

# NEUBIAS: European Network of Bioimage Analysts, paving their way ...



**BIAS**  
Bioimage Data  
Analysis Courses  
(Kota Miura, EMBL)  
2012-2017



15  
Training Schools  
415 trainees  
(almost 1000 applicants)

2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020

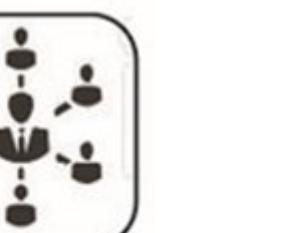
**EuBIAS Symposium**  
Barcelona Paris



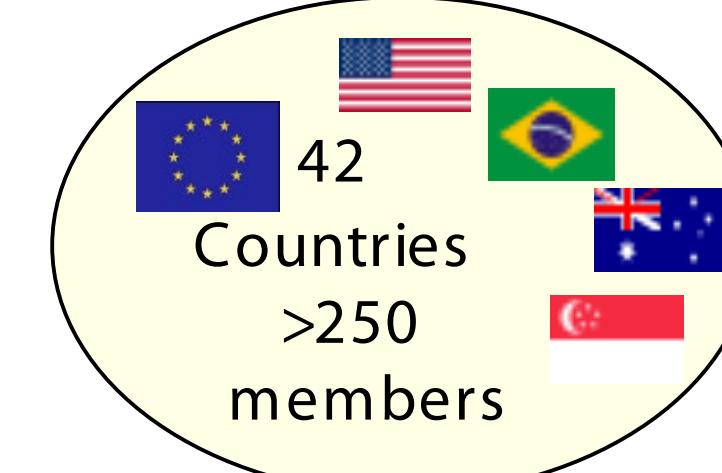
1st Taggathons  
(2013-2015)



**NEUBIAS Conference**  
Lisbon, Szeged, Luxembourg,  
Bordeaux



50 Short -term Scientific  
Missions, 2 books, more ...



Online  
Tools  
& Repositories



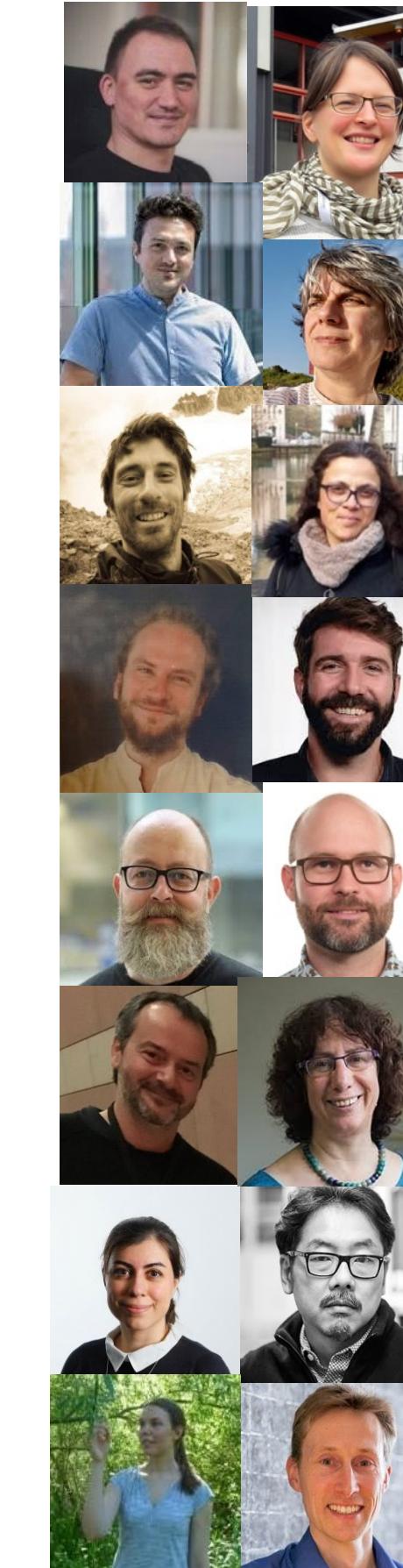
## NEUBIAS Academy

- Support Life Scientists, Early Careers, Bioimage Analysts, Facility Staff and Developers

- Provide sustainable material and activities focused on:

## Training in Bioimage Analysis

- Series of Webinars and online lectures



# Today's team



**Martin Weigert**

Group Leader at EPFL  
Machine Learning and Computational Microscopy

*Panelists:*

We will answer your questions

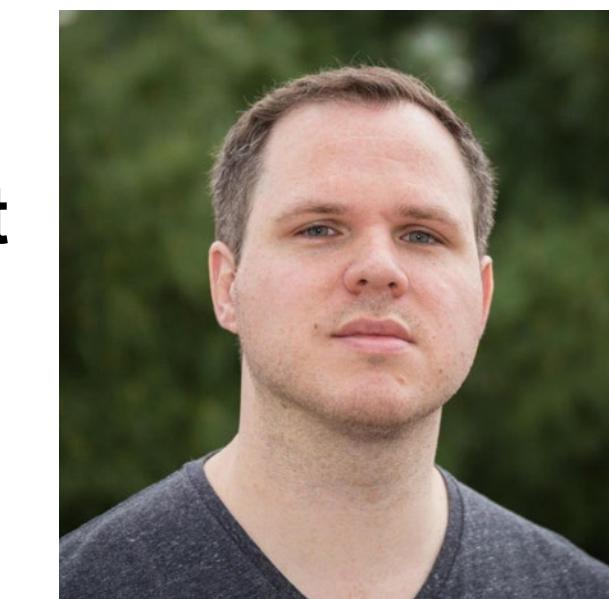
**Olivier Burri**  
EPFL,  
Lausanne



**Siân Culley**  
UCL,  
London



**Uwe Schmidt**  
MPI-CBG,  
Dresden





# Introduction to Nuclei Segmentation with StarDist

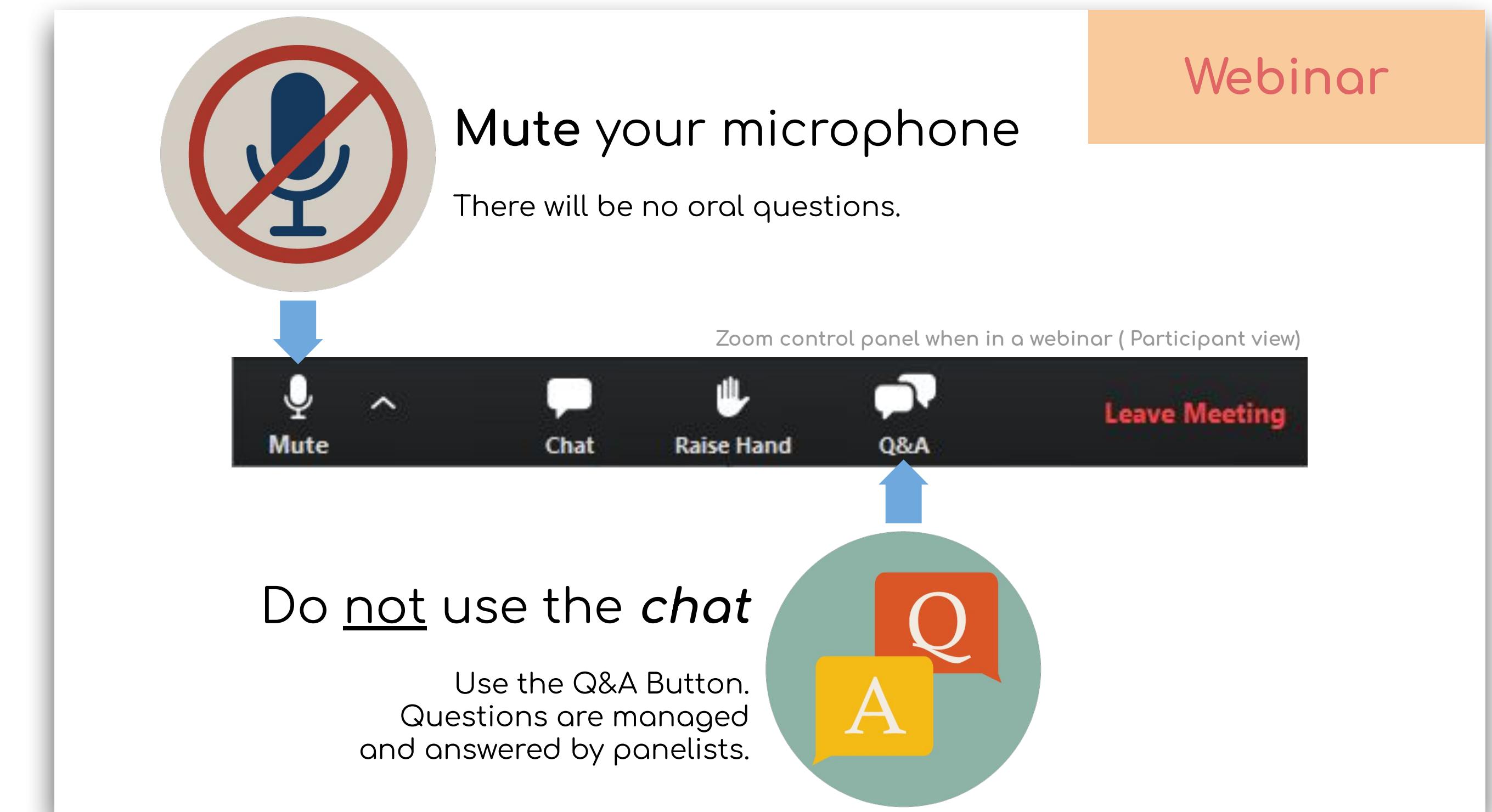


Martin Weigert, Olivier Burri, Siân Culley, Uwe Schmidt  
Neubias Academy @ Home, April 28th, 2020

The webinar will start 15:40 CEST

If you are already here:

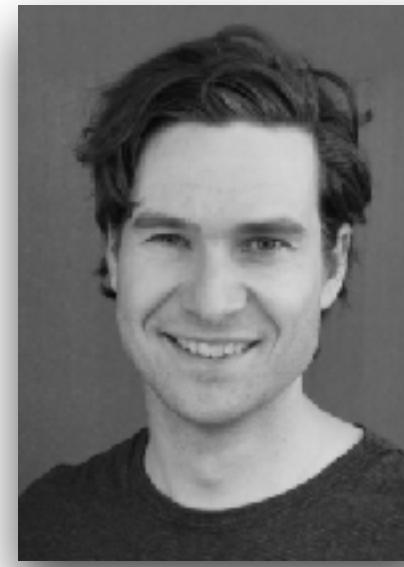
- 1. Please follow the instructions to the right**
- 2. Please answer the short questions in the poll**  
(which should popup on your zoom screen)



Webinar Material:

[https://github.com/maweigert/neubias\\_academy\\_stardist](https://github.com/maweigert/neubias_academy_stardist)

Speakers/Moderators:



Martin Weigert  
EPFL

@martweig



Uwe Schmidt  
MPI-CBG, Dresden  
  
Max Planck Institute  
of Molecular Cell Biology  
and Genetics

@uschmidt83



Olivier Burri  
EPFL

@ChigureKun



Siân Culley  
UCL, London  

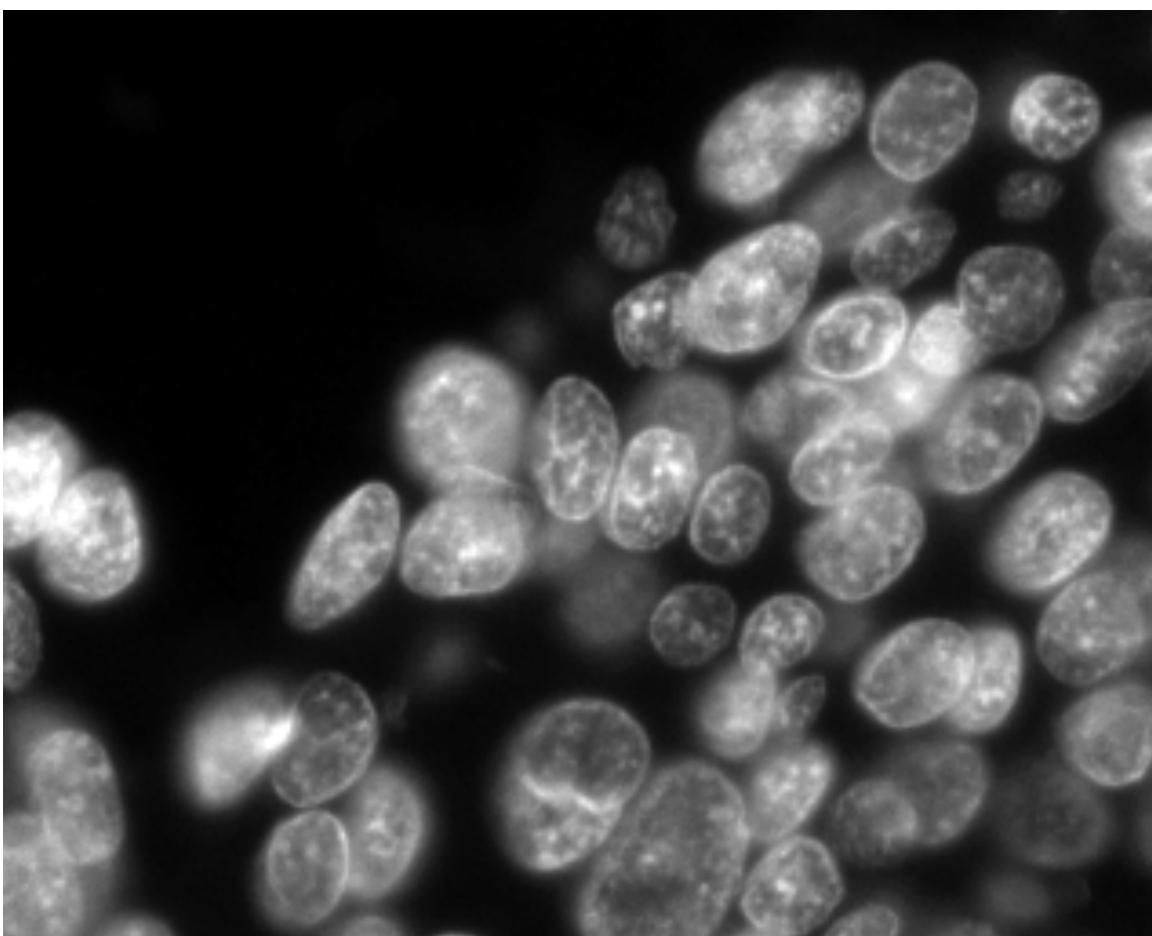

@SuperResoluSian

1. Introduction to nuclei segmentation and StarDist
2. Questions & Answers 1
3. How to use StarDist
4. StarDist in a core facility
5. Questions & Answers 2

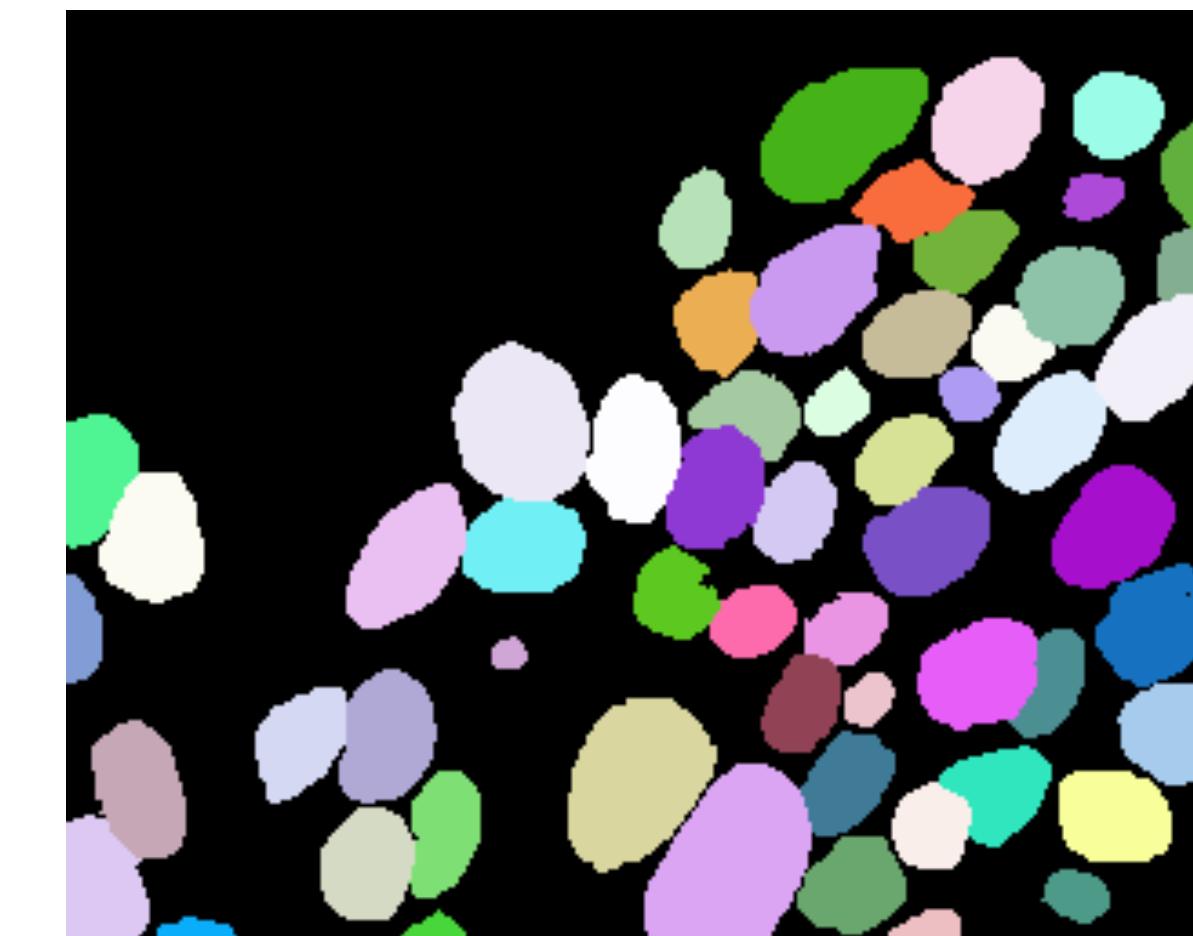
# Introduction to nuclei segmentation and StarDist

# Nuclei Segmentation in Microscopy

Microscopy Image  
with stained nuclei



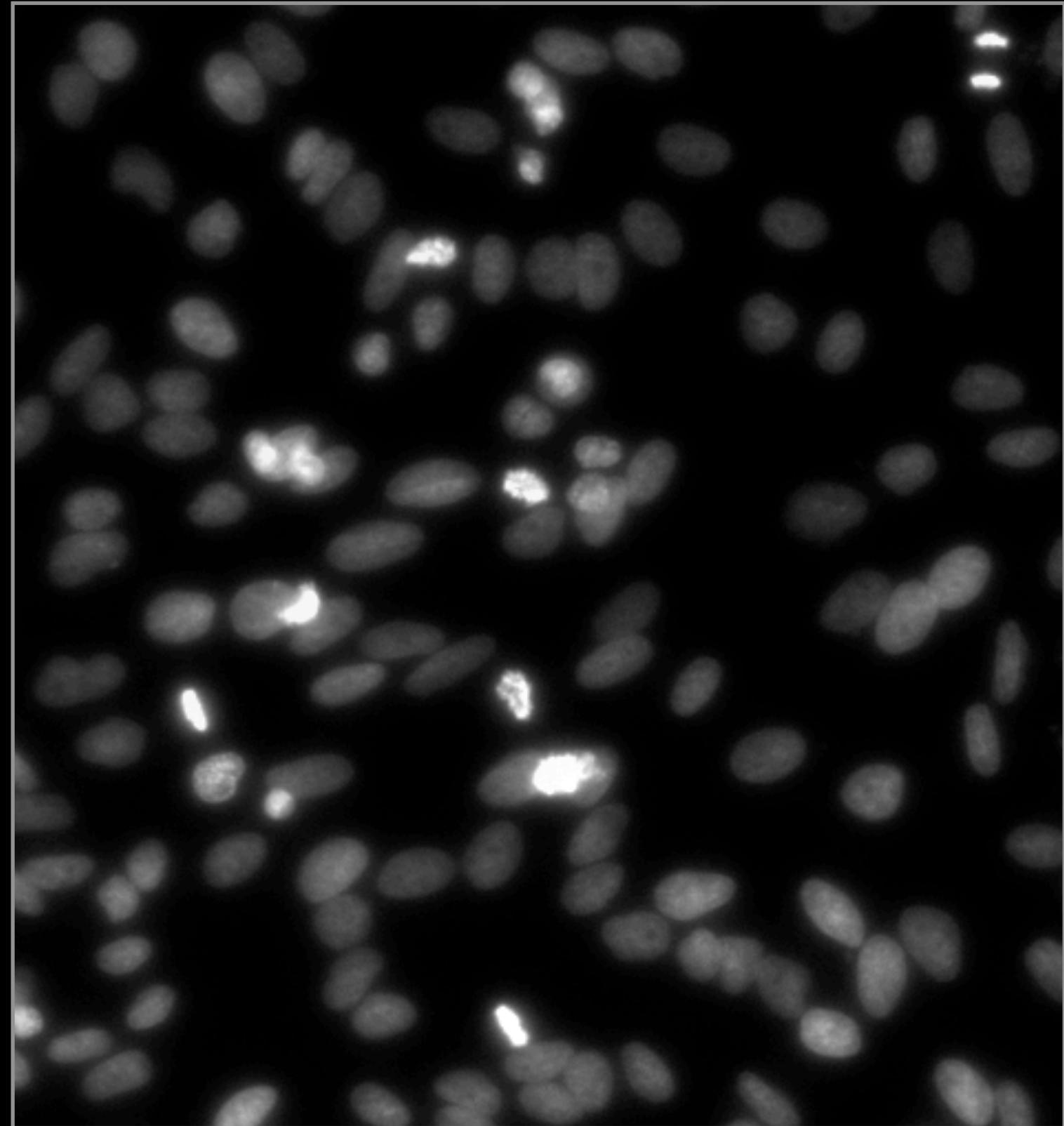
Segmentation/Detection  
of each nucleus



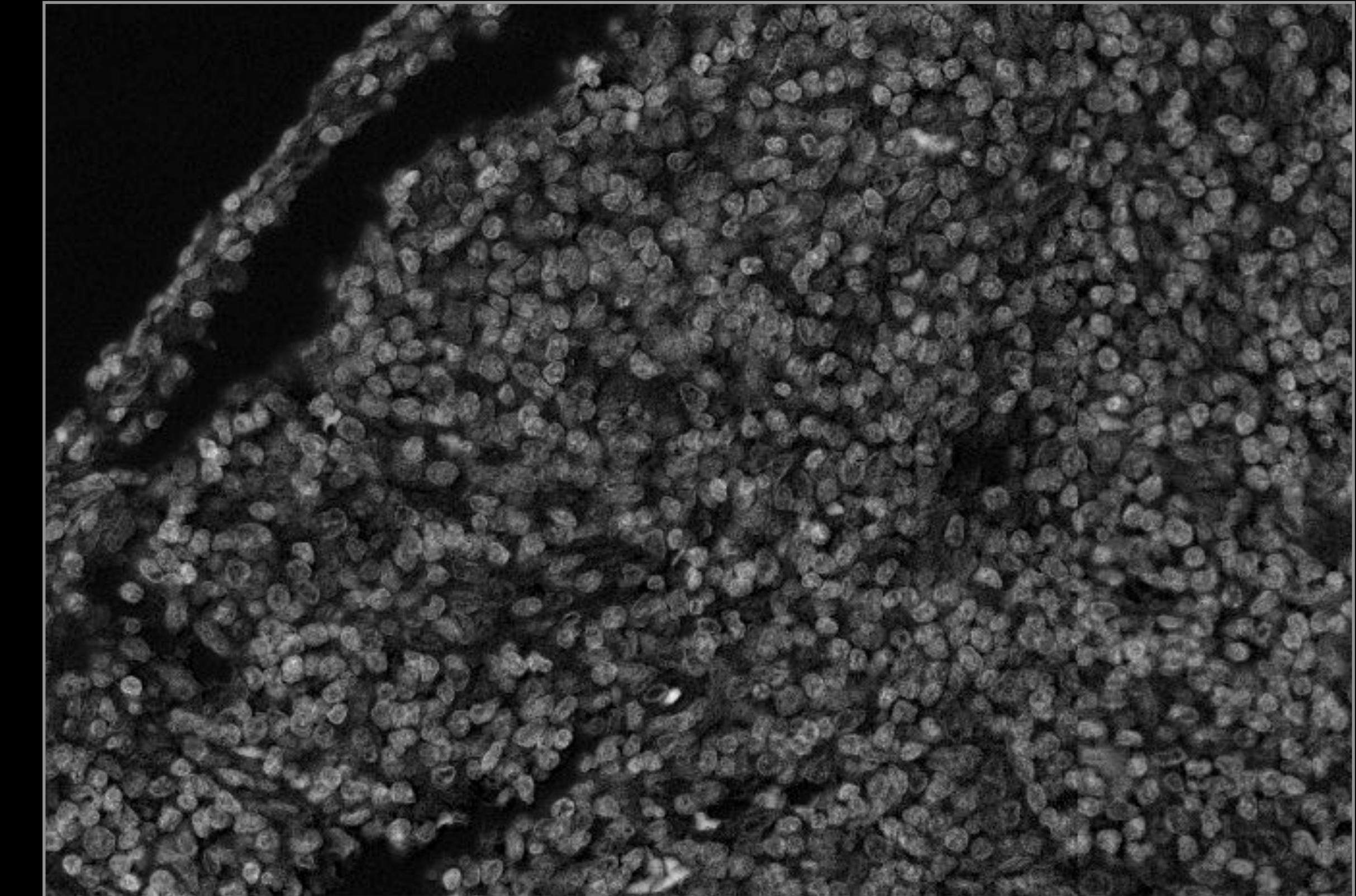
- Cell phenotypes, shapes, sizes
- Cell gene expression differences
- Lineage tracing/tracking in developing organisms

# Typical Data in Microscopy

## 2D - Fluorescence



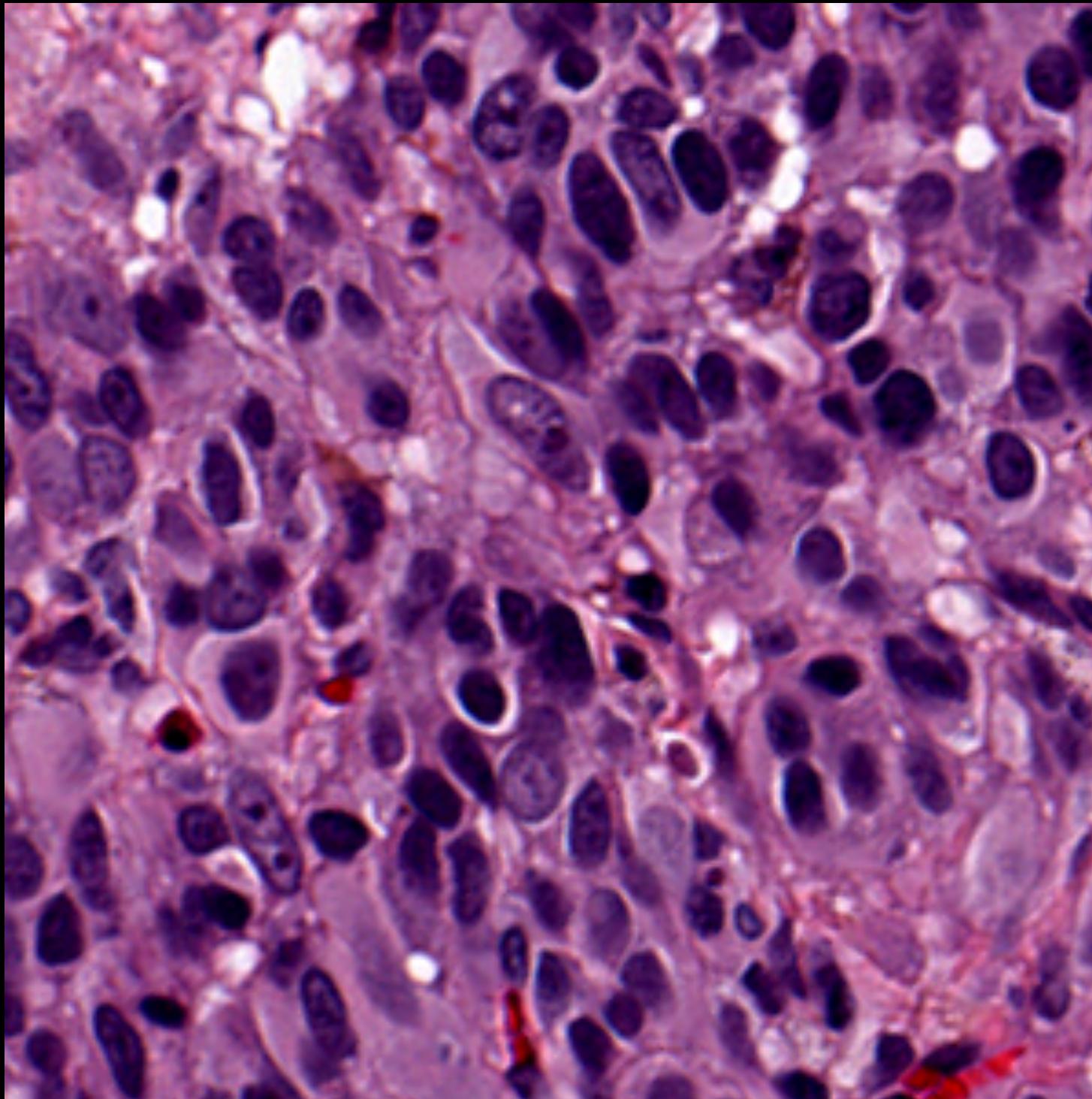
Data from Caicedo et al, 2019



Data from Anna Maria Tsakiroglou (Manchester)

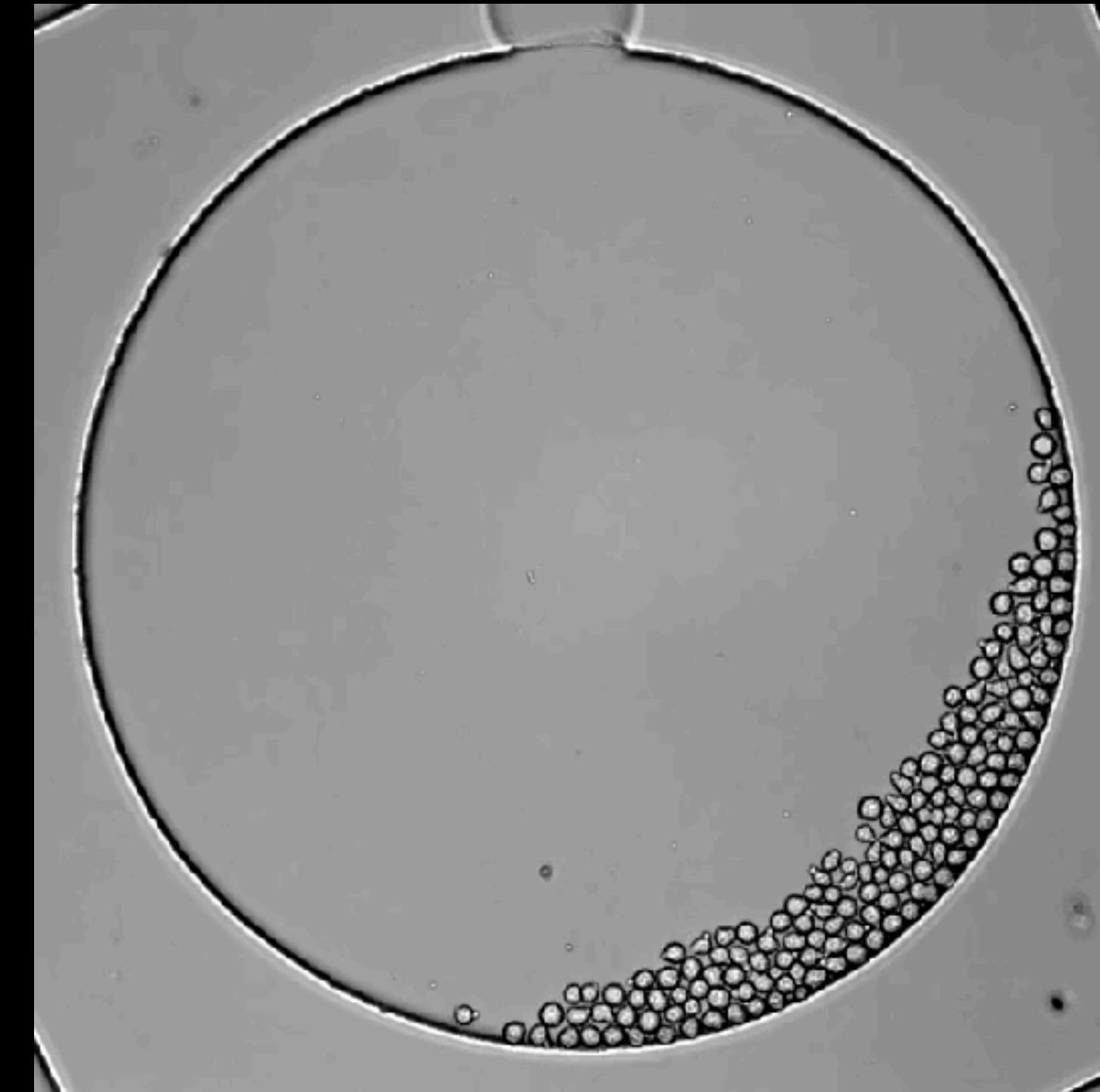
# Typical Data in Microscopy

2D - RGB/Histopathology



*H&E stain, data from CancerImagingArchive*

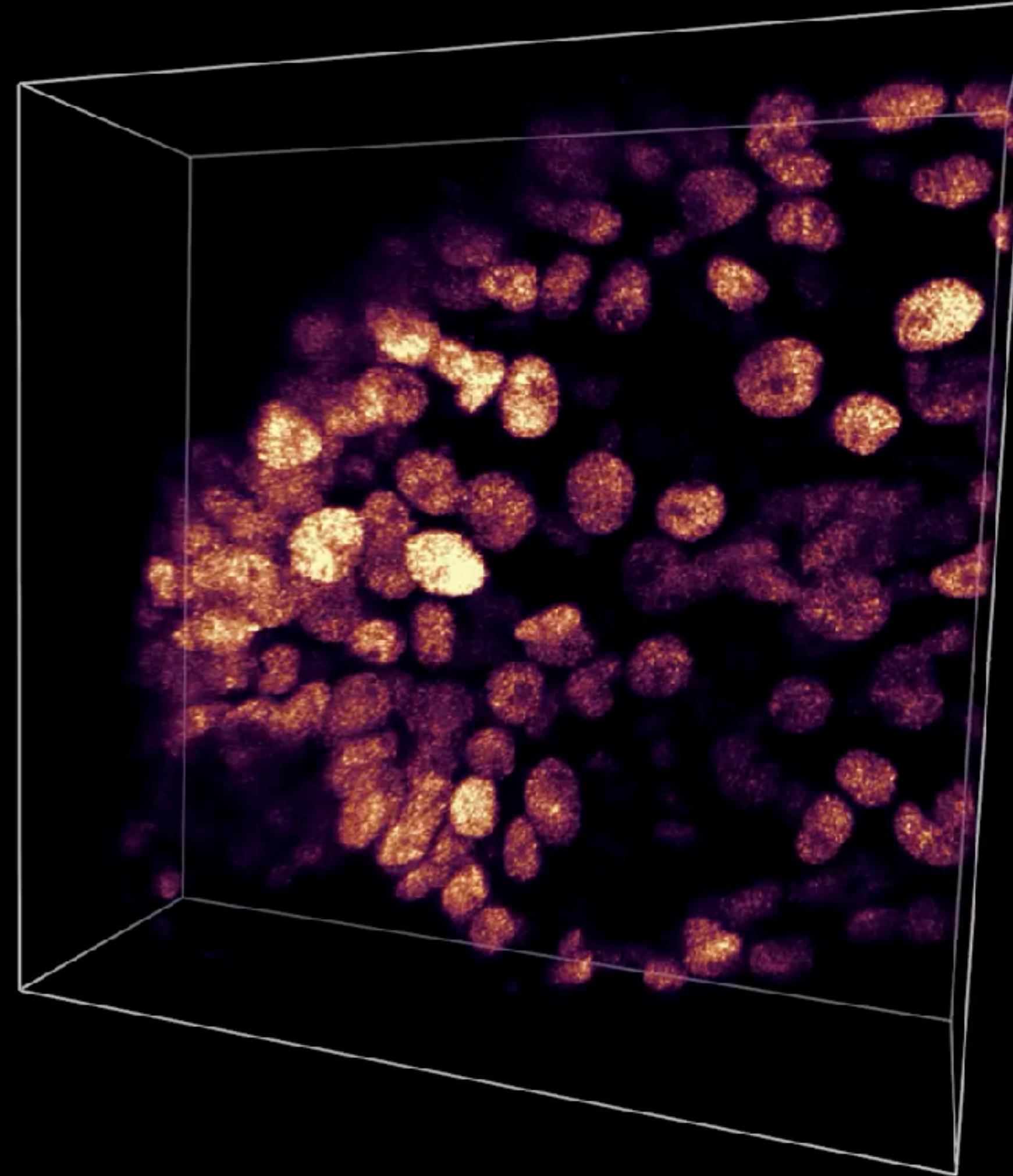
2D + time (Brightfield)



