

FSL Pre-Processing Pipeline



Mark Jenkinson

fMRI Pre-processing Pipeline

Standard pre-processing:

- Task fMRI
- Resting-state fMRI

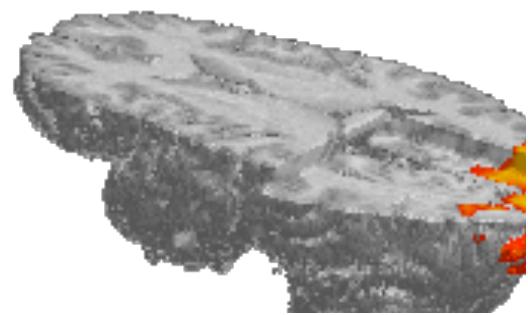
Quality Assessment

Alternatives

- Other pre-processing options
- GLM-based or ICA-based “pre-processing”

Complications

- Spatial and temporal interactions
- HRF variation



fMRI Pre-processing Pipeline

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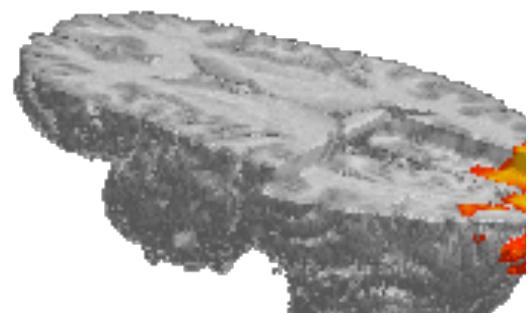
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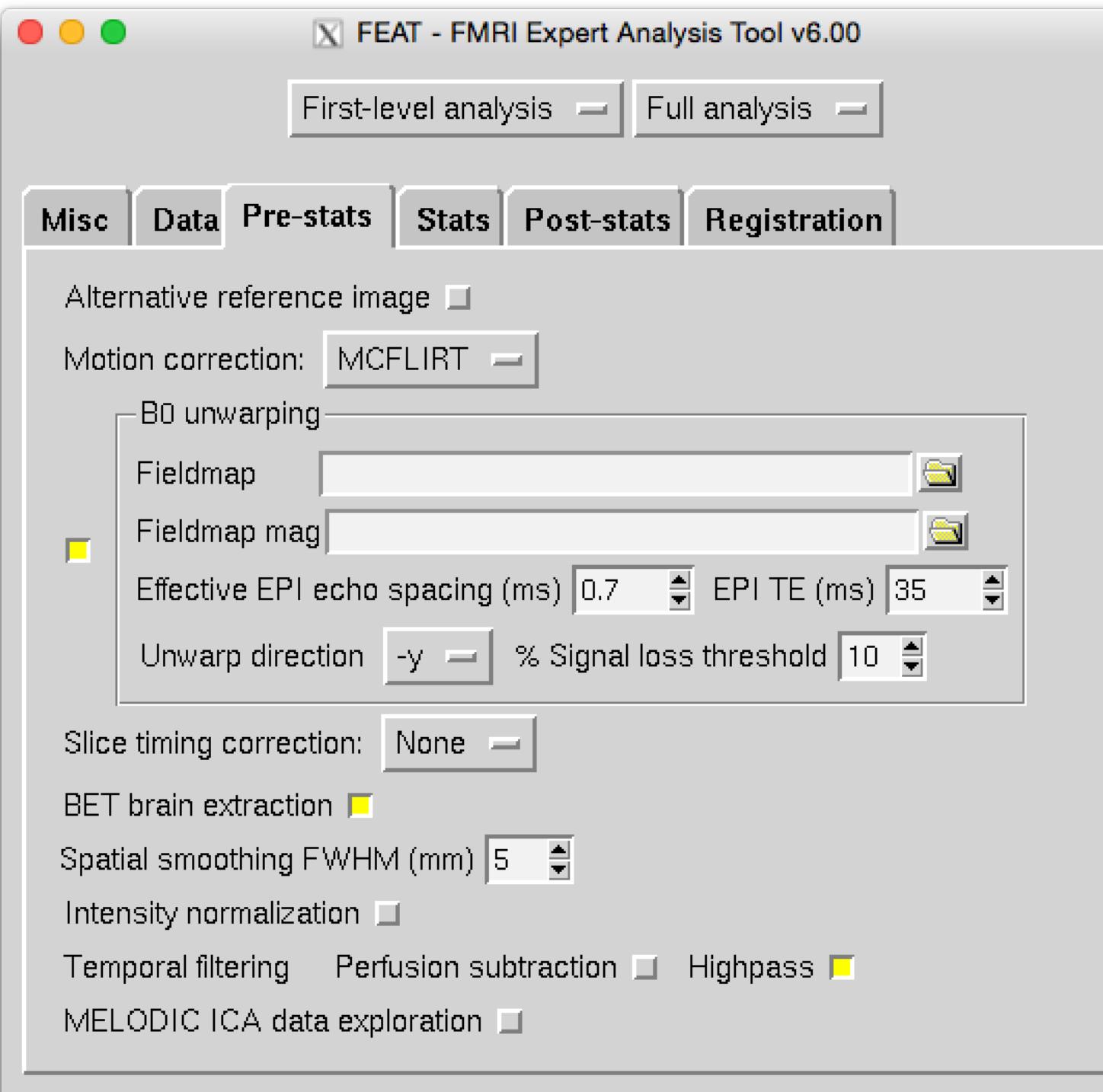
- Other pre-processing options
- GLM-based or ICA-based “pre-processing”

Complications

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- HRF variation



task-fMRI (GLM-based)



Task-fMRI (GLM-based)

Motion Correction

Distortion Correction

Spatial Smoothing

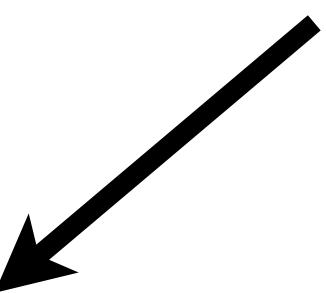
Temporal Filtering

GLM

Resampling to

task-fMRI (GLM-based)

- 6 DOF
- Whole-volume
- Normalised correlation
- First volume is reference (or can select other)



Motion Correction

Distortion Correction

Spatial Smoothing

Temporal Filtering

GLM

Resampling to

task-fMRI (GLM-based)

- Requires fieldmaps
- Uses BBR
- Makes a substantial difference to group-level results even in non-distorted areas



Motion Correction

Distortion Correction

Spatial Smoothing

Temporal Filtering

GLM

Resampling to

task-fMRI (GLM-based)

- De-weights different tissues (esp. CSF)
- SUSAN algorithm
- Very similar to Gaussian within GM & WM
- Recommend small FWHM



Motion Correction

Distortion Correction

Spatial Smoothing

Temporal Filtering

GLM

Resampling to

task-fMRI (GLM-based)

- Highpass only
- Tool for calculating cutoff based on design matrix

Motion Correction

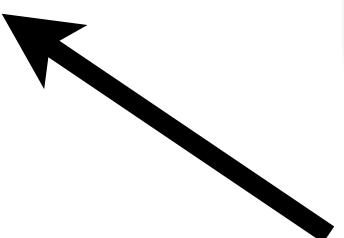
Distortion Correction

Spatial Smoothing

Temporal Filtering

GLM

Resampling to



task-fMRI (GLM-based)

- Slice-timing effects modelled with temporal derivatives
- Related to basis functions and HRF variability (see *later*)

Motion Correction

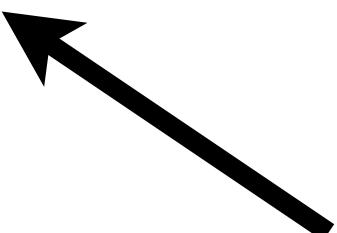
Distortion Correction

Spatial Smoothing

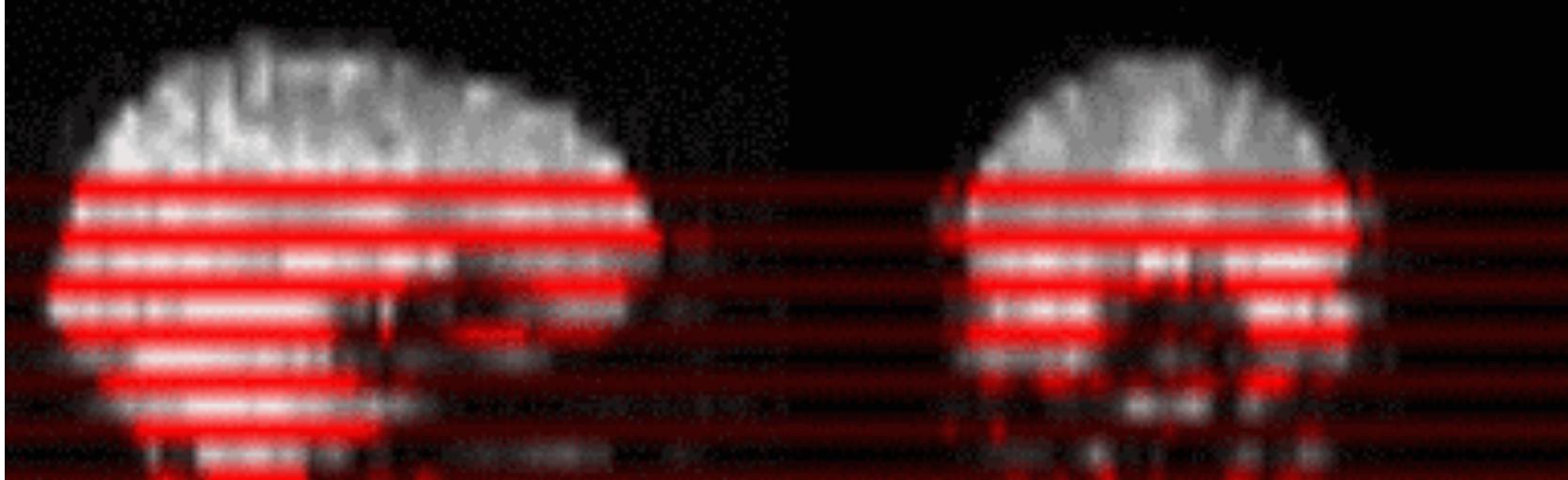
Temporal Filtering

GLM

Resampling to



Slice timing



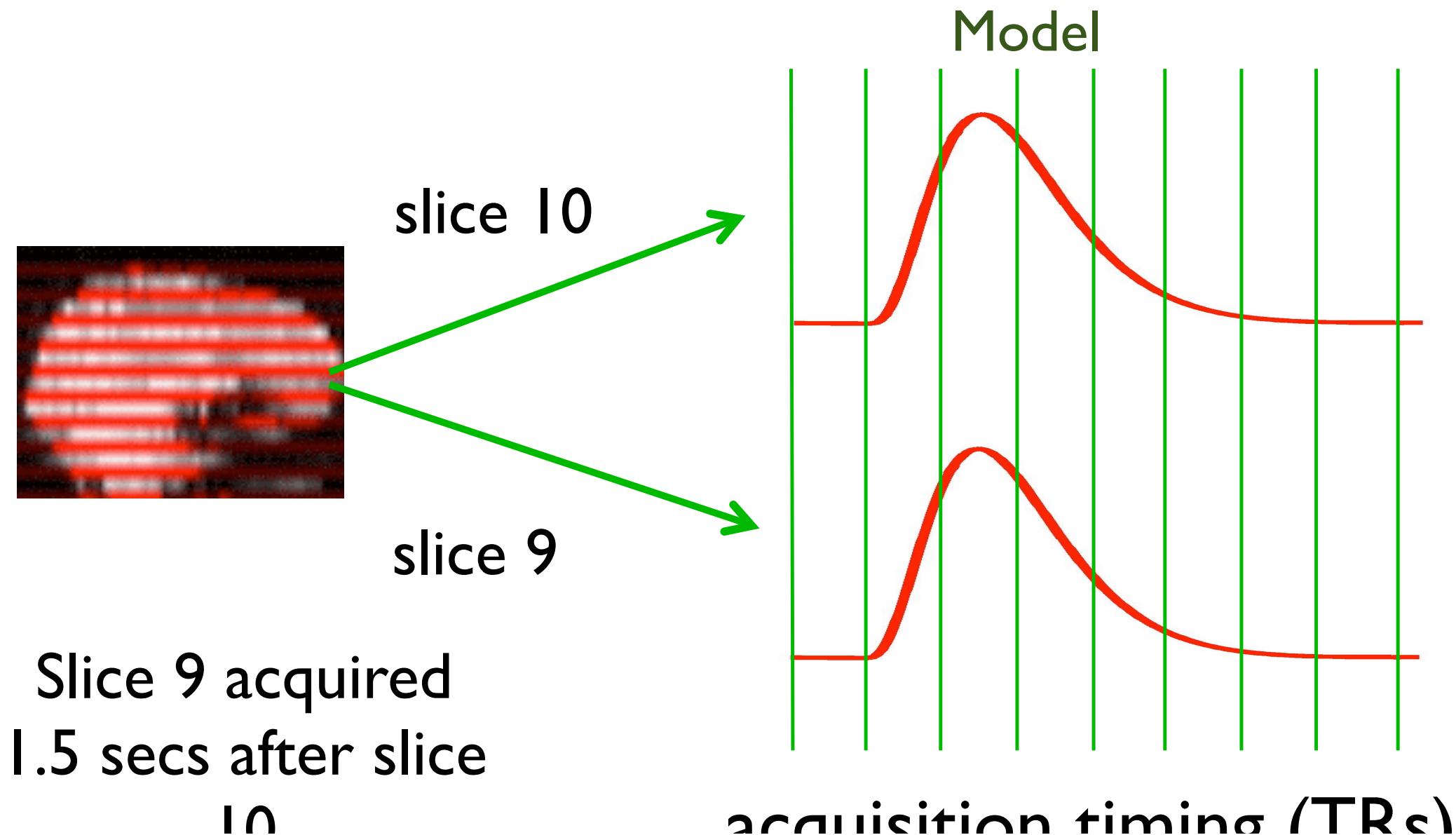
Almost all fMRI scanning takes each slice separately

