

# FreeSurfer Introduction



MASSACHUSETTS  
GENERAL HOSPITAL



# Course Overview

## Day 1

- Introduction
- Single Subject Analysis
- Troubleshooting

## Day 2

- Group Analysis
- ROI analysis
- Longitudinal

## Day 3

- Multimodal
- Diffusion Analysis
- Future Directions

# Course Schedule

<https://surfer.nmr.mgh.harvard.edu/fswiki/FsTutorial/CphAug2016CourseSchedule>

<https://fscph.nru.dk/programme.html>

## FreeSurfer Course, August 10-12

### Wednesday, August 10th - Introduction / Single Subject Analysis / Troubleshooting

Time	Title	Type	Lecturer
9:00 - 9:30	optional - <a href="#">Unix Tutorial for FreeSurfer Users</a>	talk/tutorial	Allison Stevens
9:30 - 9:45	optional - <a href="#">Intro to FreeSurfer Jargon</a>	talk	Allison Stevens & Lilla Zollei
9:45 - 10:00	break		
10:00 - 10:30	<a href="#">Introduction to FreeSurfer</a>	talk	Emily Lindemer
10:30 - 11:30	<a href="#">Analyzing the Individual Subject</a>	talk	Emily Lindemer
11:30 - 11:45	Freeview demonstration	demo	Allison Stevens
11:45 - 12:15	<a href="#">Interaction with Individual Subject Data Tutorial</a>	tutorial	staff
12:15 - 1:15	Lunch	--	--
1:15 - 1:45	<a href="#">Interaction with Individual Subject Data Tutorial</a>	tutorial	staff
1:45 - 2:30	<a href="#">FreeSurfer Troubleshooting</a>	talk	Allison Stevens
2:30 - 2:45	Freeview Troubleshooting demonstration	demo	Allison Stevens
2:45 - 3:05	break		
3:05 - 4:05	<a href="#">Troubleshooting Tutorial</a>	tutorial	staff
4:05 - 5:05	<a href="#">Quality Checking a Recon</a>	demo	Allison Stevens
5:05 - 5:45	NRU - A high resolution in vivo atlas of the human brain's serotonin system		

### Thursday, August 11th - Group Analysis / ROI Analysis / Longitudinal

Time	Title	Type	Lecturer
9:00 - 9:30	<a href="#">Surface-based Analysis: Intersubject Smoothing &amp; Registration</a>	talk	Lilla Zollei
9:30 - 10:20	<a href="#">Group Analysis</a>	talk	Emily Lindemer
10:20 - 10:40	break		
10:40 - 11:20	<a href="#">Group Analysis Tutorial</a>	tutorial	staff
11:20 - 11:40	<a href="#">Multiple Comparisons</a>	talk	Emily Lindemer
11:40 - 12:00	QDEC demonstration	demo	Martin Reuter
12:00 - 1:00	Lunch	--	--
1:00 - 1:20	<a href="#">Multiple Comparisons Tutorial</a>	tutorial	staff
1:20 - 2:00	QDEC Tutorial	tutorial	staff
2:00 - 2:30	<a href="#">ROI Analysis</a>	talk	Martin Reuter
2:30 - 2:50	break		
2:50 - 3:20	<a href="#">ROI Analysis Tutorial</a>	tutorial	staff
3:20 - 3:50	<a href="#">Longitudinal FreeSurfer</a> see also: <a href="#">Longitudinal Processing</a>	talk	Martin Reuter
3:50 - 4:30	<a href="#">Longitudinal Tutorial</a>	tutorial	staff
4:30 - 5:30	NRU - PLS applied to PET data in SAD	--	--

### Friday, August 12th - Multimodal / Diffusion / Future Directions

Time	Title	Type	Lecturer
9:00 - 10:00	<a href="#">Multi-Modal Integration, Part1</a> [ <a href="http://surfer.nmr.mgh.harvard.edu/pub/docs/fs/multimodal-integration.Part2.ppt">http://surfer.nmr.mgh.harvard.edu/pub/docs/fs/multimodal-integration.Part2.ppt</a> ][ <a href="#">Multi-Modal Integration, Part2</a> ]	talk	Martin Reuter
10:00 - 11:00	<a href="#">Multi-Modal Integration Tutorial</a>	tutorial	staff
11:00 - 11:15	break		
11:15 - 12:00	<a href="#">Introduction to Diffusion MRI</a>	talk	Lilla Zollei
12:00 - 1:00	Lunch	--	--
1:00 - 1:40	<a href="#">Diffusion Tutorial</a>	tutorial	staff

# Lectures and Practicals

- General format: talk followed by tutorial (both are on the wiki course page, but please don't download tutorial data or FreeSurfer— it can kill the network)

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9:00 - 9:30	optional - <a href="#">Unix Tutorial for FreeSurfer Users</a>	talk/tutorial	Allison Stevens
9:30 - 9:45	optional - <a href="#">Intro to FreeSurfer Jargon</a>	talk	Allison Stevens & Lilla Zollei
9:45 - 10:00	<b>break</b>		
10:00 - 10:30	<a href="#">Introduction to Freesurfer</a>	talk	Emily Lindemer
10:30 - 11:30	<a href="#">Analyzing the Individual Subject</a>	talk	Emily Lindemer
11:30 - 11:45	Freeview demonstration	demo	Allison Stevens
11:45 - 12:15	Interaction with Individual Subject Data Tutorial	tutorial	staff
12:15 - 1:15	<b>Lunch</b>	--	--
1:15 - 1:45	Interaction with Individual Subject Data Tutorial	tutorial	staff
1:45 - 2:30	<a href="#">FreeSurfer Troubleshooting</a>	talk	Allison Stevens
2:30 - 2:45	Freeview Troubleshooting demonstration	demo	Allison Stevens
2:45 - 3:05	<b>break</b>		
3:05 - 4:05	<a href="#">Troubleshooting Tutorial</a>	tutorial	staff
4:05 - 5:05	<a href="#">Quality Checking a Recon</a>	demo	Allison Stevens
5:05 - 5:45	NRU - A high resolution in vivo atlas of the human brain's serotonin system		

Search on YouTube for the FreeSurfer channel!

# Food and such

- Lunch – provided every day!
- Snacks during coffee breaks
- **Wednesday evening:** networking event at 18:00 at Noerrebro Bryghus (Ryesgade 3, 2200 København N, <http://www.noerrebrobryghus.dk/>) Where you can mingle with the \*really fun\* FreeSurfer lecturers (Food and drinks not provided)
- **Thursday evening:** guided sightseeing tour of Copenhagen by boat (boat fare provided!). Tour starts at 18:30 at Christianshavns Torv (next to the Christianshavn Metro station) and will last ~1 hour. End point of tour will be Papirøen where you can visit Copenhagen Street Food (<http://copenhagenstreetfood.dk/en/>) and buy yourself dinner

# **To Caffeinate or not to Caffeinate?**

**Please don't spill coffee (or anything else!) on the laptops.  
If you do, please be prepared to fund a replacement!**

# Post Your Questions!

<http://surfer.nmr.mgh.harvard.edu/cgi-bin/fsurfer/questions.cgi>

## Question Form

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Submitting the question is enough. Name and Topic fields are optional

[Answers can viewed here.](#)

**Enter question:**

Name (Optional)	<input type="text"/>
Topic (Optional)	<input type="text"/>
Question	<input type="text"/>

# Search for Answers

FreeSurferWiki | RecentChanges | FindPage | HelpContents | **May2013CourseSchedule**

FreeSurfer Course, April 29 - May 1, 2013  
MGH, Charlestown Navy Yard, Building 114, Room D1

Monday, April 29th - Introduction / Single Subject / Registration / Troubleshooting

Time	Title	Type	Lecturer
8:00 - 8:30	optional - • Unix Tutorial for FreeSurfer Users	tutorial	Maritza Ebling
8:30 - 9:00	optional - • Intro to FreeSurfer Jargon	talk	Melanie Ganz
8:30 - 9:00	Course Registration	sign-in	• staff
9:00 - 9:30	• Introduction to Freesurfer	talk	Doug Greve

Search

chedule

courseSchedule



# The FreeSurfer Team



# The FreeSurfer Team



[freesurfer@nmr.mgh.harvard.edu](mailto:freesurfer@nmr.mgh.harvard.edu)

# What is FreeSurfer?

- Neuroimaging analysis software package
  - Open Source
- Detailed characterization of anatomy
  - Cortex – thickness, folding patterns, ROIs
  - Subcortical – structure boundaries
  - Hippocampal subfields
  - Longitudinal analysis – detect changes
- Statistical tools (GLM, LME, ...), group comparison
- Multi-modal integration
  - fMRI (task, rest, retinotopy)
  - DWI Tractography
  - PET

# What is FreeSurfer?

... popular ...

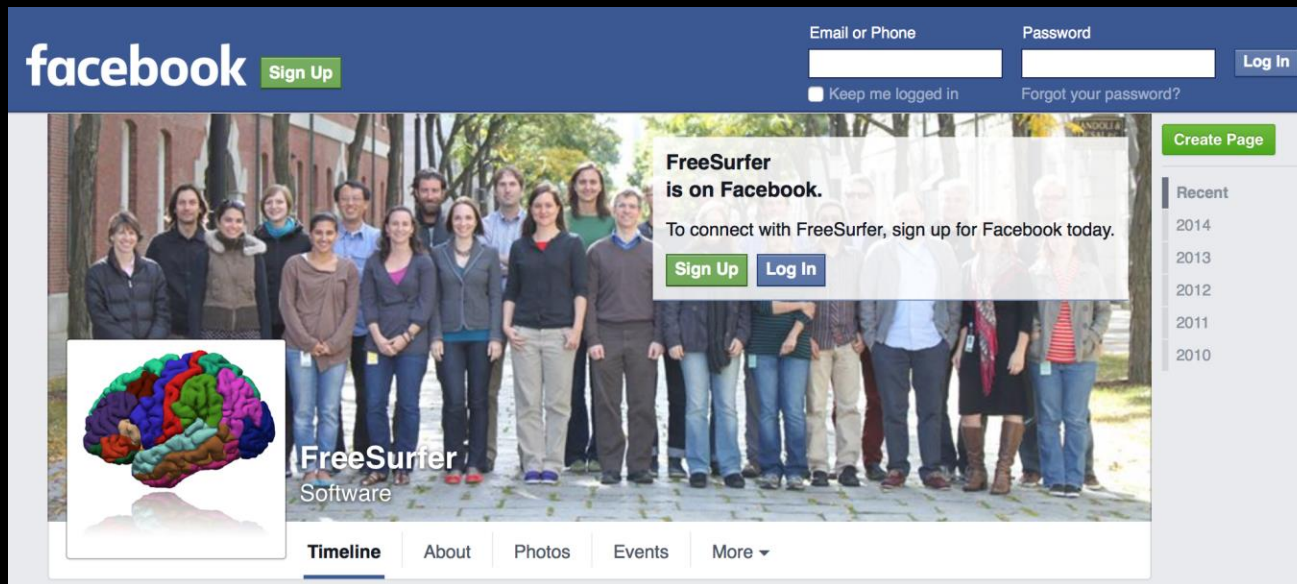


**Total # licenses distributed to date: 24,107**

# What is FreeSurfer?

... social ...

<https://www.facebook.com/FreeSurferMRI>



The image shows a screenshot of the Facebook interface for the FreeSurfer page. At the top, the Facebook logo is on the left, and the 'Sign Up' button is next to it. On the right, there are input fields for 'Email or Phone' and 'Password', a 'Log In' button, and a 'Keep me logged in' checkbox. Below the login fields, there is a 'Forgot your password?' link. The main content area features a large group photo of people standing outdoors. Overlaid on this photo is a white box with the text 'FreeSurfer is on Facebook.' and 'To connect with FreeSurfer, sign up for Facebook today.' Below this text are 'Sign Up' and 'Log In' buttons. To the left of the group photo is a smaller image of a brain with a colorful, segmented surface, labeled 'FreeSurfer Software'. On the right side of the page, there is a 'Create Page' button and a 'Recent' section with a list of years from 2014 to 2010. At the bottom of the page, there are navigation tabs for 'Timeline', 'About', 'Photos', 'Events', and 'More'.

Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn

# Outline

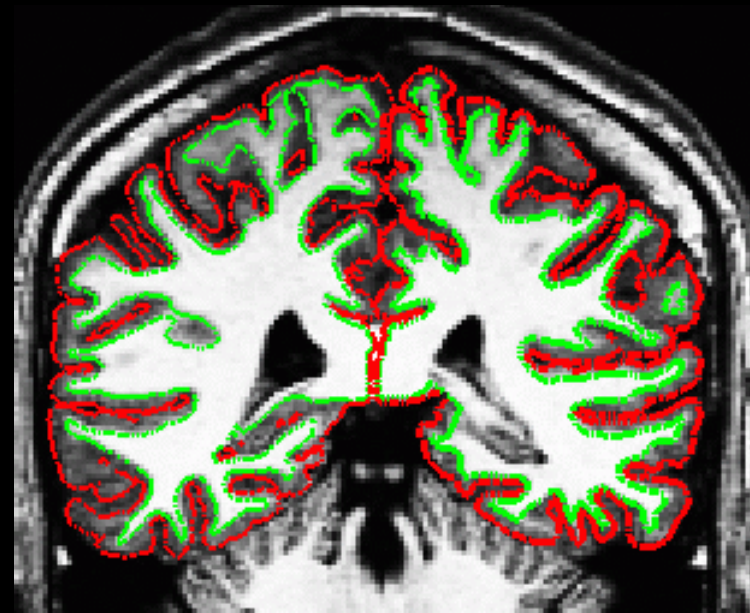
- Anatomical Analysis
  - Surface-based (Cortex)
  - Volume-based
- Multi-modal integration
  - DWI/Tractography
  - fMRI

# Outline

- Anatomical Analysis
  - Surface-based (Cortex)
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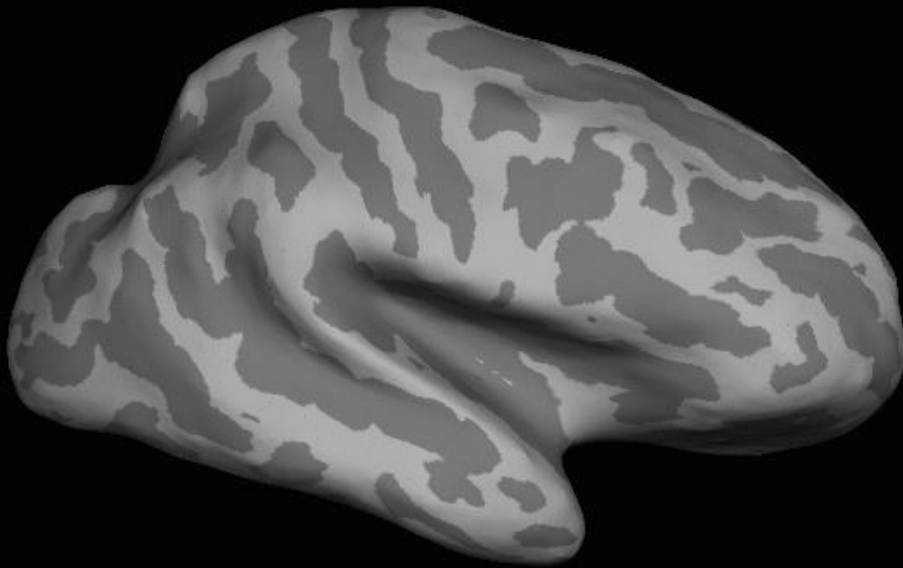
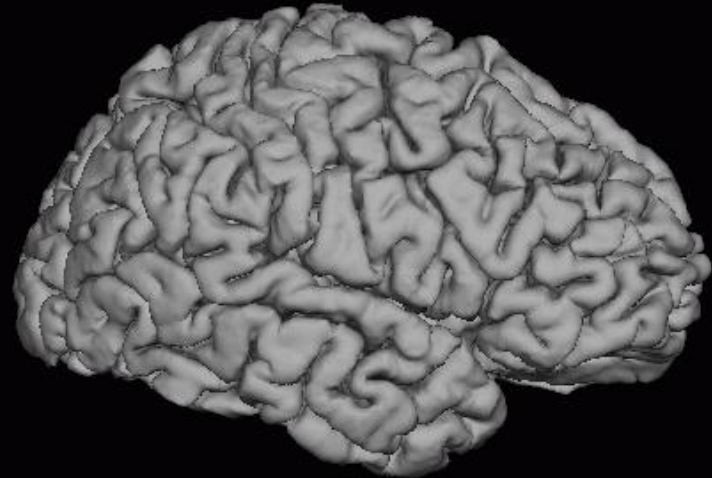
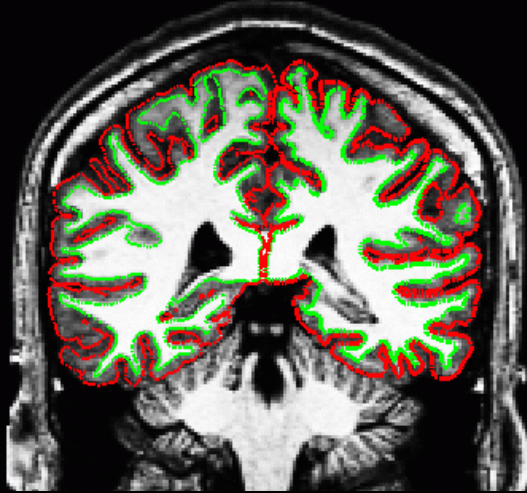
# Cortex

- Outer layer of gray matter
- 1-5mm thick
- Highly folded
- 2 Dimensional, embedded in 3D
- Function follows the surface
  - Visualization
  - Spatial Smoothing
  - Inter-subject Registration





# 2D Surface in 3D Space

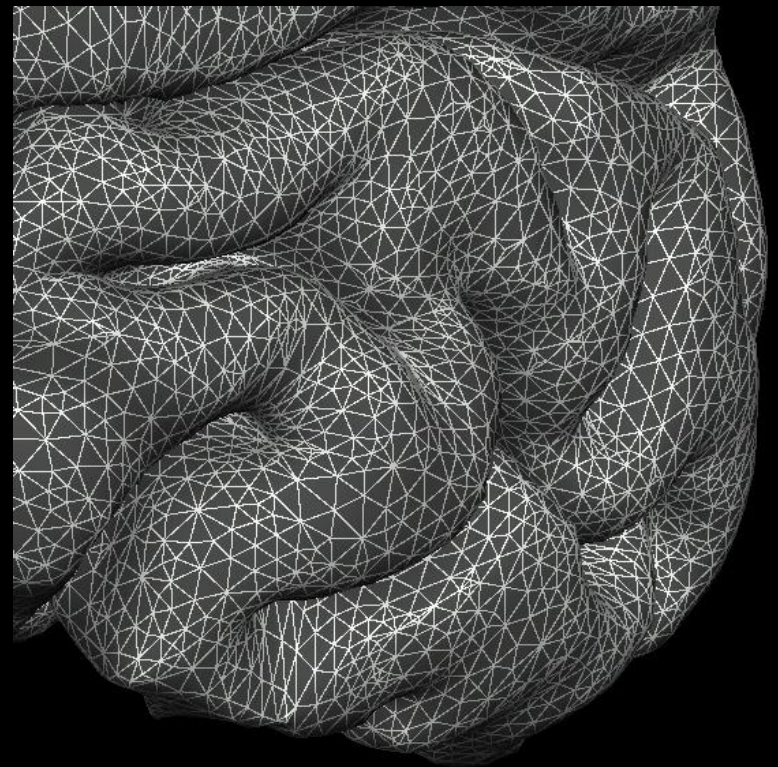
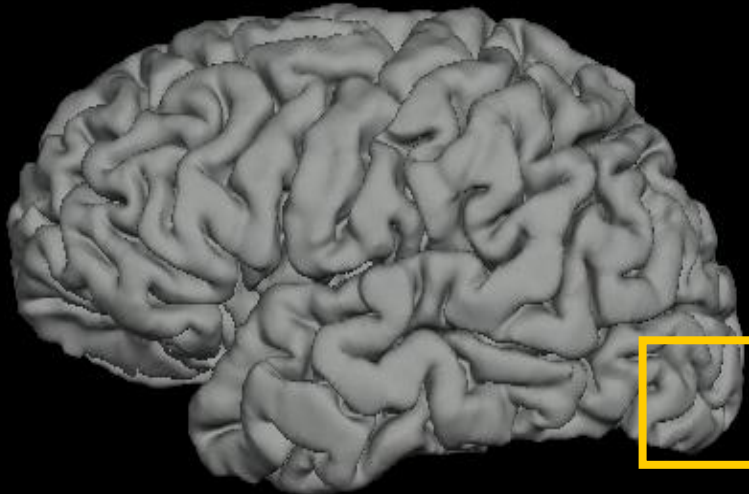


Inflation



Flattening

# Surface Model

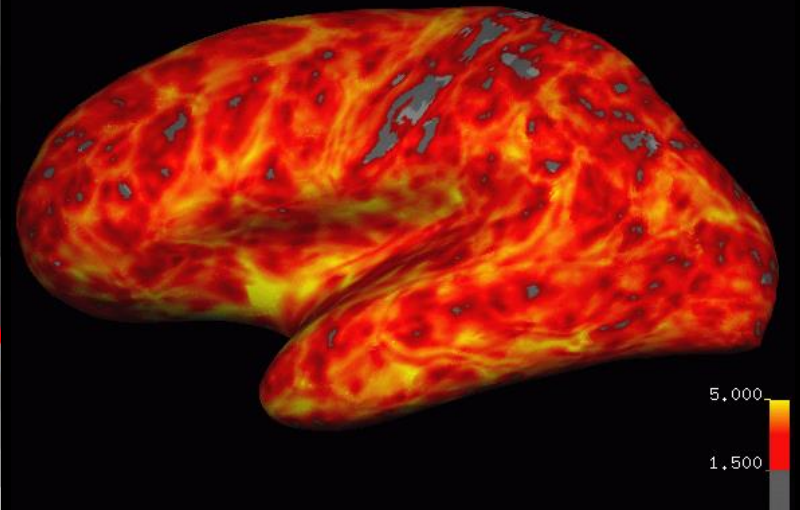


- Triangle Mesh (“Finite Element”)
- Vertex = point of triangles
- Neighborhood
- XYZ at each vertex
- Triangles/Faces ~ 300,000
- Area, Distance
- Curvature, Thickness
- Movable

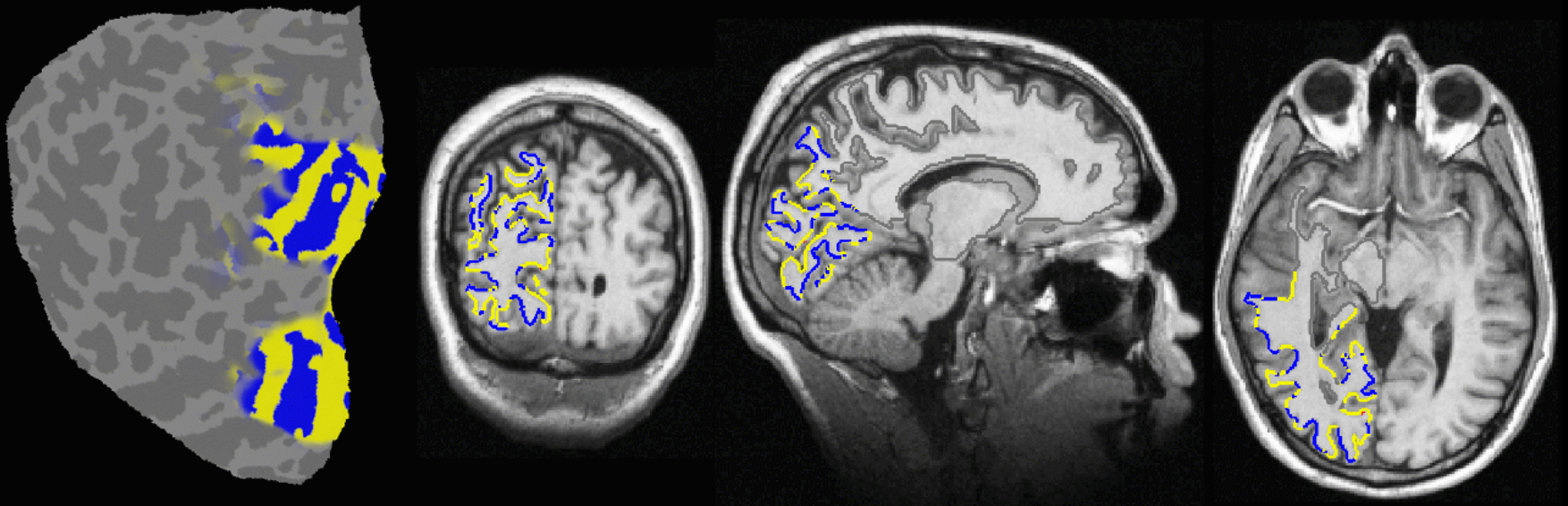
# Cortical Thickness



- Shortest distance between white and pial surfaces.
- 1-5mm in healthy subjects



# Function Follows the Surface



- Visual areas mapped using fMRI retinotopy
- Pattern is clear on the surface, but lost in the volume

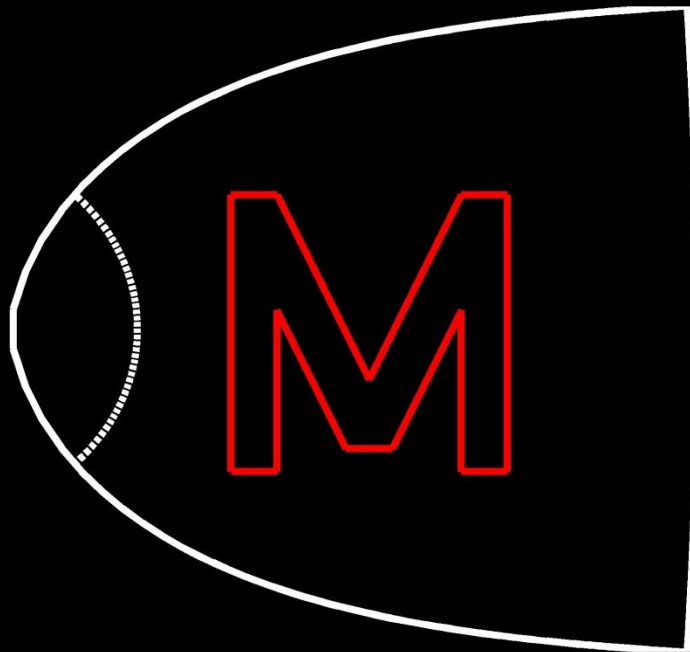
From (Sereno et al, 1995, Science).

