

**BIO-INSPIRED  
MATERIALS**

NATIONAL CENTER OF COMPETENCE  
IN RESEARCH

# Introduction to ImageJ

## Session 4: 3D

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**adolphe merkle institute**  
excellence in pure and applied nanoscience



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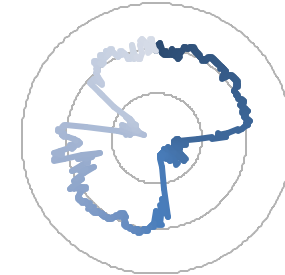
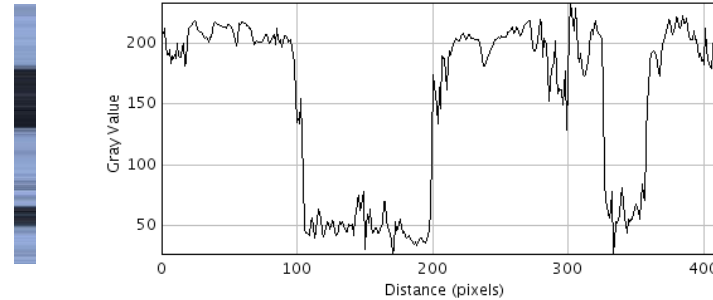
# Going digital – what is a digital image?

A digital image is an ordered rectangular array (or grid) of **integers (numbers: 0,1,2,3...)**.  
Each element (=number) in the grid is also known as a picture element or 'Pixel'

## Spectrum

1 dimensional  
array

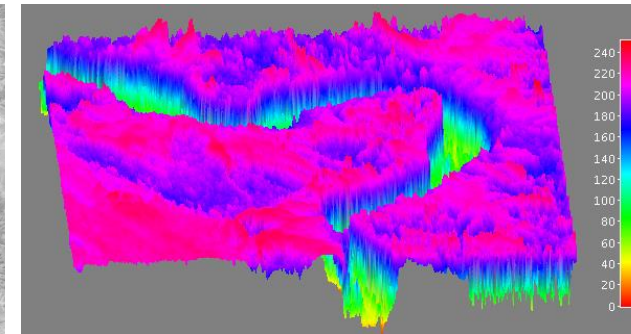
208  
209  
213  
198  
191  
191  
195  
184  
190  
188  
191  
188  
200



## Image

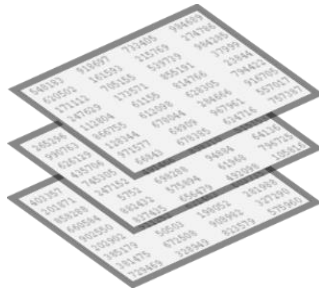
2 dimensional  
array

82	72	78	86	65	41
157	144	167	188	201	191
185	191	195	188	188	191
193	195	195	191	189	171
173	170	181	192	194	191
210	214	206	202	203	201
237	224	221	230	232	221
183	180	190	188	192	181
178	170	159	187	195	181
167	164	170	186	192	181
159	162	164	184	170	161
180	172	165	172	185	171
193	180	196	195	185	171
167	184	182	183	180	171
195	191	182	189	195	181
183	188	184	183	174	161
101	106	105	170	100	101



## Stacks

3D array  
(= volume stack or  
video/Timelapse)



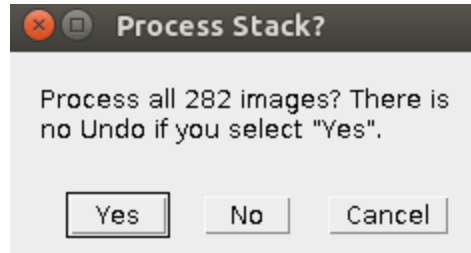
Types of 3D data





# Filters, point operators, ... and stacks

Upon running a function over a stack, you will often get a question:



Hence, all

- Filters
- Bandpass filters
- Point operators
- Binary functions
- etc...

Are also valid for stacks

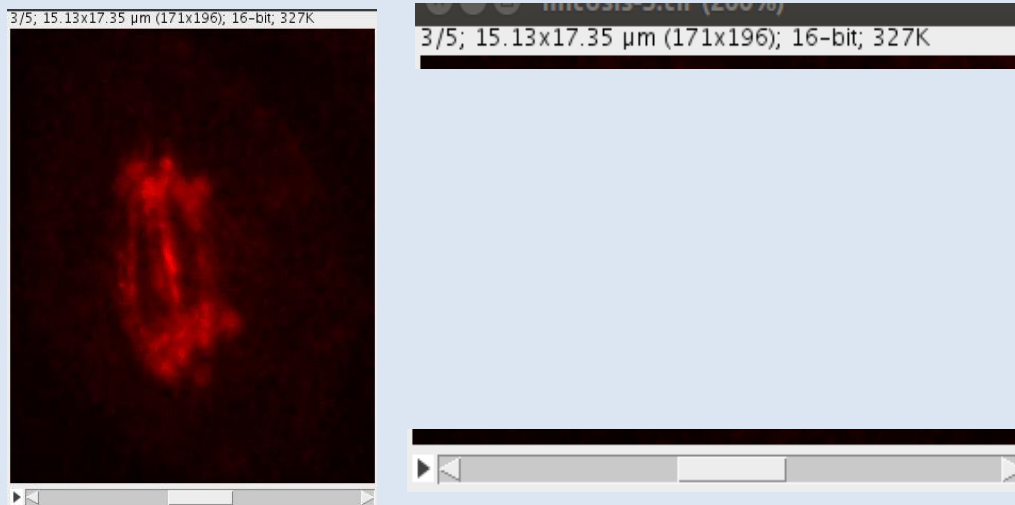


Sobel filter on RGB Lena

# Stacks

## Prerequisites

- All the slices in a stack must be the same size (X,Y) and bit depth.
- The slice thickness is considered constant (Z)

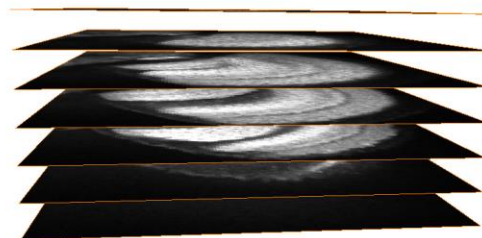
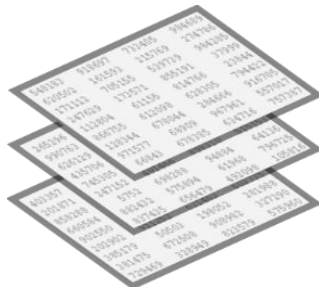


## Type of stacks

1. 2D images with **encoded Z information** (e.g. AFM)
2. **Channels (or layers)** are multiple images stored within one file. Typically, they contain different color absorption functions of the same object
3. **Z layers** are images recorded at different depth positions through the object
4. **Time lapse** are images recorded at a different time point
5. **Hyperstacks** ( $n > 3$ )

## Stacks

3D array  
(= volume stack or video)



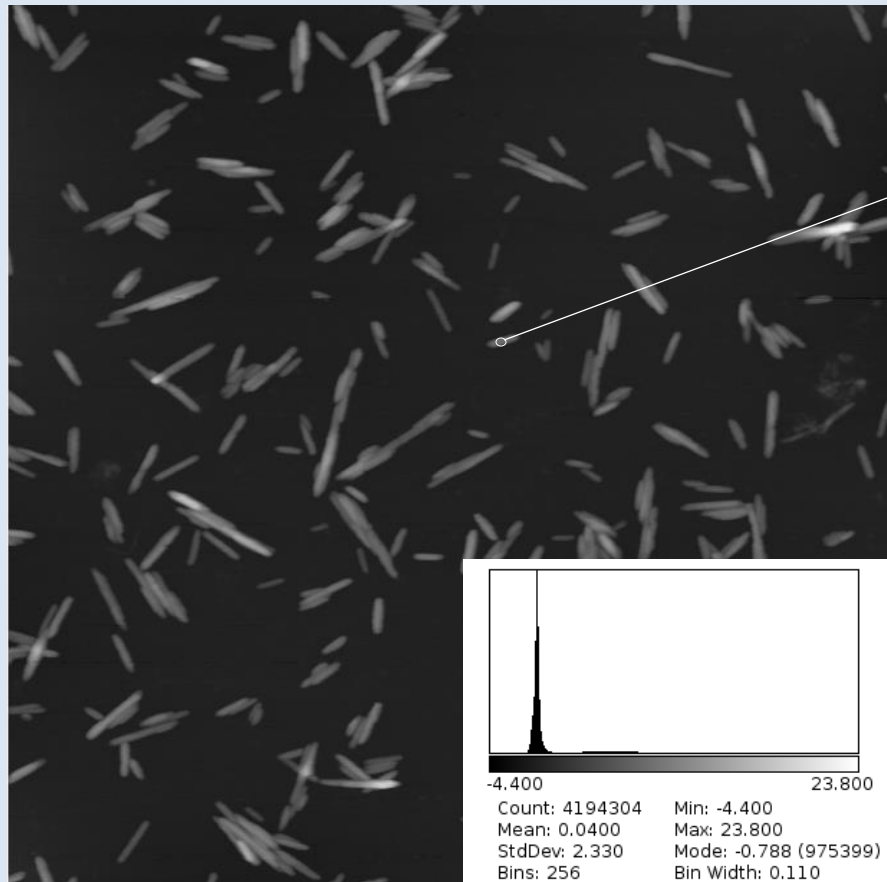
# 1. Height maps

Gwyddion

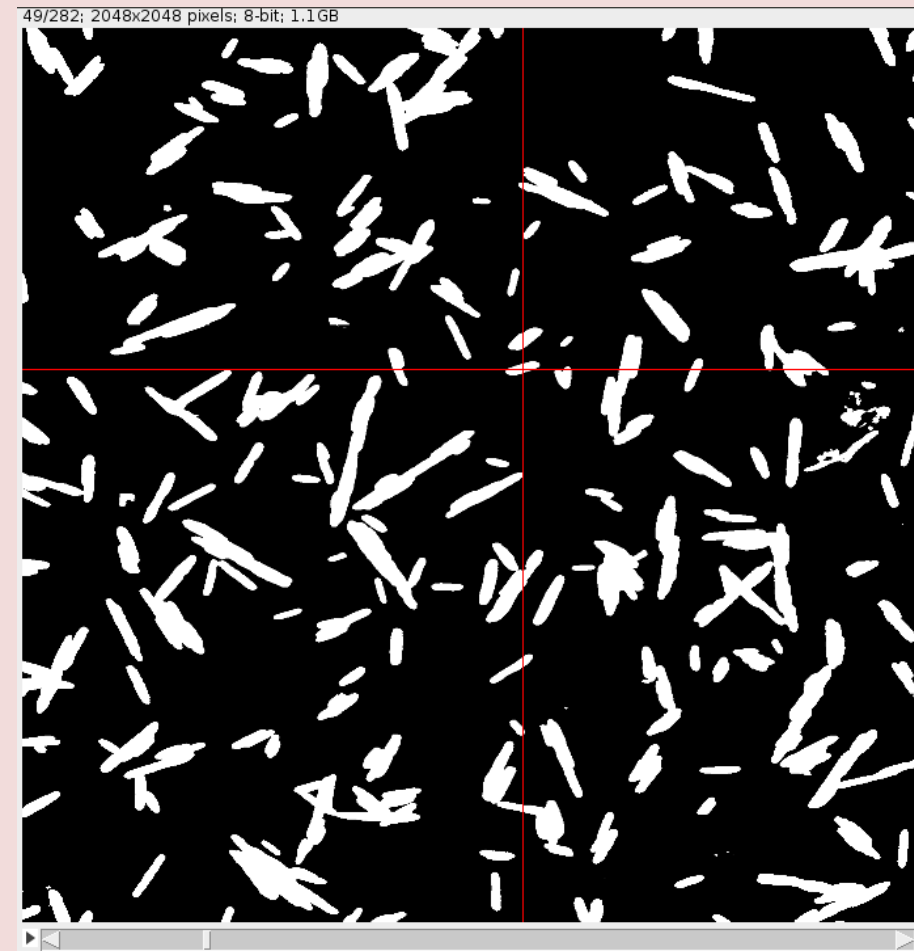
Open SPM (AFM, SNOM/NSOM, STM, MFM, ...) data analysis software

## e.g. AFM height maps

- 2D image
- Pixel value = height = height map



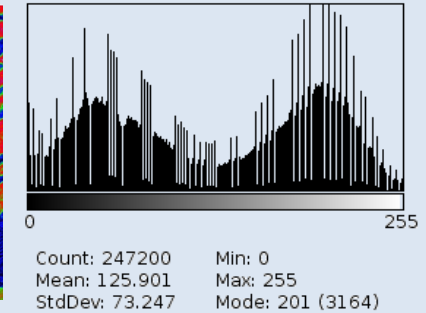
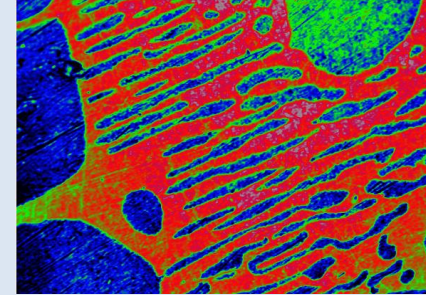
## 3D Map (XY view, transformed height map) XZ view (10X)



## 2. Channels

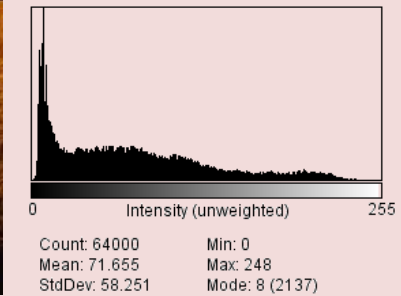
### Pseudo-color

= a single channel (grayscale) equipped with a LUT



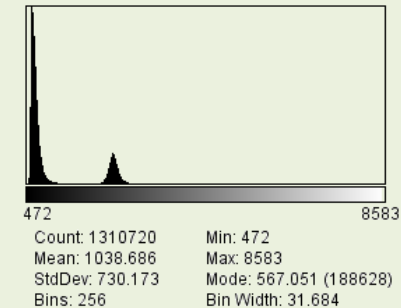
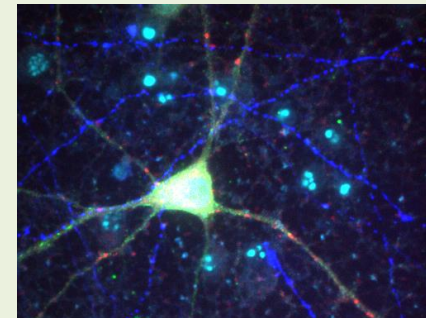
### RGB images (24 bit=3x8bit)

3 layers, reflecting the natural red, green and blue colors (or HSL, CMYK, HSV, ...)



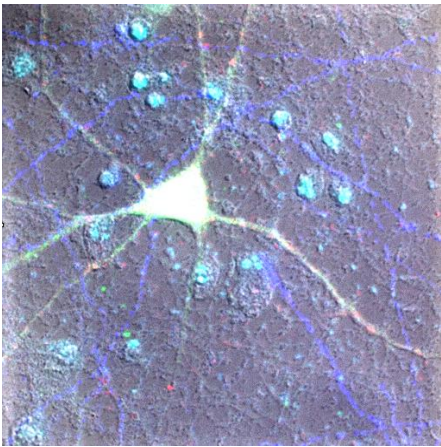
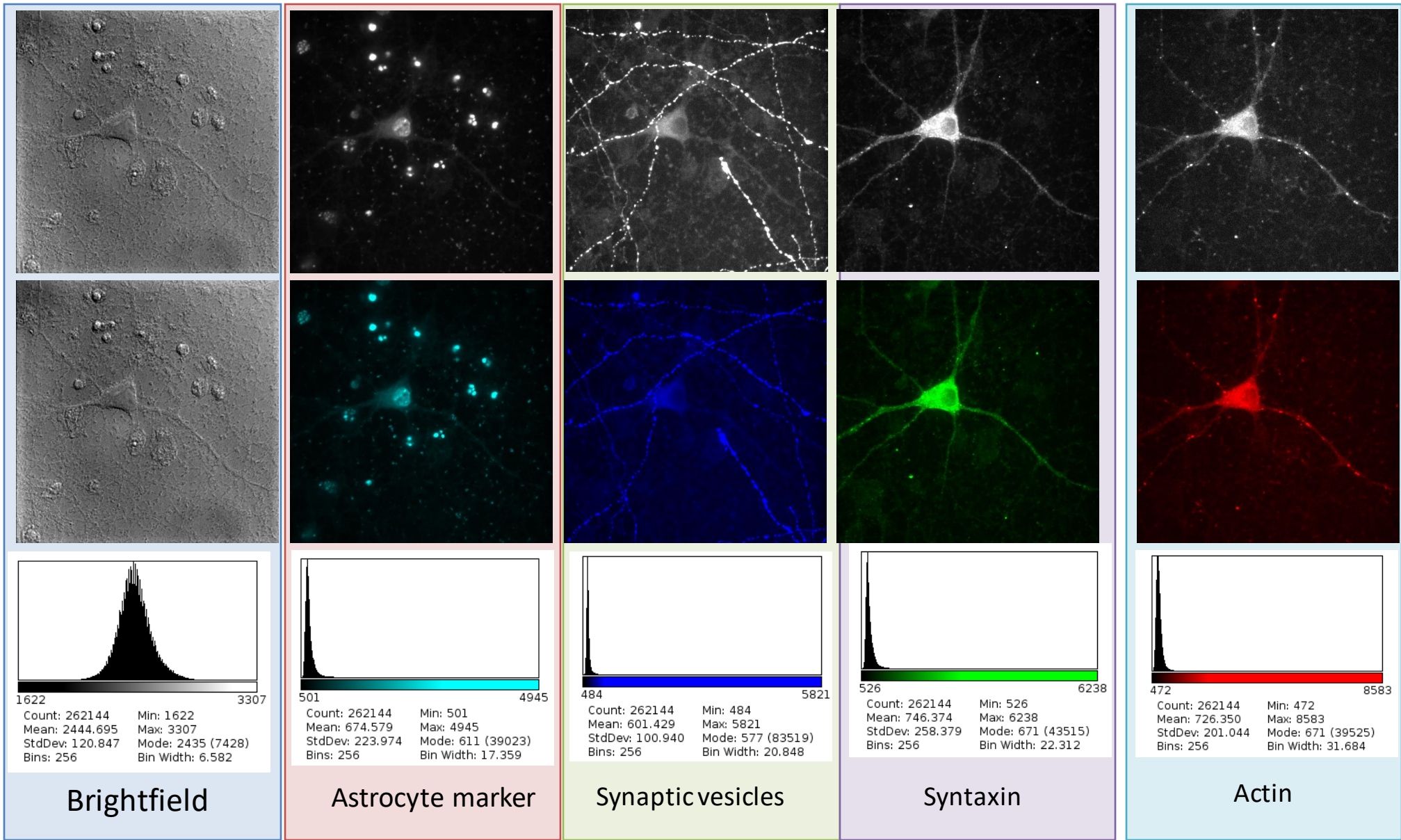
### Composite images (flexible: e.g. 5x16bit)

n layers, separated. For example LSM multi channel data





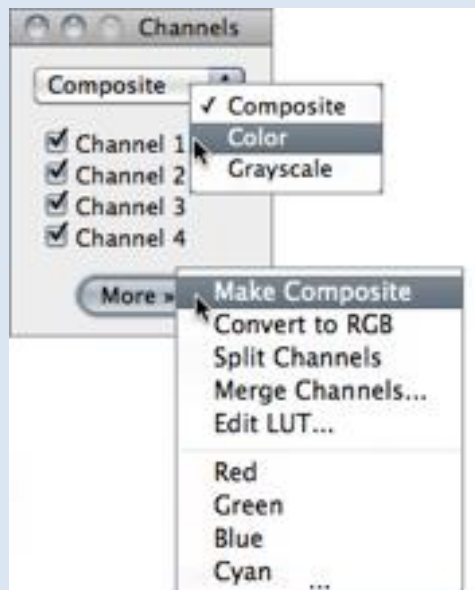
# Channels: composite images



Composite image



# Channels tool



## Image > Color > Channels tool

**Composite:** overlaying the layers of choice (also for RGB images)  
**Color:** showing only one layer, with LUT. Change the LUT of the selected layer  
**Grayscale:** showing only one layer, in grayscale LUT  
(Clicking on the channel selector = use the channel scrollbar below the image)

**Make composite:** splits the color image in its layers  
**Convert to RGB:** joins the layers into a 2D RGB image (you will end up with 1 window)  
**Split channels:** makes n windows of each channel  
**Merge channels:** Tool to put n single channels together into a composite stack



## Image > Color > Merge Channels

Combines n images into a composite image

- Prerequisite: all images have the same size (width, height and bitdepth)
- Choose the LUT (color)
- Once merged: check the "Arrange" menu entry (Image > color > Arrange...)

# Channels: split, arrange, and merge

## EXERCISE

Open Example 1

### **Convert to Composite**

Convert a color image to a composite image (Image > color > channels tool: More > make composite)

### **Split a composite dataset in its grayscale components**

Split the three channels (Channels tool: More > split channels)

### **Optional: change the LUT of each of the grayscale components**

Change LUTs if required (Image Lookup tables)

### **Merge channels**

Merge the channels again to an RGB image (Image > color > Merge channels OR Channels tool: more > merge channels)

### **Change the order of the grayscale channels in the composite dataset**

Arrange: Change the order of the layers in the stack (Image > color > Arrange Channels...)

# Channels tool: example RGB image





# Channels tool: example RGB image

The diagram illustrates the workflow for splitting and merging an RGB image using the Channels tool.

**Initial Image:** A clown image titled `clown.jpg` (320x200 pixels, 8-bit, 188K).

**Splitting Channels:** The **Channels** panel is used to split the image. The **More »** button is clicked, leading to a menu where **Split Channels** is selected. This results in three individual channel images:

- C1-clown.jpg (RGB)**: The Red channel (320x200 pixels, 8-bit, 62K).
- C2-clown.jpg (RGB)**: The Green channel (320x200 pixels, 8-bit, 62K).
- C3-clown.jpg (RGB)**: The Blue channel (320x200 pixels, 8-bit, 62K).

**Merging Channels:** The **Merge Channels** dialog is used to recombine the channels. The settings are:

- C1 (red): `C1-clown.jpg (RGB)`
- C2 (green): `C2-clown.jpg (RGB)`
- C3 (blue): `C3-clown.jpg (RGB)`
- C4 (gray): `*None*`
- C5 (cyan): `*None*`
- C6 (magenta): `*None*`
- C7 (yellow): `*None*`
- ☒ Create composite
- ☐ Keep source images
- ☐ Ignore source LUTs

The **OK** button is clicked to merge the channels back into a single composite image.

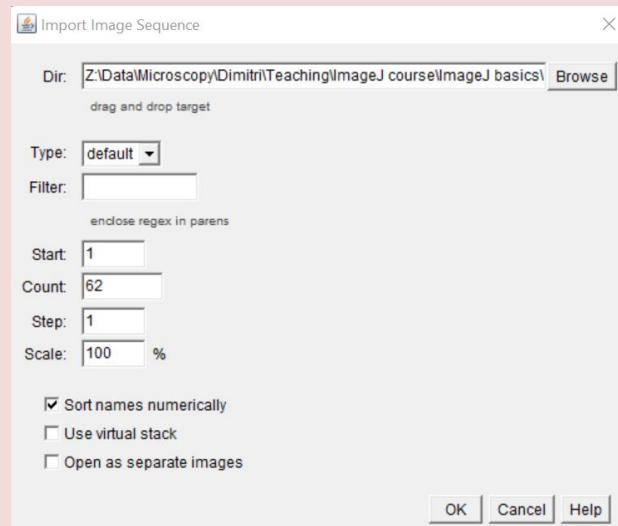
**Final Image:** The merged composite image, titled `clown.jpg` (320x200 pixels, 8-bit, 188K).

