

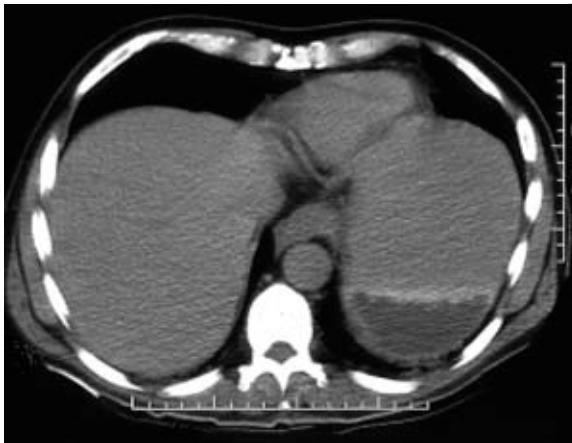
# Biomedical Imaging

# Examples of Medical Images

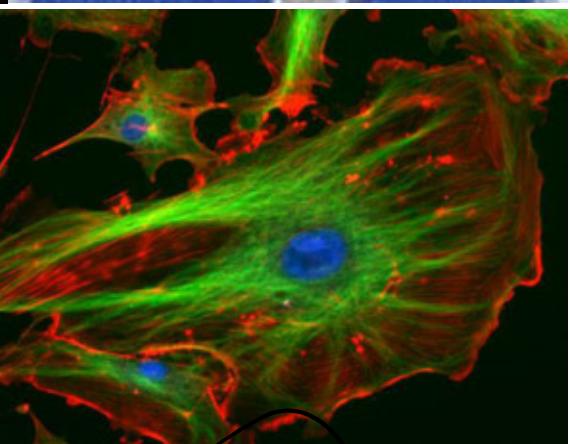
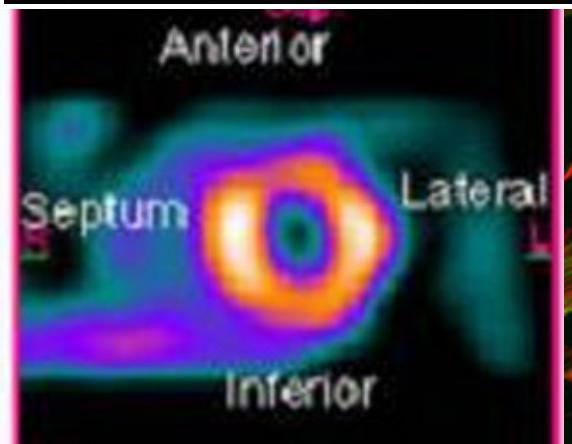
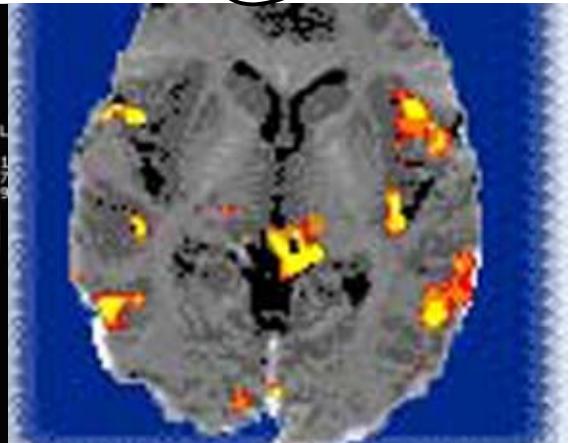
X-ray (1)



(2) CT



(3) MRI



(4) Ultrasound

(5) PET

(6) 

**X-ray**

# Discovery of X-rays

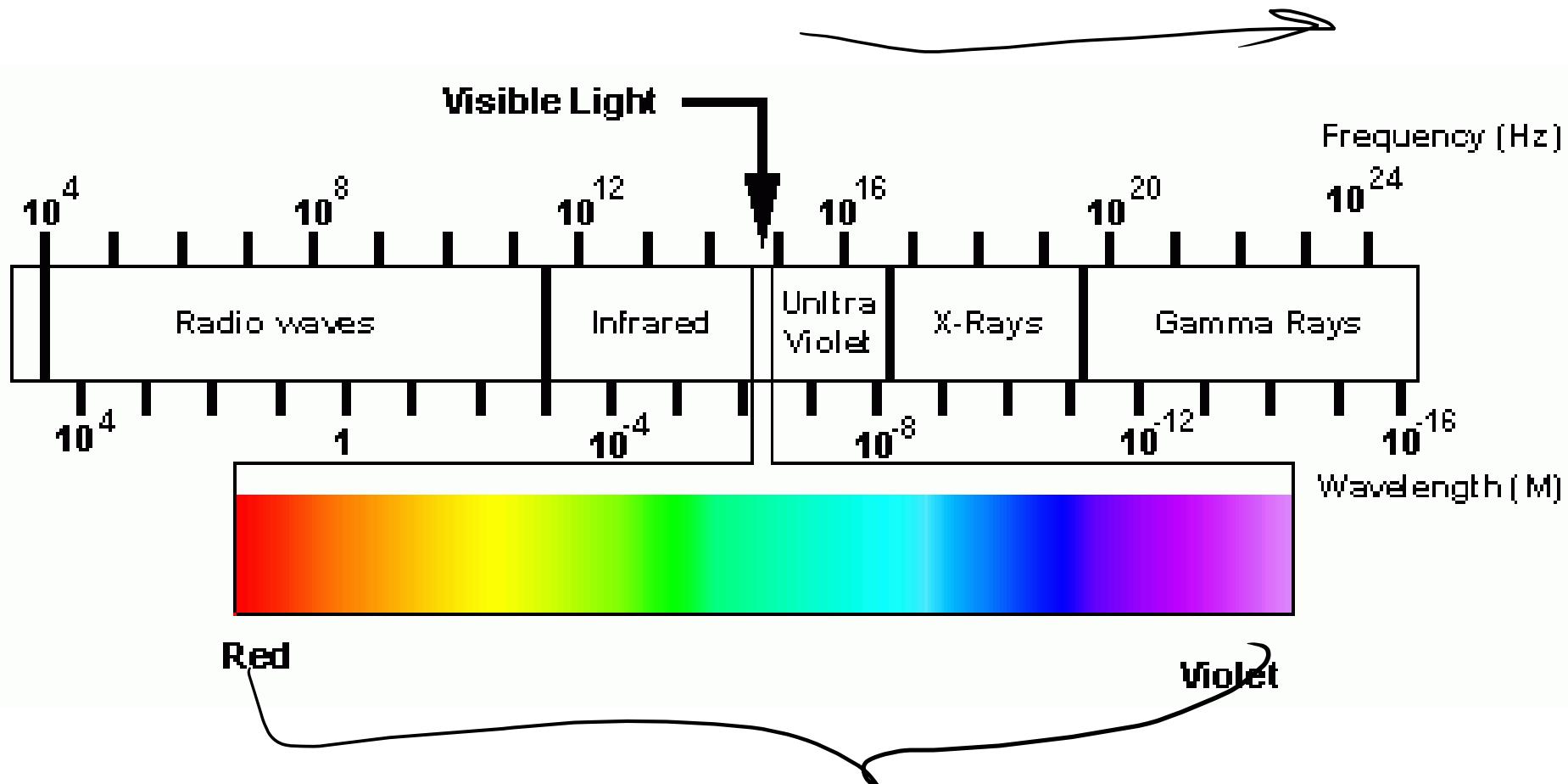
In December 1895, German physicist Wilhelm Roentgen discovered these mysterious rays X-rays, with X standing for unknown. In recognition of his discovery, Roentgen in 1901 became the first Nobel laureate in physics.



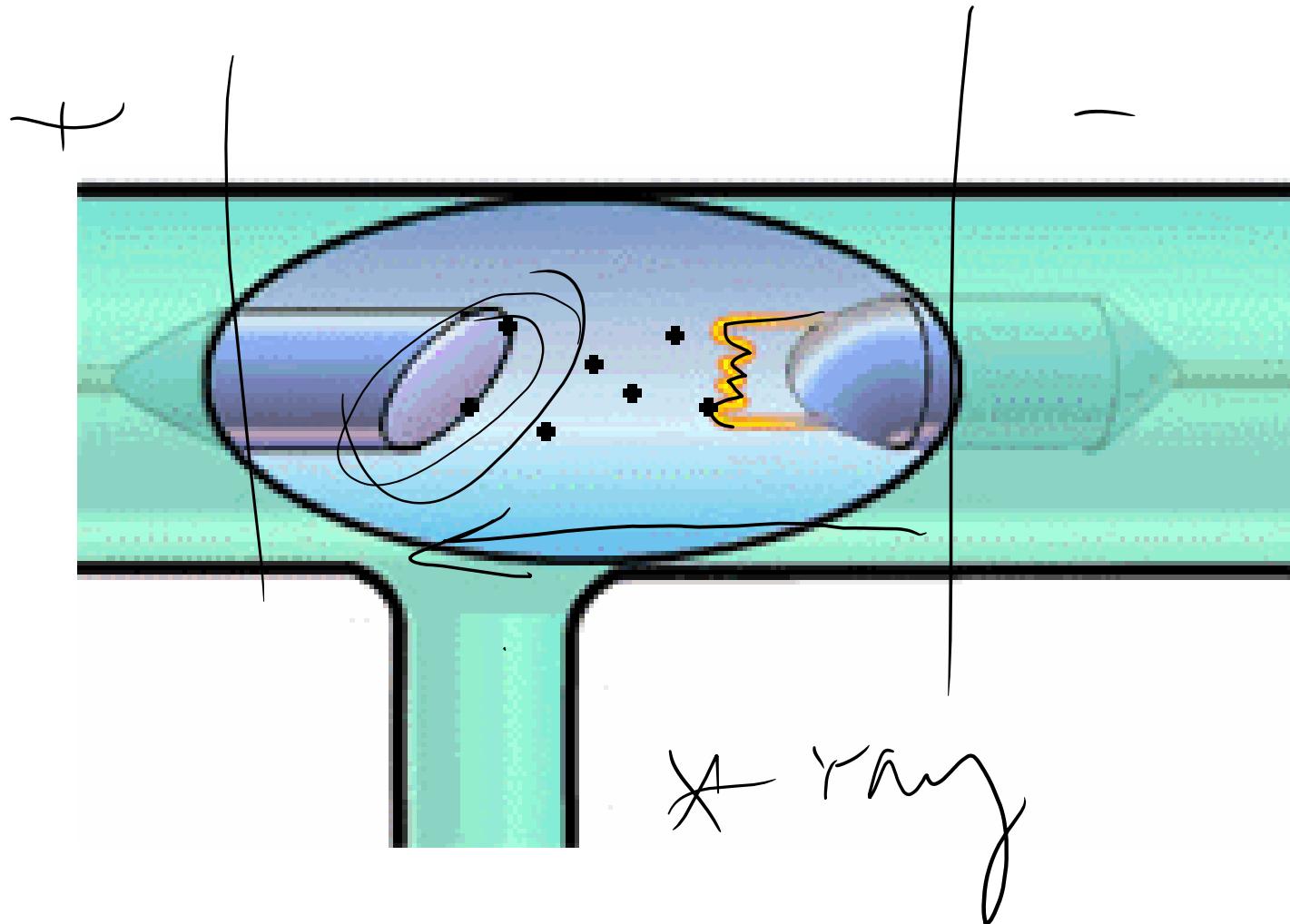
# What are X-rays?

- They are an electromagnetic radiation emitted by charged particles interactions
- Photons which can penetrate through matter
- They have no mass or charge ←
- ~~They travel at the speed of light~~ ←
- Energy =  $h\nu = hc/\lambda$

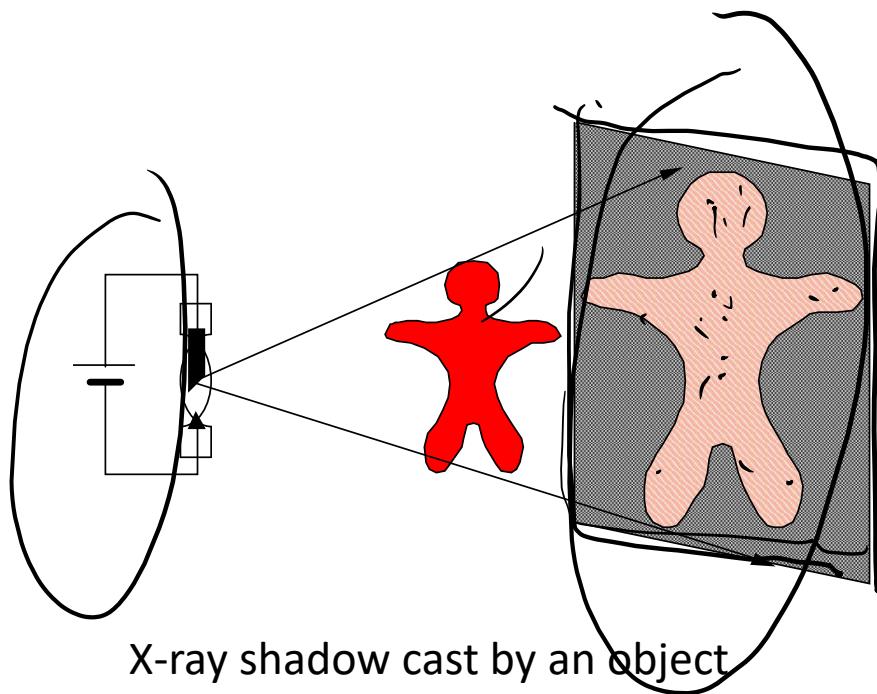
# EM Spectrum



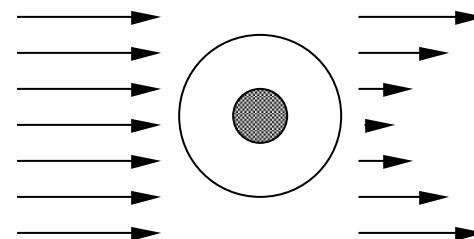
# X-ray Production



# X-ray Imaging: How it works.



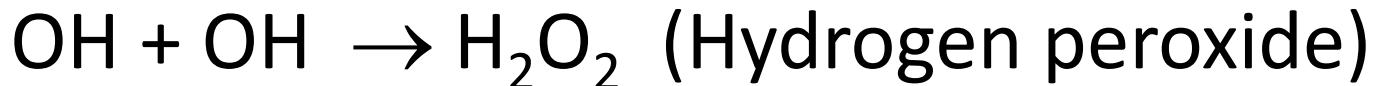
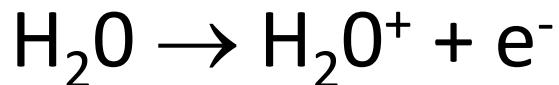
X-ray shadow cast by an object



Strength of shadow depends on composition and thickness.

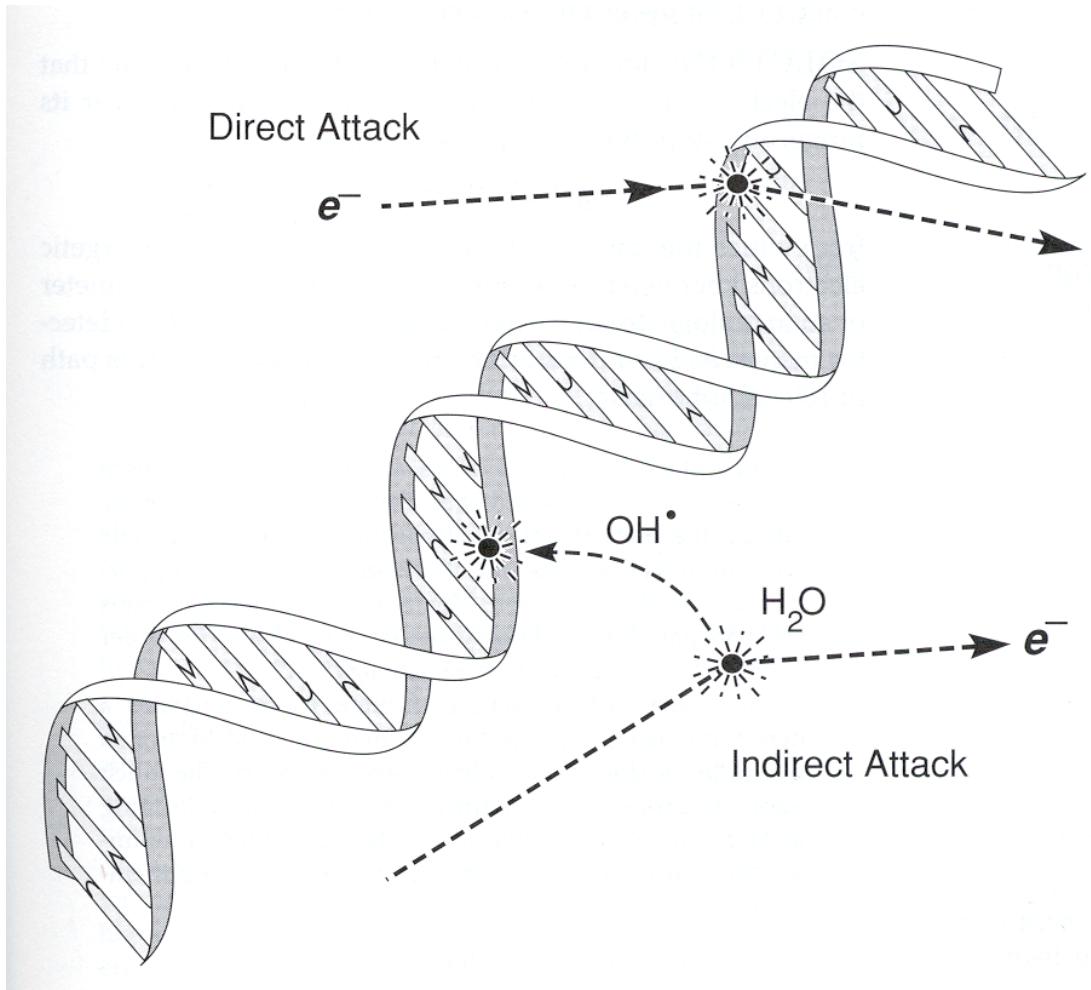
# Damage to DNA

- Direct damage to DNA molecule
- Indirect damage to DNA by Ionisation of water and the release of free radicals:



Release of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2 \rightarrow \text{DNA damage}$

# Damage to DNA



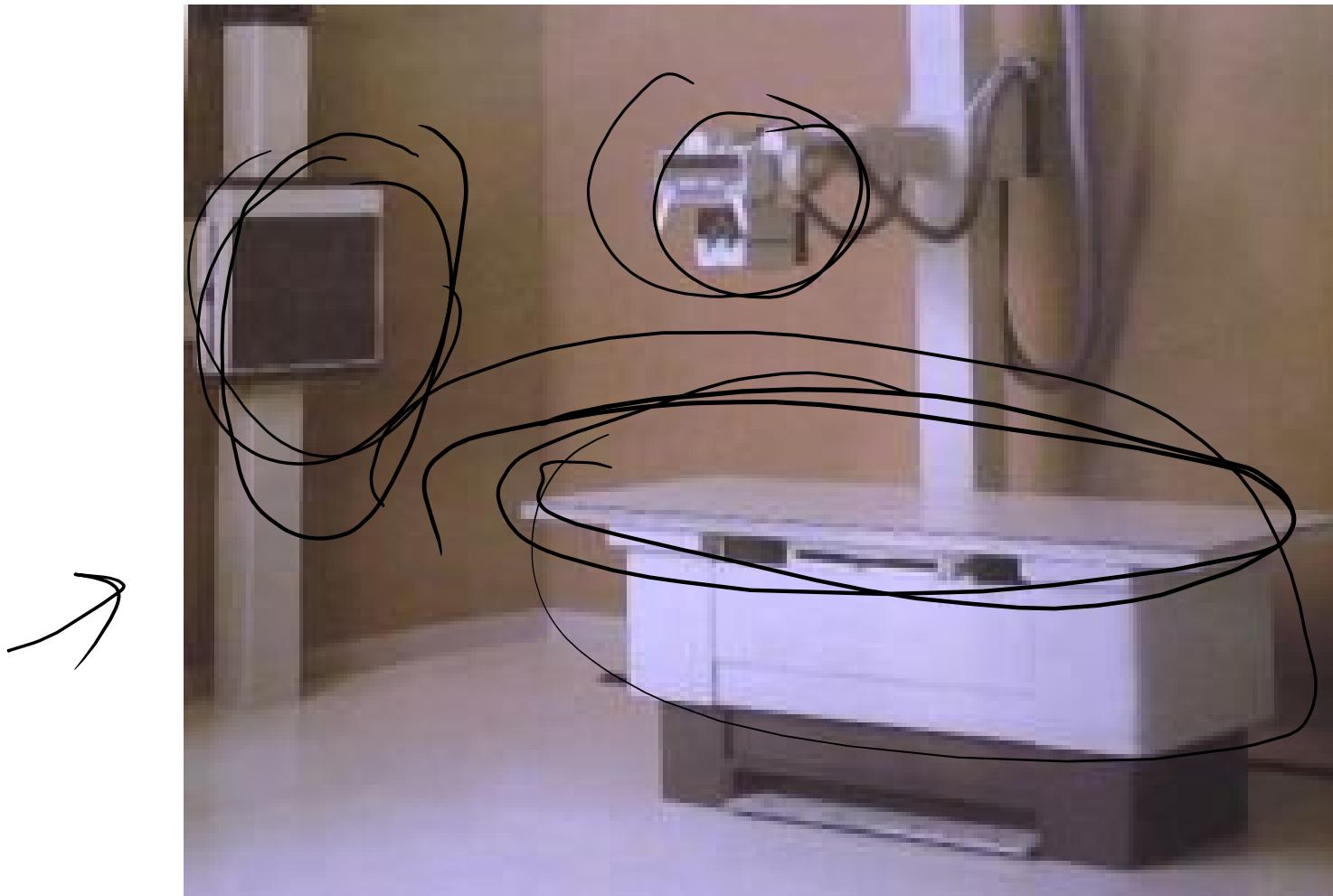
# Biological Effects

Stage	Timescale	Effect
Initial Physical Interaction	$10^{-17}$ - $10^{-15}$ s	Ionization and Excitations
Chemical	$10^{-14}$ - $10^{-3}$ s	Creation of free radicals & excited molecules yielding biologically harmful products
Bio-molecular	Sec - Hours	Damage to DNA, proteins, nucleic acids, etc.
Biological	Hours-Decades	Cell damage, death, mutations

# Estimated Risk of Cancer

<i>X-ray examination</i>	<i>Estimated risk of fatal cancer</i>
Dental intra-oral	1 in 2 000 000
Chest	1 in 1 000 000
Barium meal	1 in 6 700
CT head	1 in 10 000
CT chest	1 in 2 500
Car Accident	1 in 10 000

