Voxelwise statistic, two independent groups

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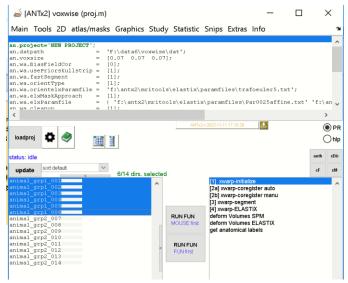
Scenario

-<u>Artificial data</u> for 14 animals were created, with spherical differences <u>centered</u> in the a) **left Primary** somatosensory area mouth layer 4 and b) the right CaudoPutamen

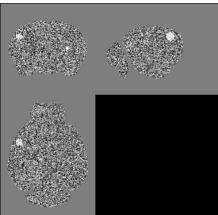
Here we have two groups with 6 and 8 animals in each group. The artificially created files are stored as "vimg.nii"-image in the respective animal-folders. Note that the animal-folders are empty, except of the "vimg.nii"-image. This image is in register to the Allen mouse brain atlas (i..e already in standard space).

Prerequisites

- -a project with project file was created ...when doing this analysis with your own data, the image that should be analyzed using voxelwise statistic must be in the standard/template space (here: Allen mouse brain space). For instance when analyzing the gray matter image("c1t2.nii"), the image has to be transformed to standard space to make voxelwise statistic feasable.
- -Templates: here ,the **mouse_Allen2017HikishimaLR**′-template is already imported in the study's templates-folder
- start ANT-gui and set current working directory to project-folder path
- -load project (m-file, here proj.m)



The Figure shows the list of 14 animals (left listbox). Animals of group-1 is selected (just for displaying purpose). Note that for this animals artificial data were created.



The figure shows the simulated image 'vimg.nii' (image is in standard-space) of one animal from the 2nd group with increased intensities centered at a) the left Primary somatosensory area mouth layer 4 and b) the right CaudoPutamen.

1) Create a group-assignment (Excel-file)

We now need a group-assignment file (Excel-file) with definitions of animals and group-assignment.

For this select: Statistic/create group assignment file from the ANTx-MENU.

This will open the repective parameter file. We keep the default parameter and hit [RUN].

To this end, the Excelfile "groupassignment.xlsx" is created, located in the "group"-folder in the current study directory ("F:\data6\voxwise\group").

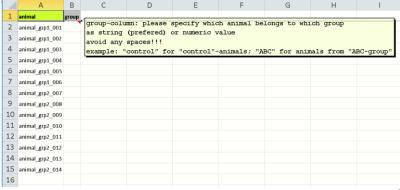
```
.. create group-assignment file ...wait

new group-file [groupassignment.xlsx]: Explorer or open

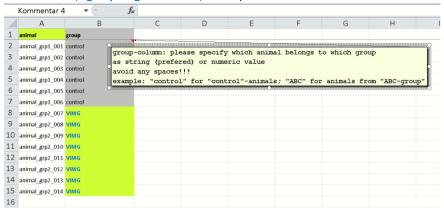
Done!

fx>>
```

You can select the 'open'-hyperlink in the command-window to open the Excel-file. The 1st sheet of the excelfile looks as follows:



The first column contains the animal-IDs of all animals of the current study. The 2nd column has to be filled with the respective group-assignment. Here the 1st 6 animals belong to the control-group, thus the 'control'-string is inserted for those animals, while the other animals belong to the "VIMG"-group, thus the "VIMG"-string is inserted in the 2nd column (see Fig. below). Note that the string-names are arbitrary. Try to avoid special characters! Save this modifications (here the same filename, "groupassignment.xlsx", is used).



