



# Simultaneous Multi-Slice Acquisition for Rapid Neuroimaging

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## Acknowledgement

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# Overview

- Parallel Imaging for in-plane acceleration  
(slides: Jonathan Polimeni)
- Simultaneous Multi-Slice (SMS):  
Faster EPI using Blipped-CAIPI  
(slides: Kawin Setsompop)
- SMS Wave-CAIPI:  
Whole brain  $1\text{mm}^3$  Turbo Spin Echo in 70 sec

# Insights

- ❖ SMS removes the  $\sqrt{R}$  SNR penalty induced by in-plane parallel imaging
- ❖ Controlled aliasing (Blipped- and Wave-CAIPI) reduces g-factor SNR penalty in SMS acquisition
- ❖ How Blipped- and Wave-CAIPI work
- ❖ Neuroimaging applications of SMS acquisition  
Diffusion, functional, structural imaging

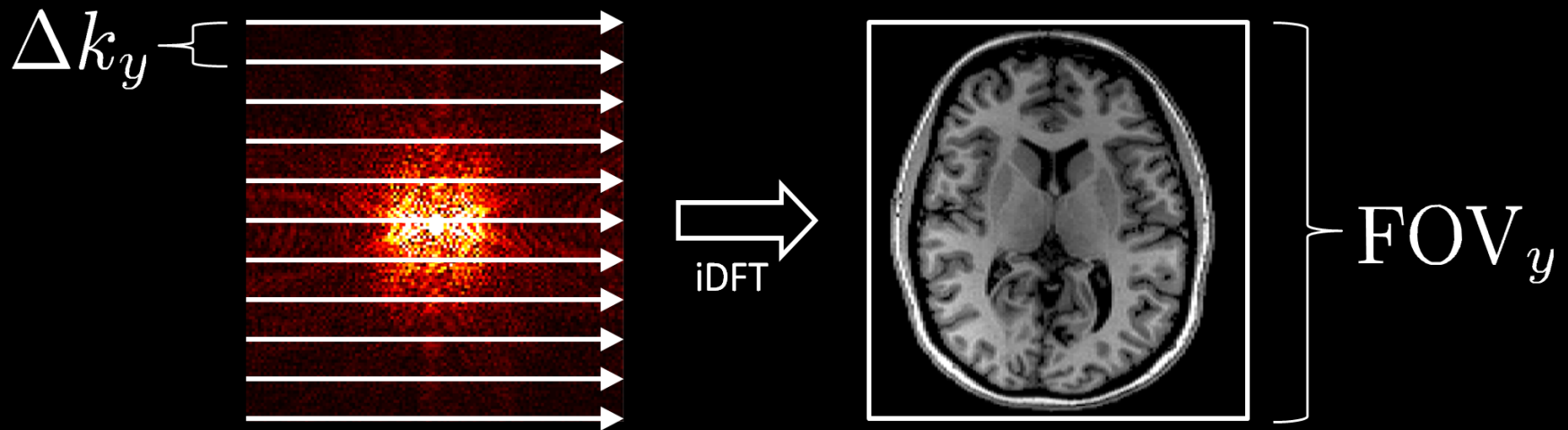
# Overview

- Parallel Imaging for in-plane acceleration  
(slides: Jonathan Polimeni)
- ❖ In-plane acceleration incurs both  $\sqrt{R}$  and g-factor SNR penalty
- Simultaneous Multi-Slice (SMS):  
Faster EPI using Blipped-CAIPI  
(slides: Kawin Setsompop)
- SMS Wave-CAIPI:  
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# Parallel Imaging

- simultaneous measurement from multiple coil channels in parallel
- most commonly used for accelerated acquisitions
- other uses:
  - artifact reduction [distortion mitigation in EPI]
  - motion detection [FID navigators, [Kober et al., 2011, MRM](#)]

