# Labeling human brain images

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October 13, 2011
UPenn seminar
www.mindboggle.info/lectures

photo: Bleakley McDowell

Thursday, October 13, 2011

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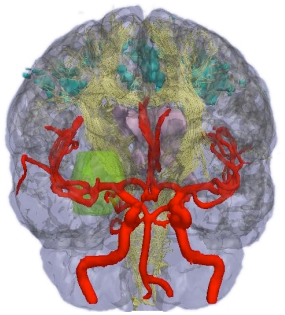
# Why label brains?

Labels visually augment anatomy

- teach brain anatomy
- guide neurosurgery



http://www.cbd.ucla.edu/bios/iacoboni.html, http://brainvisa.info/, http://dx.doi.org/10.1126/science.1145876
http://groups.csail.mit.edu/vision/medical-vision/past-projects.html, http://www.spl.harvard.edu/publications/item/view/1265

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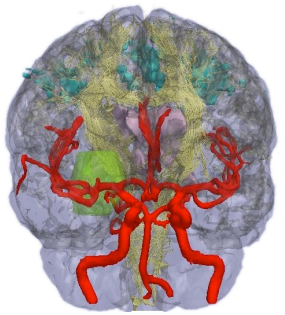
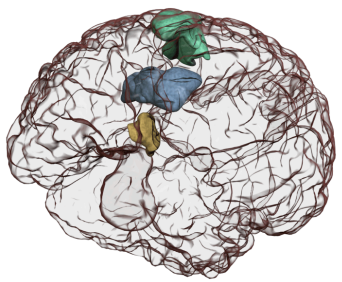


Labels compartmentalize image data

- assign results to brain regions vs. voxels
- quantify data by brain region vs. voxels



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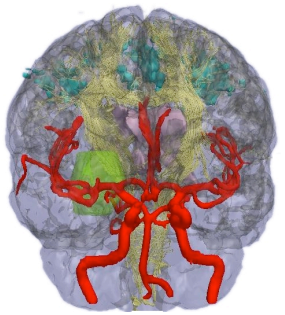

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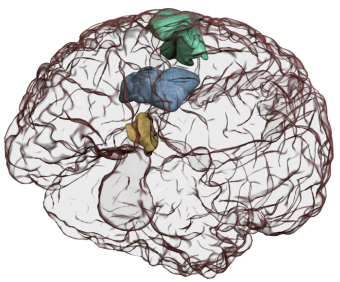
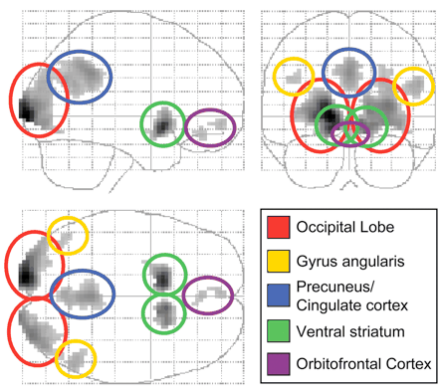


Labels provide a common nomenclature

- compare individuals within and across studies
- communicate results with a common language

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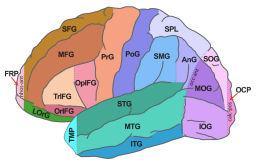
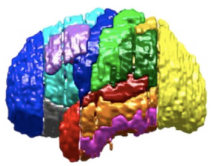
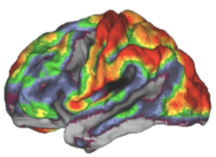
# How should we label brain images?



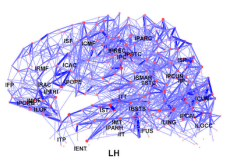

Manual labeling (aMRI)



Atlas registration-based labeling (atlas)

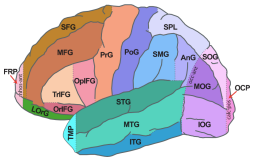


Functional Mapping (fMRI)

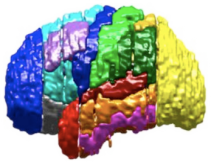



Tractography-based segmentation (dMRI)

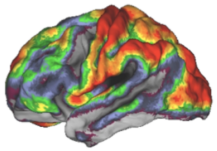
Feature matching (Mindboggle)



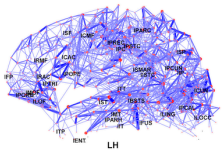

aMRI



atlas

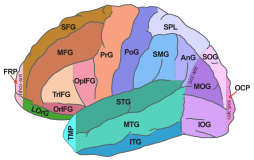


fMRI



dMRI

Mindboggle

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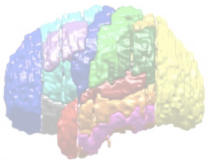

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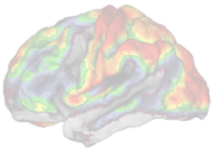

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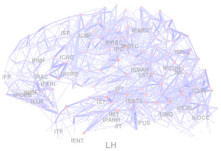

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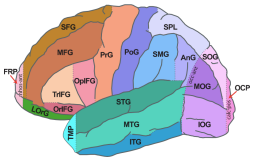


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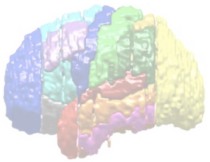

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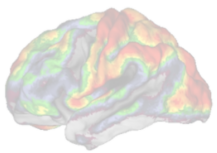

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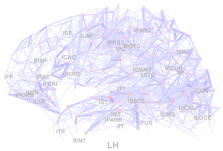

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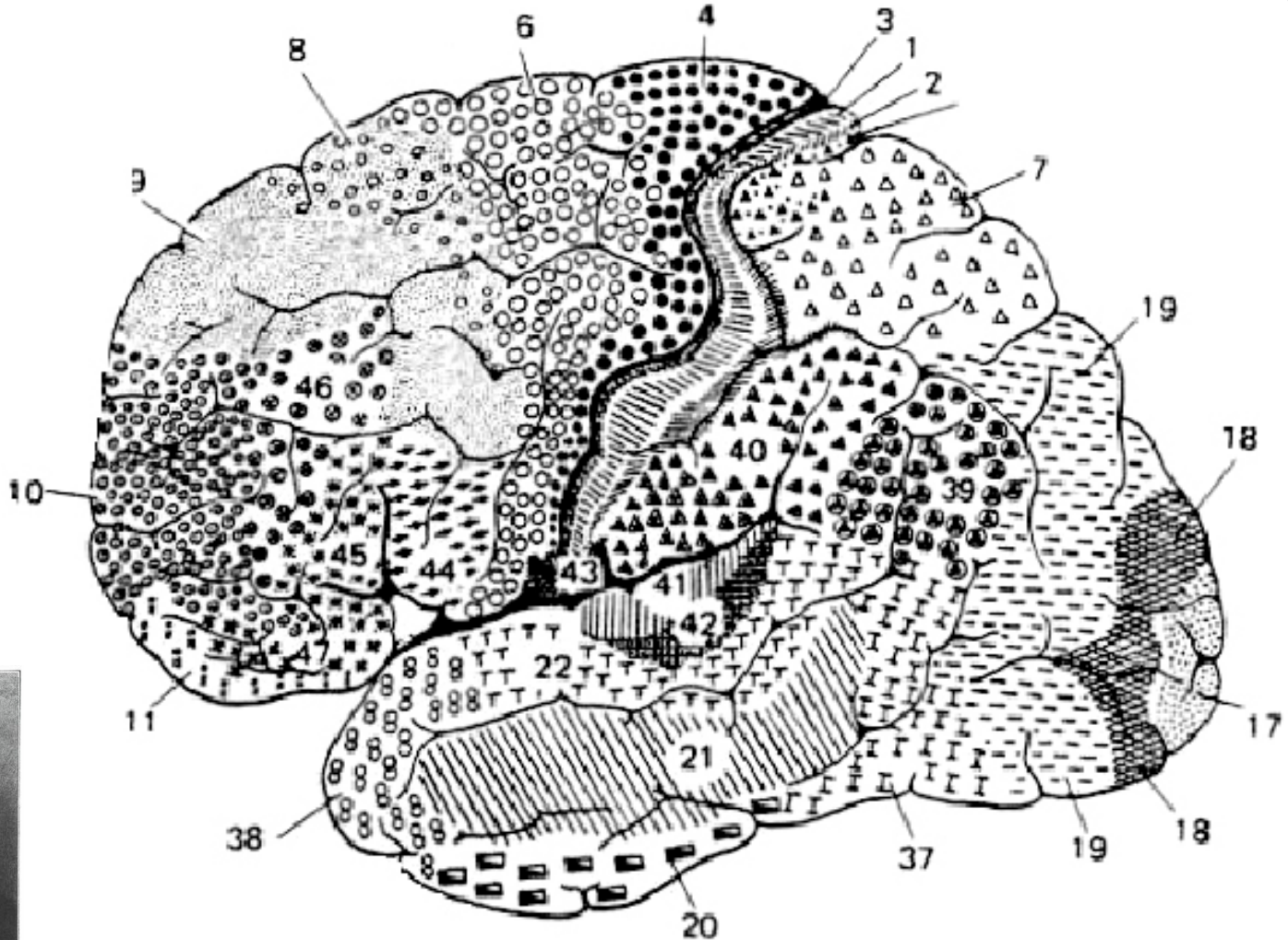
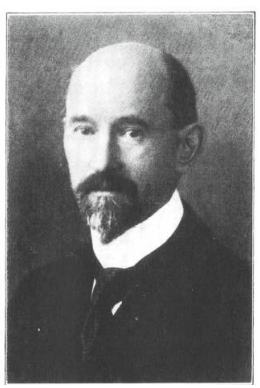
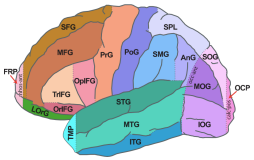


Korbinian Brodmann
(1868-1918)

Cytoarchitectonic divisions

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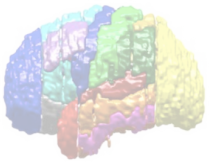

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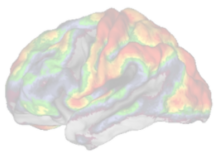

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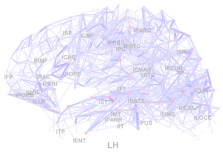

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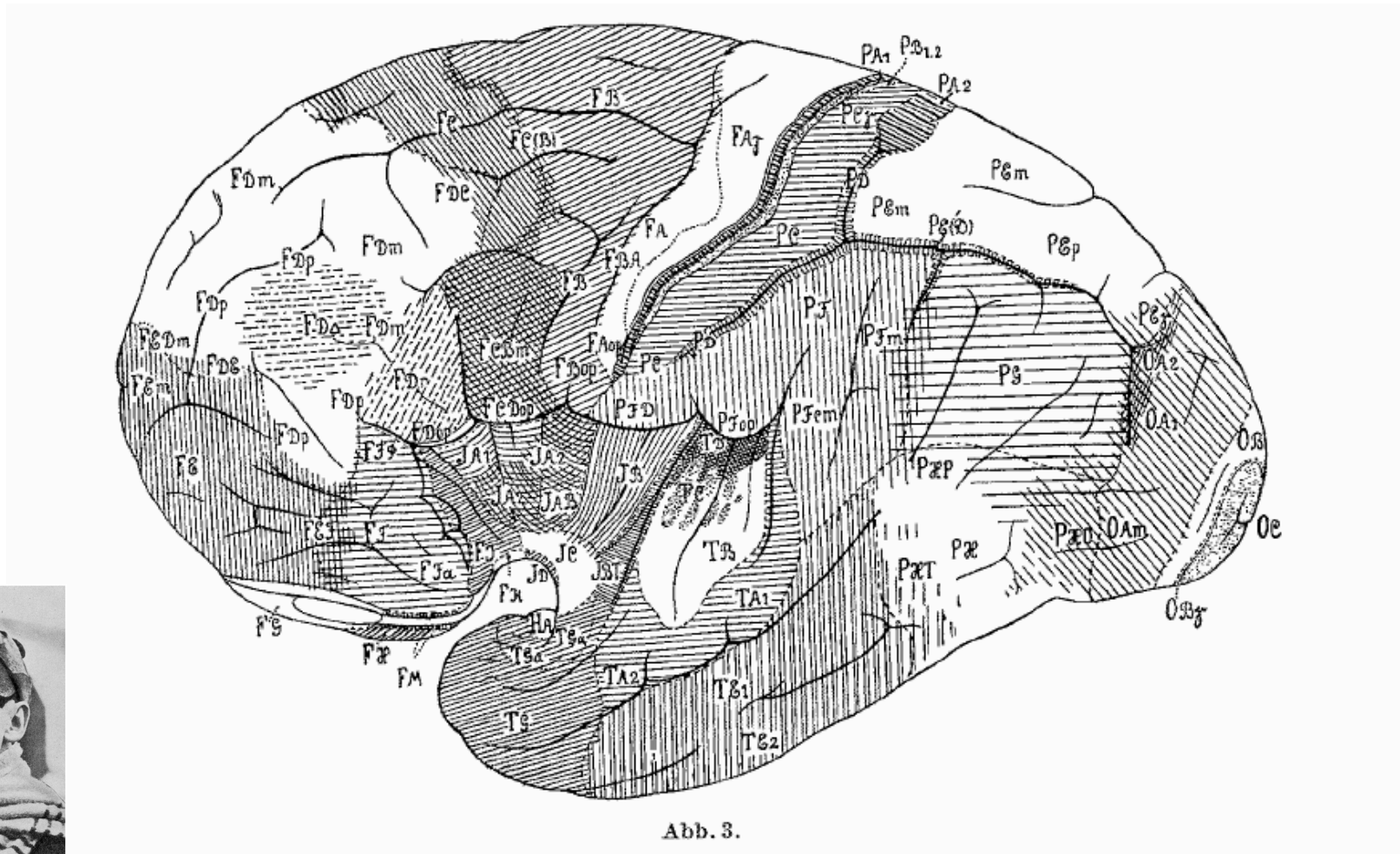
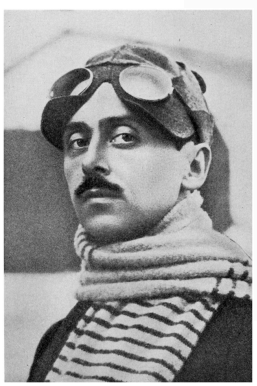
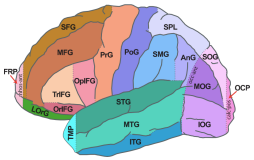


Constantin von Economo
(1876-1931)

Cytoarchitectonic divisions

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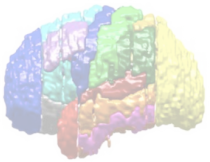

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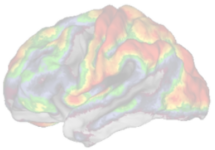

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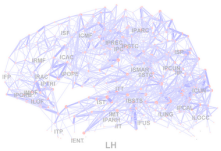

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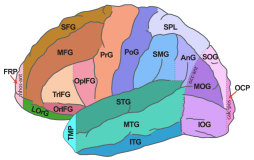
Mindboggle

Sir Grafton Elliot Smith
(1871-1937)

Topographic divisions

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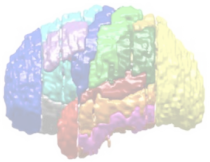

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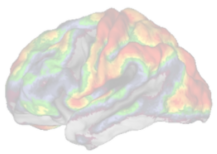

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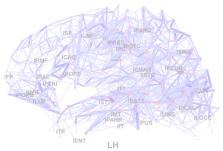

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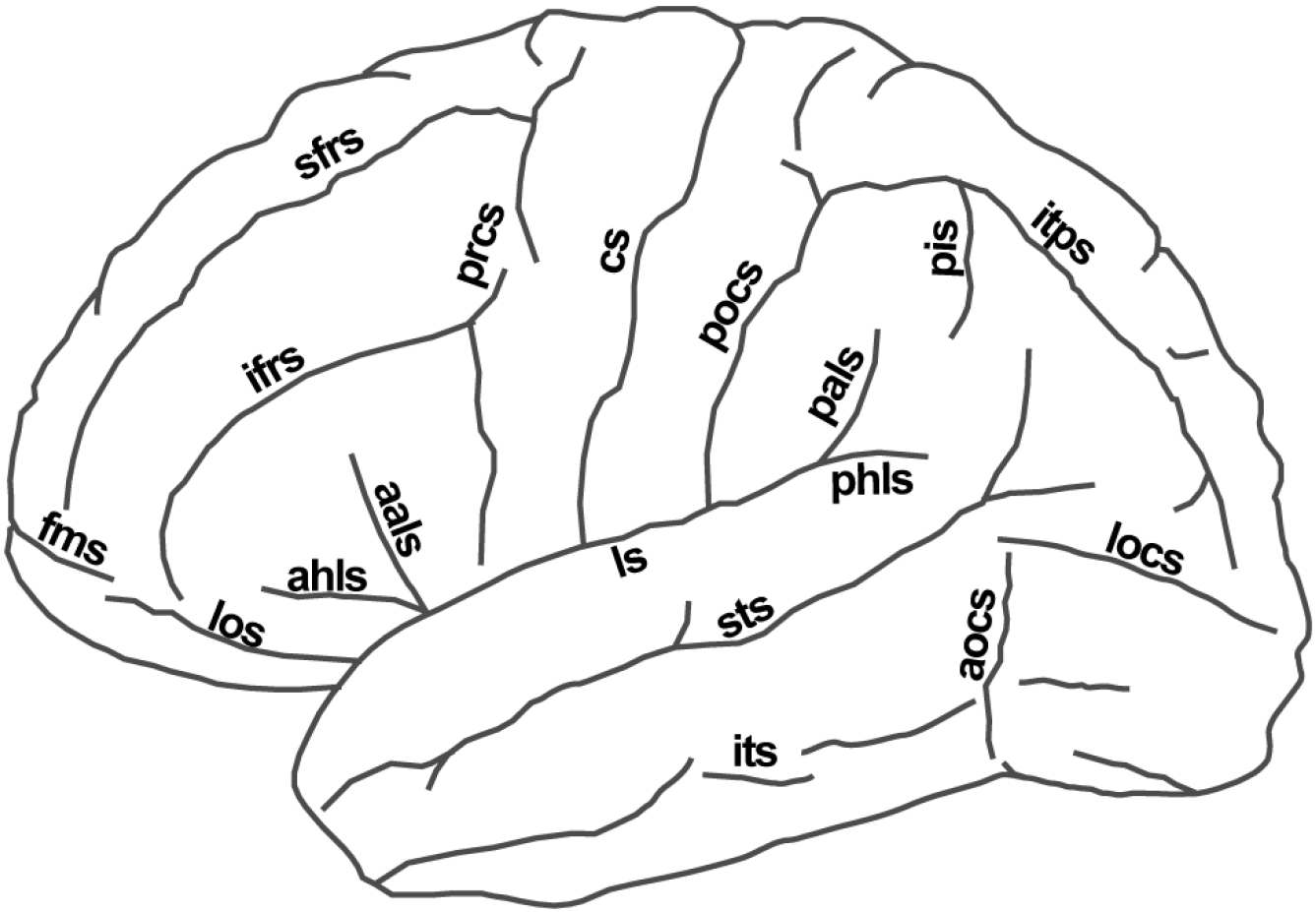
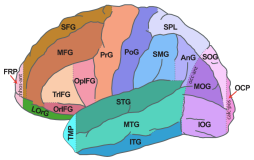
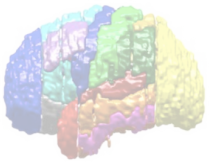


Sulcus definitions




aMRI



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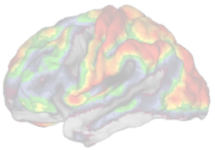
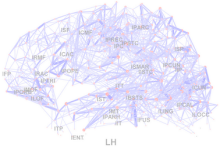
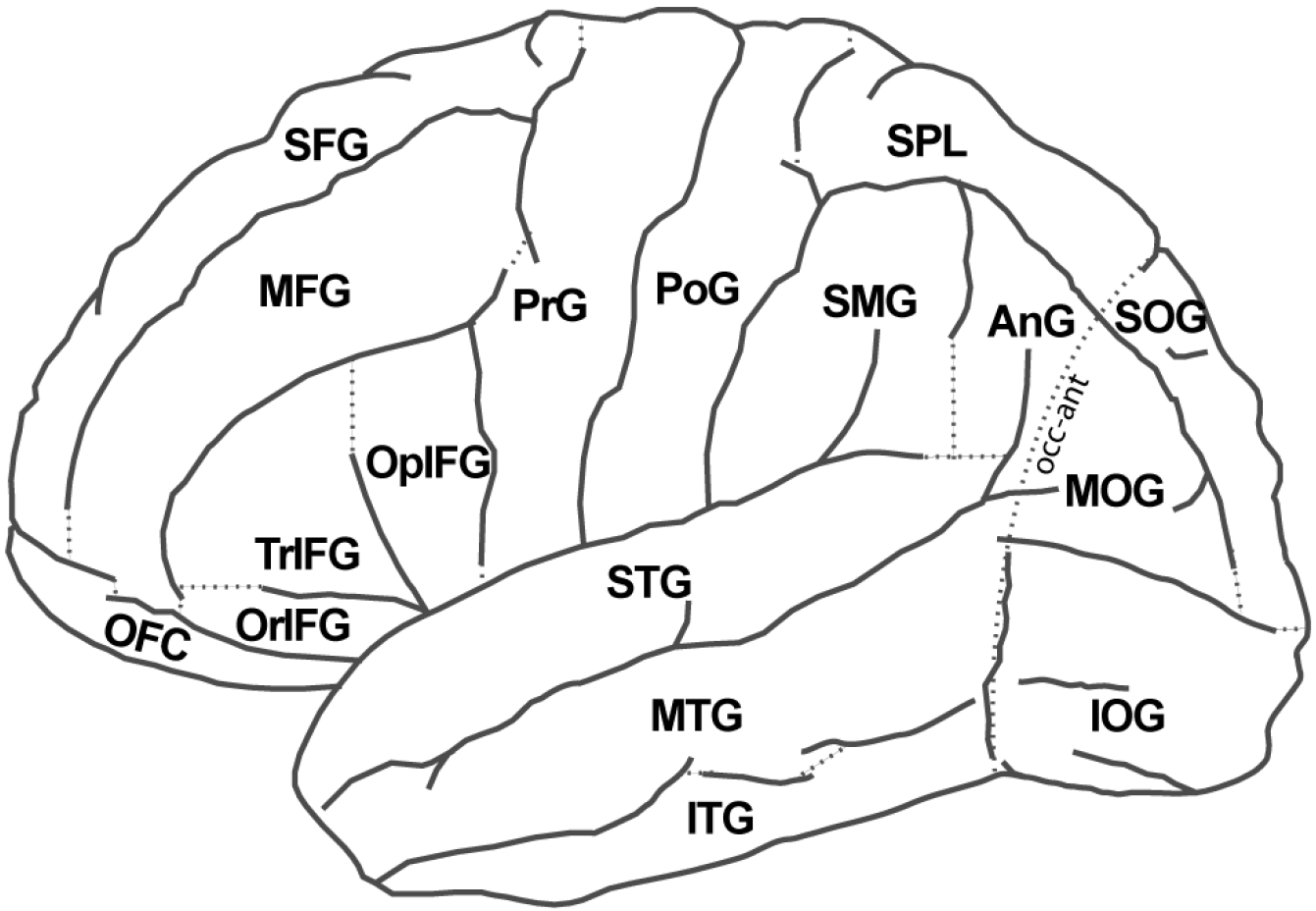


fMRI

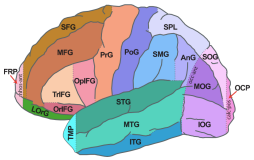


dMRI

Mindboggle



Gyrus definitions

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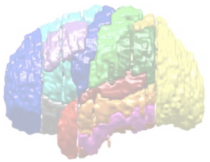

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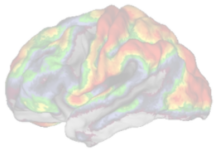

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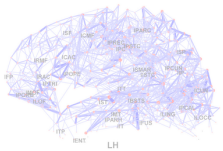

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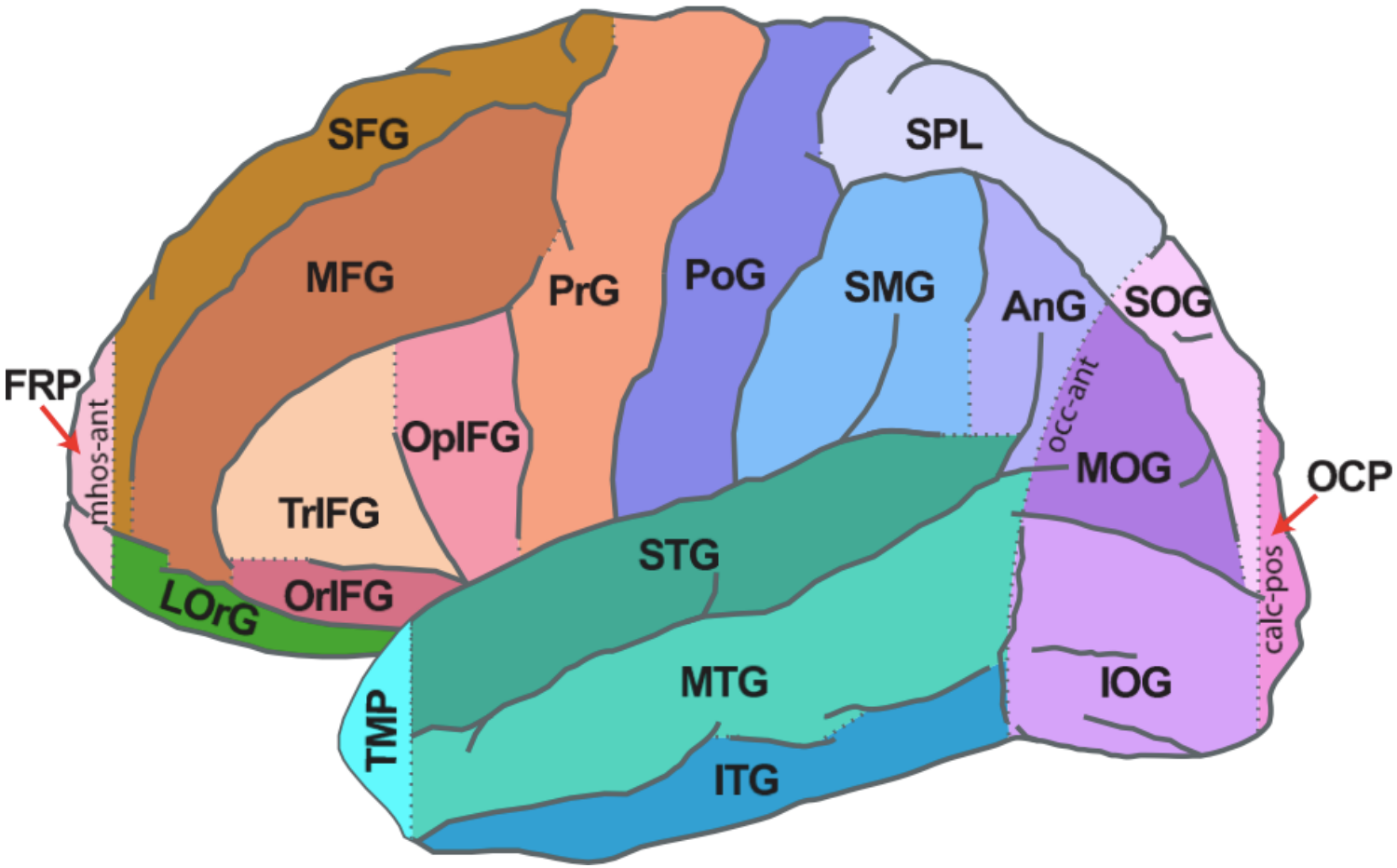


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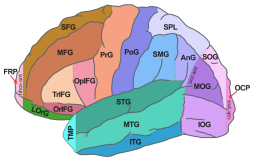


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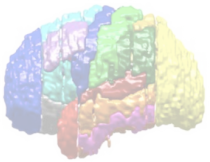

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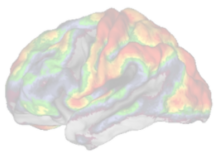

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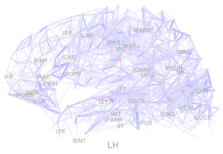

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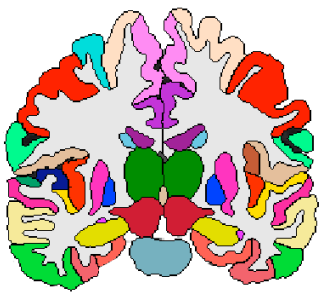
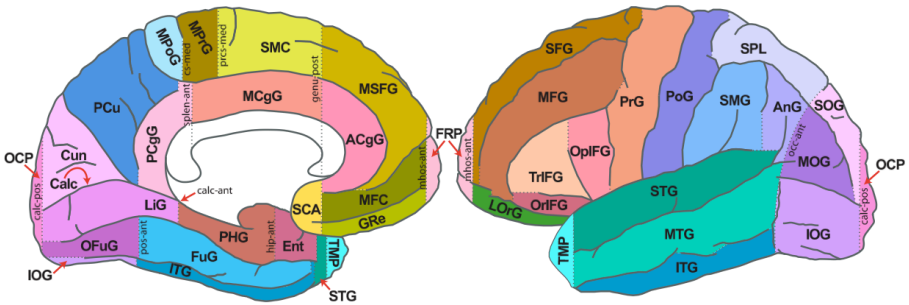
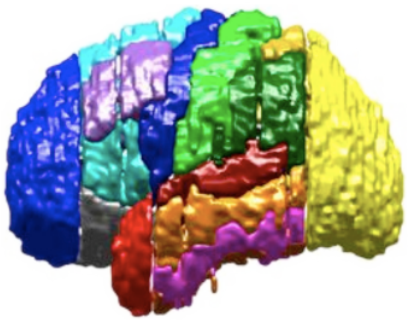
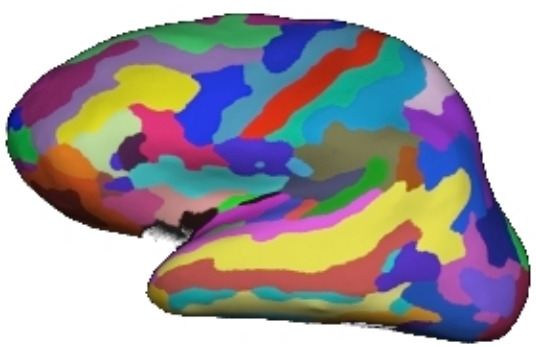
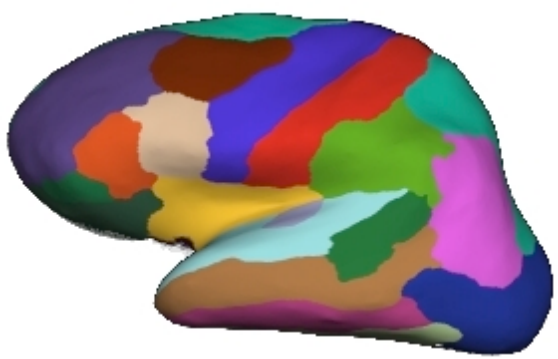
Mindboggle

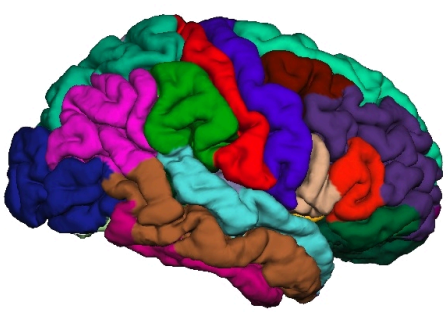




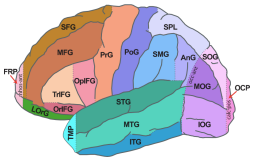









Volume vs. surface label definitions

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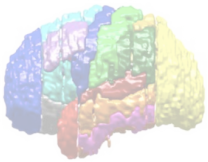

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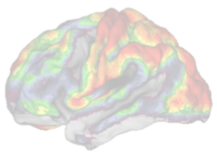

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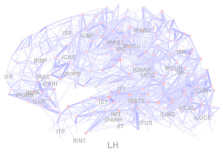
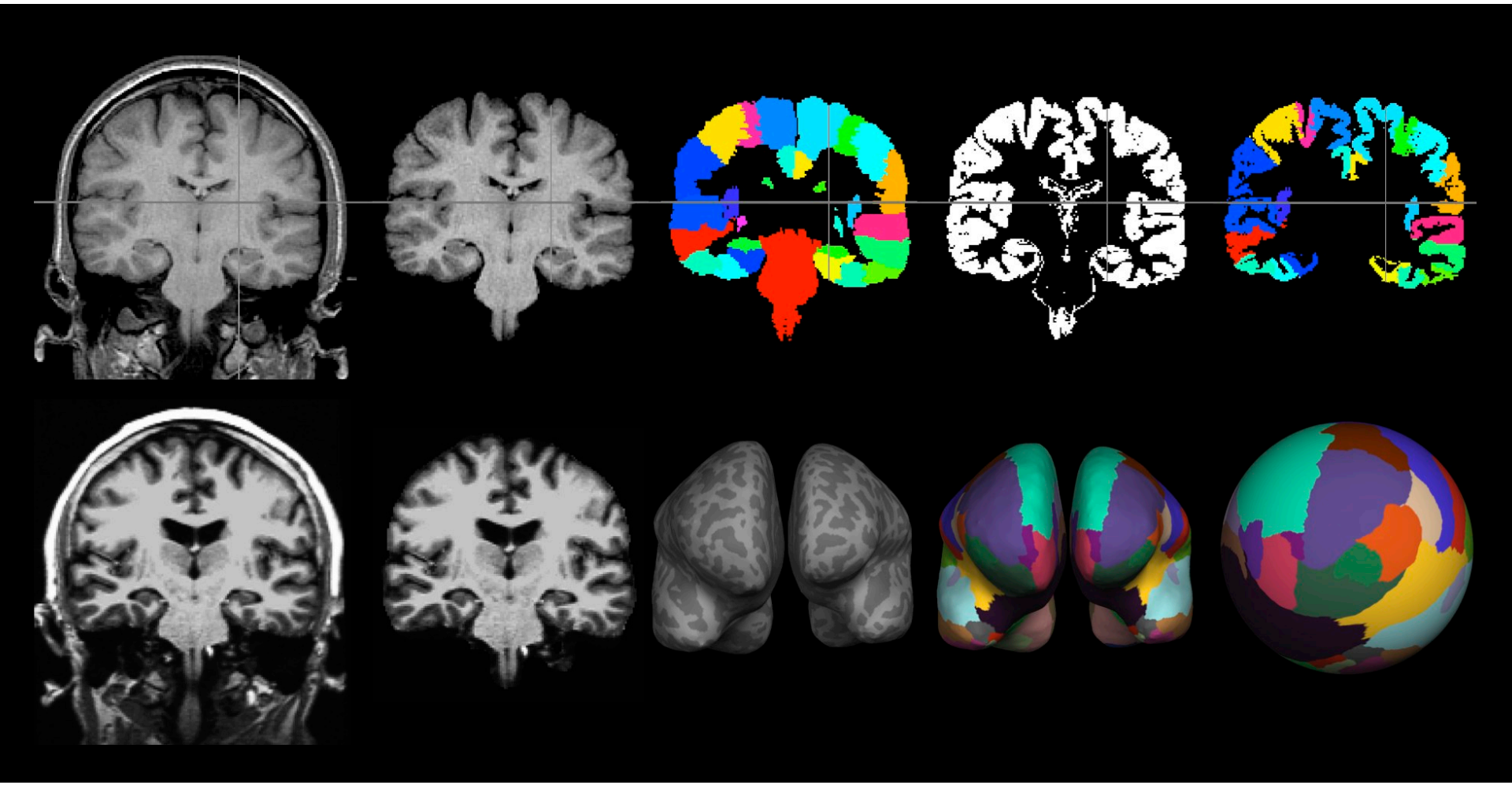


dMRI

Mindboggle



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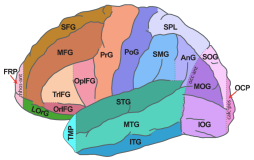