# What Can One Do With A Surface Model?

**goal:** use model to imposed desired activity pattern on V1

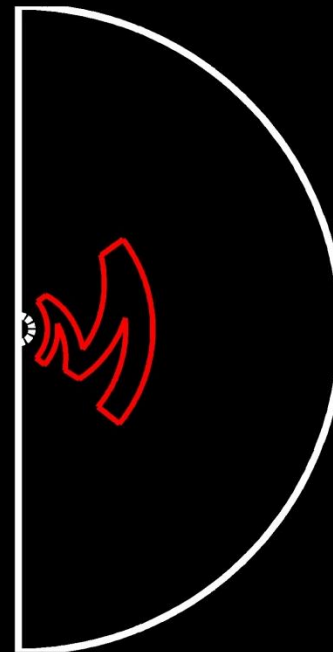
*desired* shape of activity pattern

*required* shape of stimulus

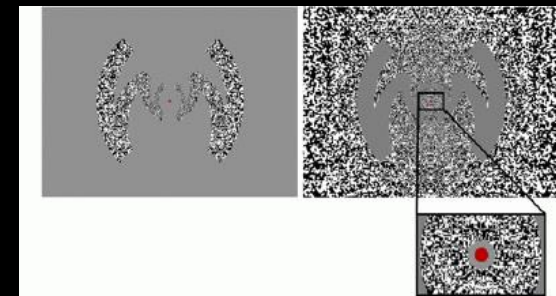


left primary visual cortex

$$w = k \log(z+a)$$

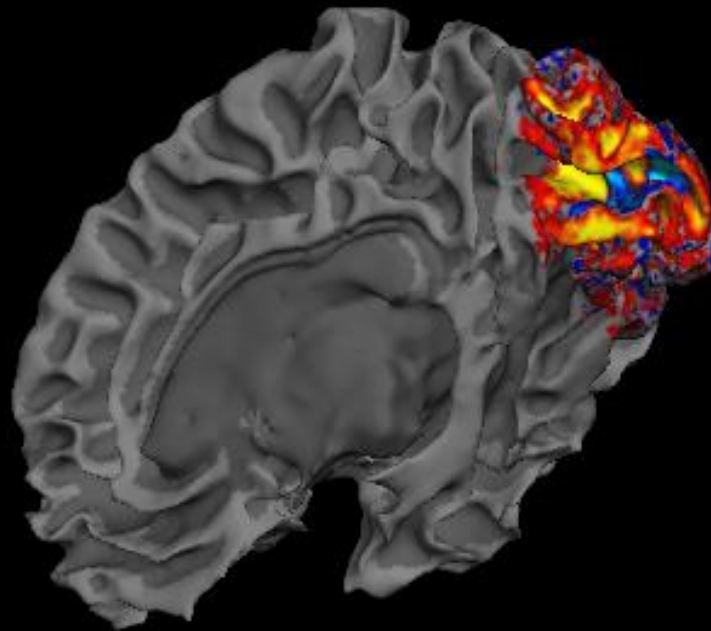


right visual  
hemifield



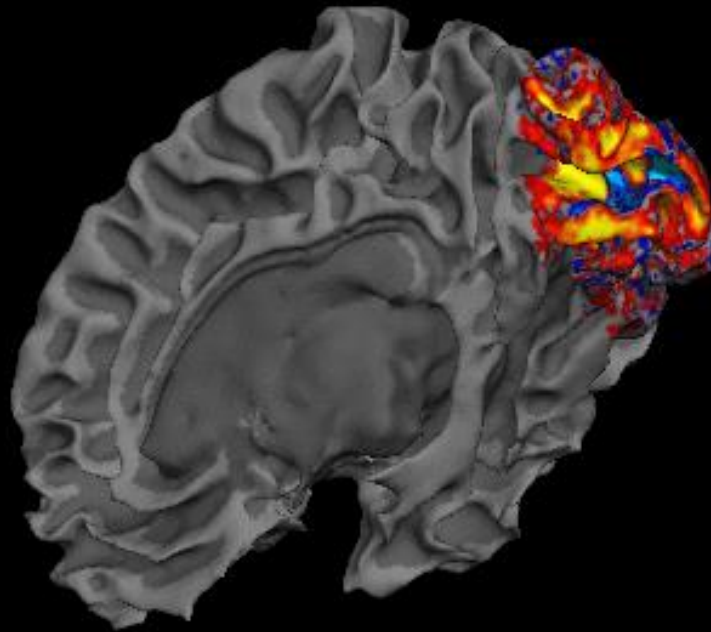
Collaboration with **Jon Polimeni** and Larry Wald.

# Tangential Resolution Measured with Surface-based Analysis



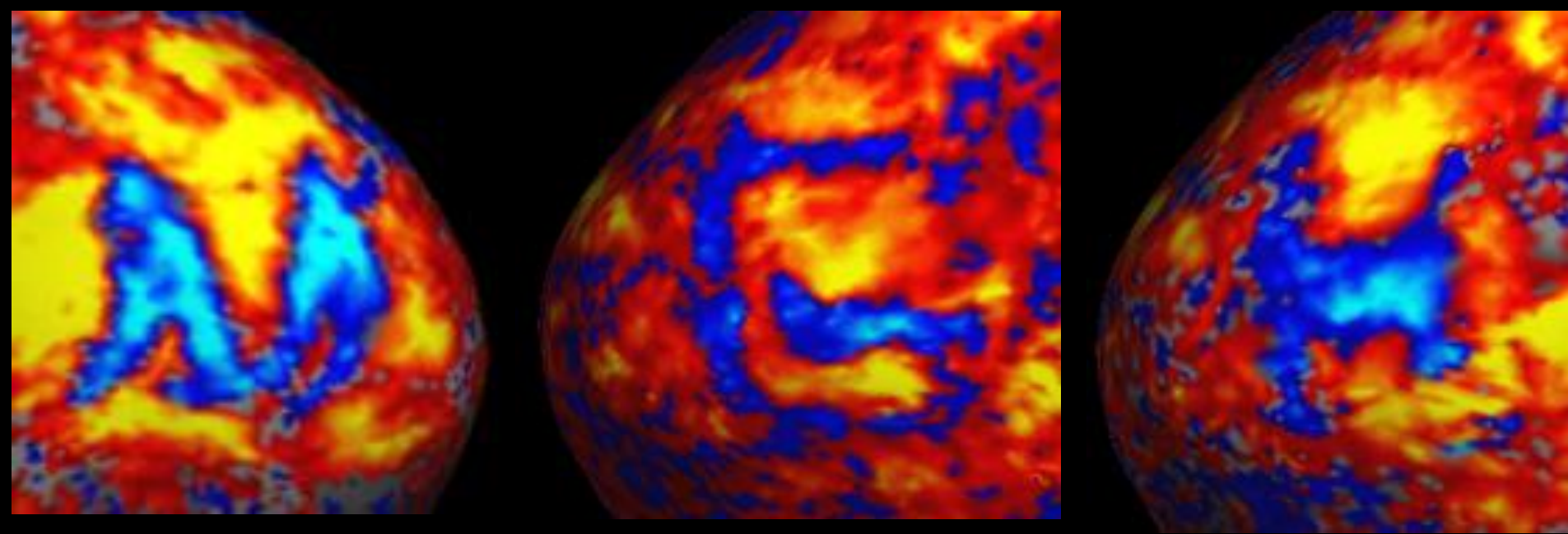
Collaboration with Jon Polimeni and Larry Wald. Polimeni, et al, 2010, NI.

# Tangential Resolution Measured with Surface-based Analysis



Collaboration with Jon Polimeni and Larry Wald. Polimeni, et al, 2010, NI.

# NeuroMarketing!



Aim 1 of our NCRF Center Grant, spelling:

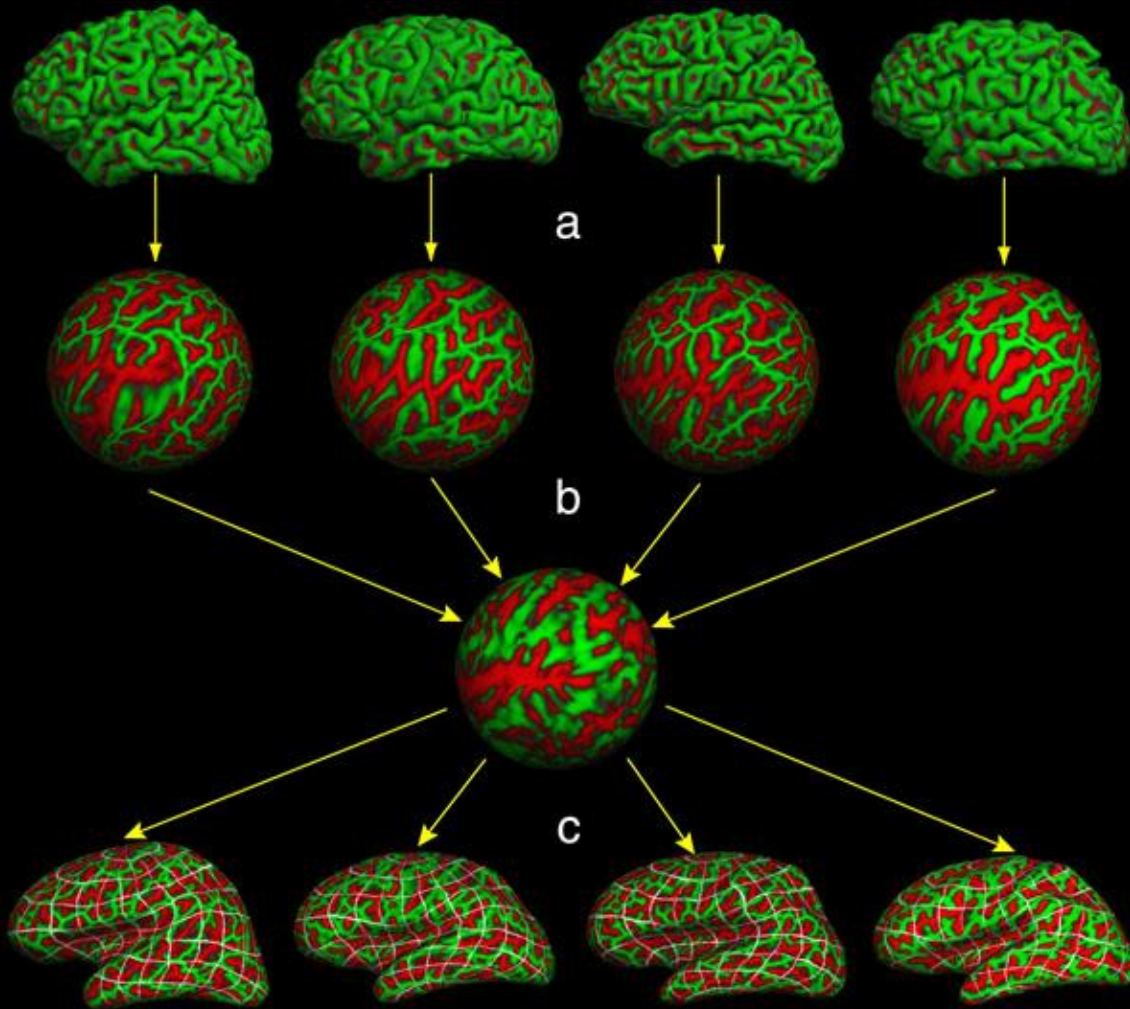
“MGH Center for Functional Neuroimaging Technologies;  
and NCRF Center for Research Resources.”

(just kidding)

Thanks to Larry Wald for this slide.

