

# BRAIN AGE PREDICTION WITH PROGRESSION MODELS

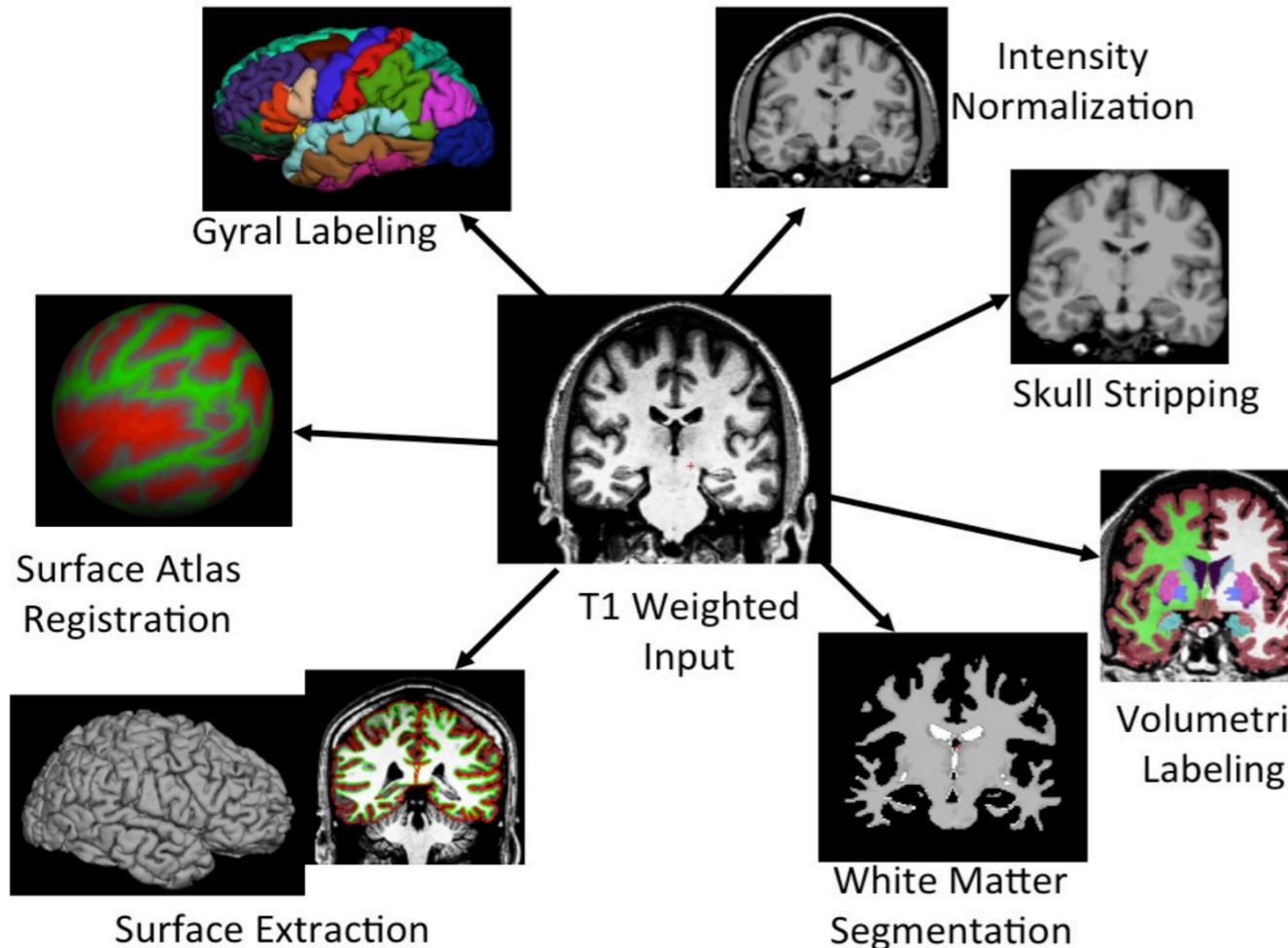
---

*Angela Corvino e Agata Minnocci*

*Esame di CMEPDA, 24 Giugno 2022*

# DATA SEGMENTATION

T1 weighted Brain MRIs + Freesurfer brain segmentation software → Brain features



- \* Number of Surface feature: 62
- \* Number of Thickness feature: 62
- \* Number of Volume feature: 108
- \* Number of Curvature feature: 124

- Cerebral cortex parcelled into a number of structures (depending on the atlas)
- For each structure several ROIs defined and relative features computed (area; volume; average thickness; thickness standard deviation; mean curvature)
- Global features can be considered, e.g.: white surface total area and mean thickness of cerebral cortex for both hemisphere

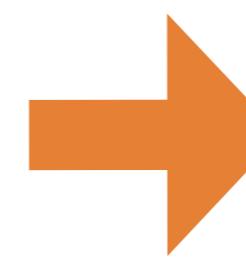
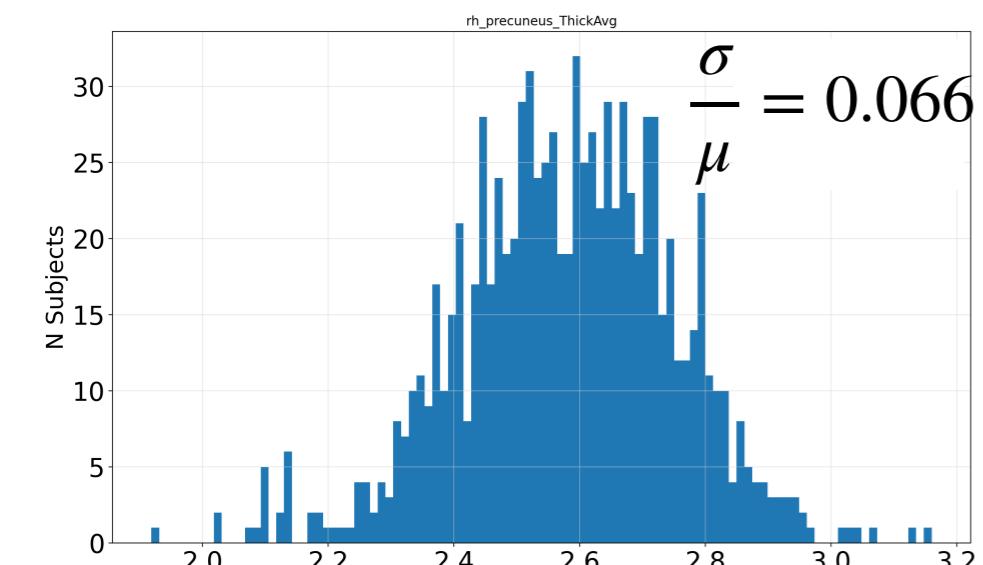
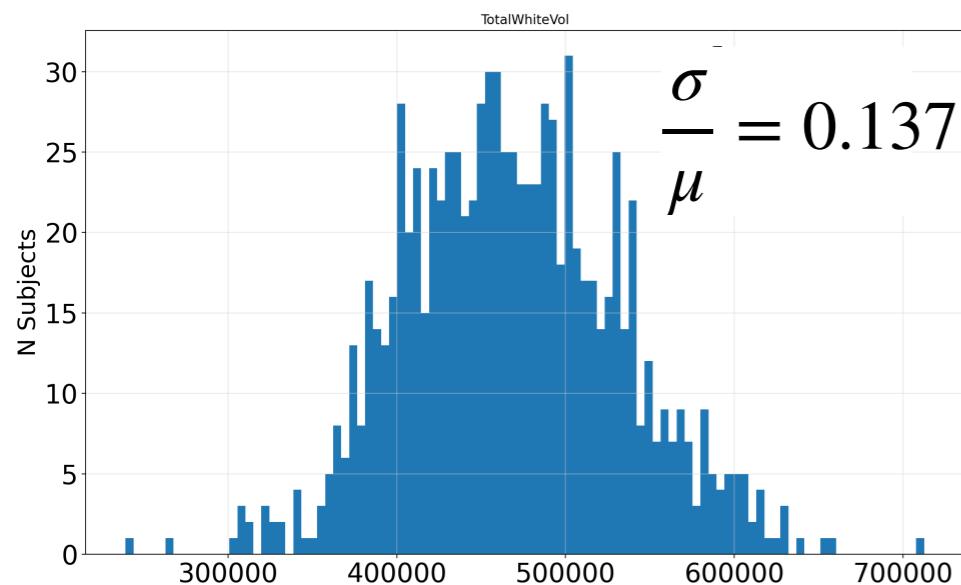
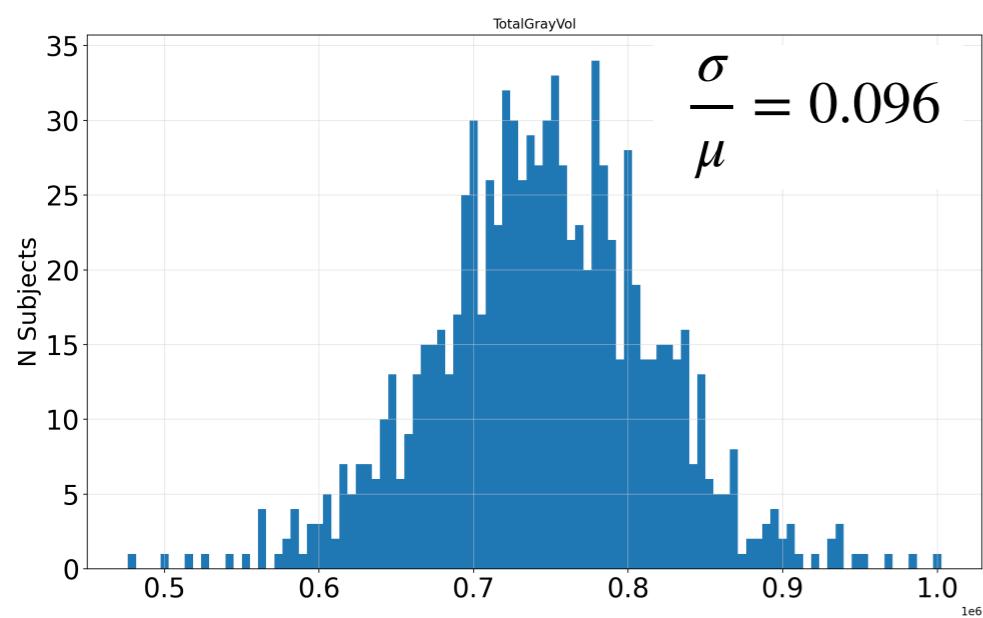
# CODE REPOSITORY

