

## **FreeSurfer** Manual

Version 0.8

**FreeSurfer** is a set of semi-automated tools for reconstruction of the brain's cortical surface and overlay of functional data onto the reconstructed surface.

**csurf** is a graphical interface to those reconstruction and functional overlay tools.

The general steps in the reconstruction process are:

- Conversion of the MRI data into 256 coronal slices with 256 x 256 in-plane voxels (i.e. 1 mm x 1 mm x 1 mm voxels)

- Intensity normalization of the MRI volume to remove variations in intensity due to magnetic susceptibility artifacts and RF-field inhomogeneities

- Removal of extrameningeal tissues.

- Segmentation of white matter with minimal manual editing to remove any topological defects (a fully-automated version is currently being tested)

- Tessellation, smoothing and inflation for each cortical hemisphere

- Cutting of the cortical surface

- Flattening of the cortical surface

- Morphing of the cortical surface into a sphere

A more technical description of the reconstruction process can be found in Dale, Fischl and Sereno. Cortical Surface-Based Analysis: I. Segmentation and Surface Reconstruction. *NeuroImage* (9): pp. 179-194. 1999. A more technical description of the cortical surface inflation, flattening, and surface-based coordinate system can be found in Fischl, Sereno, and Dale. Cortical Surface-Based Analysis: II. Inflation, Flattening, and a Surface-Based Coordinate System. *NeuroImage* (9): pp. 195-207. 1999.

The general steps in the functional overlay process are:

- Conversion of the functional data into bshorts

- Sampling of the statistical volume using the reconstructed surface (we refer to as “painting”) which associates a statistical value with each vertex in the cortical surface

- Rendering of the cortical surface that has been “painted” with the statistics.

- Additional controls are provided to vary the visual appearance or the rendering

- The statistical volume can also be viewed overlaid in the high resolution MRI volume.

This manual can be found on the Web at:

- <http://www.nmr.mgh.harvard.edu/freesurfer>

- <http://www.cortechs.net/>

This software is distributed by the Massachusetts General Hospital NMR Center and CorTechs .

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## Installation

FreeSurfer (Version 0.8) is being distributed with executables for both Linux/Intel and SGI/Irix. This is an alpha release and has not been extensively tested.

To install FreeSurfer

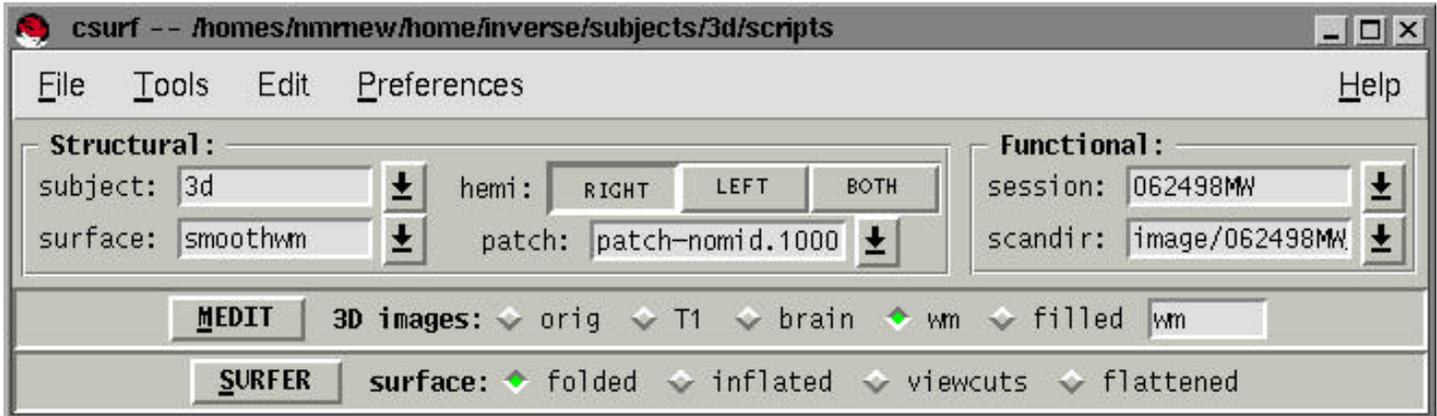
- 1) `cp -rp <CD-ROM drive location> <destination directory>`
- 2) `cd <destination directory>`
- 3) edit `FreeSurferDefs.csh` and change the following line  
`setenv CSURF_DIR XXXXXXXX # CHANGE THIS DEFINITION`  
`CSURF_DIR` should be defined as the directory which contains the installation. It should be possible to run the installation as a demo directly from the CD-ROM.
- 4) Make sure that you are running `csh` or `tcsh`, and then source the `FreeSurferDefs.csh` file.
- 5) Type `csurf` at the prompt.

Note: you will need a password to run FreeSurfer. It can be obtained at [www.cortechs.net](http://www.cortechs.net).

## Starting csurf

At the prompt, type:  
**csurf**

This will start the **csurf** interface.



There are five pull down menus: **File**, **Tools**, **Edit**, **Preferences** and **Help**.

Below the pull down menus are two boxes labeled **Structural** and **Functional**.

For the following examples, the subject to be created is named "test\_subject."

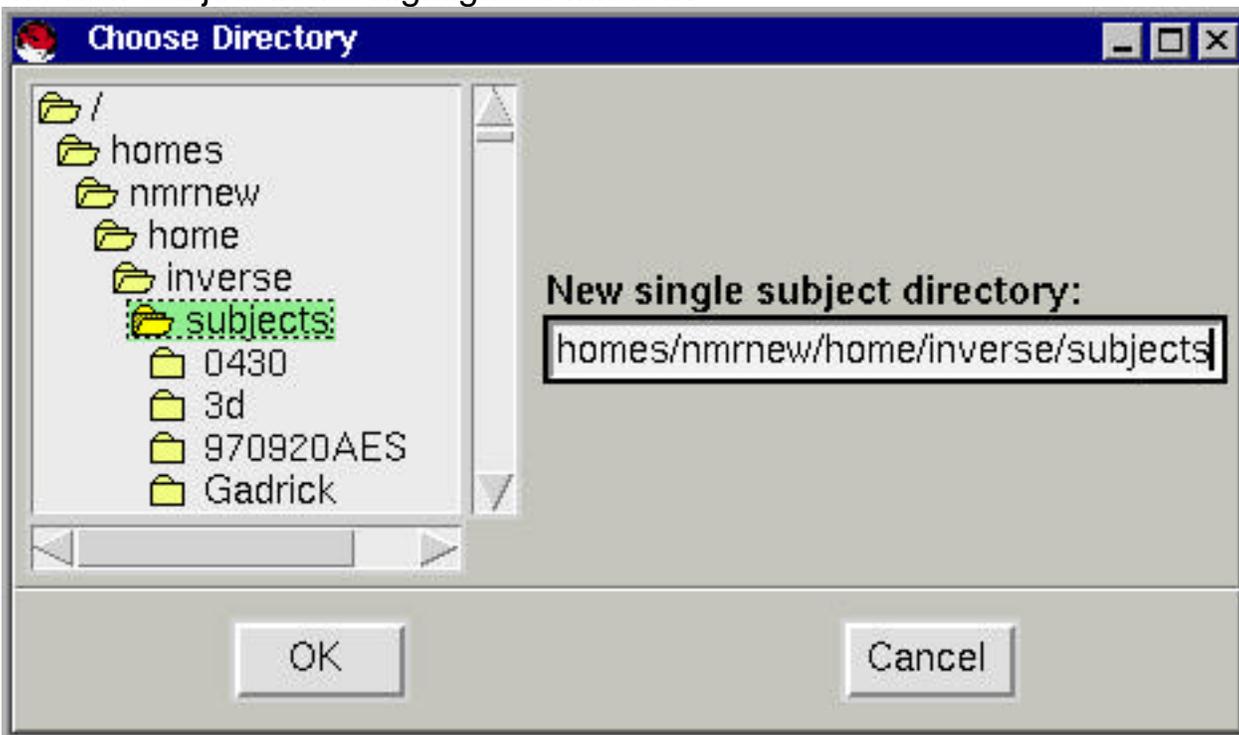
## File Menu



The File pull down menu can also be accessed by pressing **Alt-F**.

## New Subject

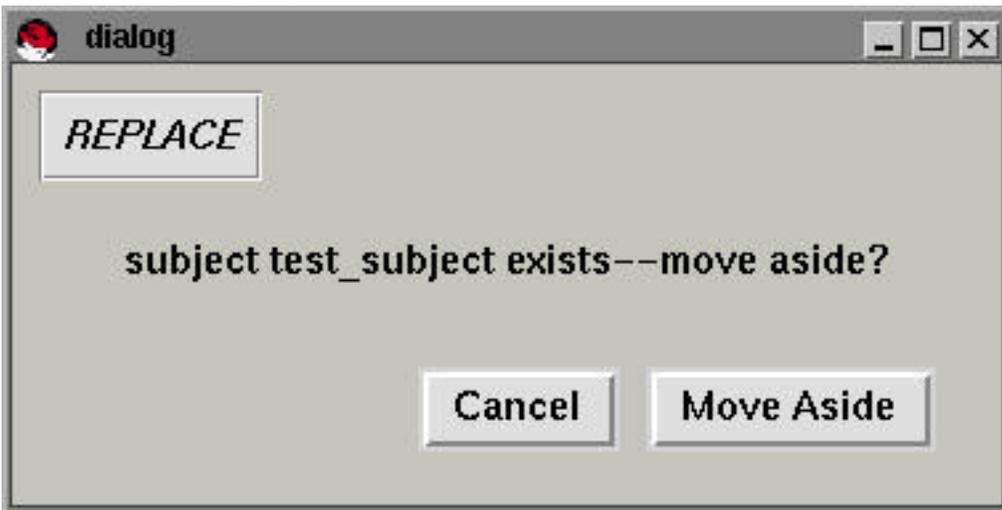
Creates the necessary directories for a subject's structural data. Specify the name of the new subject in the highlighted window.



If the subject does not exist, the following directories required for the structural data will be made:

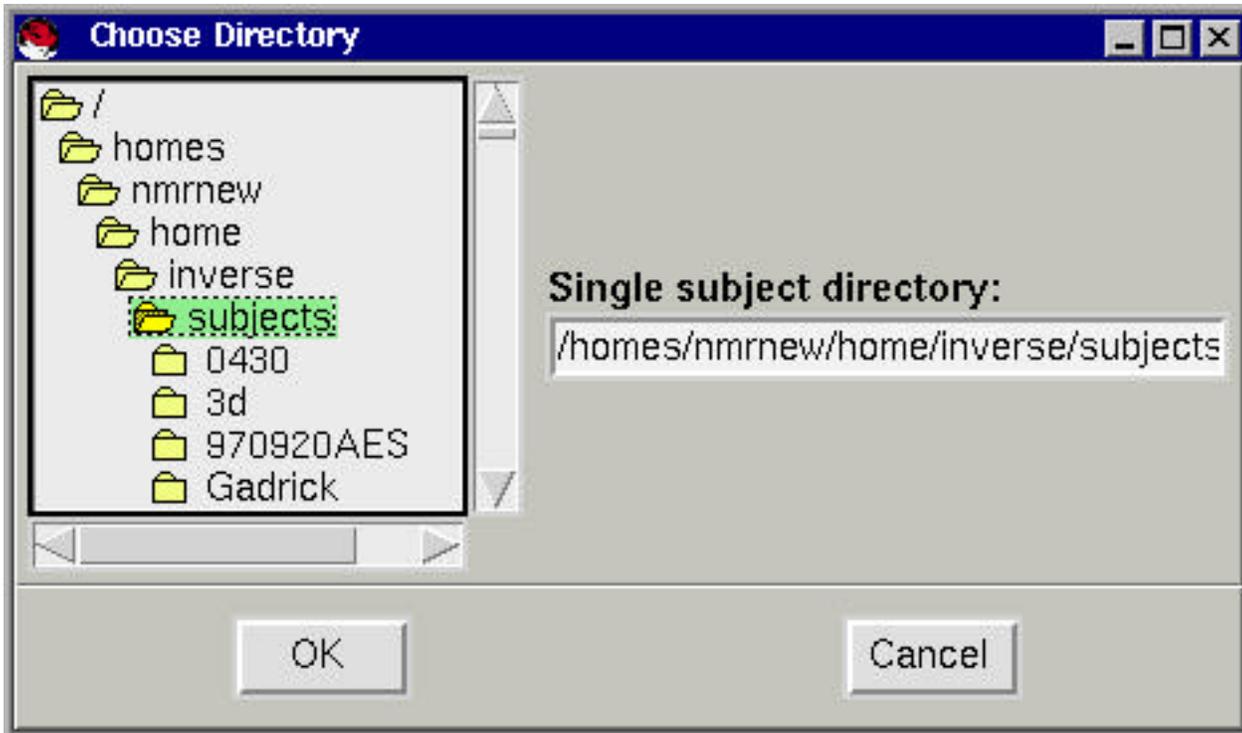
```
<name>  
  bem  
  label  
  morph  
  mpg  
  mri  
  
    T1  
    brain  
    filled  
    orig  
    tmp  
    transforms  
    wm  
  
  rgb  
  scripts  
  surf  
  tiff  
  tmp
```

If the subject does exist, you will be asked if you want to move the current subject from <name> to <name>~.



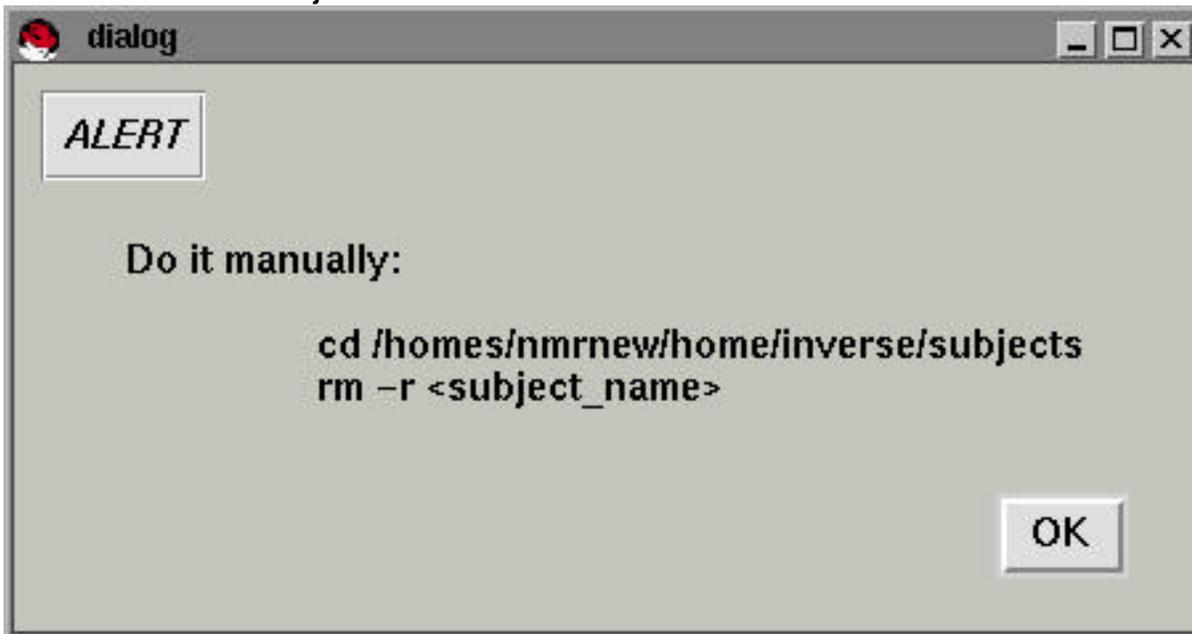
## Open Subject

Opens an existing subject. Either select the subject directory on the left or enter the subject directly into the field on the right.



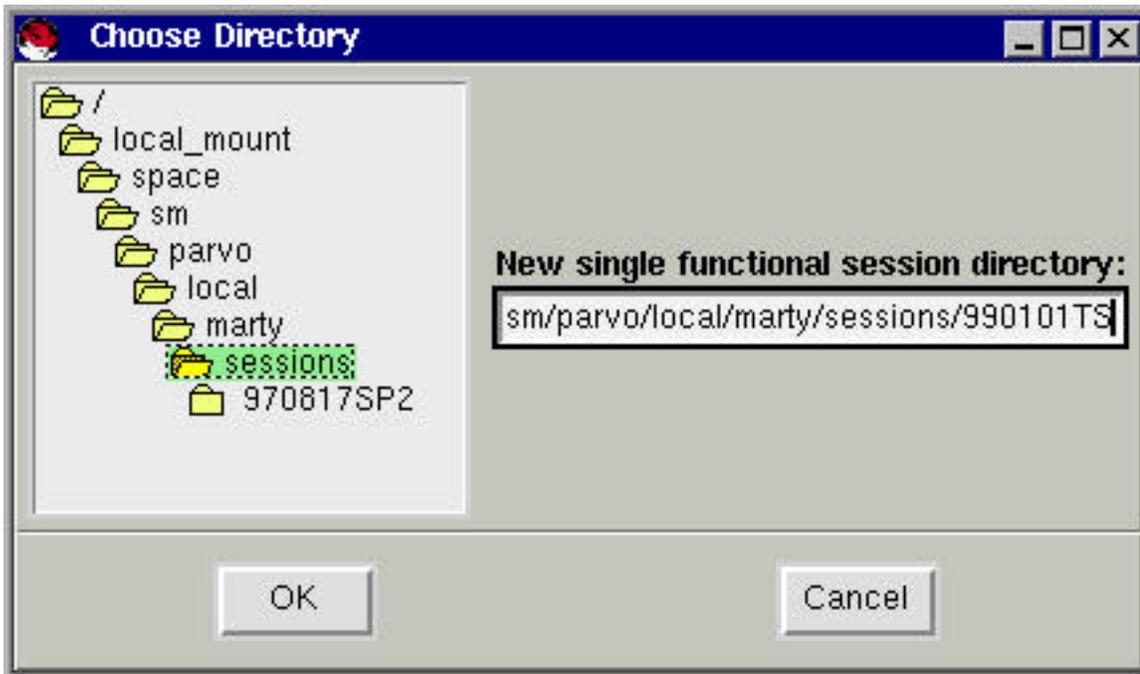
## Delete Subject

Deletion of the subject is manual.

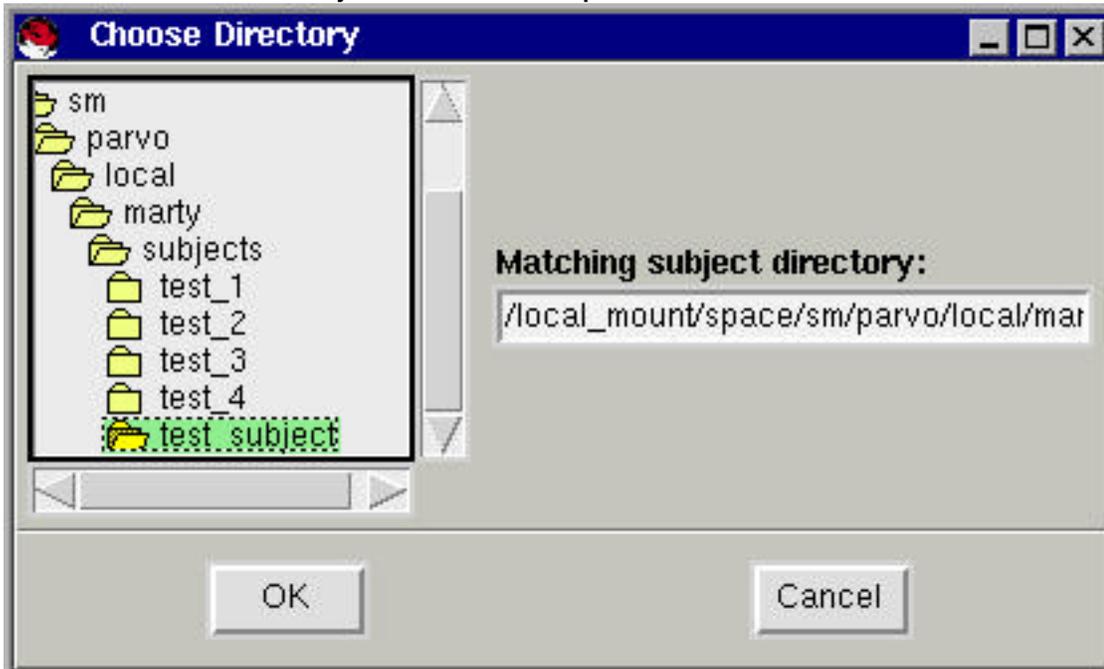


## New Functional

Creates the necessary directories for a new functional scan. Specify the name of the new functional directory in the highlighted window. The suggested naming convention is <2year><2month><2day><2-3initial>.



Then, select the subject that corresponds to the new functional scan.



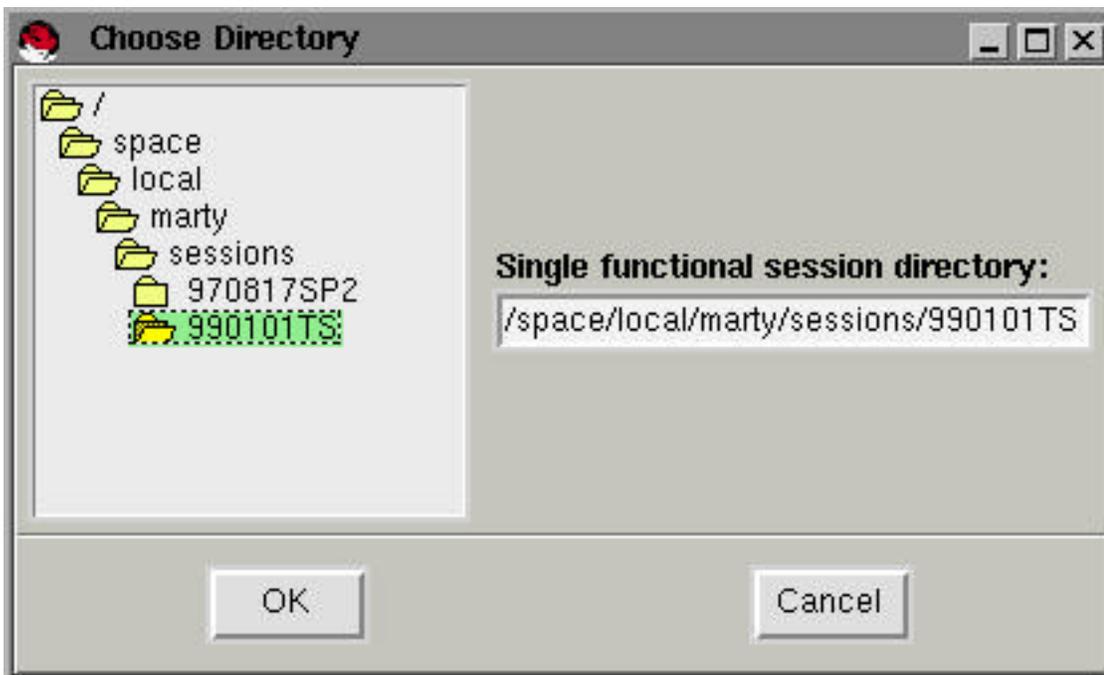
The following directories are created:

```
<functional scan>
  image
    mpg
    rgb
    scripts
```

In addition the file “name” is created in the new functional directory and contains the name of the subject.

### Open Functional

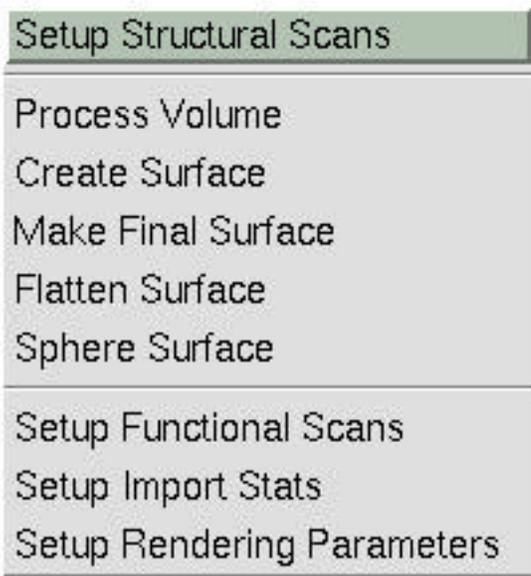
Opens an existing functional scan. Either select the functional directory on the left or enter the functional directory directly into the field on the right.



### Quit

Quits the **csurf** interface.

## Tools Menu – Structural Commands



The Tools pull down menu can also be accessed by pressing **Alt-T**.

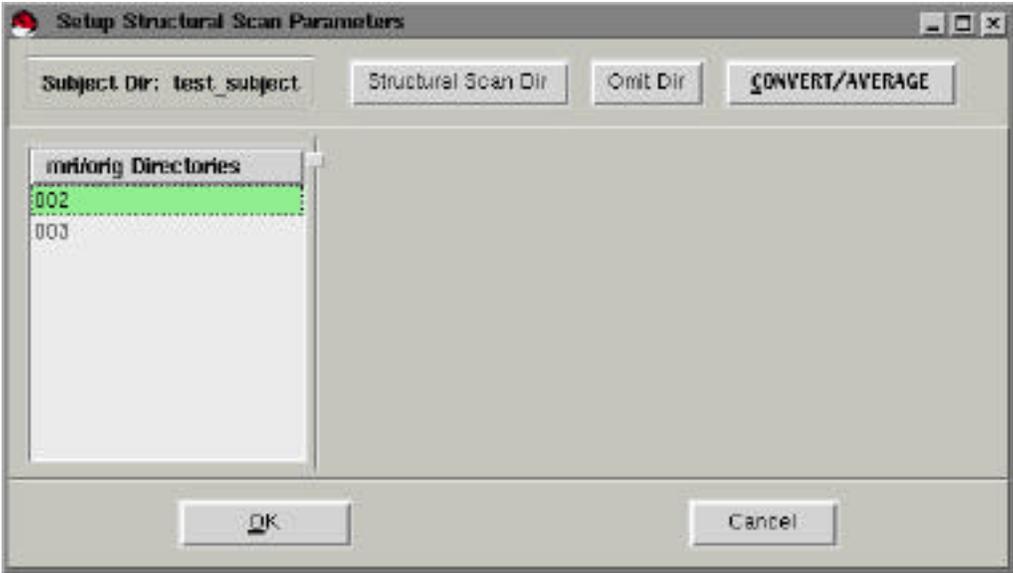
The first six commands on the **Tools** menu are used to

- setup the structural MRI data directories
- process the structural data (performed once)
- create the cortical surface
- inflate the cortical surface
- flatten the cortical surface
- morph the surface into a sphere

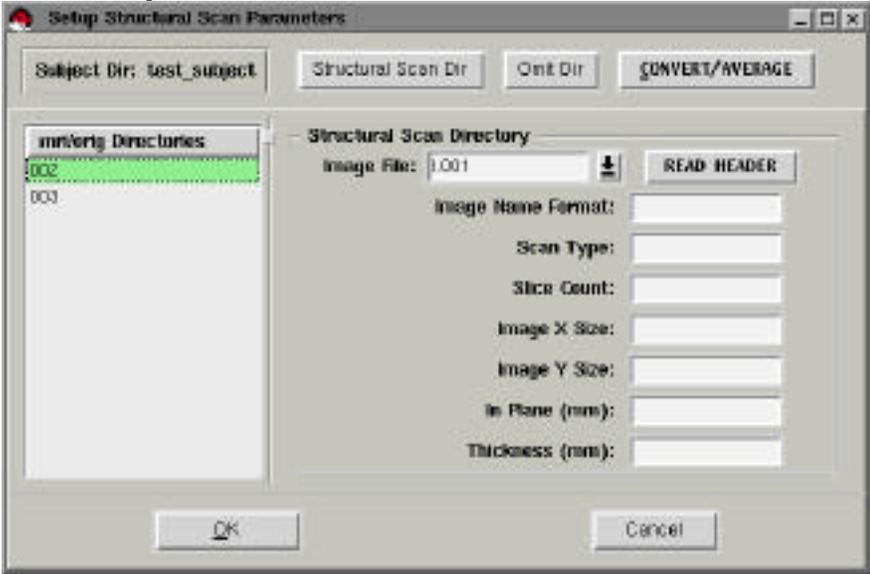
### Setup Structural Scan(s)

Converts (and averages if there are multiple acquisitions) the MRI data into the 256 coronal slices, 256 x 256 voxels in plane with 1 mm<sup>3</sup> resolution. Currently supported formats are: SPM/analyze, AFNI, Siemens, and GE.

