

# Computational Methods in NeuroImage Analysis

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Lecture 5

Curvilinear Structure Modeling

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# Curvilinear brain structures

White matter fiber tracts

Corpus callosum boundary

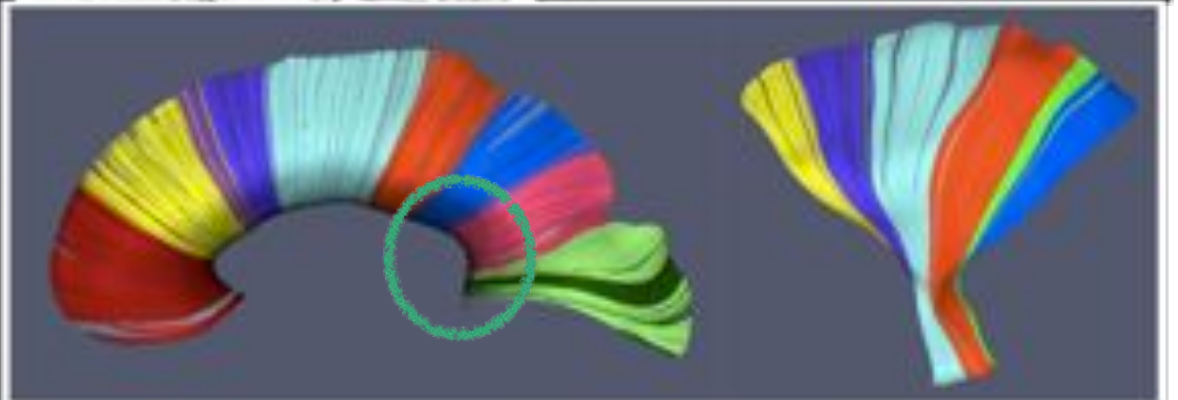
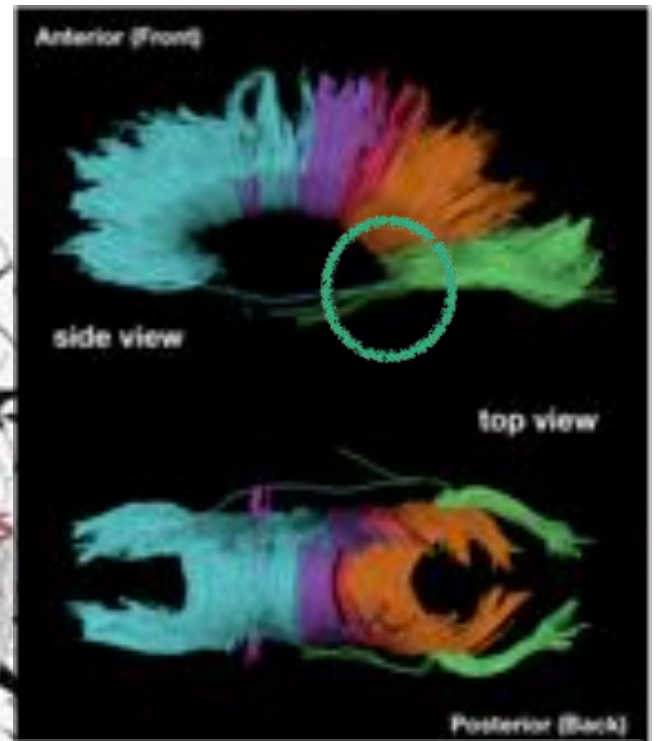
Major sulcal lines

# White matter fibers

James Gee



Fibers passing through the splenium of the corpus callosum

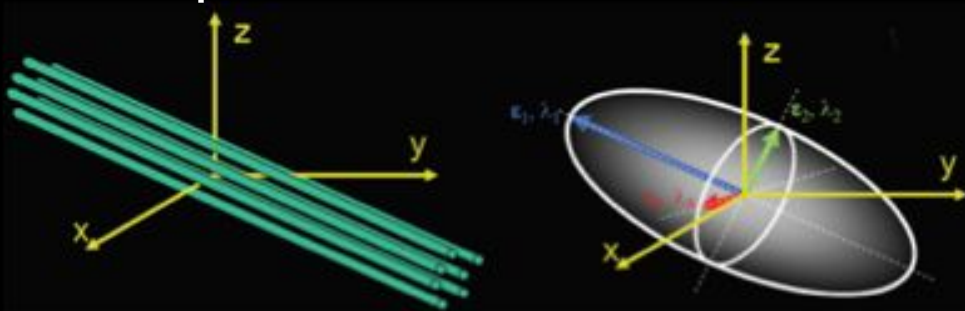


# Diffusion Tensor Imaging

Mori and van Zijl NMR  
Biomed 2002



isotropic diffusion



anisotropic diffusion

$$p(x | x_0, \tau) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{(4\pi\tau)^3 |\underline{D}|}} \exp \left( \frac{-(x - x_0)^T \underline{D}^{-1} (x - x_0)}{4\tau} \right)$$

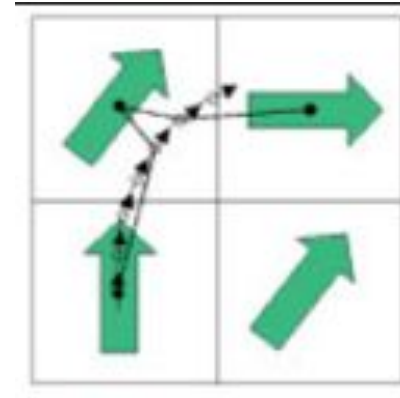
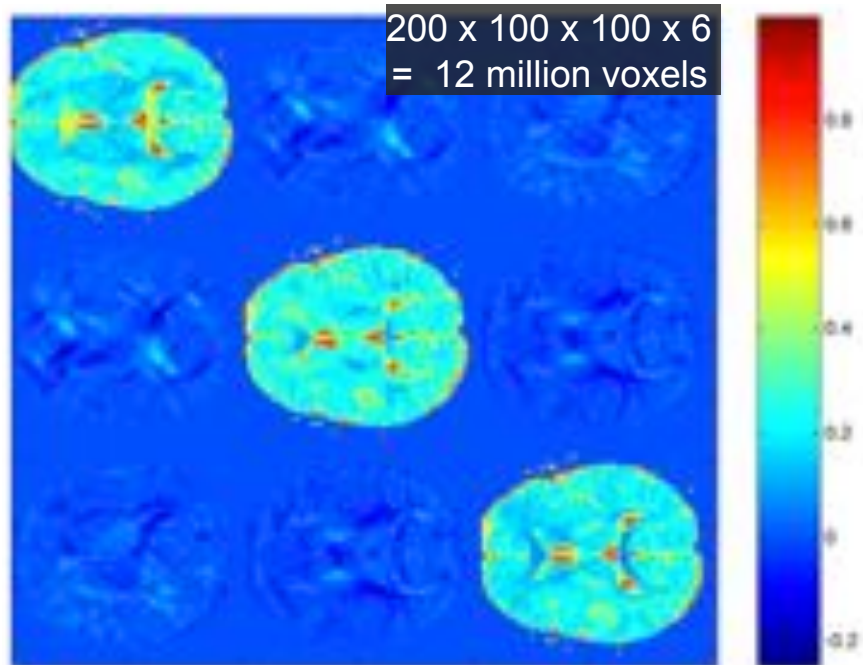
diffusion tensor

↓

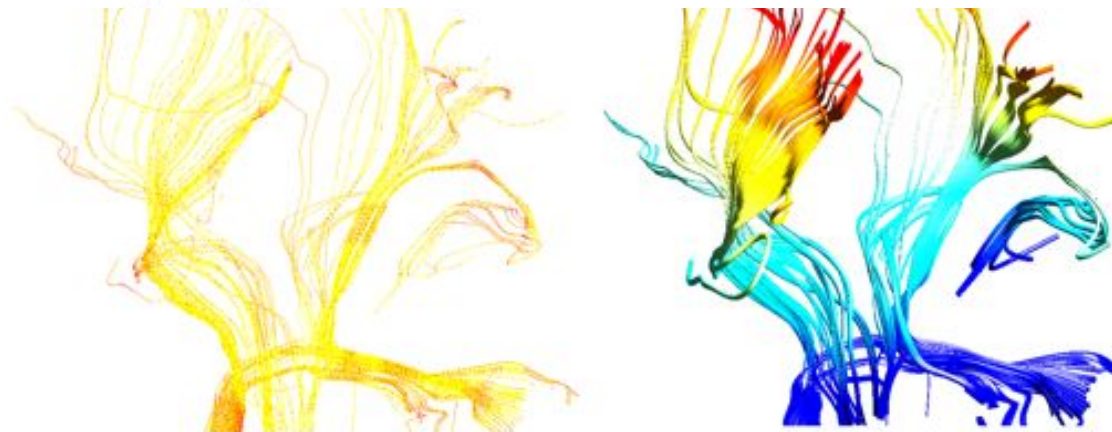
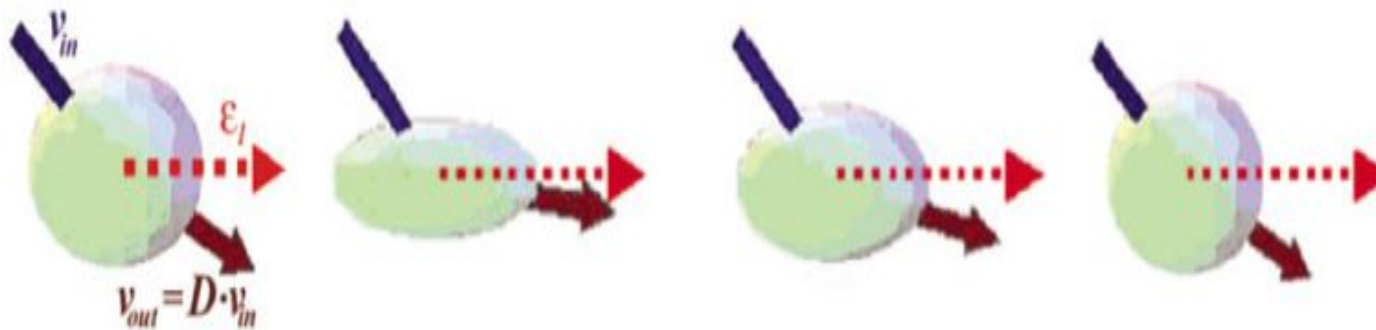
transition probability from  $x_0$  to  $x$



# Tractography



TENsor  
Deflection  
(TEND)  
algorithm

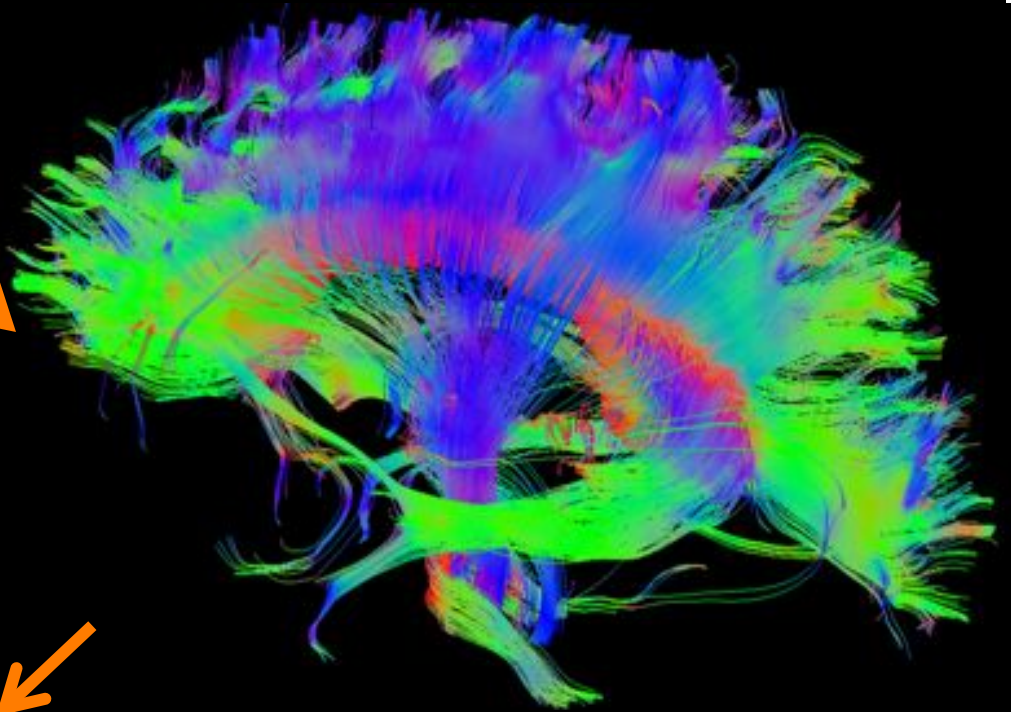


Second order  
Runge-Kutta  
algorithm with  
TEND (Lazar et  
al., HBM 2003)

