

**Table S1. Papers used explicit approach**

Paper	Dataset and # of subjects	Specific Model	Harmonized Domain	Evaluation	Training data	Validation Strategies	Library	Summary
Garcia-Dias et al., 2020 [1]	15,026 (public)	Random forest regression	volumes (T1-w)	Group-wise: P-values	1D vector of 101 features	Leave-one-scanner-out CV	Sklearn	A nonlinear regression model is trained, where the ground truth harmonized measures were estimated by ComBat harmonization methods [Codes are available].
Dewey et al., 2019 [2]	12 (institutional, travelling)	CNN	intensity (T1-w, T2-w, PD, FLAIR)	Subject-wise: SSIM, AE, DSC, PVD and volume bias  Group-wise: p-value from t-test	2D patches (128×128)	six-fold CV	Keras and Tensorflow	Model was trained using multi-contrast images to achieve site-to-site mapping. Final volumes are predicted in a 2.5D inference. The proposed method outperformed DL based latent space method and random forest-based method.
Tong et al., 2020 [3]	5 (travelling, institutional) 14 (travelling, public)	CNN	DKI measures: (DTI)	Subject-wise: MSE  Group-wise: Coefficient of Variation	3D patches (3×3×3)	Leave-p-subjects-out CV  Leave-one-tissue-out CV	-	Train a CNN model with the DTI images from one scanner while eight DKI measures estimated from DTI images obtained from the reference scanner. The proposed model outperformed non-ML algorithms.
Koppers et al., 2019 [4]	10 (travelling, public)	CNN	SH: (dMRI)	Subject-wise: MSE	3D patches (3×3×3)	Ten-fold CV (8:2)	-	Residual network was trained to learnt how to predict the SH coefficient and performance the mapping across two domains using the predicted SH features.

St-Jean et al., 2020 [5]	14 (travelling, public)	SDL	Raw signals (dMRI)	Subject-wise: MNE, error and % of difference  Group-wise: Hedges'g for t-test, KL divergence	3D patches ( $3 \times 3 \times 3$ )	three-fold CV, AIC minimisation	Sklearn	Apply mapping between scanners for matched acquisition protocols and then map the original and altered data sets toward a common harmonisation space which is created by randomly sampling data sets from all scanners [codes are available]
Zhao et al., 2019 [6]	263 (public)	GAN	cortical thickness maps (T1-w and T2-w)	Subject-wise: MAE, PSNR, Euclidean distances between any two scans  Group-wise: PCA, Cohen's d	2D cortical thickness map	Split dataset	-	GANs was trained to learn a site-to-site mapping. The proposed method was validated on both synthetic paired data and real unpaired data, where synthetic paired dataset was created by resampling.
Ren et al., 2021 [7]	246 (public)	GAN	intensity (T1-w, FLAIR)	Downstream task: Segmentation accuracy	2D patches ( $256 \times 256$ )	leave-one-subject-out CV	PyTorch	By incorporating segmentation networks, GAN was trained and encouraged to produce the same segmentation via a segmentation-objective. The proposed method was compared and outperformed GAN-based methods [codes are available]
Robinson et al., 2020 [8]	1254 (public)	Transformer network	intensity (T1-w)	Downstream tasks: sex classification, age prediction	3D patches ( $64 \times 64 \times 64$ )	Split dataset	PyTorch	An image-and-spatial transformer network were trained to achieve site-to-site mapping. The proposed method was outperformed the GAN method. [codes are available]

