BrainSuite GUI:
Surface Extraction and Visualization

Presented at the **2017 BrainSuite Training Workshop, Vancouver**

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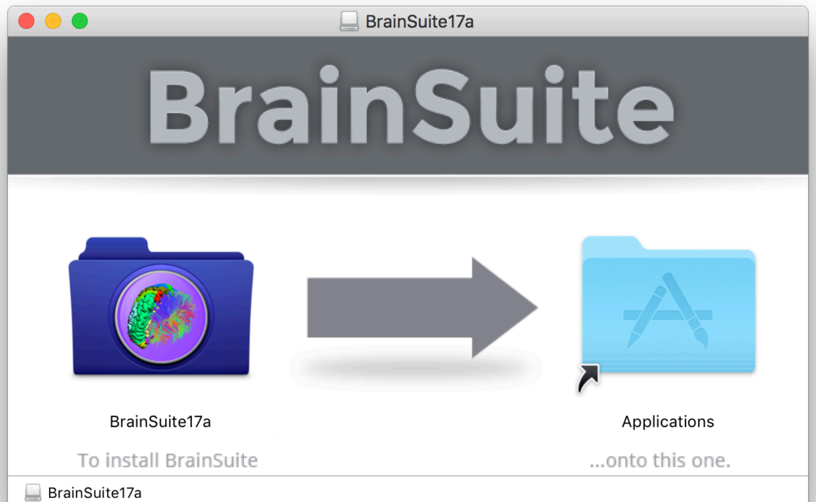
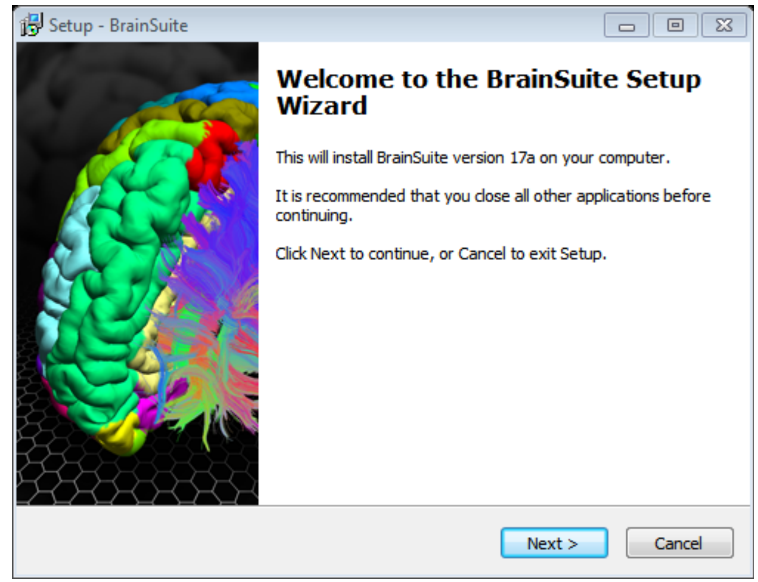
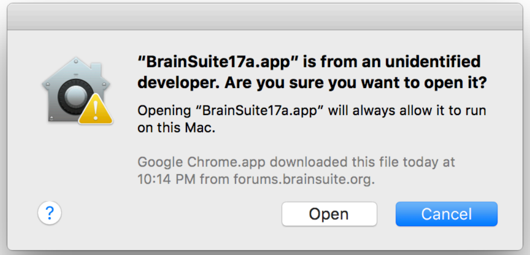
Installation

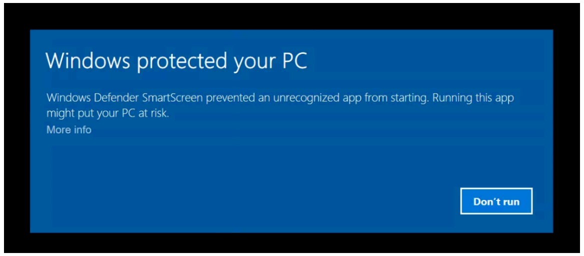




- Register and download at http://brainsuite.org
- Mac & Windows: open the installer
- Linux : gunzip/untar to your preferred install directory (/opt/)

Installation : Security





You may need to tell your OS that you trust BrainSuite.

- Mac
  - Navigate to /Applications/BrainSuite17a/brainsuite17a.app
  - Right-click and select "open".
  - Approve BrainSuite17a to run.
- Windows
  - Win10: select 'more info' and proceed.
  - Win7: approve it through the dialog box.

Installation : MCR

- SVReg and BDP require MATLAB Compiler Runtime (MCR) 2015b
  - **Important: must be the 2015b Version!!!**
  - Included on flash drive.
  - Online: http://www.mathworks.com/products/compiler/mcr/

	Windows	Linux	Mac
R2015b (9.00)	64-bit	64-bit	Intel 64-bit

  - Links are also on the BrainSuite website.

BrainSuite Filetypes

Orthogonal Views	
File extension	**Action**
.nii, .nii.gz	3D images in NIFTI format
.odf	List of image files use in ODF representation
.dfs	BrainSuite surface format
.dft	BrainSuite track format (diffusion tractography)
.dfc	BrainSuite curve format (for landmark delineation)
.xml	Label descriptions Spherical ROIs
.lut	Colormaps (plain text)
.bst	BrainSuite Study File

http://brainsuite.org/keyboard-shortcuts/

Sample Data

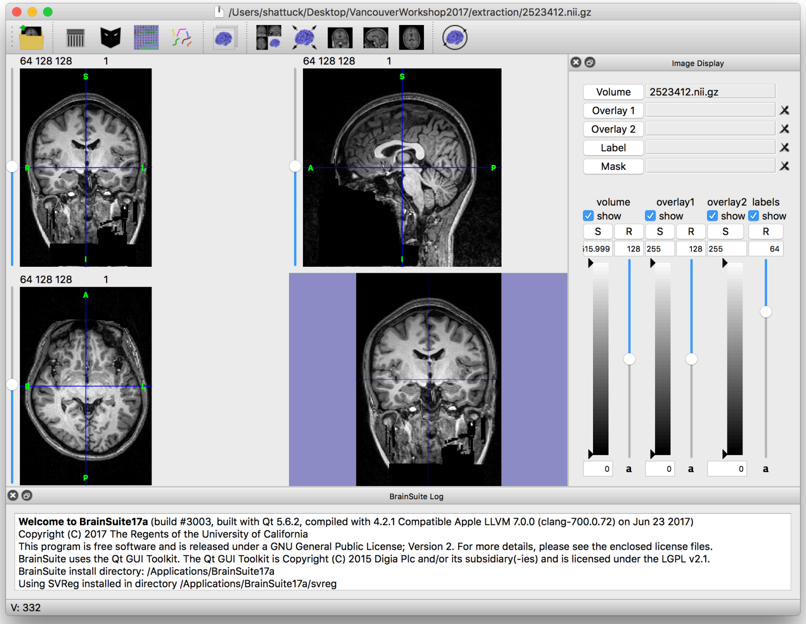
VancouverWorkshop2017

- contains several .bst files for running the examples in this tutorial.
- **extraction** : MRI file for cortical surface extraction
- **structural**: contains SVReg outputs
- **diffusion**: contains output of the BDP commands
- **commandline** : scripts and data to run command line tools
- **BCI-DNI_atlas: loads the BCI-DNI atlas**

Parts of this dataset were produced from the Beijing Enhanced data, Beijing Normal University, State Key Laboratory of Cognitive Neuroscience and Learning Enhanced Sample, which is available under a Creative Commons Attribution - Non-Commercial license (CC-BY). For more details please see: http://fcon_1000.projects.nitrc.org/indi/retro/BeijingEnhanced.html

Opening and Displaying an MRI

- Start BrainSuite
- Drag and drop the T1 image from the native space folder onto the interface
  structural/2523412.nii.gz
- Navigation:
  - Scrolling the sliders or click in the image windows
  - Click and drag the mouse in the 3D view to rotate the display
  - Ctrl+click/⌘+click to zoom*
- Press the ‘I’ key to open the Image Display Properties controller
  - Adjust the intensity ranges
  - Right-click to change colormaps



*ctrl for Windows, ⌘ for Mac

BrainSuite Keyboard Shortcuts

Main Window	
Ctrl Key Combos	**Action**
Ctrl + A	Autoscale images
Ctrl + B	Show previous surface (back)
Ctrl + F	Show next surface (forward)
Ctrl + L [upper case L]	Toggle ROI labels
Ctrl + l [lower case L]	Toggle ROI label outlines
Ctrl + R	Toggle first overlay volume on/off
Ctrl + M [case sensitive]	Cycle mask mode
Ctrl + m [case sensitive]	Toggle mask on/off
Ctrl + S	Toggle show surfaces
Ctrl + V	Toggle show volume slices in 3D view
Ctrl + X	Toggle show cursors
Ctrl + Z	Undo last paint action

Note that on a Mac you can use the ⌘ key instead of Ctrl

http://brainsuite.org/keyboard-shortcuts/

BrainSuite Keyboard Shortcuts

Surface Display	
Key	**Action**
L	Toggle lighting for 3D view
G	Toggle tensor glyphs on/off
O	Toggle ODF glyphs on/off
F	Toggle fibers on/off
W	Toggle wire frame mode for surfaces
X	Cycle x-plane clipping (off, positive, negative)
Y	Cycle z-plane clipping (off, positive, negative)
Z	Cycle z-plane clipping (off, positive, negative)
H	Reset clipping mode and position

http://brainsuite.org/keyboard-shortcuts/

BrainSuite Keyboard Shortcuts

Toolboxes	
Key	**Action**
I	Show Image Display Toolbox
S	Show Surface Display Toolbox
M	Show Mask Tool (Delineation Toolbox)
P	Show Label Tool (Delineation Toolbox)
C	Show Curve Toolbox
D	Show Diffusion Toolbox

http://brainsuite.org/keyboard-shortcuts/

BrainSuite Keyboard Shortcuts

Image Display	
Key	**Action**
+	Zoom In
-	Zoom Out
*	Zoom Best Fit
/	Zoom to 1:1 (in smallest pixel dimension)

http://brainsuite.org/keyboard-shortcuts/

BrainSuite Keyboard Shortcuts

Orthogonal Views	
Alt Key Combos	**Action**
Alt + 1	Rotate 3D view to xy view (axial, from superior)
Alt + 2	Rotate 3D view to yz view (axial, from inferior)
Alt + 3	Rotate 3D view to xz view (coronal, from posterior
Alt + 4	Rotate 3D view to xz view (coronal, from anterior)
Alt + 5	Rotate 3D view to yz view (sagittal, from right)
Alt + 6	Rotate 3D view to yz view (sagittal, from left)

http://brainsuite.org/keyboard-shortcuts/

BrainSuite Keyboard Shortcuts

Connectivity Viewer	
Key	**Action**
1	Show Connectivity for Cortical Areas
2	Show Connectivity for Frontal Lobe
3	Show Connectivity for Parietal Lobe
4	Show Connectivity for Temporal Lobe
5	Show Connectivity for Occipital Lobe
6	Show Connectivity for Subcortical Areas
7	Show Connectivity for Brain Areas
8	Show Connectivity for All Labeled Regions

http://brainsuite.org/keyboard-shortcuts/

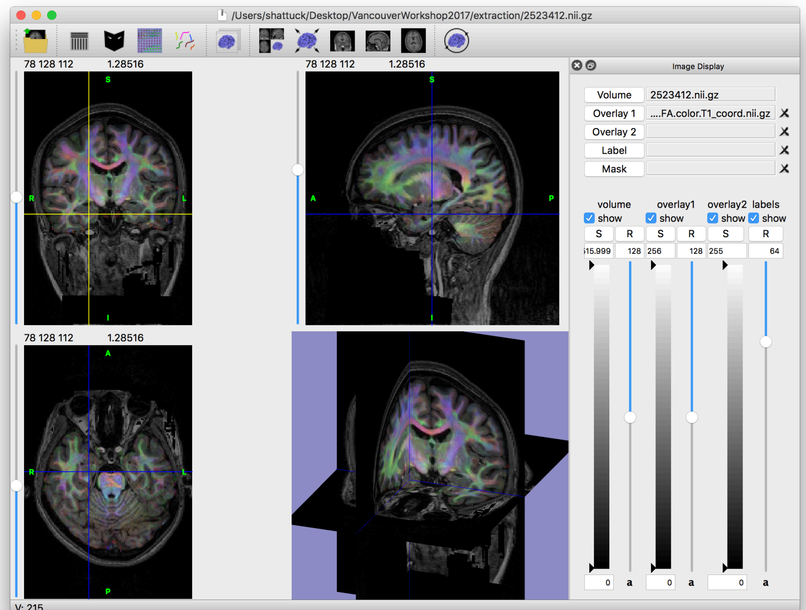
Opening an Overlay

Load an overlay image

- Press the Overlay1 button
- Select the color FA file:

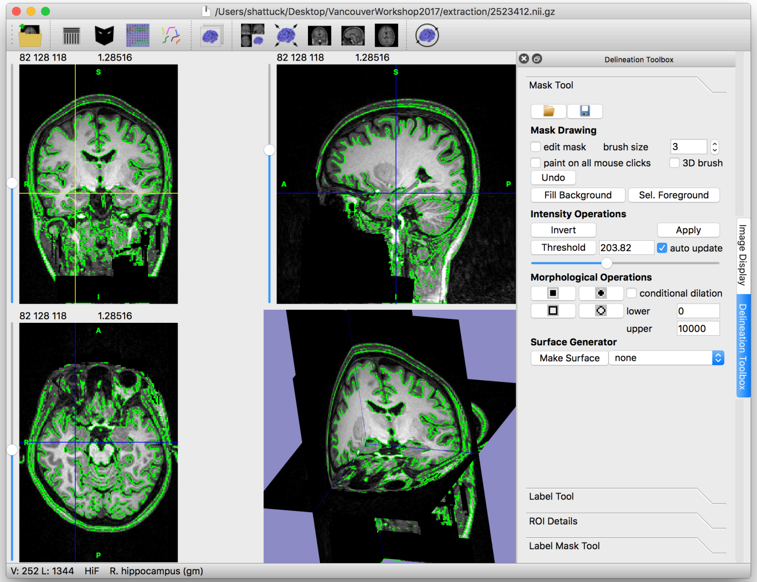
2523412.dwi.RAS.correct.FA.color.T1_coord.nii.gz

Adjust the first alpha slider to change the blending of the two images



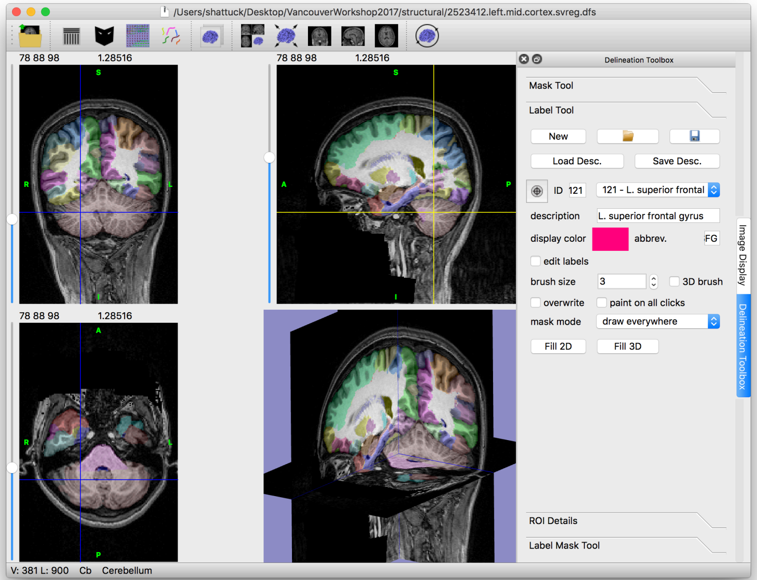
Mask Tool

- Open the T1 image as the primary volume
- Open the display properties and adjust the lower intensity range
- Press ‘M’ to open the mask tool
- Adjust the slider under Threshold, and see the mask boundary change.
- This will create a new mask as the slider moves.



