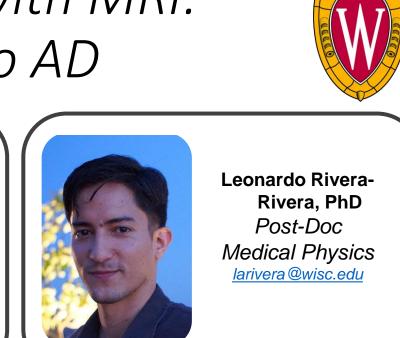
Cranial Hemodynamics assessed with MRI: An introduction with relevance to AD

Laura Eisenmenger, MD

Asst. Professor

Radiology

leisenmenger@uwhealth.org





Kevin Johnson, PhD

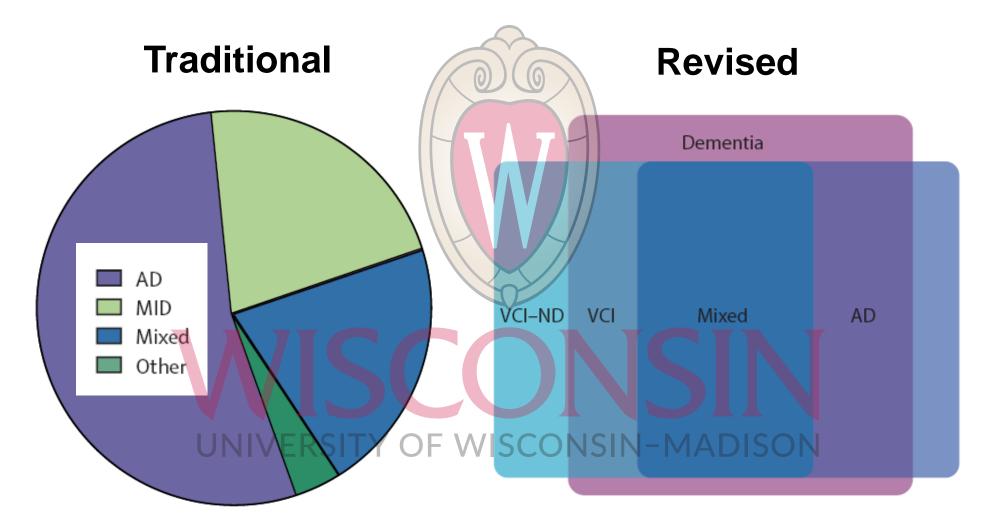
Asst. Professor

Medical Physics

Radiology

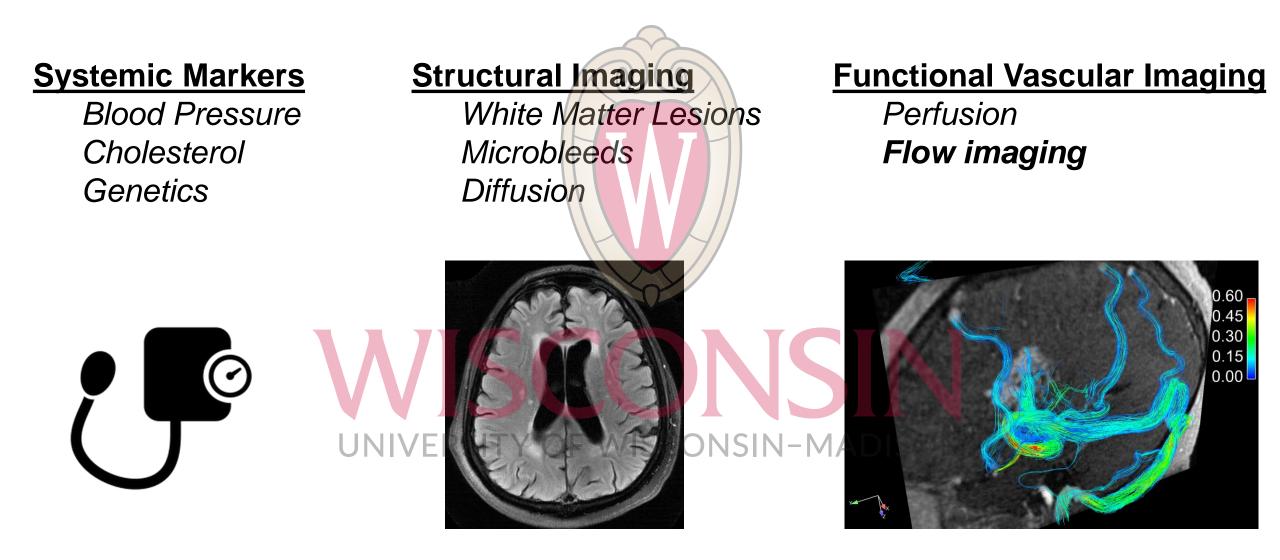
kmjohnson3@wisc.edu

Contribution of Vascular Disease to Dementia



Moorhouse, P Lancet Neurol 2008; 7: 246–55

Vascular Disease Markers



Overview

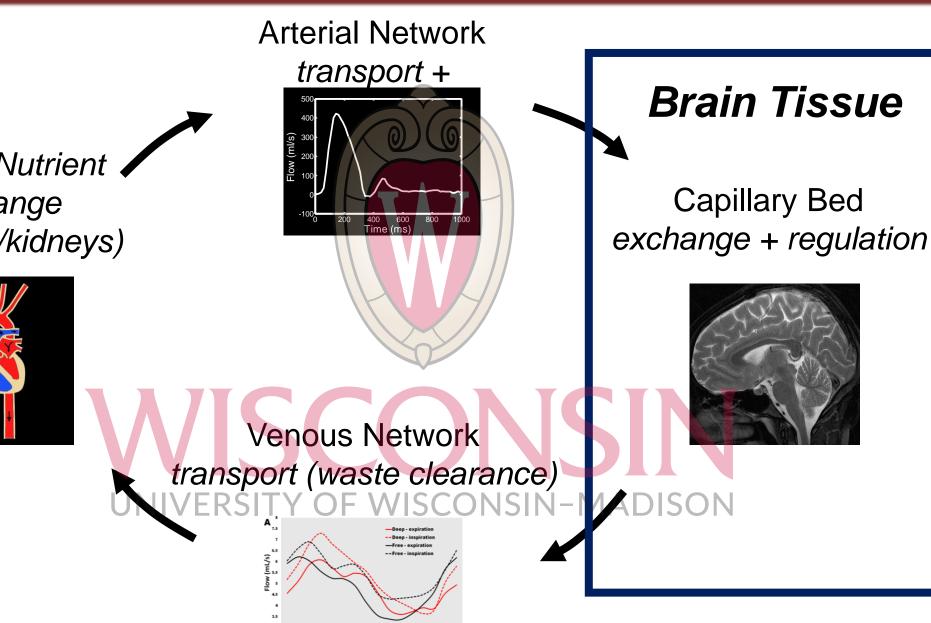
- Introduction to Blood Flow Measures with MRI
 - -Kevin Johnson, Assistant Professor, Medical Physics and Radiology
- What can we measure and how we measure it
 - -Grant Roberts, PhD Candidate, Medical Physics
- Results in studies of ADRD
 - -Leonardo Rivera-Rivera, Postdoctoral Fellow

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Overview

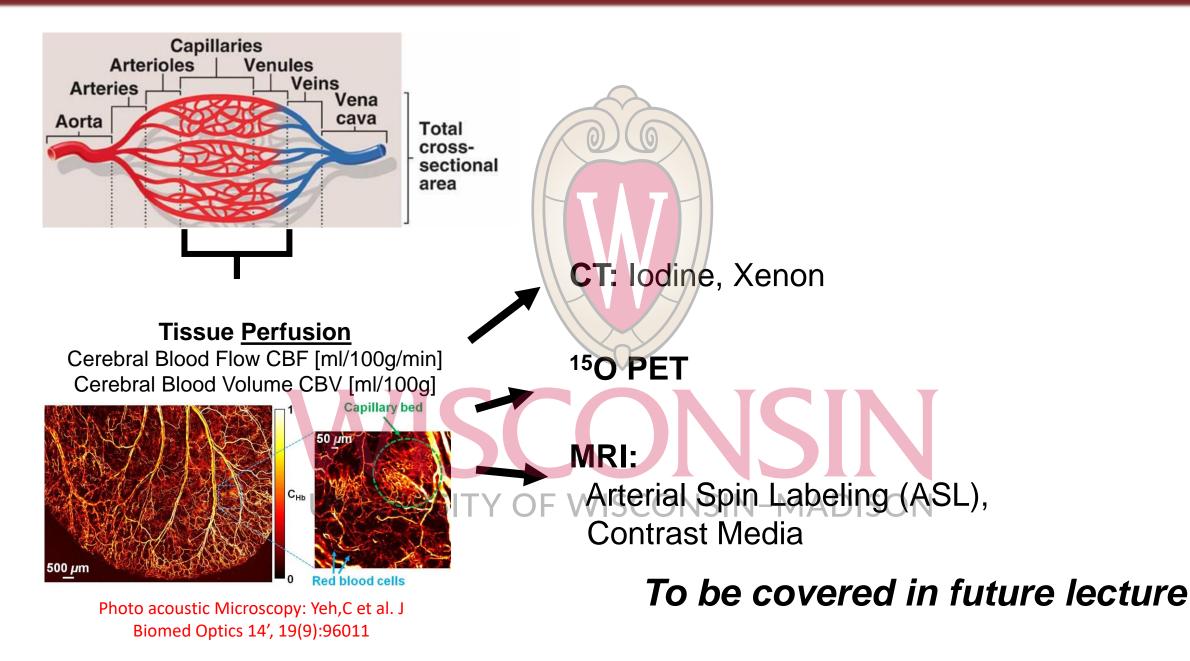
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 - —Grant Roberts, PhD Candidate, Medical Physics
- **Results** in studies of ADRD
 - -Leonardo Rivera-Rivera, Postdoctoral Fellow

Waste / Nutrient Exchange (lung/liver/kidneys)

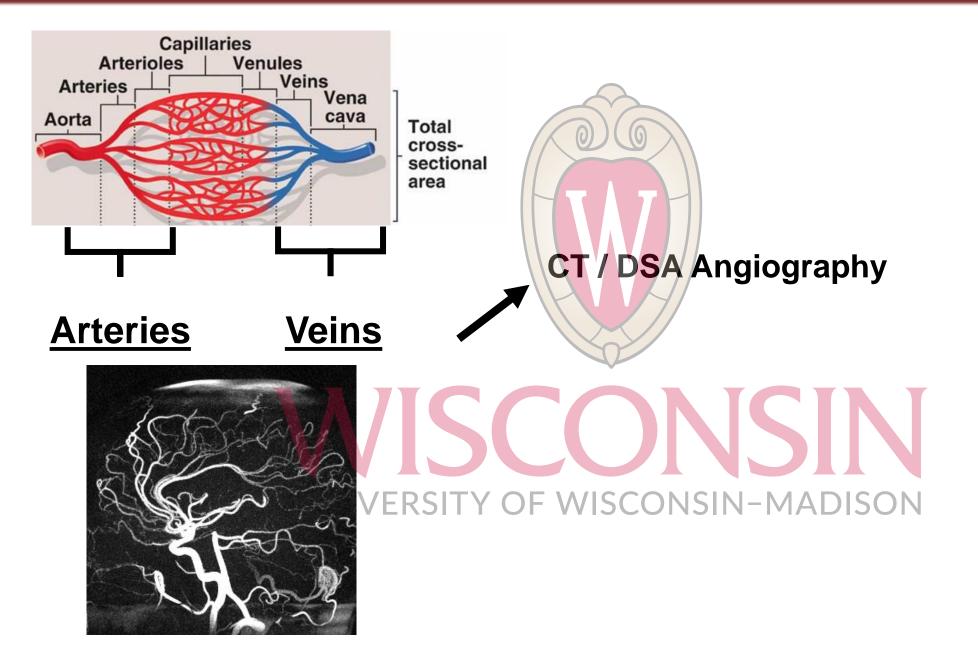


Cardiac Time (ms)

Vascular Imaging Landscape



Vascular Imaging Landscape

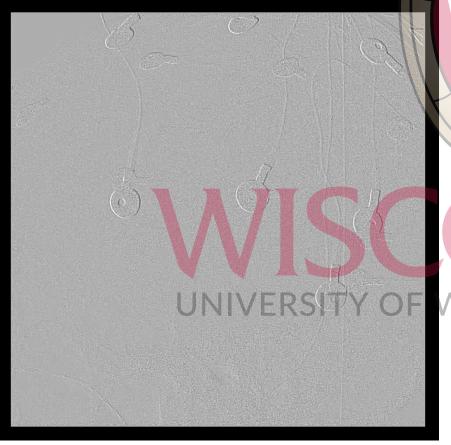


Quantifying Intracranial Hemodynamics

• X-Ray Digital Subtraction Angiography

(+) High spatial and temporal resolution

- (-) Radiation, intra-arterial injections of contrast agent
- (-) Extracting velocities / flow is challenging

