

The ANTs Cortical Thickness Pipeline

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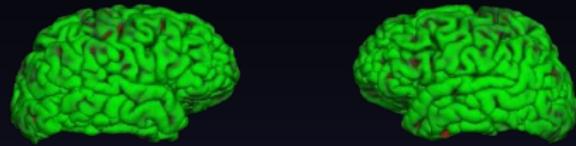
³Department of Circulation and Medical Imaging, Norwegian University of Science and Technology

Cortical thickness studies

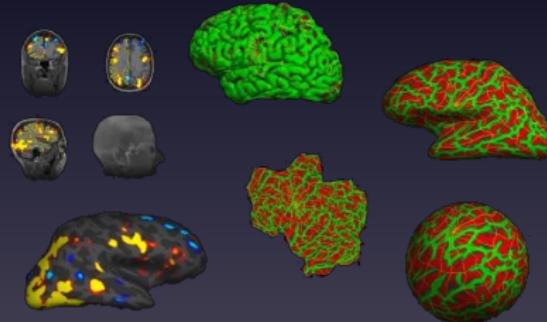
- Huntington's disease
- schizophrenia
- bipolar disorder
- Alzheimer's disease
- Fronto-temporal dementia
- Parkinson's disease
- Williams syndrome
- multiple sclerosis
- autism
- migraines
- chronic smoking
- alcoholism
- cocaine addiction
- Tourette syndrome in children
- scoliosis in female adolescents
- obsessive compulsive disorder
- attention deficit hyperactivity disorder
- obesity
- heritable depression
- elderly depression

Cortical thickness studies (cont.)

- Correlated with:
 - age
 - gender
 - untreated transsexuality
 - handedness
 - intelligence
 - athletic ability
 - musical ability
 - tendency towards criminality
 - Tetris-playing ability in female adolescents
- functional connectivity relationships

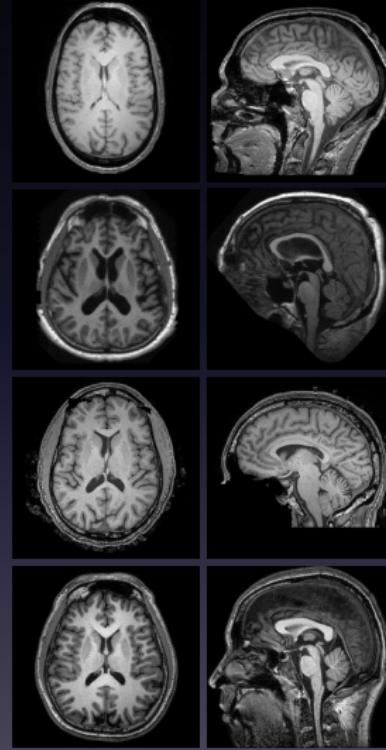


FREE SURFER



Data

- IXI (Imperial College)
 - 581 subjects
 - T1, T2, PD, DWI
 - 3 sites, 1.5 & 3 T
- Oasis (WUSTL)
 - 416 subjects
 - 100 mild AD
 - defaced
- NKI/Rockland
 - 188 subjects
 - T1, T2, R-fMRI, DTI
 - defaced
- Kirby (VU)
 - 41 subjects
 - T1, T2, DTI, ...



Algorithms

- N4BiasFieldCorrection.cxx
- antsRegistration.cxx
- antsAffineInitializer.cxx
- Atropos.cxx
- KellyKapowski.cxx
- ImageMath.cxx
- abp.sh

Algorithms

IEEE-TMI 2010

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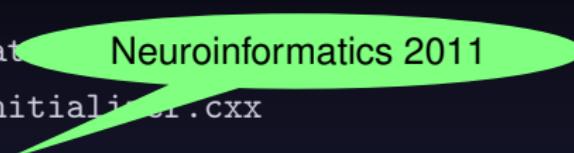
Algorithms

MIA 2008, IEEE-TIP 2009

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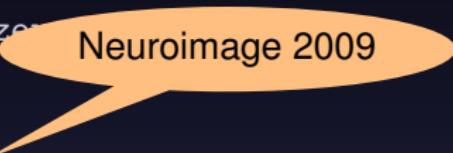
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Neuroinformatics 2011

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Neuroimage 2009

abp.sh

```
$ sh ~/Pkg/Utilities/scripts/abp.sh
```

This script, abp.sh, performs T1 anatomical brain processing where the following steps are currently applied:

1. Brain extraction
2. Brain 3-tissue segmentation
3. Cortical thickness
4. (Optional) registration to a template

Usage:

```
abp.sh -d imageDimension  
      -a anatomicalImage.nii.gz  
      -e brainExtractionTemplate  
      -m brainExtractionProbabilityMask  
      -l brainSegmentationTemplate  
      -p brainSegmentationPriors  
      <OPTARGS>  
      -o outputPrefix
```

Example:

```
bash ~/Users/ntustison/Pkg/Utilities/scripts/abp.sh -d 3 -i t1.nii.gz -e brainWithSkullTemplate.nii.gz  
-m brainPrior.nii.gz -l segmentationTemplate.nii.gz -p segmentationPriors%d.nii.gz -o output
```

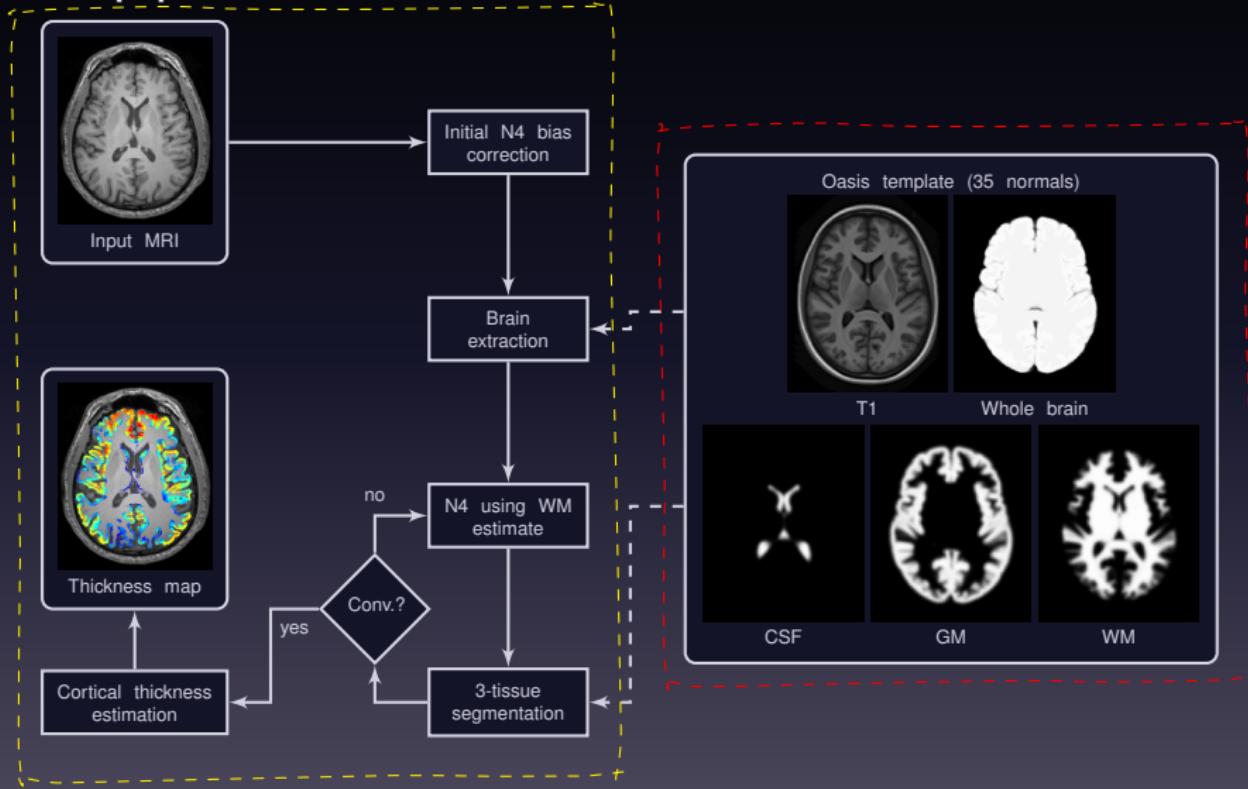
Required arguments:

...

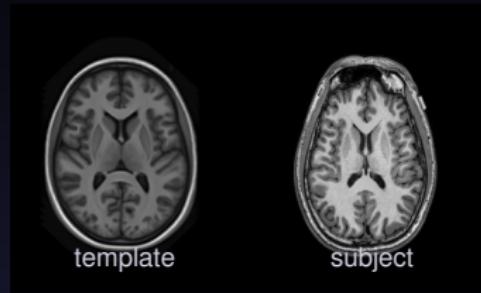
Optional arguments:

...