Dewey et al., 2020 [9]	140 (institutional)  10 (travelling, institutional)	Auto-encoder	intensity (T1-w, T2-w)	Subject-wise: SSIM and PSNR	2D patches ( $224 \times 192$ )	Split dataset	-	An auto-encoder is trained using paired T1-w and T2-w images from same subjects. Model's parameters were searched using grid search.
Zuo et al., 2021 [10]	120 (institutional)  7 (travelling, institutional)	Auto-encoder	intensity (T1-w, T2-w)	Subject-wise: SSIM and PSNR	2D patches ( $224 \times 192$ )	Split dataset	PyTorch	Paired T1-w and T2-w from multiple sites were used to train the model. The proposed method outperform the histogram matching, GANs and the method presented in [9].
Zuo et al., 2021 [11]	20 (travelling, institutional)  100 (public)	Auto-encoder	intensity (T1-w, T2-w)	Subject-wise: SSIM, PSNR, DSC and PVD	2D patches ( $224 \times 224$ )	Split dataset	PyTorch	The model was developed based on [9], [10]. The author proposed a 2.5D inference to produce the final volume. [codes are available]
Gao et al., 2019 [12]	489 (institutional)  10 (travelling, institutional)	GAN	Image-level features: intensity of T2-FLAIR	Subject-wise: PSNR, histogram correlation, SSIM, MSD, MSE and average disparity  Downstream tasks: classification of diagnosis	2D slices ( $256 \times 256$ )	Split dataset	-	Multiple generators and discriminators were used for each sites or site combinations to achieve the many-to-one mapping. The proposed method outperformed the histogram matching.
Liu et al., 2021 [13]	1 (travelling, public)  718 (public)	GAN	intensity (T1-w)	Subject-wise: DSC, SSIM, Euclidean distances between any two scans	2D slices ( $128 \times 128$ )	Split dataset	-	Mapping across domains utilises a style-encoder to learn the scanner-invariant style code in images.

Weninger et al., 2022 [14]	161 (travelling, public)	GAN	SH (dMRI)	Subject-wise: MSE	3D patches ( $40 \times 40 \times 40$ )	Split dataset	PyTorch	Travelling subject dataset which contains scans from 3T and 7T scanner were used. The results of supervised, unsupervised, and mixed training were compared.
Torbati et al., 2021 [15]	18 (travelling, institutional)	Auto-encoder	intensity (T1-w)	Subject-wise: SSIM, SD, MSE, MAD	2D slices	Train and test on the same dataset	Tensorflow and keras	The model was trained to first learn the embeddings with structural information and then harmonise based on the embeddings. The proposed method was outperformed the statistical methods [codes are available]
Tian et al., 2022 [16]	9 (travelling, public)	Auto-encoder	GM volume maps (T1-w)	Group-wise: p-value for ANOVA and spearman's correlation, KL divergence	2D slices (176×208)	Leave-one-subject-out CV	Tensorflow and keras	The autoencoder was trained and evaluated with traveling subject datasets. 2.5D interface was developed. The proposed model outperformed statistical harmonization methods [codes are available].
Fatania et al., 2022 [17]	310 (public)	Auto-encoder	Intensities (T1-w)	Group-wise: p-value for KS and t-test	2D slices	Split dataset	TensorFlow	The proposed model consists of an auto-encoder based on site-to-site translation. The experiment was tested on data from unseen

								scanners and outperformed statistical methods.
Arai et al., 2021 [18]	616 (public)	GAN	Intensities (T1-w)	Subject-wise: PSNR, MSE, SSIM  Group-wise: t-SNE for cluster visualisation  Downstream tasks: classification	3D volume ( $160 \times 160 \times 192$ )	5-fold CV	-	The proposed method used GAN model to achieve one-to-one mapping, aim with obtaining a scanner independent low-dimensional representation while preserving disease-related anatomical features.
Zhong et al., 2020 [19]	84 (institutional)	GAN	DTI-derived metric map (dMRI)	Subject-wise: AE, MSE  Group-wise: Cohen's d, p-value for U test, Pearson correlation	3D patches ( $30 \times 30 \times 8$ )	Six-fold CV	-	Dual GANs was trained to learn the mappings of DTI-derived metrics of age-matched neonates from two sites. The proposed approach outperformed the statistics method.
Moyer et al., 2020 [20]	15 (travelling; public)	Auto-encoder	SH (dMRI)	Subject wise: MSE  Group-wise: APE and Coefficient of Variation	1D vector of DWI signal	Split dataset	-	All scans were masked for WM tissue before converting them to the SH representation. Results for single and multiple sites mappings were compared and results showed that they outperformed to the method presented in [21].

