



# Can we combine computer aided diagnosis with radiologist expertise?

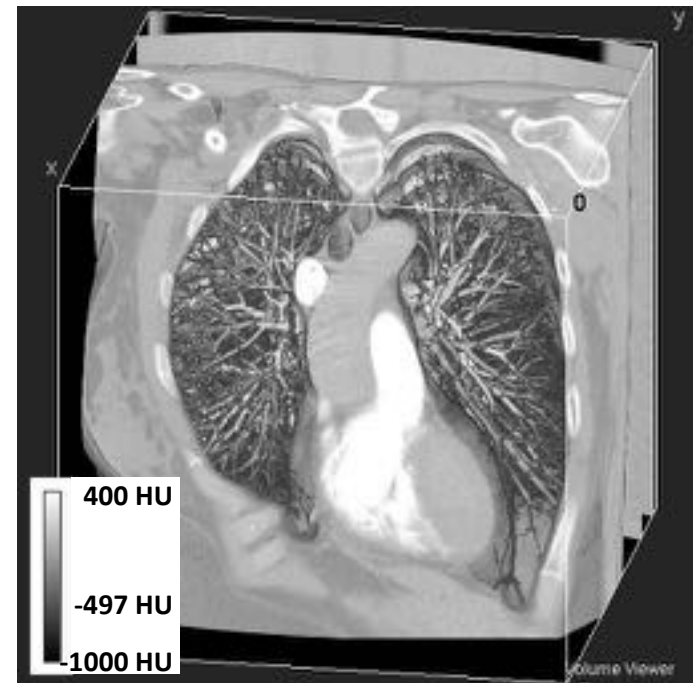
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Faculty of Physics  
Department of Biomolecular Physics

<http://www.phys.ubbcluj.ro/~zoltan.balint/>



Ludwig Boltzmann Institute  
Lung Vascular Research



17/03/2017

2016 - Image courtesy of M. Pienn, Z. Bálint, H. Olschewski



# 1. Computer aided diagnosis – CAD

- the use of computer algorithms to aid the image interpretation process
- used as computer aided/assisted detection, too
  
- (a) CAD should improve radiologists' performance
- (b) CAD should save time
- (c) CAD must be seamlessly integrated into the workflow
- (d) CAD should not impose liability concerns and the incremental cost

Computer-aided Diagnosis: How to Move from the Laboratory to the Clinic  
– Ginneken et al 2011 Radiology

# 1. Computer aided diagnosis – CAD

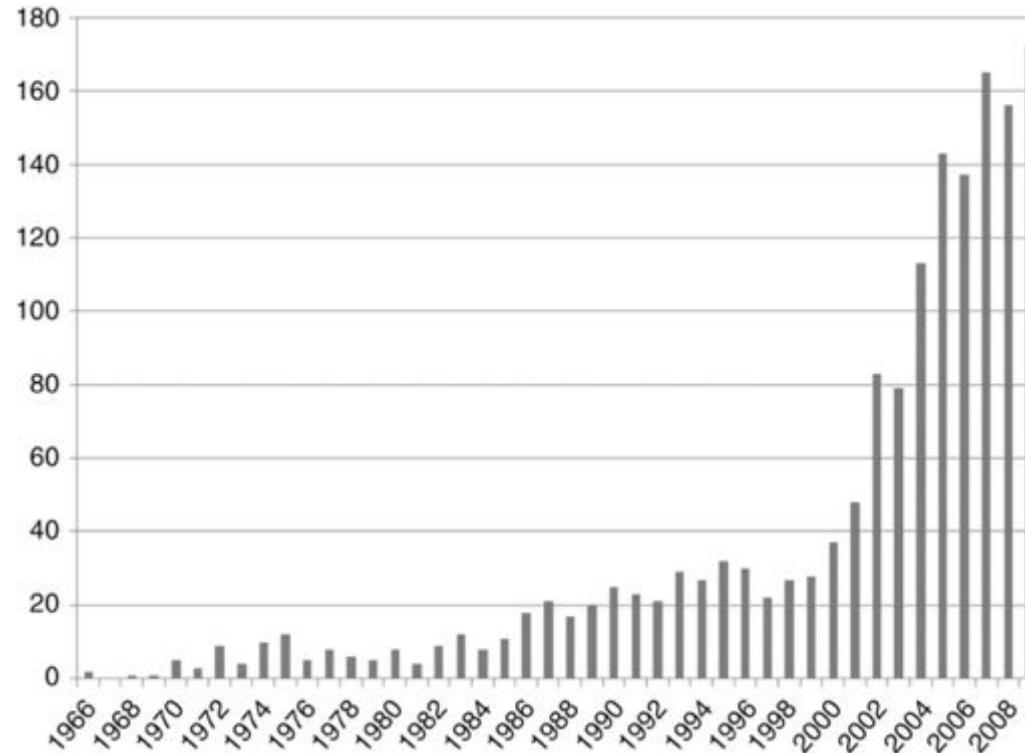


Figure 1: Graph shows number of publications on or related to CAD per year from 1966 through 2009 (last bar). Data were obtained from a PubMed search with search term “computer-aided diagnosis”[Title/Abstract] OR “computer-aided detection”[Title/Abstract] OR “computer-assisted diagnosis”[Title/Abstract] OR “computer-assisted detection”[Title/Abstract].

Computer-aided Diagnosis: How to Move from the Laboratory to the Clinic  
– Ginneken et al 2011 Radiology

# 1. Computer aided diagnosis – CAD

- Preprocessing
- Segmentation
- Candidate detection
- Feature extraction
- Classification
- System output



Figure 4: Radiograph of the left hand and wrist analyzed with BoneXpert. The program reconstructs the borders of 15 bones and estimates bone age for 13 bones, displayed. These are combined with a nonlinear function to obtain the Greulich Pyle bone age, 9.03 years for this case. Running time for the analysis was 4 seconds.

