

New Image Analysis Resources at The Rockefeller University

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Date: Wednesday, April 6th, 2022

Seminar time: 10:00am – 11:00am

Workshop time: 11:00am – 12:30pm

Place: A Level Training/Classroom, Welch Hall, The
Rockefeller University

Seminar slides and workshop material will be made available on our GitHub page:

<https://github.com/ImageAnalysis-RockefellerUniversity>

Outline

- Segmentation
- Cell/particle Counting and Tracking
- Image denoising

Open-source Softwares

ImageJ/Fiji, QuPath, Napari, CellProfiler, Icy

Commercial Softwares

Imaris, Arivis, Aivia, Huygens, MetaMorph

Machine/Deep Learning frameworks

Weka, ilastik, Labkit

StarDist, Cellpose, DeepImageJ, ZeroCostDL4Mic

What is a Raster Image?

- Raster images are composed of a grid of pixels
- Each pixel contains intensity information
- Number of bits (N) determine the range of intensity levels

Image Type	Range of intensity levels (0 to 2^N-1)
8-bit	0 - 255
12-bit	0 - 4095
16-bit	0 - 65,535
RGB color (3 x 8 bits)	0 - 255 per channel

8-bit image (256 shades)

Histogram

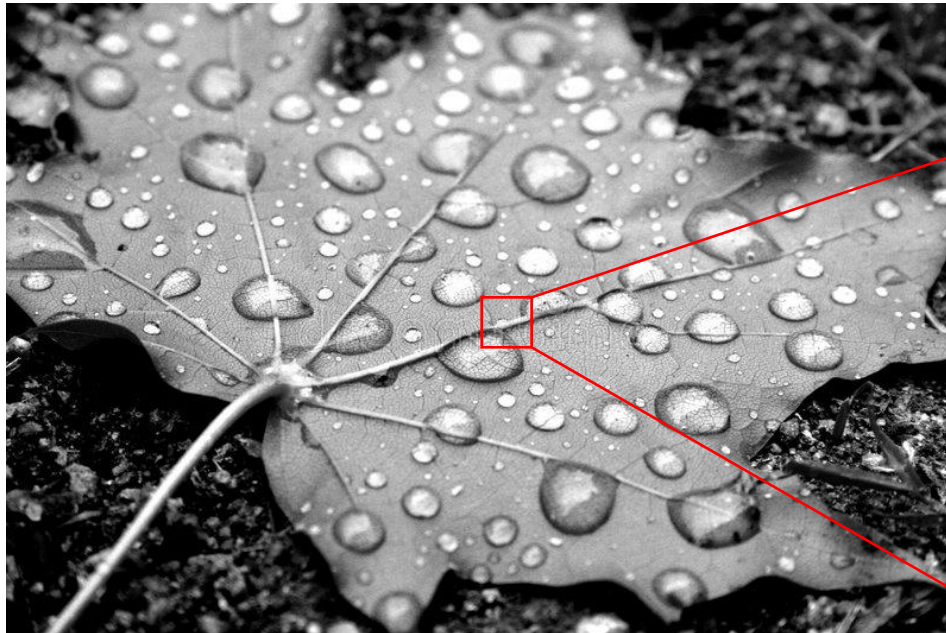
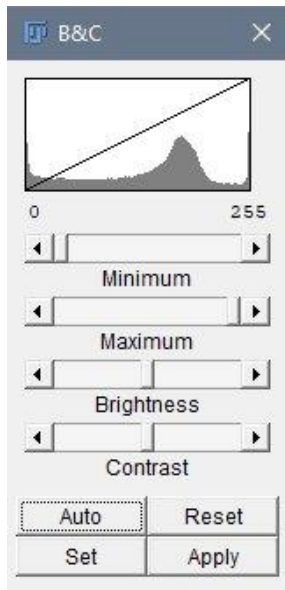
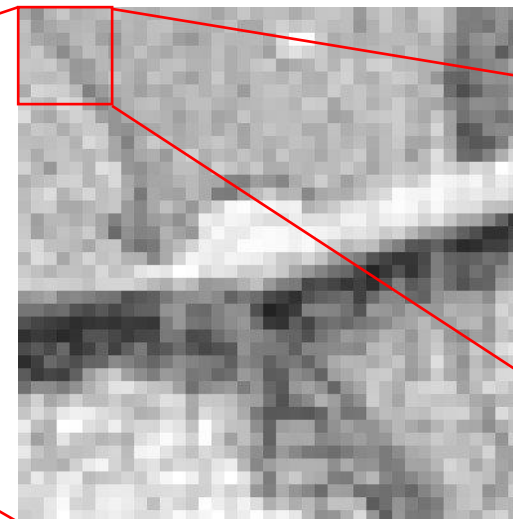


Image as a matrix of numbers (0-255)



1	169	144	181	199	174	180	186
2	193	153	168	179	181	184	168
3	187	169	161	158	183	188	162
4	189	200	171	140	167	190	183
5	199	197	202	178	152	156	183
6	195	190	187	194	153	159	177
7	171	214	209	206	187	129	155
8	208	192	184	219	212	168	136
9	220	177	168	195	209	201	161
10	183	200	195	174	192	202	201
11	190	187	191	196	179	218	206
12	194	172	194	197	186	182	194

Segmentation

Identifying object(s) of interest in an image

- cells, nuclei, membrane, transcription sites etc.

Segmentation is usually followed by quantitative analysis of object(s)

- number of cells/nuclei, mean fluorescence intensity, shape etc.

Divide image into areas representing object(s) of interest and background

Segmentation is not an easy task to solve in most practical cases

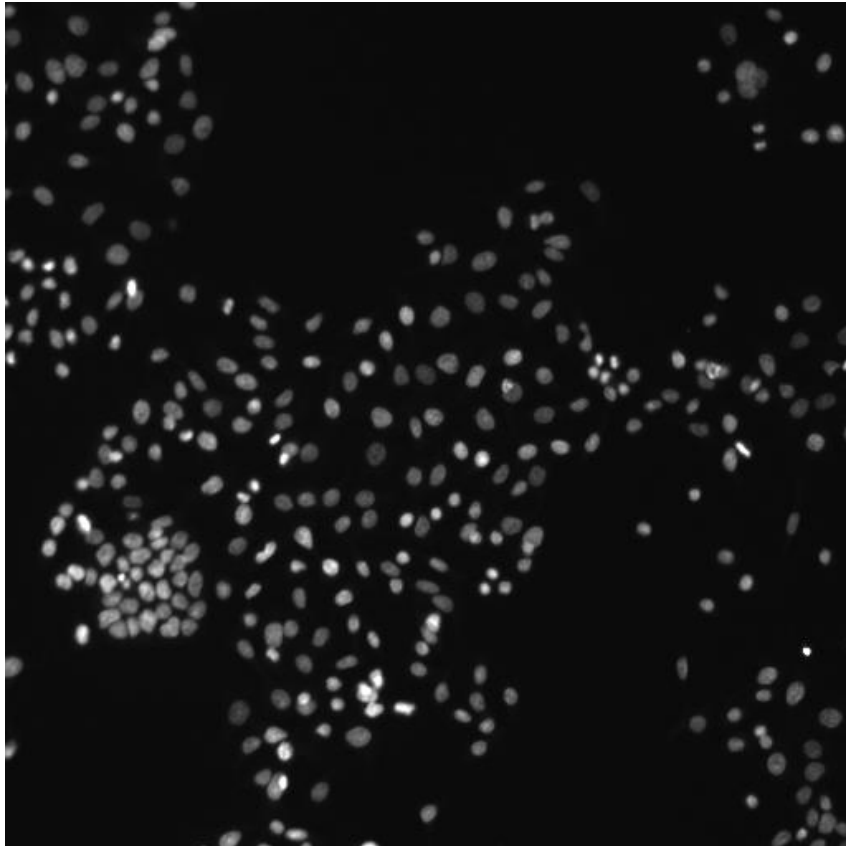
- Signal variability throughout the image
- Noise, blur and other distortions caused by the imperfect imaging conditions

Segmentation tools

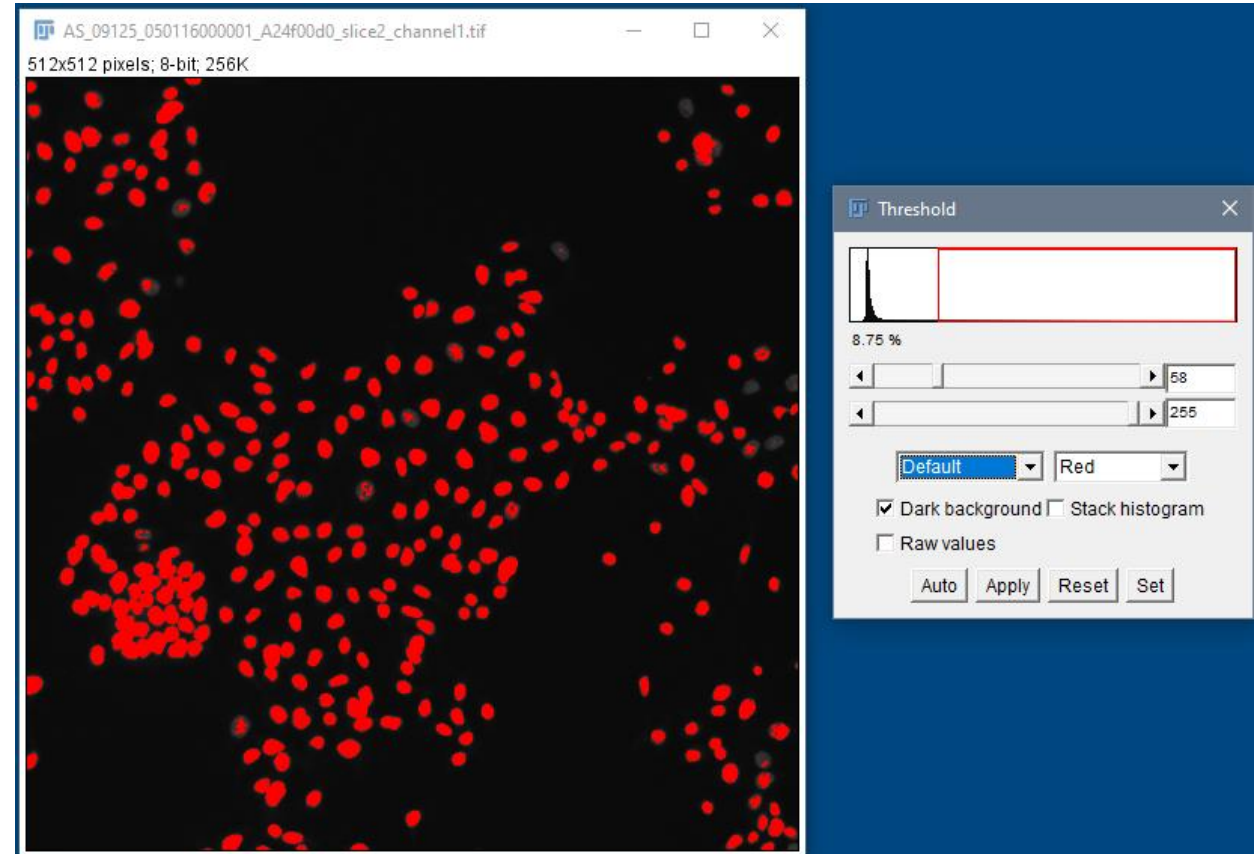
- Global thresholding, local thresholding
- Image processing filters – Gaussian, Median, Sobel etc.
- Machine learning methods (supervised learning) - Weka, Labkit, ilastik
- Deep Learning methods - StarDist, Cellpose
- 3D segmentation - Imaris, Arivis

Segmentation using global thresholding

Nuclei stained with Hoechst



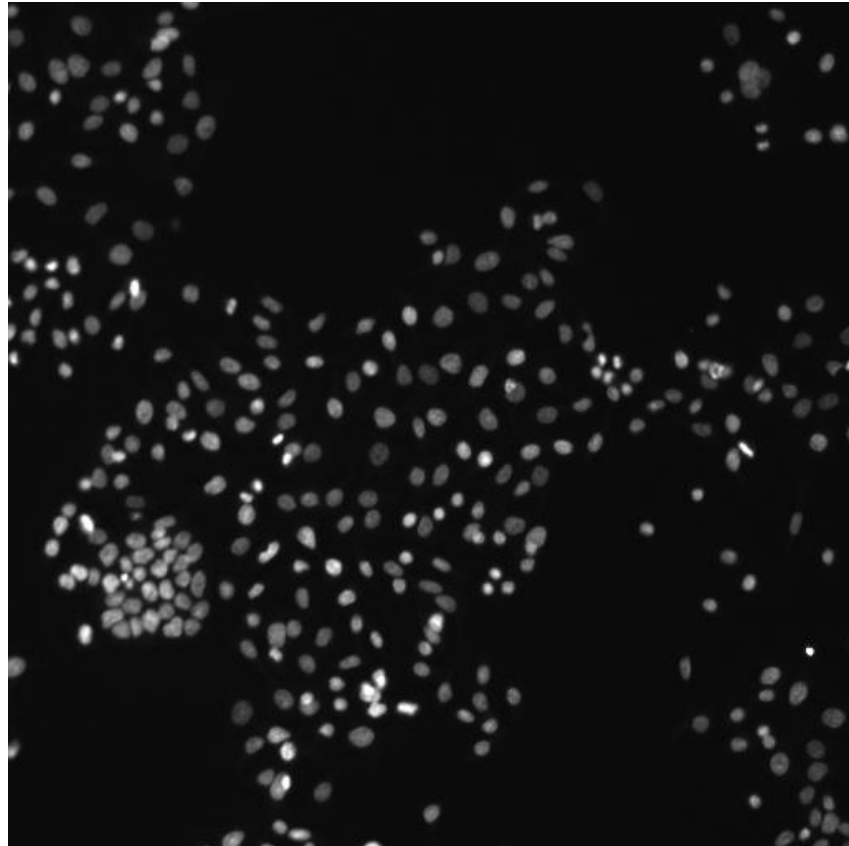
Threshold 1



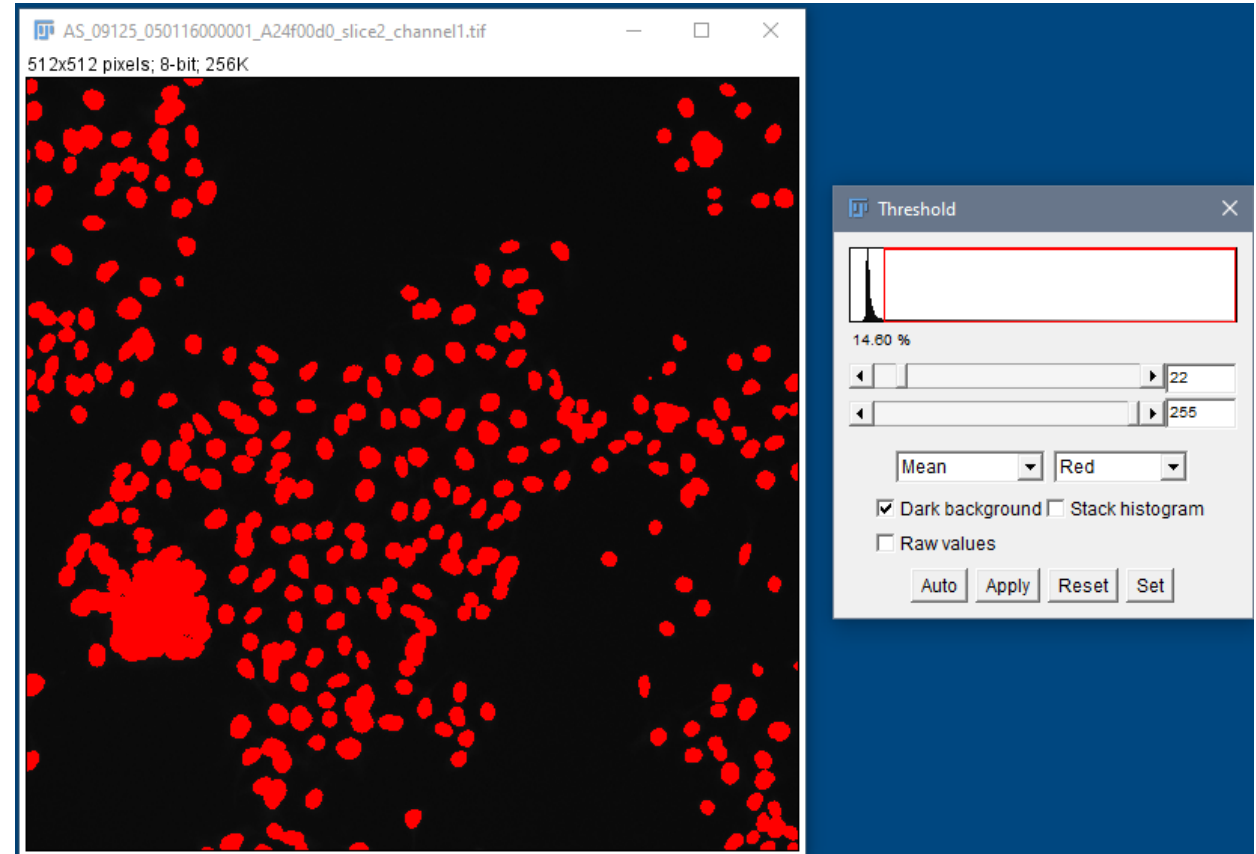
Human HT29 colon cancer cells, Image from Broad Bioimage Benchmark Collection, Ljosa et al. 2012 Nat Methods