2) Perform the voxelwise-T-test (independent group)

We now want to run the independent voxelwise t-test comparing the two groups for the "vimg.nii"-image. For this select: **Statistic/SPM-statistic** from the **ANTx -MENU**. This will call the main GUI (from the function <u>xstat.m</u>):

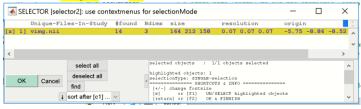


Next, select the [indepStat]-button to open the parameter-GUI for the voxelwise independent t-test (TWO-SAMPLE-TTEST). The default parameter-GUI looks as follows:

```
📣 xstat.m
                                                                                                                                                                                         TWO-SAMPLE-TTEST
x.excelfile
                                    : % [Excelfile]: this file contains a column with mouseIDs (names) and a column assigning the group
                                 [1];
[1];
                                             % this sheet contains columns with mouseIDs and group assignment % column number with the MouseIDs
   x.mouseID col
                                 [2]; % column number with group assignment (used when comparing groups, "regress_col" must be 
'F:\data6\voxwise\dat'; % data directory (upper directory) contains dirs with mice data 
''; % image name (nifti) to run the statistic (datapath has to bee defined before using the icon)
                                                                                                                                                      "regress_col" must be empty)
  🗱 x.data dir
x.inputimage
                             = 'F:\data6\voxwise\templates\AVGT.nii'; % select the TEMPLATE-file (path of "AVGT.nii")
= 'F:\data6\voxwise\templates\ANO.nii'; % select the ATLAS-file (path of "ANO.nii")
x.AVGT
x.ANO
               OTHER PARAMETER
                                 'Ivs2'; % groups to compare, use EXCELgroupnames(example: "GroupNameString1vsGroupNameString2") or alphabet. or 'F:\data6\voxwise\templates\AVGTmask.nii'; % <optional> use brainmask [select a mask or type "local" to use th
x.smoothing
                             = [1]:
                                            % <optional>smooth data
   x.smoothing_fwhm = [0.28 0.28]; % smoothing width (FWHM) x.output_dir = 'voxtest1'; % path for output/statistic
   x.output dir
                                             % [0|1] hide|show pipeline in SPM batch window, if [1] you have to run the code by yourself ( hit the
      RUN S cancel
```

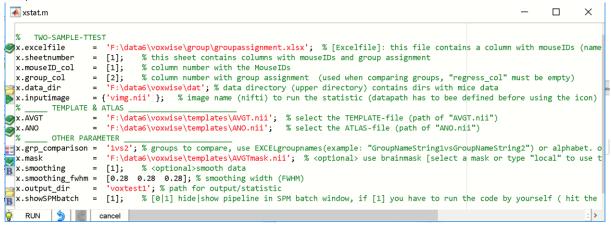
We now need to modify (or check) some parameters:

- "x.excelfile": click the left icon and select the group-assignment-file ("groupassignment.xlsx") located in the group-folder.
- "x. data_dir": click the left icon and select the study's dat-folder (This folder contain the animals-data and the image that should be statistically tested).
- "x. inputimage": click the left icon and select the image that should be statistically tested: Specifically in the file-selector GUI select "vimg.nii", hit [OK].



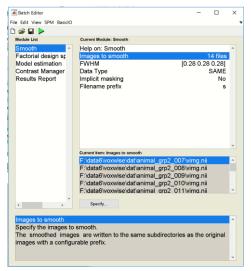
- "x. AVGT": click the left icon and select the AVGT-image ("AVGT.nii") from the study's templates-folder.
- "x. ANO": click the left icon and select the ANO-image ("ANO.nii", i.e. the Atlas) from the study's templates-folder.
- "x. mask": click the left icon and select the AVGTmask-image ("AVGTmask.nii") from the study's templates-folder. Note that the animal-folders only contain the 'vimg.nii'-image. Thus we have to assign the brain-mask ("AVGTmask.nii") from the templates-folder.
- " $\mathbf{x.output_dir}$ ": define the output-folder for the voxelwise statistic, here " $\mathbf{voxtest1}$ ".