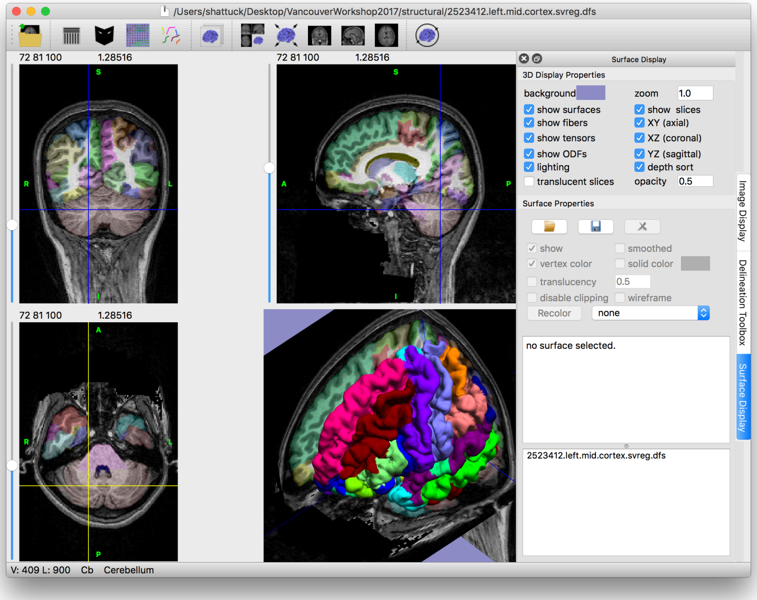
Working with Labels

- Load data from the structural directory
  - Load 2523412.nii.gz
  - Load 2523412.svreg.label.nii.gz as a Label image
- Press ‘P’ to open the Label Tool
- Each color corresponds to a different anatomical area as defined by BrainSuite
- Click the mouse on a labeled area, and the label is shown in the status bar.

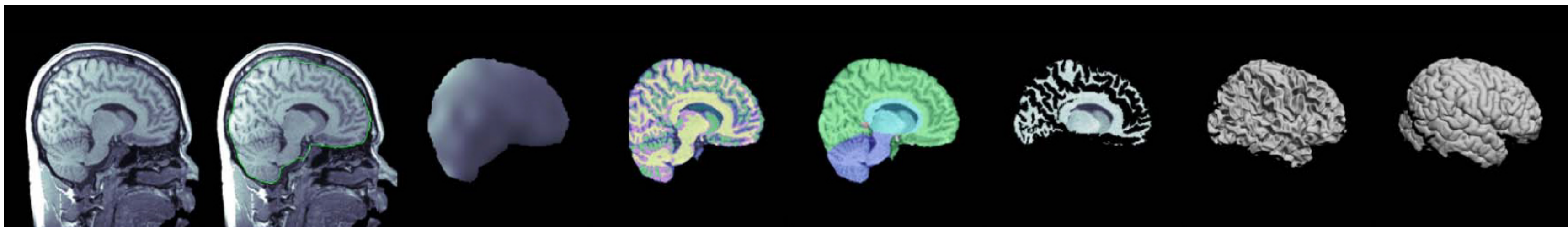


Working with Surfaces

- From the structural folder, drag and drop the file
  2523412.left.mid.cortex.svreg.dfs
  onto BrainSuite
- Properties of the different surfaces can be adjusted
  - Show or hide
  - Wireframe mode
  - Translucency



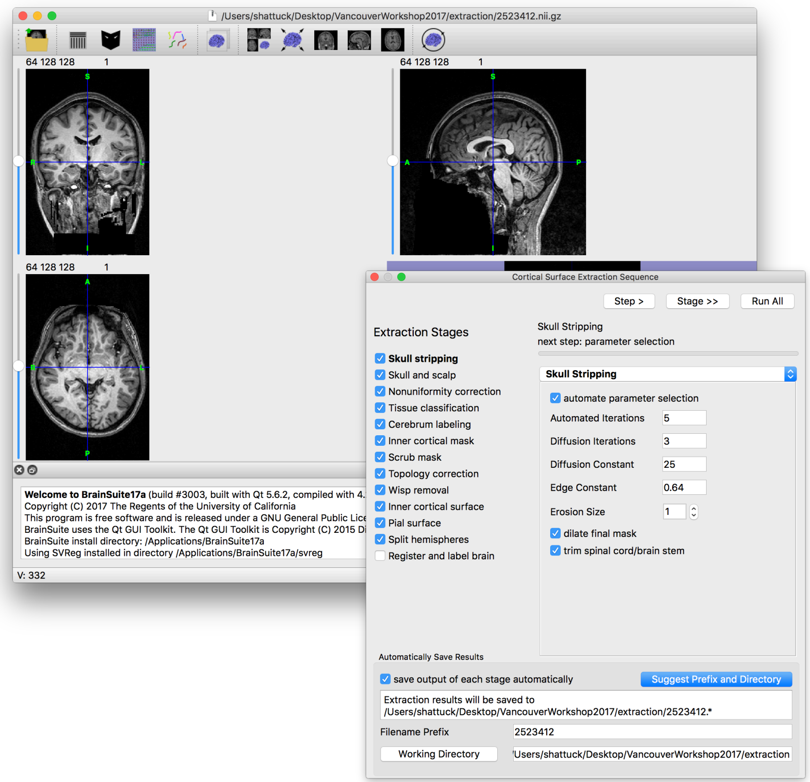
Cortical Surface Extraction



MRI	skull stripping	nonuniformity correction	tissue classification	cerebrum labeling	topology correction	inner cortical surface generation	pial surface generation
	<2 sec	40s - 4 min	<5 sec	<20 sec	<40 sec	<2 sec	<10 min

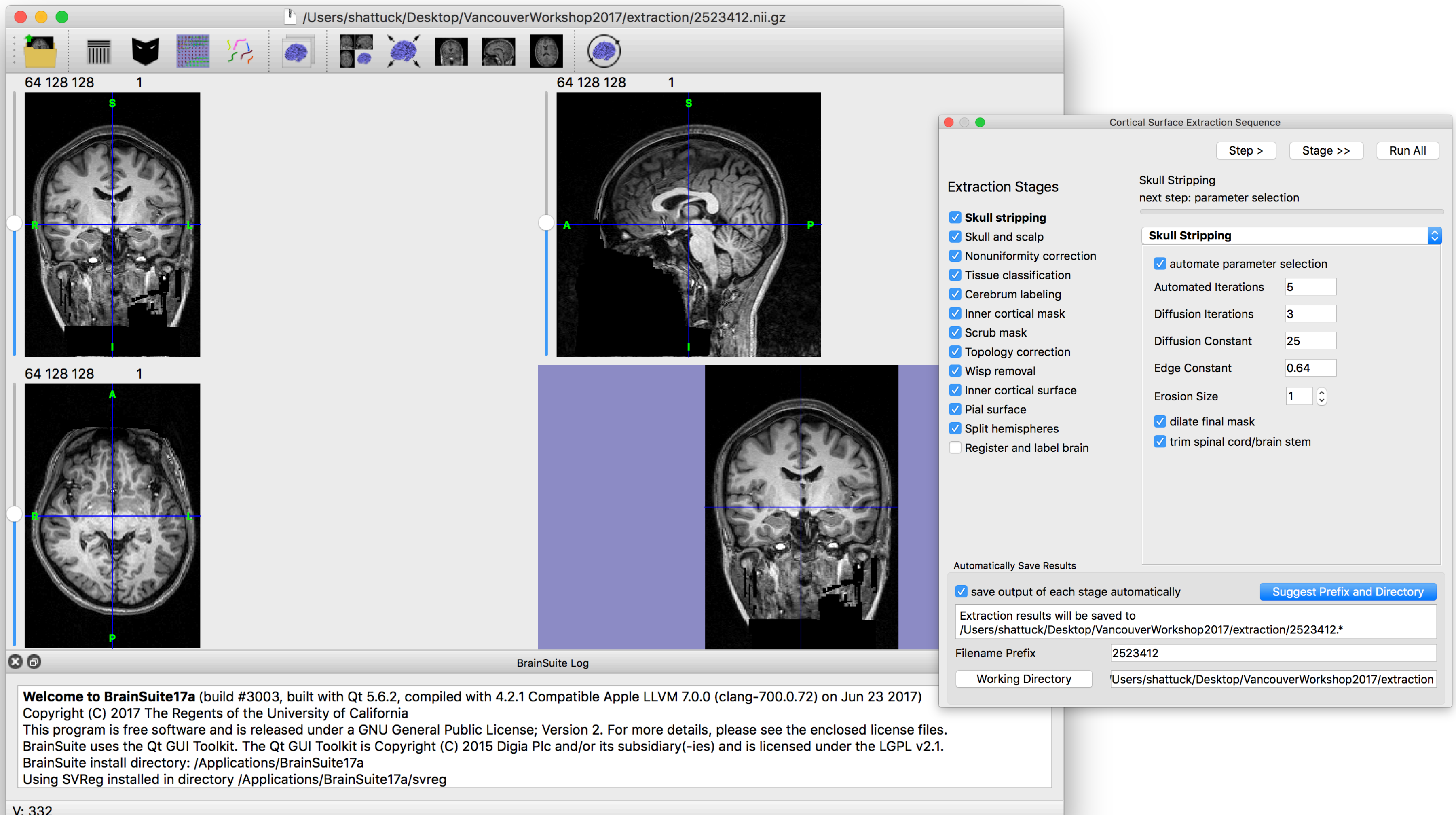
Extracting a Brain Surface

- Load the T1 image from the **extraction** folder* or drag brainsuite_extraction.bst onto BrainSuite.
- Open “Cortex -> Cortical Surface Extraction Sequence”
- By default, BrainSuite will use automated parameter selection for skull stripping

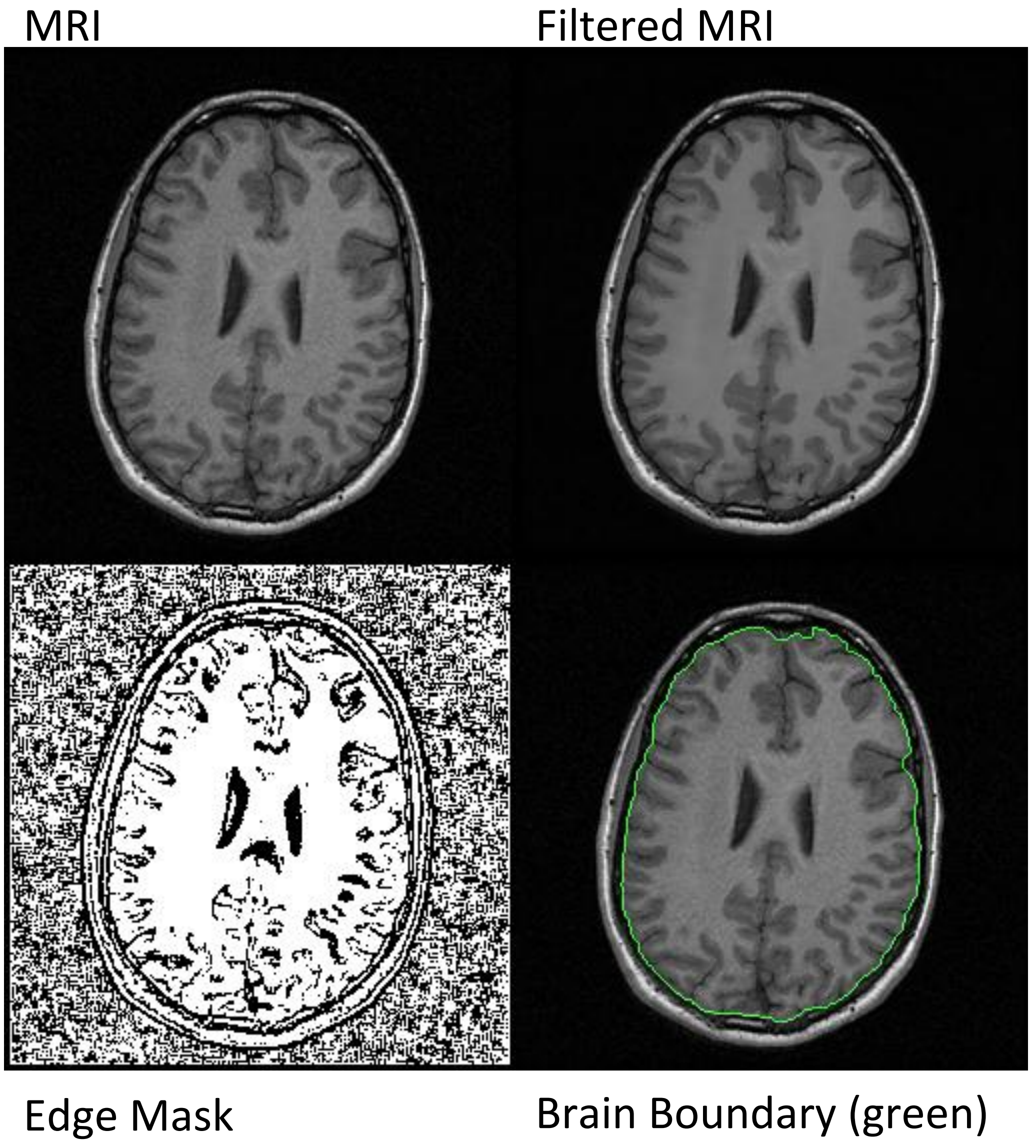


*By default, BrainSuite’s extraction dialog will write files to the same directory as the input image, so be sure to use the extraction folder rather than the structural folder, which contains pre-processed data.

Cortical Surface Extraction Dialog

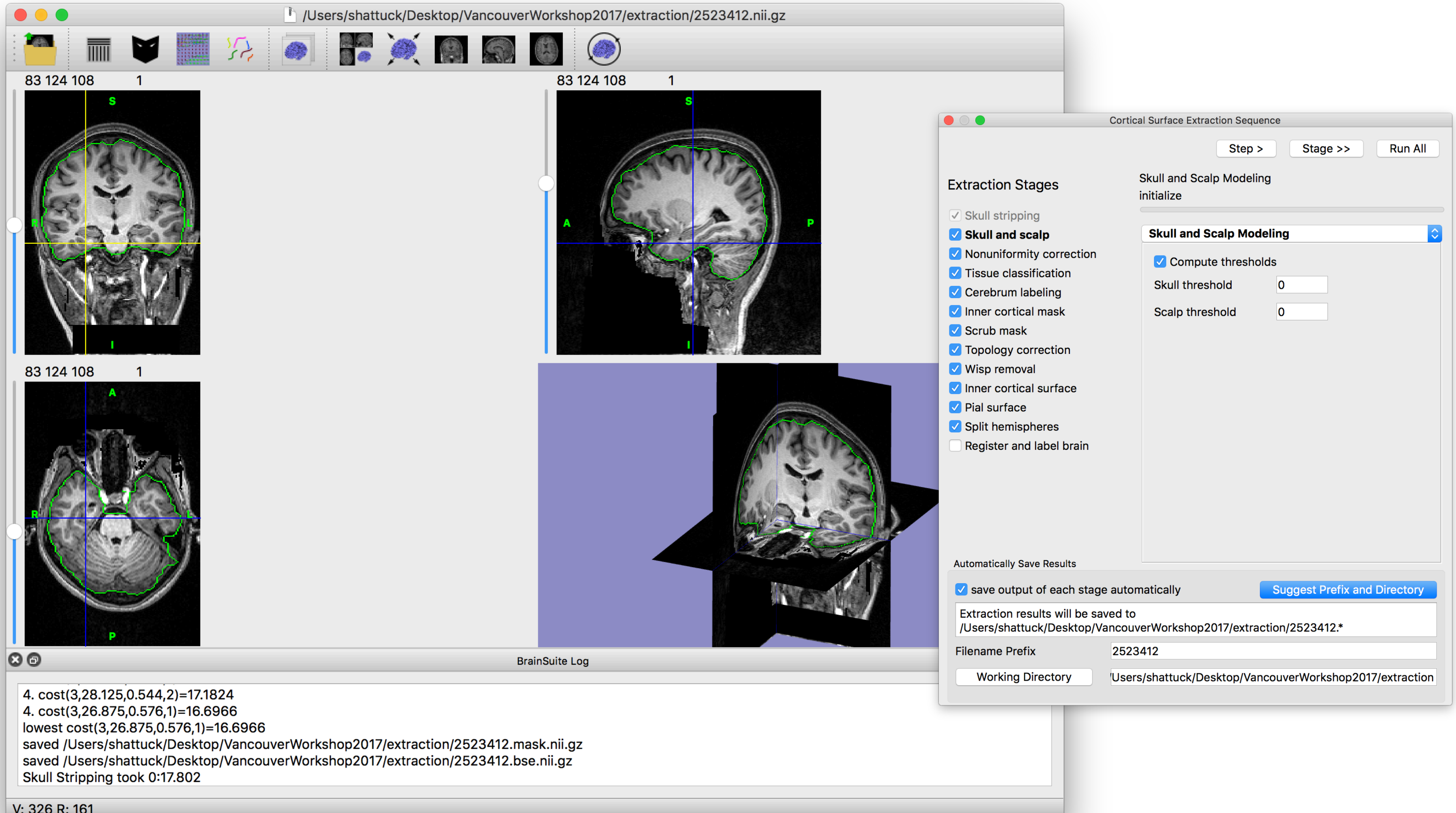


Skull Stripping



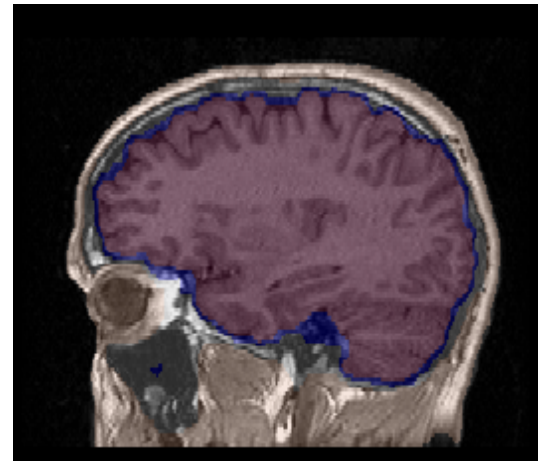
- Brain Surface Extractor (BSE) extracts the brain from non-brain tissue using a combination of:
  - anisotropic diffusion filtering
  - edge detection
  - mathematical morphological operators
- This method can rapidly identify the brain within the MRI

