

# Reconstructing Neural Structures from Sparse User Scribbles

Mike Roberts<sup>1</sup>, Won-Ki Jeong<sup>1</sup>, Amelio Vazquez-Reina<sup>1</sup>, Markus Unger<sup>2</sup>, Horst Bischof<sup>2</sup>, Jeff Lichtman<sup>1</sup>, Hanspeter Pfister<sup>1</sup>

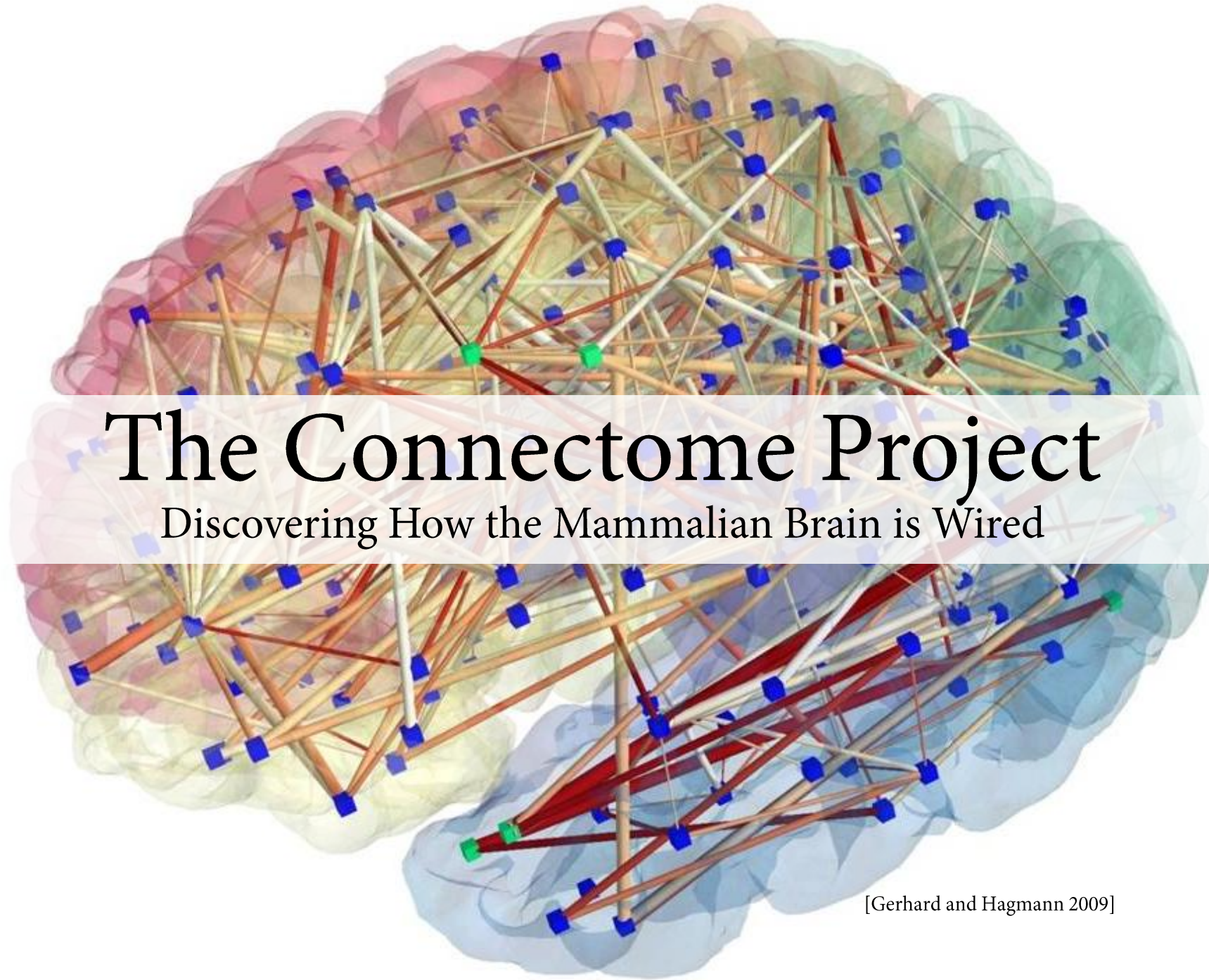
<sup>1</sup>Harvard University

<sup>2</sup>Graz University of Technology



HARVARD  
School of Engineering  
and Applied Sciences



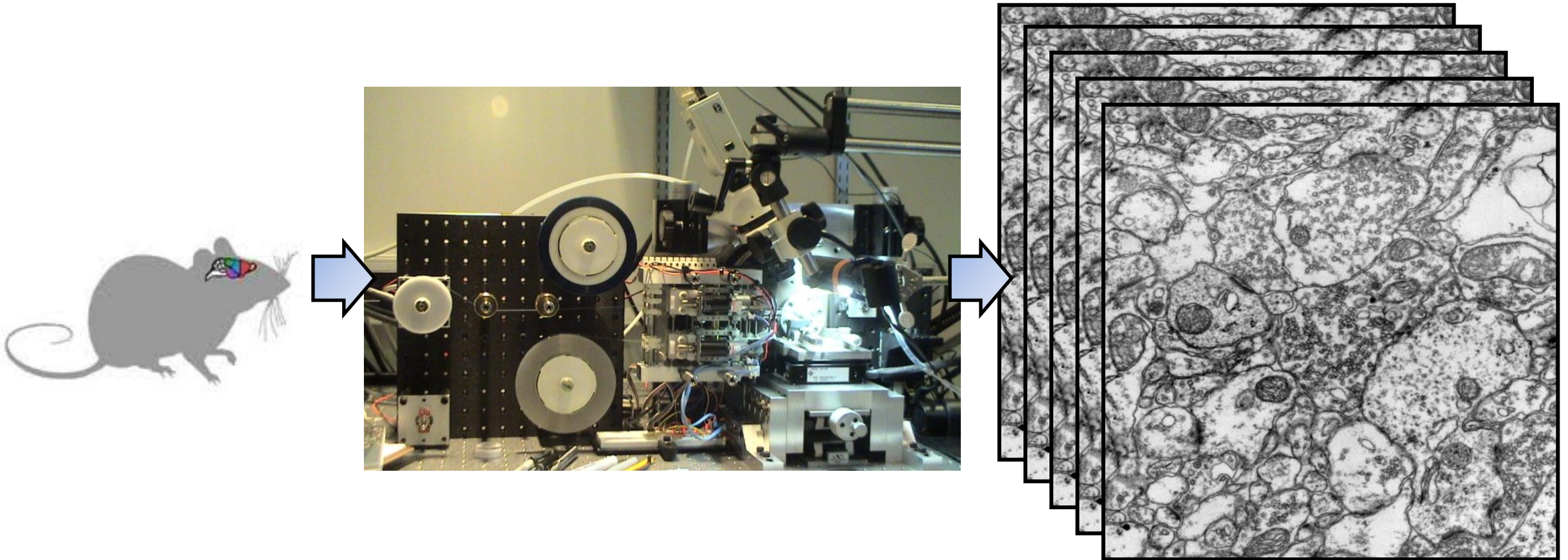


# The Connectome Project

Discovering How the Mammalian Brain is Wired

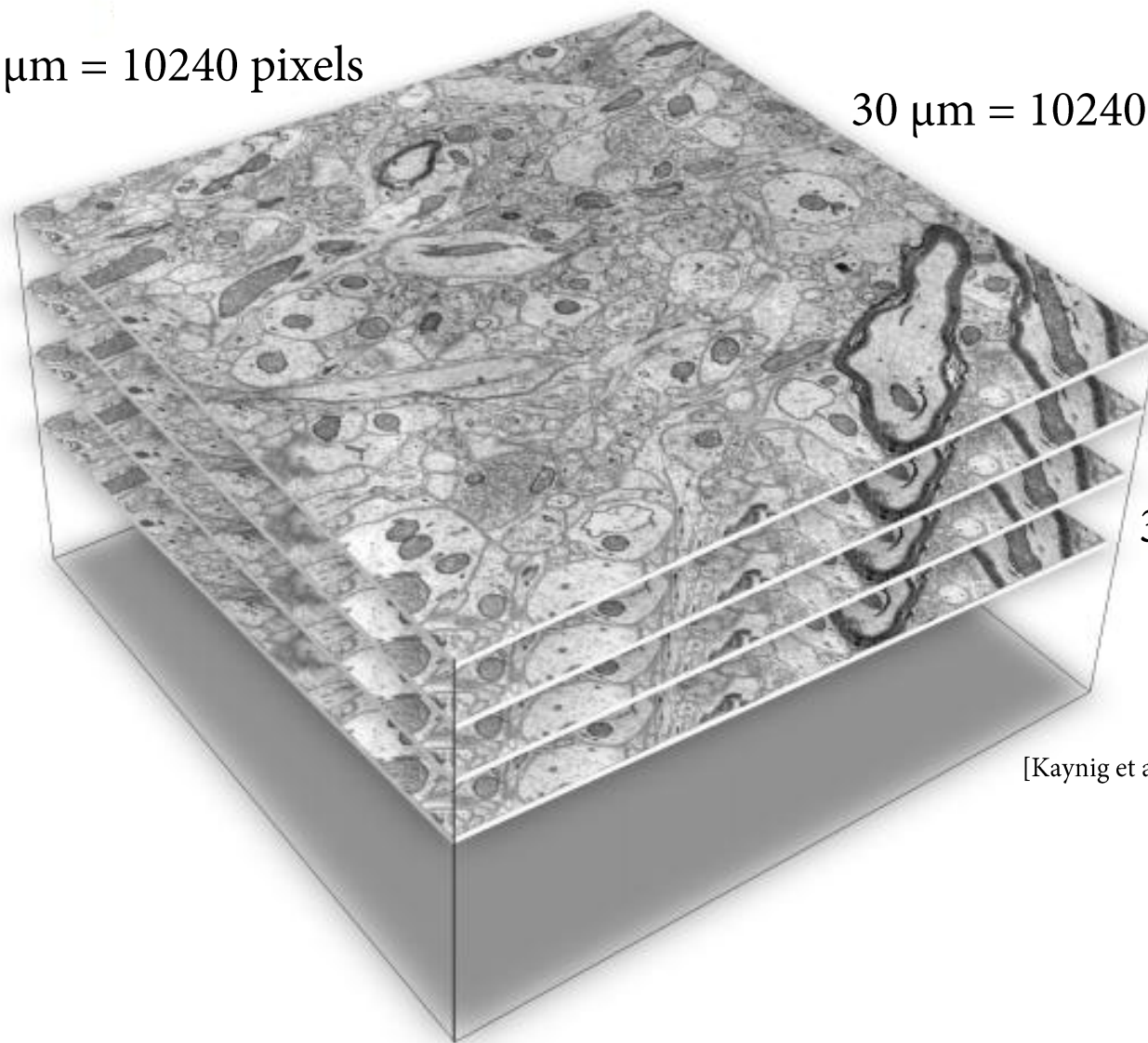
[Gerhard and Hagmann 2009]

