

3D Slicer

Overview

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Right tool for the job



Innovative,
not robust,
usually single developer
supported



Robust and usable
enough for clinical
evaluation, flexible,
open, portable,
community
supported



FDA approved,
company supported,
closed source

Without an application platform

- Each application is developed from ground up
- Completely new software is developed for each problem/procedure/device
- Significant work is needed to integrate new, advanced algorithms



Quick start.



Huge waste of time, money, and effort overall.

Building on an application platform

- Core functionalities are already implemented
- New software modules can be developed for specific needs
- Many new, advanced algorithms are available
- Well-supported with a large user and developer community

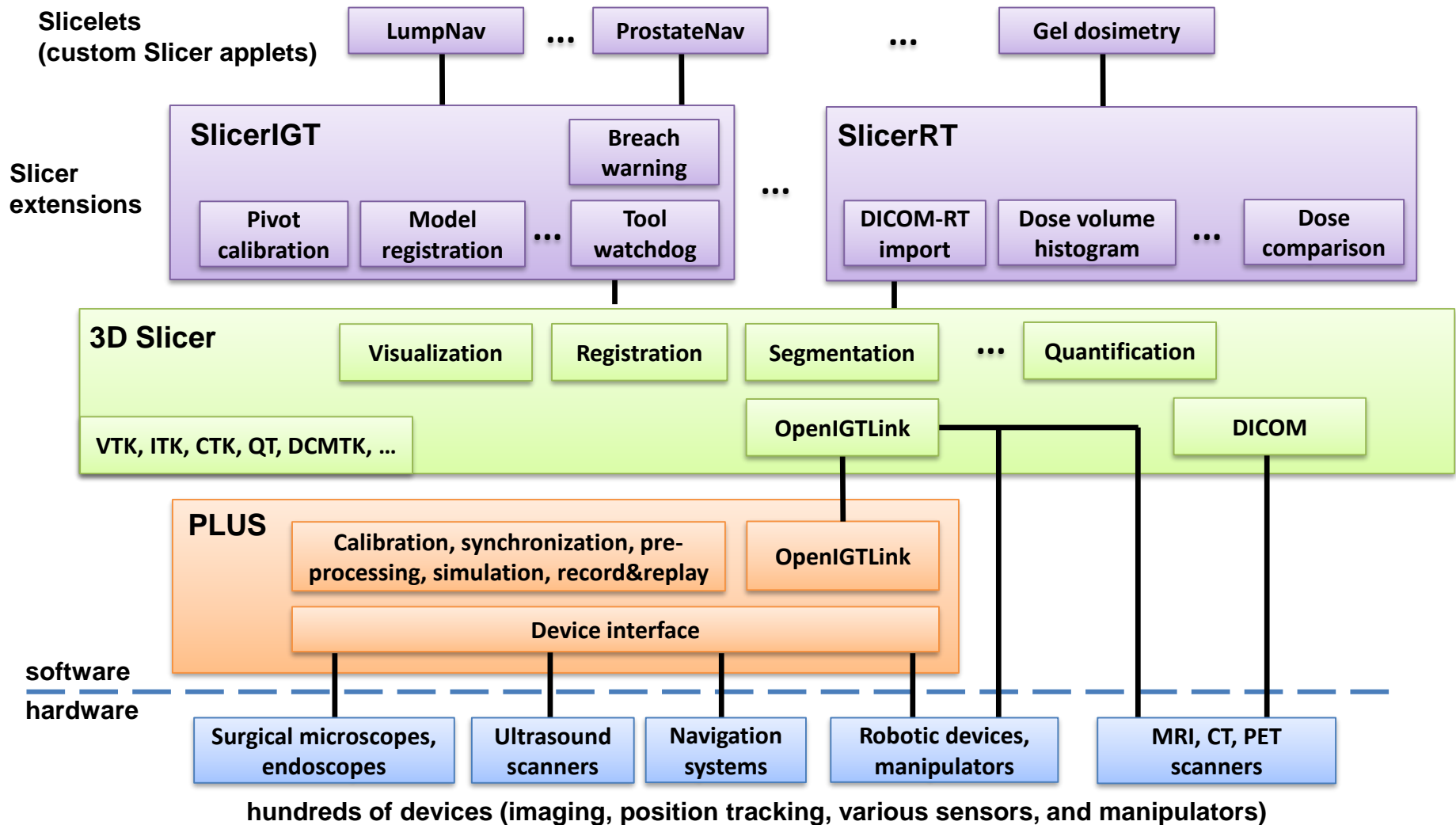


Investment at the beginning: learning.



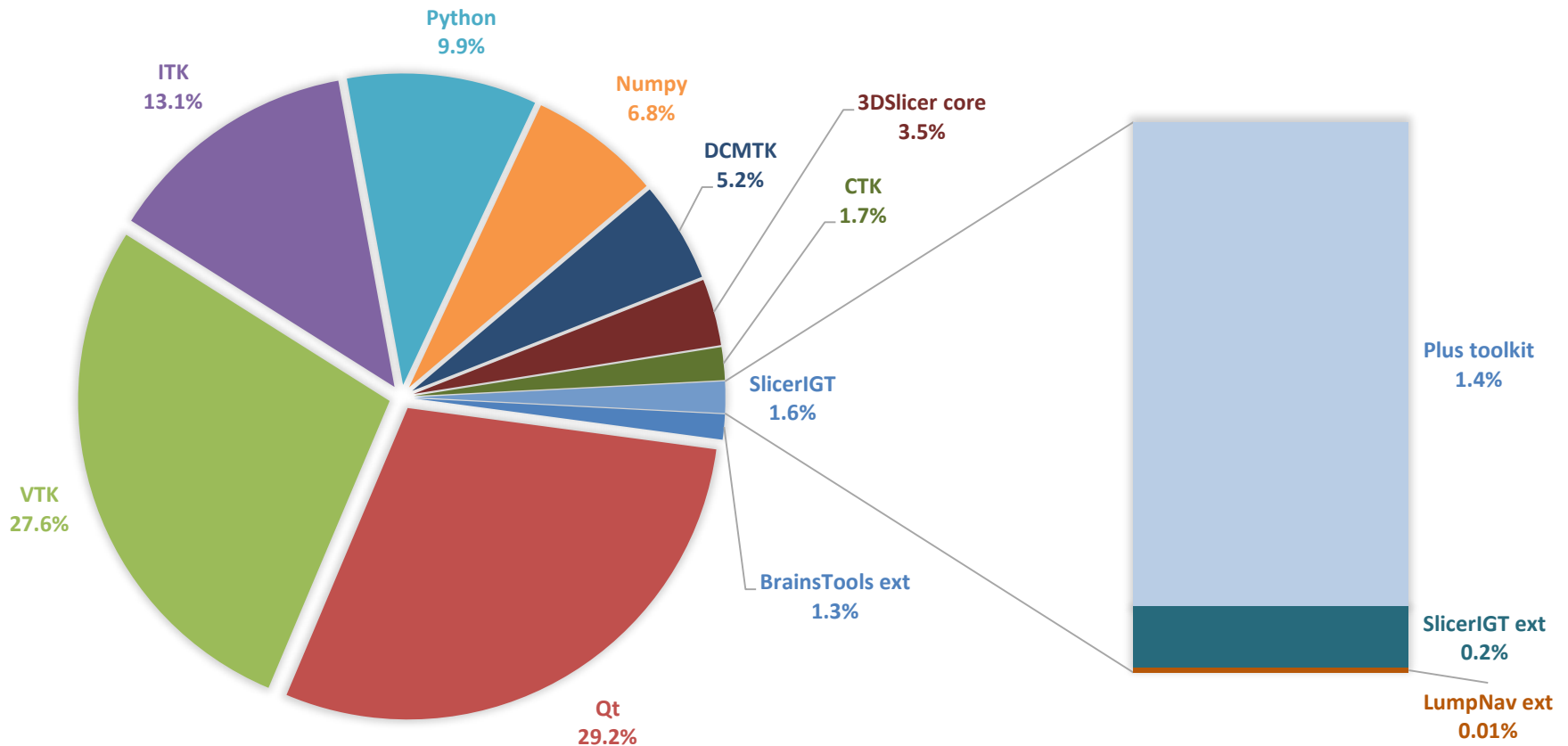
Minimal wasted efforts.