Each slice is scanned at a slightly different time

Slice order can be interleaved (as shown) or sequential (up or down)

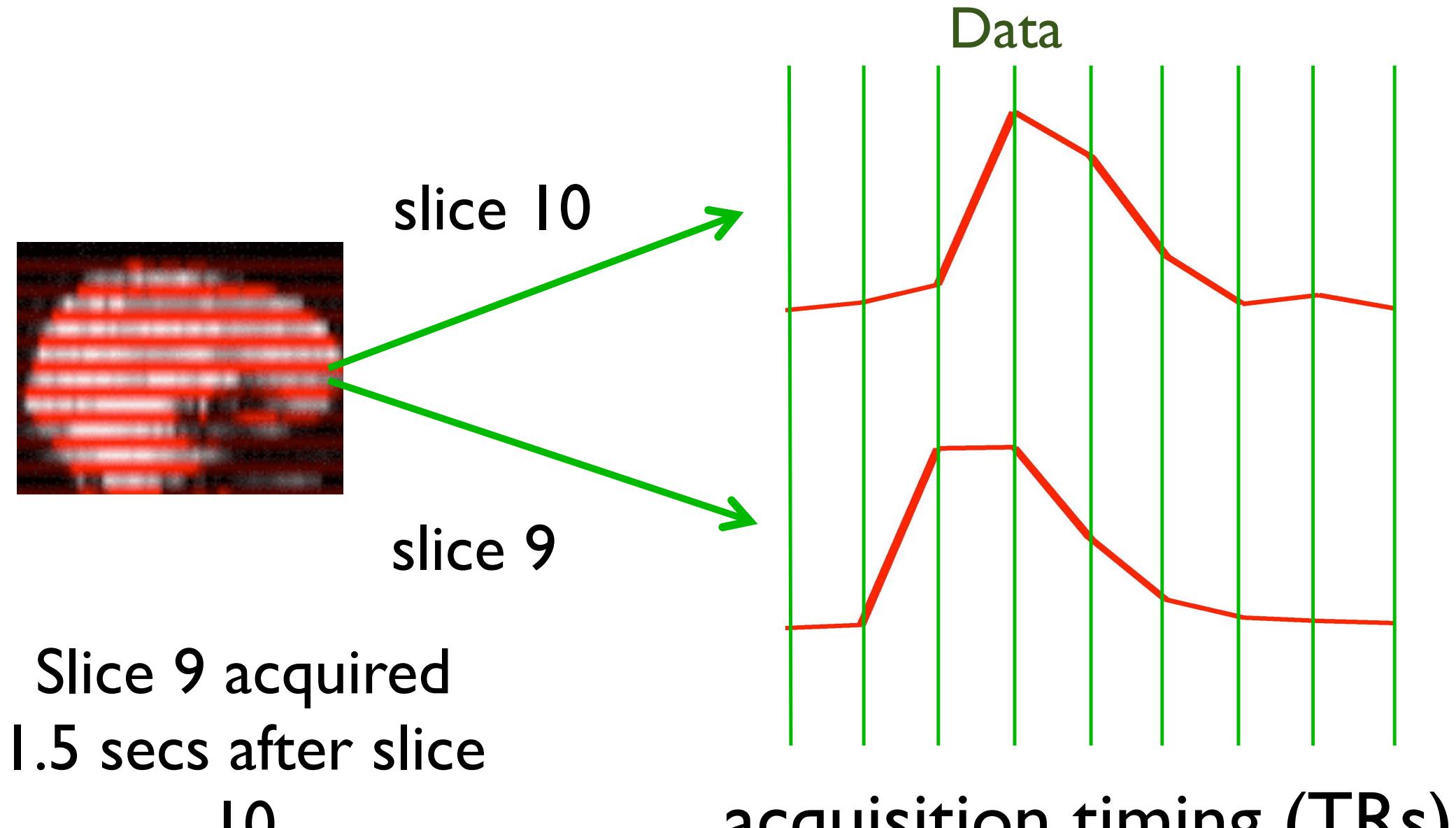
Slice timing

Without any adjustment, the model timing is always the same



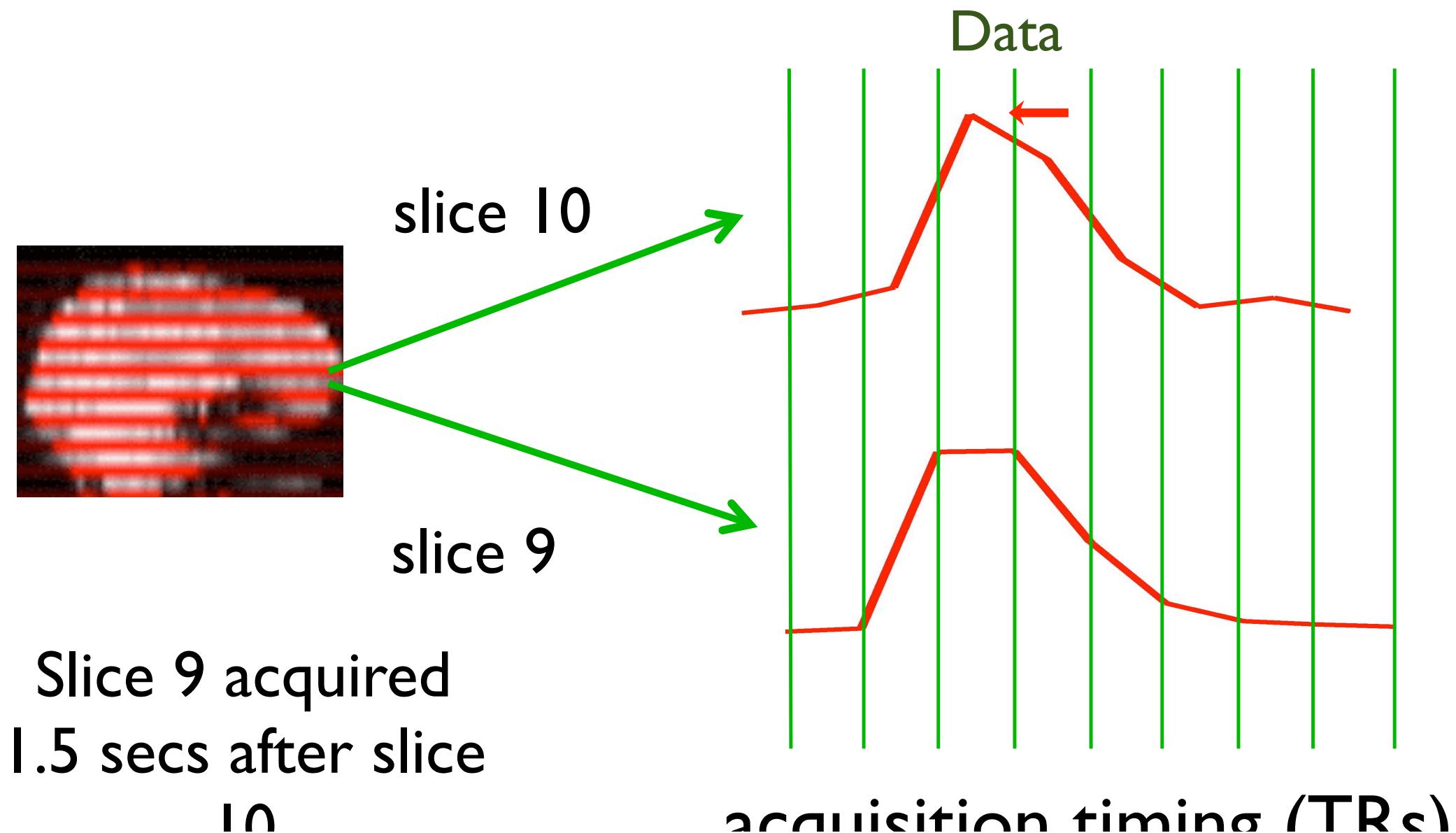
Slice timing

... but the timing of each slice's data
is *different*



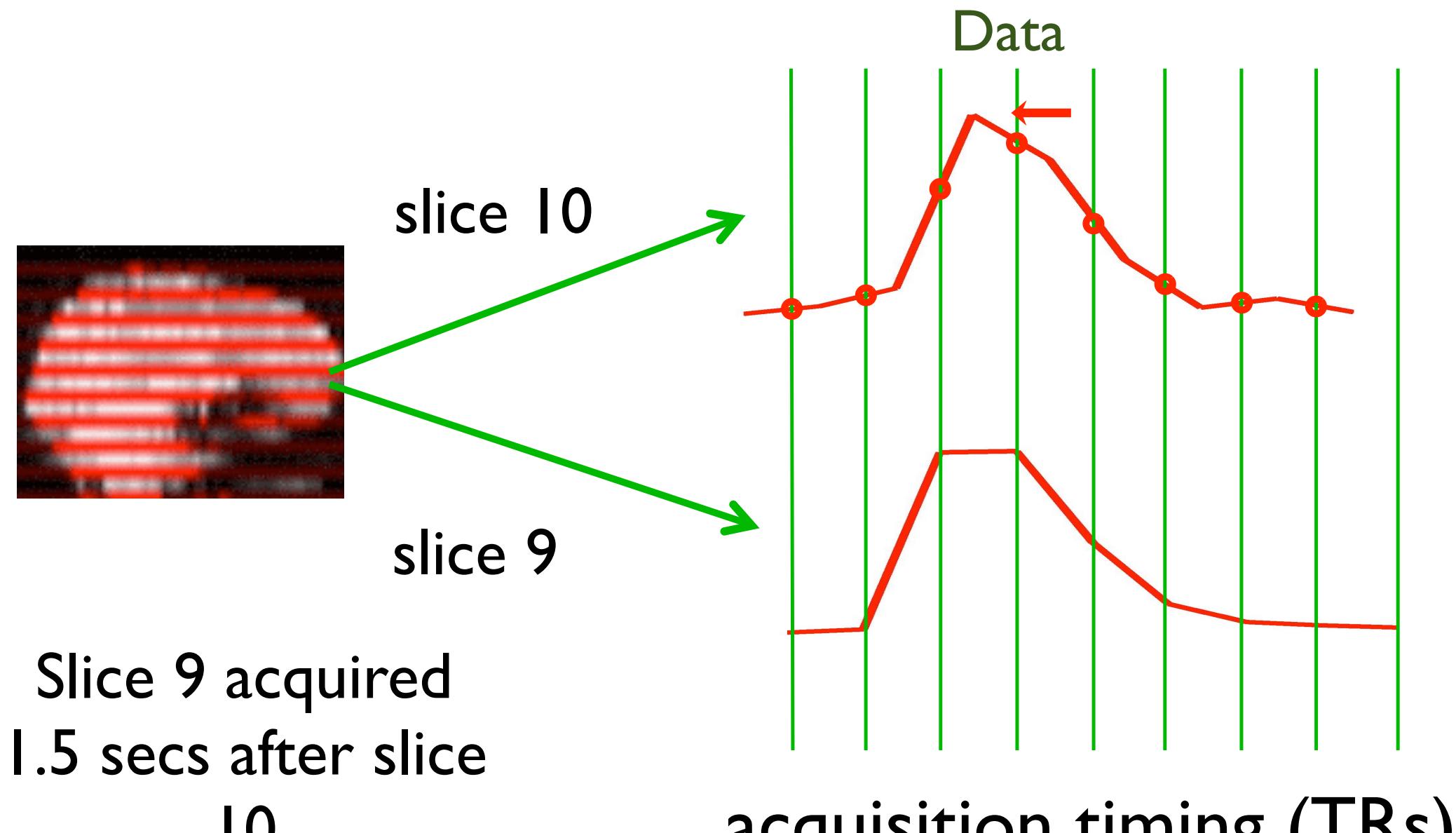
Slice timing

Can get consistency by shifting the *data*



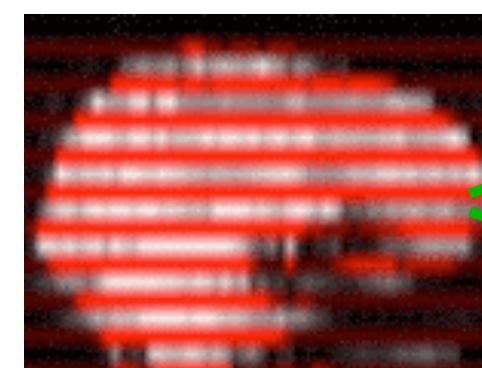
Slice timing

... and then interpolating the data =
slice timing correction



Slice timing

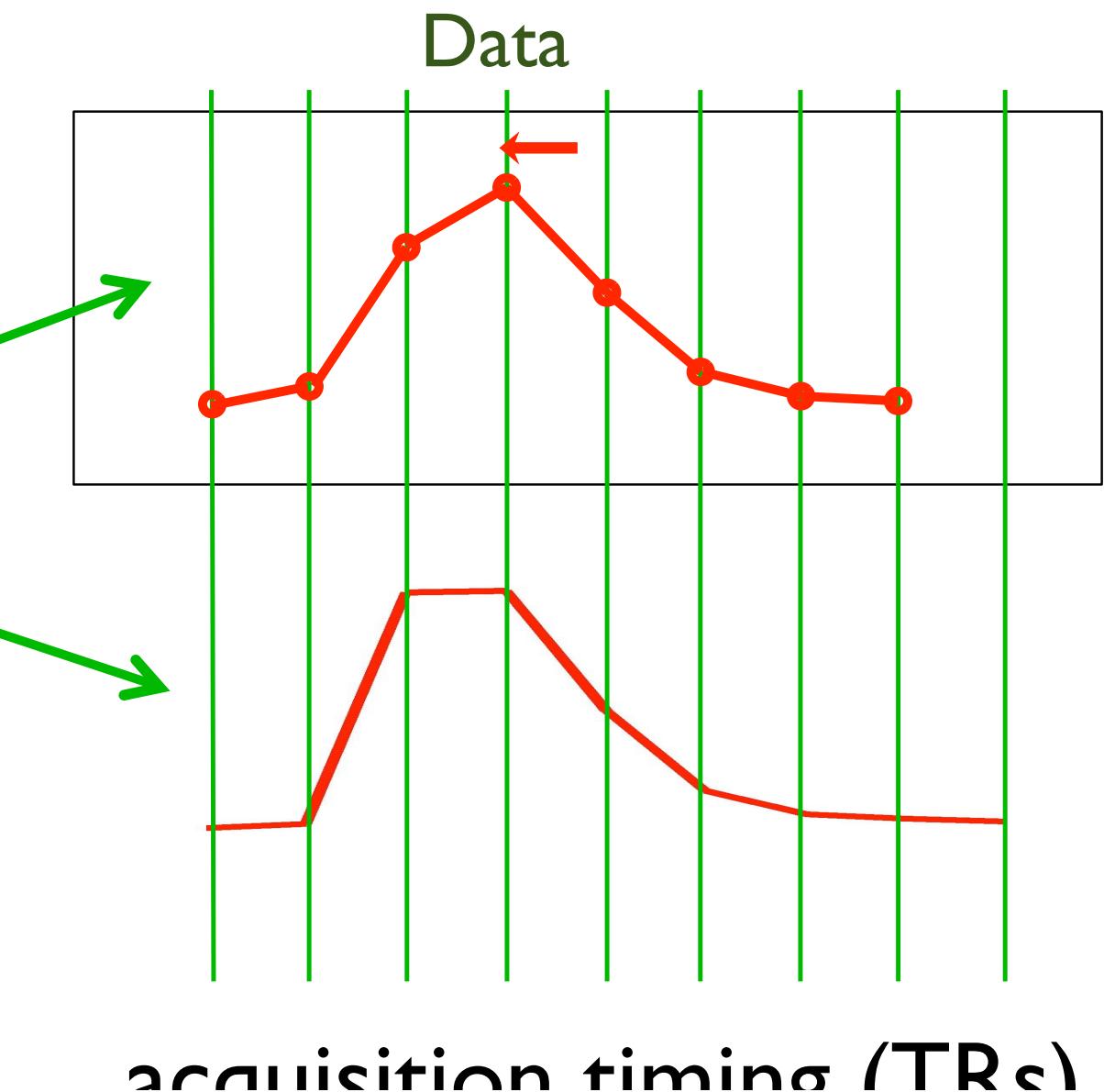
... and then interpolating the data =
slice timing correction