The parameter-Gui should now looks as follows:



Note that the image 'vimg.nii' will be smoothed ("x.smoothing" is set to [1]) by the triple of the voxel-resolution ("x.smoothing_fwhm" is [0.28 0.28 0.28]). Note also, that "x.showSPMbatch" is set to [1]. This parameter will open the SPM-batch-GUI, when hitting the [RUN]-button, allowing for final post-parameter configurations.

Hit [RUN]-button to run the voxelwise statistic. Because the parameter "x.showSPMbatch" was set to [1], the SPM-batch-GUI will pop-up, allowing for specific post-parameter configurations and final checks (see Fig. below).



Here, everything seems to be ok and no further changes will be made. Hit [RUN BATCH]-button (green triangle) to execute this batch. The process will take a couple of minutes.

When done, you can obtain the **xstat-batch**, by typing: "char(anth)" in Matlab-cmd window or clicking the [anth]-button from the ANTx-main GUI:

```
#a FUNCTION:
                           [xstat.m]
                               xstat: voxelwise statistic [SPM-statistic] for normalized data (nifti volumes)
z=[];
                  = 'twosamplettest';
z.excelfile
                  = 'F:\data6\voxwise\group\groupassignment.xlsx';
                                                                           % % [Excelfile]: this file contains a column with mouseIDs (names) and a column
                                                                              % assigning the group
z.sheetnumber
                  = [1];
= [1];
                                                                              % this sheet contains columns with mouseIDs and group assignment
z.mouseID col
                                                                              % column number with the MouseIDs
                                                                                column number with group assignment(used when comparing groups, "regress_col"
z.group col
                                                                           % % must be empty)
z.data_dir
                  = 'F:\data6\voxwise\dat';
                                                                             % data directory (upper directory) contains dirs with mice data
                   = 'vimg.nii';
                                                                              % image name (nifti) to run the statistic (datapath has to bee defined before
                                                                           % % using the icon)
                                                                           % % select the TEMPLATE-file (path of "AVGT.nii")
% % select the ATLAS-file (path of "ANO.nii")
                   = 'F:\data6\voxwise\templates\AVGT.nii';
                   = 'F:\data6\voxwise\templates\ANO.nii';
                                                                             % groups to compare, use EXCELgroupnames(example: "GroupName1vsGroupName2") % or alphabet. order (example: "lvs2"), or
z.grp_comparison = '1vs2';
                   = 'F:\data6\voxwise\templates\AVGTmask.nii';
                                                                              % <optional> use brainmask [select a mask or type "local" to use the AVGTmask.nii
                                                                              % from the templates folder]
z.smoothing
z.smoothing = [1];
z.smoothing_fwhm = [0.28  0.28  0.28];
                                                                              % <optional>smooth data
                                                                              % smoothing width (FWHM)
                   = 'voxtest1';
                                                                              % path for output/statistic
z.showSPMbatch
                  = [1];
                                                                           \% % [0|1] hide|show pipeline in SPM batch window, if [1] you have to run the code \% % by yourself ( hit the green driangle), [0] piples runs automatically
xstat(1,z); % % RUN
```

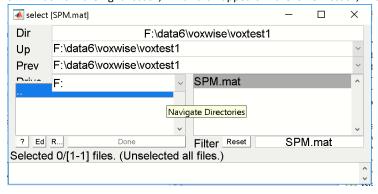
To re-run the analysis just execute the code above.

3) Examine Results

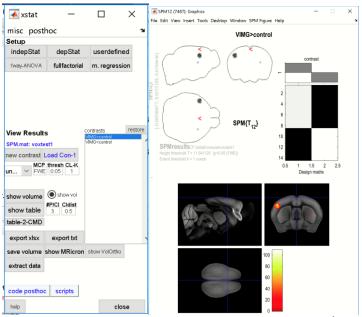
If the xstat-GUI is closed, type 'xstat' in the cmd-window or select: Statistic/SPM-statistic from the ANTx-MENU.

Next, hit the [load CON1]-button (below the xstat-"View Results" section) to load the 1st contrast from the analysis.

