

A grayscale, heavily blurred medical image, likely a brain scan, serving as the background for the slide. The text "IMAGE QUALITY TRANSFER" is overlaid on this image.

IMAGE QUALITY TRANSFER

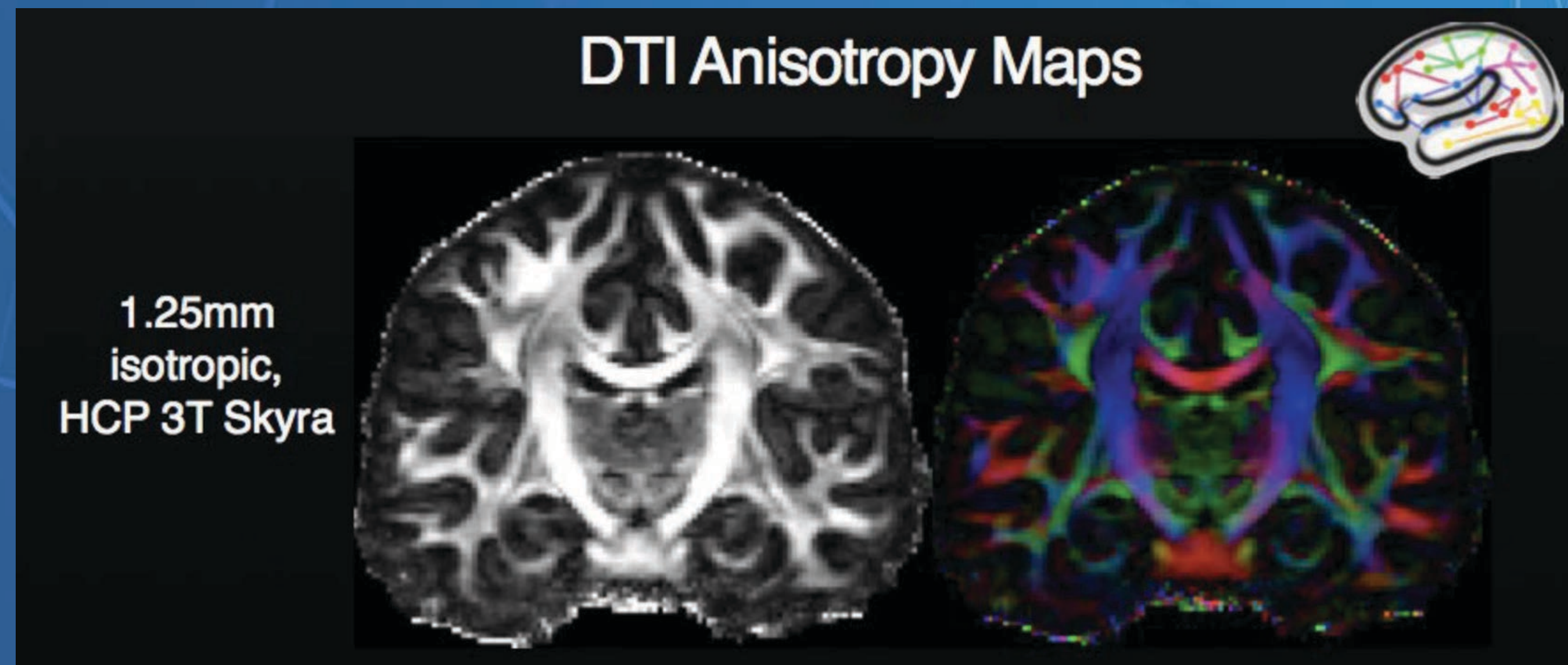
AUROBRATA GHOSH
RYUTARO TANNO & DANIEL C ALEXANDER

CENTRE FOR MEDICAL IMAGE COMPUTING, UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

COBCOM WINTER SCHOOL 2017, JUAN-LES-PINS, FRANCE

MOTIVATION

**Human
Connectome
Project (HCP)**

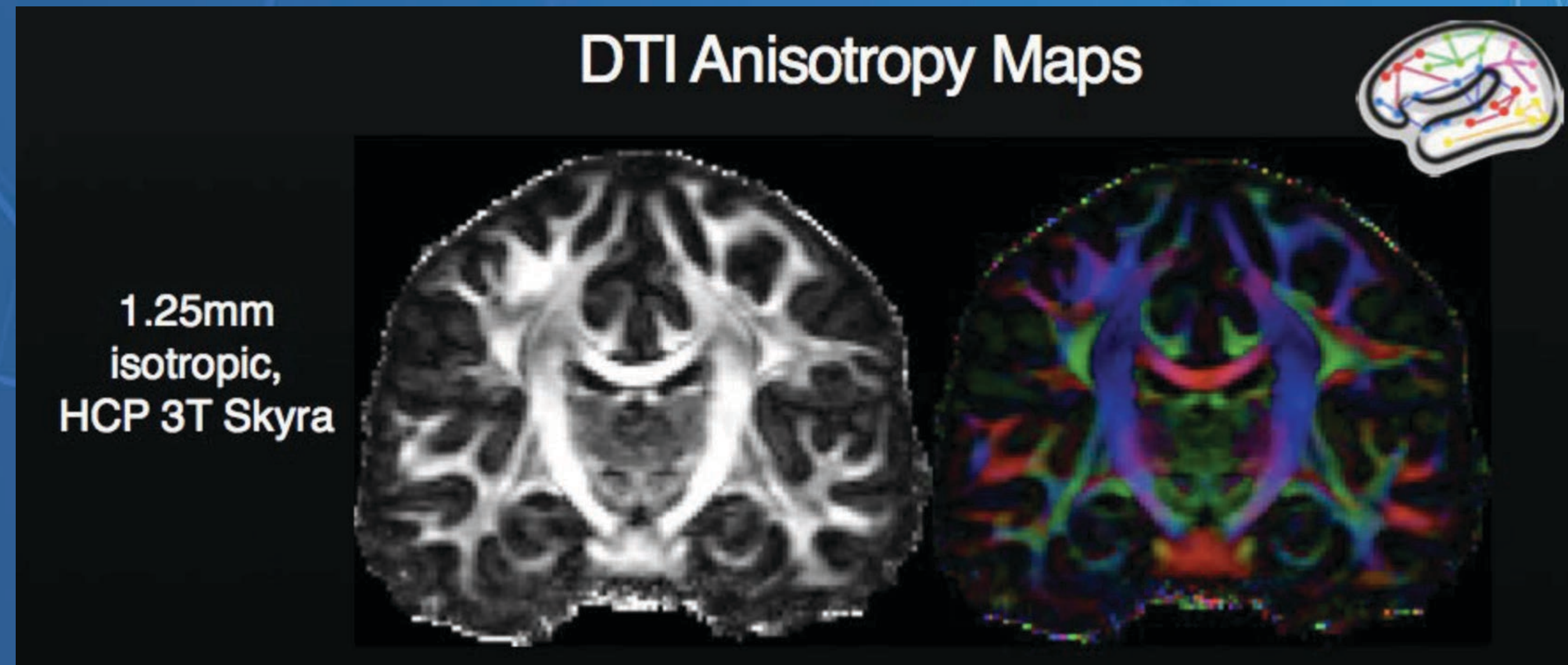


Research Scanner

- High resolution and SNR
- Long acquisition times
- Expensive

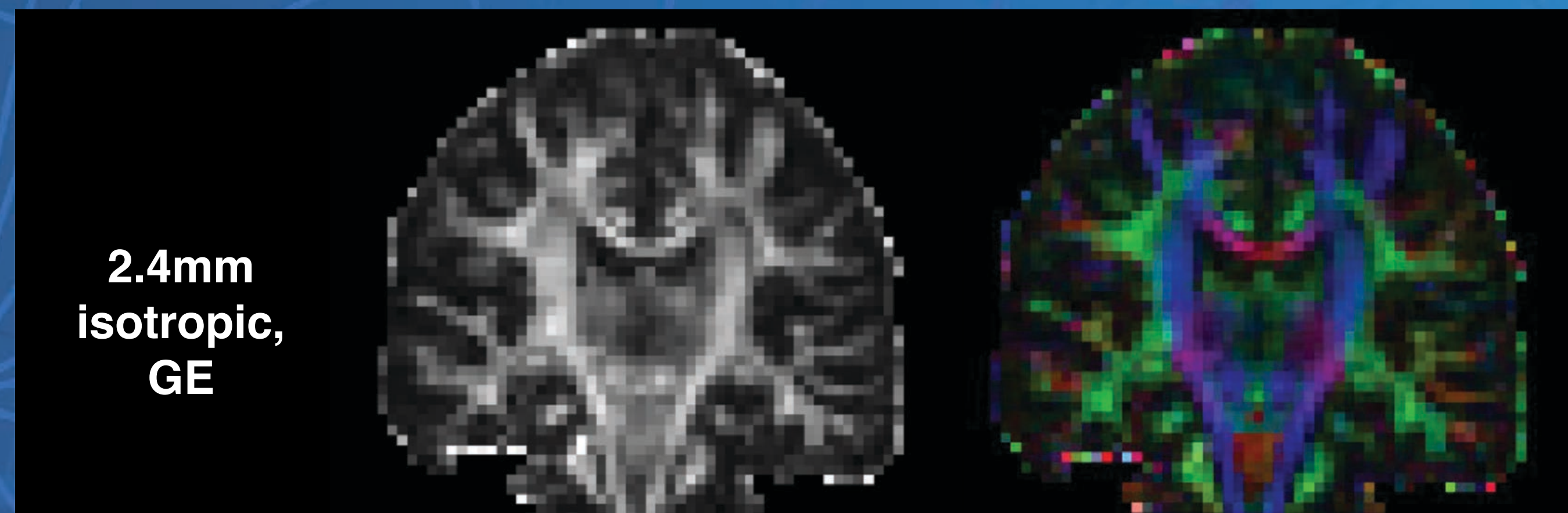
MOTIVATION

**Human
Connectome
Project (HCP)**



- Research Scanner**
- High resolution and SNR
 - Long acquisition times
 - Expensive

**Hospital
Scanner**



- Clinical Scanners**
- Low resolution and SNR
 - Time and cost pressure
 - Subsequent analysis affected

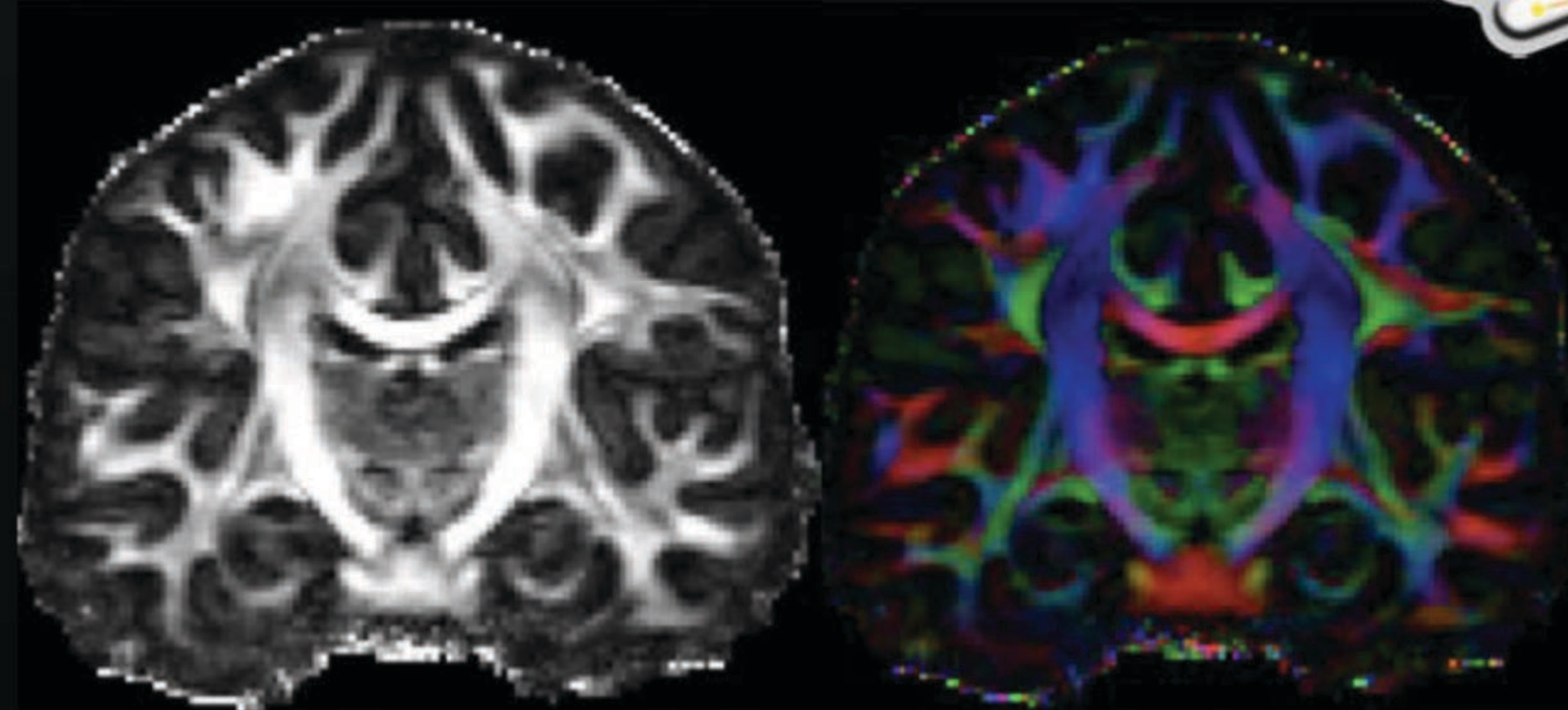
MOTIVATION

DTI Anisotropy Maps



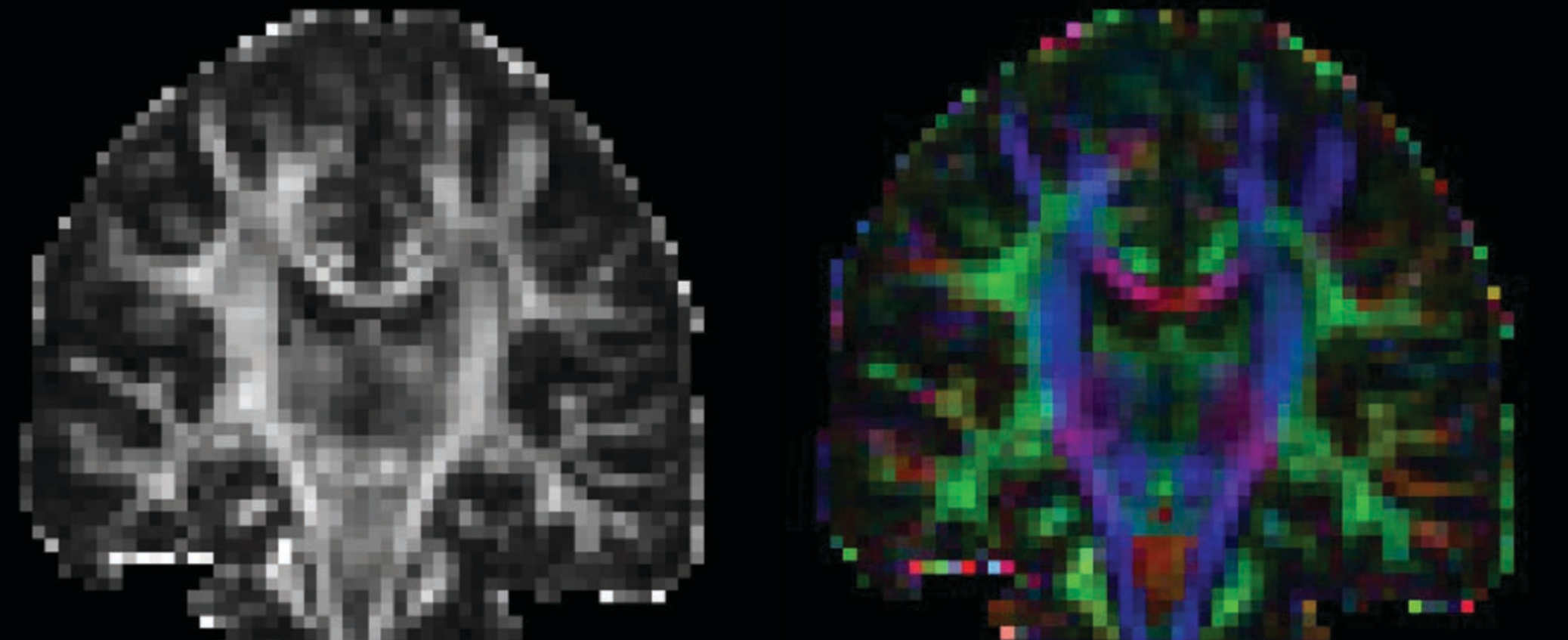
**Human
Connectome
Project (HCP)**

1.25mm
isotropic,
HCP 3T Skyra



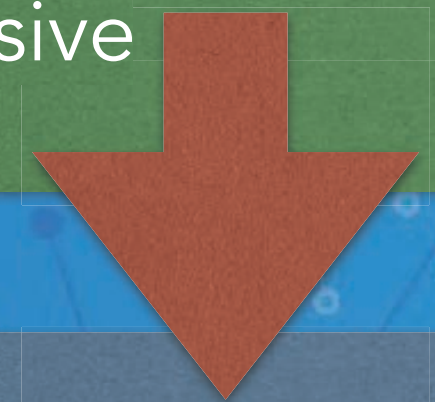
**Hospital
Scanner**

2.4mm
isotropic,
GE



Research Scanner

- High resolution and SNR
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- Expensive



Clinical Scanners

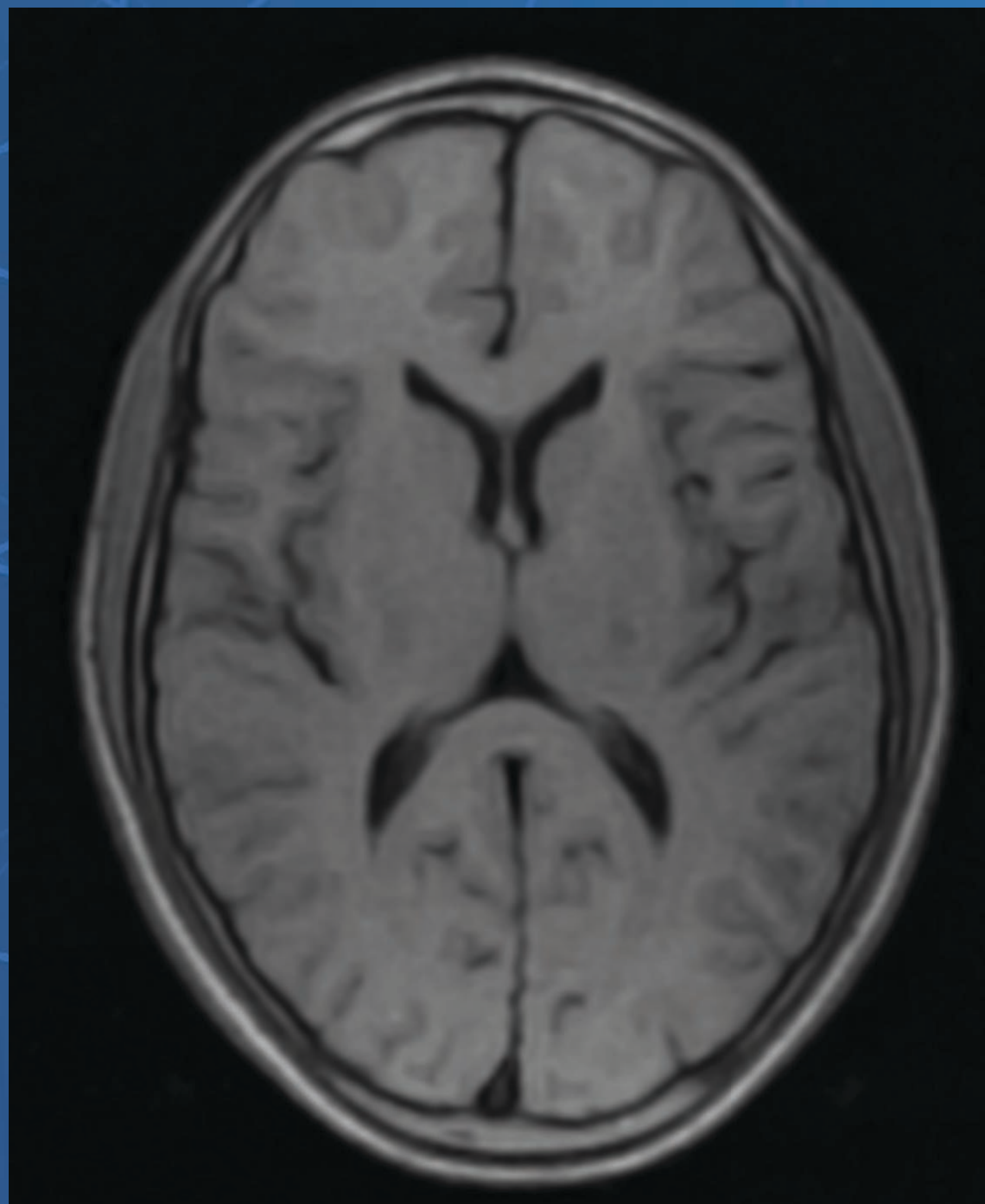
- Low resolution and SNR
- Time and cost pressure
- Subsequent analysis affected

IQT: Machine Learning + Information propagation

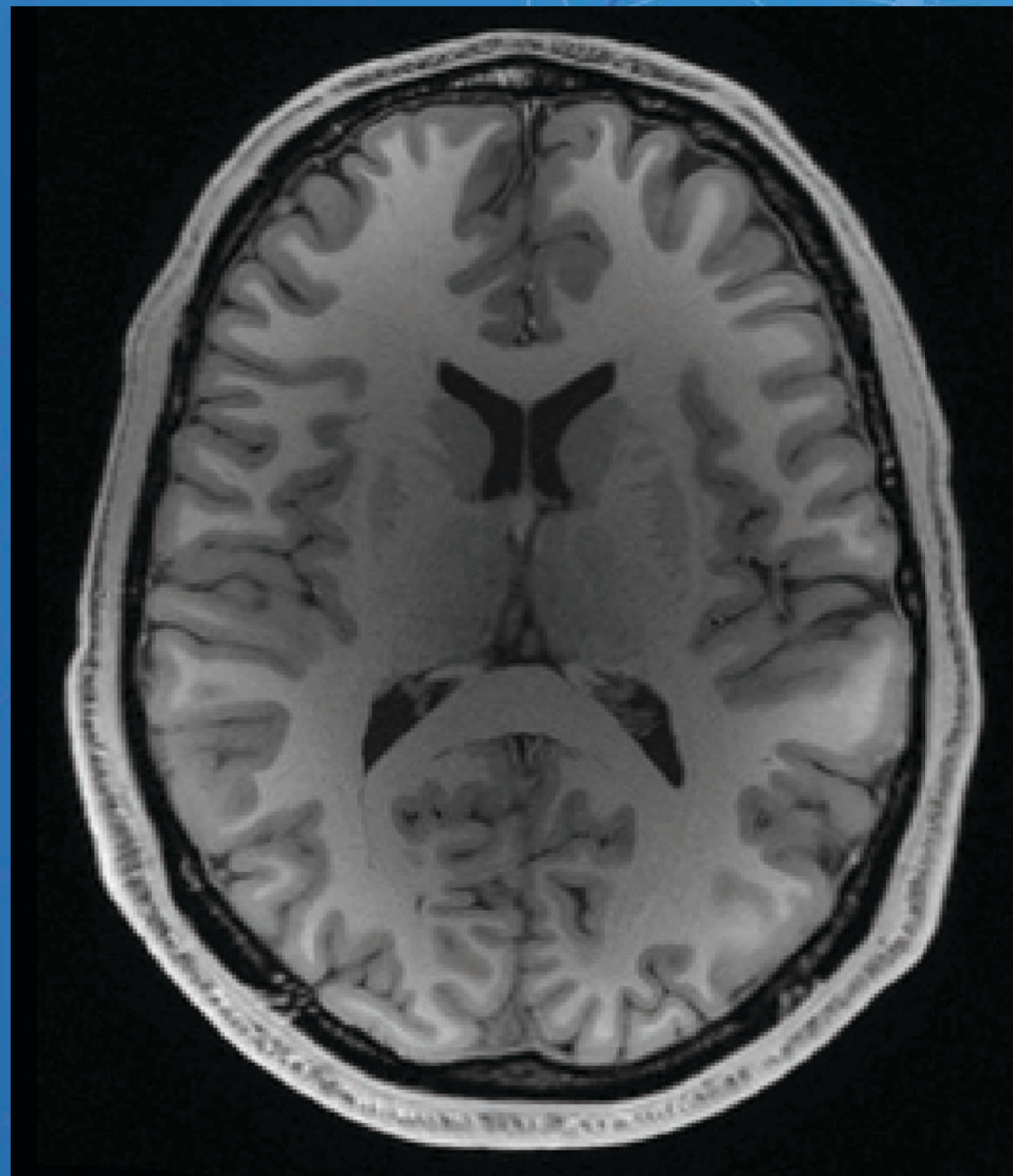
ENHANCE DECISIONS IN DEVELOPING NATIONS

- Developing nations (*80% of world's population*) rely on older low-field MRI

ENHANCE DECISIONS IN DEVELOPING NATIONS

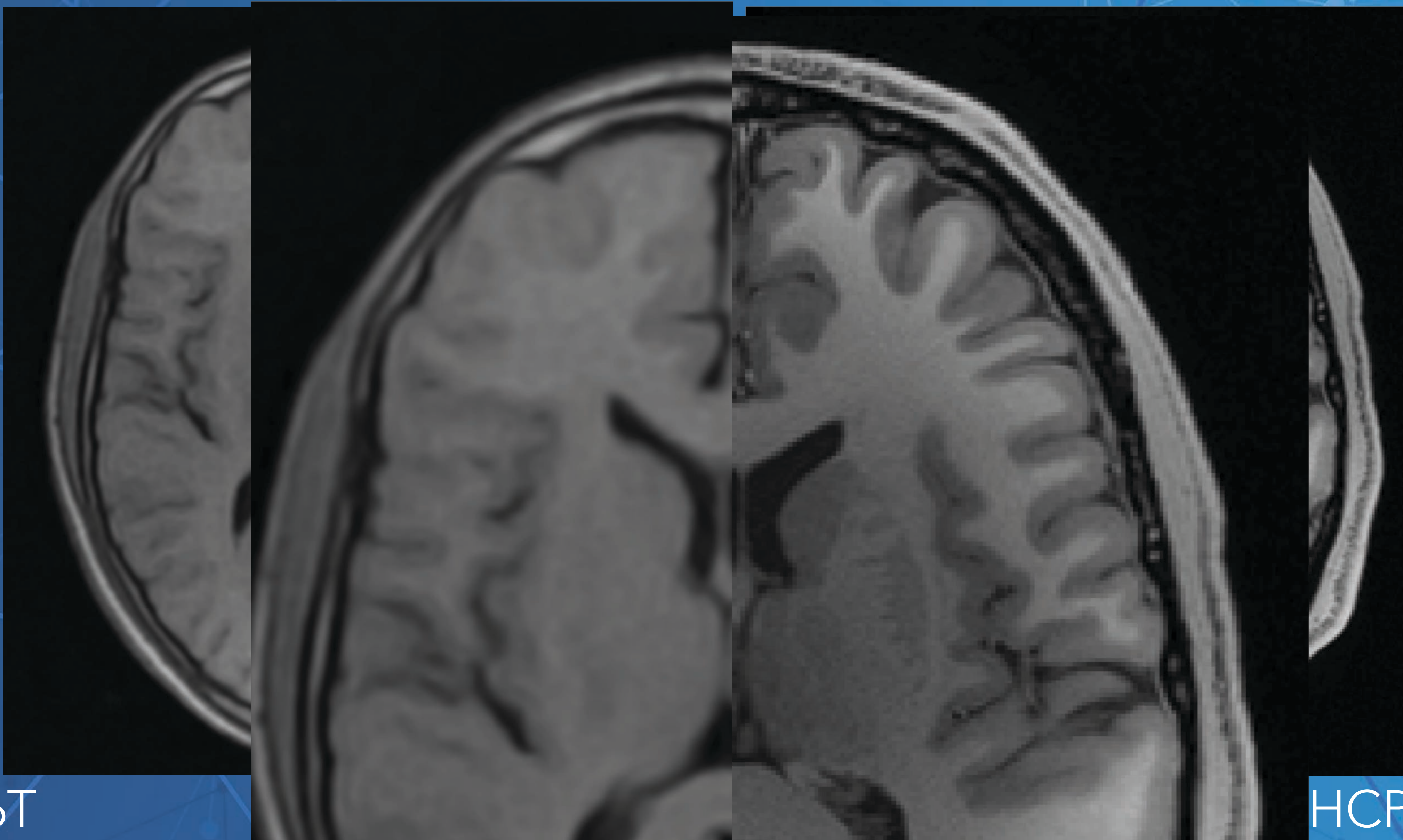


0.36T



HCP (3T-7T)

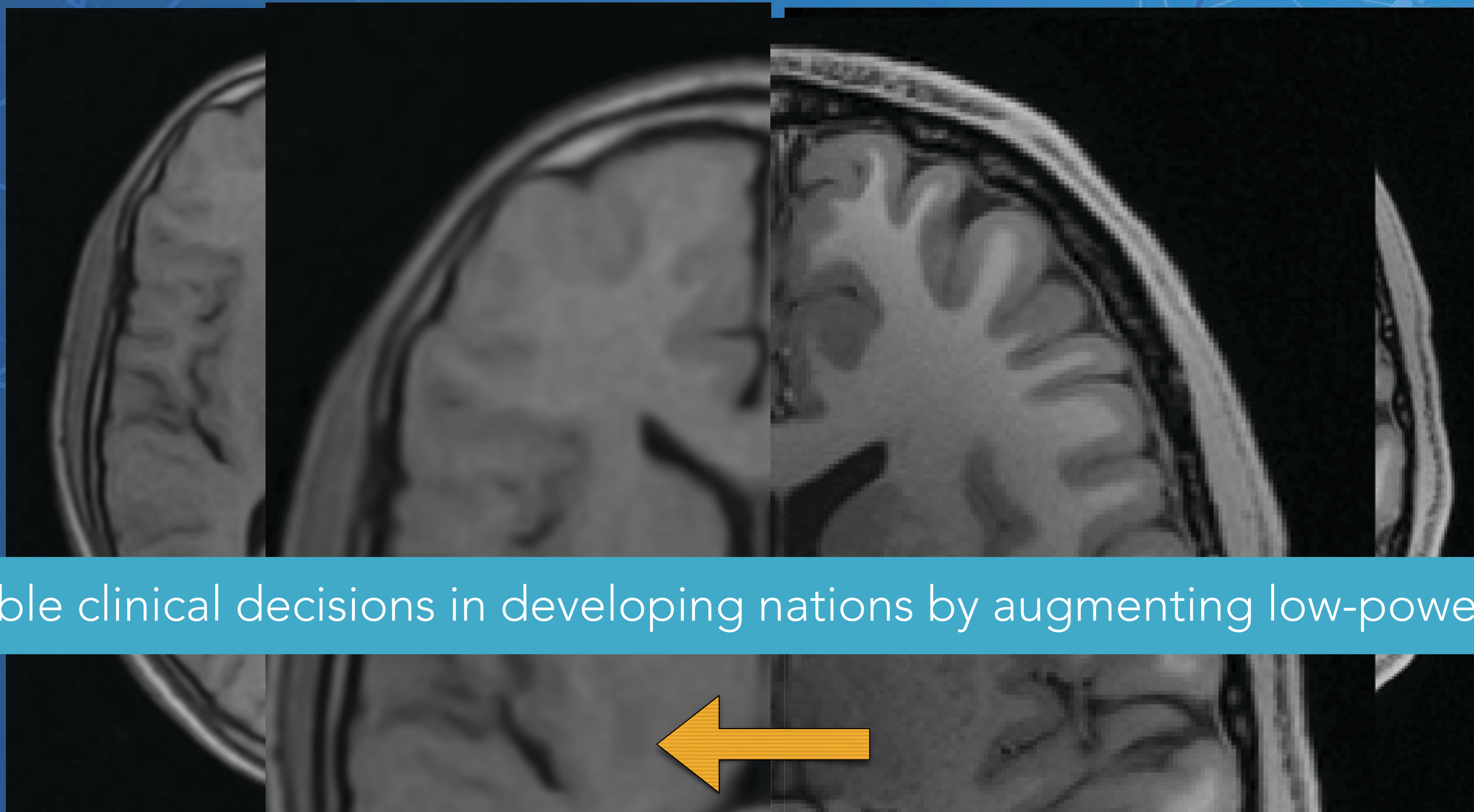
ENHANCE DECISIONS IN DEVELOPING NATIONS



0.36T

HCP (3T-7T)

ENHANCE DECISIONS IN DEVELOPING NATIONS

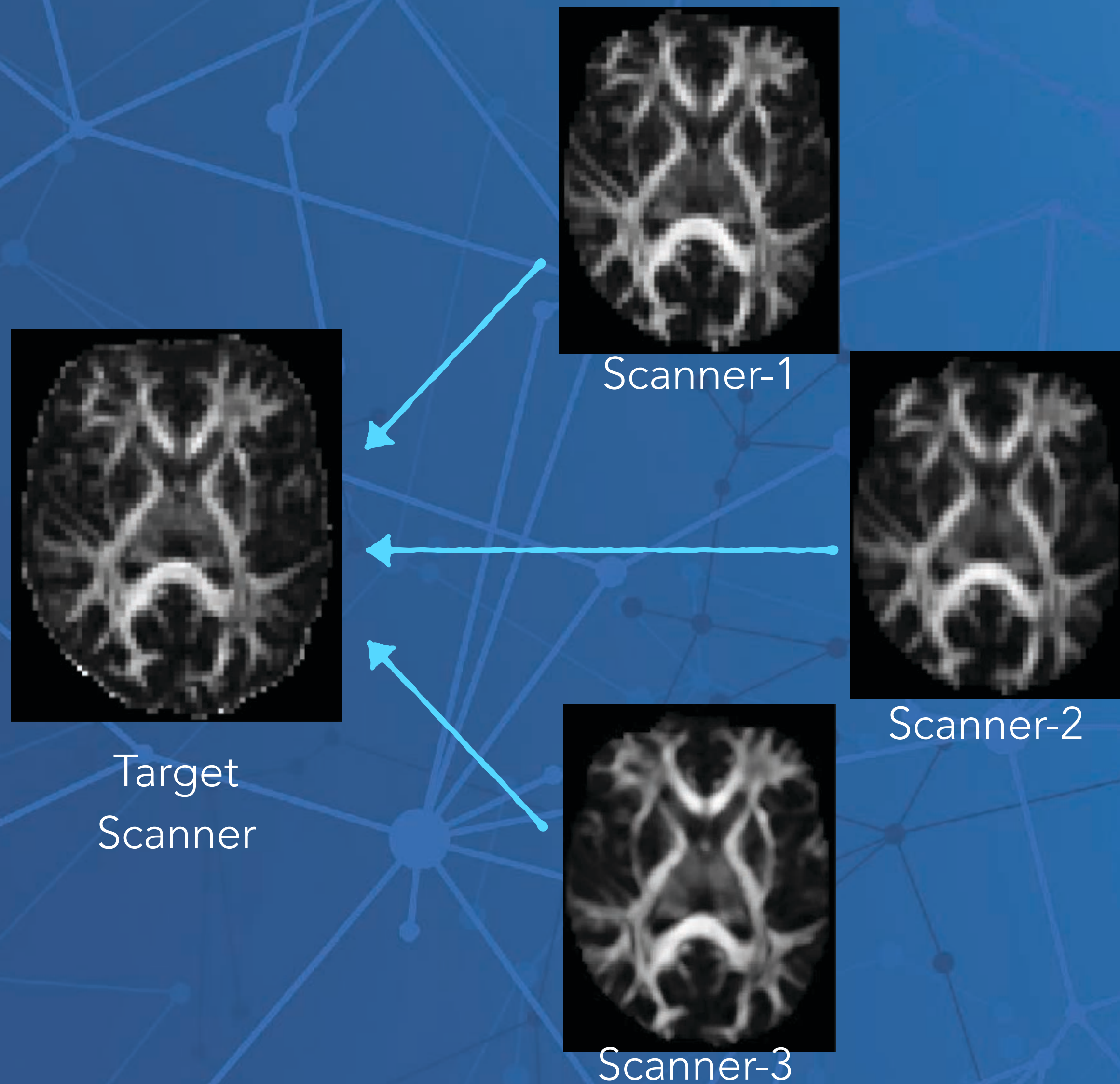


Enable clinical decisions in developing nations by augmenting low-power MRIs

0.36T

HCP (3T-7T)

DATA HARMONISATION

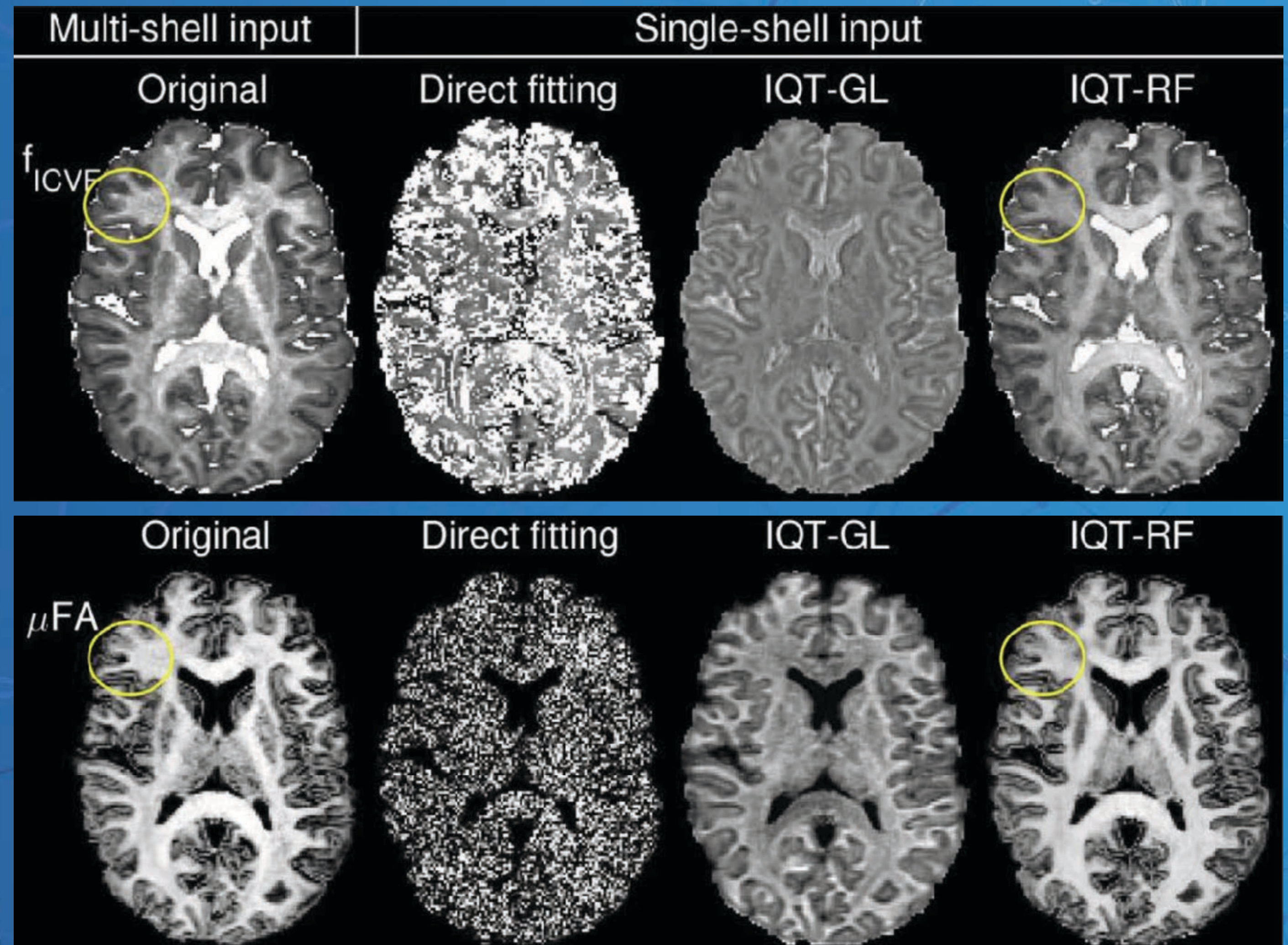


- Enable large scale multi-centre studies and acquisitions
- Normalise data across various scanner models, makes and acquisition parameters
- Enable re-use of old data from phased out scanners
- Facilitate longitudinal studies