Software stack example



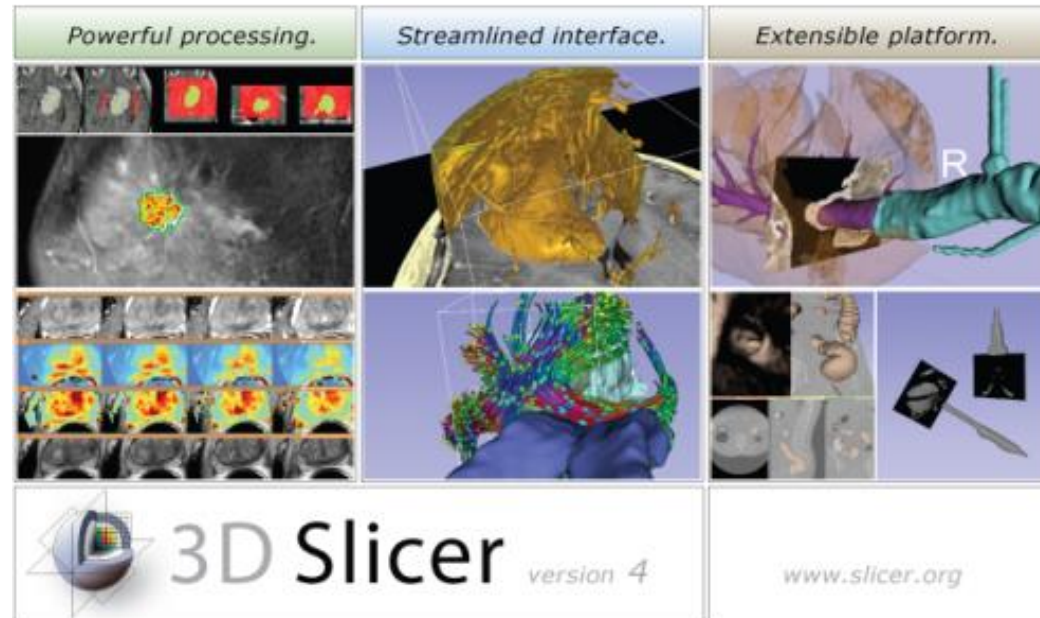
Building on a platform

LINES OF SOURCE CODE - ILLUSTRATED THROUGH LUMPNAV



Background for 3D Slicer

- Software application for medical image computing: data import/export, visualization, segmentation, registration, quantification, real-time guidance
- Application framework: customizable, extensible custom modules
- Completely free (BSD)
- Multi-platform



- User and developer support
- Training courses, documentation, tutorials

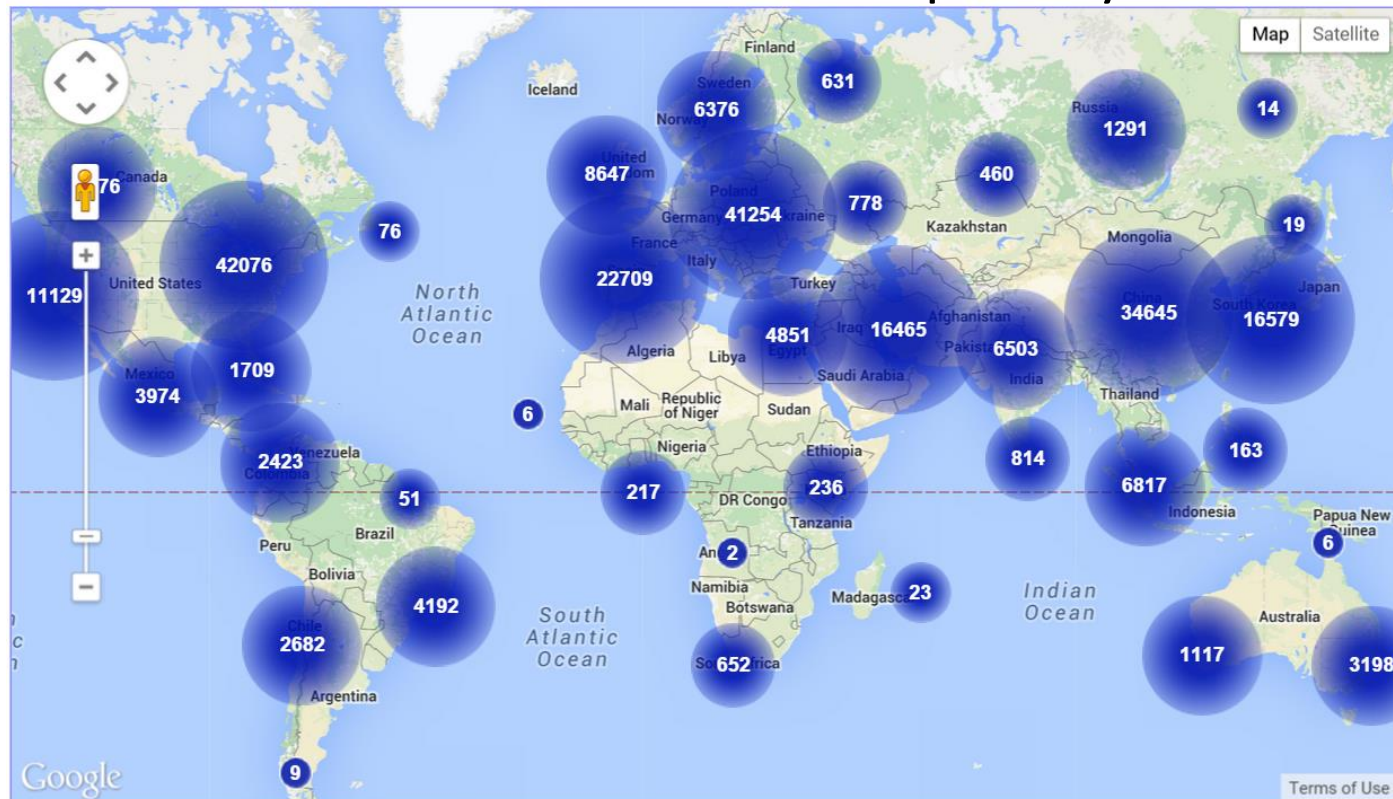
Fedorov, *et al.* "3D Slicer as an image computing platform for the Quantitative Imaging Network." *Magnetic resonance imaging* 30.9 (2012): 1323-1341.