**Table S2. Papers used implicit approach**

Paper	Dataset	Specific Techniques	Modality	Evaluation	Training input	Validation Strategies	Software	Summary
Guan et al., 2021 [22]	2572 (public)	Adversarial transfer learning	T1-w: intensities	Group-wise: visualization using t-SNE  Classification (downstream tasks)	3D, raw intensities	5-fold CV	PyTorch	The proposed DA technique uses an attention discovery module to locate disease-related regions in brain MRIs.
Dinsdale et al., 2021 [23]	8417 (public)	Adversarial transfer learning	T1-w: intensities	Group-wise: visualization using t-SNE  Downstream tasks: Segmentation, Brain age regression	2D patches of size $128 \times 128$	5-fold CV	PyTorch	Adapt an iterative update approach to the adversarial learning [codes are available].
Orbes-Arteaga et al., 2019 [24]	133 (public)	Adversarial transfer learning	FLAIR: intensities	Downstream tasks: Segmentation	2D slices of size $256 \times 256$	Split dataset	-	The proposed method combines data augmentation strategy and adversarial networks to improve the main task performance.
Ackaouy et al., 2020 [25]	53 (public)	Adversarial transfer learning	FLAIR: intensities	Downstream tasks: Segmentation	3D patches of size $16 \times 16 \times 16$	Split dataset	Keras	The proposed method is based on the Optimal Transport, which learns a shared embedding for the source and target domains while preserving the discriminative information used by the discriminator.

Zhang et al., 2019 [26]	1506 (public)	Adversarial transfer learning	T1-w: intensities	Downstream tasks: Classification	2D slices of size $256 \times 256$	2-fold CV	PyTorch	The model utilizes a cycle feature adaptation module to harmonize features.
Yousefnezhad et al., 2020 [27]	142 (public)	Feature extraction	fMRI: time-series raw signals	Downstream tasks: Classification	2D time-series raw signals (1D flatten voxel)	Leave-one-subject out CV	PyTorch	First extracts a set of common features for all subjects in each site, and then then maps these site-specific features to a global shared space.
Wang et al., 2020 [28]	468 (public)	Feature extraction	fMRI: functional connectivity	Downstream tasks: Classification	2D functional connectivity matrix of size $116 \times 116$	5-fold CV	-	The proposed method treats one site as a target domain and the remaining sites as source domains. Transform the source domains to a common space using low-rank representation.
Wang et al., 2022 [29]	609 (public)	Feature extraction	fMRI: functional connectivity	Downstream tasks: Classification	2D functional connectivity matrix of size $64 \times 64$	leave-one-out CV	-	Use a nested singular value decomposition method to mitigate inter-site heterogeneity and extract features by learning both local cluster-shared features across sites and global category-shared features.
Delisle et al., 2021 [30]	1118 (pubic)	Adversarial transfer learning	T1-w, T2: intensities	Downstream tasks: Segmentation	3D patches of size $32 \times 32 \times 32$	Split dataset	PyTorch	The overall architecture consists of a generator, a segmenter that outputs a segmentation map from output of the generator and a discriminator [codes are available].

Huang et al., 2020 [31]	973 (public)	Adversarial transfer learning	fMRI: connectome-based features	Downstream tasks: Classification	1D vector of connectome-based features	10-fold CV	-	The classification network with adversarial module was trained on source domains and then tested on another unlabelled target domain.
C. Monte-Rubio et al. [32]	303 (institutional)	Fine-tuning	T1-w: segmentation map	Downstream tasks: Classification	2D voxel wise segmented data of GM and WM	Leave-one-out CV	R package	Train a Gaussian process site classifier to estimate the harmonisation parameters. Then encode the parameters for the main classifier.
Chen et al., 2020 [33]	1380 (public)	Fine-tuning	Diffusion MRI: tract-specific analysis results	Downstream tasks: Brain age regression	3D image-feature data with size of $100 \times 76 \times 9$	10-fold CV	MATLAB	Use model constructed with a large dMRI dataset as the source domain, and then transfer it to three target domains with distinct acquisition scenarios [codes are available].
Wachinger and Reuter, 2016 [34]	1350 (public)	Fine-tuning	T1-w: image-features	Downstream tasks: Classification	1D vector of cortical thickness, brain volume and shape features	Split dataset	R package	The DA technique based on the fine-tuning via instance weighting was used to transfer between the classifier on two databases.
Ghafoorian et al., 2017 [35]	439 (public)	Fine-tuning	T1-w, FLAIR: intensities	Downstream tasks: Segmentation	2D patches of size $32 \times 32$	Split dataset	-	The DA technique based on fine-tuning was used to transfer the original to the follow-up scan domain due to a change of scanner parameters. The same segmentation annotations were used for both domain during training and testing.
Balboni et al., 2022 [36]	73 (institutional)	Fine-tuning	T1-w: intensities	Downstream tasks: Segmentation	3D patches of size of $32 \times 64 \times 64$	Split dataset	Tensorflow and keras	This study fine-tunes the network trained in a previous study using ADNI datasets to segment scans in