**Repository**

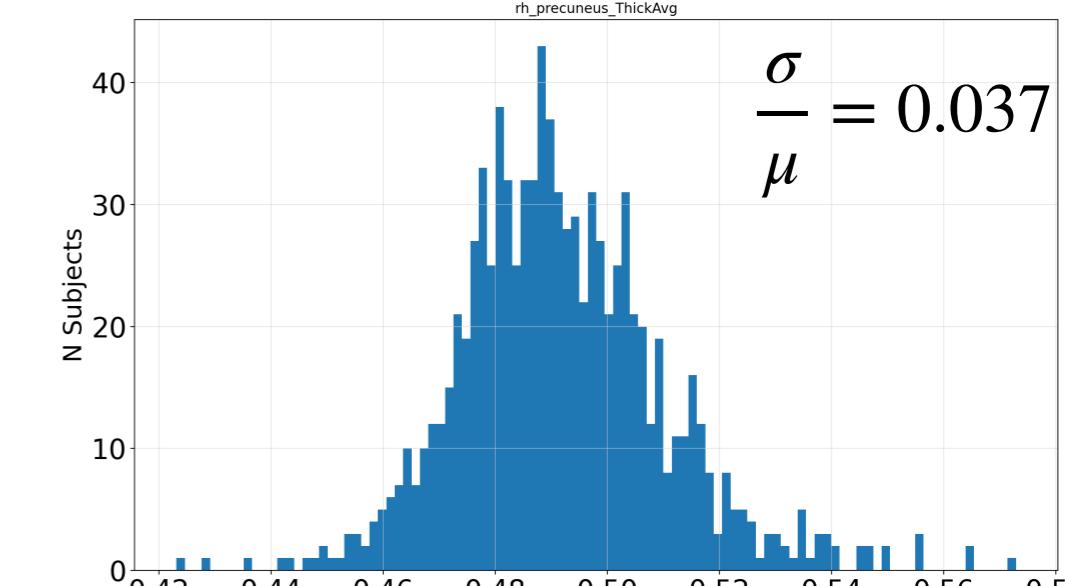
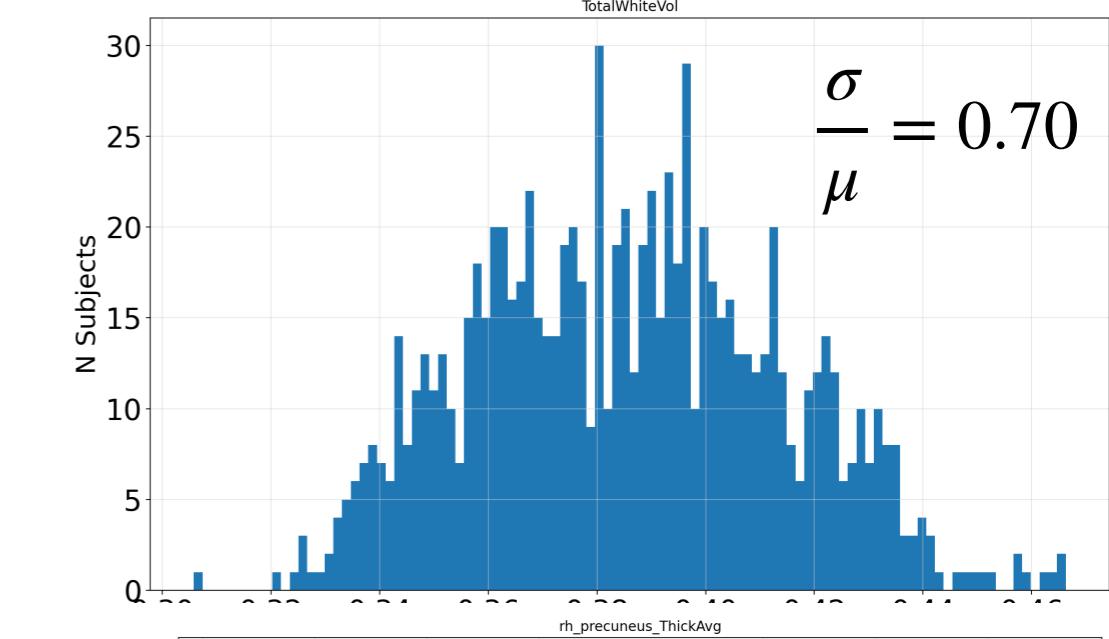
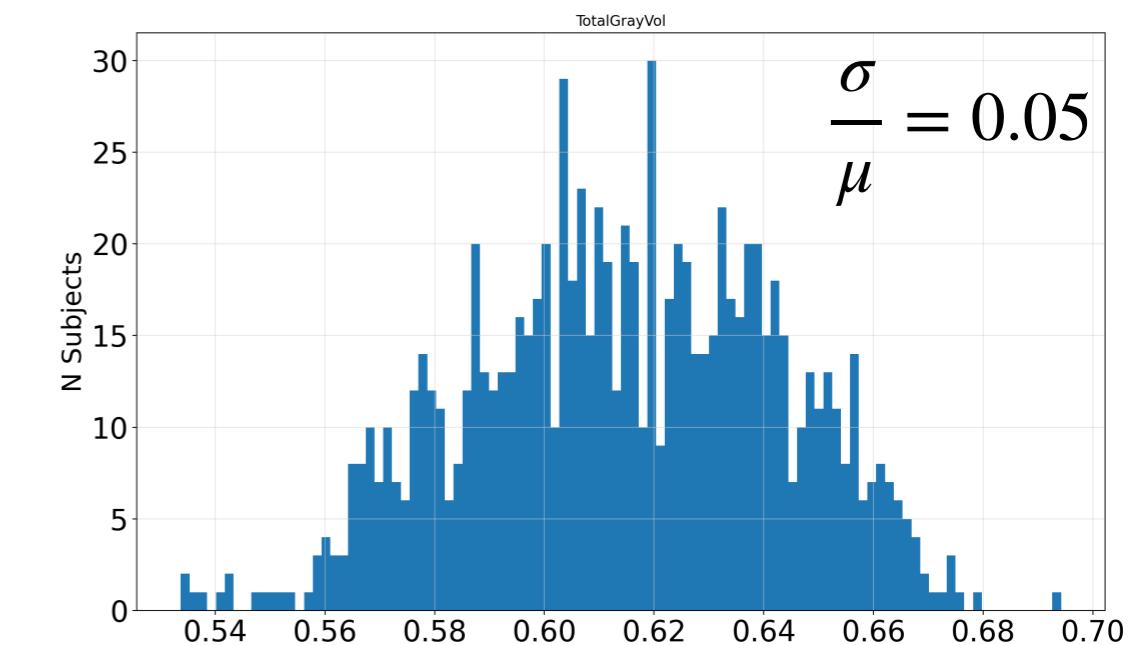
**Documentation**

