

DISCOS SPM course, CRC, Liège, 2009

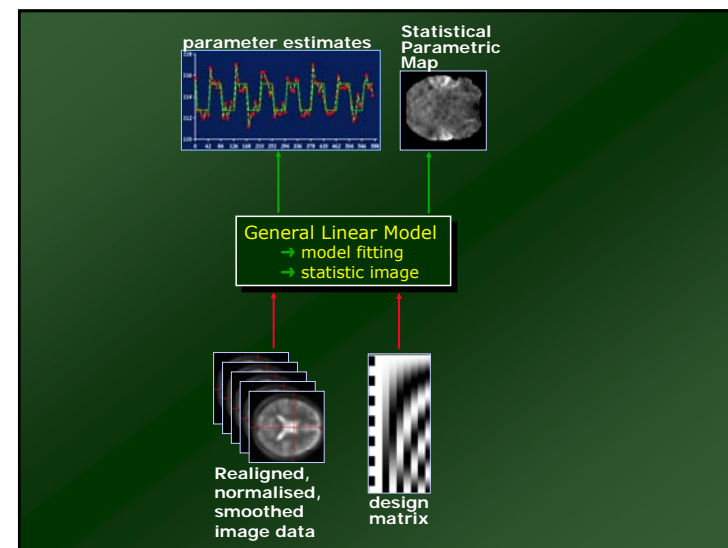
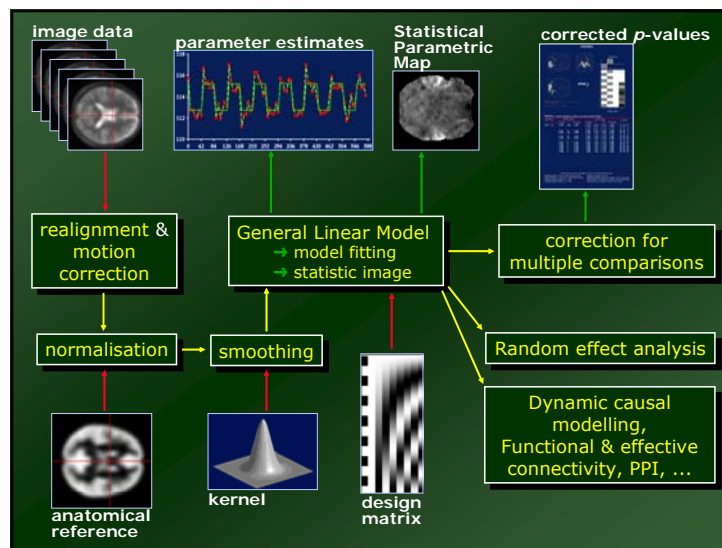
## The General Linear Model, Part II

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Based on slides from: T. Nichols, R. Henson, S. Kiebel, JB. Poline



## Contents

- Introduction & recap
  - The General Linear Model
  - T test
- F-test and added variance
- Good & bad models
- Improved model
- HRF and ER fMRI
- « Take home » message



## General Linear Model

What does it mean ?

### General

The model can be used to answer a wide variety of questions.

### Linear

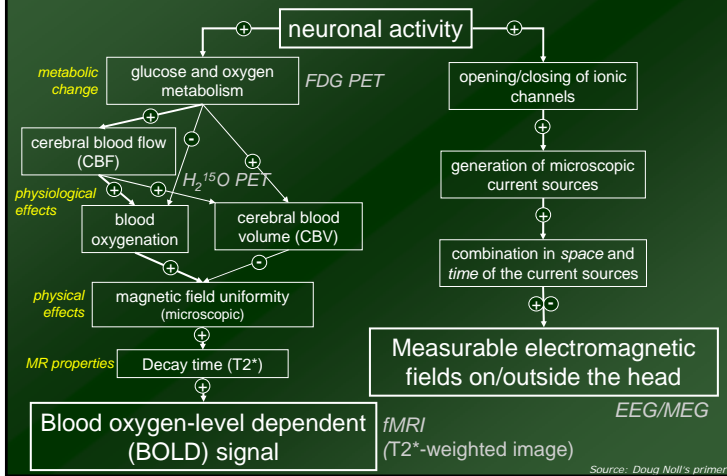
The model uses simple linear relationships between the variables.

### Model

A set of equations are used to describe the data. Questions about the data can then be stated as mathematical expressions.

GLM is the basic model or general framework underlying the analysis of variance and multiple regression.

## Functional neuroimaging signal



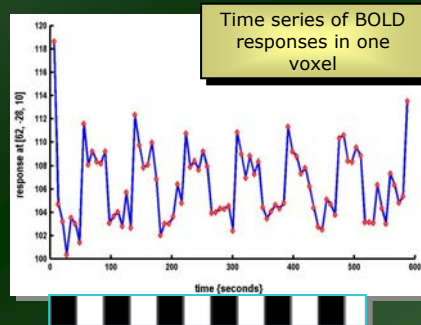
## Simple fMRI example dataset: can we do better ?

One session, one subject

Passive word listening versus rest

7 cycles of rest and listening

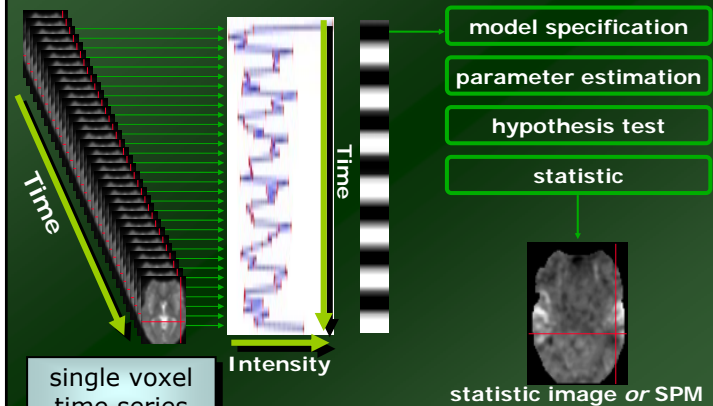
Each epoch 6 scans with 7 sec TR

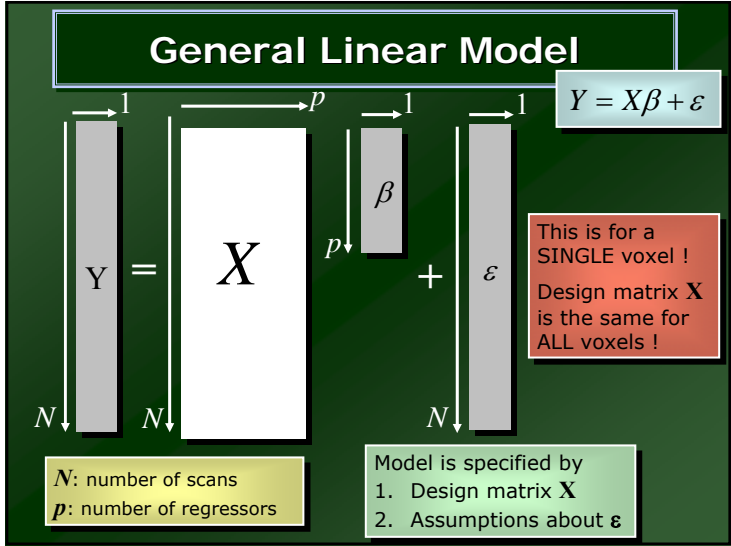


Stimulus function

Question: Is there a change in the BOLD response between listening and rest?

## Voxel by voxel statistics...

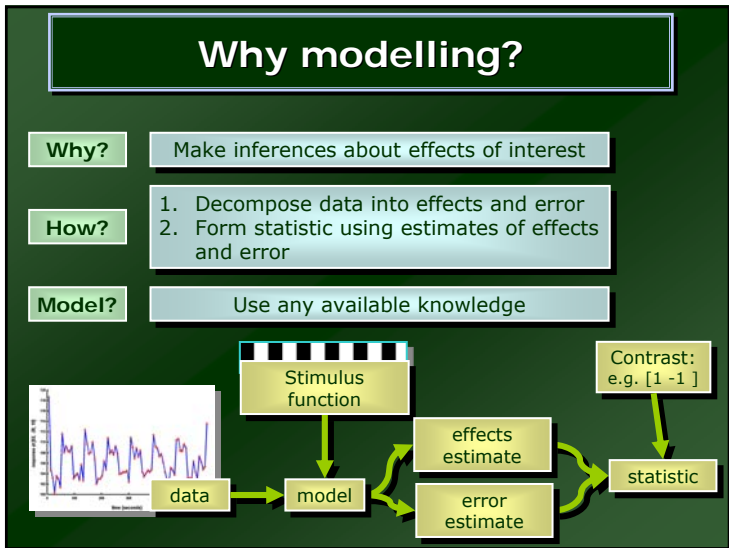
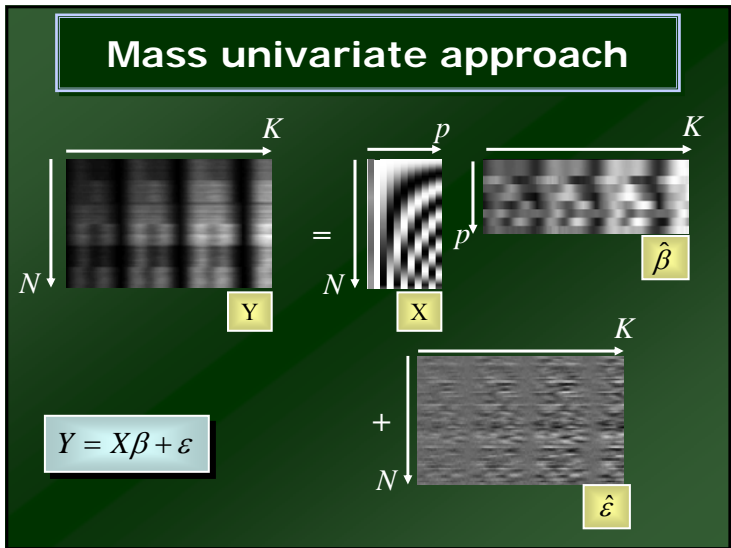




### General Linear Model

- **fMRI time series:**  $Y_1, \dots, Y_s, \dots, Y_N$ 
  - acquired at times  $t_1, \dots, t_s, \dots, t_N$
- **Model:** Linear combination of basis functions
 
$$Y_s = \beta_1 f^1(t_s) + \dots + \beta_l f^l(t_s) + \dots + \beta_L f^L(t_s) + \varepsilon_s$$
- $f^l(\cdot)$ : **basis functions**
  - "reference waveforms"
  - dummy variables
- $\beta_l$ : **parameters** (fixed effects)
  - amplitudes of basis functions (regression slopes)
- $\varepsilon_s$ : **residual errors:**  $\varepsilon_s \sim N(0, \sigma^2)$ 
  - identically distributed
  - independent, or serially correlated

*(Generalised Linear Model  $\rightarrow$  GLM)*



## Parameter estimation

$Y = X\beta + \varepsilon$

$\hat{\varepsilon} = Y - X\hat{\beta}$   
residuals

Assume iid error

$\hat{\beta} = (X^T X)^{-1} X^T Y$

Least squares parameter estimate

Estimate parameters such that  $\sum_{t=1}^N \hat{\varepsilon}_t^2$  minimal

$c' = +1 \ 0$

box-car amplitude  $> 0$  ?