								three new datasets [codes are available].
Shi et al., 2021 [37]	343 (public)	Fine-tuning	fMRI: functional connectivity	Downstream tasks: Classification	2D functional connectivity matrix of size $90 \times 90$	Five-fold CV	-	The DA method is based on a three-way decision model based on triangular fuzzy similarity and divide the objects in the target domain with coarse granularity.
van Opbroek et al., 2015 [38]	56 (public)	Fine-tuning	T1, T2, and FLAIR: intensities	Downstream tasks: Segmentation	2D voxel-wise data	CV	-	Perform regions and lesion segmentation using transfer learning considering unbalance training data.
Wang et al., 2022 [39]	2641 (public)	Fine-tuning	T1-w: intensities	Group-wise: visualization using t-SNE  Downstream tasks: Classification	3D volume of size $193 \times 229 \times 193$	5-fold CV	PyTorch	Introduce a regularization term in fine-tuning process of domain adaptation for diverse population and imaging devices.
Shi et al., 2022 [40]	452 (public)	Fine-tuning	fMRI: functional connectivity	Downstream tasks: Classification	1D voxel wise vector	Split dataset	-	Estimate the weight coefficient of each source domain to accurately describe the importance. And then adjust the sampling weights for the main network, using optimal transport theory.
Opbroek et al., 2015 [41]	61 (public)	Fine-tuning	T1-w: intensity	Downstream tasks: Segmentation	2D images	Leave-one-domain-out/ Leave-one-subject-out CV	LIBSVM	Estimate a weight to each image based on the distribution of its voxels in the feature space. The voxels and weights of the training images are then used to train a weighted classifier.

Ma et al., 2018 [42]	300 (public)	Multi-task learning	T1-w: intensities	downstream tasks : Classification	1D voxel-wise data	5-fold CV	-	The proposed method performed multi-task learning for multi-site data learning.
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1D: one dimensional

2.5D: pseudo three dimensional

2D: two dimensional

3D: three dimensional

ADL: adaptive dictionary learning

AE: Absolute error

AIC: Akaike information criterion

APE: Absolute Percentage Error

CNN: Convolutional neural network

CV: cross validation

DA: domain adaptation

DKI: diffusion kurtosis imaging

DSC: Dice similarity coefficient

GAN: Generative Adversarial Networks

KL: Kullback–Leibler

KS: Kolmogorov–Smirnov

MAD: Mean absolute deviation

MAE: mean solute error

MD: mean diffusivity

MNE: mean normalized error

MSD: Mean squared deviation

MSE: root mean square error

PSNR: peak-signal-to-noise ratio

PVD: percent volume difference

ROI: region of interest

SDL: spare dictionary learning

SH: spherical harmonic

SSIM: structural similarity index measure

**Table S3: Quality Assessment of All Included Articles**

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10	Score
[11]	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	10
[22]	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	10
[42]	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0.5	9.5
[33]	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	9
[2]	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	9
[10]	1	1	1	1	1	0.5	1	1	1	0.5	9
[16]	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	9
[20]	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	9
[28]	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	9
[29]	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	9
[30]	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	9
[32]	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	9
[39]	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	9
[40]	1	1	1	1	1	0.5	1	1	1	0.5	9
[5]	1	1	1	1	1	1	0.5	0	1	1	8.5
[7]	1	1	1	0.5	1	1	1	0	1	1	8.5
[12]	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0.5	8.5
[34]	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0.5	8.5
[38]	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	8
[1]	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	8
[15]	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0.5	8
[18]	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	8
[19]	1	1	1	0.5	1	1	0.5	1	0	1	8
[35]	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	8
[23]	1	1	0.5	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	7.5
[3]	1	1	1	0	1	0.5	1	1	0	1	7.5
[13]	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0.5	7.5
[17]	1	1	0.5	0.5	1	1	0.5	1	0	1	7.5
[24]	1	1	0.5	1	0.5	1	0.5	1	1	0	7.5
[26]	1	1	1	1	1	0.5	0.5	0	1	0.5	7.5
[27]	1	1	1	0.5	0.5	0.5	1	1	1	0	7.5
[31]	1	1	1	1	0.5	0.5	0.5	1	1	0	7.5
[37]	1	1	1	0.5	0.5	1	1	0	1	0.5	7.5
[4]	0.5	1	1	1	1	1	0.5	0	1	0	7
[25]	1	1	1	1	1	1	0.5	0	0	0.5	7