Segmentation using global thresholding

Nuclei stained with Hoechst



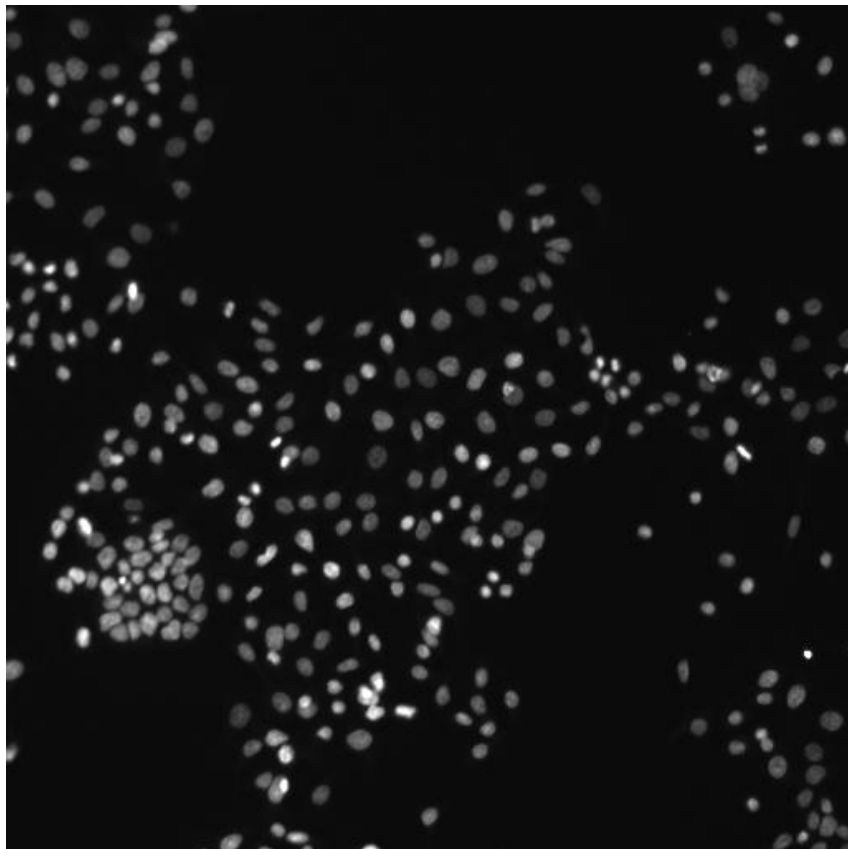
Threshold 2



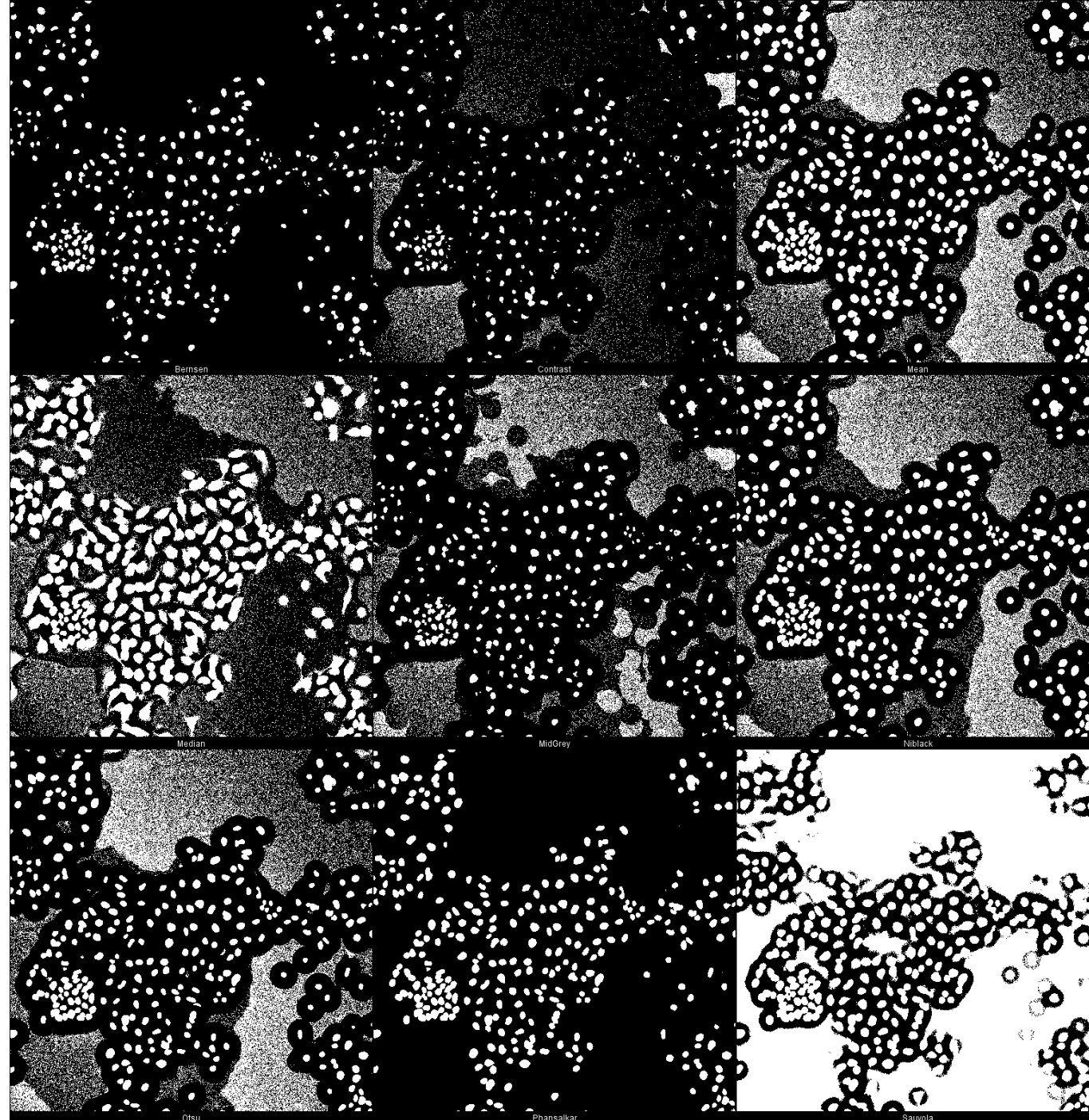
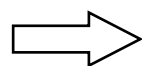
Human HT29 colon cancer cells, Image from Broad Bioimage Benchmark Collection, Ljosa et al. 2012 Nat Methods

Segmentation with local thresholding

Nuclei stained with Hoechst



Auto Local
Threshold
in Fiji



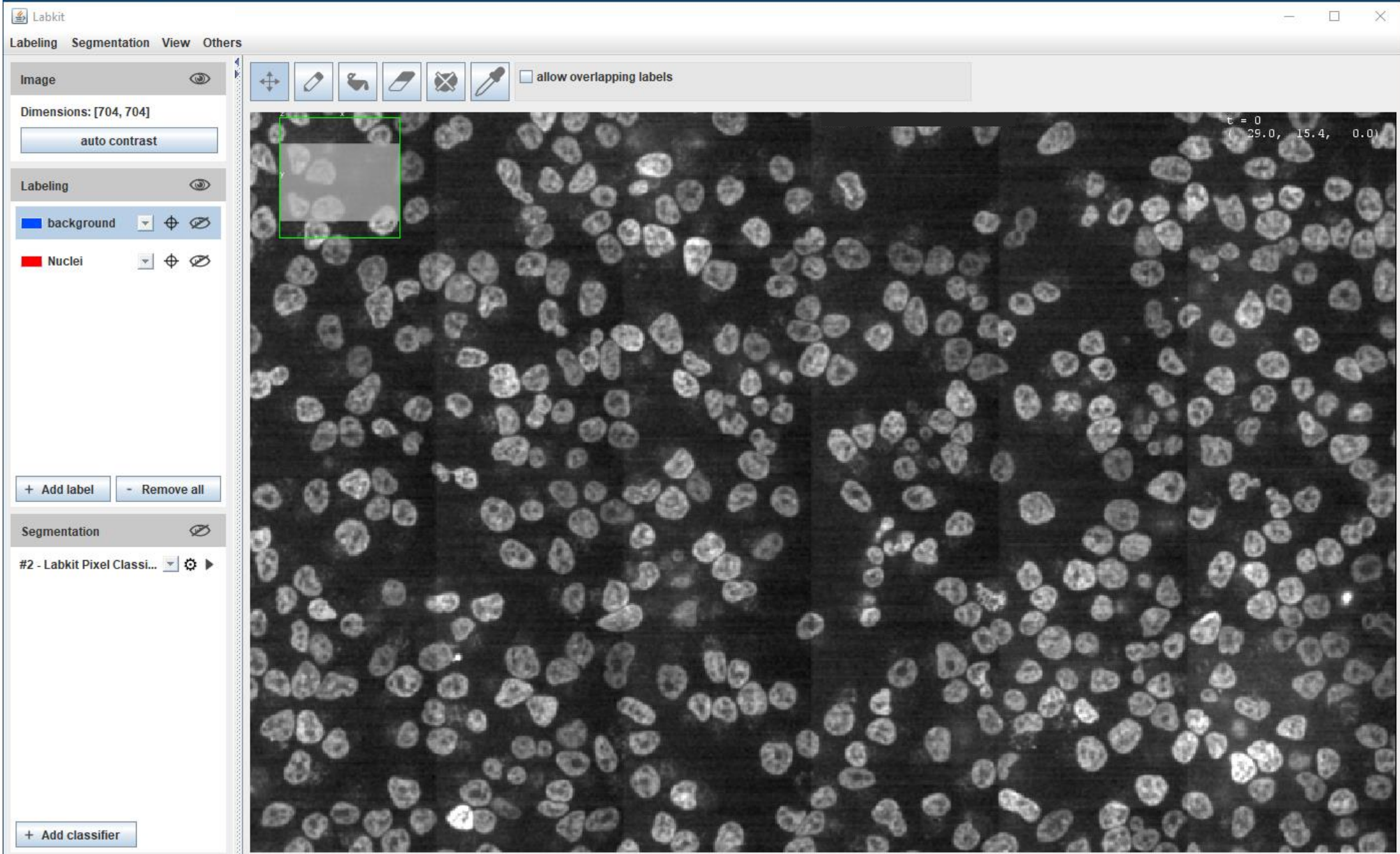
Human HT29 colon cancer cells, Image from Broad Bioimage Benchmark Collection, Ljosa et al. 2012 Nat Methods

Segmentation using Machine Learning

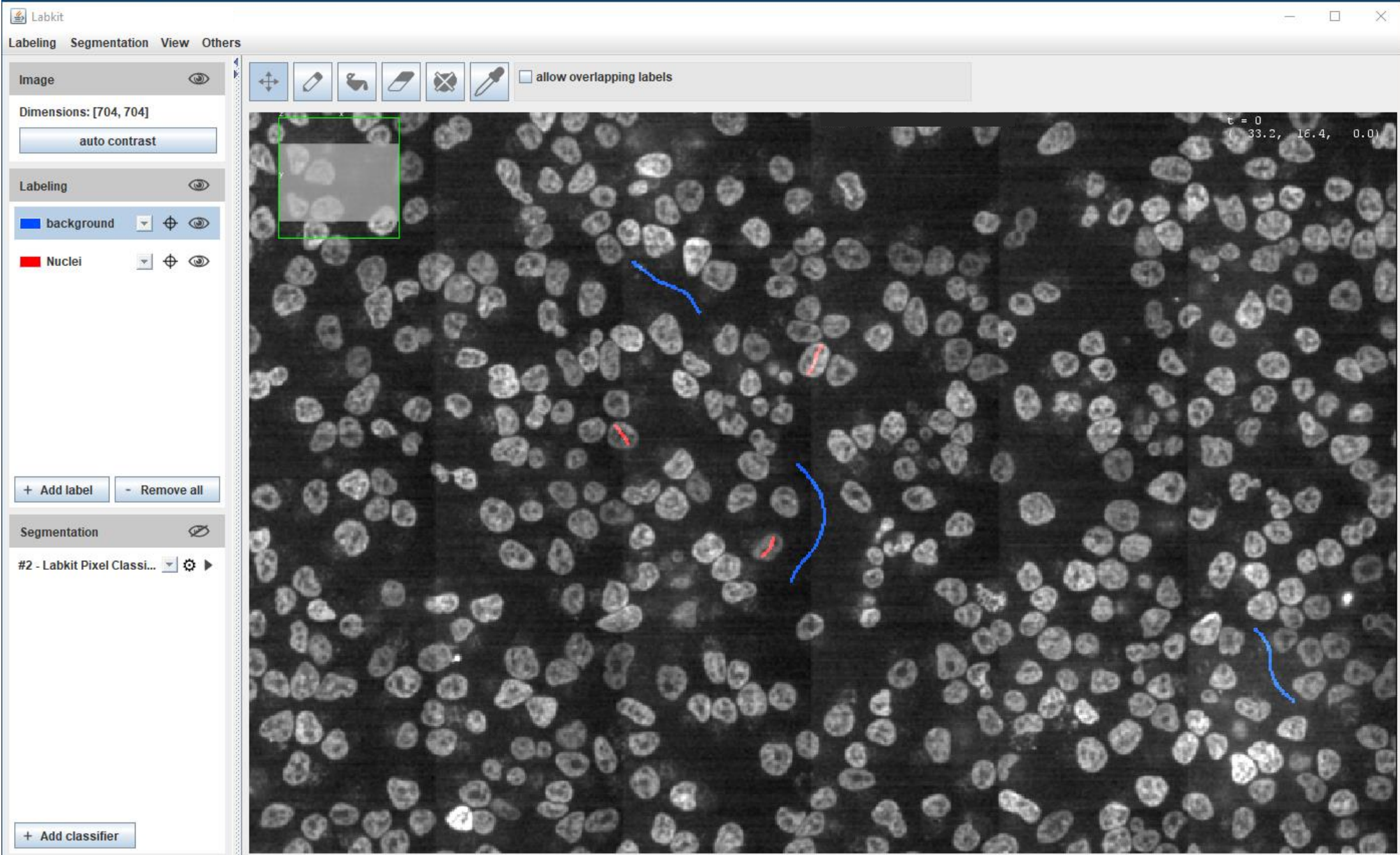
Supervised learning - pixel classification using Random Forest classifier