slice 10

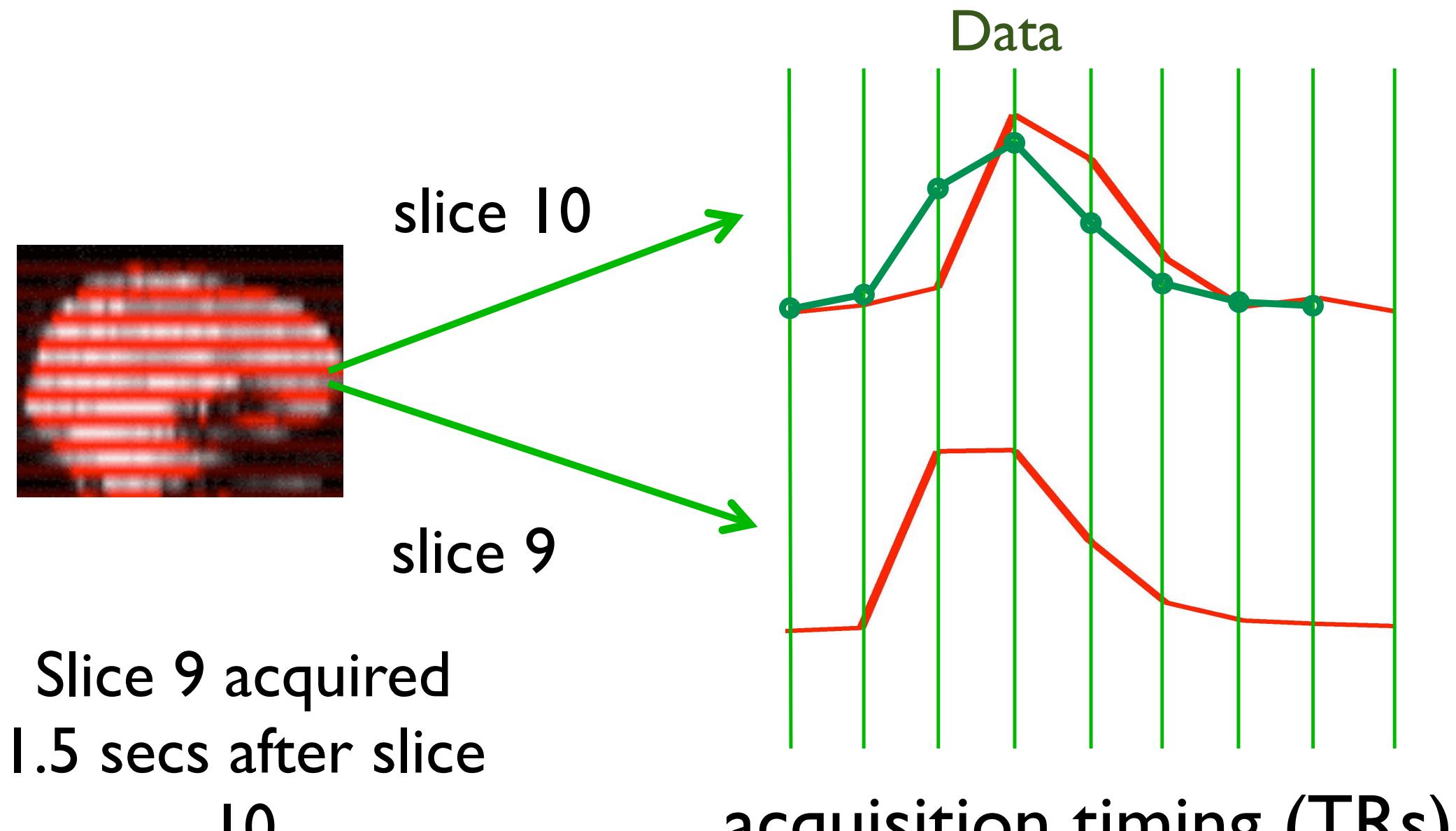
slice 9

Slice 9 acquired
1.5 secs after slice
10



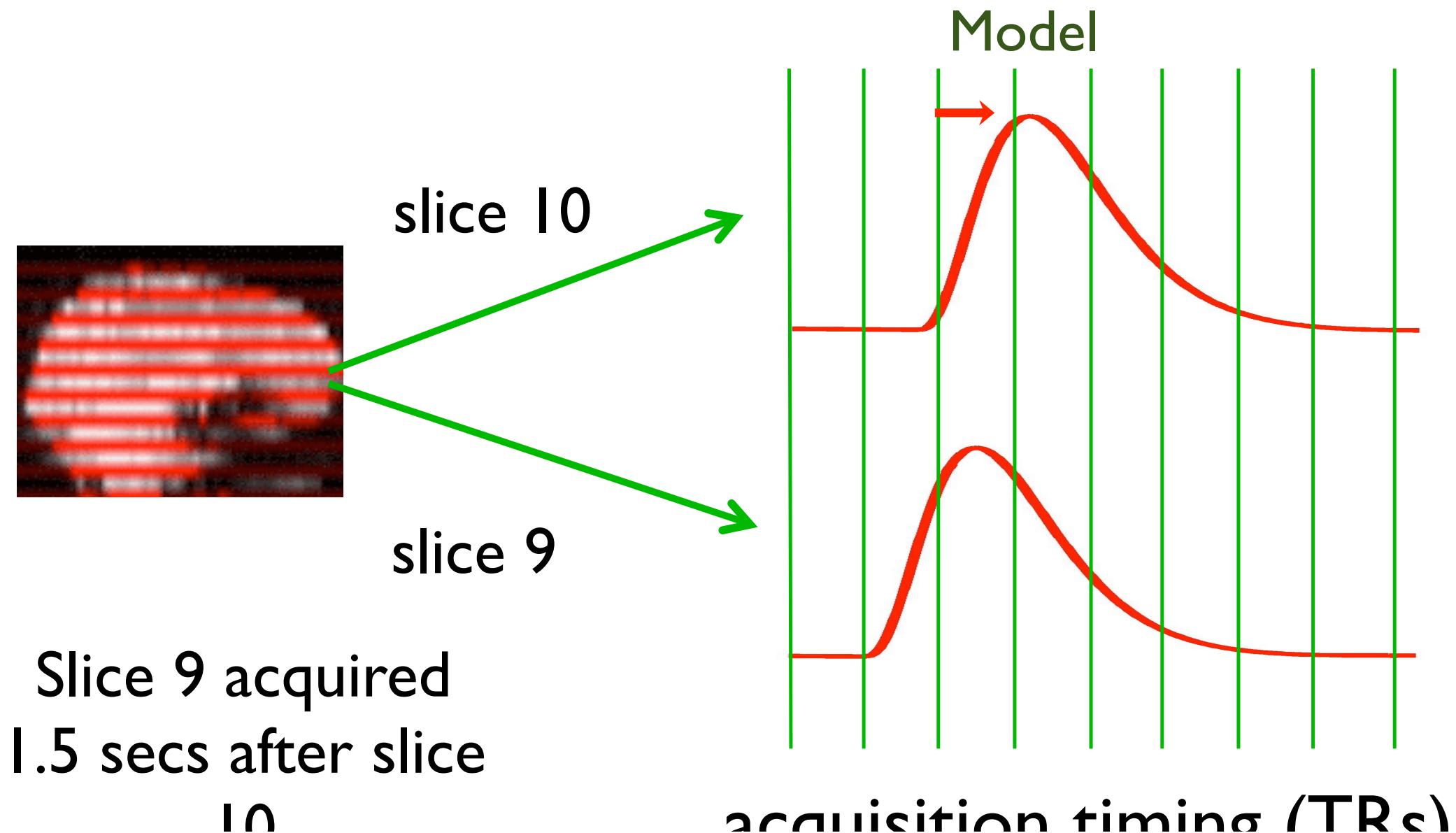
Slice timing

... and then interpolating the data =
slice timing correction



Slice timing

Alternatively, can get consistency by shifting the *model*



Slice Timing

One way to shift the model is to use the *temporal derivative* in the GLM

Based on Taylor approx:
 $(t+q) \approx m(t) + q.m'(t)$

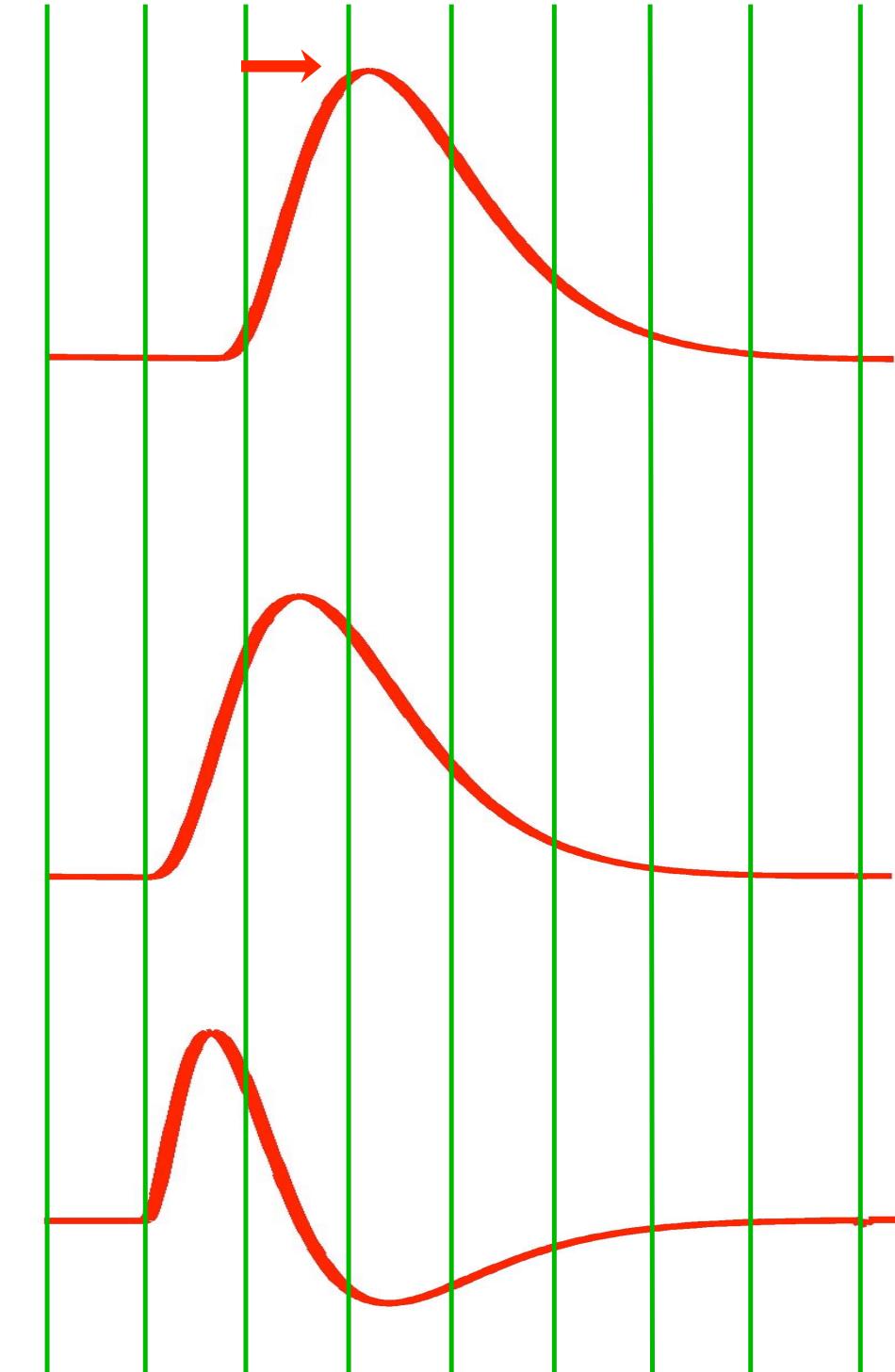
Shifted Model

=

Original Model

-

Temporal Derivative

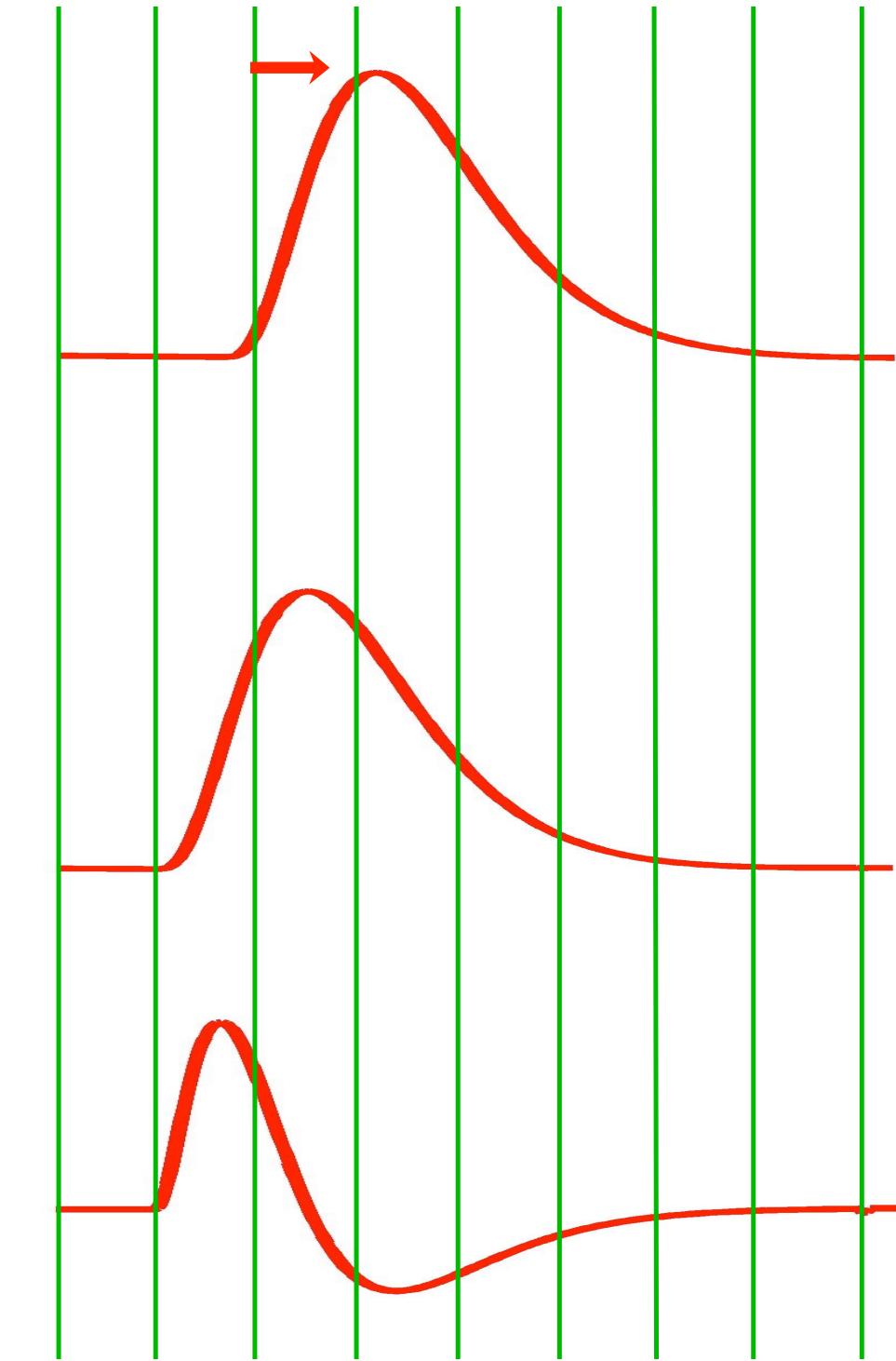


Slice Timing

shifting the model can also account for **variations in the HRF delay**

- as the HRF is known to vary between subjects, sessions, etc.

This is an alternative to slice timing correction



task-fMRI (GLM-based)

- Done just before higher-level analysis
- Non-linear registration to MNI152 by default

Motion Correction

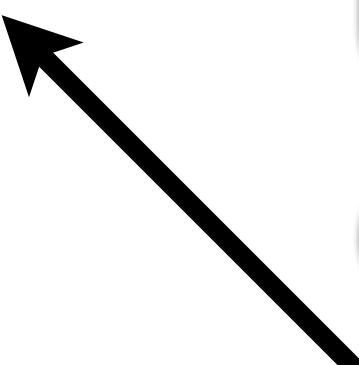
Distortion Correction

Spatial Smoothing

Temporal Filtering

GLM

Resampling to



Scanning • Processing • Reporting

task-fMRI (GLM-based)