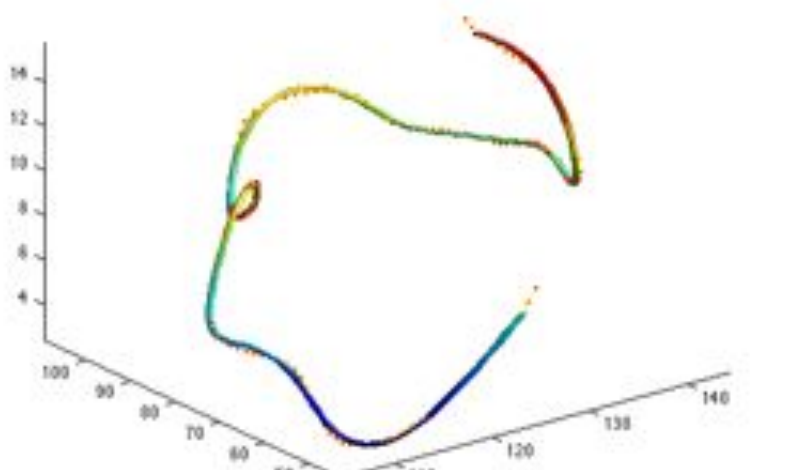


Real brain

White matter fiber  
tractography



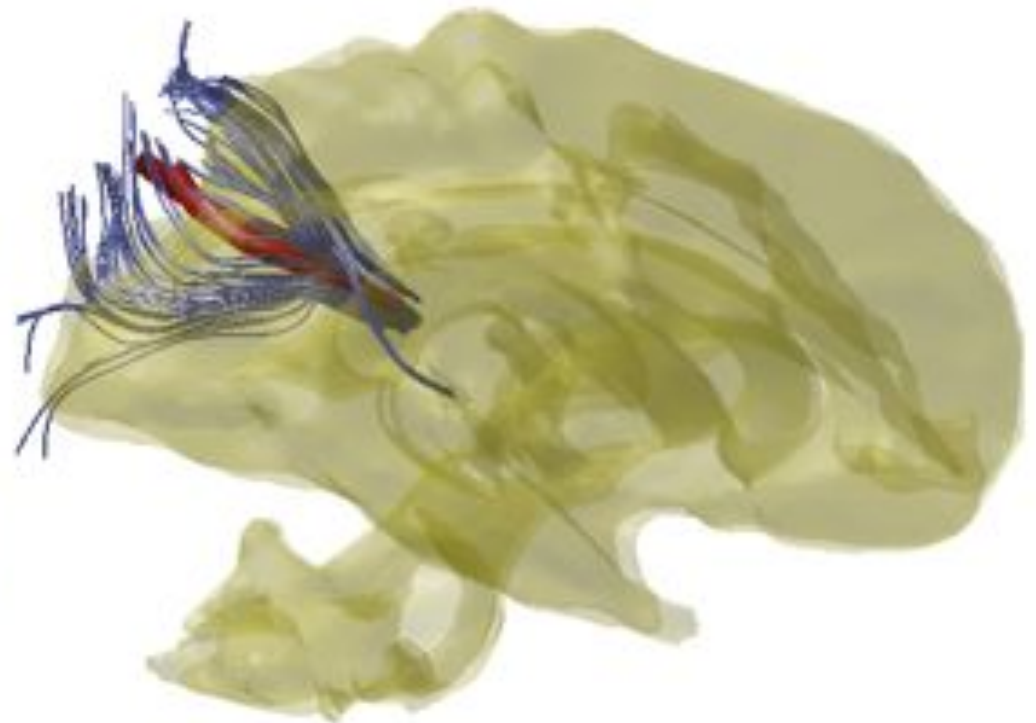
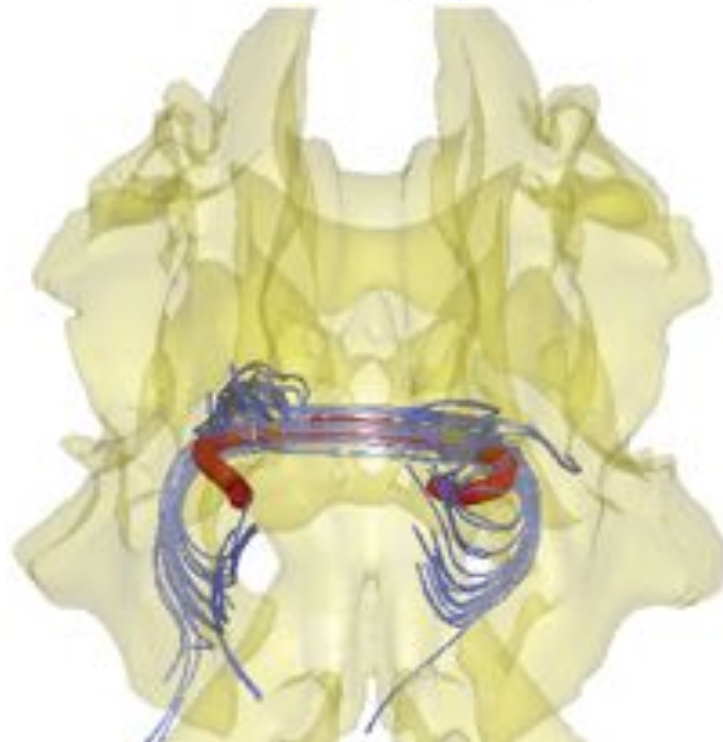
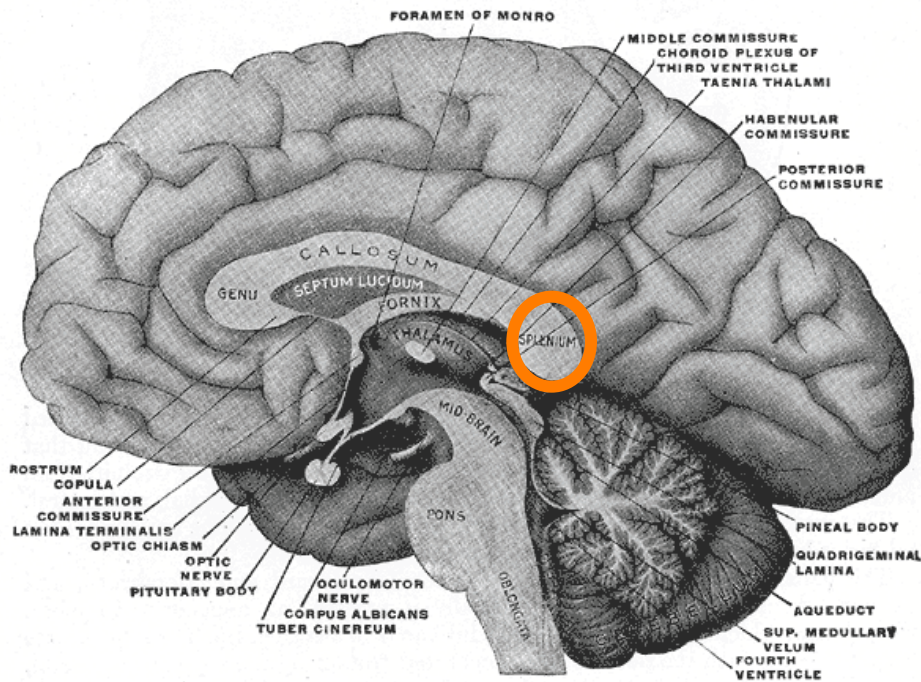
Tractography result  
0.5-1 million tracts

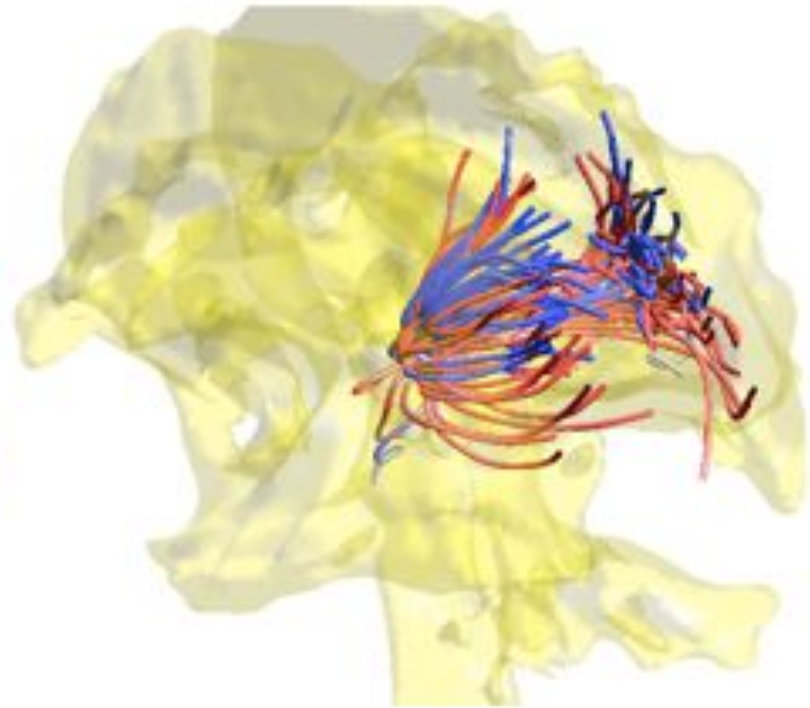
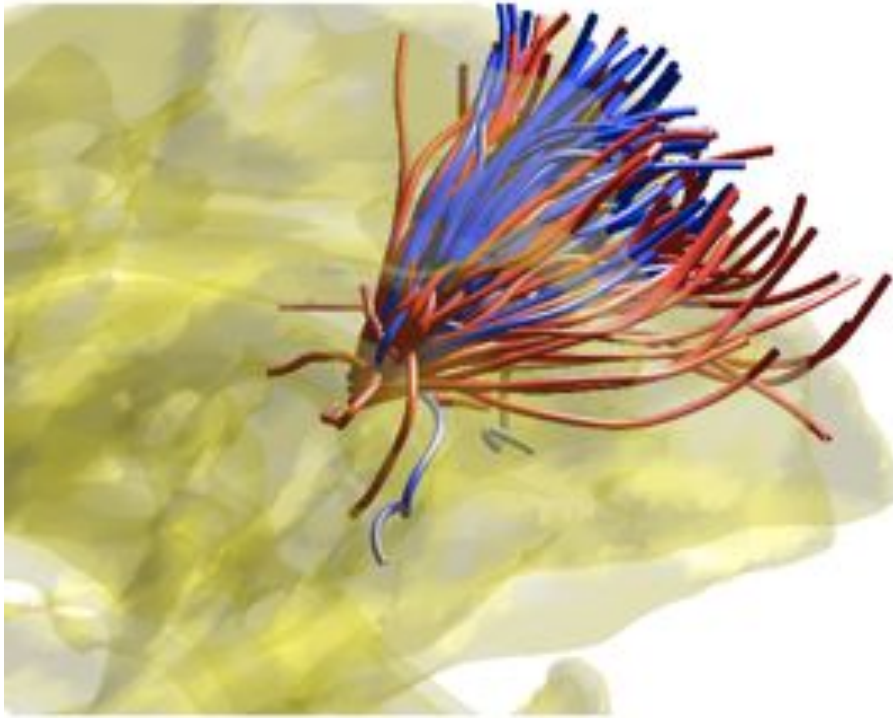


single tract → parameterization



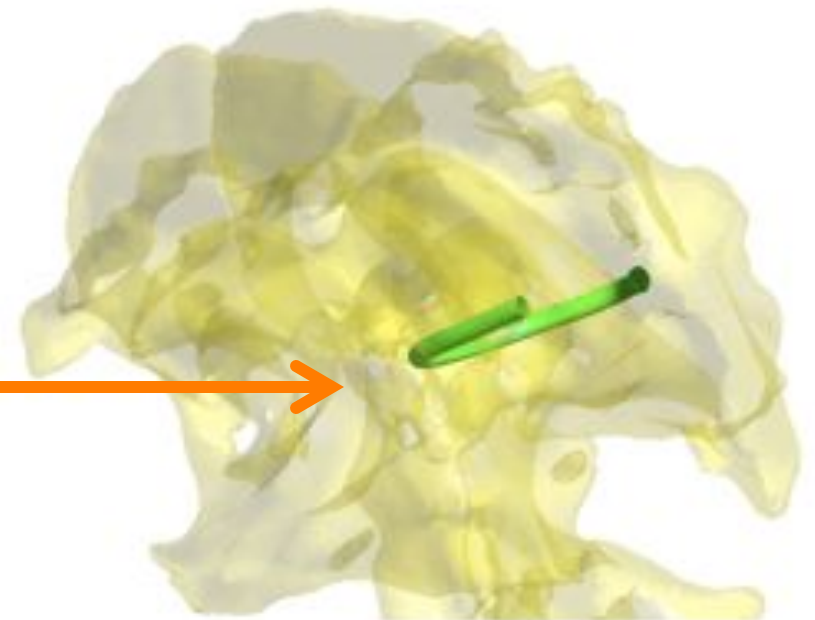
Tracts passing through the splenium of the corpus callosum





Average tracts across 74 subjects  
(42 autistic 32 control)

Average of average →



Read section 8.3



Limited number of literature on  
parametric model of white fiber tracts

Clayden et al. IEEE TMI 2007

Cubic B-spline is used to model and match tracts.