$\hat{\beta}_1 > 0$  ? ( $\hat{\beta}_1$  : estimation of  $\beta_1$ )

$1 \times \hat{\beta}_1 + 0 \times \hat{\beta}_2 > 0$  ?

test  $H_0 : c' \times \hat{\beta} > 0$  ?

## Model — contrasts — SPM{t}

**Contrast** : specifies linear combination of parameter vector:  $c' \beta$

$c' = +1 \ 0$

box-car amplitude  $> 0$  ?

$\hat{\beta}_1 > 0$  ? ( $\hat{\beta}_1$  : estimation of  $\beta_1$ )

$1 \times \hat{\beta}_1 + 0 \times \hat{\beta}_2 > 0$  ?

test  $H_0 : c' \times \hat{\beta} > 0$  ?

contrast of estimated parameters

$T = \frac{c' \hat{\beta}}{\sqrt{\text{variance estimate}}}$

$T = \frac{c' \hat{\beta}}{\sqrt{s^2 c' (X'X)^+ c}}$

SPM{t}

## t distribution

Depends on 1 set of degrees of freedom !

v	95%
1	6.314
5	2.015
10	1.812
15	1.753
20	1.725
30	1.697
50	1.676
100	1.660
Inf	1.645

## How is this computed ? (t-test)

*Estimation [Y, X] [b, s]*

$Y = X\beta + \varepsilon$        $\varepsilon \sim \sigma^2 N(0, I)$  ( $Y$  : at one position)

$b = (X'X)^+ X'Y$       ( $b$  = estimation of  $\beta$ ) → beta??? images

$e = Y - Xb$       ( $e$  = estimation of  $\varepsilon$ )

$s^2 = (e'e / (n - p))$       ( $s$  = estimation of  $\sigma$ ,  $n$ : scans,  $p$ : parameters)

→ image ResMS

---

*Test [b, s^2, c] [c'b, t]*

$\text{Var}(c'b) = s^2 c' (X'X)^+ c$       compute for each contrast  $c$

$t = c'b / \text{sqrt}(s^2 c' (X'X)^+ c)$        $c'b$  → images con???

compute the t images → images spm\_1???

under the null hypothesis  $H_0 : t \sim \text{Student}(df)$        $df = n - p$

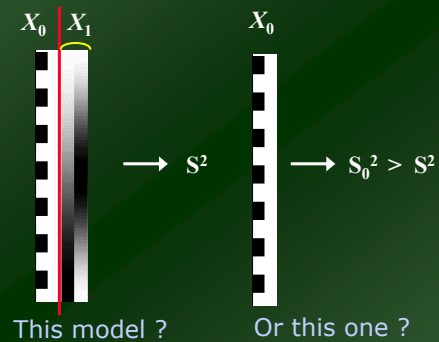
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## Model — contrasts — SPM{F}

Tests multiple linear hypotheses :  
Does  $X_1$  model anything ?

$H_0$ : True model is  $X_0$

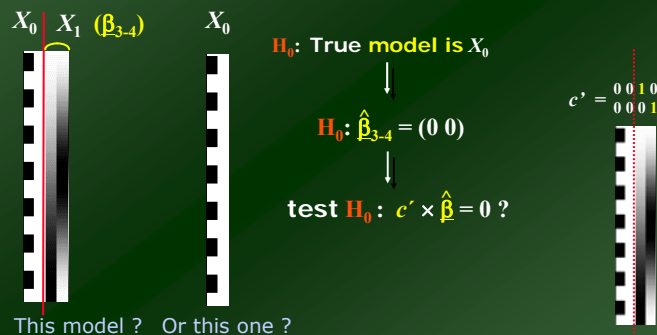


additional  
variance  
accounted for  
by tested  
effects  
 $F = \frac{\text{error}}{\text{variance estimate}}$

$$F \sim (S_0^2 - S^2) / S^2$$

## F test (SPM{F}) : a reduced model or ... multi-dimensional contrasts ?

Tests multiple linear hypotheses.



## How is this computed ? (F-test)

Estimation  $[Y, X] [b, s]$

$$Y = X \beta + \varepsilon \quad \varepsilon \sim N(0, \sigma^2 I)$$

$$Y = X_0 \beta_0 + \varepsilon_0 \quad \varepsilon_0 \sim N(0, \sigma_0^2 I) \quad X_0 : X \text{ Reduced}$$

Estimation  $[Y, X_0] [b_0, s_0]$  (not really like that)

$$b_0 = (X_0' X_0)^{-1} X_0' Y$$

$$e_0 = Y - X_0 b_0 \quad (e_0 = \text{estimation of } \varepsilon_0)$$

$$s_0^2 = (e_0' e_0) / (n - p_0) \quad (s_0 = \text{estimation of } \sigma_0)$$

$n$ : # time bins,  $p_0$ : # parameters)

Test  $[b, s, c]$  [ess, F]

$$F = (e_0' e_0 - e' e) / (p - p_0) / s^2 \rightarrow \text{image } (e_0' e_0 - e' e) / (p - p_0) : \text{spm\_ess???$$

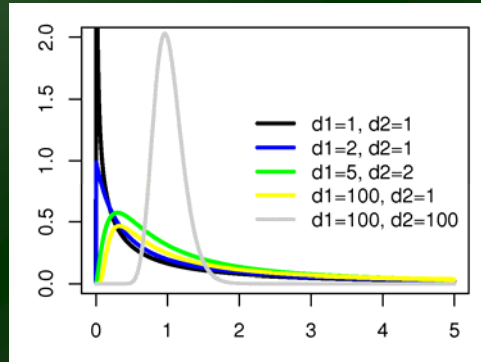
$$\rightarrow \text{image of } F : \text{spm\_F???$$

under the null hypothesis :  $F \sim F(df1, df2)$

$$p - p_0 \quad n - p$$

## F distribution

Depends on 2 sets of degrees of freedom !



## T and F test: take home ...

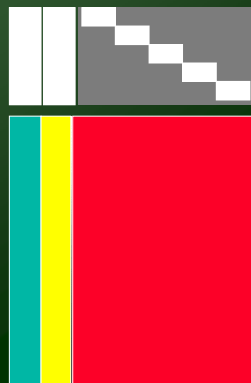
▶ *T tests are simple combinations of the betas; they are either positive or negative ( $b_1 - b_2$  is different from  $b_2 - b_1$ )*

▶ *F tests can be viewed as testing for the additional variance explained by a larger model wrt. a simpler model, or*

▶ *F test the sum of the squares of one or several combinations of the betas*

▶ *in testing "single contrast" with an F test, for ex.  $b_1 - b_2$ , the result will be the same as testing  $b_2 - b_1$ . It will be exactly the square of the t-test, testing for both positive and negative effects, and the p-value will be twice as big.*

## « Additional variance » : Again



Independent contrasts

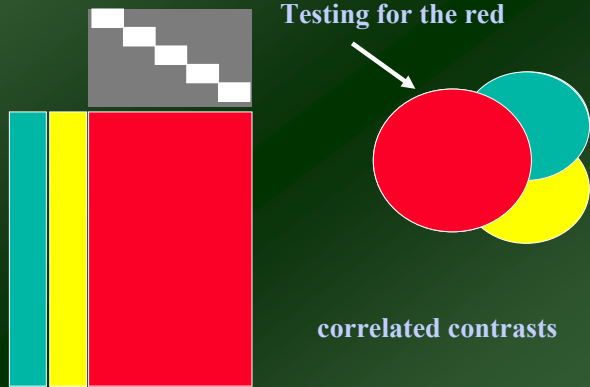
## « Additional variance » : Again



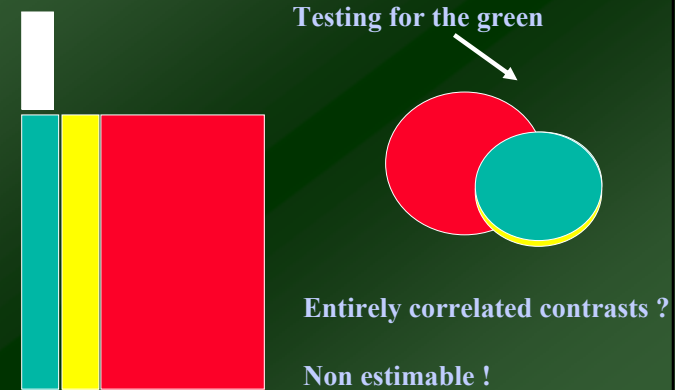
Testing for the green

correlated regressors, for example  
green: subject age  
yellow: subject score

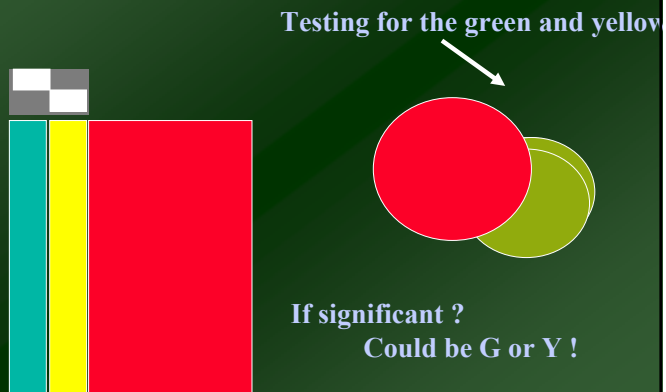
### « Additional variance » : Again



### « Additional variance » : Again



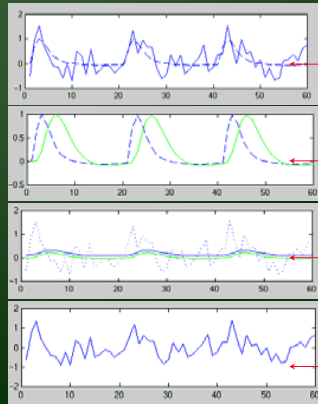
### « Additional variance » : Again



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## A bad model ...



True signal (---) and observed signal

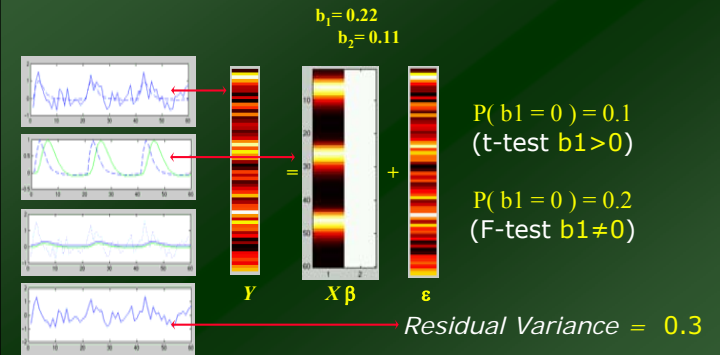
Model (green, peak at 6sec) and TRUE signal (blue, peak at 3sec)

Fitting :  
 $b_1 = 0.2$ , mean = .11

Noise  
(still contains some signal)

⇒ Test for the green regressor not significant

## A bad model ...



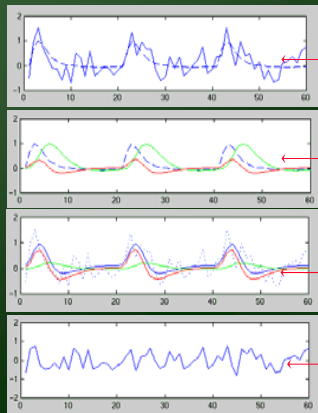
$b_1 = 0.22$   
 $b_2 = 0.11$

$P(b_1 = 0) = 0.1$   
(t-test  $b_1 > 0$ )

$P(b_1 = 0) = 0.2$   
(F-test  $b_1 \neq 0$ )

