

# MRI as a Probe of Tissue Microstructure

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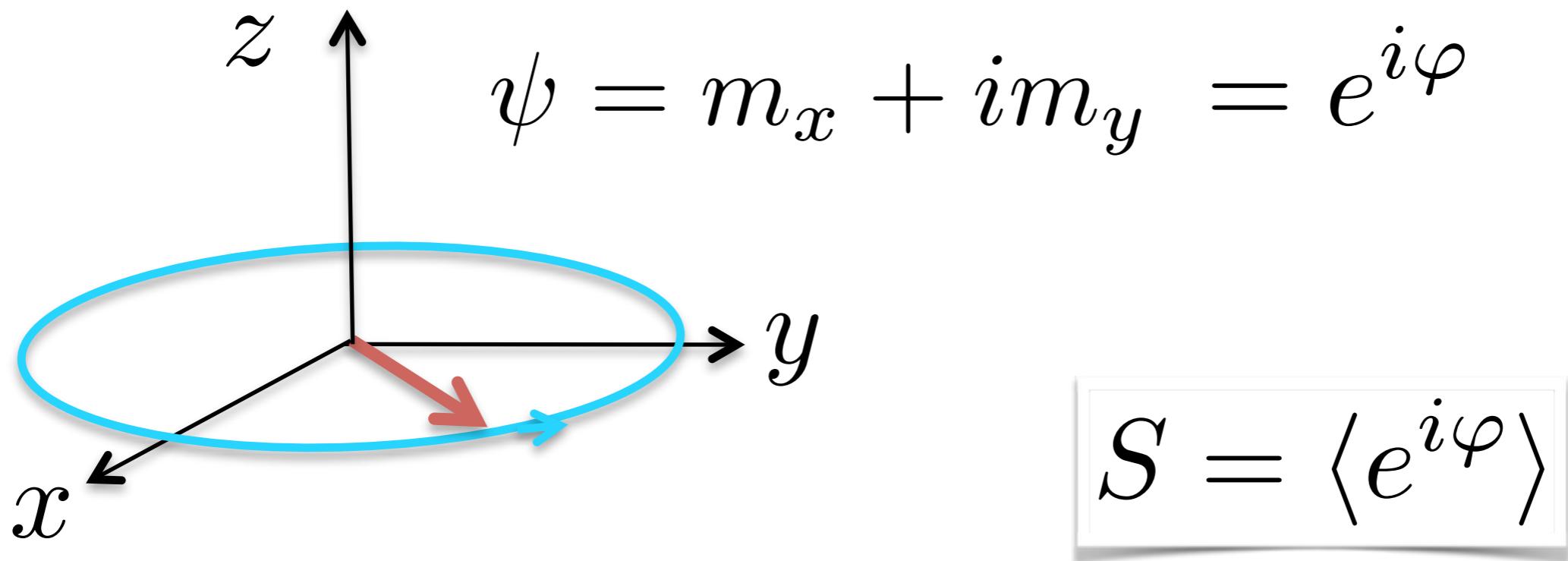
University Medical Center Freiburg

There is medicine...

... and MRI



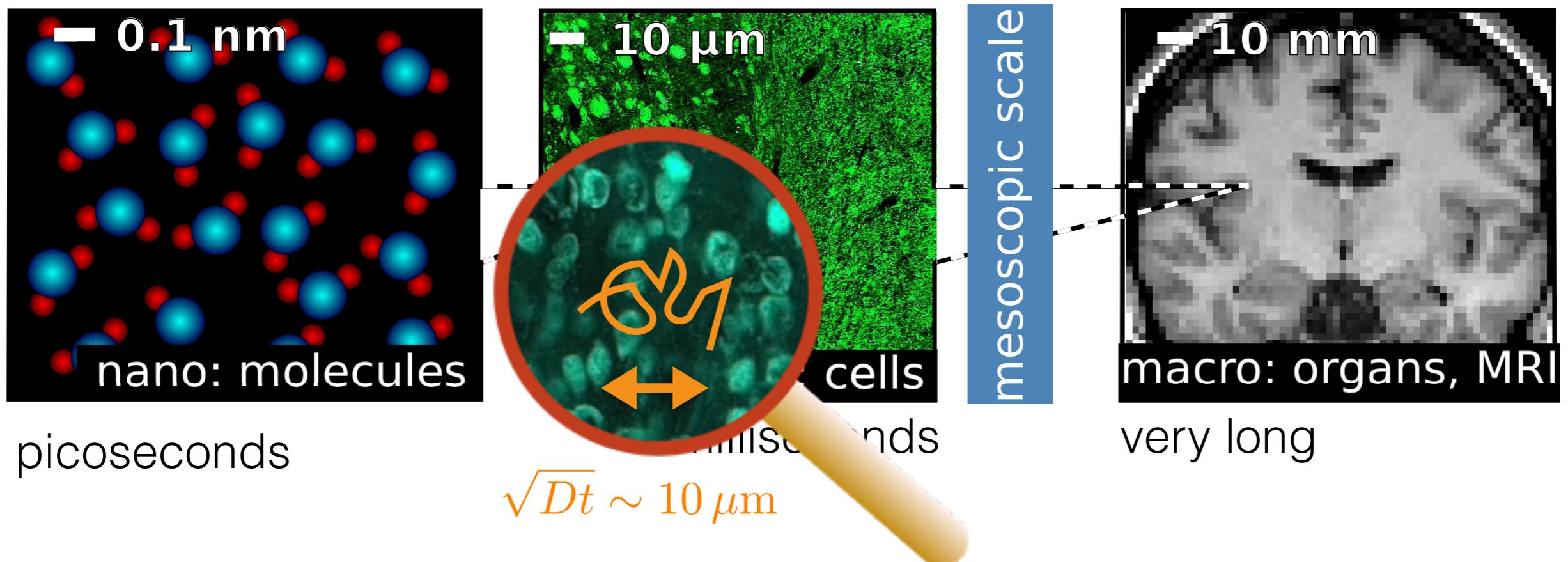
# MRI in brief



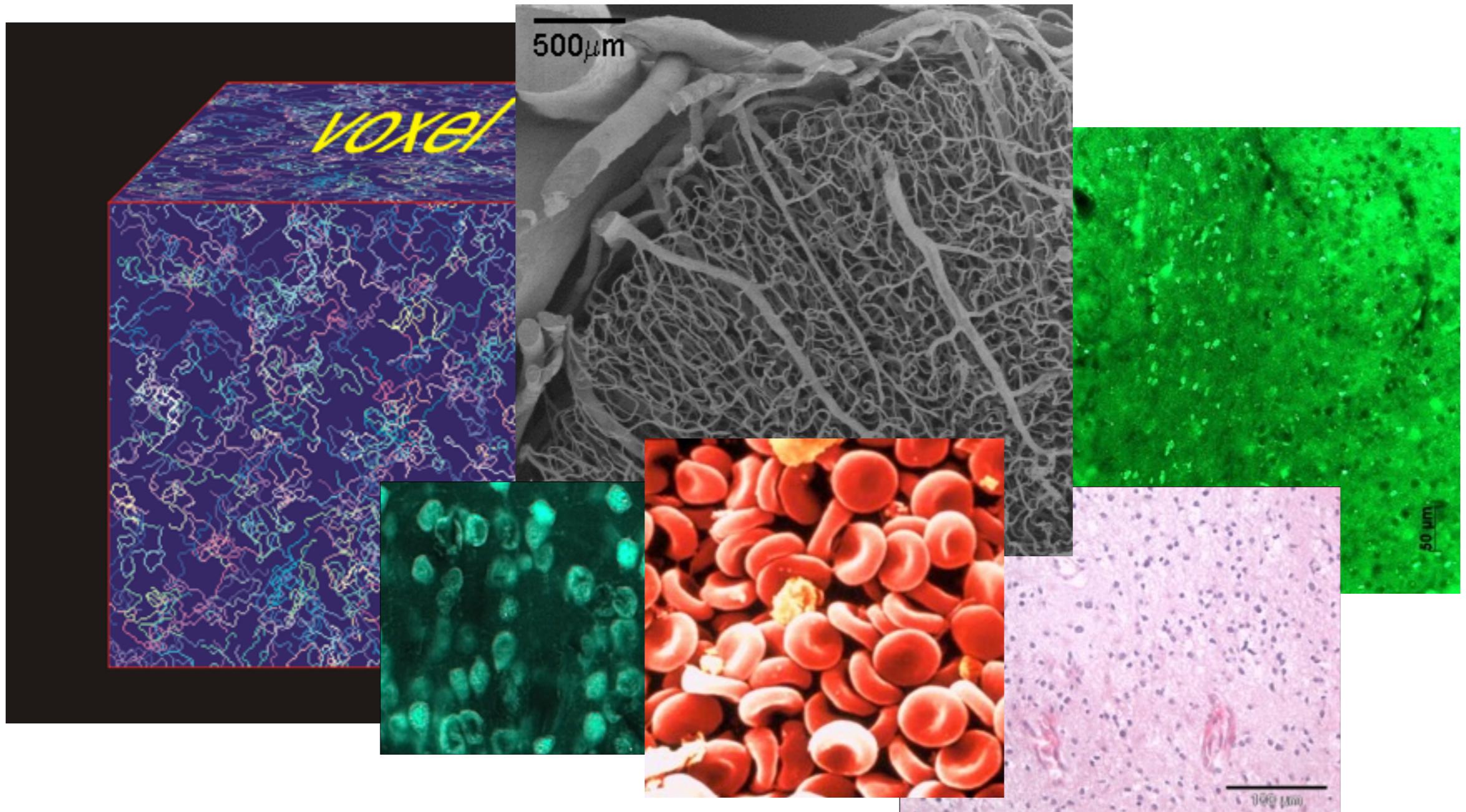
3 tools of MRI:

- RF
- gradients of the main field
- do nothing

# Tissue microstructure

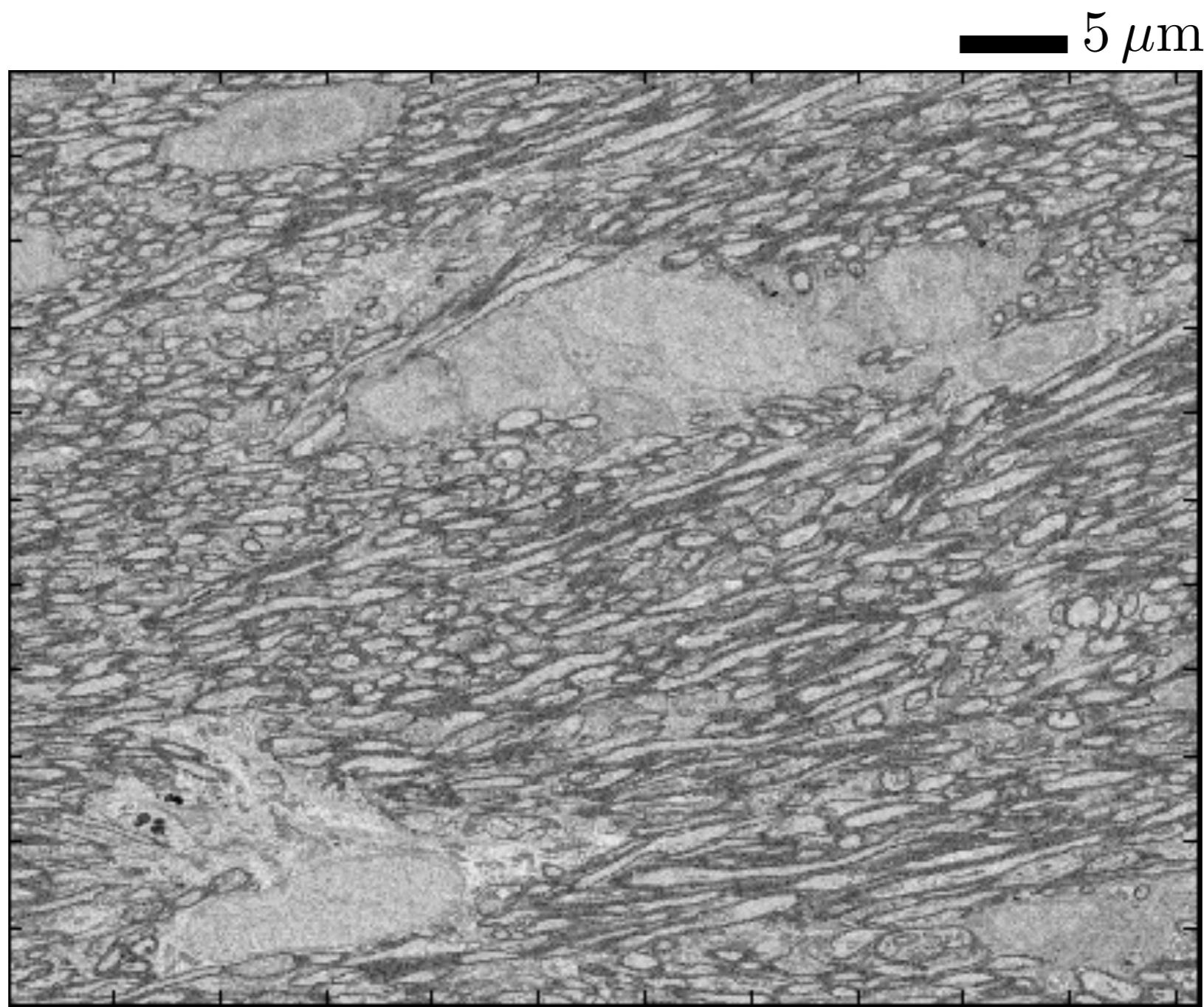


# More of tissue microstructure

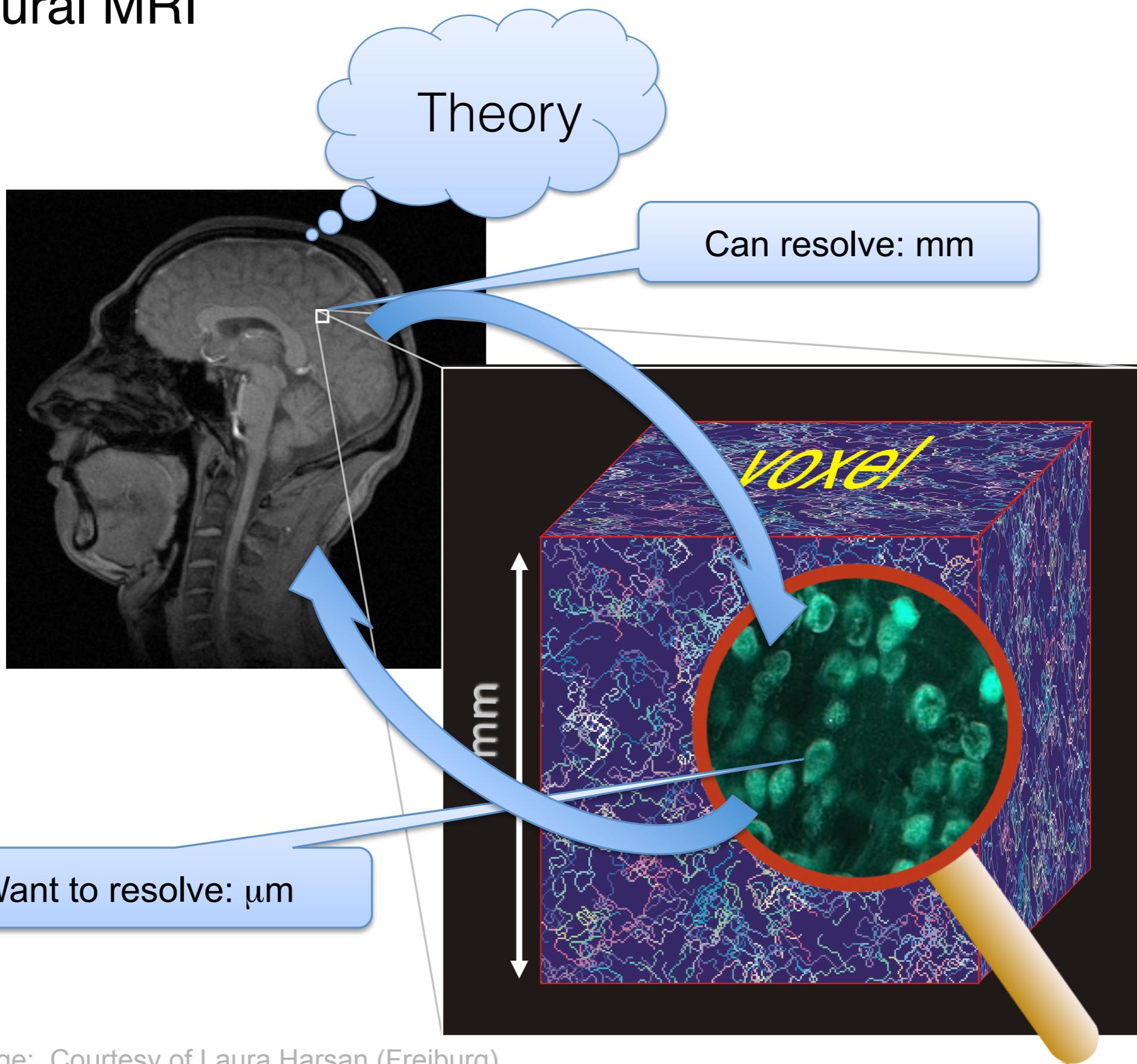


vessels: Courtesy of B.Weber and N.Logothetis

...and even more...

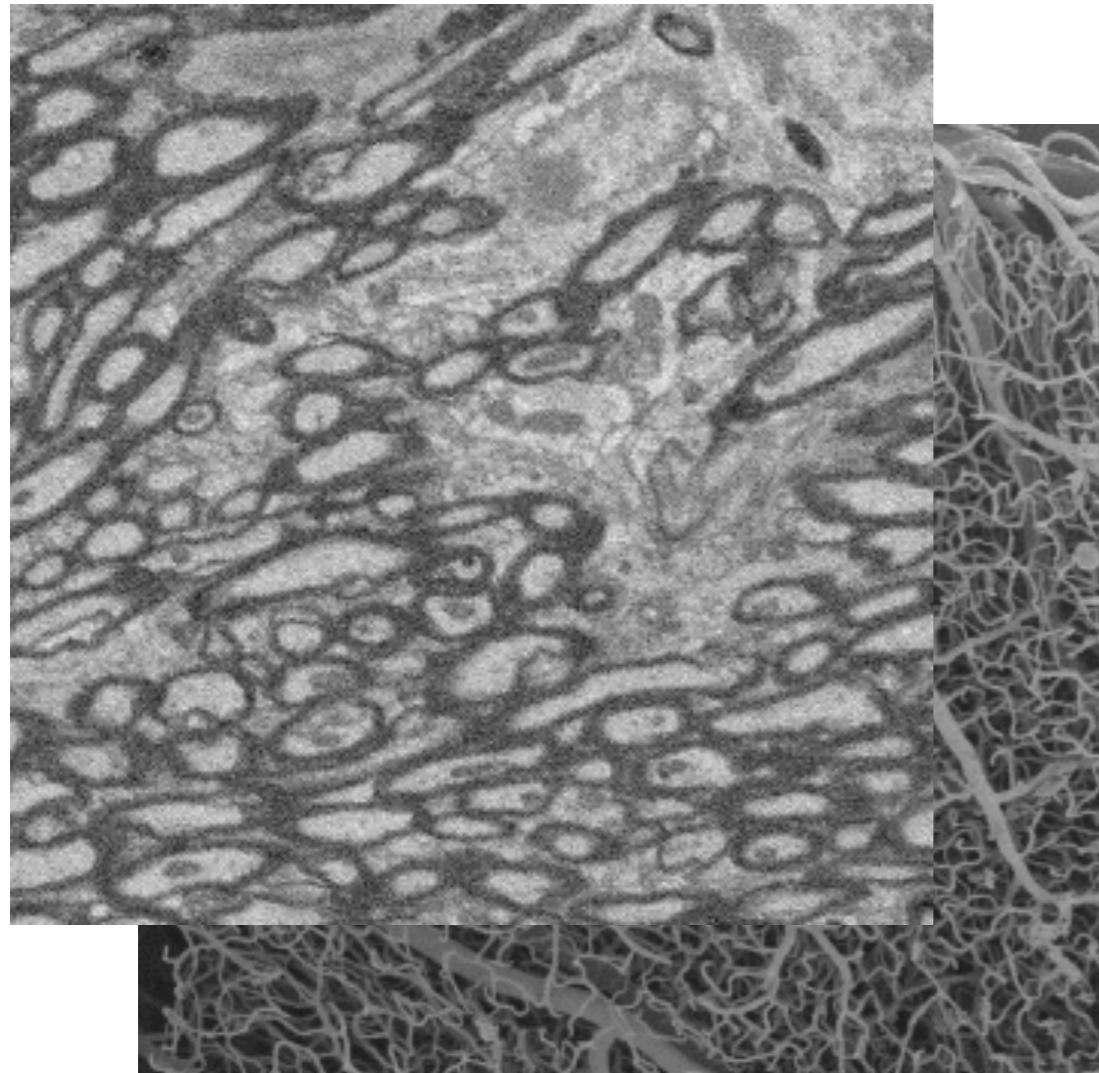


# Microstructural MRI



cell image: Courtesy of Laura Harsan (Freiburg)

# Back to physics: Relevant phenomena



$\Omega(x)$      $R(x)$     “ $D(x)$ ”

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \psi = -\nabla j - i\Omega(x)\psi - R(x)\psi$$
$$j = -D(x)\nabla\psi$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \psi = - [\nabla D(x)\nabla - i\Omega(x) - R(x)] \psi$$

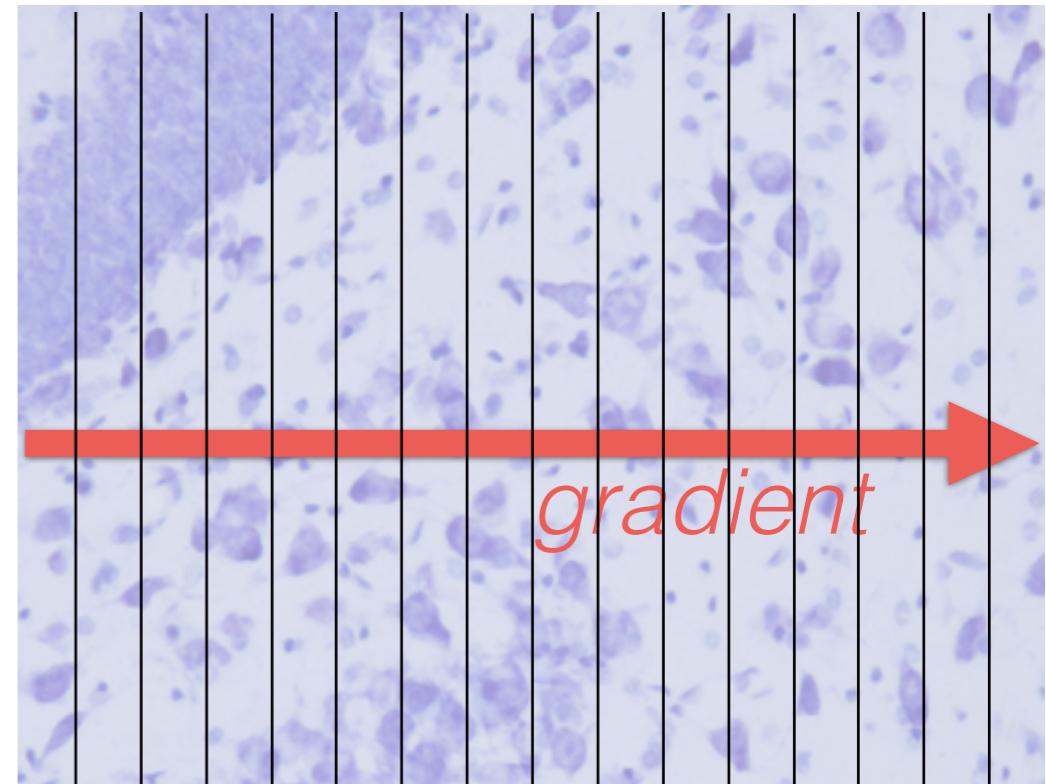
$$\left[ \frac{\partial}{\partial t} + \nabla D(x)\nabla + i\Omega(x) + R(x) \right] \mathcal{G} = \delta(t)\delta(x - x_0)$$

