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# Inference

# Inference

- After fitting the GLM we use the estimated parameters to determine whether there is **significant activation** present in the voxel.
- Inference is based on the fact that:

$$\hat{\beta} \sim N(\beta, (\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{V}^{-1} \mathbf{X})^{-1})$$

- Use t and F procedures to perform tests on effects of interest.

# Contrasts

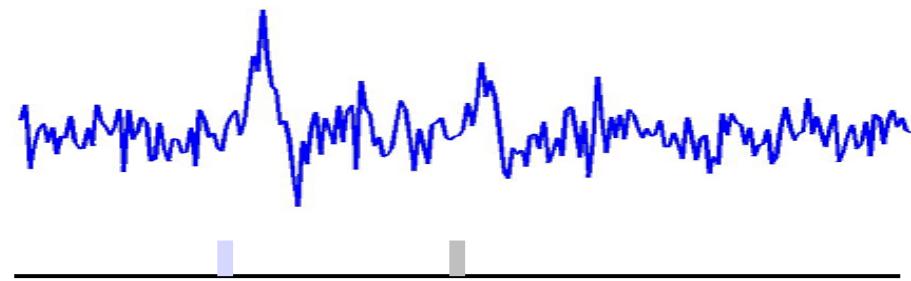
- It is often of interest to see whether a linear combination of the parameters are significant.
- The term  $\mathbf{c}^T \boldsymbol{\beta}$  specifies a linear combination of the estimated parameters, i.e.

$$\mathbf{c}^T \boldsymbol{\beta} = c_1 \beta_1 + c_2 \beta_2 + \dots + c_n \beta_n$$

- Here  $\mathbf{c}$  is called a **contrast vector**.

# Example

Event-related experiment with two types of stimuli.



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$$\beta_1$$



$$\beta_2$$



$$\beta_3$$

$$H_0 : \beta_2 = \beta_3$$

$$H_0 : \mathbf{c}^T \boldsymbol{\beta} = 0$$

$$\mathbf{c}^T = (0, 1, -1)$$

+ Noise



# T-test

- To test

$$H_0 : \mathbf{c}^T \boldsymbol{\beta} = 0 \quad H_a : \mathbf{c}^T \boldsymbol{\beta} \neq 0$$

use the t-statistic:

$$T = \frac{\mathbf{c}^T \hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}}{\sqrt{Var(\mathbf{c}^T \hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}})}}$$

- Under  $H_0$ ,  $T$  is approximately  $t(v)$  with  $v = \frac{tr(\mathbf{R}\mathbf{V})^2}{tr((\mathbf{R}\mathbf{V})^2)}$



# Multiple Contrasts

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- We often want to make simultaneous tests of several contrasts at once.
- Now  $\mathbf{c}$  is a [contrast matrix](#).
- Suppose

$$\mathbf{c} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

then

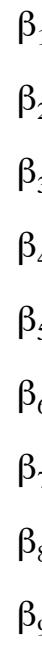
$$\mathbf{c}^T \boldsymbol{\beta} = \begin{pmatrix} \beta_1 \\ \beta_2 \end{pmatrix}$$



# Example

Consider a model with box-car shaped activation and drift modeled using the discrete cosine basis.

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

 =  ×  + 

$\beta_1$   
 $\beta_2$   
 $\beta_3$   
 $\beta_4$   
 $\beta_5$   
 $\beta_6$   
 $\beta_7$   
 $\beta_8$   
 $\beta_9$

# Example

Do the drift components add anything to the model?

Test:  $H_0 : \mathbf{c}^T \boldsymbol{\beta} = 0$

where

$$\mathbf{c} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$



# Example

This is equivalent to testing:

$$H_0 : (\beta_3 \quad \beta_4 \quad \beta_5 \quad \beta_6 \quad \beta_7 \quad \beta_8 \quad \beta_9)^T = \mathbf{0}$$

To understand what this implies, we split the design matrix into two parts:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & X_{11} & X_{12} & \cdots & X_{19} \\ 1 & X_{21} & X_{22} & \cdots & X_{29} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots \\ 1 & X_{n1} & X_{n2} & \cdots & X_{n9} \end{bmatrix}$$

$\underbrace{\hspace{1cm}}_{\mathbf{X}_0} \qquad \underbrace{\hspace{1cm}}_{\mathbf{X}_1}$



# Example

- Do the drift components add anything to the model?
- The  $\mathbf{X}_1$  matrix explains the drift. Does it contribute in a significant way to the model?
- Compare the results using the [full model](#), with design matrix  $\mathbf{X}$ , with those obtained using a [reduced model](#), with design matrix  $\mathbf{X}_0$ .