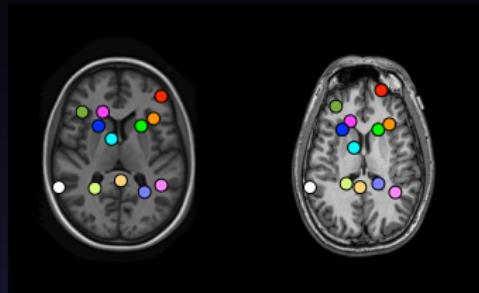
ANTs pipeline for cortical thickness estimation



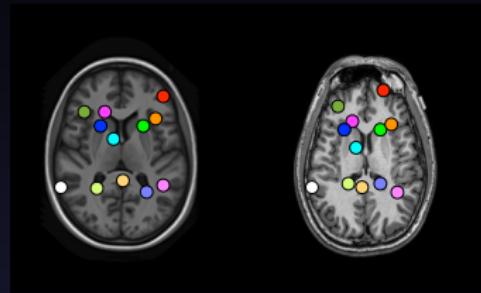
Brain extraction



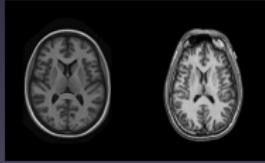
Brain extraction



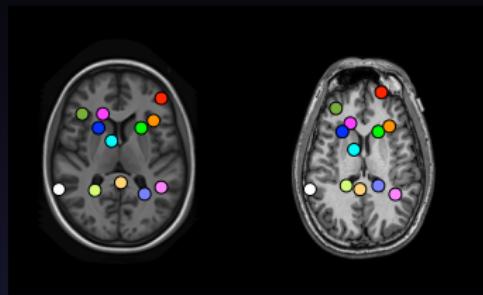
Brain extraction



↓ Affine init.



Brain extraction

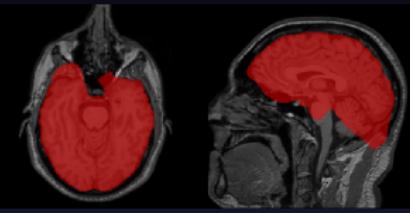


Affine init.