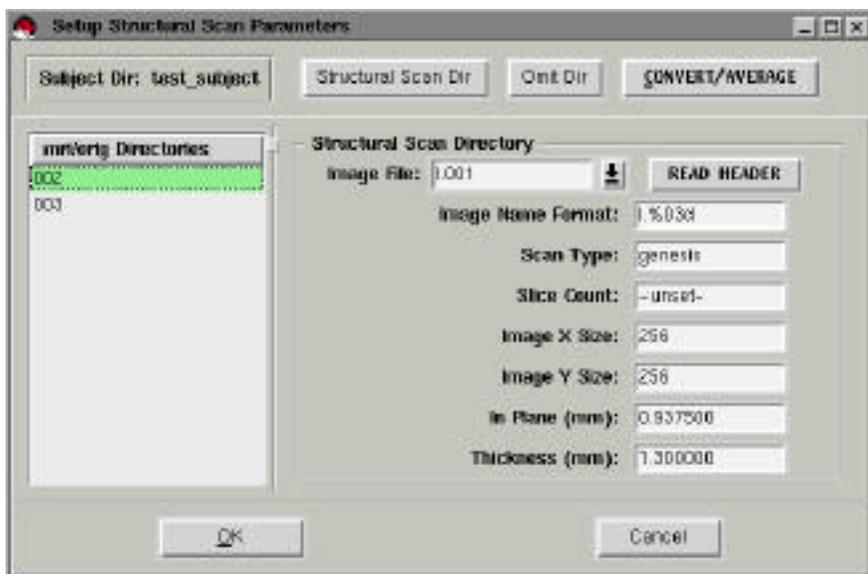
Each structural acquisition must be in its own directory in the **mri/orig** directory.



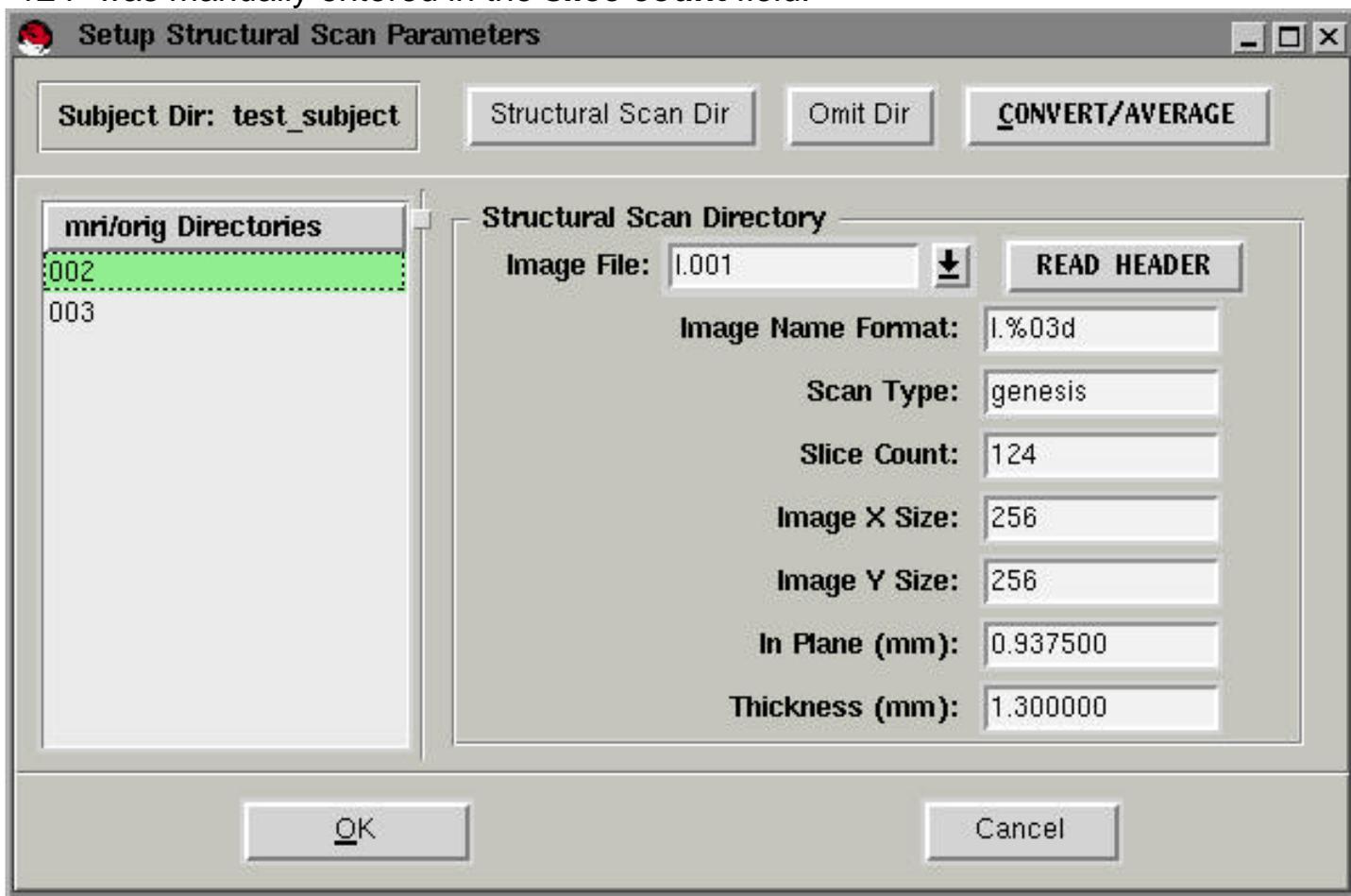
Select the first structural acquisition and press **Structural Scan Dir**. This will expand the **Setup Structural Scan Parameters** window:



Select the first image file in the **Image File** field and press **READ HEADER** to automatically determine the scan parameters. If there are any errors, manually enter them in the field.



In this particular example, the **slice count** was not determined by **READ HEADER**, so “124” was manually entered in the **slice count** field.



For each structural acquisition, repeat the process of selecting the acquisition on the left window, pressing **Structural Scan Dir**, and then pressing **READ HEADER**.

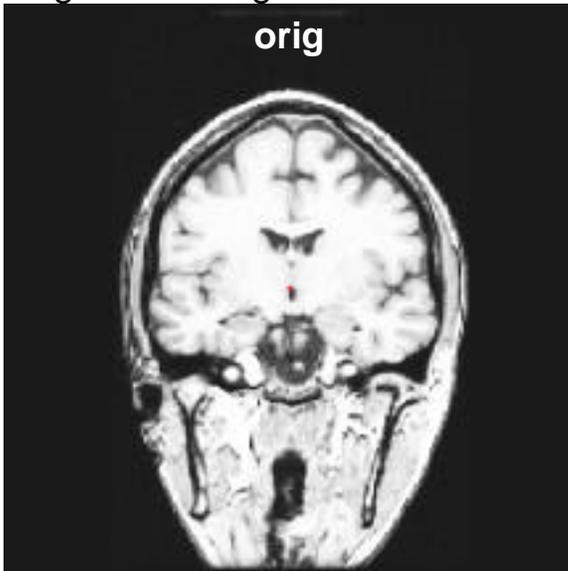
If you want to omit an acquisition that was previously selected, reselect the directory and press **Omit Dir**.

Press **Convert/Average** to average the acquisitions and convert the MRI volume in the 256 coronal slices.

The output files of the setup are:

images: \$SUBJECTS\_DIR/\$name/mri/orig/COR-???

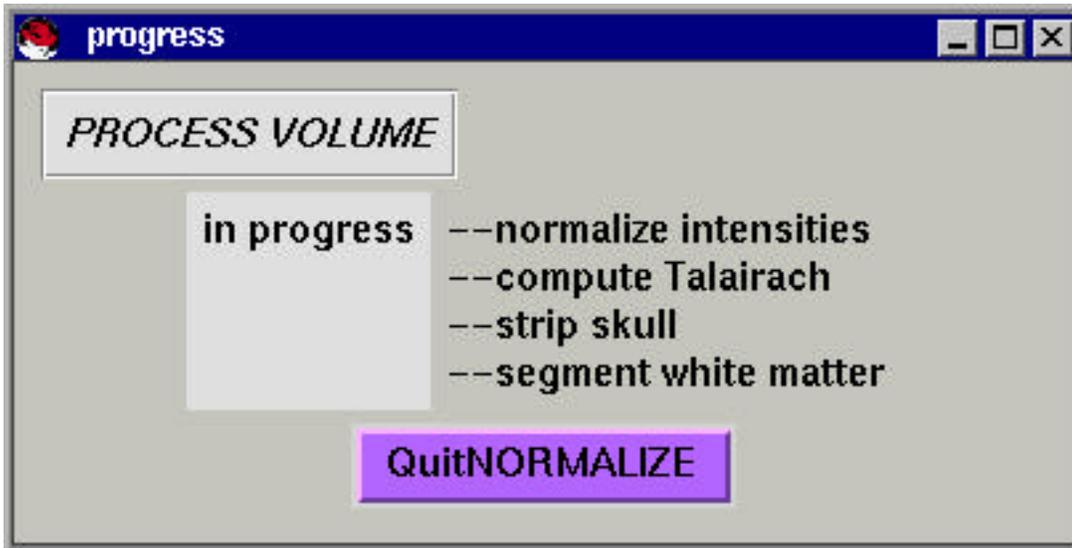
Original T1 weighted MRI volume (orig volume)



## Process Volume

Starts a four-part background process to prepare the 3-D MRI data to make a surface. While the volume is being processed, the csurf interface can still be accessed. The process can be canceled by pressing the **Quit** button that is highlighted in purple.

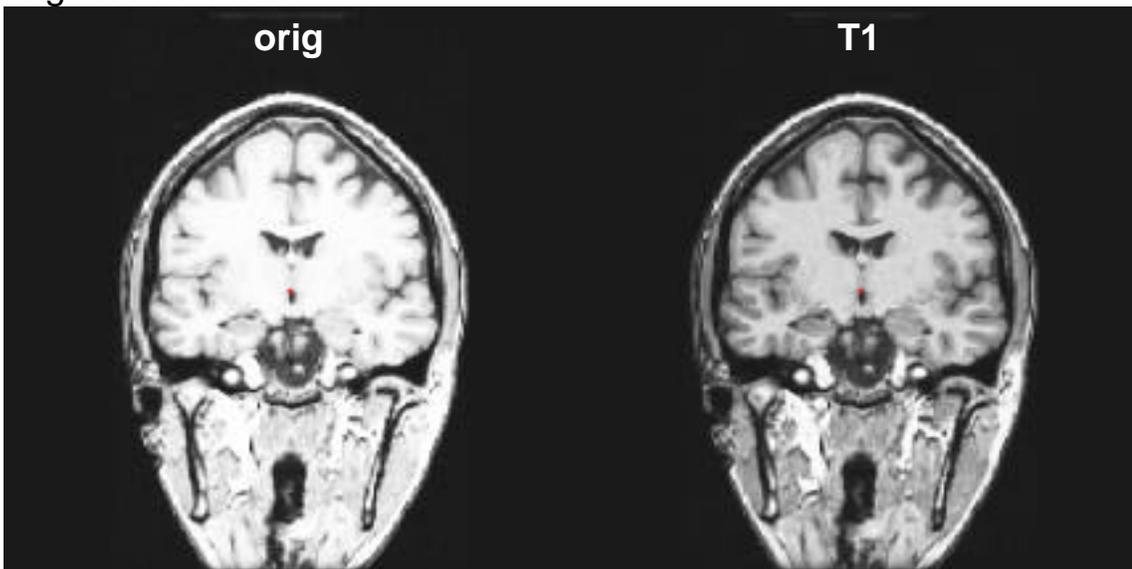
## Part 1: Normalize Intensities



The intensity normalization procedure removes variations in intensity due to magnetic susceptibility artifacts and RF-field inhomogeneities

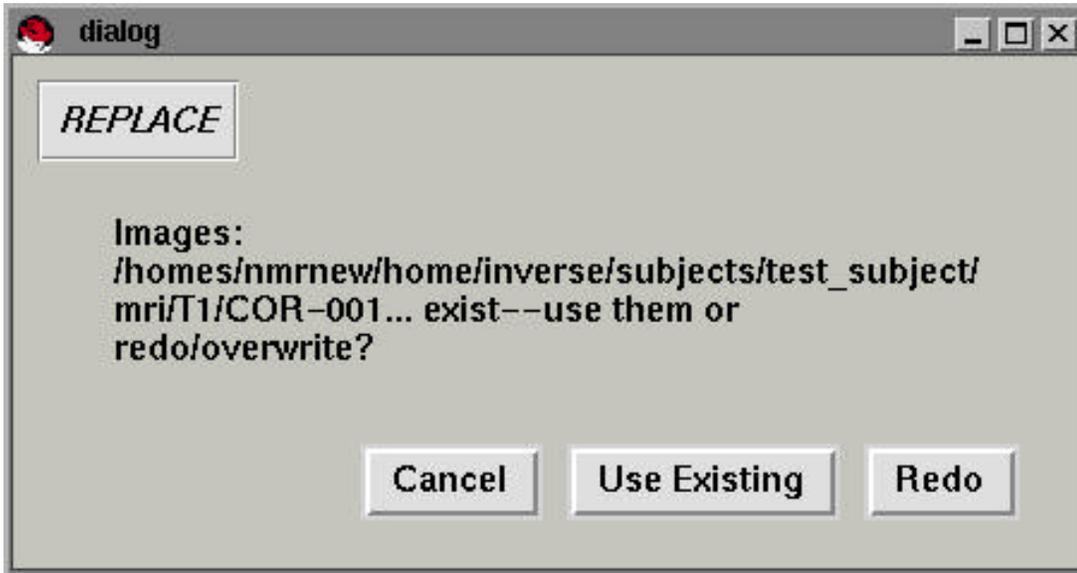
The output files written by the normalization procedure are:  
images: \$SUBJECTS\_DIR/\$name/mri/T1/COR-???

orig and T1 volume

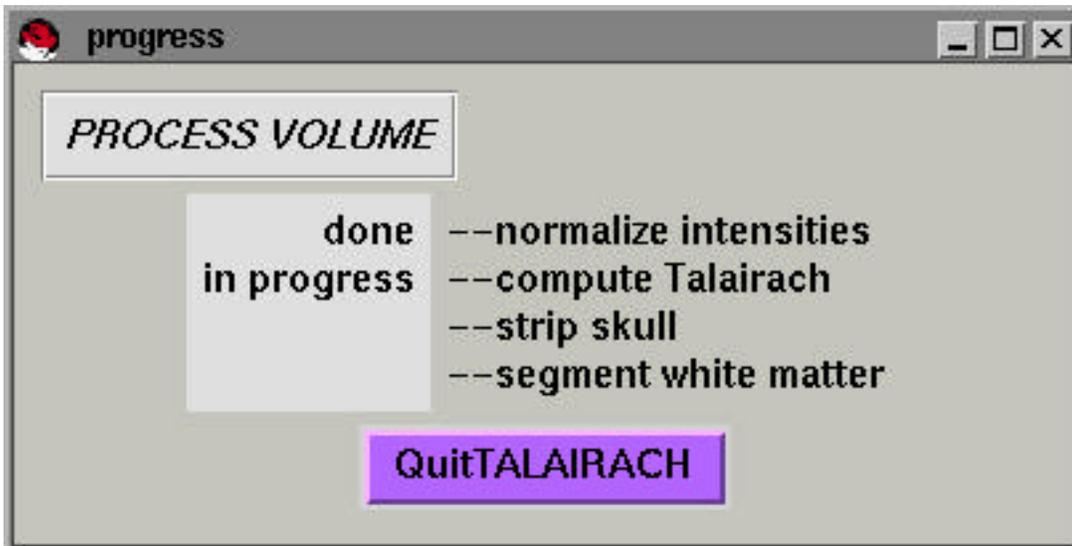


If the T1 volume (T1/COR-??? files) already exists, you can either use the existing files (**Use Existing** button) and continue with the process, or redo the intensity

normalization (**Redo** button). If **Don't Ask Overwrite** (under the **Preferences** menu) is checked, the intensity normalization is automatically redone.



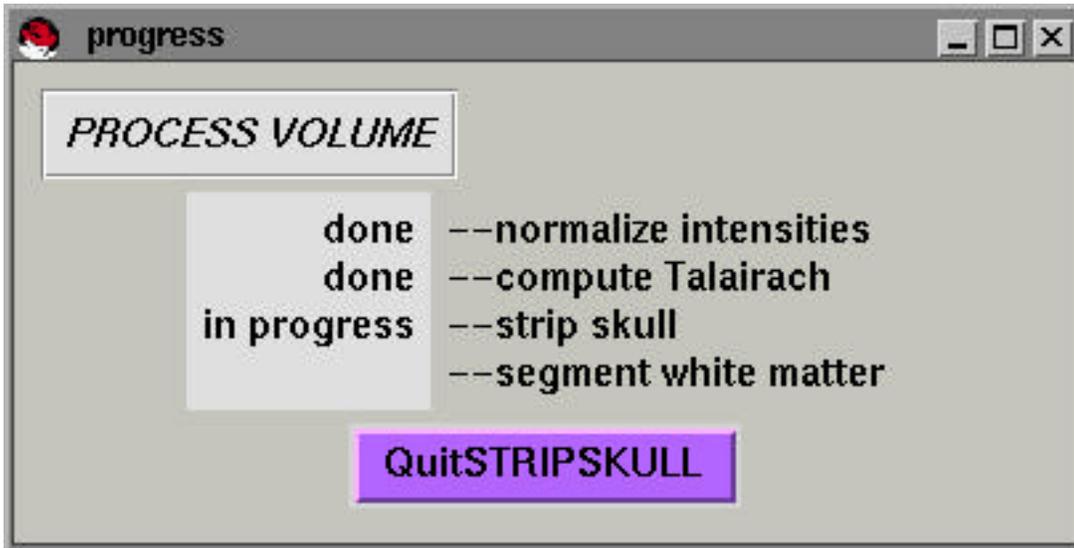
## Part 2: Compute Talairach



Computation of the Talairach transformation matrix is currently not supported. If a transformation matrix in the Montreal Neurological Institute format (xfm) is available, Talairach coordinates will be displayed by **medit** and **surfer**. The transformation matrix should be in the following file:

```
$SUBJECTS_DIR/$name/mri/transforms/talairach.xfm
```

### Part 3: Strip Skull

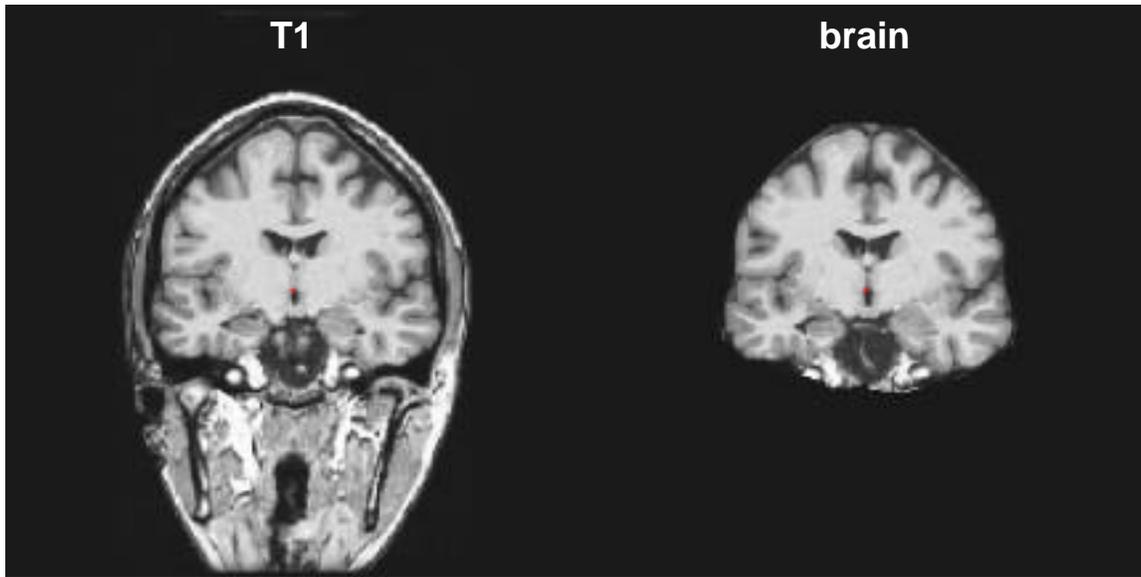


A supertessellated icosahedron is shrunk onto the normalized data set. At each point on the surface a 'core sample' is used to search for the black laminae that correspond to the inner and outer tables of bone in a T1-weighted scan, while at the same time, preserving neighbor relations. Once this surface is found, it is used to strip the skull off the T1 data set.

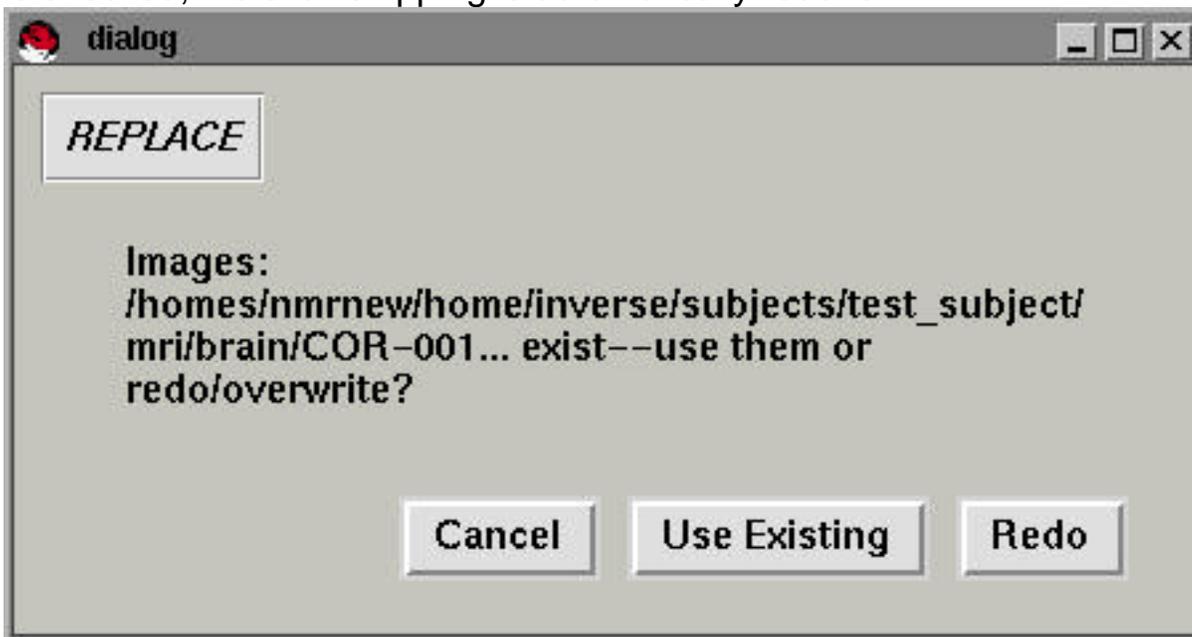
The output files written by this procedure are:

```
shrinksurface: $SUBJECTS_DIR/$name/bem/brain.tri  
images: $SUBJECTS_DIR/$name/mri/brain/COR-???
```

## T1 and brain volume

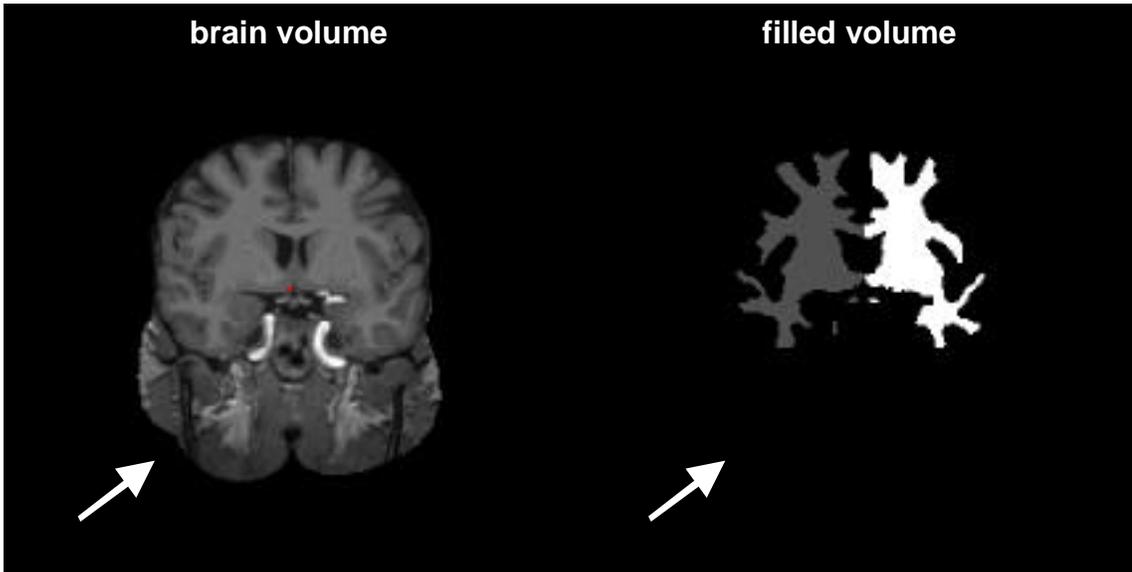


If the brain volume (brain/COR-??? files) already exists, you can either use the existing files (**Use Existing** button) and continue with the process, or redo the intensity normalization (**Redo** button). If **Don't Ask Overwrite** (under the **Preferences** menu) is checked, the skull stripping is automatically redone.