Computer-aided Diagnosis: How to Move from the Laboratory to the Clinic  
– Ginneken et al 2011 Radiology





Ludwig Boltzmann Institute  
Lung Vascular Research

Graz, Austria

<http://lvr.lbg.ac.at>



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# Acknowledgements



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Dr. Caroline Burgard



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Dr. Robert Neuwirth, Dr. Emine Talakic,  
Dr. Carmen Salvan-Schaschl, Dr. Eszter Nagy



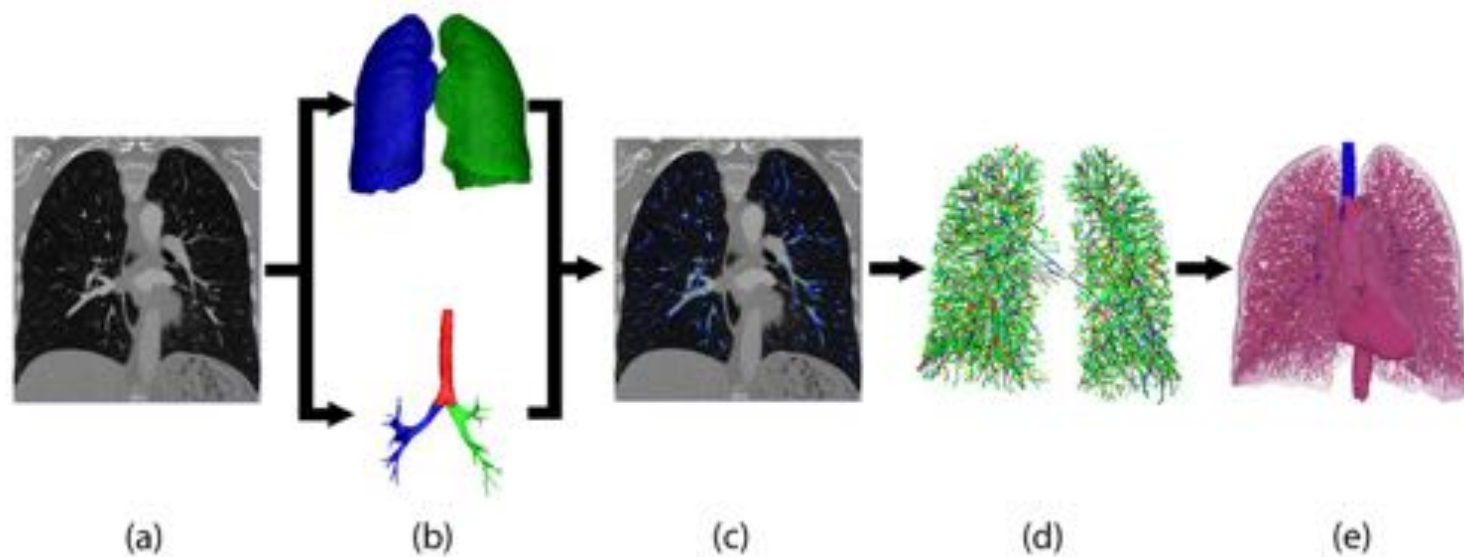
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Prof. Thomas Pock

**DIAGNOSTIKZENTRUMGRAZ**

Wolfgang Loidl  
Univ.-Doz. Peter Kullnig

# Software development for semi-automated CT image analysis

Aim: automatic extraction and analysis of lung vessels from computed tomography (CT) images