Large user community

500 downloads per week in 2012

2000 downloads per week in 2017

250 000+ downloads over the past 4 years:



Project week

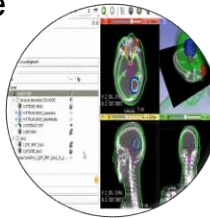
- Twice a year
- Bring your own project, work with experts
- Meetings, training
- Upcoming:
January 2018, at MIT (Boston, MA)



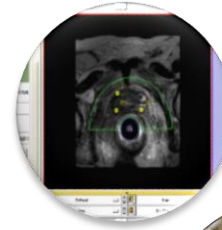
3D Slicer in clinical use

Clinical
users drive
creation of
technology

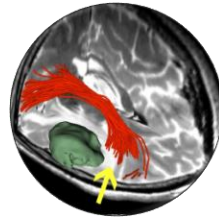
Radiation dose
calculations



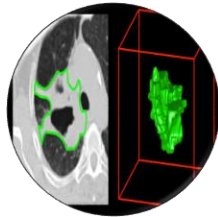
MRI-guided
prostate
biopsy



Tracking peritumoral
white matter fibers



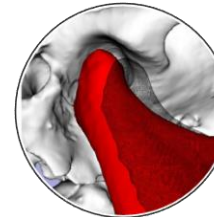
Diagnosis of
Different Tumors
in Lung Cancer



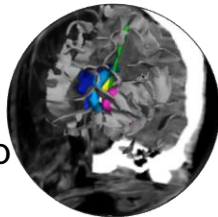
Breast cancer
surgery guidance



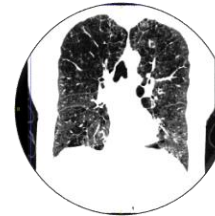
Diagnosis of Osteoarthritis
Degeneration



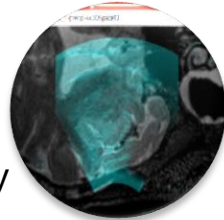
Model-Guided Deep
Brain Simulation



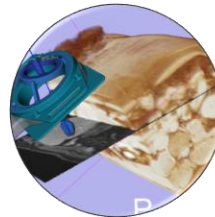
Quantitative assessment
of COPD



Brain surgery



Surgical
navigation



Commercial use

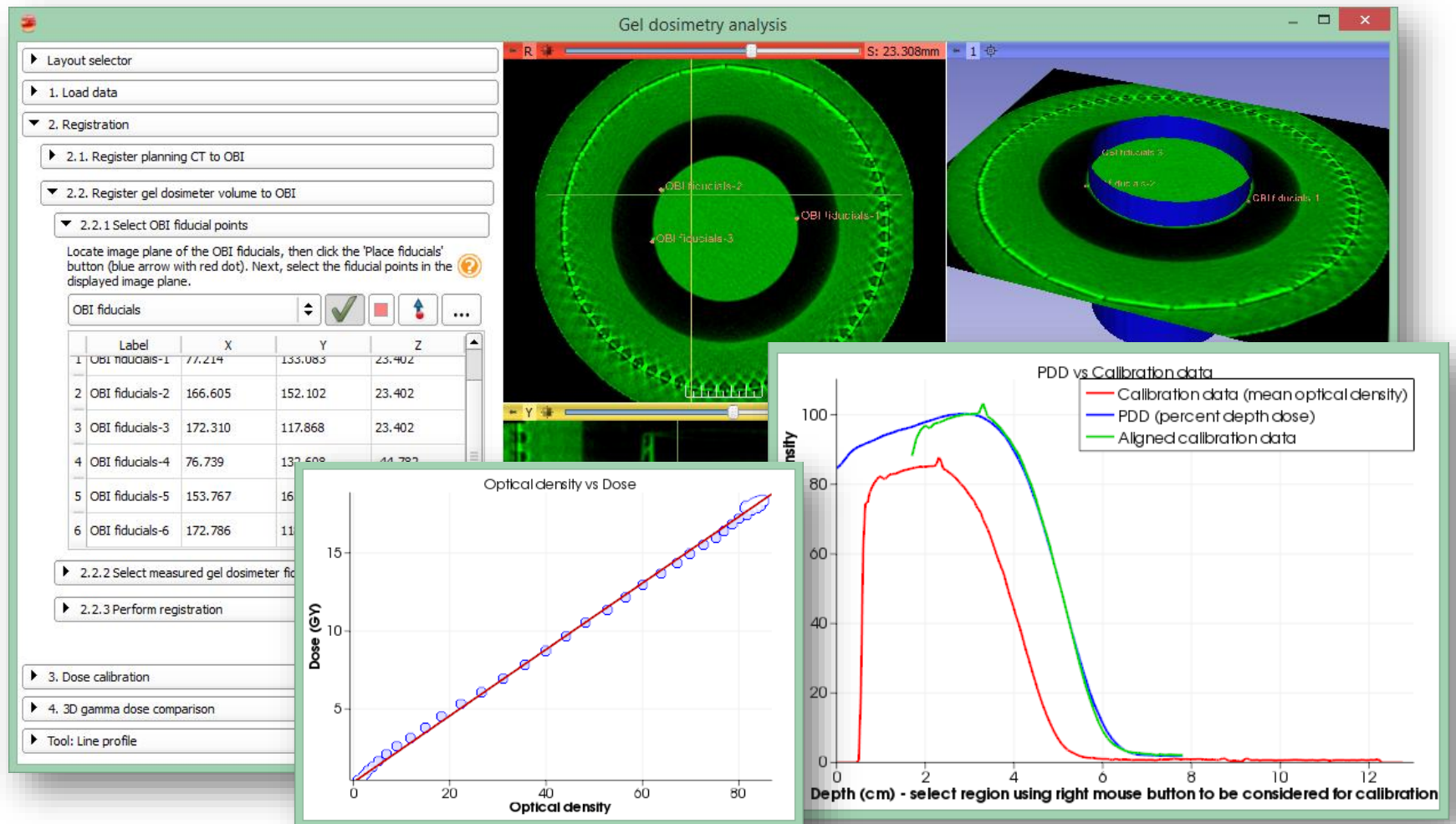


Known commercial activities range from use “as is” to full blown product development:

- Xstrahl (small animal radiation product)
- mebio (radiology product, prostate guidance)
- SonoVol (ultrasound product) (R43CA192482...)
- Novartis (quantitative imaging clinical trials)
- New Frontier (navigation system)
- KUKA (surgical robotics)
- Siemens (diagnostic and interventional research)
- Canon (robotic interventions)
- GE (research and products)
- NDI (trackers for surgical navigation)
- Isomics (research, consulting)
- Kitware (research, consulting)
 - 10+ Slicer based projects in the past two years
 - 5 commercial products being launched



