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# DeepPrep: an accelerated, scalable and robust pipeline for neuroimaging preprocessing empowered by deep learning

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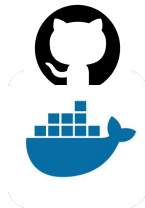
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Nature Methods

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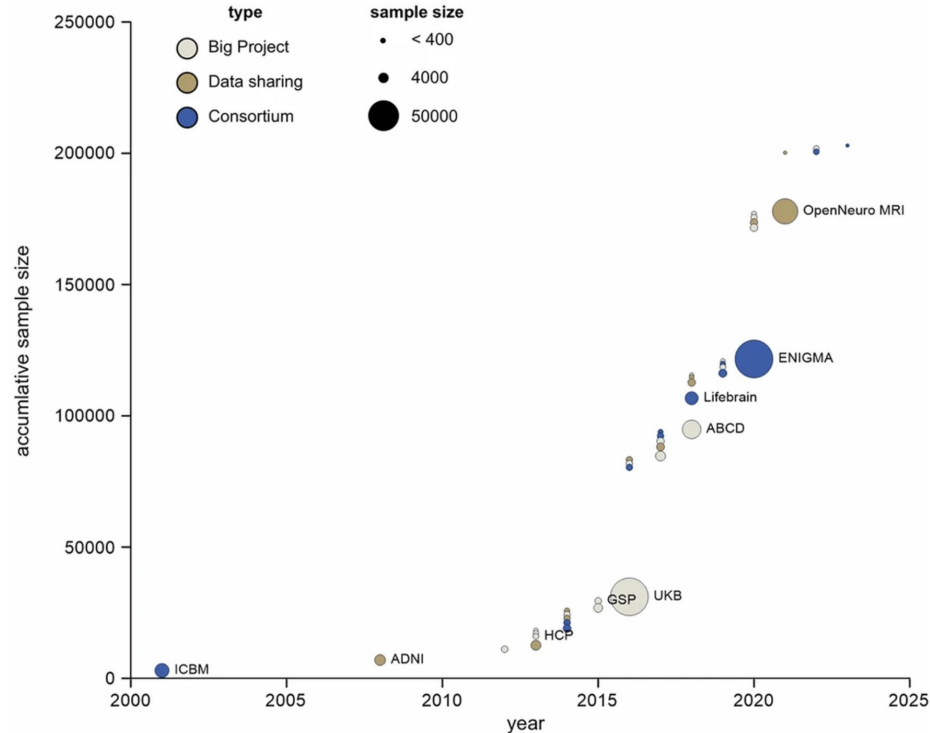


