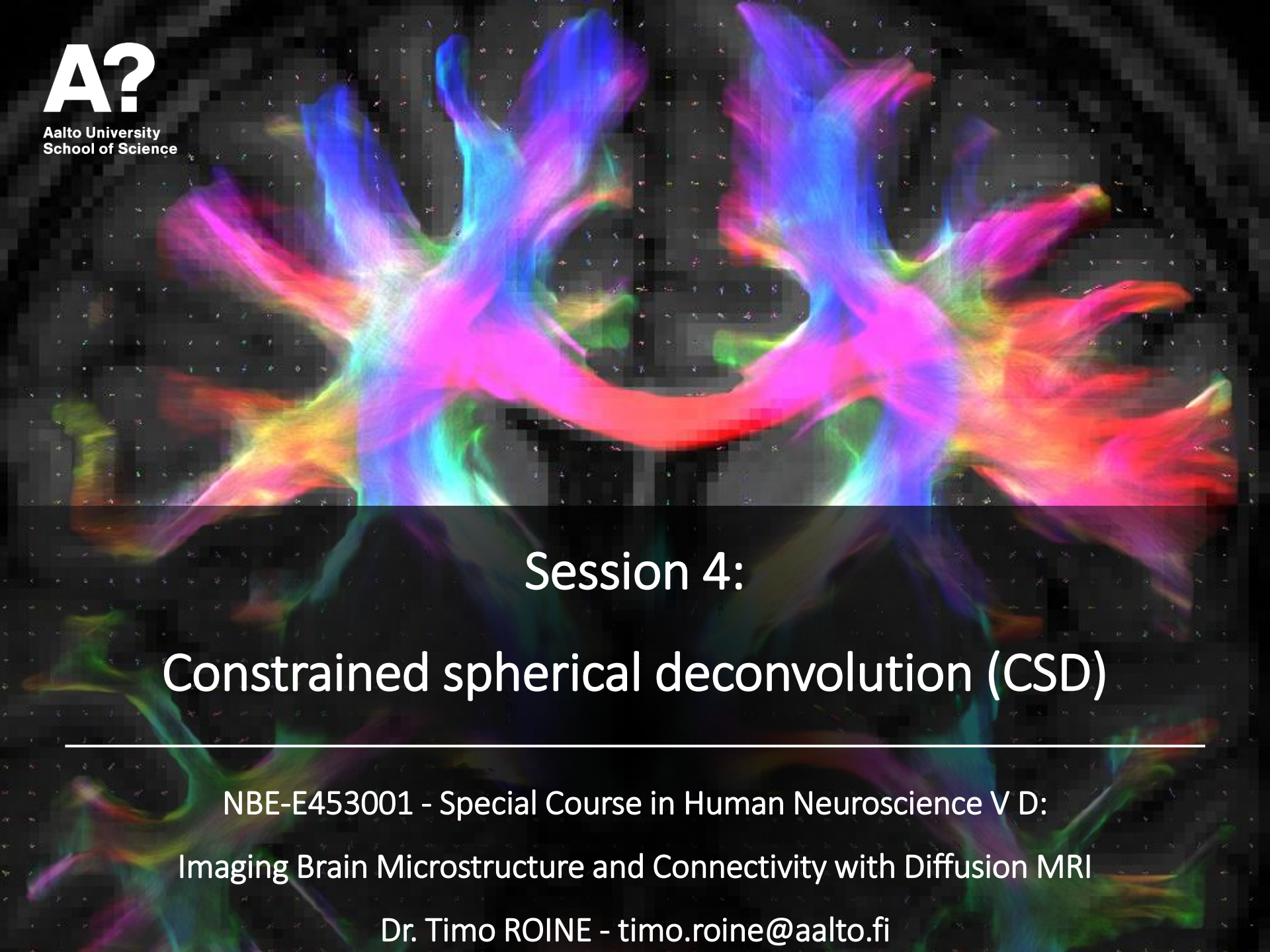




Aalto University  
School of Science

A vibrant, multi-colored fiber tractography visualization of brain white matter. The fibers are rendered as glowing, translucent ribbons in shades of blue, purple, pink, red, orange, and green, set against a dark background with a starry pattern. The fibers form a complex, interconnected network.

## Session 4: Constrained spherical deconvolution (CSD)

---

NBE-E453001 - Special Course in Human Neuroscience V D:  
Imaging Brain Microstructure and Connectivity with Diffusion MRI

Dr. Timo ROINE - [timo.roine@aalto.fi](mailto:timo.roine@aalto.fi)





## Session 3 outline

Basics of CSD

Group discussion in Flinga

Quiz (10 min)

Break (5 min)

Practical demonstration of CSD

Discussion and feedback

Assignments before session 5

# Intended learning outcomes

By completing the course, the student can

- **understand diffusion MRI acquisition and analysis methods**
- describe applications of these methods
- **explain the principles of investigating brain microstructure and structural brain connectivity with diffusion MRI**
- **recognize issues in applying these methods in research and clinic**
- apply diffusion MRI methods to investigate brain microstructure and structural brain connectivity (e.g., analyze a dataset or design a project)

# Course outline

## **Session 3: Diffusion tensor imaging (14.5.)**

Self-study, lecture, practical demonstrations, group discussion, individual reflection, quiz

Homework: Learning log (DL 18.5.) self-study, return first draft of project work report (DL 20.5.)

## **Session 4: Constrained spherical deconvolution and tractography (21.5.)**

Self-study, lecture, practical demonstrations, group discussion, individual reflection, quiz

Homework: Learning log (DL 25.5.). self-study, give peer feedback on the project work report (DL 29.5.)

# Course outline

## **Session 5: Connectivity networks and microstructural analyses (30.5.)**

Self-study, lecture, practical demonstrations, group discussion, individual reflection, quiz

Homework: Learning log + self-study, return project work report (5.6.)

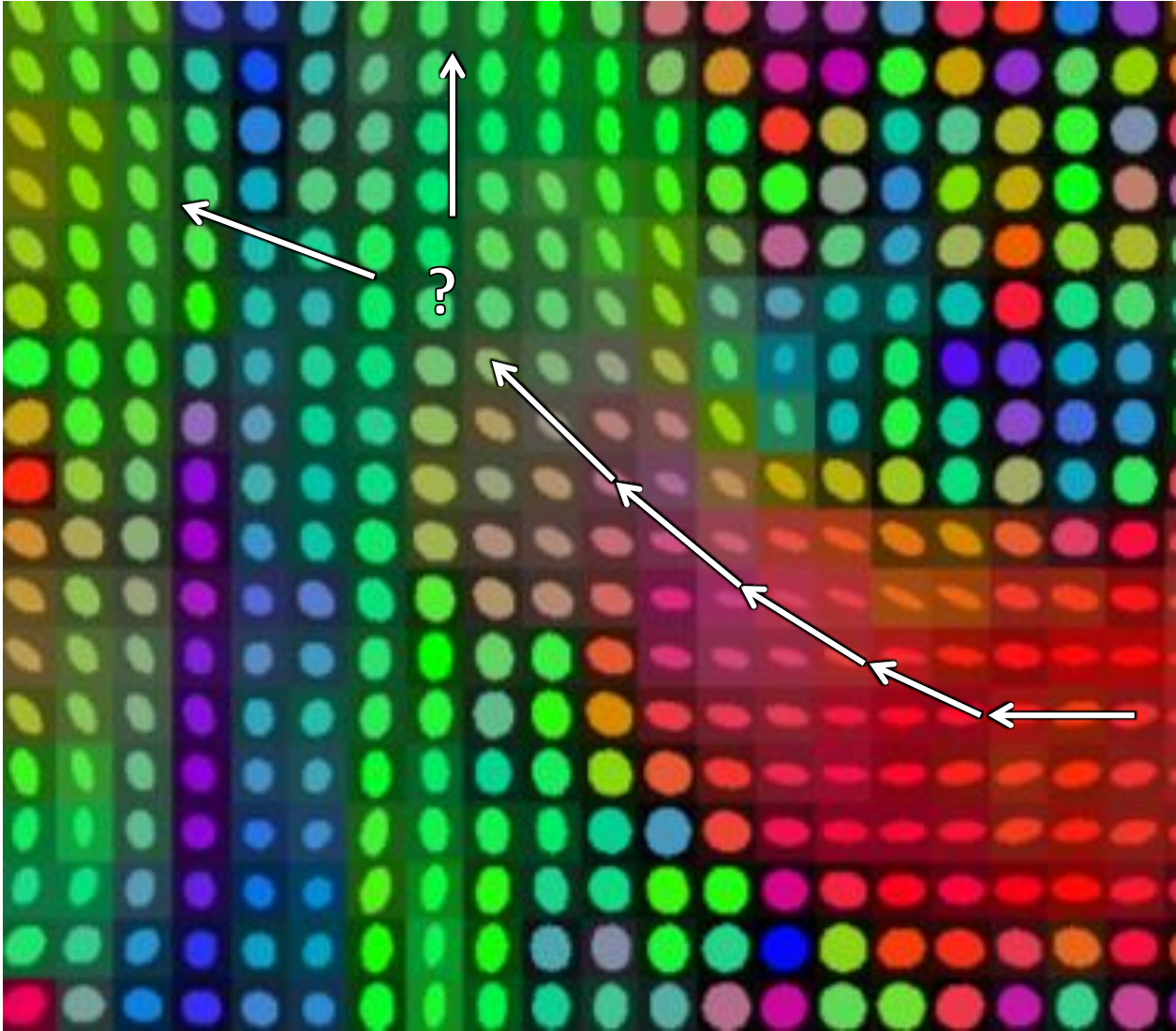
## **Session 6: Summary of the course, presentations of project works (6.6.)**

