



# ***In vitro* layer-specific Diffusion Weighted Imaging in human primary visual cortex**

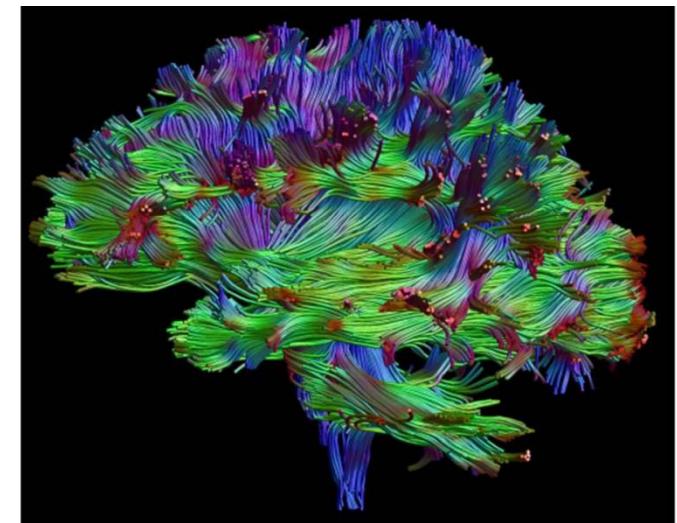
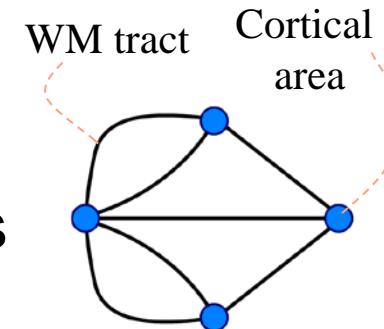
Michiel Kleinnijenhuis

Brain Circuitry and its Disorders

Doorwerth, 9 June 2011

# Networks...

- WM circuitry investigated with DWI:
- DWI tractography → anatomical networks
- Network analysis in disease
  - Stroke (Crofts et al., NI2010)
  - AD (He et al., JNS 2008)
  - Schizophrenia (Basset et al.)

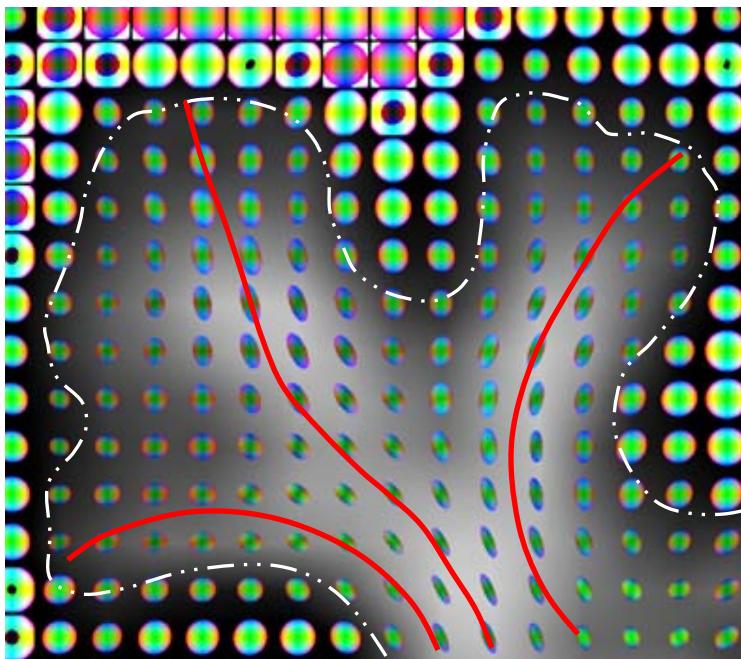


# Anisotropy

*anisotropic*  
“In the cortex, diffusion is ~~isotropic~~”