<https://github.com/pBFSLab/DeepPrep>

<https://hub.docker.com/r/pbfslab/deepprep>

<https://deepprep.readthedocs.io>

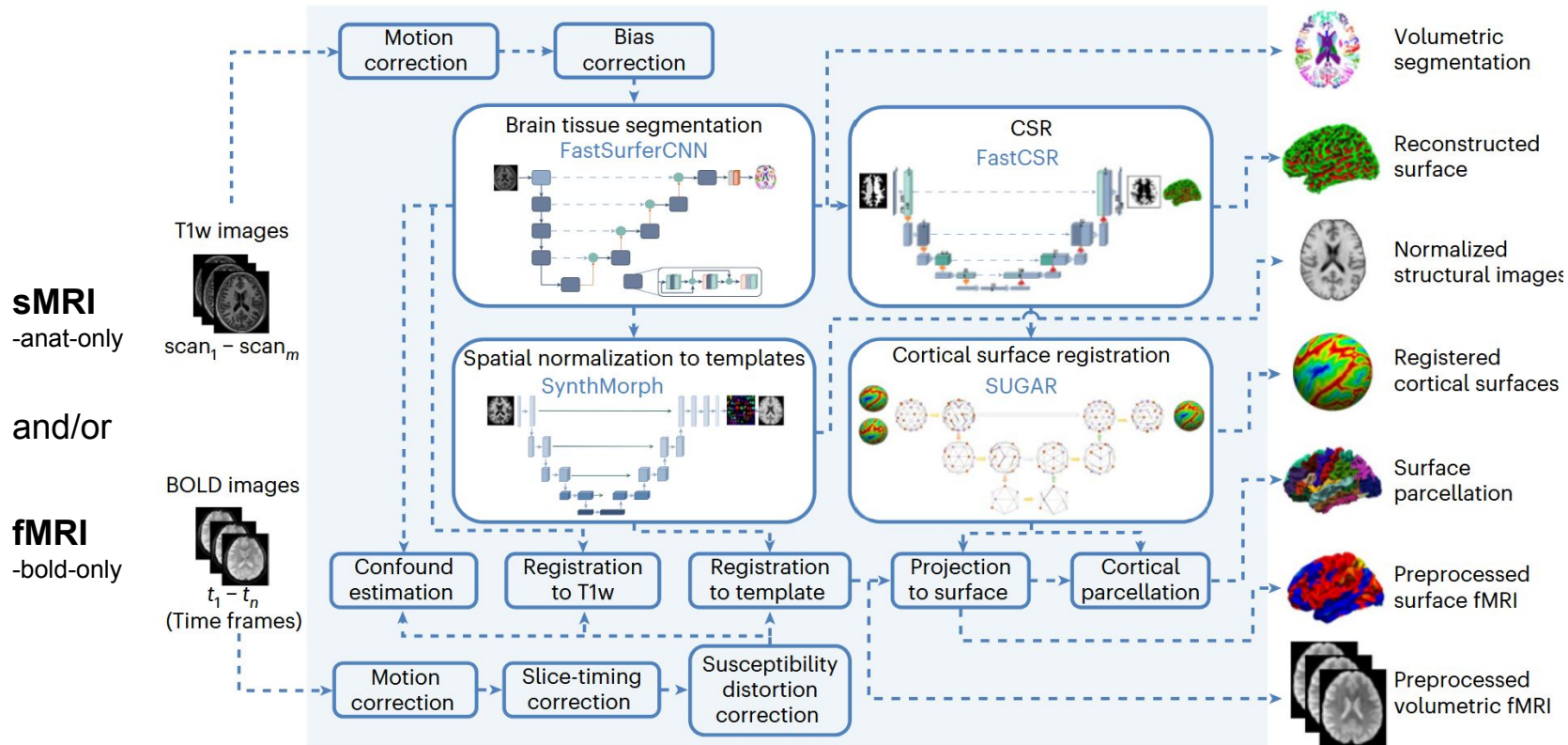
# Context



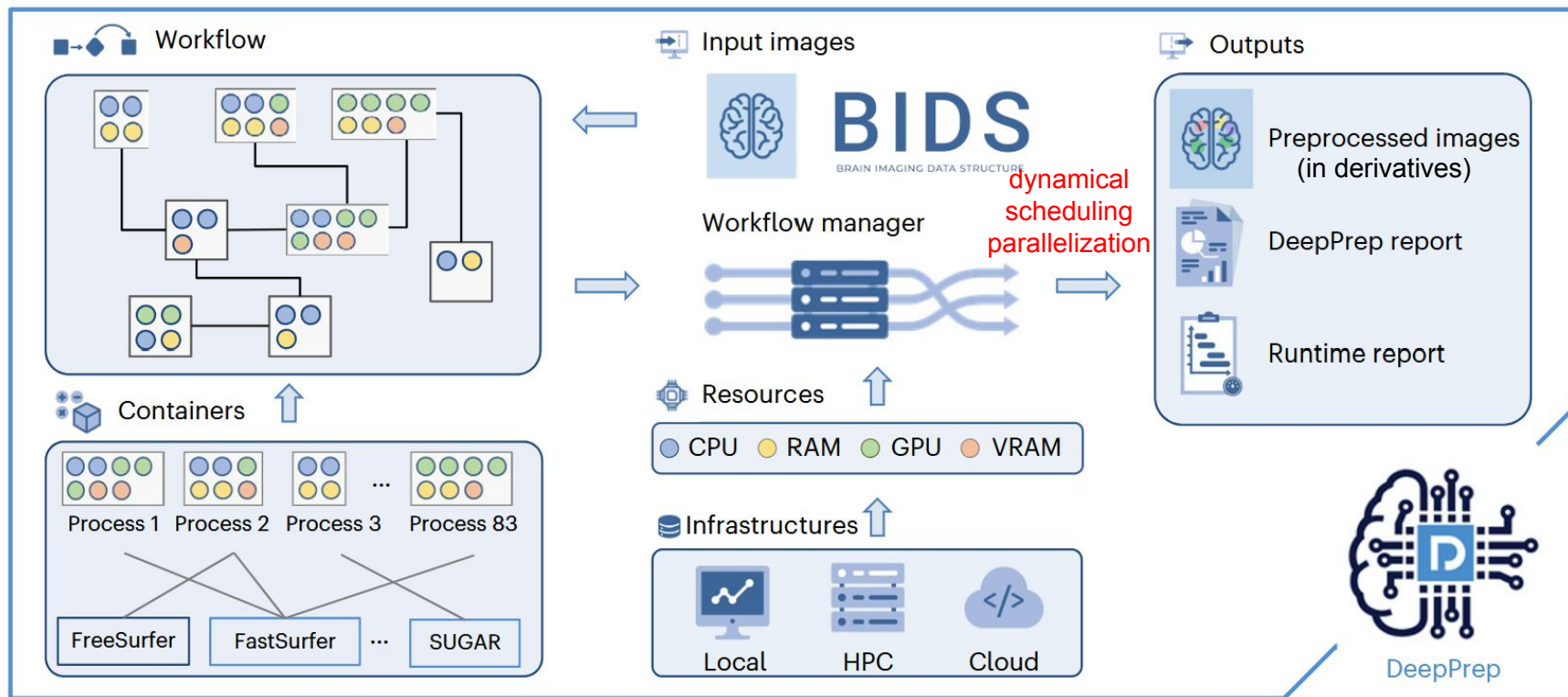
- Growing amounts of publicly available data from large-scale projects (like UKBB, ENIGMA, OpenNeuro)
- Prevailing preprocessing pipelines too slow (FreeSurfer, fMRIPrep, QSIprep and ASLPrep)
- Segmentation issues for distorted brains (due to traumas, gliomas or strokes)

⇒ Need of a computationally efficient, scalable and robust preprocessing pipeline