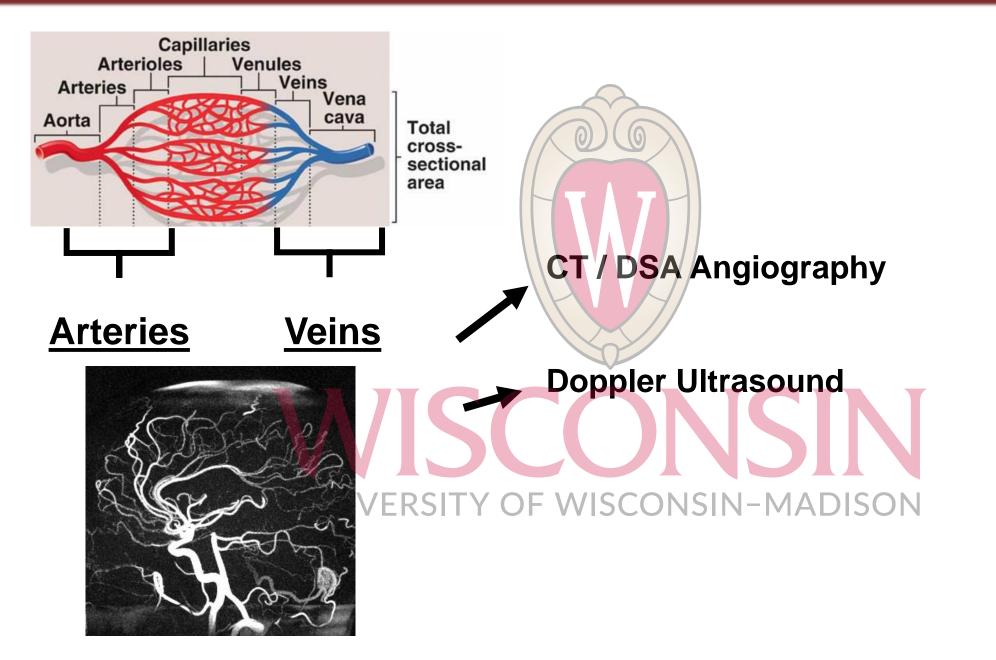


Intracranial Aneurysm – DSA 2D projection 1024x1024 matrix, 30 frames per second

WISCONSIN-MADISON

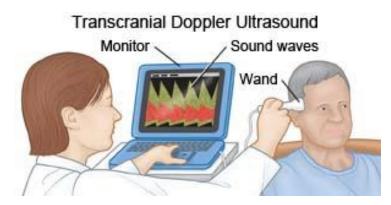
S Shpilfoygel et al., Med Phys. 2000 Sep;27(9):2008-23.

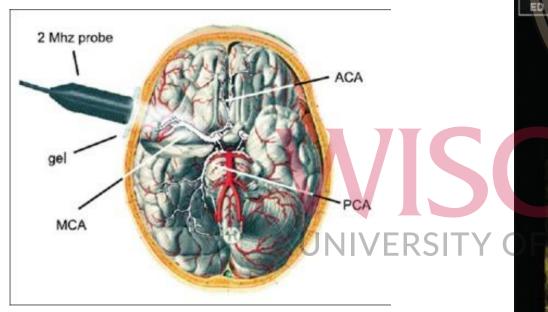
Vascular Imaging Landscape

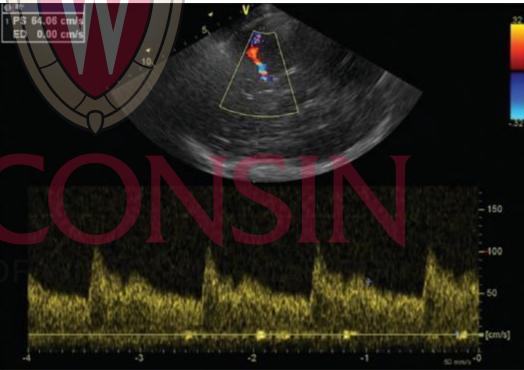


Quantifying Intracranial Hemodynamics

- Transcranial Doppler ultrasound (TCD)
 - (+) Inexpensive, high frame rates
 - (-) Dependent on sonographer skill
 - (-) Limited by beam penetration of the bone window
 - (-) Flow estimated from velocity profile and area estimate

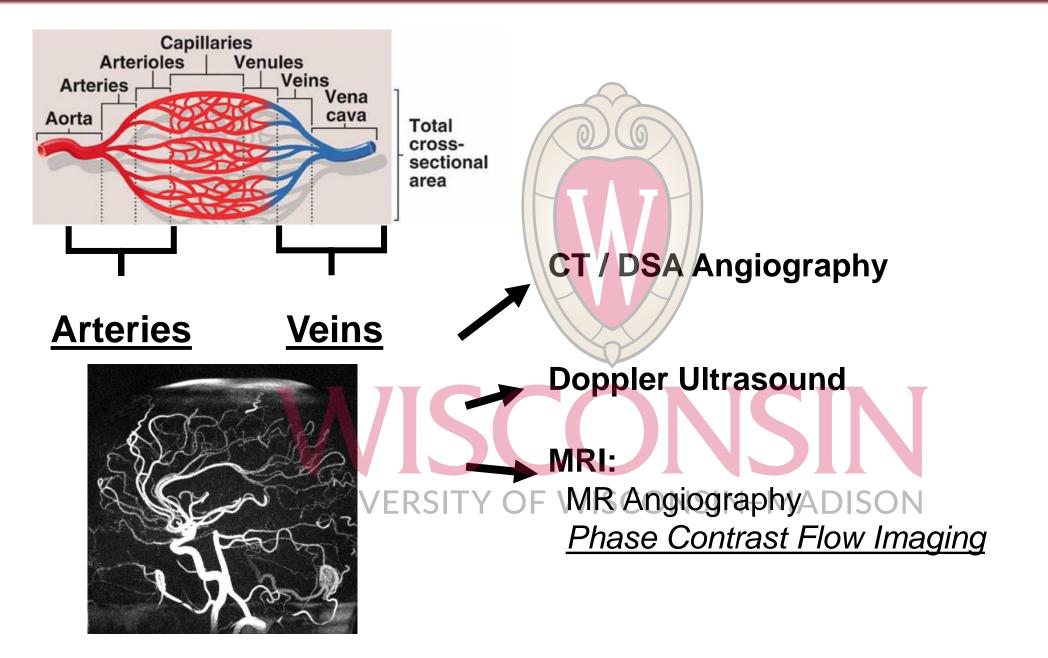




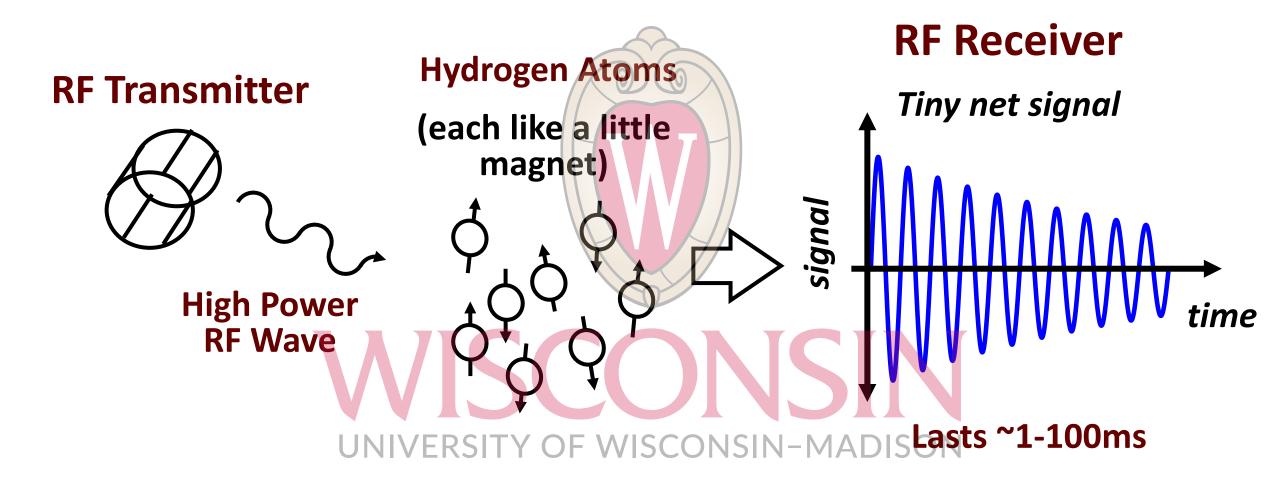


D'Andrea et al., J Cardiovasc Ecogr. 2016 Apr-Jun; 26(2)

Vascular Imaging Landscape

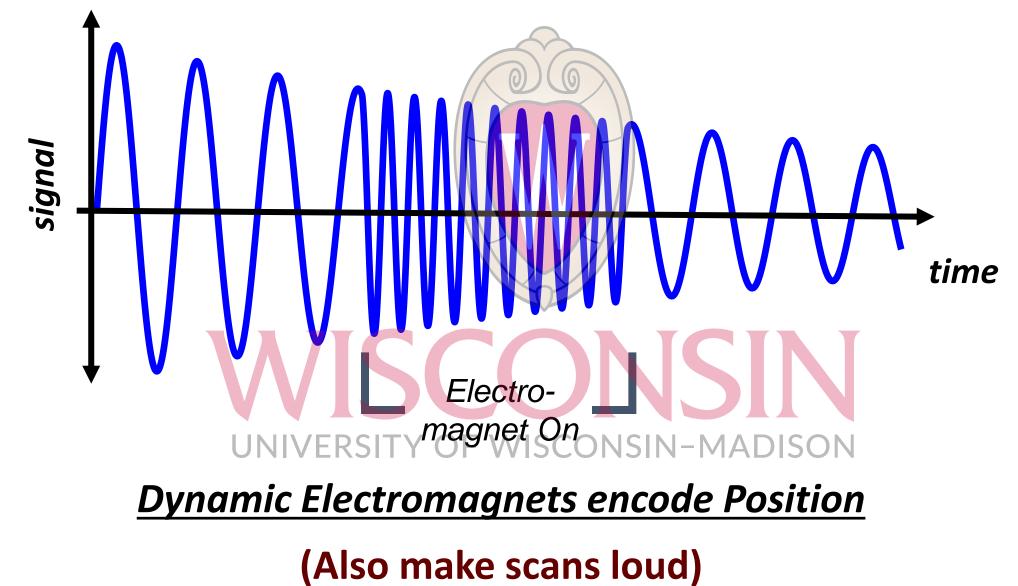


MRI : Excitation



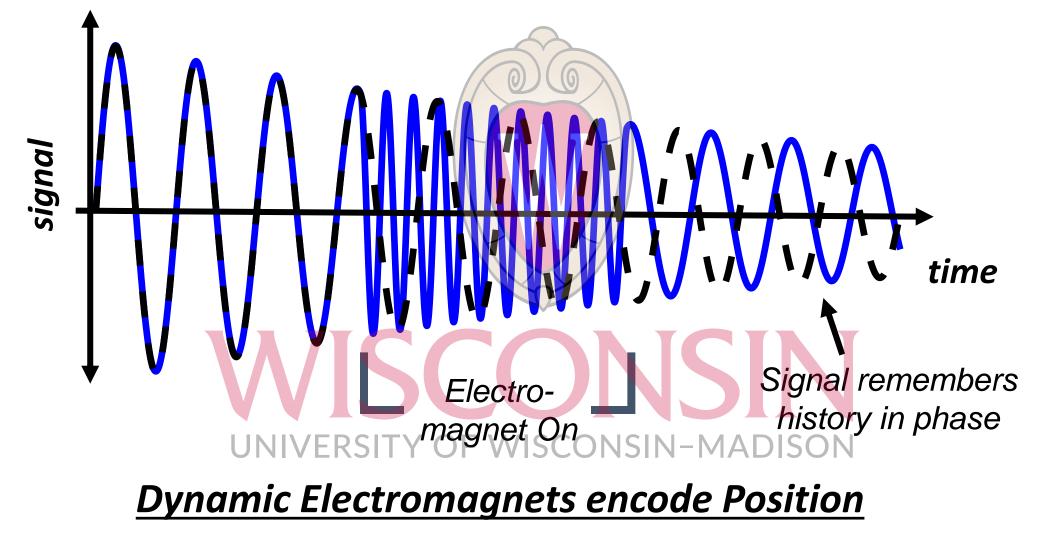
MRI : Spatial Encoding

• The signal can be modified after excitation and has memory!