Fiji (Weka and Labkit plugins), ilastik, QuPath, Napari, CellProfiler

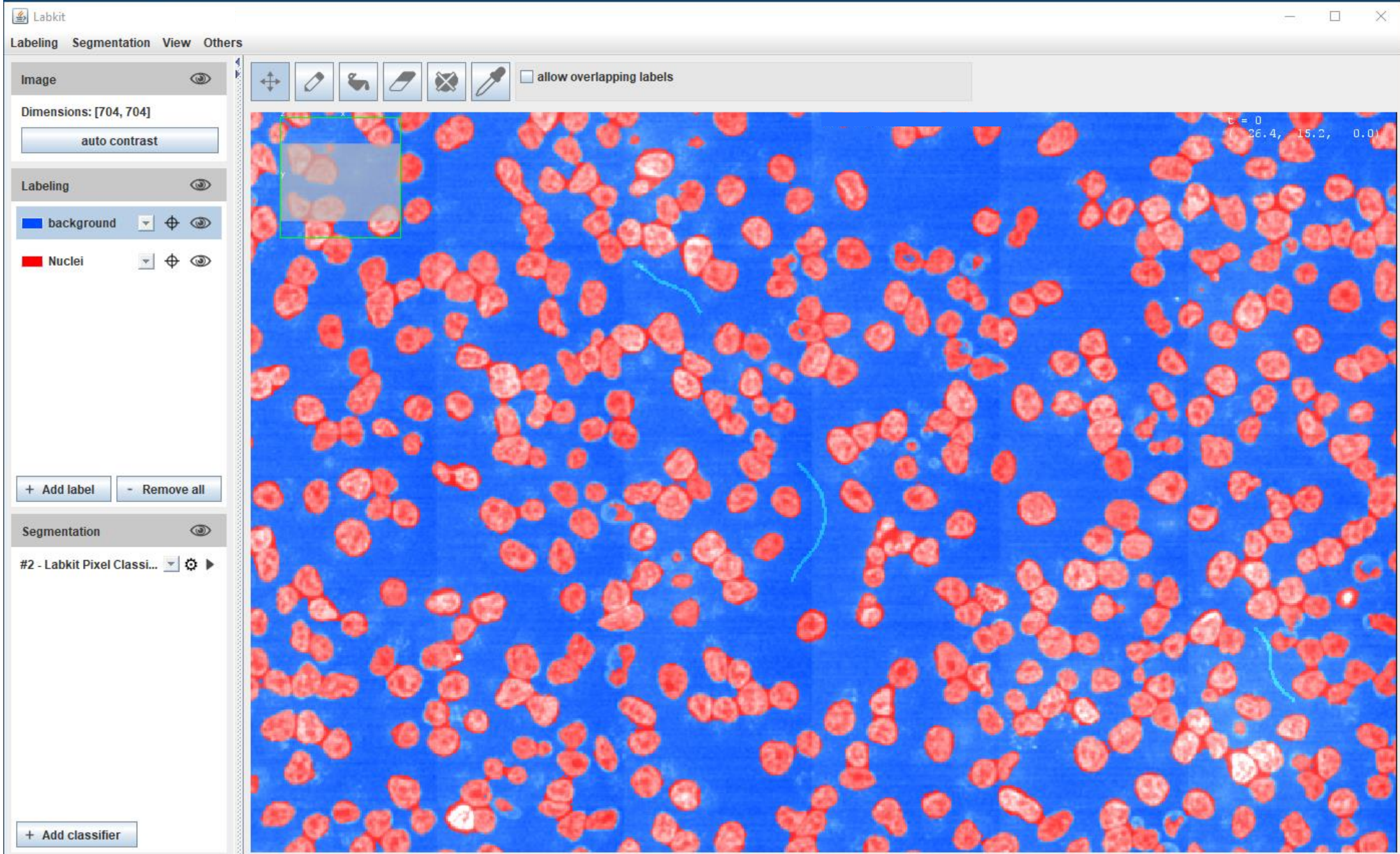
Requires orders of magnitude less training data/resources than Deep Learning methods



Hoechst-stained Nuclei, image courtesy of Cherie Au, Giannakakou Lab, Weill Cornell Medicine



Hoechst-stained Nuclei, image courtesy of Cherie Au, Giannakakou Lab, Weill Cornell Medicine



Hoechst-stained Nuclei, image courtesy of Cherie Au, Giannakakou Lab, Weill Cornell Medicine

Segmentation using Deep Learning

Most accurate methods available for cells/nuclei segmentation

Step 1: Training

Generating a Deep Learning model is resource hungry:

- High-end workstation
- Large amounts of training data (images and annotations)
- Training could take hours to days
- Good programming knowledge required - Python

Step 2: Prediction

Using the model from step 1 to predict the segmentation results :

- A regular laptop is just fine
- Prediction takes seconds to mins
- Little to no programming knowledge required

StarDist (2018)

Cell Detection with Star-convex Polygons

arXiv:1806.03535

Uwe Schmidt^{1,*}, Martin Weigert^{1,*}, Coleman Broaddus¹, and Gene Myers^{1,2}

Cellpose (2021)

ARTICLES

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41592-020-01018-x>

nature | methods

Check for updates

Cellpose: a generalist algorithm for cellular segmentation

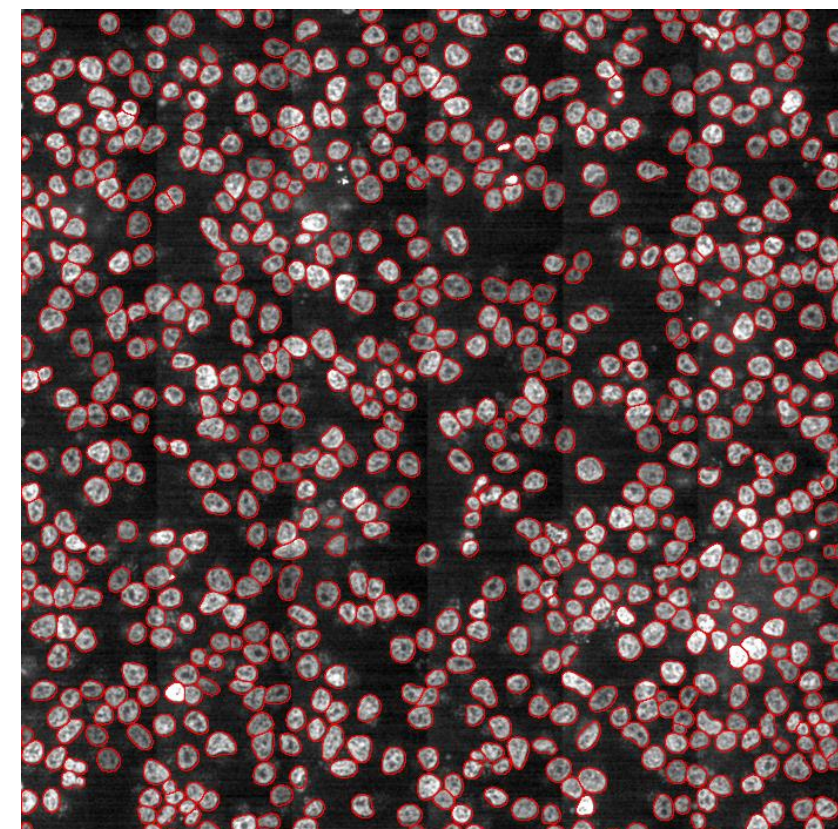
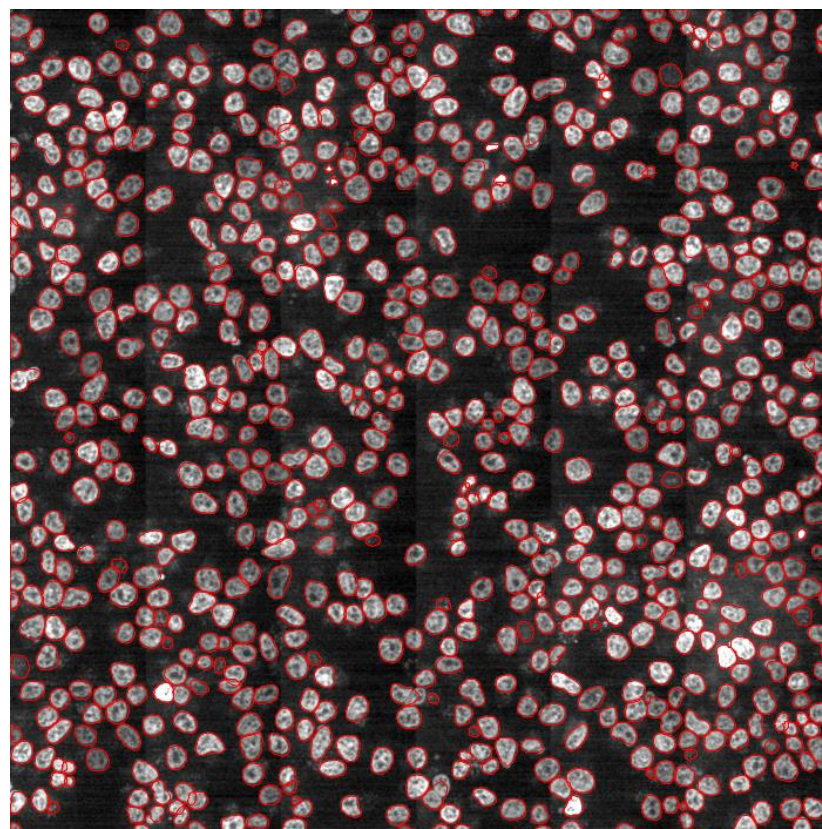
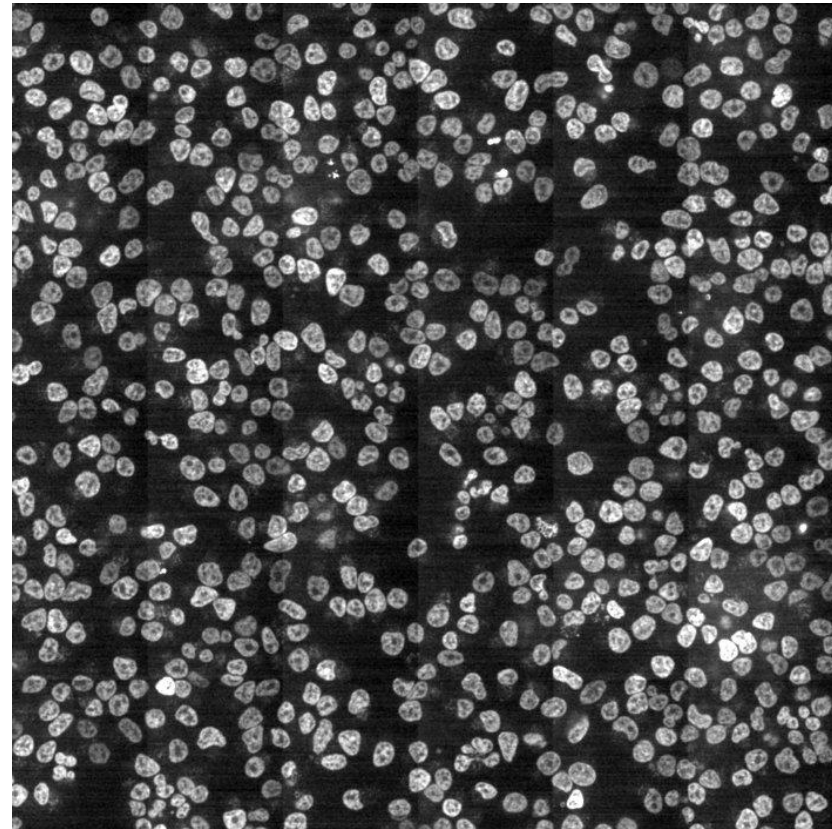
Carsen Stringer, Tim Wang, Michalis Michaelos and Marius Pachitariu 

Segmentation using Deep Learning

Original

StarDist plugin in Fiji

Cellpose



Hoechst-stained Nuclei, image courtesy of Cherie Au, Giannakakou Lab, Weill Cornell Medicine

Workshop Exercise 1: StarDist based nuclear segmentation in a challenging image in Fiji

Segmentation using StarDist in Napari

The screenshot displays the Napari interface with a central image of segmented cells. The left sidebar contains layer controls and a layer list. The right sidebar shows the StarDist plugin settings.

Layer List:

- StarDist polygons (selected)
- StarDist labels
- Hoechst-C42-ARv7 ...

StarDist Plugin Settings:

- Input Image: Hoechst-C42-ARv7 (+Dox)
- Image Axes: YX
- Neural Network Prediction:
 - Model Type: 2D
 - Pre-trained Model: Versatile (fluorescent nuclei)
 - Model Axes: YXC[1]
 - Normalize Image
 - Percentile low: 1.00
 - Percentile high: 99.80
- NMS Postprocessing:
 - Probability/Score Threshold: 0.48
 - Overlap Threshold: 0.30
 - Output Type: Both
- Advanced Options:
 - Number of Tiles: None
 - Show CNN Output

Buttons: Set optimized postprocessing thresholds (for selected model), Restore Defaults, Run

Status Bar: StarDist polygons [706 -30]: [,] enter a selection mode to edit shape properties activity

Segmentation using StarDist in QuPath

The screenshot displays the QuPath software interface for image segmentation. The main window shows a microscopy image of tissue with numerous nuclei segmented and outlined in cyan. A yellow rectangular selection box is visible around the central portion of the image. On the right side, a smaller inset shows a binary mask of the detected nuclei.

The left sidebar contains a classification legend with the following items:

- None
- Tumor
- Stroma
- Immune cells
- Necrosis
- Other
- Region*
- Ignore*
- Positive
- Negative
- DAPI

Below the legend is a table with the following data:

Key	Value
Image	Hoechst-C42-ARv7 (+Do...
Name	Image
Num Detections	753

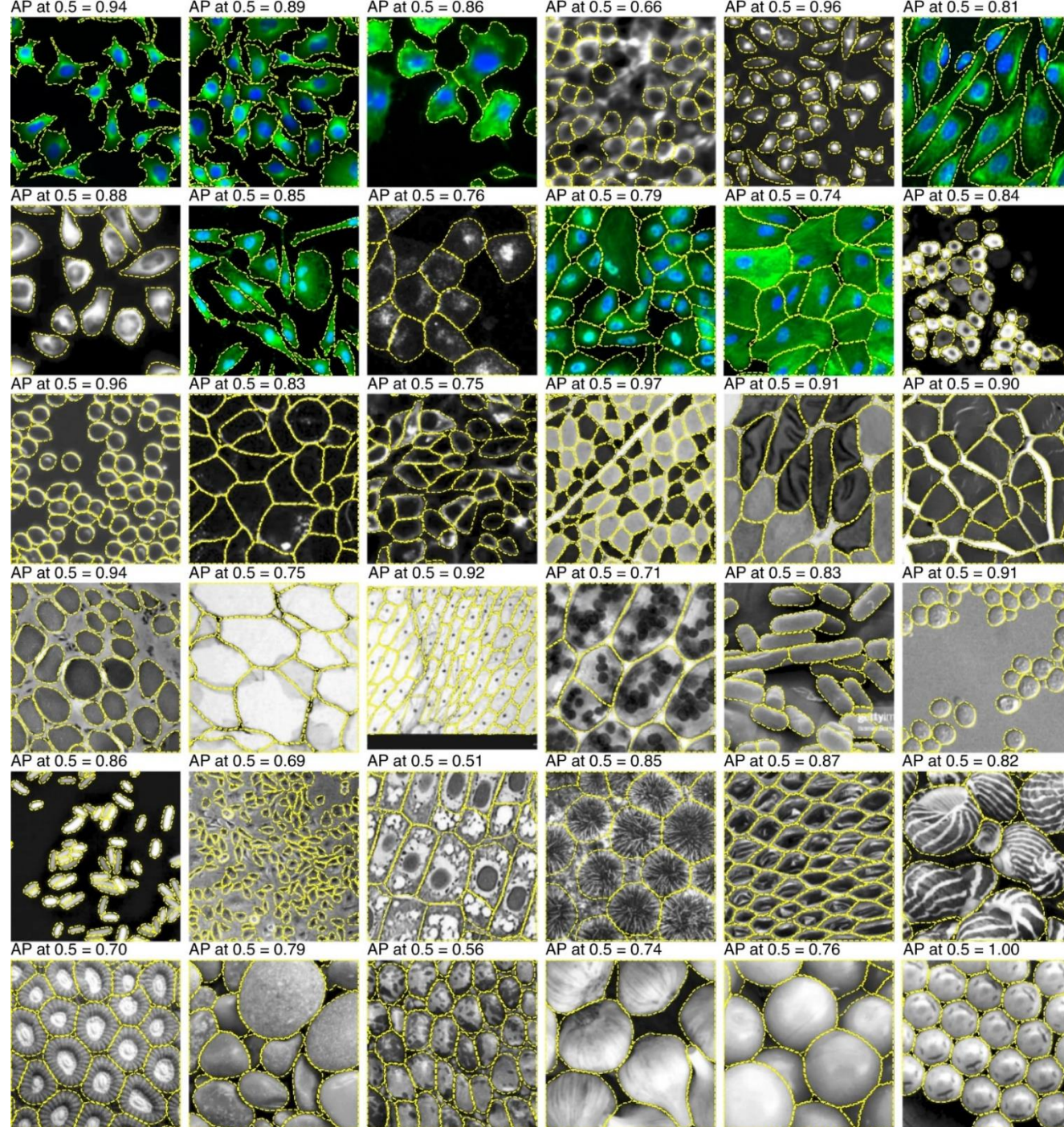
The bottom window is the Script Editor, showing the following code:

```
1 //setChannelNames('DAPI', 'yH2AX', 'Sox9', 'MenaINV')
2
3 // need to have the detect_tissue pixelclassifier
4 //createAnnotationsFromPixelClassifier("detect_tissue", 0.
5
6 // StarDist nuclei detection
7 import qupath.ext.stardist.StarDist2D
8 def pathModel = 'D:/Programs/QuPath_extensions/extensions/
9
10 def stardist = StarDist2D.builder(pathModel)
11     .threshold(0.5) // Probability (detc
12     .channels('DAPI') // Select detection c
13     .normalizePercentiles(1, 99) // Percentile normali
14     .pixelSize(0.1) // Resolution for det
15 //
16     .tileSize(1024) // Specify width &
17     .cellExpansion(5.0) // Approximate cells
18     .cellConstrainScale(1.5) // Constrain cell exp
19     .measureShape() // Add shape measurem
20     .measureIntensity() // Add cell measureme
21     .includeProbability(true) // Add probability as
```

The status bar at the bottom left indicates: INFO: Detecting nuclei

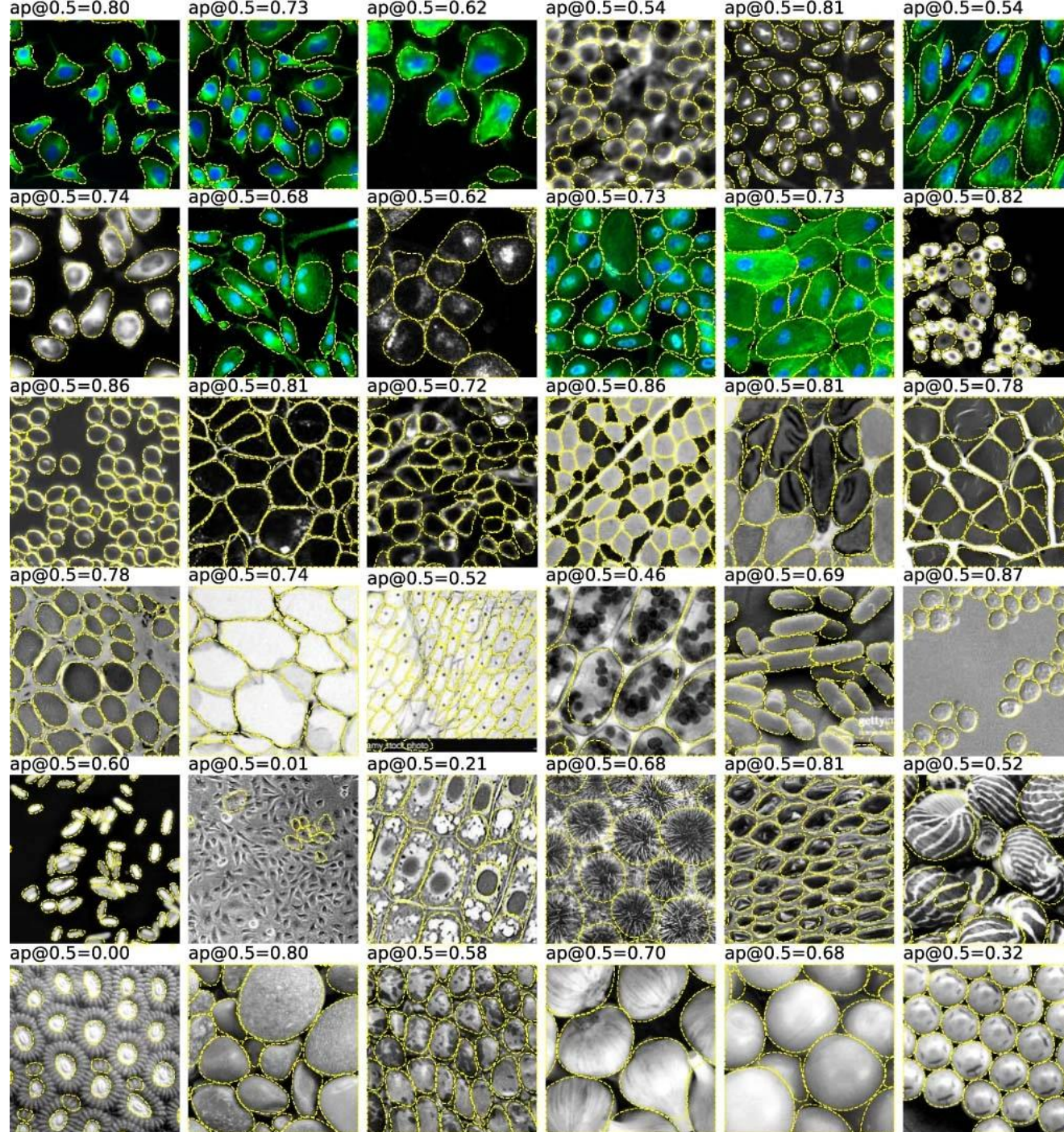
Segmentation – comparison of Deep Learning models

Cellpose



Stringer et al 2021,
Nat Methods

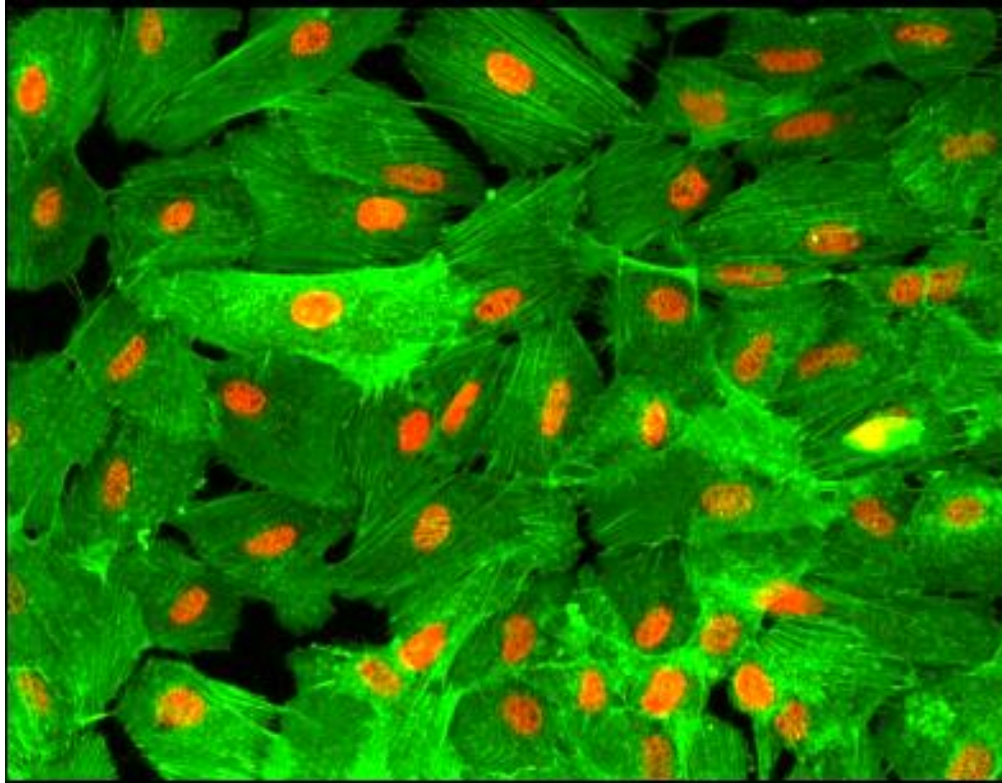
StarDist



Stringer et al 2021,
Nat Methods

Segmentation – challenging cases

Crowded fluorescent cells



Cellpose segmentation

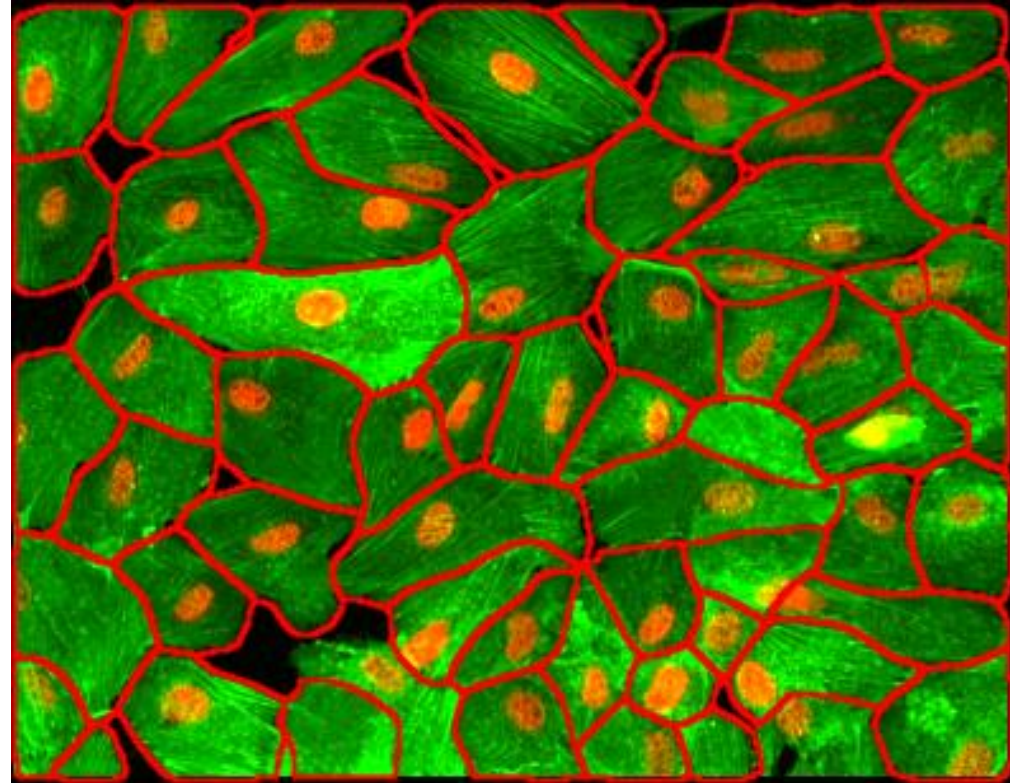
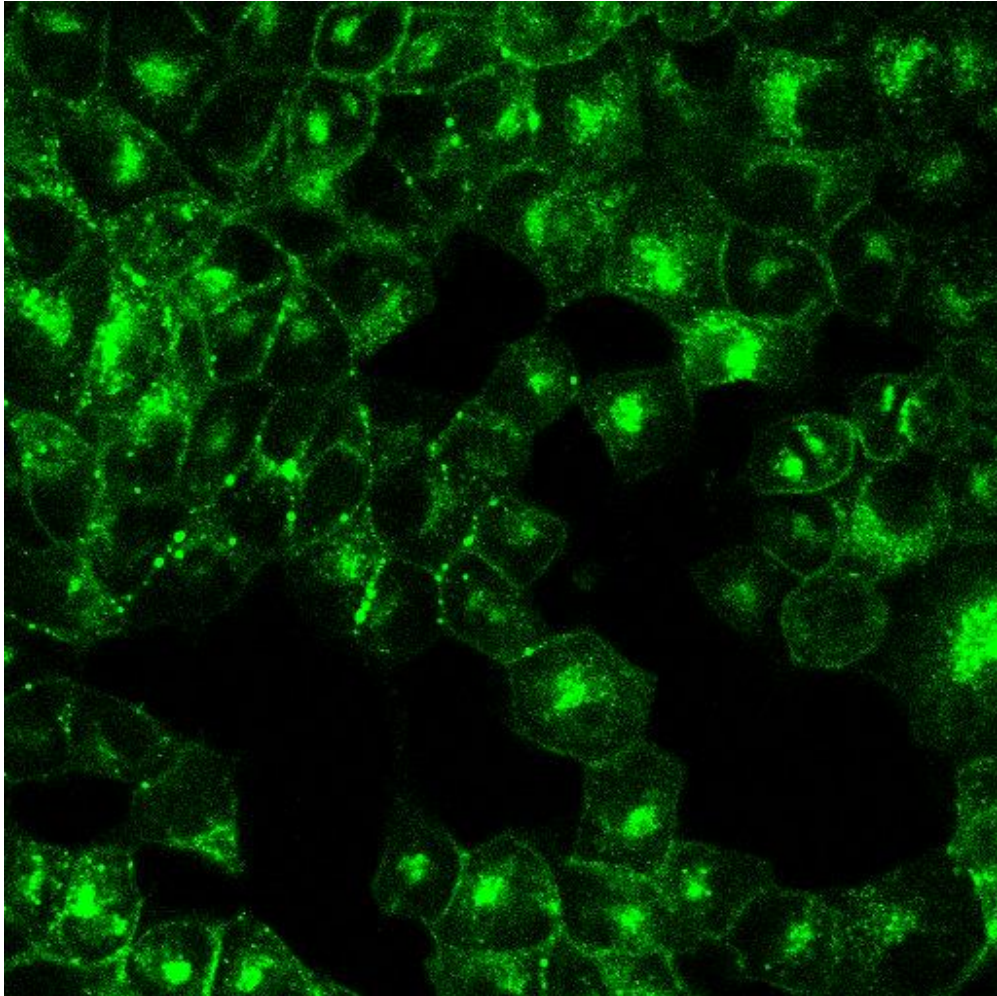