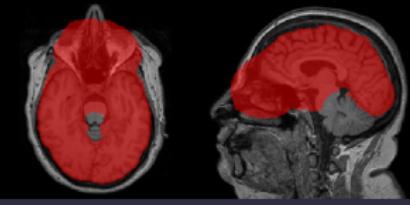


Extraction failures

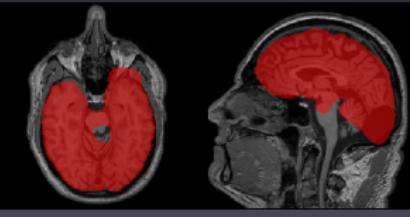
IXI_191



IXI_370



IXI_594



N4 \leftrightarrow Atropos



brain mask

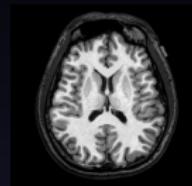
weight mask

N4 ↔ Atropos



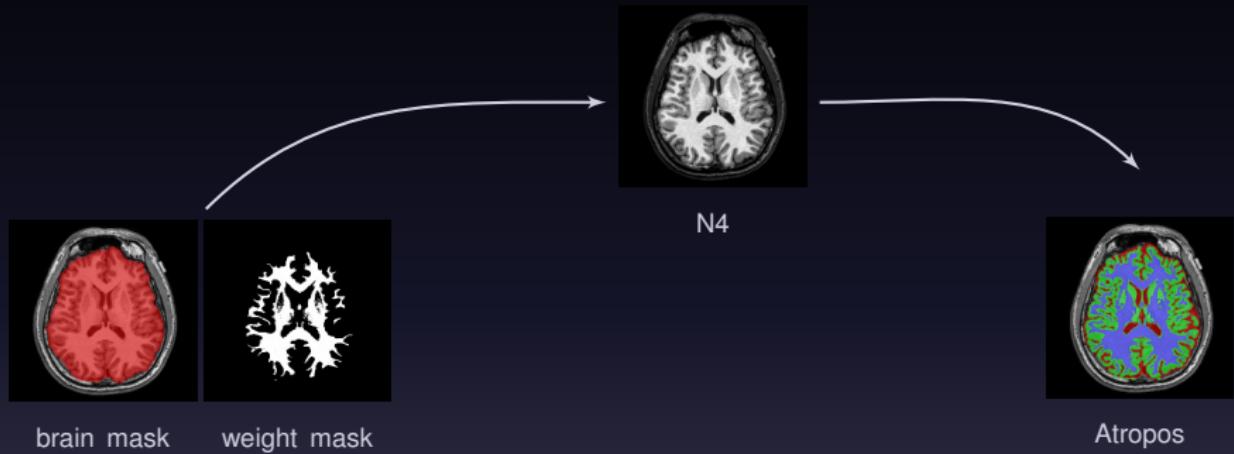
brain mask

weight mask

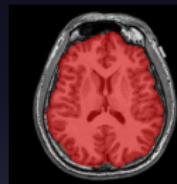


N4

N4 ↔ Atropos



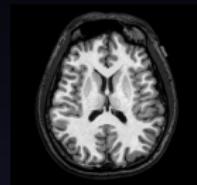
N4 \leftrightarrow Atropos



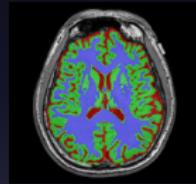
brain mask



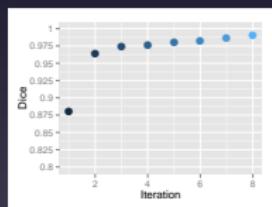