# 3. Z-stacks

## 1. File format including the entire Z-stack

Native	TIFF	
Non-Native	lsm (Zeiss)	Use LSM toolbox
	lif (Leica)	Use Bio-Formats plugin

## 2. Sequence = a number of 2D images (same XY size, same bitdepth) in a single folder



### File > Import > Image Sequence

Enter or browse the folder path

Filter: regex patterning, e.g. 'tif' will only select images that have 'tif' in their filename

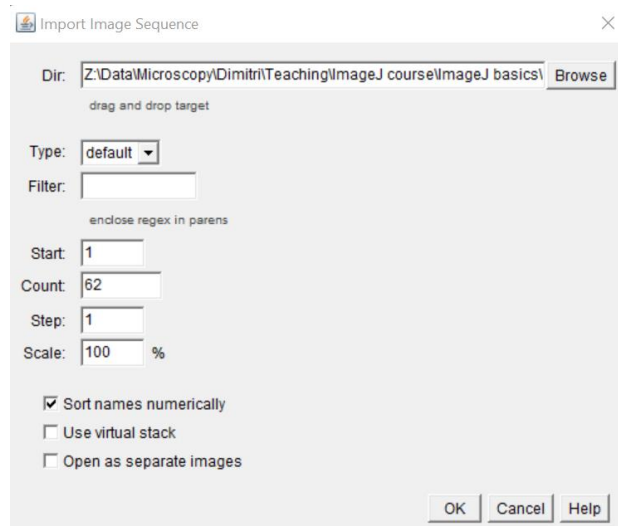
Possibility to reduce the stack

Import options

# Opening sequences

## EXERCISE

Open Example 2 (the folder) and import the sequence



- **File > Import > Image Sequence**
- Locate the folder
- (you do not see the actual files in the folder)
- Filter: allows filename filtering (e.g. tif will only include files that have tif in the filename)

All images must have the same size! (X, Y and bitdepth!)

Watch out for **OS generated thumbnail files**

Possibility to open as virtual stack

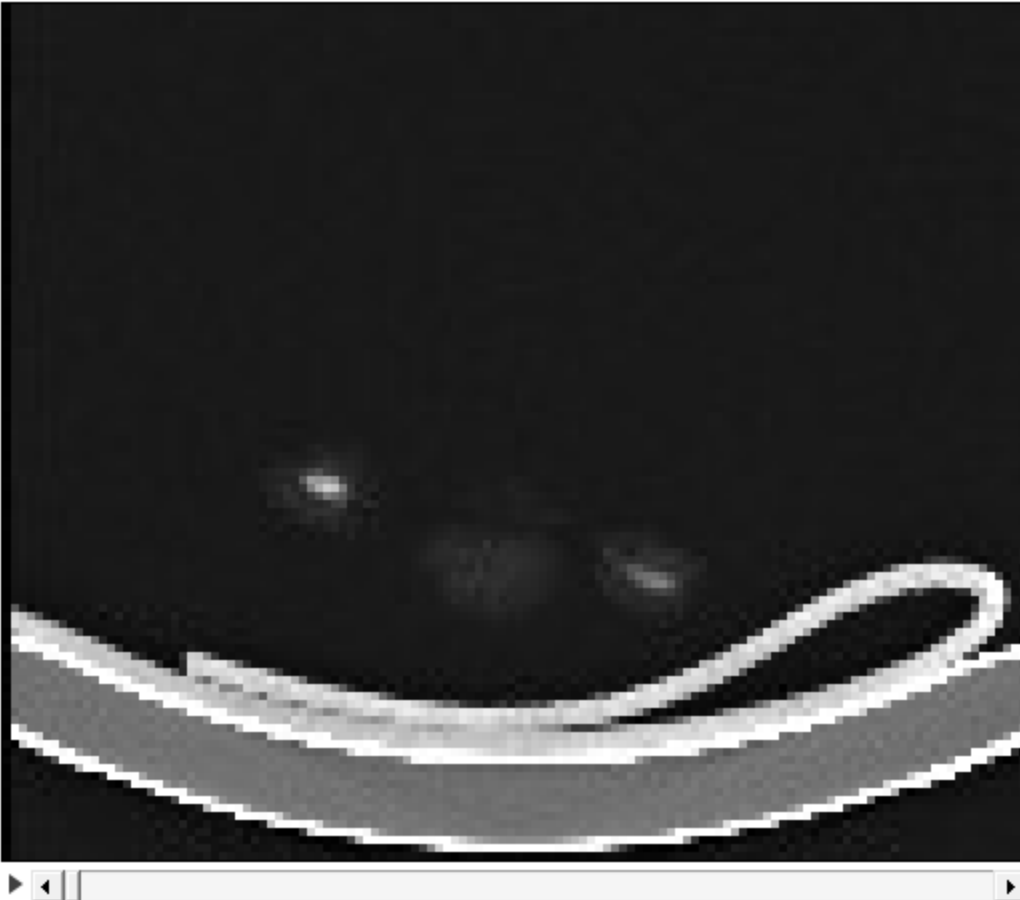


# Opening sequences

## EXERCISE

Open Example 2 (the folder) and import the sequence

1/124 (Data000); 128x107 pixels; 8-bit; 1.6MB



Stack of 124 Slices, now looking at slice 1  
X = 128  
Y = 107  
Z = 124

Works exactly the same if you would have opened a multi-image file (eg. Tiff)

What is the difference between TIF and TIFF?

Move through the  
stack

# Operations on Z-stacks

Image > stacks Add Slice, Delete Slice, Next Slice, Previous Slice, Set Slice...

Image > Stacks > Make montage      Produces a single grid-image containing the individual images that compose stacks and hyperstacks

Image > stacks > Stacks to Images      Releases the n images in the one stack window into n windows (watch out with large stacks!)

Image > stacks > Images to Stacks      Takes all open Images and puts them into 1 stack. Regex filter possible.

Image > Stacks > Z project      Projects the entire stack onto a 2D image  
Image > Stacks > 3D project      Maximum intensity projection of the stack

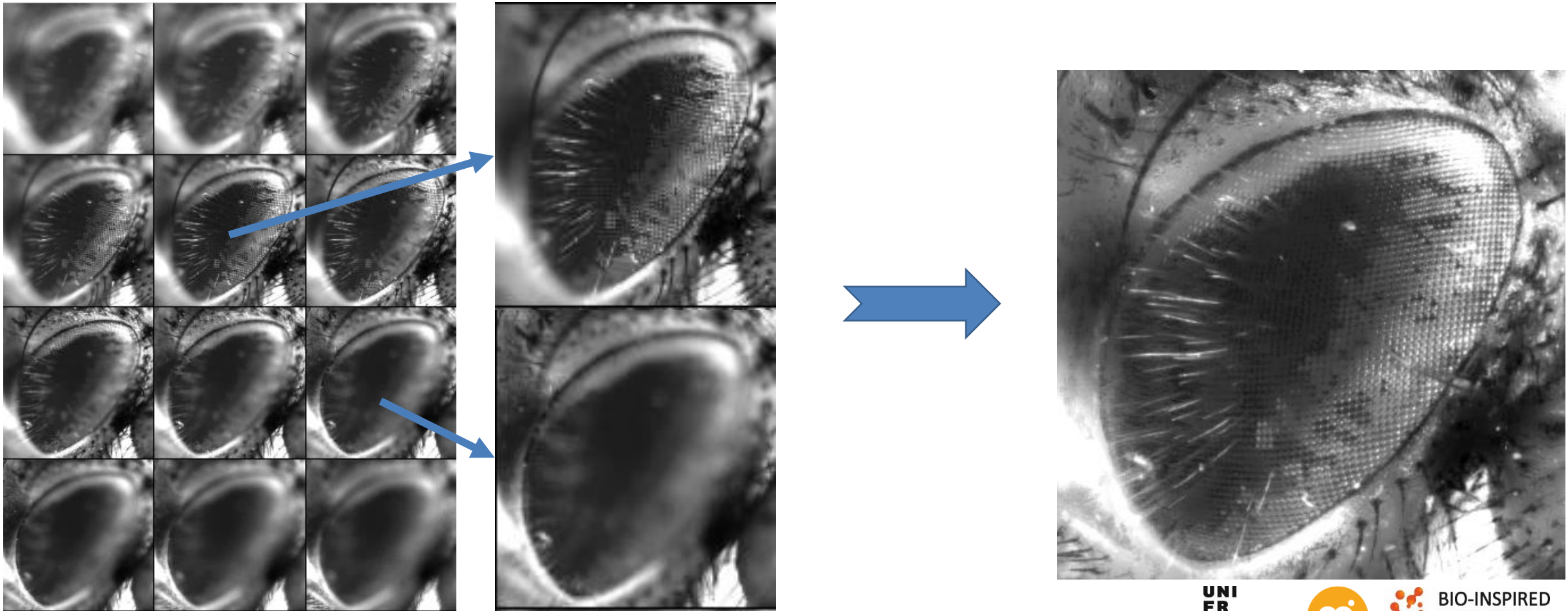
Image > Stack > Tools      Combine, Reduce, Make substack, ...

Image > Stacks > Tools > Grouped Z project...Output: a new stack, but with each slice the average/max/sum or each group

# Z-Stacks: Extended depth of field

Image > Plugins > Extended depth of field (EPFL: [bigwww.epfl.ch/demo/edf](http://bigwww.epfl.ch/demo/edf))

Projects a brightfield image of a large object in focus based on a focal series



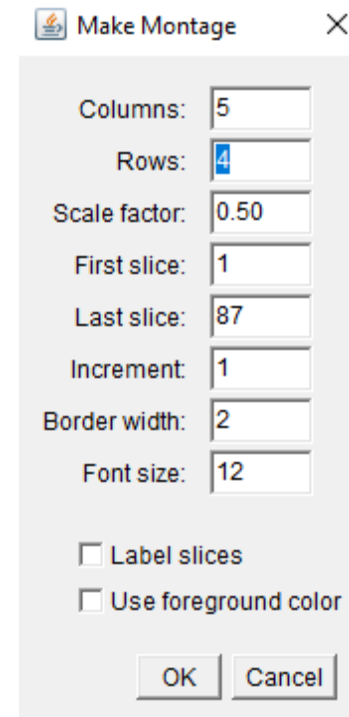
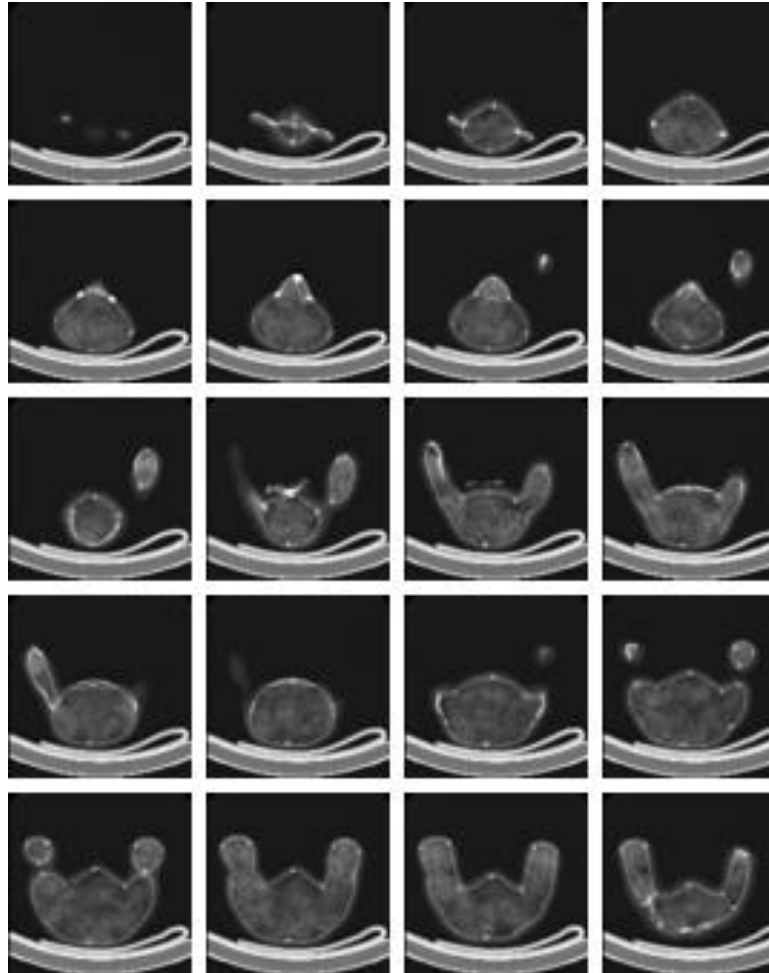


# Montage tool

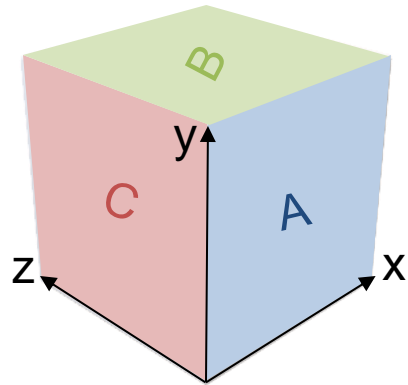
## EXERCISE

Try out the tools in the Images > Stack menu and with Example 2

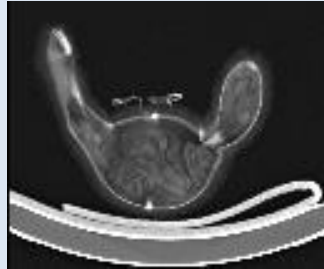
Open a stack, then:  
**Image > stack > Make montage...**



# Z-Stacks: Reslice (orthogonal rotation)



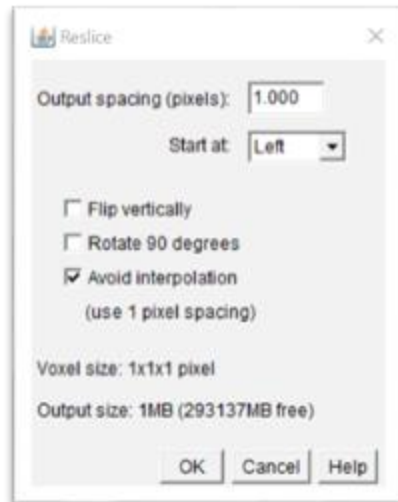
(Plane A) XY view



**X=128**  
**Y=107**  
**Z=124**

Bold: on-screen depicted dimensions

Image > stack > Reslice...



Output spacing (pixels): 1.000  
Start at: Top

Reslice from top/bottom  
(Plane B) XZ view

**X=128**  
**Y=124**  
**Z=107**



Reslice from left/right  
(Plane C) YZ view

**X=107**  
**Y=124**  
**Z=128**



## Other tools:

### Radial reslice

orthogonal recon-structions of a stack by rotating a line ROI around one end of its center. Useful for data with rotational symmetry

### Dynamic reslice

Creates an arbitrary cross section along a user-defined line

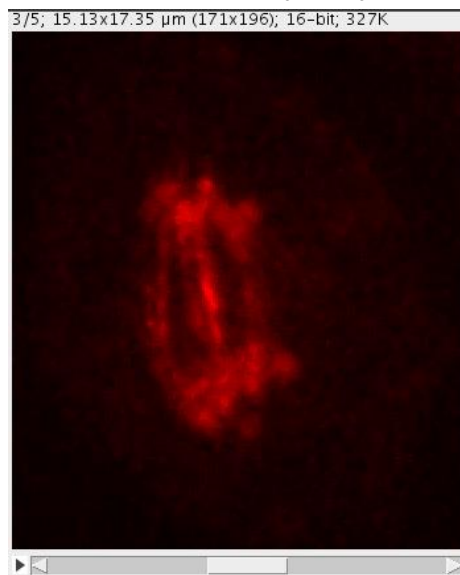
# 4. Hyperstacks

Hyperstacks are multidimensional images, extending image stacks to four (4D) or five (5D) dimensions:

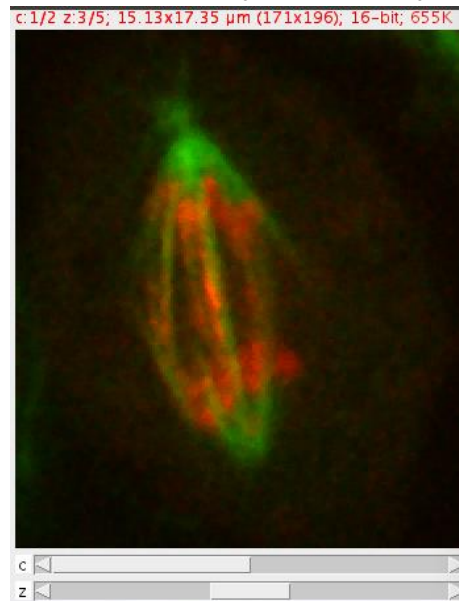
$x$  (width),  
 $y$  (height),  
 $z$  (slices),  
 $c$  (channels or wavelengths)  
 $t$  (time frames)

Hyperstacks are displayed in a window with 2 or 3 labelled scrollbars. Similarly to the scrollbar in stacks, including a play/pause icon.

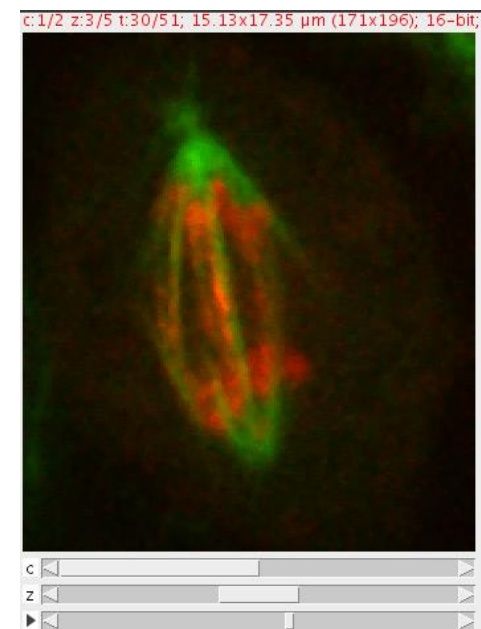
3D stack (z=5)



4D stack (z=5, C=2)

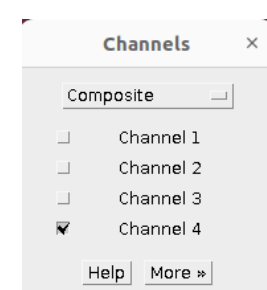
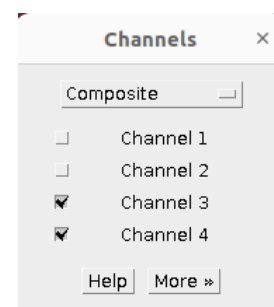
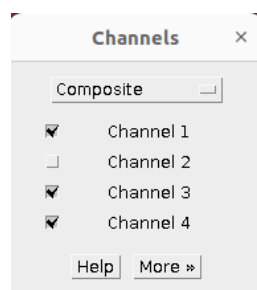
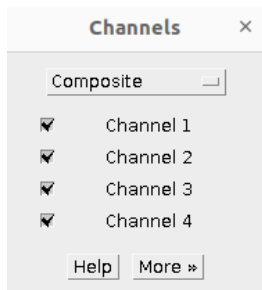
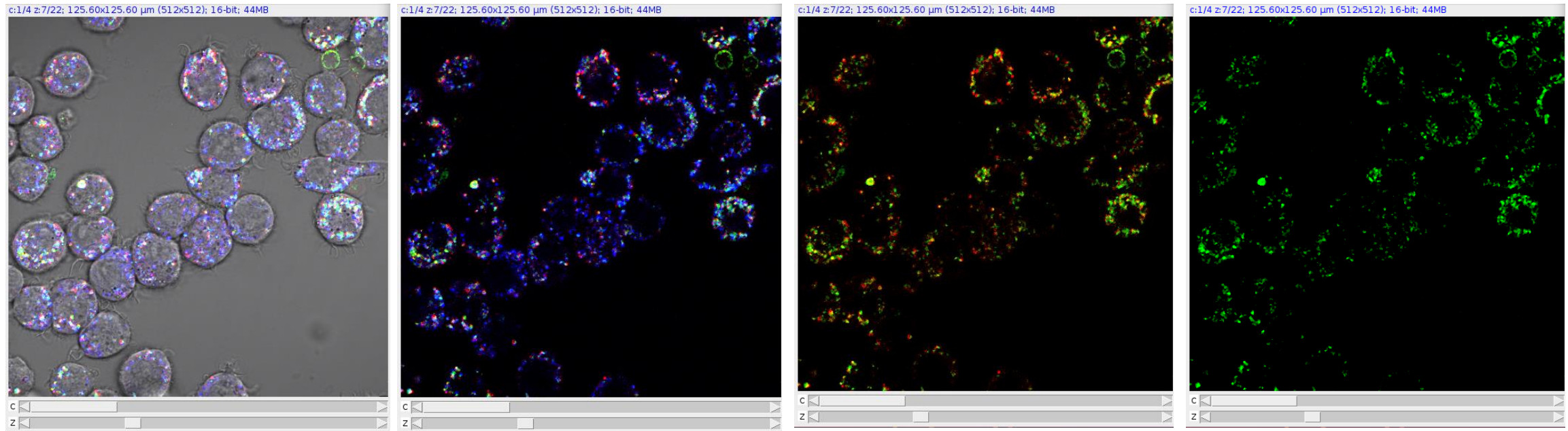


5D stack (z=5, C=2, t=51)





# Hyperstacks



# Videos/timelapse

Out of the box, ImageJ has limited support (no codecs, no audio). However, it can open/close uncompressed AVI formats.

## Videos/timelapse

Can be understood as a 3D stack where the third dimension is not spatial but temporal

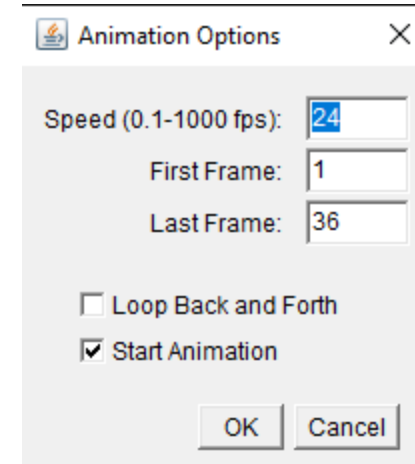
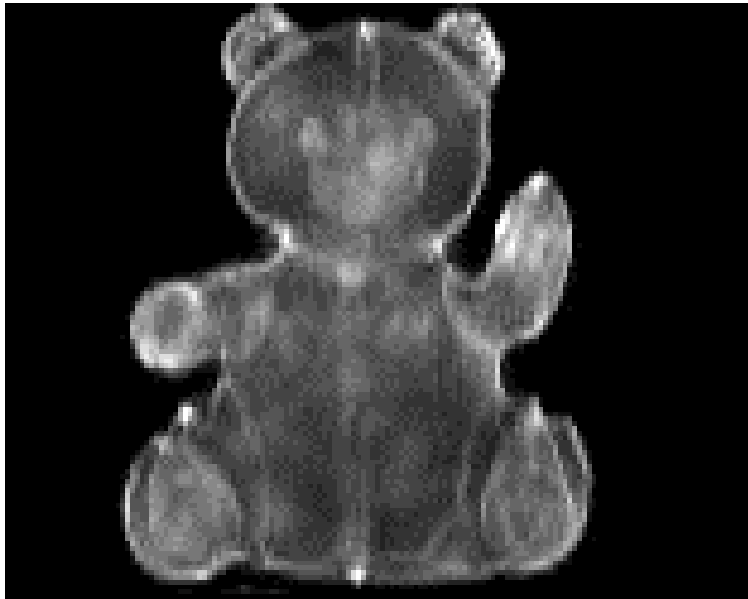
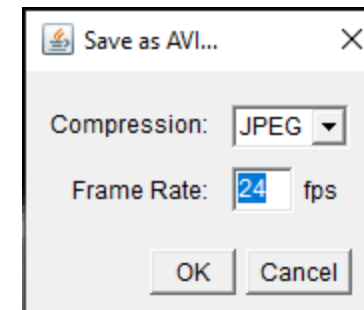


Image > Stacks >  
Animation >  
Animation options

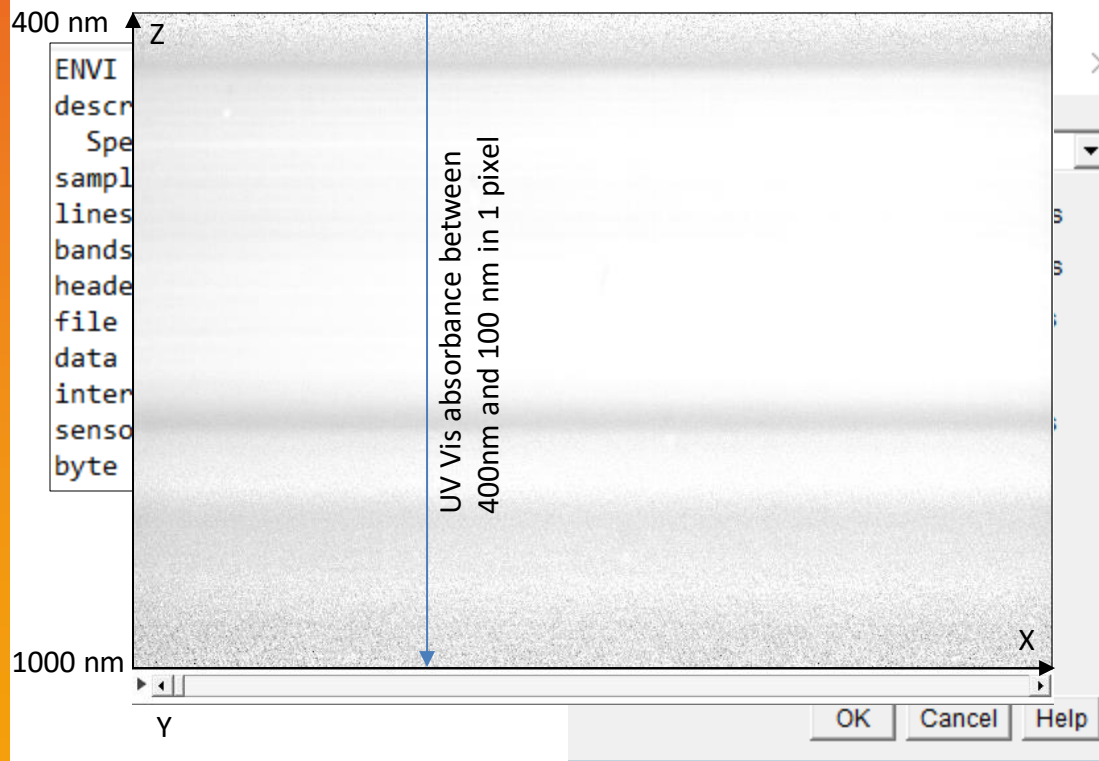


File > Save as... > Avi...