Motion Correction

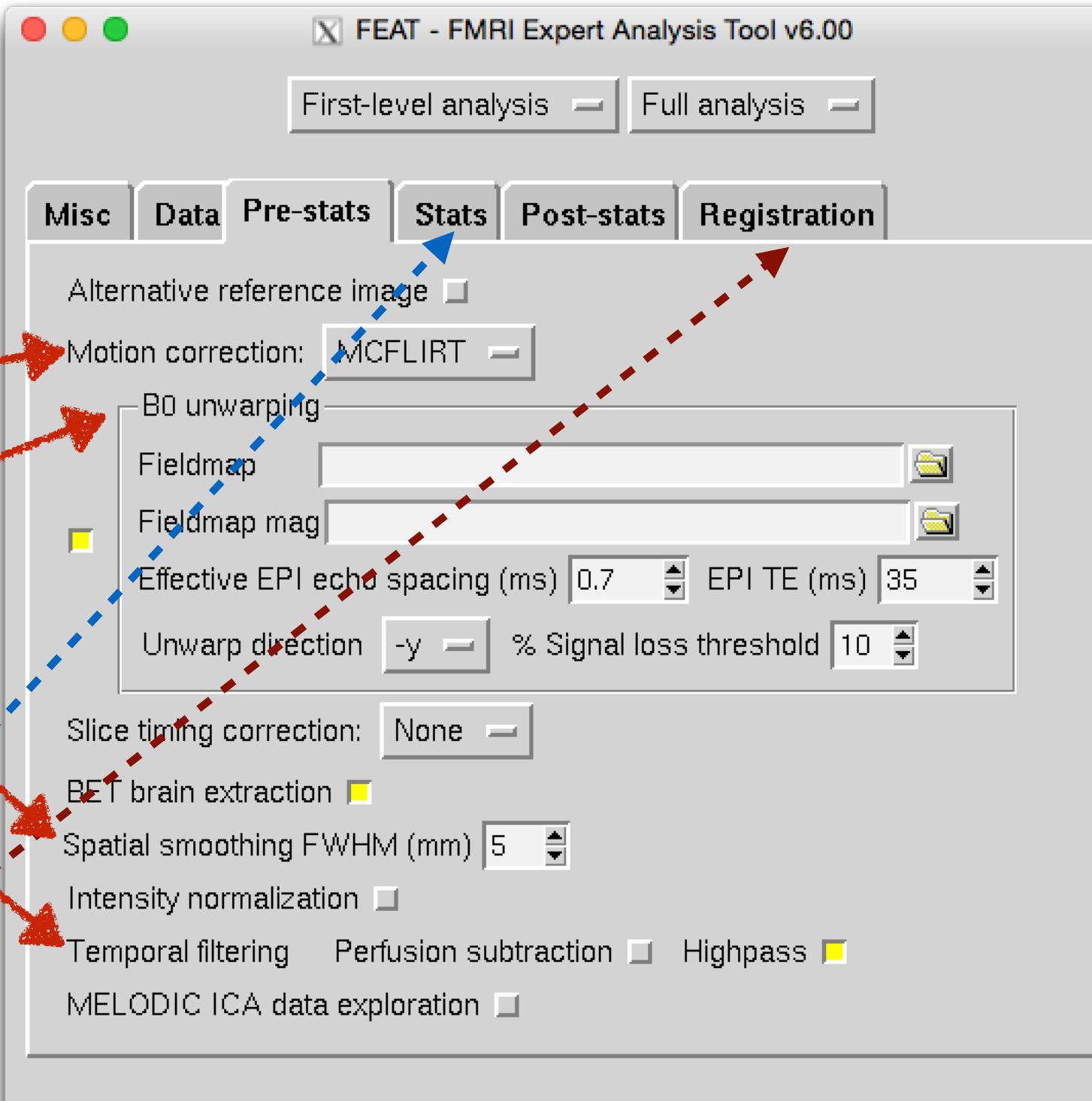
Distortion Correction

Spatial Smoothing

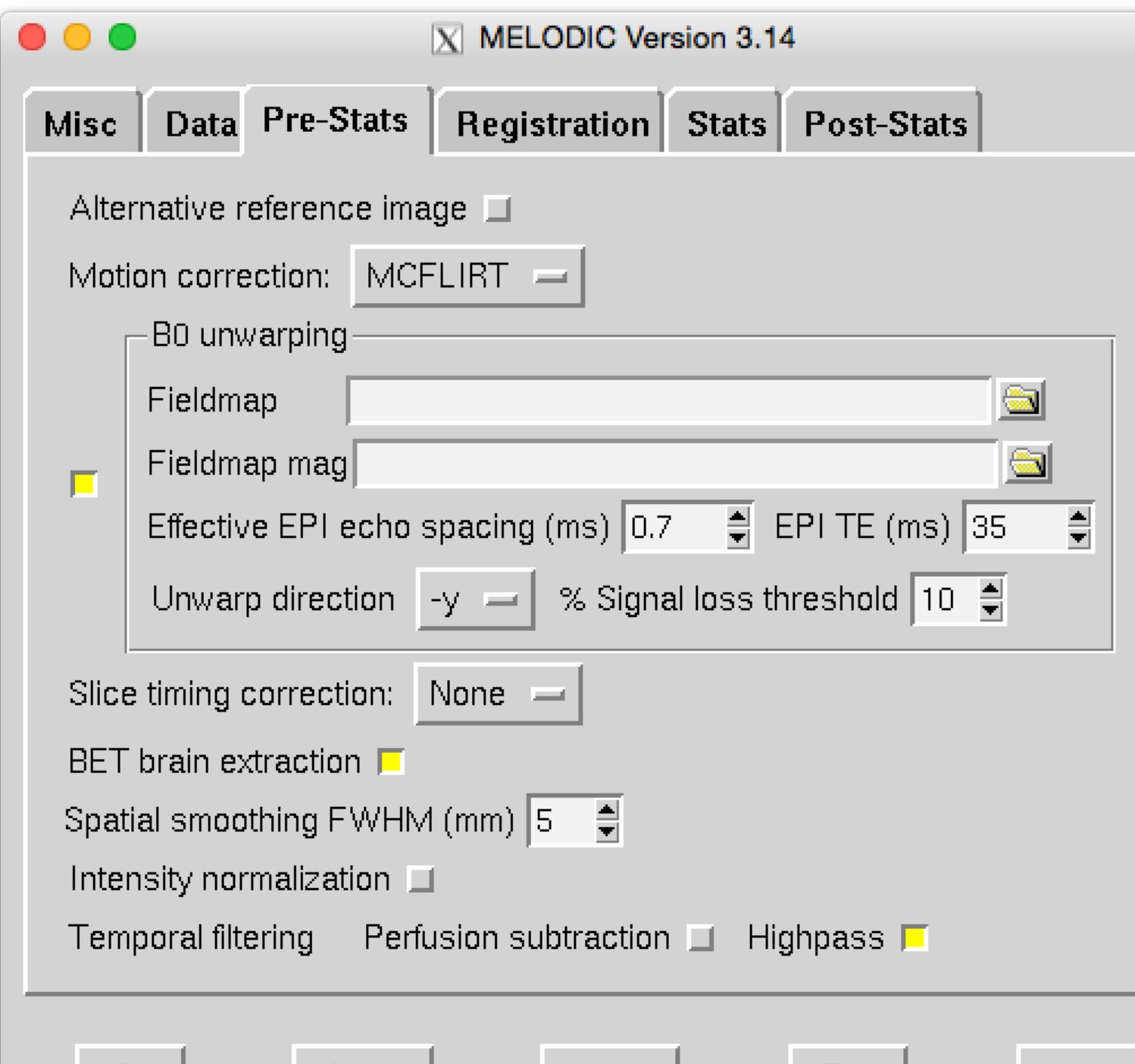
Temporal Filtering

GLM

Resampling to
Standard Space



Resting-State MRI (ICA-based)



Resting-State fMRI (ICA-based)

Motion Correction

Distortion Correction

Temporal Filtering

Spatial Smoothing

ICA-Cleanup

Resampling to
Standard Space

Resting-State fMRI (ICA-based)

- Highpass only
- Cutoff around 100-200 sec = 0.005-0.01 Hz
- There is still some useful power in high frequencies, so these are kept

Motion Correction

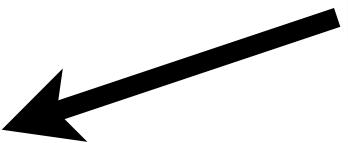
Distortion Correction

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Spatial Smoothing

ICA-Cleanup

Resampling to Standard Space



Resting-State fMRI (ICA-based)

- Minimal amount recommended
- On high quality data can avoid smoothing completely



Motion Correction

Distortion Correction

Temporal Filtering

Spatial Smoothing

ICA-Cleanup

Resampling to
Standard Space

Resting-State fMRI (ICA-based)

- Individual subject ICA used to split data into noise and signal components
- Automatic and manual classification options (*see later*)
- Aggressive or soft cleanup options



Motion Correction

Distortion Correction

Temporal Filtering

Spatial Smoothing

ICA-Cleanup

Resampling to
Standard Space

Resting-State fMRI (ICA-based)

- Done before group analysis
- Non-linear registration to MNI152 by default
- Resampled in lower-res (e.g. 4mm)

Motion Correction

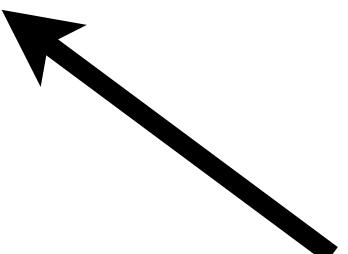
Distortion Correction

Temporal Filtering

Spatial Smoothing

ICA-Cleanup

Resampling to Standard Space



Resting-State fMRI (ICA-based)

Note:

- in FSL slice-timing-correction usually skipped as low frequency signals drive correlations

Motion Correction

Distortion Correction

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HCP Pipeline

FEAT Report



FEAT Report

/Users/mark/presentations/Graduate/MT08/Analysis/fmri.feat

Finished at Fri 16 Oct 2009 10:14:45 BST

[Pre-stats](#) - [Stats](#) - [Post-stats](#) - [Registration](#) - [Log](#)

e-stats

ysis methods

All data processing was carried out using FEAT (FMRI Expert Analysis Tool) Version 5.98, part of FSL (FMRIB's Software Library, fsl.fmrib.ox.ac.uk/fsl). The following pre-statistics processing was applied; motion correction using MCFLIRT [Jenkinson 2002]; non-brain removal using BET [Smith 2002]; spatial smoothing using a Gaussian kernel of FWHM 5mm; grand-mean intensity normalisation of the entire 4D dataset by a single global scaling factor; highpass temporal filtering (Gaussian-weighted least-squares straight line fitting, with sigma=90.0s).

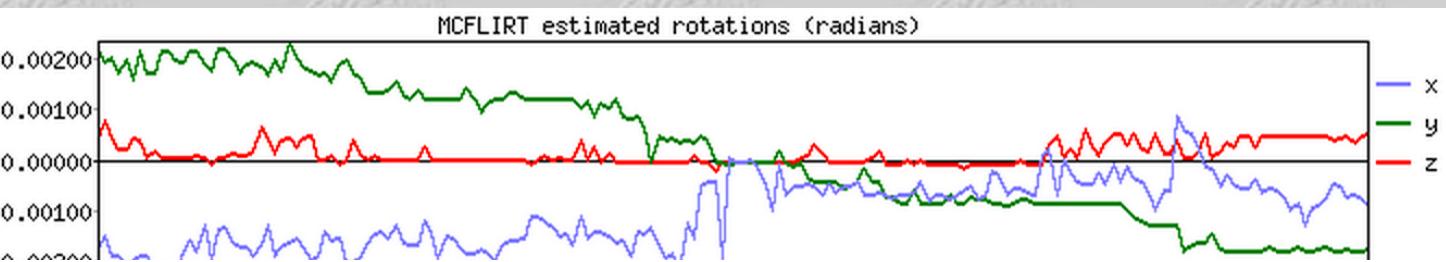
ferences

[Jenkinson 2002] M. Jenkinson and P. Bannister and M. Brady and S. Smith. Improved optimisation for the robust and accurate linear registration and affine correction of brain images. *NeuroImage* 17:2(825-841) 2002.

[Smith 2002] S. Smith. Fast Robust Automated Brain Extraction. *Human Brain Mapping* 17:3(143-155) 2002.

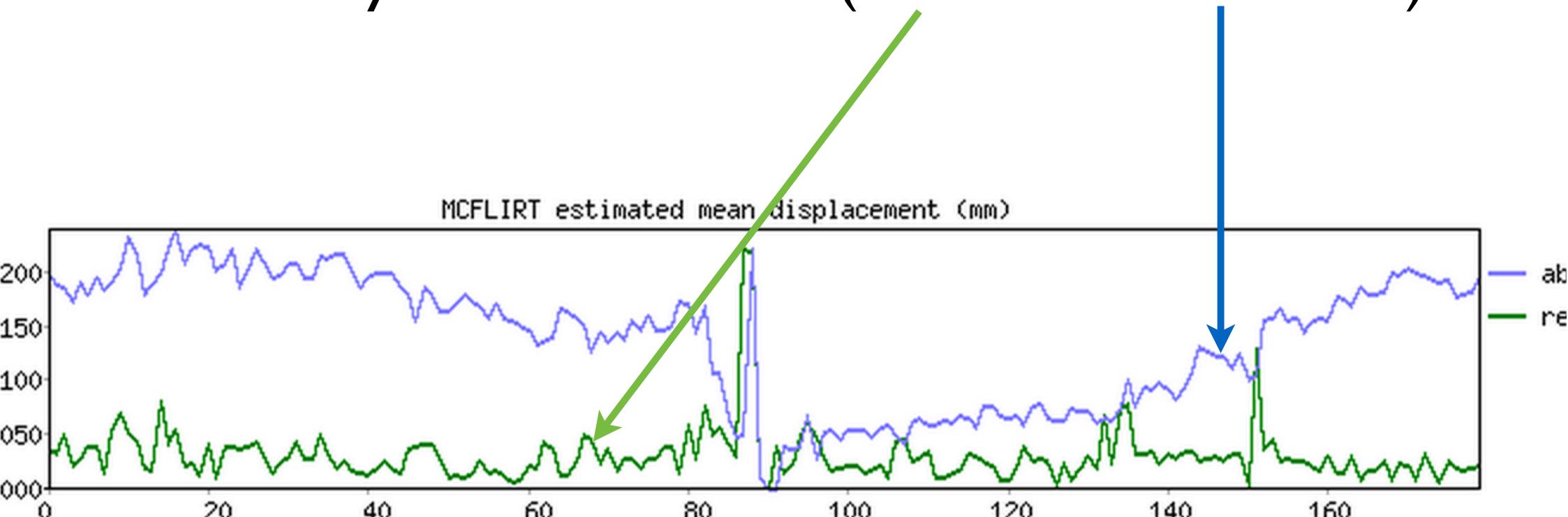
MCFLIRT Motion correction

Mean displacements: absolute=0.13mm, relative=0.03mm



LIVE PAGE OUTPUT. MOTION

Summary of total motion (relative and absolute)



Relative = time point to next time point - shows jumps
Absolute = time point to reference - shows jumps & drifts

Note that large jumps are more serious than slower drifts,

WED Page Output. Distortion

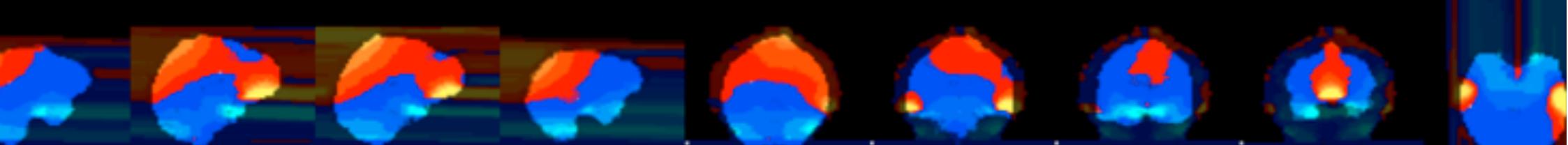
n-masked B0 fieldmap in colour, overlaid on top of fieldmap magnitude image



