



# Introduction to image processing and analysis with ImageJ / Fiji.

## Part 4

### Automating Image Analysis

Course by Dale Moulding



# Session 4

1 hour 15 minutes

40 minute lecture

35 minutes exercises

## Learning objectives:

- **Correct background for better analysis**
- **Develop multiple strategies for image analysis**
- **Cell counting. Manually** and automatic
- Use filters to pre-process images
- Thresholding to generate binary images and masks
- Identifying double / triple stained cells
- Explain the difference between colocalization and co-expression
- Track moving objects



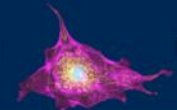
## Image Processing & Analysis: Dos and Don'ts

- Manipulation should be done on a copy not the original data
- Simple adjustments to the entire image are usually acceptable
- Check journal's guidances
- Ethical guidelines: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/20567932>
- Be honest, always describe the adjustments made
- Do not hide information (brightness, contrast, gamma)
- Do not create/destroy information (interpolation, bit-depth conversion)

<http://jcb.rupress.org/cgi/content/full/166/1/11> JCB article about image manipulation.

<http://microscopy.arizona.edu/learn/digital-image-ethics>

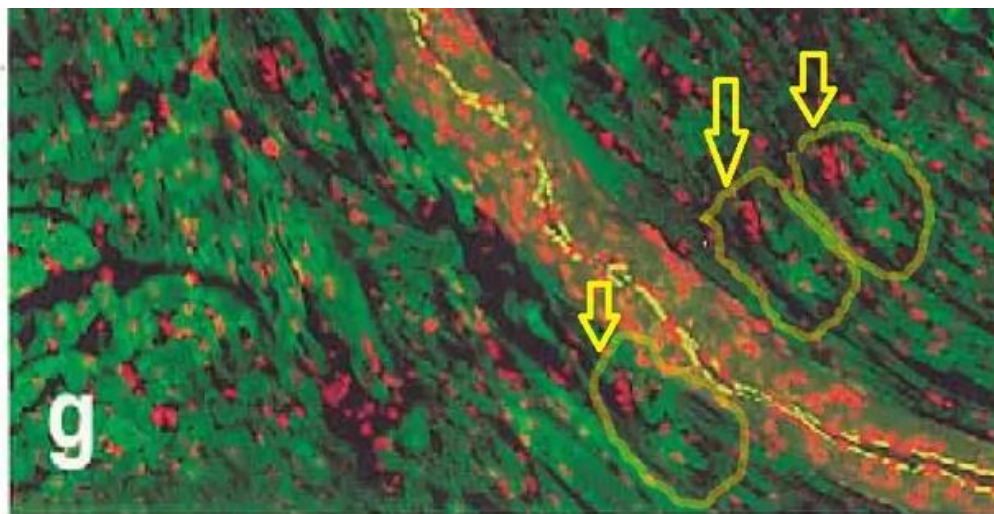
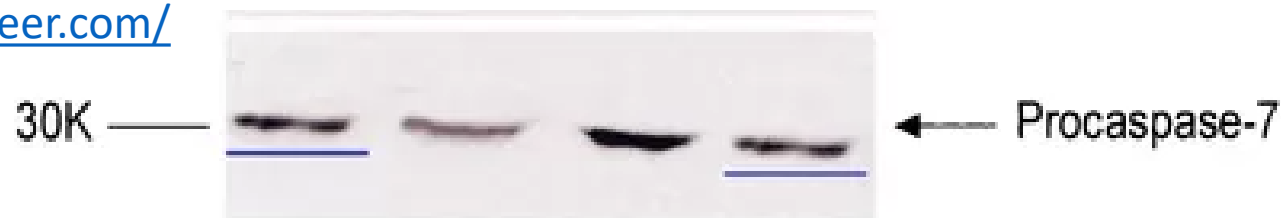
Nice article, picking the best image is not the same as picking the image that fits your hypothesis!



## Image Processing & Analysis: Dos and Don'ts

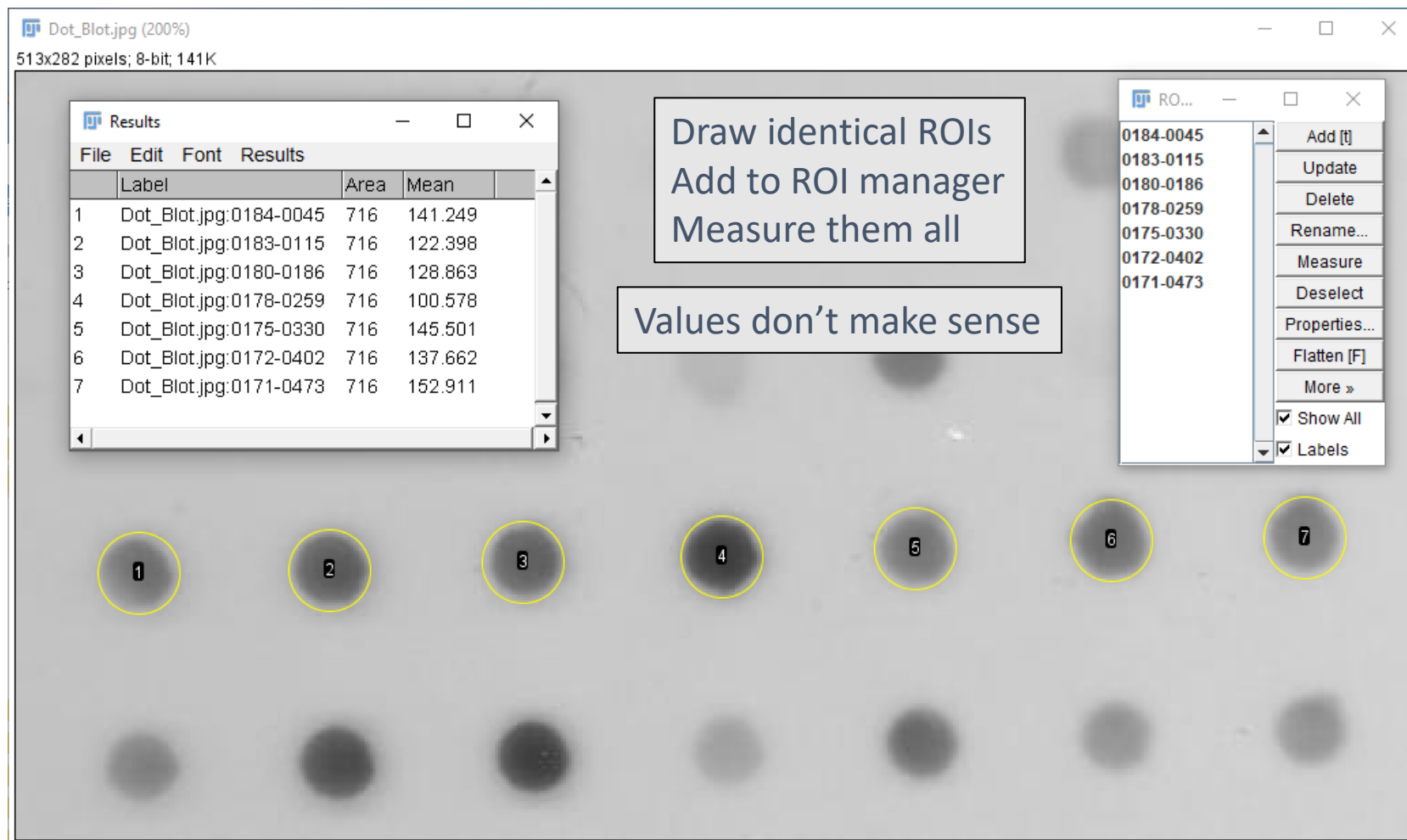
Journals actively check submitted images for tell tale signs of manipulation.  
Duplications, deletions, smudge tool, image noise, background.