PARAMETER MAPPING

[ALEXANDER ET AL 2014, 2017]

- Estimate multi-shell model parameters from single-shell data
- faster acquisition
- apply on historical single-shell datasets



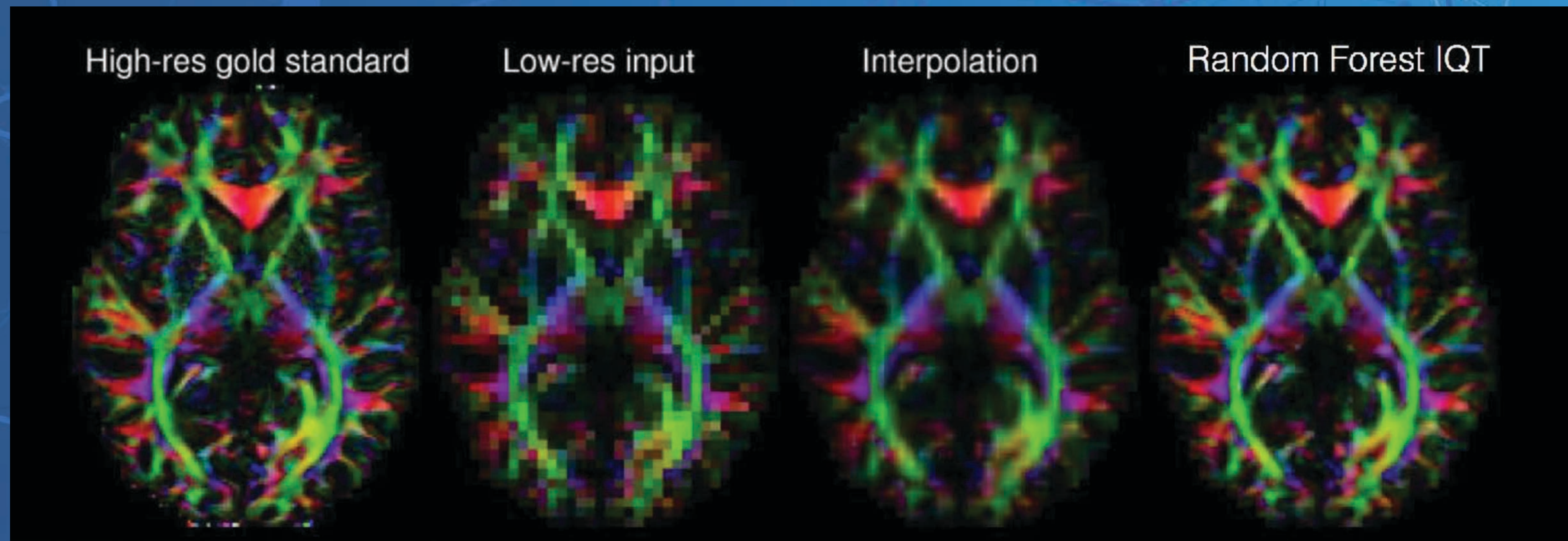
NODDI

SMT

SUPER-RESOLUTION

- Enhancing diffusion MRI maps: DTI, MAP-MRI, Tractography

[ALEXANDER ET AL 2014, 2017]



SUPER RESOLUTION

- Random Forest IQT
- Bayesian RF IQT: Introducing Uncertainty
- Deep Learning IQT with Uncertainty

PIPELINE OVERVIEW

- Training:

- ▶ Begin with HIGH-quality data (HCP dataset)
- ▶ Synthetically downsample to create paired low-quality / high-quality dataset
- ▶ Learn mapping from low-quality \rightarrow high-quality

- Testing:

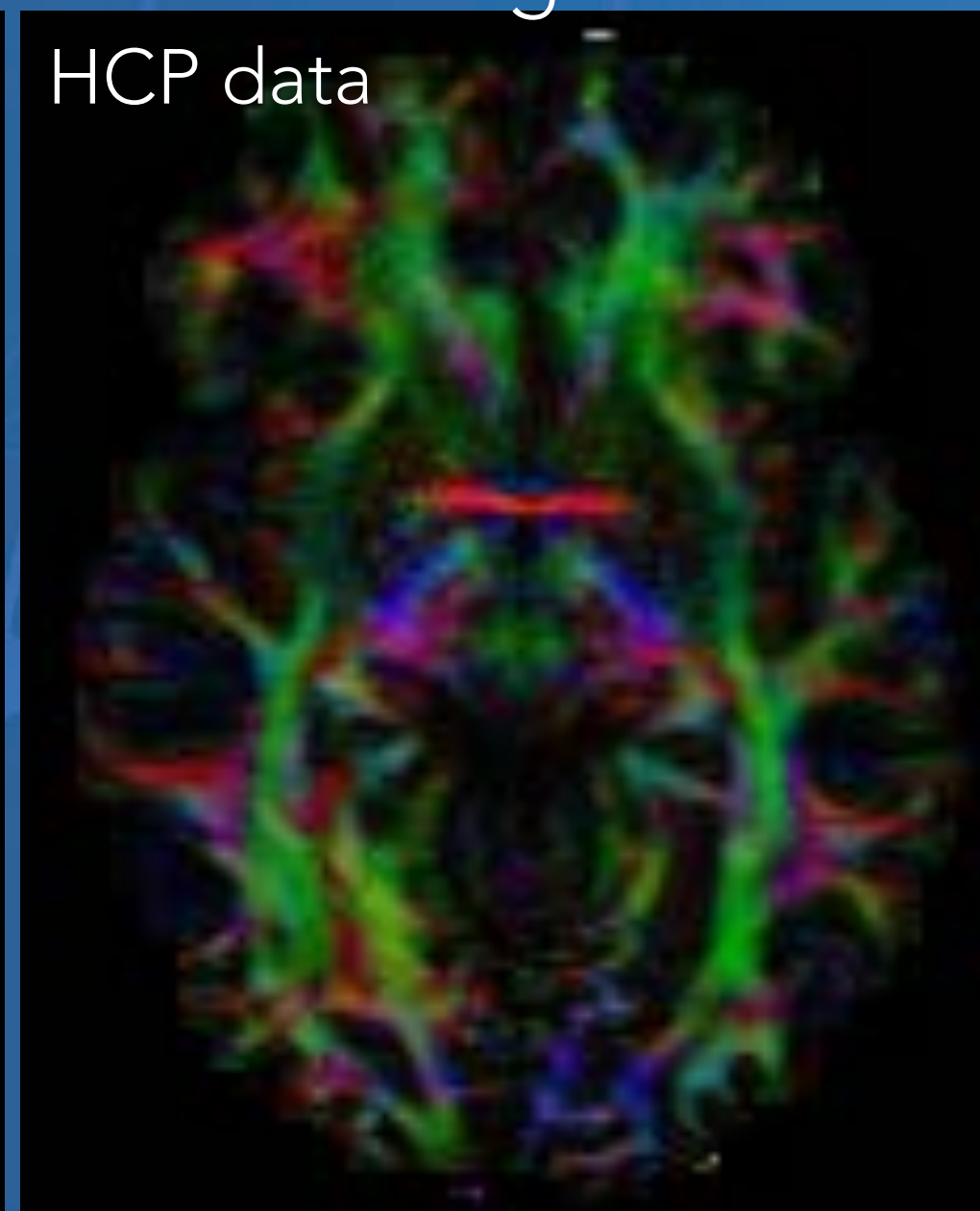
- ▶ Apply mapping to test (low-quality) data to enhance quality

PATCH BASED REGRESSION

Down-sampled



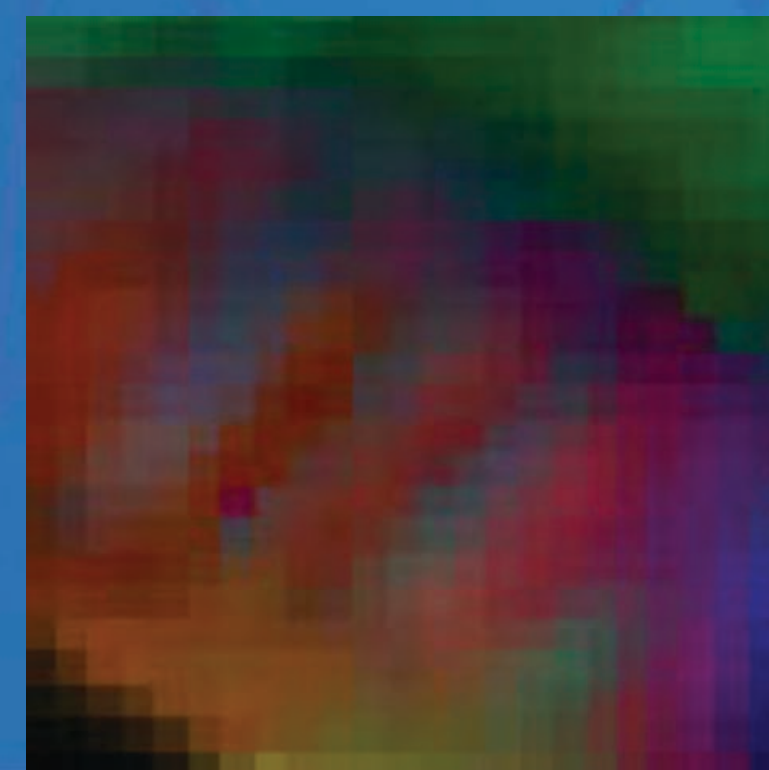
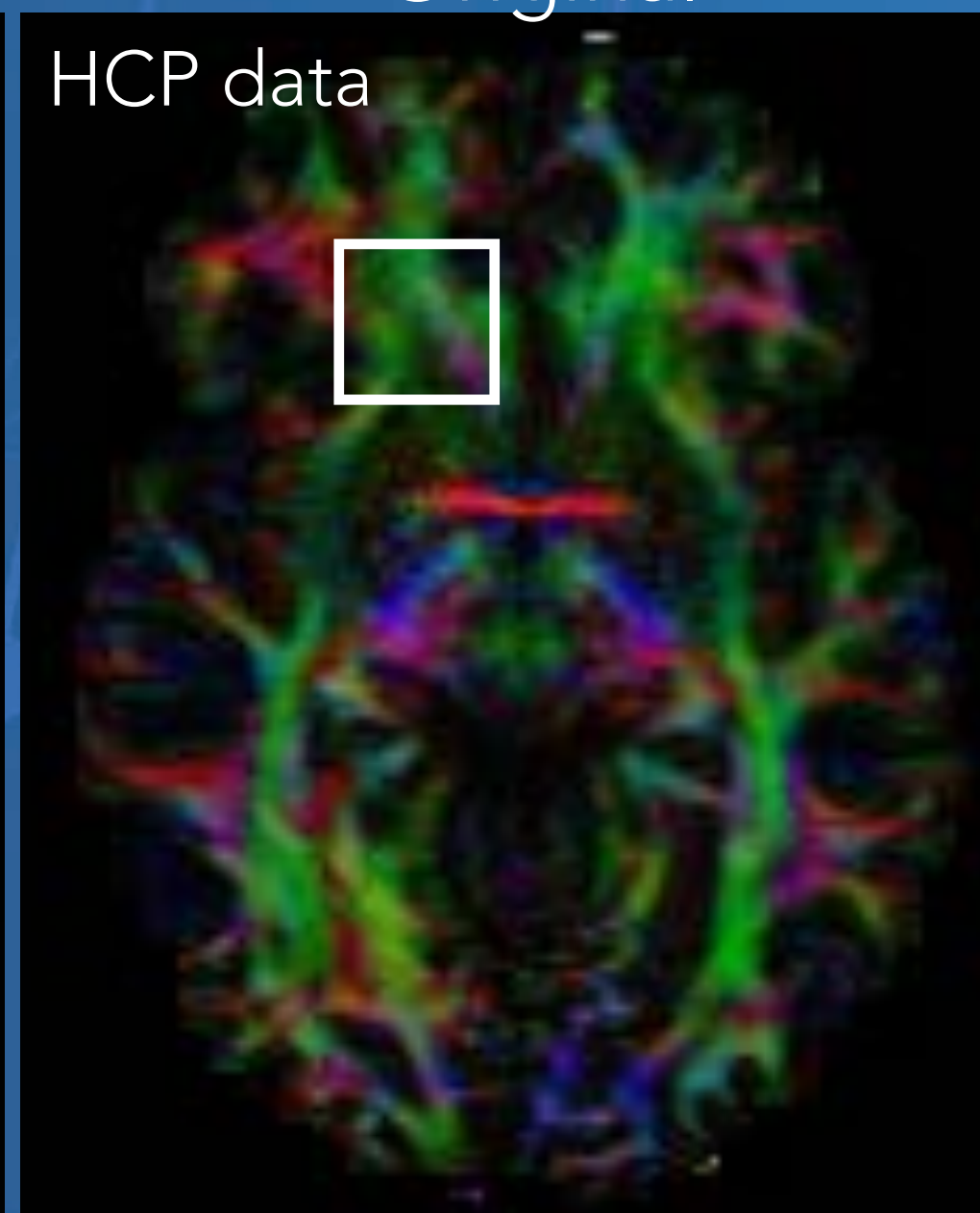
Original



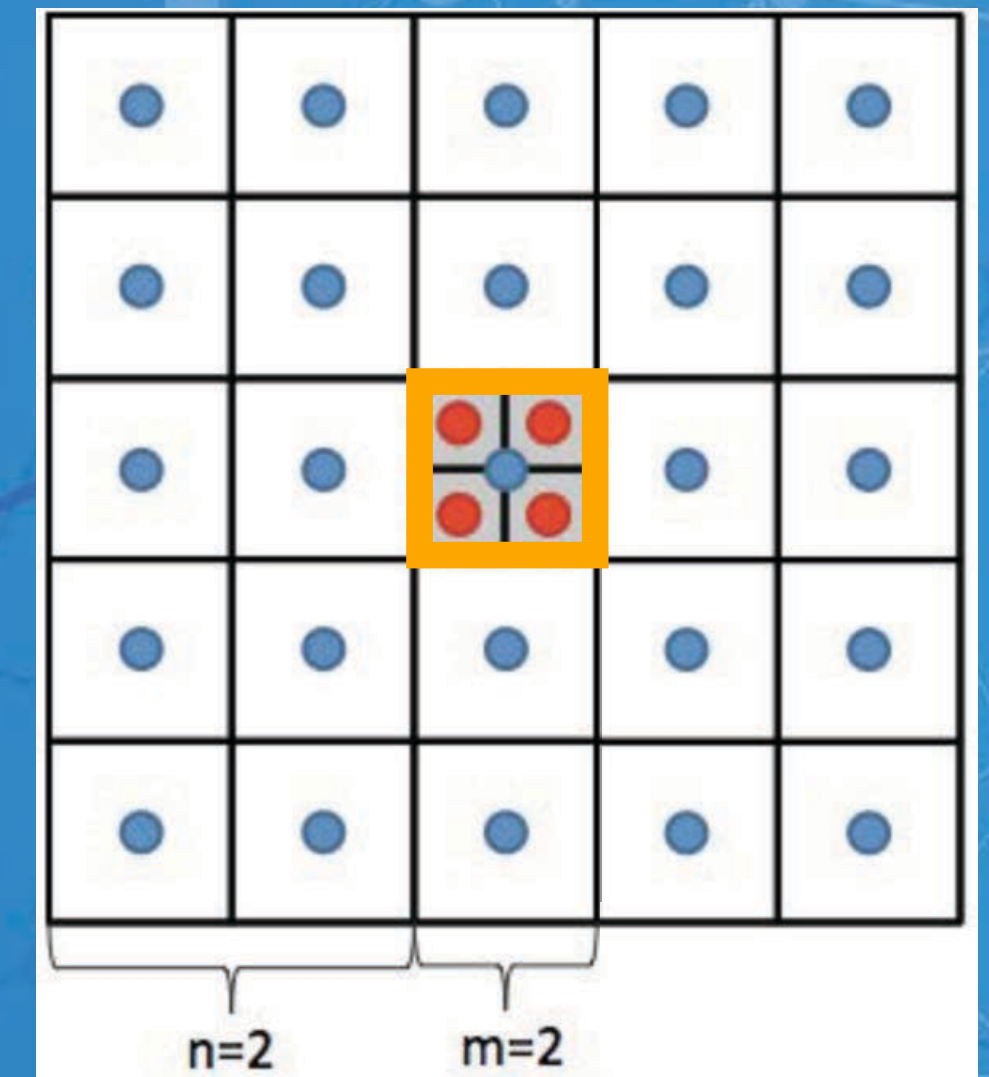
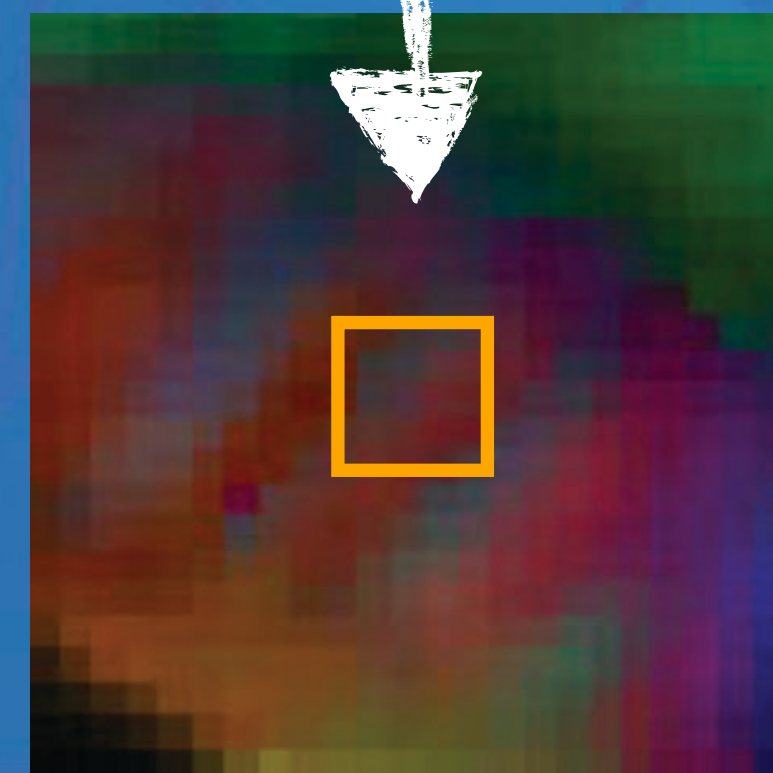
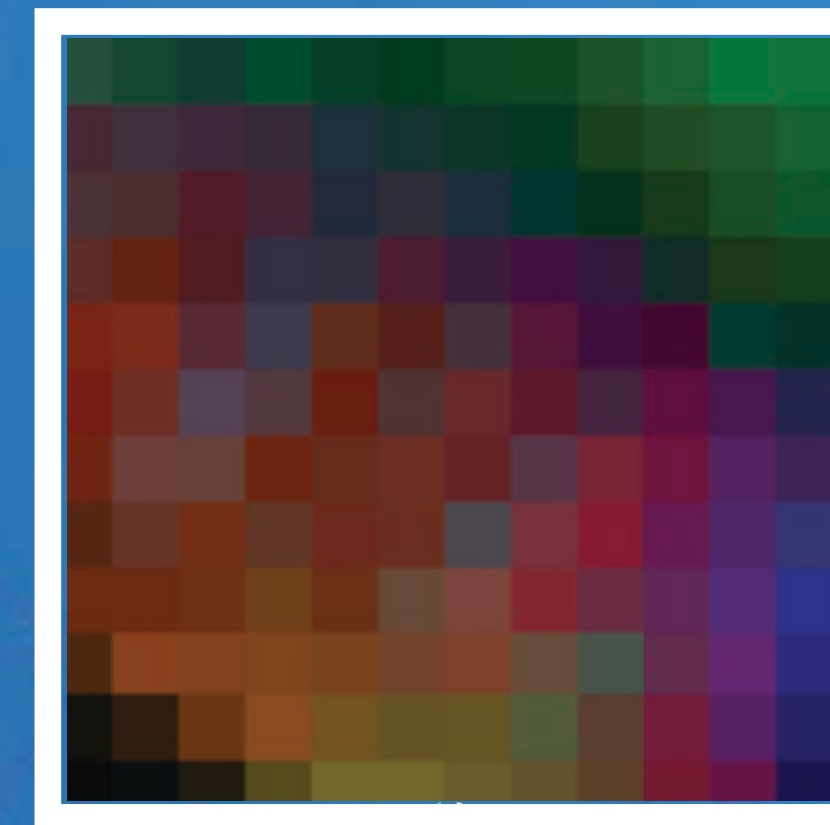
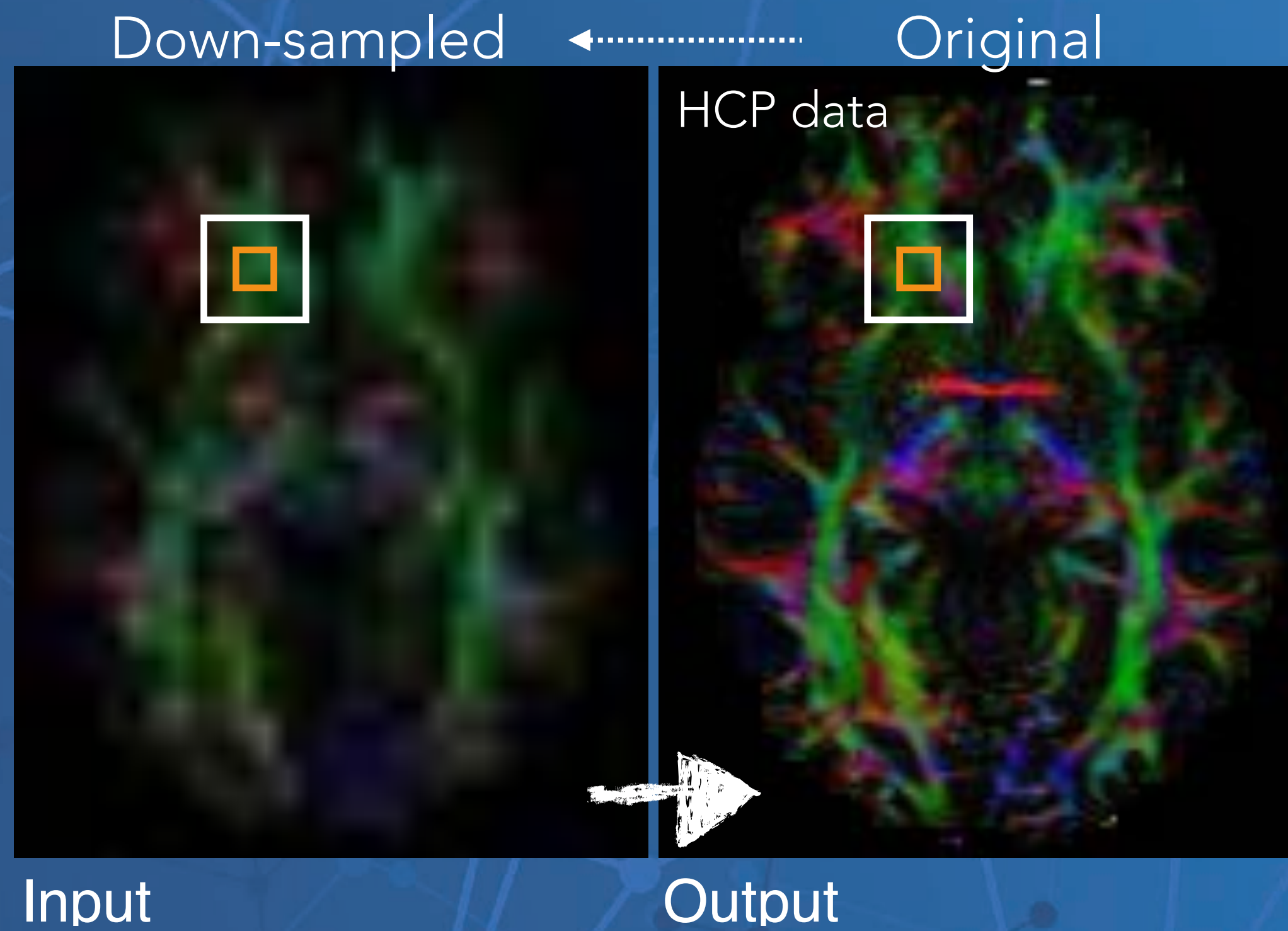
HCP data

PATCH BASED REGRESSION

Down-sampled ← Original

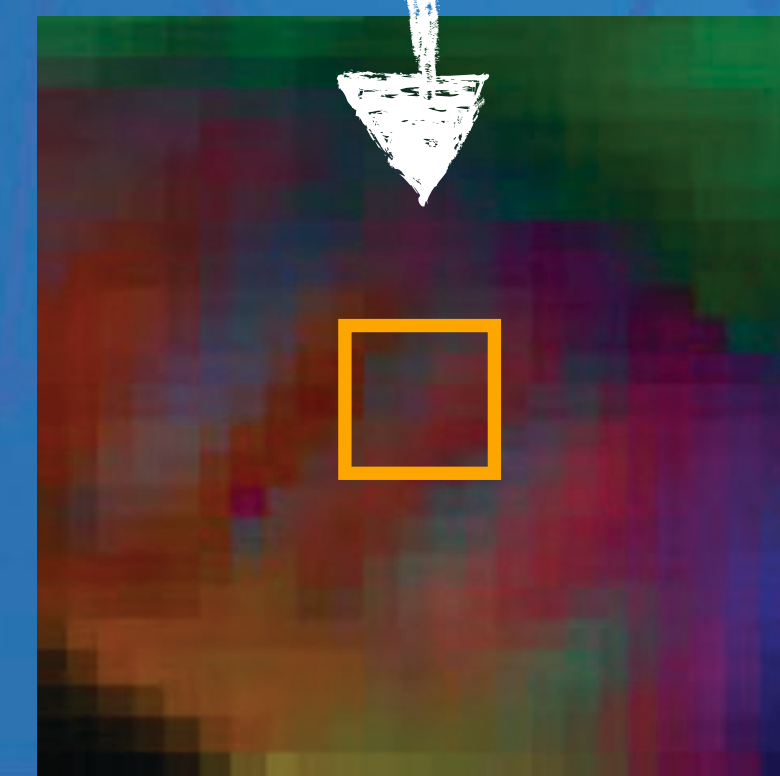
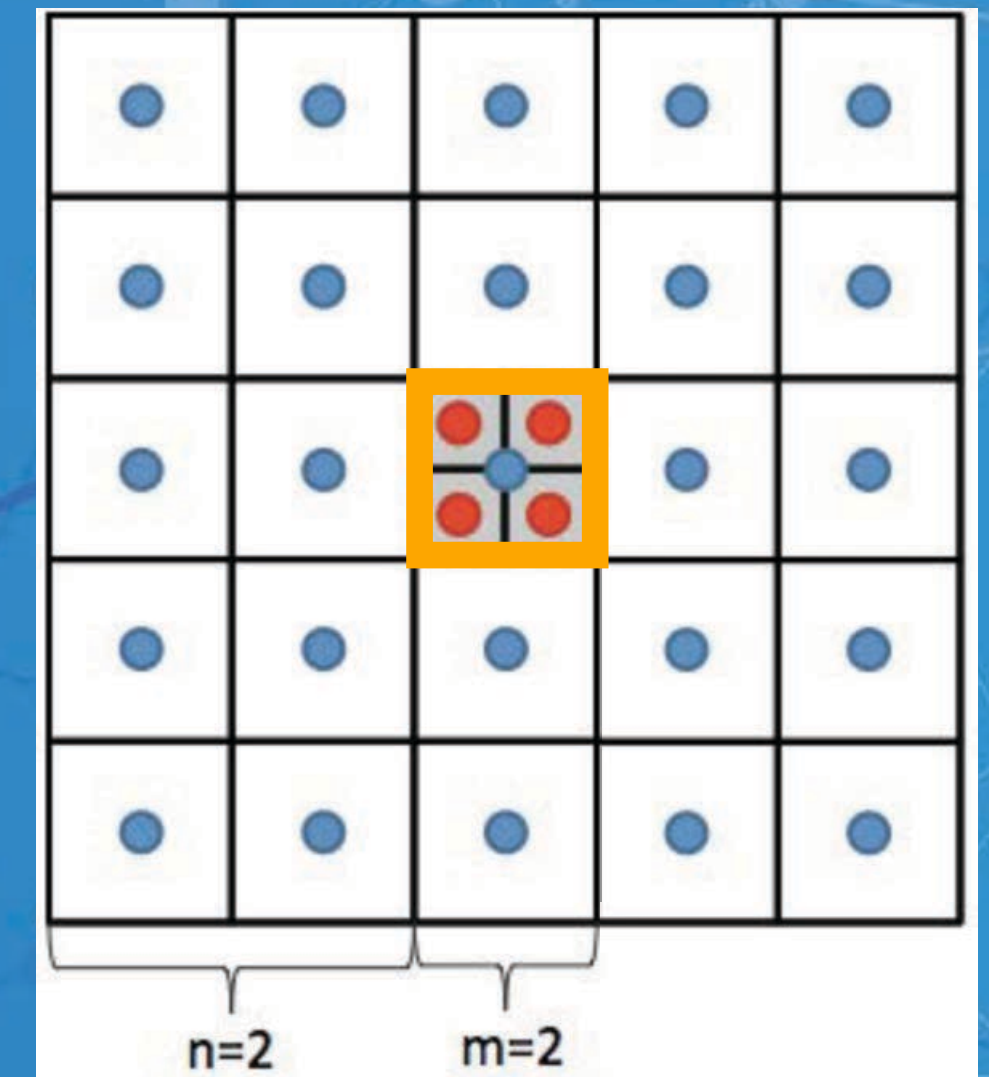
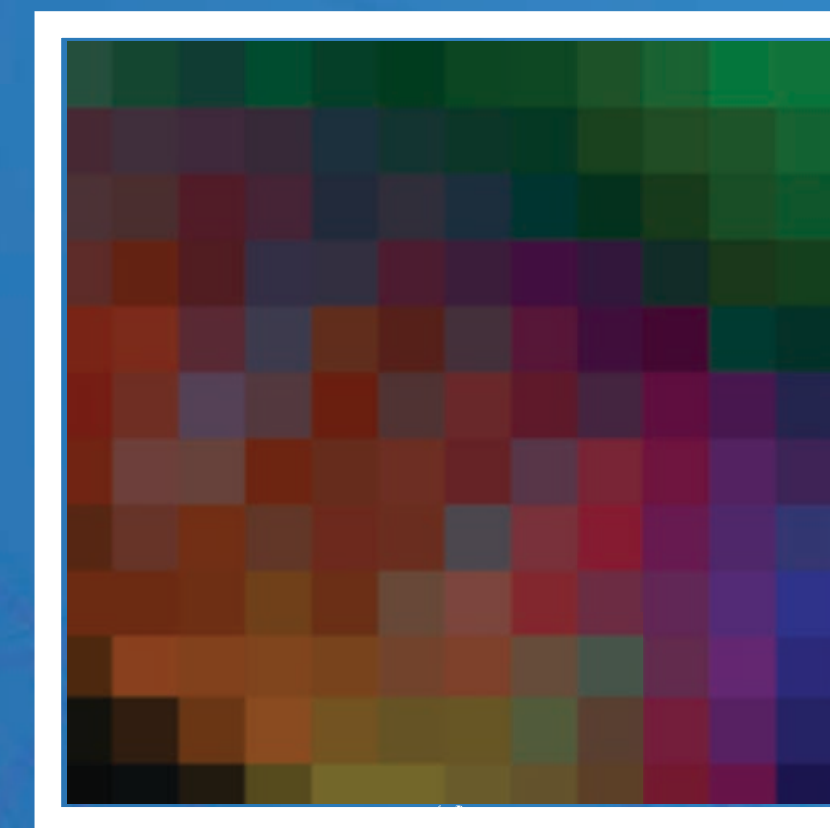
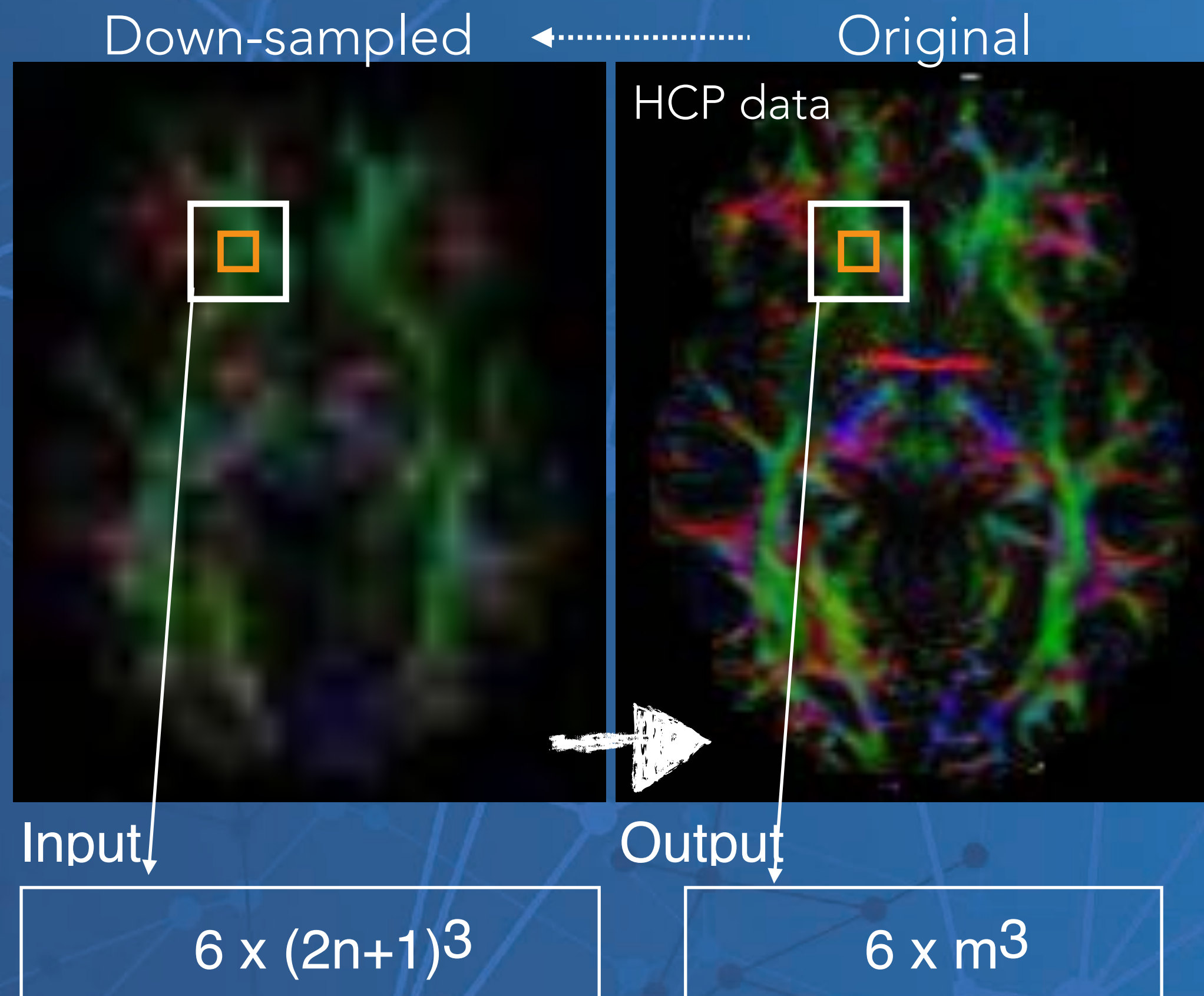