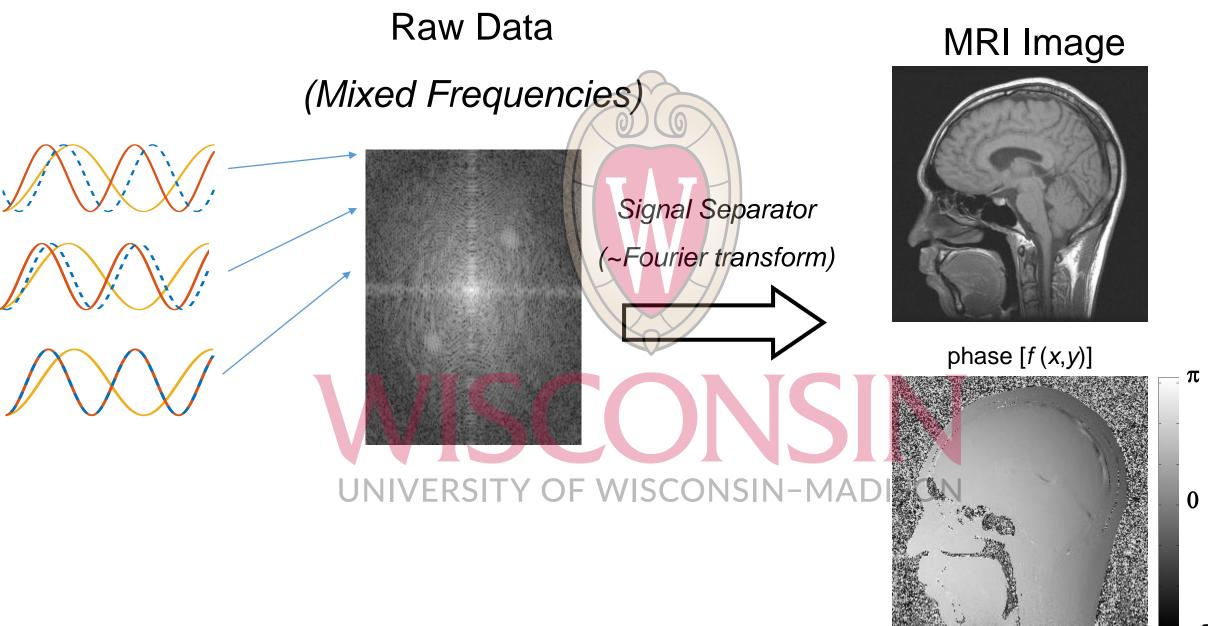
MRI : Spatial Encoding

• The signal can be modified after excitation and has memory!

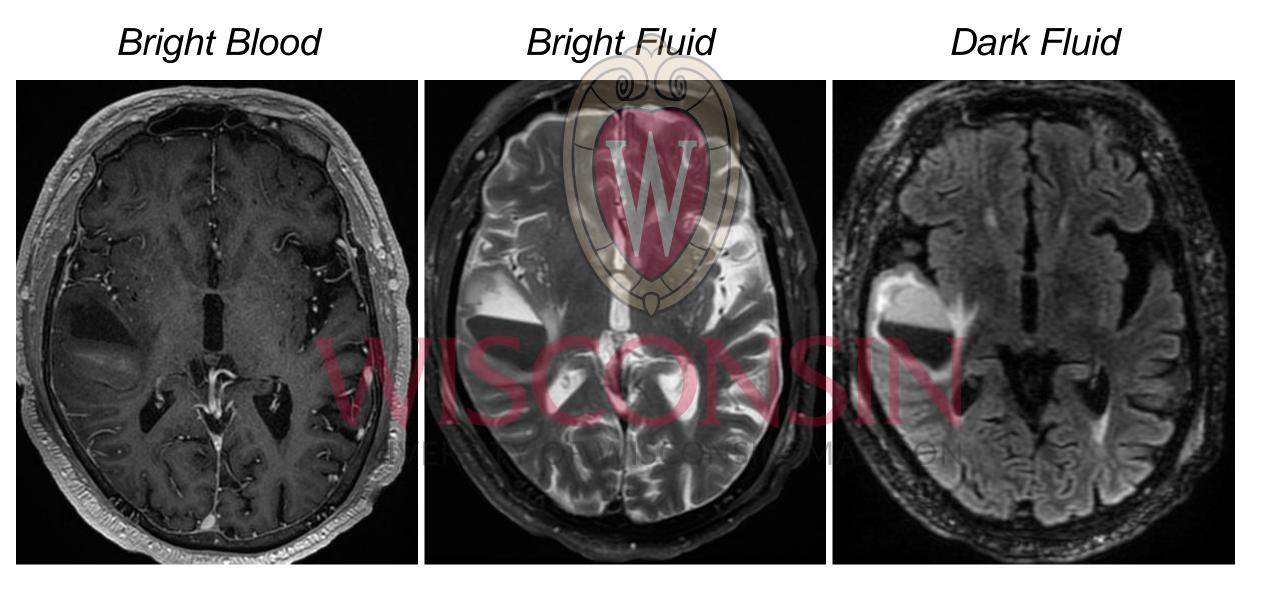


(Also make scans loud)

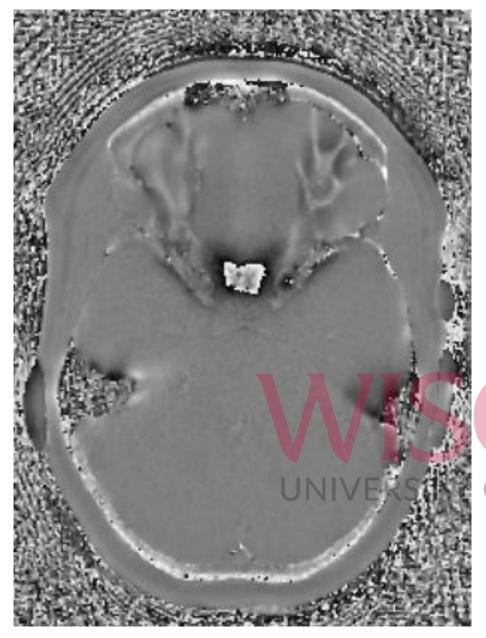
MRI : Spatial Encoding



MRI Provides Opportunities to Manipulate Contrast



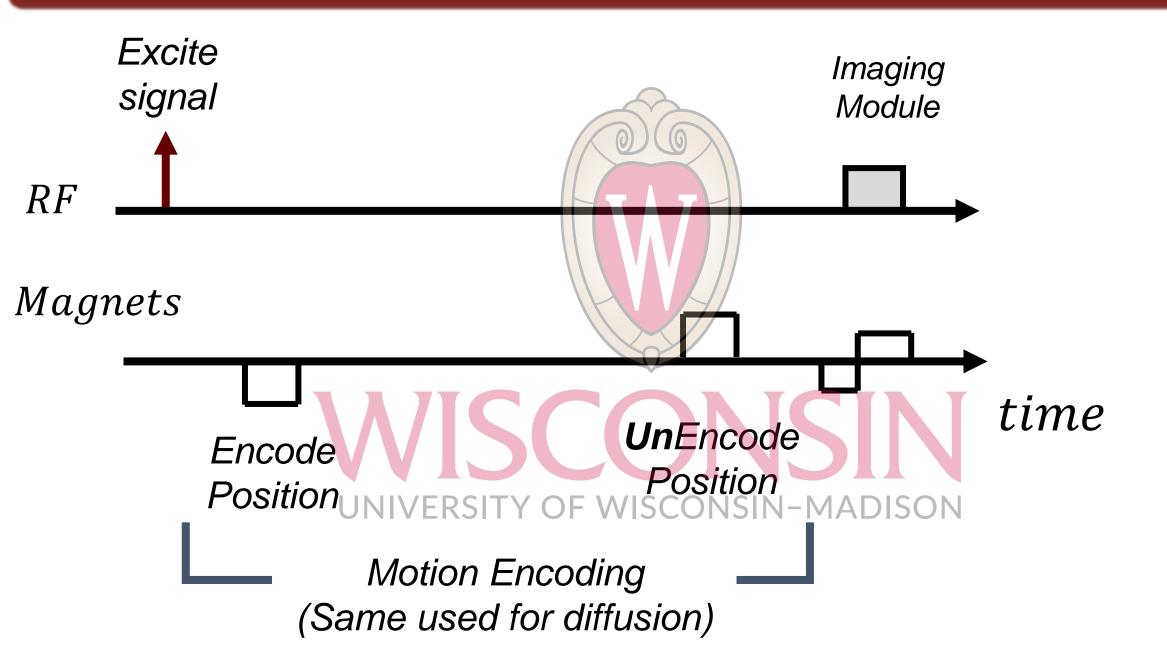
The image phase is often uninteresting



Phase image has limited contrast

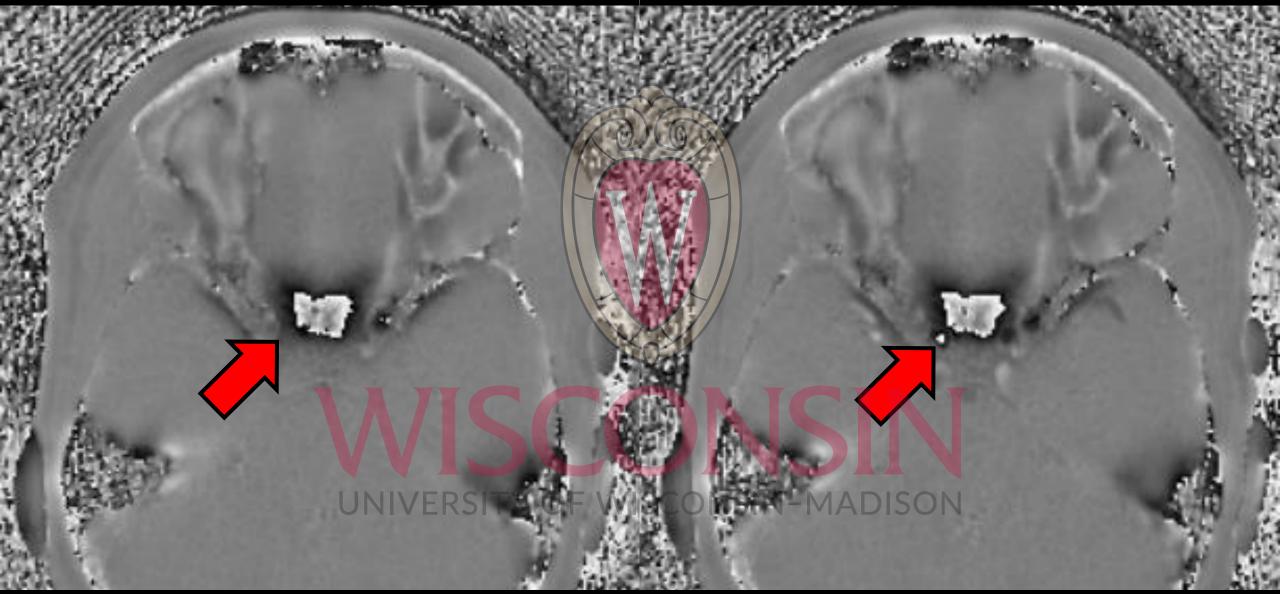
(QSM) Susceptibility of Mapping does use this phase

Motion Sensitization with MRI



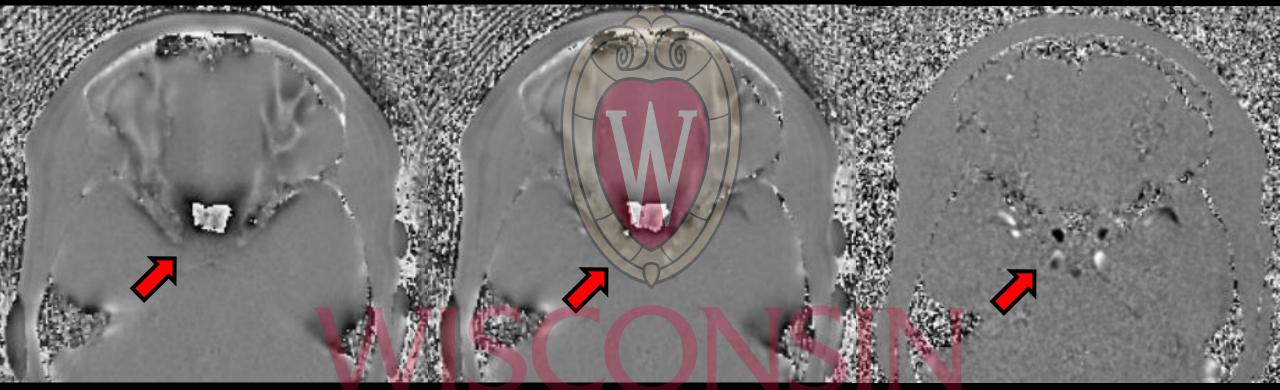
Without Motion Encoding

With Motion Encoding



Phase images change based on velocity

Without MotionWith MotionDifferenceEncodingEncoding(Velocity)



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12

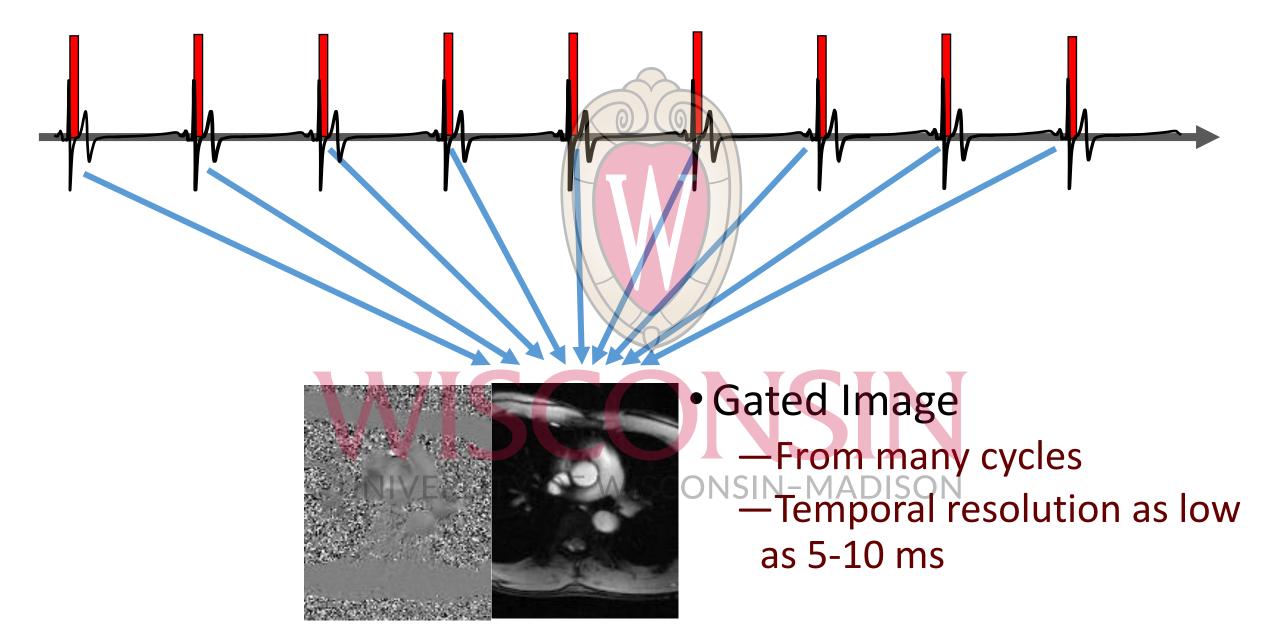
(D)