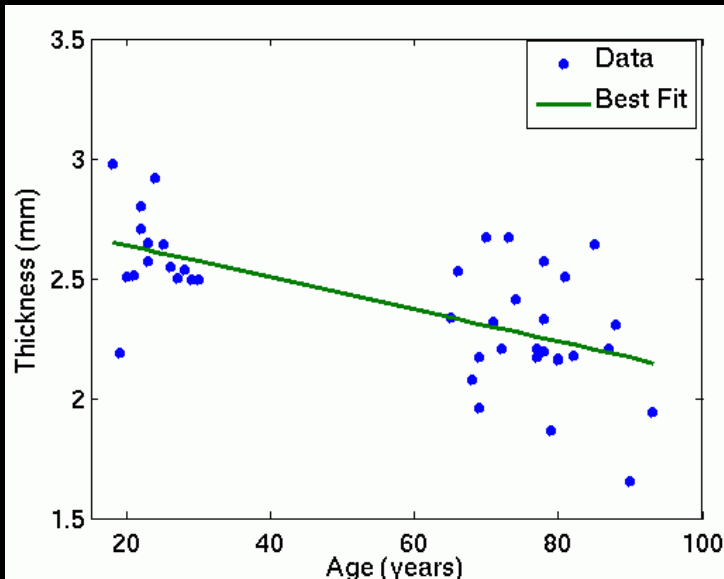
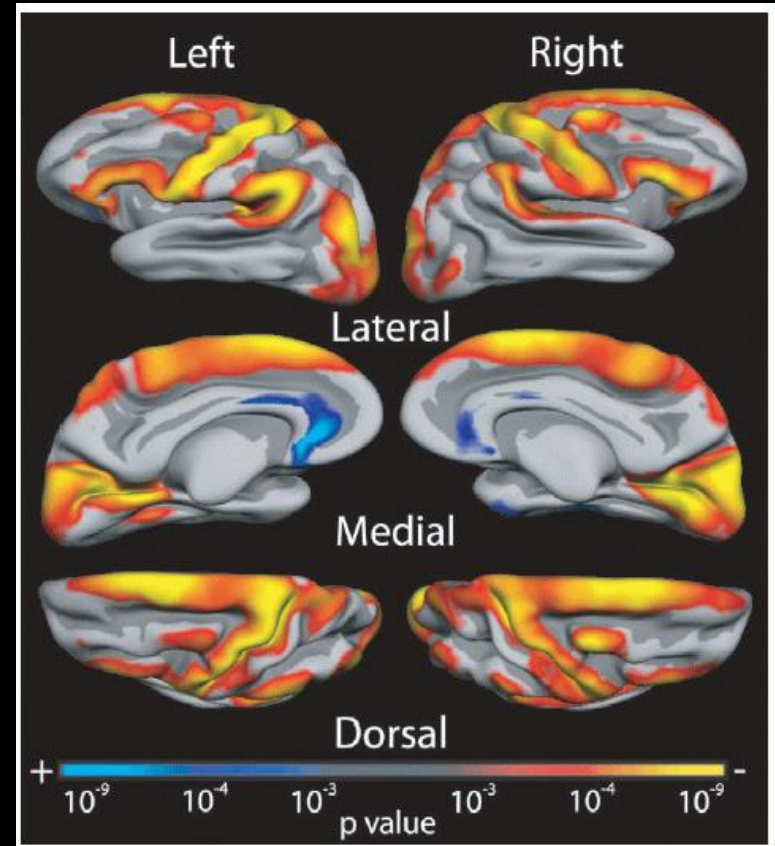
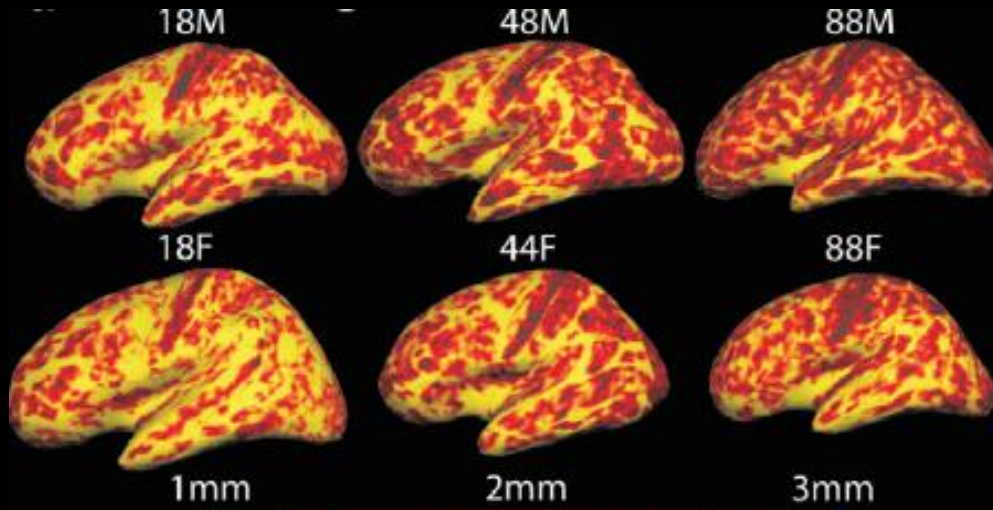


# A Surface-Based Registration



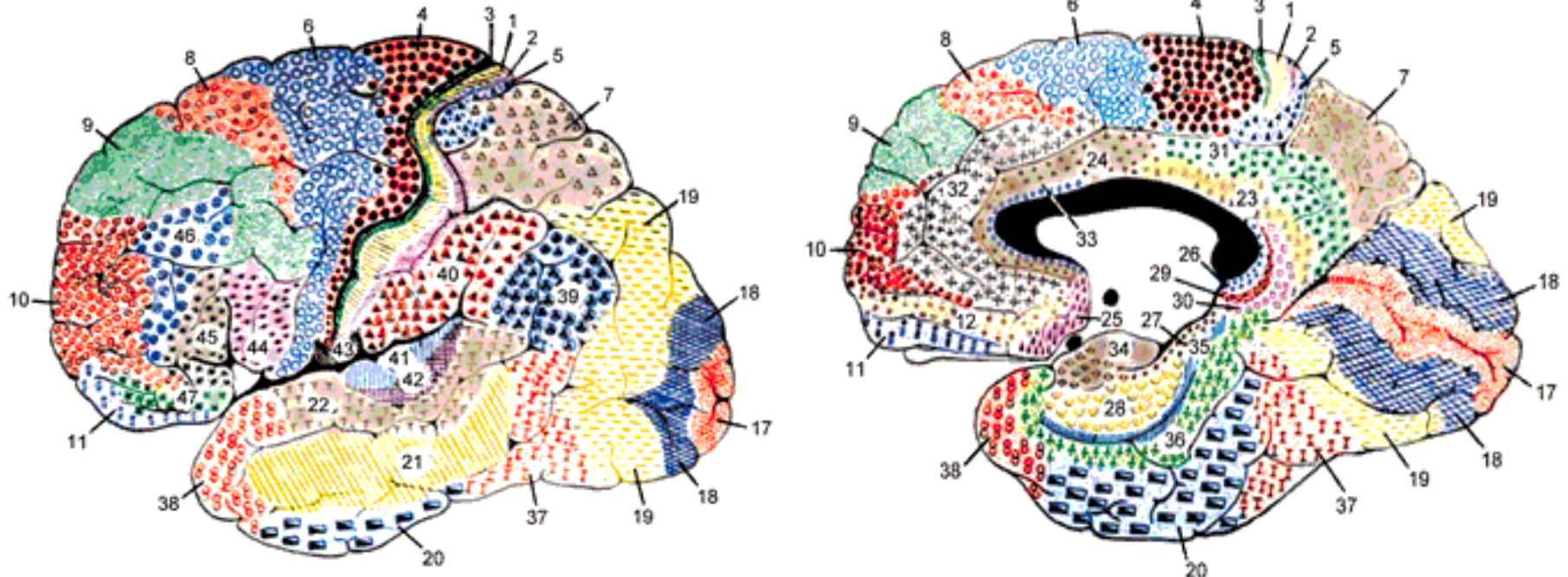
Common space for group analysis (like Talairach) “fsaverage”

# Anatomical Study: Aging



Salat, et al, 2004, Cerebral Cortex

# Surface-based Registration Performance



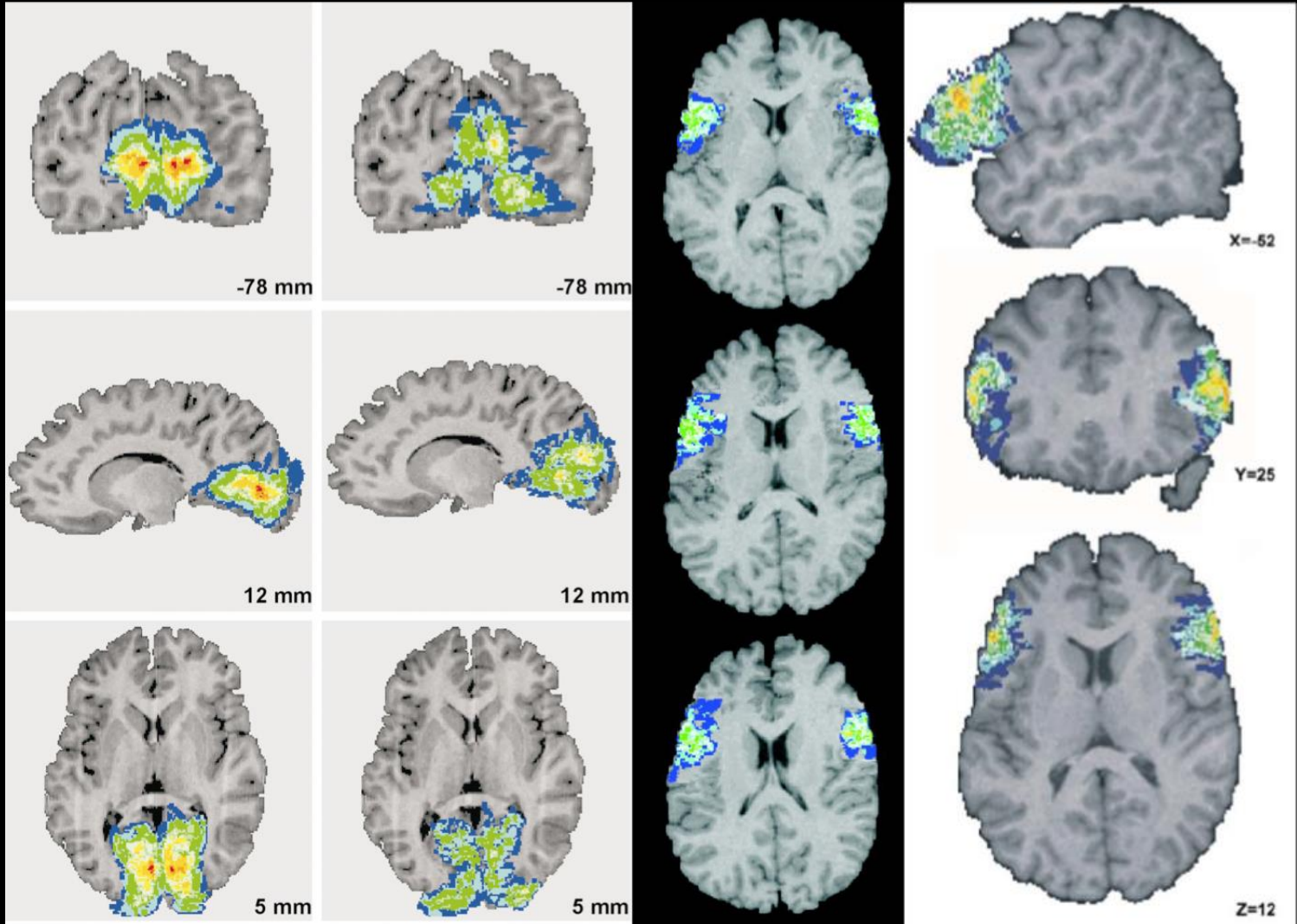
Brodmann, 1909

# Predicting Brodmann Areas: Talairach Coordinates

10 subjects  
overlap



1 subject  
overlap



BA17 (V1)

BA18 (V2)

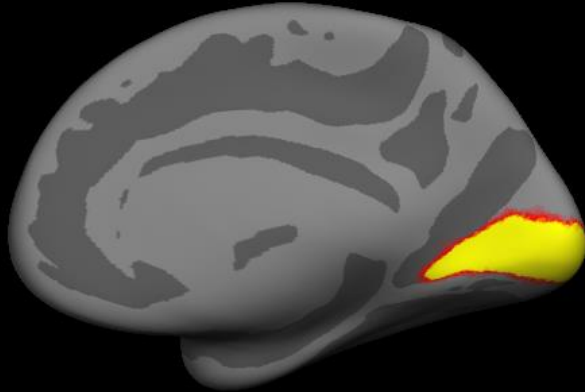
BA44 (Broca's)

BA45 (Broca's)

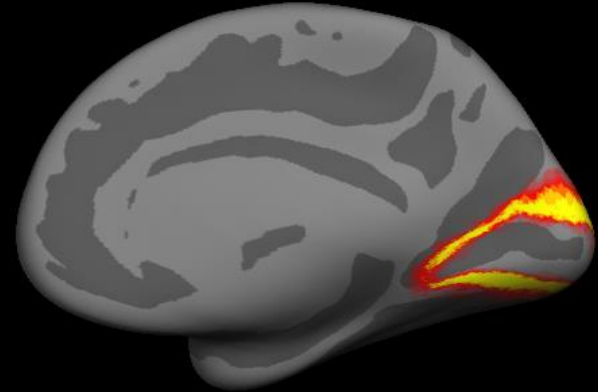
(Amunts et al, 2000, 2004)

# Predicting Brodmann Areas from Folding Patterns

BA 17 (V1)

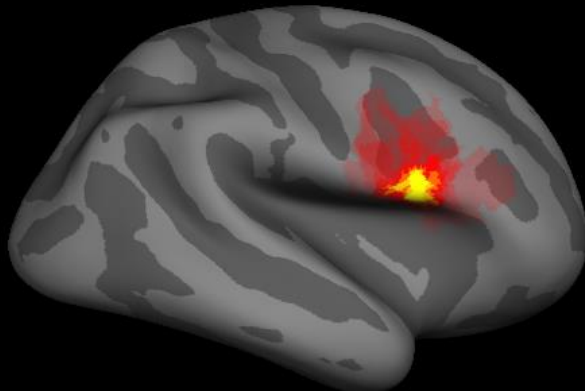


BA 18 (V2)