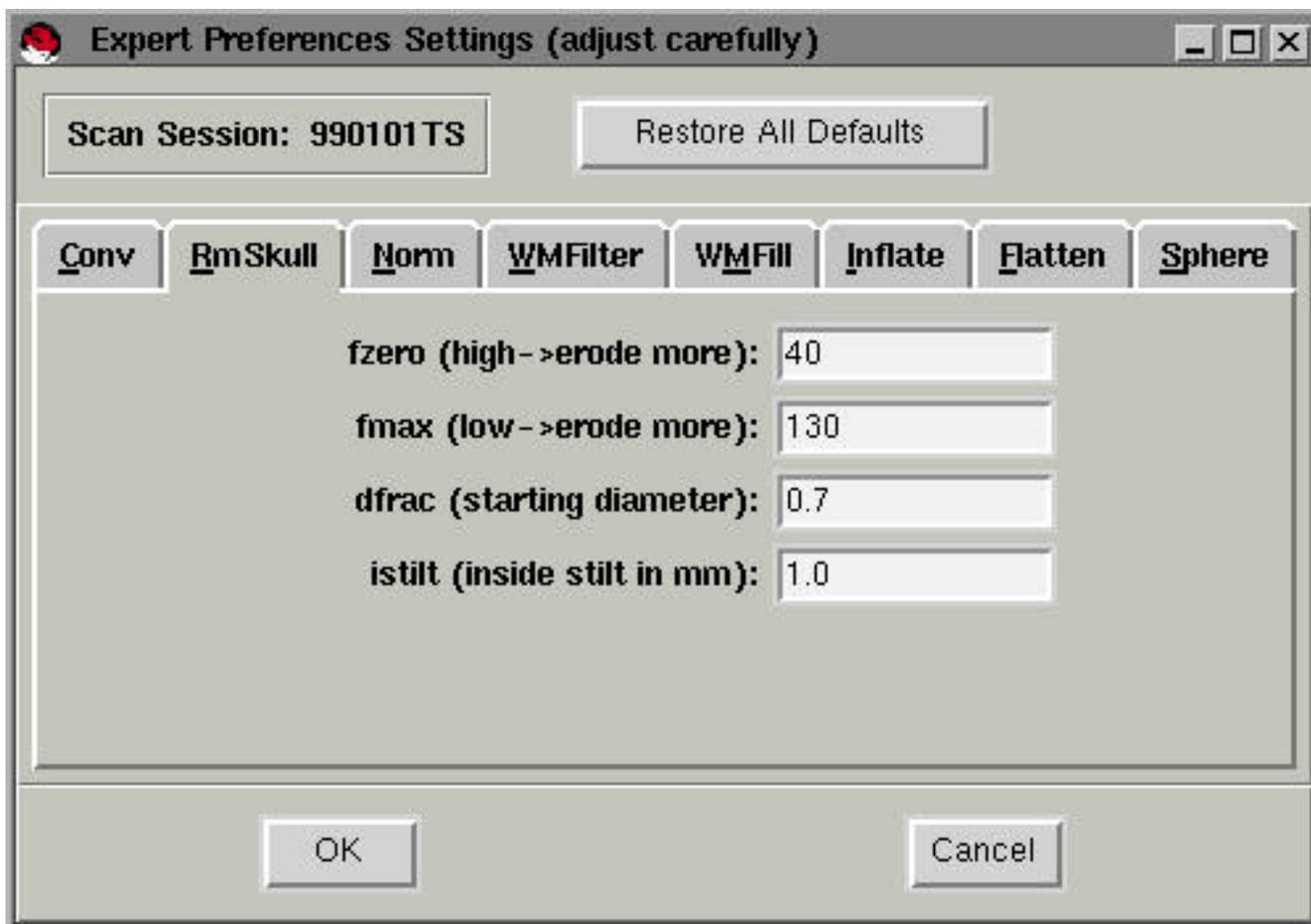


## Failure of the skull stripping

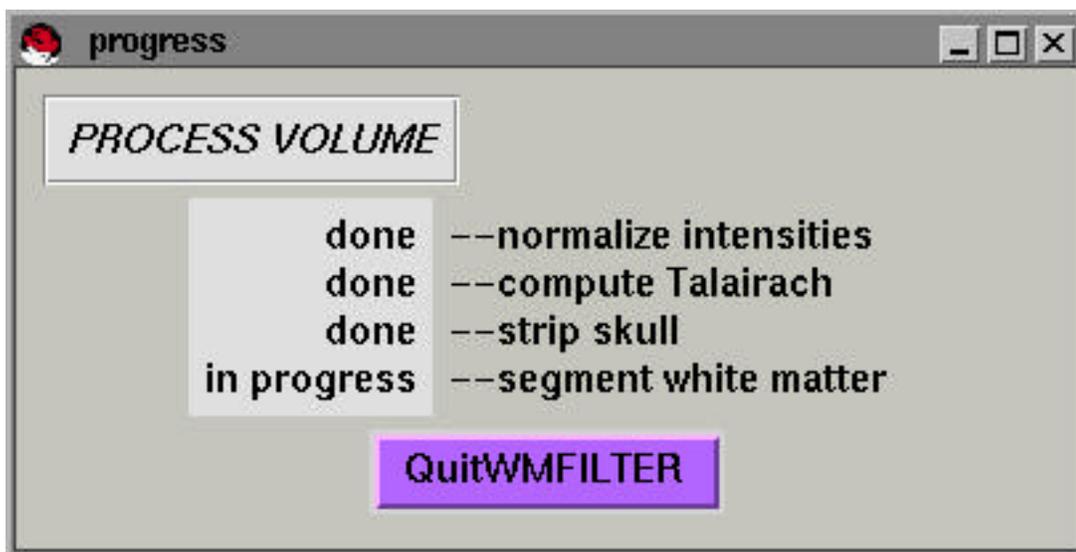
In some cases, the skull stripping either removes too little skull or removes some of the brain parenchyma. First, examine the **filled** volume. In some cases where the skull stripping has left a substantial amount of neck, the subsequent segmentation and filling has removed the extra neck.



If the filled volume has unwanted skull and neck structures, or actual brain has been removed, select **Expert Preferences** under the **Preferences** menu. Select the **Stripskull** tab. If there are extra structures (e.g. unwanted skull and neck) in the filled volume, increase the **fzero** parameter and decrease the **fmax** parameter in small increments (5 is good choice). If brain has been removed, decrease the **fzero** parameter and increase the **fmax** parameter in small increments (5 is good choice). Rerun **Process Volume** from the **Tools** menu. You do not have to redo the intensity normalization (i.e. select **Use Existing**).



#### Part 4: White Matter Filter

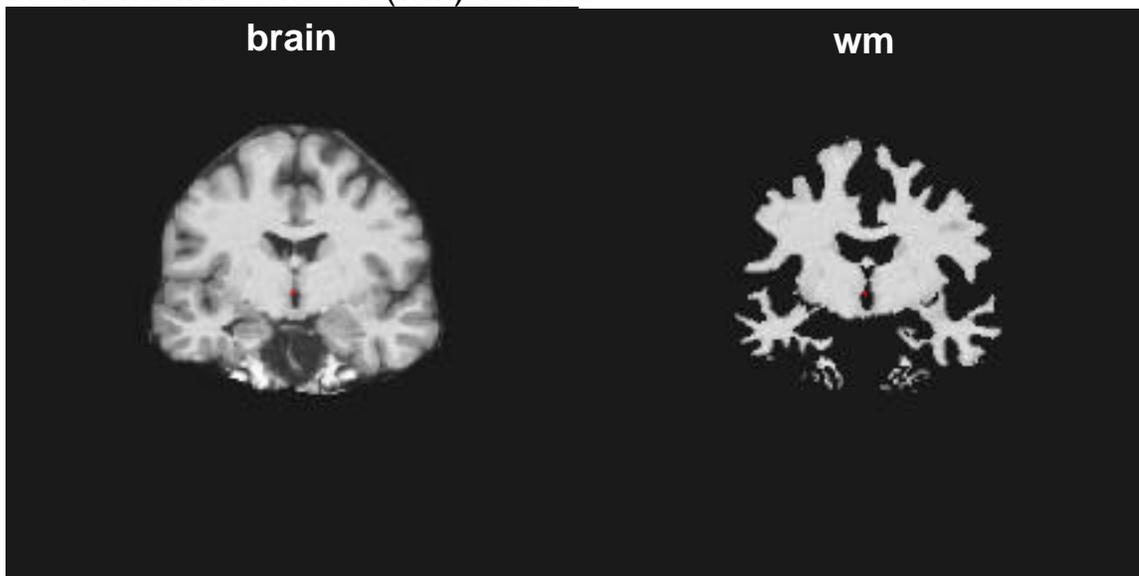


An oriented filter is applied to the stripped data set to 'floss' and 'spackle' small defects. Filter coefficients are computed for each 5x5x5 volume in order to determine which plane is most likely to be parallel to the cortical surface, and then a modified median filter is applied.

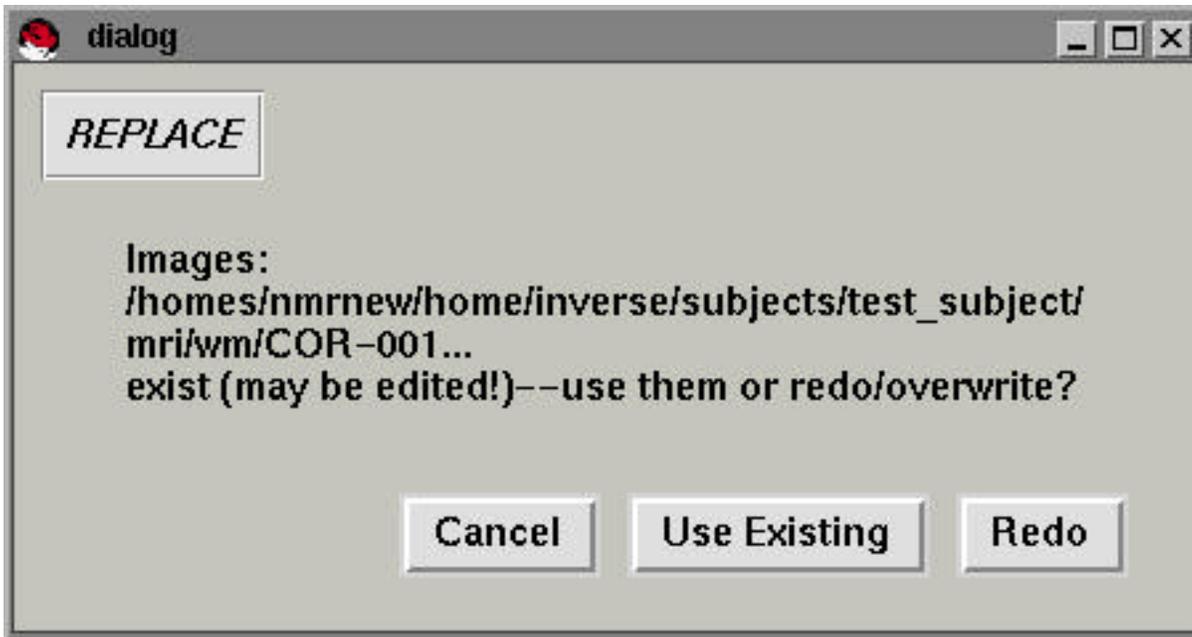
The output files written by this procedure are:

images: \$SUBJECTS\_DIR/\$name/mri/wm/COR-???

brain and white matter (wm) volume



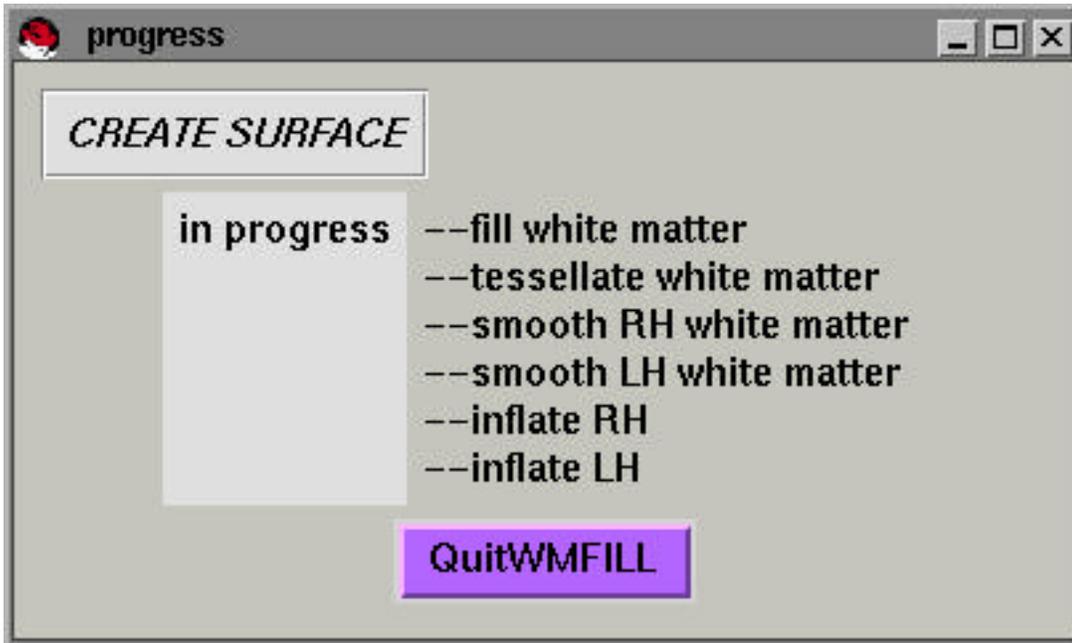
If the white matter volume (wm/COR-???) files) already exists, you can either use the existing files (**Use Existing** button) and continue with the process, or redo the intensity normalization (**Redo** button). If **Don't Ask Overwrite** (under the **Preferences** menu) is checked, the white matter segmentation is automatically redone.



## Create Surface

Starts a six-part background process to create the left and right hemisphere cortical surfaces. If necessary, you can create the left or right hemispheres alone. While the surface is being generated, the csurf interface can still be accessed. The process can be canceled by pressing the **Quit** button that is highlighted in purple.

## Part 1: Fill White Matter

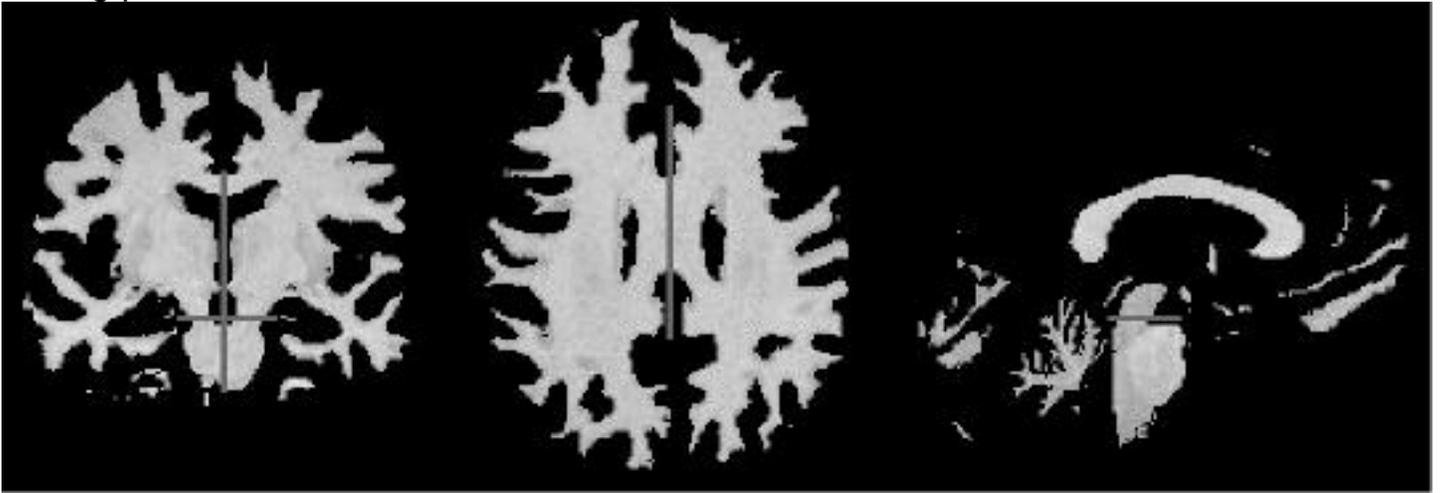


First, automatically finds the cutting planes to 1) separate the left and right hemispheres and 2) prevent the surface from going down into the brain stem. Then, starts a 3-D region growing process from a starting point within the white matter in order to generate the starting point for a surface. Right hemisphere voxels are assigned a value of 80 (gray). Left hemisphere voxels are assigned a value of 255 (white).

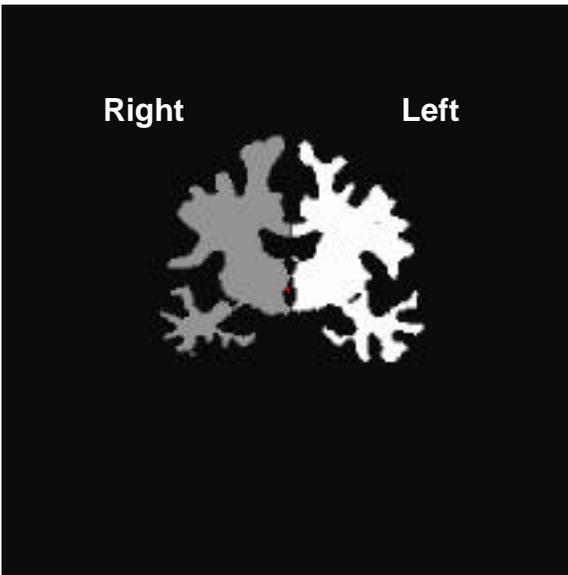
The output files written by this procedure are:

images: \$SUBJECTS\_DIR/\$name/mri/filled/COR-???

cutting planes

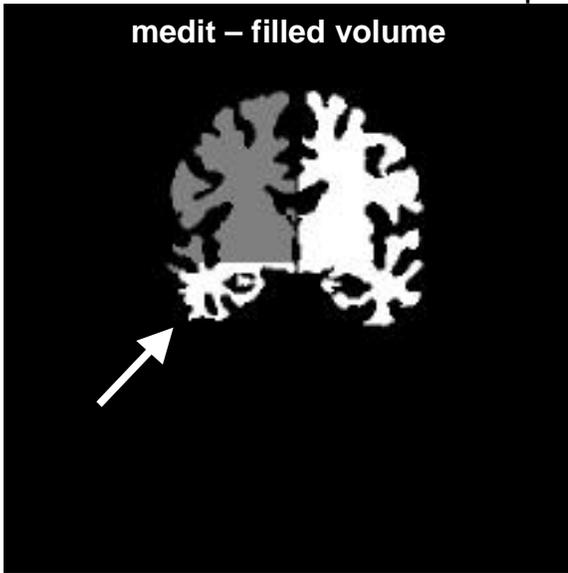


filled volume

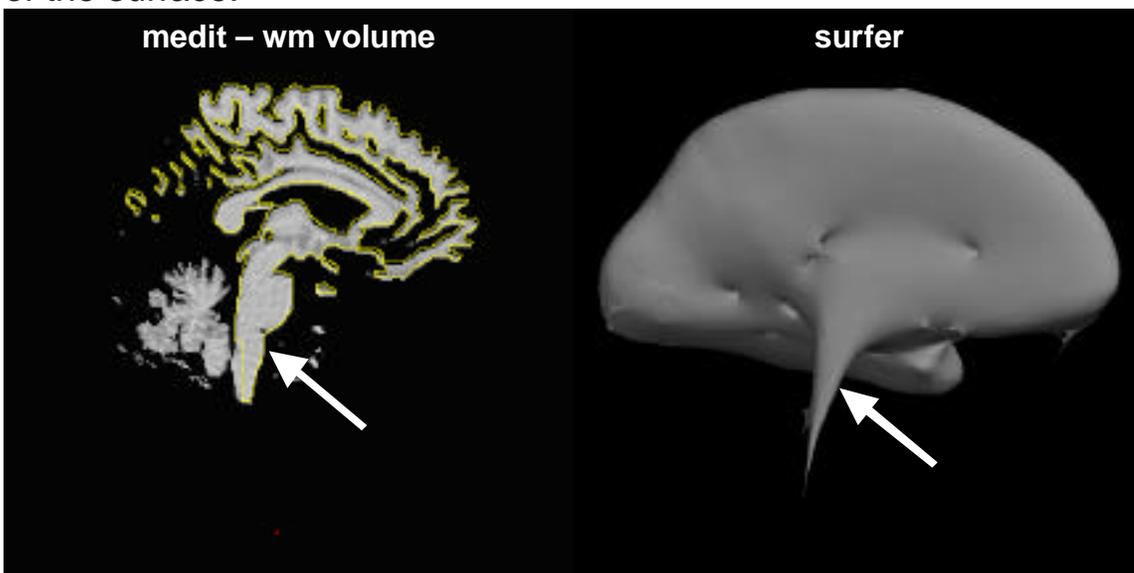


### Failure of the automatic cutting planes:

In some cases, the cutting planes are not found correctly. This can be seen in **medit** as incorrectly colored voxels, e.g. some voxels in the right hemisphere are white (255) or some voxels in the left hemisphere are gray (80).



This can also be seen in **surfer** as a large protrusion in the center of the medial aspect of the surface.

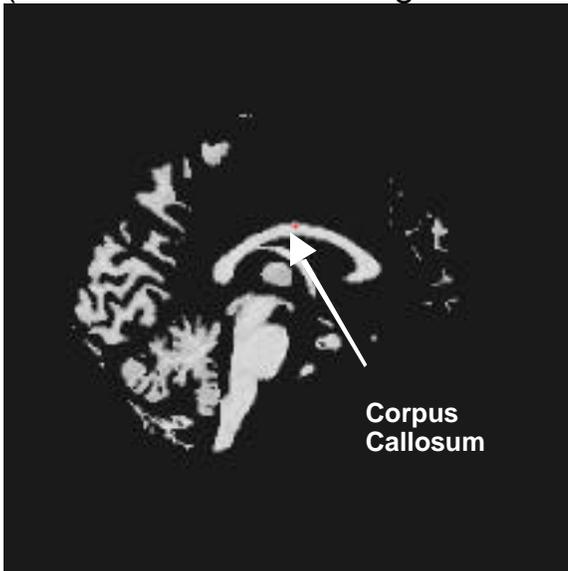


## Manually defined cutting planes

The following instructions describe how to manually define the two cutting planes.

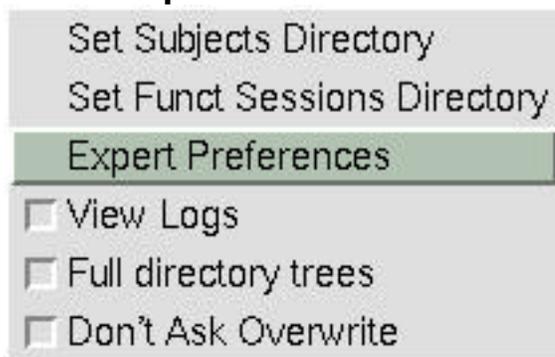
### Left-Right Hemisphere separation (Corpus Callosum)

Using **medit**, find a sagittal slice in the **wm** volume in which the corpus callosum is disconnected. This slice should be near the mid-line. If you cannot find a slice with the corpus callosum disconnected, manually erase voxels to separate the corpus callosum (erase voxels with the right mouse button in **medit**).

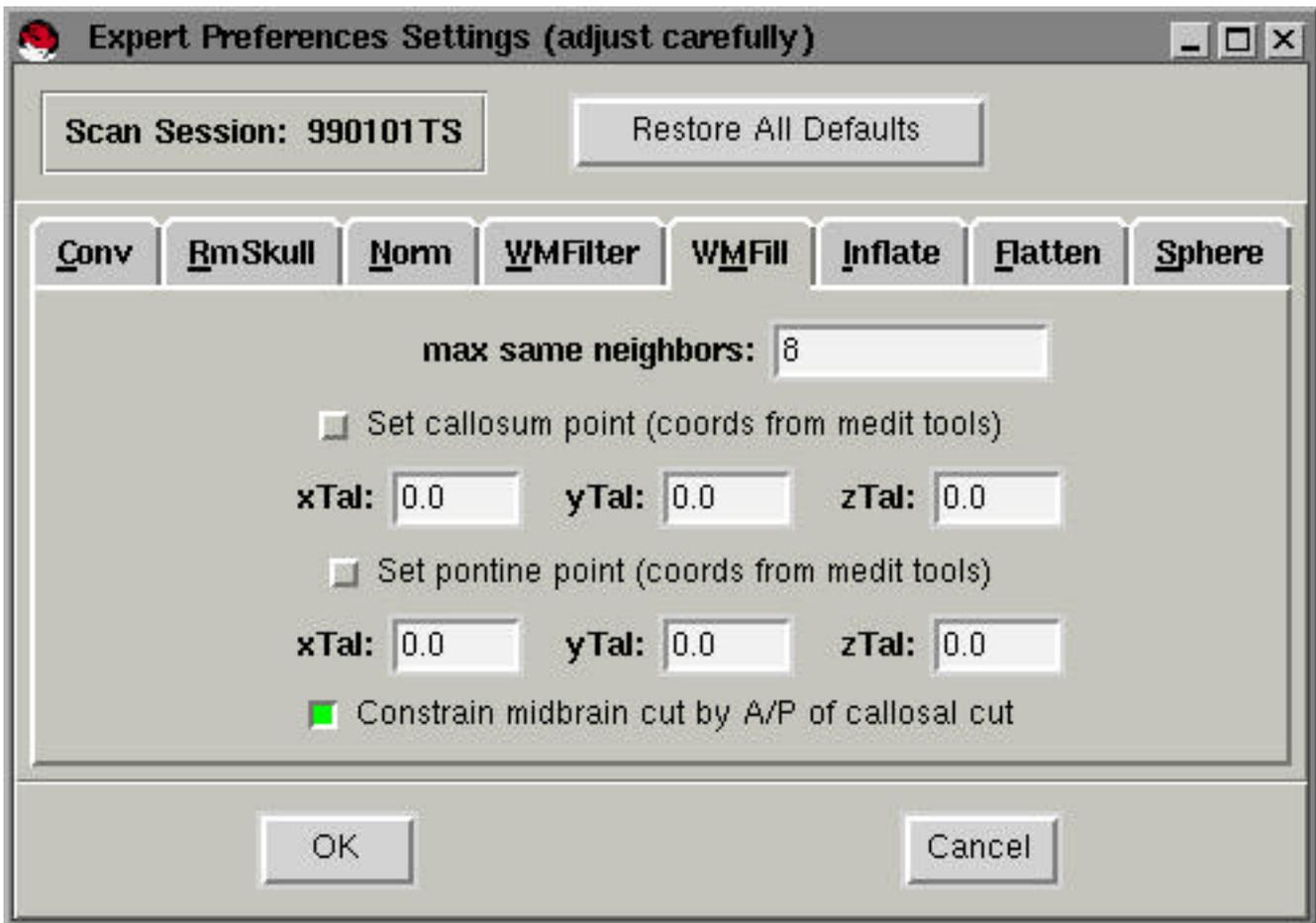


Select a point (left mouse button) in the corpus callosum to get the Talairach coordinates. Be sure that **View Logs** is selected. The Talairach coordinates will be printed in the **csurf** window under the **medit** bar.

Select **Expert Preferences** from the **Preferences** menu.



In the **Expert Preferences** window, select the **WMFill** tab.



Enter the Talairach coordinates of the corpus callosum into the **WMFill** window and press the button next to “**Set callosum point.**” If the Talairach transformation matrix is not available, enter the x, y, and z locations output by **medit**.

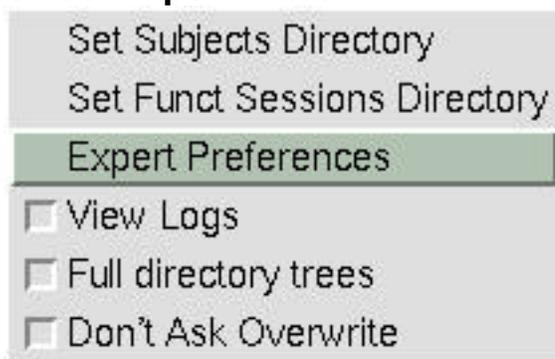
## Pons:

Using **medit**, find a horizontal slice in the **wm** volume in which the brainstem is disconnected from the rest of the brain. This slice should be near the top of the pons. If you cannot find a slice with the mid-brain disconnected, manually erase voxels to separate the mid-brain (erase voxels with the right mouse button in **medit**).

