

# A Framework for Medical-Imaging-Fragment Based Whole Body Atlas (WBA) Construction

Master's Degree:  
Medical Informatics

Matthias Dorfer

Vienna University of Technology  
Institute of Computer Aided Automation  
Computer Vision Lab  
Supervisor: Ao.Univ.-Prof. Dr. techn. Robert Sablatnig  
Co-Supervisor: Ass.Prof. Dipl.-Ing. Dr. Georg Langs

## Introduction and Motivation

The thesis proposes a method for the construction of an atlas from multiple medical imaging fragments that show different parts of the body. The method first builds an initial atlas based on a small number of whole body CTs. Then the final atlas is constructed by registering a large number of fragments, and at the same time minimizing the bias. To illustrate the information encoded in the atlas, population analysis in the atlas space is performed, and correctly identifies plausible sub-populations.

### Atlas Point of View

Human anatomy exhibits variability  
- Sizes or shapes of organs  
- Physiological state  
- Disease characteristics  
Anatomical atlas construction overcomes this variability.

**Based on images containing identical anatomical structures!**



Example:  
Brain MNI Atlas

### Data Point of View

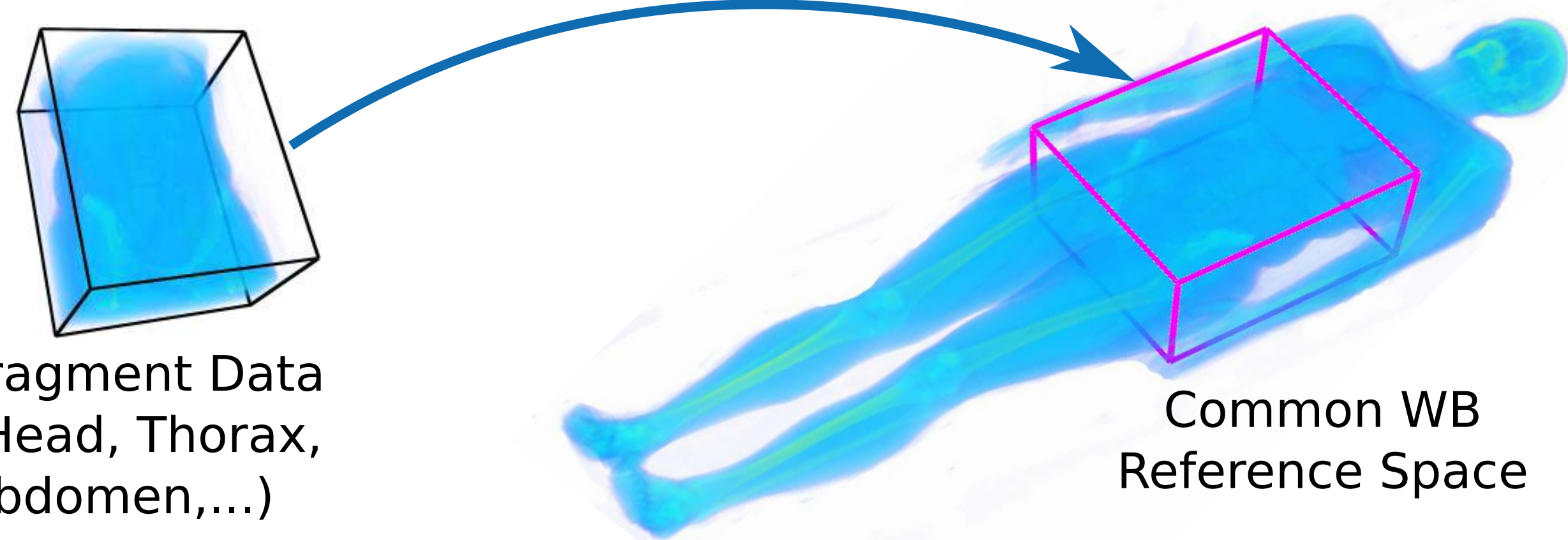
Hospitals produce hundreds of GBs of pathology driven medical imaging data every day.  
- Distributed across the entire body  
- Holds diagnostic information

→ **Precondition for existing atlases is not fulfilled!**



Medical Imaging Data

To use large scale clinical data a method for medical imaging fragment based anatomical atlas construction is necessary.