# X-ray Radiography Machine

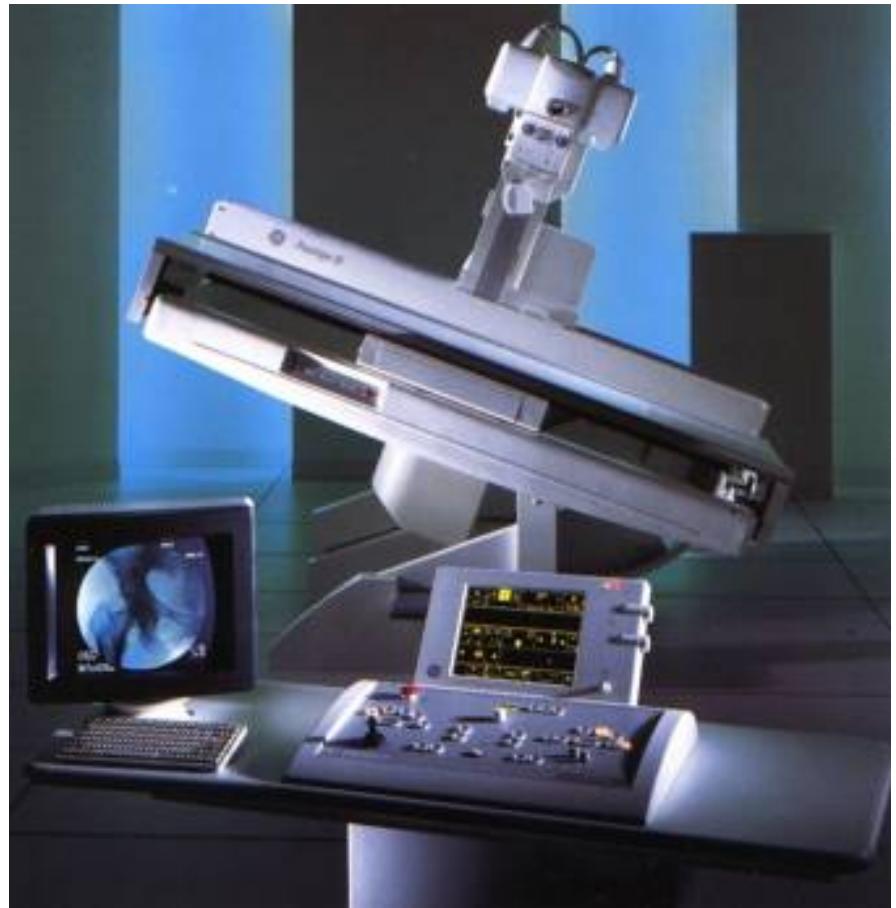


# X-ray Image

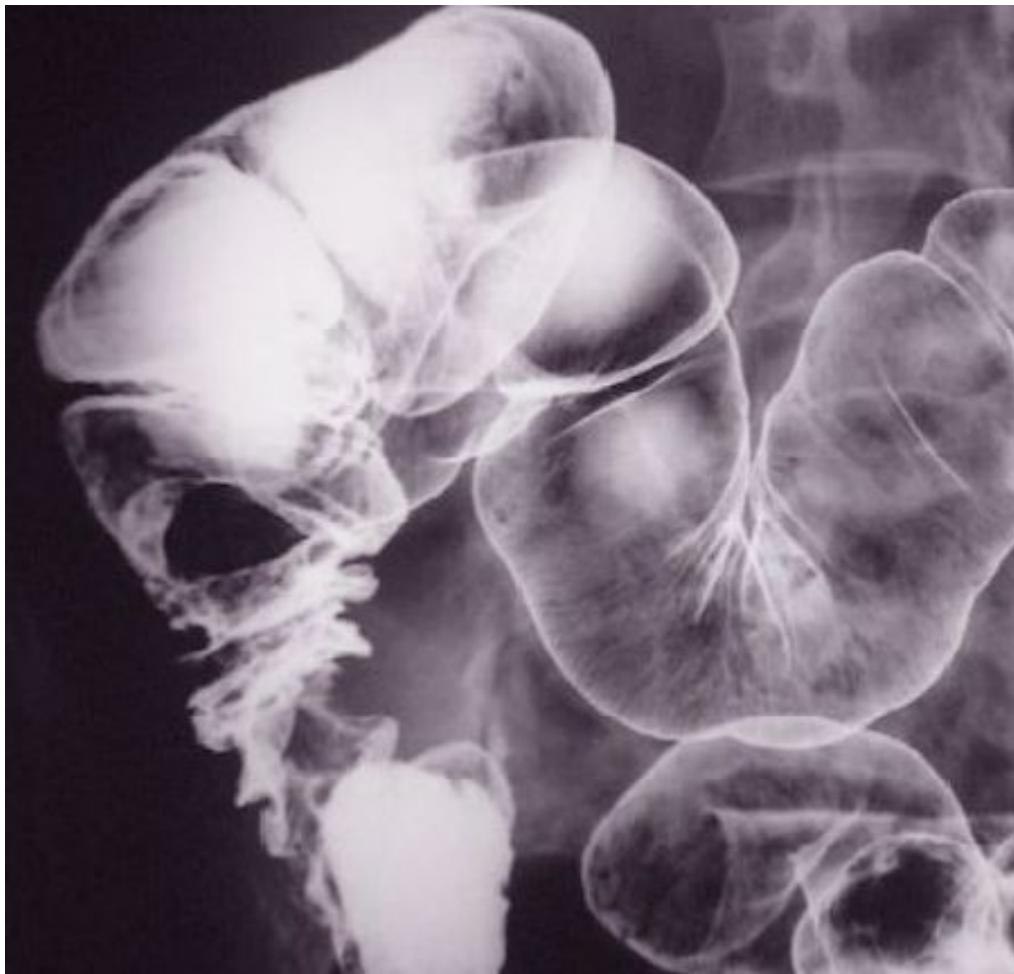


# Fluoroscopy

Enables radiologists to visualize X-ray images in real time on a television monitor. In most instances the procedure would involve the administration of some form of 'contrast' agent to outline the region of interest



# Fluoroscopy Images



Barium Used to Visualize Intestines

# Mammography

A mammography machine is an X-ray machine dedicated to breast images. Compared with conventional X-ray techniques, mammograms are obtained with much lower energy X-rays of around 20,000 volts.



# Digital Angiography

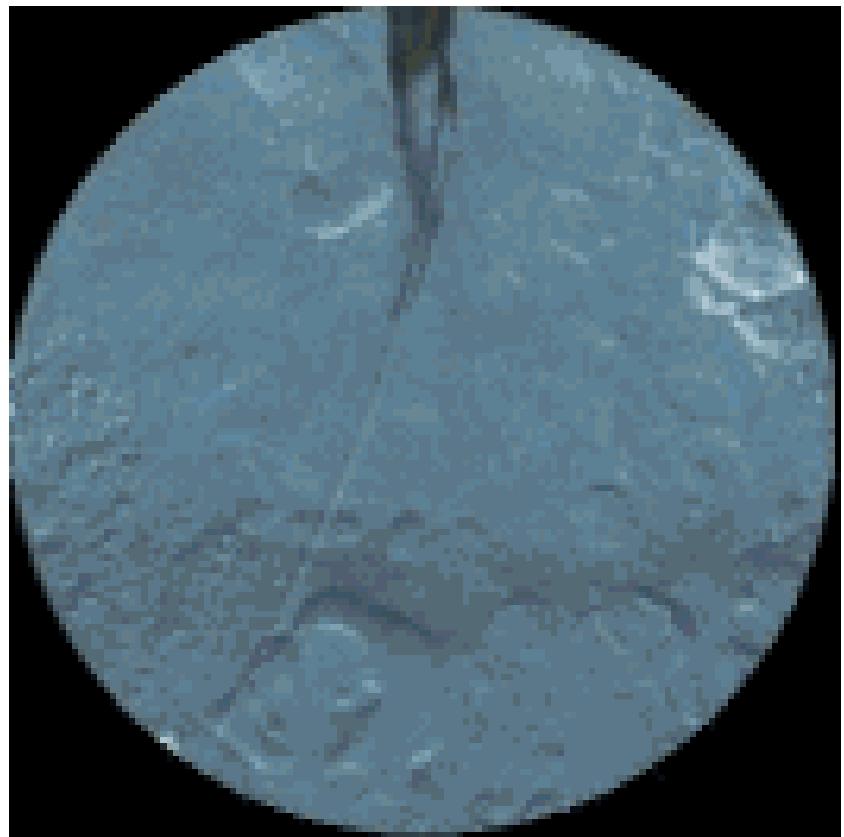
It is a diagnostic procedure that produces X-ray pictures of blood vessels. A catheter is inserted in the vessel to inject contrast fluid



# Digital Angiography Images

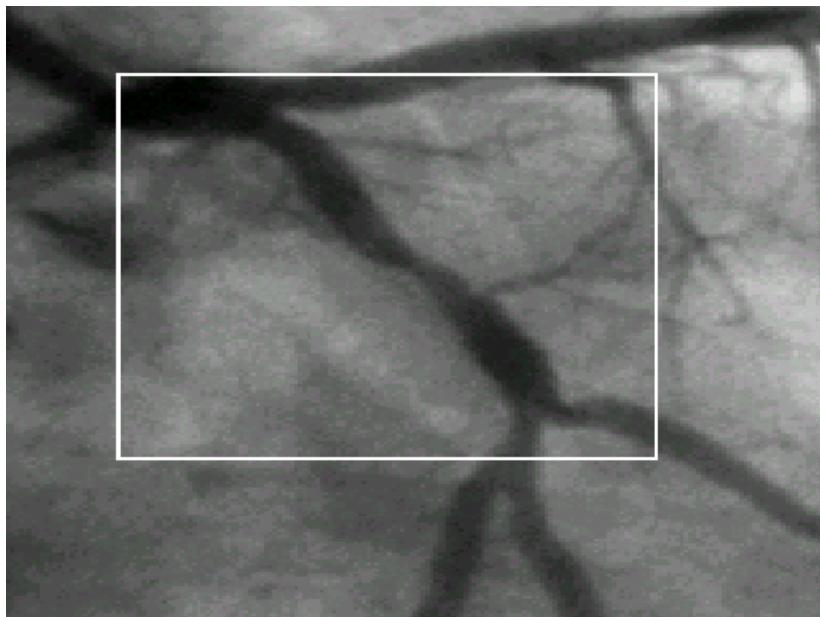


First Angiogram(1896, Hankel):  
Mercury was injected in a post mortem  
hand

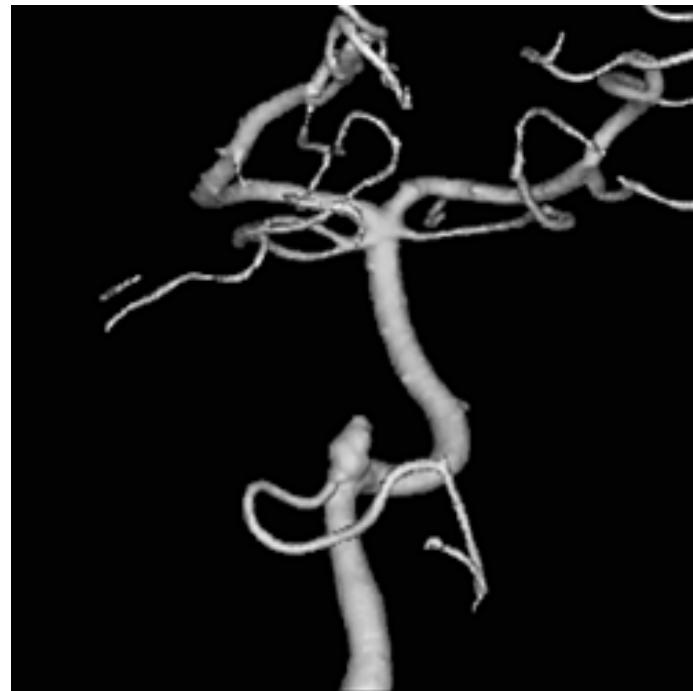


Digital Subtraction Angiography (Mistretta,  
1980s)

# Digital Angiography Images



Angiogram of The Coronary  
Arteries



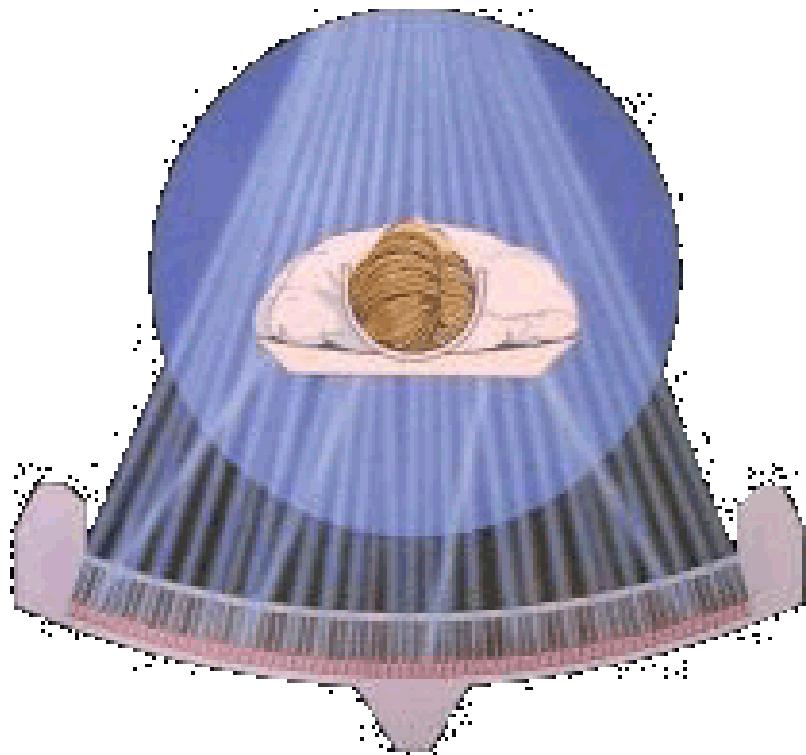
3-D Angiogram of The  
Brain Arteries

# Summary: X-ray Imaging

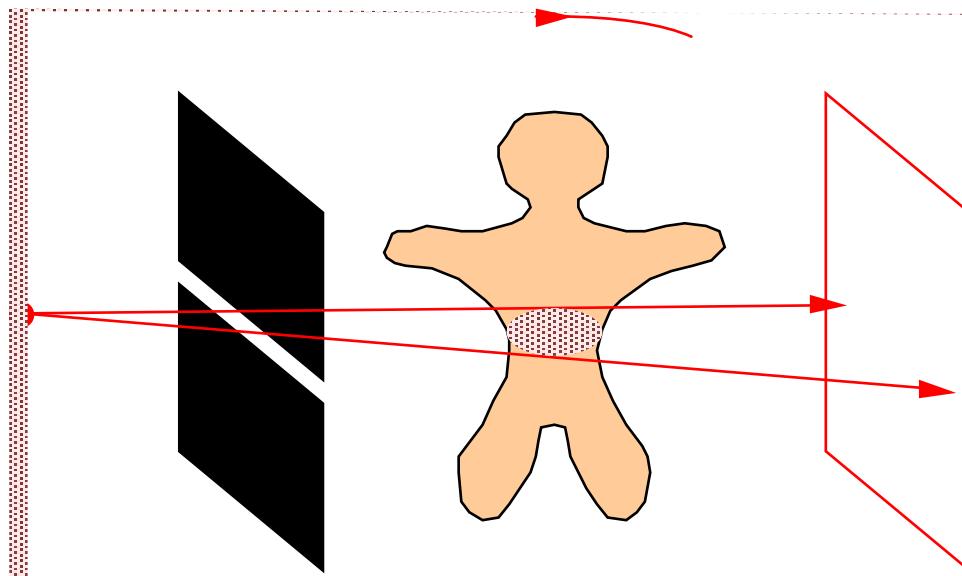
- Oldest non-invasive imaging of internal structures
- Rapid, short exposure time, inexpensive
- Real time X-ray imaging is possible and used during interventional procedures.
- Ionizing radiation: risk of cancer.
- Unable to distinguish between soft tissues in head, abdomen

# Computerized Tomography (CT)

The technique of CT scanning was developed in 1973 by Hounsfield. A thin fan beam of X-rays generated by a conventional X-ray tube passes through a single 'slice' of a patient through to a bank of X-ray detectors.

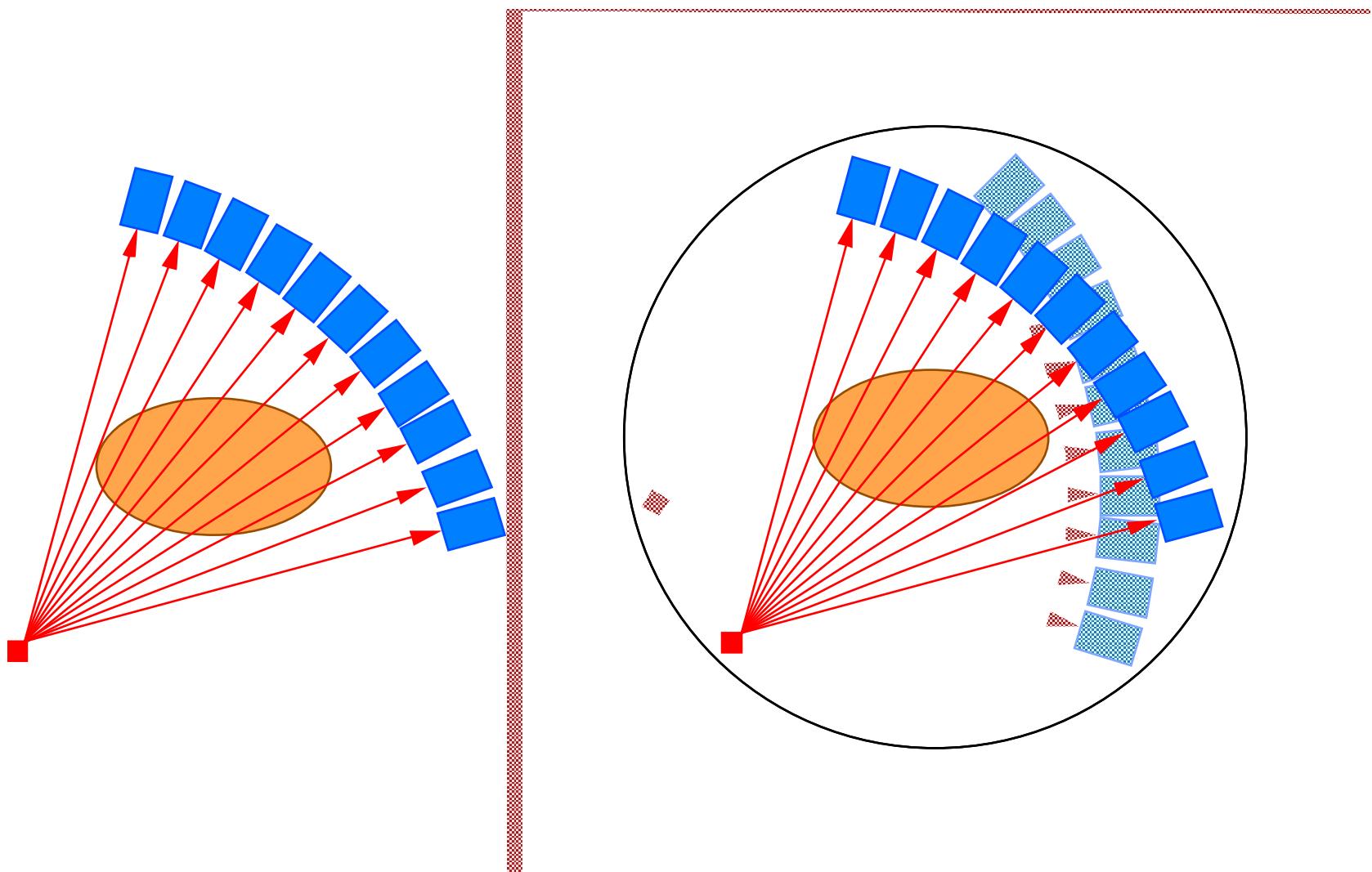


# Computer Tomography: How It Works



Only one plane is illuminated. Source-subject motion provides added information.

# Fan-Beam Computer Tomography



# CT (Computed Tomography)



CT Image of plane through  
liver and stomach



Projection image  
from CT scans

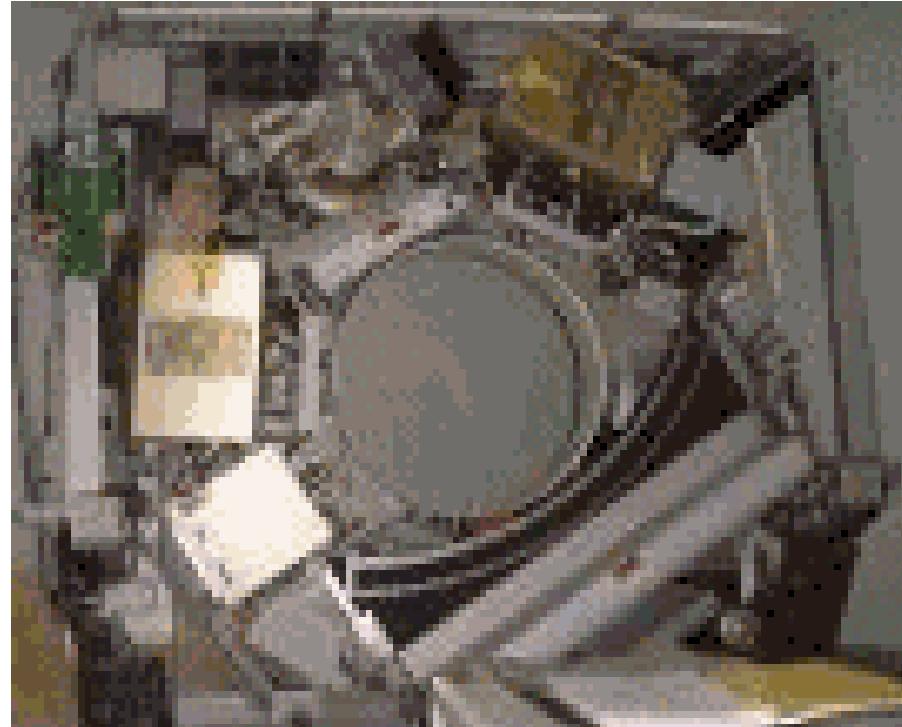
# What Is It?

- Computer Tomography image of section through upper abdomen of patient prior to abdominal surgery.
- Section shows ribs, vertebra, aorta, liver (image left), stomach (image right) partially filled with liquid (bottom).

