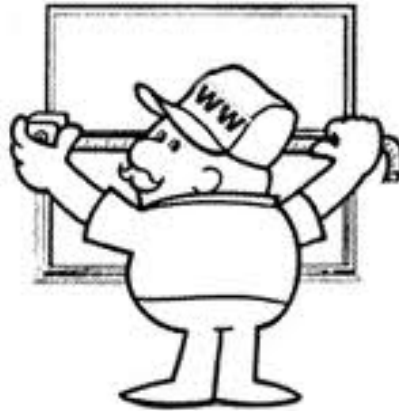


# Quantitation



- Sampling
- Morphometry
- Stereology
- Pattern Analysis
- Image Analysis

# Questions



- Why measure ?
- What do you want to measure ?
- How do we measure ?
- Are the results unbiased, precise, accurate, valid, meaningful ?

# Questions

- Why measure ?
- What do you want to measure ?
- How do we measure ?
- Are the results unbiased, precise, accurate, valid, meaningful ?

# Why measure ?

“ .... When you can **measure** what you are speaking about and express it in numbers, you know something about it; but when you cannot express it in numbers, your knowledge is of a meagre and unsatisfactory kind; it may be the beginning of knowledge, but you have scarcely in your thoughts advanced to the state of **Science**, whatever the matter may be.”

***Lord Kelvin (1883)***

# Why measure ?

- Obtain Absolute Data
- Variability / Constancy
- Relative / Comparative Data
- Experimental v Control Data
- Disease v Healthy Data
- Treatment v Control Data
- Data on Changes / Growth / Ageing / Differences
- Data on Structure / Function Relationships
- Data to Predict / Mathematical Models

**“The plural of anecdote is not data !”**

- Why measure ?
- What do you want to measure ?
- How do we measure ?
- Are the results unbiased, precise, accurate, valid, meaningful ?

What?

# Things which may be measured

- Structures (3D)
  - Number, size, surface area, length, volume, shape, ...
- Mass
  - Weights of organelles, cells, tissues, organs, people, ...
- Shapes & Arrangement
  - Macromolecules, organelles, cells, tissues, organs, people, ...
- Chemical Constituents
  - Storage products, DNA
- Activity – Time (4D)
  - Enzyme activities, intracellular events, cell turnover, movement

See also 3D shapes – Geometric Morphometrics (Frigot) .. Next week!

What?

# What to Measure

- Whole Body
  - Height, Weight, Girths, Composition, Anthropometry, Somatotype, Auxometry
- Whole organ
  - Volume: Water displacement, Specific Gravity, Hydrostatic weighing
- Size
  - Lengths, Widths
- Amount
  - Lengths,  $L_v$ ; Surface areas,  $S_v$ ; Volumes,  $V_v$
- Numbers
  - $N_A$ ,  $N_v$ ,  $N$
- Shapes
  - Roundedness, Indentedness, S:V ratios, Form Factors, Tortuosity
- Orientations
  - Angles, Isotropic, Anisotropic, Branching
- Locations & Patterns
  - Random, Clumped, Dispersed, Related



What?

## Examples

- Proportion of muscle, fat, bone, skin in limb
- Size of muscle fibres, Haversian systems, glomeruli ...
- Number of neurons in the brain/ spinal cord/ DRG
- Number of fibrocytes per unit of tendon
- Length of capillary network in ligament
- Amount of lipid in heart
- Surface area of villi in gut, alveoli in lung
- Orientation/branching of Purkinje fibres in cerebellum
- Relationship of necrotic cells to capillaries
- Angle of pennation in muscles

What?

# Applications

- Anatomy, Neuroanatomy, Embryology
- Histology, Histochemistry, Autoradiography, ...
- Pathology
- Radiology
- Food Science
- Metallurgy
- Materials Science
- Geology
- Ecology
- Geography
- Social Sciences
- Astronomy

- Why measure ?
- What do you want to measure ?
- How do we measure ?
- Are the results unbiased, precise, accurate, valid, meaningful ?

How?

“ One ounce of thought is worth one ton of equipment.”

*Lord Rutherford*



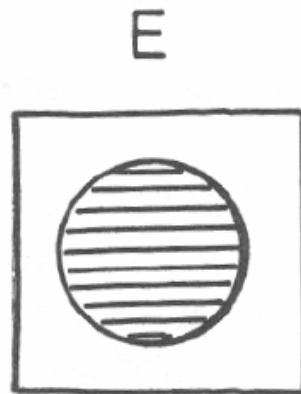
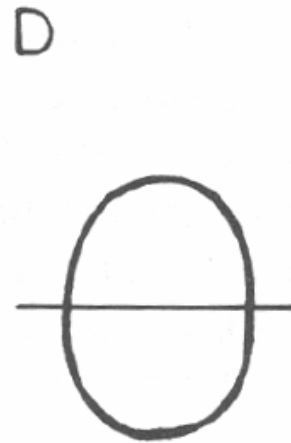
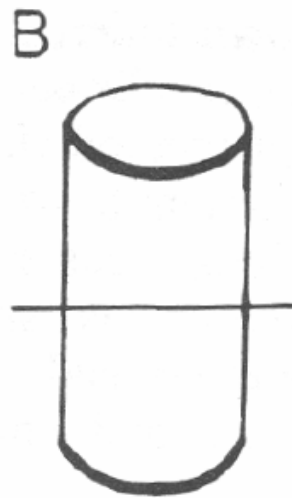
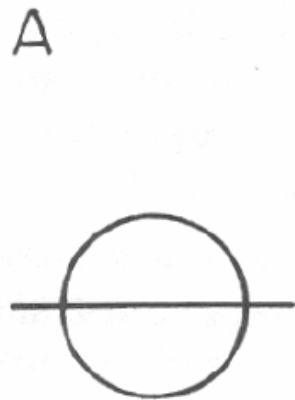
How?

# Pre-Quantitation



- Qualitative Analysis
  - Observation / Visualisation / Form / Organisation
  - Recording
  - 2D/3D Interpretation / Serial:Thick Sections / Reconstruction
  - Functional Interpretation
- Subjective Quantification
  - Variability
  - Amount, many, more, larger, ++++
  - Activity
- Relate to other levels of organisation, up, down
- Relate to other methodologies – Physiol, Biochem, Living
- Artefacts / Misunderstandings

# 2D < > 3D



# 2D < > 3D

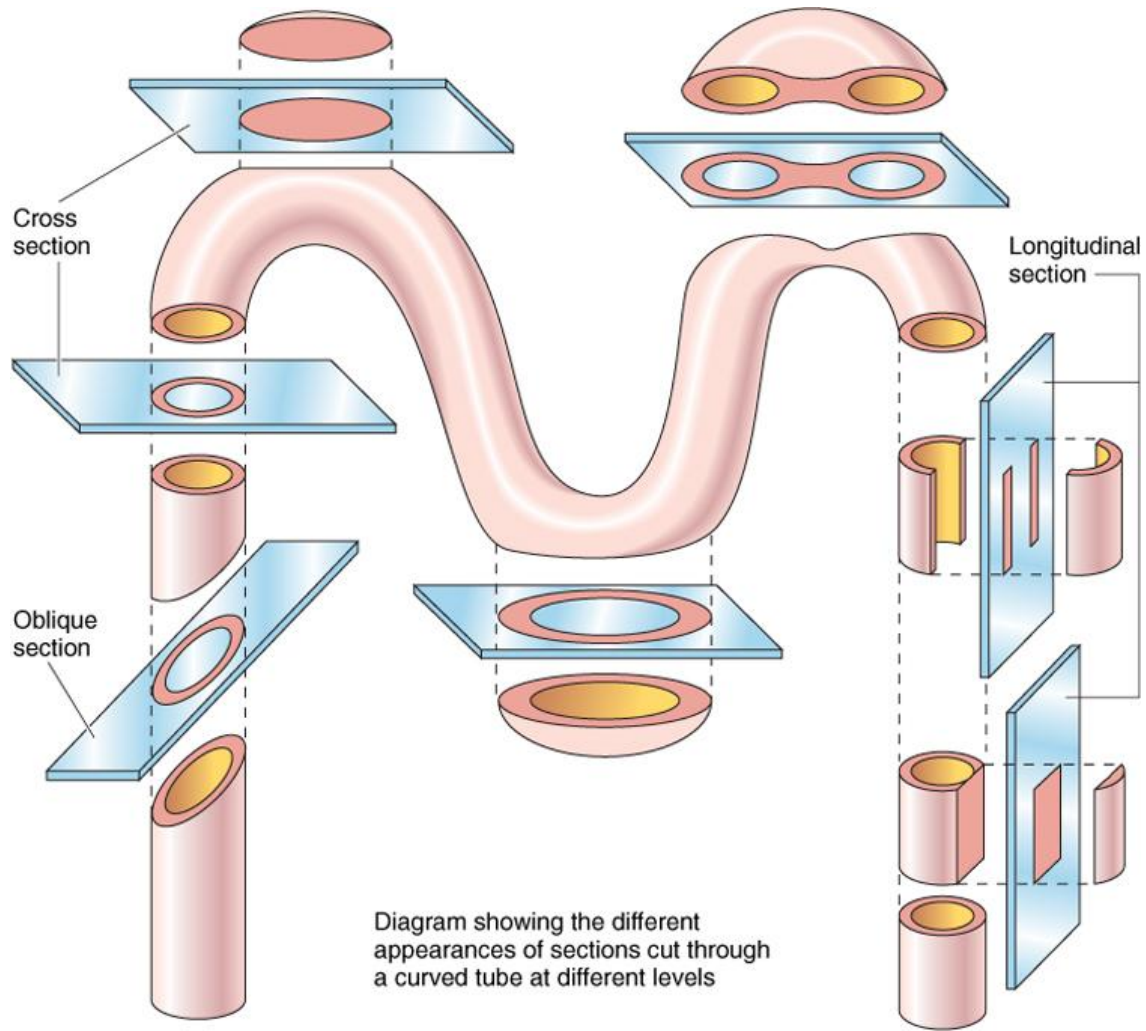
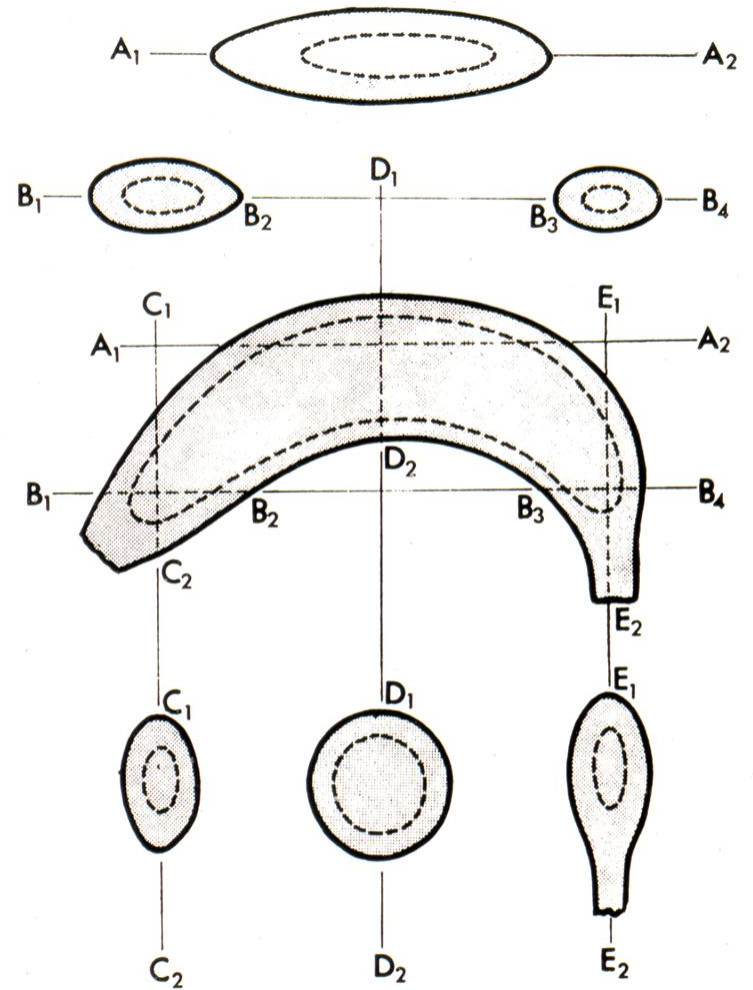
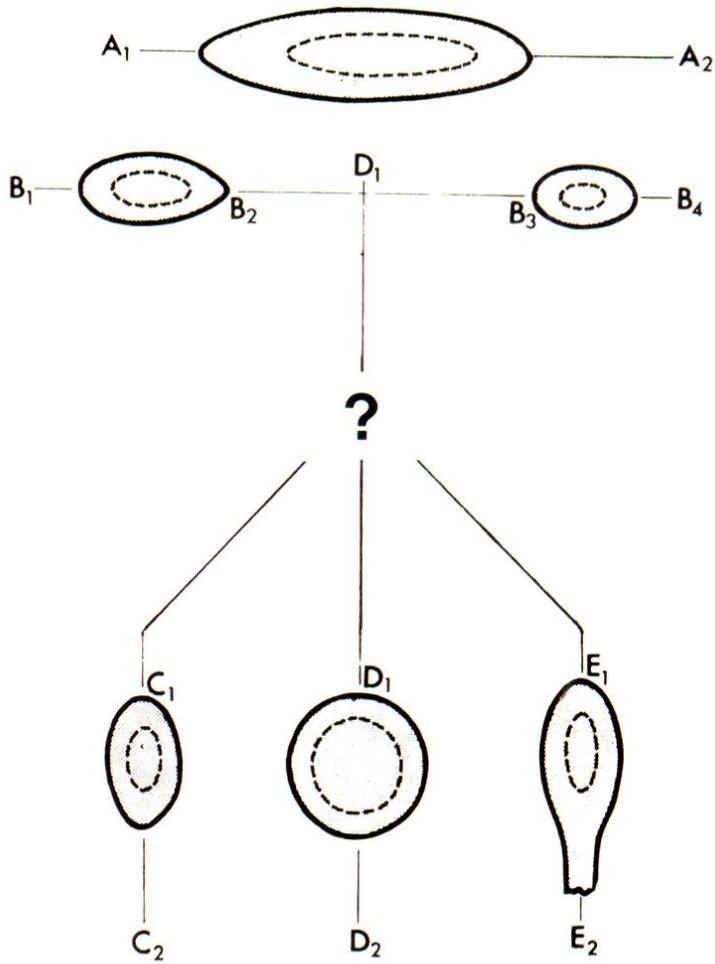


Diagram showing the different appearances of sections cut through a curved tube at different levels

# 2D < > 3D





How?

# Quantitation



## Optical Properties

- Analytical Microscopy
  - Reflectometry, Phase Contrast/Refractometry, Polarising, Interference, 'Weigh cells', Microdensitometry
- Semi-Quantitative
  - Rating scales, ++++

## Geometrical Properties

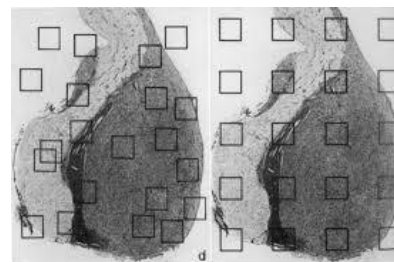
- Sampling
- Morphometry (... directly)
- Stereology (... indirectly 2D/3D)
- Pattern Analysis
- Image Analysis

How?

# Sampling



- Identify Object
  - Staining
  - Magnification
- Representative
  - Is tissue Homogeneous (Isotropic) / Irregular (Anisotropic)  
Heterogeneous (Anisotropic)  
Gradiential (Anisotropic)
- Random
  - Completely random
  - Systematic stratified random sampling
  - Zonal oblique sector analysis
- Manual / Automated
- How many samples? (Experimental Design)
  - Individuals / Organs / Blocks / Sections / Micrographs / Items / Measures
  - Hally Formula  $RSE = \frac{SQRT(1-Vv)}{SQRT n}$
  - Progressive mean, Log Plots
  - Do More, Less Well !



# Progressive Mean

Data: 80, 10, 30, 40, 50, 45, 30, 35, 40, 40, ....

Average  
Size  
 $\mu\text{m}$

100

80

60

40

20

0

10

20

30

40

50

60

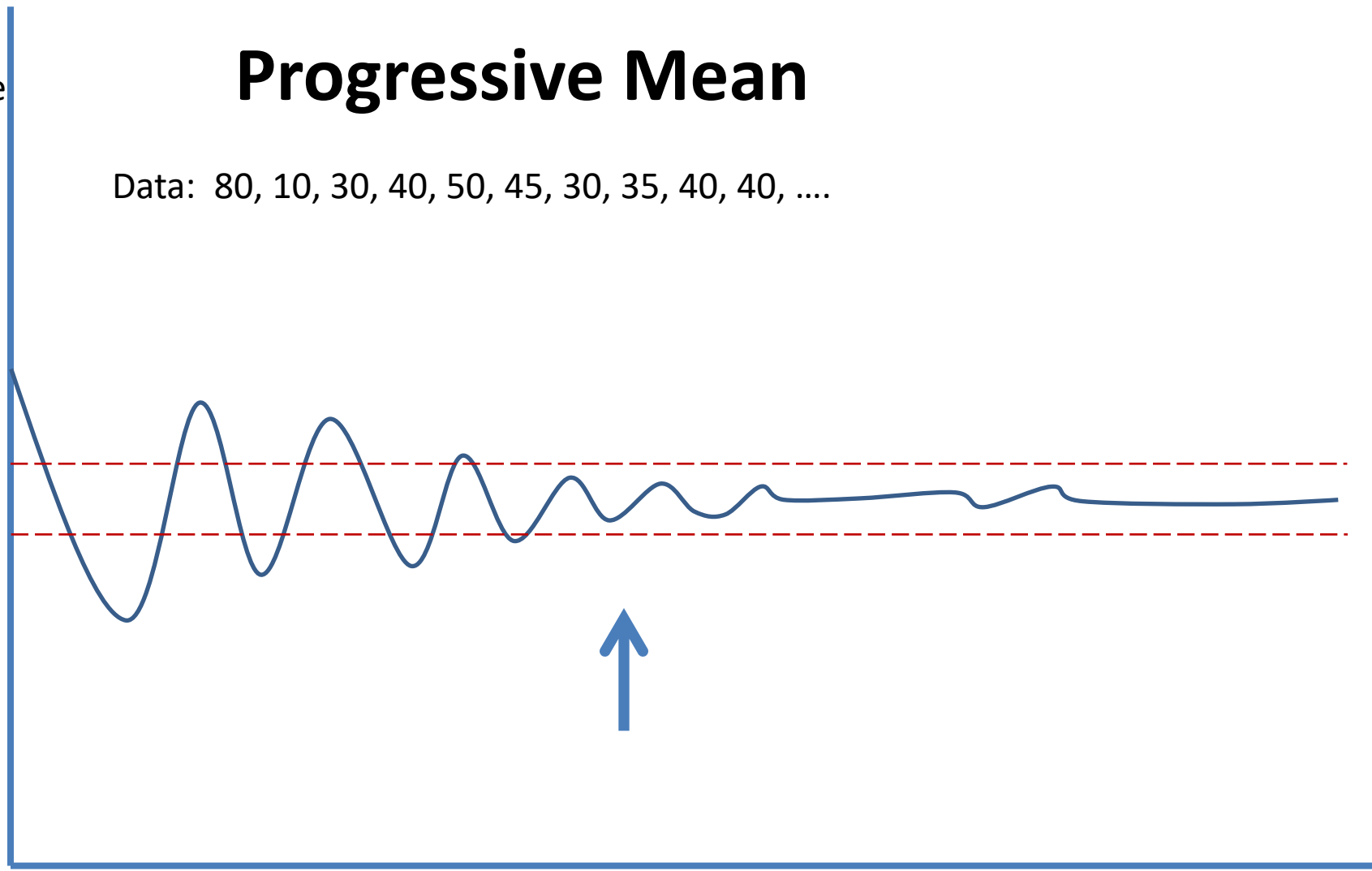
70

80

90

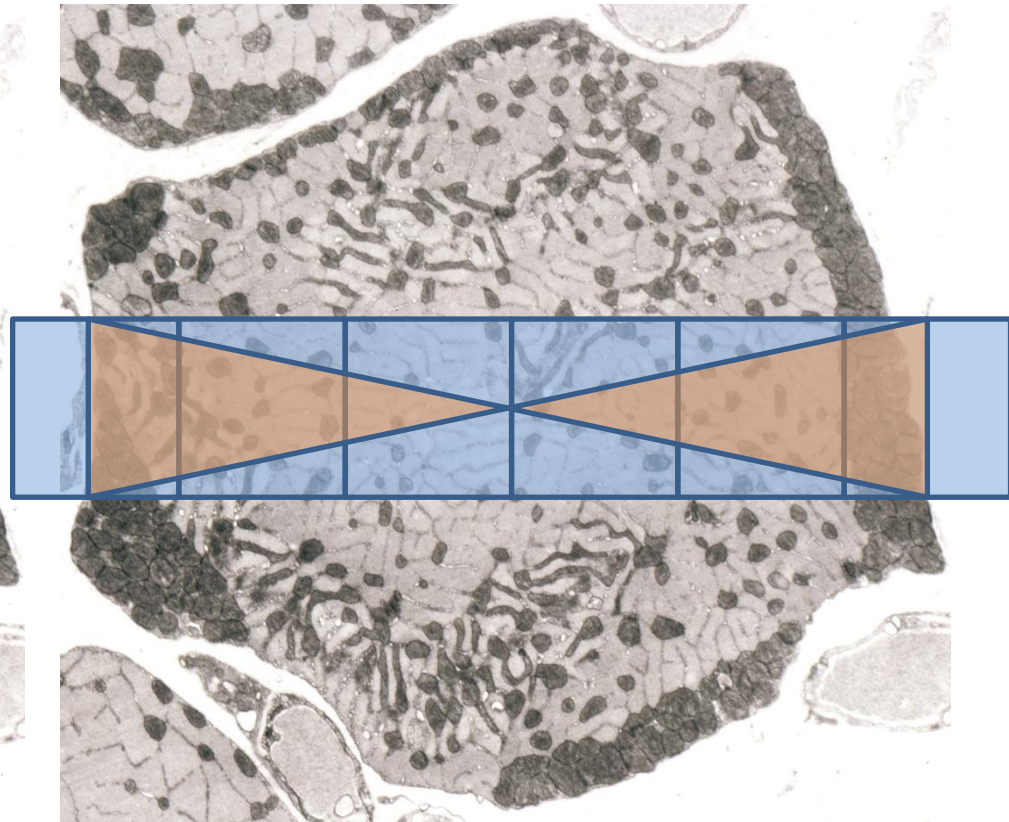
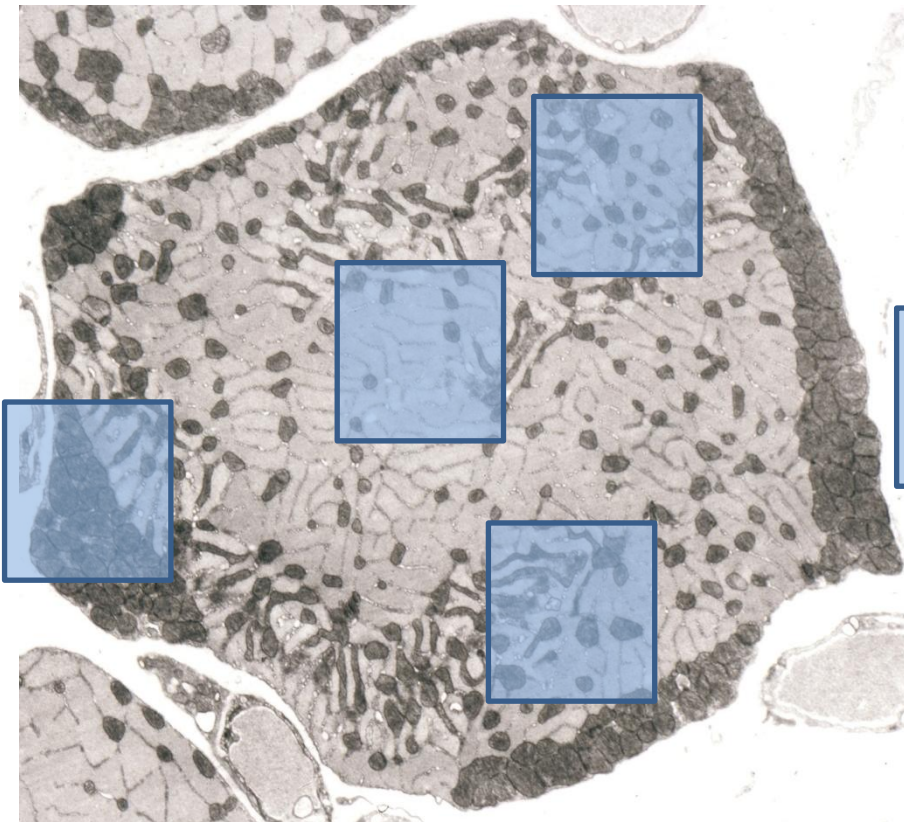
100

Number



Skeletal Muscle – Random Sampling  
Micrographs at x18,000

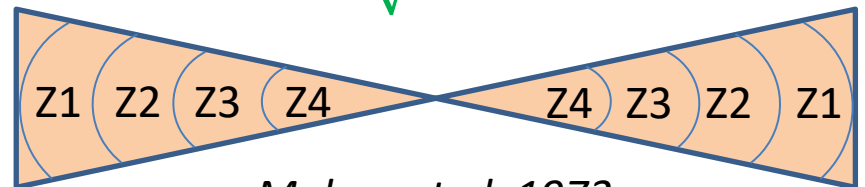
Skeletal Muscle – Zonal Oblique Sector  
Analysis Method (ZOSAM)



**X**

✓

Sampling:  $\leq 1$ , *RSE*, *Prog. Mean*

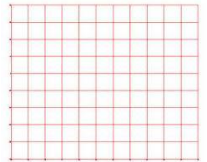


*Mahon et al, 1973*

How?

# Which Method ?

- Morphometry
  - direct measurement of structures
- Stereology
  - extrapolation from 2D to 3D using simple counting methods
- Image Analysis
  - combination of above using digital imaging and computers in manual or automatic modes
  - plus data presentation and analysis



How?

# Morphometry 1

Measurement of Form



- Magnification calibration



- Known Objects, Graticules, Beads, Crystals, Hysteresis, Axes (printing, distortion)

- Section Thickness

- Weigh, Calipers, Interferometry; Holmes effect

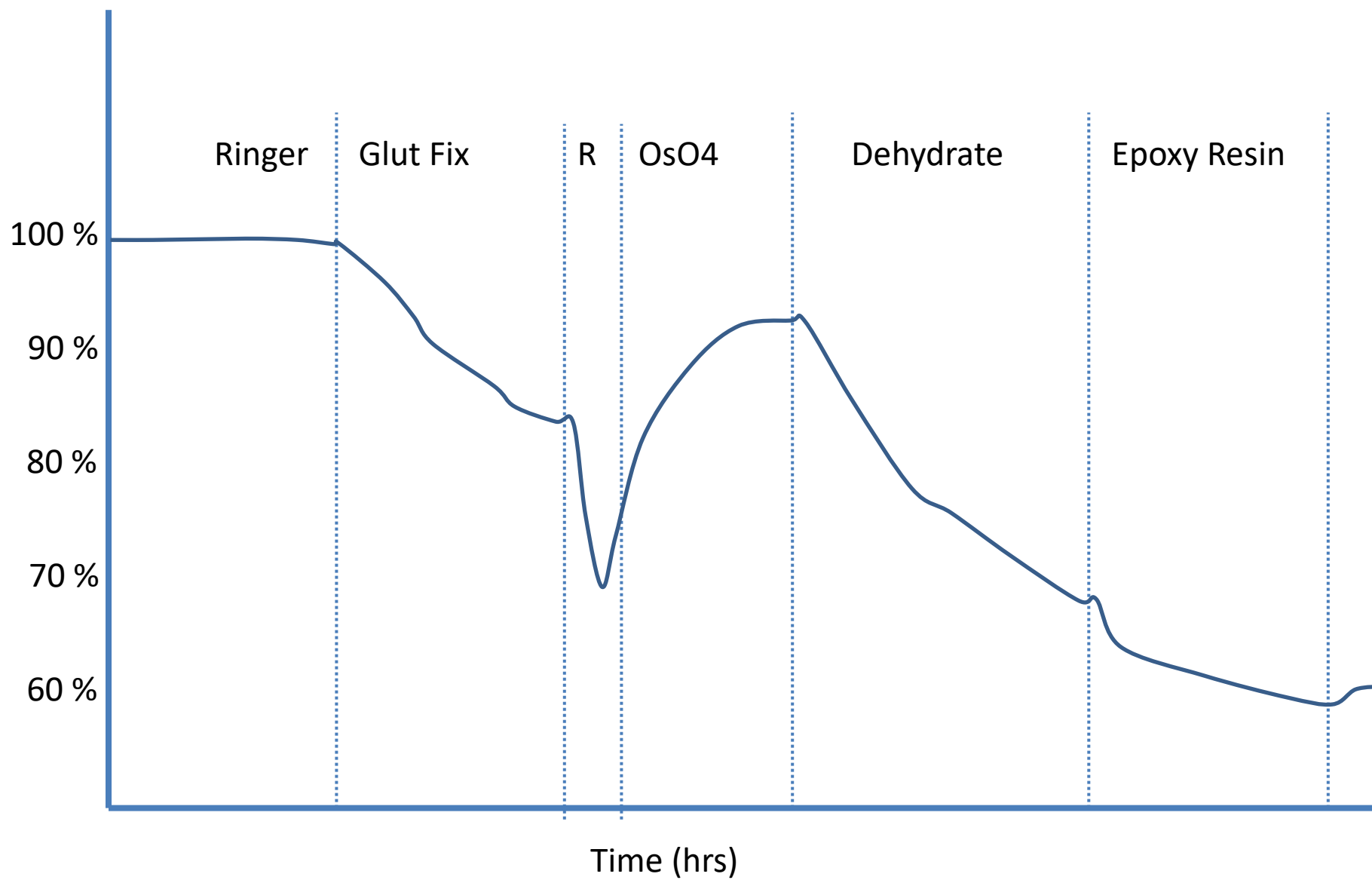
- Preparation effects

- Fixation, dehydration, embedding, sectioning, staining

- Equipment & Time available / Costs

# Tissue Preparation Effects

- **Fixation Effects** (Sissons, Goldspink, Strickland 1960s, 1970s)
  - Flemmings - 3-15%
  - Carnoys -19-36%
  - Bouins -23%
  - Formalin -23-30%
  - Zenker -30-40%
  
- Length change 10%
- Areal change 21%
- Volume change 33%
  
- Need a Standard ..... Ringers, Frozen, ...





# Practical

## Part

1. Magnification Calibration
2. Morphometry
3. Stereology
4. (Pattern/Shape analysis)

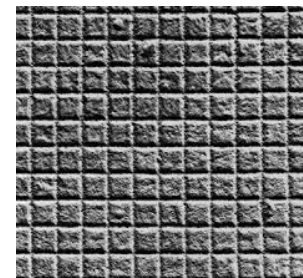
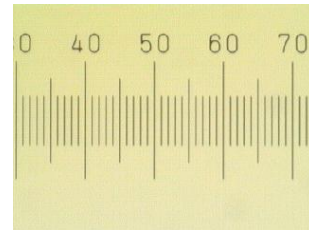
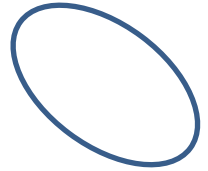
How?

# Morphometry 2

Measurement of Form



- Volumes, Lengths  $\triangle$ , Surfaces  $\triangle$ , Numbers  $\triangle \triangle \triangle$ , Thickness
- Diameters & Areas
  - Longest, shortest/narrow, Orthogonal, Feret, Average, Random chord
  - From area ( $\pi r^2$ ), Circle of best fit
- Shape
  - Axial ratio, S:V ratios or Form factors ( $A/P^2$ ,  $1=4 \pi A/P^2$ ), Angularity (Gulfs & Peaks)
  - Shape of best fit (Identikit), Reconstruction
  - Fourier Analysis, Fractals (Mandelbrot)
- Equipment
  - Rulers, Calipers, Graticules, Stage Micrometer, Cut & Weigh
  - EM: Diffraction Grating, Latex Spheres, Crystals
  - Filar micrometer, Image Shearing micrometer
  - Photographs, Drawings, Projection (Camera Lucida/Drawing Tube)
  - Thread, Map Measurer (Opisometer), Planimeter
  - Stereological lattices
  - Image Analyser



# Length



- Dependent on Magnification
- How long is the coastline of Britain? (Mandelbrot (1967) Science)



U 200 km  
L 2400 km



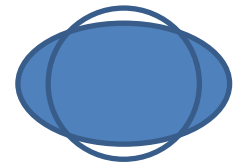
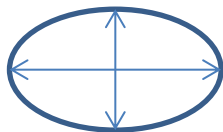
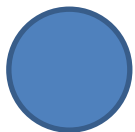
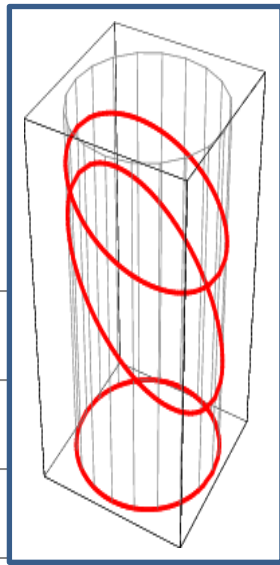
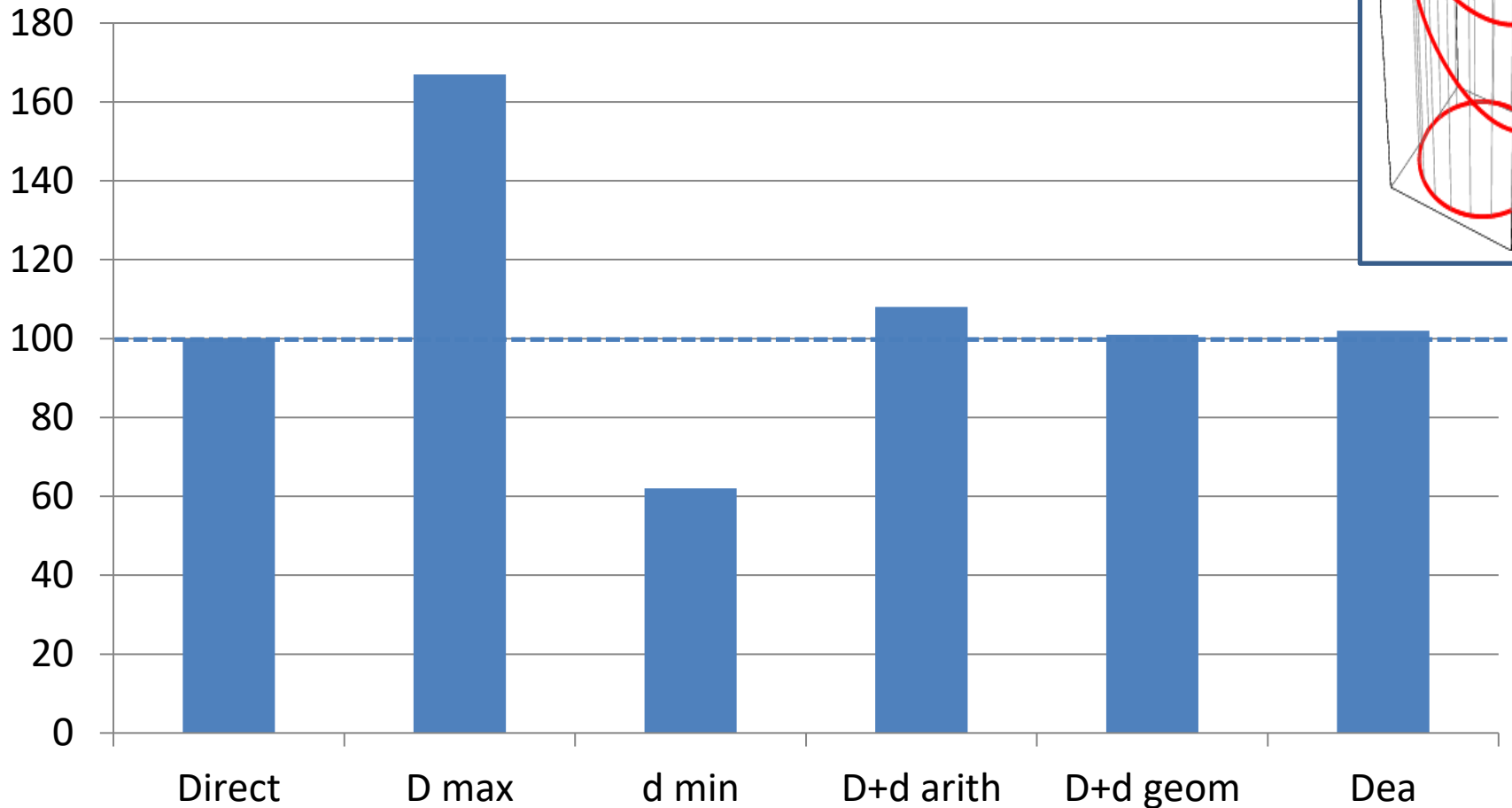
U 50 km  
L 3400 km

U ?? km  
L 12450 km

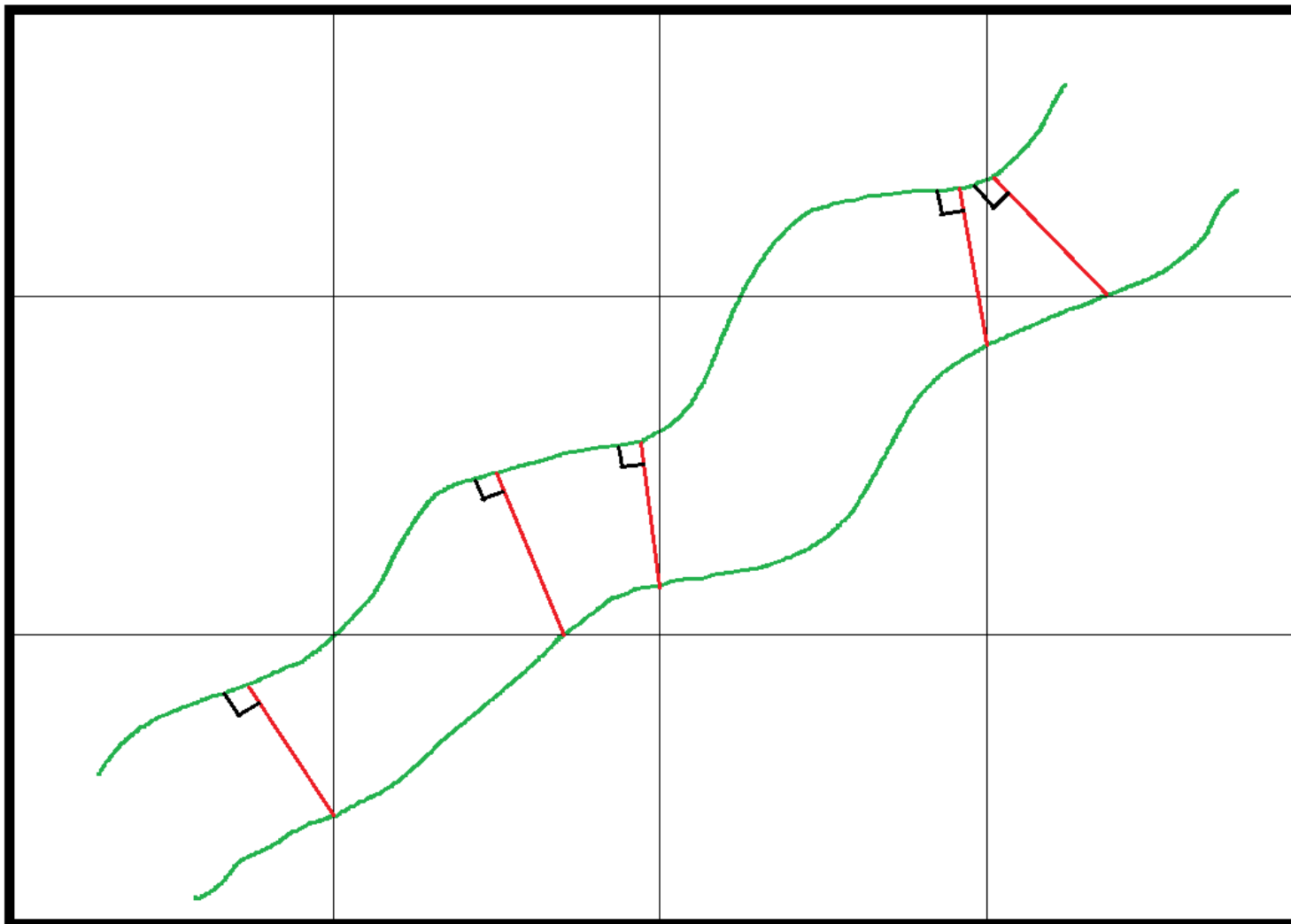
[See also Russ et al 2018](#)  
[The Problem of Perimeter](#)

Fractal Dimension of  
Wiggleness 1.25 !

