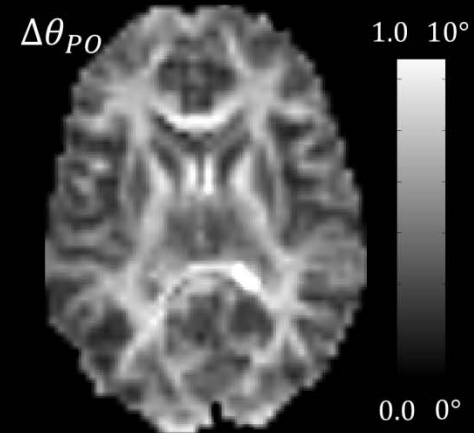
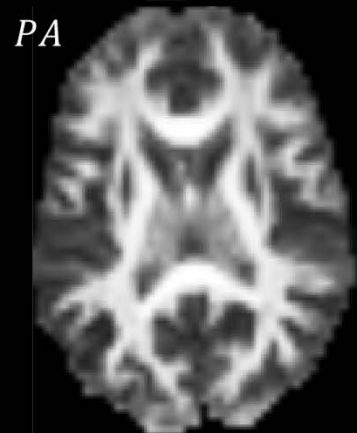
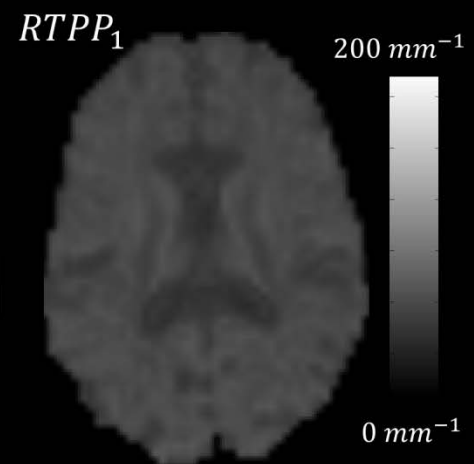
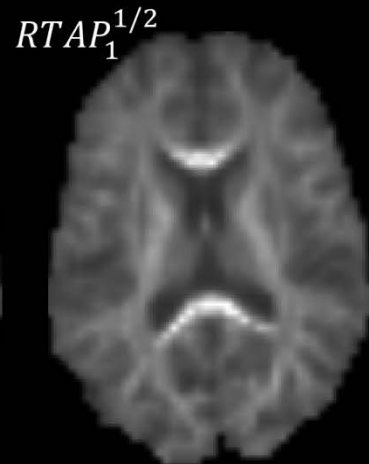
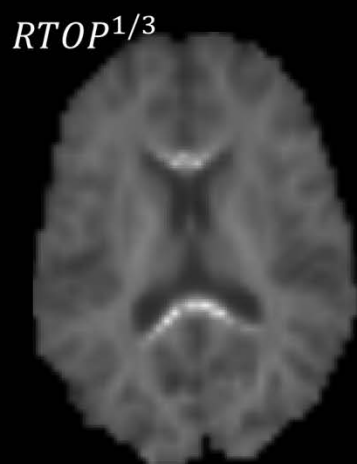


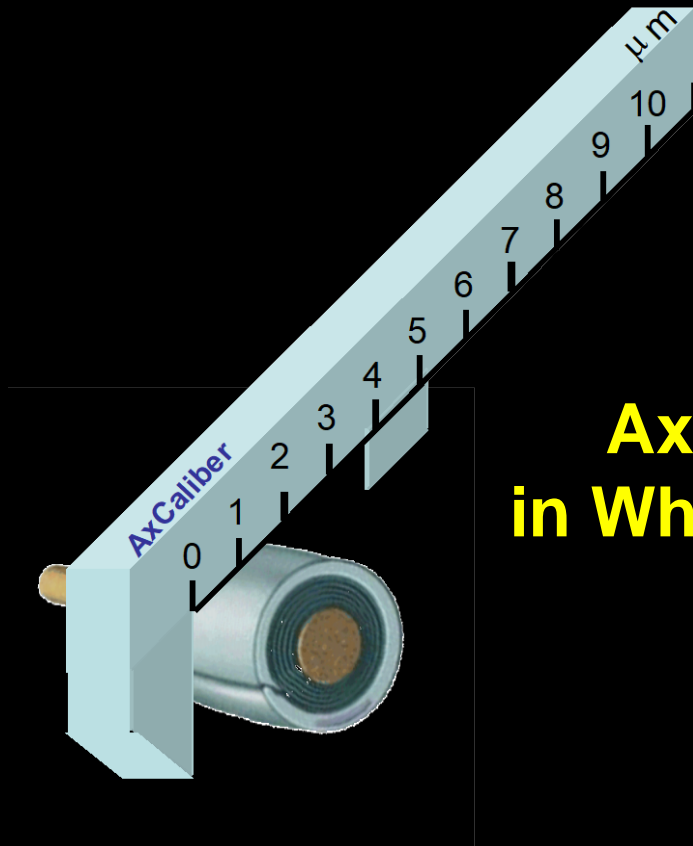
Özarslan E, Koay CG, Shepherd TM, Komlosh ME, Irfanoglu MO, Pierpaoli C, and Basser PJ. (2013) Mean Apparent Propagator (MAP) MRI: a novel diffusion imaging method for mapping tissue microstructure. Neuroimage 78:16-32