# Data Acquisition



$30\ \mu\text{m} = 10240\ \text{pixels}$

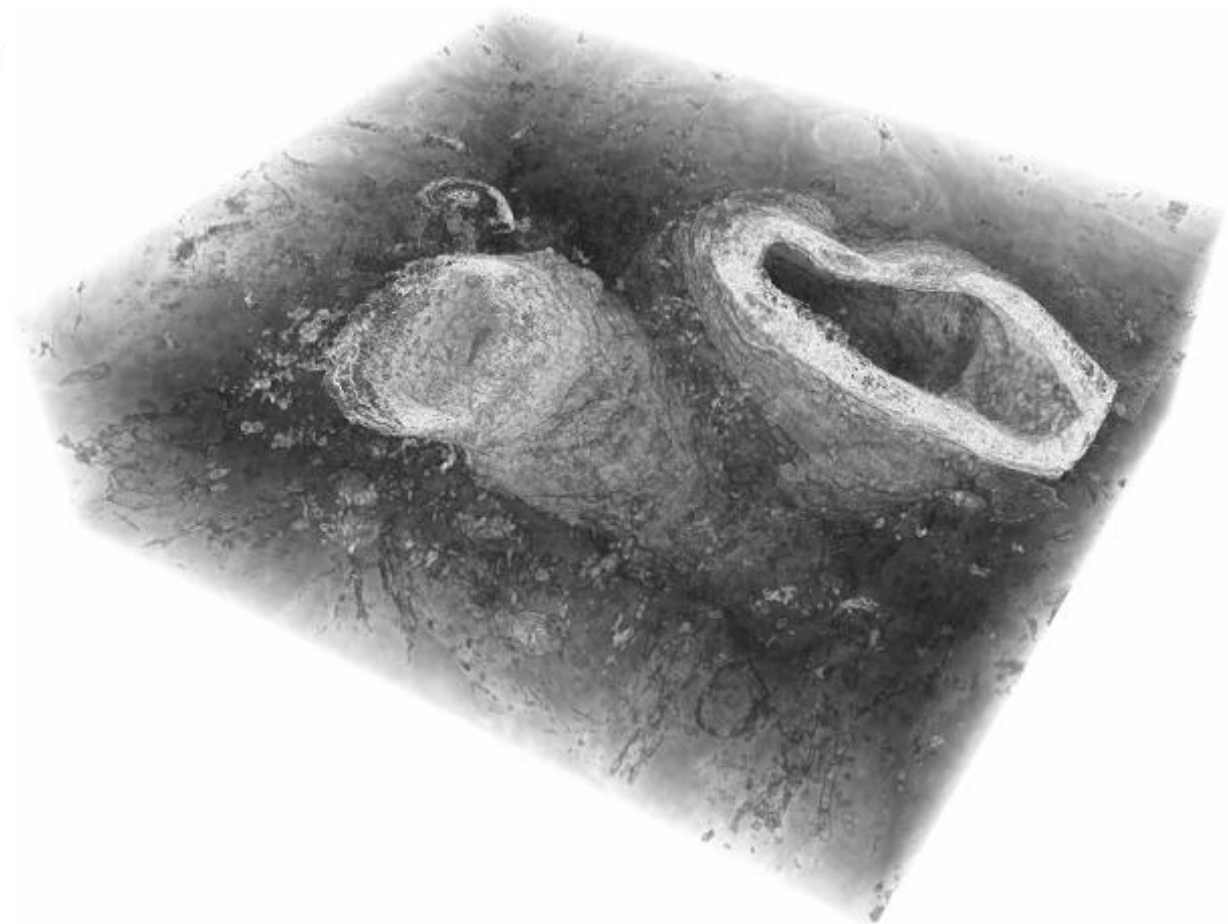
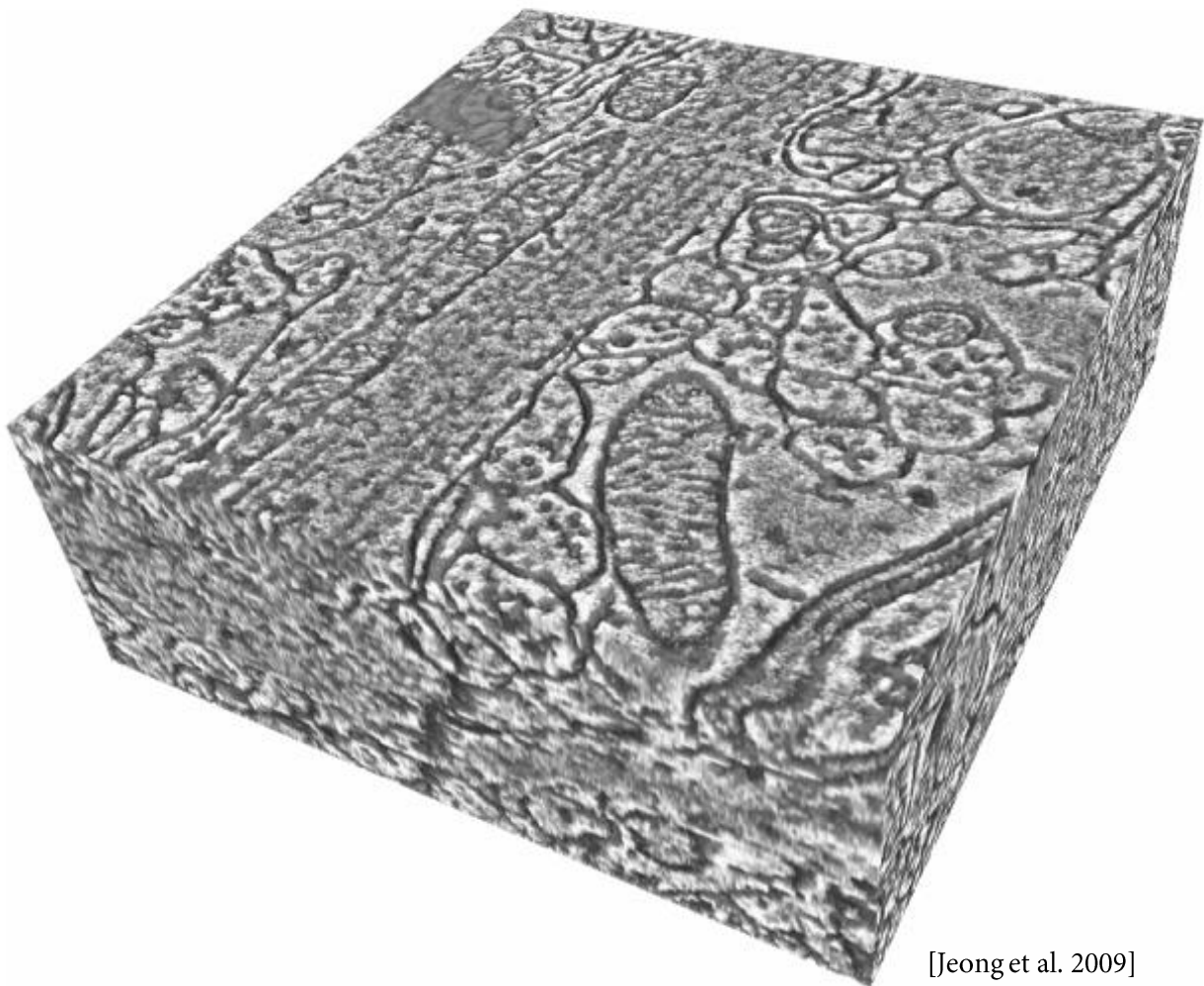
$30\ \mu\text{m} = 10240\ \text{pixels}$