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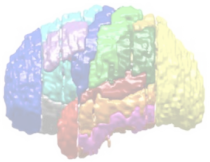

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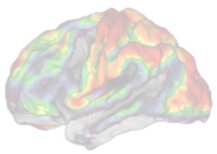

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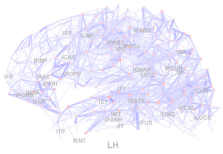

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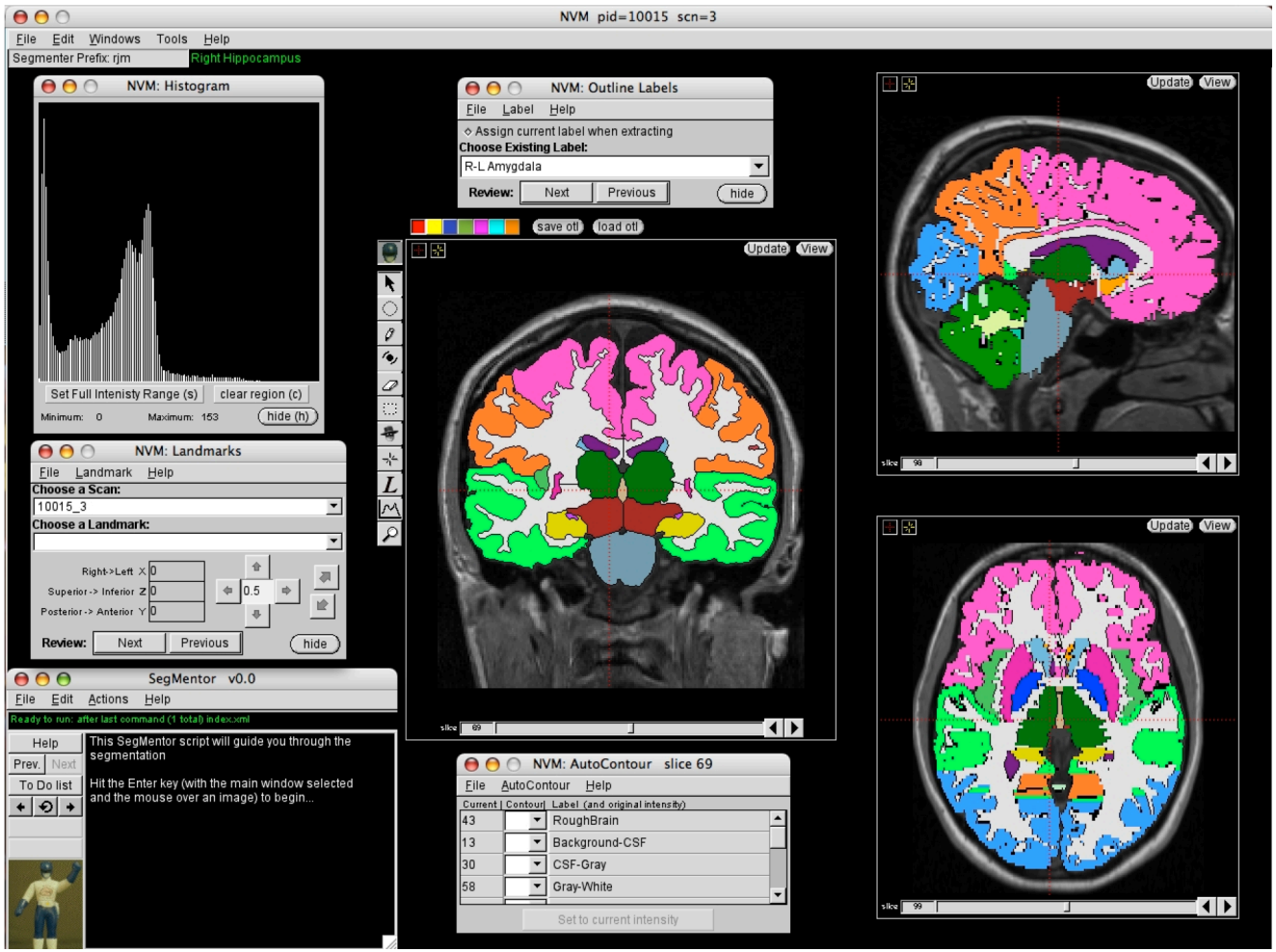
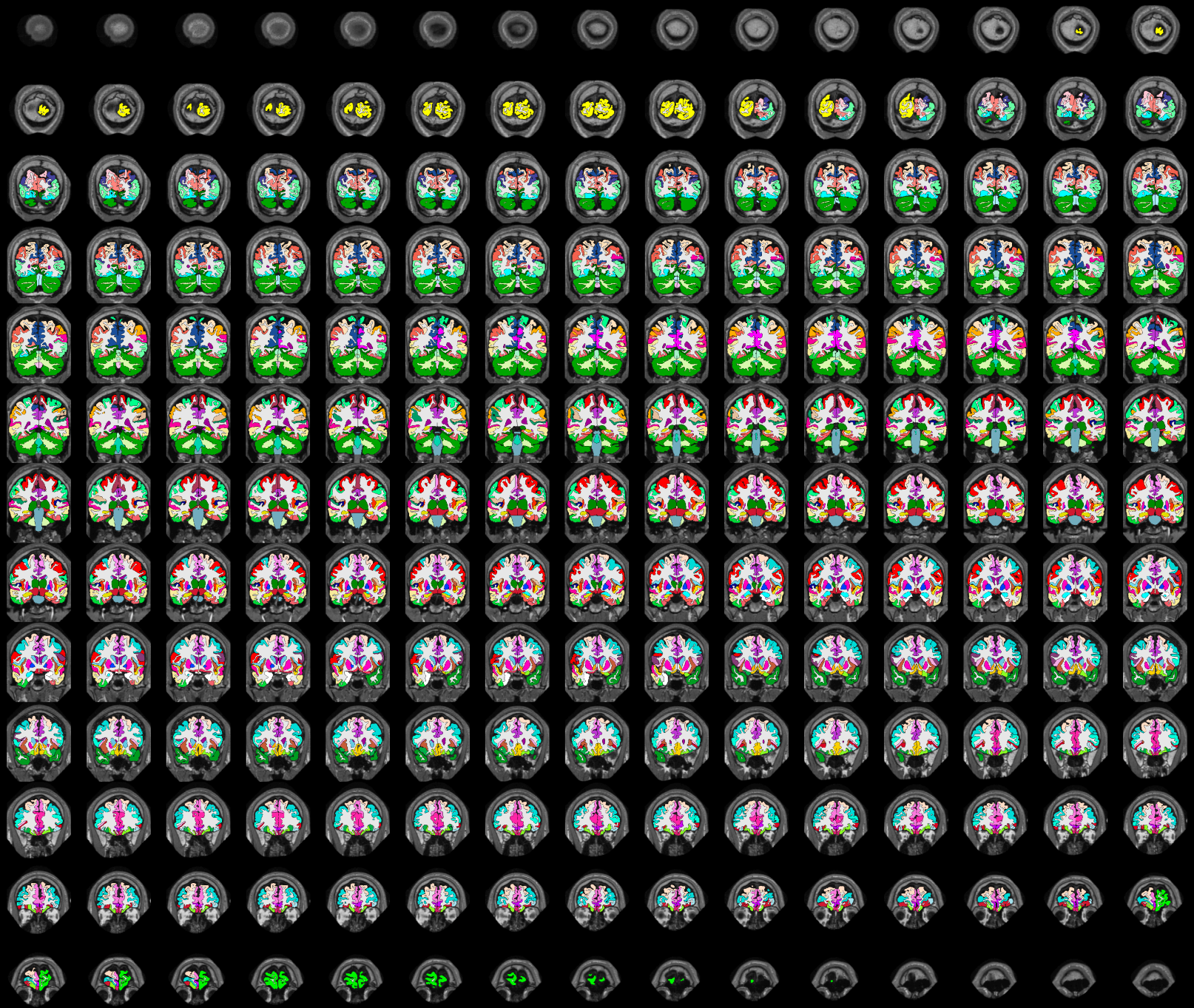
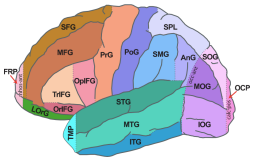



Manual labeling software

http://www.neuromorphometrics.org



Thursday, October 13, 2011

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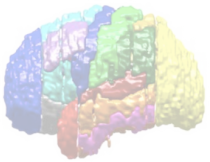

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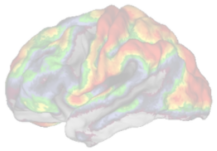

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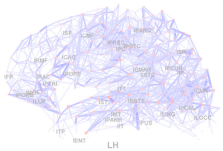

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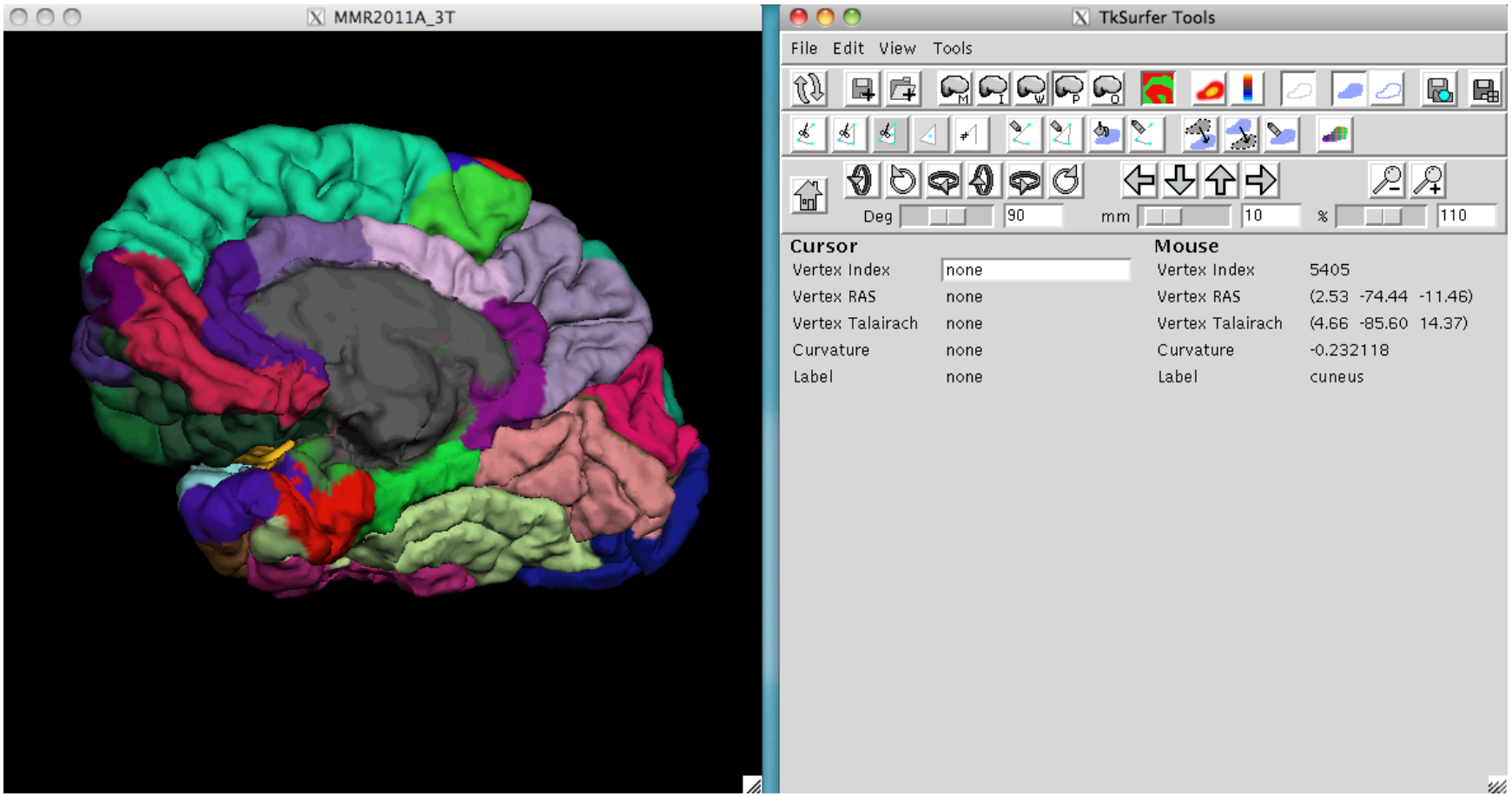
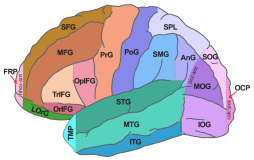



# Manual editing of cortical surface labels

http://www.neuromorphometrics.org

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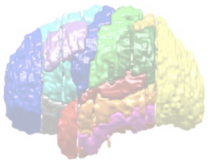

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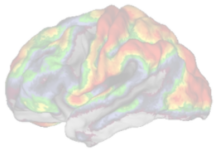

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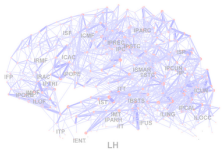

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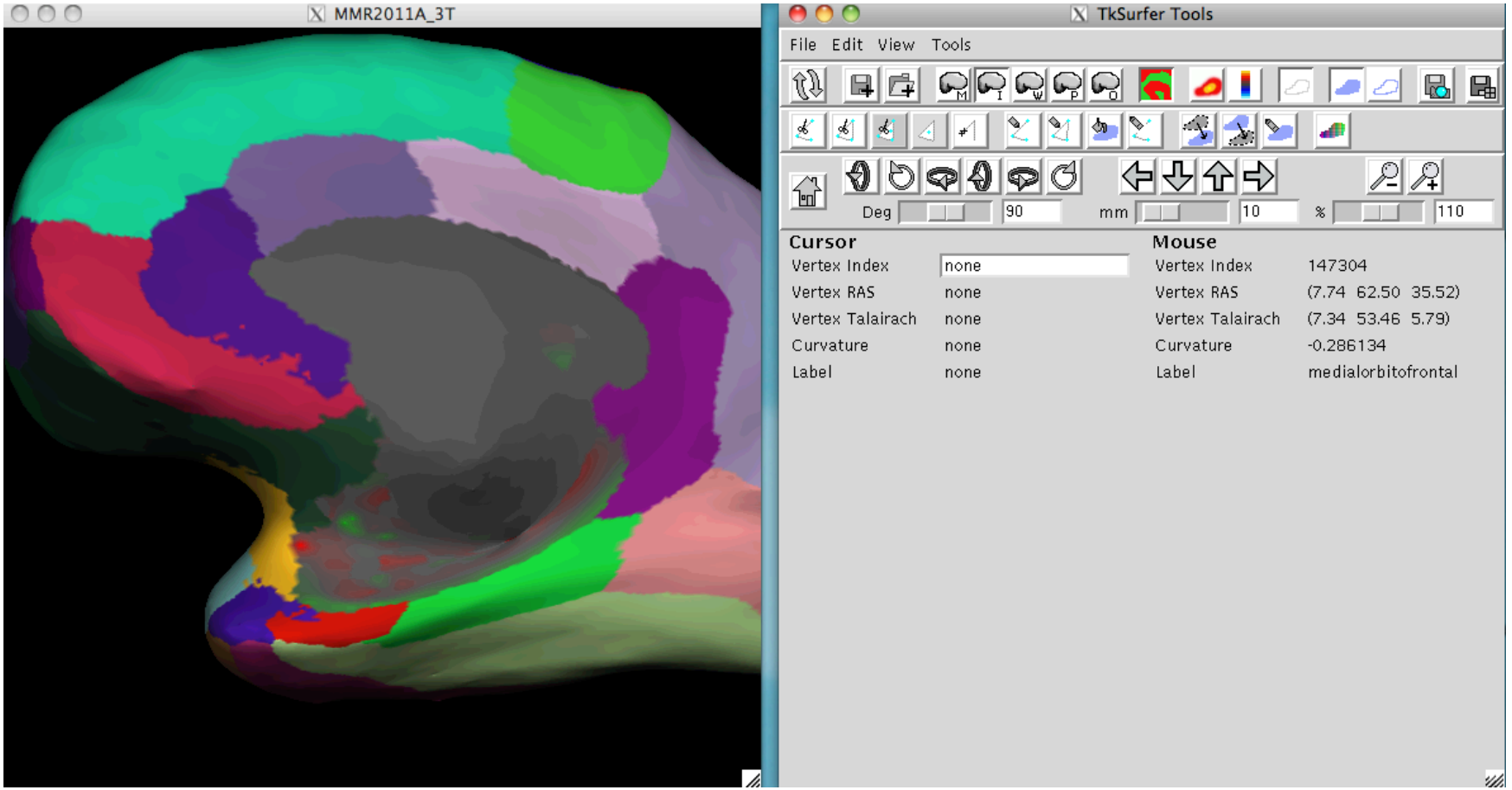


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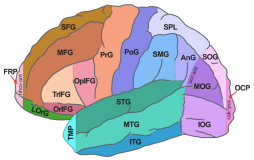


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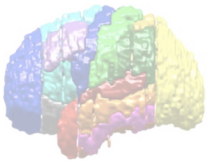

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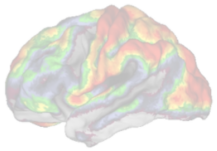

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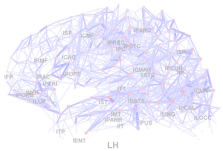

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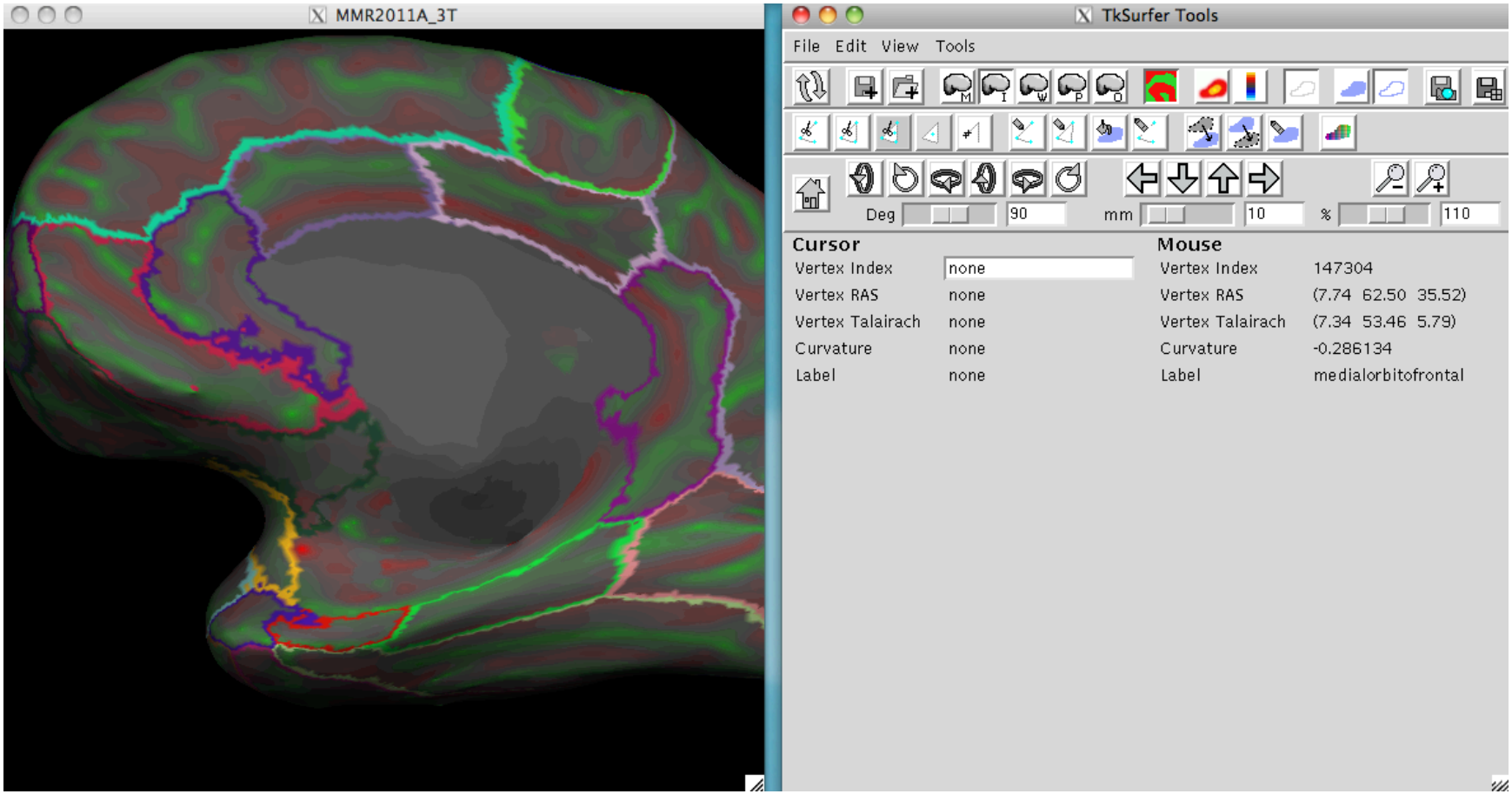


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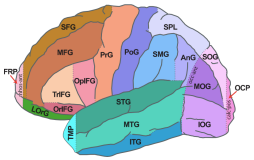


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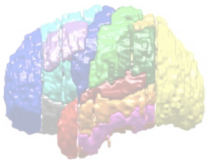

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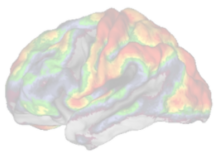

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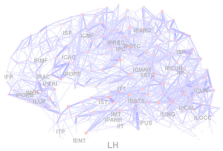

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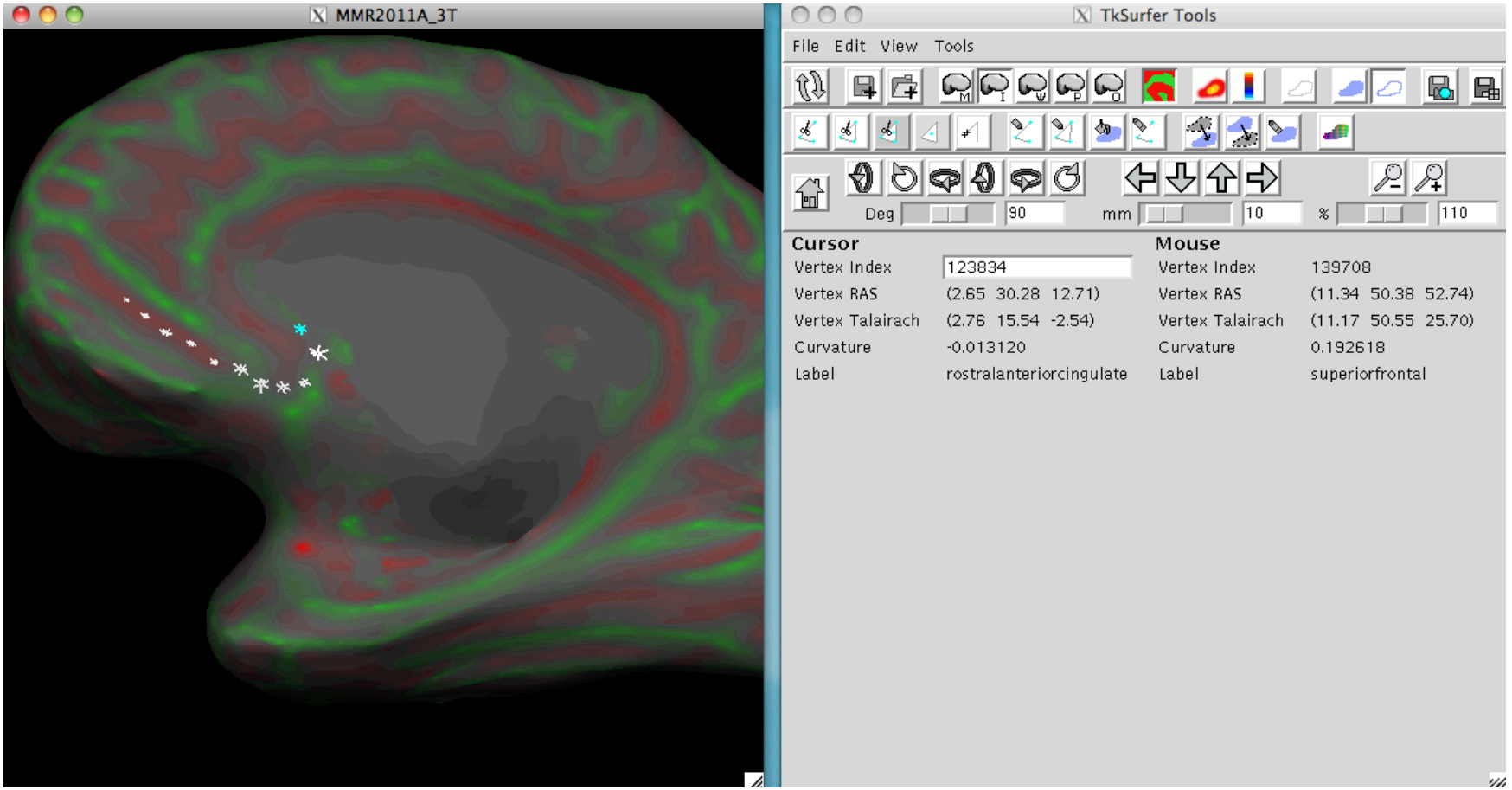


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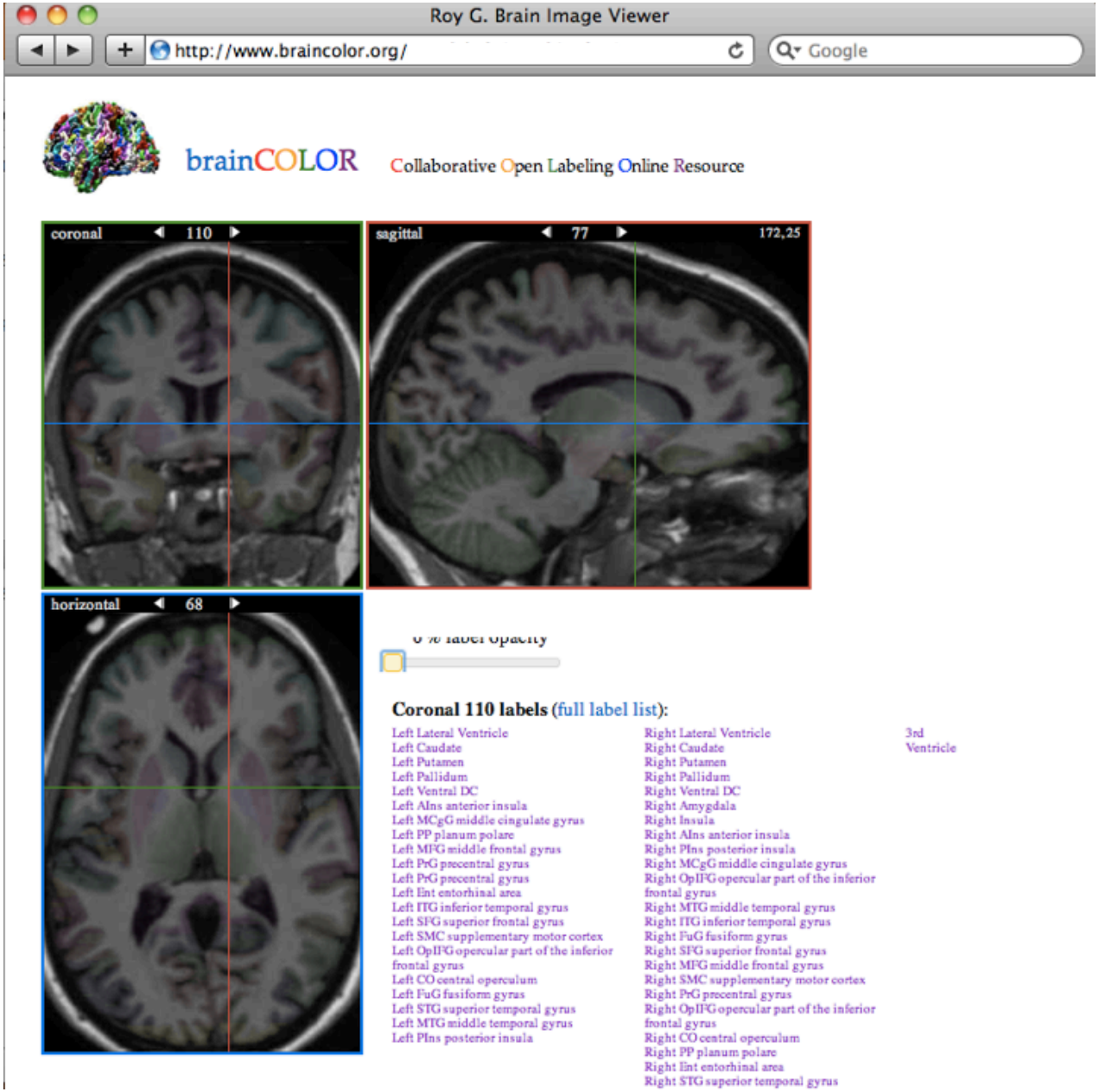
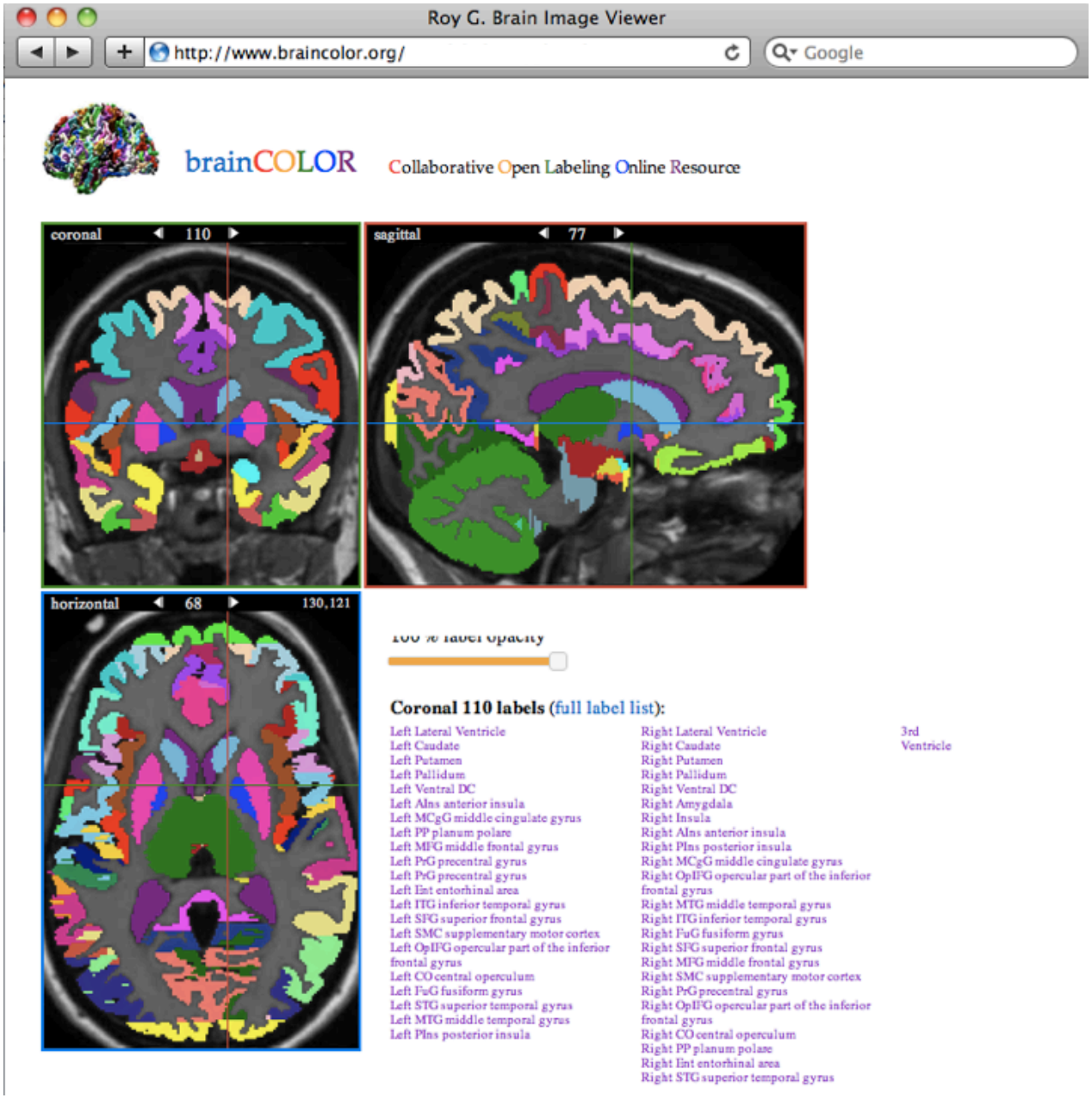



Online brain image viewer

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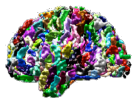

# An interactive tool for constructing optimal brain colormaps


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Andrew Worth — Neuromorphometrics, Inc., MA
Jason Tourville — Cognitive & Neural Systems Boston University, MA
Bennett Landman — Vanderbilt University Nashville, TN
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Satrajit S. Ghosh — Research Laboratory of Electronics, MIT, MA
David Shattuck — Laboratory of NeuroImaging UCLA, CA


## Goal

Create a software tool to aid in the construction of optimal colormaps for viewing and labeling brain anatomical images.