Without Motion Encoding

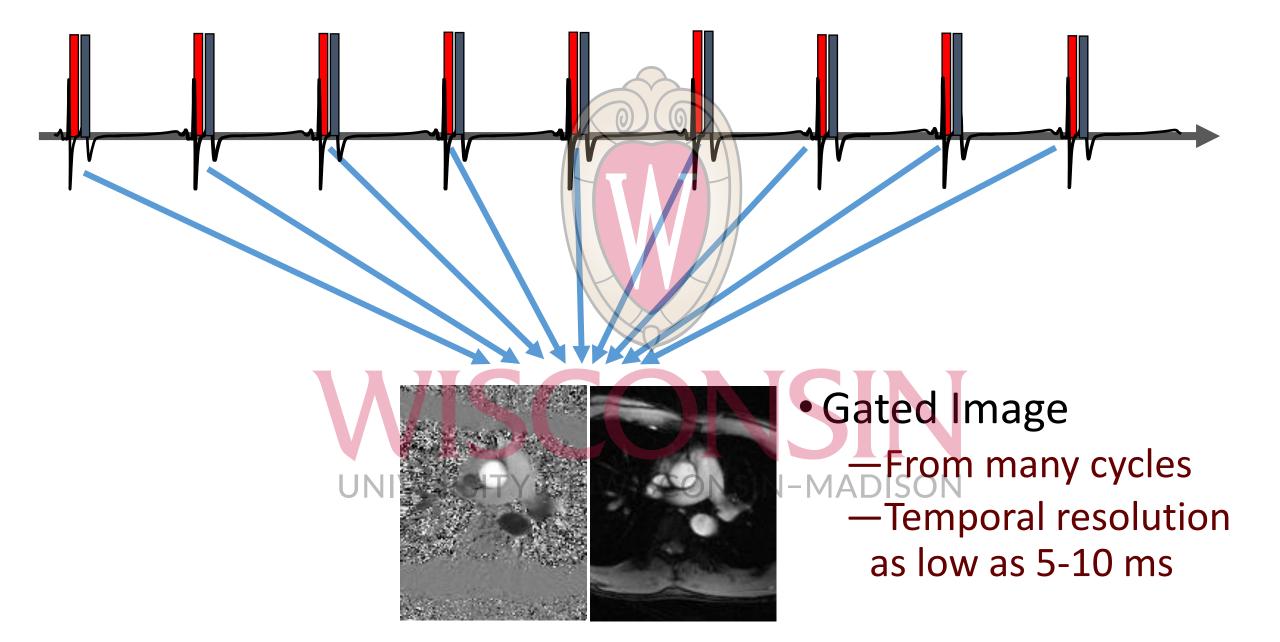
With Motion Encoding

Magnitude images unaffected unless we use strong gradients (diffusion imaging!)

"Gating" allows part of image to be collected in each cycle



"Gating" allows part of image to be collected in each cycle



RESULTING IMAGES – CARDIAC RESOLVED

Magnitude

Velocity



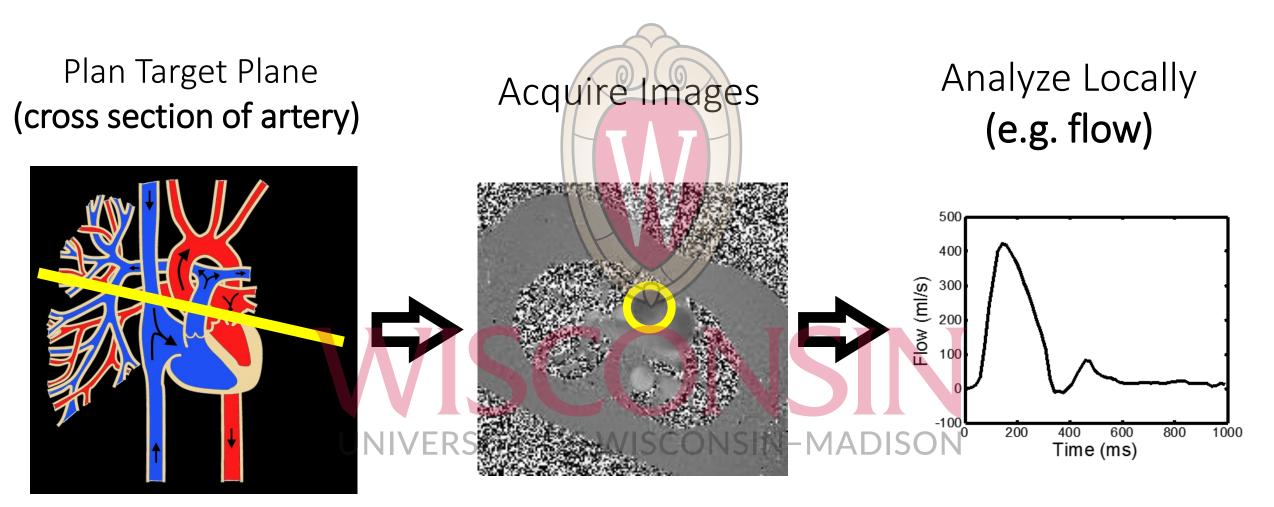


0 cm/s

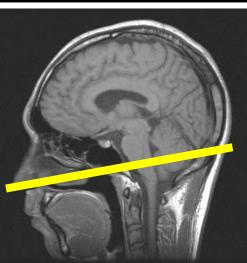
- 150 cm/s

2D Phase Contrast MRI

Common flow techniques use 2D MRI planes

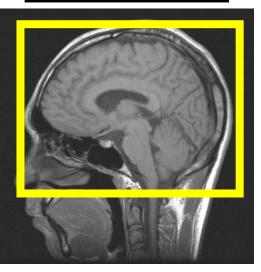


<u>2D PC MRI</u>









- Prospectively Targeted plane(s)
- Need vessel image to acquire
- One vessel at a time
- Usually 1 direction of velocity

- Volumetric acquisition
- All vessels simultaneously
 All 3 velocity directions
- ISCONSIAI 3 velocity directions
 - **Retrospective analysis**

Speed of MRI

• MR Imaging rate is ~50,000 voxels/pixels per second —HD Camera : 62,208,000 pixels/s (1200x faster)

~1 second to acquire

~4minutes to acquire

- •256x256 image:
- 256³ volume:
- 20 volumes: >1hr to acquire

Need acceleration methods for 4D Flow

4D Flow in the Heart vs Brain

Targeted Aorta Scan

(Markl et al)



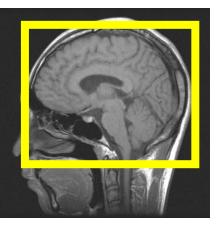
Tailored geometry



Brain poses challenges for 4D flow

Smaller vessels (1-7 mm)

Large volume of interest

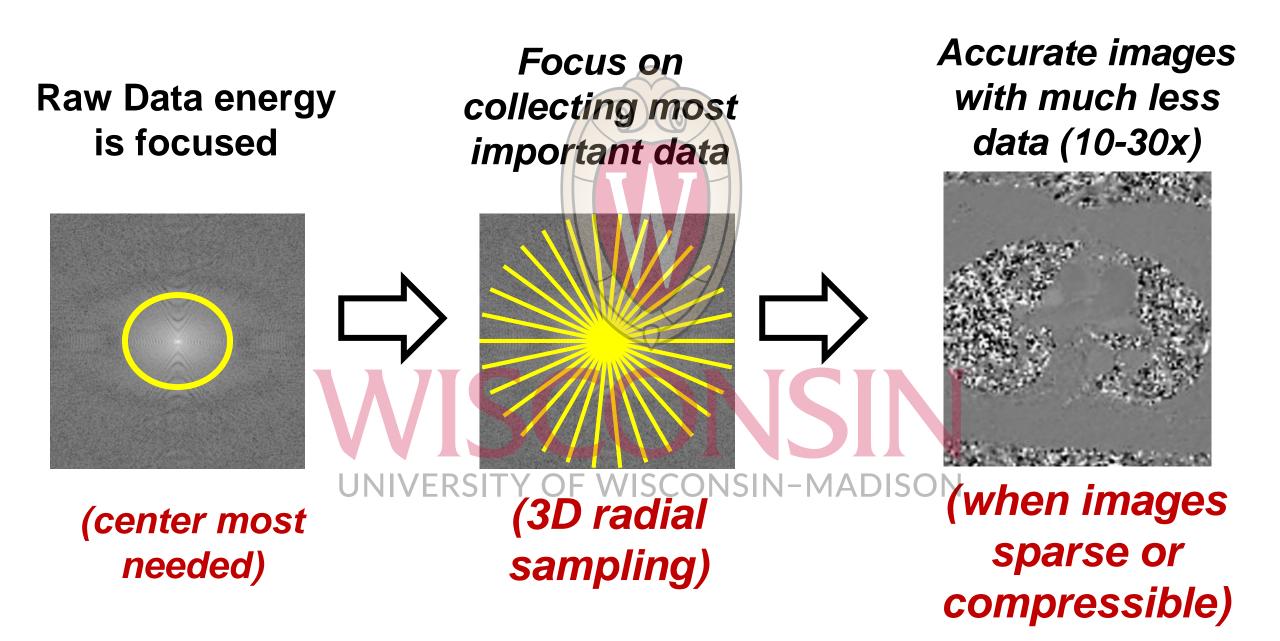


Blood Flow Origin

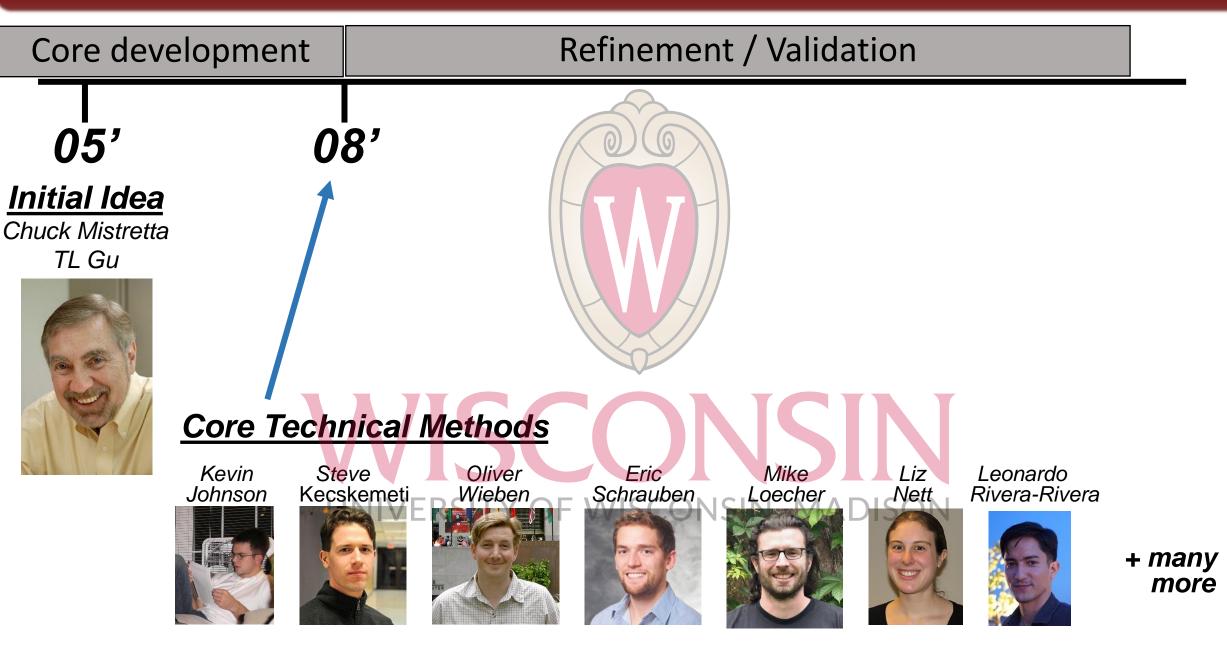


Left ventricle (LV) & aorta (Ao) Left pulmonary vein (LPV) Right pulmonary vein (RPV) Inferior vena cava (IVC) Superior vena cava (SVC)