<https://pubpeer.com/>



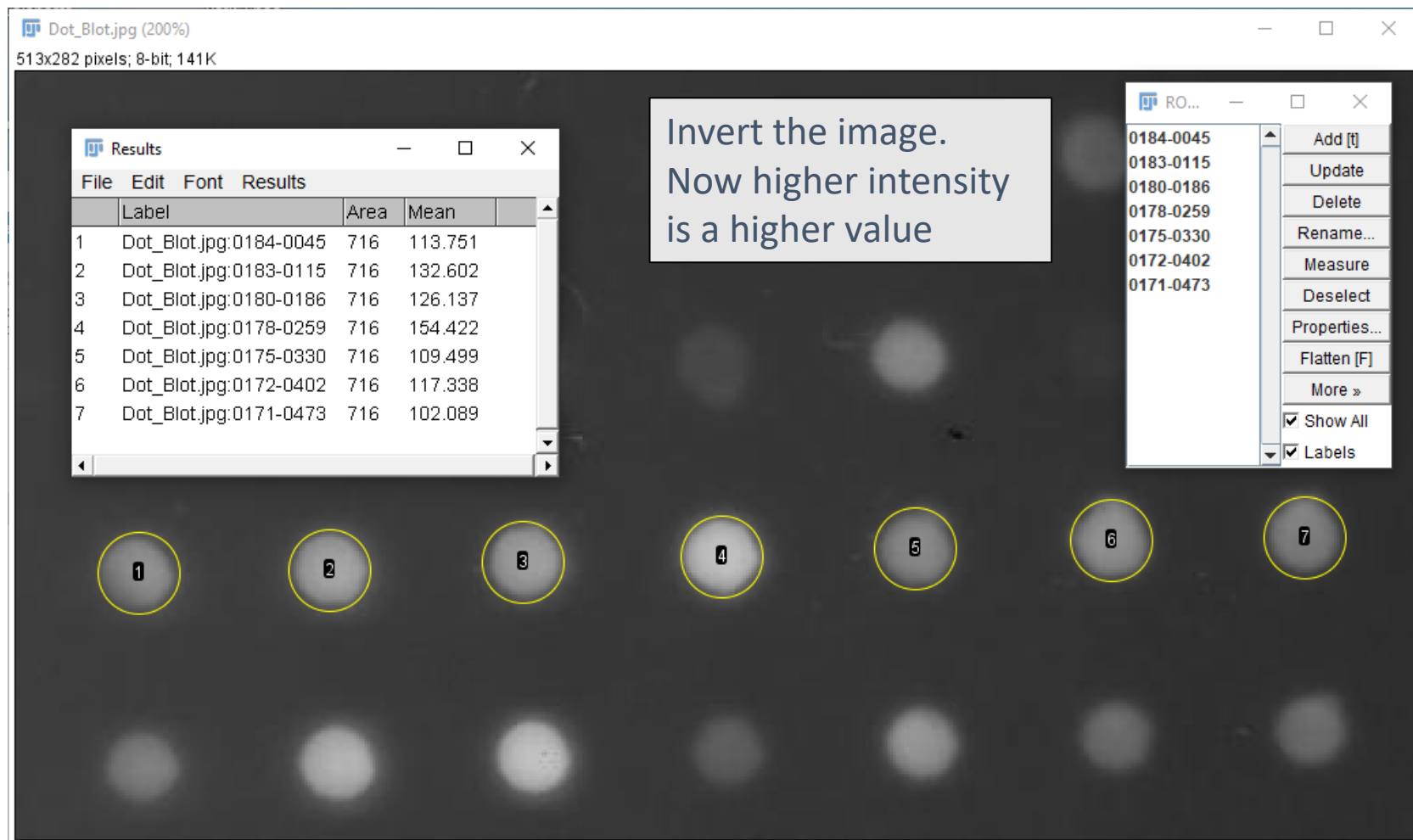


## Multiple ways to make the same measurements





## Multiple ways to make the same measurements





## Multiple ways to make the same measurements

Dot\_Blot.jpg (200%)  
513x282 pixels; 8-bit; 141K

Results

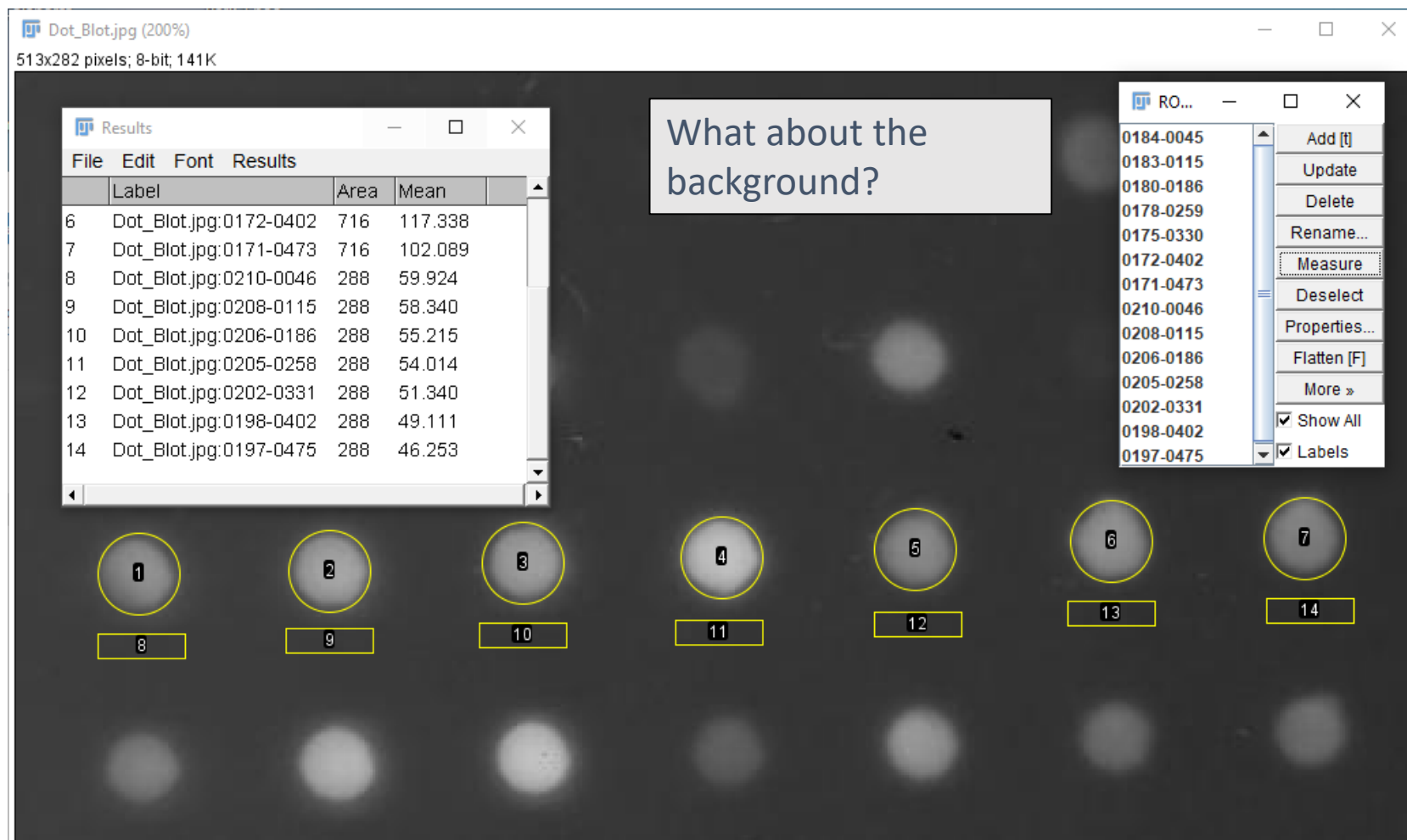
File	Edit	Font	Results
	Label	Area	Mean
6	Dot_Blot.jpg:0172-0402	716	117.338
7	Dot_Blot.jpg:0171-0473	716	102.089
8	Dot_Blot.jpg:0210-0046	288	59.924
9	Dot_Blot.jpg:0208-0115	288	58.340
10	Dot_Blot.jpg:0206-0186	288	55.215
11	Dot_Blot.jpg:0205-0258	288	54.014
12	Dot_Blot.jpg:0202-0331	288	51.340
13	Dot_Blot.jpg:0198-0402	288	49.111
14	Dot_Blot.jpg:0197-0475	288	46.253

What about the background?

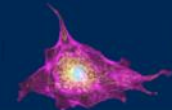
RO...

- 0184-0045
- 0183-0115
- 0180-0186
- 0178-0259
- 0175-0330
- 0172-0402
- 0171-0473
- 0210-0046
- 0208-0115
- 0206-0186
- 0205-0258
- 0202-0331
- 0198-0402
- 0197-0475

Add [t]  
Update  
Delete  
Rename...  
Measure  
Deselect  
Properties...  
Flatten [F]  
More »  
☒ Show All  
☒ Labels

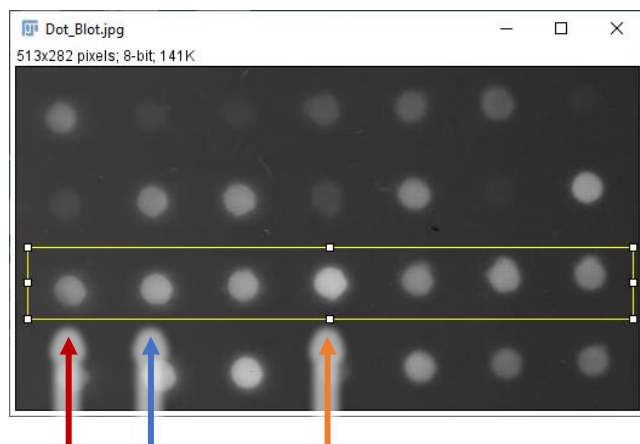


The image shows a dot blot with 14 numbered regions. Regions 1-7 are circled in yellow, and regions 8-14 are rectangular. The background is dark, and the spots are light gray.

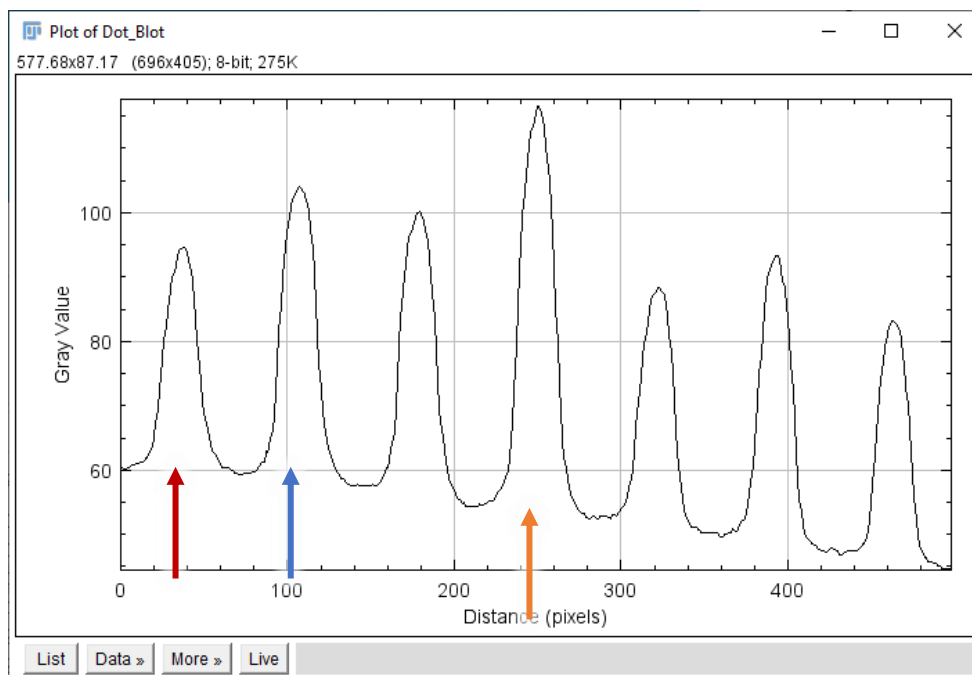


## Multiple ways to make the same measurements

### *Analyze / Plot Profile*



Area under each peak is  
proportional to the intensity of  
each spot

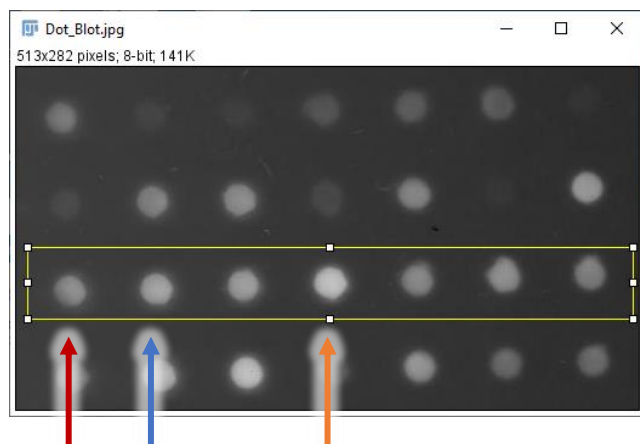




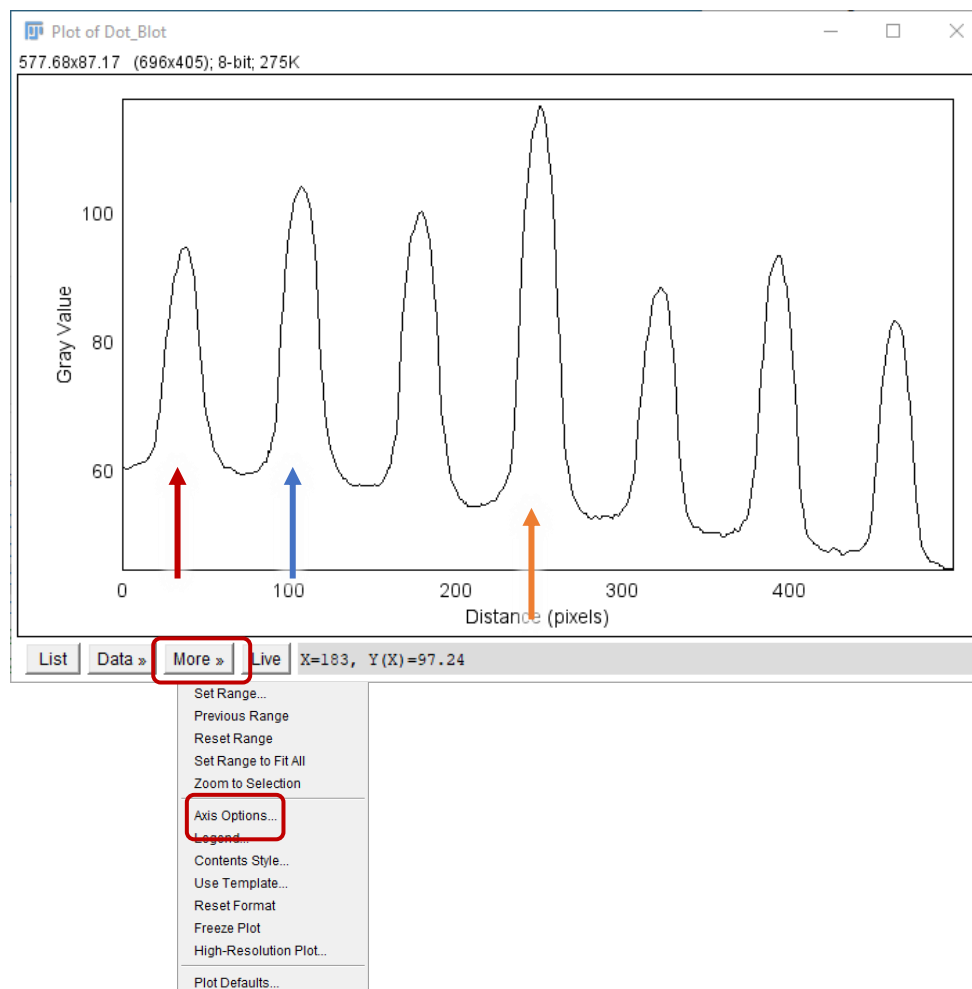


## Multiple ways to make the same measurements

### Analyze / Plot Profile



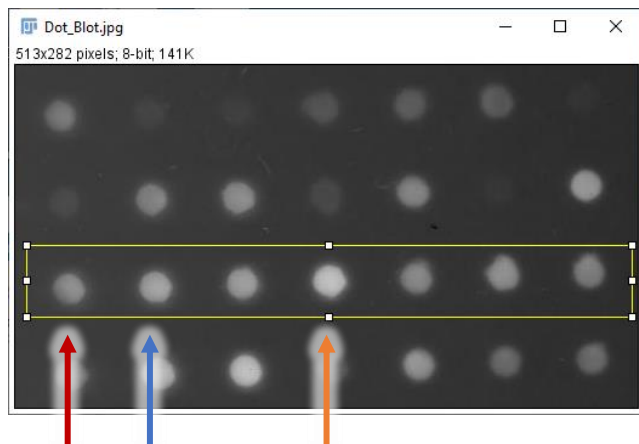
More>> Axis options.  
Remove gridlines.