# 5. Custom multi-dimensional datasets

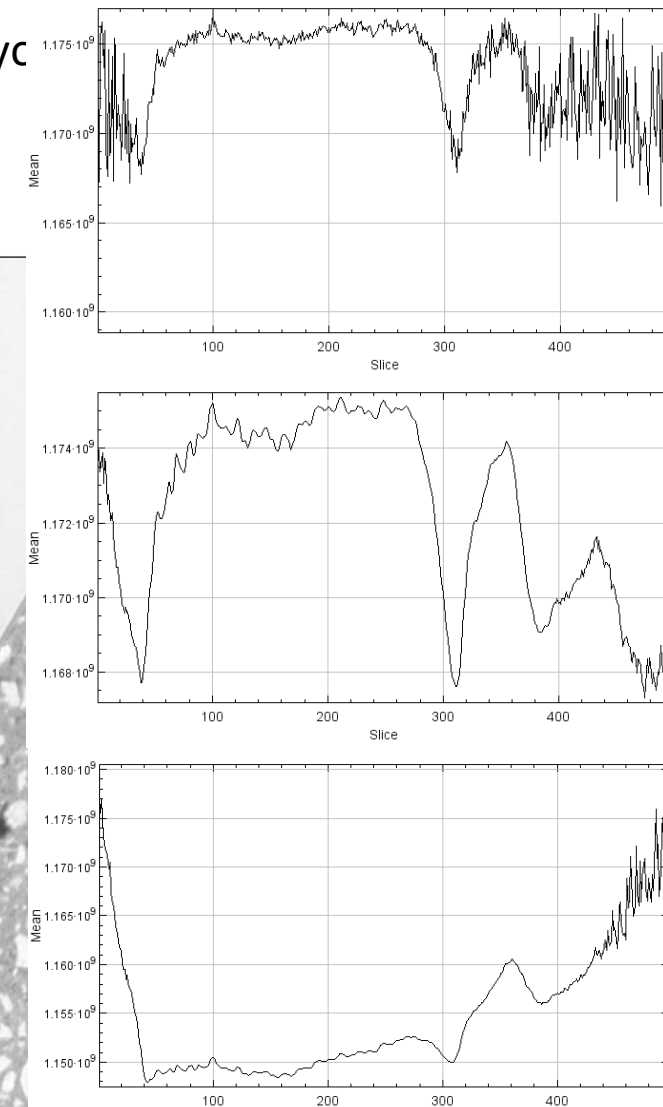
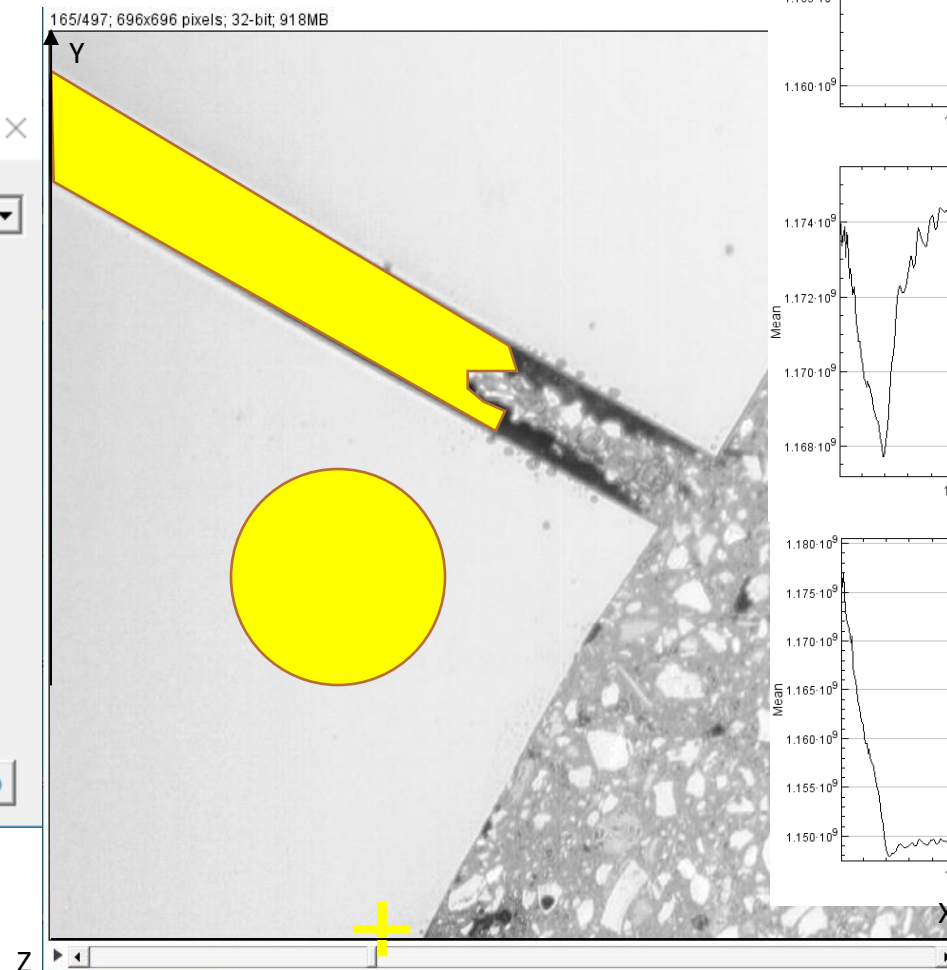
Fiji does not interpret your data, just reads it (remember Lecture 1) according to a model you

Example: Cytoviva dataset



XY: image dimension  
Z: spectral dimension

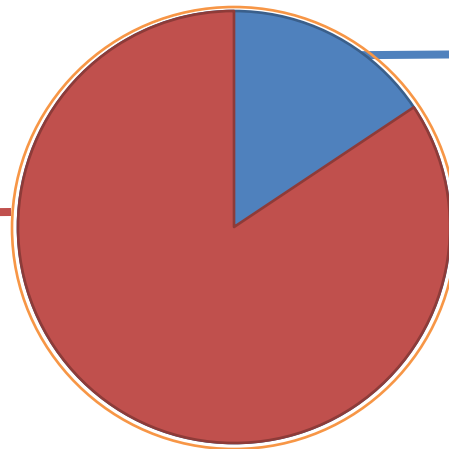
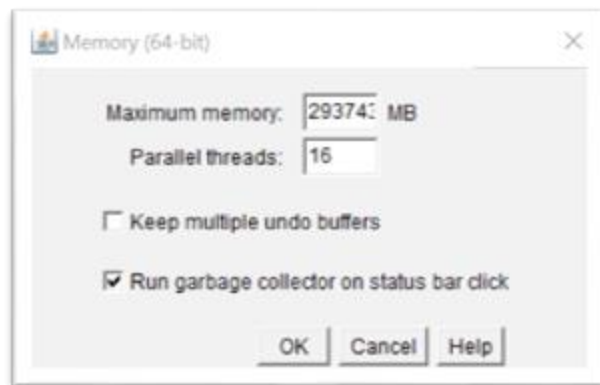
Image > stack > Plot Z-axis profile...



## 6. Virtual stacks

- Virtual stacks are disk resident (as opposed to RAM resident) datasets
- The only way to load image sequences that do not fit in your RAM.
  1. Virtual stacks are read-only, so changes made to the pixel data are not saved when you switch to a different slice
  2. Commands like Crop [X] may create a RAM issue since any stack generated from commands that do not generate virtual stacks will be RAM resident.

Edit > options > memory & threads will allow you to change the RAM allocated



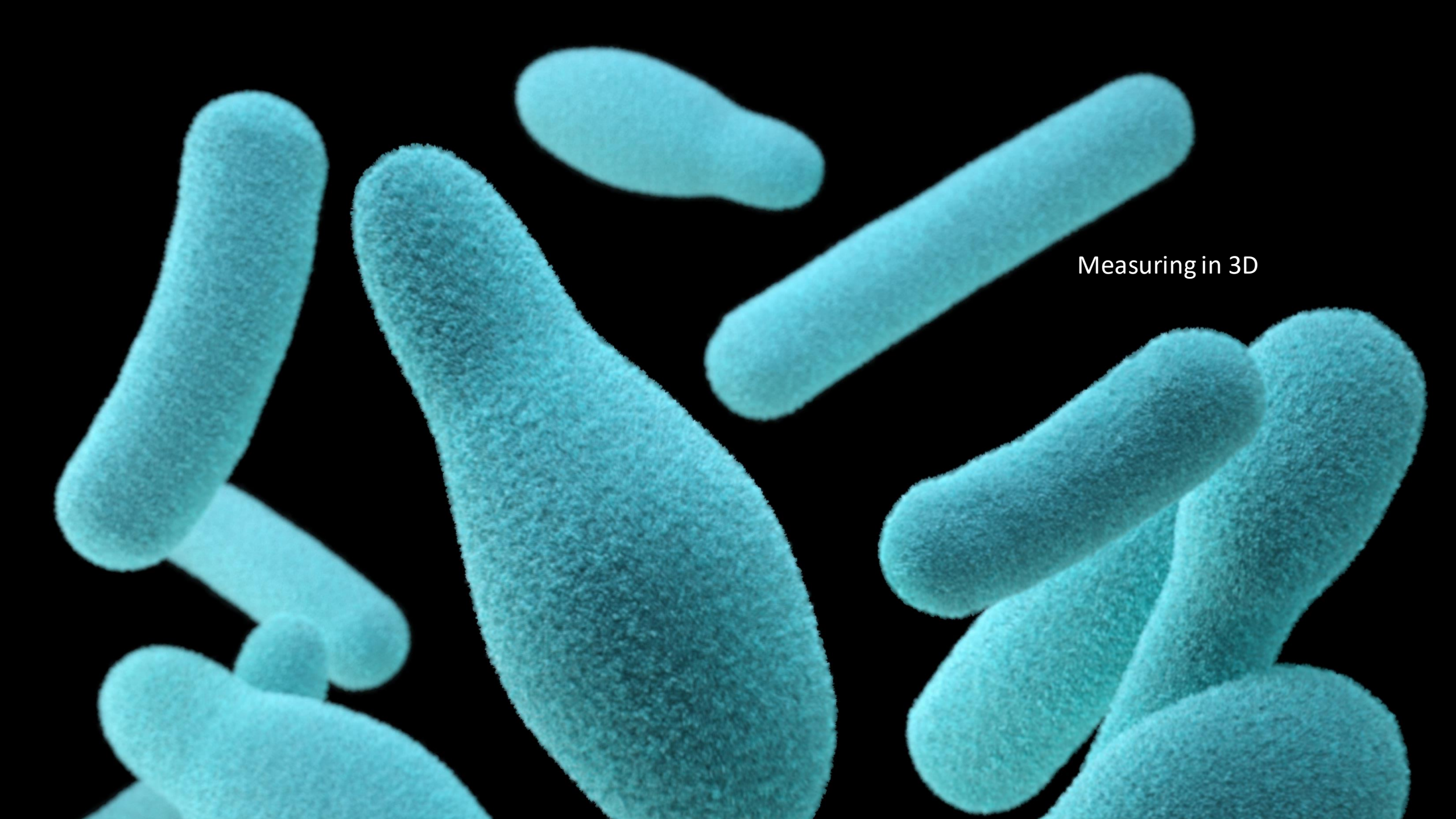
RAM for all other software

Total RAM of PC

Memory	3.7 GiB
Processor	Intel® Core™ i7 CPU M 620 @ 2.67GHz × 4
Graphics	NVS 5100M/PCIe/SSE2
OS type	64-bit

RAM for ImageJ



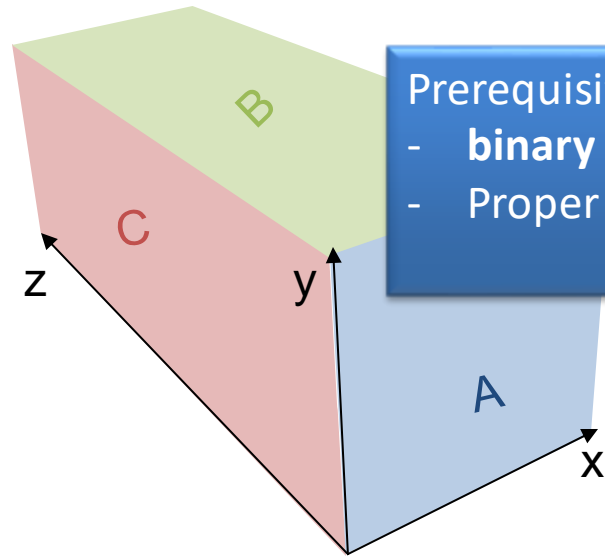


Measuring in 3D

# Note on non-isometric data (LSM, FIB, ...)

When the axial resolution (in Z) is not the same as the spatial resolution (in XY):

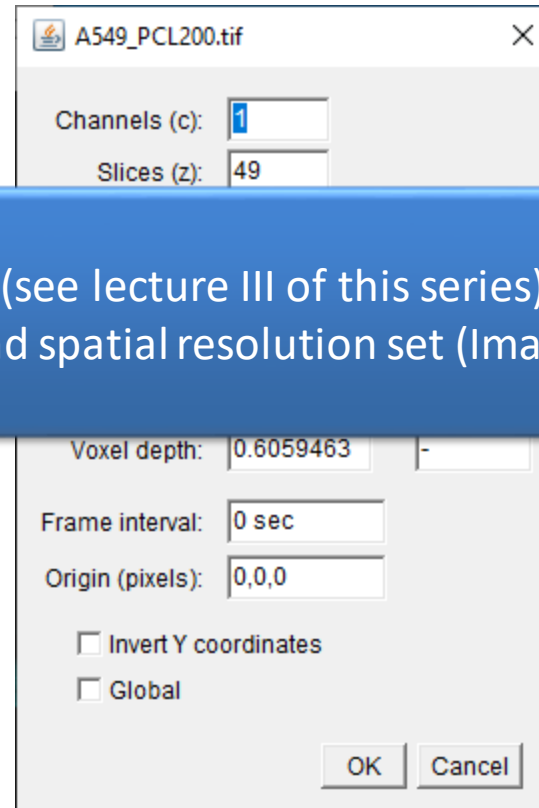
**Image > Properties**



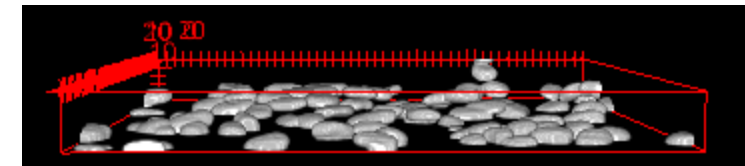
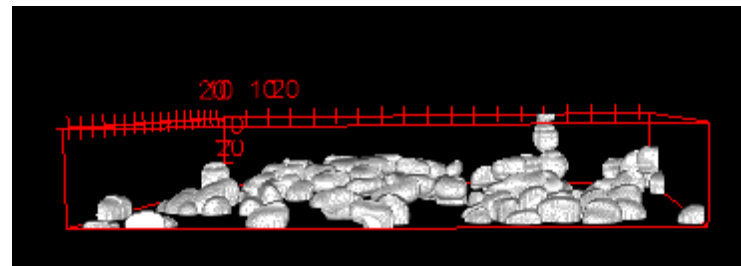
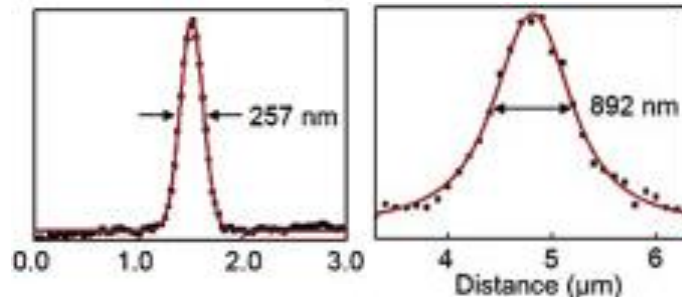
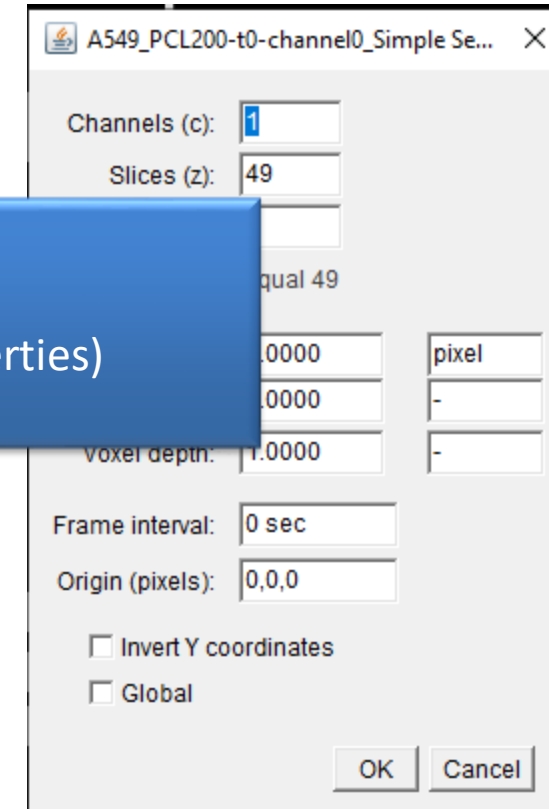
Prerequisites:

- **binary images** (see lecture III of this series)
- Proper axial and spatial resolution set (Image > Properties)

Original data



After segmentation (from iLastik)



# 3D Objects counter

Analyze > 3D OC options

Allows to set the Measurements that will be performed

Turn off



3D-OC Set Measurements

Parameters to calculate:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Volume	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Surface
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nb of Obj. voxels	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nb of Surf. voxels
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Integrated Density	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mean Gray Value
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Std Dev Gray Value	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Median Gray Value
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minimum Gray Value	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maximum Gray Value
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Centroid	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mean distance to surface
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Std Dev distance to surface	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Median distance to surface
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Centre of mass	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bounding box

Image parameters:

☐ Close original images while processing (saves memory)

☐ Show masked image (redirection required)

Maps' parameters:

Dots size

Font size

☒ Show numbers

☒ White numbers

ResultsTable parameters:

☒ Store results within a table named after the image (macro friendly)

Redirect to:

OK Cancel

# 3D Objects counter

Analyze > 3D Objects Counter

Similar to 'Measure particles', but: Threshold can be set

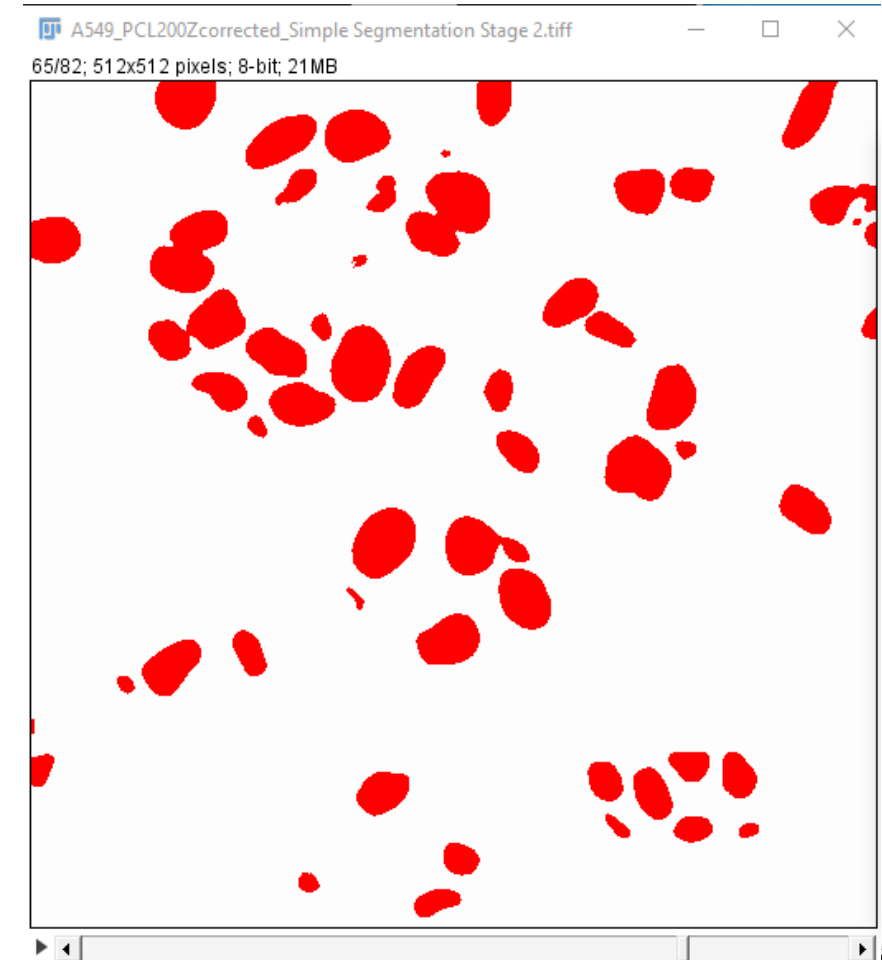
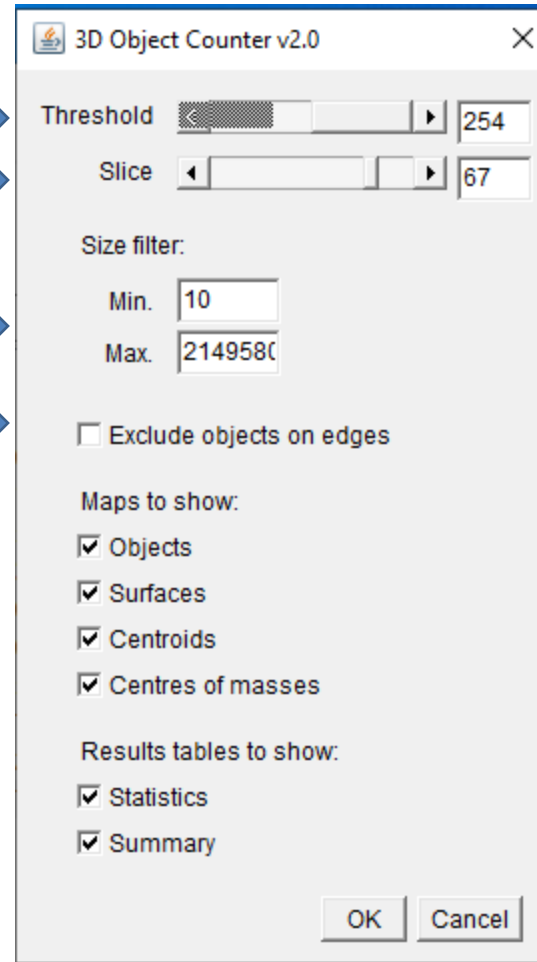
(Poor) thresholding attempt