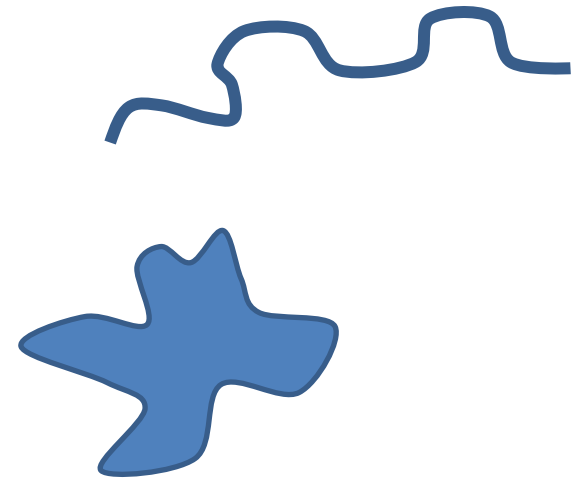
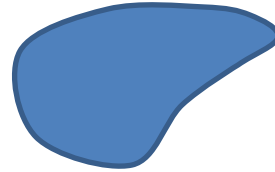
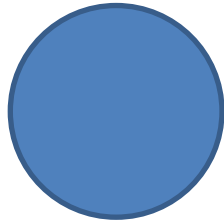
# Diameter (Muscle Fibres)



# Thickness Measurements



# Shapes



Form Factor

1.0

0.8

0.4

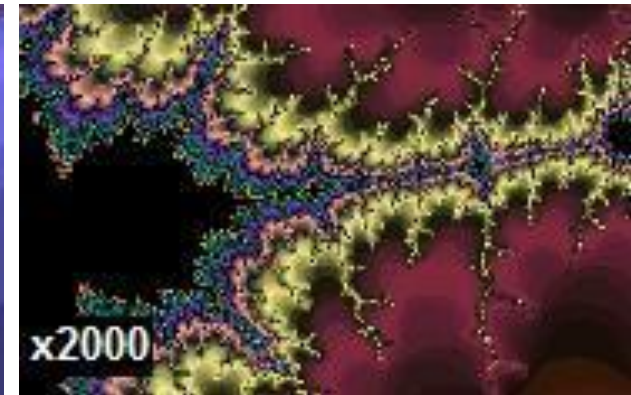
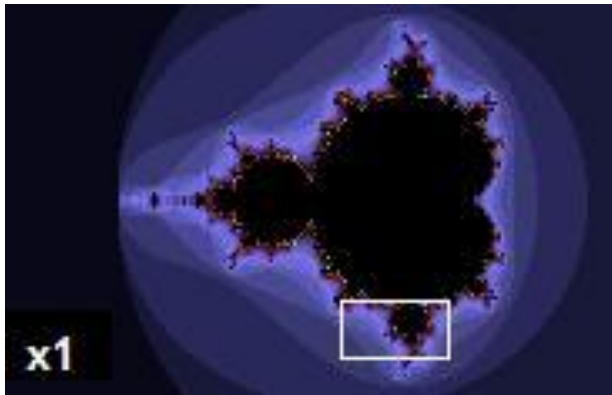
$$F = \frac{4 \times \pi \times \text{Area}}{\text{Perimeter}^2}$$

Gulfs

0

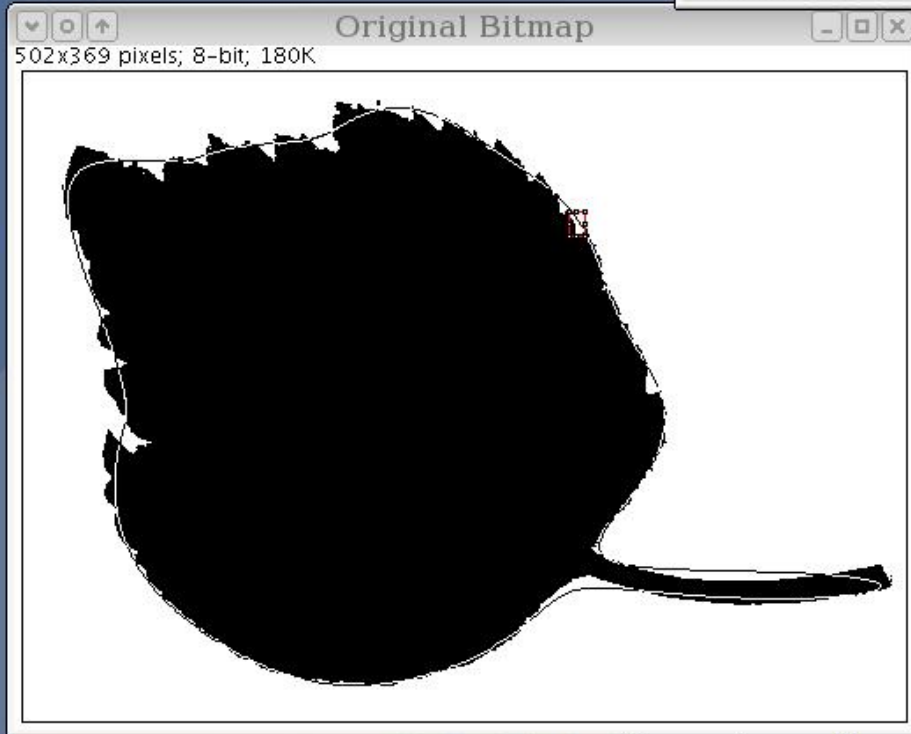
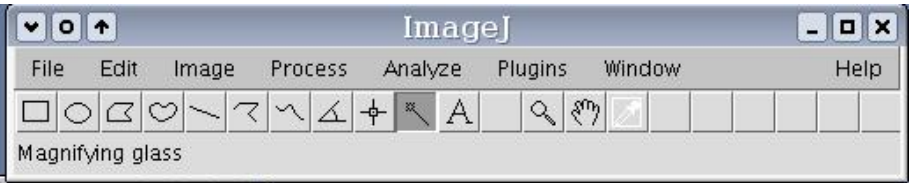
1

5



Fractals – Mandelbrot Set

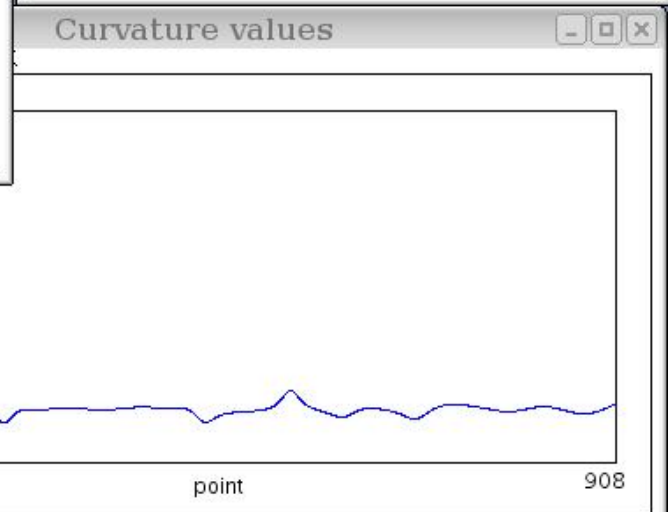
# Fourier Analysis of Shape Splines



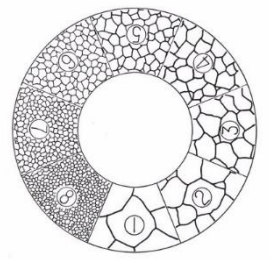
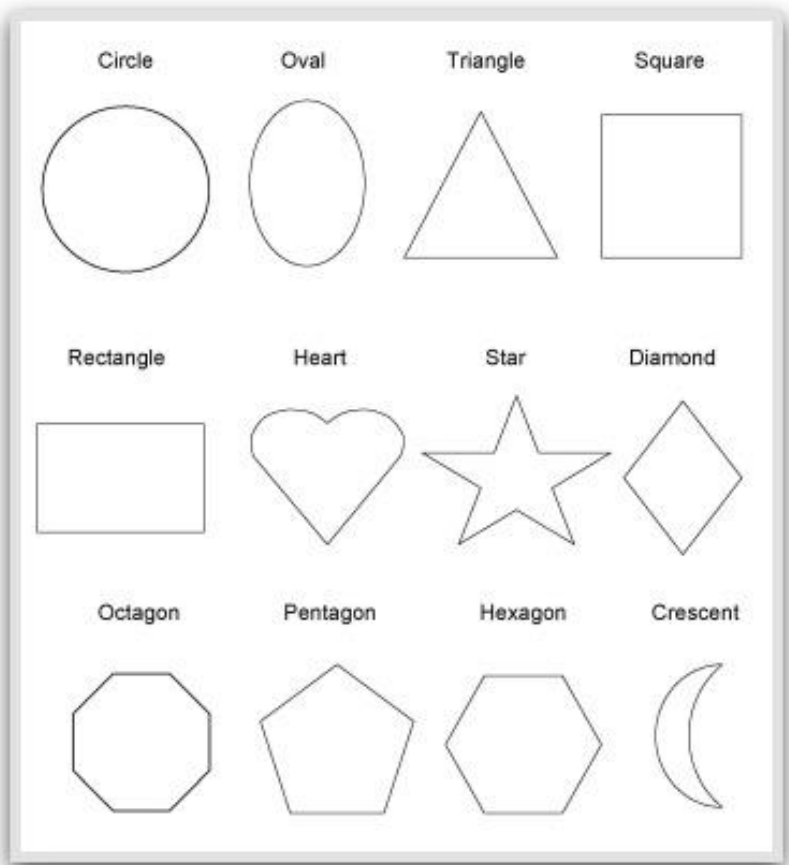
Results

|    | ax      | ay      | bx      | by     |
|----|---------|---------|---------|--------|
| 3  | -19.217 | 1.817   | 28.348  | -2.687 |
| 4  | -24.824 | 13.000  | -4.479  | 14.474 |
| 5  | -2.337  | 3.177   | -16.395 | 6.302  |
| 6  | -6.342  | -10.334 | -10.648 | -1.942 |
| 7  | 11.848  | 4.940   | -11.013 | 0.918  |
| 8  | 10.298  | -2.063  | -0.936  | 1.363  |
| 9  | 9.235   | 0.315   | 6.396   | 2.284  |
| 10 | 0.049   | -2.735  | 5.418   | -2.759 |
| 11 | -2.334  | -0.483  | 3.379   | -0.920 |

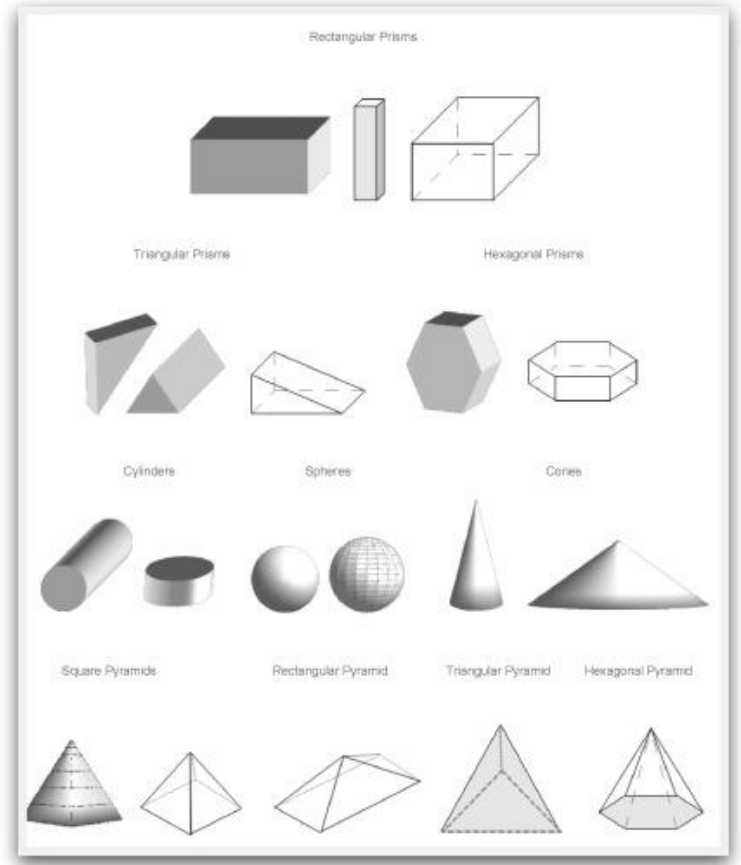
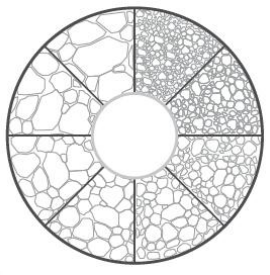
Took 8.09 seconds to calculate autocorrelation.



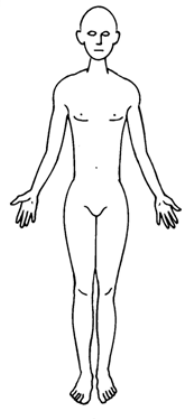
List Save... Copy...



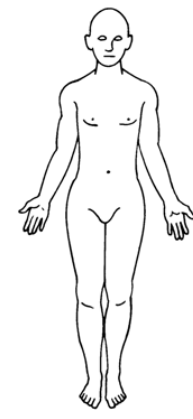
# Identikit Match



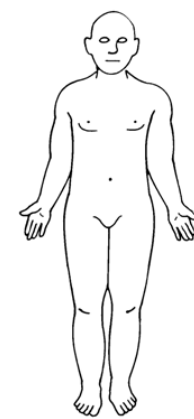
# Somatotypes



A.  
ECTOMORPH



B.  
MESOMORPH



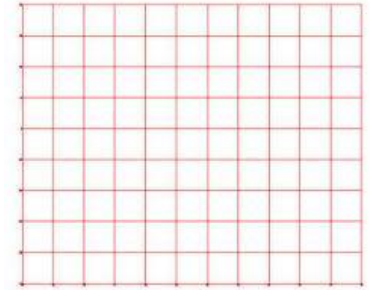
C.  
ENDOMORPH



How?

# Stereology 1

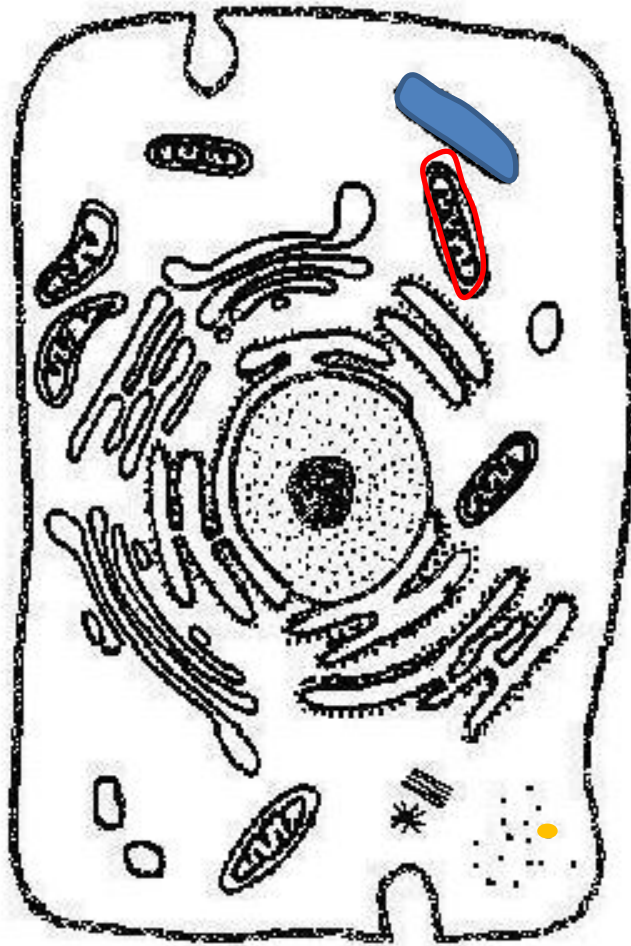
Extrapolation from 2D to 3D



Geology, Metallurgy, Biology, Engineering, Astronomy

- History
  - 1777 Buffon
  - 1850s Delesse, Sorby
  - 1961 ISS, Models; Elias, Weibel, Williams, Mayhew, Cruz-Orive
  - 1983 Unbiased/Designer: Gundersen (Cavalieri, 1635)
- Dimensional Reduction
  - Volumes, Surface Areas, Lengths, Numbers
  - Volume=3D, Area=2D, Length=1D, Point=0D
  - $V_v$ ,  $S_v$ ,  $L_v$ ,  $P_p$  Point Counting, Line Cuts, Counting
- Equipment
  - Probes (Sections, Lattices, Tally Counters, Image Analysers)
  - Isotropic Probes, Merz Lattices, Cycloids

# Dimensional Reduction



OBJECT

SECTION

3D VOLUMES



AREAS



2D

2D AREAS



LENGTHS



1D

1D LENGTHS



POINTS



0D

0D POINTS



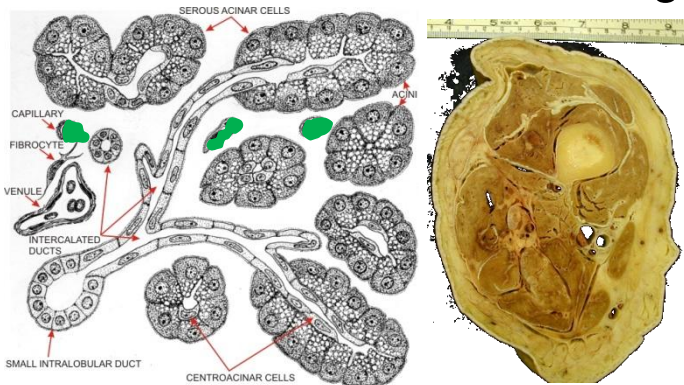
Hit



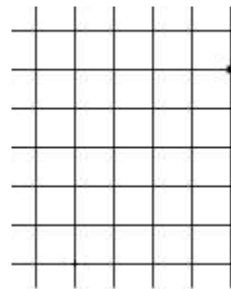
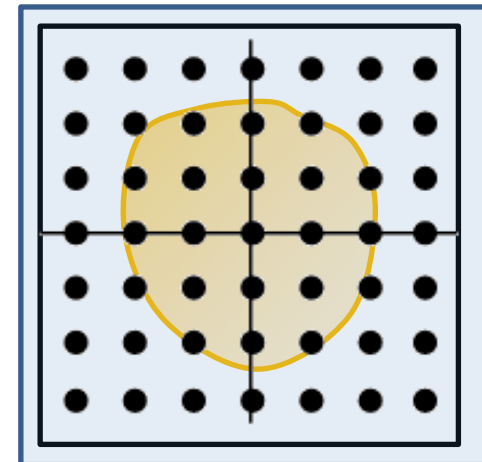
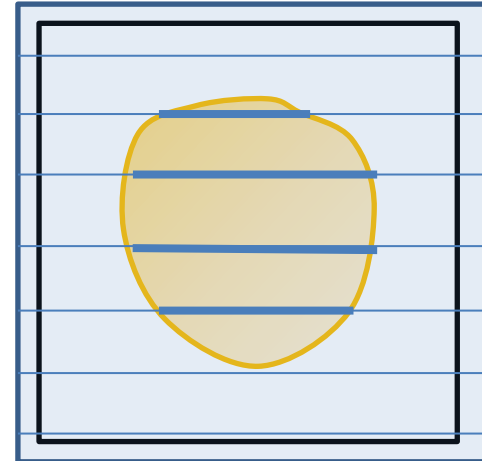
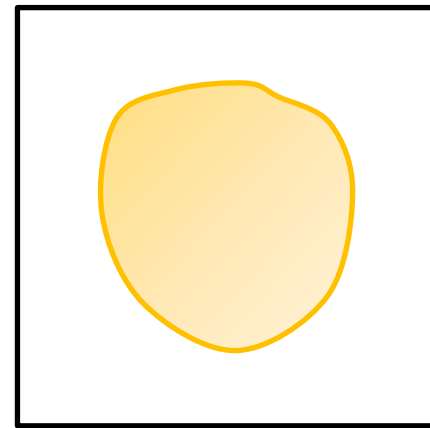
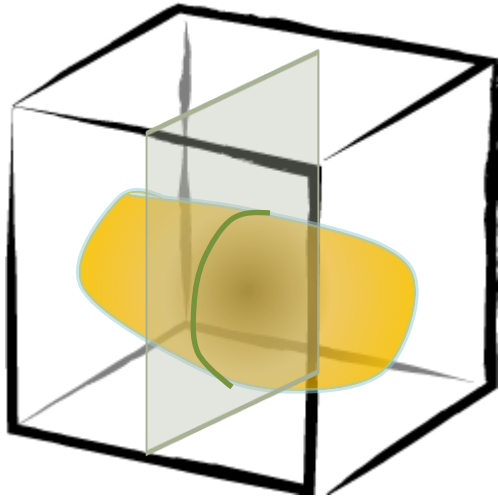
0D

Miss

X



# Volume Fraction



$$V_V = A_A = L_L = P_P$$

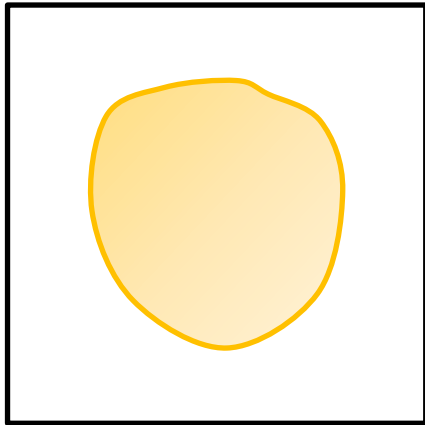
Reconstruct

Planimetry  
Cut & Weigh  
Count Squares

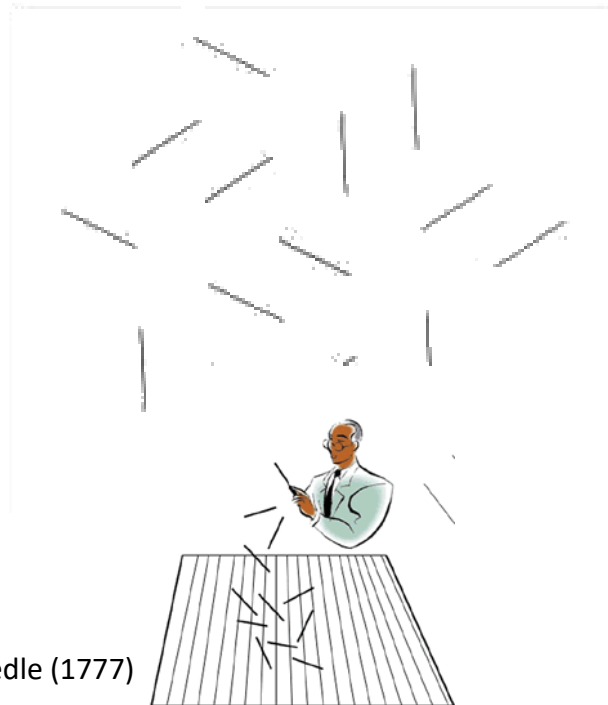
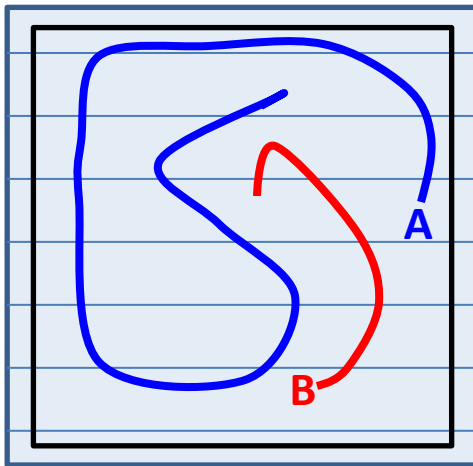
Measure  
Opisometer  
Computer

Count

# Surface Density



$$S_v = L \times 4/\pi$$



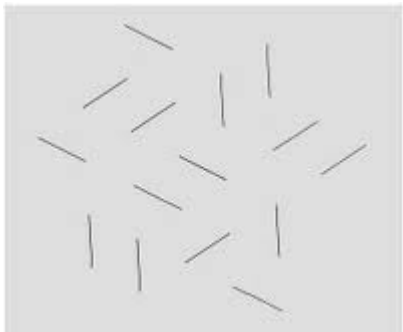
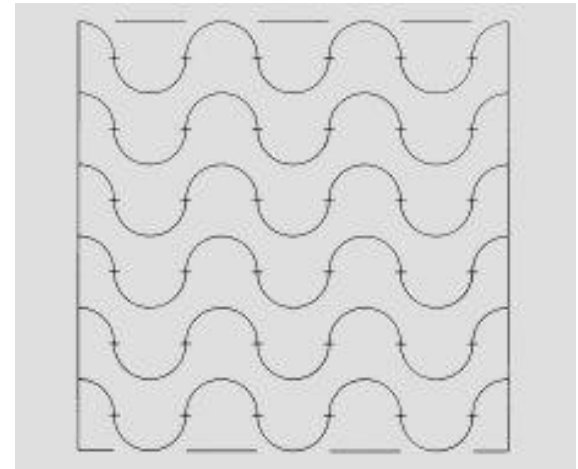
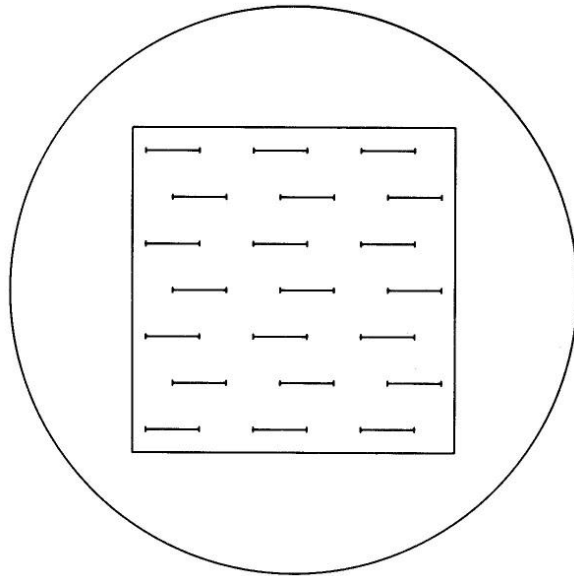
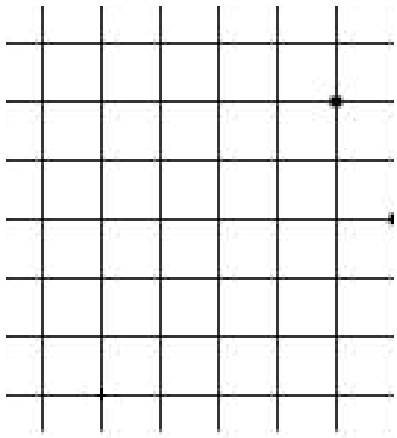
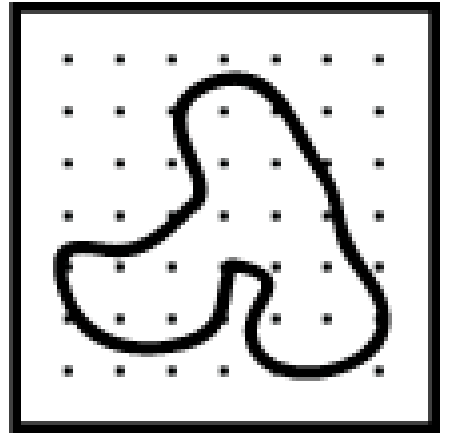
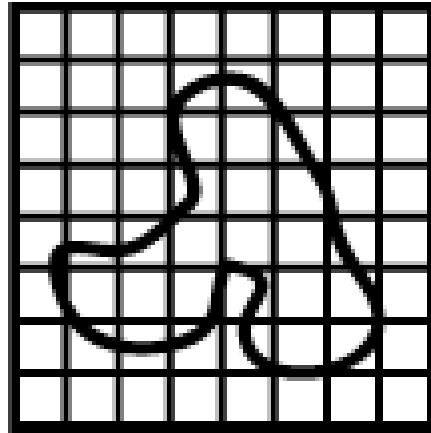
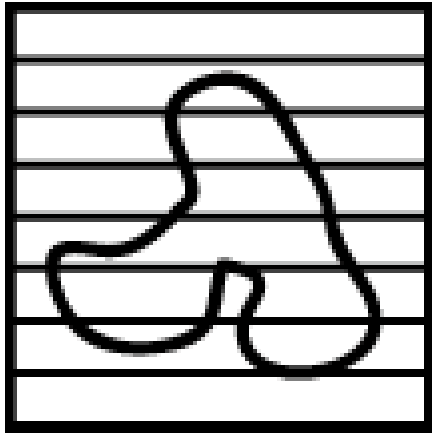
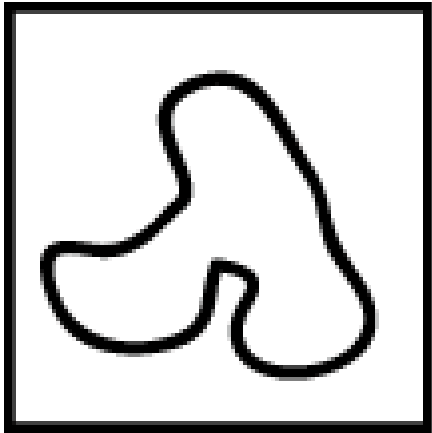
A= 14 cuts

B= 5 cuts

$$S_v = 2 \times l_L$$

$$L = \pi / 2 \times l_L$$

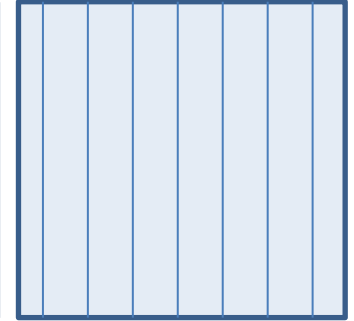
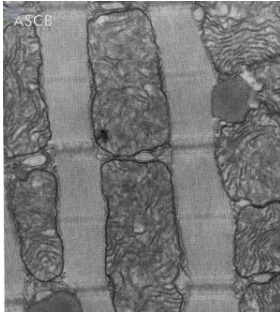
Buffon's Needle (1777)



# Stereology Lattices (Probes)

Use Hally formula for number of hits

# Anisotropic Tissues



- ISO  $S_v = 2l_L$  2.00
- Aniso  $0^0$   $S_v = \pi / 2 l_L$  1.57
- Aniso  $90^0$   $S_v = \pi / \sqrt{2} l_L$  2.22

*Weibel, 1980*

or use line lattice at  $19^0$  to L.S.

*Eisenberg, 1974*

or use Merz Isotropic lattice

or use Linear lattice x2 & 'measure' orientation

# Summary

- Geometric probes used for the sampling
  - Points for volume
  - Lines for surface area
  - Planes for lengths
  - Volume for numbers
- Geometric probes are required to report 3D data

|                  |             |              |             |             |
|------------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| Probe            | Point (0D)  | Line (1D)    | Plane (2D)  | Volume (3D) |
| Feature          | Volume (3D) | Surface (2D) | Length (1D) | Number (0D) |
| Countable events |             |              |             |             |

# Summary

30

## Basic relationships in stereology

**TABLE 2.1**

*Relationship of measured (○) to calculated (□) quantities*

| Microstructural feature | Dimensions of symbols<br>(arbitrarily expressed in terms of millimeters) |                  |                  |                  |
|-------------------------|--|------------------|------------------|------------------|
|                         | mm <sup>0</sup>  | mm <sup>-1</sup> | mm <sup>-2</sup> | mm <sup>-3</sup> |
| Points                  | ○ $P_P$  | ○ $P_L$          | ○ $P_A$          | □ $P_V$          |
| Lines                   | ○ $L_L$  | ○ $L_A$          | □ $L_V$          | —                |
| Surfaces                | ○ $A_A$  | □ $S_V$          | —                | —                |
| Volumes                 | □ $V_V$  | —                | —                | —                |

Diagrammatic relationships shown in the table:  
 - Vertical arrows pointing down:  $P_P \rightarrow L_L \rightarrow A_A \rightarrow V_V$  (all measured, circles);  $P_L \rightarrow L_A \rightarrow S_V$  (all measured, circles);  $L_V$  (calculated, square).  
 - Horizontal arrows pointing right:  $P_L \rightarrow P_A$  and  $P_A \rightarrow P_V$  (all measured, circles).  
 - Diagonal arrows pointing up-right:  $S_V \rightarrow L_V$  and  $L_V \rightarrow P_V$  (all calculated, squares).

Underwood, *Quantitative Stereology*, 1971, Addison-Wesley



How?



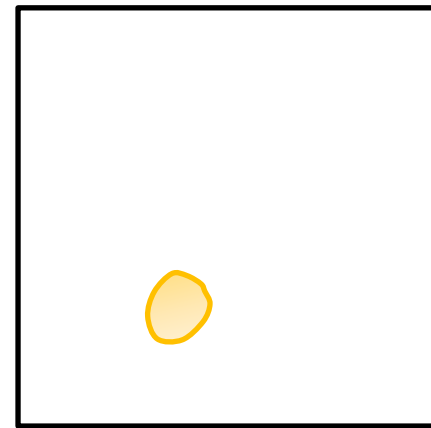
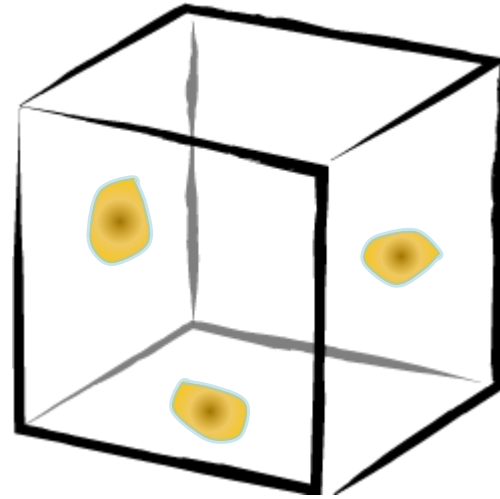
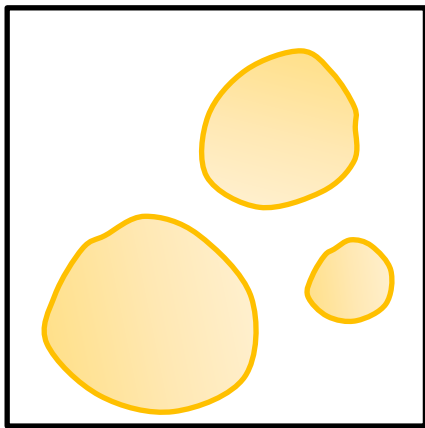
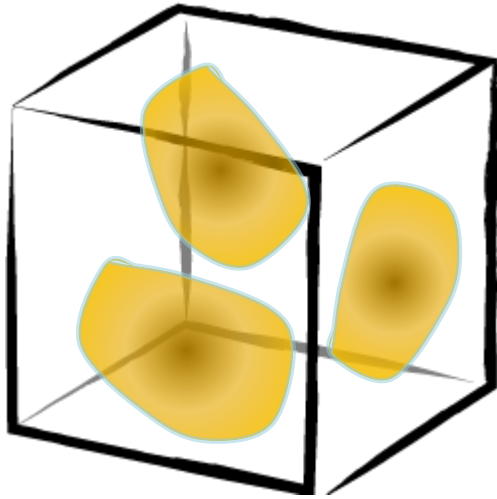
# Numbers



- $N$ ,  $N_V$ ,  $N_A$
- Counting Objects or Profiles ?
  - Loose cells/smears or sections?
- Depends on size and shape, section thickness
- Reconstruct
- Correction procedures (for Size, Shape, Populations)
  - Abercrombie (1946)  $D = dx4 / \pi$
  - Schwartz-Saltykov (1958) Unfolding
  - Avoid: use Design Based Stereology

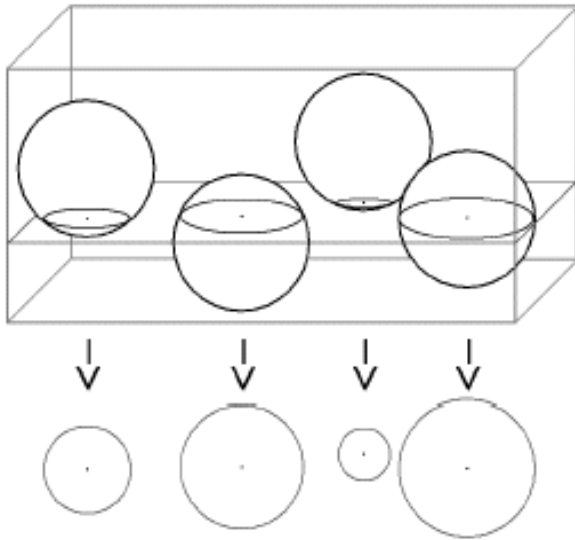


# Numerical Density

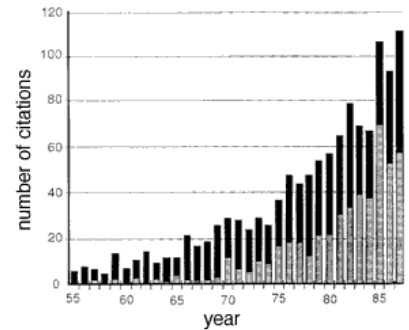


$$N_V = N_A / \bar{D}$$

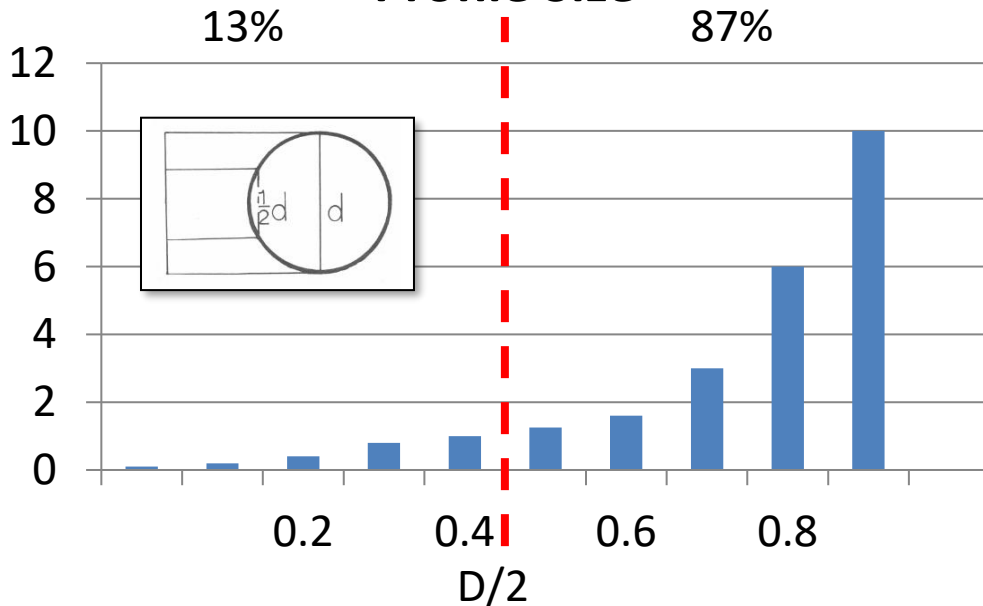
# Size corrections



Monodispersed (Same Size)



## Profile Size



Abercrombie (1946) Correction Factor ...

$$D = d \times 4/\pi \quad (\text{ie } \times 1.273)$$

Polydispersed (Different Sizes)

Schwartz / Saltykov Unfolding  
 ..... Shape (Ellipsoids, Cylinders, ...) !!