## Background

The application of color is an indispensible means of visually distinguishing anatomical regions of the brain [1,2]. The need to facilitate visualization of brain images has become particularly urgent with the inception of large-scale anatomical labeling projects, such as the BrainCOLOR project, in which hundreds of MR images of the human brain are being manually labeled (www.braincolor.org/protocols) as well as viewed online (www.braincolor.org/roygbiv).

## Choosing a color space

Our colormap must consist of colors that are perceptually distinct, so it is reasonable to choose a color space that is perceptually uniform, where a separation between two colors in the color space is as discriminable as the same separation between two other colors in the color space.
The International Commission on Illumination (CIE) devised a color space in 1931 that facilitates color description (Fig.1). Subsequent improvements led to the CIELAB and CIELUV color spaces, as well as a cylindrical variant, CIELch, all of which attempt to be perceptually uniform.

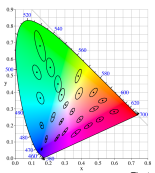


Fig.1

## Constructing a colormap

We uniformly sampled hues from the CIELch cylinder (Fig.2) at different distances from the center (70-100% chrominance) and at different lightness values. The resulting colormap (Fig.3) has the same number of colors as regions we wish to color (49 cortical regions in the BrainCOLOR protocol). We intend to expand the number of colors to include subcortical and other regions.

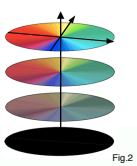


Fig.2

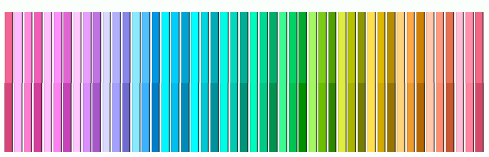


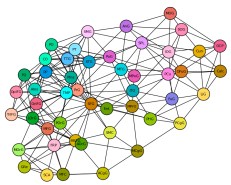
Fig.3


1. Schott GD (2010) Colored illustrations of the brain: some conceptual and contextual issues. Neuroscientist. 16(5):508-18.
2. Schoonover, C (2010) Portraits of the Mind: Visualizing the Brain from Antiquity to the 21st Century. Abrams (ISBN-13: 978-0810990334)

CIE1931 figure: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:CIExy1931_MacAdam.png
CIELch figure: http://www.colorbasics.com/ColorSpace/


## Maximizing discriminability of adjacent regions

To easily distinguish brain regions from each other, we wish to maximize the color difference between adjacent regions. We do this by constructing a graph that represents connections (edges) between regions (nodes).



We define an *optimal mapping* of colors as the combination of colors assigned to nodes with the maximum sum of color differences between connected nodes, defined by the CIE2000 Delta E measure (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Color_difference).
However, we cannot compute $8.8 \times 10^{18}$ permutations of the 49 colors in the colormap, so we break up the brain into sublobes and compute the permutations of portions of the colormap at a time:

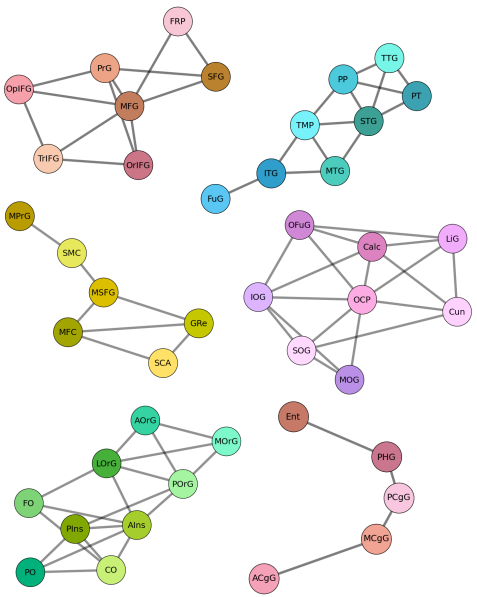
**Frontal Lobe** (7,6,9):
- Lateral Surface (7)
- Medial Surface (6)
- Inferior Surface (4)
- Opercular Region (3)
- Insular Region (2)

**Temporal Lobe** (8):
- Lateral Surface (4)
- Supratemporal Surface (3)
- Inferior Surface (1)

**Parietal lobe** (6):
- Lateral Surface (4)
- Medial Surface (2)

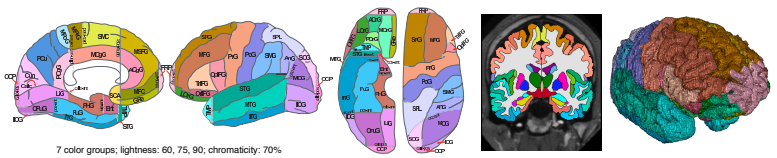
**Occipital Lobe** (8):
- Lateral Surface (4)
- Inferior Surface (1)
- Medial Surface (3)

**Limbic Cortex** (5):
- Cingulate Cortex (3)
- Medial Temporal Cortex (2)

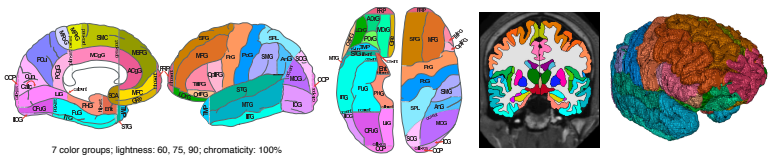



## Grouping regions by using similar colors

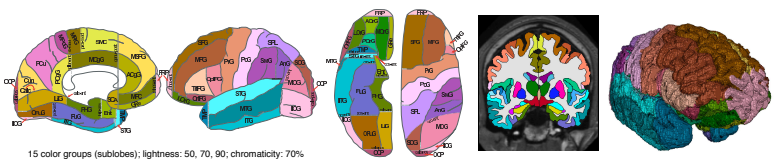
For labeling a brain image, maximum discriminability is paramount. For viewing a brain image, however, it is useful to visually group regions by assigning similar colors to the regions within a group. To create this visual grouping, we colored each subgraph with a neighborhood of colors (sampled within a wedge of the CIELch cylinder).



7 color groups; lightness: 60, 75, 90; chromaticity: 70%



7 color groups; lightness: 60, 75, 90; chromaticity: 100%



15 color groups (sublobes); lightness: 50, 70, 90; chromaticity: 70%

## Conclusion and Future Work

We have created Python software for creating and applying colormaps to brain images.
Download the software from: http://binarybottle.github.com/brainCOLORmap
The software calls the Python libraries: *NumPy, NetworkX, Python-Colormath, Matplotlib, and xlrd*, to:

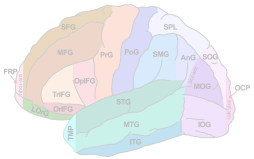
1. convert a table of adjacent regions (an adjacency matrix) to a weighted graph of colored nodes
2. compute permutations of colors for each subgraph to optimally distinguish colors of adjacent regions
3. apply similar colors to predefined groups of regions

There are many improvements we could pursue. We have targeted the following for future work:

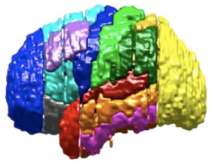
- Develop an optimization algorithm for whole graphs or larger subgraphs.
- Restrict the color space to colors that can be displayed; currently, the CIELch colors that should appear different from one another may appear similar after conversion to SRGB colors.
- Seed color values to better control the range of colors for each group of regions.
- Accommodate visual concerns such as color blindness by adapting the colormap accordingly.

This project is funded as part of NIMH R01 MH084029-02 and NIMH R43 MH084358.


Optimal brain colormaps




aMRI



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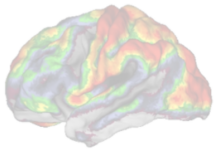
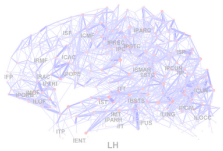


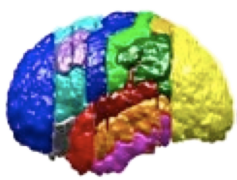
fMRI



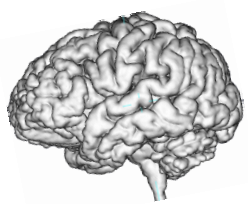
dMRI

Mindboggle

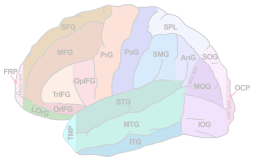
atlas



target



Atlas registration-based labeling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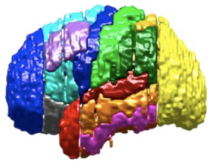
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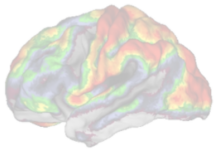
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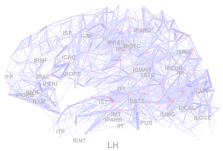
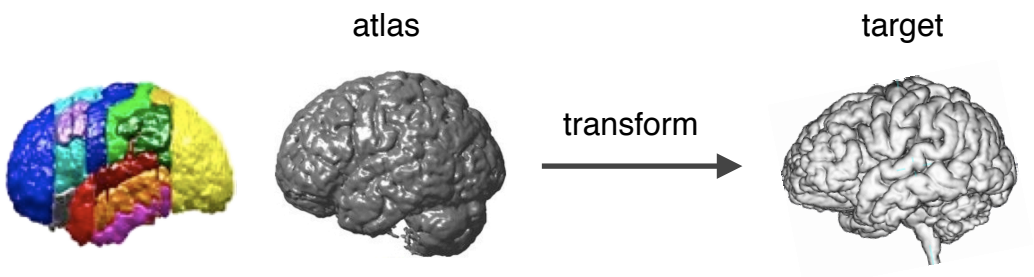
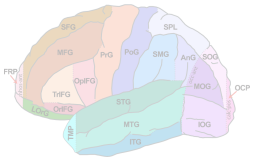

dMRI

Mindboggle




## Atlas registration-based labeling:

Step 1: compute the registration transform from the atlas to the target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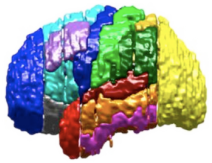
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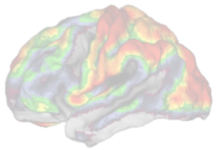
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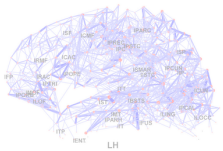
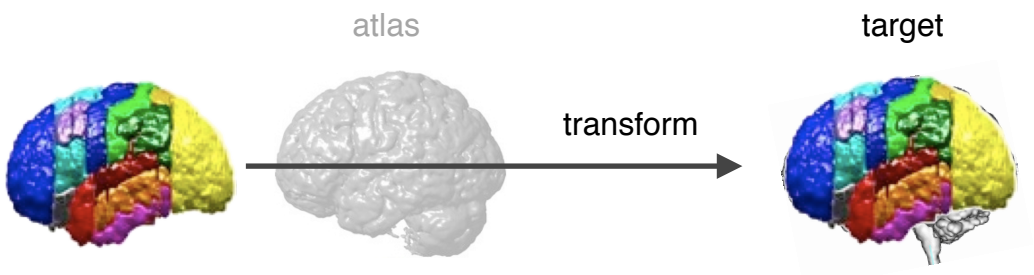
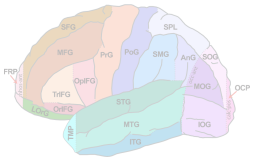

dMRI

Mindboggle




## Atlas registration-based labeling:

Step 2: apply the transform to the atlas labels



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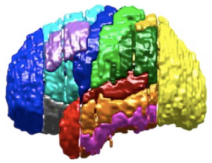
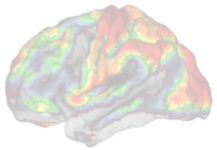


atlas



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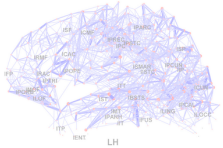
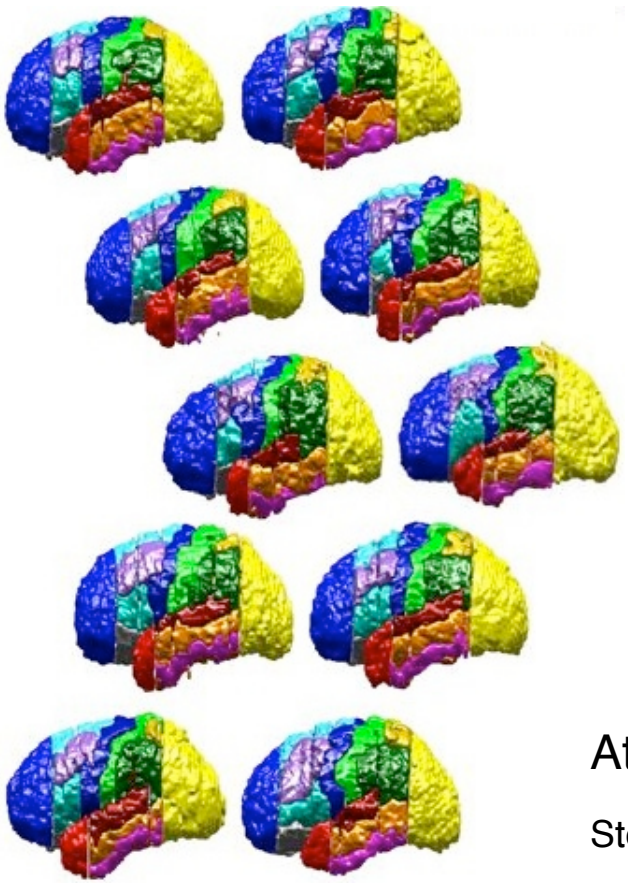
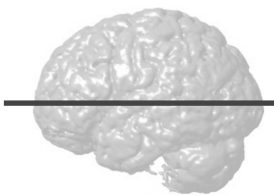


dMRI

Mindboggle





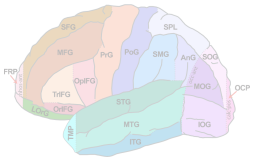
atlas

transform

target

## Atlas registration-based labeling:

Step N: compute and apply transforms for multiple atlases



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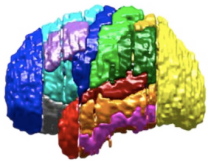

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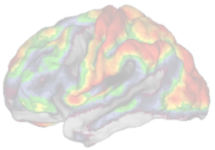

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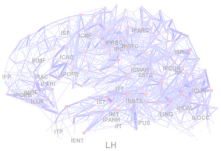
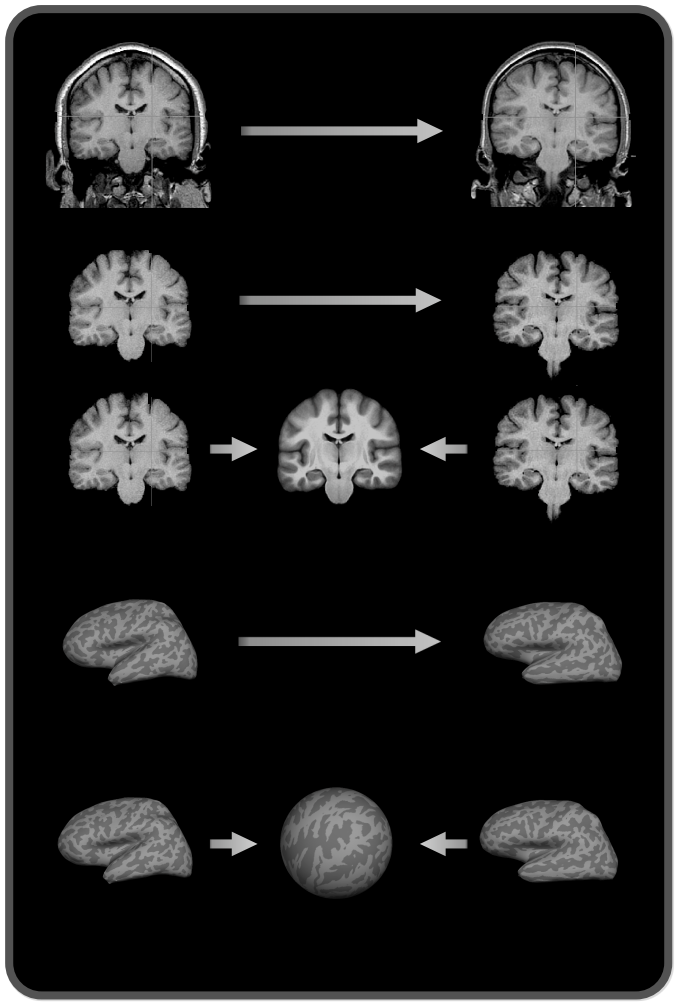
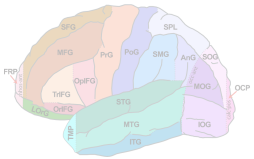


dMRI

Mindboggle



Volume- vs. surface-based registration



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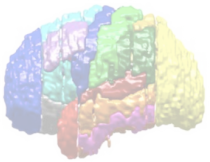

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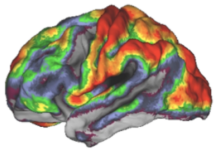

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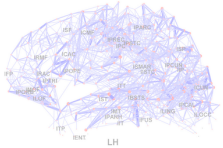
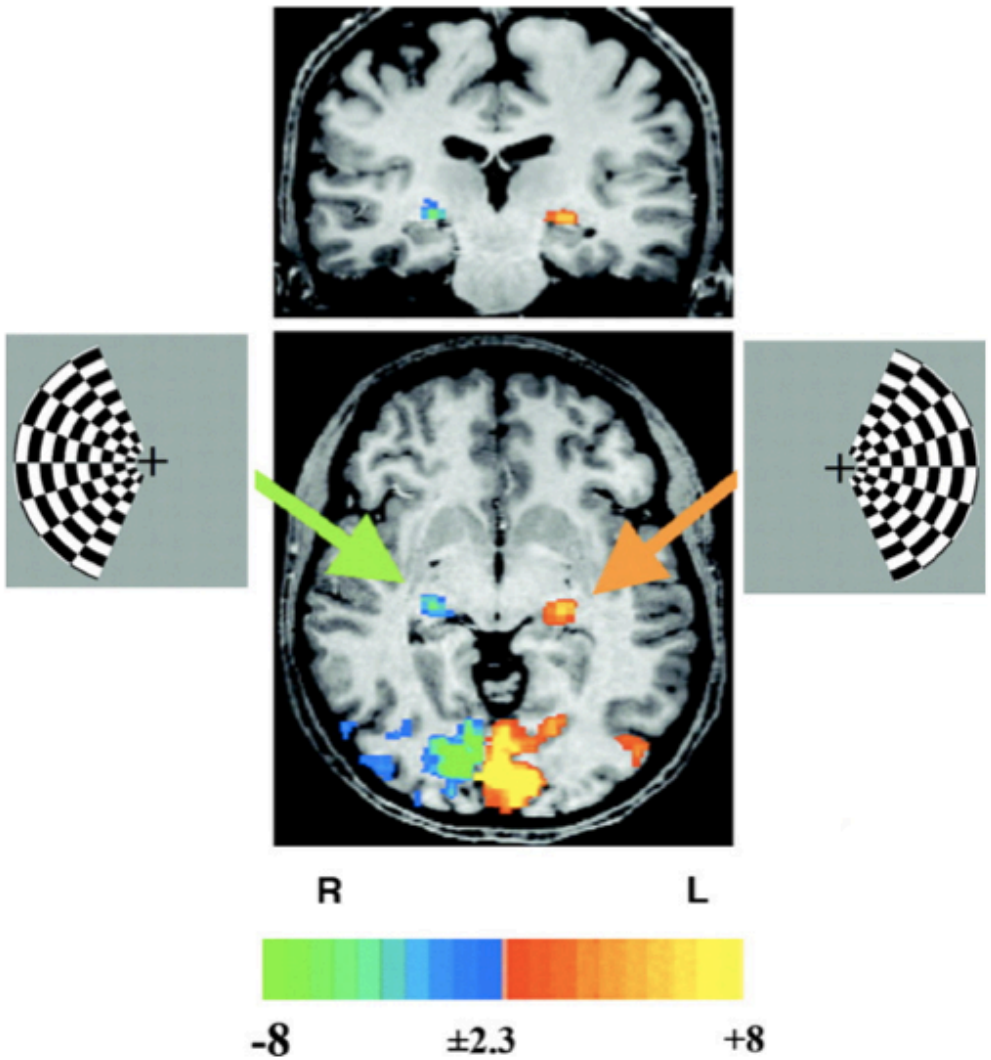
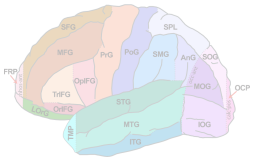


dMRI

Mindboggle




Kastner, et al., 2004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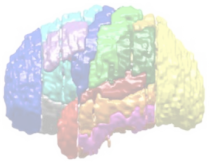
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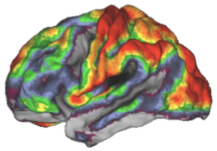
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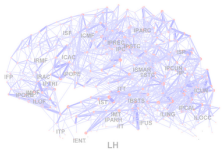
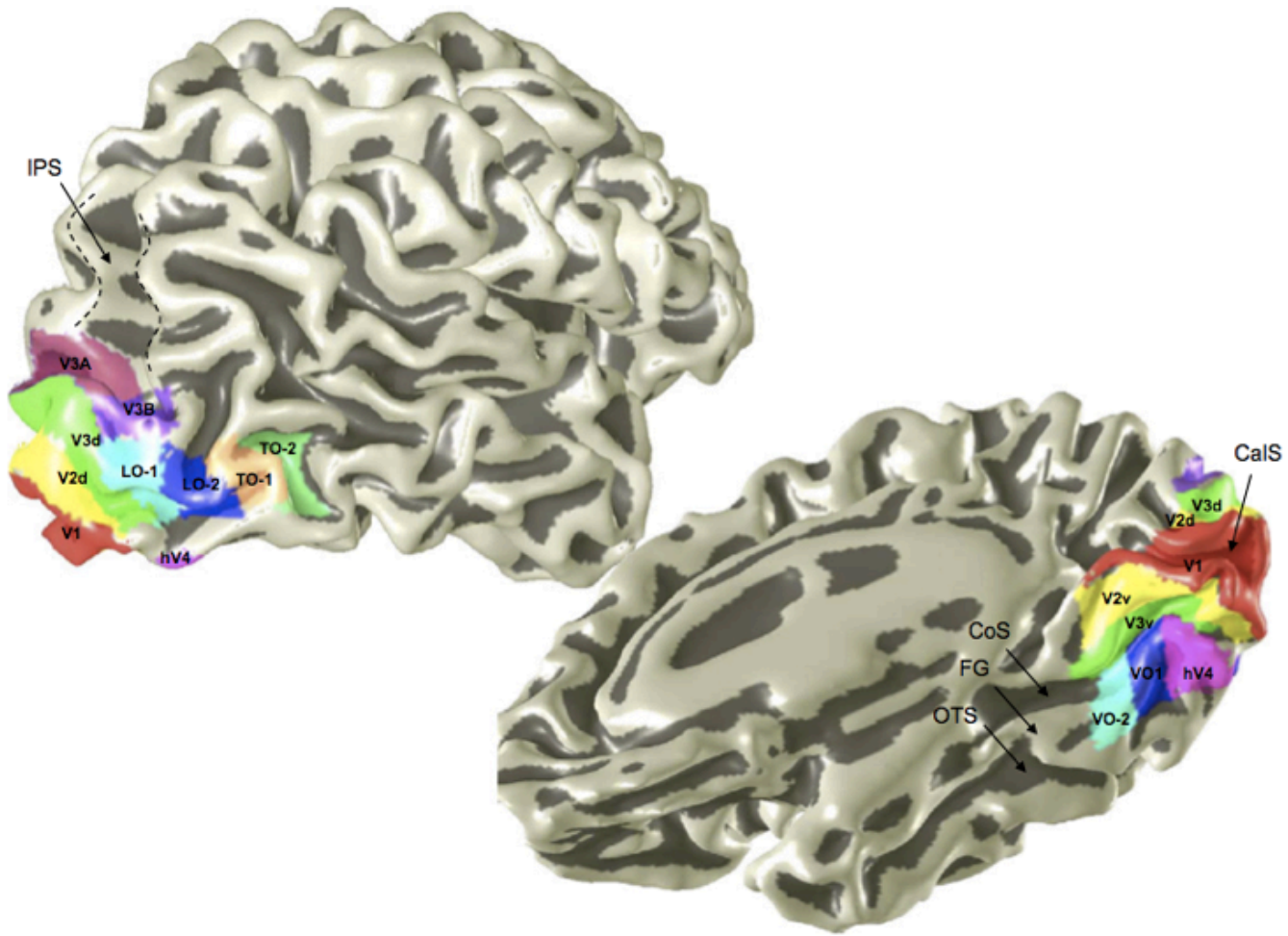
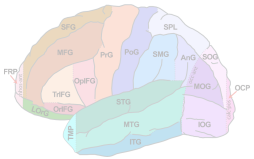

dMRI

Mindboggle




Visuotopic mapping

Wandell and Winawer, 2011



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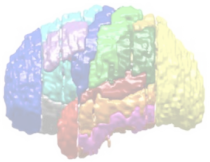
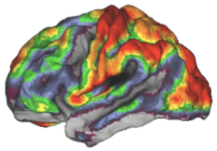


atlas



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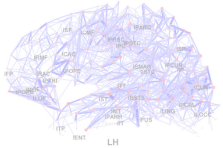
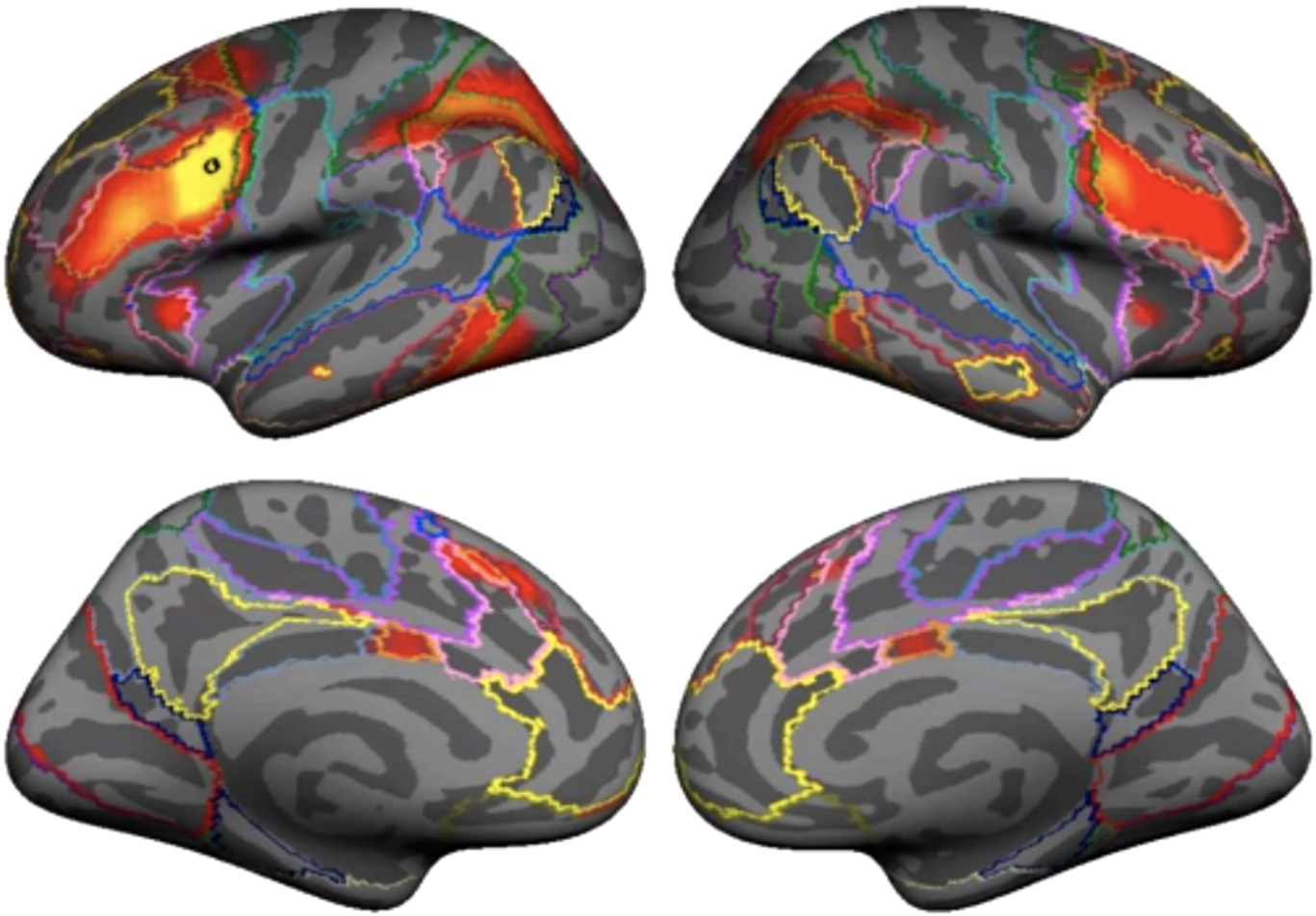


dMRI

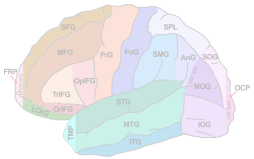
Mindboggle

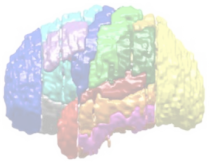


Functional “connectivity”

7-network (N=1000)

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=05j-TvKnFaA&feature=player_detailpage


aMRI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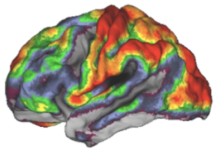
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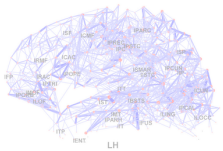
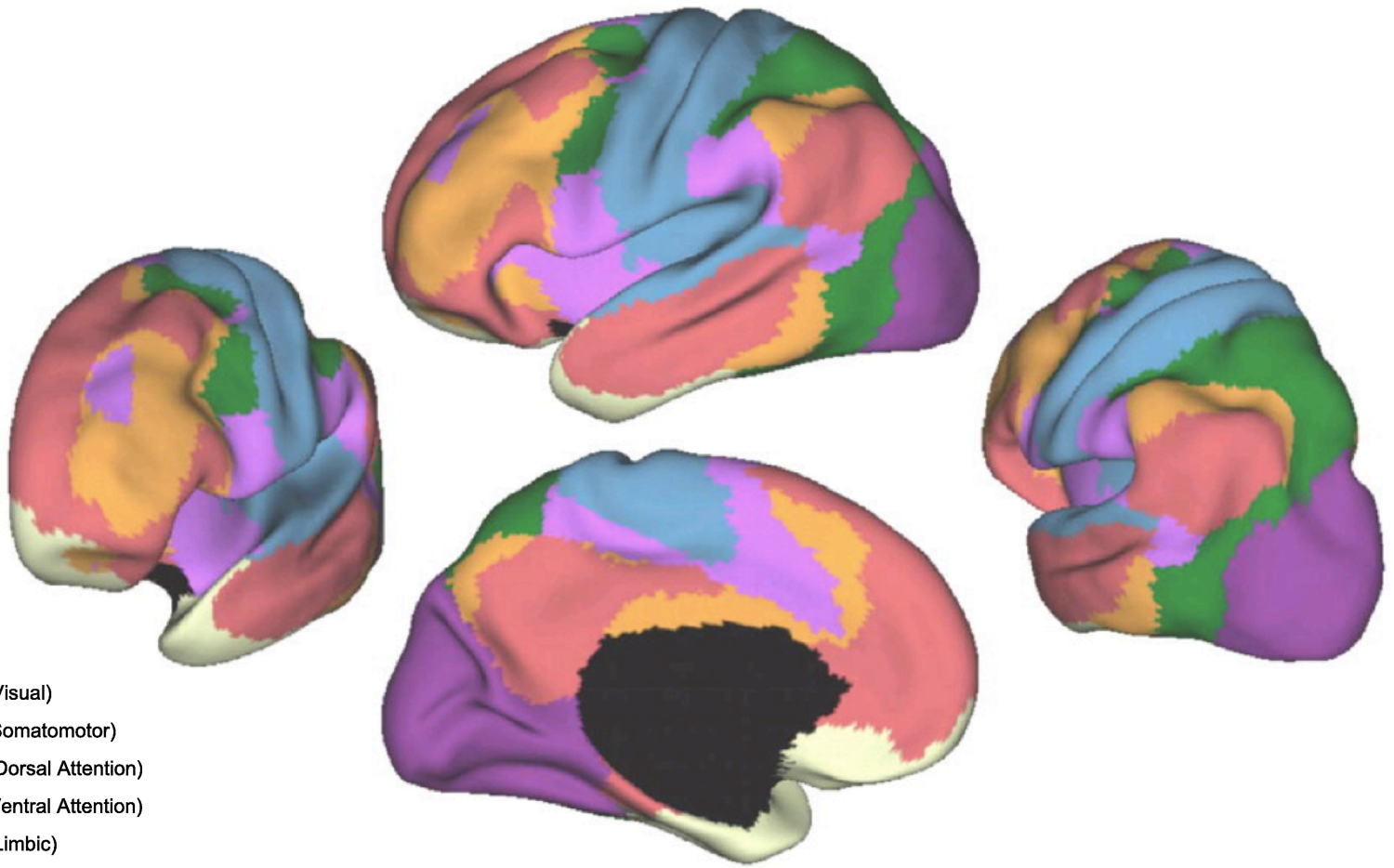

dMRI

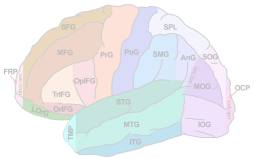
Mindboggle




Functional “connectivity”

7-network (N=1000)