Seminar presentations, lecture, group discussion, feedback, individual reflection

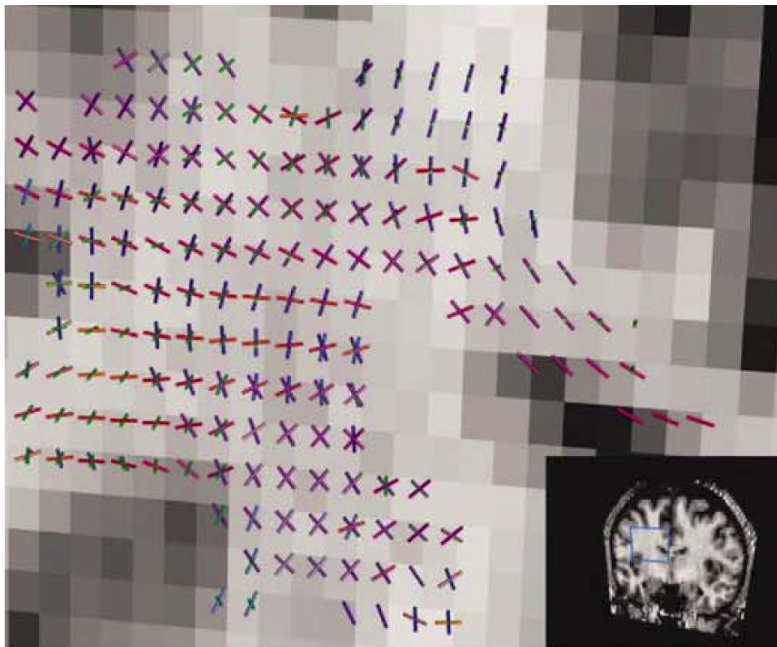
Can this be changed to Friday 7.6. 12:15-14:00?



# Main shortcoming of DTI: no fiber crossings



# Prevalence of crossing fibers



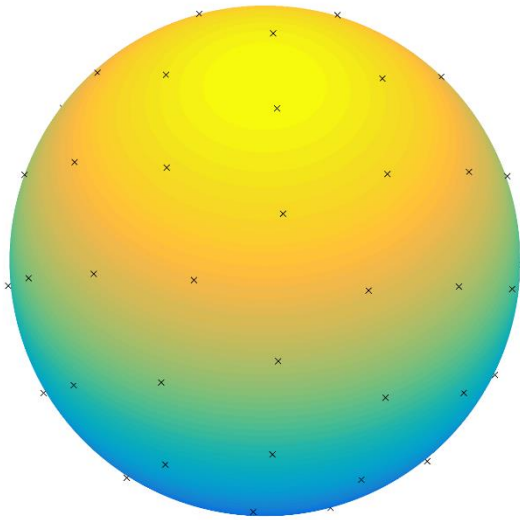
**TABLE I. Percentages of single and multifiber voxels throughout the WM for CSD and bedpostx and for different subjects**

No. of orientations		1	2	$\geq 3$	$\geq 2$
CSD	Subject 1	9.5%	47.1%	43.3%	<b>90.5%</b>
	Subject 2	8.4%	45.0%	46.6%	<b>91.6%</b>
bedpostx	Subject 1	36.1%	62.9%	0.9%	<b>64.0%</b>
	Subject 2	37.5%	61.9%	0.4%	<b>62.3%</b>
Behrens et al. [2007]		$\sim 67.7\%$	$\sim 33.3\%$	0%	$\sim 33\%$

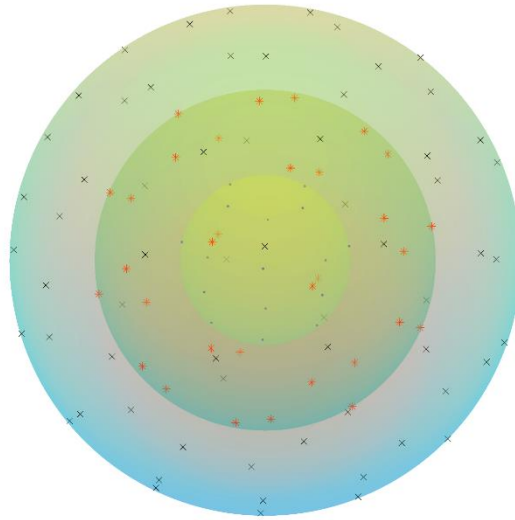
For reference, we also included the estimates previously reported in Behrens et al. [2007].

# Diffusion-weighted q-space schemes

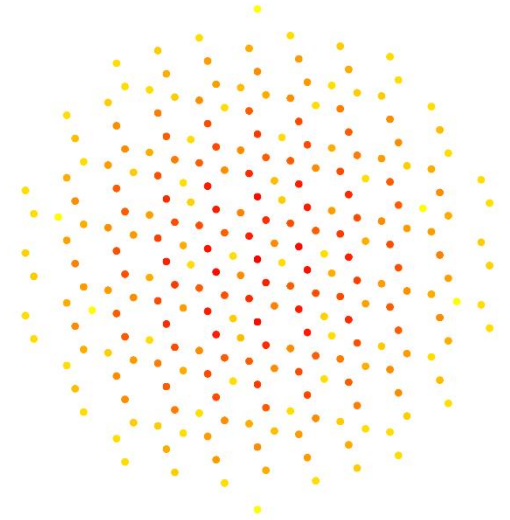
A) Single-shell



B) Multi-shell



C) Diffusion spectrum imaging





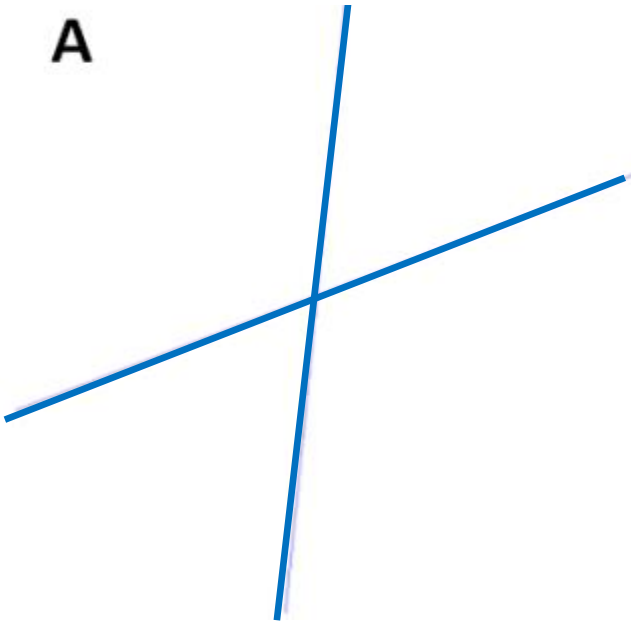
# Constrained spherical deconvolution (CSD)

- Assumption: the DW signal  $S(\theta, \phi)$  is the convolution of:
  - the fiber orientation distribution  $f(\theta, \phi)$  and
  - the signal of a single coherently oriented fiber population, response function  $r(\theta)$

