

# Three-Dimension Fiber Architecture of the Human Heart *In Vivo*

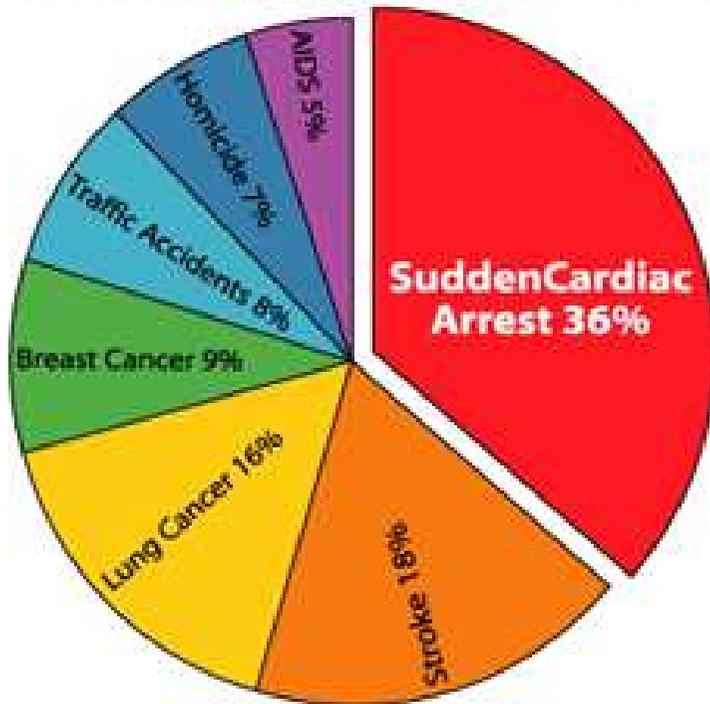
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## Why we study the heart fiber structure?

Causes of Death Annually for all Americans

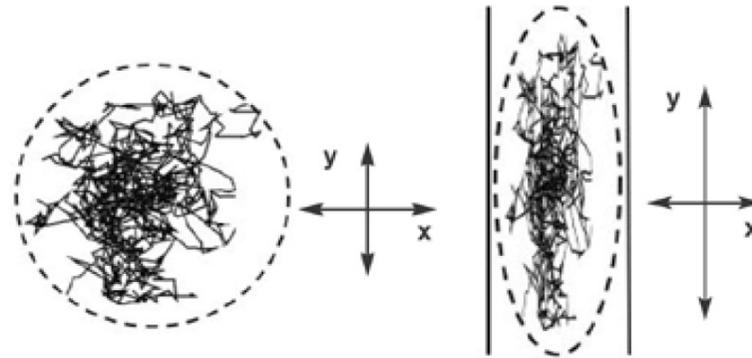


- According to the survey of 2011, the heart disease is mainly responsible for the death of people.
- The cardiac fiber structure plays an important role in ensuring normal functions of the heart.
- In order to discover these diseases as early as possible, we need to understand the relation between disease and heart fiber structure .

Fig1. The pie chart for the causes of death in 2011

<http://www.tiptoptens.com/2011/01/12/top-10-leading-causes-of-death-in-the-world-2010-2011/>

# Motivation

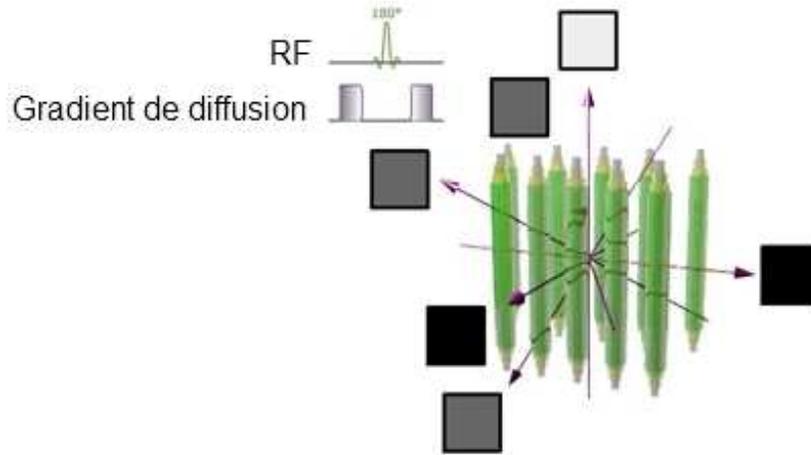


Unrestricted

Tissue boundaries

Water molecules diffusion without (left) and with (right) restriction.