*:computational nightmare*

Batchelor et al. MRM 2006

Sine and cosine Fourier descriptors are used to extract global  
shape features for classification

*: cosine basis is sufficient*

# Orthonormal basis in $[0,1]$

$$\Delta f + \lambda f = 0$$

Eigenfunctions form orthonormal basis



With periodic constraint

$$f(t + 2) = f(t)$$

$$\sin(l\pi t), \cos(l\pi t)$$

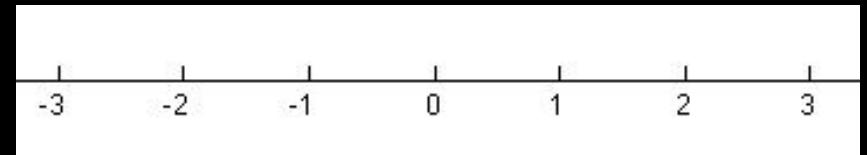


Additional symmetric constraint

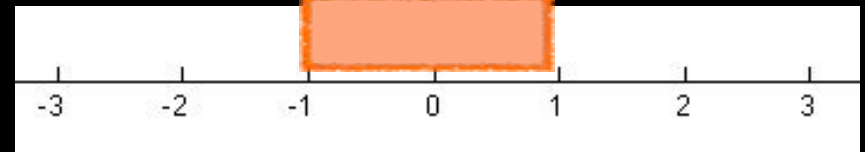
$$f(t) = f(-t)$$



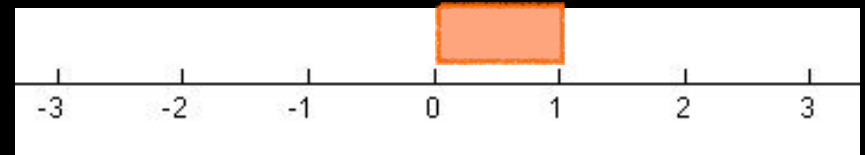
$$\lambda_l = -l^2\pi^2$$
$$\psi_0 = 1, \psi_l = \sqrt{2} \cos(l\pi t)$$



Make it only  
valid in  $[-1,1]$



Make it only  
valid in  $[0,1]$



## Fourier analysis in $[0,1]$

$$\psi_0 = 1, \psi_l = \sqrt{2} \cos(l\pi t)$$

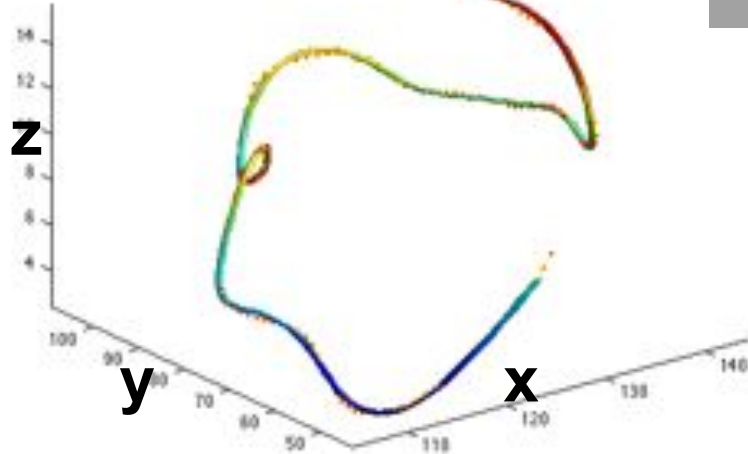
$$\sum_{l=0}^k f_l \psi_l(t) \rightarrow f$$

$$f_l = \langle f, \psi_l \rangle = \int_0^1 f(t) \psi_l(t) dt$$

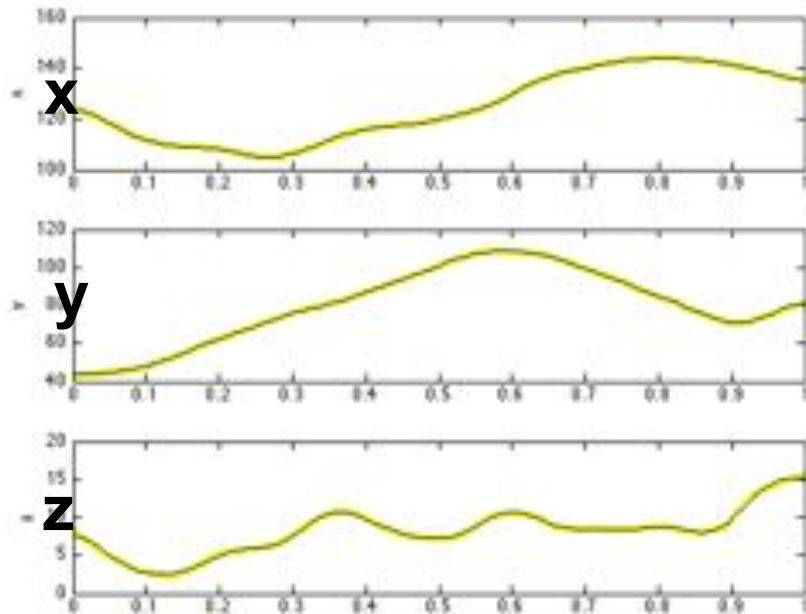
This integral can be computed  
by matrix inversion



# White matter fiber tract model



parameterization



88.1799	56.6336	5.7367
-12.4775	-11.2552	-2.0791
2.4336	-15.4428	-0.4021
4.3956	2.2733	-0.9354
-0.0106	-0.0674	0.6999
2.1773	-2.4194	-0.1176
0.5808	0.8390	1.2942
0.0615	-0.1893	0.1188
-0.2629	0.7524	0.1089
0.7909	-0.7276	-0.1901
0.5458	0.6236	0.6939
0.4295	-0.4337	0.2185
0.2150	0.4157	0.0254
0.1584	-0.1973	0.0762
-0.1557	0.2466	-0.1086
0.0632	-0.0978	-0.0208
0.0389	-0.0143	-0.0284
-0.0014	-0.1193	0.1970
0.0004	0.0129	-0.0198
0.1342	0.0002	0.0260

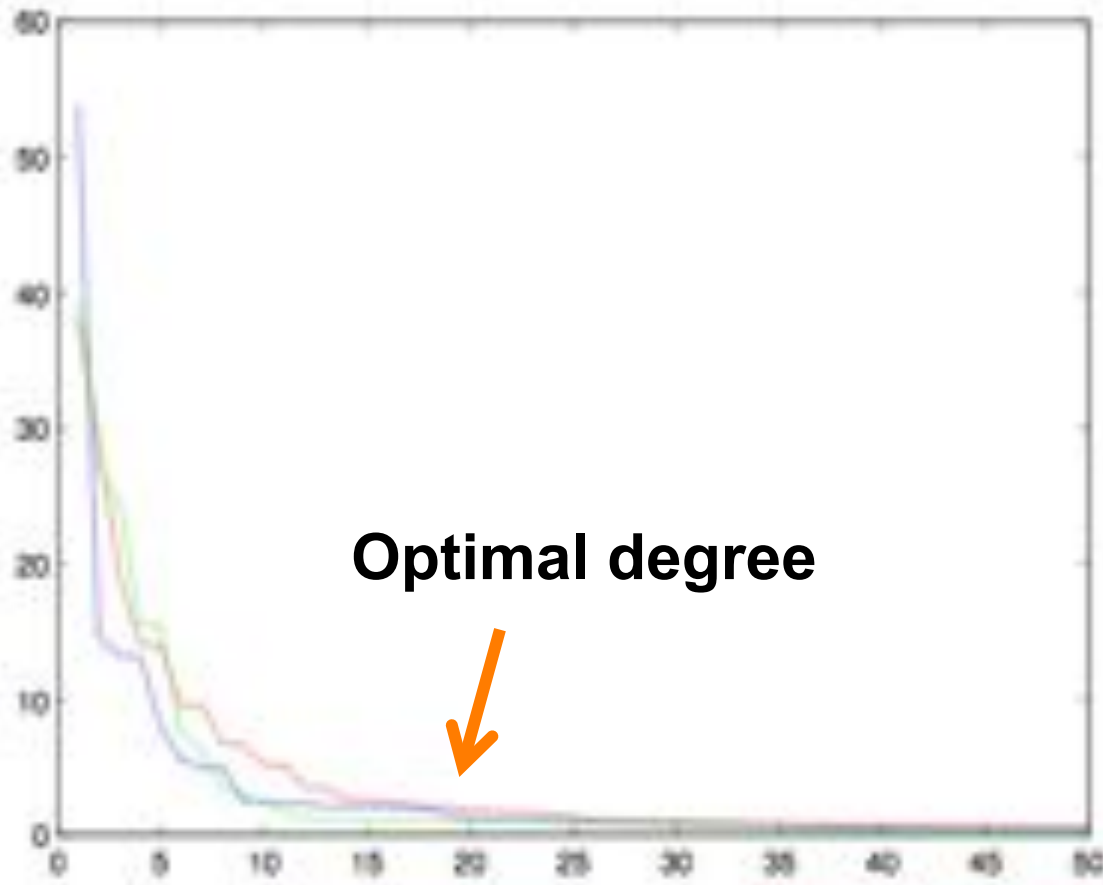
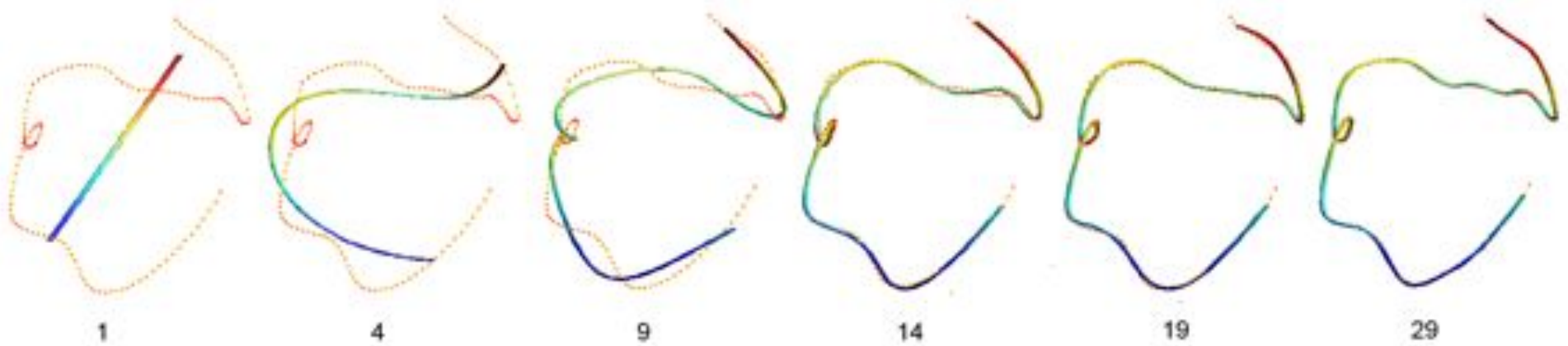
Any tract can be compactly parameterized with only 60 coefficients.