PC VIPR (Accelerated 4D-Flow) Principle



PCVIPR History



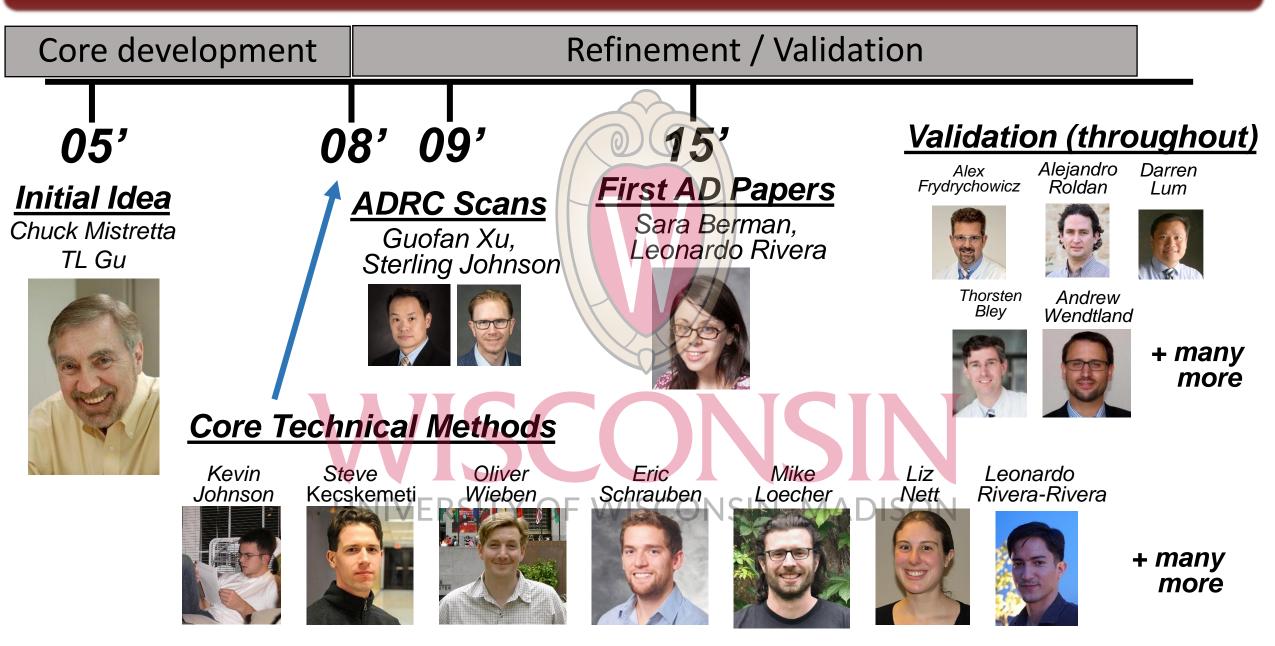
<u>March 2009</u>

This is Guofan from Dept. of Medicine & Radiology. We currently start a new Alzheimer's disease research project with MR neuroimaging. I am interested in the carotid artery flow speed measurement. Dr. Rowley and Dr. Turski told me that I should use the PC-VIPR sequence and you are the best person to ask. I read that VIPR paper in 2005 AJNR. Is that sequence available on the new GE x750 system? If possible, could you give me some updates about this technique and data processing? Thanks!



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PCVIPR History

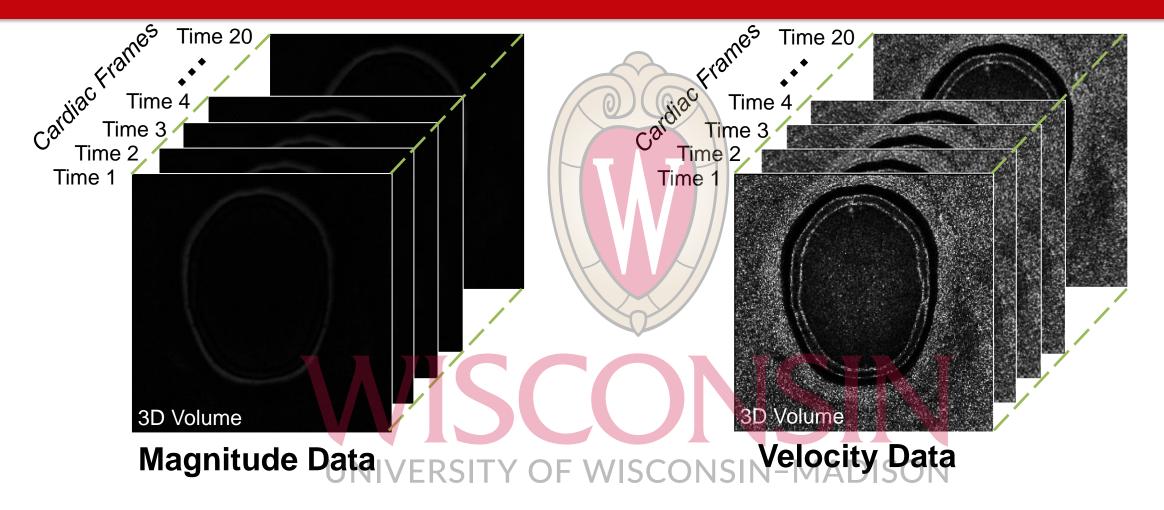


4D-Flow in WADRC Core Whole brain coverage 0.7mm spatial resolution 50ms temporal

Overview

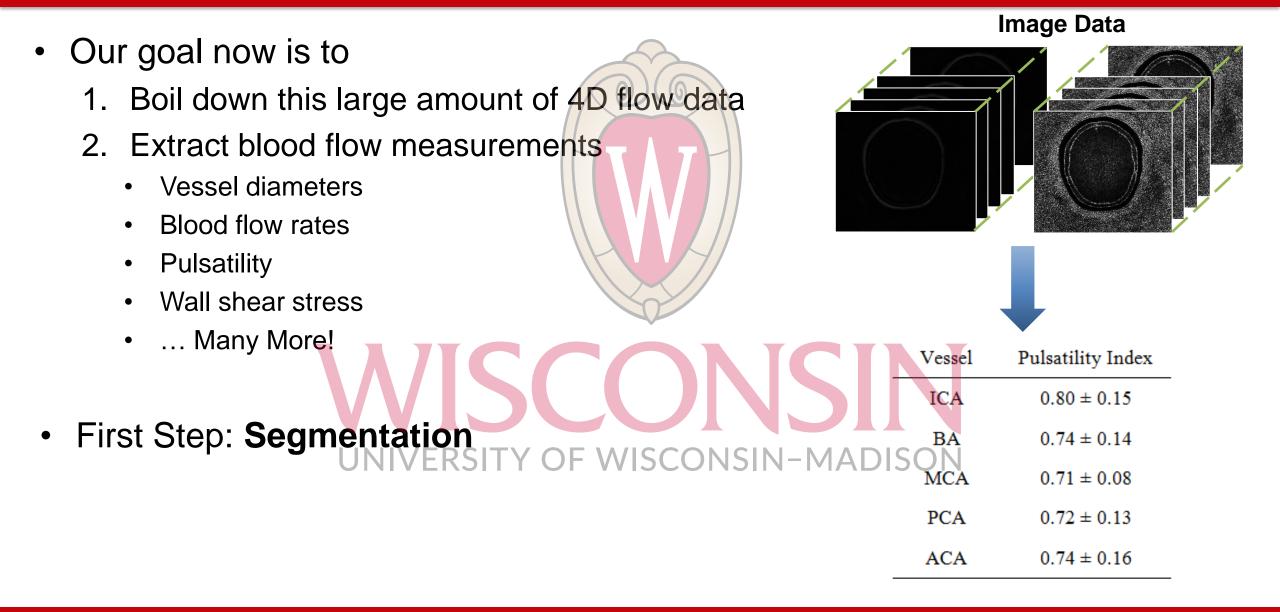
- Introduction to Blood Flow Measures with MRI
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4D Flow Post-Processing



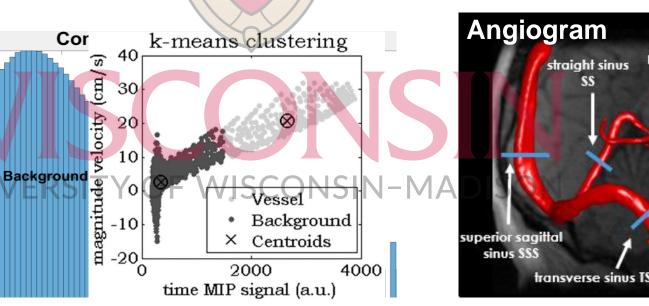
- Image sizes: 320 x 320 x 320 x 20
- We have a lot of data!

4D Flow Post-Processing



Vessel Segmentation

- Identify vessel vs. not vessel
 - Termed "angiogram"
 - Complex difference images delineate vessels well
- Segmentation techniques
 - Manual segmentation
 - Threshold-based
 - Automatic Segmen
 - K-Means Clustering
 - Adaptive thresholdi
 - Sliding threshold
- Second Step: ROI A



From: Schrauben E, et al. JMRI 2015 (42)

Complex Difference

posterior cerebral

arteries PCA

internal carotic

arteries ICA

ROI Analysis

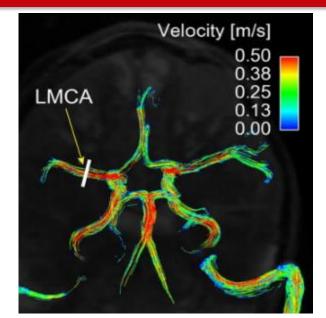
- Define vessel of interest
- Make cut-plane
 - Measure "through-plane" velocity
 - Analogous to 2DPC
 - Ideally perpendicular to length of vessel
- Segmentation defines vessel boundary
- Analyze velocities inside vessel
 - Allows for quantitative hemodynamic measures

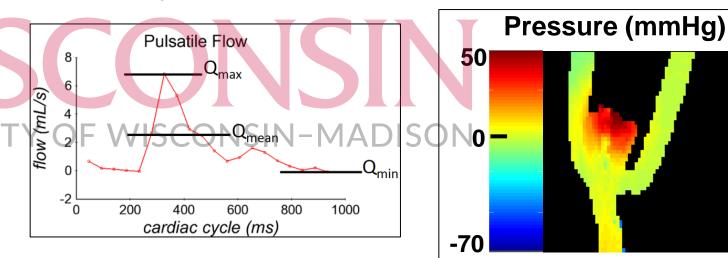
- 35.0 31.1 Cut-plane 27.2 23.3 19.4 Velocity 15.6 11.7 Contour 7.8
- Blood flow, velocity, pulsatility, etc. F WISCONS MADISON

Hemodynamic Parameters

- What can 4D flow measure?
 - Morphological
 - Vessel Areas
 - Vessel lengths
 - Functional
 - Blood flow
 - Blood velocities
 - Pulsatility Index
 - Resistivity Index
 - Pressure maps
 - Wall-shear stress
 - Pulse wave velocity
 - Kinetic energy







Velocity and Blood Flow

Blood velocity

- After defining ROI in cut-plane, we can measure velocity in vessel.
 - Peak systolic velocity
 - Mean velocity over cardiac cycle

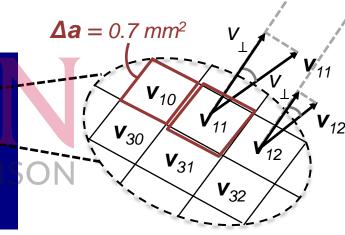
Blood flow

Instantaneous volumetric flow rate (mL/s)

 $-Q = \sum (v_{\perp} \cdot \Delta a)$

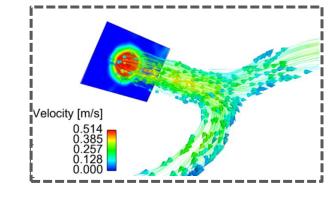
 Average volumetric flow rage (mL/s) – Just average Q_f over all cardiac frames!

From: Rivera-Rivera LA et al. JCBFM 2016 (36)



Cardiac frame 1

•
$$Q_1 = \cdots v_{\perp,10} \cdot \Delta a + v_{\perp,11} \cdot \Delta a + v_{\perp,12} \cdot \Delta a + \cdots$$



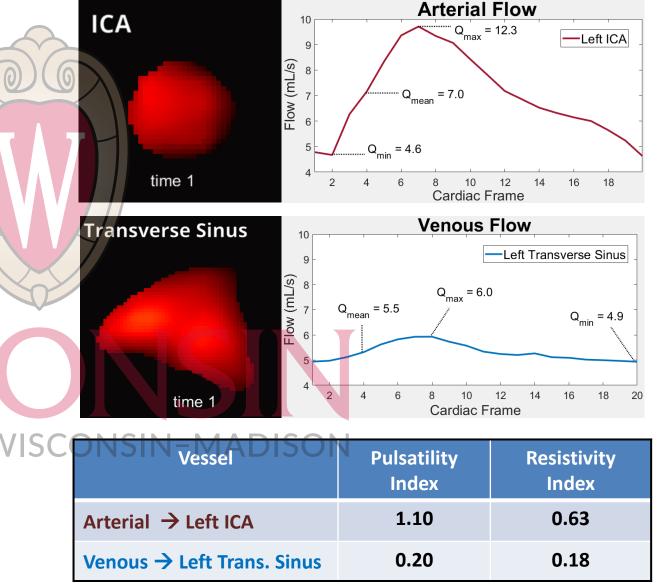
Pulsatility and Resistivity Index

Pulsatility Index (PI)

• $PI = \frac{Flow_{max} - Flow_{min}}{Flow_{mean}}$

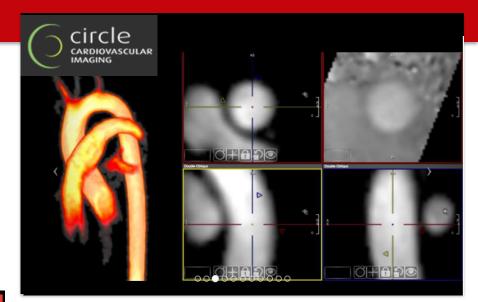
Resistivity Index (RI)

- $RI = \frac{Flow_{max} Flow_{min}}{Flow_{max}}$
- Clinical importance
 - Both are measures of downstream vascular resistance and intracranial compliance.
 - Affected in diseases like TBI, hydrocephalus, and AD.