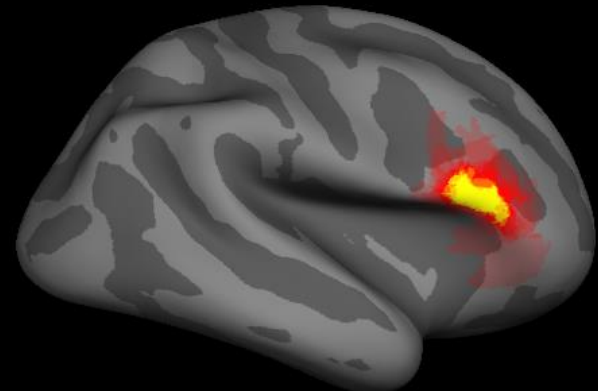


0%  100% Overlap

BA 44



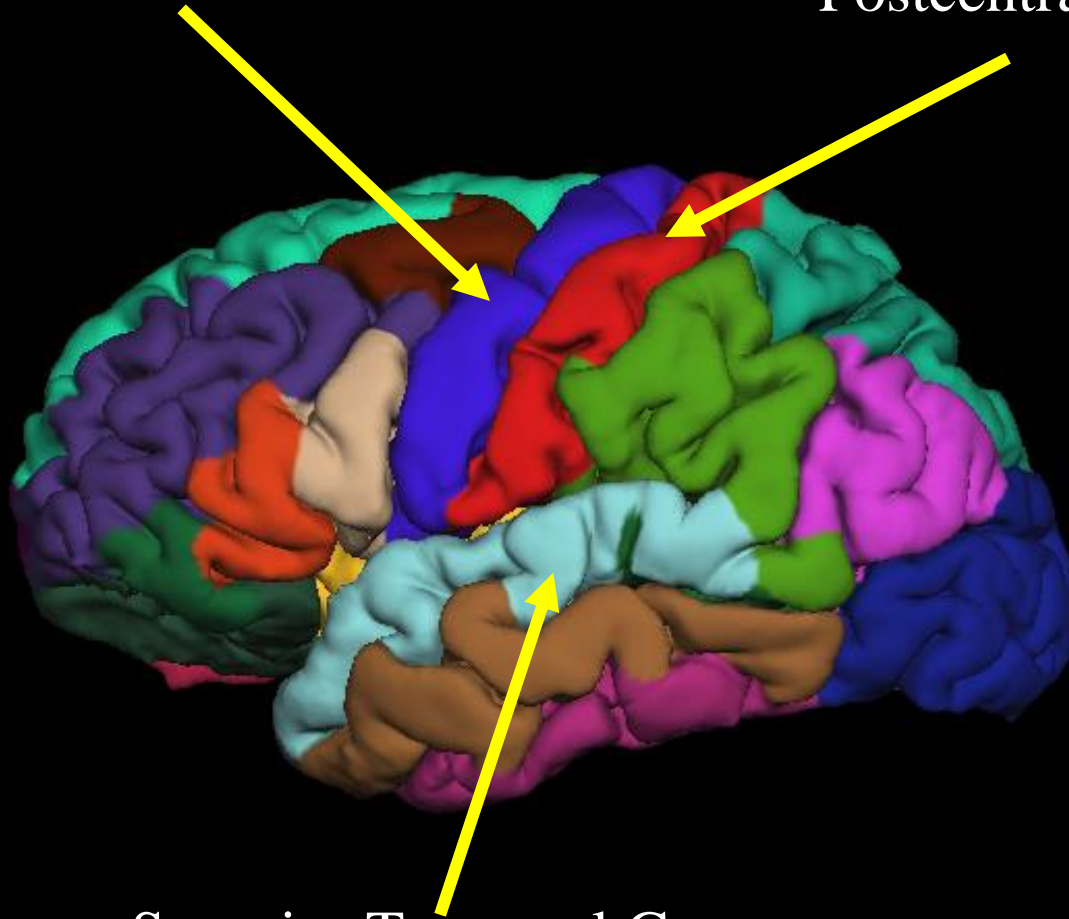
BA 45



# Automatic Gyral Segmentation

Precentral Gyrus

Postcentral Gyrus



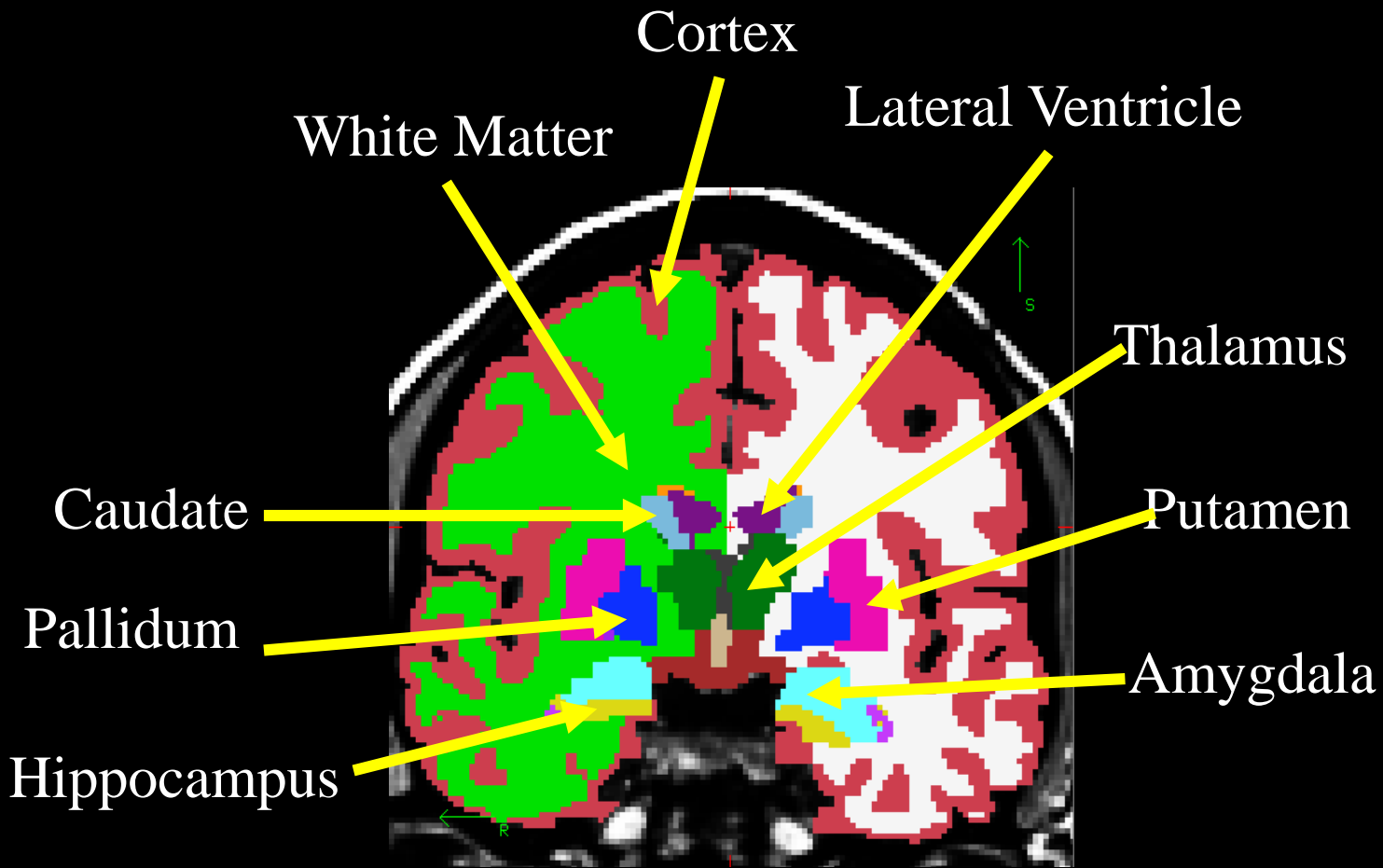
Superior Temporal Gyrus

Based on individual's folding pattern

# Outline

- Anatomical Analysis
  - Surface-based (Cortex)
  - **Volume-based**
- Multi-modal integration
  - DWI/Tractography
  - fMRI

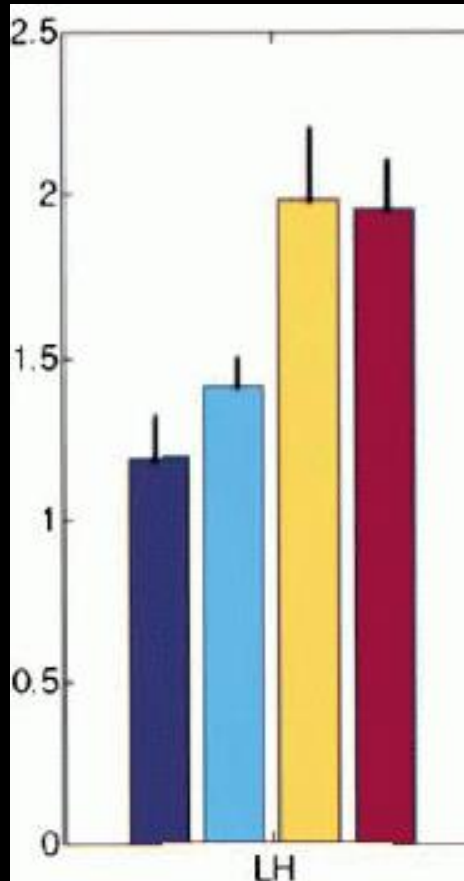
# Volumetric Segmentation (aseg)



Not Shown:  
Nucleus Accumbens  
Cerebellum



# ROI Volume Study



Lateral Ventricular Volume  
(Percent of Brain)