DTI parameters



MAP MRI parameters



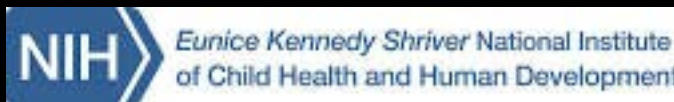


AxCaliber MRI: **A Method to Measure the Axon Diameter Distribution (ADD) in White Matter from Diffusion MRI Data**

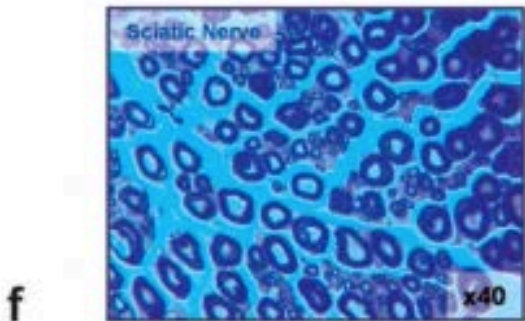
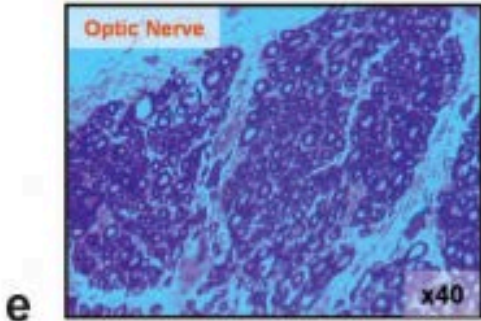
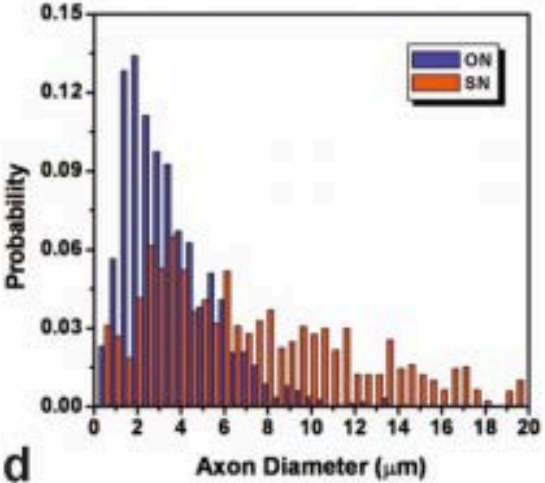
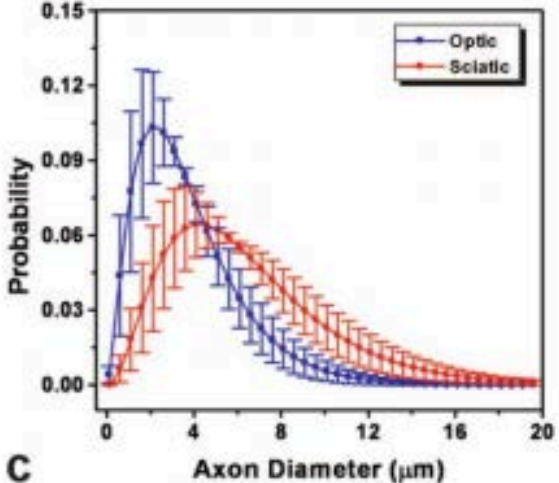
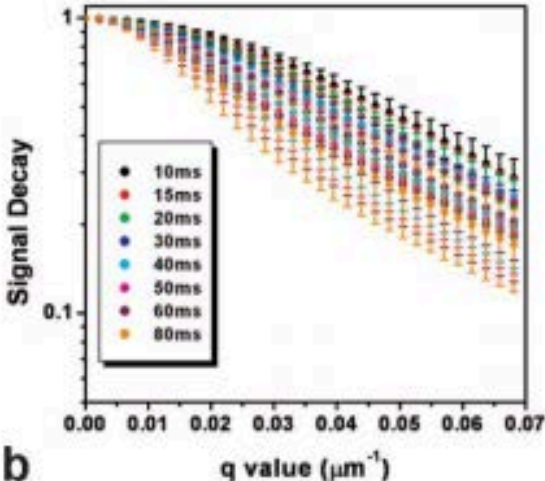
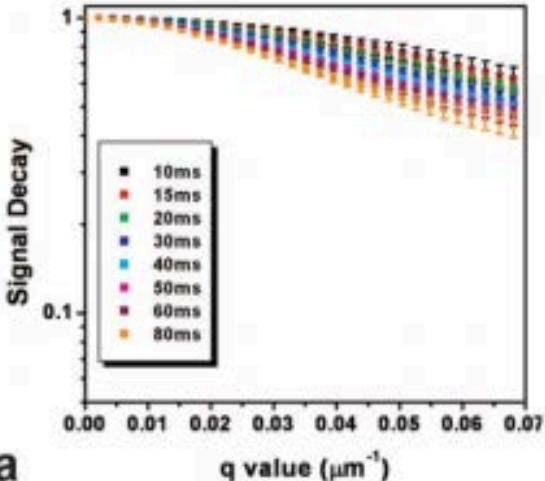
**Y. Assaf, D. Barazany, T. Blumenfeld,
G. Levine, Y. Yovel, P.J. Basser**