PATCH BASED REGRESSION



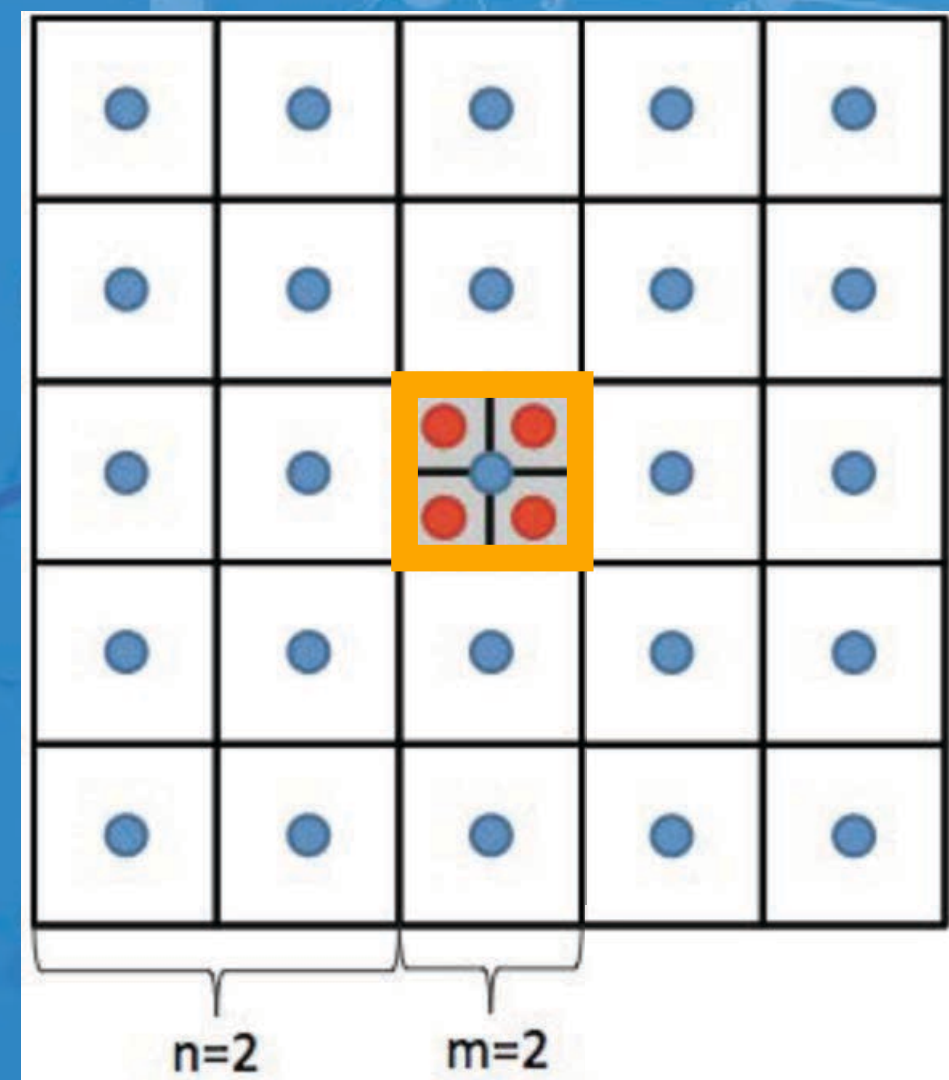
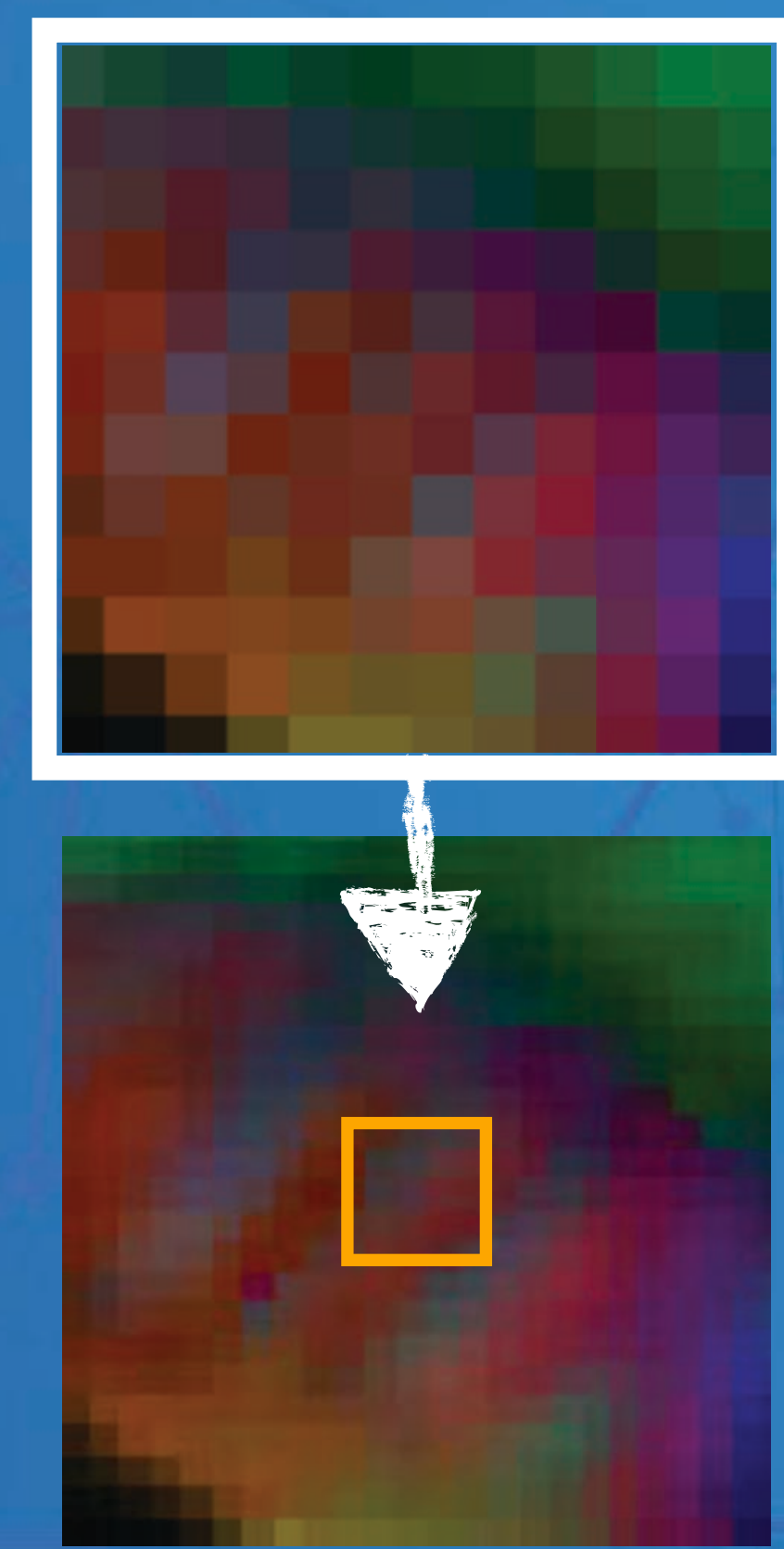
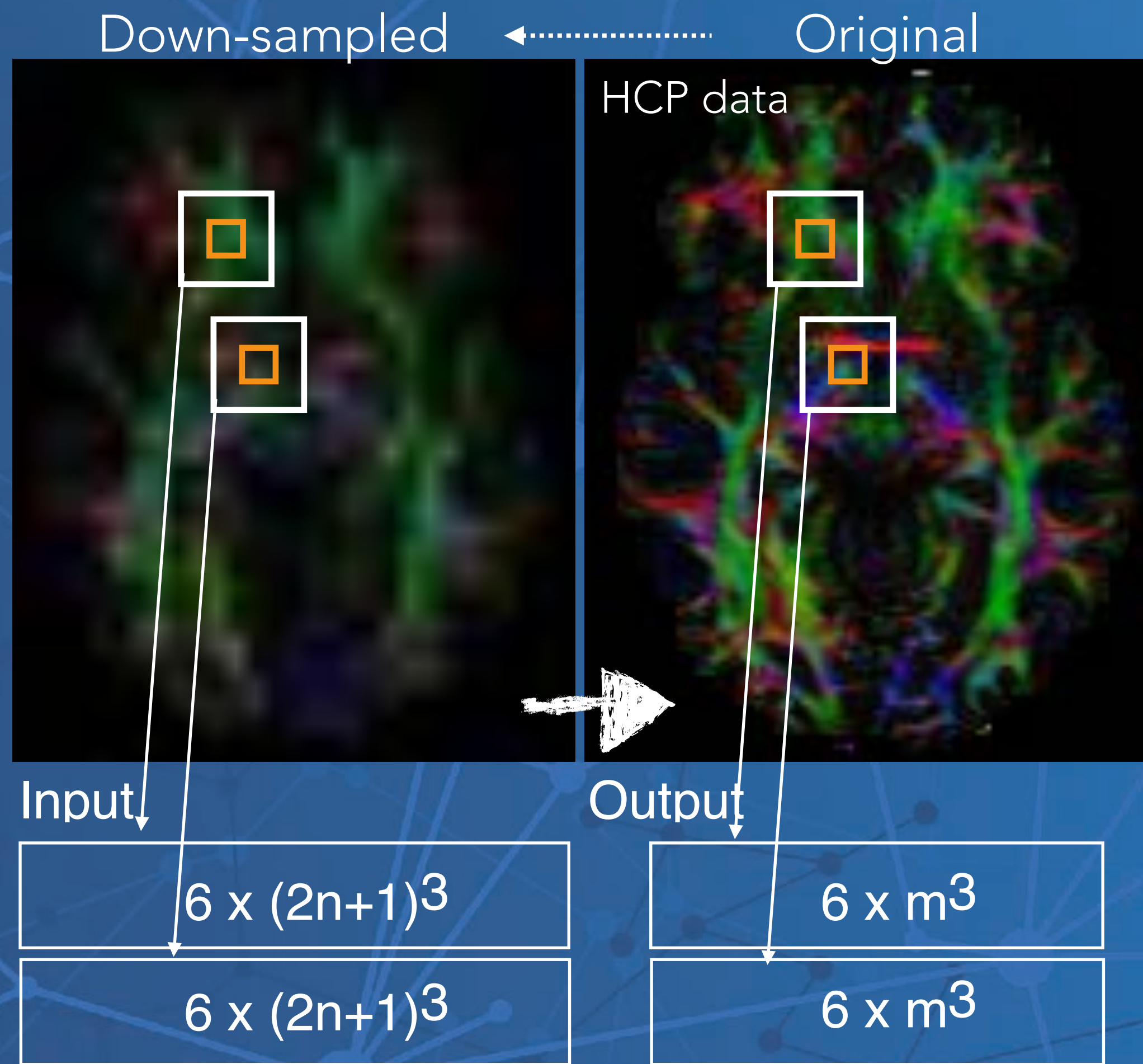
$$\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^{N_l p_l} \rightarrow \mathbf{y}(\mathbf{x}) \in \mathbb{R}^{N_h p_h}$$

PATCH BASED REGRESSION



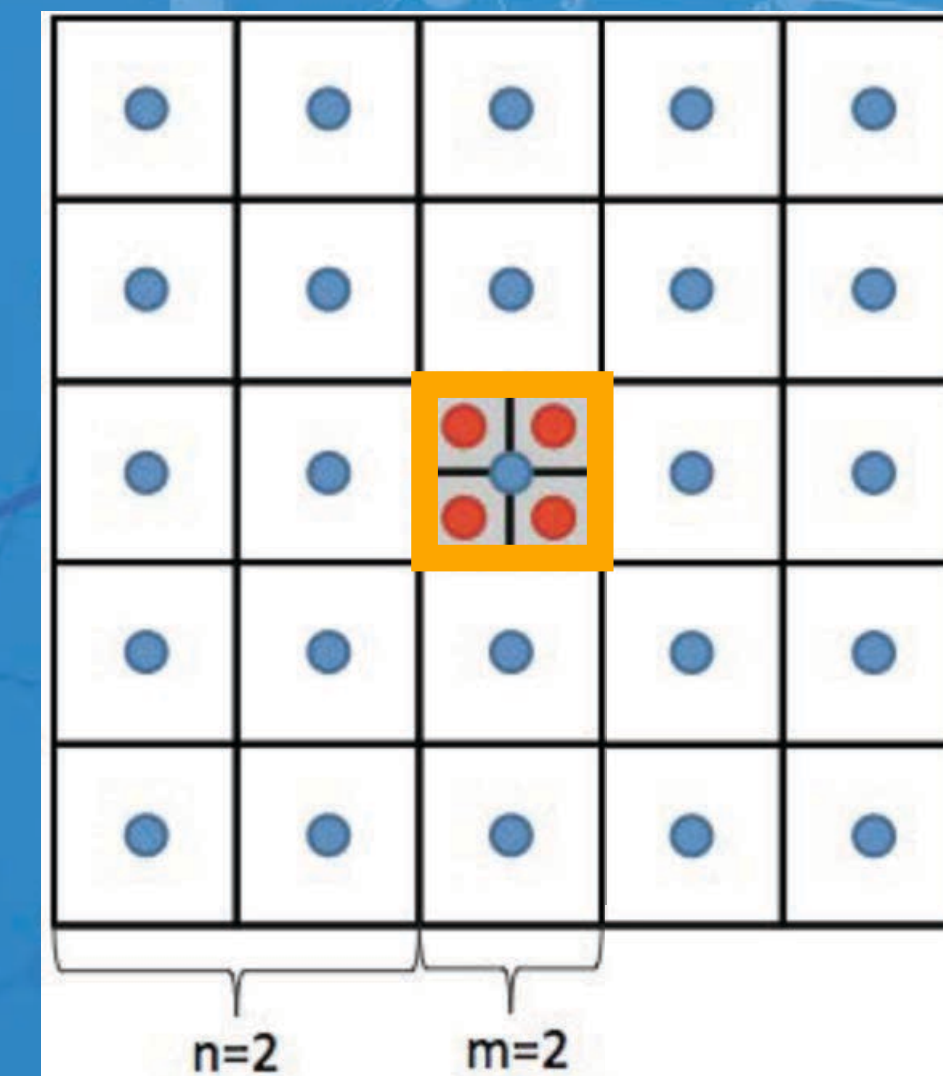
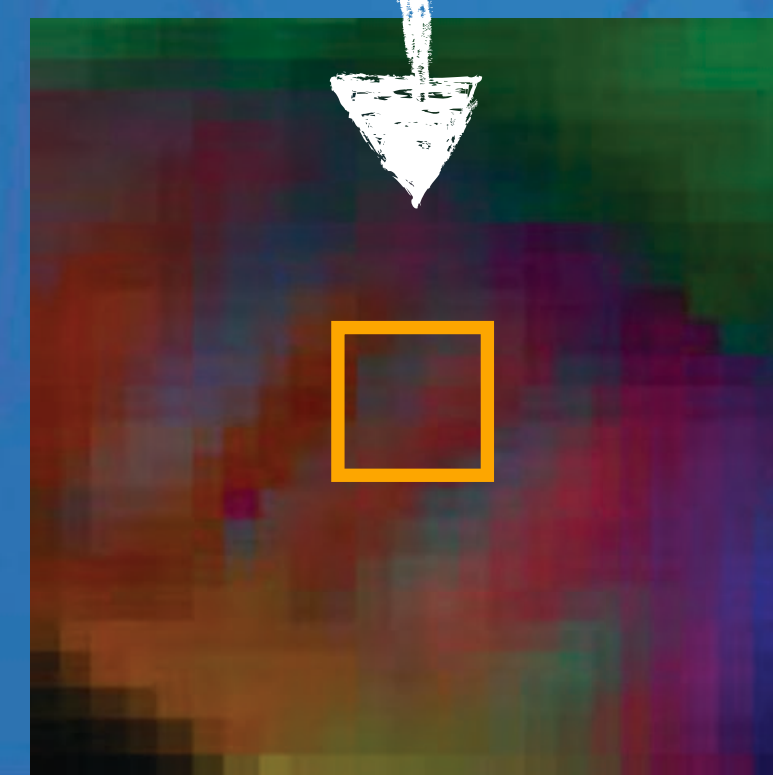
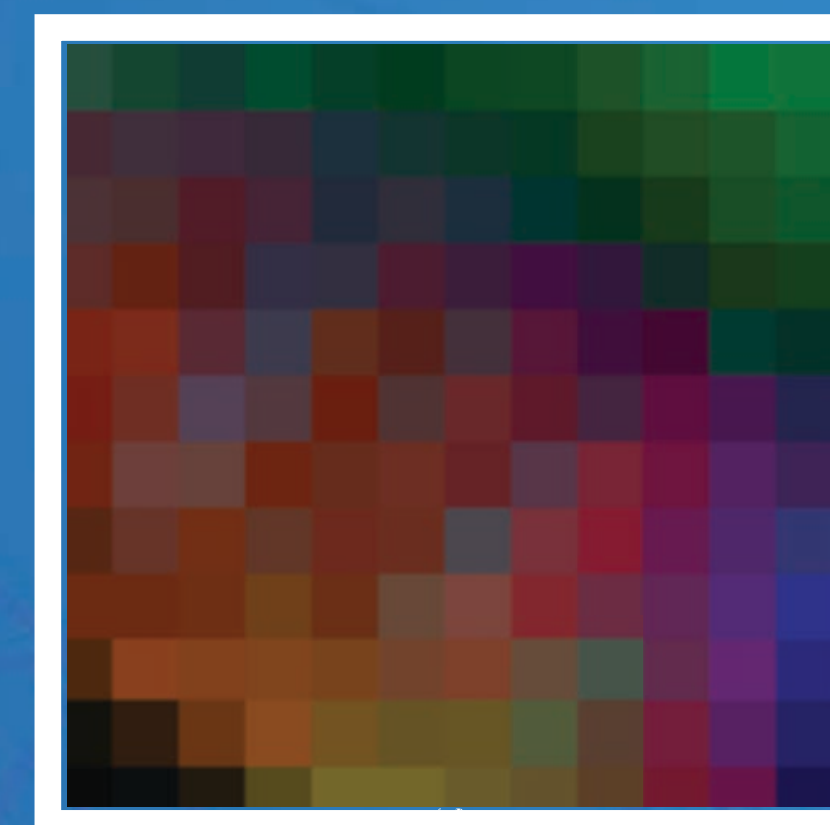
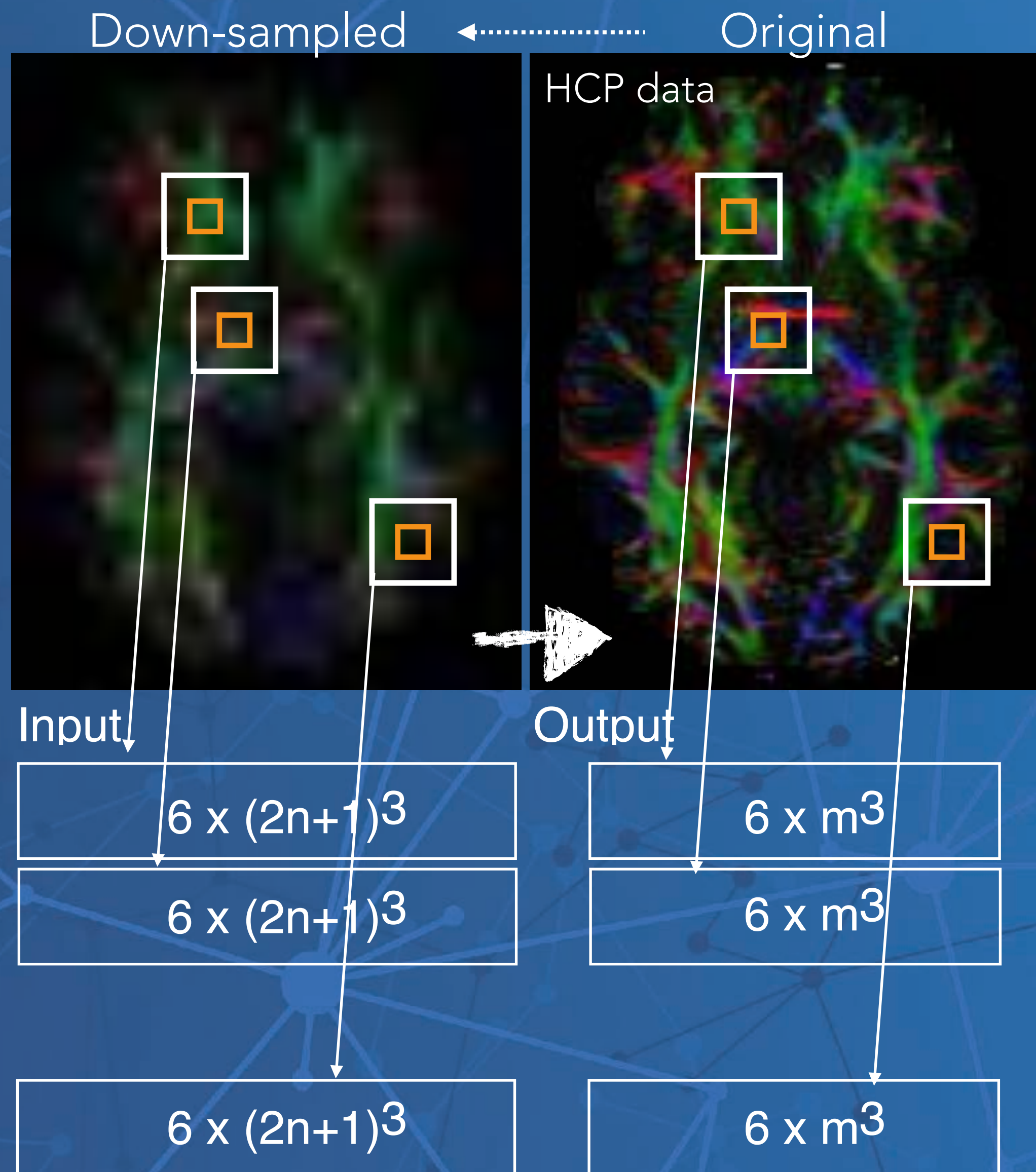
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PATCH BASED REGRESSION



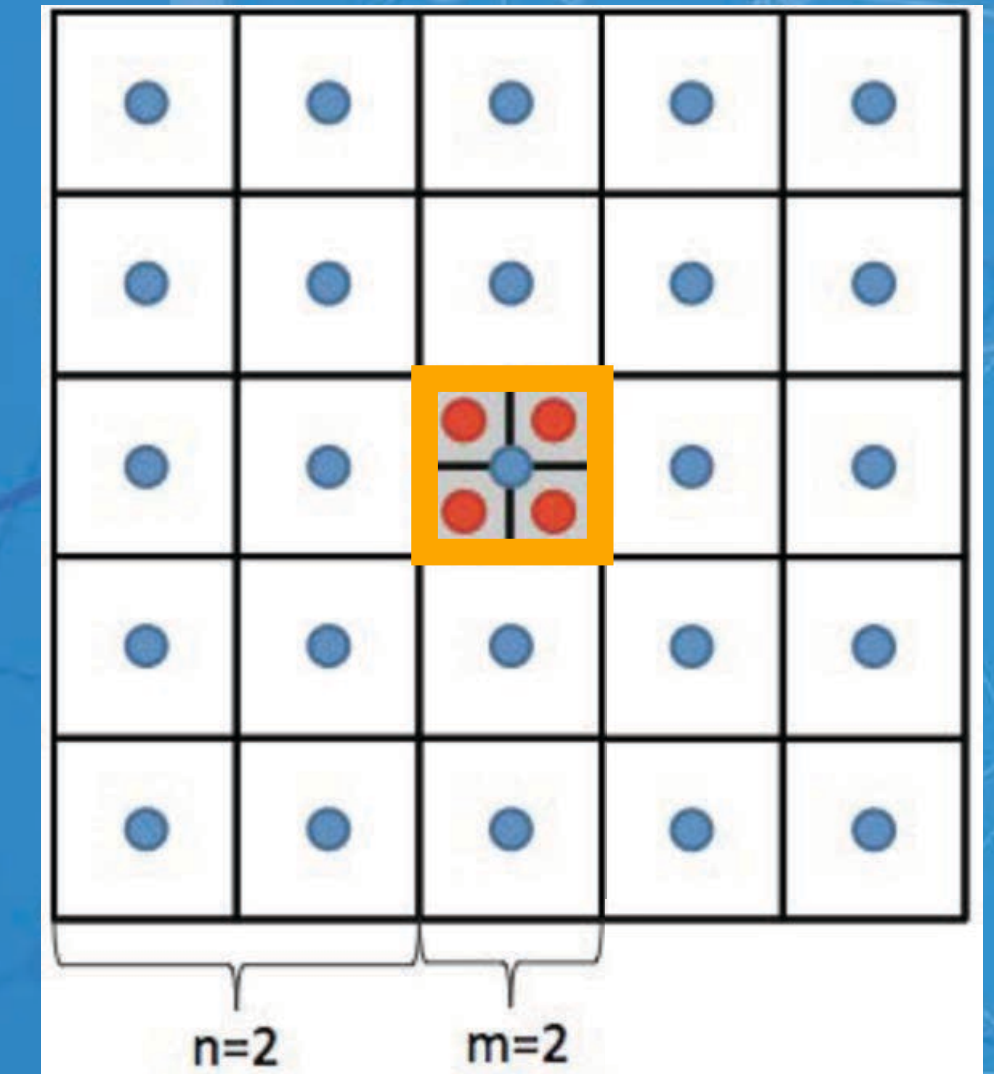
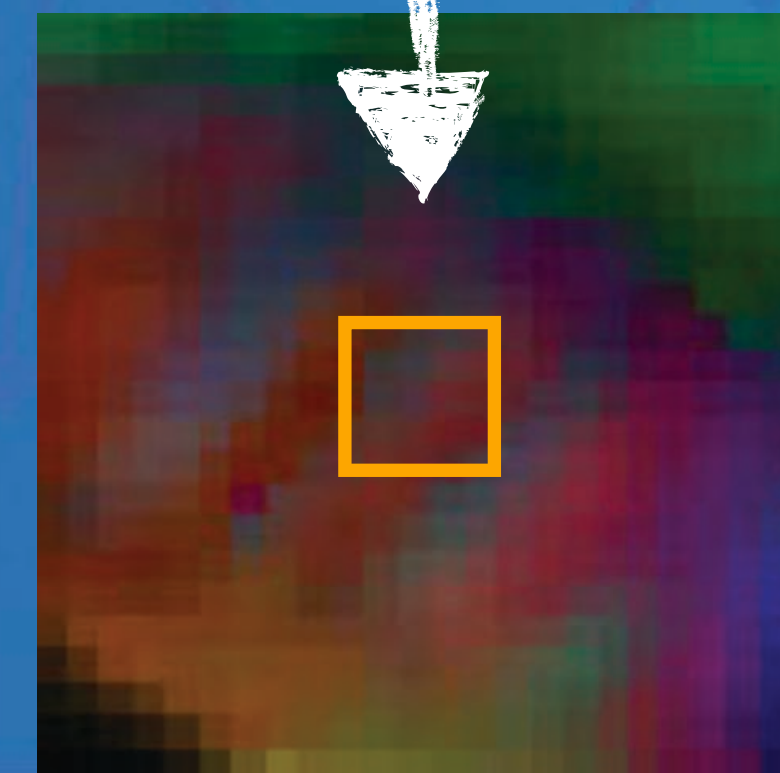
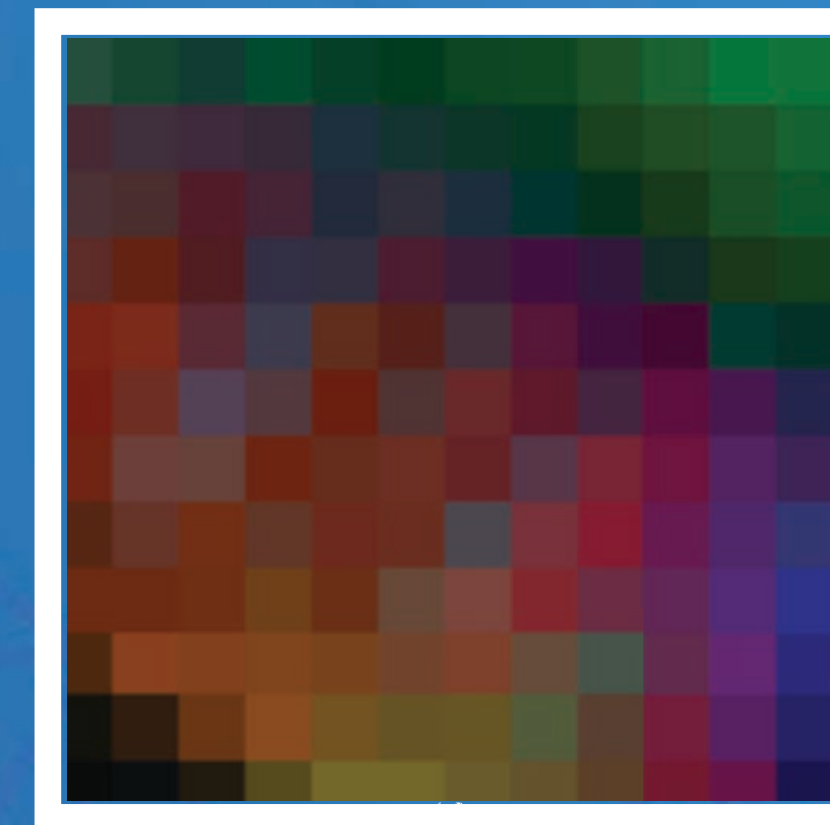
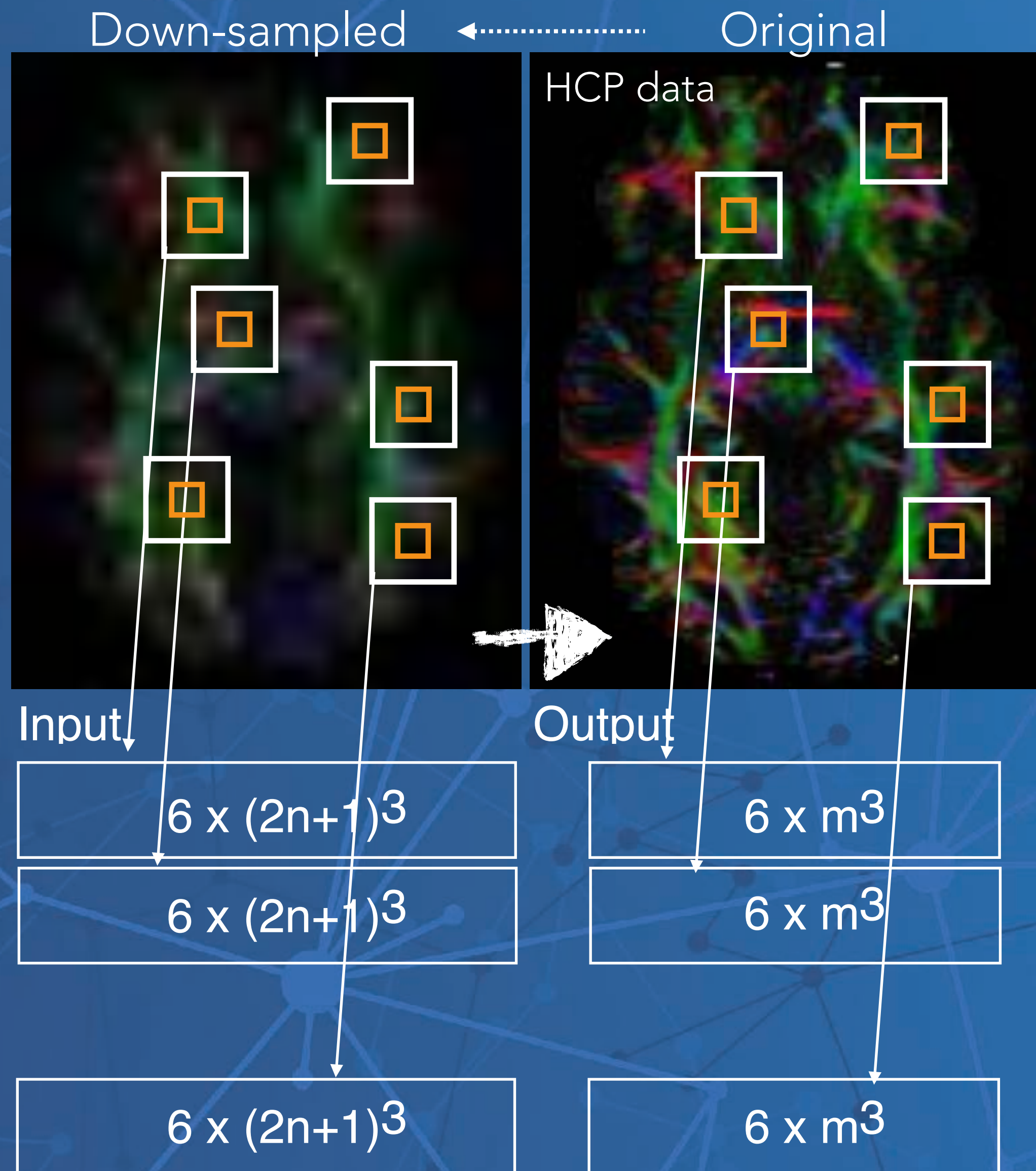
$$\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^{N_{lp_l}} \rightarrow \mathbf{y}(\mathbf{x}) \in \mathbb{R}^{N_{hp_h}}$$

PATCH BASED REGRESSION



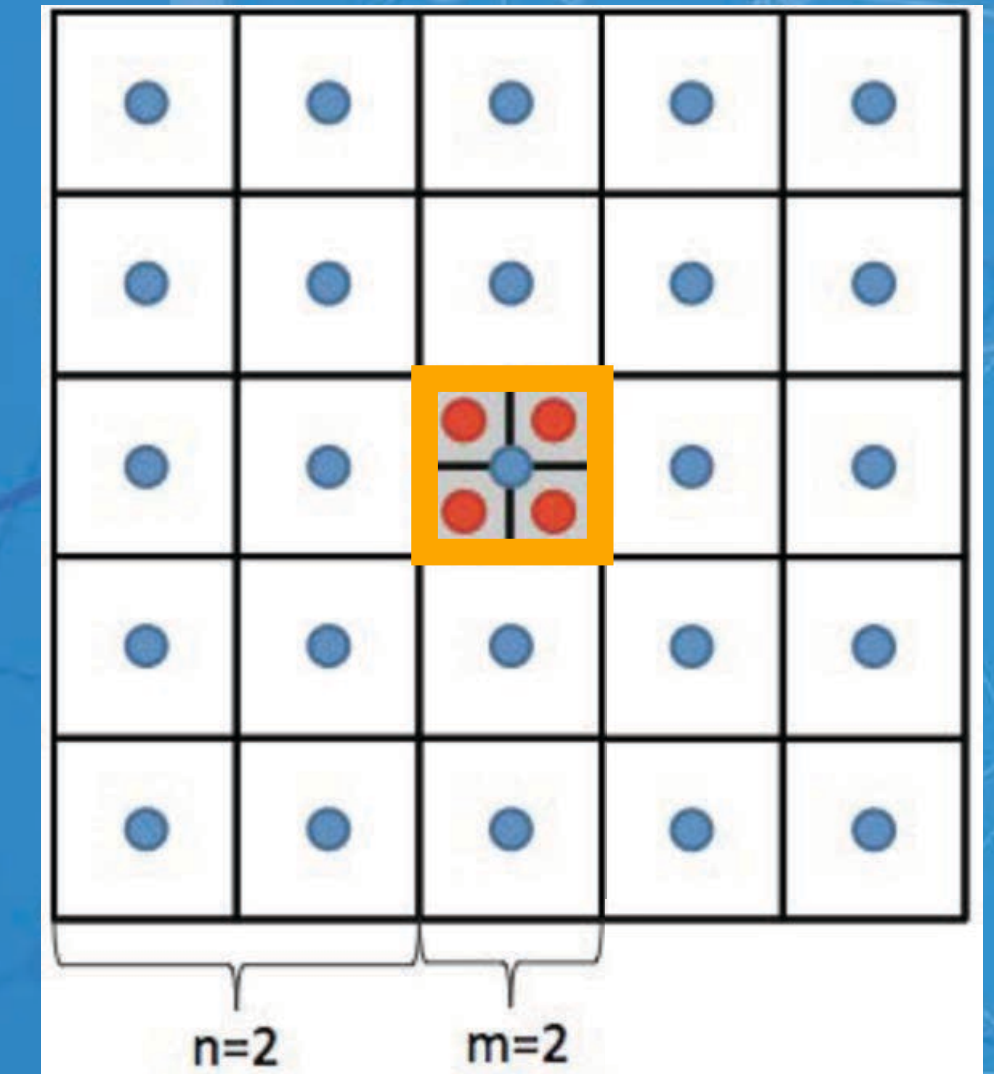
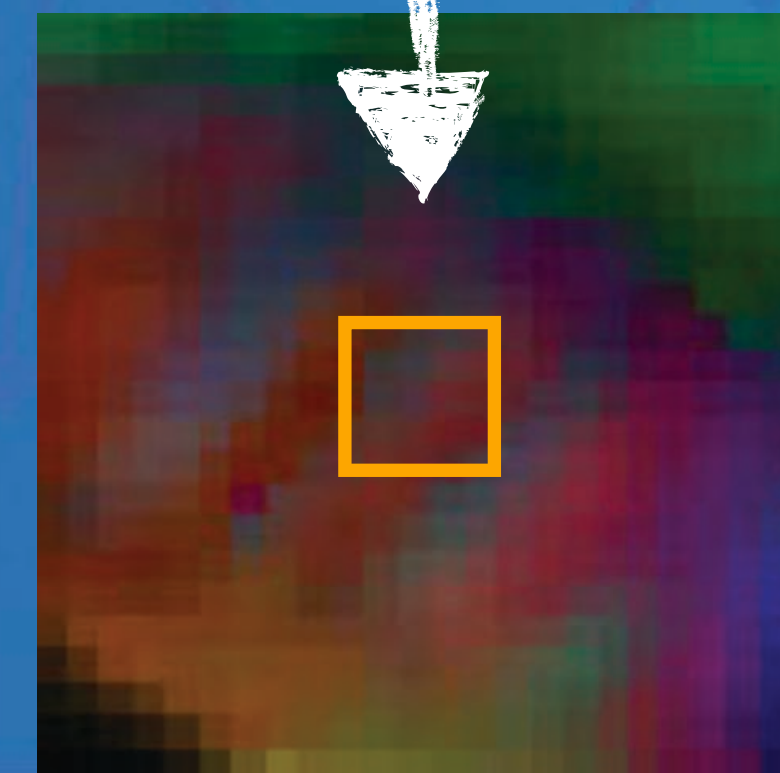
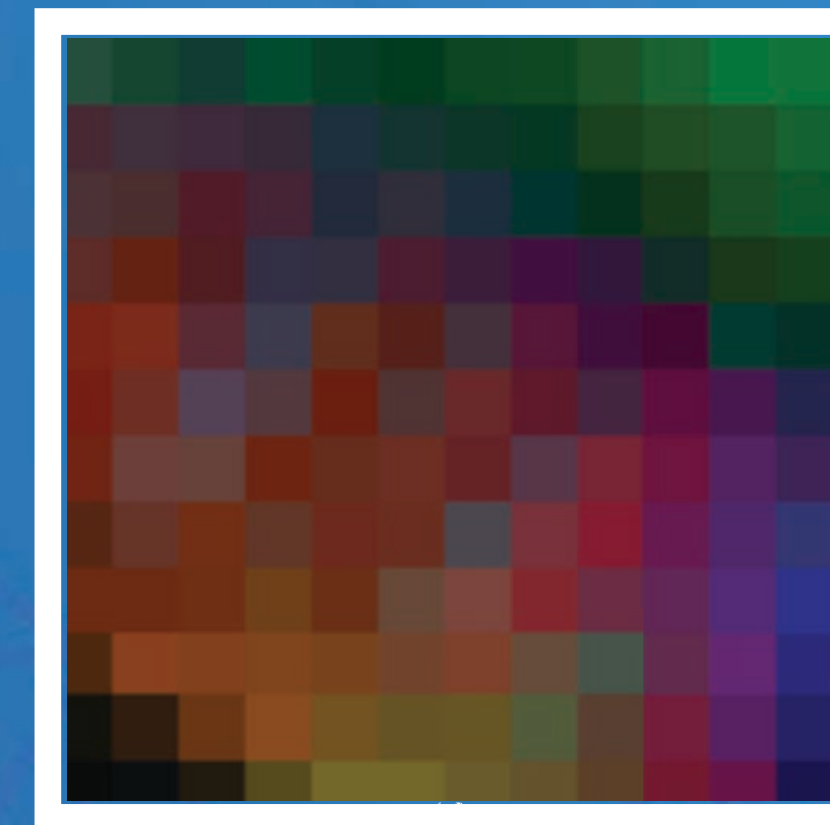
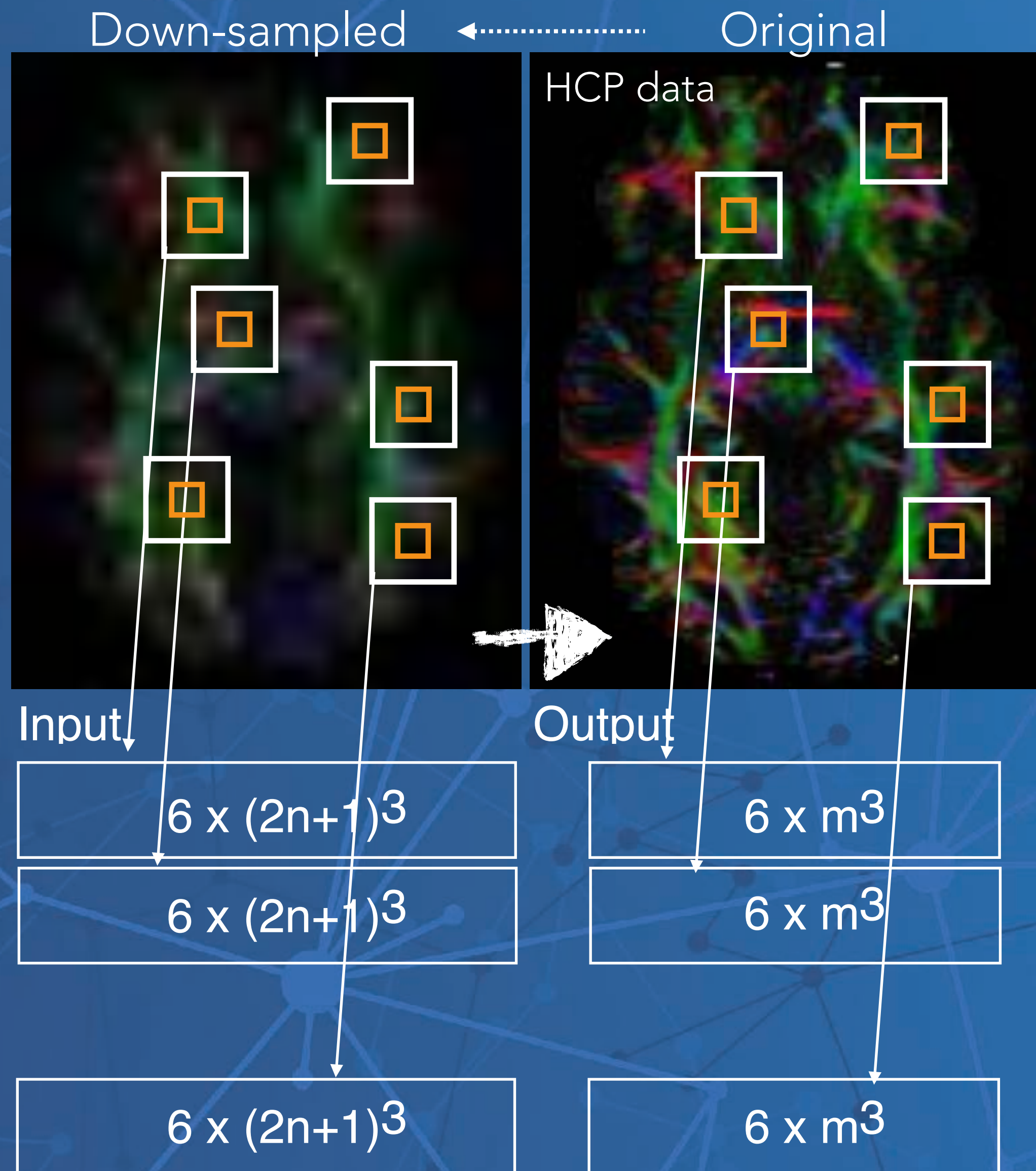
$$\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^{N_{lp_l}} \rightarrow \mathbf{y}(\mathbf{x}) \in \mathbb{R}^{N_{hp_h}}$$