Yeo, et al., JNeurophysiology, 2011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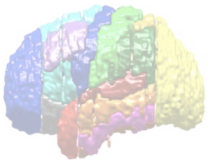
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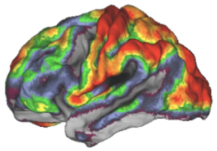
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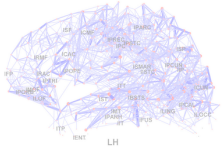
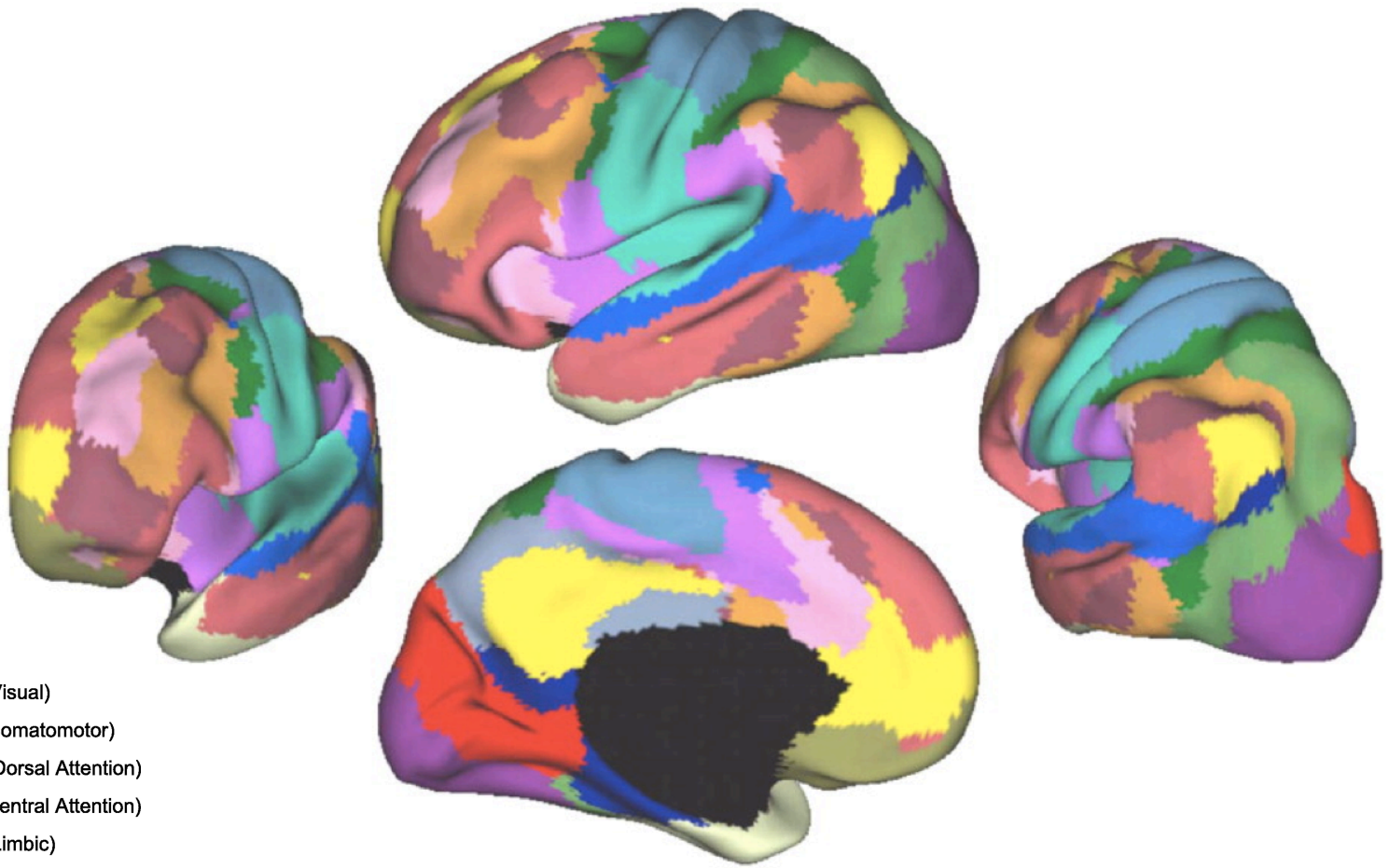

dMRI

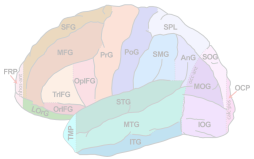
Mindboggle



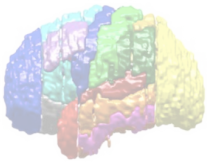

## Functional “connectivity”

17-network (N=1000)

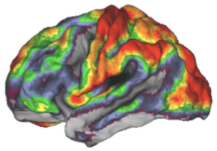
Yeo, et al., JNeurophysiology, 2011



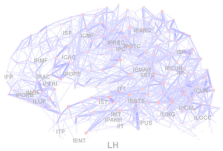
aMRI



atlas

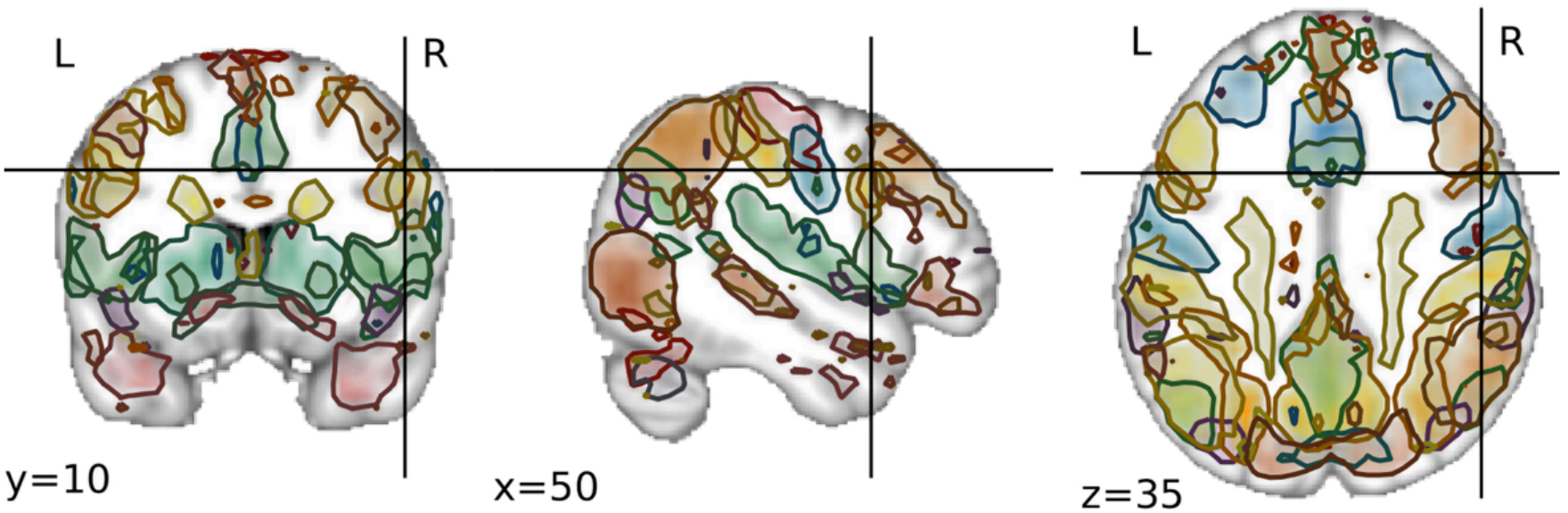


fMRI



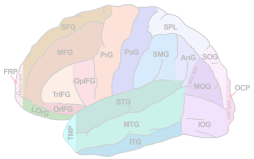
dMRI

Mindboggle




Functional “connectivity”

Varoquaux, et al., IPMI 2011



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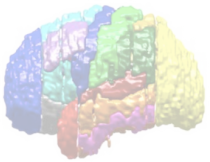

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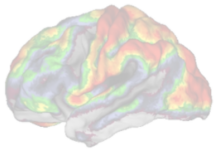
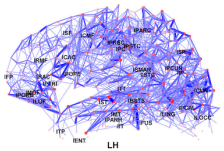
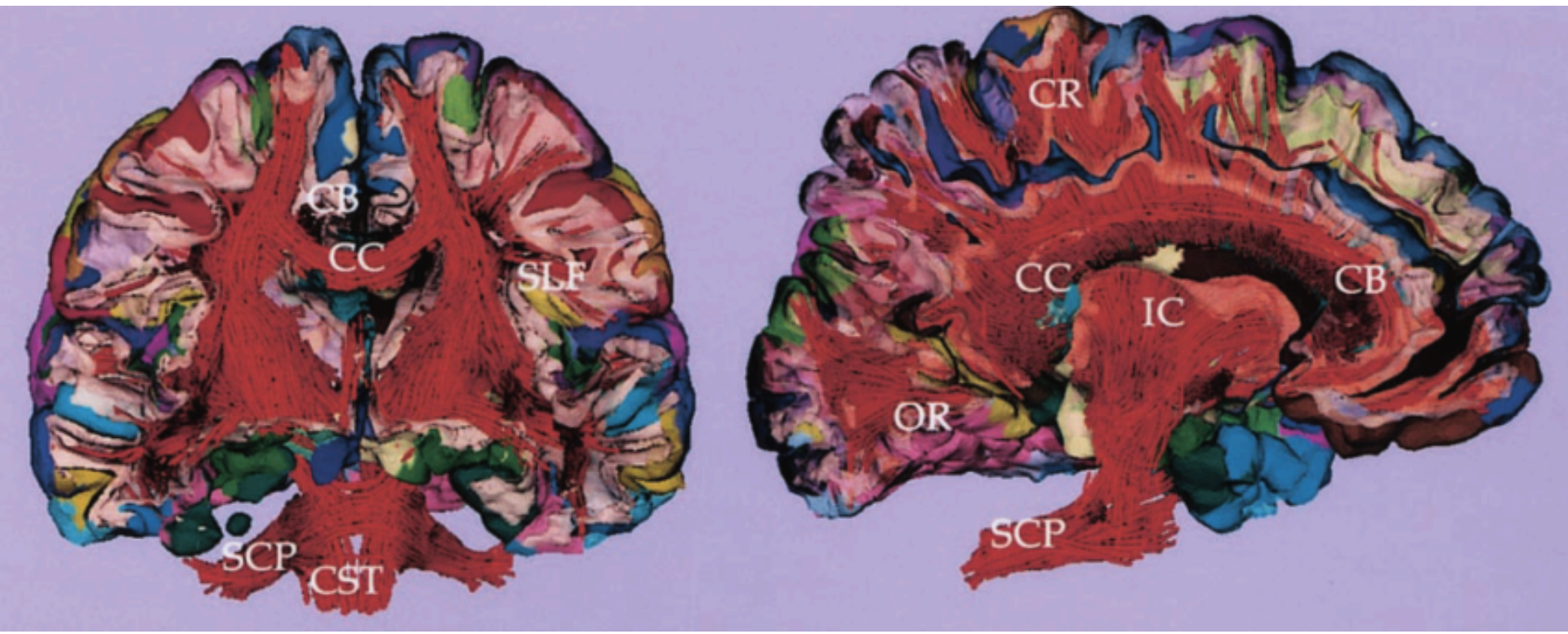


fMRI



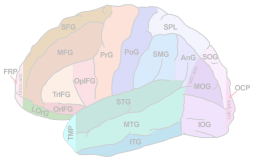
dMRI

Mindboggle

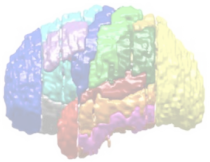



Visualization of atlas-based labels + tractography

Park, et al., 2004



aMRI



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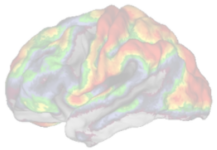

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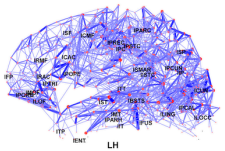
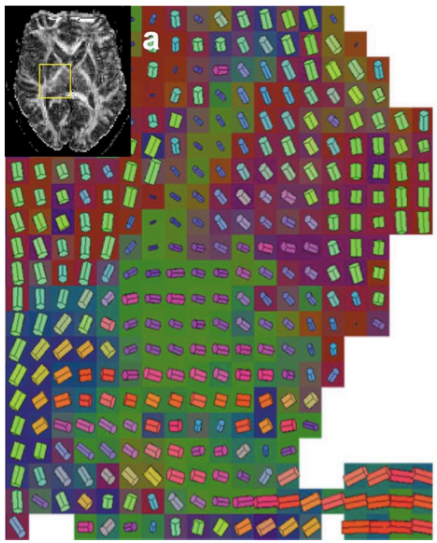
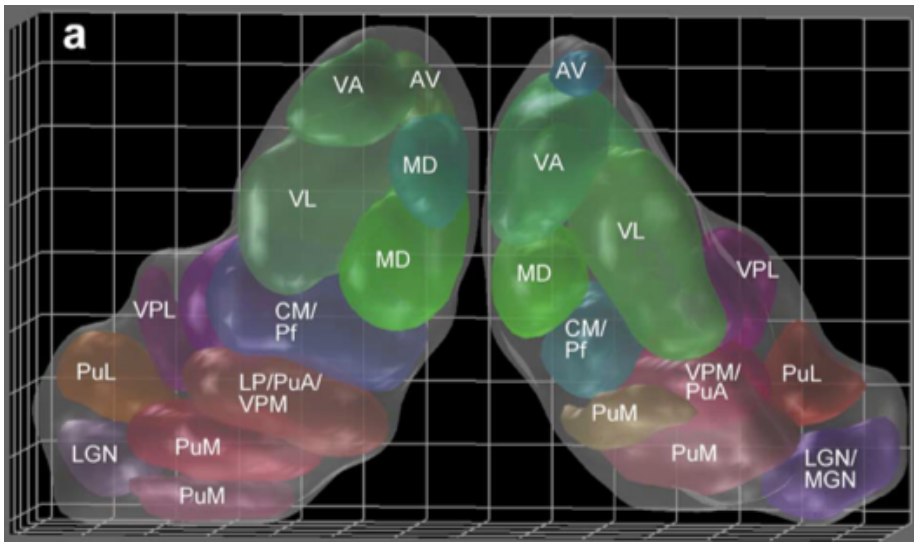
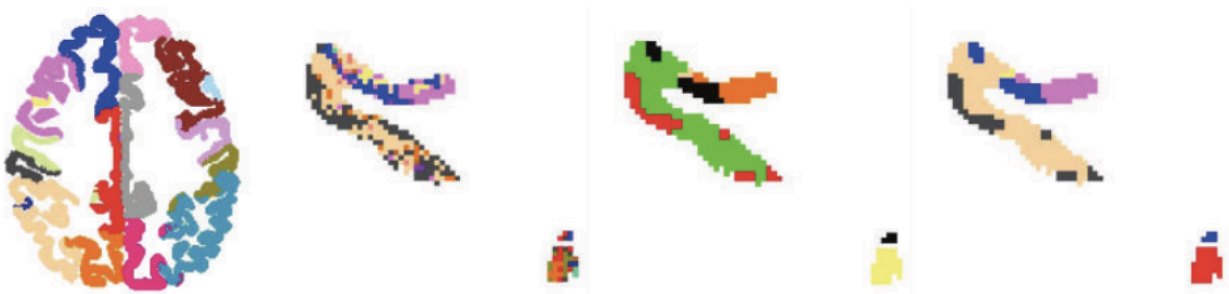


dMRI

Mindboggle

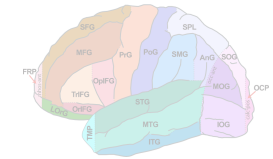


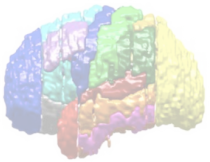



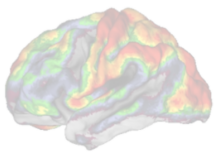



Tractography + atlas-based labeling

Wiegall et al., 2003; Cachia et al., 2008


aMRI


atlas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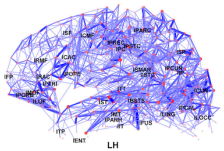
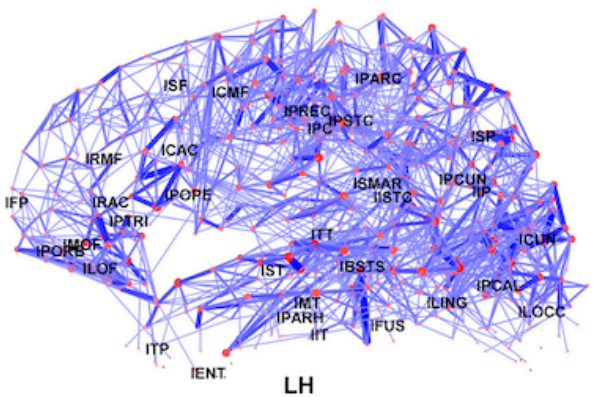
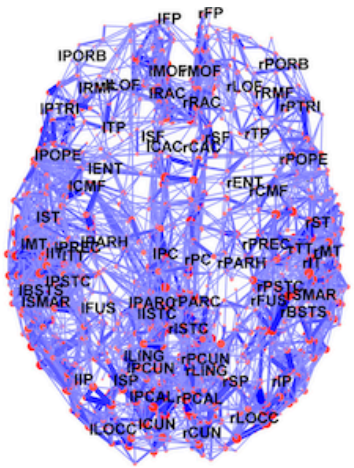
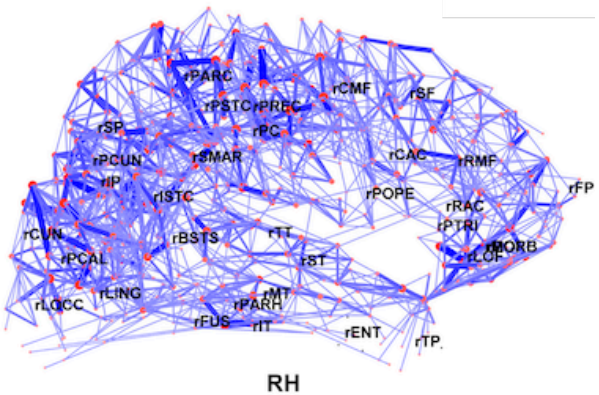
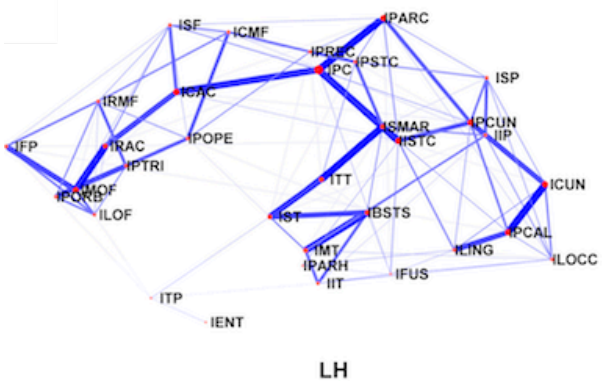

dMRI

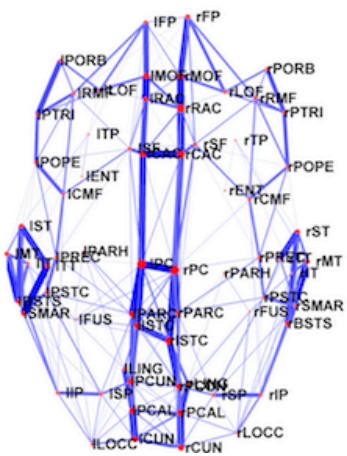
Mindboggle

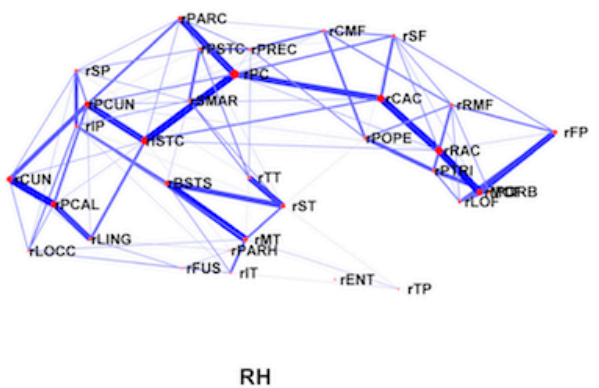


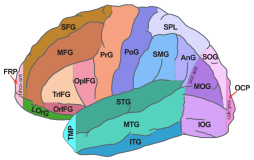



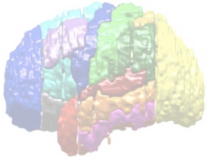




# Labeled tractography networks

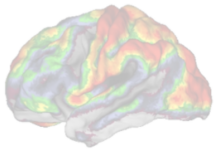
Hagmann, et al., 2008



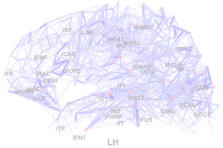

aMRI



atlas

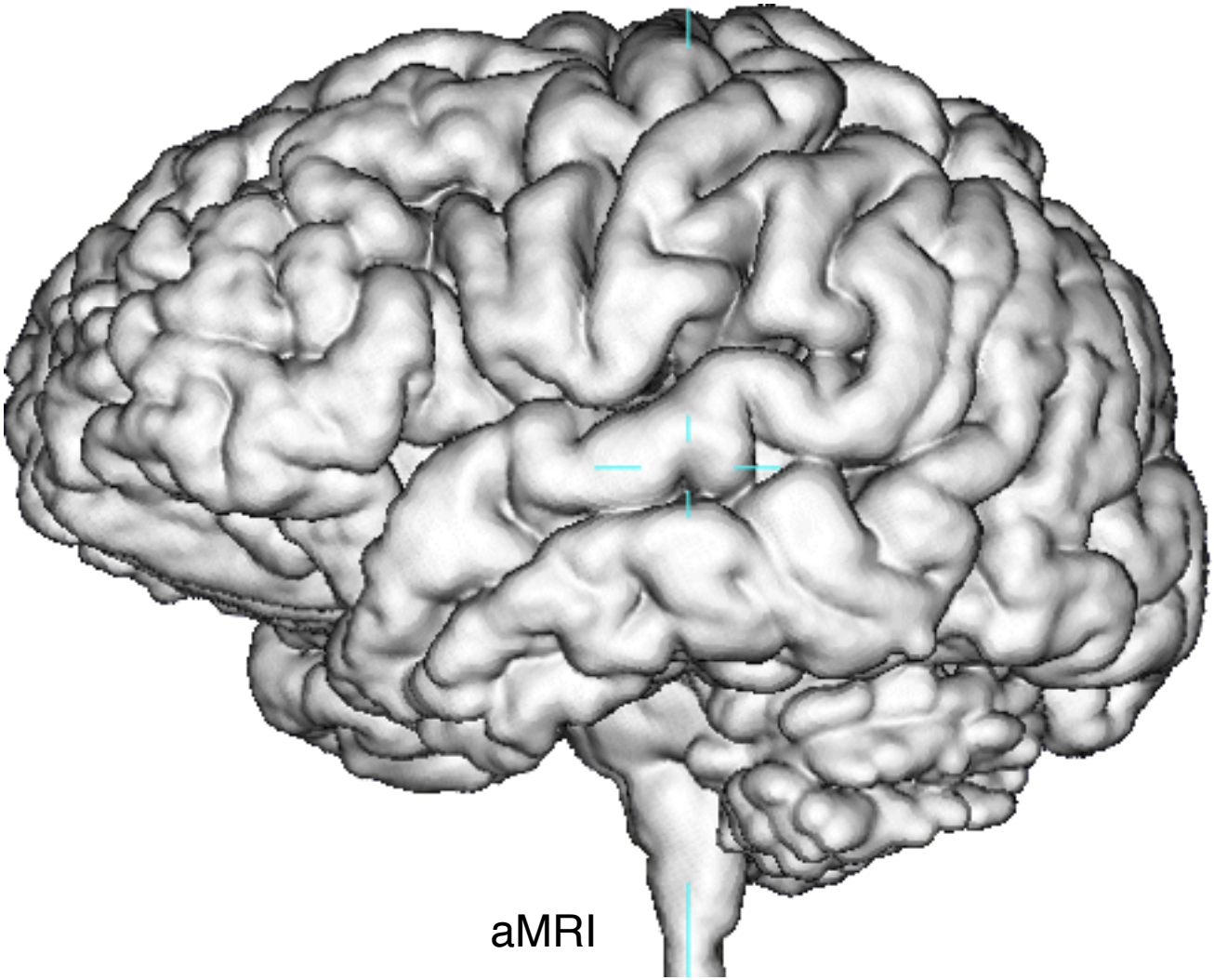


fMRI



dMRI

Mindboggle



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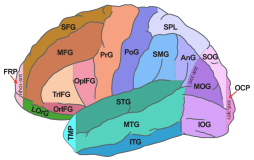


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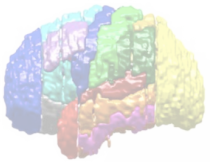

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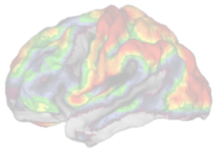

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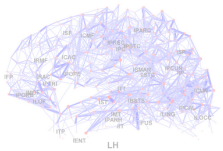
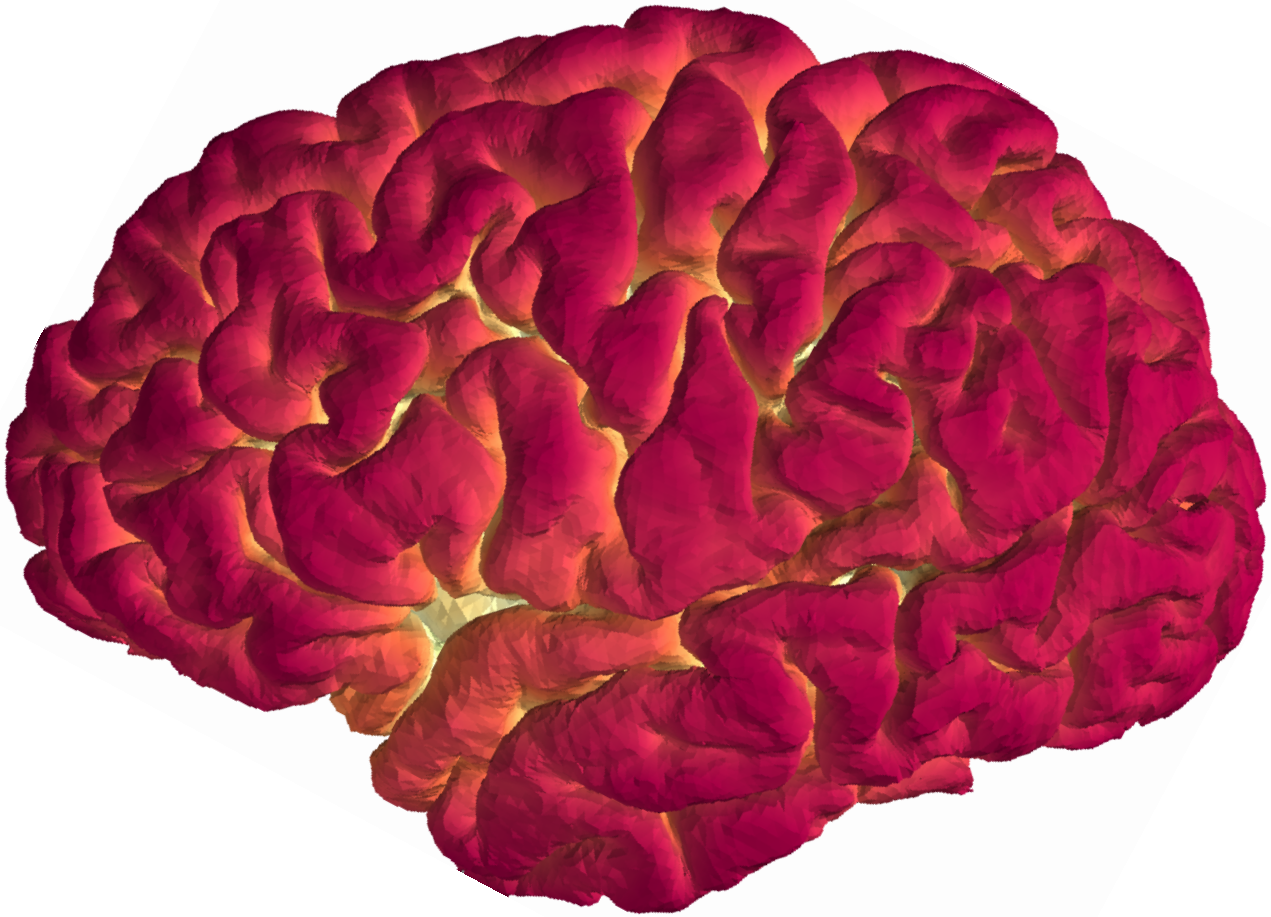
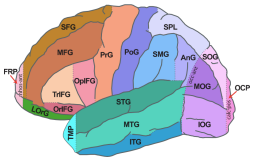


dMRI

Mindboggle



aMRI depth map

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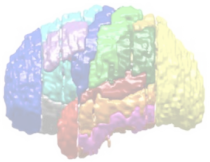

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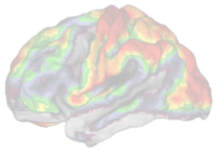

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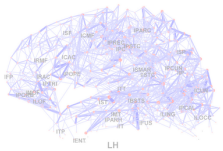
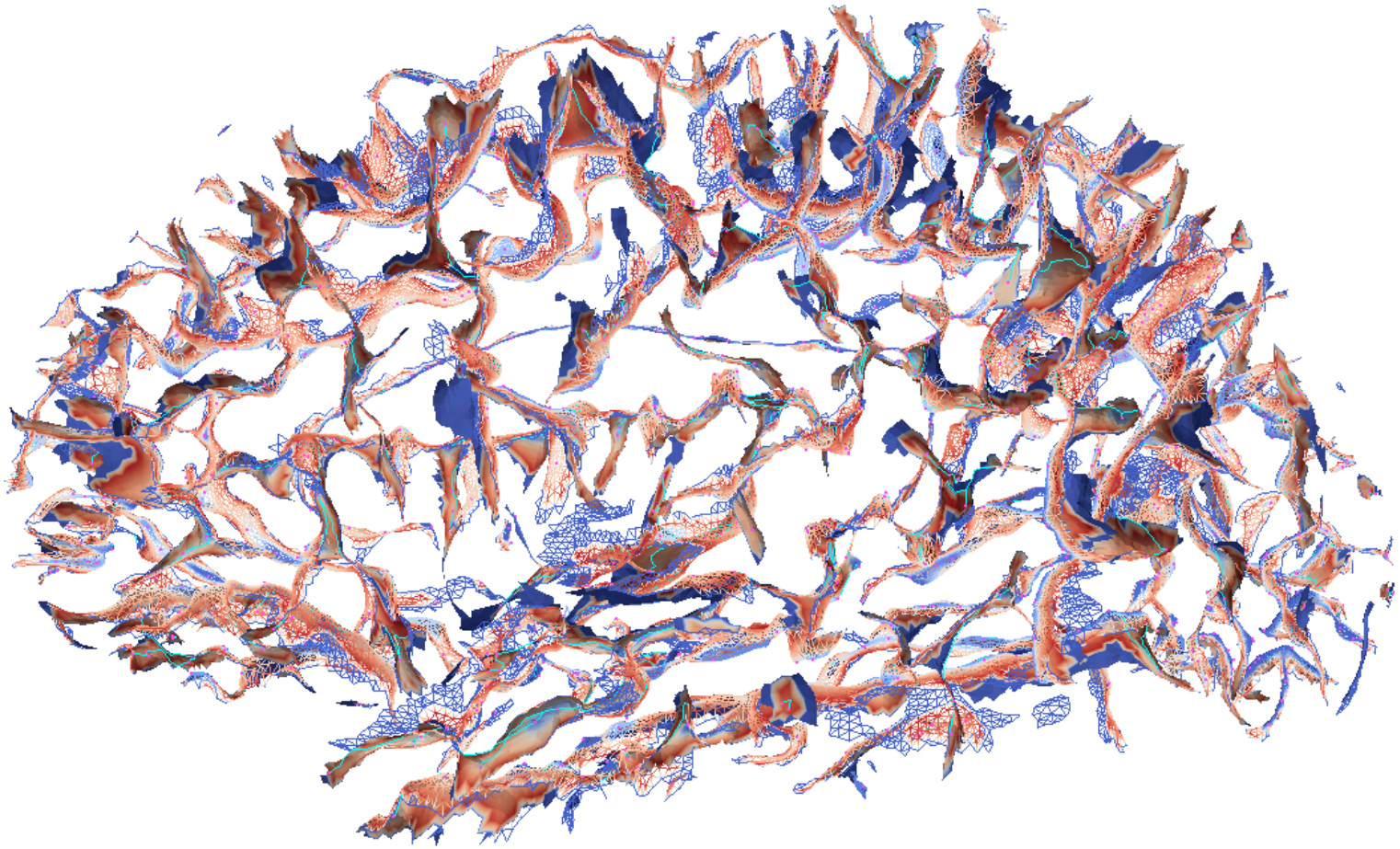
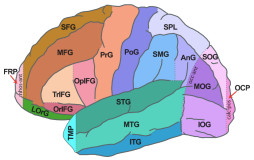


dMRI

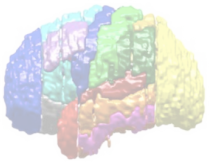
Mindboggle



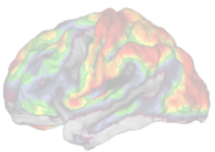
Sulcal basins




aMRI



atlas



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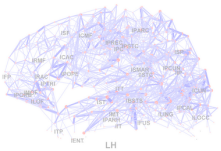
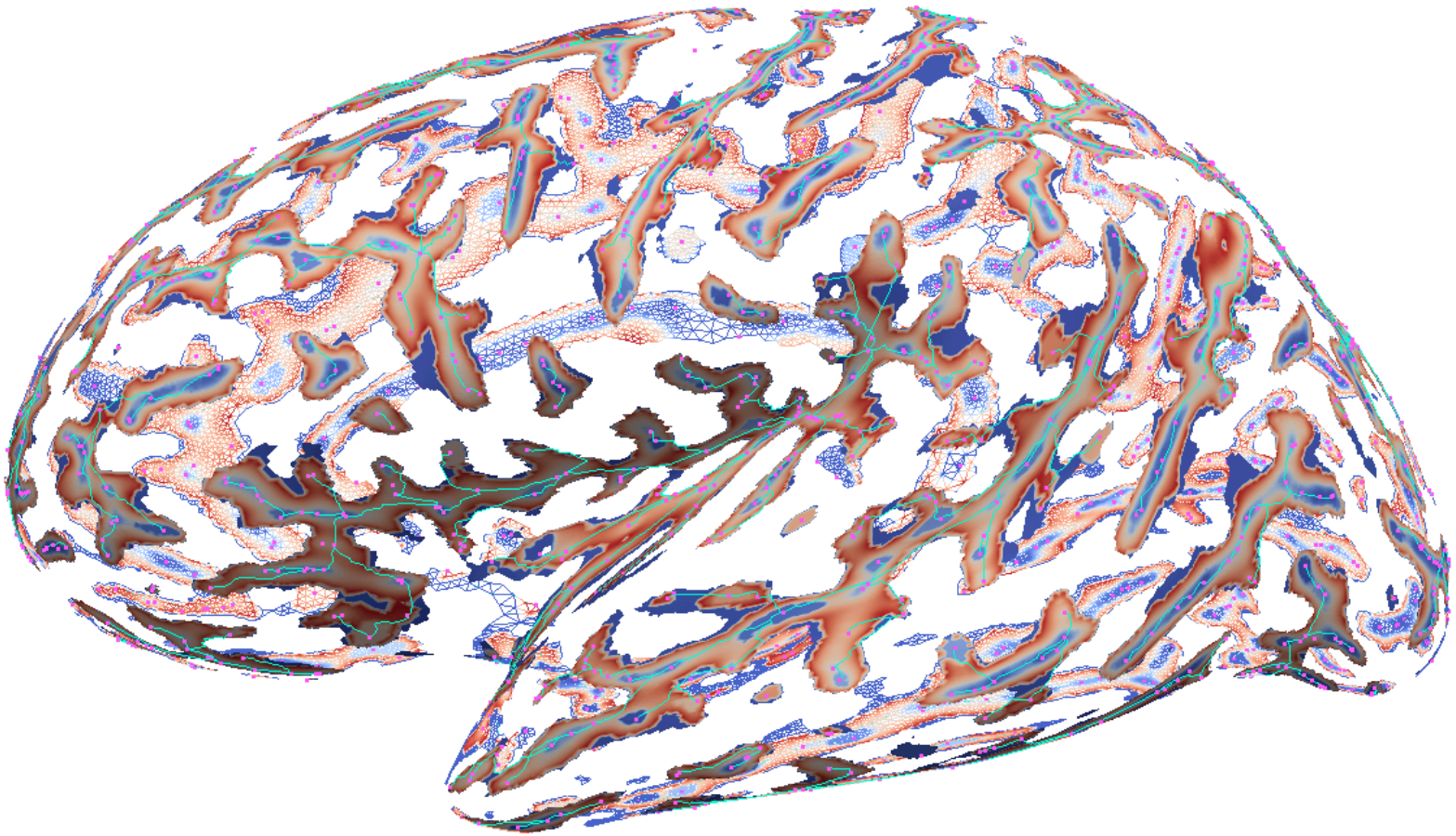
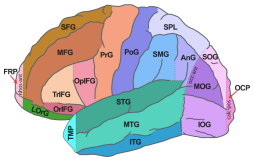