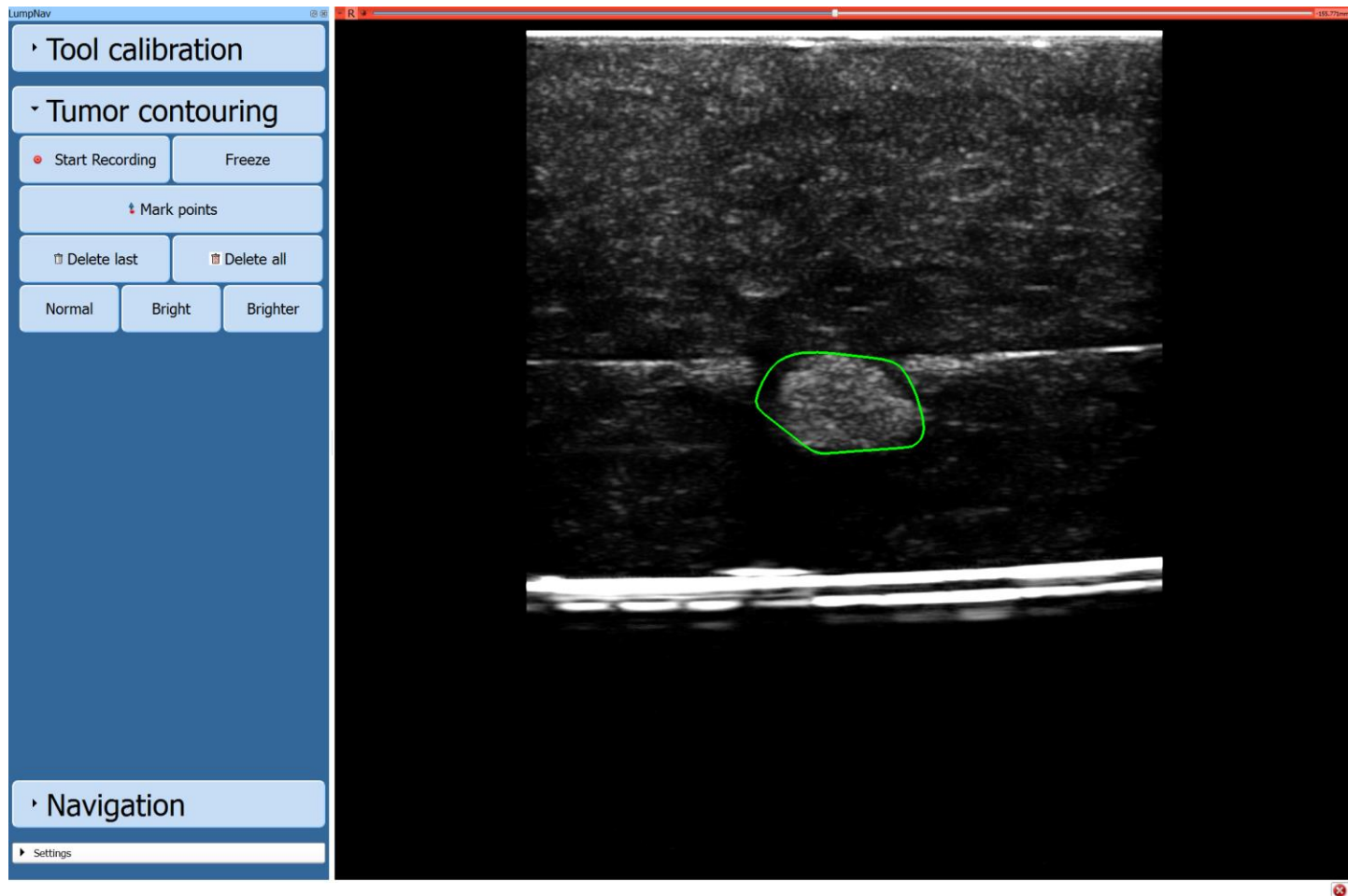
Example: Gel Dosimetry tool



<https://www.slicer.org/slicerWiki/index.php/Documentation/Nightly/Modules/GelDosimetry>

Chosen option: "slicelet"

Example: LumpNav (touch optimized)

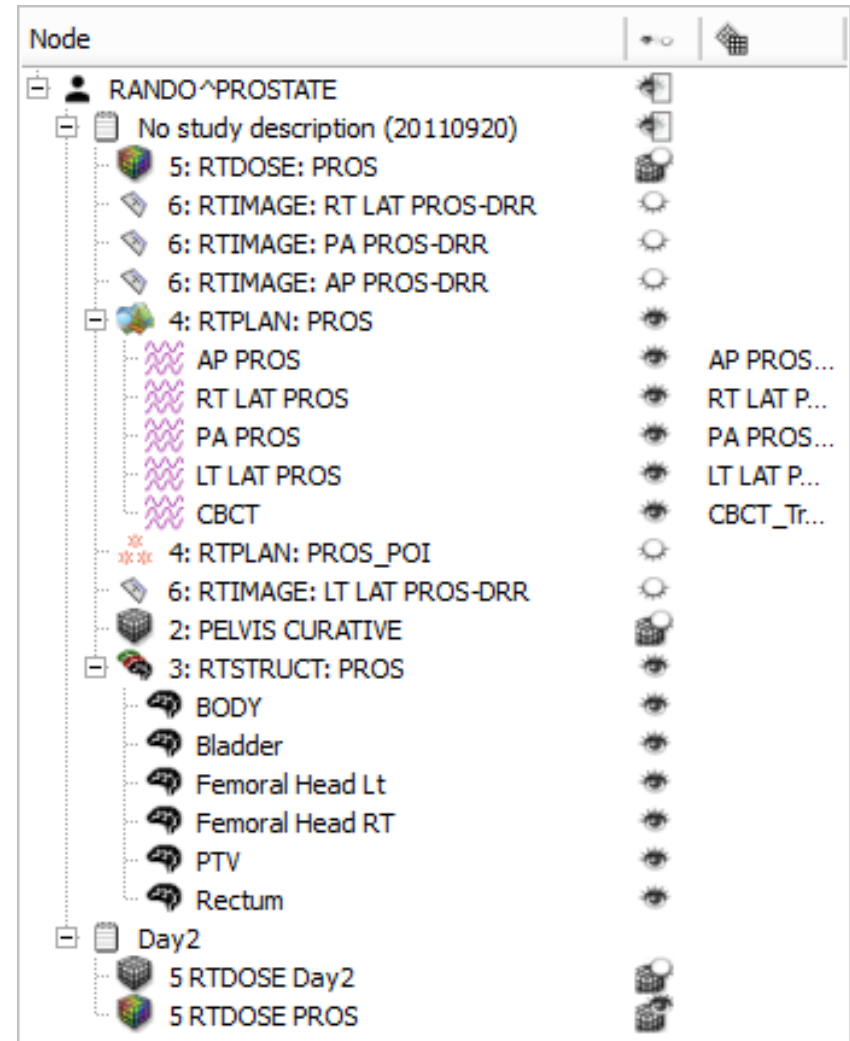


<http://www.slicerigt.org/wp/breast-cancer-surgery/>

Chosen option: “simplified main window”

Data import/export

- DICOM: 2D/3D/4D volumes, structure sets, dose volumes, etc. (extensible without Slicer core changes)
- Research data formats for volumes, meshes, transforms (NRRD, MetaIO, VTK, HDF, etc.)
- Common non-medical data formats (JPEG, TIFF, etc.)
- Save and complete restore of application state