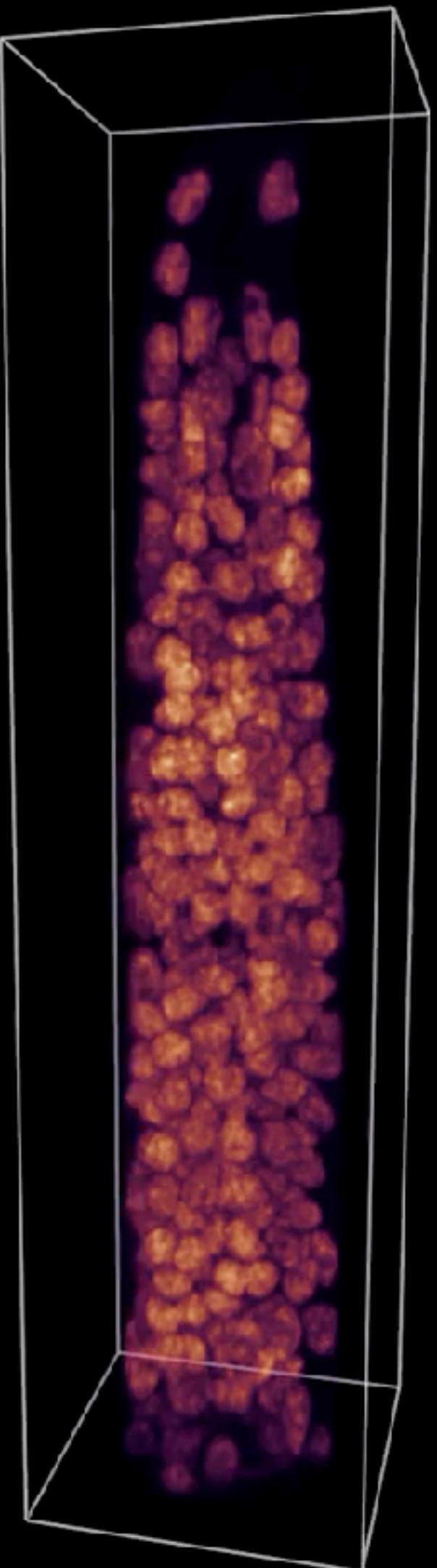
*Mouse stem cells, data from cell tracking challenge*

# Typical Data in Microscopy

3D (+time)



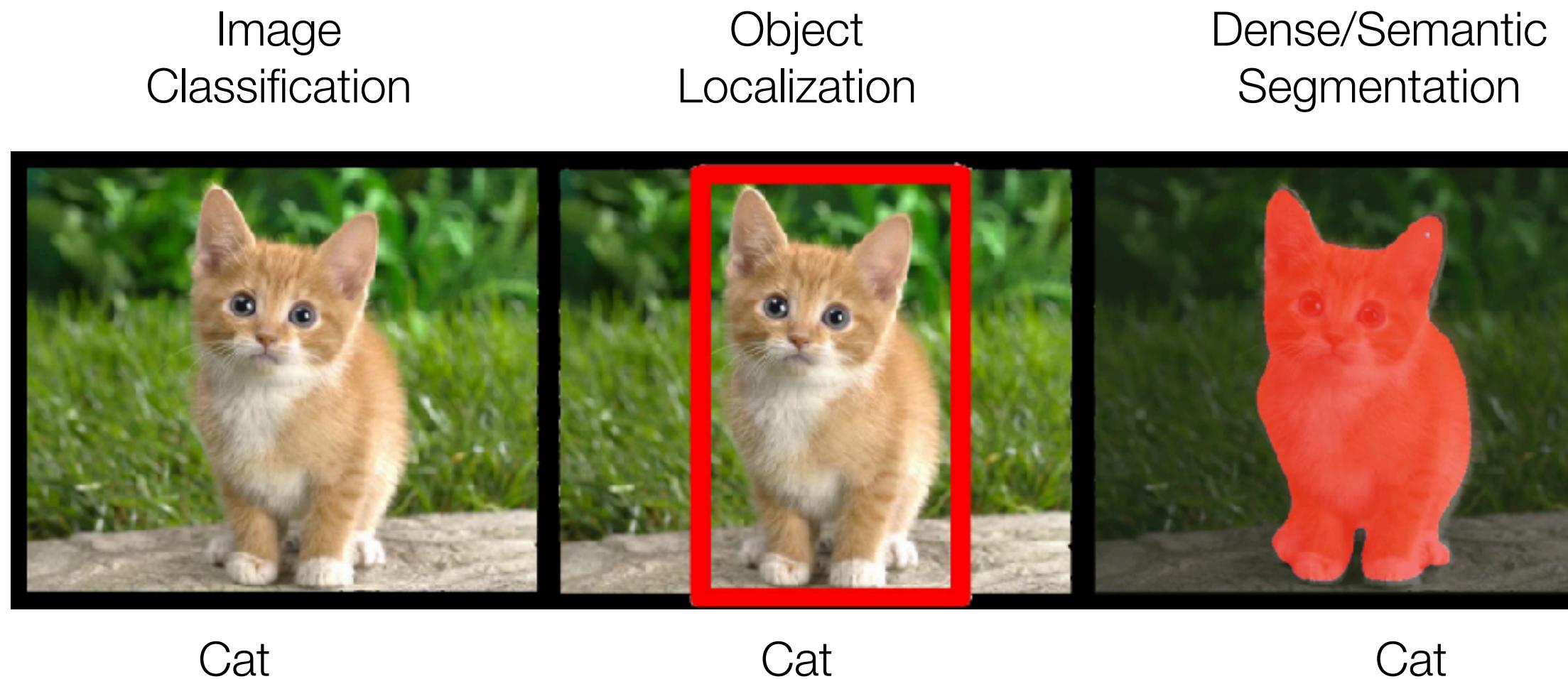
Parhyale Data from Ko Sugiyama



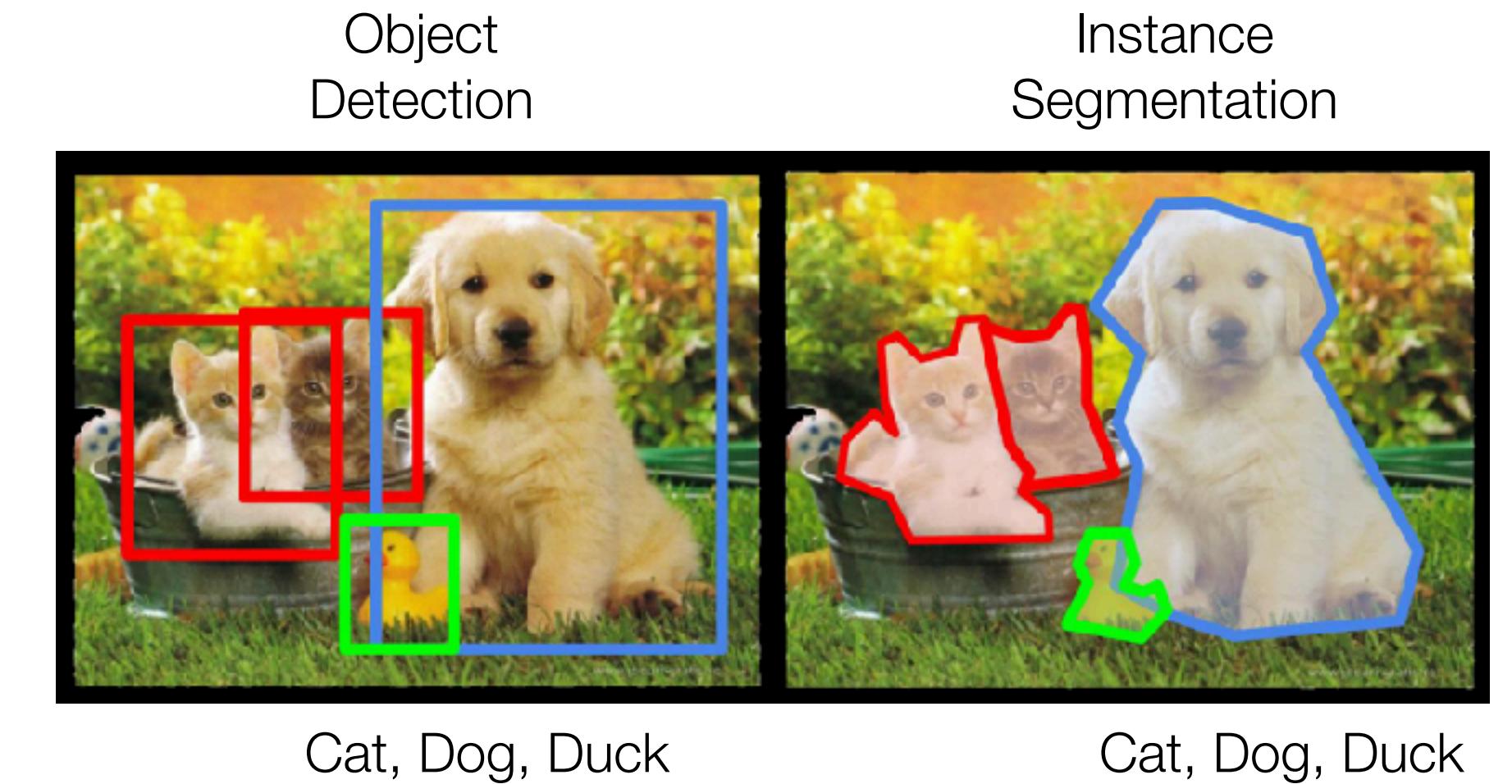
C elegans Data from Dagmar Kainmüller

# Computer Vision - Common Problems

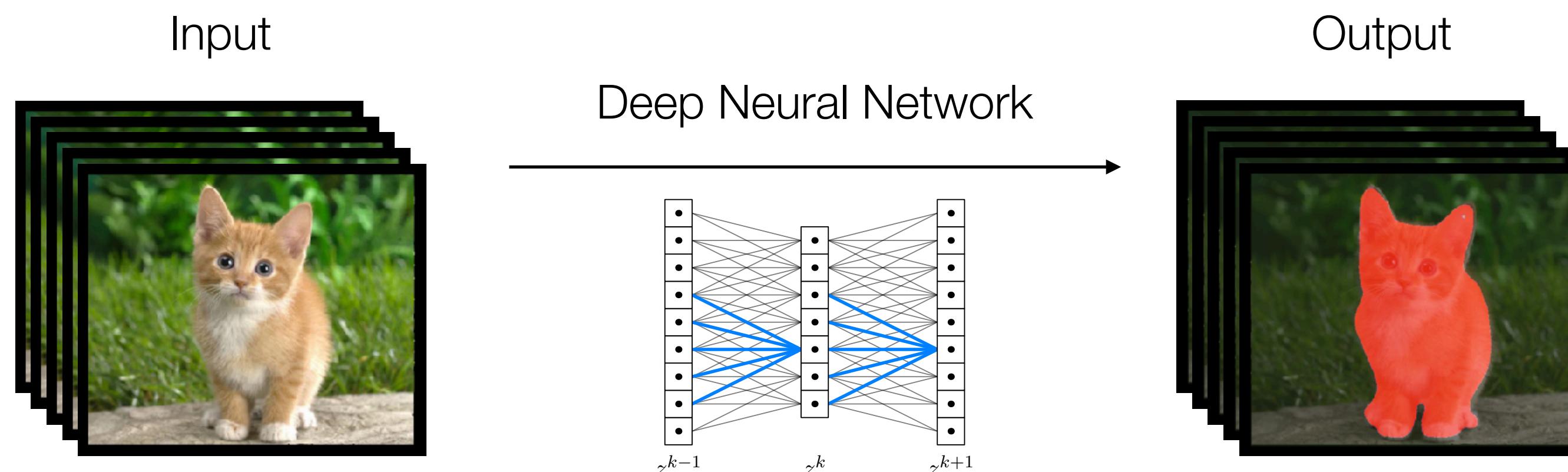
## Single Object



## Multiple Objects



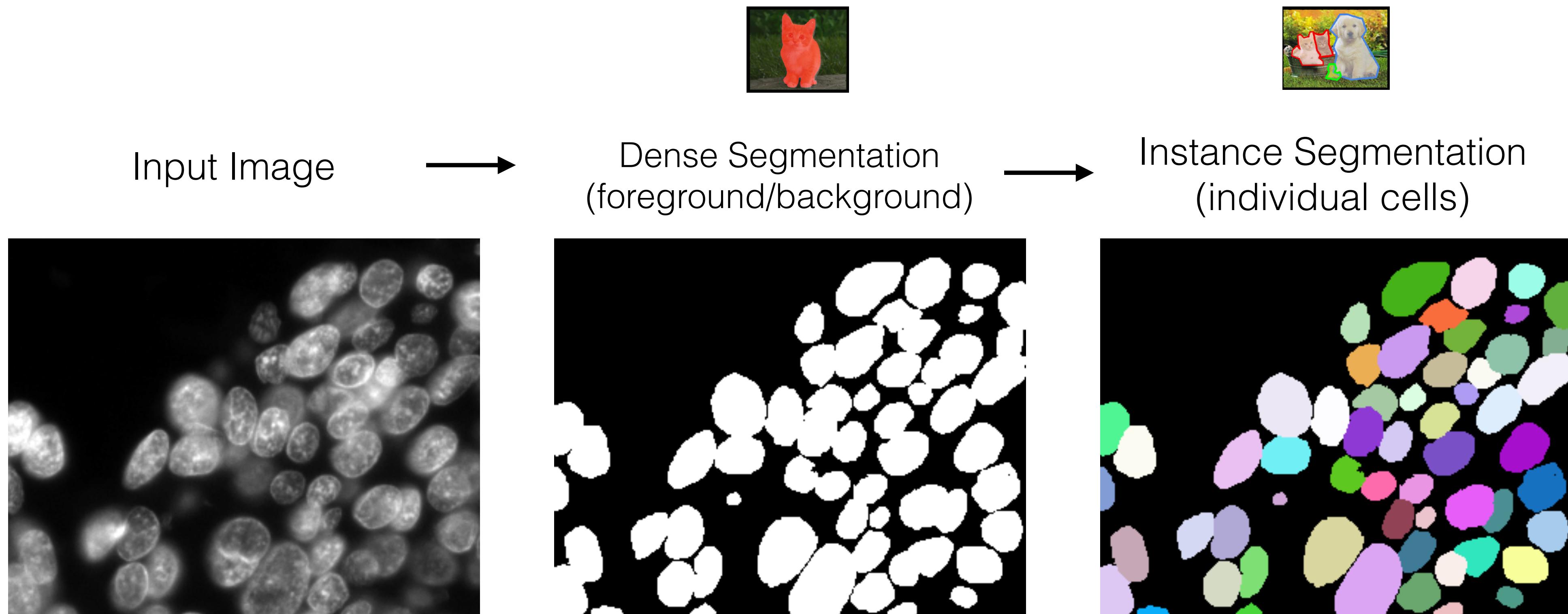
*Currently the most successful paradigm: Supervised deep learning*



Deep (Convolutional) Neural Networks trained on annotated training data (ground truth, GT)

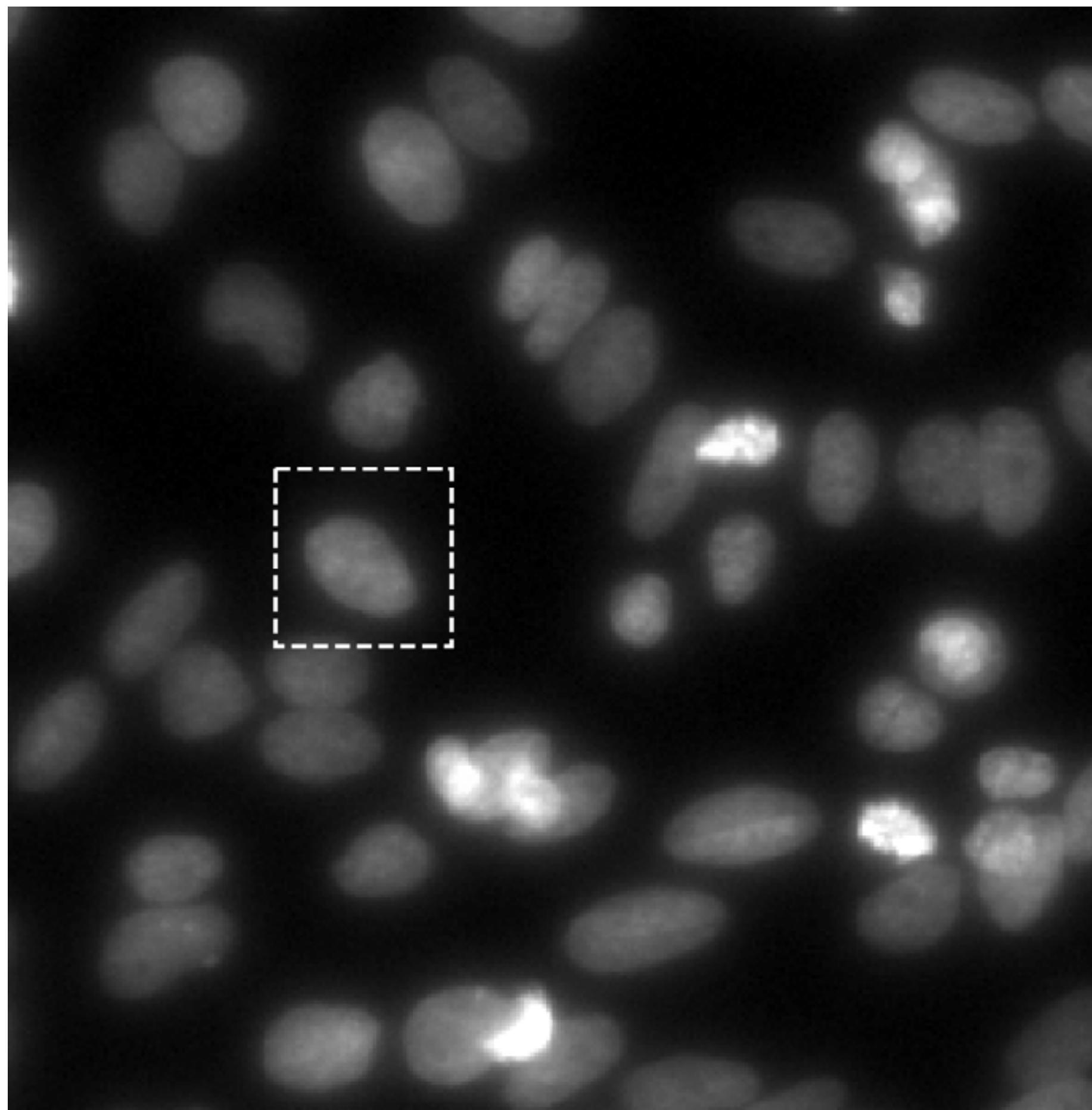
U-Net Ronneberger et al (2015)  
YOLO Redmond et al (2016)  
Mask-RCNN He et al (2017)

# Our Problem: Nuclei Segmentation

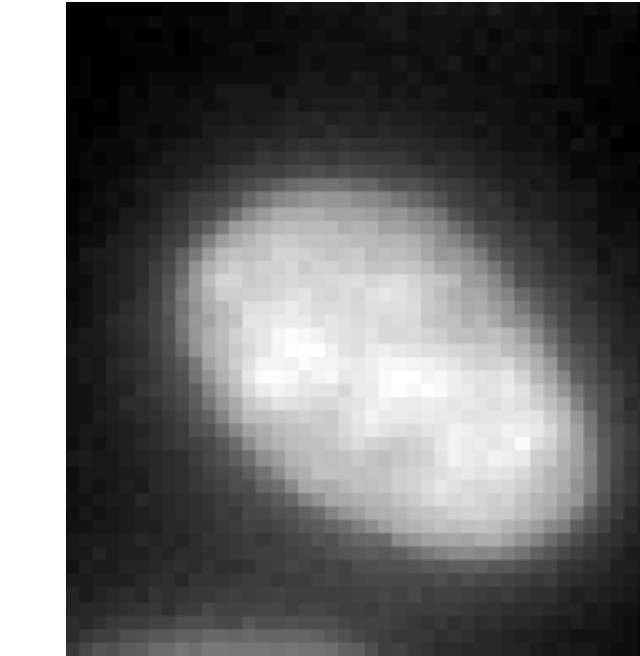


Challenges: many crowded objects, noisy images

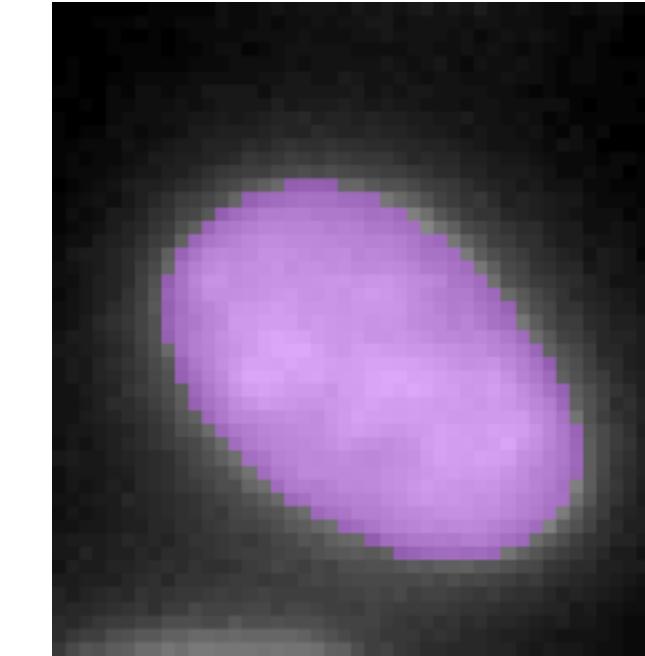
# Common (DL) approaches for nuclei segmentation



Image

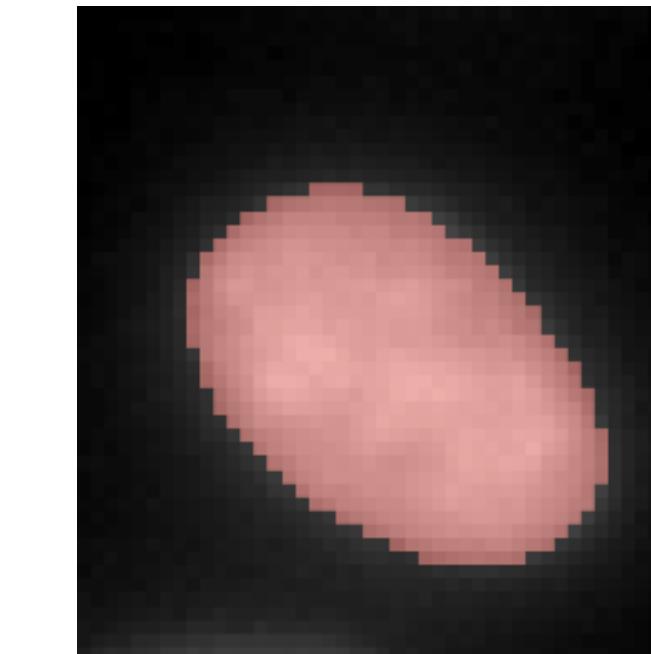


GT



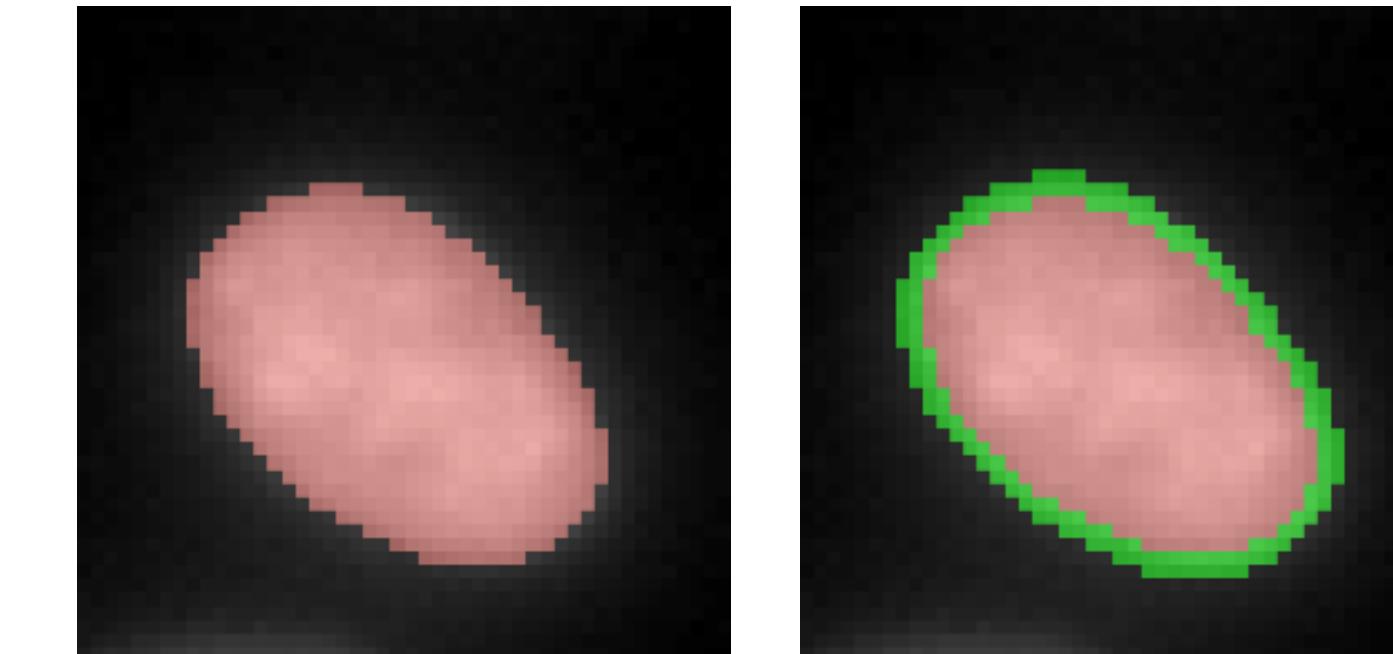
## *Bottom-Up*

First segment, then localize



2 Class U-Net

Ronneberger et al. (2015)

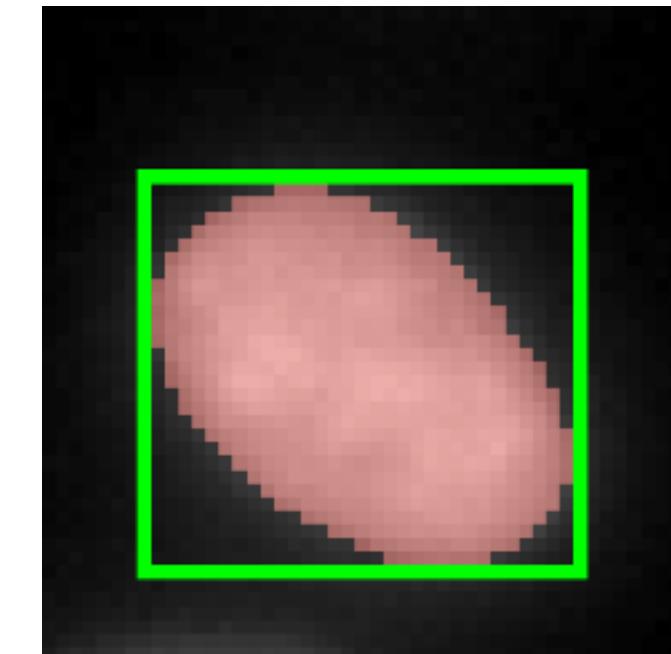


3 Class U-Net

Caicedo et al.(2019)

## *Top-Down*

First localize, then segment

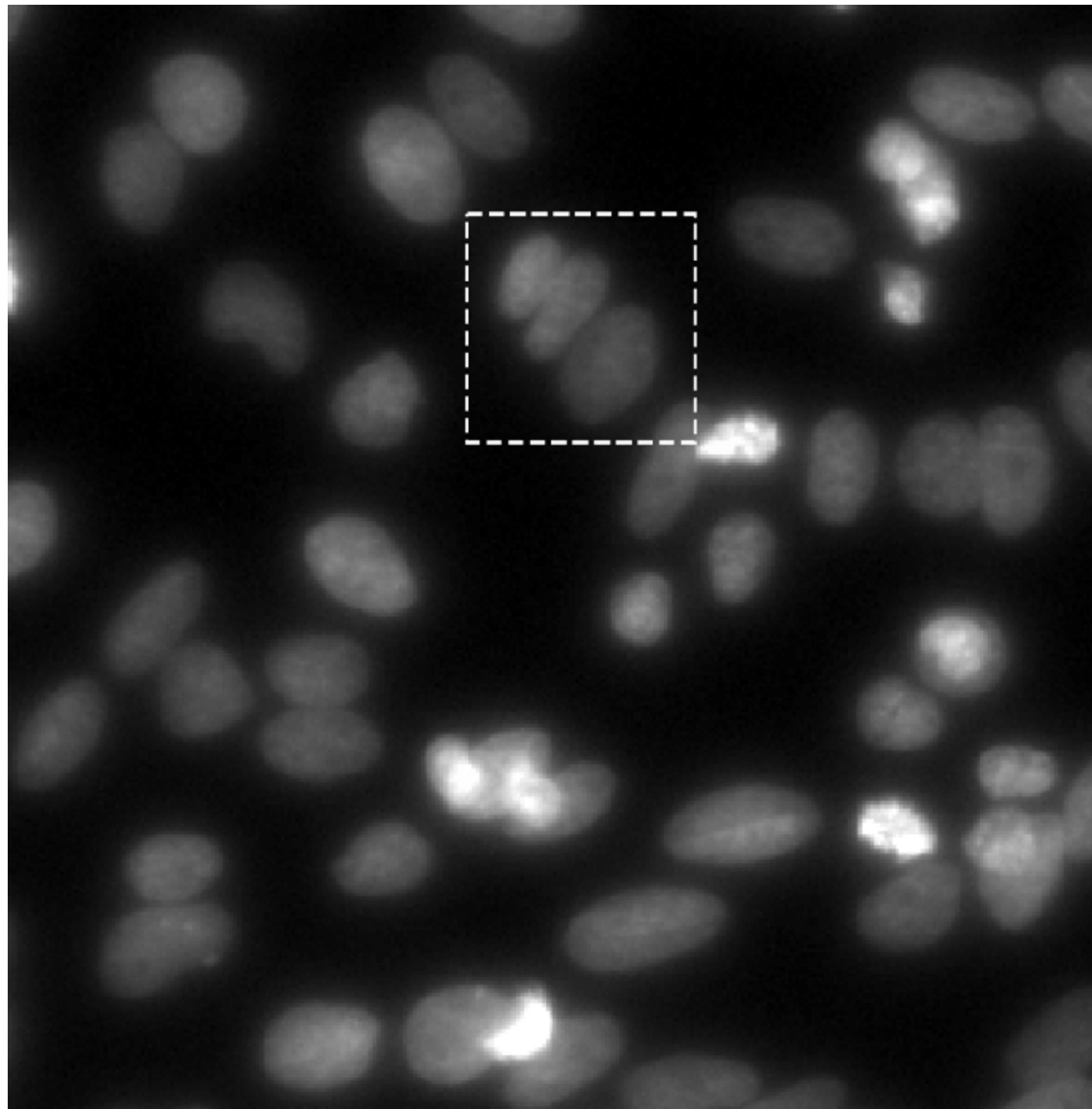


Mask-RCNN

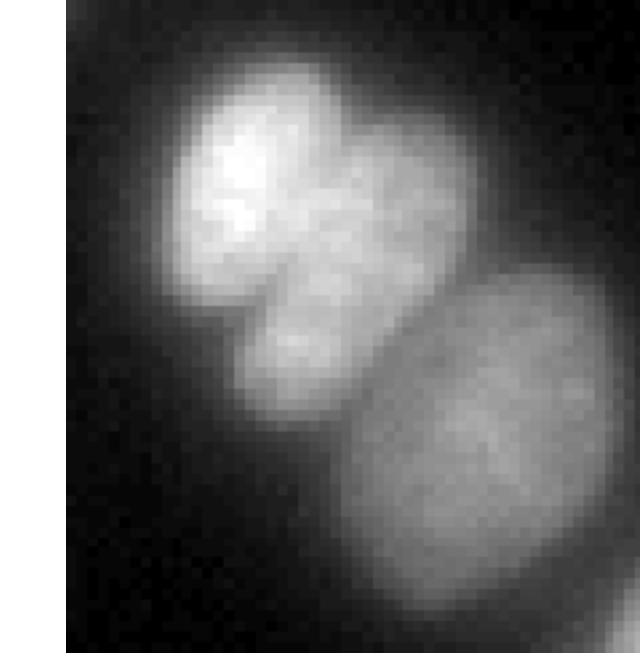
He et al (2017)

- Affinity based methods      Wolf, Pape et al. (2018), Hirsch et al. (2020)
- Embedding based methods   Neven et al. (2019), Stringer et al. (2020)