## Fragment Based WBA Construction

Average Fragment Registration

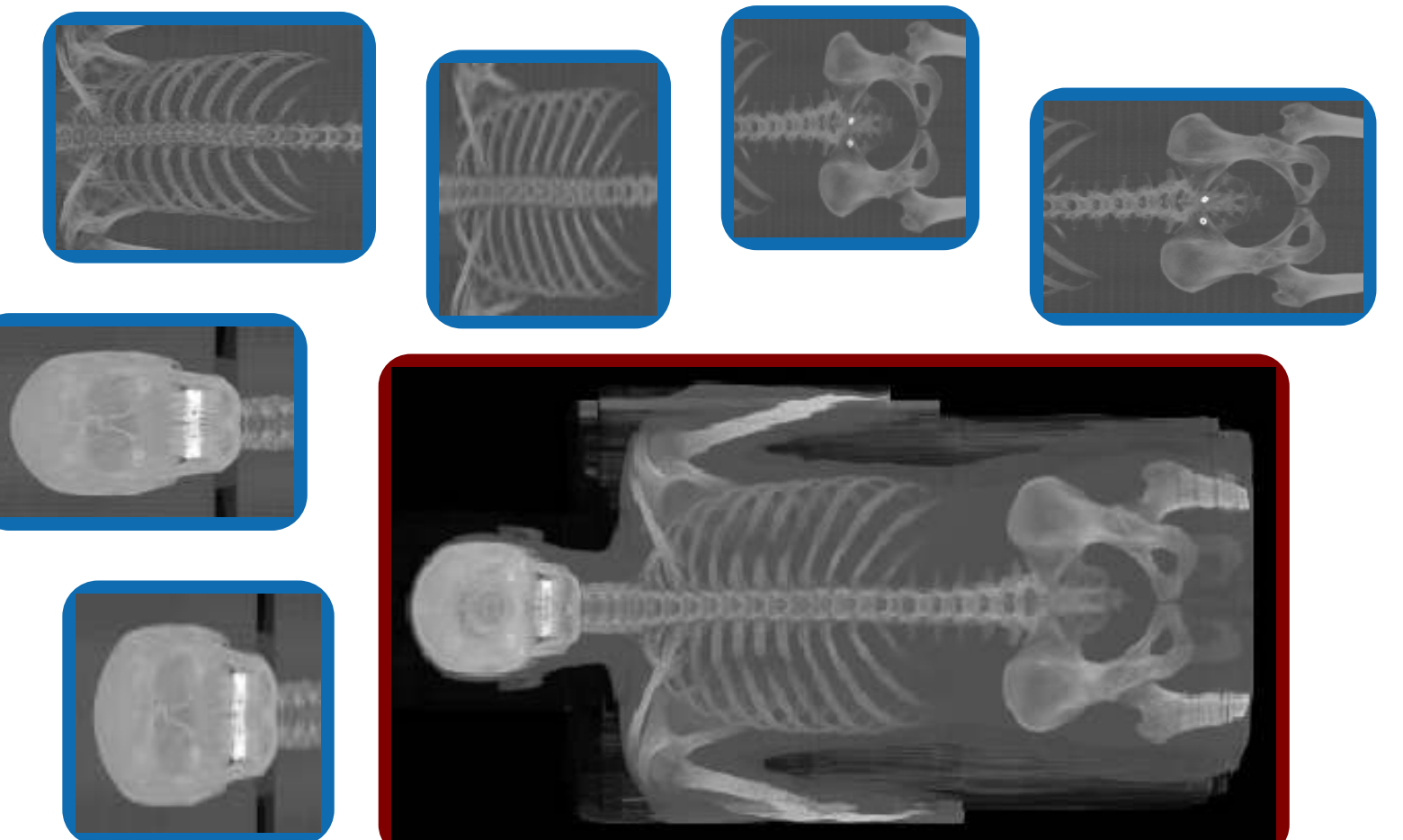
$$\bar{V} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N T_{F_i, R}(F_i)$$