Tract registration is done by matching these parameters.

basis expansion

$$(x, y, z)' = \sum_{l=0}^{19} \beta_l \cos(l\pi t)$$

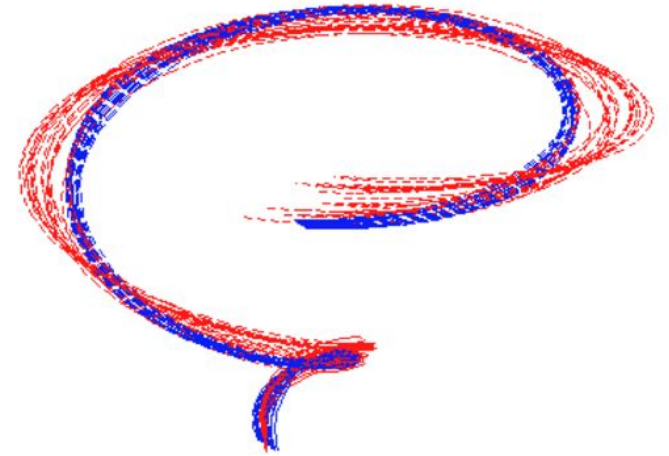
# Cosine series representation



**Optimal degree  
chosen using the  
forward model  
selection method.**

# Random Simulation of curves

We have performed a simulation study to proposed framework can detect small tract between two collection of similarly shaped the parametric curve



$$(18) \quad (x, y, z) = (s \sin s, s \cos s, s), s \in [0, 10]$$

as a basis for simulation, we have generated two groups of random curves. This gives a shape of a spiral with increasing radius along the  $z$ -axis. The first group consists of 20 curves generated by

$$(x, y, z) = (s \sin(s + e_1), s \cos(s + e_2), s + e_3),$$

where  $e_1, e_2, e_3 \sim N(0, 1)$ . The second group consists of 20 curves generated by

$$(x, y, z) = ((s + e_4) \sin(s + 0.1), (s + e_5) \cos(s - 0.1), s - 0.1),$$

where  $e_4, e_5 \sim N(0, 0.2^2)$ . The non-additive noise is given



# **MATLAB**

# **Demonstration**

# Corpus callosum boundary



Partial Volume Effect & discretization error

# Level Set Method

- Developed by Osher and Sethian in 1980's.
- It is a numerical method for propagating the boundary of an object.
- Mainly used in segmenting objects in an image.
- Idea: Start with an initial closed curve in a region, and represent it as an expanding front satisfying Hamilton-Jacobi equation.

Read section 2.3



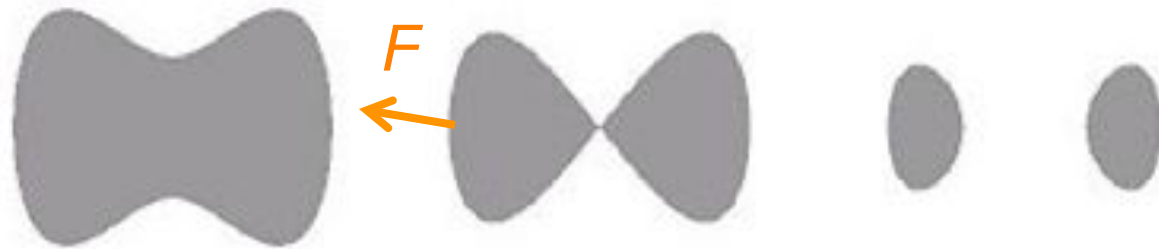


Zero level set of a function defines a closed boundary

$$\psi(x, y) = 0$$

# Hamilton-Jacobi equation

The boundary moves in the normal direction with speed function  $F$ :

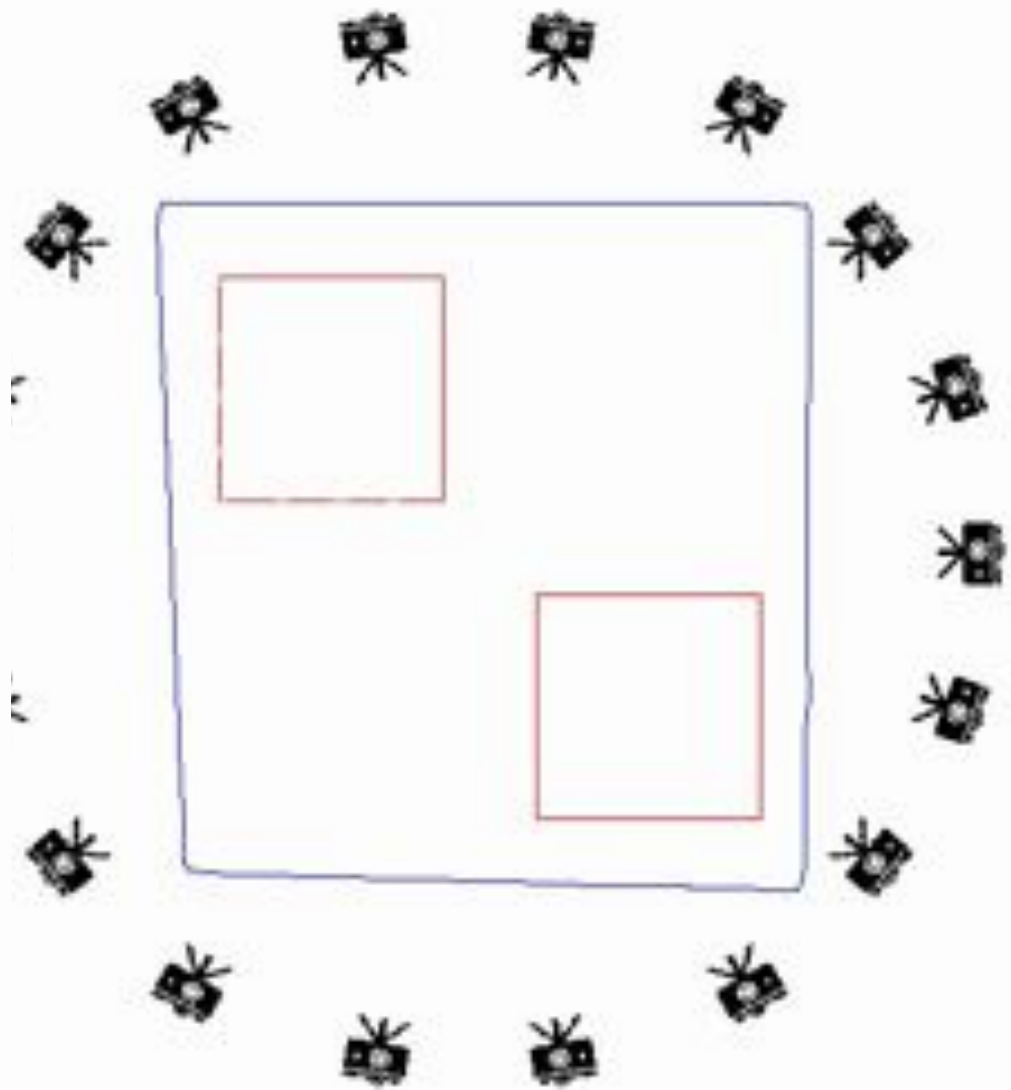


$$\psi_t + F(x, y) |\nabla \psi| = 0$$

signed distance  
function to the  
boundary

Propagation speed  
of the boundary

MATLAB: [http://barissumengen.com/level\\_set\\_methods/](http://barissumengen.com/level_set_methods/)