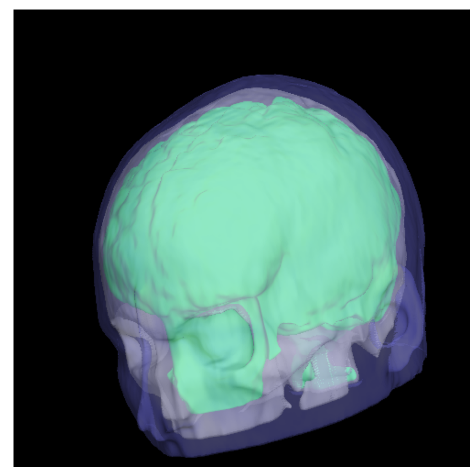
Skull-stripped Brain



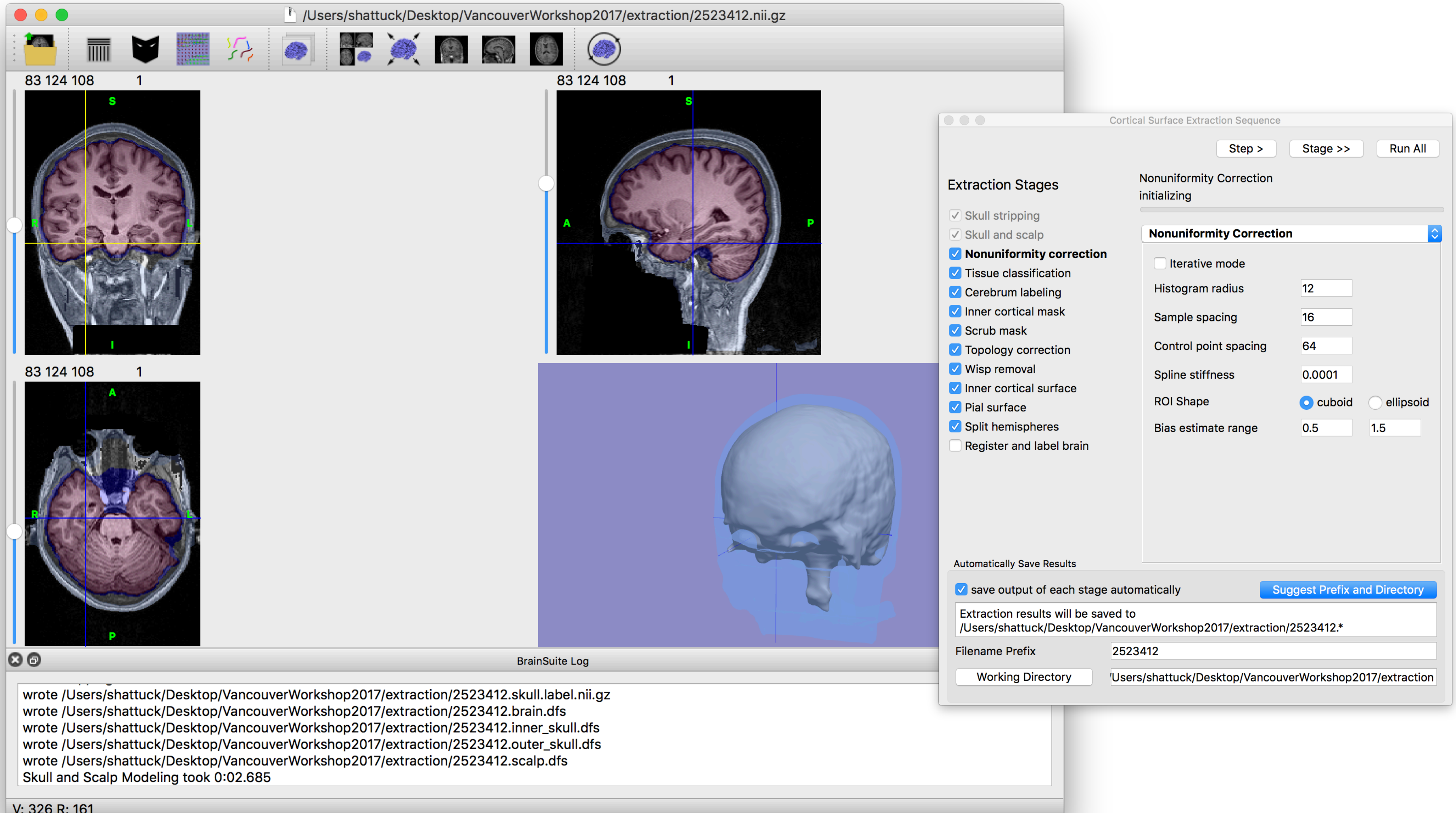
Skull and Scalp Modeling

- We can apply thresholding, mathematical morphology, and connected component labeling to MRI to identify skull and scalp regions.
- The method builds upon the BSE skull stripping result.
- The volumes produced by this algorithm will not intersect.
- We can produce surface meshes from the label volume.
- The results are suitable for use in MEG/EEG source localization.