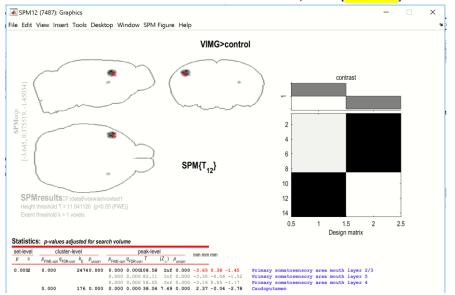
Next, select the path of the voxelwise analysis-folder ('voxtest1') and the respective SPM.mat-file (In the below Fig: Select SPM.mat from the right listbox, which than appears in the lower listbox, finally hit [Done]).



Basically, for the independent t-statistic two contrasts will be calculated by default ('A>B' and 'A<B'). Executing the [load CON1]-button displays the 1st contrast ('VIMG>control').



The SPM-graphics window will show the voxelwise results for the 1^{st} contrast 'VIMG>control' with the parameters, FWE at p=0.05, with min. survival spatial cluster (aka clustersize / sl-k) = 1 voxel. As expected, there are two significant 'blobs'. To see the associated results table with anatomical annotations, hit the [show table]-button from the xstat-GUI.

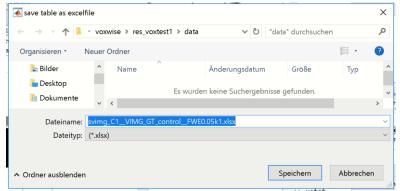


Because, the number of peaks per cluster (**#p/Cl**) is set to 3 and the cluster distance (**CLdist**) is set to 0.5 mm we see three peak clusters within the large left-hemispheric blob. You can change the respective settings for "**#p/Cl**" and "**CLdist**" in the xstat-GUI and **update** the graphic window by hitting the 'VIMG>control'-contrast from the xstat-listbox.

Again, to **update** any changes in the parameters just select the respective contrast from the xstat contrast listbox. To show the volume again, hit the [show volume]-button.

3.1) EXPORT RESULTS-TABLE AS EXCELFILE

To export the results as Excel table, hit the [export xlsx]-button. The GUI will prompt you for a path and a proper filename of the Excel file. Note that per default, the output-path is predefined (new folder: 'res_'+name of the analysis-folder), here: "res_voxtest1" is the output-folder, which again contains a subfolder "data" that will contain the output. Also, the filename is predefined, based on the image, contrast-number, contrast-name, method, p-value and clustersize. Thus the filename is: "svimg C1 VIMG GT control FWE0.05k1.xlsx".

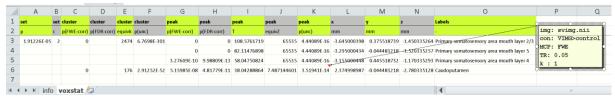


Without changing the path and filename, just hit the [save]-button.

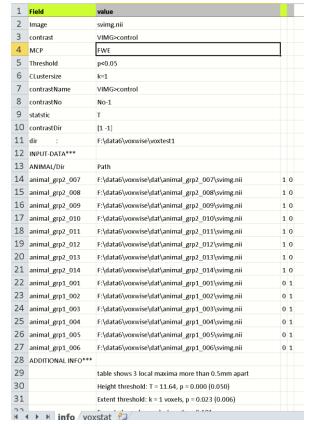
```
...export table..wait..
voxSTAT-excelfile [svimg_C1_VIMG_GT_control__FWE0.05k1.xlsx]: Explorer or open
DONE!
fx >>
```

When done click the "open"-hyperlink to open the Excel file. The Excel file contains two sheets.