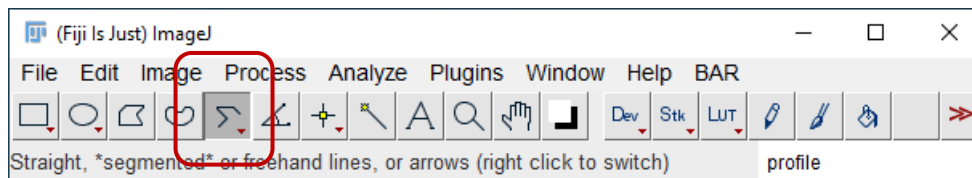
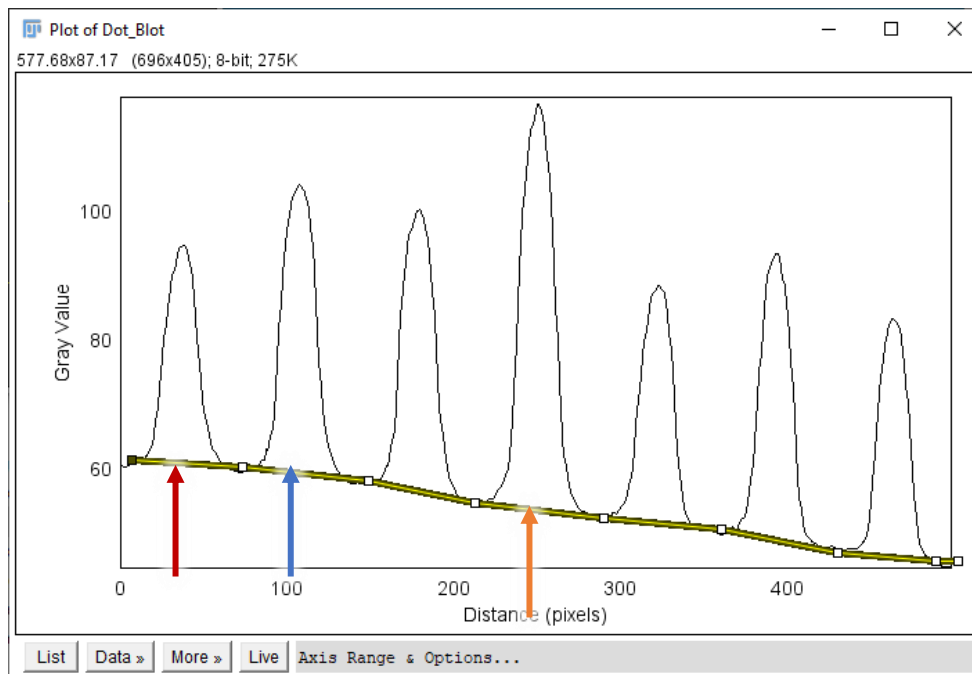


## Multiple ways to make the same measurements

### Analyze / Plot Profile



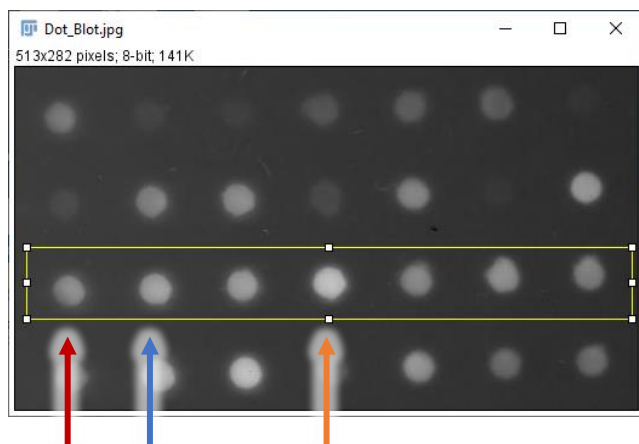
Use the line tool (switch to segmented line). Draw along the base of each peak. Press 'Delete' to make a black line.



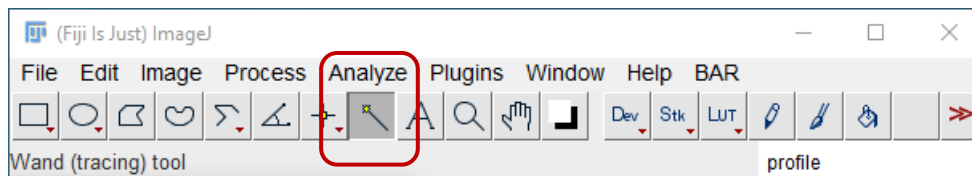
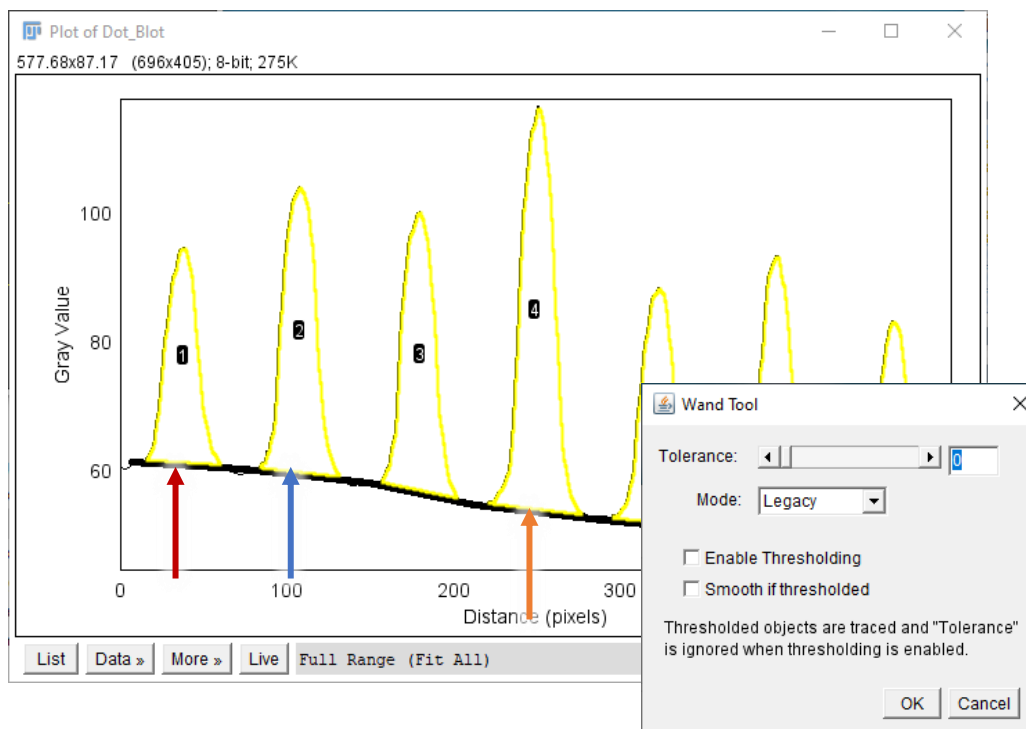


## Multiple ways to make the same measurements

### Analyze / Plot Profile



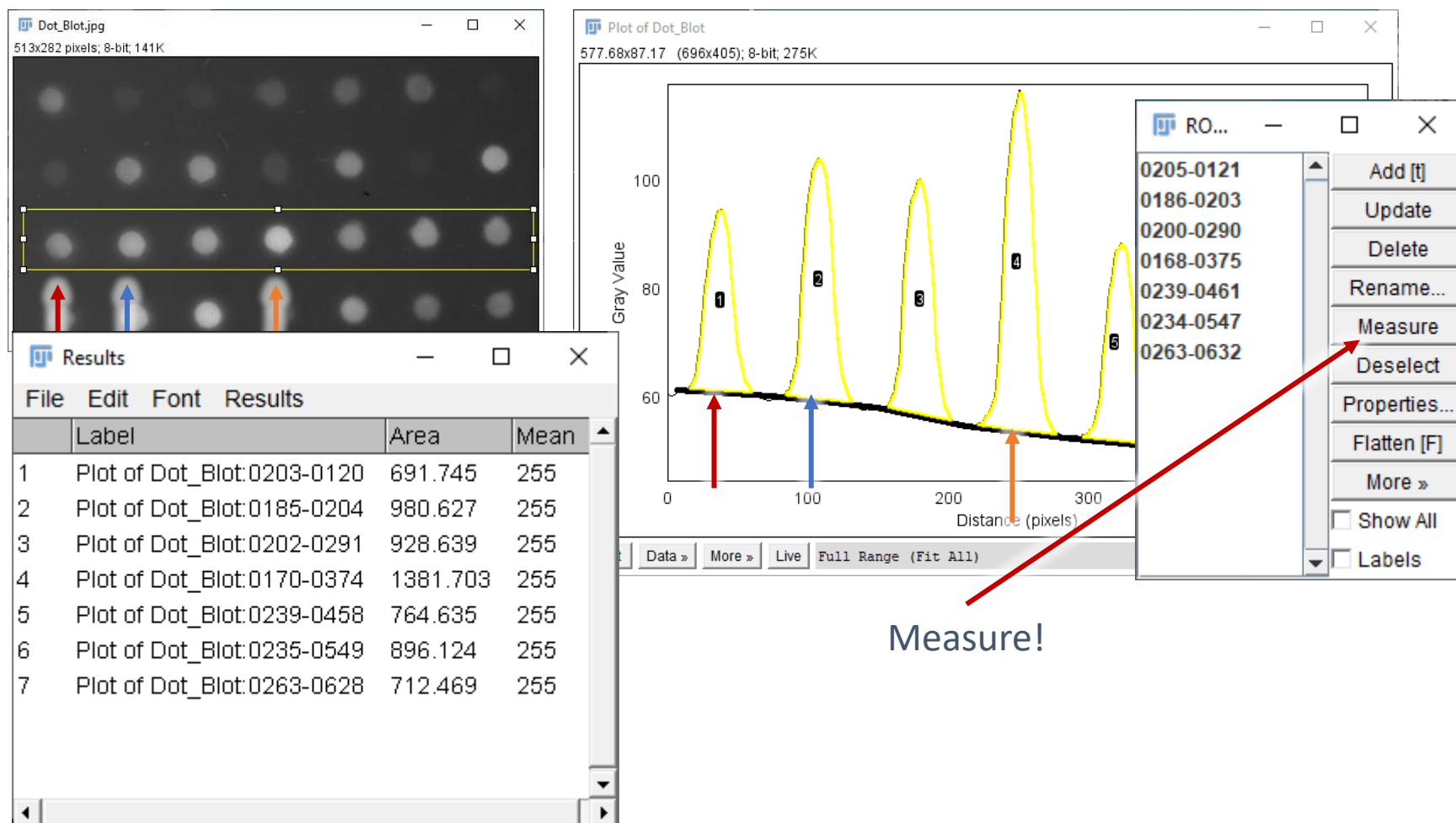
Use Wand tool (tolerance = 0).  
Click in each peak.  
Press 'T' to add to ROI  
manager.