Average Deformation

$$\bar{T} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N T_{F_i, R}$$

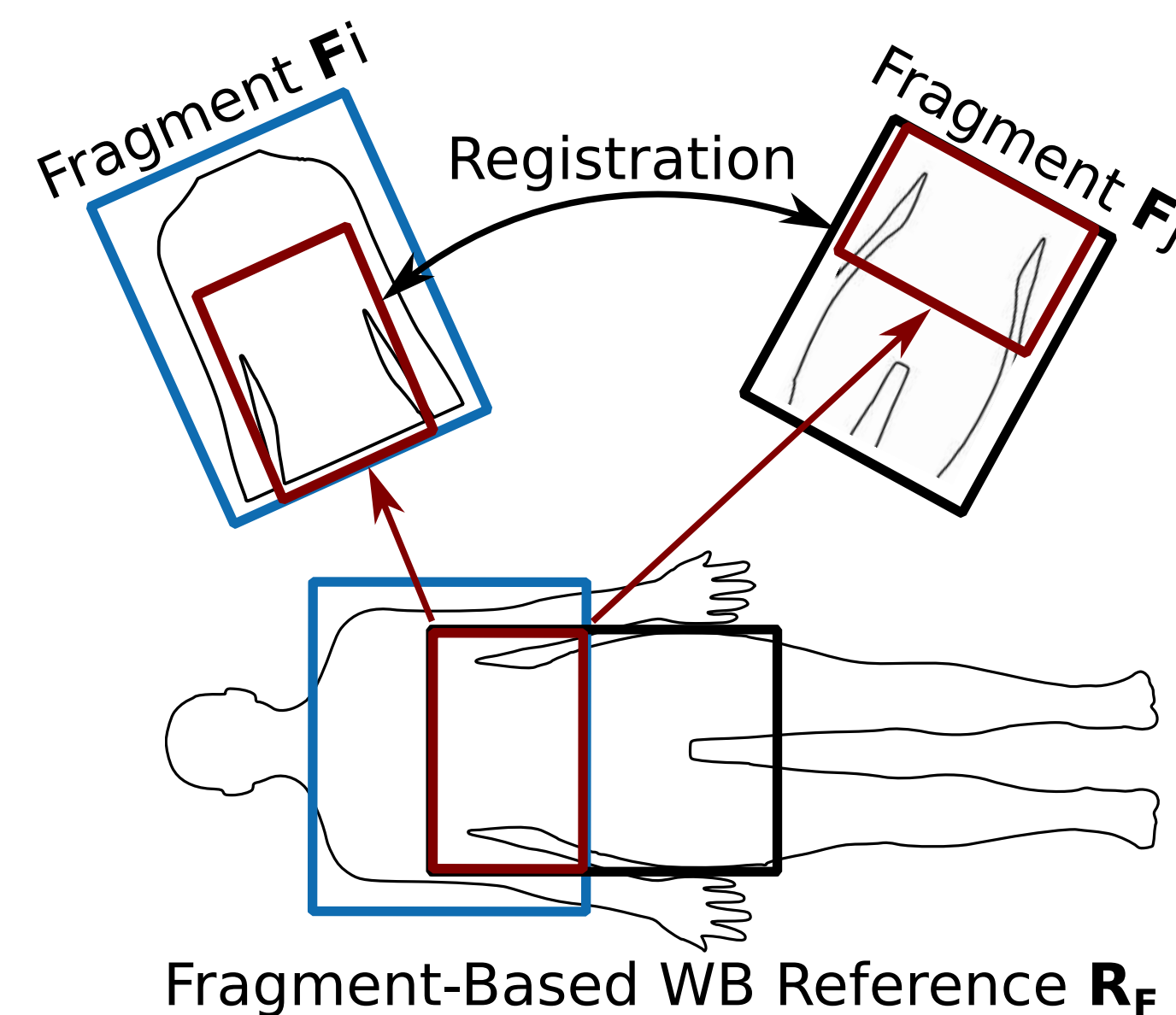
Draw Average Registration towards Population Center