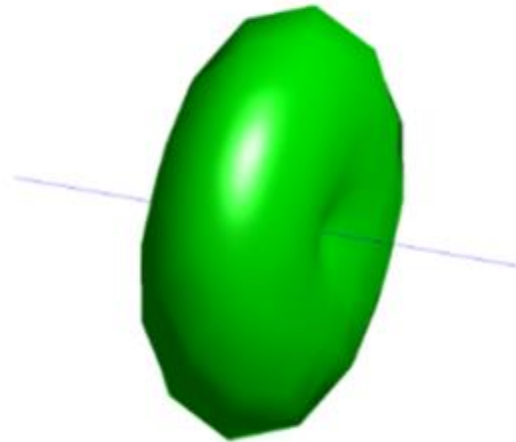
$$S(\theta, \phi) = f(\theta, \phi) * r(\theta)$$

Fiber orientation distribution (fODF)    Response function (RF)

**A**



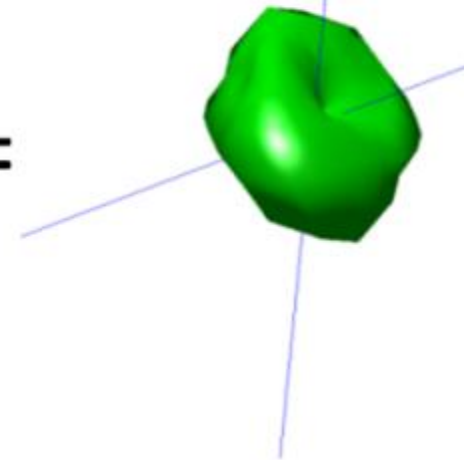
**B**



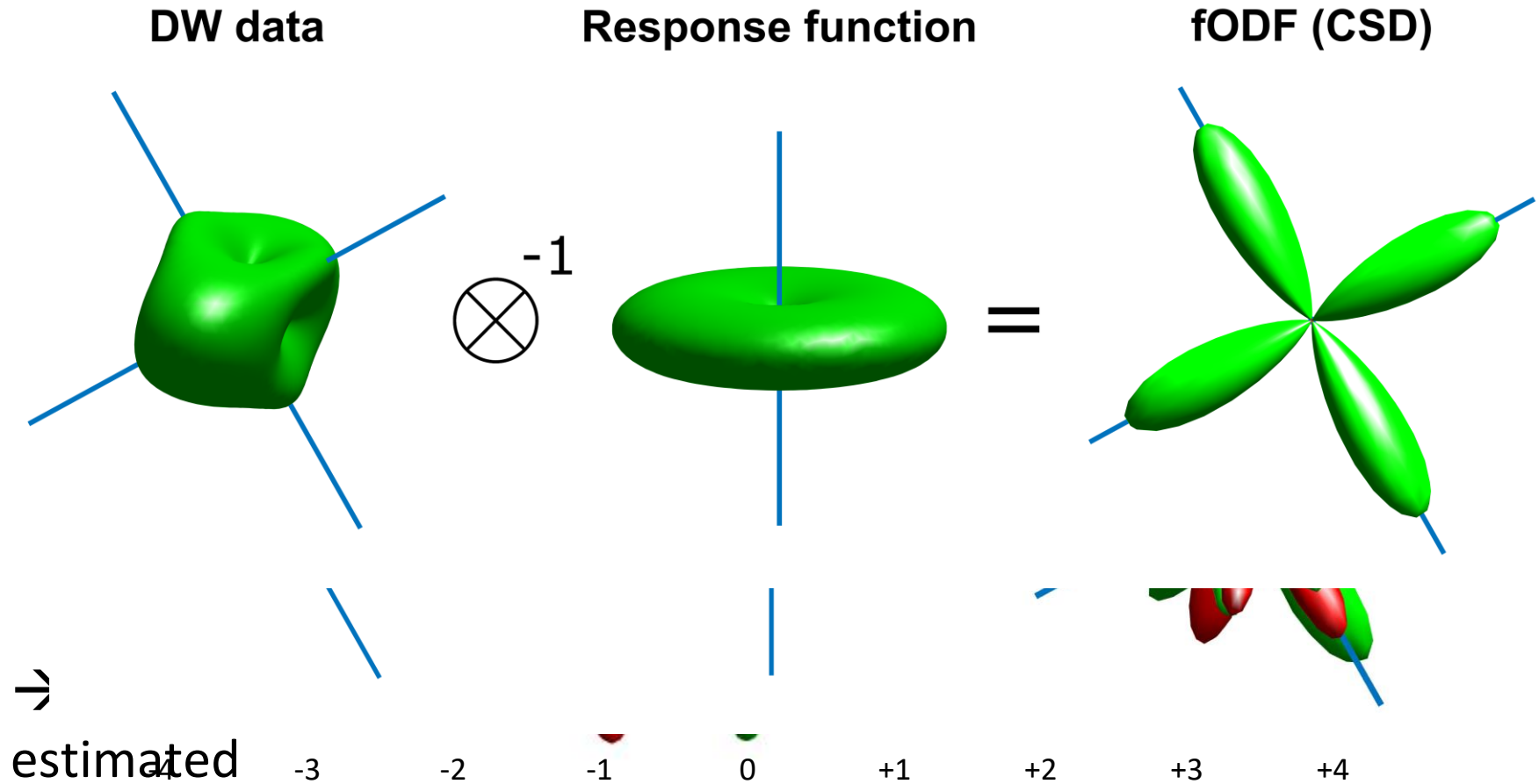
**C**

=

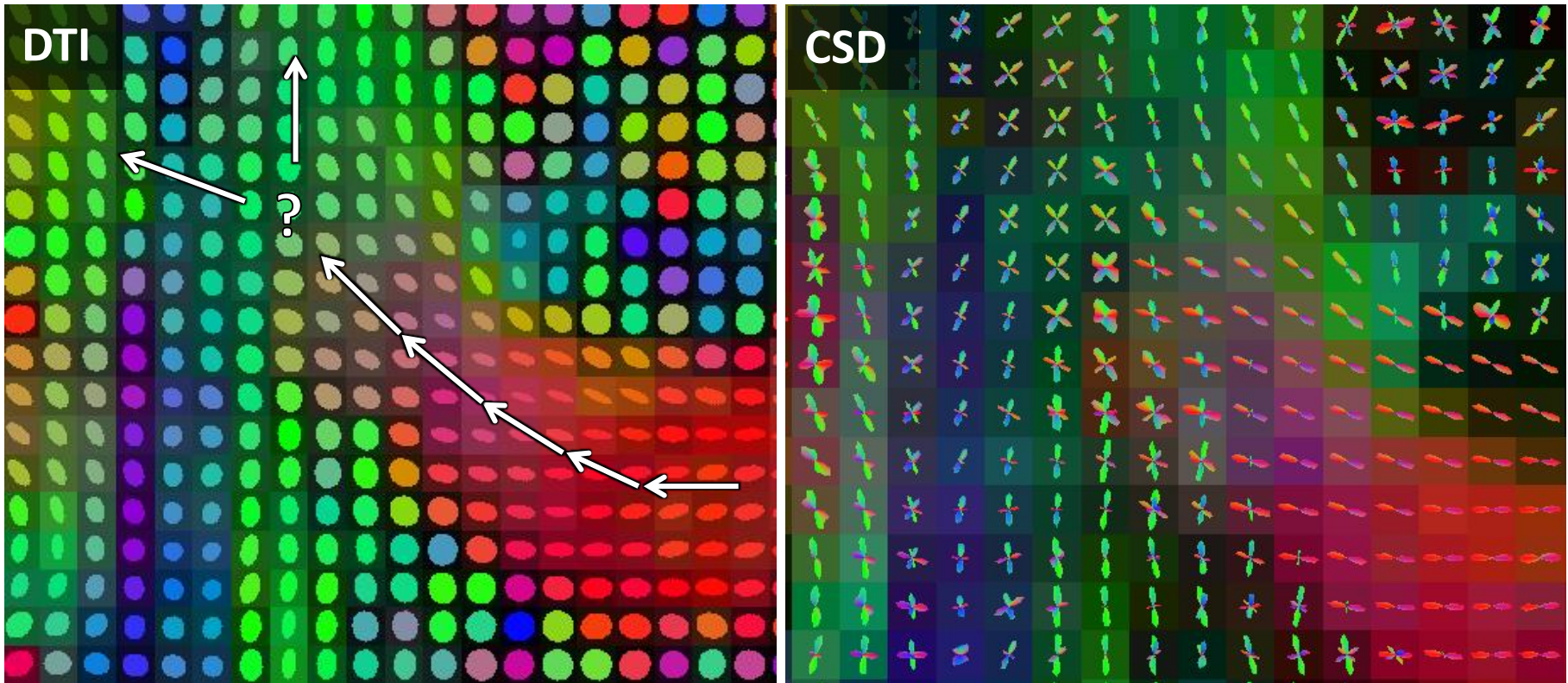
DW signal



# Inverting the problem



# Comparison of DTI and CSD



fibre  
orientation  
distribution



+



=



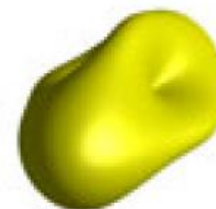