Move through stack

Eliminate noise or large clumps

Eliminate partial objects

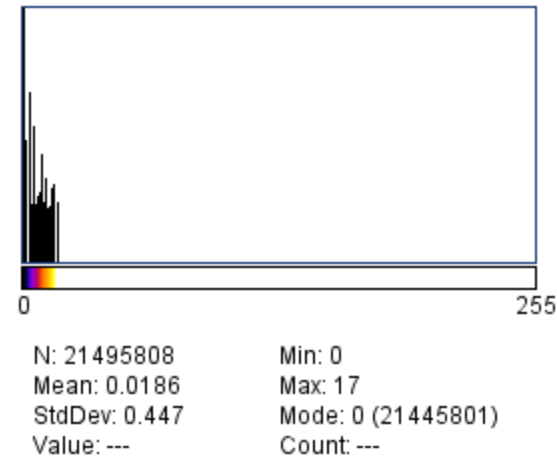
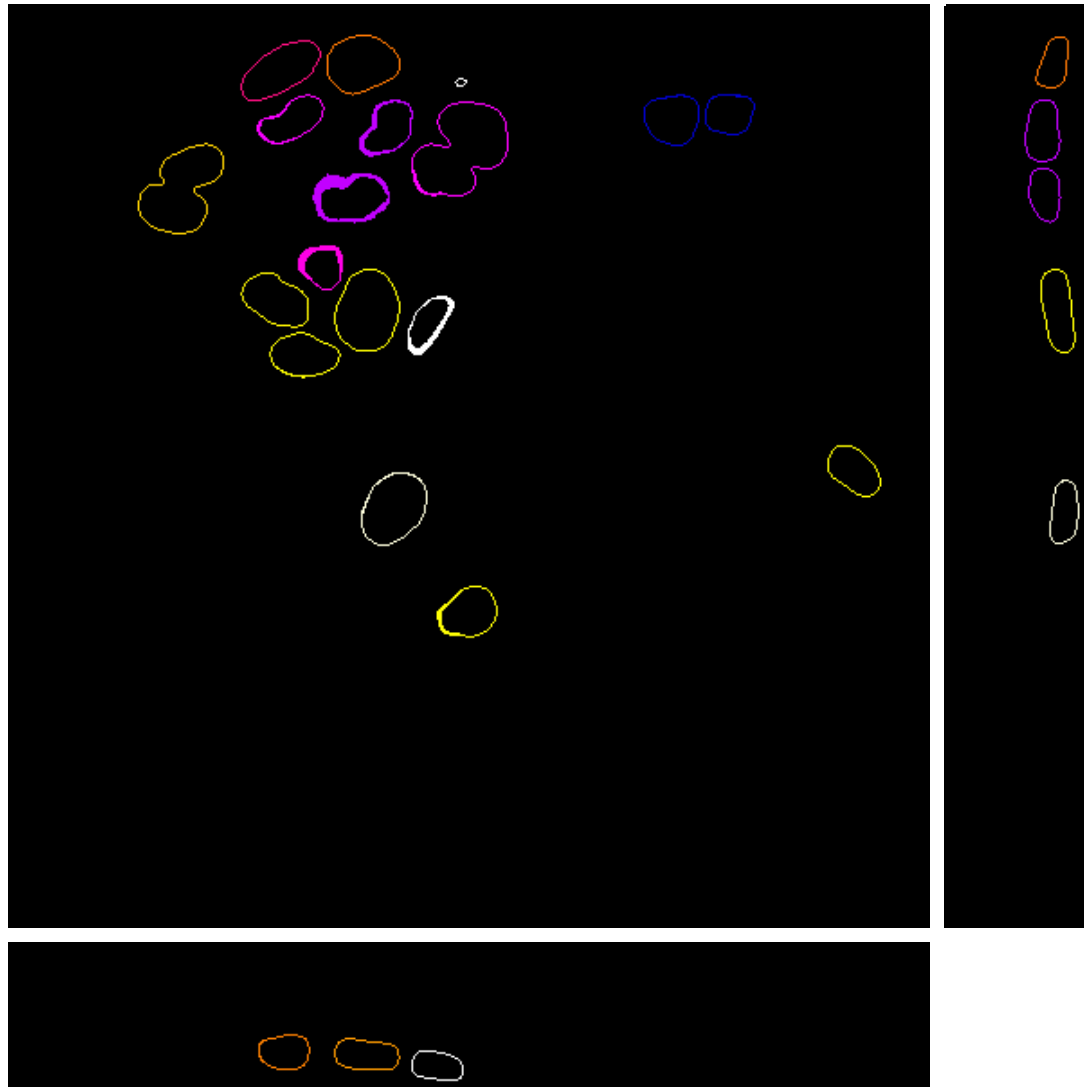
Output





# 3D Objects counter: Output

Volumes



Check the Look up table

# 3D Objects counter: Output

Statistics for A549\_PCL200-t0-channel0\_Simple Segmentation Stage 2-1.tiff

File Edit Font

Volume (micron^3)	Surface (micron^2)	Nb of obj. voxels	Nb of surf. voxels	IntDen	Mean	StdDev	Median	Min	Max	X	Y	Z	Mean dist. to surf. (micron)	SD
1408.099	1201.742	17891	3974	4562205	255	0	255	255	255	382.541	60.942	35.786	7.534	12.4
2118.878	1497.572	26922	6070	6865110	255	0	255	255	255	197.877	89.038	33.429	9.103	13.3
647.894	585.138	8232	2013	2099160	255	0	255	255	255	155.839	63.630	34.102	5.357	1.3
643.565	558.641	8177	2092	2085135	255	0	255	255	255	172.481	142.474	33.814	5.120	10.9
697.950	649.447	8868	2294	2261340	255	0	255	255	255	151.261	37.186	36.641	5.656	1.3
1707.412	1195.269	21694	4806	5531970	255	0	255	255	255	250.222	80.860	36.413	7.609	12.3
747.534	633.551	9498	2437	2421990	255	0	255	255	255	195.318	34.086	36.335	5.452	1.3
1255.649	993.930	15954	3658	4068270	255	0	255	255	255	96.251	102.124	37.521	6.826	12.0
682.367	581.667	8670	2050	2210850	255	0	255	255	255	148.327	164.184	36.652	5.336	1.0
1001.277	758.804	12722	3025	3244110	255	0	255	255	255	198.978	170.228	37.802	6.027	1.4
598.783	537.068	7608	1945	1940040	255	0	255	255	255	162.643	195.234	39.588	5.080	1.1
644.431	582.112	8188	2171	2087940	255	0	255	255	255	234.675	177.968	41.452	5.394	1.3

# 3D Objects counter

## EXERCISE

Open Example 7 and calculate the volume of the objects using the 3D object counter.

1. Check calibration
2. Do the analysis
3. Change the settings and repeat

Image > Properties... (for 3D spatial and axial settings)  
Analysis > 3D object counter  
Analysis > 3D OC settings

# 3D suite (plugin)



Help > Update ... >  
Plugins > 3D suite

☒ 3D ImageJ Suite

<https://sites.imagej.net/Tboudier/>

Analysis ▶

Binary ▶

Filters ▶

Relationship ▶

Segmentation ▶

3D Manager V4 (testing)

3D Manager V4 Macros

3D Manager

3D Manager Options

Spatial ▶

Tools ▶

See next slide

(Morphological) filters in 3D

Local Linear filters in 3D

Measuring distances (e.g. border to border)

Binary segmentation tools (e.g. 3D watershed)  
(experimental)

(scripting)

ROI 3D manager (see next)



# 3D suite (plugin)

▶	3D Intensity Measure
▶	3D Centroid
▶	3D Volume
▶	3D Surface
▶	3D Distance Contour
	3D Feret
	3D Compactness
	3D Ellipsoid measure
	3D RDAR
▶	3D Mesh Measure (slow)
▶	3D Ellipsoid Fitting
	3D Convex Hull (slow)

## Input

Raw data and binary mask

Binary mask

Binary mask

Binary mask

Binary mask

Binary mask

Binary mask

Binary mask

Binary mask

Binary mask

Binary mask

Binary mask

## Output

Intensity stats of each object

Position of centroid of each object (X,Y,Z)

Volume of each object

Surface of each object

Distance stats between center and shell

Caliper distances in 3D and ortho-planes

Sphericity and 3D compactness

Goodness of fit measurements

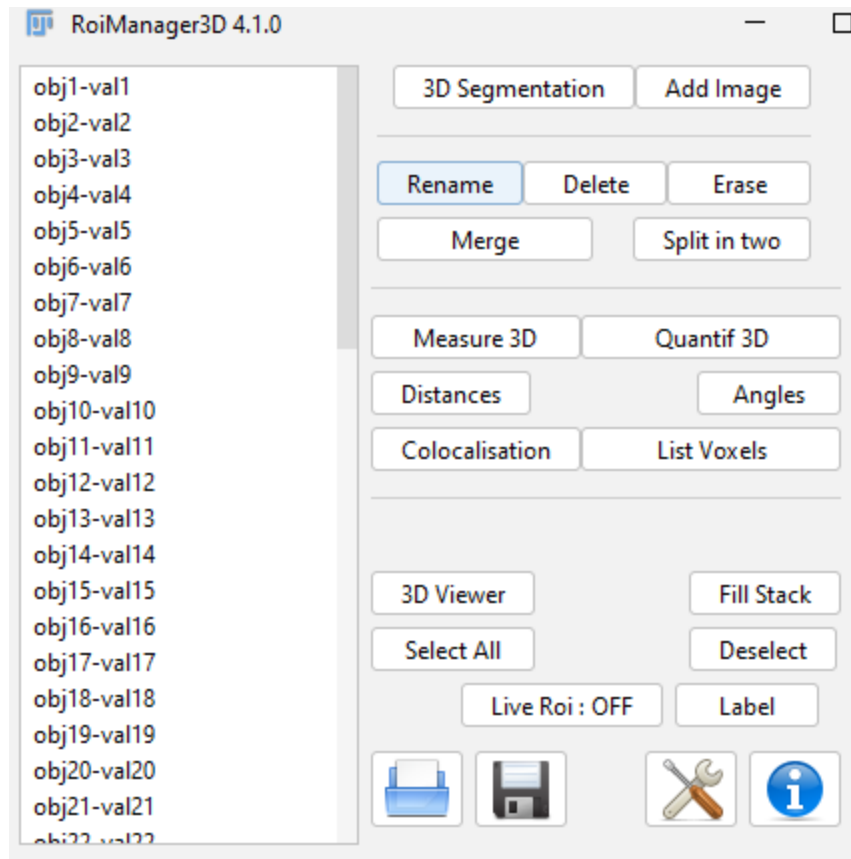
Ellipsoid: how much is sticking out

Fitting measures to ellipsoid

3D convex hull

# 3D suite (plugin)

## ROI3D manager

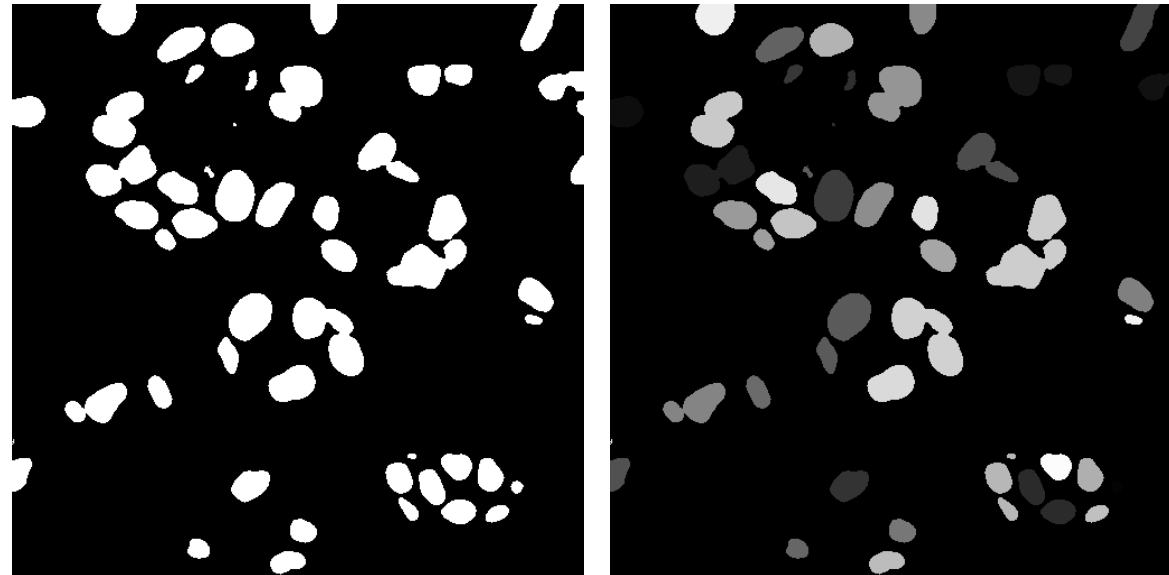


### 1. 3D segment (use binary Data!!)

you get a new window with your objects in different shades

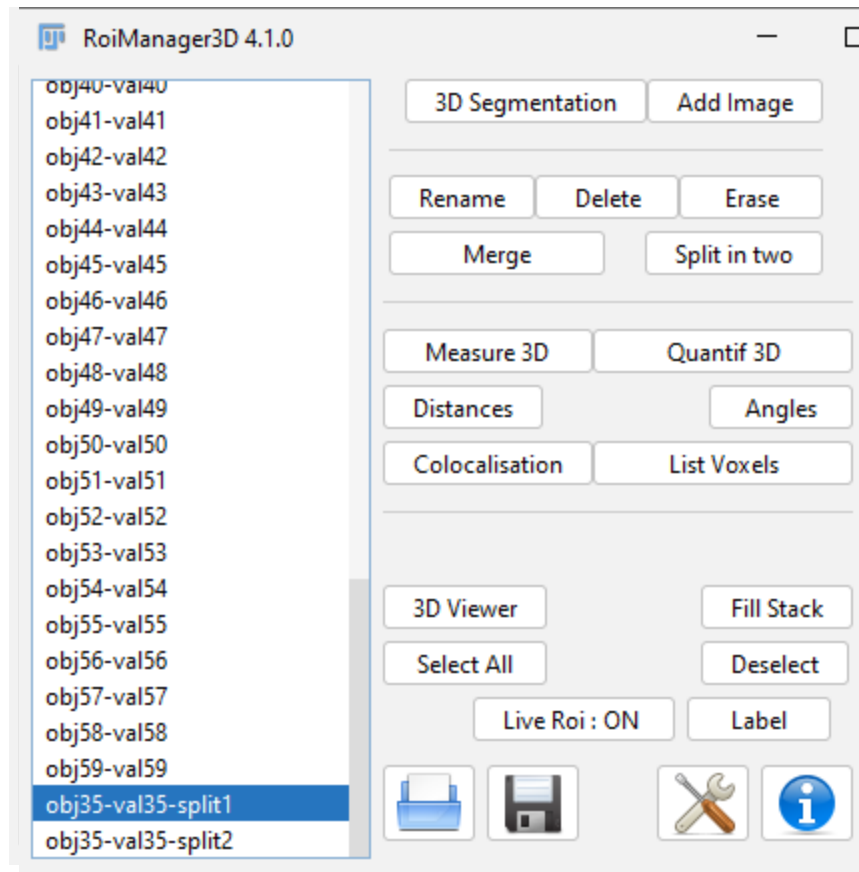
### 2. Add an image

this adds the objects


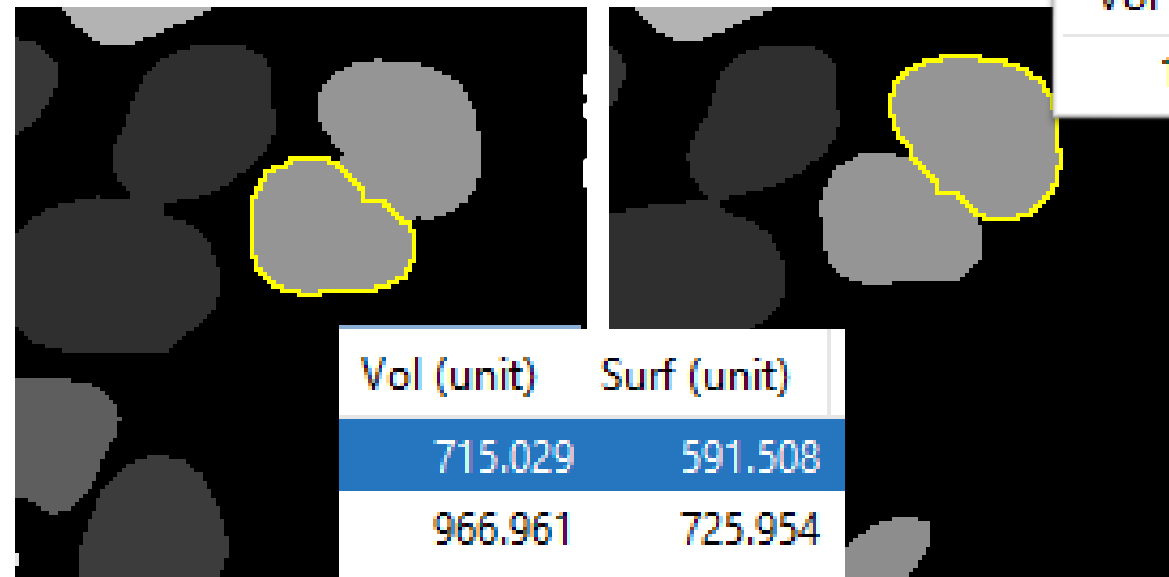


# 3D suite (plugin)

## ROI3D manager



1. 3D segment (use binary Data!!)
2. Add an image
3. Click “Live ROI: OFF” (makes it “ON”)
4. From the list, select obj35-val35
5. Then click “split in two”



Vol (unit)	Surf (unit)
1,681.99	591.508

# 3D suite (plugin)

## EXERCISE

Open Example 7 and calculate the volume of the objects using the 3D manager of 3D suite.  
Try to split some objects in the 3D suite

Image > Properties... (for 3D spatial and axial settings)

Analysis > 3D object counter (and 3D OC settings)

Plugins > 3D suite > 3D manager

- Segmentation
- Add image

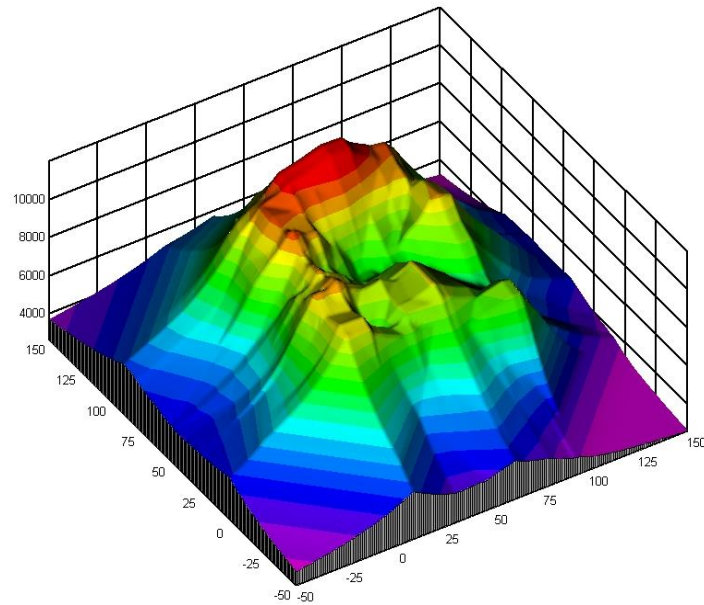
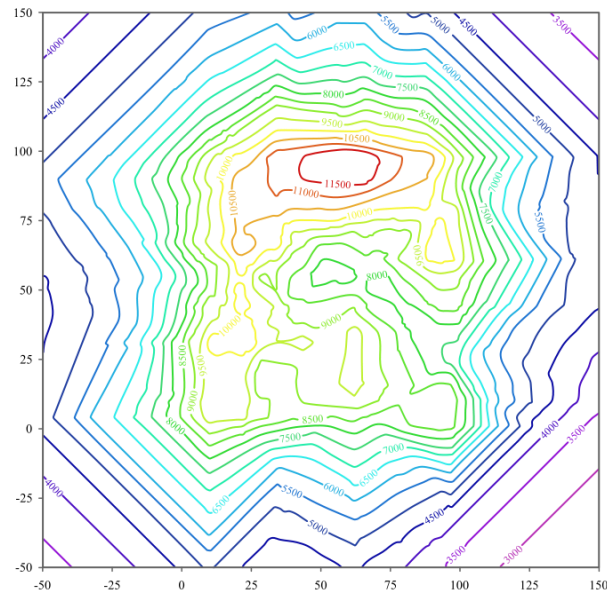


Visualization of 3D data



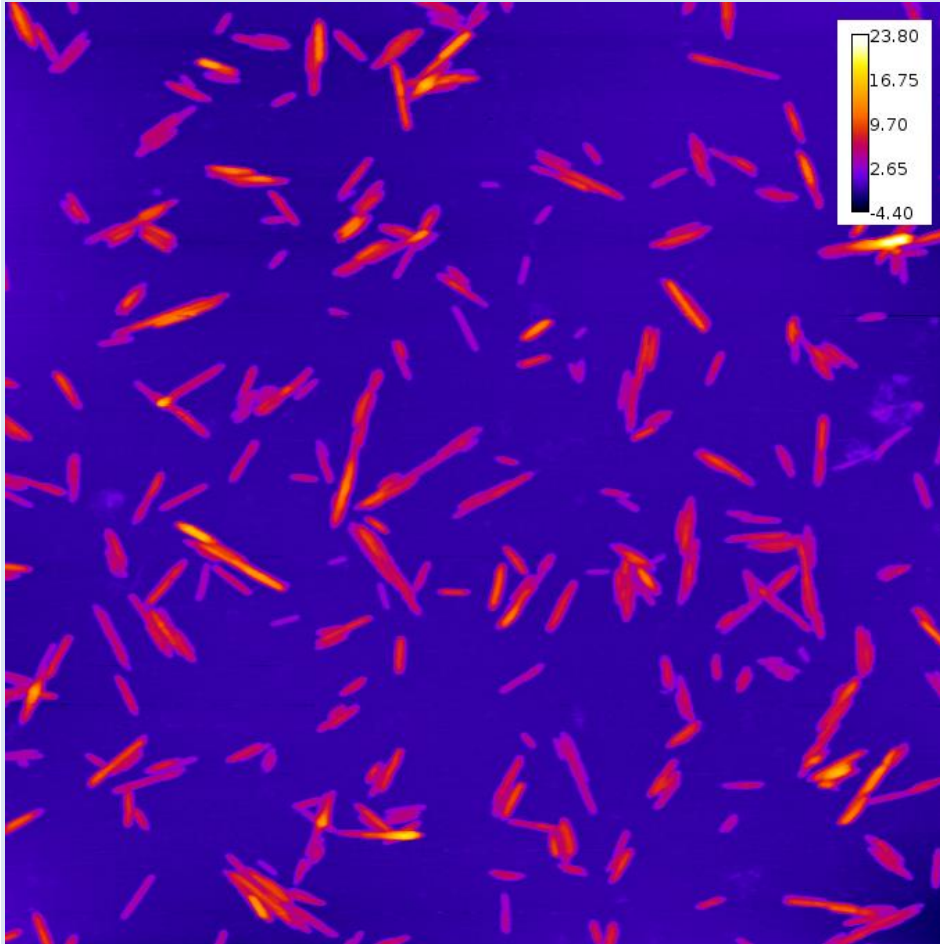
# Visualizing 3D data

1. 2D depictions
2. Renderings
  1. Surface rendering
  2. Volume rendering



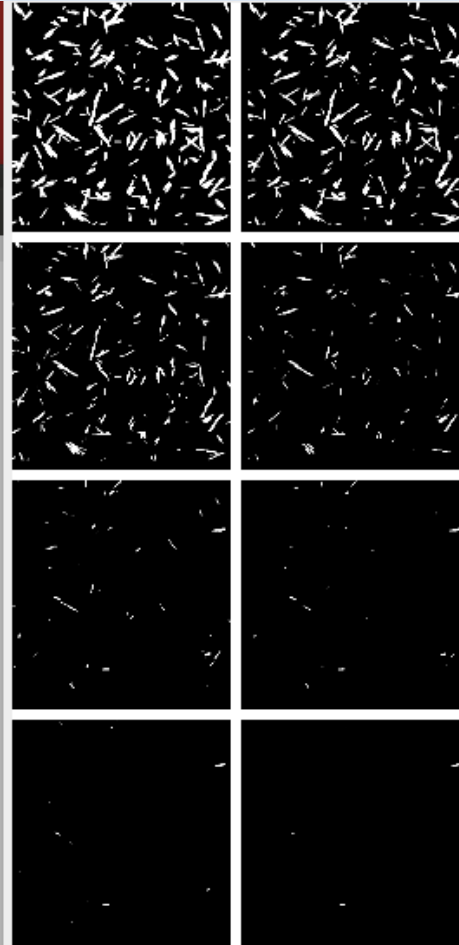
# Visualizing 3D data: Depth encoded

AFM image

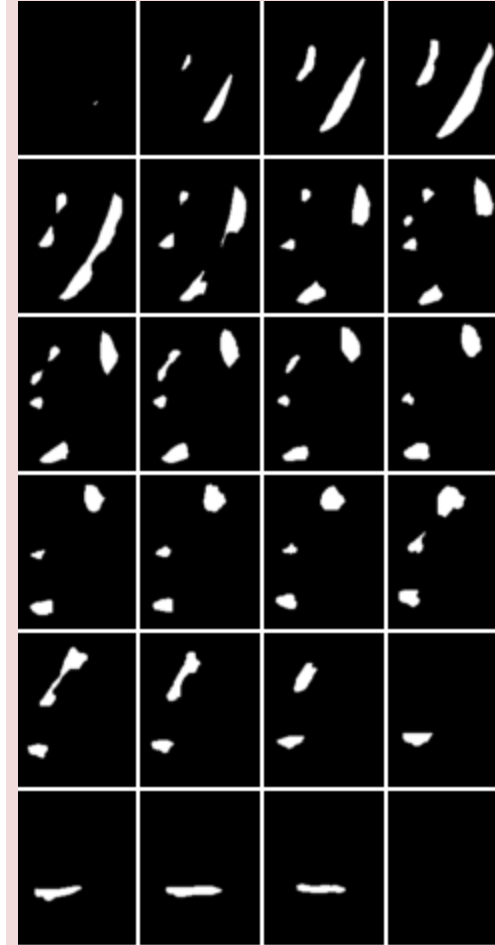


(= depth coded, Fire LUT)

AFM as 3D stack



3D stack



Depth coded 3D stack

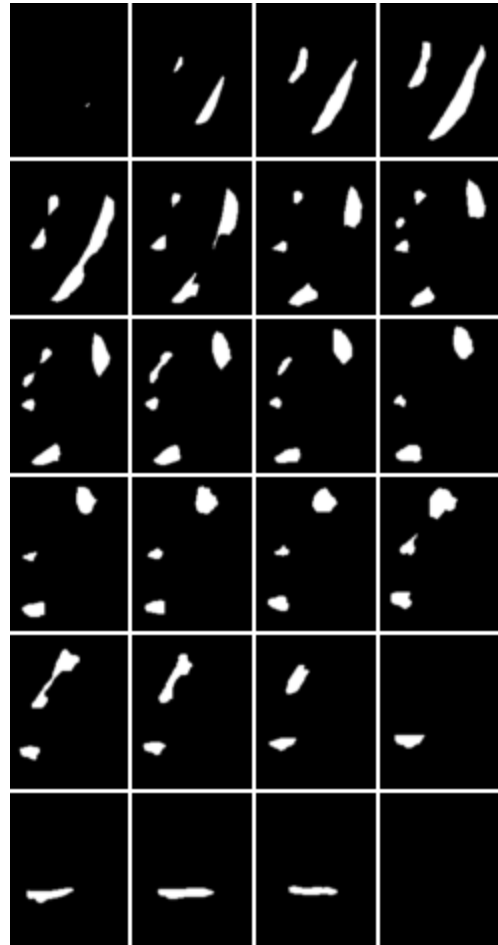


Image > Hyperstacks >  
temporal color-coded

# Visualizing 3D data: Orthogonal views and depth coding

## EXERCISE

Open Example 3.