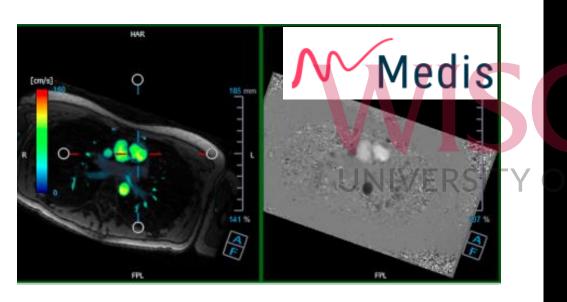
Commercial 4D Flow Software

- Commercial 4D flow post-processing software already exist.
 - However, applications are primarily cardiac
- No software dedicated to <u>cranial 4D flow</u>



ARTERYS

PIE MEDICAL IMAGING



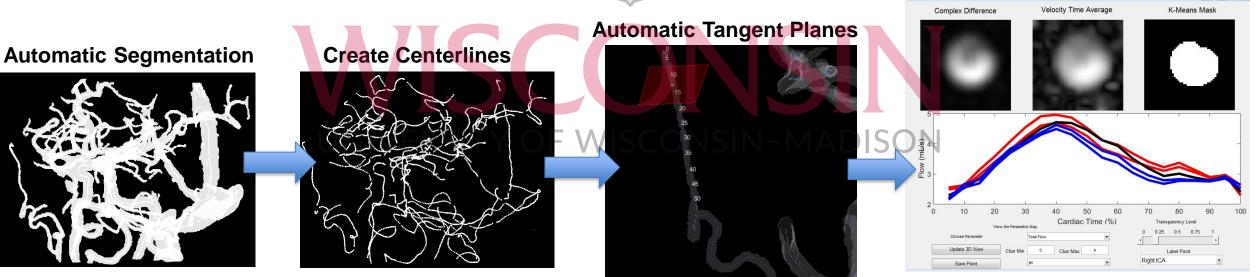
Automated Tool

- UW pioneers in cranial 4D flow post-processing software
 Initial work done by Eric Schrauben in 2014.
- Allows for automatic flow analysis along all cranial vessels.
 - Automatically segments
 - Creating "centerlines"
 - Calculate orthogonal cut-planes (tangent planes)
 - Calculate in-plane hemodynamics



```
Eric Schrauben
```

Flow Analysis



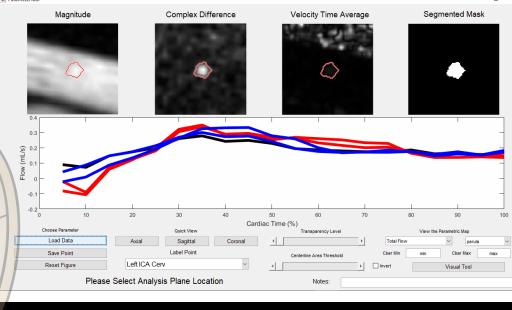
Automated Tool

- Nearly finalized a major update to this tool
 - Interactive 3D display
 - Visualize in-plane magnitude, velocity, complex difference data in real-time.
 - Overlay centerlines on angiogram
 - Color-coding of 4D flow parameters

Carson Hoffman

- Streamlined code
 - Faster with less memory usage
- Saves user-state

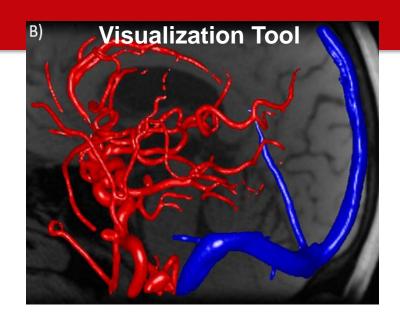
Control Window

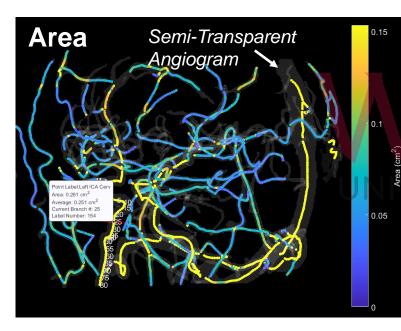


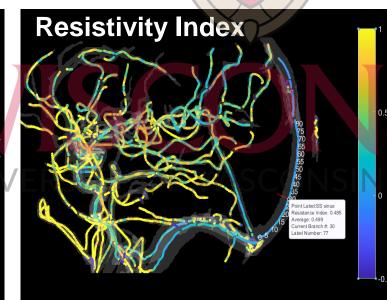
3D Display

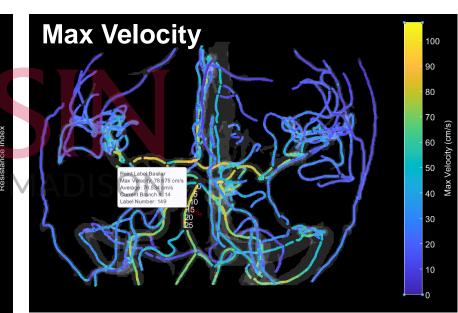
Automated Tool

- Examples of visualization
 - Display angiogram (right)
 - Color-coded hemodynamics (below)
 - Can display: area, pulsatility index, resistivity index, mean velocity, max velocity, consistency of flow along vessel, and more.









Other Exciting Hemodynamic Parameters

Intravascular Pressure

Navier-Stokes equaation

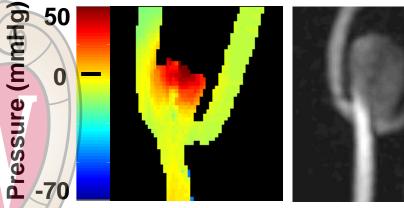
$$-\nabla P = -\rho \left(\frac{\partial \vec{v}}{\partial t} + \vec{v} \cdot \nabla \vec{v} - g \right) + \mu \nabla^2 \vec{v}$$

 May be useful in stratifying high risk aneurysms or DAVFs

Wall Shear Stress (WSS)

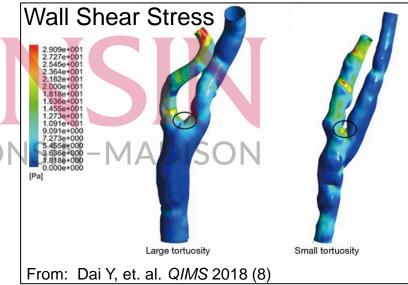
- Defined as the frictional force exerted on endothelium by pulsatile blood flow_NIVERSITY OF WISCON
- Critical determinant of vessel diameter and vascular remodeling via atherogenesis

Aneurysm Jet Pattern - High Dome Pressure





From: R Moftakhar et al., AJNR 2007 (28)



Overview

- Introduction to Blood Flow Measures with MRI
 - -Kevin Johnson, Assistant Professor, Medical Physics and Radiology
- What can we measure and how we measure it —Grant Roberts, PhD Candidate, Medical Physics
- Results in studies of ADRD
 - -Leonardo Rivera-Rivera, Postdoctoral Fellow UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Alzheimer's disease and cerebrovascular disease

- CVD manifests in AD but is also an independent cause of dementia
- AD CVD hypotheses need testing:
 - Additive, causative, AND/OR combinatorial effects ?
 - Will CVD biomarkers improve early diagnosis of dementia?
- Potential for MRI biomarkers of CVD [1]
 - Tissue Perfusion, ASL
 - Blood-brain barrier, DCE
 - Macrovascular flow, 4D flow



Published Studies (n=9, 1st around 5 years ago)

- Hemodynamics of the brain macrovasculature (from 4D flow)
 - Clinically diagnosed AD, MCI, subjects at risk (FH+, APOE4+) and healthy controls
 - CSF bio markers, brain atrophy and cognitive performance
- Original Article Macrovascular blood flow vs Microvascular brain perfusion (pcASL)



Insulin resistance During hypercapia challenges

- Cerebrovascular reactivity

- Cardiovascular risk factors and Intracranial arter racial/ethnic disparities in AD dementia

Sara E. Berman^{a,b,c}, Macrovascula Jon G. Keevil^{f,g}, Howard A. Rowley^{a,f}, J Alaboimor's segement of vascular stiffness in

Journal of Cerebral Blood Flow & Metabolism

HHS Public Access

Author manuscript JAlzheimers Dis. Author manuscript; available in PMC 2020 March 19.

Published in final edited form as: J Alzheimers Dis. 2019 ; 72(3): 919–929. doi:10.3233/JAD-190645.

Association of Cardiovascular and Alzheimer's Disease Risk Factors with Intracranial Arterial Blood Flow in Whites and

African Americans JNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN – MADISON Lindsay R. Clark^{a,b,c} Derek Norton^d Sara E. Be

Lindsay R. Clark^{a,b,c}, Derek Norton^d, Sara E. Berman^e, Sterling C. Johnson^{a,b,c}, Barbara B. Bendlin^{a,b}, Oliver Wieben^{f,g}, Patrick Turski^{f,g}, Cynthia Carlsson^{a,b,c}, Sanjay Asthana^{a,c}, Carey E. Gleason^{a,c,*}, Heather M. Johnson^{h,*}

Kathleen B. Miller¹, Anna J. Howery¹, Leonardo A. Rivera-Rivera², Sterling C. Johnson^{3,4}, Howard A. Rowley^{2,3}, Oliver Wieben² and Jill N. Barnes^{1*}

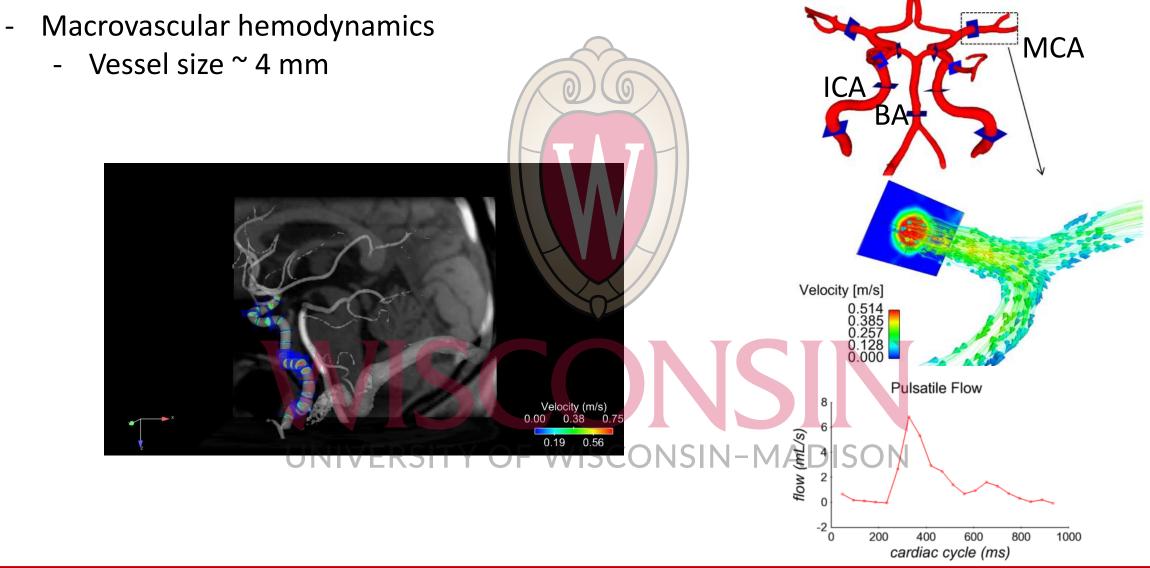


Lindsay Siobhan M. Ho Cynthia M

Leonardo A River Patrick Turski^{1,2}, Howard A Rowley Sterling C Johnson^{4,5,6} and Oliver Wieben¹

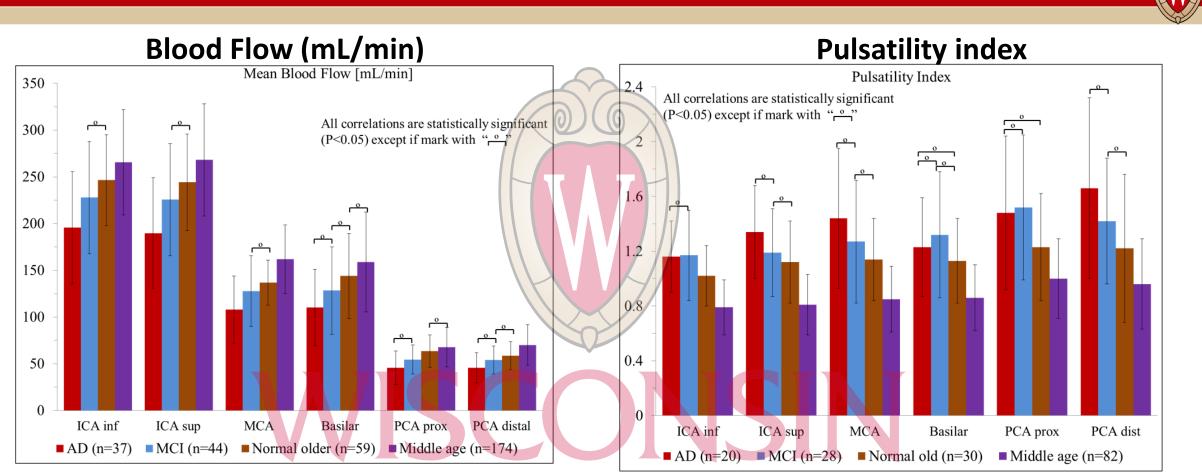
Blood flow and Pulsatility Index in the circle of Willis





[1] Rivera-Rivera LA, et al. J Cereb Blood Flow Metab. 2016 Oct;36(10):1718-1730.