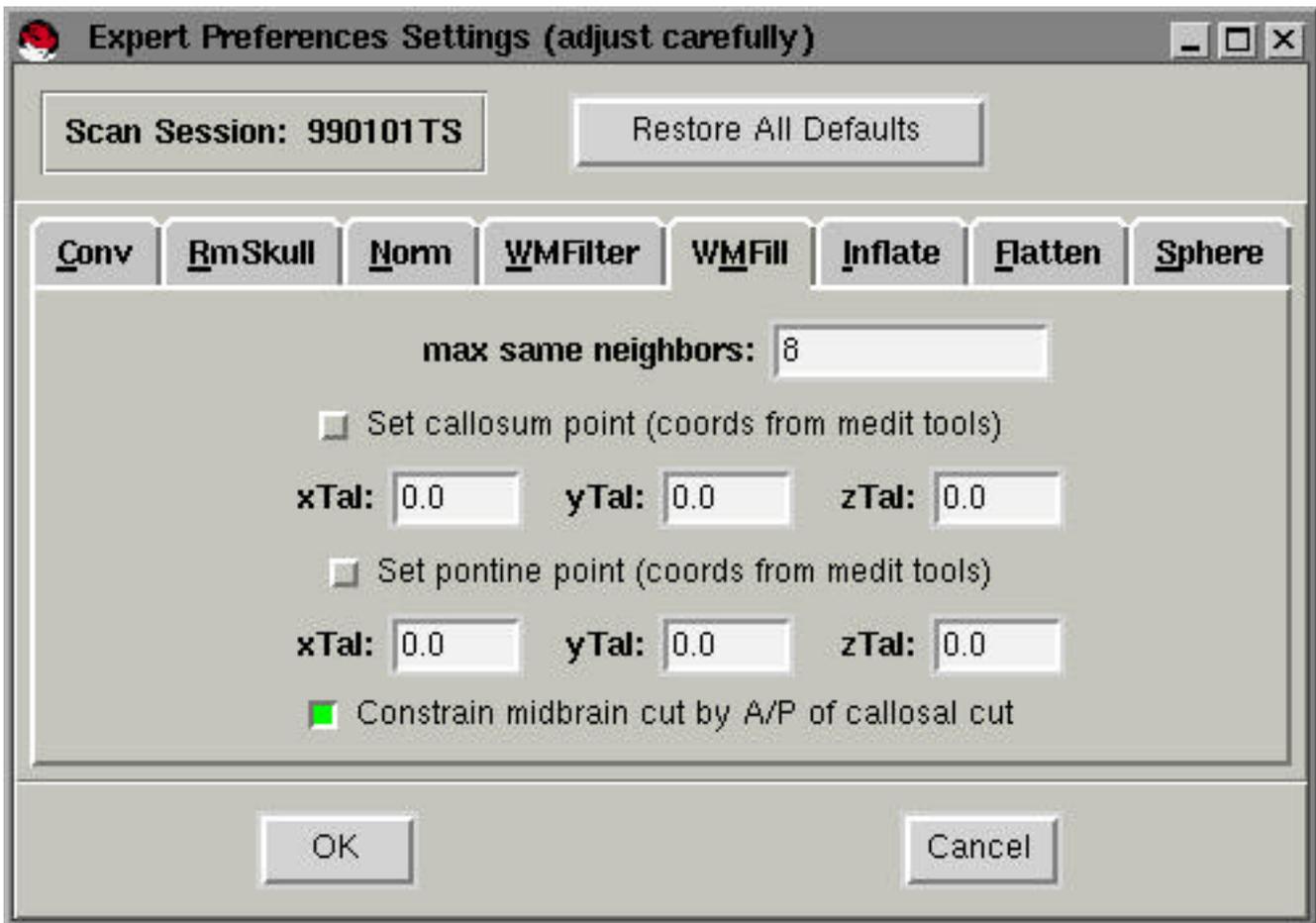


Select a point (left mouse button) in the brainstem to get the Talairach coordinates. Be sure that **View Logs** is selected. The Talairach coordinates will be printed in the **csurf** window under the **medit** bar.

Select **Expert Preferences** from the **Preferences** menu.

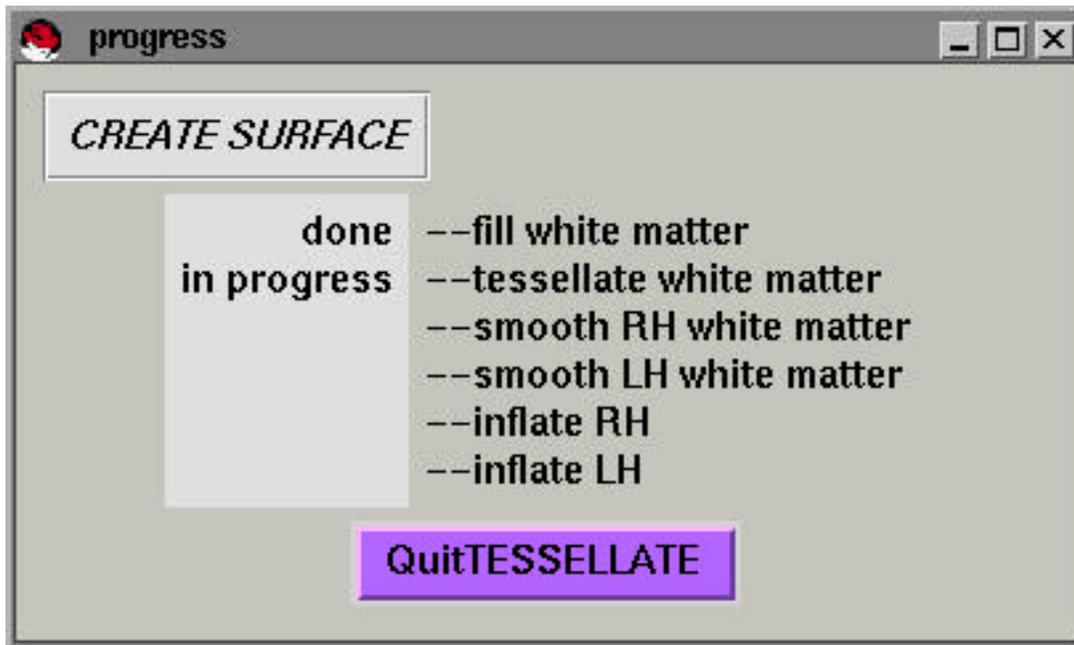


In the **Expert Preferences** window, select the **WMFill** tab.



Enter the Talairach coordinates of the pons into the **WMFill** window and press the button next to “**Set pontine point.**” If the Talairach transformation matrix is not available, enter the x, y, and z locations output by **medit**.

## Part 2: Tessellate White Matter



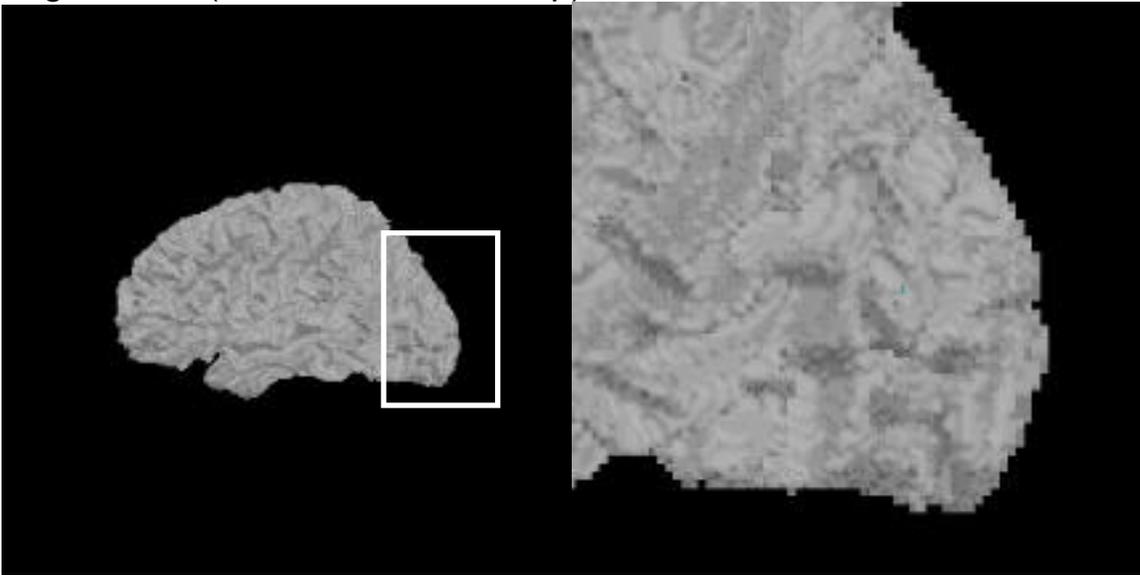
Connects the surfaces of the filled white matter voxels into a continuous surface.

The output files written by this procedure are:

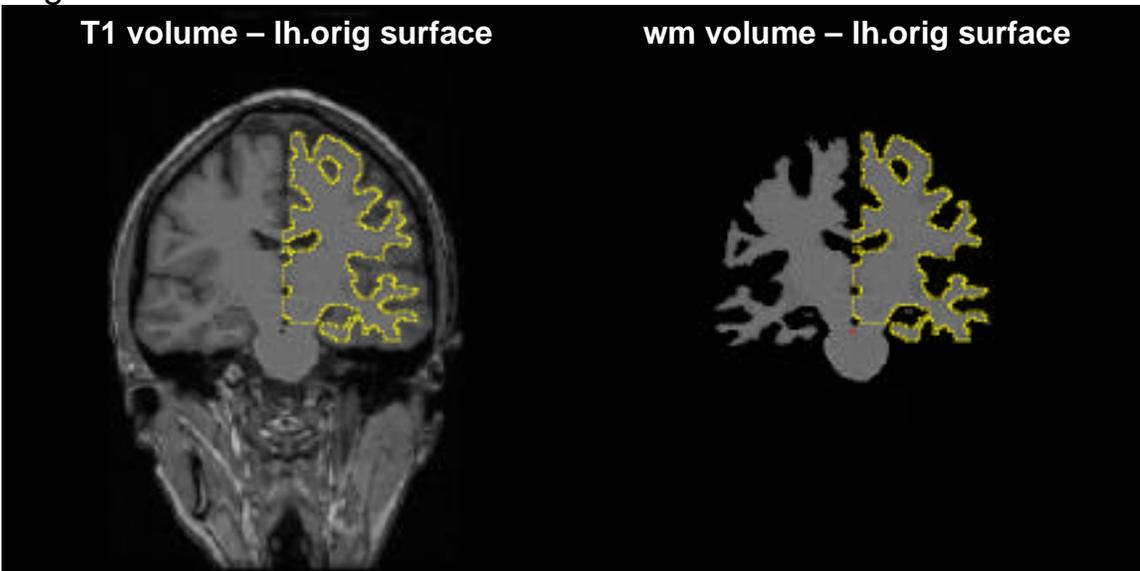
surface: \$\$SUBJECTS\_DIR/\$name/surf/rh.orig

surface: \$\$SUBJECTS\_DIR/\$name/surf/lh.orig

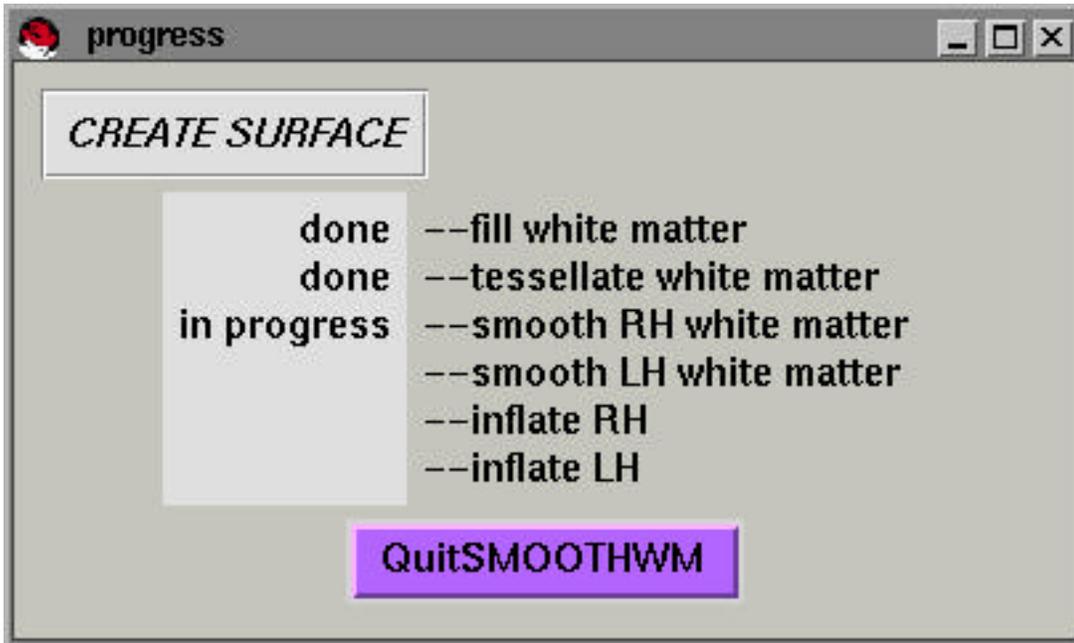
orig surface (full view and close up)



orig surface overlaid in T1 and wm volume



### Part 3: Smooth Right Hemisphere White Matter

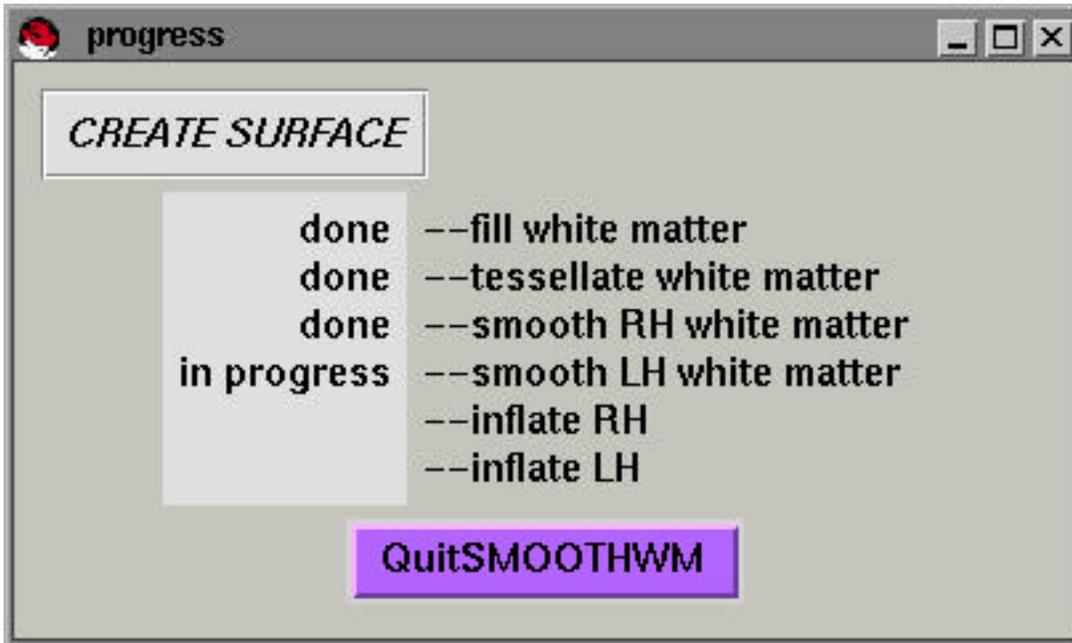


The reconstructed white matter surface of the right hemisphere (rh.orig) is smoothed. The mean curvature is computed from the smooth surface.

The output files written by this procedure are:

surface: \$SUBJECTS\_DIR/\$name/surf/rh.smoothwm  
curv: \$SUBJECTS\_DIR/\$name/surf/rh.curv

## Part 4: Smooth Left Hemisphere White Matter



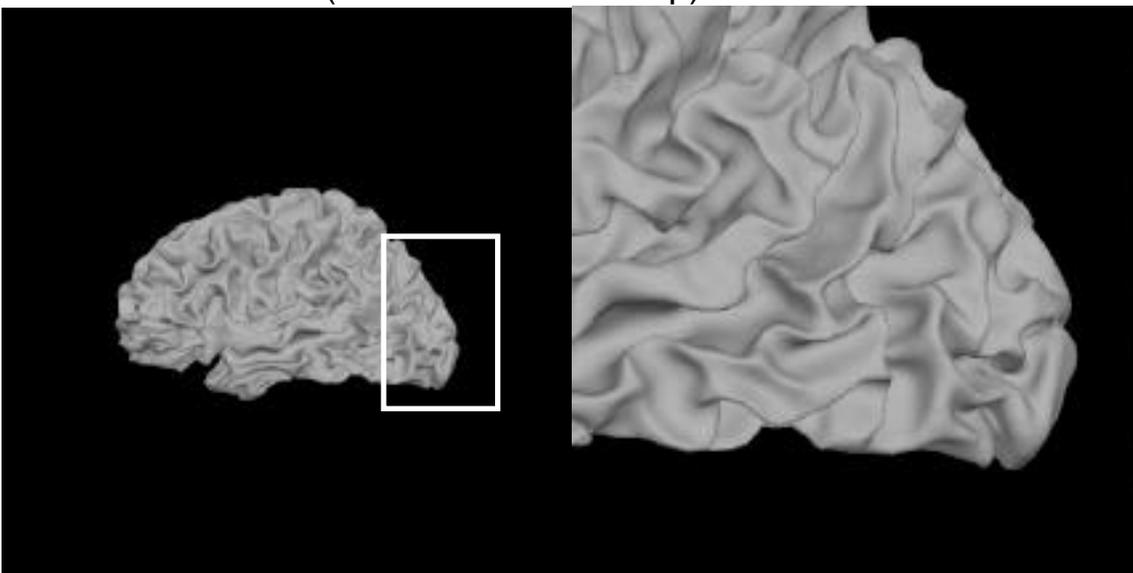
The reconstructed white matter surface of the left hemispheres (lh.orig) is smoothed. The mean curvature is computed from the smooth surface.

The output files written by this procedure are:

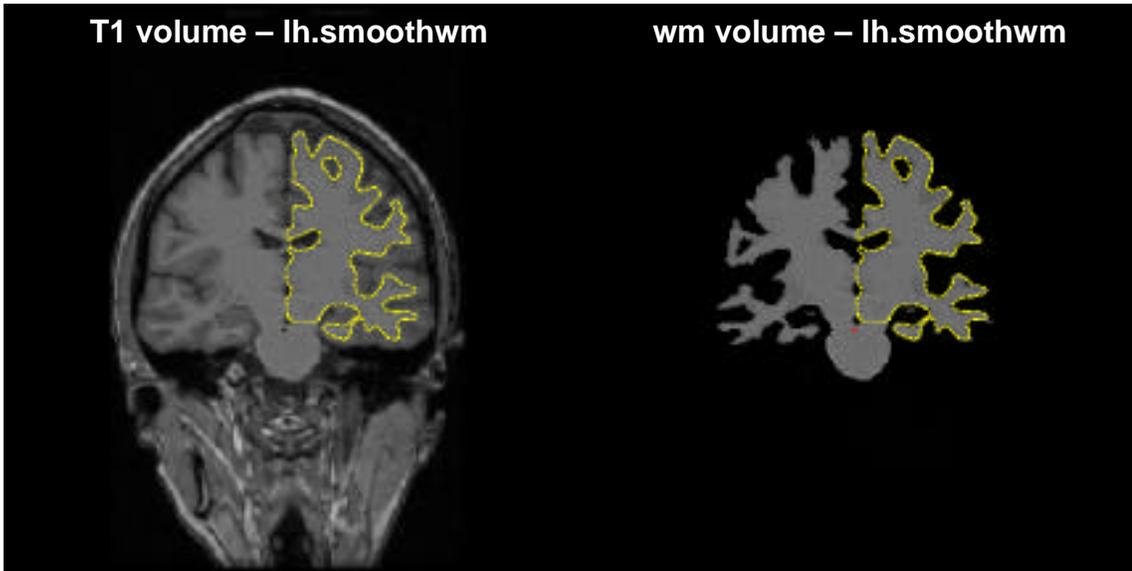
surface: \$SUBJECTS\_DIR/\$name/surf/lh.smoothwm

curv: \$SUBJECTS\_DIR/\$name/surf/lh.curv

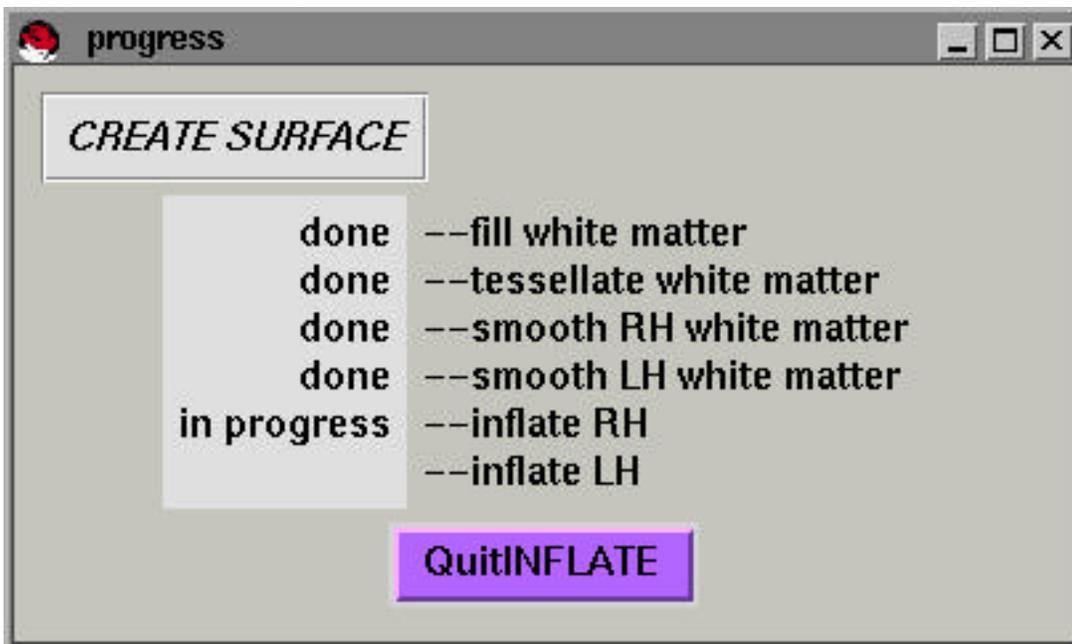
smoothwm surface (full view and close up)



smoothwm surface overlaid in T1 and wm volume



### Part 5: Inflate Right Hemisphere

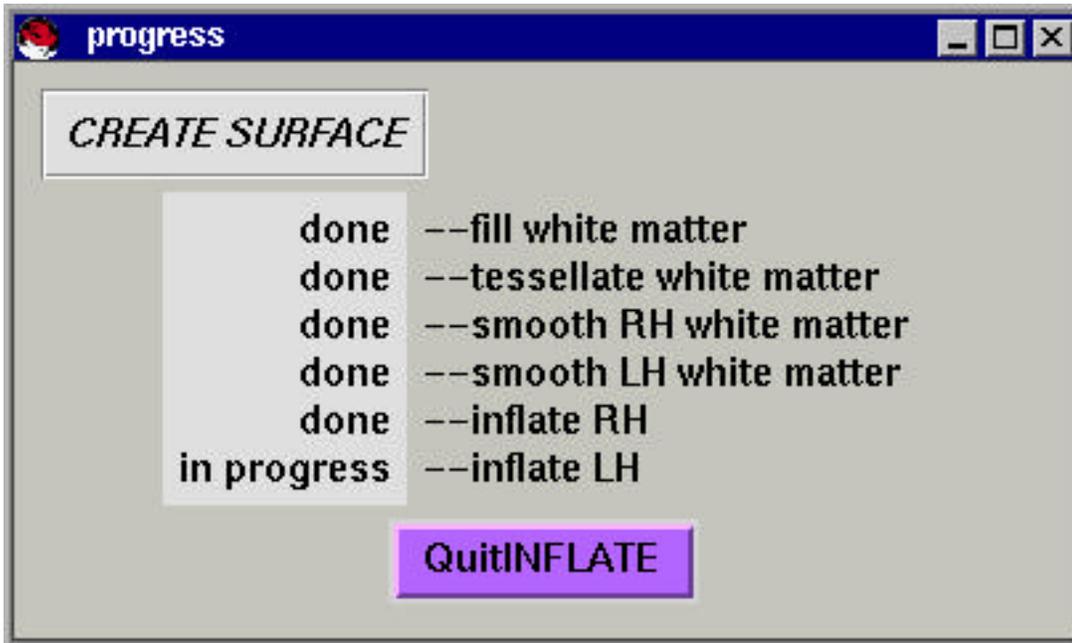


Inflates the right hemisphere surface (rh.smoothwm) while attempting to minimize metric distortion.

The output file written by this procedure is:

surface: \$SUBJECTS\_DIR/\$name/surf/rh.inflated

## Part 6: Inflate Left Hemisphere

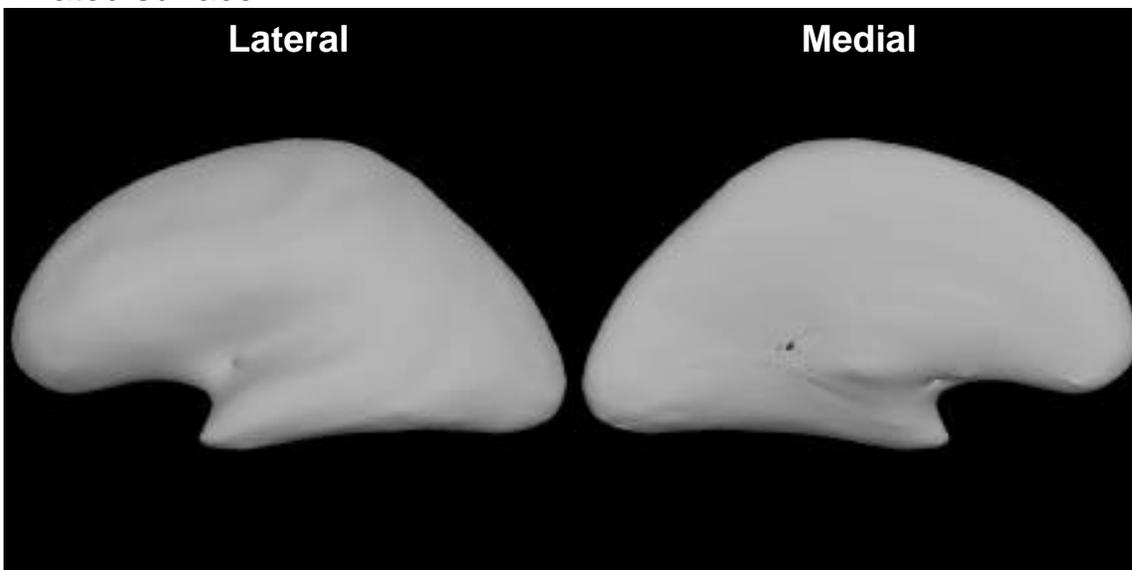


Inflates the left hemisphere surface (lh.smoothwm) while attempting to minimize metric distortion.

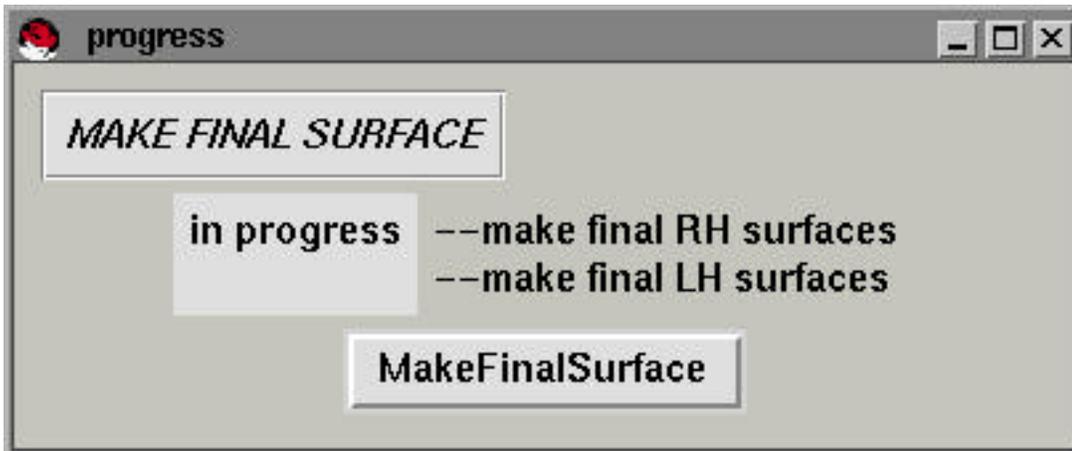
The output file written by this procedure is:

surface: \$SUBJECTS\_DIR/\$name/surf/lh.inflated

inflated surface



## Make Final Surface



Starts a two-part background process to create the final left and right hemisphere cortical surfaces (after removal of topological defects). **Make Final Surface** should only be run once the surface editing is complete (i.e. the surface is topologically correct).