# DeepPrep: Deep learning-based neuroimaging preprocessing pipeline



# Nextflow: Workflow manager of DeepPrep



# Evaluation datasets

**Supplementary Table.2 | Characteristics of evaluation datasets**

**accuracy and reliability  
assessment**

**evaluating computational  
efficiency and scalability**

**Manual brain  
segmentation**

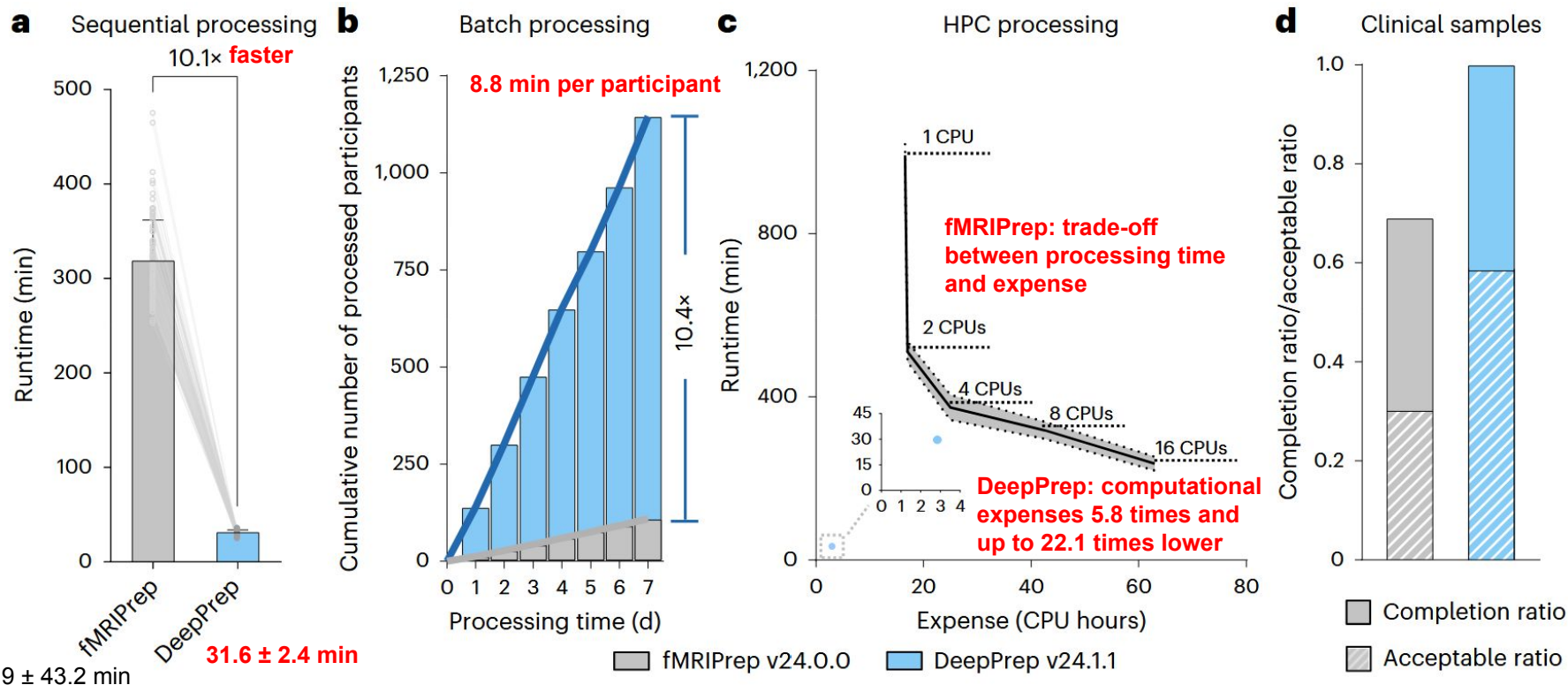
**Three clinical datasets  
for robustness  
assessment**

No.	Dataset	# used subs	# total subs	age	source	state	scanner
1	CoRR_HNU	30	30	20-30	<a href="http://fcon_1000.projects.nitrc.org/indi/CoRR/html/hnu_1.html">http://fcon_1000.projects.nitrc.org/indi/CoRR/html/hnu_1.html</a>	Healthy	GE MR750 3T
2	MSC	10	10	24-36	<a href="https://openneuro.org/datasets/ds000224/versions/1.0.3">https://openneuro.org/datasets/ds000224/versions/1.0.3</a>	Healthy	Siemens TRIO 3T
3	UKB_20252_2.0	49300	49300	44-83	<a href="https://biobank.ndph.ox.ac.uk/showcase/field.cgi?id=20252">https://biobank.ndph.ox.ac.uk/showcase/field.cgi?id=20252</a>	Healthy	Siemens Skyra 3T
4	UKB_20252_3.0	5215	5215	44-83	<a href="https://biobank.ndph.ox.ac.uk/showcase/field.cgi?id=20252">https://biobank.ndph.ox.ac.uk/showcase/field.cgi?id=20252</a>	Healthy	Siemens Skyra
5	Mindboggle-101	97 <sup>a</sup>	101	19-61	<a href="http://mindboggle.info/data">http://mindboggle.info/data</a>	Healthy	Siemens, Philip
6	CRRC-Stroke	19 <sup>b</sup>	218	37-71	Collected in Beijing Bo'ai Hospital	Stroke	Philip Ingenia 3T
7	BTH-Glioma	19 <sup>b</sup>	168	21-62	Collected in Beijing Tiantan Hospital	Glioma	Siemens TrimTrio 3T
8	SHH-DoC	15 <sup>b</sup>	38	31-53	Collected in Shanghai Huashan Hospital	DoC	Siemens MAGNETOM 3T