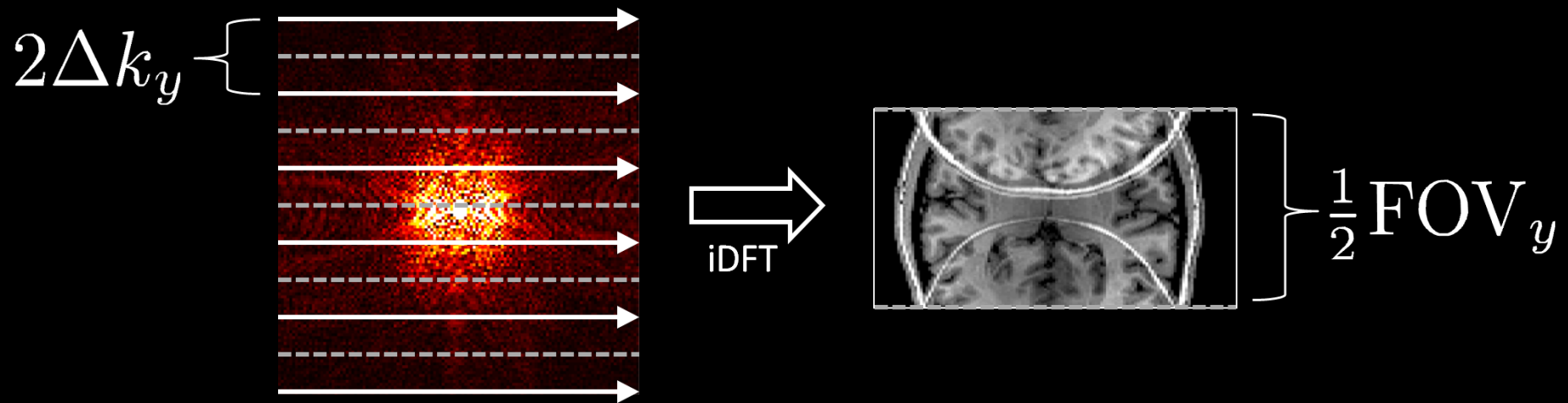
# Fourier encoding



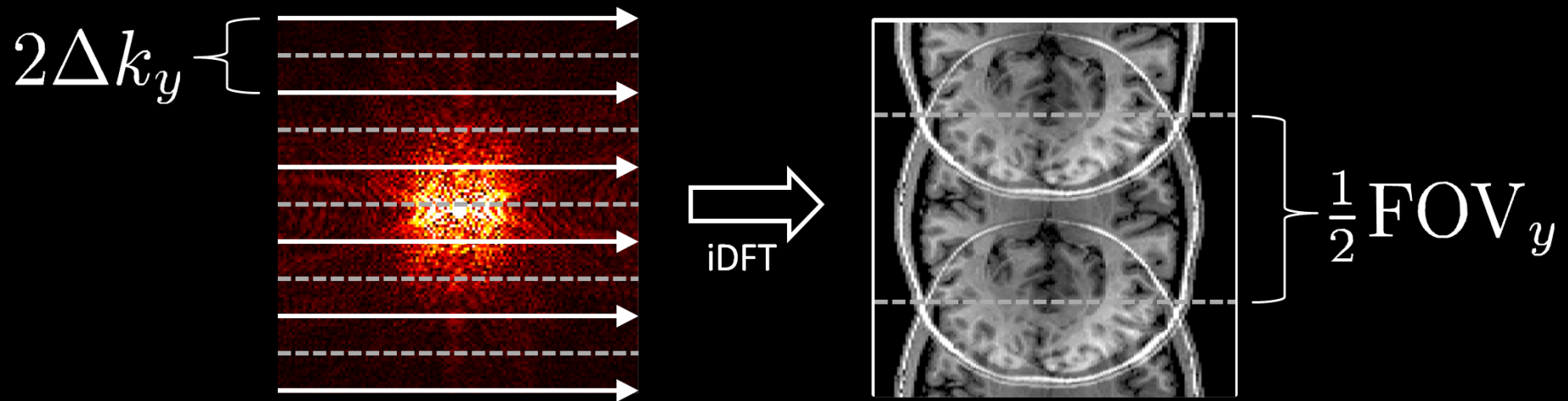
$$FOV_y = 2\pi / \Delta k_y$$

Nyquist-sampled object

# undersampled data – aliasing



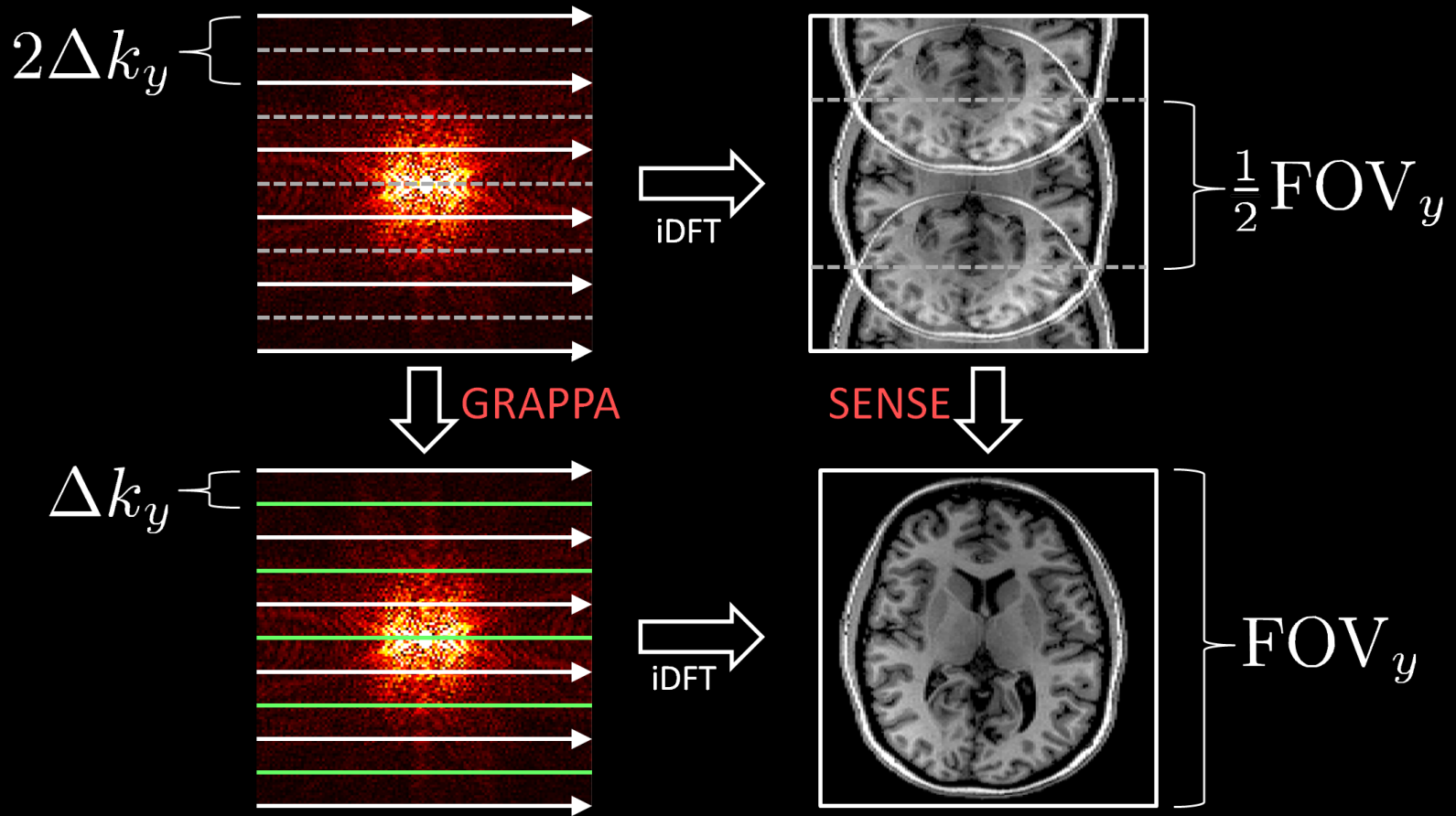
# undersampled data – aliasing



aliased replicates

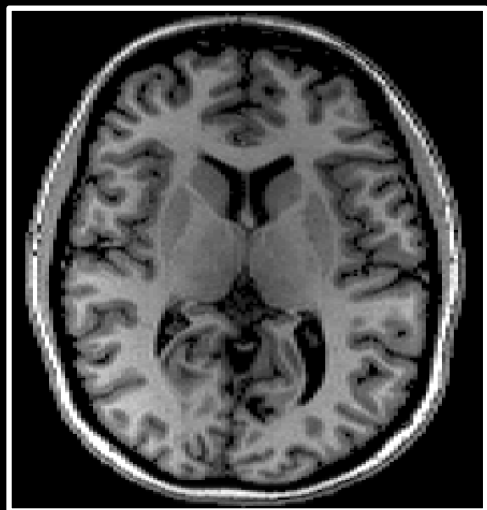


# $k$ -space vs. image-space approaches



# limits on acceleration – 8 chan simulation

*unaccel.*



**$R=2$**



**$R=3$**



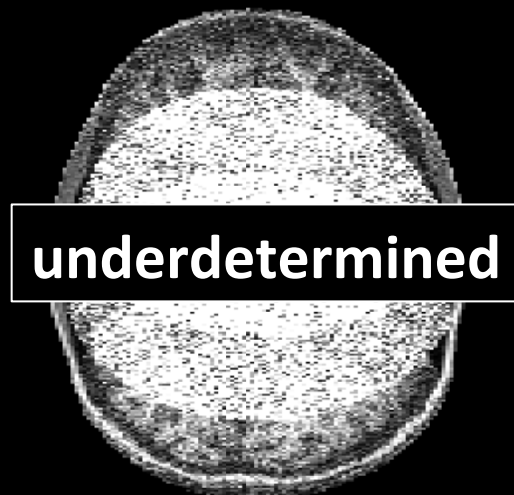
**$R=4$**



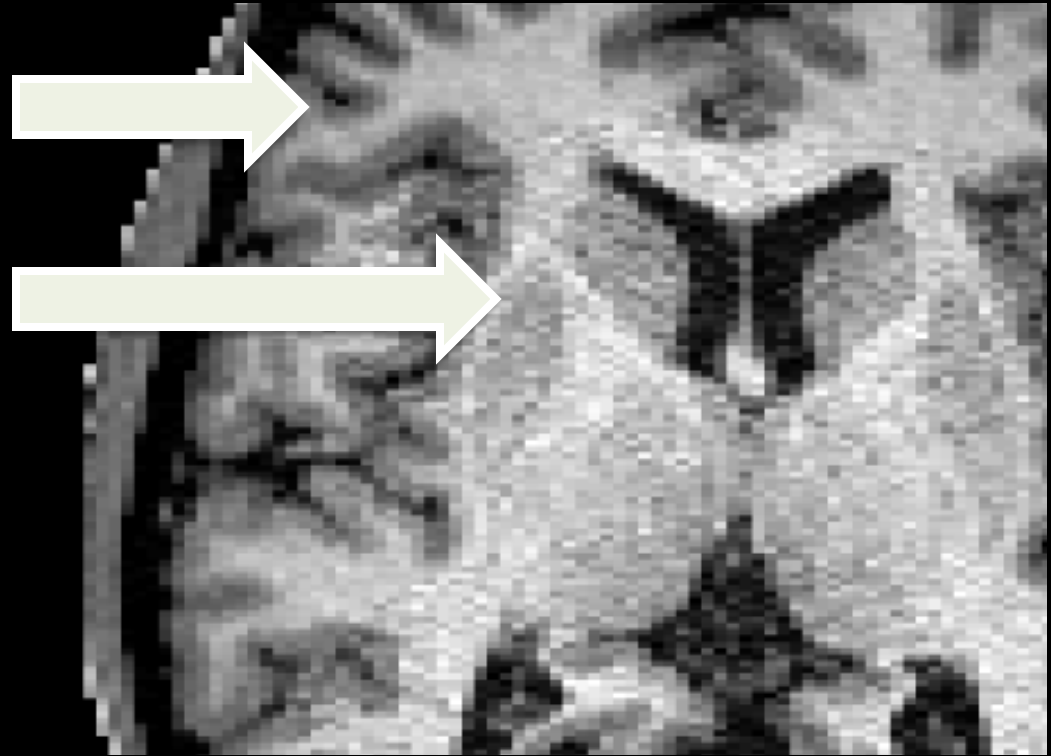
**$R=5$**



**$R=6$**



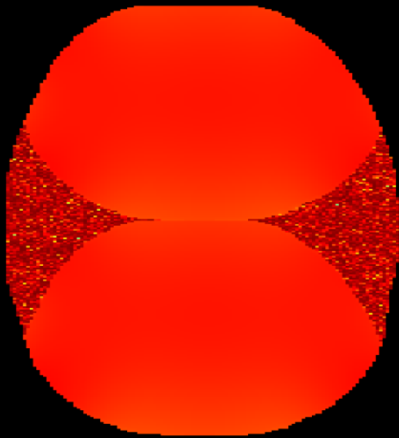
# limits on acceleration – 8 chan simulation



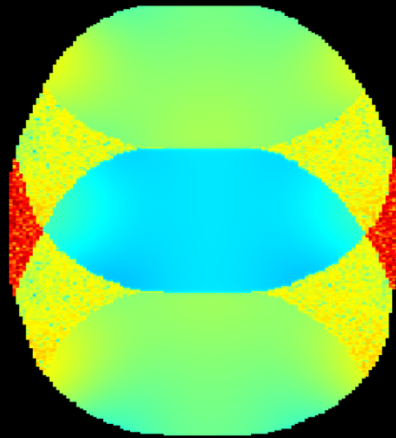
*non-uniform* noise: geometry factor

$$\text{SNR}^{\text{red}} = \text{SNR}^{\text{full}} / g\sqrt{R}$$

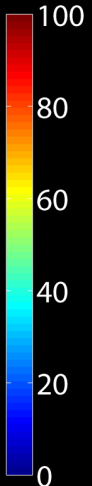
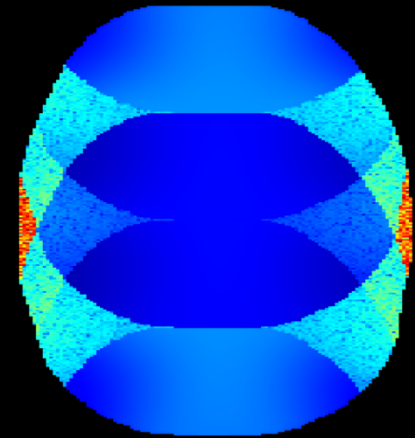
**$R=2$**



**$R=3$**

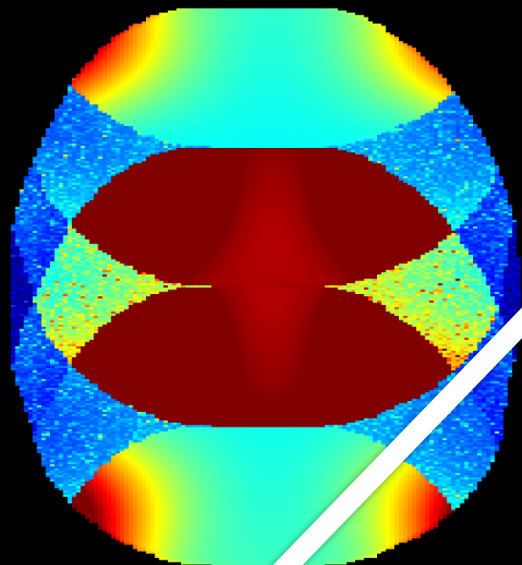


**$R=4$**

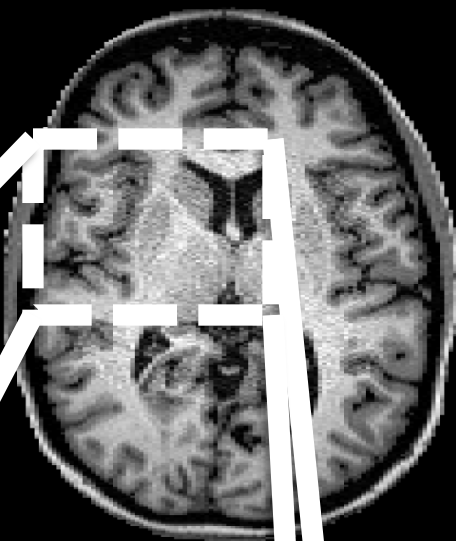


$g \geq 1$ :  $1/g$  for visualization on same scale

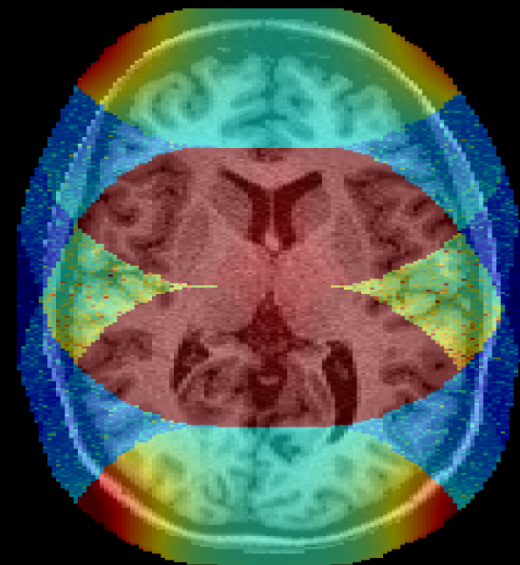
$R=4$



$R=4$



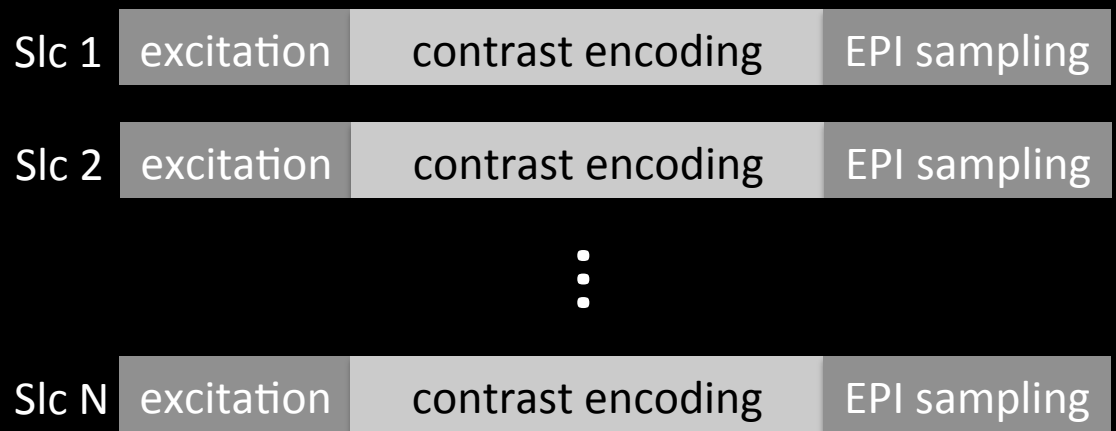
$R=4$



# Overview

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(slides: Jonathan Polimeni)
- Simultaneous Multi-Slice (SMS):  
Faster EPI using Blipped-CAIPI  
(slides: Kawin Setsompop)
- ❖ SMS acceleration incurs only g-factor SNR penalty, removes  $\sqrt{R}$
- SMS Wave-CAIPI:  
Whole brain  $1\text{mm}^3$  Turbo Spin Echo in 70 sec