**Continuous integration**

# SELF NORMALIZATION



Variance Reduction

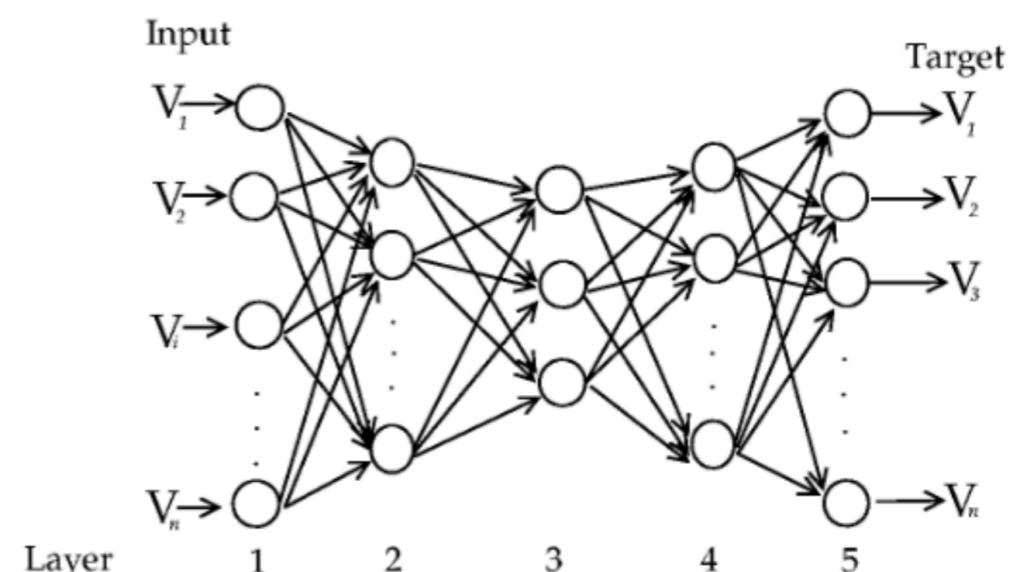


# RNN FOR OUTLIERS DETECTION

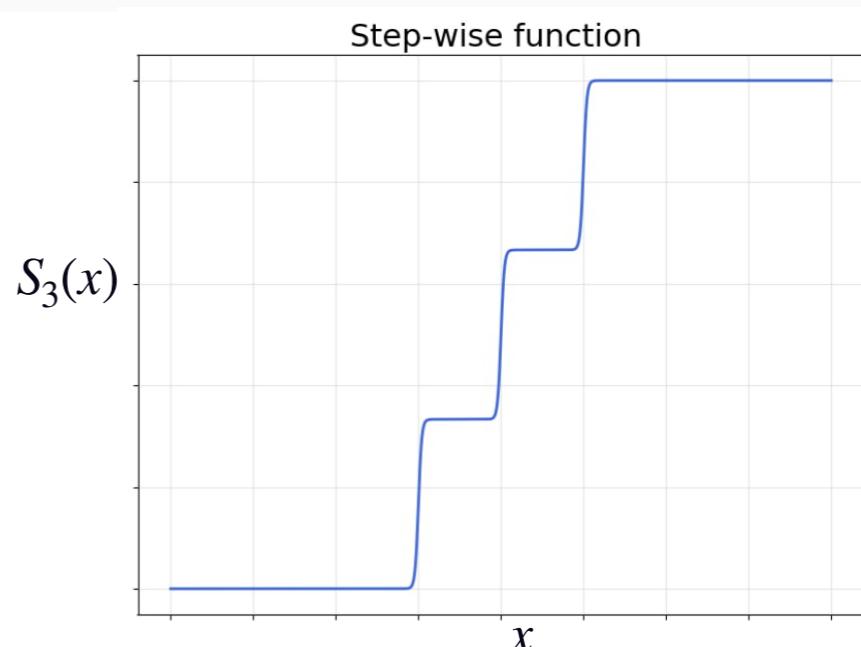
RNN(feed-forward multi-layer perceptron)

- 3 hidden layers sandwiched between input layer and output layer
- Step-wise activation function for the middle hidden layer ( $k = 3$ )

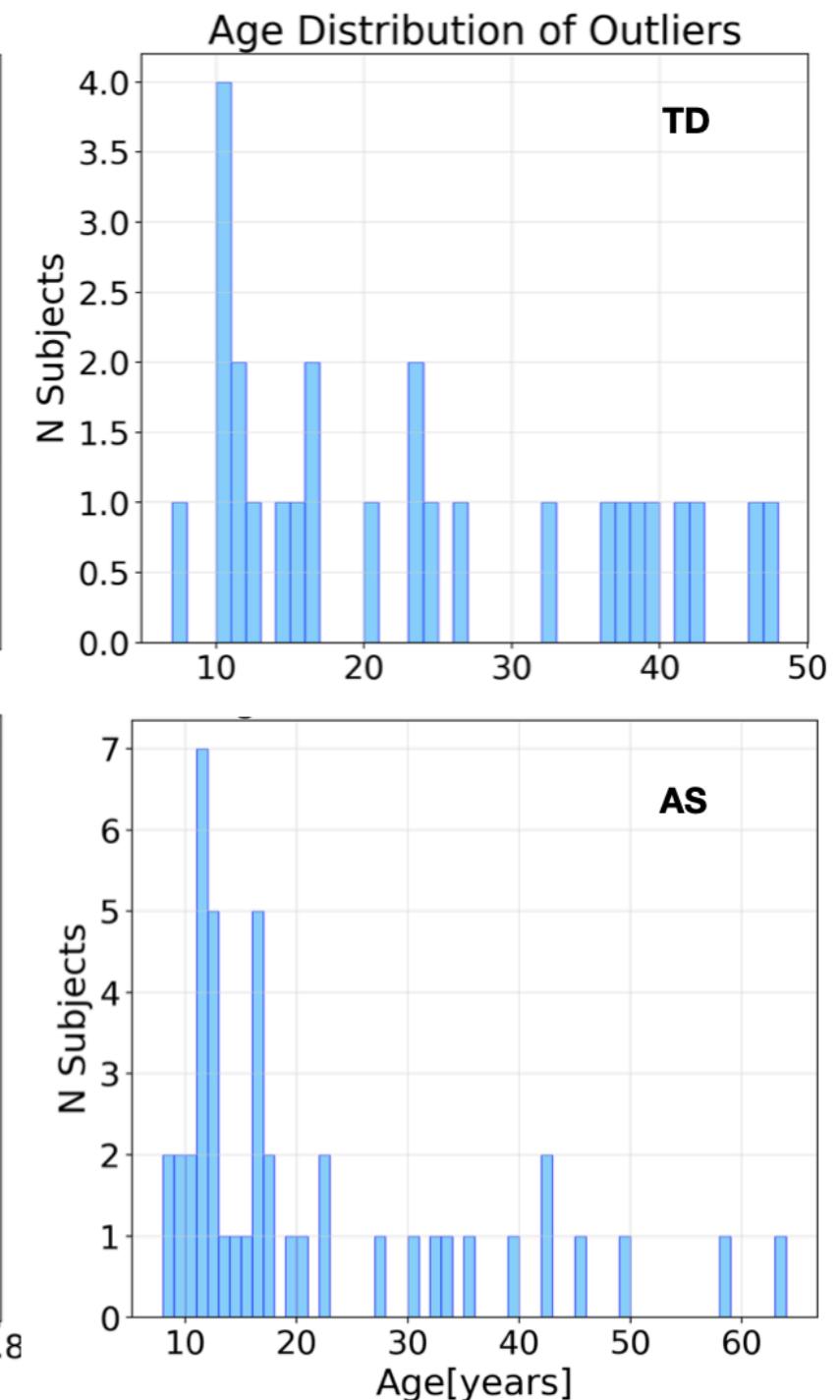
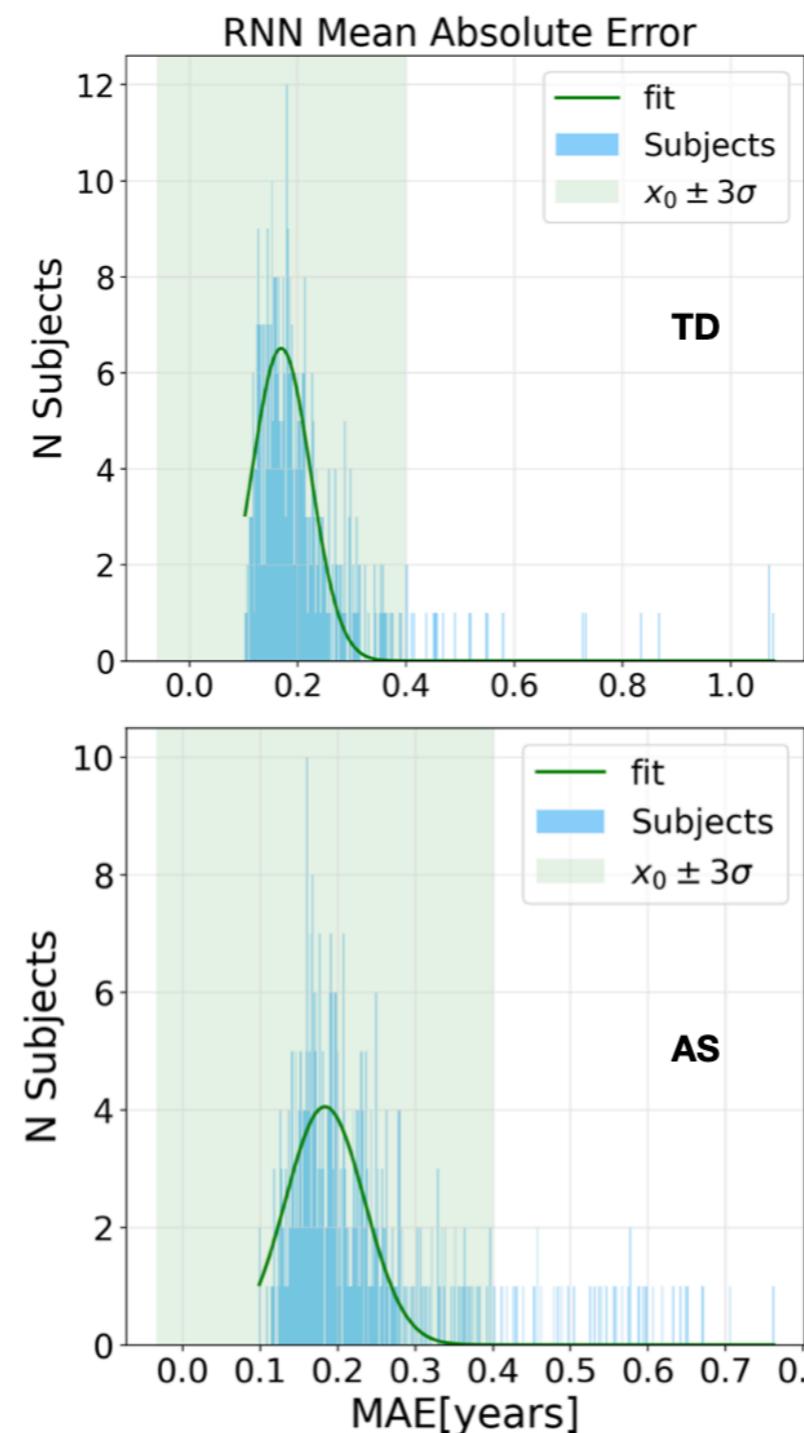
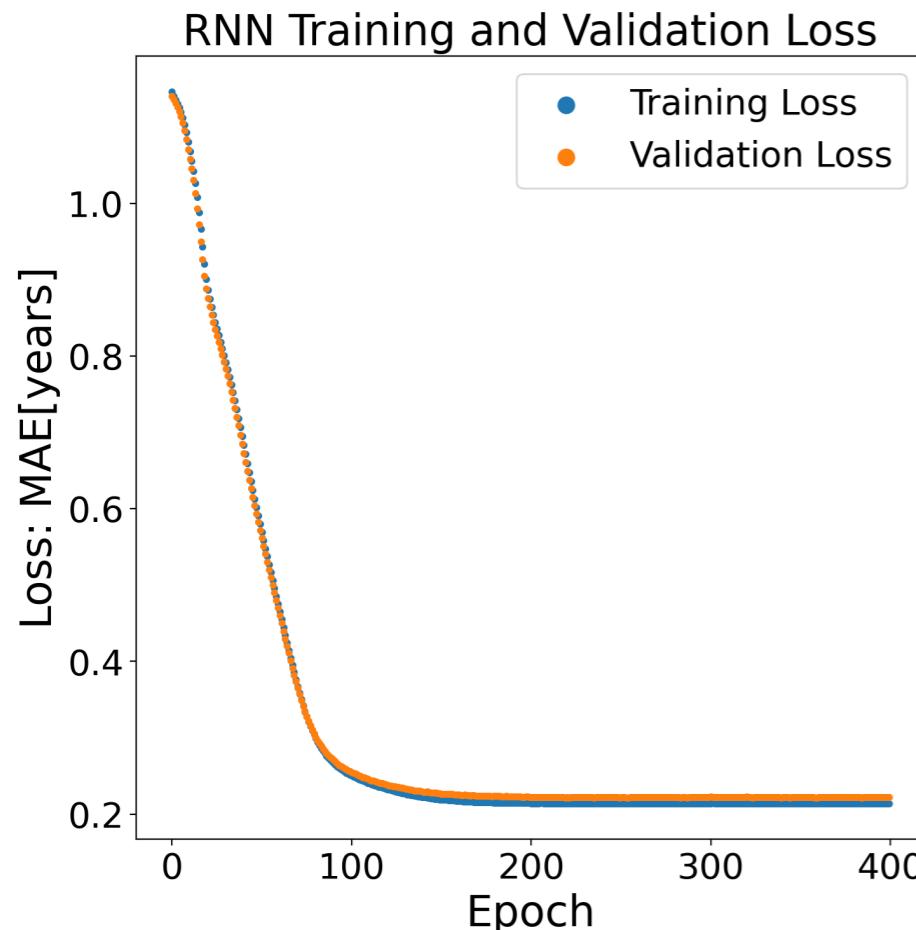
```
def make_autoencoder(self):  
    """docstring"""  
    get_custom_objects().update({"step_wise": Activation(step_wise)}  
  
    inputs = Input(shape=self.X_train.shape[1])  
    hidden = Dense(30, activation="tanh")(inputs)  
    hidden = Dense(2, activation="step_wise")(hidden)  
    hidden = Dense(30, activation="tanh")(hidden)  
    outputs = Dense(self.X_train.shape[1], activation="linear")(hidden)  
  
    model = Model(inputs=inputs, outputs=outputs)  
    model.compile(loss="mean_absolute_error", optimizer="adam", metrics=["MAE"])  
    model.summary()  
    return model  
  
def fit_autoencoder(self, model, epochs):  
    """docstring"""  
    # Define callbacks  
    early_stopping = tf.keras.callbacks.EarlyStopping(  
        monitor="val_loss", patience=10, verbose=1  
    )  
  
    history = model.fit(  
        self.X_train,  
        self.X_train,  
        validation_split=0.4,  
        epochs=epochs,  
        batch_size=50,  
        callbacks=[early_stopping],  
        verbose=1,  
    )  
    with open(  
        "models/autoencoder.pkl", "wb"  
    ) as files:  
        pickle.dump(model, files)  
    return history
```



```
def step_wise(x, N=4, a=100):  
    """docstring"""  
    y = 1 / 2  
    for j in range(1, N):  
        y += (1 / (2 * (N - 1))) * (K.tanh(a * (x - (j / N))))  
    return y
```