dMRI

Mindboggle



Sulcal basins: inflated

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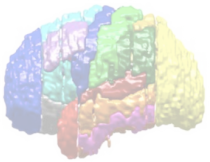
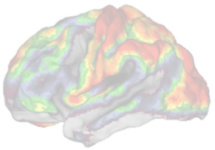


atlas



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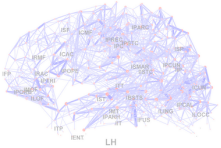
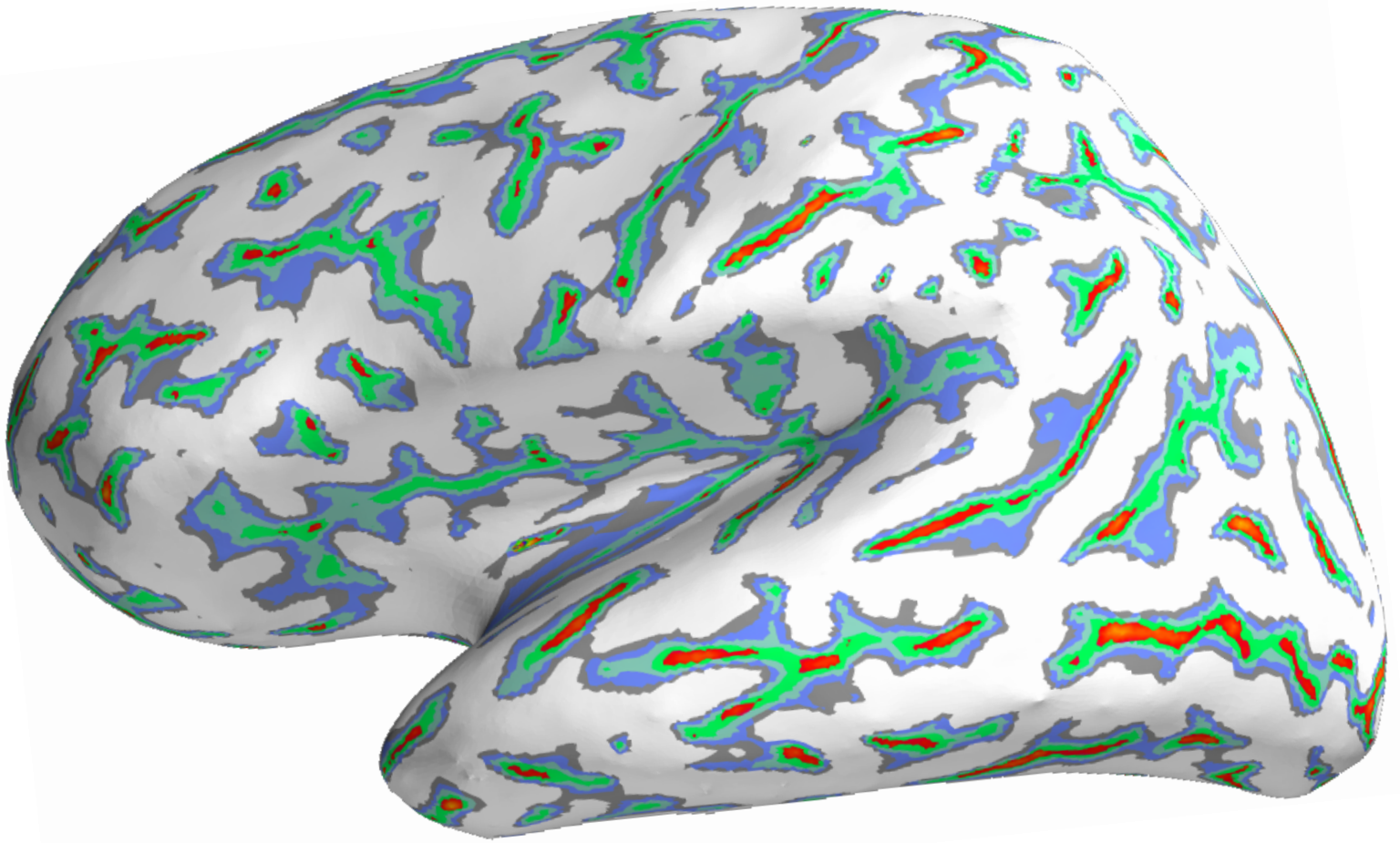
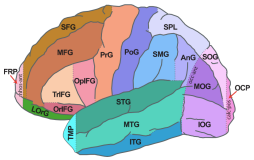


dMRI

Mindboggle



Inflated cortical surface with thresholded curvature/depth map

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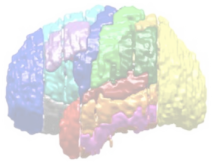

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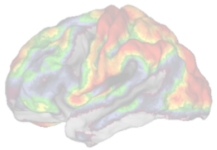
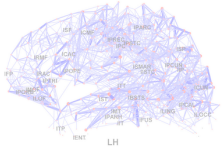
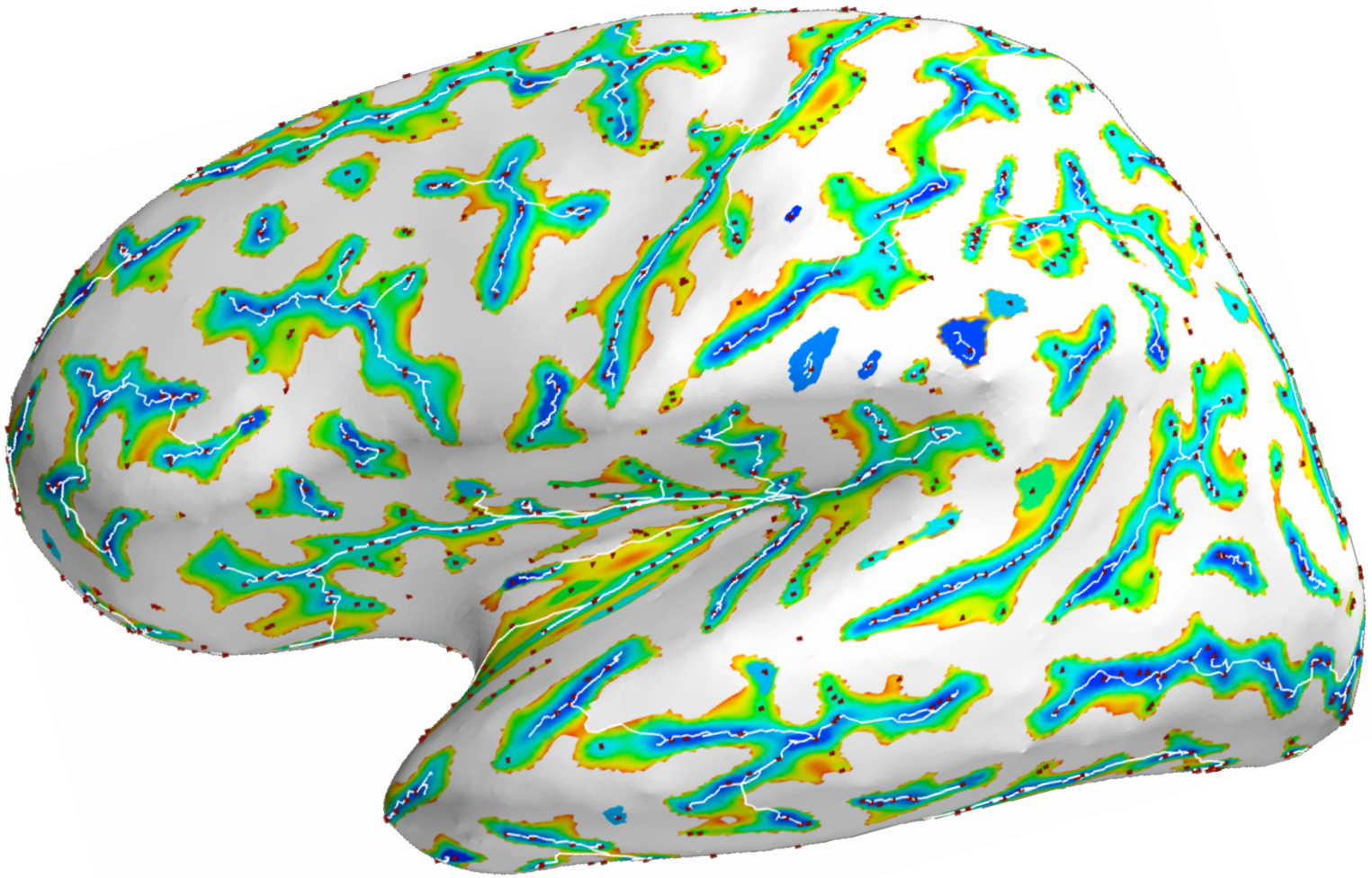


fMRI

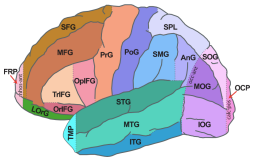


dMRI

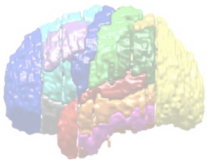
Mindboggle



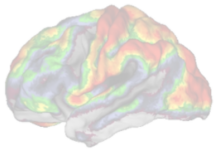
Inflated cortical surface with thresholded curvature/depth map



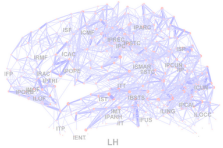

aMRI



atlas



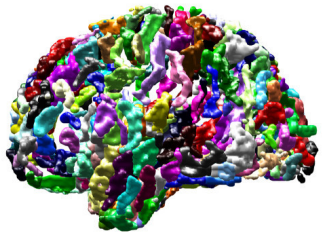
fMRI

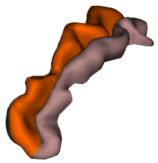


dMRI

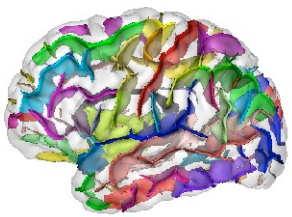
Mindboggle

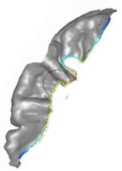
basins



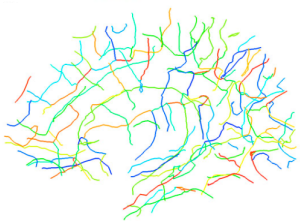


ribbons

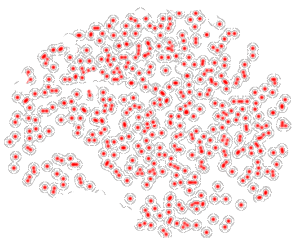




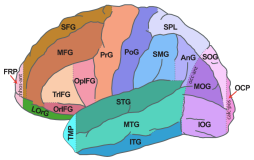
curves



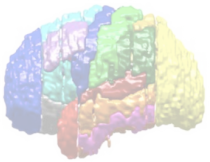
points



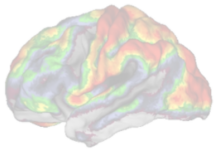
Nested structures



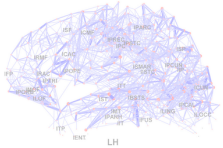

aMRI



atlas



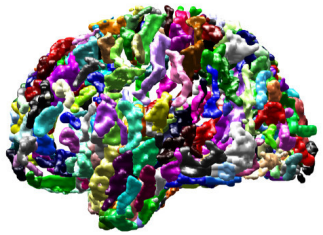
fMRI

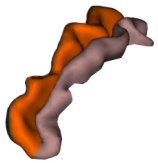


dMRI

Mindboggle

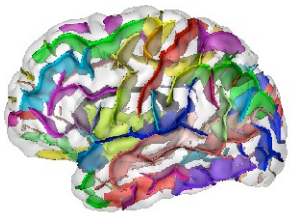
basins

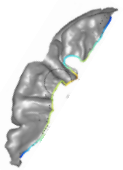




volume
surface area
cortical thickness / sulcal span
...

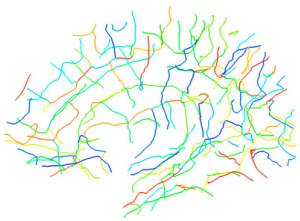
ribbons





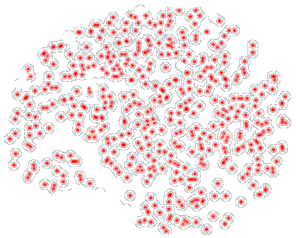
convex hull volume
surface area
depth
curvature
convexity
...

curves



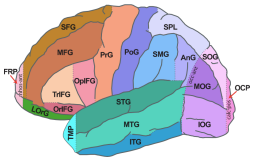
length / tortuosity
depth
curvature
convexity
...

points

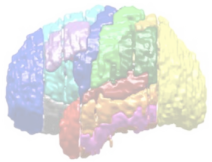


convex hull volume
sequence along a curve
...

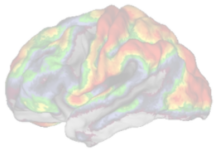
## Shape analysis



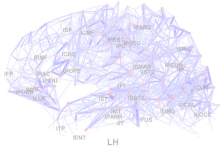

aMRI



atlas

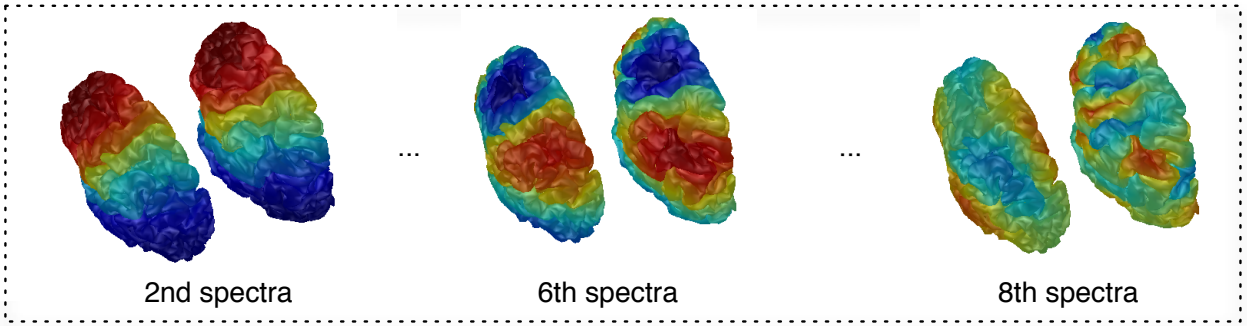


fMRI

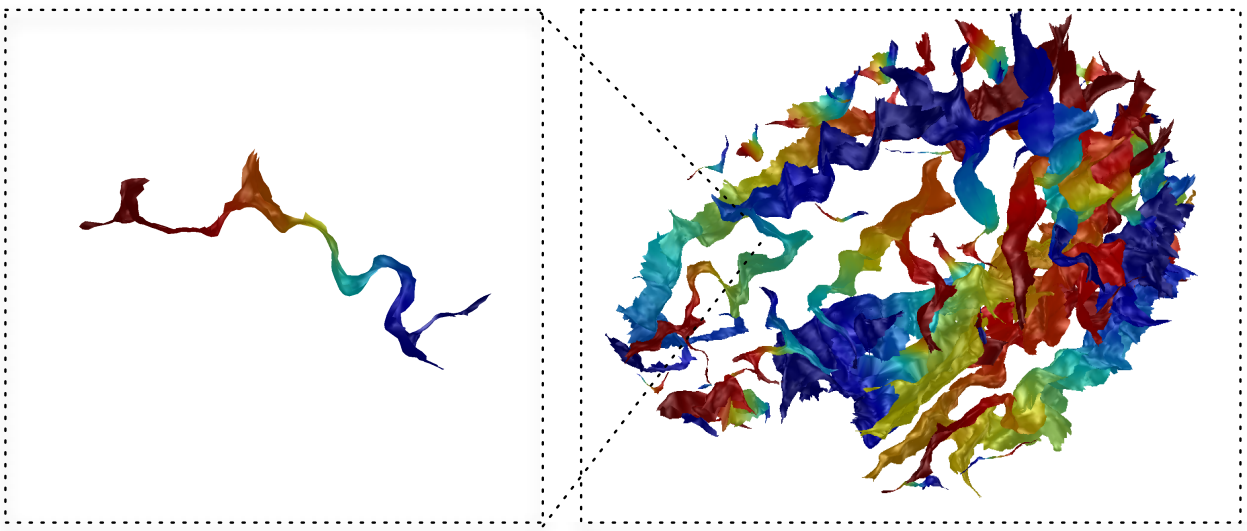


dMRI

Mindboggle



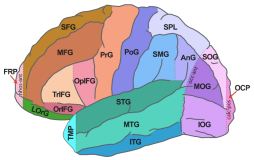

Global to local



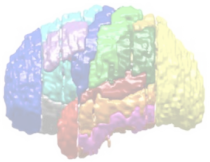
LBO on sulcal basin

LBO on sulcal basins of left hemisphere

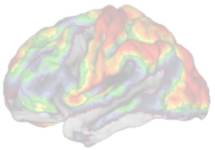
Shape analysis: Laplace-Beltrami operator




aMRI



atlas



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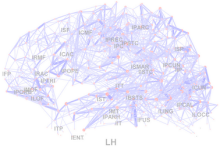
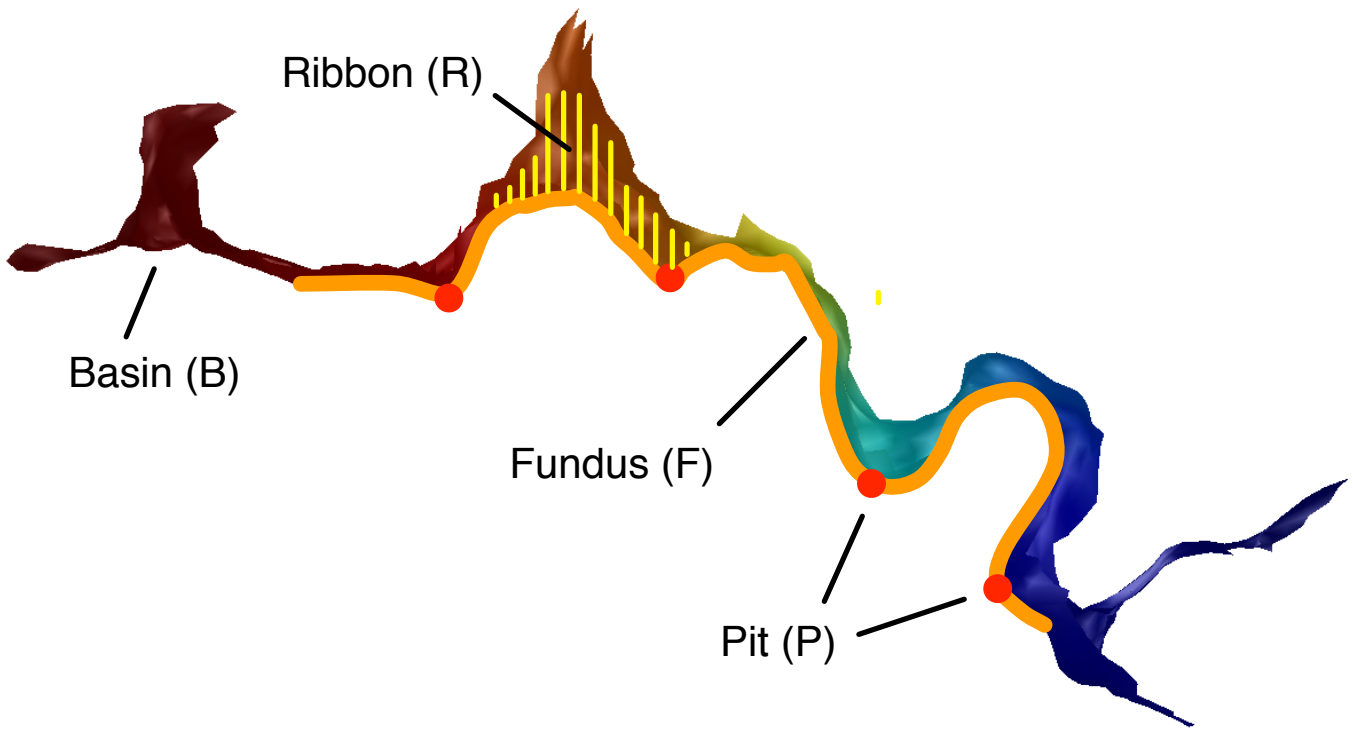
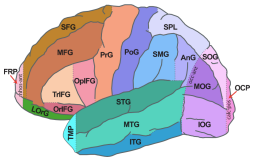


dMRI

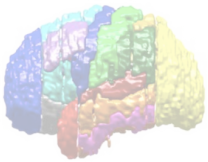
Mindboggle



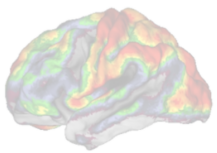

Structures within a subfold



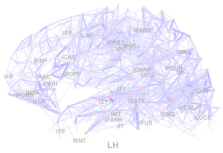

aMRI



atlas

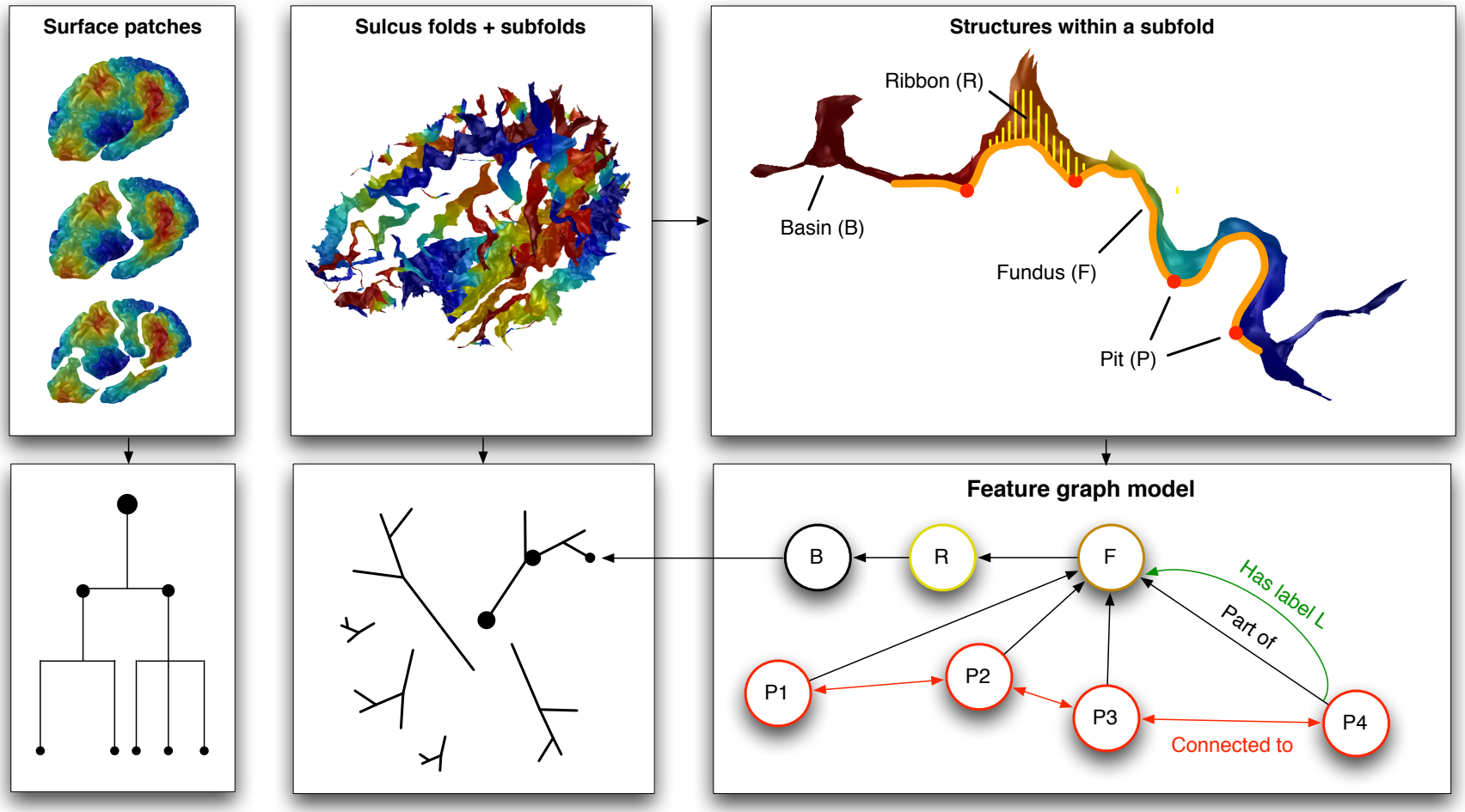


fMRI

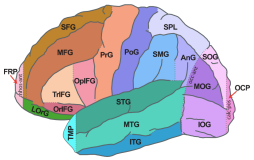


dMRI

Mindboggle




Nested structures within a graph-based data model

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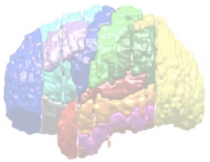

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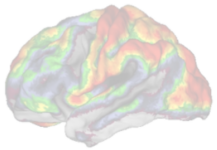

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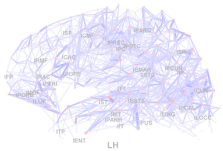
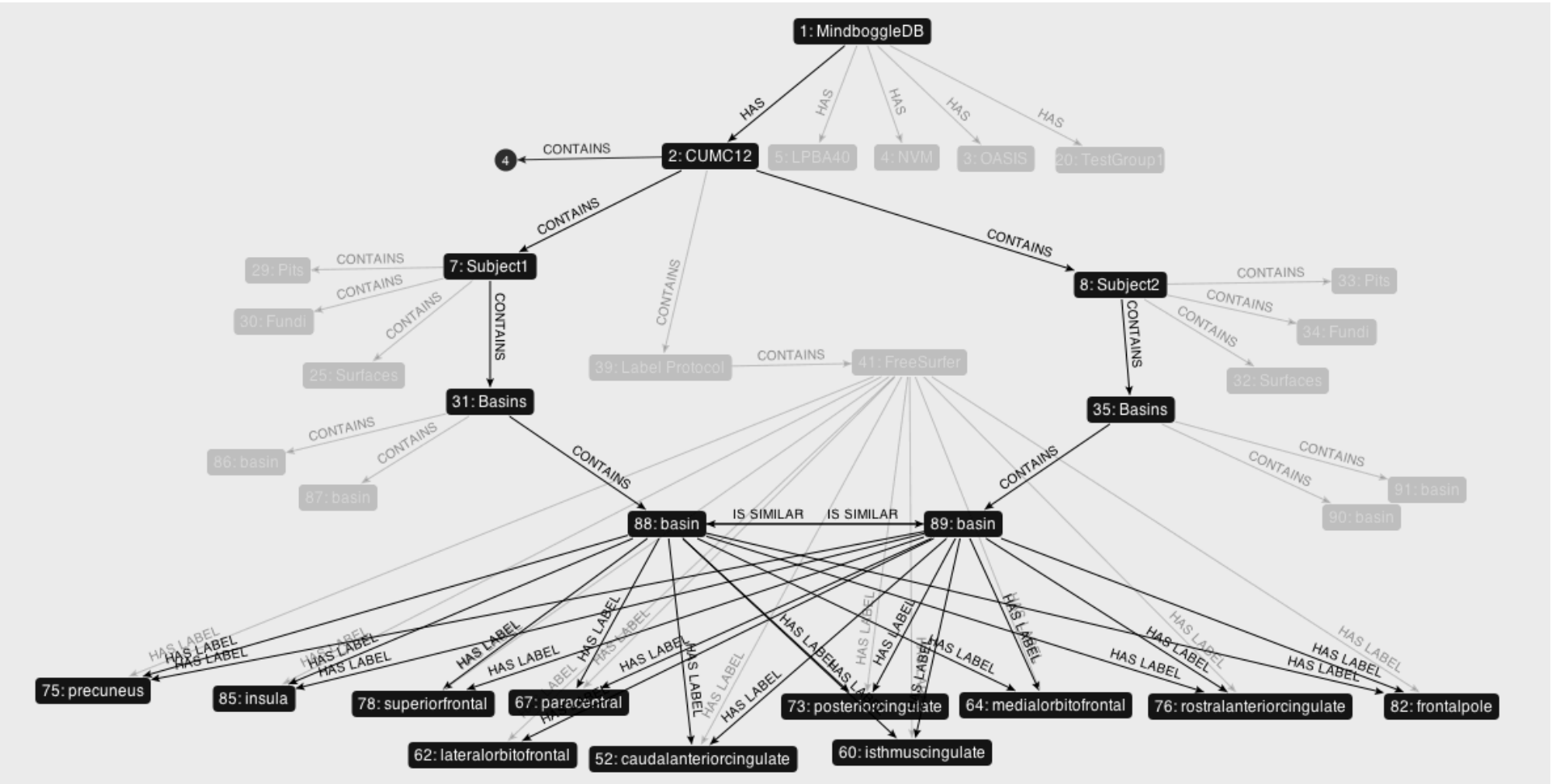


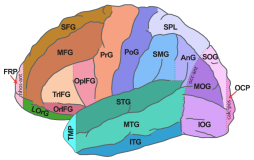
dMRI

Mindboggle

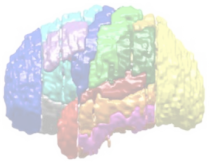



# Graph-based database of hierarchical brain features

finding similar features




aMRI



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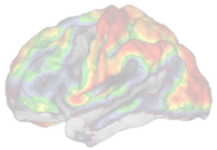