DW signal



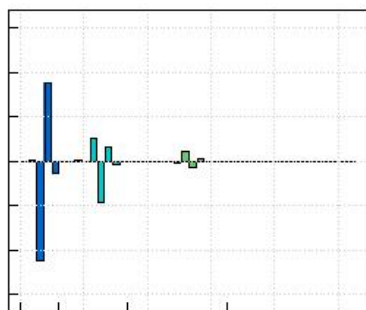
+



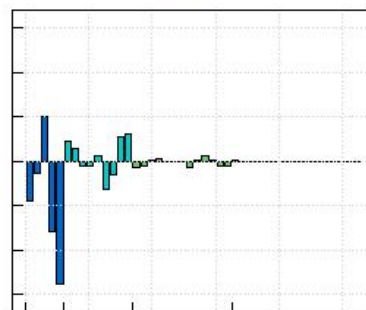
=



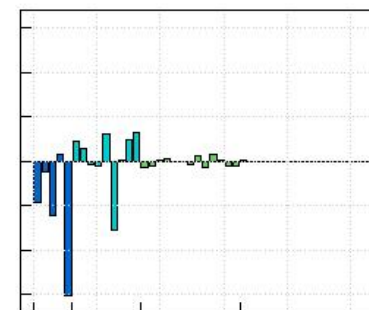
SH coefficient  
amplitude



+



=

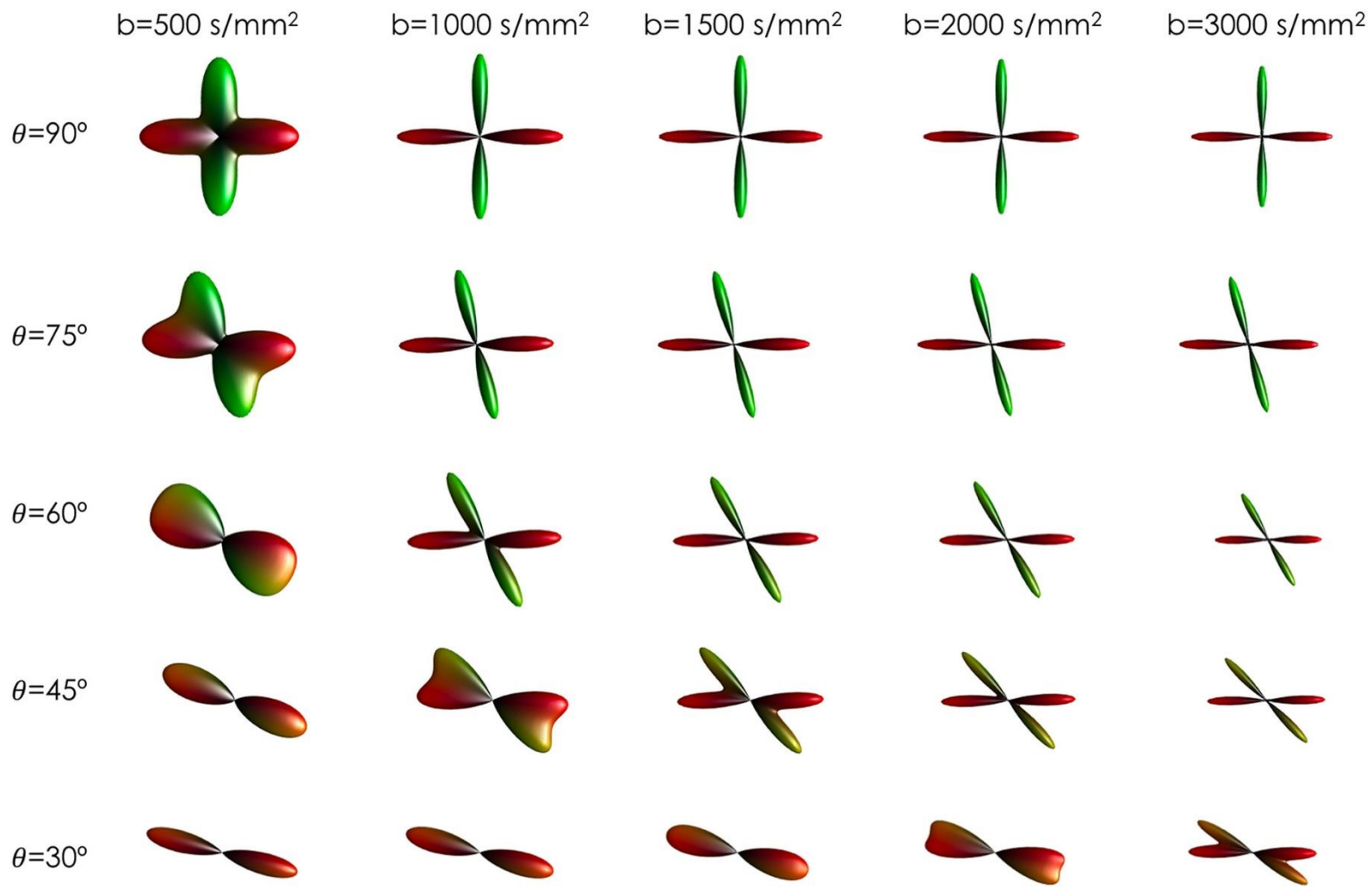


SH term

SH term

SH term





# Tractography algorithms

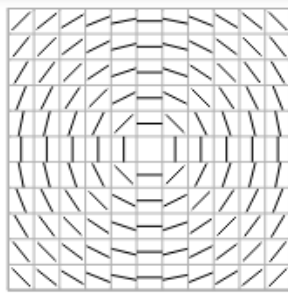
- Single-fiber vs. multi-fiber
- Deterministic vs. probabilistic
- Local vs. global
- An example: Euler integration