# F-test

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- Test the hypothesis using the F-statistic:

$$F = \frac{(\mathbf{r}_0^T \mathbf{r}_0 - \mathbf{r}^T \mathbf{r})}{\hat{\sigma}^2 \left( \text{tr}((\mathbf{R} - \mathbf{R}_0) \mathbf{V}) \right)}$$

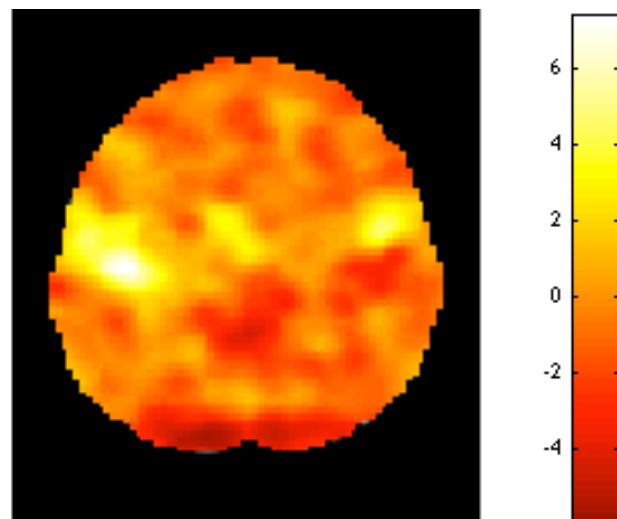
- Assuming the errors are normally distributed, F has an approximate F-distribution with  $(v_0, v)$  degrees of freedom, where

$$v_0 = \frac{\text{tr} \left[ (\mathbf{R} - \mathbf{R}_0) \mathbf{V} \right]^2}{\text{tr} \left[ (\mathbf{R} - \mathbf{R}_0) \mathbf{V} \right]} \quad \text{and} \quad v = \frac{\text{tr}(\mathbf{R} \mathbf{V})^2}{\text{tr}((\mathbf{R} \mathbf{V})^2)}$$



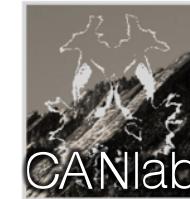
# Statistical Images

- For each voxel a hypothesis test is performed. The statistic corresponding to that test is used to create a statistical image over all voxels.





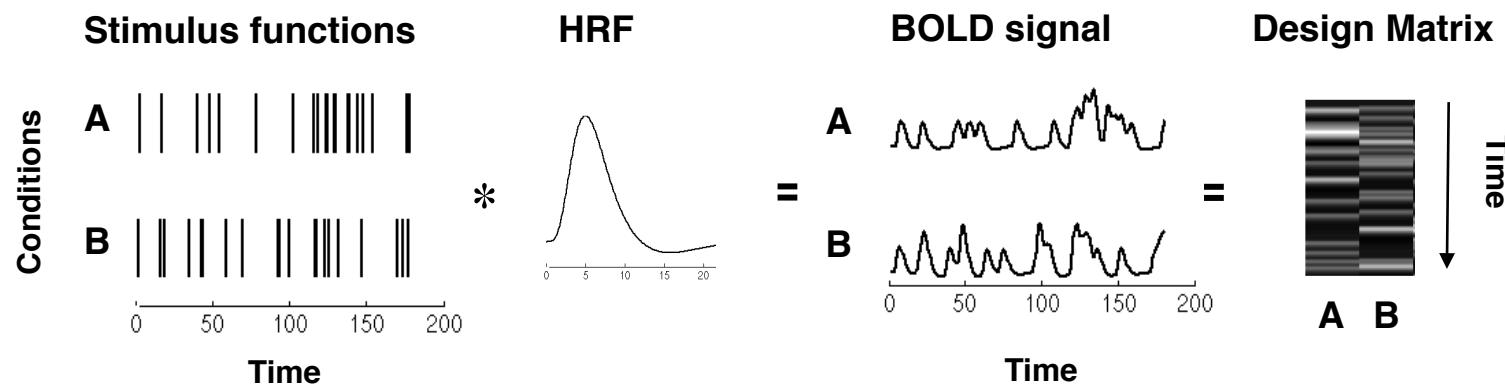
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# USING THE GLM TO ANALYZE FMRI DATA

# Localizing Activation

1. Construct a model for each voxel of the brain.
    - “Massive univariate approach”
    - Regression models (GLM) commonly used.