## Size corrections

**Holmes Effect** – if objects small relative to section thickness

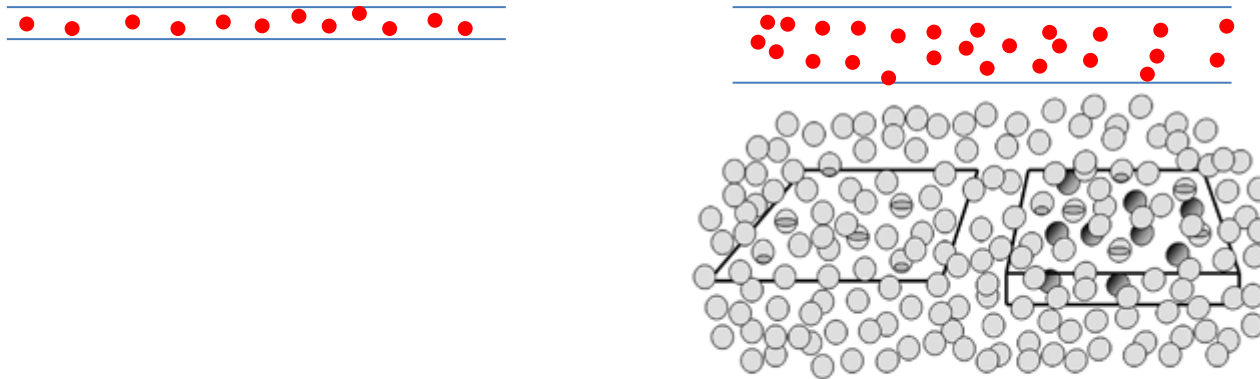


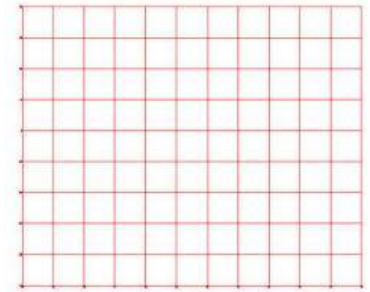
Fig. 6 The Holmes effect not only interferes with size estimation, but also with the determination of volume ratio since particles overlap (right side). In sufficiently thin sections (left side) this problem doesn't exist.

**Shape Effect** – mean 'diameter' for spheres, ellipsoids, cubes etc based on axial ratios or volume/surface ratios (complex, biased)

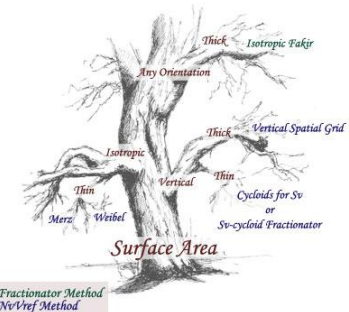
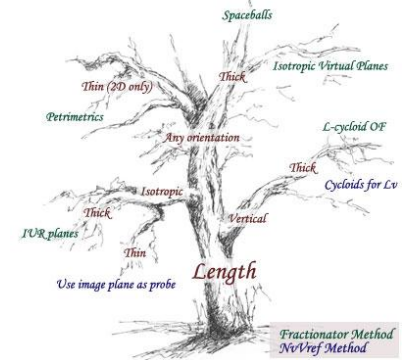


How?

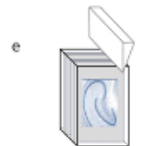
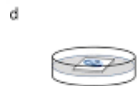
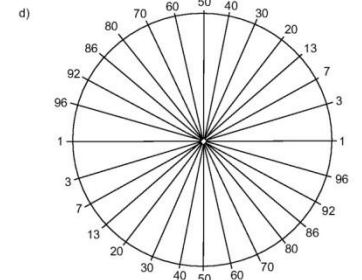
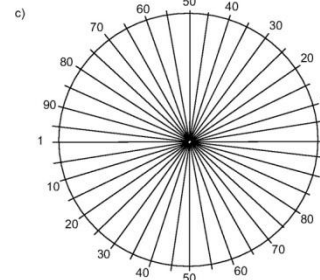
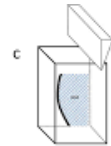
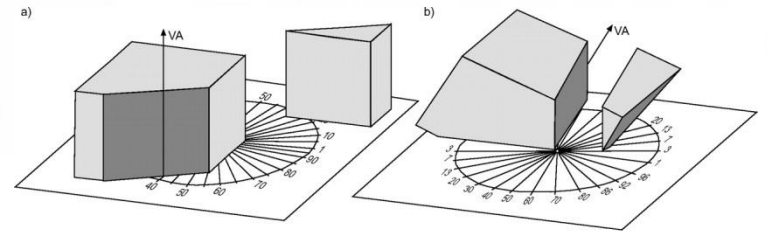
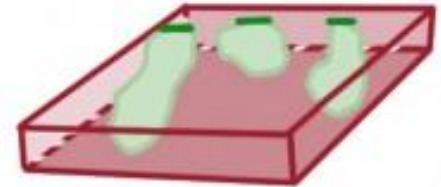
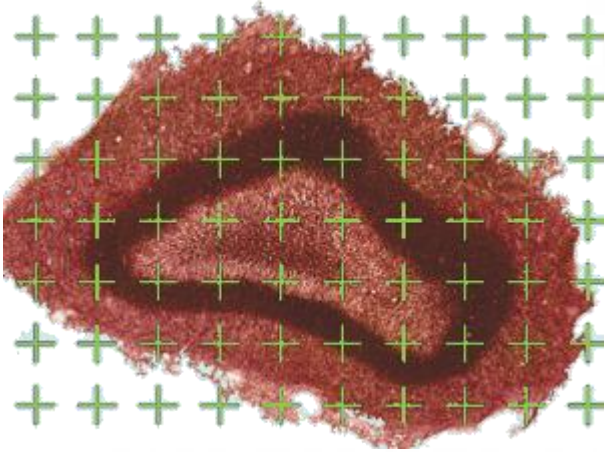
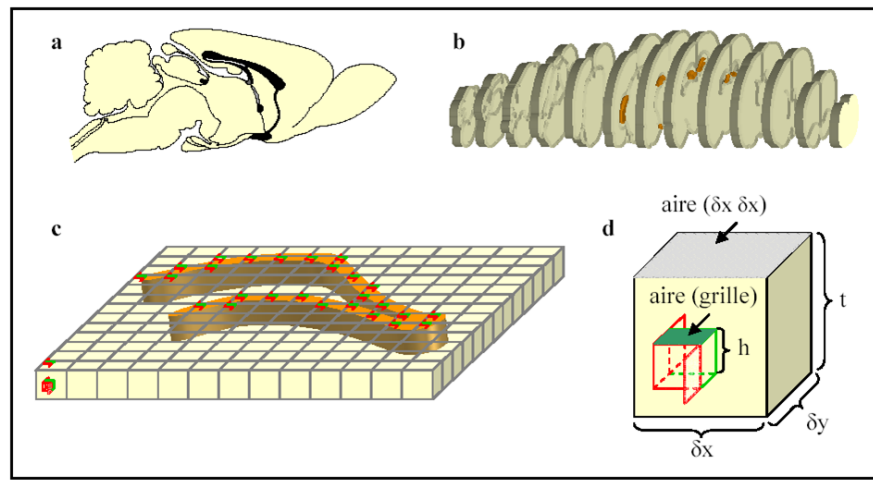
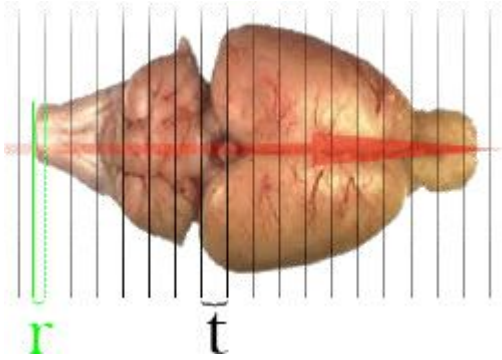
# Stereology 2



- New Design Based Stereology
  - Fractionator, Disector, Nucleator, Surfator, Proportinator, Selector, Rotator, Cycloids
  - Surface Weighted Star Volume
  - Unbiased Brick, Isotropic Fakir
  - Spaceballs, Petrimetrics
- Equipment / Design
  - Specialised Sampling; IUR, VUR, SRS sections
  - Thick sections, Optical sections
  - Unbiased Counting Frames



# Cavalieri Method



➤ [J Microsc.](#) 2022 Sep 12. doi: 10.1111/jmi.13141. Online ahead of print.

# **Improving cavalieri volume estimation based on non-equidistant planar sections: The trapezoidal estimator**

## Disector for counting Total Number in a Volume

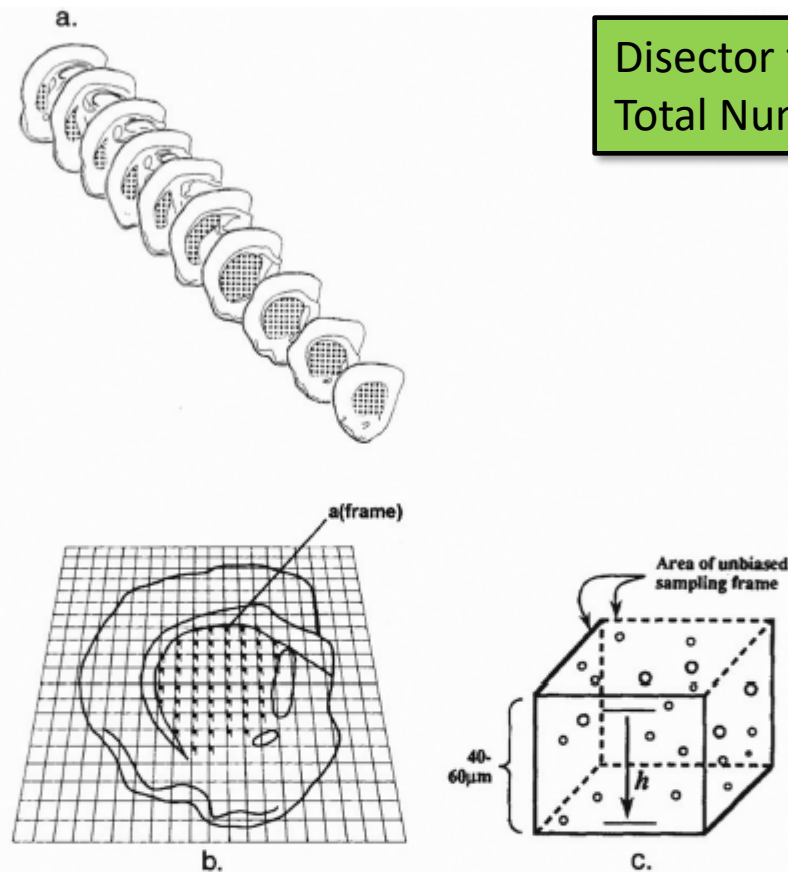
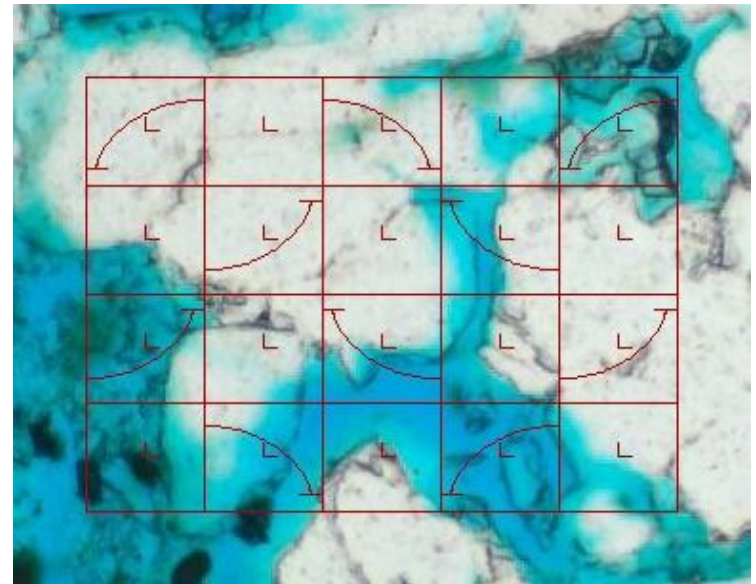
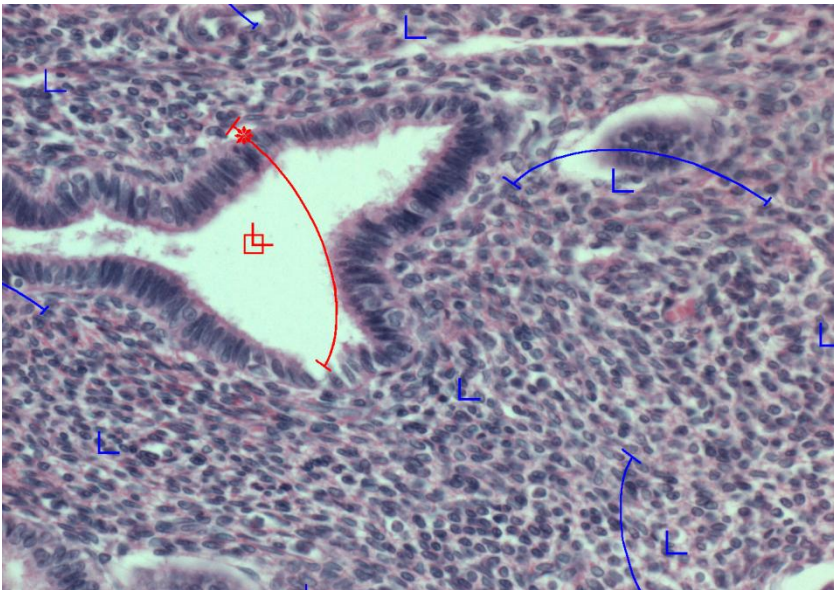
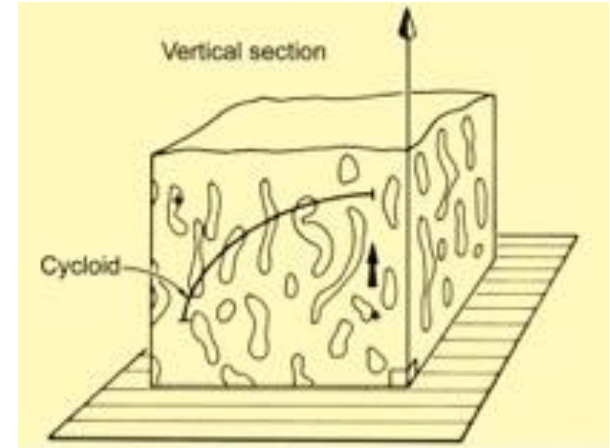
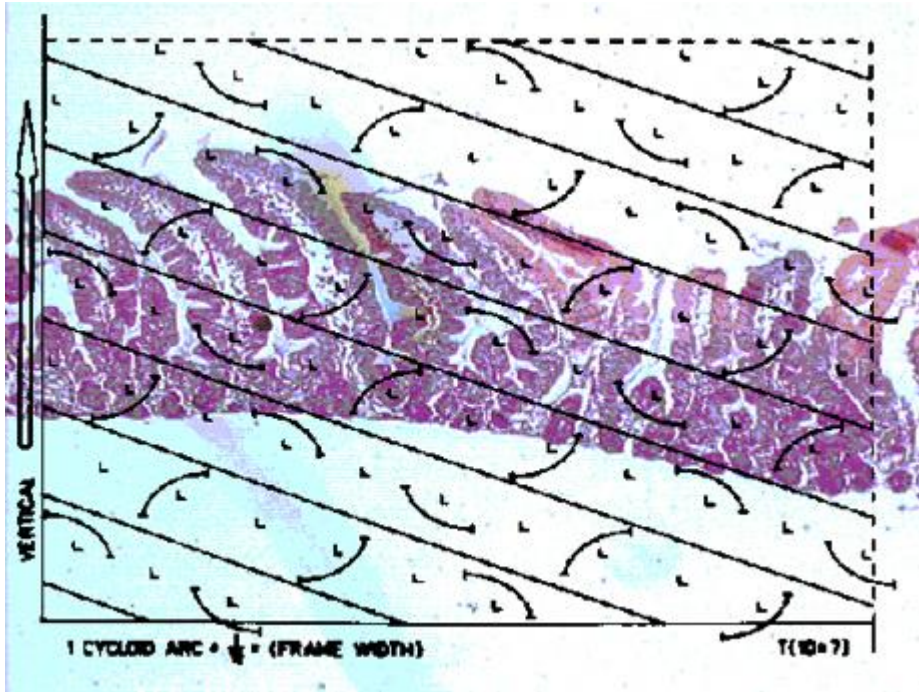


Fig. 1. Schematic illustrations of a worked example through the rat striatum of Cavalieri's method (a, b) and the optical disector method (b, c). In (a) a systematic series of sections through the striatum, after a random start, is illustrated. A systematic array of points (i.e. dots) is overlaid on the striatum and the number of points ( $P$ ) falling on the striatum in each section are counted. These points are then summed to obtain the  $\sum P$  for the entire striatum in a specific cerebral hemisphere. The value for  $\sum P$  is substituted into Cavalieri's formula to calculate the absolute volume (see text for further details). In (b) systematic sampling throughout the striatum, after a random start, is illustrated. This strategy is used to measure the  $N_v$  in a specific section. The  $a(\text{frame})$  refers to the area of one unbiased sampling frame, among a number of these frames, within the striatal boundaries of one section. The  $N_v$  of neurons was measured within each  $a(\text{frame})$  and its disector height. This analysis to estimate the  $N_v$  was completed for all the sampled sections in (a). The counting of disector neurons through the height ( $h$ ) of a sampled disector volume is illustrated in (c). (a, b) Modified from West et al. (1996), with permission. (c) From Oorschot (1994), with permission.

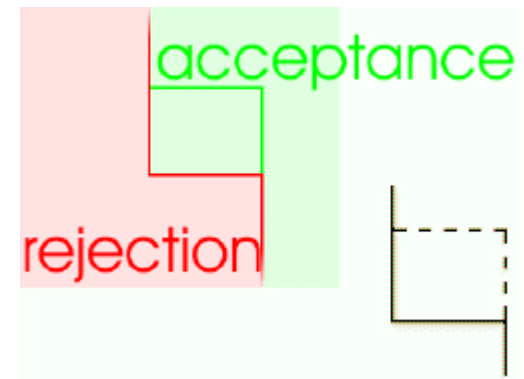


# Cycloids for estimating Surface Area in a Volume



# Unbiased Stereology

Gundersen



- **Measuring (see Picture 1)**

Since small objects are more likely to fit as complete objects within a measuring field it is best to remove this bias by measuring ALL objects within the frame and ALL objects hitting the dashed (allowed) lines but NOT those hitting the solid (forbidden) lines.

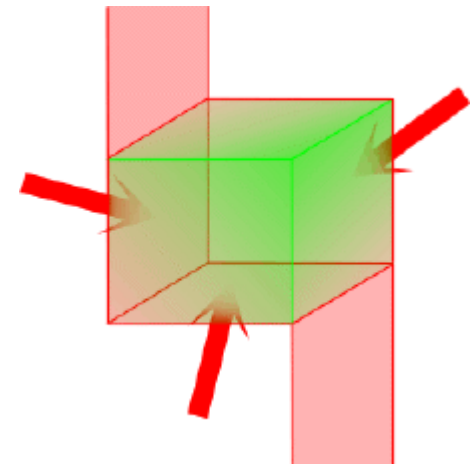
- **Counting (see Pictures 1 & 2)**

Objects allowed in the reference section (Picture 1 - A,B,C,D) are then checked in the next (look-up section (Picture 2)). If they DO NOT APPEAR in the look-up section these are the objects which are counted - ie object A ONLY.

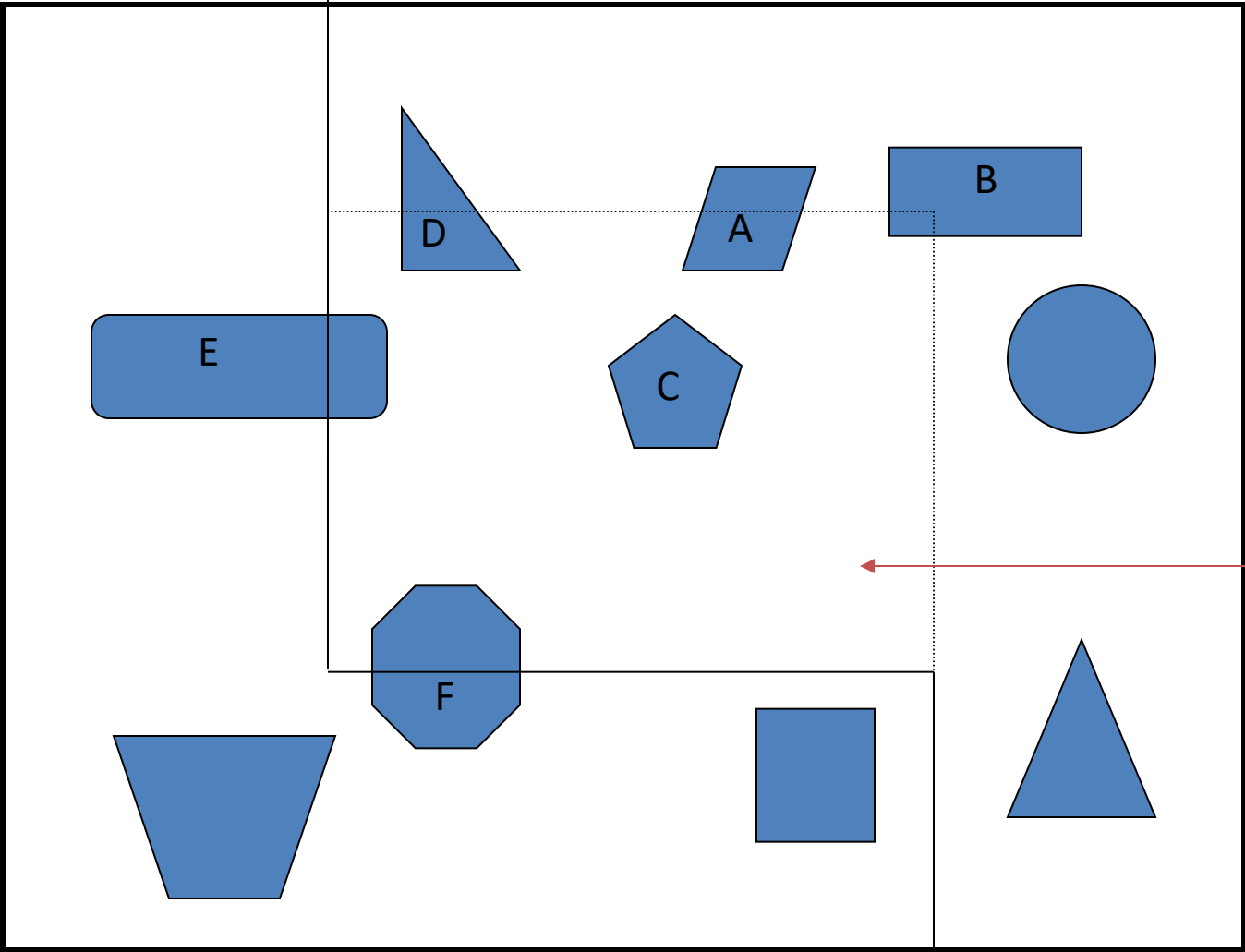
Therefore one object occupies a volume equal to the frame area times the section spacing.

This is called the Disector Method.

- See: Howard CV, Reed MG (1998) Unbiased Stereology. RMs Handbook 41; Bios Scientific.



# Unbiased Counting Frame



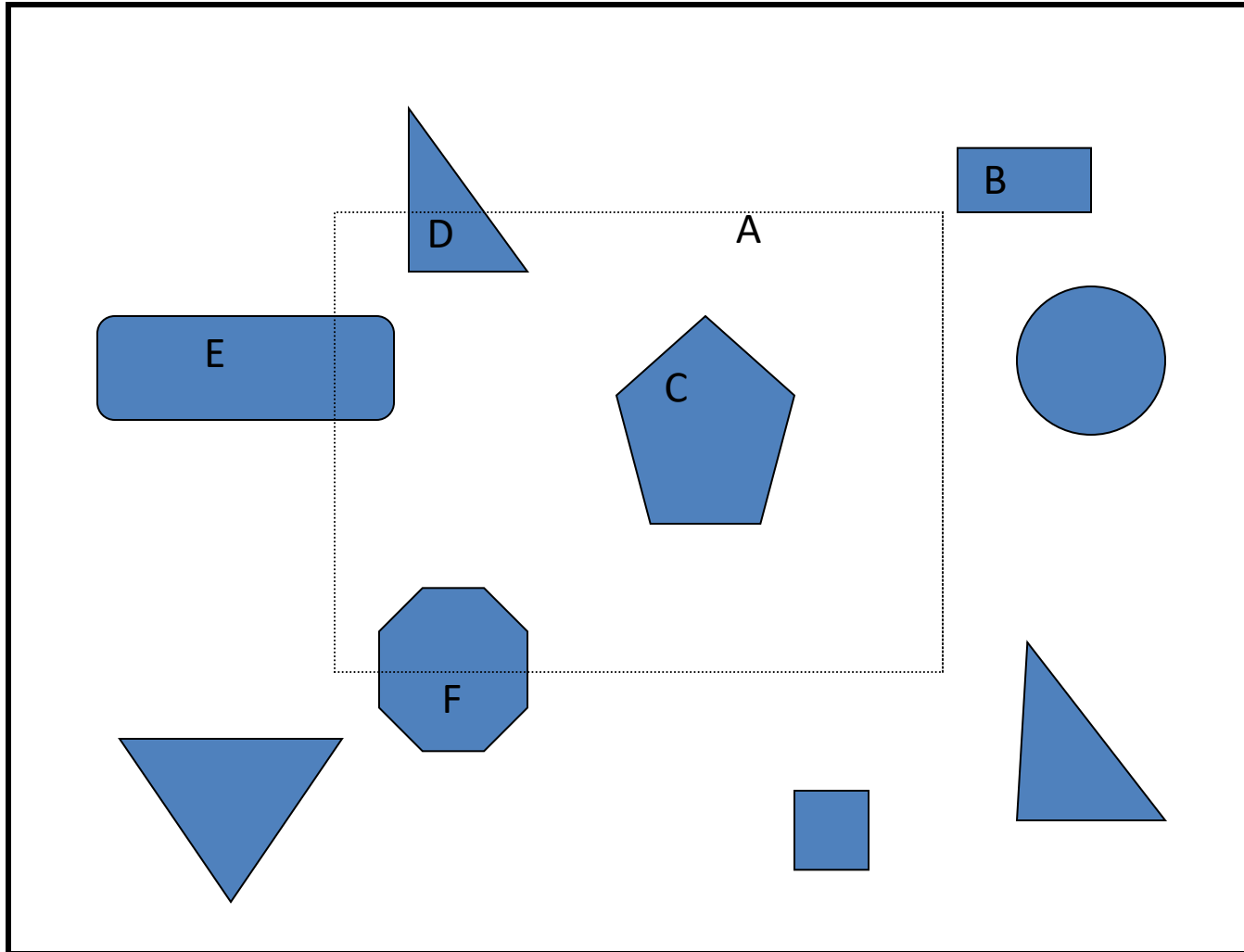
Counting frame

Forbidden lines

Objects A,B, C, D only are counted

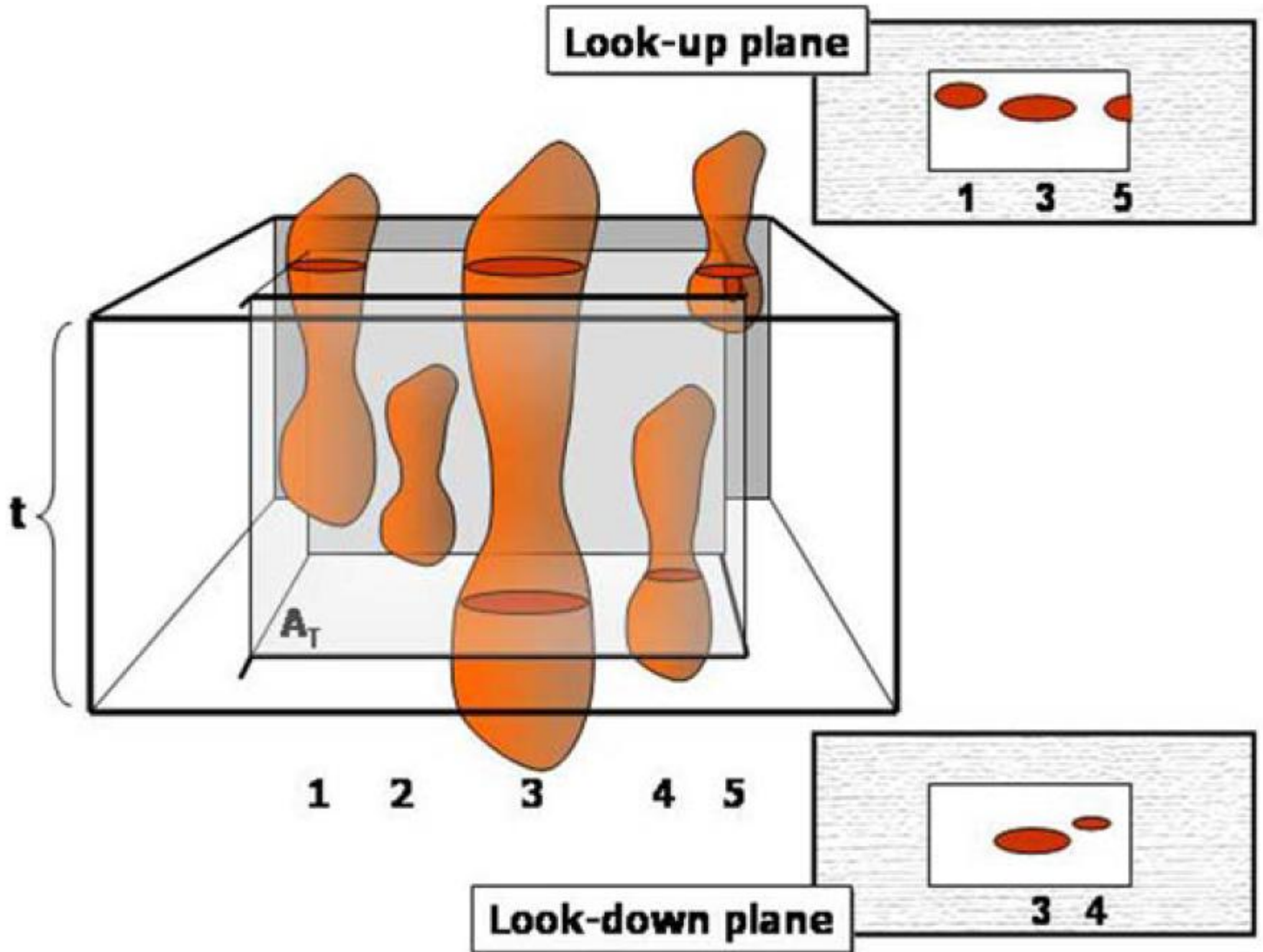
1) Reference Section

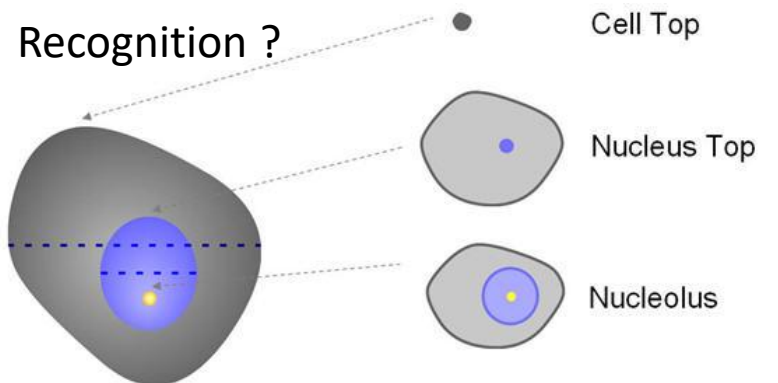
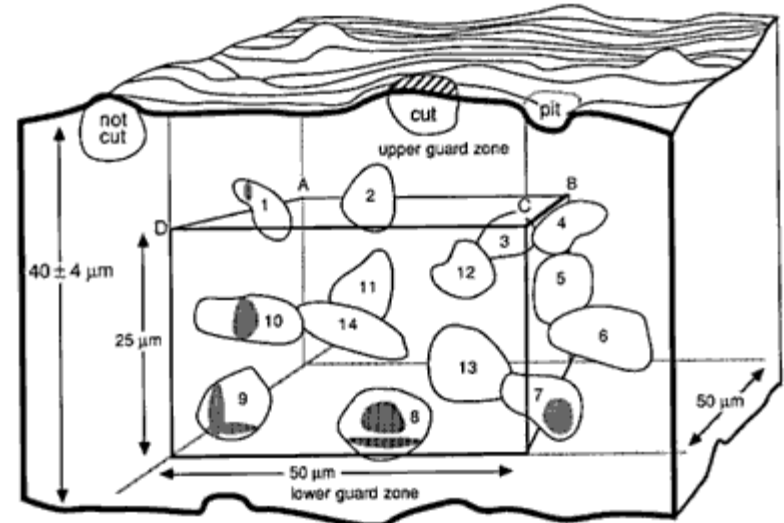
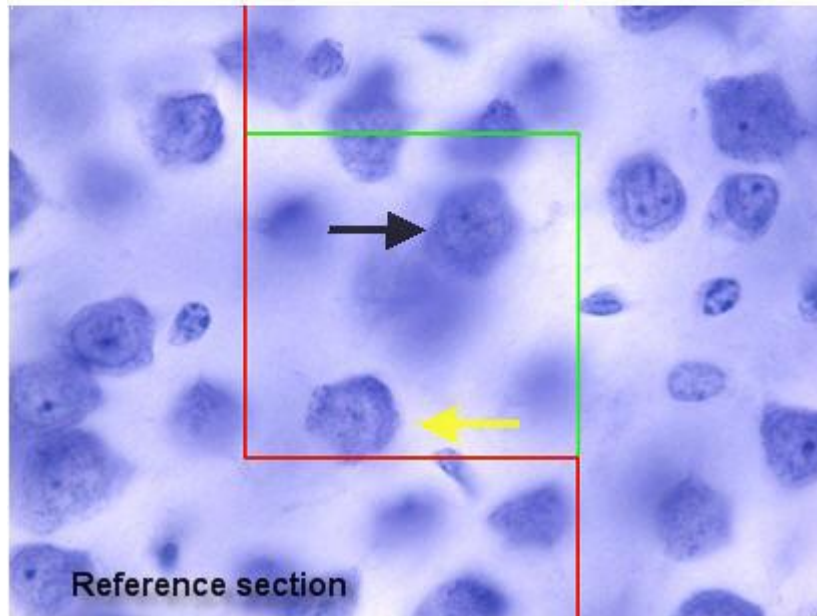
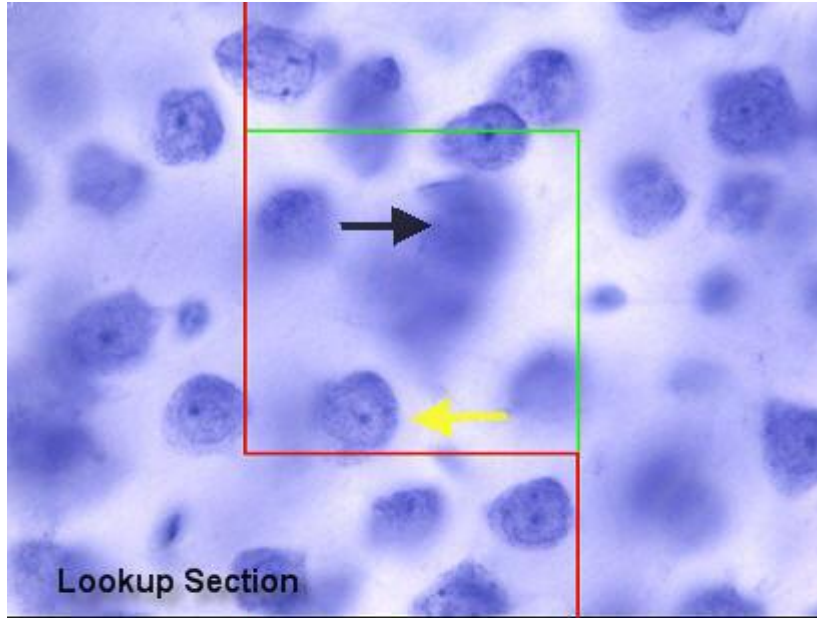
## Disector method

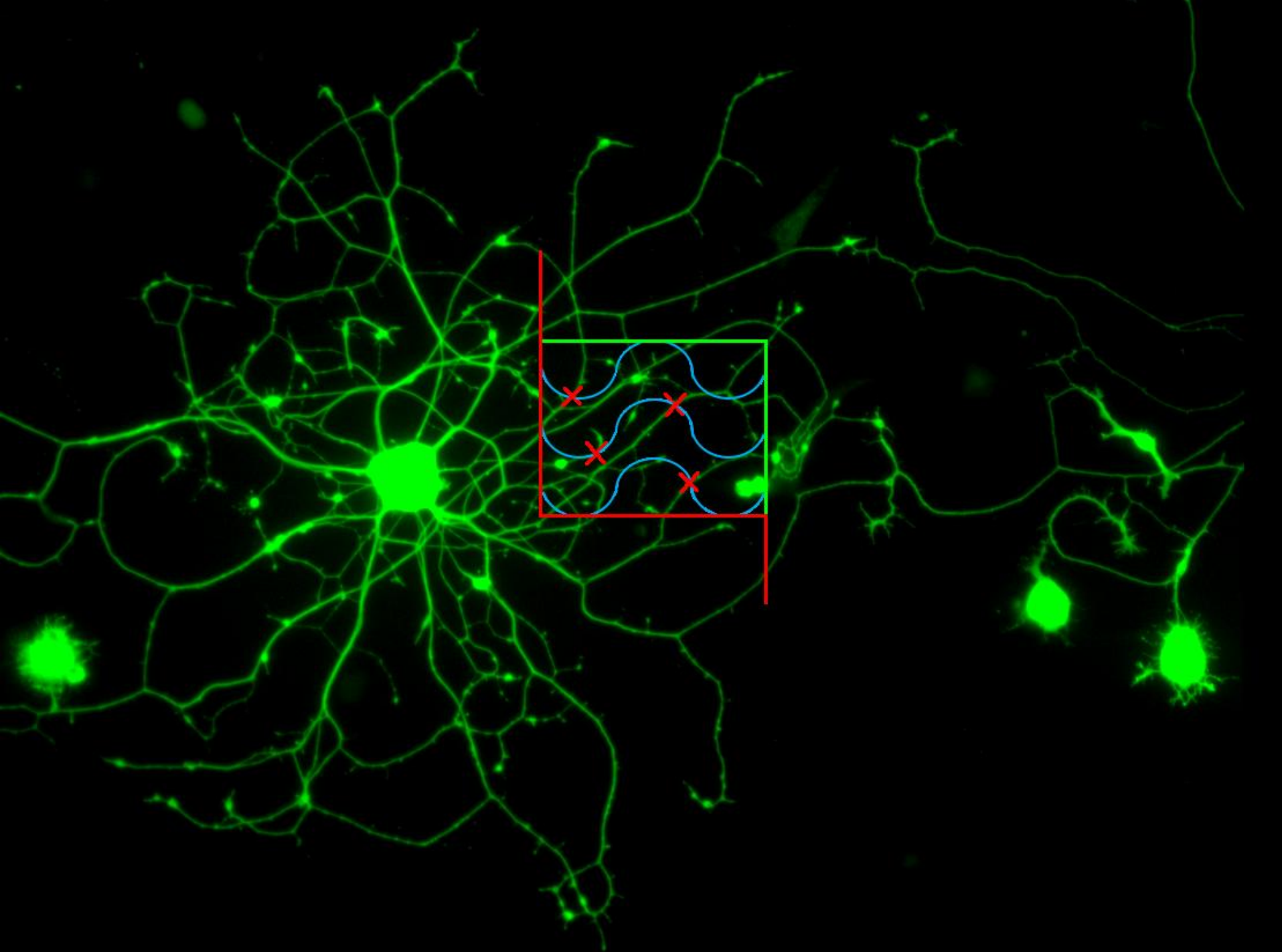


### 2) Look-Up Section

Of the objects counted in the reference section (A,B,C,D) only the objects NOT present in the look-up section are counted, ie only object A is counted.