<sup>a</sup> Four cases have been excluded due to either poor data quality or the absence of necessary anatomical annotations.

<sup>b</sup> Cases were selected from the clinical datasets if FreeSurfer v6.0 failed to complete processing within 48 CPU hours.

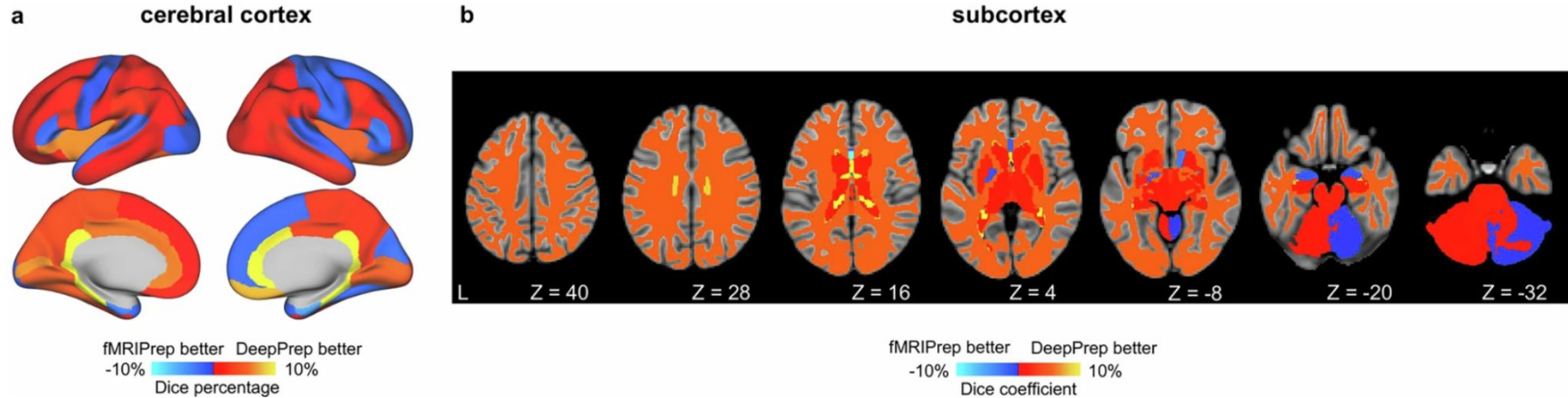
# DeepPrep (v24.1.1) VS fMRIPrep (v24.0.0)