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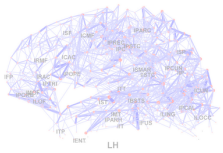
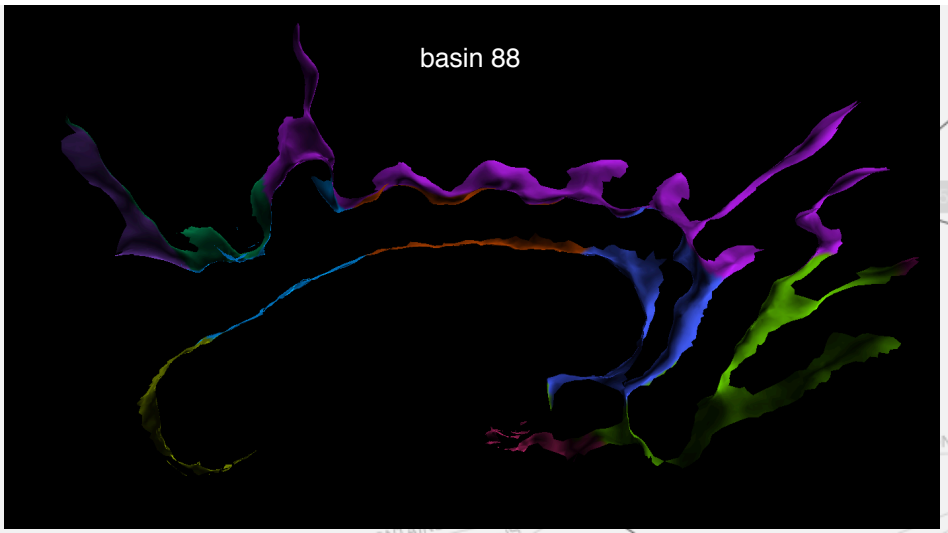
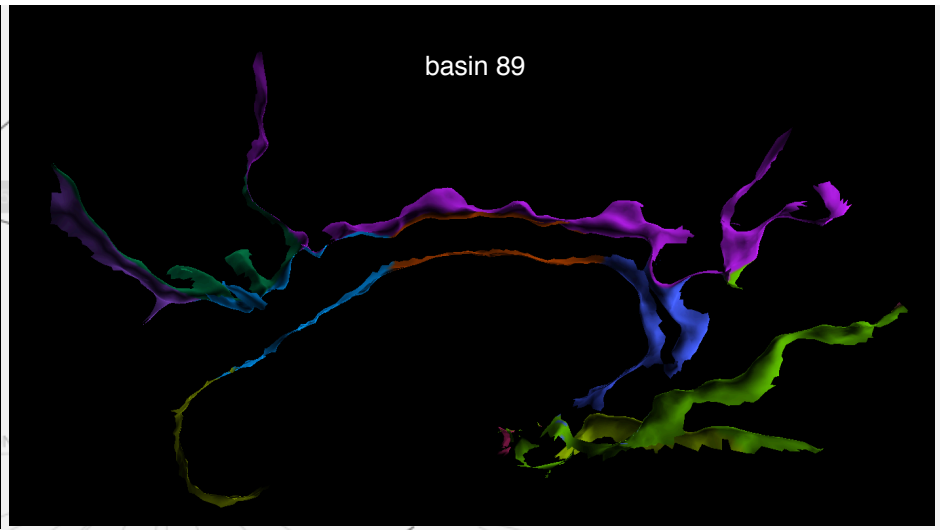
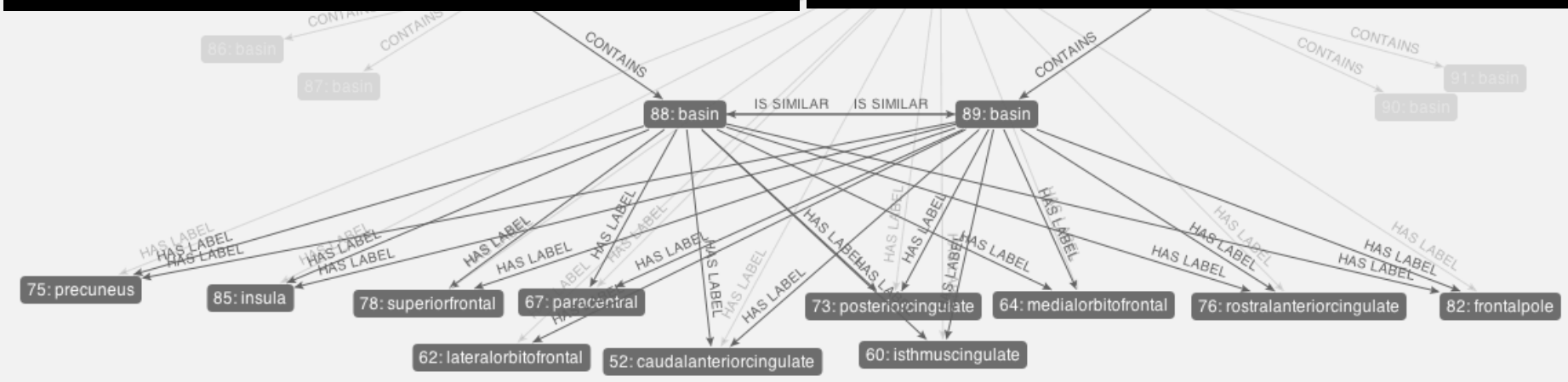


dMRI

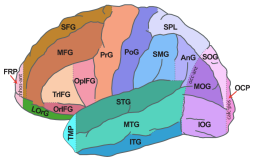
Mindboggle



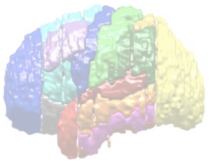



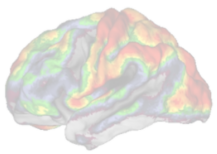

Graph-based database: example query



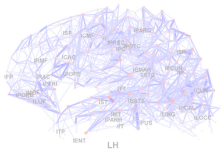

aMRI



atlas

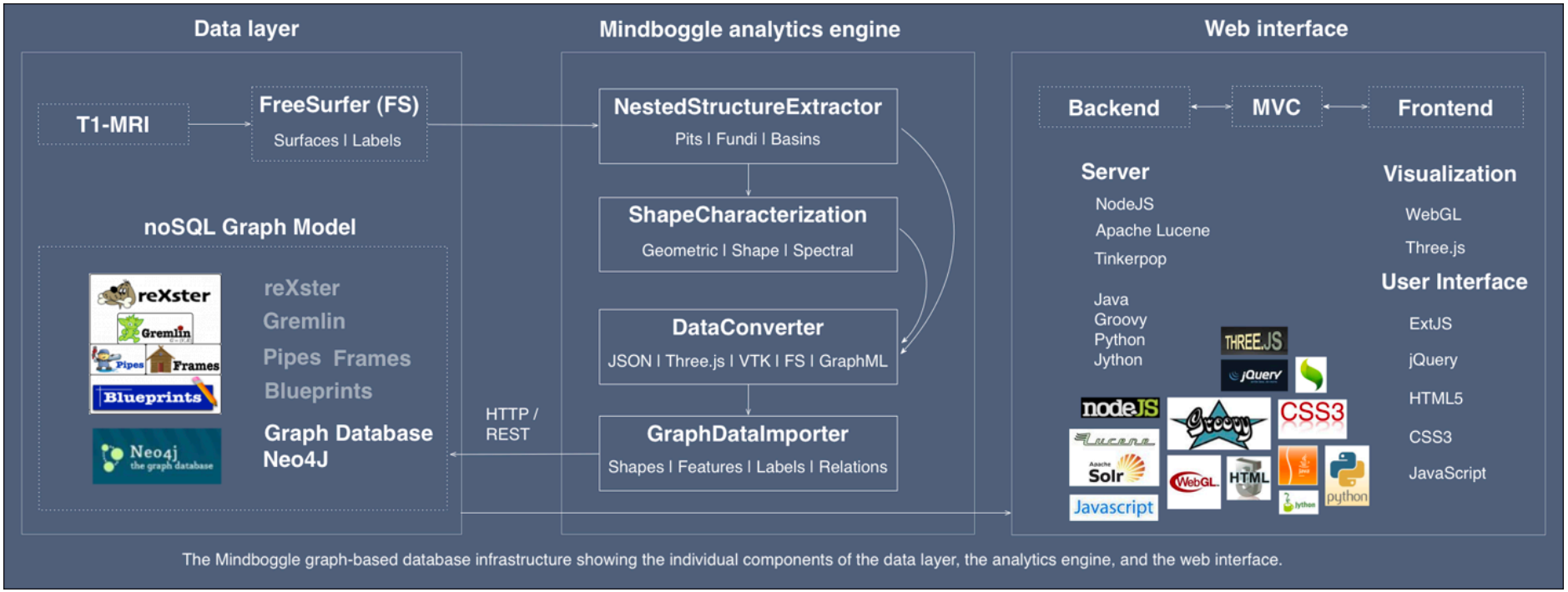


fMRI



dMRI

Mindboggle




The Mindboggle graph-based database infrastructure showing the individual components of the data layer, the analytics engine, and the web interface.

The graph model can be queried via REST, Cypher, reXster, or Gremlin.
This example shows how to query all outgoing relations from basin 88:

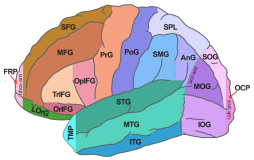
Gremlin query:

```
{
"script": "g.v(88).outE"
}
```

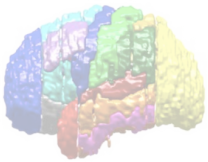
JSON response:


```
[{
  "start" : "http://192.168.23.219:7474/db/data/node/88",
  "data" : {
  },
  "type" : "IS SIMILAR",
  "extensions" : {
  },
  "end" : "http://192.168.23.219:7474/db/data/node/89"
}, {
  "start" : "http://192.168.23.219:7474/db/data/node/88",
  "data" : {
  },
   "type" : "HAS LABEL",
  "extensions" : {
  },
  "end" : "http://192.168.23.219:7474/db/data/node/60"
},
```

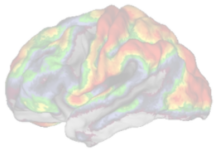

# Graph-based database schematic



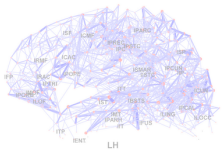

aMRI



atlas



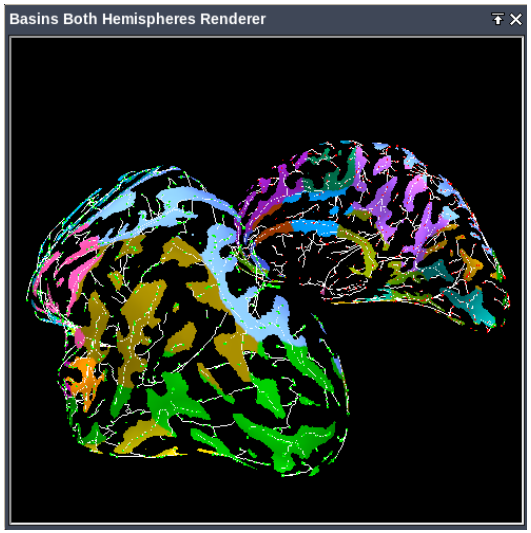
fMRI

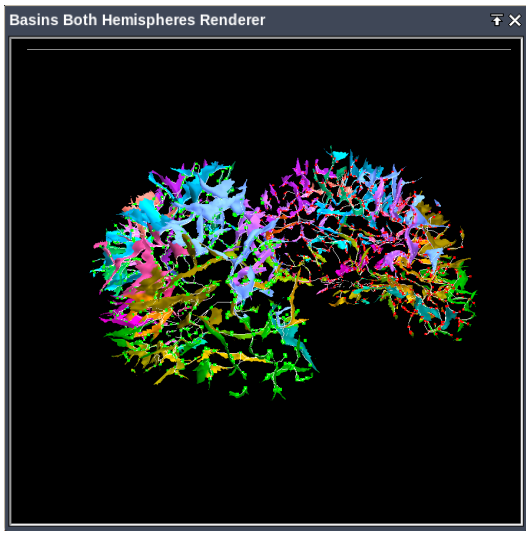


dMRI

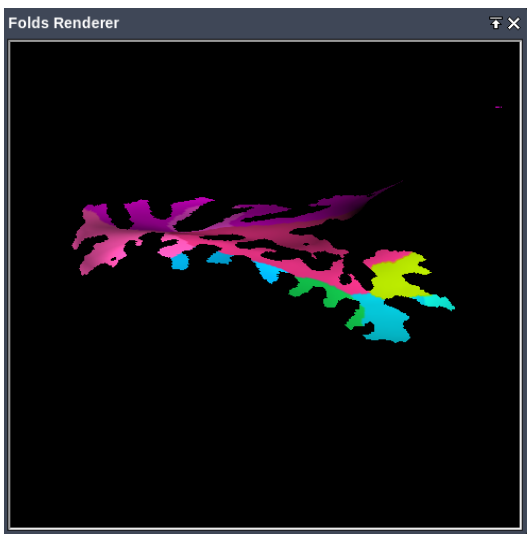
Mindboggle

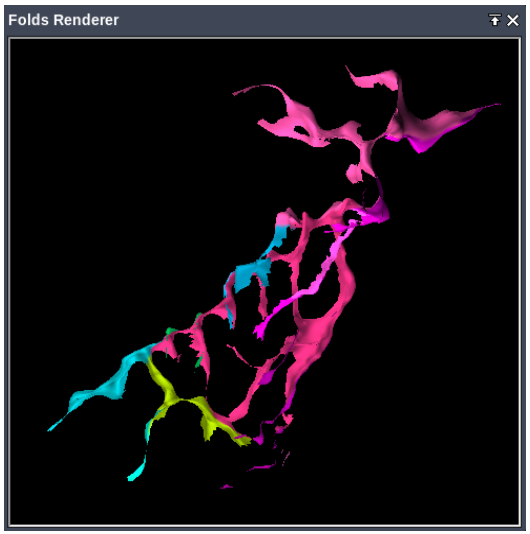
whole brain

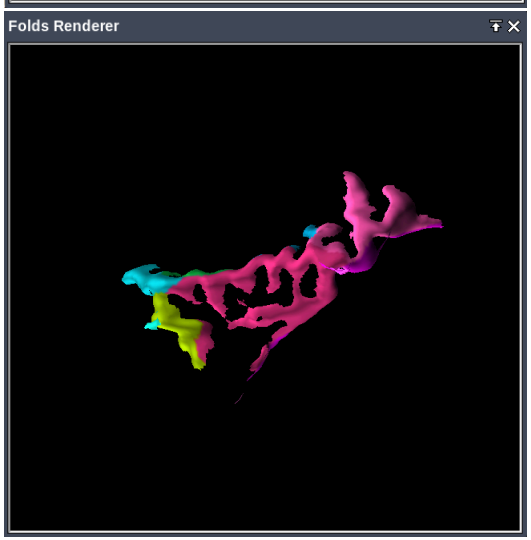


single folds



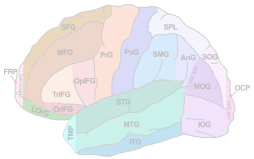



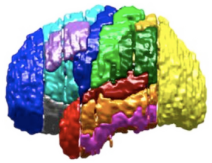

inflated

pial

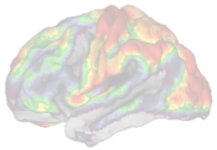
white matter



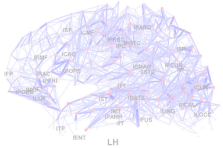

aMRI



atlas



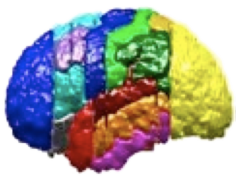
fMRI



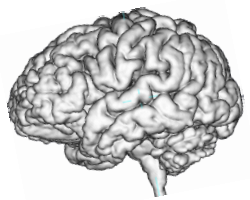
dMRI

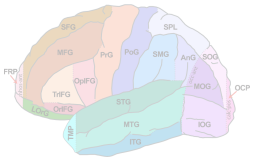
Mindboggle

atlas

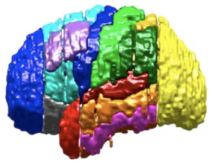


target





aMRI



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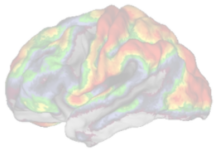
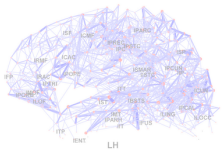


fMRI



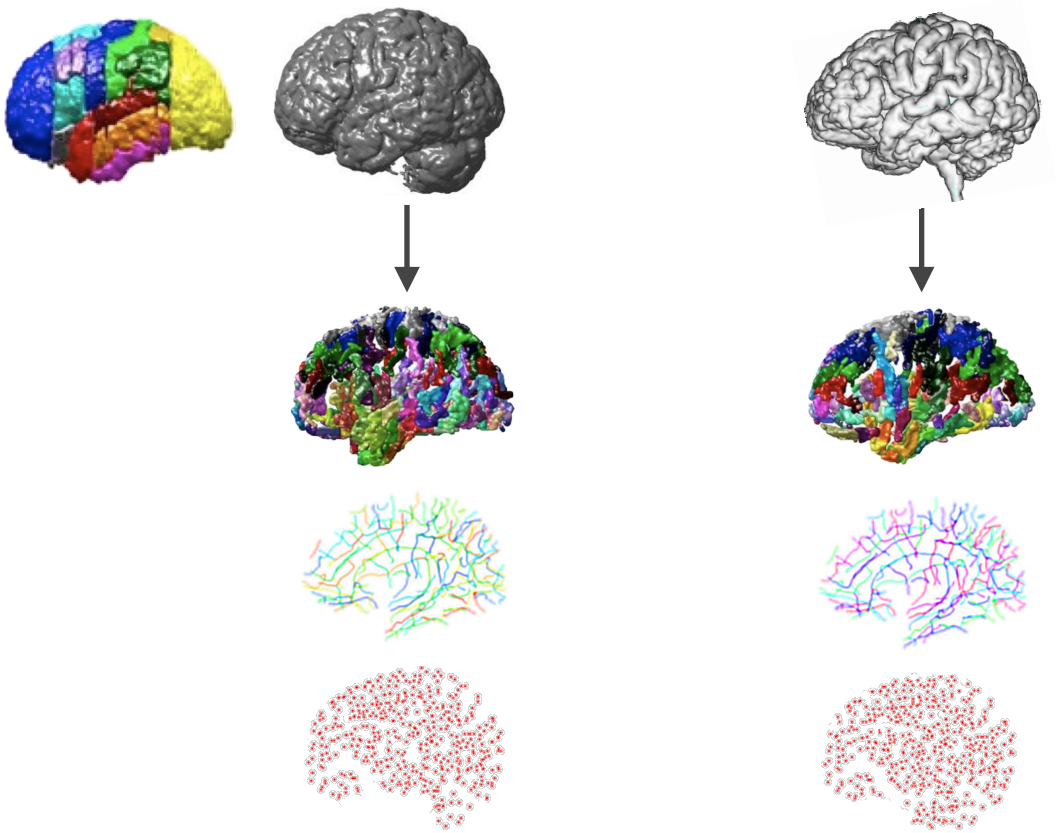
dMRI

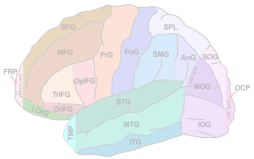
Mindboggle

Mindboggle step 1: extract structures, compute their features

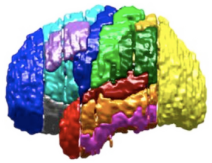
atlas

target

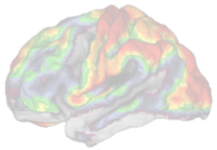




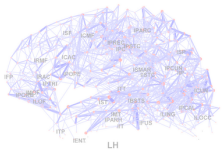
aMRI



atlas



fMRI



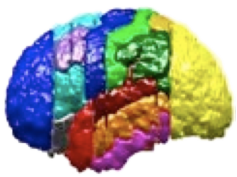
dMRI

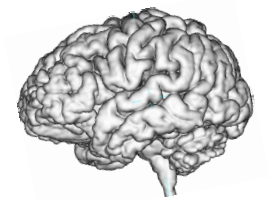
Mindboggle

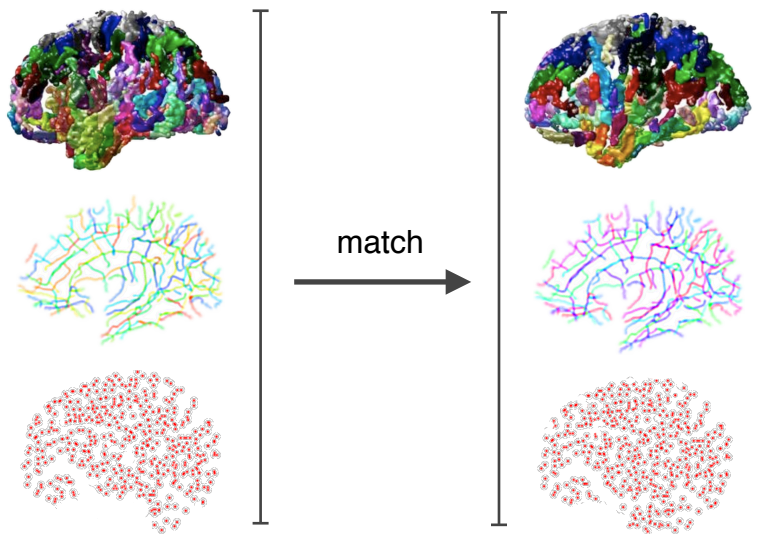
Mindboggle step 2: match atlas and target features

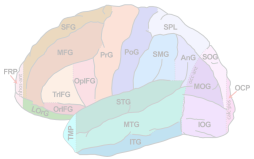
atlas

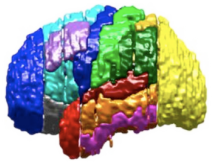
target

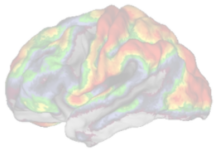


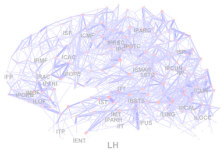





aMRI

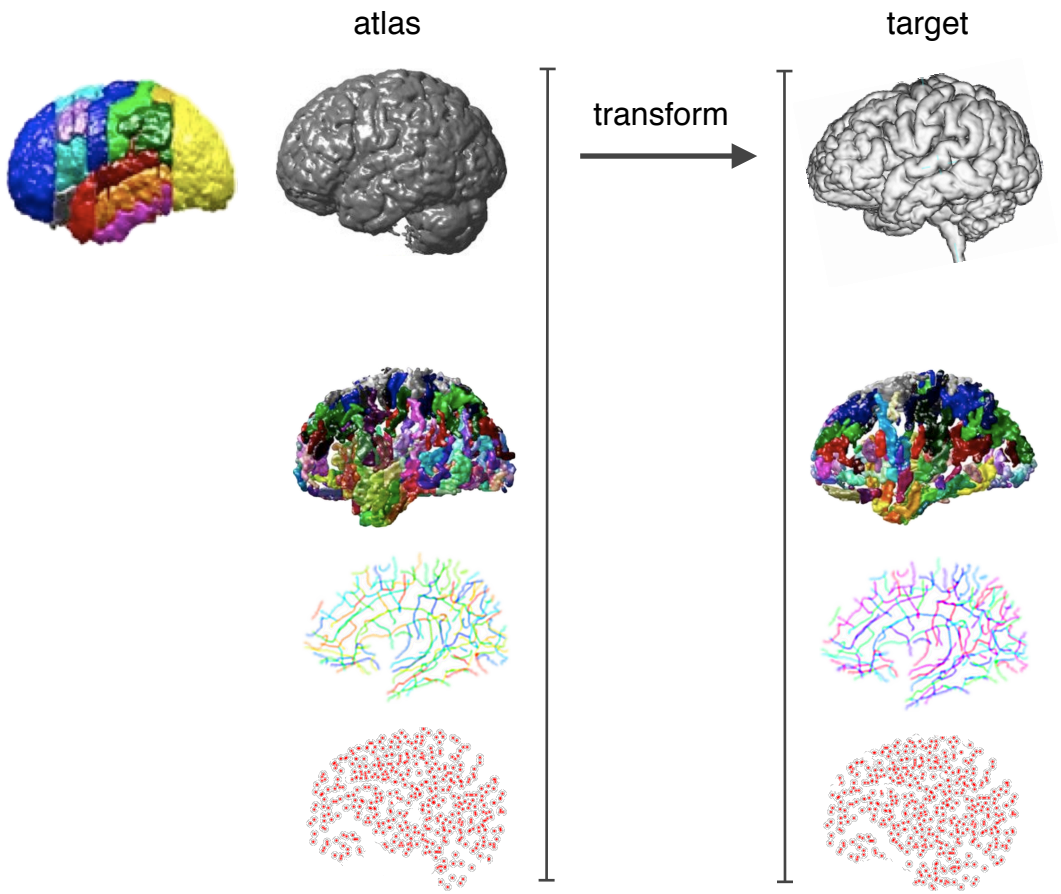

atlas

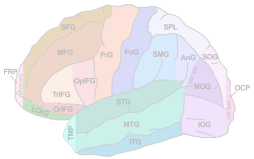

fMRI

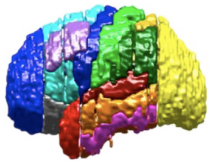

dMRI

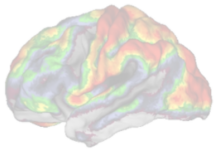
Mindboggle

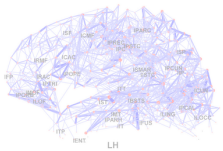
Mindboggle step 1: extract structures, compute their features




aMRI

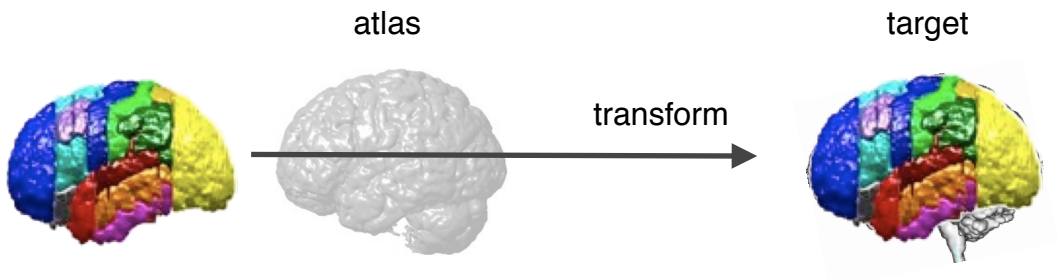

atlas

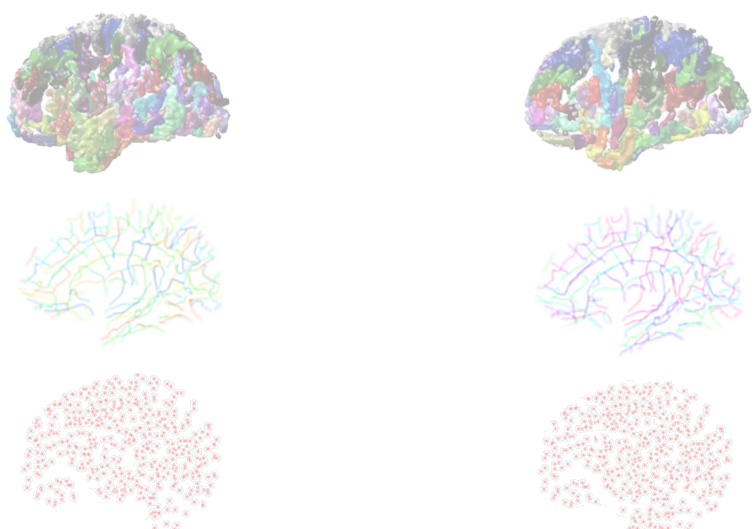

fMRI

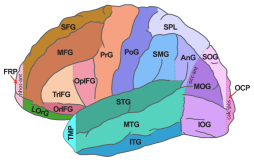

dMRI

Mindboggle

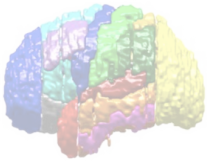
Mindboggle step 1: extract structures, compute their features



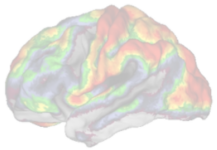





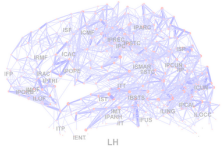

aMRI



atlas



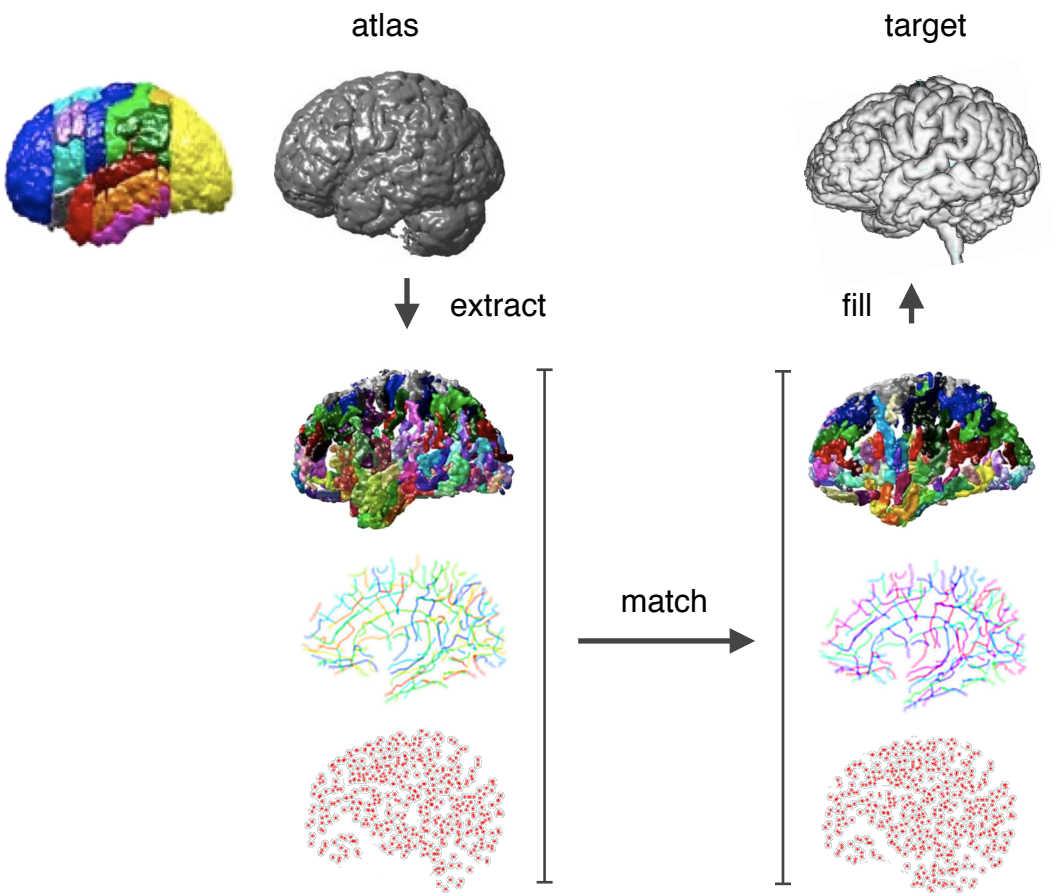
fMRI

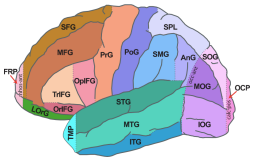


dMRI

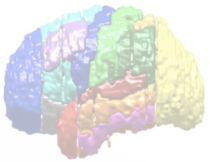
Mindboggle

**OR** extract, match, and fill labels without registration!






aMRI



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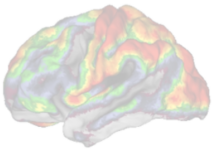
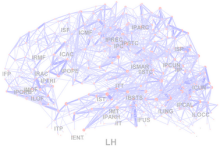
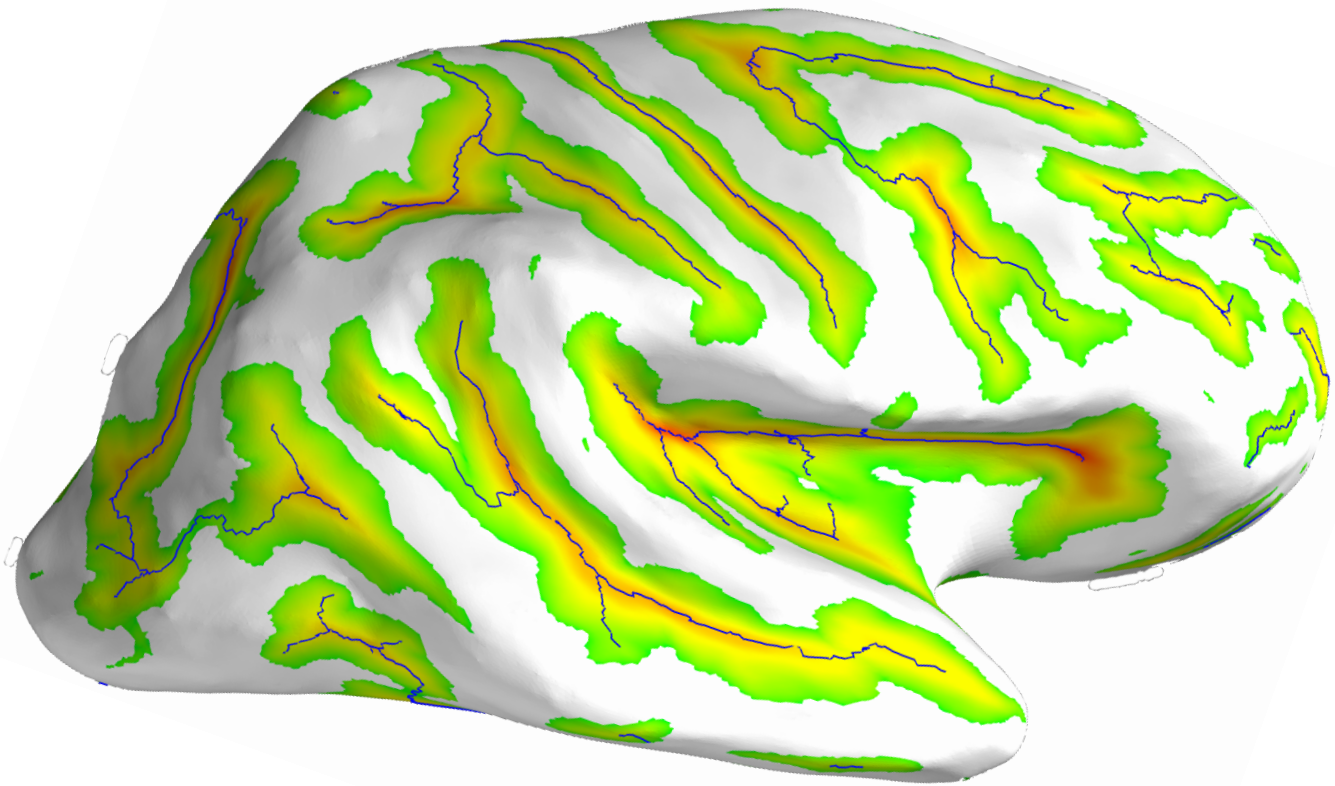


fMRI

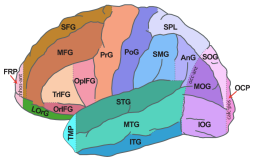


dMRI

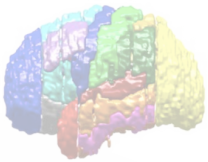
Mindboggle



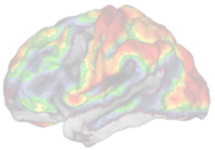
Sulcal fundi



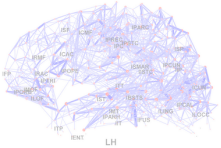

aMRI



atlas

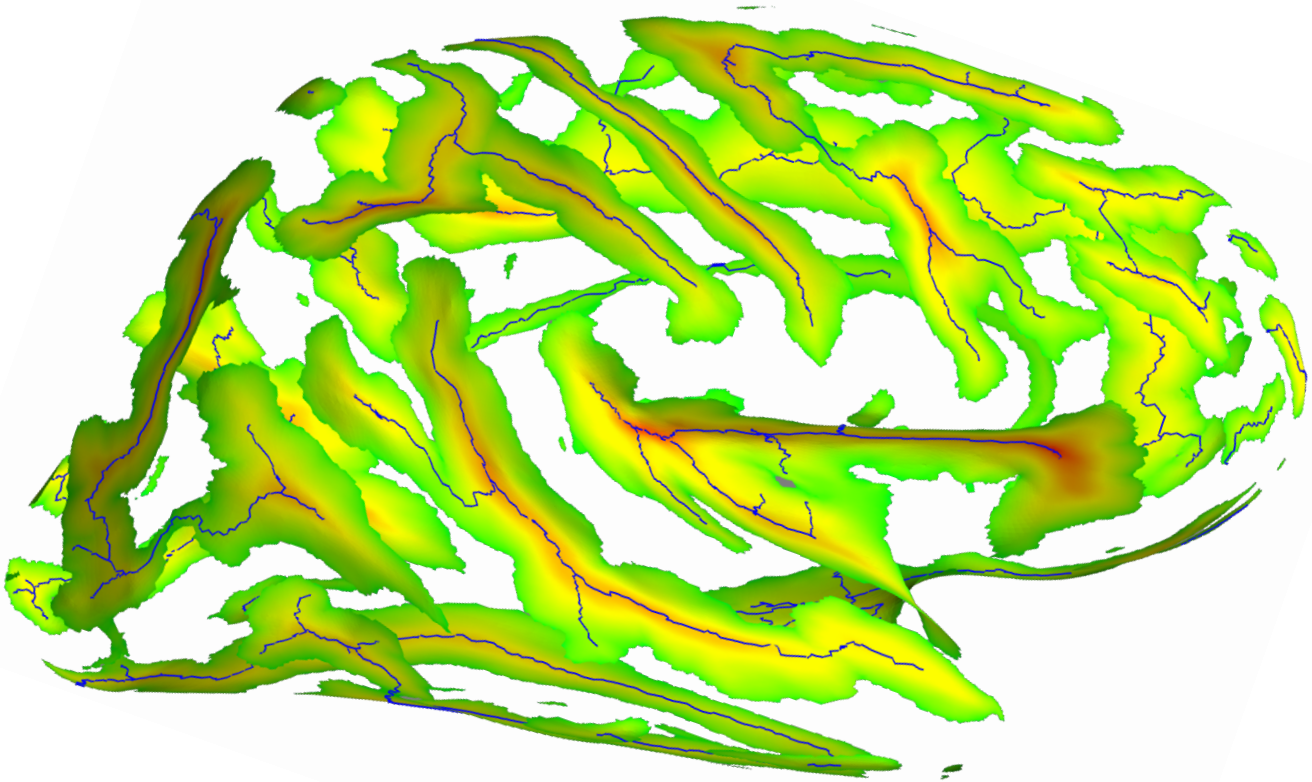


fMRI

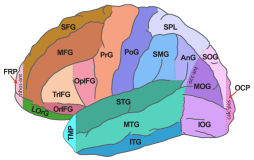


dMRI

Mindboggle



Sulcal fundi

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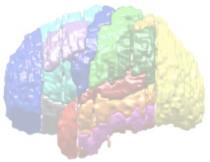