# Idea: automatic artery-vein separation

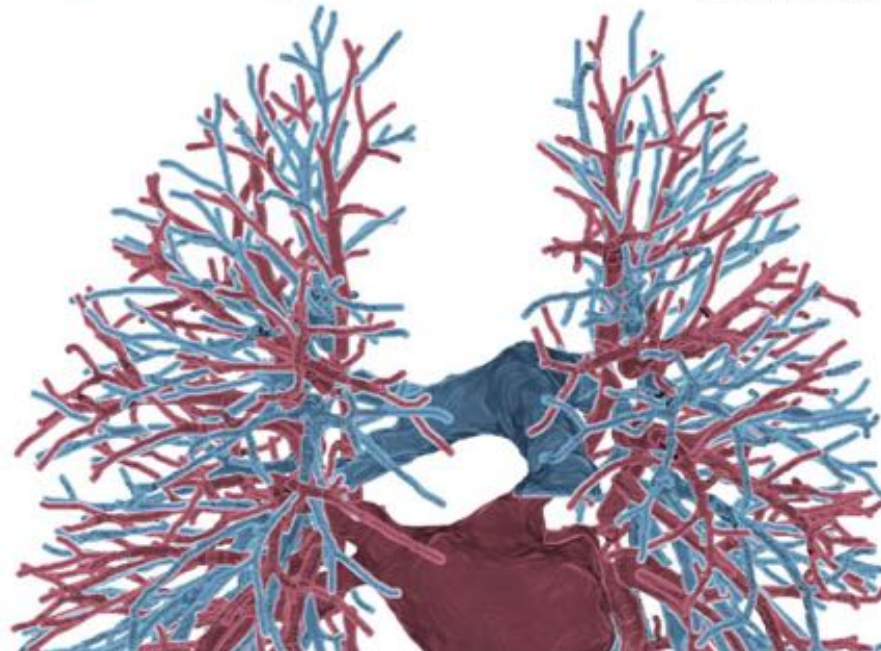
## 11.11.2013



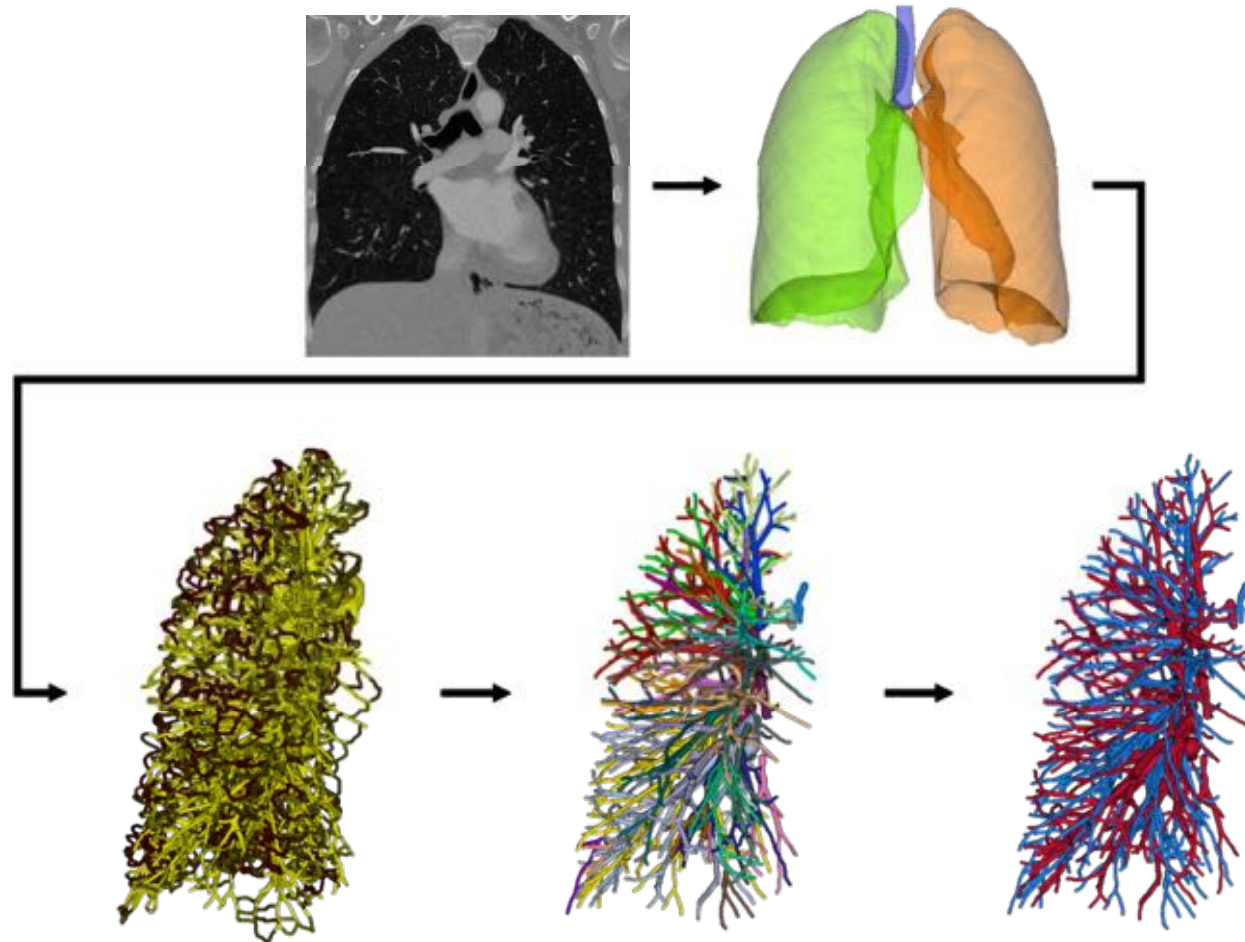
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Lung Vascular Research



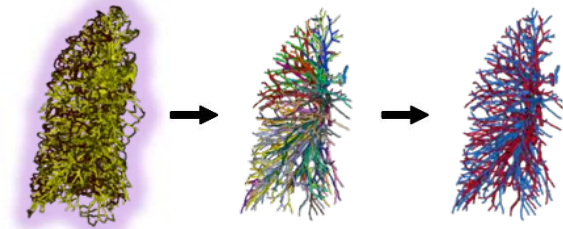
Ludwig Boltzmann Institute  
Clinical Forensic Imaging



# Algorithm overview



# 4D path graph



## Goal:

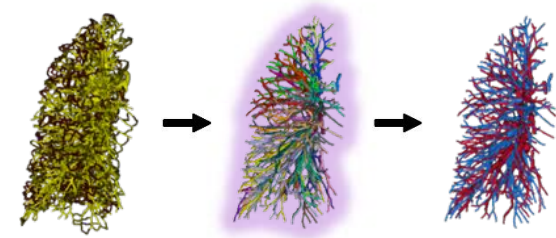
- create overcomplete vessel graph  $G = (V, E)$ 
  - probable and improbable paths

## Approach:

- 4D vessel enhancement
- local maxima graph
- 4D tubular paths



# Subtree extraction

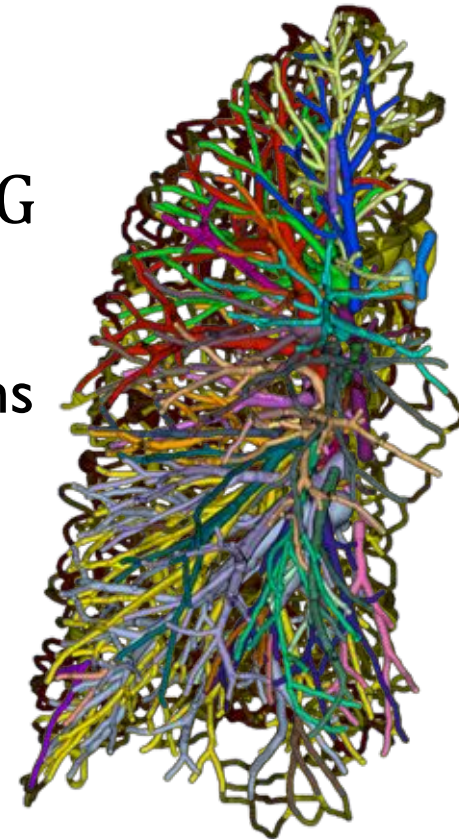


## Goal:

- extract subtrees  $s_i$  from graph  $G$ 
  - multiple subtrees
  - no distinction of arteries and veins

## Approach:

- integer program
  - geometric relationship of paths
  - implicit root detection