2 mm voxels

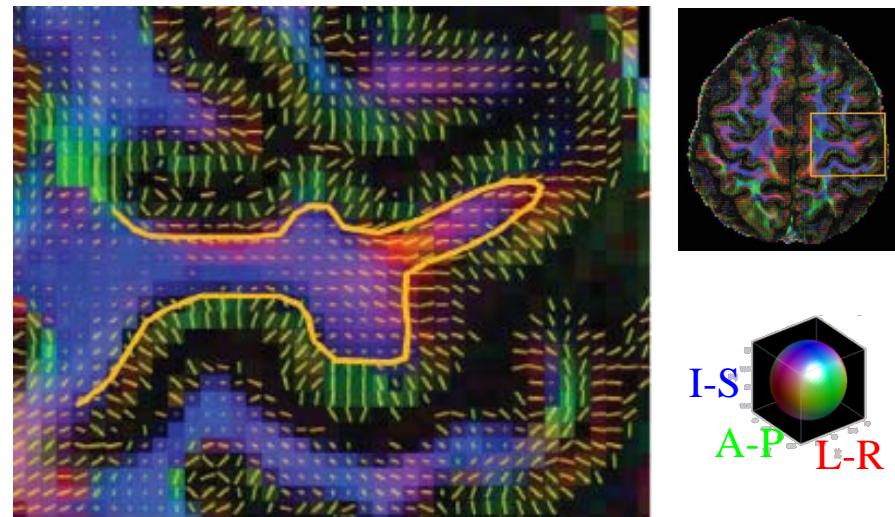
GM



WM

Sikma, K-J., Thesis defense, May 2011

1 mm voxels (7T system)



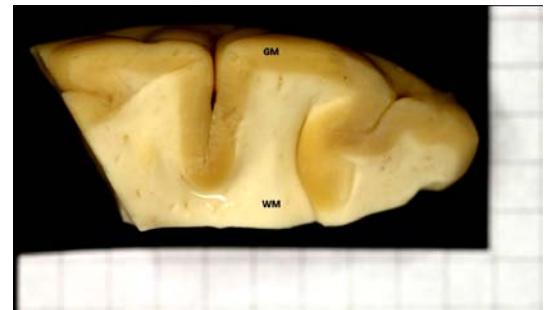
Heidemann et al., MRM 2010

# Hypothesis

- Cortical layers can be distinguished on the basis of their diffusion properties
- The stria of Gennari (V1) has a large tangential diffusion component