Residual Variance = 0.3

## A « better » model ...



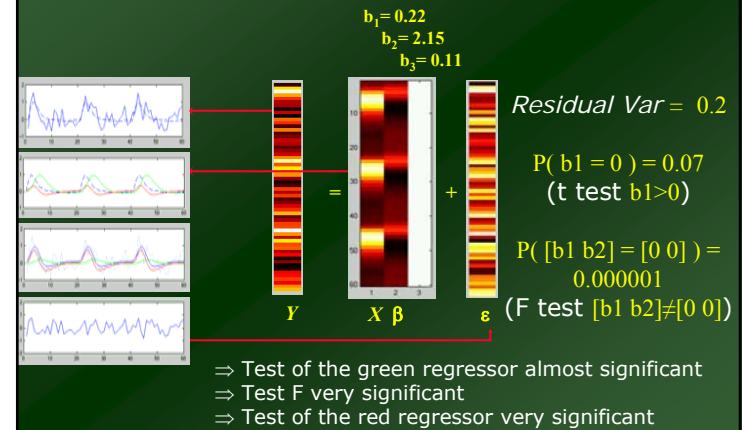
True signal + observed signal

Model (green and red) and true signal (blue ---)  
Red regressor : temporal derivative of the green regressor

Global fit (blue) and partial fit (green & red)  
Adjusted and fitted signal

Noise (a smaller variance)

## A better model ...



$b_1 = 0.22$   
 $b_2 = 2.15$   
 $b_3 = 0.11$

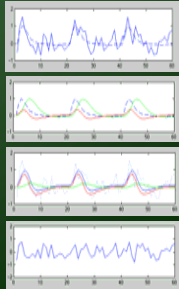
Residual Var = 0.2

$P(b_1 = 0) = 0.07$   
(t test  $b_1 > 0$ )

$P([b_1 \ b_2] = [0 \ 0]) = 0.000001$   
(F test  $[b_1 \ b_2] \neq [0 \ 0]$ )

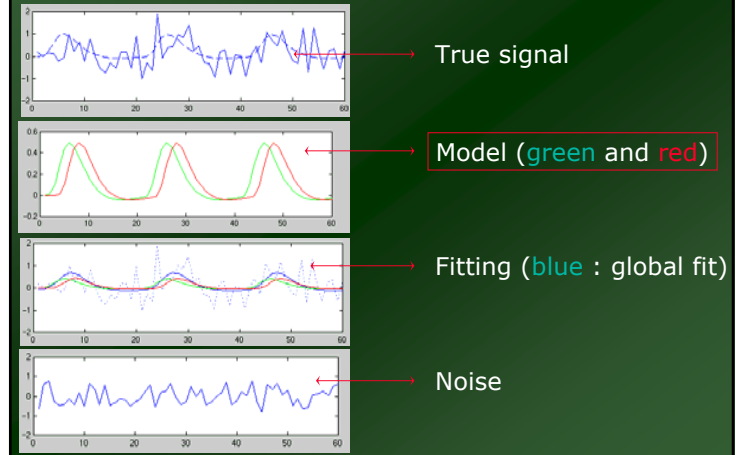
- ⇒ Test of the green regressor almost significant
- ⇒ Test F very significant
- ⇒ Test of the red regressor very significant

## Summary ...

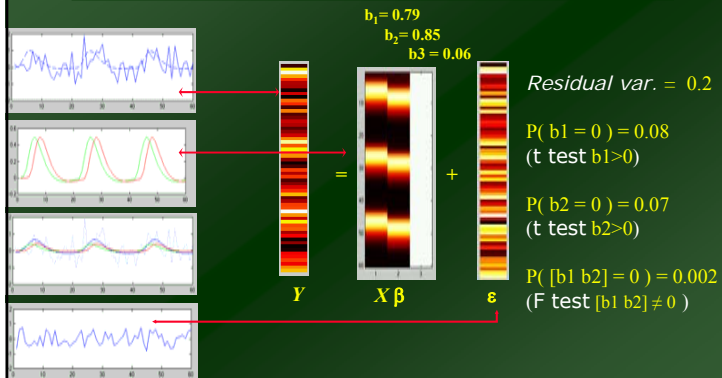


- ▶ The residuals should be looked at ... (non random structure ?)
- ▶ We rather test flexible models if there is little a priori information, and precise ones with a lot a priori information
- ▶ In general, use the F-tests to look for an overall effect, then look at the betas or the adjusted signal to characterise the origin of the signal
- ▶ Interpreting the test on a single parameter (one function) can be very confusing: cf the delay or magnitude situation

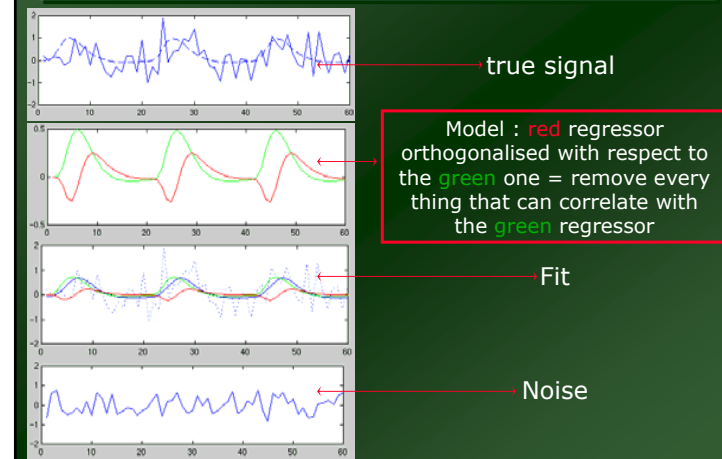
## Correlation between regressors



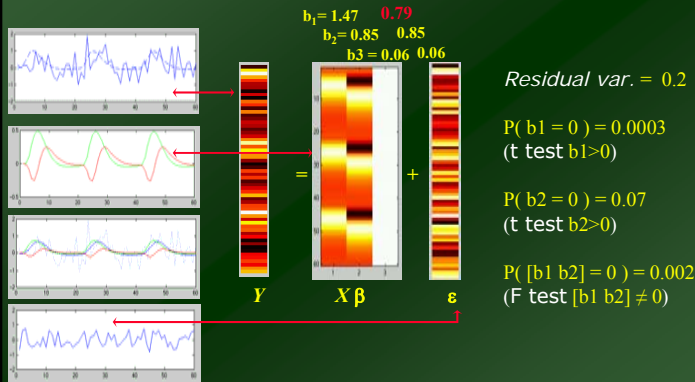
## Correlation between regressors



## Correlation between regressors - 2



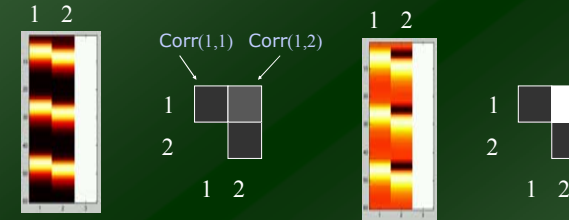
## Correlation between regressors -2



## Design orthogonality : « explore design »

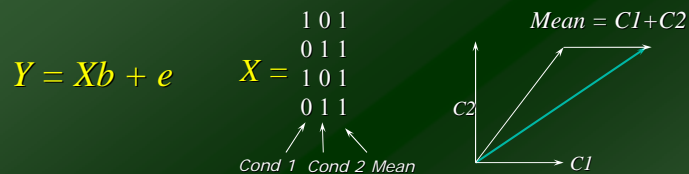
Black = completely correlated

White = completely orthogonal



*Beware* : when there is more than 2 regressors (C1,C2,C3...), you may think that there is little correlation (light grey) between them, but  $C_1 + C_2 + C_3$  may be correlated with  $C_4 + C_5$

## “completely” correlated ...



Parameters are **not unique** in general !  
Some contrasts have no meaning: **NON ESTIMABLE**

Example here :

- $c' = [1 \ 0 \ 0]$  is not estimable  
( = no specific information in the first regressor);
- $c' = [1 \ -1 \ 0]$  is estimable.

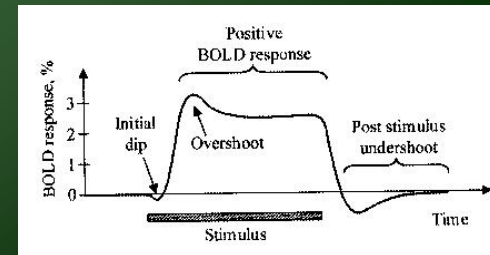
## Summary ...

- ▶ We are implicitly testing additional effect only, so we may miss the signal if there is some correlation in the model using t tests
- ▶ Orthogonalisation is not generally needed - parameters and test on the changed regressor don't change
- ▶ It is always simpler (when possible !) to have orthogonal (uncorrelated) regressors
- ▶ In case of correlation, use F-tests to see the overall significance. There is generally no way to decide where the « common » part shared by two regressors should be attributed to
- ▶ In case of correlation and you need to orthogonalise a part of the design matrix, there is no need to re-fit a new model : the contrast only should change.

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- HRF and ER fMRI
- « Take home » message

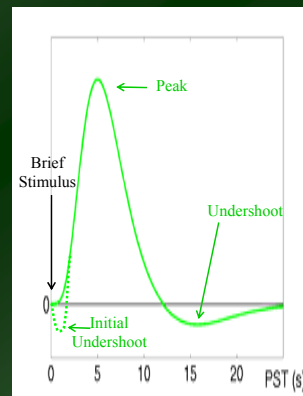
## Hemodynamic Response Function



- % signal change**  
= (point - baseline)/baseline  
usually 0.5-3%
- time to rise**  
signal begins to rise soon after stimulus start
- initial dip**  
-more focal and potentially a better measure  
-somewhat elusive so far, not everyone can find it
- time to peak**  
signal peaks 4-6 sec after stimulus begins
- post stimulus undershoot**  
signal suppressed after stimulation ends

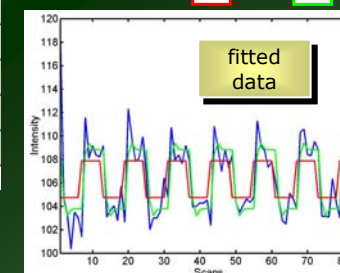
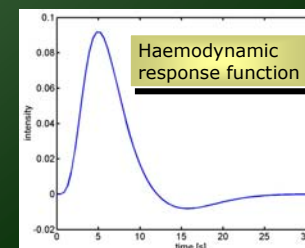
## Haemodynamic response function

- Function of blood oxygenation, flow, volume (Buxton et al, 1998)
- Peak (max. oxygenation) 4-6s poststimulus; baseline after 20-30s
- Initial undershoot can be observed (Malonek & Grinvald, 1996)
- Similar across V1, A1, S1...
- ... but **differences across:** other regions (Schacter et al 1997) individuals (Aguirre et al, 1998)



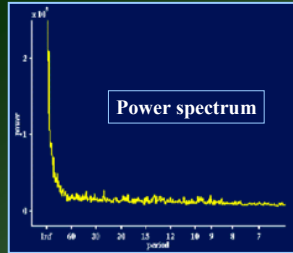
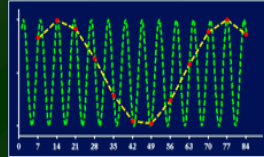
## Improved model