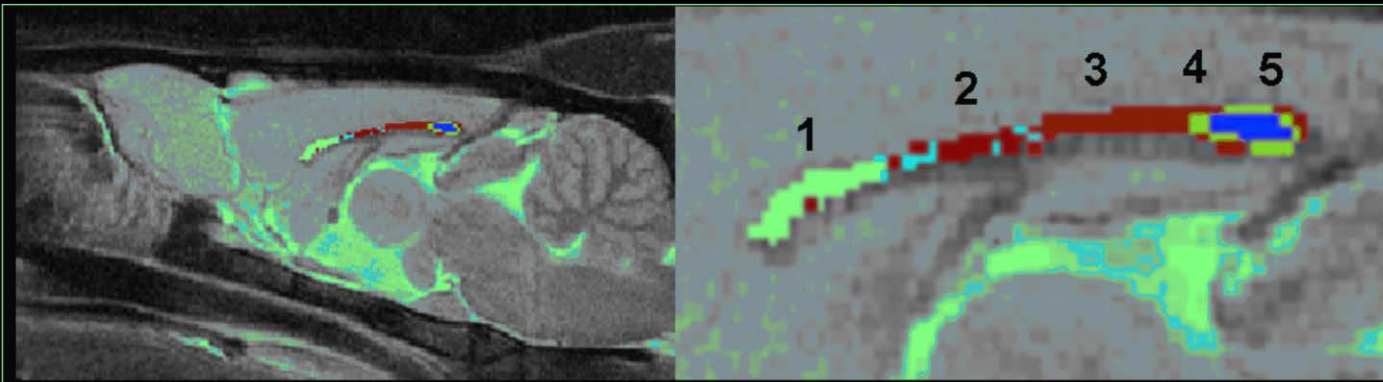
**Department of Neurobiology
The George S. Wise Faculty of Life Sciences
Tel Aviv University**



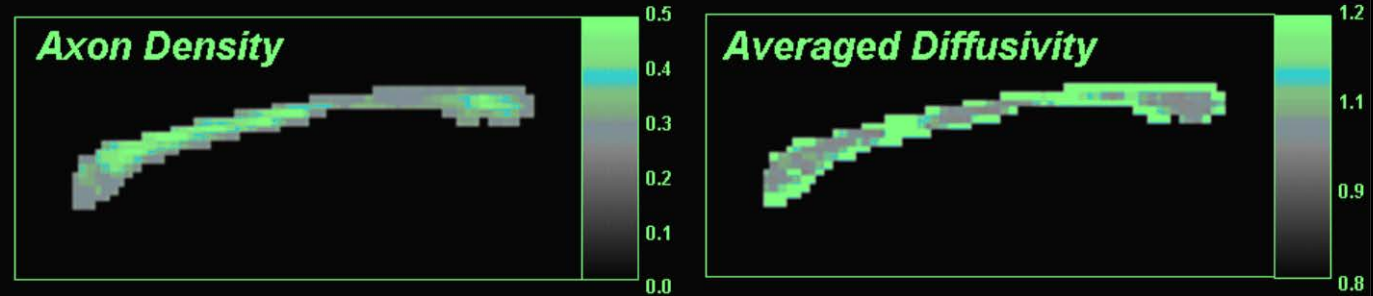
AxCaliber MR Validation: Optic and Sciatic Nerve