# Improving EPI Efficiency



Slice-by-slice reception  
is inefficient

## Motivation: bring simultaneous multislice to EPI

- Increase efficiency of high-res EPI for Diffusion, fMRI

Whole brain acquisition with thin slices means long TR

$TR \gg T_1$        $\rightarrow$  inefficient SNR/time.  
 $\rightarrow$  long acquisition time.

- In-plane acceleration does not reduce TR significantly for EPI  
Especially for long diffusion encoding  
or fMRI where  $TE = T_2^*$  for contrast
- Simultaneous Multi-Slice (SMS): excites & acquires multiple slices during each readout period.



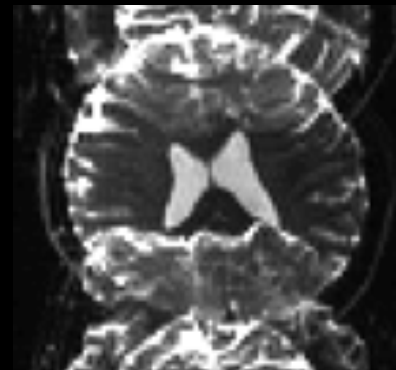
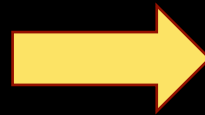
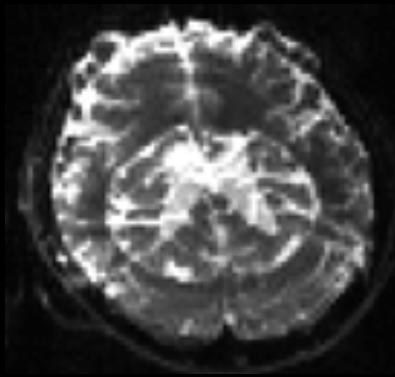
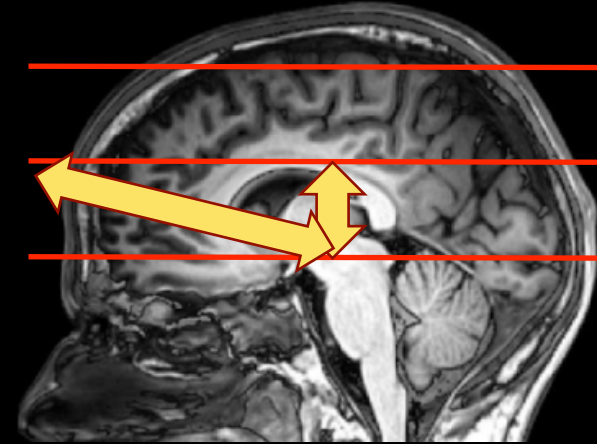
$\rightarrow$  Reduced TR significantly.  
 $\rightarrow$  No  $\sqrt{R}$  penalty on SNR.



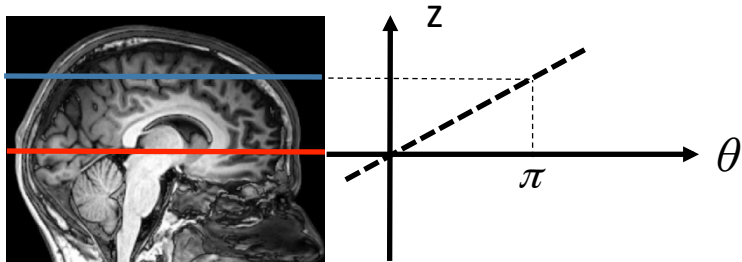
# How to tease apart the acquired slices?

## Parallel Imaging SMS

- high noise amplification (g-factor) <sup>1-3</sup>
- Controlled Aliasing In Parallel Imaging (CAIPI)<sup>4</sup>  
fixes this by inducing FOV/2 shift  
→ not relevant to EPI
- Wideband shifting for EPI<sup>5-6</sup>  
→ but unacceptable blurring
- blipped-CAIPI<sup>7-8</sup> fixes this blurring

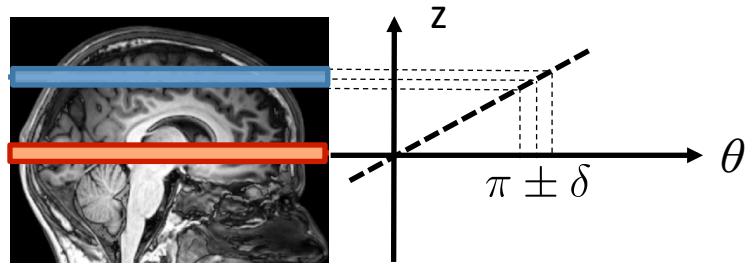


# FOV/2 shifting in EPI: Wideband vs. Blipped-CAIPI



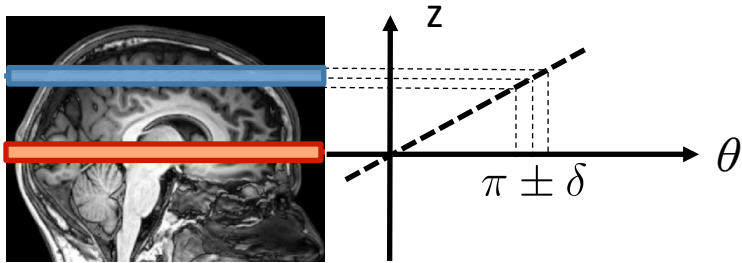
	Wideband	Blipped-CAIPI
Gz & phase diagrams	<p><math>G_z</math></p> <p>center slice      top slice</p> <p>0 <math>\pi</math> <math>\pi</math> 0</p> <p>0 <math>\pi</math> <math>\pi</math> 0</p> <p>0 <math>\pi</math> <math>\pi</math> 0</p> <p>0 <math>\pi</math> <math>\pi</math> 0</p> <p>ky</p> <p>kx</p>	
Fourier Space Filter		
Impulse Response		

# FOV/2 shifting in EPI: Wideband vs. Blipped-CAIPI



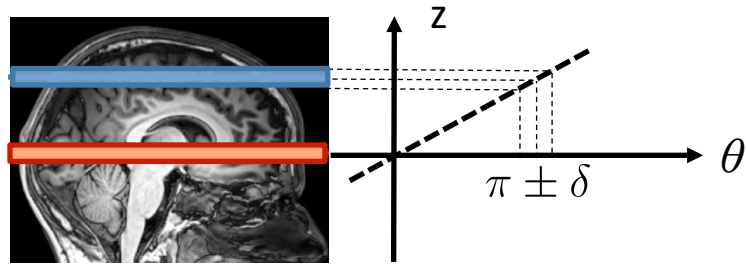
	Wideband	Blipped-CAIPI
Gz & phase diagrams	<p><math>G_z</math></p> <p>Phase at edge of slice</p> <p><math>\delta</math></p> <p>ky</p> <p>kx</p> <p>----- <math>2\delta</math></p> <p>----- <math>\delta</math></p> <p>----- 0</p> <p>----- <math>-\delta</math></p> <p>----- <math>-2\delta</math></p>	
Fourier Space Filter		
Impulse Response		

# FOV/2 shifting in EPI: Wideband vs. Blipped-CAIPI



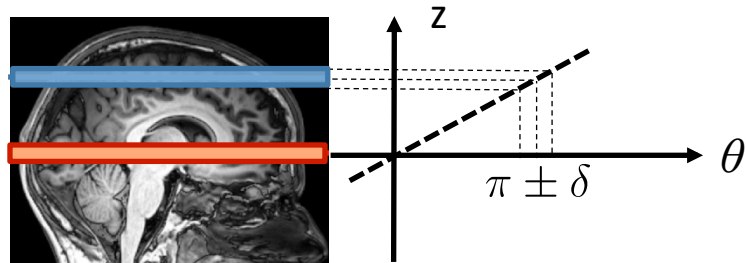
	Wideband	Blipped-CAIPI
Gz & phase diagrams	<p><math>G_z</math></p> <p>Phase at edge of slice</p> <p>ky</p> <p>2<math>\delta</math> <math>\delta</math> 0 -<math>\delta</math> -2<math>\delta</math></p> <p>kx</p>	
Fourier Space Filter	<p>PHASE <math>\theta</math>)</p> <p>z</p> <p>ky</p> <p>60° -60°</p> <p><math>\alpha</math></p> <p>1</p> <p>ky filter</p> <p>ky</p>	
Impulse Response	<p>VOXEL TILT/BLUR</p> <p>z</p> <p>y</p> <p>y</p> <p>20</p>	

# FOV/2 shifting in EPI: Wideband vs. Blipped-CAIPI



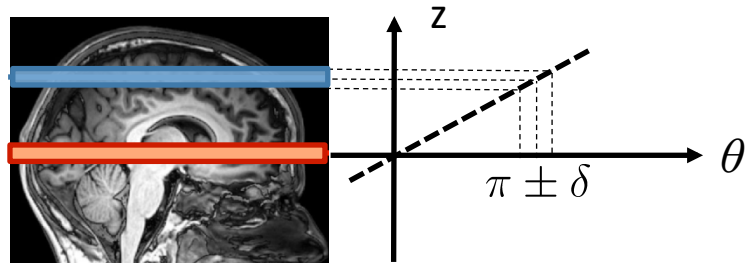
	Wideband	Blipped-CAIPI
Gz & phase diagrams	<p><math>G_z</math></p> <p>Phase at edge of slice</p> <p>ky</p> <p>2<math>\delta</math> <math>\delta</math> 0 <math>-\delta</math> <math>-2\delta</math></p> <p>kx</p>	<p><math>G_z</math></p> <p>Balancing</p> <p>center slice</p> <p>top slice</p> <p>ky</p> <p>0 <math>-\pi/2</math> 0 <math>\pi/2</math> 0 <math>-\pi/2</math> 0 <math>\pi/2</math> 0 <math>-\pi/2</math></p> <p>kx</p>
Fourier Space Filter	<p>PHASE <math>\theta</math>)</p> <p>z</p> <p>ky</p> <p>60° -60°</p> <p><math>\alpha</math></p> <p>ky filter</p> <p>1</p> <p>ky</p>	
Impulse Response	<p>VOXEL TILT/BLUR</p> <p>z</p> <p>y</p> <p>v</p>	