$30\ \mu\text{m} = 1000\ \text{image slices}$

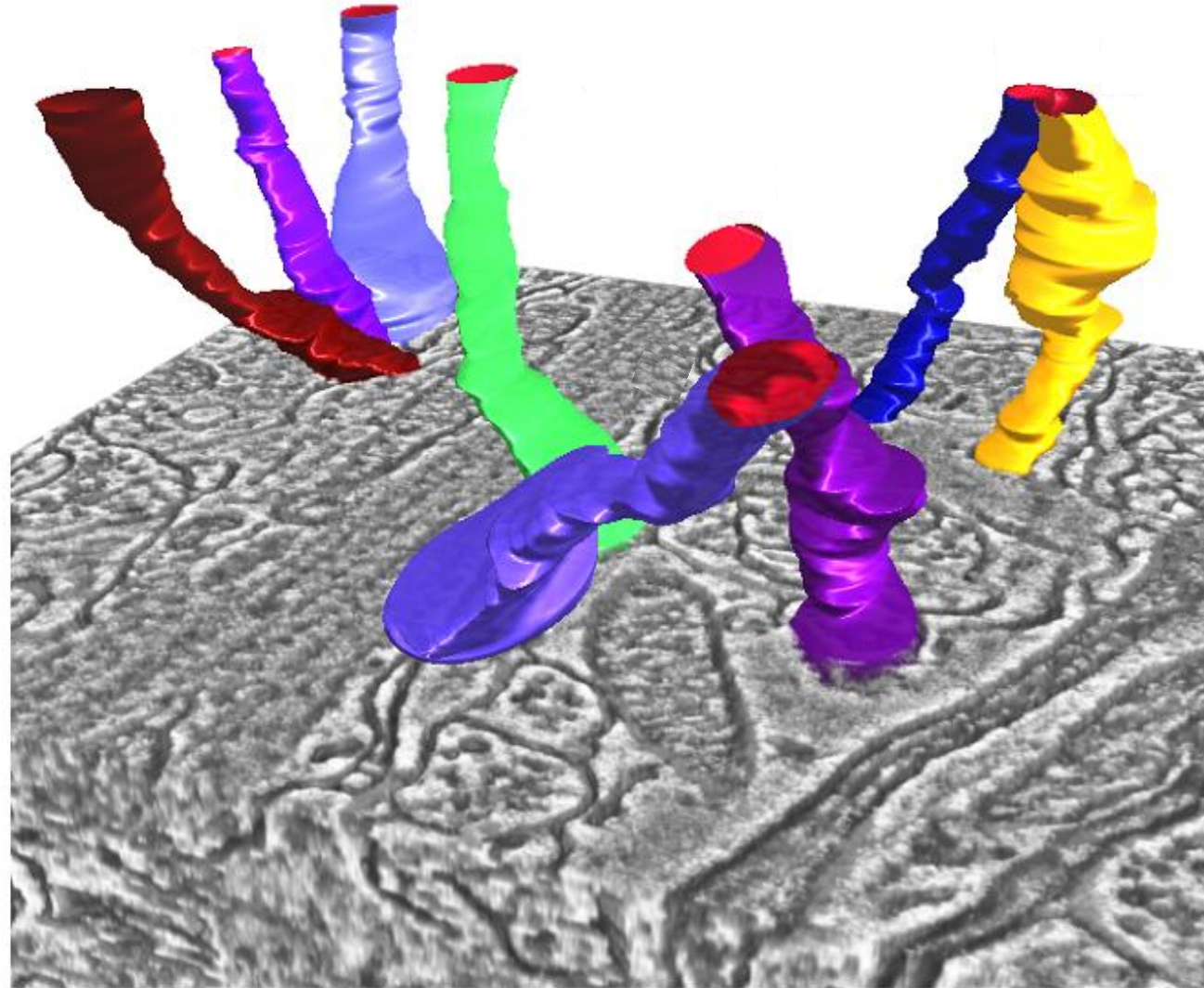
[Kaynig et al. 2011]

Connectome data is hard to visualize.



[Jeong et al. 2009]

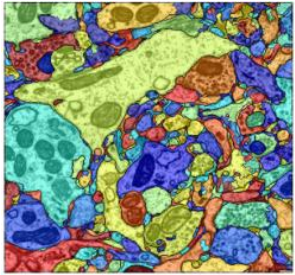
Segmentation is essential.



[Jeong et al. 2009]

# Previous Work

Fully Automatic:



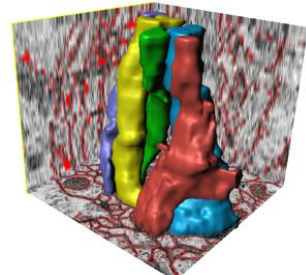
[Vazquez-Reina et al. 2011]



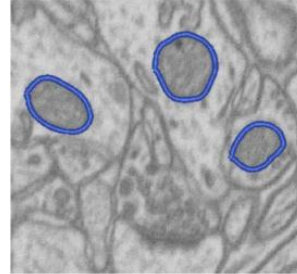
[Jain et al. 2010]



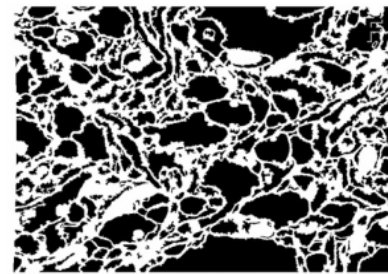
[Jurrus et al. 2010]



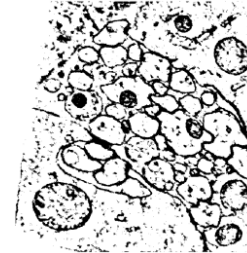
[Kaynig et al. 2010]



[Lucchi et al. 2010]



[Mishchenko et al. 2009]



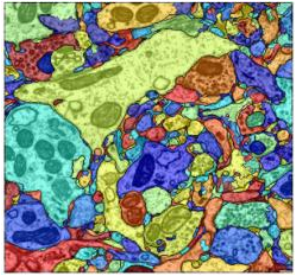
[Venkataraju et al. 2009]



[Andres et al. 2008]

# Previous Work

## Fully Automatic:



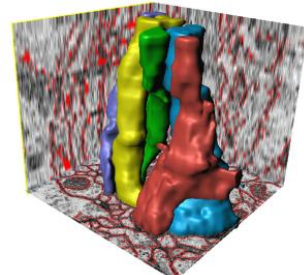
[Vazquez-Reina et al. 2011]



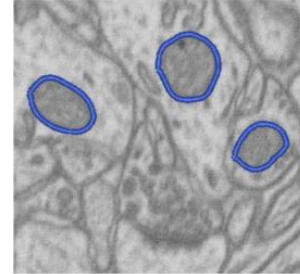
[Jain et al. 2010]



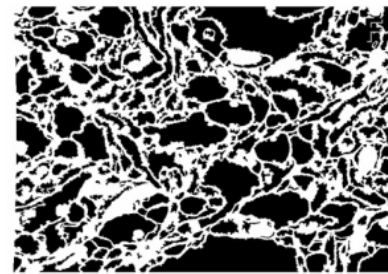
[Jurrus et al. 2010]



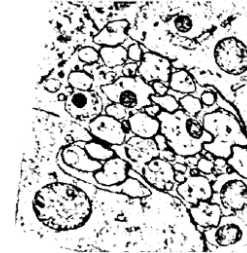
[Kaynig et al. 2010]



[Lucchi et al. 2010]



[Mishchenko et al. 2009]

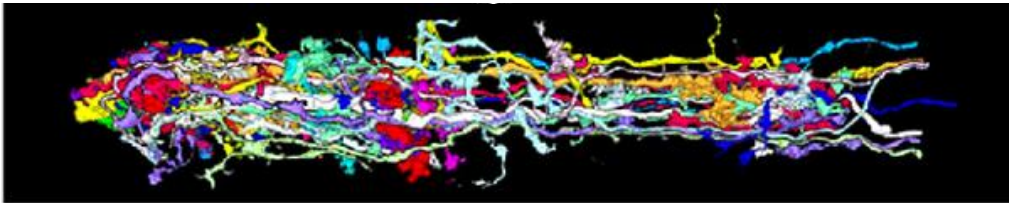


[Venkataraju et al. 2009]

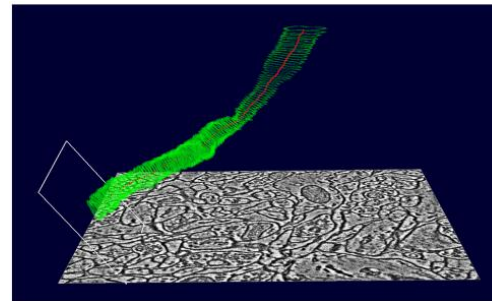


[Andres et al. 2008]

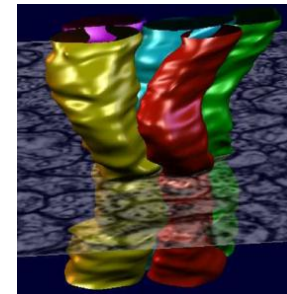
## User-Assisted:



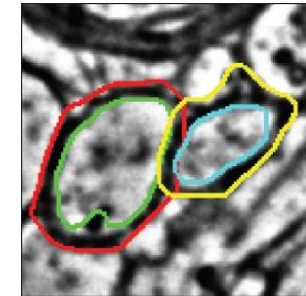
[Chklovskii et al. 2010]



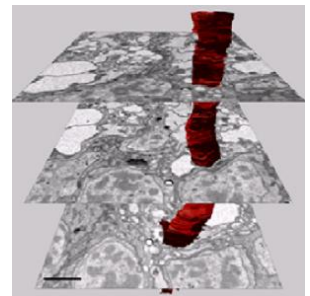
[Jeong et al. 2009]



[Pan et al. 2009]



[Vazquez-Reina et al. 2009]



