

Shape Analysis of Dendritic Spines from the CCDB

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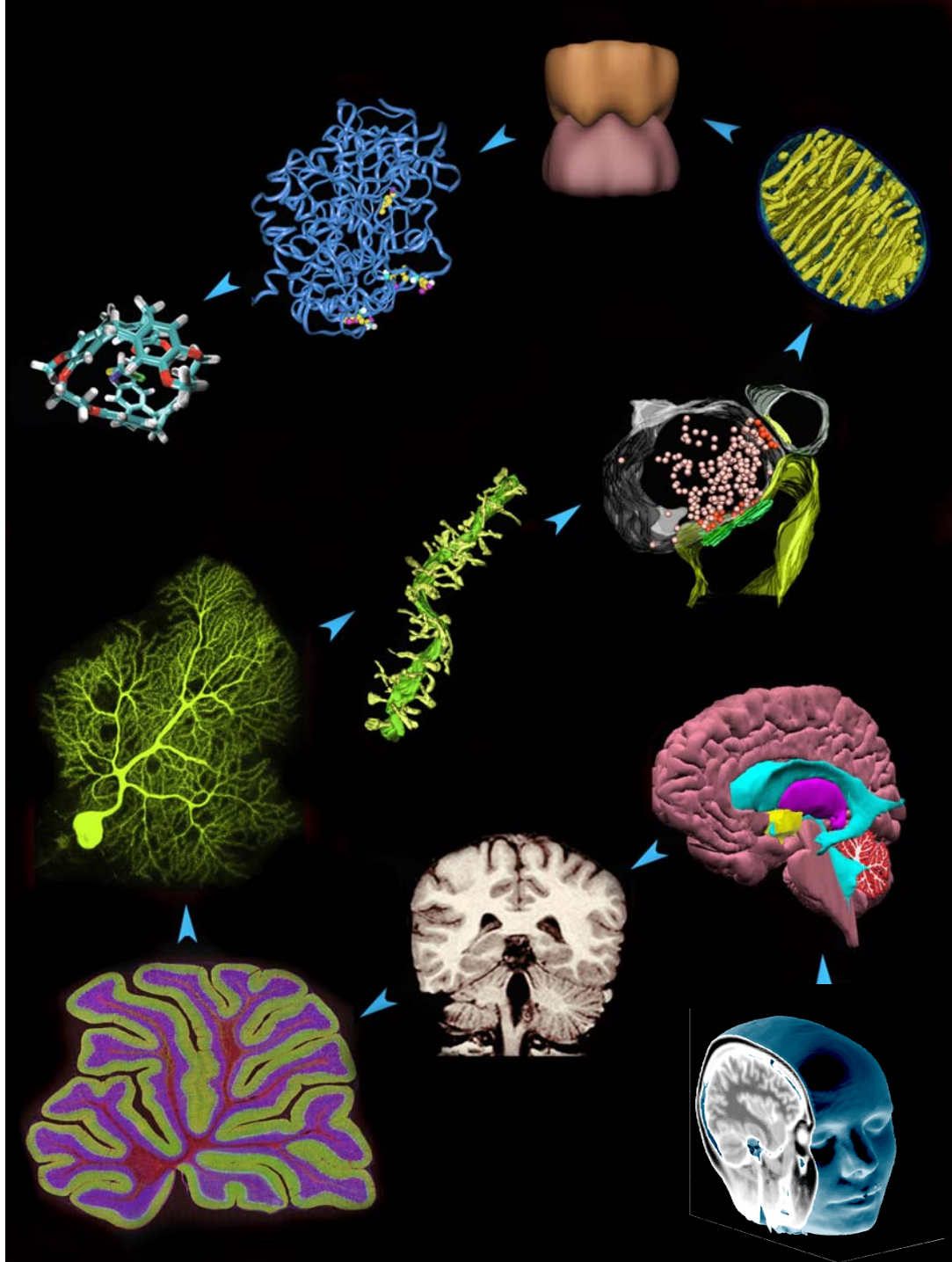
Dominic Pisano

Dr. Tilak Ratnanather

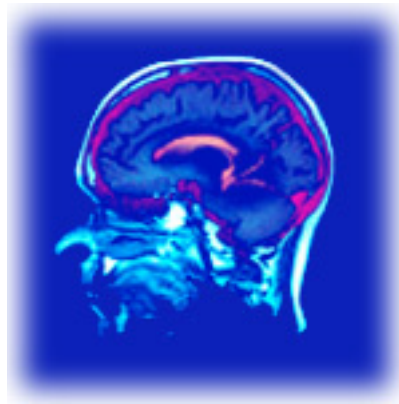


BUILDING THE COMPUTATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE
FOR TOMORROW'S SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERY

**Scales of neuroscience
data from Maryann Martone**

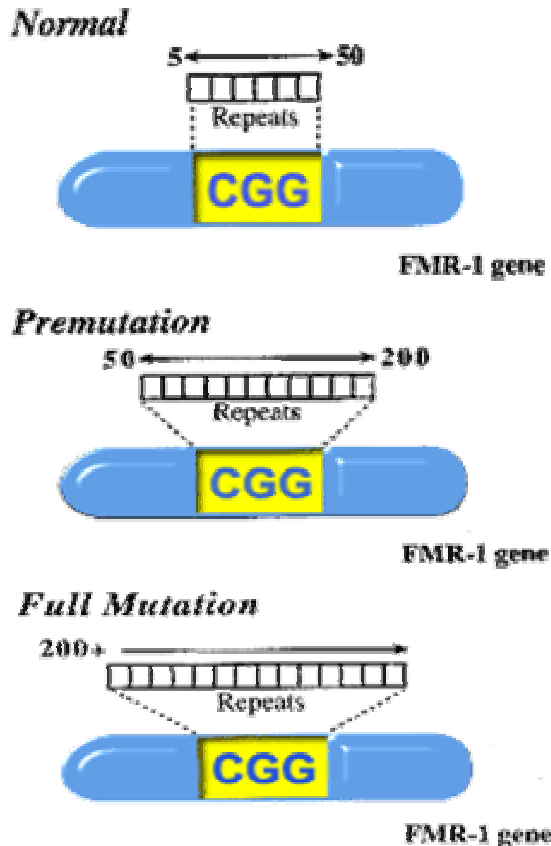


Neuron and Spine Biology of Fragile X Syndrome



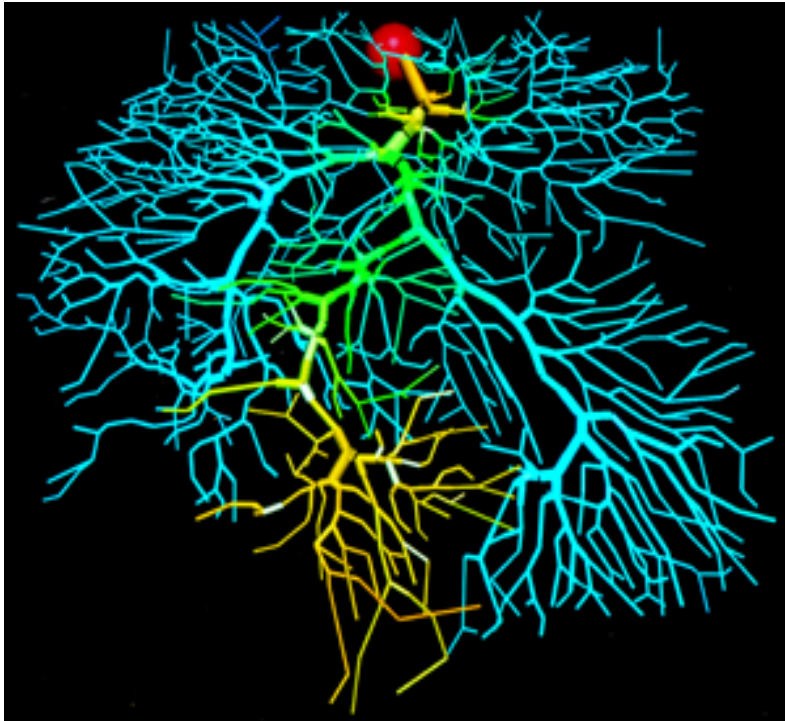
Oxford University Press 2004
<http://www3.oup.co.uk/jnls/fields/neuroscience/default.html>

Fragile X Syndrome



Fragile X syndrome, the most common form of mental retardation, is caused by the duplication of the CGG sequence on the FMR-1 gene. This lengthened region is susceptible to DNA methylation. Severity of symptoms varies with the number of repeats of this sequence, and can range from mild learning disability to severe mental retardation. Though it is X-linked, the pattern of inheritance is not fully understood and does not follow the order of Mendelian genetics. For example, one-fifth of males with the mutated form of the FMR-1 gene are unaffected.

Dendrite Structure



Dendrite Arbor – the treelike area of the neuron, there are many different arborization patterns.

Dendritic Shaft – the “branches” of the dendritic arbor on which there are dendritic spines.

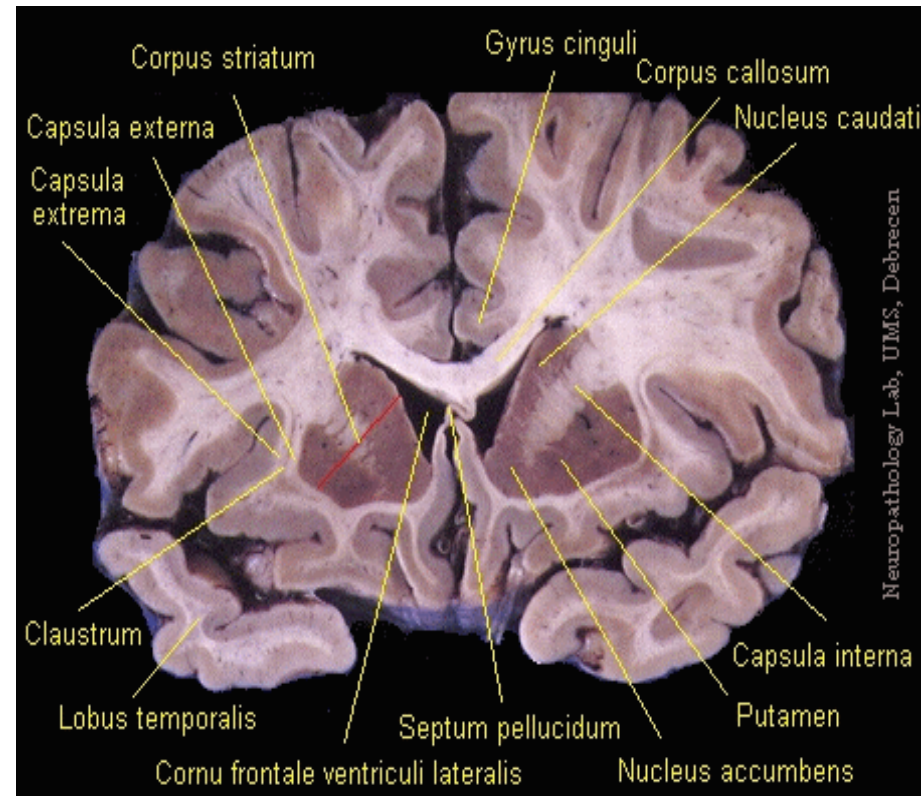
Dendritic Spines – extensions from the dendritic shaft that have been known to change shape.

Spine Composition

Spines have actin-based cytoskeletons that allow for rapid changes in spine structure. They are composed of cytoplasm and contain SER. Larger spines, often mushroom spines, also contain microtubules and in rare cases mitochondria. Calcium is used to send neurotransmitters across the synaptic cleft and on dendrites calcium functions to induce changes in dendritic spine shape.

Neostriatum

The spines we are using for our project came from the dorsal part of the neostriatum which is composed of the caudate nucleus and the putamen. The common arborization pattern in this part of the brain is the spherical radiation pattern in which dendrites radiate in all directions from the soma. Approximately 8 percent of the spines in the striatum have second synapses on their necks.



Katalin Hegedus, Scilinks
<http://www.neuropat.dote.hu/brain.htm>

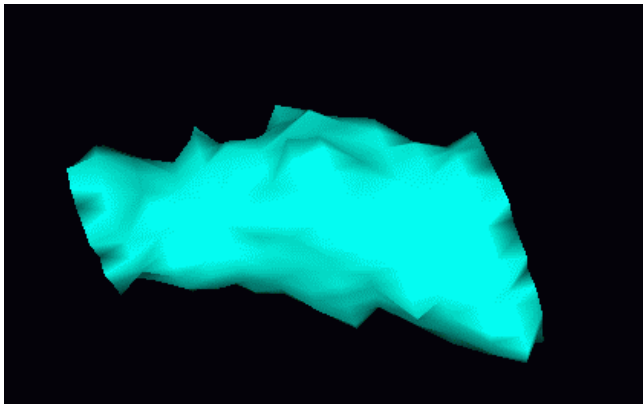
Spine Shapes

Sessile Spines

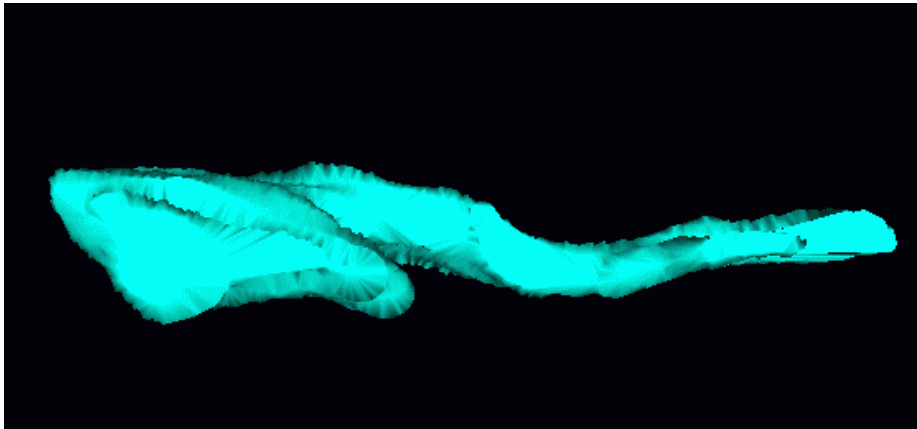
Also called stubby spines, sessile spines do not have significant neck constriction. The length of the spine may be less than or equal to the width.