$$\mathbf{r}_{i+1} = \mathbf{r}_i + \mathbf{v}(\mathbf{r}_i)\Delta$$

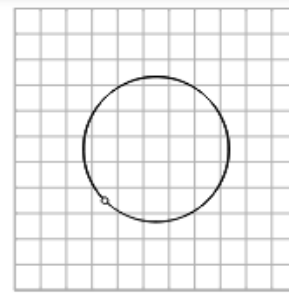
seed point  $r_0$

corresponding fiber orientation  $v(r_i)$

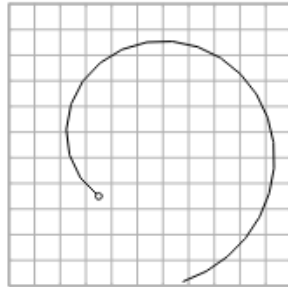
step size  $\Delta$



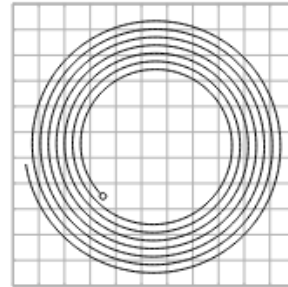
(a) Orientation field



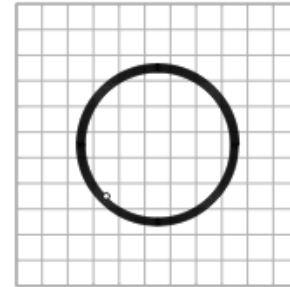
(b) Ground truth



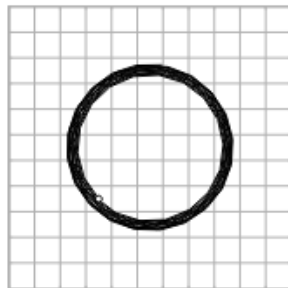
(c) Euler, step size: 1



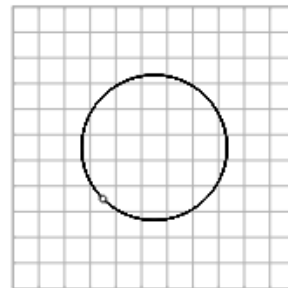