### Part 1: Make Final Right Hemisphere Surfaces

The output files written by this procedure are:

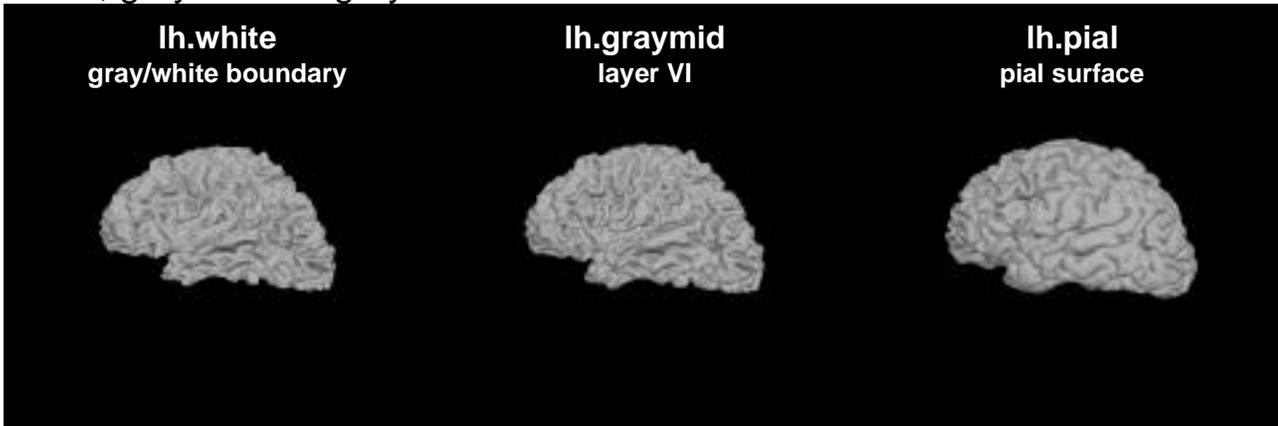
```
surface: $$SUBJECTS_DIR/$name/surf/rh.white  
surface: $$SUBJECTS_DIR/$name/surf/rh.graymid  
surface: $$SUBJECTS_DIR/$name/surf/rh.pial
```

### Part 2: Make Final Left Hemisphere Surfaces

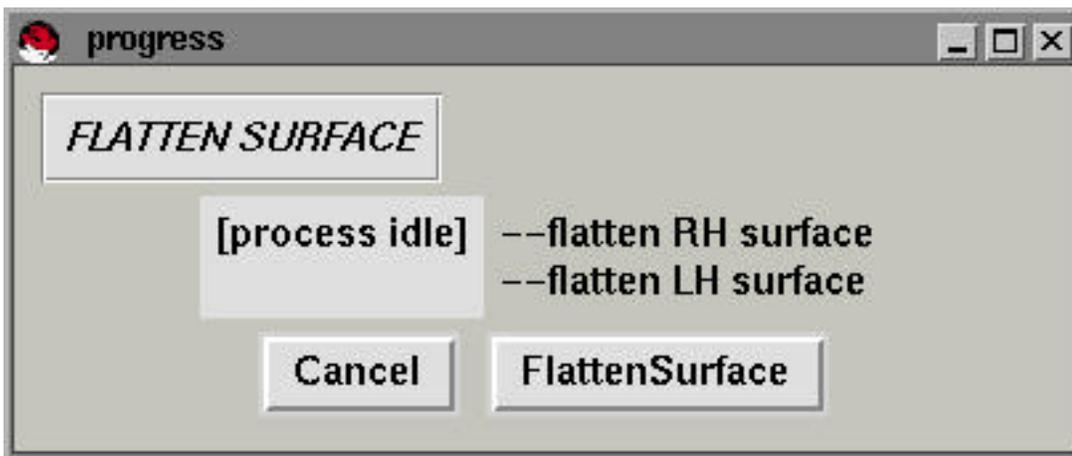
The output files written by this procedure are:

```
surface: $$SUBJECTS_DIR/$name/surf/lh.white  
surface: $$SUBJECTS_DIR/$name/surf/lh.graymid  
surface: $$SUBJECTS_DIR/$name/surf/lh.pial
```

White, graymid and gray surfaces



## Flatten Surface



Starts a two-part background process to create the flattened left and right hemisphere cortical surfaces (or surface portions). Estimates geodesic distances on smoothwm surface representation and minimizes metric distortions of flattened representation. (16-30 hours per full surface, 12 hours for the occipit surface).

### Part 1: Flatten Right Hemisphere Surfaces

The output file written by this procedure is:

```
surface: $SUBJECTS_DIR/$name/surf/rh.*.patch.flat
```

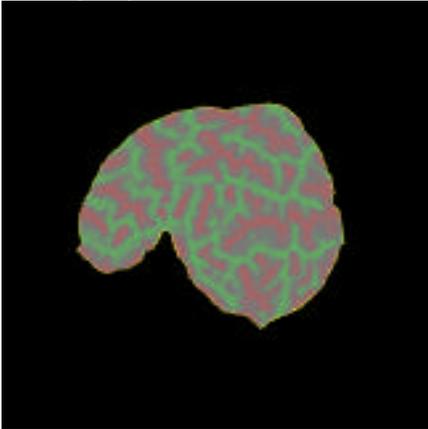
### Part 2: Flatten Left Hemisphere Surfaces

The output file written by this procedure is:

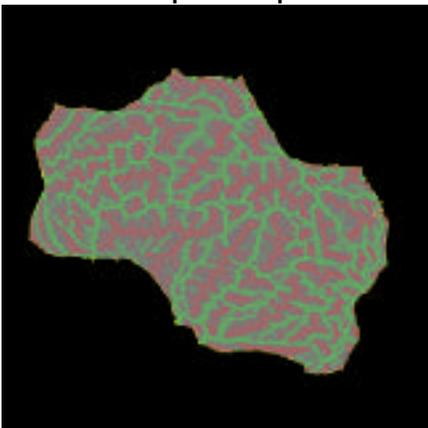
```
surface: $SUBJECTS_DIR/$name/surf/lh.*.patch.flat
```

Typical flattened patches:

Occipit patch



Full hemisphere patch



## Sphere Surface

Starts a four-part background process to create the spherical left and right hemisphere cortical surfaces and then registers them with an average spherical cortical surface representation.

### Part 1: Sphere Right Hemisphere Surface

The output file written by this procedure is:

```
surface: $SUBJECTS_DIR/$name/surf/rh.sphere
```

## Part 2: Sphere Left Hemisphere Surface

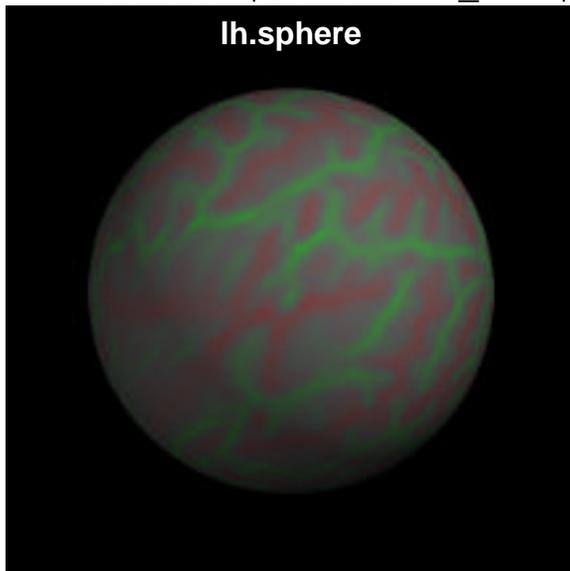
The output file written by this procedure is:

surface: \$\$SUBJECTS\_DIR/\$name/surf/lh.sphere

## Part 3: Register Right Hemisphere Surface

The output file written by this procedure is:

surface: \$\$SUBJECTS\_DIR/\$name/surf/rh.sphere.reg



## Part 4: Register Sphere Left Hemisphere Surface

The output file written by this procedure is:

surface: \$\$SUBJECTS\_DIR/\$name/surf/lh.sphere.reg

## Tools Menu – Functional Commands

The three functional commands under tools menu perform the following functions :

- Conversion of the functional data into bshorts

- Sampling of the statistical volume using the reconstructed surface (we refer to as “painting”) which associates a statistical value with each vertex in the cortical surface

- Rendering of the cortical surface that has been “painted” with the statistics.

Additional controls are provided to vary the visual appearance or the rendering

The statistical volume can also be viewed overlaid in the high resolution MRI volume.

### Setup Functional Scans

Selects the functional directories and determines the resolution of the scans. Currently supported formats are: SPM/analyze, AFNI, and bfloat

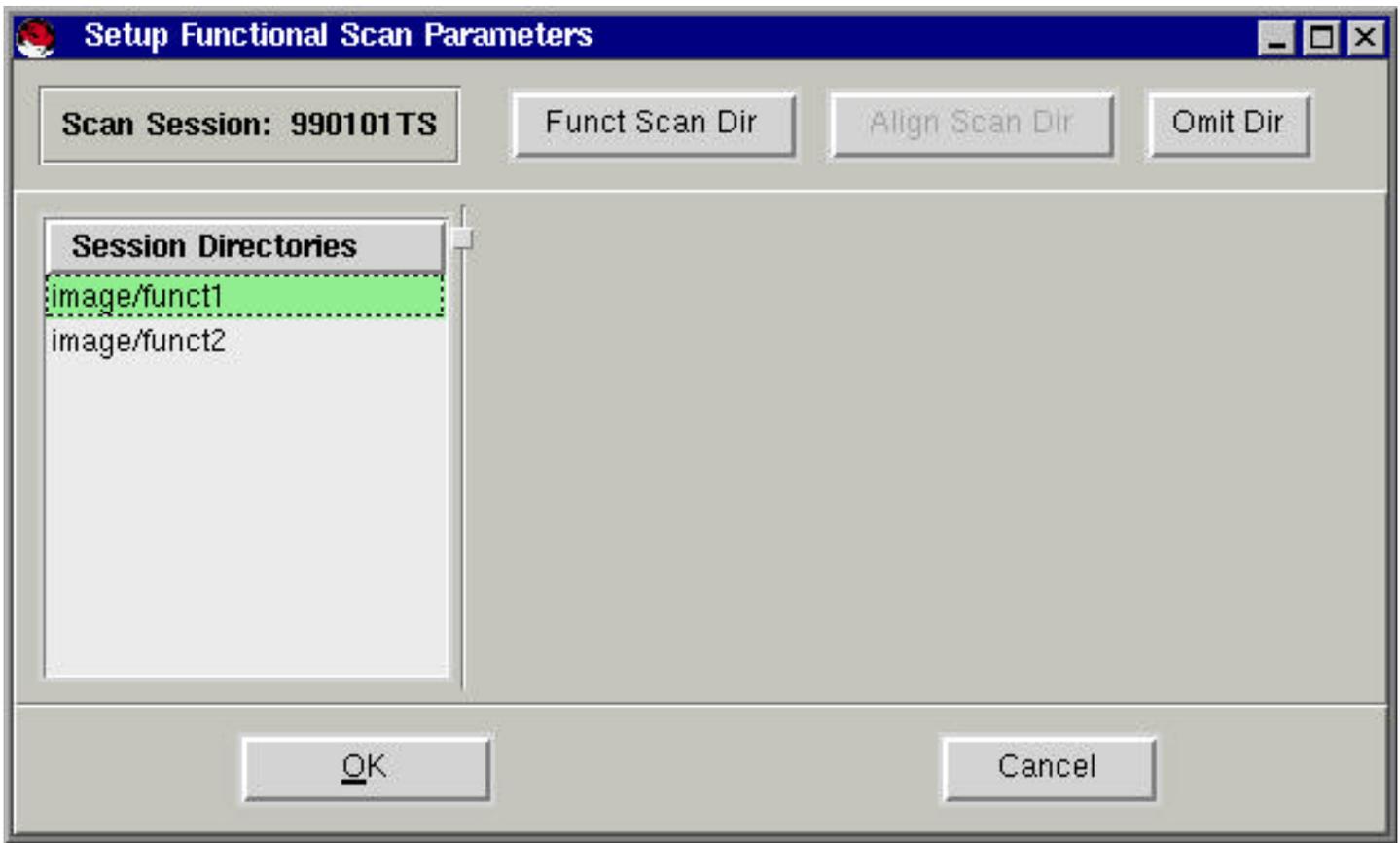
Each functional acquisition must be in its own directory in the **image** directory. Within each functional directory there must be a file **register.dat**.

#### register.dat

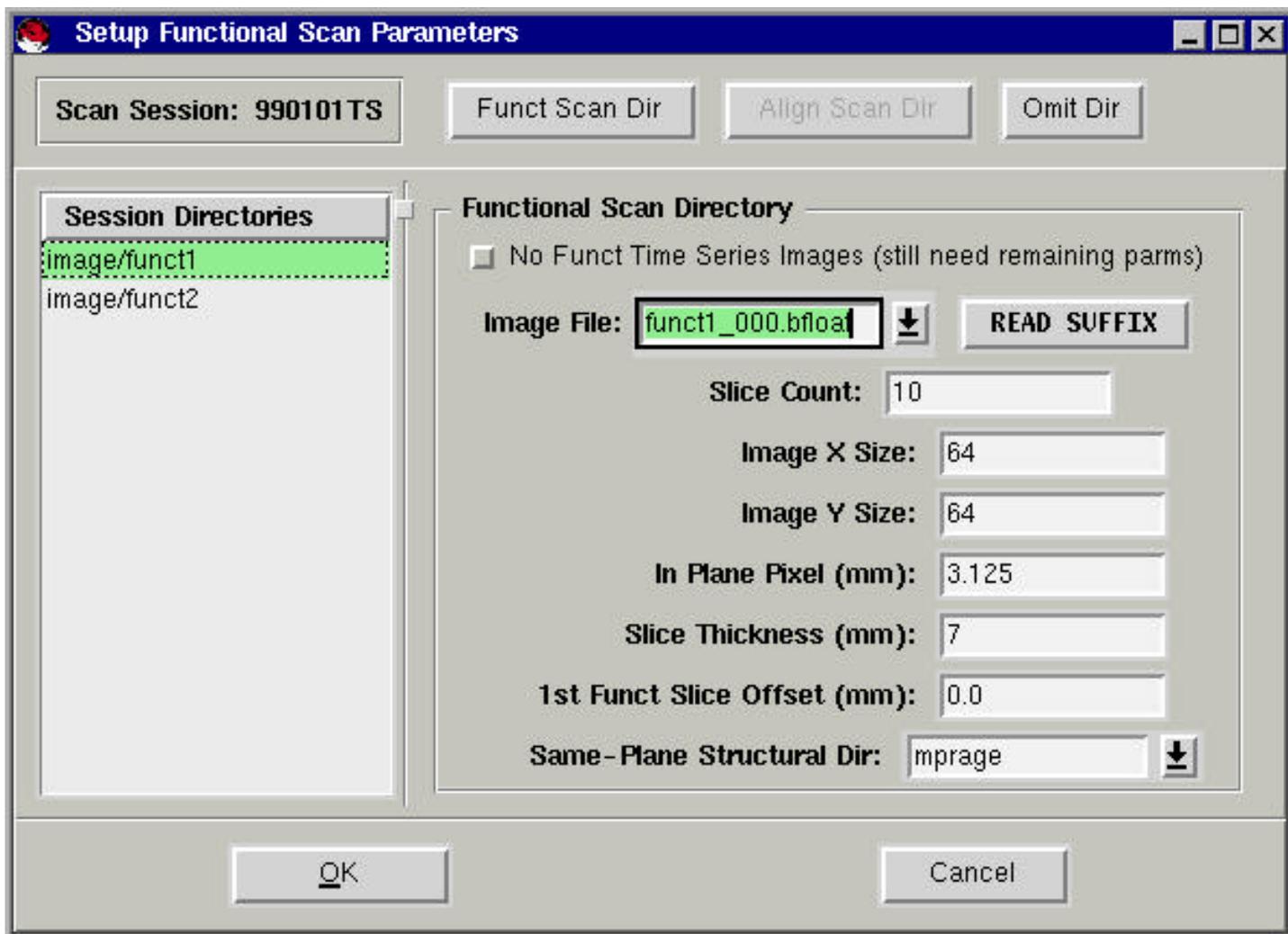
```
name_of_subject
in_plane_resolution(mm)
slice_thickness(mm)
brightness
transformation_matrix
```

#### Example

```
test_subject
3.125
7.000
0.100
1 0 0 0
0 1 0 0
0 0 1 0
0 0 0 1
```

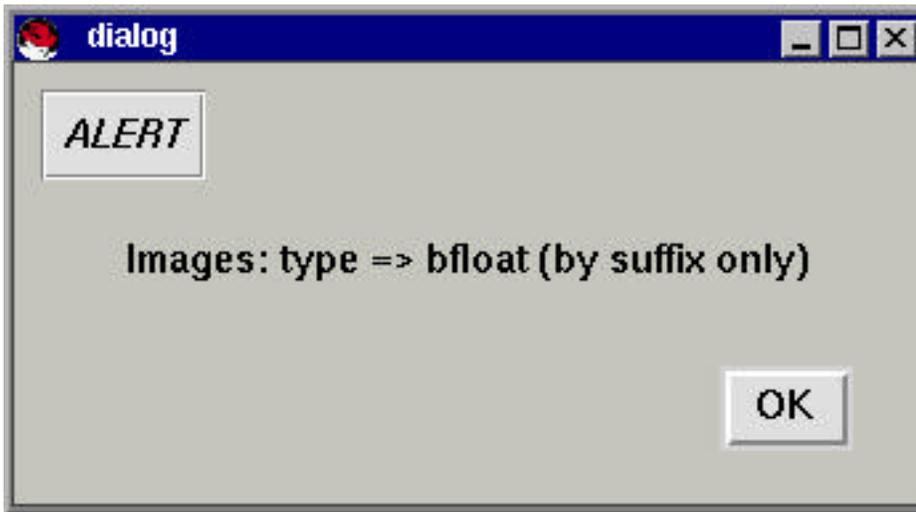


Select the first functional scan in the window on the left and press **Funct Scan Dir**.



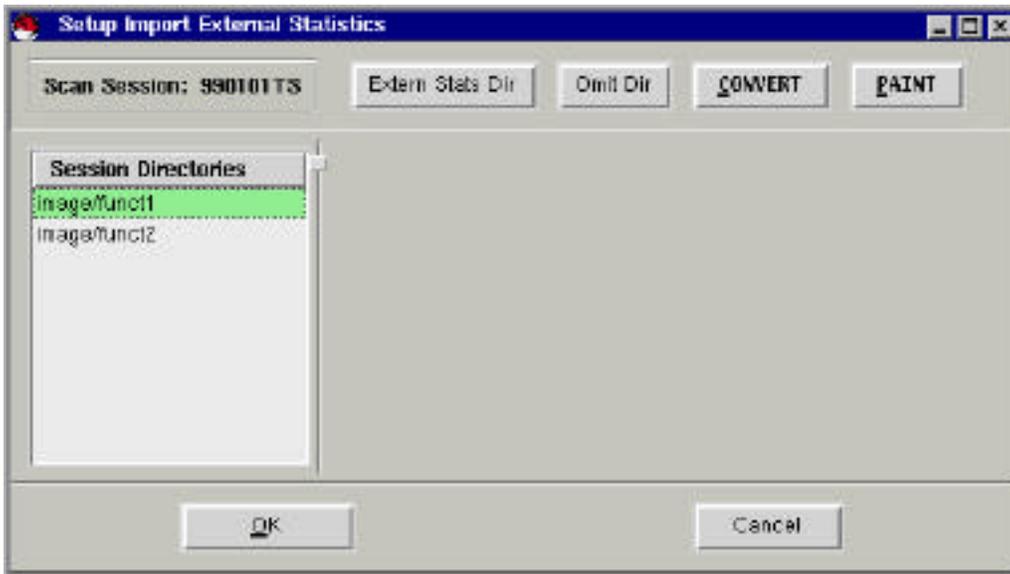
Manually correct any fields that were not correctly determined. If you want to omit a functional scan that was previously selected, reselect the directory and press **Omit Dir**.

The **READ SUFFIX** button simply determines the type of the scan based on the suffix.

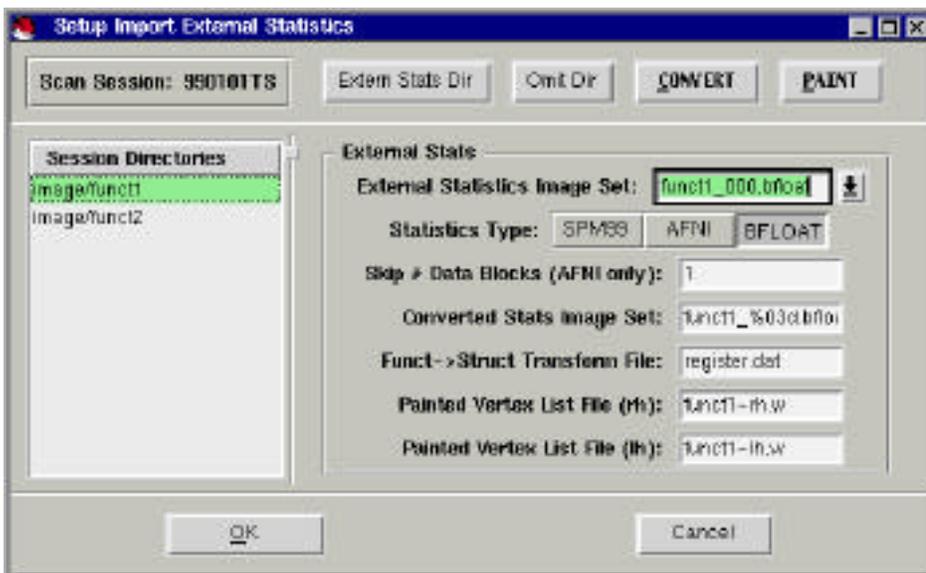


## Setup Import Stats

Determines the filename structure for the imported statistical volume, converts the data to bshorts (if necessary), and samples the statistical volume using the **smoothwm** surface.



Select the external statistics directory in the left window and press **Extern Stats Dir**.



Description of each field:

**Statistics Type:** Select the type of statistical volume (either **SPM**, **AFNI**, or **BFLOAT**) with the appropriate button. If the statistic type is either SPM or AFNI, press **CONVERT** to convert to bshorts.

**Skip # Data Blocks (AFNI only):** For AFNI data, enter the number of data blocks to skip.

**Converted Stats Image Set:** Format string to describe the functional data

**Funct->Struct Transform File:** Default is **register.dat**. Do not edit.

**Painted Vertex List File (rh):** Defaults to <stem of the functional data>-rh.w

**Painted Vertex List File (lh):** Defaults to <stem of the functional data>-lh.w

To generate the statistical surface overlay (values only), press **PAINT**. This creates a list of vertices and the associated statistic sampled from the volume.

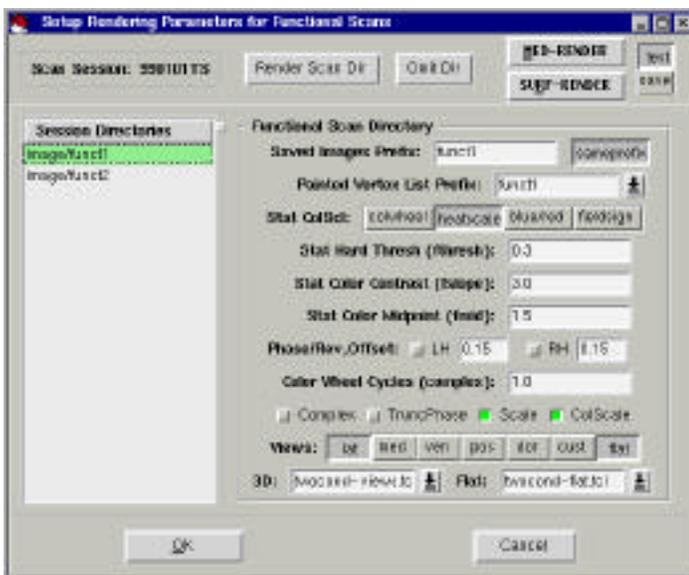
Repeat for each functional directory. If you want to omit a functional scan that was previously selected, reselect the directory and press **Omit Dir**.

## Setup Rendering Parameters

Specify the rendering parameters for the overlaid statistical volume (previously selected using **Setup Import Statistics**). Provides both a volume overlay (using **medit**) and a surface overlay (using **surfer**).



Select the functional directory in the left window and press **Render Scan Dir**. Be sure that the functional directory that is selected in the left window matches the functional directory in the **scandir** field in the **csurf** window.



Description of each field:

**Saved Images Prefix:** Specifies the prefix for any saved images (rgb format). Images are saved in the **rgb** directory. Images are saved only if the **save** button is depressed. Default filename is <prefix>-<hemi>-<surface>.rgb.

**Painted Vertex List Prefix:** Must match the prefix specified in **Setup Import External Statistics**.

**Stat ColSci:** **heatscale** displays positive statistics in red and yellow and negative statistics in blue and green. **Colwheel**, **blue/red**, and **fieldsign** are currently unsupported (future functionality).

**Stat Hard Thresh:** Statistical threshold (for values below the threshold, the underlying curvature is displayed).

**Stat Color Contrast:** Color slope from **Stat Color Midpoint** (red/blue) to the maximum color (yellow/green). Maximum color (yellow, green) represents a statistical value of **Stat Color Midpoint + 1/ Stat Color Contrast**.

**Stat Color Midpoint:** Statistical value for full red/blue.

**Phase/Rev, Offset:** Currently unsupported (future functionality).

**Color Wheel Cycles:** Currently unsupported (future functionality).

Radiobuttons:

**Complex:** : Currently unsupported (future functionality).

**TruncPhase:** Only display positive values (red/yellow).

**Scale:** Display scale bar (1 cm).

**ColScale:** Display color scale bar.

Pushbuttons:

**Views:** Specify which viewing orientations should be generated and saved. Can specify multiple orientations.

**lat:** lateral

**med:** medial

**pos:** posterior

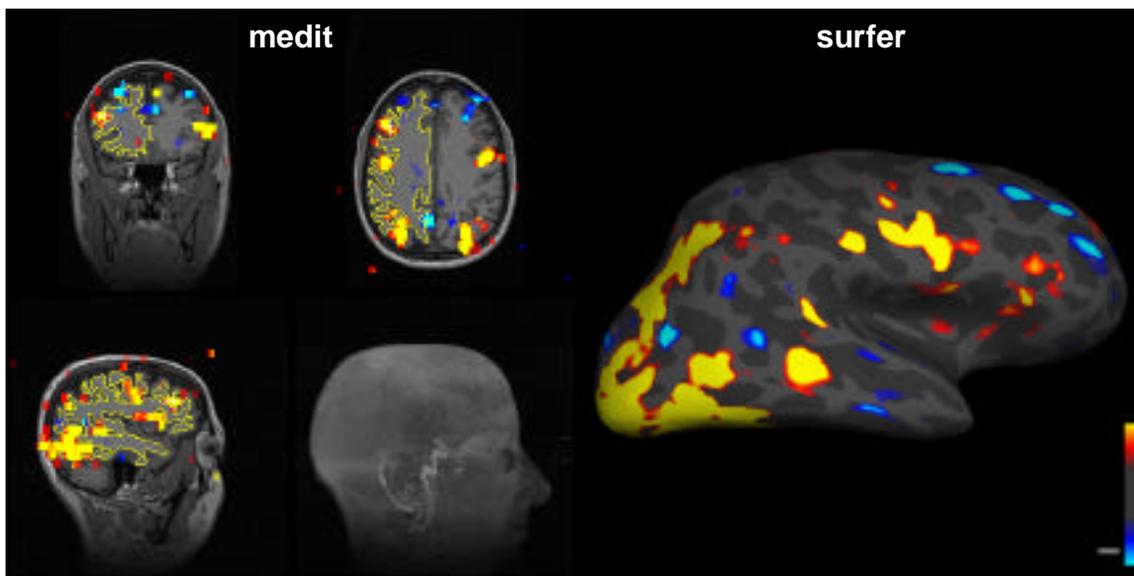
**dor:** dorsal

**cus:** custom

**flat:** flattened patch

To view the statistical volume overlaid into the T1 volume, press **MED-RENDER**. To view the statistical volume painted onto a surface or flattened patch, press **SURF-RENDER**. Select the surface or patch in the **csurf** window (**surface** or **patch** field). To save the images generated by **SURF-RENDER**, press the **save** button. To view (without saving) the images generated by **SURF-RENDER**, press the **test** button.