## Multiple ways to make the same measurements

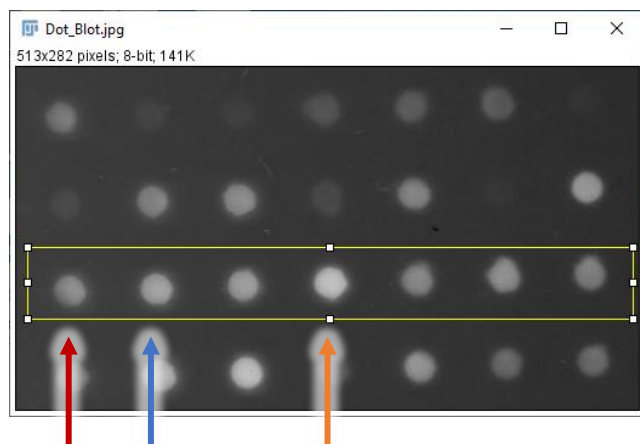
### Analyze / Plot Profile



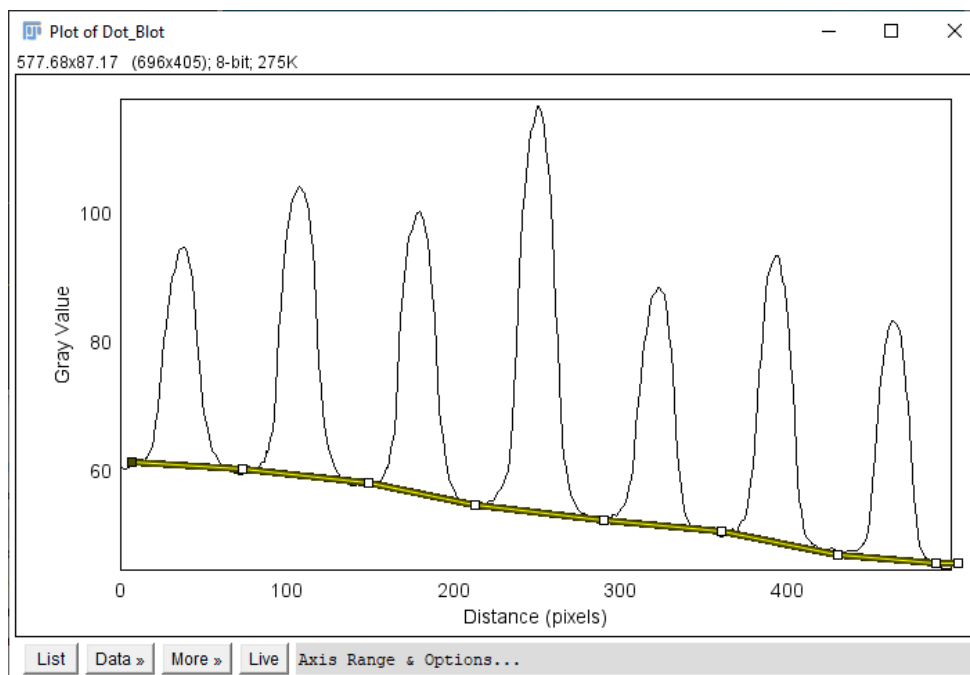


## Multiple ways to make the same measurements

### Analyze / Plot Profile



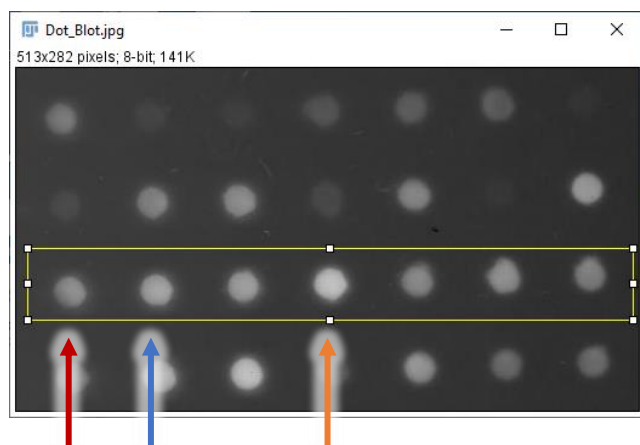
Did we just guess the  
background?



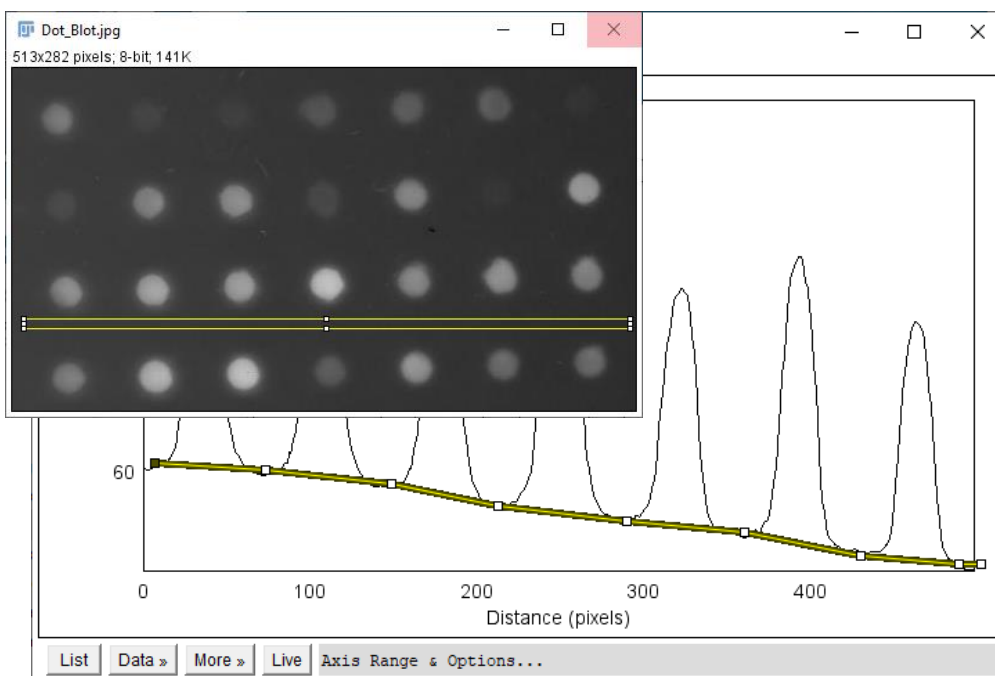


## Multiple ways to make the same measurements

### *Analyze / Plot Profile*



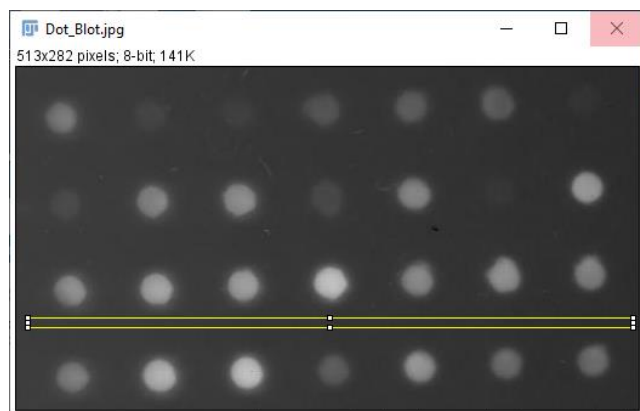
Lets measure that too...



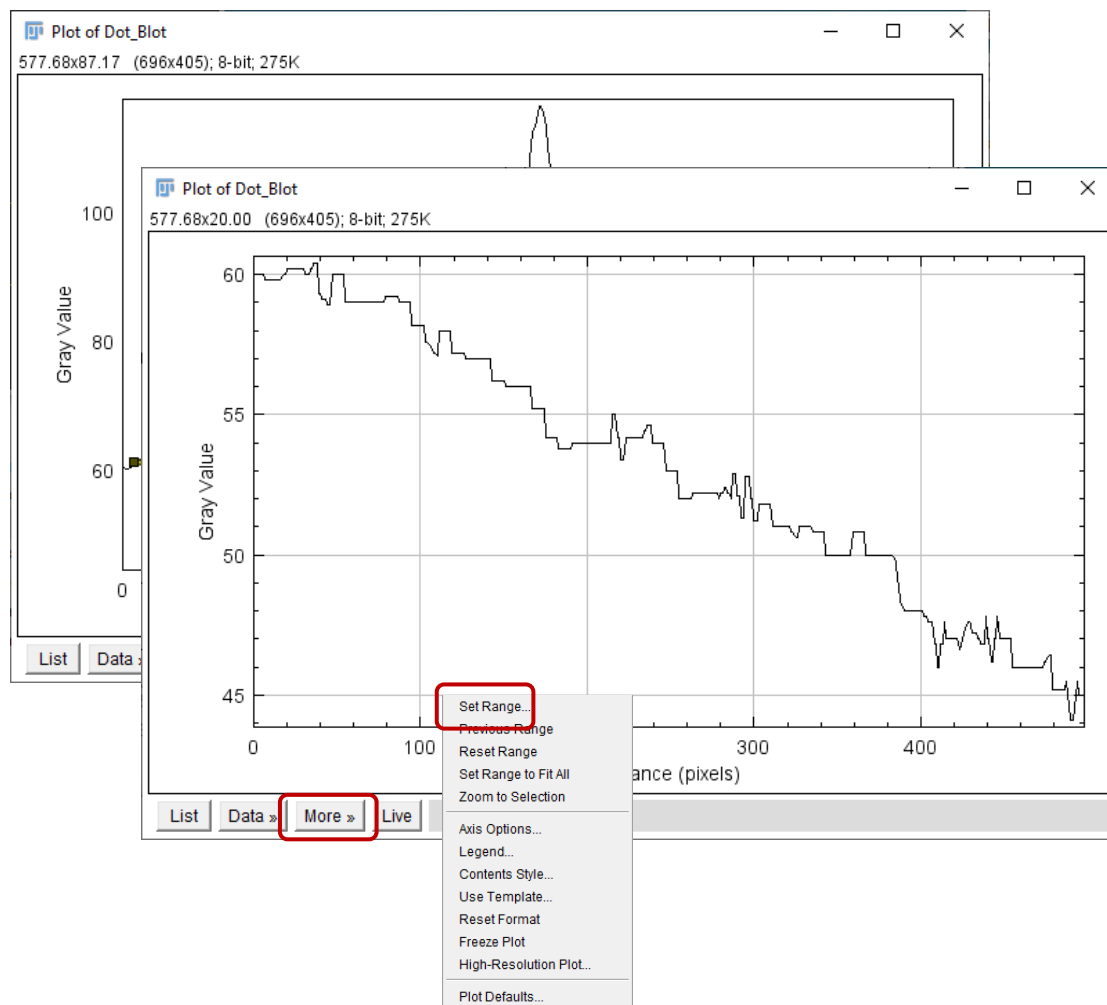


## Multiple ways to make the same measurements

### Analyze / Plot Profile



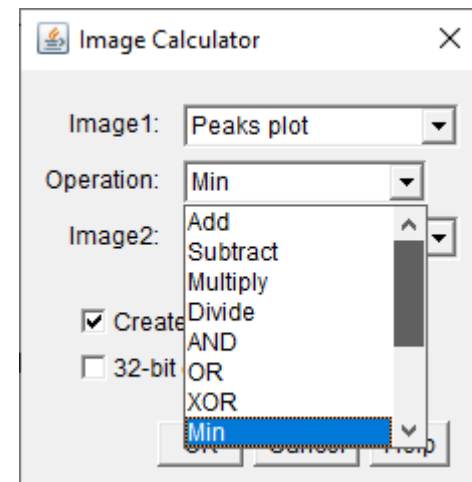
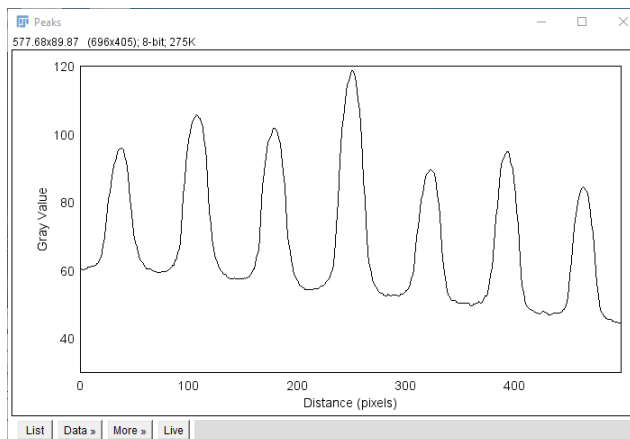
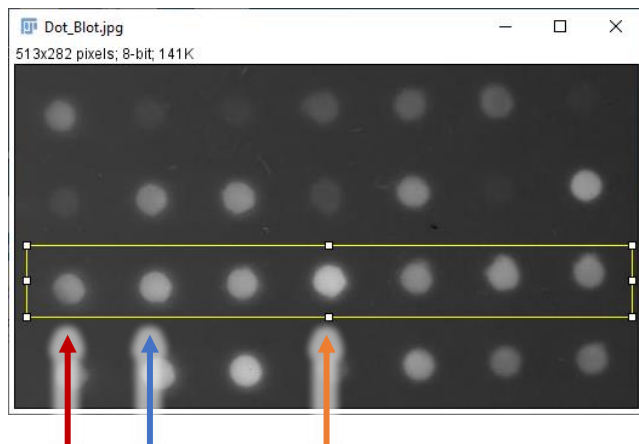
Axis has different scales.  
More>> set range...