# Commercial Stereology Software Packages

**Stereo Investigator**

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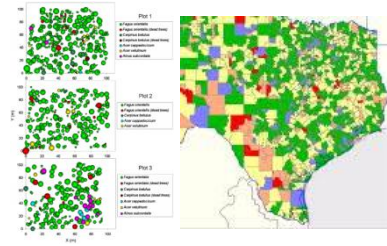
VISIOPHARM - AGERN ALLE 3 - DK-2970 HØRSHOLM - DENMARK - TELEPHONE +45 88 20 20 88 FAX +45 88 20 20 99



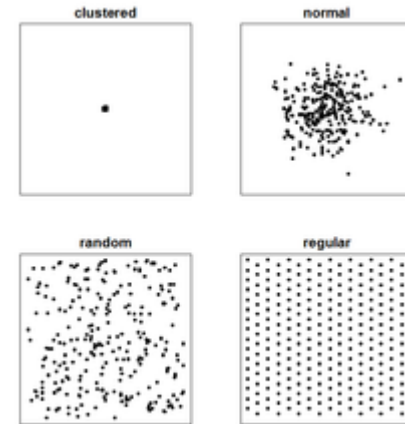
How?

# Pattern Analysis

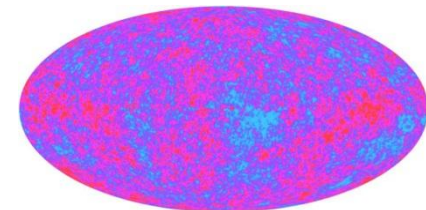
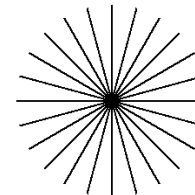
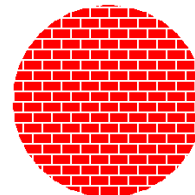
## Measurements of 'Organisation'

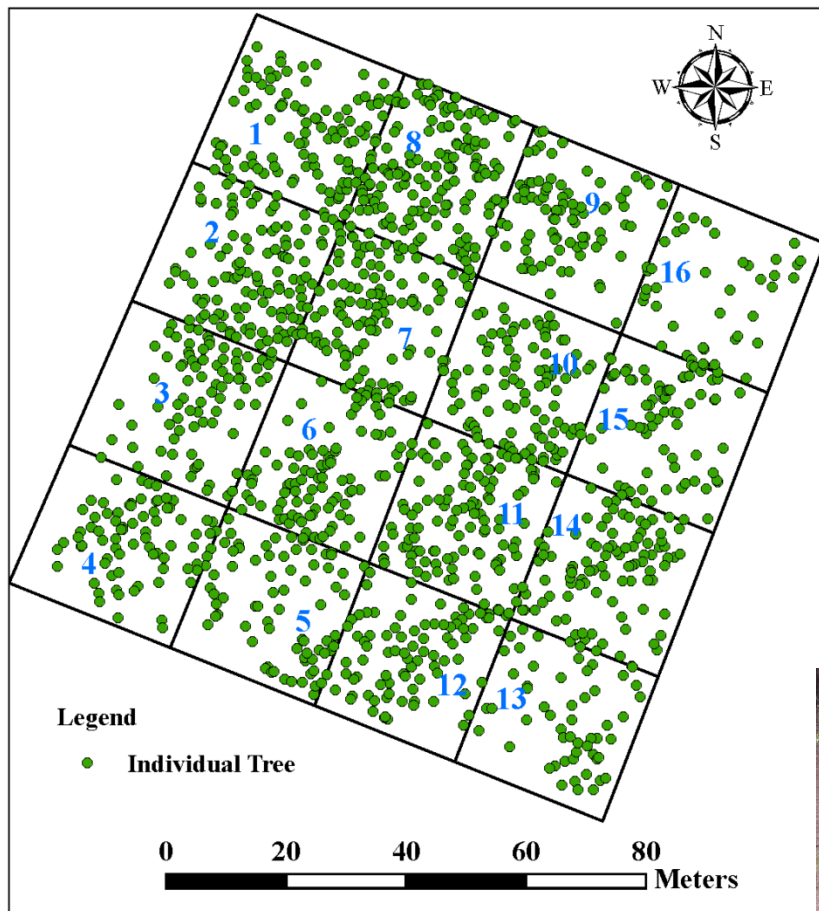


- Location / Distribution / Spatial Arrangement / Association / Connectivity / Interaction
  - ???: Random, Regular, Clumped, Dispersed, Associated/Related
  - Distance: Nearest Neighbour, Mean free path
  - Grouping: Enclosed, Contiguity, Runs Test, SPAM
  - Autocorrelation
  - Tessellation / Joins / Overlay methods
  - Regional Density, Point Swarms
- Orientation / Branching
  - Dendritic methods (fields, segments, nodes)
  - Isotropic, Anisotropic

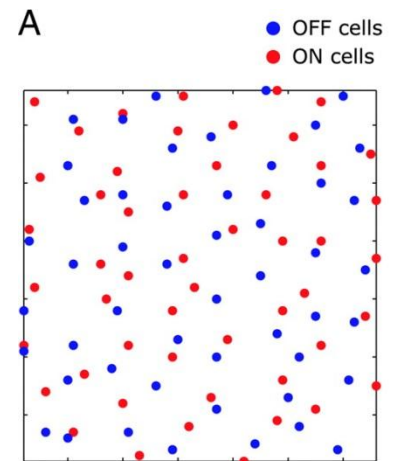
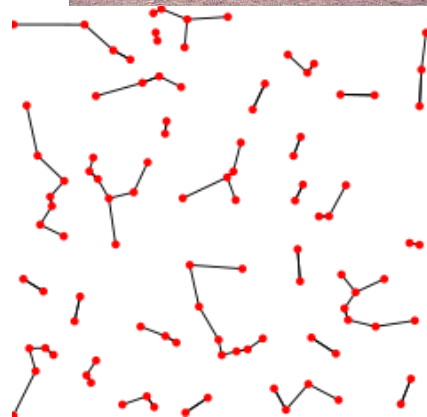
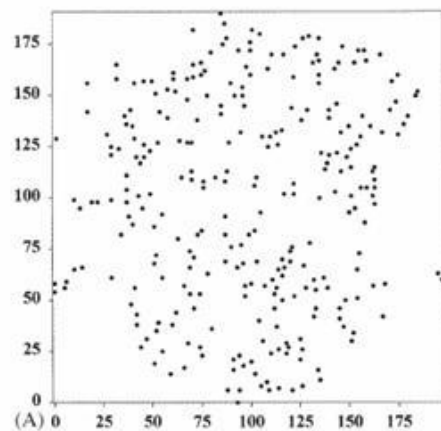
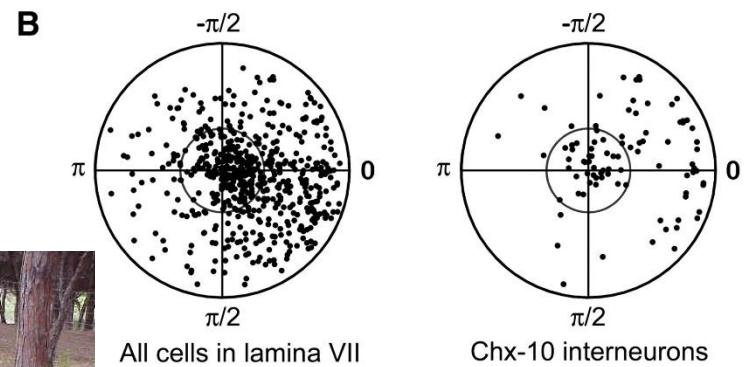
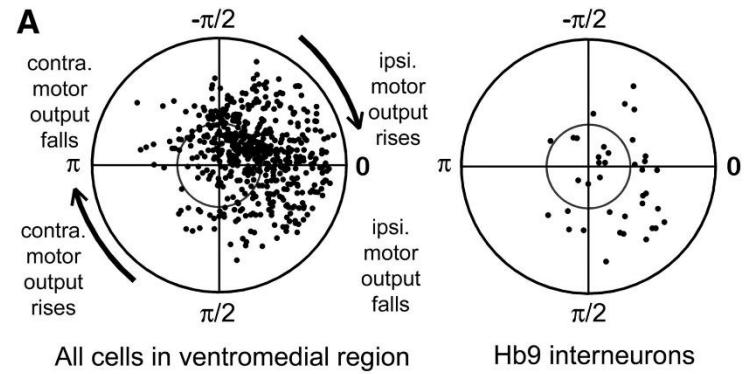


*See: Uylings, Berry, Aherne, Underwood, Johnson, Sokal & Rohlf, James, Mahon, Cruz-Orive, Diggle, Unwin*





## Examples

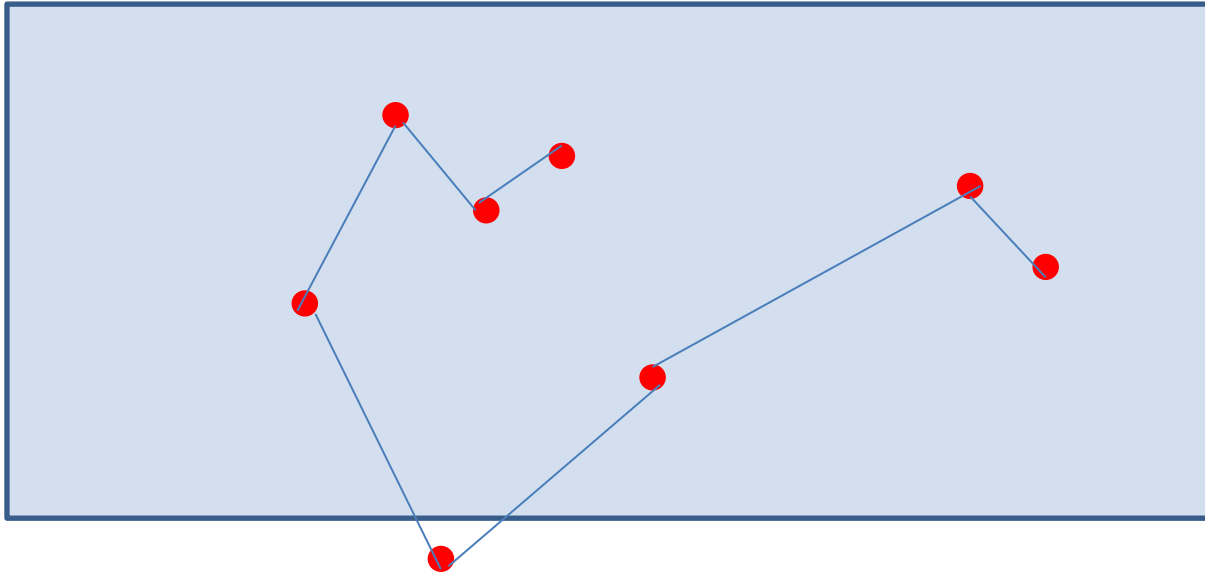


# Nearest Neighbour Analysis

- Developed from Ecology studies (Poisson distribution)

*Clark & Evans, 1954, Kendal & Moran, 1963*

- Average distance between objects or Mean area / cell



- Begin at random cell / point

*Problems: reflexive pairs / high densities*

Predict expected result for random population and compare

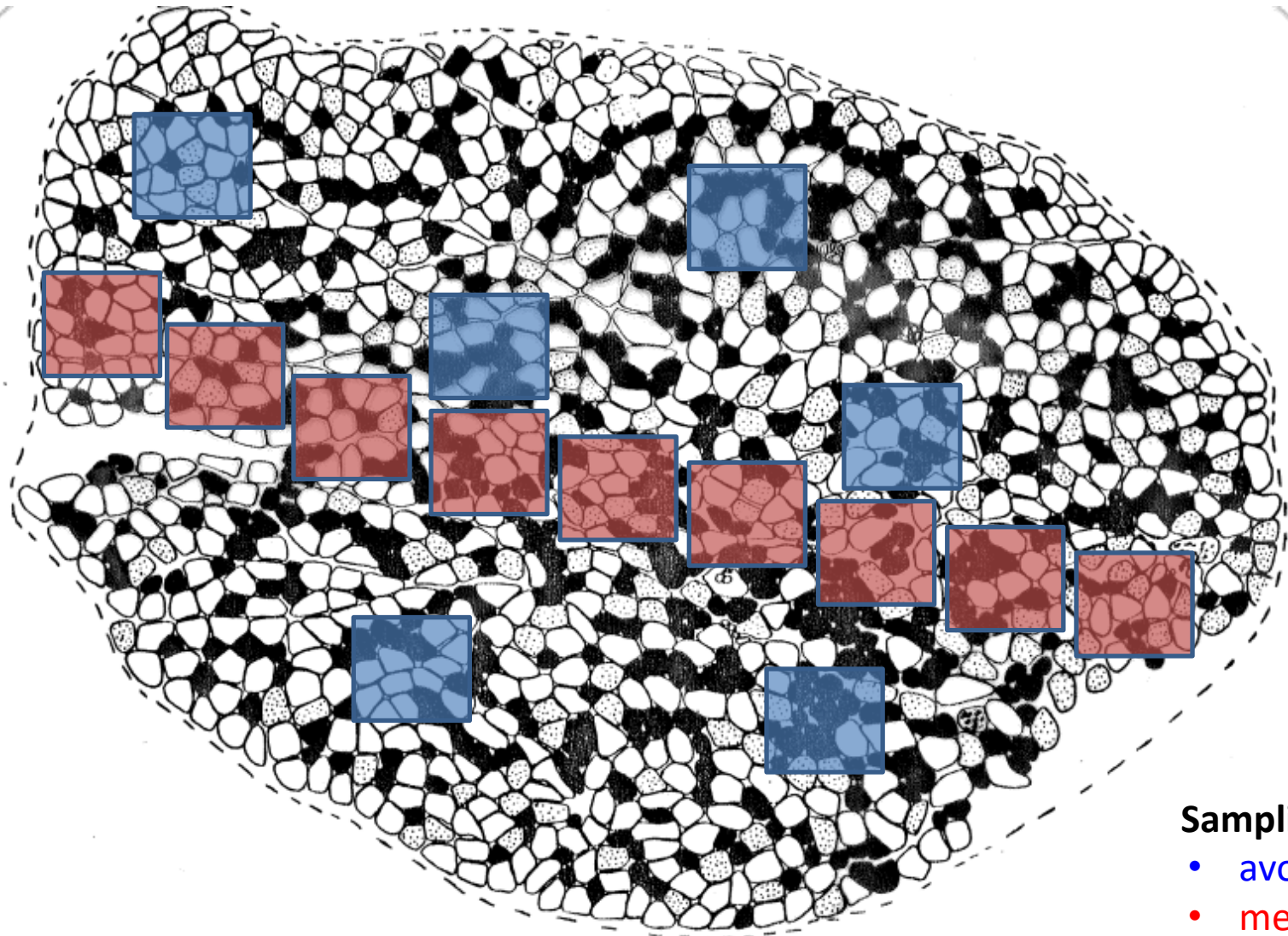
2D (eg muscle)  $\bar{d} = 1 / (2 \times \text{sqrt } NA)$

3D (eg brain)  $\bar{d} = 0.554 / (\text{cube rt } Nv)$

Index of Dispersion  $I_d = \text{dobs} / \text{dexp}$

Also, **Mean Free Path** (edge-edge) *James, 1977*  $\lambda = (1 - Vv) / NL$  in  $\mu\text{m}$

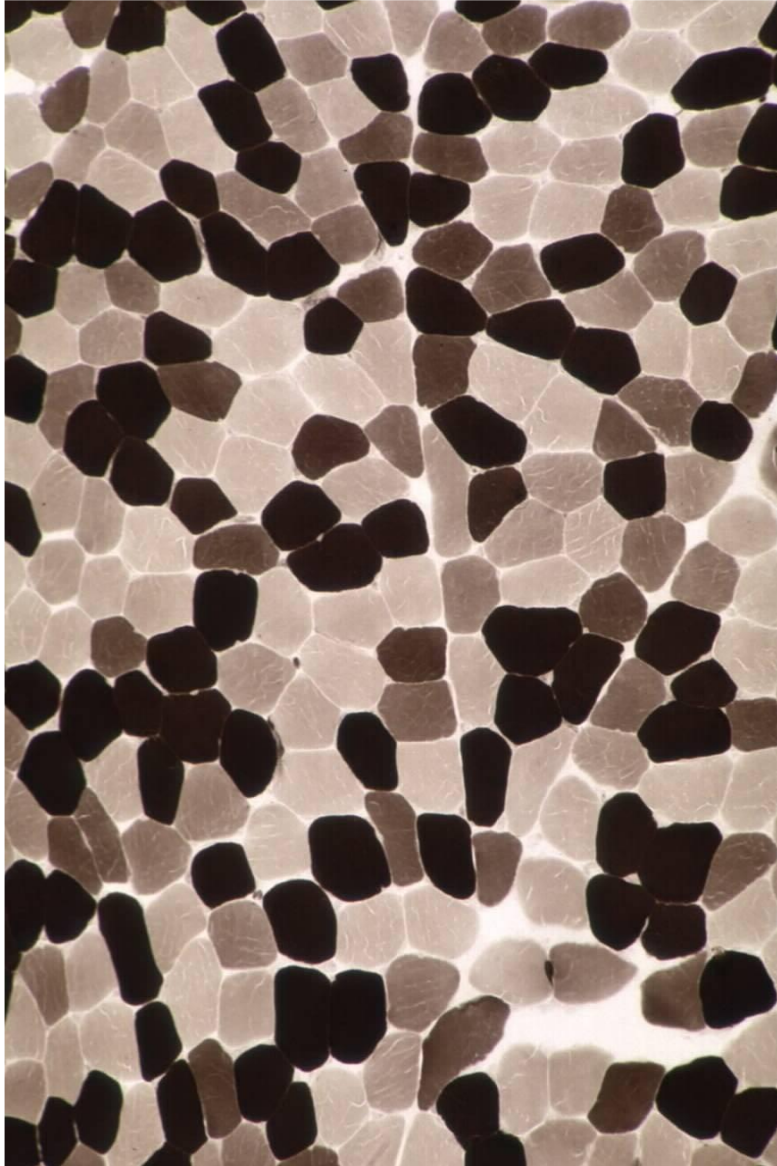
# Homogeneity / Heterogeneity



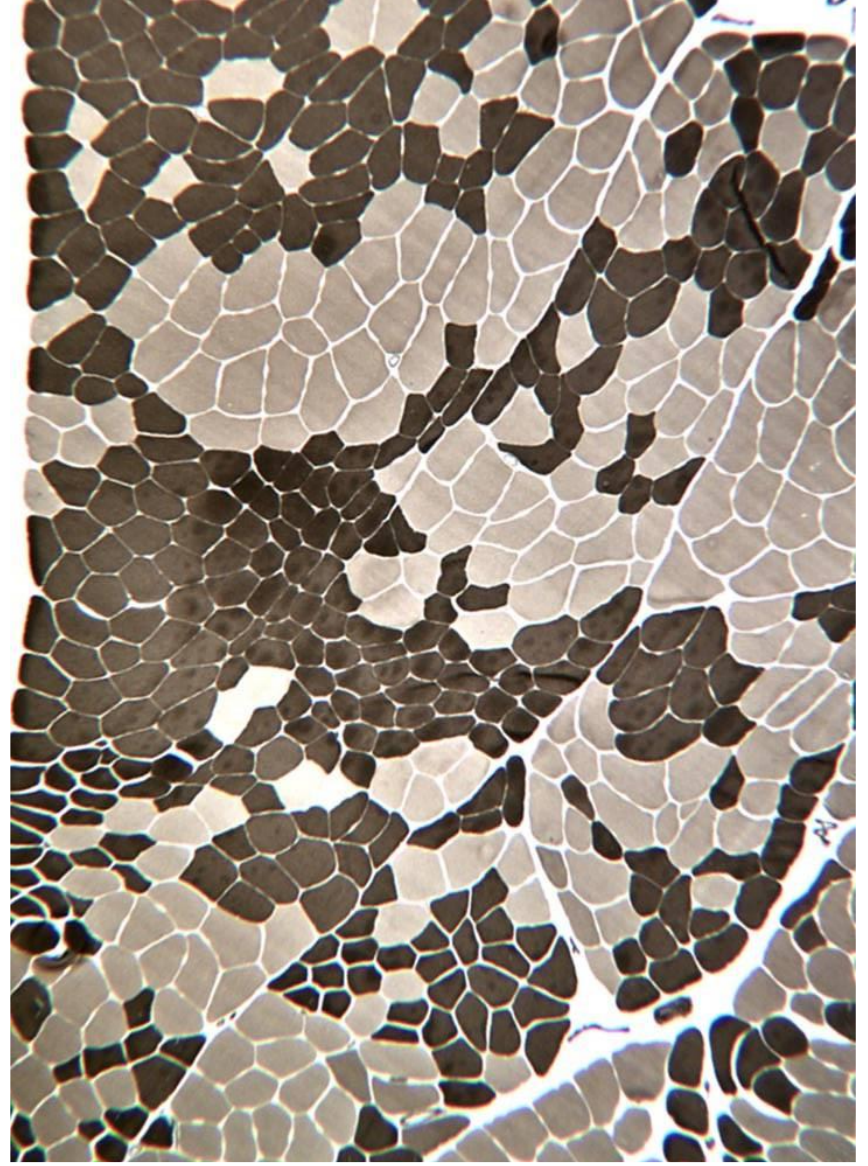
- Sampling :**
- avoid it
  - measure it

# Randomness ?

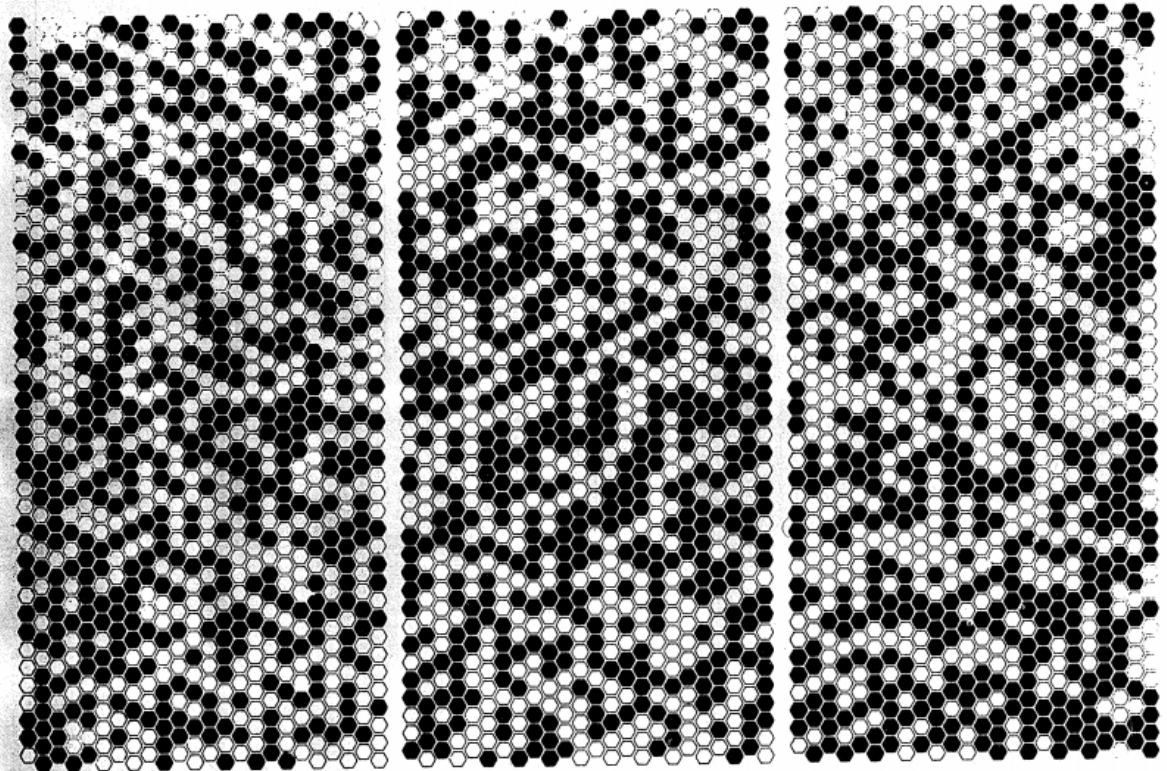
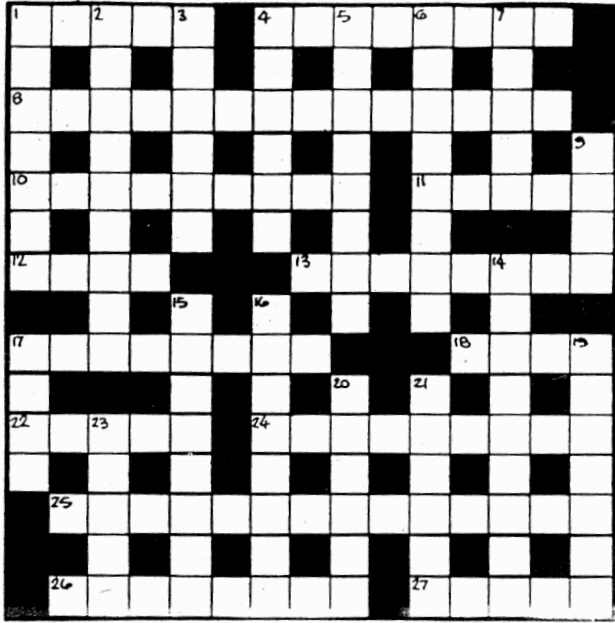
Healthy Muscle



Diseased Muscle



# Randomness ?



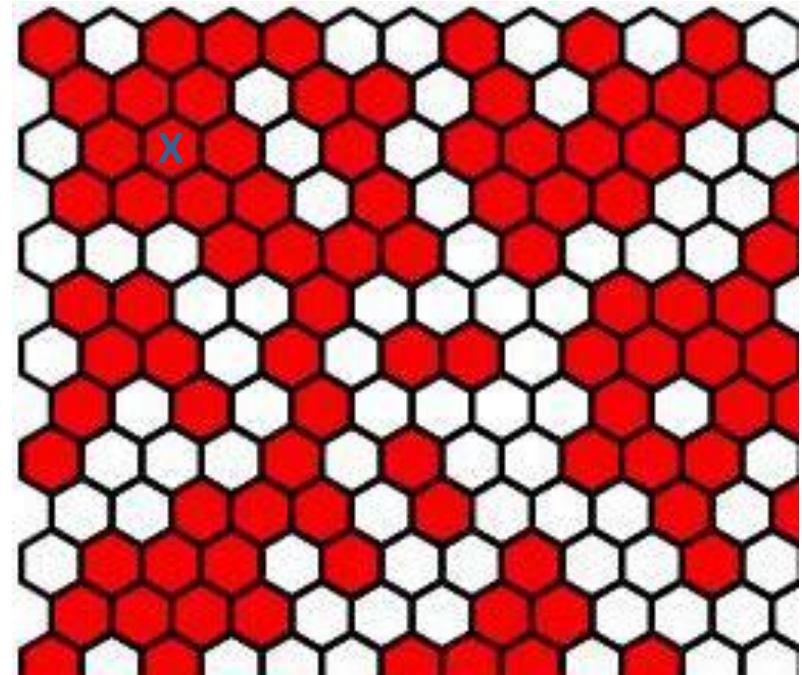
**FIGURE 6.** This figure shows three stochastic patterns with 1008 cells each; half of them are dark. Which pattern—if any—is random? The answer is given in the Appendix.

# DISTRIBUTION

## Enclosed “cell” method

- Observed versus Expected
- Predicted  $E = Np^7 \pm SD$
- Depends on percentage occurrence
  - 30%  $R = 0$  enclosed
  - 50%  $R = 1$
  - 70%  $R = 8$
  - 90%  $R = 50$

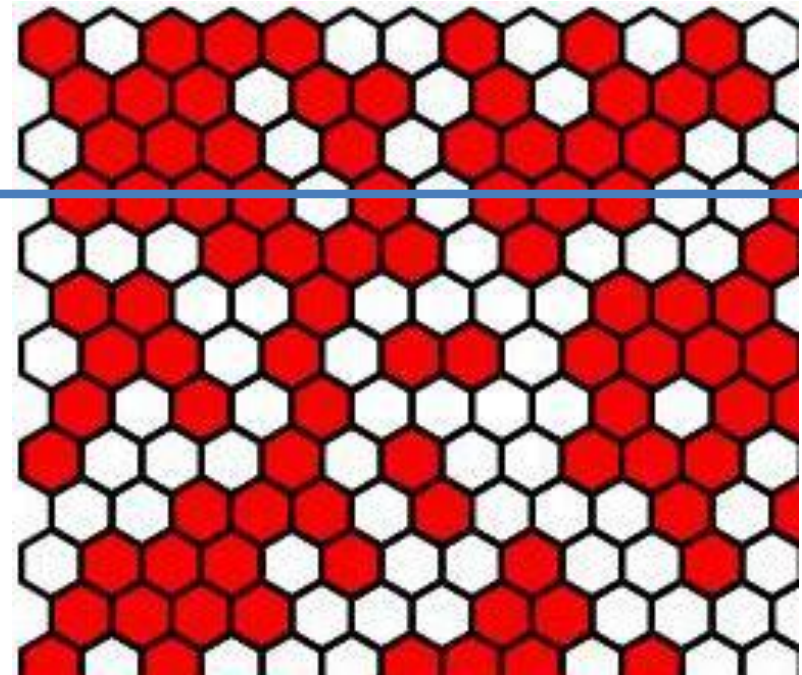
*Johnson, 1973*



# DISTRIBUTION

## Runs Test

- RRRR W RRR WWWW R WW r = 6
- R W R W R W R W R W R W R W R r = 15
- $N = 15, n_1 R = 8, n_2 W = 7$
- $\text{Exp } F = [2 \times (n_1 \times n_2 / n_1 + n_2)] - 1 = 6.5$
- $T = (F - \text{Exp } F) / \text{SD}$
- Distribution IS Random
- Distribution IS NOT Random
- Predict Runs eg 100 cells 60% R = 47 +/-5 runs



*Sokal & Rohlf, 1973*



# DISTRIBUTION

## Run Lengths (Clumps)

*Roach, 1968*

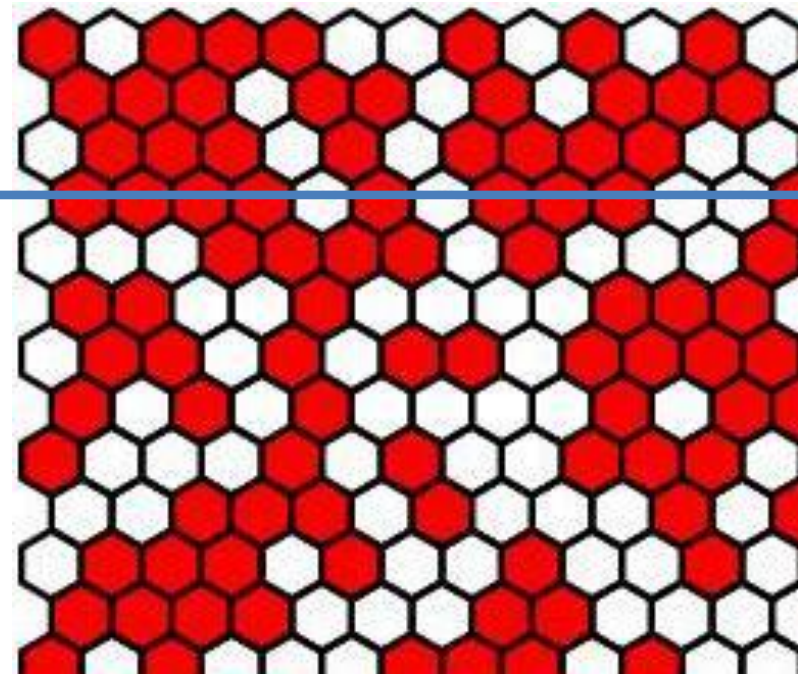
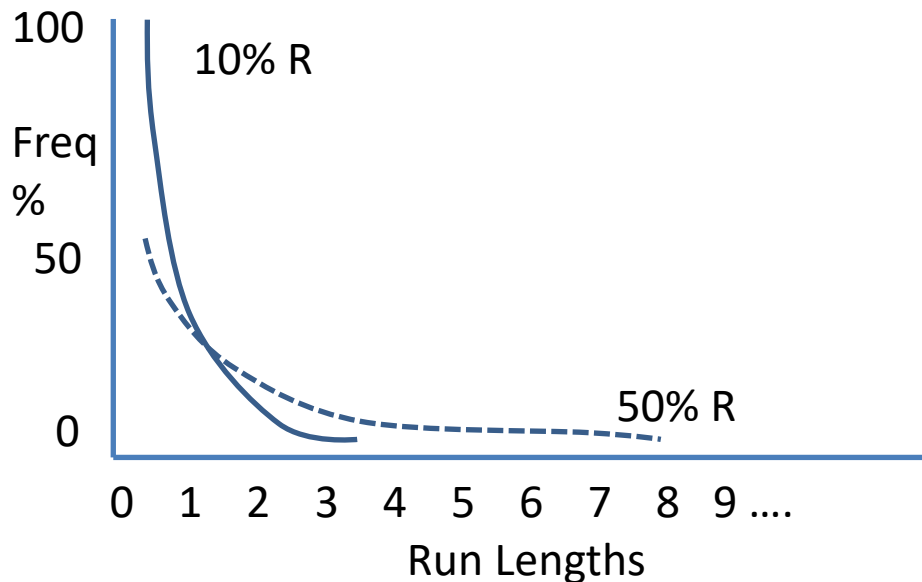
- RRRR W RRR WWWW R WW
- R W R W R W R W R W R W R W R
- Predict expected run lengths for a random distribution