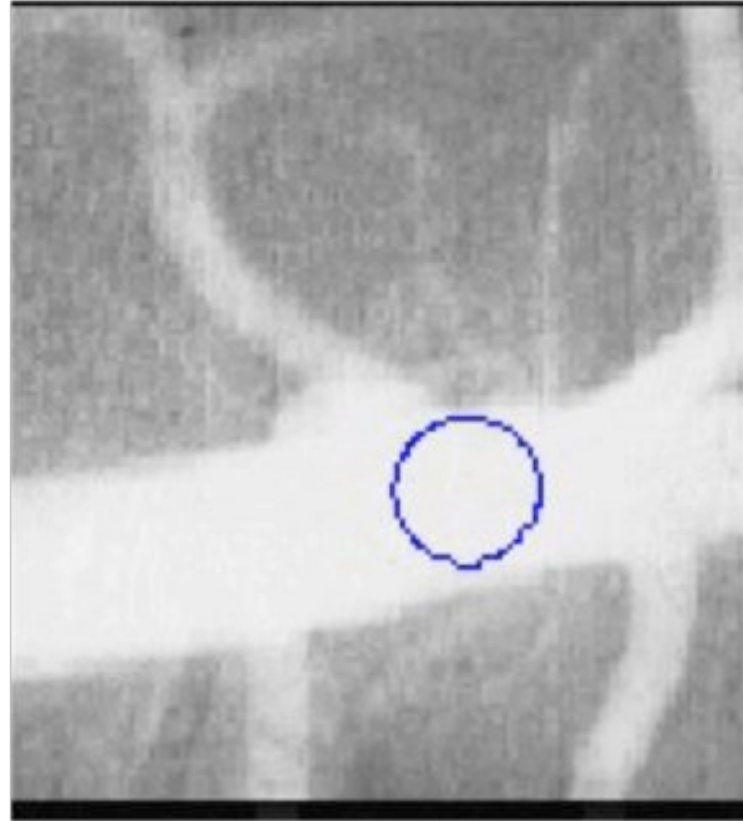


*Fan Ding*

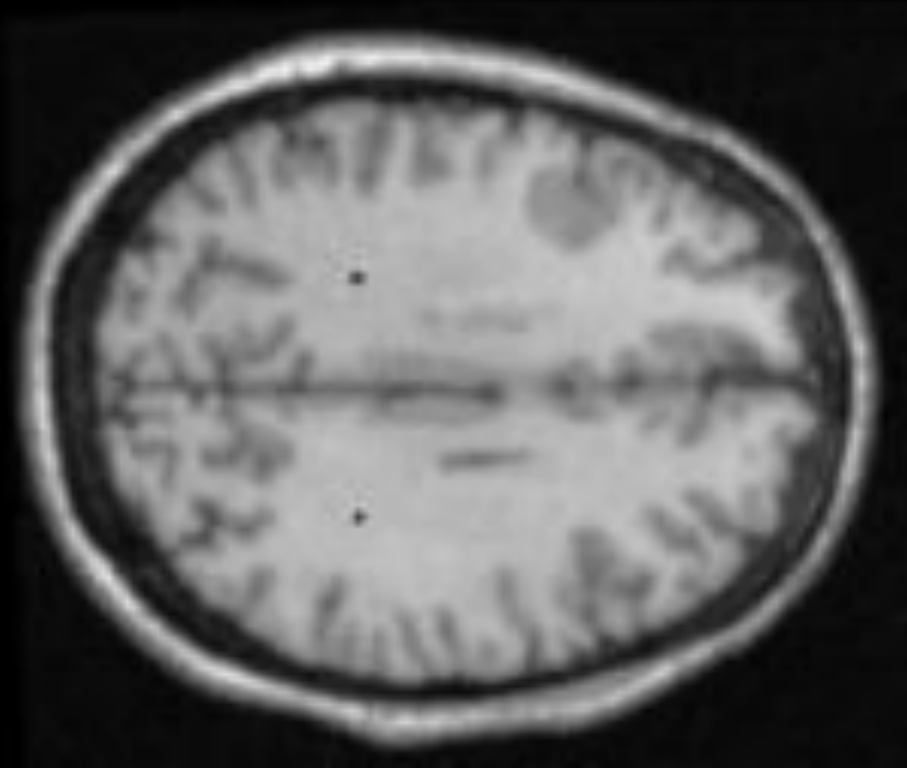
Vein segmentation



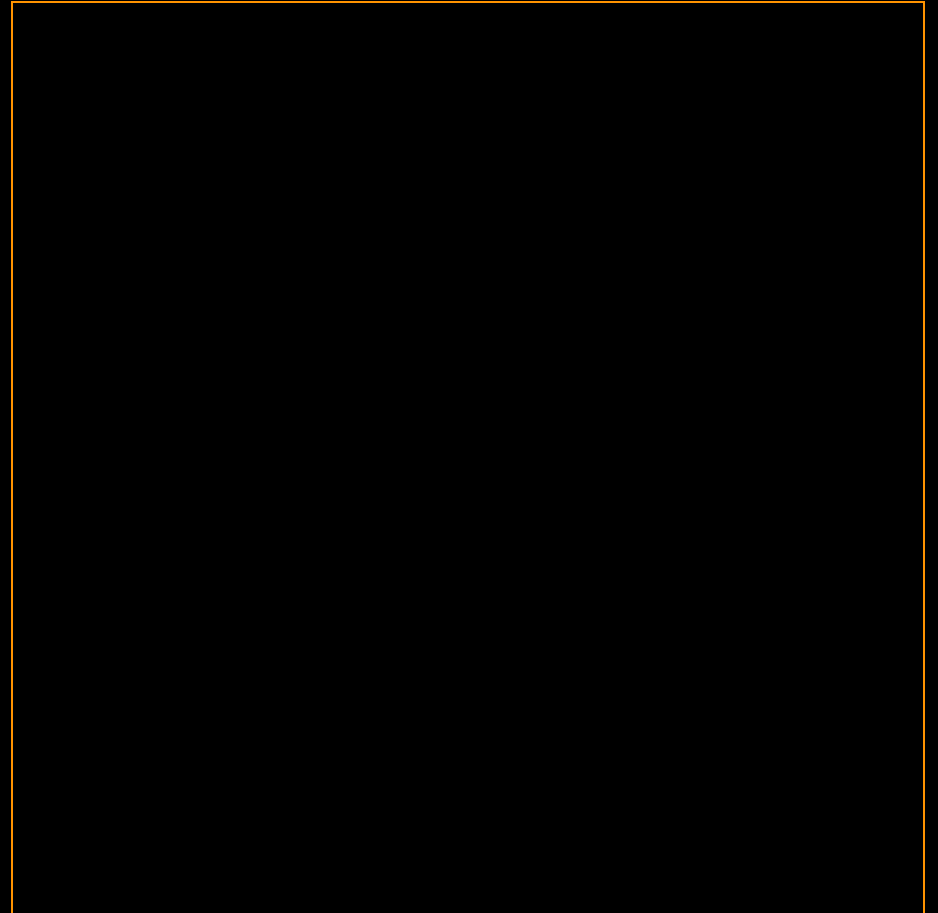
Sethian's result



White matter segmentation

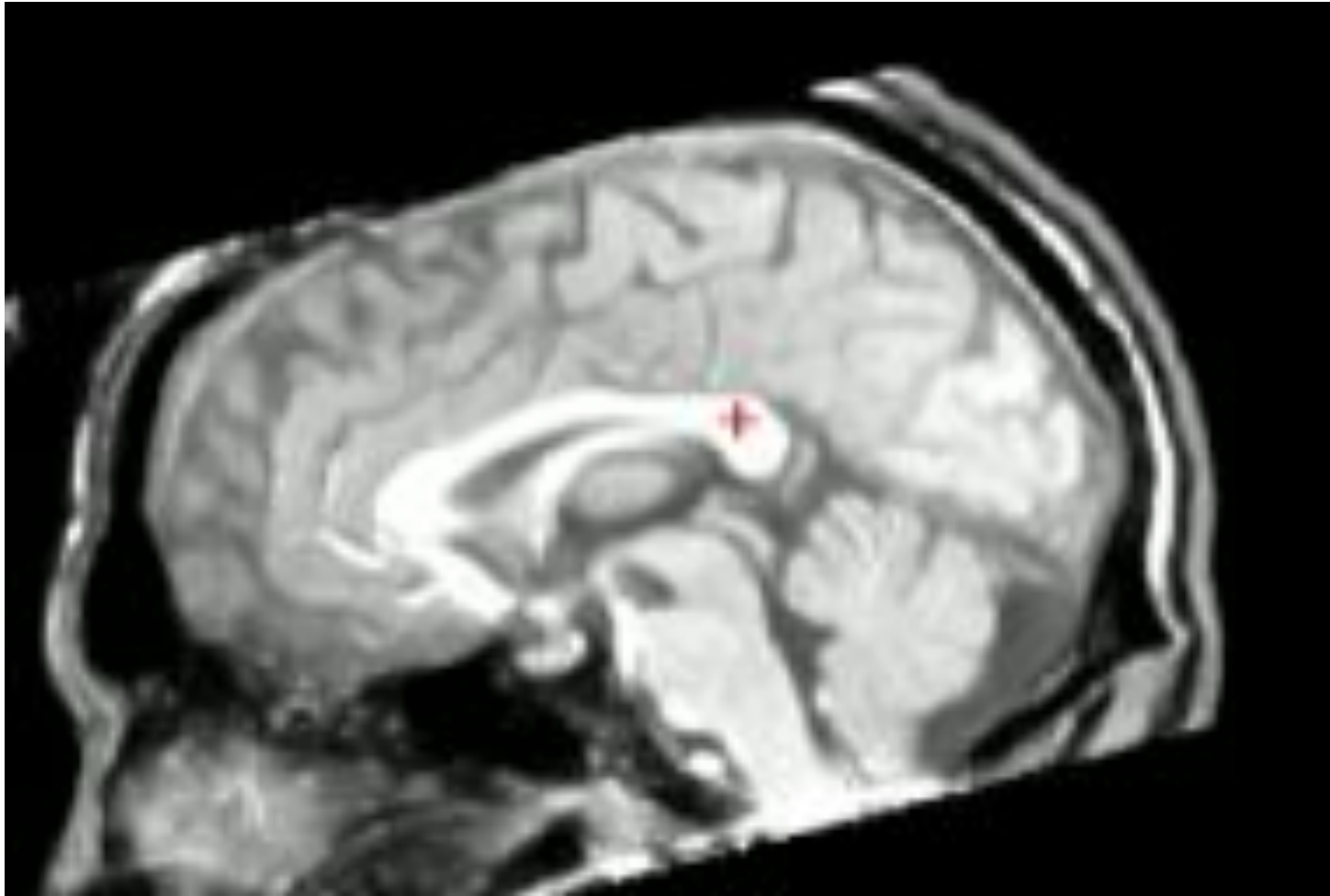


Inner surface extraction





## Corpus callosum boundary segmentation



*Tomas Hoffman*

# Taubin's surface & curve fairing approach

$$x' = x + \lambda \Delta x \quad 0 < \lambda < 1$$

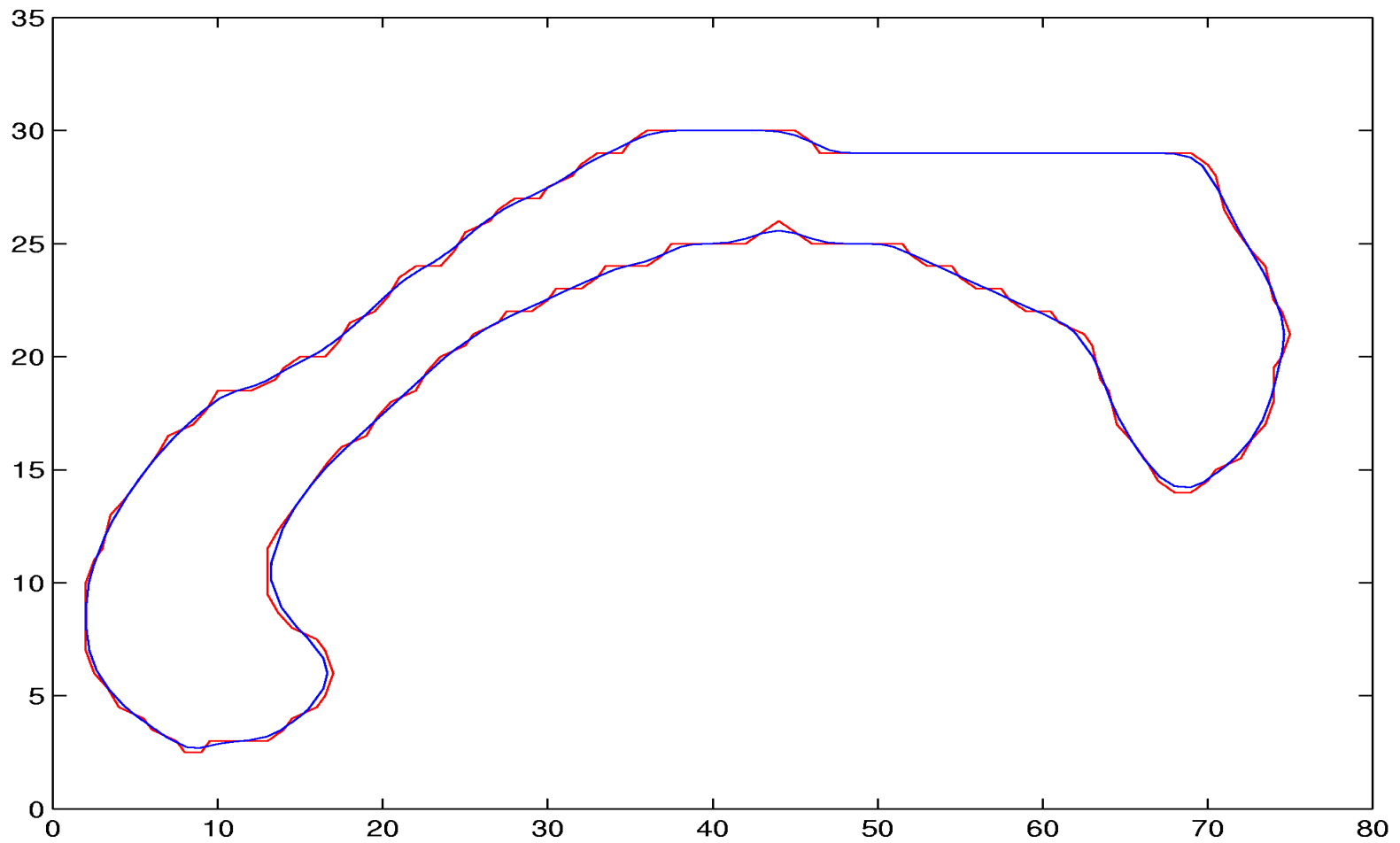
 Laplacian

$$\Delta x = -Kx \quad K = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 2 & -1 & & -1 \\ -1 & 2 & -1 & \\ & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ -1 & & -1 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