PATCH BASED REGRESSION



$$\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^{N_{lp_l}} \rightarrow \mathbf{y}(\mathbf{x}) \in \mathbb{R}^{N_{hp_h}}$$

PATCH BASED REGRESSION



Regression:

- Random Forest [ALEXANDER 2017]

- Deep Learning [TANNO MICCAI 2017]

$$\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^{N_{lp_l}} \rightarrow \mathbf{y}(\mathbf{x}) \in \mathbb{R}^{N_{hp_h}}$$

RANDOM FOREST IQT

<https://github.com/ucl-mig/iqt>

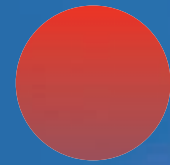
RANDOM FOREST IQT [ALEXANDER 2014, 2017]

- Decision Tree

RANDOM FOREST IQT [ALEXANDER 2014, 2017]

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{D} &= \{\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{y}_i\}_{|\mathcal{D}|} \\ &= \mathcal{D}_T \cup \mathcal{D}_V\end{aligned}$$

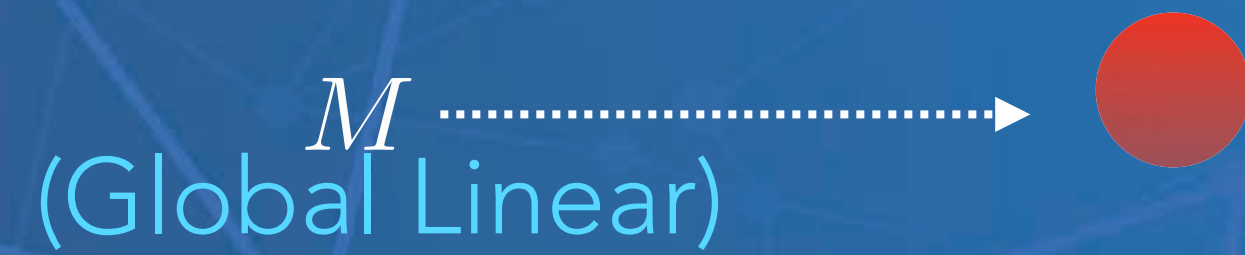
- Decision Tree



RANDOM FOREST IQT [ALEXANDER 2014, 2017]

- Decision Tree

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{D} &= \{\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{y}_i\}_{|\mathcal{D}|} & MX &= Y \\ &= \mathcal{D}_T \cup \mathcal{D}_V \end{aligned}$$



RANDOM FOREST IQT [ALEXANDER 2014, 2017]

- Decision Tree

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{D} &= \{\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{y}_i\}_{|\mathcal{D}|} \\ &= \mathcal{D}_T \cup \mathcal{D}_V \end{aligned} \quad MX = Y.$$



RANDOM FOREST IQT [ALEXANDER 2014, 2017]

- Decision Tree

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{D} &= \{\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{y}_i\}_{|\mathcal{D}|} \\ &= \mathcal{D}_T \cup \mathcal{D}_V \end{aligned} \quad MX = Y$$



Information Gain (training):

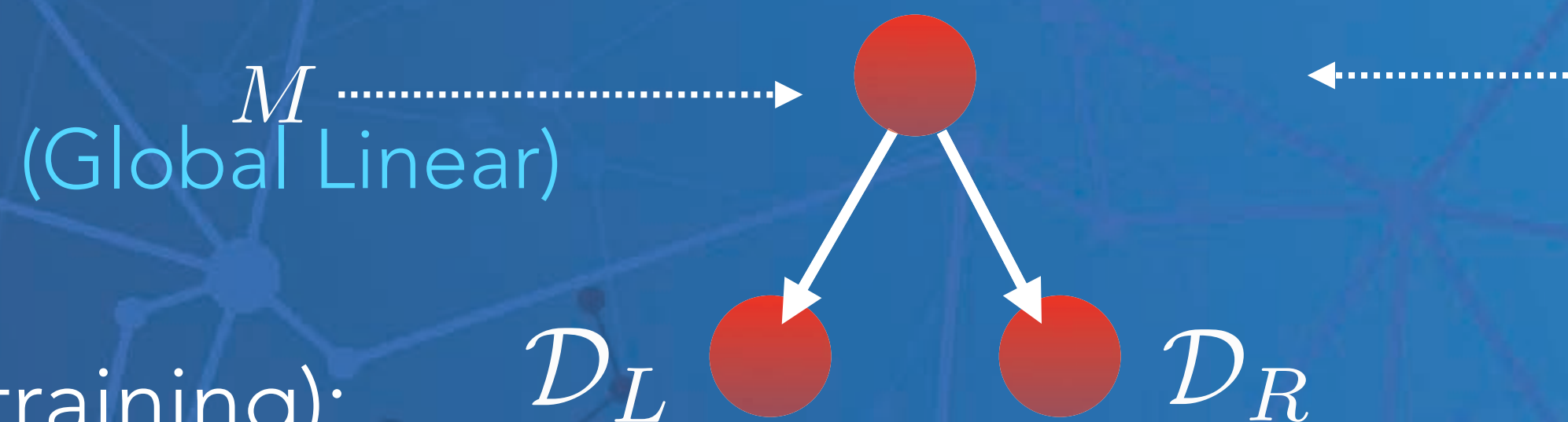
$$\mathcal{D}_L \quad \mathcal{D}_R$$

$$\begin{aligned} I_0 - I_L - I_R, \quad I_0 &= 2|T| \log \det(S) \\ S &= (Y - MX)^T (Y - MX) \end{aligned}$$

RANDOM FOREST IQT [ALEXANDER 2014, 2017]

- Decision Tree

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{D} &= \{\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{y}_i\}_{|\mathcal{D}|} & MX &= Y \\ &= \mathcal{D}_T \cup \mathcal{D}_V \end{aligned}$$



$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Features: } F_1, F_2, \dots, F_j \in \mathbb{R} \\ \text{Thresholds: } \tau_1, \tau_2, \dots, \tau_j \in \mathbb{R} \end{array} \right.$$

Information Gain (training):

$$\mathcal{D}_L \quad \mathcal{D}_R$$

Split test (validation):

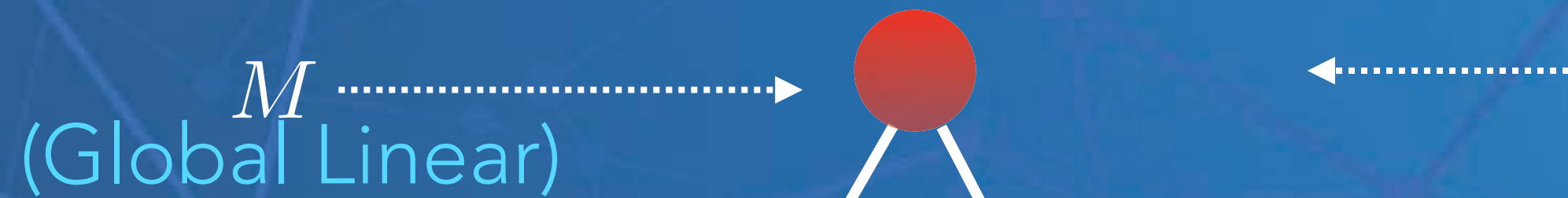
$$\begin{aligned} I_0 - I_L - I_R, \quad I_0 &= 2|T| \log \det(S) \\ S &= (Y - MX)^T (Y - MX) \end{aligned}$$

$$\mathcal{E}_{LR} < \mathcal{E}_P, \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \mathcal{E}_P = \sum_1^{|V|} \| \mathbf{y}_i - M \mathbf{x}_i \| \\ \mathcal{E}_{LR} = \sum_1^{|V|} \| \mathbf{y}_i - \mathcal{C}(M_L, M_R) \mathbf{x}_i \| \end{array} \right.$$

RANDOM FOREST IQT [ALEXANDER 2014, 2017]

- Decision Tree

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{D} &= \{\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{y}_i\}_{|\mathcal{D}|} \\ &= \mathcal{D}_T \cup \mathcal{D}_V \end{aligned} \quad MX = Y$$



Features: $F_1, F_2, \dots, F_j \in \mathbb{R}$
 Thresholds: $\tau_1, \tau_2, \dots, \tau_j \in \mathbb{R}$

Information Gain (training):

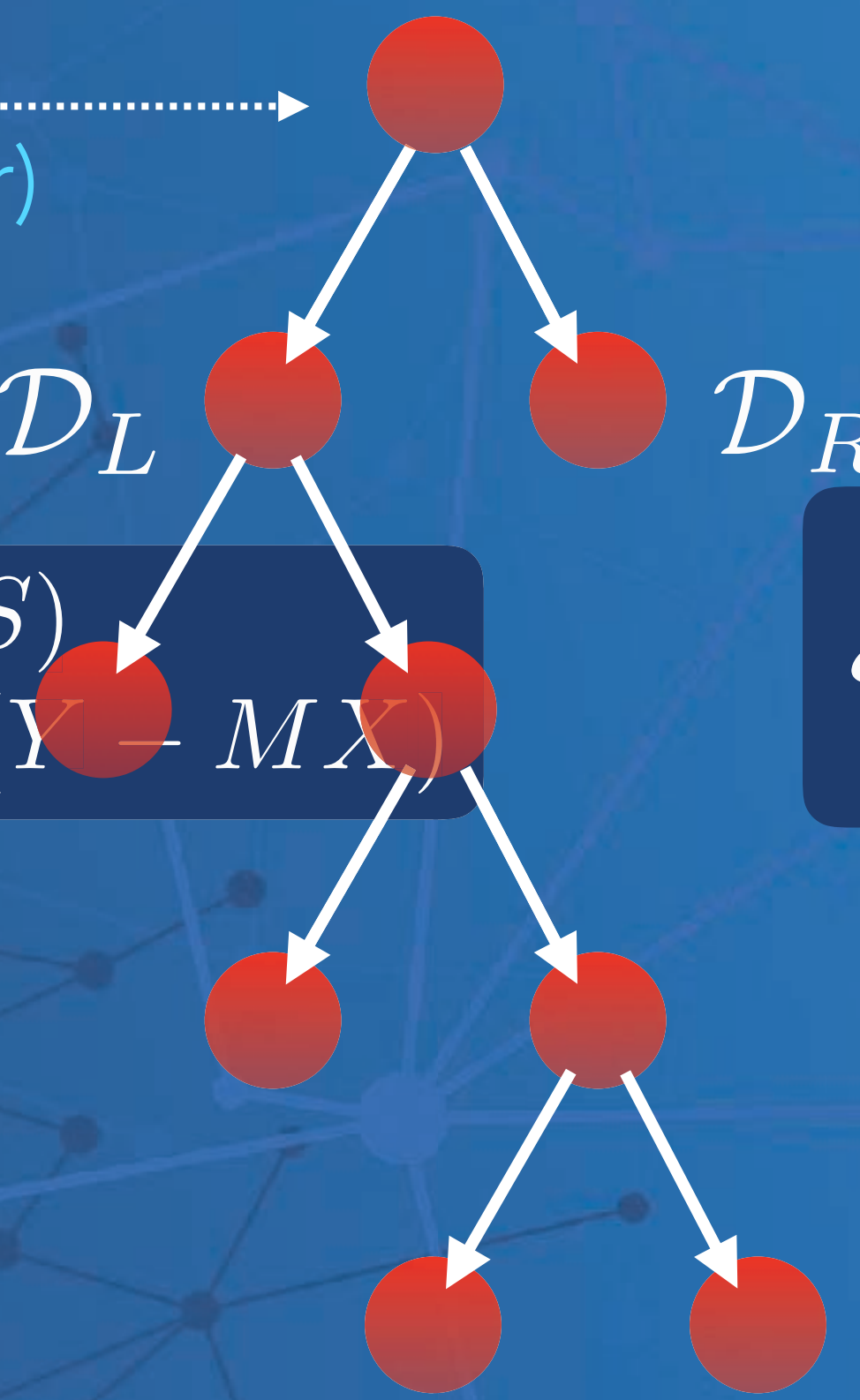


Split test (validation):

$$I_0 - I_L - I_R, \quad I_0 = 2|T| \log \det(S)$$

$$S = (Y - MX)^T (Y - MX)$$

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RANDOM FOREST IQT [ALEXANDER 2014, 2017]

- Decision Tree

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{D} &= \{\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{y}_i\}_{|\mathcal{D}|} \\ &= \mathcal{D}_T \cup \mathcal{D}_V \end{aligned} \quad MX = Y$$



Information Gain (training):

$$\mathcal{D}_L \quad \mathcal{D}_R$$

Split test (validation):

$$I_0 - I_L - I_R, \quad \begin{cases} I_0 = 2|T| \log \det(S) \\ S = (Y - MX)^T (Y - MX) \end{cases}$$

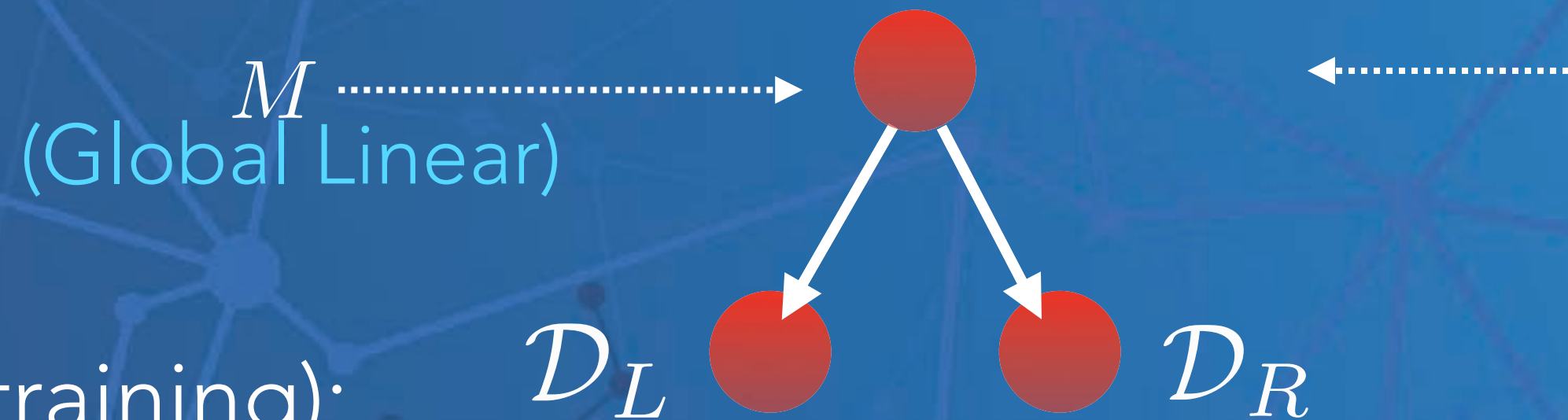
$$\mathcal{E}_{LR} < \mathcal{E}_P, \quad \begin{cases} \mathcal{E}_P = \sum_1^{|V|} \|\mathbf{y}_i - M\mathbf{x}_i\| \\ \mathcal{E}_{LR} = \sum_1^{|V|} \|\mathbf{y}_i - \mathcal{C}(M_L, M_R)\mathbf{x}_i\| \end{cases}$$

- Random Forest: 8+ decision trees
(Patch library from 8 subjects)

RANDOM FOREST IQT [ALEXANDER 2014, 2017]

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$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{D} &= \{\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{y}_i\}_{|\mathcal{D}|} \\ &= \mathcal{D}_T \cup \mathcal{D}_V \end{aligned} \quad MX = Y$$



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Information Gain (training):

$$\mathcal{D}_L \quad \mathcal{D}_R$$

$$I_0 - I_L - I_R, \quad \begin{cases} I_0 = 2|T| \log \det(S) \\ S = (Y - MX)^T (Y - MX) \end{cases}$$

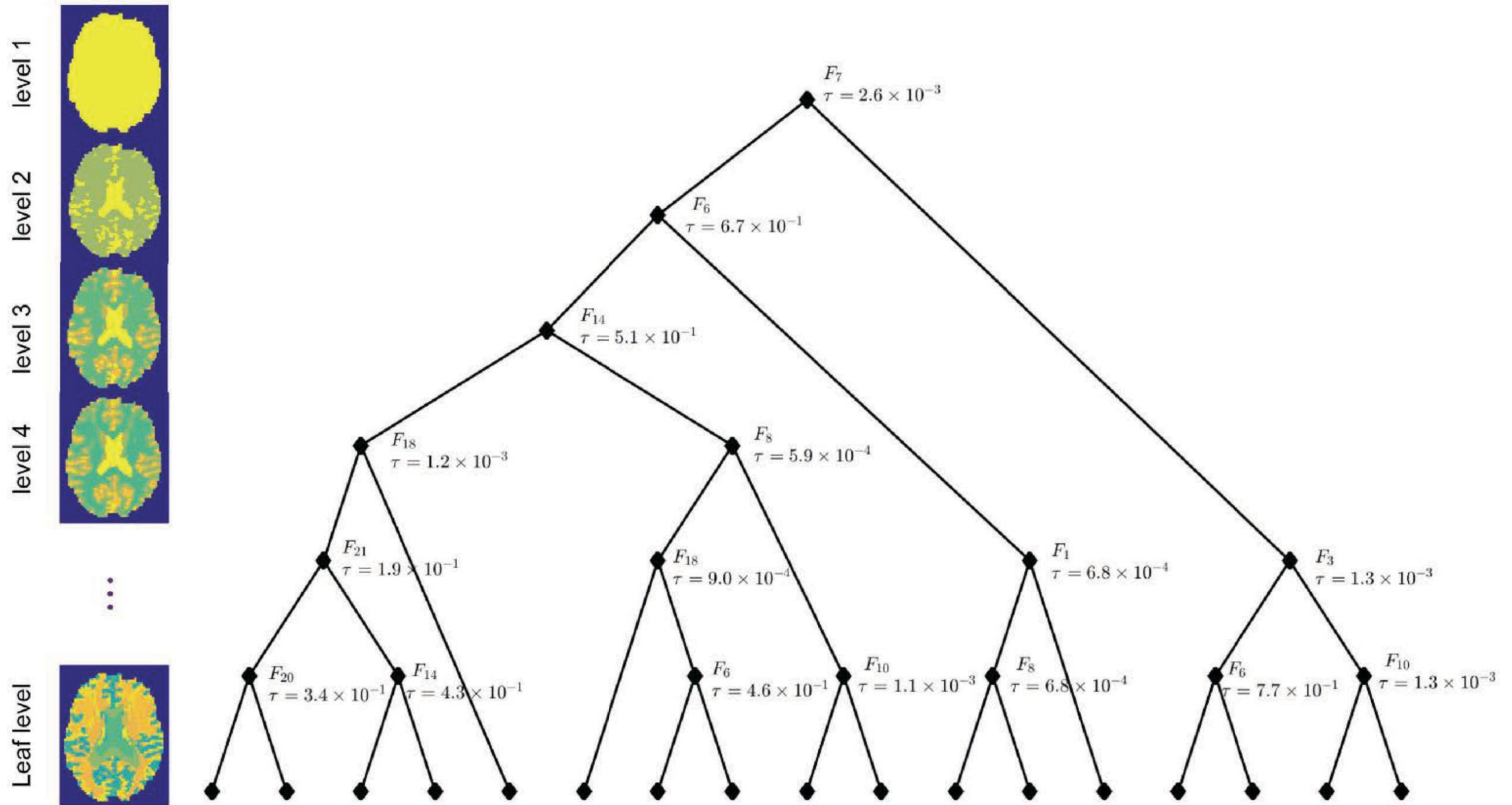
Split test (validation):

$$\mathcal{E}_{LR} < \mathcal{E}_P, \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \mathcal{E}_P = \sum_1^{|\mathcal{V}|} \|\mathbf{y}_i - M\mathbf{x}_i\| \\ \mathcal{E}_{LR} = \sum_1^{|\mathcal{V}|} \|\mathbf{y}_i - \mathcal{C}(M_L, M_R)\mathbf{x}_i\| \end{array} \right.$$

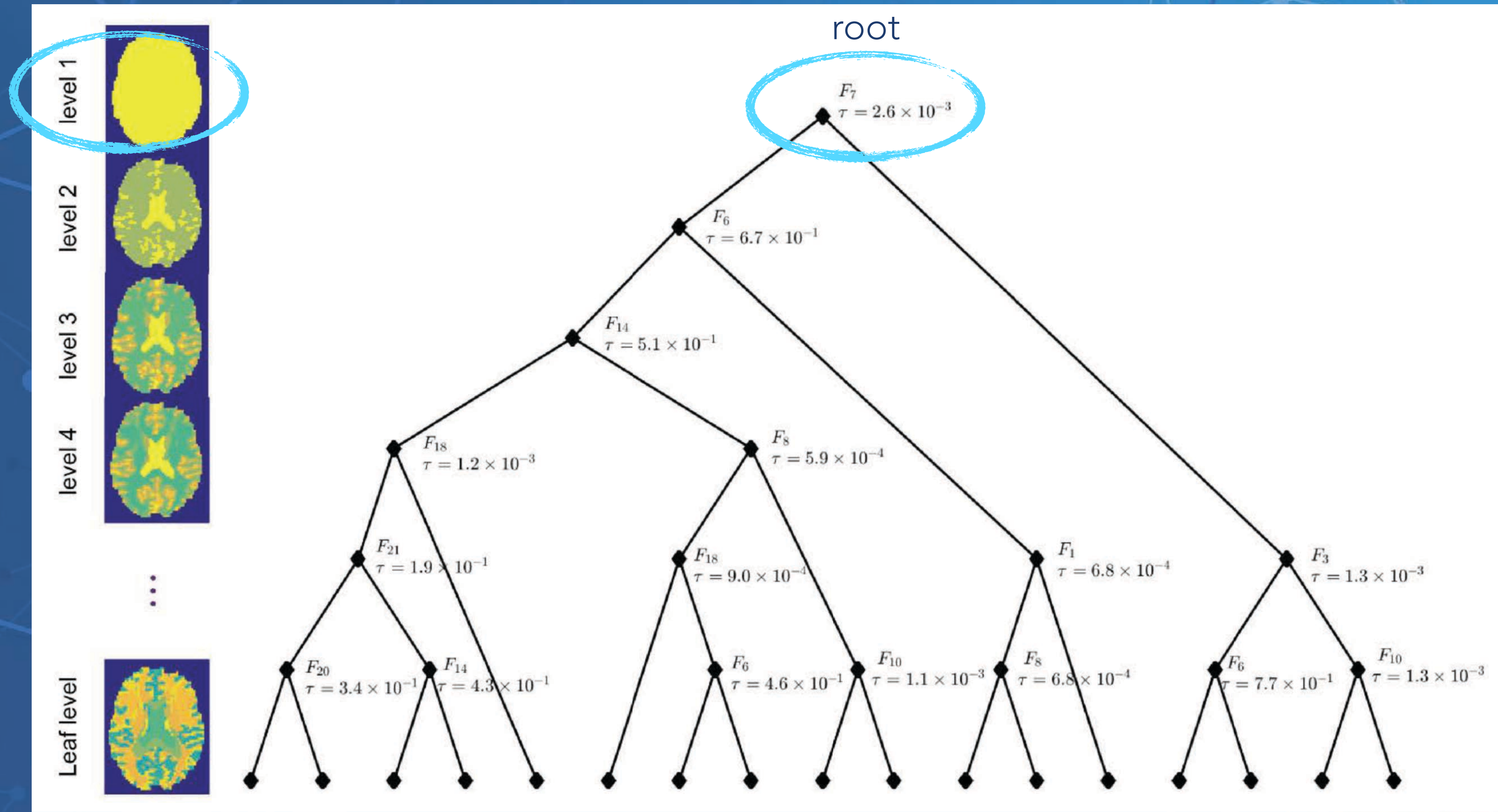
- Random Forest: 8+ decision trees
(Patch library from 8 subjects)

- Features up to 23 (DTI):
 - ▶ Eigenvalues of diffusion tensor
 - ▶ linearity, planarity, sphericity
 - ▶ Means of the features over patch