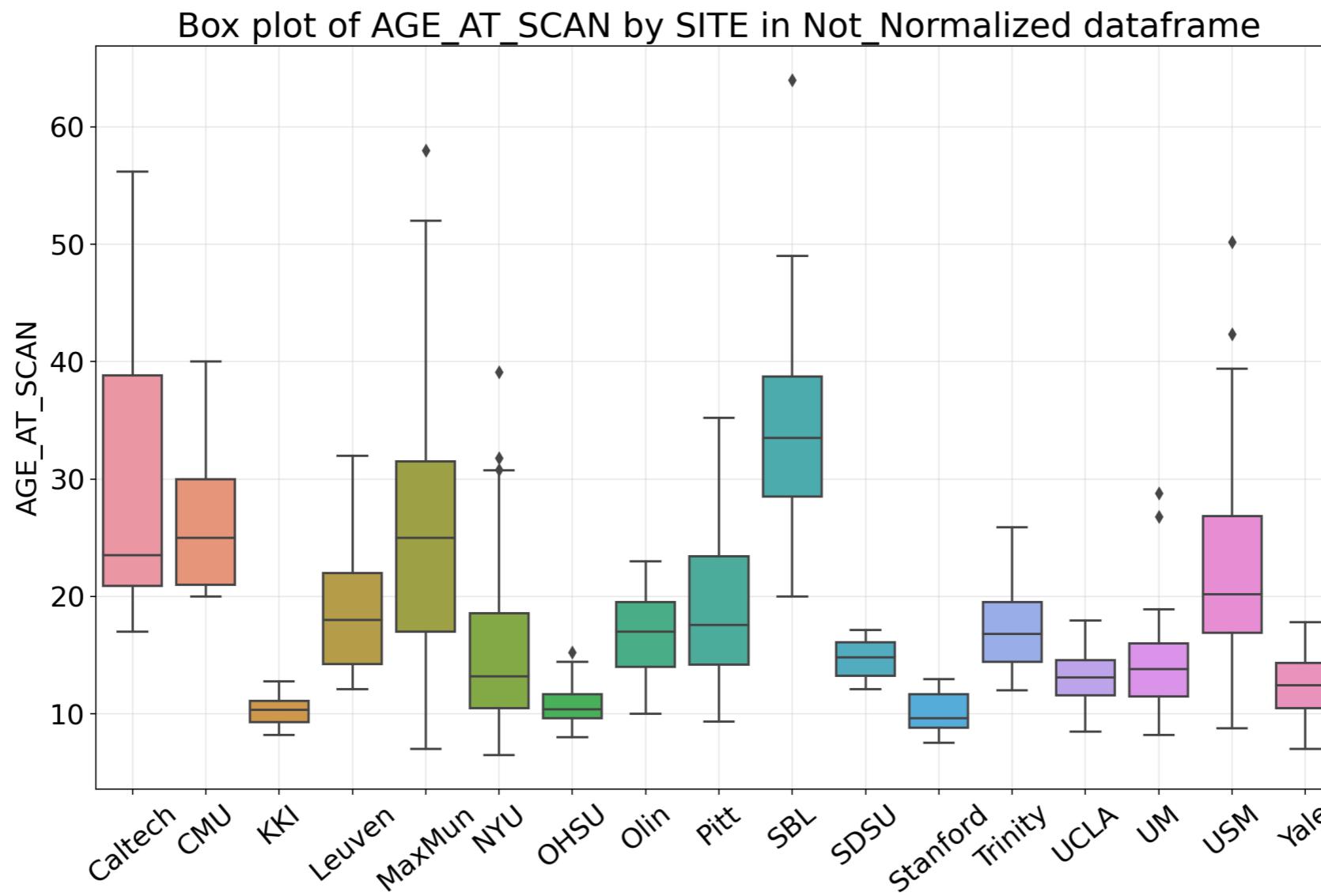


# OUTLIERS DETECTION



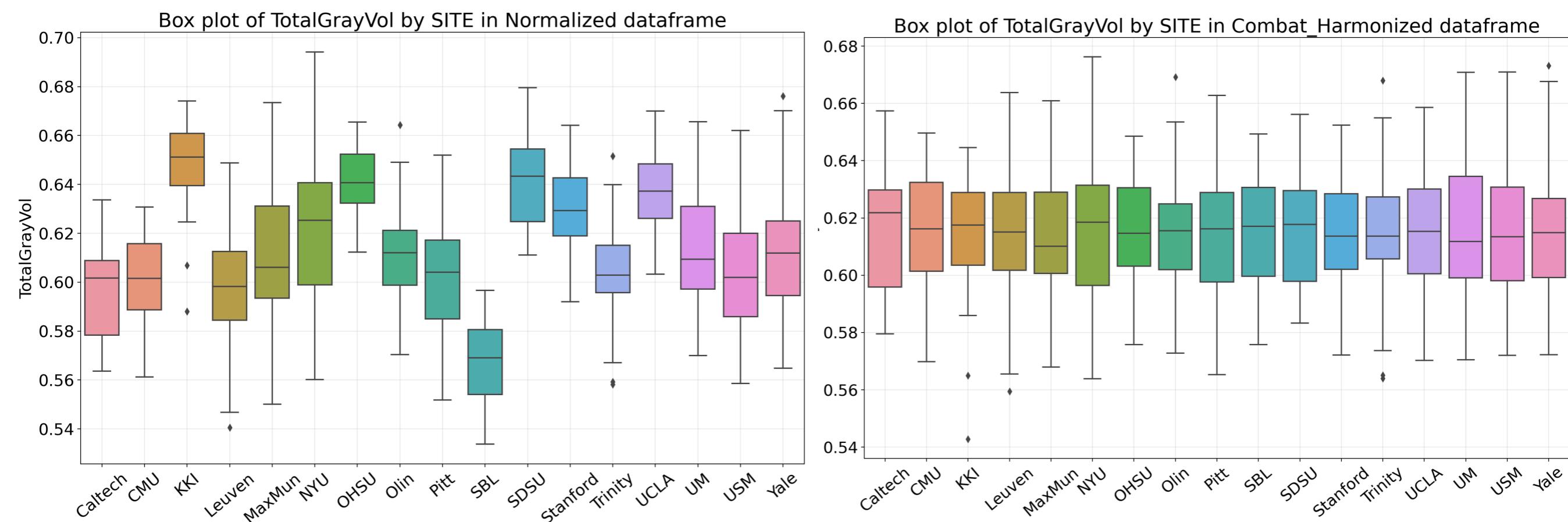
# CONFOUNDER VARIABLES

Confounders: characteristics of the samples that are not clinically relevant, but can mislead the classifier training process