# A typical MR trick



$$S(t) = \int \frac{dx_0}{V} dx e^{iqx_0} \mathcal{G}(t, x, x_0) e^{-iqx}$$

$$= \int dx e^{-iq(x-x_0)} G(t, x - x_0) = G(t, q)$$



$$\psi \rightarrow \psi e^{iqx}$$

$$S(t) = G(t, q)$$

# Signal anatomy

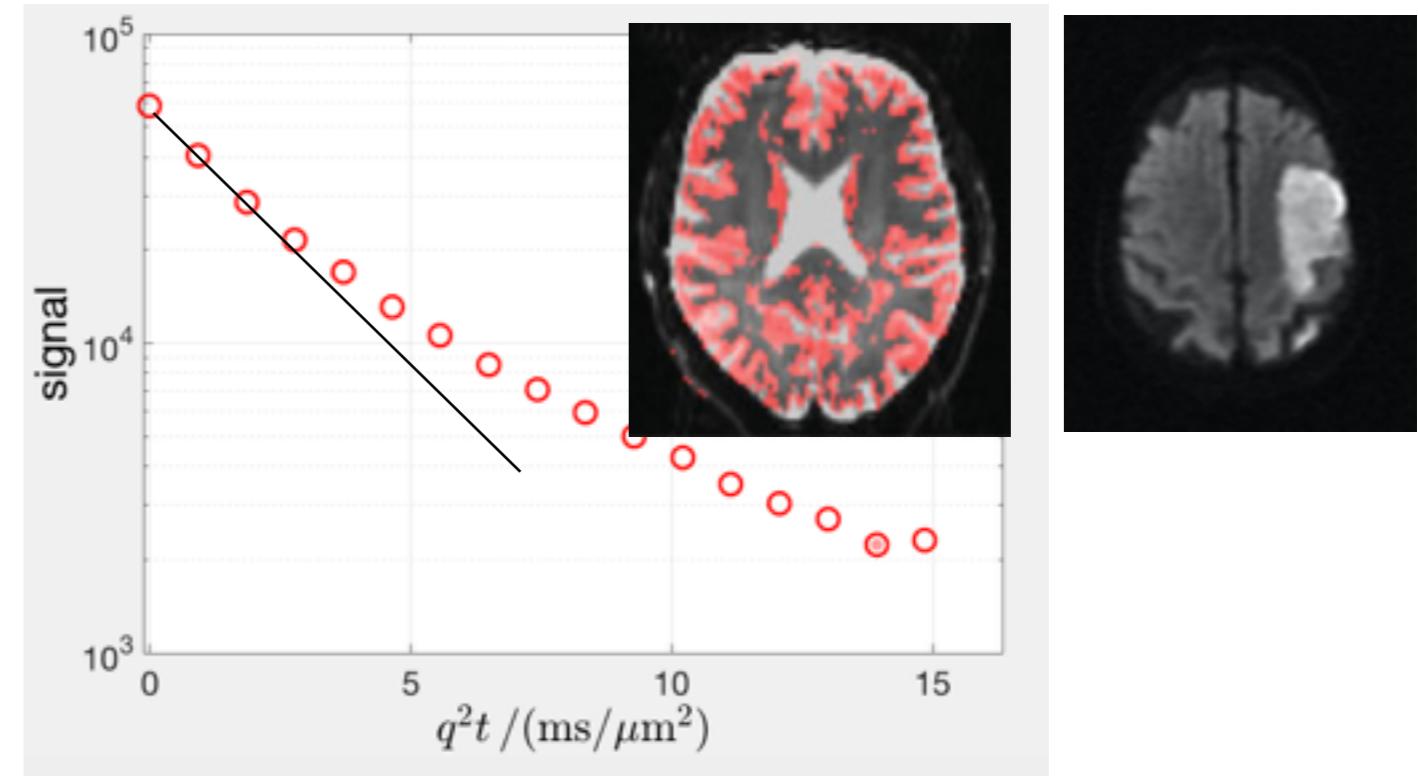
$$S = \langle e^{i\varphi} \rangle = G(t, q)$$

$$S = e^{-D(t)q^2 t + W(t)q^4 + \dots}$$

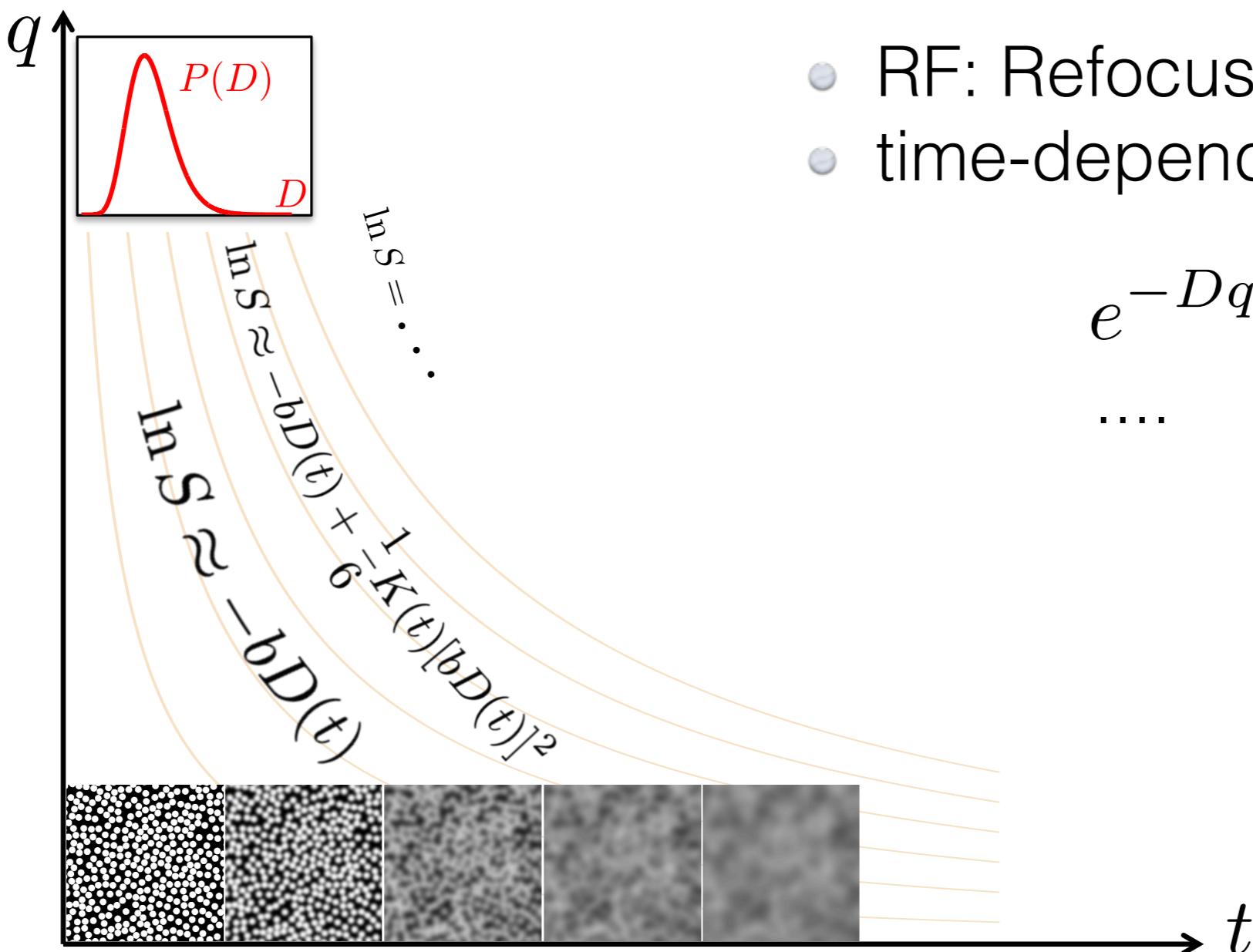
$$q(t) = \int_0^t dt' g(t')$$

$$S = \exp \left[ -\frac{1}{2} \int dt_1 dt_2 \underbrace{\langle v(t_1)v(t_2) \rangle}_{\mathcal{D}(t_2 - t_1)} q(t_1) q(t_2) + \dots \right]$$

$$= \exp \left[ -\frac{1}{2} \int \frac{d\omega}{2\pi} \mathcal{D}(\omega) |q(\omega)|^2 + \dots \right]$$



# Number of controlling parameters = 2+++



- RF: Refocusing
- time-dependent gradients

$$e^{-Dq^2t} \rightarrow e^{-\text{Tr } bD}$$

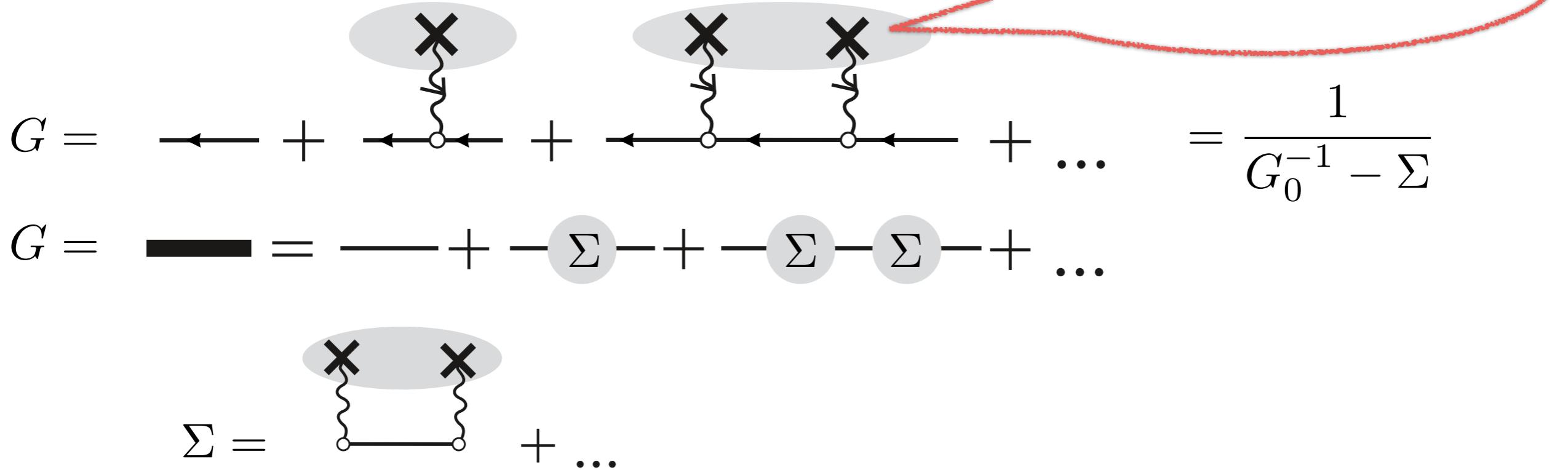
....