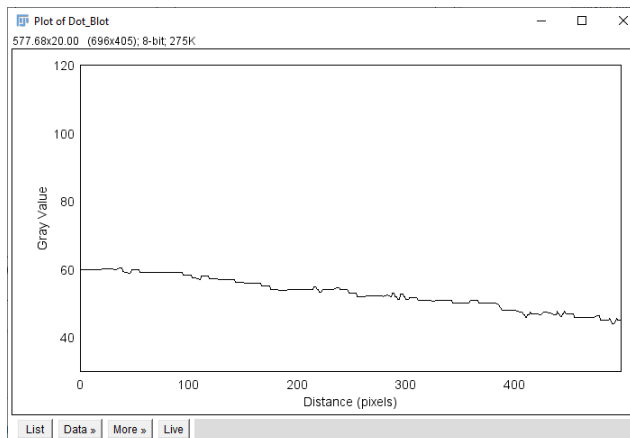
## Multiple ways to make the same measurements

### Analyze / Plot Profile



Combine the two images to  
have the background line  
below the peaks...

**Process / Image calculator...**



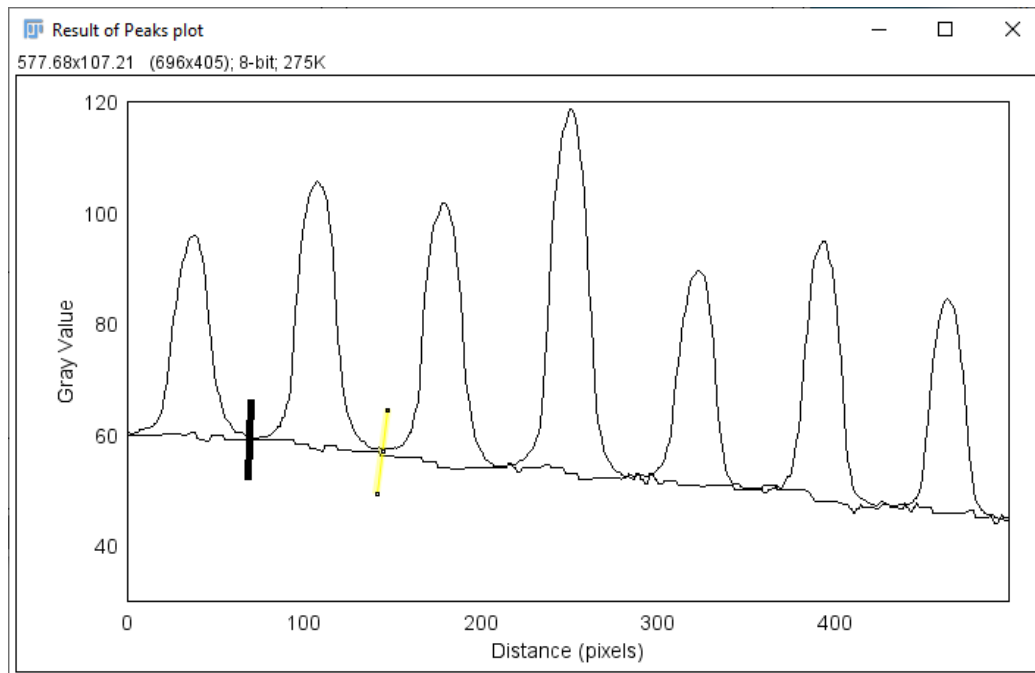
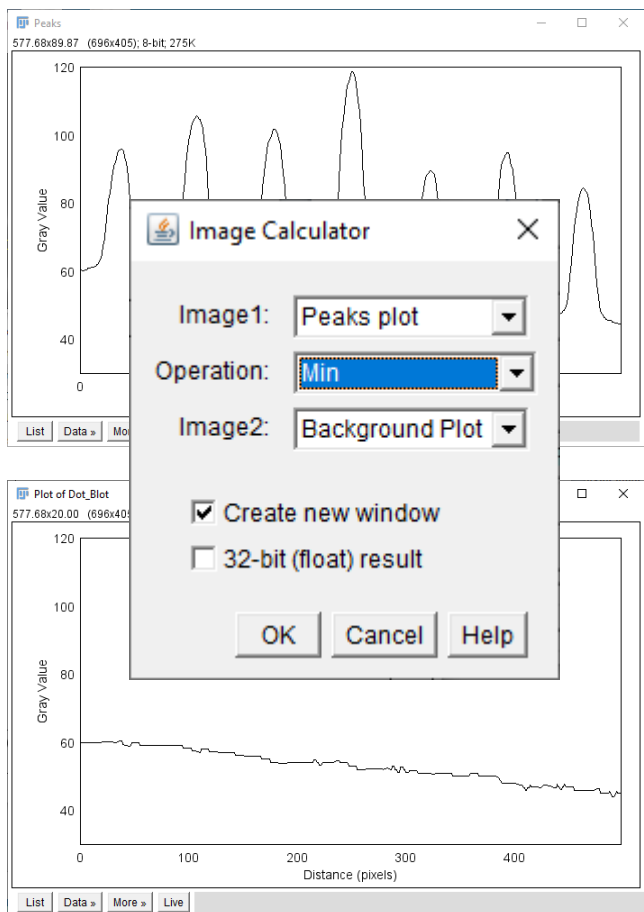
Combine the two  
images with the  
Operator 'Min'.  
The result will have all  
the low value  
(minimum / black)  
pixels!





## Multiple ways to make the same measurements

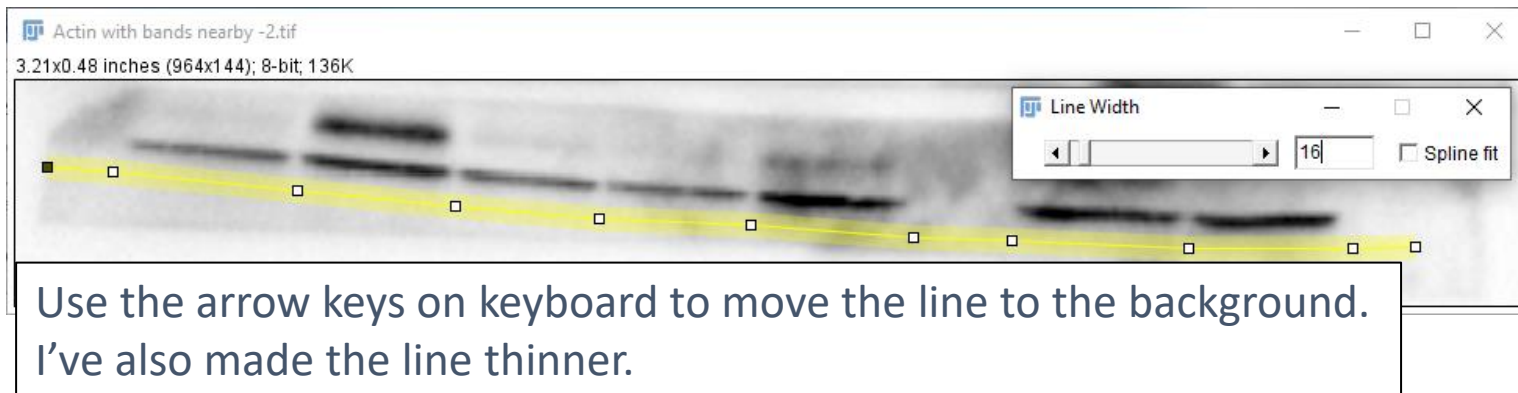
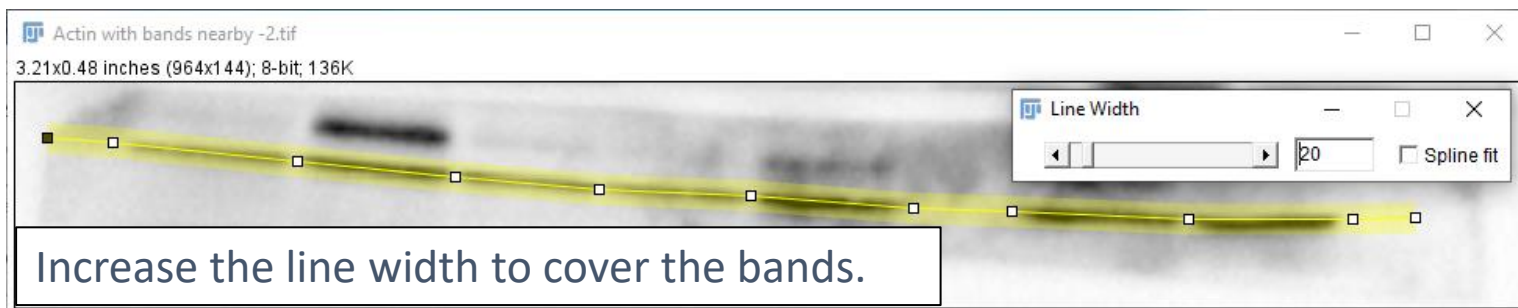
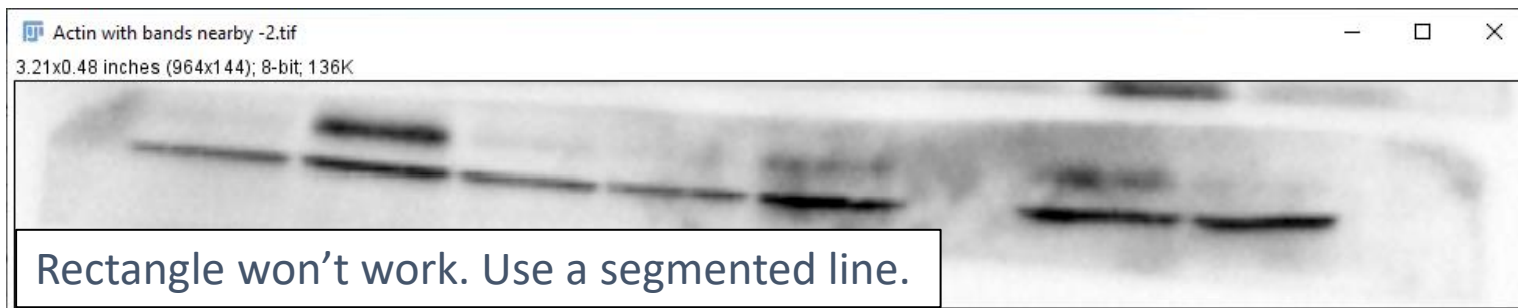
### Analyze / Plot Profile



If the background line is too low, draw some lines to make each peak a single region.  
Measure as before: Wand & ROI manager.



## Exercise to measure western blots (15 minutes)





## Background corrections

Even background across the image

*Image /adjust > Brightness-Contrast*

Uneven background

*Process / Subtract Background* (rolling ball algorithm)

Flat field correction (brightfield)

*Process / Calculator Plus* (requires an image of just background)

Many other ways ...