# FOV/2 shifting in EPI: Wideband vs. Blipped-CAIPI



	Wideband	Blipped-CAIPI
Gz & phase diagrams	<p><math>G_z</math></p> <p>Phase at edge of slice</p> <p>ky values: <math>2\delta, \delta, 0, -\delta, -2\delta</math></p>	<p><math>G_z</math></p> <p>Balancing</p> <p>Phase at edge of slice</p> <p>ky values: <math>-\delta/2, \delta/2, -\delta/2, \delta/2, -\delta/2</math></p>
Fourier Space Filter	<p>PHASE <math>\theta</math>)</p> <p>ky filter</p>	
Impulse Response	<p>VOXEL TILT/BLUR</p>	

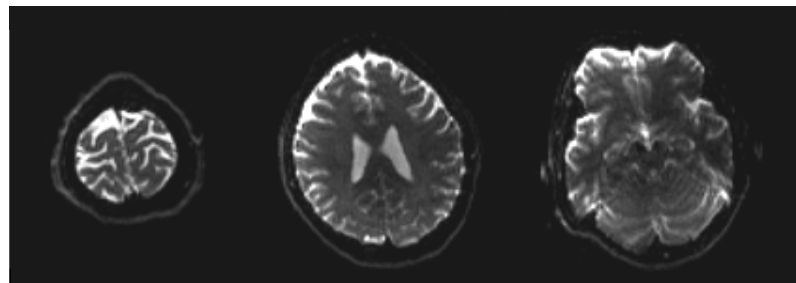
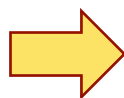
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	Wideband	Blipped-CAIPI
Gz & phase diagrams	<p><math>G_z</math></p> <p>Phase at edge of slice</p> <p>ky</p> <p>kx</p> <p>2<math>\delta</math></p> <p><math>\delta</math></p> <p>0</p> <p><math>-\delta</math></p> <p><math>-2\delta</math></p>	<p><math>G_z</math></p> <p>Balancing</p> <p>Phase at edge of slice</p> <p>ky</p> <p>kx</p> <p><math>-\delta/2</math></p> <p><math>\delta/2</math></p> <p><math>-\delta/2</math></p> <p><math>\delta/2</math></p> <p><math>-\delta/2</math></p>
Fourier Space Filter	<p>PHASE <math>\theta</math>)</p> <p>z</p> <p>ky</p> <p>60°</p> <p>-60°</p> <p><math>\alpha</math></p> <p>1</p> <p>ky filter</p> <p>ky</p>	<p>PHASE <math>\theta</math>)</p> <p>z</p> <p>ky</p> <p>4°</p> <p>-4°</p> <p><math>\alpha</math></p> <p>1</p> <p>ATTENUATION</p> <p>ky</p>
Impulse Response	<p>VOXEL TILT/BLUR</p> <p>z</p> <p>y</p> <p>v</p>	<p>NO TILT</p> <p>z</p> <p>y</p> <p>v</p>

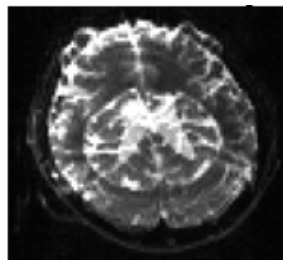
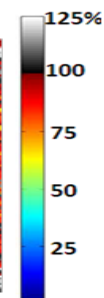
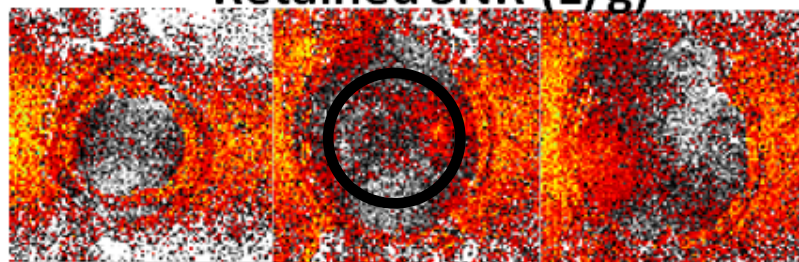
# 3x Blipped-CAIPI: 3T SE-EPI

- 3x Blipped-CAIPI, 32 channel Siemens head coil

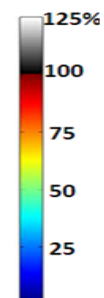
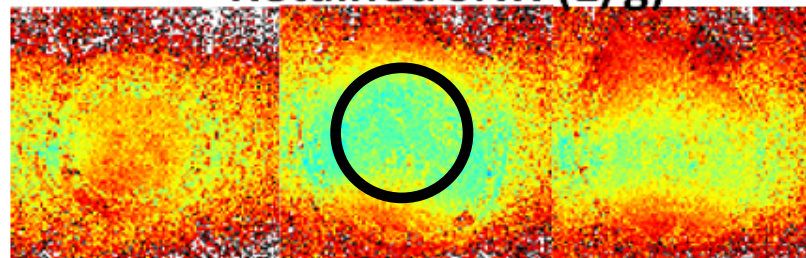


Blipped-CAIPI  
lowers g-factor  
SNR penalty by 2!

Retained SNR (1/g)



Retained SNR (1/g)

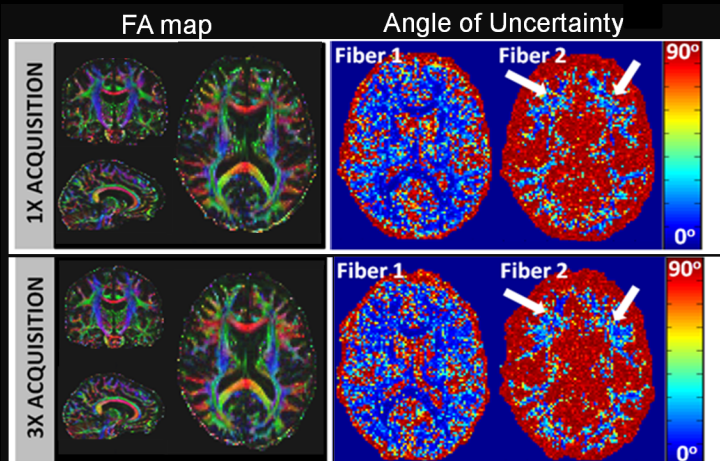




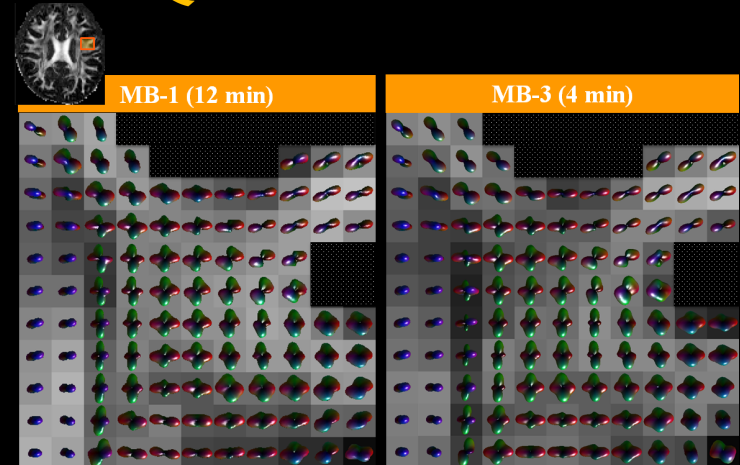
# Diffusion acquisition with blipped-CAIPI