$$R_F = \bar{T}^{-1}(\bar{V})$$



Fragment Based WB Reference  $R_F$

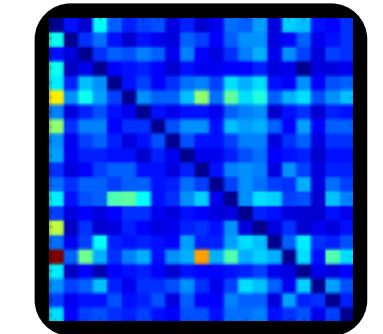
## Fragment Based Population Analysis



### Features

- Overlap
- Deformation Similarity
- Registration Costs

### Affinity Data

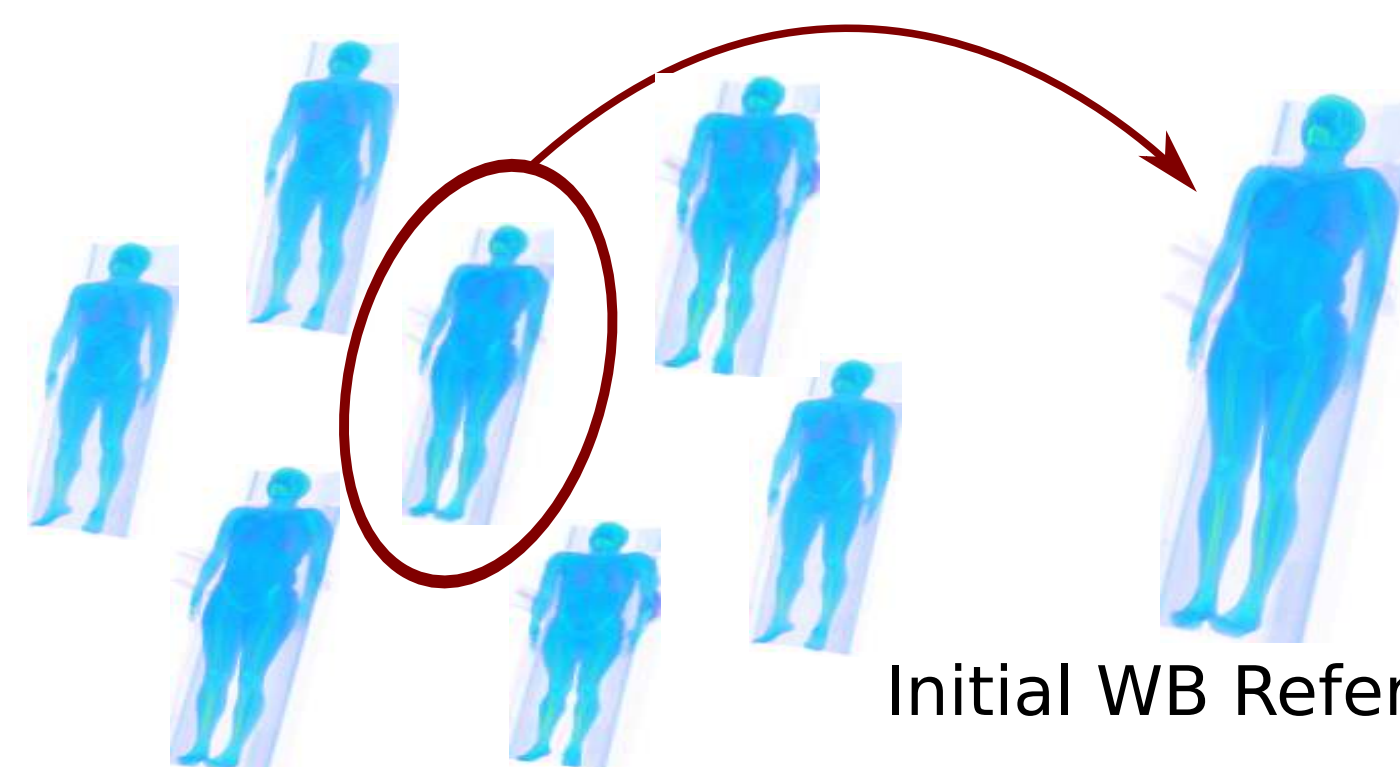


### Similarity Analysis

- Spectral Clustering
- Iso-Map Clustering

## Methodology

### Initial Least Biased Whole Body (WB) Reference Selection