[http://imagejdocu.tudor.lu/doku.php?id=howto:working:how\\_to\\_correct\\_background\\_illumination\\_in\\_brightfield\\_microscopy](http://imagejdocu.tudor.lu/doku.php?id=howto:working:how_to_correct_background_illumination_in_brightfield_microscopy)

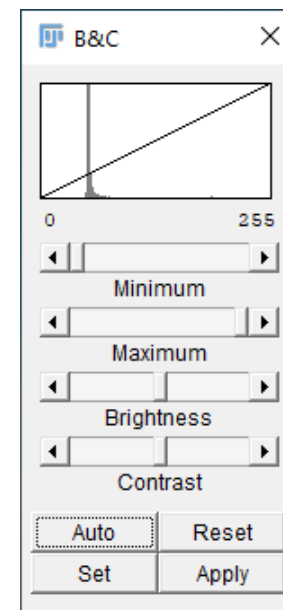
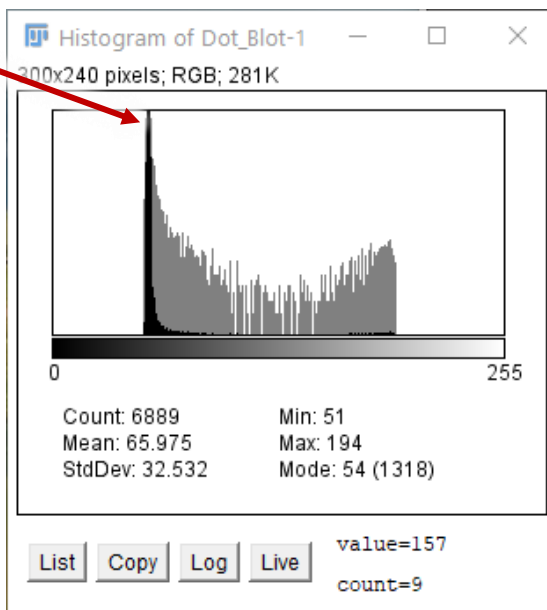
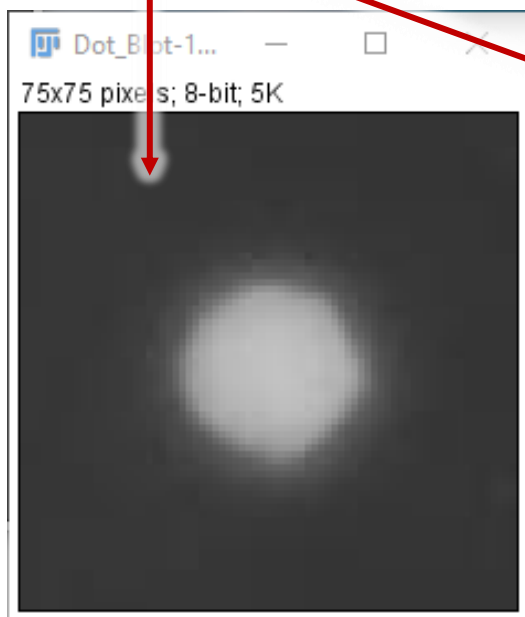


## Background corrections

Even background across the image

*Image /adjust > Brightness-Contrast*

Background ~ 54



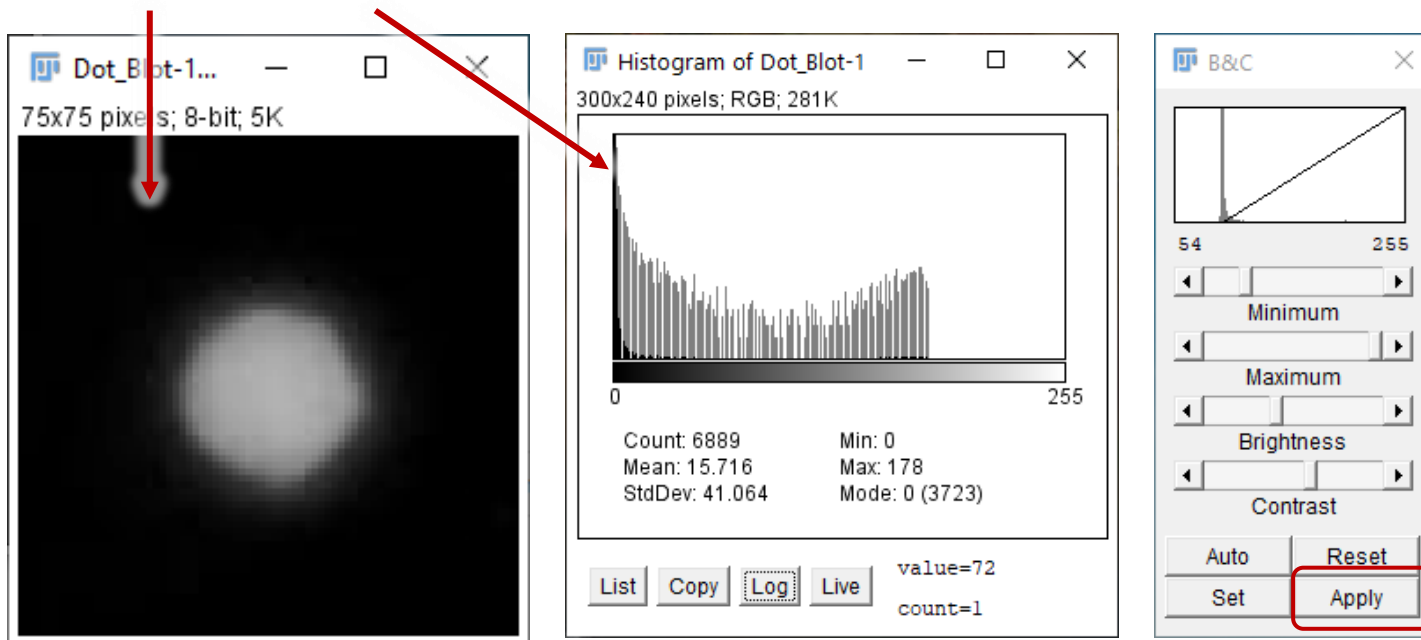


## Background corrections

Even background across the image

*Image /adjust > Brightness-Contrast*

Background was 54, now 0.



You have changed the data, work on a duplicate.

Do the exact same procedure to all images in an analysis set.

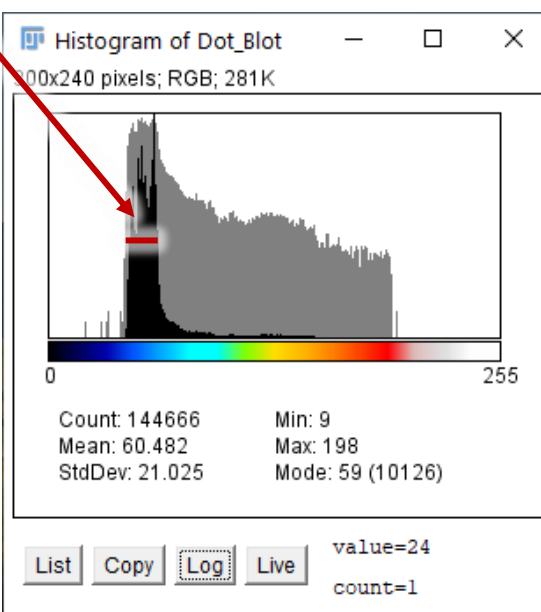
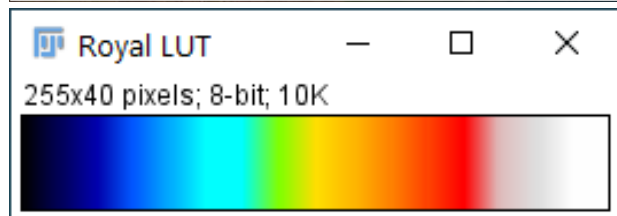
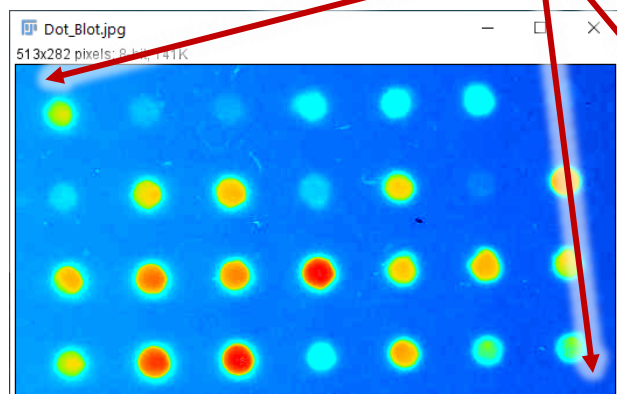


## Background corrections

Uneven background

*Process / Subtract Background* (rolling ball algorithm)

Background range ~ 60 - 46.



0 50 100 150 200 255

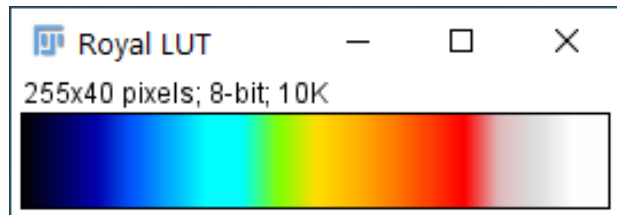
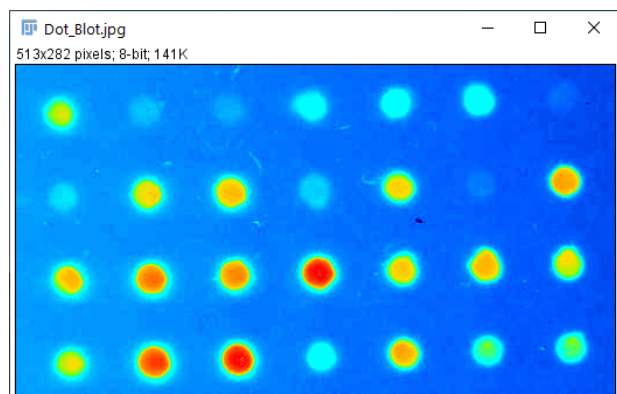


## Background corrections

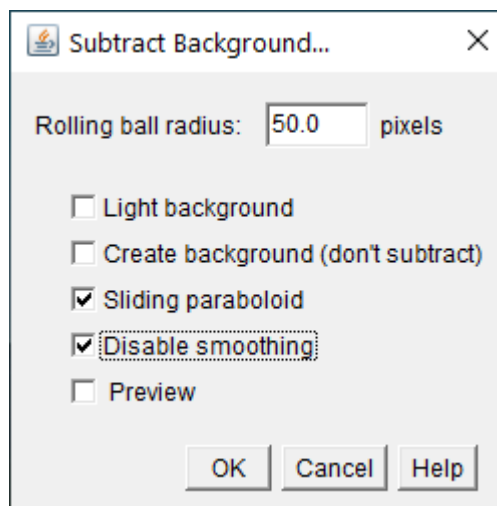
### Uneven background

**Process / Subtract Background** (rolling ball algorithm)

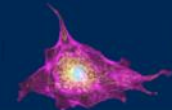
Background range ~ 60 - 46.



0 50 100 150 200 255



- Radius of ball  
(bigger than image features)
- Light / dark background?
- Sliding paraboloid  
Recommended, more accurate,  
avoids edge artefacts
- Smoothing (3x3 average)  
Best disabled
- Preview

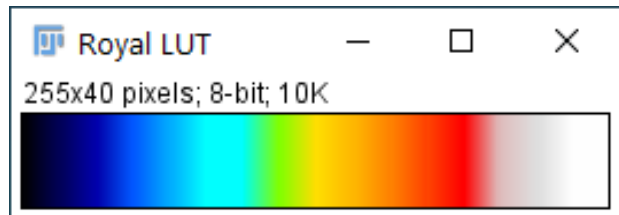
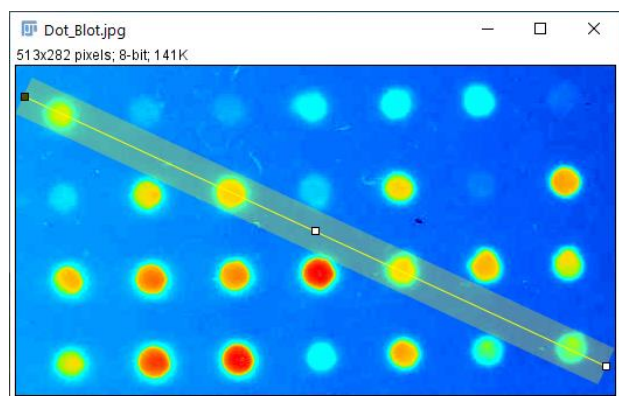


## Background corrections

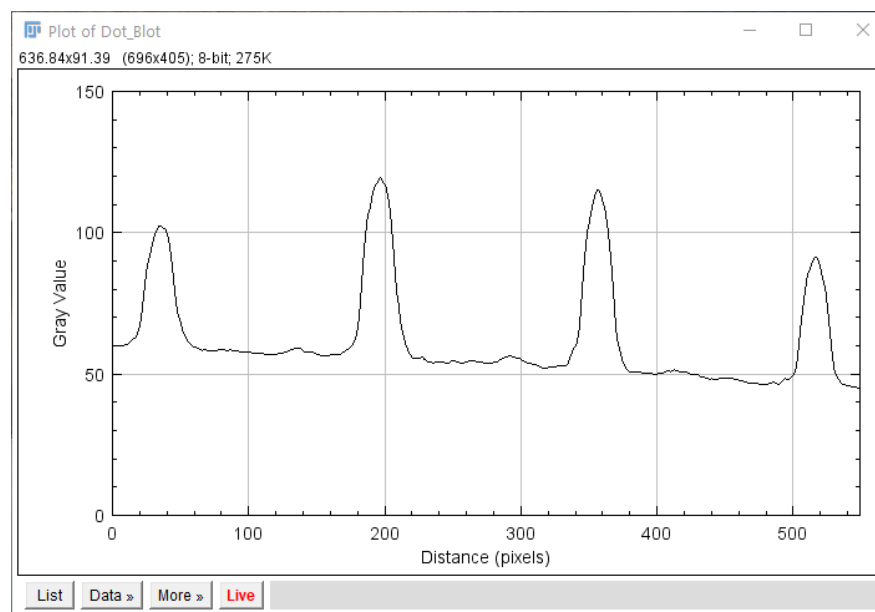
### Uneven background

*Process / Subtract Background* (rolling ball algorithm)

Background range ~ 60 - 46.