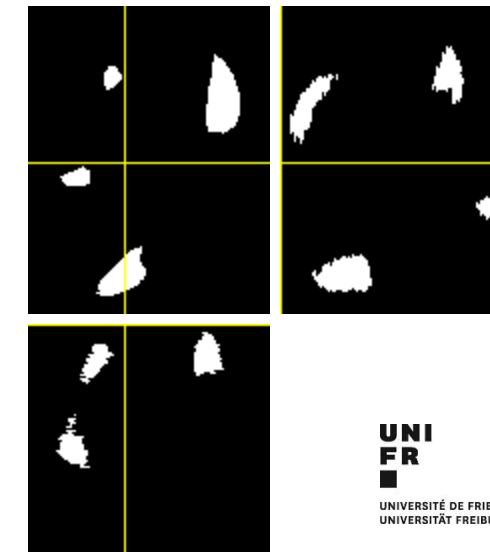
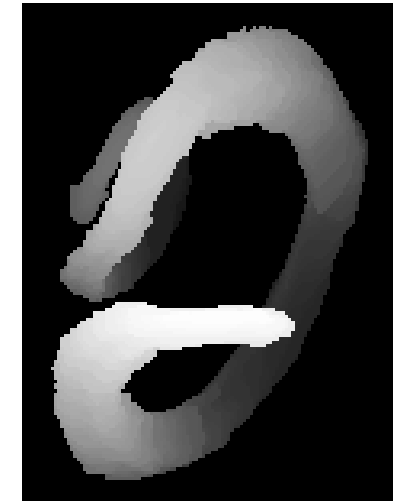
Try both:

### Depth-encoded Color

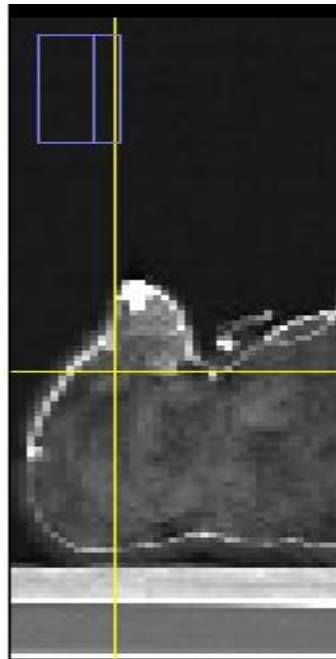
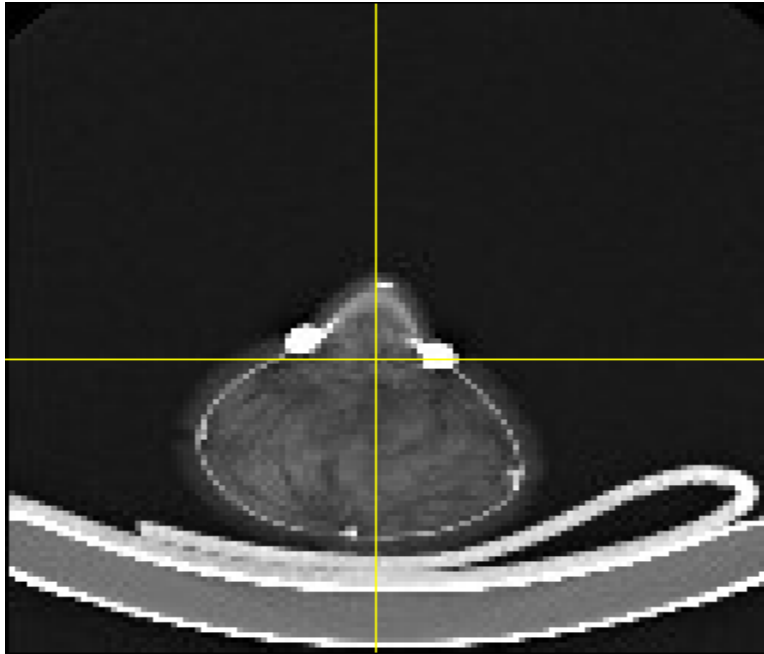
Image > Hyperstacks > Temporal color-code  
/ choose a LUT (e.g. Grays)

### Orthogonal views

Image > stack > orthogonal views



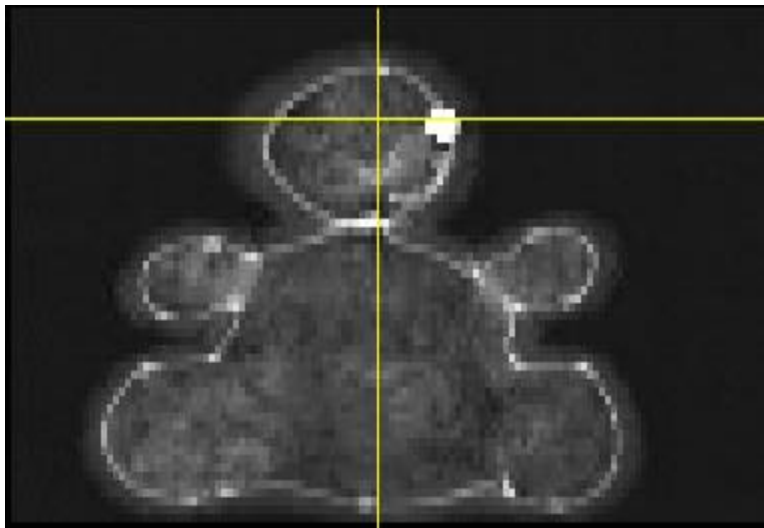
# Visualizing 3D data: Orthogonal views



## Orthogonal views

The intersection point of the three views follows the location of the mouse click and can be controlled by clicking and dragging in either the XY, XZ or YZ view.

XY and XZ coordinates are displayed in the title of the projection panels. The mouse wheel changes the screen plane in all three views.



## How to get rid of the marker lines?

Image > Overlay > hide overlay (or remove overlay)



# 3D rendering

---

Note: renderings require **interpretation** by the user. Hence, they are the convolution of the raw scientific data and the feature the user would like to see.

## 1. Surface rendering

= binary threshold-based

## 2. Volume rendering

= percentage threshold-based

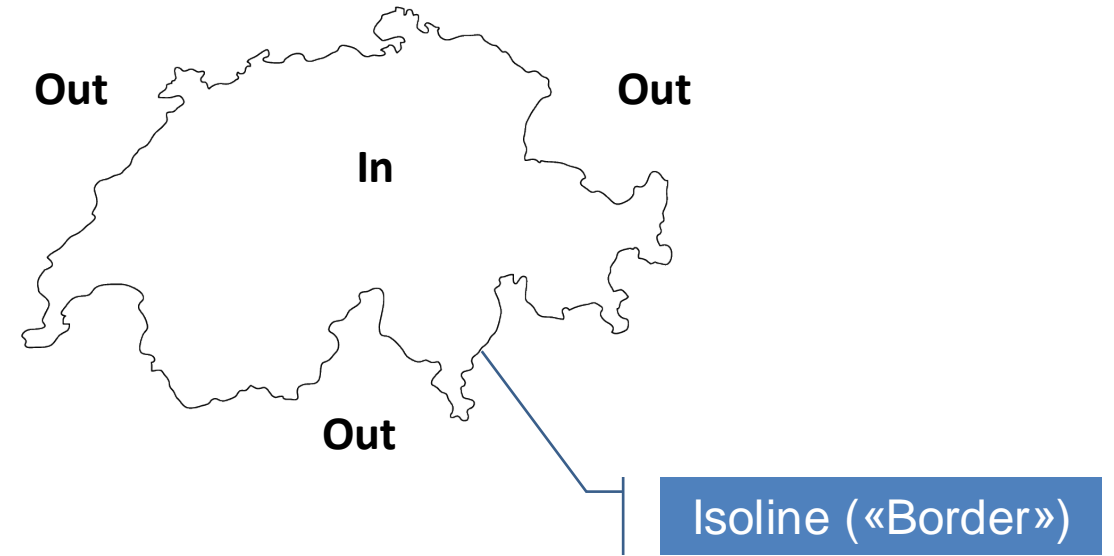
Never publish only renderings.  
Always provide the raw data (i.e.  
orthogonal views)

# Surface rendering: Isosurfaces

## Isosurface

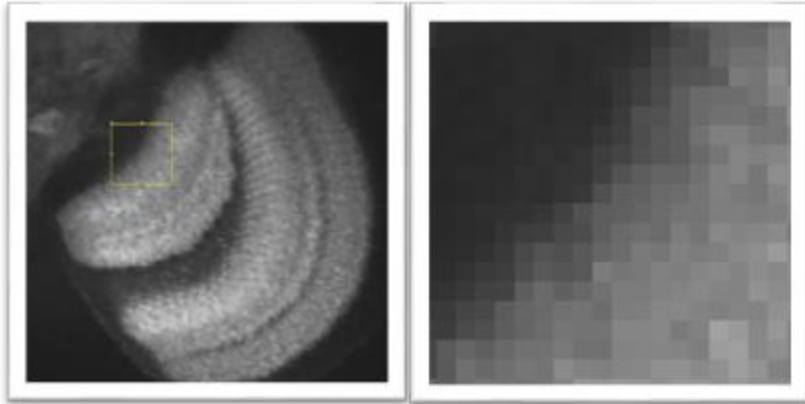
A three-dimensional analogue of an isoline. It is a surface that represents points of a constant value within a volume.

- Step 1: Creating an isoline by thresholding
- Step 2: voxels to mesh by marching cubes
- Step 3: Mesh to rendering through shaders

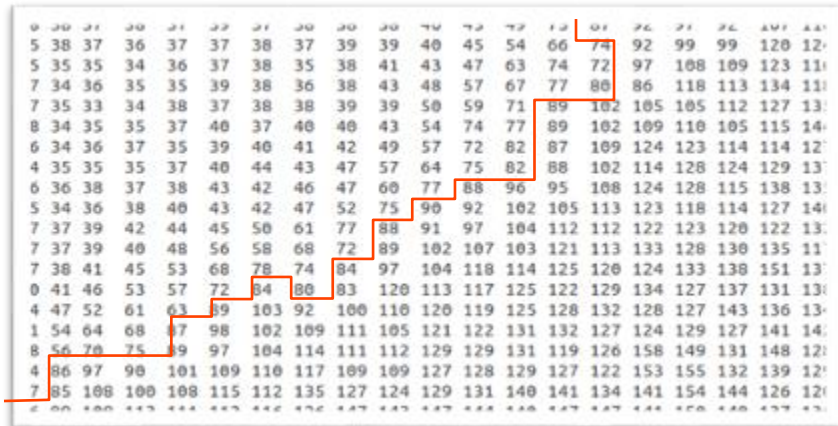


# Isosurfaces: Step 1: Thresholding the voxels

Original

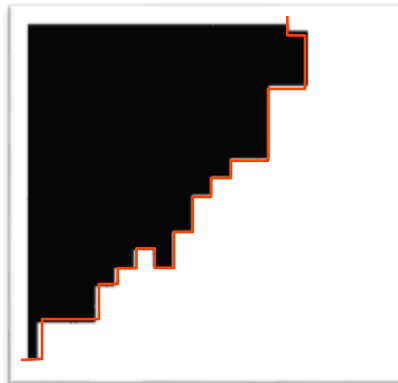


Binary



A threshold is calculated

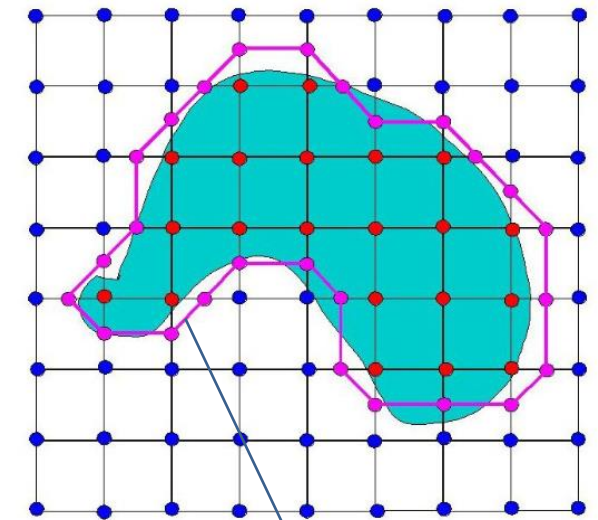
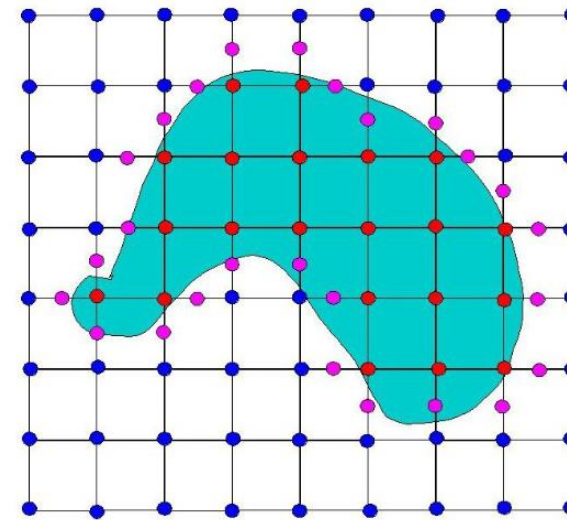
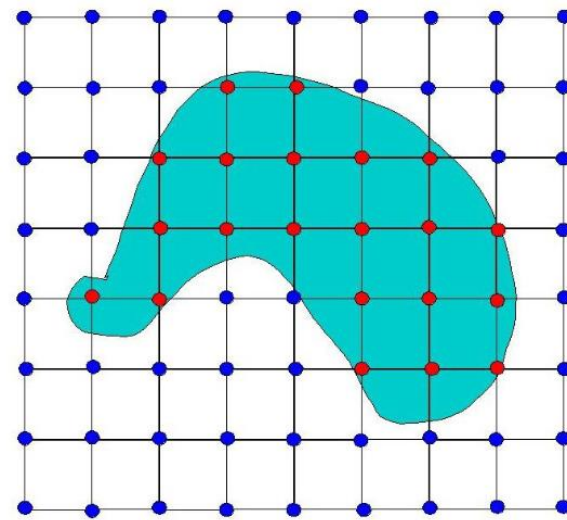
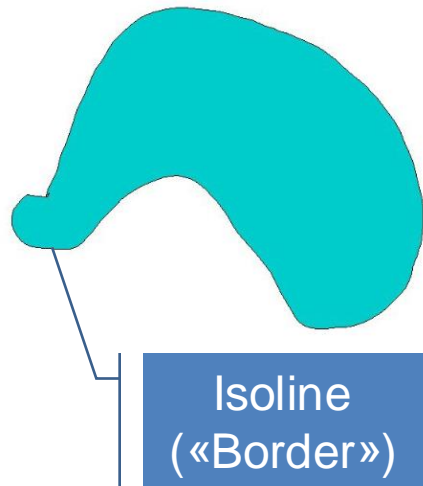
- Pixel value > threshold, the voxel is considered to contain the signal (=object).
- Pixel value < threshold, the voxel is considered not to contain the signal (=background).
- This classification system is binary; it defines each voxel as containing either 100% or 0% of the signal
- Once classified, a surface is defined as the boundary between the pixels (=isoline)



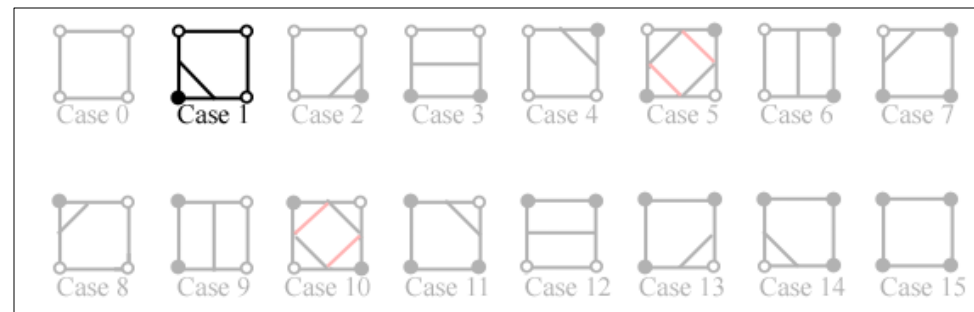
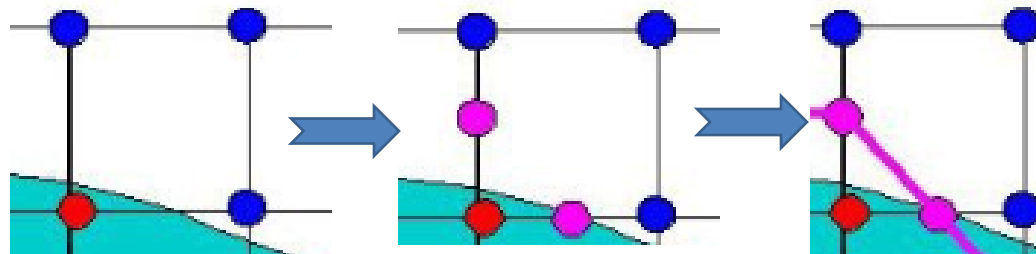
Threshold = 83

Edge only = isoline

# Isosurfaces: Step 2: Isoline/Voxel to mesh conversion



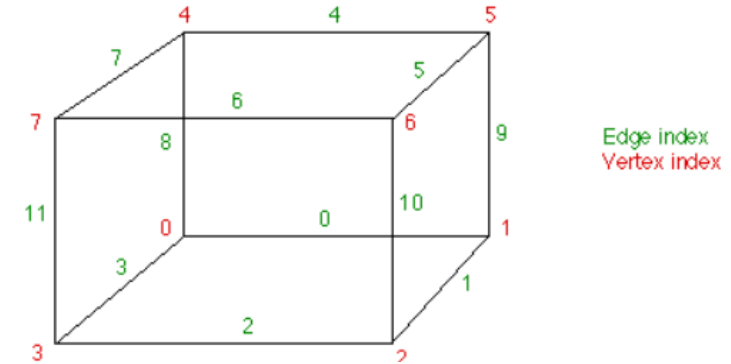
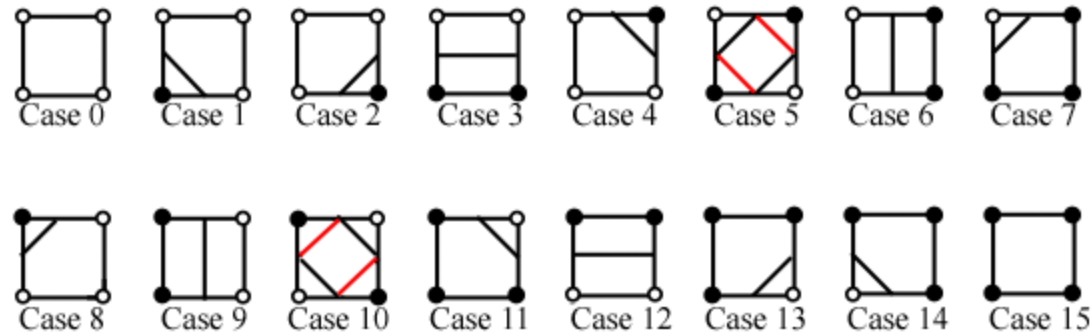
Mesh



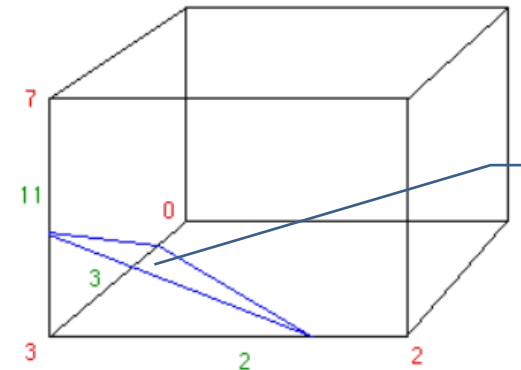
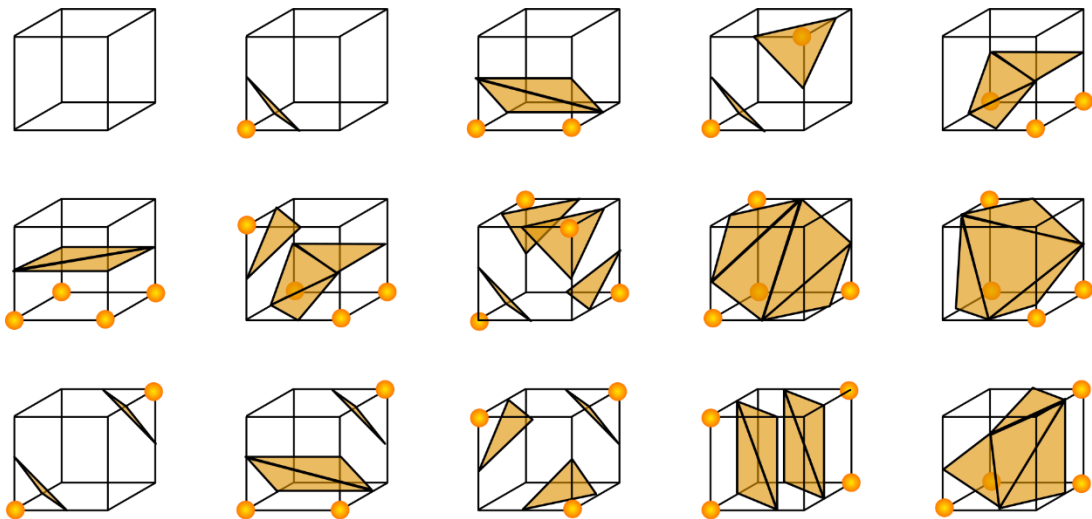
Marching squares