Pedunculated Spines

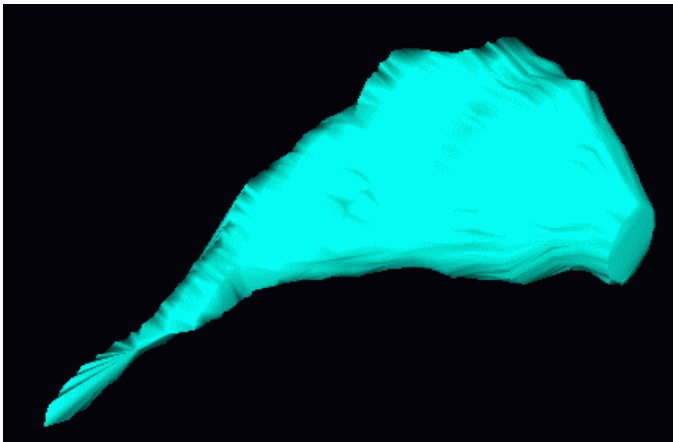
These spines attach to dendrites through thin necks. There are two types: thin spines and mushroom spines. Thin spines are those with small heads. Mushroom spines are those with spine head diameter greater than 0.6 micrometers.



Sessile Spine



Thin Spine



Mushroom Spine

Synaptogenesis

Spine development is activity-dependant. As a dendrite receives inputs, the shapes and lengths of its spines can change and dendrites can form new synapses. This is an example of neuroplasticity. Dendrites that receive more excitatory inputs have greater spine densities along their dendrite shafts.

Also, dendrite shafts can increase in length and in number as a result of synaptic activity.



Kristen Harris, Medical College of Georgia
<http://synapses.mcg.edu/lab/harris/kristen.htm>

Spine Maturity

There is a greater number of long, thin spines on fragile X brain tissue than on normal tissue and a greater number of mushroom and sessile spines on normal brain tissue than on fragile X brain tissue. This reduces the area of synaptic contact on fragile X dendrites. The long, thin shape is characteristic of less developed tissue (Horner, 1993).

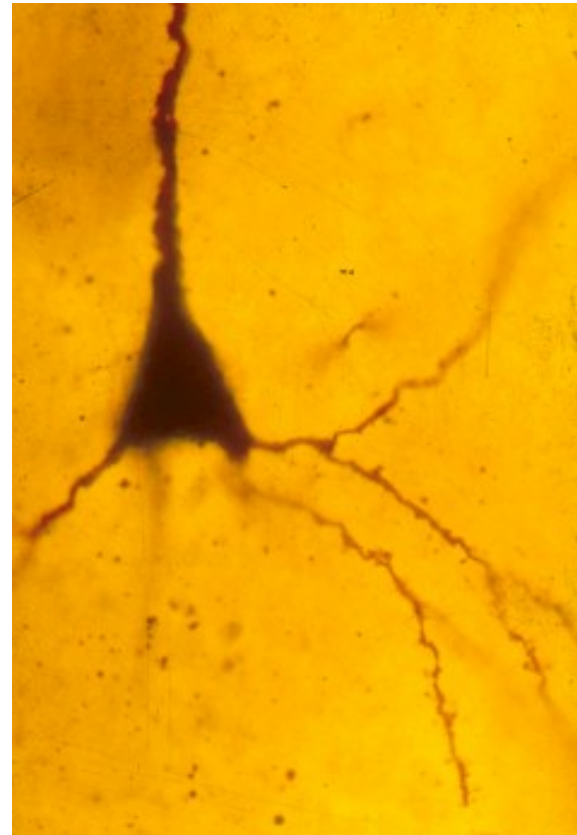


Synapse Web

http://synapses.mcg.edu/anatomy/Ca1pyrmd/radiatum/k18/spines/sp6_3D.stm

Related Studies

- Many studies over the past half decade have been performed on Fragile-X subjects
- More specifically, the studies have looked specifically at the effect of Fragile-X on the neurological development in patients
- Observations have been made on the length, shape/morphology and density of dendritic spines.



Courtesy of NeuroStructural Laboratories, Tampa FL

Spine Length

- Many studies over the past four years have made similar observations on the length of dendritic spines of human and mice subjects.
- In general, the length of dendritic spines in Fragile-X subjects were found to be **longer** than that of the control subjects. More specifically, a greater number of abnormally long spines were found on the dendrites of Fragile-X subjects.

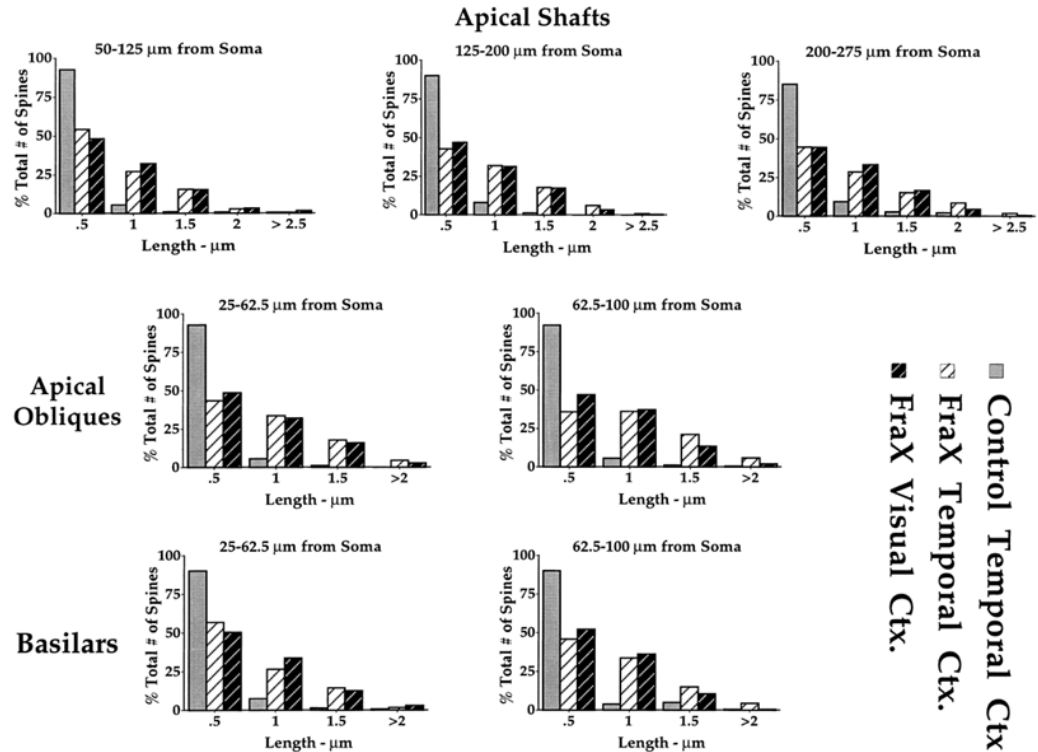
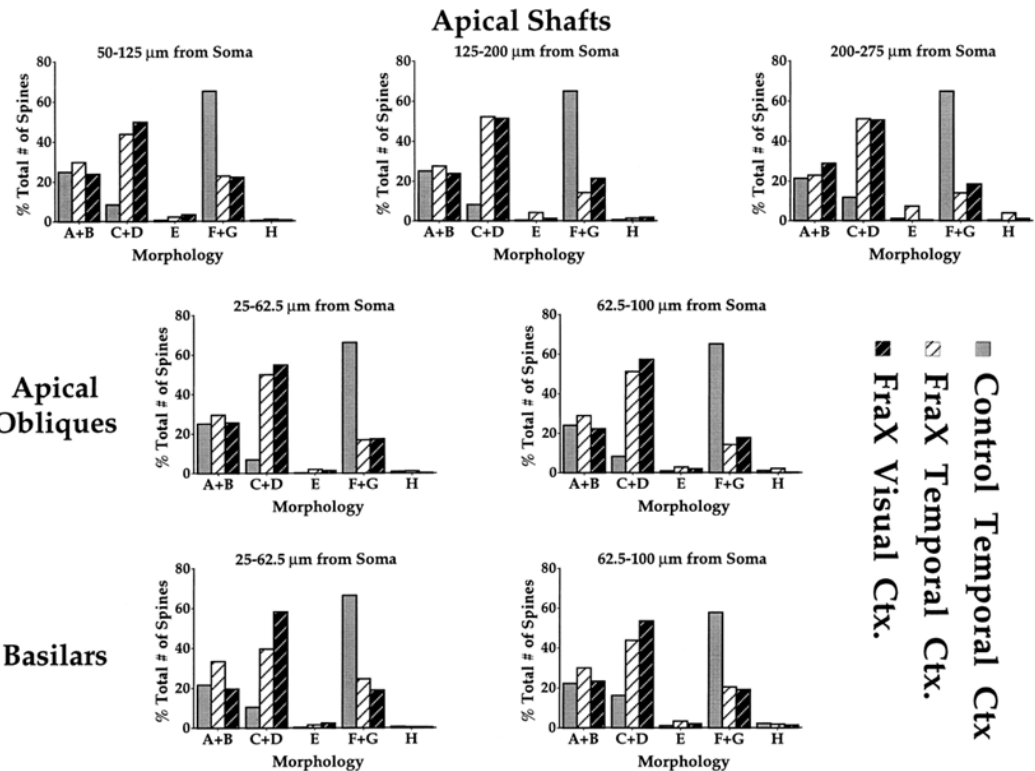


Figure 4. “Abnormal Dendritic Spine Characteristics in the Temporal and Visual Cortices of Patients with Fragile-X Syndrome: A Quantitative Examination” by Scott Irwin et. Al. 2001

Spine shape and morphology

- Many of these same studies have also made similar observations on the shape and morphology of these dendritic spines found in human and mouse subjects.
- Spine morphologies were determined using arbitrary shape categorization schemes. In general, the longer and thinner the spines were, the less mature they were.
- All studies noted that **more immature** spine shapes and **fewer mature** shapes were observed in the cortices of Fragile-X Basilar patients, both human and mouse.



Immature

Mature

Figure 4A, “Synaptic regulation of protein synthesis and the Fragile-X protein” by Greenough, et. Al. 2001

Figure 5. “Abnormal Dendritic Spine Characteristics in the Temporal and Visual Cortices of Patients with Fragile-X Syndrome: A Quantitative Examination” by Scott Irwin et. Al. 2001

Distribution of Spines

- Distribution of the spines is another important characteristic of the Fragile-X dendrite, for reasons pertaining to neurological development, more specifically the synaptic maturation process.
- It was suggested that Fragile-X may affect the process that eliminates lesser-used dendritic spines, basically causing a failure of the “weeding out” process.
- In general, the dendritic shafts of Fragile-X human patients have been shown to contain remarkably **higher densities** of dendritic spines, especially the less immature types characterized by its length.

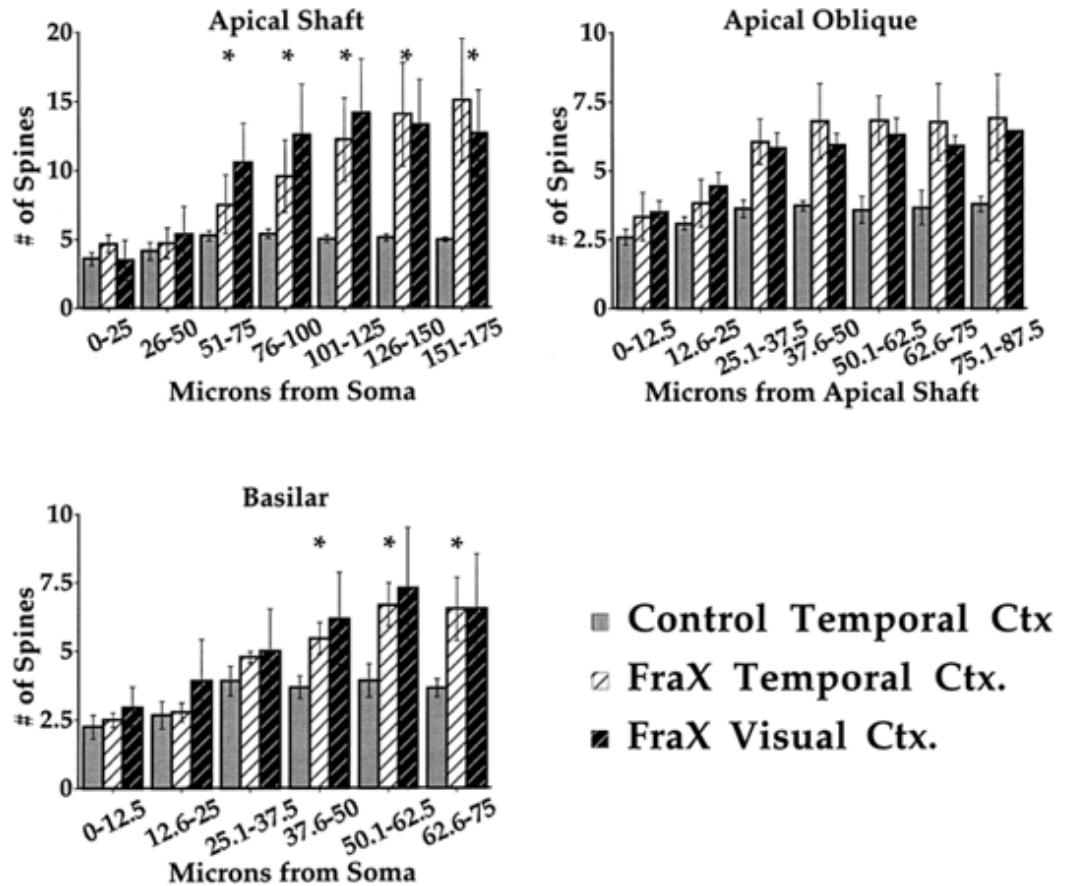
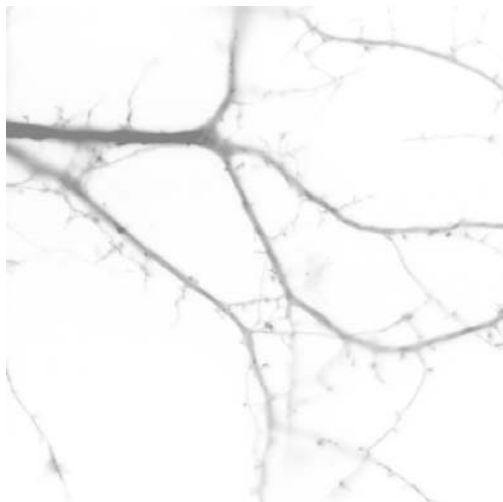


Figure 6. “Abnormal Dendritic Spine Characteristics in the Temporal and Visual Cortices of Patients with Fragile-X Syndrome: A Quantitative Examination” by Scott Irwin et. Al. 2001

Conclusions

- The results and observations of these recent studies set a basis for the current project which will analyze the shapes of dendritic spines, specifically in Fragile-X subjects, using computer-based methods.
- All of the results suggest that Fragile-X affects the neurological development in the dendrites of affected subjects, which results in a higher density of immature spines, which might play a role in some of the symptoms involved in Fragile-X.
- To be more specific, as a subject matures, he/she/it will create new neural pathways involving the synapses, which in turn involve the dendritic spines in the subject's neurons. As new neural pathways are created, the pathways not being used are “pruned” off and eliminated. This is neuroplasticity at work.
- The fact that there are higher densities of said immature spines suggests a failure of normal spine development. In any case, the project involves analysis of the shapes and lengths of dendrite spines, which should assist in future study of the syndrome as well as in many different applications.