Avlength R = 2.66

Avlength W = 1.00

$$Cl_R = N_R + P_{RL^{R-1}} \times (1 - P_R)^2$$

$$Cl_W = N_R \times P_R \times (1 - P_R)^{LW}$$



# DISTRIBUTION

## Contiguity

*Underwood, 1970    Gurland, 1975    James, 1980*

- Apply test line and look at intersections with boundaries
- Need to know length of test line and

$$\begin{aligned} N_{RR} &= R\_R \\ N_{WW} &= W\_W \\ N_{WR} &= W\_R\_W \end{aligned}$$

- Use stereological SV formulae modified for 2D

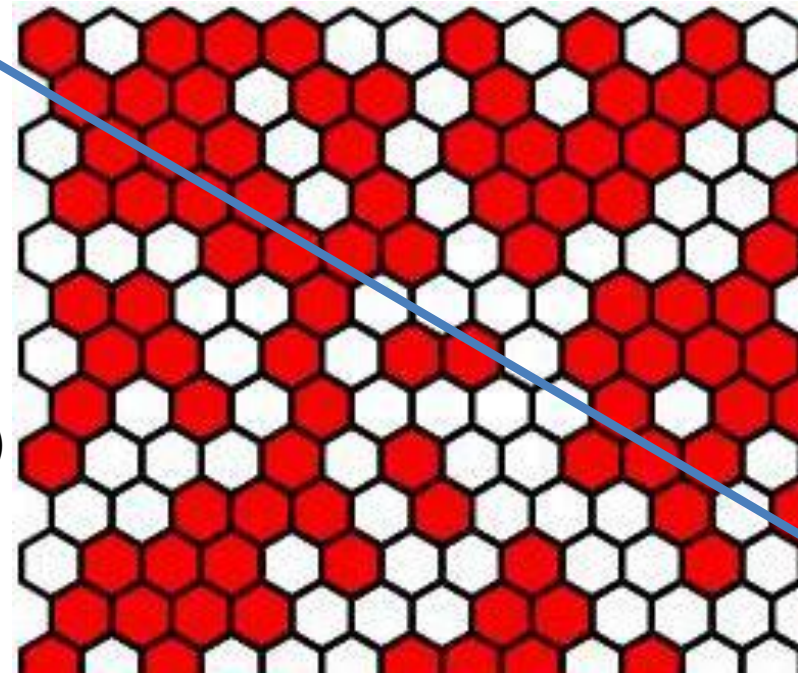
- $L_A = \pi/2 \times P_L$

- Estimate Interface lengths for

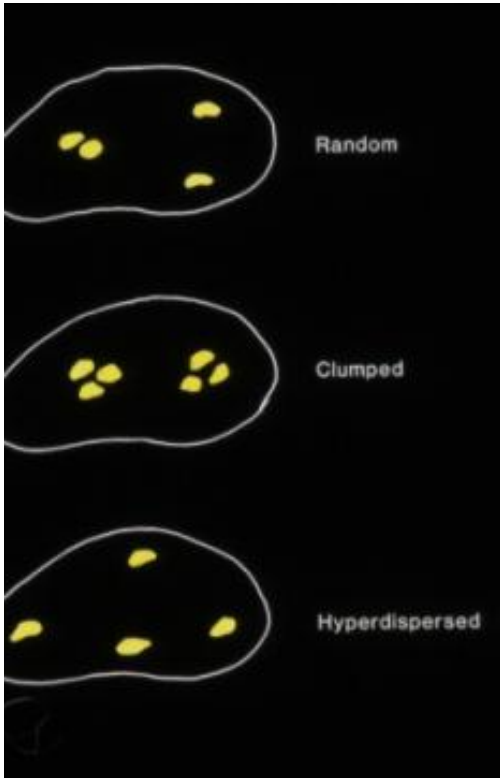
$$\begin{aligned} LA_{RR} \\ LA_{WW} \\ LA_{WR} \end{aligned}$$

- **Index of Contiguity**

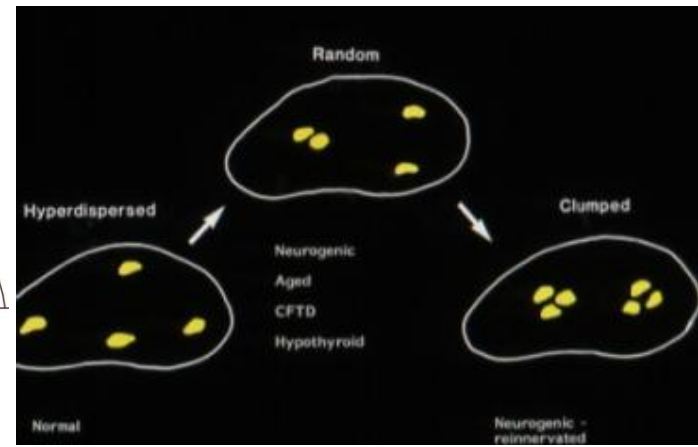
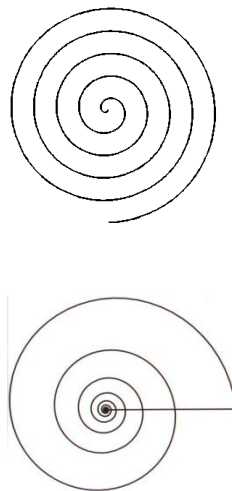
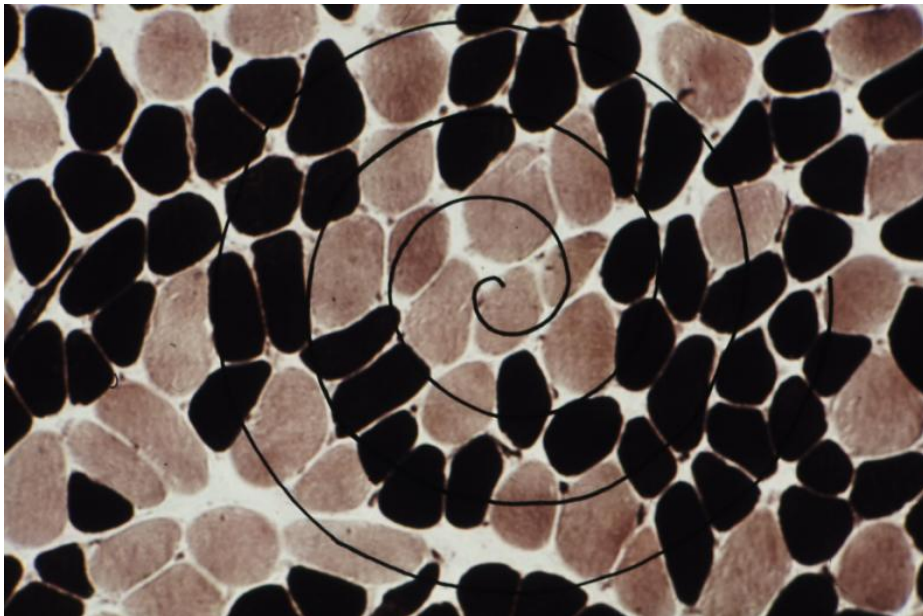
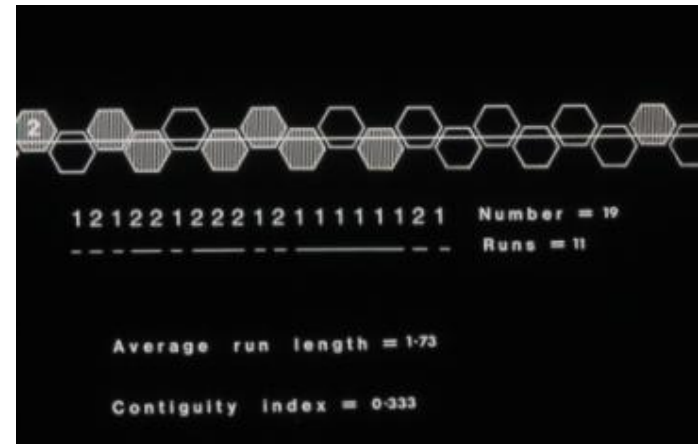
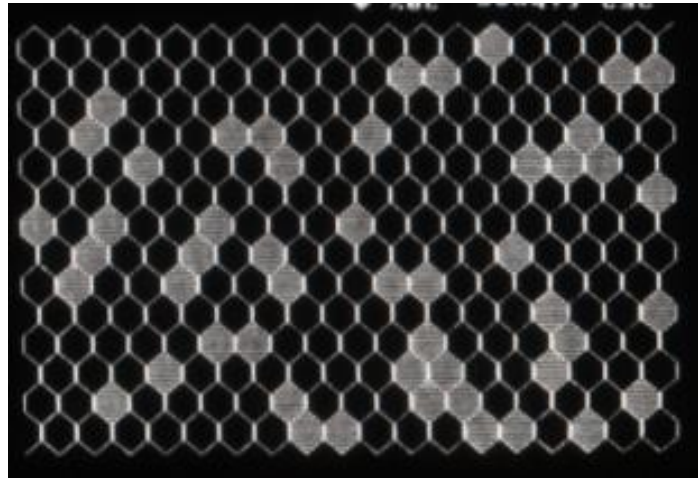
$$C_{RR} = LA_{RR} / (LA_{RR} + LA_{WR})$$



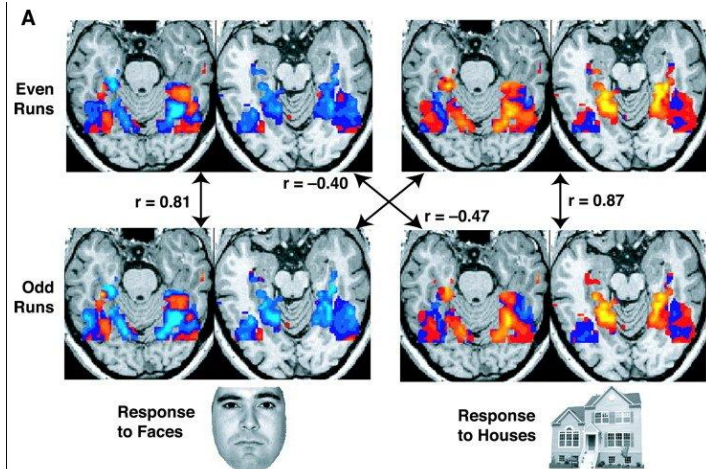
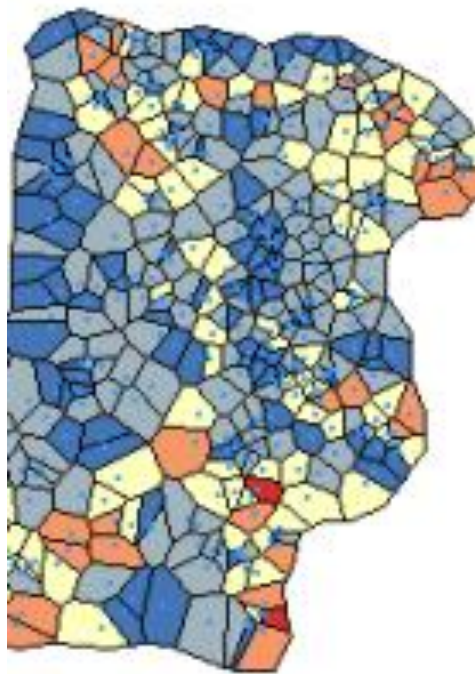
# DISTRIBUTION



Spatial/Spiral Pattern Analysis of Muscle



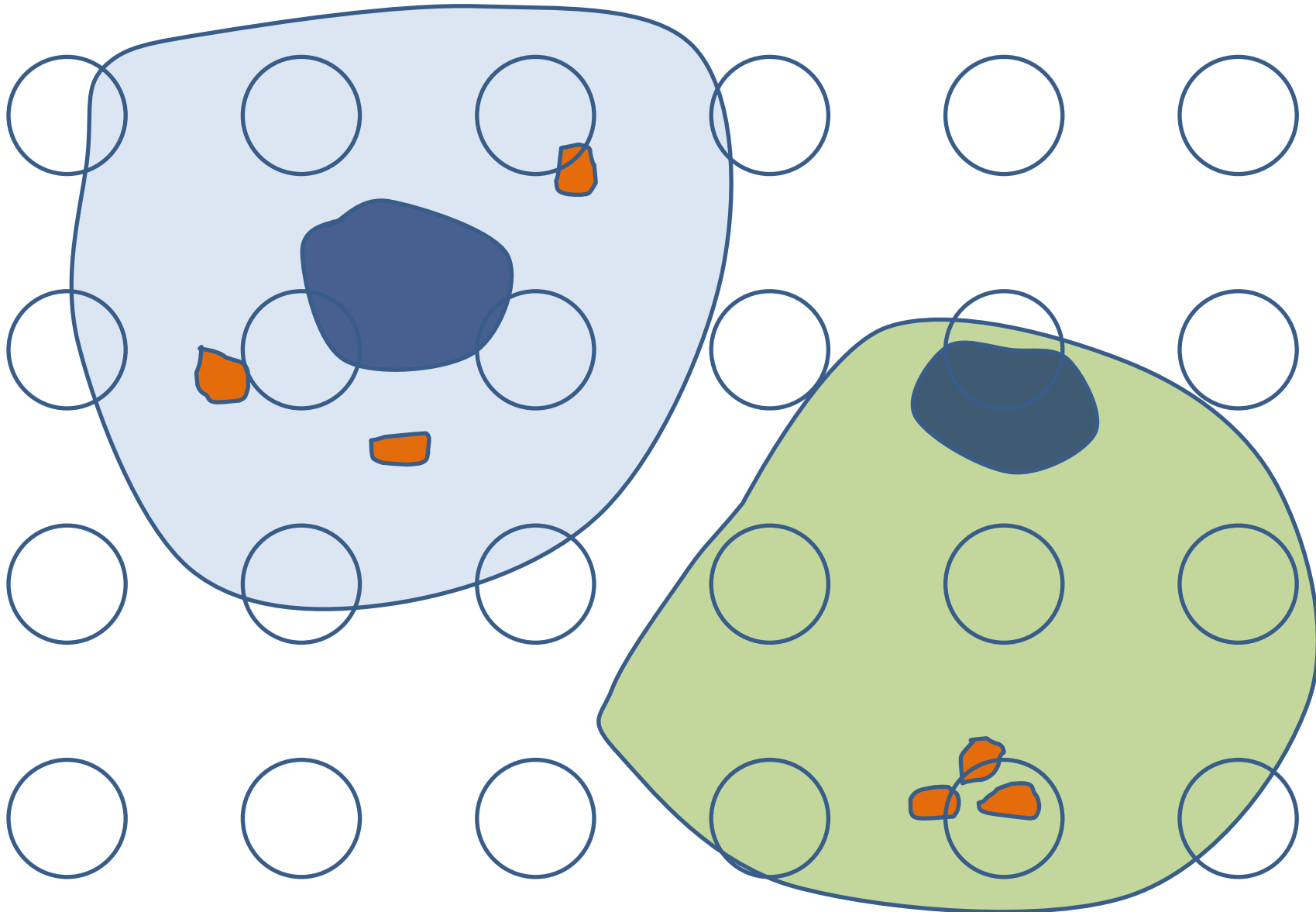
# ASSOCIATION



# Measure of Association – Circle Overlay Method

Cruz-Orive, 1976

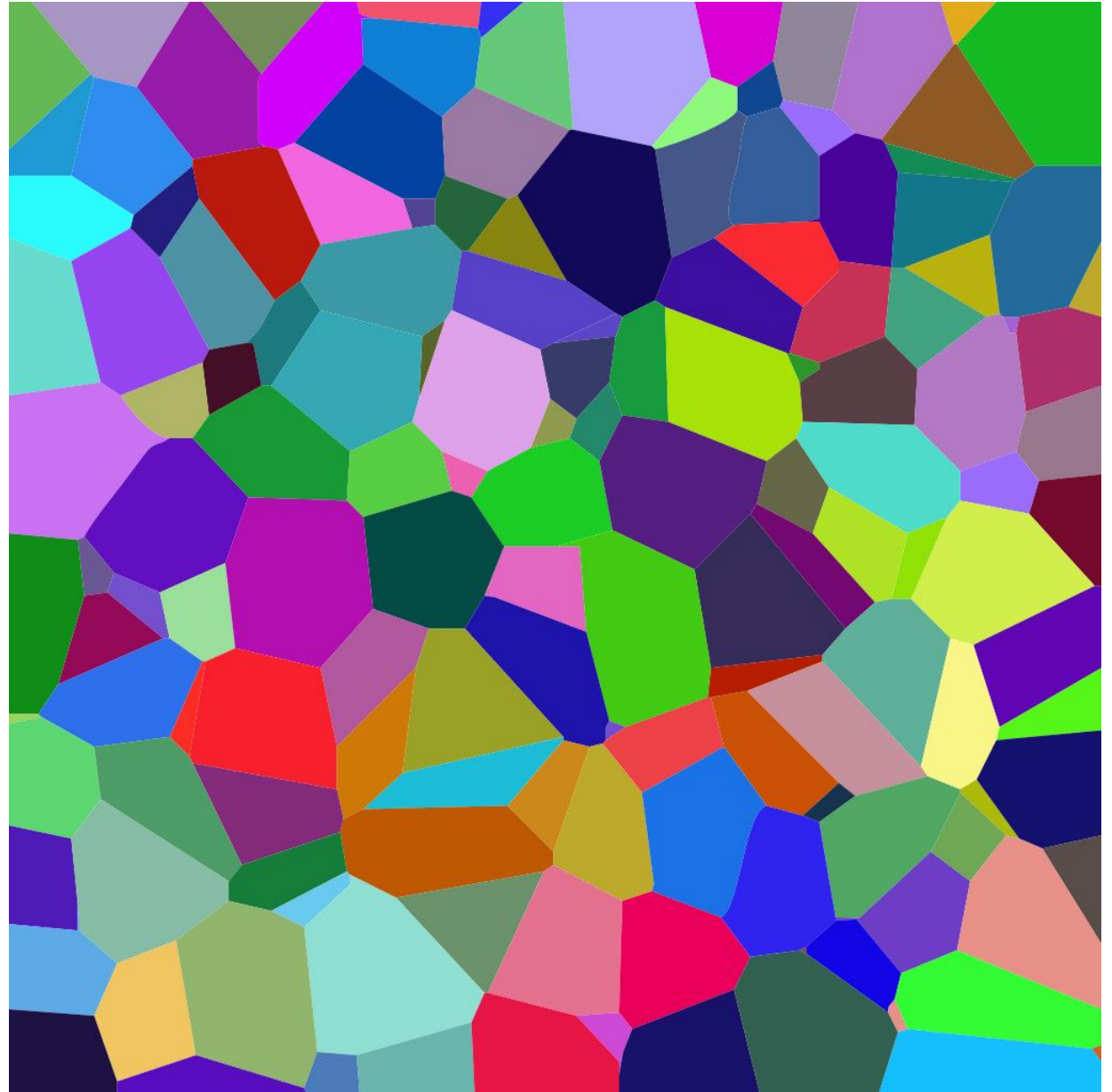
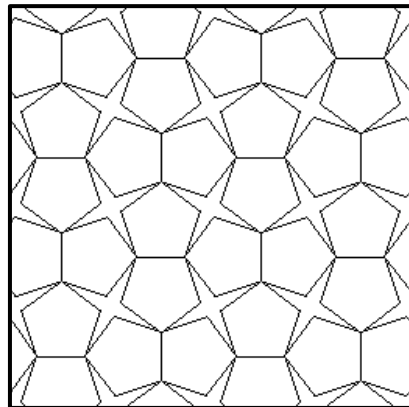
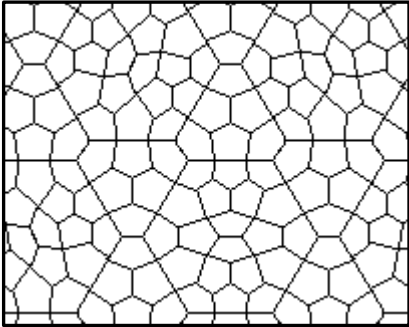
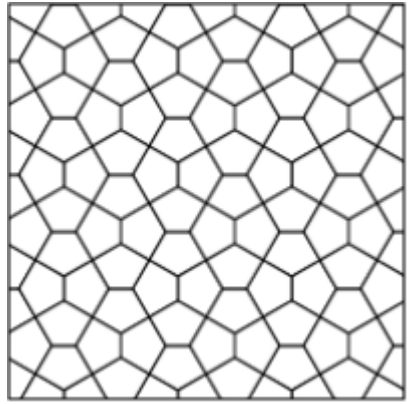
eg: Eccentric nuclei, organelle clumping or autoradiography (*Williams, 1977*)



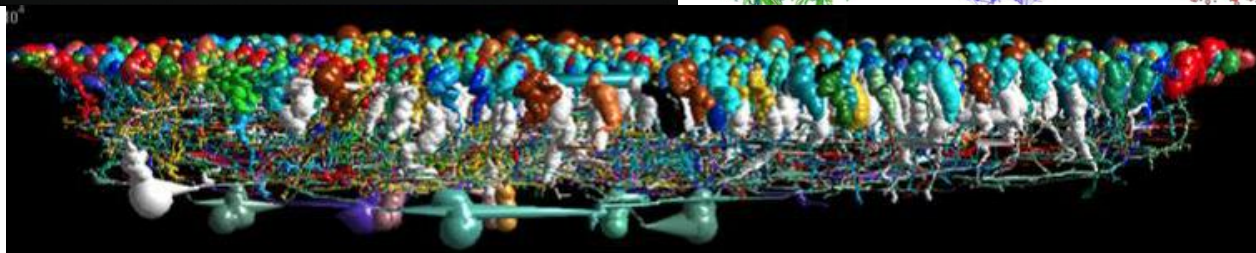
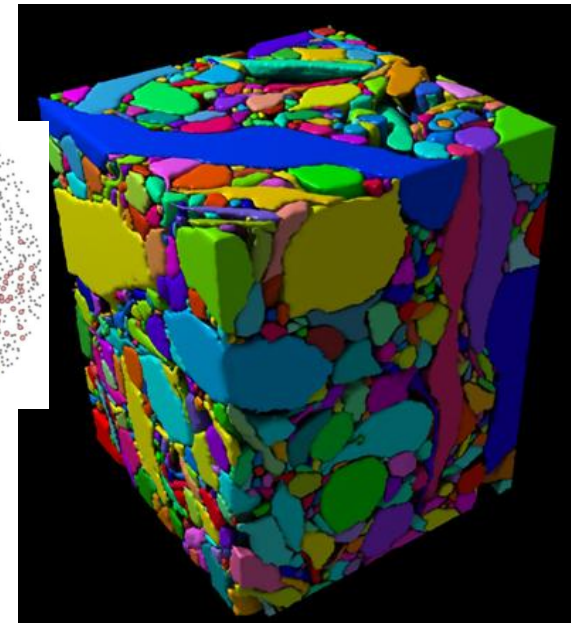
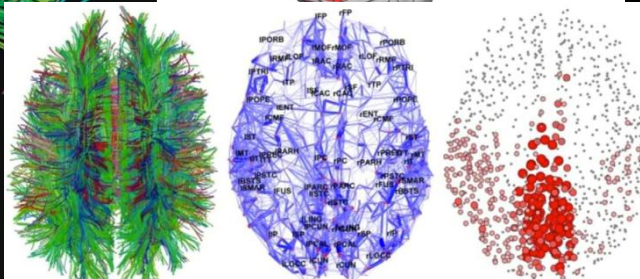
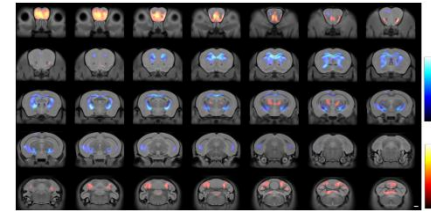
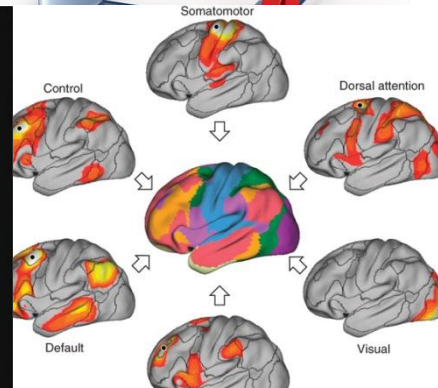
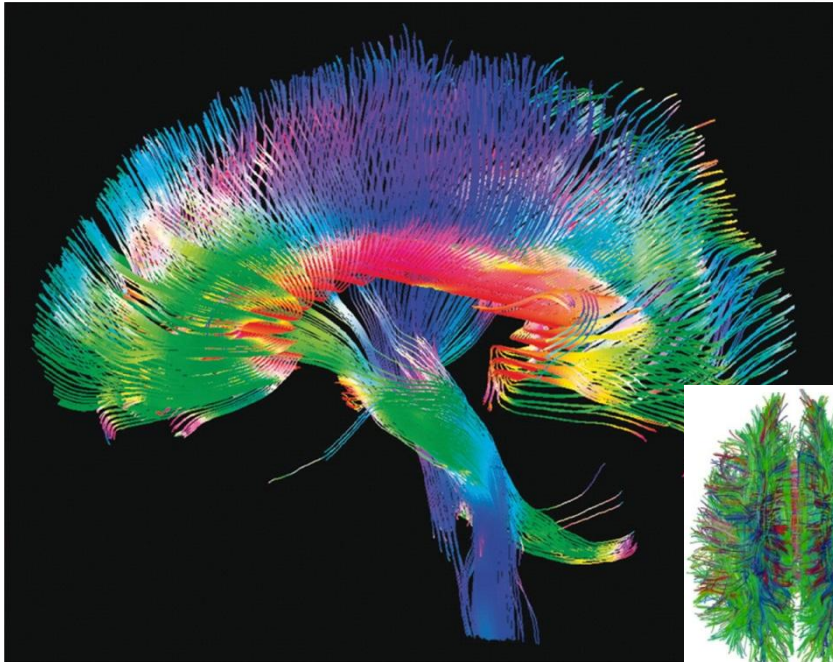
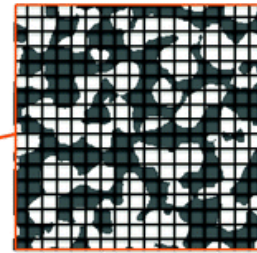
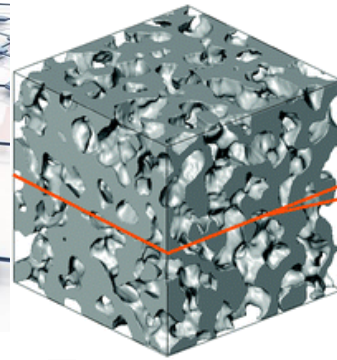
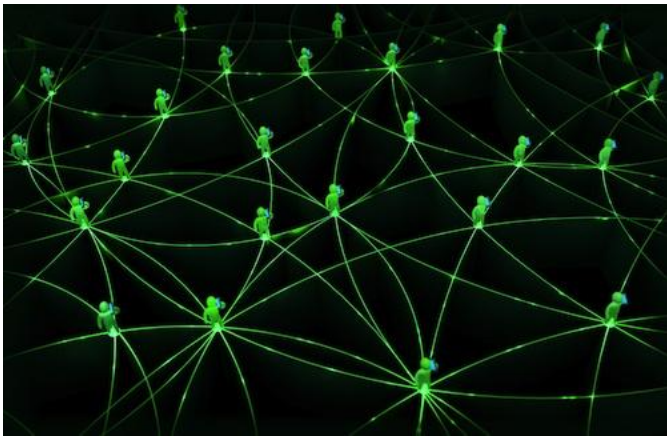
Problems: lattice size & spacing

# Tessellation

Apply lattices and use mathematical concepts of “Lattice tessellation of congruent domains”

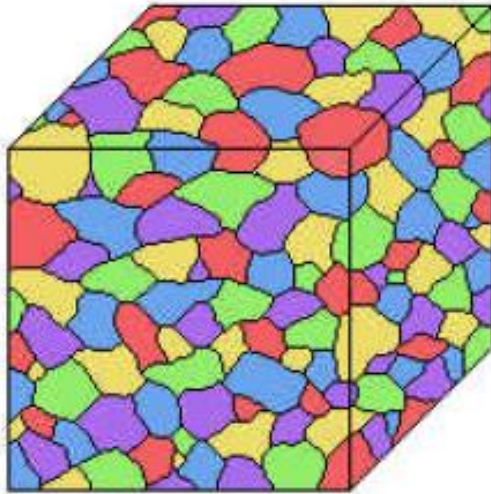


# CONNECTIVITY

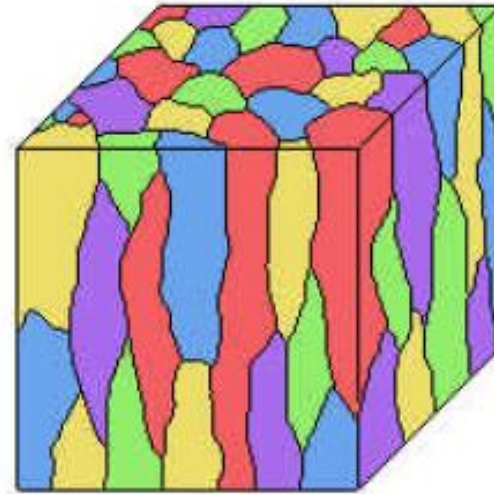


Brain Forest !

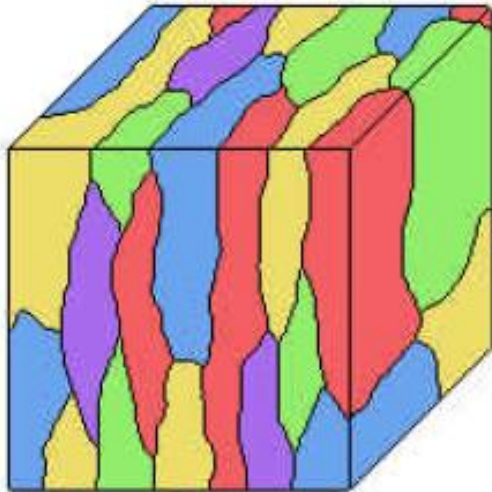
# ORIENTATION



a



b



c

Apply line lattice

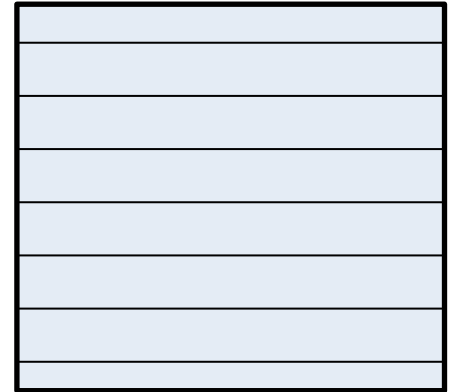
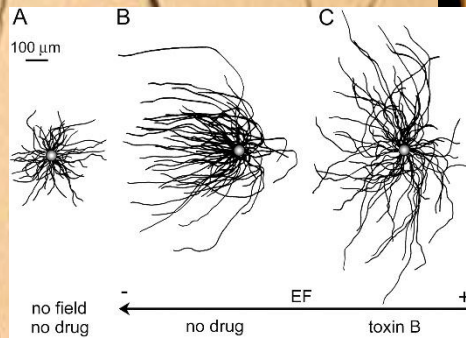
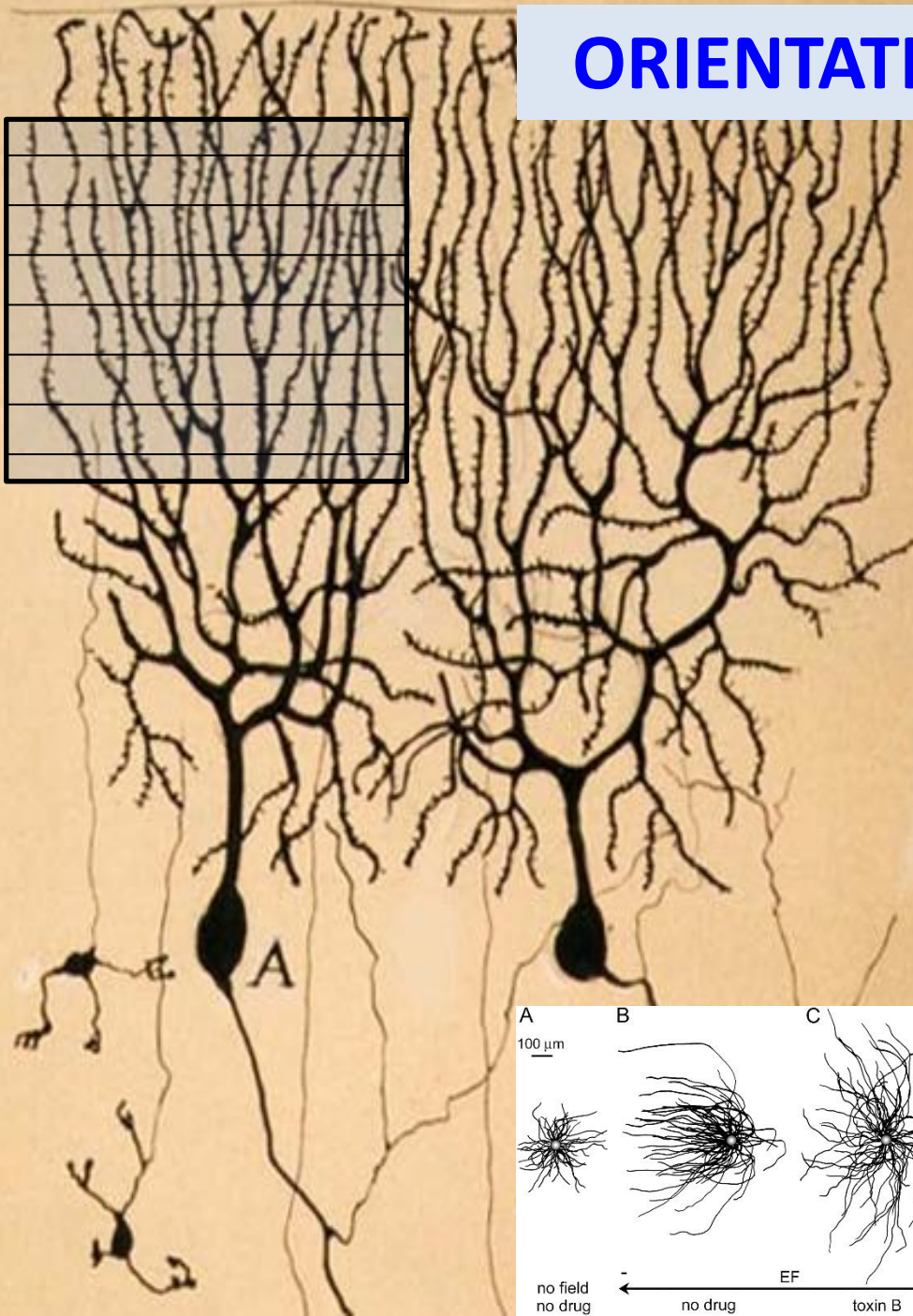


Figure 5. Examples of some simple kinds of preferred orientation: a) equiaxed; b) needles; c) plates.