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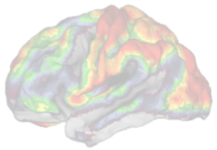

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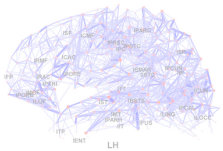
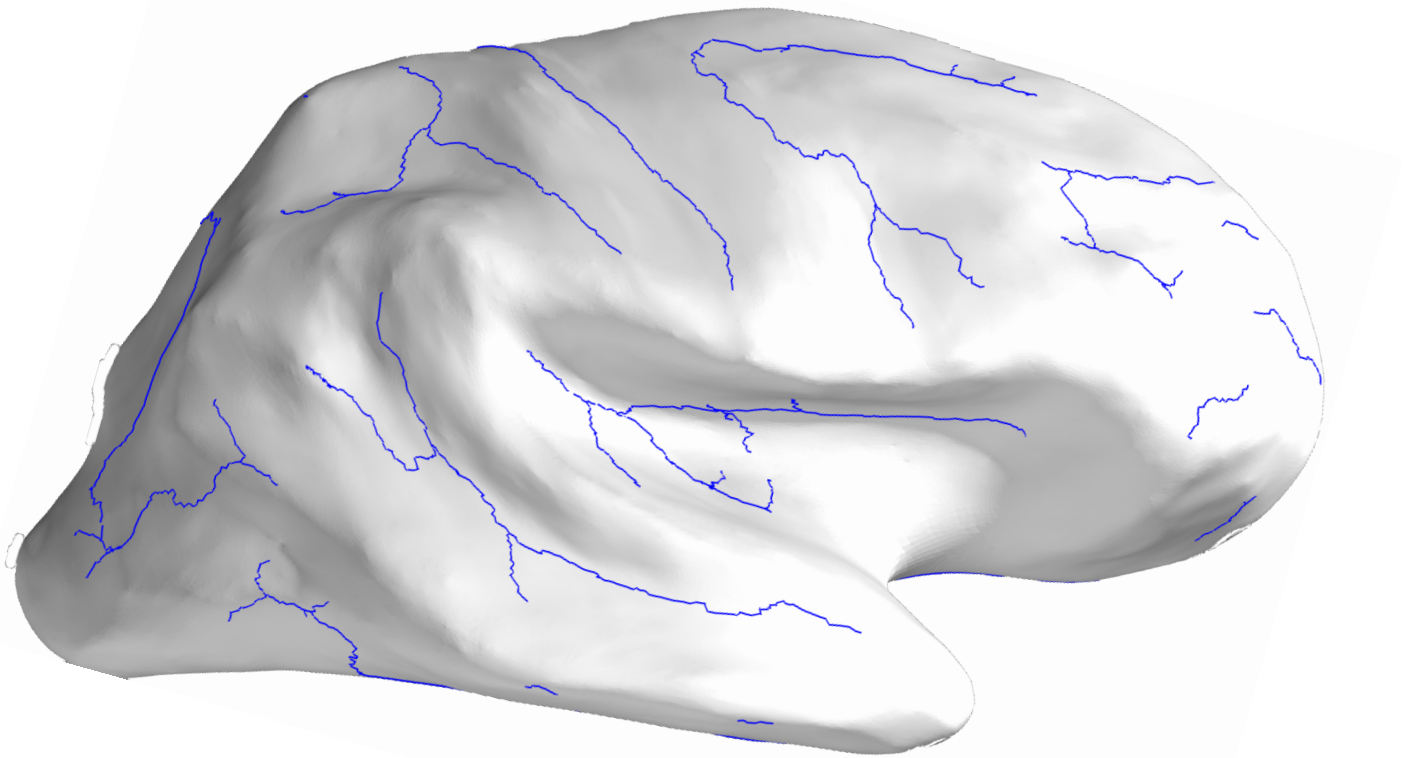


dMRI

Mindboggle



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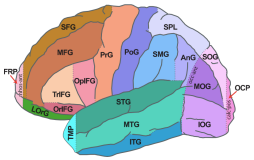


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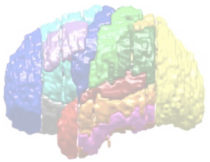

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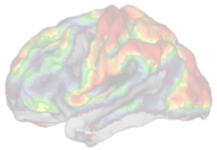

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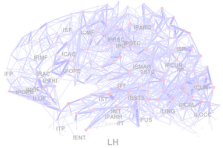
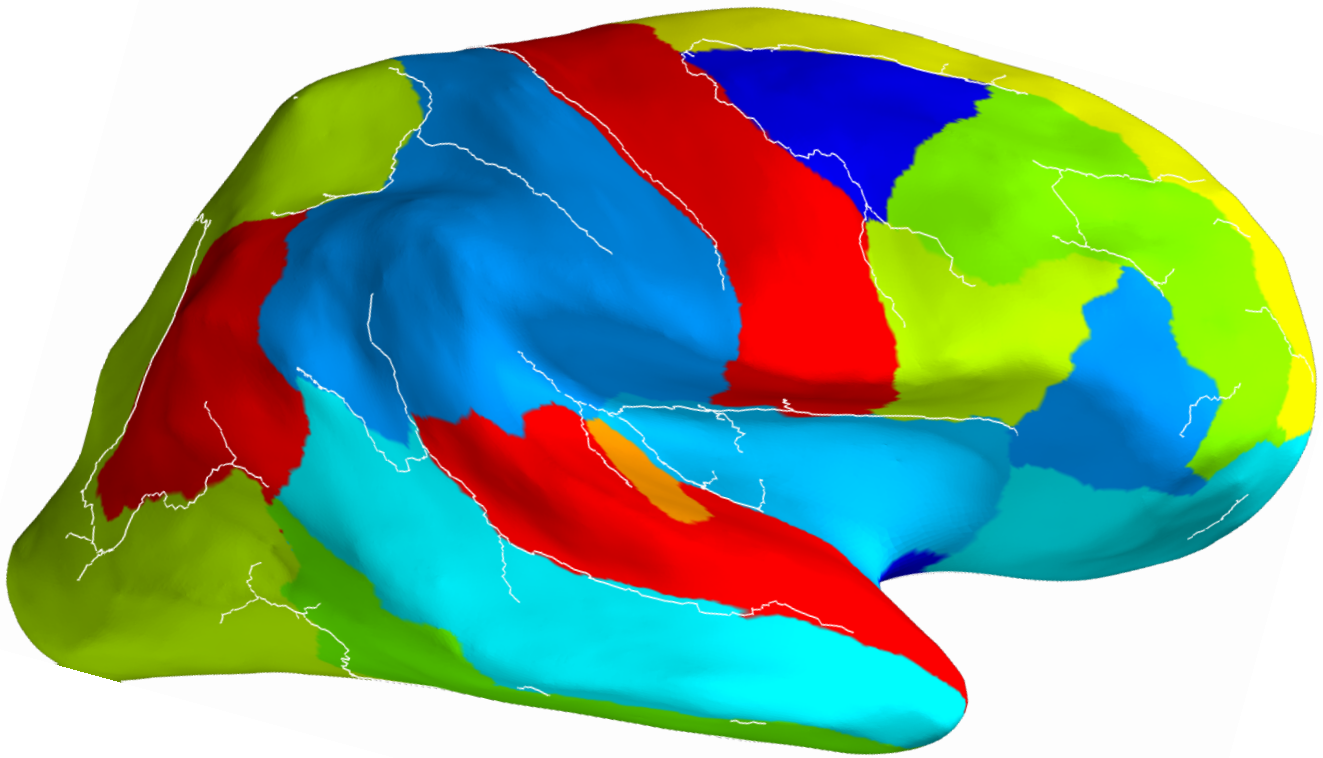
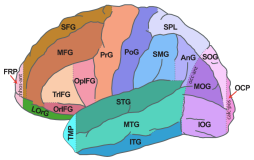


dMRI

Mindboggle



Sulcal fundi + manual labels

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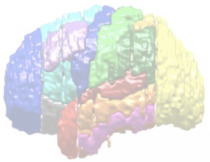

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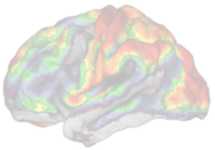

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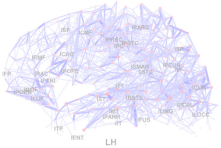
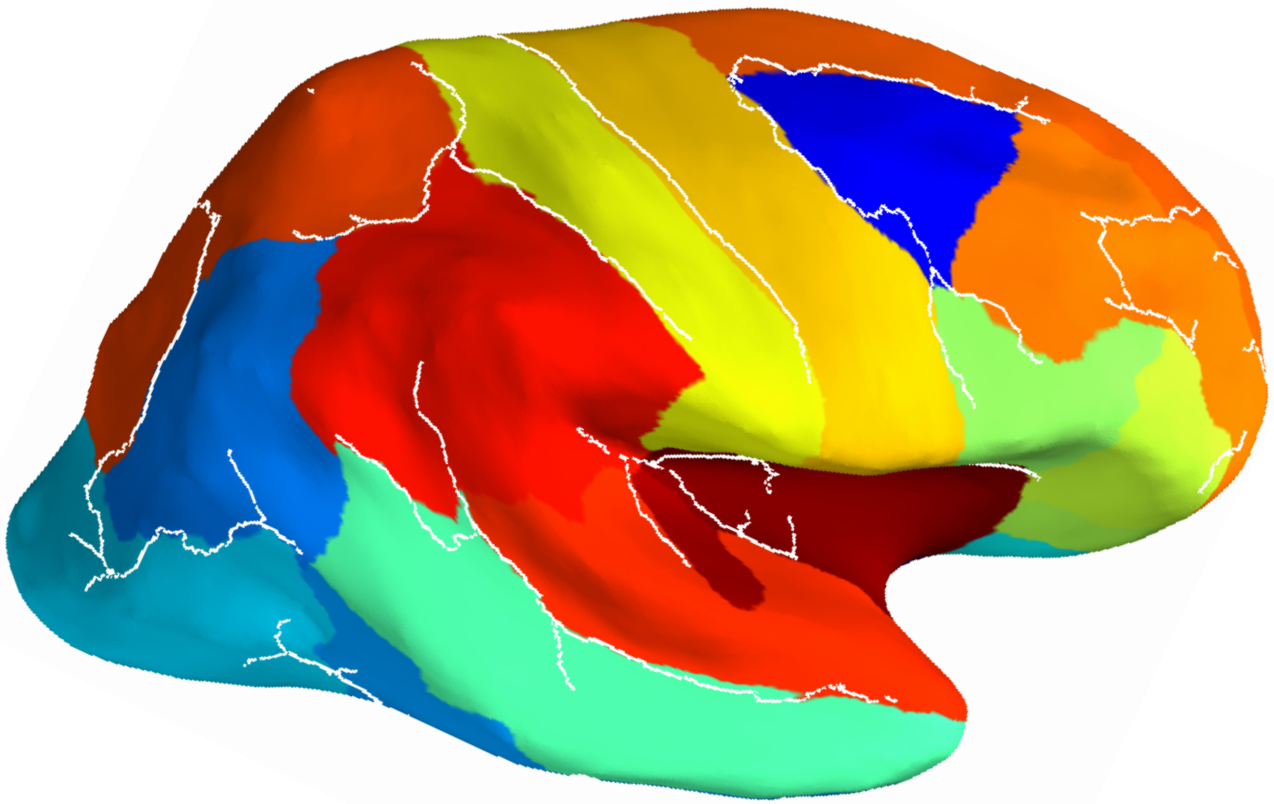
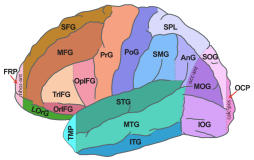


dMRI

Mindboggle



Sulcal fundi + manual labels

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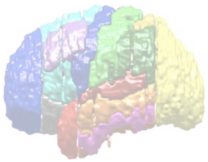

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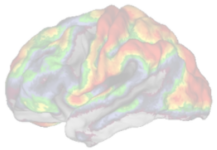

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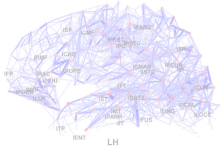

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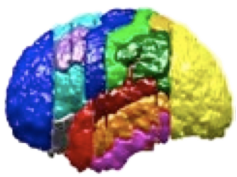
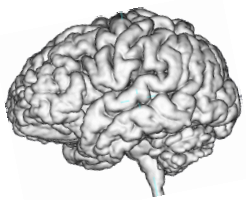
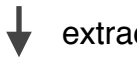
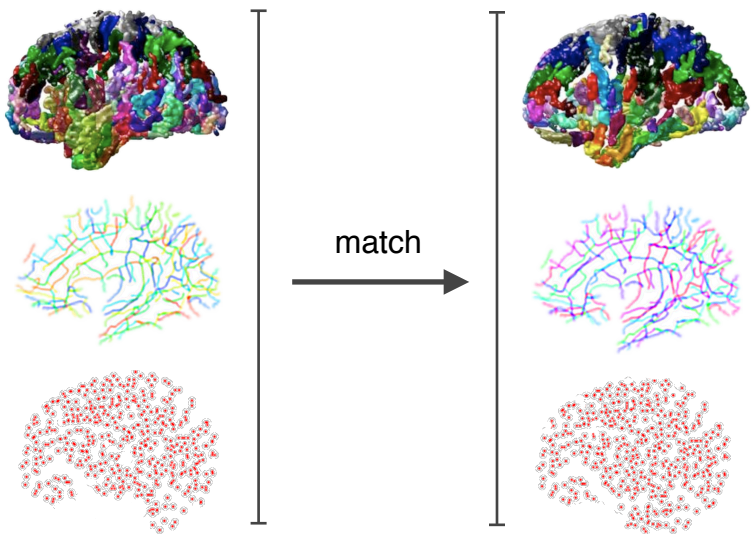
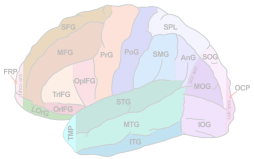
Mindboggle









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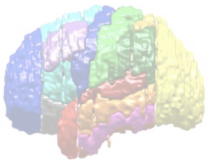

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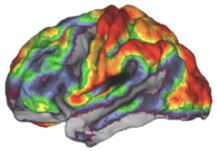

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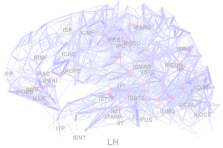

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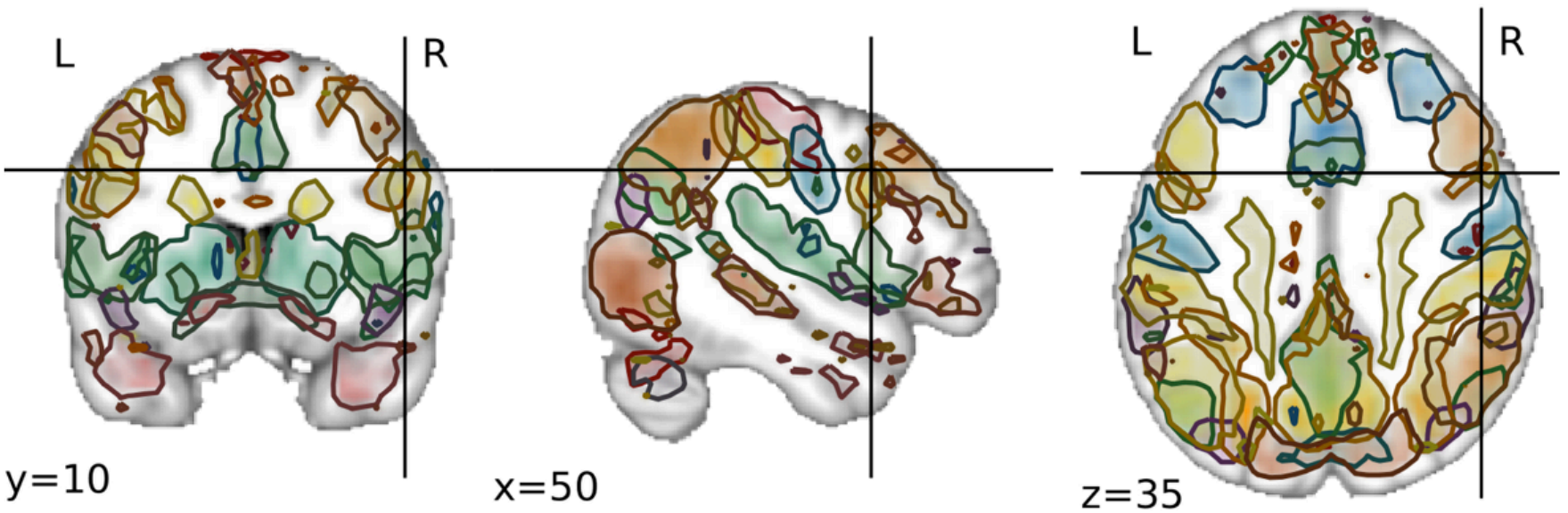
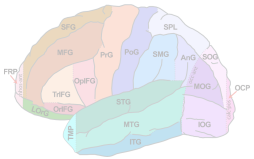
Mindboggle




fMRI “connectivity” clusters as features

Varoquaux, et al., IPMI 2011



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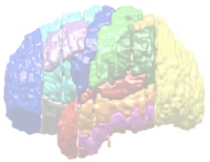

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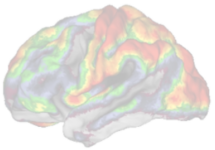

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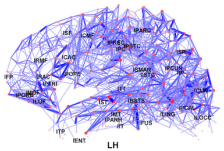
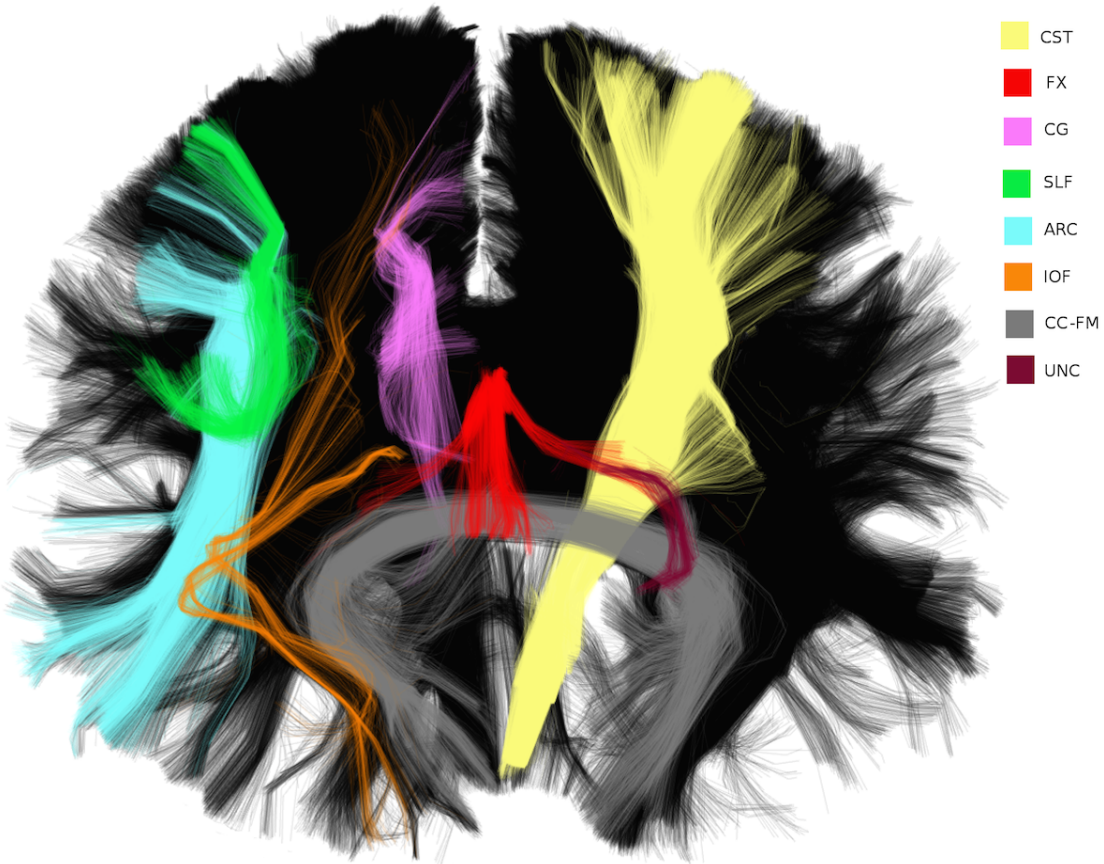
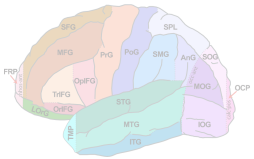


dMRI

Mindboggle




dMRI tract clusters as features



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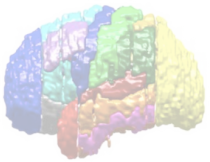

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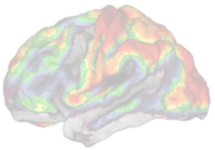

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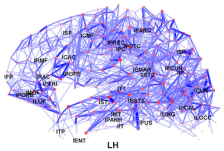
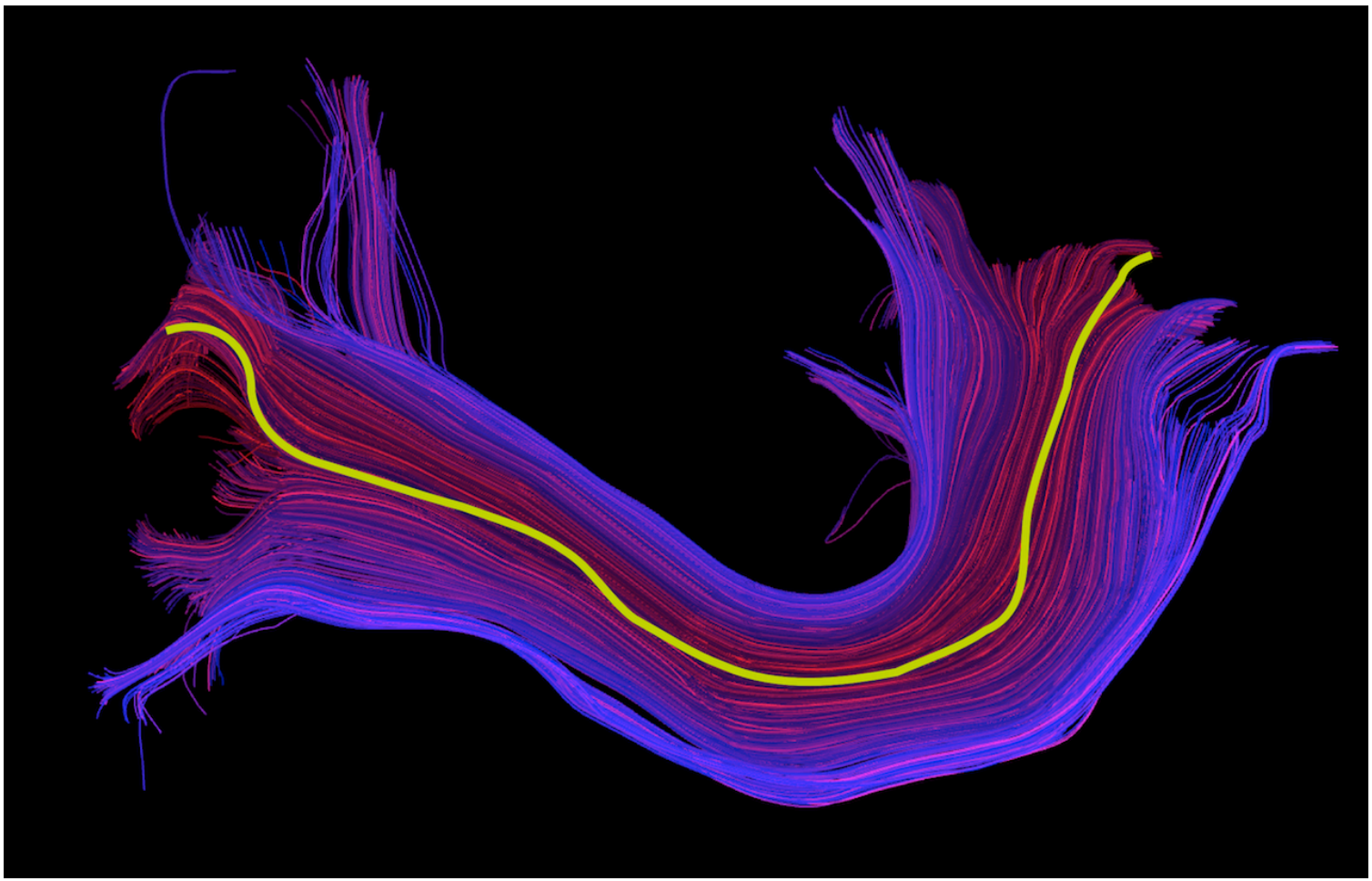
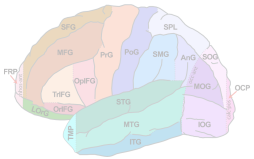


dMRI

Mindboggle



dMRI tract clusters as features



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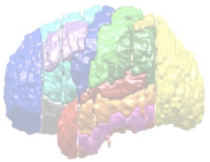

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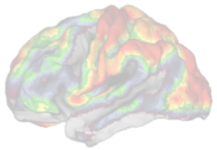

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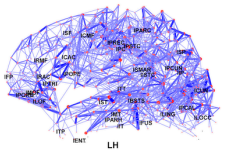
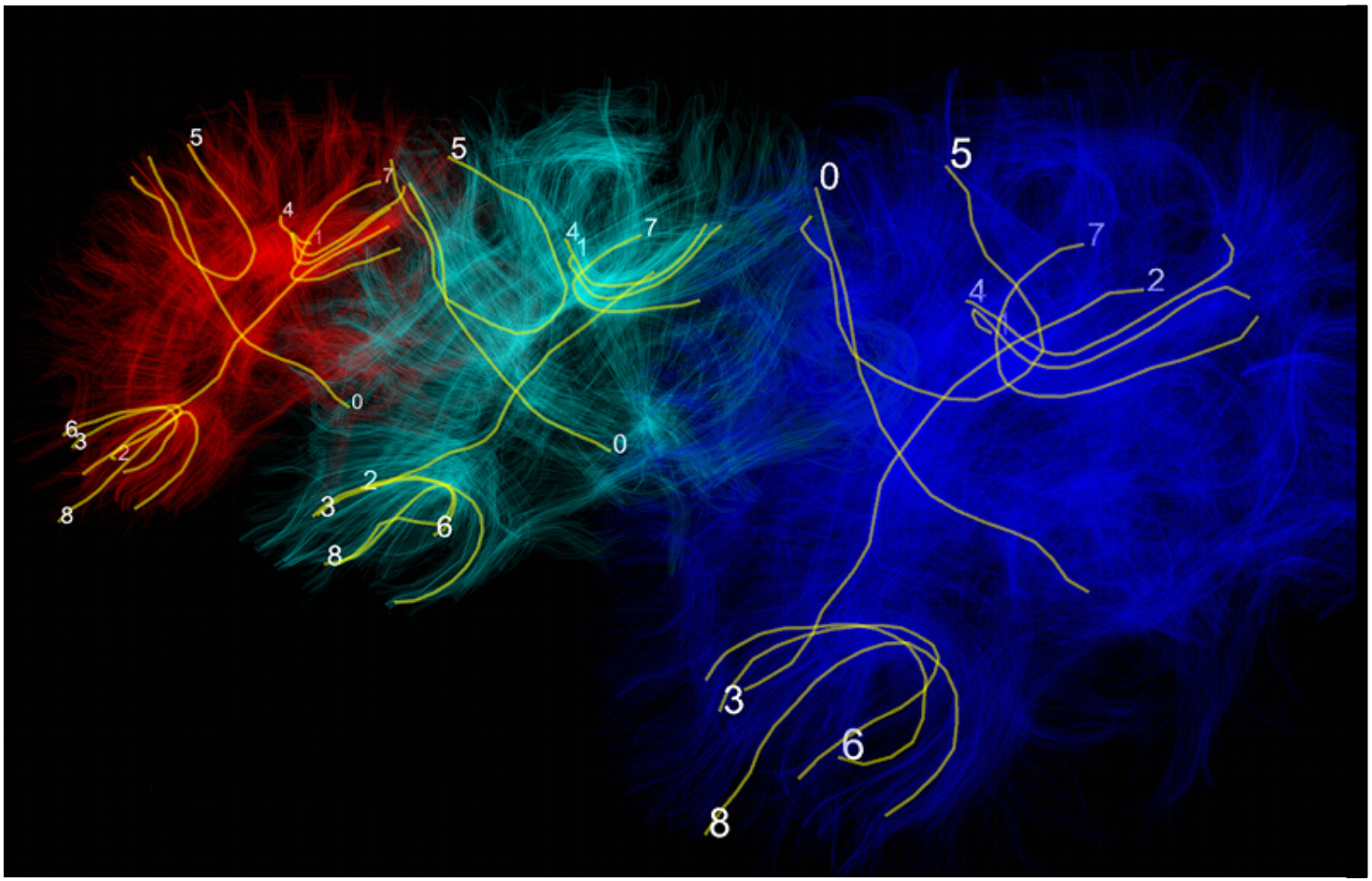
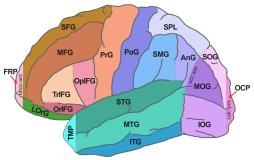


dMRI

Mindboggle




dMRI tract clusters as features

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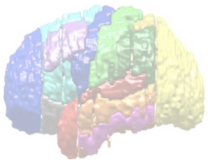

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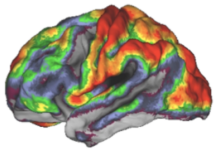

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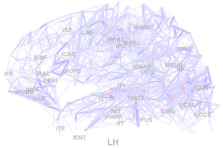
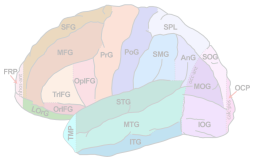


dMRI

Mindboggle

Combine structures across modalities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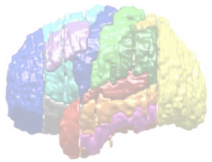
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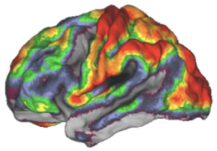
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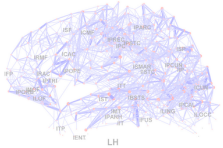
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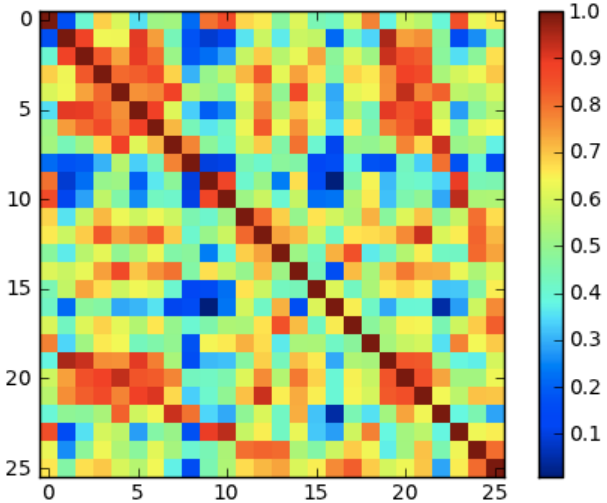
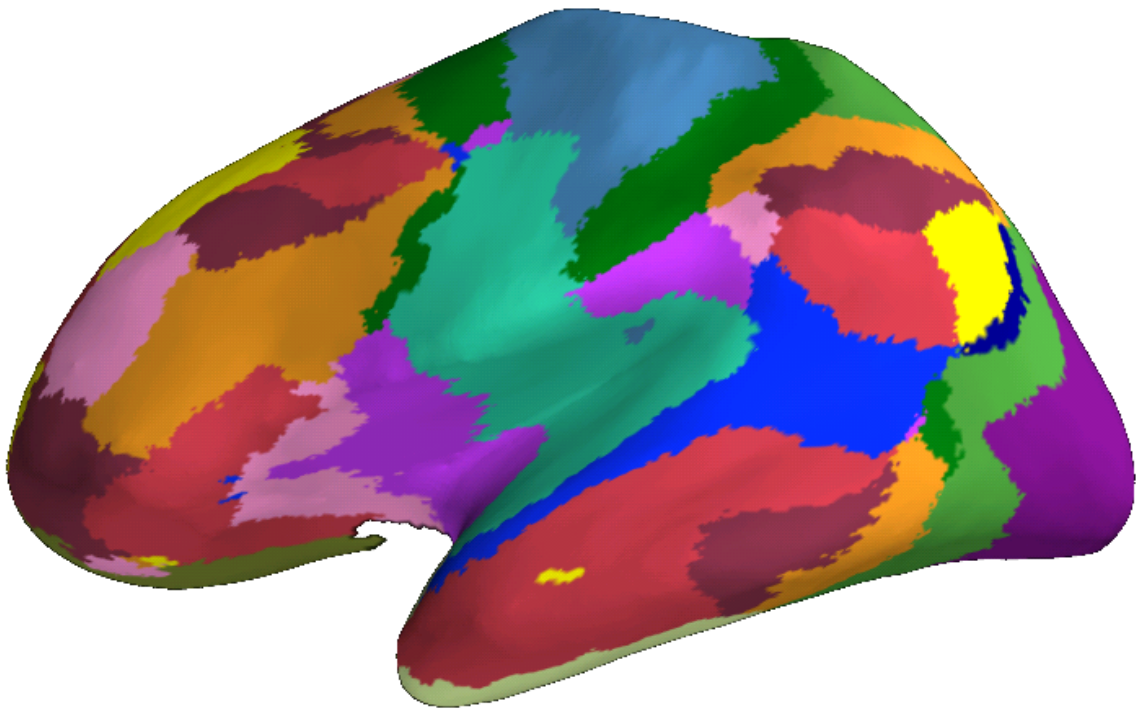
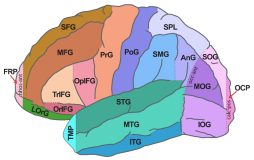
Mindboggle