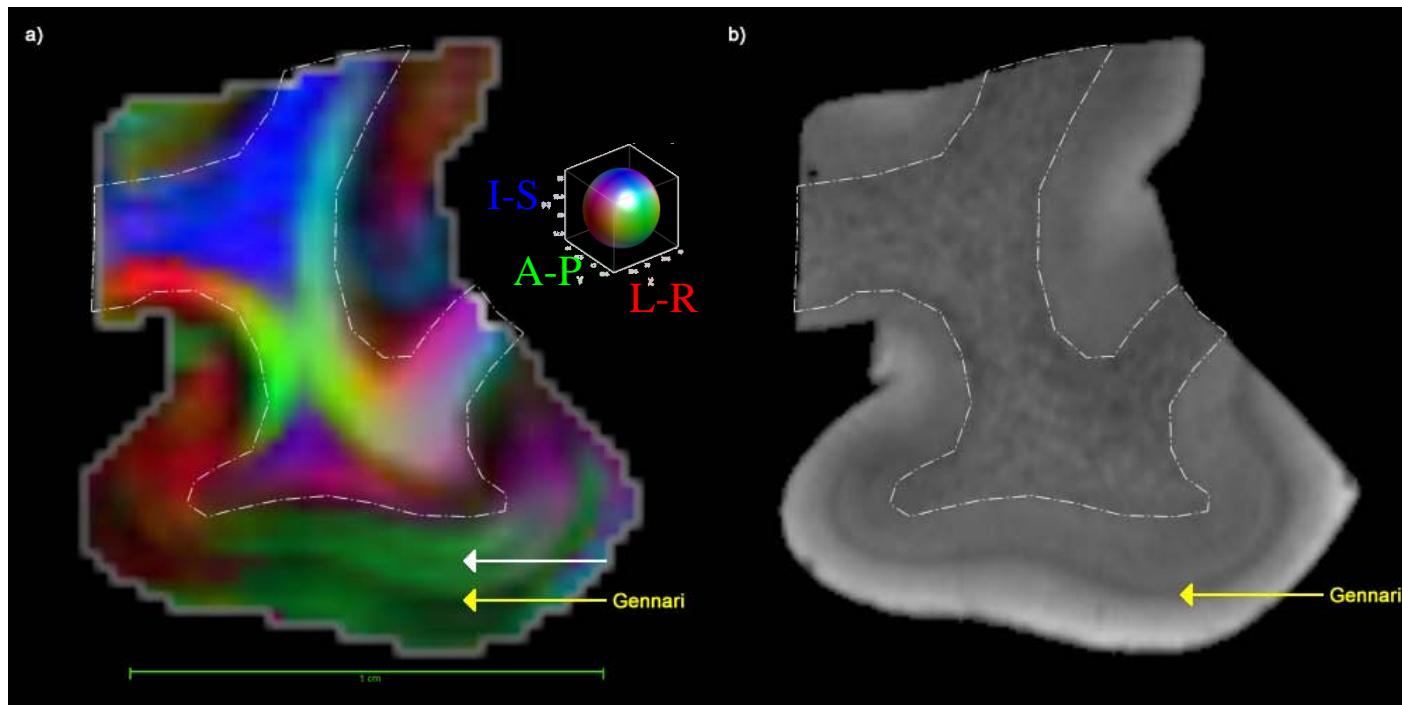
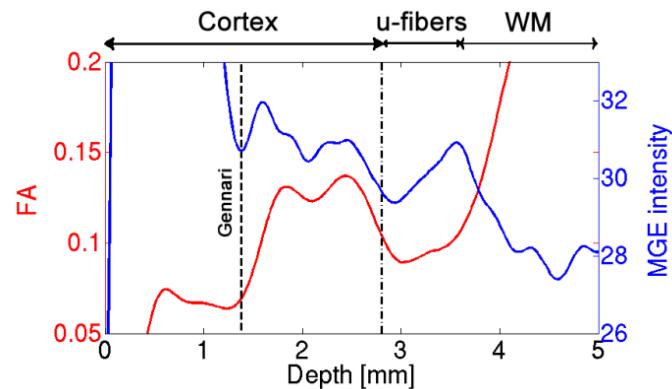
## Methods II: MRI

- Human brain tissue samples ( $1 \times 1 \times 3$  cm)
  - Cortex (V1) + WM;
  - post-mortem interval 15h
- MRI: 11.7 T animal system
  - DWI – 0.3 mm isotropic
  - Anatomical – 0.1 mm isotropic
- Histology: myelin stain, Luxol Fast Blue