two-tailed paired t-test,  $t(99) = 67.0$ ,  $P = 2.6 \times 10^{-84}$

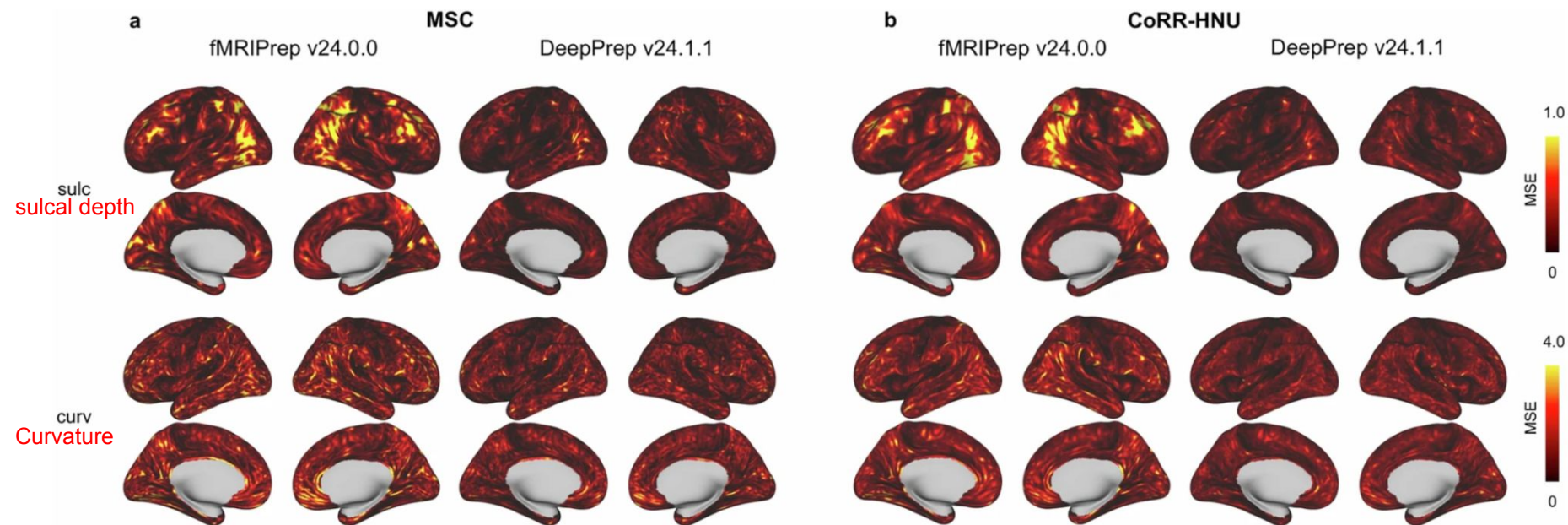


# DeepPrep (v24.1.1) VS fMRIPrep (v24.0.0)



Mindboggle-101 dataset (manual segmentation)  
Comparison of **dice coefficient** for each brain region  
fMRI: 52/62 cortical regions better segmented with DeepPrep  
sMRI: 31/39 subcortical regions

# DeepPrep (v24.1.1) VS fMRIPrep (v24.0.0)

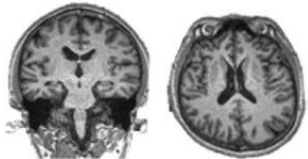
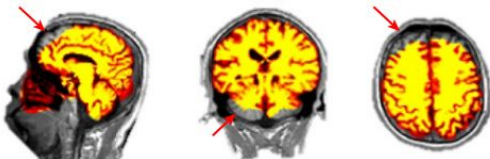
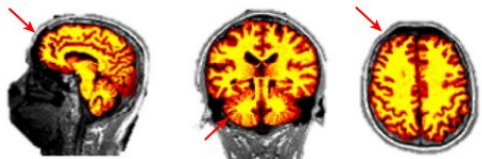
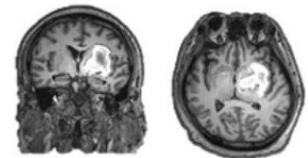
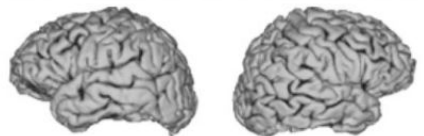
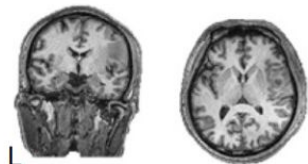
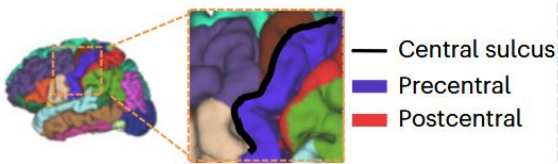
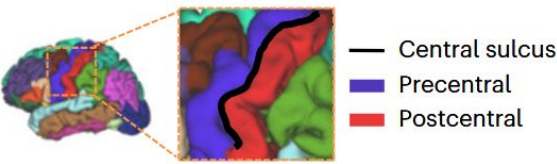