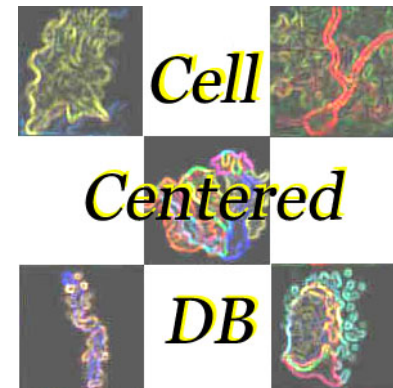


Objectives

- Main Purpose: to compare spine morphologies between two populations:
 - FragileX (Knock Out) mice
 - Control (Wild Type) mice
1. Acquire the data via the SRB
 2. Convert the raw data into readable formats
 3. Ensure correct topology of the spines
 4. Landmark the spines
 5. Register the spines into a standard coordinate system
 6. Create binary images
 7. Apply the LDDMM (Large Deformation Diffeomorphic Metric Mapping)
 8. Perform a statistical analysis of the spines – analyze intrapoint distances and vector fields

The Data

- Data received from the Cell Centered Database (CCDB) at the National Partnership for Advanced Computational Infrastructure (NPACI) at UCSD
 - A database that contains structural and protein distribution information from confocal, multiphoton, and electron microscopy.
 - Segmentation done at UCSD by Masako Terada
 - Dendrites from medium spiny neurons of the dorsal region of the neostriatum area of the brain
- Subjects: *Mus musculus* (3) – Adult males
 - 2 from Knock Out (2 cells)
 - Cell 1: 5 dendrites – 244 spines
 - Cell 2: 6 dendrites – 198 spines
 - 1 from Wild Type (2 cells)
 - Cell 1: 3 dendrites – 47 spines
 - Cell 2: 3 dendrites – 53 spines
 - Original Spine Total: 542 spines
- Format:
 - 3D Volume Analyze images of whole spines
 - Triangulated graphs of the spines
 - Constructed by Steve Lamont at UCSD
 - Received in *.synu format, converted to *.byu format readable in BrainWorks



3D Volume Images

(axial views)



4M5C2T2



5M5C2T3

Image Maps

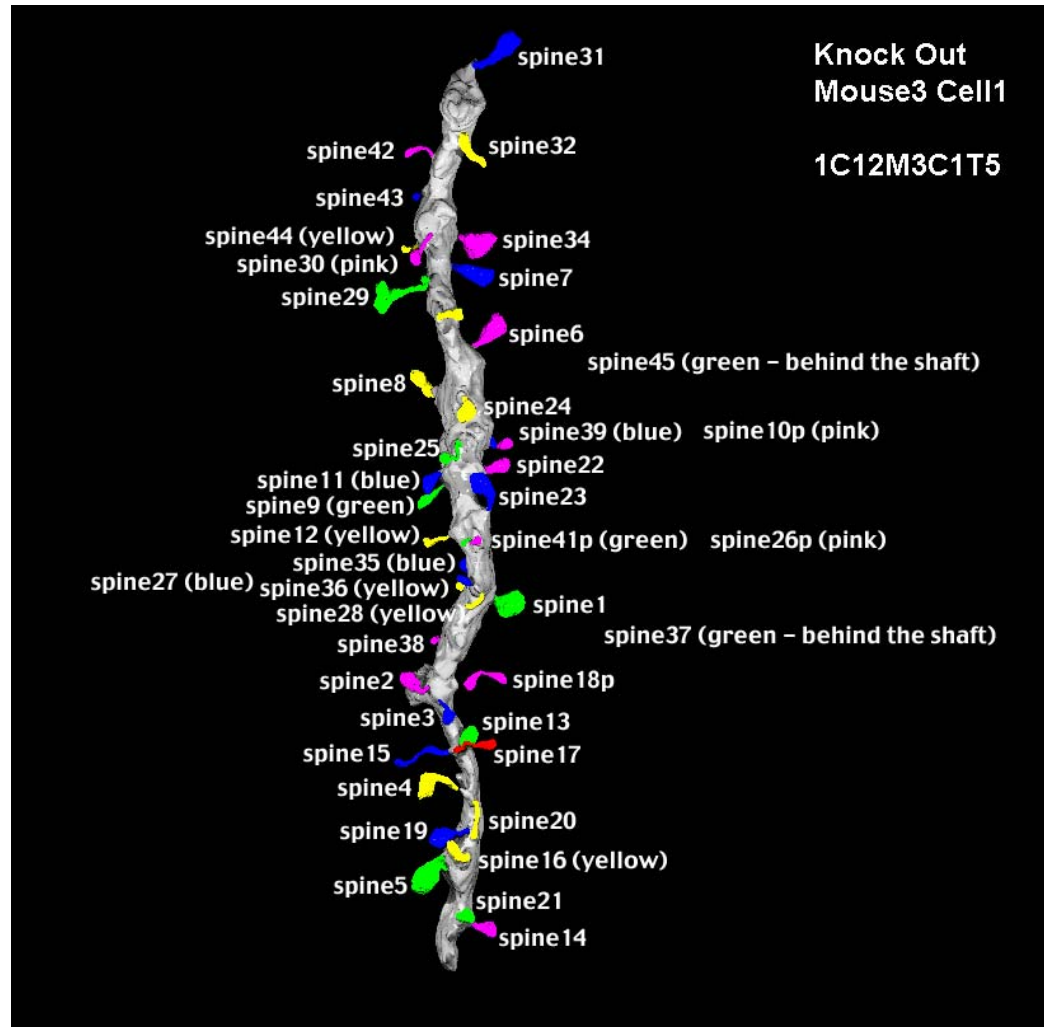
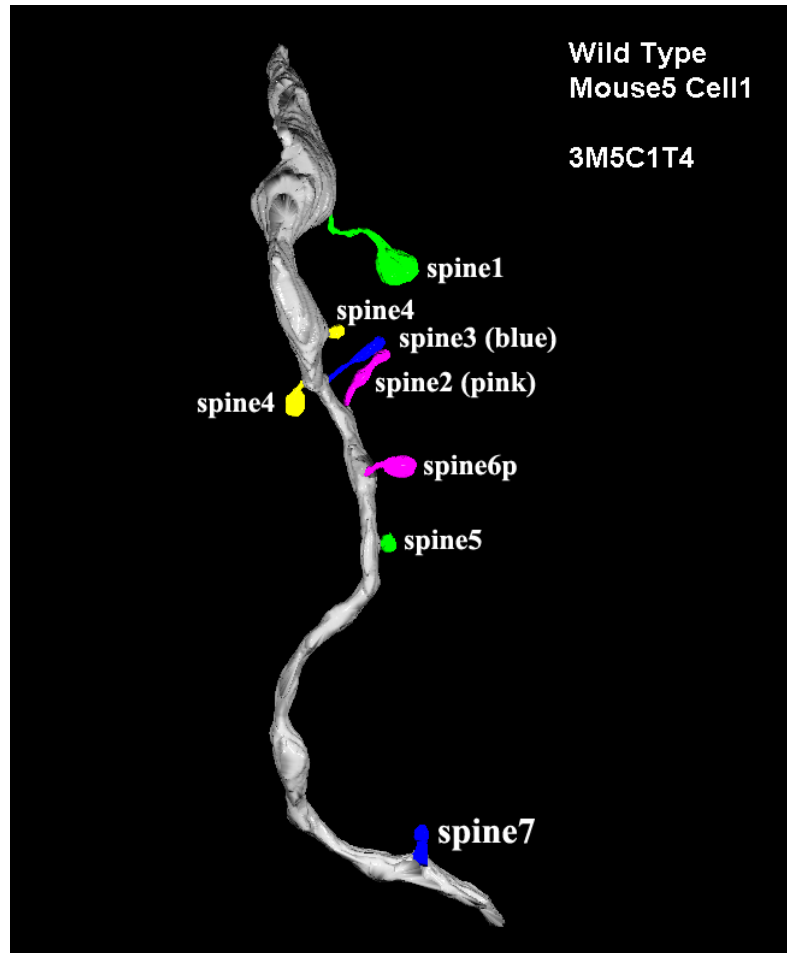


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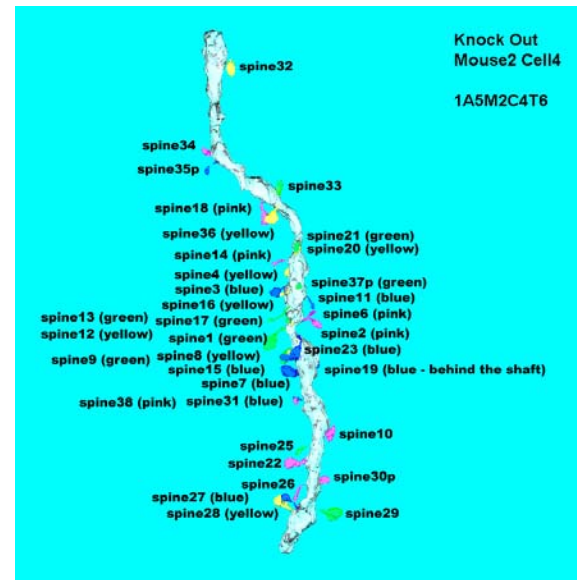
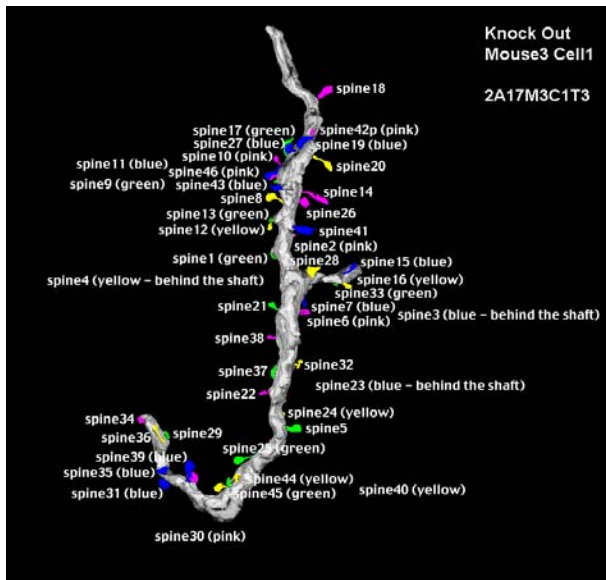
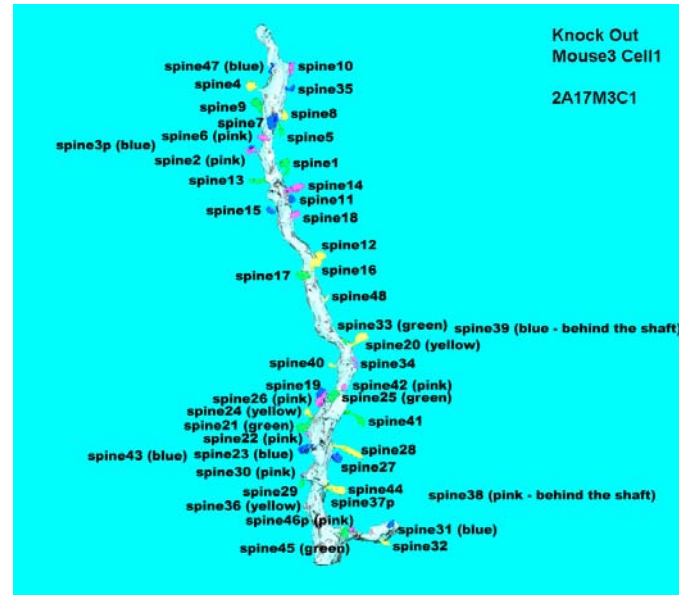
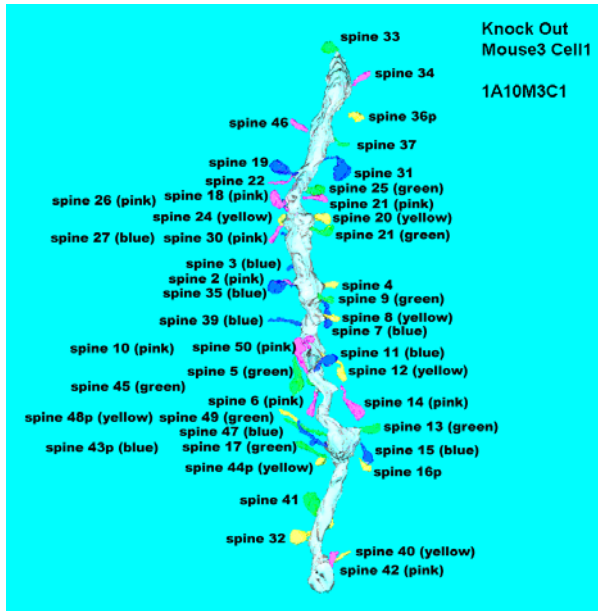