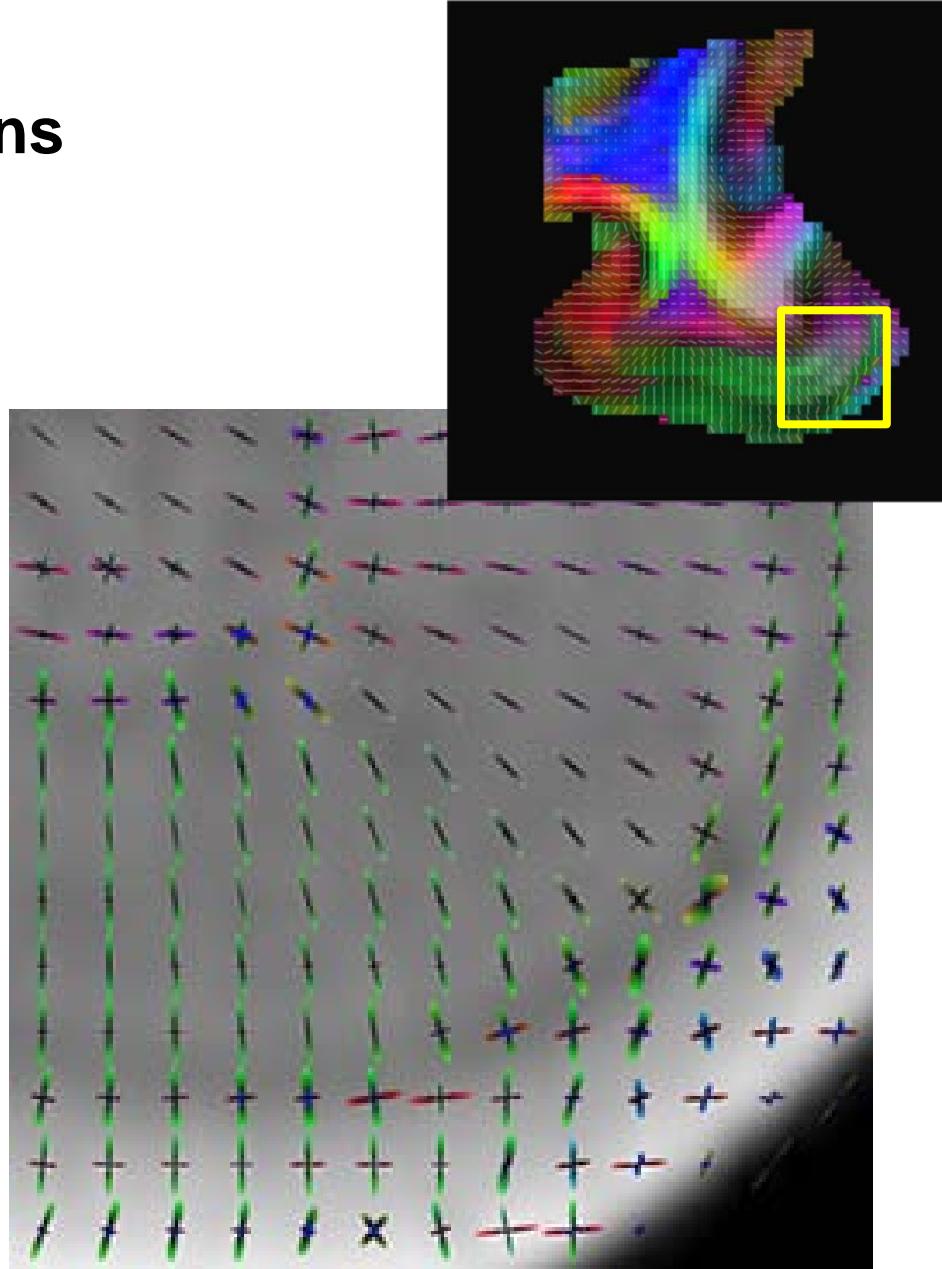
# Results I: Fractional Anisotropy

- FA is non-uniform over layers