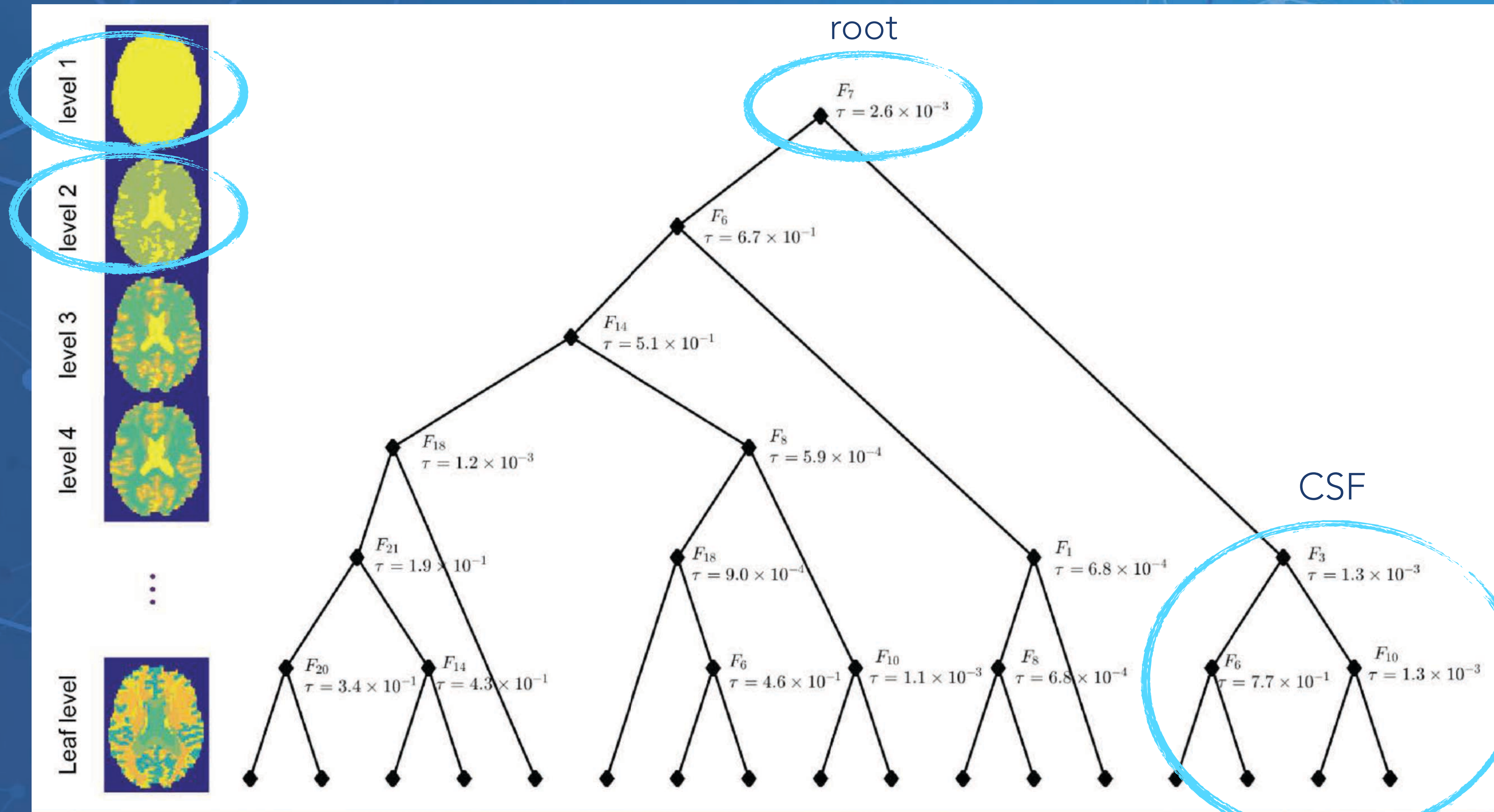
TREE VISUALISED



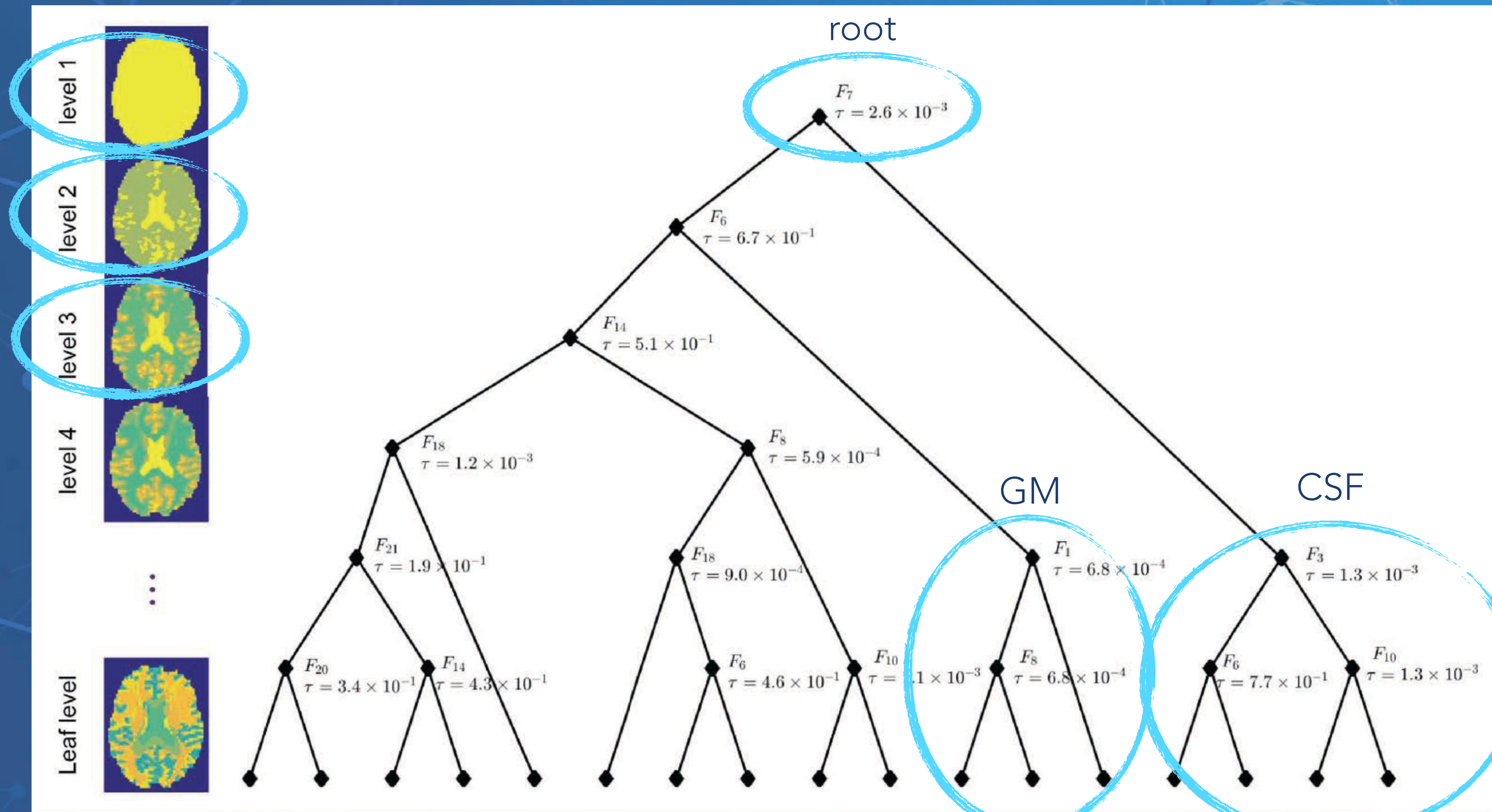
TREE VISUALISED



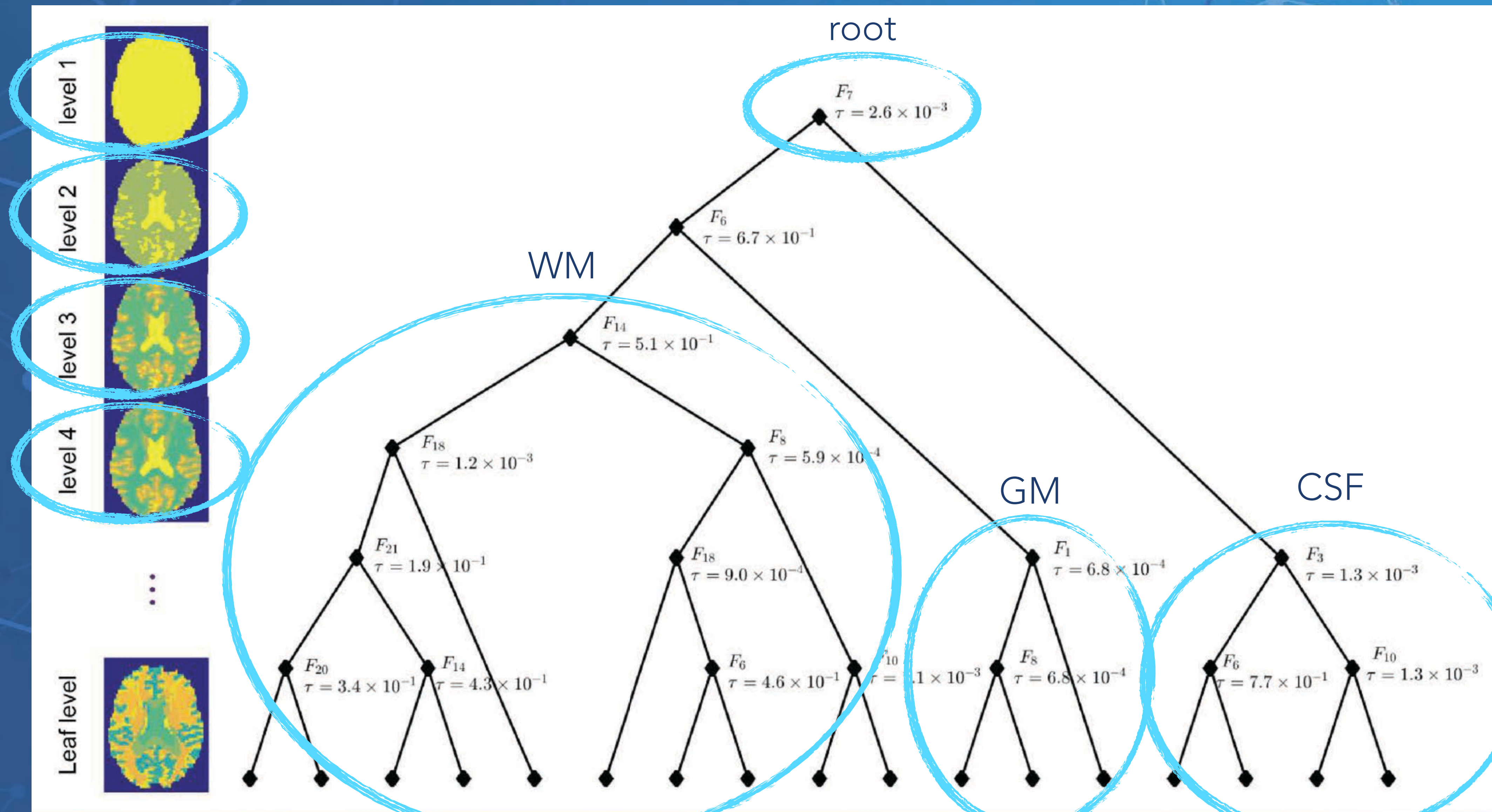
TREE VISUALISED



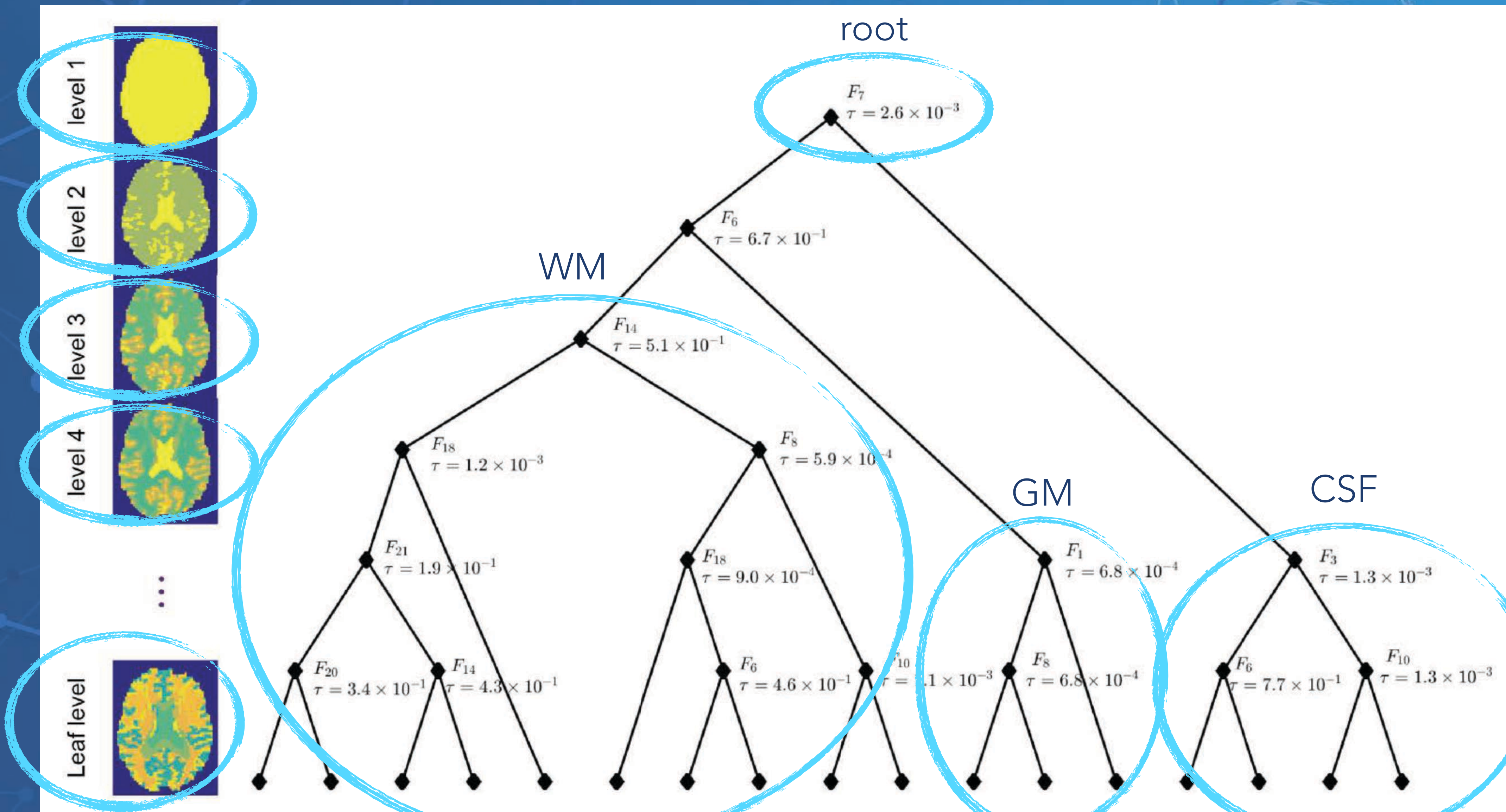
TREE VISUALISED



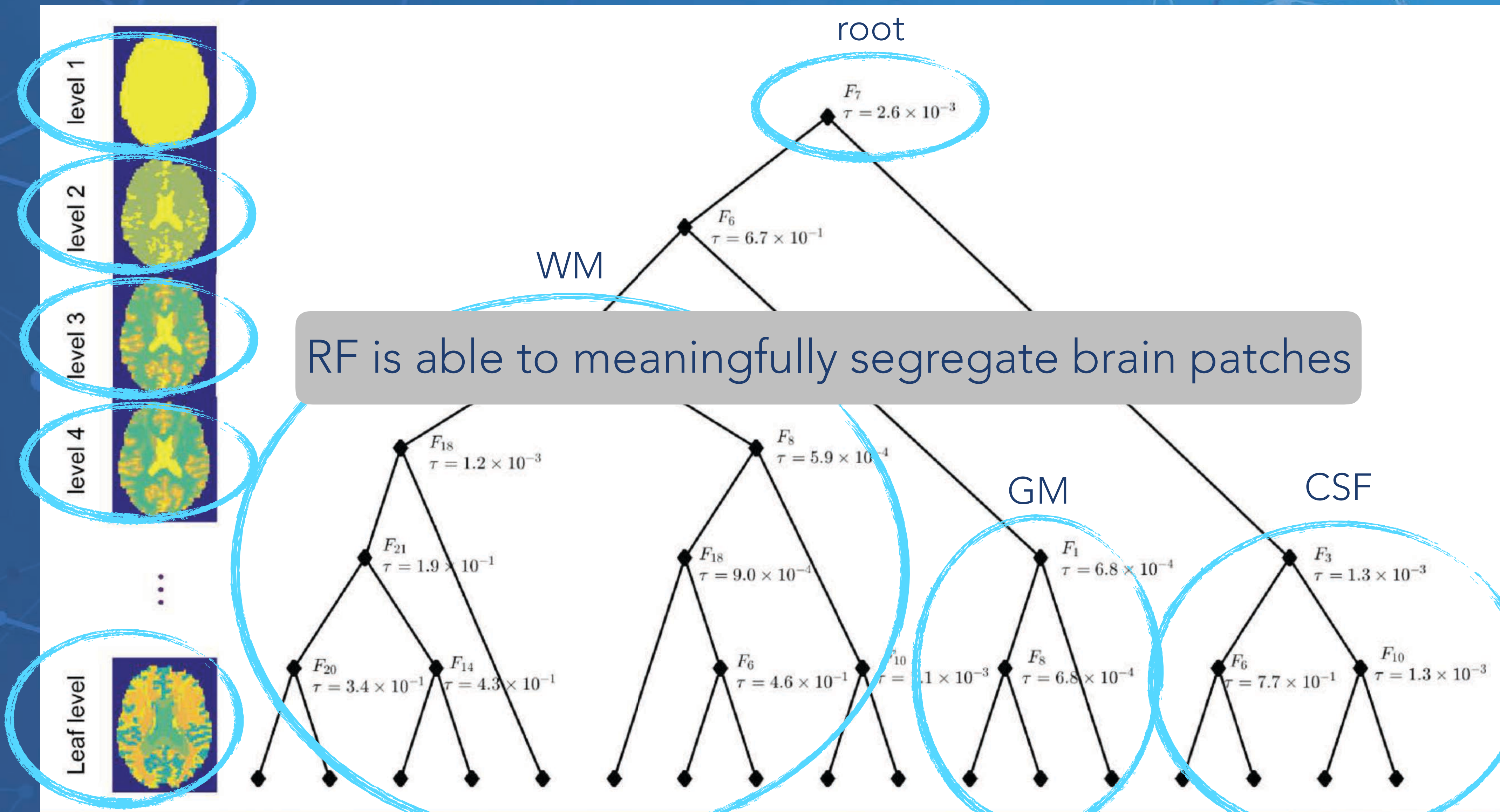
TREE VISUALISED



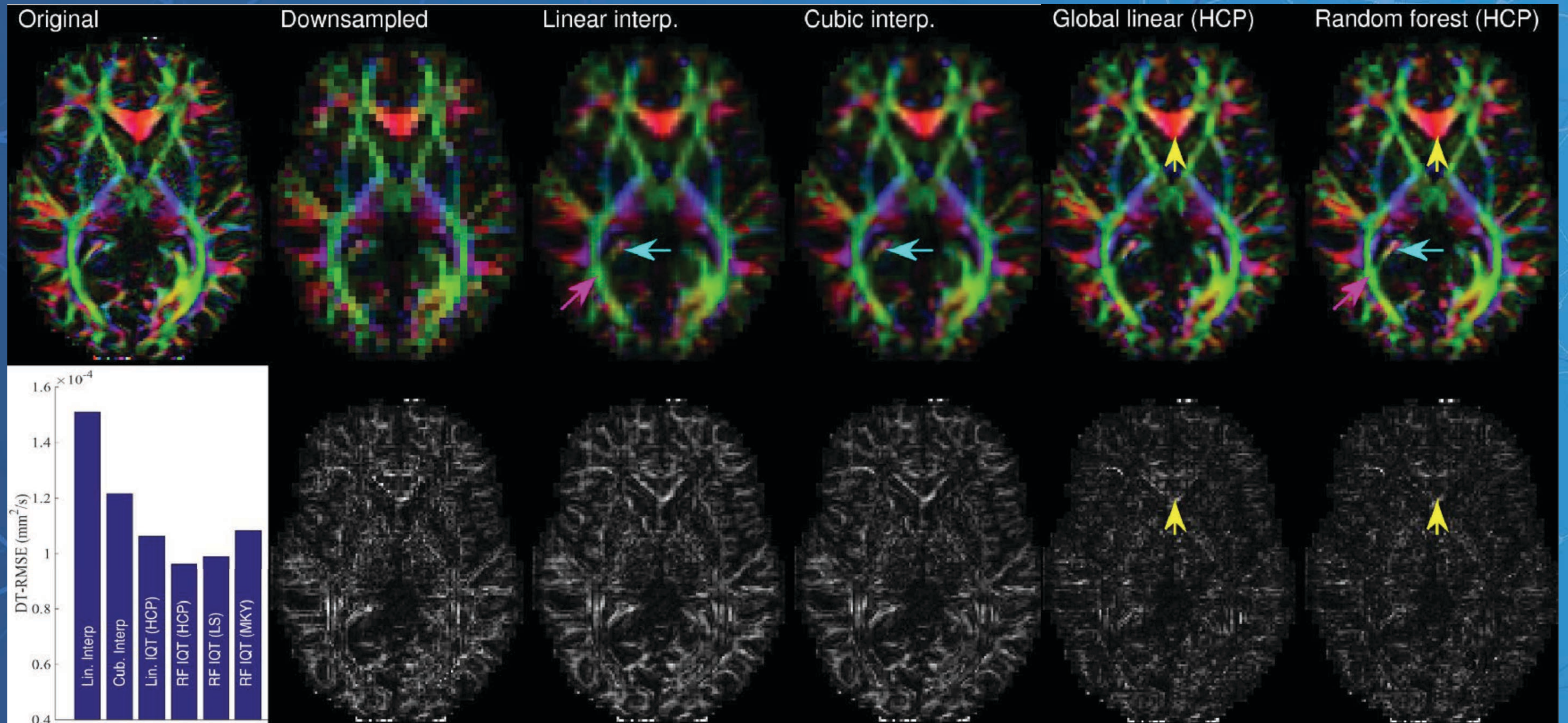
TREE VISUALISED



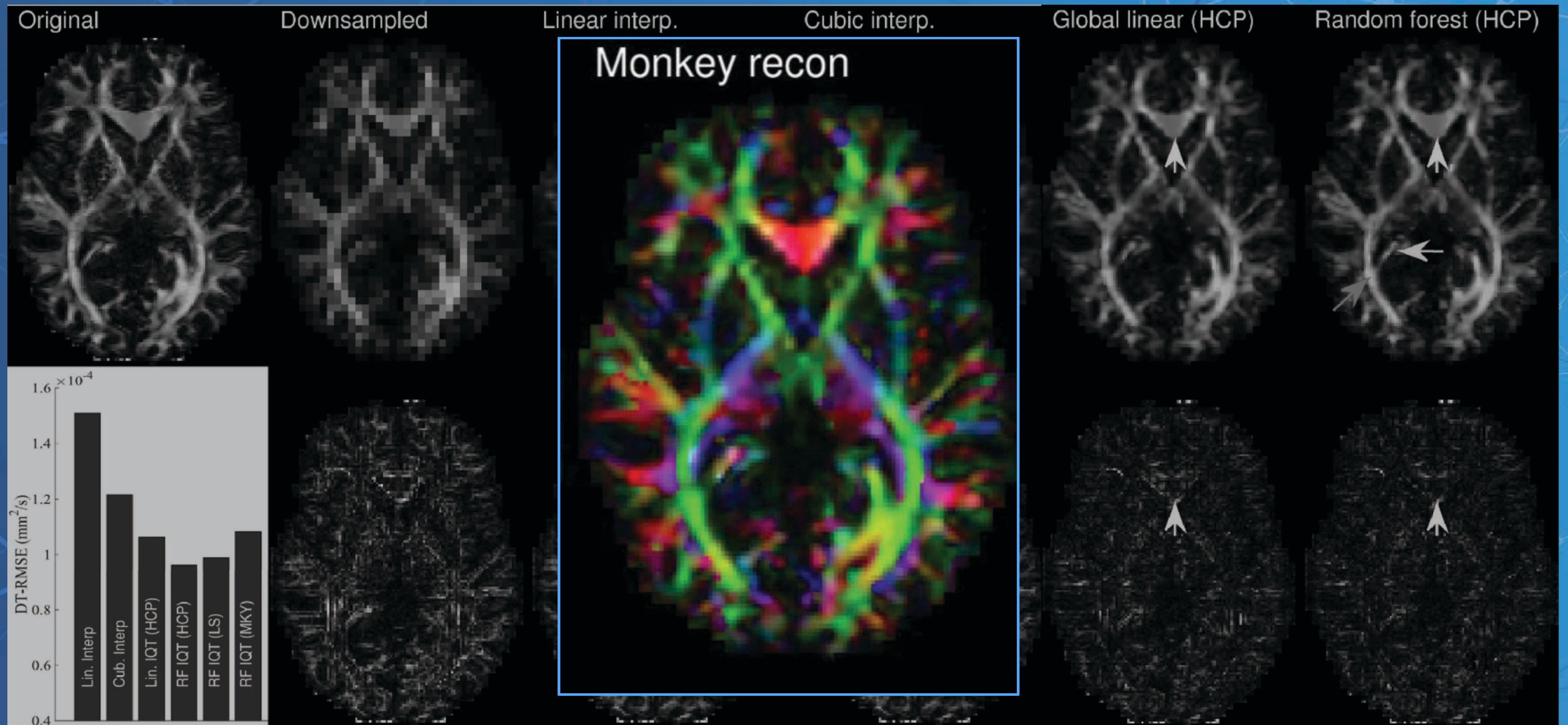
TREE VISUALISED



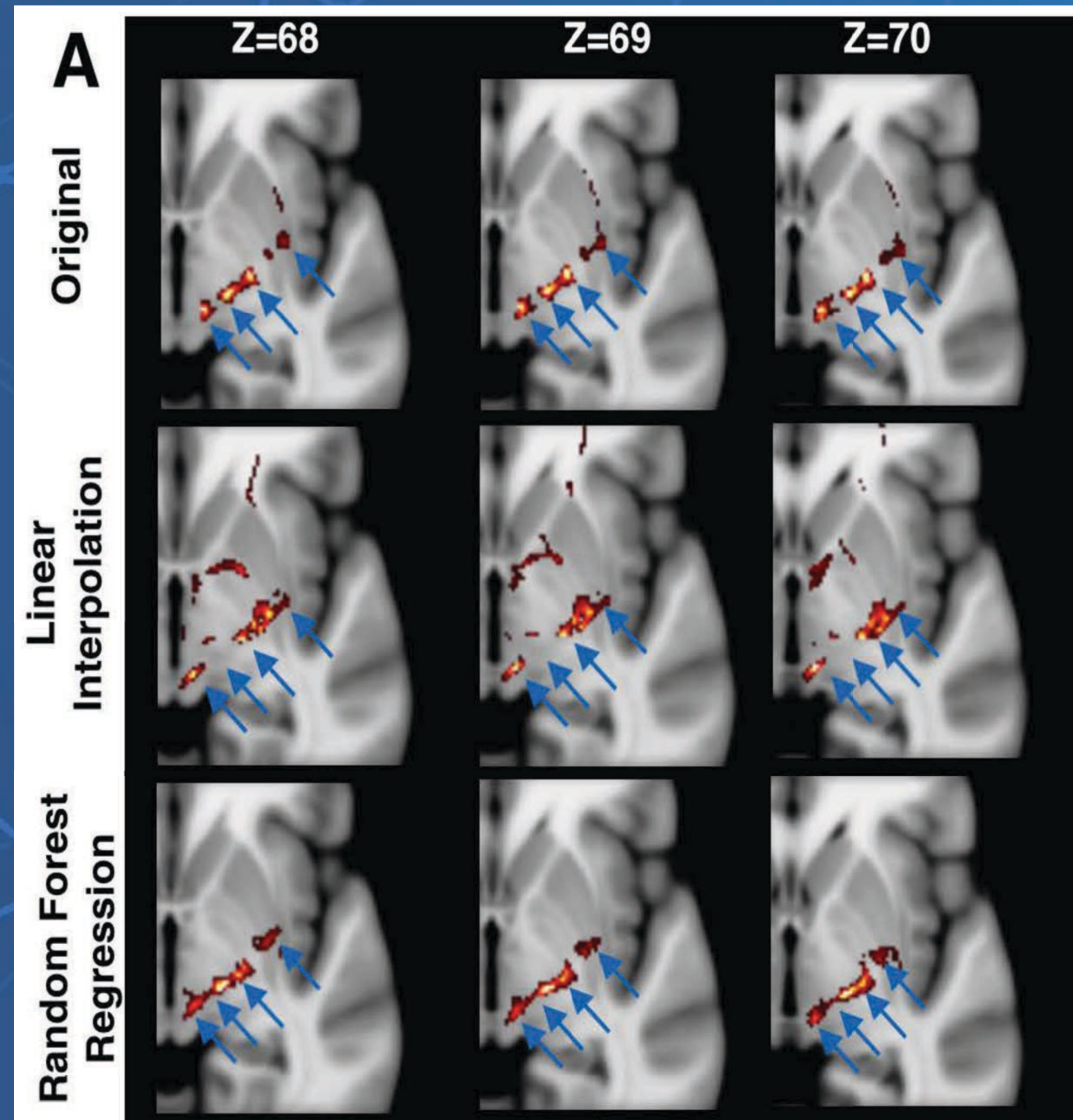
RESULTS — SUPER-RESOLUTION [ALEXANDER 2017]



RESULTS — SUPER-RESOLUTION [ALEXANDER 2017]

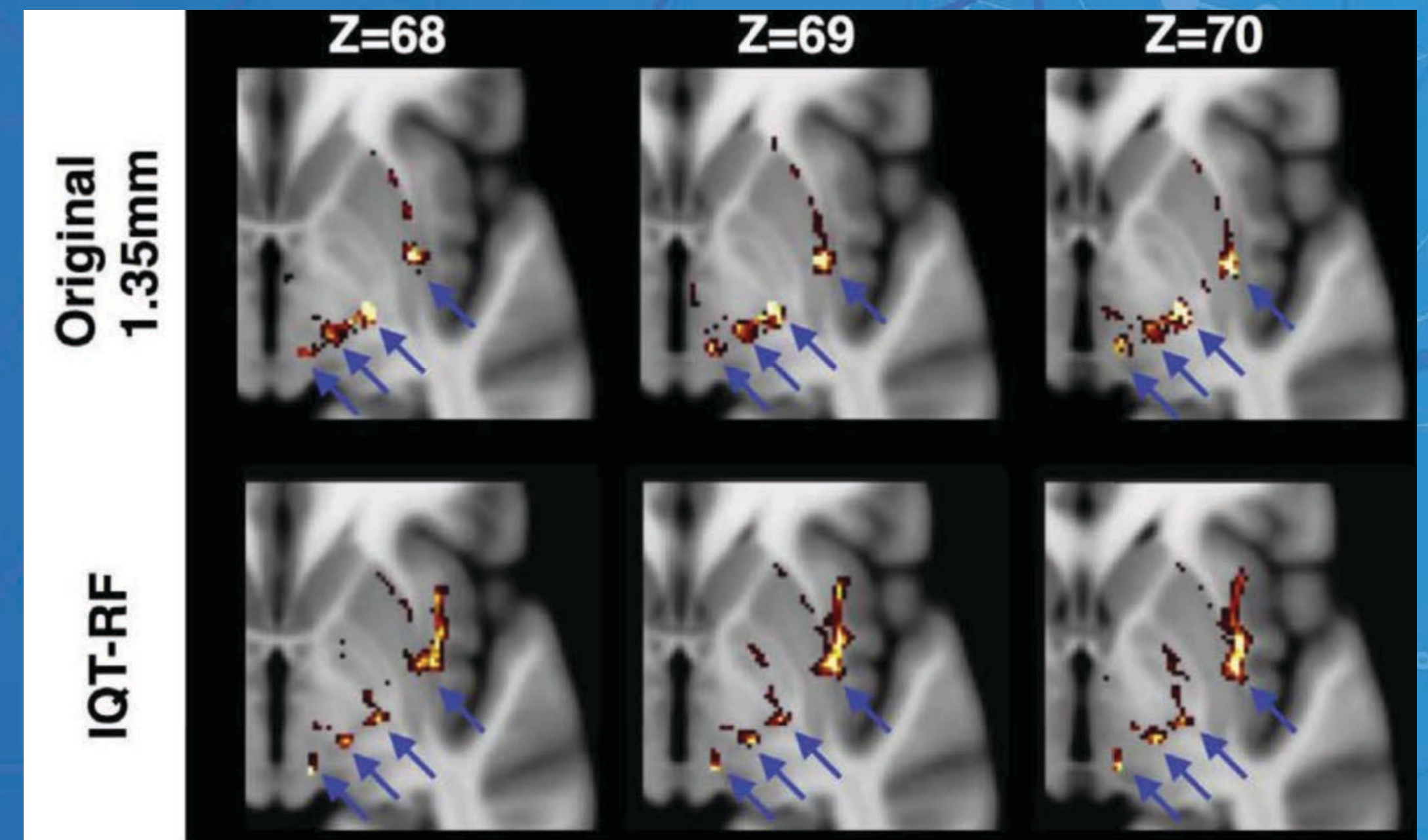
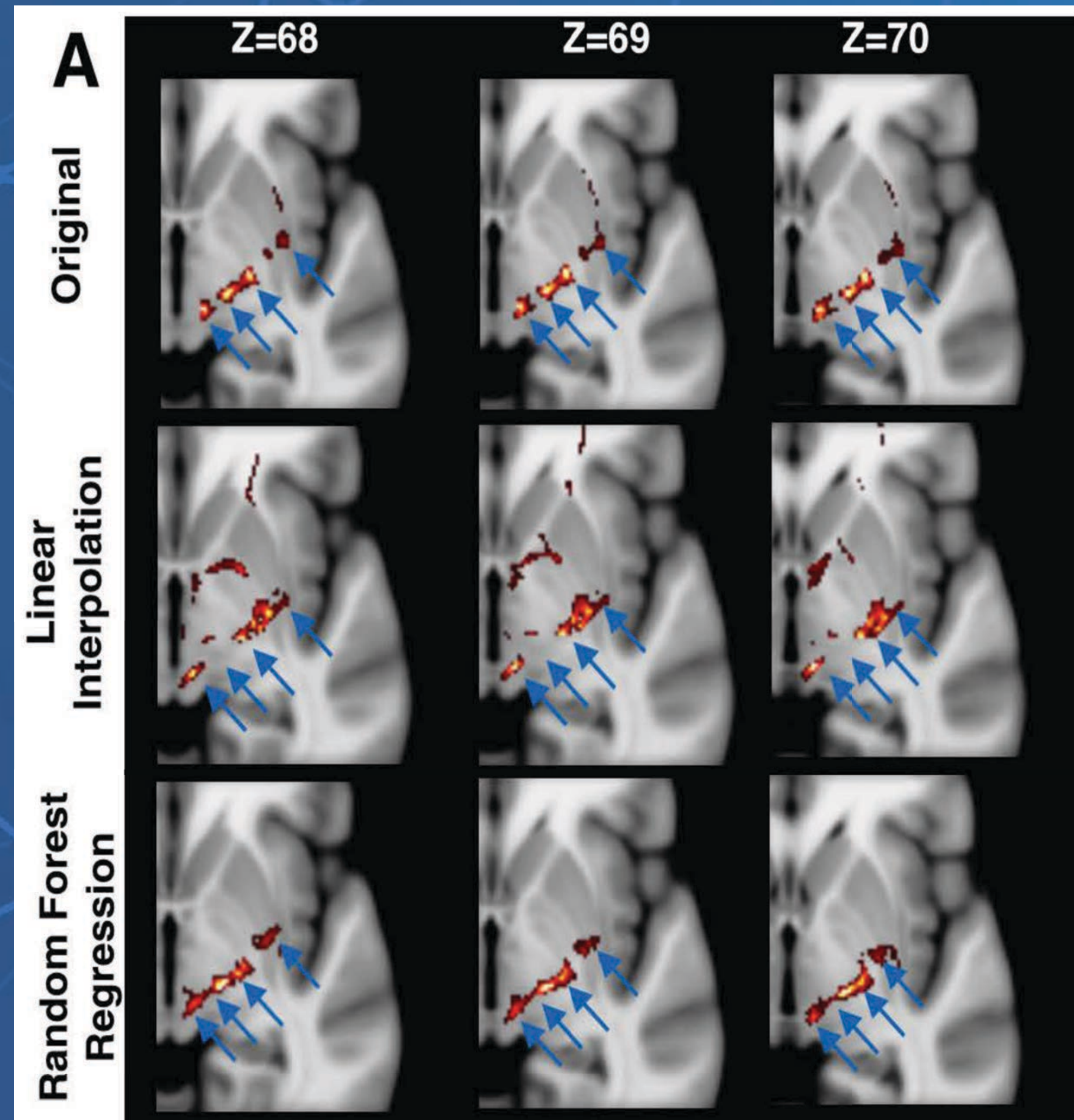


TRACTOGRAPHY [ALEXANDER 2017]



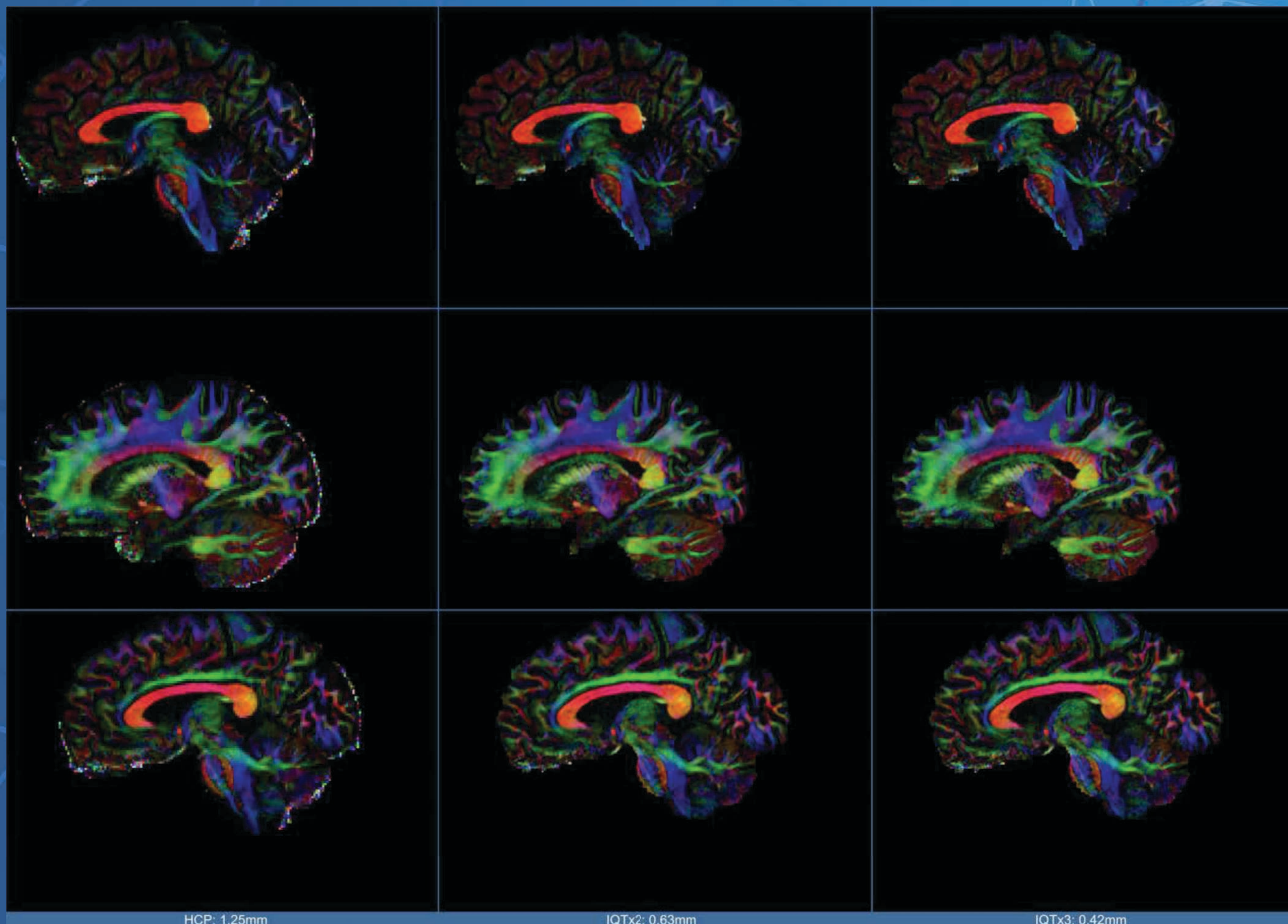
- Extension from DTI to MAP-MRI
- Tracing 4 pathways:
cortical hand area to:
 - ▶ thalamus
 - ▶ brainstem
 - ▶ spinal cord
 - ▶ putamen
- Tractography separates tracts
 - ▶ in 1.25mm but not in low-res (2.5mm) or linear/cubic interpolation
 - ▶ **but again in IQT super-res**

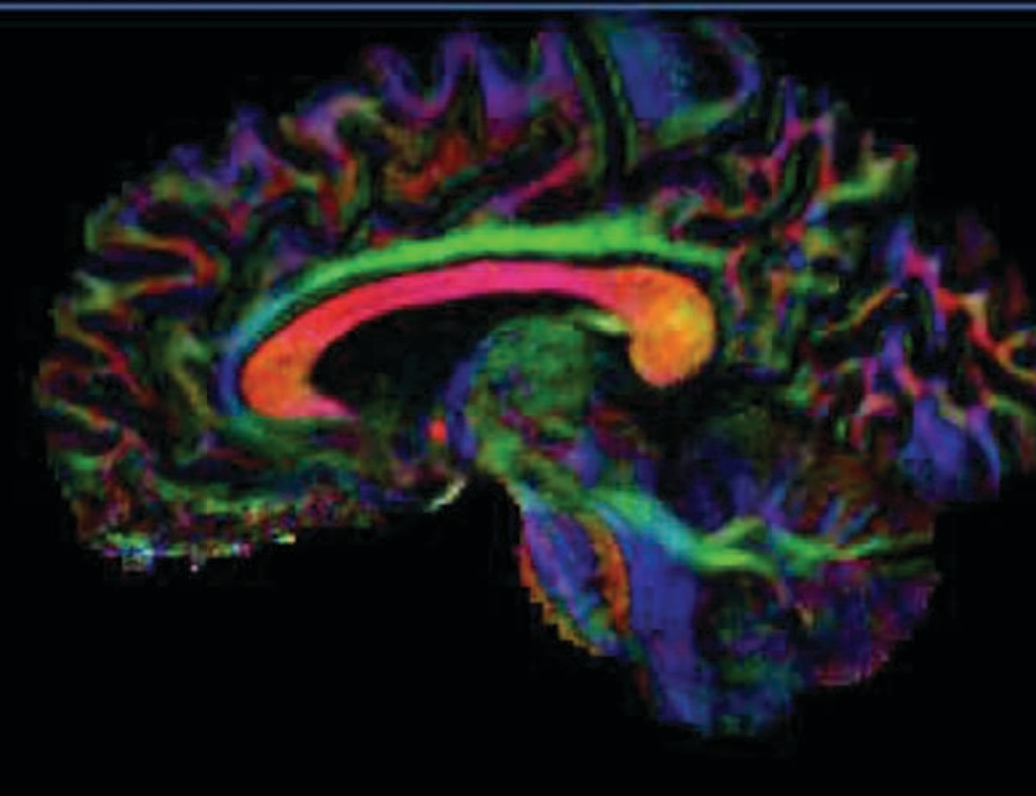
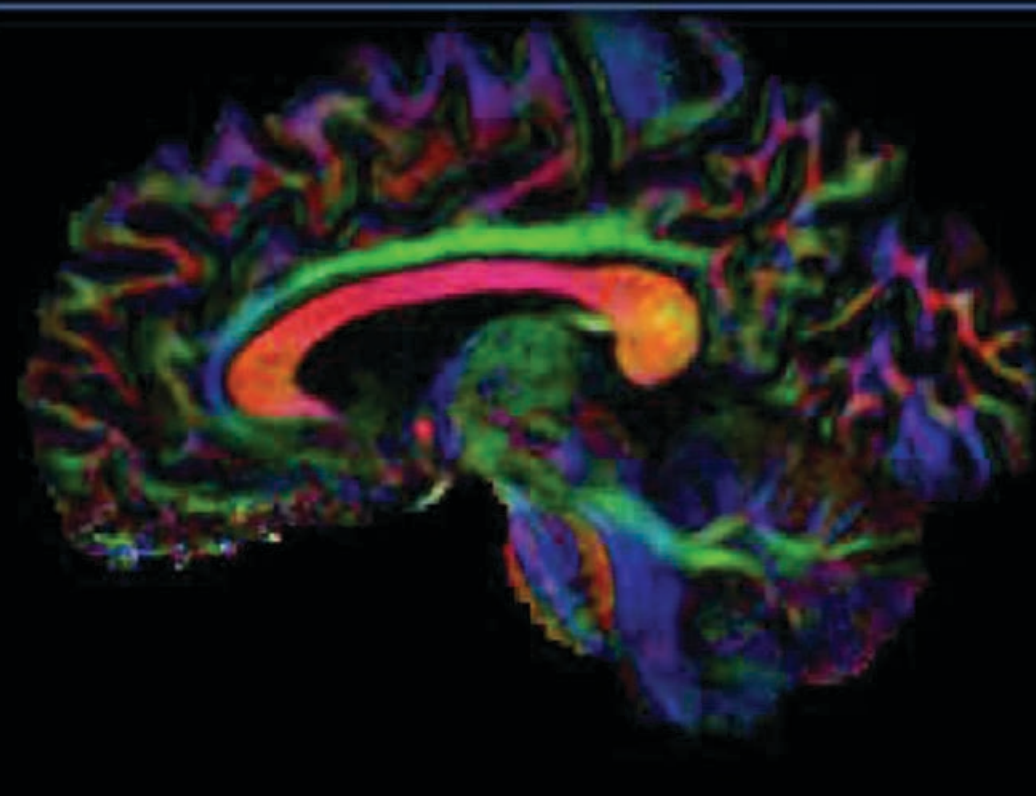
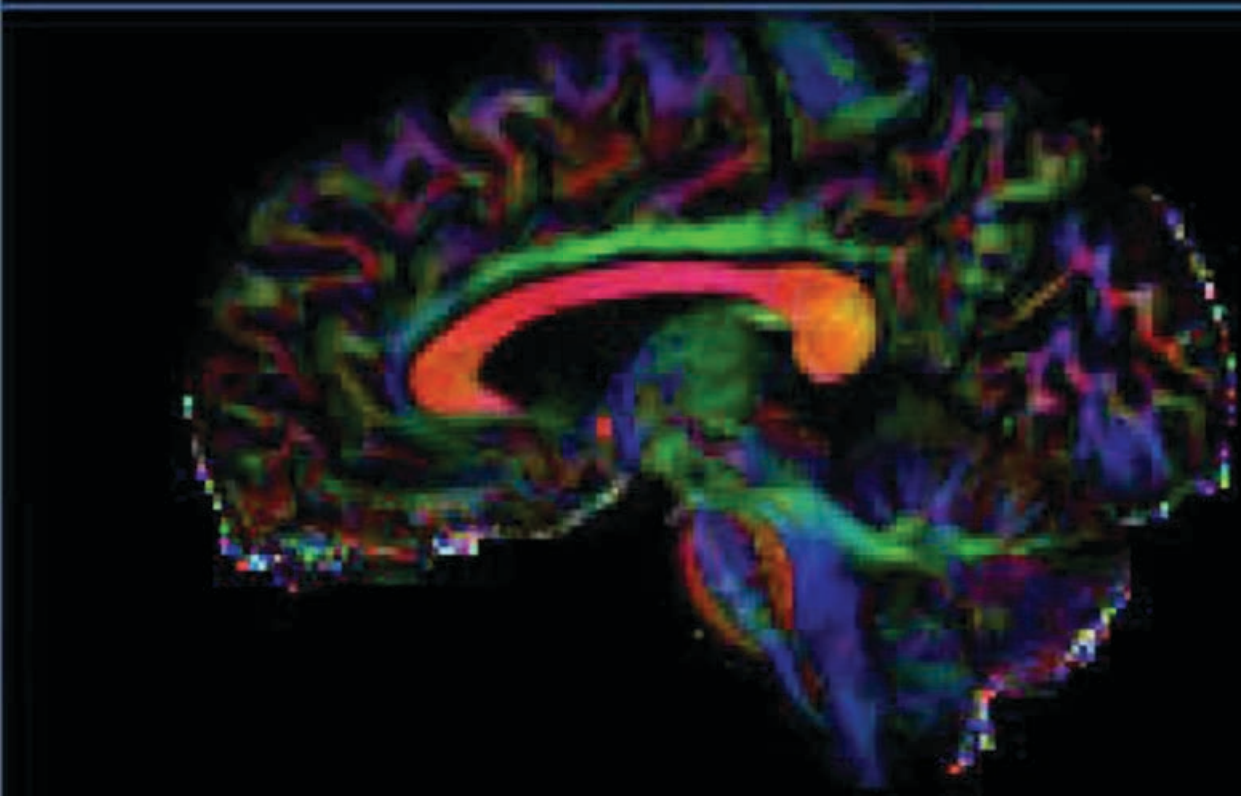
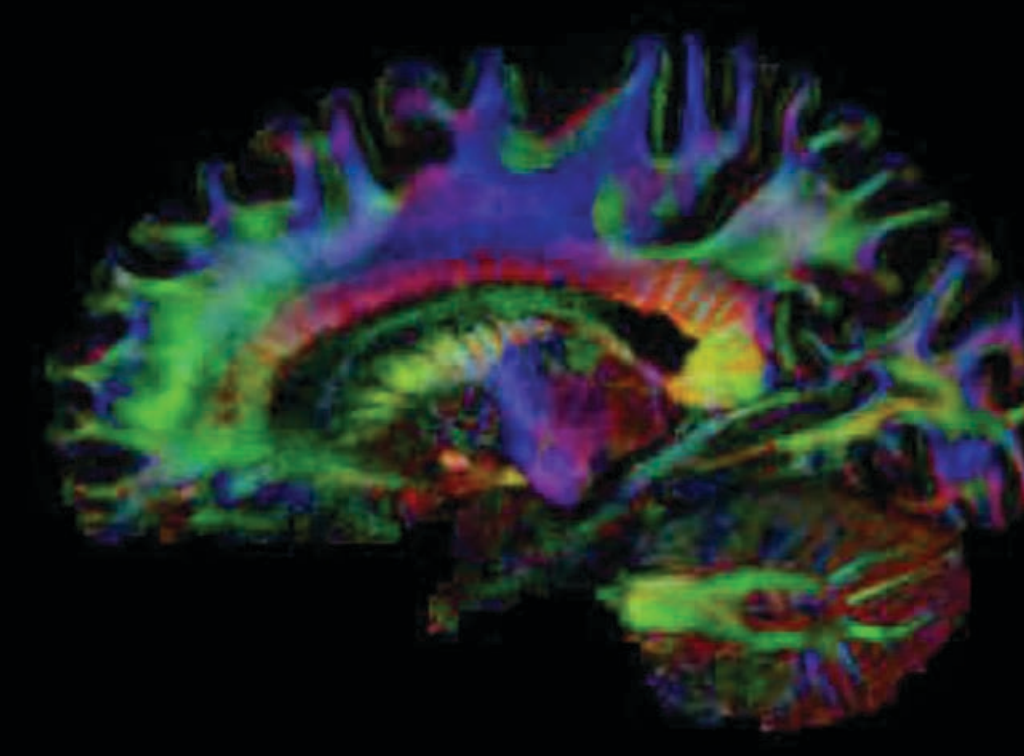
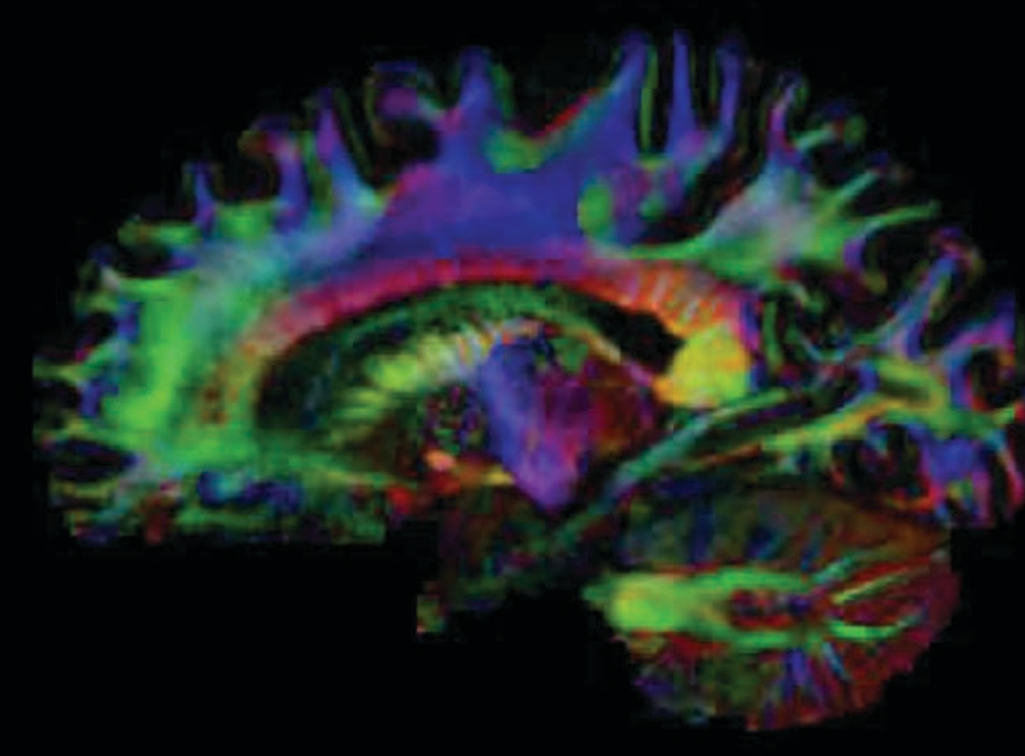
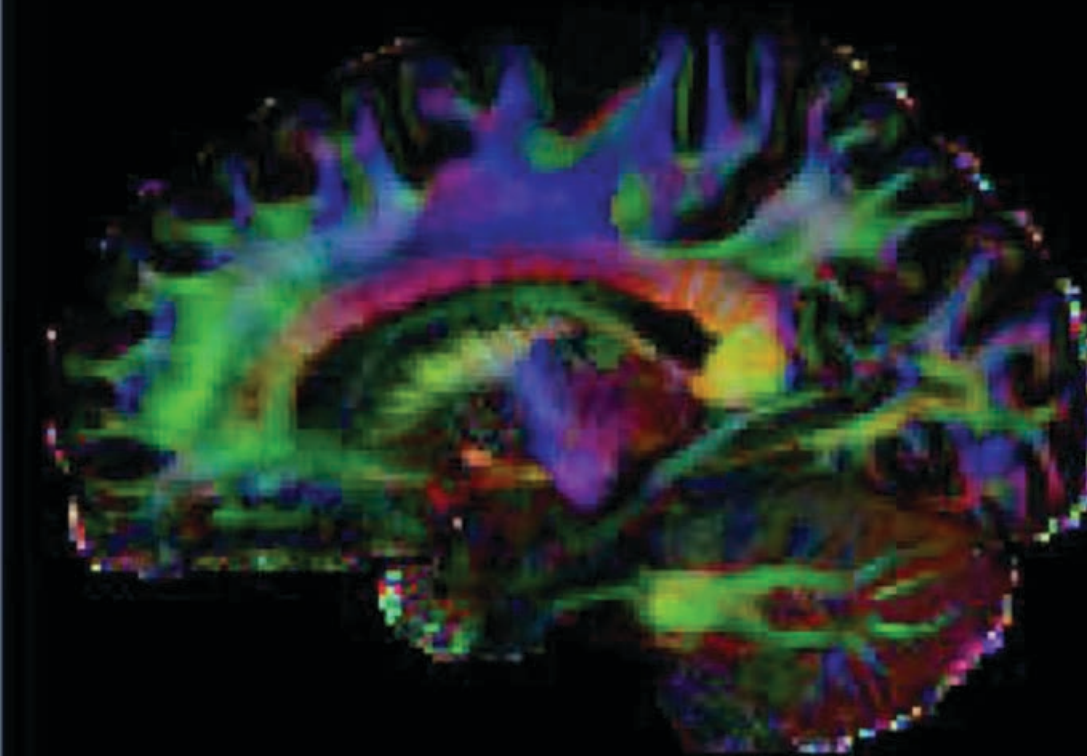
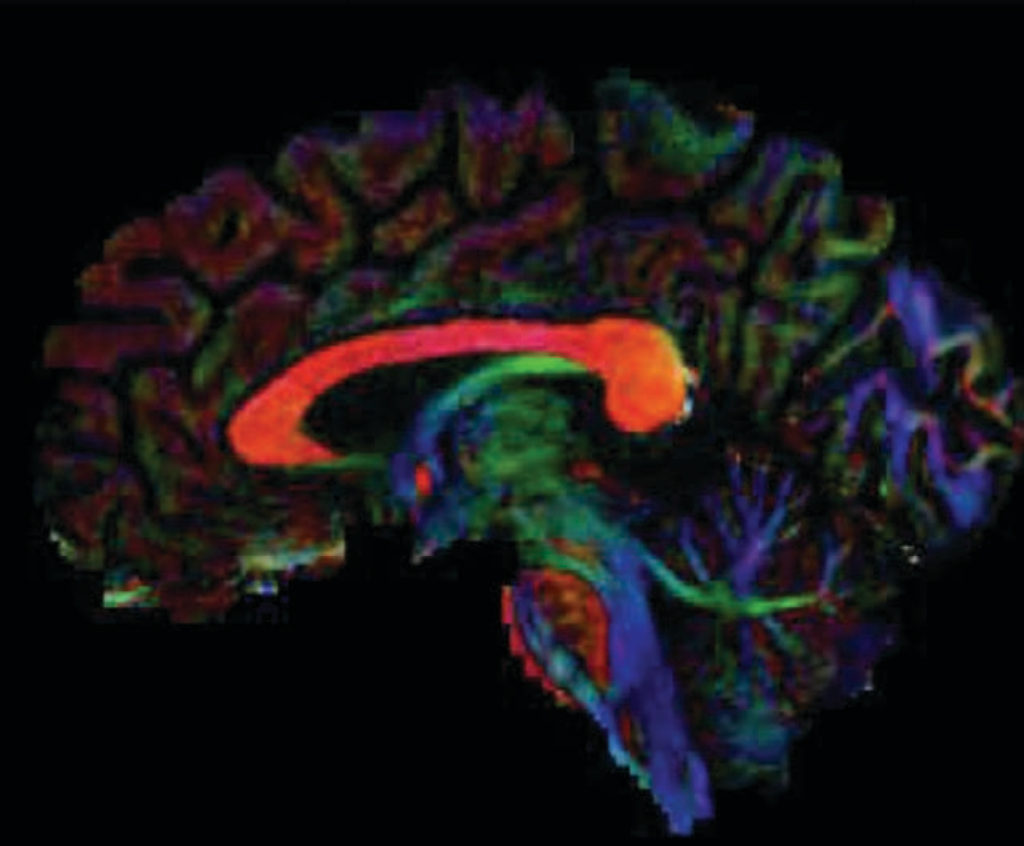
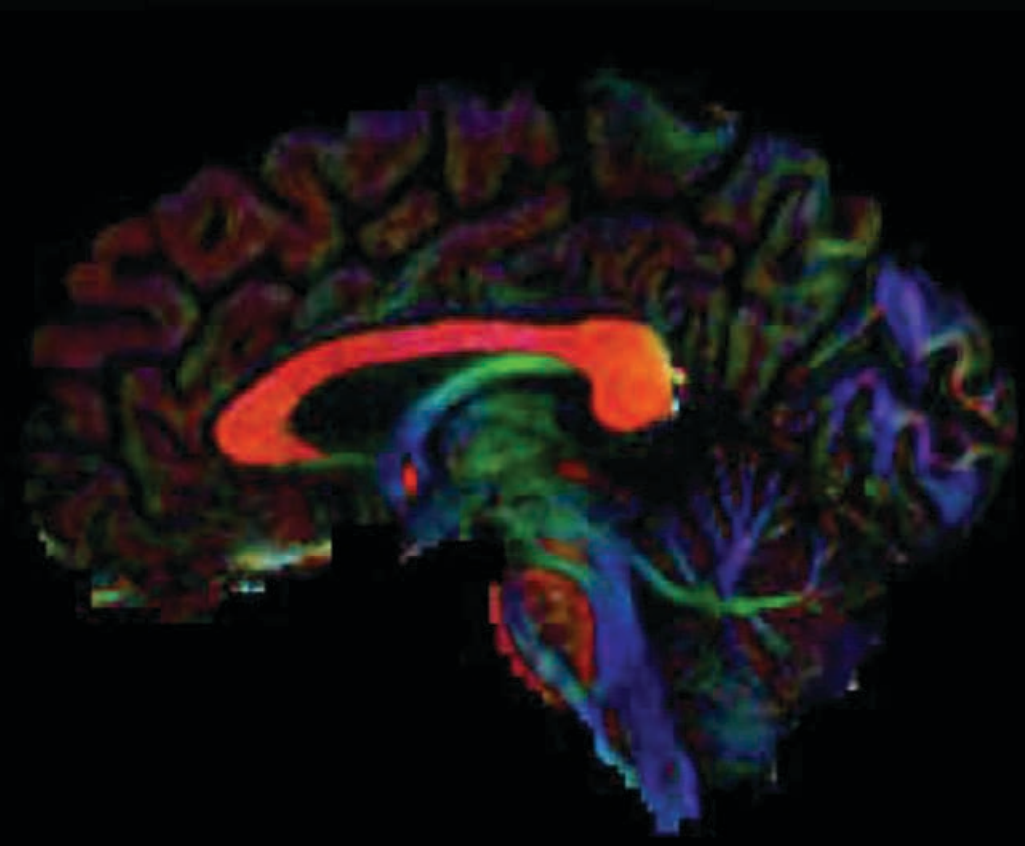
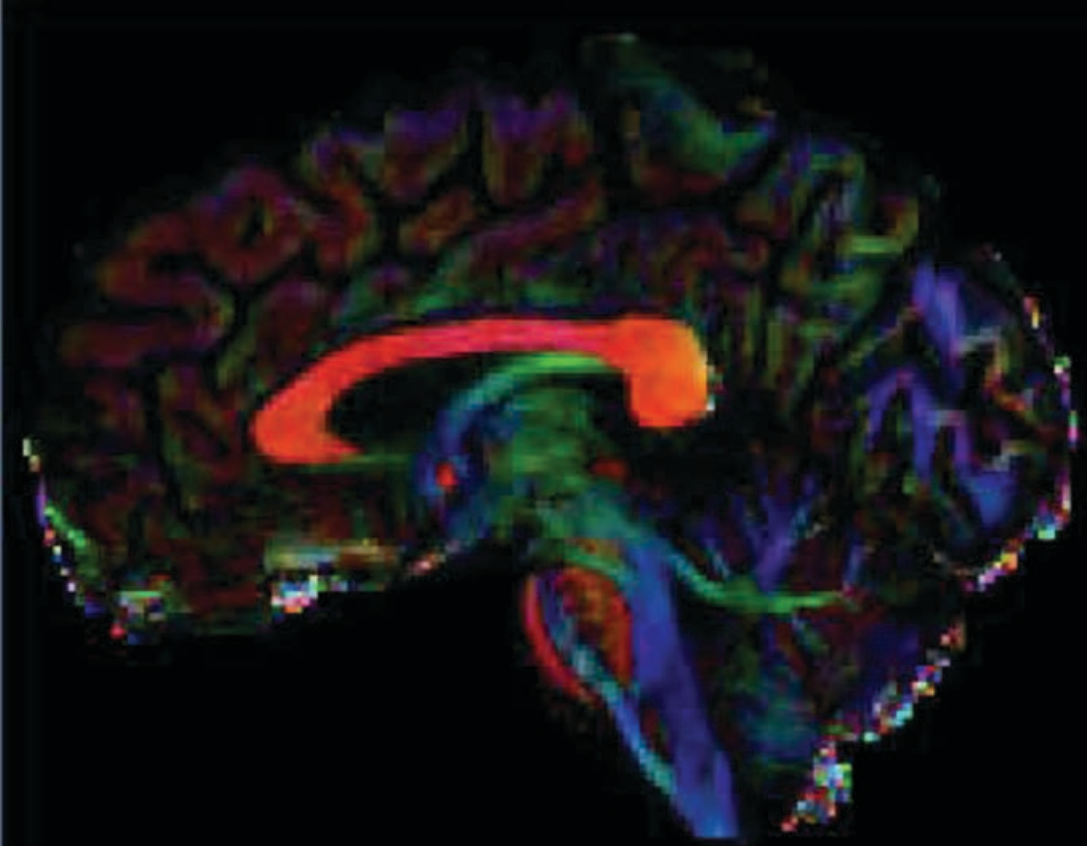
TRACTOGRAPHY [ALEXANDER 2017]