- The displacement of water molecules can reflect the microstructures of the human heart.

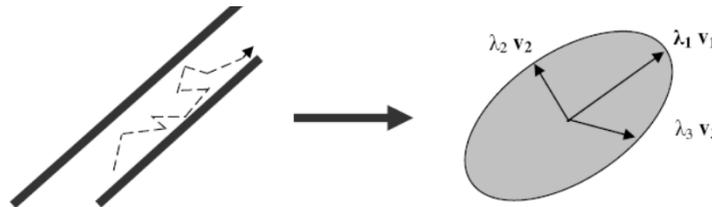


$$SI = S_0 \cdot e^{-bD}$$

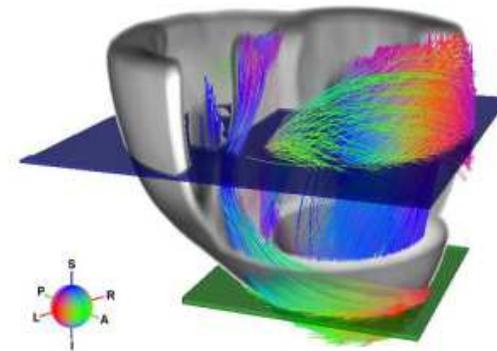
(Stejskal, 1965)

Diffusion coefficient

$$D = \begin{bmatrix} D_{xx} & D_{yx} & D_{zx} \\ D_{xy} & D_{yy} & D_{zy} \\ D_{xz} & D_{yz} & D_{zz} \end{bmatrix} \quad D_{prin} = \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \lambda_3 \end{bmatrix}$$



Simulated fibers and the ellipoid representing the diffusion



Fiber tracking

## Why DTI is difficult to obtain in the heart *in vivo*?

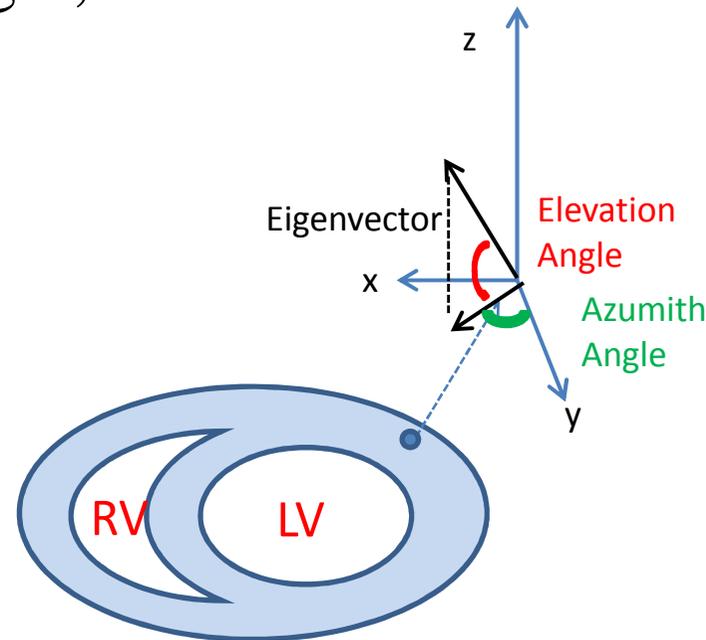
- $D \sim 10^{-3} \text{mm}^2/\text{s}$ . Heart velocity  $0 \sim 5 \text{cm/s}$ . Heart motion much higher than  $D$ ! the measurement of  $D$  is not easy.
- Large signal loss in diffusion weighted (DW) images due to physiological motion (cardiac and breathing motion) are superimposed on top of the DW images.