Healthy

MCI: Did NOT convert

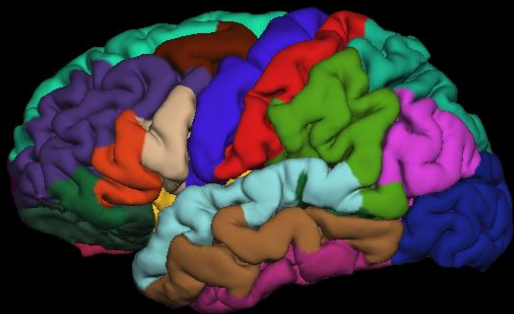
MCI: Did convert

Probable AD



# Combined Segmentation

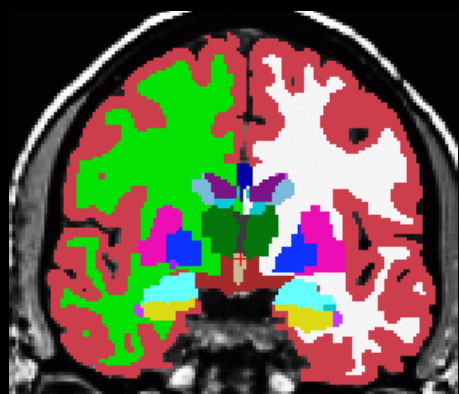
aparc



aparc+aseg



aseg



wmparc

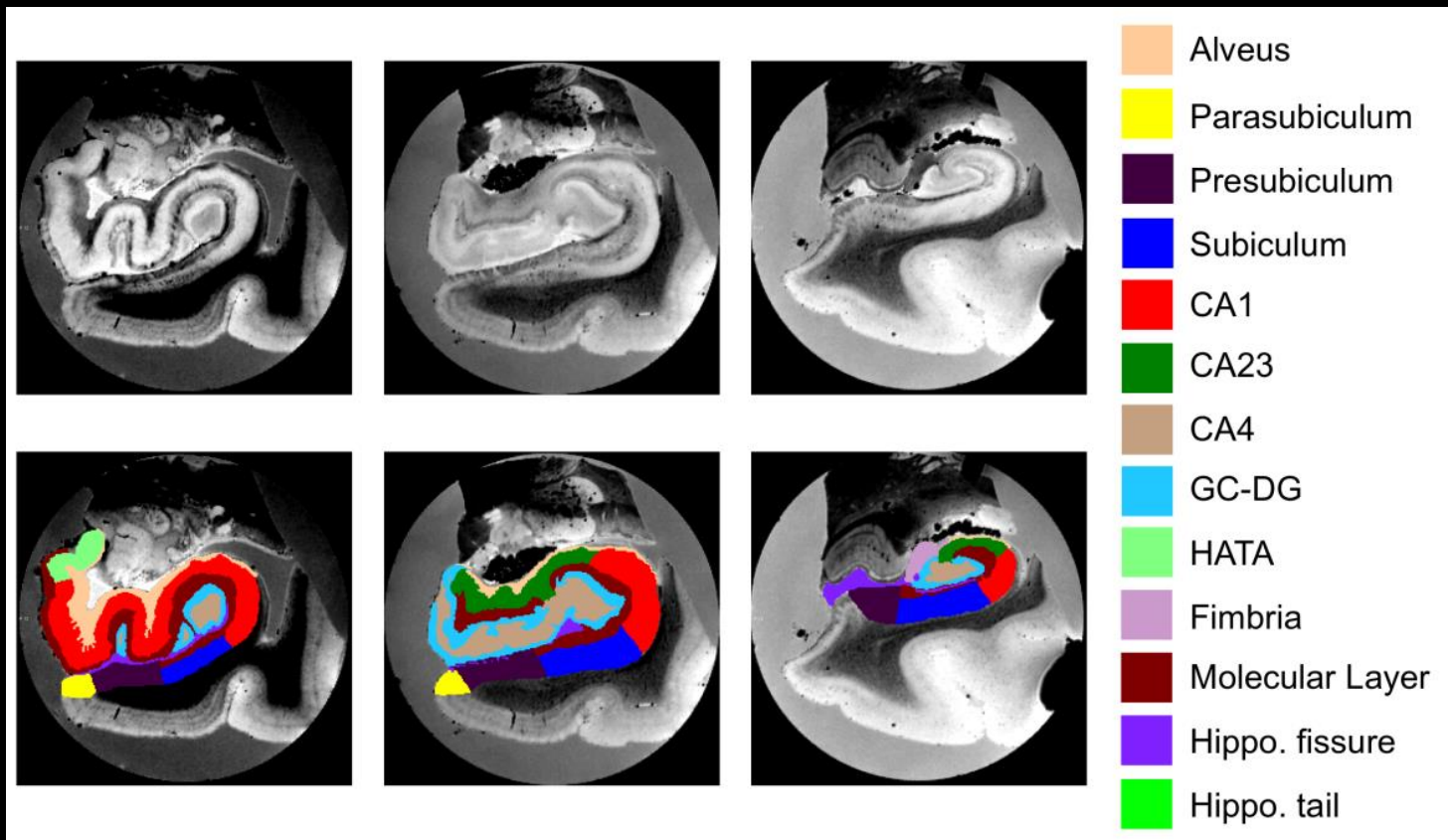


Nearest  
Cortical Label  
to point in  
White Matter

# Ex vivo MRI of hippocampal subfields

Resolution as high as 0.1 mm isotropic

- Allows precise manual tracing of hippocampal subfields.
- The delineation only relies on geometry for subdividing the CA.



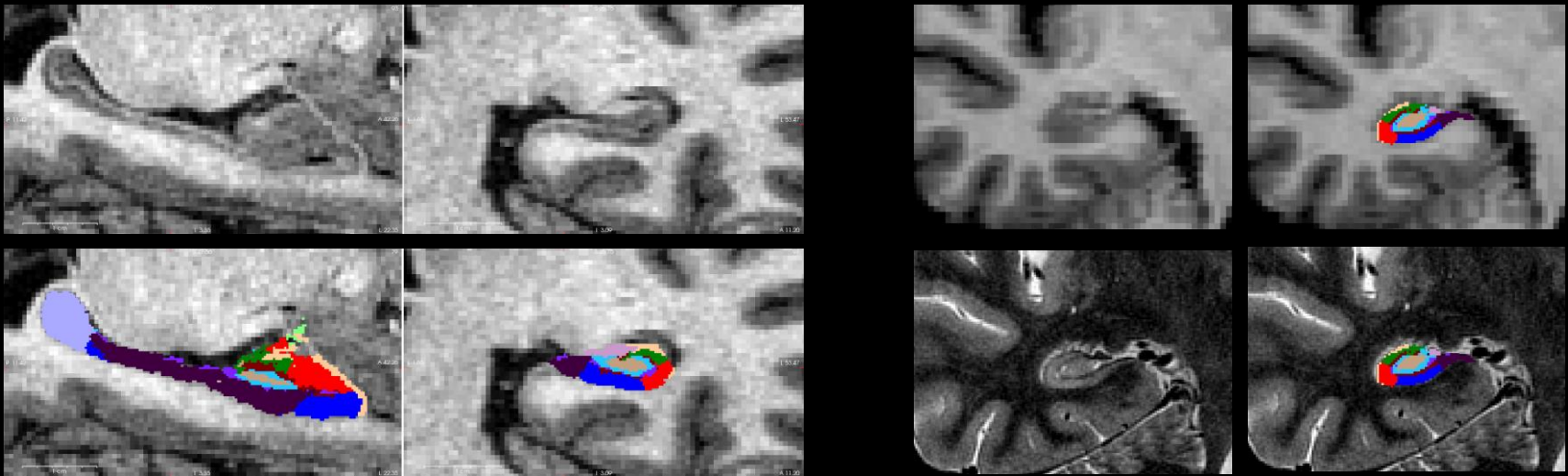
# Automated Segmentation

We use the atlas as a prior, and connect it to the image through a Gaussian likelihood term for each label.

- This makes the segmentation sequence-independent.

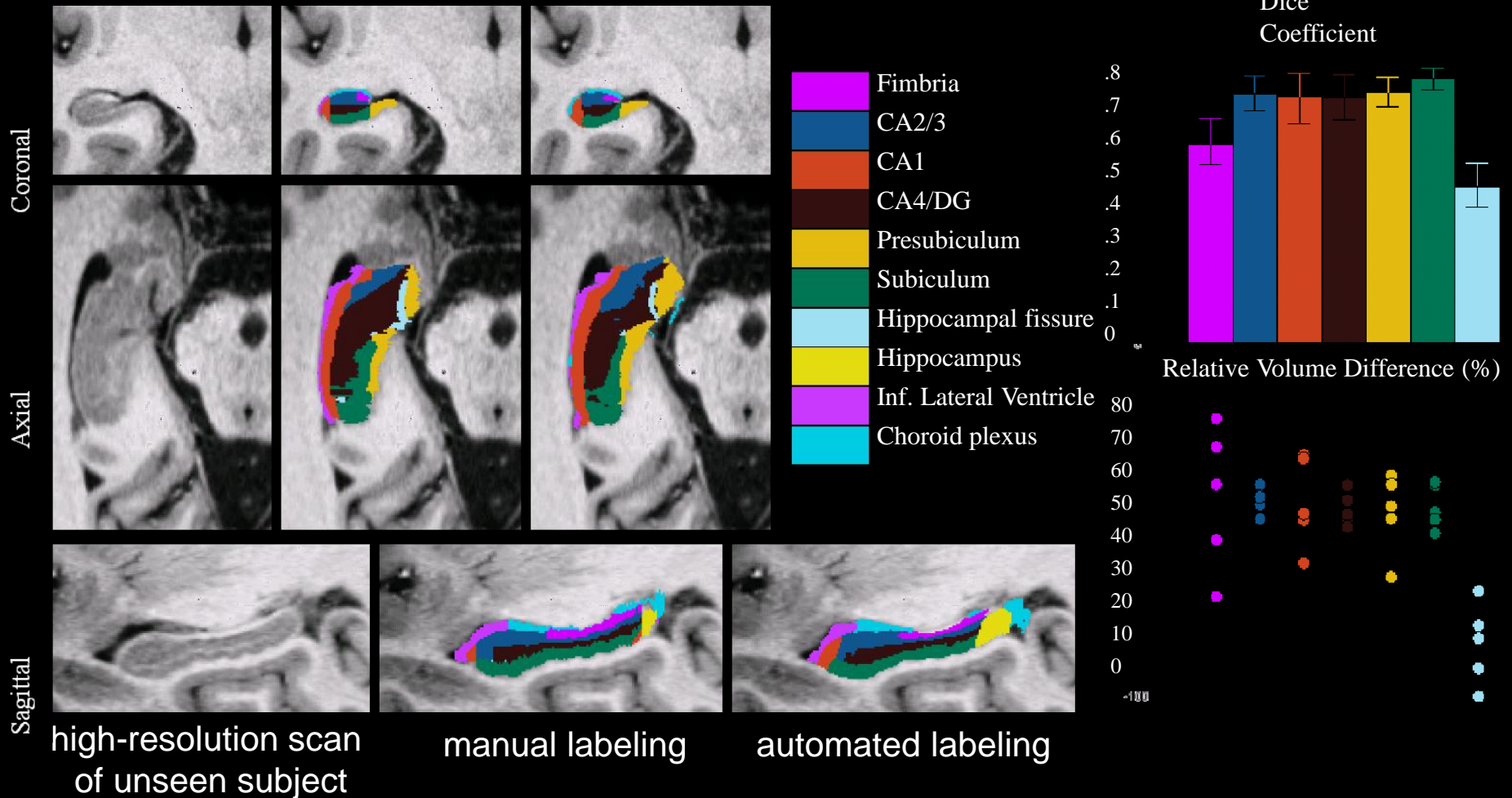
0.6 mm isotropic T1 (Winterburn et al.)

1 mm T1 + 0.4x0.4x2 mm T2 (ADNI)