3x Faster w/ high quality<sup>1</sup>

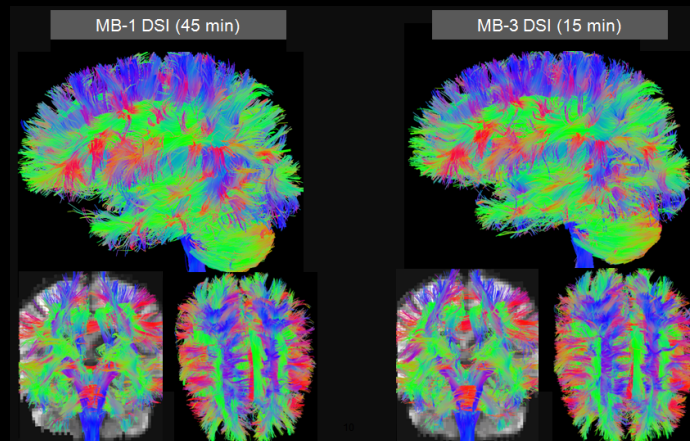
**DTI: 10 min → 3 min**



**Q-ball: 12 min → 4 min**



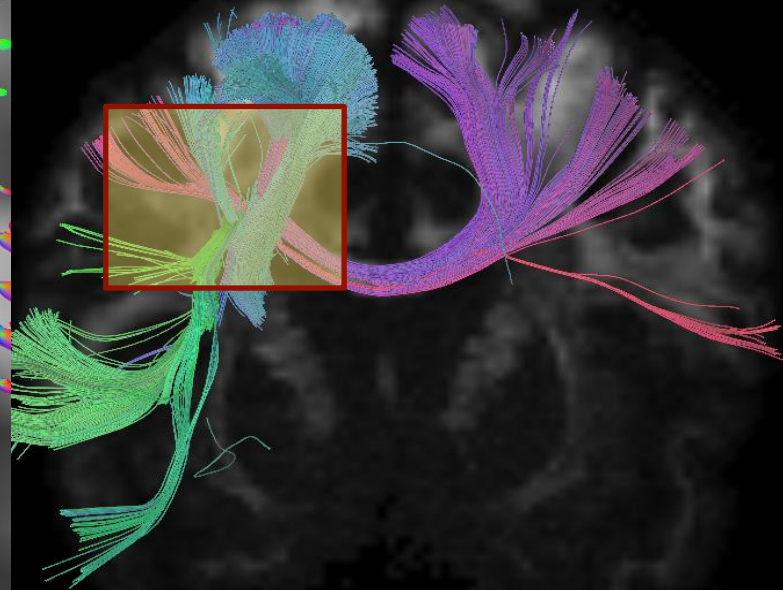
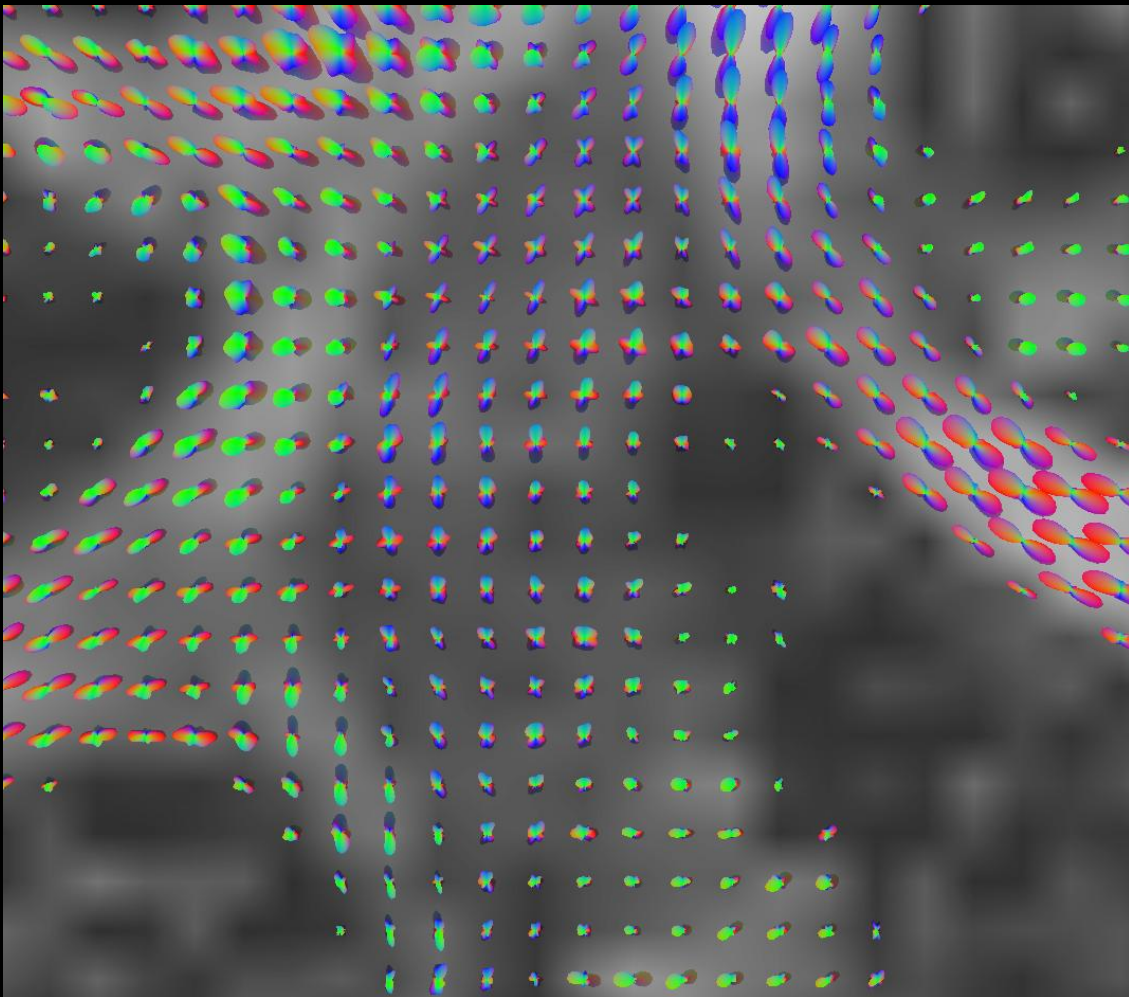
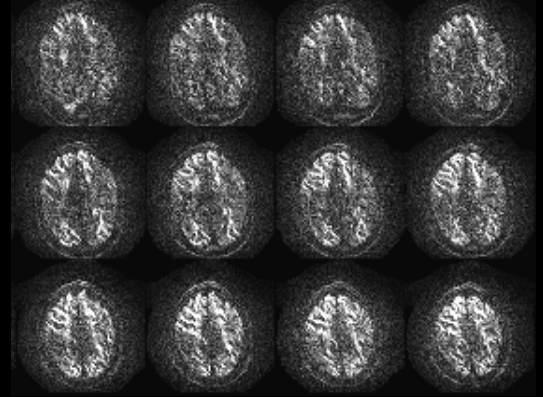
**DSI: 45 min → 15 min**



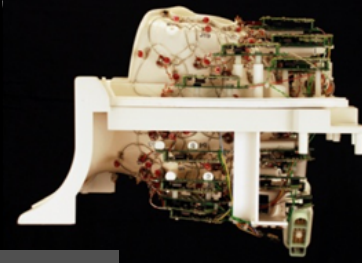
# 1.5 mm $R_{\text{inplane}}^3$ + SMSx2, 10 min Q-ball at b 5k