# Objective

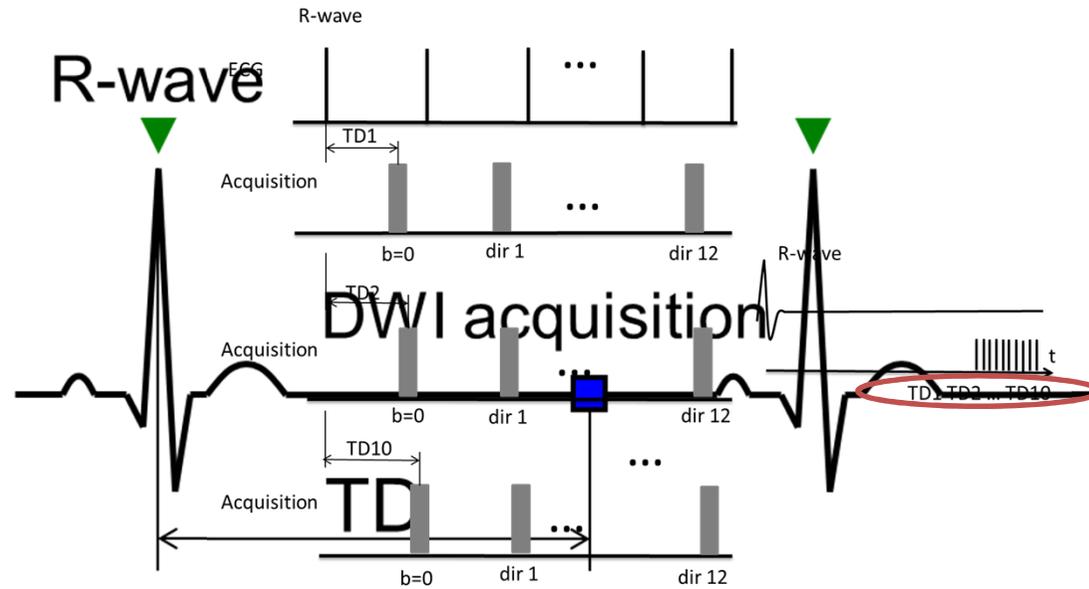
- To obtain *in vivo* cardiac fiber architecture of the human heart in free-breathing conditions

# Image analysis & Assessment of fiber architecture properties

We calculate fractional anisotropy (FA), mean diffusivity (MD), fiber angle, tensor field and 3D fiber architecture