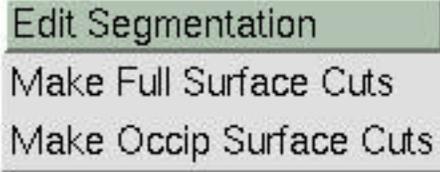
An example of the statistical overlay in the volume in 3 views (left) and the corresponding surface overlay (right) are shown below:



Repeat for the setup each functional directory. If you want to omit a functional scan that was previously selected, reselect the directory and press **Omit Dir**.

If you begin to experience errors with the rendering, exit **Setup Rendering Parameters** and begin again. Also be sure that the functional scan that you are rendering is also correctly listed in the **scandir** field in the **csurf** window.

## Edit Menu



### Edit Segmentation

Starts both medit (to edit the white matter volume) and surfer (to view the inflated cortical surface). Medit reads in the wm (white matter) volume with the orig surface overlaid and surfer reads in the inflated surface.

For a detailed description of how to fix topological defects, see the section titled **“Fixing Topological Defects in the Cortical Surface.”**

### Make Full Surface Cuts

Starts surfer using the inflated surface

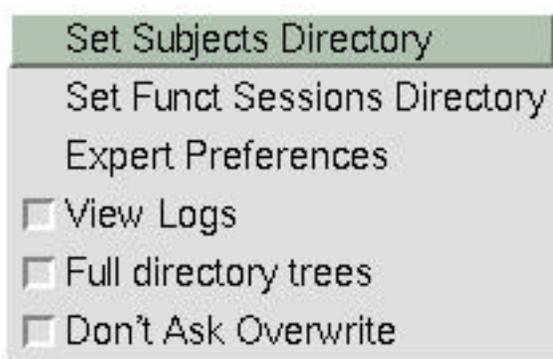
For a detailed description of how to make the full surface cuts, see the section titled **“Cutting the Full Surface.”**

### Make Occipit Surface Cuts

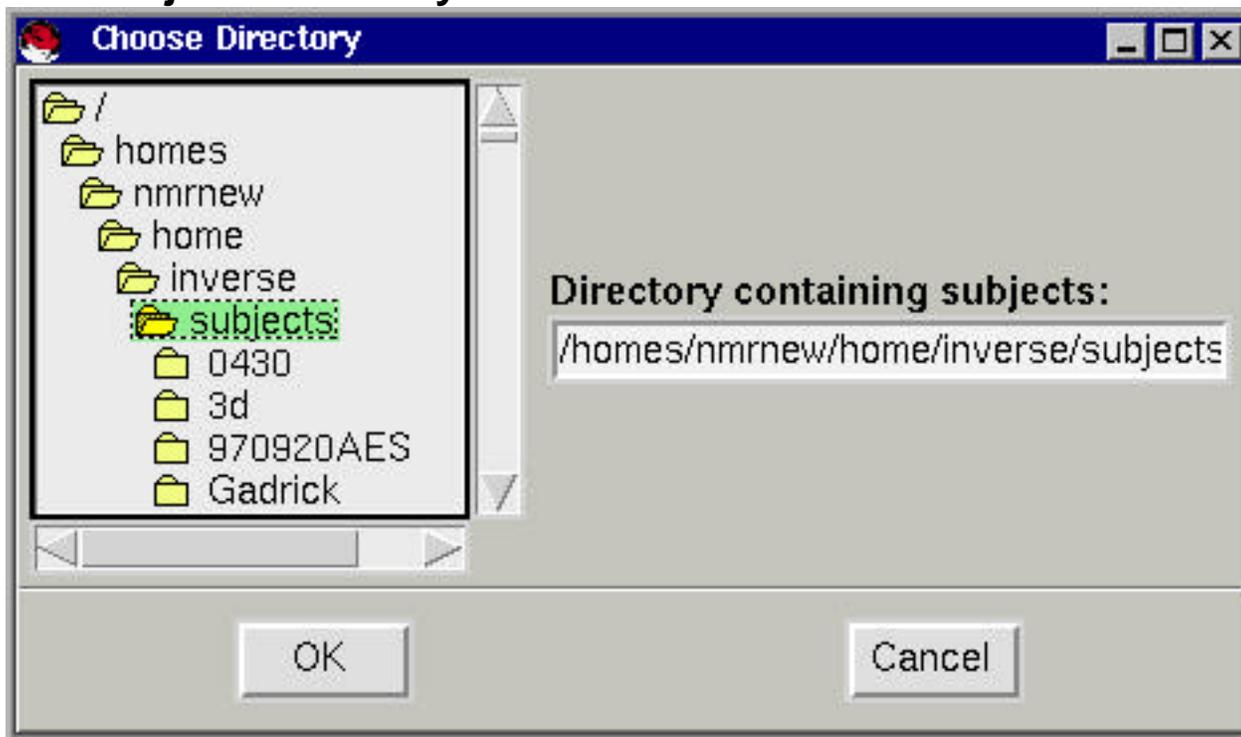
Starts surfer using the inflated surface

For a detailed description of how to make the occipit surface cuts, see the section titled **“Cutting the Occipit Surface.”**

## Preferences

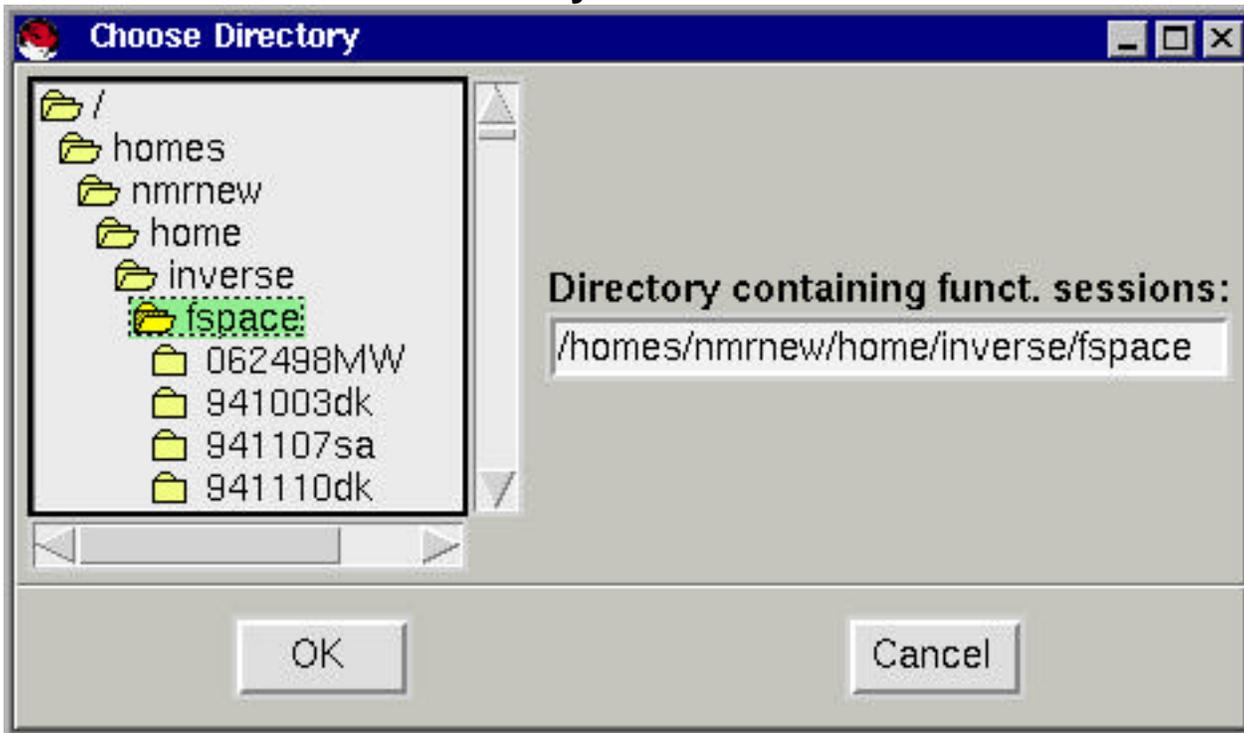


## Set Subjects Directory



Sets the default directory for the subjects' structural data, volumes and surfaces.

## Set Funct Sessions Directory



Sets the default directory for the subjects' functional data.

## Expert Preferences

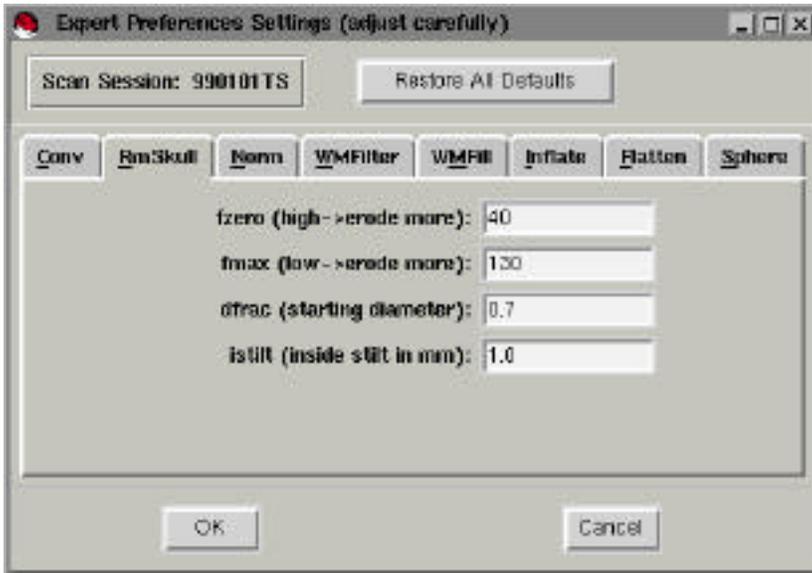
Provides additional parameters which can be adjusted if necessary.  
To return to the original parameters, press **Restore All Defaults**.

### Conv



Not supported. Do not modify.

## Rmskull



These parameters are used in the skull stripping part of **Process Volume**.

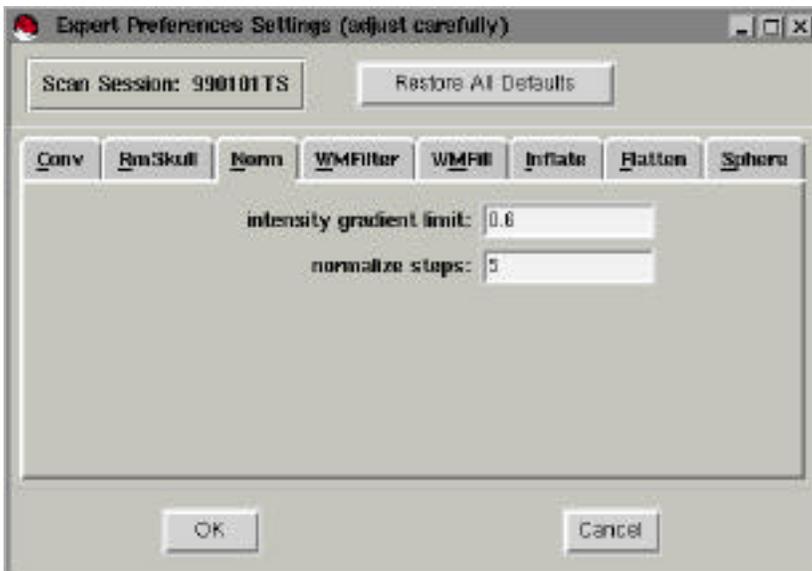
**fzero**: Minimum value while estimating outer brain surface. Larger values will strip more.

**fmax**: Maximum value for while estimating outer brain surface. Smaller values will strip more.

**dfrac**: Initial size of estimated outer brain surface.

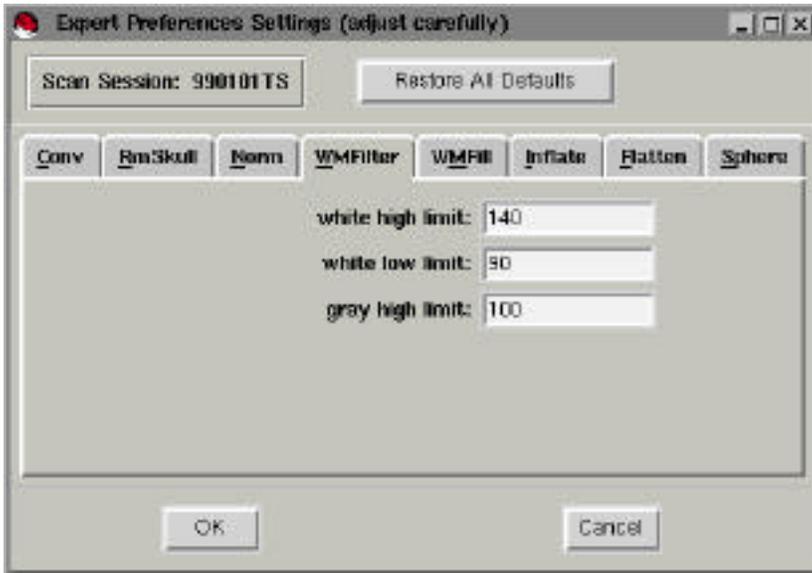
**ilstilt**: Minimum distance of outer brain surface from outer brain.

## Normalize



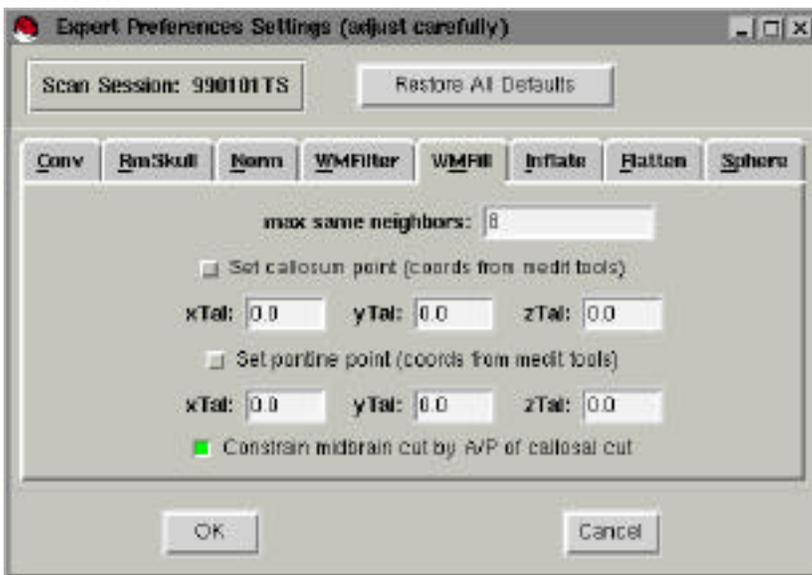
Not supported. Do not modify.

## WMFilter



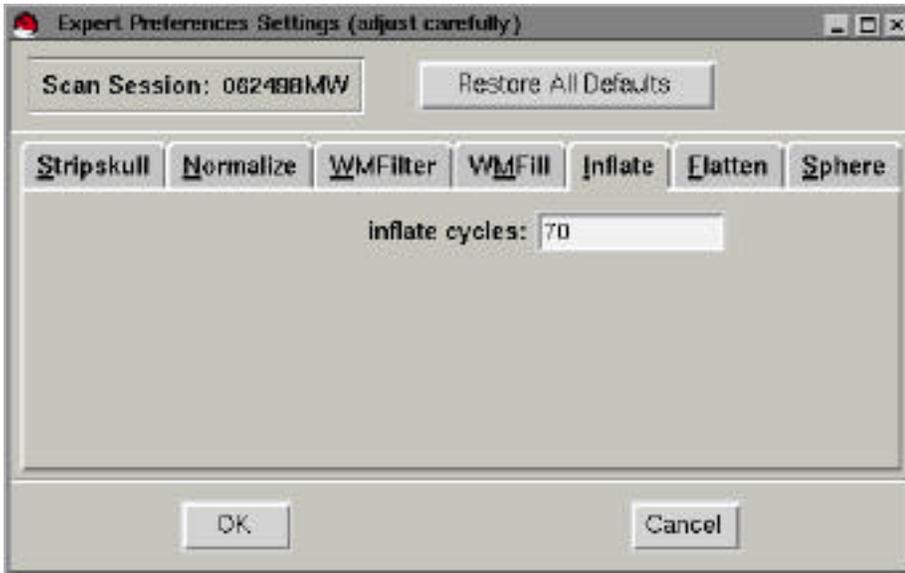
Not supported. Do not modify.

## WMFill



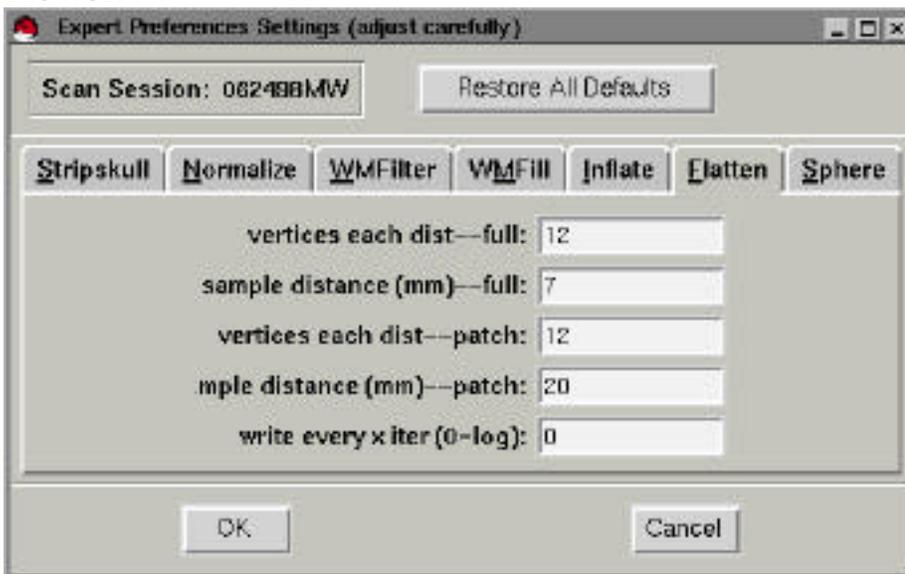
The coordinates specified here are used in **Part 1: Fill White Matter of Create Surface**. If the cutting planes fail, enter the Talairach coordinates of the corpus callosum or pons into the **WMFill** window and press the button next to “**Set callosum point**” or “**Set pontine point.**” If the Talairach transformation matrix is not available, enter the x, y, and z locations output by **medit**.

## Inflate



This parameter is used during the cortical surface inflation in **Create Surface**. Fewer **inflate cycles** will result in a less smooth surface.

## Flatten



These parameters are used during the flattening of the cortical surface in **Flatten Surface**.

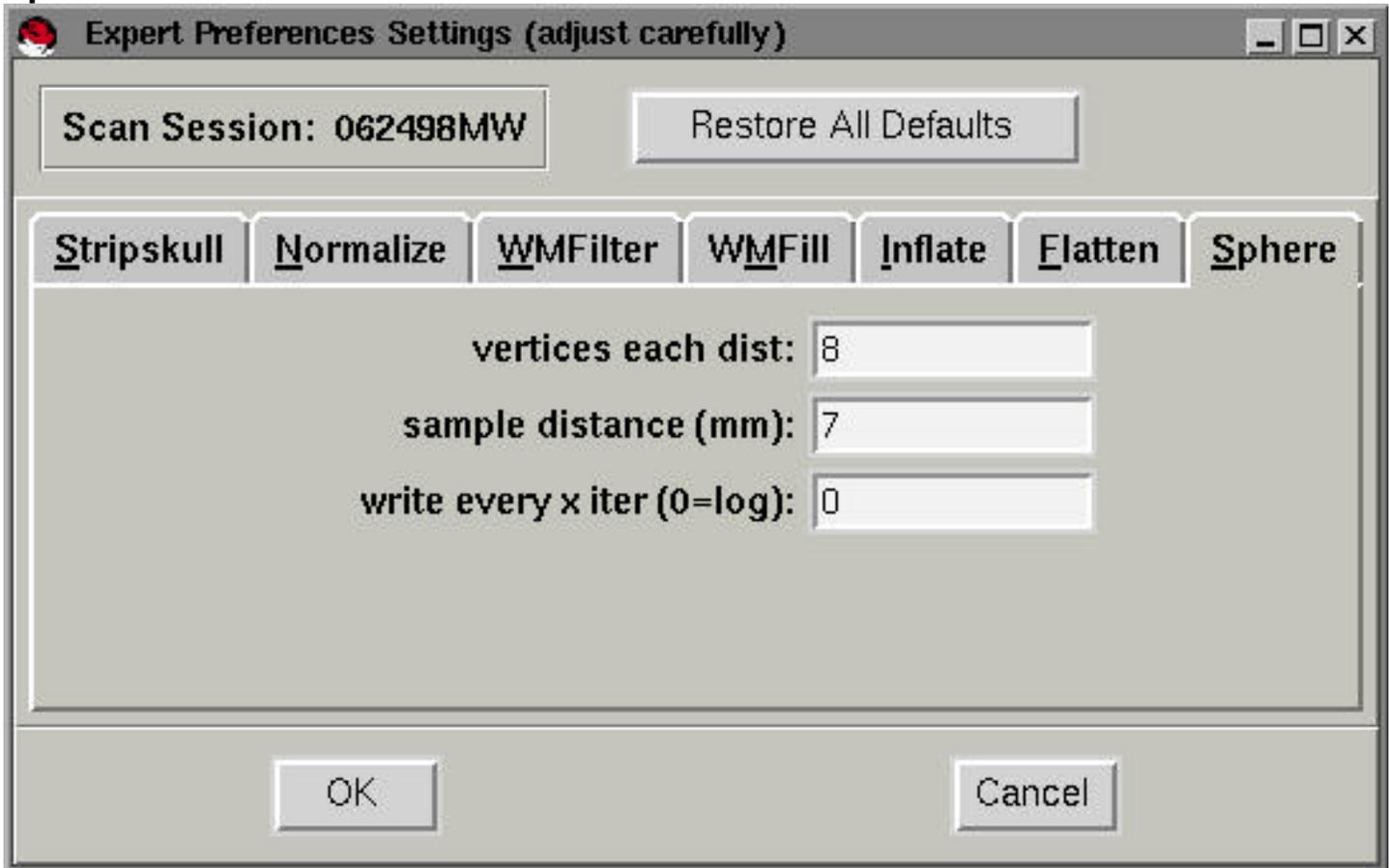
**vertices each dist:** number of vertices to examine

**sample distance:** distance limit to sample vertices.

**write every x iter:** writes out an intermediate surface at each **x** iterations

Fewer vertices and smaller sample distances will result in more metric distortion, but will require less memory and run faster.

## Sphere



These parameters are used during the spherical morphing of the cortical surface inflation in **Sphere Surface**.

**vertices each dist:** number of vertices to examine

**sample distance:** distance limit to sample vertices.

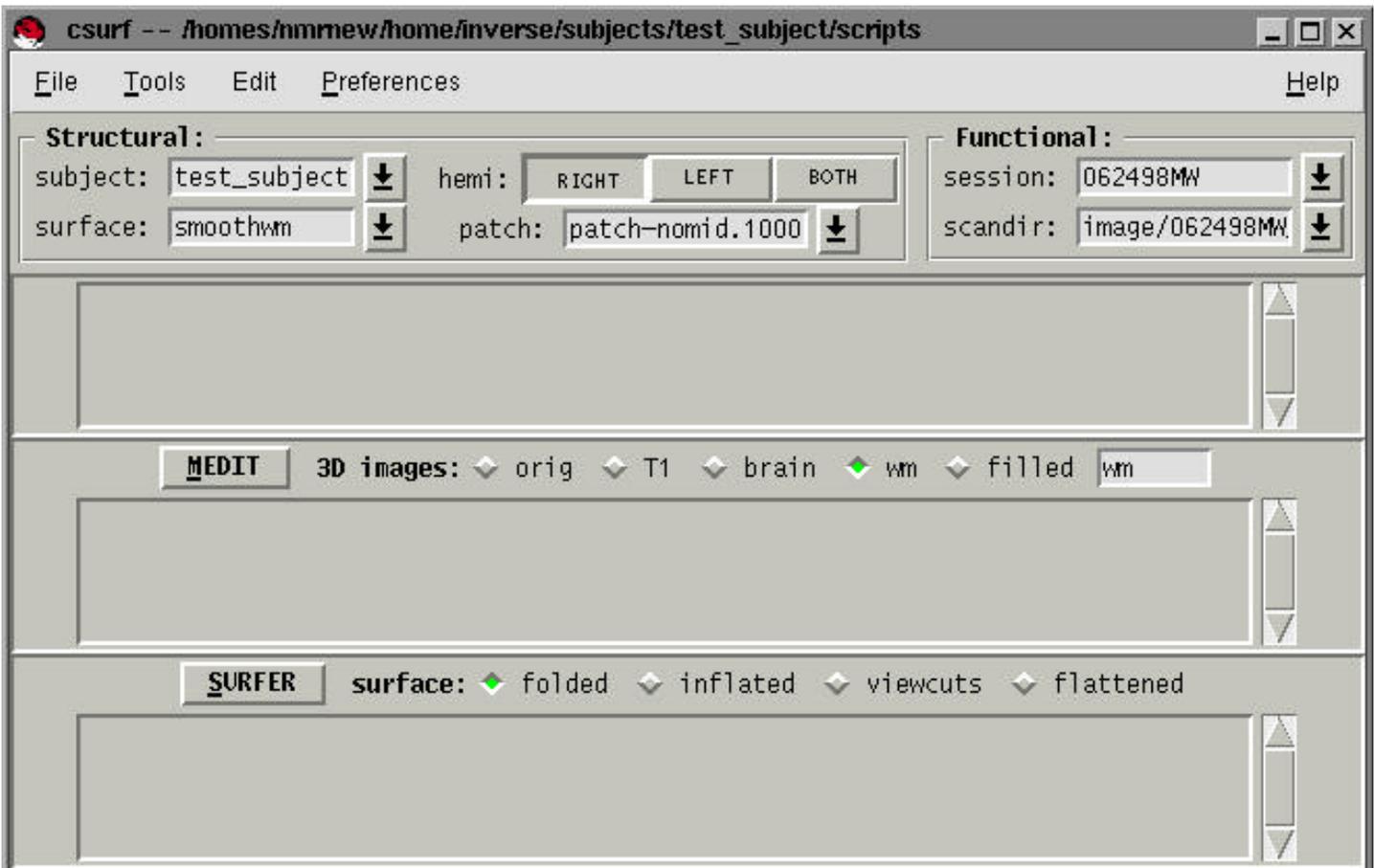
**write every x iter:** writes out an intermediate surface at each of the specified iterations

Fewer vertices and smaller sample distances will result in more metric distortion, but will require less memory and run faster.

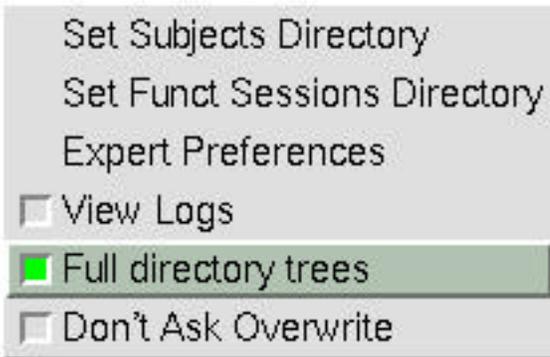
## View Logs

- Set Subjects Directory
- Set Funct Sessions Directory
- Expert Preferences
- View Logs
- Full directory trees
- Don't Ask Overwrite

Enlarges the main **csurf** window to display 3 additional log windows. The top window shows the text output of processes run through the **csurf** interface (except for **medit** and **surfer**). For example, output for the various steps in **Process Volume** are displayed in the top window. Text output for **medit** and **surfer** are shown in the middle and lower windows, respectively. For example, the coordinates of a selected point (MRI and Talairach coordinates, when available) are displayed in these windows.