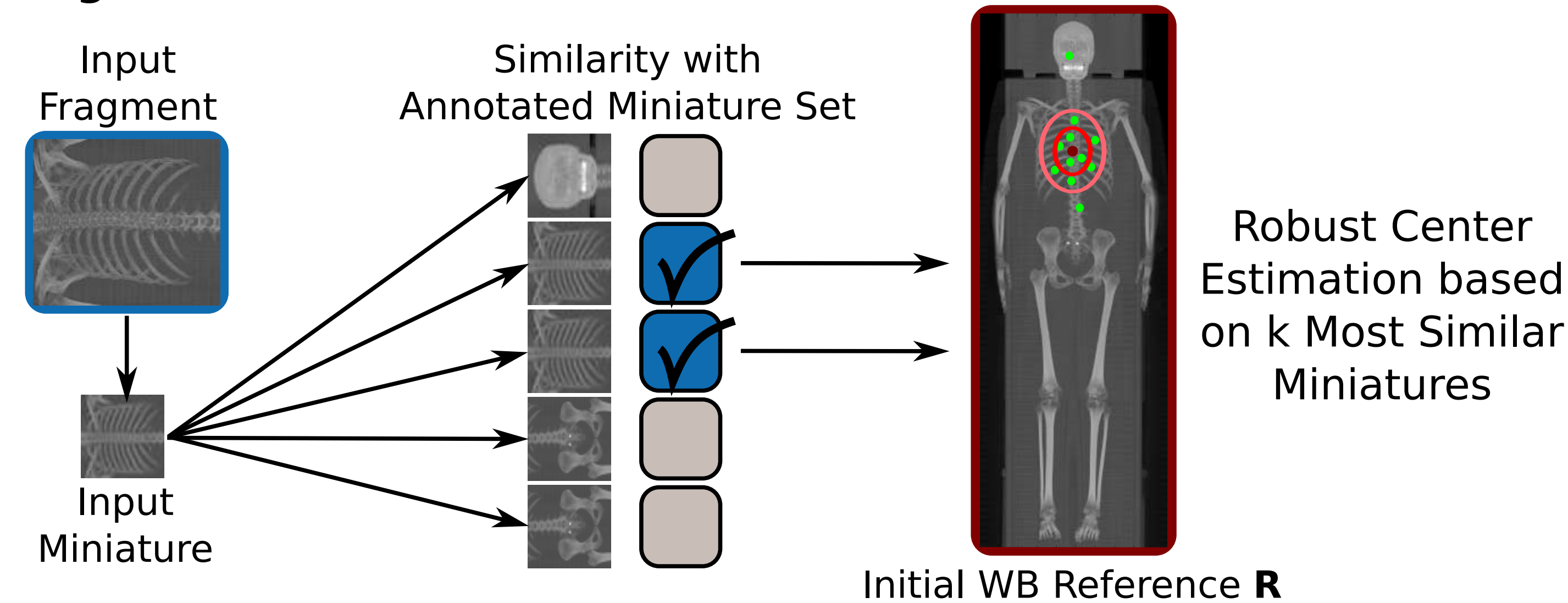


Initial WB Reference  $R$

### Methods

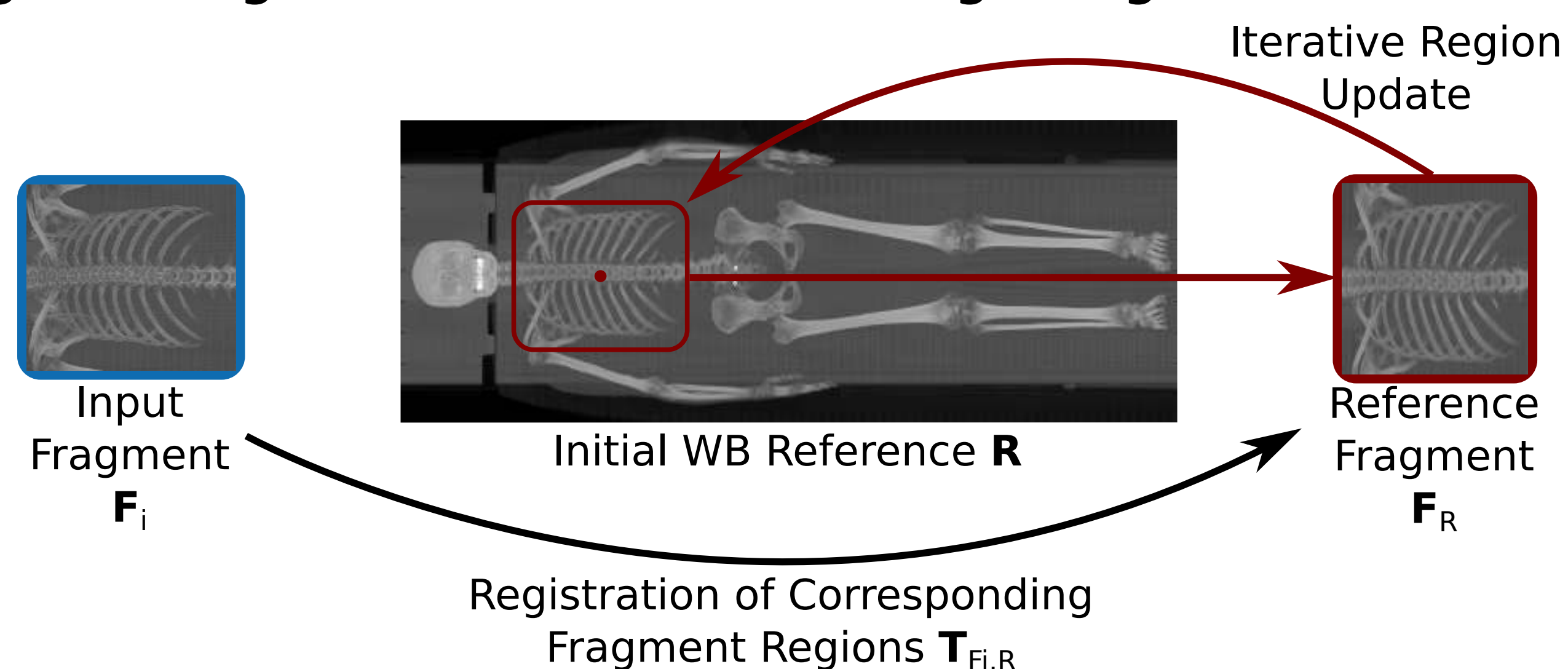
- MDS Embedding Space Center
- Registration Cost Minimization
- Geodesic Center Estimation