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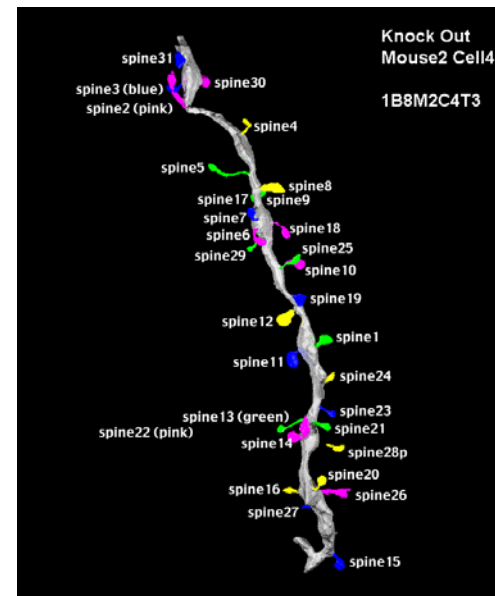
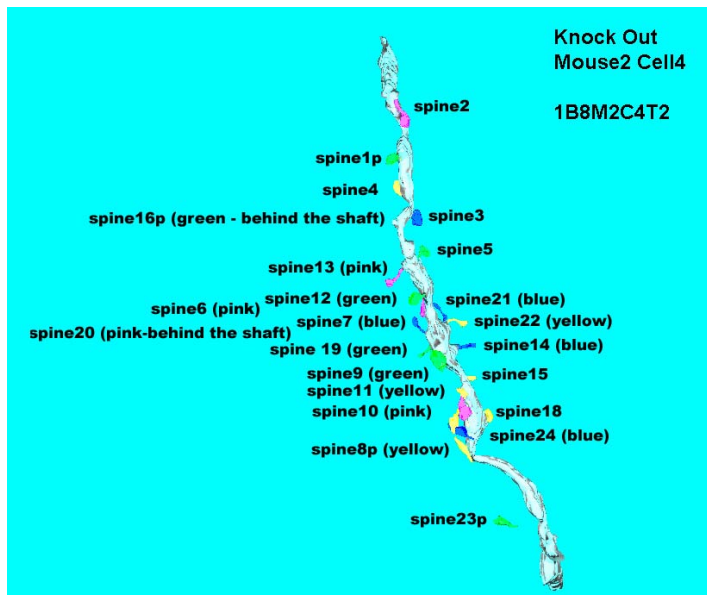
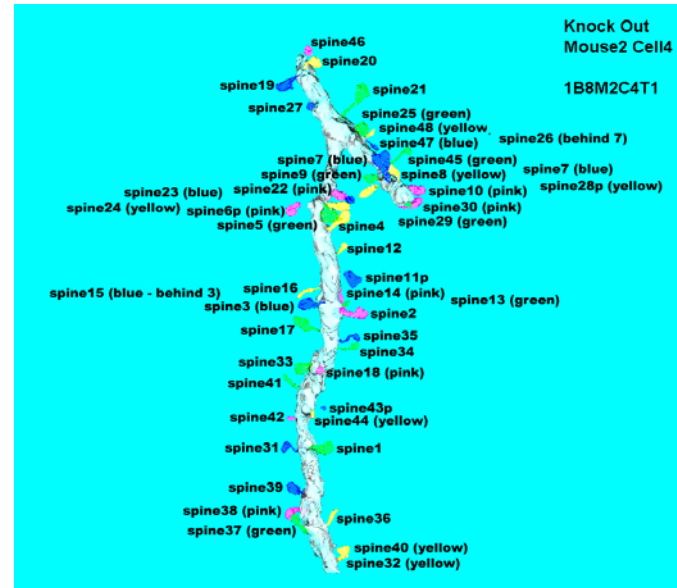
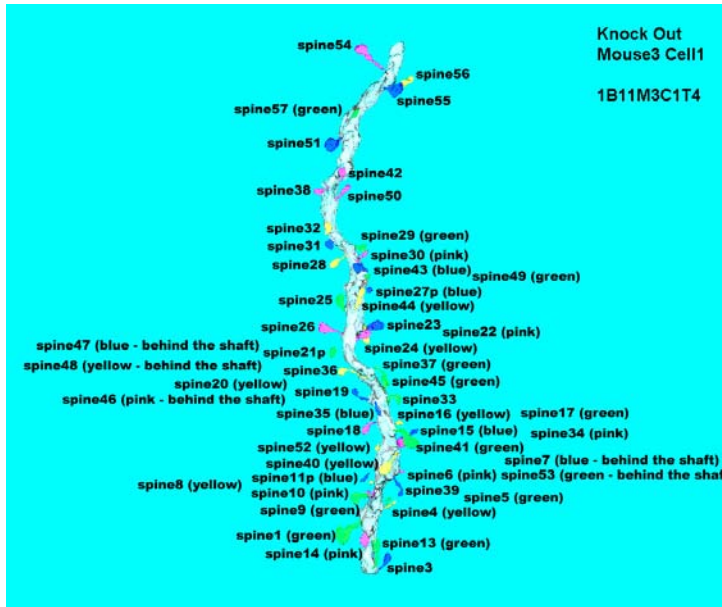


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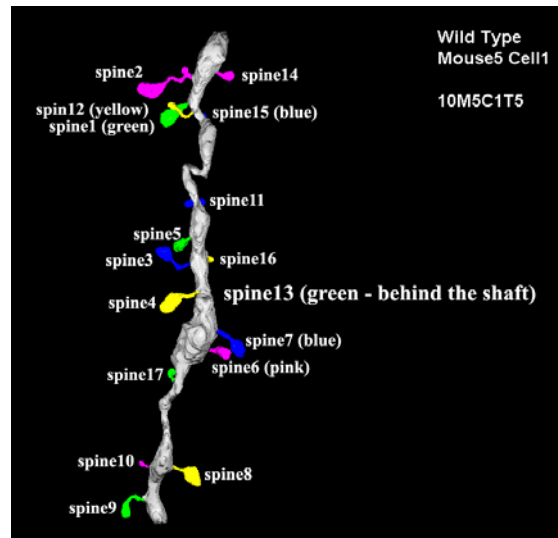
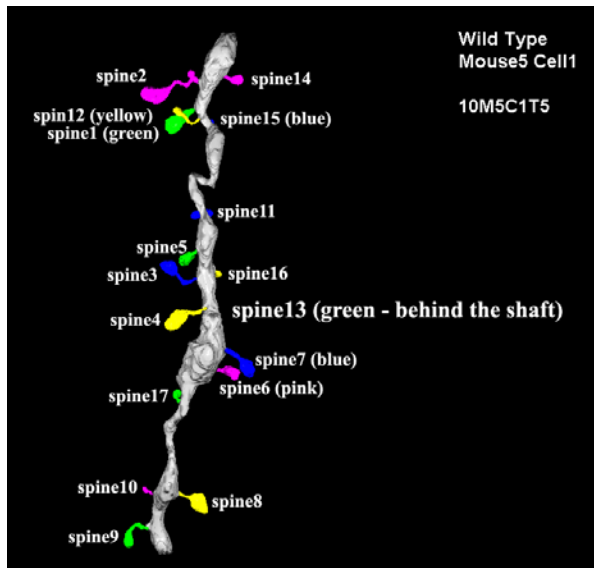
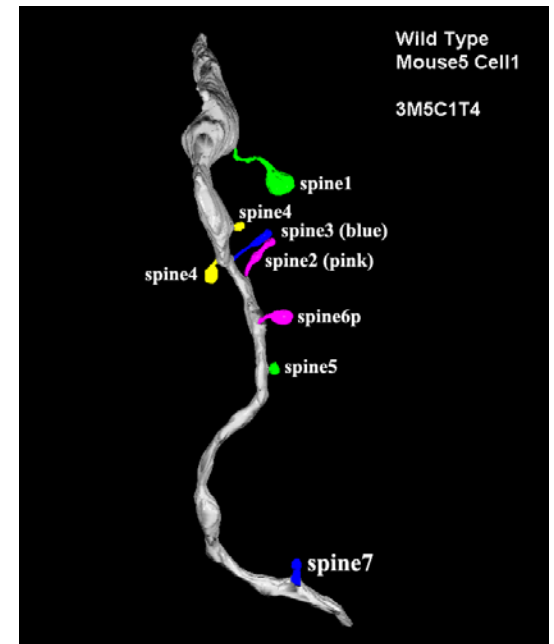
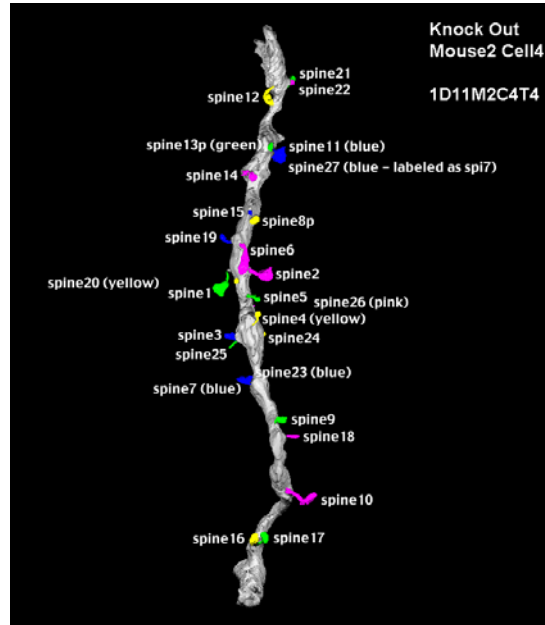
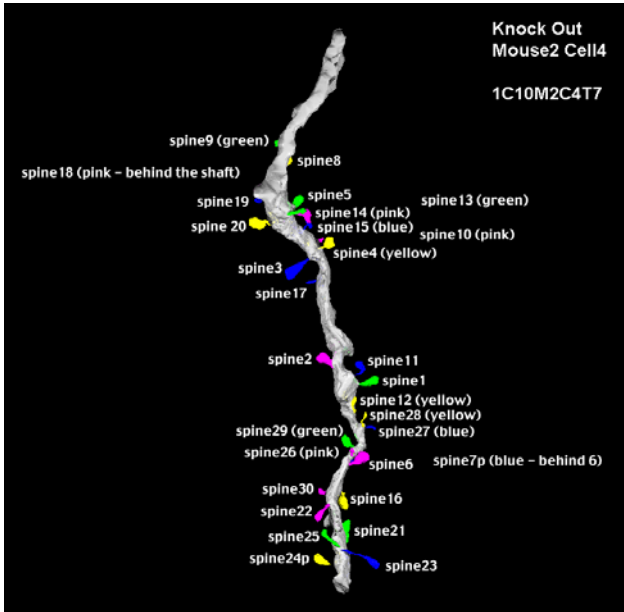
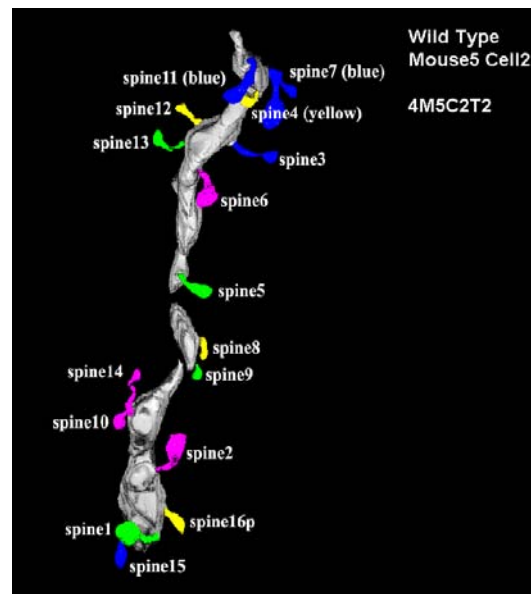
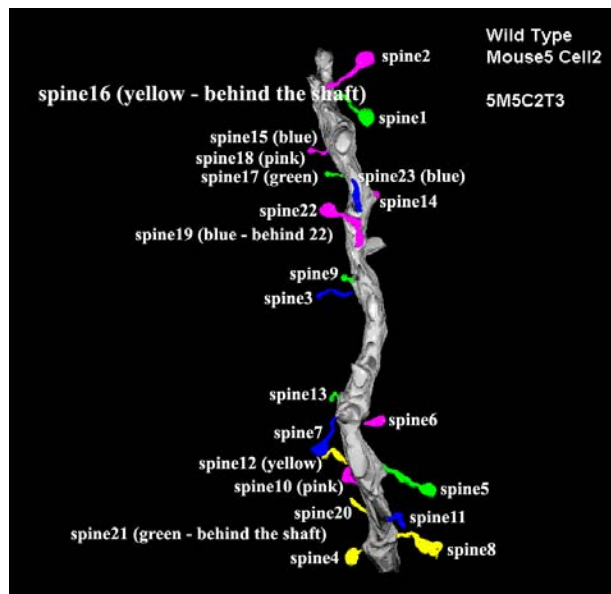
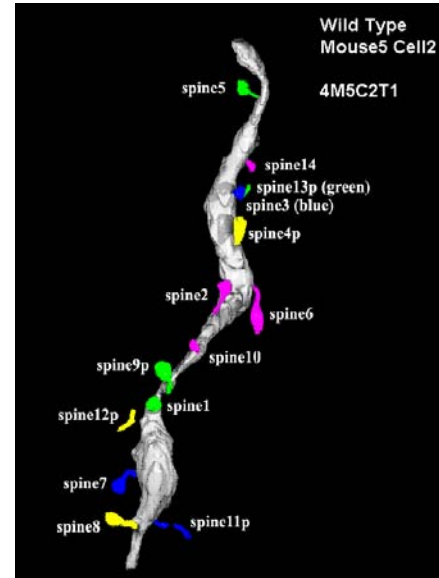
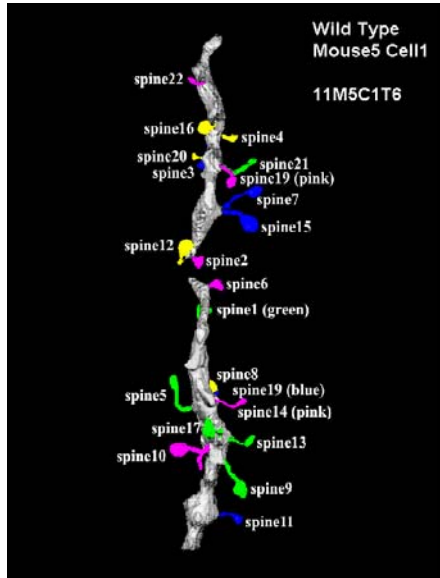
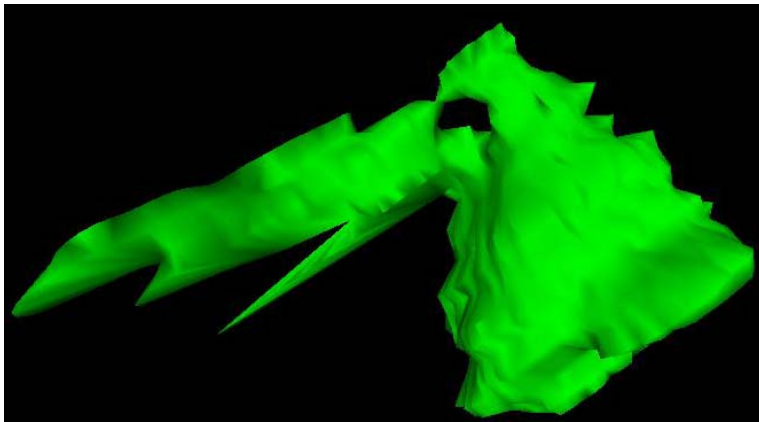