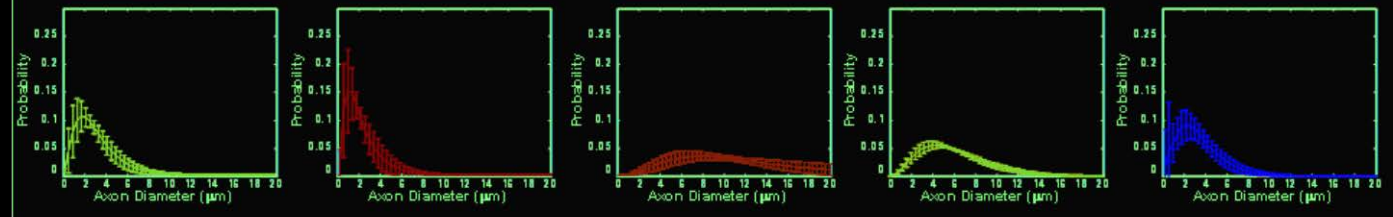
A



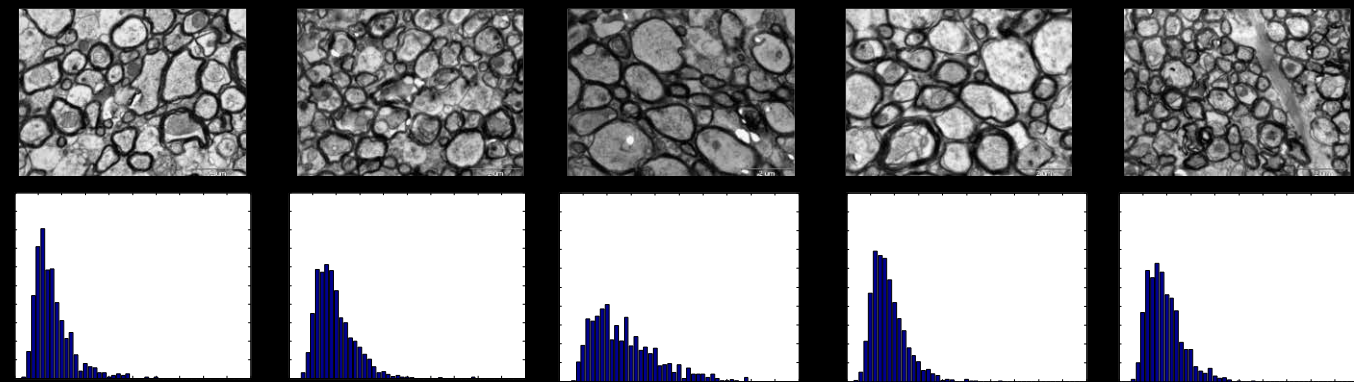
B



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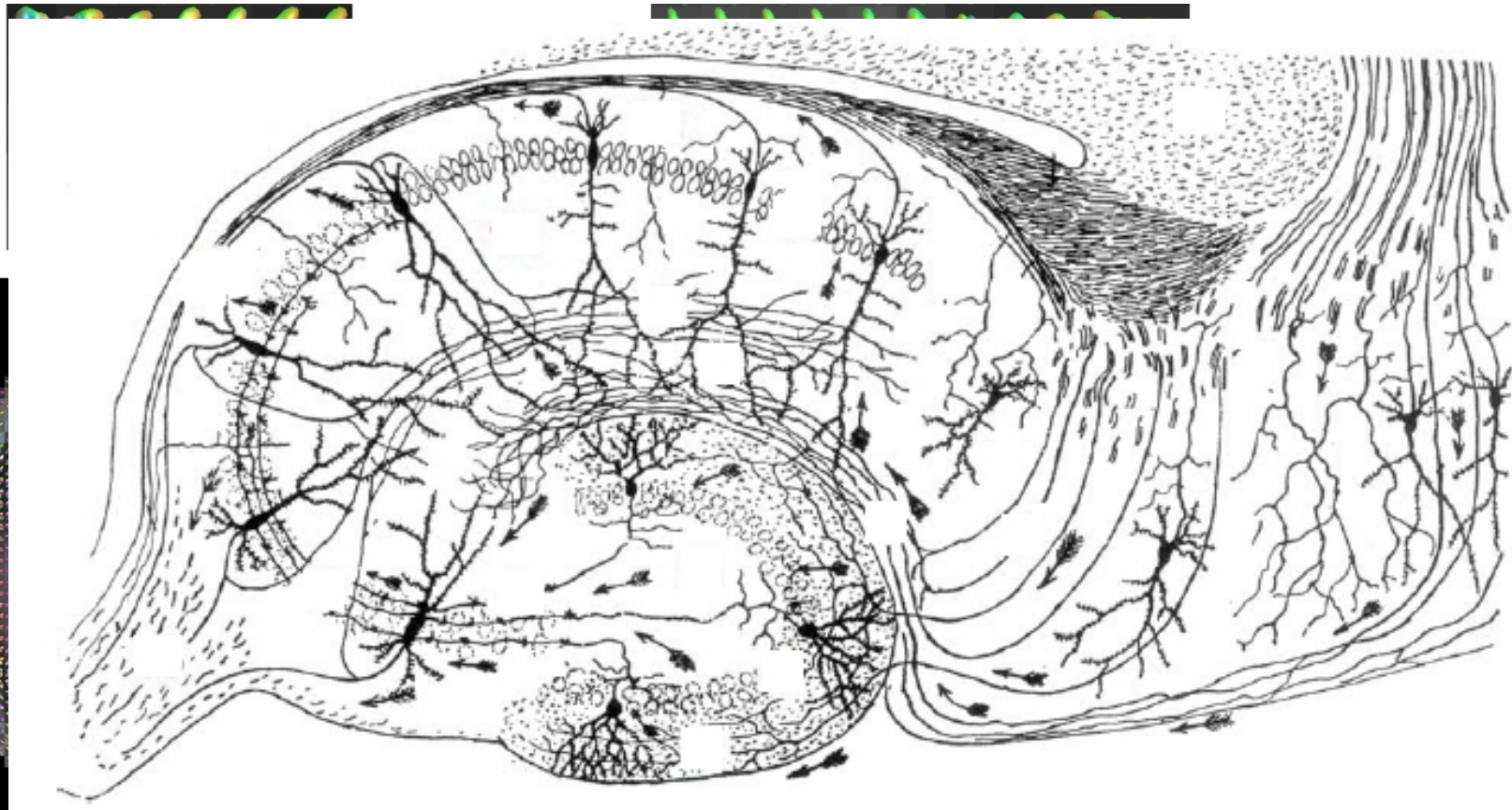
D



Barazany D, et al., Brain, 2009

Anisotropic Diffusion: Apparent Propagators Reconstructed in Human Hippocampus

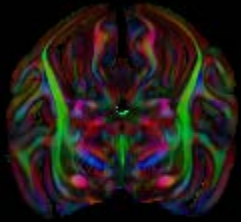
Ramón y Cajal, 1911. *Histologie Du Systeme Nerveux De L'Homme Et Des Vertebretes.*
A. Maloine, Paris.



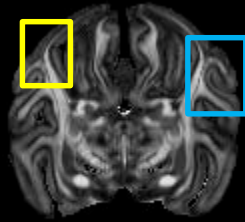
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Apparent Propagators Reconstructed in Macaque Brain