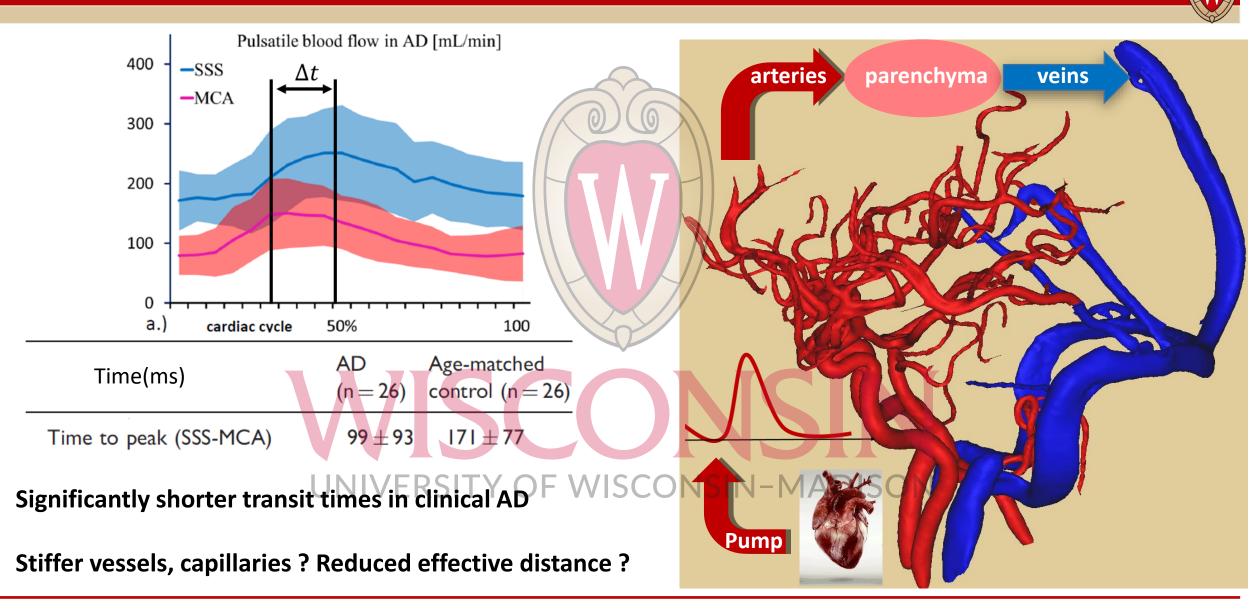
Blood flow and Pulsatility Index in the circle of Willis



 Clinical AD: significant decrease in blood flow and increase in PI, suggesting decreased brain metabolism and vessel compliance

[1] Rivera-Rivera LA, et al. J Cereb Blood Flow Metab. 2016 Oct;36(10):1718-1730.

Cardiac Wave: How long it takes to traverse the brain ?



[2] Rivera-Rivera LA, et al. J Cereb Blood Flow Metab. 2017 Jun; 37(6): 2149–2158.

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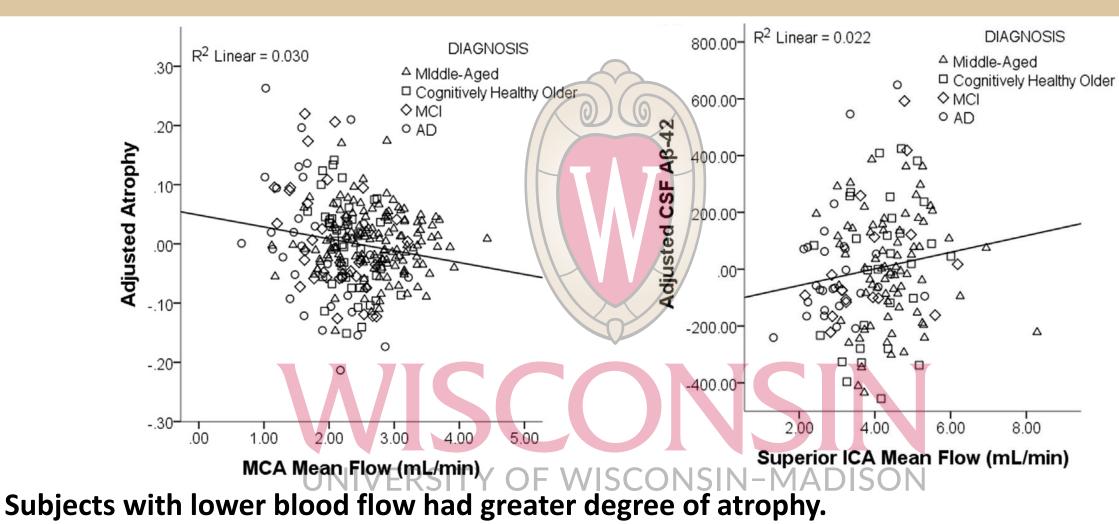
•

So far in clinical AD

- Decreased brain blood flow and vessel compliance
- Correlation with AD markers ?
 - Brain atrophy
 - Amyloid pathology measured via CSF



Blood flow, brain atrophy, and $A\beta_{42}$ levels in CSF

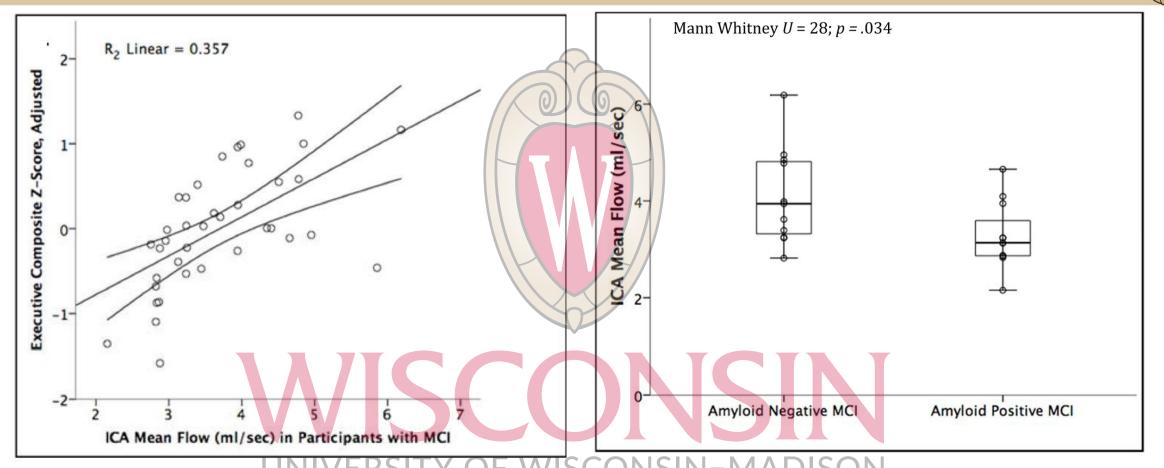


- Lower flow was associated with lower levels of $A\beta_{42}$ in the CSF.
- 4D flow adds information beyond that acquired using standard vascular risk scores.

[3] Berman SE, et al. Alzheimers Dement (Amst). 2015 Dec; 1(4): 420–428.

ullet

Blood flow, executive function, $A\beta_{42}$ positivity in MCI



- Greater arterial flow correlates with better executive functioning performance.
- Participants with lower mean flow in the ICA were more likely to be amyloid positive.
- No relationships were observed in this sample between flow and tau positivity.

[4] Berman SE, et al. J Alzheimers Dis. 2017; 60(1): 243–252.

Insulin resistance and cerebral blood flow

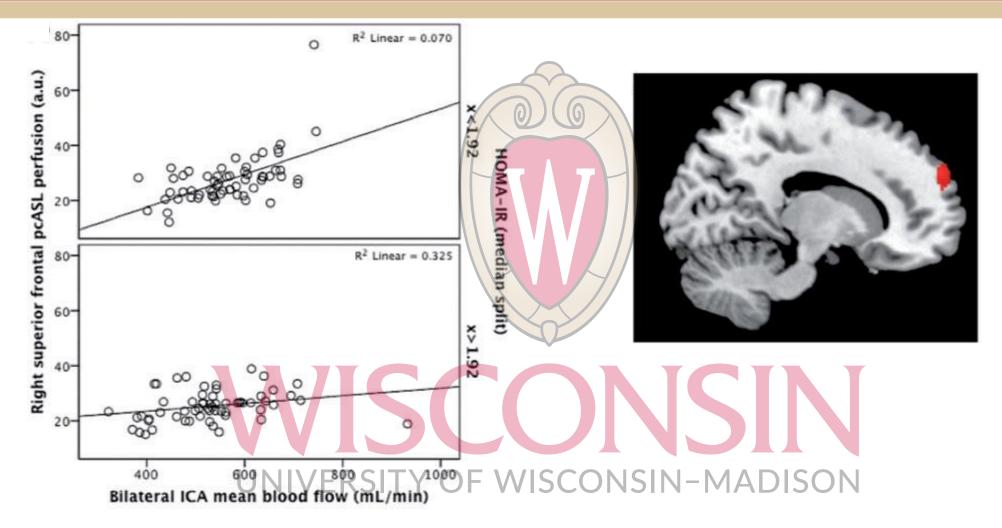
- IR is associated with cardiovascular disease and cognitive decline
- Metabolic syndrome
 - a cluster of cardiovascular risk factors characterized (IR, obesity, elevated levels)

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- linked to cognitive decline and decrease cortical perfusion
- How do IR and cerebral macrovascular blood flow relate ?

[5] Hoscheidt SM, et al. J Cereb Blood Flow Metab. 2017 Jun; 37(6): 2249–2261.

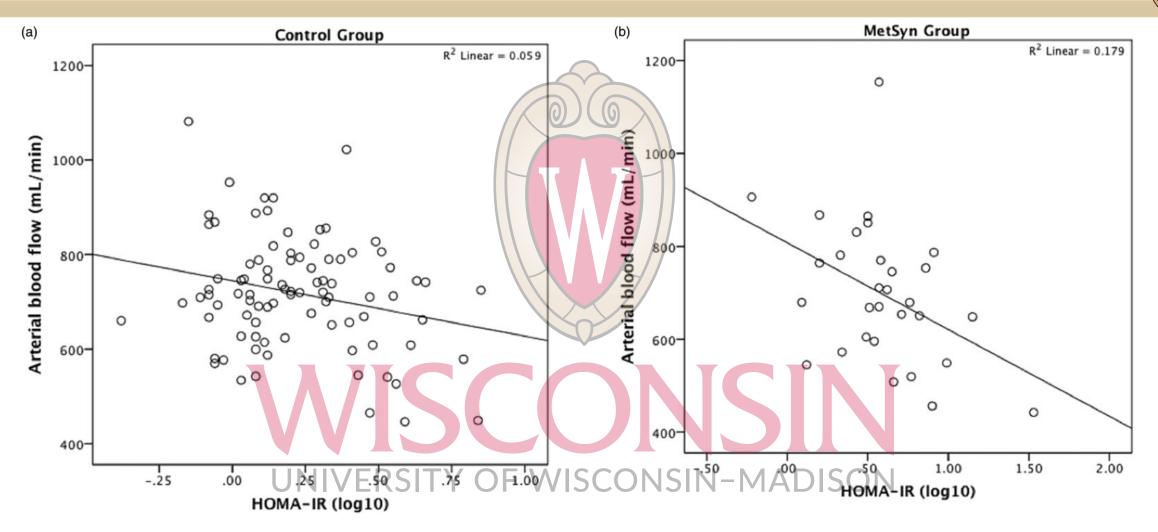
Insulin resistance and cerebral blood flow



• Higher mean blood flow was associated with greater perfusion in the right superior frontal gyrus in individuals with lower IR index (x < 1.92).

[5] Hoscheidt SM, et al. J Cereb Blood Flow Metab. 2017 Jun; 37(6): 2249–2261.