Image from <https://github.com/MouseLand/cellpose>

Segmentation – challenging cases

Crowded cells, noisy signal



Cellpose segmentation

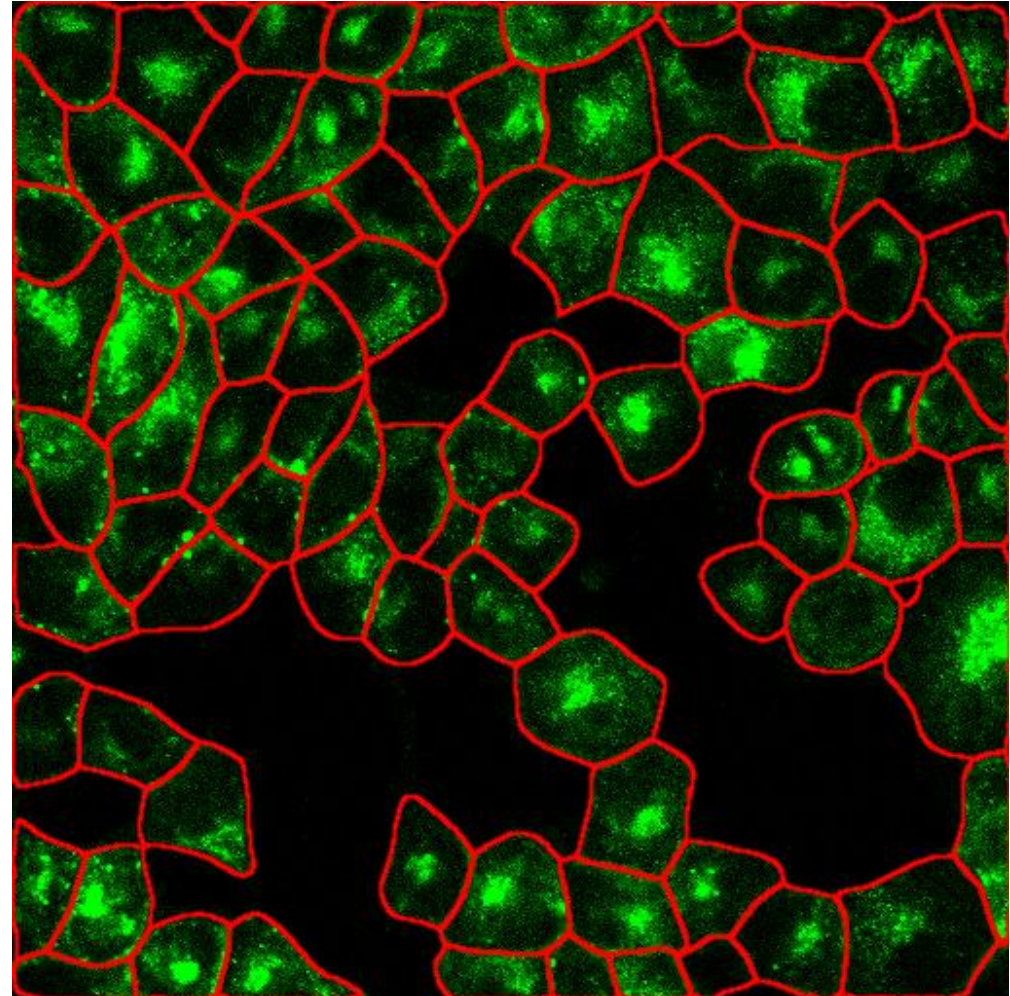
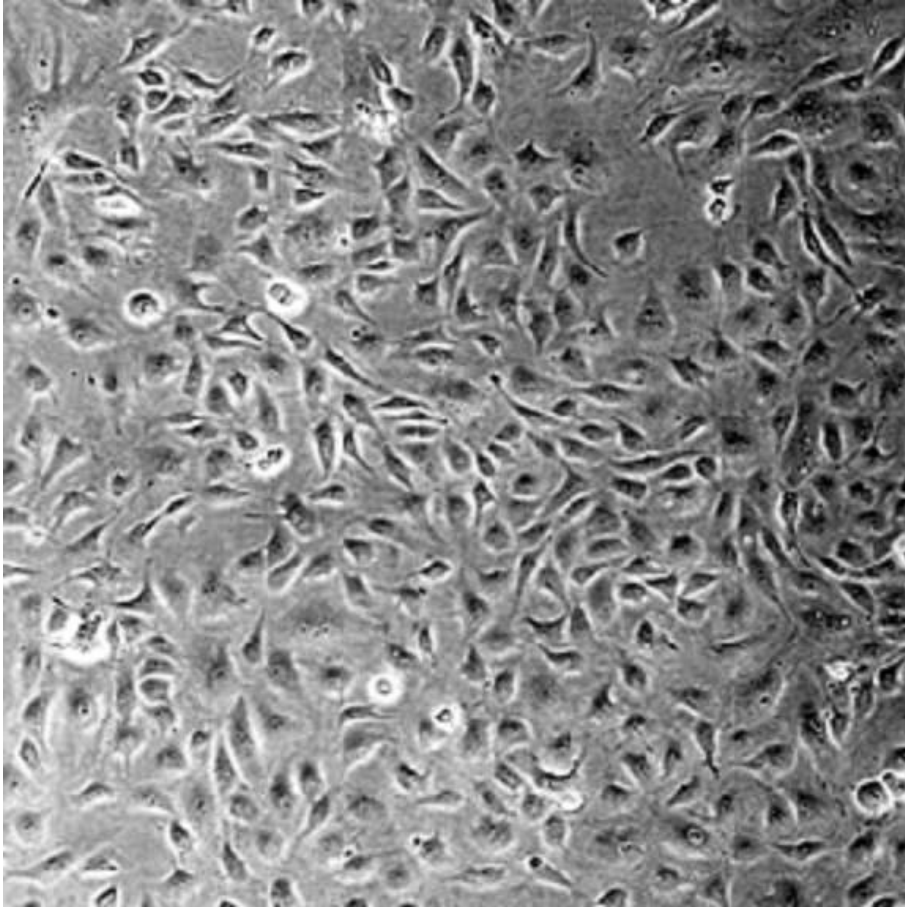


Image from <https://github.com/MouseLand/cellpose>

Segmentation – challenging cases

Crowded cells, uneven illumination



Cellpose segmentation

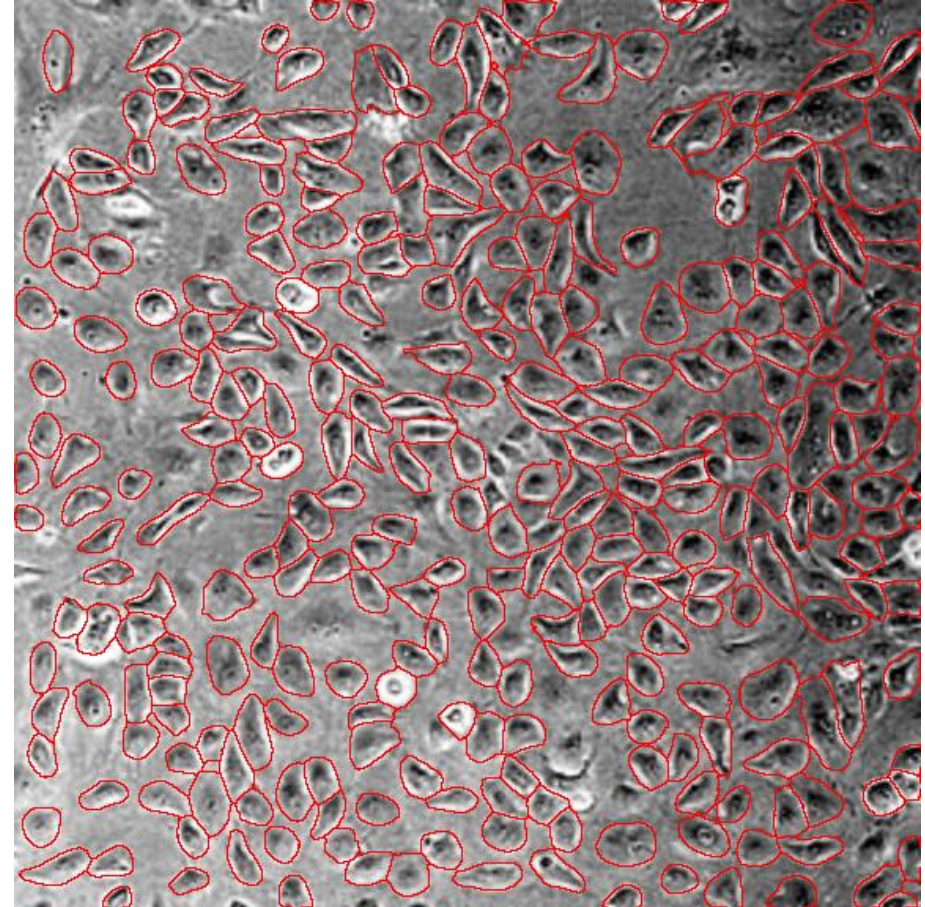
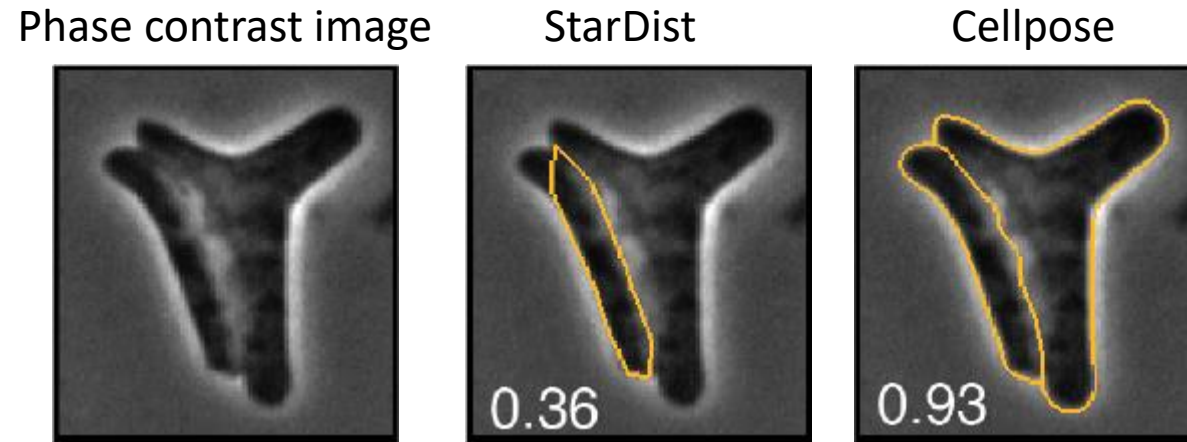
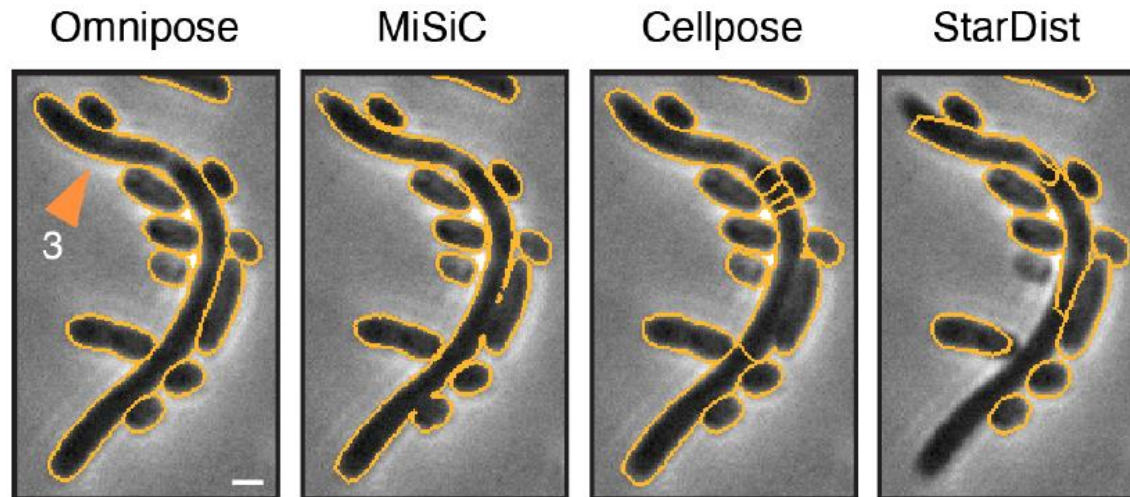


Image from <https://github.com/MouseLand/cellpose>

Segmentation – comparison of Deep Learning models



Bacteria - *Escherichia coli*



Cutler et al. bioRxiv 2021

Segmentation – take home message

- There is no single “BEST” segmentation method
- Try different approaches to see which one works “BEST” for your “SPECIFIC” images

Denoising \longleftrightarrow Filtering \longleftrightarrow Masking \longleftrightarrow Segmentation

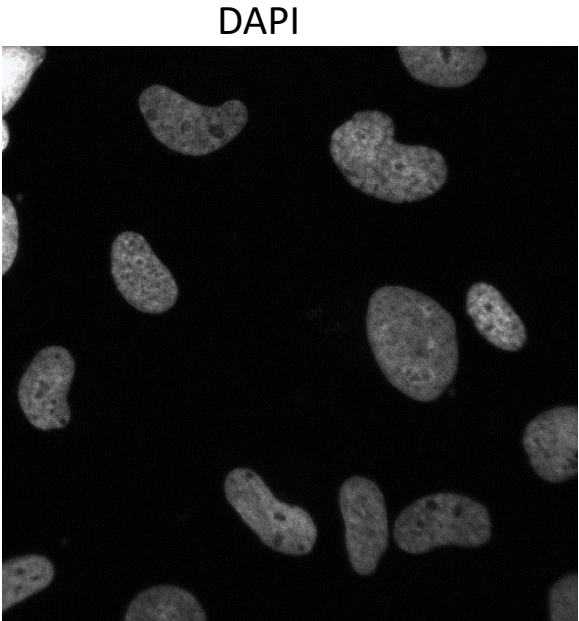
Original image



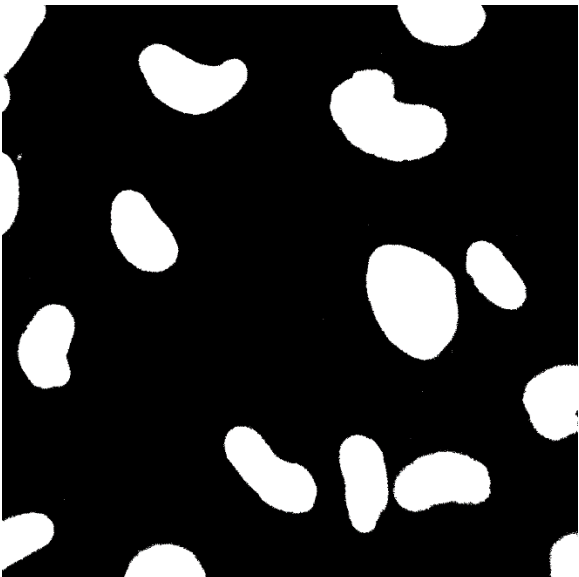
Cellpose segmentation



Cell/particle counting in Fiji



segmented binary image



Analyze Particles

Size (micron²): 100-500

Pixel units

Circularity: 0.00-1.00

Show: Nothing

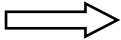
Display results Exclude on edges

Clear results Include holes

Summarize Overlay

Add to Manager Composite ROIs

OK Cancel Help



DAPI_segmented.tif (33.3%)

134.95x134.95 microns (1024x1024); 8-bit; 1MB

ROI ...