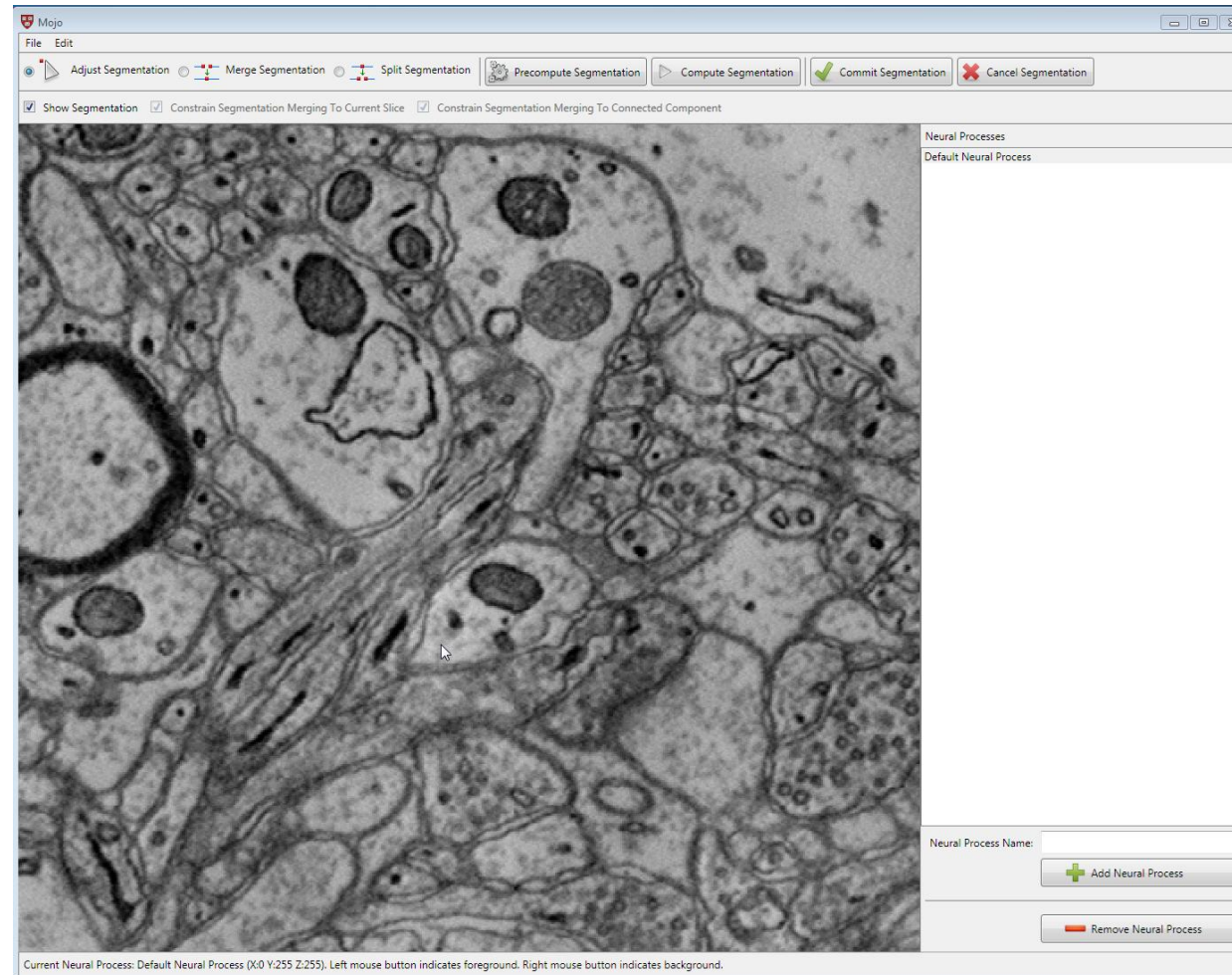
[Macke et al. 2008]



# Our Goals

better accuracy, less user interaction

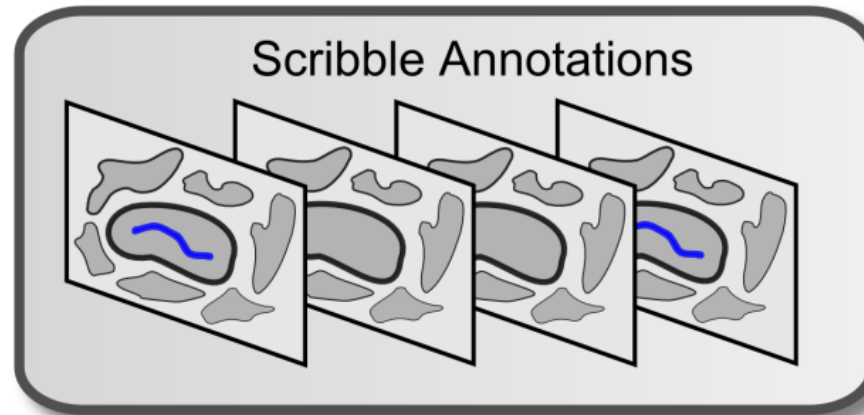
# Demo



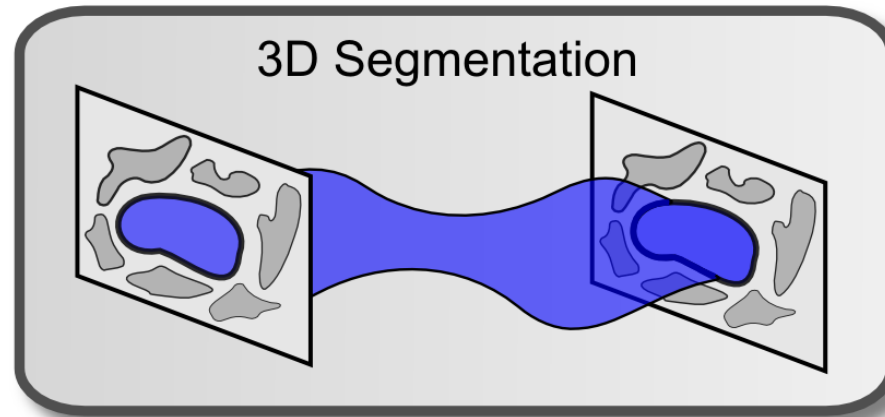
512×512×50 mouse hippocampus

# Our Method

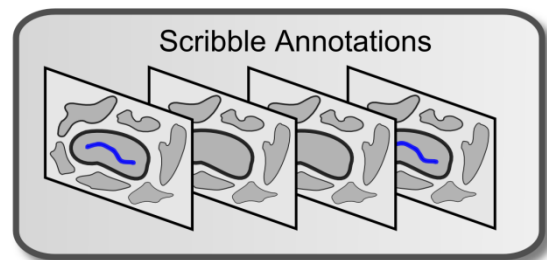
Input:



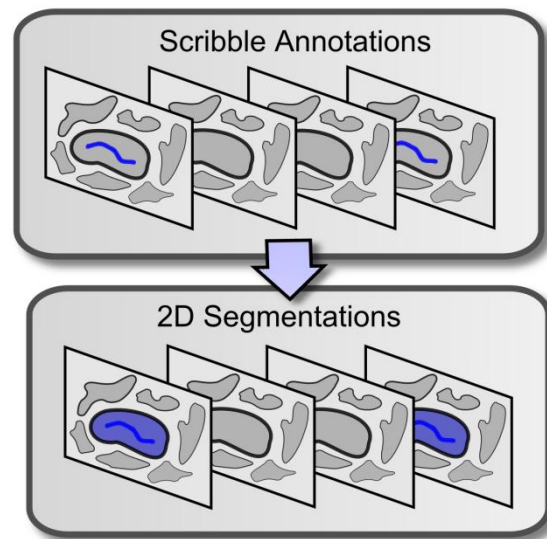
Output:



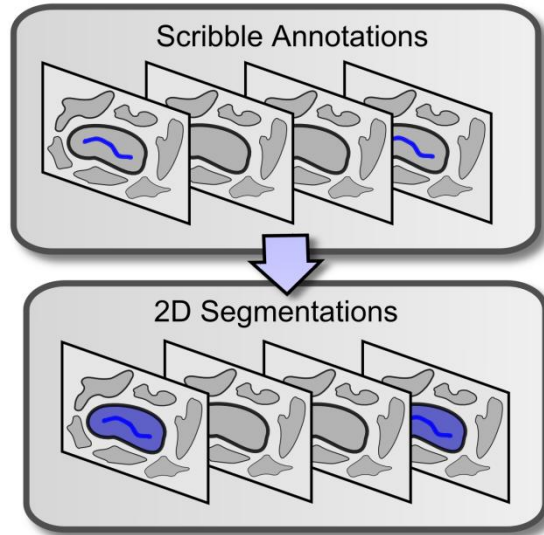
# Our Method



# Our Method

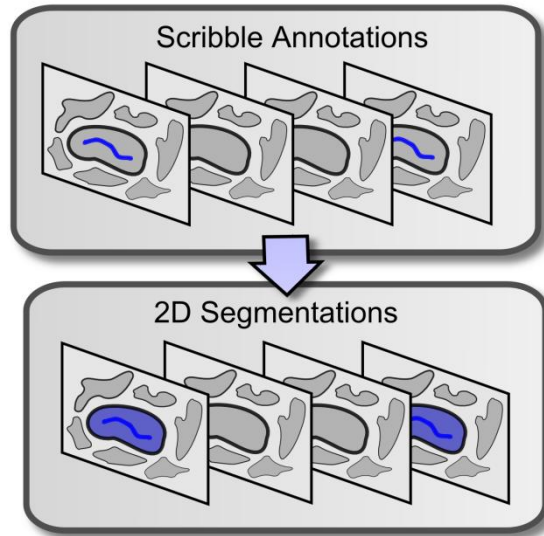


# Our Method



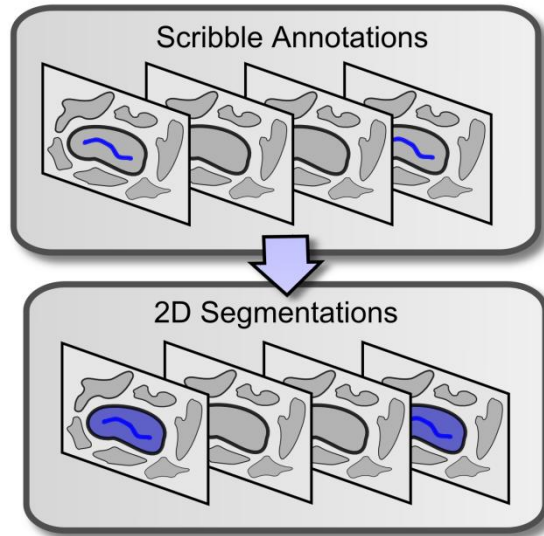
$$\operatorname{argmin}_{u_i} \int_{\mathbf{x} \in \Omega_i} (g_i |\nabla u_i| + f_i u_i) d\mathbf{x}$$

# Our Method



$$\operatorname{argmin}_{u_i} \int_{\mathbf{x} \in \Omega_i} (g_i |\nabla u_i| + f_i u_i) d\mathbf{x}$$

# Our Method

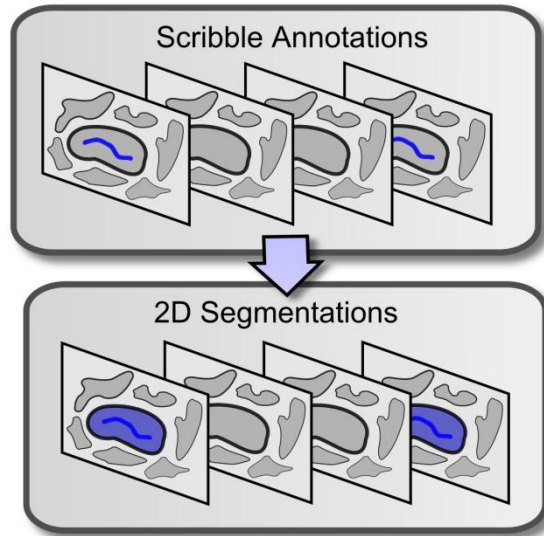


$$\operatorname{argmin}_{u_i} \int_{\mathbf{x} \in \Omega_i} (g_i |\nabla u_i| + f_i u_i) d\mathbf{x}$$

Penalize segmentation boundaries that don't lie on strong image edges.