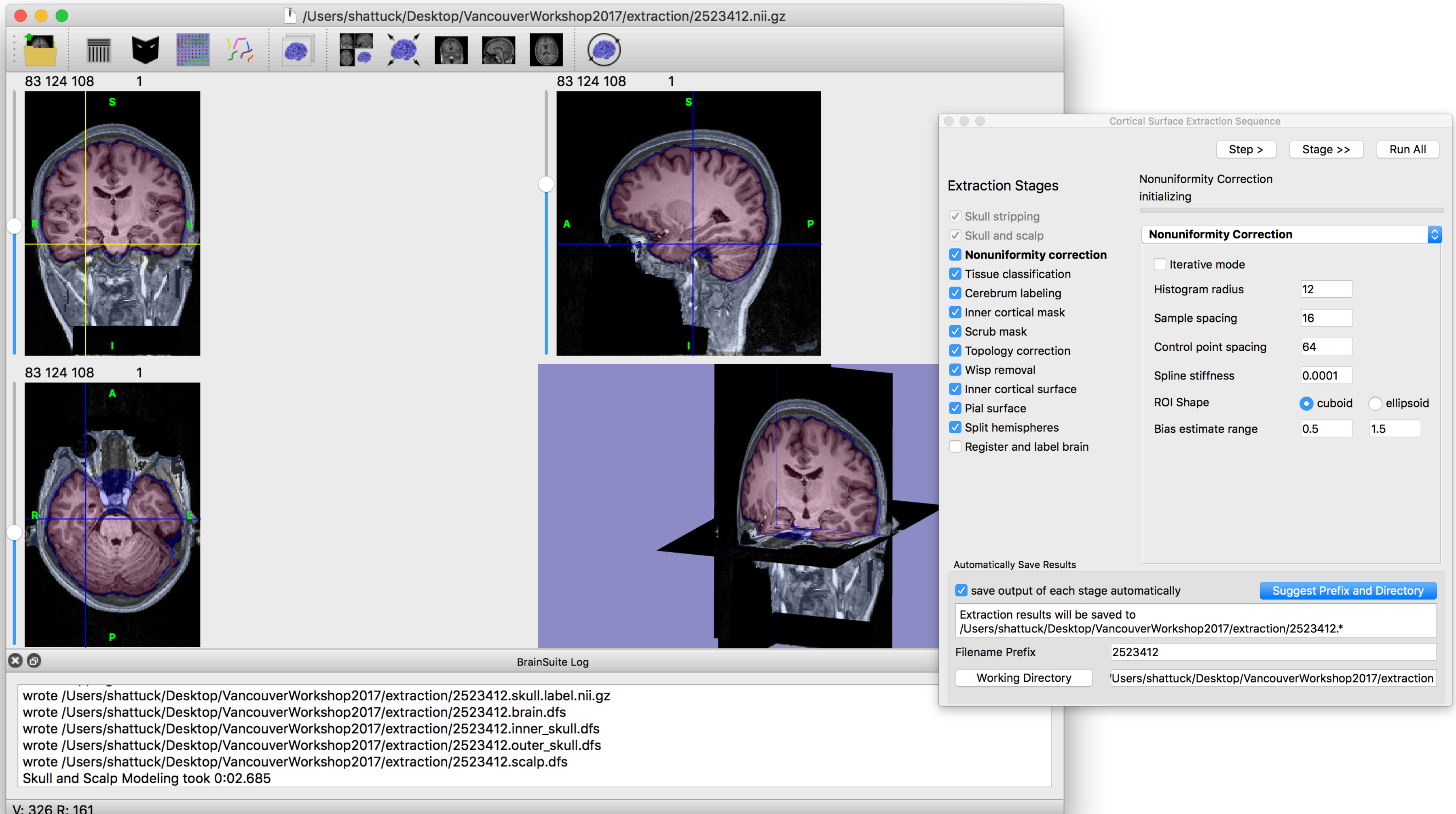




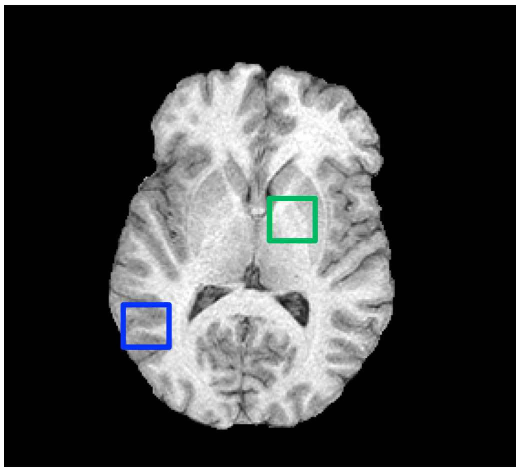
Skull & Scalp Models



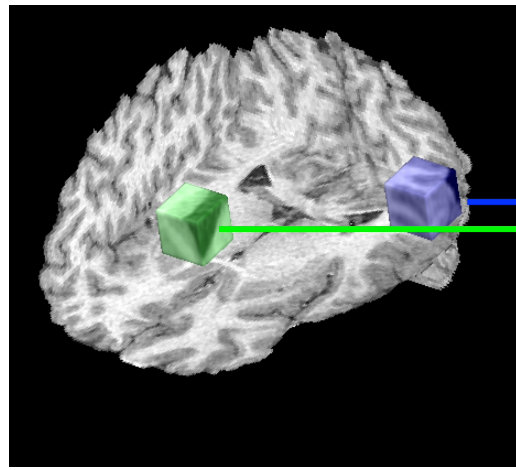
Nonuniformity Correction



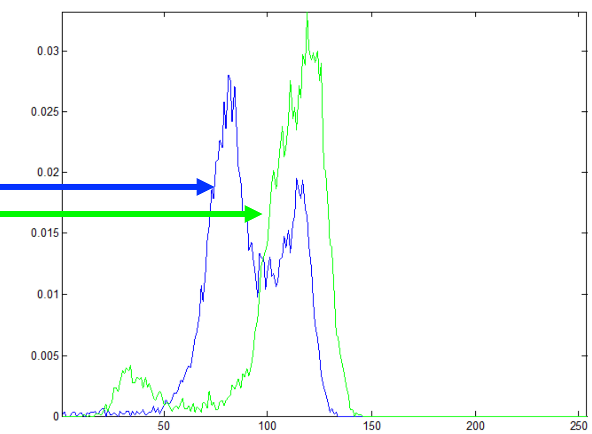
Nonuniformity Correction



Two cubic regions ROIs



3D rendering of the ROIs

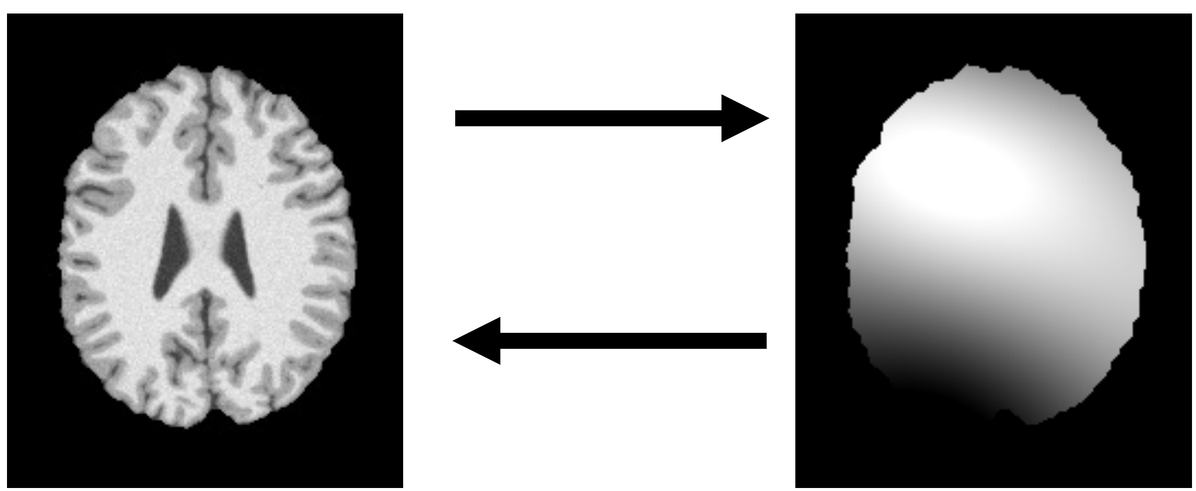


Histograms of the two ROIs

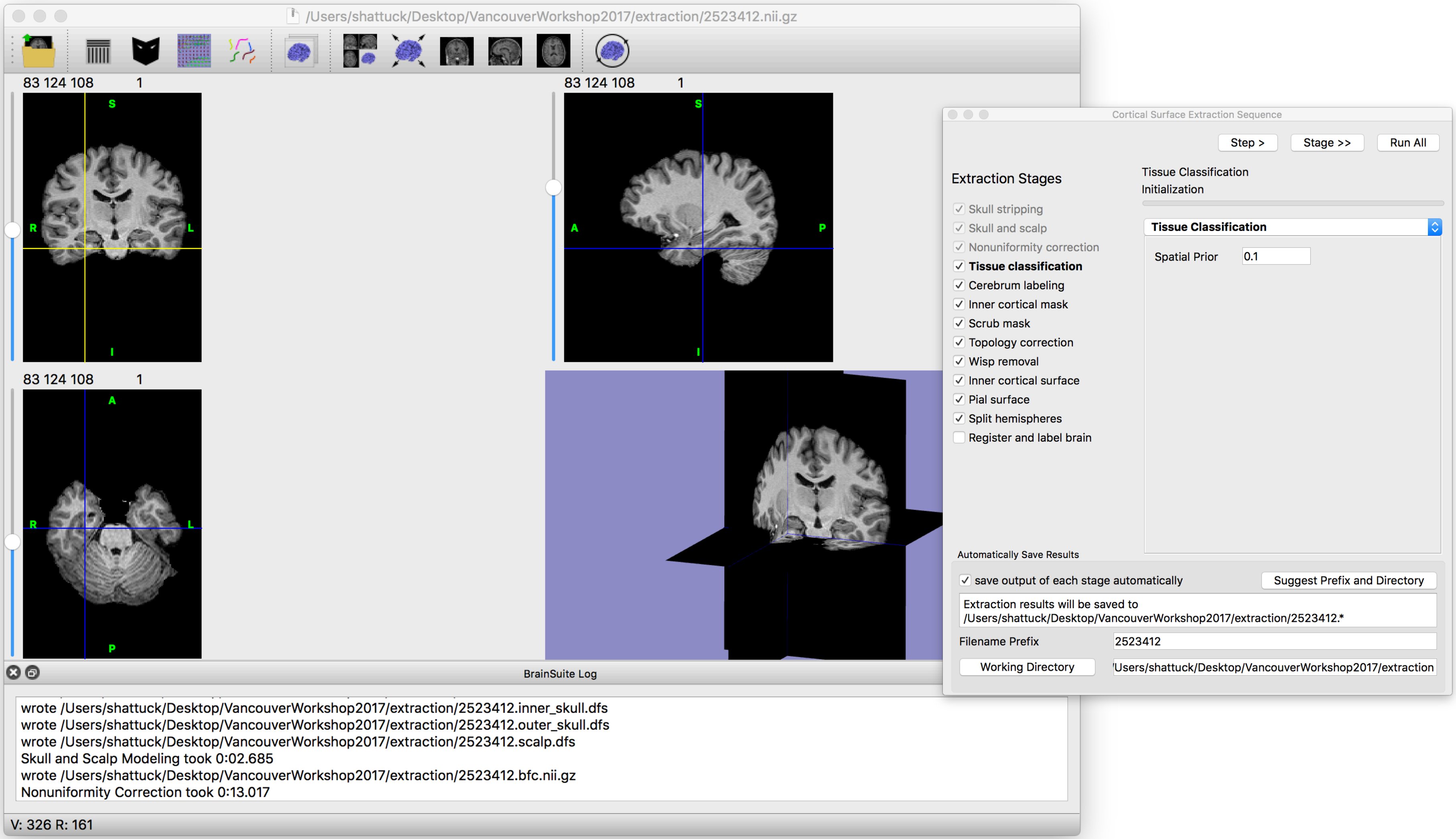
- Nonuniform signal gain can confound tissue classification techniques
- Bias Field Corrector (BFC) performs nonuniformity correction by analyzing the intensity profiles of regions of interest (ROIs)
- We can fit a histogram model to these ROIs and estimate the local gain variation

Nonuniformity Correction

- Estimate bias parameter at several points throughout the image.
- Remove outliers from our collection of estimates.
- Fit a tri-cubic B-spline to the estimate points.
- Divide the image by the B-spline to make the correction.

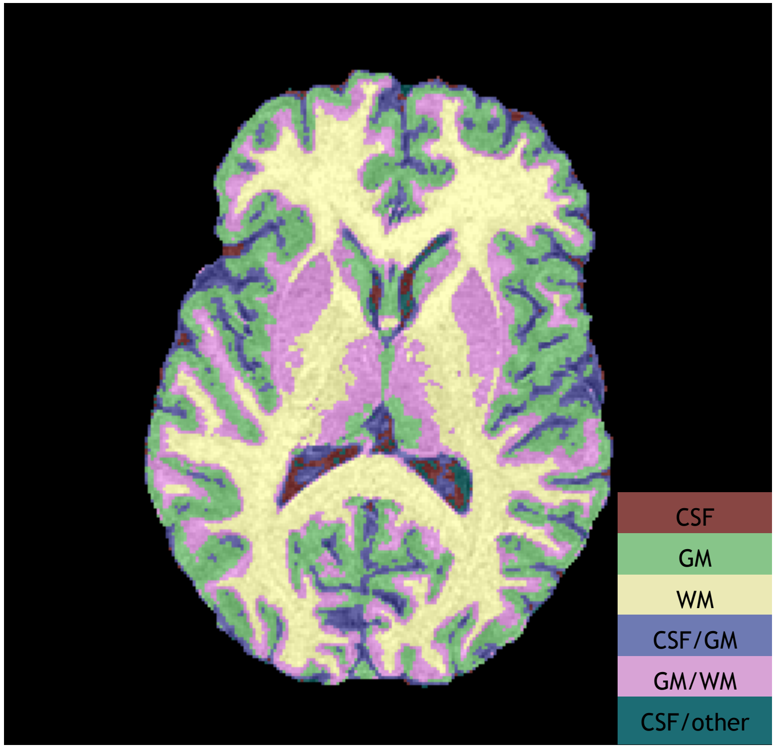


Bias-corrected Image

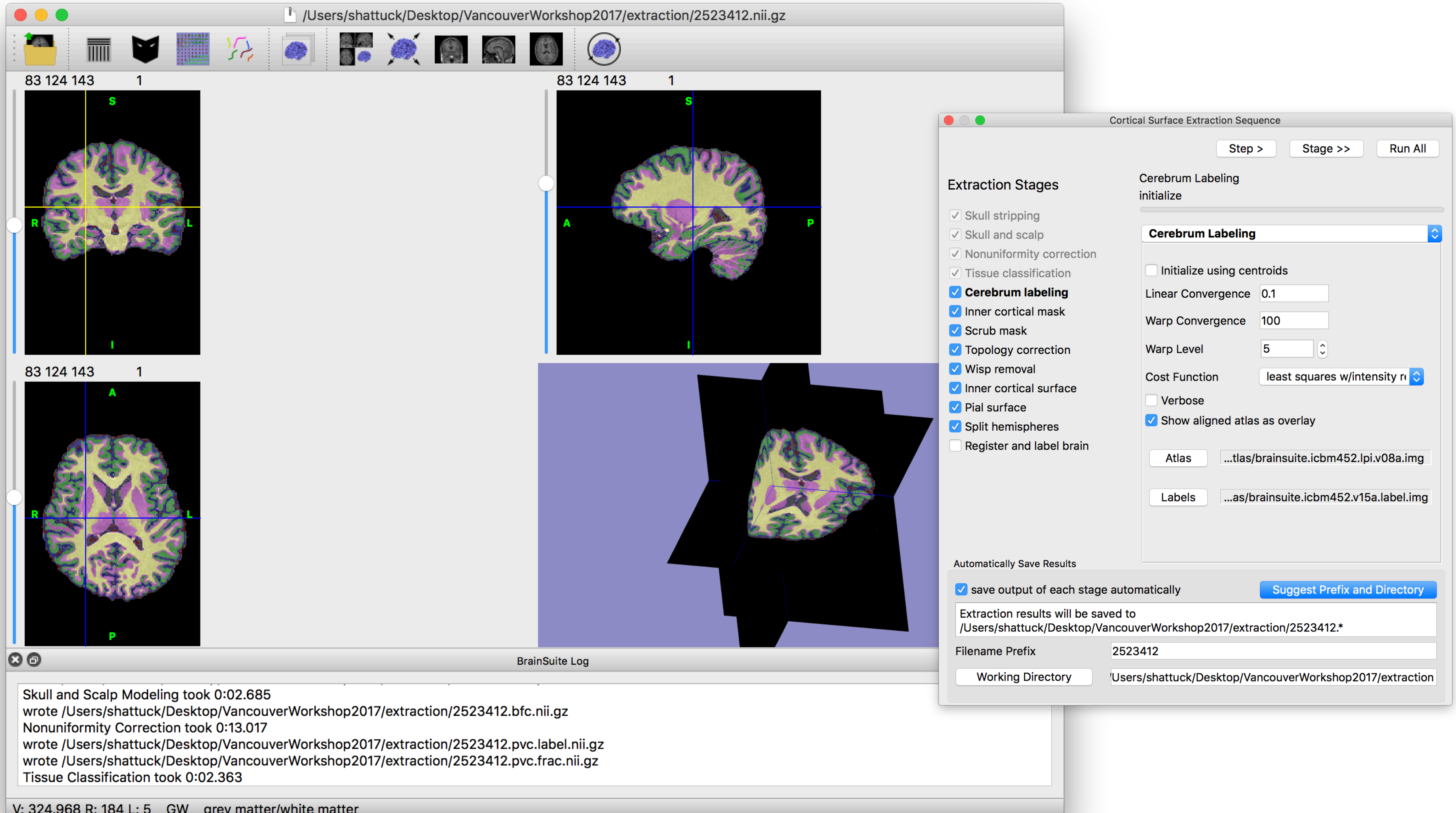


Tissue Classification

- We use a statistical tissue classifier to label each voxel according to tissue type.
  - Initialize with a maximum likelihood classification
  - Refine with a maximum a posteriori (MAP) classifier that produces more contiguous regions of tissue
- Tissue categories are
  - Pure: GM, WM, CSF
  - Mixed: GM/CSF, GM/WM, CSF/Other
- Also estimate tissue fractions at each voxel

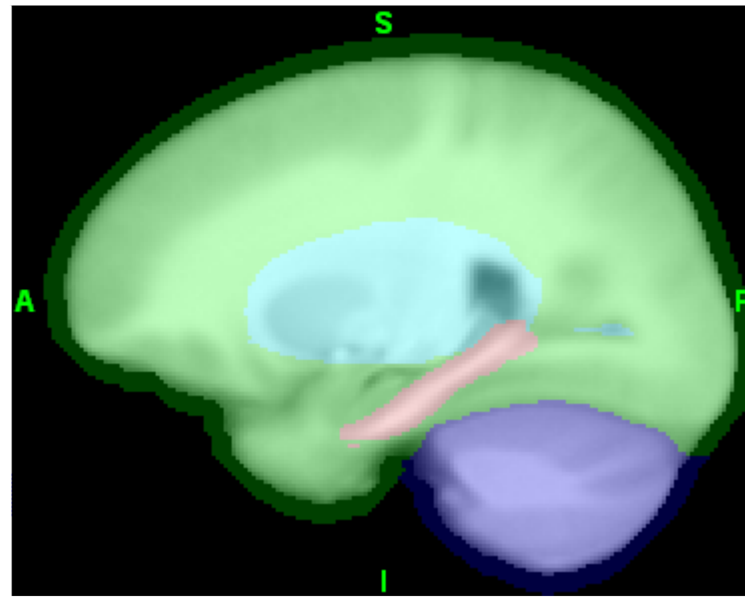


Tissue Class Labeling

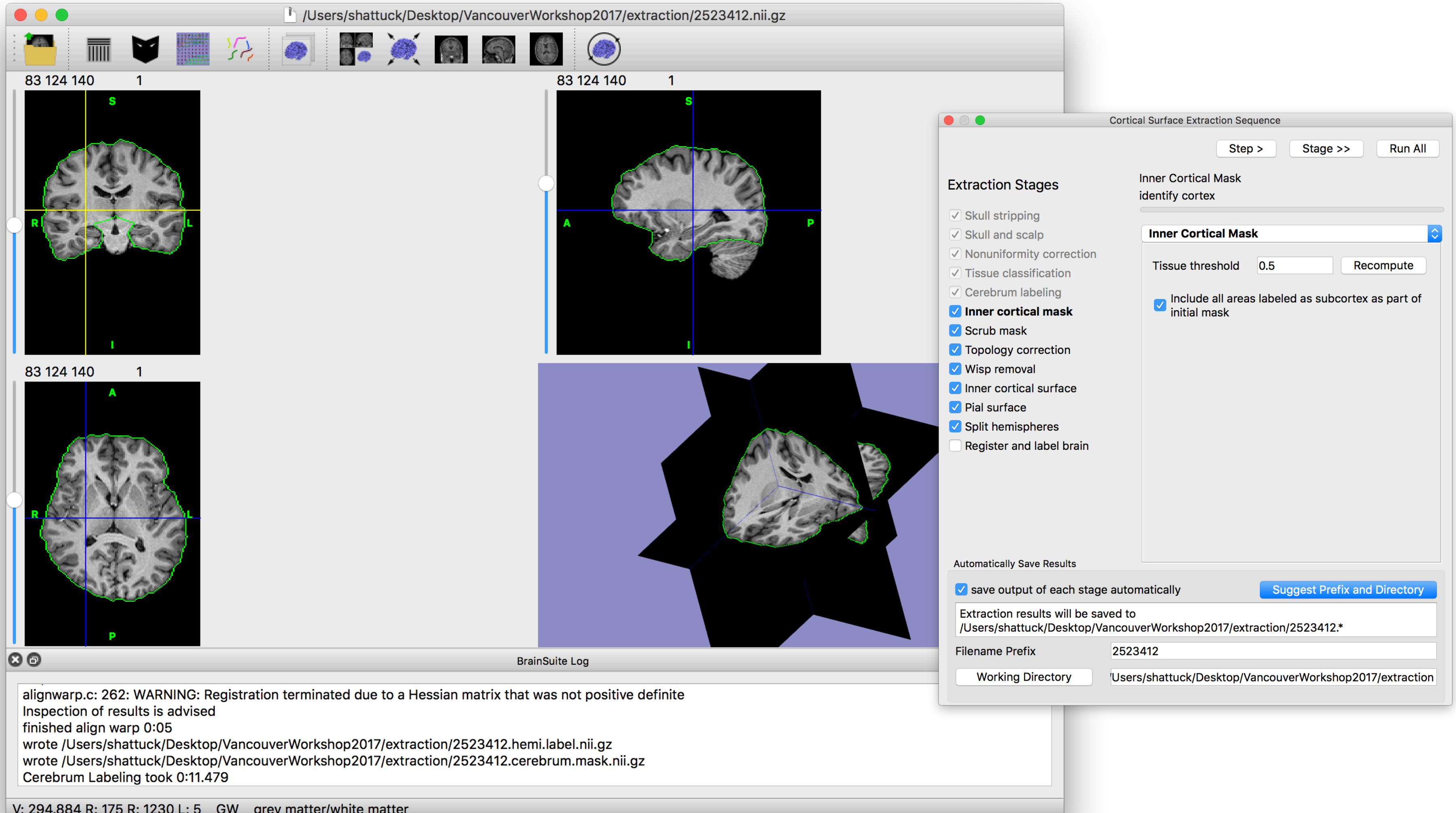


Cerebrum Labeling

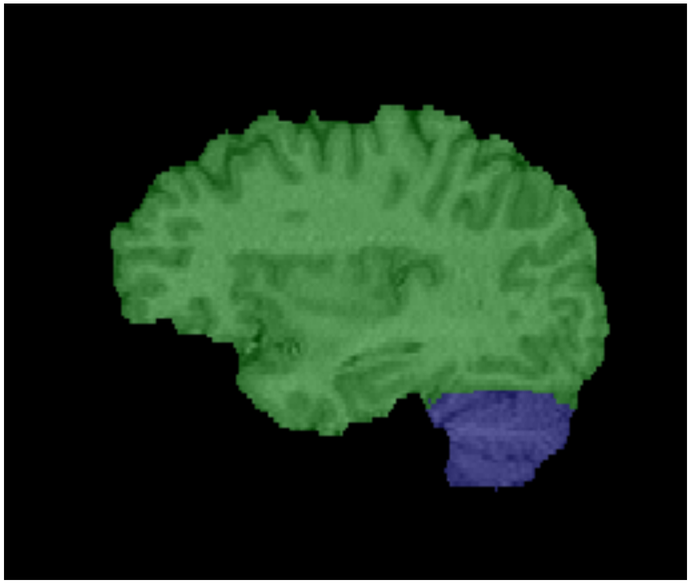
- For the cortical surface, we are interested in the cerebrum, which we separate from the rest of the brain.
- We achieve this by registering a multi-subject average brain (ICBM452) to the individual brain using AIR (R. Woods)
- We have labeled this atlas:
  - cerebrum / cerebellum
  - subcortical regions
  - left / right hemispheres