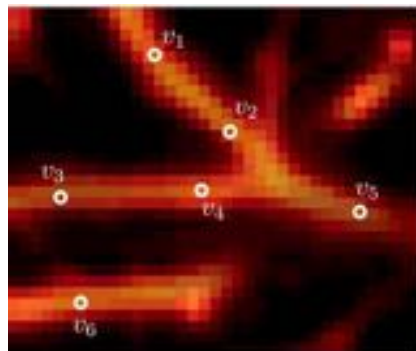




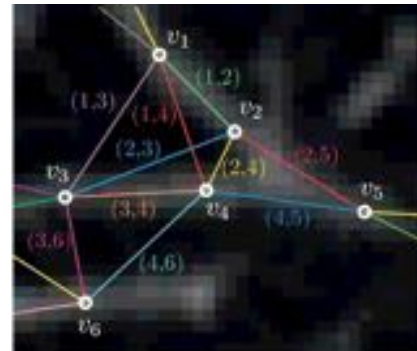
# Geometric relationship of paths

Weight for adjoining path pairs:

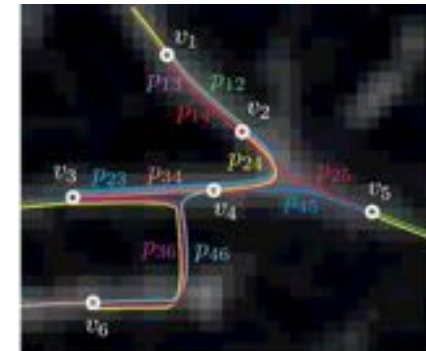
1. short geodesic distance
  - tube-like structures
2. high orientation similarity
  - no abrupt direction changes
3. decreasing radius
  - from proximal to distal vessels



(a) Local maxima



(b) Neighbor edges



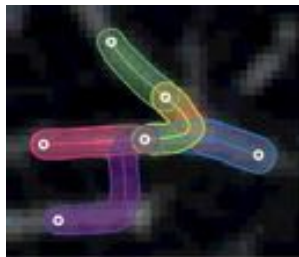
(c) Paths



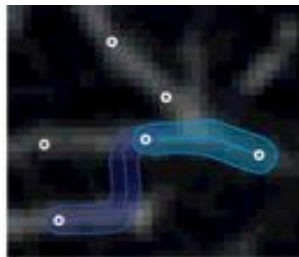
# Geometric relationship of paths

Weight for adjoining path pairs:

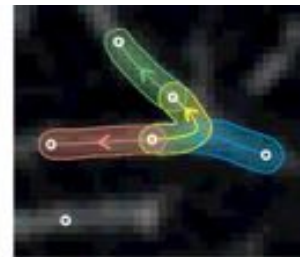
1. short geodesic distance
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2. high orientation similarity
  - no abrupt direction changes
3. decreasing radius
  - from proximal to distal vessels



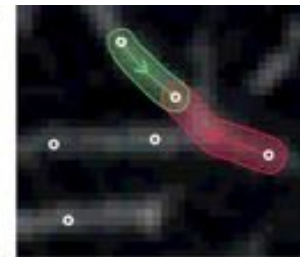
(a) Example path graph



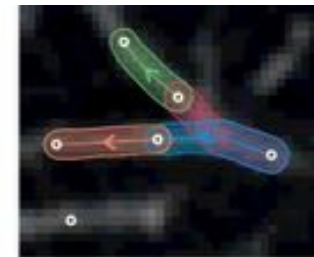
(b) Large distance weight



(c) Large direction weight

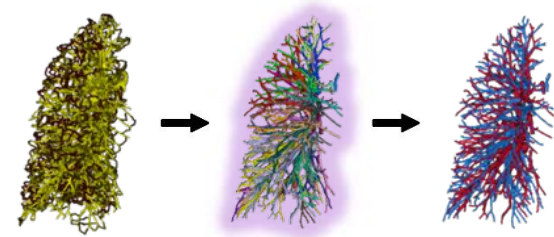


(d) Large radius weight



(e) Extracted subtree

# A/V labeling of subtrees

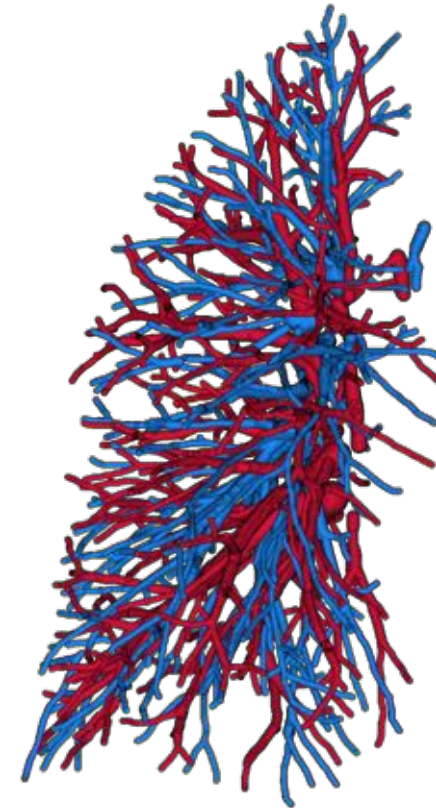


## Goal:

- label each extracted subtree  $s_i$  as artery or vein

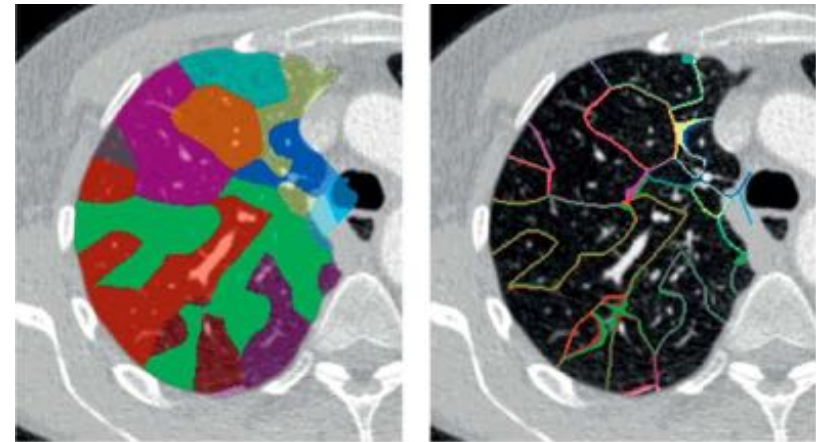
## Approach:

- integer program
- use two anatomical properties
  - uniform distribution of A/V
  - proximity of arteries and bronchi



# Uniform distribution of A/V

- calculate generalized Voronoi diagram
  - estimate nearest subtree for every voxel
- maximize the contact surface of the Voronoi regions
  - encourages uniform distribution



(a) Slice of a GVD

(b) Slice of GVD borders



(c) GVD



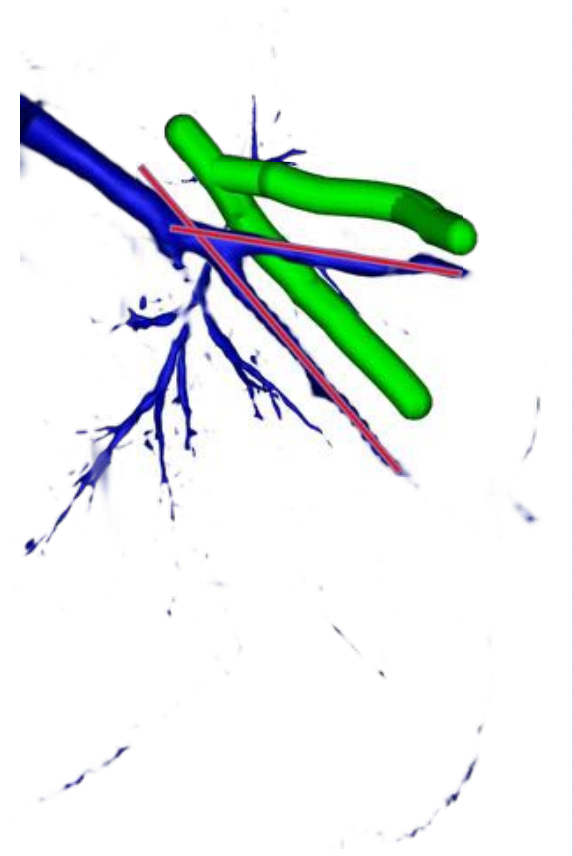
(d) GVD borders



(e) GVD borders maximizing area

# Proximity of arteries and bronchi

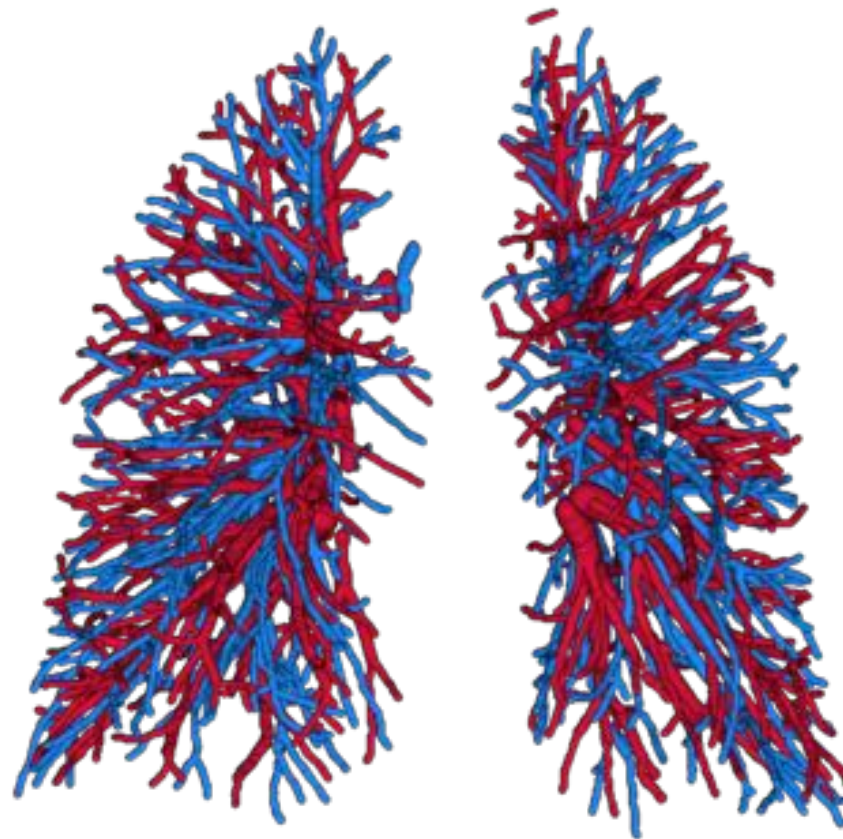
- “arterialness” per vessel segment
- bronchus enhancement
  - similar to vessel enhancement
- identify bronchus points close to vessels
- fit line through detected points
- final measure based on orientation and proximity





## Results

fully automatic artery/vein separation  
from CT volumes



arteries: blue  
veins: red



# Evaluation

25 datasets with manual A/V segmentation

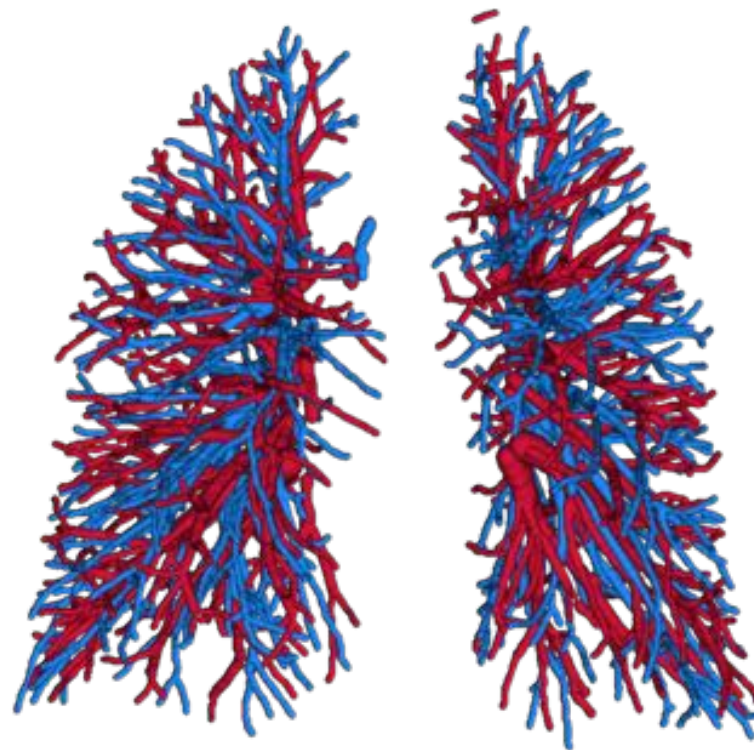
- size: approx. 512x512x512 voxel
- voxel: approx. 0.6x0.6x0.6 mm

methods evaluated:

- proposed method
- state-of-the-art semi automatic (Park et al.)