Image Maps



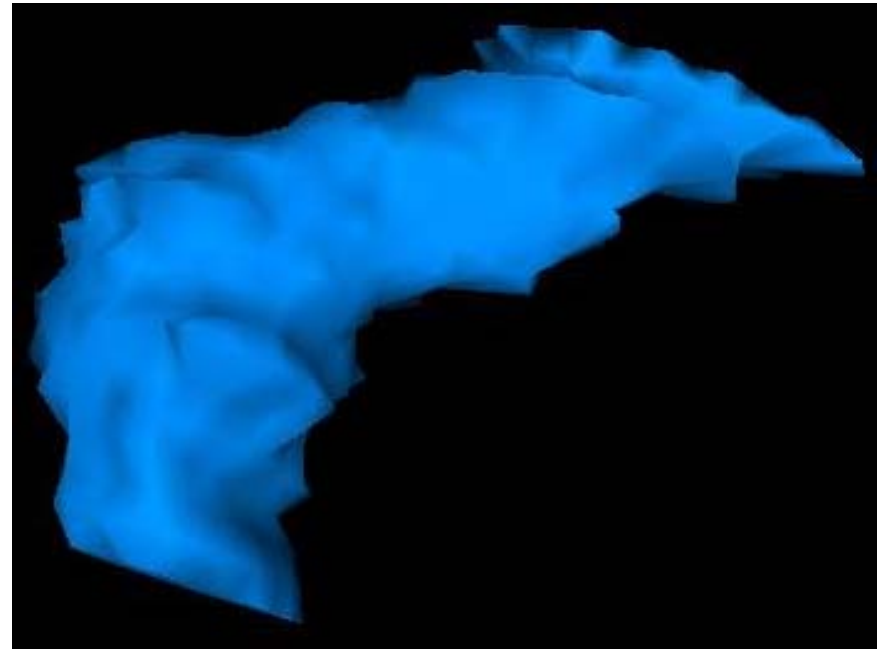
Topologically Correct

- Only spines with correct topology used
 - Euler number = 2
 - Euler number = $V - E + F$
 - V = number of vertices
 - E = number of edges
 - F = number of triangular faces
 - Closed volumes



Topologically Incorrect

- Euler number: 1
- Volume: not closed

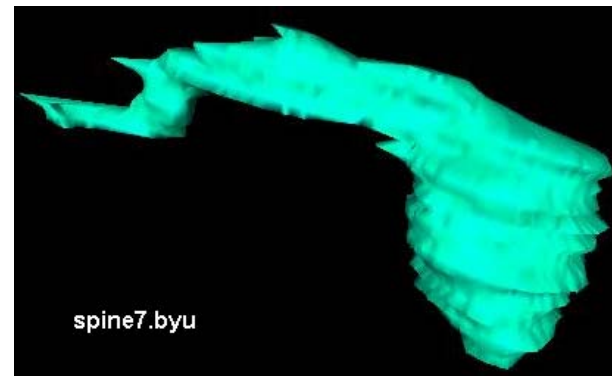
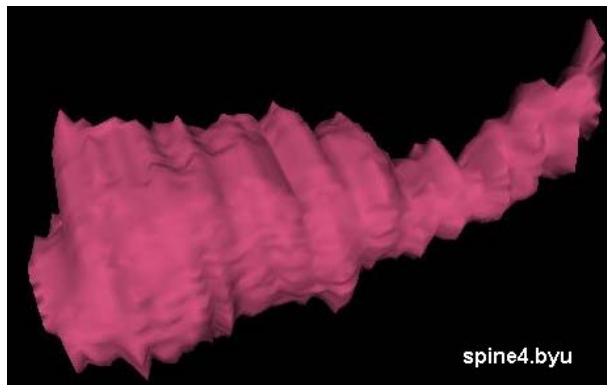
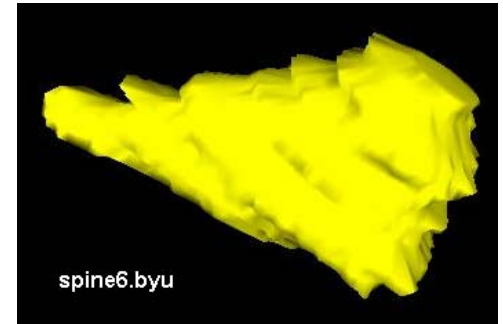


Topologically Correct

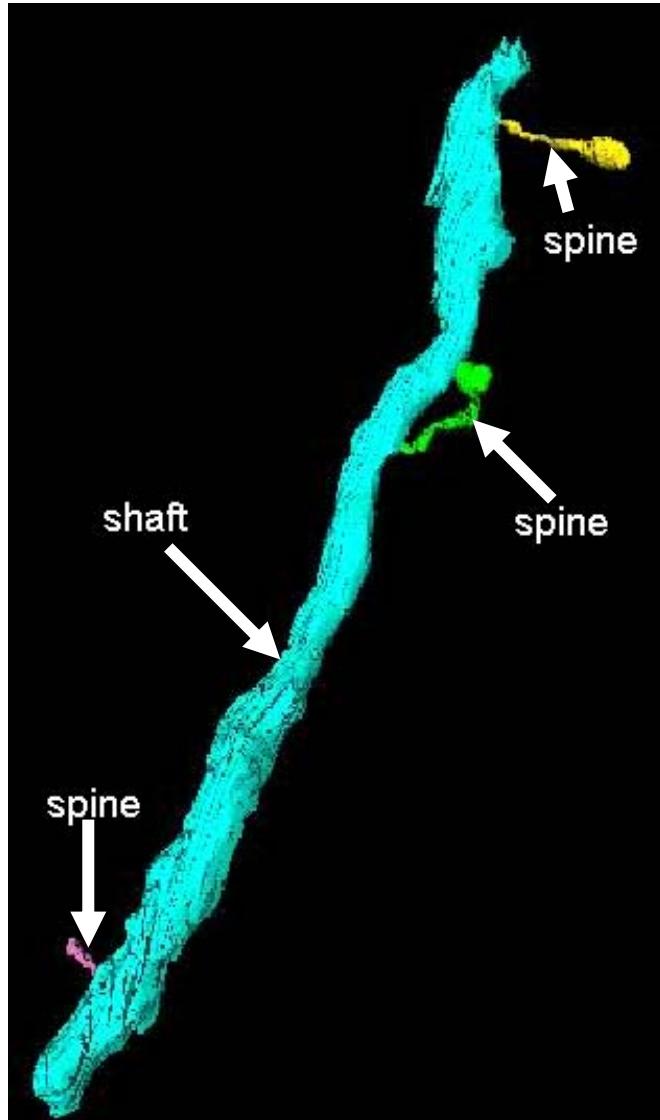
- Euler number: 2
- Volume: closed

Revised Dataset

- Knock Out (2 cells)
 - Cell 1: 5 dendrites – 140 spines
 - Cell 2: 6 dendrites – 118 spines
- Wild Type (2 cells)
 - Cell 1: 3 dendrites – 33 spines
 - Cell 2: 3 dendrites – 37 spines
- New spine total after checking topology: 328 spines
- Resolution: 1.0 X 1.0 X 1.0 mm/voxel
- Spine shapes vary



Spine Anatomy: Neck and Head



Neck: point closest to dendrite shaft

Head: point furthest from dendrite shaft

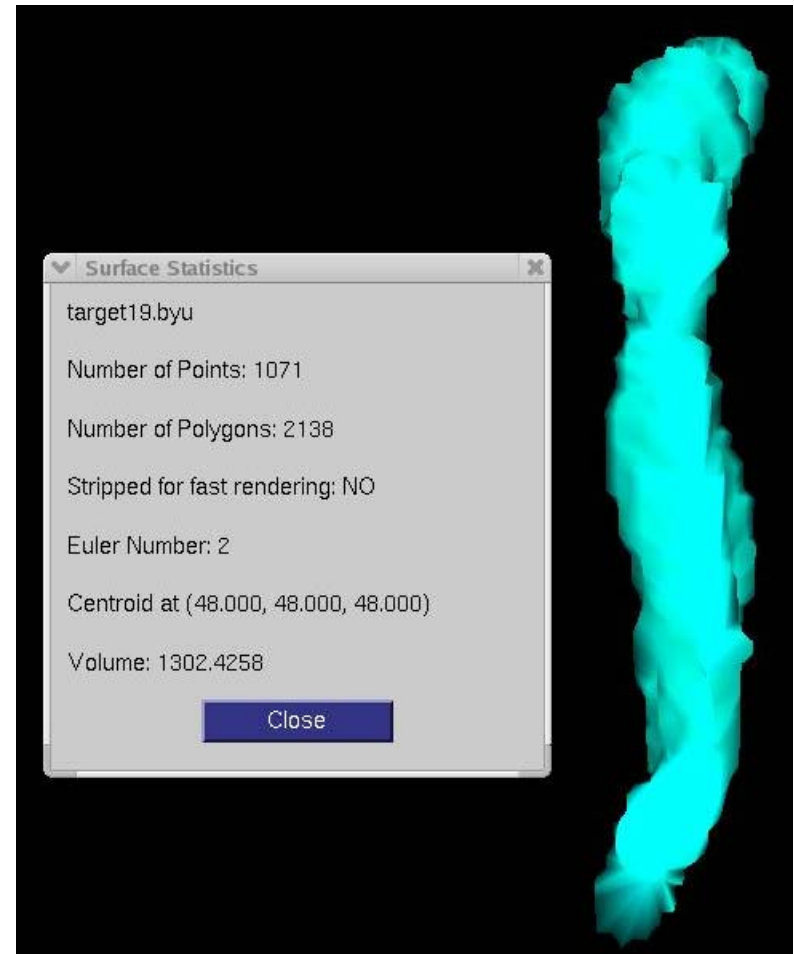
Superimposed each spine on the shaft

- ones that did not touch shaft were discarded – segmentation errors?