Convolve stimulus function with model of BOLD response



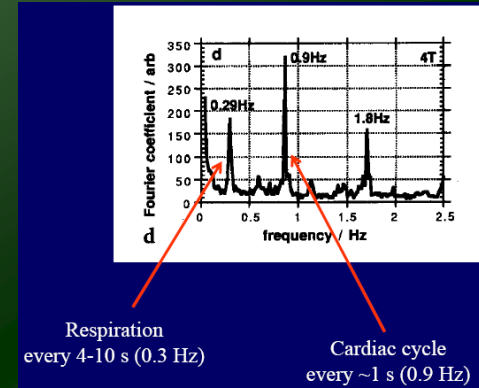
## Low frequency nuisance effects

- Drifts
  - physical
  - physiological
- Aliased high frequency effects
  - cardiac (~1 Hz)
  - respiratory (~0.25 Hz)



⇒ Power in the low frequencies

## Physiological "noise"

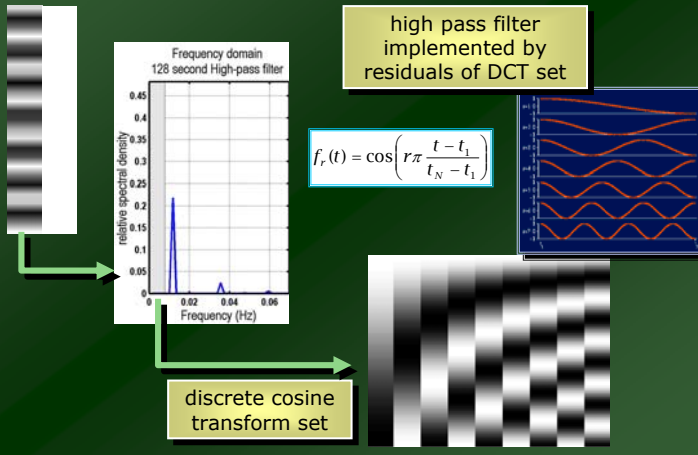


## High pass filter

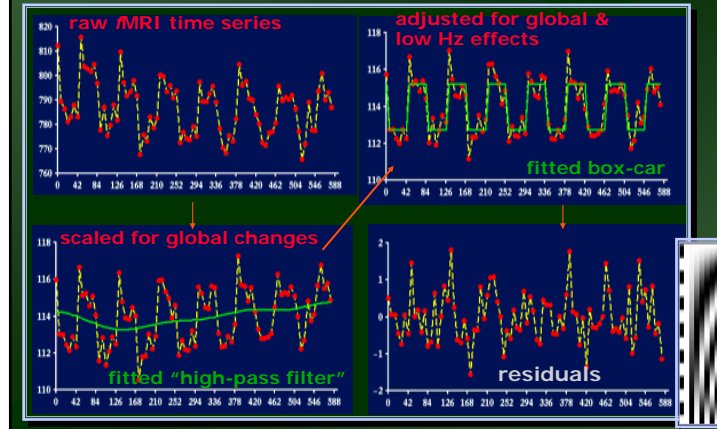
$$Y = X\beta + \varepsilon$$

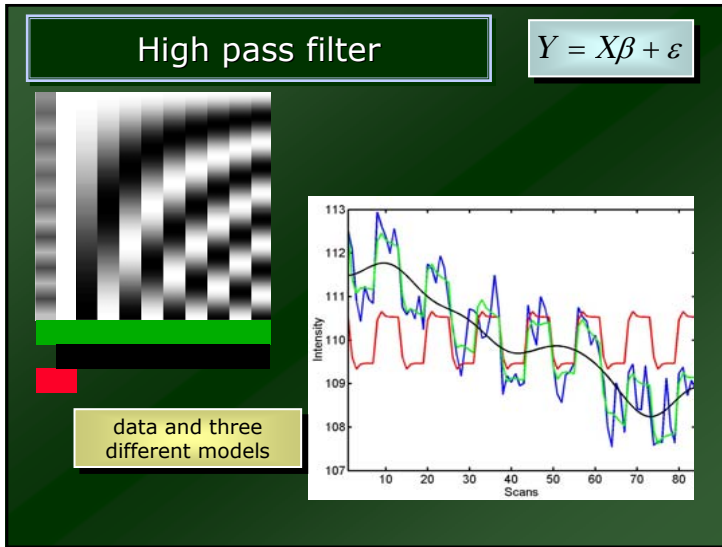
high pass filter implemented by residuals of DCT set

$$f_r(t) = \cos\left(r\pi \frac{t-t_1}{t_N-t_1}\right)$$



## GLM fitted



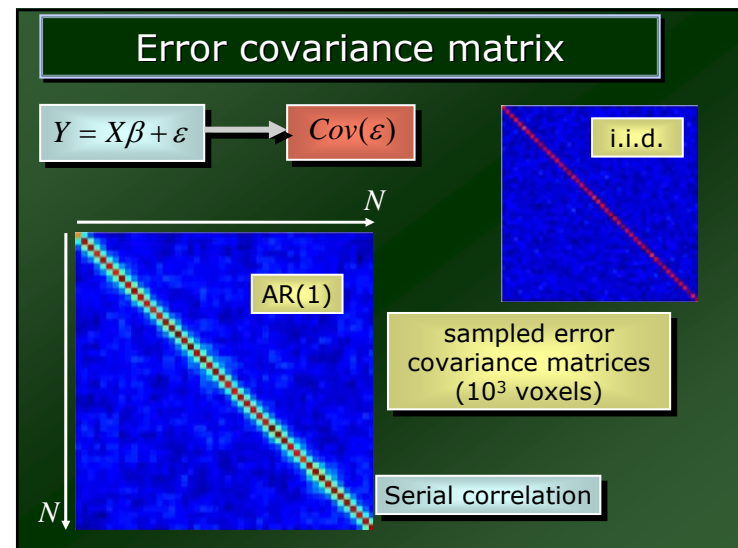
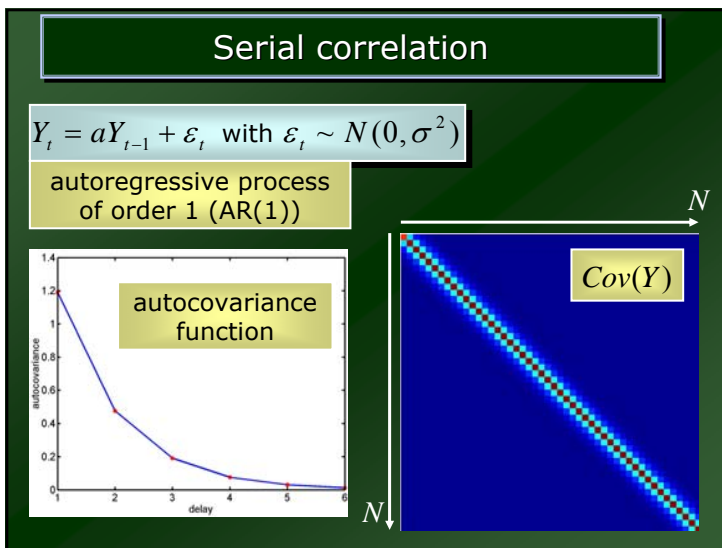


### Serial correlation (fMRI)

#### General Linear Model ⇒ Generalised Linear Model

fMRI time series are auto-correlated:

- adaptation of general linear model necessary for valid test
- estimation of autocorrelation
- Optimal low-pass filter



## Serial correlations

$$Y = X\beta + \varepsilon \quad \varepsilon \sim N(\mathbf{0}, \sigma^2 V) \quad \text{--Intrinsic autocorrelation } V$$

**Problem:**

Estimate  $\sigma^2 V$  at each voxel and make inference about  $c^T \beta$

**Model:**

Model  $V$  as linear combination of  $m$  variance components

$$V = \lambda_1 Q_1 + \lambda_2 Q_2 + \dots + \lambda_m Q_m$$

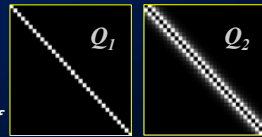
**Assumptions:**

$V$  is the same at each voxel

$\sigma^2$  is different at each voxel

**Example:**

For one fMRI session, use 2 variance components. Choice of  $Q_1$  and  $Q_2$  motivated by autoregressive model of order 1 plus white noise (AR(1) + wn)

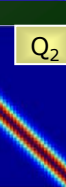
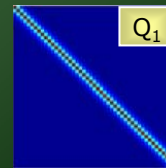


## Restricted Maximum Likelihood

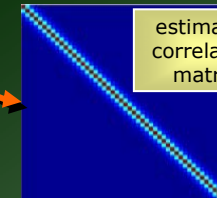
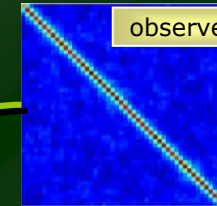
$$Y = X\beta + \varepsilon$$

Cov( $\varepsilon$ )?

observed



ReML



estimated correlation matrix

## Serial correlations...estimation

$$\hat{\beta} = (X^T X)^{-1} X^T Y \quad \text{-- unbiased, ordinary least squares estimate}$$

Compute sample covariance matrix of data at all activated voxels:  $C_Y = \sum_k Y_k Y_k^T / K$

$$C_Y = \sum_k Y_k Y_k^T / K$$

Important: Data  $Y_k$  must be high-pass filtered.

Model  $C_Y$  as  $C_Y = X \beta \beta^T X^T + \sum \lambda_i Q_i$

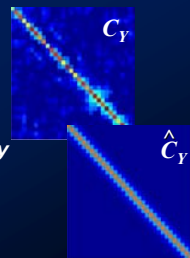
and estimate hyperparameters  $\lambda_i$  using "Restricted Maximum Likelihood" (ReML)

Estimate  $V$  by  $V = N \sum \hat{\lambda}_i Q_i / \text{trace}(\sum \hat{\lambda}_i Q_i)$

Estimate  $\sigma^2$  at each voxel in the usual way by

$$\hat{\sigma}^2 = (R Y)^T (R Y) / \text{trace}(R V) \quad \text{-- unbiased}$$

where  $R = I - X(X^T X)^{-1} X^T$



## Estimation in SPM

$$y_j = X\theta_j + \varepsilon_j$$

$$\hat{C}_\varepsilon = \hat{Cov}(\varepsilon) = \text{ReML}(\sum_{\text{voxel } j} y_j y_j^T, X, Q)$$

ReML (pooled estimate)

$$\hat{\theta}_{j,OLS} = X^+ y_j$$

$$\hat{\theta}_{j,ML} = (X^T V^{-1} X)^{-1} X^T V^{-1} y_j$$

Ordinary least-squares

Maximum Likelihood

- 2 passes (first pass for selection of voxels)
- more accurate estimate of  $V$

Assume, at voxel  $j$ :  
 $C_{\varepsilon,j} = \sigma_j^2 V$

$$t = \frac{c^T \theta}{\text{SE}(c^T \theta)}$$

$$\text{SE}(c^T \theta) = \sqrt{\hat{\sigma}^2 c^T (V^{-1/2} X)^{-1} (V^{-1/2} X)^{-T} c}$$

## Serial correlations...inference

### Inference:

To test null hypothesis  $\beta = 0$ , compute t-value by dividing size of effect by its standard deviation:  $t = \hat{\beta} / \text{std}[\hat{\beta}]$

where  $\text{std}[\hat{\beta}] = \text{sqrt}(\sigma^2 \epsilon' (X'X)^{-1} X' V X (X'X)^{-1} \epsilon)$

... but ...  $\text{std}[\hat{\beta}]$  is not a  $\chi^2$  variable because of  $V$

Approximating  $\chi^2$  distribution

using **Satterthwaite approximation**:

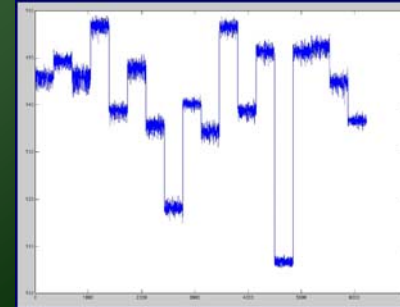
$$\text{Var}[\sigma^2] = 2\sigma^4 \text{trace}(R' V R V) / \text{trace}(R V)^2$$

$$\nu = 2E[\sigma^2]^2 / \text{Var}[\sigma^2] = \text{trace}(R V)^2 / \text{trace}(R' V R V)$$

– effective degrees of freedom

Use t-distribution with  $\nu$  degrees of freedom to compute p-value for  $t$

## Absolute value of BOLD signal is meaningless



fMRI signal of an individual voxel across scans and sessions

⇒ Scale the scans by the session global mean

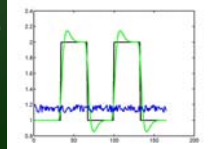
## fMRI Global scaling artefact

Scale each scan by its own global mean ?