# CT Machine

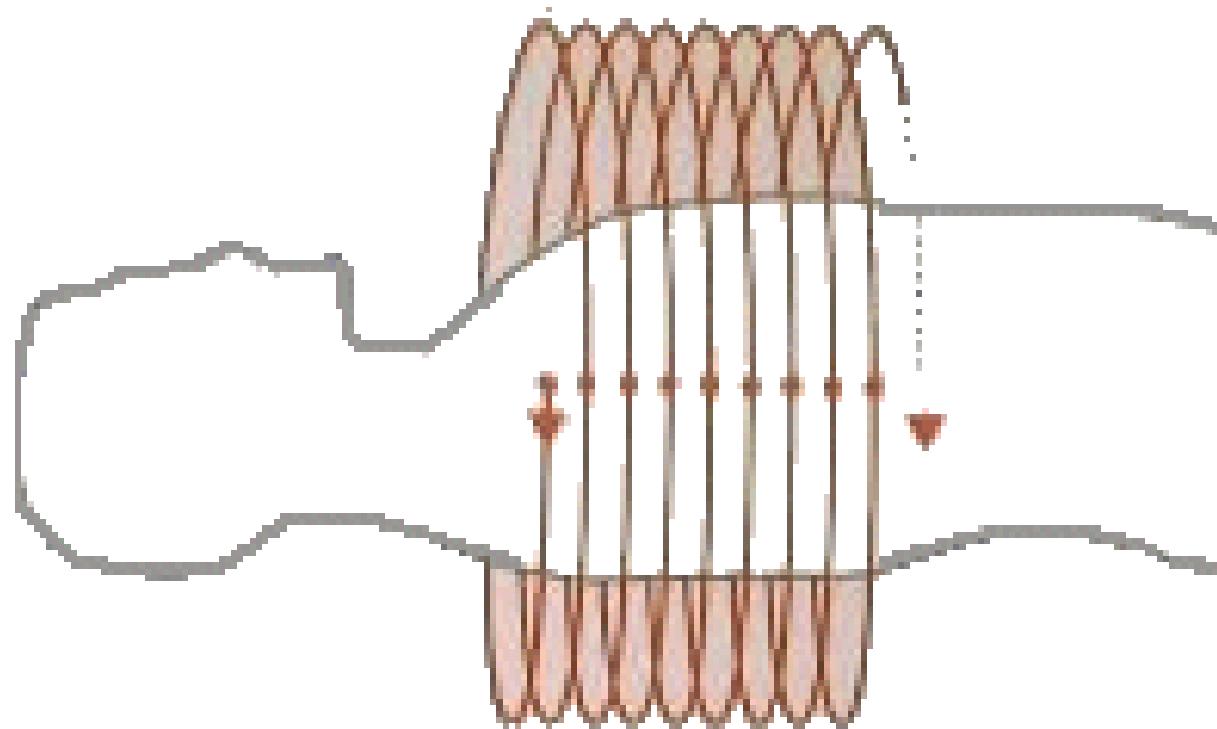


CT Machine



CT Machine Rotating Parts

# Helical CT



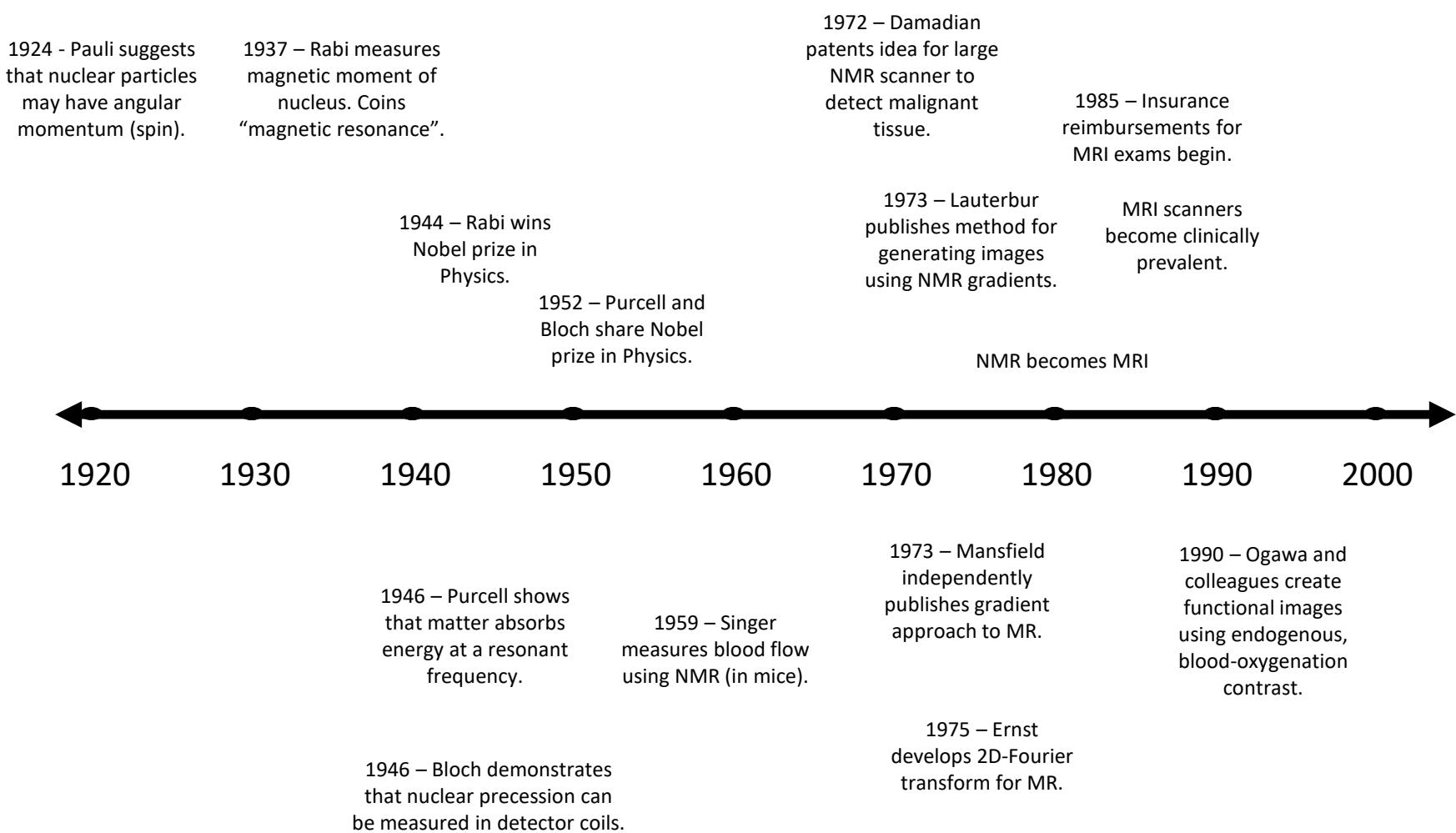
# Summary of X-Ray CT

- Images of sectional planes (tomography) are harder to interpret
- CT can visualize small density differences, e.g. grey matter, white matter, and CSF. CT can detect and diagnose disease that cannot be seen with X-ray.
- More expensive than X-ray, lower resolution.
- Ionizing radiation.

# **Magnetic Resonance Imaging**

# **MRI**

# Timeline of MR Imaging



# Nobel Prizes for Magnetic Resonance

- 1944: Rabi  
Physics (Measured magnetic moment of nucleus)
- 1952: Felix Bloch and Edward Mills Purcell  
Physics (Basic science of NMR phenomenon)
- 1991: Richard Ernst  
Chemistry (High-resolution pulsed FT-NMR)
- 2002: Kurt Wüthrich  
Chemistry (3D molecular structure in solution by NMR)
- 2003: Paul Lauterbur & Peter Mansfield  
Physiology or Medicine (MRI technology)

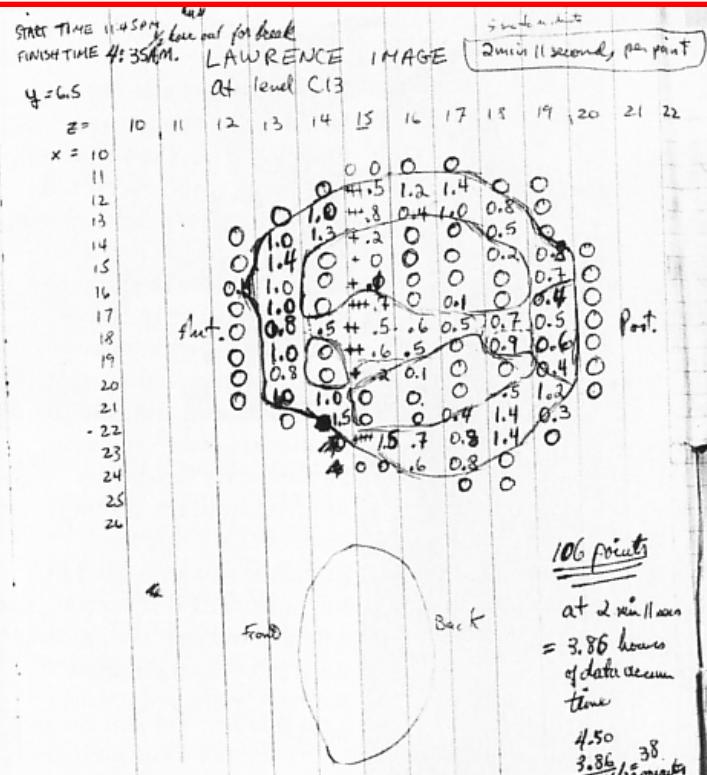
# Early Uses of NMR

- Most early NMR was used for chemical analysis
  - No medical applications
- 1971 – Damadian publishes and patents idea for using NMR to distinguish healthy and malignant tissues
  - “Tumor detection by nuclear magnetic resonance”, *Science*
  - Proposes using differences in relaxation times
  - No image formation method proposed
- 1973 – Lauterbur describes projection method for creating NMR images
  - Mansfield (1973) independently describes similar approach

# Early Human MR Images (Damadian)



© Fonar Corporation

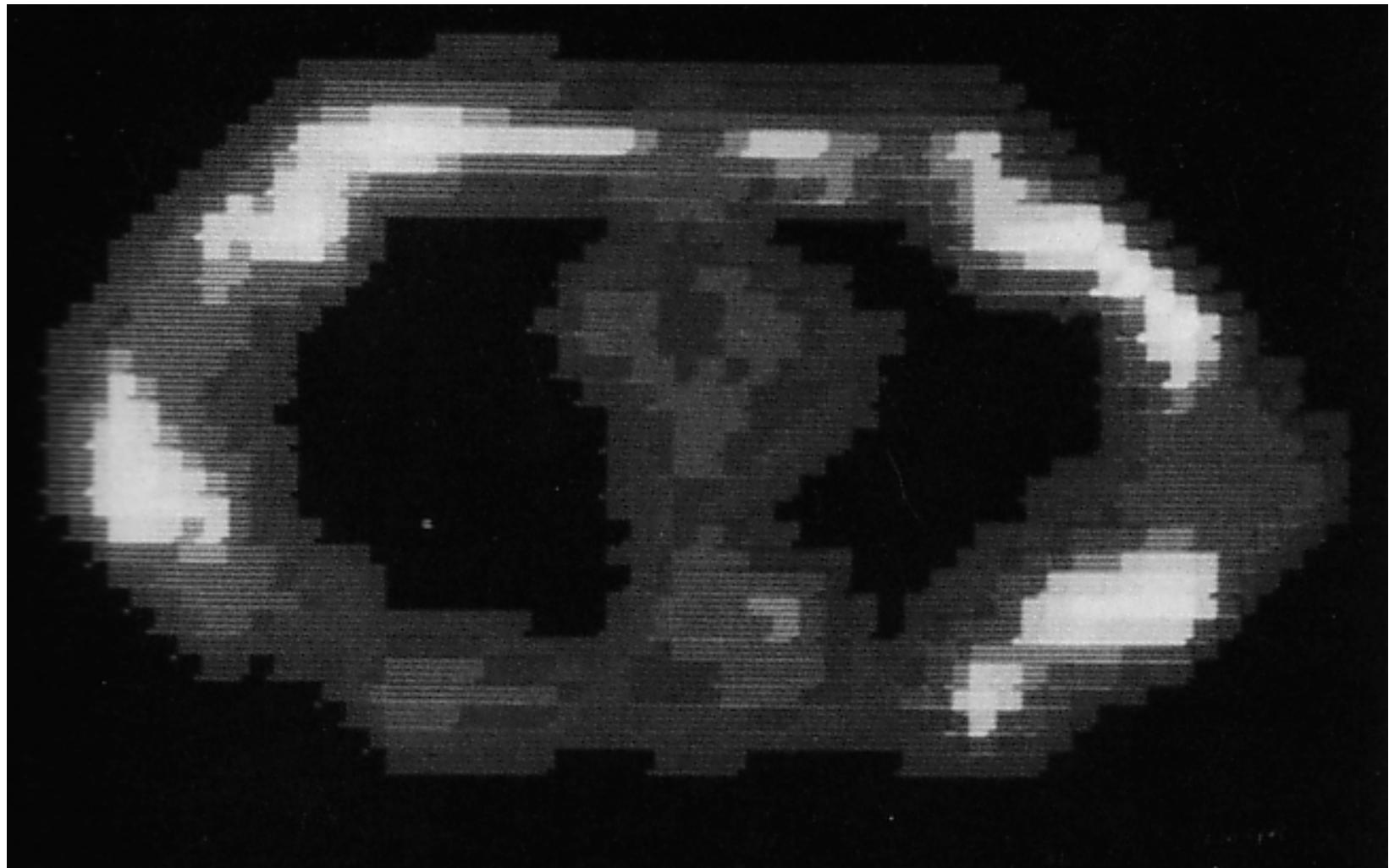


Human attempt 11:03 PM 7/1/77

X = 18, Y = 2, Z = 6 1/2

Beam ~~at~~ 3 1/4" from bottom surface of beam to magnet center surface

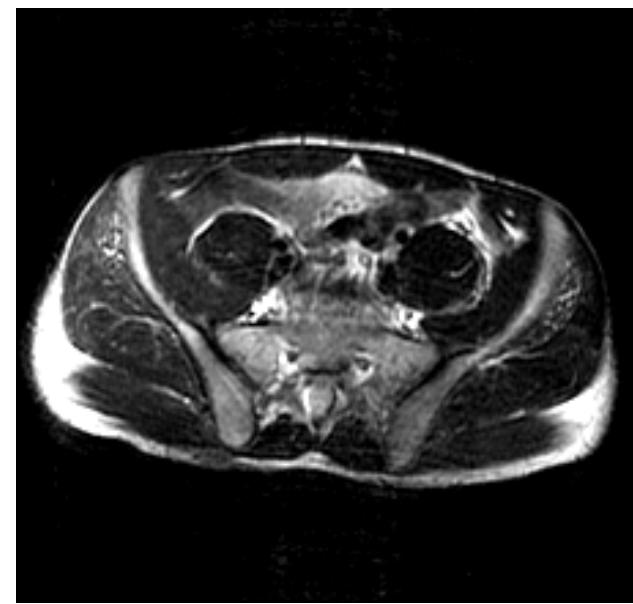
FANTASTIC SUCCESS!  
1:45AM First Human Image  
Complete in Amazing Detail  
Showing Heart  
Lungs  
Vertebrae  
Musculation



Mink5 Image – Damadian (1977)

# Magnetic Resonance Imaging

- Non-invasive medical imaging method, like ultrasound and X-ray.
- Clinically used in a wide variety of specialties.



Abdomen



Spine



Heart / Coronary



# Magnetic Resonance Imaging

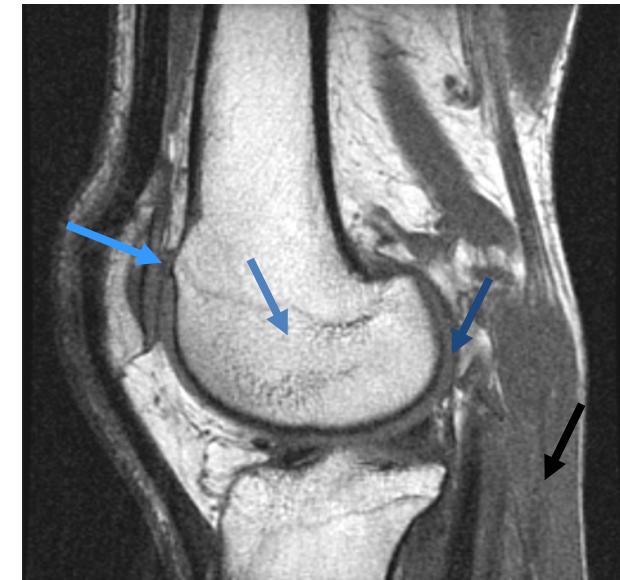
## Advantages:

- Excellent / flexible contrast
- Non-invasive
- No ionizing radiation
- Arbitrary scan plane



## Challenges:

- New contrast mechanisms
- Faster imaging



# MRI Systems

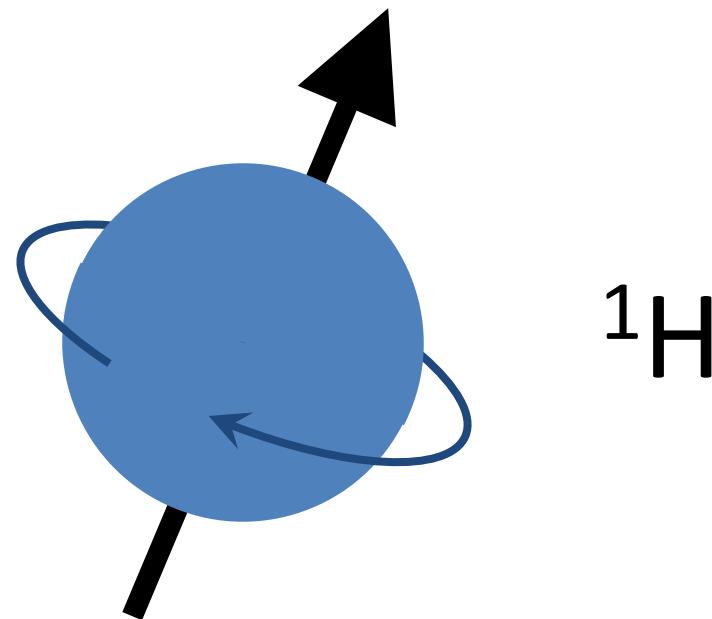


At \$2 million, the most expensive equipment in the hospital...



# Magnetic Resonance

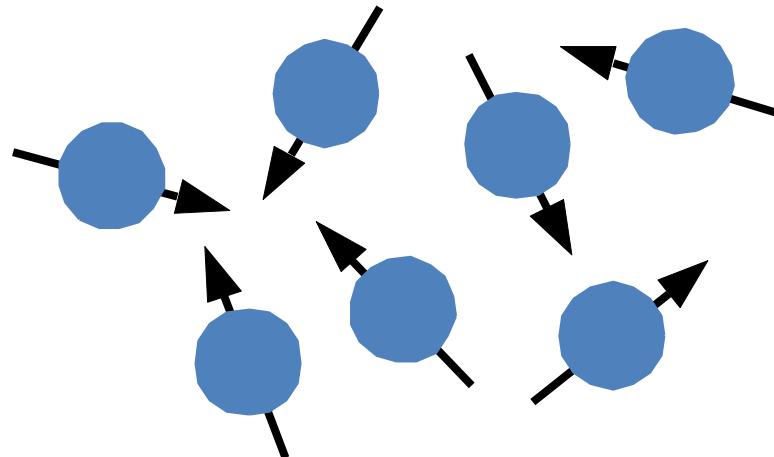
- Certain atomic nuclei including  $^1\text{H}$  exhibit nuclear magnetic resonance.
- Nuclear “spins” are like magnetic dipoles.



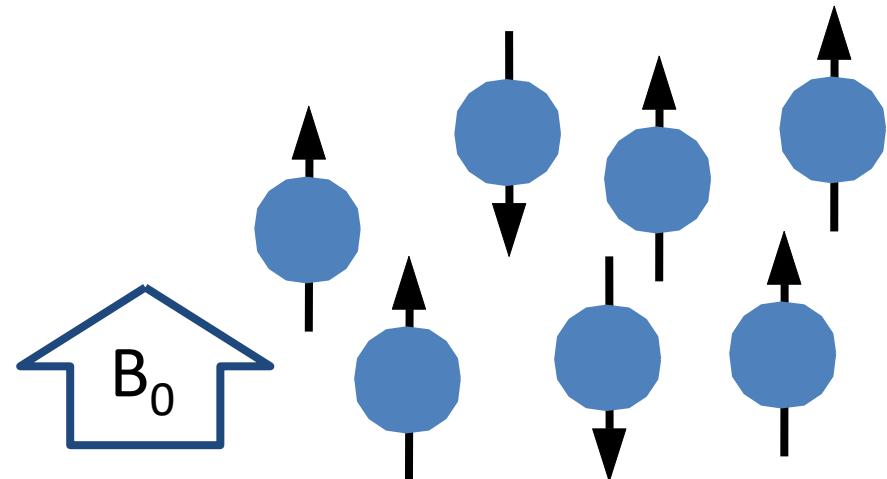
# Polarization

- Spins are normally oriented randomly.
- In an applied magnetic field, the spins align with the applied field in their equilibrium state.
- Excess along  $B_0$  results in net magnetization.