# Results

manual segmentation of 25 data sets for validation:  
E. Talakic, E. Nagy, D. Scherjau, C. Payer



arteries: blue  
veins: red

# Overlap with manual segmentation

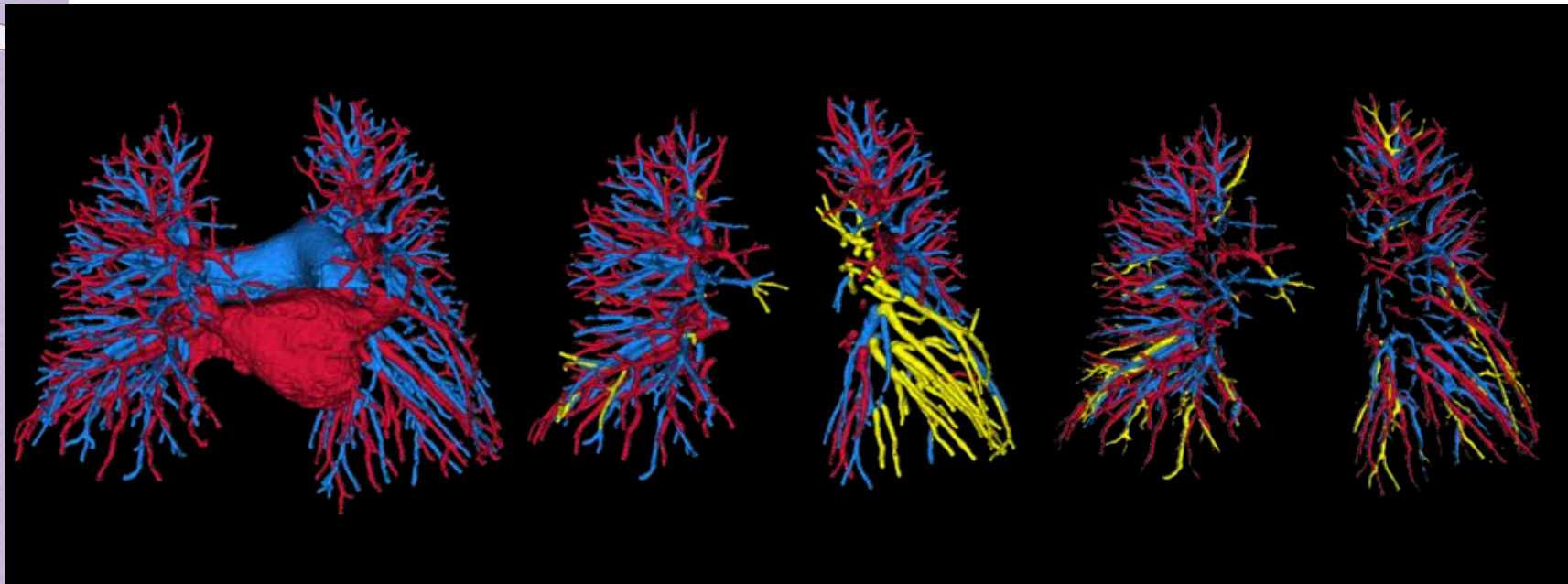


Manual reference

Proposed method

Park et al.

# Overlap with manual segmentation



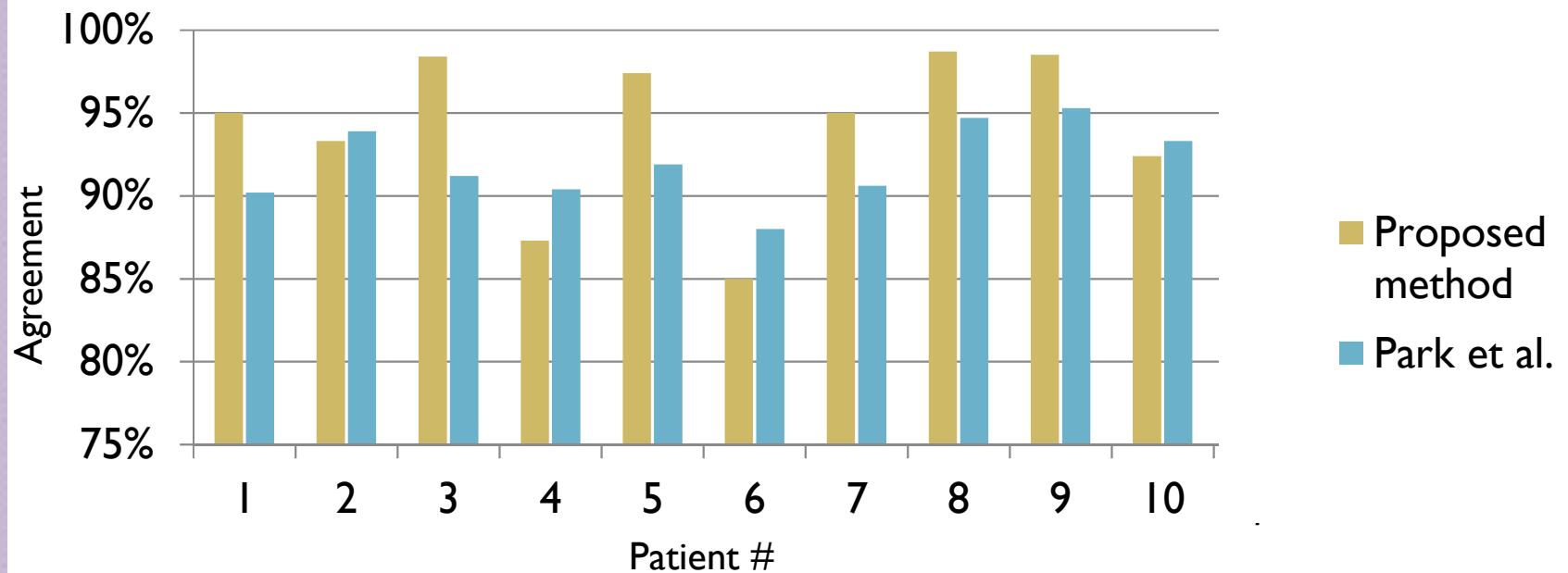
Manual reference

Proposed method

Park et al.