# Isosurfaces: Step 2: Voxel to mesh conversion

## Marching squares



## Marching cubes

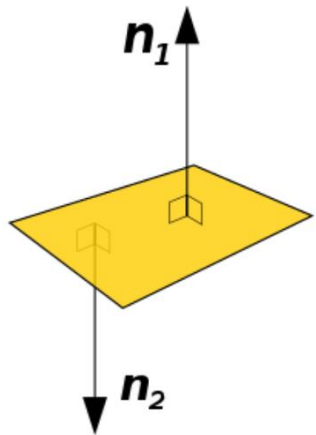
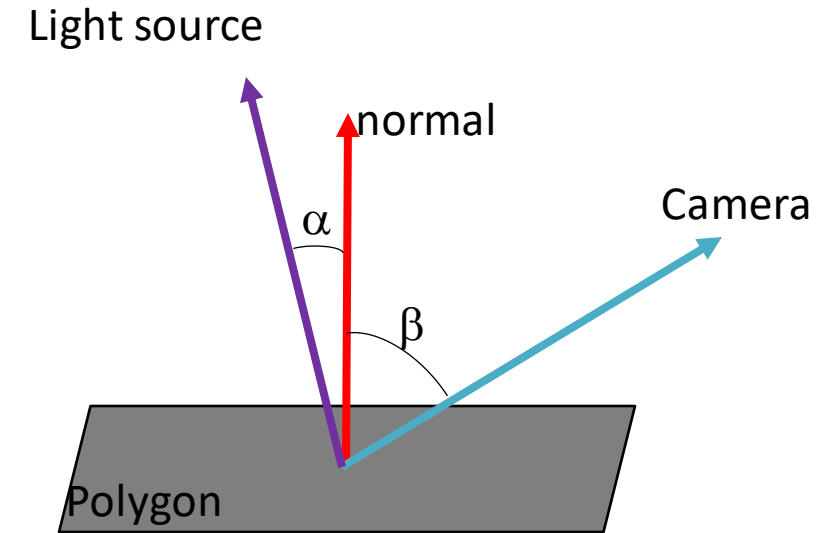
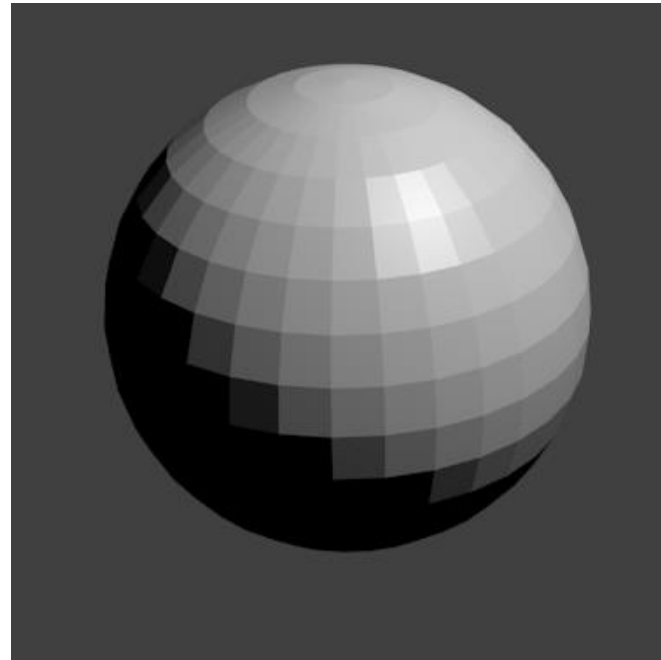
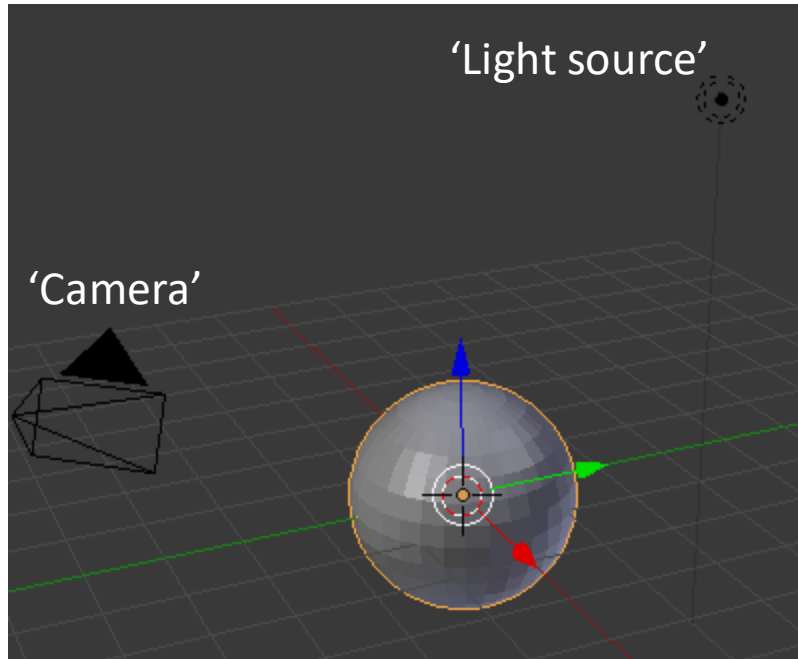


This is called a polygon

Intensities -> Binary -> 64 predefined values / marching cubes



# Isosurfaces: Step 3: Reflection and intensity



Normal: vector perpendicular to the polygon

The normal defines the color (or shade) of the polygon

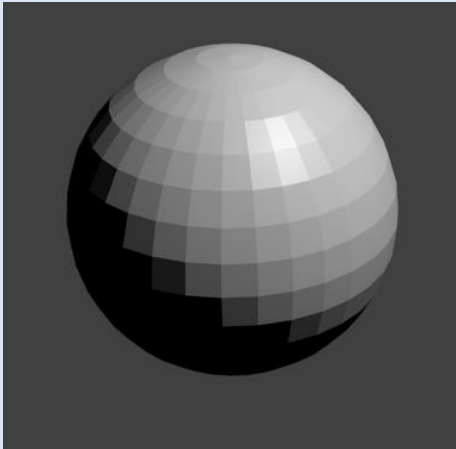
Polygons rendered without shader (flat)

$\alpha$  = angle between light and normal  
 $\beta$  = angle between camera and normal

The smaller the difference between  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$ ,  
The brighter the polygon

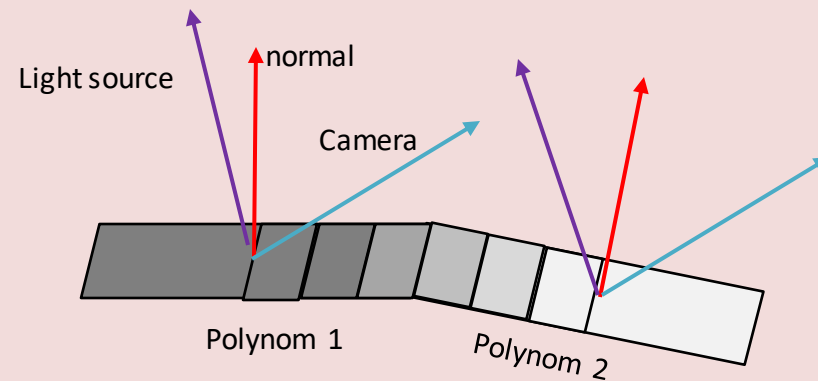
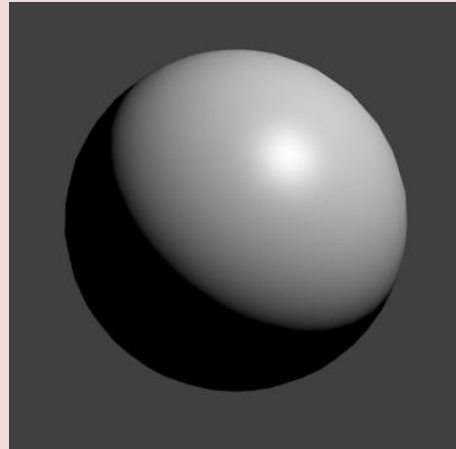
# Isosurfaces: Step 3: Illumination

## No shader



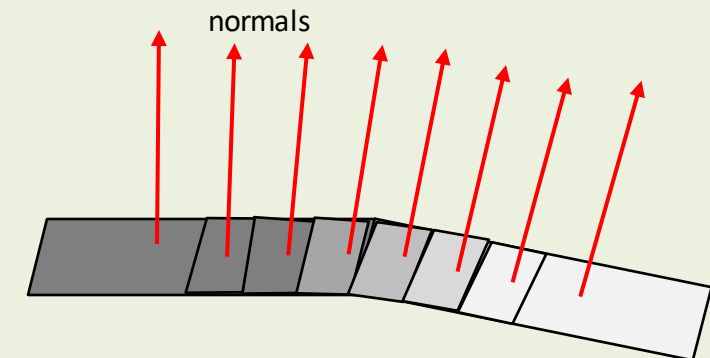
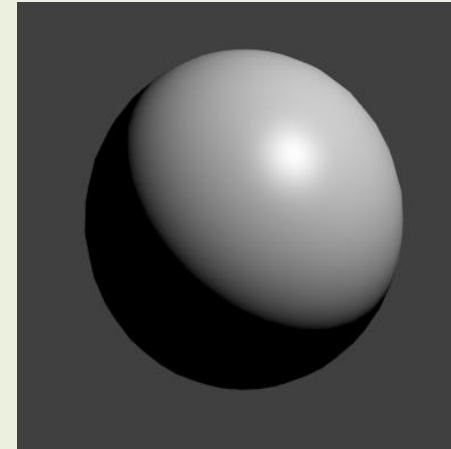
## Gouraud shading

Bilinear interpolation of the intensities (color) between two normals



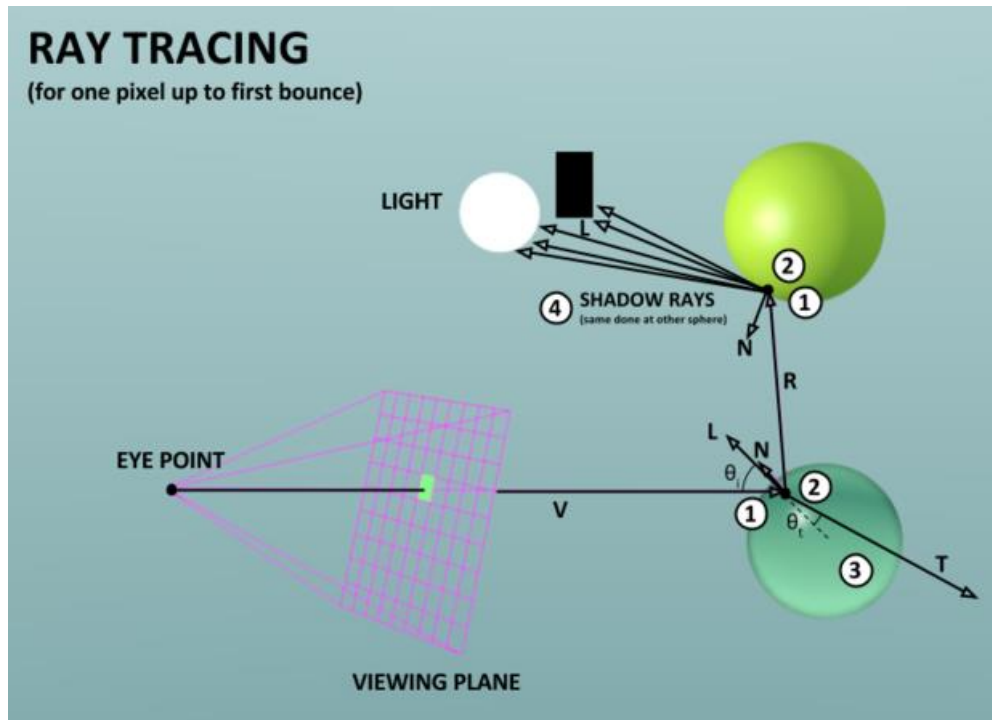
## Phong shading

Barycentric interpolation of the normals themselves

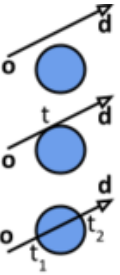


Modern hardware: use Phong (better than Gouraud, but a bit more intensive computing)

# Isosurface: towards ray tracing

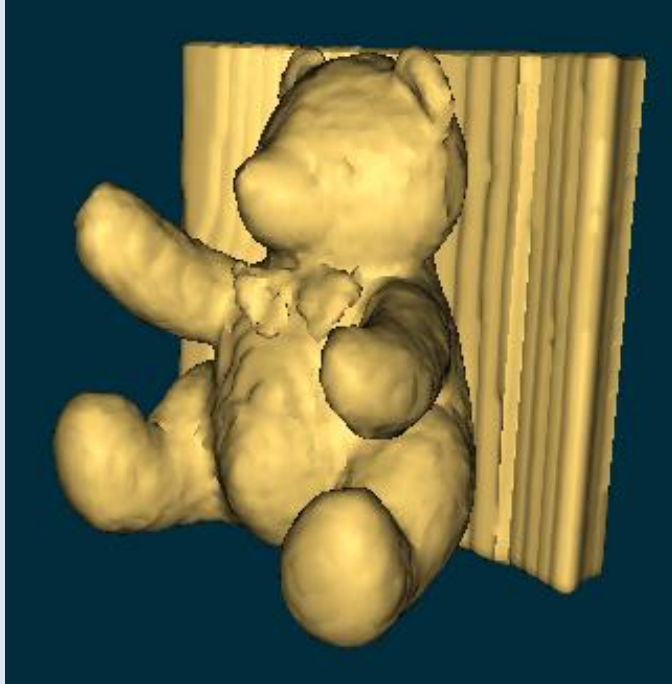


- ① Sphere equation:  $(\vec{p} - \vec{c}) \cdot (\vec{p} - \vec{c}) = r^2$  Intersection:  
Ray equation:  $\vec{r}(t) = \vec{o} + t\vec{d}$   
 $(\vec{o} + t\vec{d} - \vec{c}) \cdot (\vec{o} + t\vec{d} - \vec{c}) = r^2$   
 $t^2 (\vec{d} \cdot \vec{d}) + 2(\vec{o} - \vec{c}) \cdot t\vec{d} + (\vec{o} - \vec{c}) \cdot (\vec{o} - \vec{c}) - r^2 = 0$
- ② Illumination Equation (Blinn-Phong) with recursive Transmitted and Reflected Intensity:  
$$I = k_a I_a + I_i \left( k_d \left( \vec{L} \cdot \vec{N} \right) + k_s \left( \vec{V} \cdot \vec{R} \right)^n \right) + \underbrace{k_t I_t + k_r I_r}_{\text{recursion}}$$
- ③ Snell's law:  $\frac{\sin \theta_1}{\sin \theta_2} = \frac{v_1}{v_2} = \frac{n_2}{n_1}$   $n_{air} \sin \theta_i = n_{glass} \sin \theta_t$  refraction coefficients:  
 $n_{air} = 1, n_{glass} = 1.5$
- ④ Area Light Simulation:  $I_{light} \frac{\#(\text{visible shadow rays})}{\#(\text{all shadow rays})}$



The more bounces, the more realistic the image becomes

# Isosurface: Example

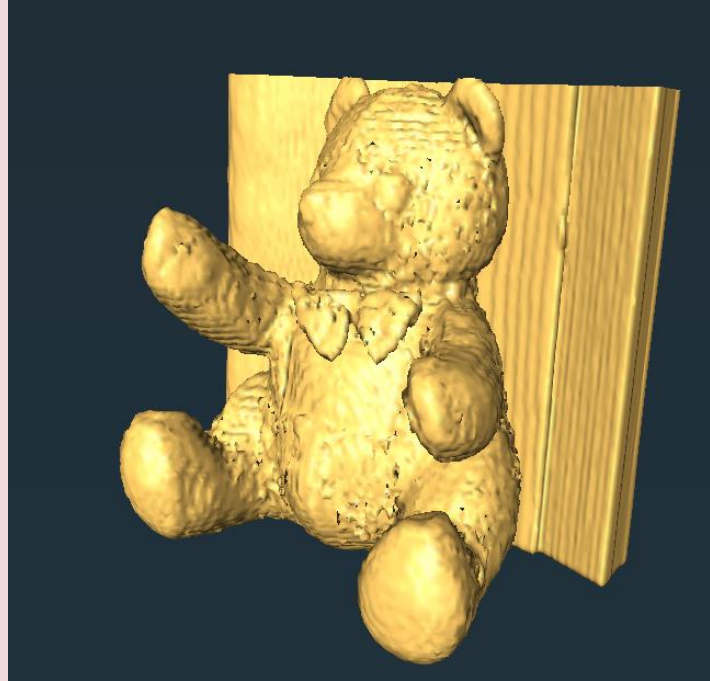


## ImageJ 3D viewer

Isosurface and (very basic) volume renderer  
Good quality, but limited  
Buggy (in my view)

But:  
export as STL, wavefront ♦ □ 3D printer

And volume calculation



## Commercial renderer

Avizo/Amira/Imaris  
Very flexible, commercial software  
Good quality, extensive renderer

Available through SciIT  
(BioNano workstation)



## Open source ray-tracer

Blender 2.82 cycles renderer  
Realistic rendering possible  
Slow

Free to download



# Isosurface: Ray-tracing and GANs

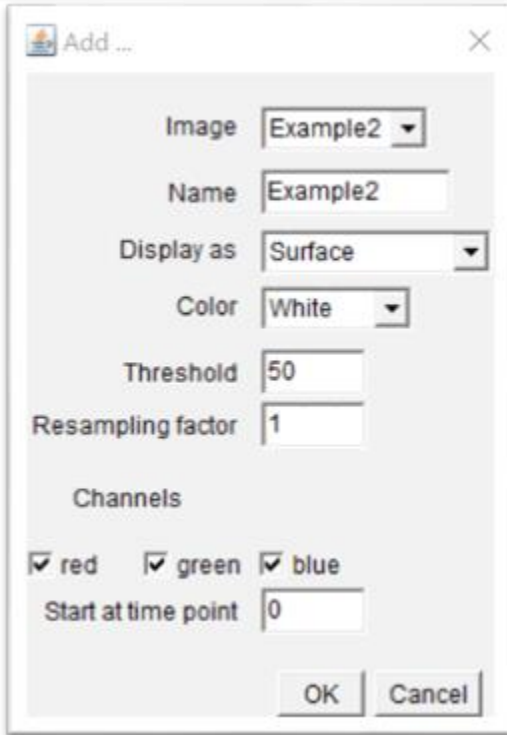




# Isosurface: surface rendering

## EXERCISE

Open Example 2 and try out the 3D viewer.



Select surface  
Select a color

### Set threshold

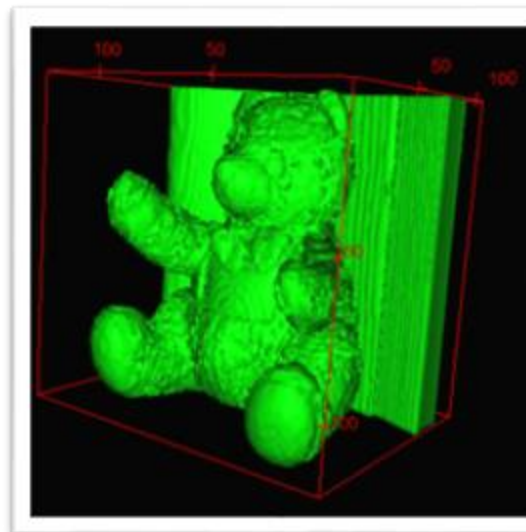
Do not downsample (value=1)

1. Plugins > 3D viewer
2. Select Display as surface, color (your choice) and resampling factor of 1)
3. Change the threshold (Edit > Adjust threshold). Set it to 50

File > Export surfaces (Wavefront, STL, ...)

◆ □ 3D printer

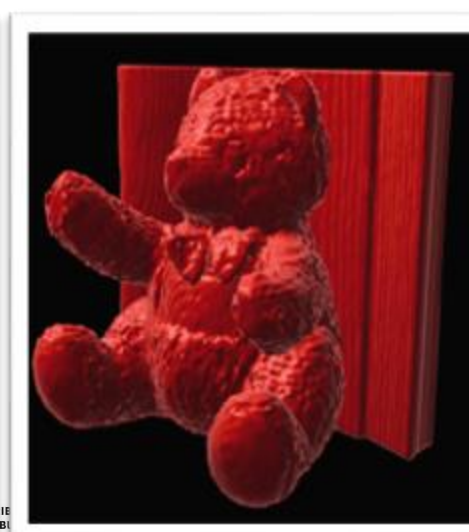
FIJI



Avizo



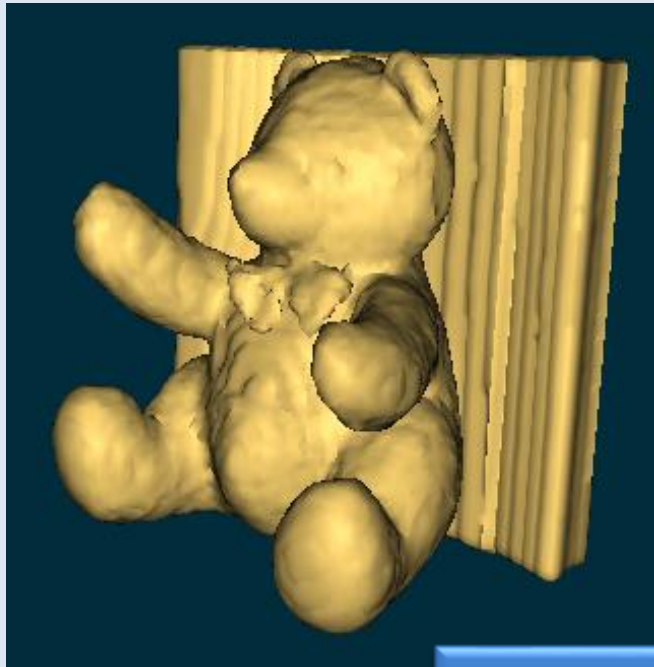
Imaris




# Isosurfaces: example

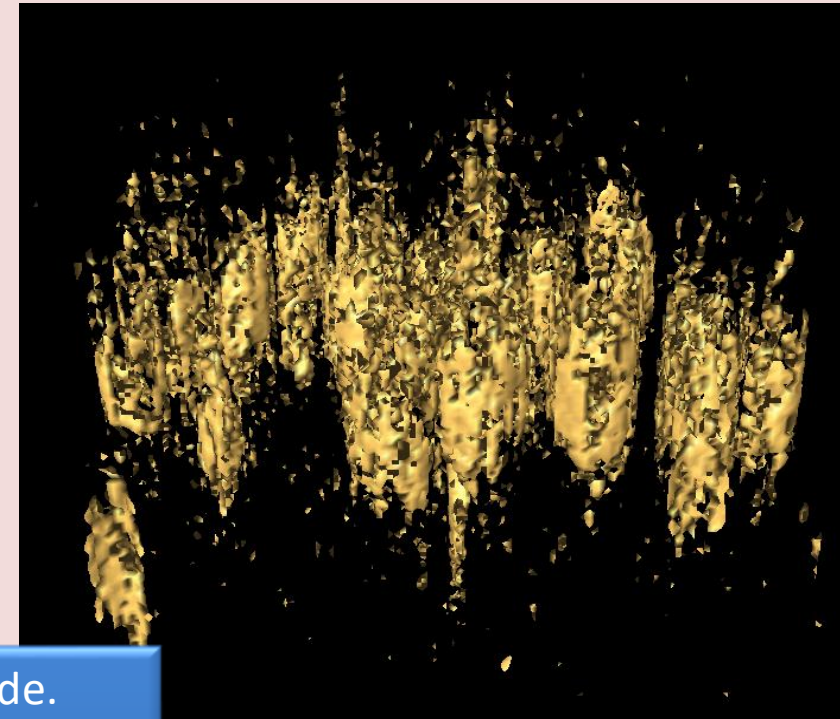
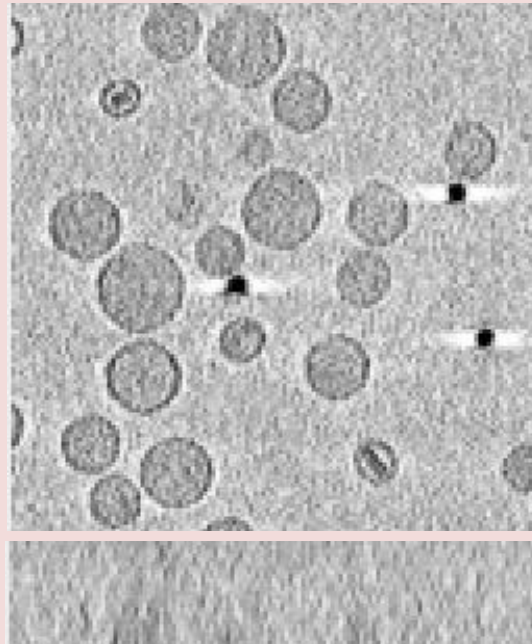
## Advantages:

- Computationally fast
- Good 3D interpretation



## Disadvantages:

- Noise effects  only one signal (e.g. LSM channel, segmented/thresholded)
- Hence: not suitable for noisy data (e.g. electron tomography)
- Preferably: thresholded/segmented (binary) data



Main disadvantage: A decision for every voxel must be made.  
This can produce:

- false positives (spurious surfaces)
- false negatives (erroneous holes in surfaces)

# 3D rendering

Never publish only renderings.  
Always provide the raw data.

