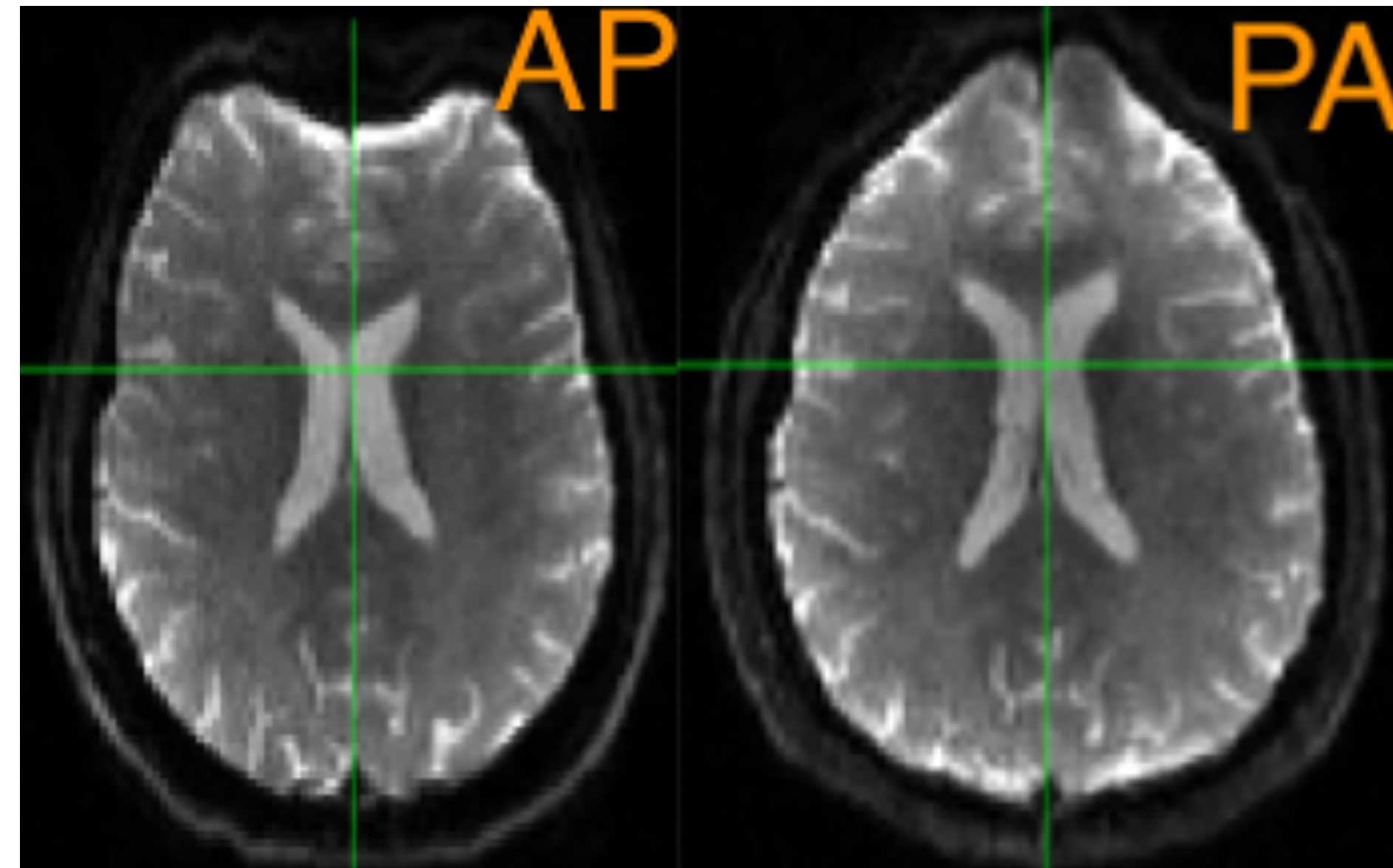


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EPI susceptibility correction introduces significant differences far from local areas of high distortion

John P. Begnoche^{a,*}, Kurt G. Schilling^{b,c}, Brian D. Boyd^a, Leon Y. Cai^d, Warren D. Taylor^a, Bennett A. Landman^{a,b,c,d,e}

^a Center for Cognitive Medicine, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, TN, USA
^b Department of Radiology and Radiological Sciences, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, TN, USA
^c Vanderbilt University Institute of Imaging Science, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN, USA
^d Department of Biomedical Engineering, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN, USA
^e Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN, USA

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ABSTRACT

Purpose: In echo-planar diffusion-weighted imaging, correcting for susceptibility-induced artifacts typically requires acquiring pairs of images, known as blip-up blip-down acquisitions, to create an undistorted volume as a target to correct distortions that are often focal where regions with differences in magnetic susceptibility interface, such as the frontal and temporal areas. However, blip-up blip-down acquisitions are not always available, and distortion effects may not be specifically localized to such areas, with subtle effects potentially extending throughout the brain. Here, we apply a deep learning technique to generate an undistorted volume to correct susceptibility-induced artifacts and demonstrate implications for image fidelity and diffusion-based inference outside of areas where high focal distortion is present.