The "voxstat"-sheet contains the results-table:



The "info"-sheet contains information to backtrack the statistical results:

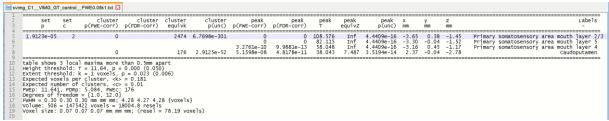


3.2) DISPLAY RESULT TABLE IN COMMAND WINDOW

Select [table-2-CMD]-button display the results-table in the command window:

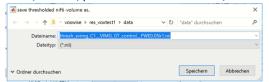
3.3) EXPORT RESULTS-TABLE AS TXT-FILE

To export the results as text-file, hit the [export txt]-button. When path/file is not changed this will save the results-table as "svimg_C1__VIMG_GT_control__FWE0.05k1.txt" in the "res_voxtest1\data"-folder:

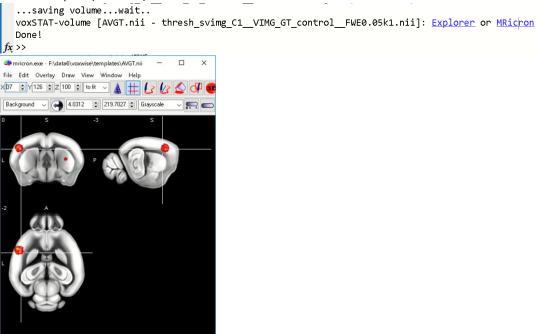


3.4) SAVE THREHOLDED IMAGE AS NIFTI-FILE

To save the thresholded (surviving) t-map as NIFTI-file hit the [save volume]-button. The GUI will prompt you for a path and a proper filename. Note that per default, the output-path is predefined (new folder: 'res_'+analysis-folder), here: "res_voxtest1" in the subfolder "data". Also, the filename is predefined, based on the image, contrast-number, contrast-name, method, p-value and clustersize. Thus, the filename is: "thresh_svimg_C1__vIMG_GT_control__FWE0.05k1.nii".



When done you can select the hyperlink 'MRicron' from the command-window to open the saved statistical t-map overlaid onto the template ('AVGT.nii') via MRicron.



Alternatively, you can hit the [show MRicron]-button from the xstat-GUI and select the respective NIFTI ("thresh_svimg_C1__VIMG_GT_control__FWE0.05k1.nii").

3.5) EXTRACT PEAK DATA

To extract the single data (for each animal) of the surviving peak-data of the results-table hit the [extract data] button. The GUI will prompt you for a path and a proper filename of the file. Note that per default, the output-path is predefined (new folder: 'res_'+analysis-folder), here: "res_voxtest1" in the subfolder "data". Also, the filename is predefined, based on the image, contrast-number, contrast-name, method, p-value and clustersize. Thus the filename is:

"svimg_C1__VIMG_GT_control__FWE0.05k1_NPC3_<u>SINGLEDATA</u>.xlsx". Thus, just hit [save].

```
..Extracting data ...wait...DONE!
data extracted [svimg_C1__VIMG_GT_control__FWE0.05k1_NPC3_SINGLEDATA.xlsx]: Explorer or open
fx >>
```

When done, hit the "open"-hyperlink from the cmd-window to open the Excelfile:

_	A1		▼ f _{sc} animal		-	-
	А	В	C	D	E	F
1	animal	group	Primary somatosensory area mouth layer 2/3	Primary somatosensory area mouth layer 5	Primary somatosensory area mouth layer 4	Caudoputamen
2			[-3.645,0.37552,-1.4503]	[-3.295,-0.044481,-1.5203]	[-3.155,0.44552,-1.1703]	[2.375,-0.044481,-2.7803]
3	animal_grp2_007	VIMG	1.726580307	1.583499897	1.03667339	0.586593763
ļ	animal_grp2_008	VIMG	1.726013138	1.523868497	1.047932843	0.680032164
	animal_grp2_009	VIMG	1.732084074	1.623216213	1.031859421	0.640895512
;	animal_grp2_010	VIMG	1.756582342	1.609011189	0.995671776	0.647707161
	animal_grp2_011	VIMG	1.661035182	1.618879633	0.984121443	0.572897365
,	animal_grp2_012	VIMG	1.689820455	1.649107412	1.045689146	0.604441618
1	animal_grp2_013	control	1.65941989	1.512732024	1.113033319	0.562852522
)	animal_grp2_014	control	1.645523203	1.575806608	1.1022894	0.600093372
1	animal_grp1_001	control	-0.437822931	-0.412956494	-0.254568327	-0.132901531
2	animal_grp1_002	control	-0.364898759	-0.367373546	-0.250484564	-0.180948705
3	animal_grp1_003	control	-0.433699804	-0.320627867	-0.334920369	-0.104890912
4	animal_grp1_004	control	-0.383939185	-0.434580515	-0.232331362	-0.188000394
5	animal_grp1_005	VIMG	-0.403700956	-0.37832031	-0.239073993	-0.168422552
ŝ	animal_grp1_006	VIMG	-0.40903667	-0.393954919	-0.268529537	-0.13337737
7						
8						