# Averaging over the medium

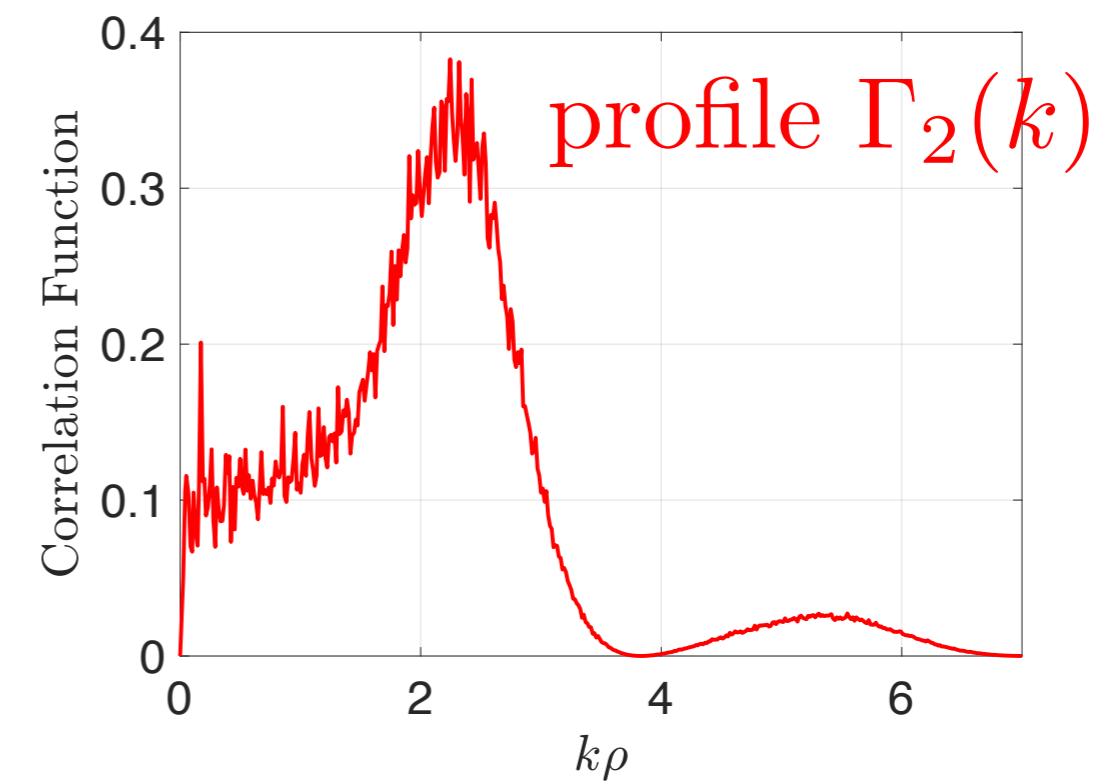
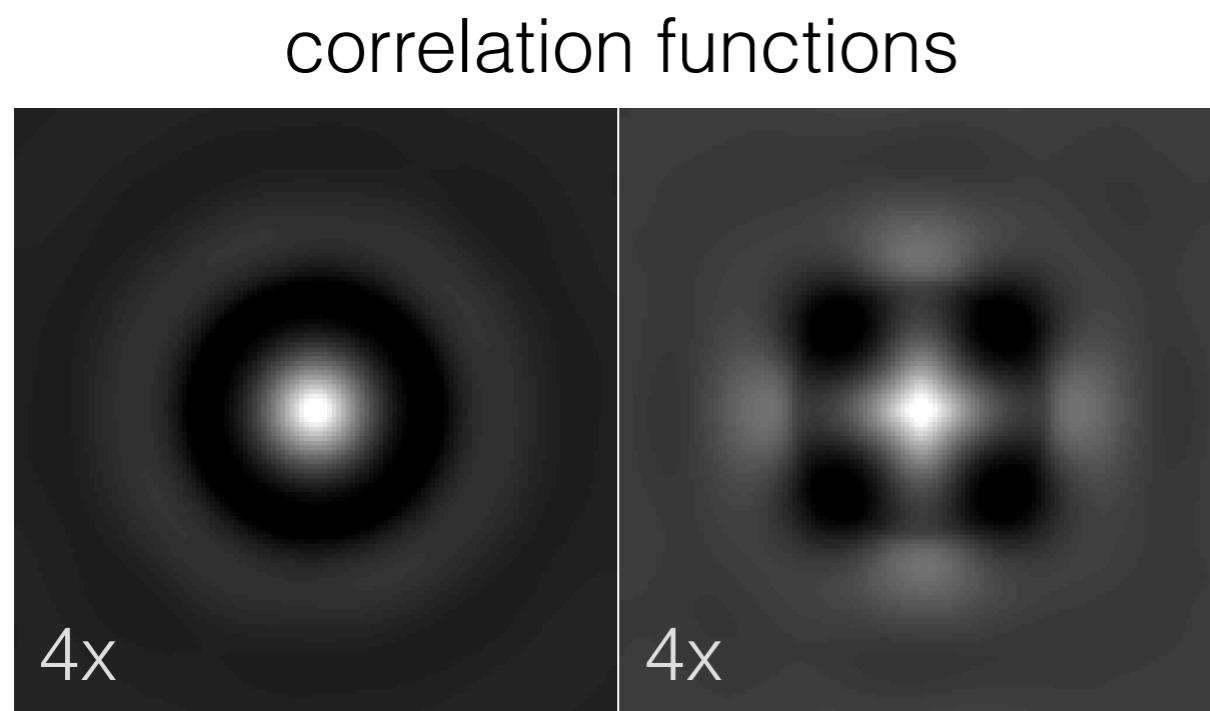
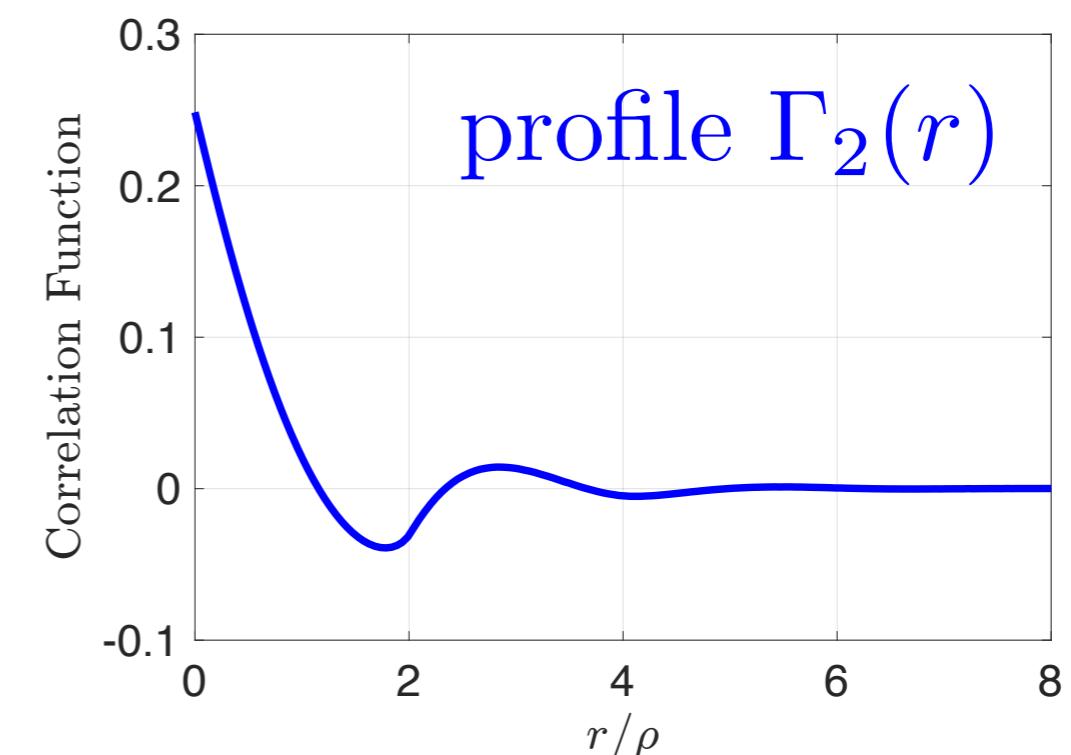
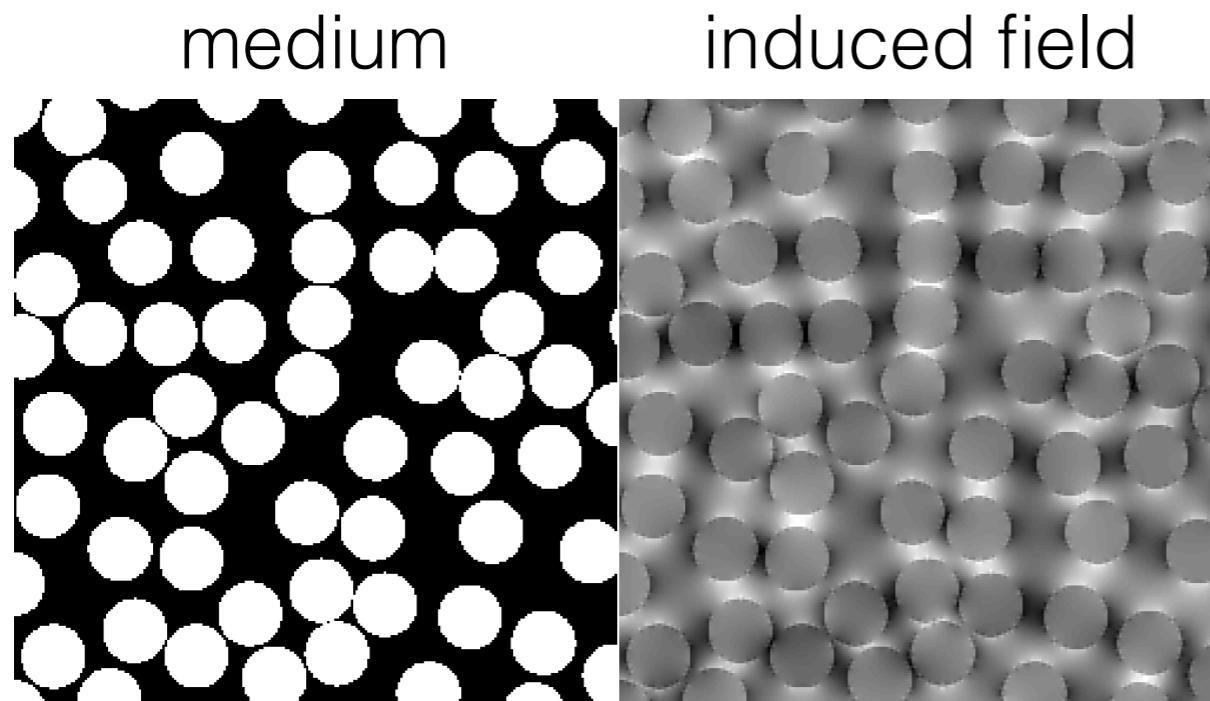
$$\left[ \frac{\partial}{\partial t} + D_0 \nabla^2 + R_0 - U(x) \right] \mathcal{G} = \delta(t) \delta(x - x_0)$$