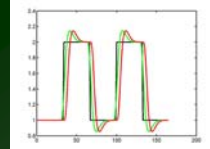
No scaling.

Stimulus  
Global  
Voxel 1  
Voxel 2

Voxel 1, no effect

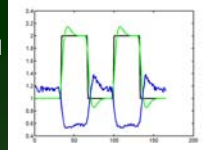


Voxel 2, pos. effect

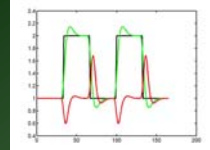


With scaling:  
voxel/global

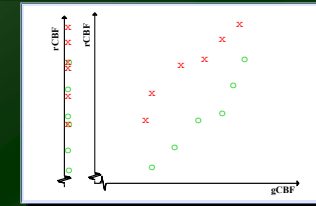
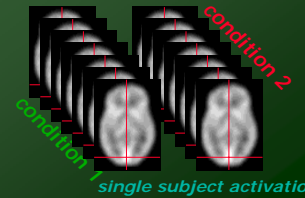
Voxel 1, neg. effect



Voxel 2, "no" effect

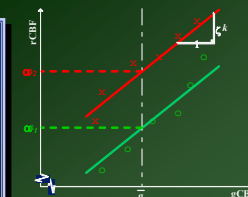


## PET Global effects: AnCova...



### AnCova

- classic way to include a nuisance covariate into a comparison
- assumptions
  - linear / parallel
  - Constant across conditions



## Single subject activation (AnCova)

$$Y_{ij} = \alpha_{ij} + \mu + \zeta (g_{ij} - \bar{g}_{..}) + \varepsilon_{ij}$$

–  $\varepsilon_{ij} \sim N(0, \sigma^2)$

- Null hypothesis (at this voxel)

–  $H_0: \alpha_1 = \alpha_2$

- parameter vector

–  $\beta = (\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \alpha_3, \mu, \zeta)^T$

- contrast weights  $\underline{c}$

– activation:  $H_1: \alpha_2 > \alpha_1$

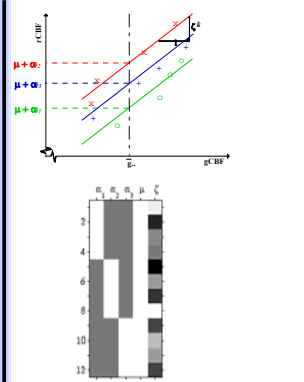
•  $(-1 \ 1 \ 0)$

– deactivation:  $H_1: \alpha_1 > \alpha_2$

•  $(+1 \ -1 \ 0)$

- F-test

–  $H_0: \alpha_1 = \alpha_2 = \alpha_3 = 0$



## Proportional scaling by gCBF...

- scale gCBF to 50ml/min/dl

$$Y'_{ij} = Y_{ij} / (g_{ij} / 50)$$

→ statistics on adjusted data

- scales variance

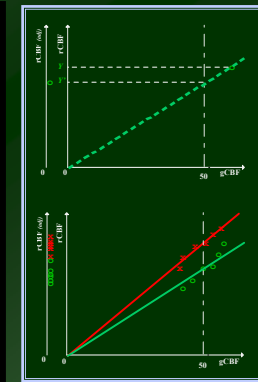
e.g. single subject activation

$$Y'_{ij} = \alpha_{ij} + \varepsilon_{ij}$$

$$\varepsilon_{ij} \sim N(0, \sigma^2)$$

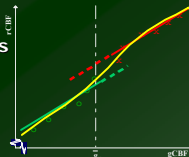
$$Y'_{ij} = \alpha_{ij} (g_{ij}/50) + \varepsilon'_{ij}$$

$$\varepsilon'_{ij} \sim N(0, \sigma^2 \times (g_{ij}/50)^2)$$

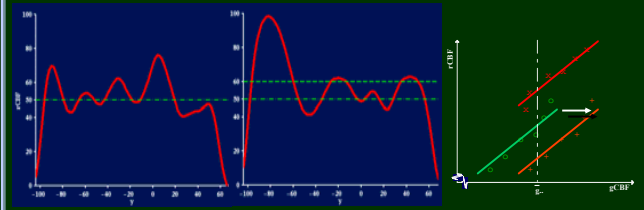


## Confounded covariates...

- E.g. global effects
  - frequently correct for global changes
  - nuisance effect ?
  - global mean affected by response ?
- Motion effects in fMRI



artefactual deactivations...

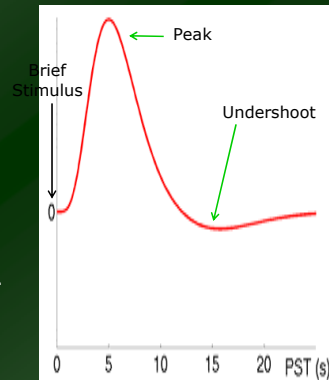


## Contents

- Introduction & Recap
- F-test and added variance
- Good & bad models
- Improved model
- HRF and ER fMRI
- « Take home » message

## BOLD Impulse Response

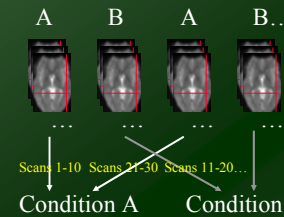
- Function of blood oxygenation, flow, volume (Buxton et al, 1998)
- Peak (max. oxygenation) 4-6s poststimulus; baseline after 20-30s
- Initial undershoot can be observed (Malonek & Grinvald, 1996)
- Similar across V1, A1, S1...
- ... but differences across: other regions (Schacter et al 1997) individuals (Aguirre et al, 1998)



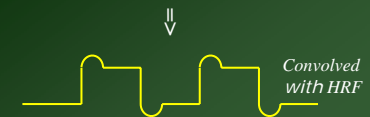
## Epoch vs Event-related fMRI

"PET **Blocked** conception"  
(scans assigned to conditions)

"fMRI **Epoch** conception"  
(scans treated as timeseries)



"fMRI **Event-related** conception"

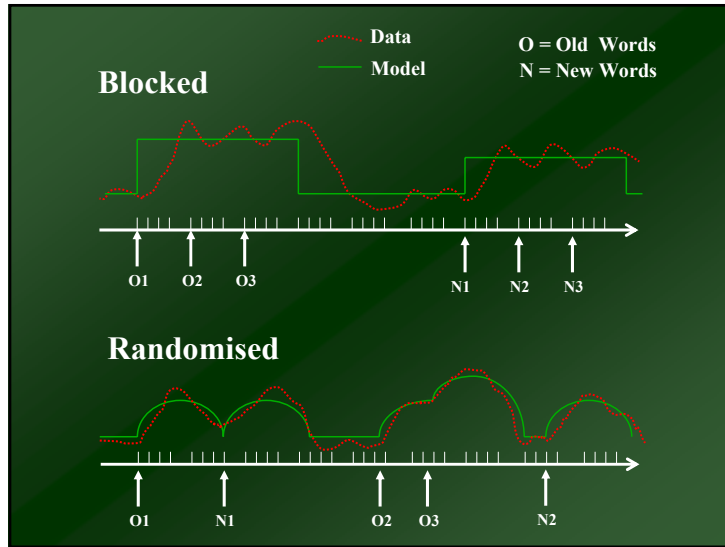


## Overview

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2. BOLD impulse response
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4. Temporal Basis Functions
5. Timing Issues
6. Design Optimisation

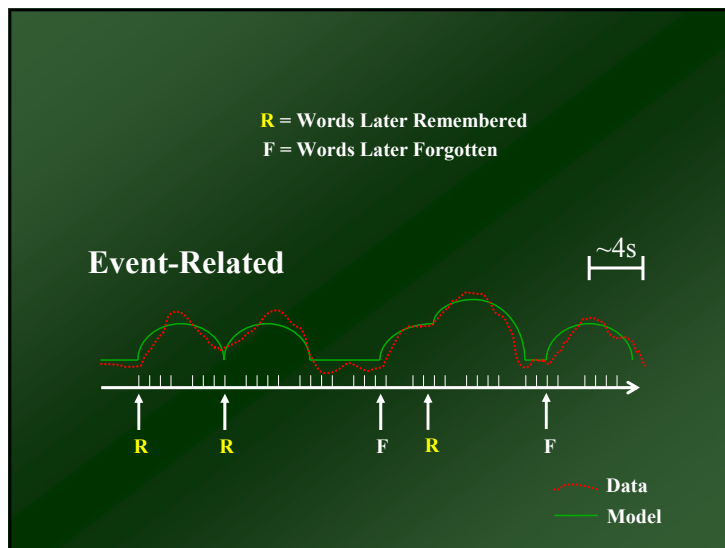
## Advantages of Event-related fMRI

1. **Randomised trial order**  
*c.f. confounds of blocked designs*



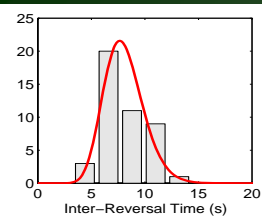
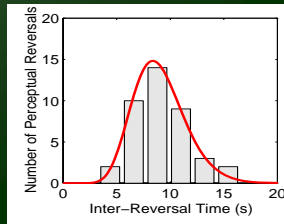
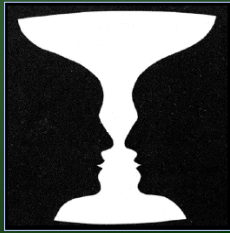
## Advantages of Event-related fMRI

1. Randomised trial order  
*c.f. confounds of blocked designs*
2. Post hoc / subjective classification of trials  
*e.g. according to subsequent memory*



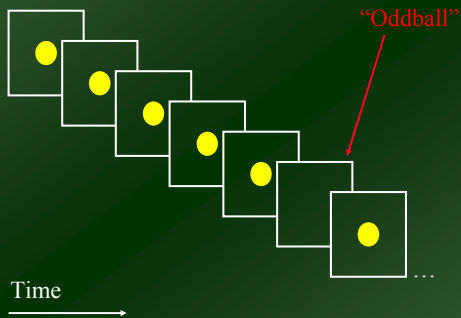
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*e.g. spontaneous perceptual changes*



