



# Quantitative microscopy

Gabriele Baj  
gbaj@units.it

The background is a dark blue gradient with faint, large concentric circles. In the corners, there are white line-art illustrations of circuit boards or neural networks, with lines and small circles representing nodes and connections.

# FIJI - IMAGEJ

# Line analysis

## **Aims: Plot image intensity along a line ROI**

1. Open Gams.tif, Gams (green) & Gams (red)
2. Change line tool to segmented line (right click to change)
3. Draw line along filament
4. Restore selection (Control + Shift E)
5. Plot line profile on gams (green) & gams (red)
  - Analyse/plot profile, Control K (PC) or Command K (Mac)
6. Save plot as xls

## **OPTIONAL ITEMS**

Edit/Selection/Straighten, line width 10 pixels

Change line colour (Edit/Options/Colours/Selection)

Change width of line (Edit/Options/Line width)

Save line as overlay (Image/Overlay/Selection), Control B (PC) or Command B (Mac)

# Thresholding

**Aim: Identify areas in an image based on intensity**

Open kidney (green).tif

Image/adjust/auto threshold

- Select white objects on black background
- Show threshold values in log window

**Select one that's works best**

- Find threshold values in log window

**Use selected Threshold (Dont hit apply)**

- Image/Adjust/Threshold
- Control + Shift T (PC)
- Command + Shift T (Mac)
- Use auto feature

# Area of stain

**Aim: Quantify the area in an image above a given intensity value**

1. Open kidney (green).tif
2. Images/adjust/threshold
3. Use method & settings identified in auto threshold
4. Analyse/set measurements
  - Area, integrated density, mean gray value, area fraction
  - Limit to threshold
5. Measure
  - Analyse/measure
  - Control M (PC)
  - Command M (Mac)
6. Right click (or Analyse/Set measurements) to change measurement settings

# Cell confluency

**Aim: Calculate cell confluency of an image using thresholding**

1. Open BPAE (green)
2. Set threshold (don't hit apply)
  - Image/Adjust/Threshold
  - Control + Shift T (PC)
  - Command + Shift T (Mac)
  - Use over/under rather than red threshold to visualize better
3. Measure
  - Analyse/Measure
  - Control M (PC)
  - Command M (Mac)
4. Right click (or Analyse/Set measurements) to change measurement settings