$$[G_0^{-1} - U] G = 1$$

$$G = G_0 + G_0 U G_0 + G_0 U G_0 U G_0 + \dots$$



# Medium correlation function



# Effective medium theory

$$S(\omega, q) = \frac{1}{-i\omega + R + D_0 q^2 - \Sigma(\omega, q)}$$

$$R \rightarrow R - \Sigma(\omega)$$

$$D_0 \rightarrow D_0 - \frac{1}{2} \Sigma''(\omega)$$



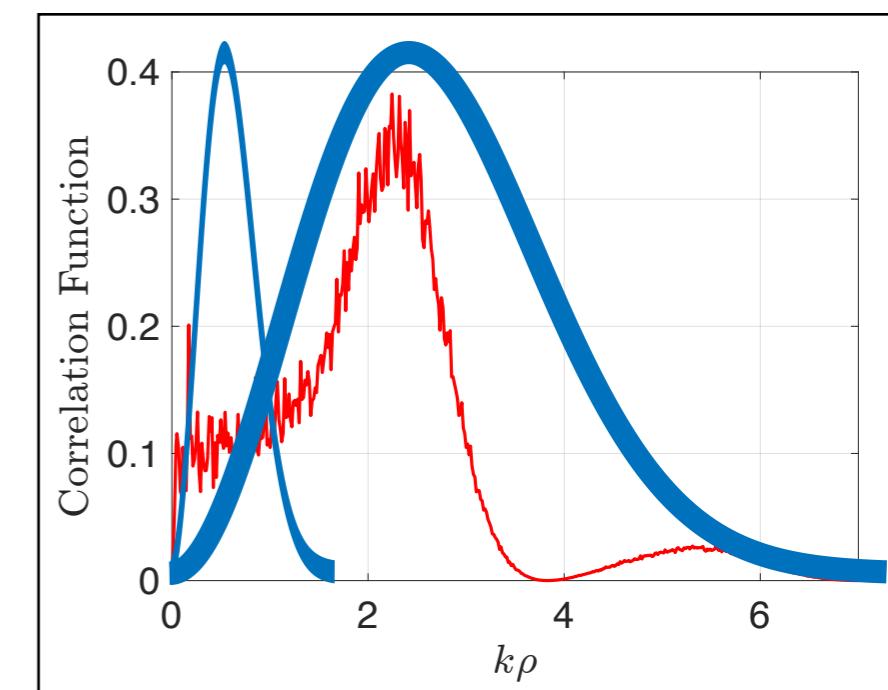
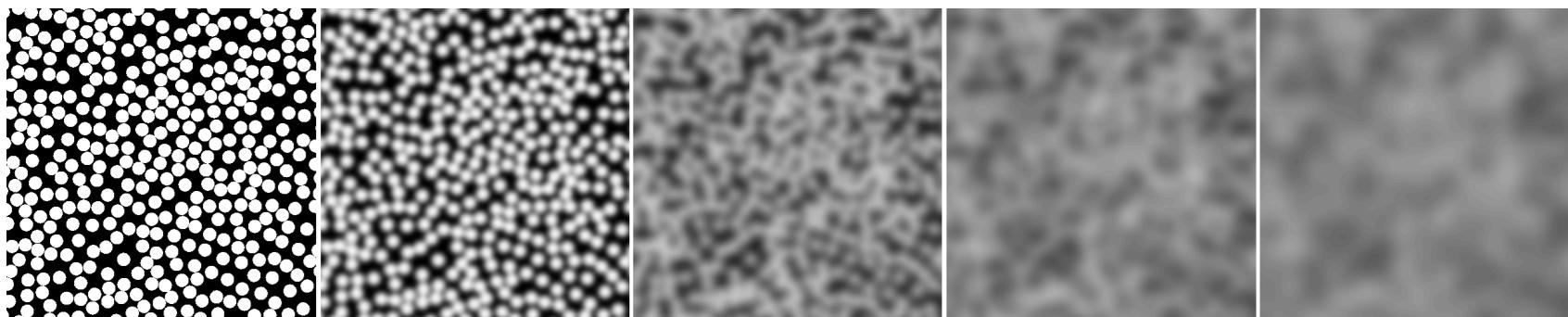
$$n(\omega) = n_1(\omega) + i n_2(\omega)$$

# Perturbation theory

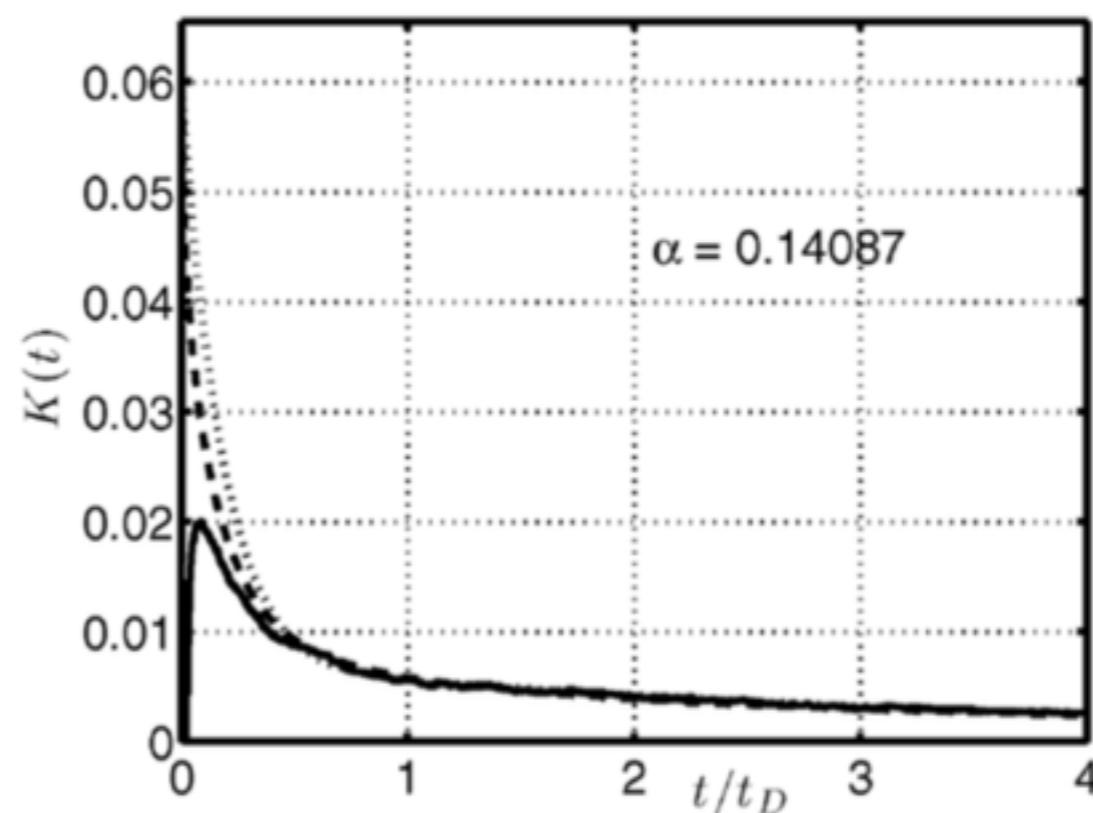
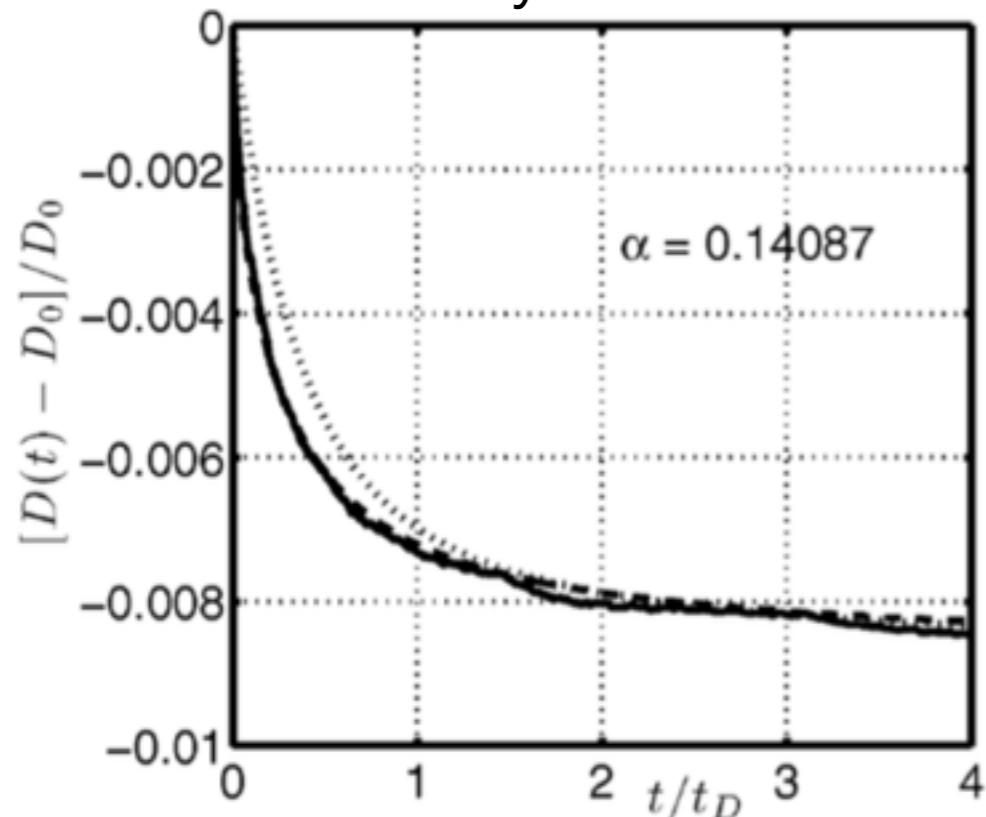
$$\Sigma \approx \text{Diagram}$$

The diagram shows a horizontal line with two vertices connected by a wavy line. A shaded oval contains two 'X' marks.

$$D(t) \stackrel{t \gg \tau}{\approx} D_0 - \frac{1}{D_0 d} \int \frac{d^d k}{(2\pi)^d} e^{-D_0 k^2 t} \Gamma_2(k)$$