Comparison of both cortical surfaces features with target atlases



# Performance of DeepPrep in speed and robustness

## e Typical examples of three preprocessing error categories

Error categories	Original images	fMRIPrep v24.0.0	DeepPrep v24.1.1
Segmentation (skull stripping)			
CSR		Failed to reconstruct surface	
Cortical surface registration			

## Summary and future work

- DeepPrep = High efficiency and robustness in processing large-scale neuroimaging datasets and complex clinical samples
- Future comprehensive platform for processing multimodal neuroimaging
- Will integrate additional modalities, such as arterial spin labeling and diffusion imaging

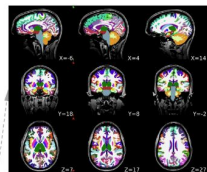
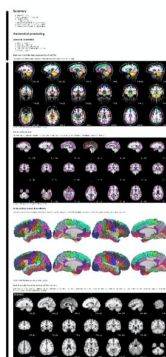
# Dependencies

Software used by DeepPrep		
<i>Processing step</i>	<i>Implementation</i>	<i>Software Version</i>
<i>Input data</i>		
Data in NiftI format	BIDS format	
<i>Anatomical processing</i>		
brain extraction brain tissue segmentation	FastSufer	v1.1.0
bias correction	SimpleITK's N4	v2.3.0
reconstruct cortical surfaces from T1w structural images	FastCSR	v1.0.0
cortical surface registration	SUGAR	1.0.0
cortical surface parcellation	FreeSurfer	7.2.0
<i>BOLD processing</i>		
BOLD reference image	niworkflows	1.10.0
head motion correction	FSL MCFLIRT	6.0.5.1
slice time correction	AFNI 3dTshift	24.0.00
susceptibility distortion correction	SDCFlow	2.8.1
coregistration	FreeSurfer bbgregister	7.2.0
resampling EPI to standard space	SynthMorph	2
confounds estimation	In-house codes	
<i>Workflow</i>		
workflow manager	Nextflow	23.10.4
in-memory database	Redis	6.0.16
lock context manager	python-redis-lock	4.0.0

Python packages used by DeepPrep		
<i>Packages</i>		<i>Version</i>
fastcsr		1.0.0
sugar		1.0.0
nighres		1.5.0
torch		2.0.1+cu118
torchvision		0.15.2+cu118
templateflow		23.2.0
lapy		1.0.1
voxelmorph		0.2
tensorflow		2.11.1
torch-geometric		2.2.0
fmriprep		23.2.0
mriqc		23.2.0
nnunet		1.7.1
dynaconf		3.2.3
wand		0.6.11
bids		0.0
nipype		1.8.6
niworkflows		1.10.0
SimpleITK		2.3.0
sdcflows		2.8.1
open3d		0.17.0
onnxruntime		1.16.3
pytorch3d		0.7.4
python-redis-lock		4.0.0
neurite		0.2

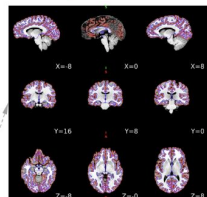
# Reports

## Summary



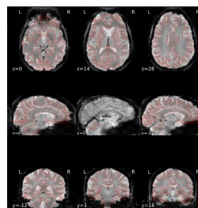
**Brain mask and brain tissue segmentation of the T1w.**  
This panel shows skull-stripped brain and cortical/subcortical segmentation of the T1w image.