Note: renderings require **interpretation** by the user. Hence, they are the convolution of the raw scientific data and the feature the user would like to see.

1. Surface rendering  
= binary threshold-based
2. **Volume rendering**  
= percentage threshold-based

Direct volume rendering methods generate images of a 3D volumetric data set without explicitly extracting geometric surfaces from the data (Levoy 1988).

Volume rendering offers the possibility for displaying weak or fuzzy surfaces. This frees one from the requirement to make a decision whether a surface is present or not.

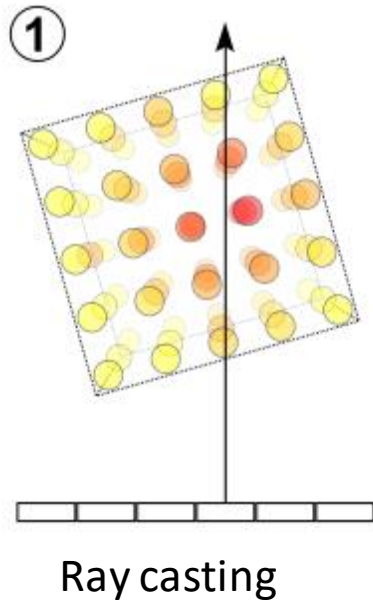
**Every voxel should contribute to the image**

How does it work?

1. **VOLUME RAY-CASTING (or ray marching)**: Cast imaginary rays through the entire 3D stack
2. **DEFINE TRANSFER FUNCTION**: setup rules for color and alpha (opacity)
3. **DEFINE EDGES AND LIGHT SOURCE**: shading
4. **ACCUMULATE THE DATA**

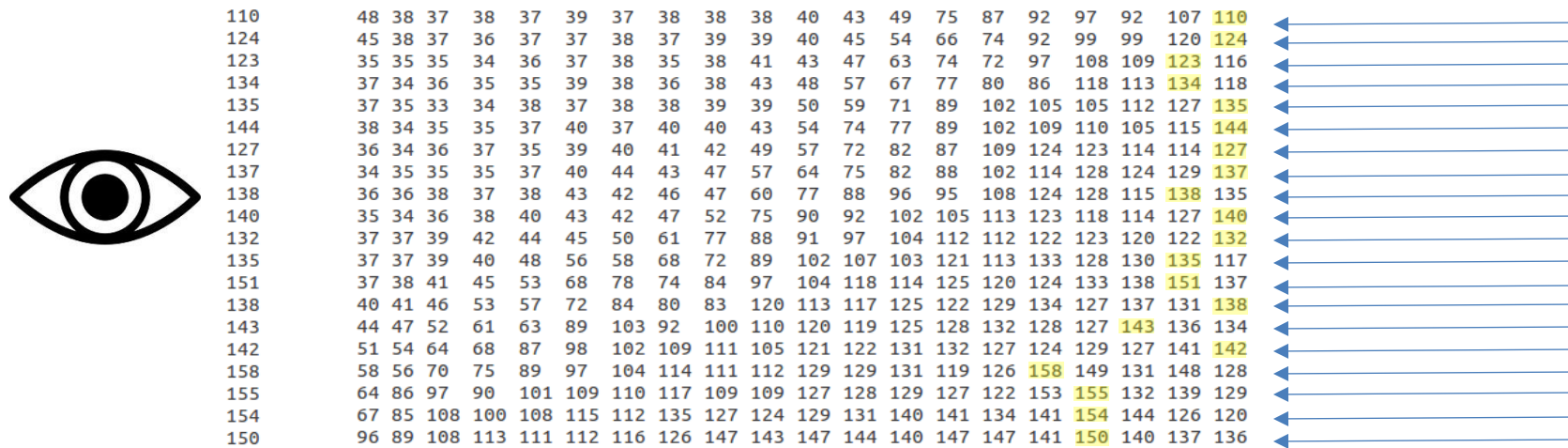
# Volume rendering: 1. Ray casting & interpolation

For each pixel of the final image, a ray of sight is shot ("cast") through the volume.  
At non-orthogonal angles, **interpolation** is needed



# Volume rendering: Example - Maximum intensity projection

projects in the **visualization plane** the voxels with maximum intensity that fall in the way of **parallel rays** traced from the **viewpoint** to the plane of projection

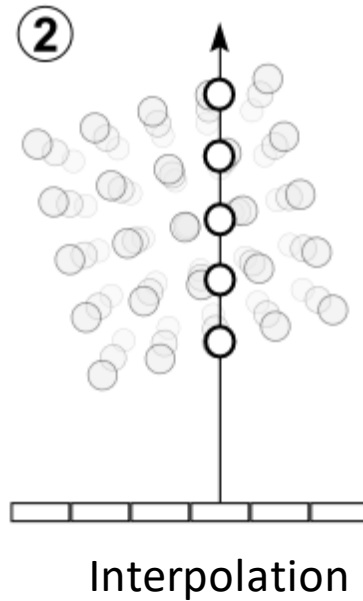
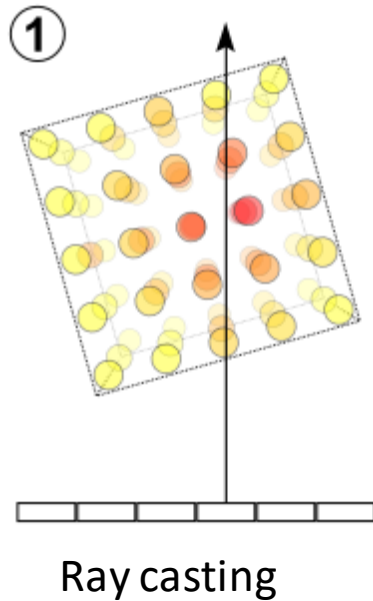


For each sampling point: RGBA is computed (Red, Green, Blue and Alpha)



## Volume rendering: step 2: Sampling and interpolation

For each pixel of the final image, a ray of sight is shot ("cast") through the volume.  
At non-orthogonal angles, **interpolation** is needed



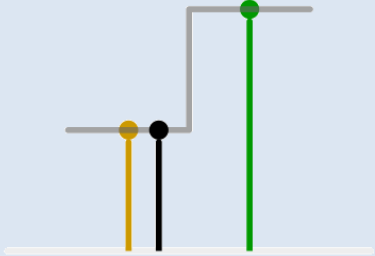
# Volume rendering: step 2: Sampling and interpolation

## Nearest Neighbour

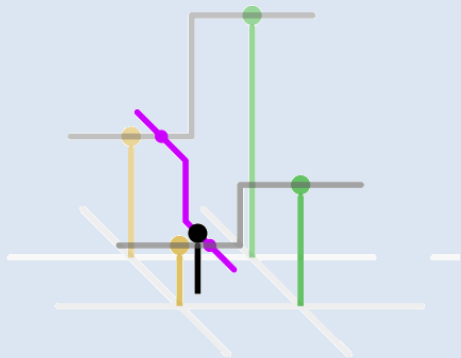
= unweighted

- Take the value of the closest voxel

*1D NN: closest of two points*



*2D NN: closest pixel of four corners of a square*

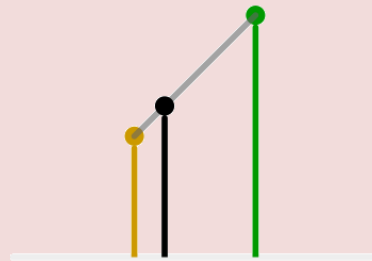


## Linear

= Center of mass

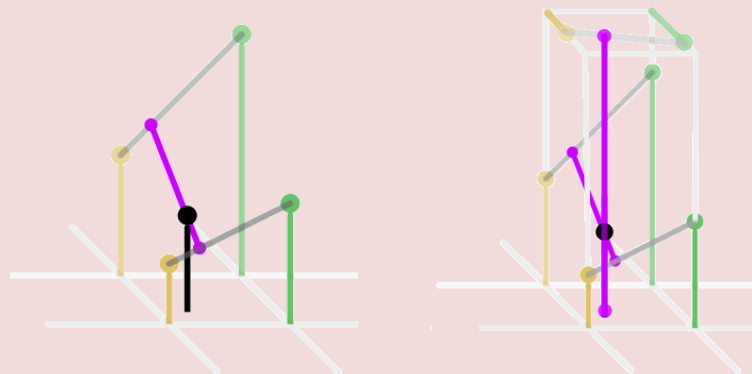
- Take the linear average of the two pixels the ray is intersecting

*1D Linear: Center of mass of two points*



*Bilinear: Center of mass of square corners*

*Trilinear: Center of mass of cube lattice points*

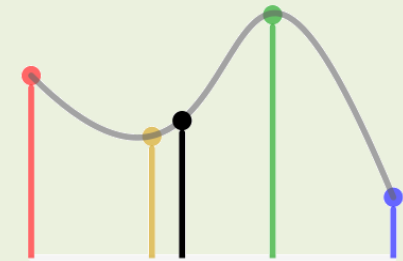


## Cubic

→ Center of mass

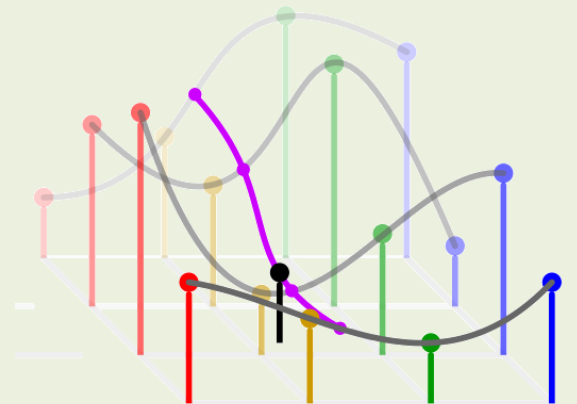
= Lagrange polynomials, cubic splines or cubic convolution

*1D Cubic: Center of mass of 3<sup>rd</sup> degree polynomial*



*Bicubic: Center of mass of 16 pixels*

*Tricubic: Center of mass of 64 pixels*

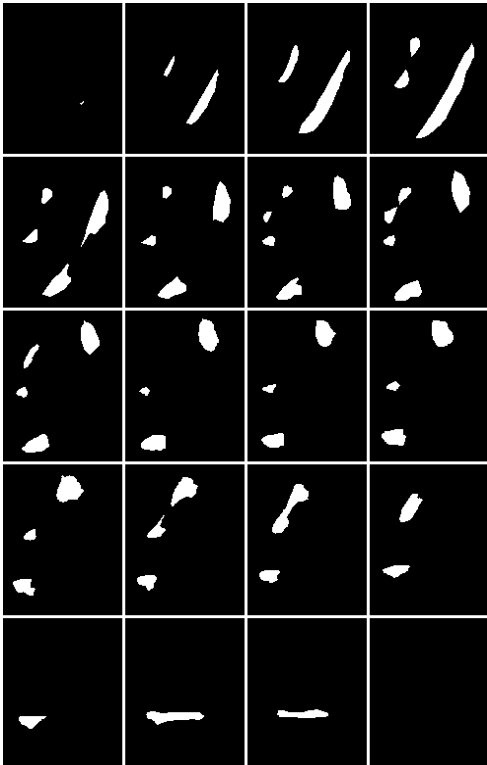


# Volume rendering: Example - Maximum intensity projection

projects in the **visualization plane** the voxels with maximum intensity that fall in the way of **parallel rays** traced from the **viewpoint** to the plane of projection

Image > Stack > 3D Project...

Original stack



Maximum intensity (brightest point)



## Advantages

computationally fast

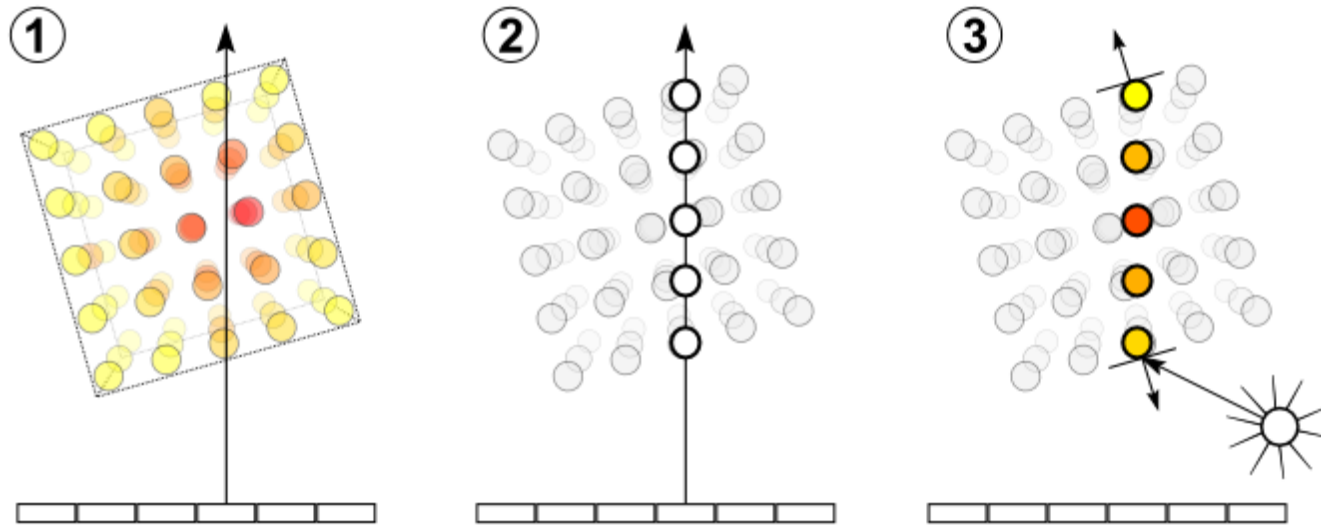
## Disadvantages

May not provide a good sense of depth of the original data.

Two MIP renderings from opposite viewpoints are symmetrical images

No difference between left or right, front or back.

# Volume rendering: step 3: shading



## Shading

For each sampling point, a gradient of illumination values is computed. These represent the orientation of local surfaces within the volume. The samples are then *shaded* (i.e. coloured and lit) according to their surface orientation (normal) and the location of the light source in the scene.

Each sampling point is shaded according to its normal

**Note: thresholding needed!**

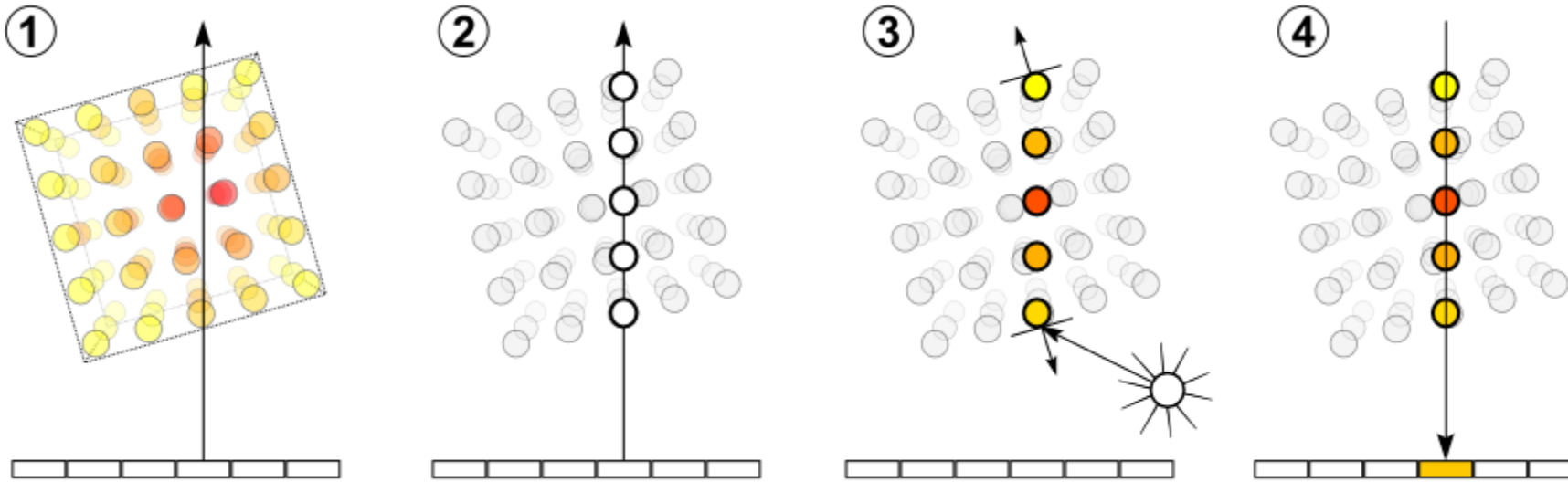
Imaris



Avizo



# Volume rendering: step 4: compositing



## Compositing

After all sampling points have been shaded, they are composited along the ray of sight, resulting in the final colour value for the pixel that is currently being processed.

$$L_o(\mathbf{x}, \omega_o, \lambda, t) = L_e(\mathbf{x}, \omega_o, \lambda, t) + \int_{\Omega} f_r(\mathbf{x}, \omega_i, \omega_o, \lambda, t) L_i(\mathbf{x}, \omega_i, \lambda, t) (\omega_i \cdot \mathbf{n}) d\omega_i$$

The total spectral radiance

$\mathbf{x}$  = position

$\omega_o$  = direction (angle)

$\lambda$  = wavelength

$T$  = time point

The emitted spectral  
radiance

The bidirectional  
reflectance distribution  
function

The spectral radiance

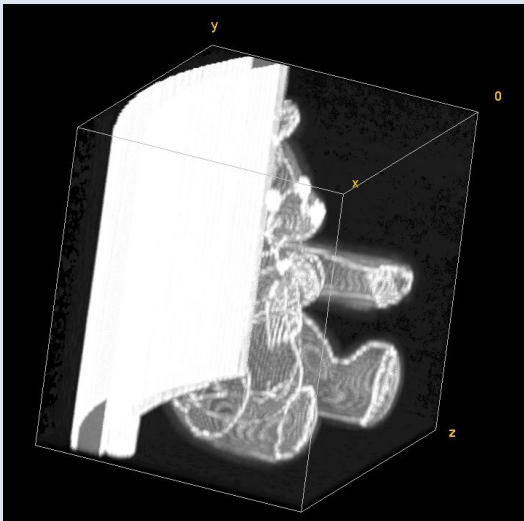
# Volume rendering: Maximum intensity projection

## EXERCISE

Open Example 2 and try out the Volume viewer (plugins > volume viewer)

Mode: **Projection (3)** Interpolation: **Trilinear (1)** z-Aspect: **1.0** Sampling: **1.0** **Background** **Snapshot** **Reset**

- Max Projection (2)
- Slice (0)
- Slice & Borders (1)
- Max Projection (2)**
- Projection (3)
- Volume (4)

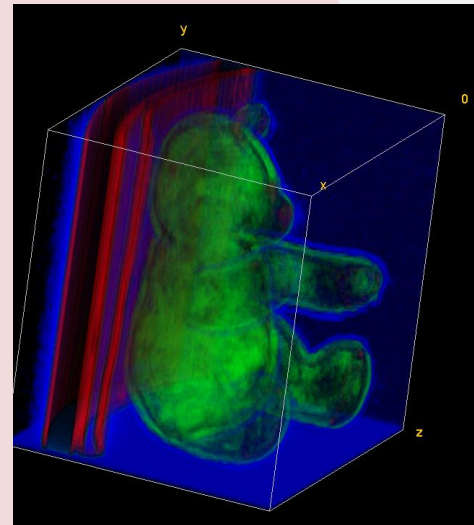
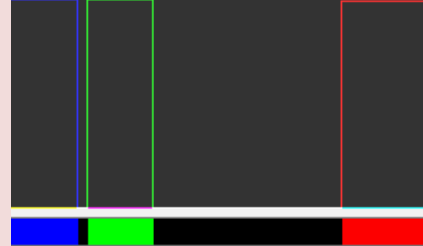


- Projection (3)
- Slice (0)
- Slice & Borders (1)
- Max Projection (2)
- Projection (3)**
- Volume (4)

Transfer Function (TF): Color & Alpha

Grayscale (1)

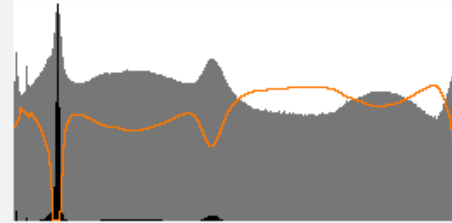
Draw LUT RGB ☒ R ☐ G ☐ B ☐



- Volume (4)
- Slice (0)
- Slice & Borders (1)
- Max Projection (2)
- Projection (3)
- Volume (4)**

1D 2D Grad 2D MD 3D Fill

Draw the alpha graph of the 1D-TF(lum)



global alpha offset

auto

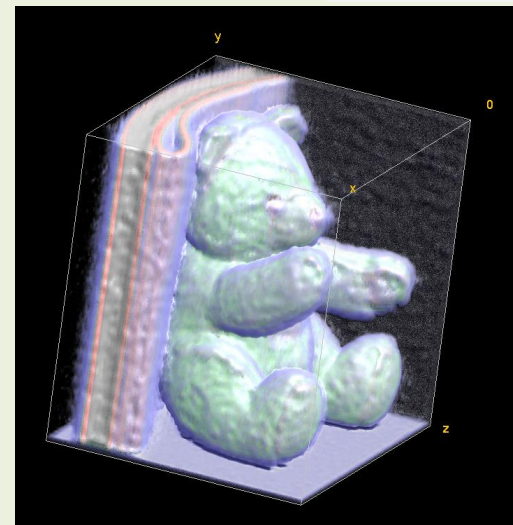
clear

☒ Light

Drag sphere to change direction, double click to change color of light.



object color   
ambient   
diffuse   
specular   
shine





# Volume rendering: Projection

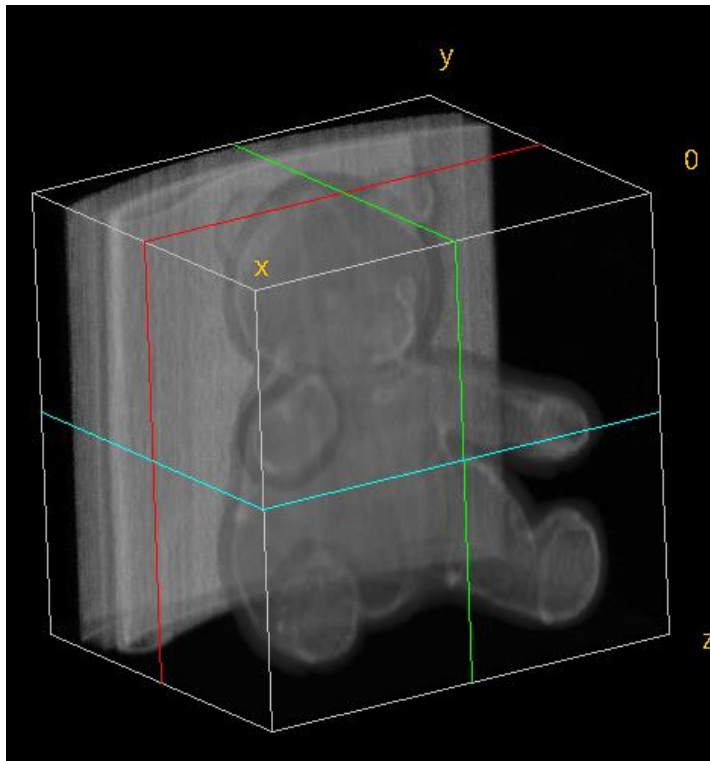
## EXERCISE

Open Example 2 and try out the Volume viewer (plugins > volume viewer)