RESULTS — SUPER-RESOLUTION

[ALEXANDER 2017]







BAYESIAN RF IQT: INTRODUCING UNCERTAINTY

(LOCALLY) BAYESIAN RF IQT [TANNO 2016]

- Uncertainty estimation from a (locally) Bayesian inference
- Bayesian linear model at each node:

$$\mathbf{y} = M\mathbf{x} + \eta$$
$$P(M|\alpha) = \mathcal{N}(M, \alpha^{-1}I)$$
$$P(\eta|\beta) = \mathcal{N}(\eta, \beta^{-1}I)$$

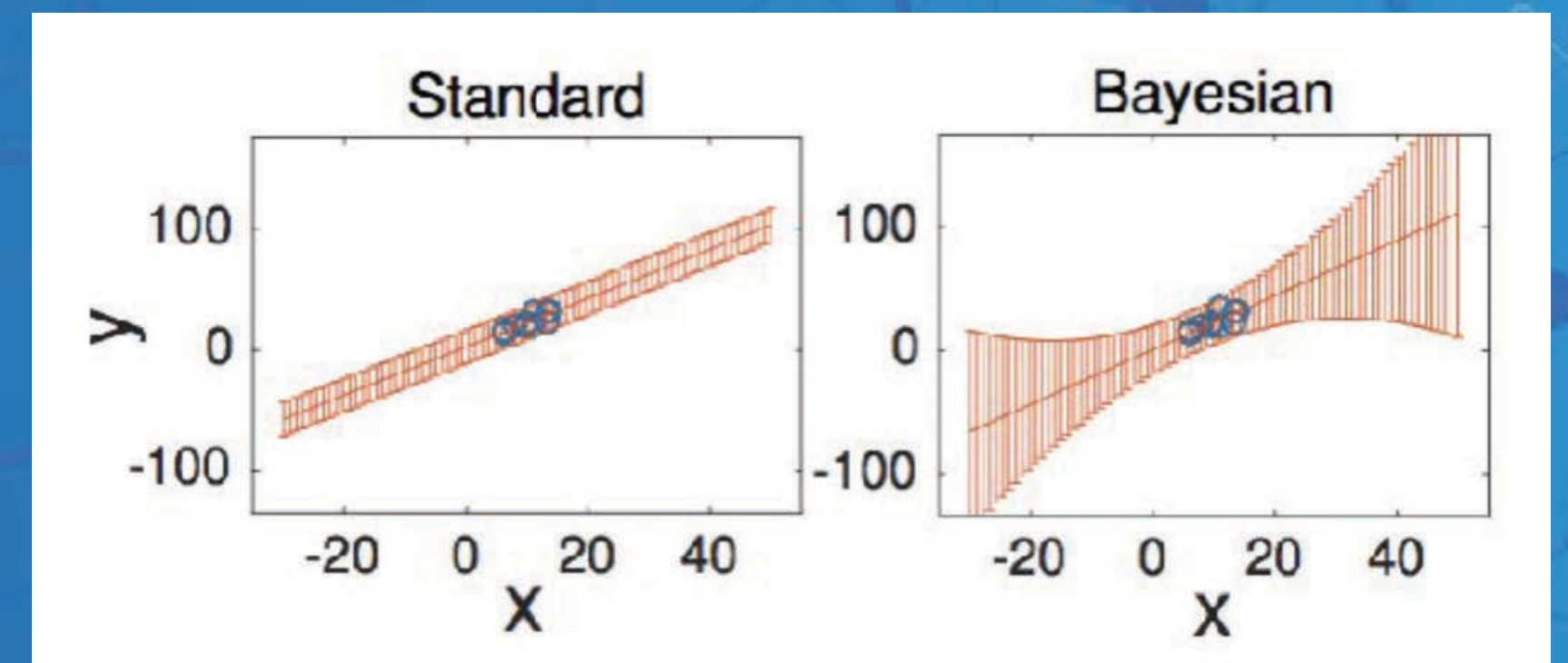
(LOCALLY) BAYESIAN RF IQT [TANNO 2016]

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$$P(\eta|\beta) = \mathcal{N}(\eta, \beta^{-1}I)$$

- Predictive variance for **uncertainty** quantification:

$$\sigma_{\text{Pred}}^2(\mathbf{x}^*) = \mathbf{x}^{*T} \mathbf{A}(\mathcal{D}) \mathbf{x}^* + \beta^{-1}$$



(LOCALLY) BAYESIAN RF IQT [TANNO 2016]

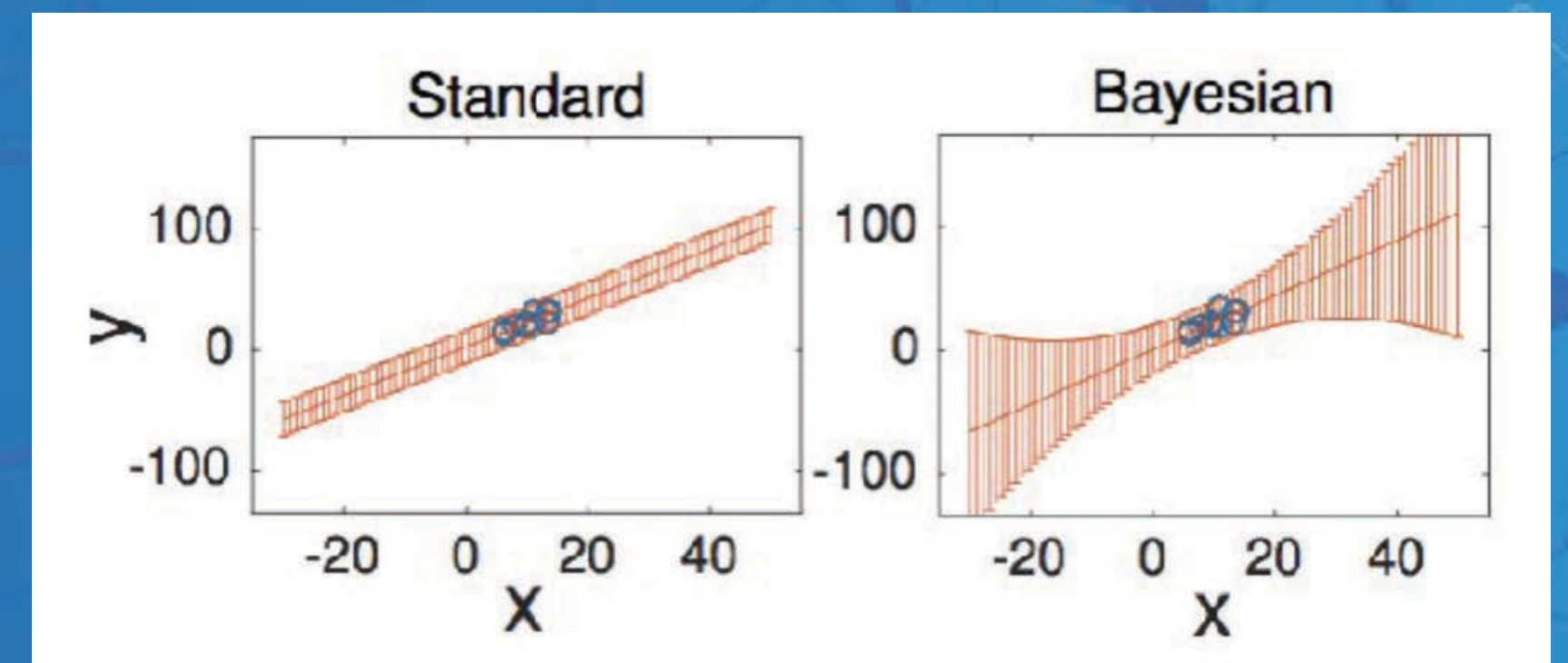
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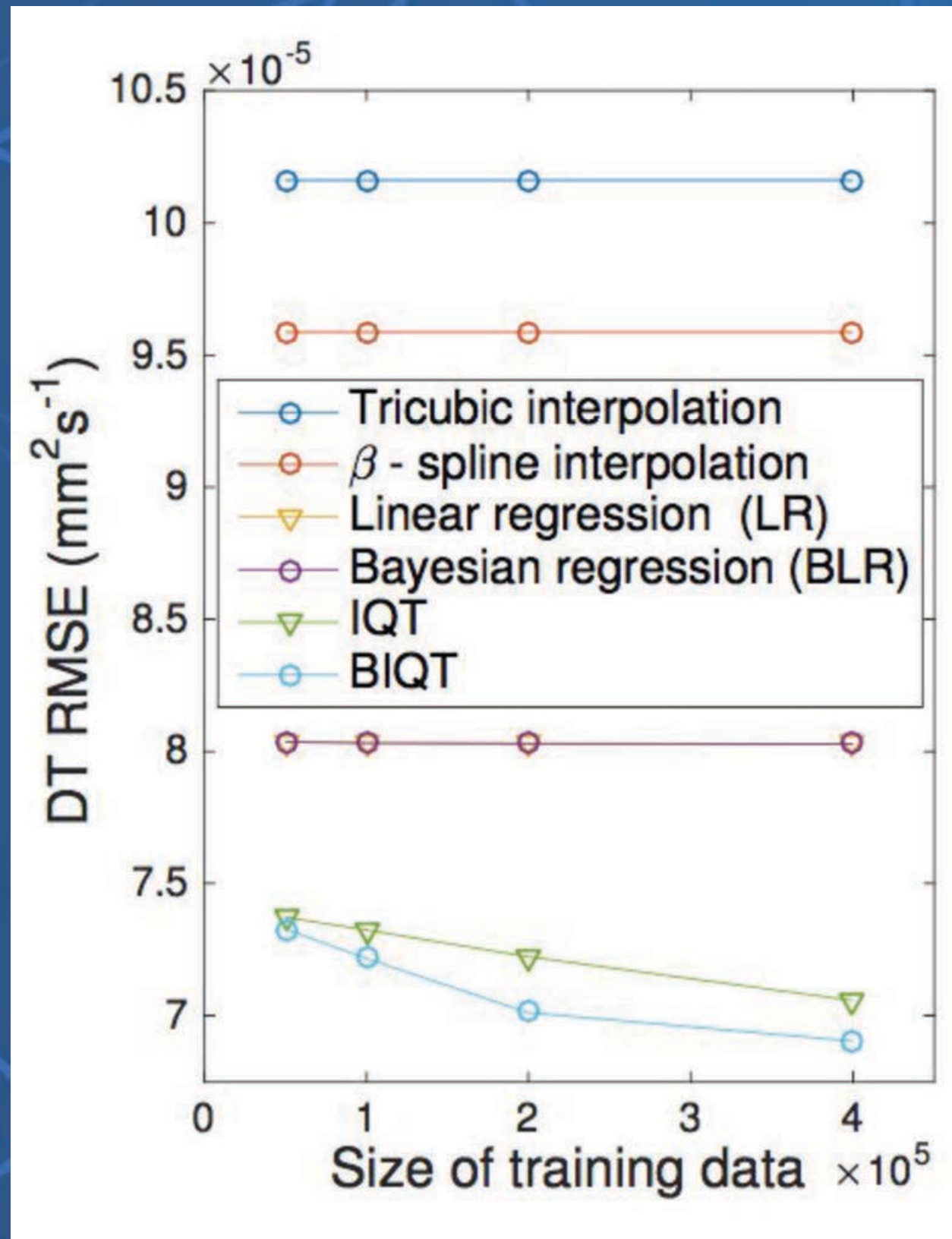
- Predictive variance for **uncertainty** quantification:

$$\sigma_{\text{Pred}}^2(\mathbf{x}^*) = \underbrace{\mathbf{x}^{*T} \mathbf{A}(\mathcal{D}) \mathbf{x}^*}_{\text{Familiarity}} + \underbrace{\beta^{-1}}_{\text{Noise}}$$

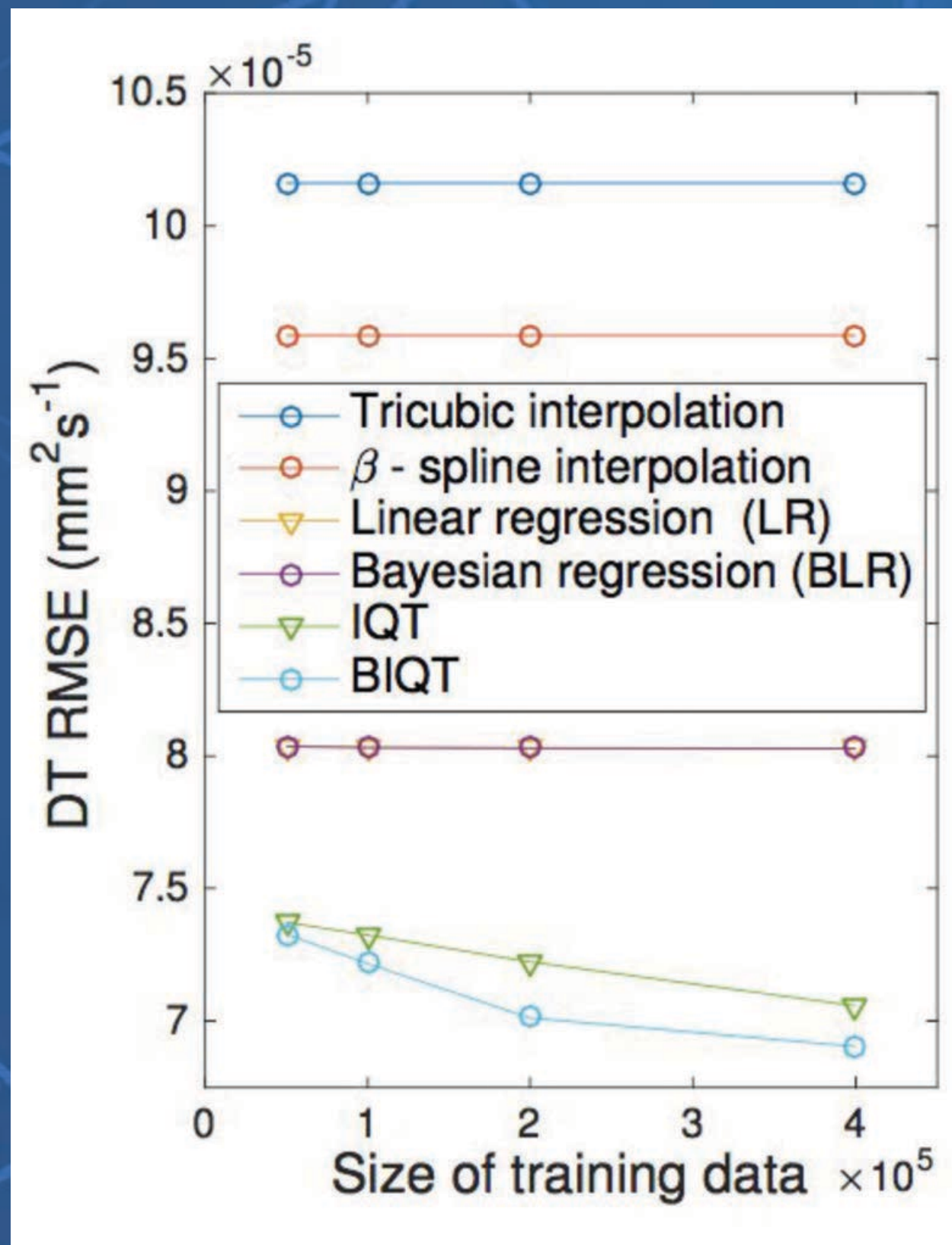
distance from training data variability in training data



RESULTS



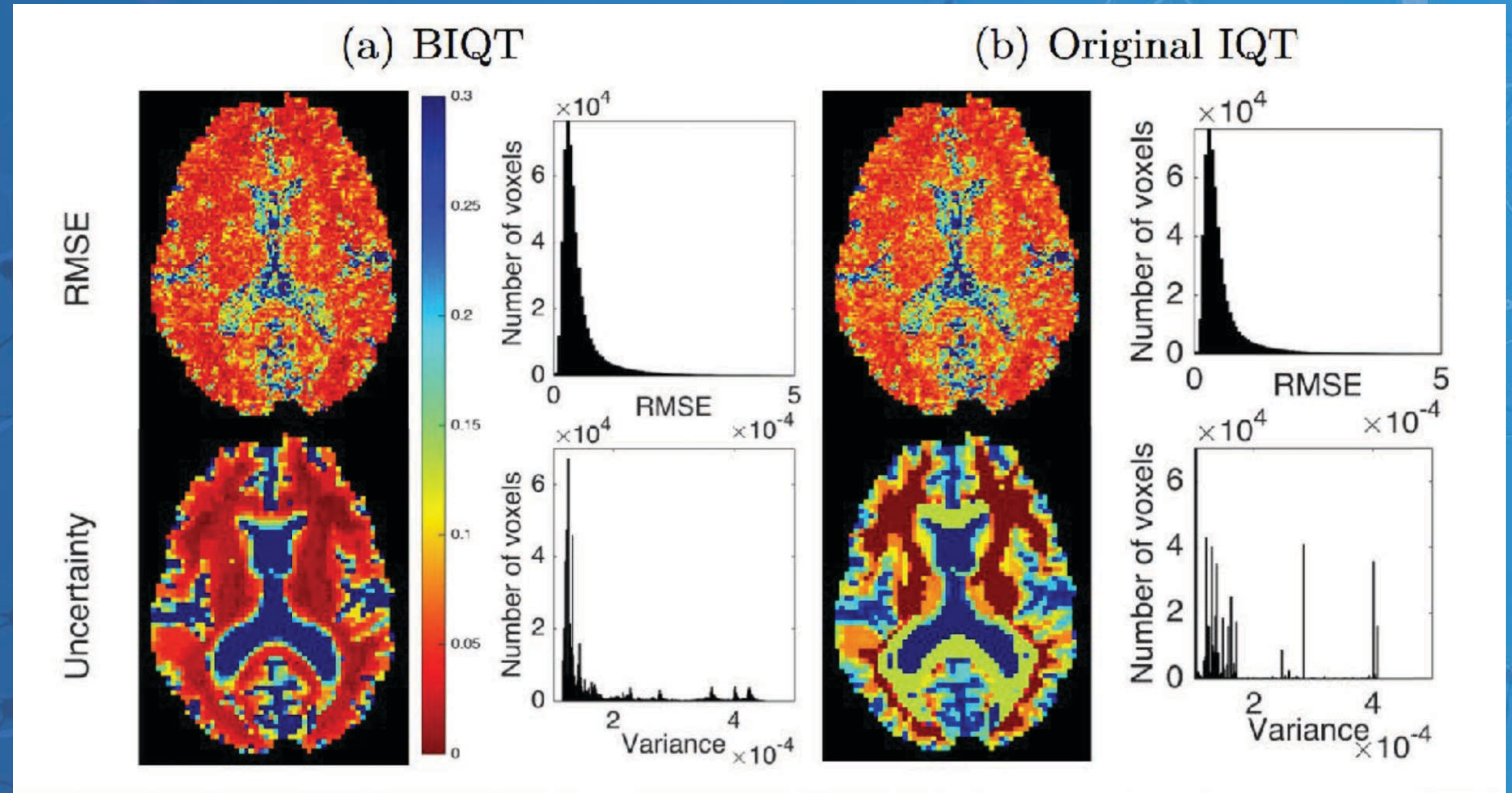
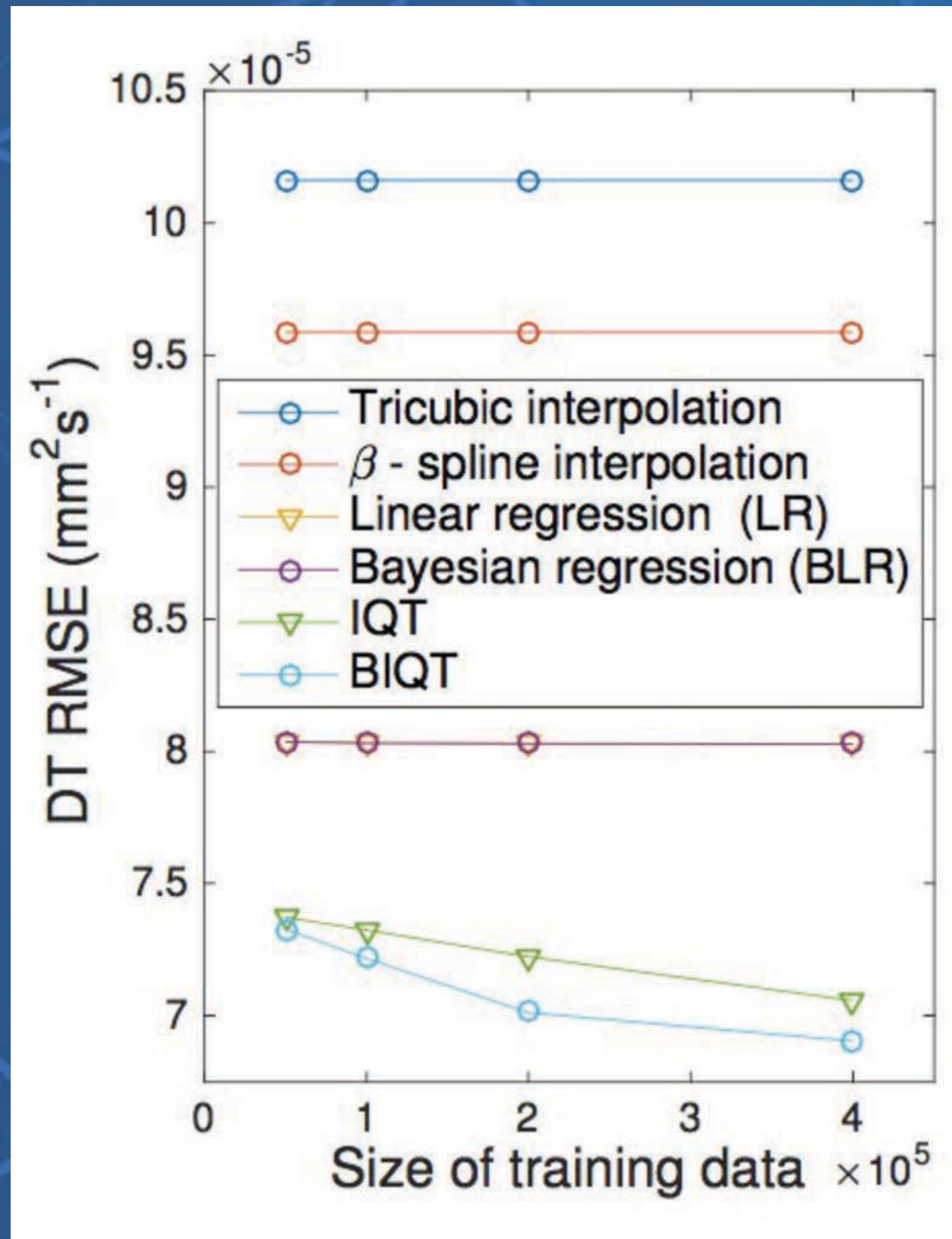
RESULTS



$$M = YX^T \left(XX^T + \frac{\alpha}{\beta} I \right)^{-1}$$

RESULTS

Uncertainty



$$M = YX^T \left(XX^T + \frac{\alpha}{\beta} I \right)^{-1}$$

Uncertainty correlates with accuracy

UNCERTAINTY

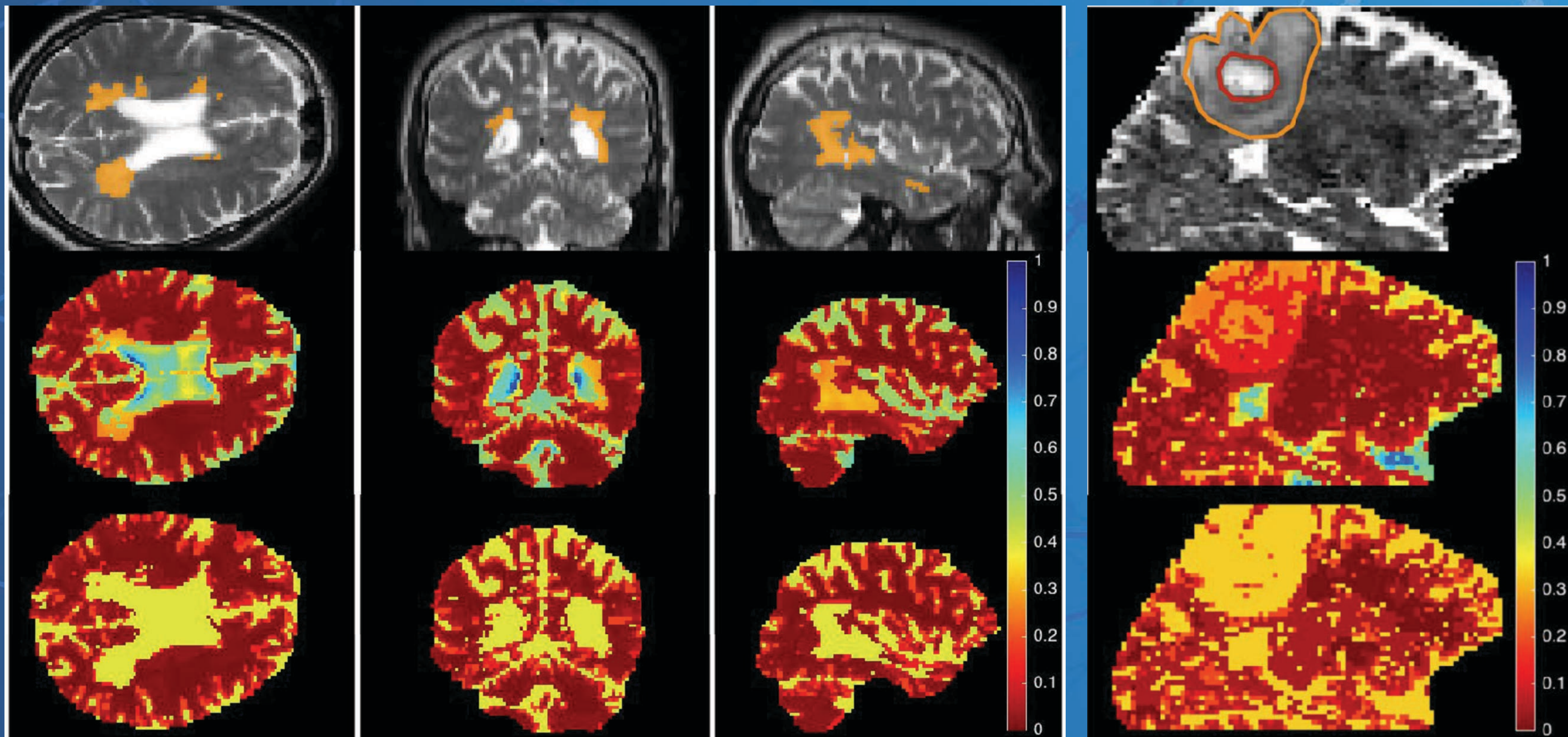
Multiple Sclerosis

Tumour (edema)

T2

BIOT

IOT



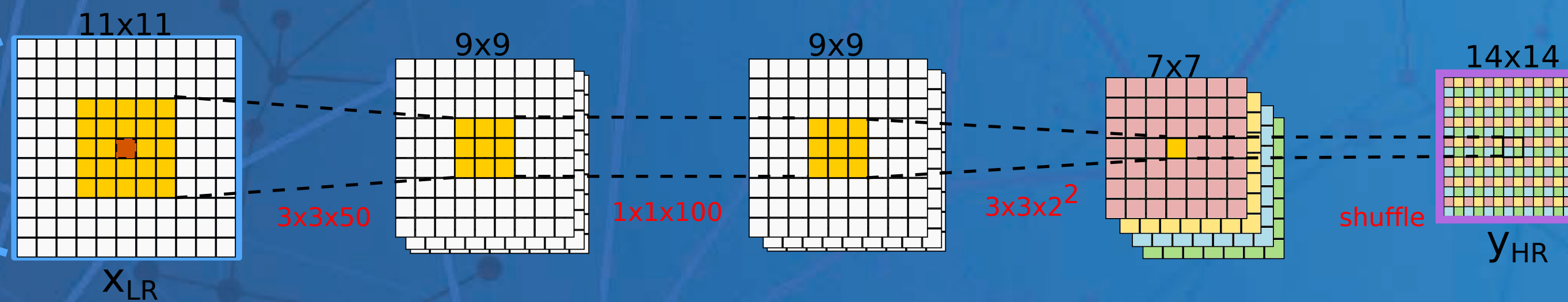
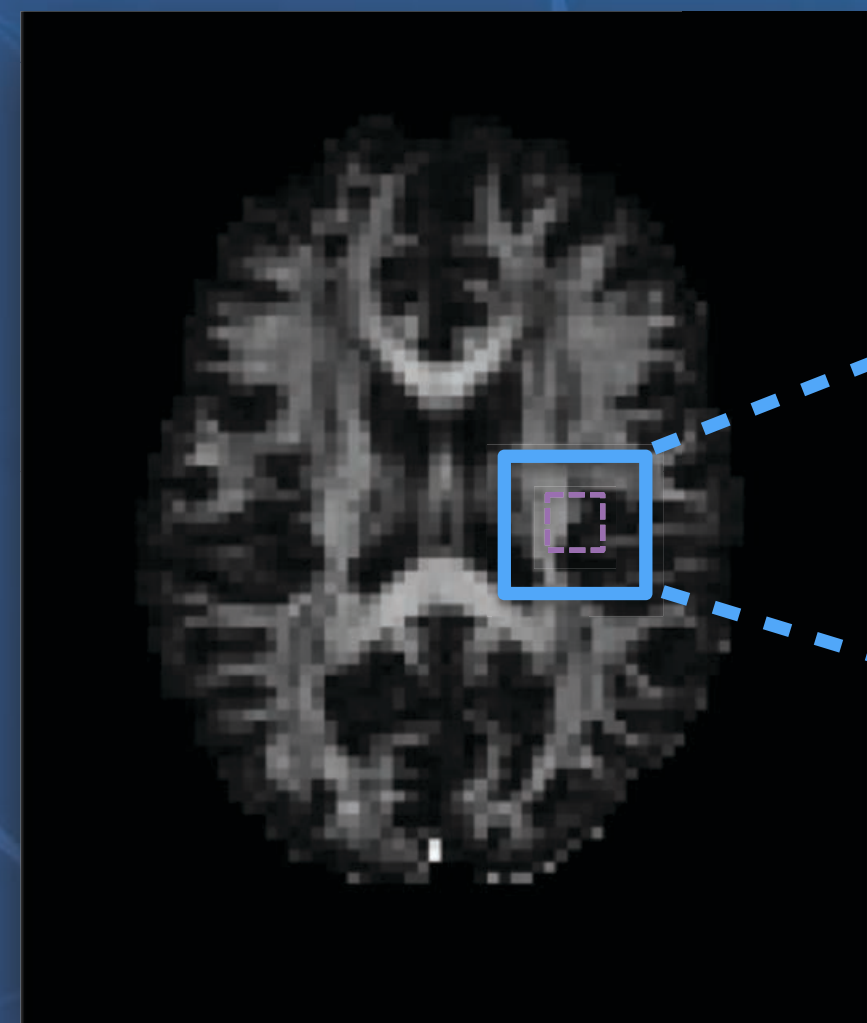