Insulin resistance and cerebral blood flow

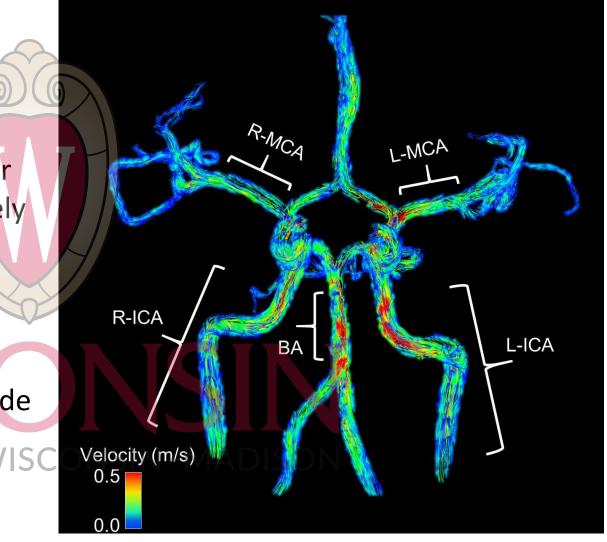


 Higher IR predicted lower arterial blood flow in Metabolic Syndrome subjects, but not in controls.

[5] Hoscheidt SM, et al. J Cereb Blood Flow Metab. 2017 Jun; 37(6): 2249–2261.

Cerebrovascular reactivity (CVR) and aging

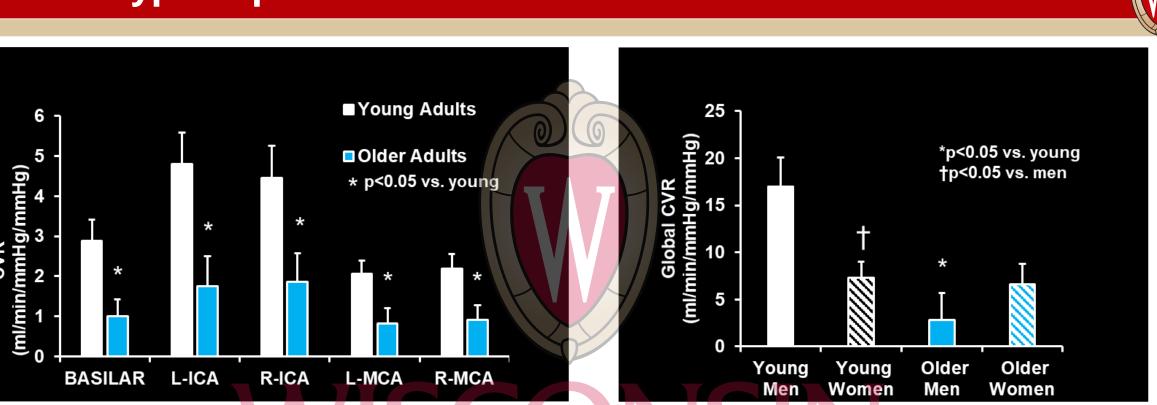
- CVR = response of brain blood vessels to vasoactive stimuli (e.g. neural activity, increases in CO2)
- CVR relates to future risk of CVD and is lower in patients with AD compared with cognitively normal
- Estimated from linear relationship between cerebrovascular conductance (flow/mean arterial pressure) and end-tidal carbon dioxide during CO2 inhalation.



[6] Miller KB, et al. Age-Related Reductions in Cerebrovascular Reactivity Using 4D Flow MRI. Front Aging Neurosci. 2019 Oct 17;11:281

CVR to Hypercapnia

CVR



- The brain blood flow response to a vasodilatory stimulus (hypercapnia) was reduced in older adults
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- Findings may be sex-specific

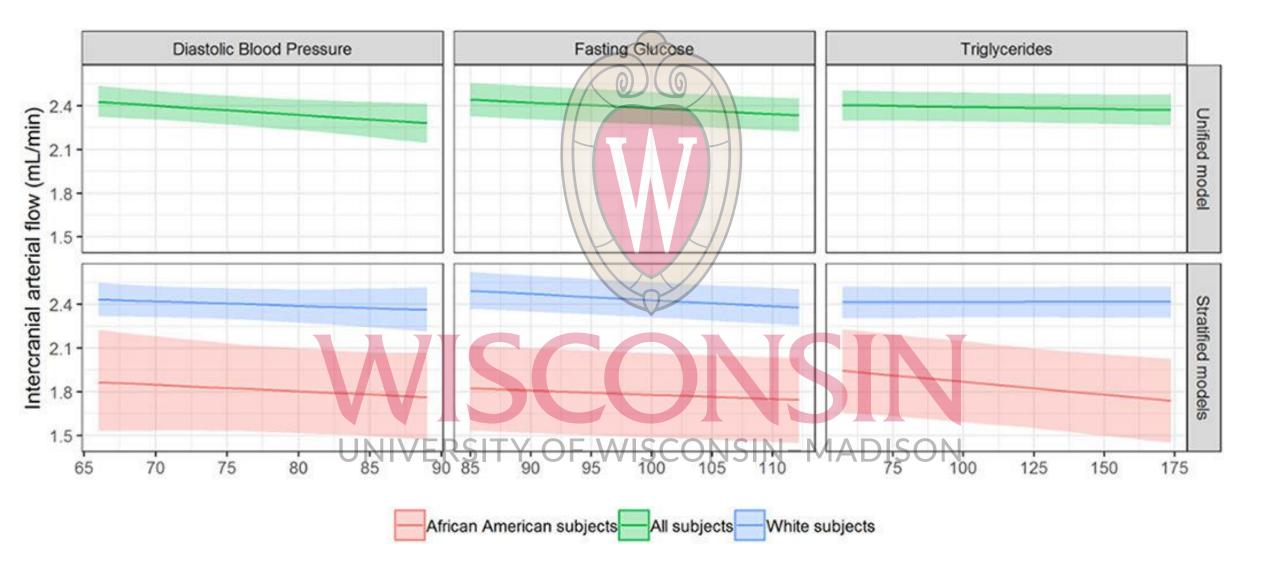
[6] Miller KB, et al. Age-Related Reductions in Cerebrovascular Reactivity Using 4D Flow MRI. Front Aging Neurosci. 2019 Oct 17;11:281

Cardiovascular risk factors and racial/ethnic disparities in AD

- AD has a higher prevalence among African Americans.
- Is there a relationship among cardiovascular and metabolic risk factors and brain blood flow in Whites and African Americans enriched for AD risk ?
- 399 cognitively unimpaired adults from the WADRC



Cardiovascular risk factors and racial/ethnic disparities in AD



- Elevated fasting glucose and triglycerides were associated with lower intracranial arterial flow
- These relationships were more prominent in African Americans.
- Targeting metabolic risk factors may impact intracranial arterial health.



4D flow MRI: Other vascular markers

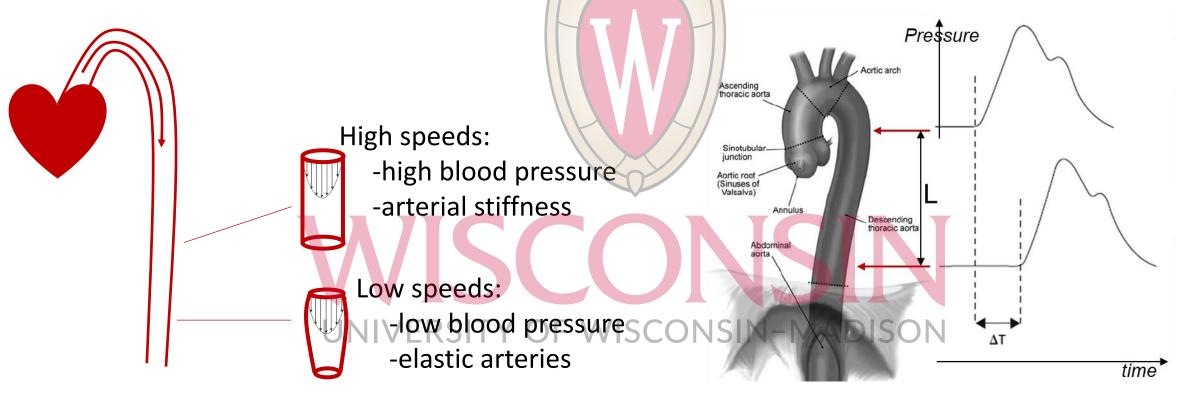
- What else besides flow and PI?
- Clinical AD patients showed decreased blood flow and increased PI
 - neuron loss -> decreased metabolism -> decreased blood flow

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- increase cerebrovascular resistance -> increase PI
- What about a more local marker of vascular health ?

4D flow MRI: Other vascular markers

- Pulse wave velocity (PWV) gold standard noninvasive biomarker for arterial stiffness
- Arterial stiffness is a significant risk factor for cardiovascular disease and mortality [1]



[1] Laurent S, et al. Eur Heart J 2006; 27:2588–2605.

4D flow MRI: Other vascular markers

- carotid-femoral PWV associated with deposition of Aβ in nondemented individuals [2]
 - measured using applanation tonometry





from Cavalcante et al. JACC. 2011;57(14):1511-22.

- + Easy & inexpensive, accessible
- Includes aorta + peripheral arteries
 - Stiffness and effect of CVD varies
 - Increased wave reflections from peripheral arteries
 - Flow in opposite directions
- Inaccurate distance measure

NIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MEstimated from body surface area

- No 3D considerations
- Vessels are not always straight

Left dorsalis ped

4D flow MRI: intracranial PWV

- Estimate intracranial PWV using 4D flow MRI
 - Technical challenges
 - High temporal resolution
 - Iterative reconstructions
 - AD, MCI, subjects at risk of AD and controls

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Sagittal view of ICA segment

Speed (cm/s)

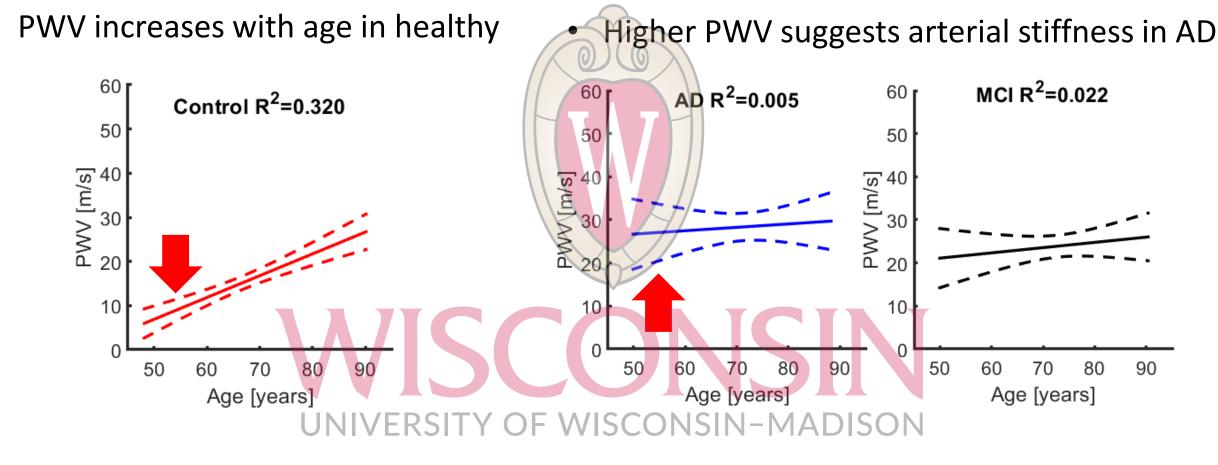
0 13 25 38 50

Λr

58 mm

Pathology and age effects

•

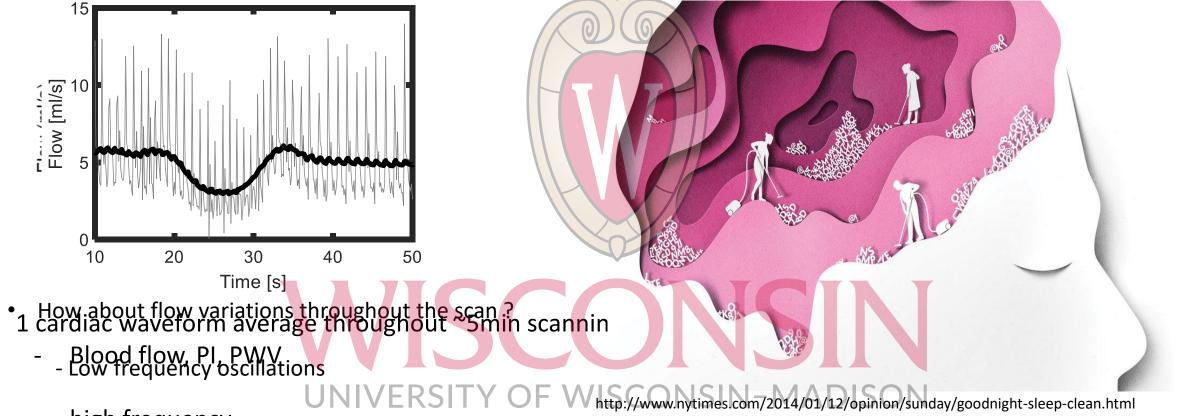


• AD appears to accelerate aging effect

[8] Rivera-Rivera LA, et al. J Cereb Blood Flow Metab. 2020 Mar 13; Online ahead of print.

4D Flow MRI (PCVIPR) Outlook

• Probe other components of macrovascular hemodynamics



- - glymphatic flow

•

- cardiac, smooth muscle cells driven

4D Flow MRI (PCVIPR) Outlook

- Explore potential relations
 - 4D flow MRI and PET imaging markers
- Next lecture:
 - finish studies overview
 - clinical motivation for probing multiple compartments
 - advances in ASL techniques
 - tissue strain (DENSE) & stiffness (MRE)





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