0 50 100 150 200 255





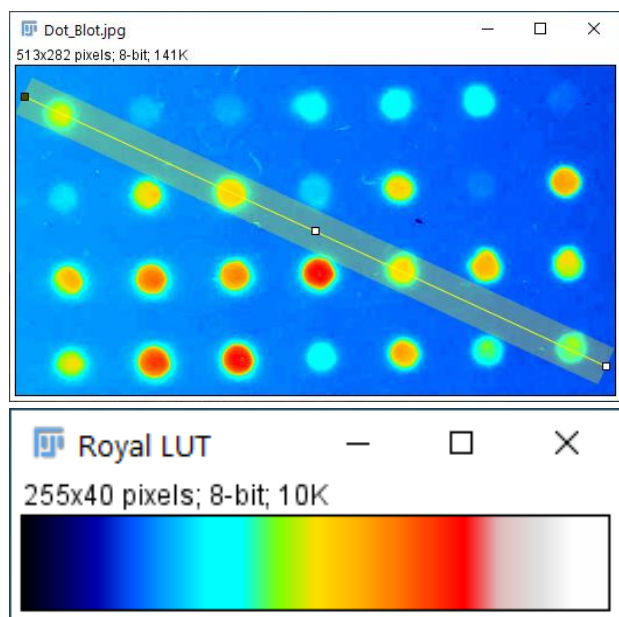


## Background corrections

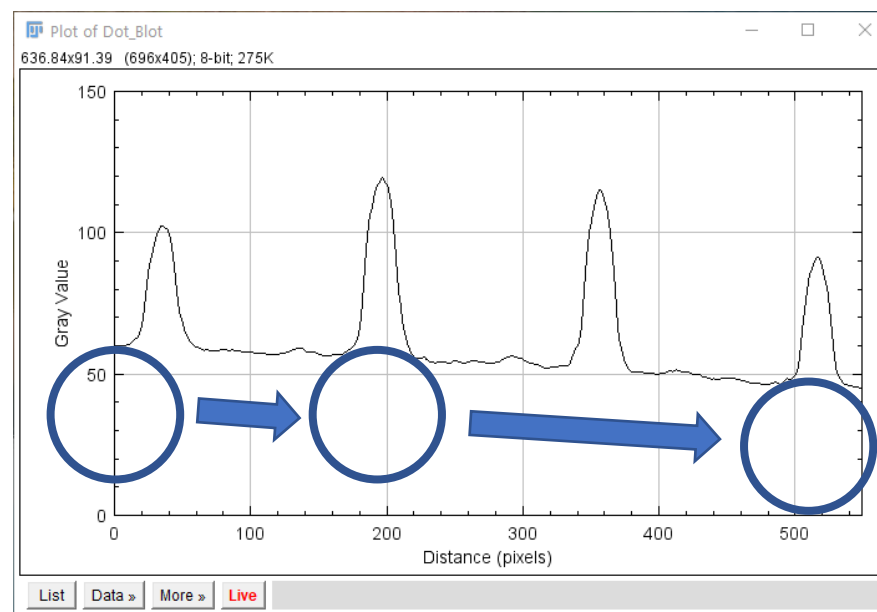
### Uneven background

*Process / Subtract Background* (rolling ball algorithm)

Background range ~ 60 - 46.



0 50 100 150 200 255



Rolling ball 

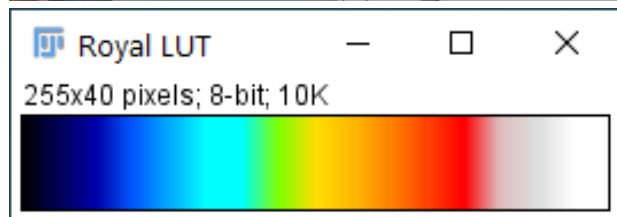
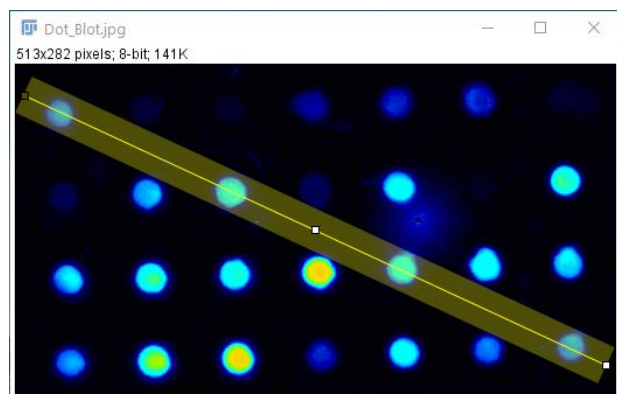


## Background corrections

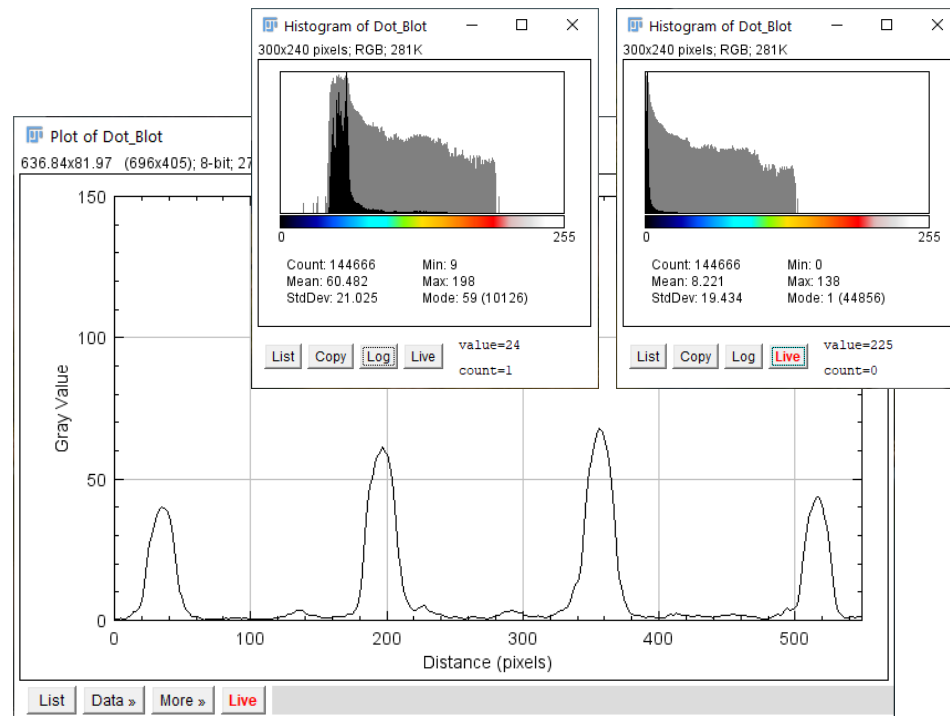
### Uneven background

*Process / Subtract Background* (rolling ball algorithm)

Background range ~ 1-3.



0 50 100 150 200 255





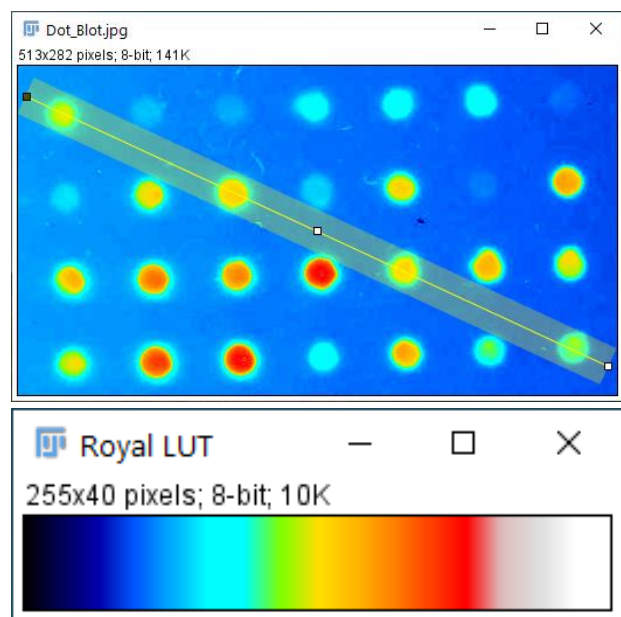
## Background corrections

Uneven background

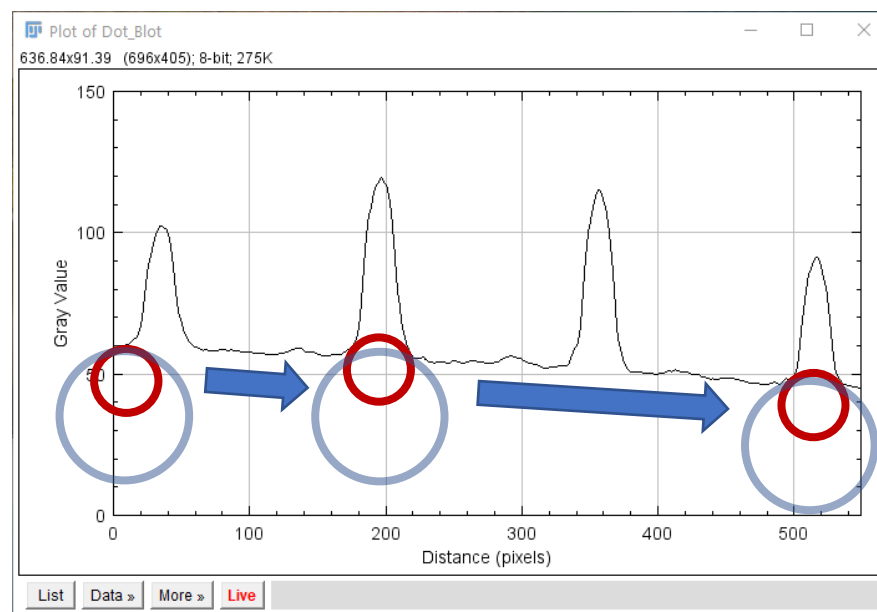
*Process / Subtract Background* (rolling ball algorithm)

Background range ~ 60 - 46.