DEEP LEARNING IQT WITH UNCERTAINTY

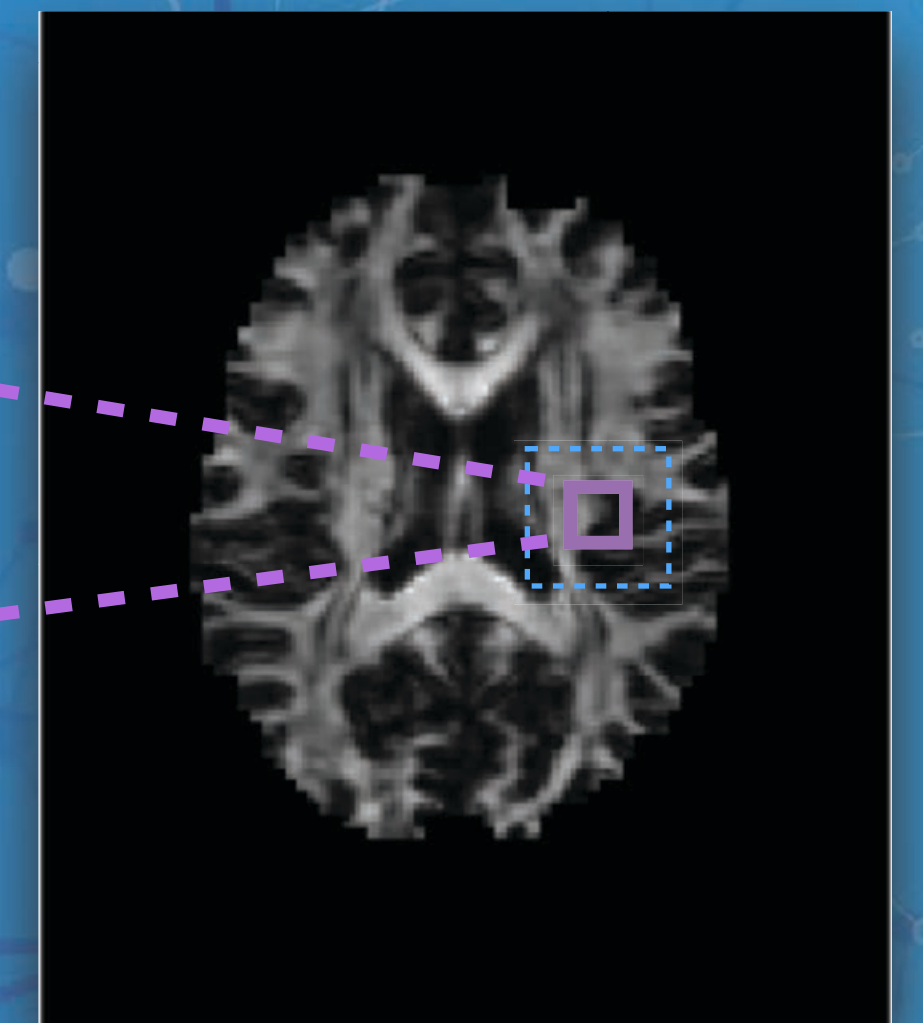
BASELINE NETWORK [TANNO MICCAI 2017]

ESPCN = Efficient Subpixel Convolutional Network [SHI CVPR 2016]

low-res



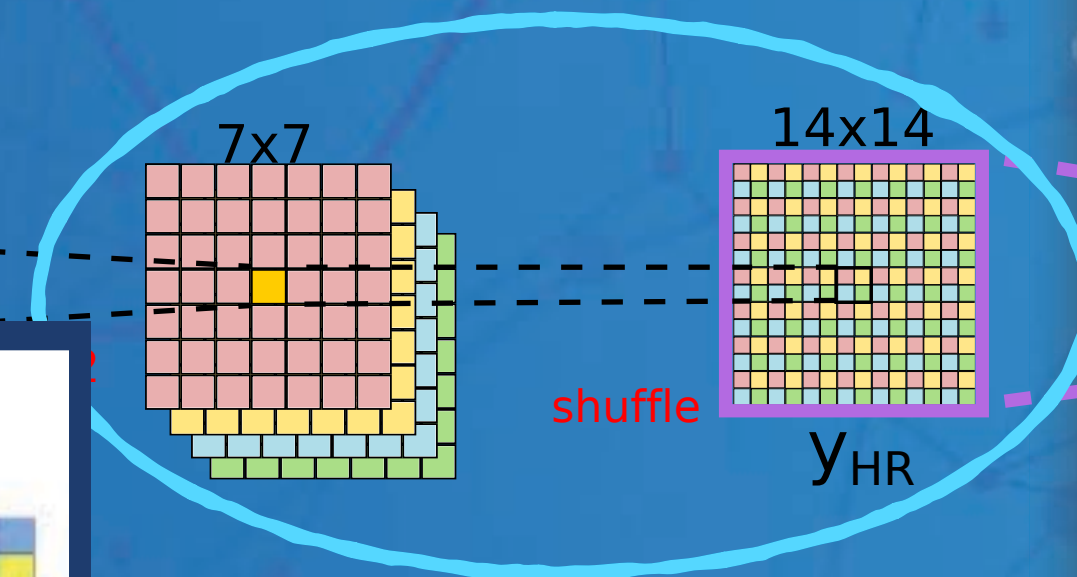
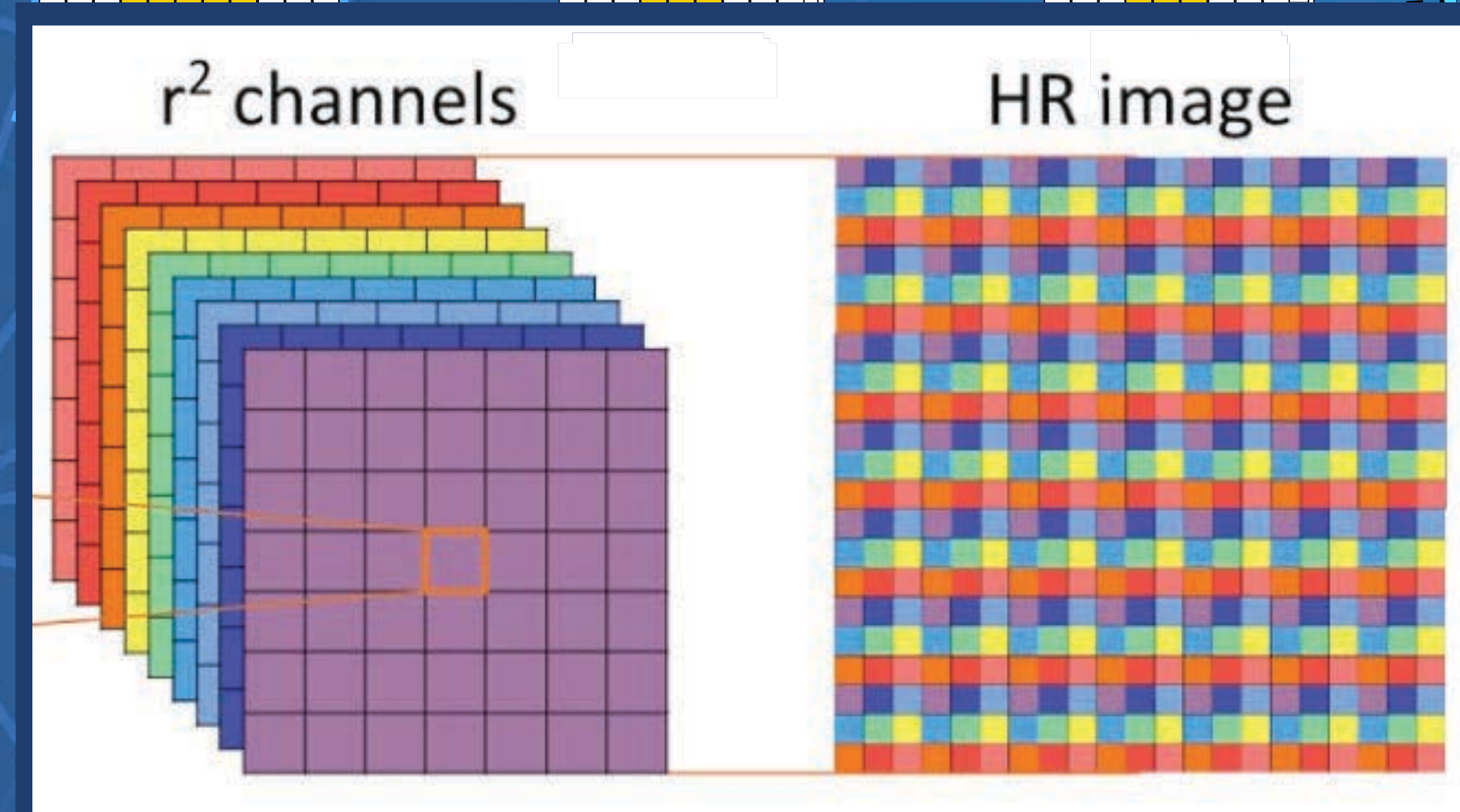
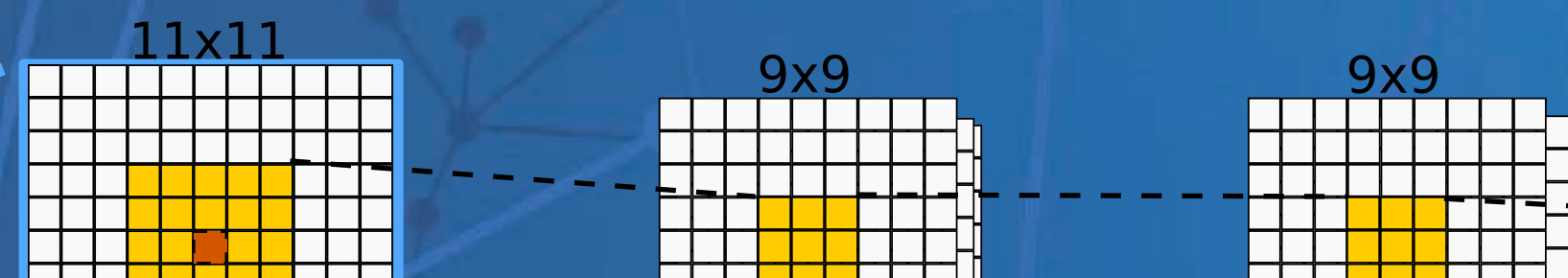
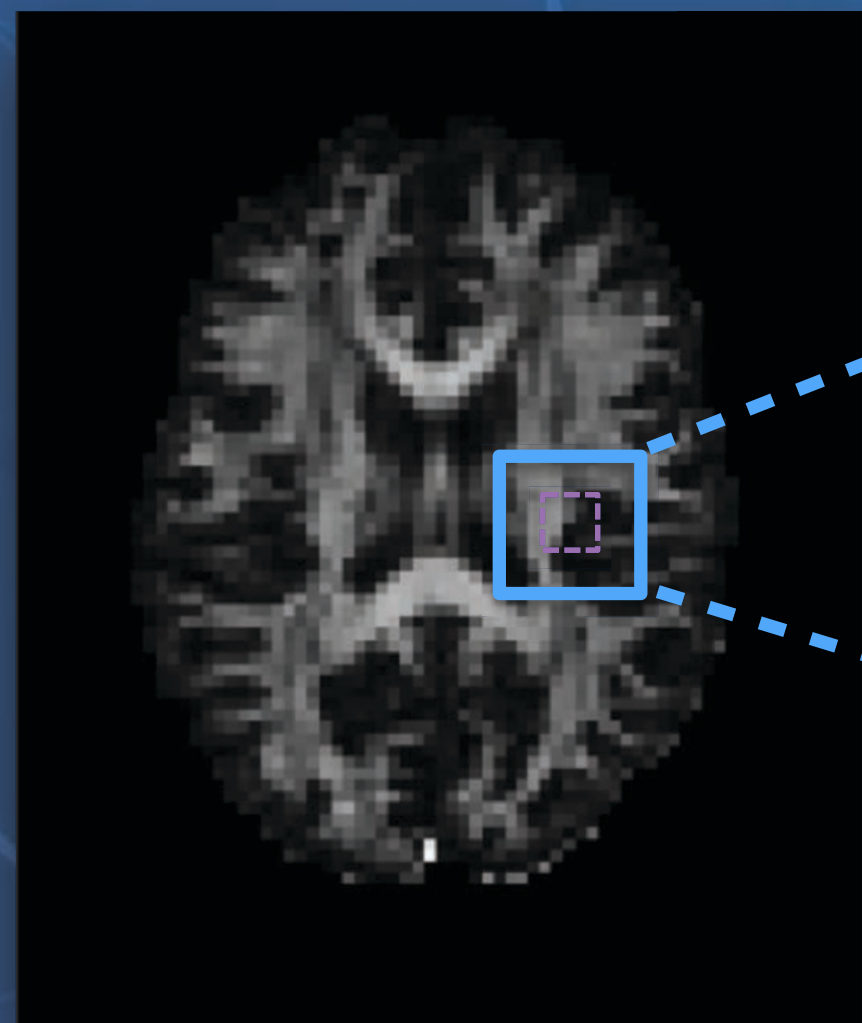
high-res



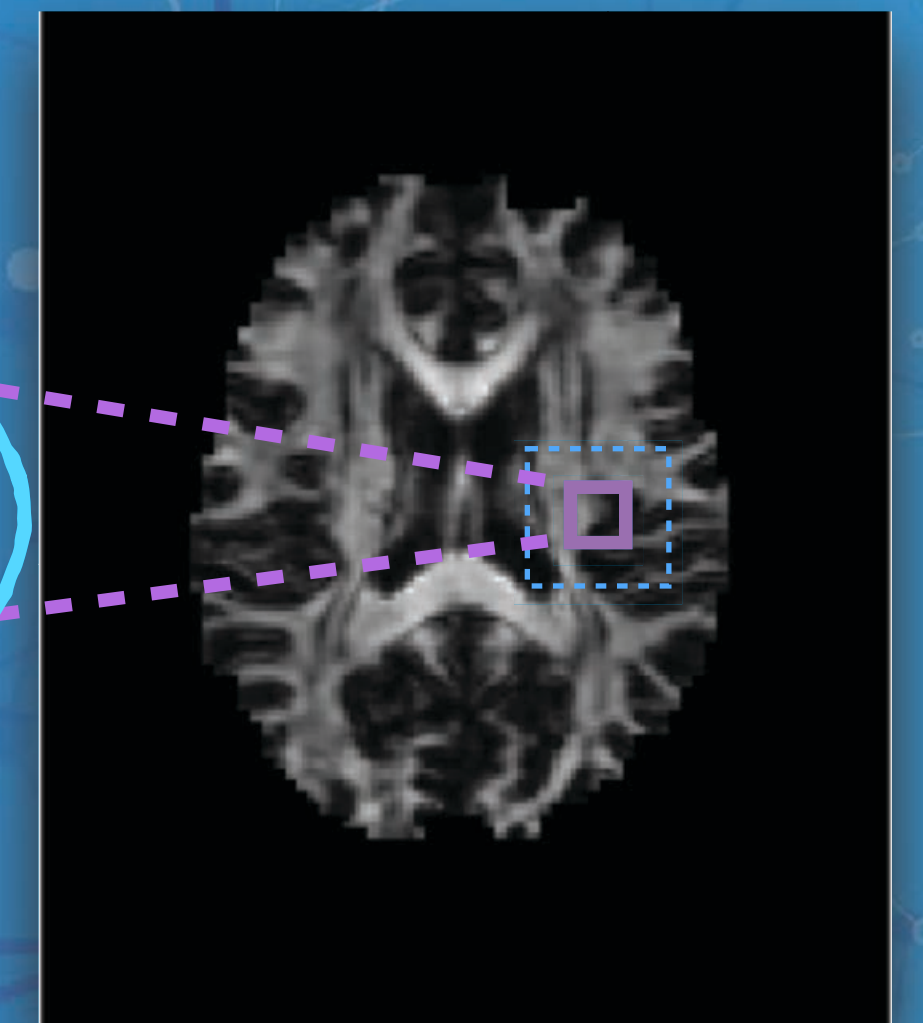
BASELINE NETWORK [TANNO MICCAI 2017]

ESPCN = Efficient Subpixel Convolutional Network [SHI CVPR 2016]

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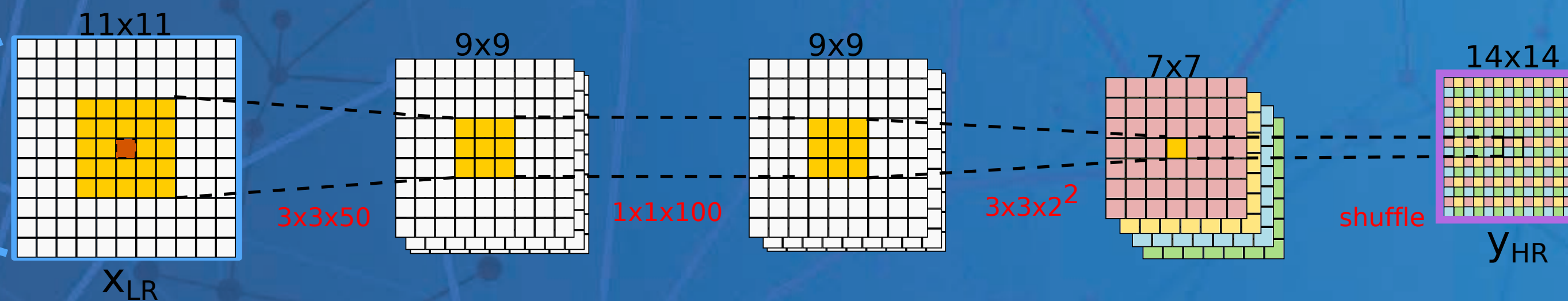
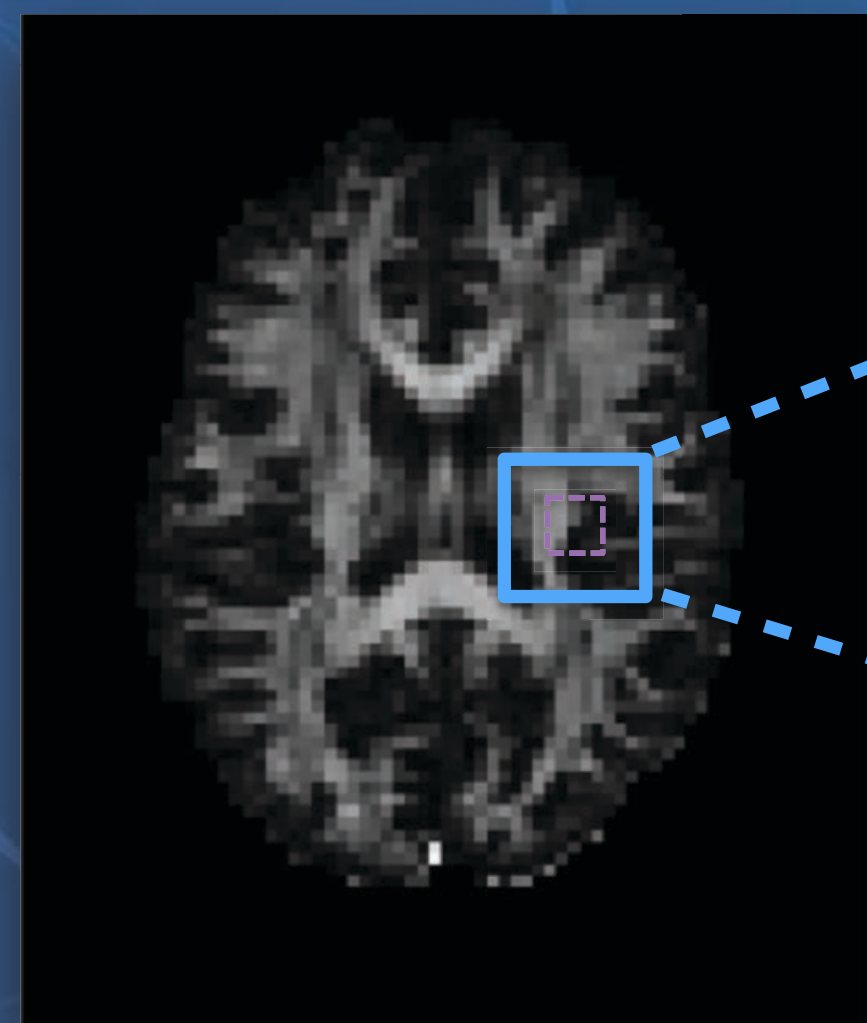


Conv + Shuffle = deconvolution₁(learned)

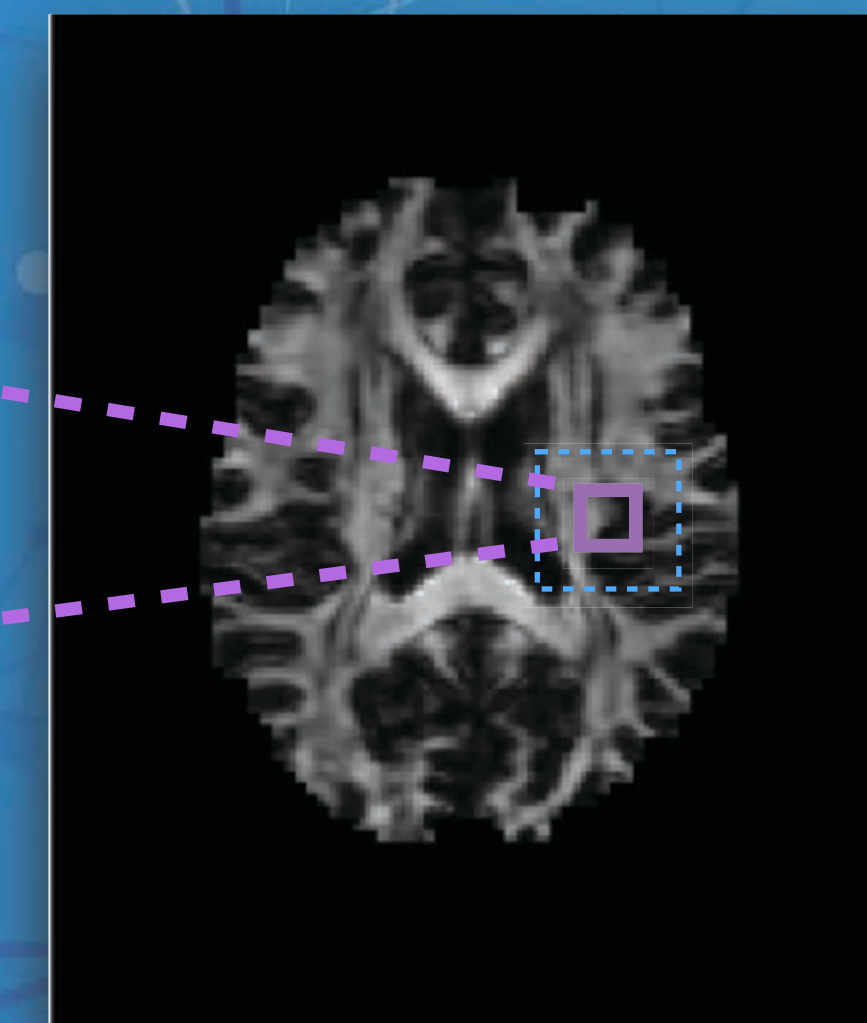
BASELINE NETWORK [TANNO MICCAI 2017]

ESPCN = Efficient Subpixel Convolutional Network [SHI CVPR 2016]

low-res



high-res



3D extension of ESPCN

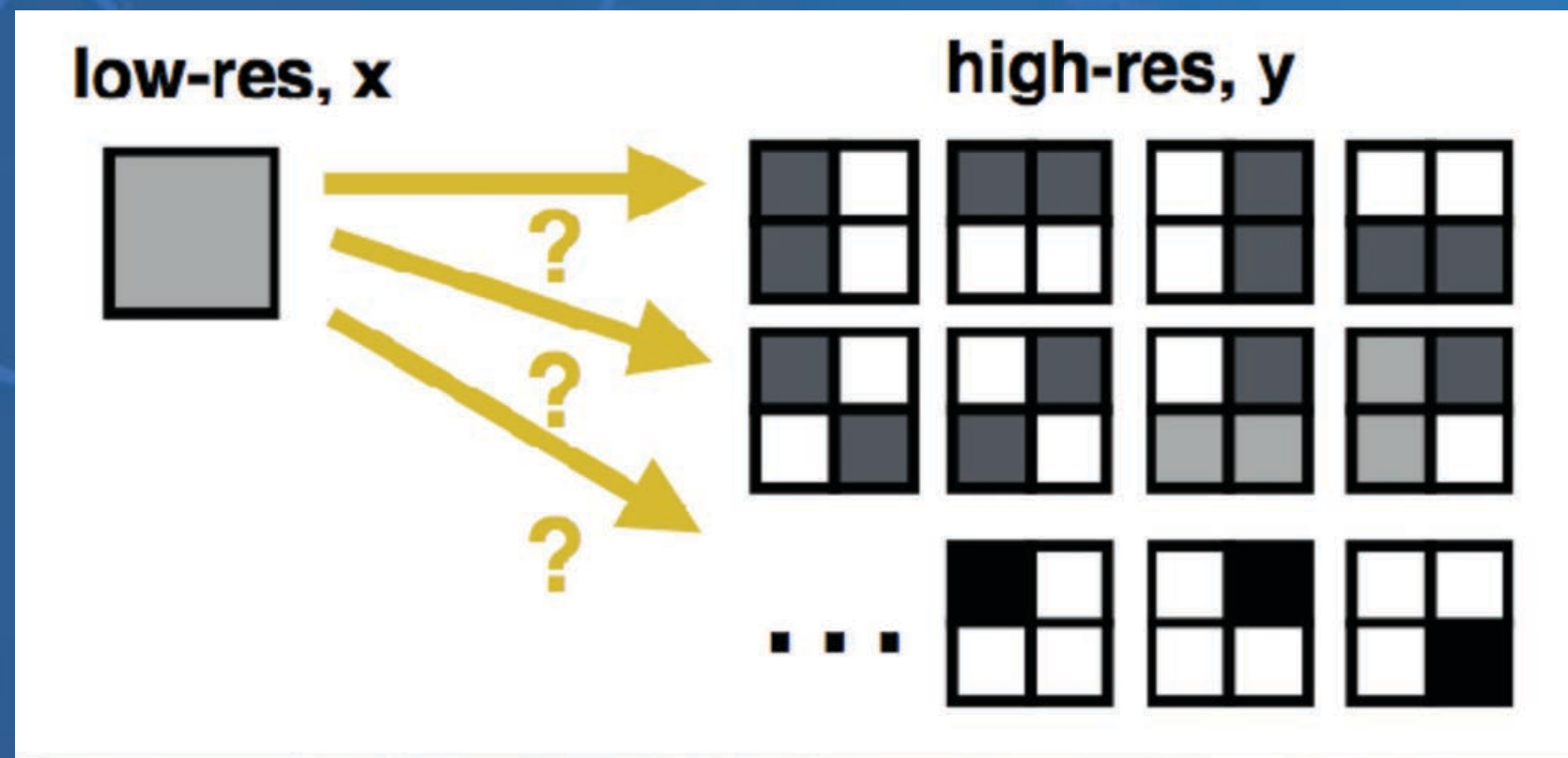
layers:

$(3,3,3,50) \rightarrow (1,1,1,100) \rightarrow (3,3,3,r.r.r.c)$

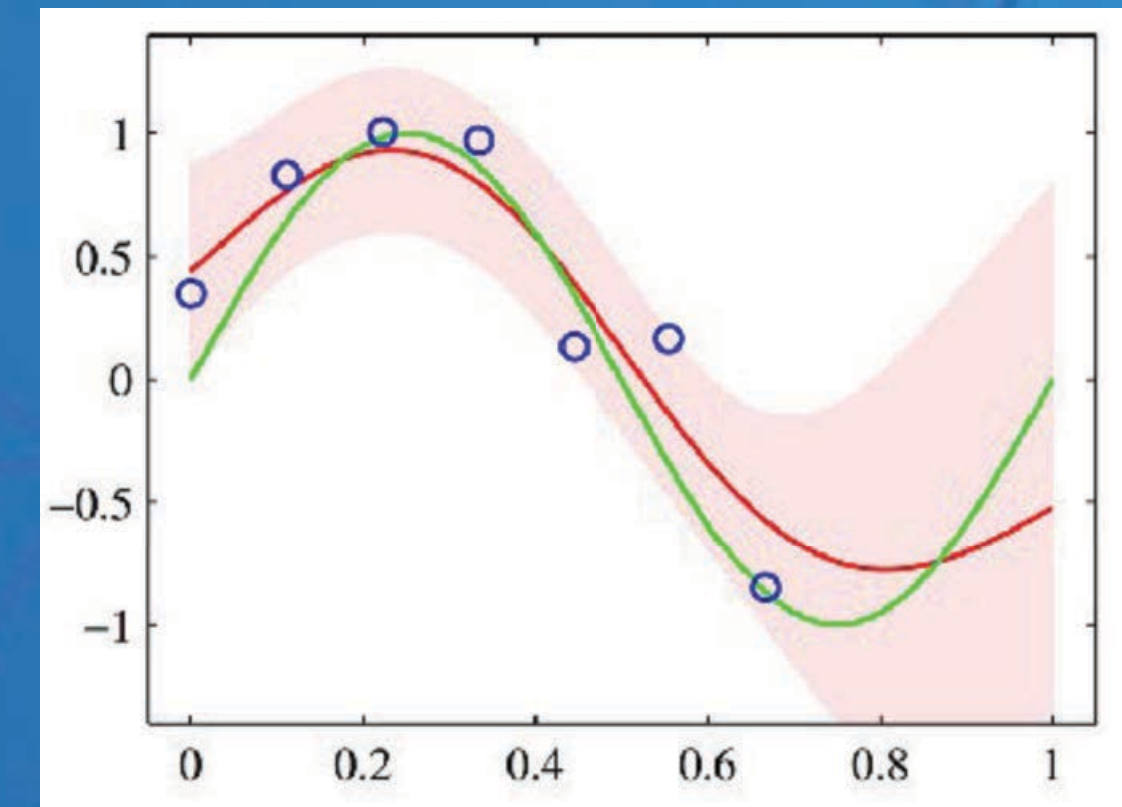
(width, height, depth, channels)

UNCERTAINTY [TANNO MICCAI 2017]

Intrinsic Uncertainty

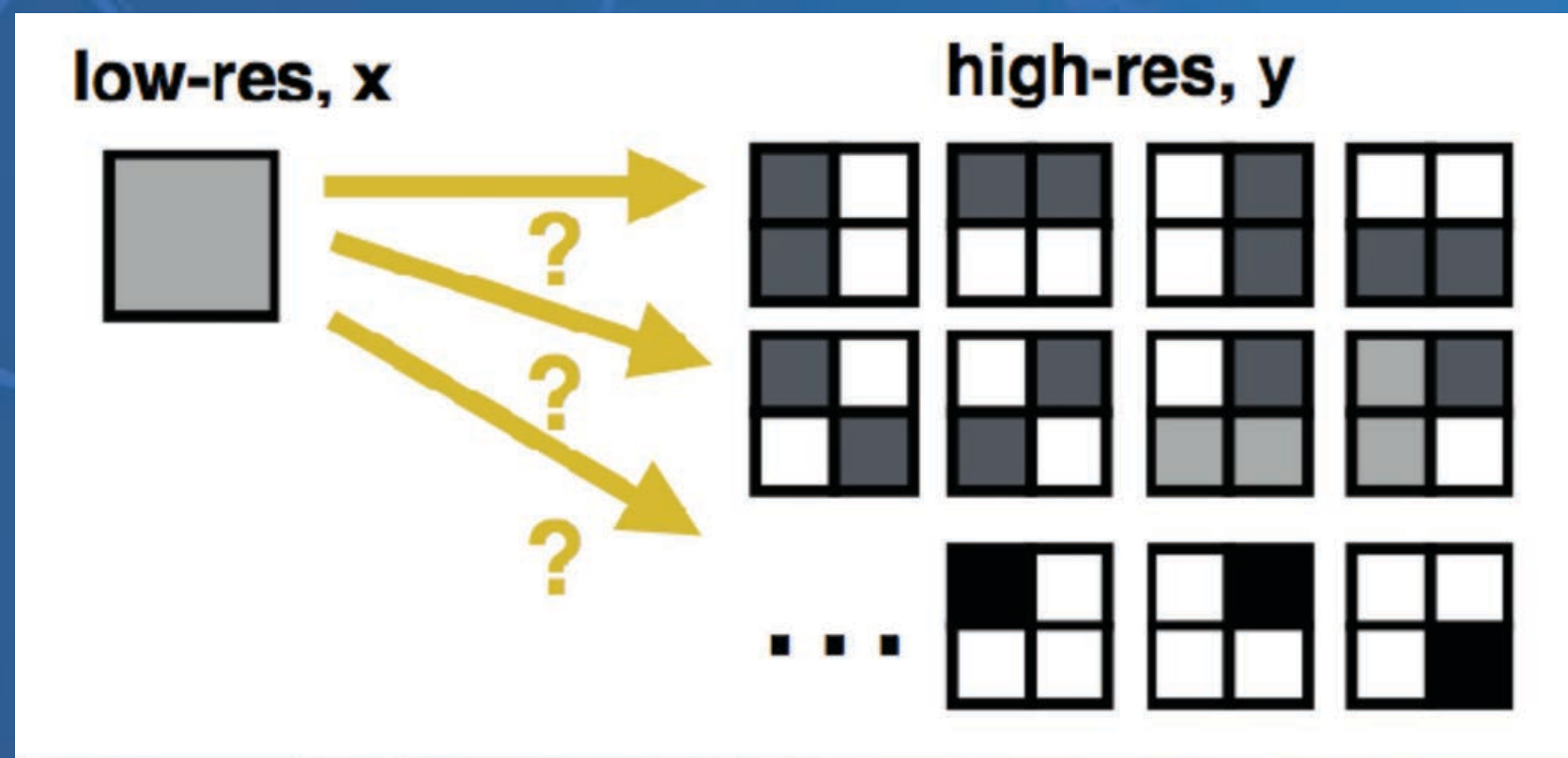


Parameter Uncertainty

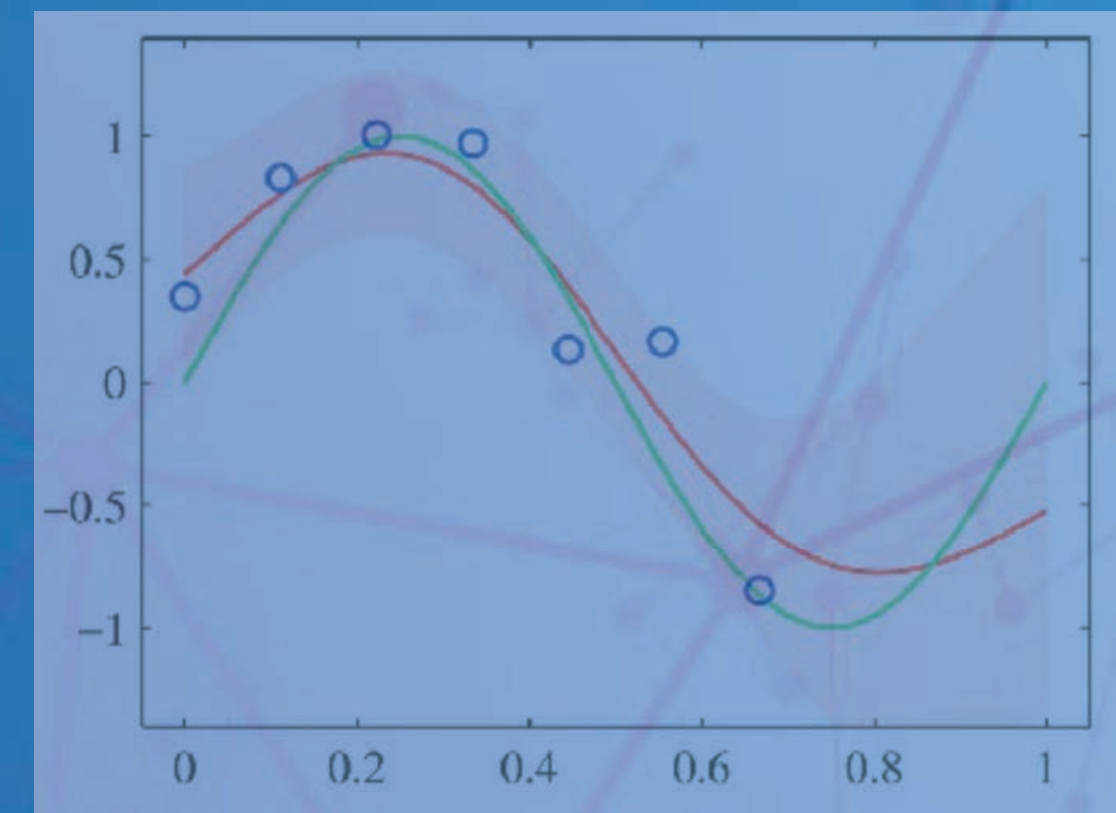


UNCERTAINTY [TANNO MICCAI 2017]