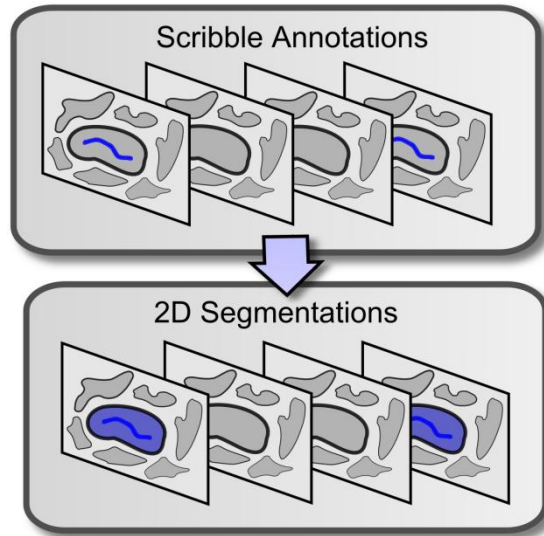


# Our Method



$$\operatorname{argmin}_{u_i} \int_{\mathbf{x} \in \Omega_i} (g_i |\nabla u_i| + f_i u_i) d\mathbf{x}$$

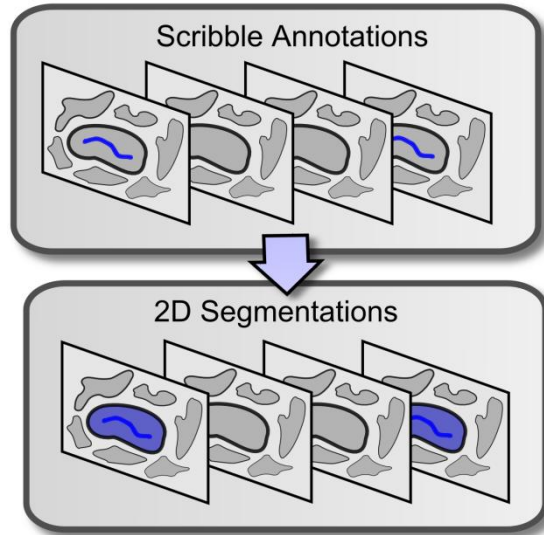
# Our Method



$$\operatorname{argmin}_{u_i} \int_{\mathbf{x} \in \Omega_i} (g_i |\nabla u_i| + f_i u_i) d\mathbf{x}$$

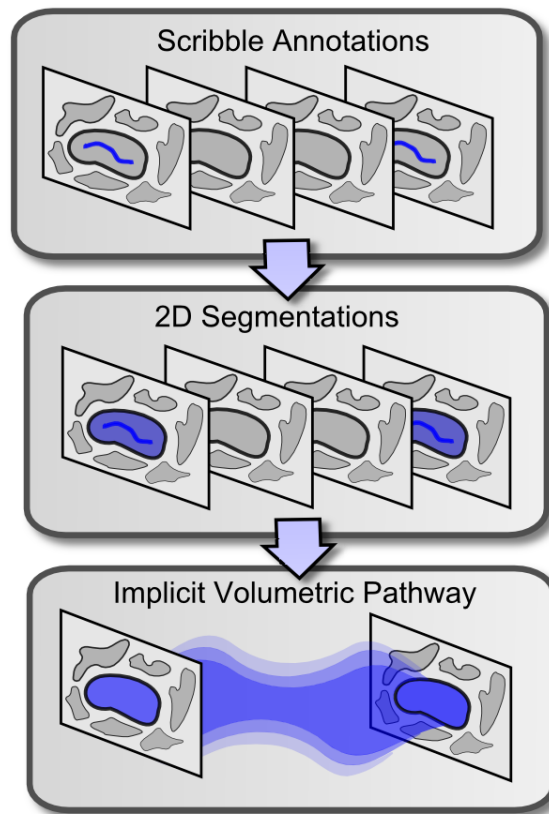
Penalize segmented regions that don't match scribble annotations.

# Our Method

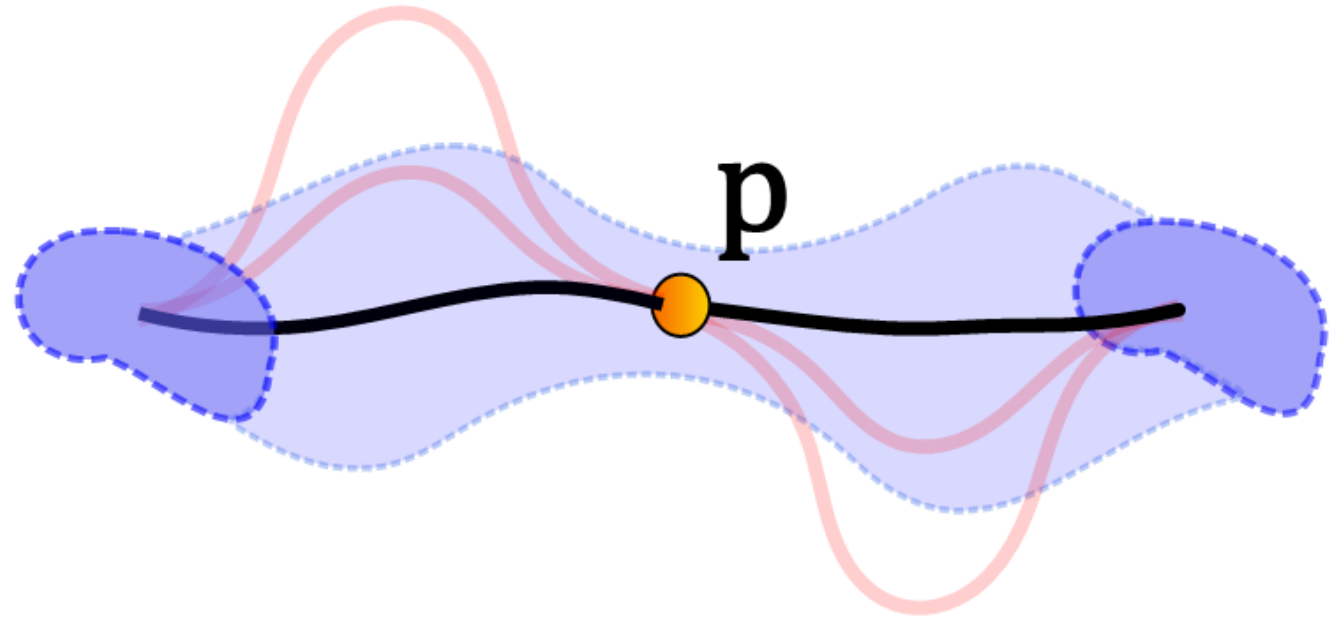
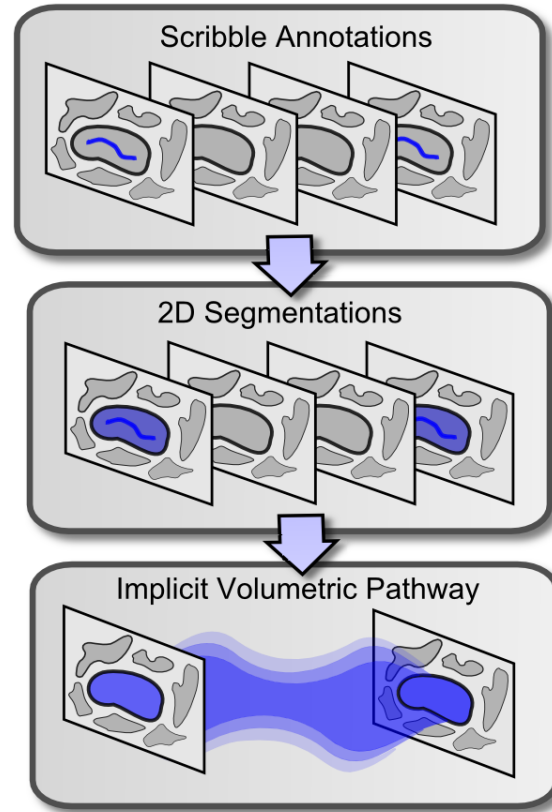


Use 2D segmentations as **hard constraints** on the 3D segmentation.