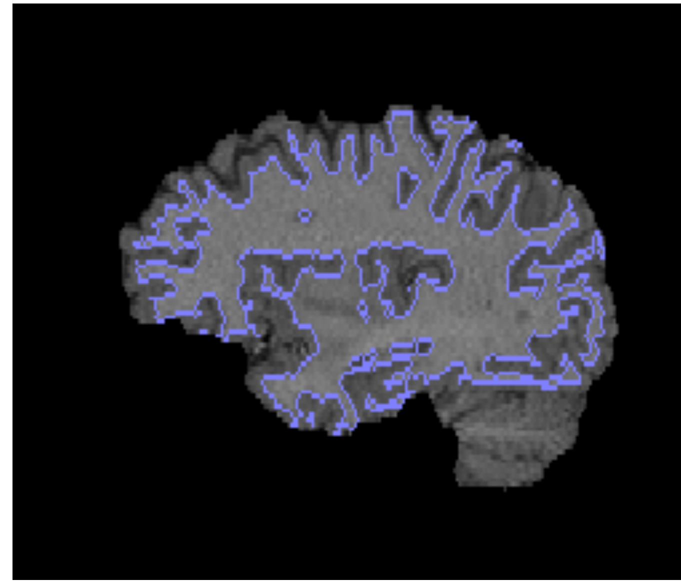


Inner Cortical Mask



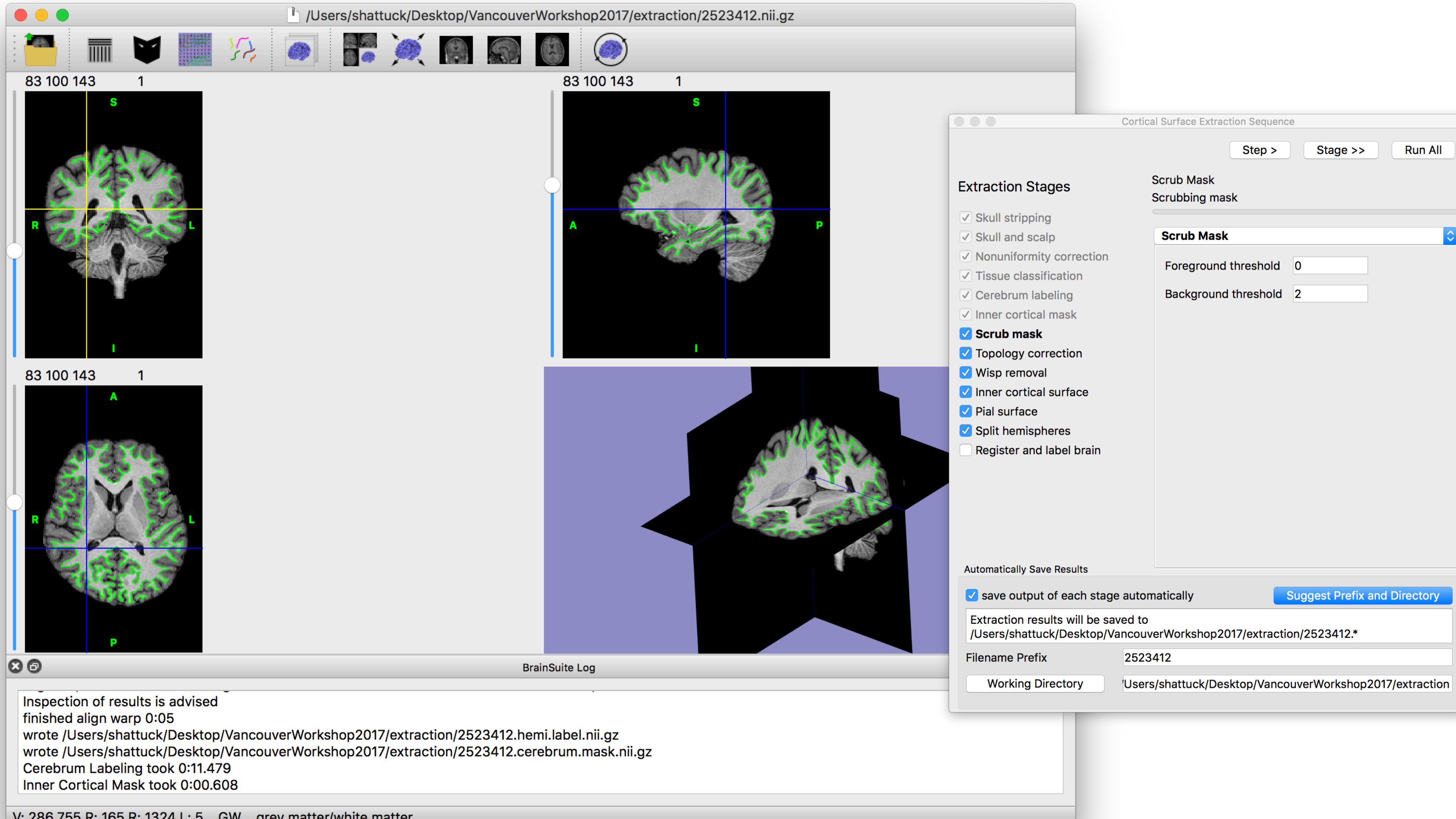
Inner Cortical Mask





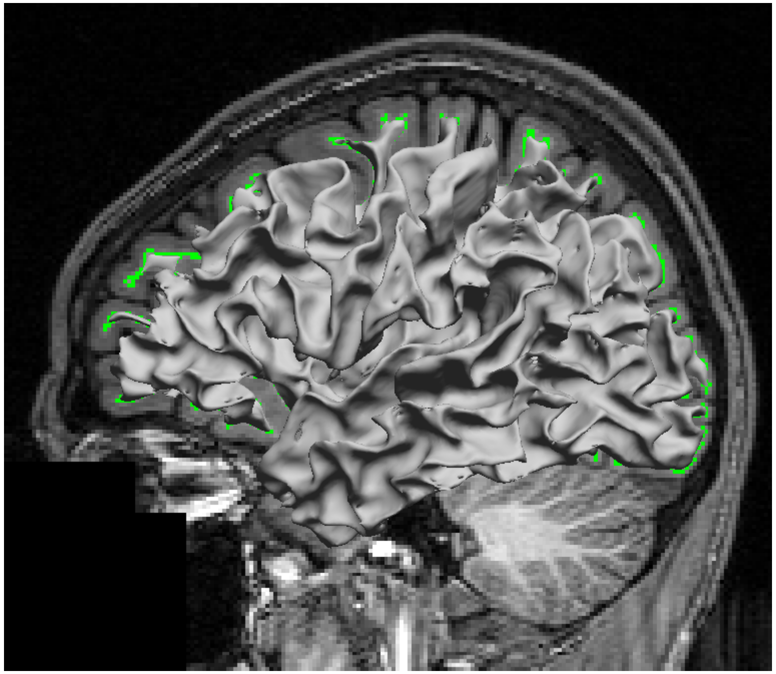
- We combine our registered brain atlas with our tissue map
  - Retain subcortical structures, including nuclei
  - Identify the inner boundary of the cerebral cortex

Inner Cortical Mask



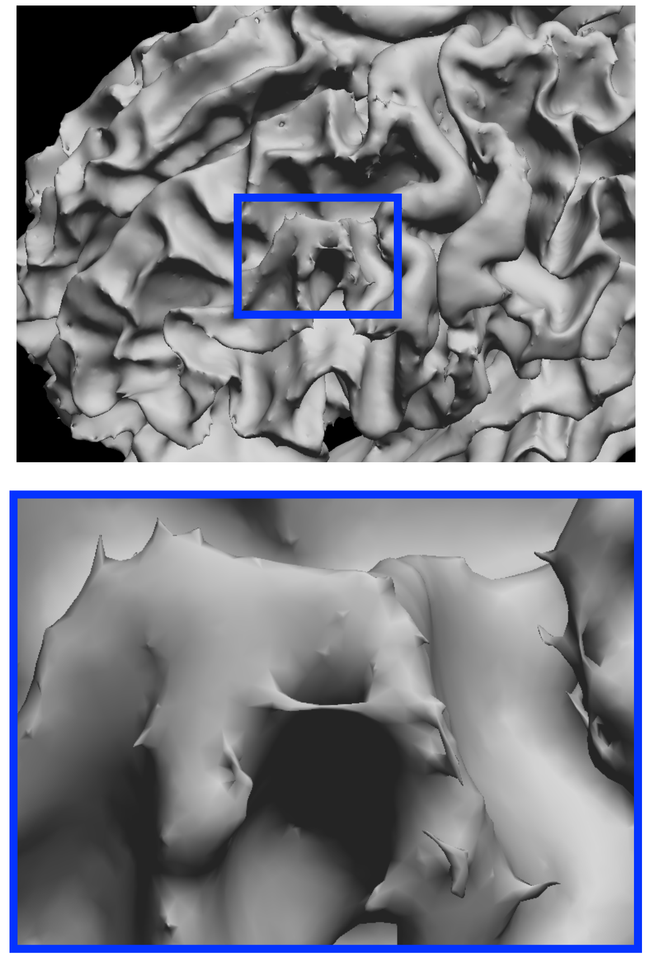
Surface Generation

By applying a tessellation algorithm, we can generate a surface mesh from a 3D volume.

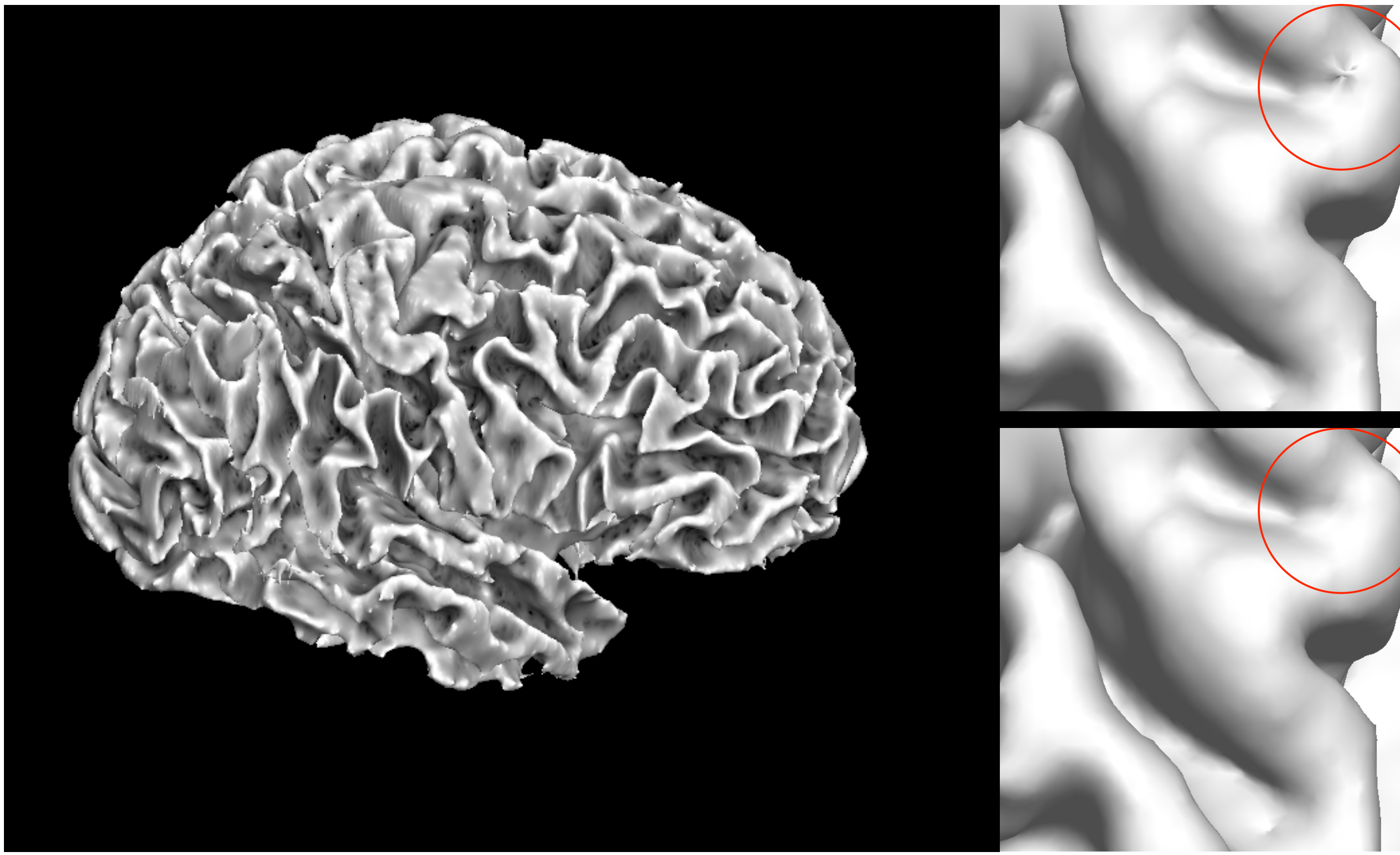


Topological Errors

- In normal human brains, the cortical surface can be considered as a single sheet of grey matter.
- Closing this sheet at the brainstem, we can assume that the topology of the cortical surface is equivalent to a sphere, i.e., it should have no holes or handles.
- This allows us to represent the cortical surface using a 2D coordinate system.
- Unfortunately, our segmentation result will produce a surface with many topological defects.