Don't make the radius too small



0 50 100 150 200 255



Rolling ball 



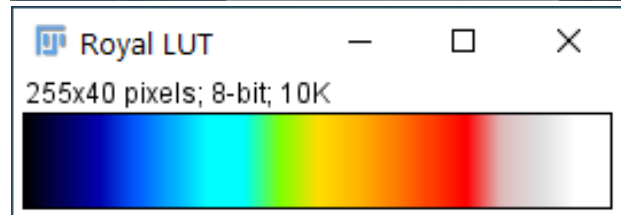
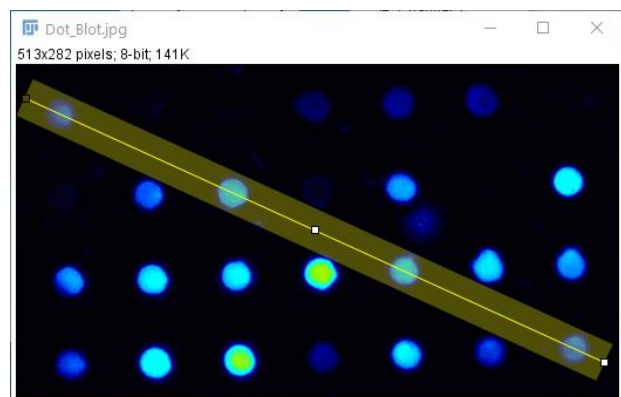
## Background corrections

### Uneven background

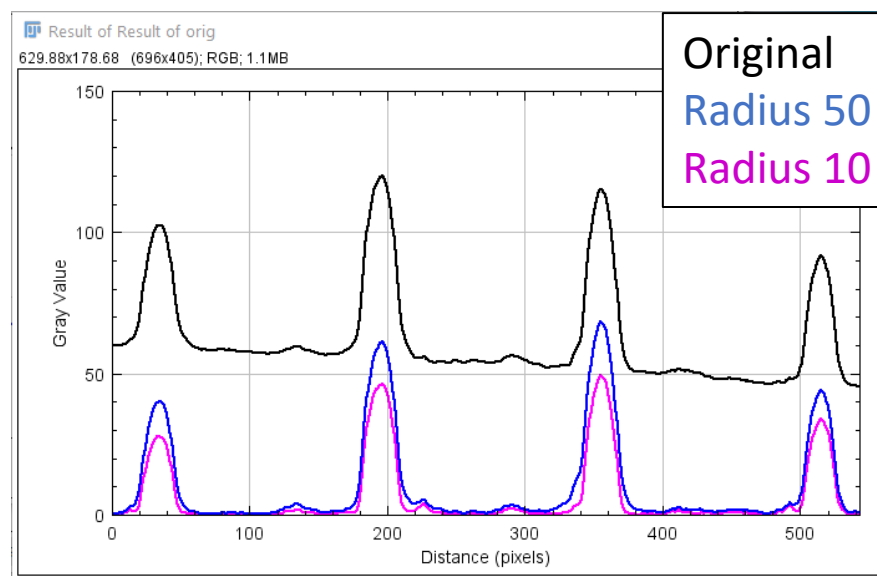
*Process / Subtract Background* (rolling ball algorithm)

Background range ~ 60 - 46.

Don't make the radius too small



0 50 100 150 200 255

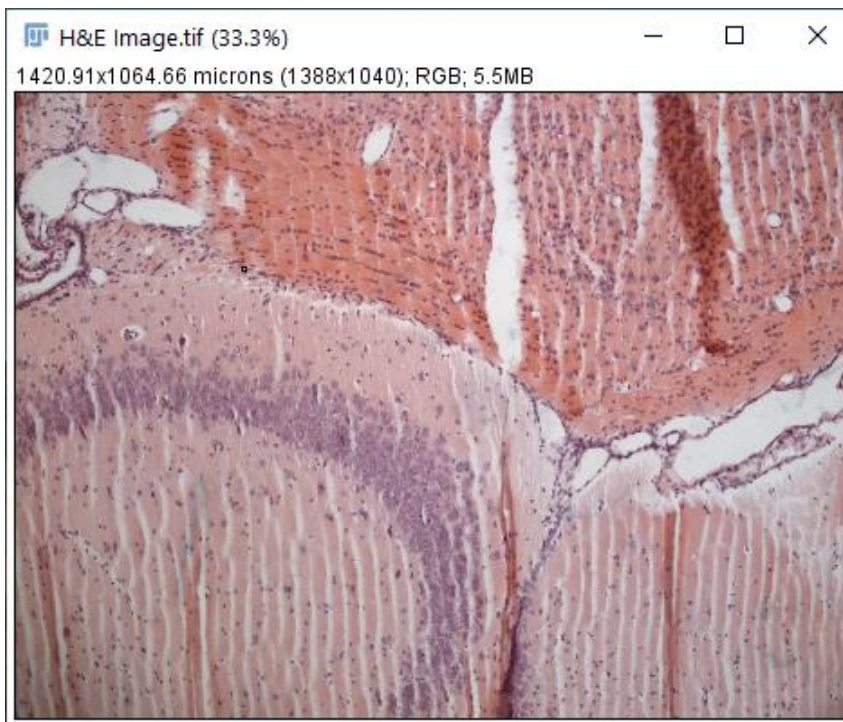




## Background corrections

### Flat field correction (brightfield)

***Process / Calculator Plus*** (requires an image of just background)



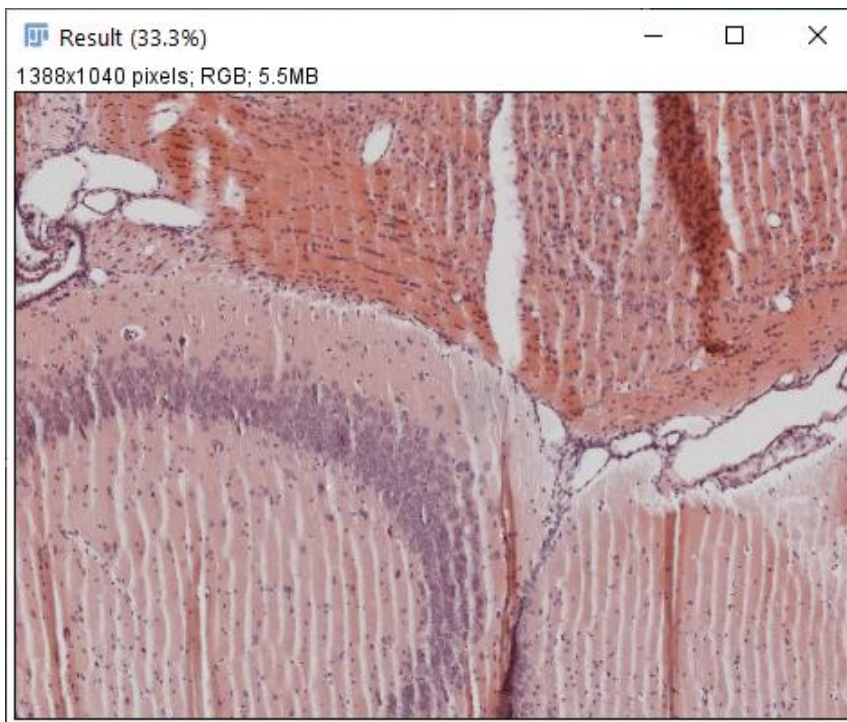
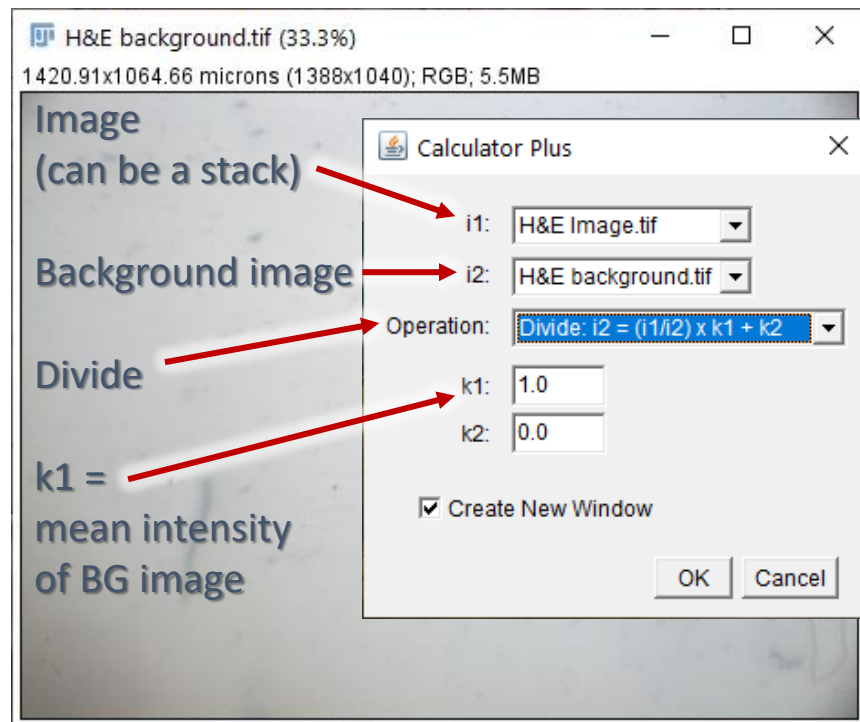


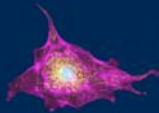


## Background corrections

Flat field correction (brightfield)

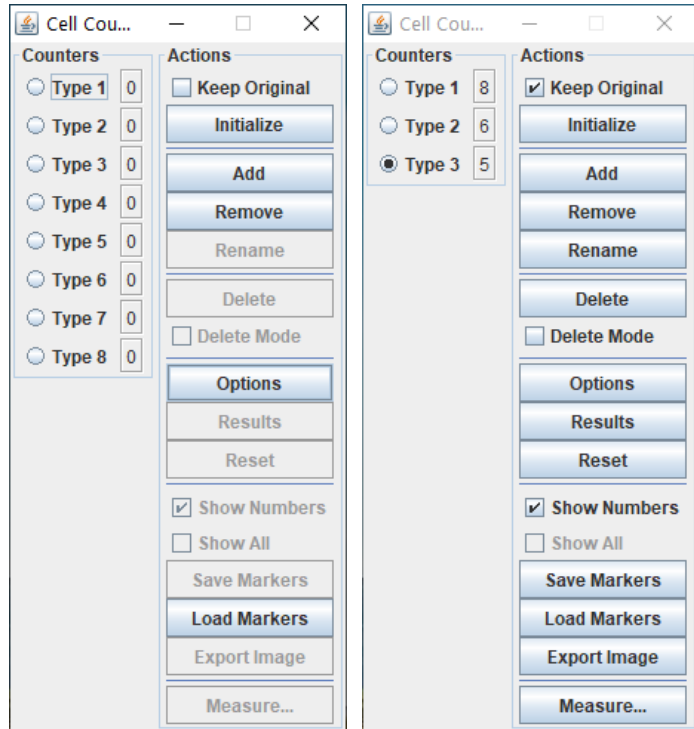
*Process / Calculator Plus* (requires an image of just background)





## Manual Counting

### *Plugins / Analyze / Cell Counter*



Add / remove Types

Rename types

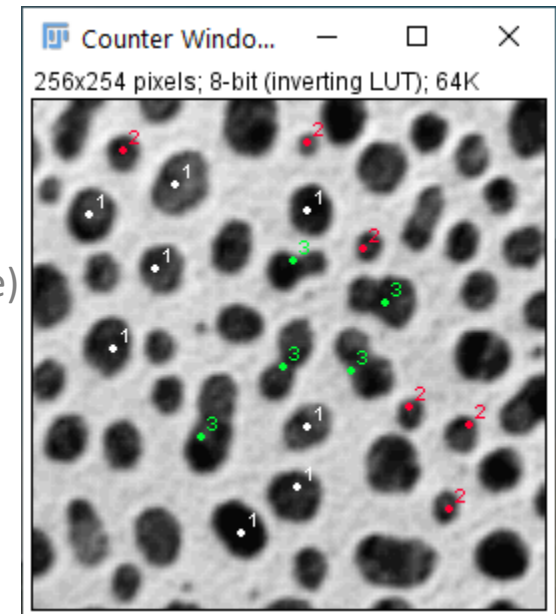
Delete last count /  
Delete mode (click to delete)

Change counter colours

Results

Save / Load

Measure... more results  
(location & intensity)



Results				
Slice	Type 1	Type 2	Type 3	
Total	8	6	5	

Slow. Accurate? No double counting. Bias?



## Exercises Session 4 – Automating measurements in Fiji

### Making measurements and adjusting for image background...

#### 9) Measure a dot or Western blot

Dot blot is easier as a first go

#### 10) Rolling ball background correction

You can use the dot blot or Cell colony image

Histograms and Profile plots (in live mode)

#### 11) Background corrections with a known background

Use the ***Process / Calculator Plus*** plugin

#### 12) Manual cell counting