# Our Method

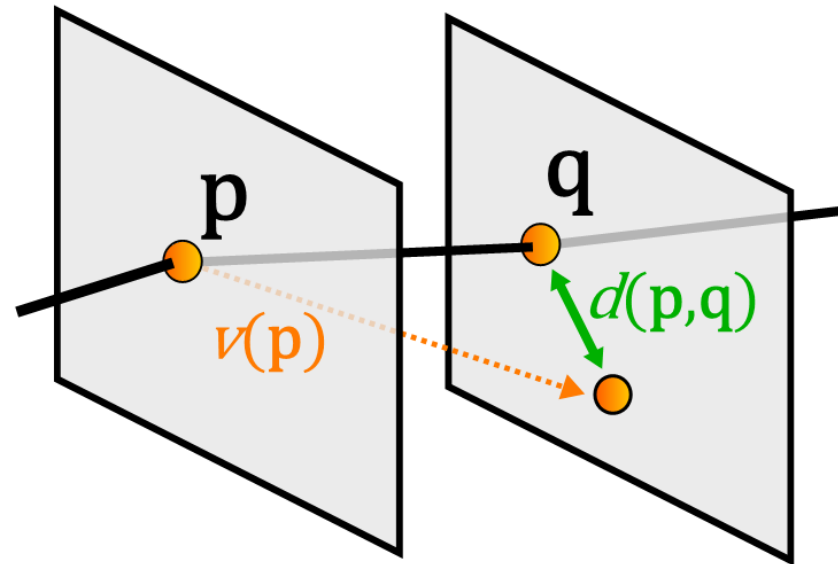
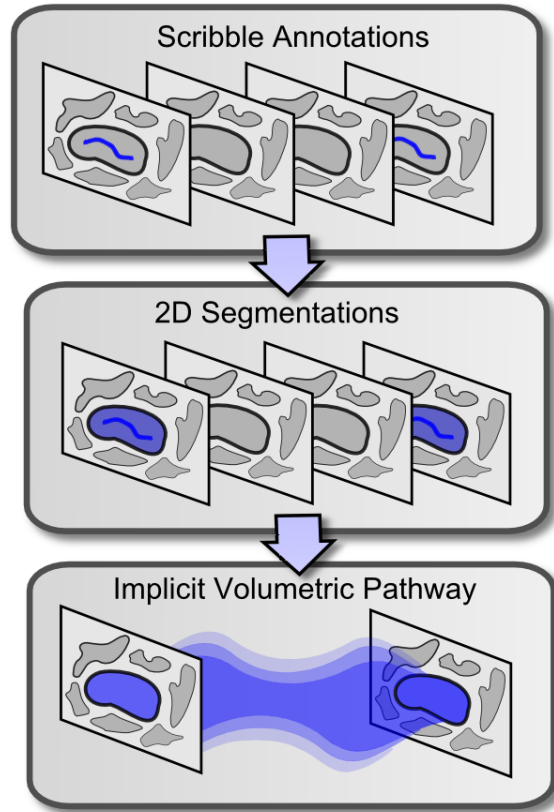


# Our Method



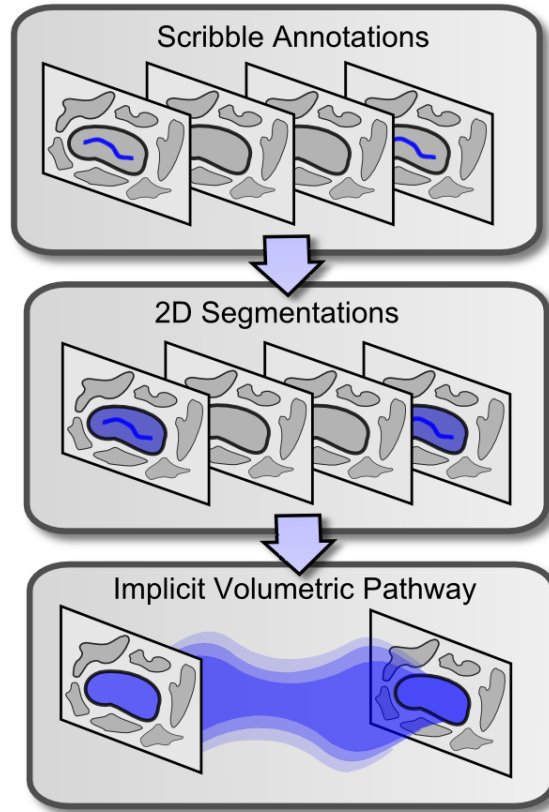
Define the *cost* of each pixel  $p$  as the length of the shortest path connecting the 2D segmentations via  $p$ .

# Our Method



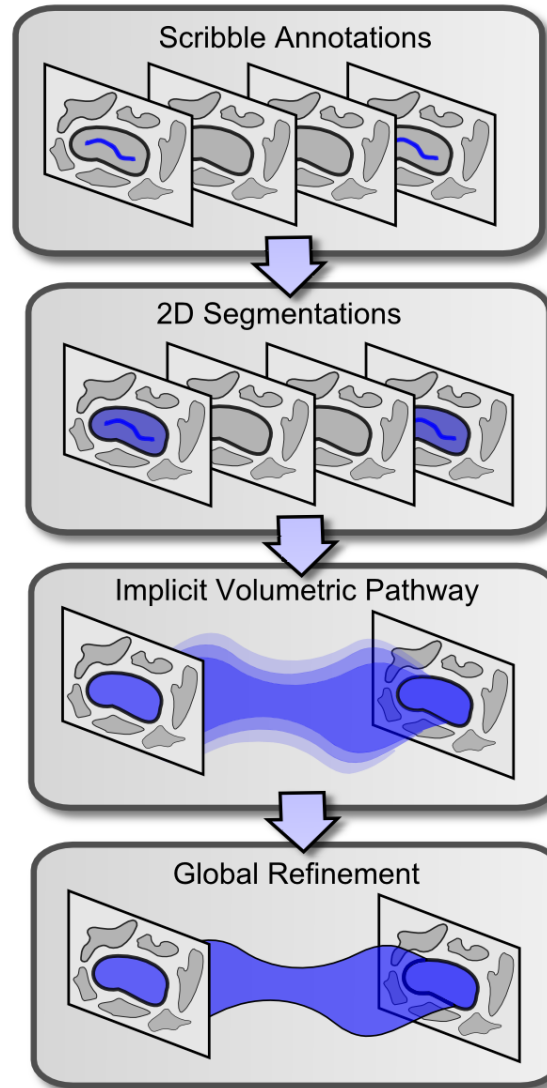
Model the **distance between pixels  $p$  and  $q$**  on adjacent image slices based on the **dense optical flow** between slices.

# Our Method



Use pixels with low costs as **soft constraints** on the 3D segmentation.

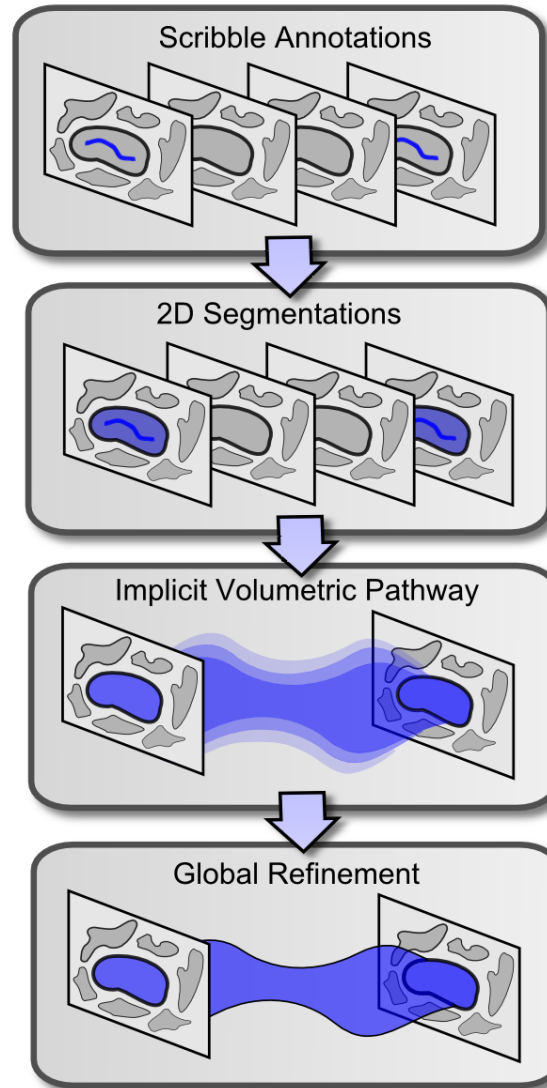
# Our Method



$$\operatorname{argmin}_u \int_{\mathbf{x} \in \Omega} (g |\nabla^{\text{xy}} u| + |\nabla^{\text{z}} u| + f u) d\mathbf{x}$$

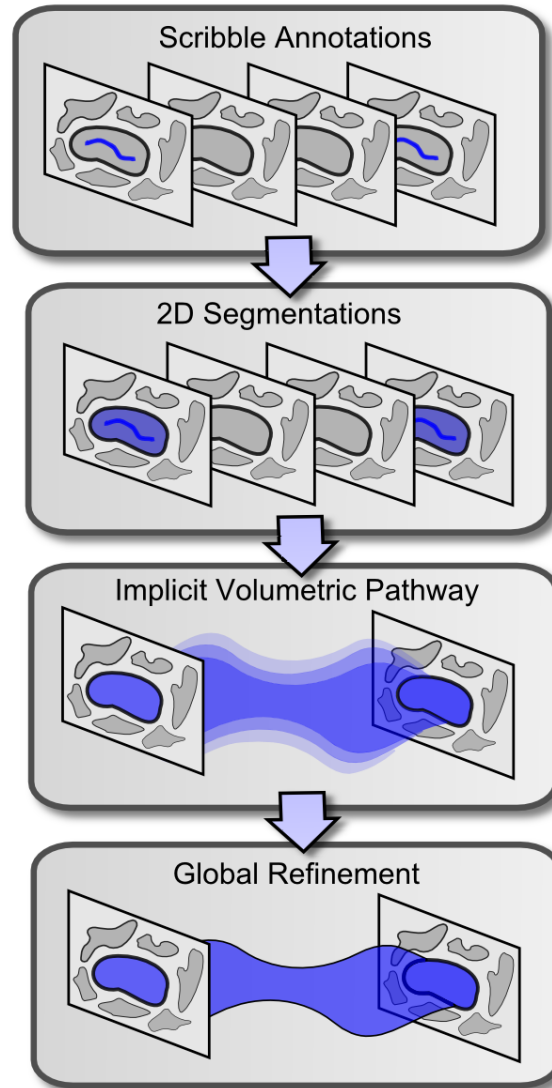


# Our Method



$$\operatorname{argmin}_u \int_{\mathbf{x} \in \Omega} (g |\nabla^{\text{xy}} u| + |\nabla^z u| + f u) d\mathbf{x}$$