# Automated Subfield Segmentation

- Leave-one-out cross-validation with 5 subjects



# Robust Registration

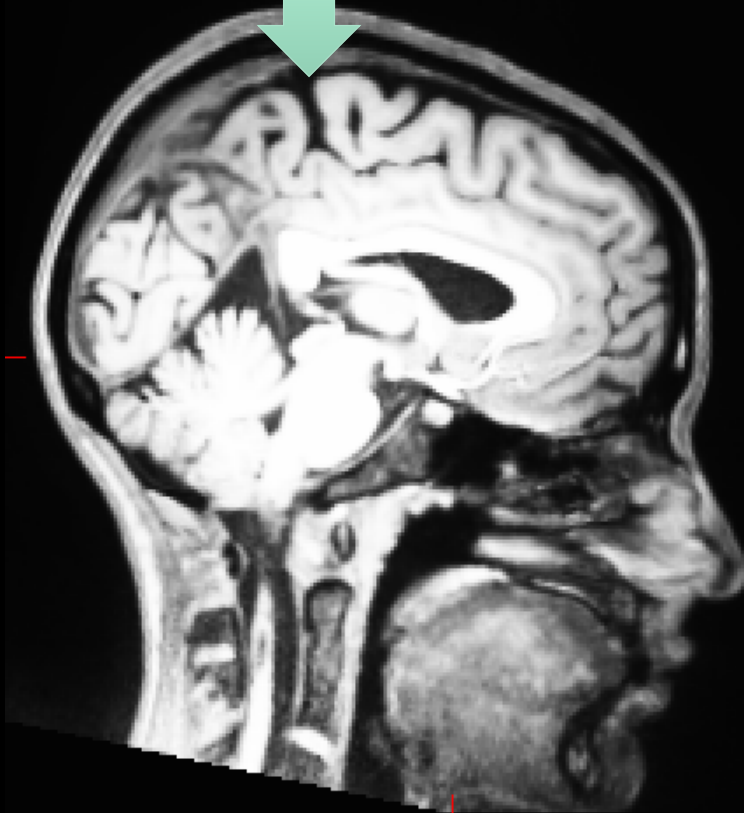


Target

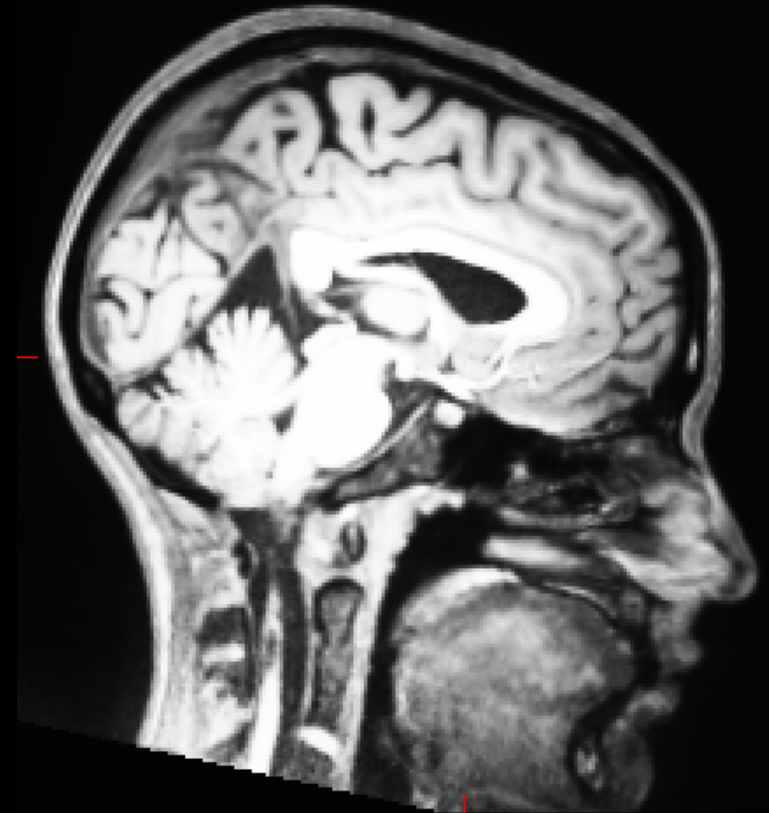


Target

# Robust Registration

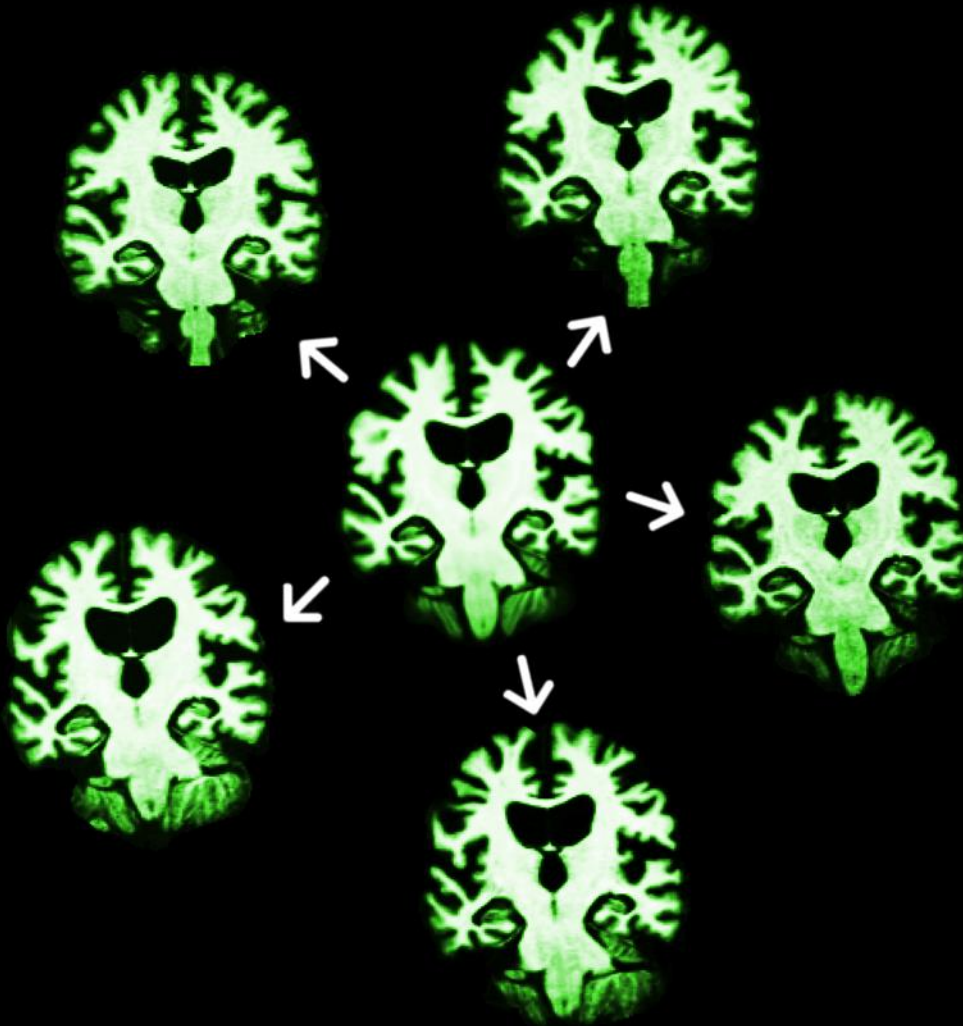


Registered Src correlation ratio



Registered Src Robust

# Longitudinal Processing

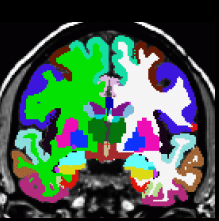


1. Create unbiased subject template (iterative registration to median)
  2. Process template
  3. Initialize time points
  4. Let it evolve there
- Avoid Bias: All time points are treated the same
  - Increases sensitivity and reliability!



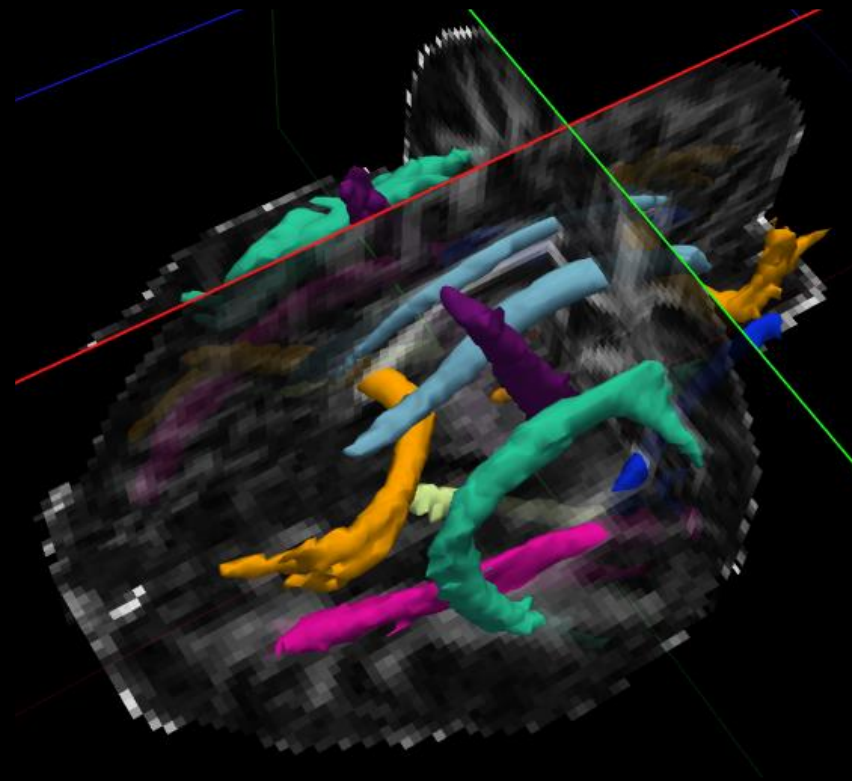
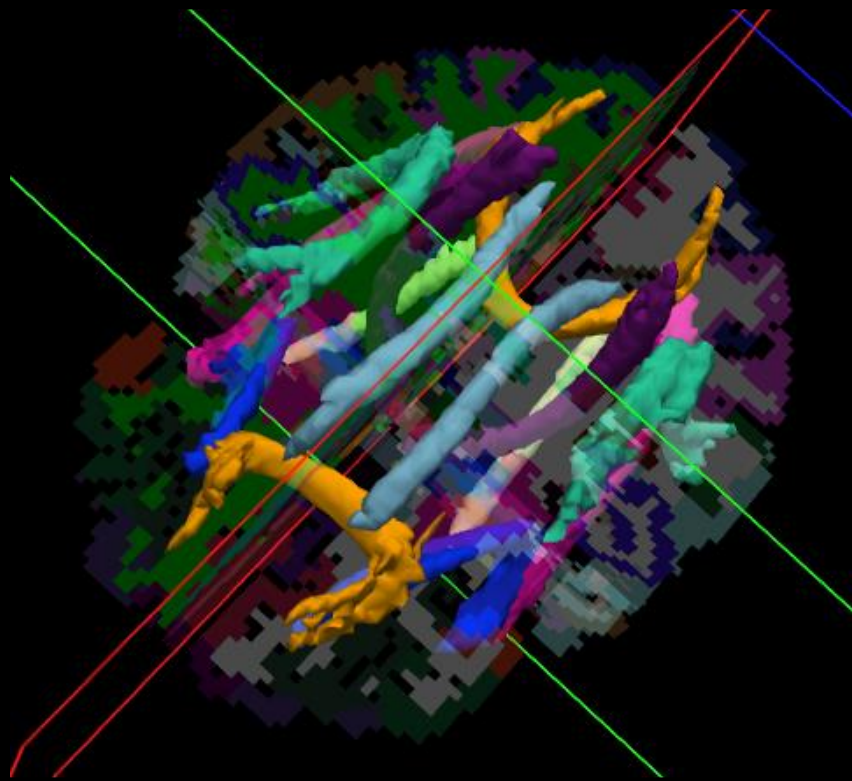
# Outline

- Anatomical Analysis
  - Surface-based (Cortex)
  - Volume-based
- Multi-modal integration
  - **DWI/Tractography**
  - fMRI



# Tractography with TRACULA

(TRActs Constrained by the Underlying Anatomy)

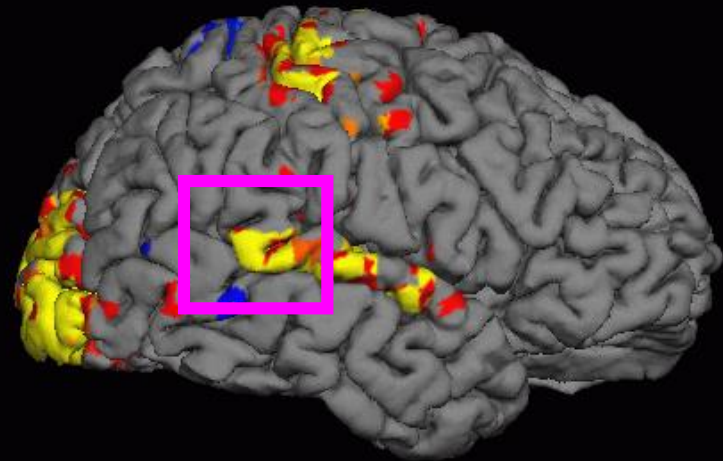
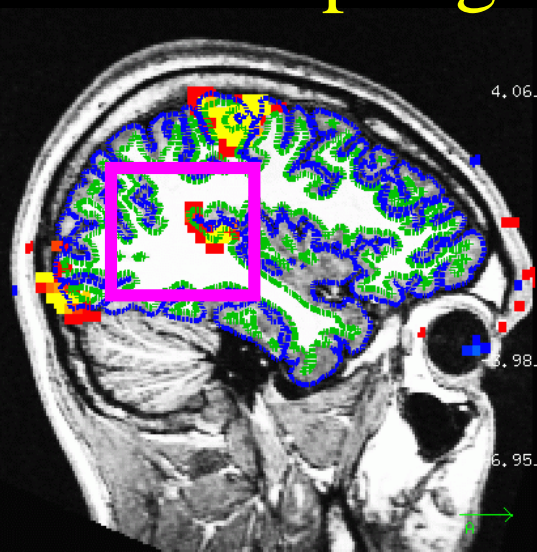


- Completely automated modeling of 18 major fascicles
- Uses prior probabilistic information on the anatomical structures that each fascicle goes through or next to

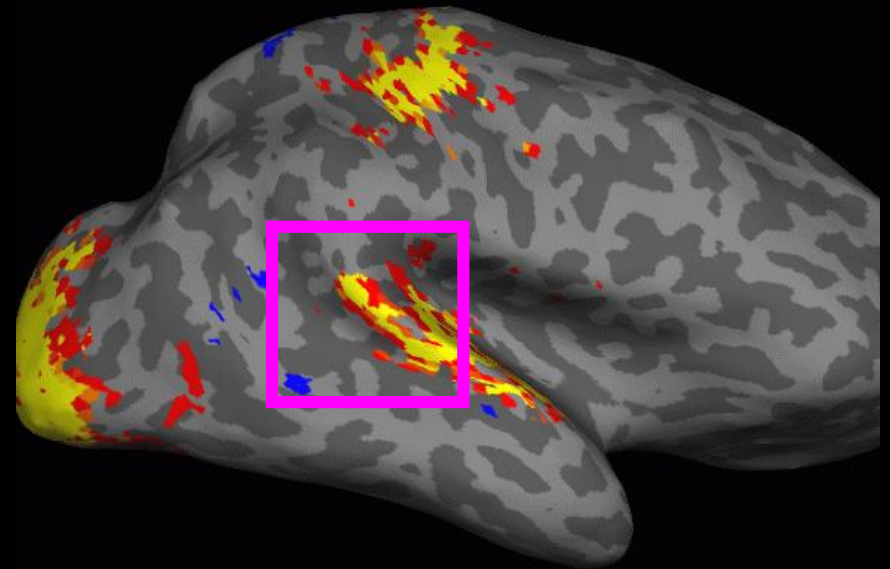
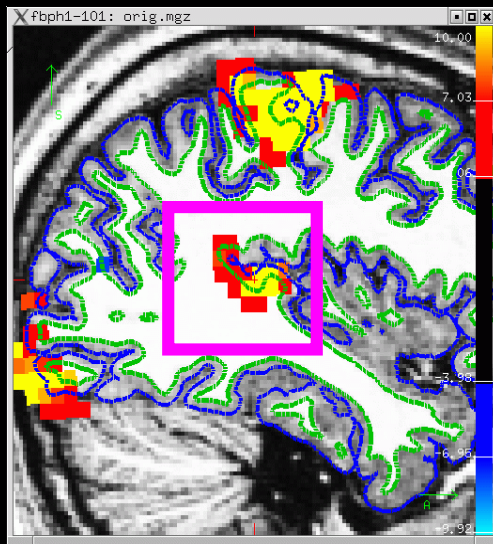
# Outline

- Anatomical Analysis
  - Surface-based (Cortex)
  - Volume-based
- Multi-modal integration
  - DWI/Tractography
  - **fMRI – task**