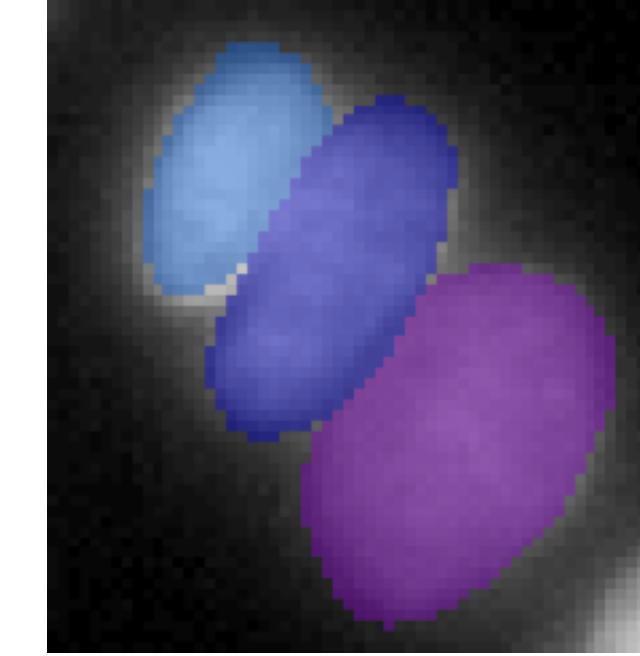
# Problems for crowded objects



Image

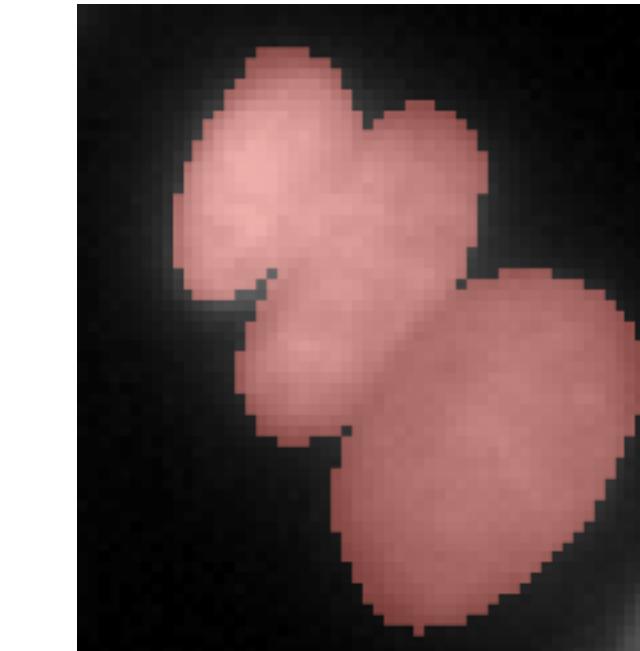


GT

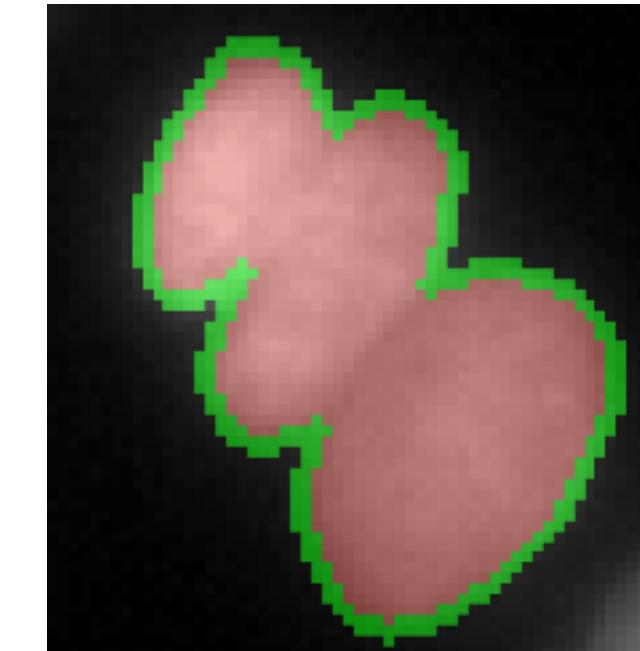


## *Bottom-Up*

First segment, then localize



2 Class U-Net

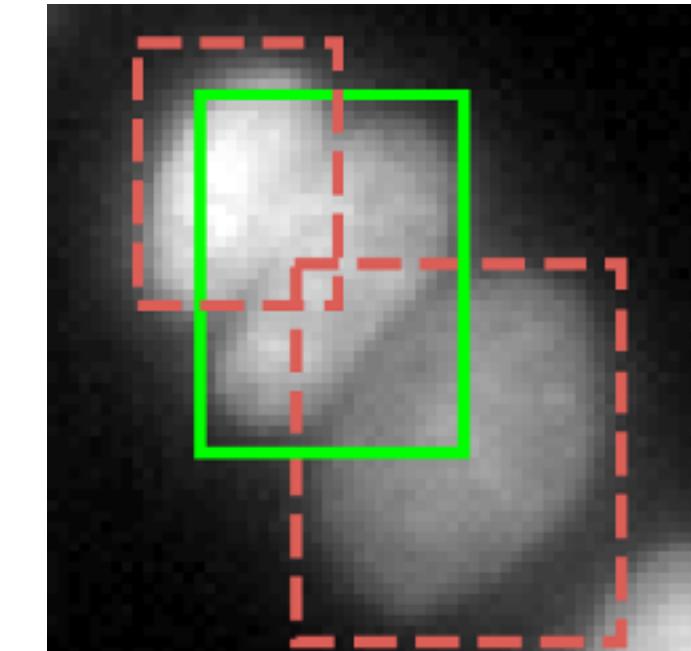


3 Class U-Net

Mislocalization  
Fused segmentation maps

## *Top-Down*

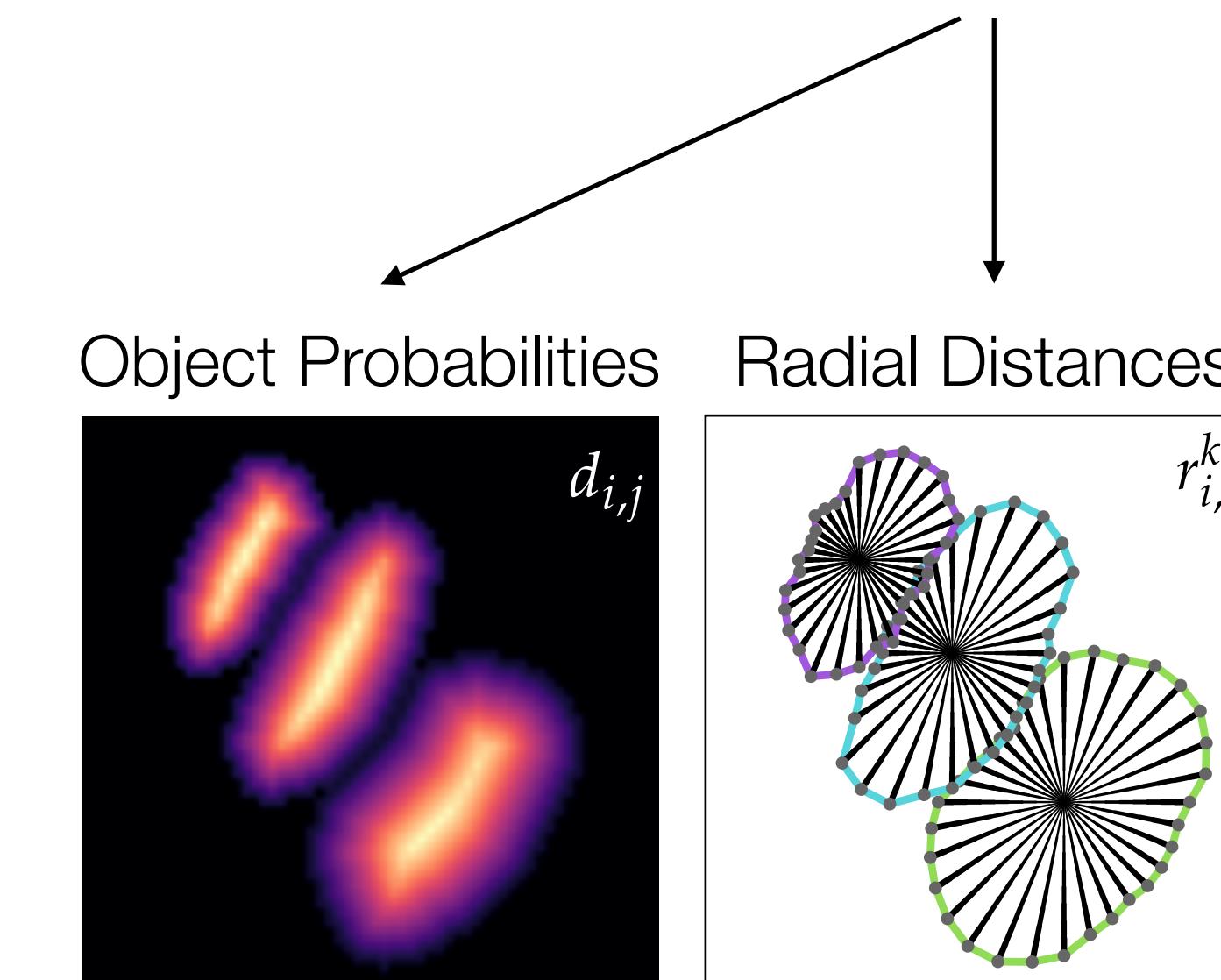
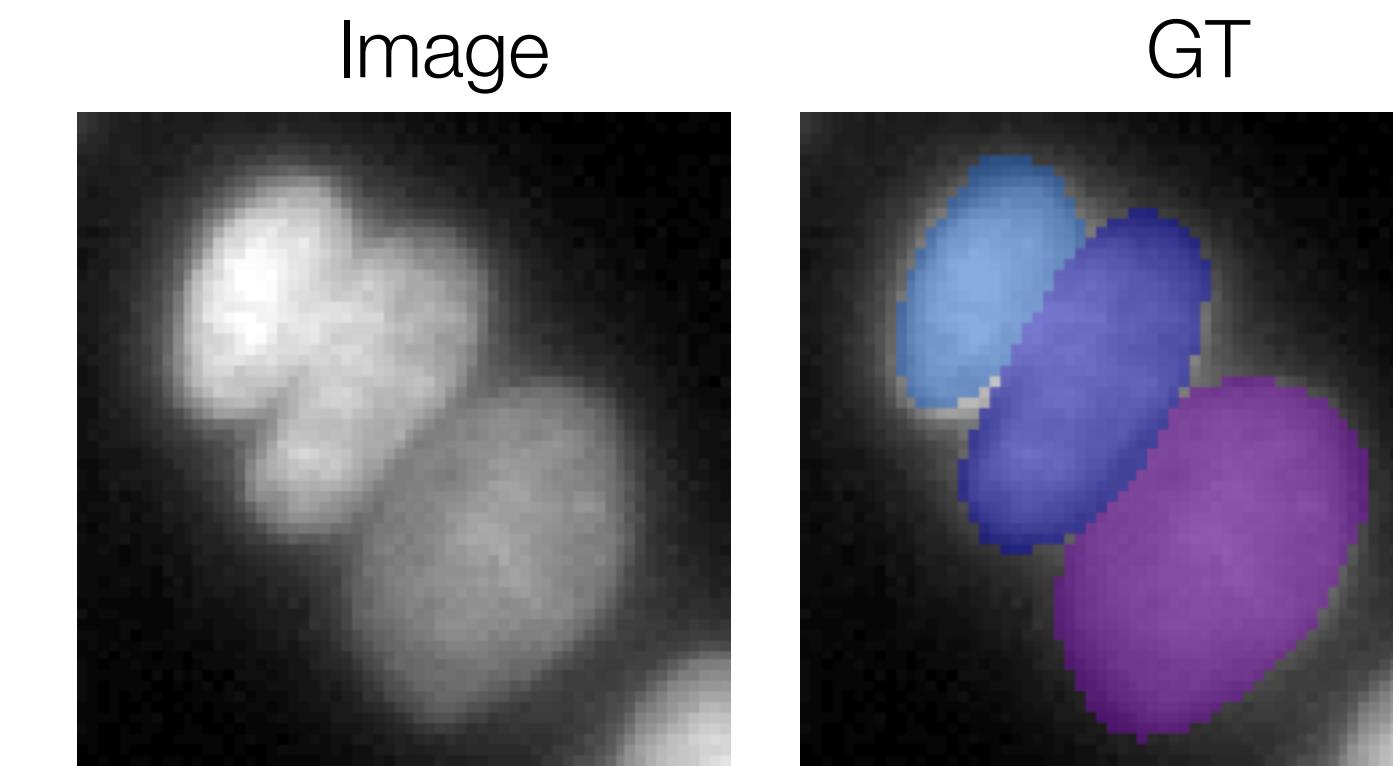
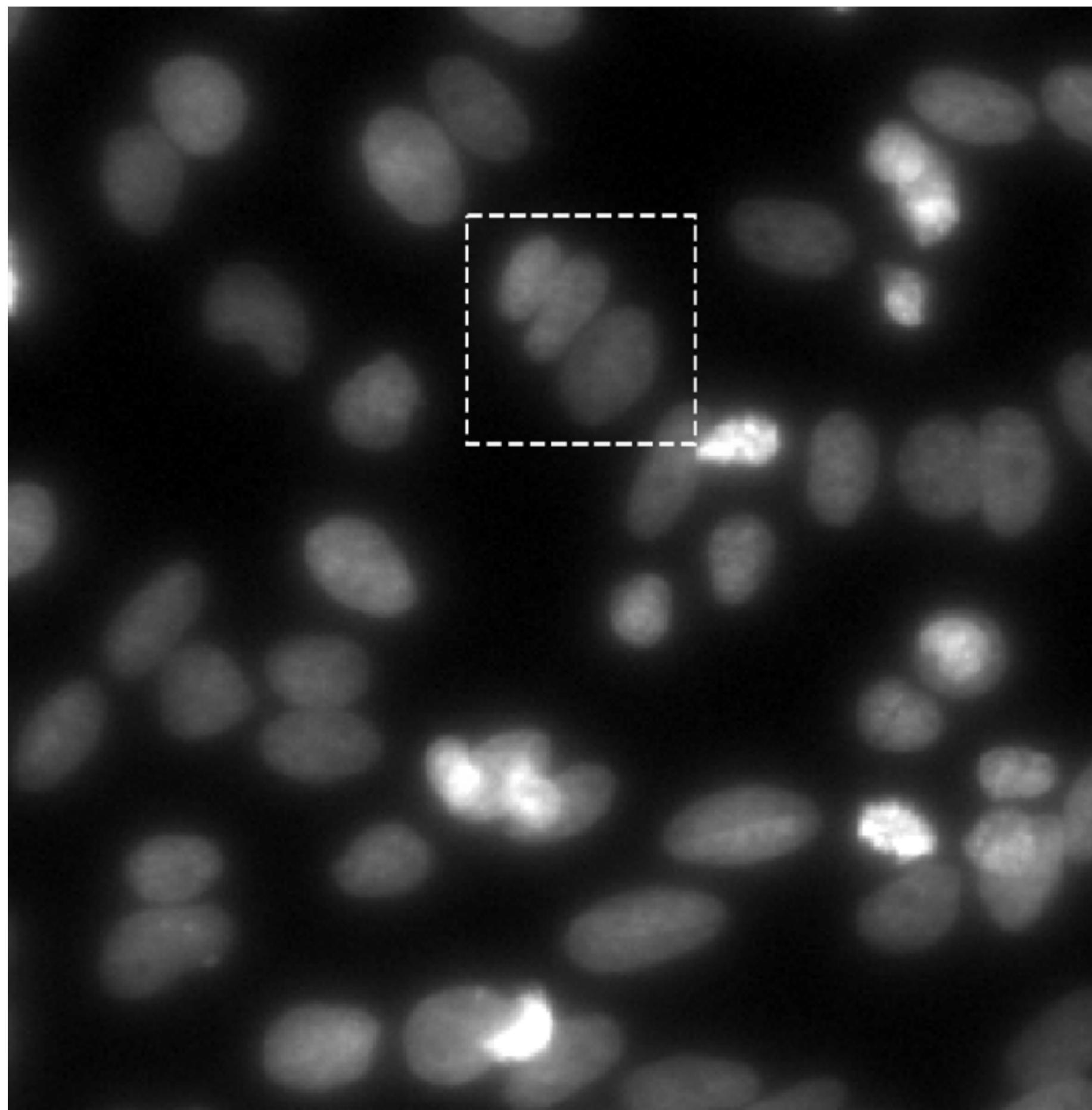
First localize, then segment



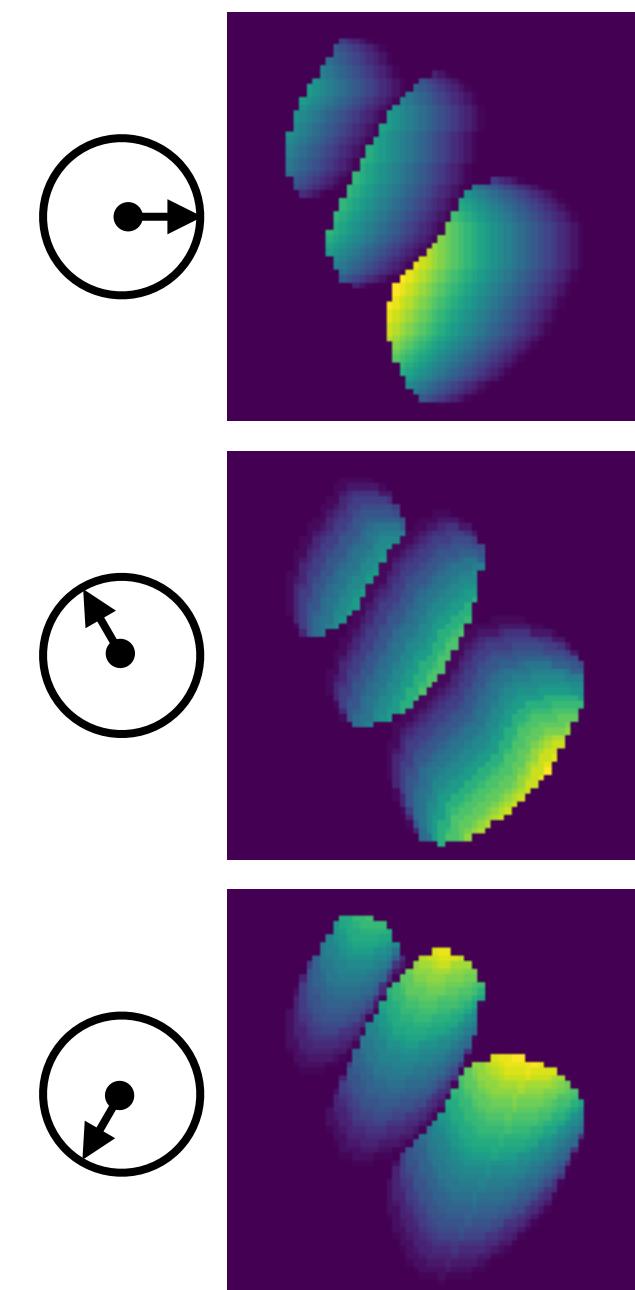
Mask-RCNN

Mislocalization  
Bounding box overlap > threshold

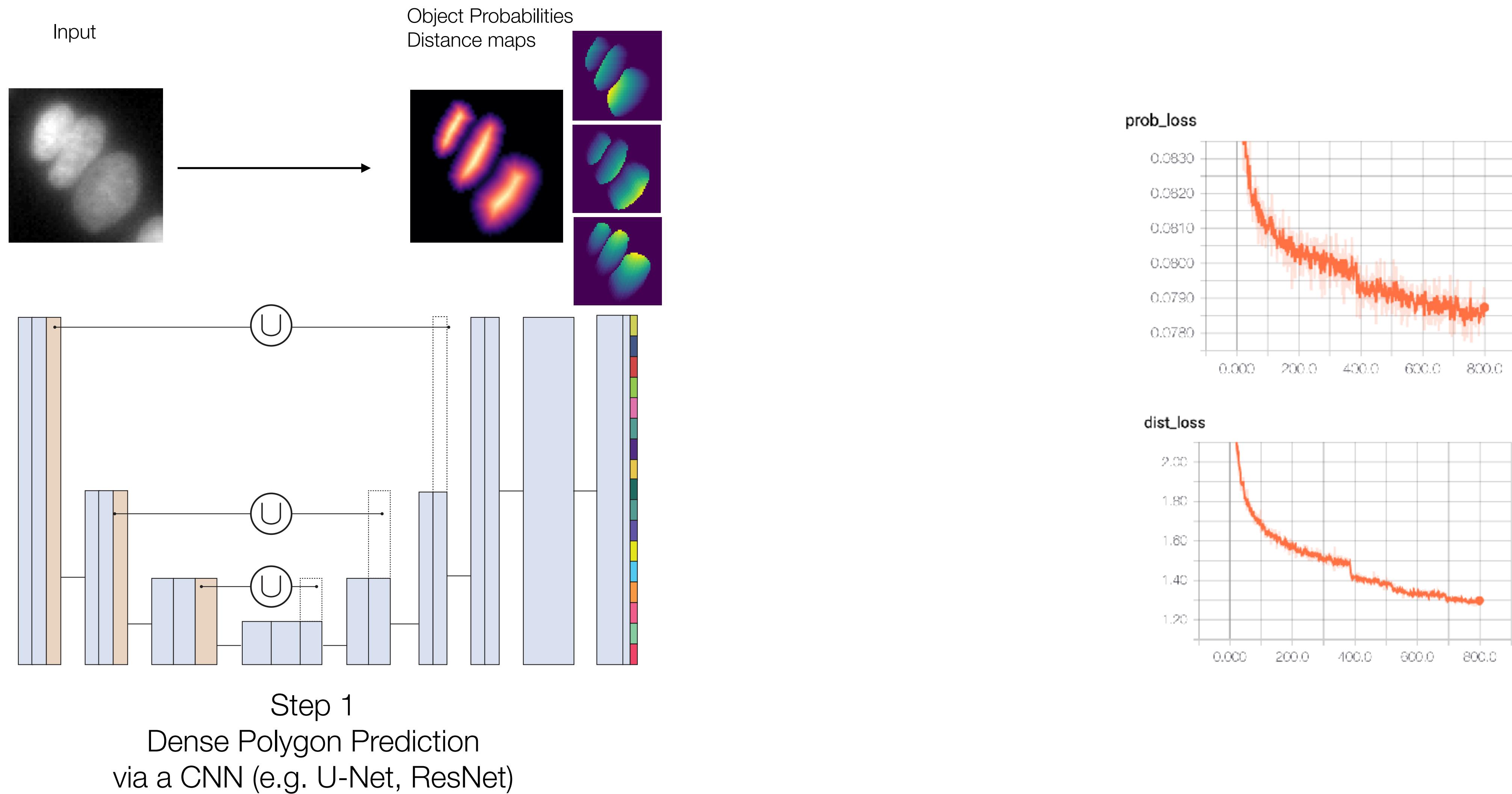
# StarDist: Principle



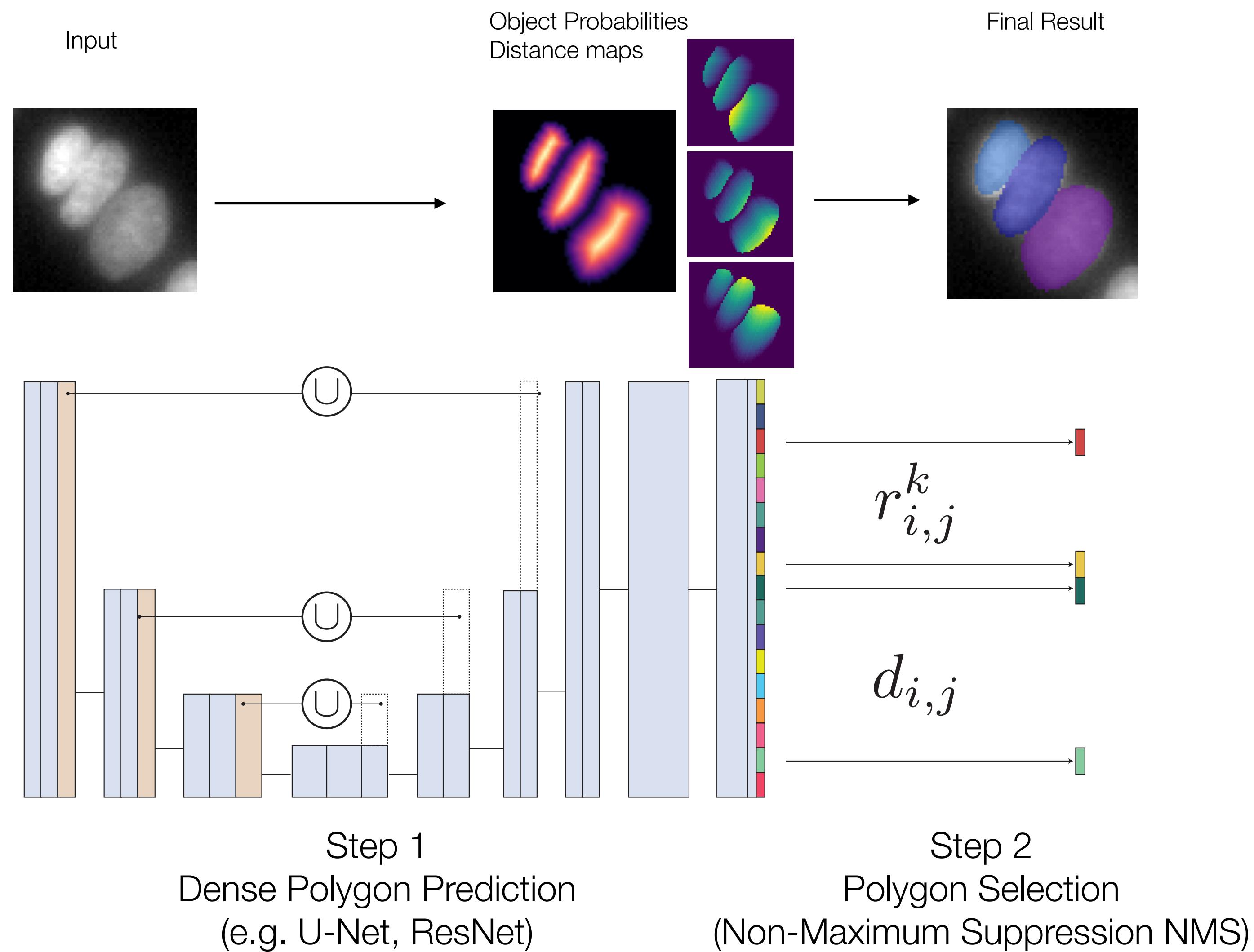
Distance maps (~32)