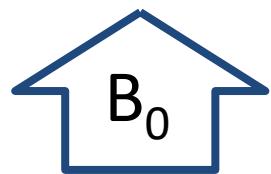
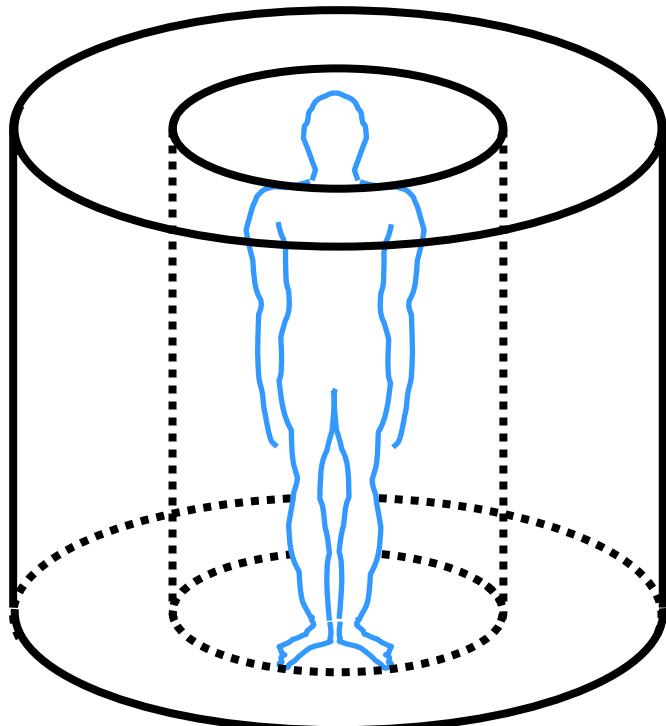
No Applied Field



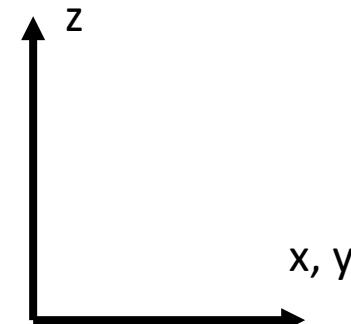
Applied Field



# Static Magnetic Field



Longitudinal

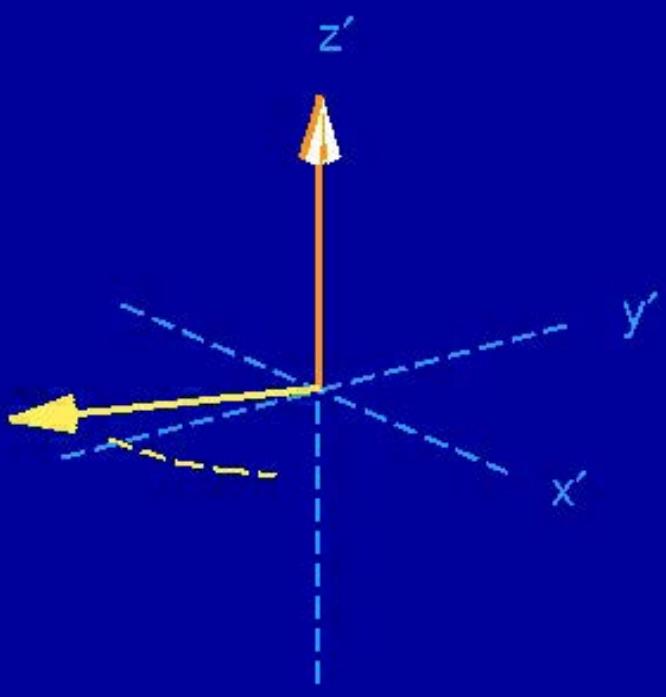


Transverse

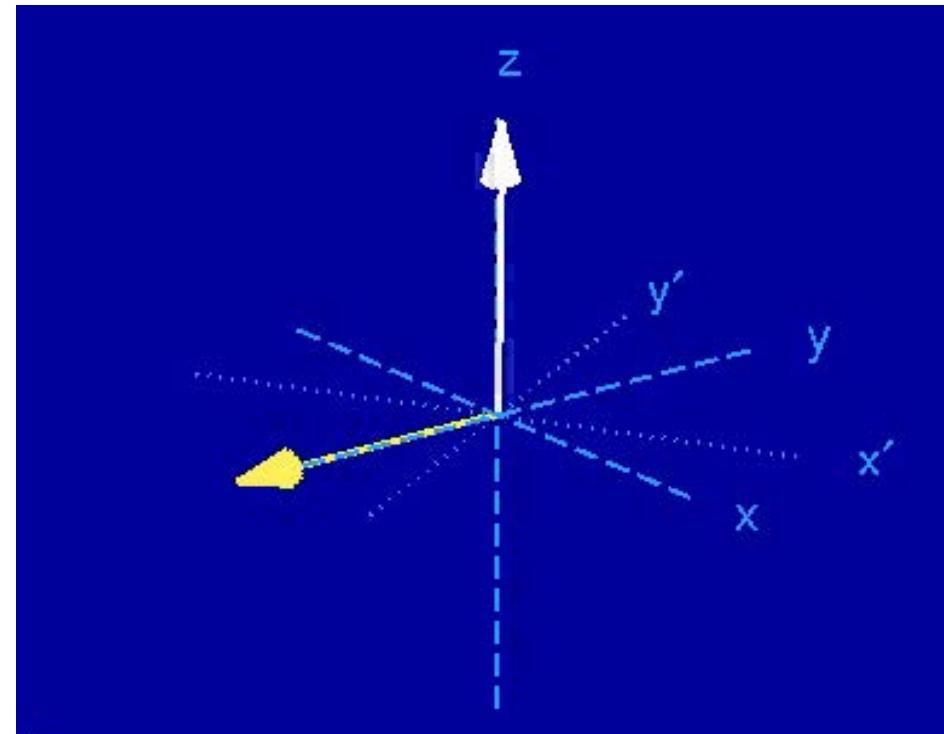
# Excitation

- “Excite” spins out of their equilibrium state.
- Transverse RF field ( $B_1$ ) rotates at  $\gamma B_0$  about z-axis.

—————  $B_1$



————— Magnetization

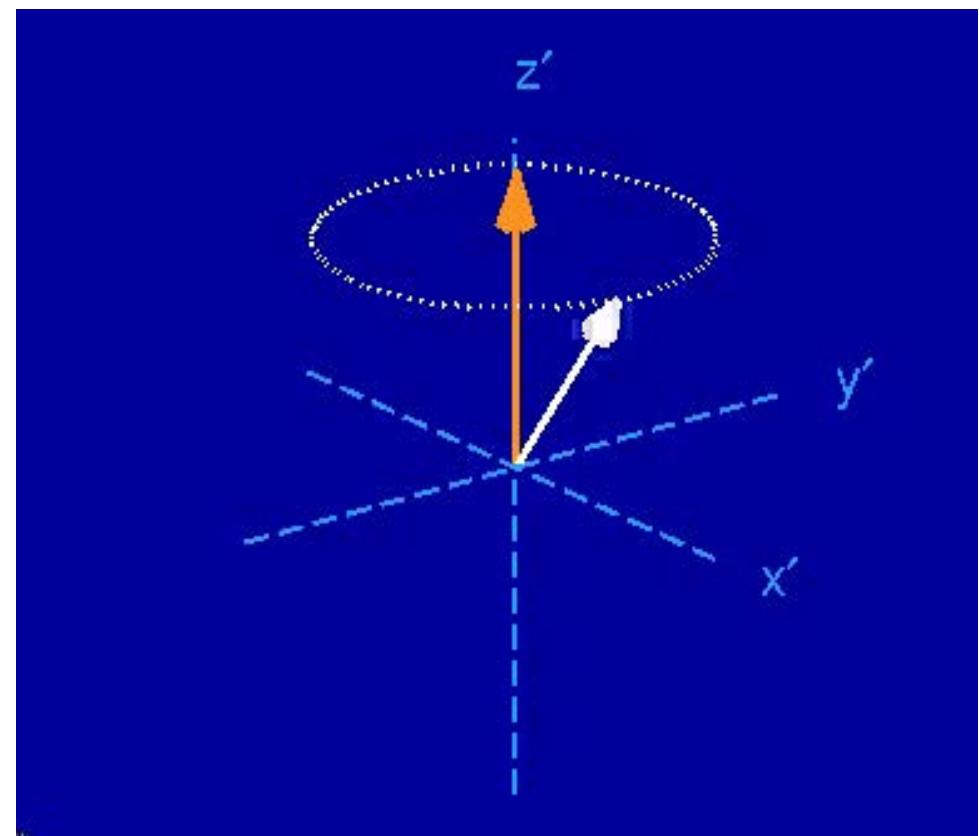


Rotating Frame

# Precession

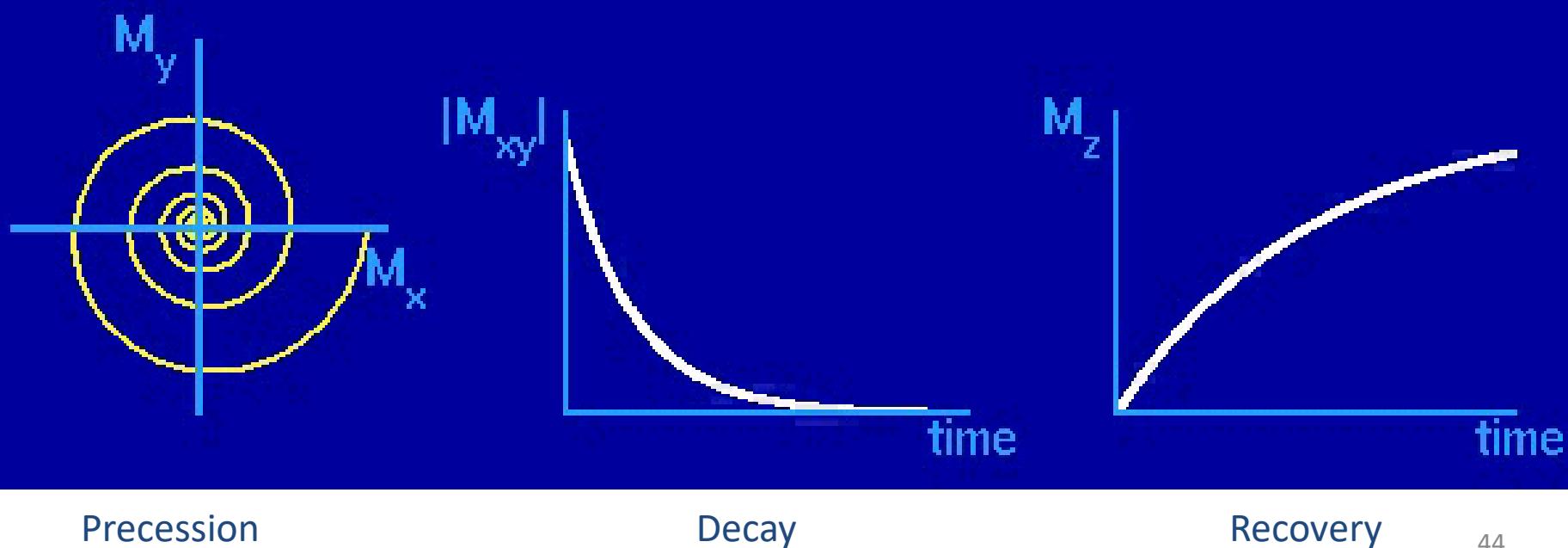
- Spins precess about applied magnetic field,  $B_0$ , that is along z axis.
- The frequency of this precession is proportional to the applied field:

$$\omega = \gamma B$$



# Relaxation

- Magnetization returns exponentially to equilibrium:
  - Longitudinal *recovery* time constant is  $T_1$
  - Transverse *decay* time constant is  $T_2$
- Relaxation and precession are independent.



# Contrast

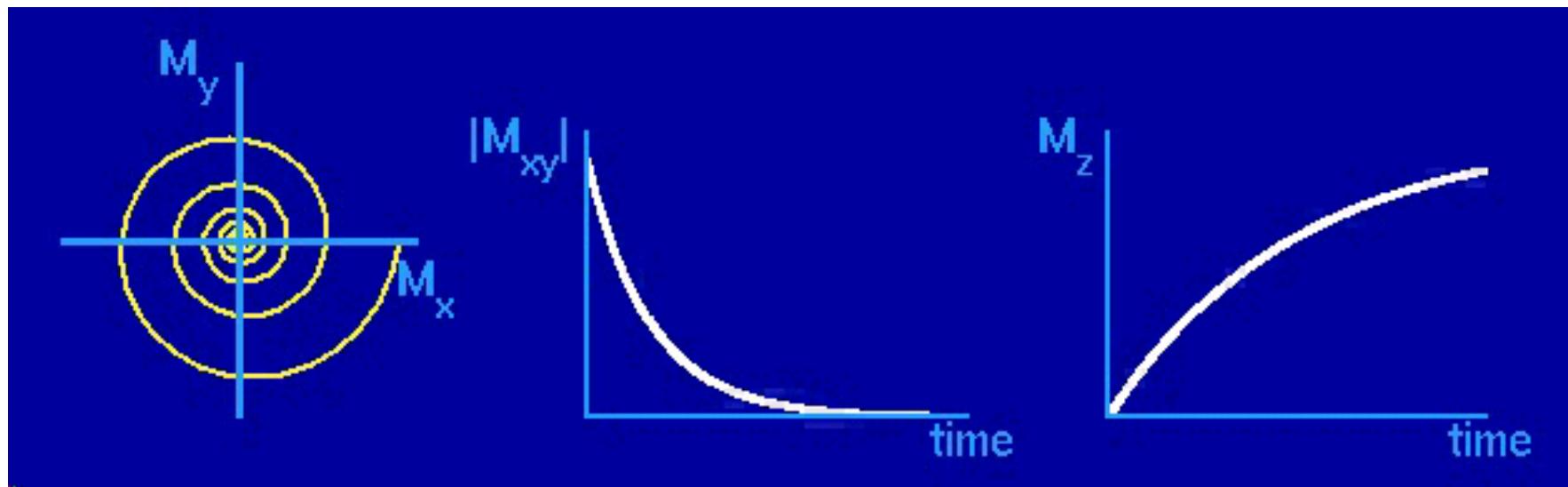
- Contrast is the difference in appearance of different tissues in an image.

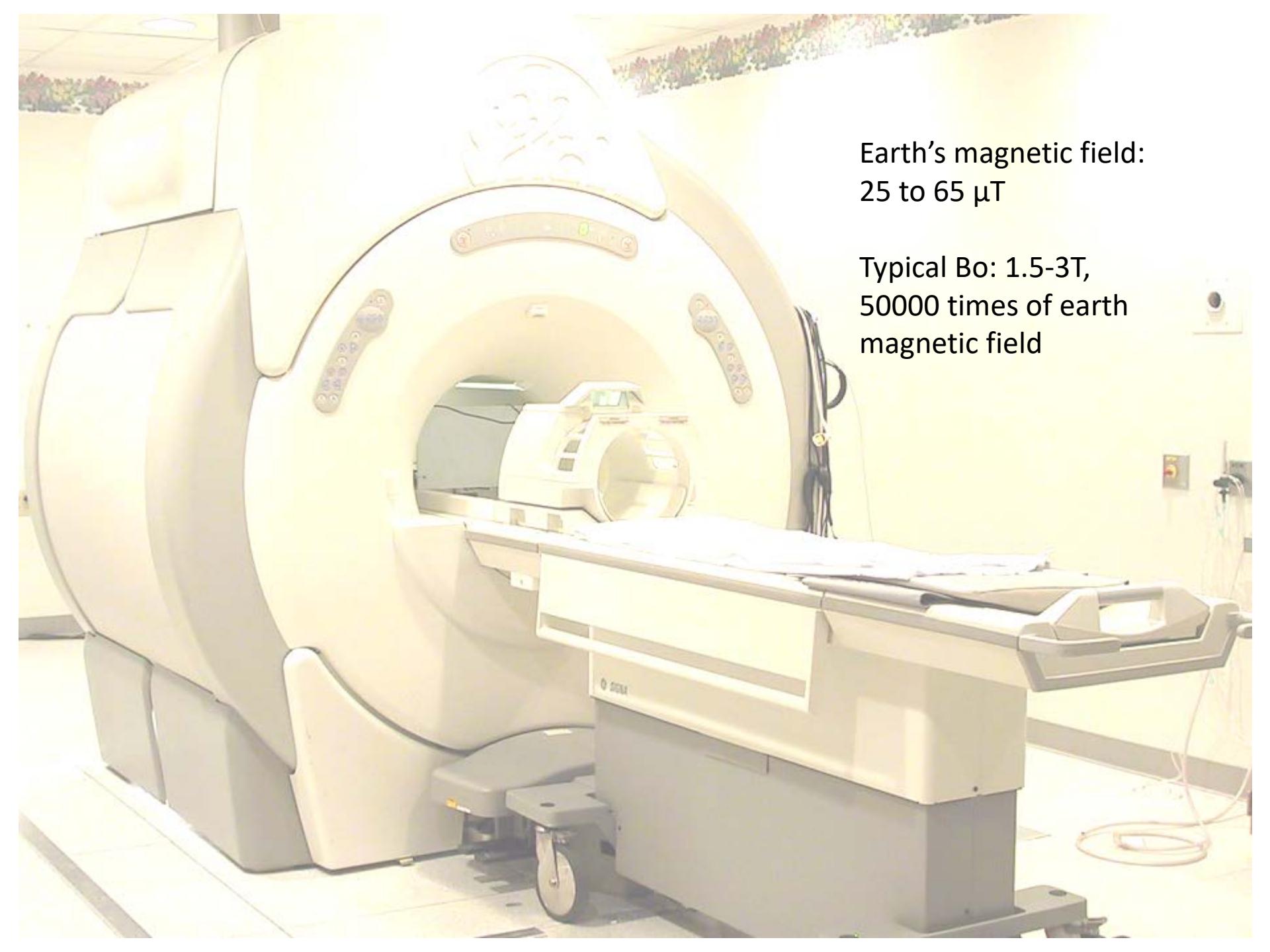


X-ray contrast is based on transmission.

# Contrast in MRI

- Hydrogen (water) density results in contrast between tissues.
- Many other mechanisms, some based on relaxation.

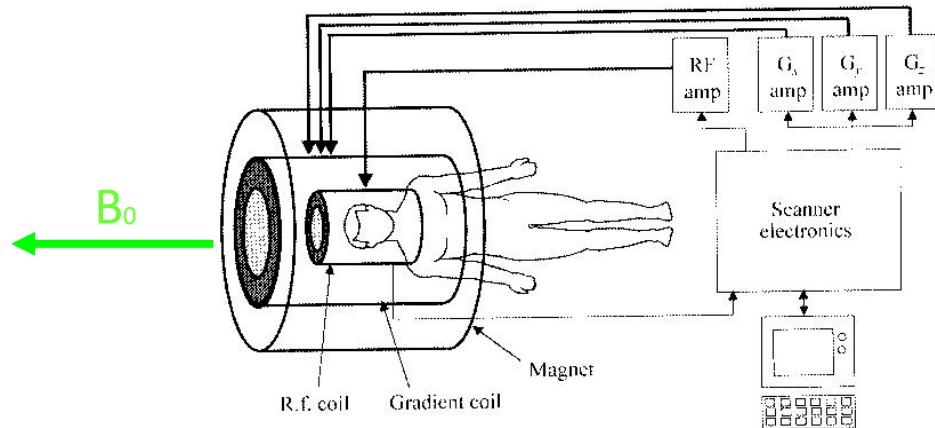
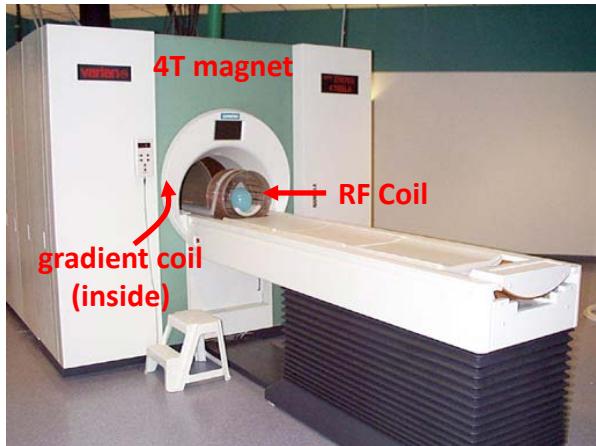


A photograph of a modern MRI scanner machine in a clinical setting. The machine is large and cylindrical, with a white and grey exterior. The circular opening of the scanner is visible, showing the internal components and a patient bed. The room has a light-colored wall with some medical equipment and cables visible.

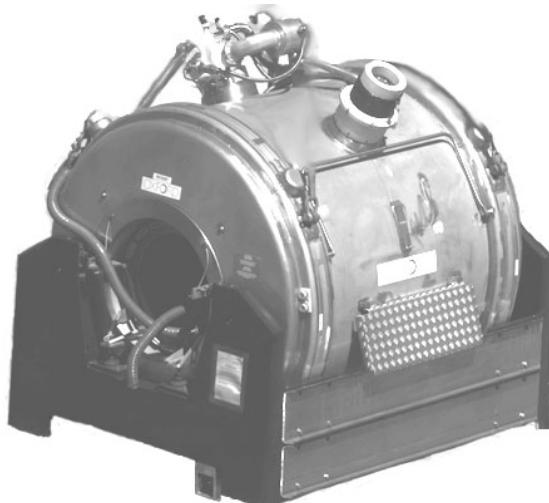
Earth's magnetic field:  
25 to 65  $\mu\text{T}$

Typical  $B_0$ : 1.5-3T,  
50000 times of earth  
magnetic field

# Equipment



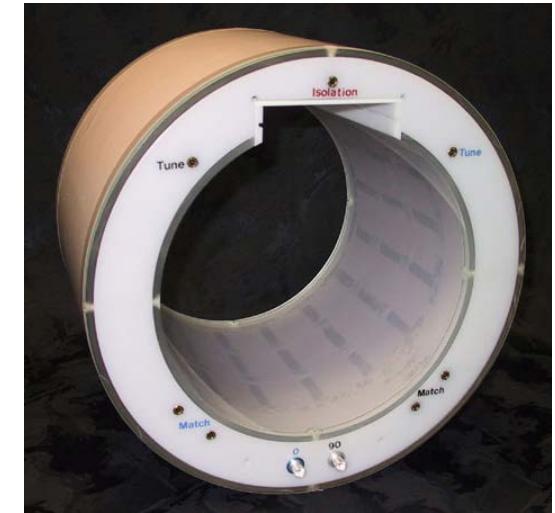
Magnet



Gradient Coil



RF Coil

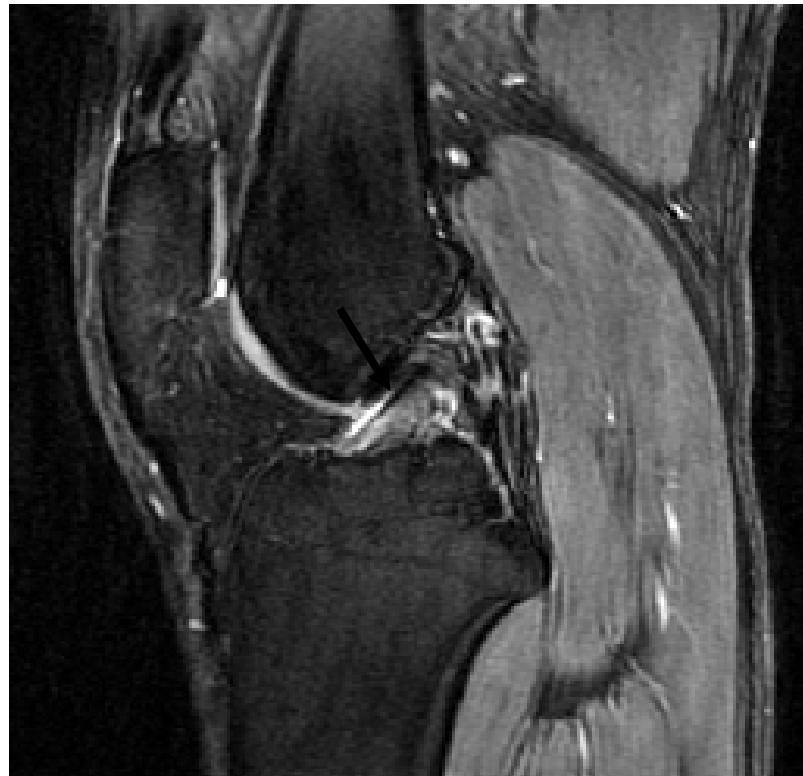


# Some Applications of MRI

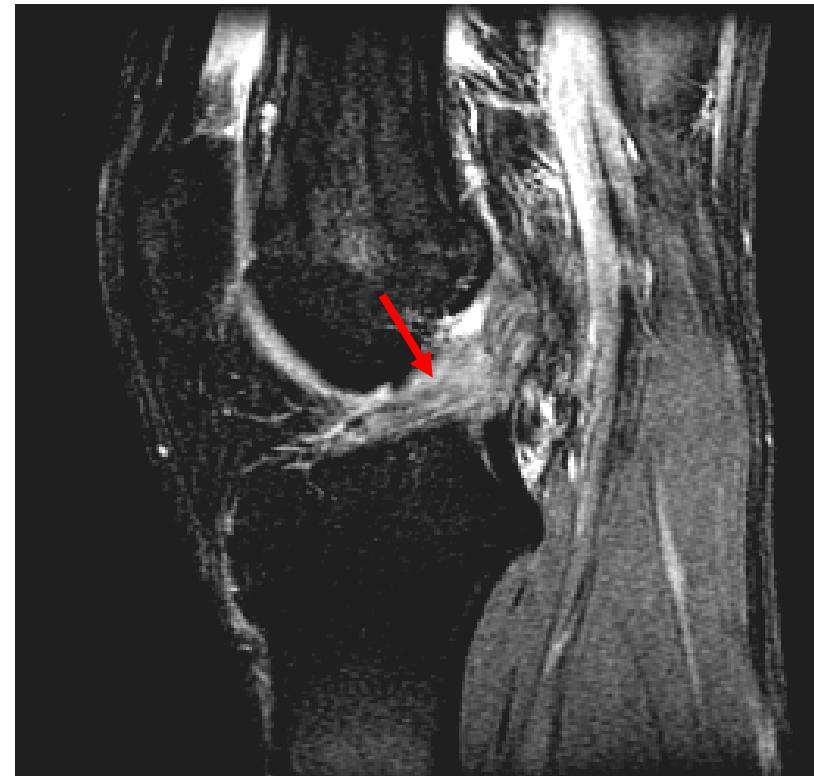
- Brain / Spine imaging
- Knee Imaging
- Cardiac Imaging

# Knee Imaging - Ligaments

- MRI is 97% accurate in diagnosing an ACL tear.