Mode: **Projection (3)** Interpolation: **Trilinear (1)** z-Aspect: **1.0** Sampling: **1.0** **Background** **Snapshot** **Reset**

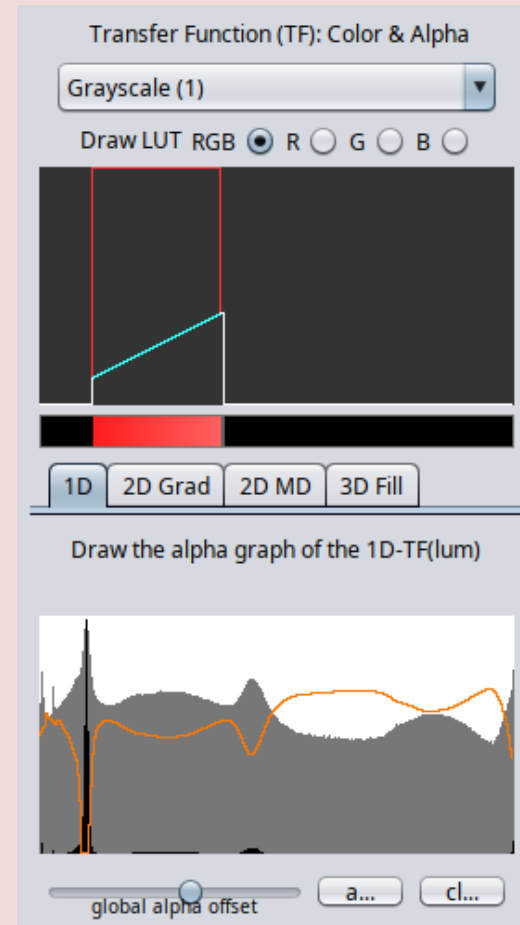
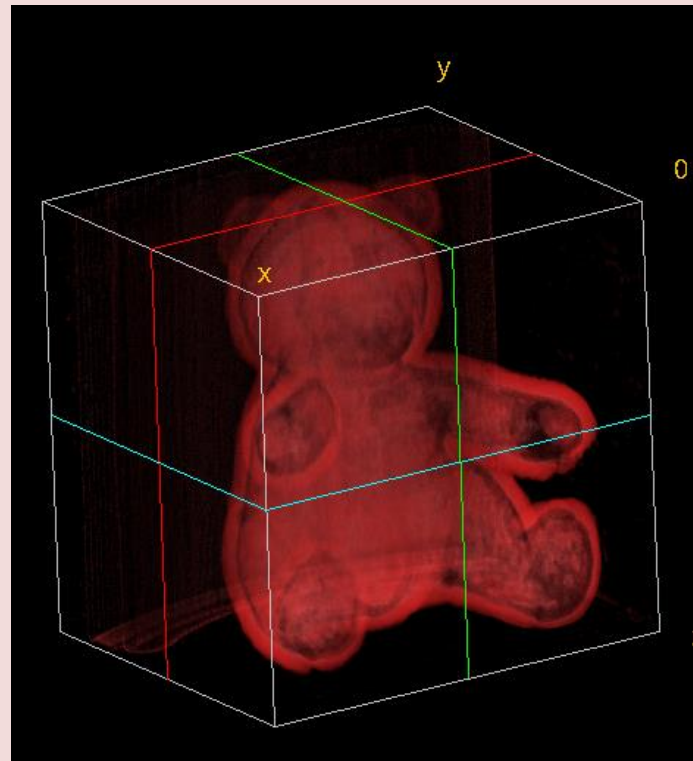
### Projection

Alpha without transfer function adjustments



### Projection

Alpha with 1D transfer function adjustments



# Volume rendering: Projection

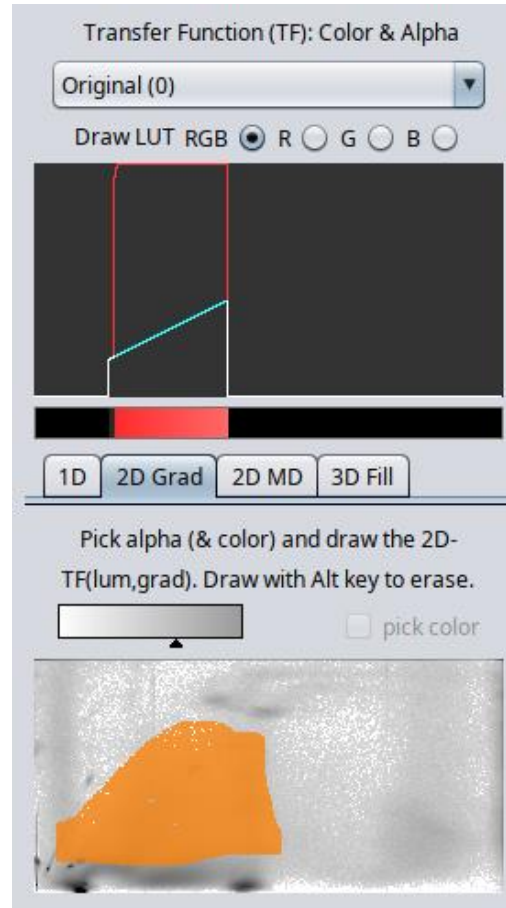
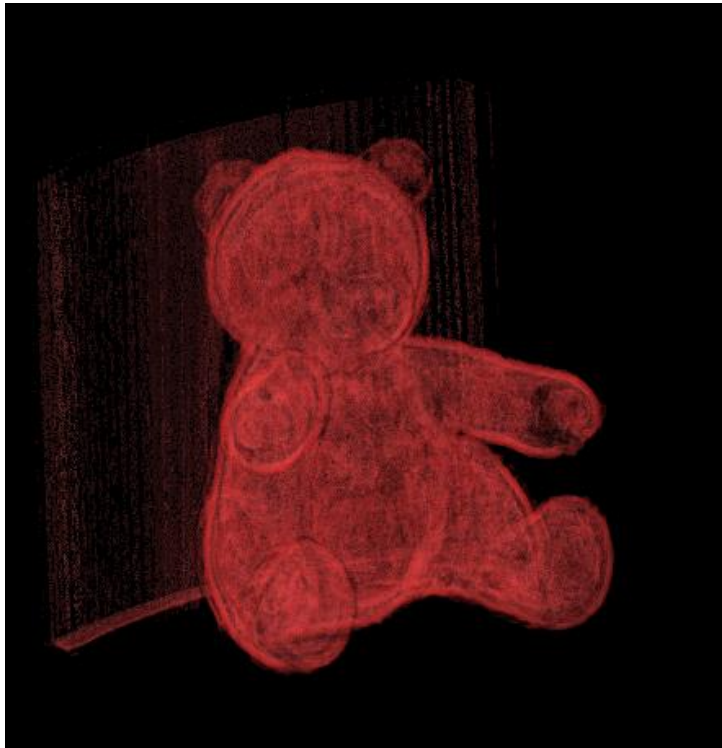
## EXERCISE

Open Example 2 and try out the Volume viewer (plugins > volume viewer)

Mode: **Projection (3)** Interpolation: **Trilinear (1)** z-Aspect: **1.0** Sampling: **1.0** **Background** **Snapshot** **Reset**

## Projection

Alpha with 2D transfer function adjustments



# Volume rendering: Volume

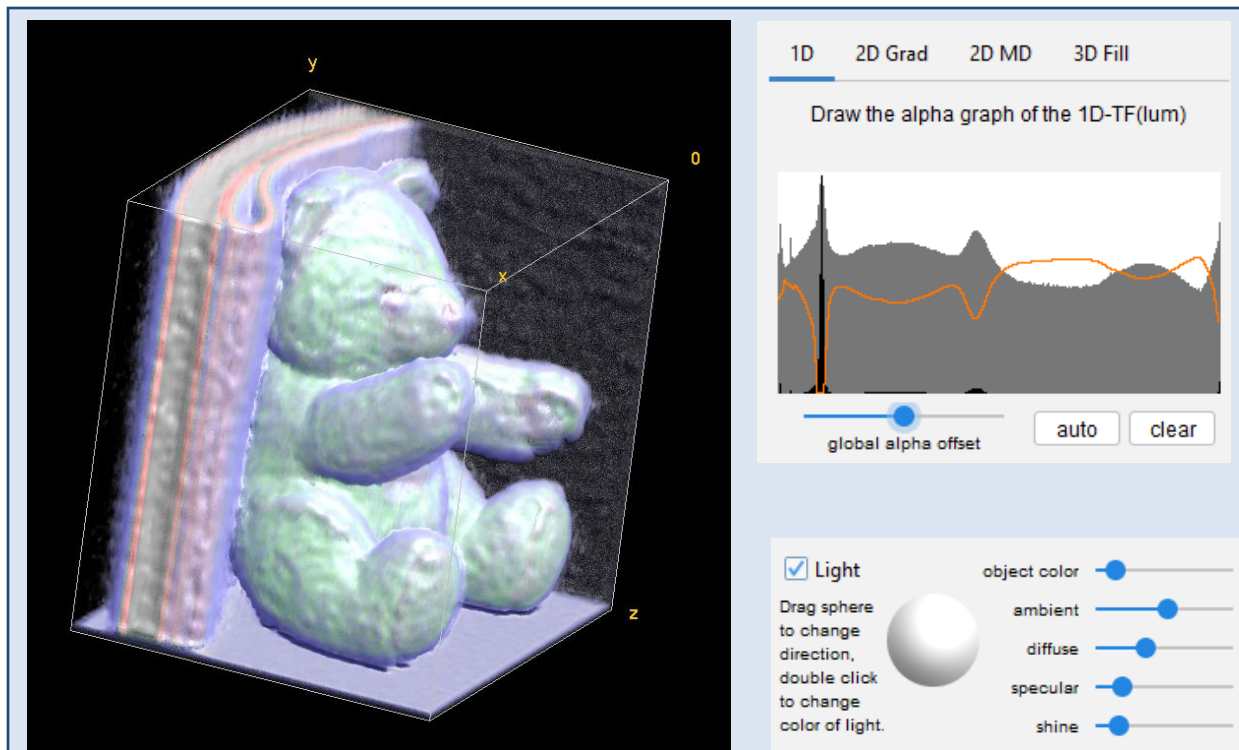
## EXERCISE

Open Example 2 and try out the Volume viewer (plugins > volume viewer)

Mode: **Volume (4)** Interpolation: **Trilinear (1)** z-Aspect: **1.0** Sampling: **1.0** **Background** **Snapshot** **Reset**

- Slice (0)
- Slice & Borders (1)
- Max Projection (2)
- Projection (3)
- Volume (4)**

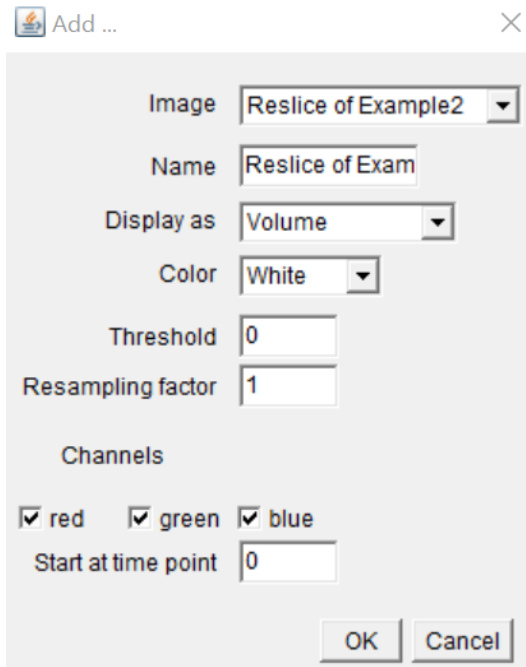
**Projection**  
Threshold and set compositing effects



# Volume rendering

## EXERCISE

### Open Example 2



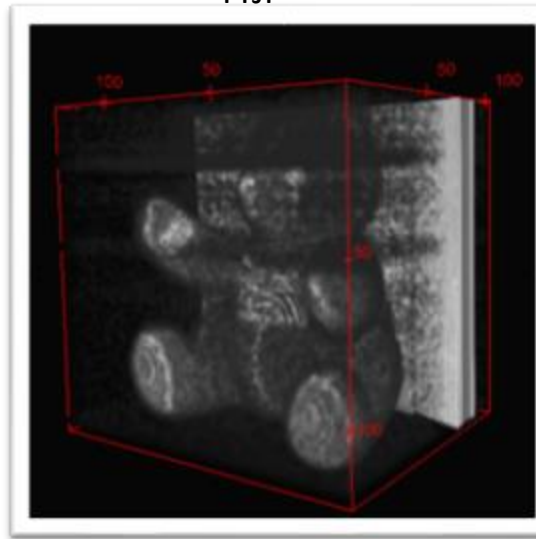
Select Volume  
Select a color

**NO threshold**

Do not downsample (value =1)

1. Plugins > 3D viewer
2. Select Display as volume, color (your choice) and resampling factor of 1)
3. No need to set a threshold

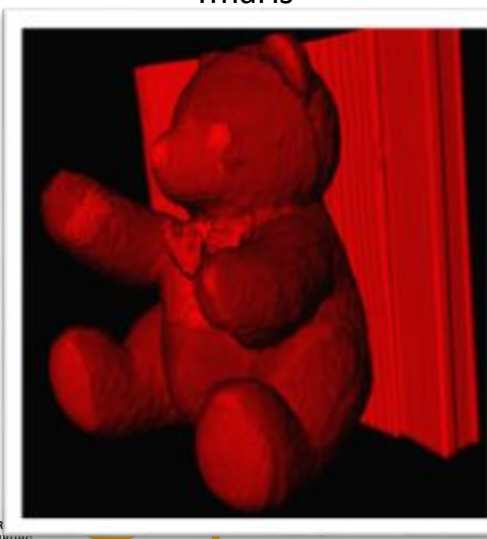
FIJI



Avizo



Imaris





# Volume rendering: Imaris

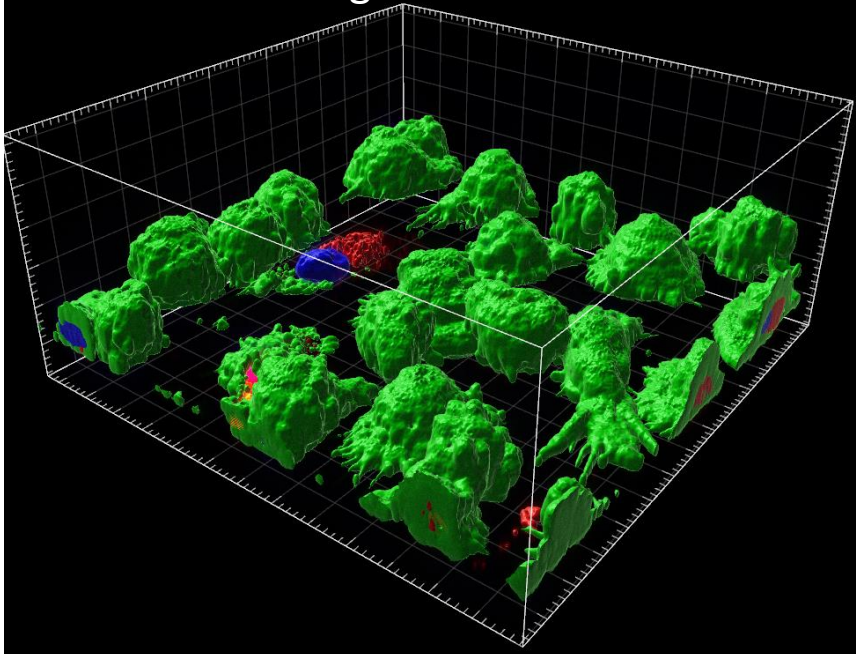
**BioNano has a workstation dedicated to Image rendering (amipc22.unifr.ch)**

Soft Matter physics has also a workstation

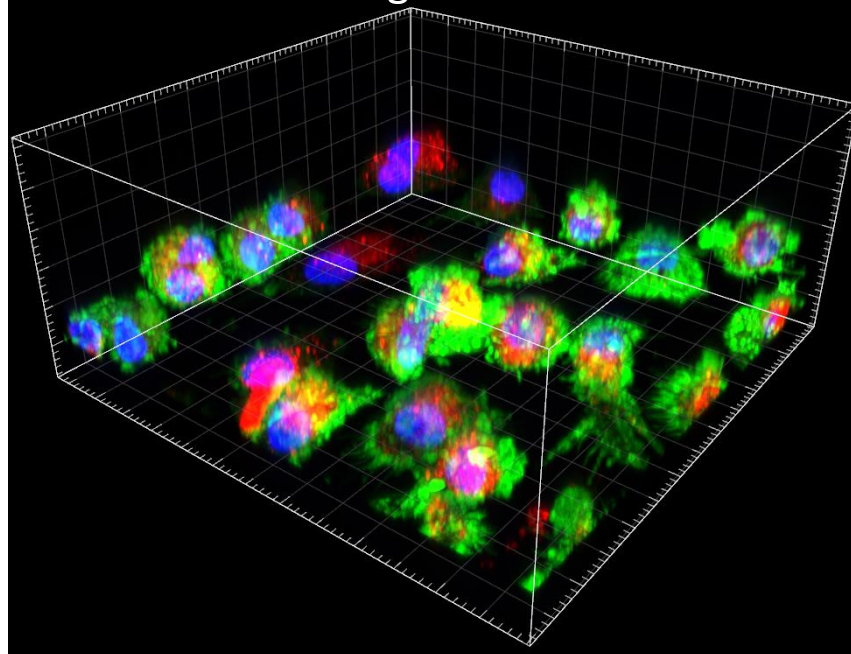
More number cruncher available at Biology, Medicine, (physics?)

**Imaris:** dedicated to 3D LSM data

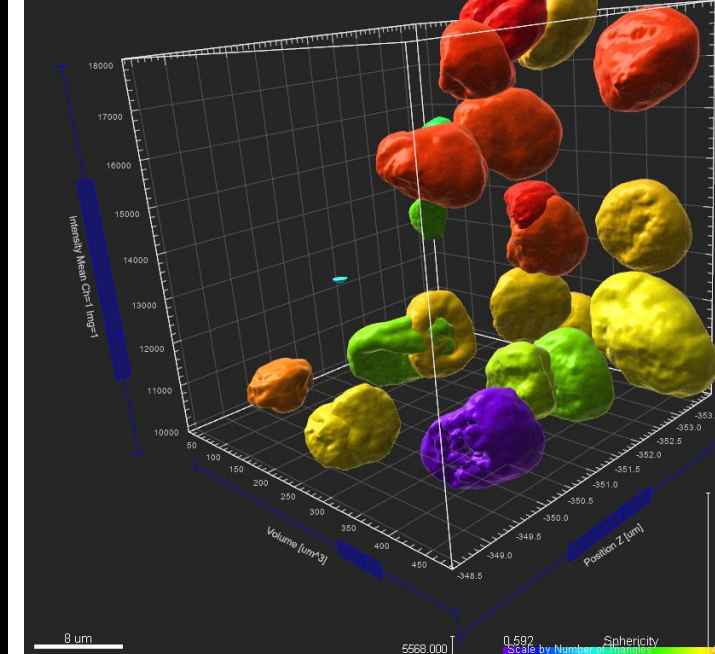
Surface rendering



Volume rendering



Object analysis

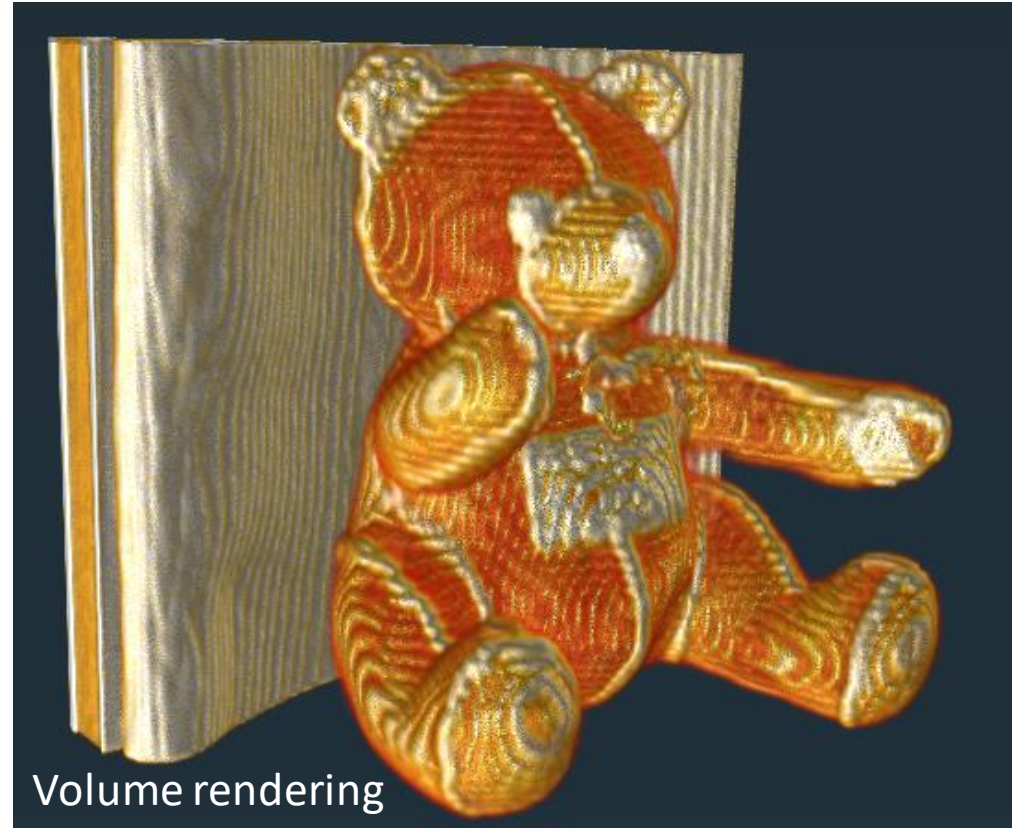
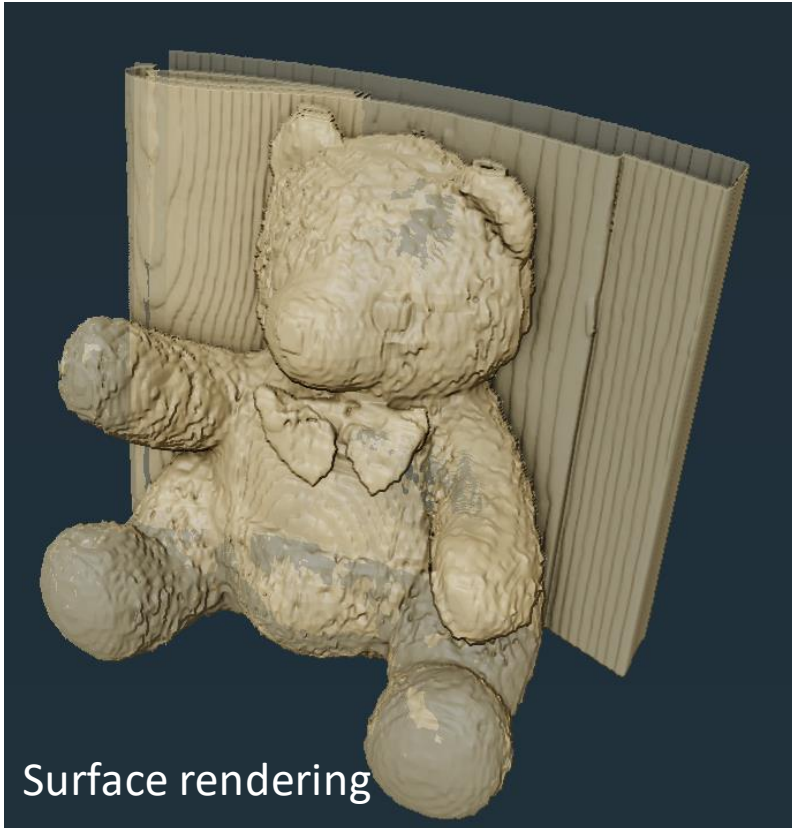




# Volume rendering: Aviso

BioNano has a workstation dedicated to Image rendering ([amipc22.unifr.ch](http://amipc22.unifr.ch))

**Aviso:** dedicated to 3D non-fluorescent 3D and 4D data



# Z-Stacks

✓ Congratulations,  
You finished Part IV, 3D