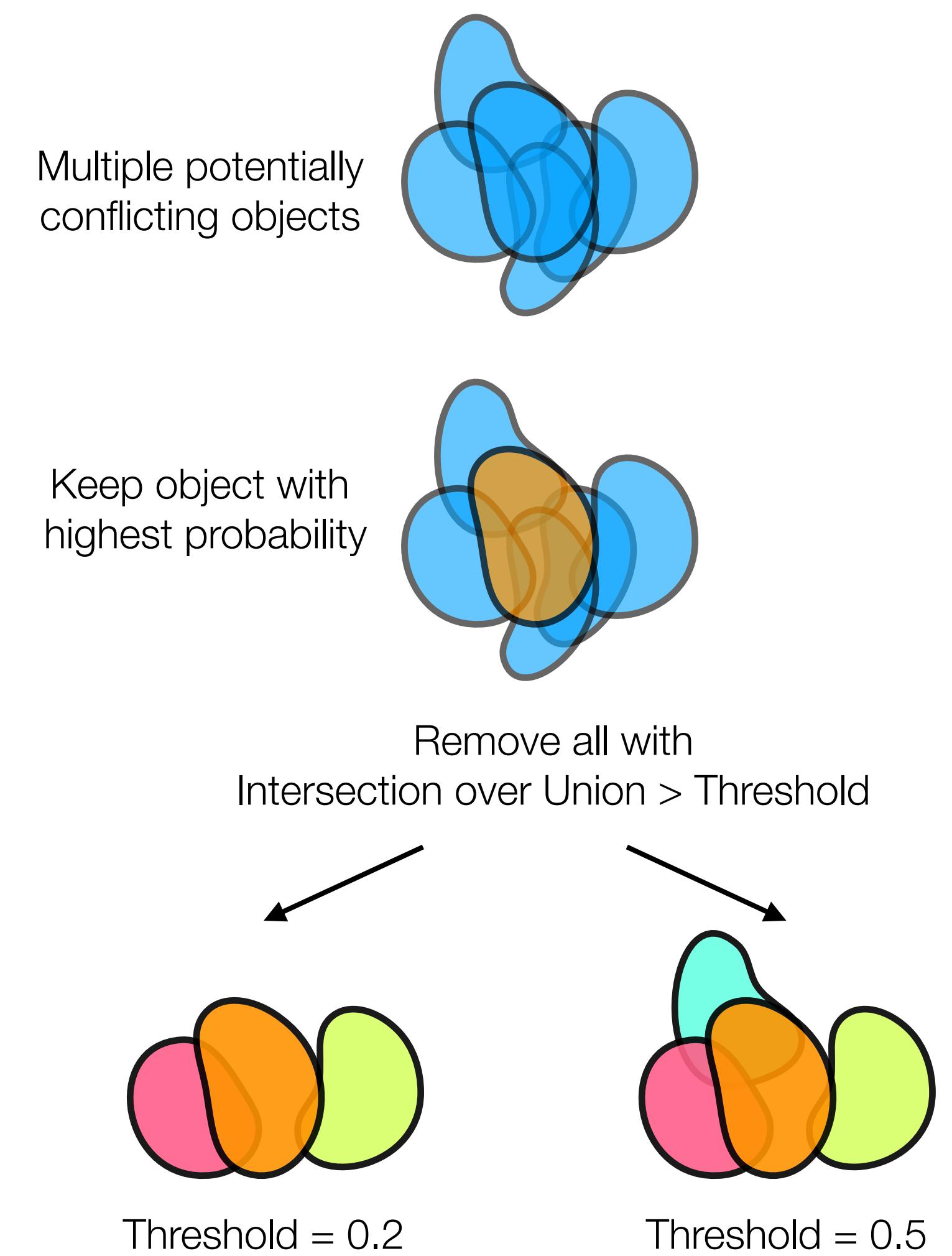
# StarDist: Principle



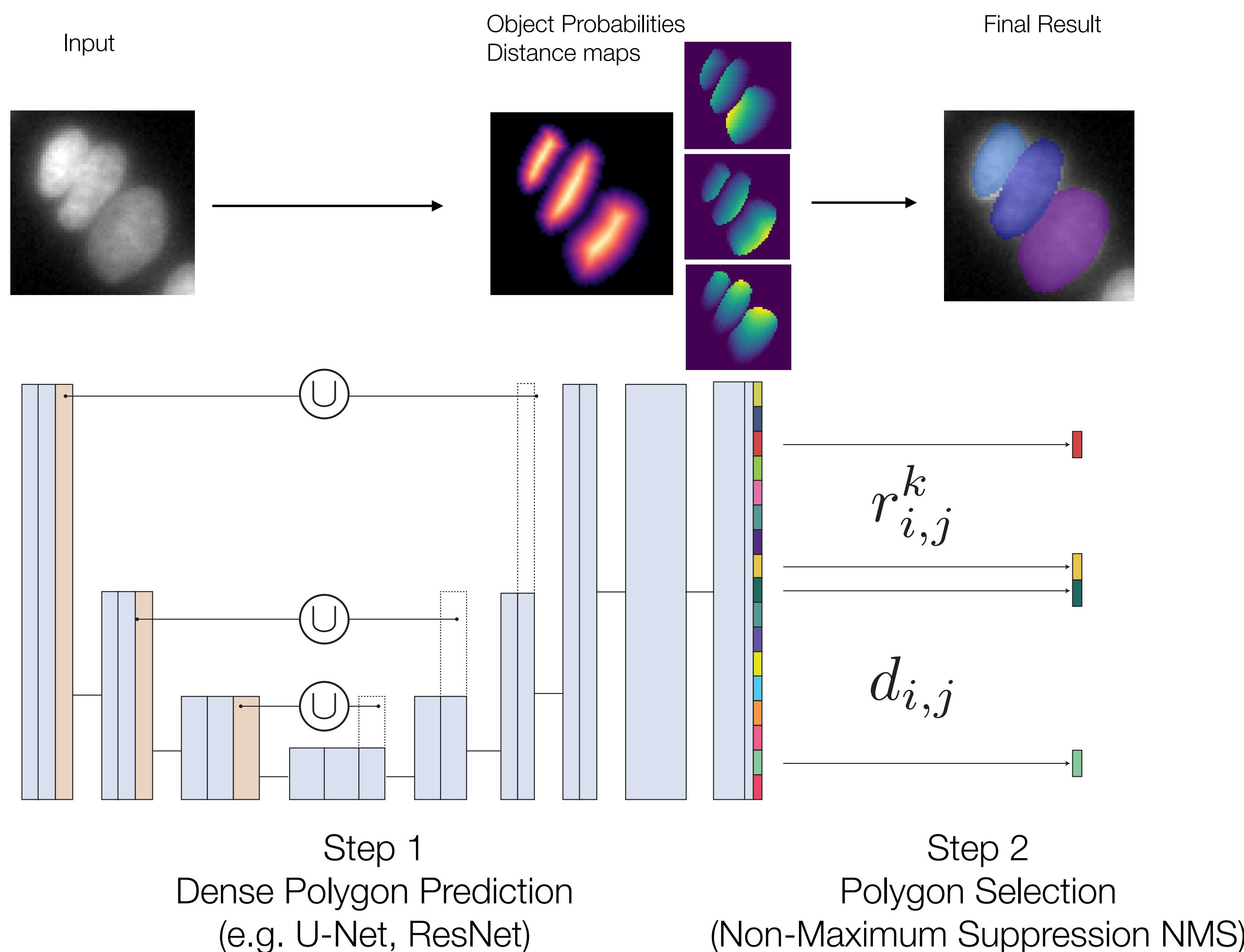
# StarDist: Principle



## Non-Maximum-Suppression (NMS)

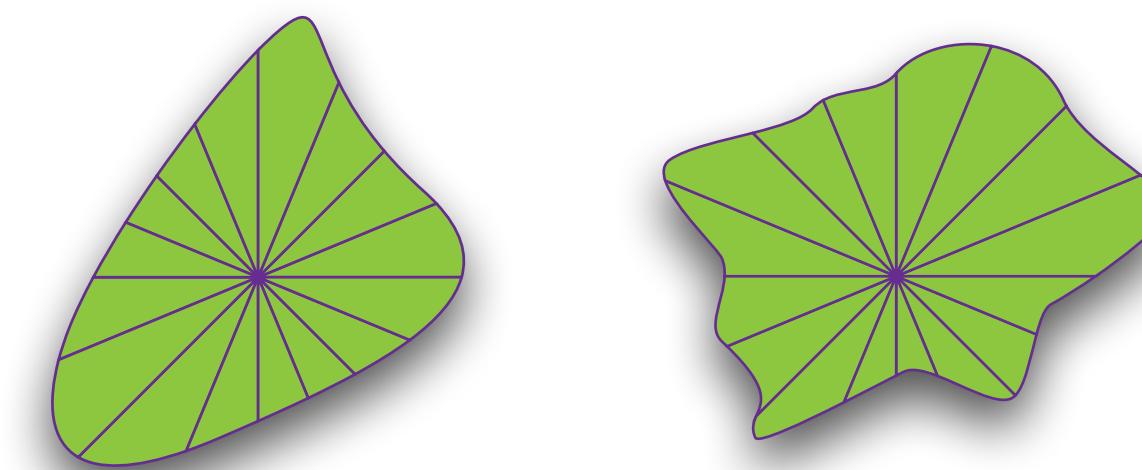


# StarDist: Principle

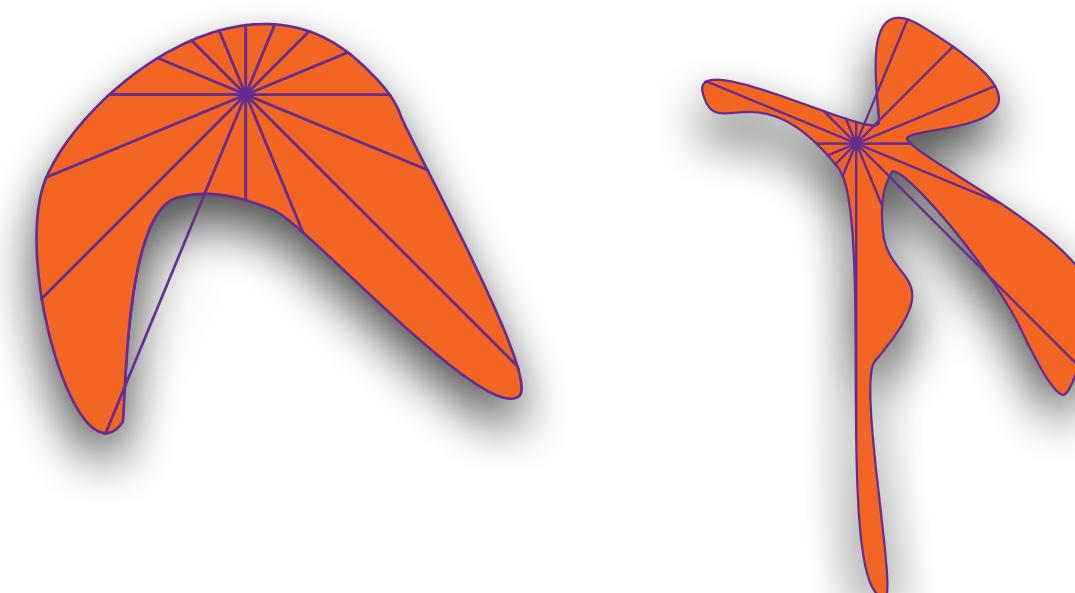


**Important:**  
**Assumes objects are star-convex**

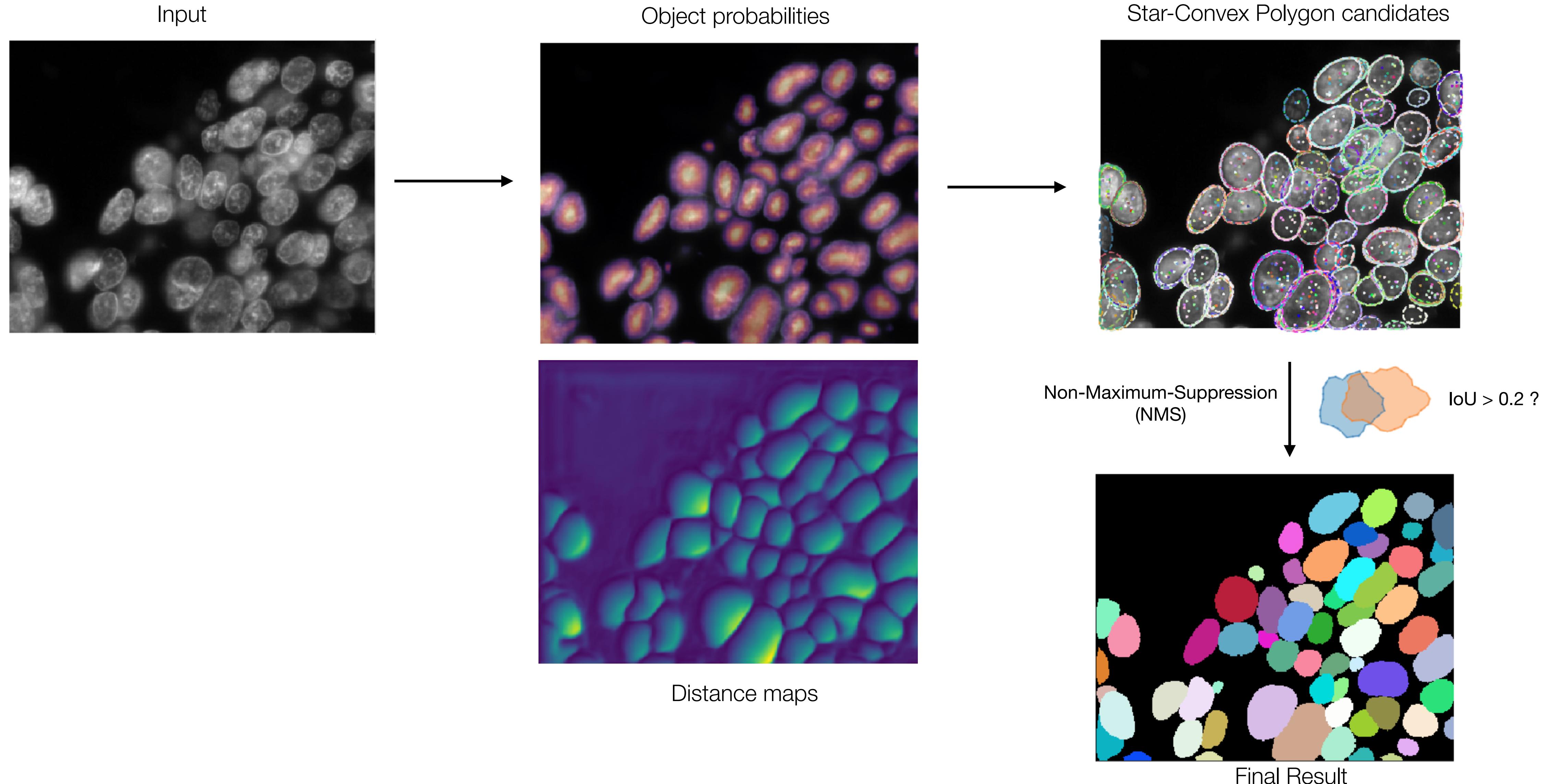
Star-Convex



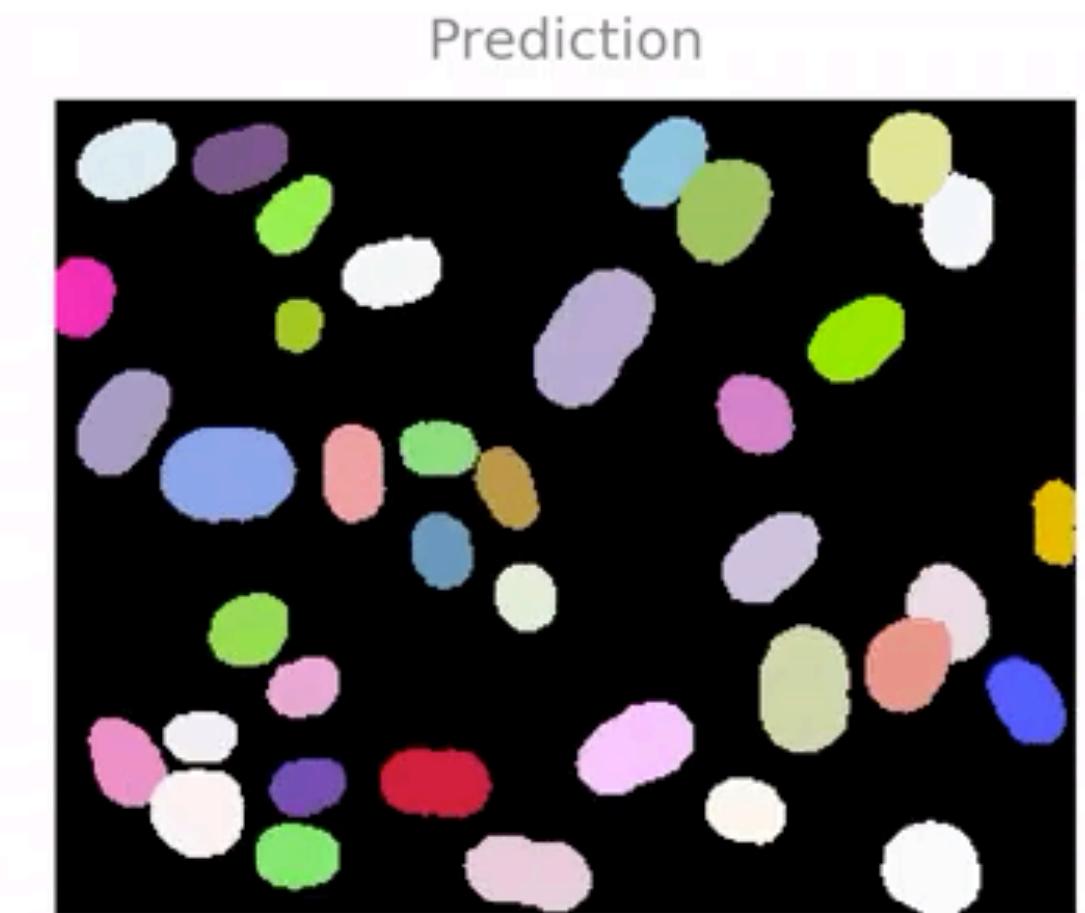
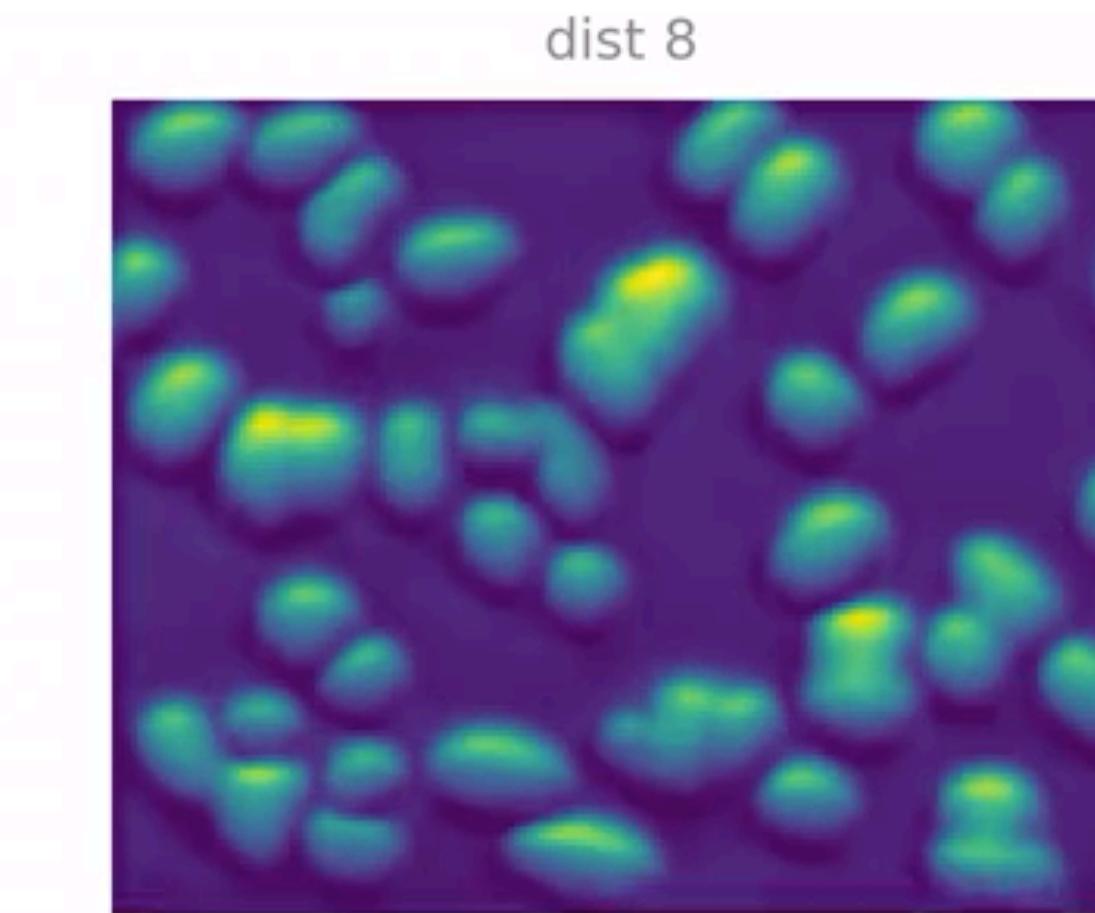
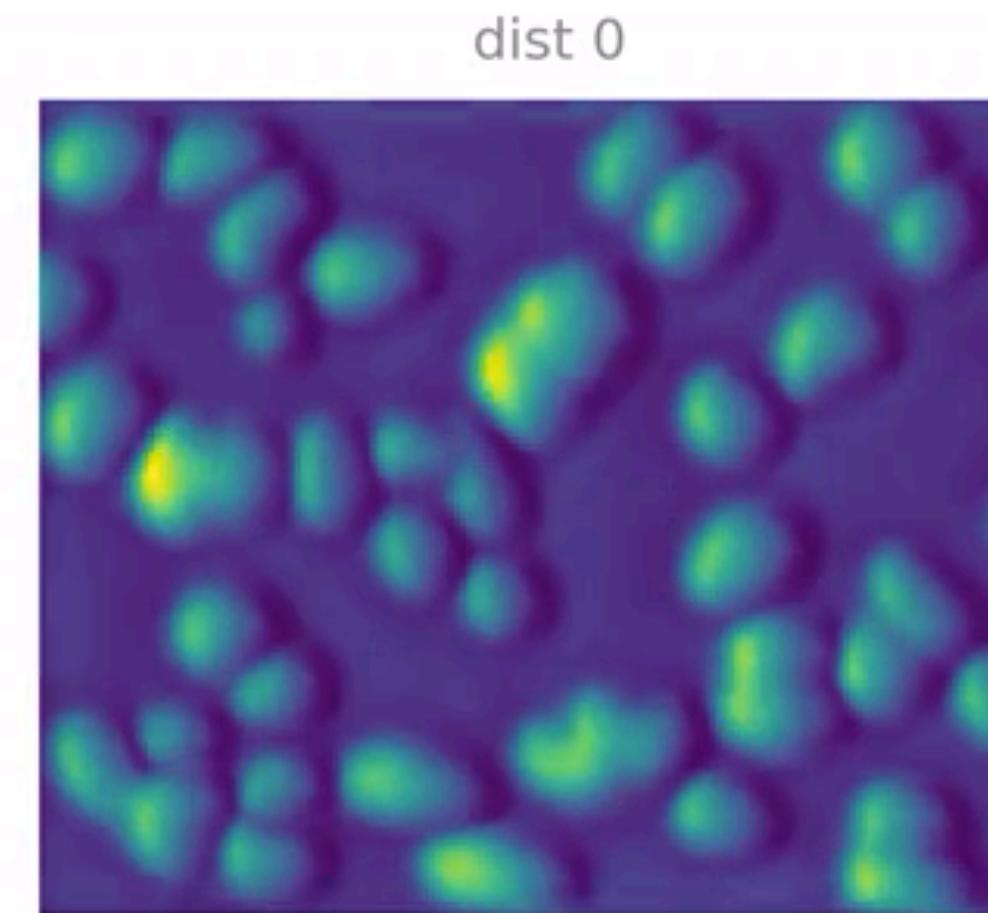
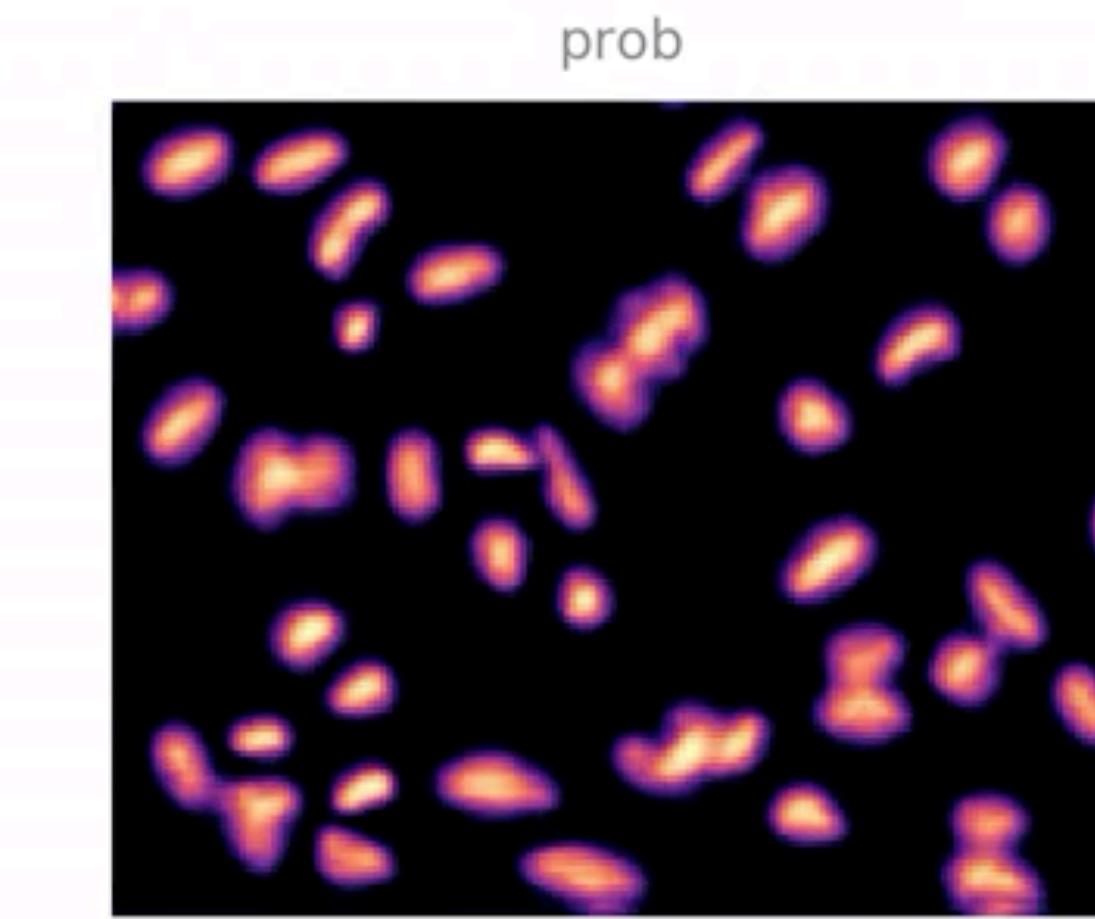
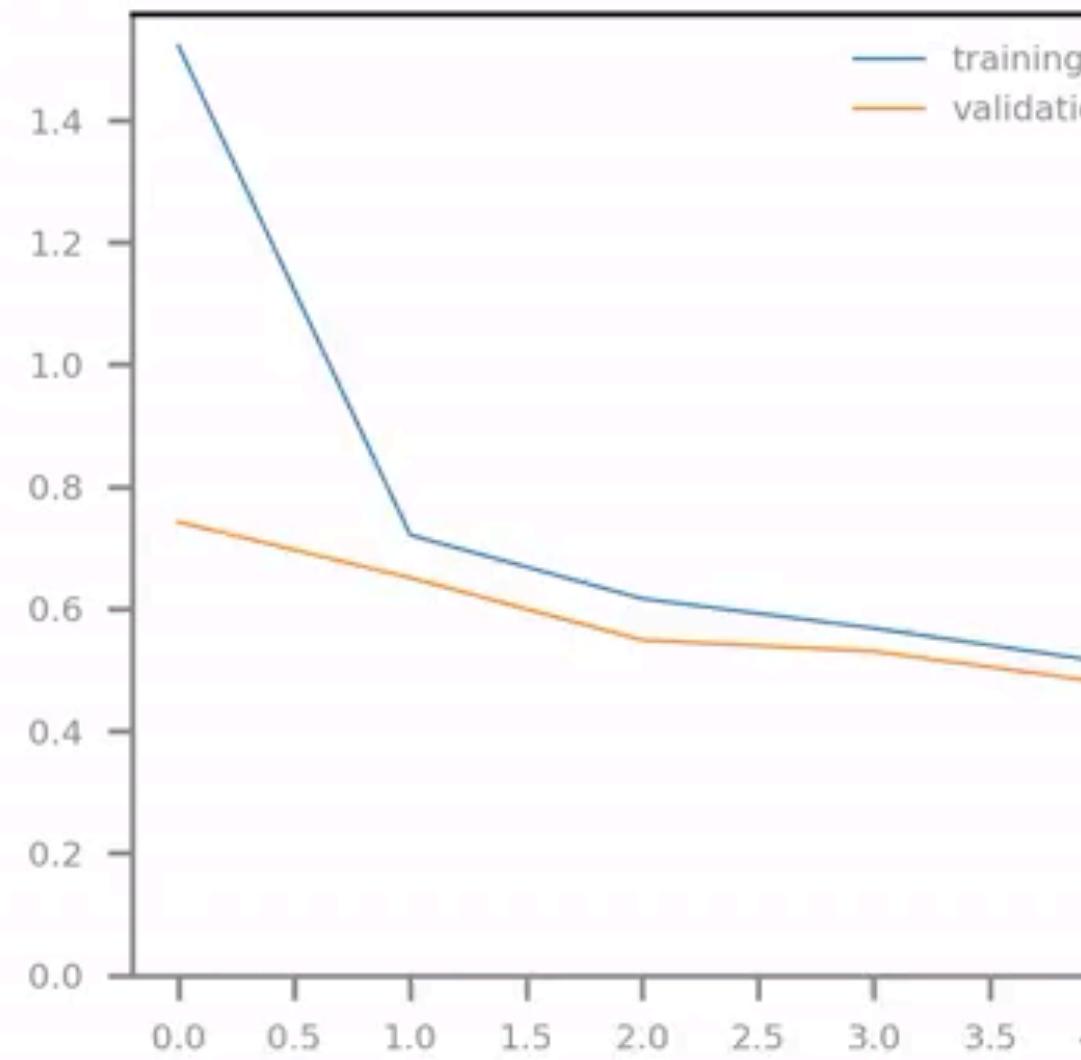
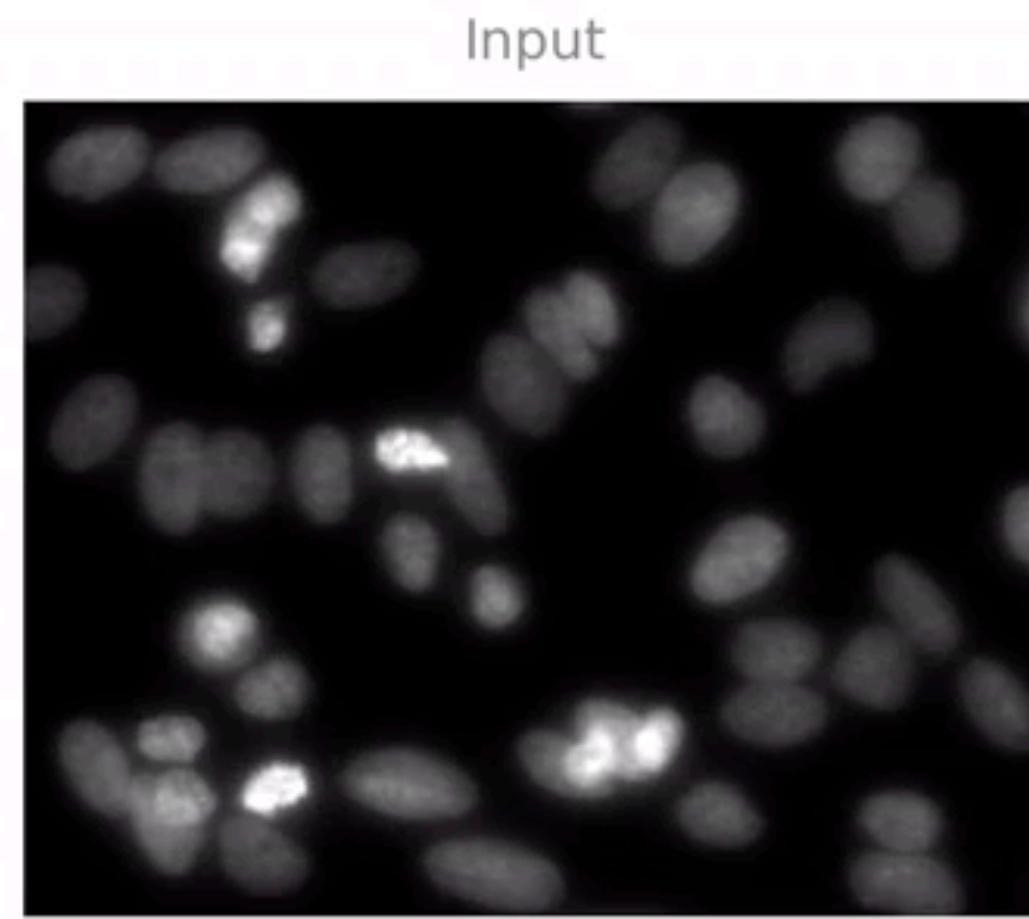
Not Star-Convex



# StarDist: Example



# Training process

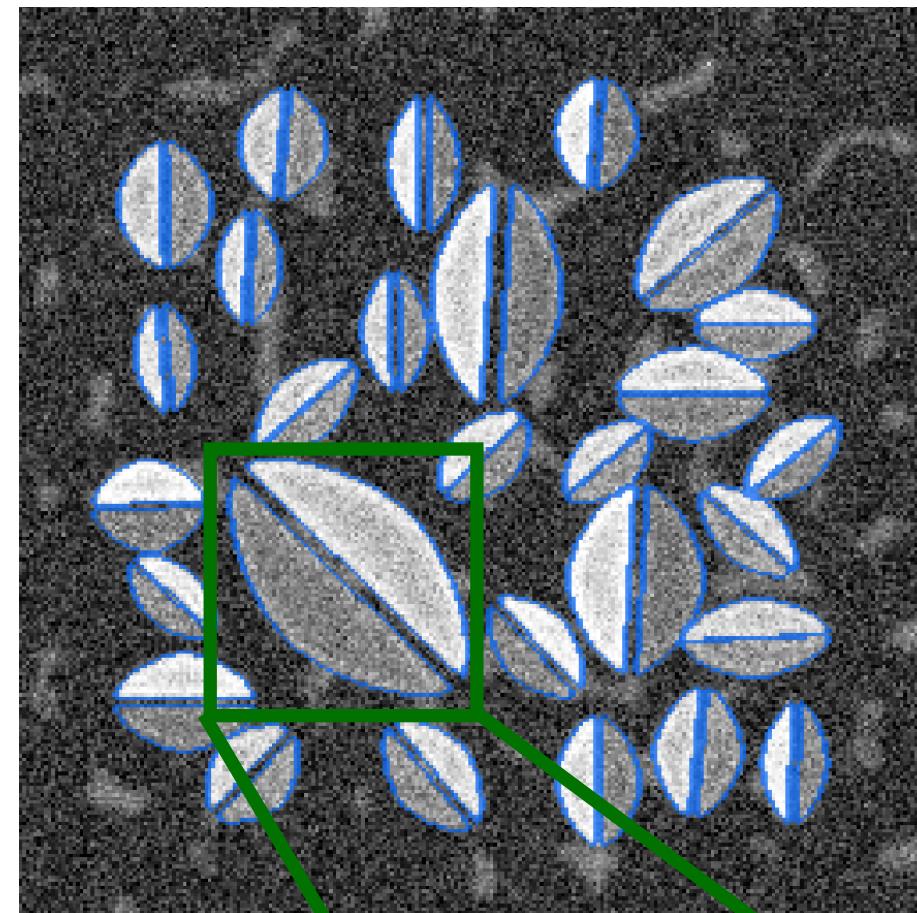


# Comparison with common methods

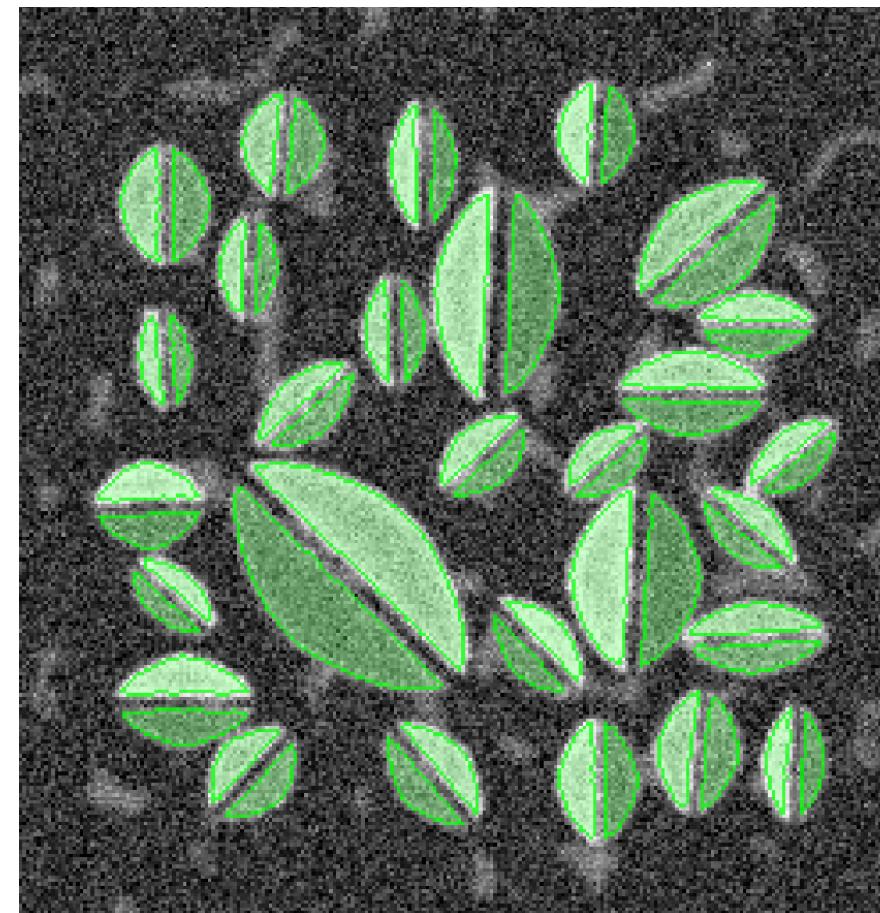
*Coffee-Beans (Synthetic)*

Predictions

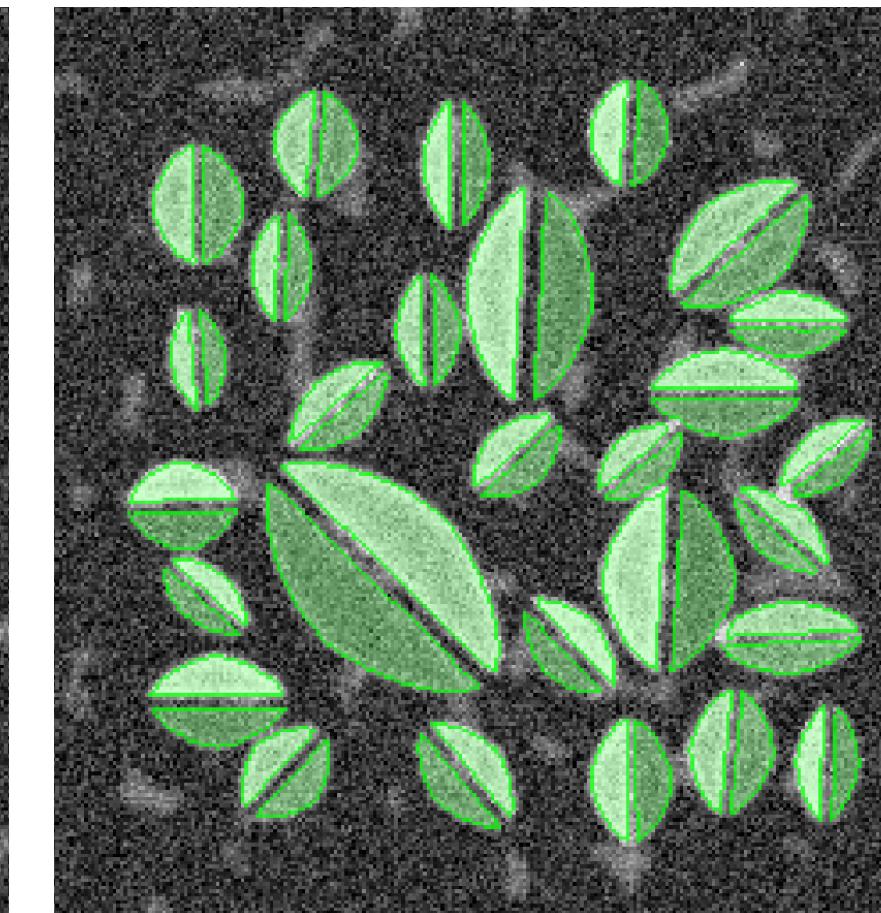
GT



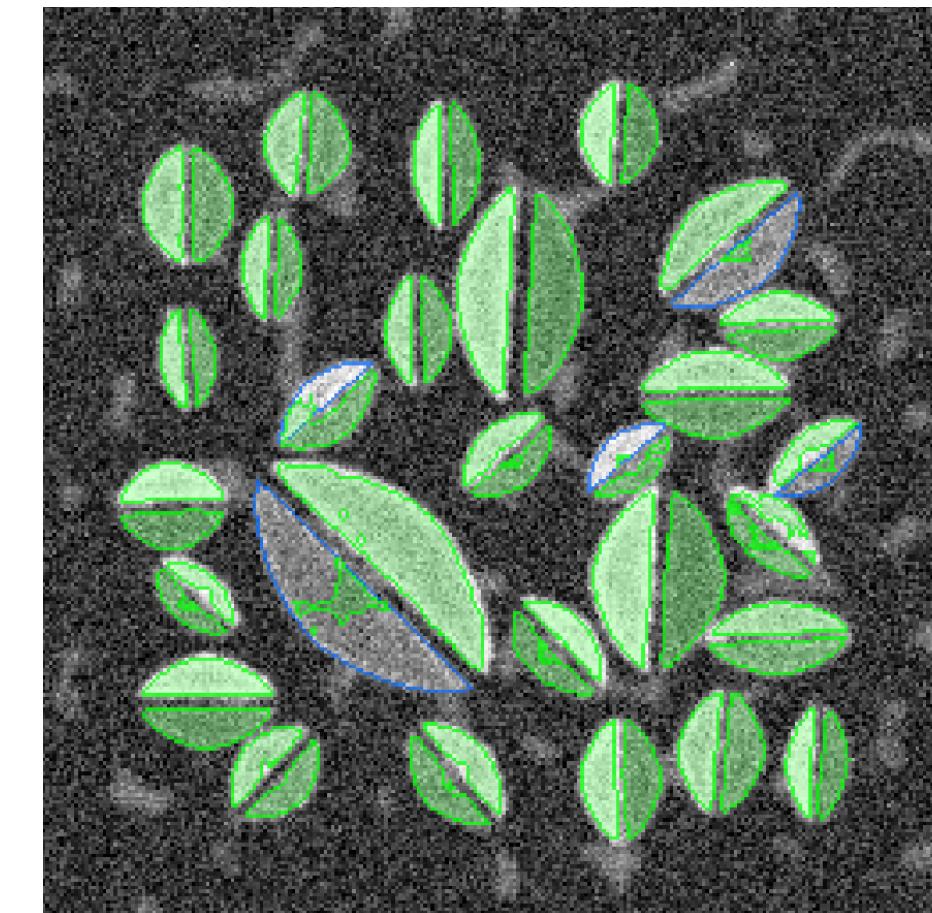
U-Net (2 class)



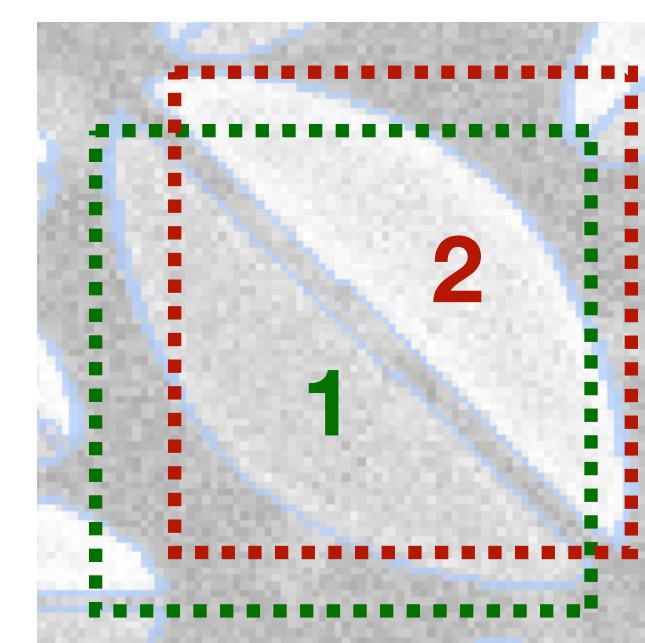
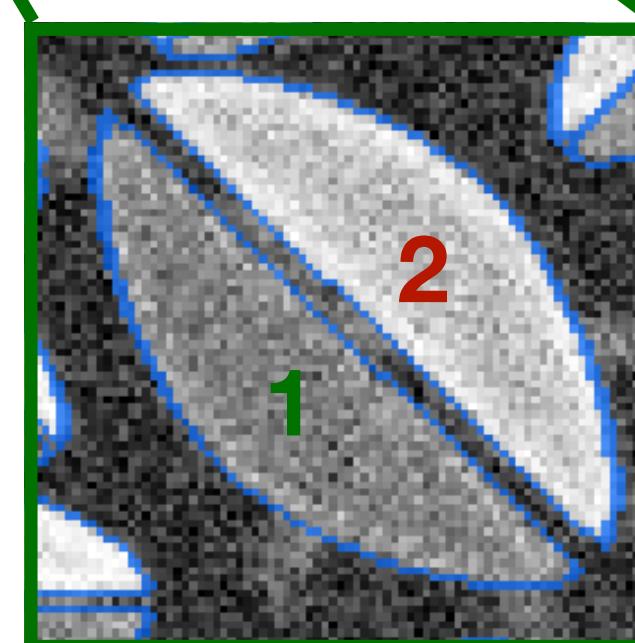
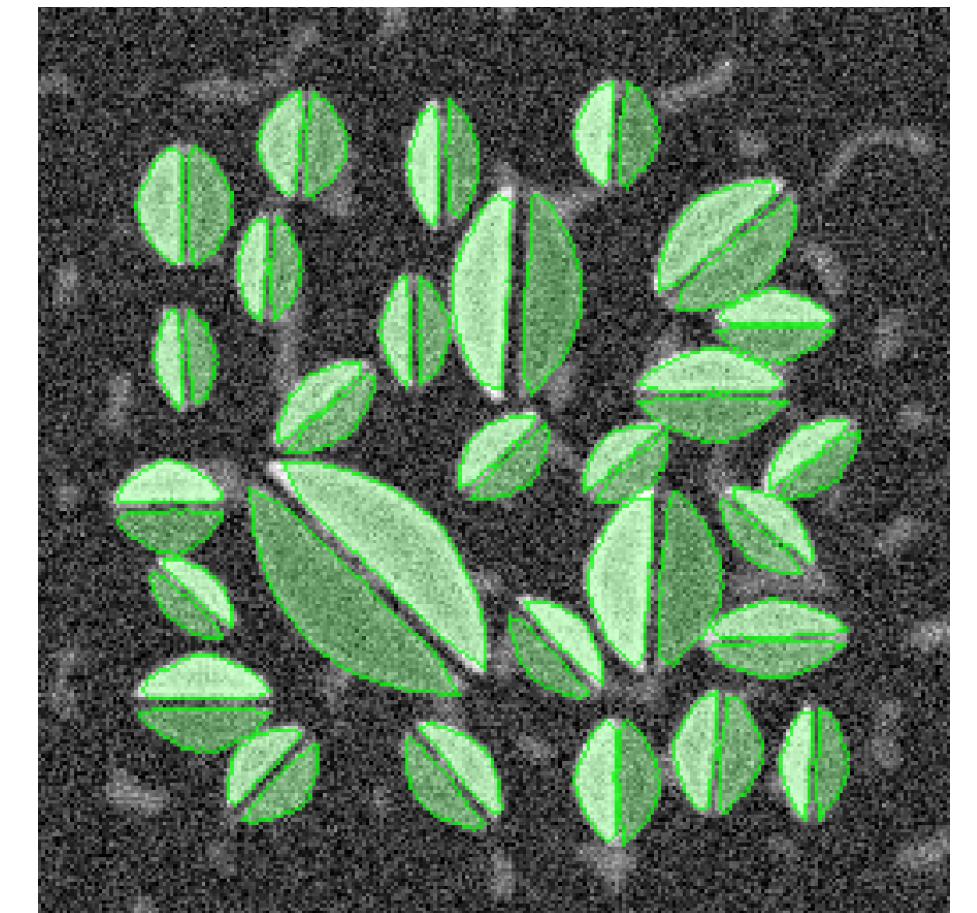
U-Net (3 class)



Mask-RCNN

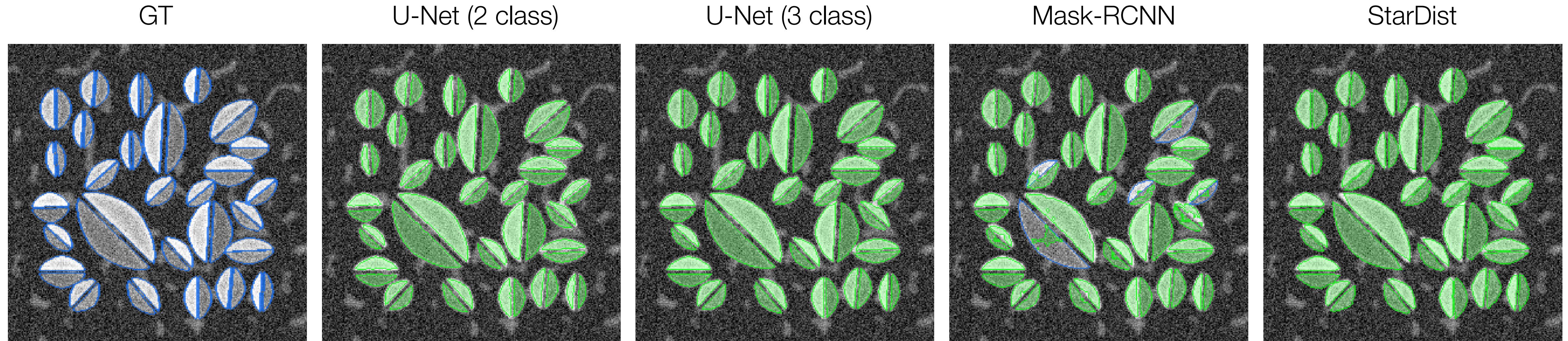


StarDist

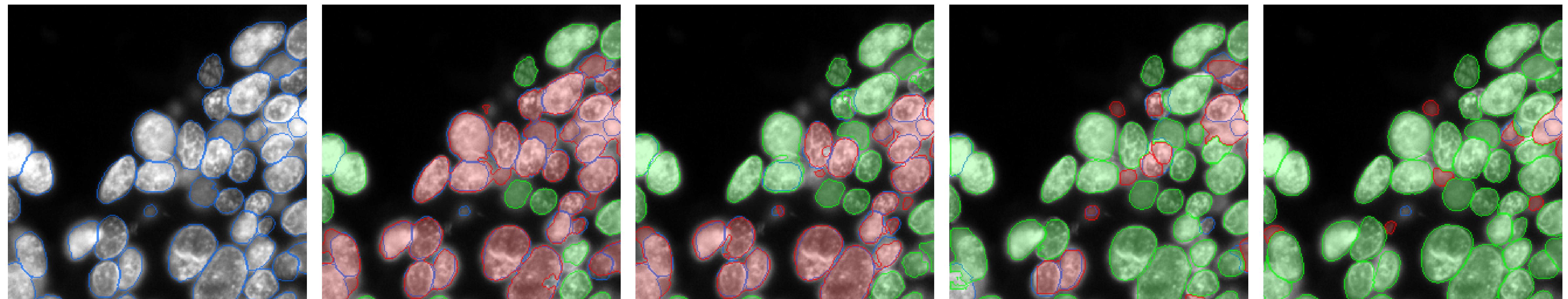


# Comparison with common methods

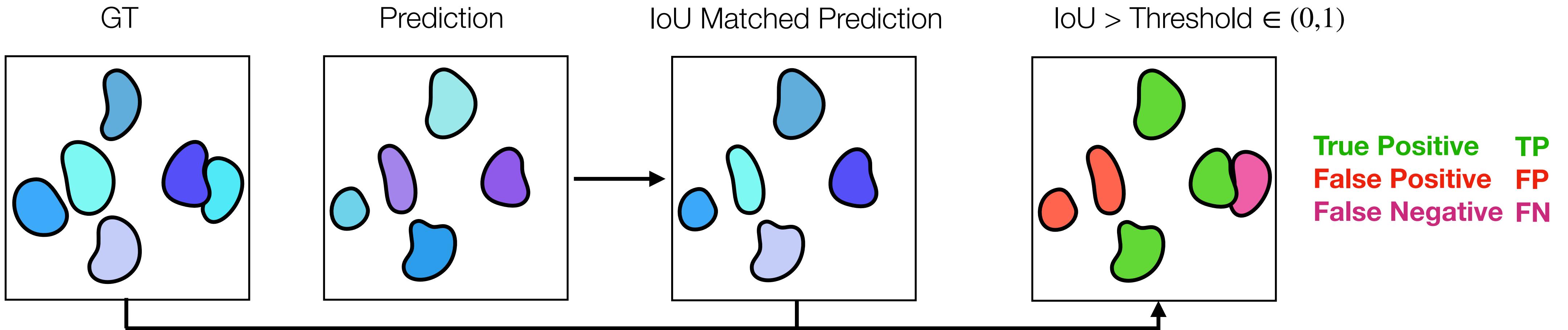
*Coffee-Beans (Synthetic)*



*DSB 2018 (Kaggle Challenge)* Caicedo et al (2019)