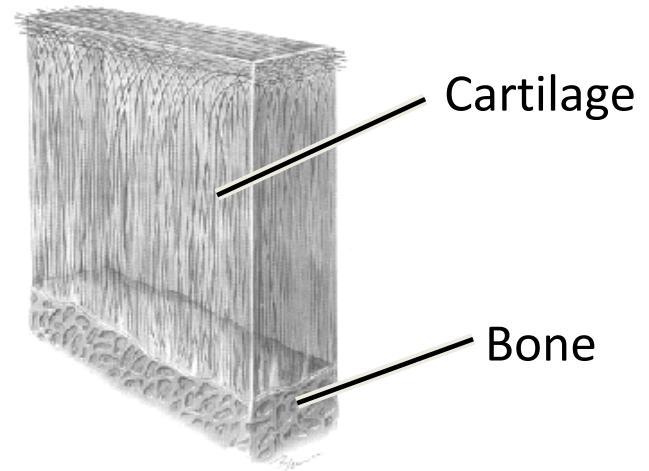
Healthy ACL



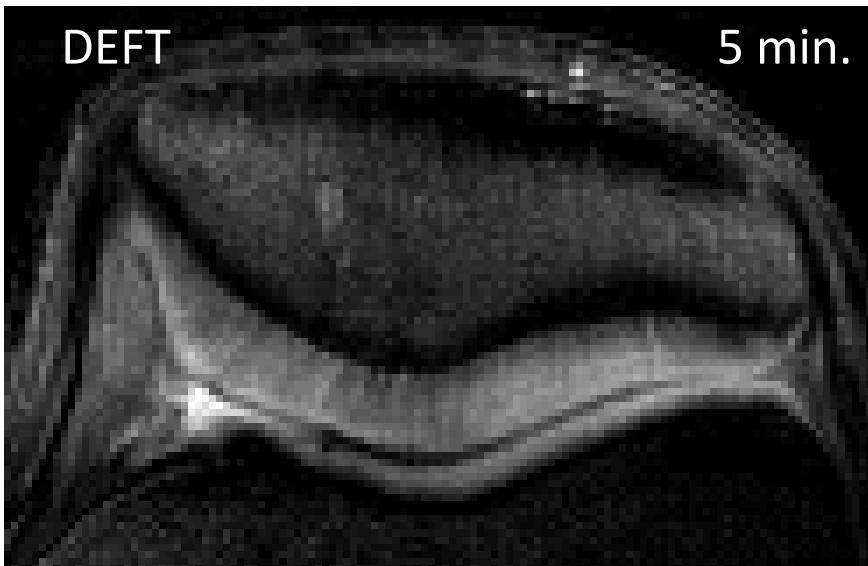
Full-Thickness ACL Tear

# Knee Imaging - Cartilage

- High resolution images begin to show cartilage structure:
  - $0.4 \times 0.4 \times 2 \text{ mm}^3$  resolution
  - 5 minute scan time



*(from Erickson – 1997)*



# Real-Time Interactive MRI

- Shows “live” images.
- Useful when there is motion, such as in the chest.
- Imaging is very fast, but SNR is lower.
- Interactive imaging allows us to move the scan plane in real-time.



# Summary

- $B_0$  polarizes atomic nuclei
- Spins precess and relax to align with  $B_0$ .
- $B_1$  allows manipulation of magnetization.
- Excitation sequences provide image contrast.

# What is fMRI?

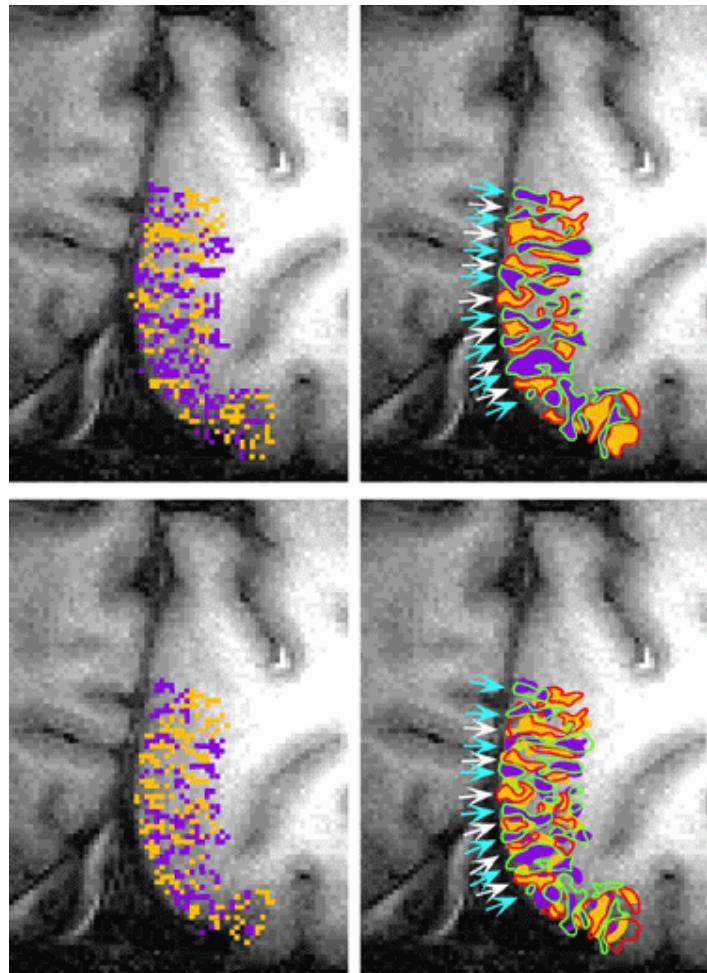
- A technique for measuring changes in brain activity over time using principles of magnetic resonance.
- Scanning procedures and restrictions are generally similar to clinical MR.
- Most fMRI studies use changes in BOLD contrast, although other measures exist.

# Why fMRI?

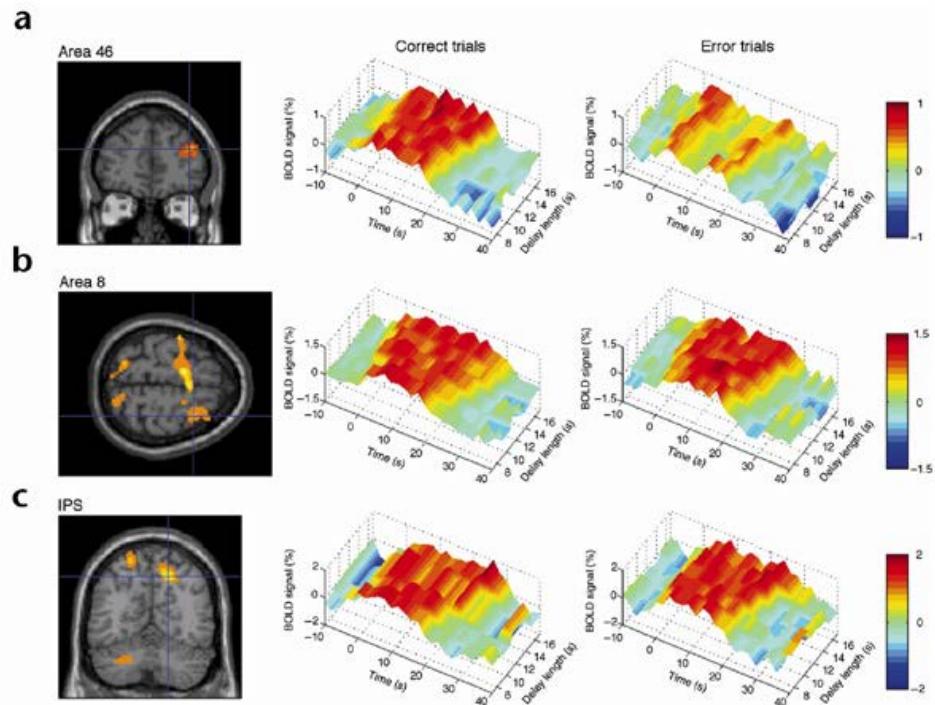
- Powerful
  - Improved ability to understand cognition
  - Better spatial resolution than PET
  - Allows new forms of analysis
- High benefit/risk ratio
  - Non-invasive (no contrast agents)
  - Repeated studies (multisession, longitudinal)
- Accessible
  - Uses clinically prevalent equipment
  - No isotopes required
  - Little special training for personnel

# New Cognitive Analyses

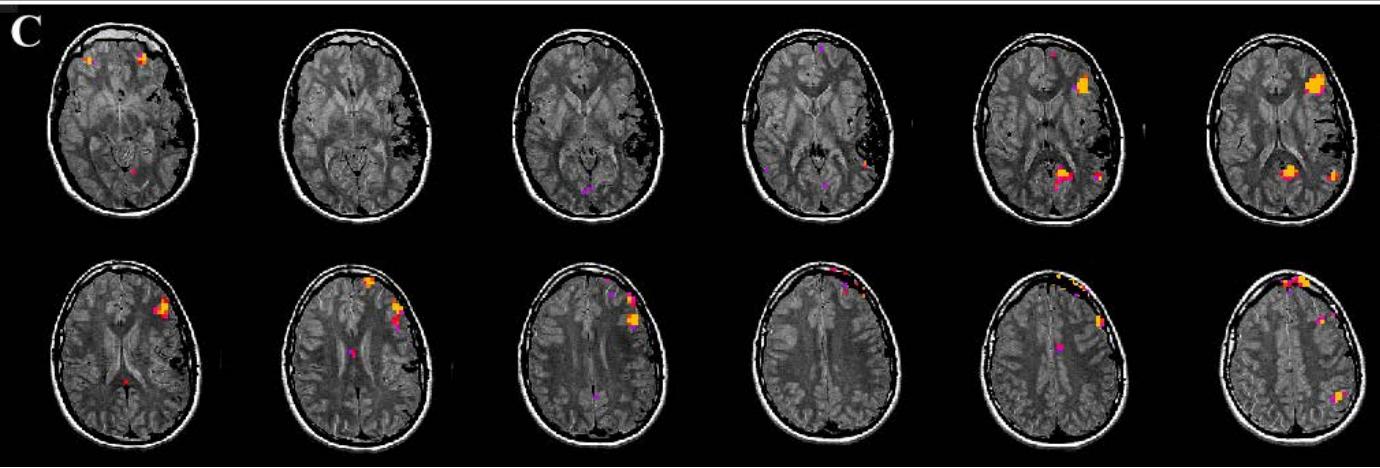
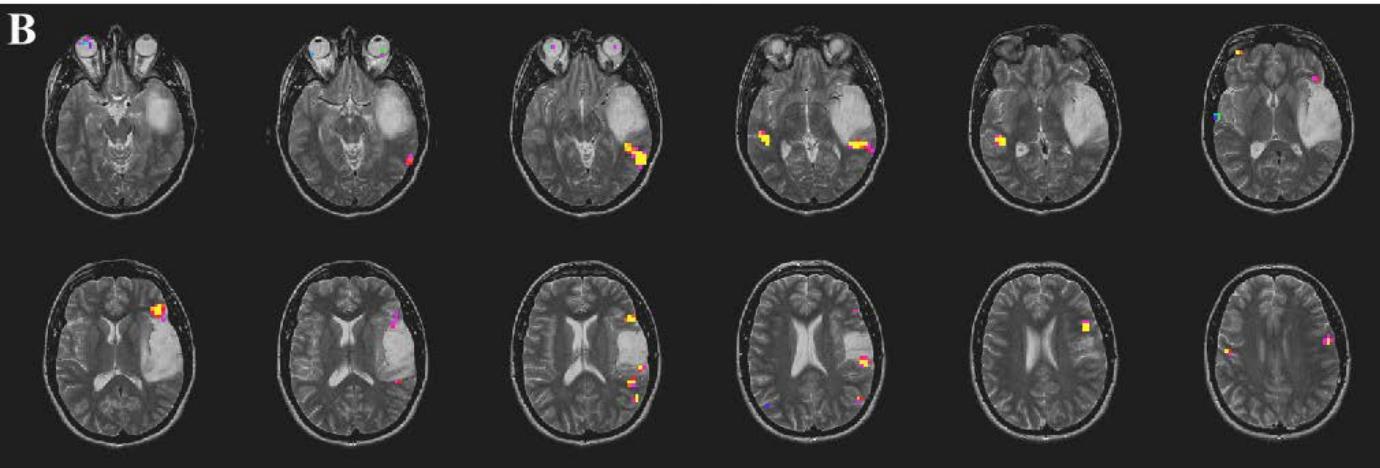
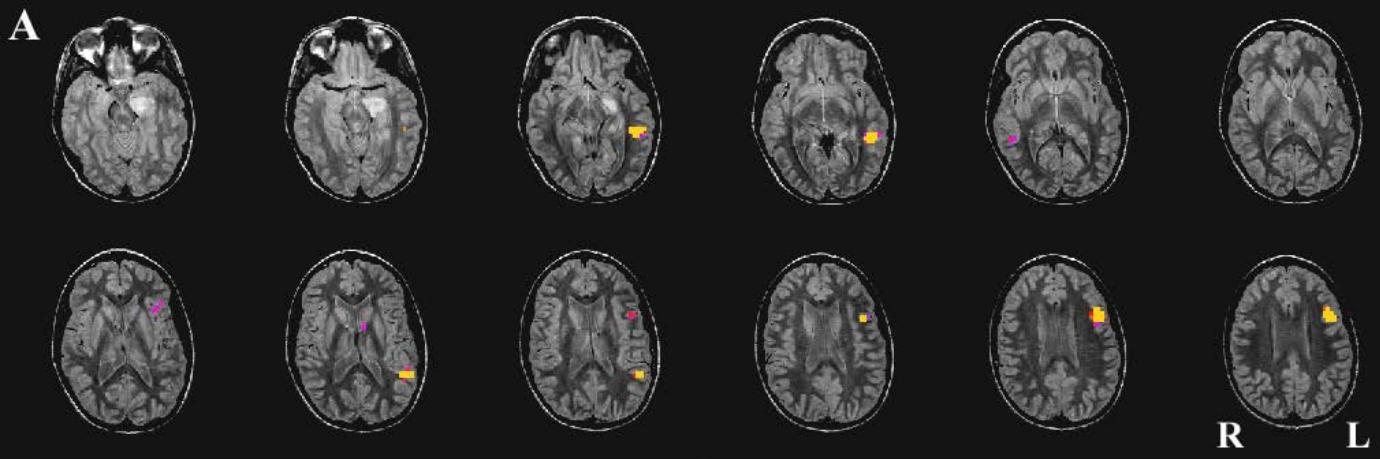
- Sampling rate affects experimental design
  - PET: >30s/data point ; fMRI: 1s/data point
  - Cognitive processes being measured must change more slowly than sampling rate
- New forms of analyses
  - Event-related: sorting trials by accuracy, response time, type of condition
  - Rapid stimulus presentation
- Allows creation of process models of activity
  - Difference in activation timing between regions is often on order of 100-1000ms



Cheng, Waggoner, & Tanaka (2001) *Neuron*



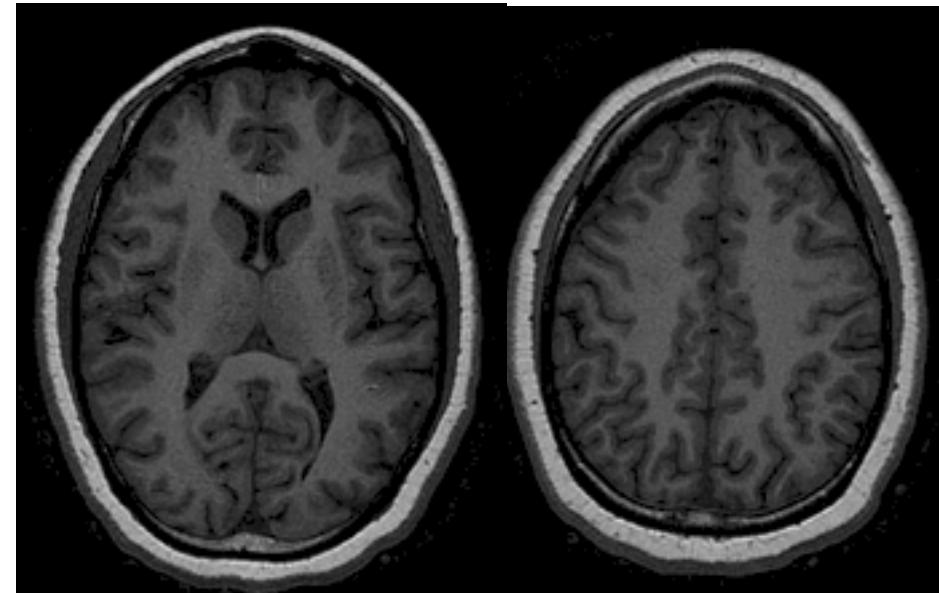
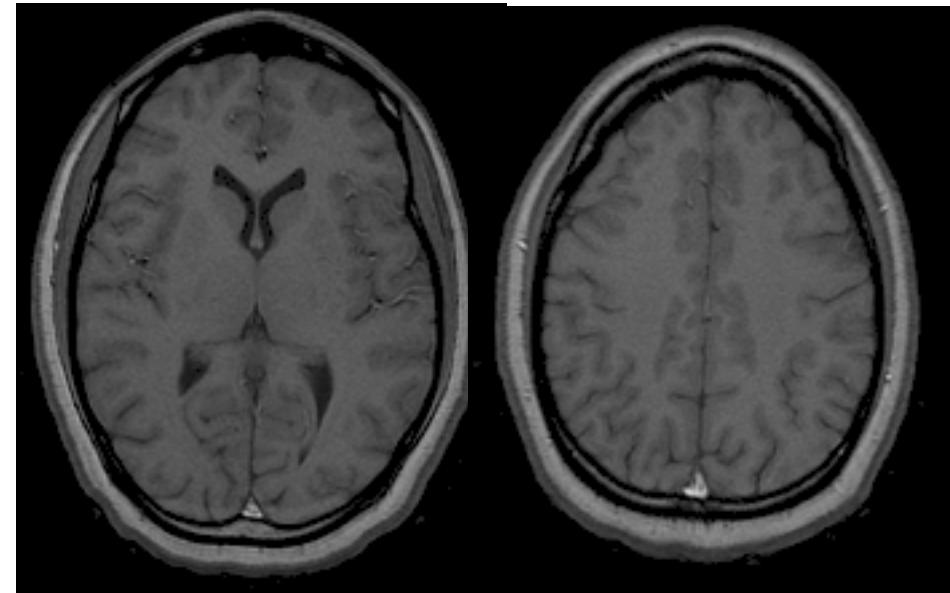
Sakai, Rowe, & Passingham (2002) *Nature Neuroscience*



# Key Concepts

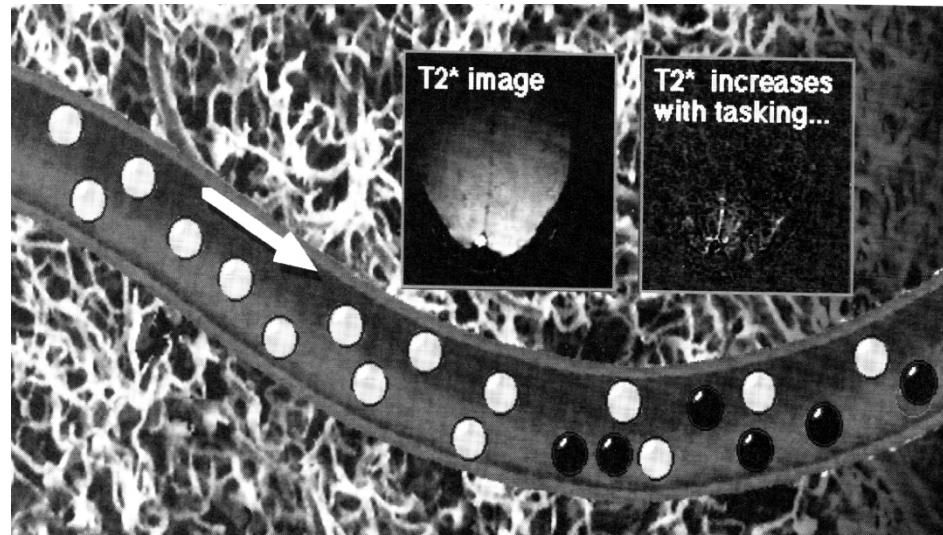
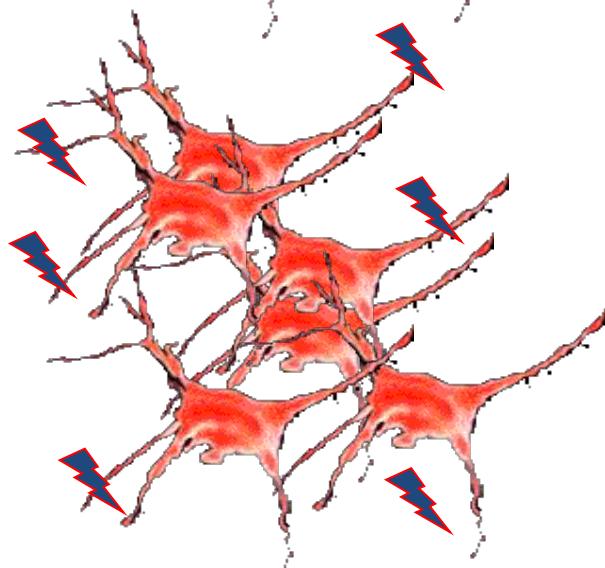
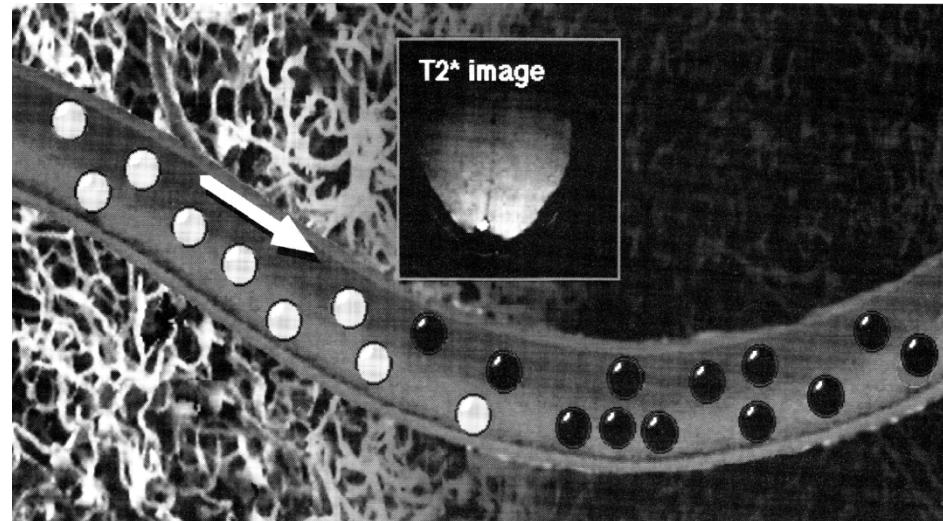
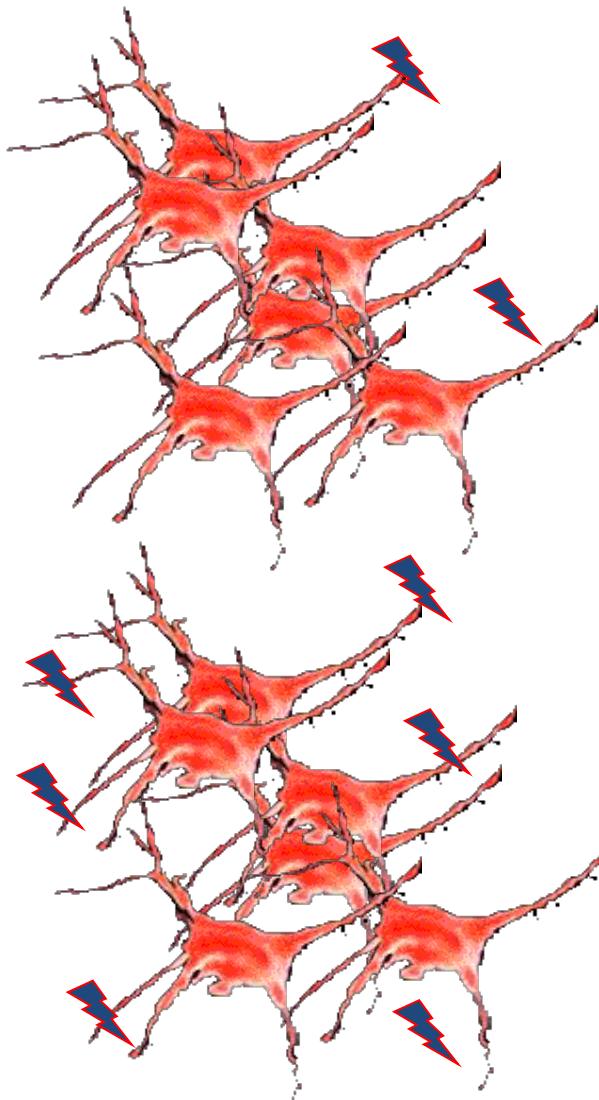
- Contrast
- Spatial Resolution
- Temporal Resolution
- Functional Resolution