# Overlap with manual segmentation

$$\text{agreement} = \frac{|A_{ref} \cap A_{test}| + |V_{ref} \cap V_{test}|}{|(A_{ref} \cup V_{ref}) \cap (A_{test} \cup V_{test})|}$$



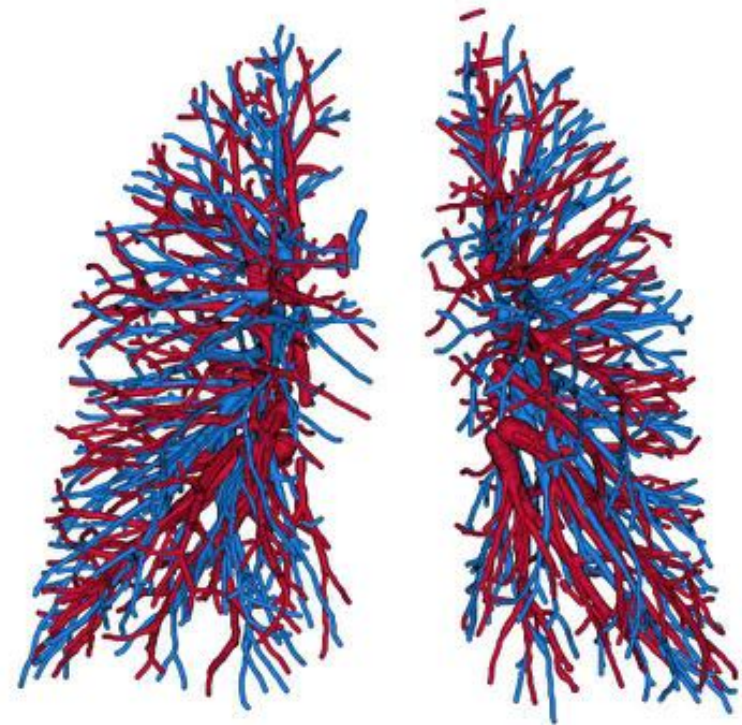


# Results of the A/V separation project

- Oral presentation - C. Payer  
„Medical Image Computing and  
Computer Assisted Interventions“ [1]



- C. Payer - MSc defense in 2015  
at TU Graz
- Invited article - Medical Image  
Analysis (Top 1, Rank 3) [2]



arteries: blue  
veins: red

[1] Payer et al. (2015). Automatic Artery-Vein Separation from Thoracic CT Images Using Integer Programming. MICCAI 2015.

[2] Payer C., Pienn M, **Bálint Z**, Shekhovtsov A, Talakic E, Nagy E, Olschewski A, Olschewski H, Urschler M. 2016. Automated integer programming based separation of arteries and veins from thoracic CT images. *Medical image analysis* 2016 Dec; 34:109-122.



*Martin Wurm* – *Diploma student (08.2013 - 07.2014)*

*Michael Pienn* – *PhD student*

*Pius Sonnberger* – *MSc student - project (07.2014 – 09.2014)*

*Zoltán Bálint* – *group leader*

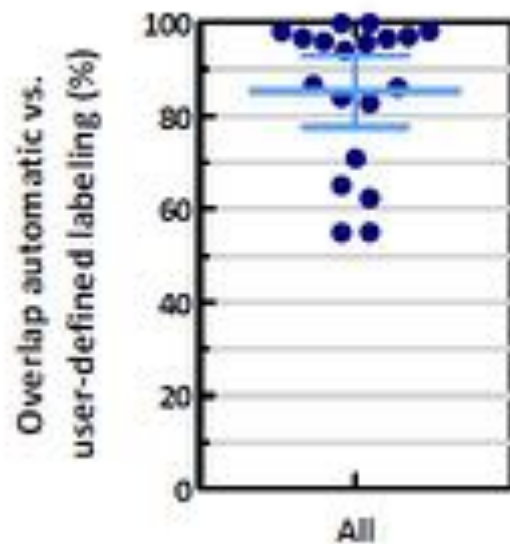
*Christian Payer* – *MSc student (till 07.2015)*

*Michael Helmberger* – *MSc Student (till 2013)*

*Horst Olschewski* – *supporting scientist*

## 2. Radiological validation

2 radiologists (C. Salvan-Schaschl and R. Neuwirth, Graz), blinded to patient clinical data, performed user defined labeling on the results of the automatic algorithm