The file contains the single-values from each animal (with animal-id and group-assignment) for the 4 observed peaks.

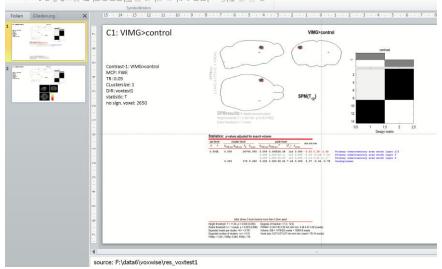
3.6) CREATE SUMMARY OF CURRENT CONTRAST

To obtain a fast summary of the current contrast, select from the **xstat-MENU**: **posthoc/create summary of current contrast**. This will create a Powerpoint-file with the summay for the 1st contrast. Note that the current settings from the xstat-GUI (MCP, thresh, CL-I, "#p/CI"and "CLdist") are used.

summary saved [sum_svimg_con1_VIMG_GT_control_FWE0.05k1.pptx]: Explorer or open fx >>

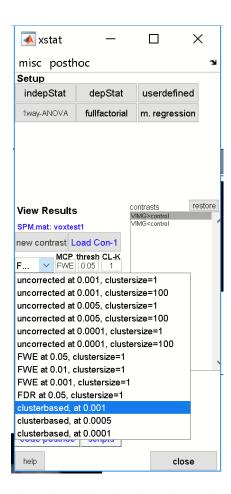
When done, hit the "open"-hyperlink from the cmd-window to open the PPT-file:

Note that the PPT-file is directly stored in the "res_voxtest1"-folder ('res_'+analysis-folder).

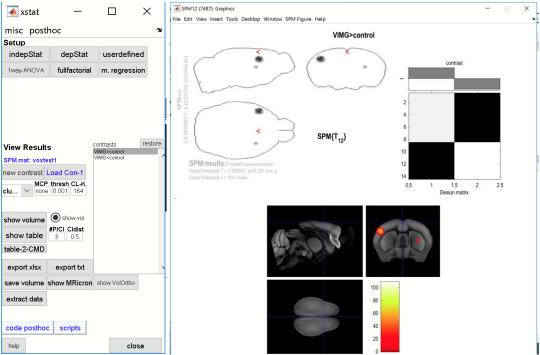


3.7) Change to Cluster-based approach

Now, we are switching from the FEW-method to the cluster-based approach. For this select 'clusterbased, at 0.001' from the pull-down menu left to MCP-field:



When selected the cluster-based approach will automatically run, and first set the p-value to 0.001, uncorrected and estimates the spatial threshold, i.e. the minimum number of neighboring voxels mandatory for a significant cluster. Next, this spatial threshold is used for the cluster-based approach. Here, a significant cluster-based height threshold at p=0.001 needs 164 neighboring voxels to survive.