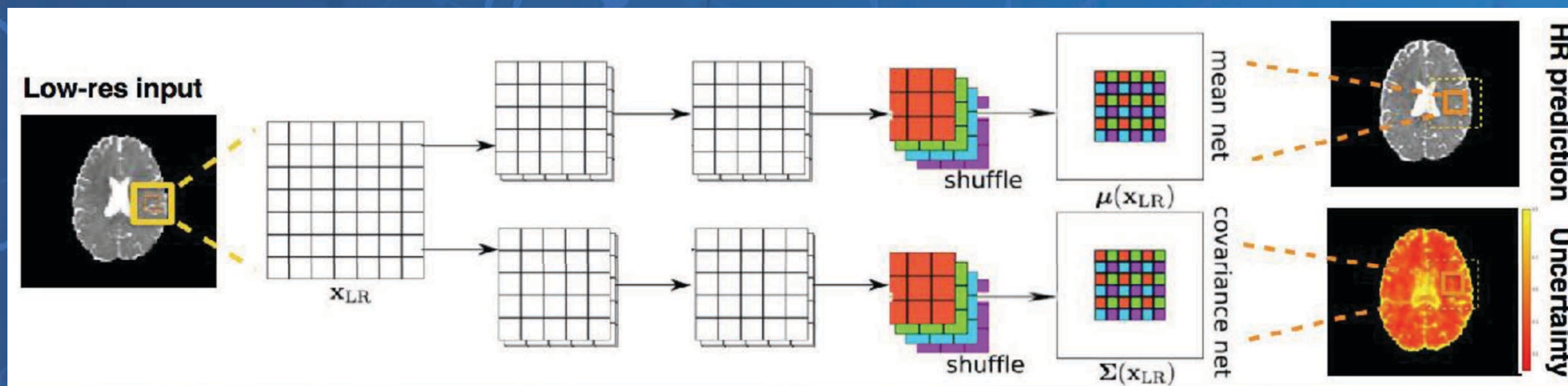
Intrinsic Uncertainty



Parameter Uncertainty



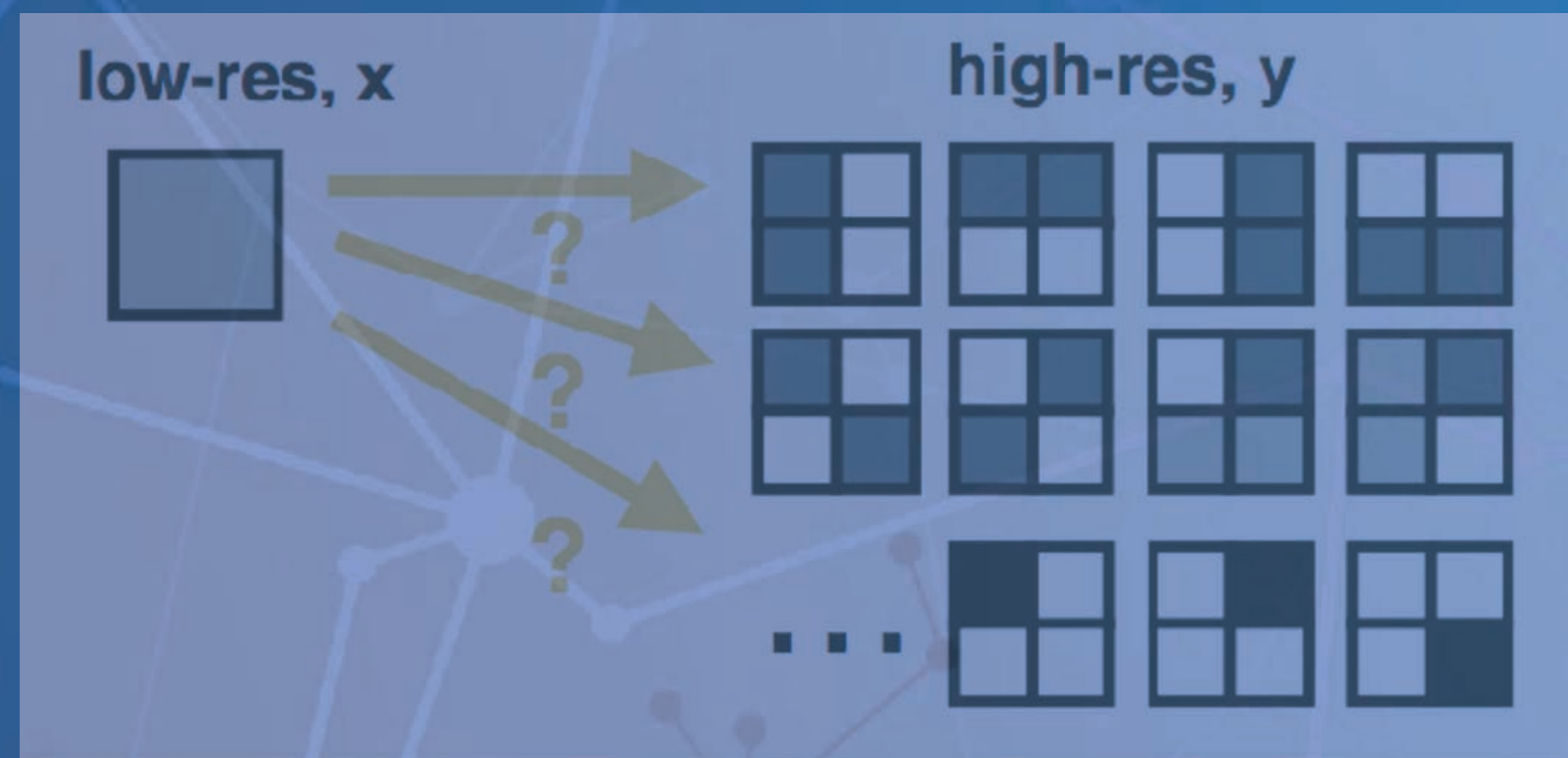
Heteroscedastic noise model (no parameter sharing)



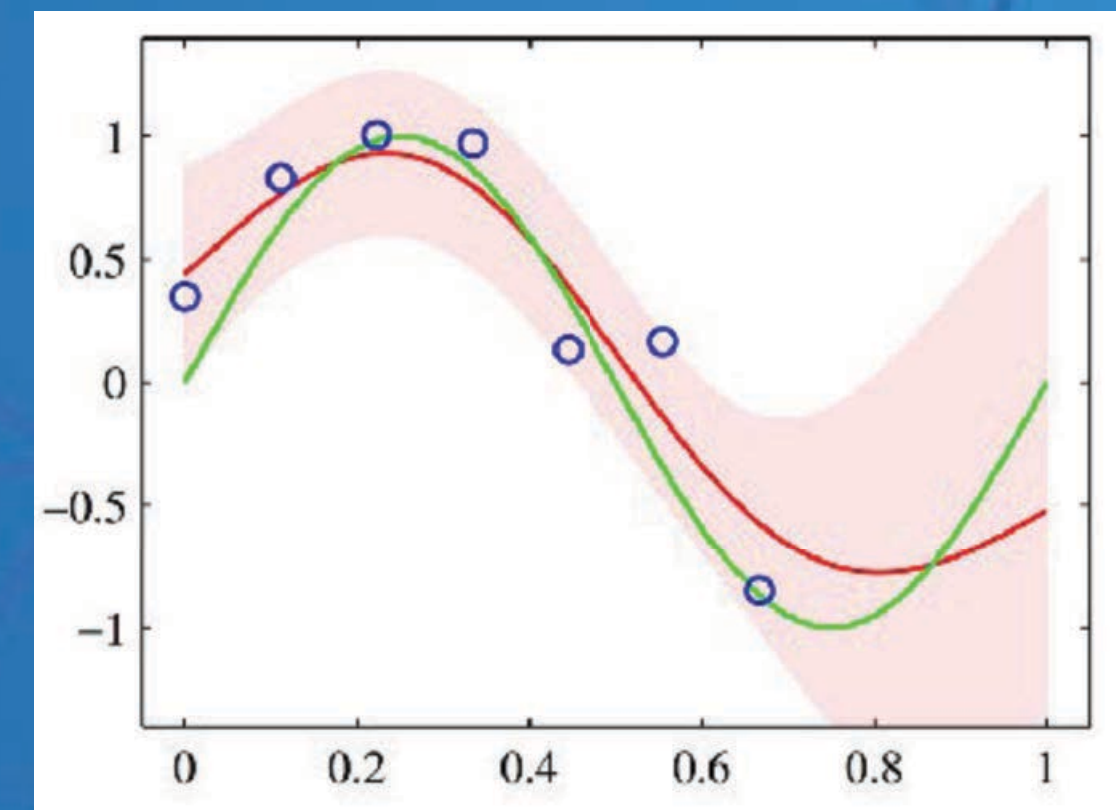
$$\frac{1}{N} \sum_i^N \left\| \mathbf{y}_i - \mu_{\theta_1}(\mathbf{x}_i) \right\|_{\Sigma_{\theta_2}^{-1}(\mathbf{x}_i)}^2 + \frac{1}{N} \sum_i^N \log \det \Sigma_{\theta_2}(\mathbf{x}_i)$$

UNCERTAINTY [TANNO MICCAI 2017]

Intrinsic Uncertainty



Parameter Uncertainty



- Approximate (intractable) posterior with a factored Gaussian distribution

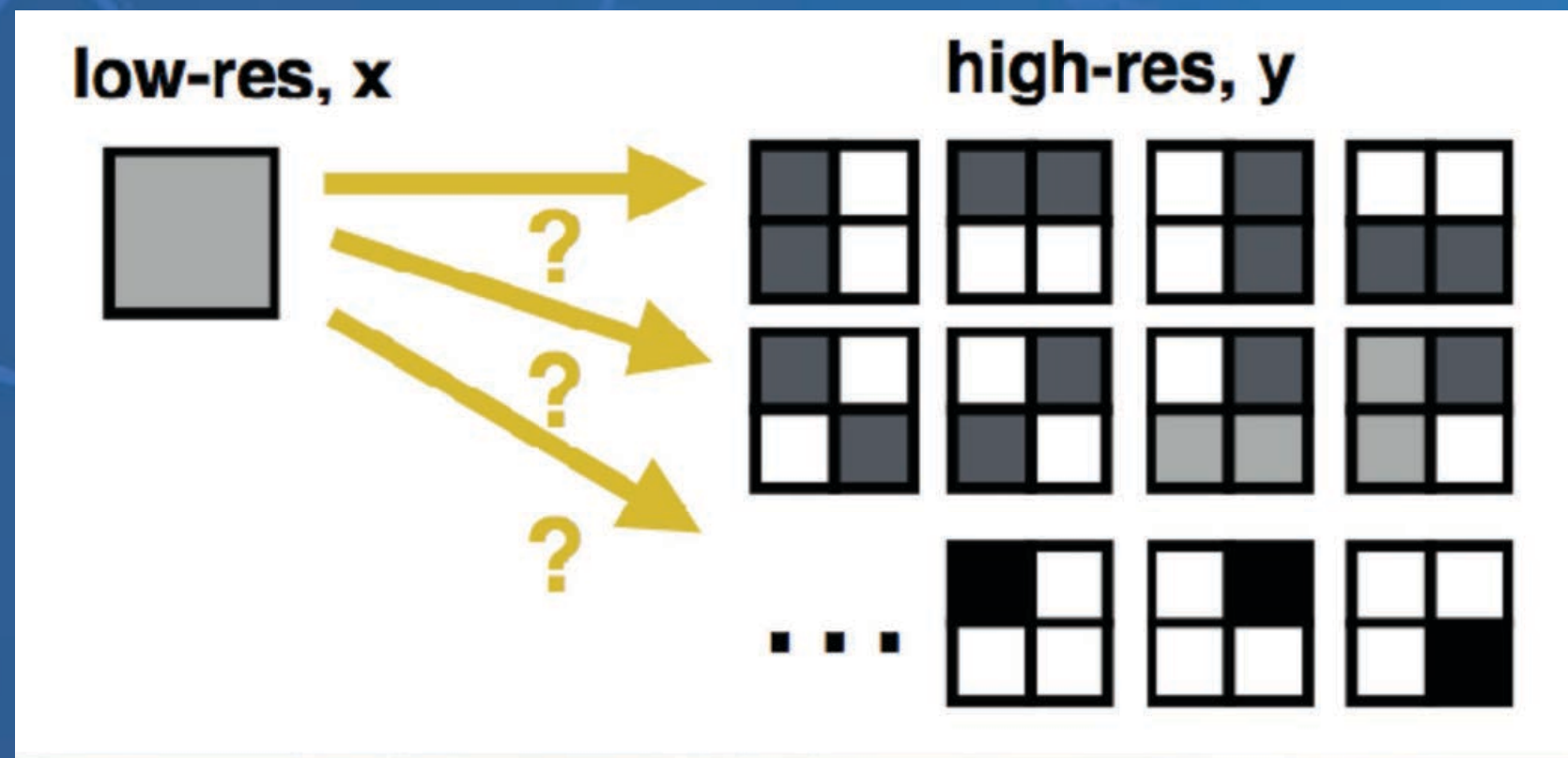
$$p(\theta|\mathcal{D}) \sim q_{\phi}(\theta)$$

[KINGMA 2015]

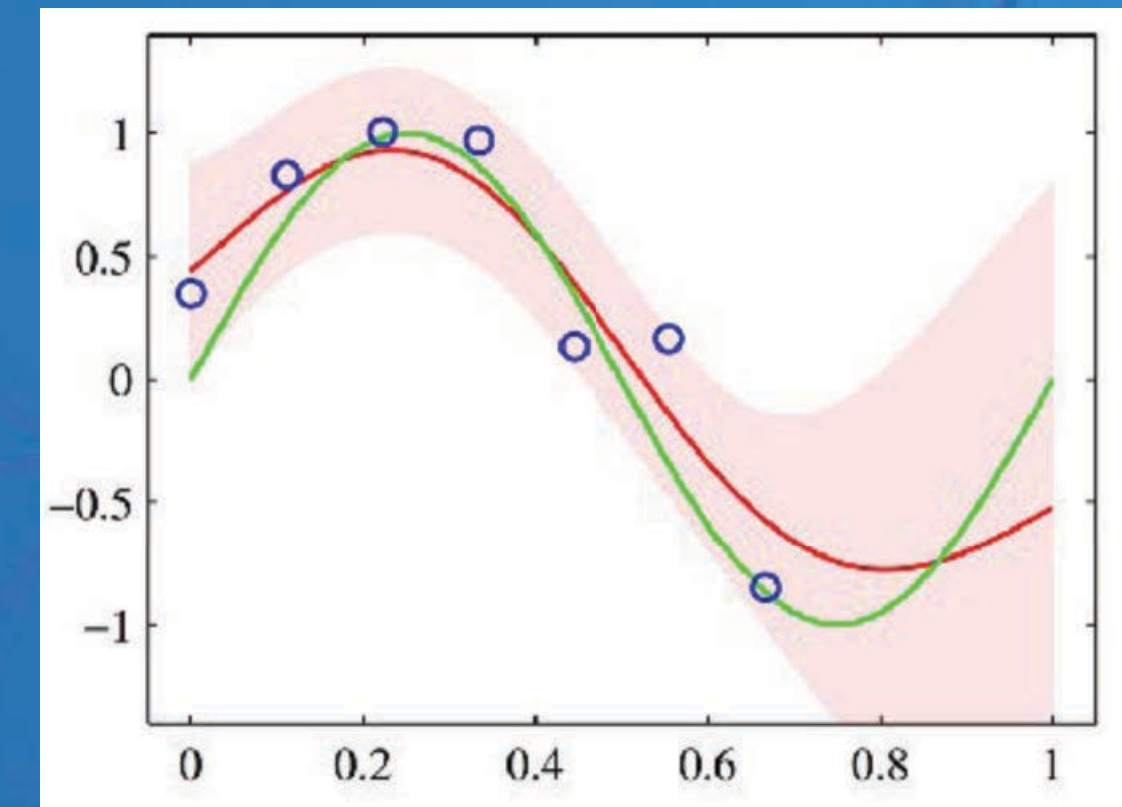
using **variational dropout** where dropout rates are learned

UNCERTAINTY [TANNO MICCAI 2017]

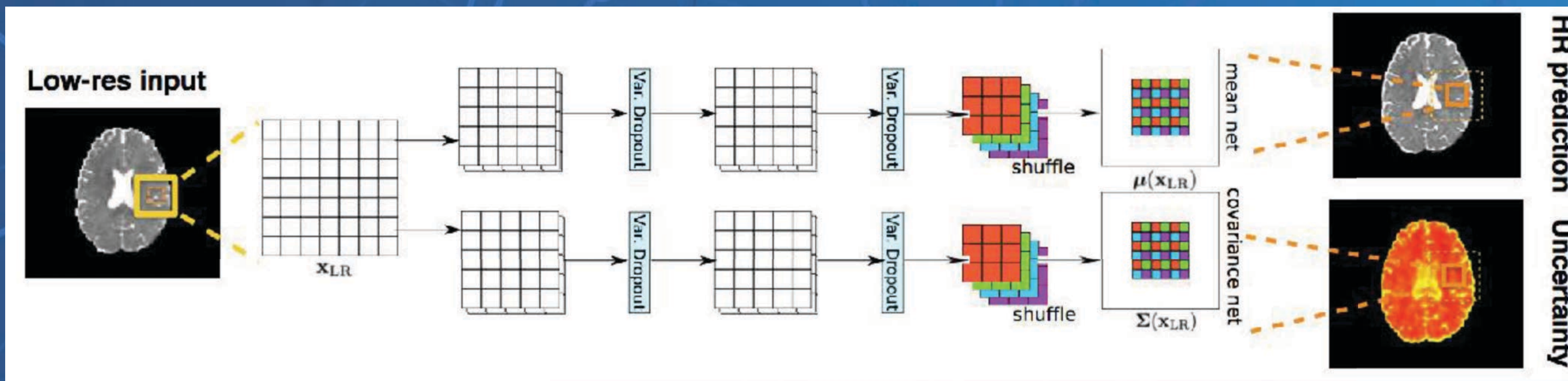
Intrinsic Uncertainty



Parameter Uncertainty



Heteroscedastic + Variational dropout

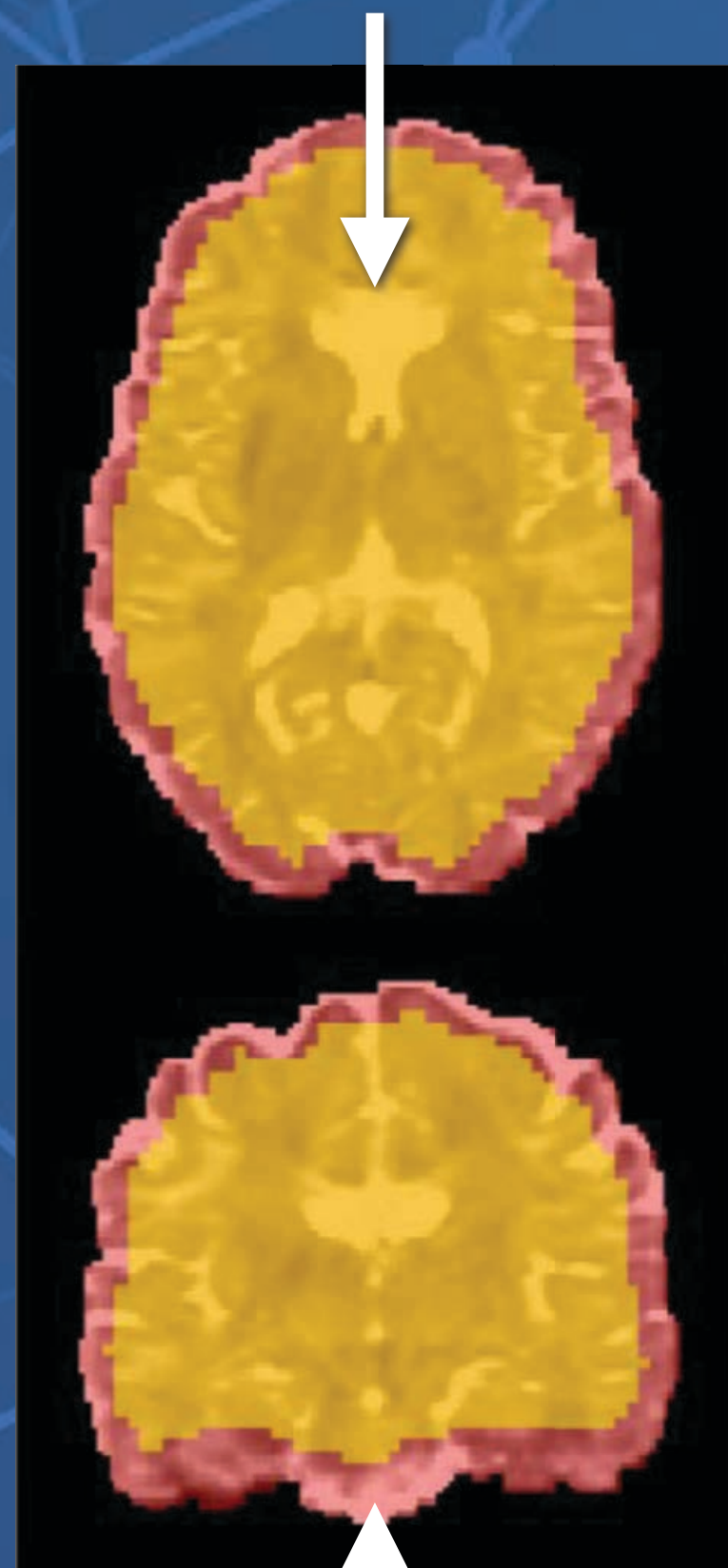


- Predictive distribution:

$$\int \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{y}; \mu_{\theta_1}, \Sigma_{\theta_2}(\mathbf{x})) \cdot q_{\phi}(\theta) d\theta$$
- Mean & Uncertainty (variance) from dropout sampling

RESULTS

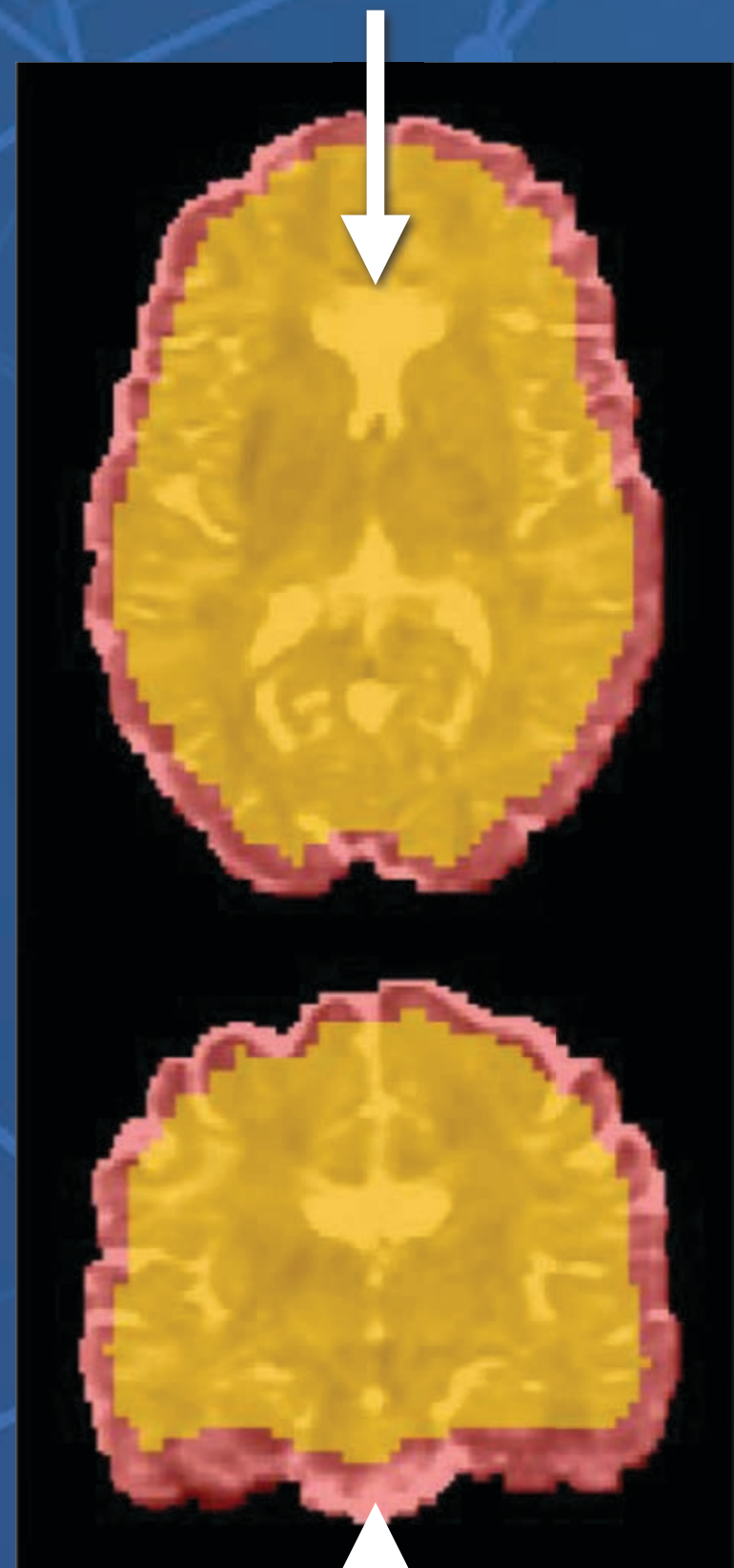
Interior



Exterior

RESULTS

Interior



Unseen HCP cohort:
similar

demographics, protocol

Unseen Lifespan cohort:
different

demographics, protocol

Models	HCP (interior)	HCP (exterior)	Life (interior)	Life (exterior)
CSpline	$10.069 \pm \text{n/a}$	$31.738 \pm \text{n/a}$	$32.483 \pm \text{n/a}$	$49.066 \pm \text{n/a}$
IQT-RF	6.974 ± 0.024	23.139 ± 0.351	10.038 ± 0.019	25.166 ± 0.328
BIQT-RF	6.972 ± 0.069	23.110 ± 0.362	9.926 ± 0.055	25.208 ± 0.290
3D-ESPCN(baseline)	6.378 ± 0.015	13.909 ± 0.071	8.998 ± 0.021	16.779 ± 0.109

Exterior

RESULTS

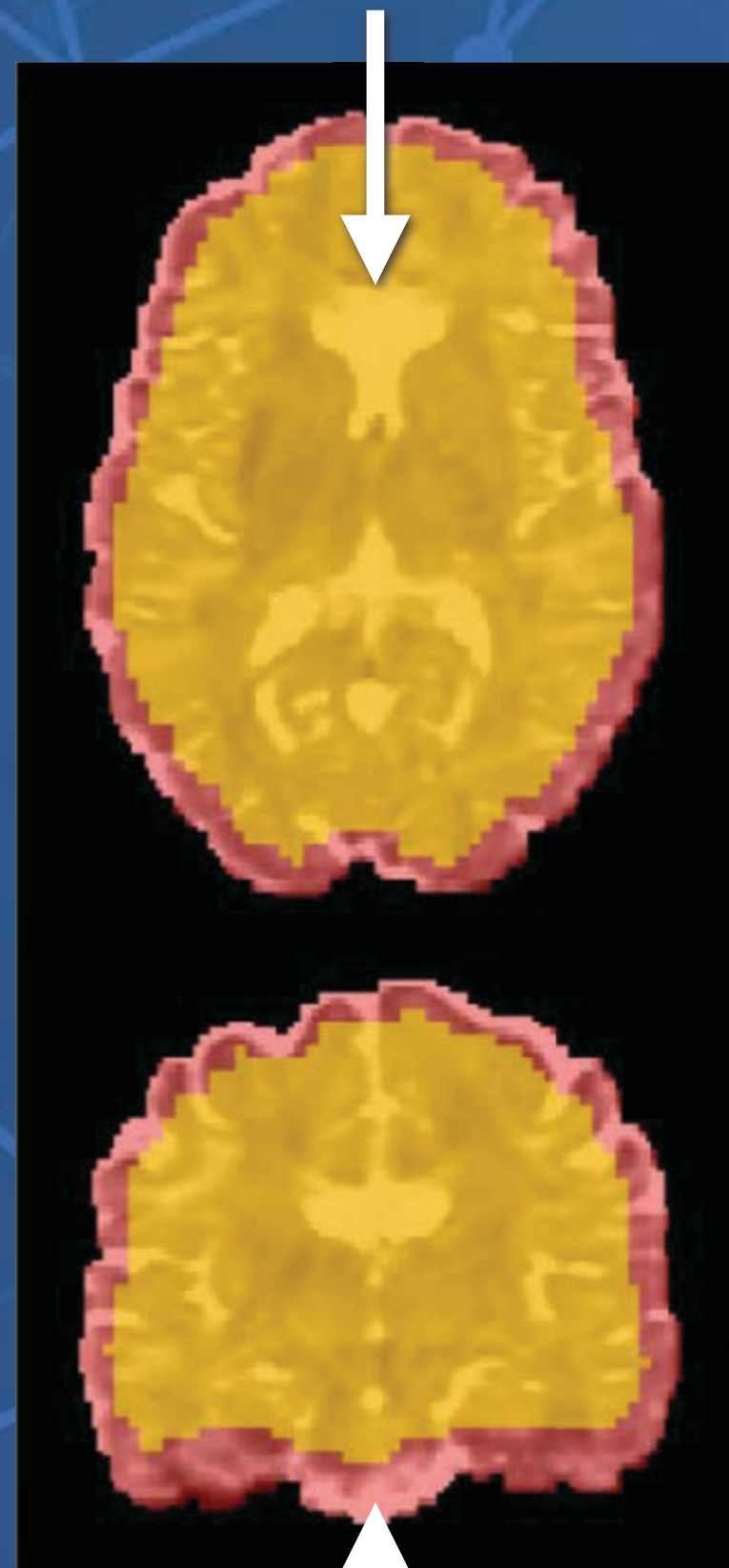
Unseen HCP cohort:
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demographics, protocol

Interior



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Improvement

9%

43%

10%

33%

Faster!

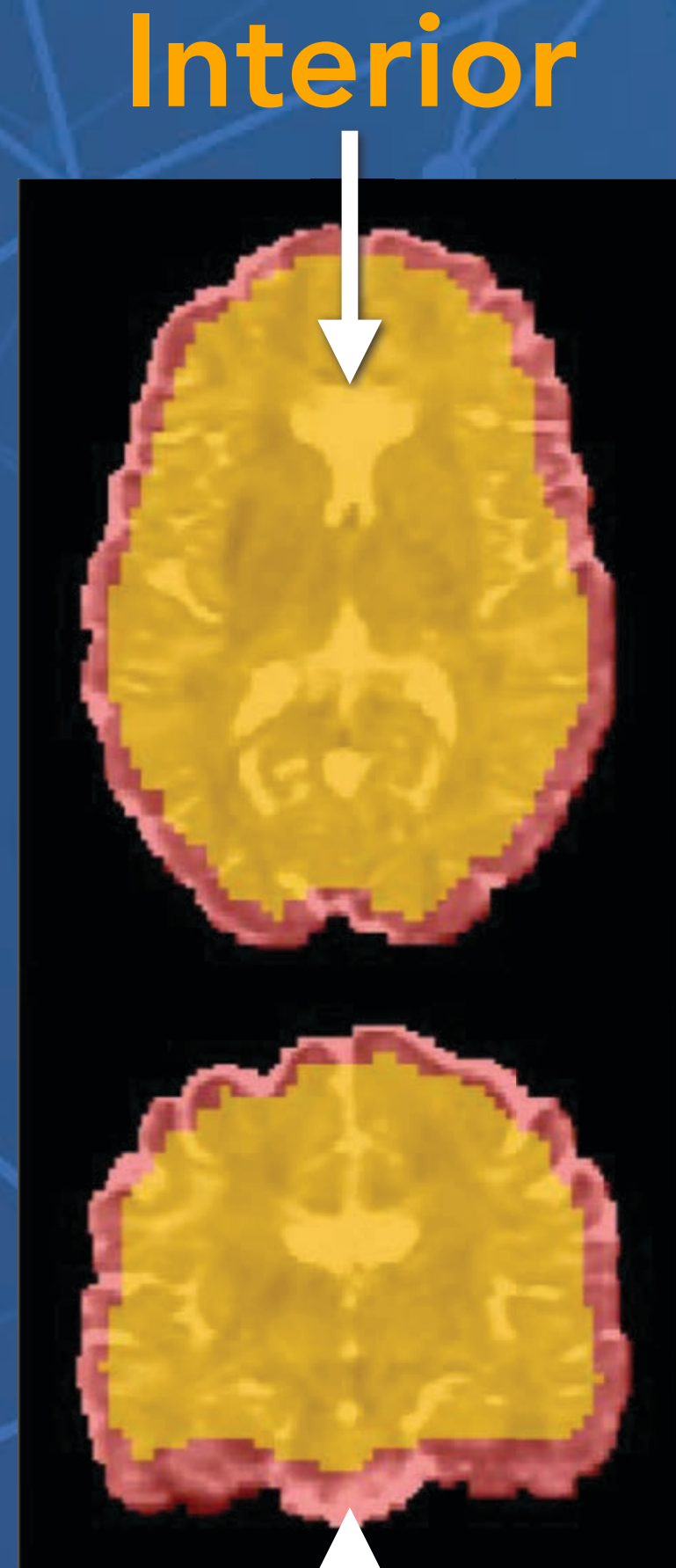
RESULTS

Unseen HCP cohort:
similar

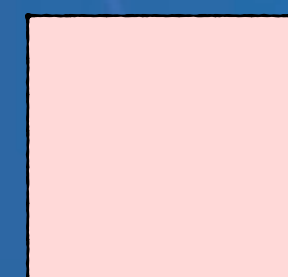
demographics, protocol

Unseen Lifespan cohort:
different

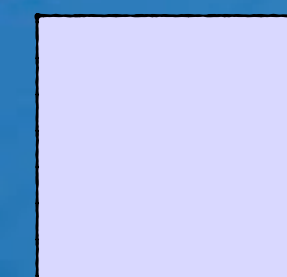
demographics, protocol



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Hetero-CNN	6.294 ± 0.029	15.569 ± 0.273	8.985 ± 0.051	17.716 ± 0.277
Var.(I)-CNN	6.354 ± 0.015	13.824 ± 0.031	8.973 ± 0.024	16.633 ± 0.053
Var.(II)-CNN	6.356 ± 0.008	13.846 ± 0.017	8.982 ± 0.024	16.738 ± 0.073
Hetero+Var.(I)	6.291 ± 0.012	13.906 ± 0.048	8.944 ± 0.044	16.761 ± 0.047
Hetero+Var.(II)	6.287 ± 0.029	13.927 ± 0.093	8.955 ± 0.029	16.844 ± 0.109



Best

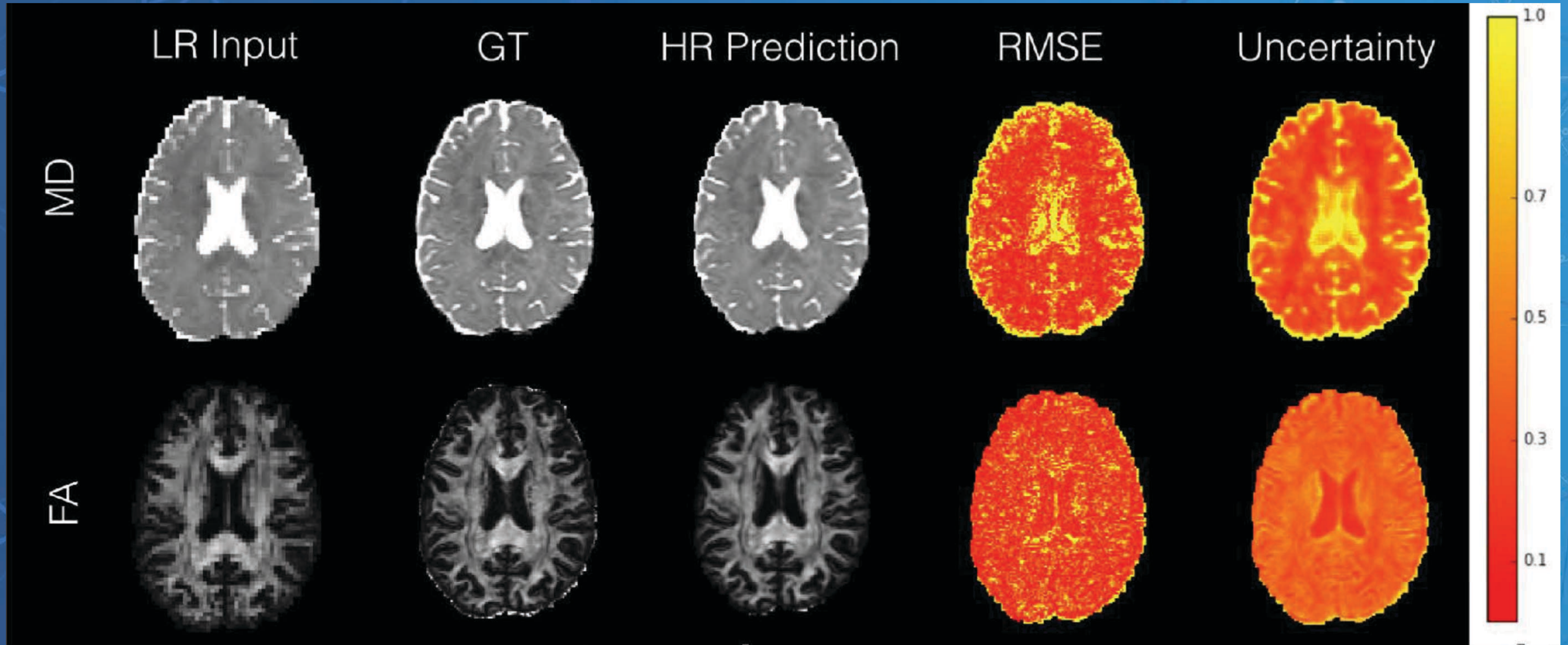


Second

CNN based

Top models quantify uncertainty

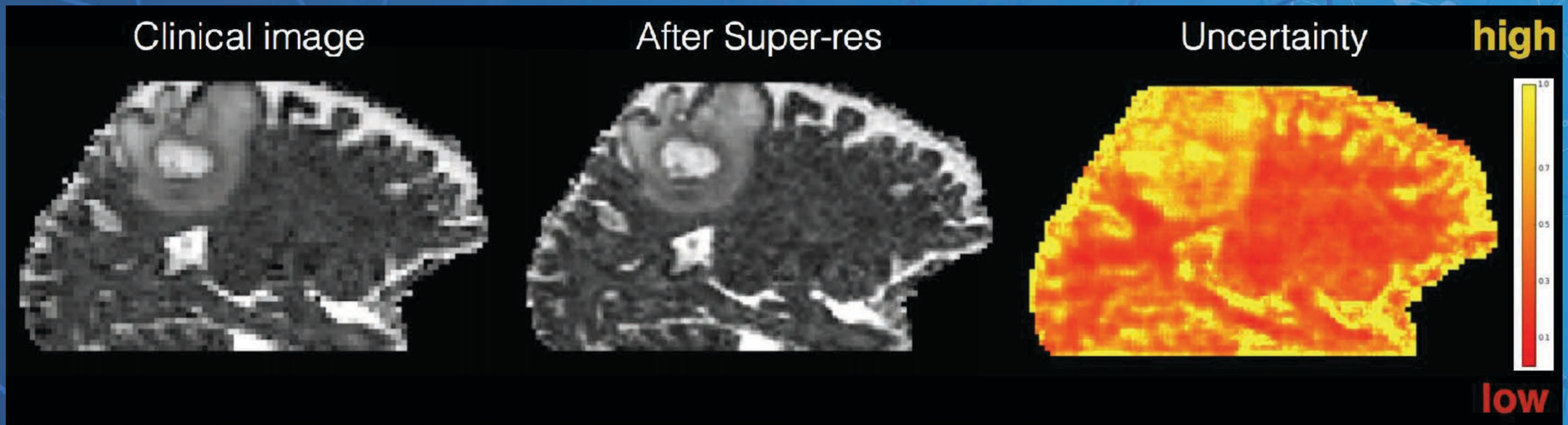
UNCERTAINTY PROPAGATION



Model: Hetero + Var (I)

200 samples of predicted DTI

UNCERTAINTY IN PATHOLOGY



Uncertainty correlates with pathology



CONCLUSION

TAKE AWAYS - 1

TAKE AWAYS - 1

- RF IQT:

TAKE AWAYS - 1

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 - ▶ Patch based regression

TAKE AWAYS - 1

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 - ▶ Can meaningfully segregate brain patches

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 - ▶ Able to successfully super-resolve and is generalisable (*monkey brain results*)

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TAKE AWAYS - 1

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 - ▶ Improves tractography
- Locally Bayesian RF IQT:

TAKE AWAYS - 1

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- Locally Bayesian RF IQT:

- ▶ Better reconstruction accuracy than regular RF IQT

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 - ▶ Uncertainty correlates well with reconstruction error

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- Locally Bayesian RF IQT:

- ▶ Better reconstruction accuracy than regular RF IQT
- ▶ Uncertainty correlates well with reconstruction error
- ▶ Uncertainty flags pathology (MS, tumour) consistently

TAKE AWAYS - 2

TAKE AWAYS - 2

- Deep Learning IQT:

TAKE AWAYS - 2

- Deep Learning IQT:
 - ▶ Generalises 3D ESPCN (computationally efficient SR network)

TAKE AWAYS - 2

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- **Perspectives and Challenges:**
 - ▶ Quantify performance in abnormal tissue (comparison with other methods requires data)

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- **Perspectives and Challenges:**
 - ▶ Quantify performance in abnormal tissue (comparison with other methods requires data)
 - ▶ Explore other problems (parameter mapping, data harmonisation, etc...)

REFERENCES

- **[Alexander 2014]** D. C. Alexander, D Zikic, J Zhang, H Zhang, and A Criminisi, *Image Quality Transfer via Random Forest Regression: Applications in Diffusion MRI* MICCAI 2014, Part III, LNCS 8675, pp. 225–232, 2014
- **[Tanno 2016]** R Tanno, A Ghosh, F Grussu, E Kaden, A Criminisi and D C. Alexander *Bayesian Image Quality Transfer*, MICCAI 2016 pp 265-273, 2016
- **[Alexander 2017]** D C Alexander, D Zikic, A Ghosh, R Tanno, V Wottschel, J Zhang, E Kaden, T B Dyrby, S N Sotiropoulos, H Zhang, A Criminisi, *Image quality transfer and applications in diffusion MRI*, NeuroImage Volume 152, 15 May 2017, Pages 283–298
- **[Tanno 2017]** R Tanno, D. E. Worrall, A Ghosh, E Kaden, S N. Sotiropoulos, A Criminisi, D. C. Alexander. *Bayesian Image Quality Transfer with CNNs: Exploring Uncertainty in dMRI Super-Resolution*, MICCAI 2017

THANK YOU



<https://github.com/ucl-mig/iqt>