High quality DI with SMS +  $R_{\text{inplane}}$

→  $R_{\text{inplane}}$  is to minimize distortion and blurring

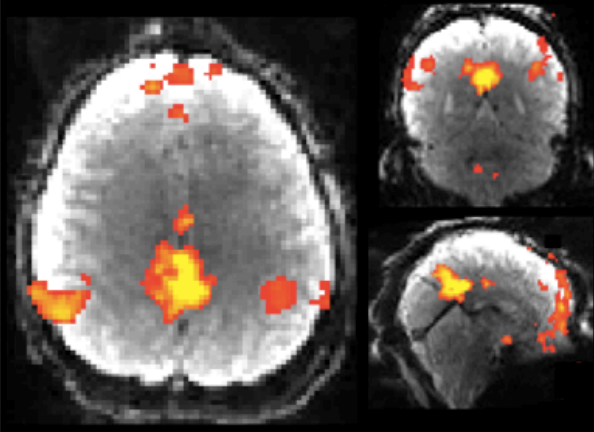


# Resting State at 3T with 64 chn coil

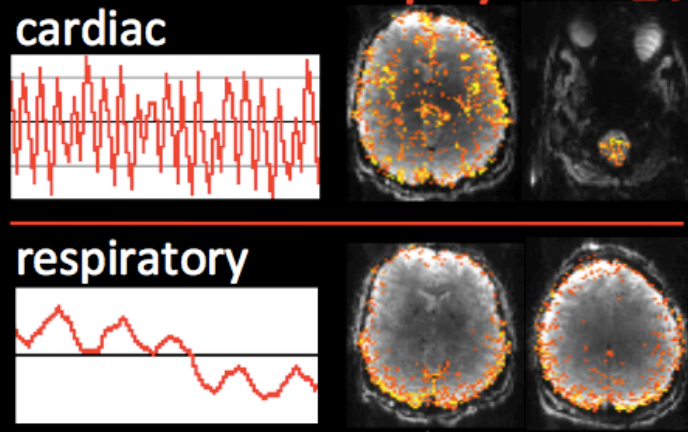


SMSx12 rs-fMRI → 2.5 mm whole brain at 350 ms  
→ 5 min acq., 900 repetitions

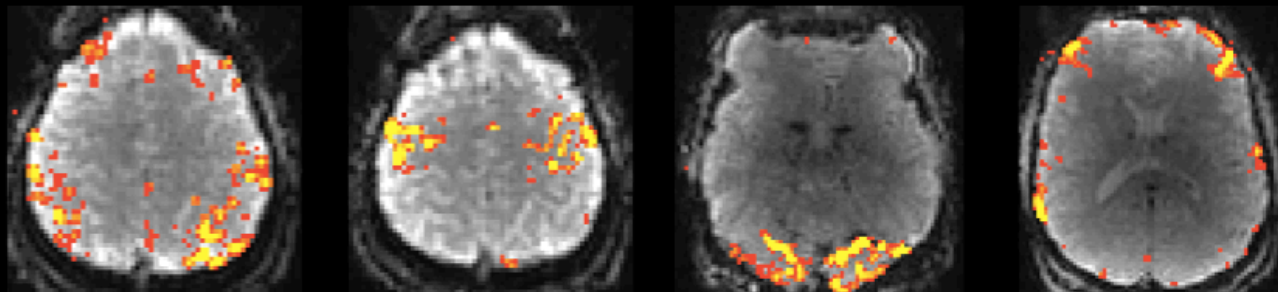
## A. seed-based DMN



## B. ICA derived physiology



## C. ICA derived components



Dorsal  
Attention System

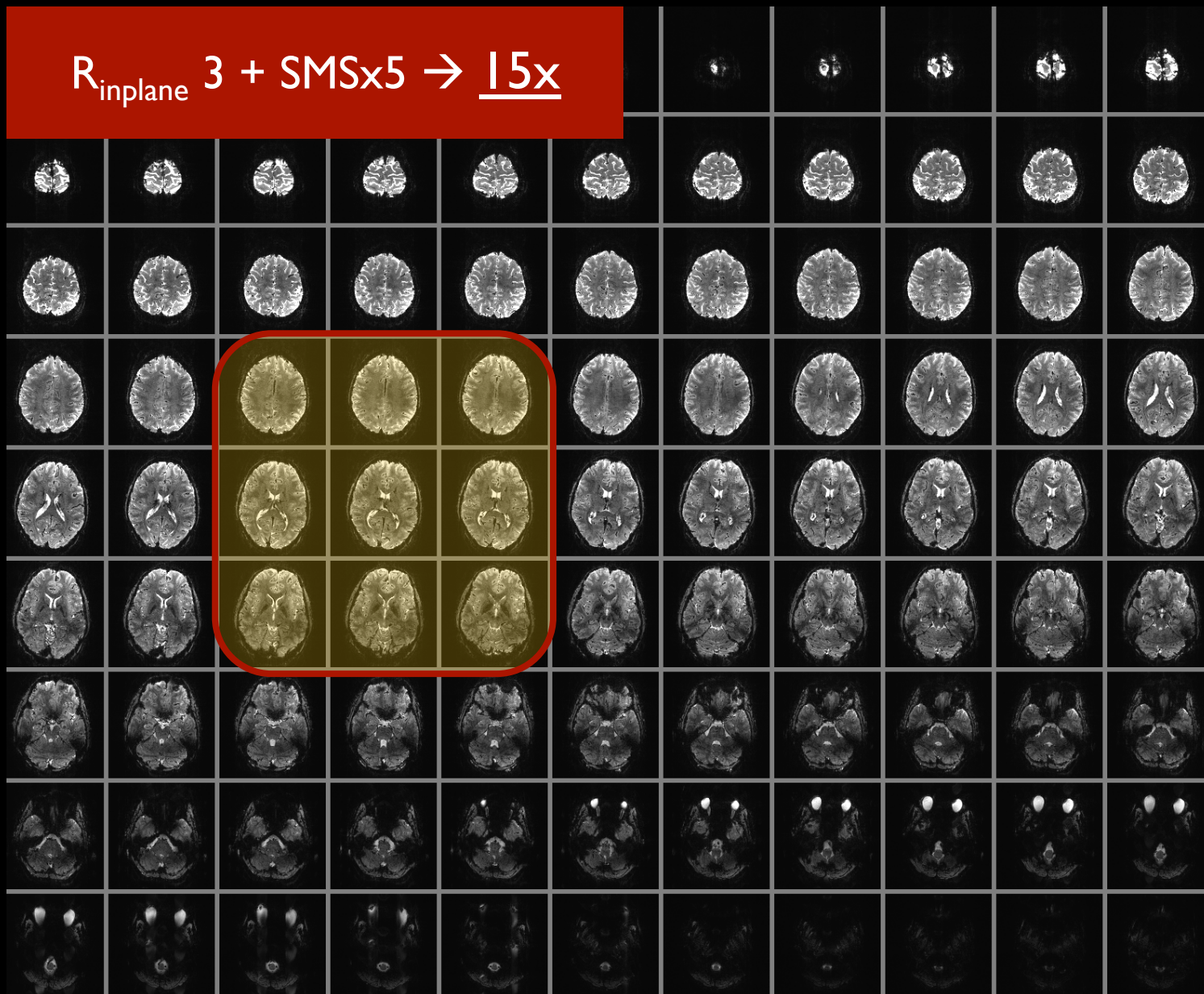
Motor  
Network

Visual  
Network

Fronto-parietal  
Control Network

# 7T, 32 chn. coil, 1.5mm isotropic

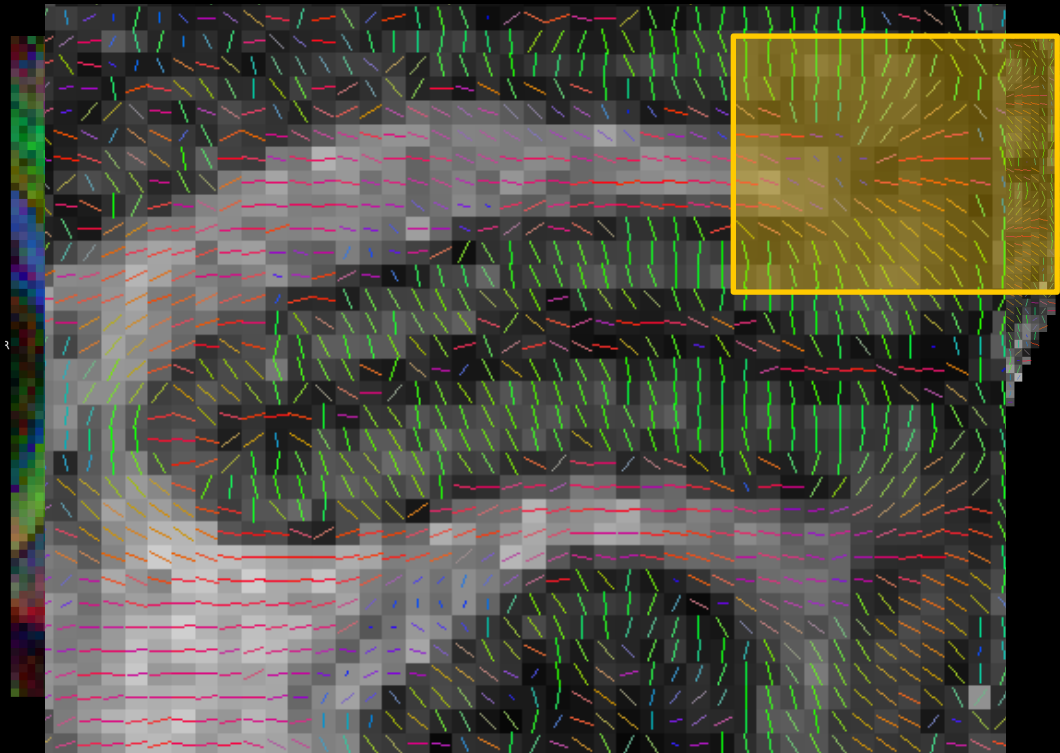
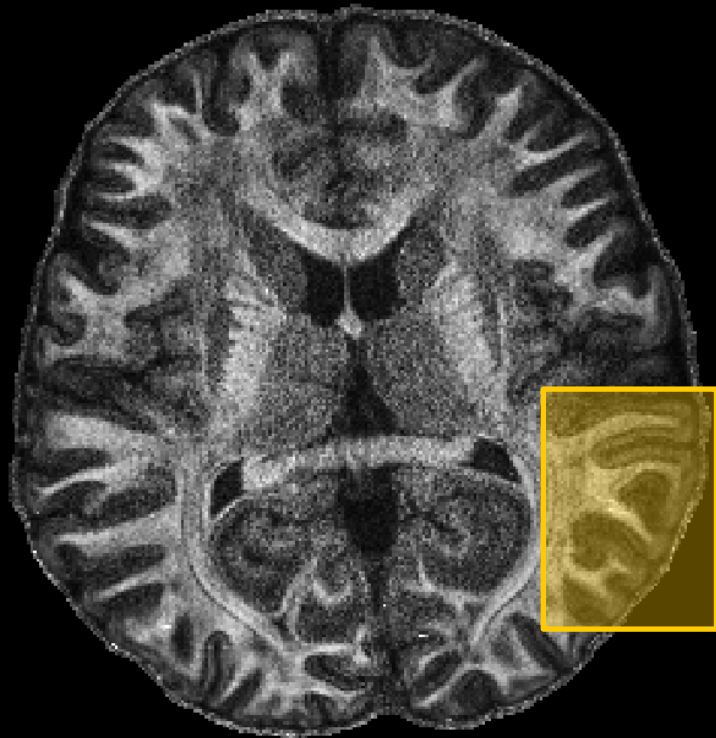
$R_{\text{inplane}} 3 + \text{SMS} \times 5 \rightarrow \underline{15x}$



# Super-resolution & SMS [1]:

660  $\mu\text{m}$  isotropic, whole-brain,  $b = 1500 \text{ s/mm}^2$

## Fractional Anisotropy (FA)



Multiple voxels across Gray Matter at this resolution

SMSx2

$$R_{\text{zoom}} \times R_{\text{grappa}} = 3.5 (1.74 \times 2)$$

64 directions

scan time: 1hr 40 min

# Overview

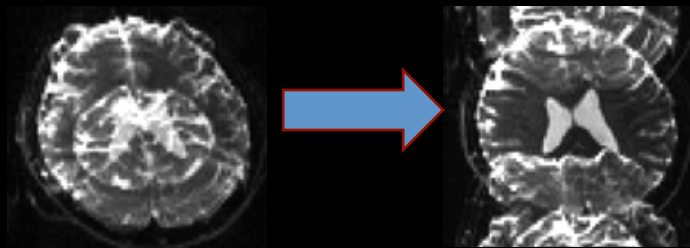
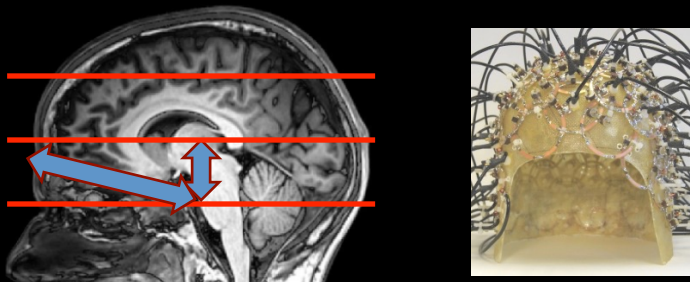
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(slides: Kawin Setsompop)
- SMS Wave-CAIPI:  
Whole brain  $1\text{mm}^3$  Turbo Spin Echo in 70 sec
- ❖ Wave-CAIPI provides even better g-factor than Blipped-CAIPI

# Controlled Aliasing in Parallel Imaging (CAIPI)

Increase distance btw aliased voxel to make better use of 3D coil sensitivities

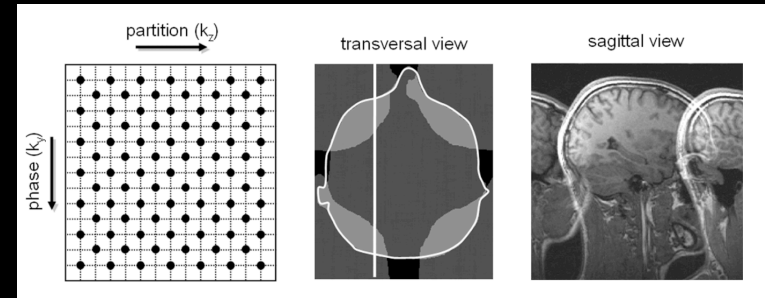
## Simultaneous MultiSlice (SMS)

Blipped-CAIPI<sup>1</sup>



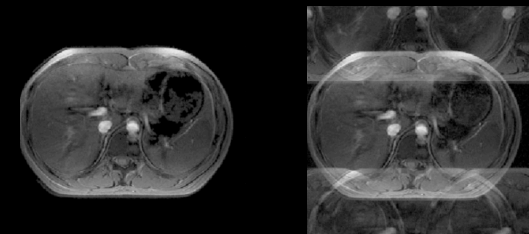
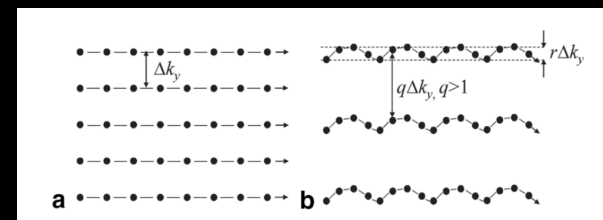
Full 3D imaging

2D-CAIPI<sup>2</sup> (y-z)



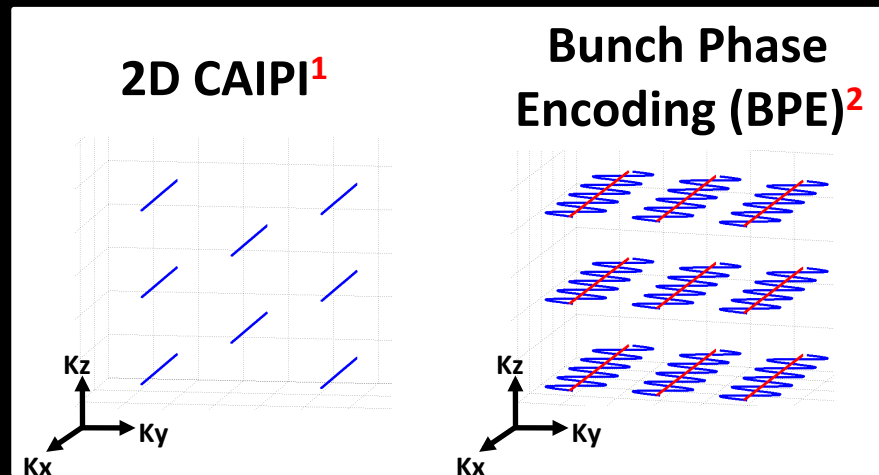
2D imaging

Bunched Phase Encoding<sup>3</sup> (x-y)