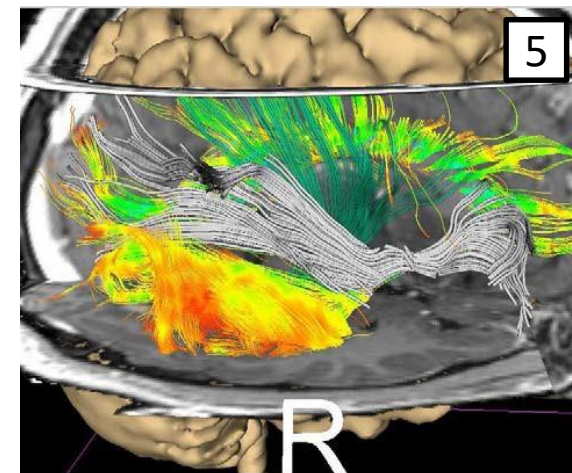
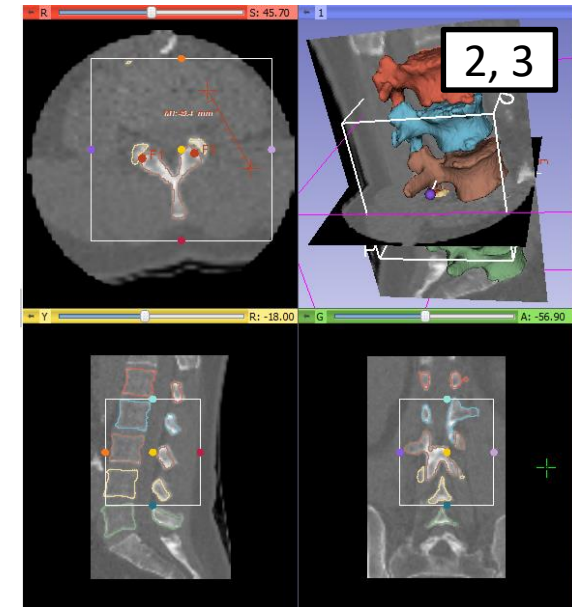
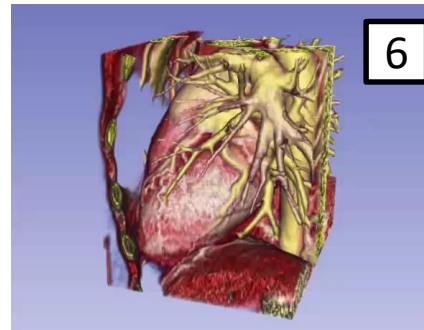
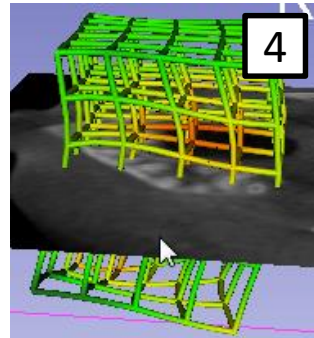
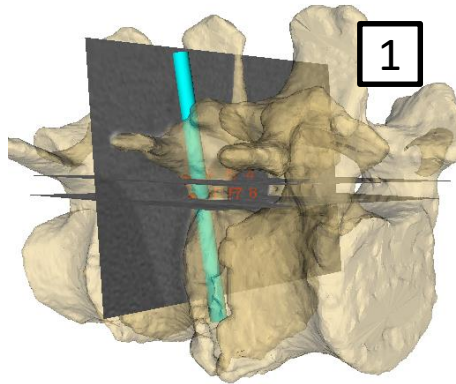


Data handling: the MRML scene

- MRML: Medical Reality Modeling Language
- All objects (volumetric images, surface models, transforms, etc.) are stored in a hierarchical structure of MRML nodes
- Each MRML node has its own list of custom attributes that can be used to specify additional characteristics for the data object
- Enables the modules to have access to the MRML tree, allowing new extensions to leverage existing processing and visualization functions without directly interfering with other modules

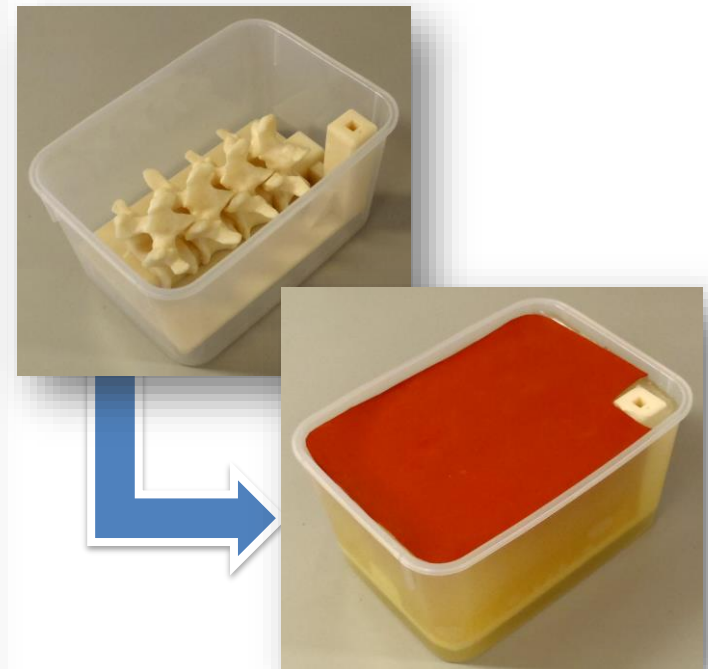
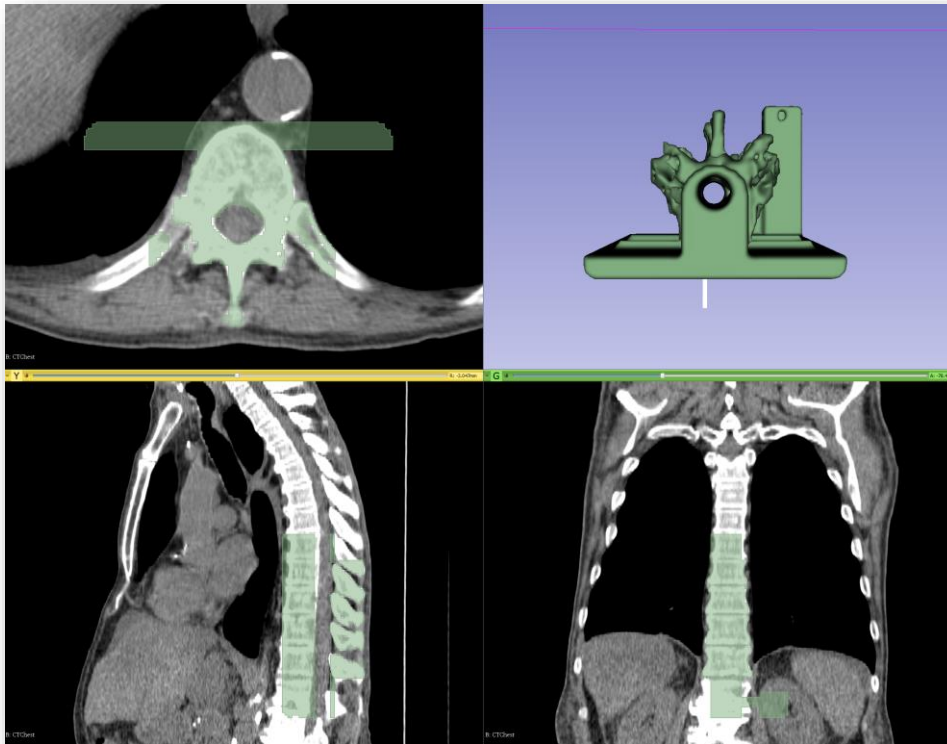
Visualization