# Anatomical Contrast



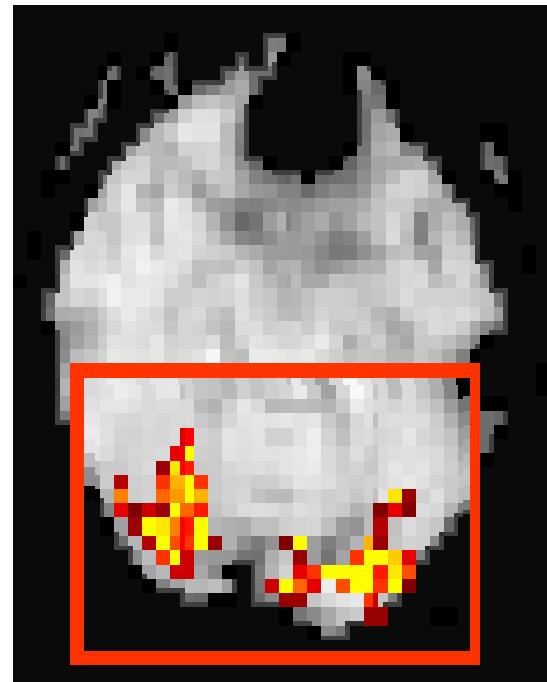
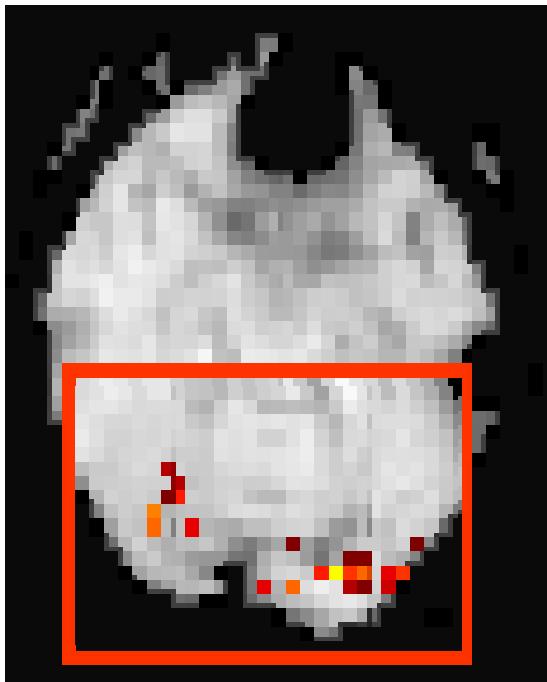
Definition: The ability to distinguish between two (or more) different properties of tissue.

# Blood Oxygenation Level Dependent (BOLD) Contrast



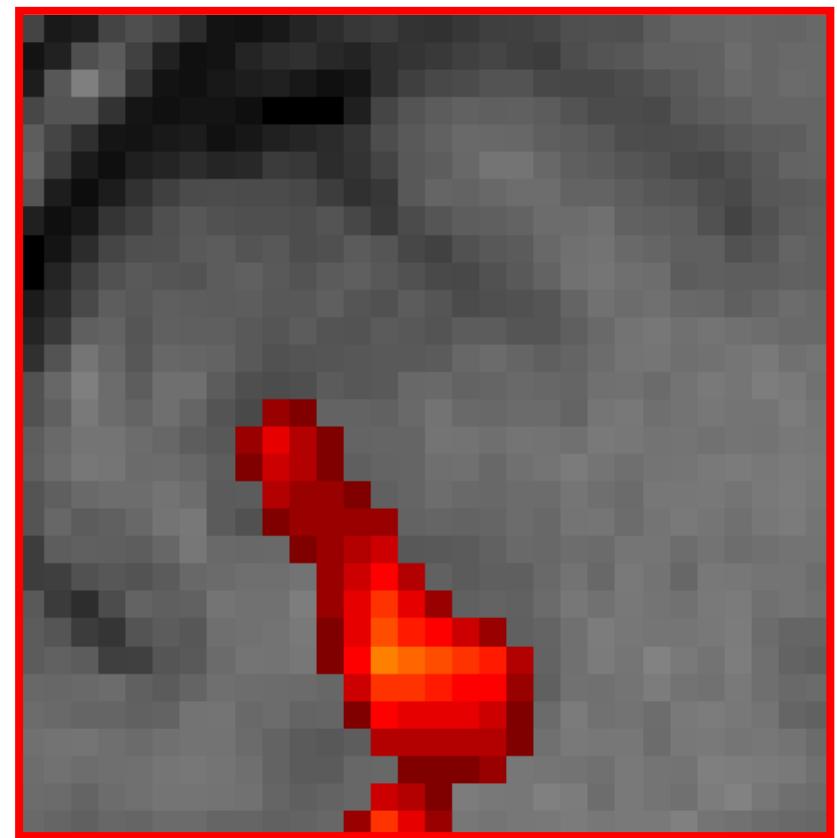
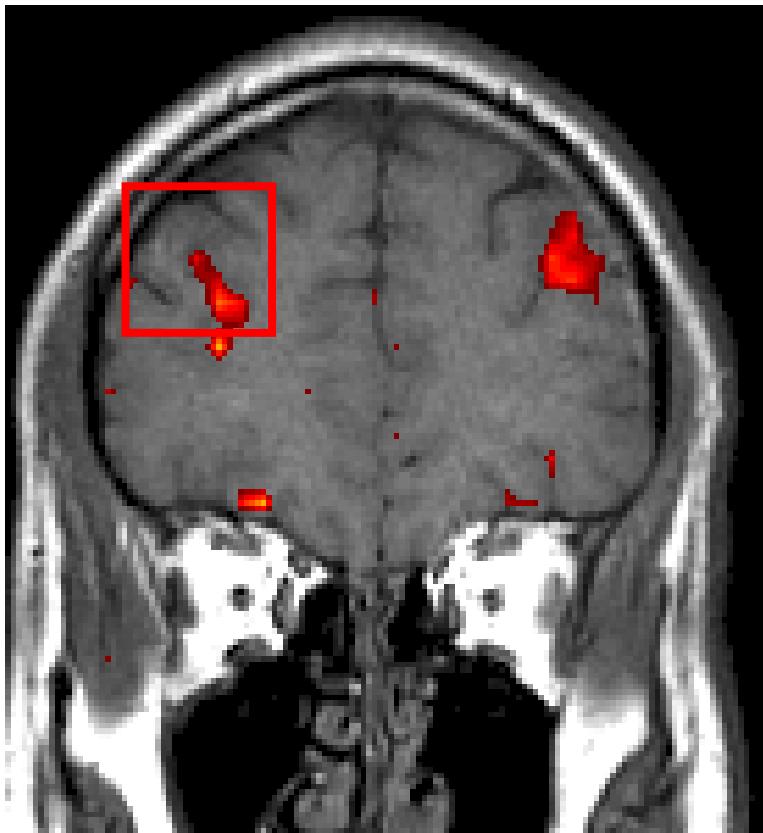
From Mosley & Glover (1995)

# Design Effects on Functional Contrast



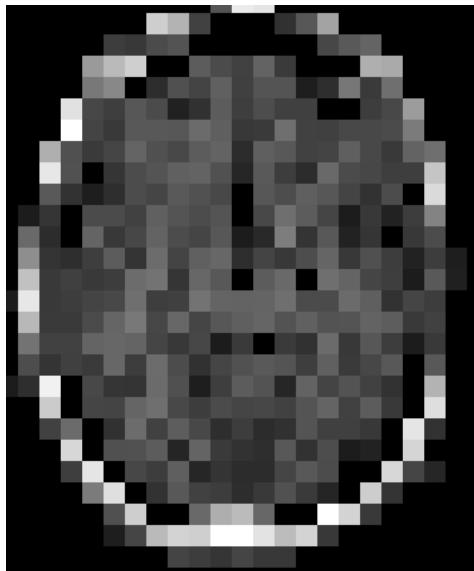
Contrast should really be considered as “contrast to noise”: how effectively can we decide whether a given brain region has property X or property Y?

# Spatial Resolution: Voxels

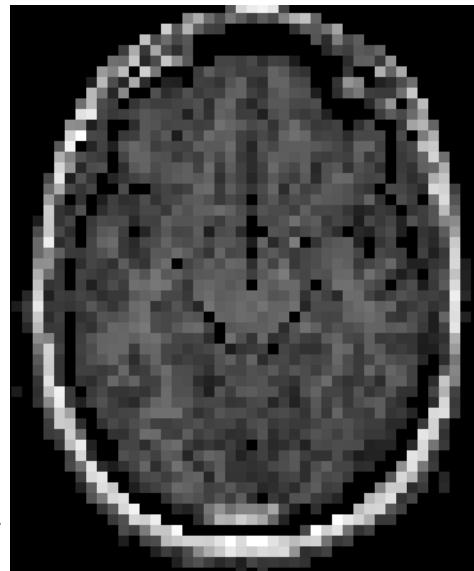


**Voxel:** A small rectangular prism that is the basic sampling unit of fMRI.  
Typical functional voxel:  $(4\text{mm})^3$ . Typical anatomical voxel:  $(1.5\text{mm})^3$ .

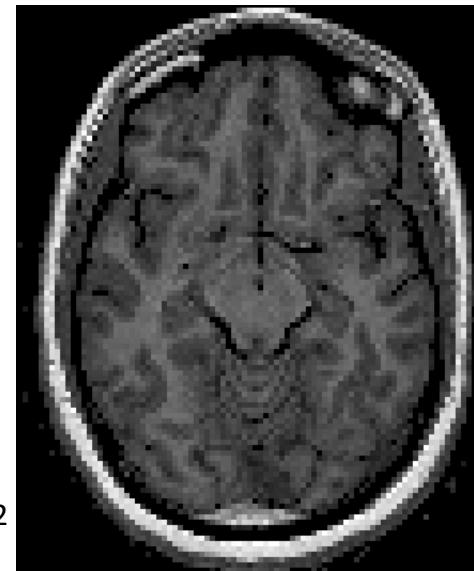
# Spatial Resolution: Examples



$\sim 8\text{mm}^2$



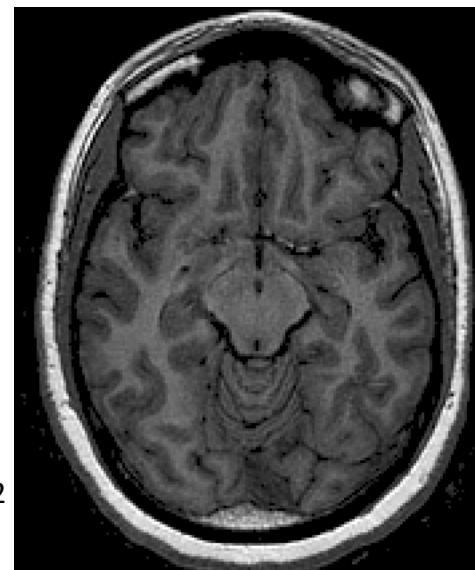
$\sim 4\text{mm}^2$



$\sim 2\text{mm}^2$



$\sim 1.5\text{mm}^2$



$\sim 1\text{mm}^2$

# Temporal Resolution

- Importance depends upon research question
  - Type I: Detection
    - Temporal resolution is only indirectly important if your study investigates whether or not a given brain region is active.
  - Type II: Estimation
    - Temporal resolution is extremely important when attempting to understand the properties of an active region.
- Determining factors
  - Sampling rate, usually repetition time (TR)
  - Dependent variable, usually BOLD response
    - BOLD response is sluggish, taking 2-3 seconds to rise above baseline and 4-6 seconds to peak
  - Experimental design

# MRI Safety

Issue: The appropriate risk level for a research participant is much lower than for a clinical patient.

# Hospital Nightmare

## Boy, 6, Killed in Freak MRI Accident

**July 31, 2001 — A 6-year-old boy died after undergoing an MRI exam at a New York-area hospital when the machine's powerful magnetic field jerked a metal oxygen tank across the room, crushing the child's head. ...**

# MR Incidents

- Pacemaker malfunctions leading to death
  - At least 5 as of 1998 (Schenck, JMRI, 2001)
  - E.g., in 2001 an elderly man died in Australia after being twice asked if he had a pacemaker
- Blinding due to movements of metal in the eye
  - At least two incidents (1985, 1990)
- Dislodgment of aneurysm clip (1992)
- Projectile injuries (most common incident type)
  - Injuries (e.g., cranial fractures) from oxygen canister (1991, 2001)
  - Scissors hit patient in head, causing wounds (1993)
- Gun pulled out of policeman's hand, hitting wall and firing
  - Rochester, NY (2000)

# Issues in MR Safety

- Magnetic Field Effects
- Known acute risks
  - Projectiles, rapid field changes, RF heating, claustrophobia, acoustic noise, etc.
- Potential risks
  - Current induction in tissue at high fields
  - Changes in the developing brain
- Epidemiological studies of chronic risks
  - Extended exposure to magnetic fields
- Difficulty in assessing subjective experience
  - In one study, 45% of subjects exposed to a 4T scanner reported unusual sensations (Erhard et al., 1995)

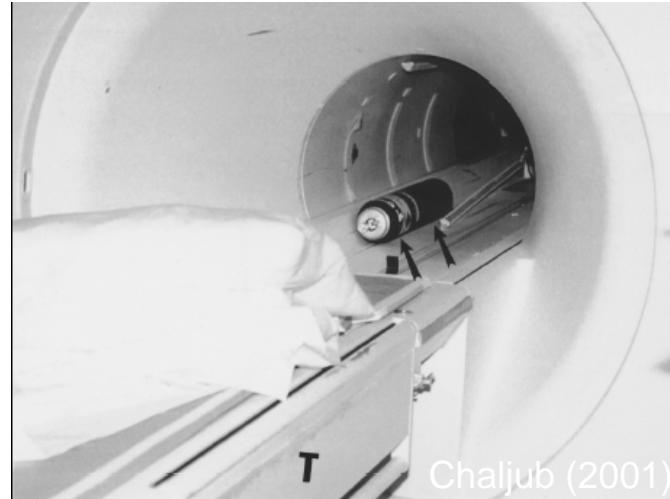
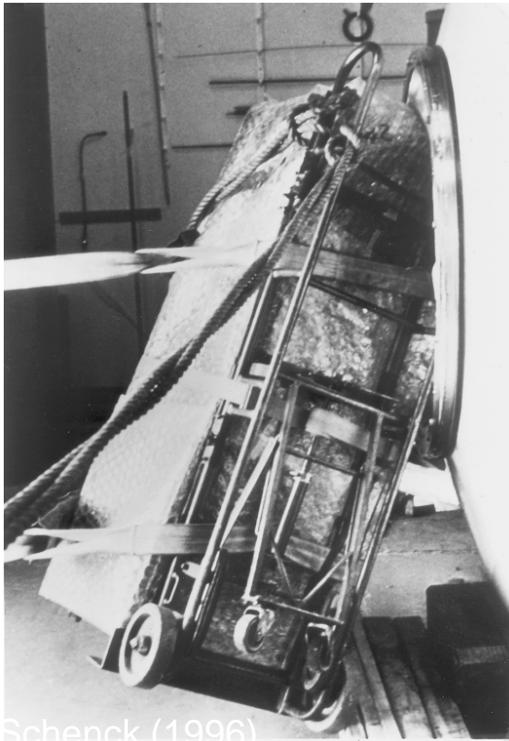
# Possible Effects of Magnetic Fields

- Physiological
  - Red blood cells (especially sickled) may alter shape in a magnetic field
  - Some photoreceptors may align with the field.
- Sensory (generally reported in high-field)
  - Nausea
  - Vertigo
  - Metallic taste
  - Magnetophosphenes

# Risks of MRI

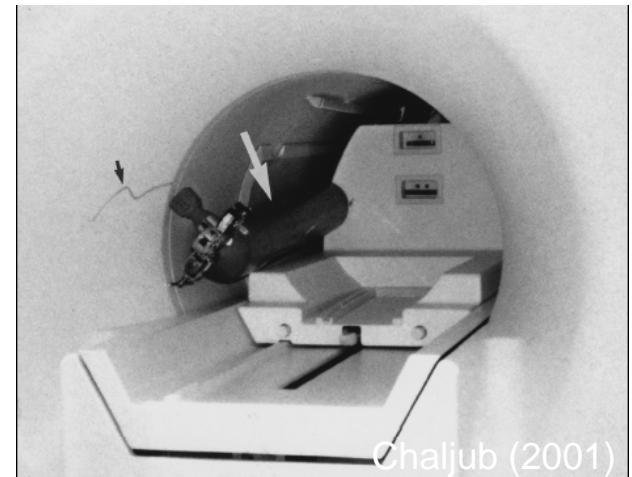
- Projectile Effects: External
- Projectile Effects: Internal
- Radiofrequency Energy
- Gradient field changes
- Acoustic Noise
- Quenching

# Projectile Effects: External



"Large ferromagnetic objects that were reported as having been drawn into the MR equipment include a defibrillator, a wheelchair, a respirator, ankle weights, an IV pole, a tool box, sand bags containing metal filings, a vacuum cleaner, and mop buckets."

-Chaljub et al., (2001) AJR



# Radiofrequency Energy

- Tissue Heating
  - Specific Absorption Rate (SAR; W/kg)
    - Pulse sequences are limited to cause less than a one-degree rise in core body temperature
    - Scanners can be operated at up to 4 W/kg (with large safety margin) for normal subjects, 1.5 W/kg for compromised patients (infants, fetuses, cardiac)
  - Weight of subject critical for SAR calculations
- Burns
  - Looped wires can act as RF antennas and focus energy in a small area
    - Most common problem: ECG leads
    - Necklaces, earrings, piercings, pulse oximeters, any other cabling

# Projectile/Torsion Effects: Internal

- Motion of implanted medical devices
  - Clips, shunts, valves, etc.
- Motion or rotation of debris, shrapnel, filings
  - Primary risk: Metal fragments in eyes
- Swelling/irritation of skin due to motion of iron oxides in tattoo and makeup pigments

# Acoustic Noise

- Potential problem with all scans
  - Short-term and long-term effects
- Sound level of BIAC scanners
  - 1.5T: 93-98 dB (EPI)
  - 4.0T: 94-98 dB (EPI)
- OSHA maximum exposure guidelines
  - 2-4 hours per day at BIAC levels
- Earplugs reduce these values by 14-29 dB, depending upon fit.