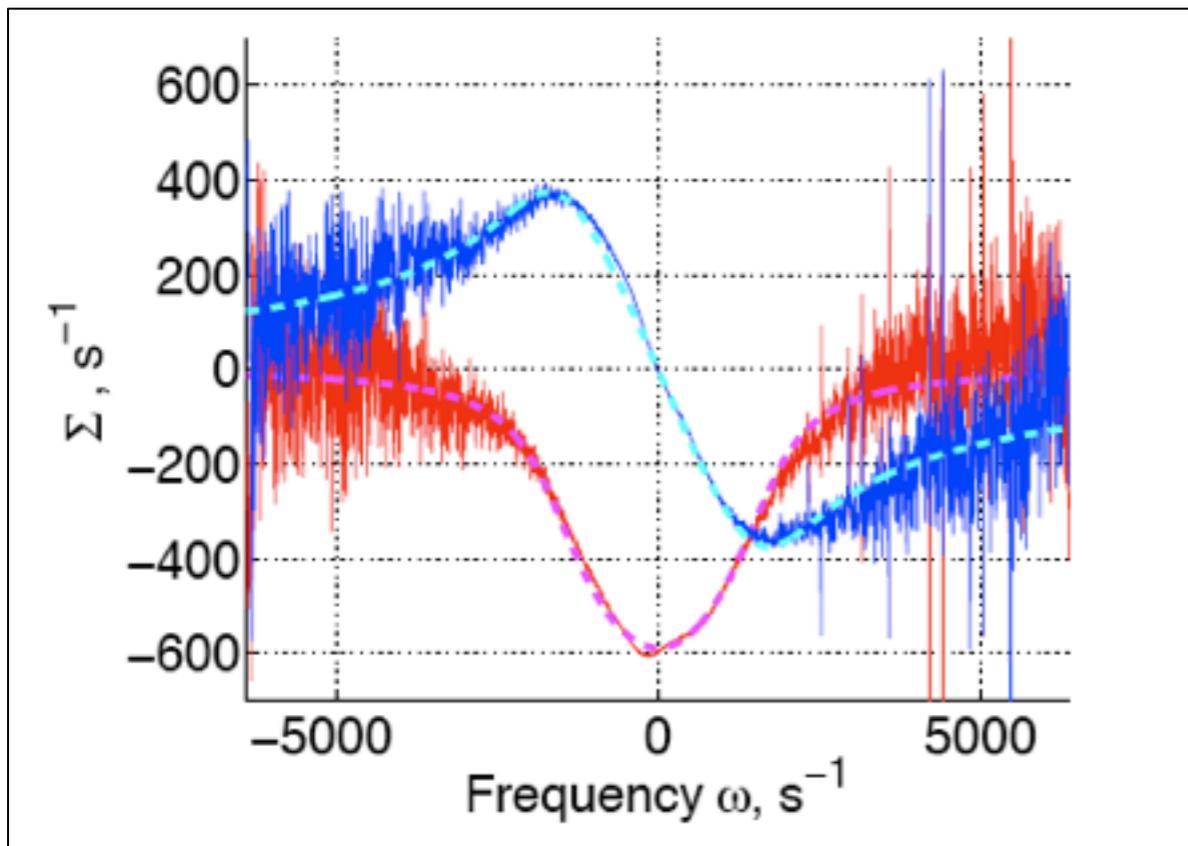


analytical result vs. Monte Carlo simulation

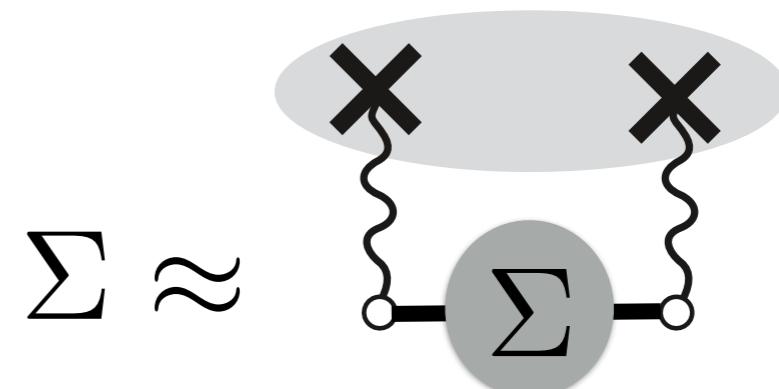


# Beyond the perturbation theory

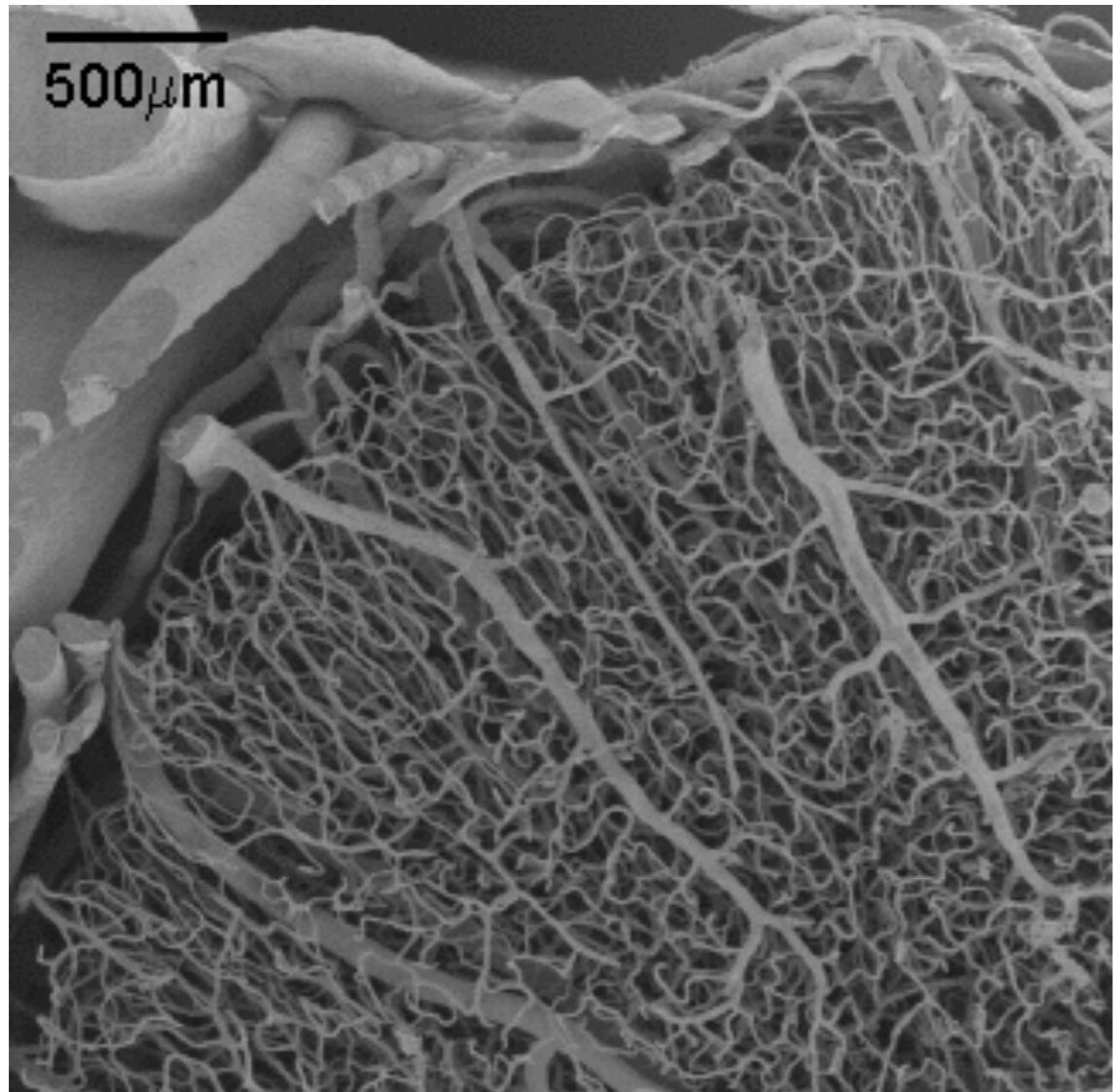
Blood spectral line shape



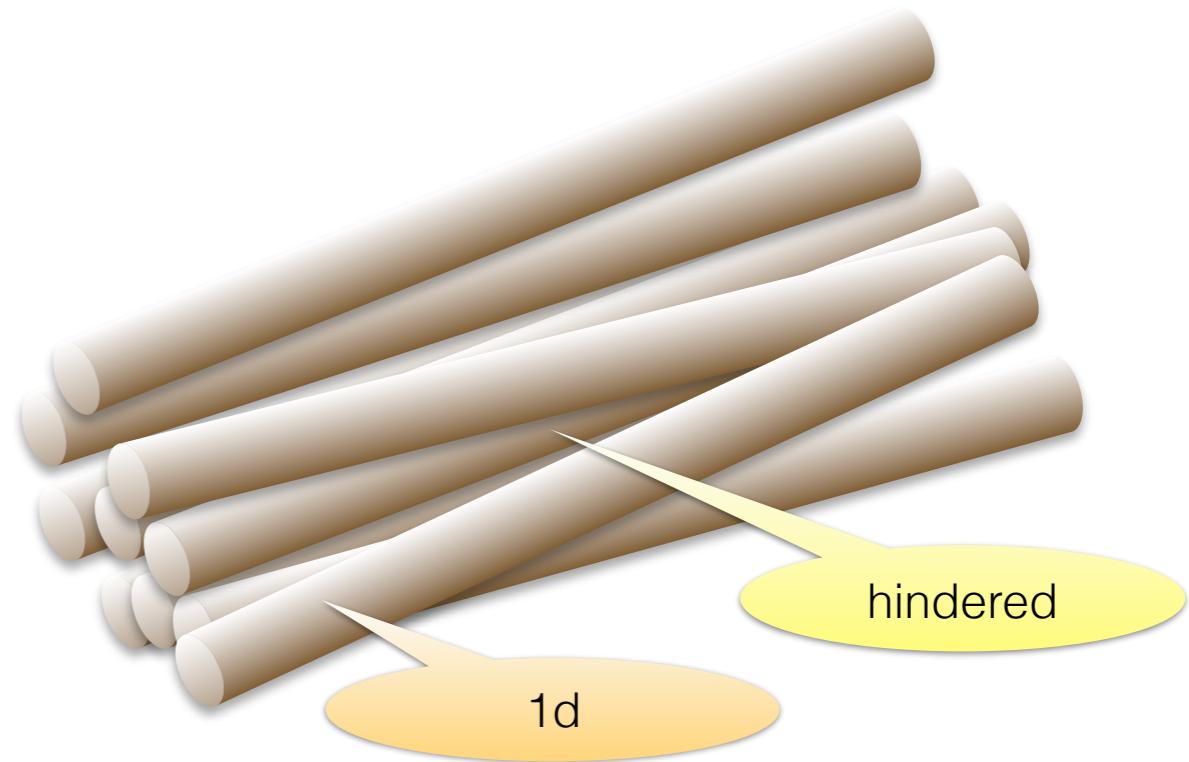
Self-consistent Born approximation:



# Beyond the perturbation theory...



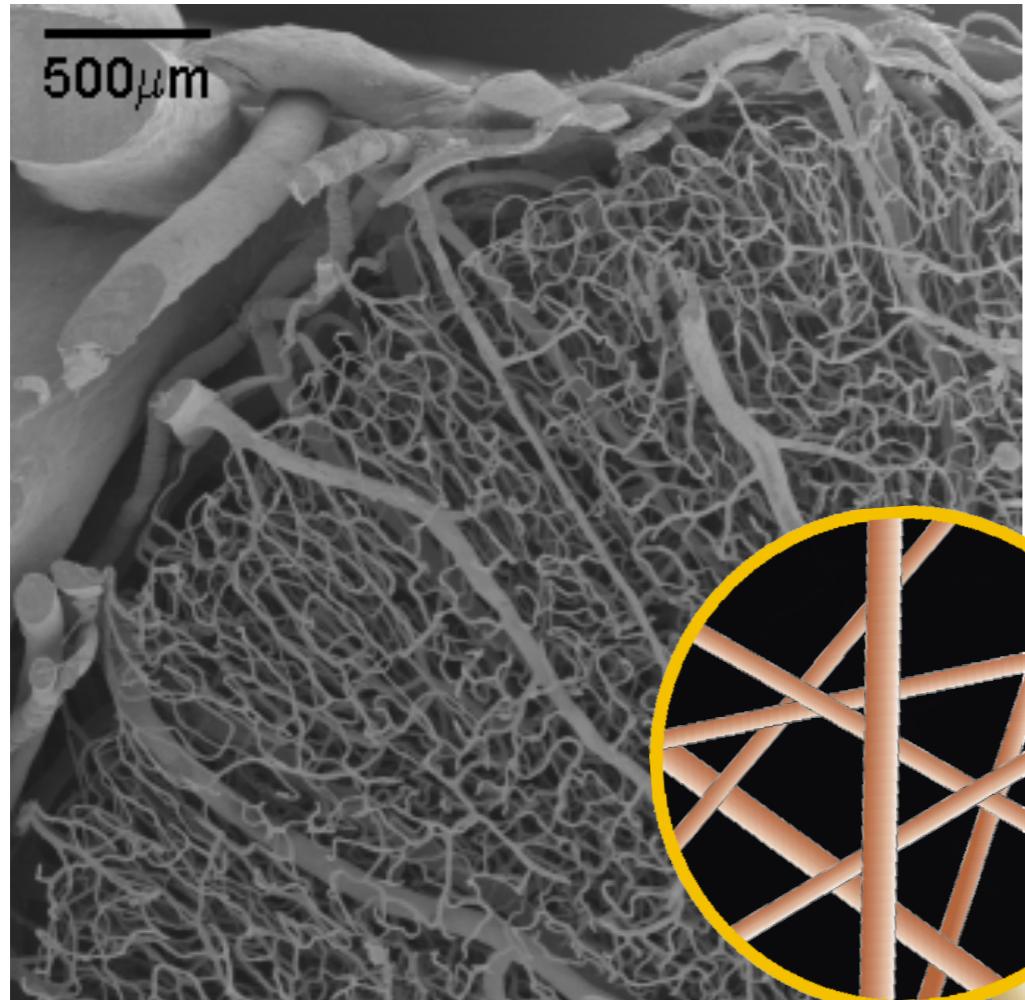
blood doped with contrast agent



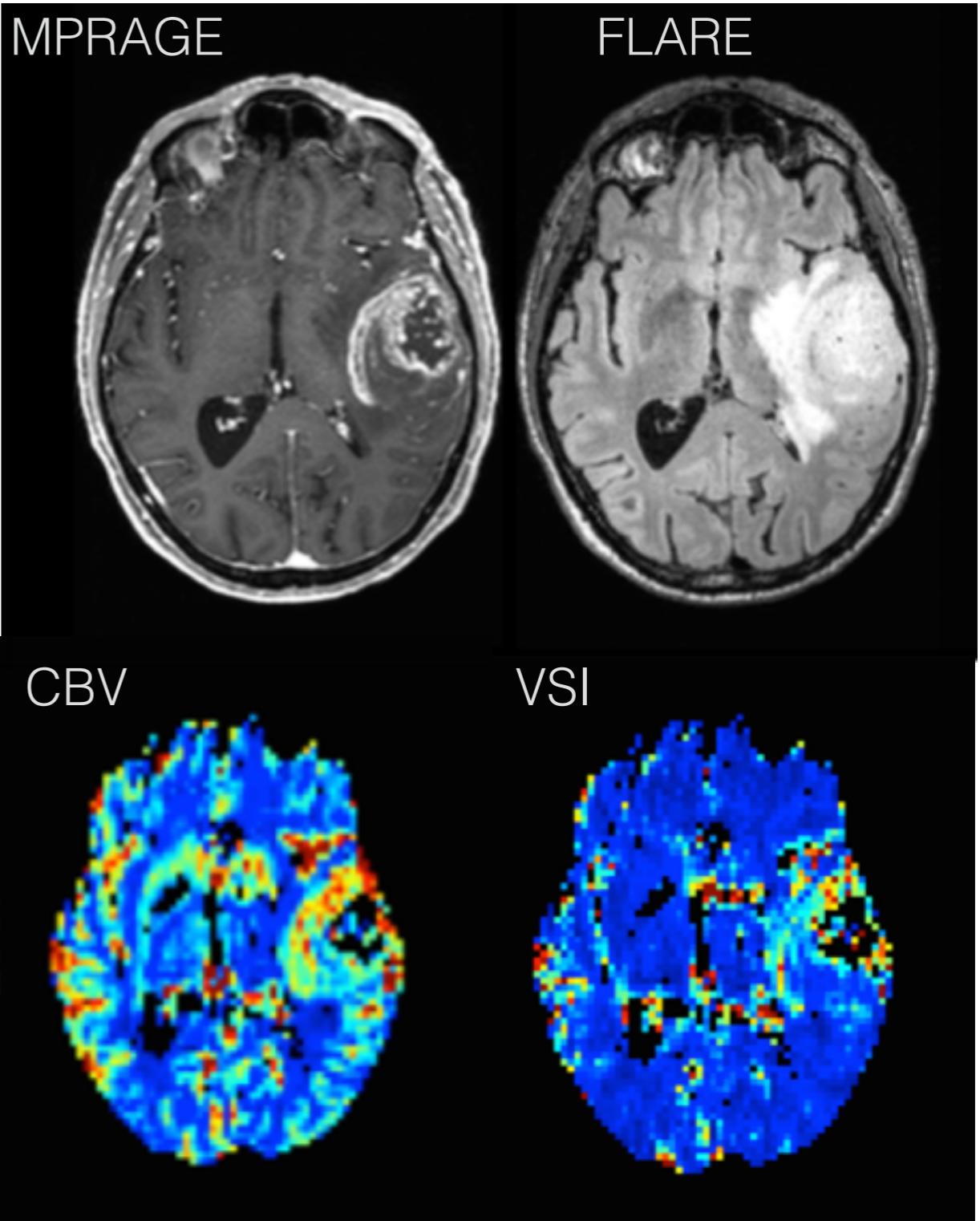
diffusion in complex geometry  
(here white matter)