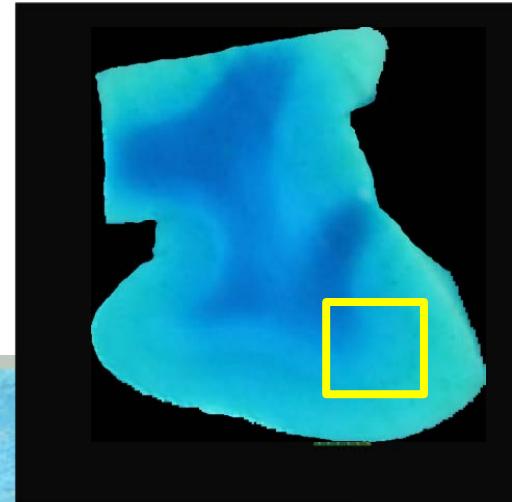
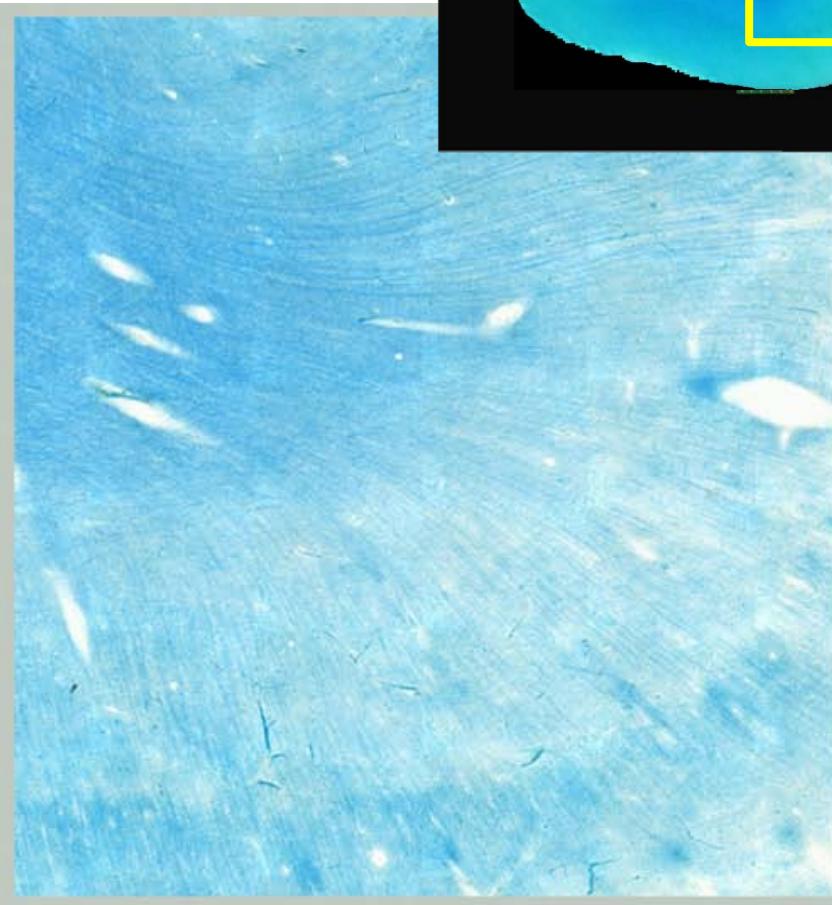
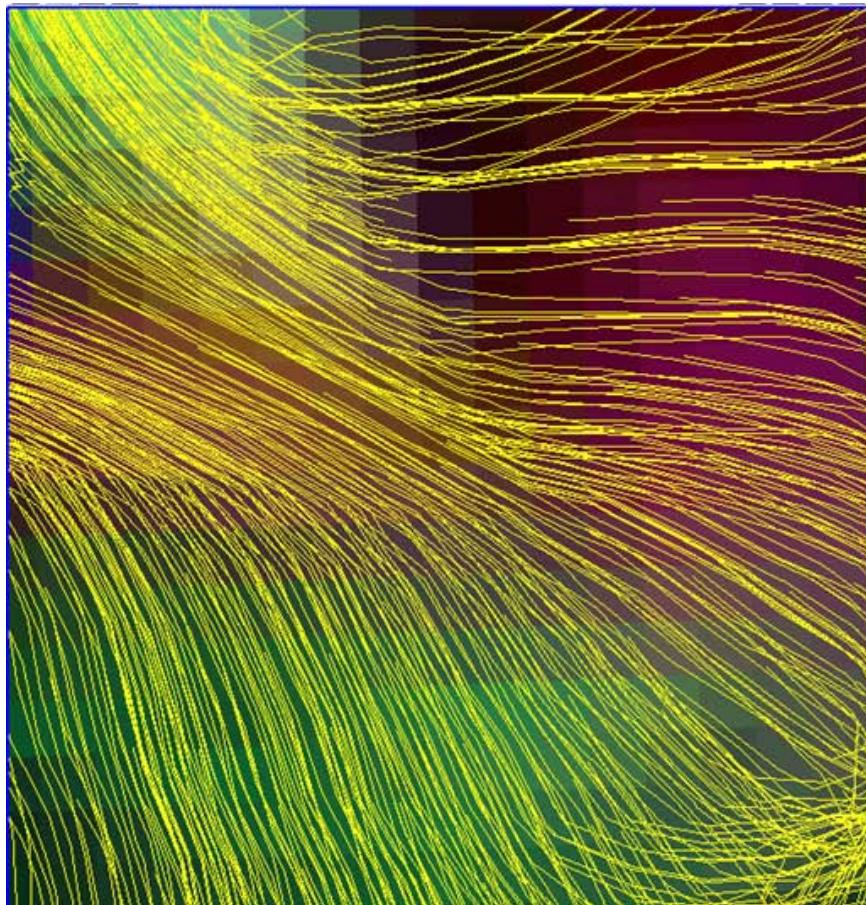