Determination of fiber helix angle



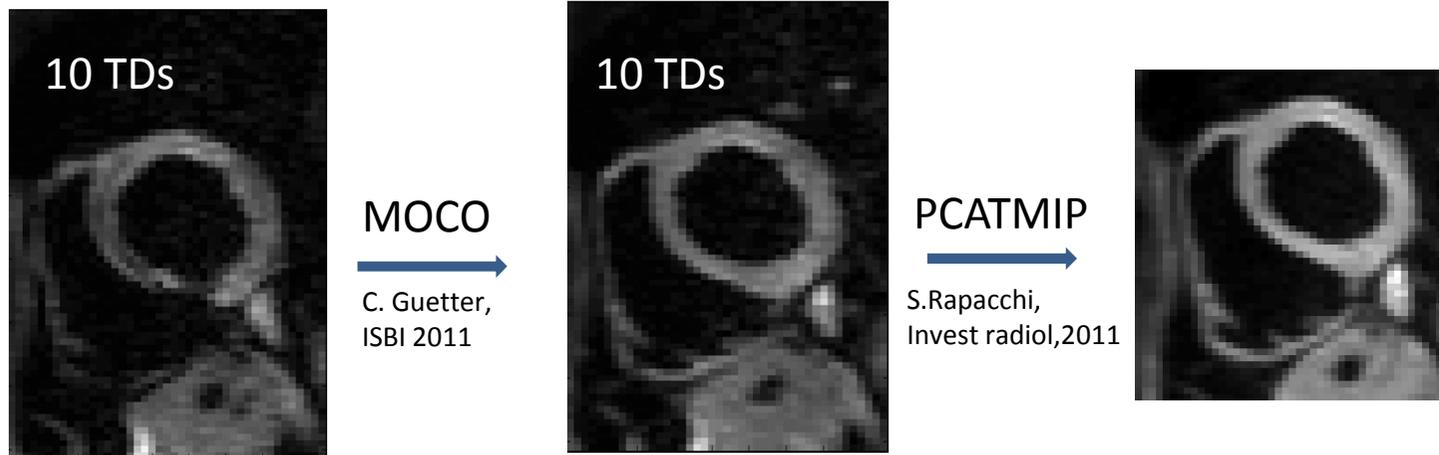
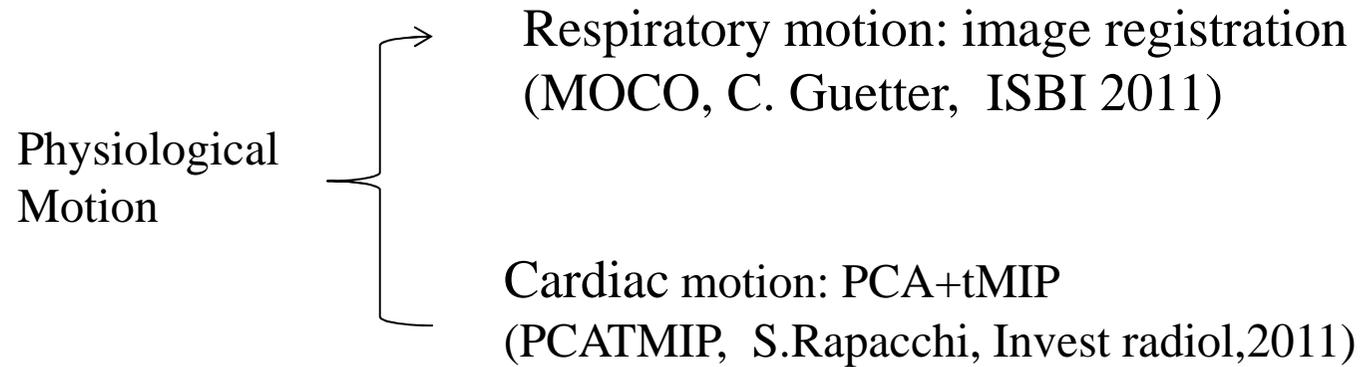
Trigger delay (TD) acquisition is optimized diastolic time point.

$b = 200 \text{ s/mm}^2$   
 $TE/TR = 51/100 \text{ ms}$ ,  
 Resolution =  $2.6 \times 2.6 \times 6 \text{ mm}$ ,  
 acceleration rate = 2 (GRAPPA),  
 partial Fourier = 6/8,  
 Matrix =  $90 \times 160$ ,

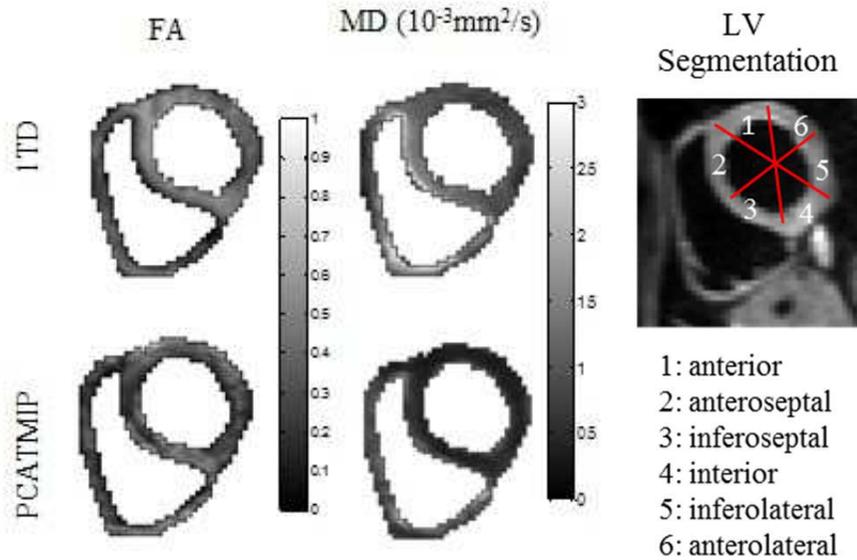
10 DT-MRI slices across the whole heart.