1. 2D (slice) and 3D views, chart views
2. Configurable layout
3. Multi-modality image fusion (foreground, background, label map)
4. Transforms, vector and tensor field visualization
5. Surface and volume rendering
6. Time sequence data



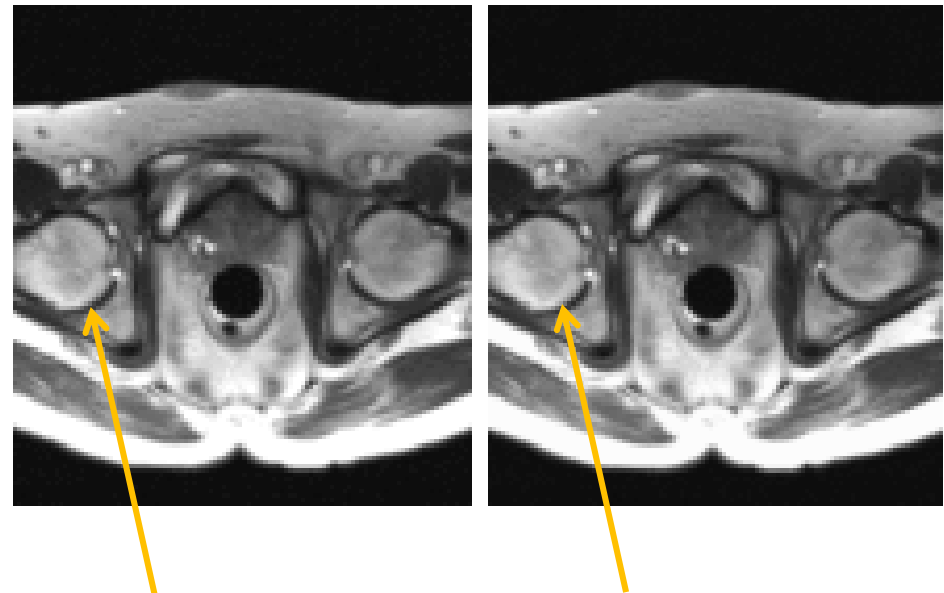
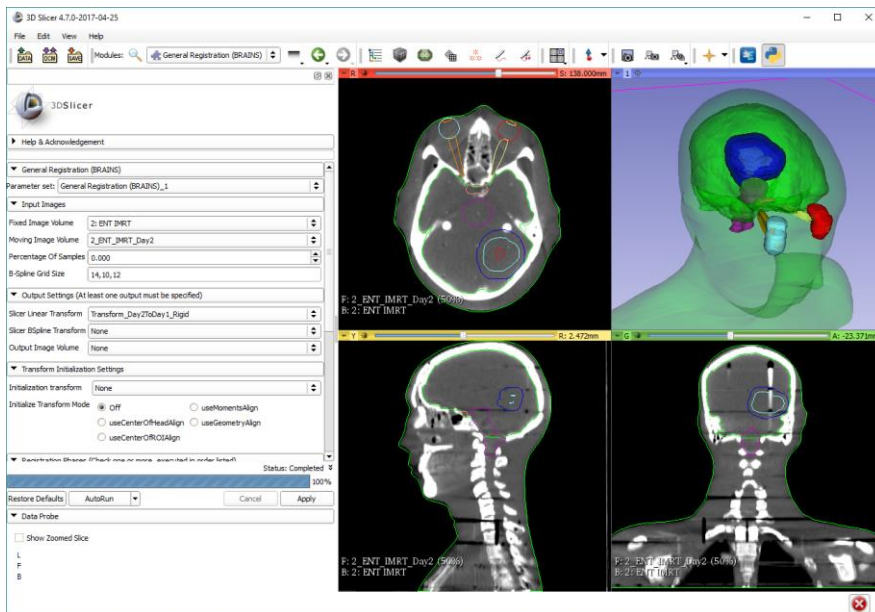
Segmentation

- Manual (paint, draw, scissor, threshold, etc.)
- Semi-automatic (region-growing, fill between slices, etc.)
- Automatic (atlas-based, robust statistics, etc.)