# DATA HARMONIZATION

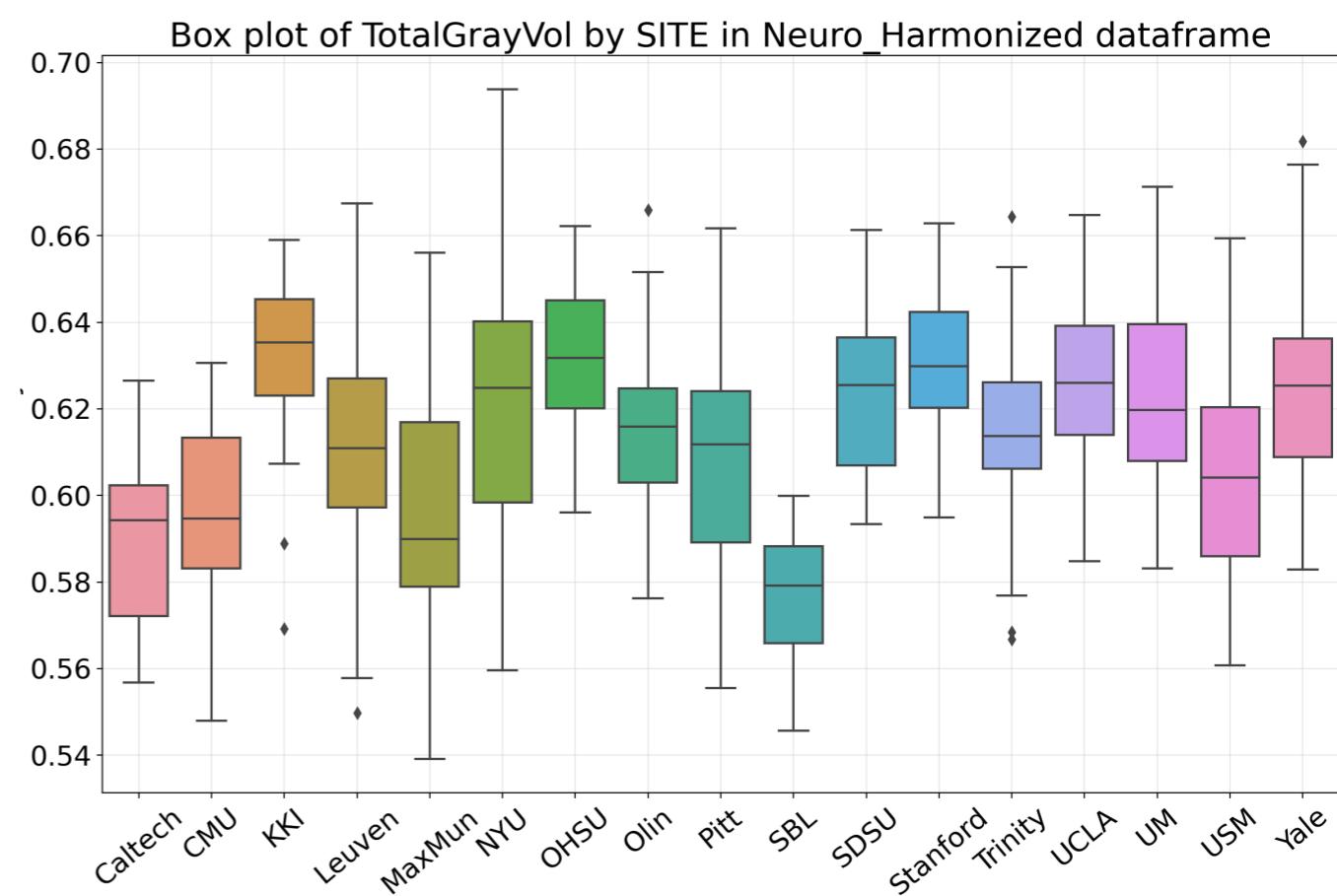
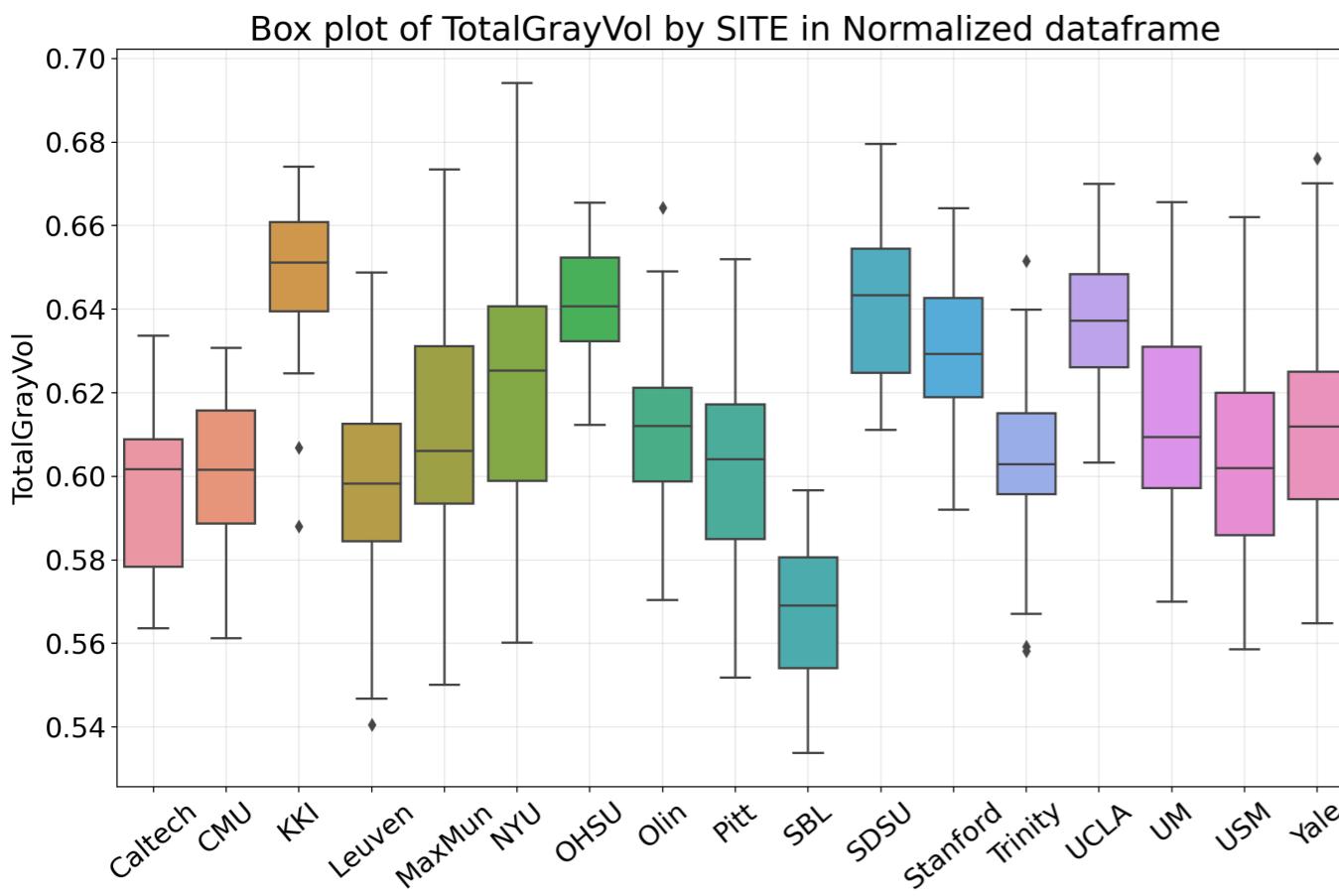
Combat model  $y_{ijv} = \alpha_v + W_{ij}\beta_v + \gamma_{iv} + \delta_{iv}\epsilon_{ijv}$



**Limitations** :centers the data to the overall, grand mean of all samples

- adjusted data matrix shifted to an arbitrary location (no longer coincides with the location of any of the original centers)
- harmonized features losing their original physical meaning

# NeuroHarmonize model



# MAIN

1. Define pipeline
2. Tune hyper-parameters with Grid Search (Cross Validation)
3. Refit a final model with the entire training dataset using the best hyper-parameters.
4. Save the best performing model

```
88 def tune_model(dataframe_train, model, hyparams, harmonize_option):  
89     """docstring"""  
90  
91     pipe = Pipeline(  
92         steps=[  
93             ("Feature", SelectKBest()),  
94             ("Scaler", RobustScaler()),  
95             ("Model", model),  
96         ]  
97     )  
98  
99     x_train = dataframe_train.drop(  
100        ["AGE_AT_SCAN", "SEX", "DX_GROUP", "AGE_CLASS"], axis=1  
101    )  
102    y_train = dataframe_train["AGE_AT_SCAN"]  
103    y_train_class = dataframe_train["AGE_CLASS"]  
104  
105    print("Cross validation for regression model")  
106    model_cv = GridSearchCV(  
107        pipe,  
108        cv=10,  
109        n_jobs=-1,  
110        param_grid=hyparams,  
111        scoring="neg_mean_absolute_error",  
112        verbose=True,  
113    )  
114  
115    model_cv.fit(x_train, y_train)  
116  
117    print("Best combination of hyperparameters:", model_cv.best_params_)  
118  
119    crossvalidation = Crossvalidation()  
120    model_fit, MSE, MAE, PR = crossvalidation.stratified_k_fold(  
121        x_train, y_train, y_train_class, 10, model_cv.best_estimator_  
122    )
```