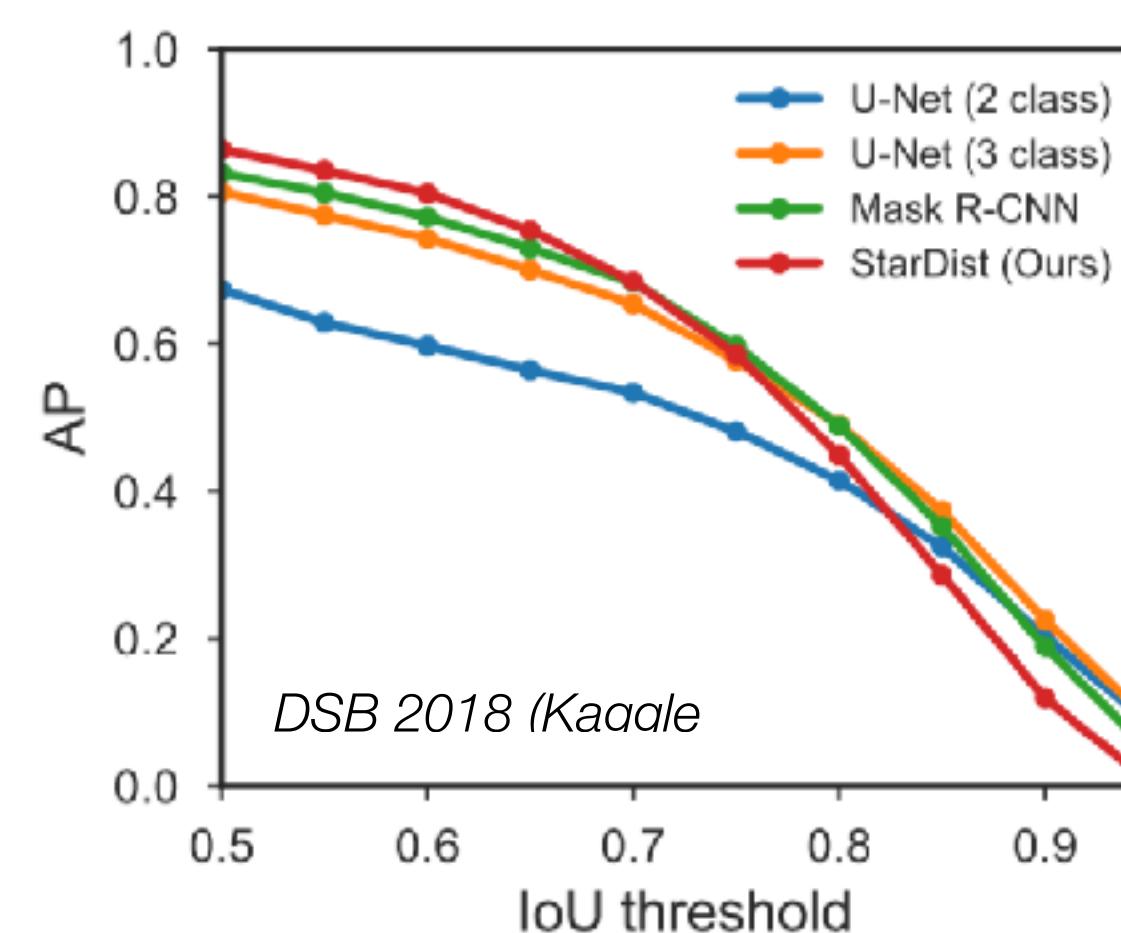


# Accuracy Measures



low threshold: already slightly overlaps are counted as TP (high AP)

high threshold: only almost complete overlaps are counted as TP (low AP)



Precision

$$\frac{TP}{TP + FP}$$

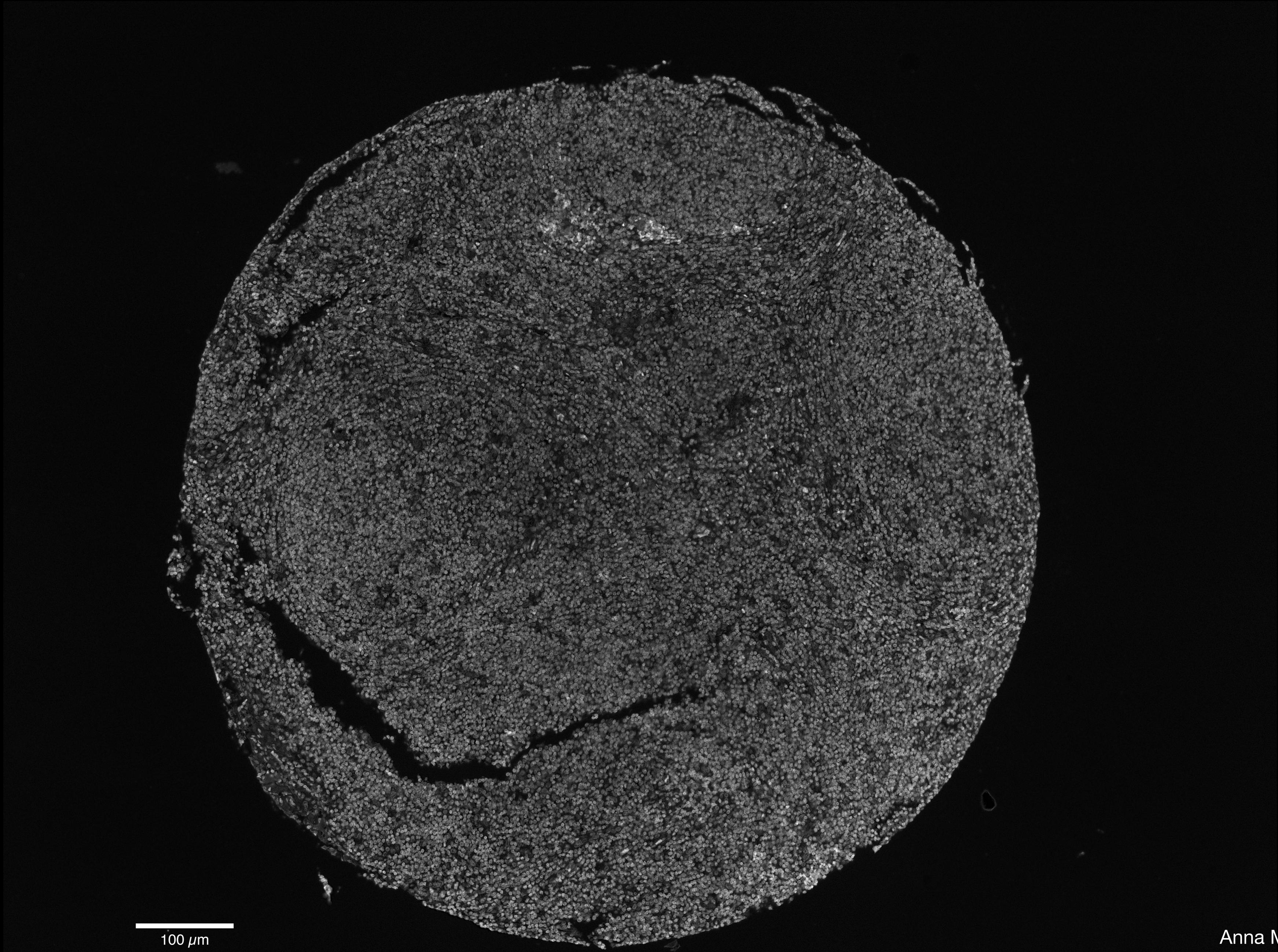
Recall

$$\frac{TP}{TP + FN}$$

Average Precision (AP)  
Accuracy

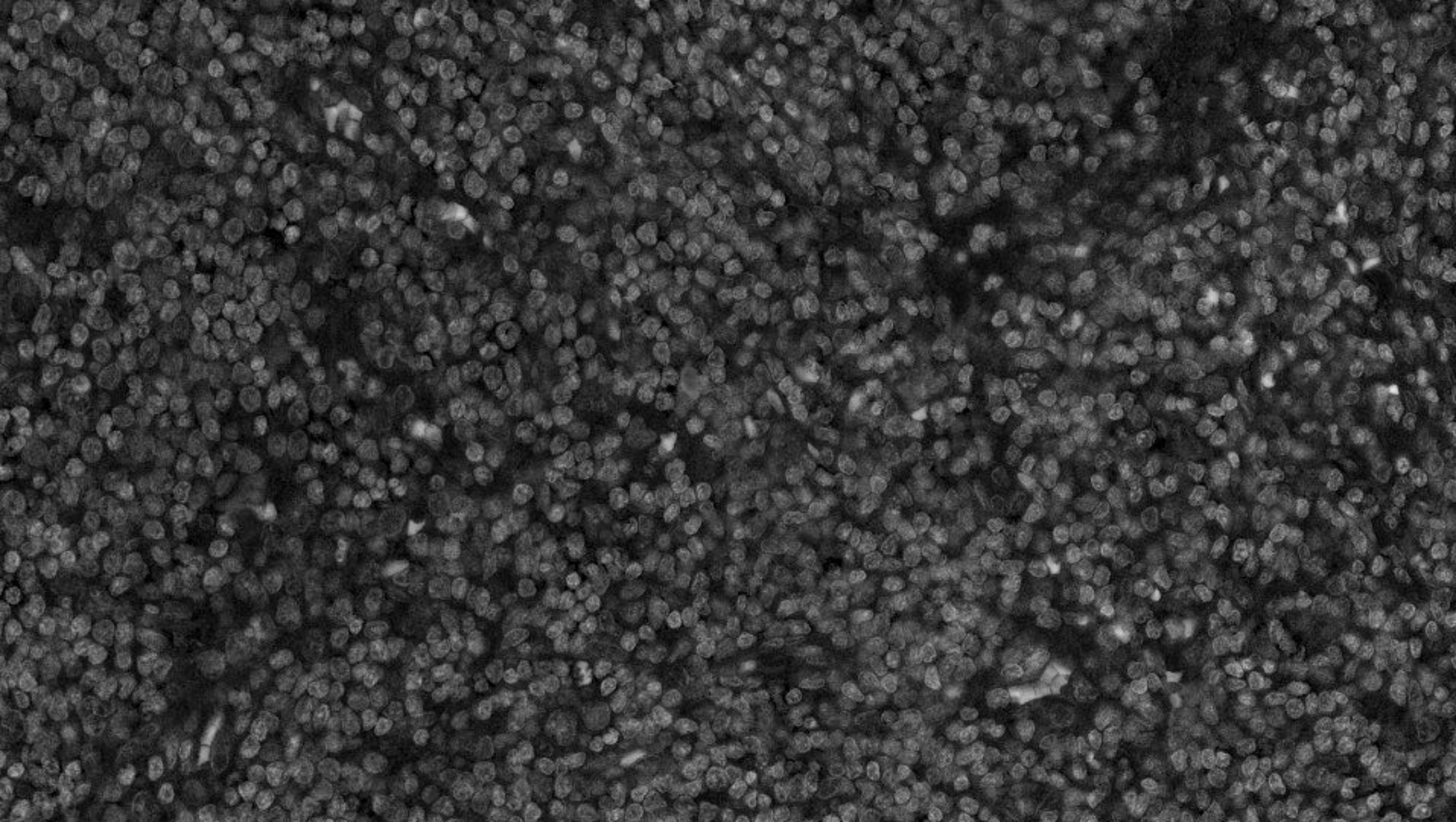
$$\frac{TP}{TP + FP + FN}$$

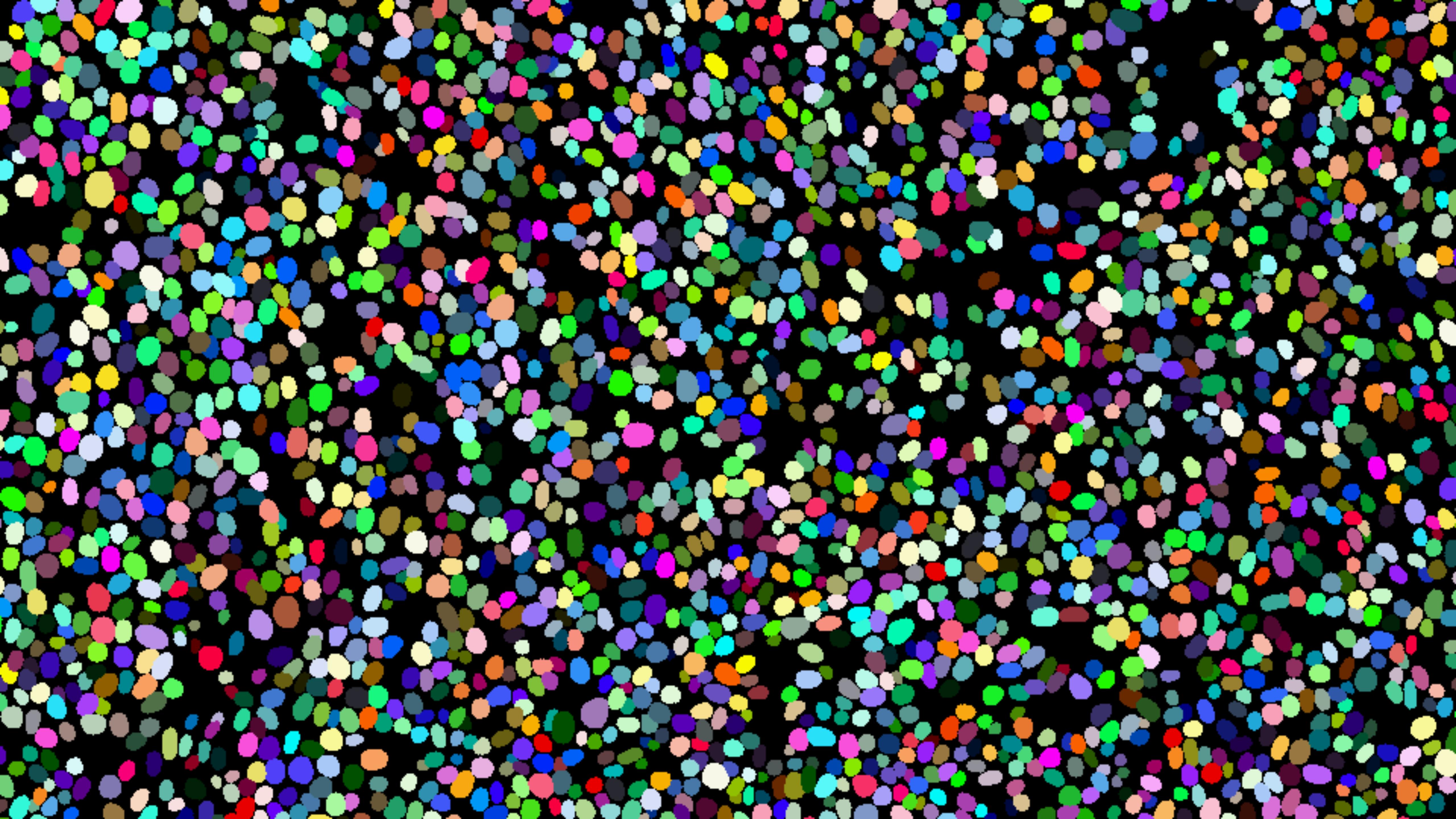
# Example: crowded lymphoma cells



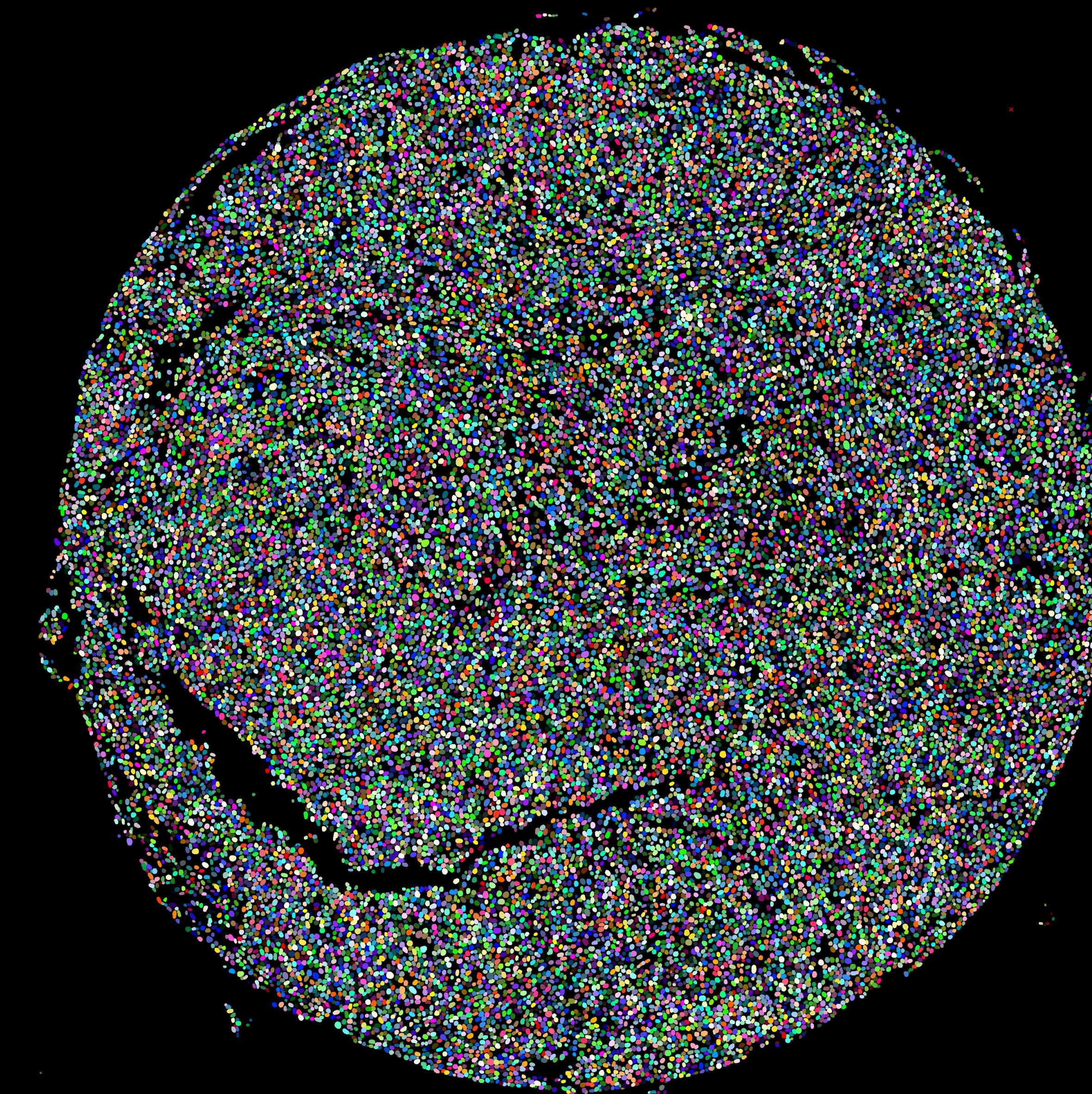
100  $\mu\text{m}$

Anna Maria Tsakiroglou (Manchester)

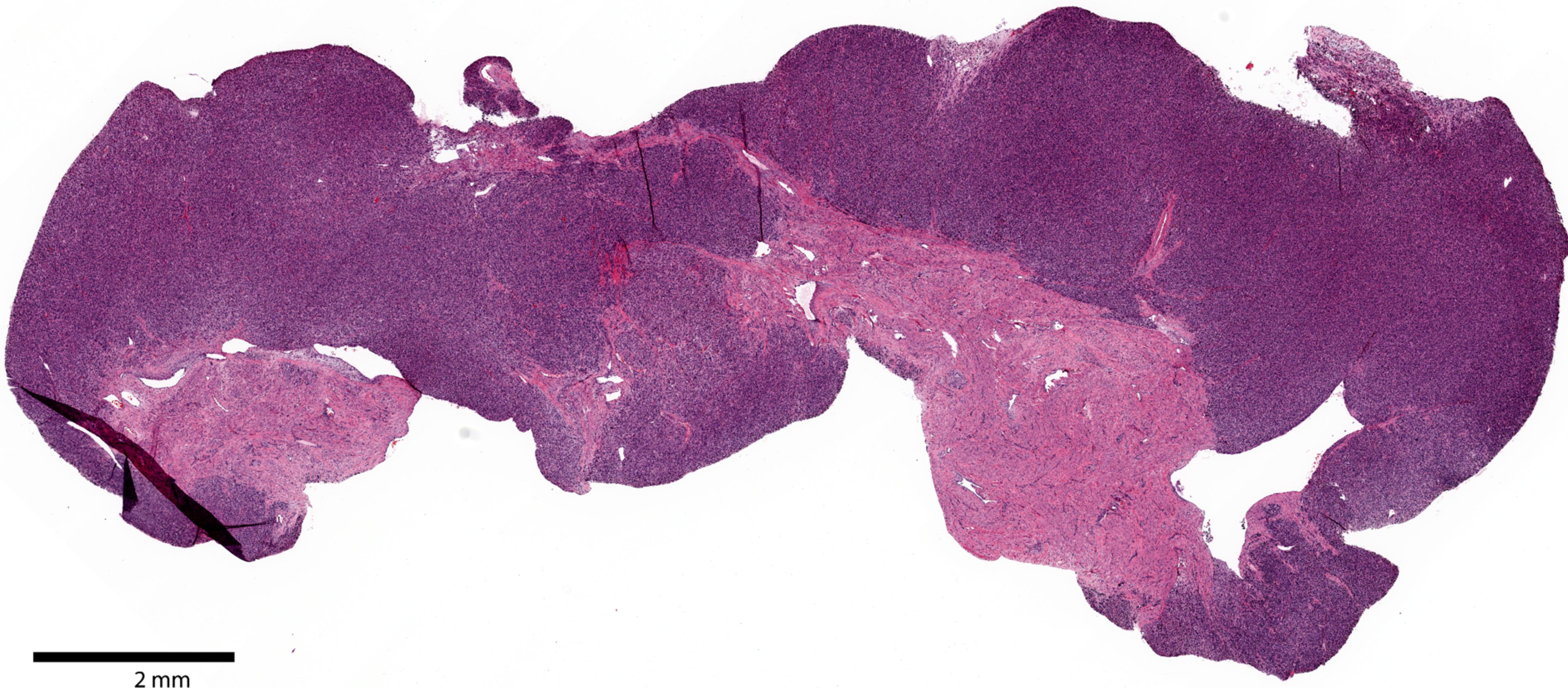




# Example: crowded lymphoma cells

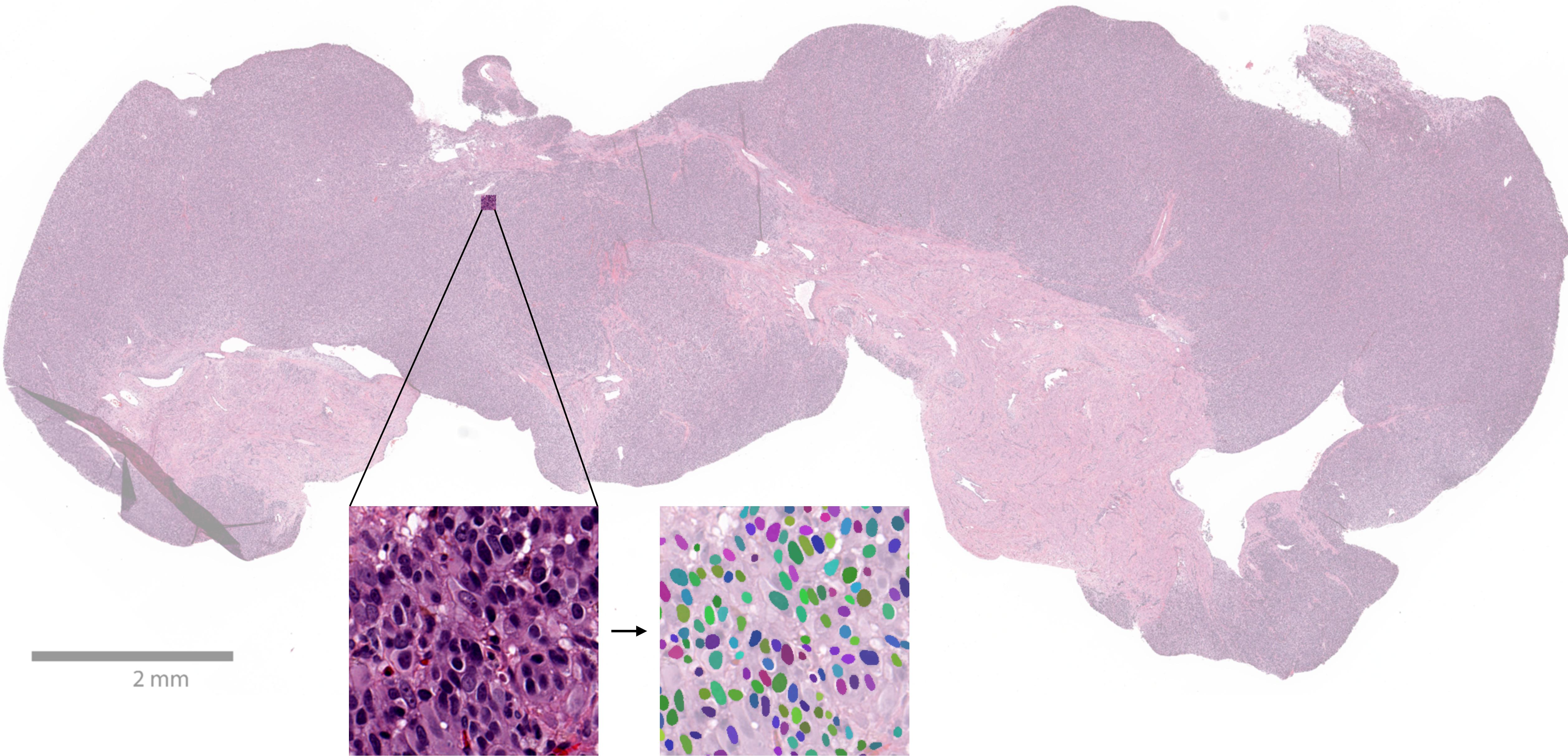


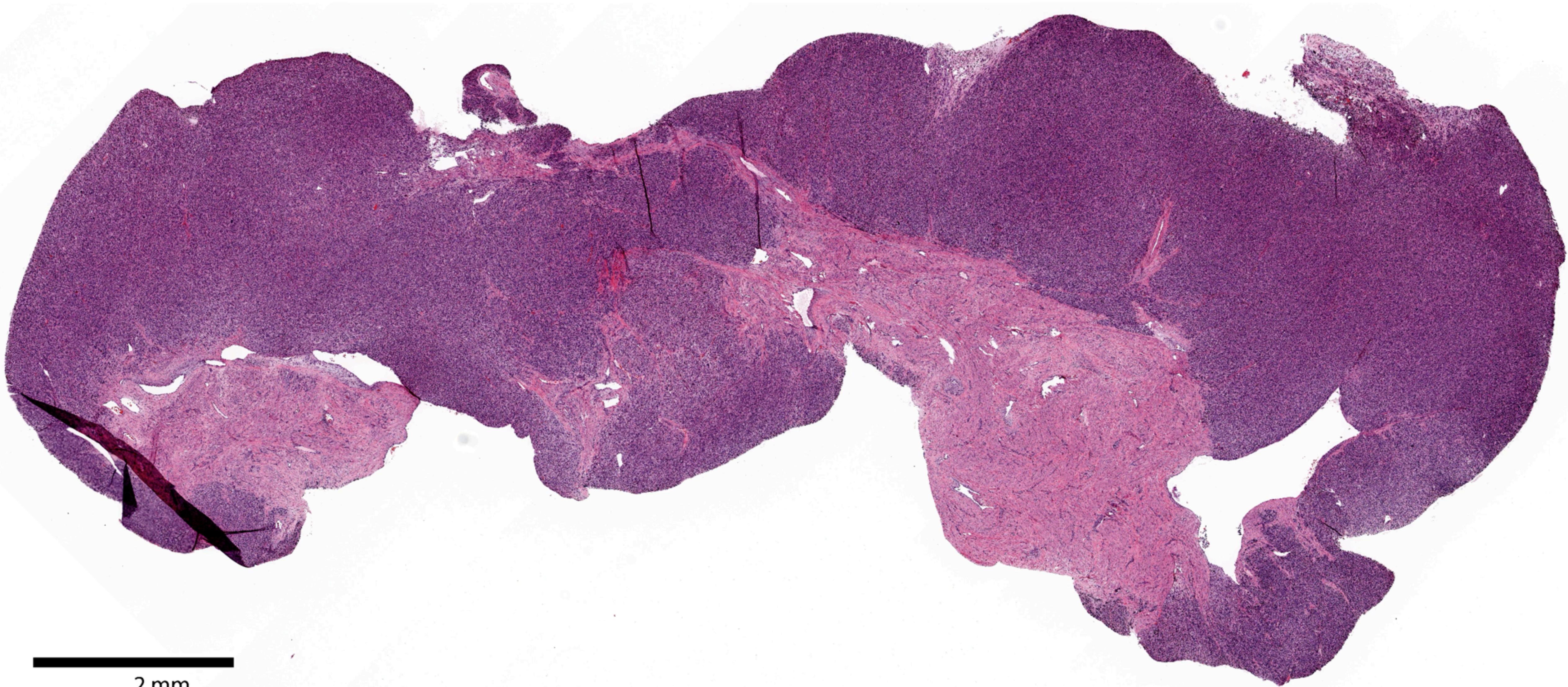
# Example: Histopathology (H&E stain)



Whole Slide H&E (Sarcoma), (15mm x 6mm, 32k x 14k pixels, 1.35 GB)

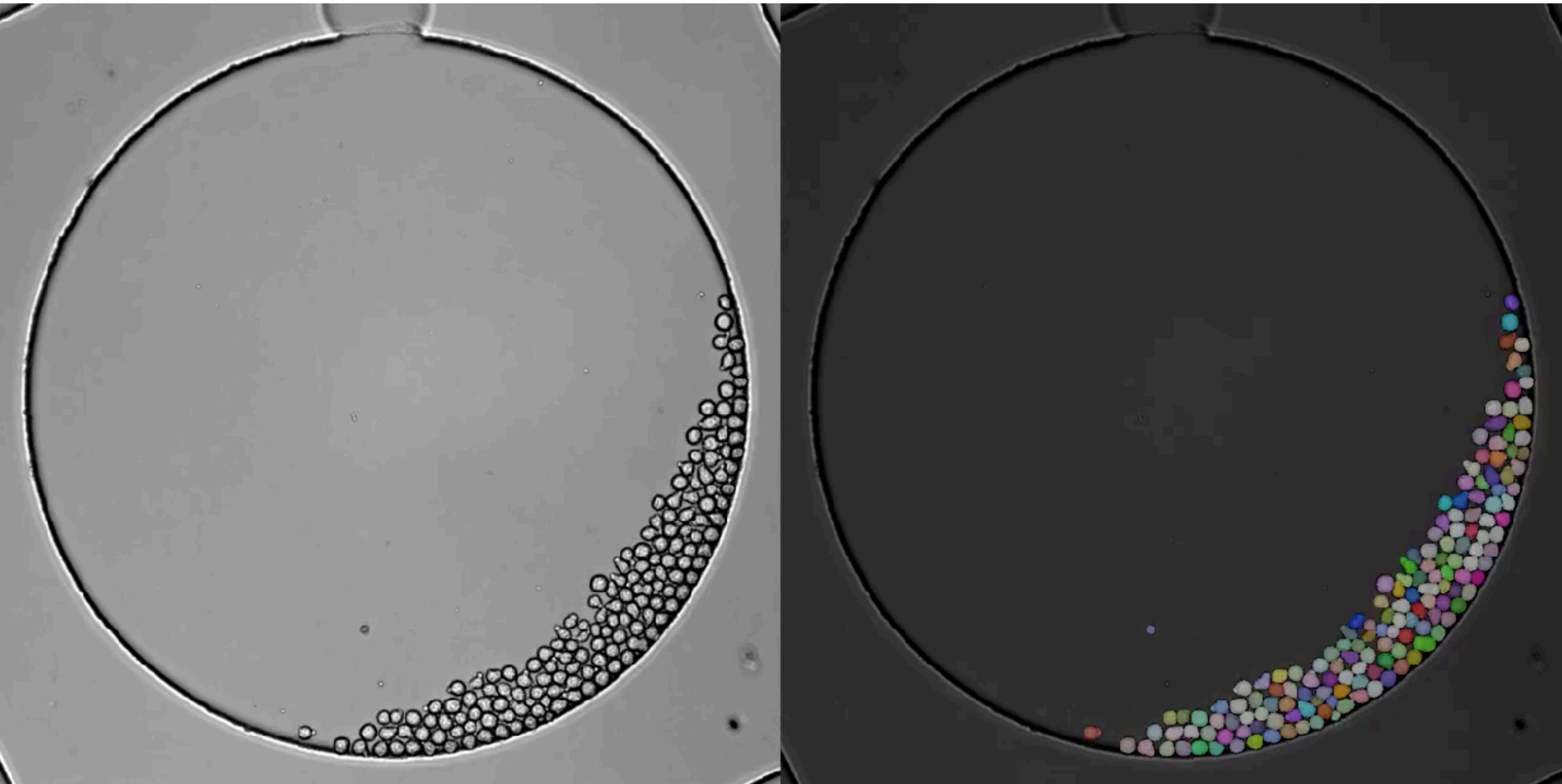
# Example: Histopathology (H&E stain)





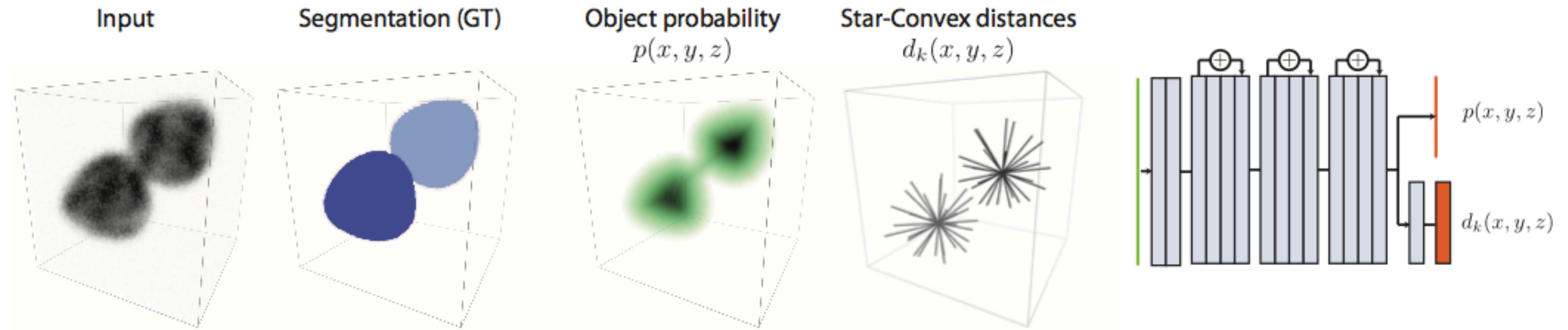
2 mm

# Example: Brightfield



# StarDist for 3D images

Similar approach:



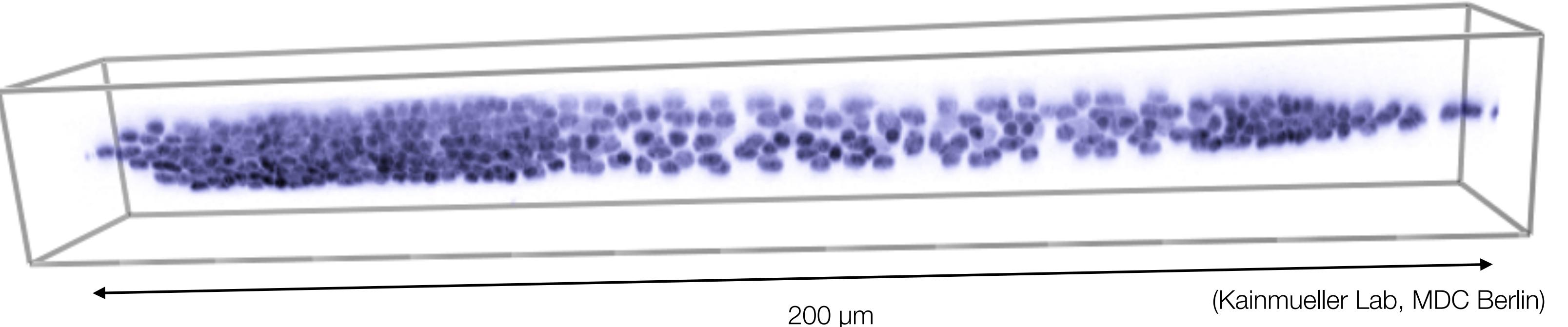
Additional Considerations:

- Ray choice: Fibonacci Lattice on sphere ~ 96 points
- Data anisotropy: Adjust rays according to GT anisotropy
- Non-Maximum Suppression of large sets of polyhedra (> 2 Mio candidates)

# Examples 3D

*C. elegans* (L1)

- 28 Stacks
- ~15k annotated cells
- almost isotropic resolution



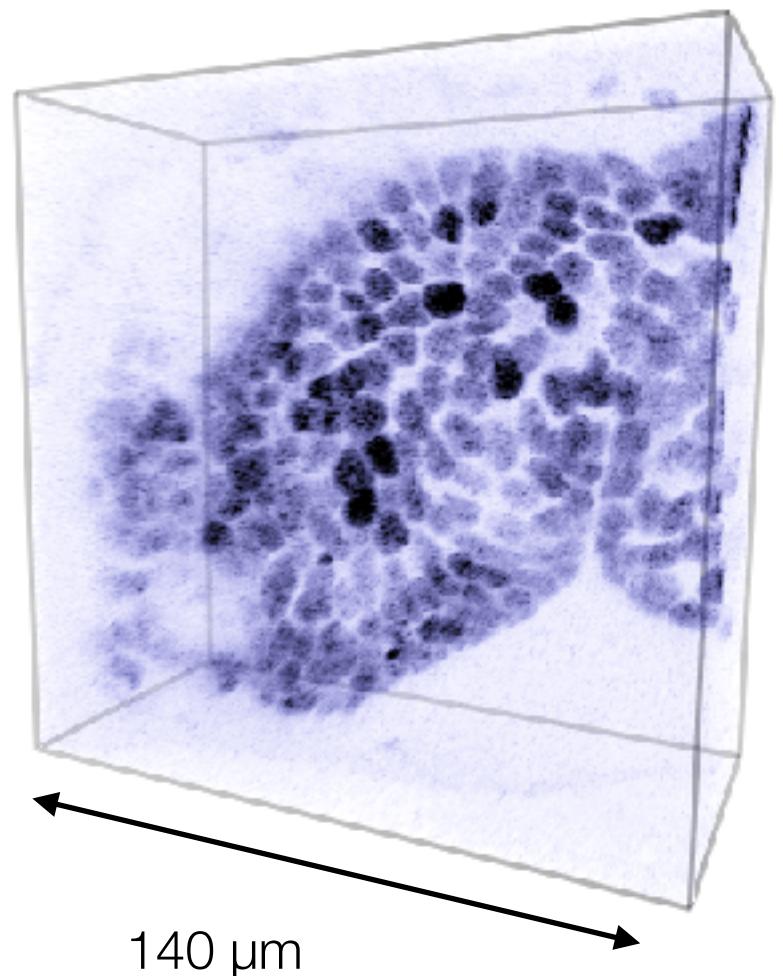
(Kainmueller Lab, MDC Berlin)



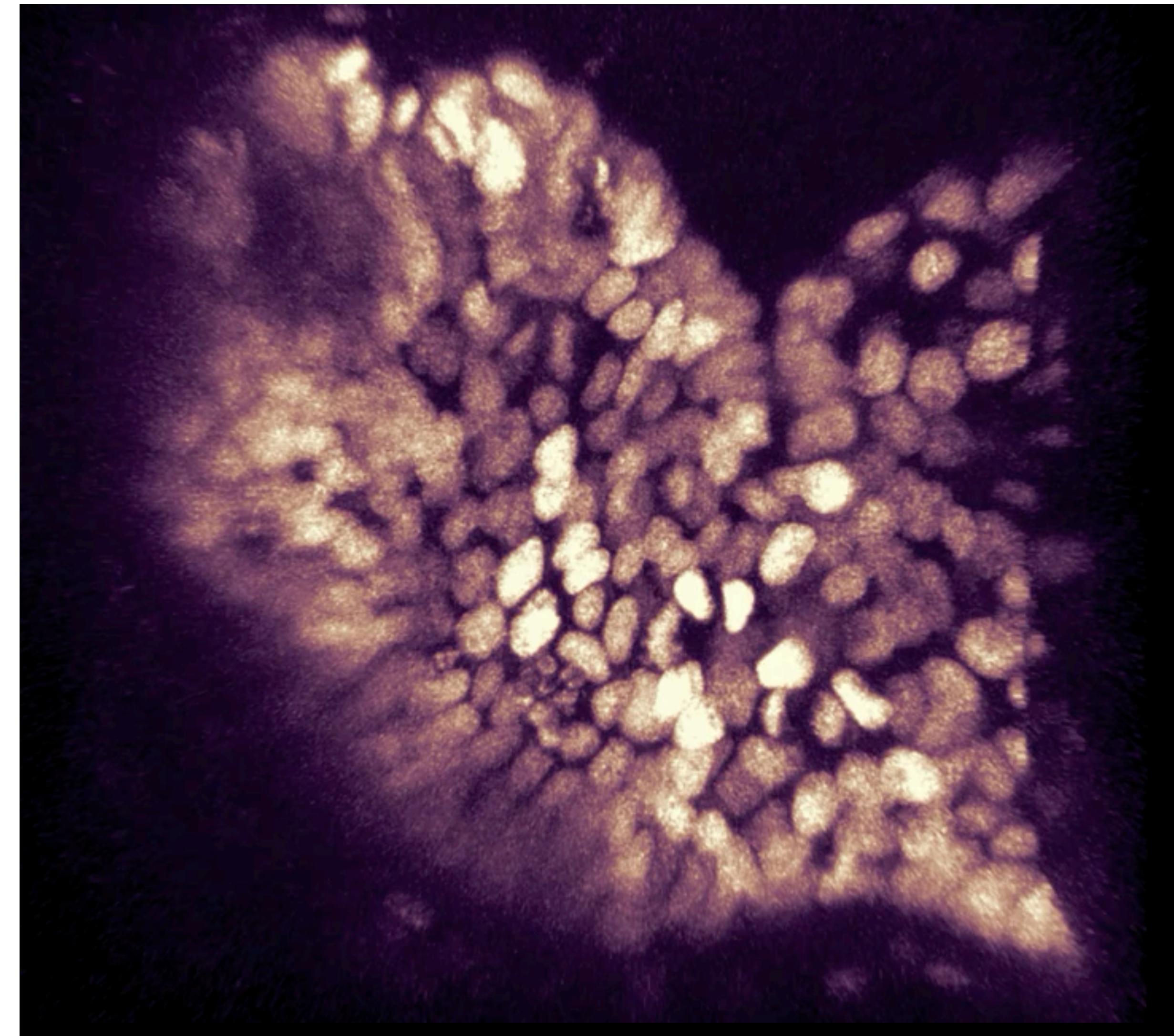
# Examples 3D

*Parhyale hawaiensis*

- 6 stacks
- ~1500 annotated cells
- highly anisotropic resolution



(Ko Sugarawa, IGF Lyon)



# Questions & Answers 1

# How to use StarDist

# How to use StarDist



Main python library

```
pip install stardist
```

<https://github.com/mpicbg-csbd/stardist>

- Training and prediction for 2D/3D images
- Neural network backend keras/tensorflow via csbdeep
- Sensible training defaults
- Multi-Core NMS, tiled prediction
- Image normalization
- Segmentation/Detection measures
- Model export to Fiji

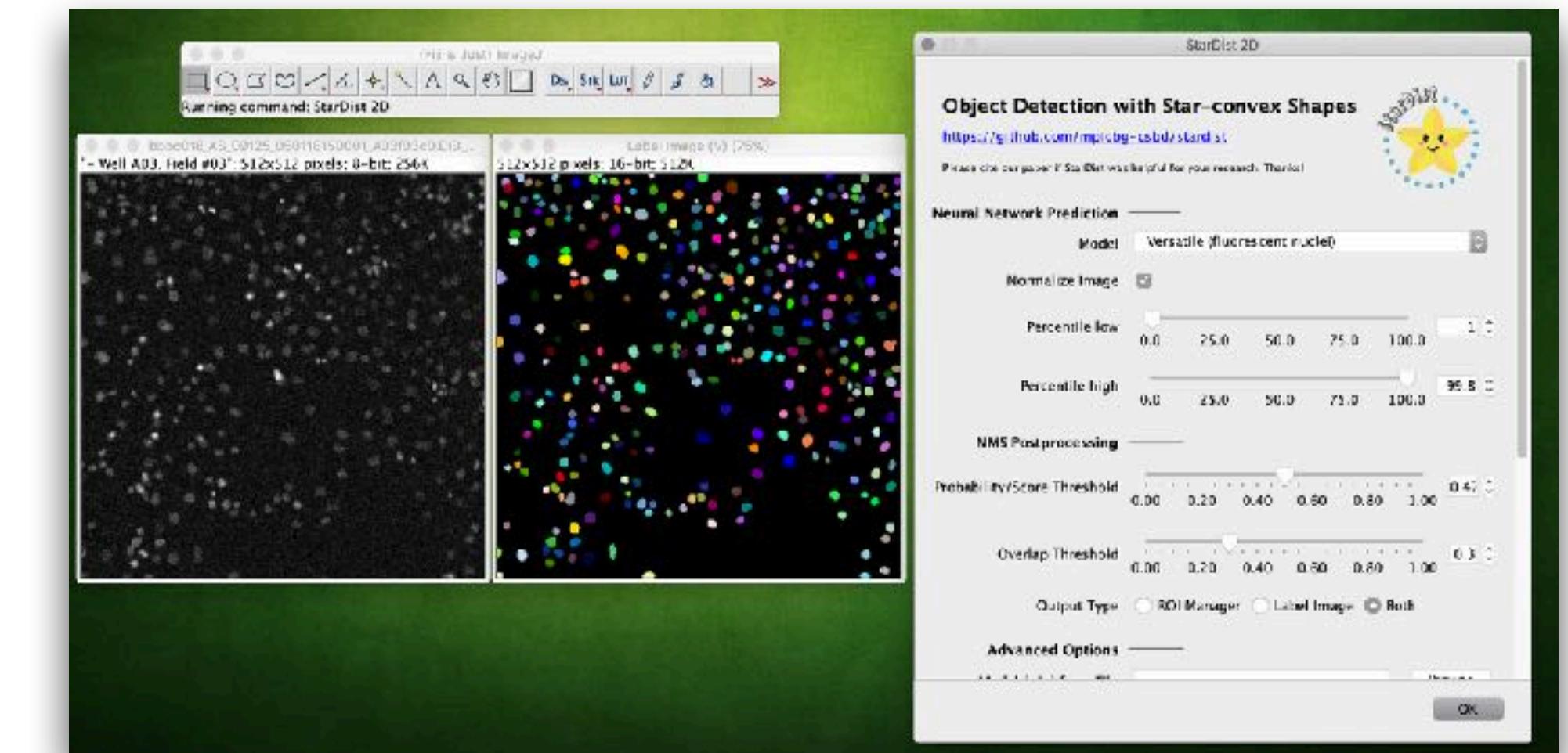
```
from stardist.models import StarDist2D, StarDist3D
model = StarDist2D(config, name = "mymodel")
Using default values: prob_thresh=0.5, nms_thresh=0.4.
model.train(X,Y,validation_data=(Xv,Yv))
Epoch 1/400
 53/100 [=====>.....] - ETA: 26s - loc_
t_loss: 8.6035 - prob_kld: 0.3578 - dist_relevant_mae: 8
labels, _ = model.predict_instances(img)
```



Fiji Plugin

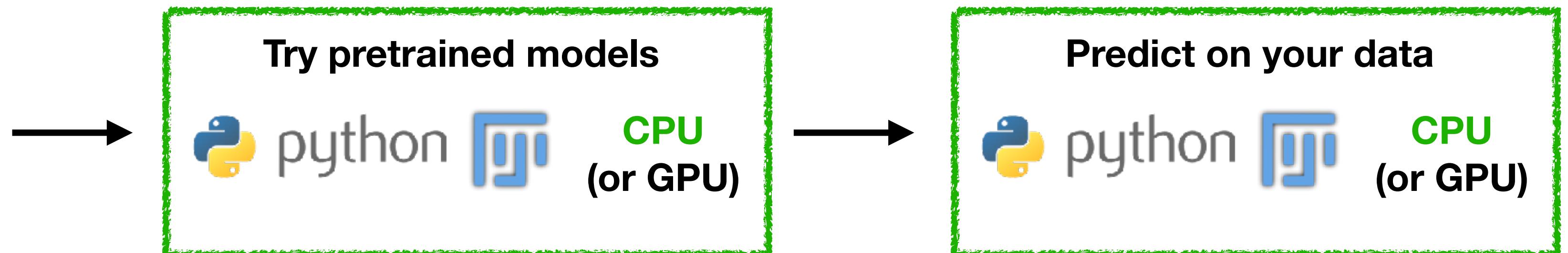
<https://imagej.net/StarDist>

- Prediction for 2D images by already trained models
- Scriptable
- CPU and GPU support (via CSBDeep-Fiji by Deborah Schmidt, MPI-CBG)

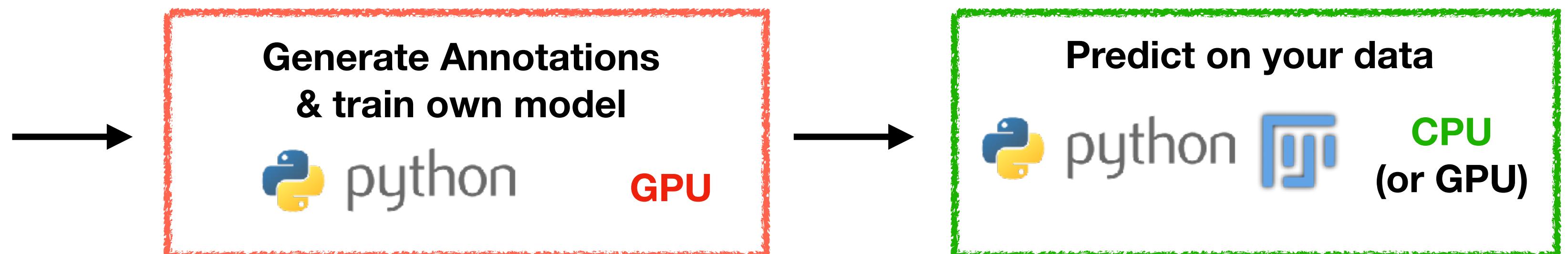


# How to use StarDist on your own data

- 2D data
- similar to pretrained images (H&E, fluorescent nuclei)

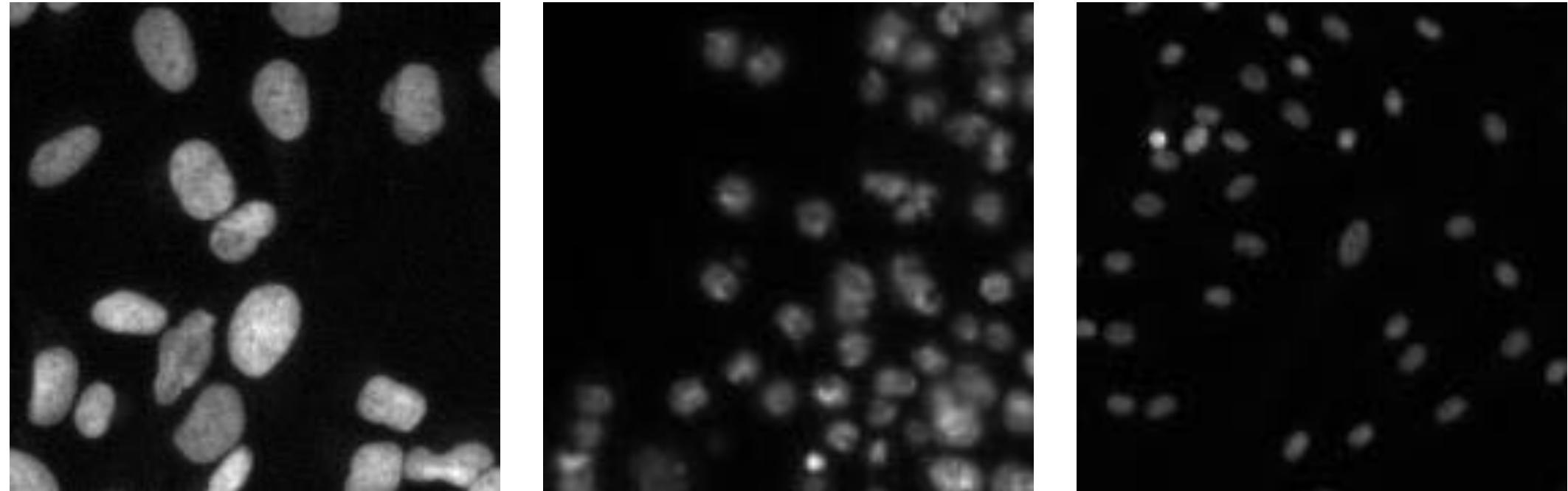


- 2D data dissimilar to pretrained
- 3D data



# Pretrained Models (2D)

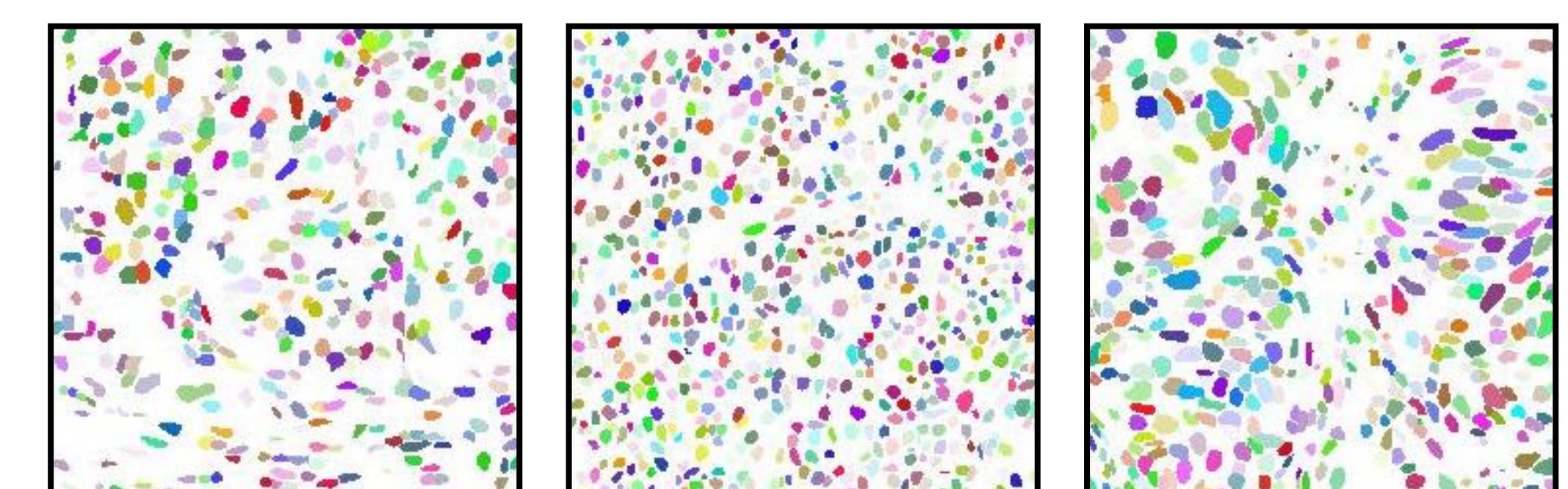
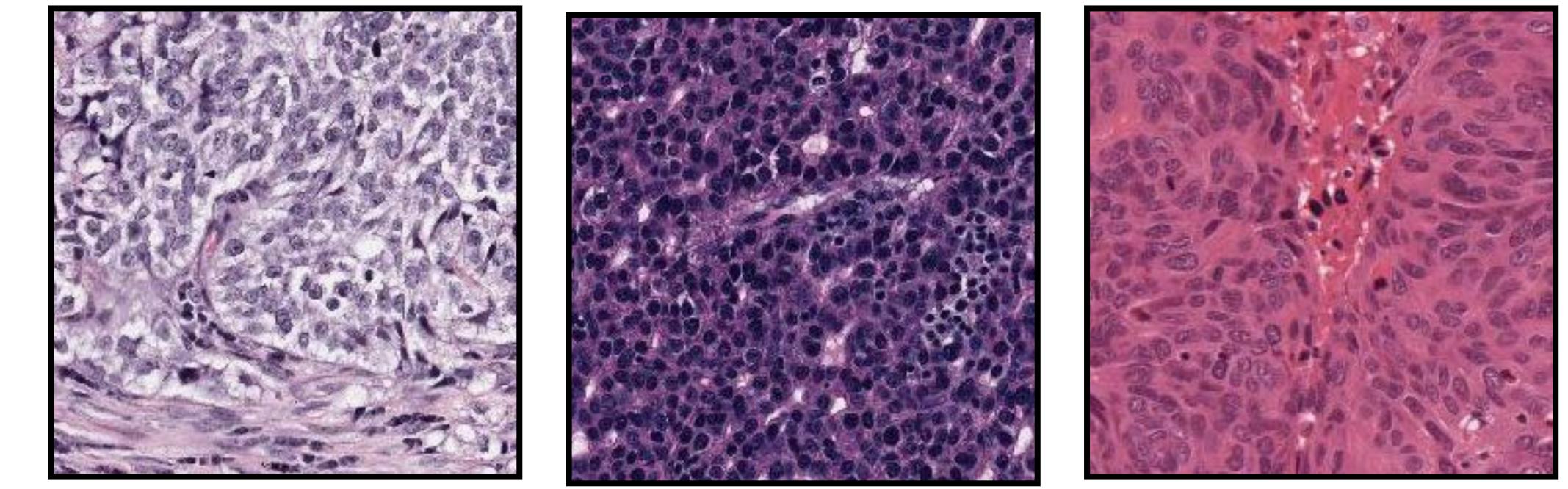
Fluorescence Microscopy  
Single Channel



*Data Science Bowl 2018*  
Caicedo et al. (2018)

~ 600 images (2D)  
~ 20k annotations

Histopathology  
RGB H&E



*MoNuSeg*  
Kumar et al (2017)

~ 30 Images (2D)  
~ 22k annotations

# Pretrained Models (2D)



```
from stardist.models import StarDist2D

StarDist2D.from_pretrained()

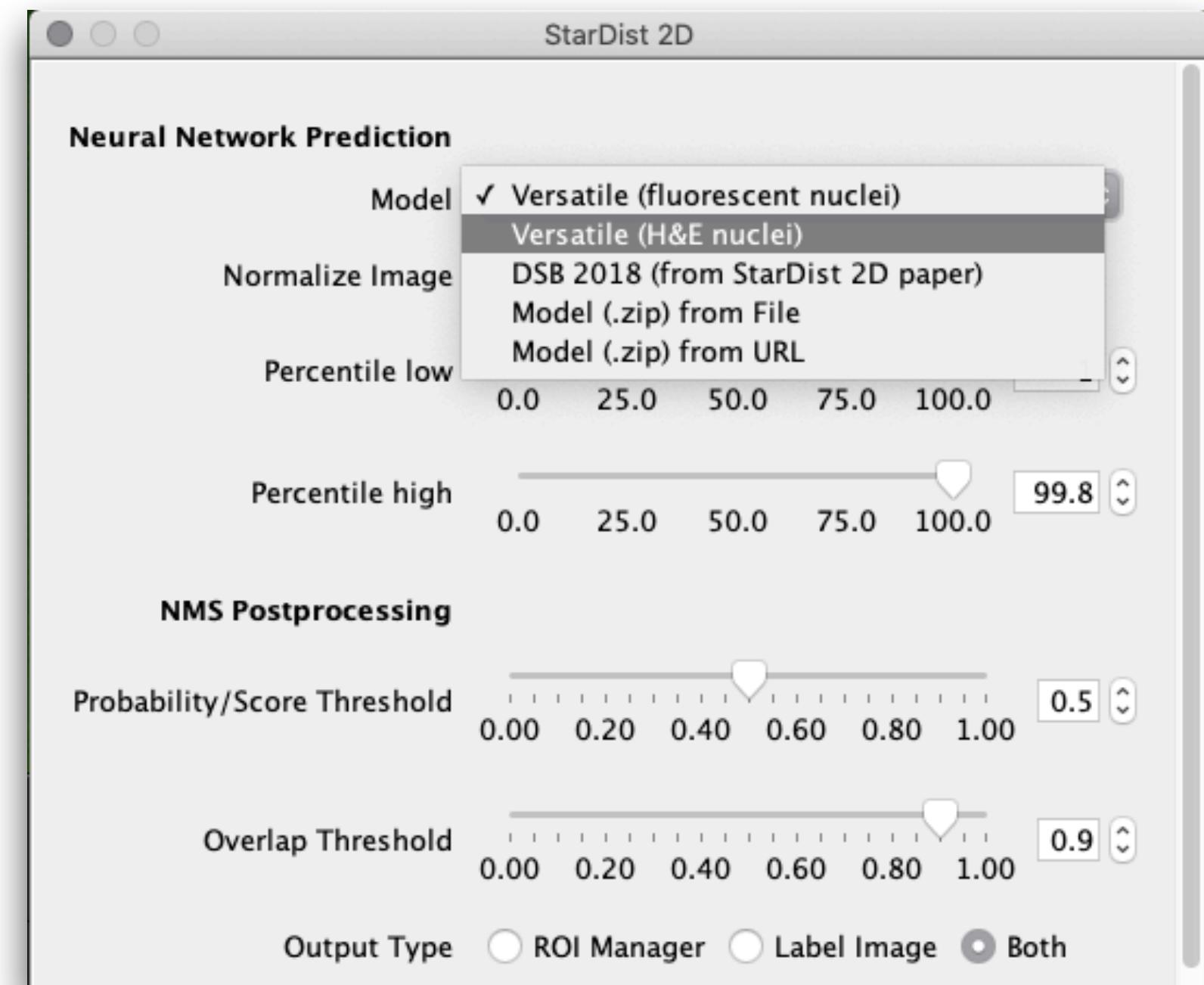
There are 4 registered models for 'StarDist2D':

Name           Alias(es)
_____
'2D_versatile_fluo'  'Versatile (fluorescent nuclei)'
'2D_versatile_he'    'Versatile (H&E nuclei)'
'2D_paper_dsb2018'   'DSB 2018 (from StarDist 2D paper)'
'2D_demo'           None

model = StarDist2D.from_pretrained('2D_versatile_fluo')

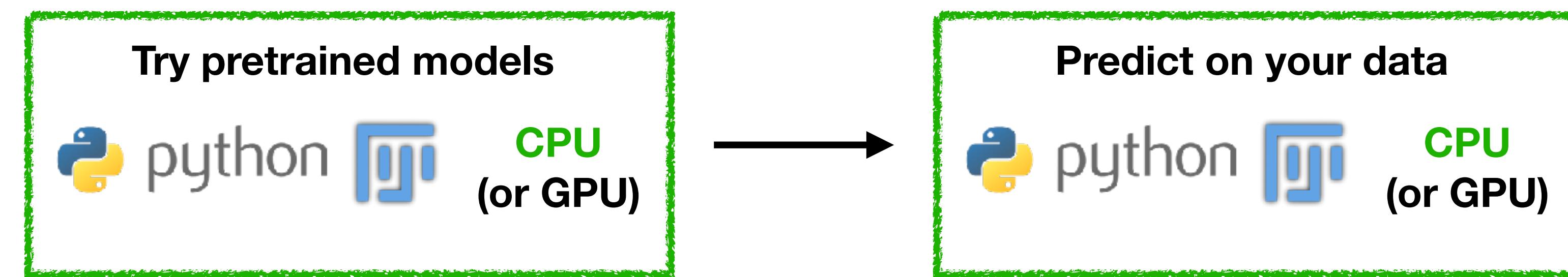
labels, _ = model.predict_instances(img)

Found model '2D_versatile_fluo' for 'StarDist2D'.
Loading network weights from 'weights_best.h5'.
Loading thresholds from 'thresholds.json'.
Using default values: prob_thresh=0.479071, nms_thresh=0.3.
```



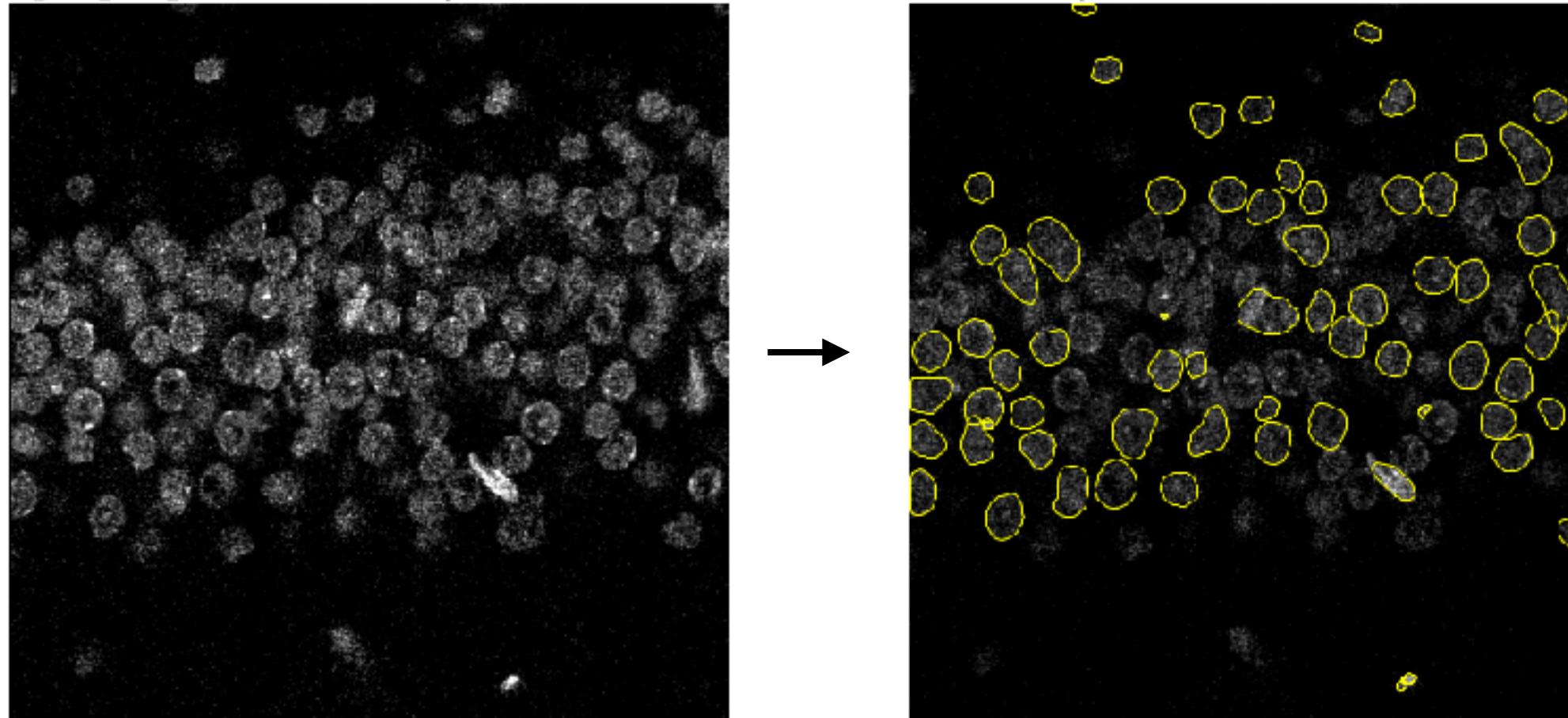
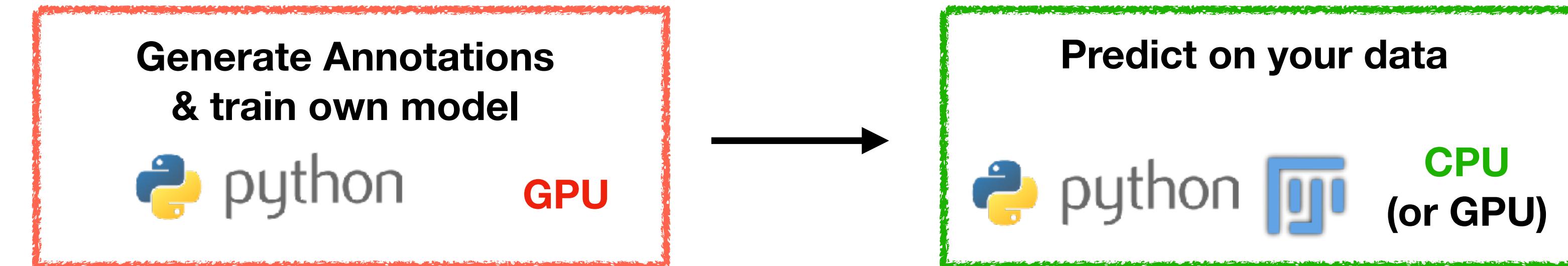
- Try different scalings
- Invert intensity, RGB -> grayscale, ....
- Play around with the prob and overlap (NMS) threshold

## Demo: Pretrained models in Python and Fiji (2D)



# Training of custom models

If the pretrained models do not work on your 2D images (or your data is 3D) you need to training your own model



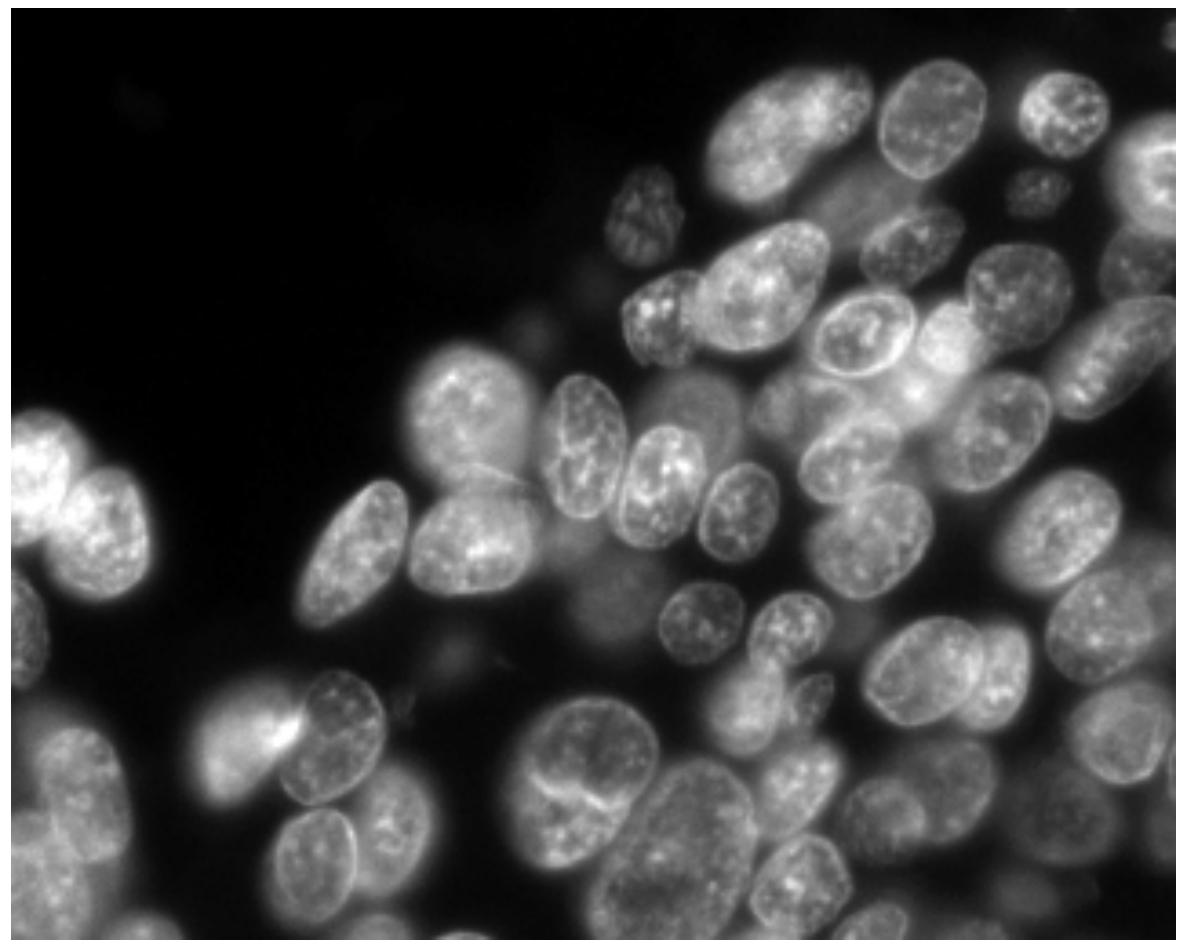
Data from Silvia Monari, EPFL

- Needs user annotated Image/label pairs
- GPU workstation
- Python
- Training time from scratch:
  - 2D: 30min-2h
  - 3D: 4h-12h