Topology Correction

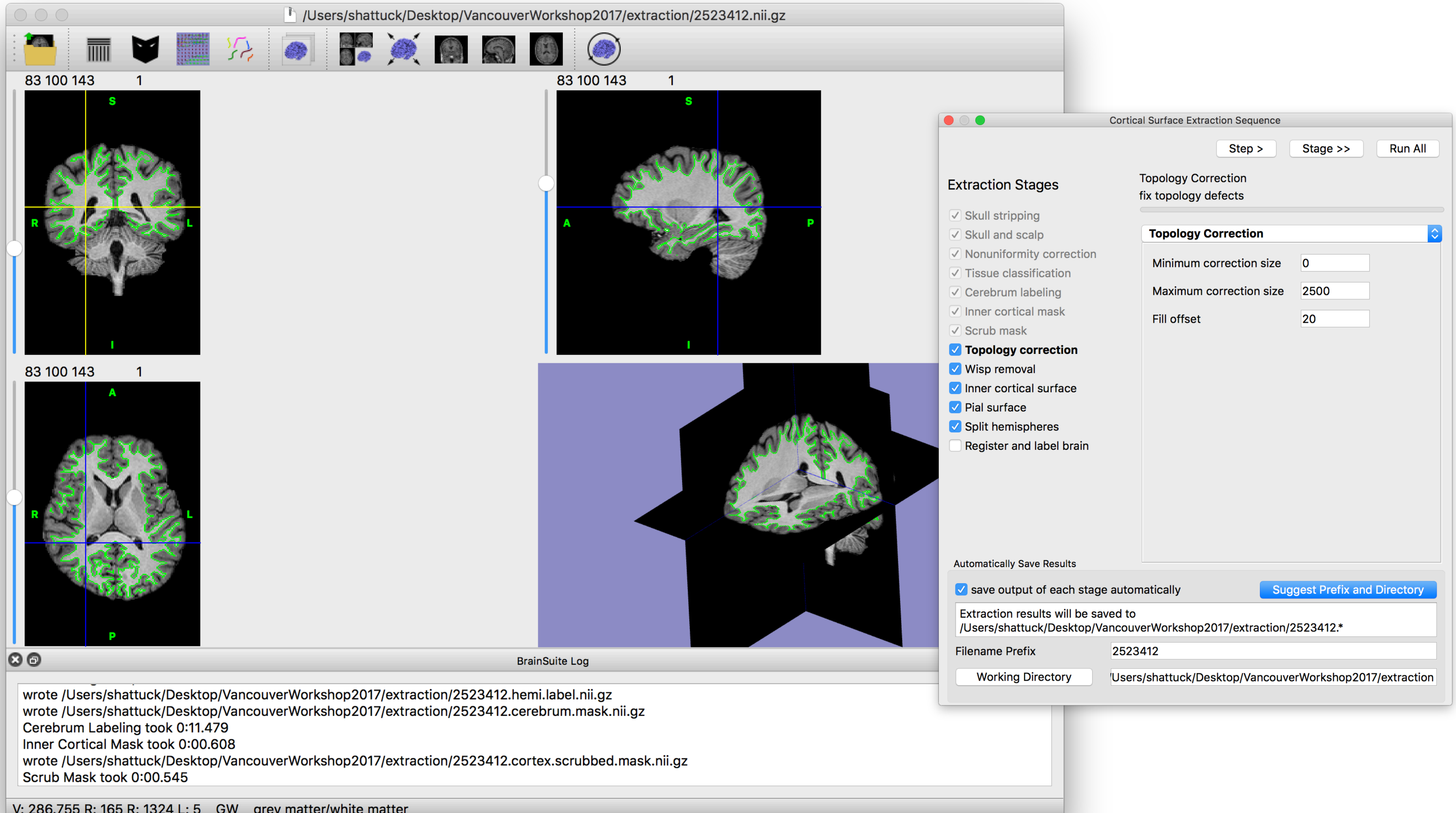


(left) cortical surface model produced from binary masks

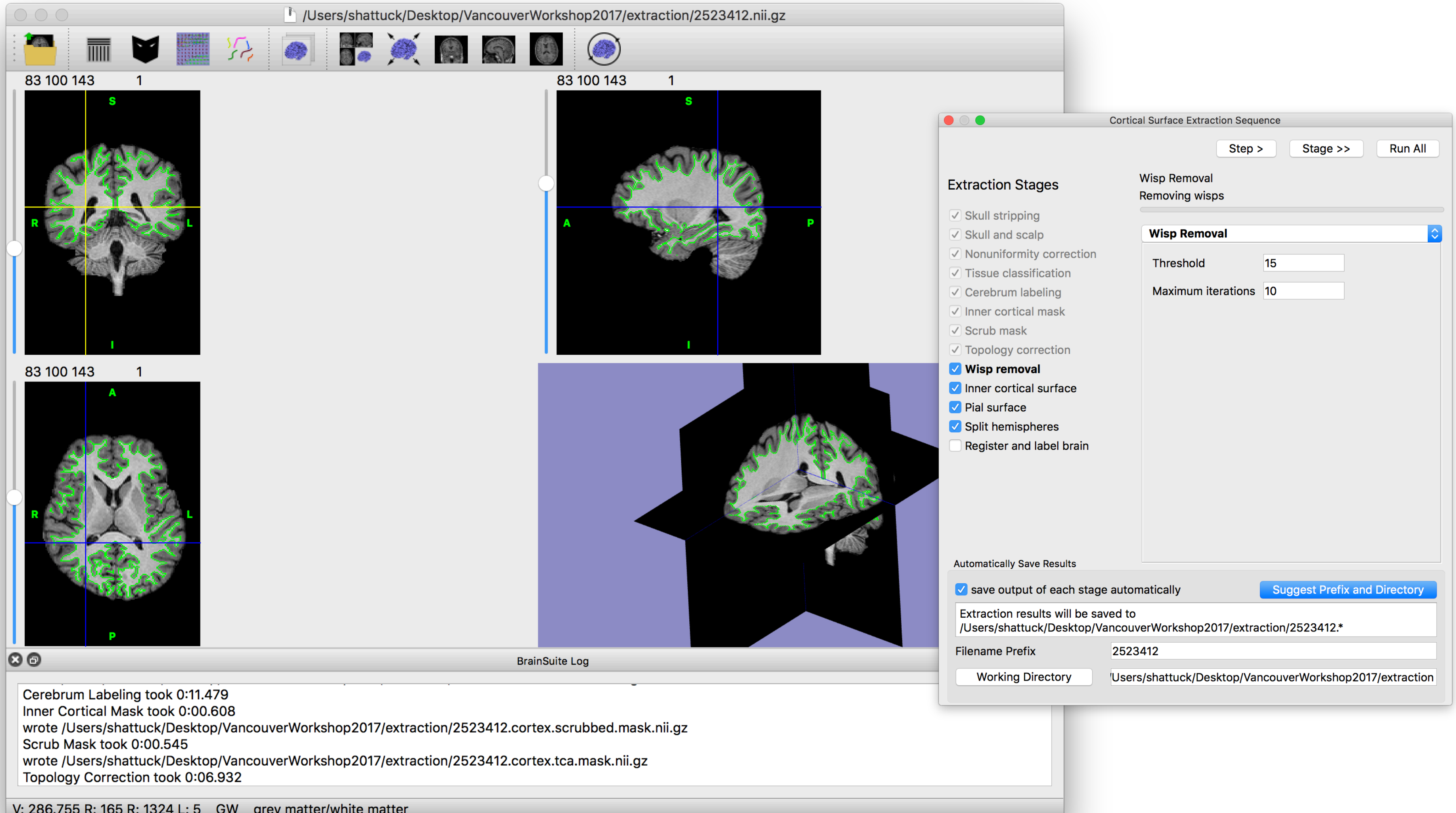
(top right) close-up view of a handle on the surface generated from the volume before topological correction

(bottom right) close-up view of the same region on the surface generated from the same volume after topology correction.

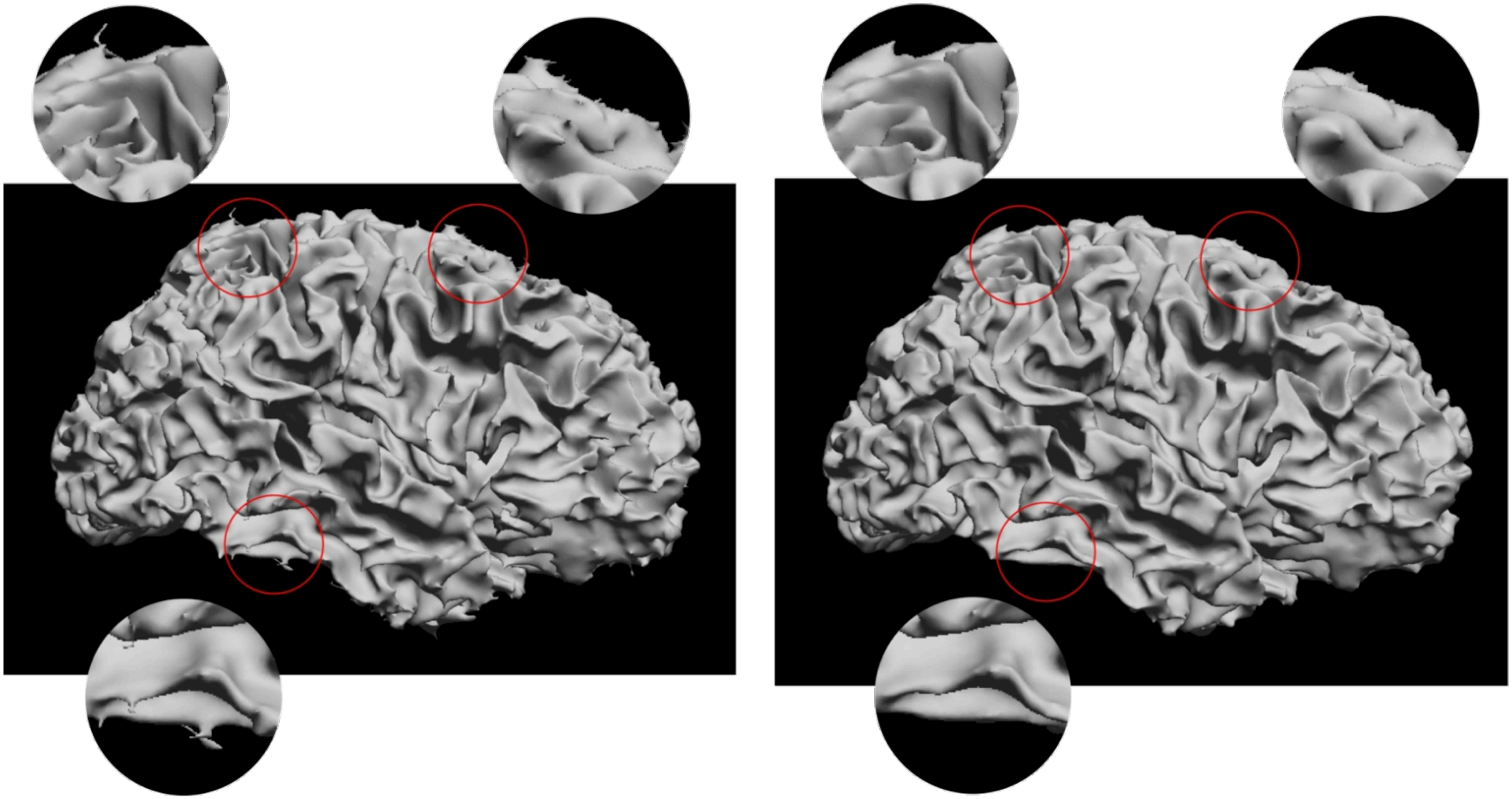
Scrubbed Mask



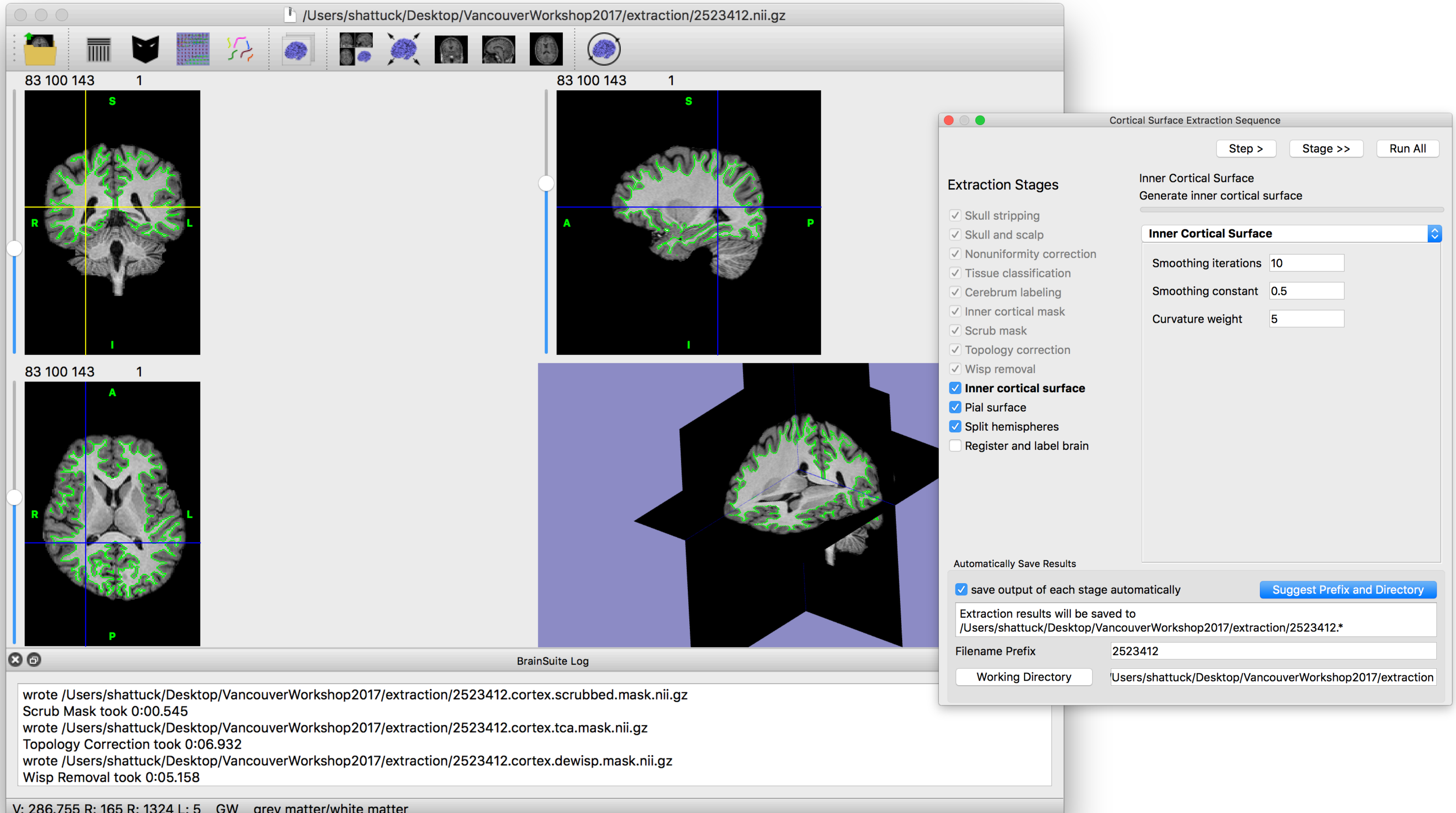
Topology-corrected Mask



Wisp Removal



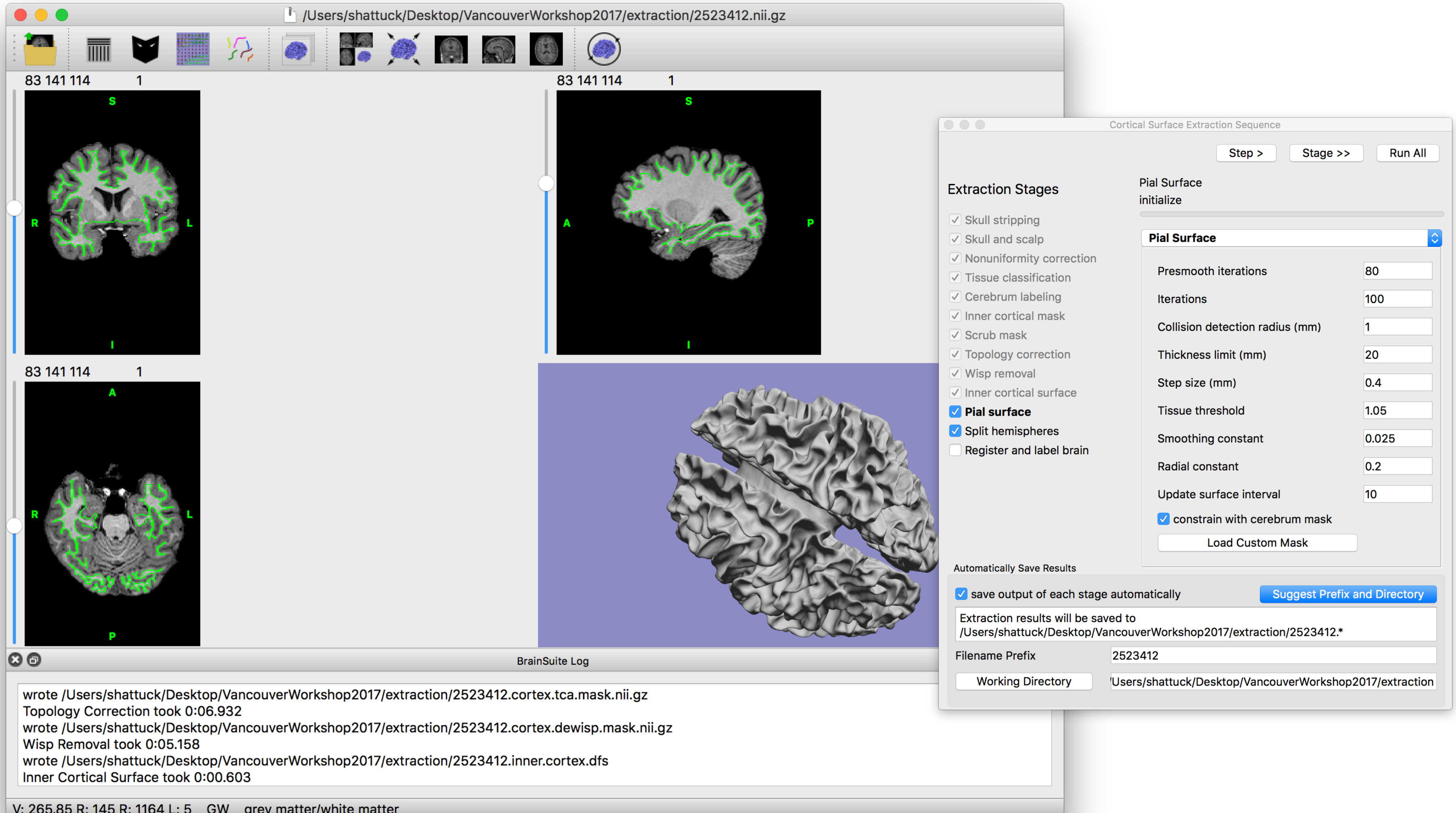
Final Inner Cortex Mask



Inner Cortical Surface

After applying the topology correction and dewisp filters, we apply marching cubes to generate a representation of the inner cortical boundary.