[36]	1	1	1	1	1	1	0.5	0	0	0.5	7
[41]	1	1	1	0.5	1	0.5	1	0	0	1	7
[14]	1	0.5	1	1	1	1	0.5	0	0	0.5	6.5
[8]	1	1	0.5	0.5	1	0.5	0.5	0	1	0	6
[6]	0.5	1	0.5	0.5	1	1	1	0	0	0	5.5
Average	0.98	0.99	0.91	0.85	0.95	0.90	0.86	0.53	0.475	0.70	8.16

**Sub-Table of S3 (S3-1): Quality assessment of all articles that used explicit approaches**

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10	Score
[11]	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	10
[2]	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	9
[10]	1	1	1	1	1	0.5	1	1	1	0.5	9
[16]	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	9
[20]	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	9
[5]	1	1	1	1	1	1	0.5	0	1	1	8.5
[7]	1	1	1	0.5	1	1	1	0	1	1	8.5
[12]	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0.5	8.5
[1]	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	8
[15]	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0.5	8
[18]	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	8
[19]	1	1	1	0.5	1	1	0.5	1	0	1	8
[3]	1	1	1	0	1	0.5	1	1	0	1	7.5
[13]	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0.5	7.5

[17]	1	1	0.5	0.5	1	1	0.5	1	0	1	7.5
[4]	0.5	1	1	1	1	1	0.5	0	1	0	7
[9]	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	0.5	6.5
[14]	1	0.5	1	1	1	1	0.5	0	0	0.5	6.5
[8]	1	1	0.5	0.5	1	0.5	0.5	0	1	0	6
[6]	0.5	1	0.5	0.5	1	1	1	0	0	0	5.5
Total	0.95	0.98	0.93	0.78	1.00	0.93	0.85	0.40	0.40	0.70	7.88

**Sub-Table of S3 (S3-2): Quality assessment of all articles that used implicit approaches**

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10	Score
[22]	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	10
[33]	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	9
[42]	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0.5	9.5
[28]	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	9
[29]	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	9
[30]	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	9
[32]	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	9
[38]	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	8
[39]	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	9
[40]	1	1	1	1	1	0.5	1	1	1	0.5	9
[23]	1	1	0.5	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	7.5

[34]	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0.5	8.5
[35]	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	8
[36]	1	1	1	1	1	1	0.5	0	0	0.5	7
[41]	1	1	1	0.5	1	0.5	1	0	0	1	7
[24]	1	1	0.5	1	0.5	1	0.5	1	1	0	7.5
[26]	1	1	1	1	1	0.5	0.5	0	1	0.5	7.5
[27]	1	1	1	0.5	0.5	0.5	1	1	1	0	7.5
[31]	1	1	1	1	0.5	0.5	0.5	1	1	0	7.5
[37]	1	1	1	0.5	0.5	1	1	0	1	0.5	7.5
[25]	1	1	1	1	1	1	0.5	0	0	0.5	7
Total	1.00	1.00	0.90	0.93	0.90	0.88	0.88	0.62	0.52	0.69	8.3

1 = “yes”, 0.5 = “partial”, 0 = “no”.

Q1: Are the research aims clearly defined?

Q2: Is the data collection procedure or the datasets clearly defined?

Q3: Is the data pre-processing procedure clearly defined?

Q4: Is the characteristics of the input data clearly described?

Q5: Are the ML techniques well defined?

Q6: Is the training procedure clearly defined?

Q7: Are the results and findings clearly stated?

Q8: Are there any comparative analyses (statistical vs ML)?

Q9: Are there any comparative analyses (ML vs ML)?

Q10: Are the limitations of the study specified?

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