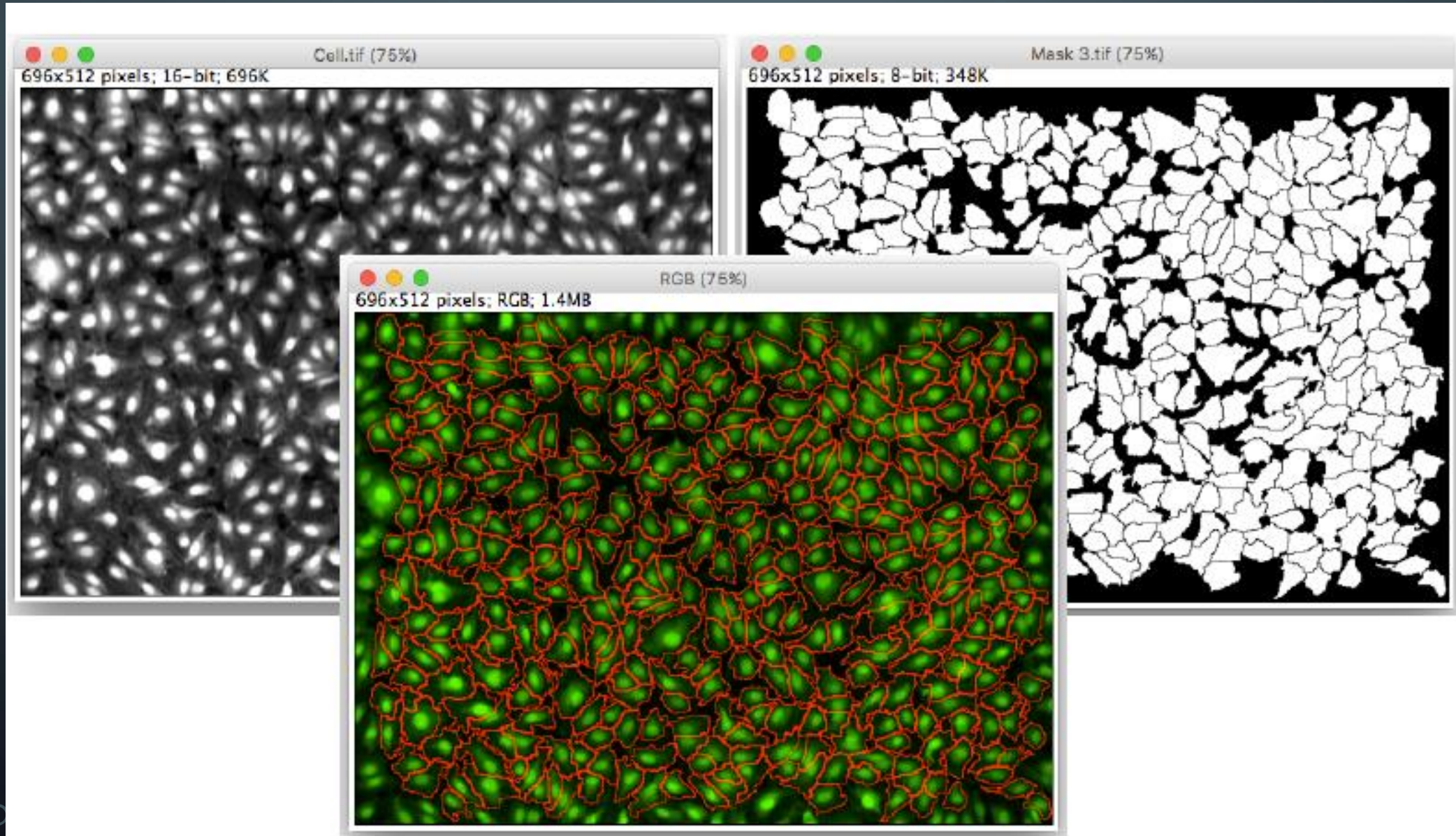
# Nuclei Counting

**Aim: Automated counting of objects in an image**

1. Open BPAE (blue).tif
2. Image/Adjust/Threshold (Set lower threshold level = 70, higher threshold level = 255)
3. Apply threshold
4. Process Binary/watershed
5. Analyze/analyze particles
  - Size = 100-infinity
  - Circularity = 0-1.0
  - Show = outlines
  - Exclude on edges
  - Tick Display results, Summarise, Exclude on edges



# Cell segmentation



Adapted from "Fundamentals of Image Quantification" Prof McMillan - University of Melbourne