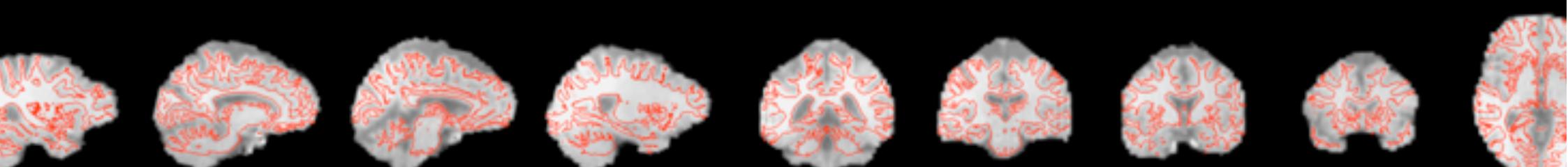
Thresholded signal loss weighting image



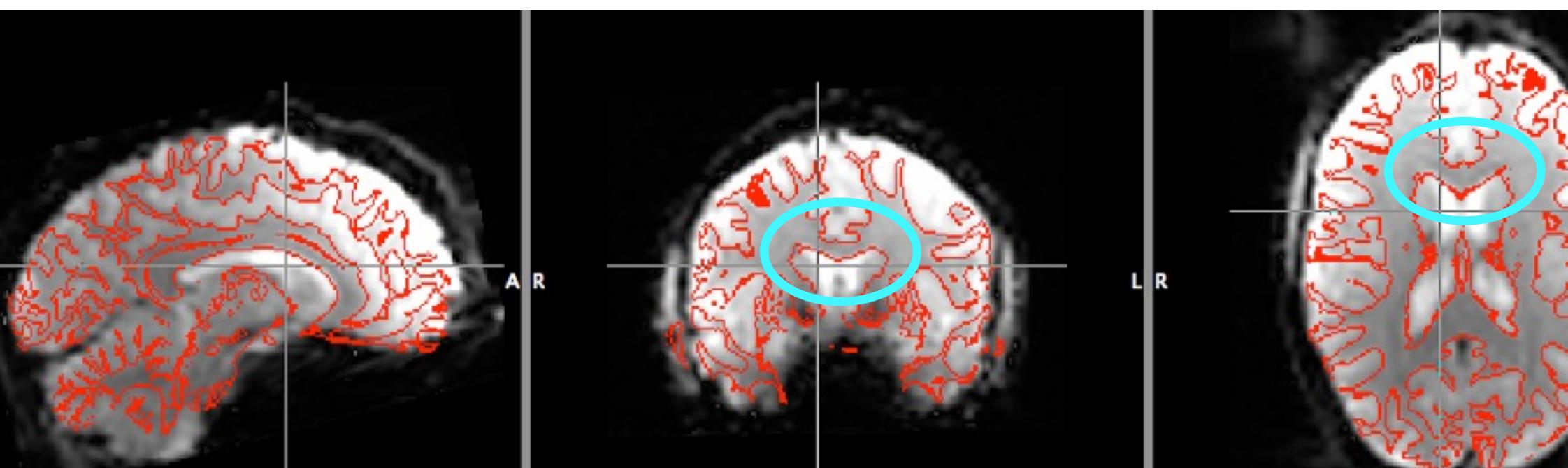
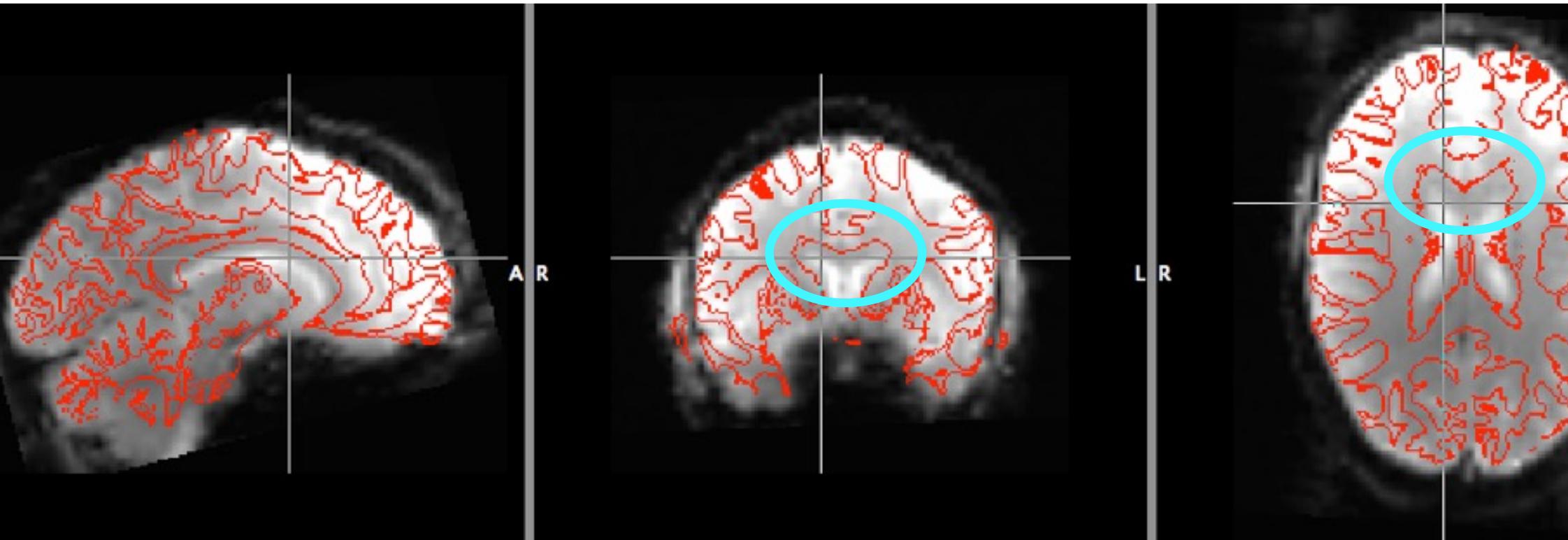
warping shift map, in voxels -3.661111 0 4.190160



white matter edges, overlaid on top of fieldmap image



View Page Output. Distortion



FSLVIEW

FSLView (3.2.0) - [Ortho view]

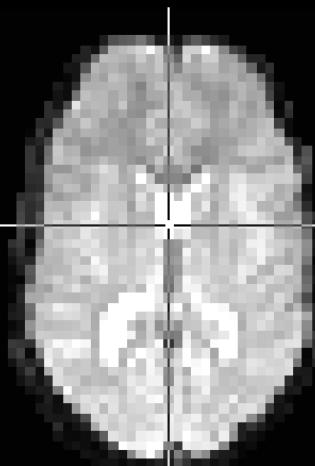
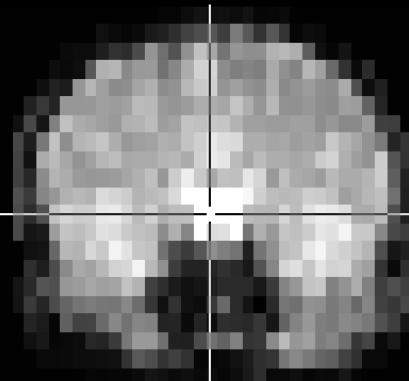
Ortho view