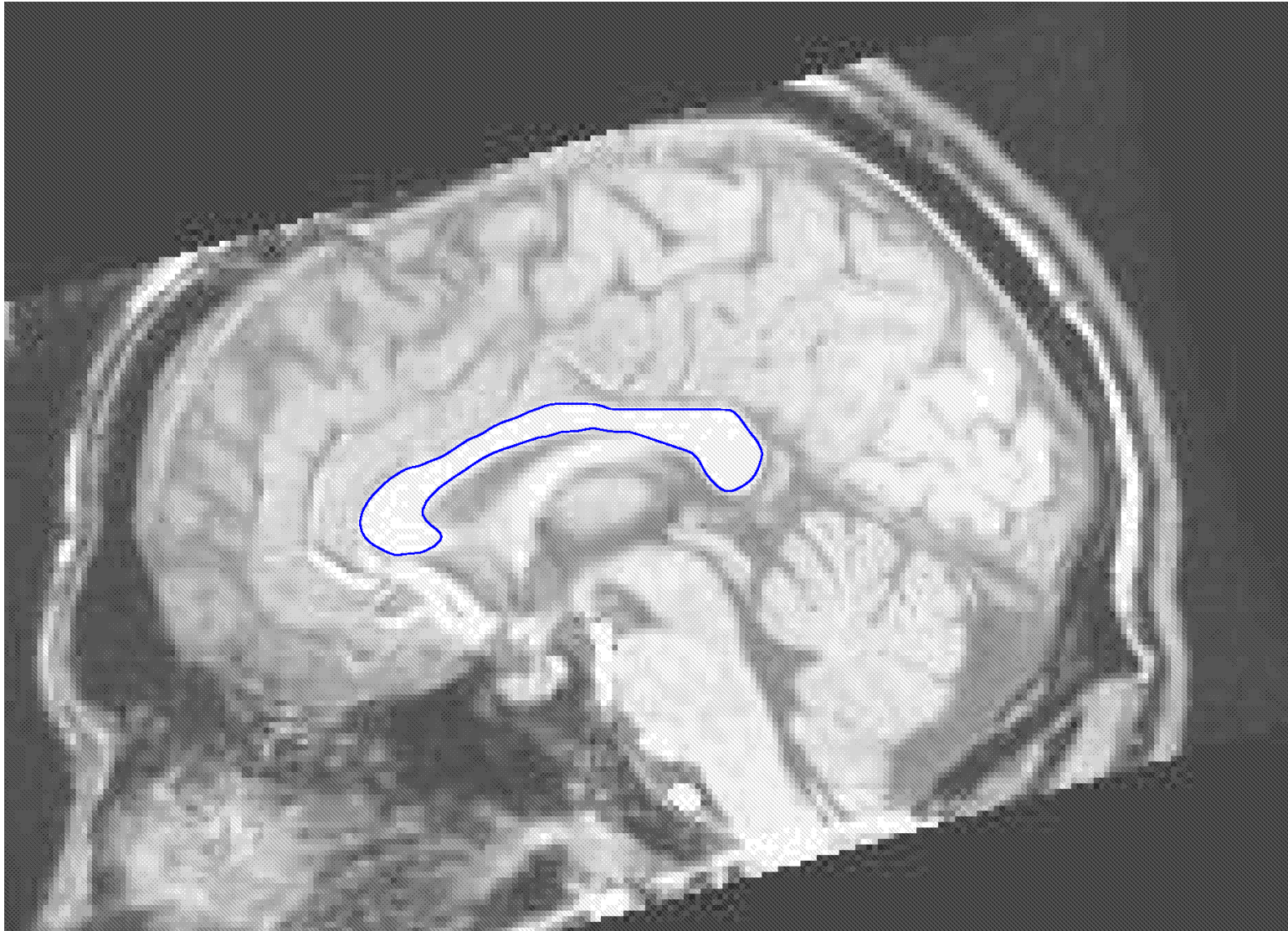
$$x' = (I - \lambda K)x$$

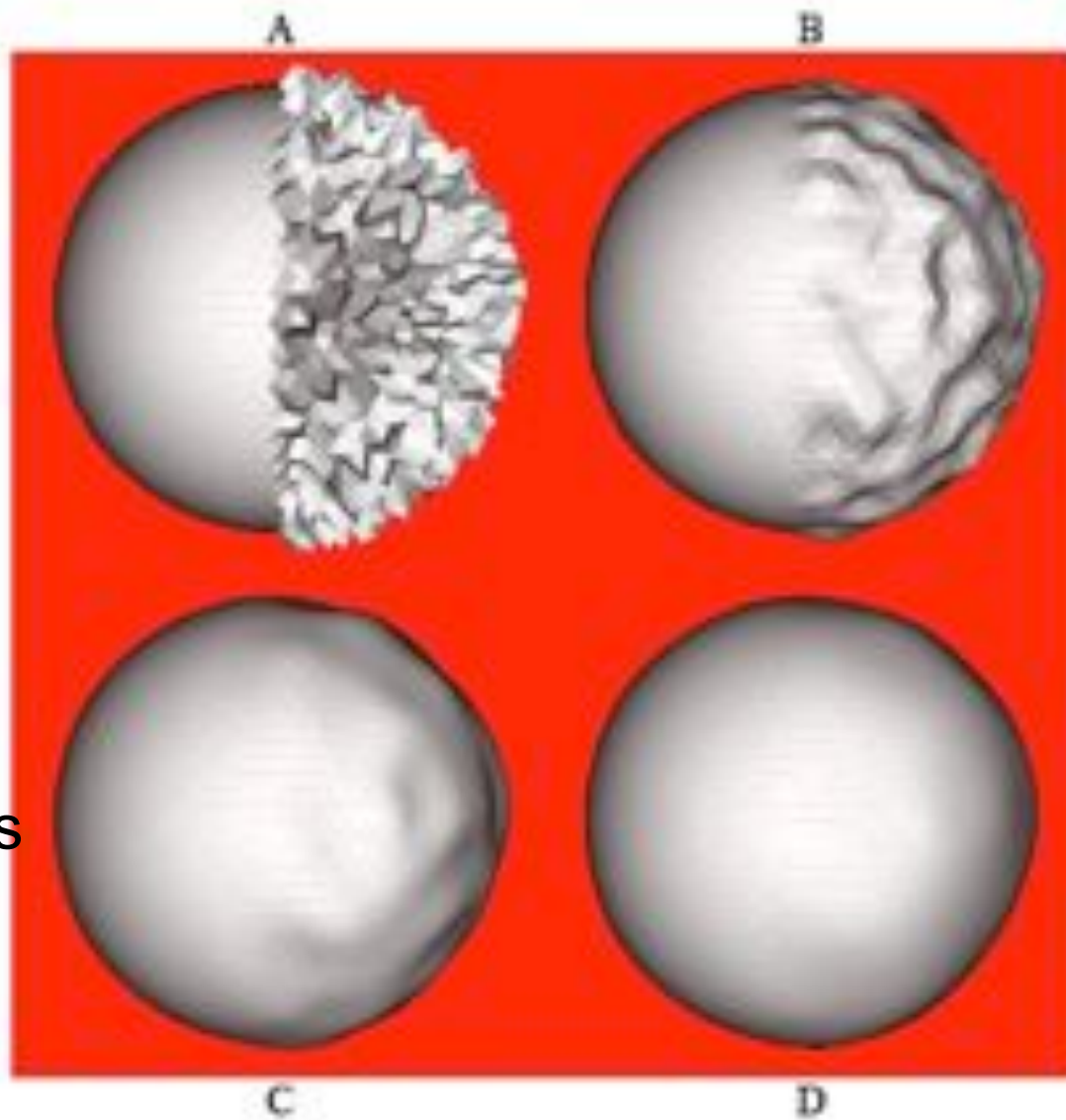
Read [taubin.1995.pdf](#)

# Smoothing Results



# Taubin's curve fairing





10 iterations

50 iterations

200 iterations



A



B



C



D



A



B



C



D



# **MATLAB**

# **Demonstration**

# Snake (active contour)

Active Contour (snake): Kass et al. in 1987

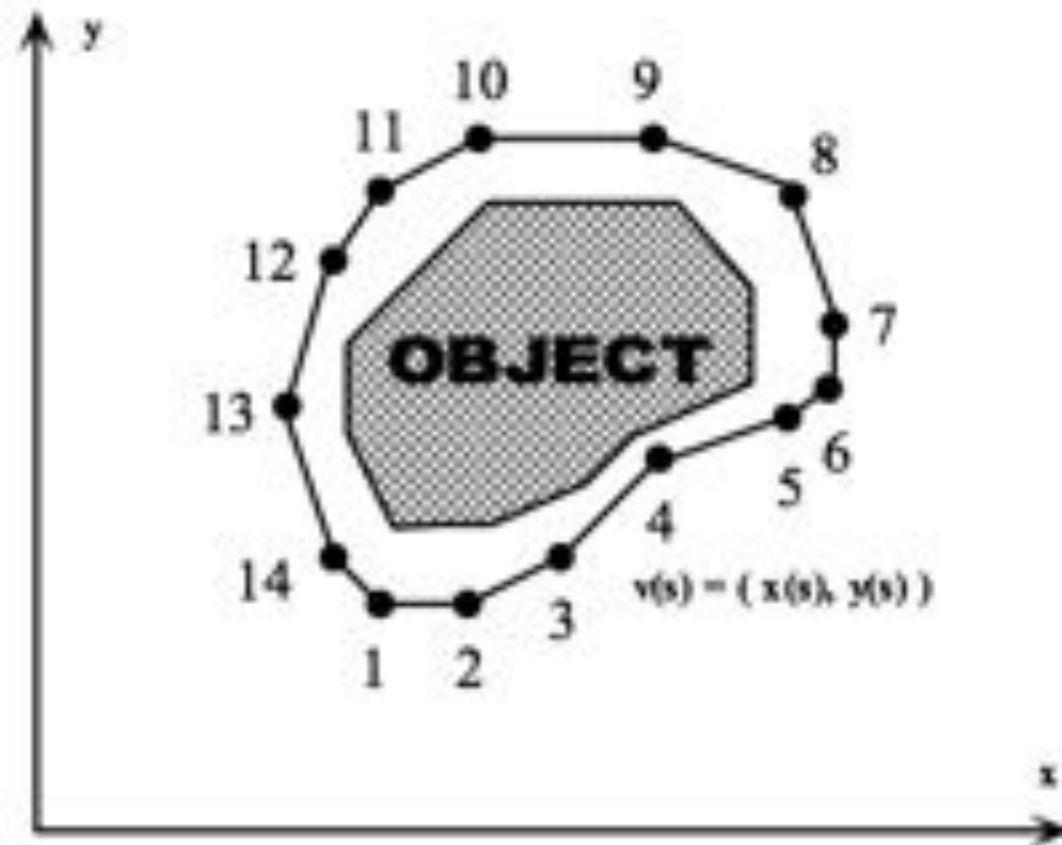
An ordered control points  $p_1, p_2, \dots, p_n$  that will capture the boundary of an anatomical object