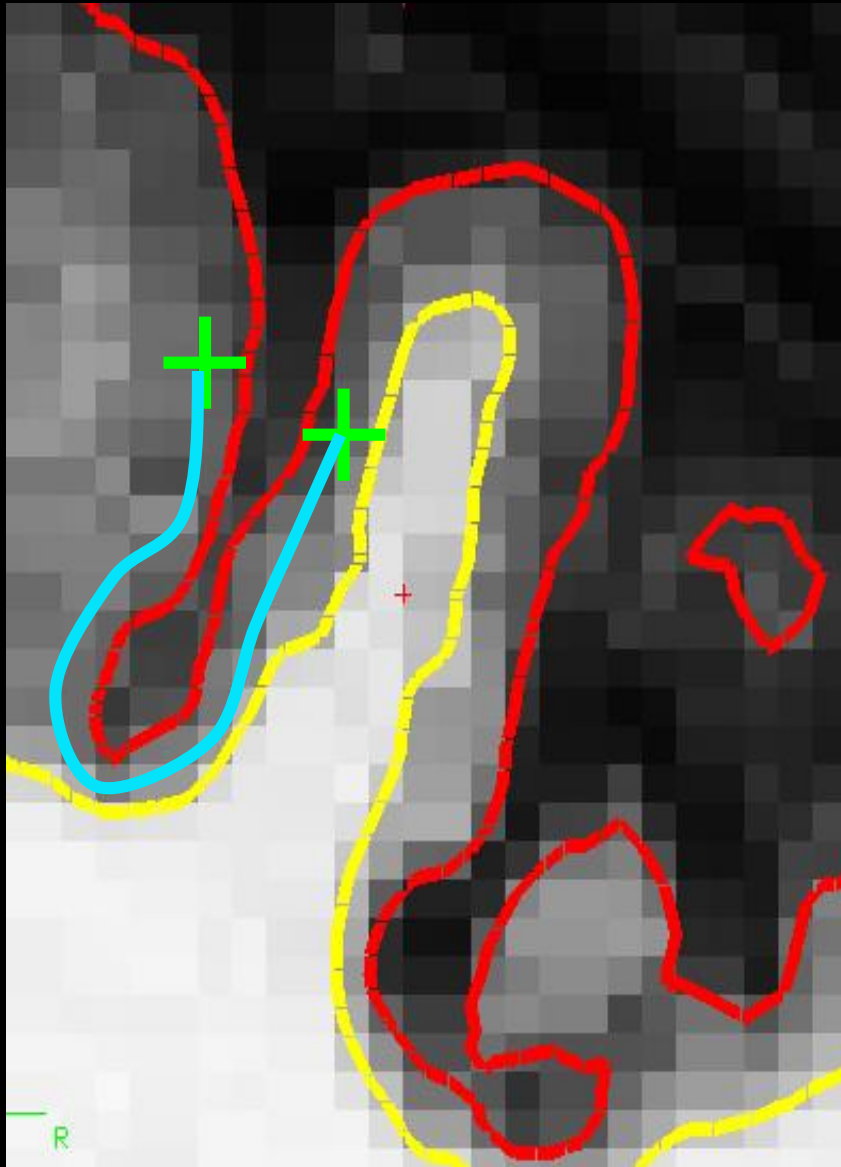
# Sampling on the Surface



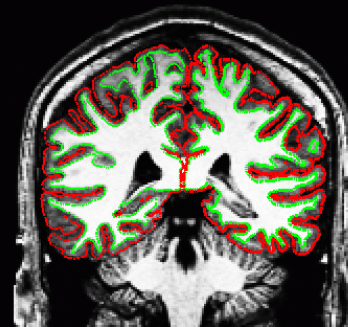
- 15 sec 'ON', 15 sec 'OFF'
- Flickering Checkerboard
- Auditory Tone
- Finger Tapping



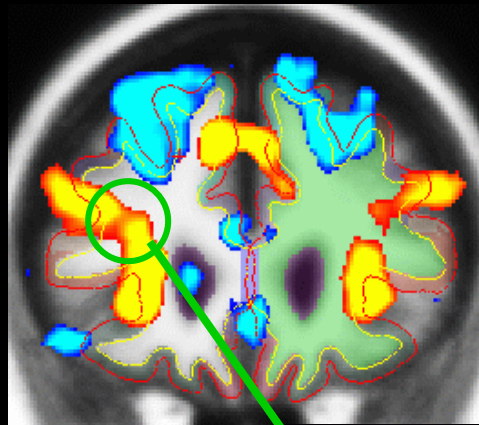
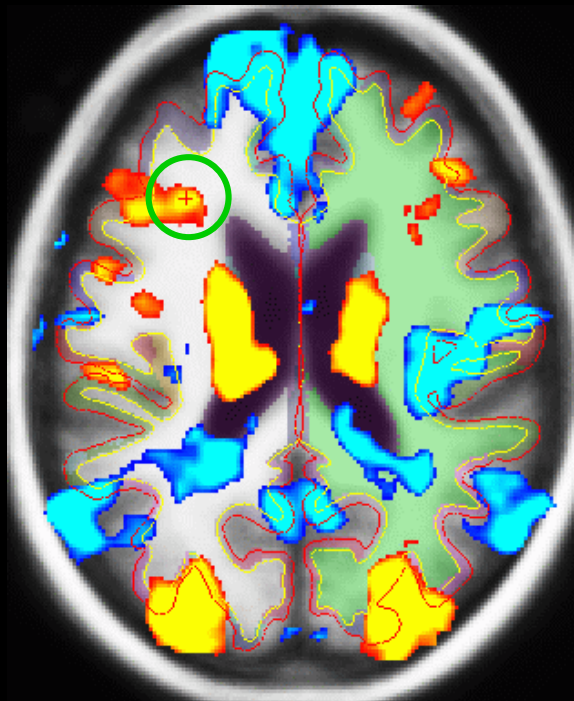
# Spatial Smoothing



- 5 mm apart in 3D
- 25 mm apart on surface!
- Kernel much larger
- Averaging with other tissue types (WM, CSF)
- Averaging with other functional areas

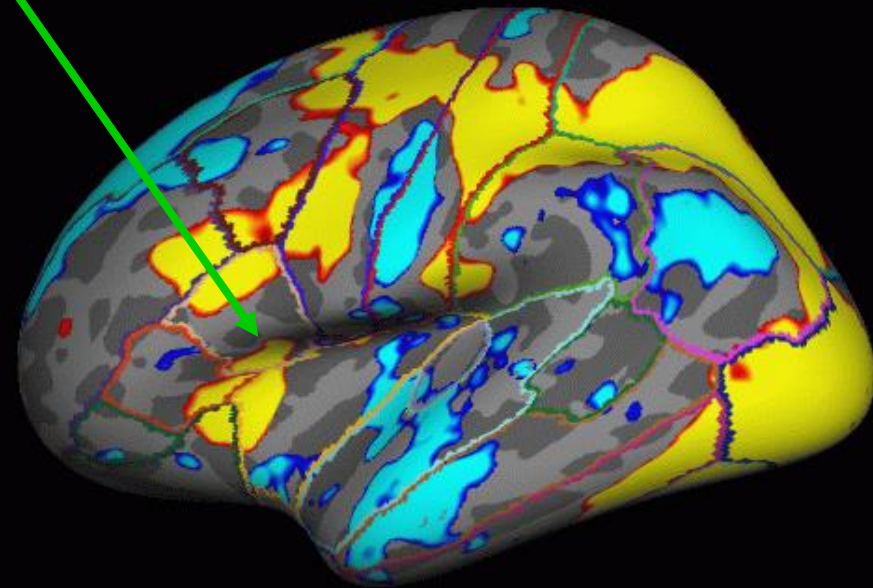
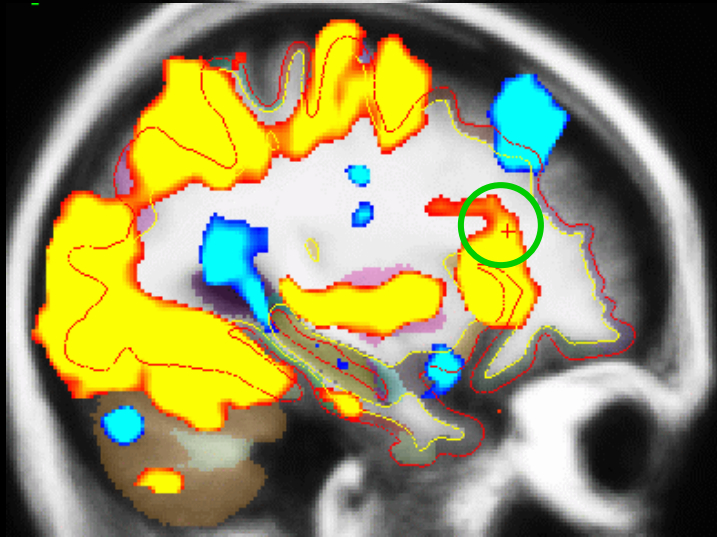


# Group fMRI Analysis: Volume vs Surface

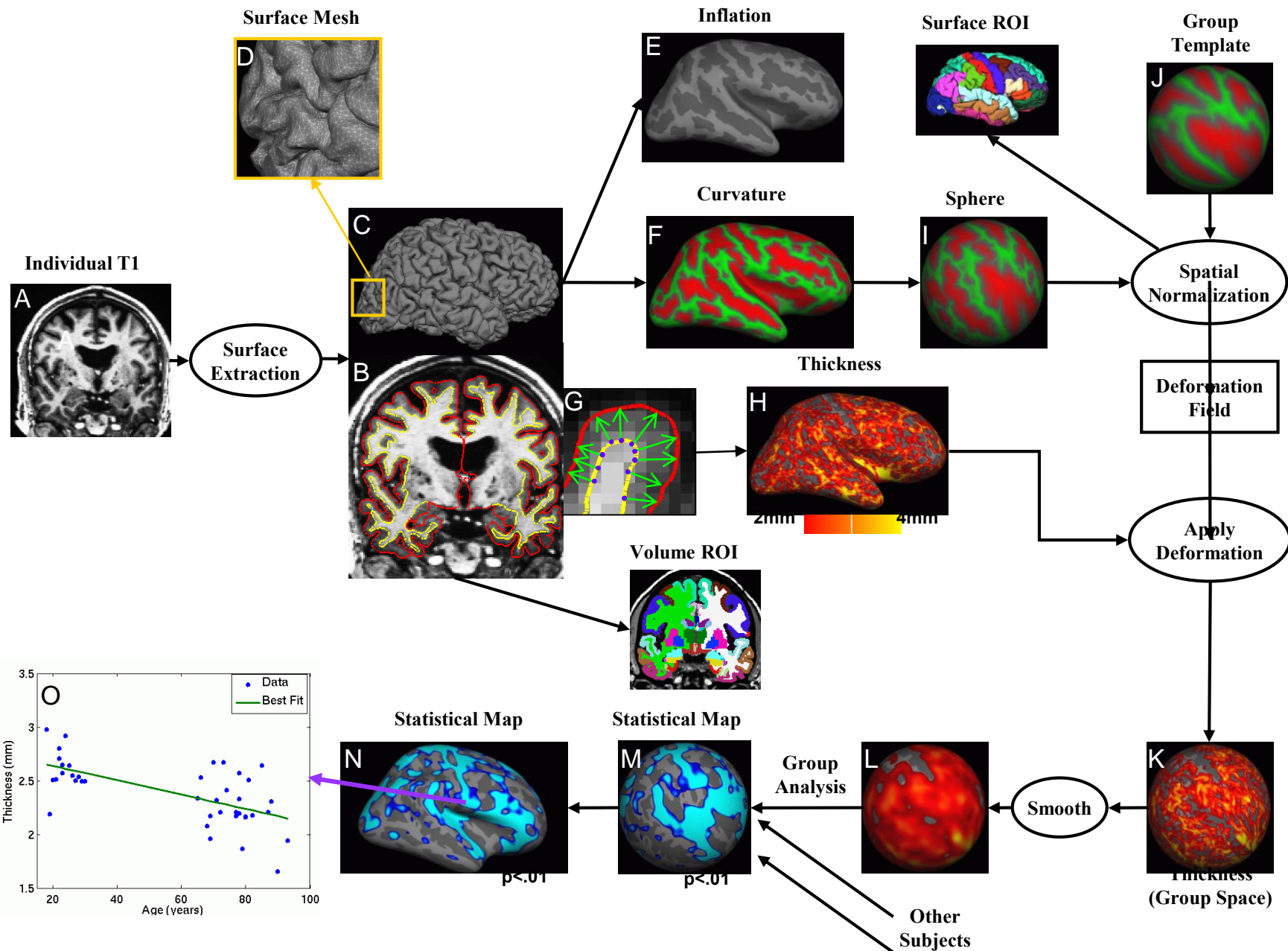


Affine registration to MNI305

5mm volume smoothing vs.  
10mm surface smoothing



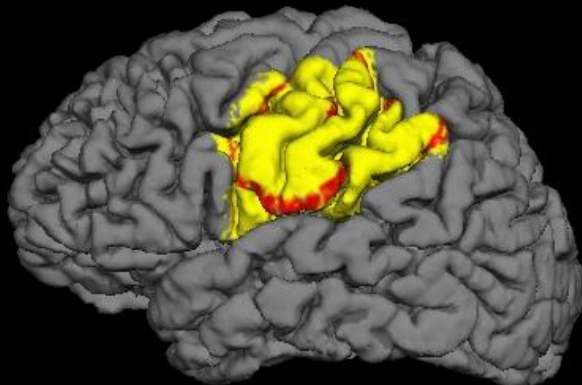
# FreeSurfer Analysis Pipeline Overview



# What is FreeSurfer?

- Cortical extraction and labeling
- Subcortical Segmentation
- Surface-based Inter-subject Registration
- Fully automated
- Multi-modal integration

Use FreeSurfer



Be Happy