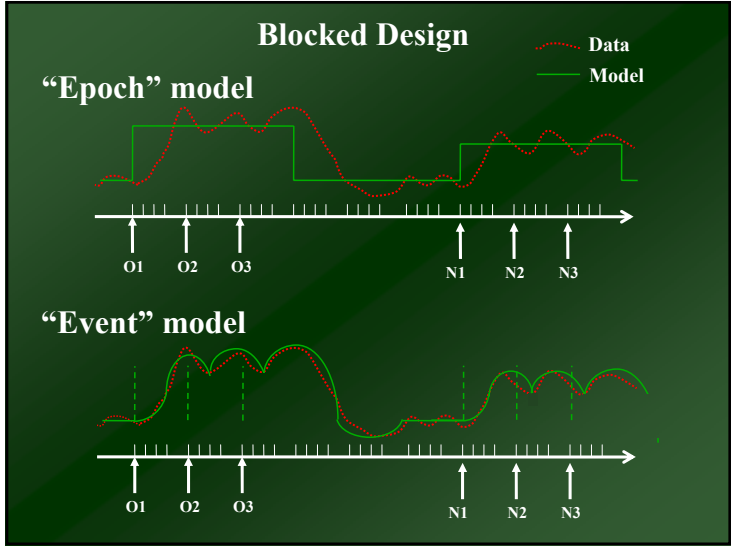
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4. Some trials cannot be blocked  
*e.g. "oddball" designs*



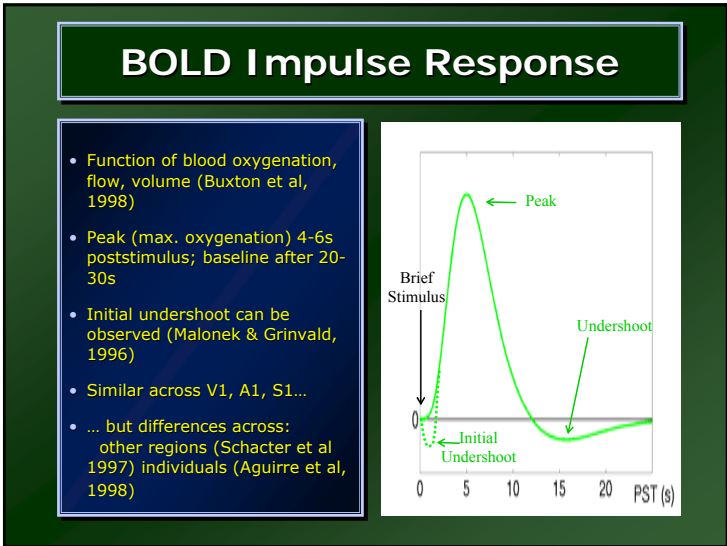
## Advantages of Event-related fMRI

1. Randomised trial order  
*c.f. confounds of blocked designs*
2. Post hoc / subjective classification of trials  
*e.g. according to subsequent memory*
3. Some events can only be indicated by subject (in time)  
*e.g. spontaneous perceptual changes*
4. Some trials cannot be blocked  
*e.g. "oddball" designs*
5. More accurate models even for blocked designs?  
*e.g. "state-item" interactions*



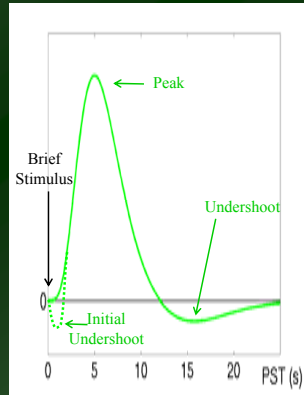
- ### Disadvantage of Randomised Designs
1. Less efficient for detecting effects than are blocked designs (*see later...*)
  2. Some psychological processes may be better blocked (eg task-switching, attentional instructions)

- ### Overview
1. Advantages of fMRI
  2. BOLD impulse response
  3. General Linear Model
  4. Temporal Basis Functions
  5. Timing Issues
  6. Design Optimisation



## BOLD Impulse Response

- Early event-related fMRI studies used a long Stimulus Onset Asynchrony (SOA) to allow BOLD response to return to baseline
- However, if the BOLD response is explicitly modelled, overlap between successive responses at short SOAs can be accommodated...
- ... particularly if responses are assumed to superpose linearly
- Short SOAs are more sensitive...



## Overview

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## General Linear (Convolution) Model

GLM for a single voxel:

$$Y(t) = x(t) \otimes h(t) + \varepsilon$$

$x(t)$  = stimulus train (delta functions)

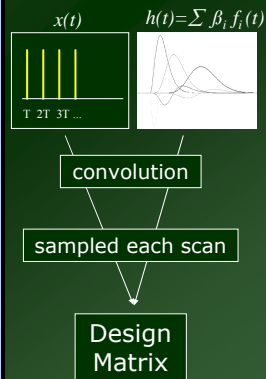
$$x(t) = \sum \delta(t - nT)$$

$h(t)$  = hemodynamic (BOLD) response

$$h(t) = \sum \beta_i f_i(t)$$

$f_i(t)$  = temporal basis functions

$$Y(t) = \sum \sum \beta_i f_i(t - nT) + \varepsilon$$

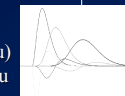


## General Linear Model (in SPM)

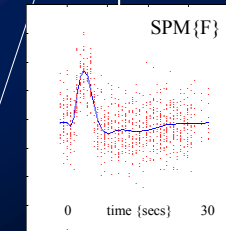
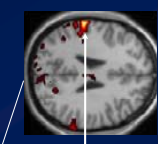
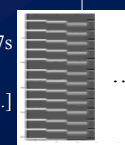
Auditory words  
every 20s



(Orthogonalised)  
Gamma functions  $f_i(u)$   
of peristimulus time  $u$



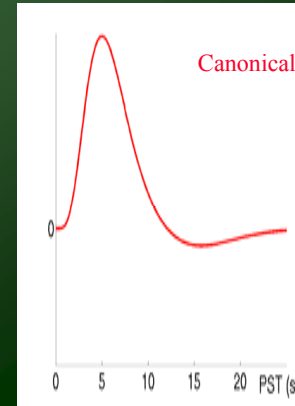
Sampled every TR = 1.7s  
Design matrix, X  
 $[f_1(u) \otimes x(t) \mid f_2(u) \otimes x(t) \mid \dots]$



## Overview

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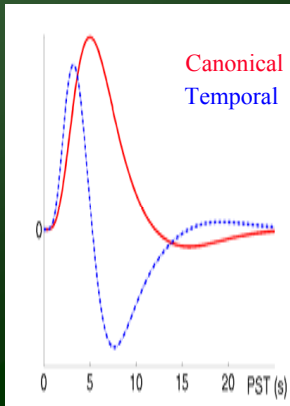
## Temporal Basis Functions



### Informed Basis Set (Friston et al. 1998)

- Canonical HRF (2 gamma functions)

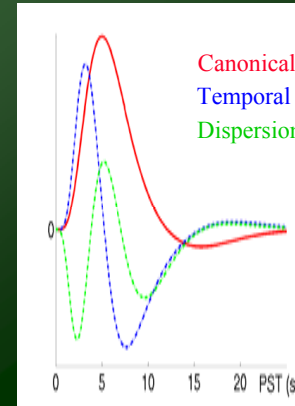
## Temporal Basis Functions



### Informed Basis Set (Friston et al. 1998)

- Canonical HRF (2 gamma functions) *plus* Multivariate Taylor expansion in:  
time (*Temporal Derivative*)

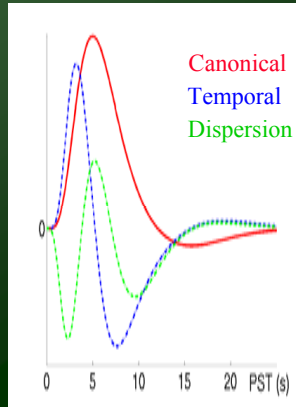
## Temporal Basis Functions



### Informed Basis Set (Friston et al. 1998)

- Canonical HRF (2 gamma functions) *plus* Multivariate Taylor expansion in:  
time (*Temporal Derivative*)  
width (*Dispersion Derivative*)

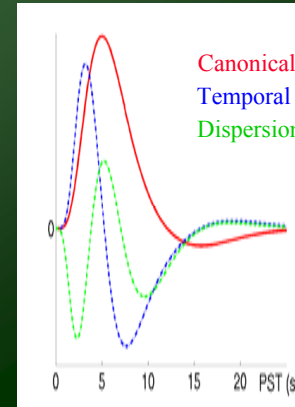
## Temporal Basis Functions



### Informed Basis Set (Friston et al. 1998)

- Canonical HRF (2 gamma functions) *plus* Multivariate Taylor expansion in:
  - time (*Temporal Derivative*)
  - width (*Dispersion Derivative*)
- "Magnitude" inferences via t-test on canonical parameters (providing canonical is a good fit...more later)

## Temporal Basis Functions



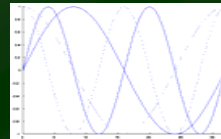
### Informed Basis Set (Friston et al. 1998)

- Canonical HRF (2 gamma functions) *plus* Multivariate Taylor expansion in:
  - time (*Temporal Derivative*)
  - width (*Dispersion Derivative*)
- "Magnitude" inferences via t-test on canonical parameters (providing canonical is a good fit...more later)
- "Latency" inferences via tests on *ratio of derivative : canonical* parameters (more later...)

## Temporal Basis Functions

### • Fourier Set

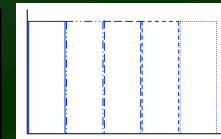
- Windowed sines & cosines
- Any shape (up to frequency limit)
- Inference via F-test



## Temporal Basis Functions

### • Finite Impulse Response (FIR)

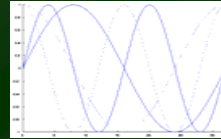
- Mini timebins (selective averaging)
- Any shape (up to bin-width)
- Inference via F-test



## Temporal Basis Functions

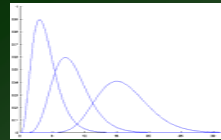
- **Fourier Set**

Windowed sines & cosines  
Any shape (up to frequency limit)  
Inference via F-test



- **Gamma Functions**

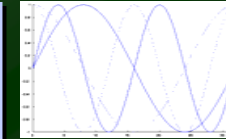
Bounded, asymmetrical (like BOLD)  
Set of different lags  
Inference via F-test



## Temporal Basis Functions

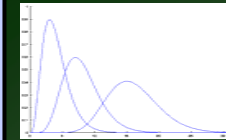
- **Fourier Set**

Windowed sines & cosines  
Any shape (up to frequency limit)  
Inference via F-test



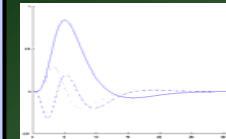
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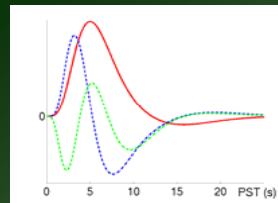
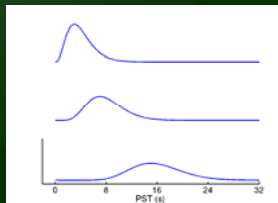
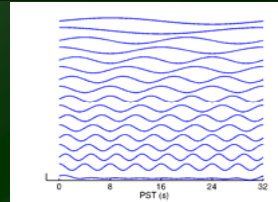
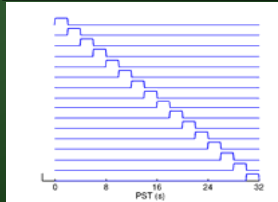


- **Informed Basis Set**

Best guess of canonical BOLD response  
Variability captured by Taylor expansion  
"Magnitude" inferences via t-test...?