1

2

3

```
123     # Save the metrics in txt_file  
124     header = "MSE\t" + "MAE\t" + "PR\t"  
125     metrics = np.array([MSE, MAE, PR])  
126     metrics = np.array(metrics).T  
127     np.savetxt(  
128         "models/metrics/metrics_%s_%s.txt"  
129         % (model.__class__.__name__, harmonize_option),  
130         metrics,  
131         header=header,  
132     )  
133  
134     # Save the best performing model fitted in stratifiedkfold cross validation  
135     with open(  
136         "models/%s_%s.pkl" % (model.__class__.__name__, harmonize_option), "wb"  
137     ) as files:  
138         pickle.dump(model_fit, files)  
139  
140  
141     def predict_model(dataframe, model, harmonize_option):  
142         """docstring"""  
143         with open(  
144             "models/%s_%s.pkl" % (model.__class__.__name__, harmonize_option), "rb"  
145         ) as f:  
146             model_fit = pickle.load(f)  
147             x_test = dataframe.drop(["AGE_AT_SCAN", "SEX", "DX_GROUP", "AGE_CLASS"], axis=1)  
148             y_test = dataframe["AGE_AT_SCAN"]  
149  
150             predict_y = model_fit.predict(x_test)  
151             predict_y = np.squeeze(predict_y)  
152             metric_test = np.array(  
153                 [  
154                     mean_squared_error(y_test, predict_y),  
155                     mean_absolute_error(y_test, predict_y),  
156                     pearsonr(y_test, predict_y)[0],  
157                 ]  
158             )  
159             return predict_y, y_test, metric_test  
160
```

4

# PIPELINE AND TUNING

- **FEATURE SELECTION METHOD** : Best number of feature is chosen according to model and harmonization option

Model	N	N	N
	Not Harmonized	Combat Harminized	Neuro harmonized
MLP	50	100	50
LR	20	20	30
GR	20	20	20
RF	30	30	30
LA	20	30	30
SVR	20	30	30

## ➤ ROBUST SCALER

- Features represent different kinds of quantities and have extremely different ranges of values → standardization is needed
- Robust Scaler:
  - \* Remove the median and scales according to the IQR
  - \* It is robust to outliers

*Perché abbiamo fatto Scelta funzione di merito?*

## ➤ REGRESSION MODELS

- Several regression model are compared
- Hyper-parameters are tuned for each model in cross validation

# 1.2 MLP

```
18 class DeepRegression(BaseEstimator):
19     """docstring"""
20
21     def __init__(
22         self,
23         epochs=100,
24         drop_rate=0.2,
25         plot_loss=False,
26     ):
27         self.epochs = epochs
28         self.drop_rate = drop_rate
29         self.plot_loss = plot_loss
30         super().__init__()
31
32     def fit(self, X, y):
33         """docstring"""
34         inputs = Input(shape=X.shape[1])
35         hidden = Dense(128, activation="relu")(inputs)
36         hidden = Dense(12, activation="relu")(hidden)
37         hidden = Dense(12, activation="relu")(hidden)
38         hidden = Dropout(self.drop_rate)(hidden)
39         hidden = Dense(12, activation="relu")(hidden)
40         outputs = Dense(1, activation="linear")(hidden)
41
42         self.model = Model(inputs=inputs, outputs=outputs)
43         self.model.compile(
44             loss="mean_absolute_error", optimizer="adam", metrics=["MAE"]
45         )
46         self.model.summary()
47         # Define callbacks
48         early_stopping = tf.keras.callbacks.EarlyStopping(
49             monitor="val_loss", patience=10, verbose=1
50         )
51         history = self.model.fit(
52             X,
53             y,
54             validation_split=0.3,
55             epochs=self.epochs,
56             batch_size=32,
57             callbacks=[early_stopping],
58             verbose=0,
59         )
```

Class inherits from Base Estimator and implements fit and predict methods → can be used in Pipeline

# CROSS VALIDATION

```
def stratified_k_fold(self, X, y, y_bins, n_splits, model):
    """docstring"""

    try:
        y = y.to_numpy()
        y_bins = y_bins.to_numpy()
        X = X.to_numpy()
    except AttributeError:
        pass
    cv = StratifiedKFold(n_splits)

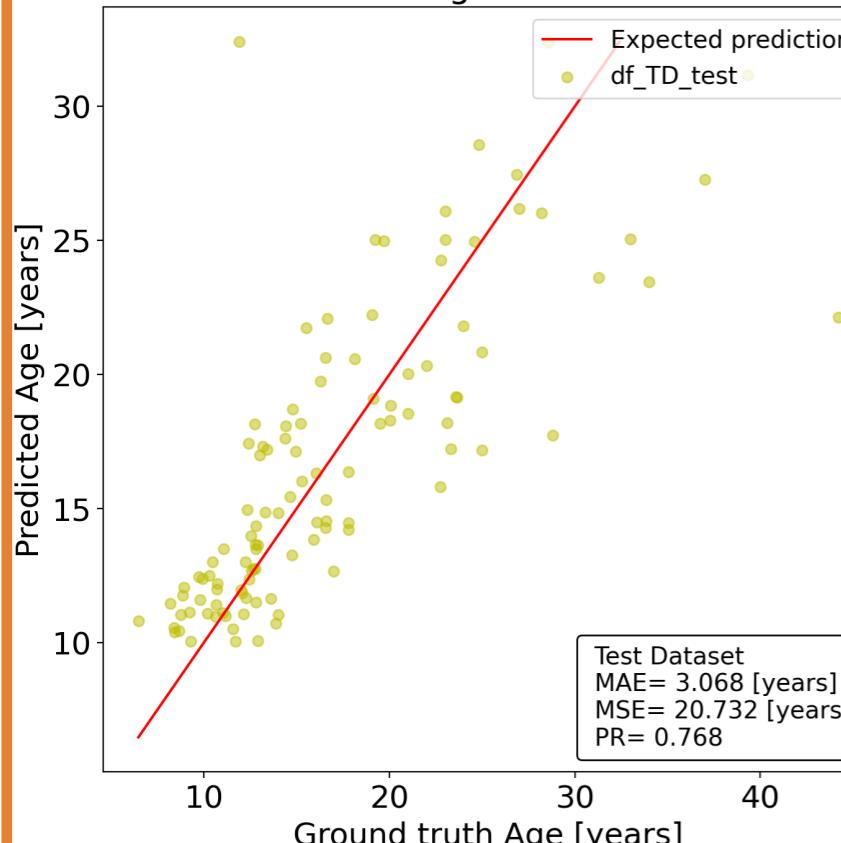
    MSE = []
    MAE = []
    PR = []
    for train_index, validation_index in cv.split(X, y_bins):
        predict_y = model.fit(X[train_index], y[train_index]).predict(X[validation_index])
        print(f"MAE: {mean_absolute_error(y[validation_index], predict_y):0.3f}")

    MSE.append(mean_squared_error(y[validation_index], predict_y))
    MAE.append(mean_absolute_error(y[validation_index], predict_y))
    PR.append(pearsonr(y[validation_index], predict_y)[0])
    predict_y = np.squeeze(predict_y)
return (model, MSE, MAE, PR,)
```

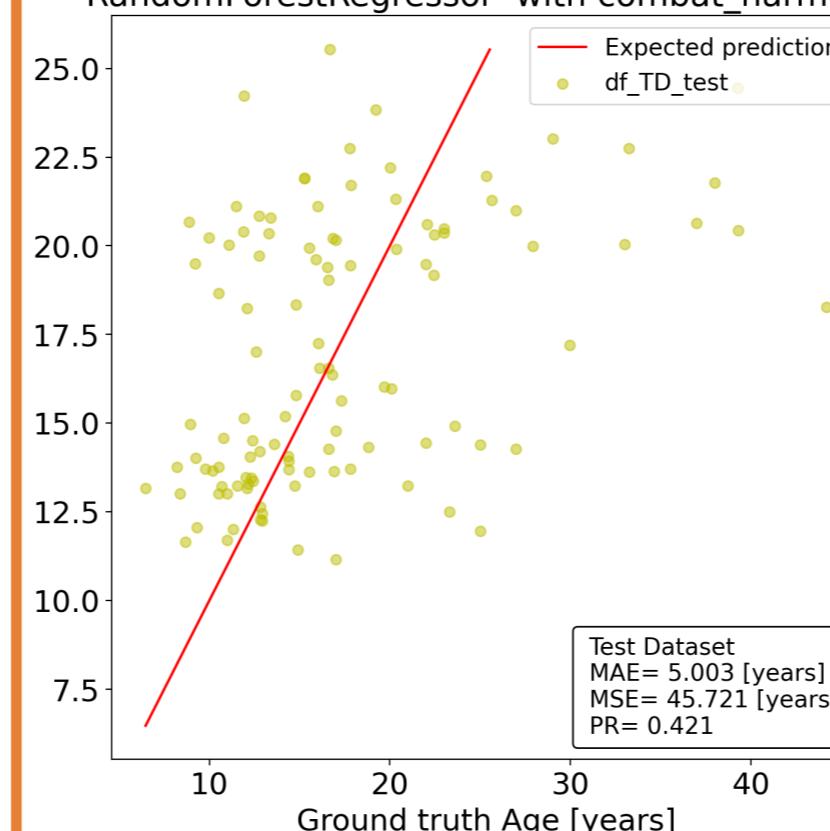
- Random Forest present overall best performances for all harmonization options
- Not harmonizing data seems to improves the performance in terms of metric