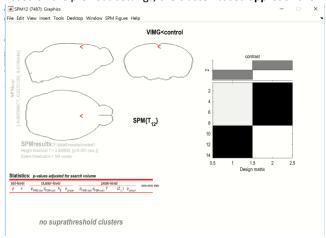
For the cluster-based approach, the results are quite similar compared to the FWE-approach. $\label{eq:compared}$

4) Check the other contrast

Now, select the 2^{nd} contrast 'VIMG<control' form the <u>xstat-contrast listbox</u>.



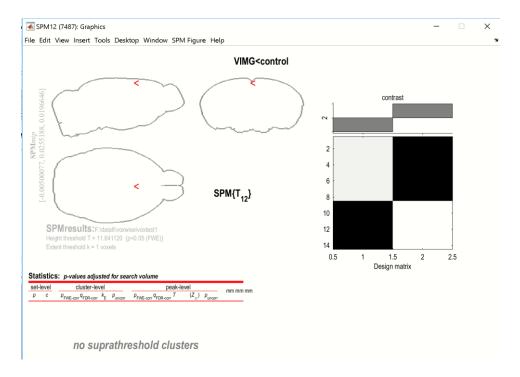
Based on the previous settings, **the cluster-based approach** shows no significant clusters.



Now, select 'FWE at 0.05, clustersize=1' from the xstat-pulldown MENU and \underline{update} the graphics-window by selecting the 2^{nd} contrast 'VIMG<control' from the $\underline{contrast-listbox}$



We see that for the 2nd contrast, **'VIMG<control'**, <u>nothing</u> survives FWE-correction:



5) CREATE BIG-SUMMARY

Sometimes it is useful to obtain a summary for all existing contrasts and all methods (uncorrected, FEW and cluster-based approach). For this, select from the xstat-MENU: posthoc/all methods summary & export tables all contrasts. This will create three PowerPoint-files in the "res_voxtest1"-folder and also export the resulting tables as Excel-files and will store the respective t-maps as NIFTI-files.

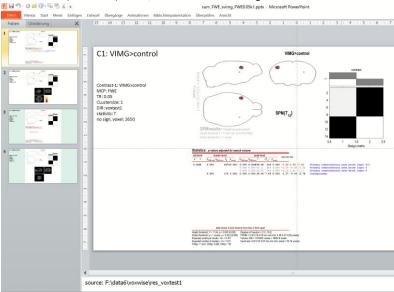
The procedure will create three PPT-files:

'sum_UNCOR_svimg_none0.001k1.pptx' -uncorrected at p=0.001

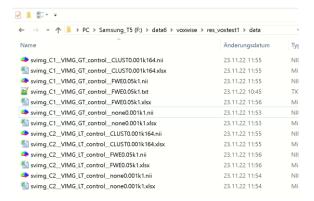
'sum_FWE_svimg_FWE0.05k1.pptx' -using the FWE approach

 $\hbox{`sum_CLUST_svimg_CLUST0.001k164.pptx'-using the cluster-based approach}\\$

The below figure displays the summary of the FWE approach. This Powerpoint-file contains the table (or first part of the table, depending on the table size) and displays the volume with surviving voxels for the 1st contrast (slides 1-2) and the 2nd contrast (slides 3-4). Note, there are no surviving voxels for the 2nd contrast.

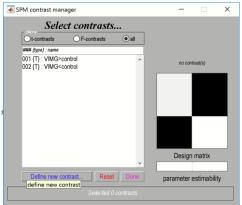


Note that this routine also creates the NIFTI-files and result-tables (Excel-files) for all contrast. The folder "..\res_voxtest1\data" contains these files:

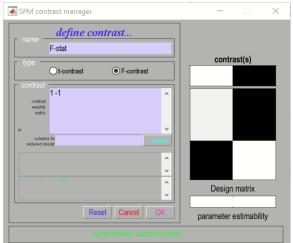


6) Define new Contrast

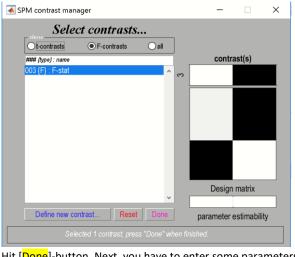
To define a new contrast hit [new contrast]-button from the xstat-GUI. When asked, select the specific <u>SPM.mat</u> from the voxelwise analysis-folder. In the SPM contrast-manager, select [Define new contrast]:



Here we select an F-contrast (radio: F-contrast). Enter 'F-stat' in the name-field and enter [1-1] in the field 'contrast weights matrix'. Please try to avoid special characters for the contrast-name.