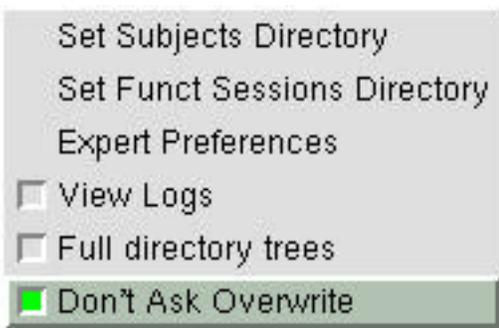


## Full directory trees



When selecting directories, displays entire directory trees. This option can be quite slow for large file systems.

## Don't Ask Overwrite



Automatically regenerates the volumes and surfaces created by the selections under the **Tools** menu. This is equivalent to selecting **Redo** in the Replace dialog window.

## Fixing topological defects in the cortical surface

There are various causes of topologic defects in the reconstructed cortical surface. Certain defects are the result of typical anatomy (e.g. white matter in the tail of the hippocampus, the fornix, the occipital horn of the lateral ventricle). Others result from “errors” in the white matter segmentation. The topological defects are fixed by manually editing the **wm** (white matter) volume. The defects can be fixed by either erasing white matter or filling in white matter. The correct fix will depend on the specific defect. Some examples of defects and how to fix them are below.

In **medit**, read in the **T1** volume into the second volume:

Enter “**T1**” into the field **2<sup>nd</sup> imagedir**

Press **READ** to read in the **T1** volume into the second volume

To change volumes displayed, use the **COMPARE** button This will allow you to compare the segmented volume (**wm**) with the original MRI volume (**T1**) to determine how the defect needs to be fixed.

Select a point (**LEFT-CLICK**) on the cortical surface (**surfer** display window) near the topological defect.

1. Save the location of the point with **SEND** in the **surfer** window
2. Go to the point in the volume with **GOTO PNT** in the **medit** window

Some other helpful **medit** commands:

Fill (set voxel value to 255) – **MIDDLE-CLICK**

Erase (set voxel value to 1) – **RIGHT-CLICK**

Increase/Decrease the brush size for filling/erasing – **rad** field

For small defects use **rad** = 0, For most others **rad** = 1 is good.

Use 3D brush (edits out of visible plane) – **3Dbush** radiobutton

Use care with the 3D brush because you are editing pixels you can't see

Save volume after changes are made – **SAVEIMG**

Toggle surface overlay – **surface** radiobutton

Some general hints

If the wormhole is not clearly visible at first in the initial slice view, change the slice plane before moving the cursor; it is often possible to see it more clearly this way.

To see black edits: contrast (\$fsquash) = 200  
midpoint (\$fthresh) = 0.01

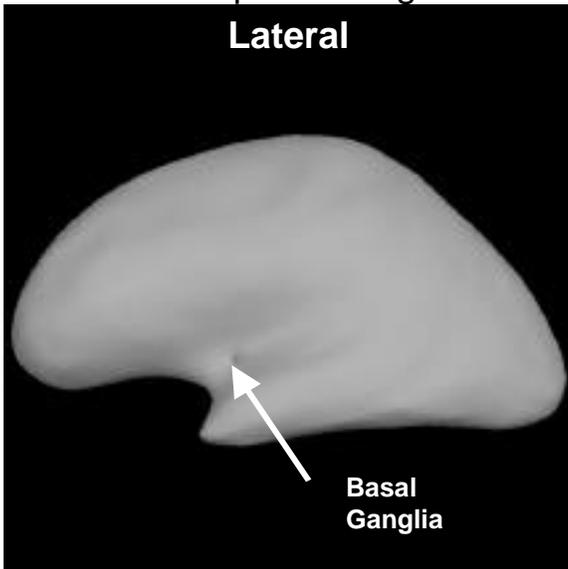
When selecting vertices on a wormhole, you may have to try several times until you get a vertex that has an edge in the wormhole itself. This is because (1) the body of the wormhole may be partly under the surface, and (2) clicking only selects the vertex nearest the viewer.

Touchup extensive edits in another plane to neaten the inevitably ragged edges due to the difficulty of editing the same location in successive slices.

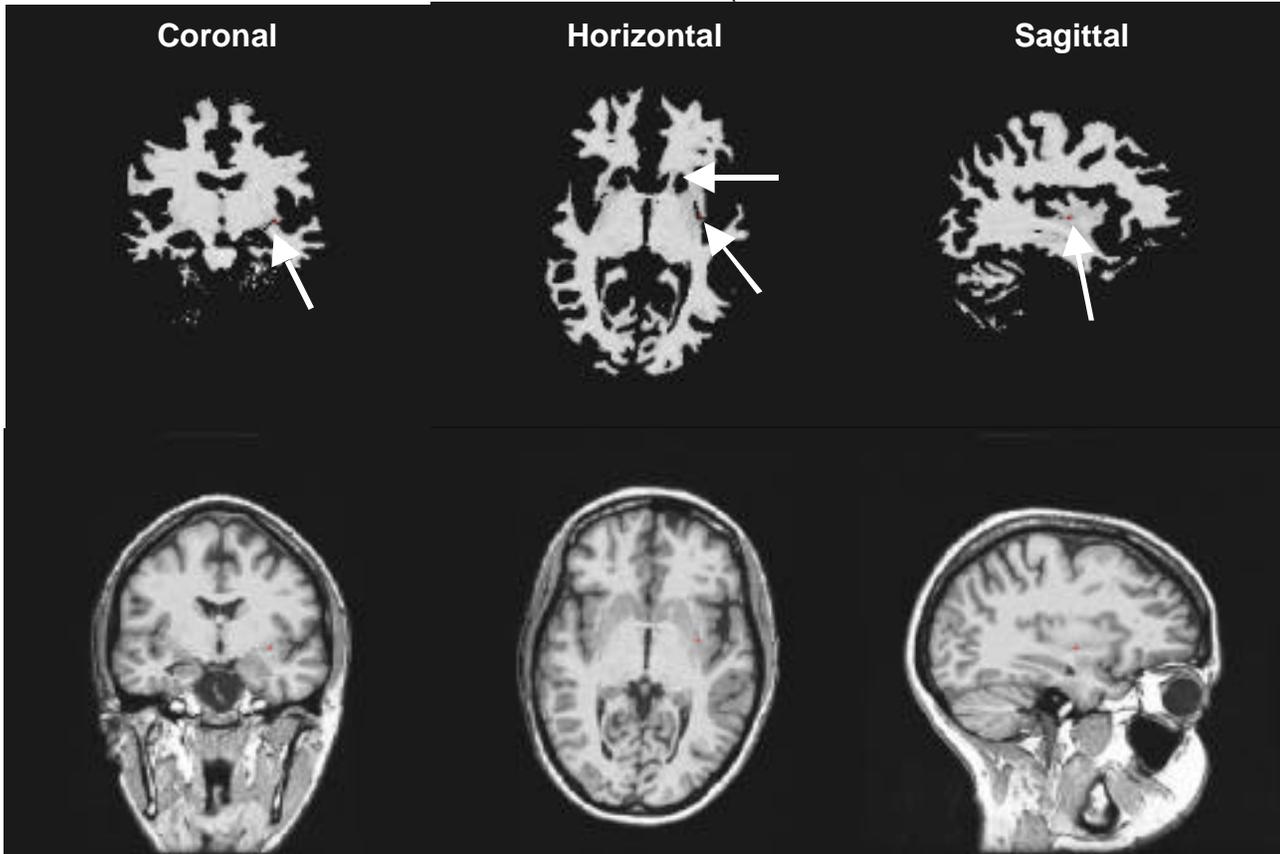
The following examples of defects arise from the typical anatomy. The procedure used to fix these defects will be similar to fixing other defects that arise.

### **Basal ganglia (caudate, putamen)**

Results in a “hole” that links the lateral and medial surface. This is an example of a defect that requires filling.



The cause for the defect can be seen below(wm volume above and T1 volume below)



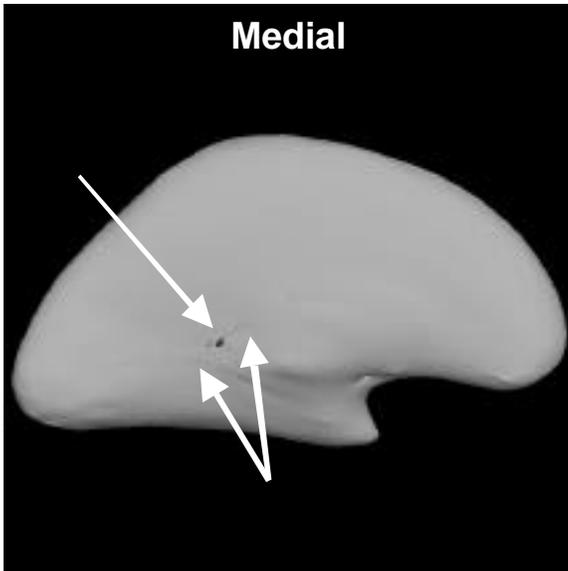
After filling:



This requires fixing in numerous slices. This particular defect is best fixed in the sagittal view. (Note: other kinds of defects may be best seen/fixd in another viewing orientation.)

## Central defects on the medial surface:

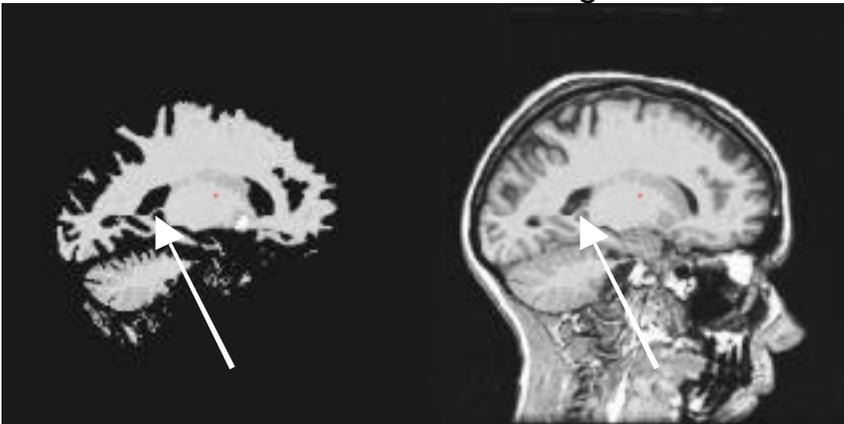
There are two anatomic causes for most of the defects (numerous small handles) in the middle of the medial surface: 1) white matter by the tail of the hippocampus and 2) the fornix.



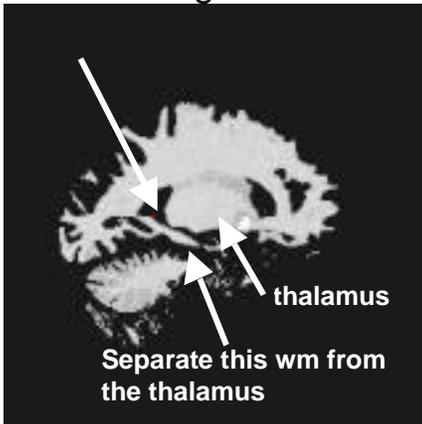
In both cases, we fix the topological defects by erasing the causative structure. Since we are only interested in the a representation of the cortical surface, loss of these structures does not overly concern us.

## White matter by the tail of the hippocampus.

This defect is best viewed in the sagittal view



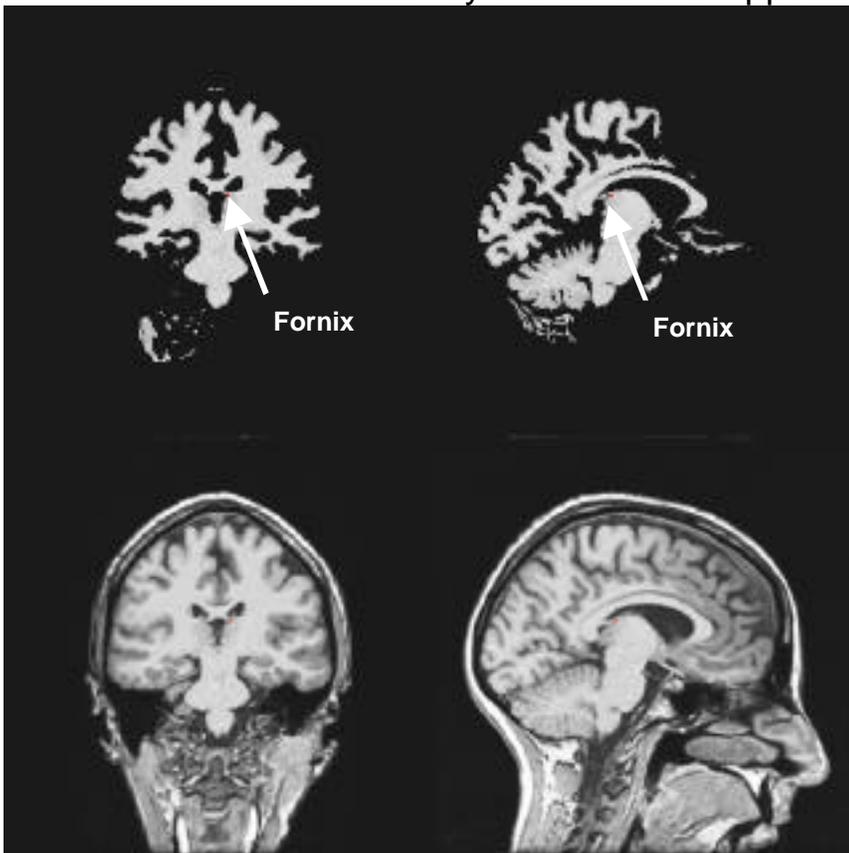
After erasing



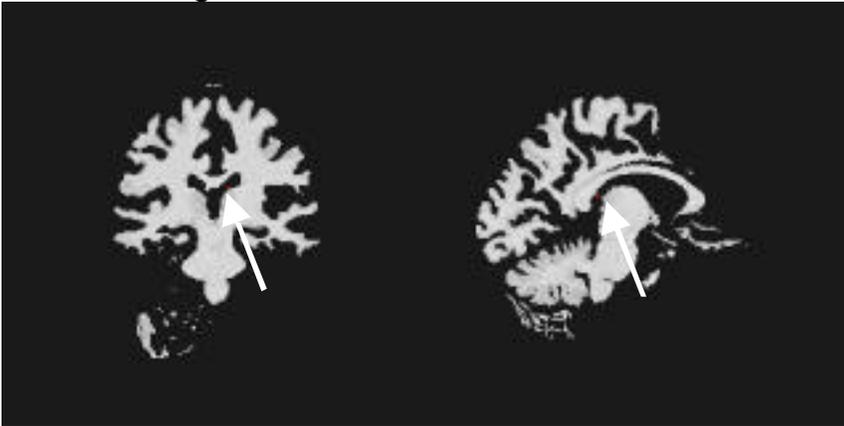
Also be sure that the white matter near the parahippocampus is separated from the thalamus (i.e. no residual hippocampus connecting the two areas indicated by the two lower arrows).

## Fornix

Similar to the white matter by the tail of the hippocampus, the fornix should be erased.

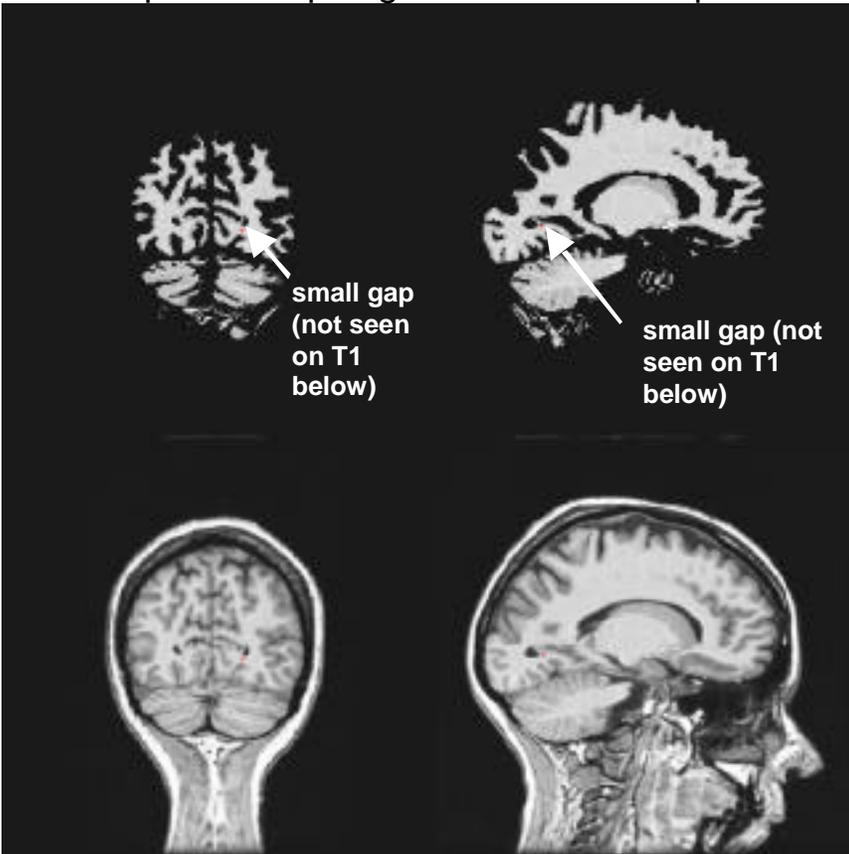


After erasing the fornix:

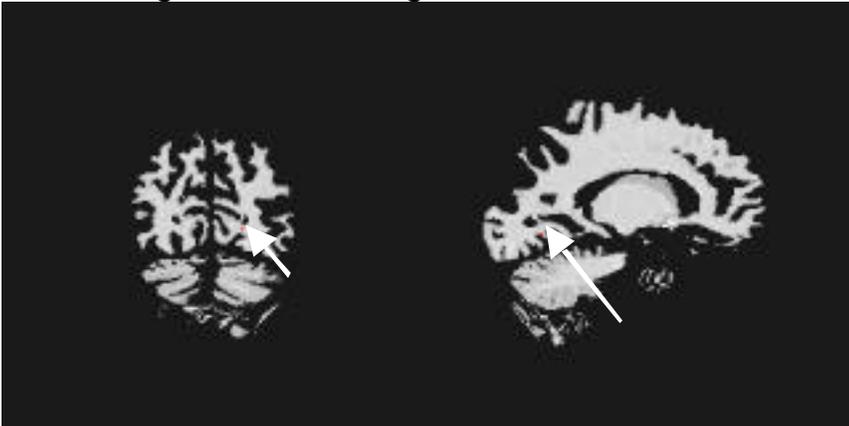


### Occipital horn of the lateral ventricle

The last example of normal anatomy causing topological defects is the occipital horn of the lateral ventricle. The white matter is very thin in between the calcarine fissure and the occipital horn of the lateral ventricle. Often this region of white matter (due to partial volume effects) has a very low intensity and is lost during segmentation. This is an example of a topological defect that requires “filling” in the lost white matter.



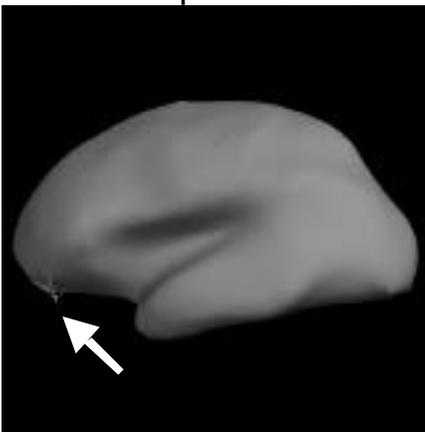
After filling in the “missing” white matter:



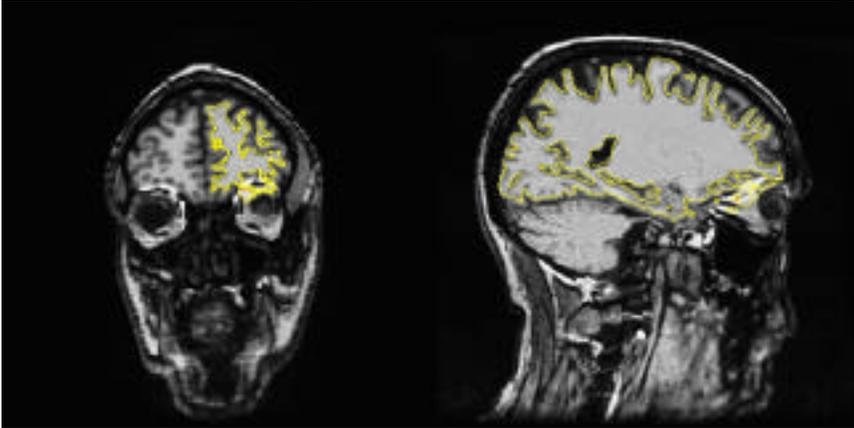
### Escape into orbits

There is very little CSF between orbitofrontal cortex and the orbits, and the white matter fill may escape into the tops of the orbits, which sometimes remain in the 'brain' image set even after removing the skull. To fix this defect remove the remnants of the orbit.

Notice the protrusions on the surface.



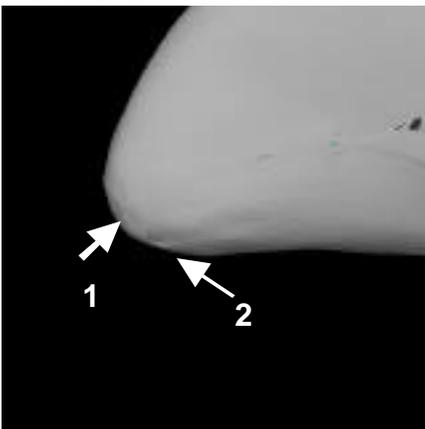
The defect is easily seen in the volume with the orig surface overlaid.



### Some other examples of topological defects and how to fix them.

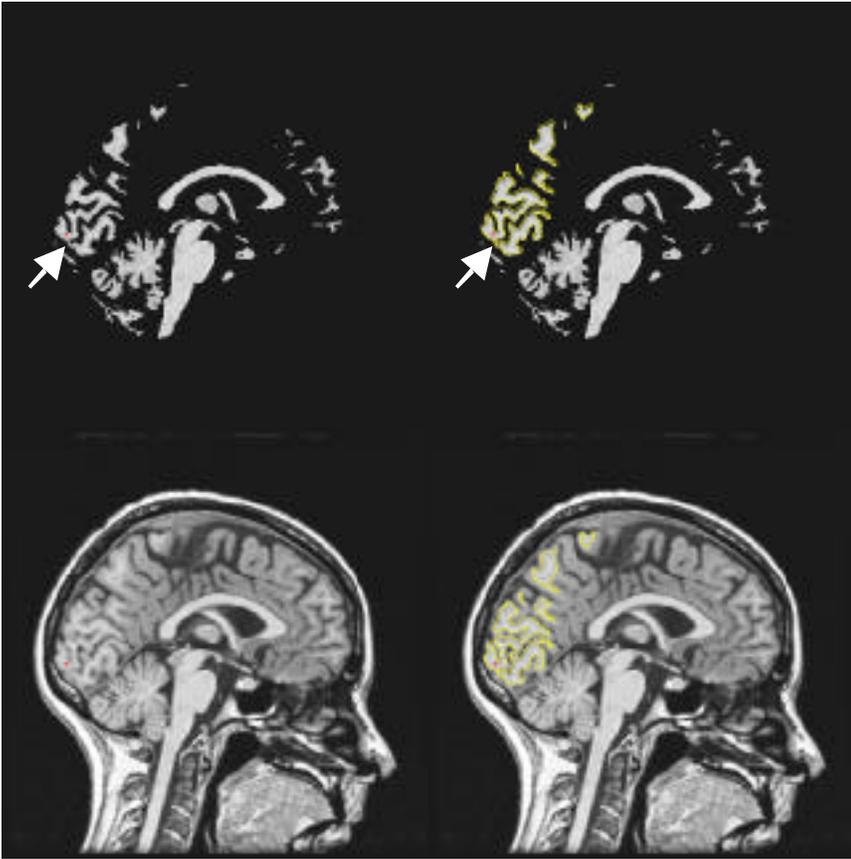
For these other defects (that are not consistent across subjects), it is often helpful to examine the surface (<hemisphere>.orig) overlaid onto the **wm** or **T1** volume to determine the cause of the defect. For very small defects, it may be difficult to see the defect with surface overlay. The surface overlay is toggled with the **surface** radiobutton in the **medit** window.

Here are two defects on the cortical surface:



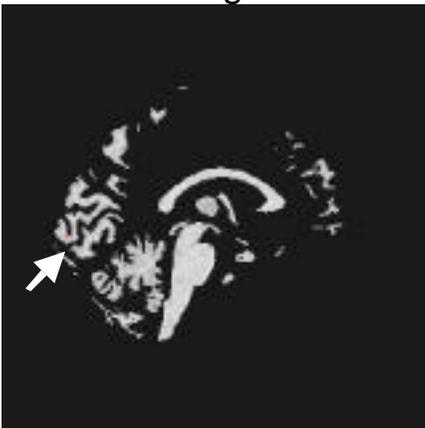
First, select a point on the surface near defect 1 and save the location with the **SEND** button in the **surfer** window. Then go to the location in the volume using the **GOTO PNT** button in the **medit** window. Often this will not bring you immediately to the defect, but by examining the nearby slices, you can usually quickly find the problem.

For defect 1:



Here, the defect is caused by too much gray matter being left by the segmentation. This essentially connects two adjacent strands of white matter, creating a “bridge” or “handle” on the surface.

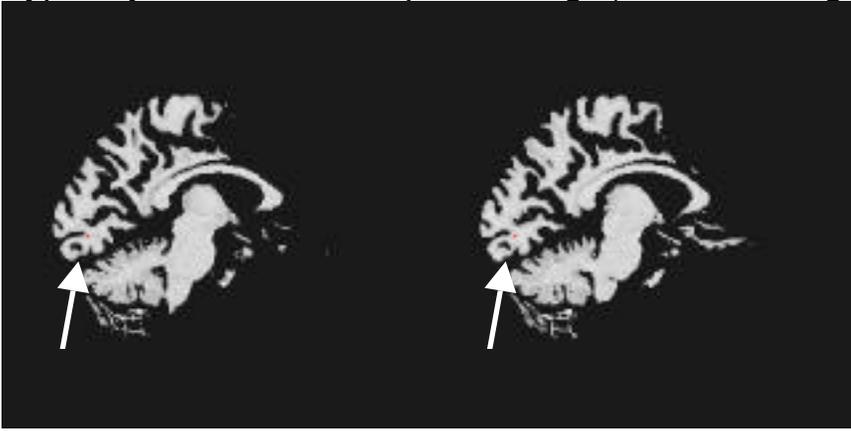
After removing the residual gray matter:



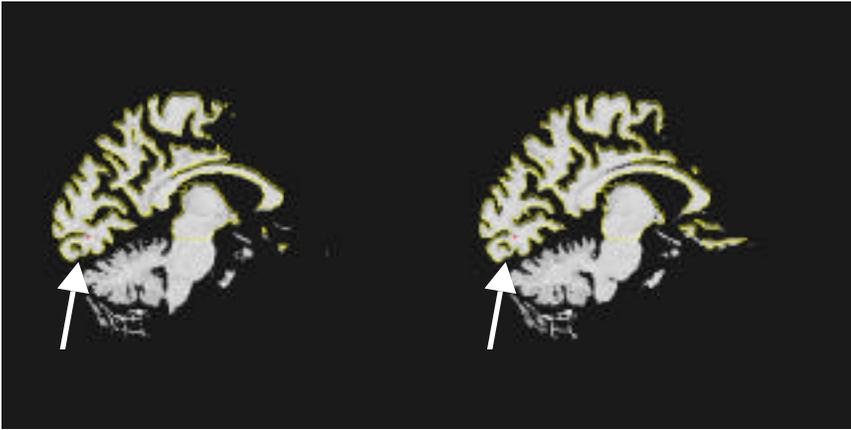
For defect 2, there is a similar situation. There is gray matter that is creating a bridge between two strands of white matter.