Algorithm	MSE	MAE	$\rho$	
Deep Regression	$31.12 \pm 10.62$	$3.98 \pm 0.53$	$0.766 \pm 0.07$	Not Harmonized
	$76.34 \pm 29.40$	$6.04 \pm 0.944$	$0.322 \pm 0.152$	Combat Harmonized
	$35.29 \pm 6.84$	$4.523 \pm 0.317$	$0.785 \pm 0.064$	Neuro Harmonized
Linear Regression	$20.63 \pm 8.99$	$3.30 \pm 0.47$	$0.809 \pm 0.053$	Not Harmonized
	$48.78 \pm 15.72$	$5.102 \pm 0.736$	$0.501 \pm 0.089$	Combat Harmonized
	$23.85 \pm 8.55$	$3.540 \pm 0.510$	$0.801 \pm 0.0521$	Neuro Harmonized
Gaussian Process Regressor	$63.60 \pm 11.2$	$6.22 \pm 0.49$	$0.626 \pm 0.082$	Not Harmonized
	$130.5 \pm 34.48$	$8.86 \pm 0.940$	$0.318 \pm 0.185$	Combat Harmonized
	$91.95 \pm 22.01$	$7.456 \pm 0.959$	$0.517 \pm 0.137$	Neuro Harmonized
Random Forest Regressor	$18.19 \pm 6.40$	$2.91 \pm 0.33$	$0.828 \pm 0.052$	Not Harmonized
	$48.64 \pm 16.23$	$5.025 \pm 0.673$	$0.495 \pm 0.122$	Combat Harmonized
	$21.74 \pm 7.84$	$3.28 \pm 0.46$	$0.821 \pm 0.049$	Neuro Harmonized
Lasso	$20.48 \pm 7.38$	$3.186 \pm 0.39$	$0.808 \pm 0.043$	Not Harmonized
	$48.13 \pm 15.99$	$5.05 \pm 0.72$	$0.507 \pm 0.096$	Combat Harmonized
	$22.57 \pm 7.73$	$3.458 \pm 0.447$	$0.812 \pm 0.0285$	Neuro Harmonized
SVR	$23.56 \pm 8.37$	$3.177 \pm 0.307$	$0.800 \pm 0.0528$	Not Harmonized
	$51.89 \pm 17.87$	$4.85 \pm 0.628$	$0.506 \pm 0.096$	Combat Harmonized
	$23.83 \pm 8.47$	$3.465 \pm 0.505$	$0.807 \pm 0.039$	Neuro Harmonized

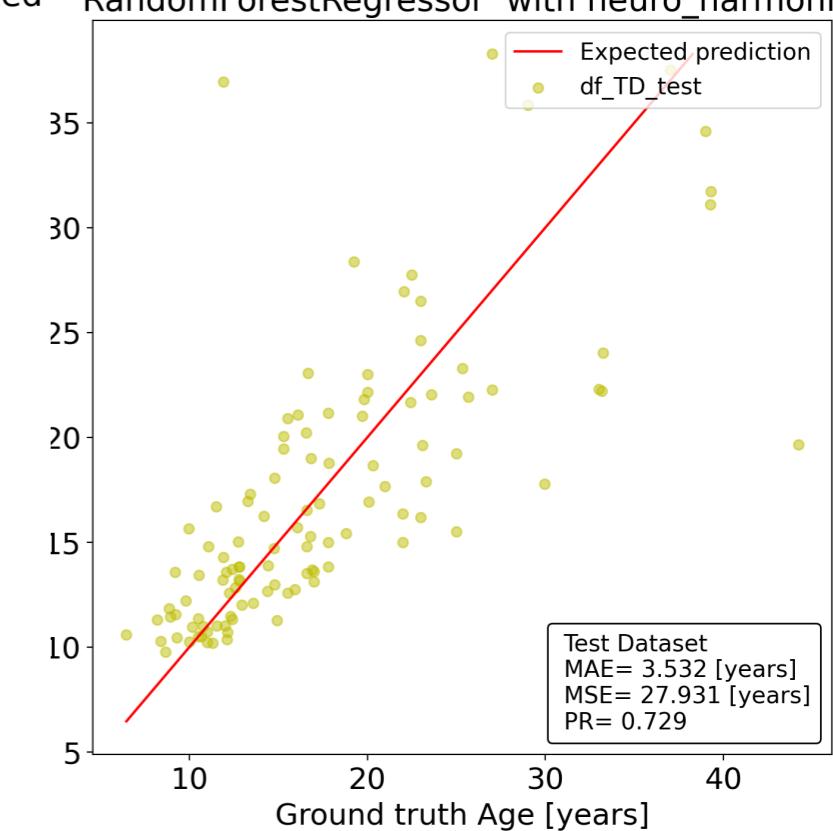
Ground-truth Age versus Predict Age using RandomForestRegressor with normalized



Ground-truth Age versus Predict Age using RandomForestRegressor with combat\_harmonized



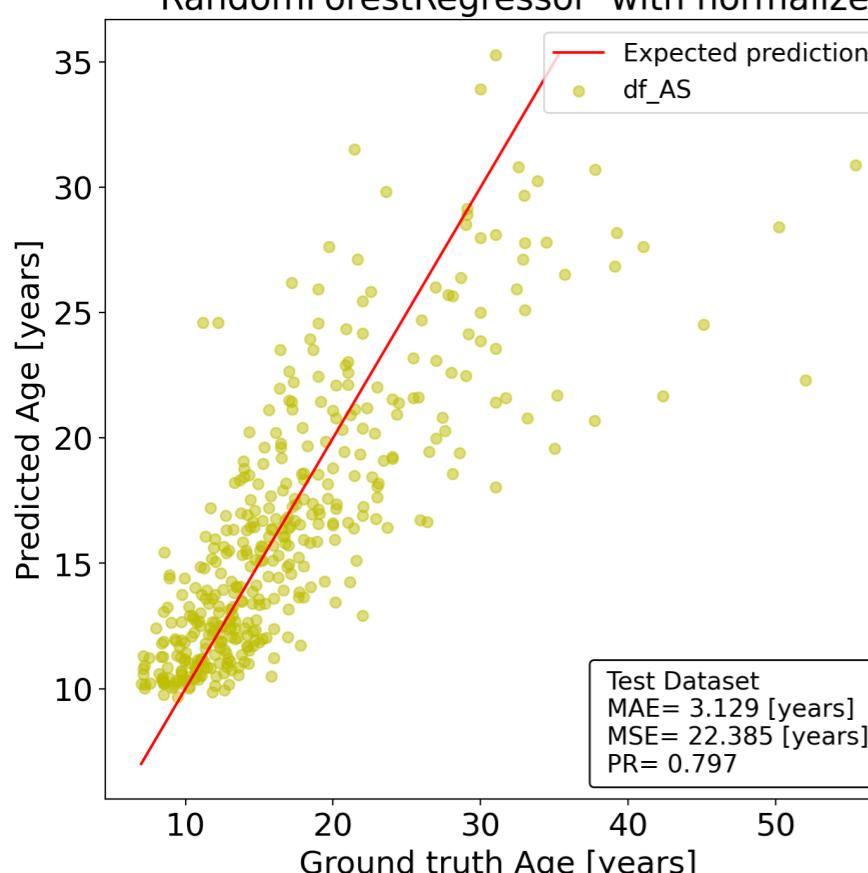
Ground-truth Age versus Predict Age using RandomForestRegressor with neuro\_harmonized



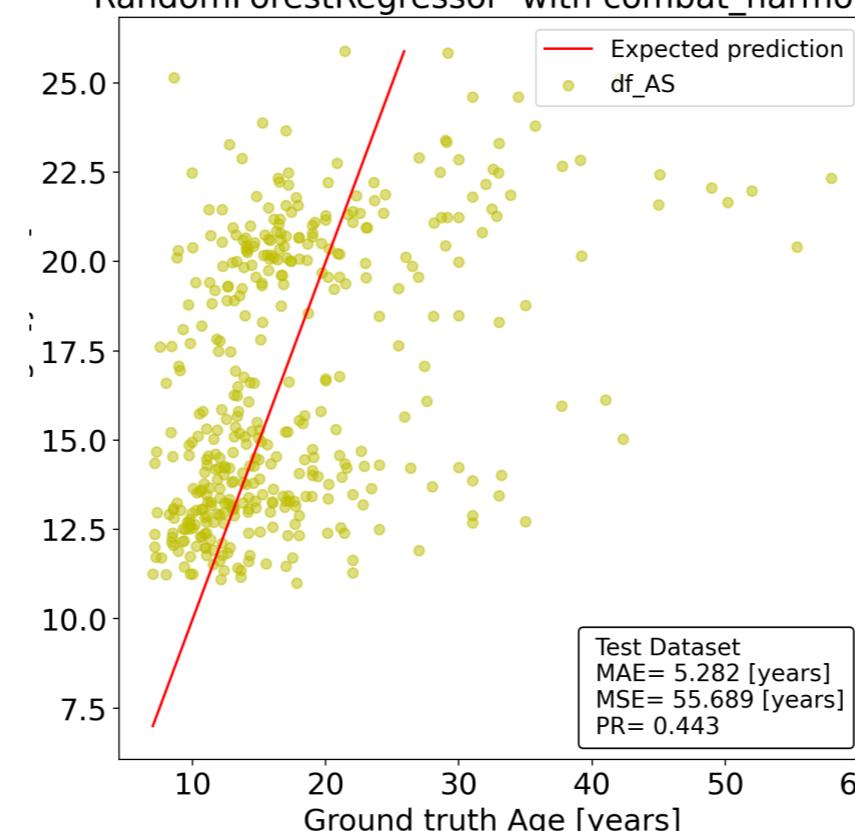
Dataset	MSE	MAE	$\rho$
Training	18.19	2.91	0.828
Test	20.732	3.068	0.768