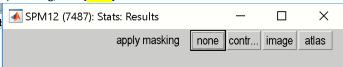


Then, hit [submit]-button, and hit [OK]. When done, a 3rd contrast (F-contrast) with name "F-stat" is created.

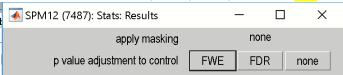


Hit [Done]-button. Next, you have to enter some parameters:

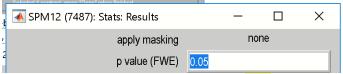
1) Masking, click [none].



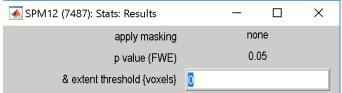
2) Method to control the multiple comparison problem: hit [FWE].



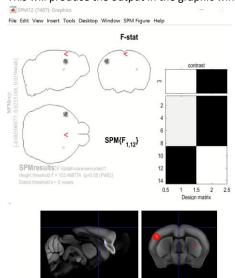
3) p-value: (keep 0.05), just hit the [enter]-key.



4) Extend/spatial threshold: (keep 0), just hit the [enter]-key.



This will produce the output in the graphic window for the F-contrast:



Note also that the contrast list box in the xstat-GUI will be updated (now containing 3 contrasts):



From here you can modify the parameters and update the graphic window by selecting a contrast (such as the 3rd contrast) from the contrast-listbox.

7) Work from Command line

7.1) run voxelwise statistic from command line

```
z=[];
                 = 'twosamplettest';
                                                                  %STATISTICAL TEST
z.stattype
z.excelfile
                 = 'F:\data6\voxwise\group\groupassignment.xlsx'; %[Excelfile] containing mouseIDs and group
                                                                  %sheet with columns mouseIDs and group
z.sheetnumber
                 = [1];
z.mouseID_col
                 = [1];
                                                                  %column index with the MouseIDs
z.group_col
                 = [2];
                                                                  %column index with group assignment
z.data_dir
                 = 'F:\data6\voxwise\dat';
                                                                  %data directory (upper directory)
z.inputimage
                 = 'vimg.nii';
                                                                  %image name (nifti) to run the statistic
                 = 'F:\data6\voxwise\templates\AVGT.nii';
                                                                  % TEMPLATE-file (in templates-folder)
z.AVGT
                 = 'F:\data6\voxwise\templates\ANO.nii';
z.ANO
                                                                  % ATLAS-file (in templates-folder)
z.grp_comparison = '1vs2';
                                                                  %groups to compare (do not modify)
                = 'F:\data6\voxwise\templates\AVGTmask.nii';
                                                                  %<optional> "brainmask
z.mask
z.smoothing
                = [1];
                                                                  %<optional>smooth data: [0]no,[1]yes
z.smoothing_fwhm = [0.28  0.28  0.28];
                                                                  %smoothing kernel (FWHM)
z.output_dir
                = 'voxtest2';
                                                                  %path for output-folder for statistic
                                                                  %hide|show pipeline in SPM-batch-manager
z.showSPMbatch
                = [0];
xstat(1,z);
```

execute this code to re-run the voxelwise statistic.

7.2) Create full report

```
xstat("loadspm",'F:\data6\voxwise\voxtest2'): % open xstat-GUI and load SPM.mat-file
xstat('fullreport'); % create full report, i.e. three PPTfiles (uncorrected, FWE, cluster-based) + export result tables and statistical maps as NIFTI-files
```

For more information, see scripts [scripts]-button and help of xstat.