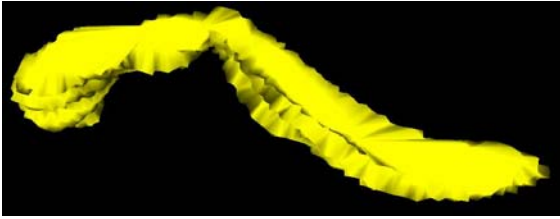
- New spine total: 287 spines

Registration of the Spines

- register 286 spines to a chosen target spine surface, which is placed in a standard 96.0 X 96.0 X 96.0 coordinate system
 - Target spine: intermediate in length
 - Target spine translated by changing the centroid to (48.0, 48.0, 48.0)

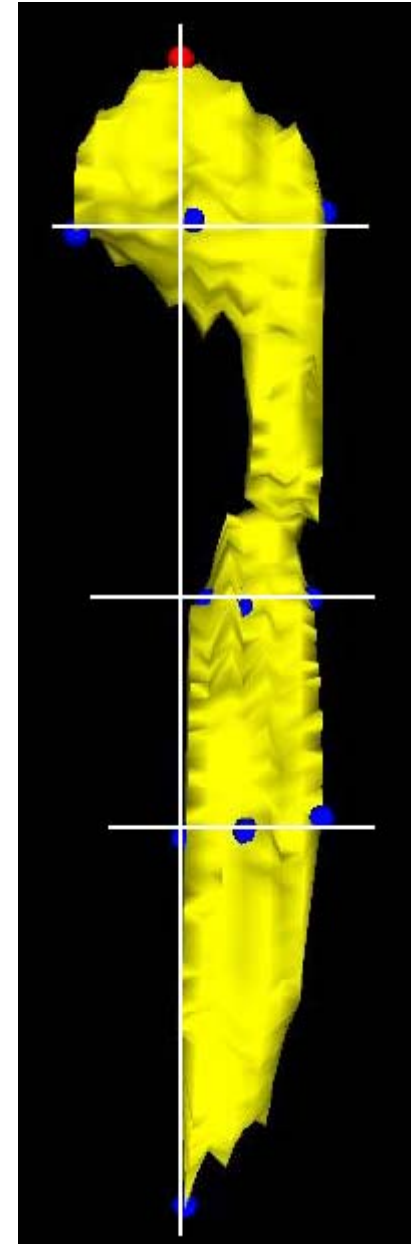


Landmarking



Landmark Number	Description
1	Neck
2	Head
3 - 6	Upper section
7 - 10	Medial section
11 - 14	Lower section

- 14 landmarks placed on each surface
- Neck and head used as main reference points – aligned vertically
- 3 imaginary lines drawn to separate spine into 4 sections
- Landmarks evenly distributed



runSim and applySimByu

- 2 versions of runSim were used, thus providing us with 2 datasets
 1. Scaling
 2. No scaling
- runSim computes the rotation, translation, and scale (optional) needed to transform a set of template landmarks into a target set of landmarks
 - This is saved as an Rts file
- runSim gives a transformed set of landmarks that register with the target set of landmarks
- applySimByu then applies the Rts file to the template *.byu surface to generate a new *.byu surface, which is correctly registered with the target surface

Registering Spines

- 2 sets of points x_i and y_i are given in a 3-dimensional space
- The lowest value of the mean squared error is calculated using the transformation parameters (rotation, translation, and scaling)

$$\min_{R,t,s} \sum_{i=1}^n \| sR(x_i) + t - y_i \|^2$$

R = rotation matrix

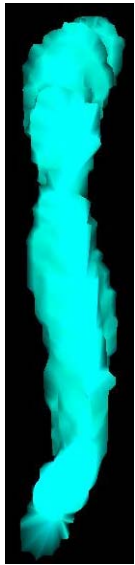
t = translation vector

s = scale factor

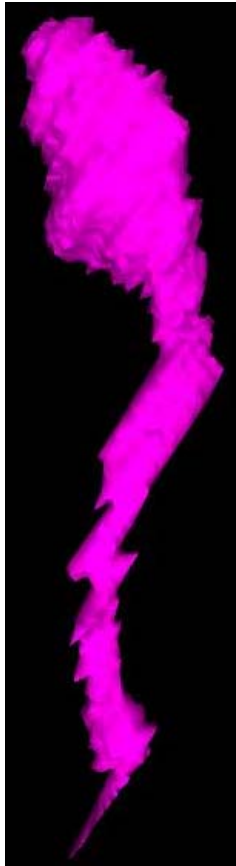
where $\|x\| = \sqrt{x_1^2 + \dots + x_n^2}$

Umeyama, Shinji. “Least-Square Estimation of Transformation Parameters Between Two Point Patterns” (1991)

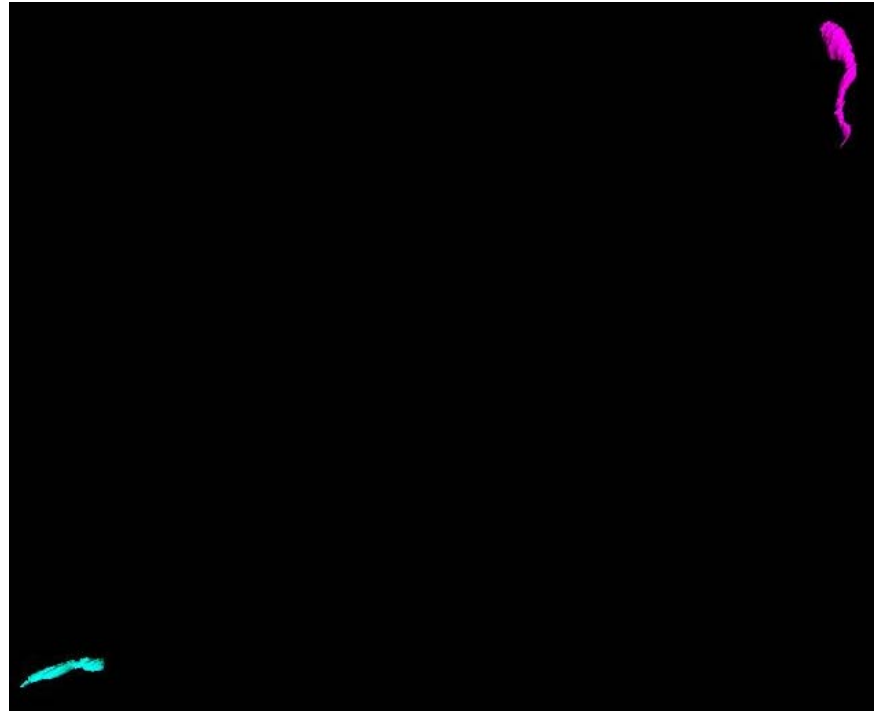
Example – Before Registration



target



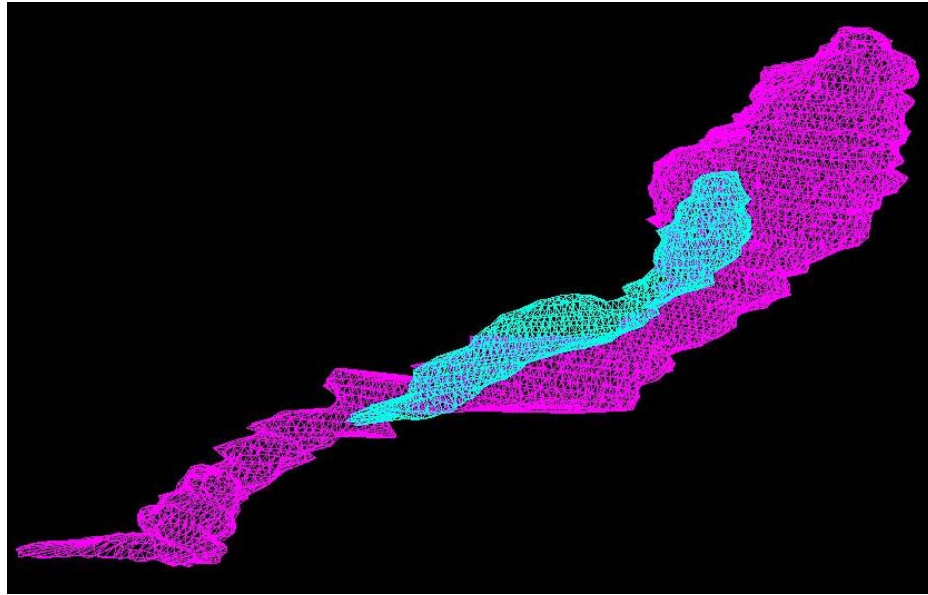
template



spines don't superimpose

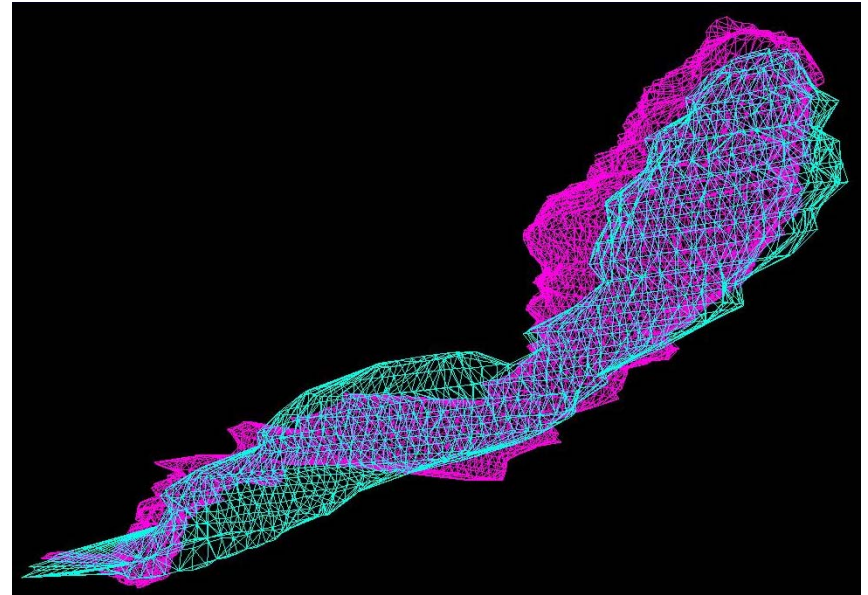
Example – After Registration

No scaling



96 X 96 X 96

Scaling

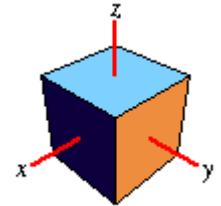


96 X 96 X 96

Blue = target
Pink = template

Transformation Matrices

- Multidimensional array
- Can concatenate many math operations into a single matrix
- Used to translate, rotate, and scale the surfaces into the standard coordinate system
 - 3 most common types of transformation – only ones that don't distort the object (i.e. a straight line will remain straight)
- Each point in the surface gets multiplied by the matrix
 - Each point represented as a 4X1 matrix:
 - The points/vertices are homogeneous coordinates
 - Result: each point gets transformed by the matrix so that a transformed surface is generated, which fits into our standard coordinate system



$$\begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Rotations about each axis

- In a clockwise direction, when looking toward the origin :

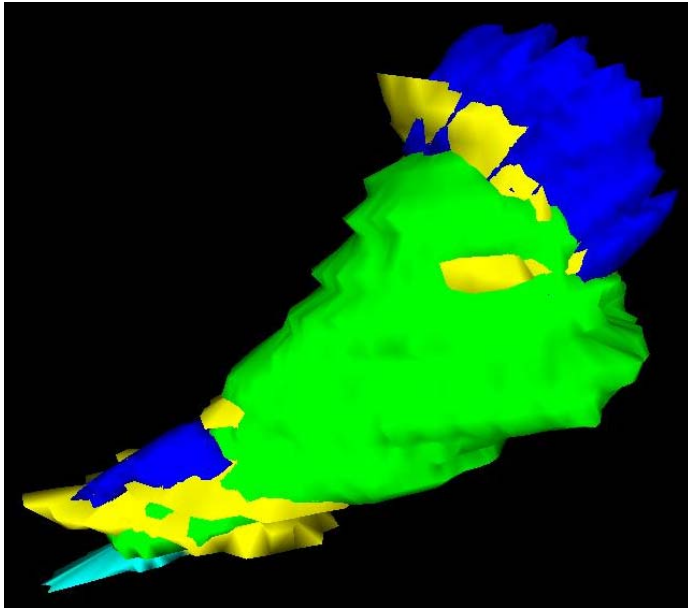
$$R_x(\alpha) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \cos \alpha & \sin \alpha \\ 0 & -\sin \alpha & \cos \alpha \end{bmatrix} \quad R_y(\beta) = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \beta & 0 & -\sin \beta \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ \sin \beta & 0 & \cos \beta \end{bmatrix} \quad R_z(\gamma) = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \gamma & \sin \gamma & 0 \\ -\sin \gamma & \cos \gamma & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

- Any rotation can be given as a composition of rotations about three axes and can be portrayed in a 3 X 3 matrix:

$$\begin{bmatrix} x'_1 \\ x'_2 \\ x'_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & a_{13} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & a_{23} \\ a_{31} & a_{32} & a_{33} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix}$$

Visualization

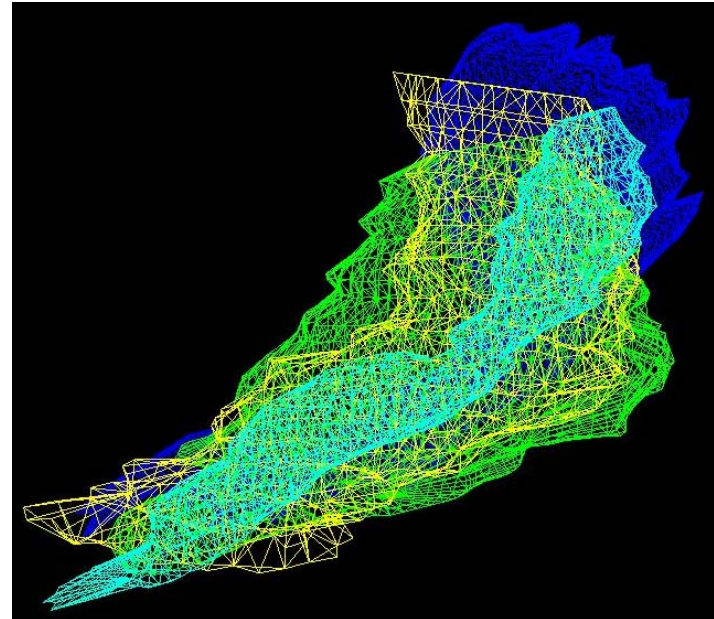
Each of the transformed surfaces were then superimposed on the target surface to ensure correct registration



Solid View
Light blue = target

Scaled dataset:

- 2 incorrectly registered (discarded)
- New spine count: 285



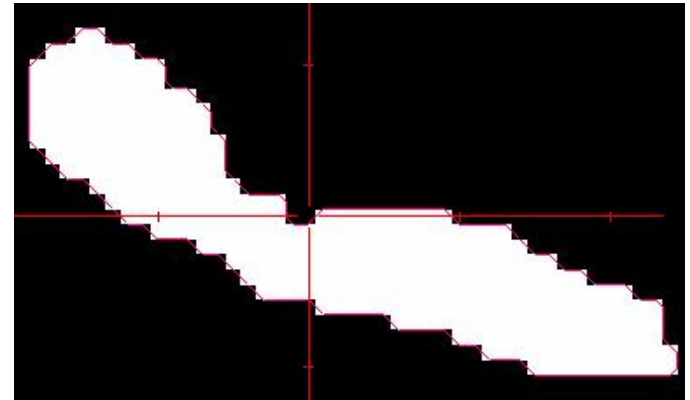
Wireframe View
Light blue = target

Non scaled dataset:

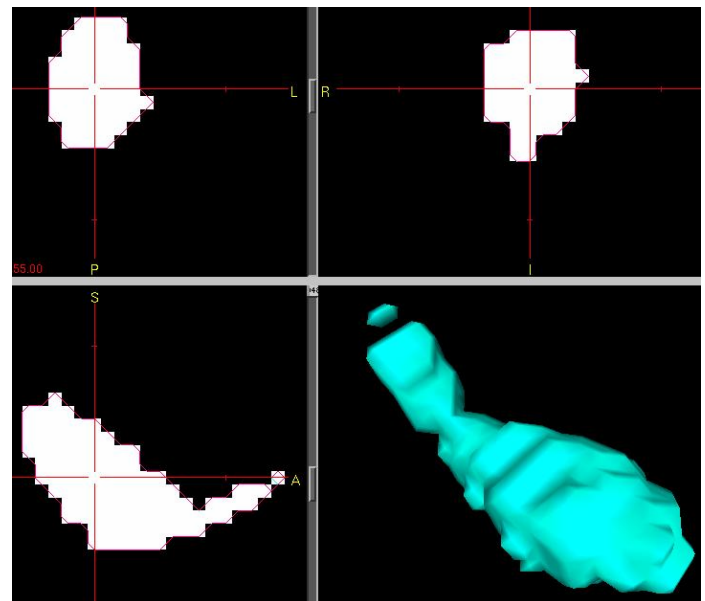
- 3 incorrectly registered (discarded)
- New spine count: 284

Binary Images

- Created directly from the newly transformed surface files
- Created by using a simple function in BrainWorks
 - Placed into a 96 X 96 X 96 coordinate system
- Surfaces of each binary image was viewed to ensure correct topology (no holes or small separate pieces)
 - Scaled dataset: 3 with incorrect topology
 - Number of images used: 282
 - Non scaled dataset: 3 with incorrect topology
 - Number of images used: 281



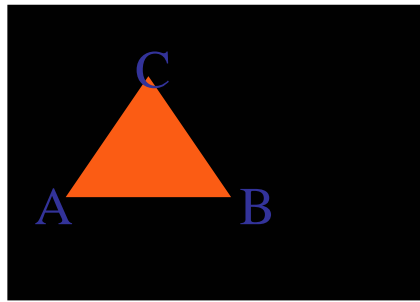
Target image (sagittal view)



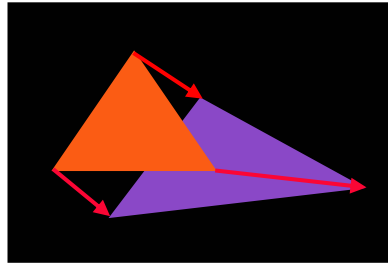
Problematic image (K1_3_spine43.img)

CA: shape analysis (Grenander & Miller, 1998)

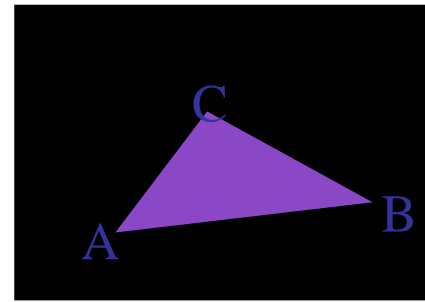
- anatomy is a collection of shapes (images) or coordinate systems
- anatomies compared by vector transformations



Object 1



**Vector
Transformation**

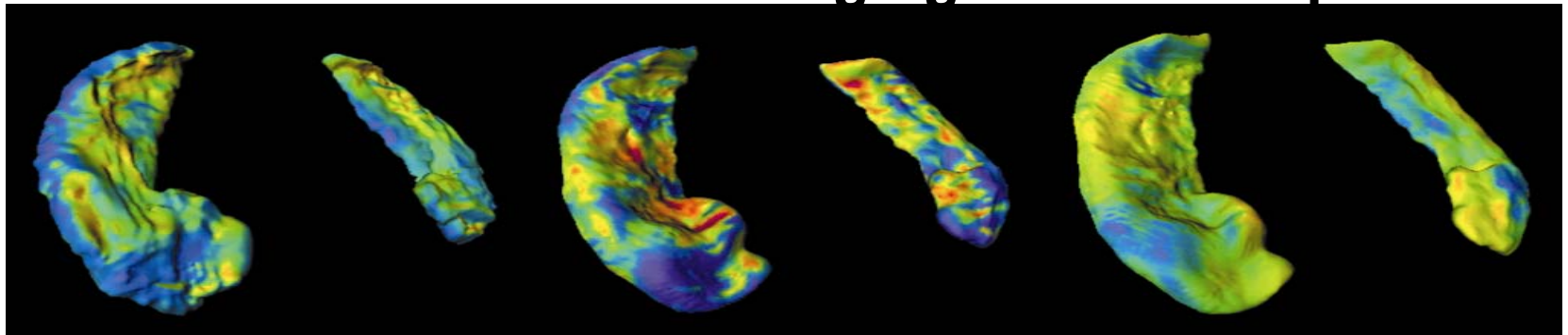


Object 2

Alzheimer's

Normal Aging

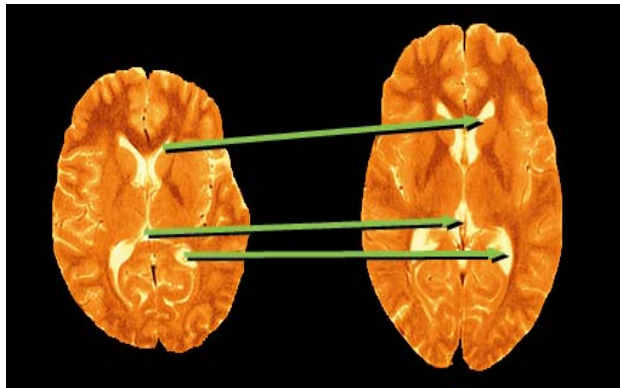
Schizophrenia



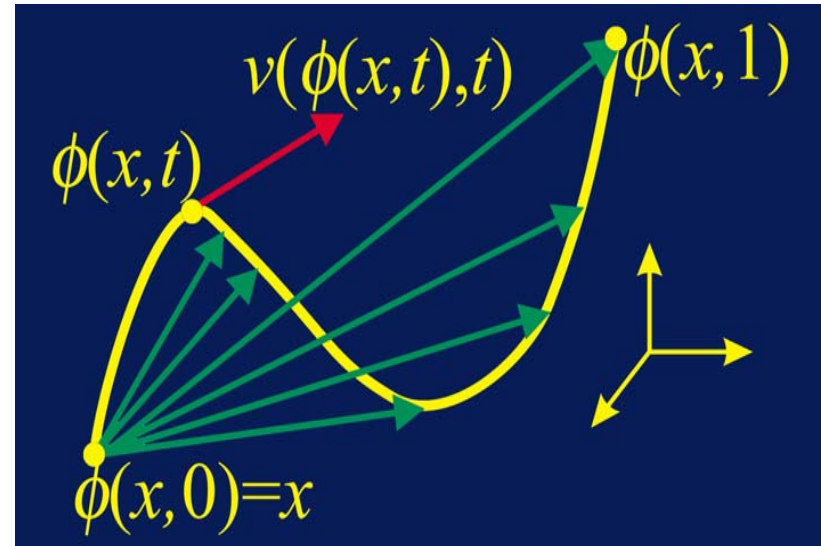
- quantification: Csernansky et al, PNAS 1998; Am J Psych 2002, 2003, 2004; Neurology 2001

Computational Anatomy: A study of geodesic diffeomorphisms i.e. metric distances

I_0 : Template I_1 : Target



ϕ



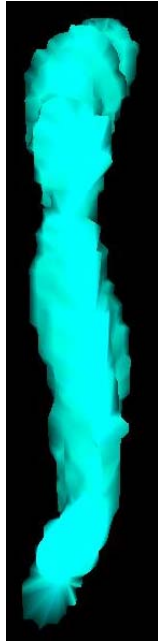
$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} (Lv)^t + (\nabla \cdot v)(Lv)^t + (v \cdot \nabla)(Lv)^t + (Lv)^t \nabla v = 0$$

$$d(I_0, I_1) = \sqrt{\int_0^1 \|Lv\|_2^2 dt}$$

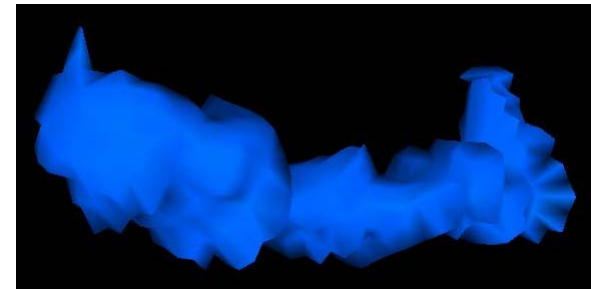
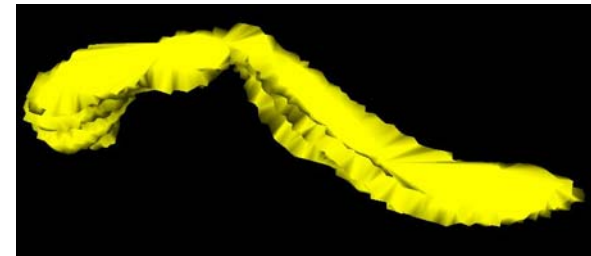
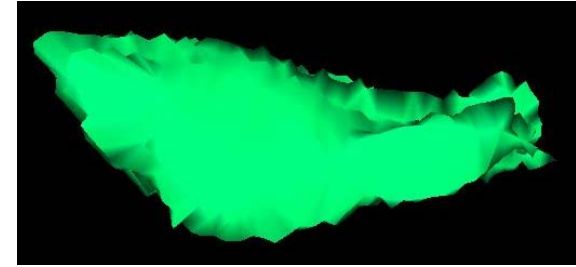
Miller, Trouné, Younes: Ann. Rev. Biomed Engng. (2002)

Shape analysis on anatomical image databases via the Internet

$$d(I_0, I_1) = \sqrt{\int_0^1 \|Lv\|_2^2 dt}$$

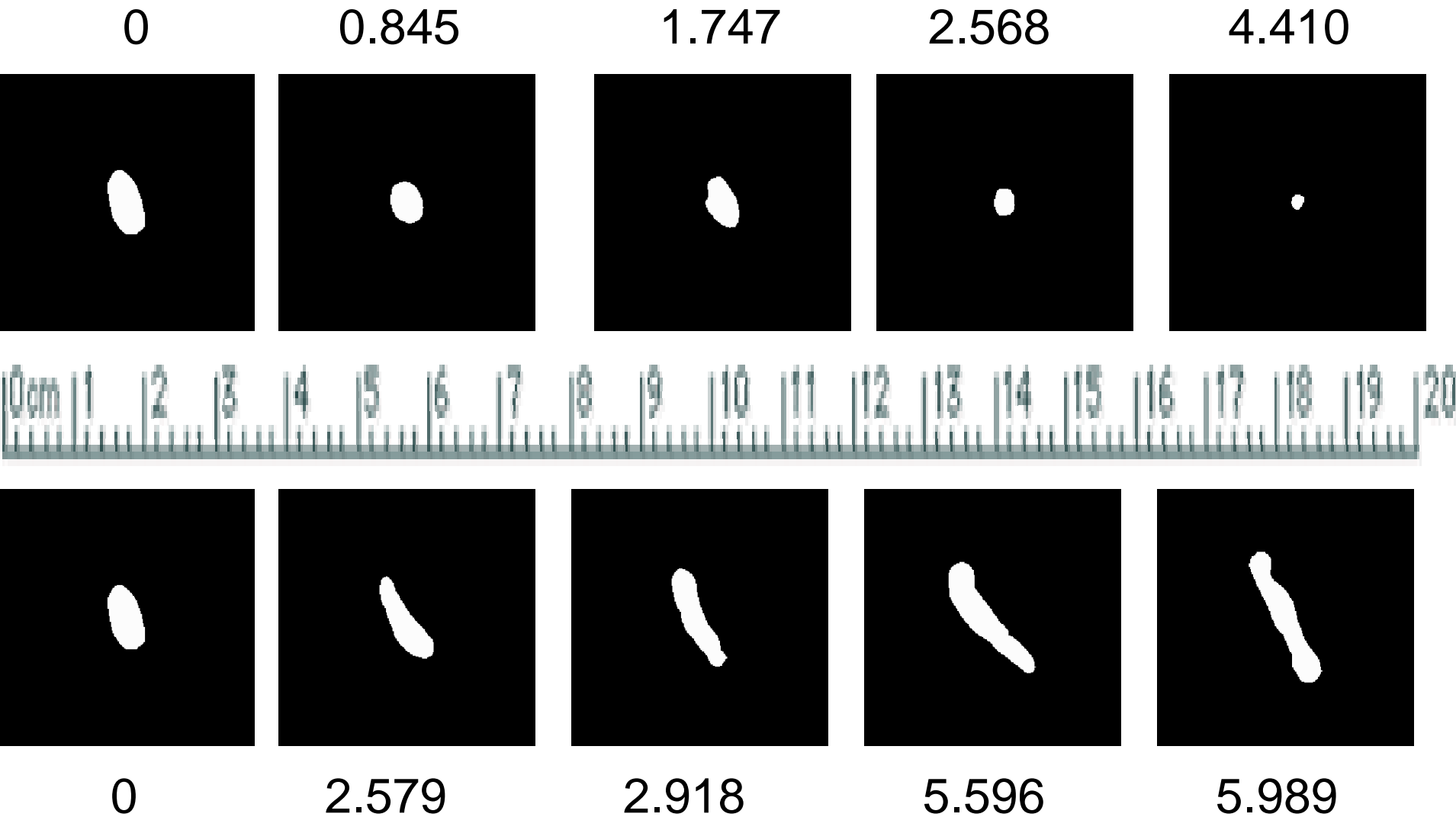


Neuroanatomist asks:
“Is there evidence for
shape differences?”