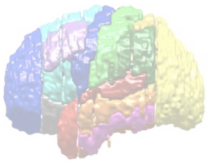


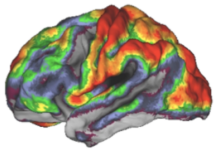
fMRI-connected fMRI features: ADHD



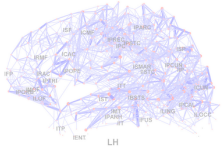

aMRI



atlas

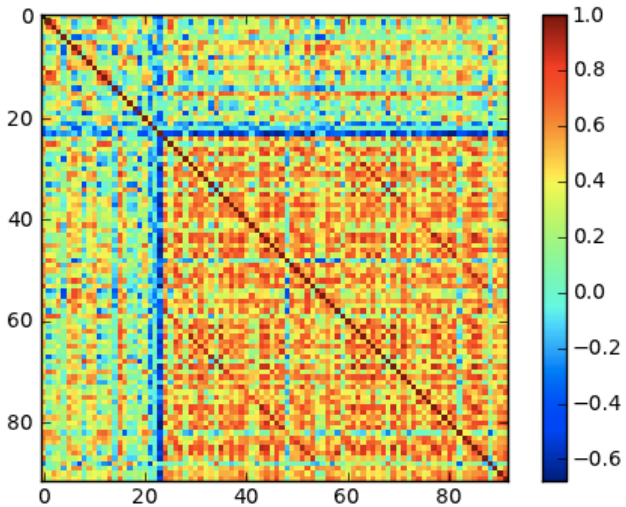


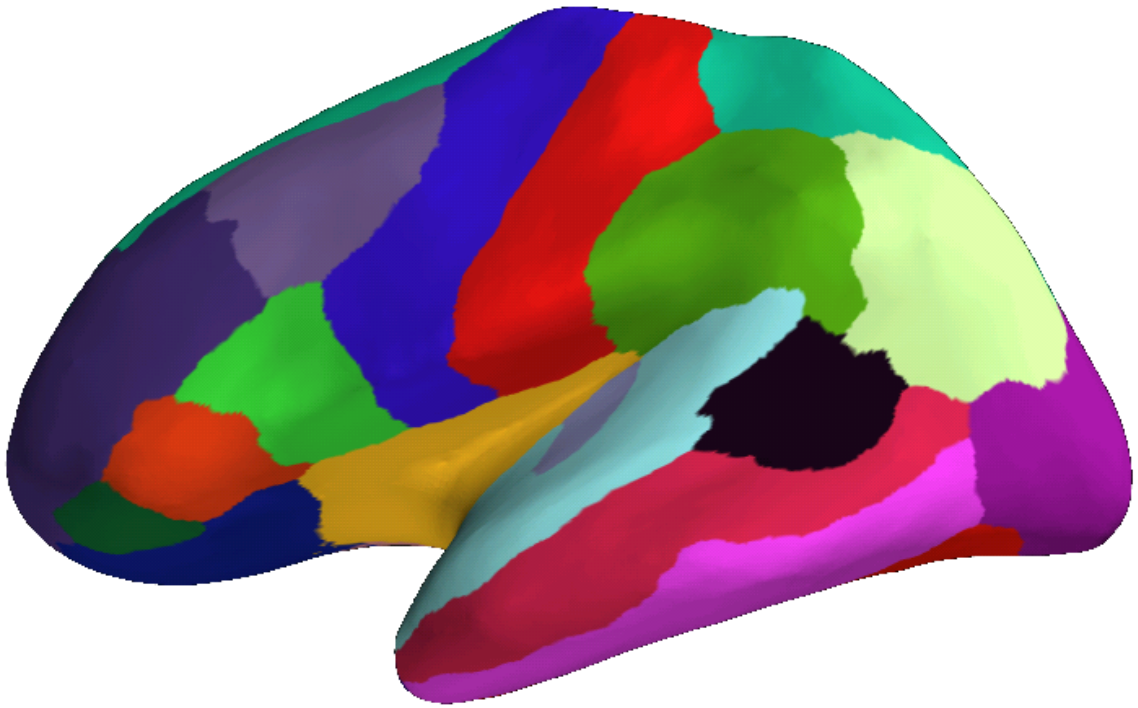
fMRI



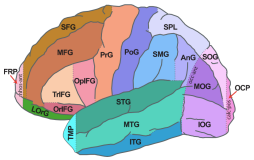
dMRI

Mindboggle

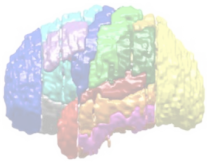


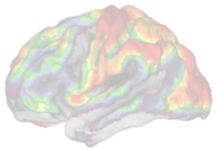
fMRI-connected aMRI features: ADHD



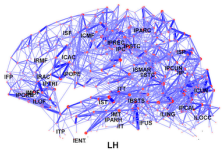

aMRI



atlas

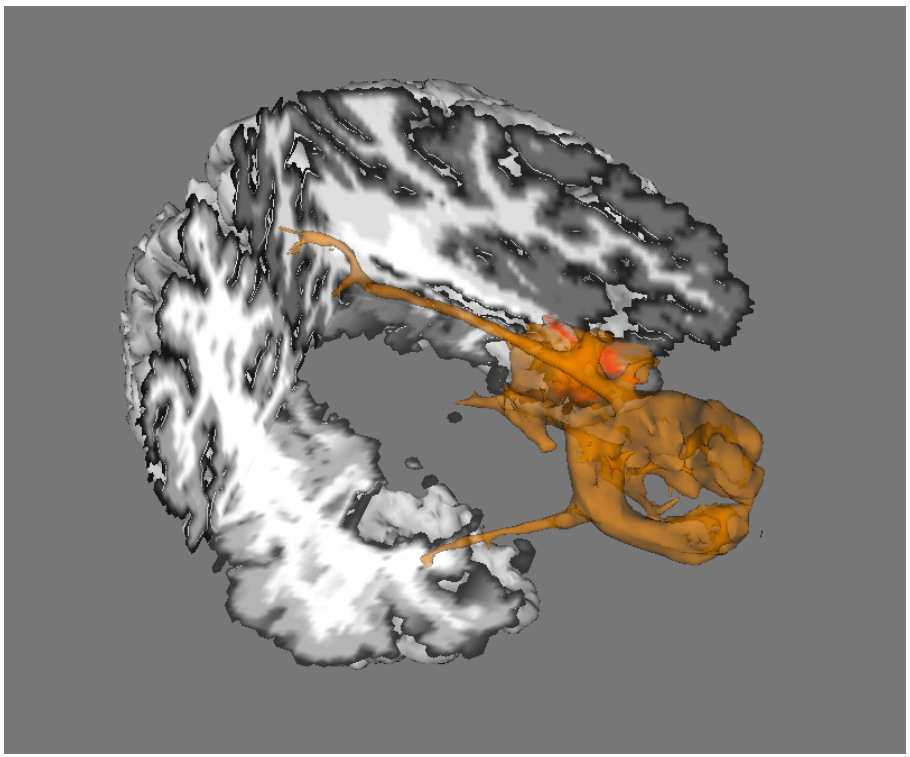


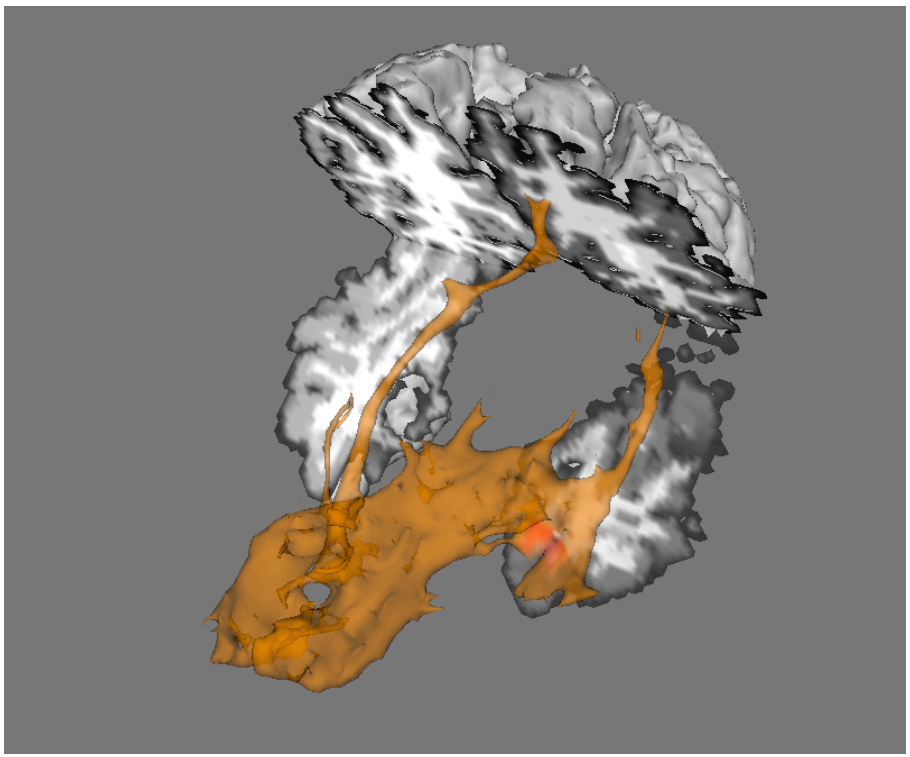
fMRI



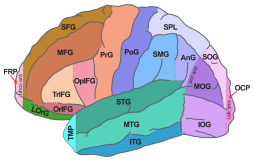

dMRI

Mindboggle

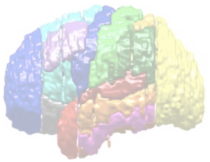




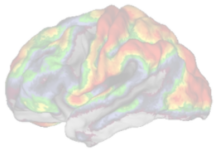
dMRI-connected aMRI features: Major depressive disorder



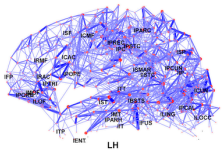

aMRI



atlas

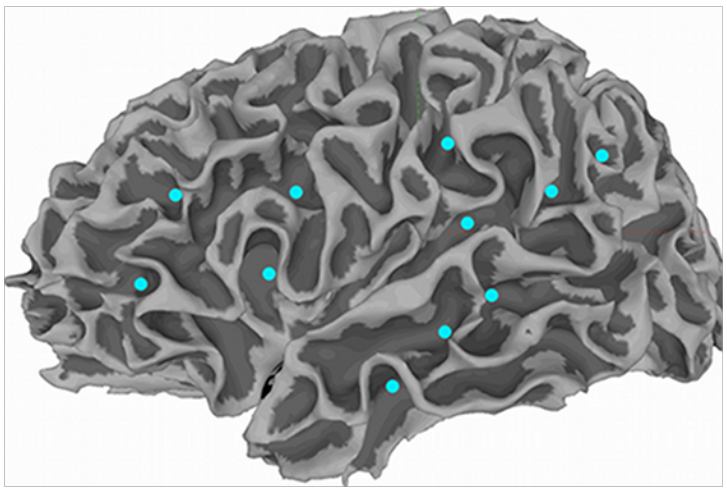


fMRI

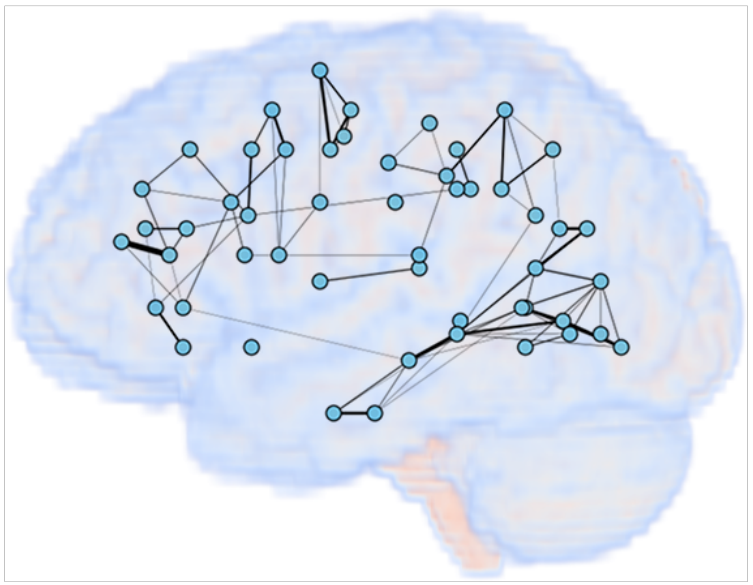



dMRI

Mindboggle

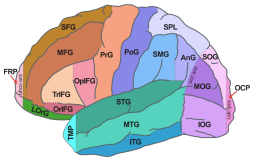


A gray/white matter surface (left lateral view) with visible sulcal pits highlighted (cyan circles). These features go by different names (sulcal roots, buried or annectant gyrii, plis de passage) and may be well conserved structures formed early in development.

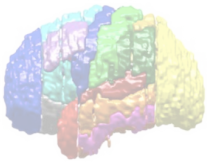


DTI connectivity graph (same subject). Vertices represent all extracted sulcal pits and each edge width indicates a connection probability greater than 0.01 between two vertices (and does not follow a tractography path).

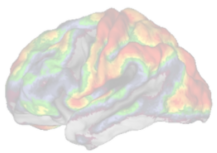
# dMRI-connected aMRI features: Major depressive disorder



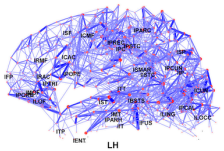

aMRI



atlas

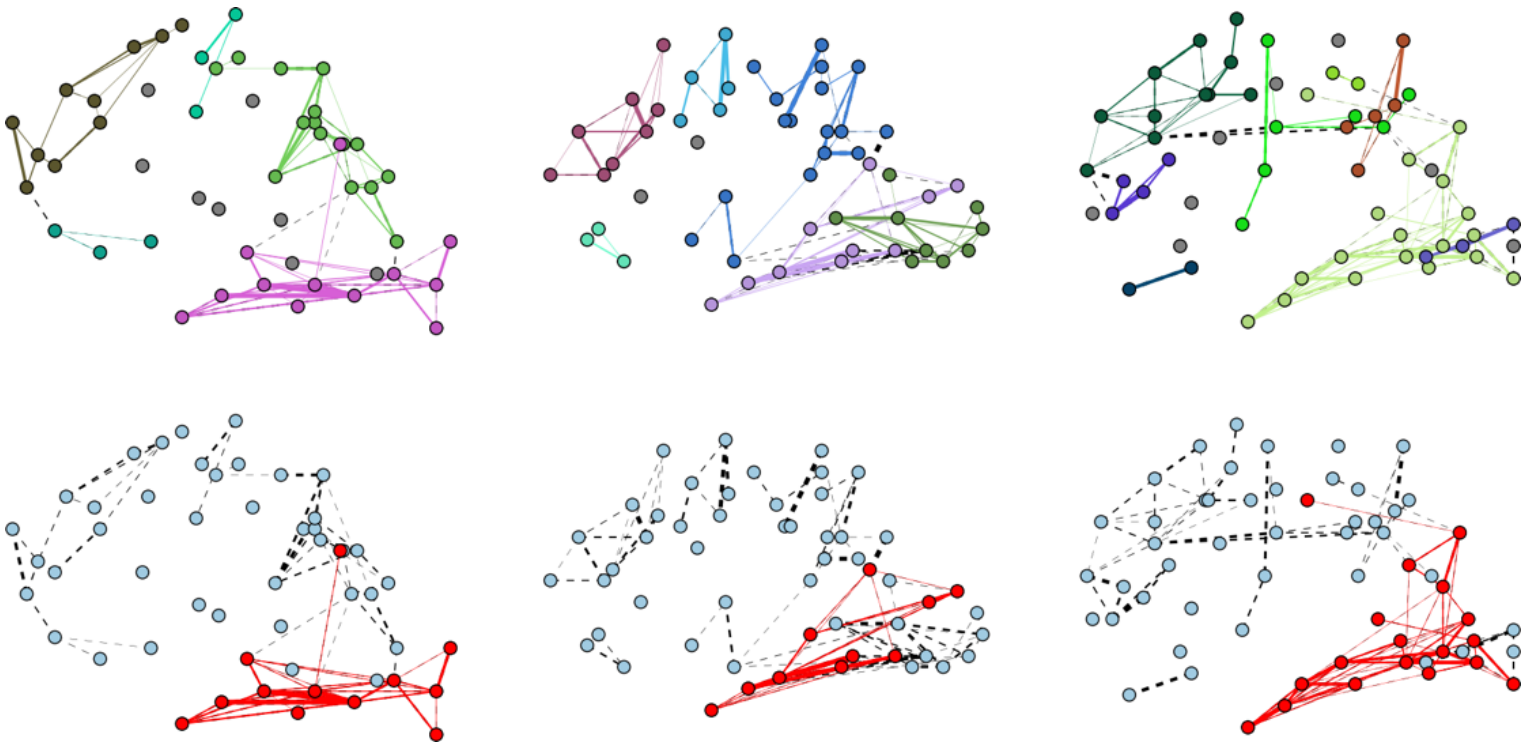


fMRI



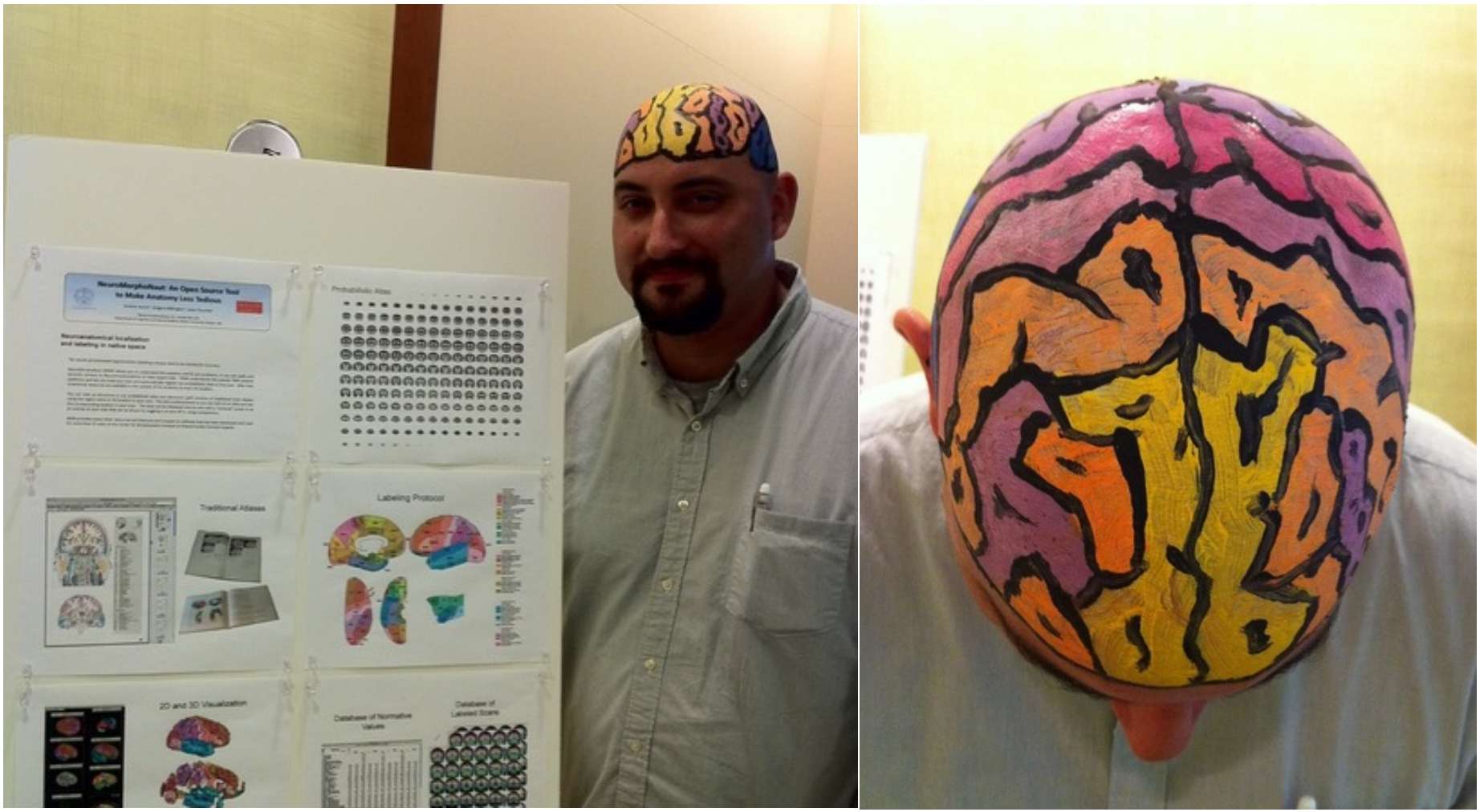
dMRI

Mindboggle



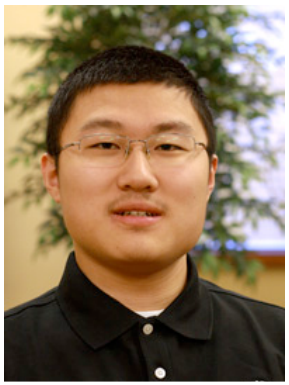
Early attempt at subgraph extraction (upper row) and matching (lower row).
These graphs were constructed from (left to right) a remitter, non-remitter, and control subject.
The subgraphs in red in the lower row have the highest small-worldness ratio.

## dMRI-connected aMRI features: Major depressive disorder




Greg Millington
Neuromorphometrics

**aMRI features**



Forrest Bao
Graduate student, Texas Tech

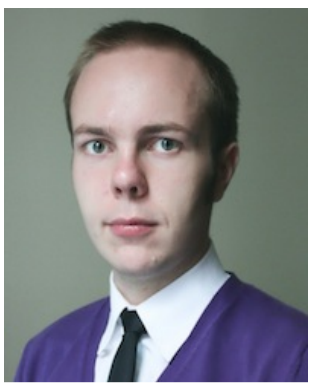
**fMRI features**

Gael Varoquaux
NeuroSpin, France

**dMRI features**

Eleftherios Garyfallidis
Cambridge University

**Feature matching**



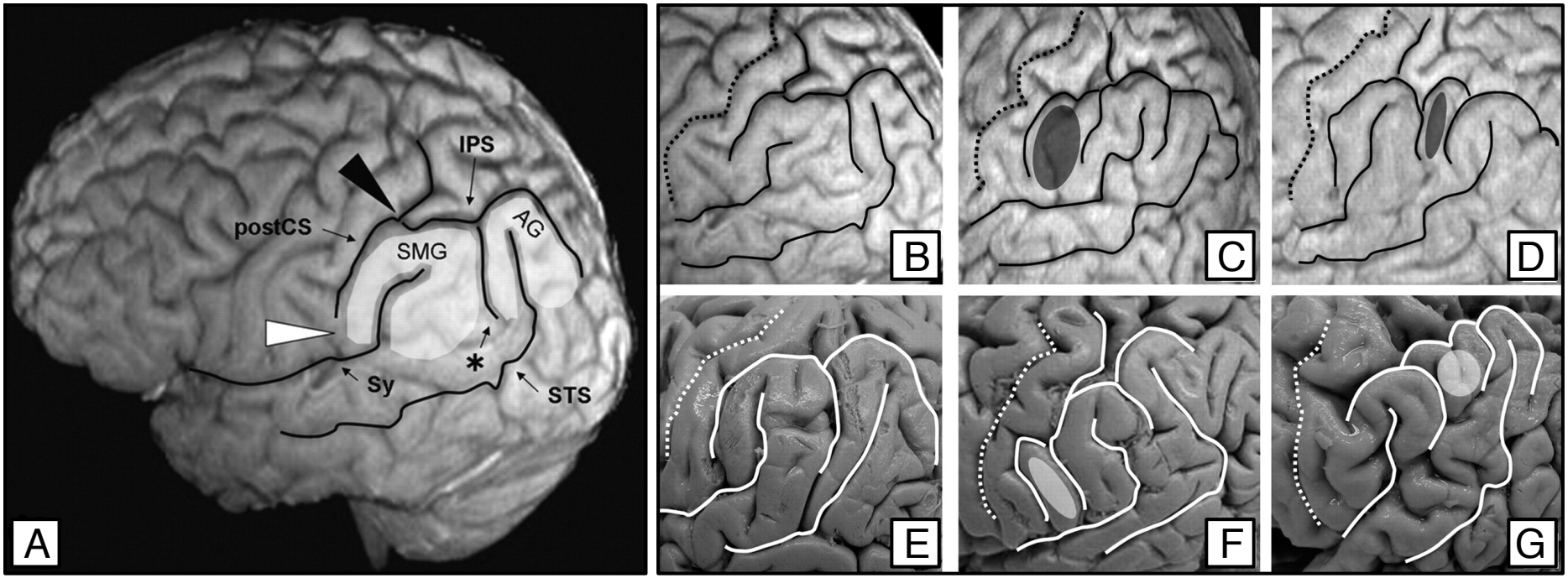
Yrjö Häme
Graduate student

**Database & visualization**

Noah Lee
Postdoctoral research scientist

**Registration**

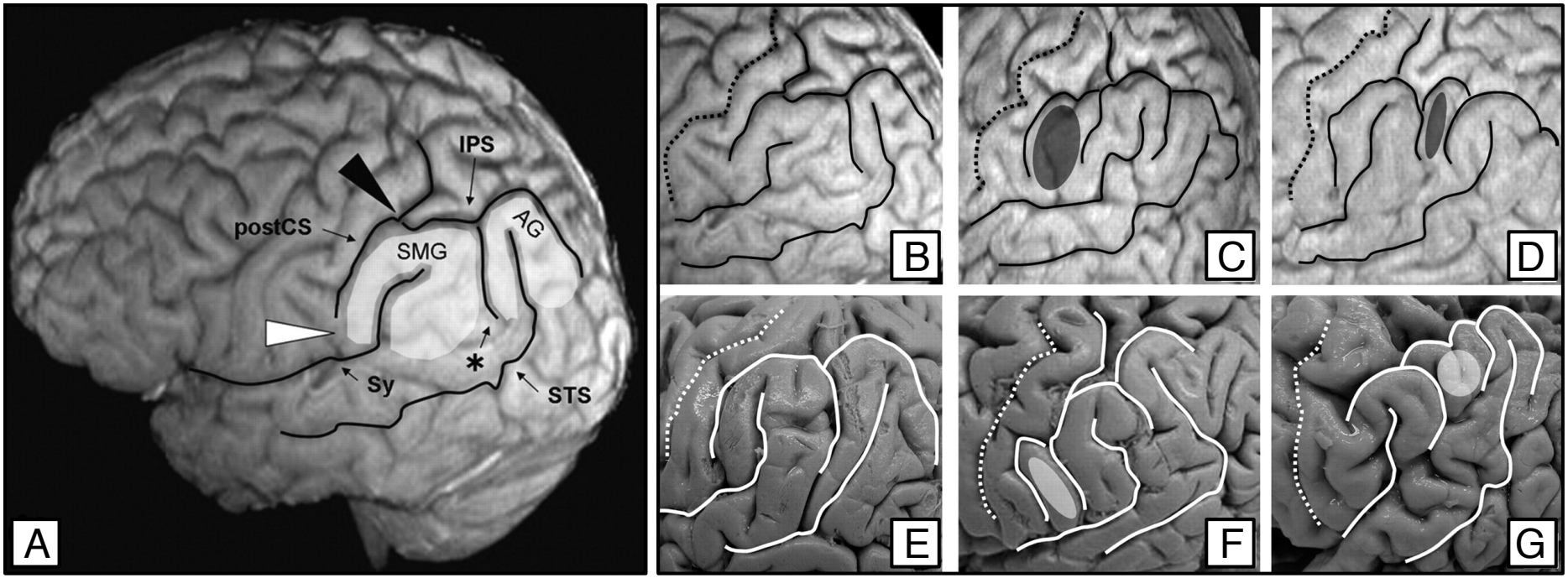
Brian Avants
Asst. Professor, UPenn

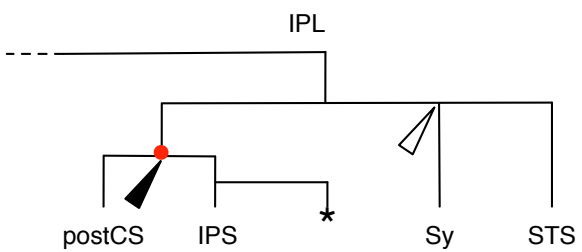


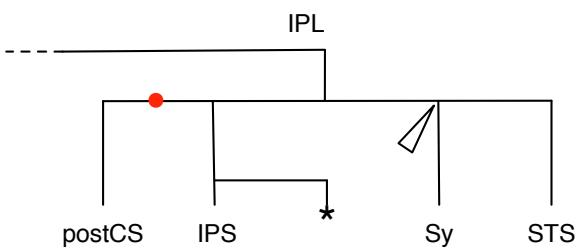

Example of natural morphological variability: left inferior parietal lobule (IPL; Kiriyama et al. 2009).
(A-D) are MRI data and (E-G) are post-mortem specimens.
(A) IPL is highlighted and folds are outlined.
(B,E) Typical folding pattern.
(C,F) PreSMG pattern: an additional gyrus (ellipse) lies between postCS and SMG.
(D,G) PreAG pattern: an additional gyrus (ellipse) lies between SMG and AG.

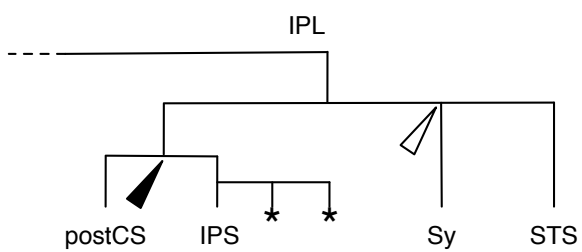
[SMG: supramarginal gyrus; AG: angular gyrus; postCS: postcentral sulcus; IPS: intraparietal sulcus;
Sy: Sylvian fissure, STS: superior temporal sulcus; *sulcus intermedius primus]

## Characterize anatomical variability

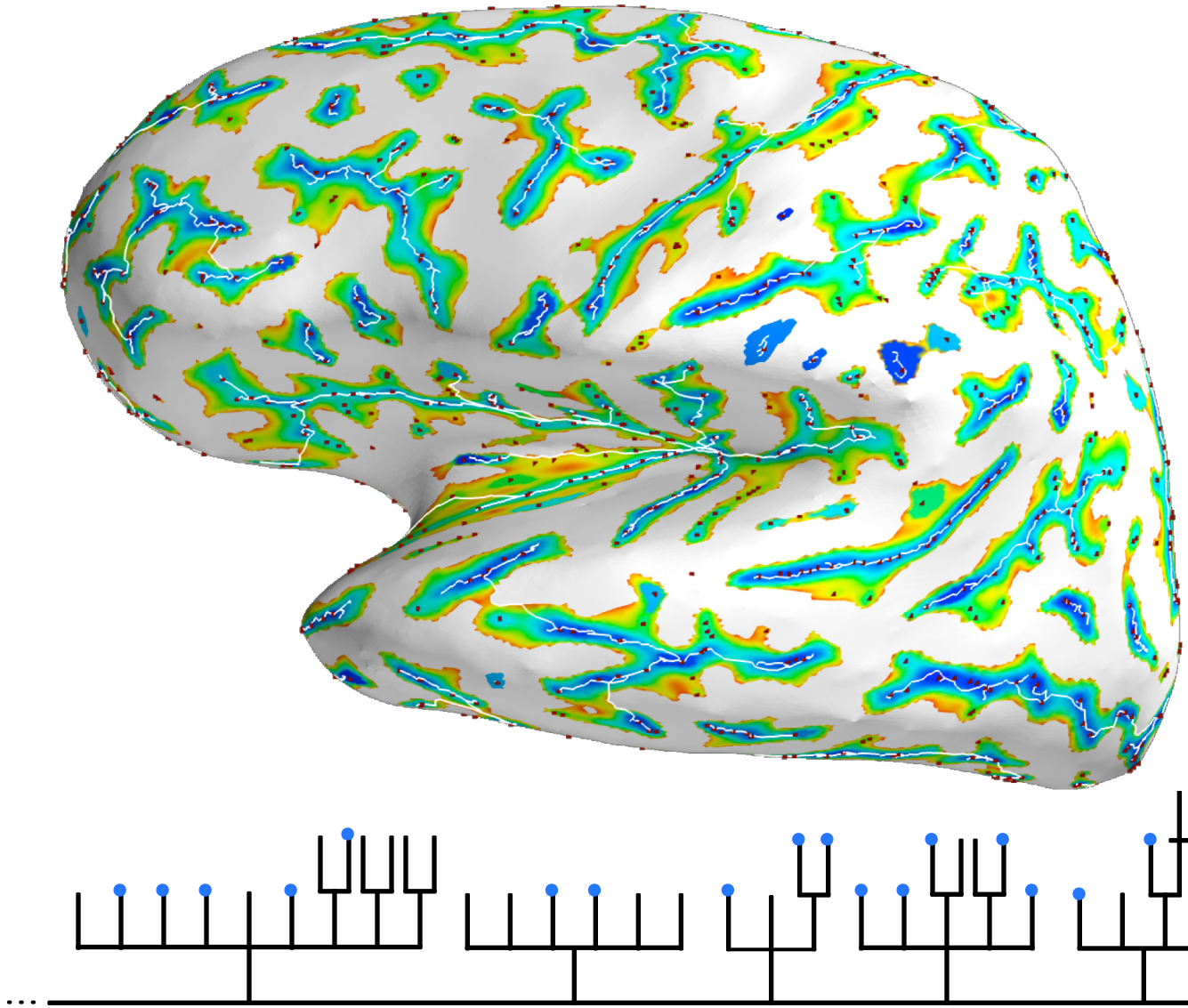



Convert one brain graph into another!



Identify nested structures in our data