Scan time:  $(12 \text{ direction} + b0) \times 10 \text{ Trigger delay} \times 10 \text{ slices} = 1300 \text{ R-R} \sim 25 \text{ mins}$

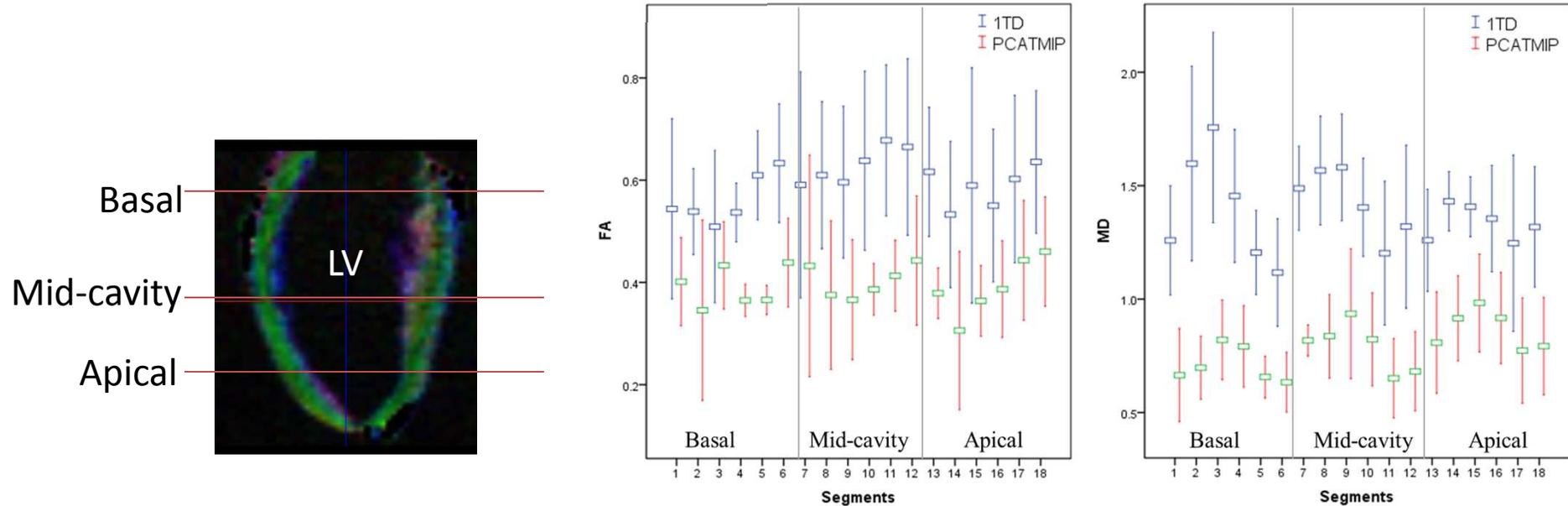
# *In vivo* cardiac DTI with FB: Post-processing