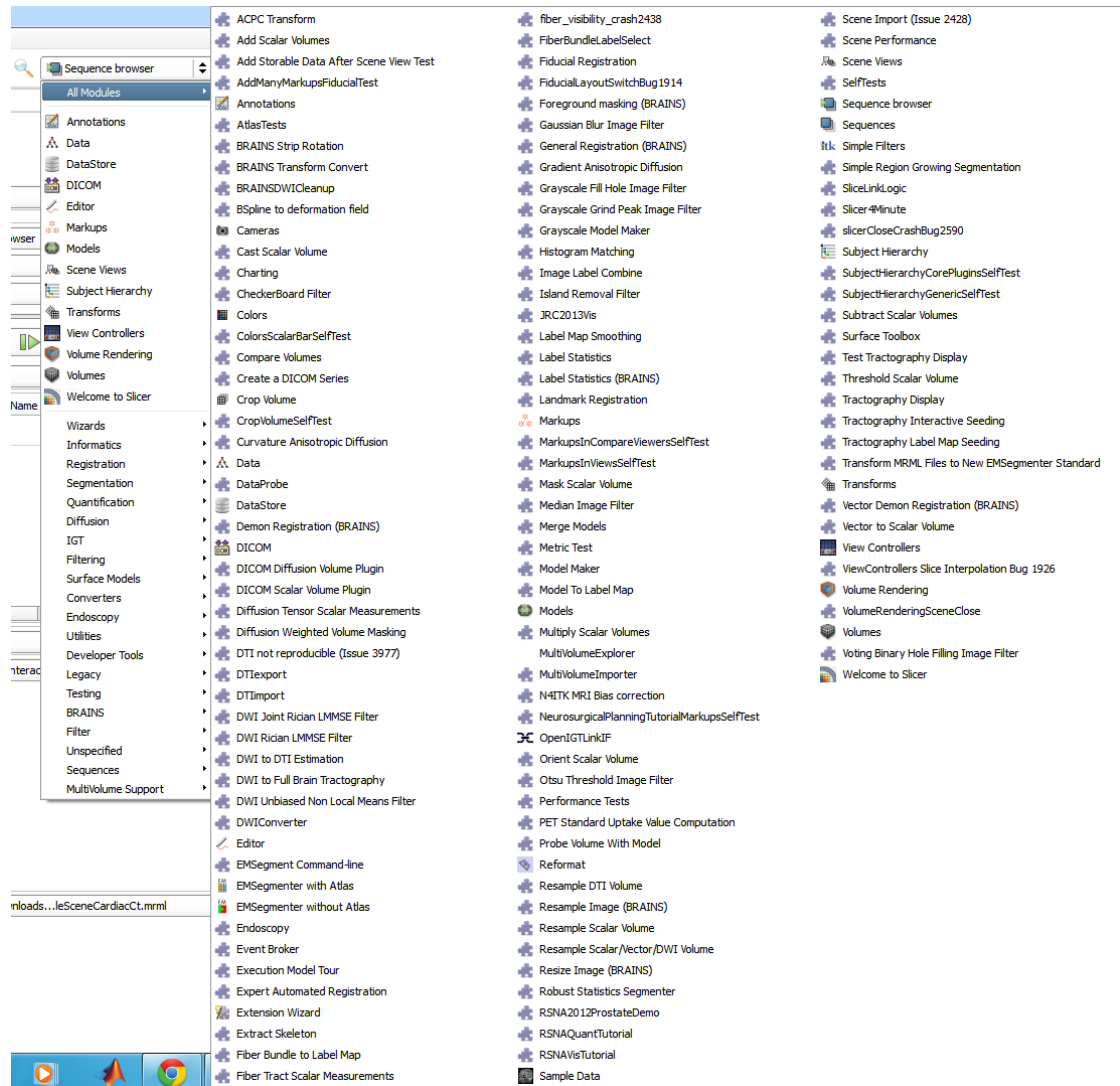
Registration

- Manual: translation, rotation in 3D
- Automatic: rigid, deformable, with various similarity metrics, initialization methods, optimizers, masking, etc.
- Extensions: surface-based registration, Elastix, etc.



Many other modules...

- Image filtering
(image noise reduction, MRI bias correction, etc.)
- Surface processing
- Diffusion imaging
- Quantification, statistics
- ...



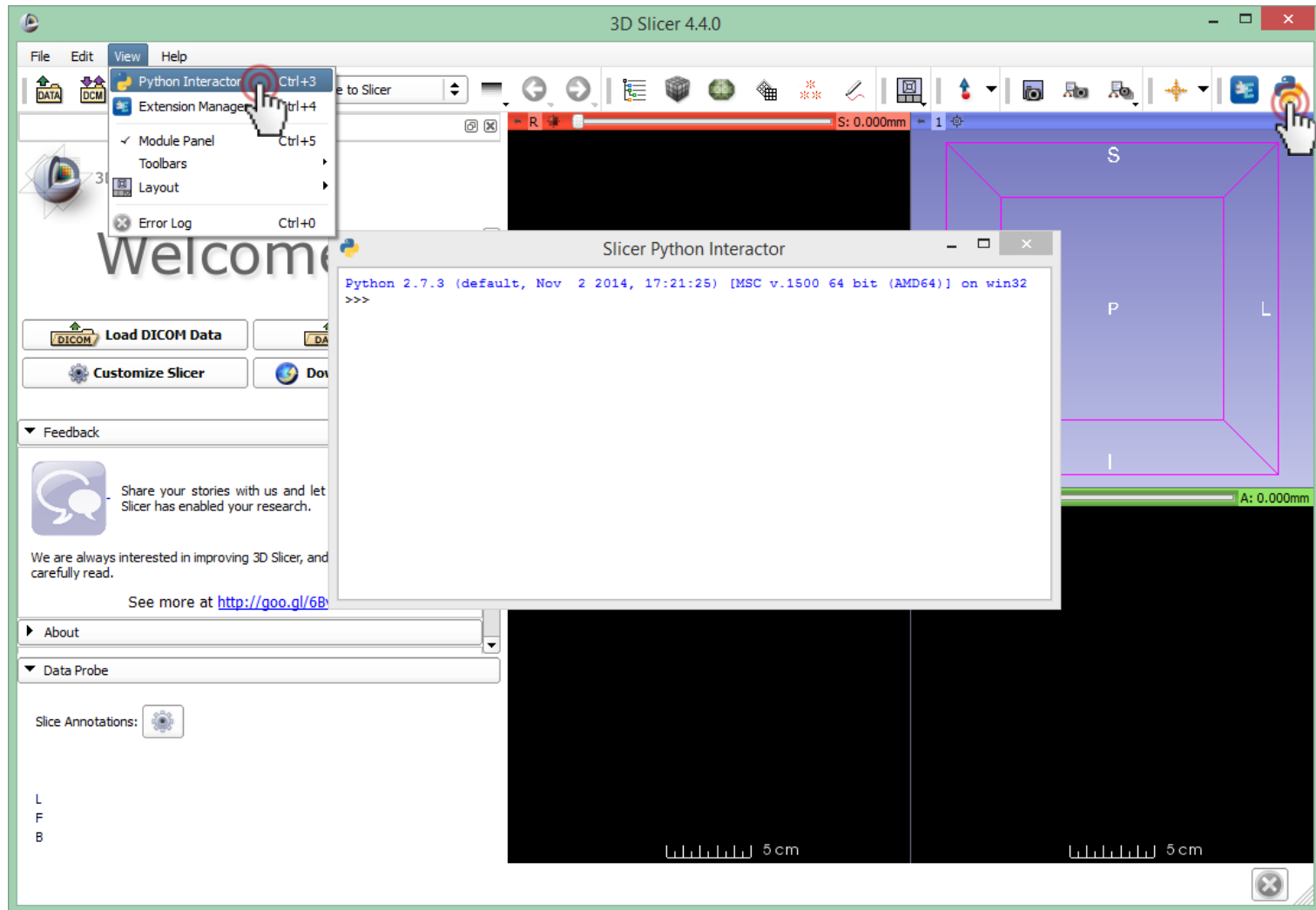
Python in Slicer

The Python console of Slicer4 gives access to

- Scene objects (MRML)
- Modules (core and extensions)
- Data arrays (volumes, models)
- GUI elements (Qt) that can be encapsulated in a module
- Processing Libraries
 - numpy
 - VTK
 - ITK (SimpleITK)
 - CTK