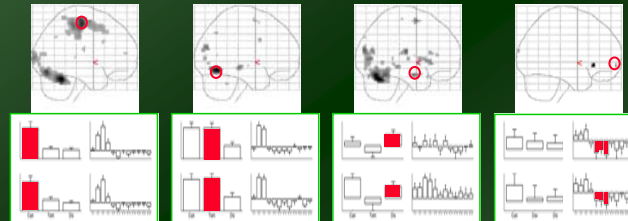


## Temporal Basis Functions



## Temporal Basis Sets: Which One?

In this example (rapid motor response to faces, *Henson et al., 2001*)...



**Canonical + Temporal + Dispersion + FIR**

...canonical + temporal + dispersion derivatives appear sufficient  
...may not be for more complex trials (eg stimulus-delay-response)  
...but then such trials better modelled with separate neural components (ie activity no longer delta function) + constrained HRF (Zarahn, 1999)

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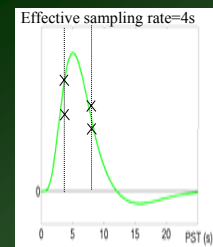
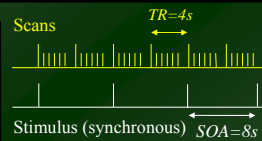
## Timing Issues

- Typical TR for 48 slice EPI at 3mm spacing is  $\sim 4s$



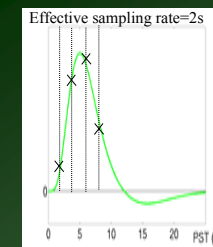
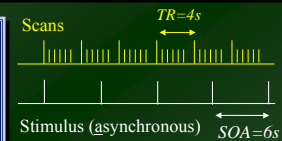
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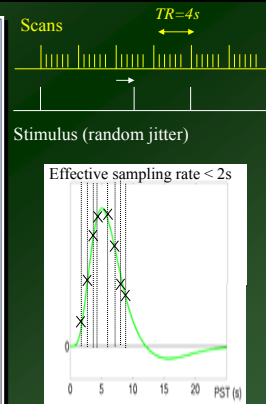
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  1. Asynchrony, eg.  $SOA = 1.5TR$



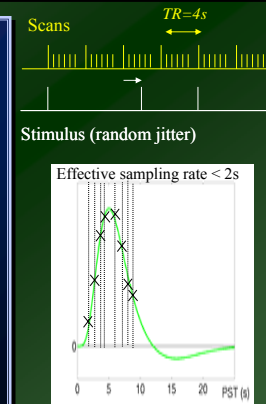
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  1. Asynchrony, eg.  $SOA=1.5TR$
  2. Random Jitter, eg.  $SOA=(2\pm 0.5)TR$
- **Better response characterisation (Miezin et al, 2000)**

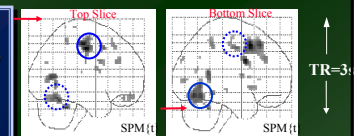


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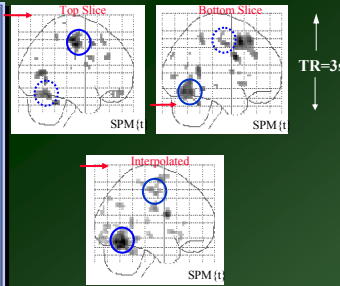
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- Solutions:

- Temporal interpolation of data ... but less good for longer TRs



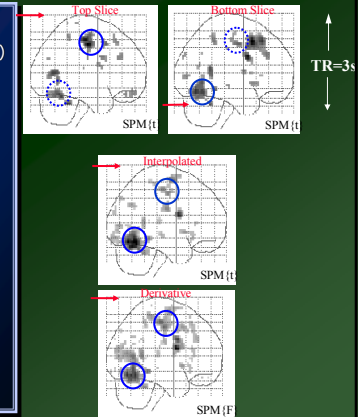
## Timing Issues

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- Solutions:

- Temporal interpolation of data ... but less good for longer TRs
- More general basis set (e.g., with temporal derivatives) ... but inferences via F-test



## BOLD Response Latency (Linear)

- Assume the real response,  $r(t)$ , is a scaled (by  $\alpha$ ) version of the canonical,  $f(t)$ , but delayed by a small amount  $dt$ :

$$r(t) = \alpha f(t+dt) \sim \alpha f(t) + \alpha f'(t) dt \quad \text{1st-order Taylor}$$

- If the fitted response,  $R(t)$ , is modelled by the canonical + temporal derivative:

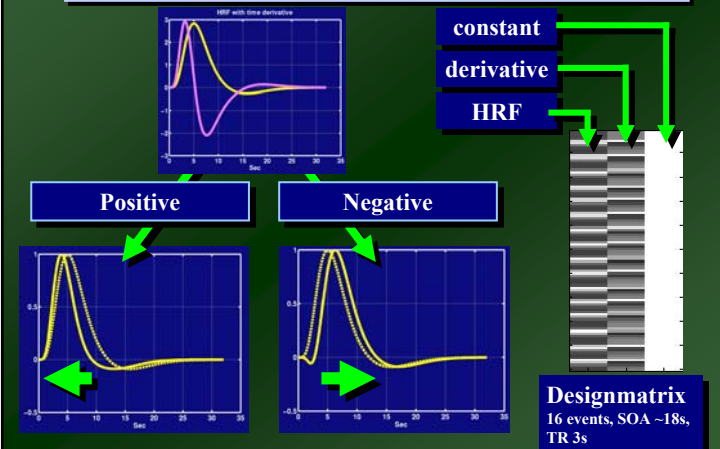
$$R(t) = \beta_1 f(t) + \beta_2 f'(t) \quad \text{GLM fit}$$

- Then canonical and derivative parameter estimates,  $\beta_1$  and  $\beta_2$ , are such that:

$$\Rightarrow \alpha = \beta_1 \quad dt = \beta_2 / \beta_1$$

ie, Latency can be approximated by the ratio of derivative-to-canonical parameter estimates (within limits of first-order approximation, +/- 1s)

## BOLD Response Latency: example

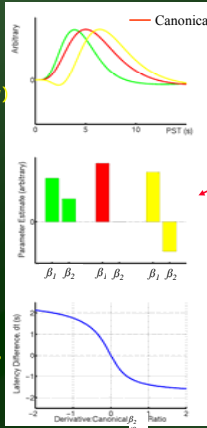


## BOLD Response Latency (Linear)

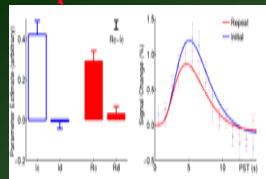
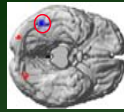
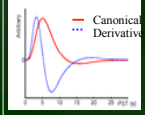
Delayed Responses (green/ yellow)

Parameter Estimates

Actual latency,  $d_t$ , vs.  $\beta_2 / \beta_1$



### Basis Functions



Face repetition reduces latency as well as magnitude of fusiform response

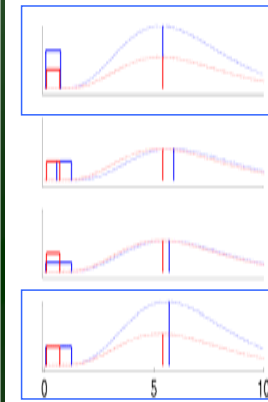
## Neural Response Latency?

Neural  
A. Decreased

B. Advanced

C. Shortened (same integrated)

D. Shortened (same maximum)



BOLD

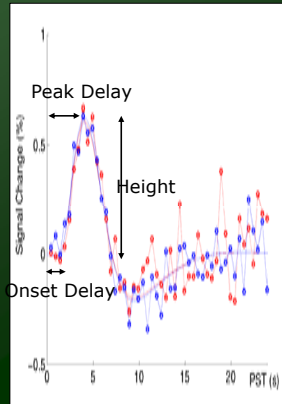
A. Smaller Peak

B. Earlier Onset

C. Earlier Peak

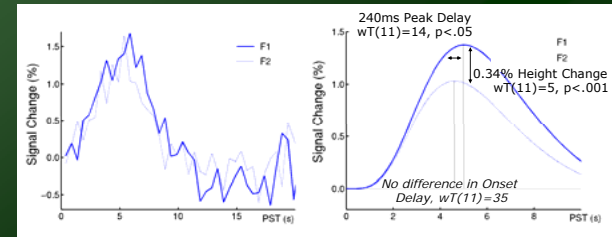
D. Smaller Peak and earlier Peak

## BOLD Response Latency (Iterative)

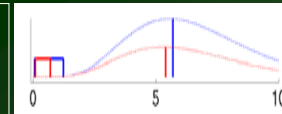


- Numerical fitting of explicitly parameterised canonical HRF (Henson et al, 2001)
- Distinguishes between *Onset* and *Peak* latency...  
...unlike temporal derivative...  
...and which may be important for interpreting neural changes (see previous slide)
- Distribution of parameters tested nonparametrically (Wilcoxon's T over subjects)

## BOLD Response Latency (Iterative)



Neural  
D. Shortened (same maximum)



BOLD

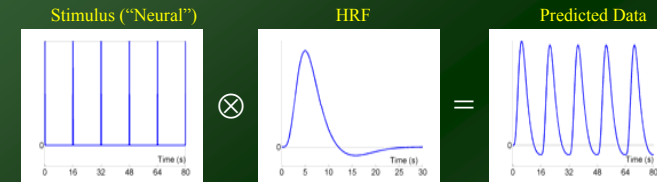
D. Smaller Peak and earlier Peak

Most parsimonious account is that repetition reduces **duration** of neural activity...

## Overview

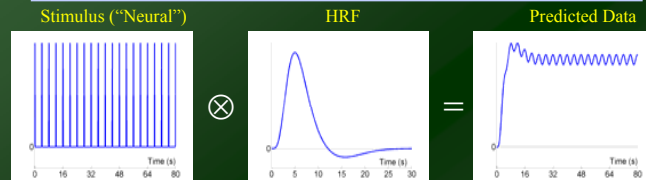
1. Advantages of efMRI
2. BOLD impulse response
3. General Linear Model
4. Temporal Basis Functions
5. Timing Issues
6. Design Optimisation