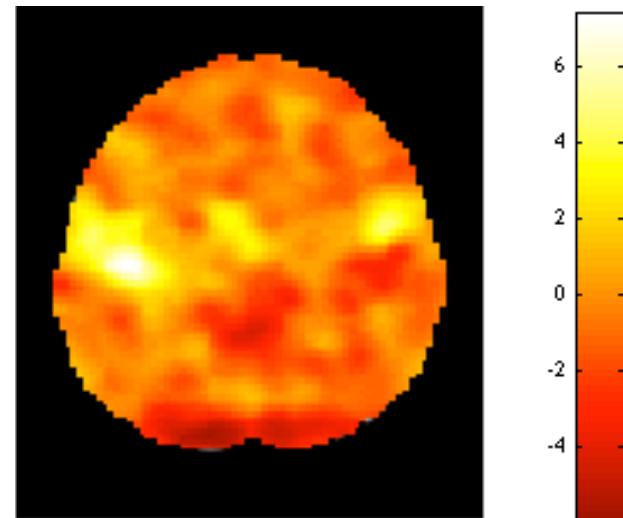


$$\mathbf{Y} = \mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\beta} + \boldsymbol{\varepsilon} \quad \boldsymbol{\varepsilon} \sim N(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{V})$$

# Localizing Activation

2. Perform a statistical test to determine whether task related activation is present in the voxel.

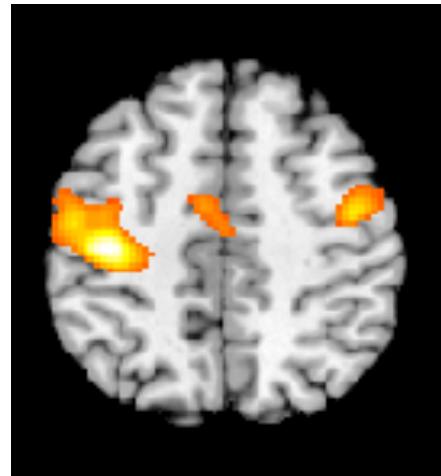
$$H_0 : \mathbf{c}^T \boldsymbol{\beta} = 0$$



Statistical image:  
Map of t-tests  
across all voxels  
(a.k.a t-map).

# Localizing Activation

3. Choose an appropriate threshold for determining statistical significance.



Statistical parametric map:  
Each significant voxel is  
color-coded according to  
the size of its p-value.

# Statistical Images

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How do we determine which voxels are actually active?

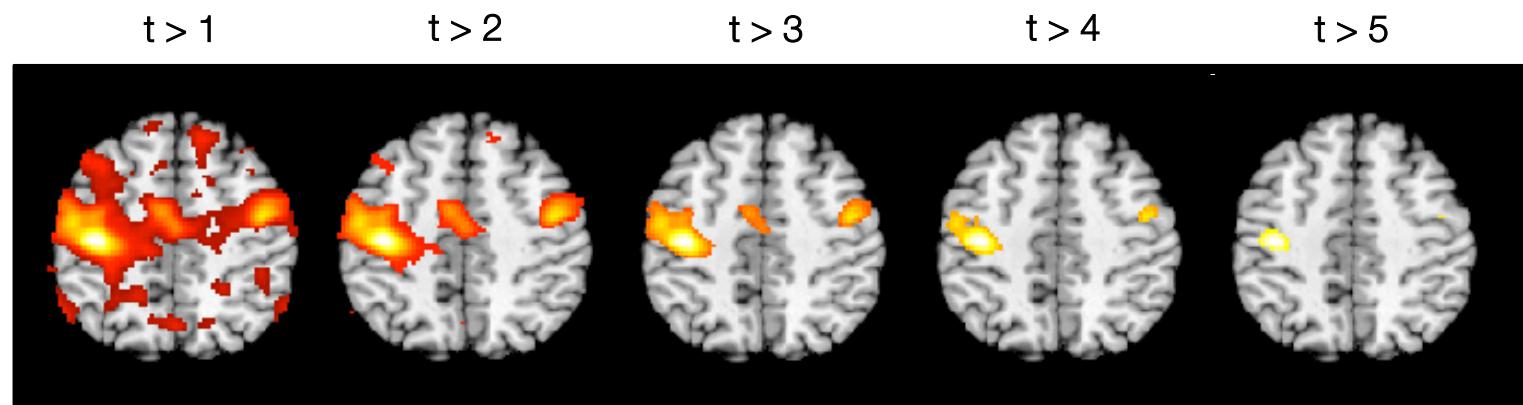
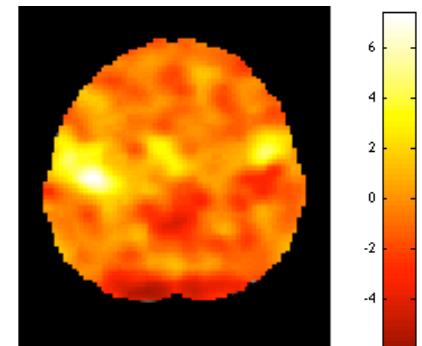
## Problems:

- The statistics are obtained by performing a large number of hypothesis tests.
- Many of the test statistics will be artificially inflated due to the noise.
- This leads to many false positives.



# Multiple Comparisons

- Which of 100,000 voxels are significant?
  - $\alpha=0.05 \Rightarrow 5,000$  false positive voxels
- Choosing a threshold is a balance between sensitivity (**true positive rate**) and specificity (**true negative rate**).



# End of Module



@fMRIstats