# AUTISTIC SUBJECTS

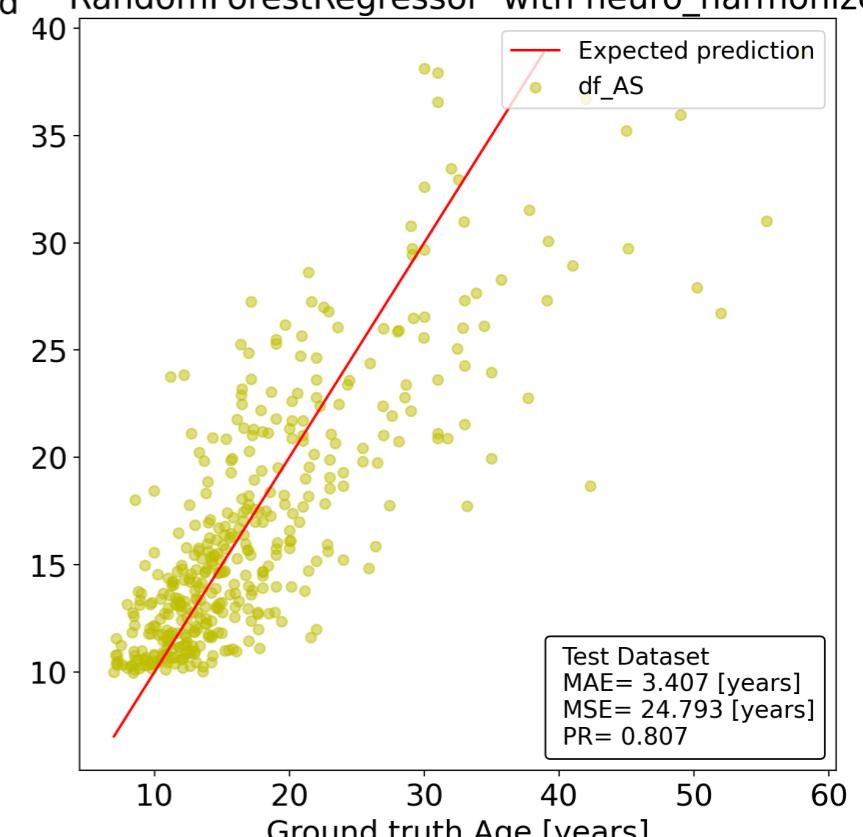
Ground-truth Age versus Predict Age using RandomForestRegressor with normalized



Ground-truth Age versus Predict Age using RandomForestRegressor with combat\_harmonized

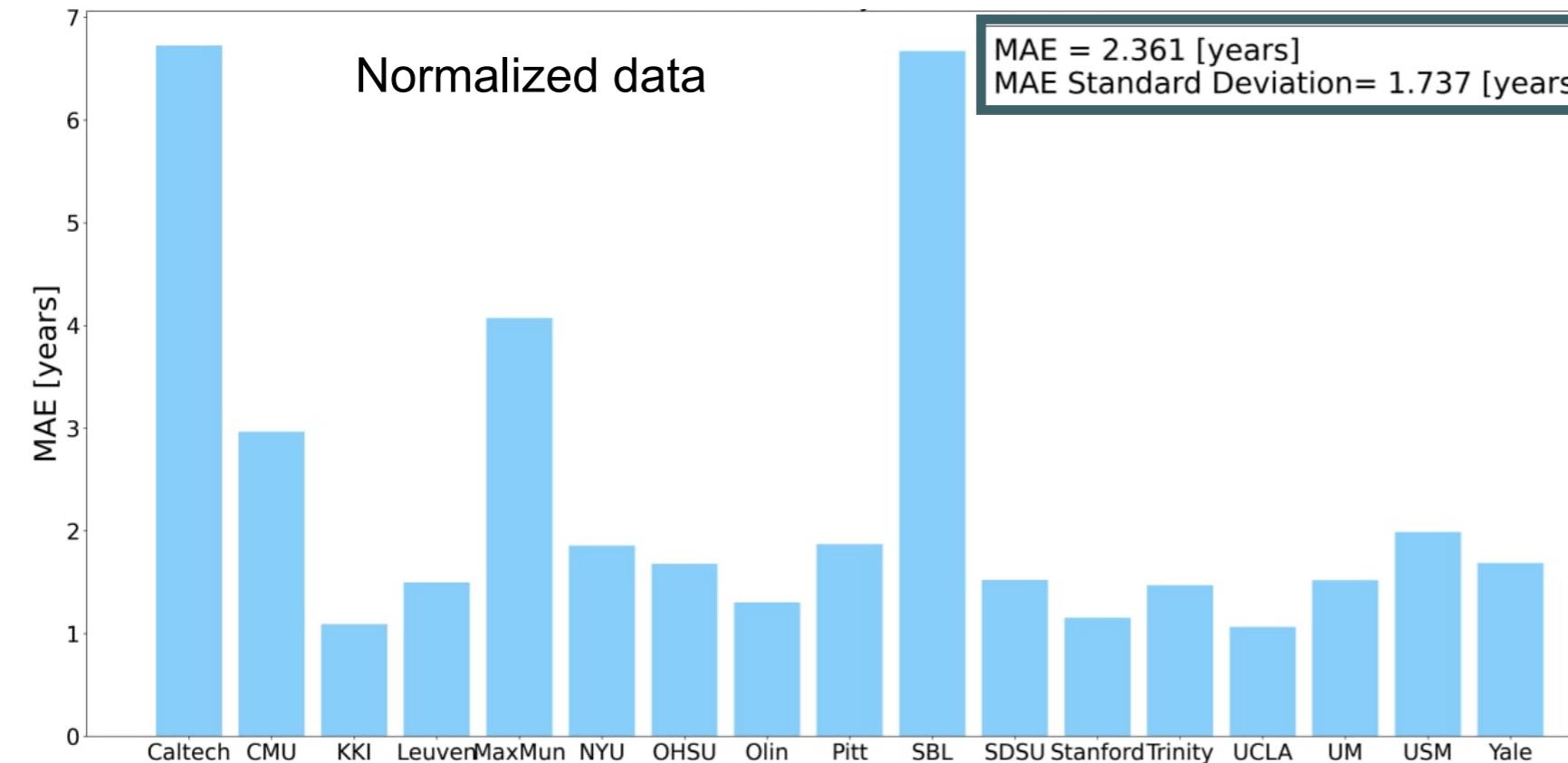


Ground-truth Age versus Predict Age using RandomForestRegressor with neuro\_harmonized

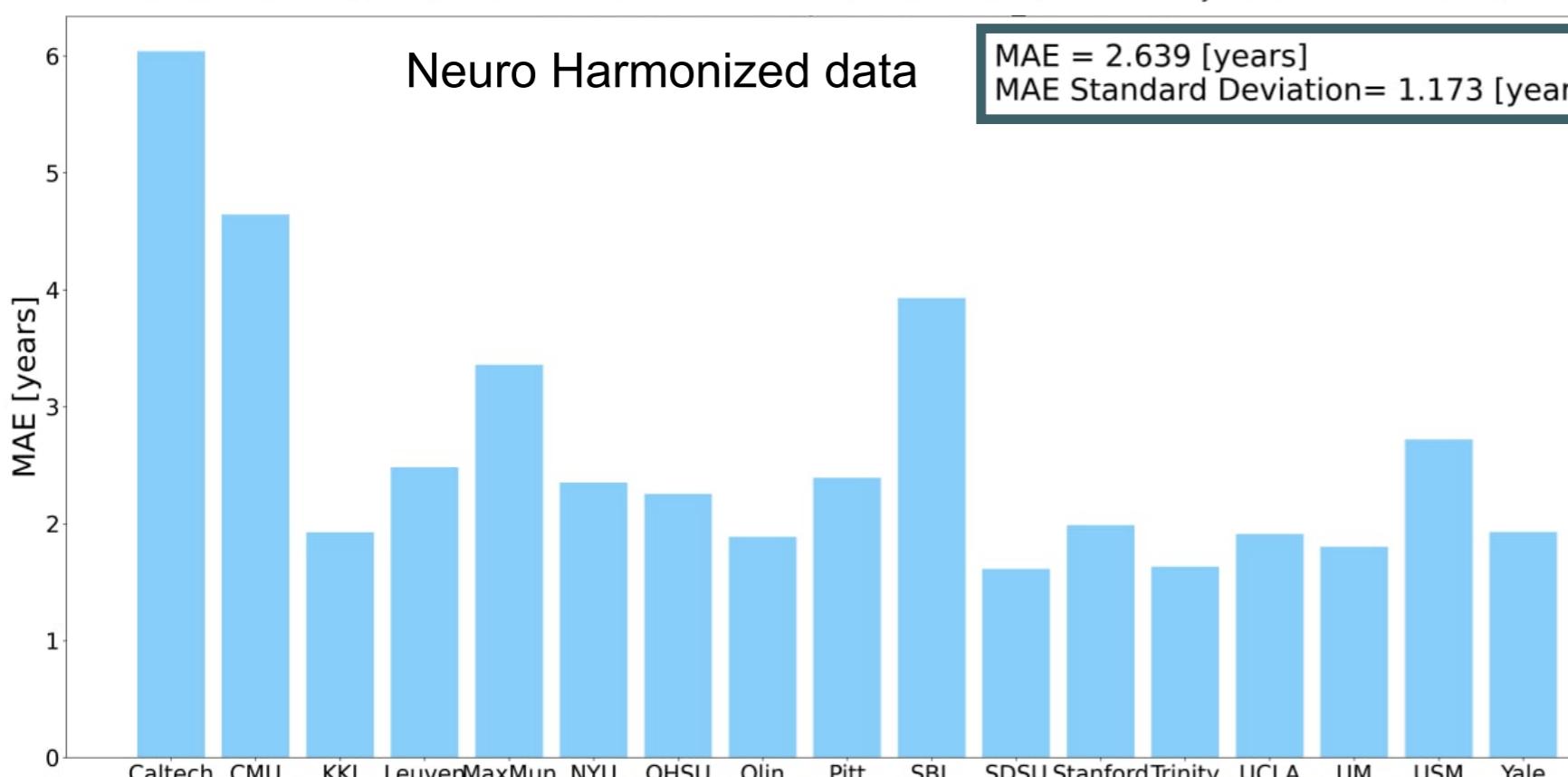


# REPRODUCIBILITY

MAE by SITE



- Entire control dataset has been used with Random Forest model
- Harmonizing data with neuro harmonize improves the reproducibility over different sites



# FUTURE IDEAS AND IMPROVEMENTS

*Pesare le cose che diamo alla rete , perché alcune classi sono sottorappresentate*