# In vivo cardiac DTI with FB: Results



In vivo cardiac DTI parameters and LV segmentation



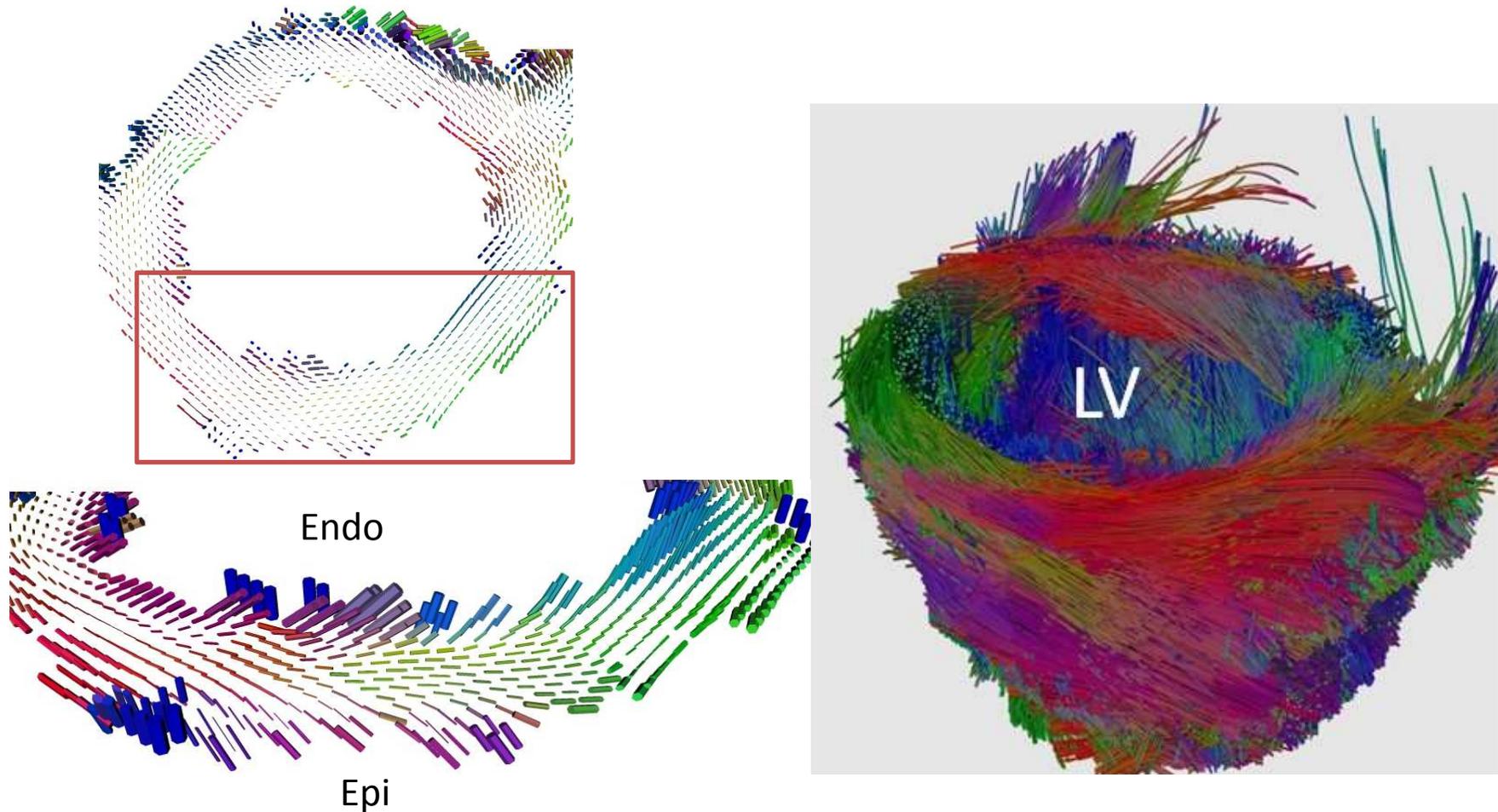
In vivo cardiac DTI parameters in different segments (mean  $\pm$  SD)