### Fragment Center Estimation



Initial WB Reference  $R$

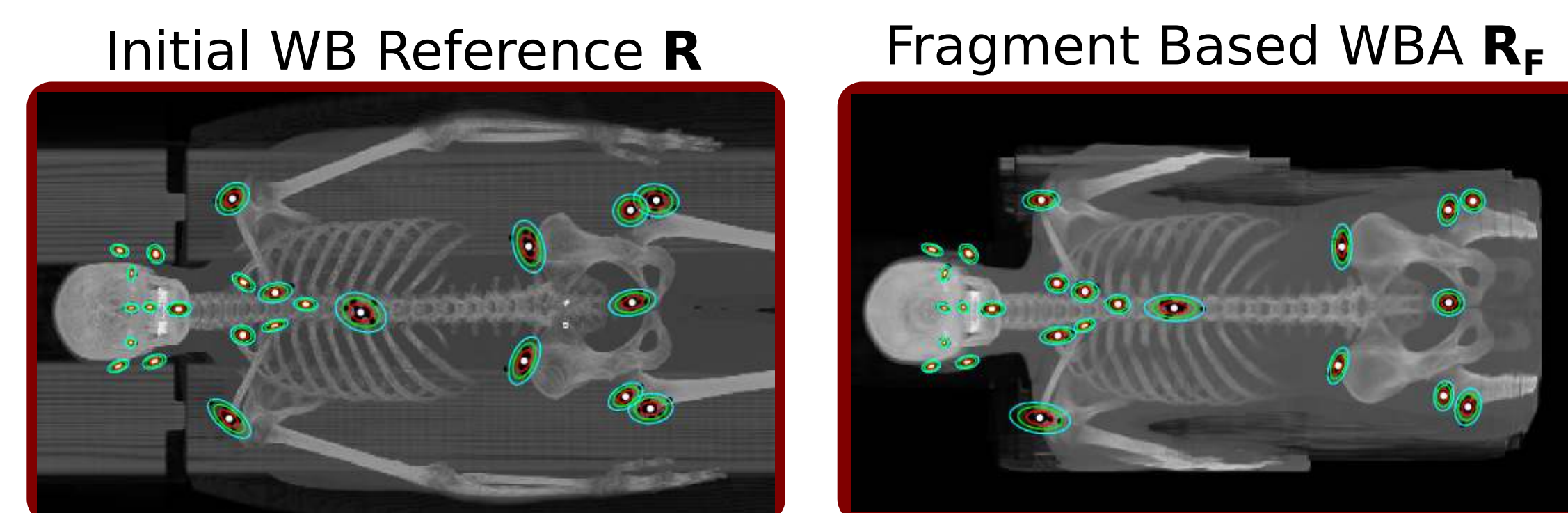
### Fragment Region Estimation and Non-rigid Registration