## Fixed SOA = 16s



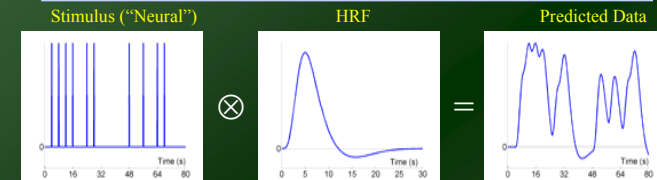
*Not particularly efficient...*

## Fixed SOA = 4s

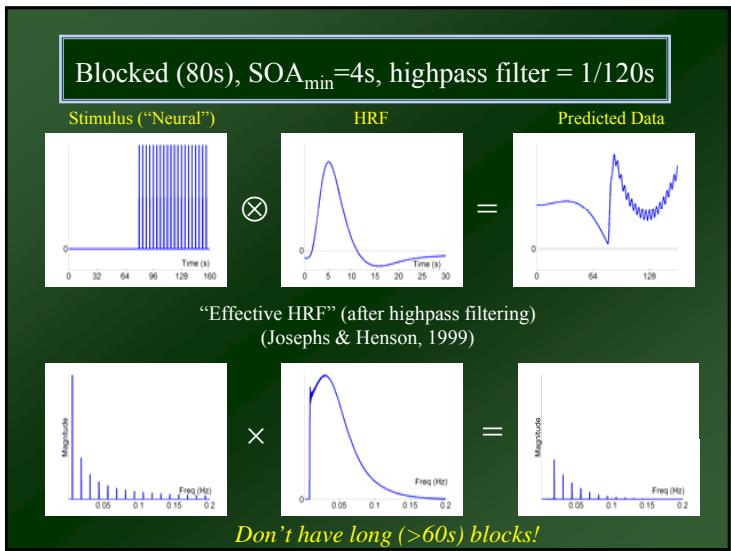
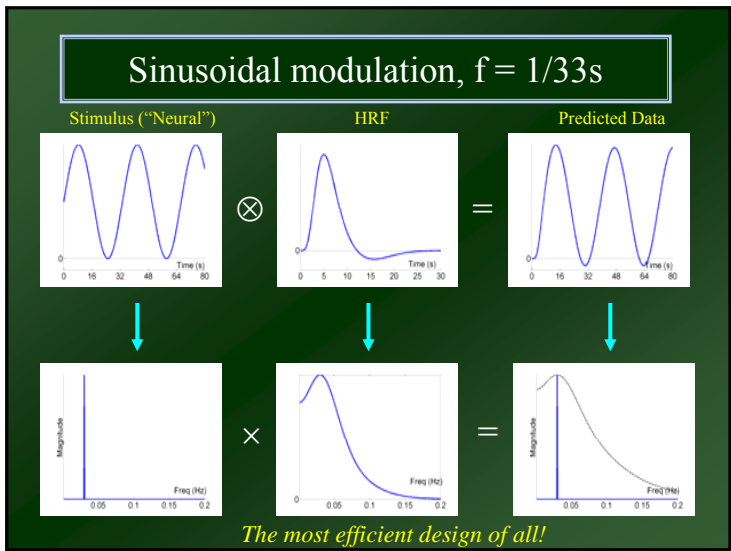
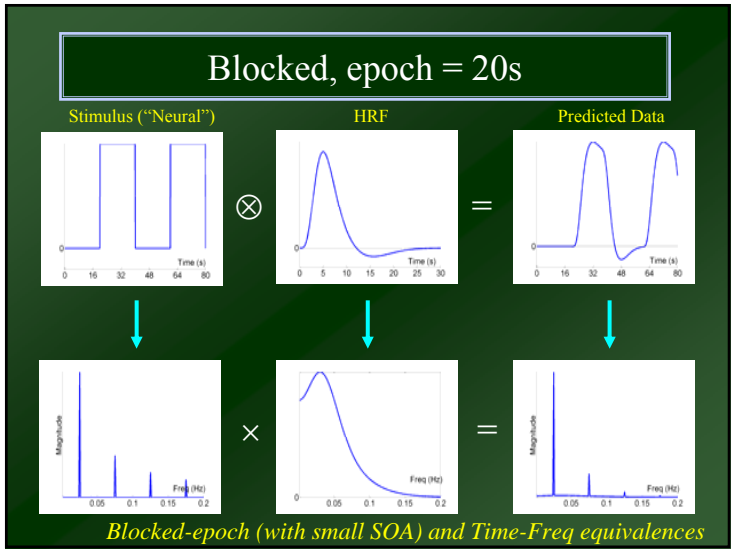
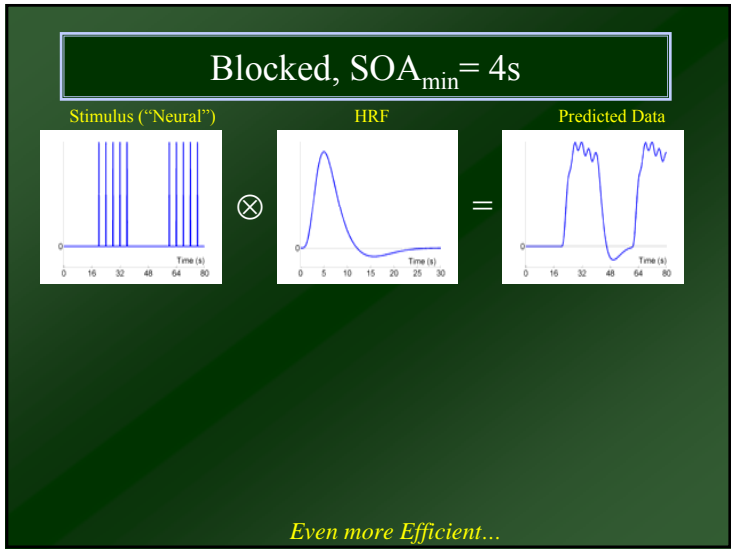


*Very Inefficient...*

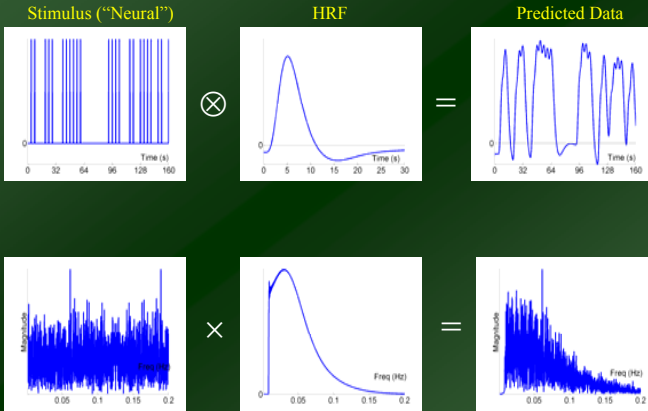
## Randomised, $SOA_{\min} = 4s$



*More Efficient...*



Randomised,  $SOA_{min}=4s$ , highpass filter = 1/120s



(Randomised design spreads power over frequencies)

## Design Efficiency

$$T = c^T \beta / \text{std}(c^T \beta)$$

$$\text{std}(c^T \beta) = \sqrt{c^T \sigma^2 (X^T X)^{-1} c} \quad (\text{i.i.d.})$$

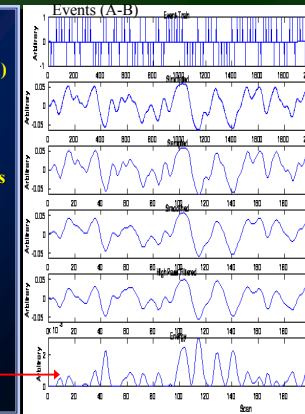
• For max. T, want min. contrast variability (Friston et al, 1999)

• If assume that noise variance ( $\sigma^2$ ) is unaffected by changes in X...

• ...then want maximal efficiency, e:

$$e(c, X) = \{ c^T (X^T X)^{-1} c \}^{-1}$$

• = maximal bandpassed signal energy (Josephs & Henson, 1999)



## Efficiency - Multiple Event-types

• Design parametrised by:

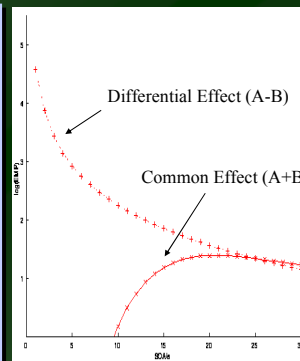
$SOA_{min}$  Minimum SOA  
 $p_i(h)$  Probability of event-type  $i$  given history  $h$  of last  $m$  events

• With  $n$  event-types  $p_i(h)$  is a  $n^m \times n$  Transition Matrix

• Example: Randomised AB

	A	B
A	0.5	0.5
B	0.5	0.5

=> ABBBABAABABAAA...



4s smoothing; 1/60s highpass filtering

## Efficiency - Multiple Event-types

• Example: Alternating AB

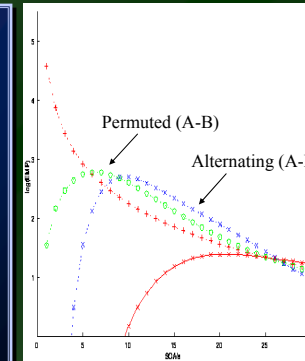
	A	B
A	0	1
B	1	0

=> ABABABABABAB...

• Example: Permuted AB

	A	B
AA	0	1
AB	0.5	0.5
BA	0.5	0.5
BB	1	0

=> ABBAABABABBA...



4s smoothing; 1/60s highpass filtering

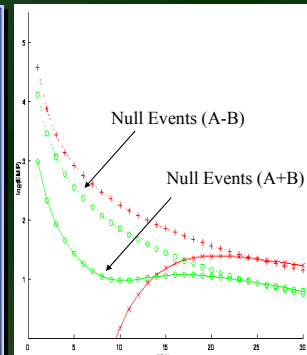
## Efficiency - Multiple Event-types

### Example: Null events

	A	B
A	0.33	0.33
B	0.33	0.33

=> AB-BAA-B--ABB...

- Efficient for differential and main effects at short SOA
- Equivalent to stochastic SOA (Null Event like third unmodelled event-type)
- Selective averaging of data (Dale & Buckner 1997)



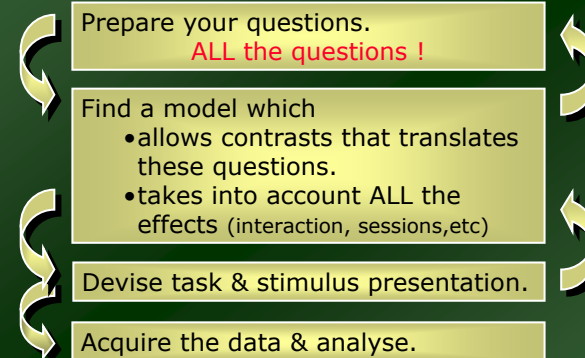
## Efficiency - Conclusions

- Optimal design for one contrast may not be optimal for another
- Blocked designs generally most efficient with short SOAs (but earlier restrictions and problems of interpretation...)
- With randomised designs, optimal SOA for differential effect (A-B) is minimal SOA (assuming no saturation), whereas optimal SOA for main effect (A+B) is 16-20s
- Inclusion of null events improves efficiency for main effect at short SOAs (at cost of efficiency for differential effects)
- If order constrained, intermediate SOAs (5-20s) can be optimal; if SOA constrained, pseudo-randomised designs can be optimal (but may introduce context-sensitivity)

## Contents

- Introduction & Recap
- Good & bad models
- Improved model
- HRF and ER fMRI
- **« Take home » message**

## Way to proceed



Not the other way round!!!

## Three Stages of an Experiment

### 1. Sledgehammer Approach

- brute force experiment : powerful stimulus & don't try to control for everything
- look at was done before or by others
- run a couple of subjects -- see if it looks promising
- if it doesn't look great, tweak the stimulus or task
- try to be a subject yourself so you can notice any problems with stimuli or subject strategies

## Three Stages of an Experiment

### 1. Sledgehammer Approach

### 2. Real Experiment

- at some point, you have to stop changing things and collect enough subjects run with the same conditions to publish it
- how many subjects do you need
  - some psychophysical studies test two or three subjects, many studies test 6-10 subjects, random effects analysis requires at least 15 subjects,...
  - some subjects WILL be rejected, so acquire more than the minimum !
- can run all subjects in one or two days
  - pro: minimize setup and variability
  - con: "bad magnet day" means a lot of wasted time
  - make sure all the data are treated the "same way". (script)

## Three Stages of an Experiment

### 1. Sledgehammer Approach

### 2. Real Experiment

### 3. "Whipped Cream" experiment

- after the real experiment works, then think about a "whipped cream" version
- going straight to whipped cream is a huge endeavor, especially if you're new to imaging
- and it gives you a second paper !