# ORIENTATION



# ORIENTATION

Sample/Probe it to – avoid it or measure it

- Cut section in ONE plane
- Apply line lattice in TWO orientations

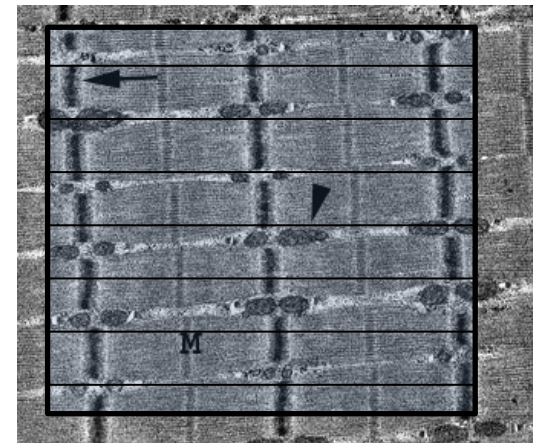
Remember for Isotropic structures  $S_v = 2 \times IL$

$$S_v = \pi/2 I_{L\perp} + 2I_{L\parallel} - \pi/2 I_{L\parallel}$$

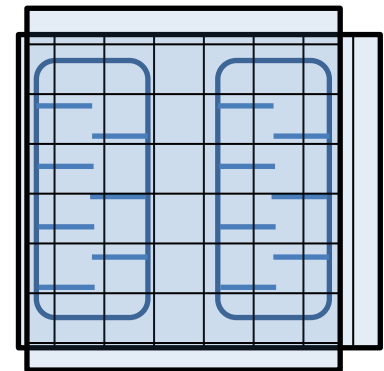
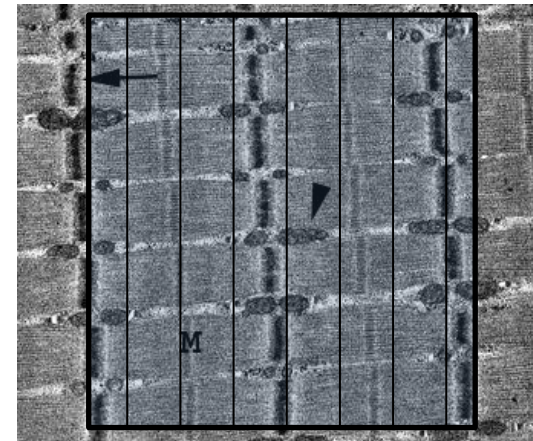
Degree of orientation of surfaces

$$\Omega = \frac{I_{L\perp} + I_{L\parallel}}{I_{L\perp} + 4/\pi I_{L\parallel} - I_{L\parallel}}$$

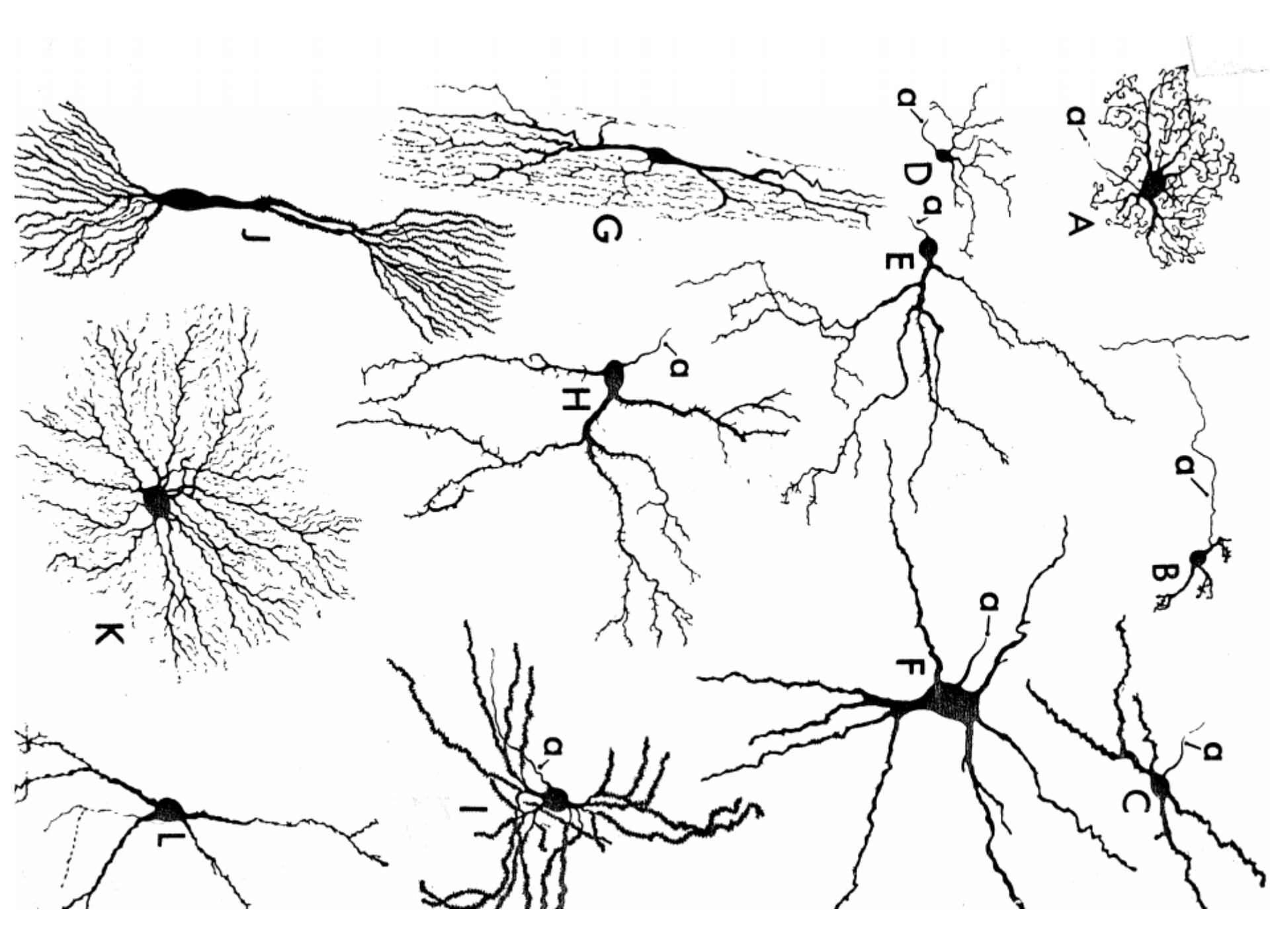
||



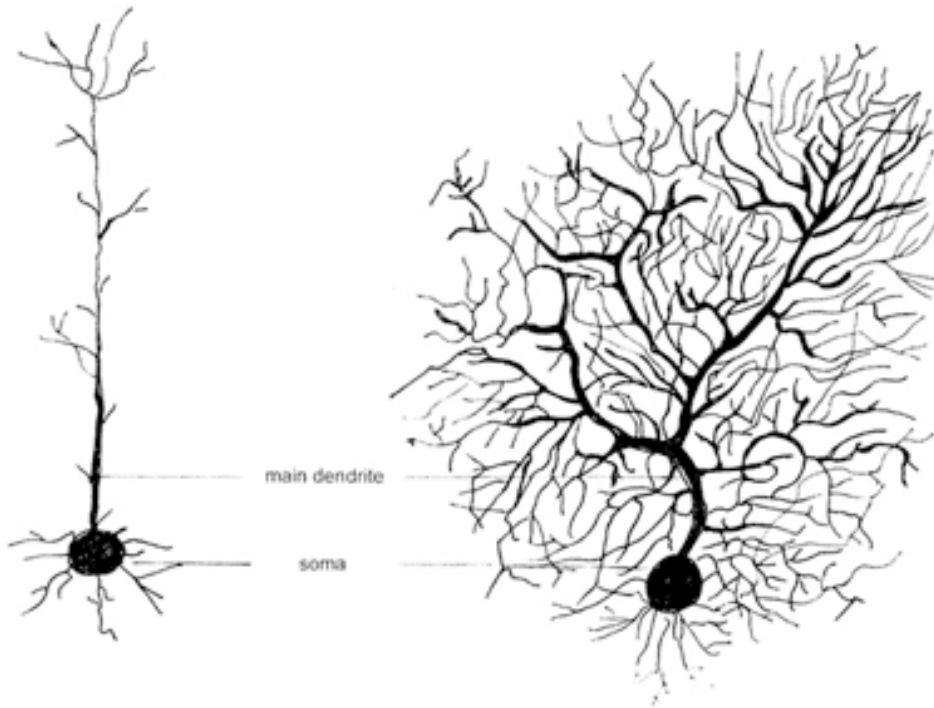
⊥



NT James, 1980s

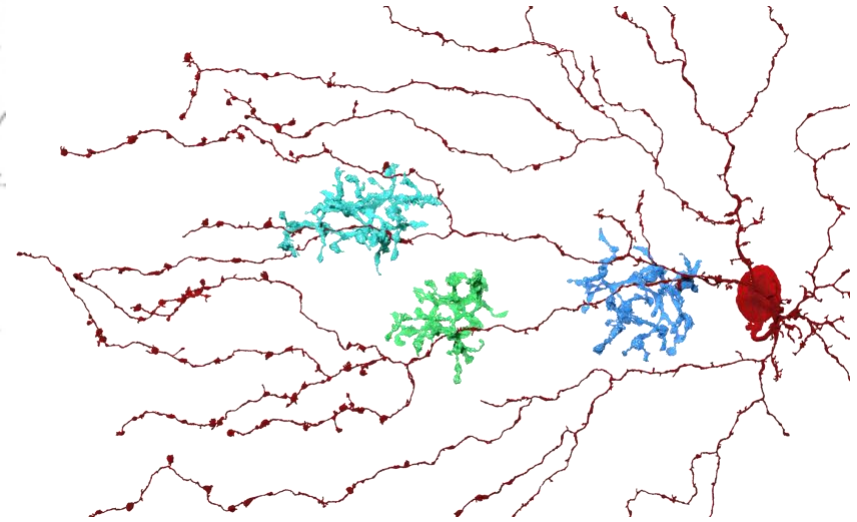


# BRANCHING



Sparse growth of dendrites  
in an aging, inactive brain

Typical dendritic growth in an active brain

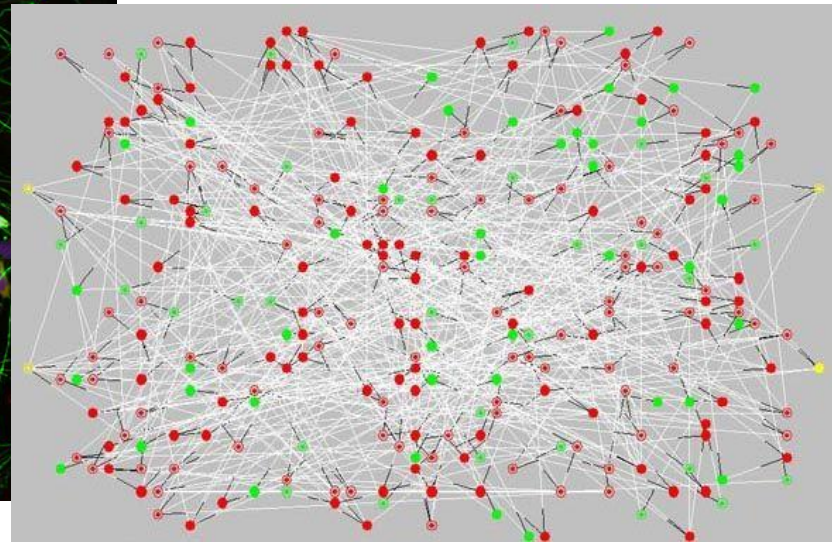
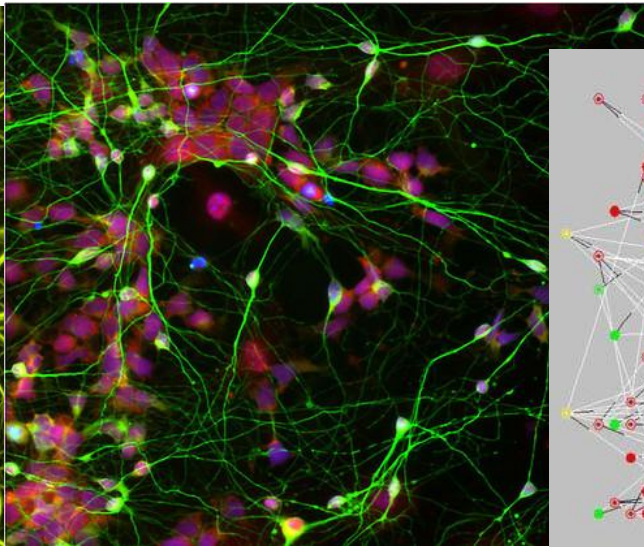
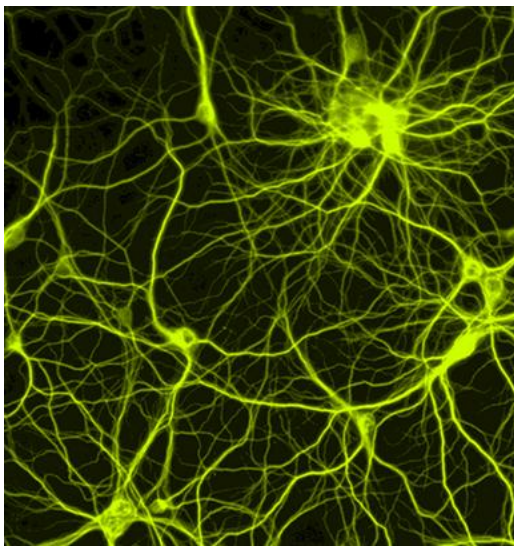
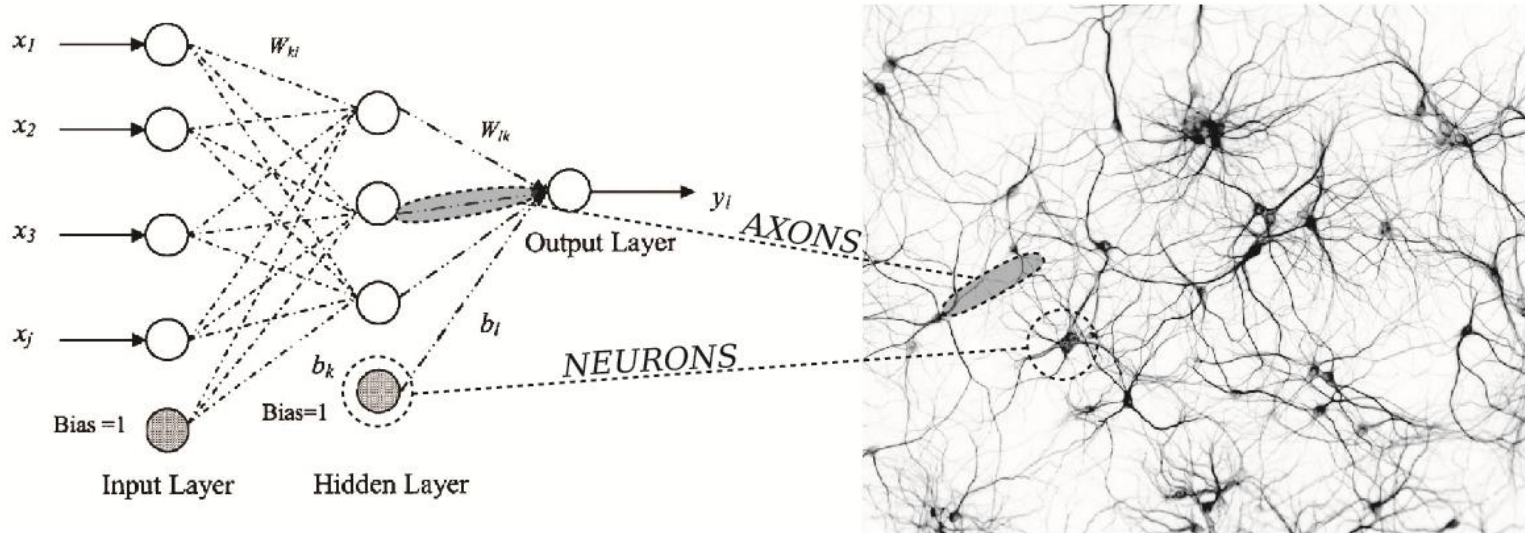


## Topology

- Arbor or Tree analysis
- Vertex / Branch / Segment
- Bifurcations / tri .. / multi ..
- Angles

*Berry, 1980s*

# NEURAL NETWORK MAPPING



Artificial Intelligence (9<sup>th</sup> June 2014) Passed the Turing Test !

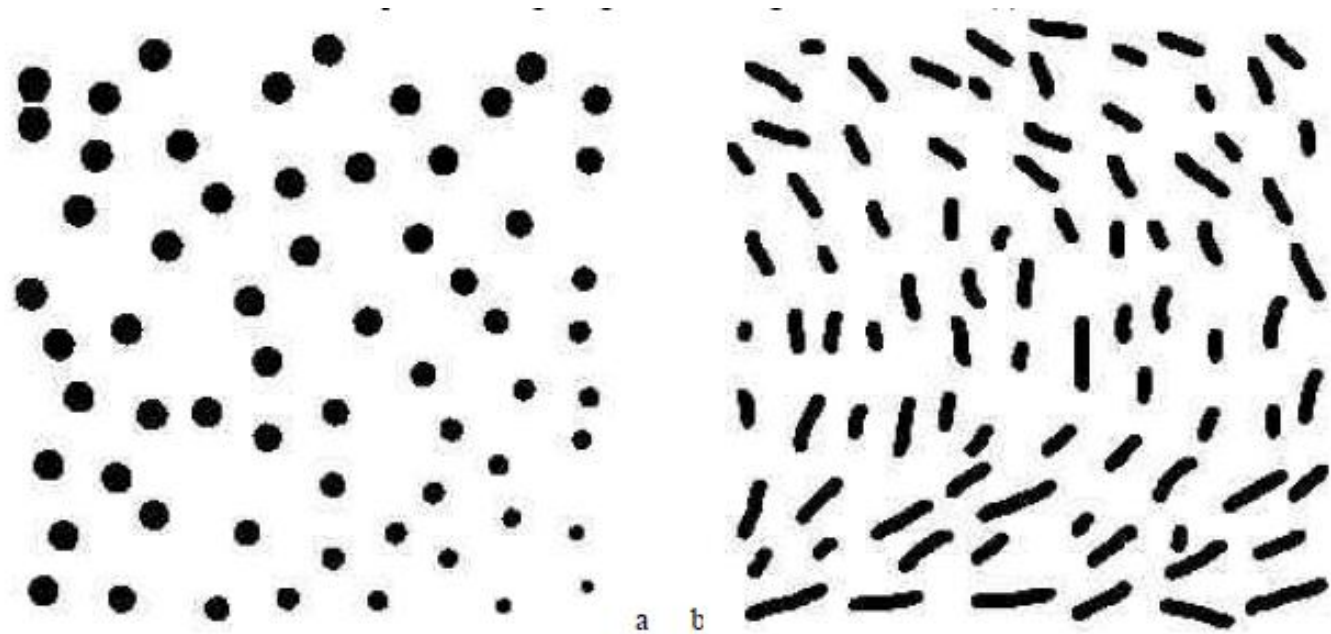
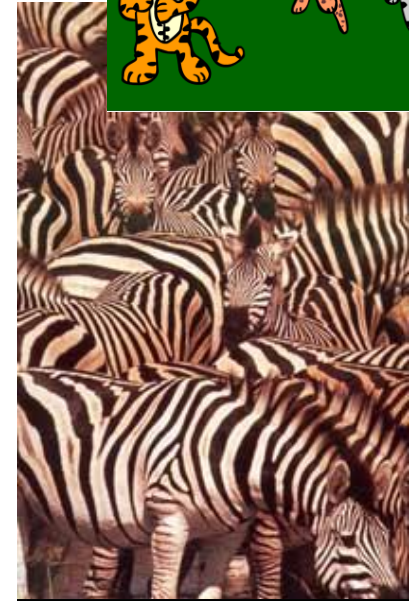
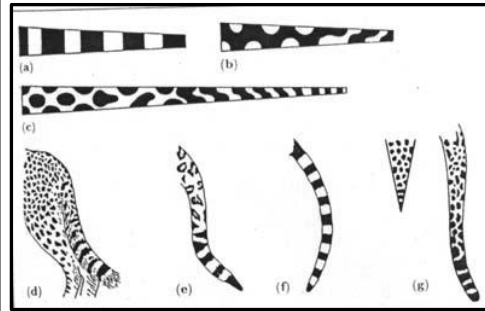
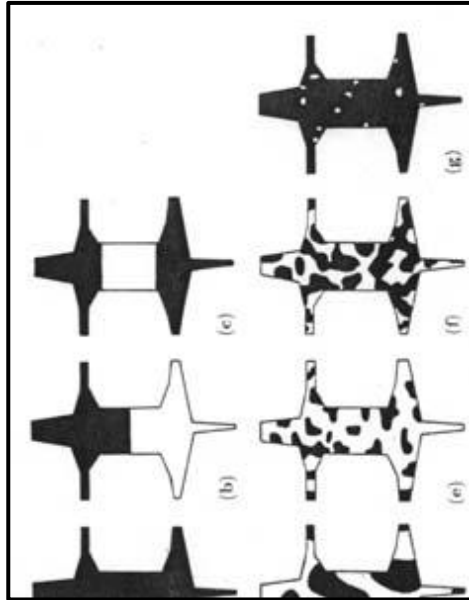
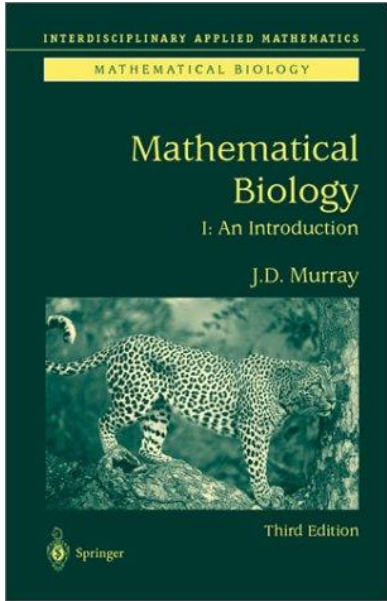
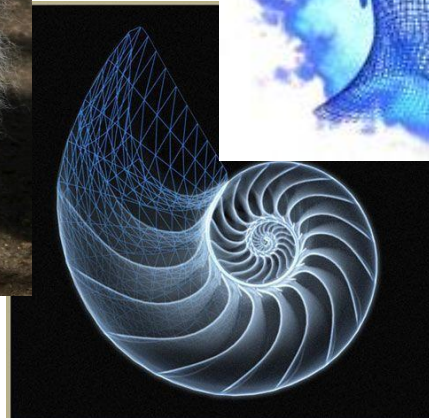
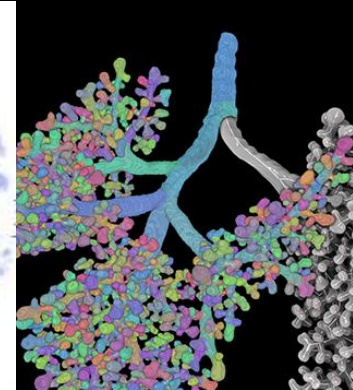


Figure 10. Examples of gradients: a) size; b) orientation.

# Mathematical Modelling of Topography & Development



Arthur



$$U = \mu_p^0 \theta_p + \mu_p^0 \theta_p + \chi \theta_p \theta_p$$

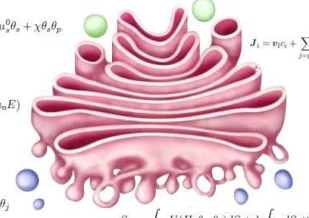
$$J_i = v_i \alpha_i + \sum_{j=p,\alpha} \alpha_{ij} \nabla_S \theta_j + D_i \nabla_S \alpha_i$$

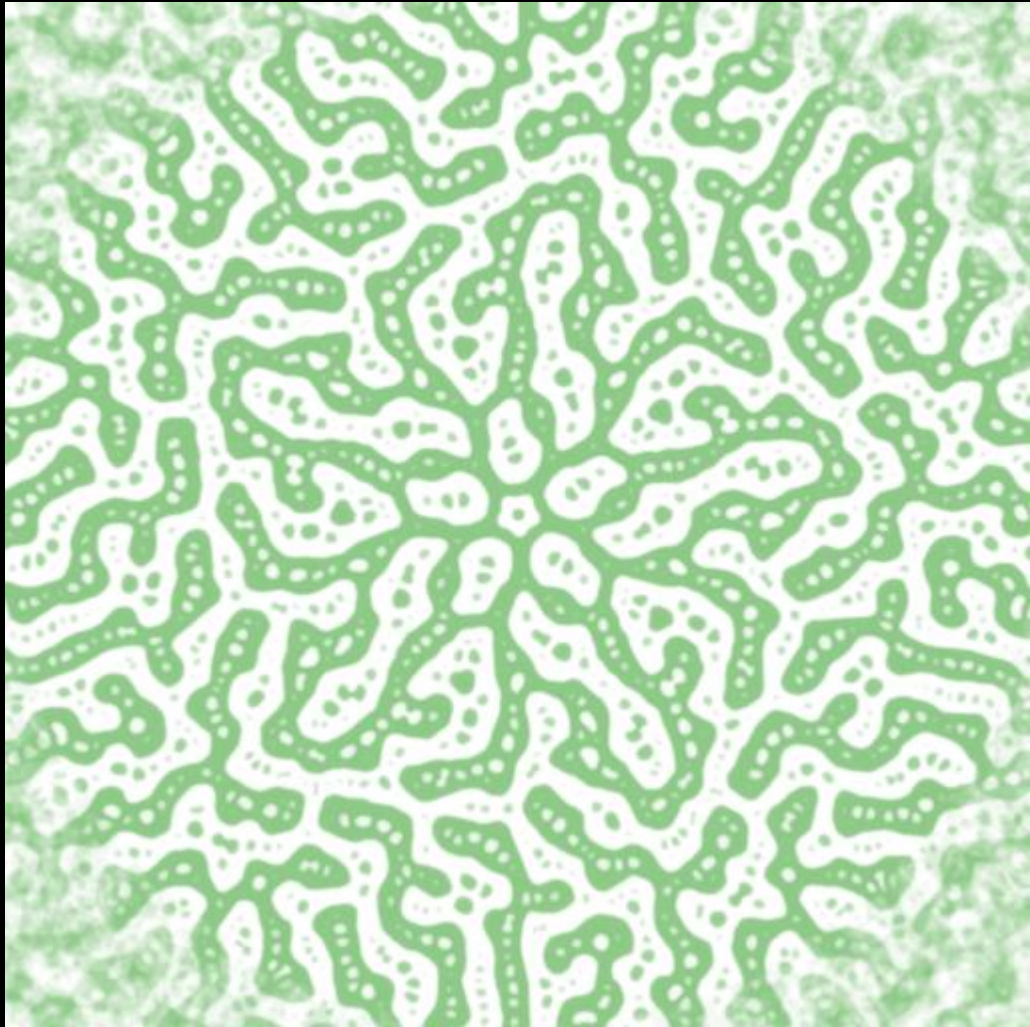
$$\nabla_y \cdot (y \cdot \nabla u_n E)$$

$$\Delta_S (bH)$$

$$\sum_{j=p,\alpha} \alpha_{ij} \nabla_S \theta_j$$

$$S_E = \int_{\partial \Omega} U(H, \theta_p, \theta_p) dS + \lambda \int_{\partial \Omega} dS + \int_{\Omega} dV$$



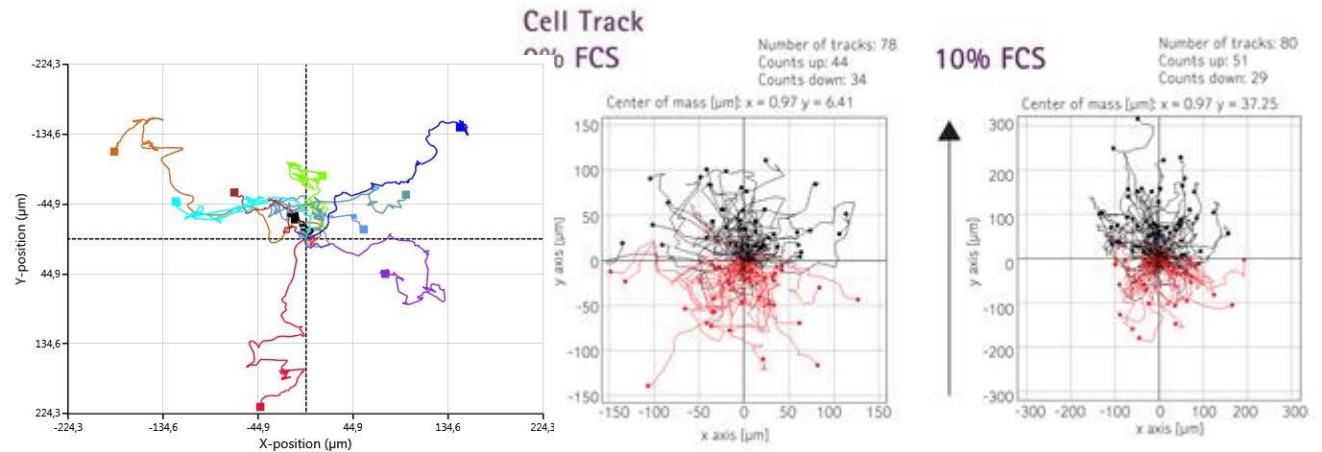
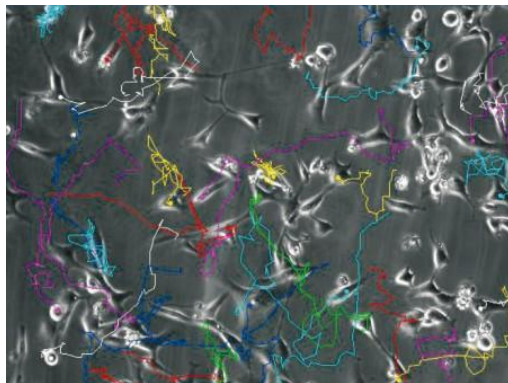
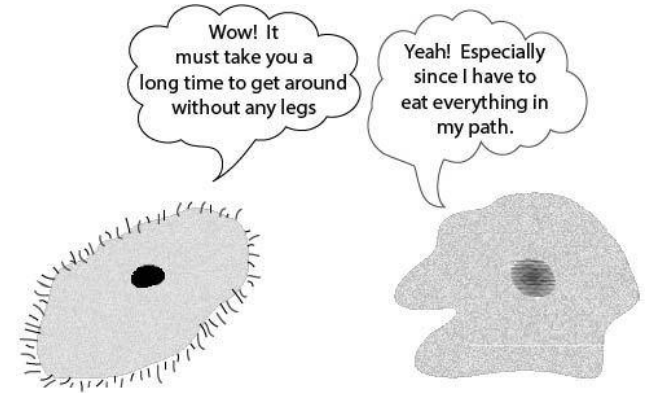




# How?

## Movement

- Organisms, cells, organelles
- Subjective recording
  
- Tracing
- Direction
- Velocity
- Diffusivity
- Association

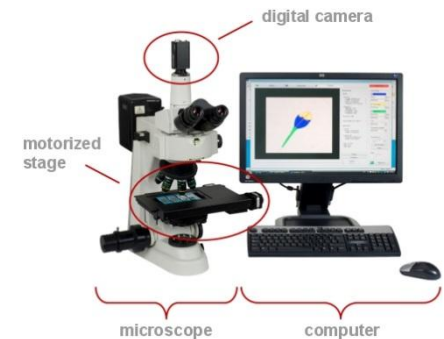


How?

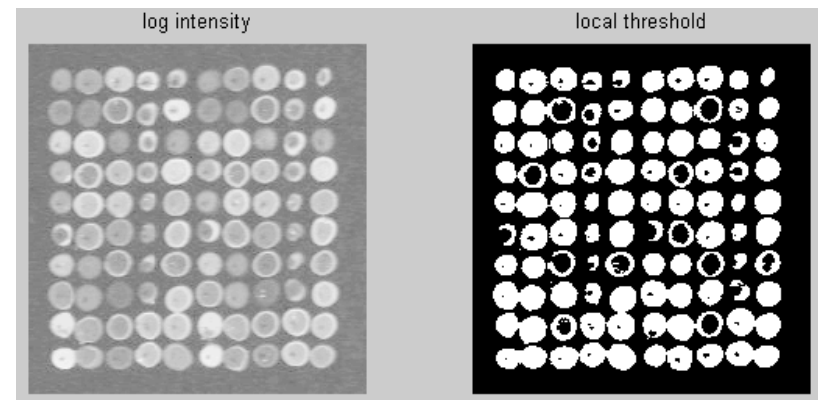
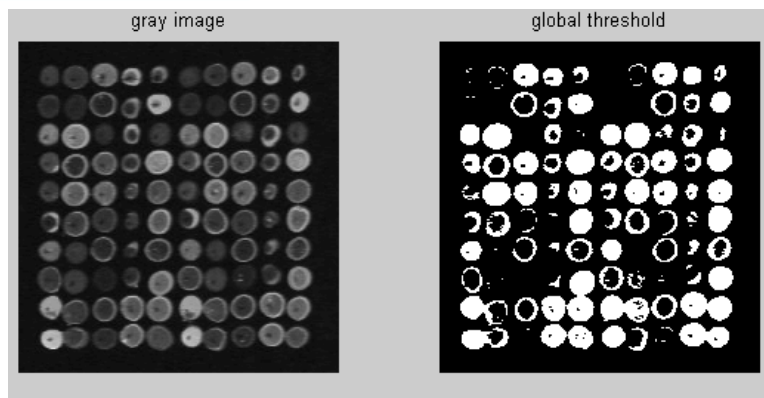
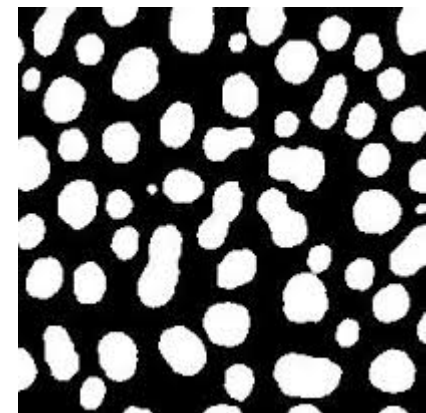
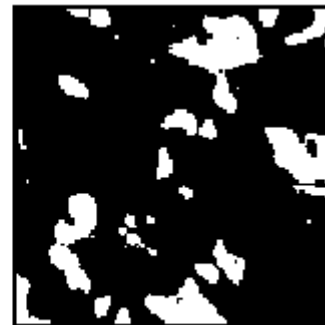
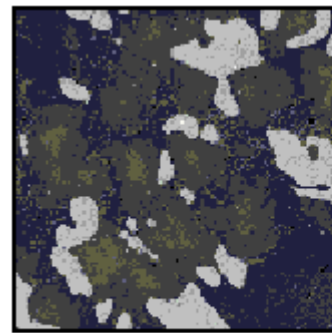
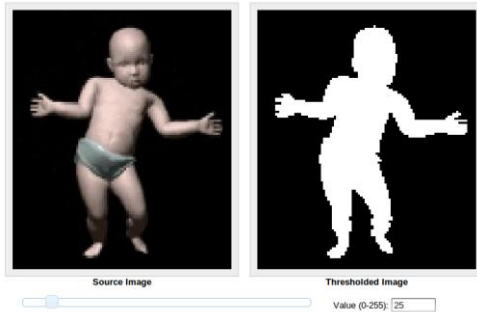
# Image Analysis



- Automated/Computerised Measurement vs Eye/Brain
- Early: 1969-1990 ... then software based
  - MOP, Quantimet, Magiscan, Imagan, .... NIH Image-J, Matlab, LAS, Image Pro, i-Solution, QuPath
- Procedure
  - Sampling
  - Calibration
  - Image capture
  - Segmentation
    - Thresholding, Edge Detection, Erosion/Dilation
    - Object detection
  - Measurement
    - Size, shape, number, density (IOD?), arrangement, ...
  - Data analysis and display
- + / -
  - Speed & Measurement / Identification, User, Cost, GIGO



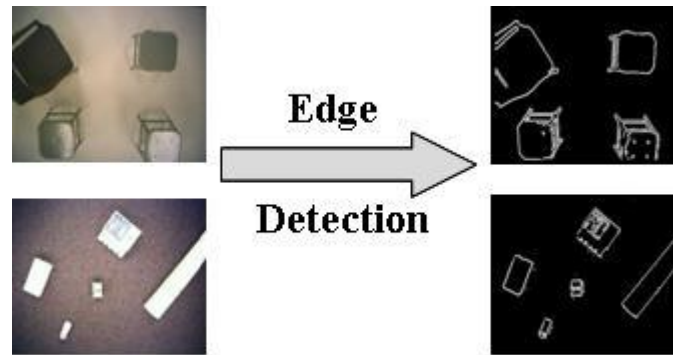
## Thresholding



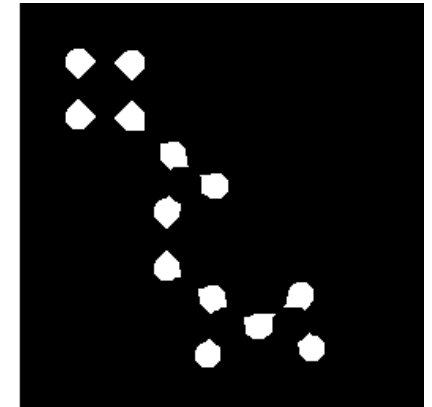
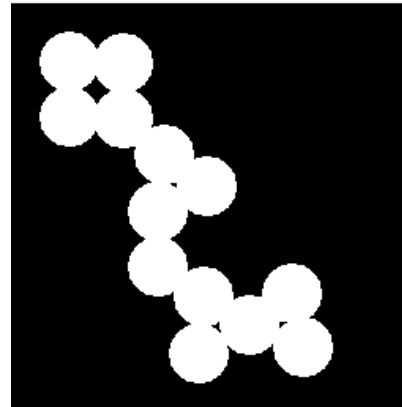
## Segmentation



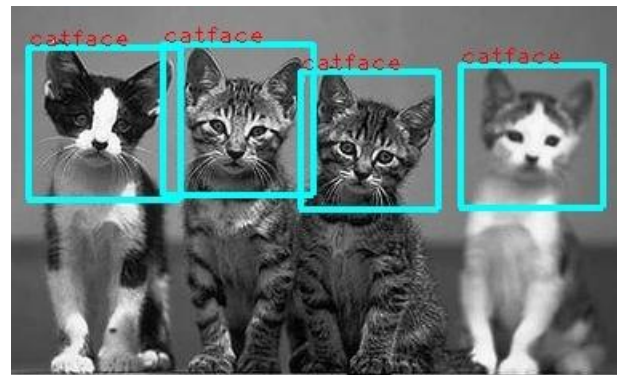
Edge Detection



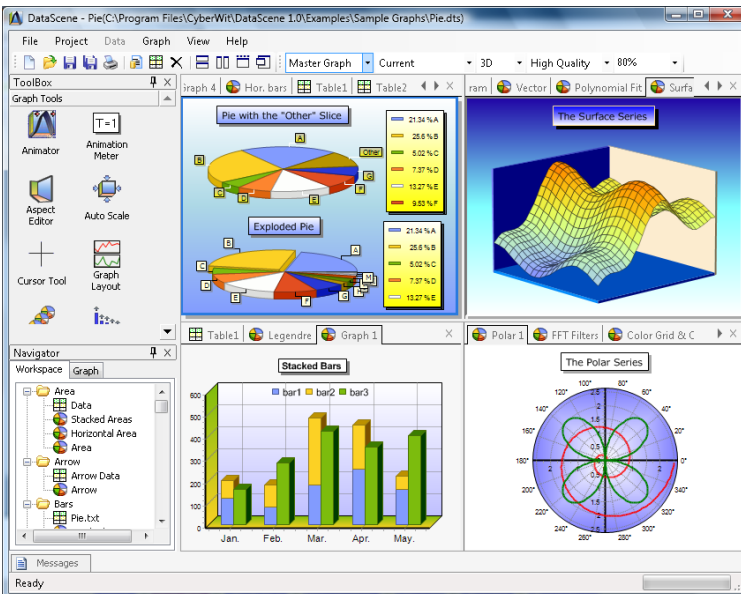
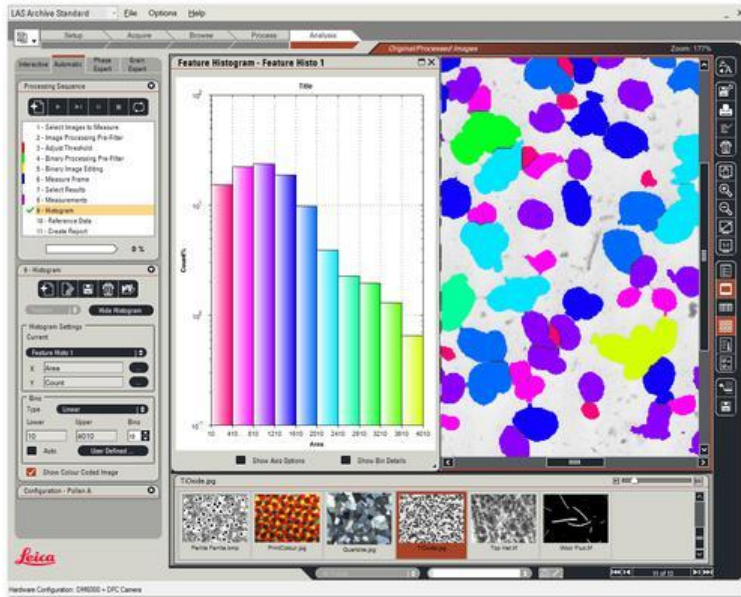
Erosion / Dilation



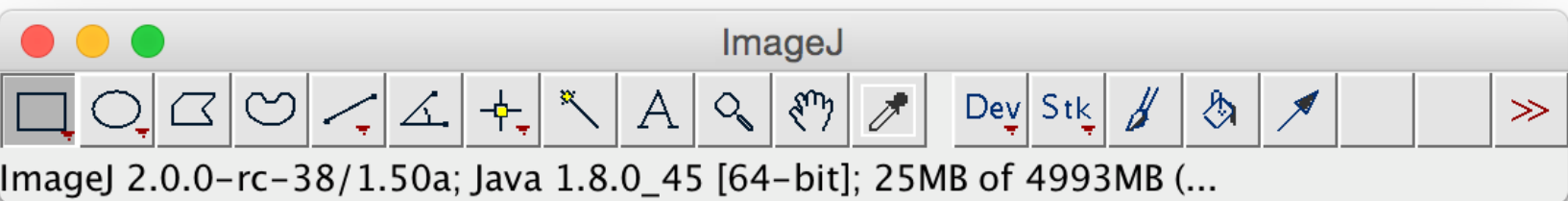
Object Detection



**Problems** – brilliant results output **But** does the user know what the machine is doing and have they considered bias, caveats etc. ?? !!