Shown below are two adjacent slices. The defect can be seen in both slices.

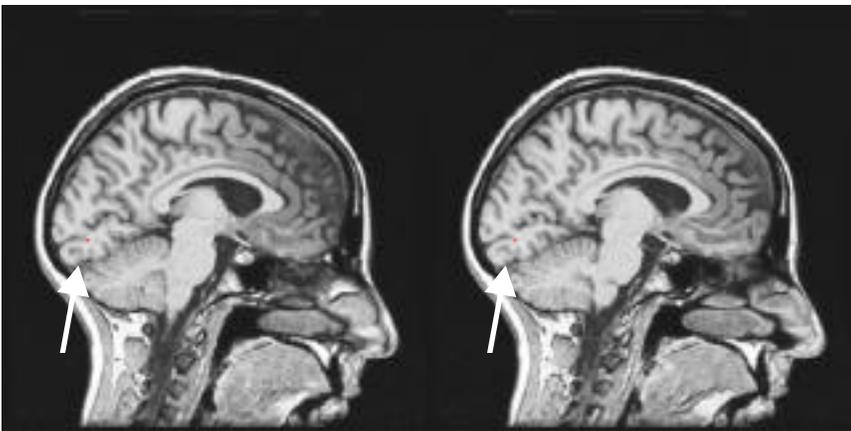
Typically, defects will require “fixing” (either erasing or filling) in more than one slice.



White matter volume

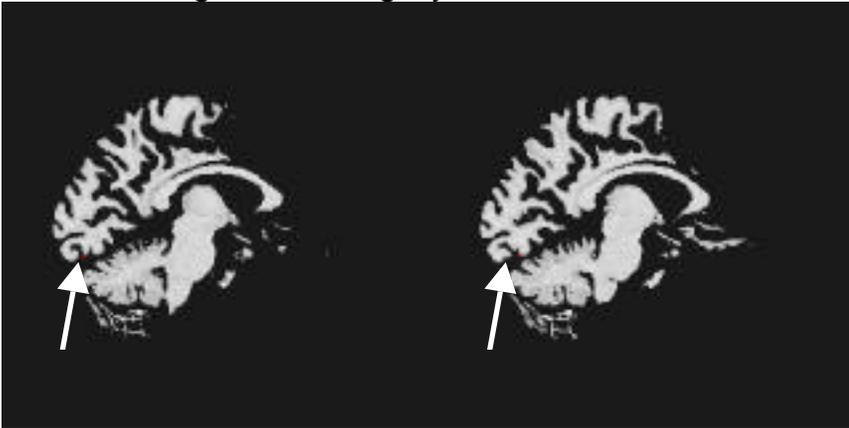


White matter volume with surface

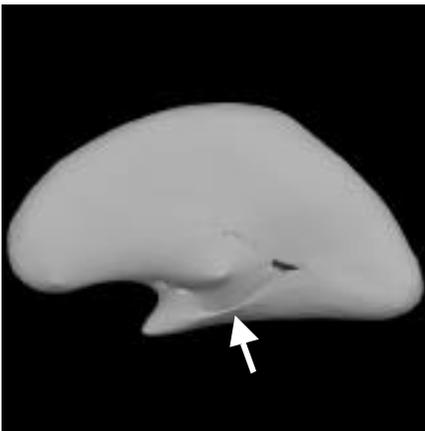


T1 volume

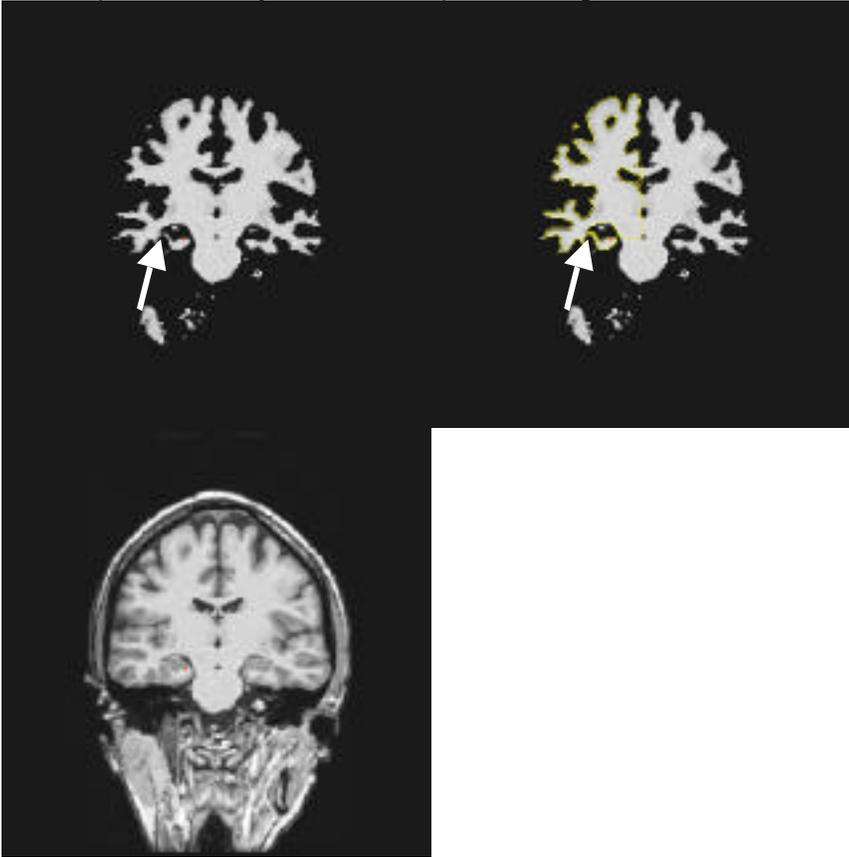
After erasing the extra gray matter:



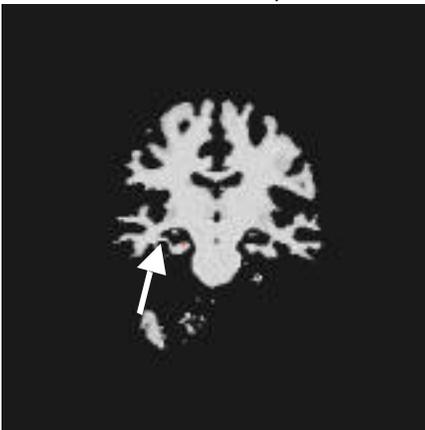
One final example is shown here. This handle looks quite similar to the two previous defects.



This defect arises because the white matter near the hippocampus is very thin. In this case (marked by the arrow), the segmentation has lost some of the white matter.



To fix this defect, fill in the missing white matter voxels:

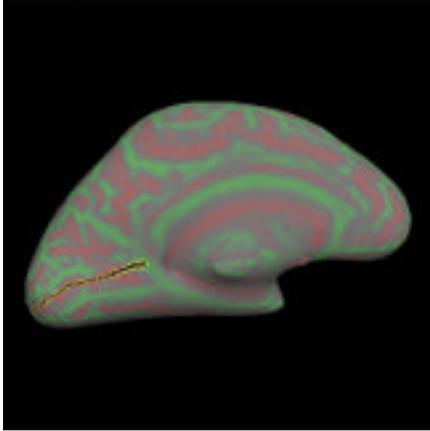


After fixing defects in the **wm** volume, **Create Surface** under the **Tools** menu is repeated.

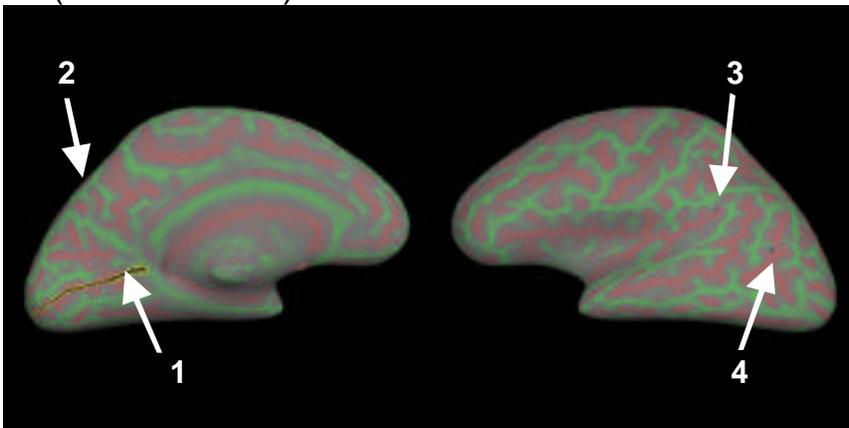
## Cutting the Occiput Surface

The occiput patch represents the occipital pole with a cut down the calcarine fissure. The procedure is as follows:

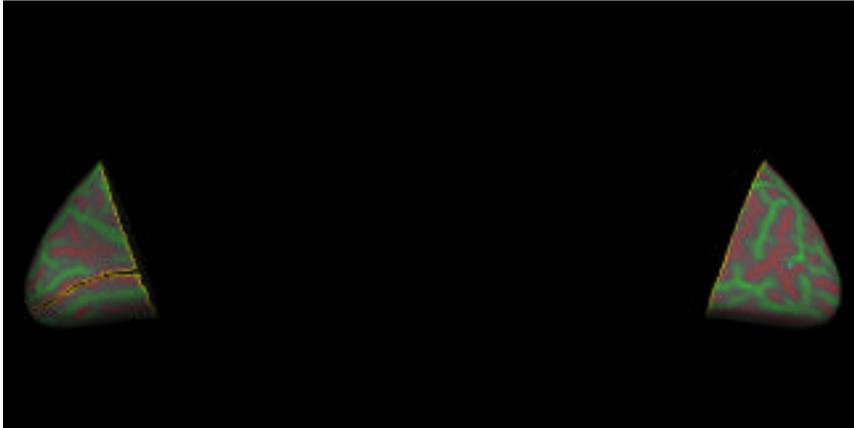
1. make calcarine sulcus relaxation cut  
select points (**LEFT-CLICK**) along the calcarine fissure beginning at the occipital pole and moving anterior.  
open-line cut with **CUTLINE**



2. specify cutting plane  
select three points (labeled 1, 2, and 3 below) to define the cutting plane, and a fourth point (labeled 4 below) to specify which portion of the surface to keep (**LEFT-CLICK**)



3. make the planar cut  
**CUTPLANE** button

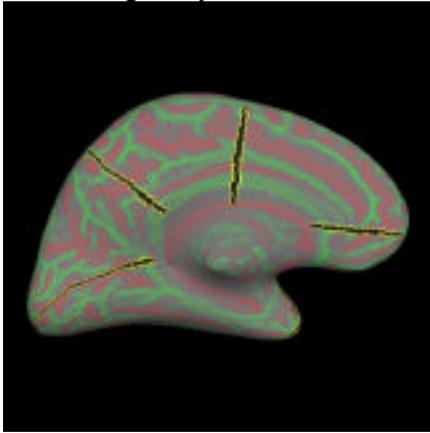


4. save patch  
specify the patch name in the **patch** field and press **WRITE**  
The default names for the occipit cortical surfaces are:  
rh.full.patch.3d  
lh.full.patch.3d

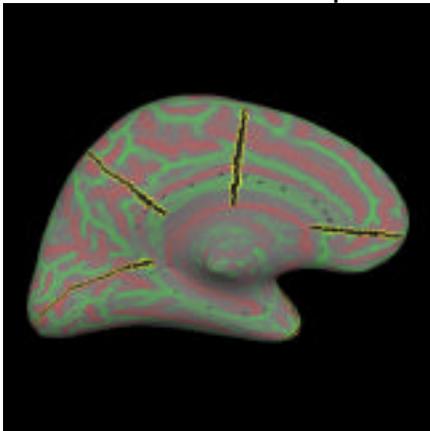
## Cutting the Full Surface

The full surface represents an entire hemisphere without the mid-brain (middle of the medial surface).

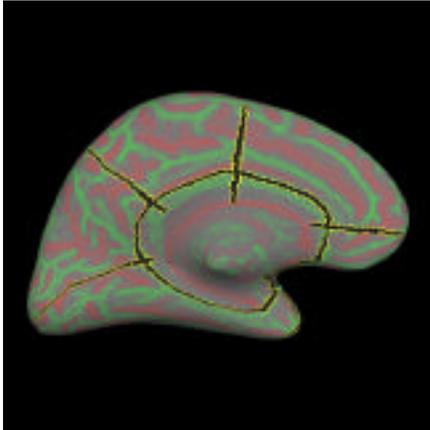
1. Make 5 relaxation cuts.  
For each cut, select the points (**LEFT-CLICK**) and then press **LINE**.  
a cut down the calcarine (same cut as for the occiput surface)  
three equally spaced radial cuts on the medial surface  
a sagittally oriented cut around the temporal pole



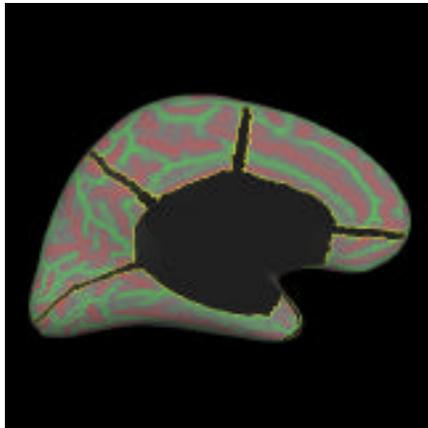
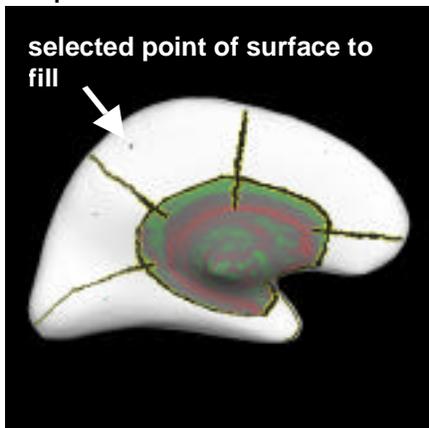
- (1) encircle midline region (corpus callosum and mid-brain structures) to remove:  
**LEFT-CLICK** sequence



- (2) make closed-line cut  
**CUTAREA** button

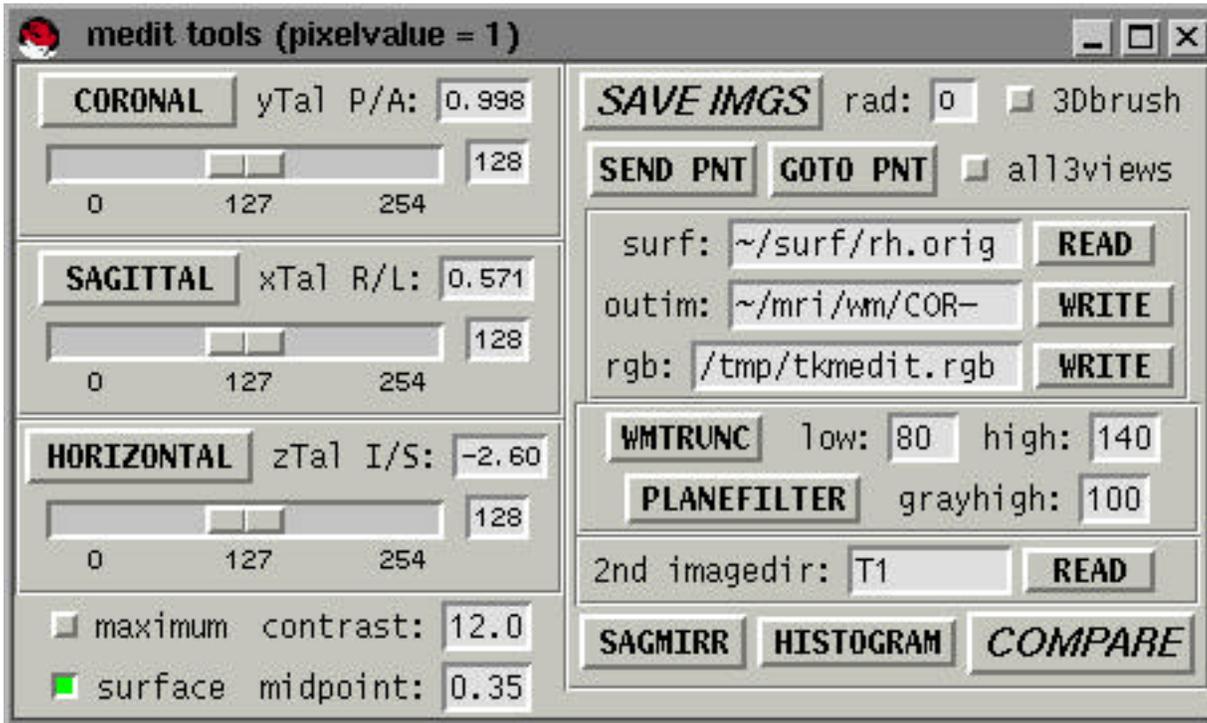


- (3) mark and fill region to save  
single **LEFT-CLICK** in region to save  
press **FILL** button



- (8) save patch  
specify the patch name in the **patch** field and press **WRITE**  
The default names for the full cortical surfaces with the midline removed are:  
rh.full.patch.3d  
lh.full.patch.3d

# Medit



Medit reads one or more series of images and displays them in coronal, sagittal, horizontal, or all 3 planes. The images in the first (edit) buffer can be edited and saved. Images read into the second buffer cannot be edited. Edits applied while viewing the second buffer affect the first buffer (useful when edit buffer has segmented white matter and second buffer has original full T1 images).

Medit can also read in a surface and display the intersection of the surface with the current slice.

## Viewing orientation

<b>CORONAL</b> button:	switch to coronal view
<b>slider</b> :	change coronal slice
<b>field</b> :	enter coronal slice number
<b>SAGITTAL</b> button:	switch to sagittal view
<b>slider</b> :	change sagittal slice
<b>field</b> :	enter sagittal slice number
<b>HORIZONTAL</b> button:	switch to horizontal view
<b>slider</b> :	change horizontal slice
<b>field</b> :	enter horizontal slice number
<b>all3views</b> radiobutton:	displays all three views with a maximum intensity projection

## Display parameters

<b>maximum</b> radiobutton:	maximum intensity projection
<b>surface</b> radiobutton:	toggle surface overlay
<b>contrast</b> field:	contrast
<b>midpoint</b> field:	midpoint of intensity range
<b>SAGMIRROR</b> button:	Mirror volume about sagittal plane (left-right mirror)

## Read/Write

<b>SAVE IMGS</b> button:	save images (COR files) in volume specified by <b>outim</b>
<b>surf</b> field:	surface for overlay
<b>outim</b> field:	volume to save with <b>SAVE IMGS</b> button
<b>rgb</b> field:	name of rgb to save currently viewed slice

## Editing

**MIDDLE-CLICK**

**RIGHT-CLICK**

**rad** field:

**3Dbrush** radiobutton:

**SEND PNT** button

**GOTO PNT** button

**2<sup>nd</sup> imagedir** field:

**READ** button:

**COMPARE** button:

draw (set intensity to 255)

erase (set intensity to 1)

radius of editing brush

toggle 3D/2D brush (2D brush only edits viewed slice)

save location of cursor for **surfer**

goto location of point saved by **surfer**

name of 2<sup>nd</sup> volume to read in

read in 2<sup>nd</sup> volume

toggle between two volumes (must first read in **2<sup>nd</sup> imagedir**)

## Unsupported

**WMTRUNC** button

**PLANEFILTER** button

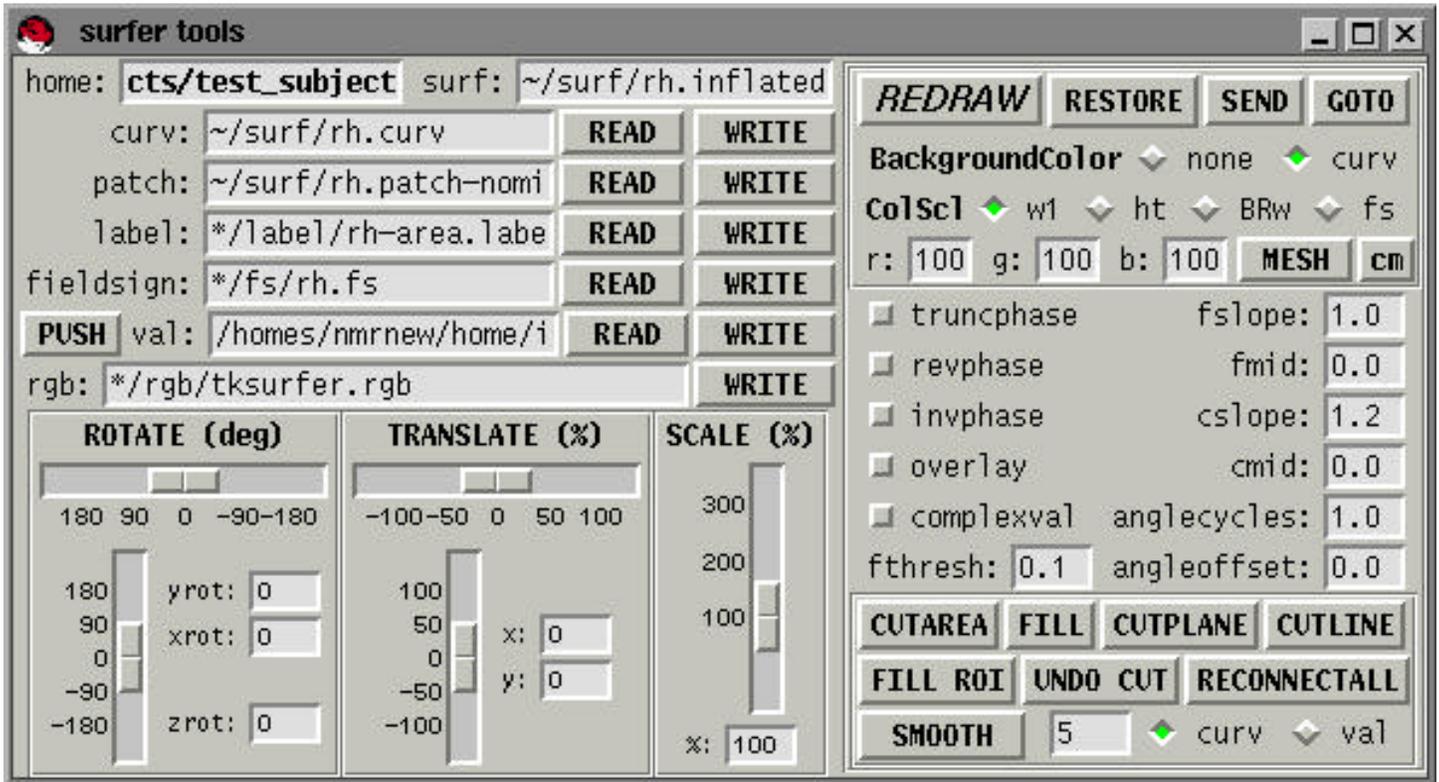
**low** field

**high** field

**grayhigh** field

**HISTOGRAM** button

# Surfer



Surfer reads a surface file, and optionally, functional data, and then renders a view of the surface.

**home** field:

subject directory

**surf** field:

surface that is displayed. To view a different surface, enter the surface and press **RETURN**

## READ/WRITE

<b>curv</b> field:	cortical curvature file
<b>READ</b>	read curvature file
<b>WRITE</b>	write curvature file
<b>patch</b> field:	cortical patch file
<b>READ</b>	read cortical patch
<b>WRITE</b>	write cortical patch
<b>label</b> field:	not supported - future functionality
<b>READ</b>	
<b>WRITE</b>	
<b>fieldsign</b> field:	Not supported. Future functionality
<b>READ</b>	
<b>WRITE</b>	
<b>val</b> field:	val file – same format as *.w files
<b>READ</b>	read val file
<b>WRITE</b>	write val file
<b>rgb</b> field:	rgb file
<b>WRITE</b>	write rgb file of current surfer window.

## Viewing orientation

<b>REDRAW</b>	redraw screen – redraw is not always automatic
<b>RESTORE</b>	restore original viewing orientation
<b>ROTATE</b>	
<b>slider</b> (horizontal)	rotate view around vertical axis
<b>slider</b> (vertical)	rotate view around left-right axis
<b>yrot</b> field	rotate around y axis
<b>xrot</b> field	rotate around x axis
<b>zrot</b> field	rotate around z axis
<b>TRANSLATE</b>	
<b>slider</b> (horizontal)	translate left-right
<b>slider</b> (vertical)	translate up-down
<b>x</b> field	translate in x axis
<b>y</b> field	translate in y axis
<b>SCALE</b>	
<b>slider</b> (vertical)	scale larger-smaller
<b>%</b> field	scale in percent

## Surface Display

### BackgroundColor

**none** radiobutton

**curv** radiobutton

**MESH** button

**r, g, b** fields

**cm** button

do not display curvature information (uniformly gray brain)

display curvature information (specified in **curv** field)

display actual vertices and mesh

set color of mesh

display scale bars (size scale bar = 1 cm)

## Functional Display

### ColSci

**w1** radiobutton

**ht** radiobutton

**BRw** radiobutton

**fs** radiobutton

**truncphase**

**revphase**

**invphase**

**overlay**

**complexval**

**fthresh** field

color scale of functional data

not supported - future functionality

yellow/red for positive values, blue/green for negative values

not supported - future functionality

not supported - future functionality

only display positive values (red/yellow).

not supported - future functionality

reverses positive and negative values

displays functional data when checked

not supported - future functionality

statistical threshold (for values below the threshold, the underlying curvature is displayed). This is equivalent to

**Stat Hard Thresh** in **Setup Rendering Parameters**

**fslope** field

color slope from **fmid** (red/blue) to the maximum color (yellow/green). Maximum color (yellow, green)

represents a statistical value of **fmid** + 1/ **fslope**. This is equivalent to **Stat Color Contrast**.

**fmid** field

statistical value for full red/blue. Equivalent to **Stat Color**

**Midpoint**

**cslope**

contrast of curvature

**cmid**

mid-point of curvature colorscale

**anglecycles**

not supported - future functionality

**angleoffset**

not supported - future functionality

**SMOOTH** button

smooth curvature or values (functional data)

field

number of smooth iterations

**curv**

smooth curvature

**val**

smooth values (functional data)

## Cutting Surface

**CUTAREA**

**FILL**

cuts a close line from selected **LEFT-CLICKs**

fills in a region from a selected **LEFT-CLICK** defined by cuts

**CUTPLANE**

planar cut. First 3 **LEFT-CLICKs** define plane, 4<sup>th</sup>

**LEFT-CLICK** defines surface to keep

**CUTLINE**

cuts an open line from selected **LEFT-CLICKs**

**FILL ROI**

fills in a region defined by statistical values

**UNDO CUT**

undoes the most recent cut

**RECONNECTALL**

undoes all cuts

## Example of a Typical Surface Reconstruction

This is a menu step by menu step example of a typical reconstruction including cutting flattened cortical patches. For more detail refer to the specific sections in the manual.

Under **File**, select **New Subject**

Under **Tools**, select **Setup Structural Scans**

Under **Tools**, select **Process Volume**

Under **Tools**, select **Create Surface**

Under **Edit**, select **Edit Segmentation**

Manually fix topologic defects using medit and surfer

Repeat steps 5-7 until all defects are fixed

Under **Tools**, select **Make Final Surface**

Under **Edit**, select **Make Full Surface Cuts**

Make and save full patch

Under **Edit**, select **Make Occip Surface Cuts**

Make and save occipit patch

Under **Tools**, select **Flatten Surface** for each patch that was cut

Under **Tools**, select **Sphere Surface**

## Appendix 1: tcl/tk license

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