(d) Euler, step size: 0.1



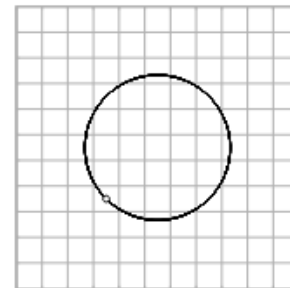
(e) Euler, step size: 0.01



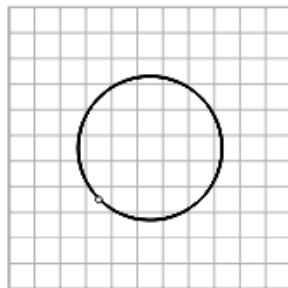
(f) RK2, step size: 1



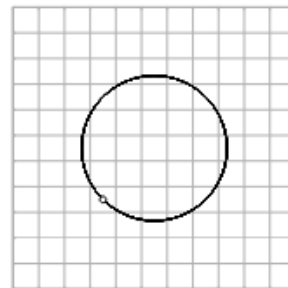
(g) RK2, step size: 0.1



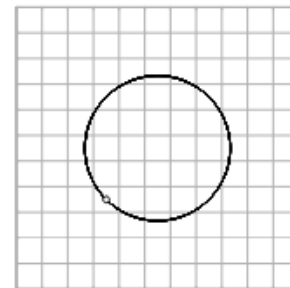
(h) RK2, step size: 0.011



(i) RK4, step size: 1

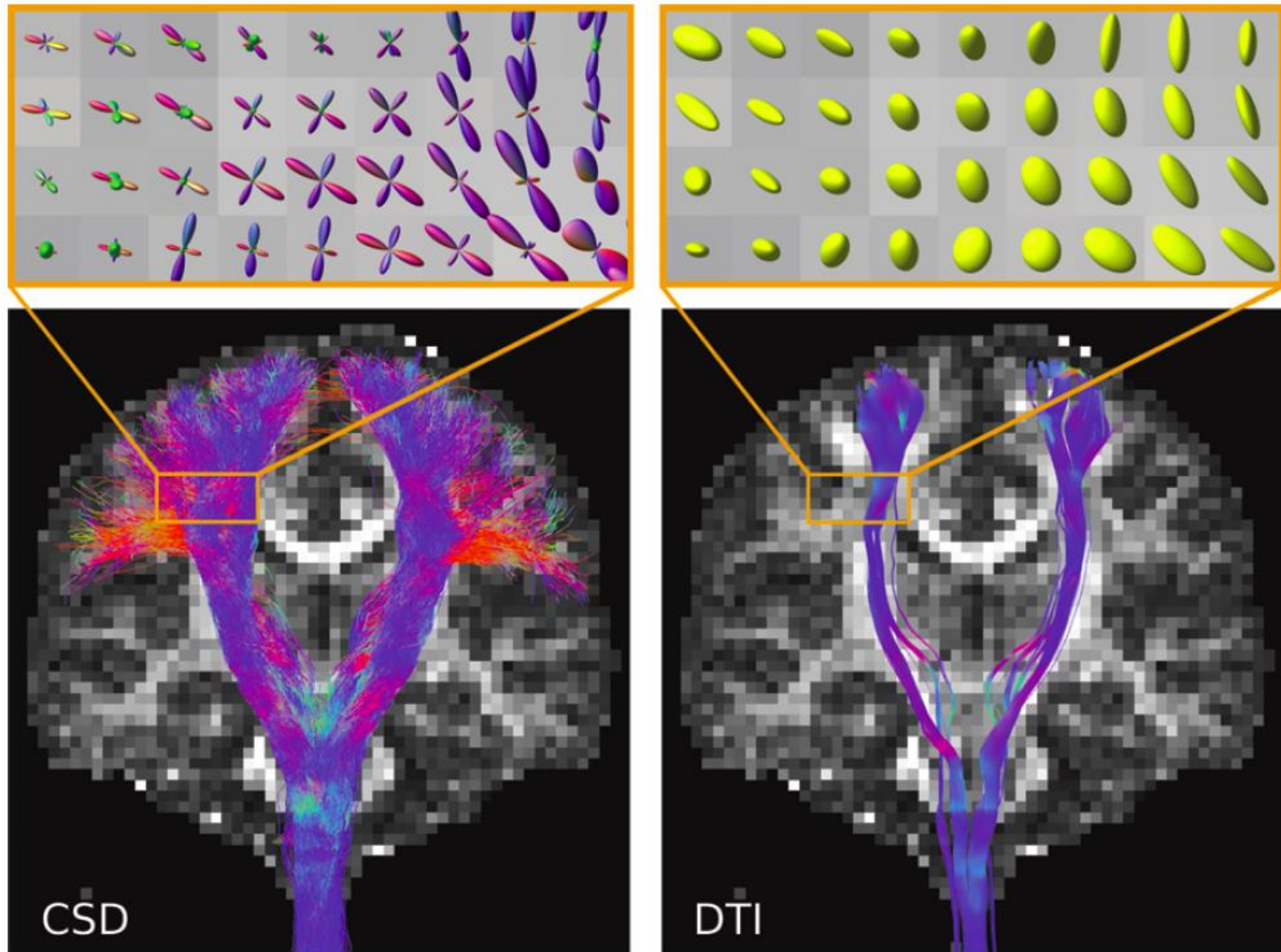


(j) RK4, step size: 0.1



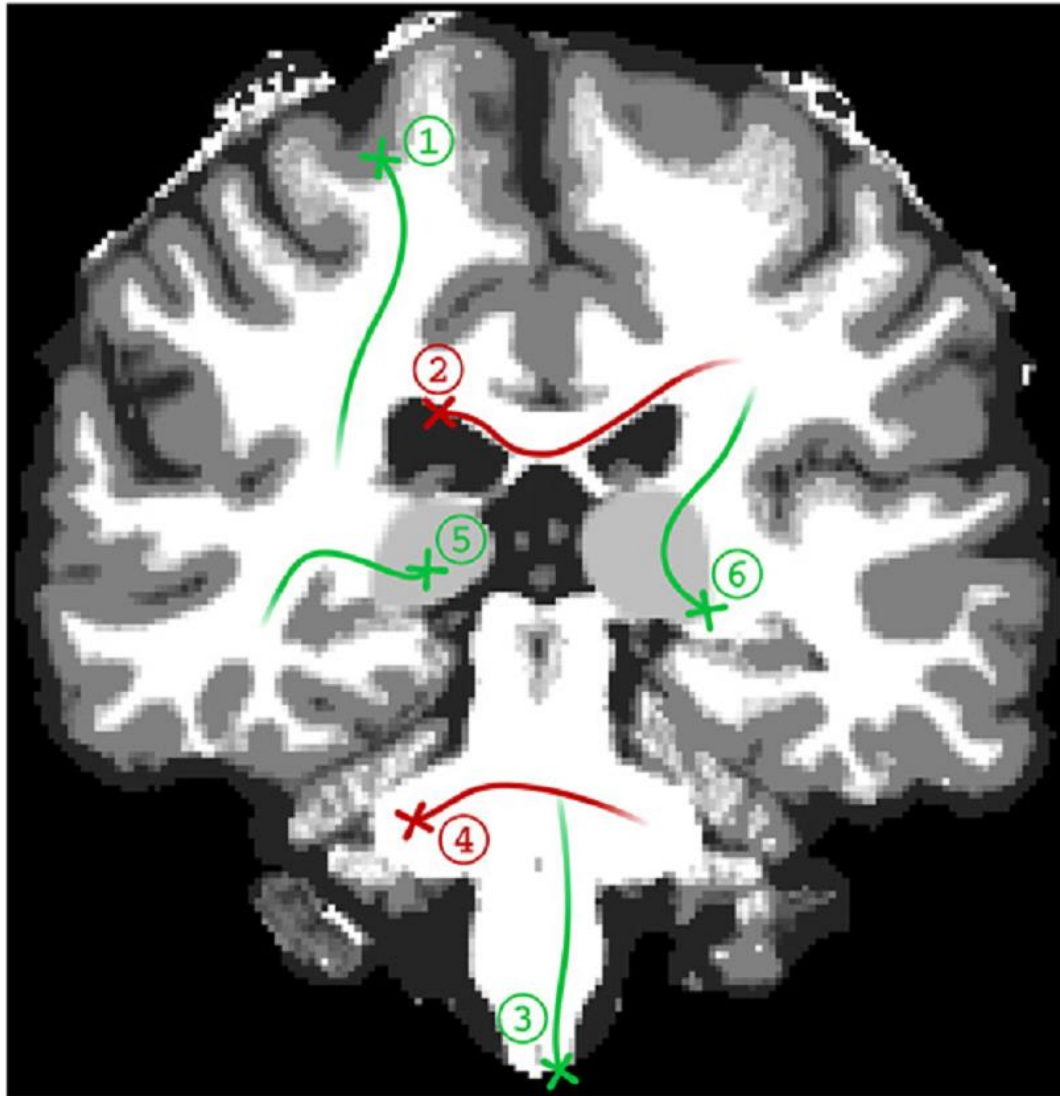
(k) RK4, step size: 0.01