**Fieldmaps processing**  
When fieldmaps were found, some mosaics will show the field inhomogeneity with the "magnitude map" as the reference

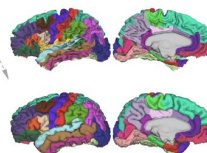


**Surface reconstruction.**  
The white surface (blue contours) and pial surface (red contours) were reconstructed with FastCSR and are overlaid on the native T1w image.

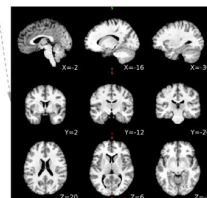
## Functional processing



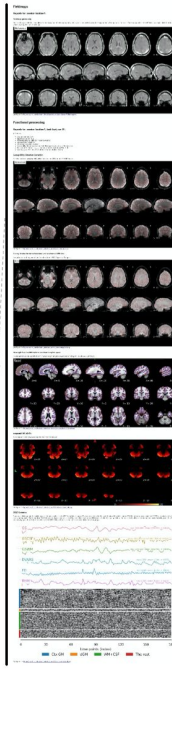
**Susceptibility distortion correction.**  
If fieldmap information was found, the step is assessed with a dynamic mosaic that transitions between the unwrapped ("after") and original ("before") Contours of the white-matter boundaries are shown for reference.



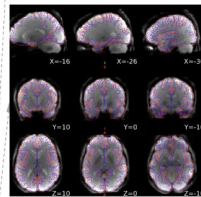
**Cortical surface anatomical parcellations.**  
The cortical parcellations were generated based on the cortical surface registration of SUGAR. Parcellations are shown on the white (upper row) and pial surfaces (lower row).



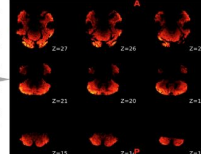
**Spatial normalization of the anatomical T1w reference.**  
SynrMorph was used to perform nonlinear registration between the T1w reference and the template space. Hover on the panels with the mouse pointer to transition between both native T1w and template spaces. Spatial normalization of the T1w image to the MNI152NLinAsym template.



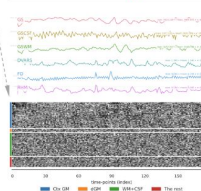
**Co-registration between functional and anatomical MRI data.** Dregster was used to generate transformations from EPI-BOLD space to T1w-space.



**Resample functional MRI data to the template space.** Functional MRI was resampled to the MNI152NLinAsym template space based on dregster, SUGAR and SynrMorph.

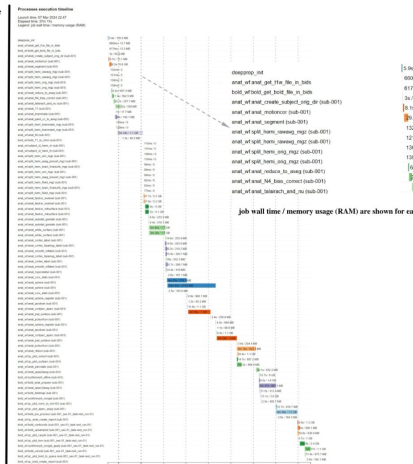


**temporal SNR (SNR).**  
The temporal SNR map was estimated by the fSNR from Nipy.



**BOLD Summary.**  
Summary statistics are plotted, which may reveal trends or artifacts in the BOLD data. Global signals (GS) were calculated within the whole-brain, and the white-matter (GSWM) and the cerebro-spinal fluid (GSCSF) were calculated with their corresponding masks. The standardized DVARS, framewise-displacement measures (FD), and relative head motion (RHM) were calculated. A carpet plot shows time series for all voxels within the brain mask, including cortical gray matter (Cg GM), deep (subcortical) gray matter (SGM), white-matter and CSF (WM+CSF), and the rest of the brain (The rest).

## Processor execution timeline



**Thank you for your attention !**