*In vivo* cardiac DTI: Results

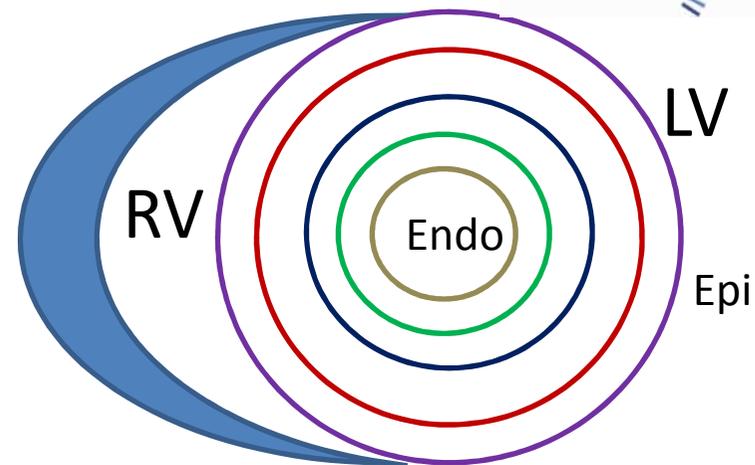
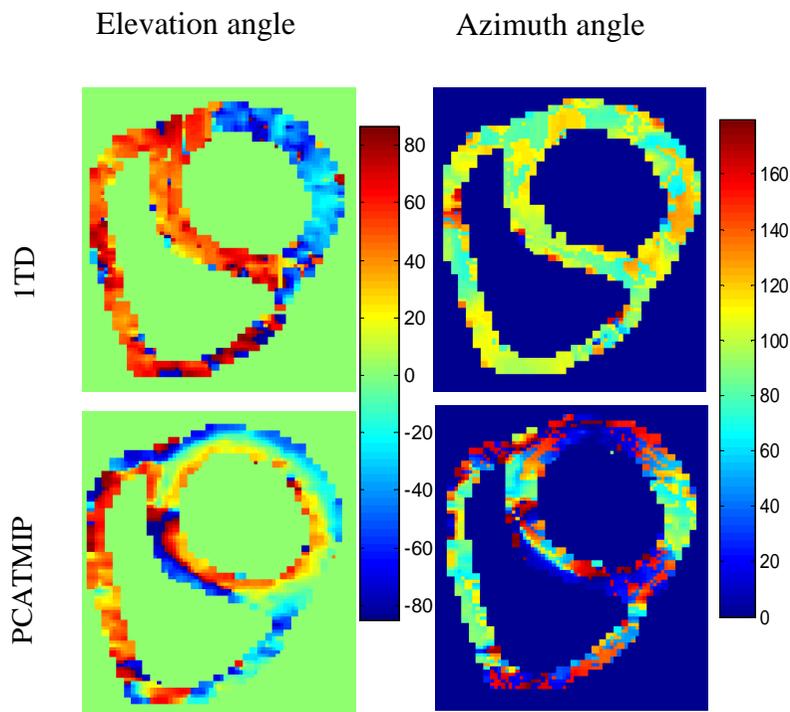
		Basal	Mid-cavity	Apical
FA	1TD	0.56±0.16	0.63±0.17	0.59±0.15
	PCATMIP	0.39±0.09	0.40±0.1	0.39±0.08
MD	1TD	1.40±0.37	1.43±0.28	1.34±0.24
	PCATMIP	0.75±0.16	0.79±0.20	0.87±0.21

Mean ± SD FA and MD values of the LV over 6 volunteers. MD values are in units of  $10^{-3}\text{mm}^2/\text{s}$ .

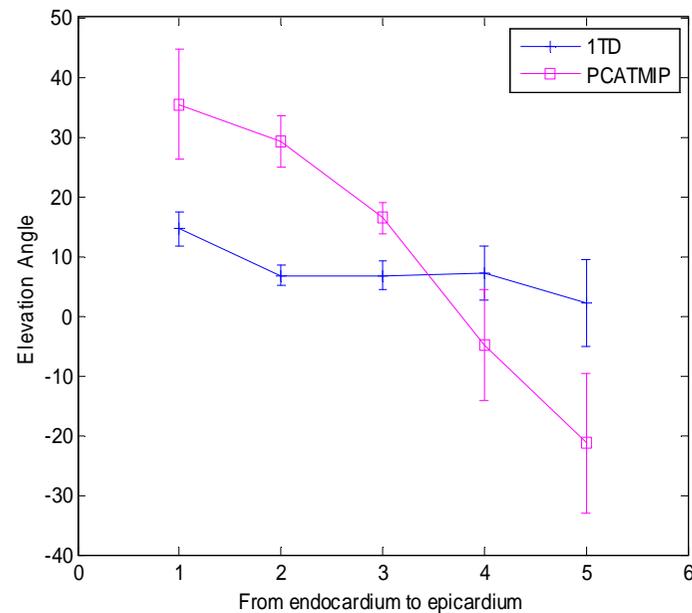
### *In vivo* cardiac DTI with FB: Results



In vivo 3D fiber architecture of a volunteer, obtained after interpolating the tensor field derived from PCATMIP method.



the LV wall segmentation



# Conclusions

- The combined use of registration and PCATMIP allows us to obtain *in vivo* 3D fiber architecture of the human heart with free-breathing.

# Perspectives

- Enhancement of diffusion signals in *in vivo* cardiac DTI through exploiting temporal frames
- Faster acquisition and try to obtain multi-phase tractographies...

Thanks for your attention