# DTI- vs. CSD based tractography

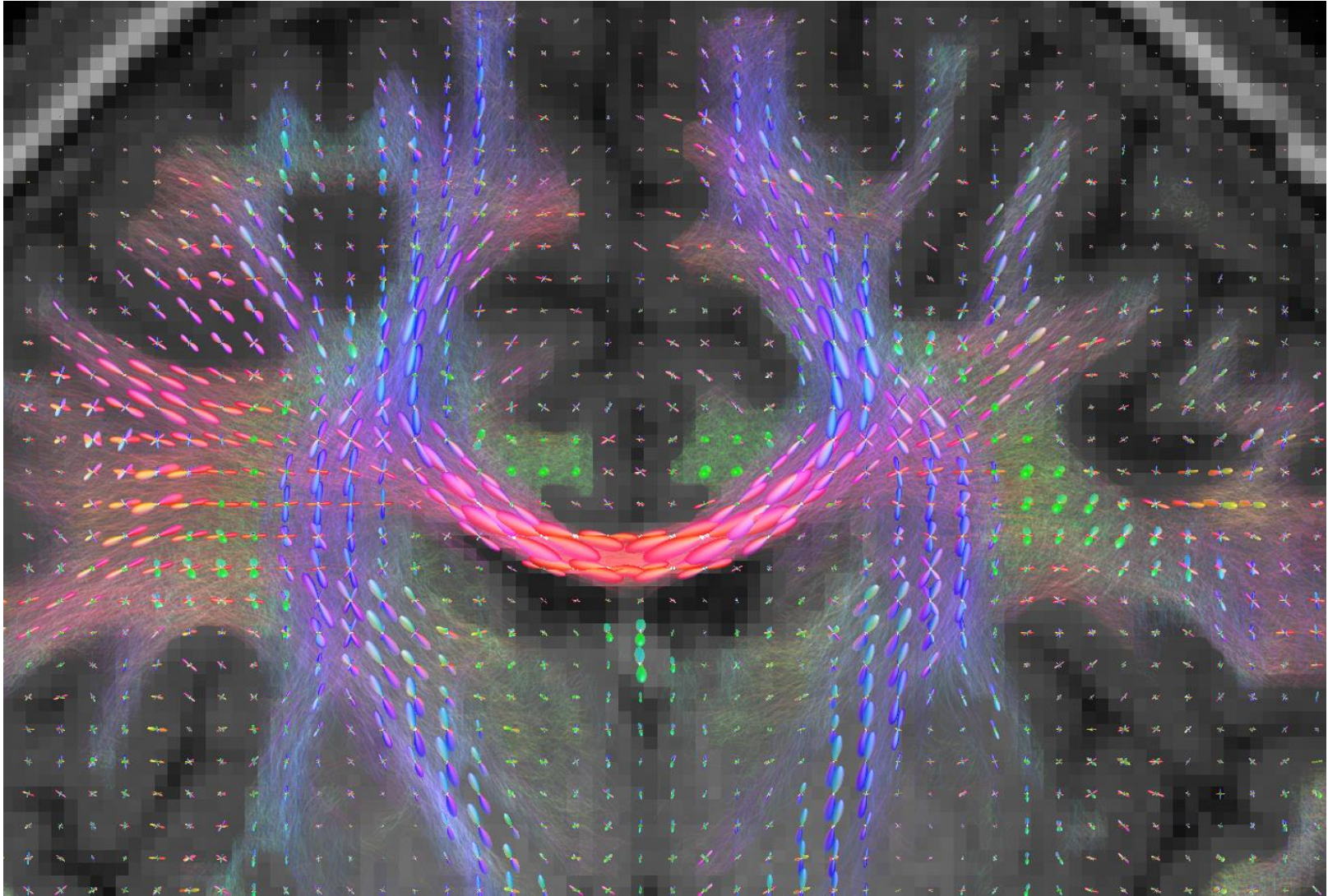




# Anatomical priors for tractography



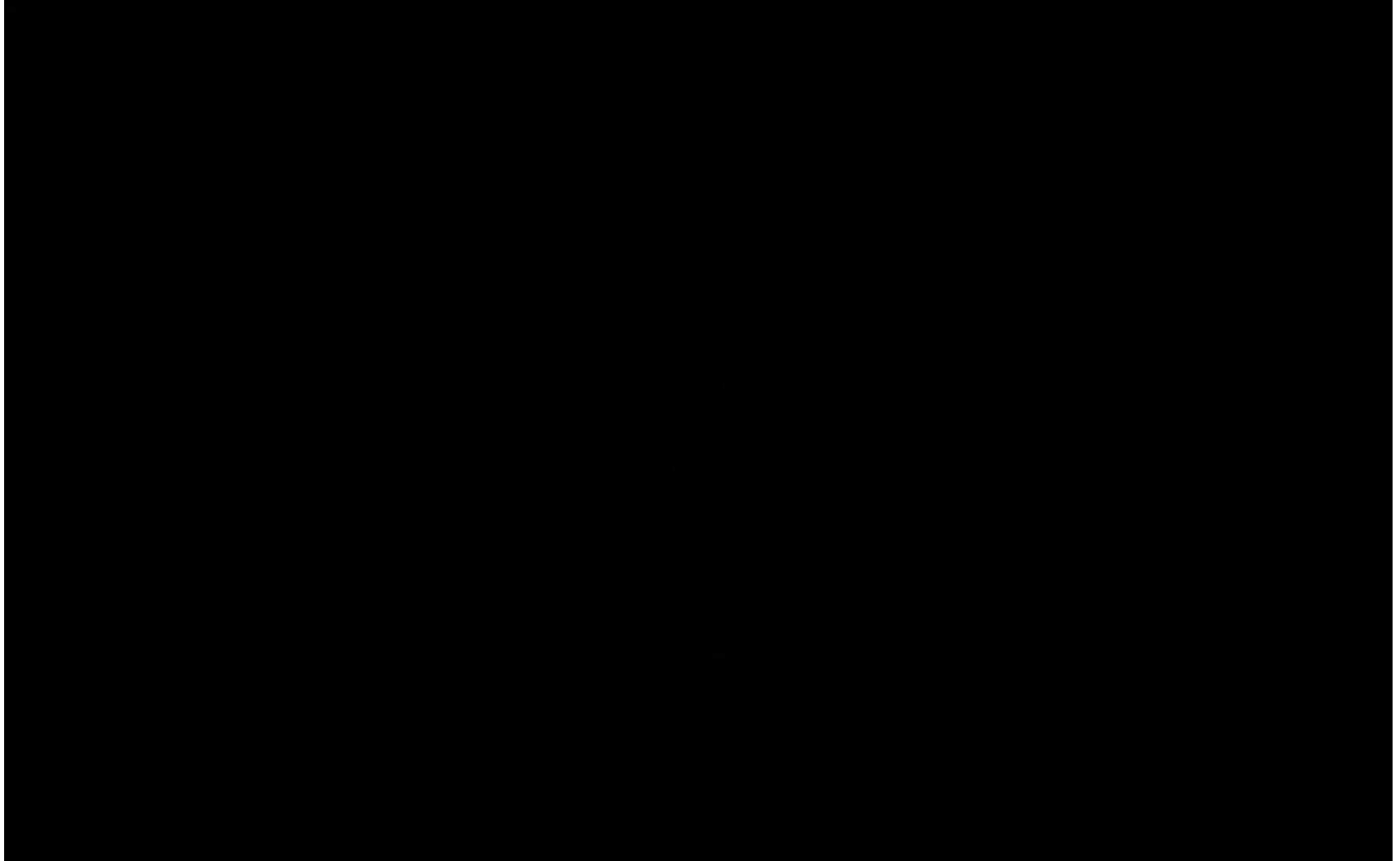
# CSD-based tractography



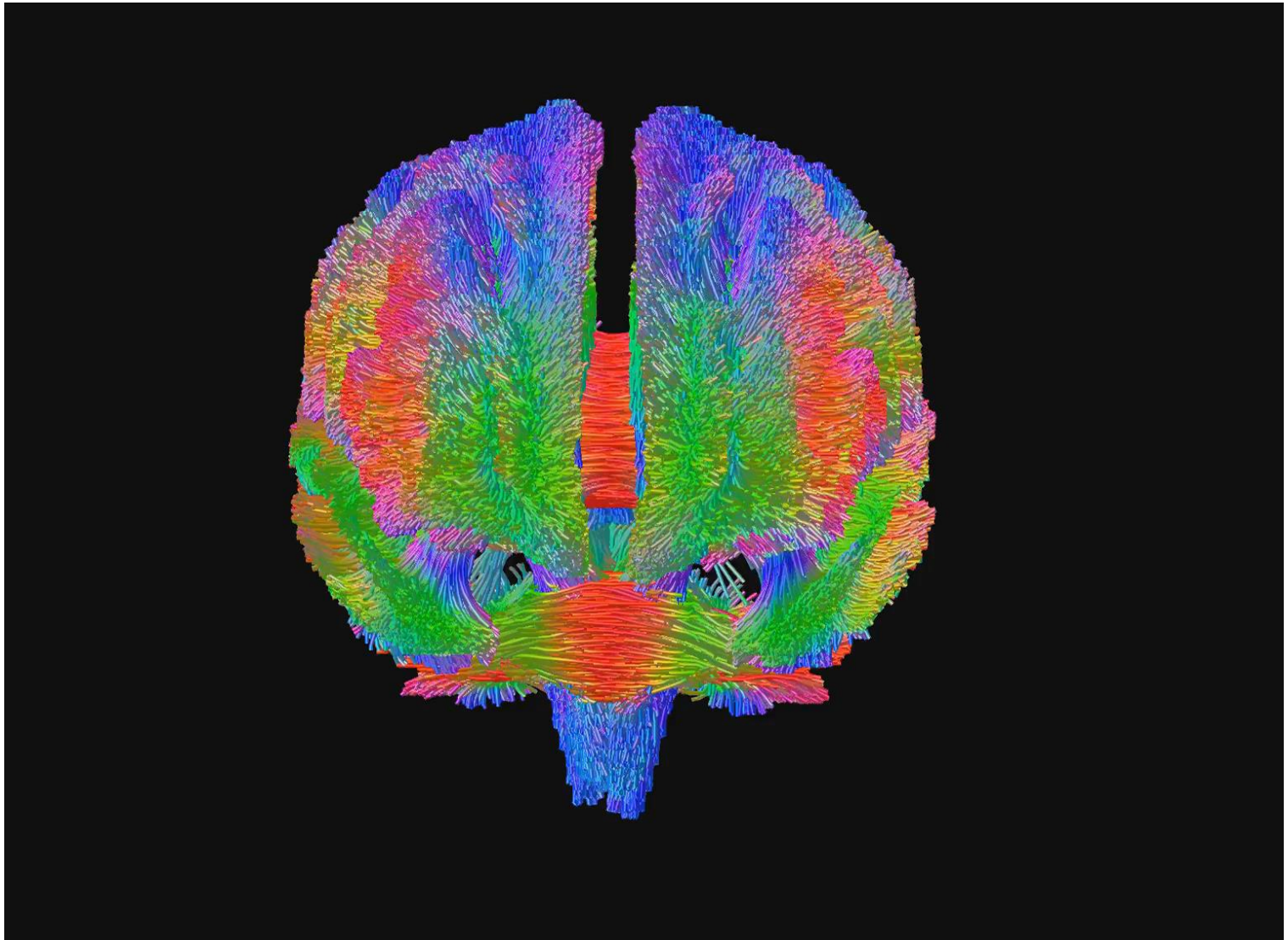
12 Feb 2024

Timo Roine

# CSD-based tractography

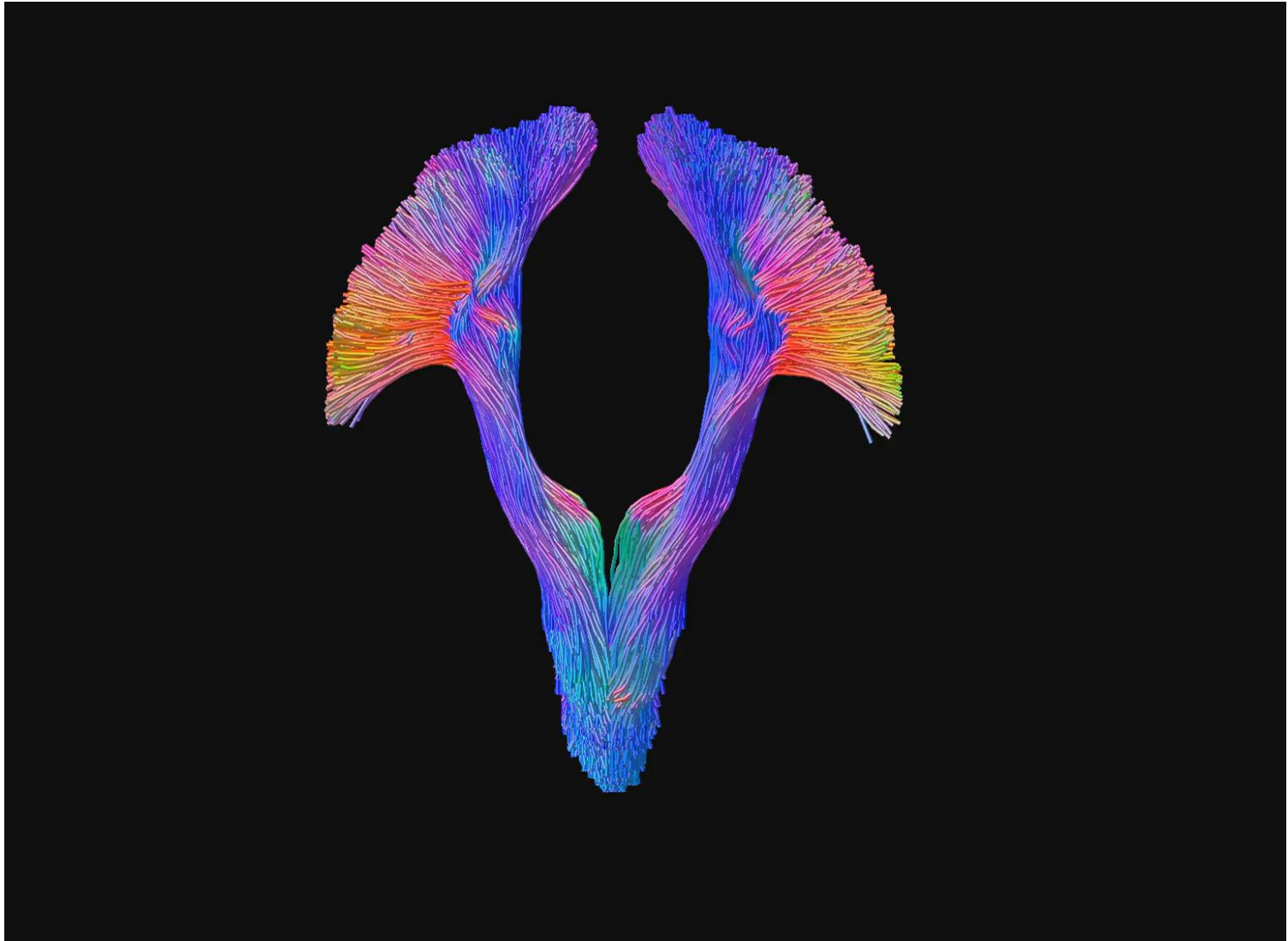


# CSD-based tractography

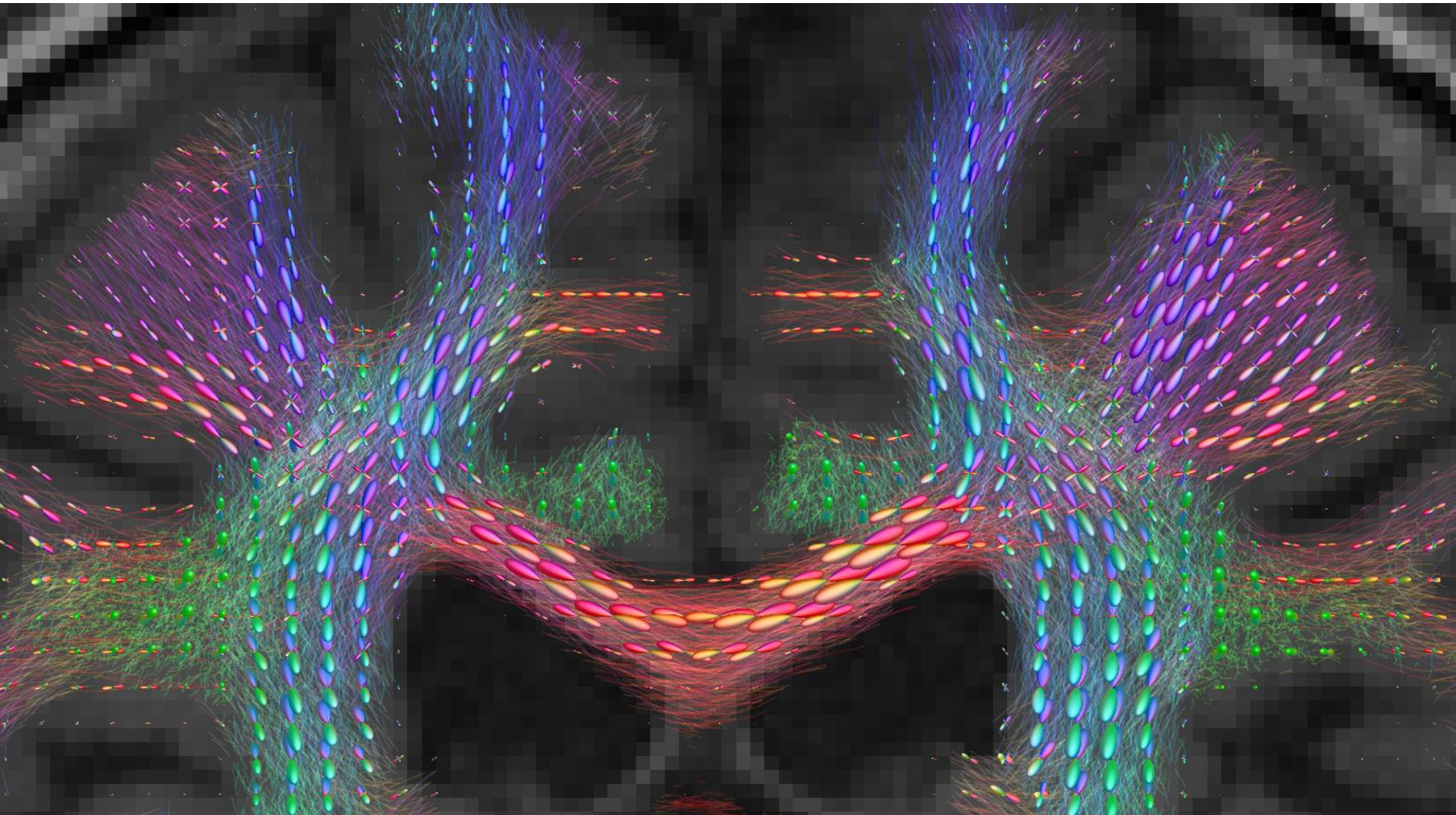




# CSD-based tractography

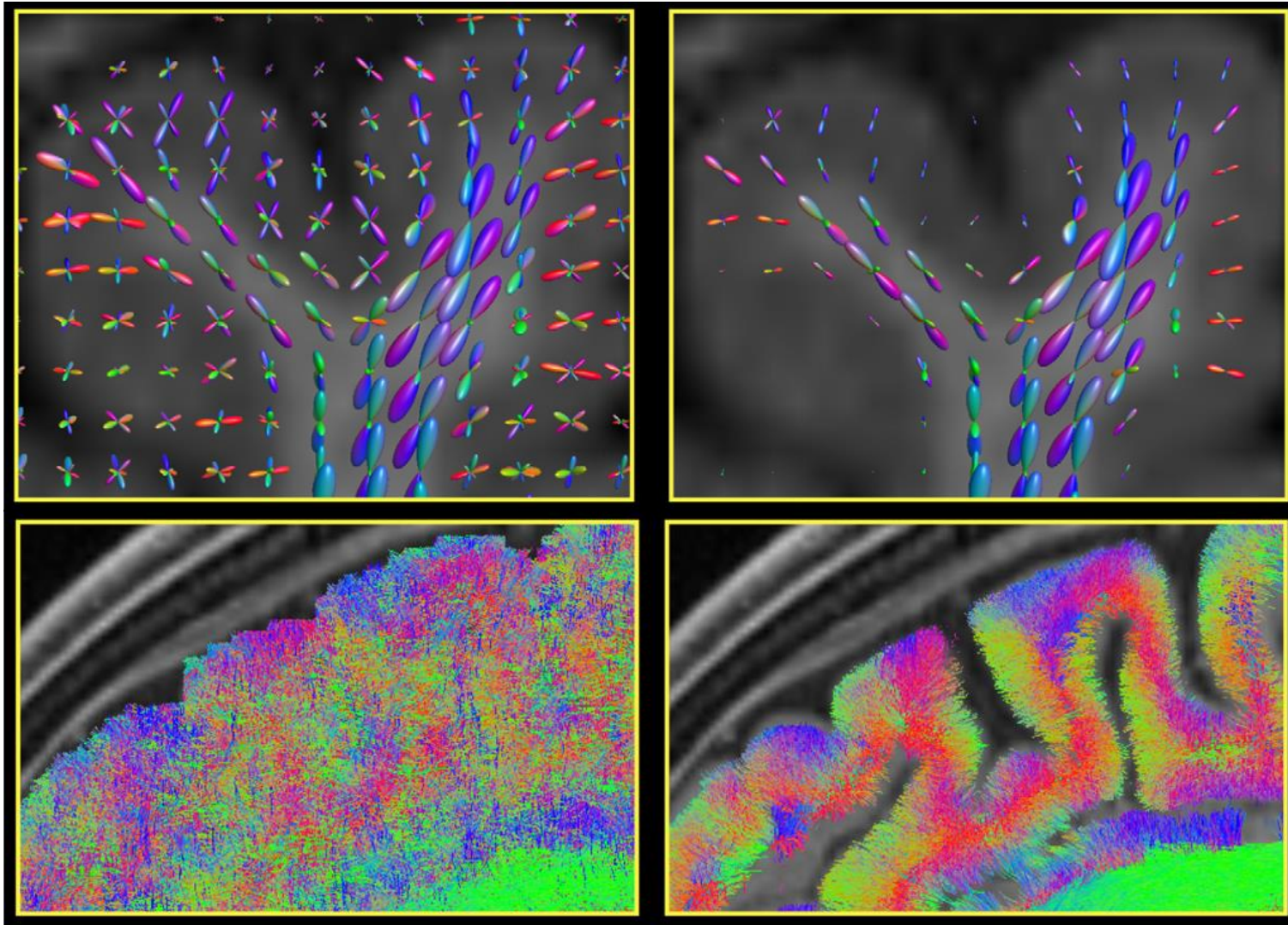


# Multi-tissue approaches





# Multi-tissue approaches



# Peer-feedback on the project plan

- Reply to the thread of submission. Everyone comments individually – at least two bullet points per person per project plan/draft report.
- Constructive comments! For instance, answer these questions:
  - What is good in the proposed approach/project?
  - What possible challenges do you see and how would you address them?
  - Is the literature review sufficient/relevant to the topic? How could it be improved?