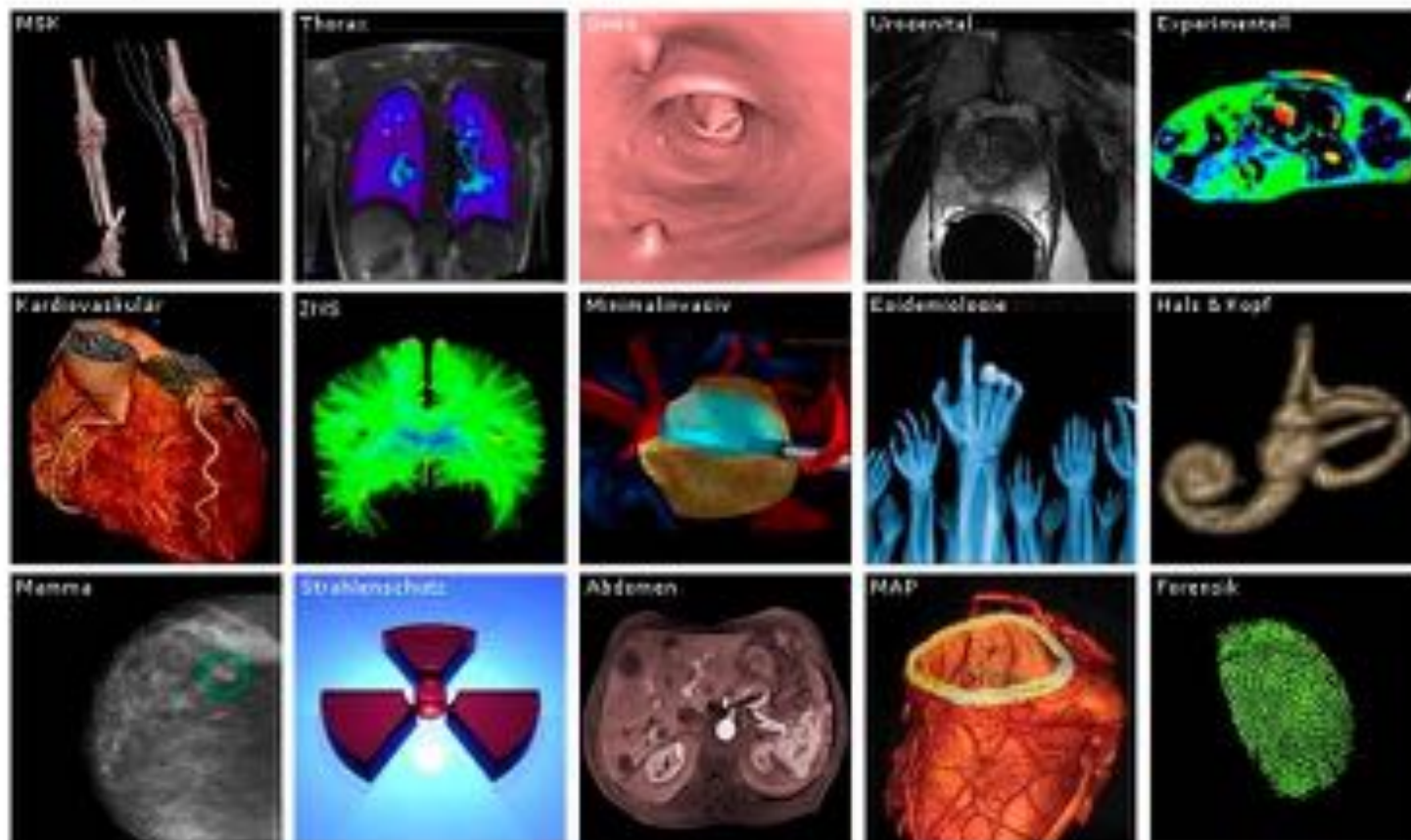


	All
Number of values	19
Minimum	54.90
25% Percentile	70.78
Median	93.92
75% Percentile	96.92
Maximum	99.92
Mean	85.17
Std. Deviation	15.69



## 2. Radiologist expertise

- LMU Munich example
  - nr. Radiologist - nr. CT/MRI per day
  - workload/CAD to help - 10 -15 min diagnosis





# Project: Image denoising and iodine quantification from dual-energy CT images

Aim: - provide radiologists better quality images to facilitate diagnosis

- Develop software for noise reduction and iodine quantification from lung CT images





# Image denoising and iodine quantification from dual-energy CT images

Validation/Evaluation in clinical setting

- Try and error in the validation setup
- Quantitative OK – physicist calculated
- Radiological validation – Siemens algorithm preferred
- **Project on hold**



## 3. we combine...

Trust:

“Because humans and computers make decisions in a different way, it is sometimes difficult for a human to understand why an automated aid has made a certain decision.”

Jorritsma et al 2015 Clinical Radiology



## Patent story – LBI-LVR, Graz

- Idea - 2010
- Patent – priority 2011, filing 2012AT, 2014EU/US-  
Publication 2015
- Tech offer for companies – no interest raised
- Scientific article - 2014
- No Company – No investment - 2017

M. Pienn, Z. Bálint, H. Olschewski, R. Stollberger, G. Kovacs. *Method z. Nichtinvasiven Diagnose von Pulmonaler Hypertonie* – Patent Application No. AU 512393/2013 **filed 29<sup>th</sup> June 2012**, issued 13<sup>th</sup> August 2013; PCT/AT2013/050127 filed 25<sup>th</sup> June 2013.

M. Pienn, Z. Bálint, H. Olschewski, R. Stollberger, G. Kovacs. *Method for Processing Images of Pulmonary Circulation and Device for Performing the Method* – Patent Publication No. US 2015/0206303-A1, **issue date 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2015**.

M. Pienn, Z. Bálint, H. Olschewski, R. Stollberger, G. Kovacs. *Method z. Nichtinvasiven Diagnose von Pulmonaler Hypertonie* – Patent Application No. EU 13737520.0 filed 19<sup>th</sup> December 2014; EU Patent 2867856 **issue date 6<sup>th</sup> May 2015**.



# imATFIB team POC P37\_245

17/03/2017

Proiect co-finanțat din Fondul European de Dezvoltare Regională prin Programul Operațional Competitivitate 2014-2020



UNIUNEA EUROPEANĂ



Instrumente Structurale  
2014-2020

# *IMAGING-BASED, NON-INVASIVE DIAGNOSIS OF PERSISTENT ATRIAL FIBRILLATION*



*imATFIB*

SPITALUL CLINIC JUDEȚEAN  
DE URGENȚĂ CLUJ-NAPOCA



**Nr. contract de finanțare: 23/01.09.2016**

**POC: P\_37\_245, mySMIS: 104004**

***Beneficiar: SPITALUL CLINIC JUDEȚEAN DE URGENȚĂ CLUJ-NAPOCA***

***Director de proiect: Dr. Zoltán Bálint***

Acțiunea 1.1.4 Atragerea de personal cu competențe avansate din străinătate pentru consolidarea capacității de CD

Proiect co-finanțat din Fondul European de Dezvoltare Regională prin Programul Operațional Competitivitate 2014-2020

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