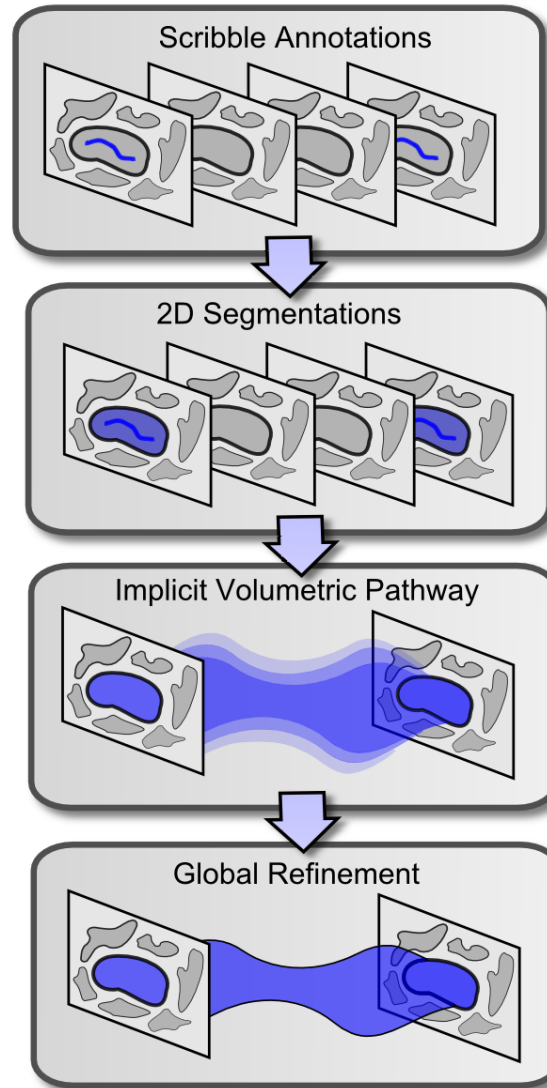
# Our Method



Penalize segmentation boundaries that don't lie on strong image edges.

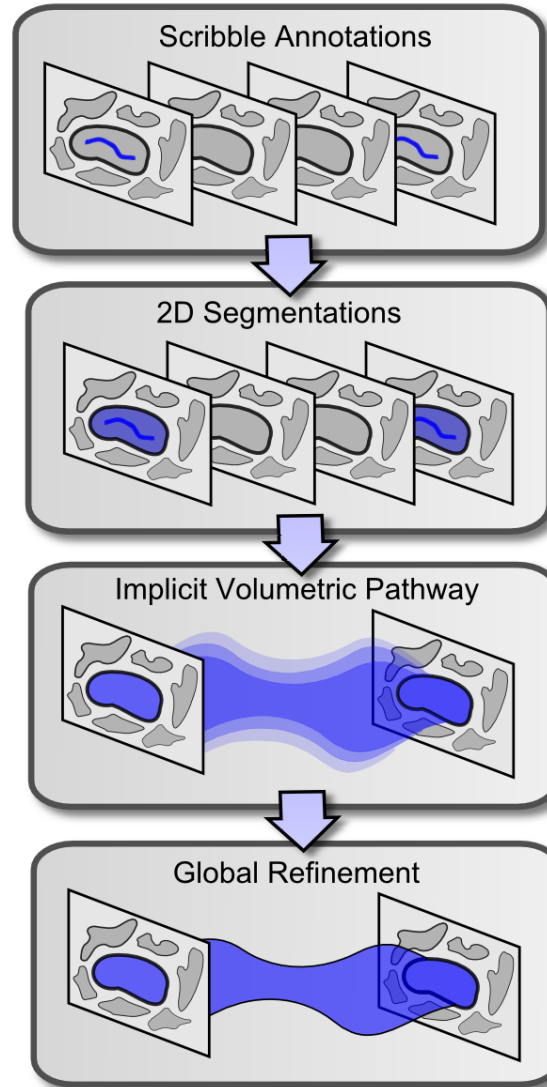
$$\operatorname{argmin}_u \int_{\mathbf{x} \in \Omega} (g |\nabla^{\mathbf{xy}} u| + |\nabla^z u| + f u) d\mathbf{x}$$

# Our Method



$$\operatorname{argmin}_u \int_{\mathbf{x} \in \Omega} (g |\nabla^{\text{xy}} u| + |\nabla^z u| + f u) d\mathbf{x}$$

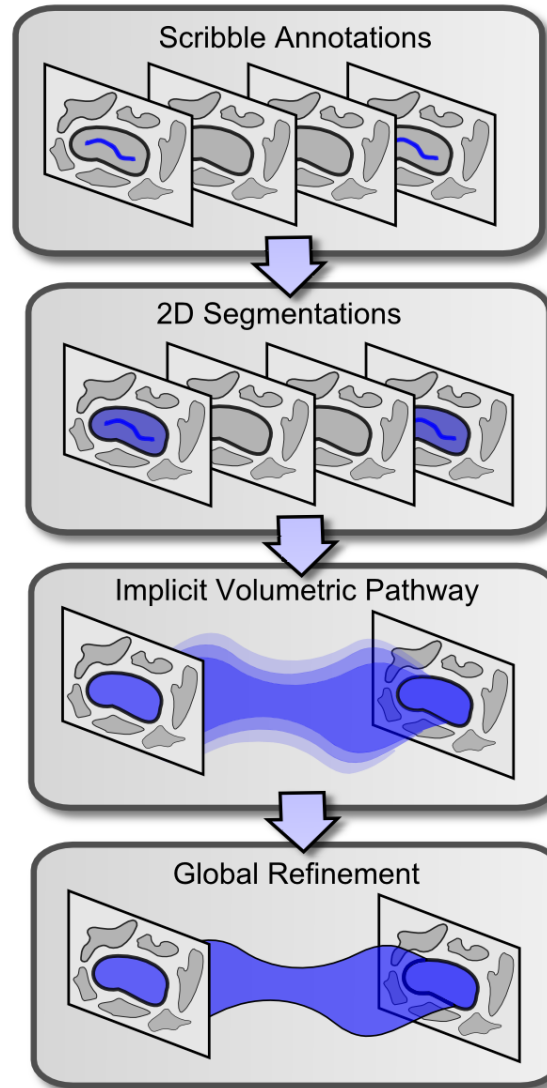
# Our Method



Penalize changes in the segmentation from slice to slice.

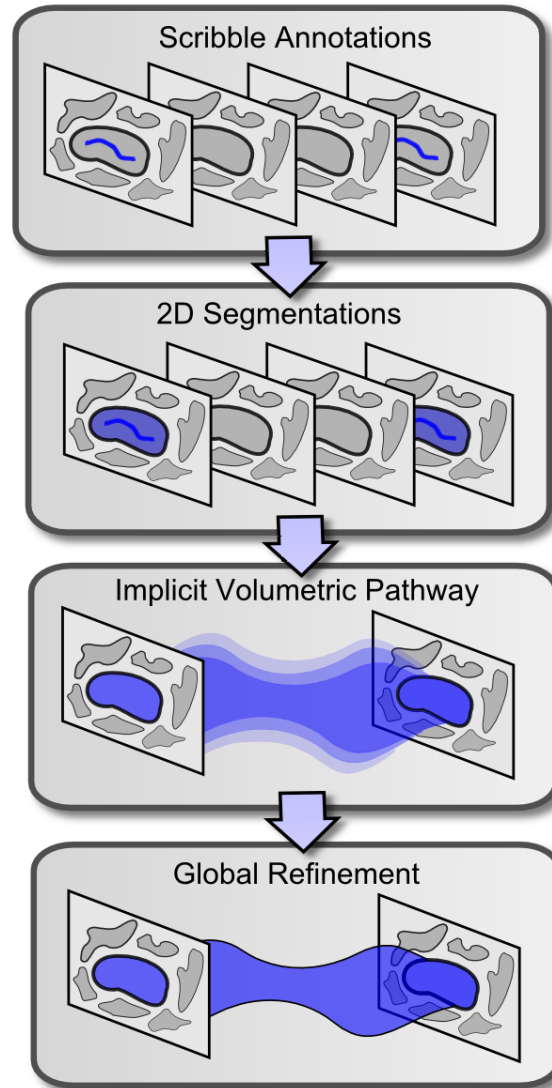
$$\operatorname{argmin}_u \int_{\mathbf{x} \in \Omega} (g |\nabla^{\text{xy}} u| + |\nabla^z u| + f u) d\mathbf{x}$$

# Our Method



$$\operatorname{argmin}_u \int_{\mathbf{x} \in \Omega} (g |\nabla^{xy} u| + |\nabla^z u| + f u) d\mathbf{x}$$