- 0001-0132
- 0002-0196
- 0003-0401
- 0004-0480
- 0005-0528
- 0006-0607
- 0007-0826
- 0008-0851
- 0009-0847

Summary

Slice	Count	Total Area	Average Size	%Area	Mean	IntDen
DAPI_segmented.tif	9	2322.103	258.011	12.751	255	65792.908

Image courtesy of Uwe Schaefer, Tarakhovsky Lab

Cell/particle counting in QuPath

Nuclei segmented
with StarDist

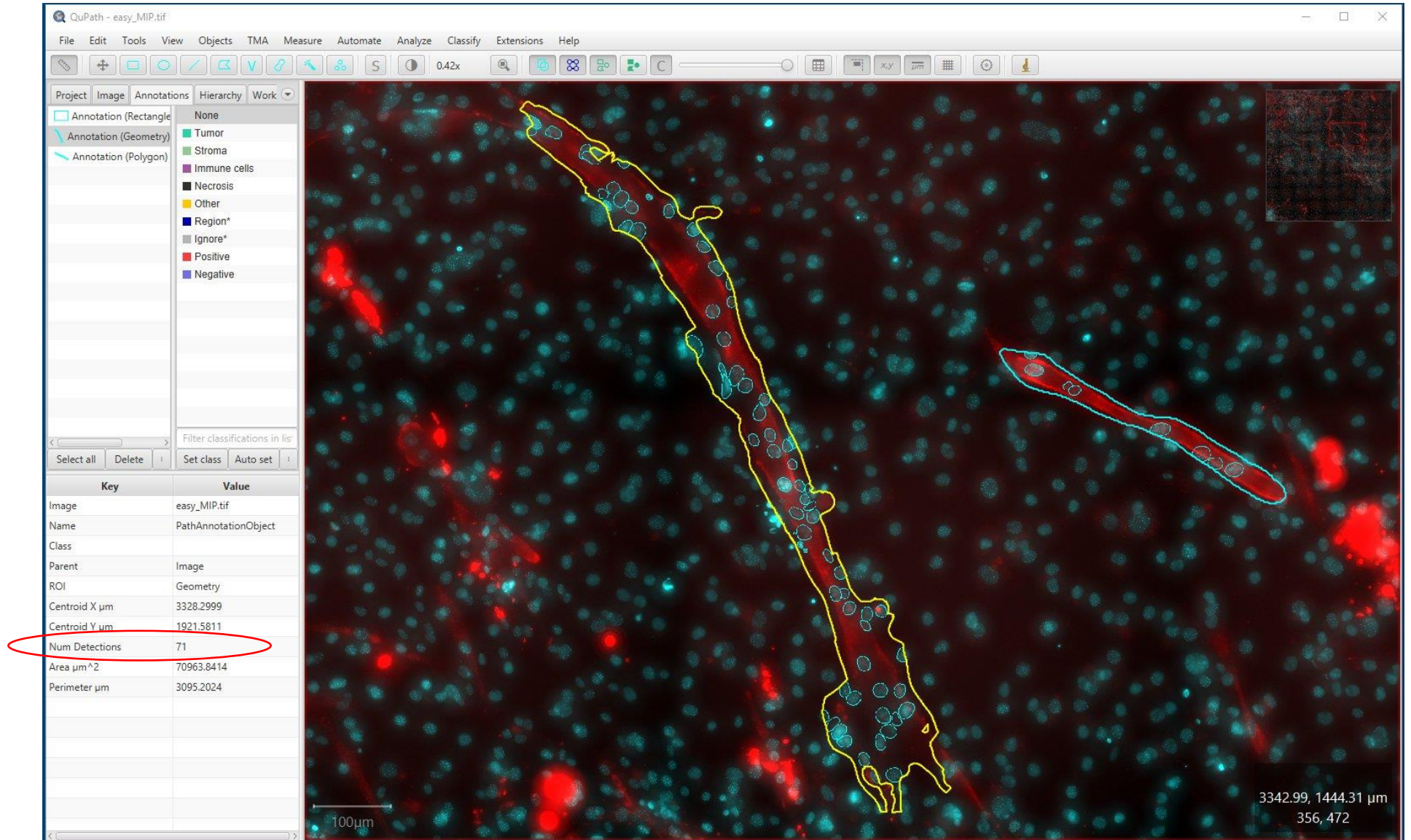
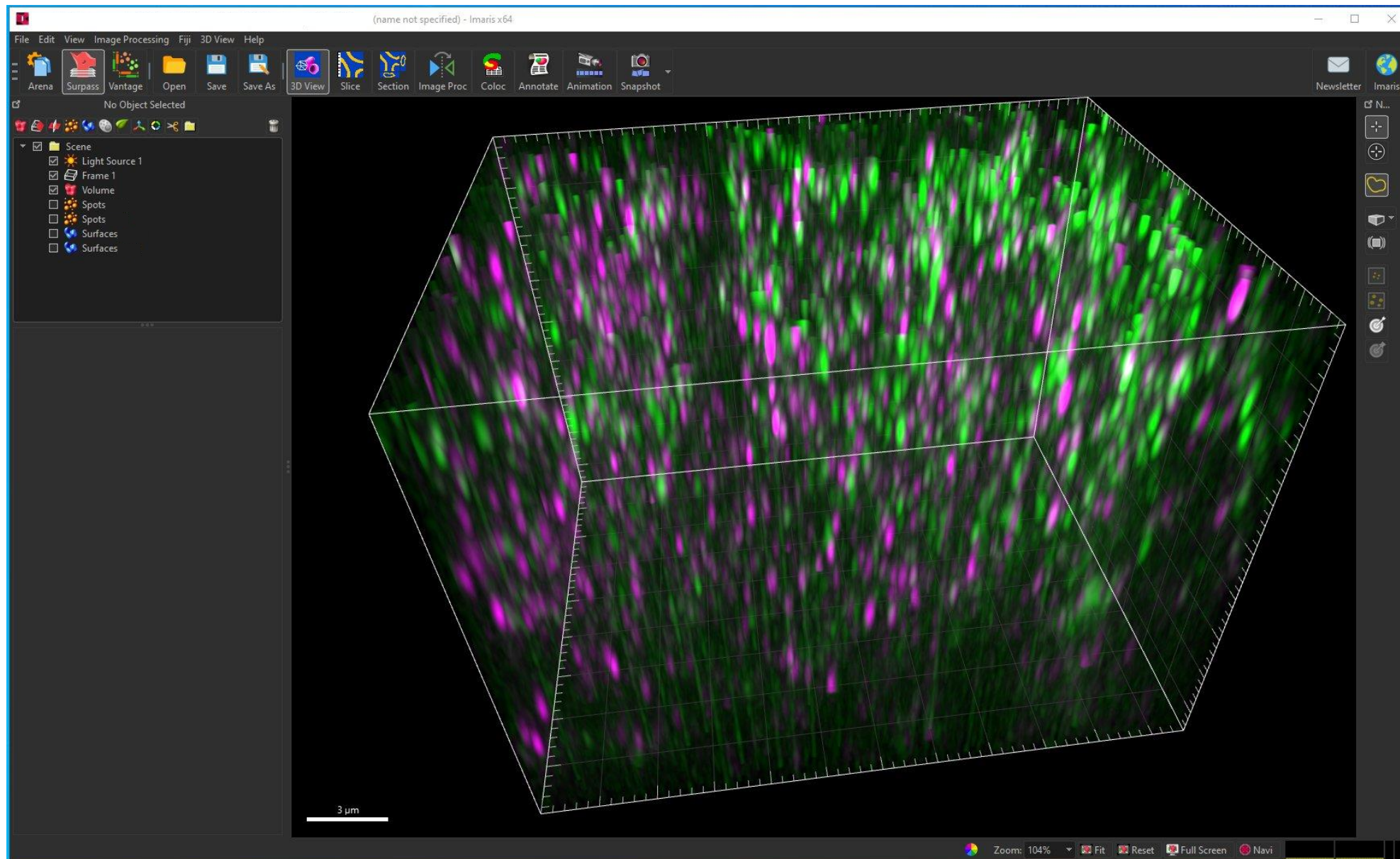


Image courtesy of Yakshi Dabas, David Allis Lab

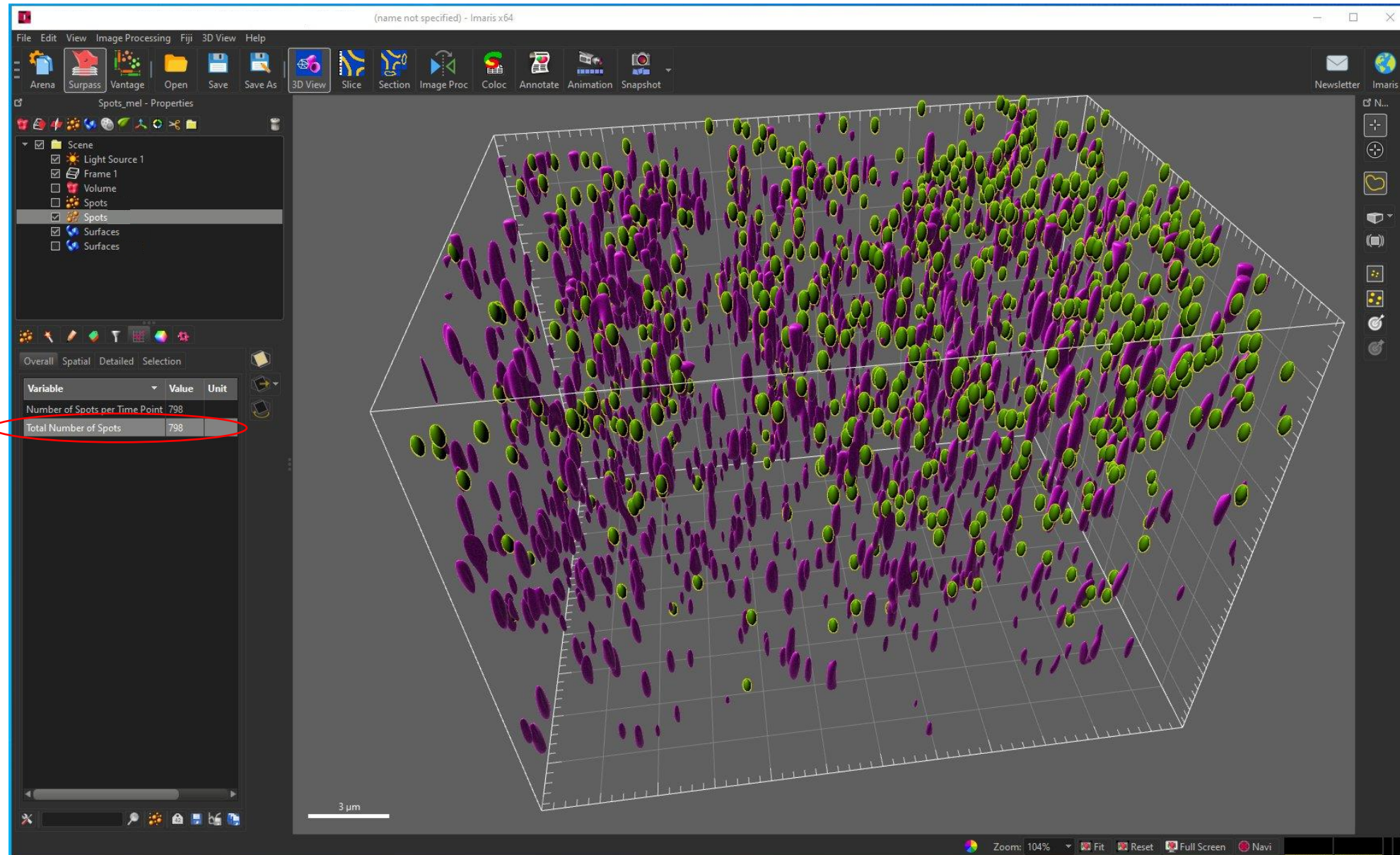
Cell/particle counting in 3D using Imaris