weight mask



N4

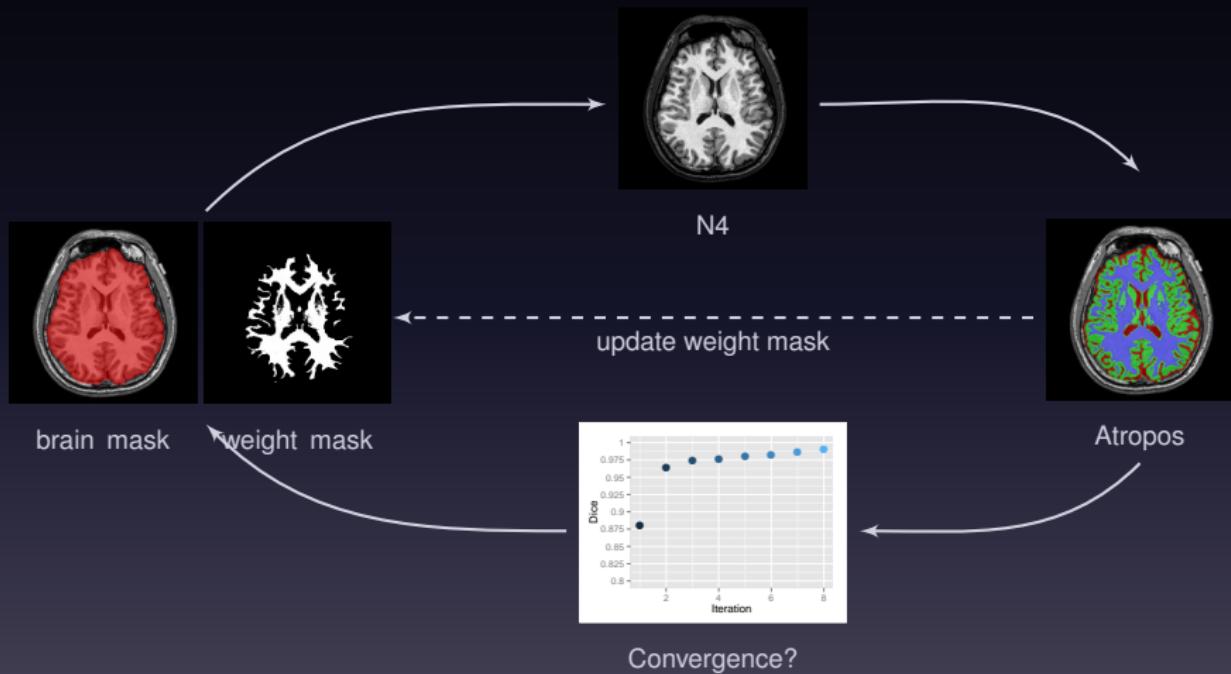


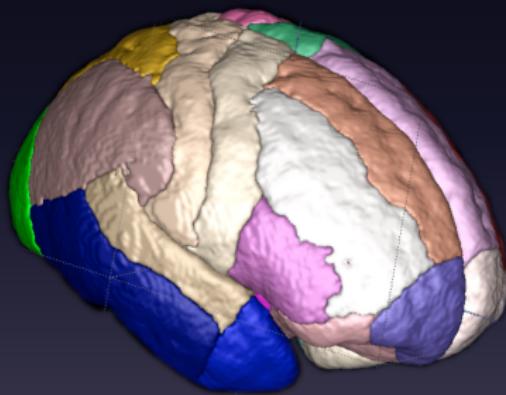
Atropos



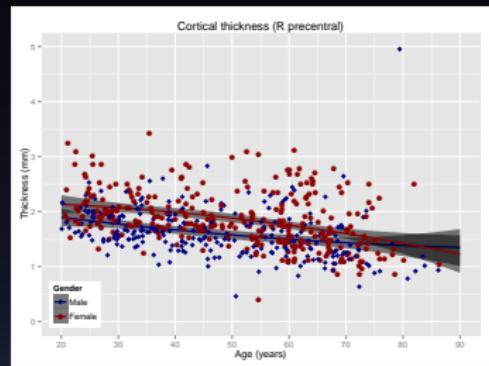
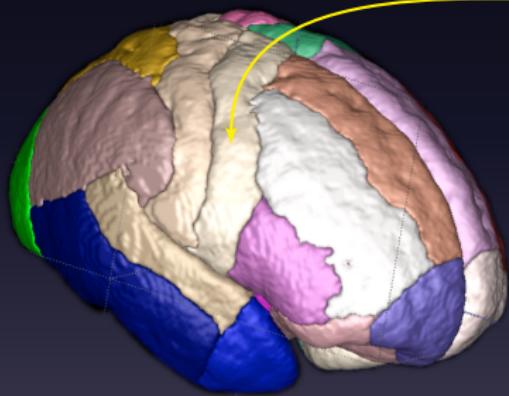
Convergence?

N4 \leftrightarrow Atropos

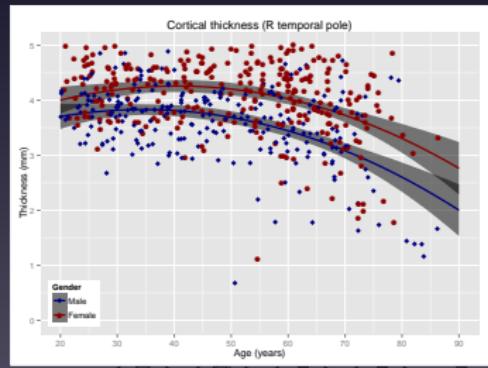
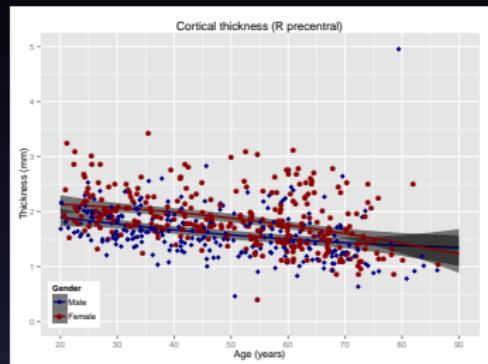
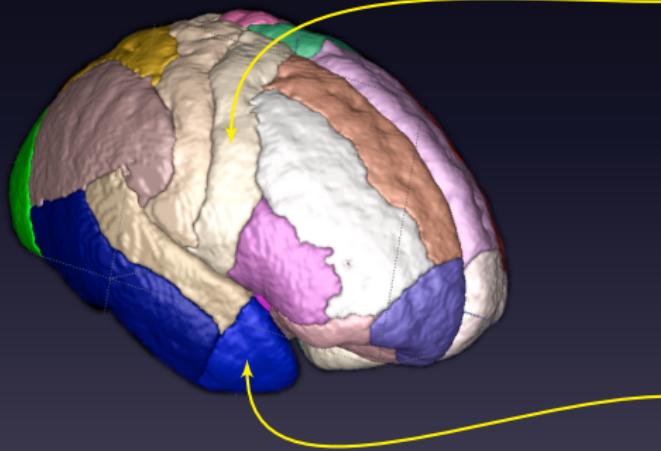


$$\text{thickness} \sim 1 + \text{age} + I(\text{age}^2)$$


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Further information

- <http://www.itk.org>
- <http://www.picsl.upenn.edu/ANTs>