# Gradient Field Changes

- Peripheral nerve stimulation
  - May range from distracting to painful
  - Risk greatly increased by conductive loops
    - Arms clasped
    - Legs crossed
- Theoretical risk of cardiac stimulation
  - No evidence for effects at gradient strengths used in MRI

# Quenching

- Definition: Rapid decrease in magnetic field strength due to loss of superconductivity
  - Only initiated voluntarily due to danger to participant's life or health
- Effects
  - Magnets heat up with loss of current
  - Cryogenic fluids (Helium) boil off and fill the scanner room
    - Displaces breathable air from room
    - Cooling of room, condensation reduces visibility
  - Physical damage to the scanner may occur
  - Safety personnel must be cognizant of room conditions

# Ultrasonic Imaging

# ULTRASOUND PHYSICS

- What is sound/ultrasound?
- How is ultrasound produced
- Transducers - properties
- Effect of Frequency
- Image Formation
- Interaction of ultrasound with tissue
- Acoustic couplants
- Image appearance

# Sound?

- Sound is a mechanical, longitudinal wave that travels in a straight line
- Sound requires a medium through which to travel

# Ultrasound?

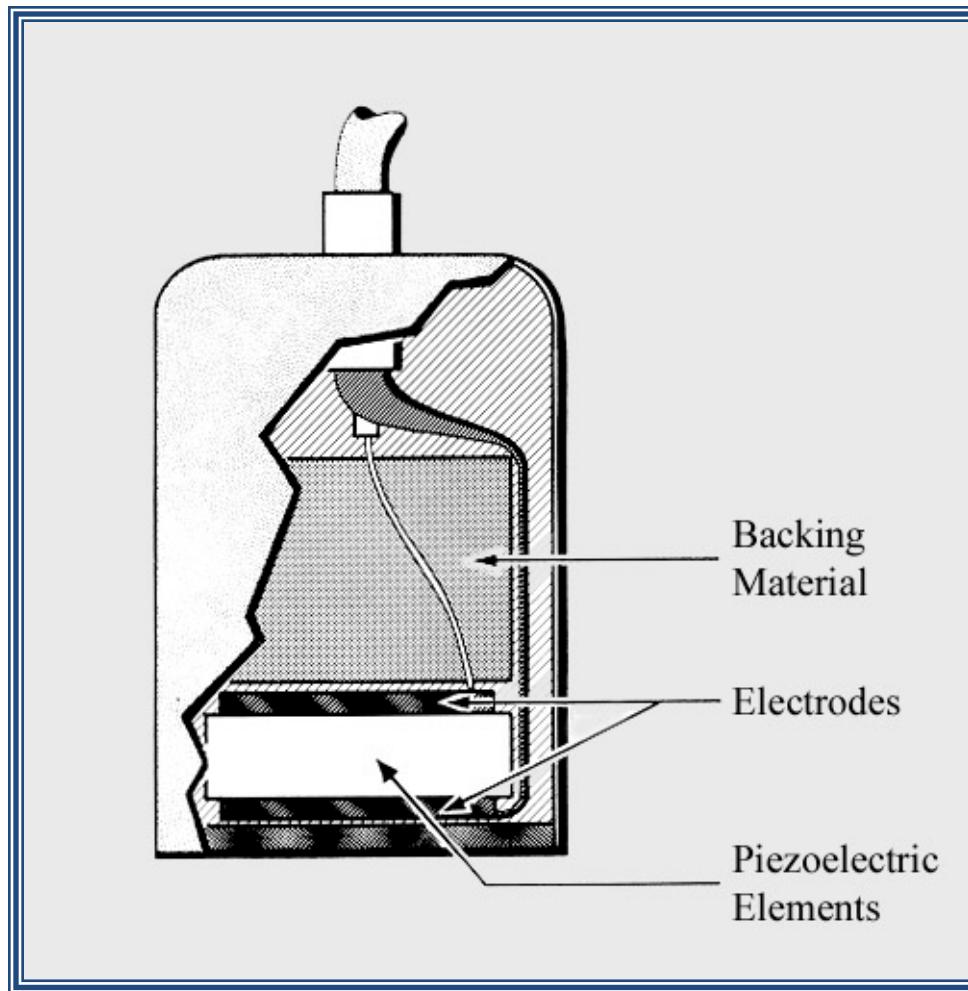
- Ultrasound is a mechanical, longitudinal wave with a frequency exceeding the upper limit of human hearing, which is 20,000 Hz or 20 kHz.
-

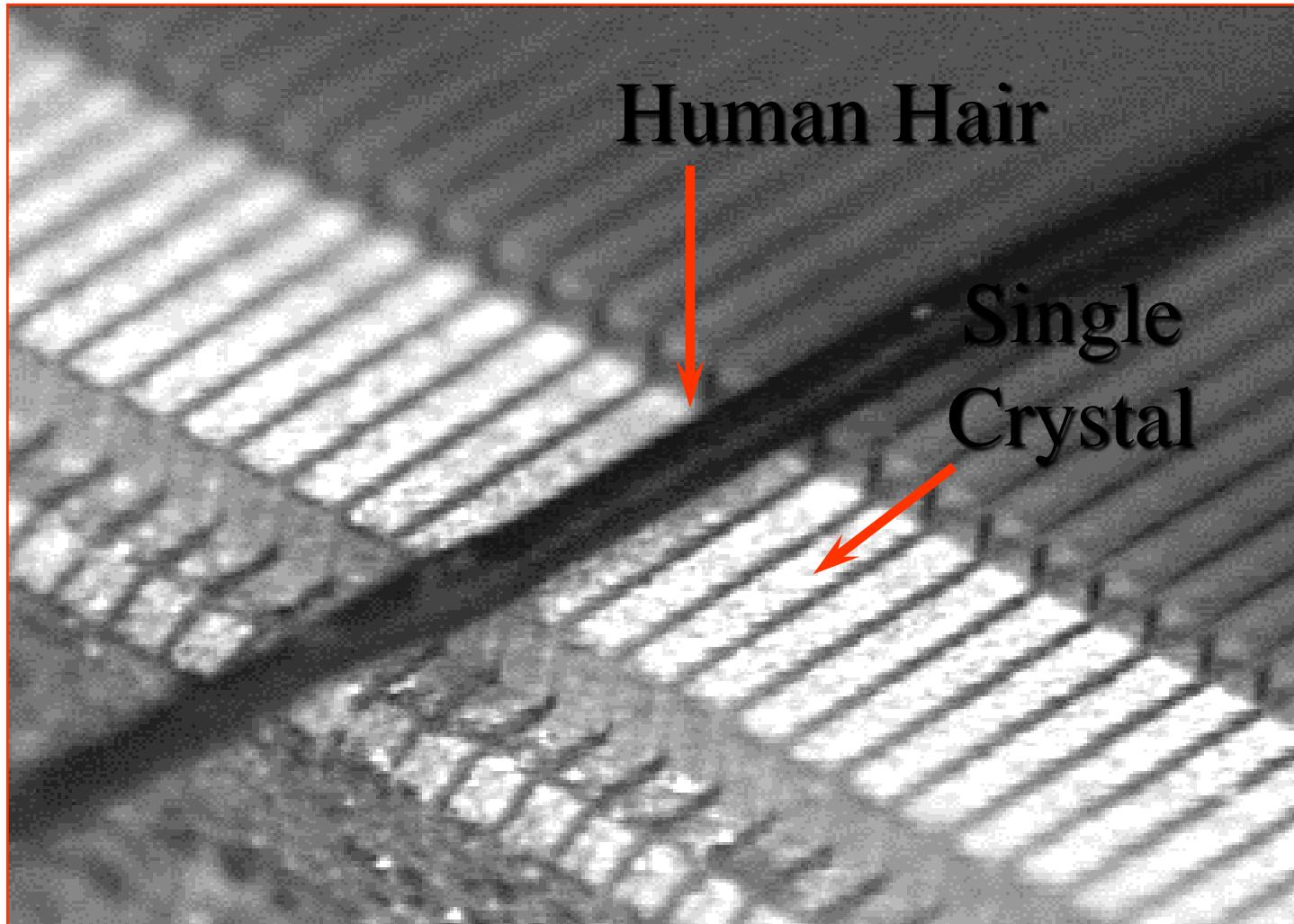
# ULTRASOUND - How is it produced?

Produced by passing an electrical current through a piezoelectrical crystal



# Transducer Construction

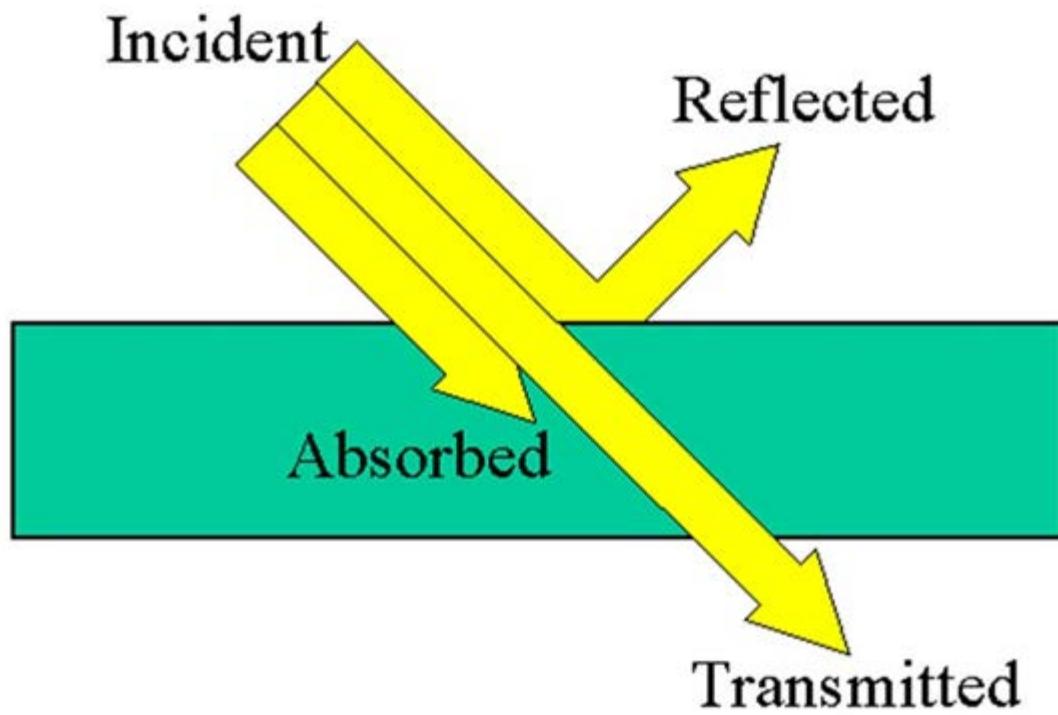




Microscopic view of scanhead

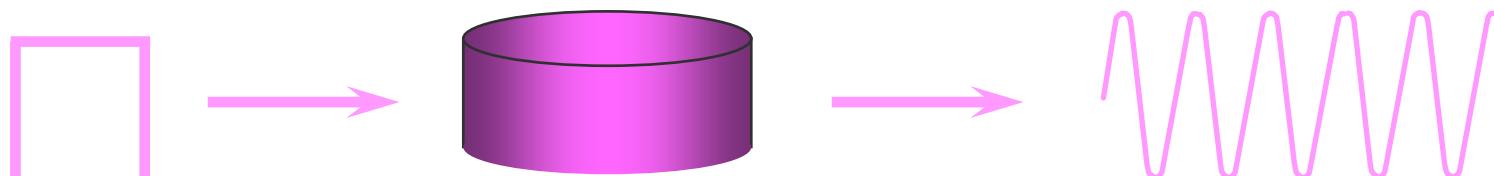
# Piezoelectric material

- AC applied to a piezoelectric crystal causes it to expand and contract - generating ultrasound, and vice versa
- Naturally occurring - quartz
- Synthetic - Lead zirconate titanate (PZT)



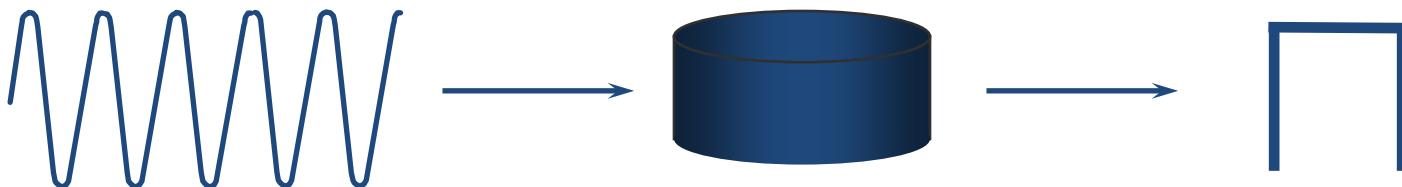
# Ultrasound Production

- Transducer contains piezoelectric elements/crystals which produce the ultrasound pulses (transmit 1% of the time)
- These elements convert electrical energy into a mechanical ultrasound wave



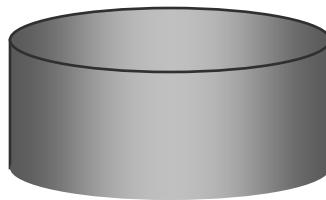
# The Returning Echo

- Reflected echoes return to the scanhead where the piezoelectric elements convert the ultrasound wave back into an electrical signal
- The electrical signal is then processed by the ultrasound system



# Piezoelectric Crystals

- The *thickness* of the crystal determines the frequency of the scanhead



Low Frequency  
3 MHz



High Frequency  
10 MHz

# Frequency vs. Resolution

- The frequency also affects the QUALITY of the ultrasound image
  - The **HIGHER** the frequency, the **BETTER** the resolution
  - The **LOWER** the frequency, the **LESS** the resolution

# Frequency vs. Resolution

- A 12 MHz transducer has very good resolution, but cannot penetrate very deep into the body
- A 3 MHz transducer can penetrate deep into the body, but the resolution is not as good as the 12 MHz

# Transducer Design

Size, design and frequency depend upon the examination



# Image Formation

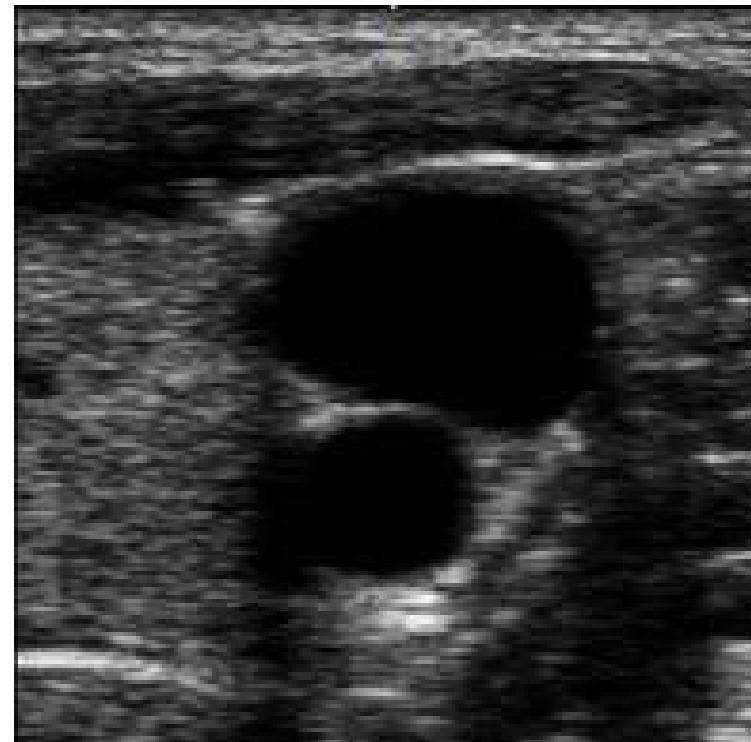
Electrical signal produces 'dots' on the screen

- Brightness of the dots is proportional to the strength of the returning echoes
- Location of the dots is determined by travel time. The velocity in tissue is assumed constant at 1540m/sec

$$\text{Distance} = \frac{\text{Velocity}}{\text{Time}}$$

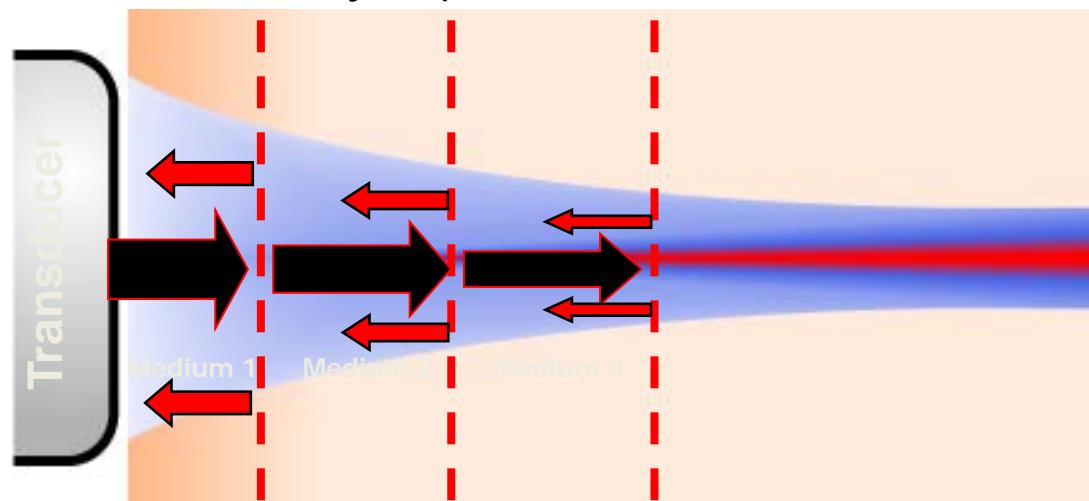
# Image Formation

**'B' mode**



# Interactions of Ultrasound with Tissue

- Acoustic impedance (AI) is dependent on the density of the material in which sound is propagated
  - *the greater the impedance the denser the material.*
- Reflections comes from the interface of different AI's
  - greater  $\Delta$  of the AI = more signal reflected
  - works both ways (send and receive directions)



# Interaction of Ultrasound with Tissue

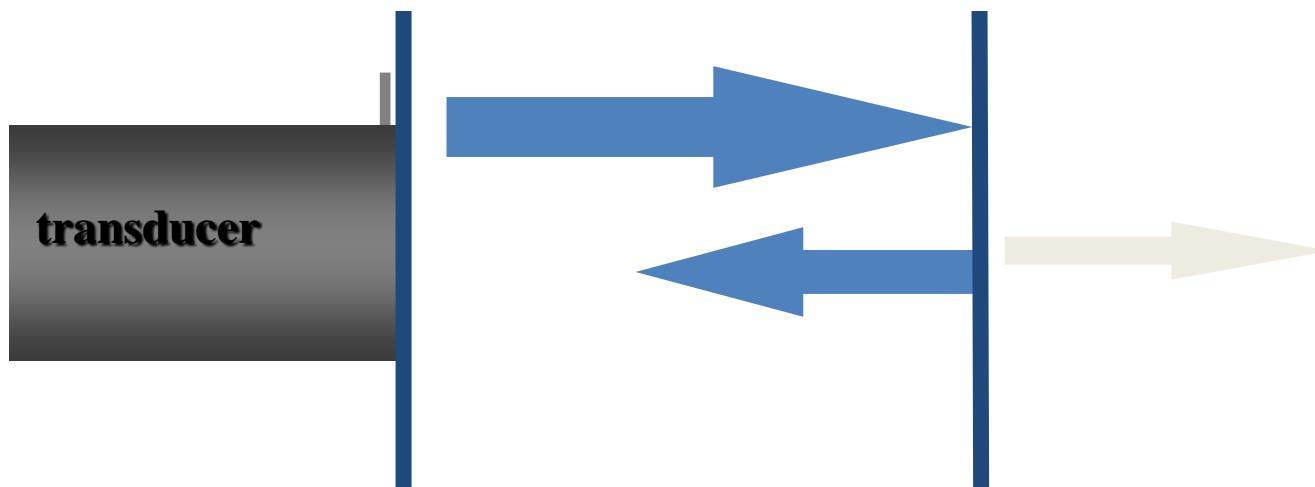
- Greater the AI, greater the returned signal
  - largest difference is solid-gas interface
  - we don't like gas or air
  - we don't like bone for the same reason  
GEL!!
- Sound is attenuated as it goes deeper into the body

# Interactions of Ultrasound with Tissue

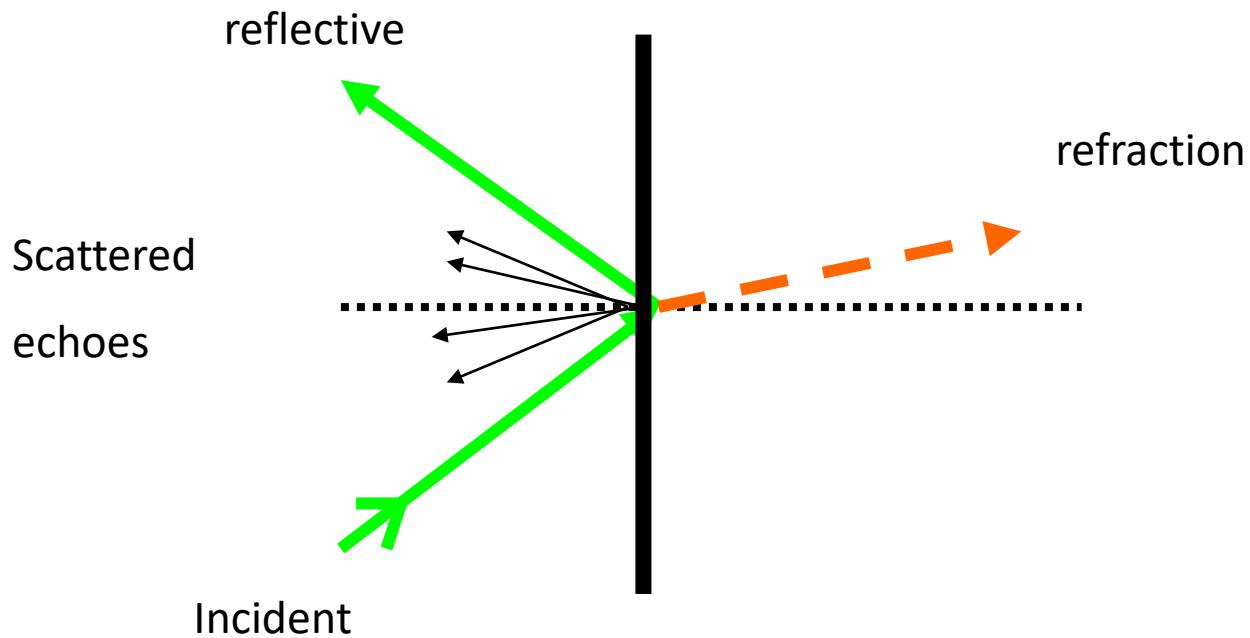
- Reflection
- Refraction
- Transmission
- Attenuation

# Interactions of Ultrasound with Tissue

- **Reflection**
  - The ultrasound reflects off tissue and returns to the transducer, the amount of reflection depends on differences in acoustic impedance
  - The ultrasound image is formed from reflected echoes