# Training data generation

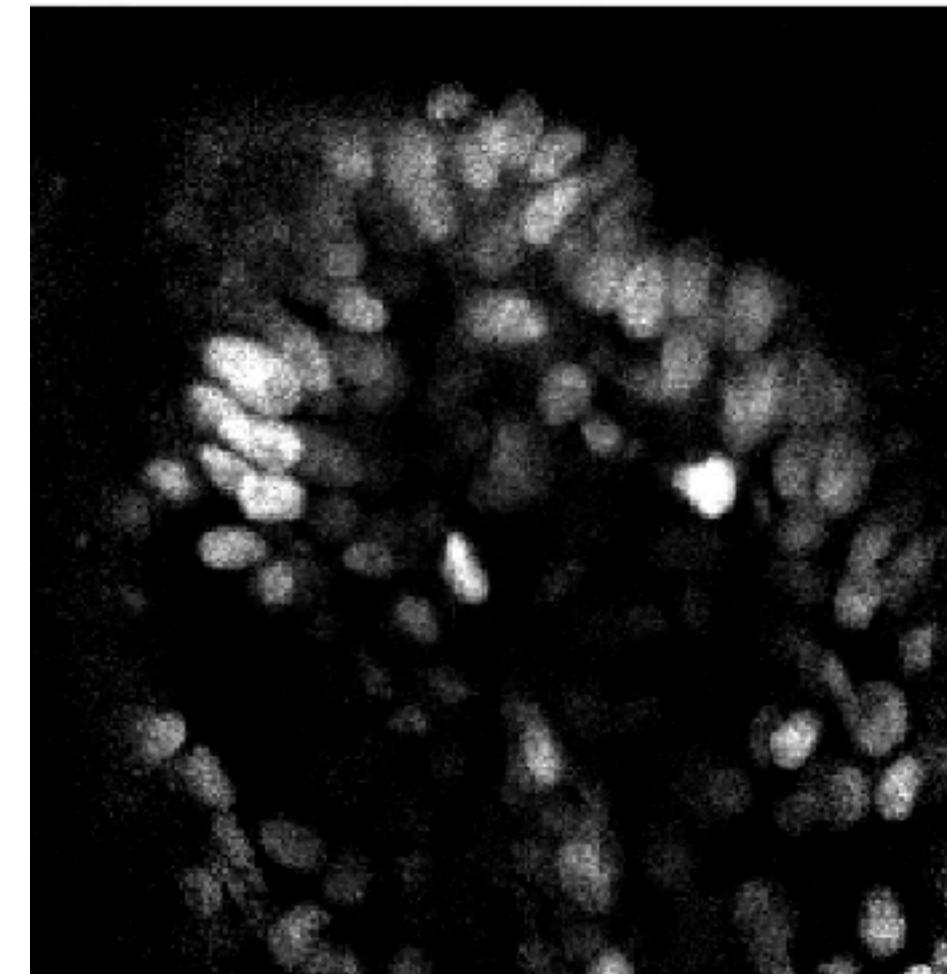
Generate corresponding Image/Mask pairs:

**2D**

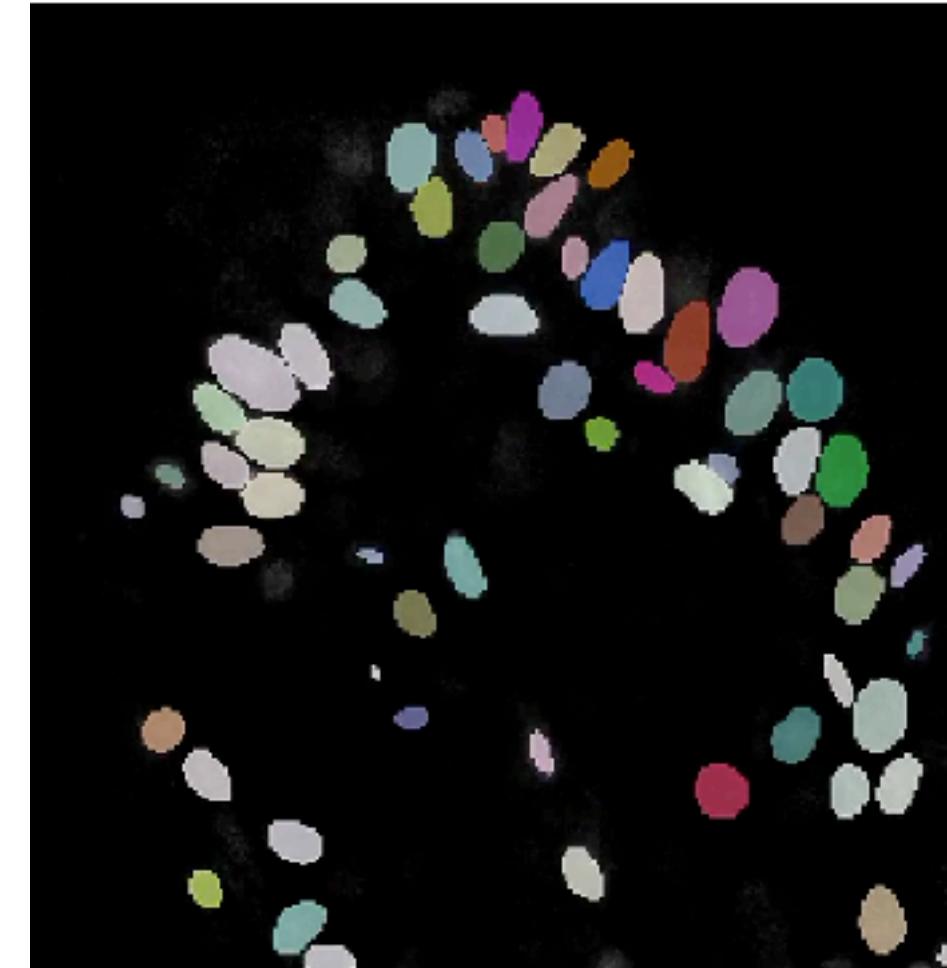
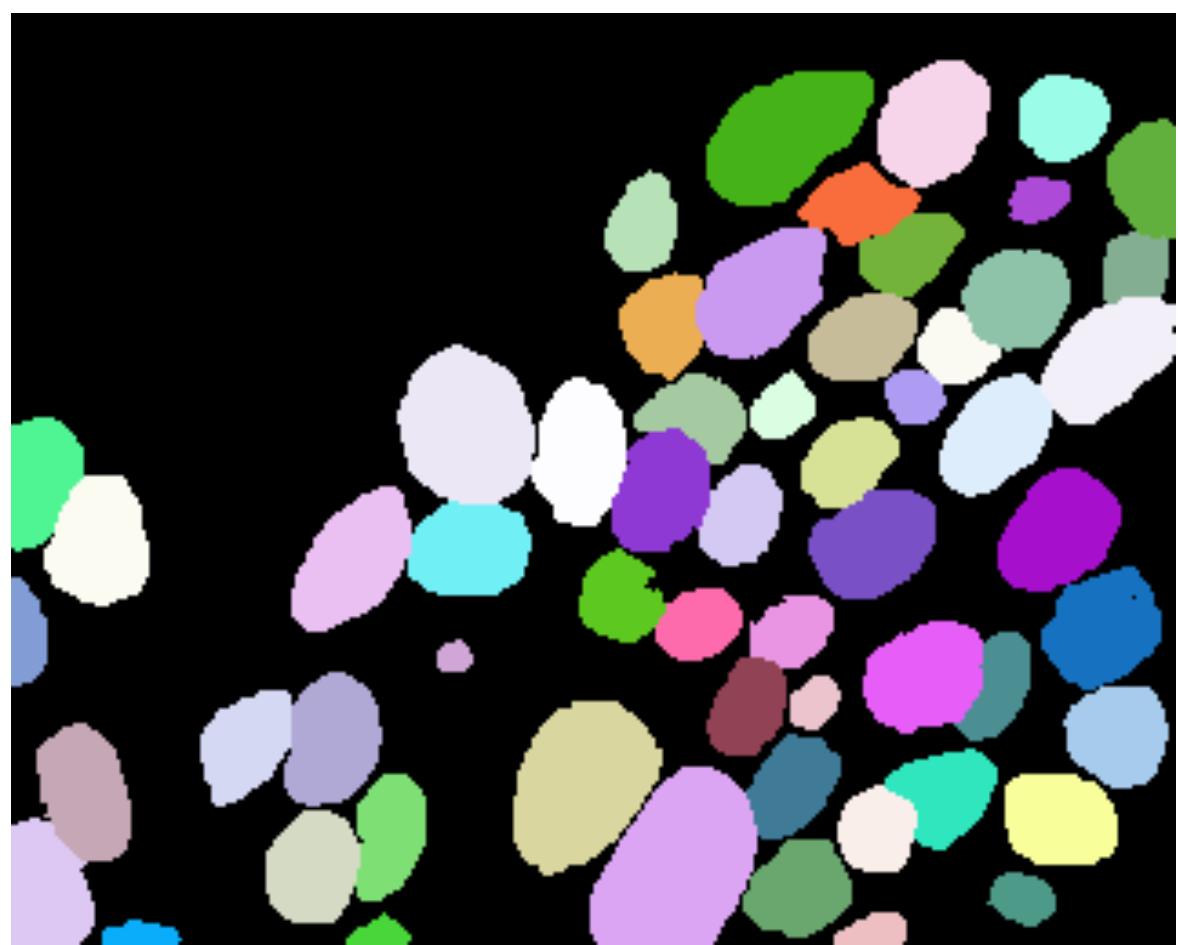


Images

**3D**



Masks



- Image/Mask: tif format
- Mask: Every cell pixel has to have a different label (dense labeling)
- Use crops from different regions/timepoints
- Size: at least  $128^2$  (2D) or  $96^3$  (3D)
- Number:  $N > 10$  (2D) and  $N > 4$  (3D)

# Training data generation

```

data/
  └── train
      ├── images
      │   ├── img_1.tif
      │   ├── img_2.tif
      │   ├── img_3.tif
      │   ├── img_4.tif
      │   ├── img_5.tif
      │   └── img_6.tif
      └── masks
          ├── mask_1.tif
          ├── mask_2.tif
          ├── mask_3.tif
          ├── mask_4.tif
          ├── mask_5.tif
          └── mask_6.tif
  └── test
      ├── images
      │   ├── img_7.tif
      │   └── img_8.tif
      └── masks
          ├── mask_7.tif
          └── mask_8.tif

```

Generate corresponding Image/Mask pairs:

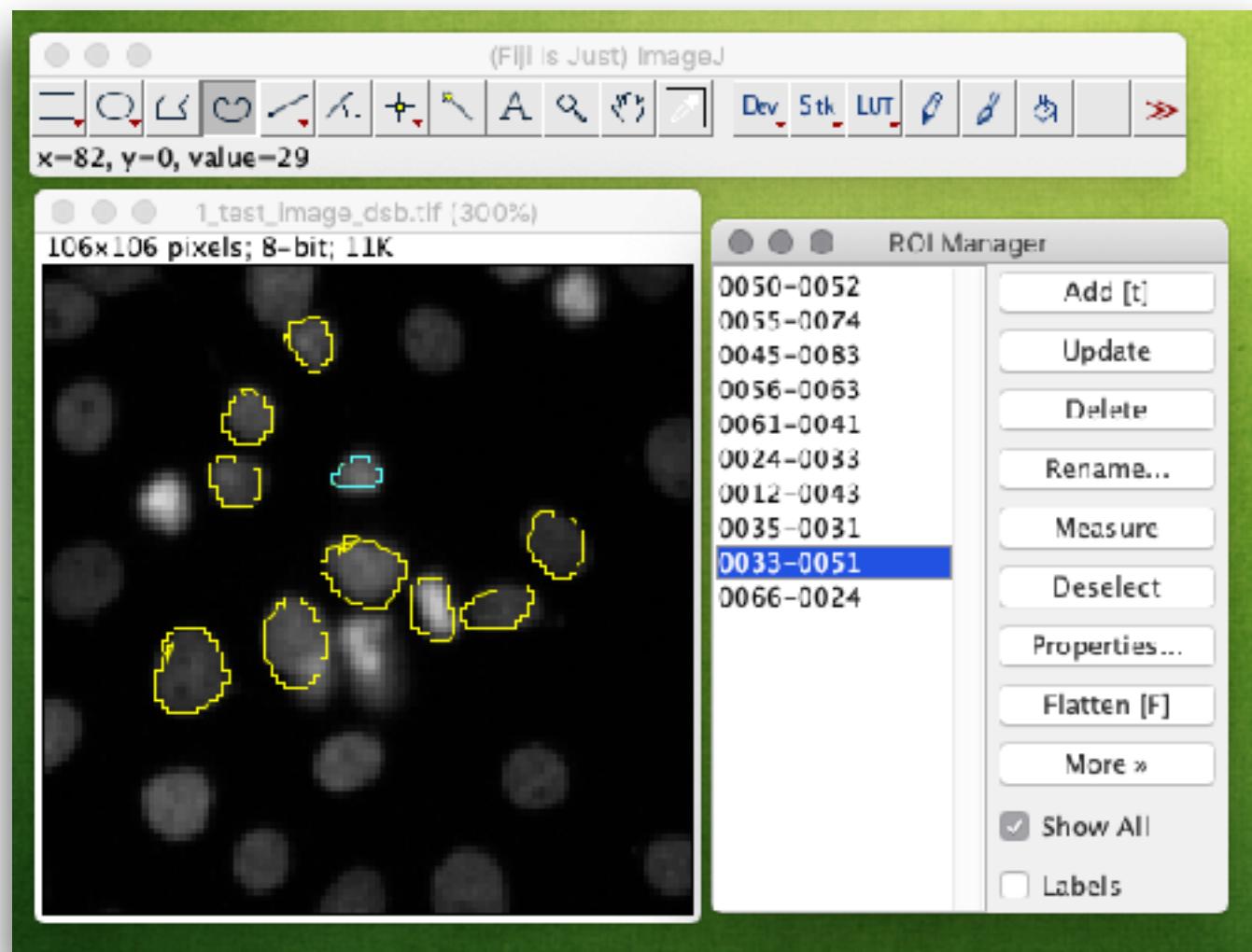
- Image/Mask: tif format
- Mask: Every cell pixel has to have a different label (dense labeling)
- Use crops from different regions/timepoints, e.g.  
2D: > 10 of size 128x128  
3D: > 4 of size 32x96x96
- Split into (non-overlapping) train and test for validation

# Annotation Software (2D)



## Fiji/ImageJ

- Draw Roi per object (Roi-Manager)
- Convert to label mask (e.g. see [here](#))



<http://fiji.sc/>

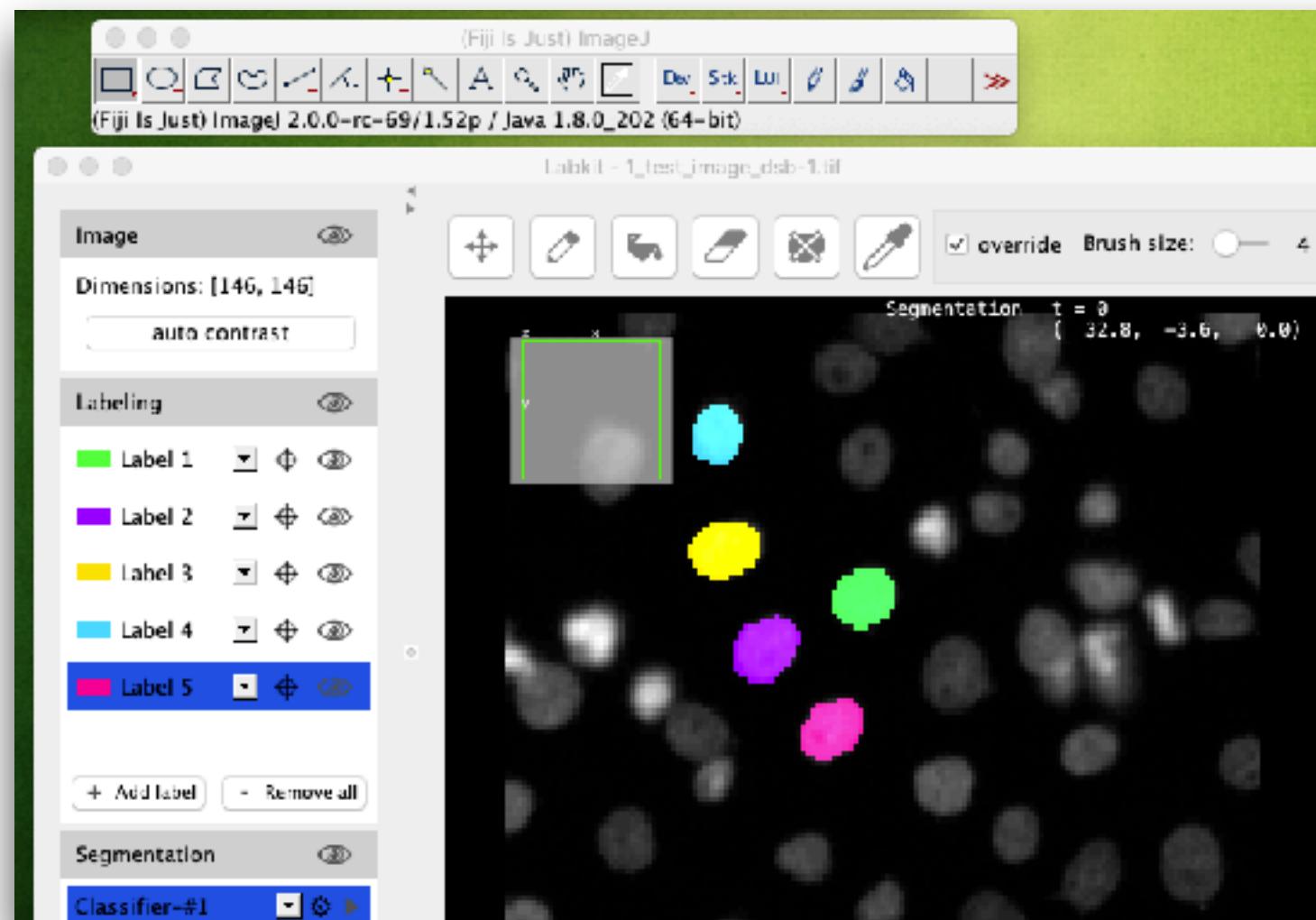
Schindelin et al. (2012)

Schneider, Rasband et al (2012)



## Fiji + LabKit

- Directly draw label mask



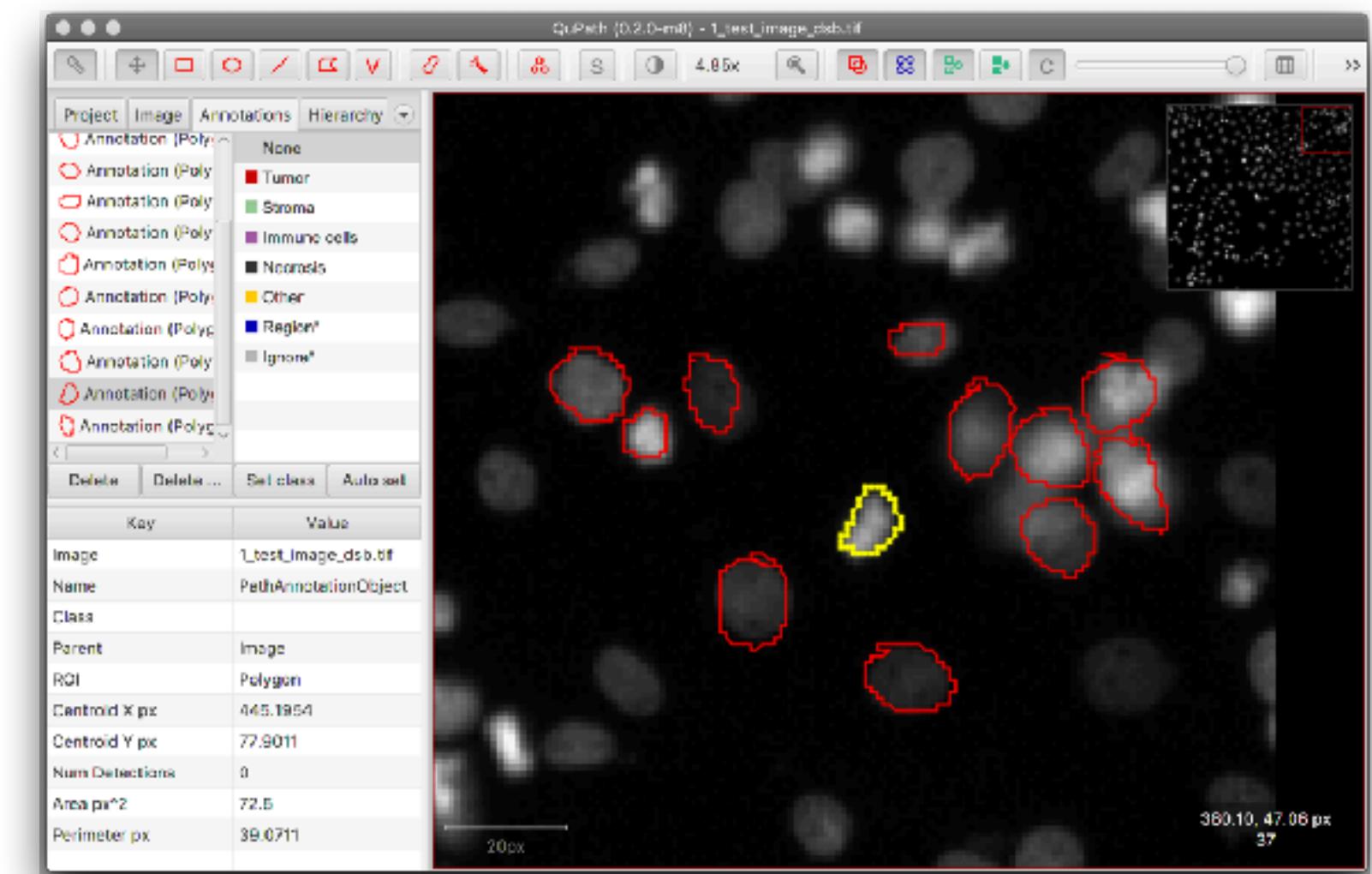
<https://imagej.net/Labkit>

M. Arzt, MPI-CBG



## QuPath

- Draw ROI per object
- Convert to label mask



<https://qupath.github.io>

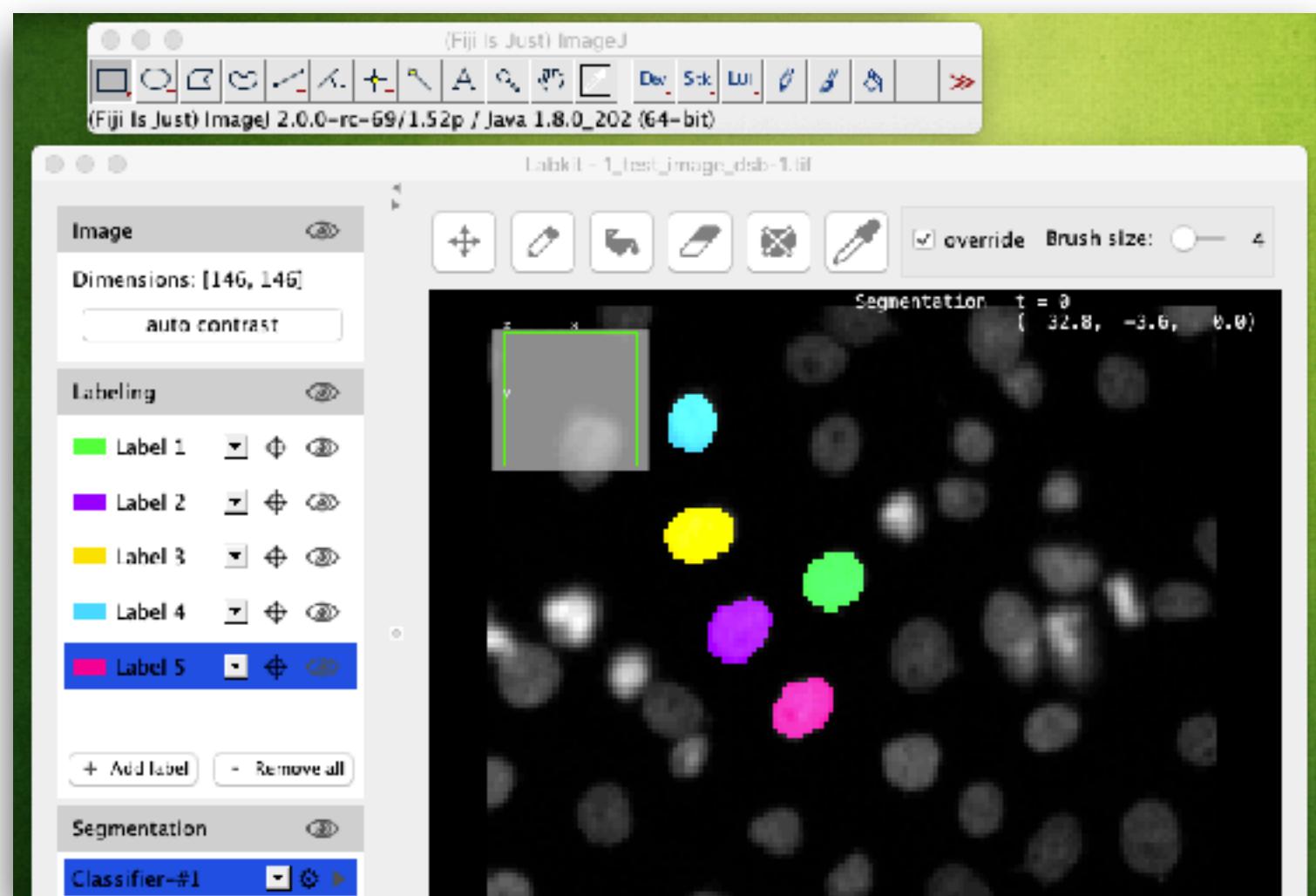
Bankhead et al. (2017)

# Annotation Software (3D)



## Fiji + LabKit

- Directly draw label mask
- Reorder z -> t (to not miss a plane)



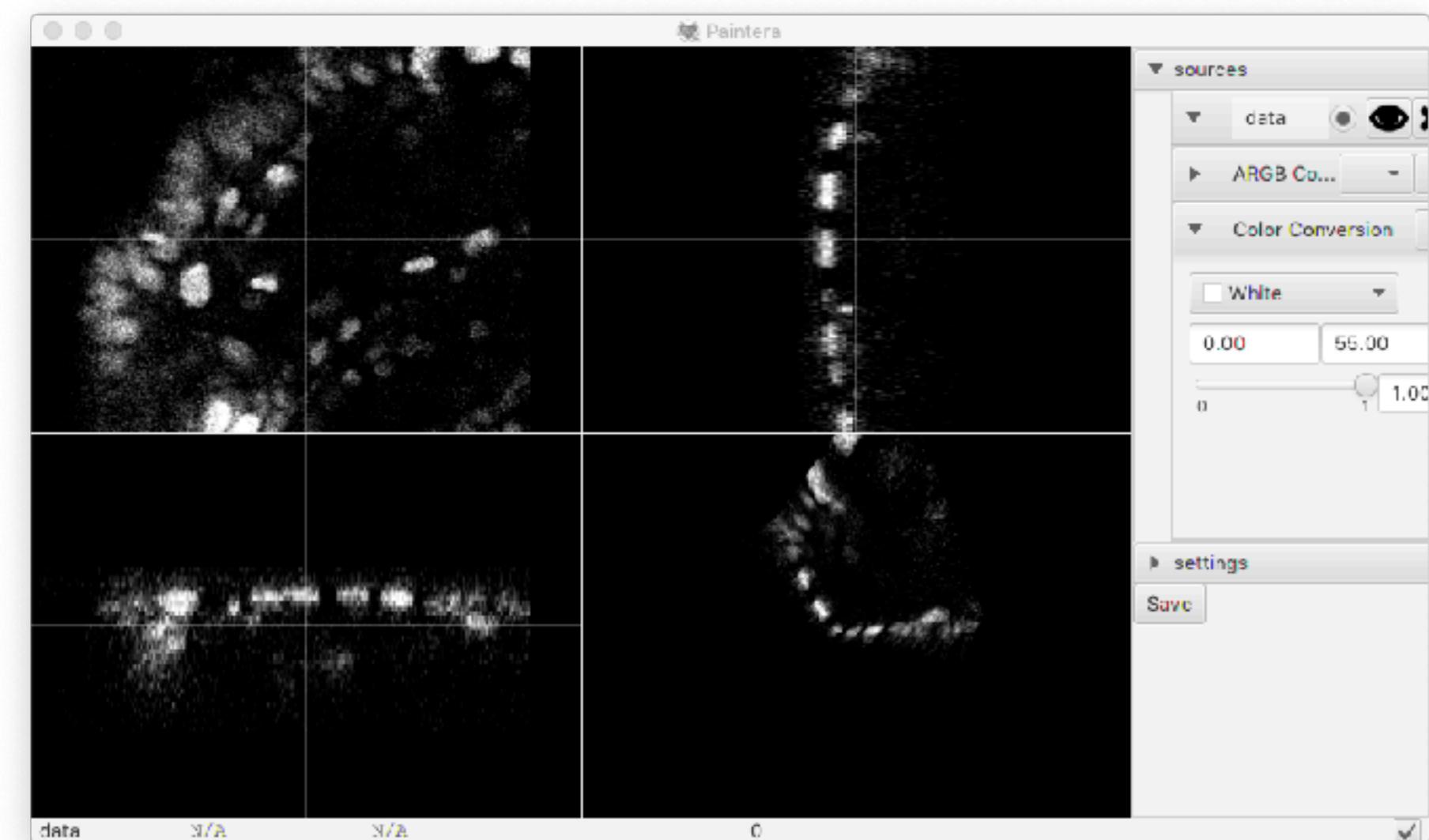
<https://imagej.net/Labkit>

M. Arzt, MPI-CBG



## Painter

- For very large volumes ( $>$  GBs)
- Powerful but slightly steeper learning curve



<https://github.com/saalfeldlab/painter>

P. Hanslovsky, S. Saalfeld et al Janelia

# Training of a custom model

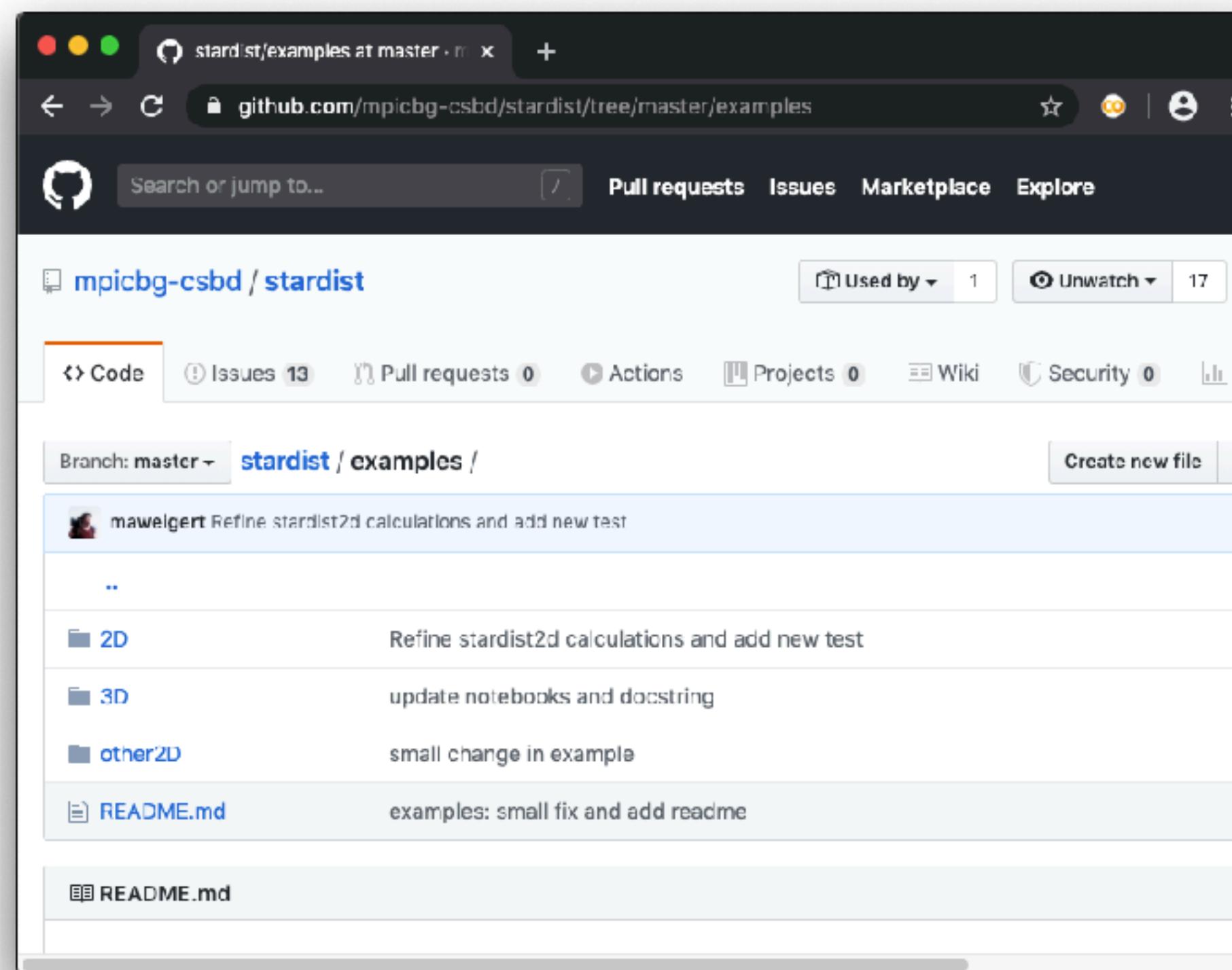
Demo Jupyter Notebooks for 2D and 3D data that you can adapt and run on your (or your facilities) GPU-workstation



<https://github.com/mpicbg-csbd/stardist/tree/master/examples>

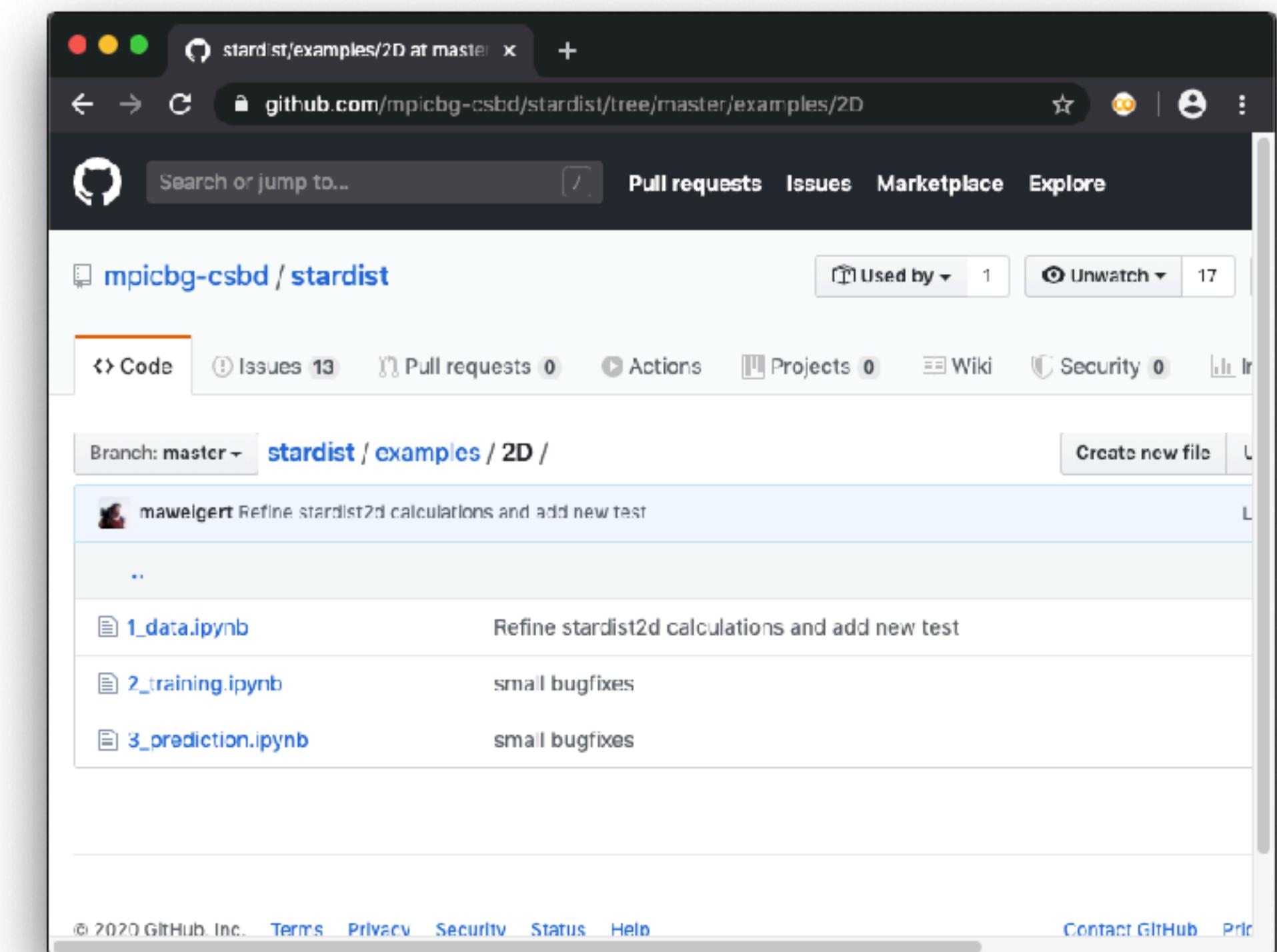
Jupyter Notebooks examples in 2D and 3D

1. Data preparation/inspection
2. Training of the StarDist model
3. Prediction on new images



The screenshot shows a GitHub repository page for 'stardist / examples'. The repository has 13 issues and 0 pull requests. It contains files for '2D' and '3D' examples, and a README.md file.