70%



Min -102.19

Max 10117



X	32	128.00
Y	33	132.00
Z	9	54.00

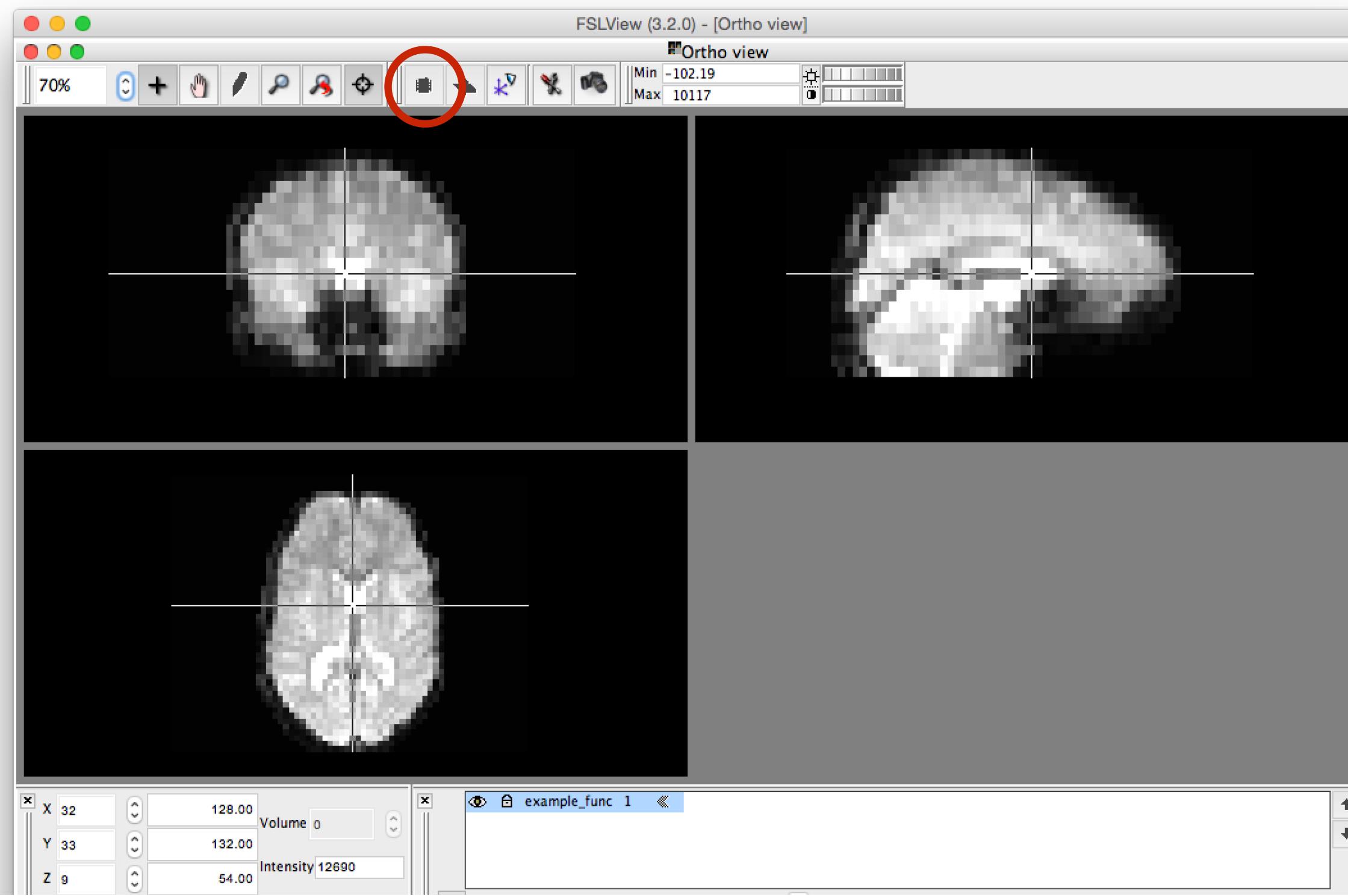
Volume 0

Intensity 12690

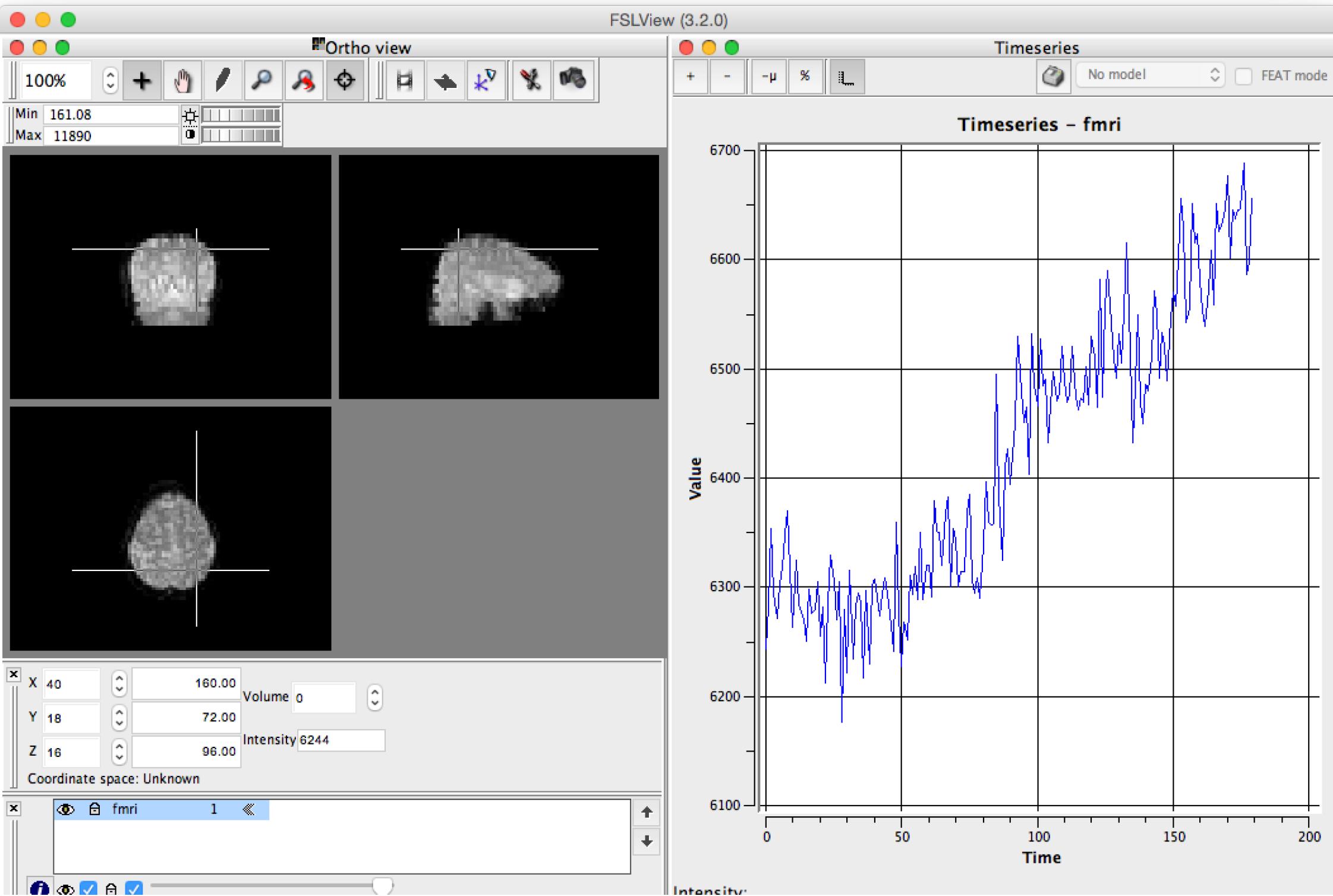
example_func 1



FSLVIEW. F-Movie mode



I SLVIEW. I TIMESERIES



FSL Pre-processing Pipeline

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Quality Assessment

Alternatives

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Complications

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- HRF variation



HCP Pipeline

Options in pre-processing

The “standard” pre-processing is not the only option available in FSL

It is not always the best approach

Other options are better with different data and subjects