We move these control points such that they minimizes a certain energy

Read section 2.3

MATLAB <http://www.iacI.ece.jhu.edu/static/gvf/>

# Basic form of active contour

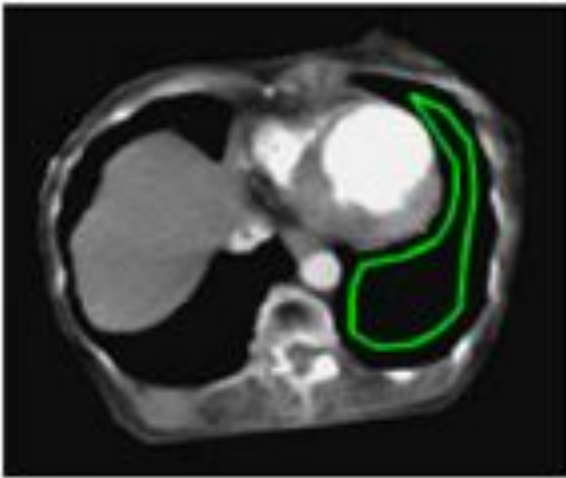




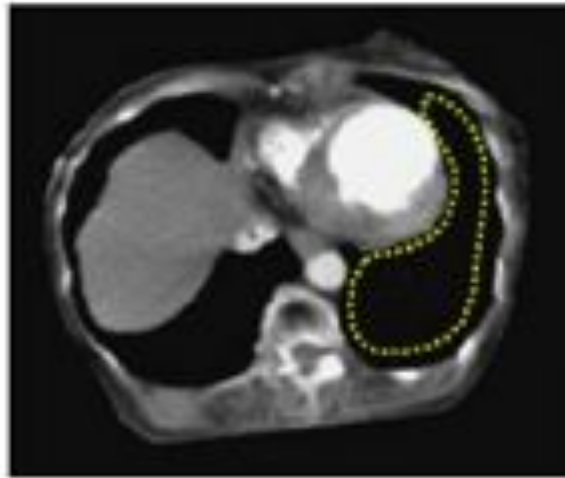
# Snake movement



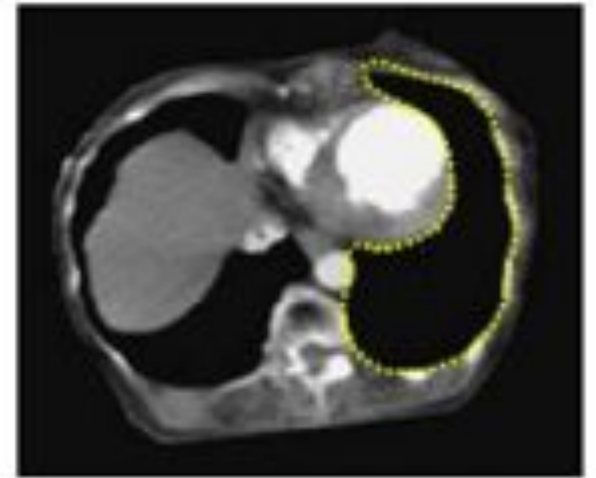
# Active contour in action



**Initialization**

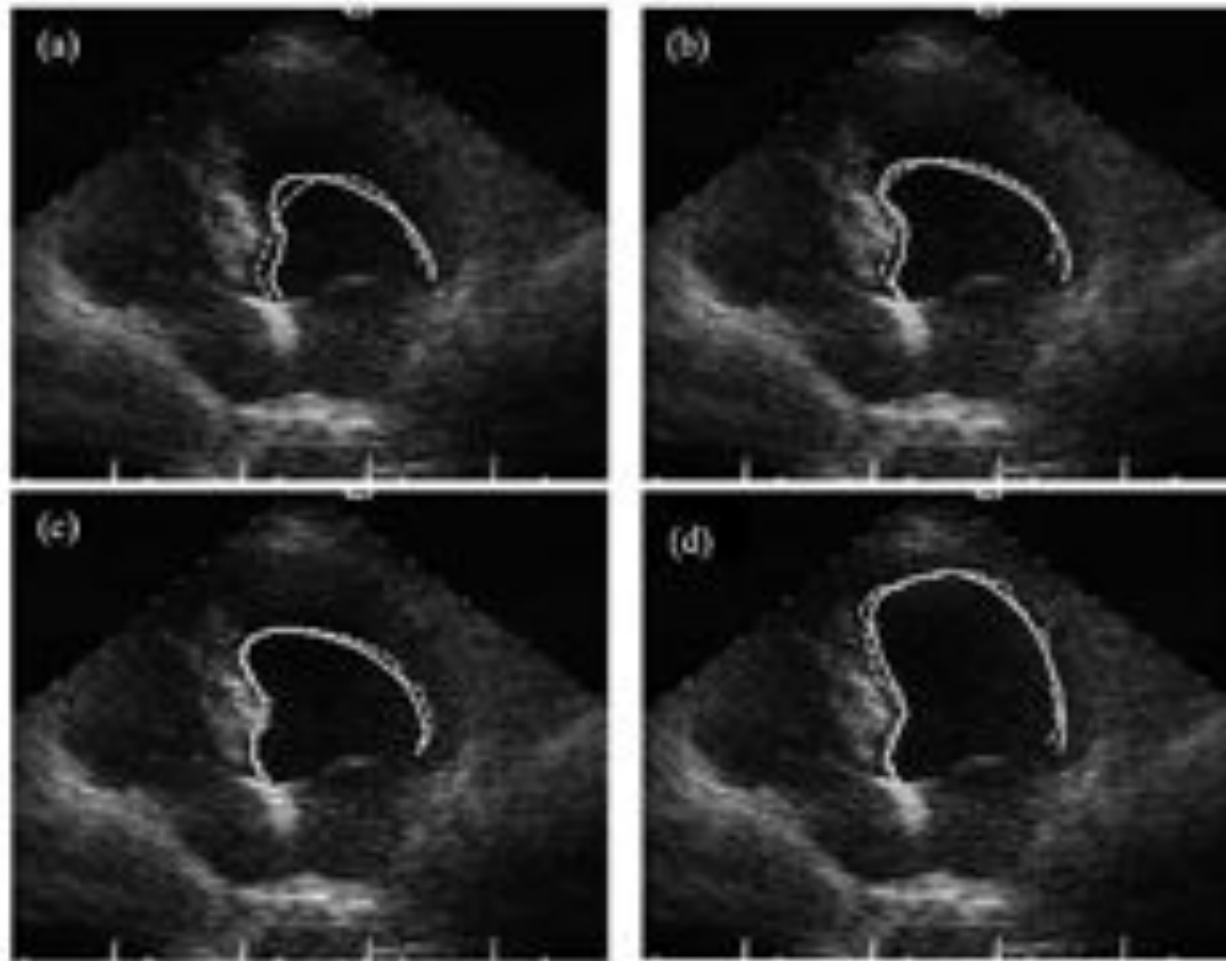


**5th iteration**



**15th iteration**

# Ultrasound image example



# Minimization of energy

Parameterization of boundary C

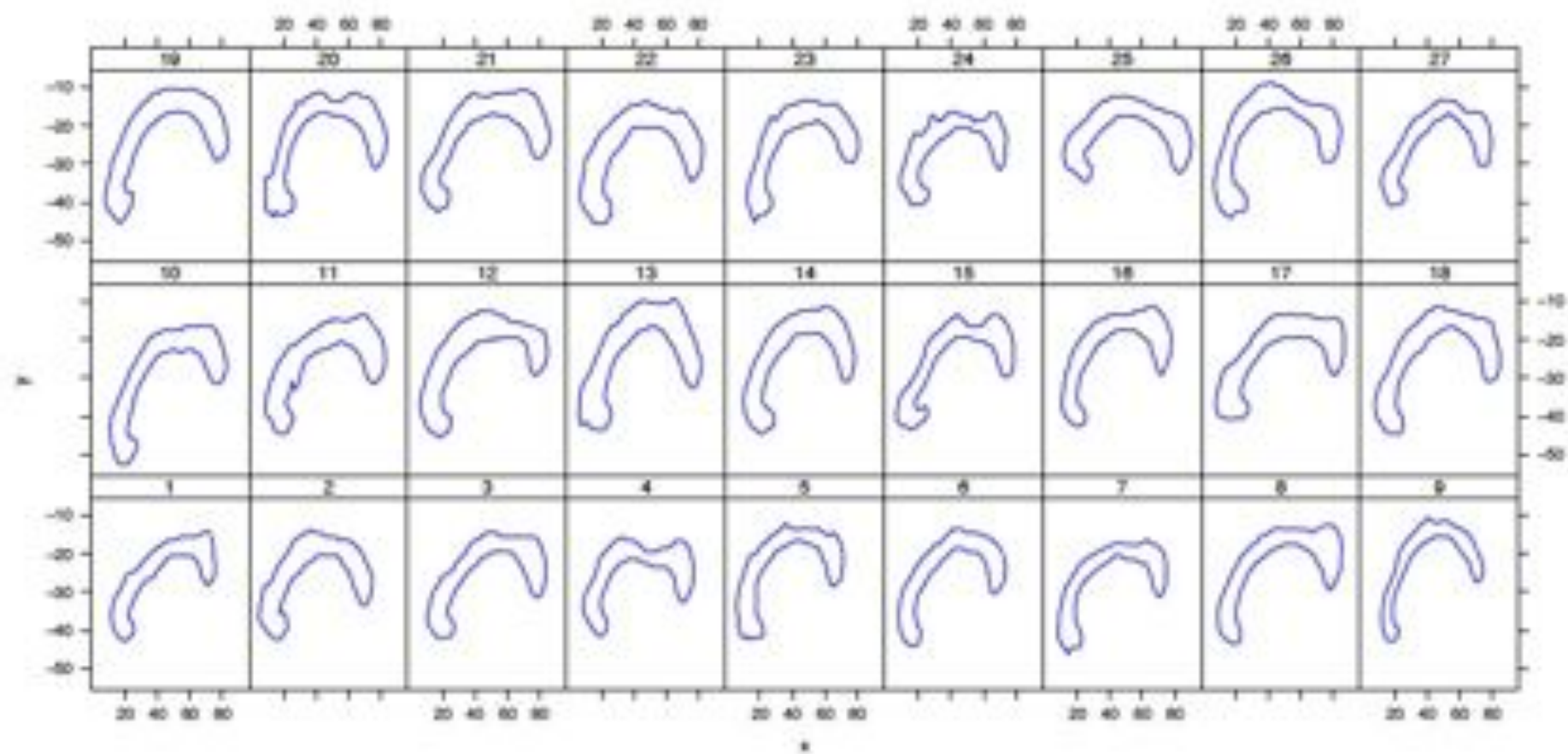
$$E(C) = \alpha \int |X'(p)|^2 + \beta \int |X''(p)| - \lambda \int |\nabla I(X(p))|$$

Internal Energy                      External Energy

Euler-Lagrange equation:

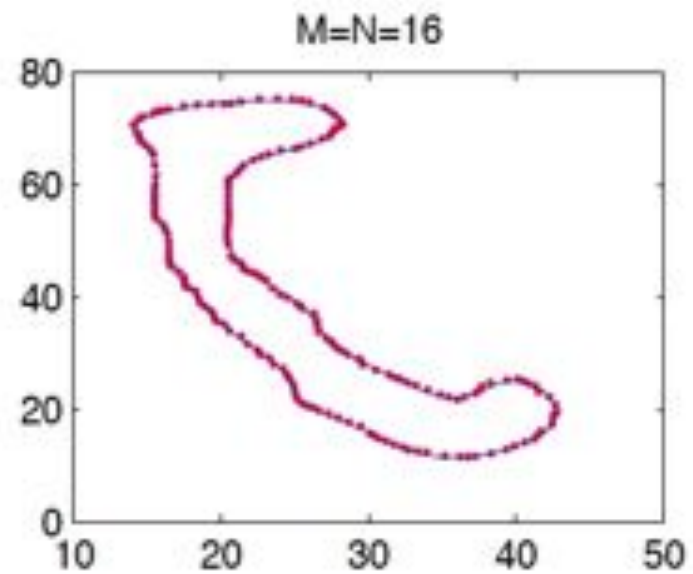
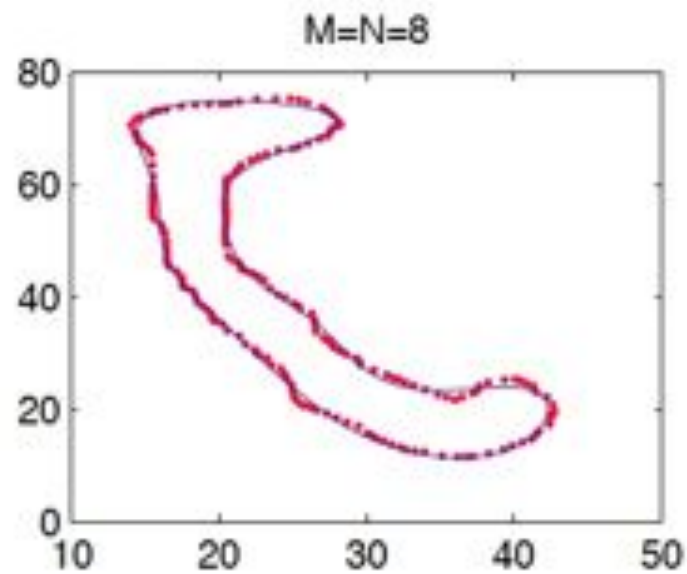
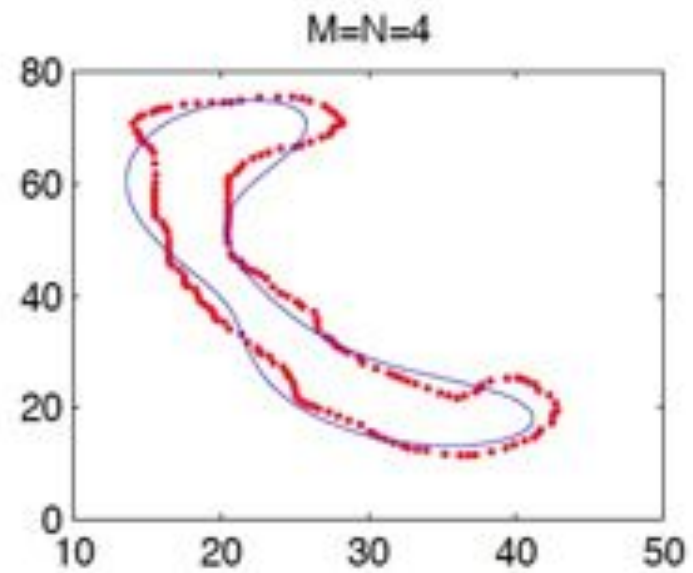
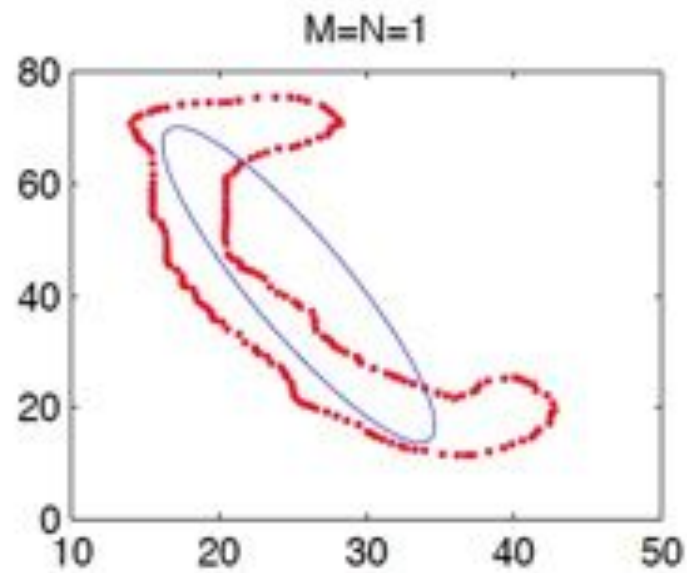
$$-\frac{d}{dp}(\alpha X') + \frac{d^2}{dp^2}(\beta X'') - \lambda \Delta I(X) = 0.$$

The equation is solved numerically  
by the finite difference scheme.