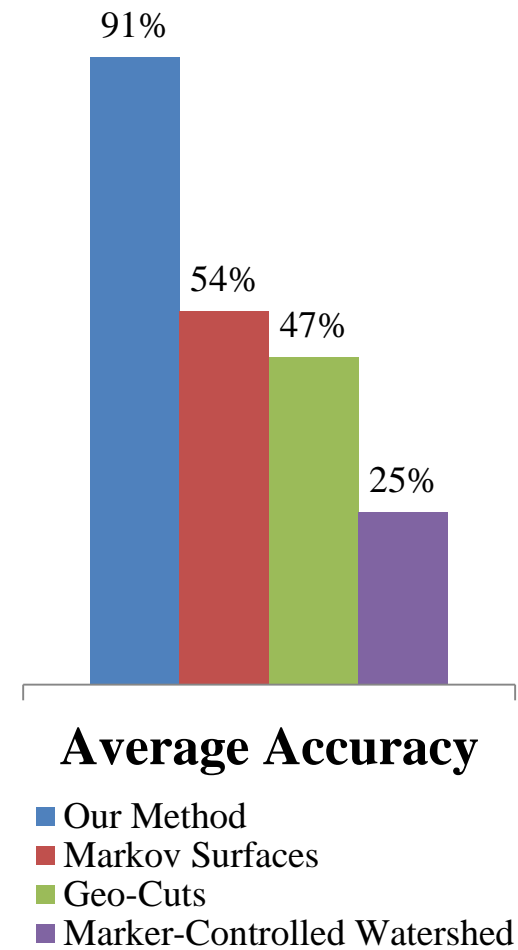
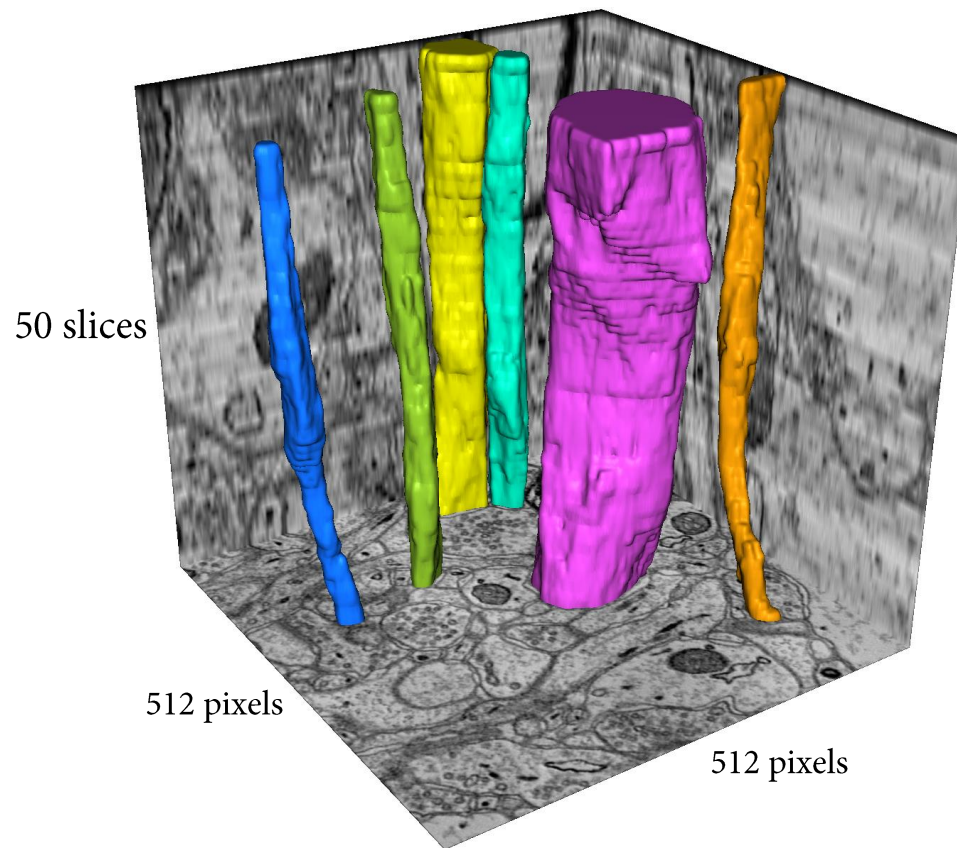
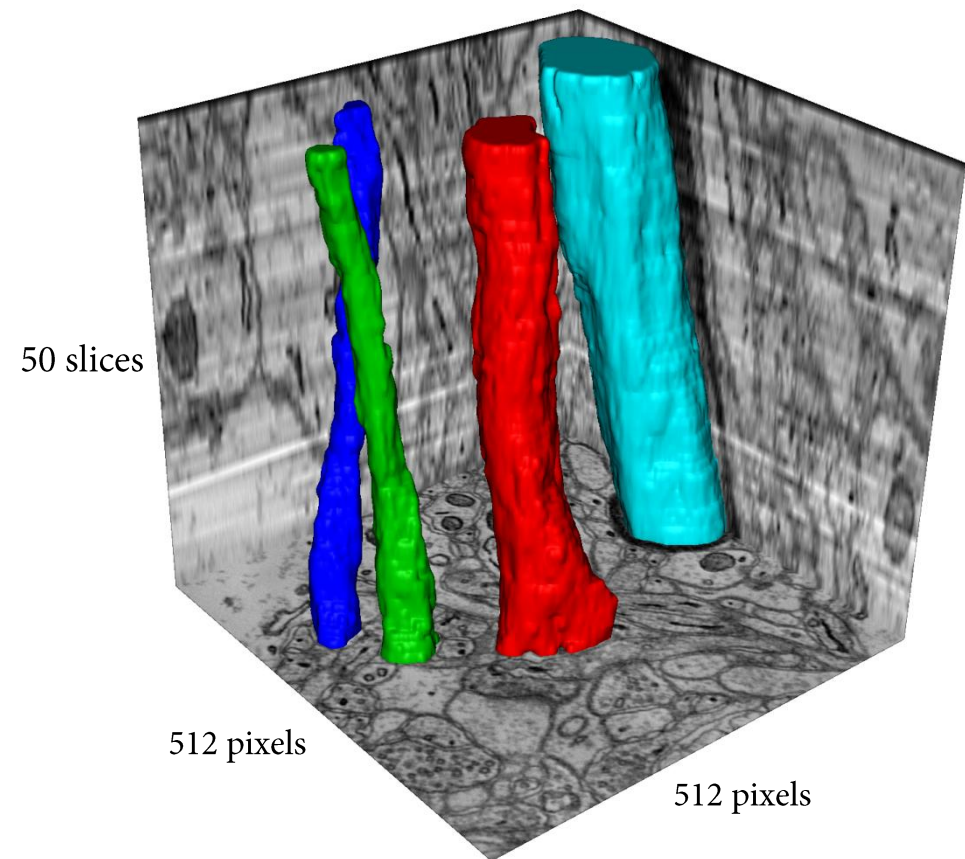
# Our Method



Penalize segmented regions that don't match the hard and soft constraints.

$$\operatorname{argmin}_u \int_{\mathbf{x} \in \Omega} (g |\nabla^{xy} u| + |\nabla^z u| + f u) d\mathbf{x}$$

# Results

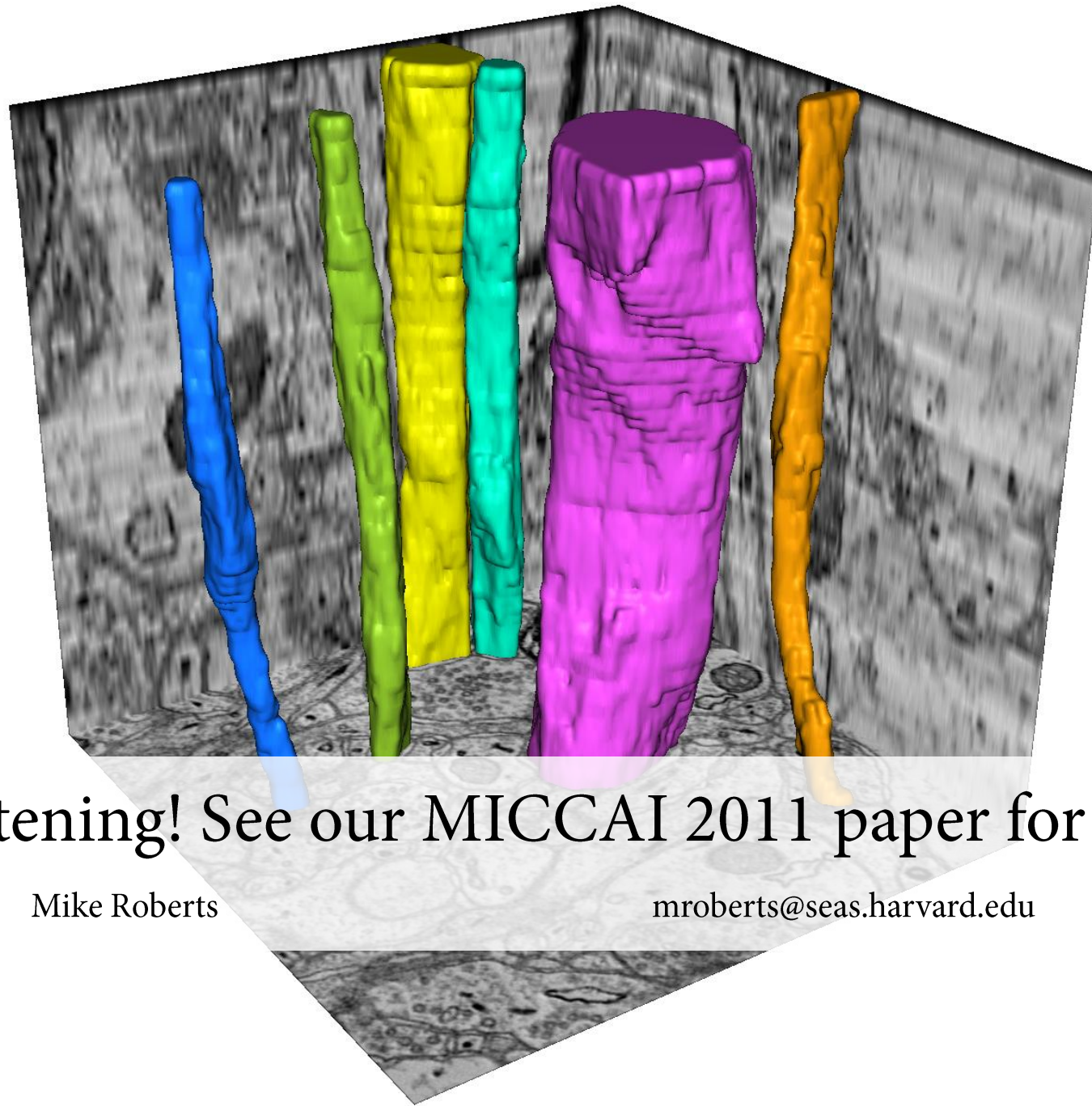


# Our Goals



better accuracy, less user interaction





Thanks for listening! See our MICCAI 2011 paper for more details.

Mike Roberts

[mroberts@seas.harvard.edu](mailto:mroberts@seas.harvard.edu)