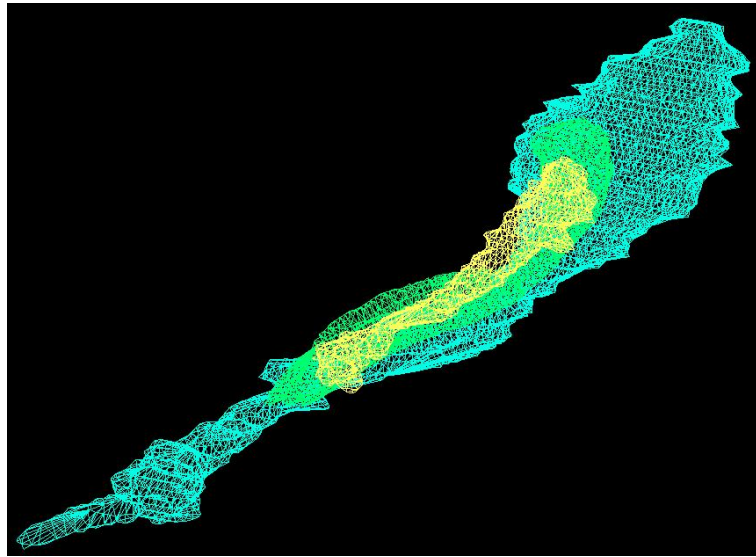


Databases
Of Shapes

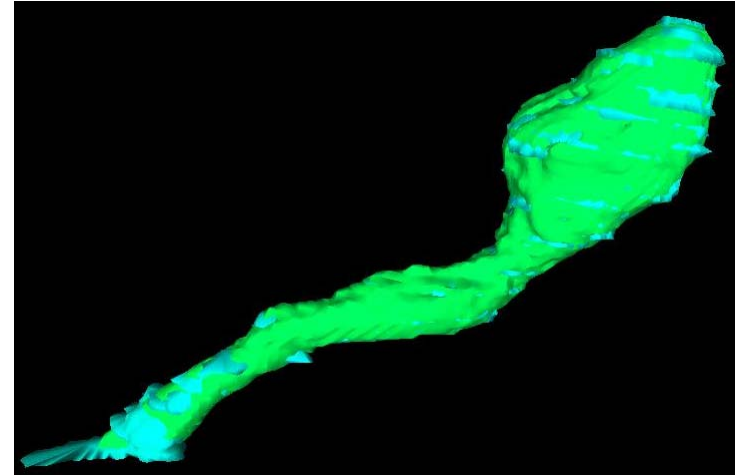
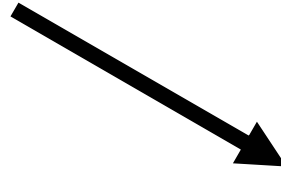
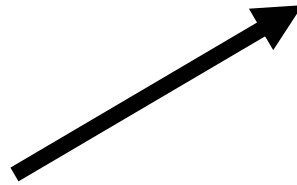
The Psychophysics of Metric Space of Biological Shapes



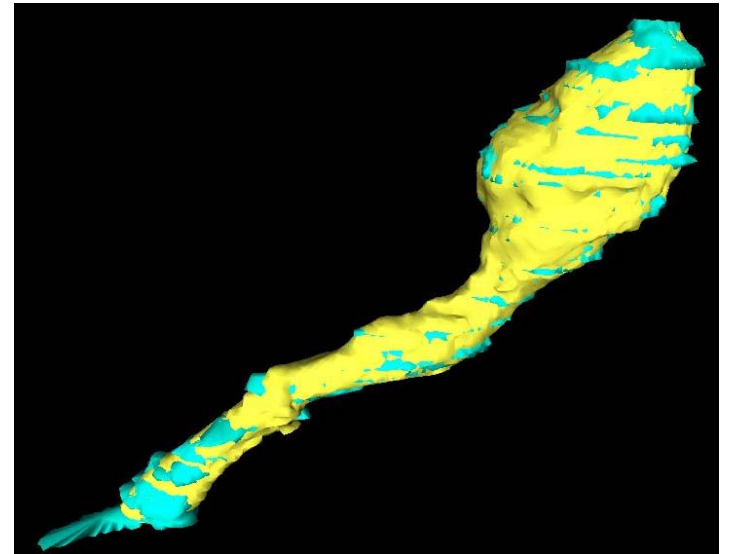
Results



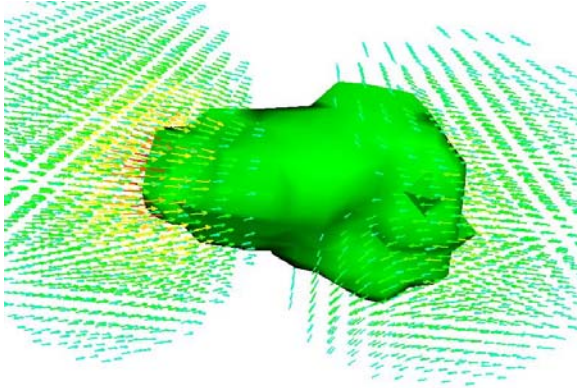
Registered surfaces



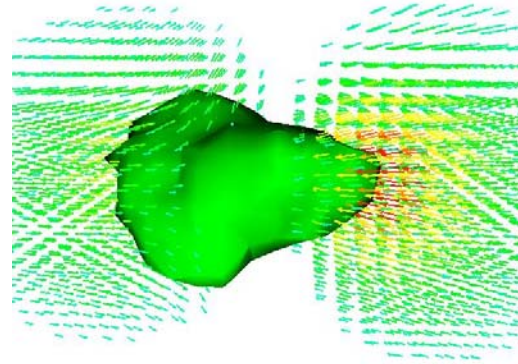
Deformed surfaces



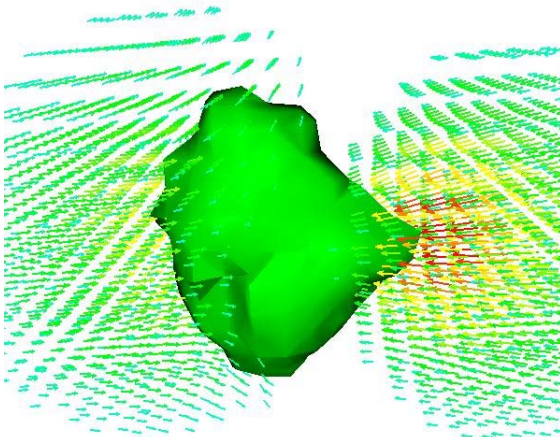
Progression of LDDMM



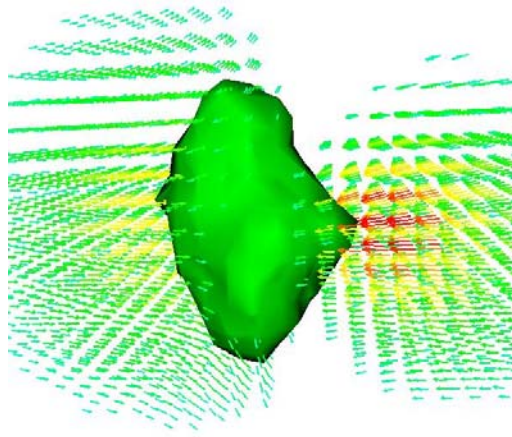
Timestep 1



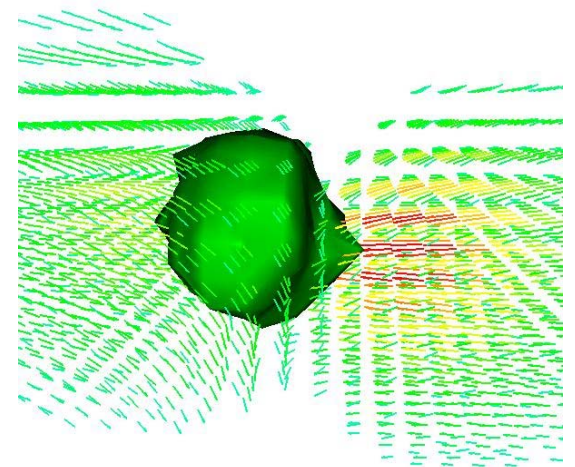
Timestep 3



Timestep 5



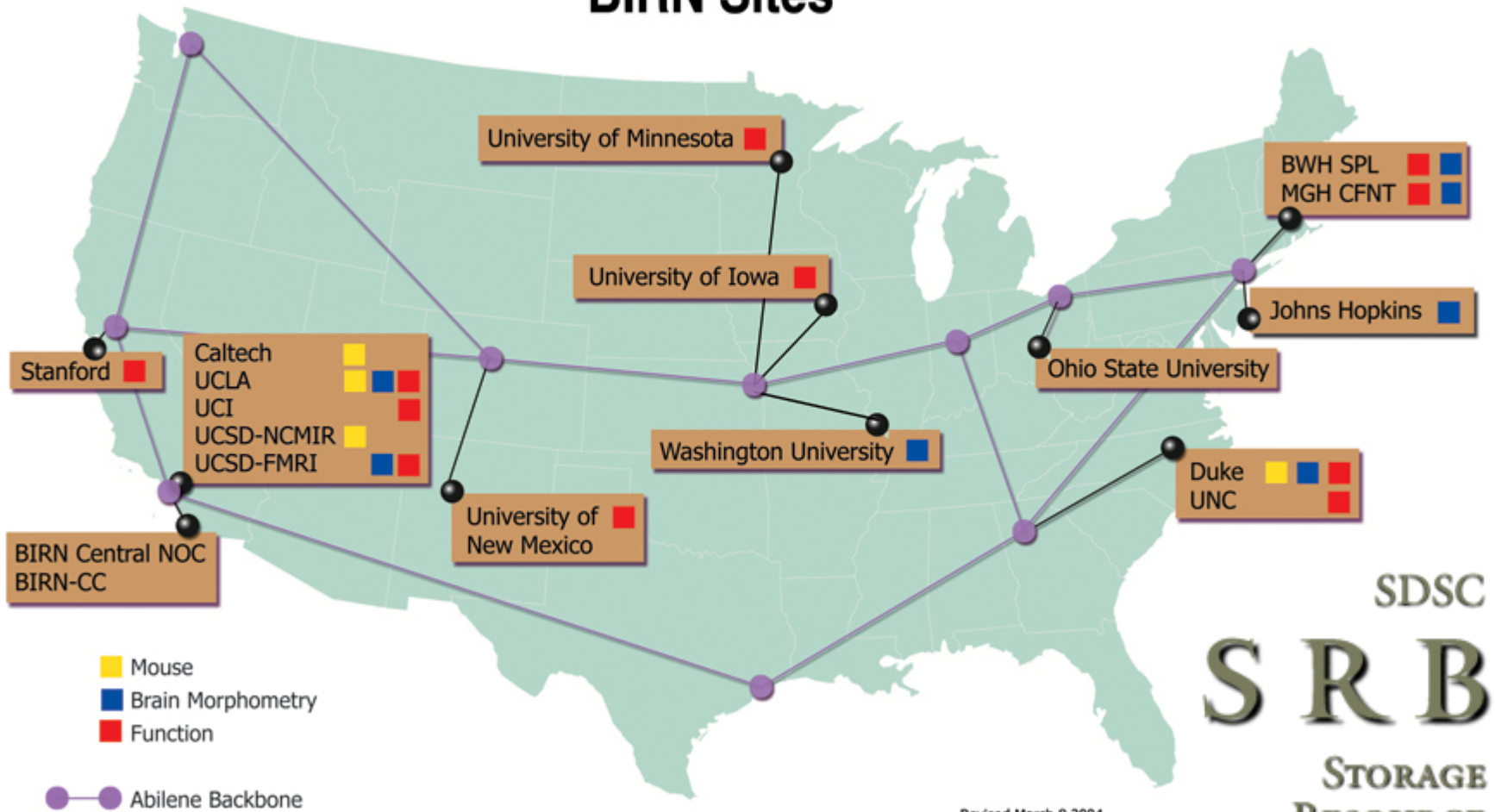
Timestep 7



Timestep 9

Biomedical Informatics Research Network: a new paradigm for neuroscience research

BIRN Sites



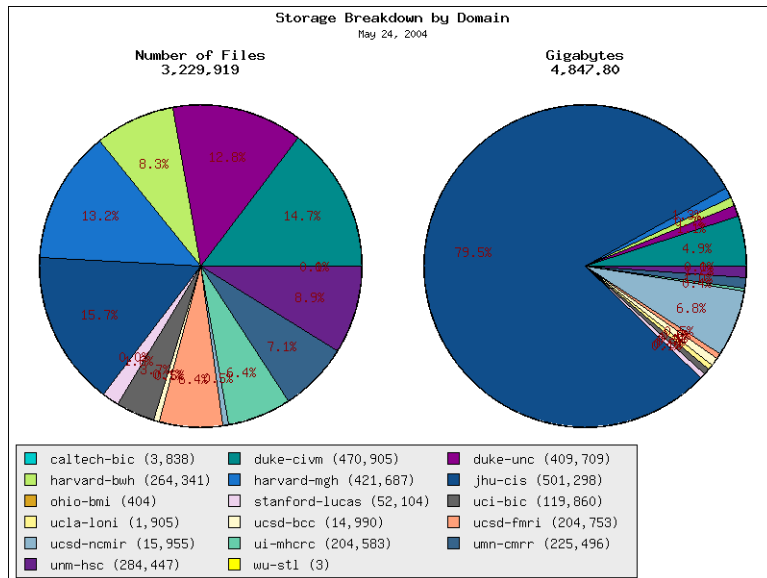
Revised March 8, 2004

SDSC
S R B
STORAGE
RESOURCE
BROKER

Large Deformation Diffeomorphic Metric Mapping (LDDMM)

- Measures the distance between a template and a target image via metrics
- Notion of how close and far shapes are relative to template
- Teragrid used to significantly speed up the process

Single PC	TeraGrid
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 1 comparison ▪ ~431 days 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 60 comparisons simultaneously ▪ ~7 days



- Each LDDMM takes about 3 to 8 hours for a hippocampus
- JHU CIS - largest user of BIRN storage and computing infrastructure for hippocampus mappings

Future work: statistical analysis of shape analysis

- perform statistical analysis of metric distances i.e. demonstrate that metric distances can be used to distinguish or classify shapes
- perform statistical analysis of vector fields i.e. localize subtle anatomical differences in spines

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