Registration of Corresponding Fragment Regions  $T_{F_i, R}$

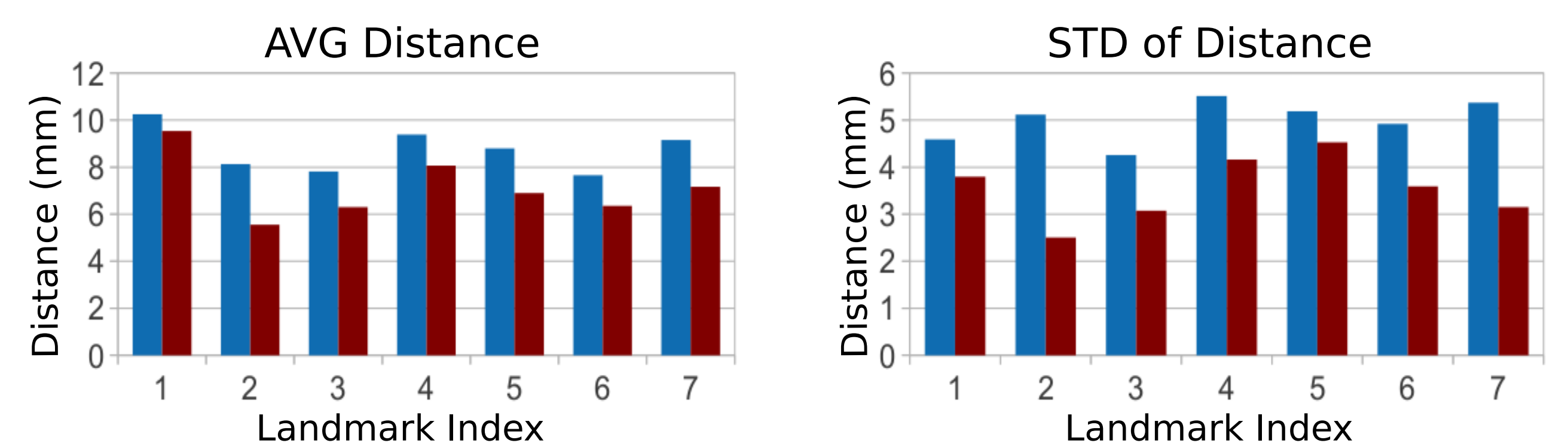
## Results

### Fragment Based WBA Construction

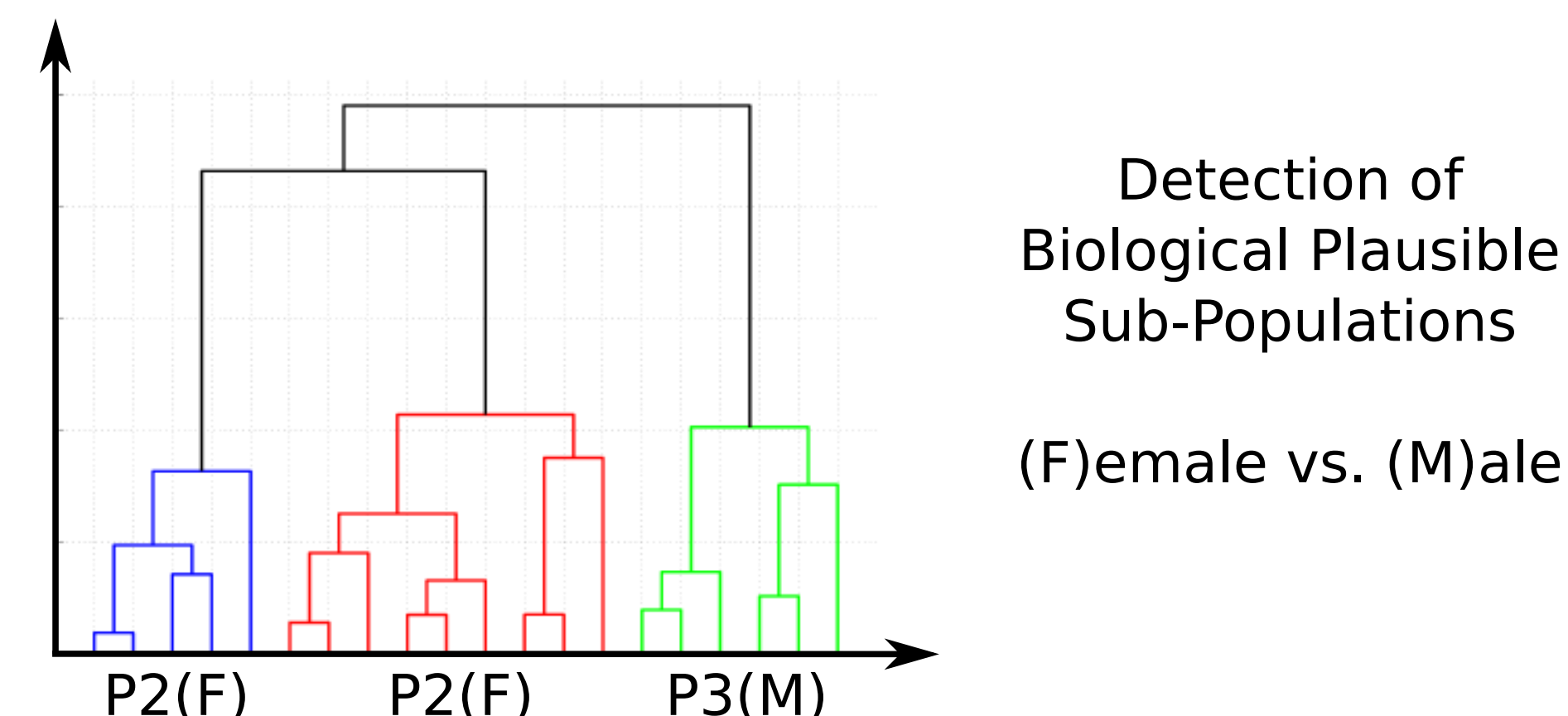


Landmark Transformation Accuracy

### Distance of Landmark Distributions to Centroids (Abdomen)



### Exploratory Population Analysis



### Population Differences



## Conclusion

**We propose an anatomical atlas framework providing:**

- An iterative algorithm for fragment to WB reference space registration.
- Methods for medical-imaging-fragment based computation of representative population atlases.
- Methodology for fragment based sub-population analysis.