- 2D:** Refine stardist2d calculations and add new test
- 3D:** update notebooks and docstring
- other2D:** small change in example
- README.md:** examples: small fix and add readme



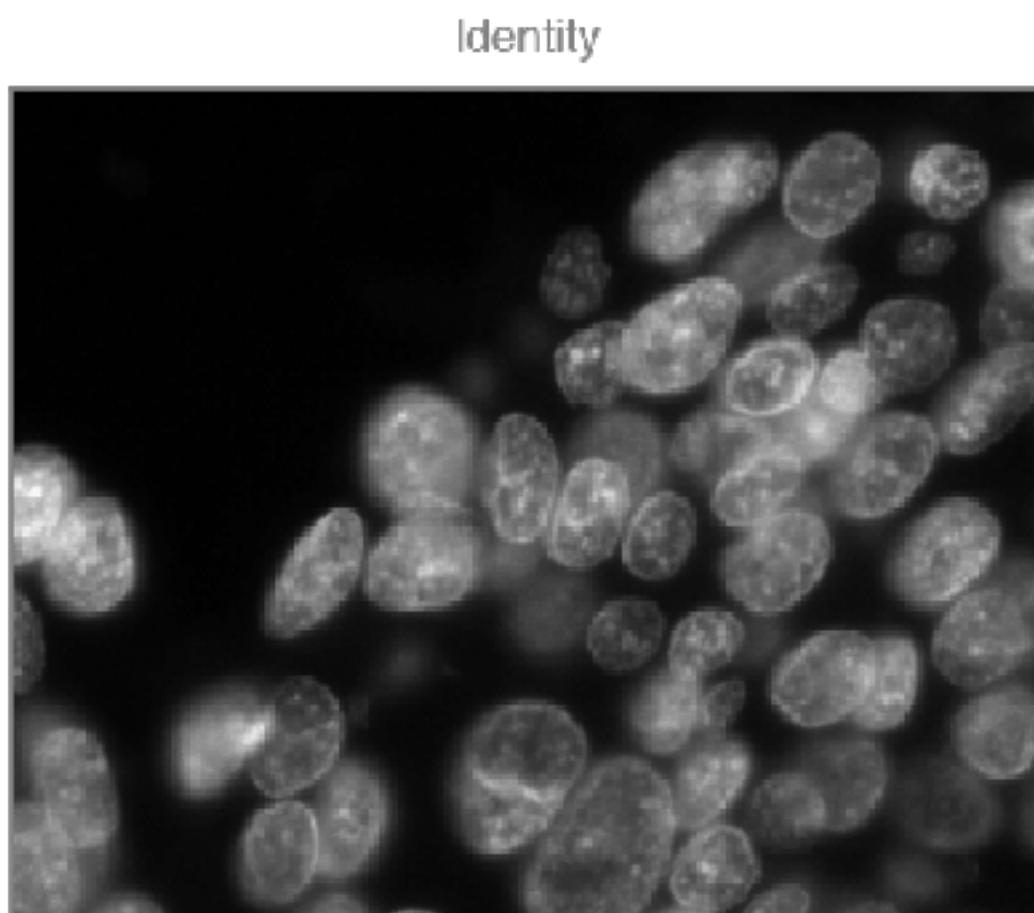
The screenshot shows a GitHub repository page for 'stardist / examples / 2D'. The repository has 13 issues and 0 pull requests. It contains three Jupyter notebooks:

- 1\_data.ipynb:** Refine stardist2d calculations and add new test
- 2\_training.ipynb:** small bugfixes
- 3\_prediction.ipynb:** small bugfixes

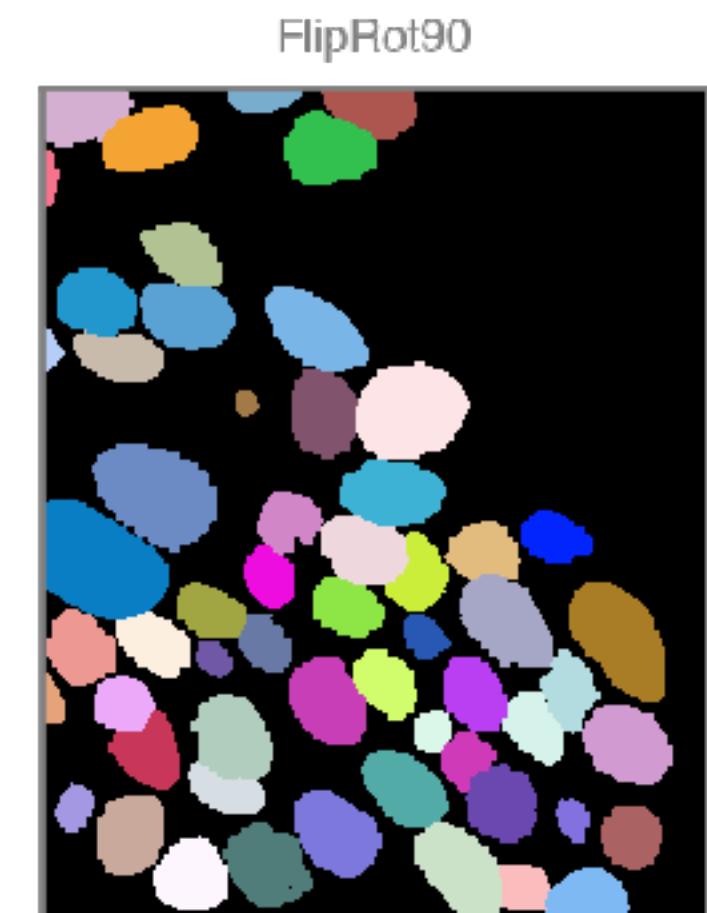
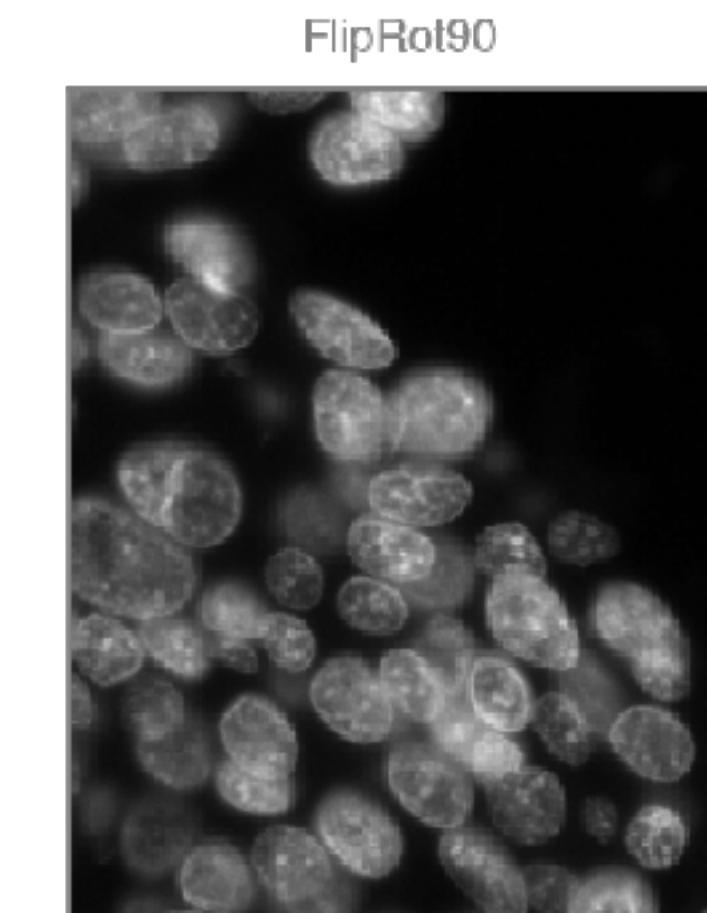
# Data Augmentation

Artificially create more training data by transforming existing images/masks into different, yet plausible versions

Original



Flip/90 degree Rotation

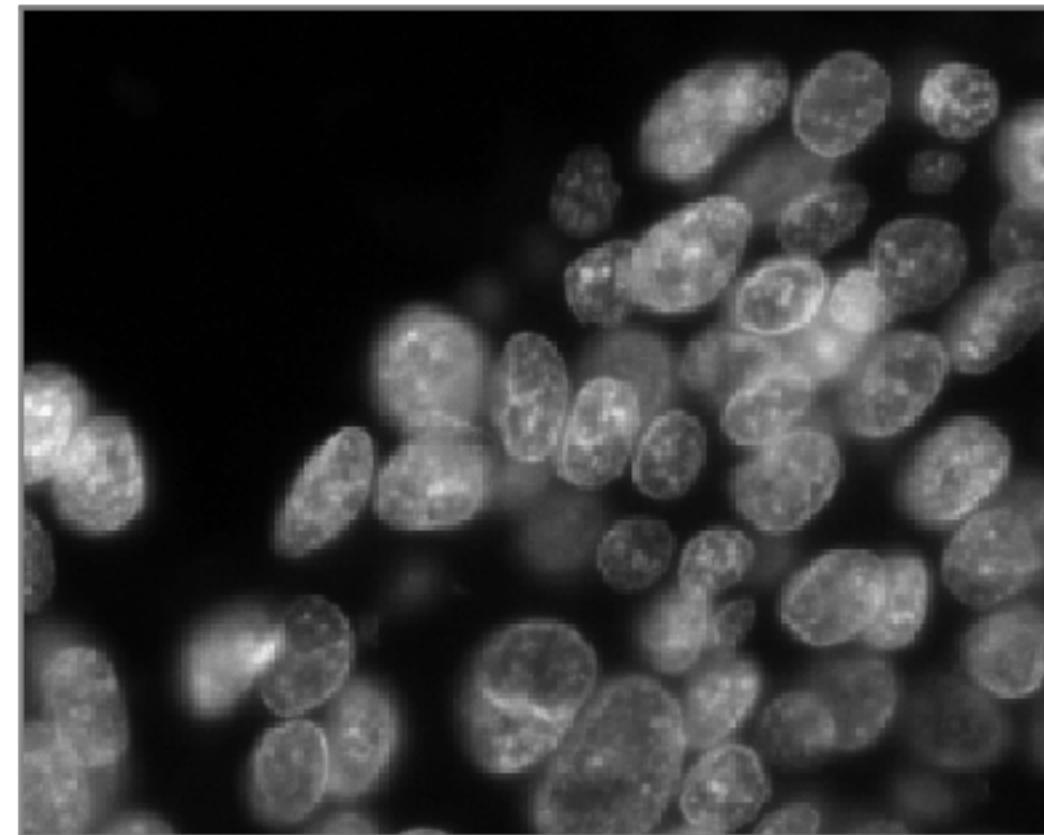


# Data Augmentation

Artificially create more training data by transforming existing images/masks into different, yet plausible versions

Original

Identity

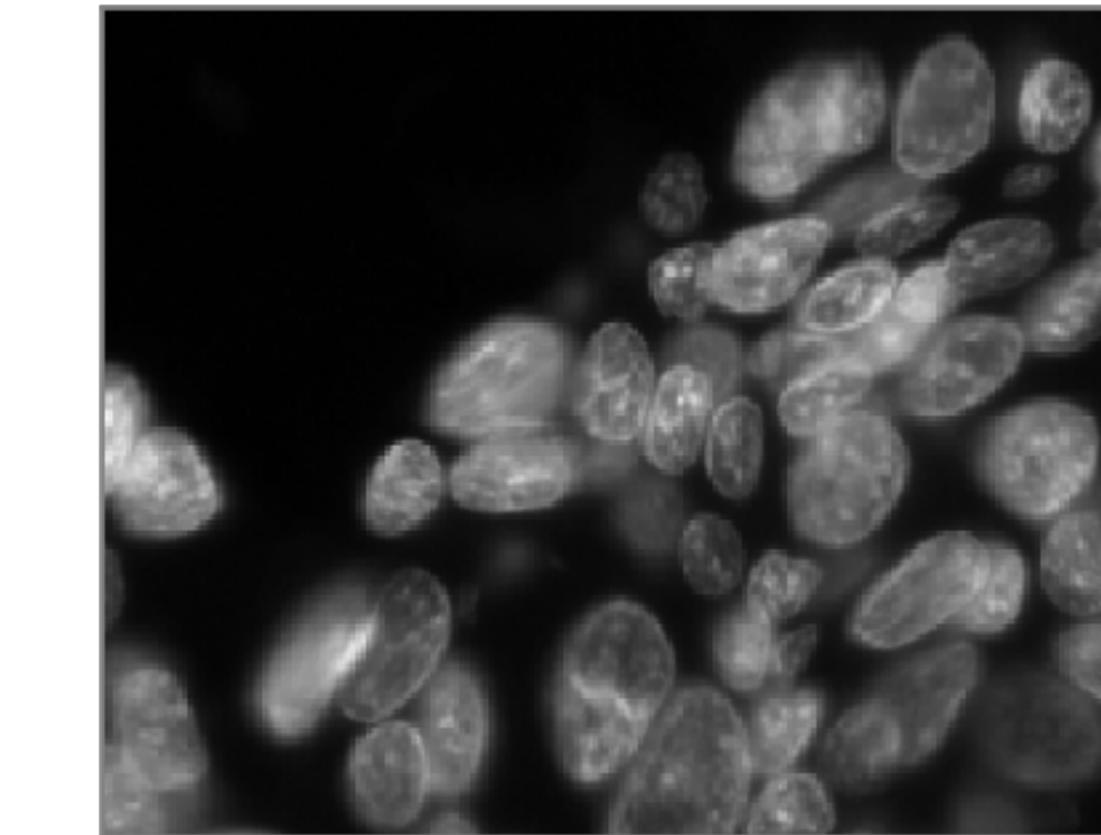


Identity

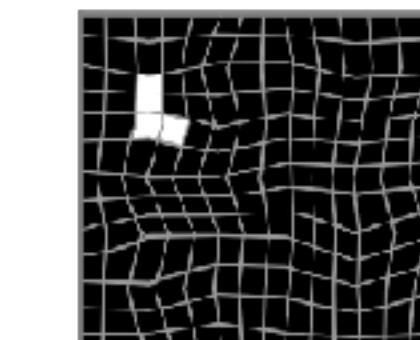
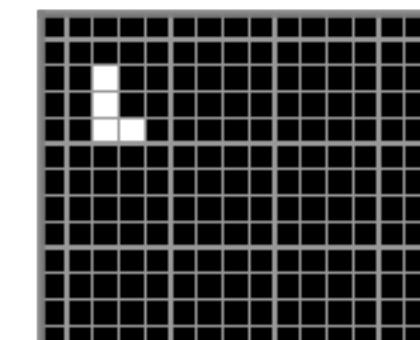
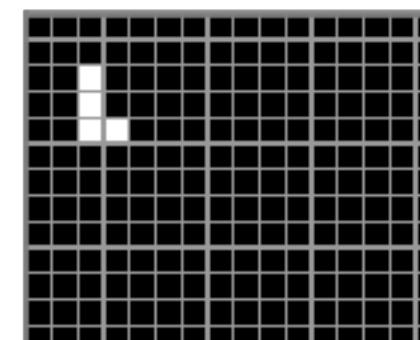
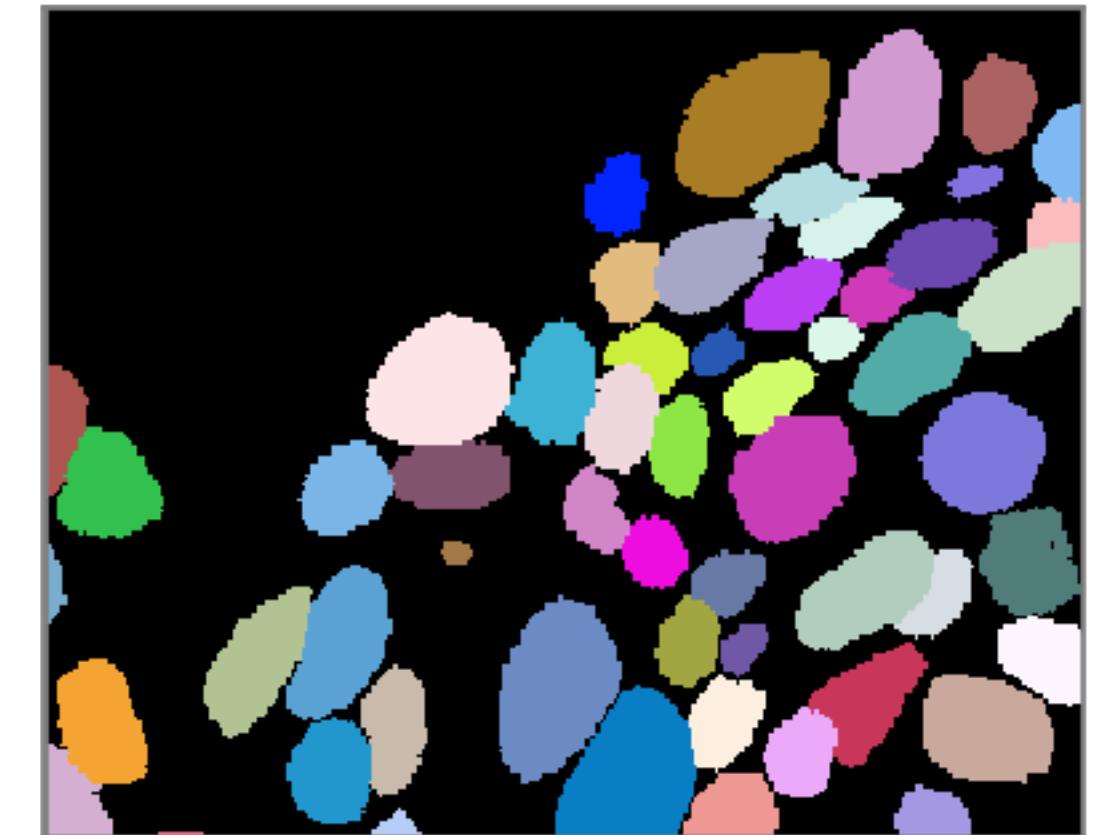


Elastic deformation

Elastic



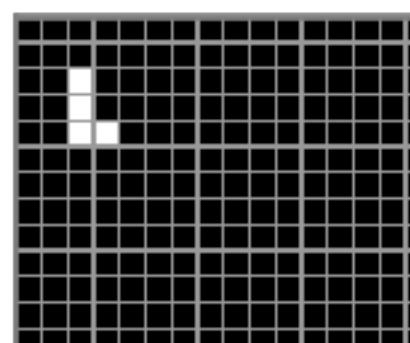
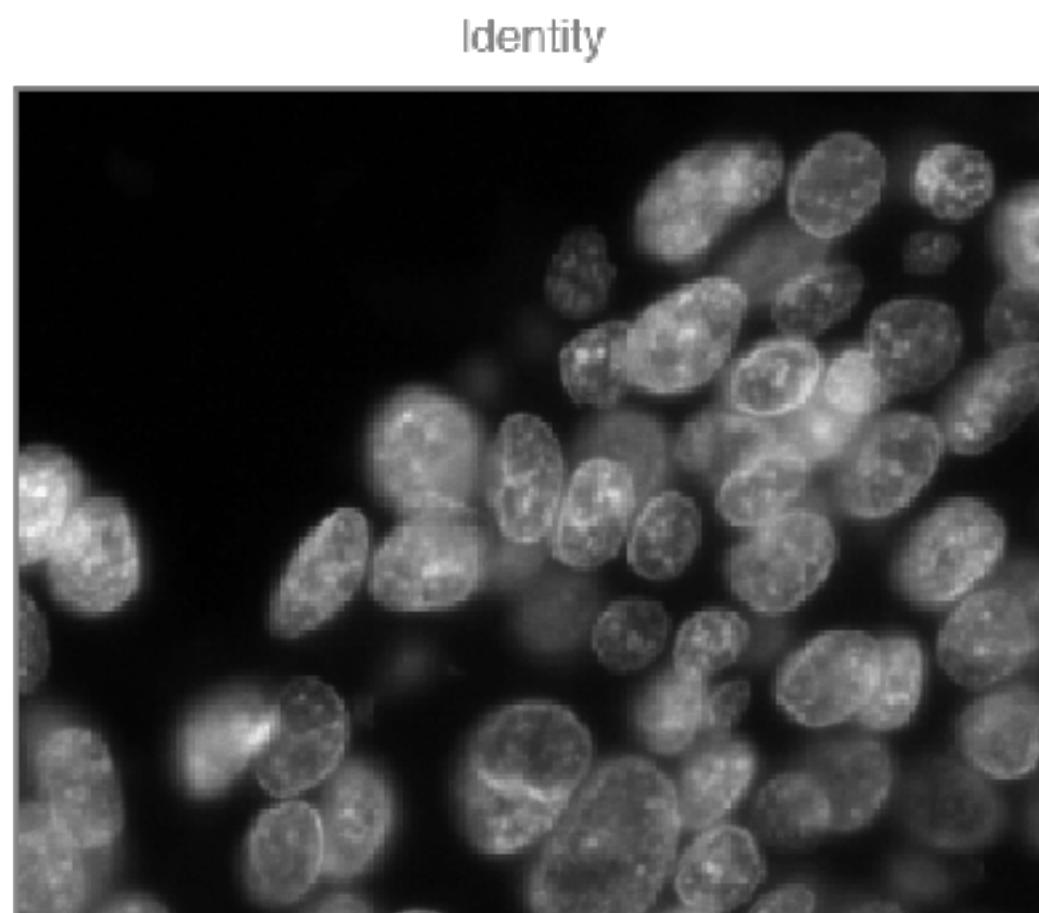
Elastic



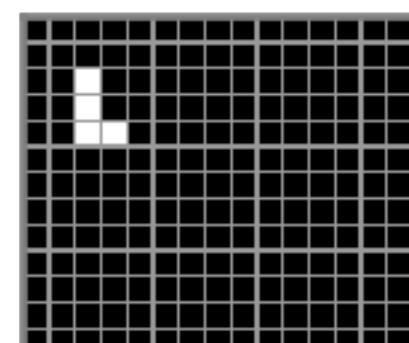
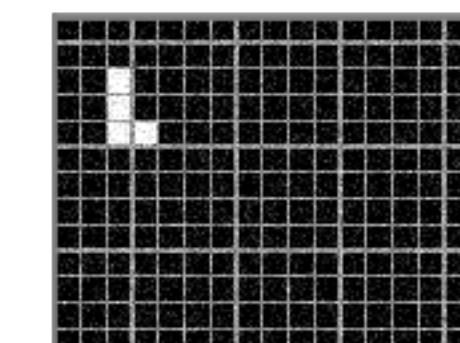
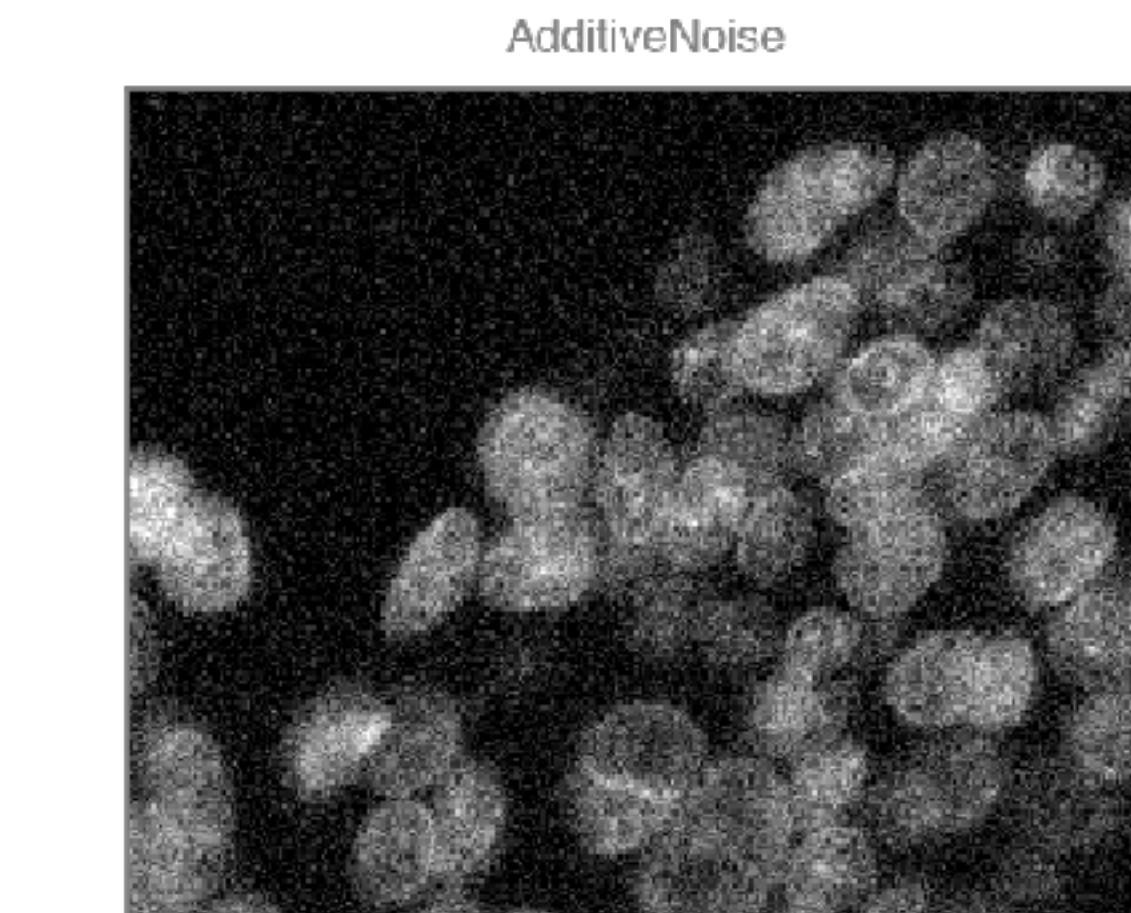
# Data Augmentation

Artificially create more training data by transforming existing images/masks into different, yet plausible versions

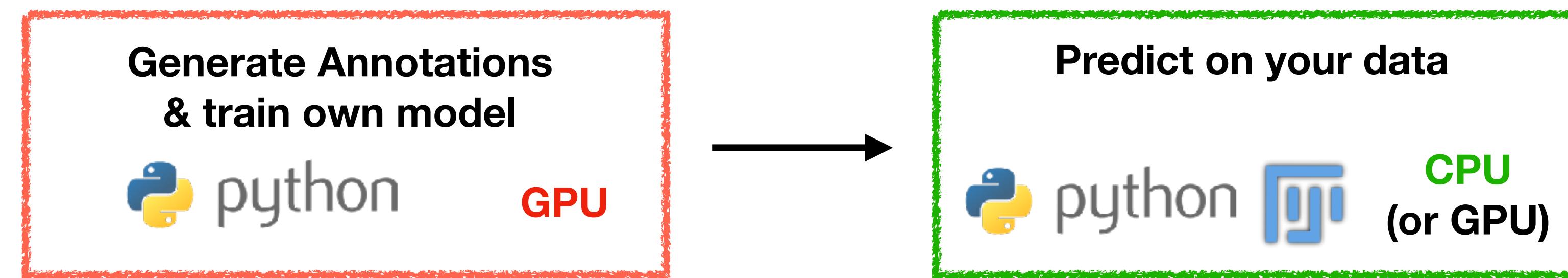
Original



Noise/Intensity shift



# Demo: Training of custom models (python)



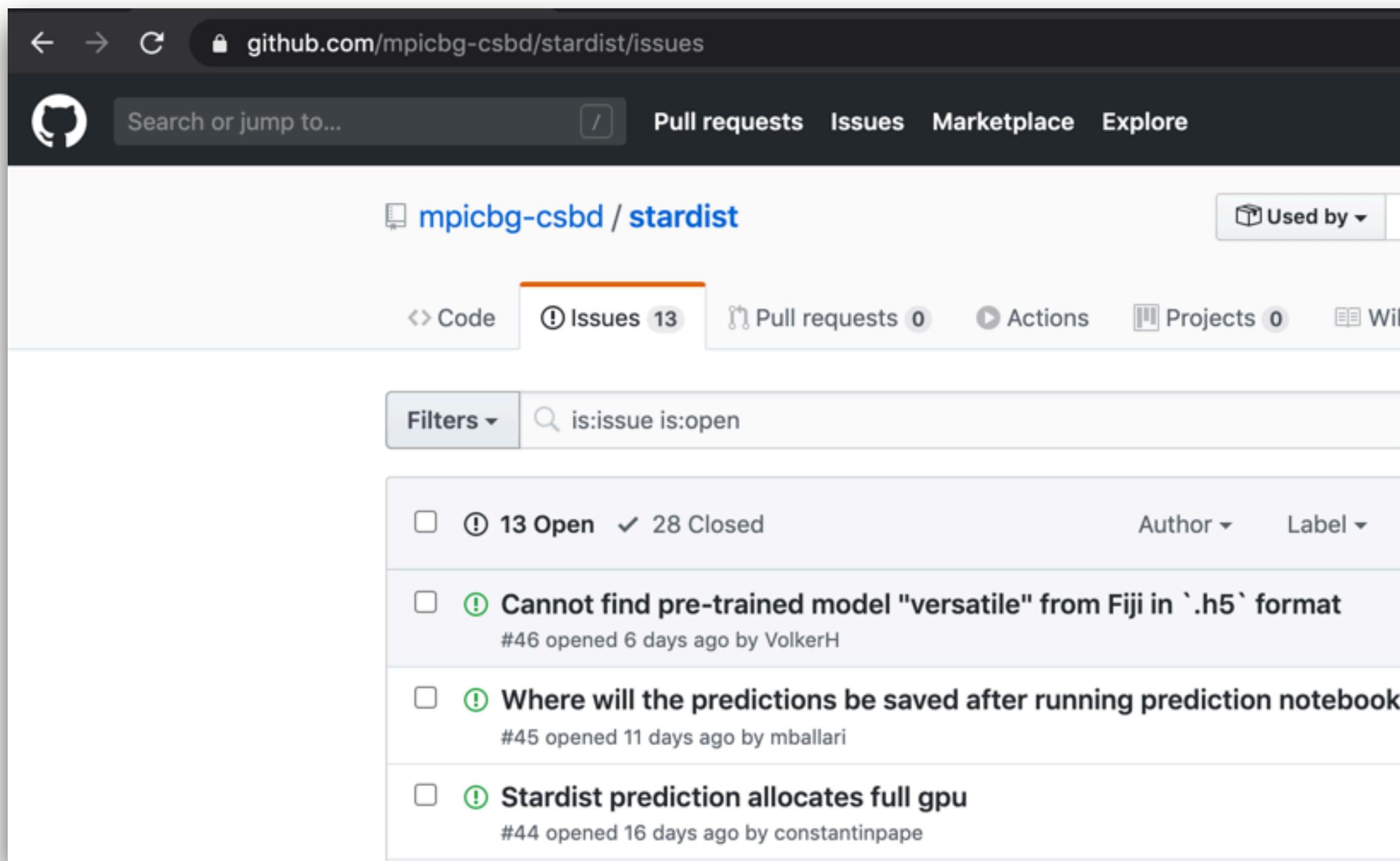
Webinar Demo on Google Colab  
(Click to try it out!)

# Where to ask questions / get help?

## Github project issues page

- Technical questions
- Bugs, unexpected behavior
- Missing functionality

<https://github.com/mpicbg-csbd/stardist/issues>

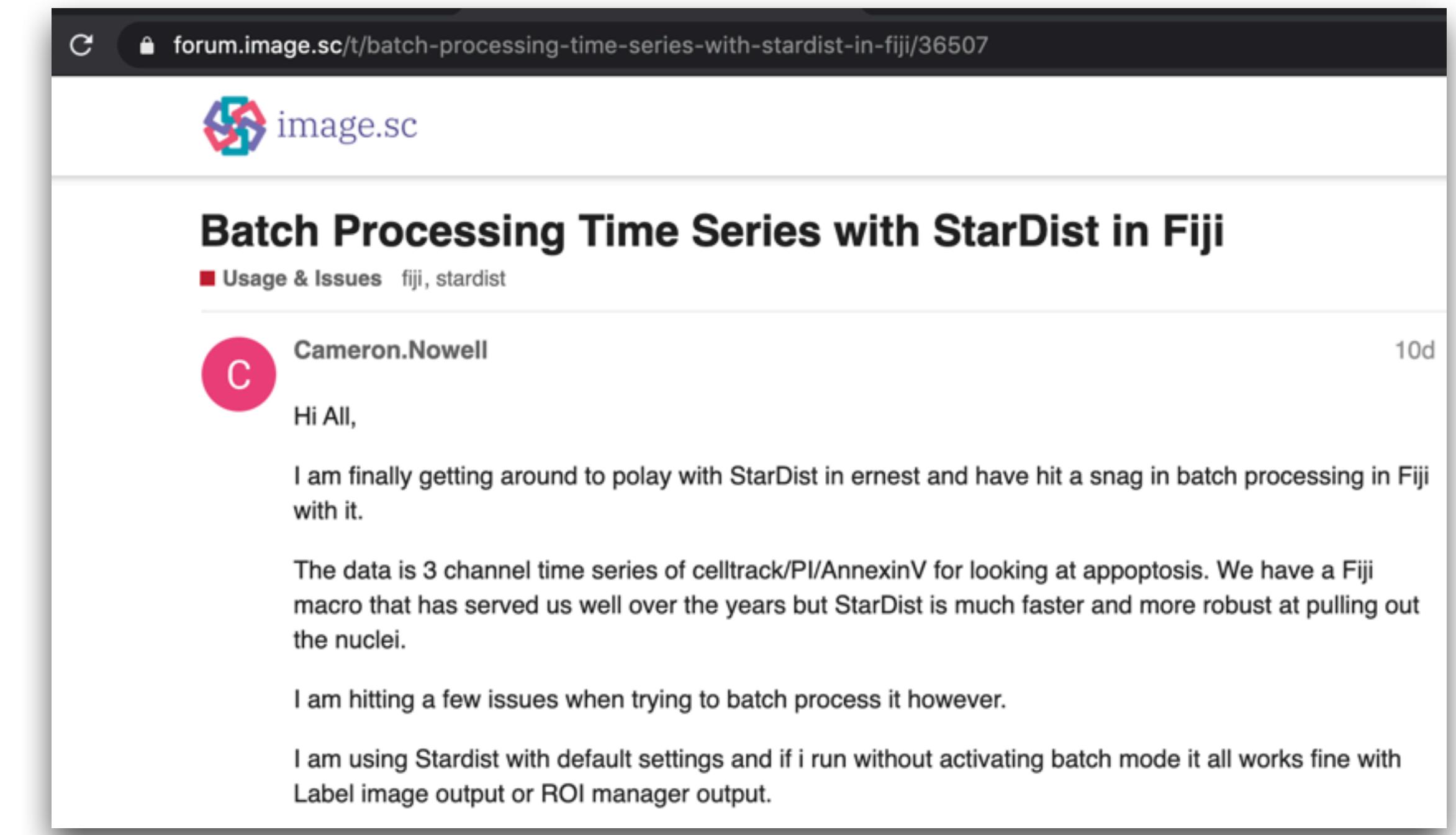


The screenshot shows the GitHub project issues page for mpicbg-csbd/stardist. The URL in the address bar is https://github.com/mpicbg-csbd/stardist/issues. The page has a dark theme. At the top, there are navigation links: Pull requests, Issues, Marketplace, Explore. Below that, the repository name mpicbg-csbd / stardist is displayed. The main area shows a list of 13 open issues. One specific issue is highlighted: "#46 opened 6 days ago by VolkerH" with the title "Cannot find pre-trained model "versatile" from Fiji in '.h5` format". Other issues listed include "Where will the predictions be saved after running prediction notebook?" and "Stardist prediction allocates full gpu". There are filters at the bottom left and a search bar at the bottom right.

## Image.sc forum

- Usage questions
- Best practices
- Problems with training/data

[https://forum.image.sc \(use tag “stardist”!\)](https://forum.image.sc/t/batch-processing-time-series-with-stardist-in-fiji/36507)



The screenshot shows a forum post on the Image.sc forum. The URL in the address bar is https://forum.image.sc/t/batch-processing-time-series-with-stardist-in-fiji/36507. The post is titled "Batch Processing Time Series with StarDist in Fiji". The author is Cameron.Nowell, indicated by a pink circular icon with a white letter 'C'. The post was made 10 days ago. The content of the post is as follows:

Hi All,

I am finally getting around to play with StarDist in earnest and have hit a snag in batch processing in Fiji with it.

The data is 3 channel time series of celltrack/PI/AnnexinV for looking at apoptosis. We have a Fiji macro that has served us well over the years but StarDist is much faster and more robust at pulling out the nuclei.

I am hitting a few issues when trying to batch process it however.

I am using Stardist with default settings and if I run without activating batch mode it all works fine with Label image output or ROI manager output.

# StarDist in a core facility

# Questions & Answers 2

# Acknowledgments

## Neubias Team: Julien Colombelli, Romain Guiet ...

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- **Uwe Schmidt**
- Robert Haase
- Coleman Broaddus

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École Normale Supérieure de Lyon

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- 

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