## Results II: diffusion directions

- WM
- U-fibers
- Deep cortical layers
- Gennari
- Superficial layers
- layer I fully tangential



## Results III: tractography and histology



## Discussion and conclusion

- Our findings are a first step in understanding diffusion properties within the cortex
- Usefulness for tractography and networks?
  - informative for cortical endpoints
  - presumed isotropic tangential component within layers

*anisotropic and layer-specific*  
“In the cortex, diffusion is ~~isotropic~~”

# Thanks!

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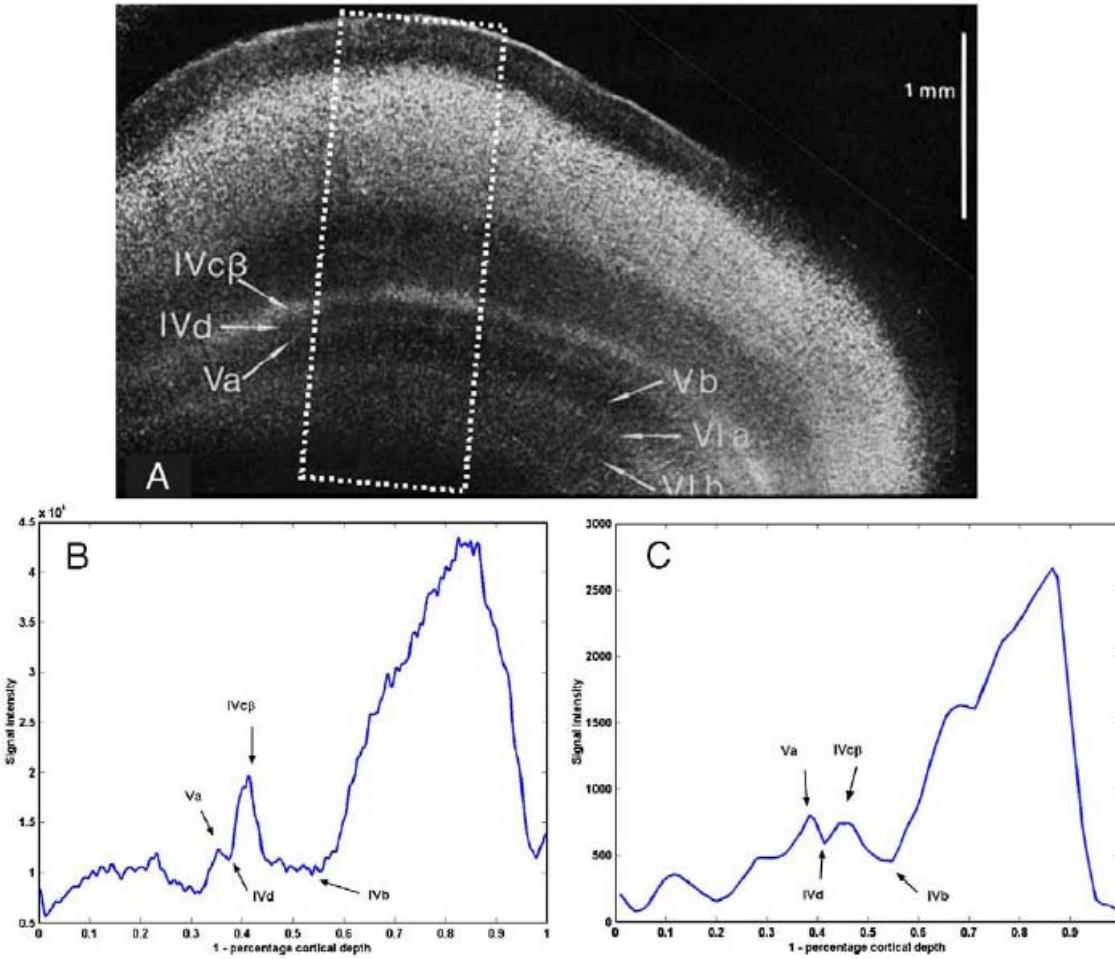
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## VIP Brain Networks