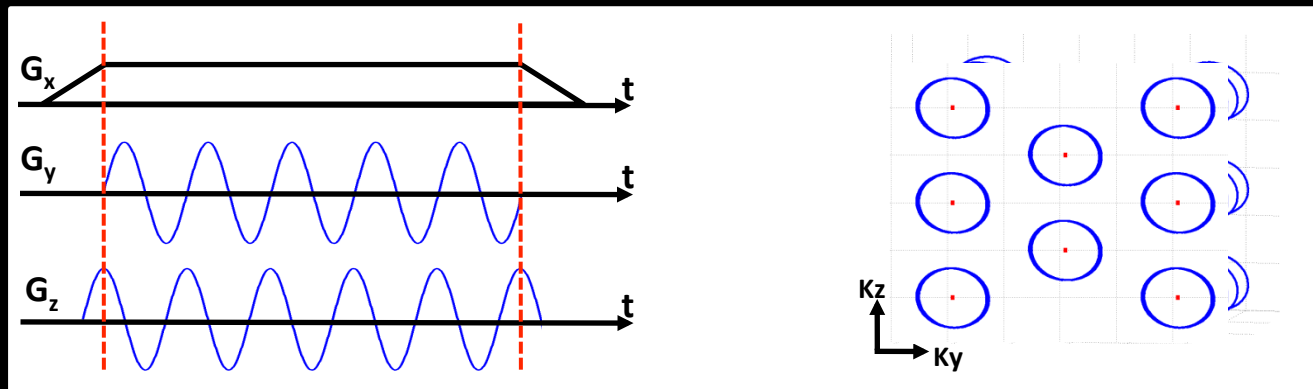


# Wave-CAIPI Sampling<sup>3,4</sup>

- Recent modifications to rectilinear k-space sampling provided more robust reconstructions of highly under-sampled datasets



- Wave-CAIPI: 2D CAIPI + BPE in 2 directions
- Spread aliasing in 3D to take full advantage of 3D coil profiles

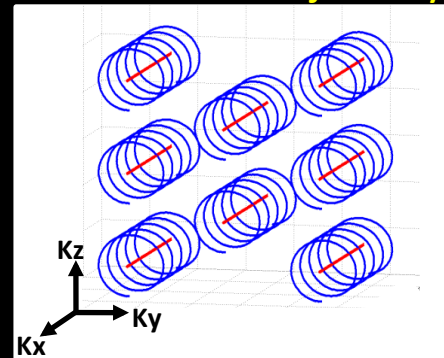




# Wave-CAIPI Improves G-factor

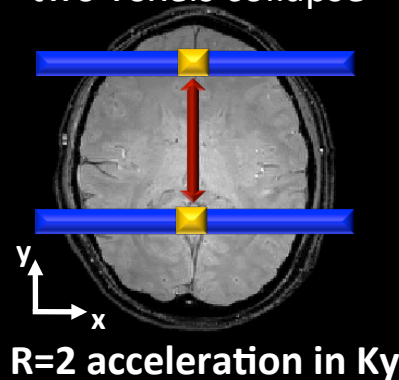
- Wave-CAIPI modifies the 3D acquisition trajectory to follow a corkscrew along each readout line [1]
- This trajectory incurs voxel spreading in the readout (x) direction
- For accelerated acquisitions, this spreads the aliasing in all 3D dimensions to substantially improve parallel imaging

Wave-CAIPI trajectory



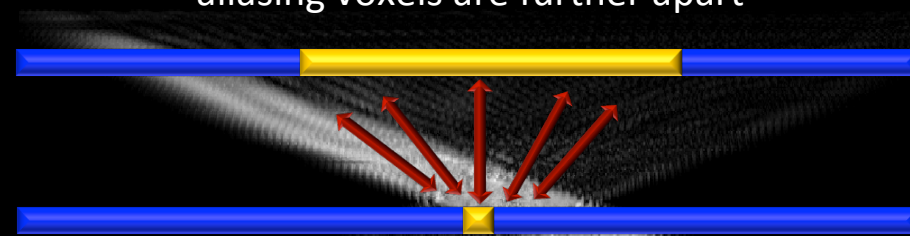
## Normal SENSE

two voxels collapse



## Wave-CAIPI

aliasing voxels are further apart



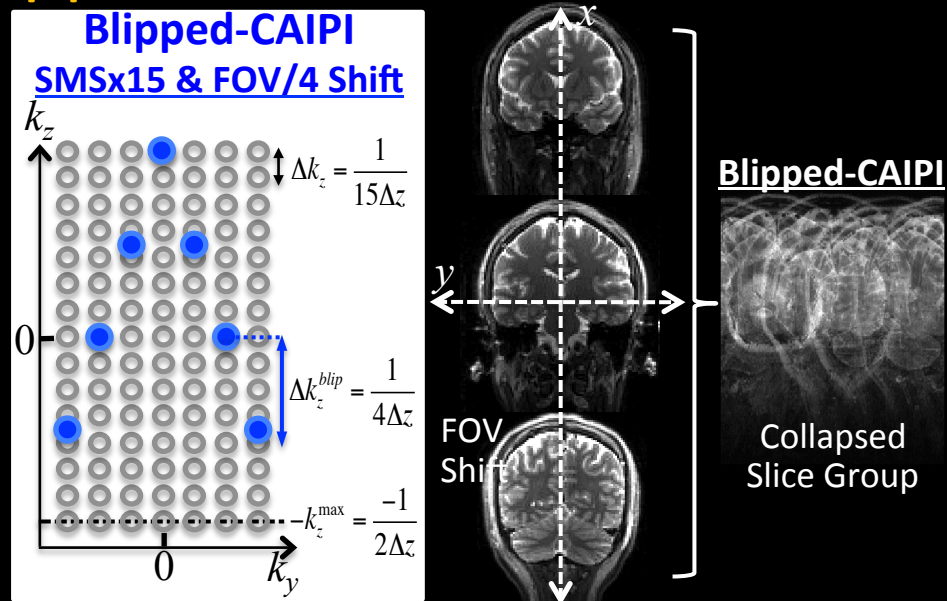
Aliasing voxels are spread out to increase the variation in coil sensitivity profiles:

**Improved G-Factor**

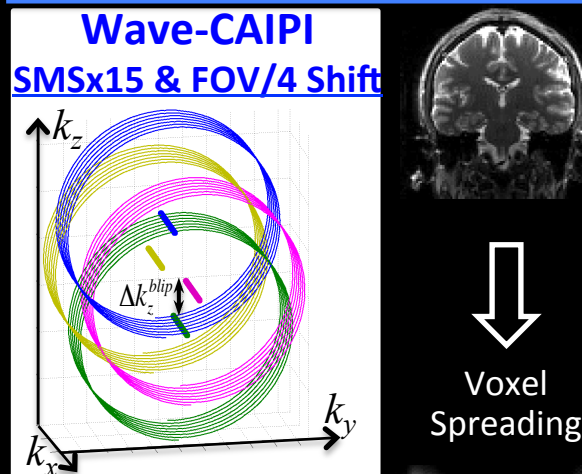
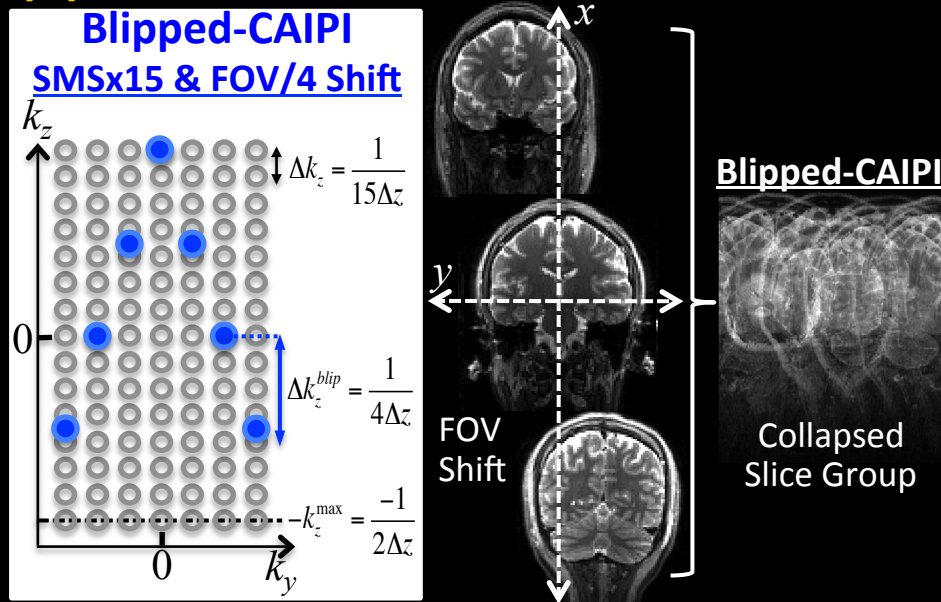
# SMS Wave-CAIPI for Turbo Spin Echo (TSE)

- TSE is the most commonly used clinical sequence, allowing rapid acquisition by sampling multiple k-space lines per  $90^\circ$  RF
- In-plane acceleration can improve efficiency, but suffers from intrinsic  $\sqrt{R}$  SNR penalty and g-factor noise amplification
- SMS enables acceleration without  $\sqrt{R}$  penalty, since number of k-space lines is not reduced
- SMS Wave-CAIPI further improves g-factor

# Blipped- and Wave-CAIPI for SMS



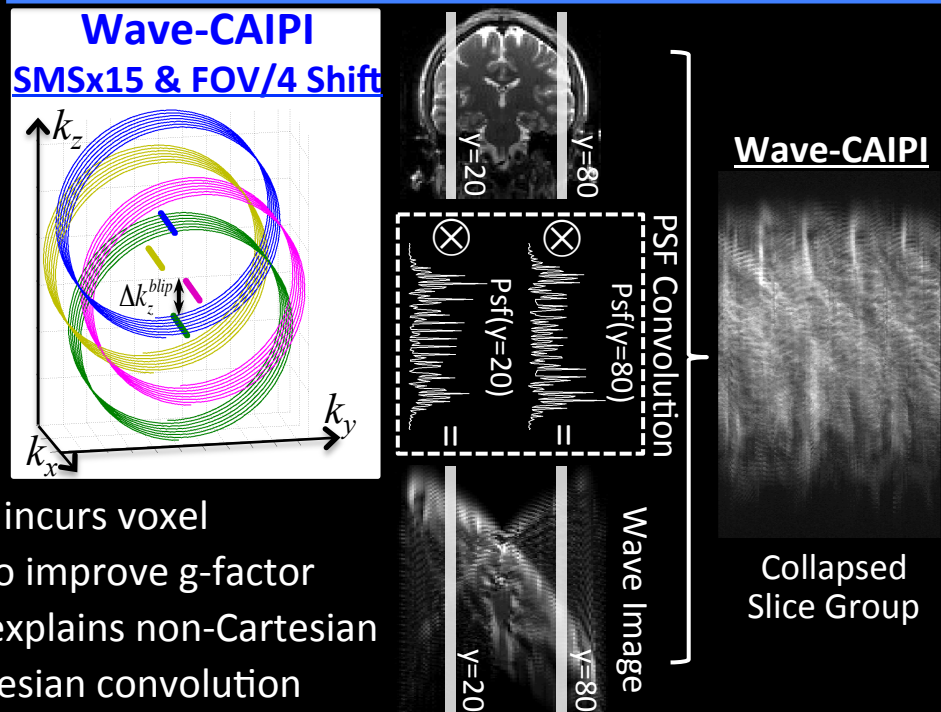
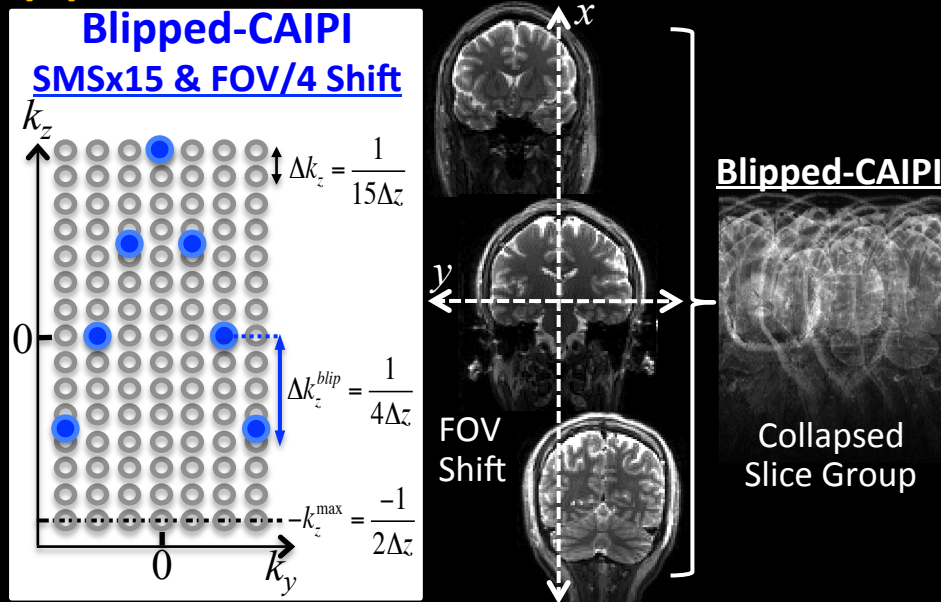
# Blipped- and Wave-CAIPI for SMS