# Refraction

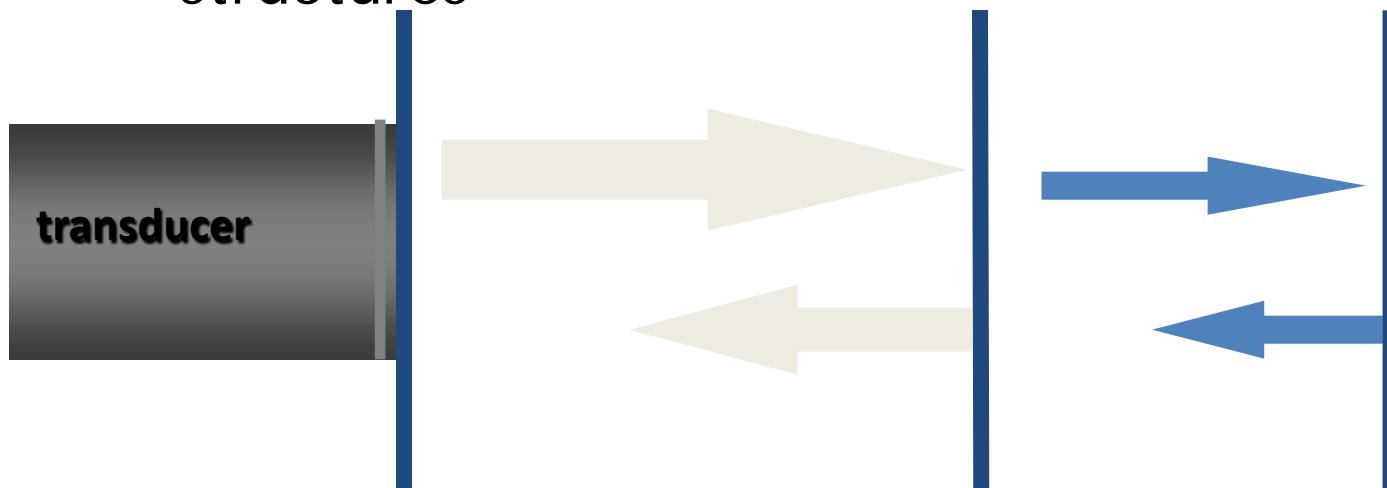


Angle of incidence = angle of reflection

# Interactions of Ultrasound with Tissue

## Transmission

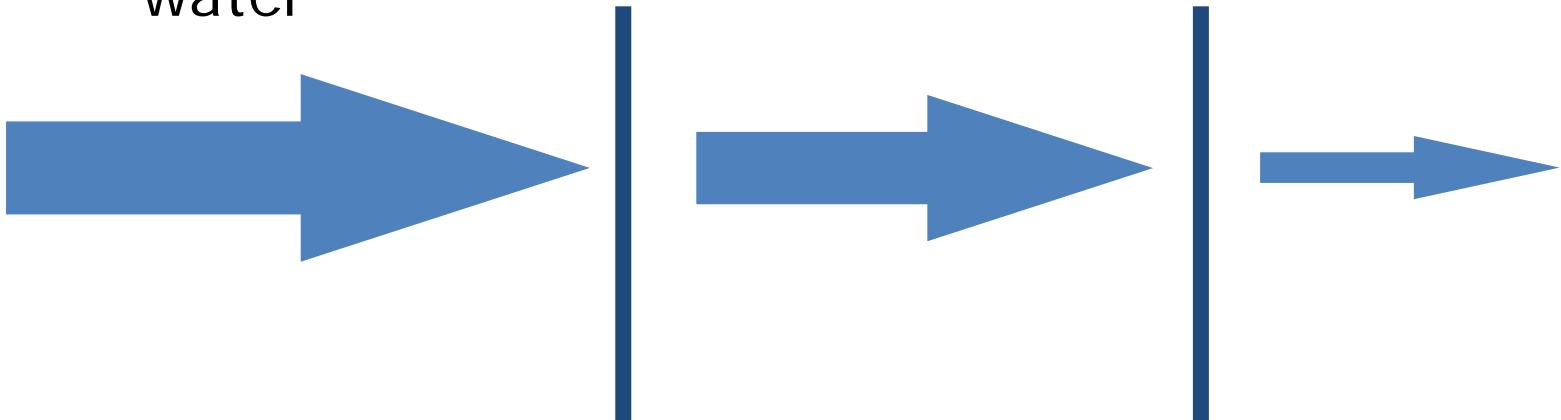
- Some of the ultrasound waves continue deeper into the body
- These waves will reflect from deeper tissue structures



# Interactions of Ultrasound with Tissue

## Attenuation

- Defined - the deeper the wave travels in the body, the weaker it becomes -3 processes: reflection, absorption, refraction
- Air (lung)> bone > muscle > soft tissue >blood > water



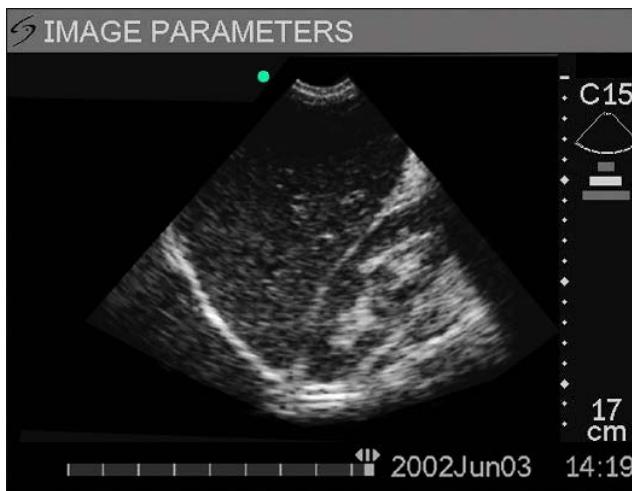
# Ultrasound Gain

- Gain controls
  - receiver gain only
  - does NOT change power output
  - think: stereo volume
- Increase gain = brighter
- Decrease gain = darker

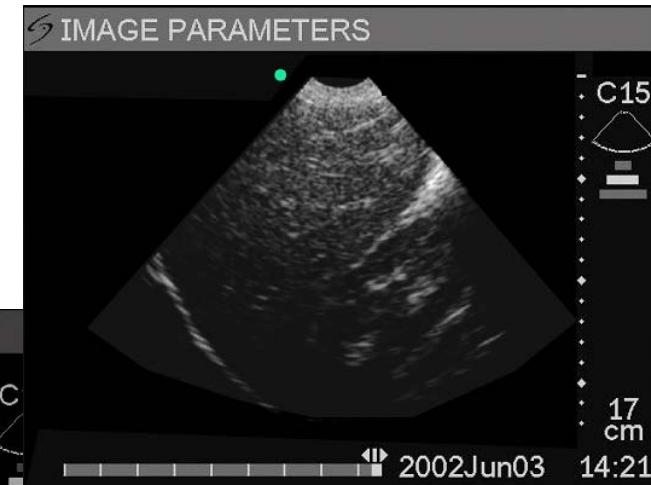
# Balanced Gain

- Gain settings are important to obtaining adequate images.

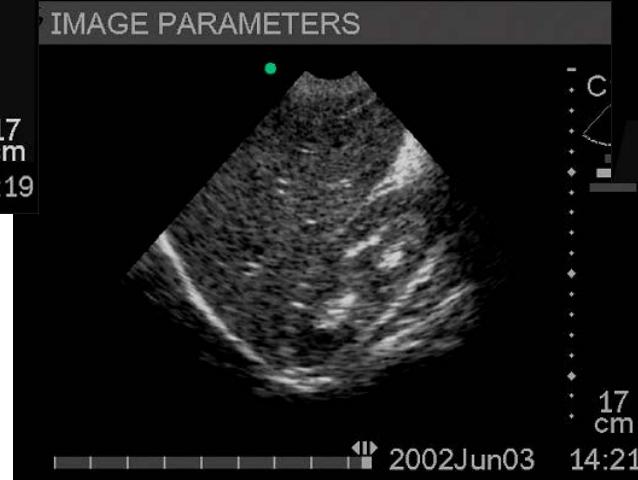
**bad near field**



**bad far field**



**balanced**

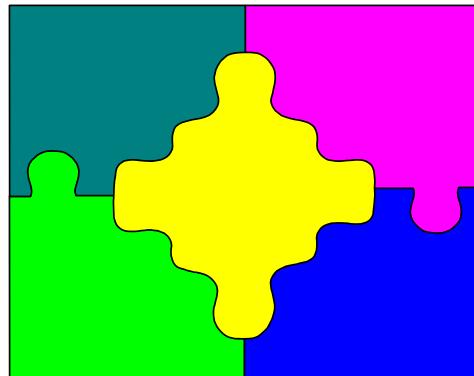


# What determines how far ultrasound waves can travel?

- The FREQUENCY of the transducer
  - The **HIGHER** the frequency, the **LESS** it can penetrate
  - The **LOWER** the frequency, the **DEEPER** it can penetrate
  - Attenuation is directly related to frequency

# Goal of an Ultrasound System

- The ultimate goal of any ultrasound system is to make like tissues look the same and unlike tissues look different



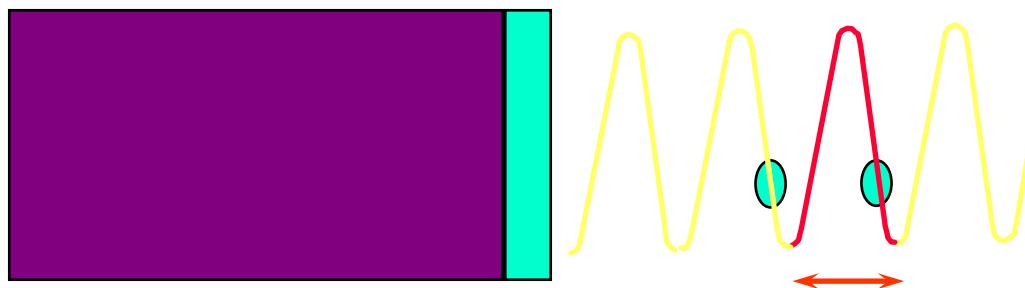
# Accomplishing this goal depends upon...

- Resolving capability of the system
  - axial/lateral resolution
  - spatial resolution
  - contrast resolution
  - temporal resolution
- Processing Power
  - ability to capture, preserve and display the information

# Types of Resolution

- Axial Resolution

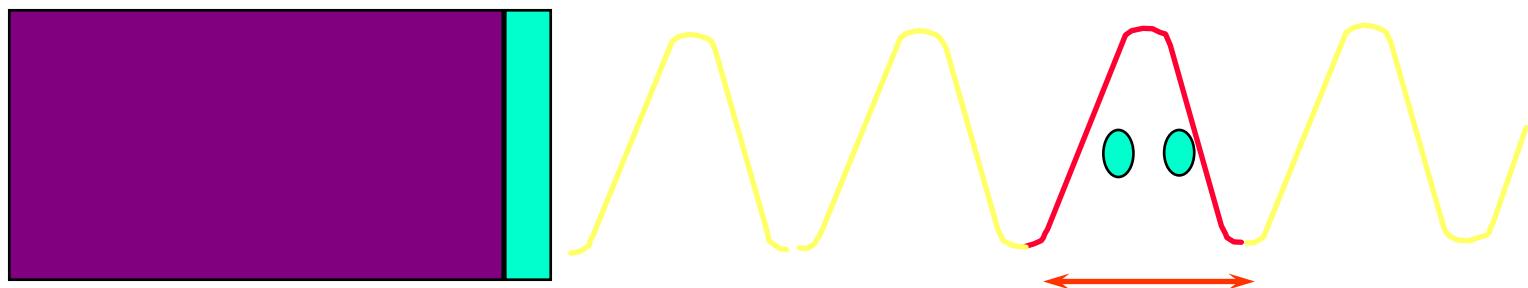
- specifies how close together two objects can be **along the axis** of the beam, yet still be detected as two separate objects
- frequency (wavelength) affects axial resolution - frequency ↑ resolution ↑



# Types of Resolution

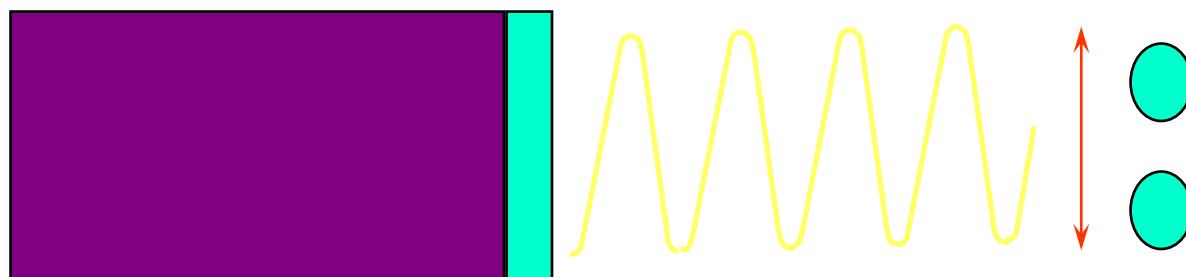
- Axial Resolution

- specifies how close together two objects can be **along the axis** of the beam, yet still be detected as two separate objects
- frequency (wavelength) affects axial resolution - frequency ↑ resolution ↑



# Types of Resolution

- Lateral Resolution
  - the ability to resolve two adjacent objects that are perpendicular to the beam axis as separate objects
  - beamwidth affects lateral resolution

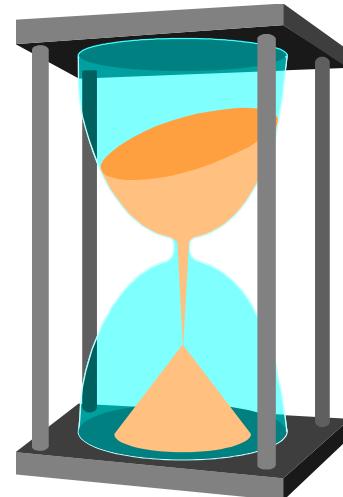


# Types of Resolution

- Spatial Resolution
  - also called *Detail* Resolution
  - the combination of AXIAL and LATERAL resolution -

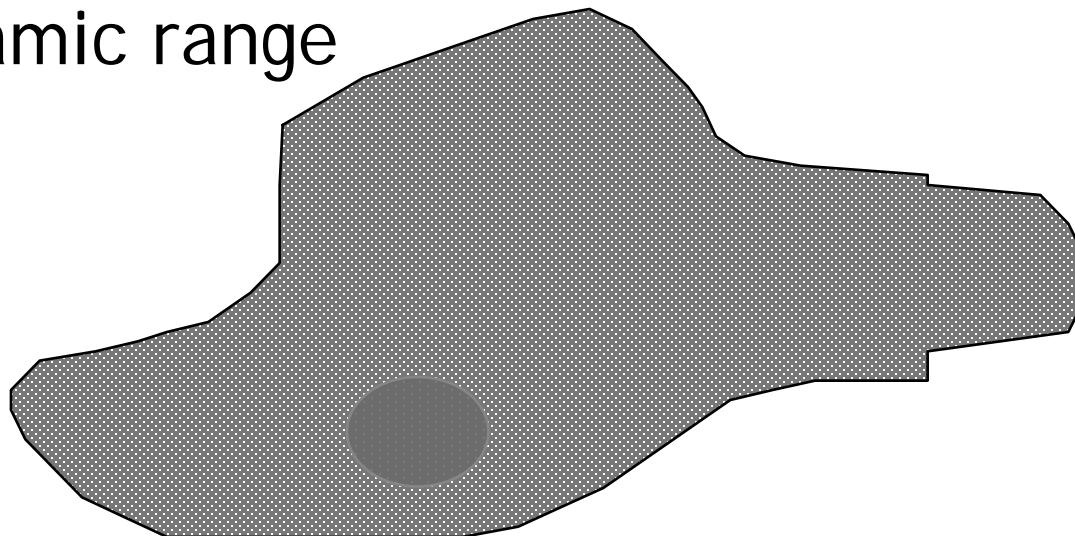
# Types of Resolution

- Temporal Resolution
  - the ability to accurately locate the position of moving structures at particular instants in time
  - also known as frame rate



# Types of Resolution

- Contrast Resolution
  - the ability to resolve two adjacent objects of similar intensity/reflective properties as separate objects - dependant on the dynamic range





Liver metastases

# Ultrasound Applications

Visualisation Tool:

Nerves, soft tissue masses

Vessels - assessment of position, size, patency

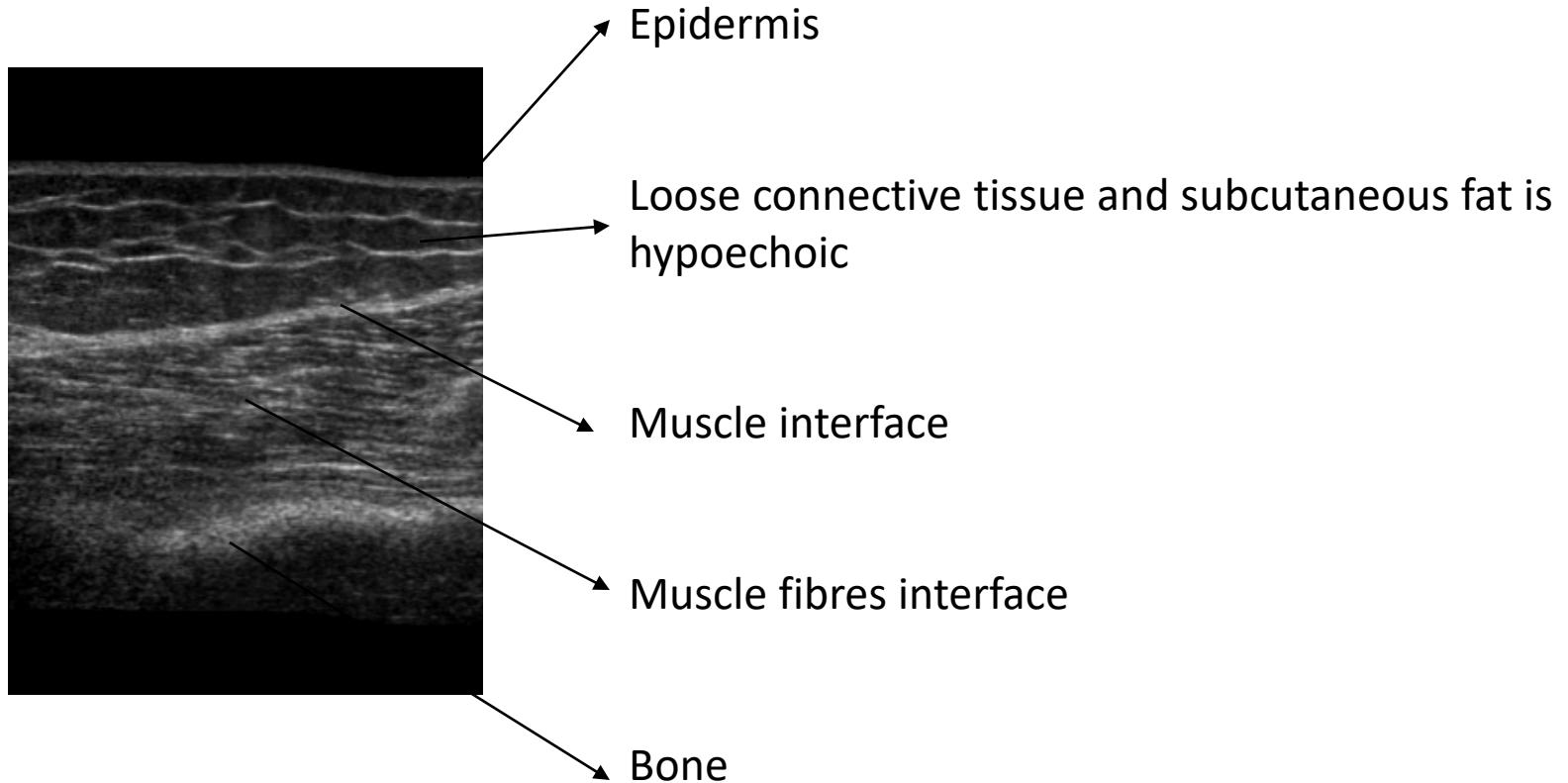
Ultrasound Guided Procedures in real time –  
dynamic imaging; central venous access, nerve  
blocks

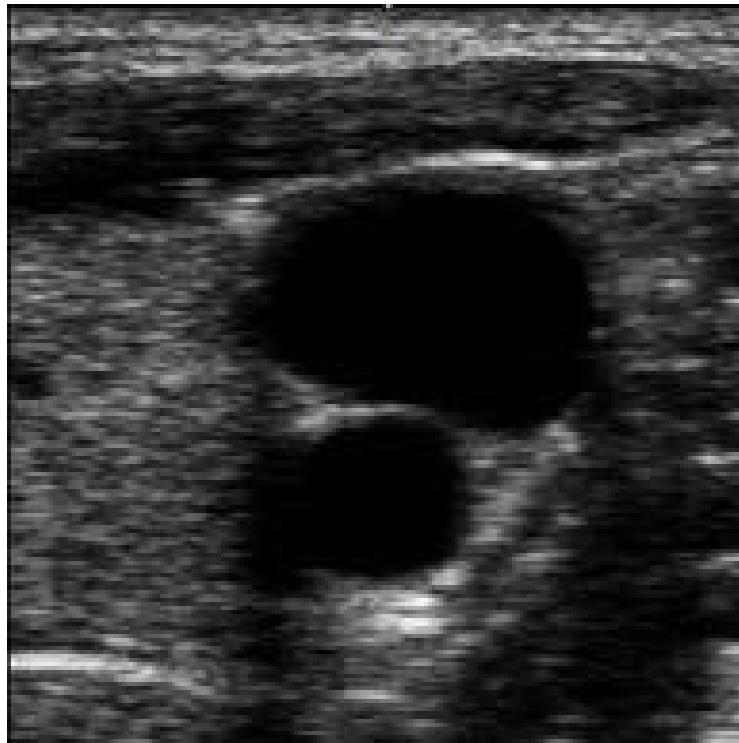
# Imaging

Know your anatomy – Skin, muscle, tendons, nerves and vessels

Recognise normal appearances – compare sides!

# Skin, subcutaneous tissue





Transverse scan – Internal Jugular Vein and Common Carotid Artery

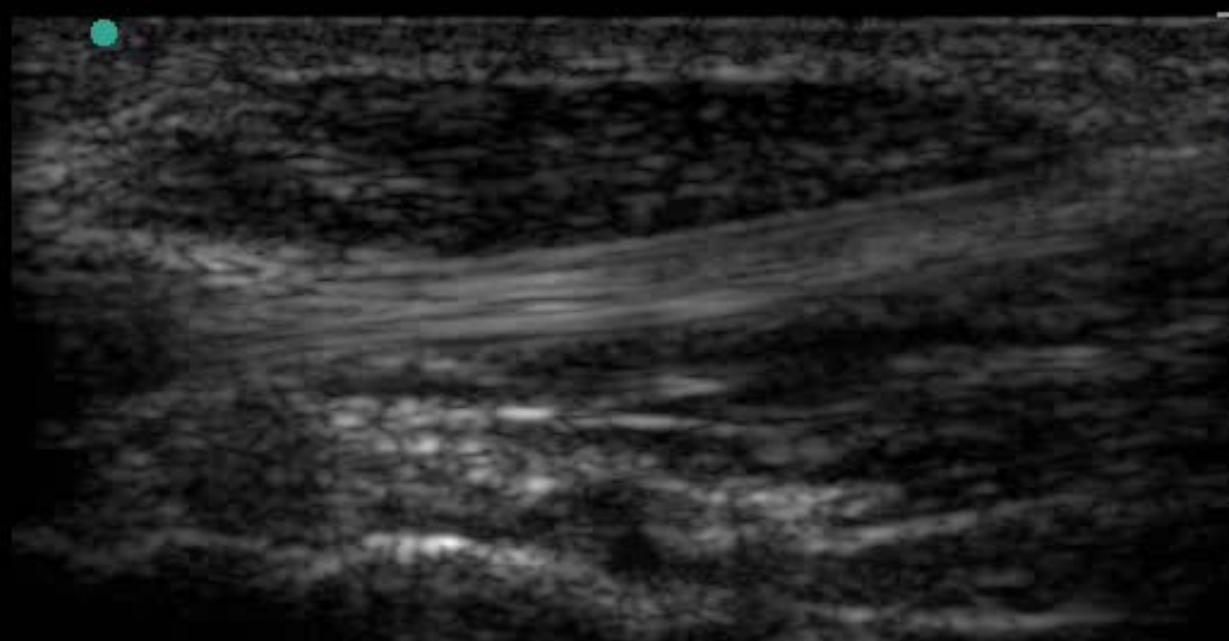
LT HAND

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Res

SmP  
L38

FLEXOR POLLICIS LONGUS TENDON



2.0



Res



-2



Dual

Clips...



Biopsy

Page 2...