# Vessel Size Imaging

image resolution  $\sim 2\text{mm}$

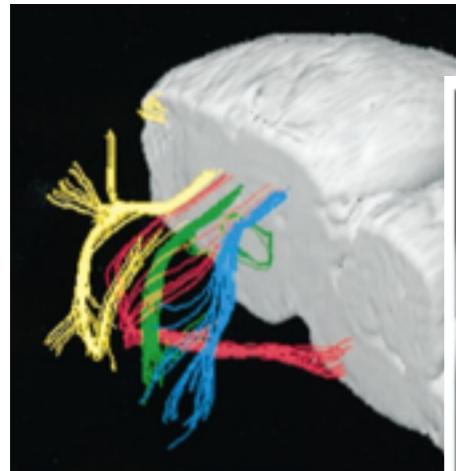


mean capillary diameter  $\sim 10 \mu\text{m}$

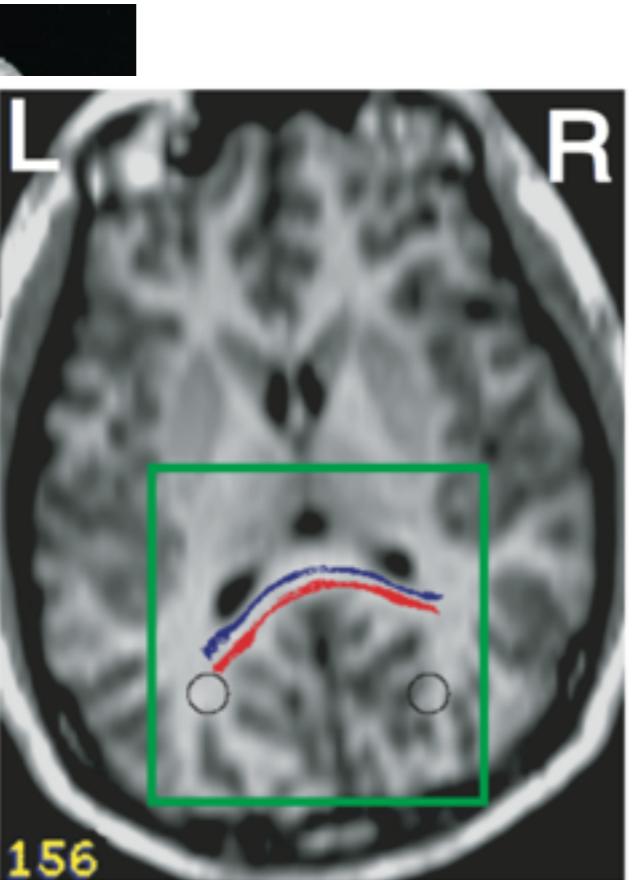


Kiselev et al. 2005

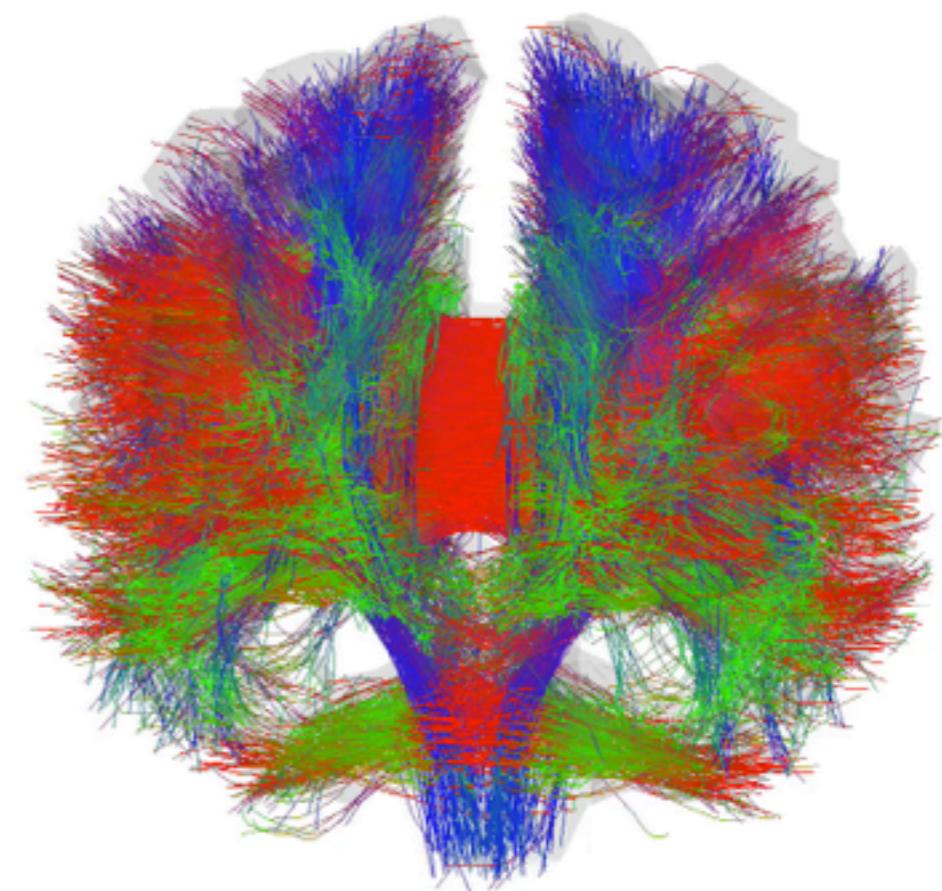
# Fiber tracking



Mori et al. 1999



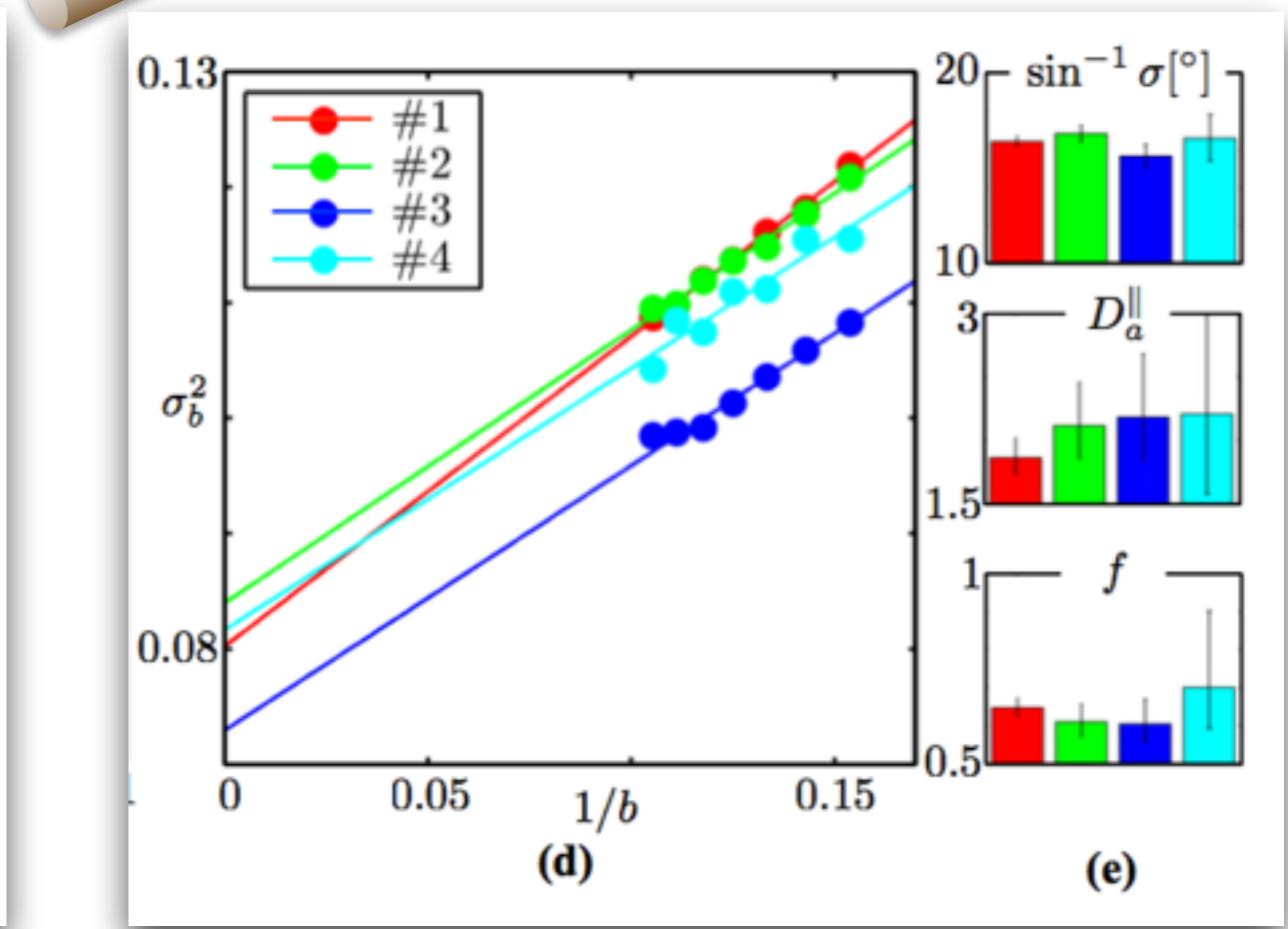
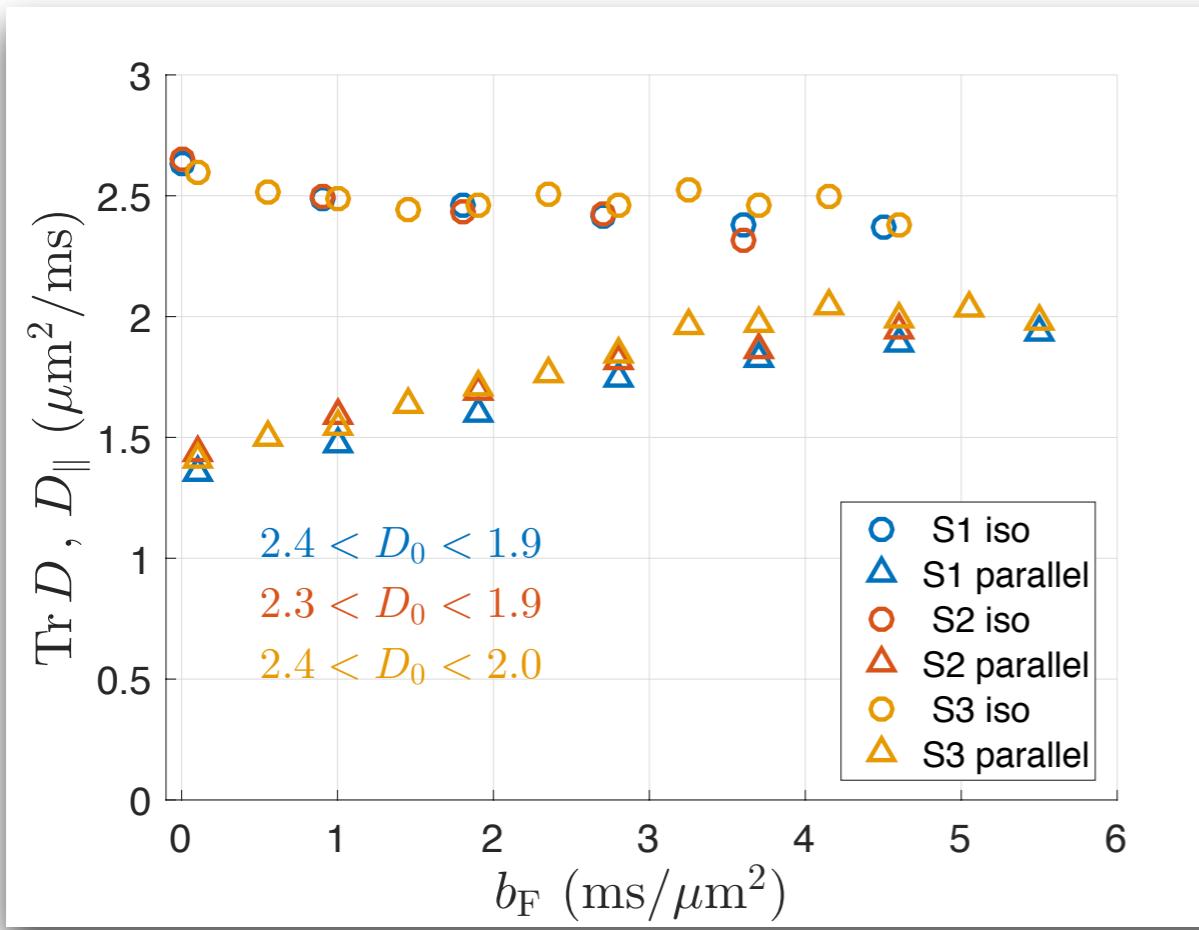
Conturo et al. 1999



Reisert et al. 2011

# Outlook: 'In vivo MRI histology'

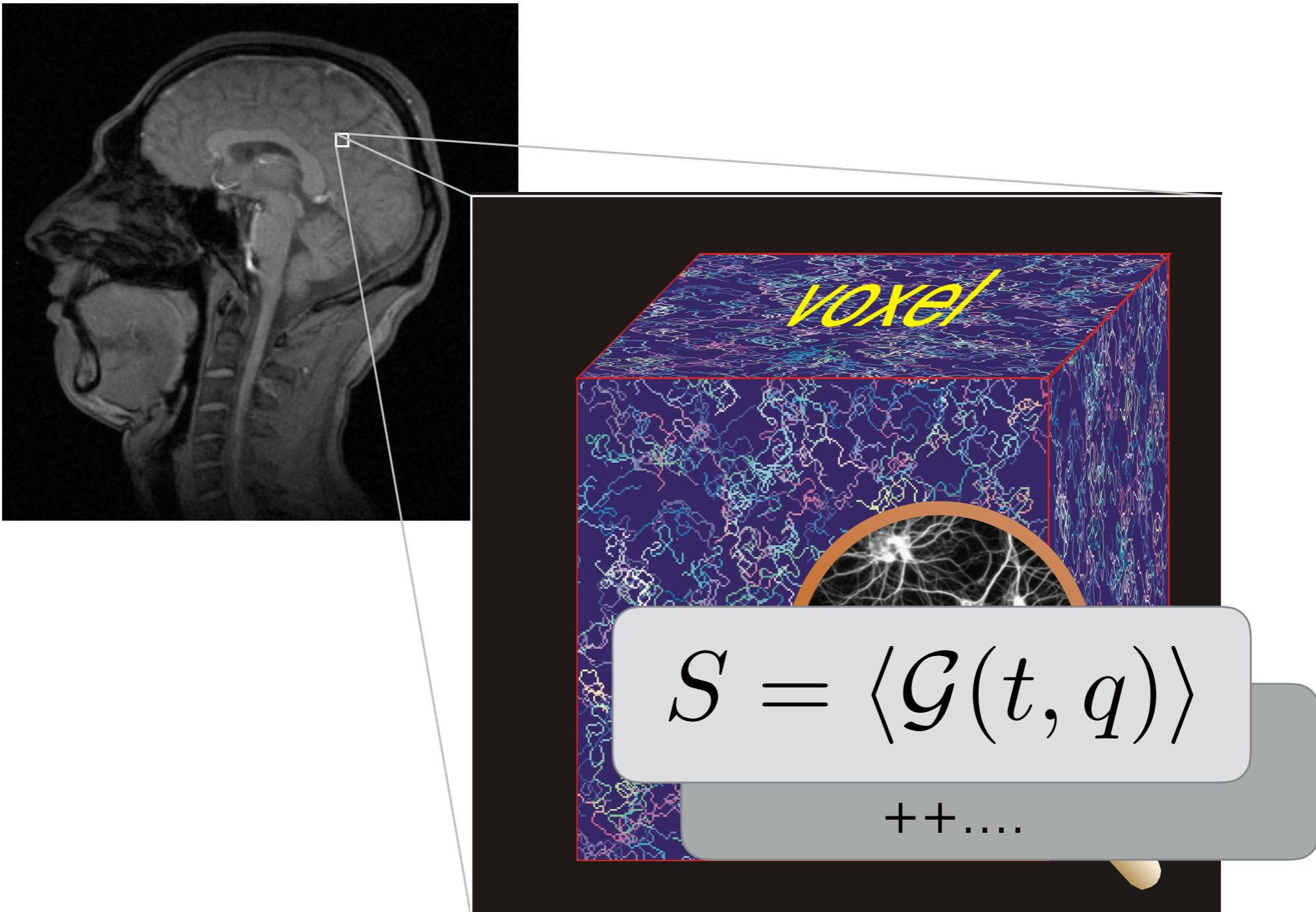
D inside?

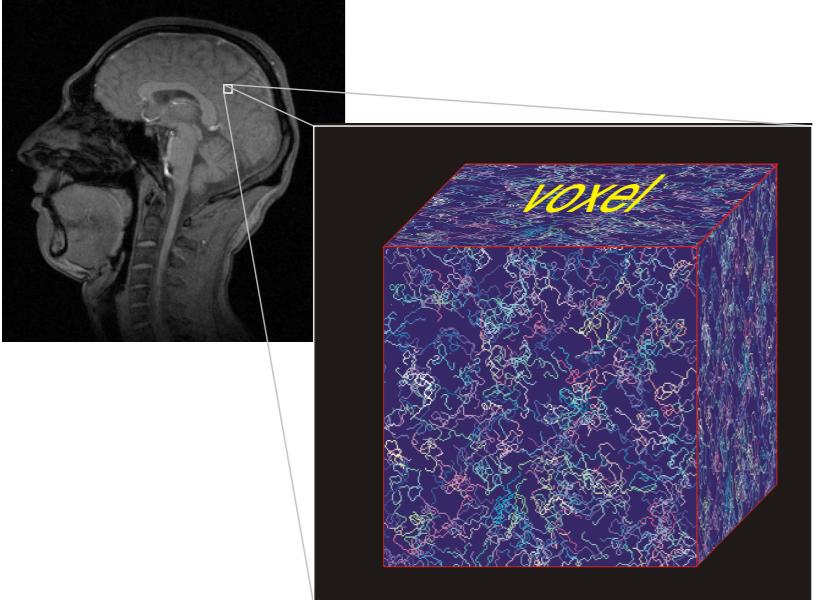


Dhital et al. in preparation

Veraart et al. arXiv:1609.09145v1

# Conclusions





# Thanks to the group

... and cooperation partners



Bibek Dhital



Elias Kellner



Marco Reisert



Alexander Ruh



Irina Mader (FR)



Dmitry Novikov (NYU)