3D volume rendering
showing green and
magenta particles

Image courtesy of Toby Lieber, Agnel Sfeir Lab, MSKCC

Cell/particle counting in 3D using Imaris

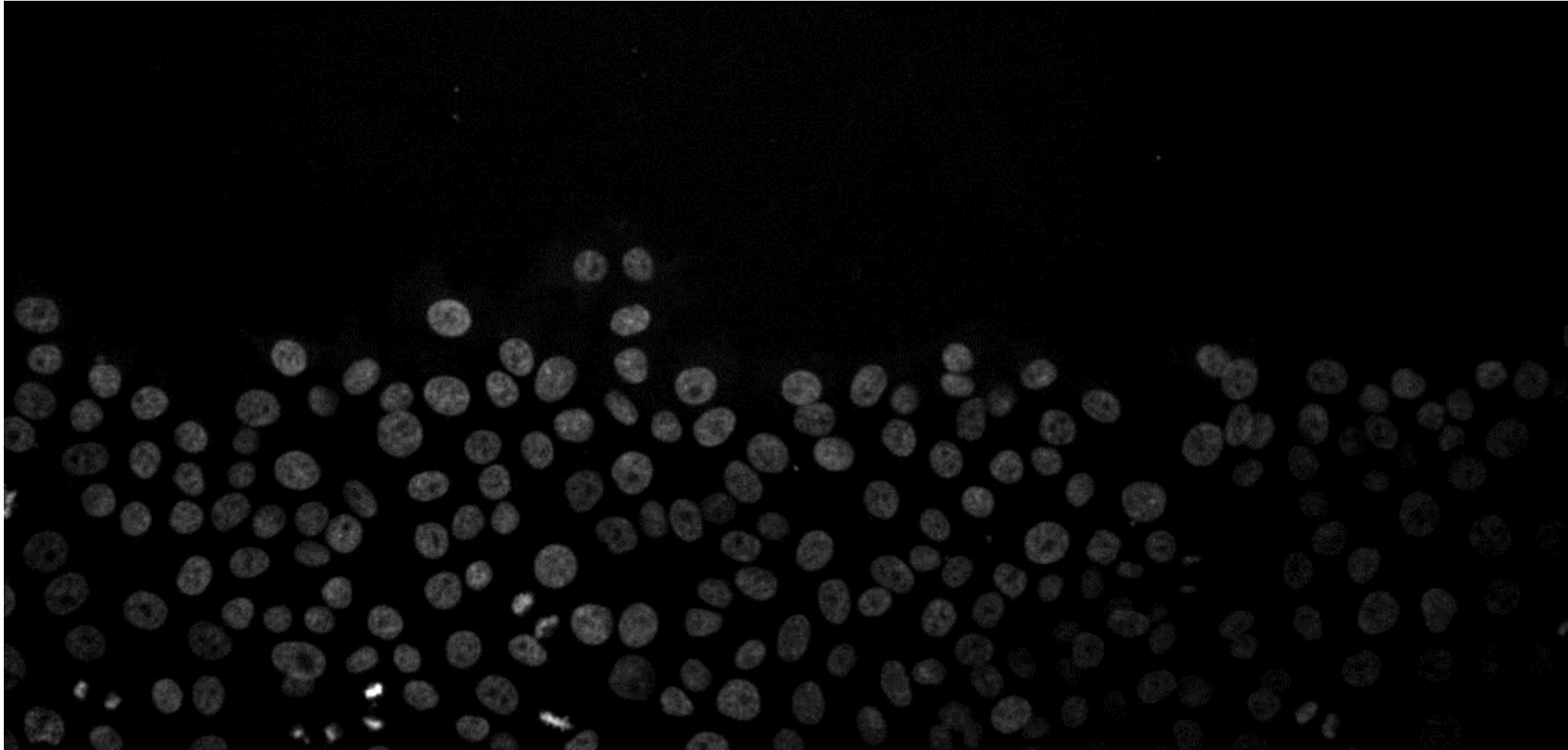


3D volume rendering showing green and magenta particles segmented and quantified

Image courtesy of Toby Lieber, Agnel Sfeir Lab, MSKCC

Cell/particle tracking in Fiji

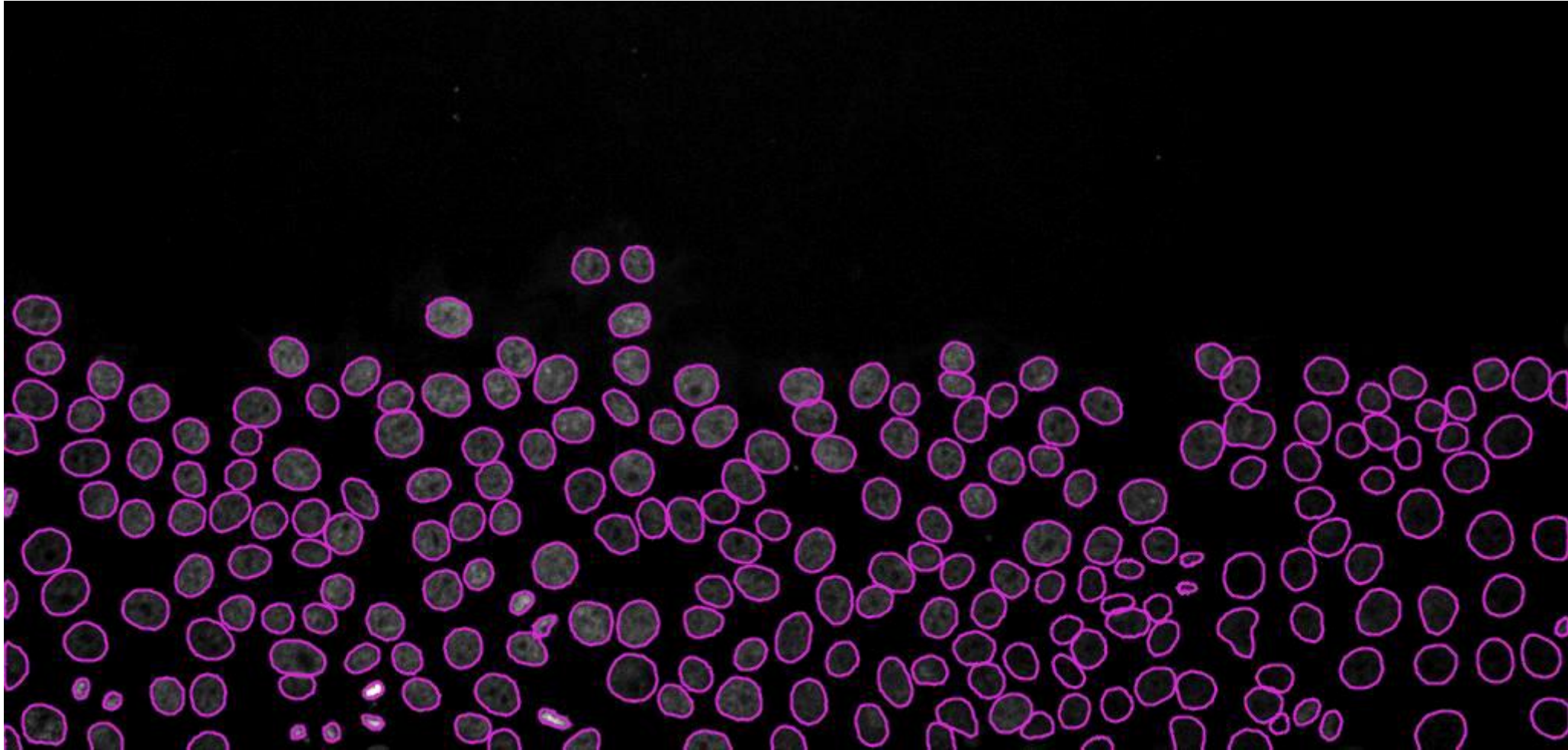
Cancer cell migration



<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.5206107>

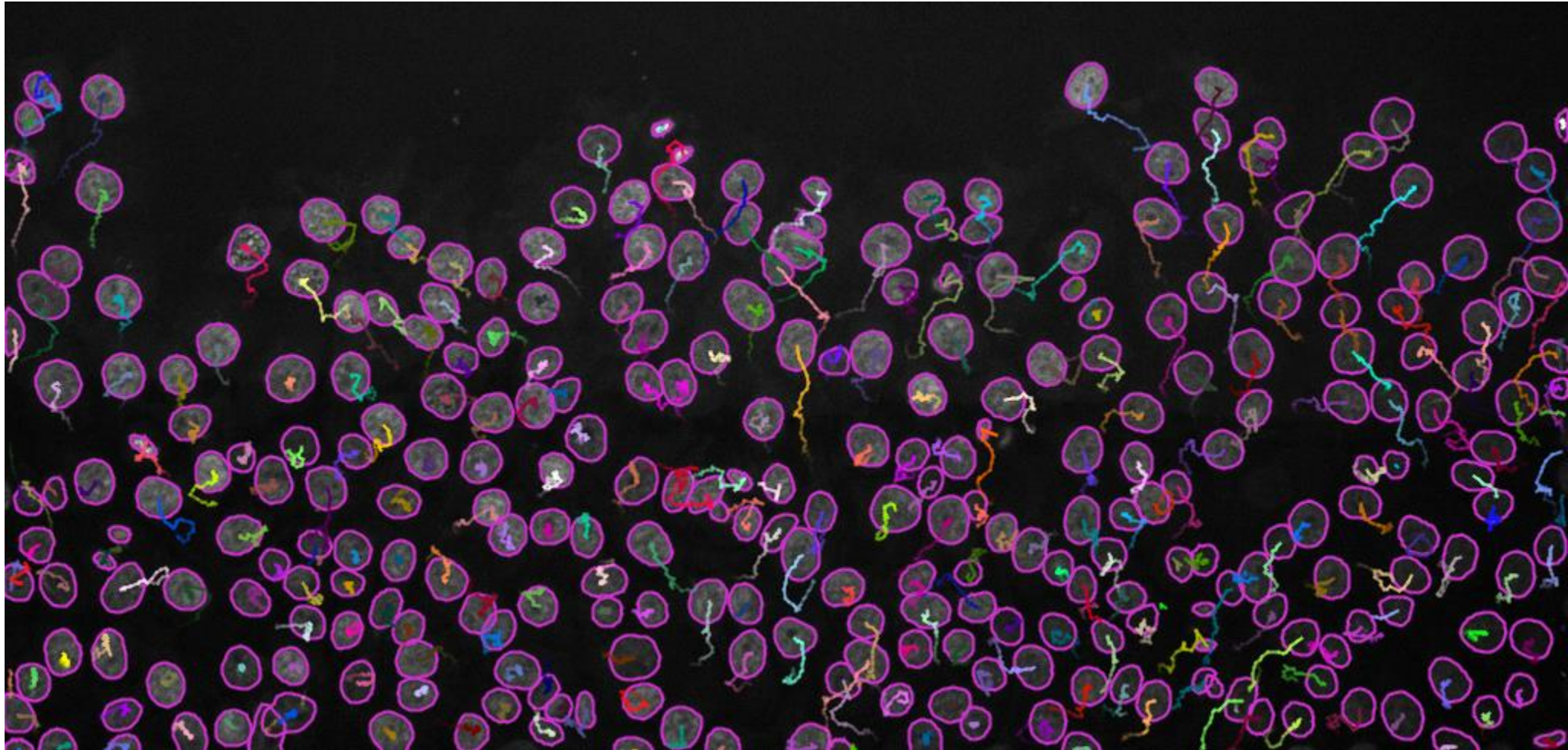
Cell/particle tracking in Fiji

StarDist based cell segmentation in TrackMate plugin



Cell/particle tracking - Fiji

Tracking results with the TrackMate plugin



Workshop Exercise 2

3D tracking with TrackMate

3D tracking in Imaris

Denoising

- The task of removing noise from an image
- Not used solely for making an image look “good”, but when done properly, it can greatly improve the segmentation accuracy
- Beware - denoising changes pixel values in the image!



denoising
→



Gold Hill, Shaftesbury, UK

Why acquire noisy images in the first place?

- Low protein expression
- High protein expression has unwanted phenotype
- Photobleaching
- Detection noise due to inherent uncertainty of photon detection

Denoising - tools

- Classical Filters – Gaussian, Median, Non-local means
- Deep Learning methods (open-source): CARE, Noise2Noise, Noise2Void
- Deep Learning methods (commercial): RCAN in Aivia

Denoising using image processing filters

Noisy image



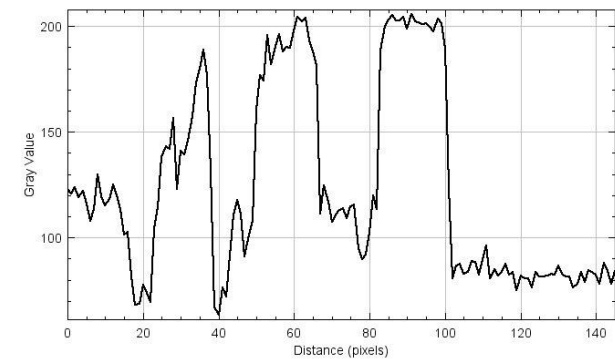
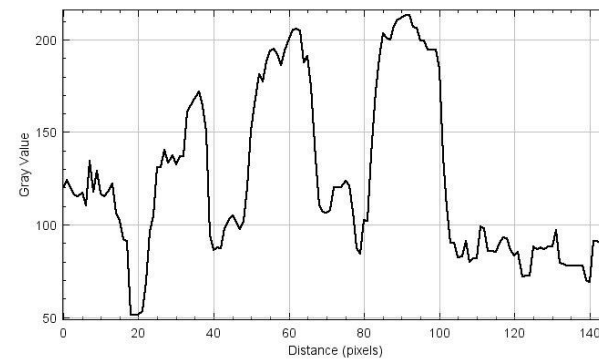
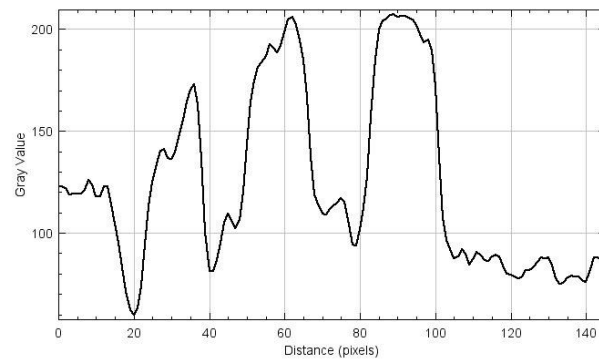
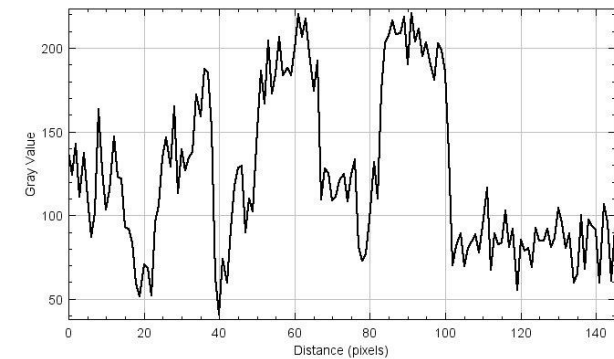
Gaussian filter



Median filter



Non-local means filter

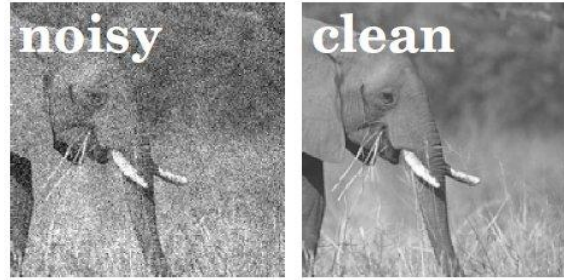


Denoising using Deep Learning methods (open-source)

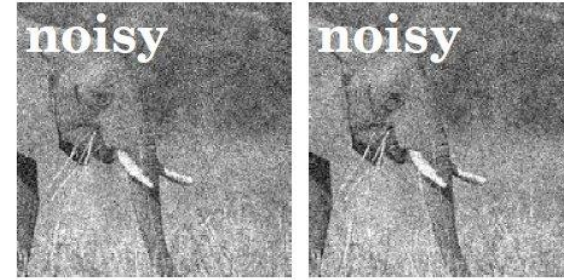
CARE (Content Aware Restoration):

A pair of high and low SNR images required for training the model

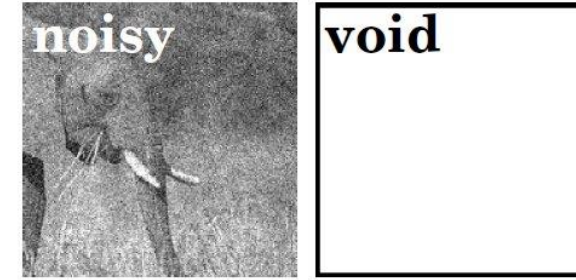
Traditional (e.g. CARE)



Noise2Noise



Noise2Void

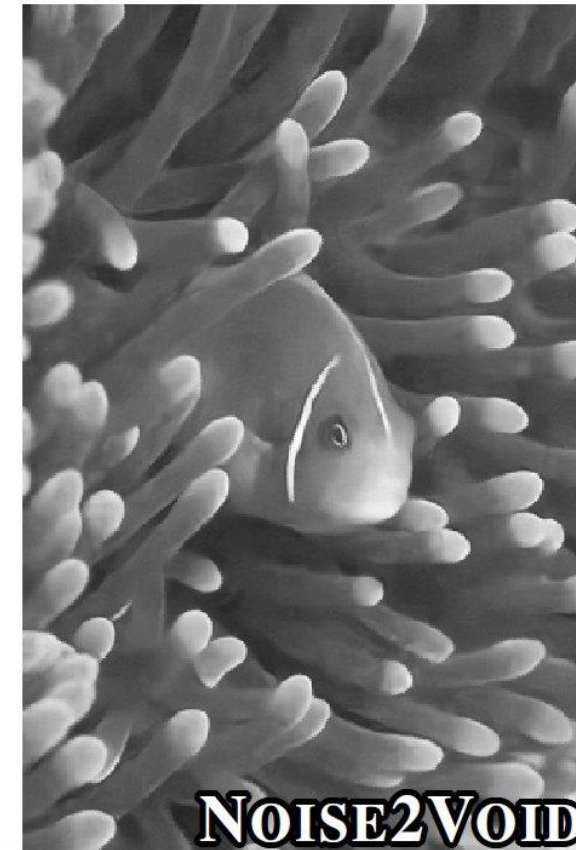
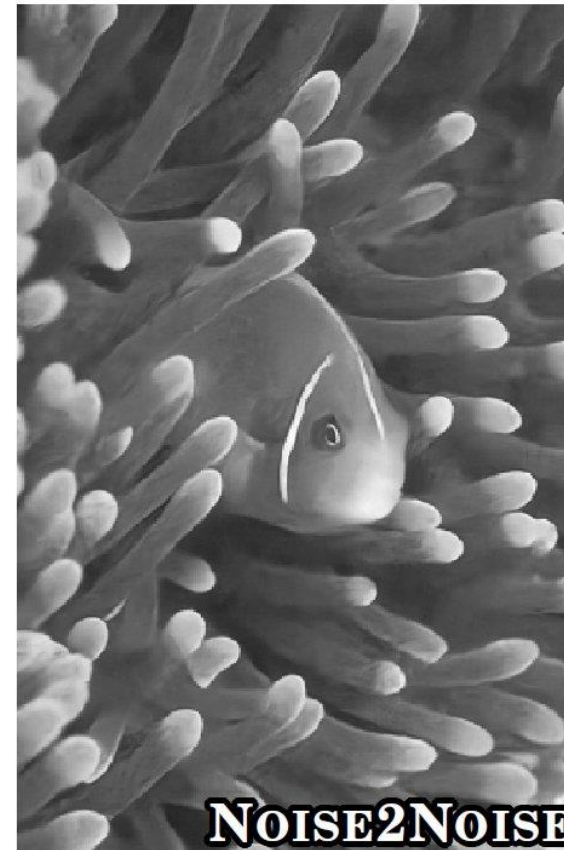
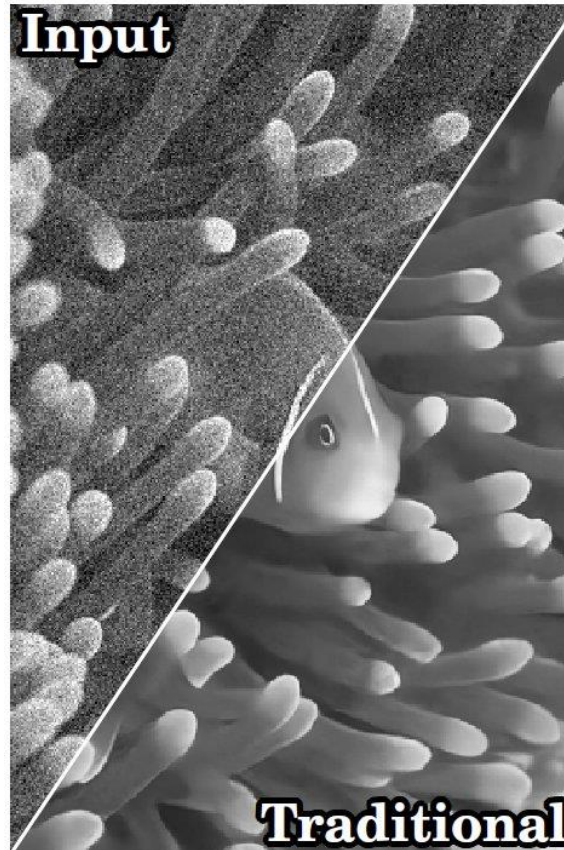


Noise2Noise:

A pair of noisy images required for training the model

Noise2Void:

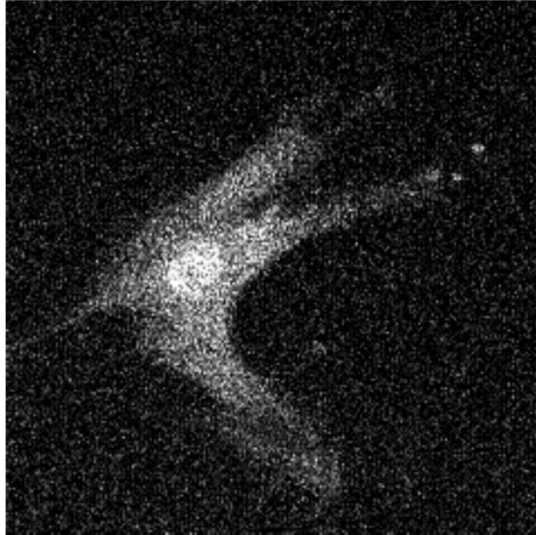
Single noisy images are enough for training the model



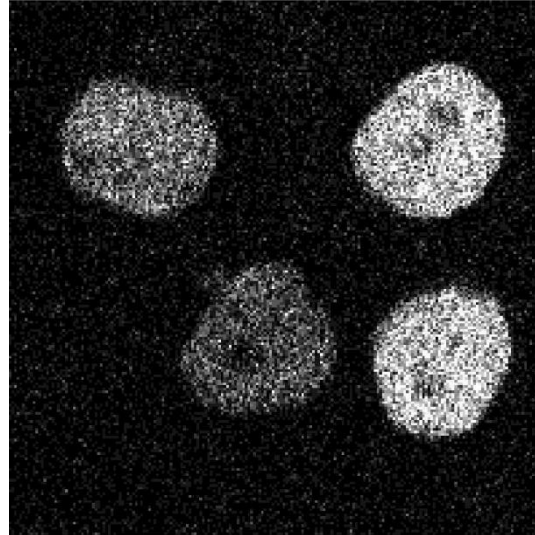
Krull et al.
<https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.1811.10980>

Denoising using Noise2Void

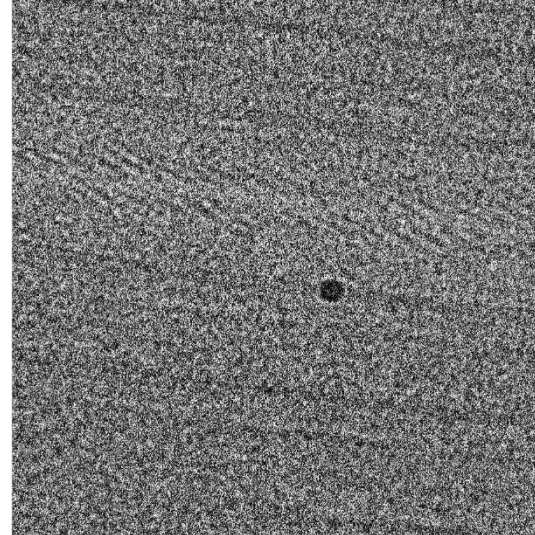
Cell (fluorescence)



Nuclei (fluorescence)

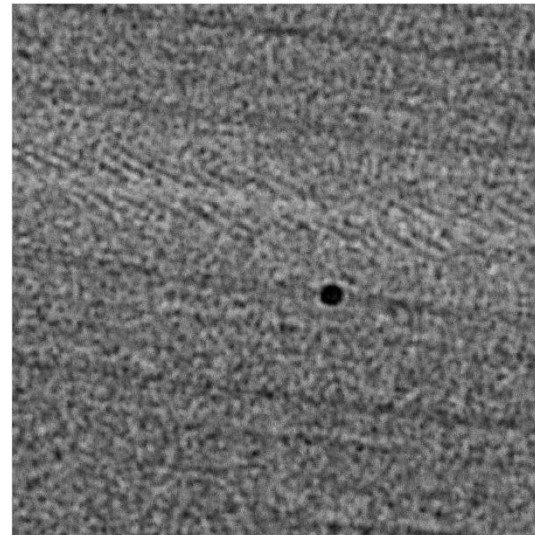
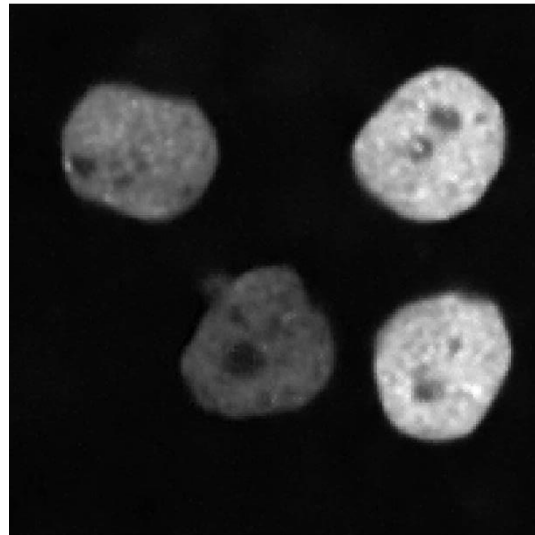


Cryo-TEM



Input image

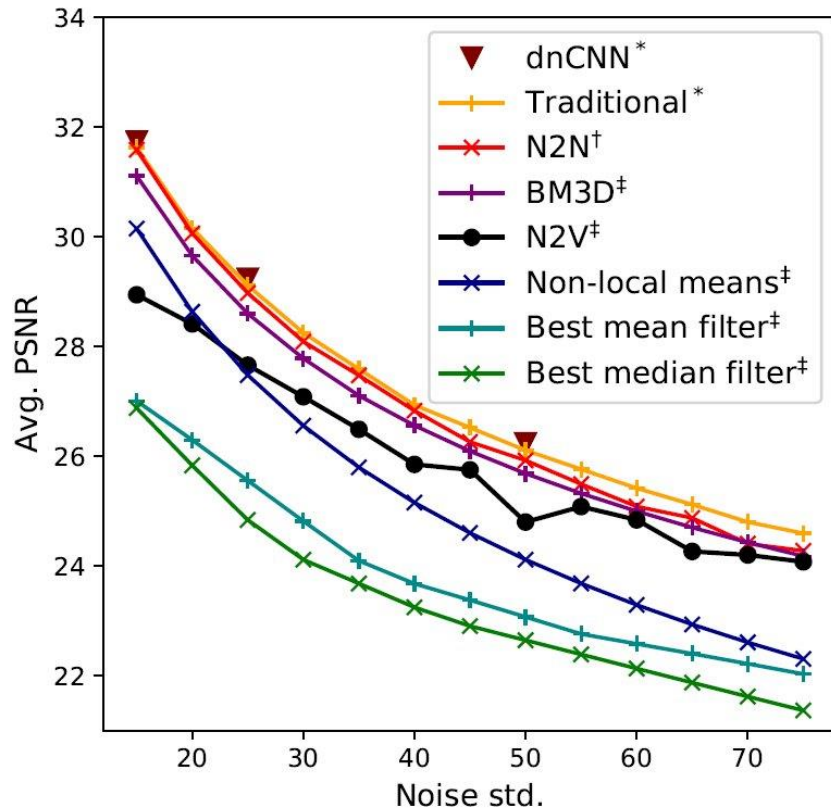
Noise2Void



Workshop Exercise 3

Krull et al.
<https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.1811.10980>

Denoising – limits of Noise2Void



N2V cannot distinguish between the signal and structured noise that violates the assumption of pixel-wise independence of noise

N2V can not be expected to outperform methods that have additional information during training (CARE, N2N)

Denoising using Deep Learning methods (commercial: Aivia)

Aivia Deep Learning Models

Denoising_Actin_iSIM-60x

Denoising_ER_iSIM-60x

Denoising_Generic(mito+MT)_iSIM-60x

Denoising_Golgi_iSIM-60x

Denoising_Lysosome_iSIM-60x

Denoising_Microtubule_iSIM-60x

Denoising_Mitochondria_iSIM-60x

Expansion_Microtubule+decon

Expansion_Mitochondria+decon

Restoration

Segmentation

Segmentation_3D_EM_ISBI_2013

Segmentation_3D_EM_UW_WongLab

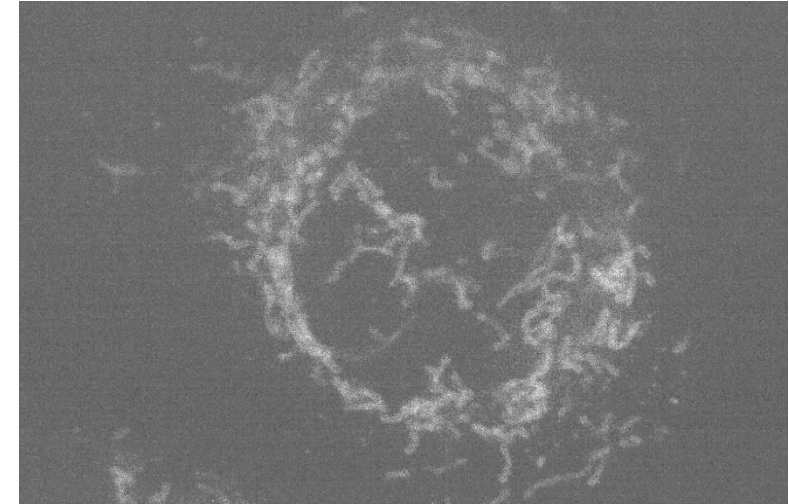
Virtual_Staining_Actin_20x

Virtual_Staining_Microtubule_20x

Virtual_Staining_Nucleus_20x

Original image

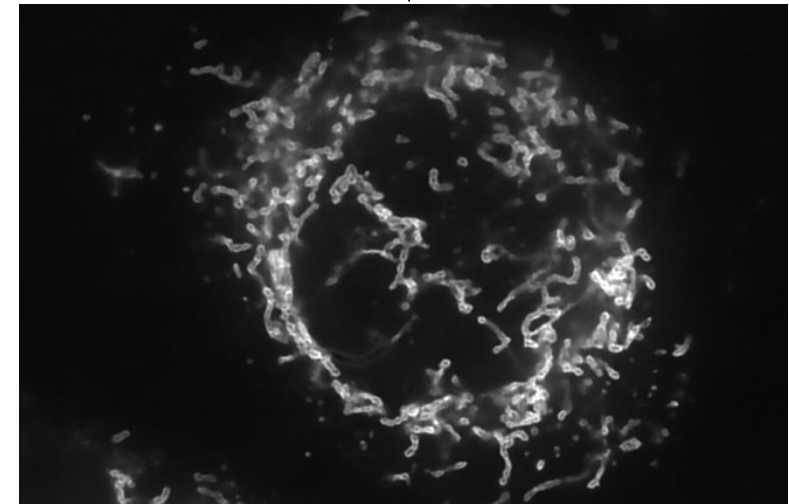
Mitochondria membrane
captured on an iSIM



Model trained on RCAN architecture from Hari Shroff lab (NIBIB, NIH)
Chen et al. Nat. Methods 2021



Denoised image



Images from <https://www.aivia-software.com>

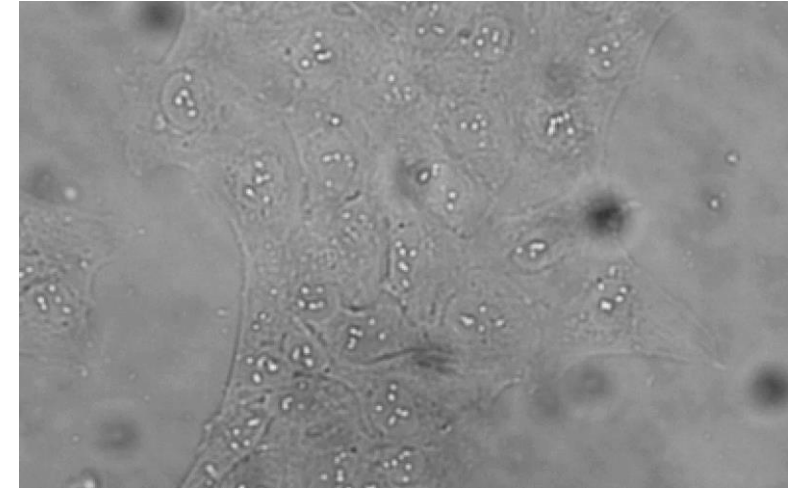
Virtual staining using Aivia

Aivia Deep Learning Models

Denoising_Actin_iSIM-60x
Denoising_ER_iSIM-60x
Denoising_Generic(mito+MT)_iSIM-60x
Denoising_Golgi_iSIM-60x
Denoising_Lysosome_iSIM-60x
Denoising_Microtubule_iSIM-60x
Denoising_Mitochondria_iSIM-60x
Expansion_Microtubule+decon
Expansion_Mitochondria+decon
Restoration
Segmentation
Segmentation_3D_EM_ISBI_2013
Segmentation_3D_EM_UW_WongLab
Virtual_Staining_Actin_20x
Virtual_Staining_Microtubule_20x
Virtual_Staining_Nucleus_20x

Original image

Brightfield image (DIC, 20x)

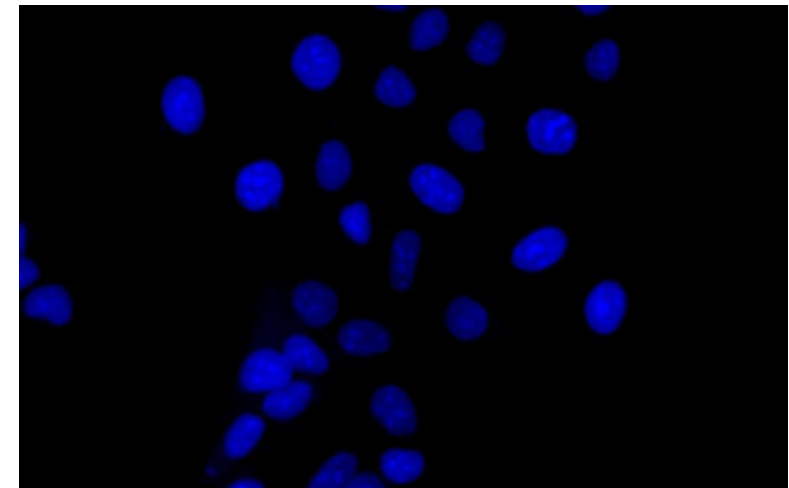


Model trained on RCA U-Net architecture



Predicted image

Fluorescence image (simulates DAPI)



Images from <https://www.aivia-software.com>

Image analysis help at BIRC

- Help users analyze their data
Suggestion on the best method/software/pipeline for user data analysis
 - Open-source: Fiji, QuPath, ilastik, DeepImageJ, ZeroCostDL4Mic, Napari, CellProfiler
 - Imaris – 2D/3D large data, segmentation, counting, tracking; currently lacks deep learning methods
 - Arivis – Light-sheet data (multi-GB to TB)
 - Aivia – AI-powered 3D image analysis (e.g. segmentation, denoising)
 - Huygens – deconvolution, 2D/3D chromatic aberration correction
- Writing customized image analysis scripts, pipelines, batch processing
- Experimental design discussion with a team of microscopy and image analysis staff, to ensure that the imaging data acquired will be appropriate for the planned analysis and research questions

Training

One-on-one Image analysis training

Regular workshops on image analysis

- basic ImageJ/Fiji workshop
- advanced ImageJ/Fiji workshop
- commercial analysis softwares – Imaris, Arivis, Huygens, Aivia
- Colocalization and distance analysis
- New tools for Methods reporting in manuscripts – MethodsJ2
- Handling big data – BigDataViewer in Fiji, Imaris, Arivis
- Data management and figure generation in OMERO
May 4th – Jason Swedlow, OME

“Image Analysis User Group” – NEW!!!

- anybody who is interested in image analysis discussion
- Regular meetings in an informal setting where members will take turn presenting on a specific topic
- new method/pipeline/software/paper
- **First meeting in May 2022**
- Contact vsharma01@rockefeller.edu to join the group

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our users!