- Helix trajectory incurs voxel spreading in 3D to improve g-factor



# Blipped- and Wave-CAIPI for SMS

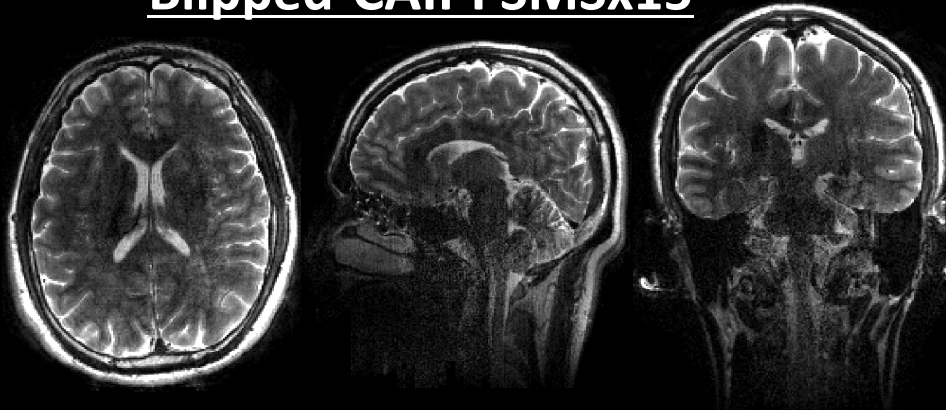


- Helix trajectory incurs voxel spreading in 3D to improve g-factor
- PSF formalism explains non-Cartesian sampling via Cartesian convolution

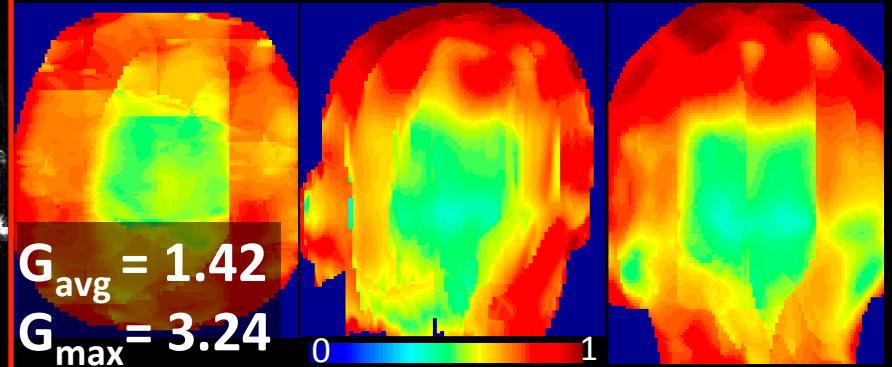
TSE @ 3T, 1 mm<sup>3</sup> voxels, T<sub>acq</sub>=70 sec

# SMSx15

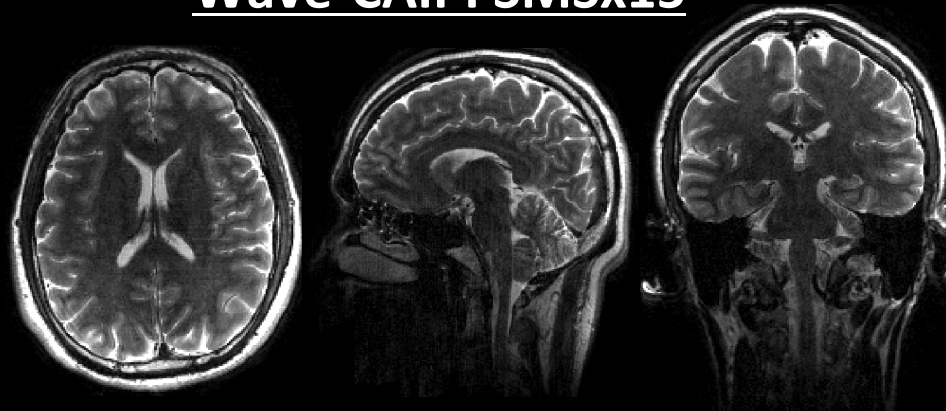
## Blipped-CAIPI SMSx15



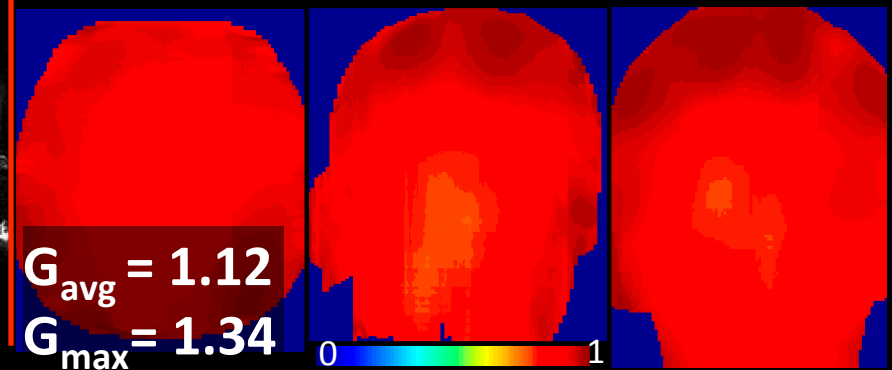
## 1/g-factor: Blipped-CAIPI SMSx15



## Wave-CAIPI SMSx15



## 1/g-factor: Wave-CAIPI SMSx15



# TSE @ 1 mm<sup>3</sup> iso voxels, T<sub>acq</sub> = 70 sec

SENSE

R=5x In-plane



both g-factor  
and sqrt(R)  
noise penalty

Blipped-CAIPI

SMSx15



only g-factor  
no sqrt(R)  
noise penalty

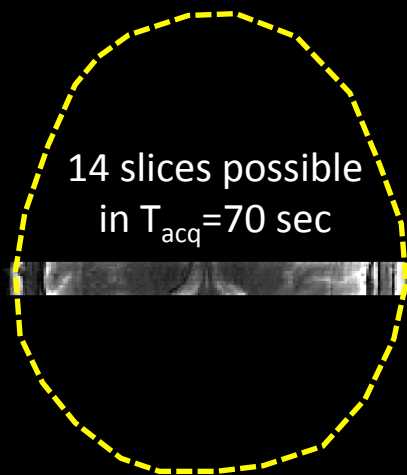
Wave-CAIPI

SMSx15



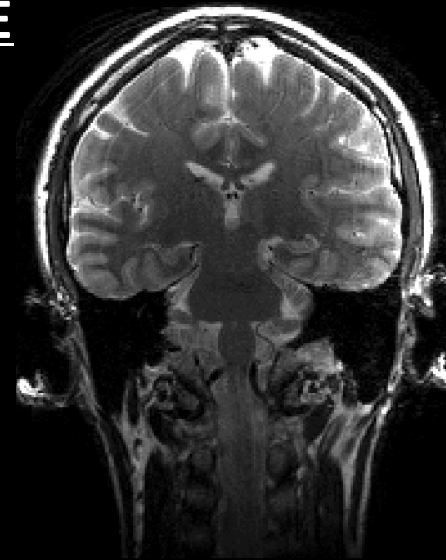
small g-factor  
no sqrt(R)  
noise penalty

# SMS Wave-CAIPI at SMSx15 allows whole-brain TSE @ 1 mm<sup>3</sup> iso in 70 sec

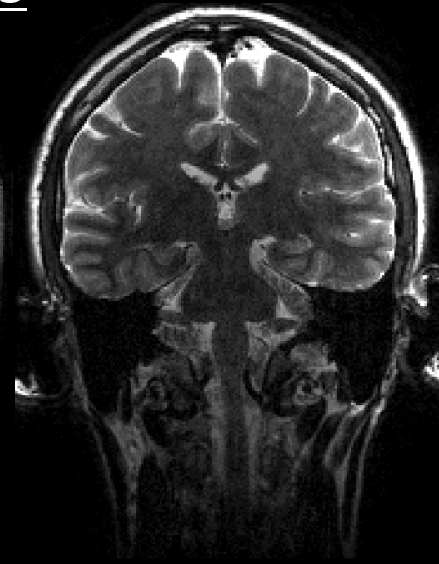
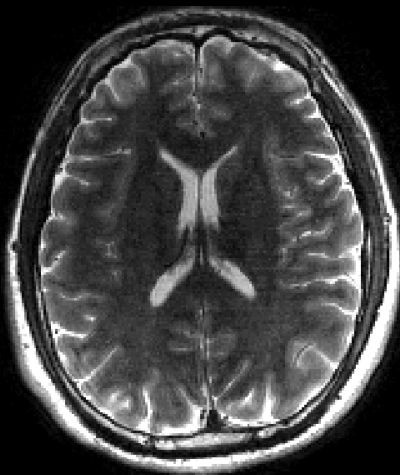


avg over 3mm slabs

## Fully-Sampled TSE



## Wave-CAIPI SMSx15





- Questions / comments:  
**[berkin@nmr.mgh.harvard.edu](mailto:berkin@nmr.mgh.harvard.edu)**
- Matlab software and data online for SMS Wave-CAIPI:  
**[martinos.org/~berkin](http://martinos.org/~berkin)**
- **Acknowledgement**  
NIH NIBIB P41-EB015896, 1U01MH093765,  
R00EB012107, R24MH106096

**Thank you for your attention**