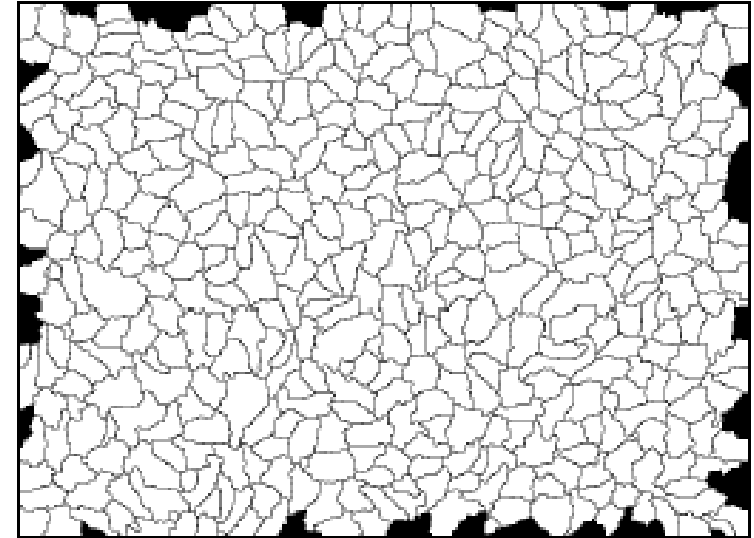
# Cell segmentation

**Aim: Quantify multiple measurements from individual cells in a crowded image**

Open Cell.tif (from Segmentation) & Duplicate

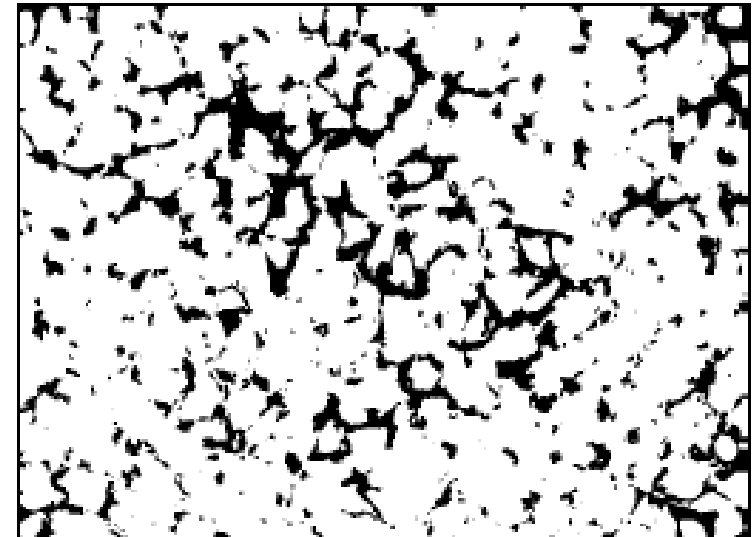
## **Mask 1: Watershed**

- Process/Find Maxima (Noise = 400, exclude on edges, segmented particles)
- Save final image as MASK 1.tif



## **Mask 2: Whole cell stain**

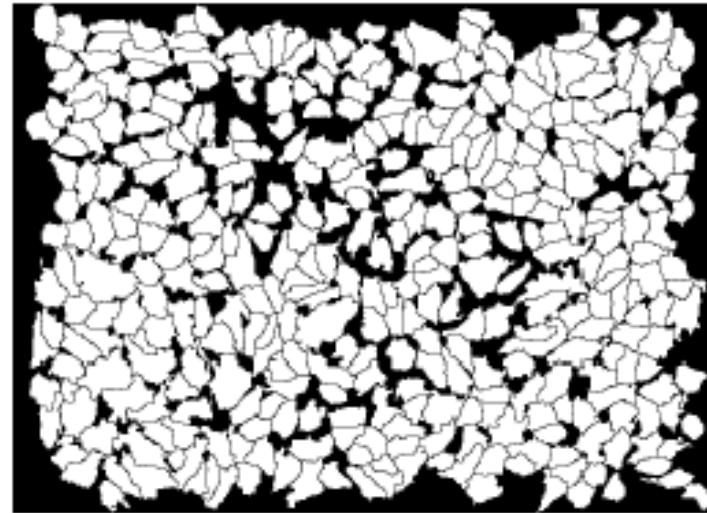
- Threshold duplicated image (min = 388) but don't apply yet
- Process/smooth
- Apply threshold
- Save final image as MASK 2.tif



# Cell segmentation

## Mask 3: Cell outlines

- Process/Image Calculator Mask 1 **AND** Mask 2
- Analyze/Analyze Particles (Size = 250 – Inf, exclude on edges, show masks)
- Invert LUT (Image/LUT/Invert LUT)
- Process/Binary/Fill Holes
- Save final image as MASK 3.tif