**THANKS TO MAGISCAN – IMAGE ANALYSIS IS NO LONGER  
THE PRESERVE OF THE SPECIALIST**

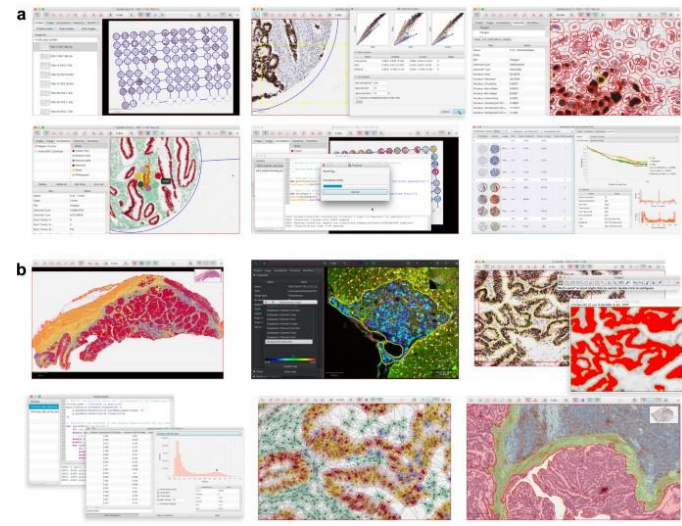


# ImageJ



# QuPath

Quantitative Pathology & Bioimage Analysis



Results ?

# GIGO

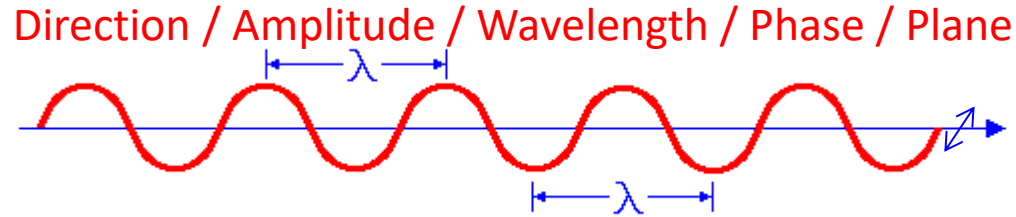
Garbage In – Garbage Out !

“Garbage to ten decimal places is still garbage !”



How?

# Analytical Microscopy



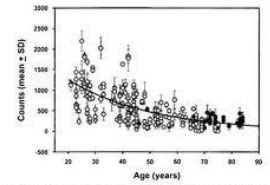
- Reflectance (Number)
- Microdensitometry (Amount)
- Fluorometry (Fluorescence)
- Phase Contrast / Refractometry (Density)
- Interferometry (Density, Thickness, Mass)
- Polarisation / Polarimetry (Orientation)



How?

# Microdensitometry 1

How much substance present?



The decline in macular pigment optical density with age, as measured by resonance Raman spectroscopy.

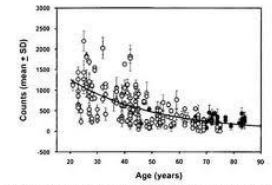
- Measure Areas, Volumes and Densities
- Histochemistry (Specificity/Stoichiometry/Localisation/Section thickness/ ...)
- Bouger-Beer-Lambert Laws
- Absorbance & Transmittance
- Homogeneous Parallel Monochromatic Spot Light
- Optical Density
- Distribution Error
- Integrated optical Density
- Equipment: Flying-Spot microscope, M86, Magiscan  
1930s, 1970s, now



How?

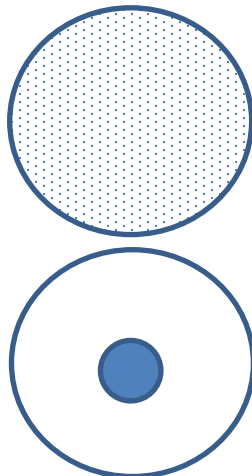
# Microdensitometry 2

How much substance present?



The decline in macular pigment optical density with age, as measured by resonance Raman spectroscopy.

- **Beer:** Concentration  $\propto$  Absorbance
- **Lambert:** Absorbance =  $\log_{10}$  Incidence/Transmit
- **Concentration** = g/cm<sup>3</sup> or g/ area & thickness
- **Distribution Error:** Uniform v Non-Uniform

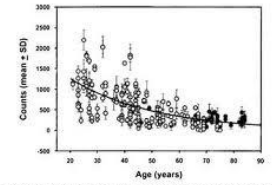


| <u>I</u> | <u>OD</u> | <u>IOD (ArxOD)</u> |
|----------|-----------|--------------------|
| 50%      | 0.3       | 0.3                |
| ??%      | 30 & 0    | 0.3                |

# Application

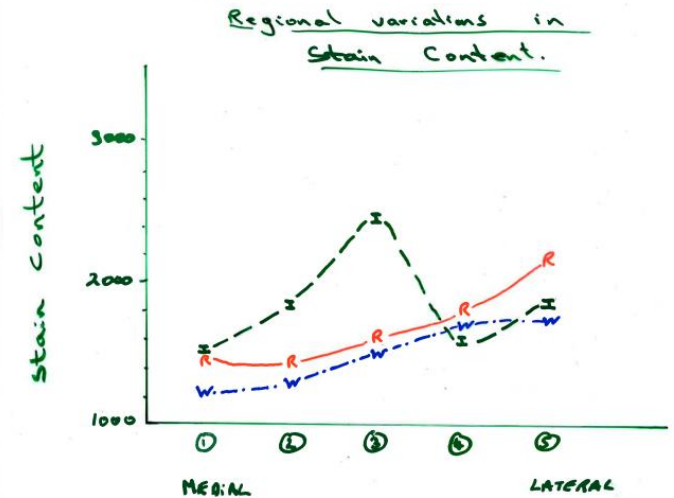
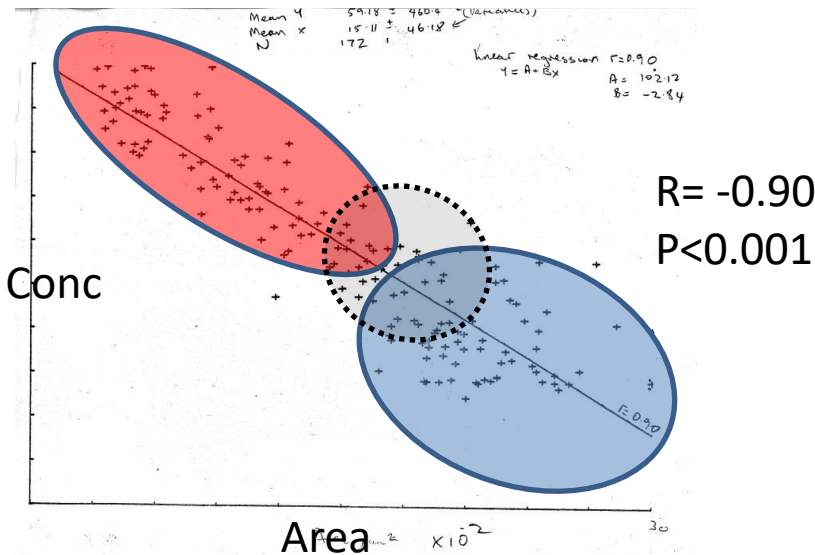
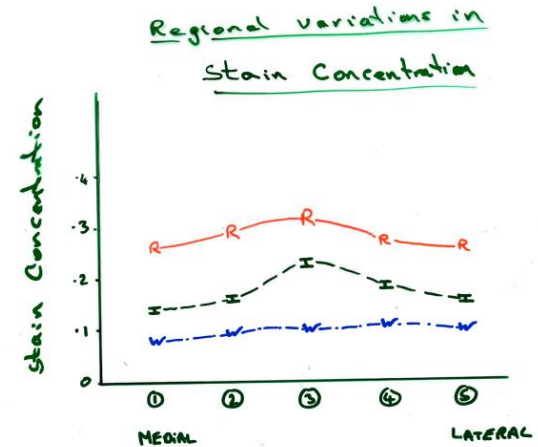
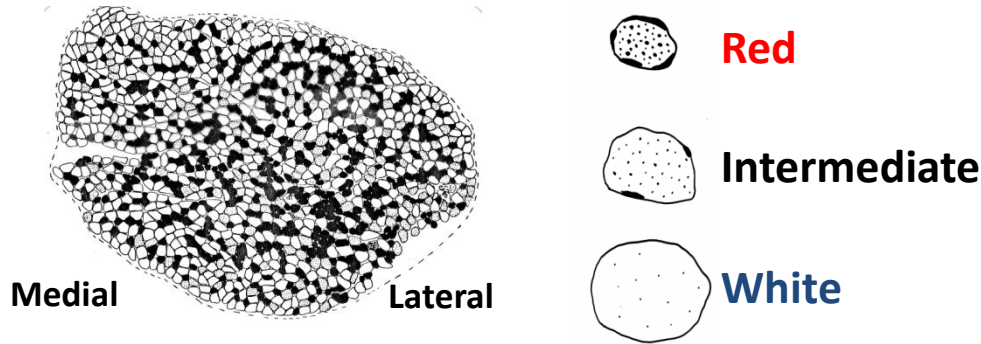
# Microdensitometry 3

How much substance present?



The decline in macular pigment optical density with age, as measured by resonance Raman spectroscopy.

- Oxidative Enzyme distribution in a limb muscle ?



- Why measure ?
- What do you want to measure ?
- How do we measure ?
- Are the results unbiased, precise, accurate, valid, meaningful ?

Interpretation ?

# Statistics !!!



- Means
  - Arithmetic, Harmonic, Angular
- Non-Parametric, Parametric
  - Gaussian
  - Poisson
  - Monte Carlo, Bose-Einstein, Autocorrelation
  - MANOVA, Hotelling test, Bonferroni
- Data presentation
  - Binning, Linear, Areal, Percentages, ...

# Statistics !!!

- **Accuracy**
  - Degree of closeness to true value
- **Precision**
  - Related to reproducibility and repeatability
  - Improve by increasing sample size
- **Bias**
  - Random or Systematic error
- **Valid**
  - Measurement system which is **ACCURATE** and **PRECISE** and **UNBIASED**

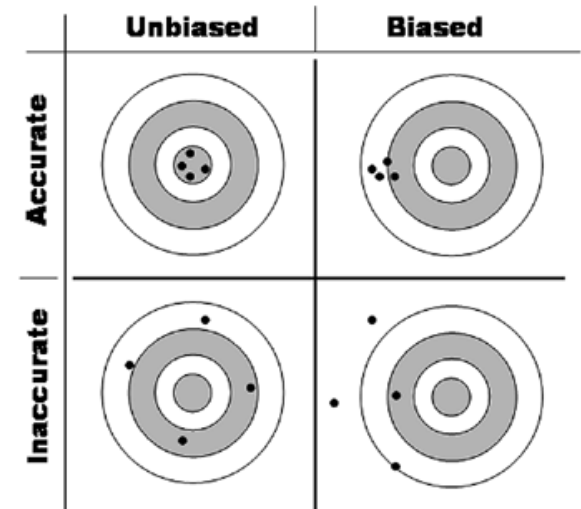
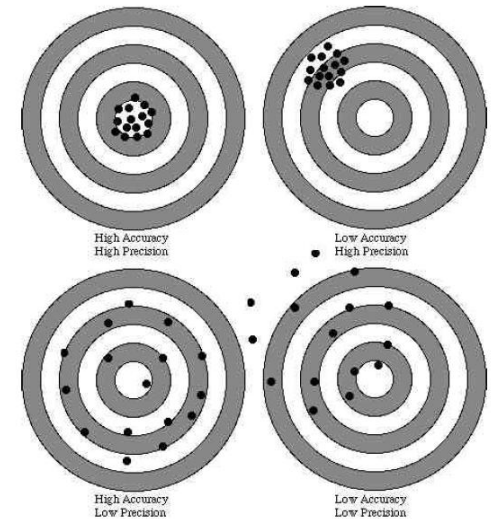


Fig. 2 Schematic illustration of the difference between accuracy and bias. The top row of targets shows accuracy that is the hits are closely clustered together. The bottom row shows inaccuracy and there is a marked scatter of hits. In the left hand column the average of the cluster of hits tends towards the bull's-eye, which means that they are unbiased. The right hand column shows the converse case, these hits are biased (based on Howard and Reed 1998).

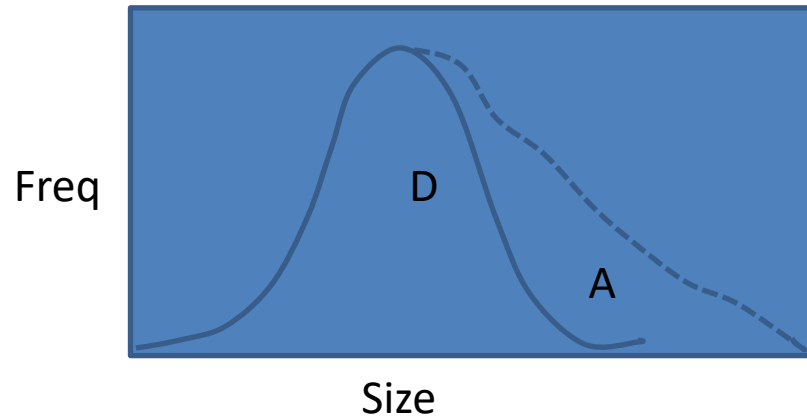
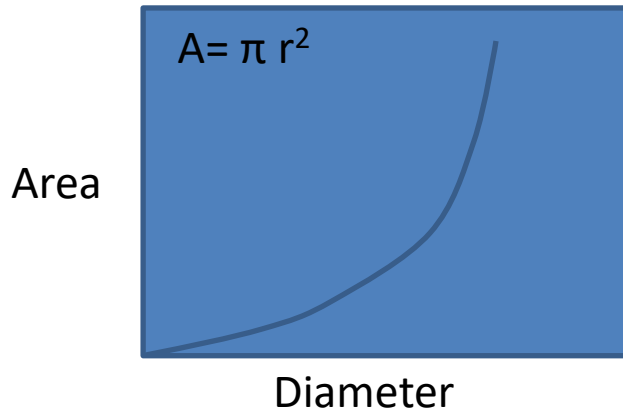
# Problems in Data Analysis

- Means

- $V_v \text{ mito} = \text{mean}P_m / \text{mean}P_t$  or mean of  $P_m/P_t$

- Circles

- meanDia and calculate area or meanArea and calculate dia

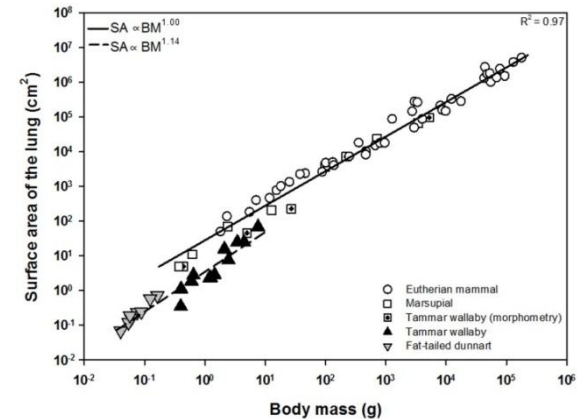
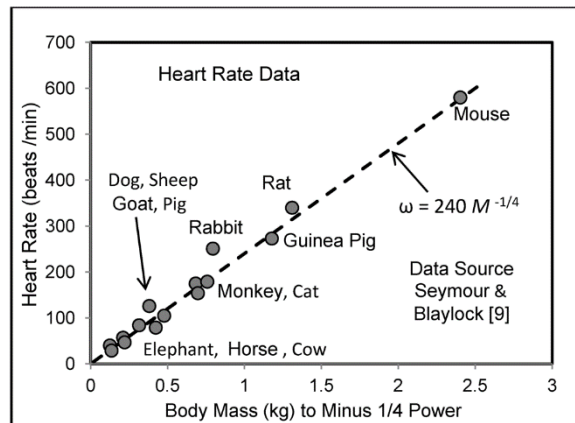
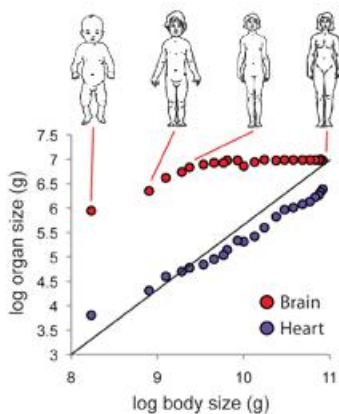


# The Bigger Picture ?

# Allometry

- Relationship of size, shape, anatomy, physiology, behaviour
- Snell (1892), D'Arcy Thompson (1917), Huxley (1932), Alexander (1970s), Weibel (1990s)
- Scaling
  - Organelles, cells, organs, organisms, populations
  - Within species
  - Between species

See also Lecture ...  
Geometric Morphometrics (Frigot)





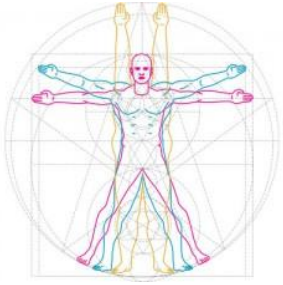
# How to conduct a measurement project



**Think  
Do More  
Less Well  
Cheaply  
Anywhere  
Yourself  
!!!**

# How to analyse a measurement project

- What questions did they ask ?
- How reliable is the visualisation of objects?
- Did they sample correctly ?
- Did they use a valid measurement tool ?
- Did they measure precisely, accurately ?
- Did they make any assumptions about shape, size, orientation etc ? Should they ?
- Did they analyse/present the data correctly ?
- Is their structural/functional/clinical reasoning valid?



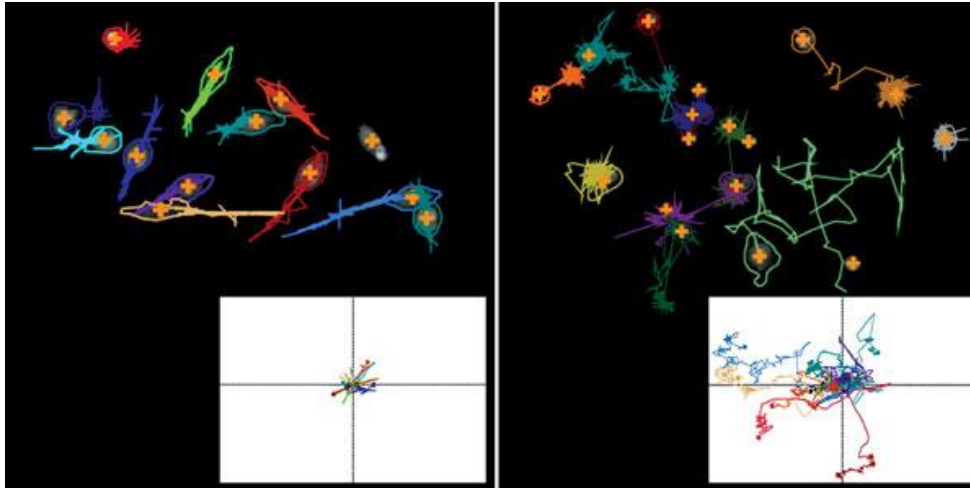
*... Caveat Emptor !*

Mike's motto .....

If it doesn't move ....., Measure it !



If it moves ....., Measure its movement as well !!



WHAT'S THE POINT OF  
ATTACHING A NUMBER  
TO EVERYTHING  
YOU DO?

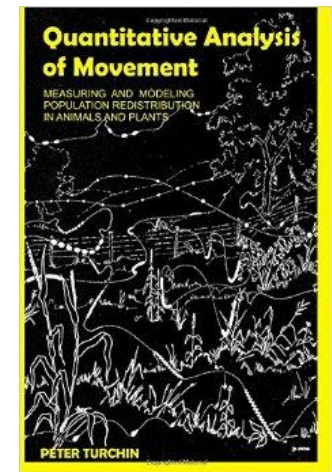
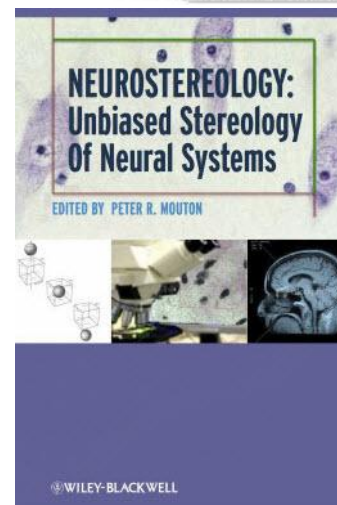
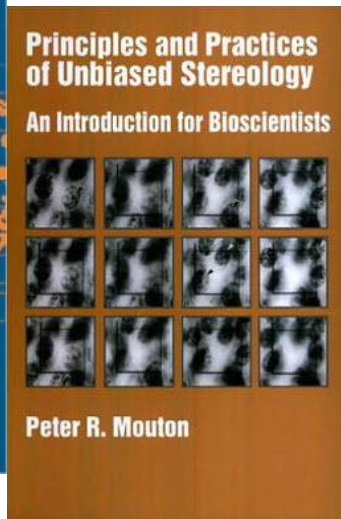
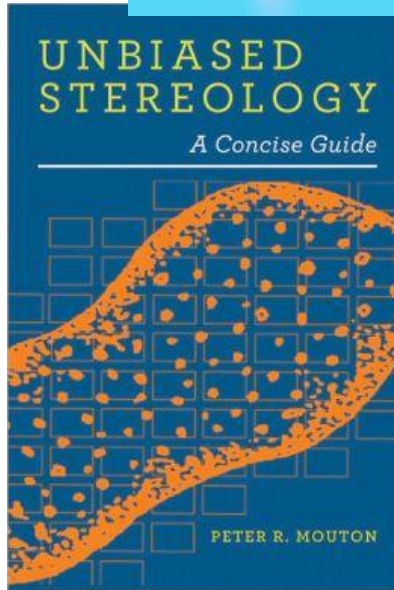
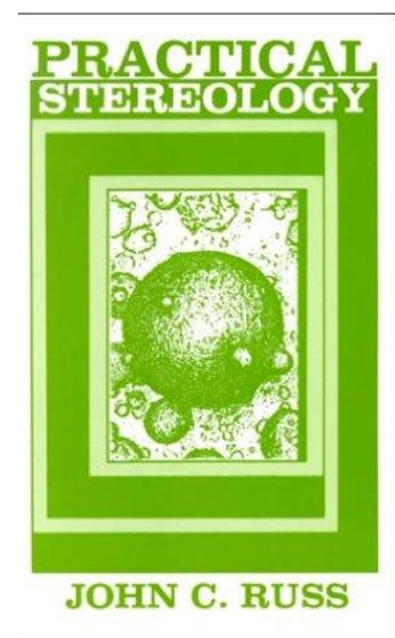
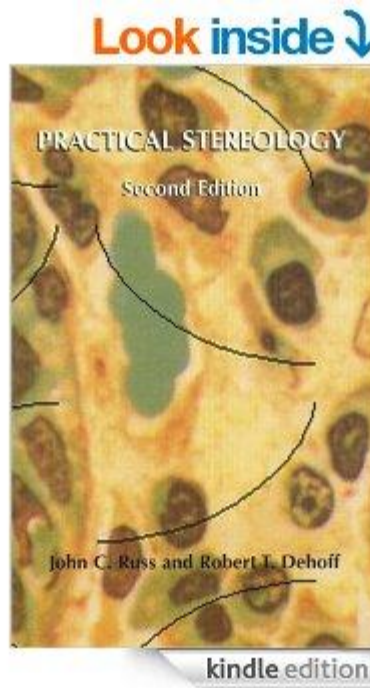
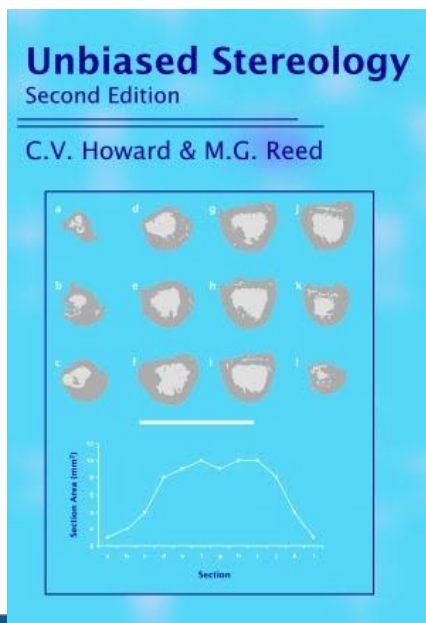


IF YOUR NUMBERS  
GO UP, IT MEANS  
YOU'RE HAVING  
MORE FUN.



SCIENCE TO  
THE SPIRIT'S  
RESCUE  
ONCE AGAIN.





<http://www.lab.anhb.uwa.edu.au/mb140/scope/stereology/stereology.htm>

[http://www.scielo.br/scielo.php?script=sci\\_arttext&pid=S0001-37652003000400006](http://www.scielo.br/scielo.php?script=sci_arttext&pid=S0001-37652003000400006)

## Question

**What is the Answer to the Ultimate Question  
of Life, the Universe & Everything ?**

**= ??**

**Key Reference: Douglas Adams "Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy"**

## PROGRAM

Venue: Medical Faculty, room B432 of the Dept. Anatomy & Neurosciences/Pathology, VU University Medical Center (VUmc), Van der Boechorststraat 7, Amsterdam

## Example Course

### Monday April 7, 2014

- 09:00 – 09:30 **Introduction to the course (Wilma)**  
09:30 – 10:15 **Principles of Stereology: 3D thinking, Sampling design (Wilma)**  
10:30 – 11:15 **Unbiased estimation of volume in human and rat tissue (Harry)**  
Theory: Cavalieri's principle; systematic random sampling; thickness measurement;  
11:15 – 12:00 **Practical exercise: estimation of the volume in rat neocortex (Harry en Wilma);**  
systematic random sampling, cavalieri's principle  
12:00 – 12:45 *Lunch break*  
12:45 – 13:30 **Unbiased estimation of the total number of cells in human and rat tissue (Wilma):** over- and underprojection; dissector and fractionator method  
13:30 – 14:15 **Confocal Microscopy, 3D object recognition and counting contacts in 3D (Floris)**  
14:15 – 15:00 **3D reconstruction from multichannel confocal laser scanning image series (Floris)**  
15:30 – 17:30 **Demonstration Part I: A) Neurolucida and Stereoinvestigator (Harry en Evelien); B) Workstations (Wilma); C) Confocal laser scanning microscopy (Floris); D) Densitometry (Pieter)**

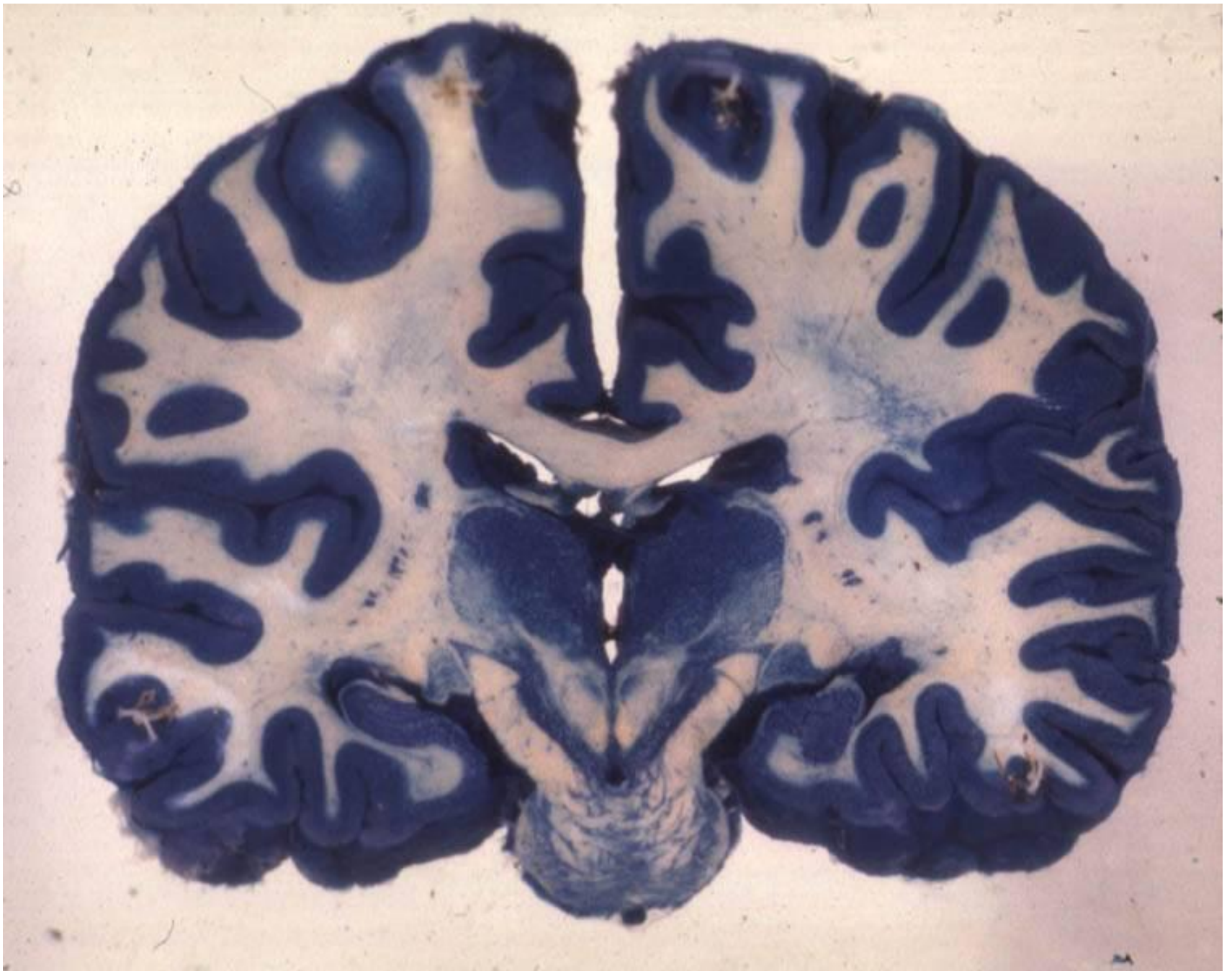
### Tuesday April 8, 2014

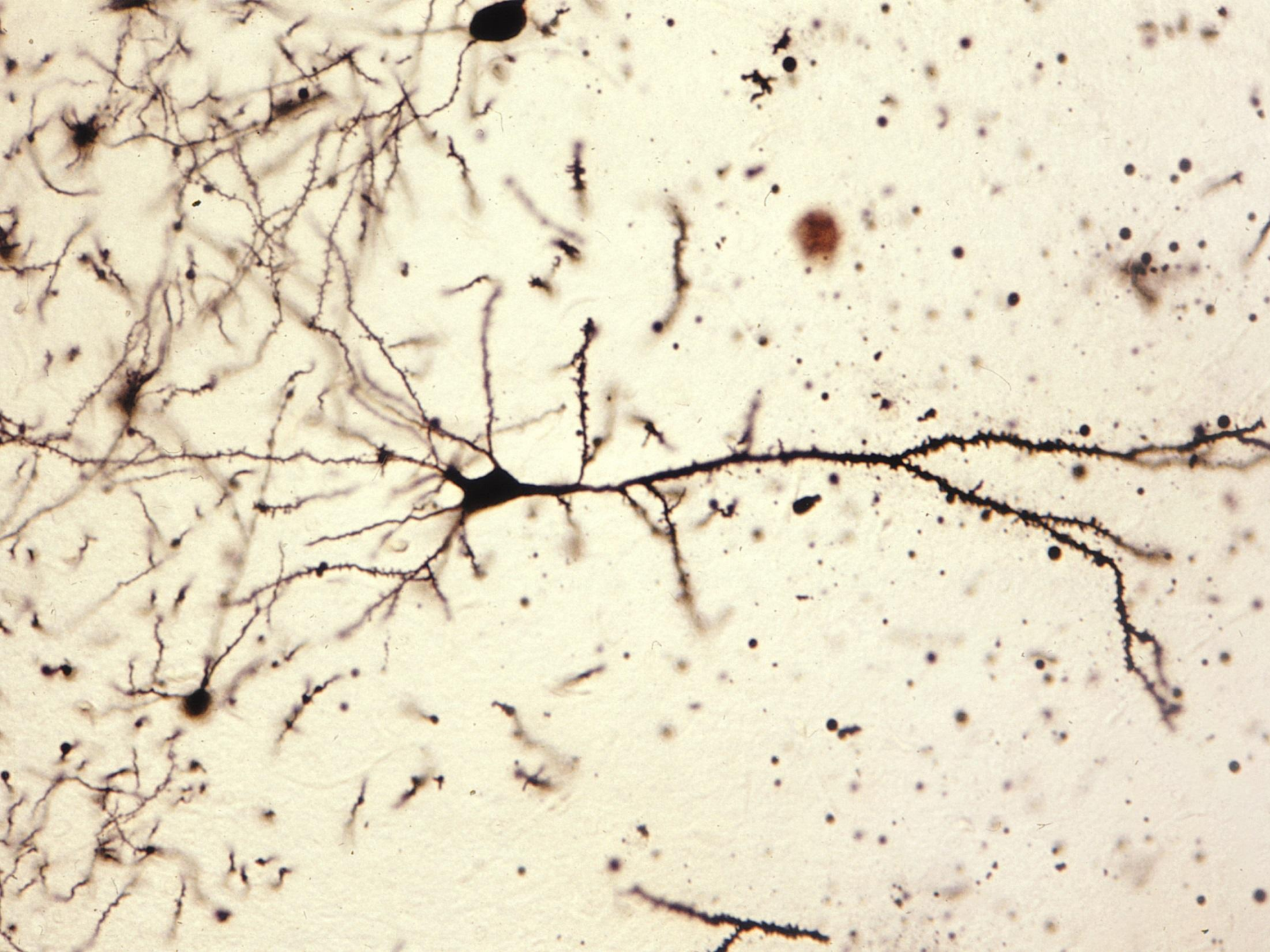
- 09:00 – 09:45 **Neuroanatomical tracing and Morphometry (Floris)**  
09:45 – 10:30 **Methods for 3D reconstruction and quantification of dendrites, synapses and spines (Wilma)**  
10:45-11:30 **Brain Mapping using microscopic imaging techniques (Wilma)**  
11:30 – 12:00 **What a single cell can tell us about the cerebral cortex (Cathrin Canto)**  
12:00 – 13:00 *Lunch break*  
13:00 - 13.45 **Anisotropy-Isotropy: how to overcome anisotropy? (Harry)**  
13:45 – 14.30 **The nucleator principle: size estimation, spatial distribution (Harry)**  
14:30- 15:15 **Vascular Morphometry (Wilma)**  
15:30 – 17:30 **Demonstration Part I: A) Neurolucida and Stereoinvestigator (Harry en Evelien); B) Workstations (Wilma); C) Confocal laser scanning microscopy (Floris); D) Densitometry (Pieter)**