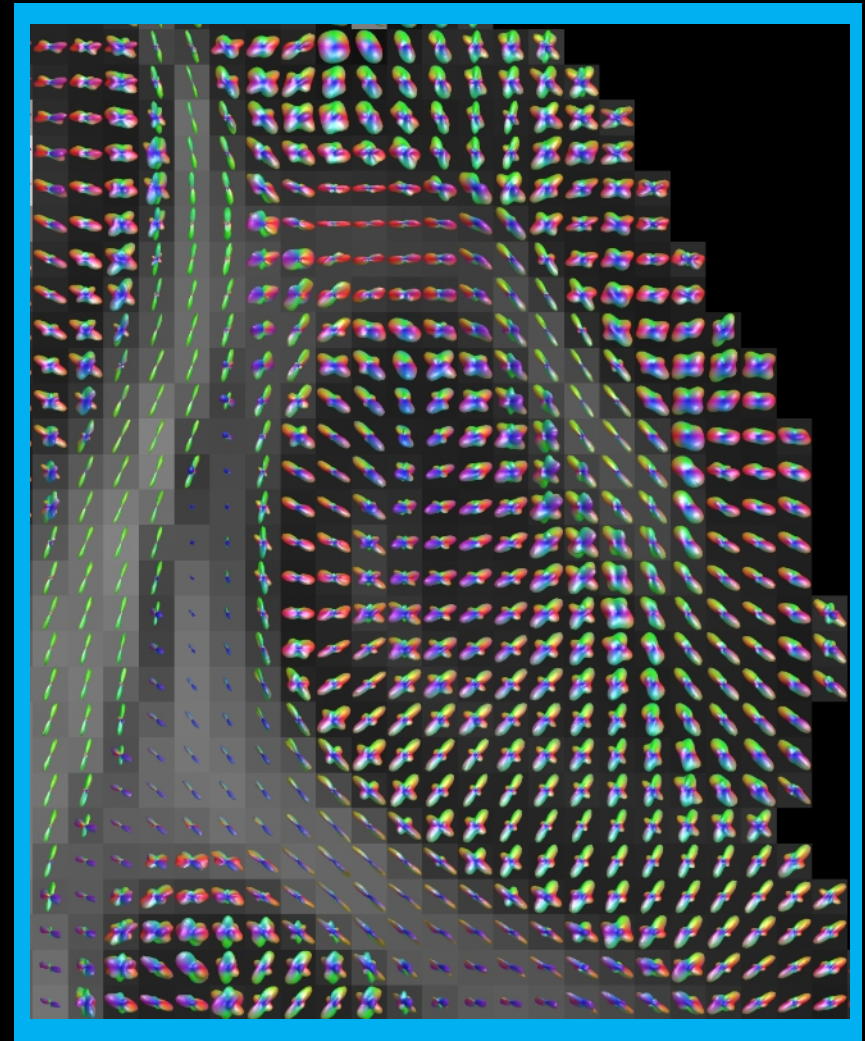
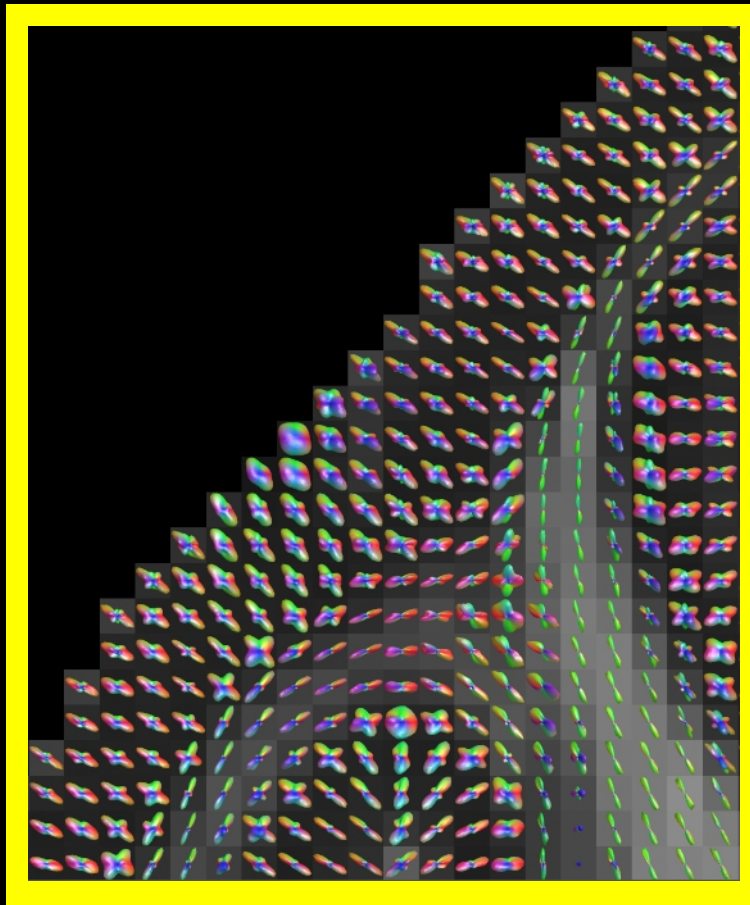
DTI



DEC



FA



MRI data acquired by Frank Ye and David Leopold

* Özarıslan et al.

Toward Cortical Parcellation via MAP-MRI