## Analyse the images

- Analyze/Set Measurement
  - Area, Shape, Int Den, Mean, Perimeter, Ferets, Display label. **REDIRECT to Cell.tif**
- Analyse Particles (size = 250-infinity, Show = outlines, display, clear, summarize, exclude on edges)
  - Try as above, but also select “add to manager” (ROI Manager)

**Aim: Continue to use image masks to further quantify objects in images**

**Cytoplasmic masks (Cells minus nucleus)**

1. Open Nuclei.tif
2. Threshold & create binary
3. Process/Binary/Watershed
4. Save as Mask N
5. Process/Image calculator/ Mask 3 SUBTRACT MASK N

**Perinuclear mask**

1. Open Mask N & Duplicate, rename one Dilate & other Erode
2. Process/Binary/Dilate (on Dilate) & Process/Binary/Watershed
3. Process/Binary/Erode (on Erode.tif)
4. Process/Image calculator/Dilate SUBTRACT Erode

# Intensity over time

**Aim: Measure intensities in a timelapse image**

Open Calcium flux.tif

Draw ROI on bottom right cell

Analyze/Set Measurement

- Mean Gray value
- Display label, untick "limit to threshold"

Image/Stacks/Plot Z axis Profile

Repeat on background

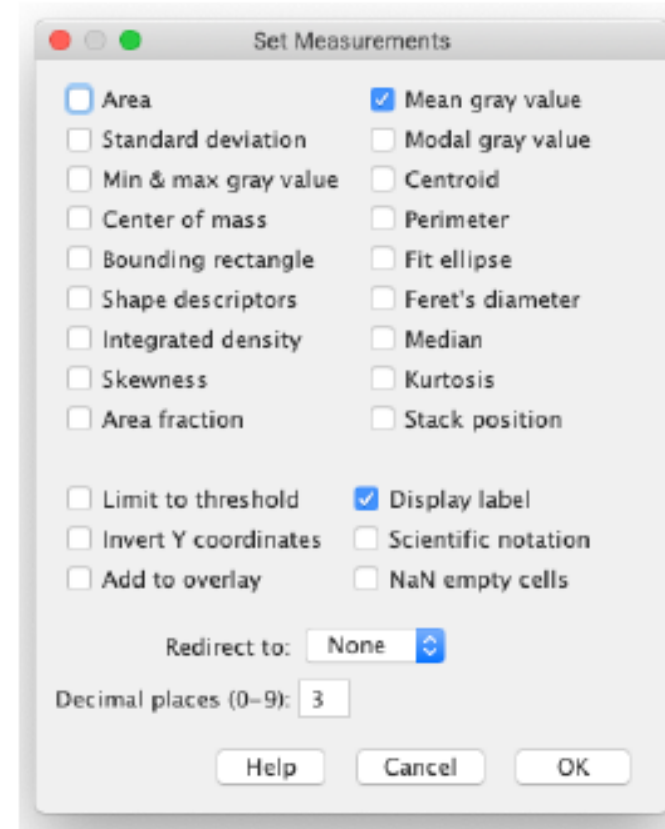
**For multiple ROI's per image:**

Analyze/Tools/ROI manager

Add multiple ROIs

Show all

Select More, Multi Measure, Measure all 50 slides, one row per slice



# Euclidean distance measurement

**Aim: Measure the average distance between objects in an image**

1. Open Nuclei.tif, apply threshold & create binary image
2. Process/Binary/Options (Configure EDM to 16 bit)
3. Edit/Invert
4. Process/Binary/Distance Map
5. Apply "16 colours" LUT
6. Analyze/Set Measurements (Mean gray value, limit to threshold, display label)
7. Threshold to select background (use 1-29 threshold), don't hit apply
8. Analyze/Measure
9. Average distance = 8.098 Pixels (read out is always in pixels)
10. Calculate distance in microns on calibrated images
  - Image/Properties, Control + Shift P (PC), Command + Shift P (Mac)
  - Covert using pixel dimensions