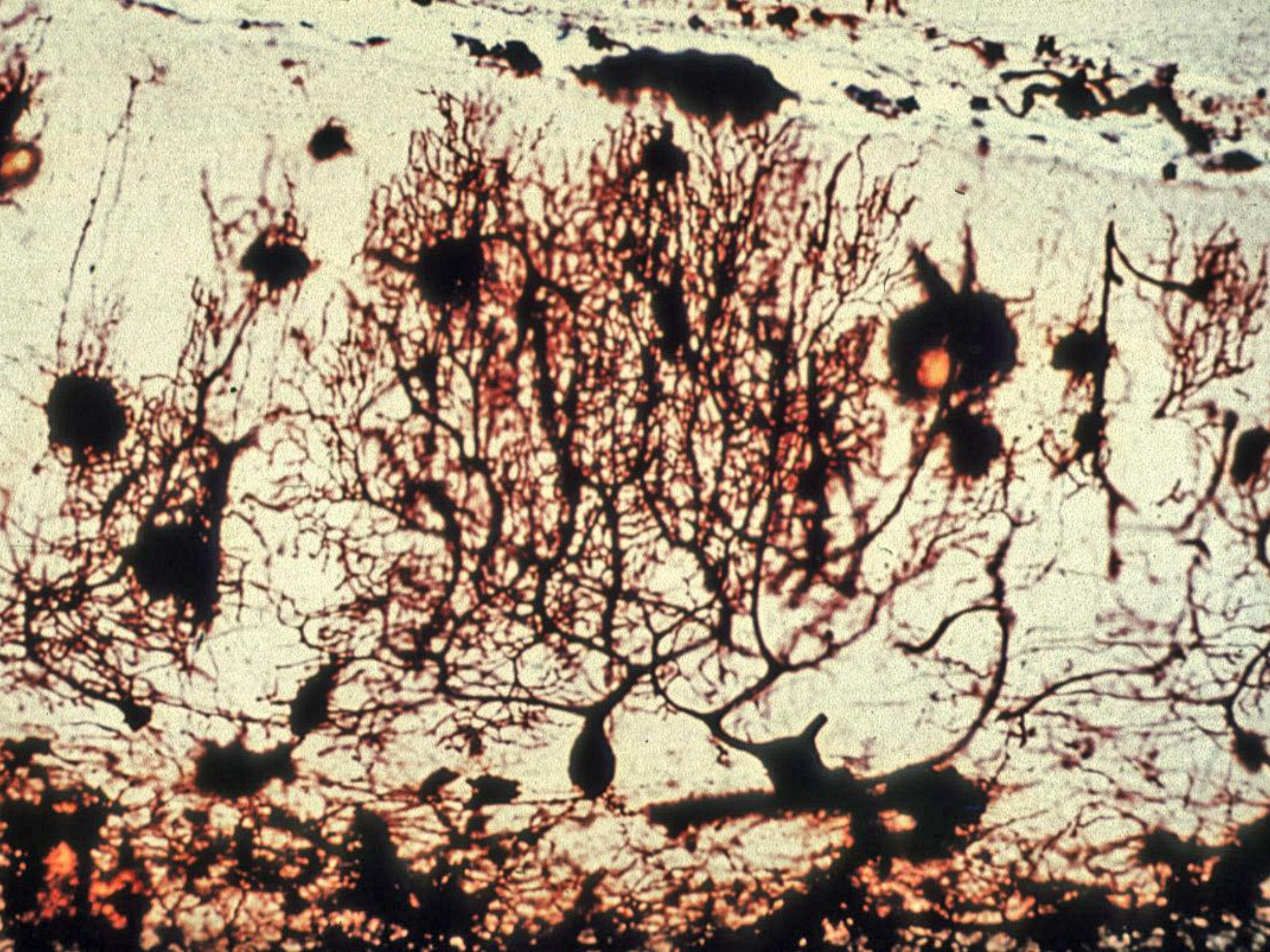
### Wednesday April 9, 2014

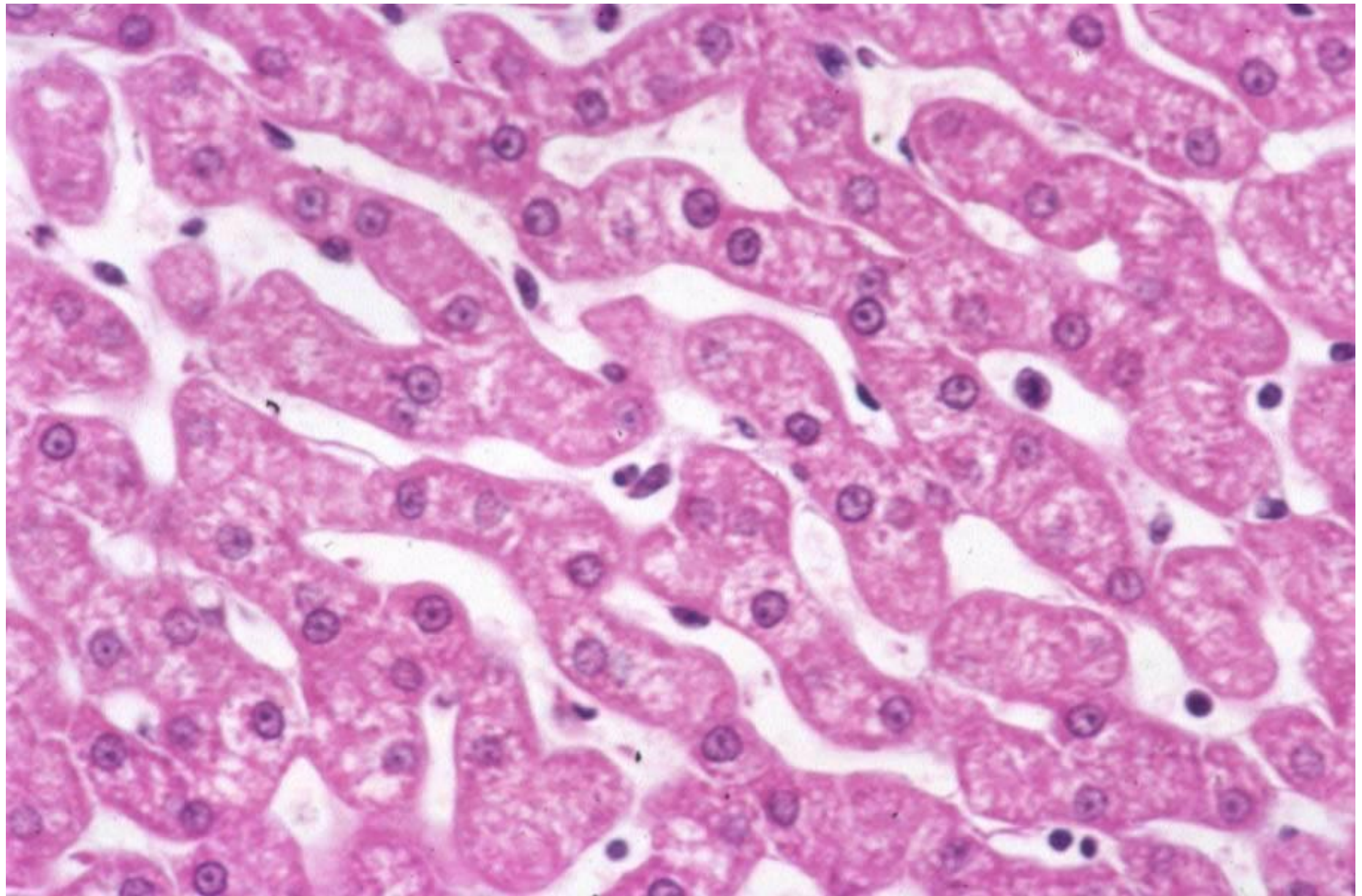
- 09:00 –09:45 **Microscopy (J-185)**  
10.00-10.45 **Microscopic imaging and densitometry (Pieter)**  
11.00-12:00 **Structure and ultrastructure of biological samples (Wilma)**  
12:00 – 13:00 *Lunch break*  
13:00 – 13:45 **Histological pitfalls: delineation, tissue embedding and deformation, shrinkage, Immunohistochemistry (Harry)**  
13:45 -14:30 **Estimation of precision (Harry)**  
14:30- 15:00 **How to deal with biological variability? (Harry)**  
15:00 -17:00 **Demonstration Part I: A) Neurolucida and Stereoinvestigator (Harry en Evelien); B) Workstations (Wilma); C) Confocal laser scanning microscopy (Anne-Marie en John Bol); D) Densitometry (Pieter)**  
17:00 – 18:00 **Course evaluation and Farewell drink.**



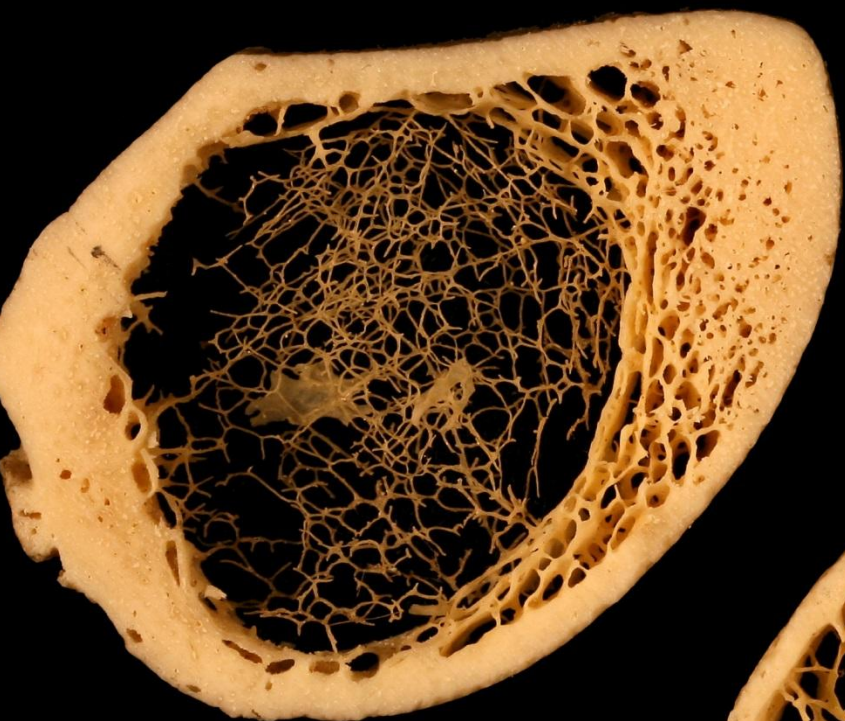


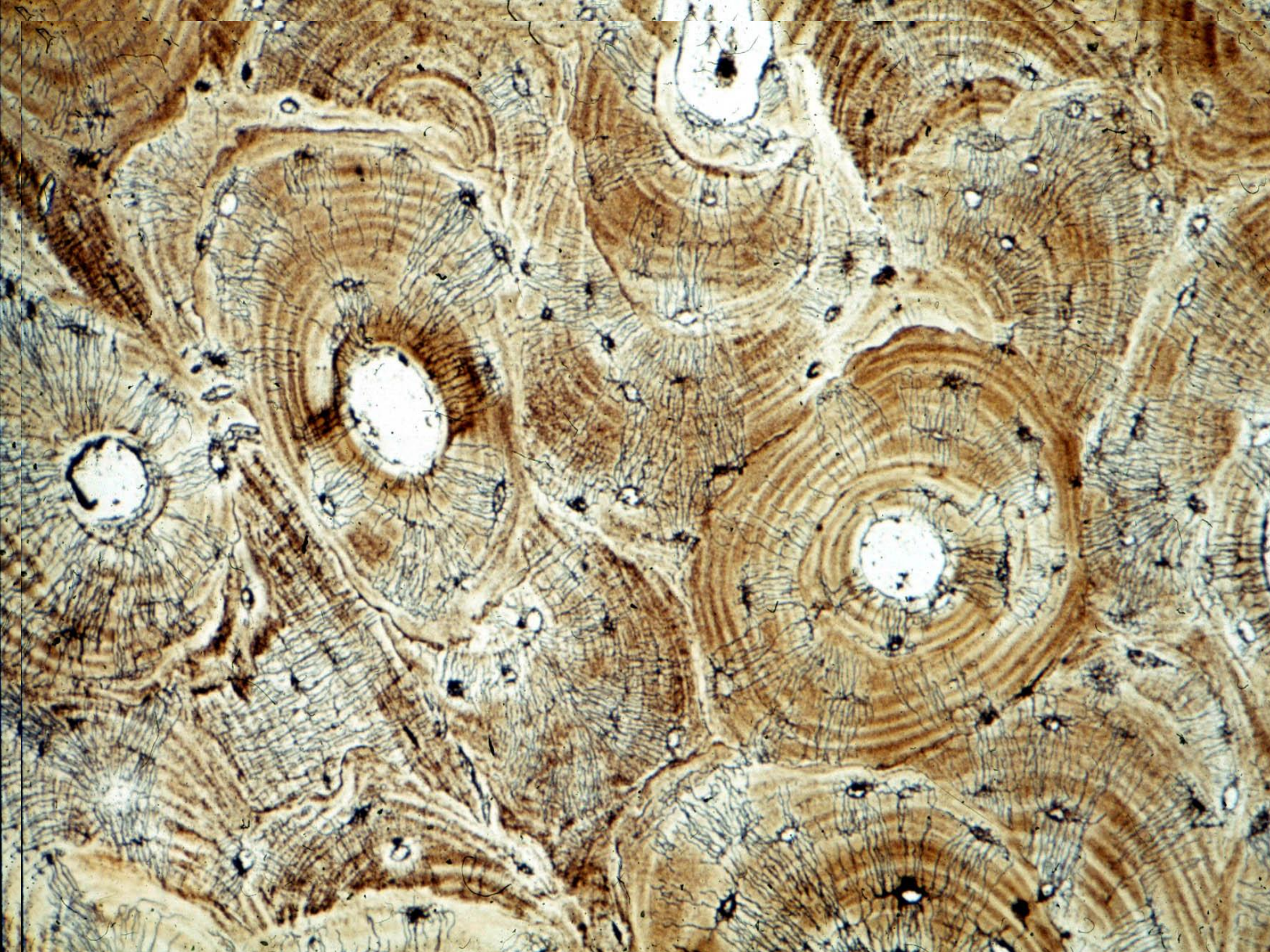


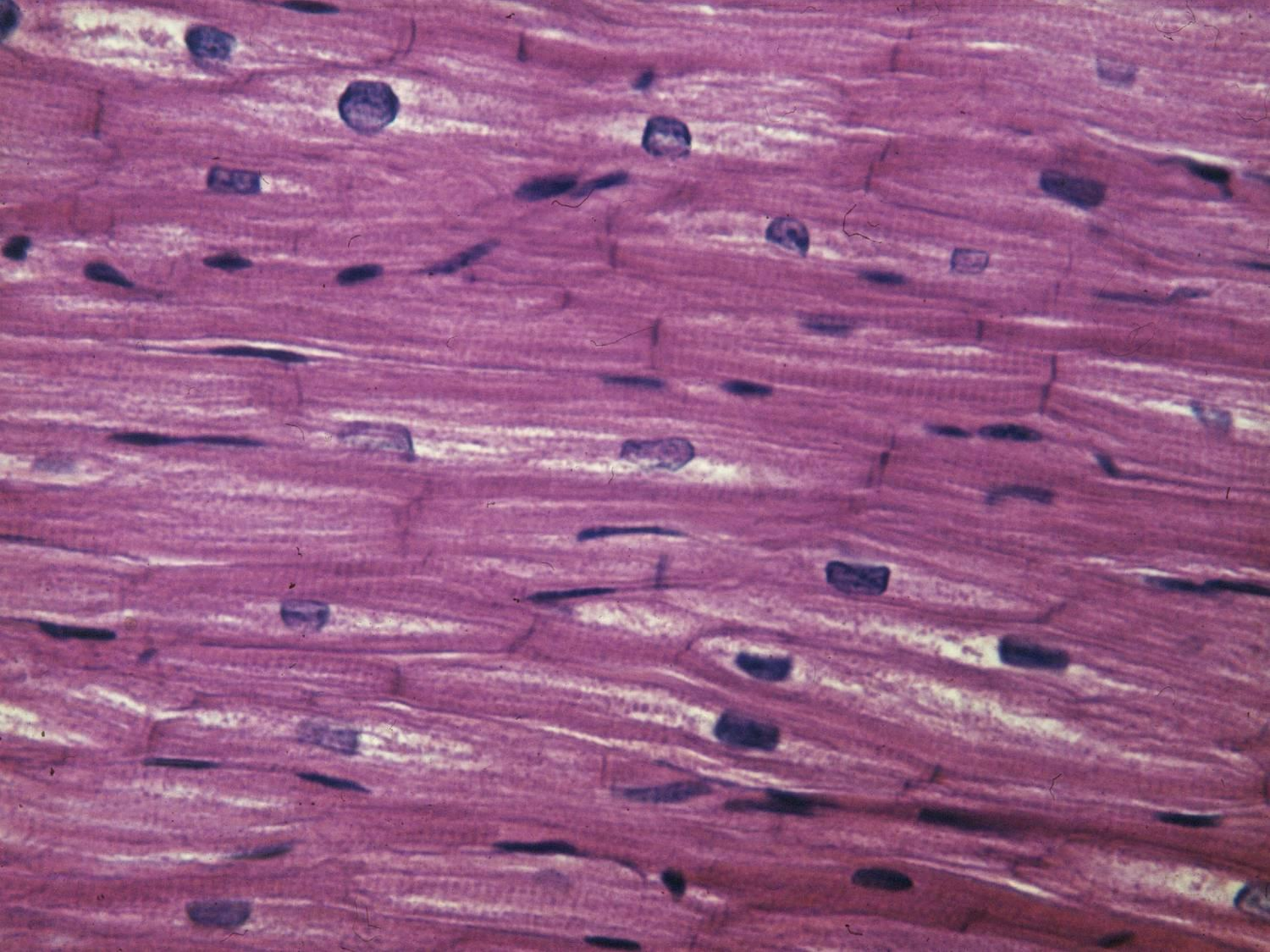




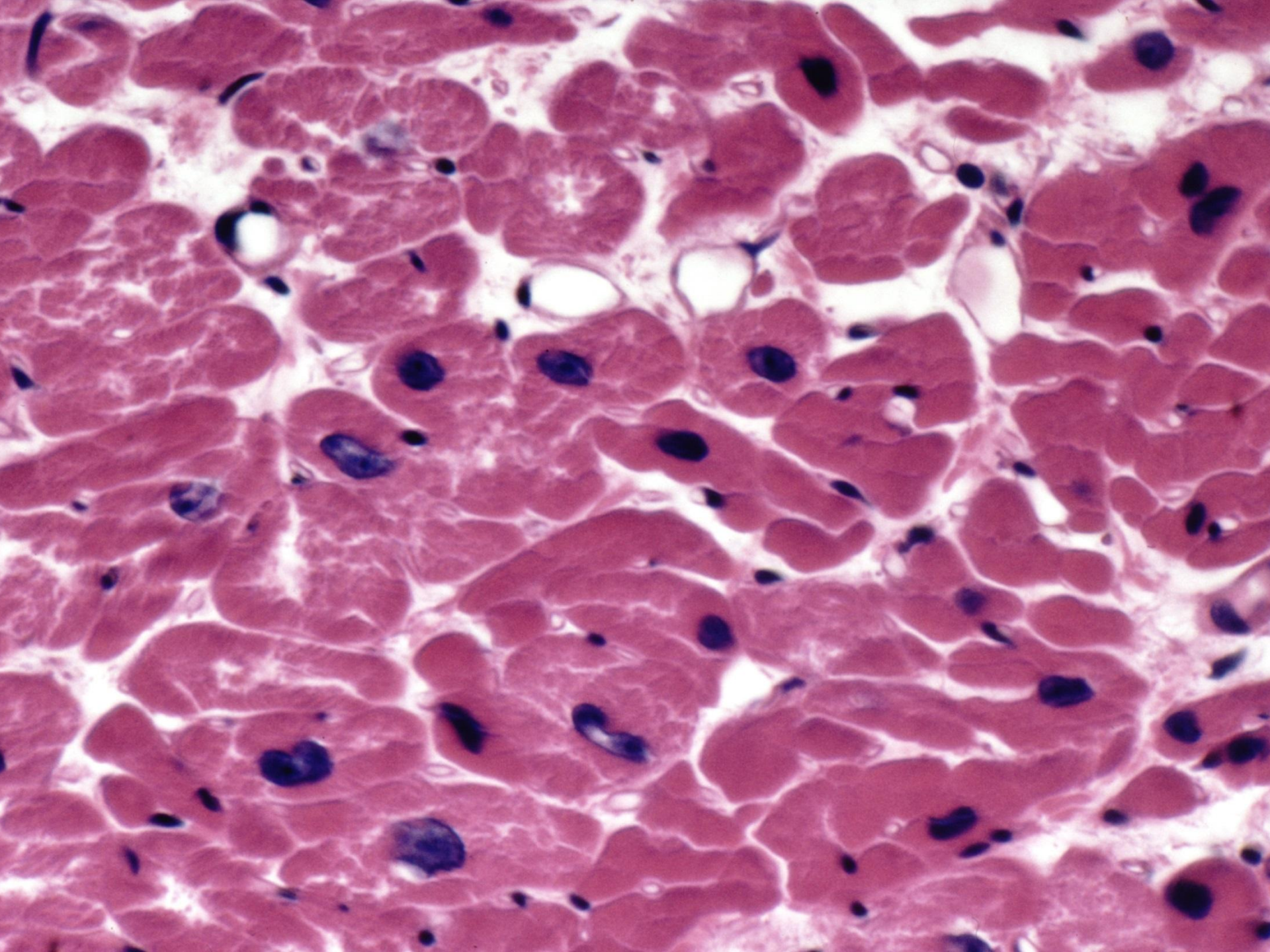


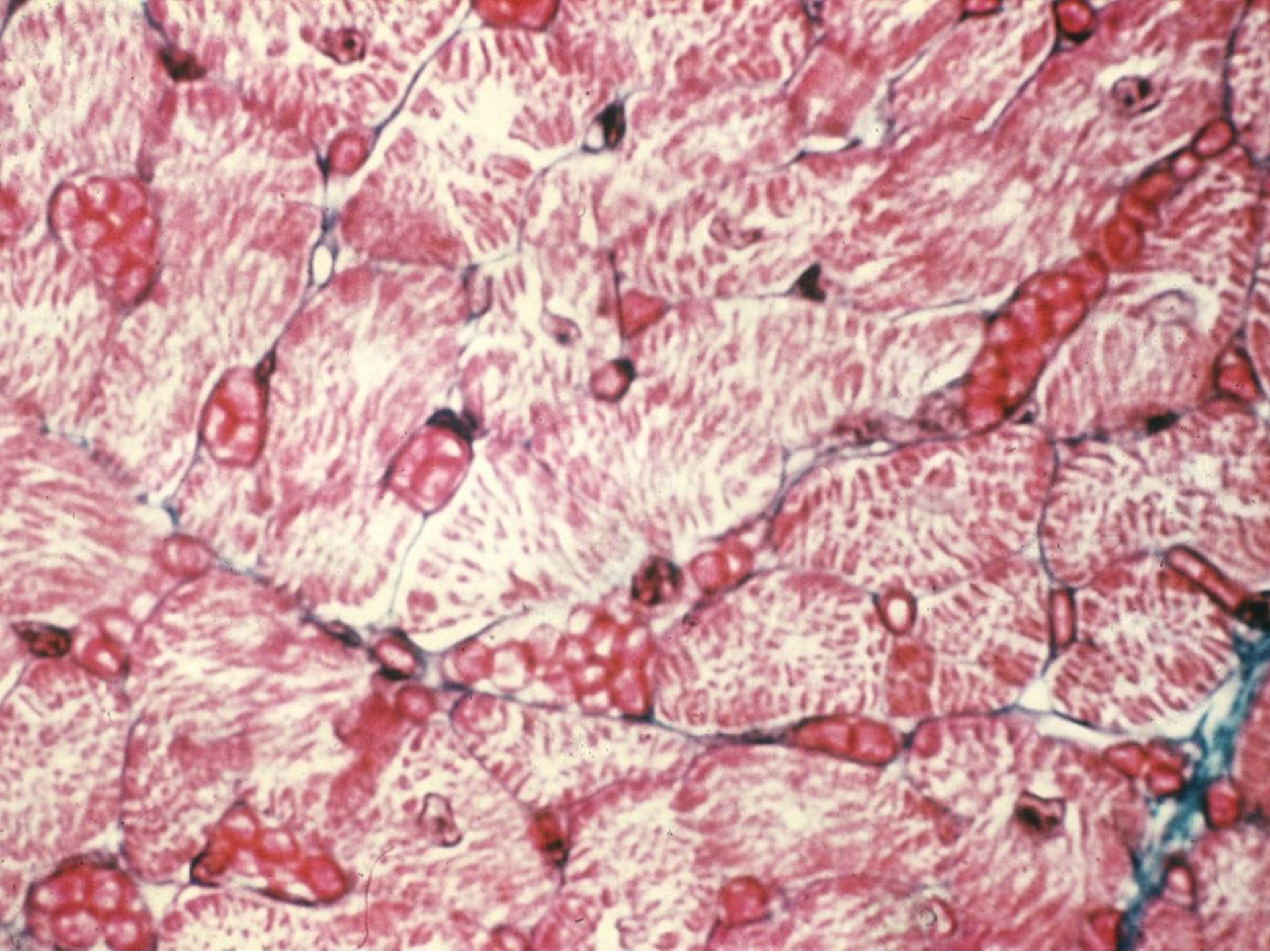


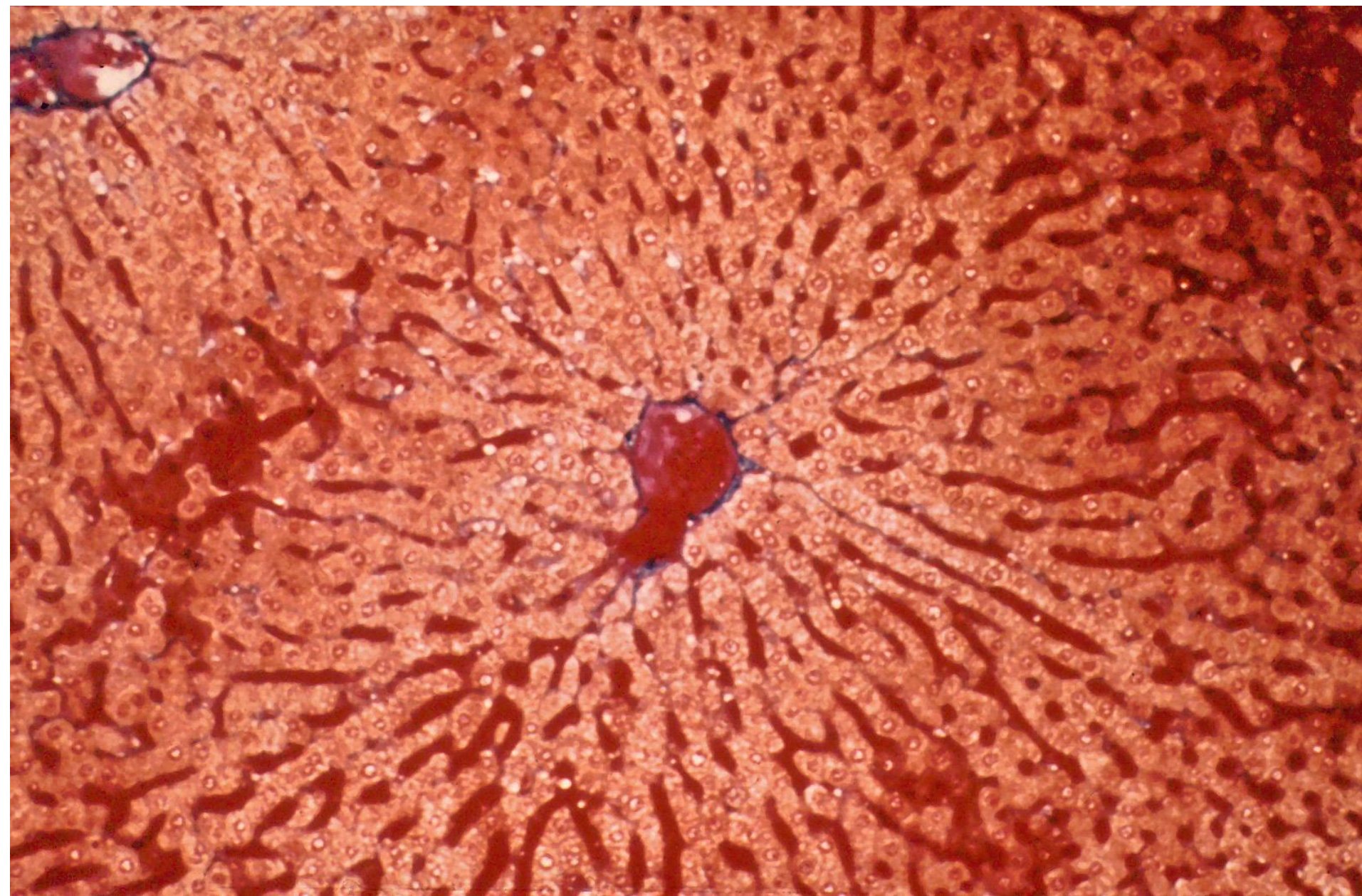


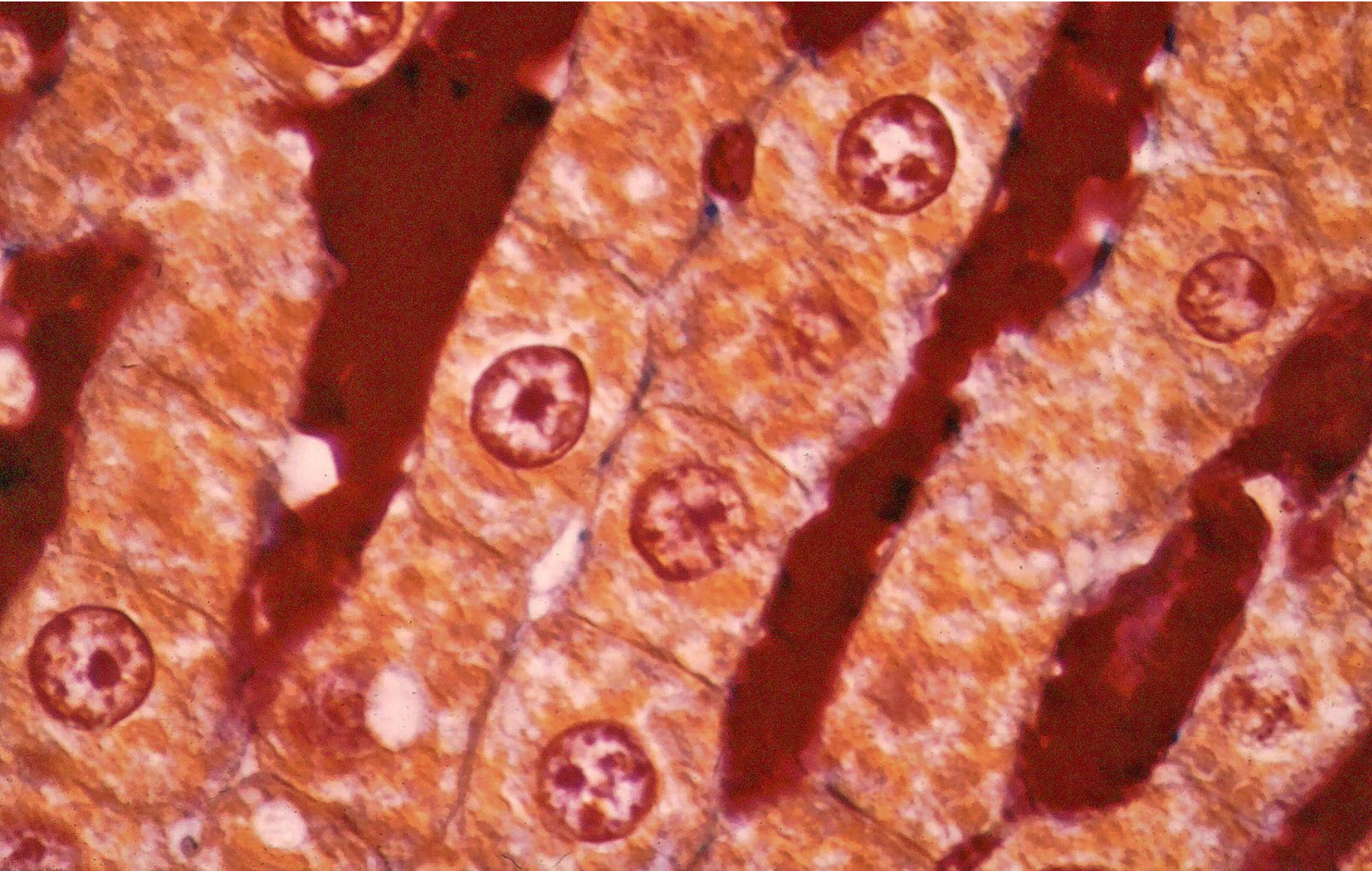














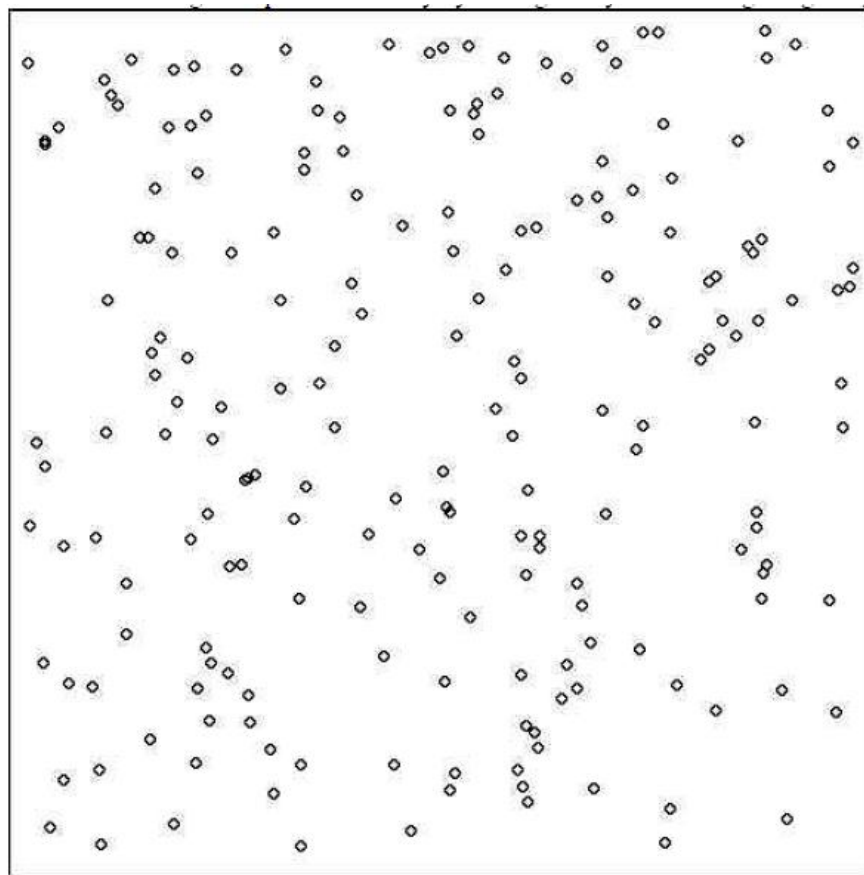
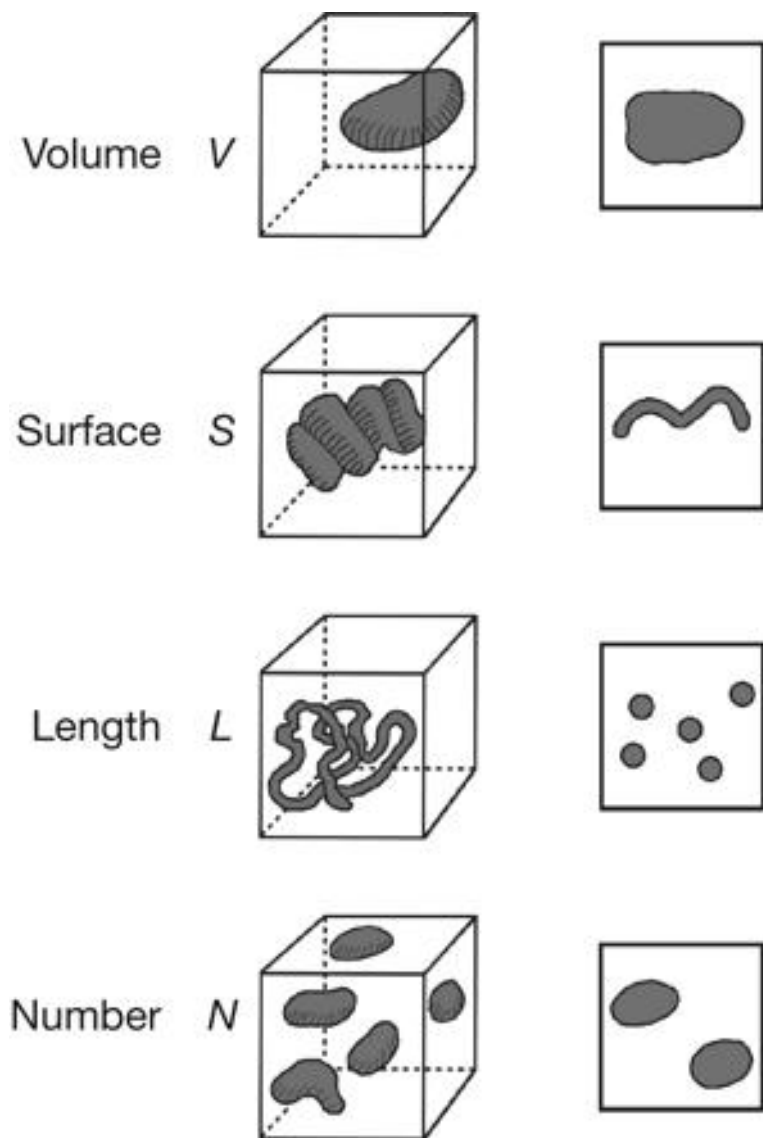


Figure 2. An example of 200 random points. Note the presence of clusters of points that oversample some regions while large gaps exist elsewhere.

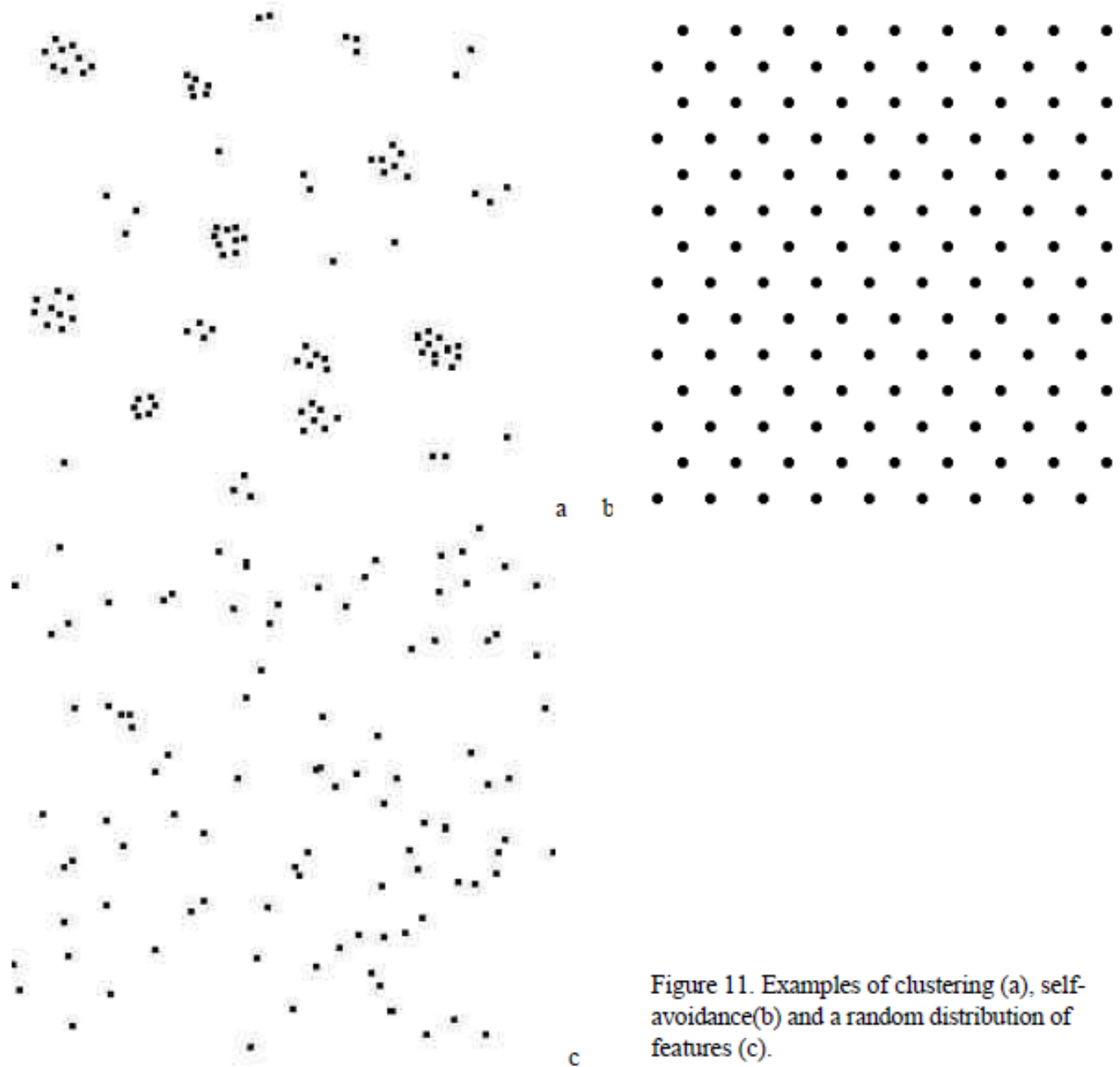


Figure 11. Examples of clustering (a), self-avoidance(b) and a random distribution of features (c).