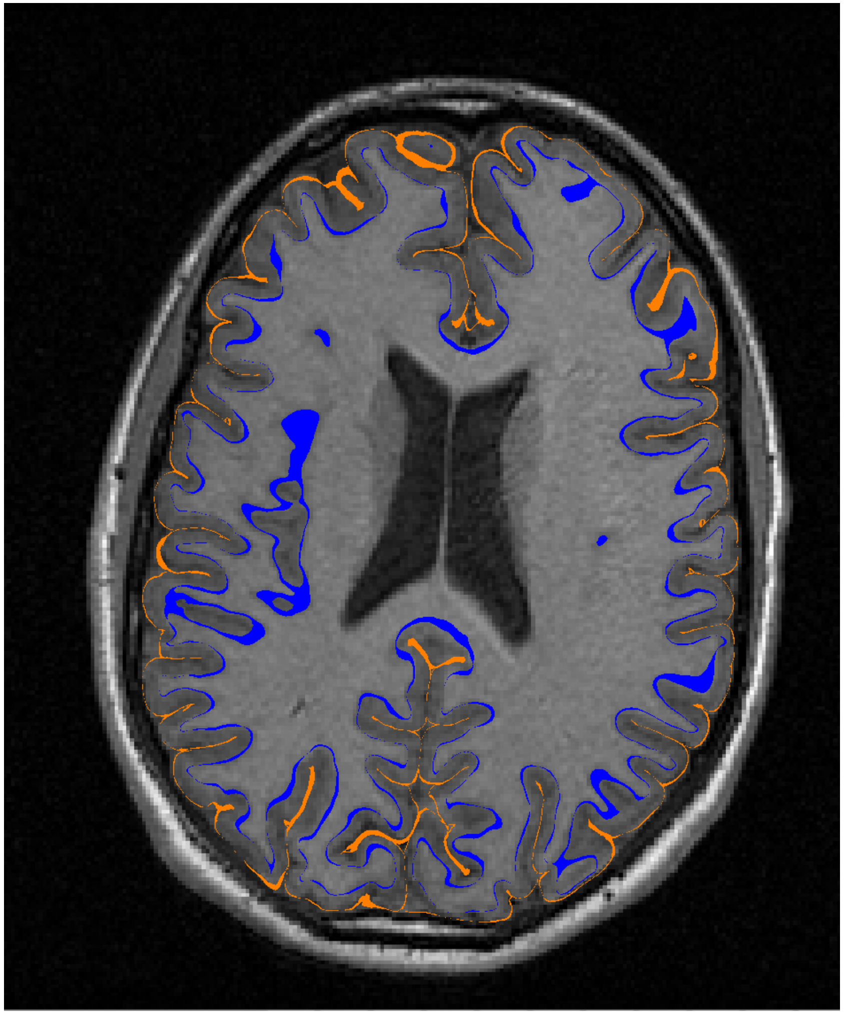
Inner Cortical Surface



Pial Surface

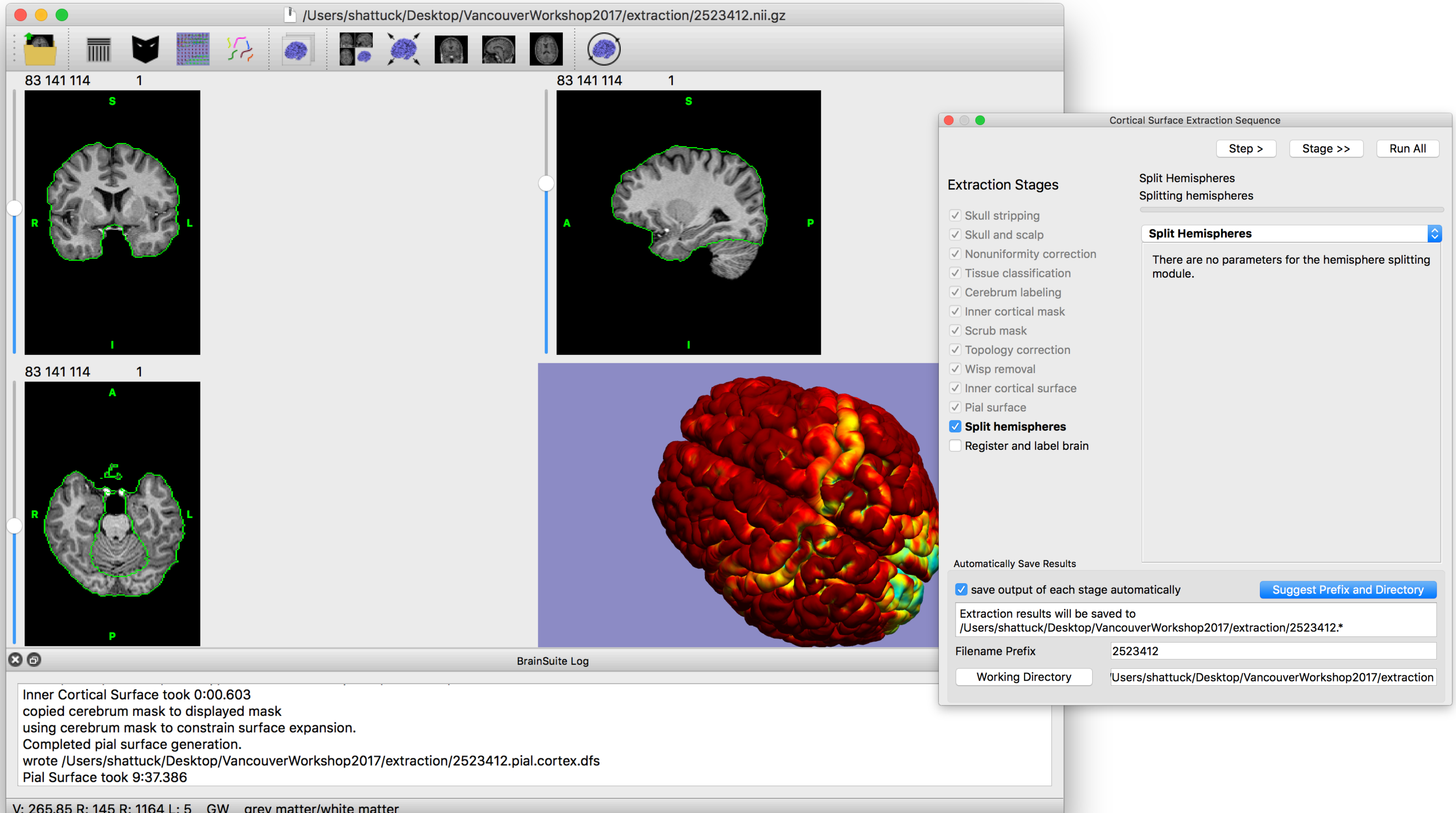
- Expand inner cortex to outer boundary
- Produces a surface with 1-1 vertex correspondence from GM/WM to GM/CSF
  - Preserves the surface topology
  - Provides direct thickness computation
  - Data from each surface maps directly to the other

Pial Surface



Contour view showing the inner (blue) and outer (orange) boundaries of the cortex.

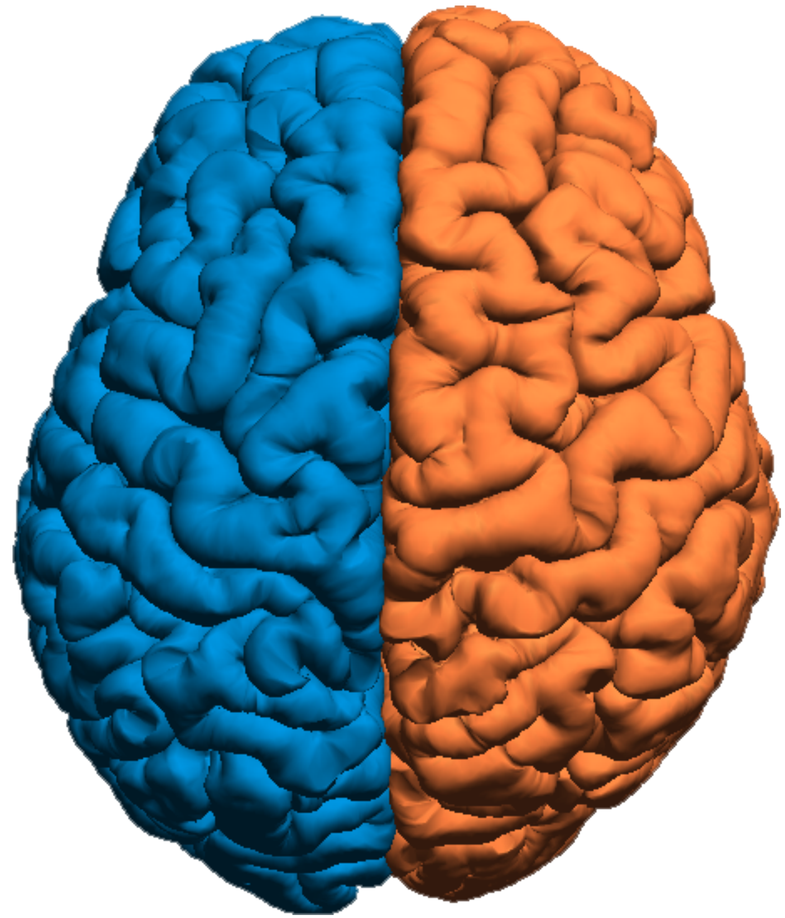
Pial Surface



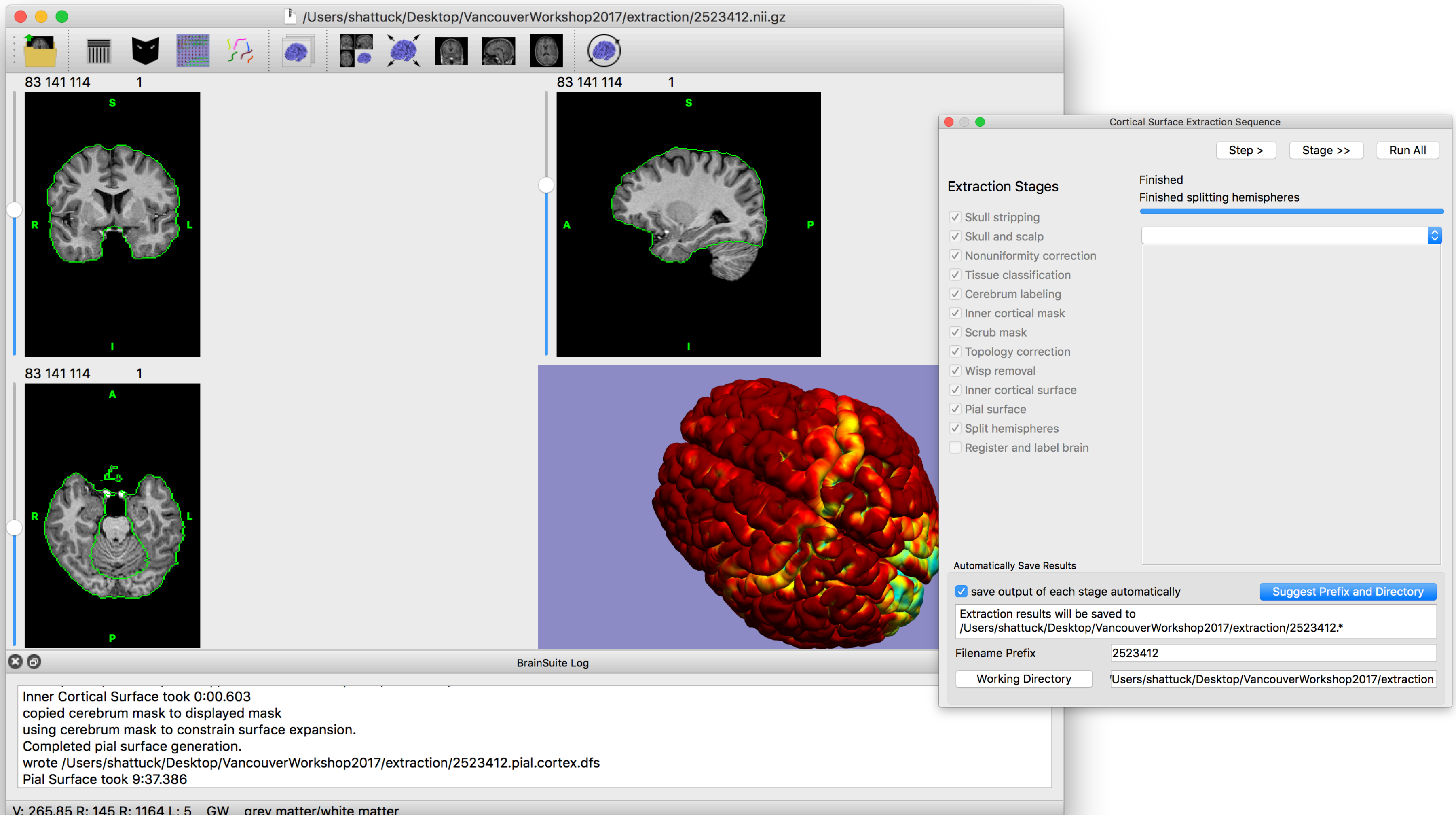
Split Hemispheres

We can separate the meshes into left and right hemispheres based on our cerebrum labeling

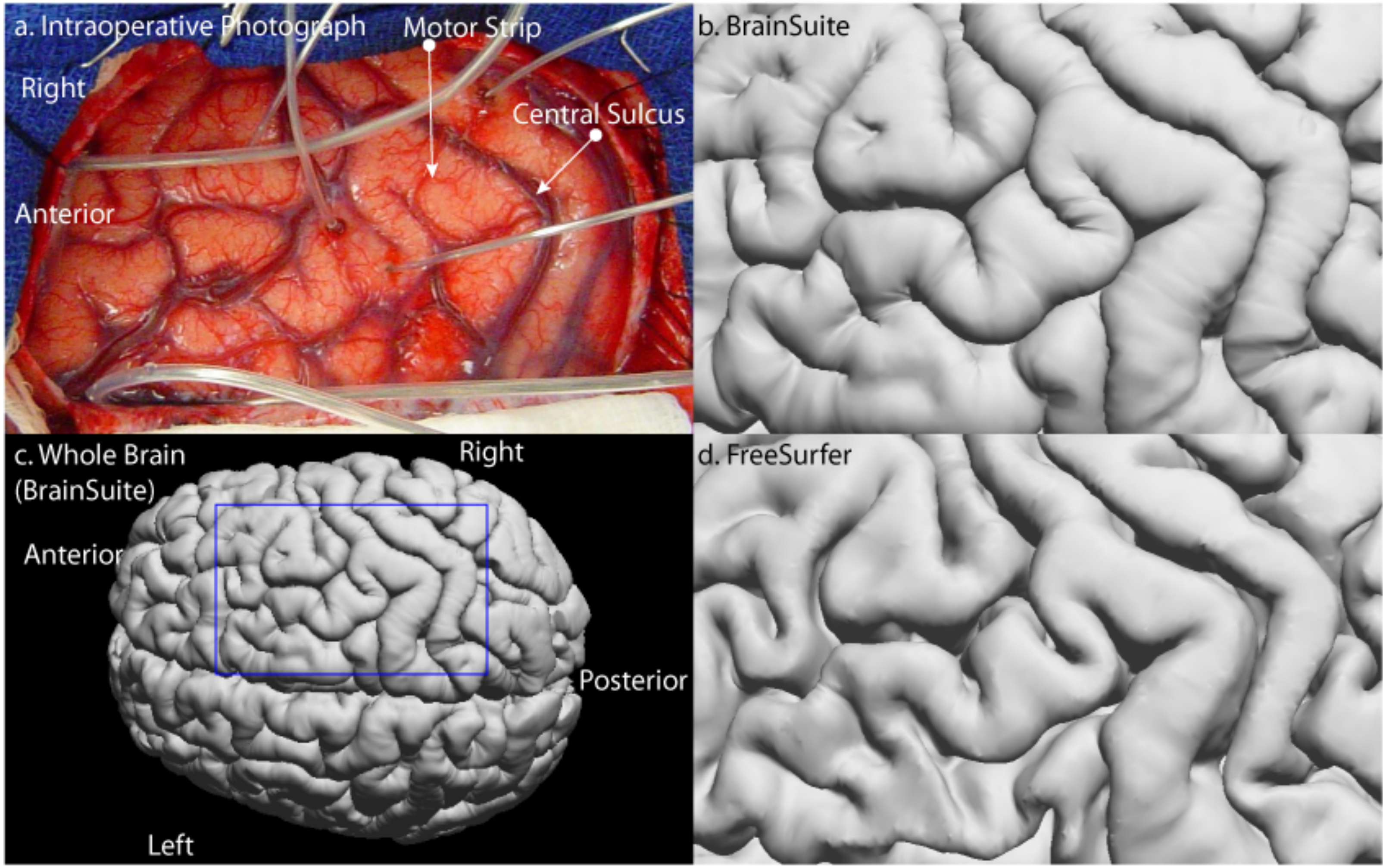
These surface models are then used by the surface/volume registration and labeling routine (SVReg)