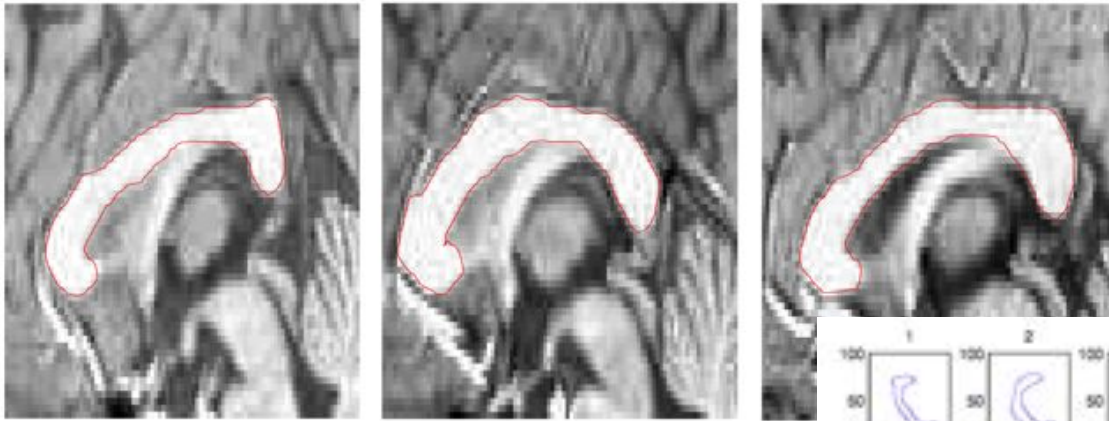


## Fourier series representation of closed curves

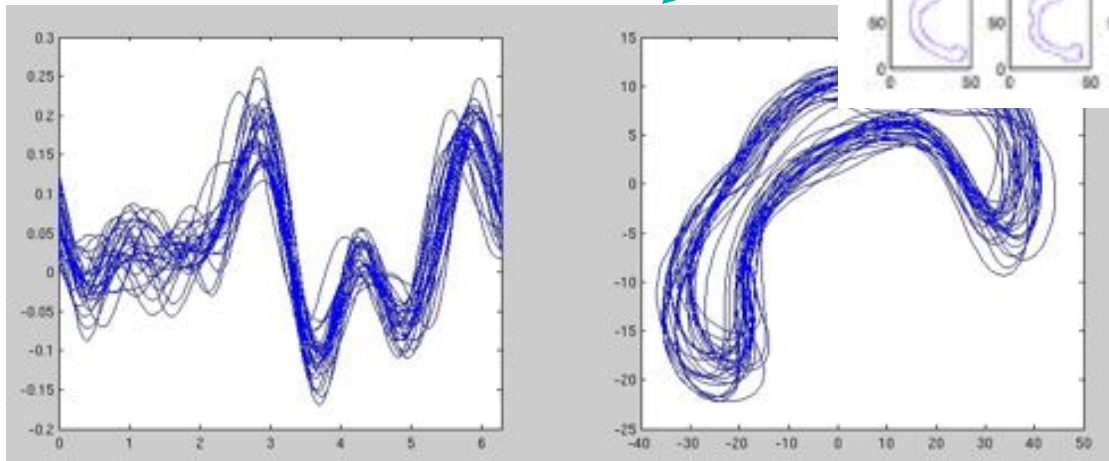
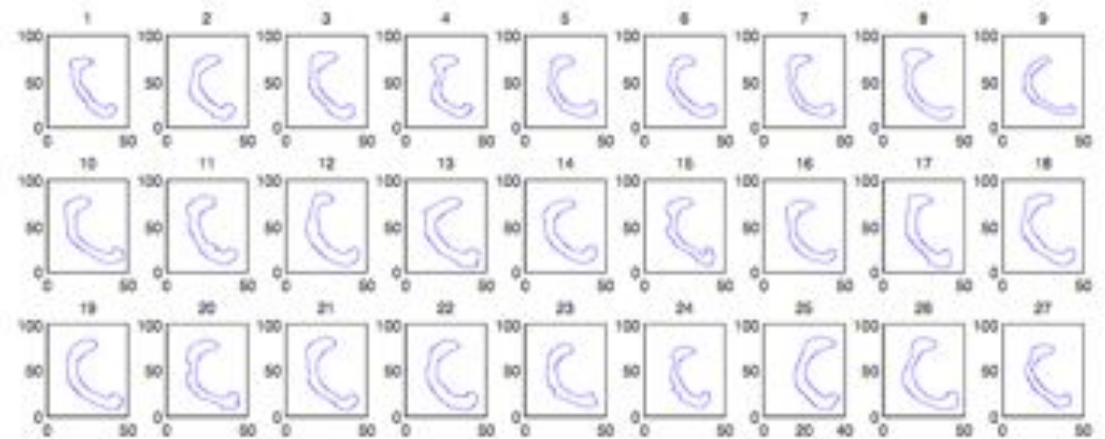


# Application: corpus callosum shape classification

Shubing Wang



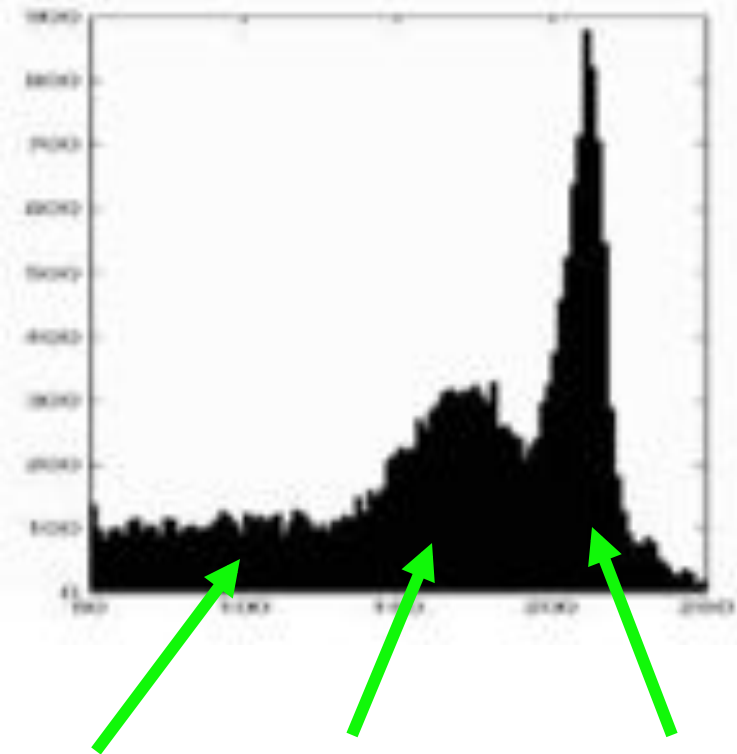
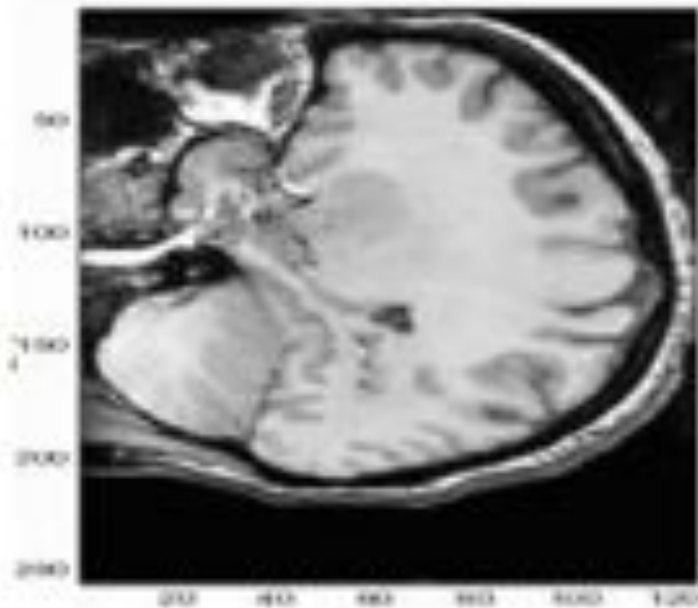
Parameterization  
normalization



Classification  
Data analysis

Other segmentation techniques

# Segmentation by image intensity histogram



CSF   gray matter   white matter

# Gaussian mixture model

$$f(y) = pf_1(y) + (1 - p)f_2(y)$$

$$f_1(y) \approx N(\mu_1, \sigma_1^2)$$

$$f_2(y) \approx N(\mu_2, \sigma_2^2)$$

$p$  = mixing proportion

Parameters are estimated by MLE

# Maximum likelihood function

$$L = \prod_{i=1}^n [pf_1(y_i) + (1-p)f_2(y_i)]$$

$$\log L = \sum_{i=1}^n \log[ pf_1(y_i) + (1-p)f_2(y_i) ]$$

Solve  $\frac{\partial \log L}{\partial p} = 0$  numerically

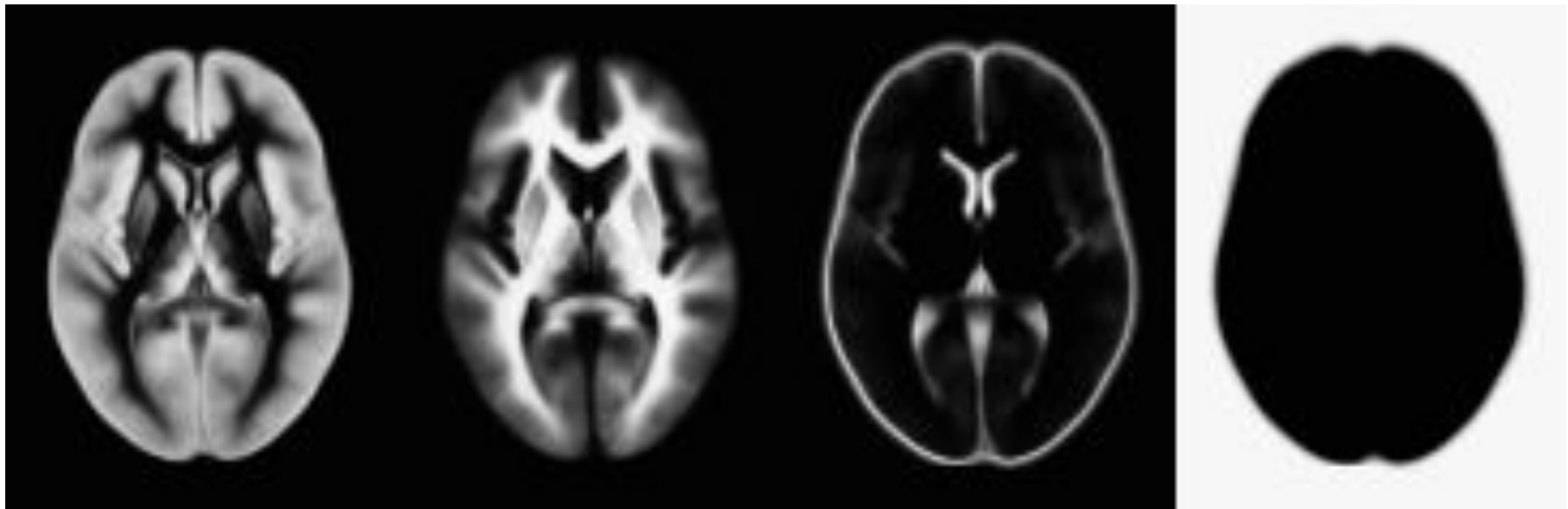


# Bayesian framework

- Once we obtained all parameters of the Gaussian mixture model, we can compute the posterior tissue probability map

# Bayesian framework

## Prior tissue probability maps



ICBM Tissue Probabilistic Atlases

Source: C. Phillips

# Bayes' theorem

- Posterior probability can be obtained from a prior probability

$$P(class | intensity) = \frac{P(intensity | class)P(class)}{\sum_{class} P(intensity | class)P(class)}$$

Likelihood

Prior map

: the probability obtaining image intensity given class.  
This can be obtained from our Gaussian mixture model

# Lecture 6

Graph theory & brain network analysis

Topological structure of point cloud data

Read

[chung.2010.SPIE...](#)

[singh.2007.topology....](#)