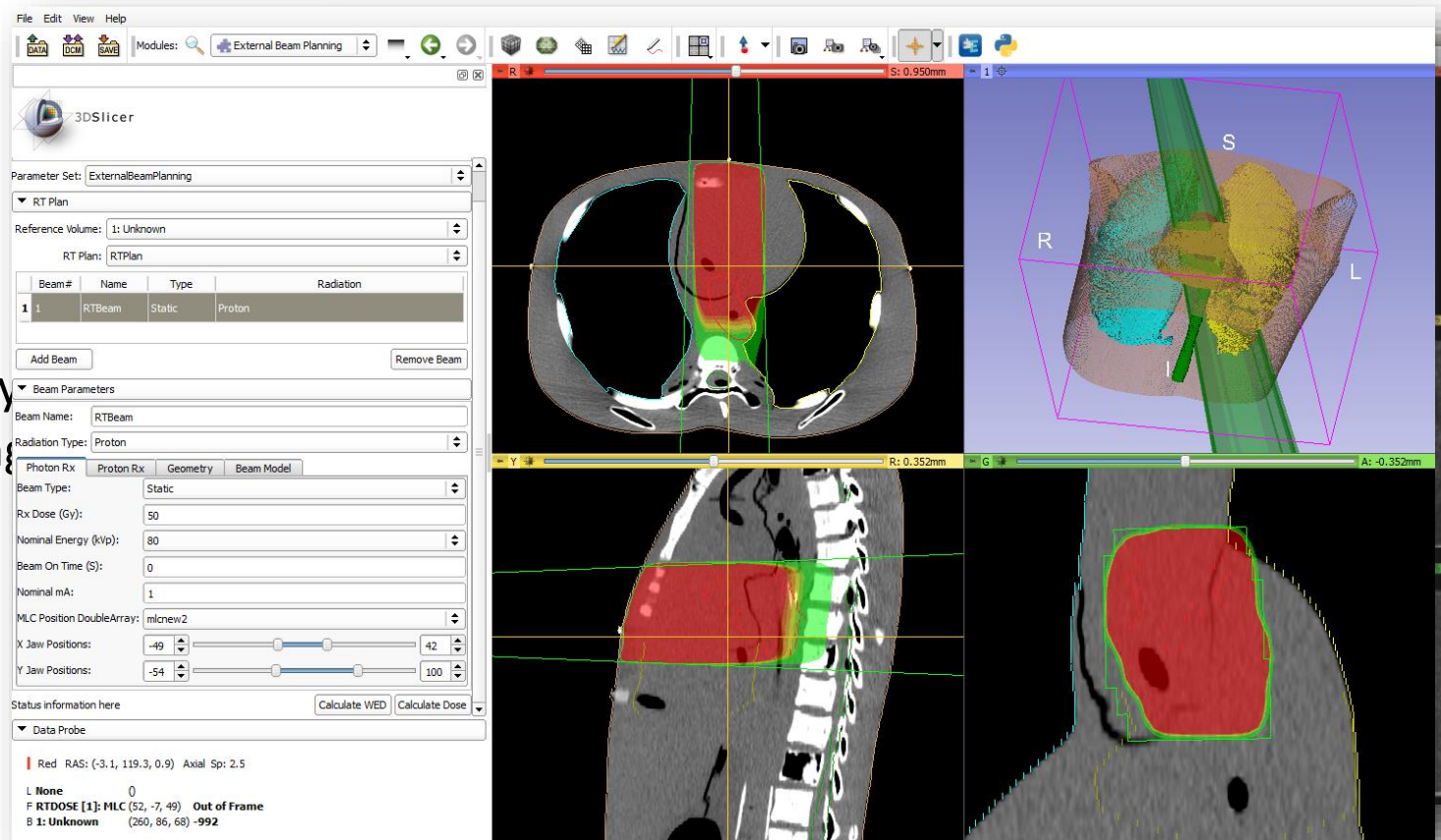
Python console in Slicer



Modular architecture

Three types of modules:

- Scripted modules – written in python
- Command-line modules (CLI) – use ITK
- Loadable (interactive) modules – written in C++



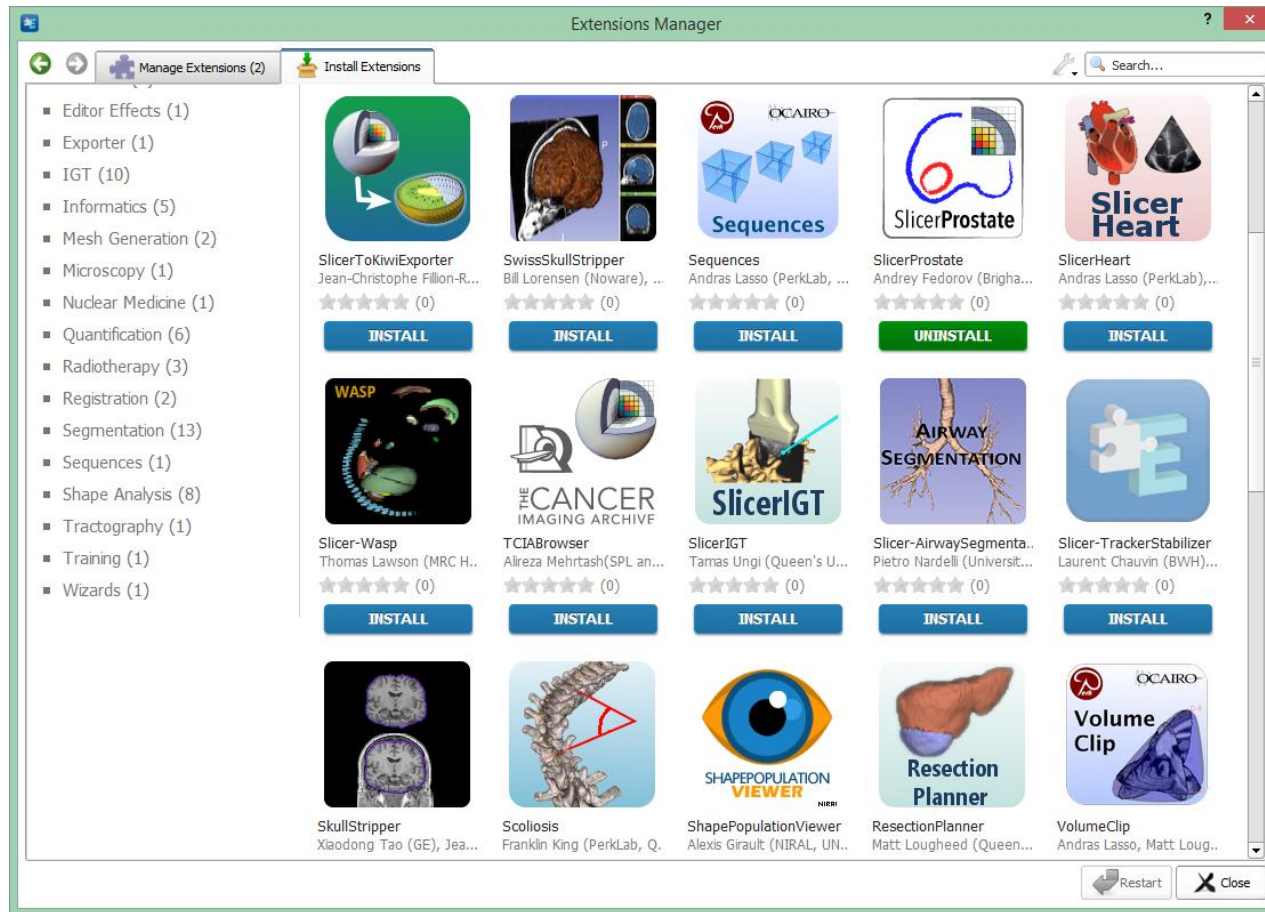
e.g. Tractography
labelmap seeding

e.g. External
beam planning

Image courtesy:



Slicer is extensible



Slicer Extension Manager offers the possibility to the user to download and install additional Slicer modules by a few clicks

Share your tools

- In the spirit of the open-source paradigm, it is encouraged to share your tools
- The shared extensions
 - appear in the Extension Manager
 - are nightly tested on the Slicer Factory platforms
- How to share?
 - Fork ExtensionIndex from GitHub and upload your extension description (.s4ext) file
<https://github.com/Slicer/ExtensionsIndex>
 - Ask the core team to integrate (send a “pull request”)



[@lassoan](http://discourse.slicer.org)