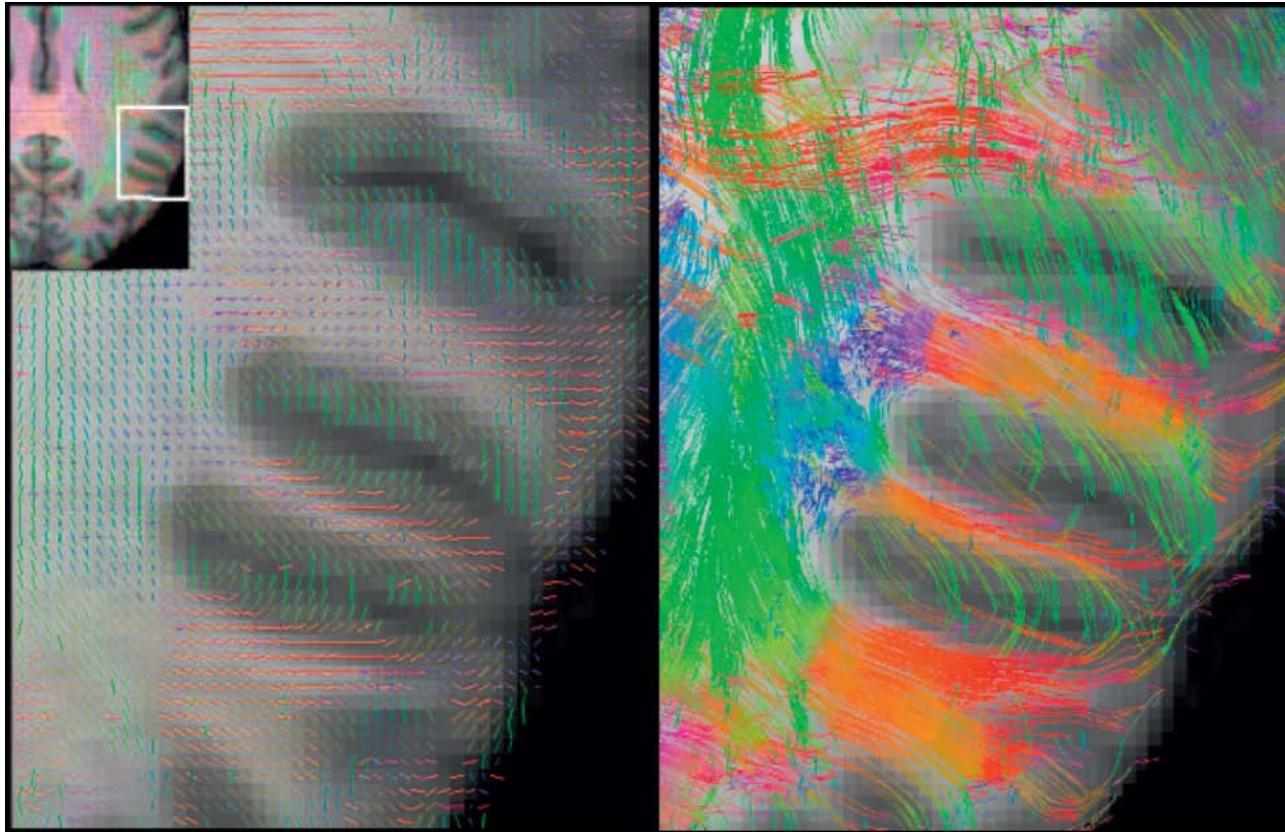


# Additional



Blackwell et al., NI 2009

# Additional



Heidemann et al., ISMRM 2011, P1957