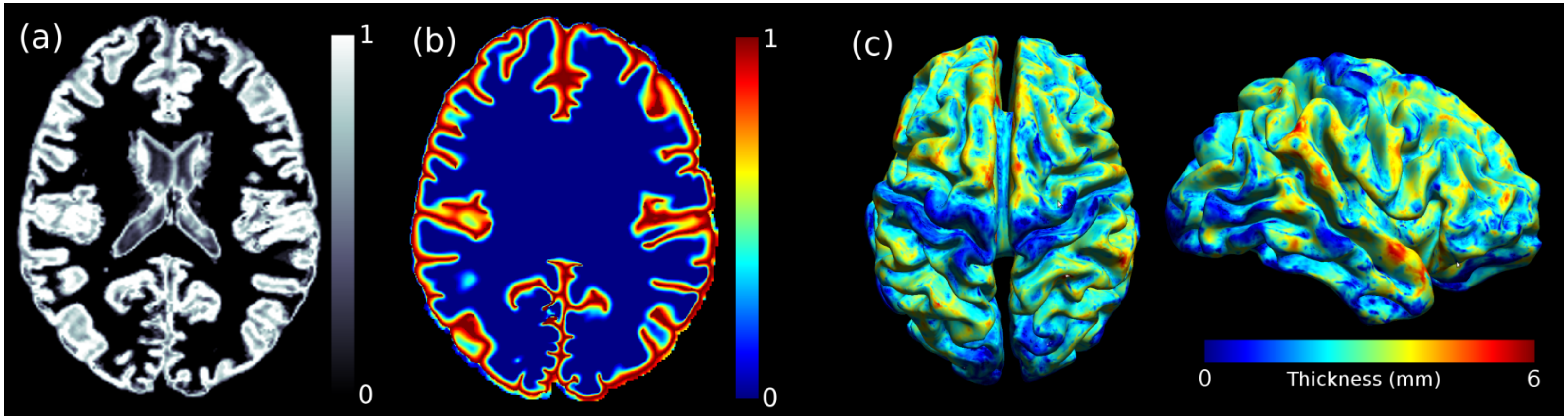
Split Hemispheres



Automated Surfaces vs Intraoperative Photograph

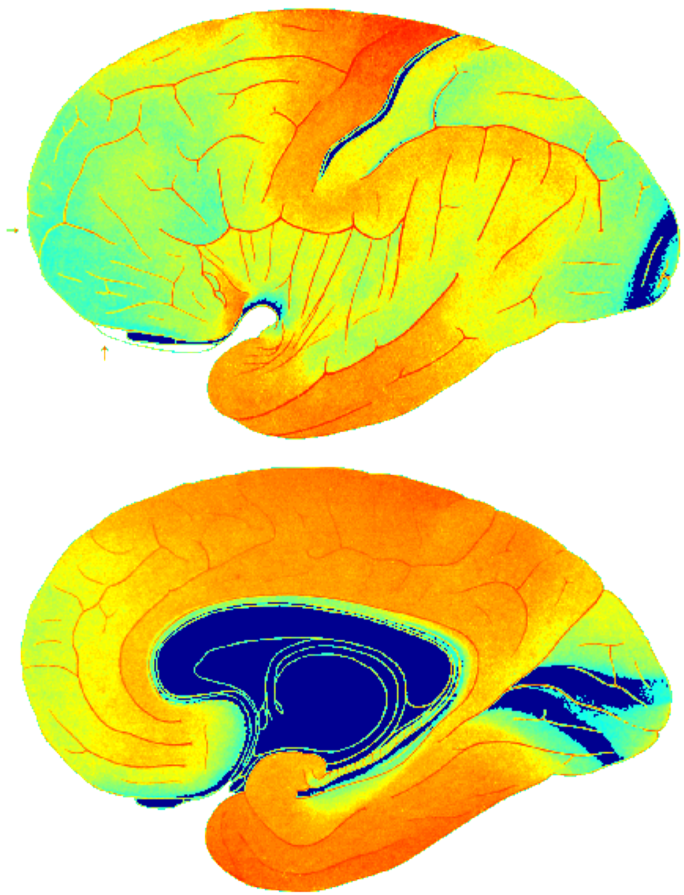


Cortical Thickness using Partial Tissue Fraction Estimates

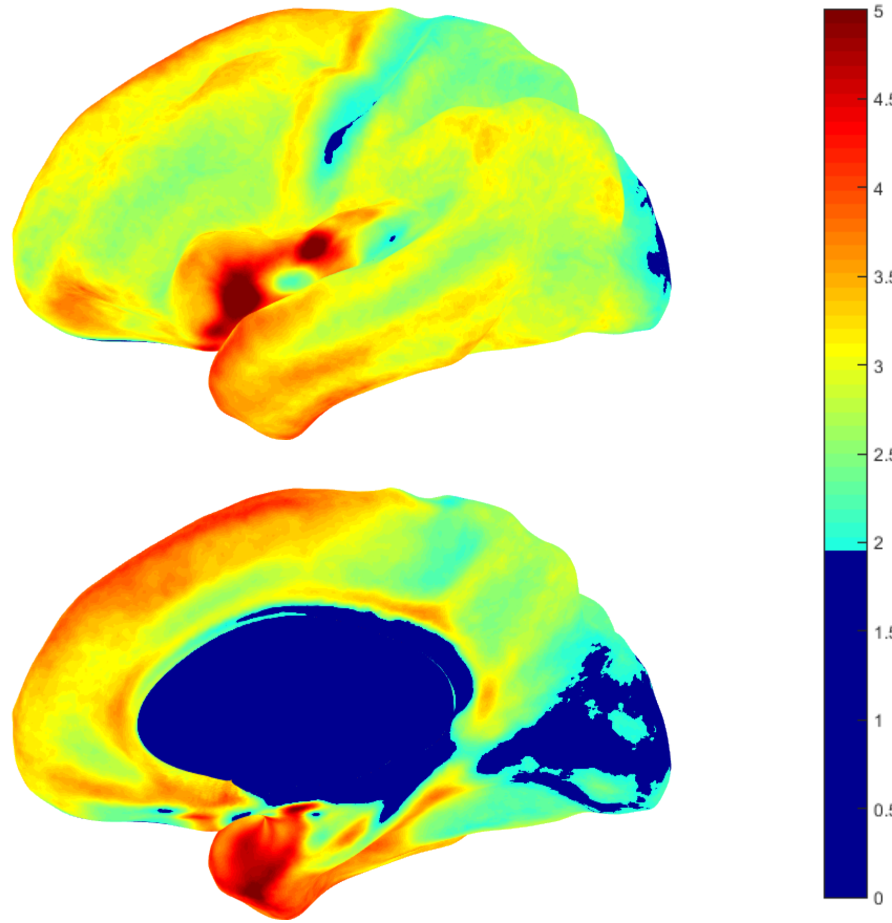


(a) Gray-matter fraction estimated using a partial volume model;
(b) Temperature map obtained using the proposed ALE method; and
(c) Thickness estimate using the ALE method shown on the estimated mid-cortical surface.

Comparisons

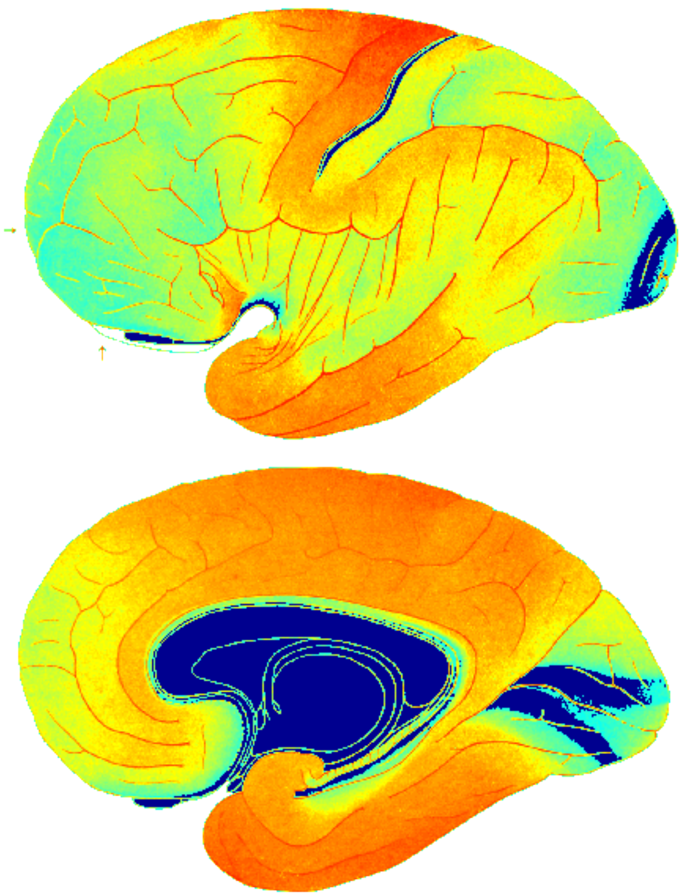


Von Economo and Koskinas (1925)

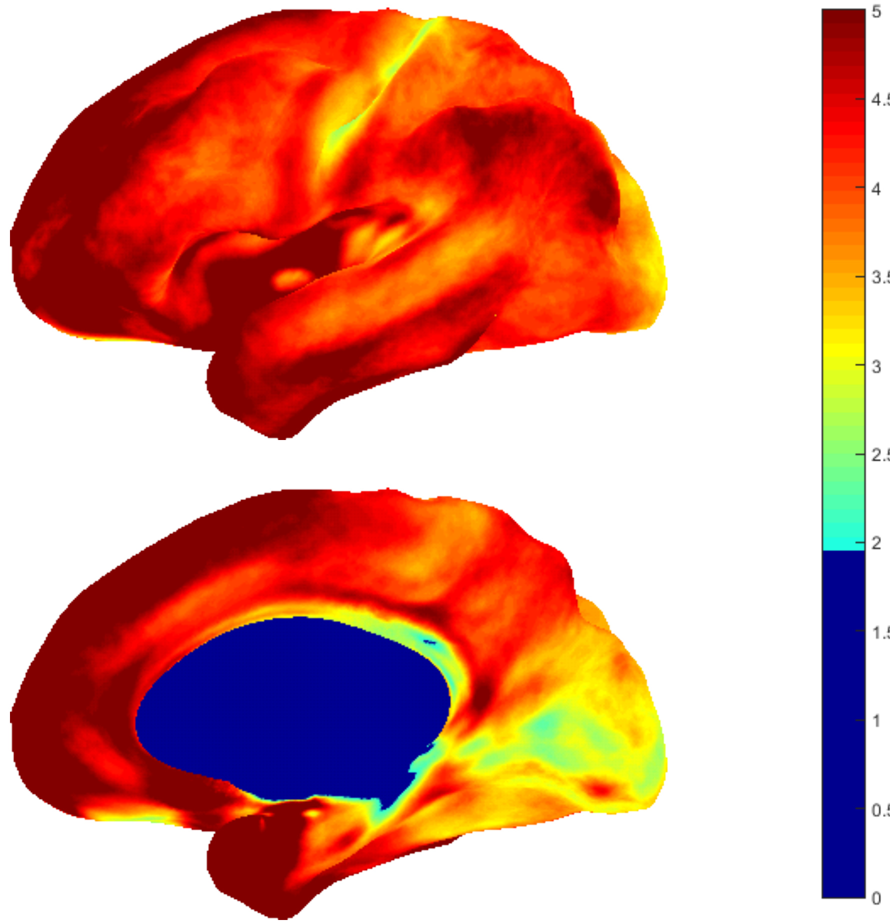


From MRI: anisotropic heat equation (averaged over 186 subjects)

Comparisons

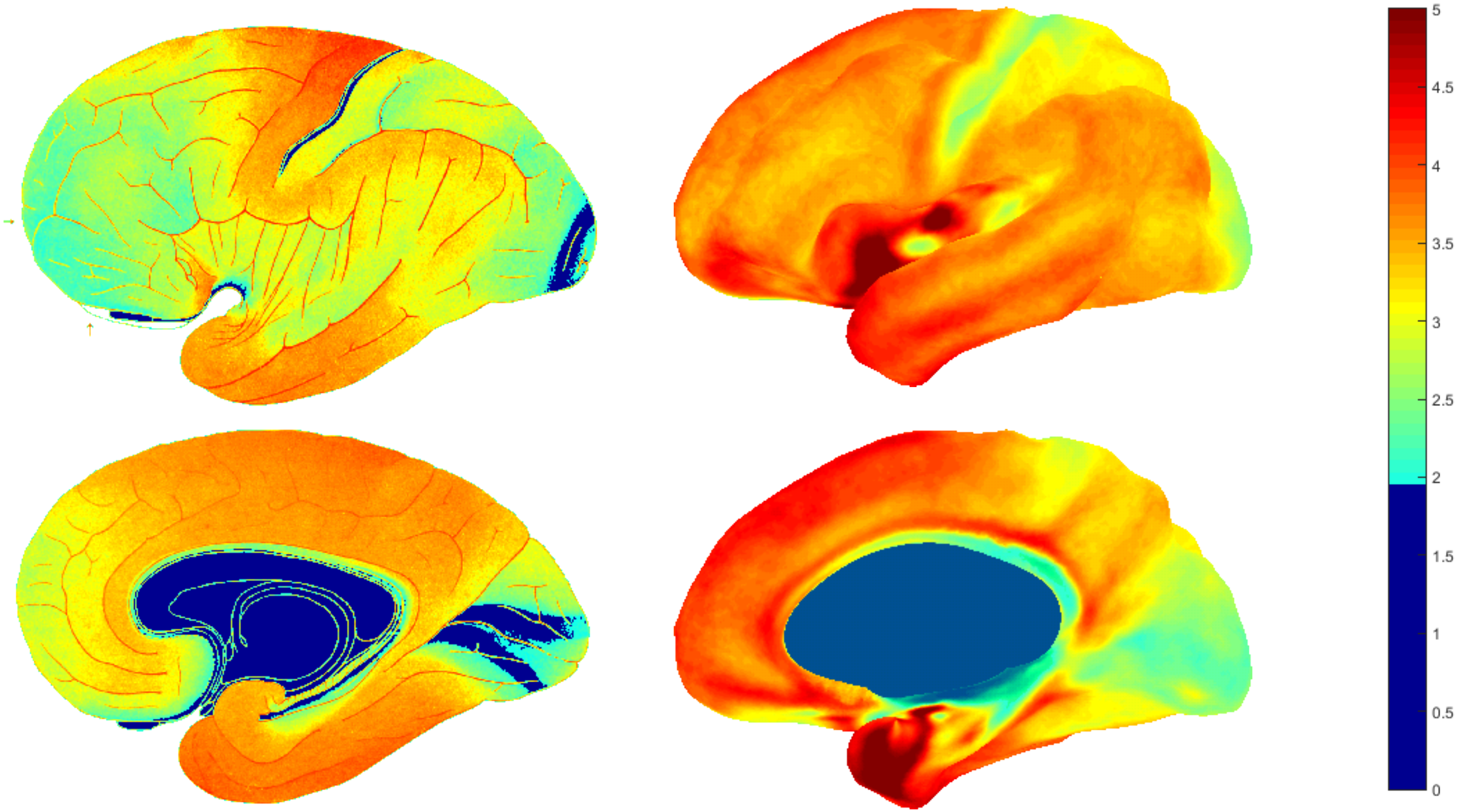


Von Economo and Koskinas (1925)



From MRI using linked distance (averaged over 186 subjects)

Comparisons



Von Economo and Koskinas (1925)

From MRI: isotropic heat equations (averaged over 186 subjects)