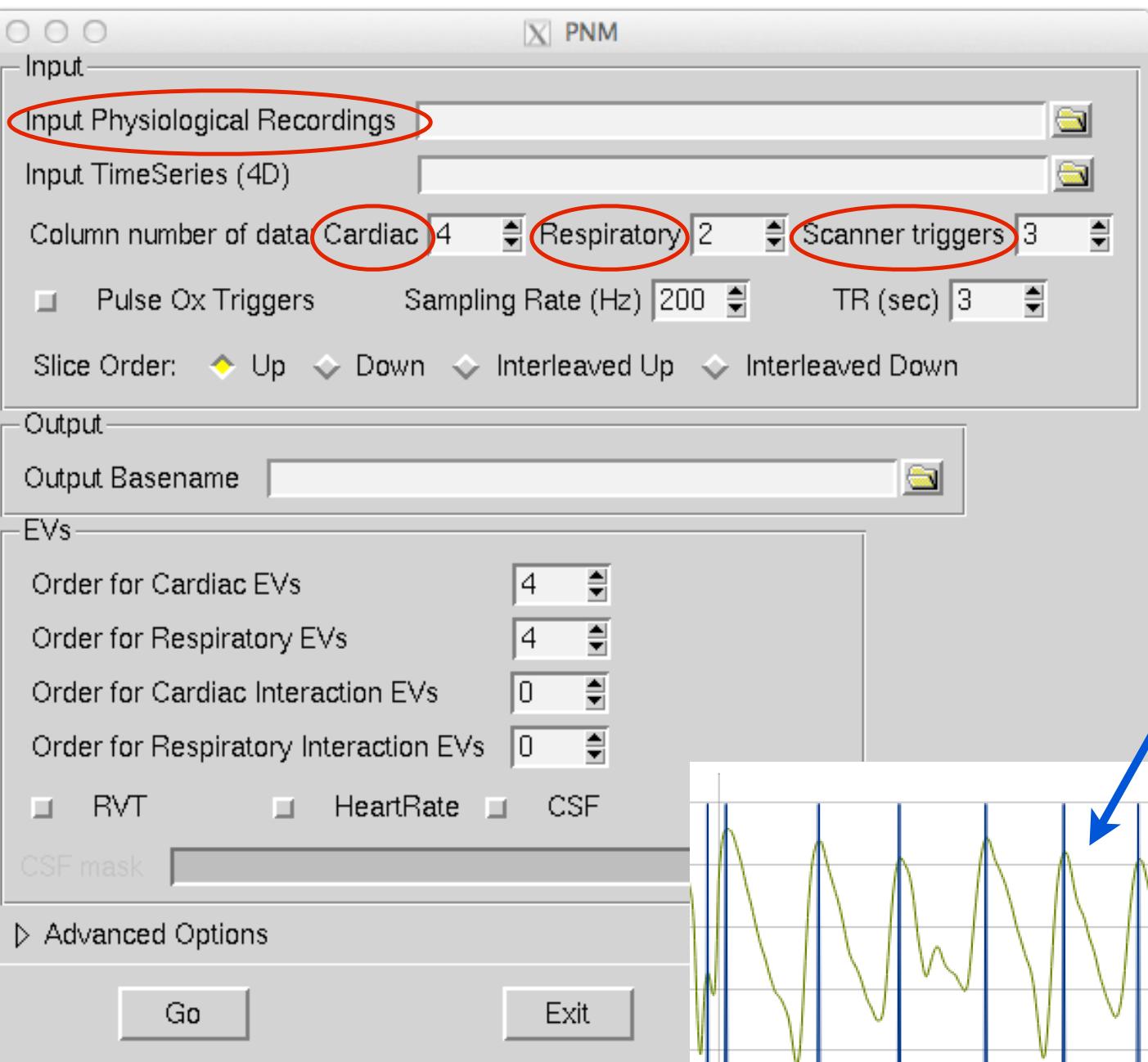
Alternatives include:

- slice-timing-correction
- lowpass filtering (outside of GUI)
- other reference image for motion/distortion correction
(multi-band often needs this)

Also have other cleanup options (using GLM or ICA):

- physiological noise modelling
- confound regressors (e.g. motion parameters)
- motion-outlier detection (`fsl_motion_outliers`)

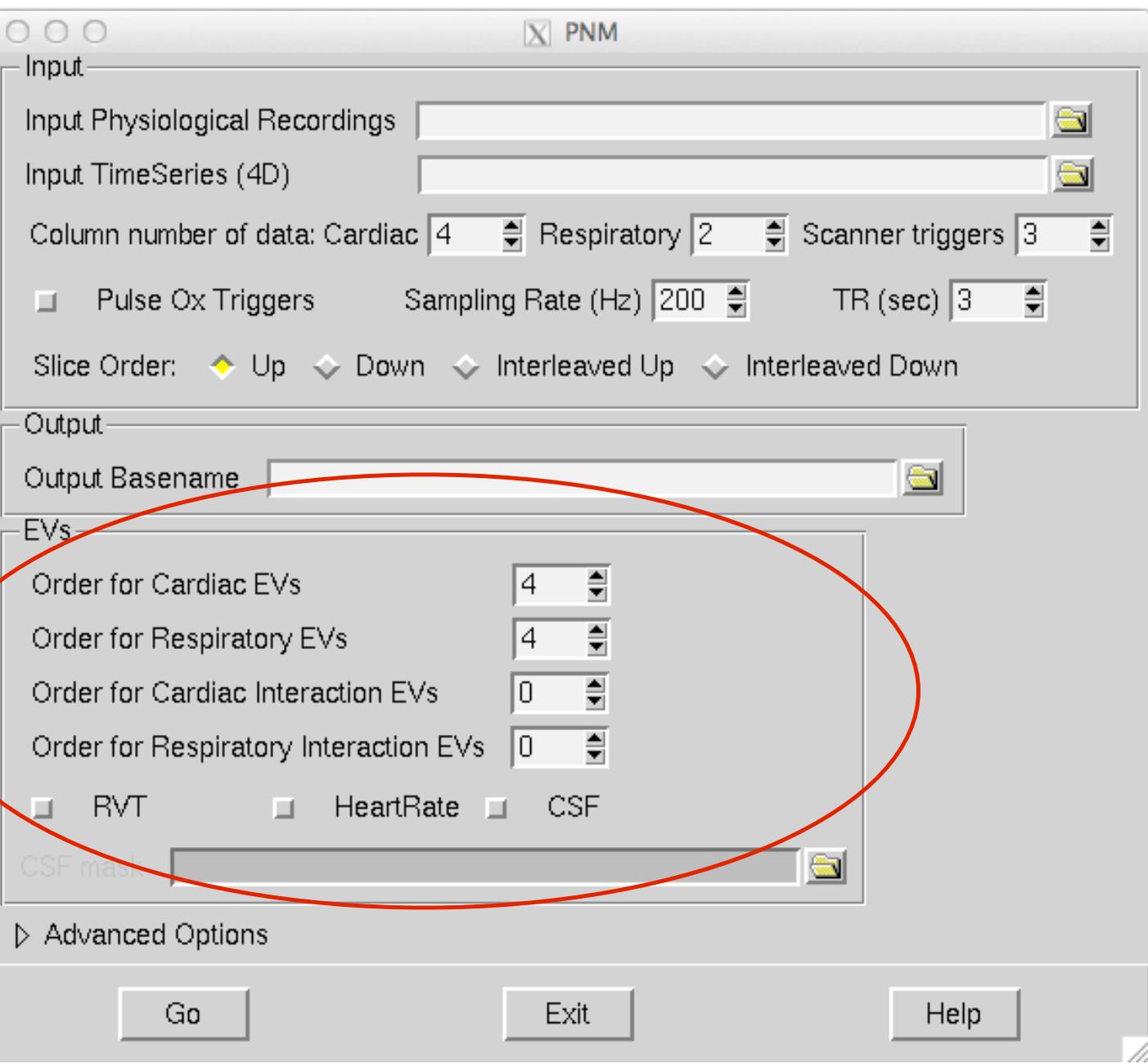
PNM (GUI)



Requires **text file with physiological recordings** (cardiac, respiratory, triggers)

Peak detection in physiological trace needs manual checking via webpage

PNM (GUI)

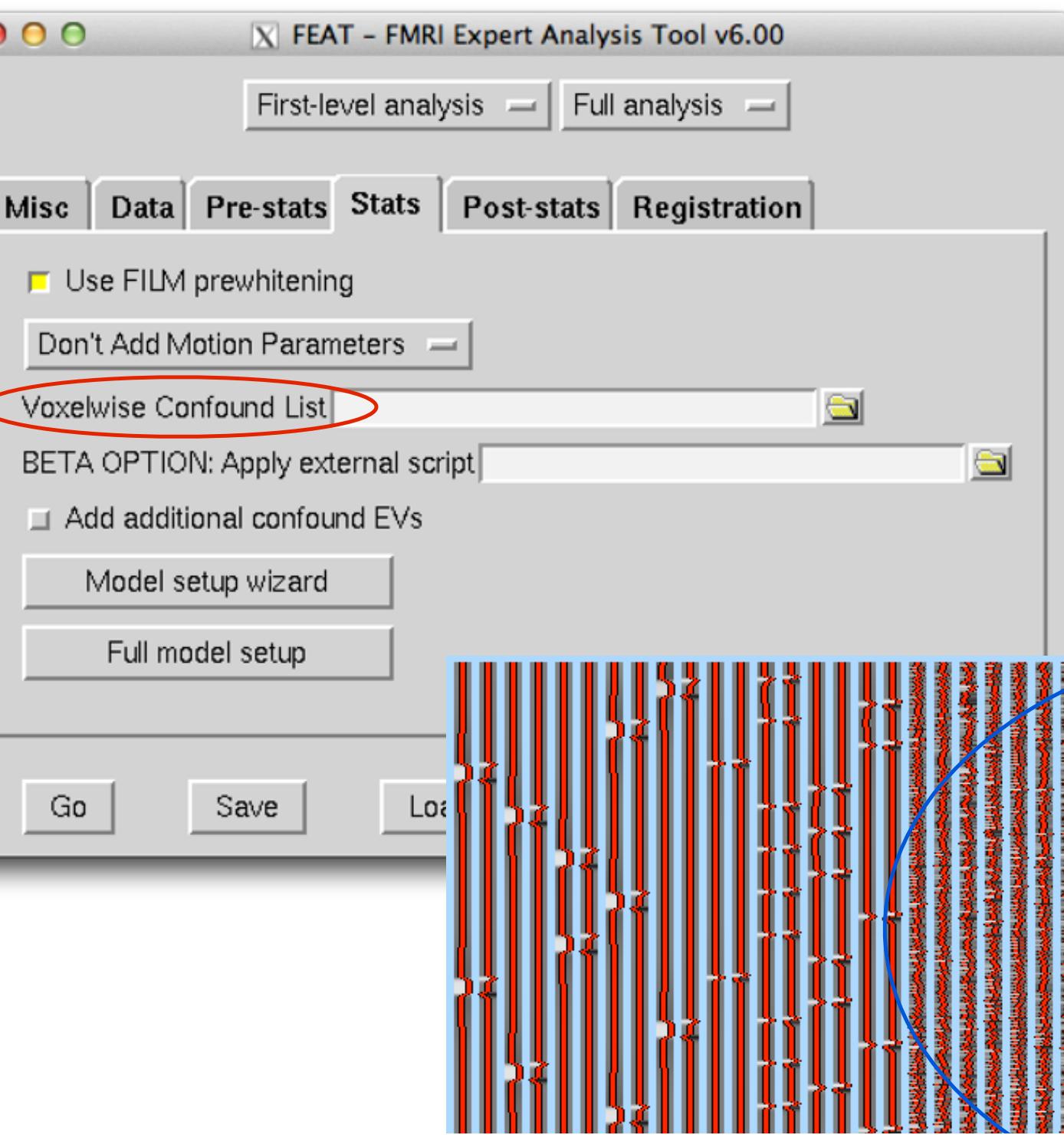


Need to specify what type of corrections:

- Fourier series (harmonics / shape)
- Interactions (resp x cardiac)

NB: higher orders = better fit to shape, but many more EVs and so less DOF

- RVT (resp volume per time step)
- HeartRate
- CSF

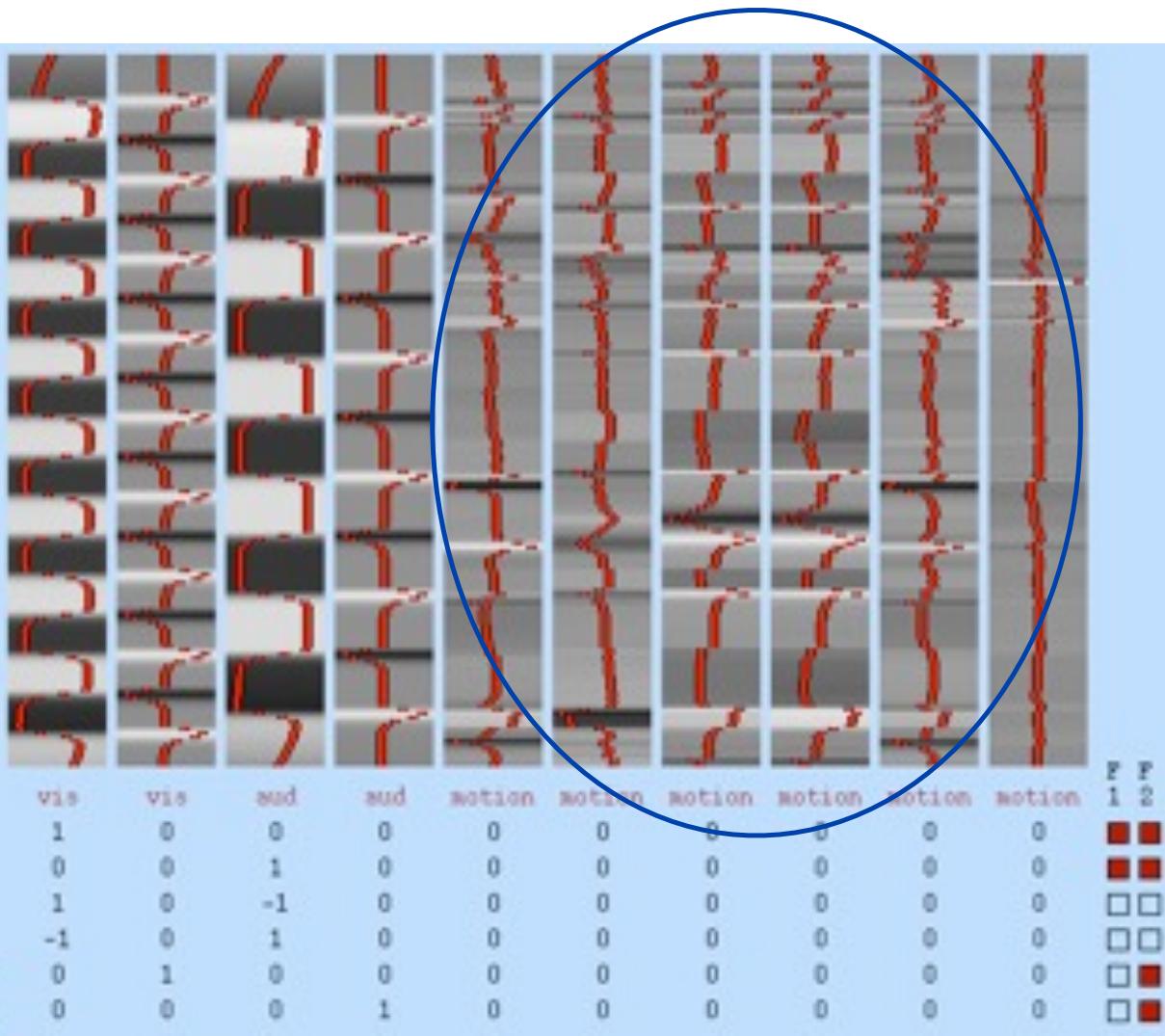


PNM GUI creates files
for **Voxelwise Confoun**
in the GLM



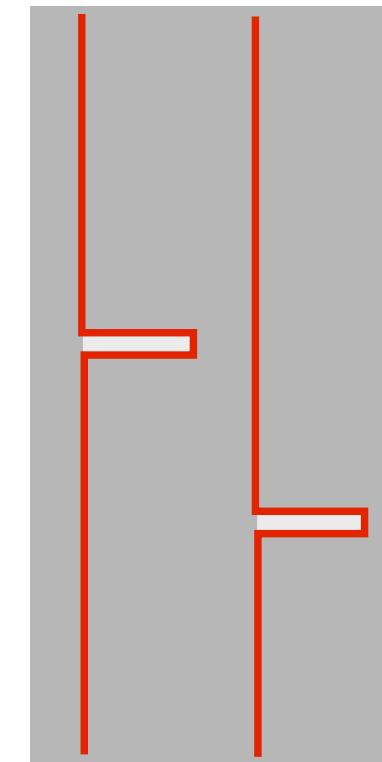
MOTION REGRESSORS

Two options (can be combined) both of which work within GLM



Motion Parameters

- use button in GUI



Motion Outliers

- uses fsl motion out

Example
2 outlier
timepoi
to remo

ICA-based Cleanup

Principle is simple:

- use ICA to find components then remove ones that are considered “noise”

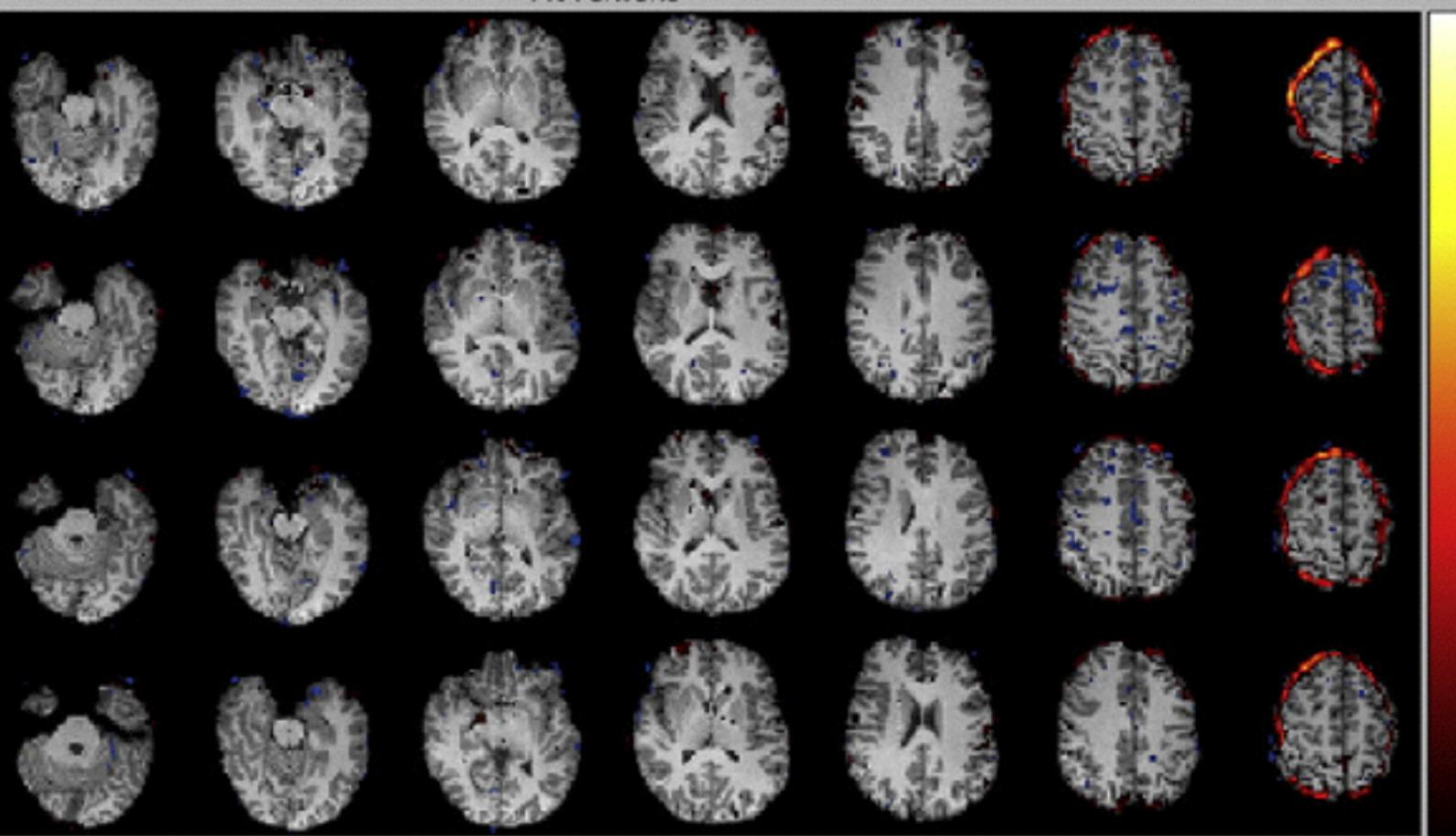
Can classify noisy ones in three ways:

- by hand
- FIX (fully automated and requires *good training data*)
- AROMA (fully automated, does not need training data, but often more conservative - i.e. leaves more noise)

Often the most powerful way of removing things such as motion effects and scanner artefacts

IDT

Movement



IC#	Class name
1	Signal
2	Movement
3	Sagittal sinus
4	Signal
5	Movement
6	Signal
7	Cardiac
8	Signal
9	Signal
10	Cardiac
11	Signal
12	Signal
13	Movement
14	Signal
15	Signal
16	Cardiac
17	Cardiac
18	Signal
19	Movement
20	Cardiac
21	Signal
22	Signal
23	Cardiac

zoom rect

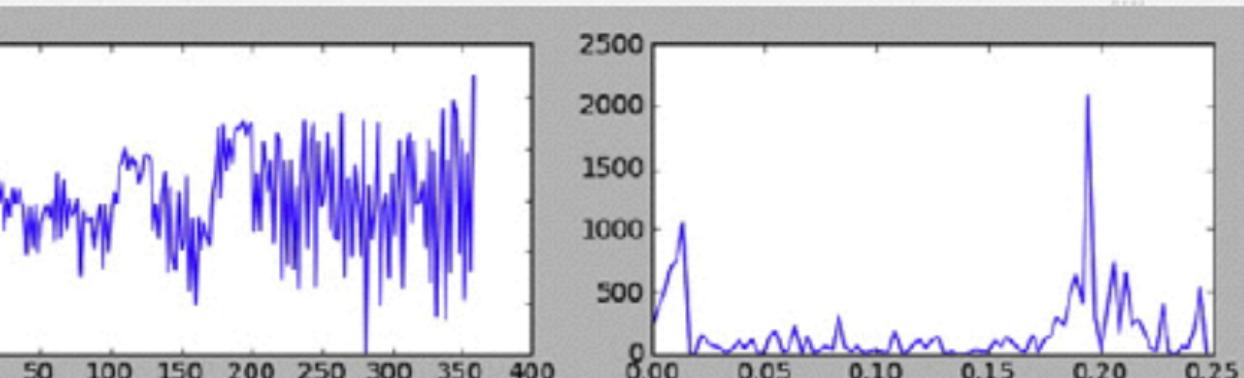


- Signal Cardiac Susceptibility-m
- Unknown White matter Sagittal sinus
- Unclassified noise Non-brain Respiratory
- Movement Mri

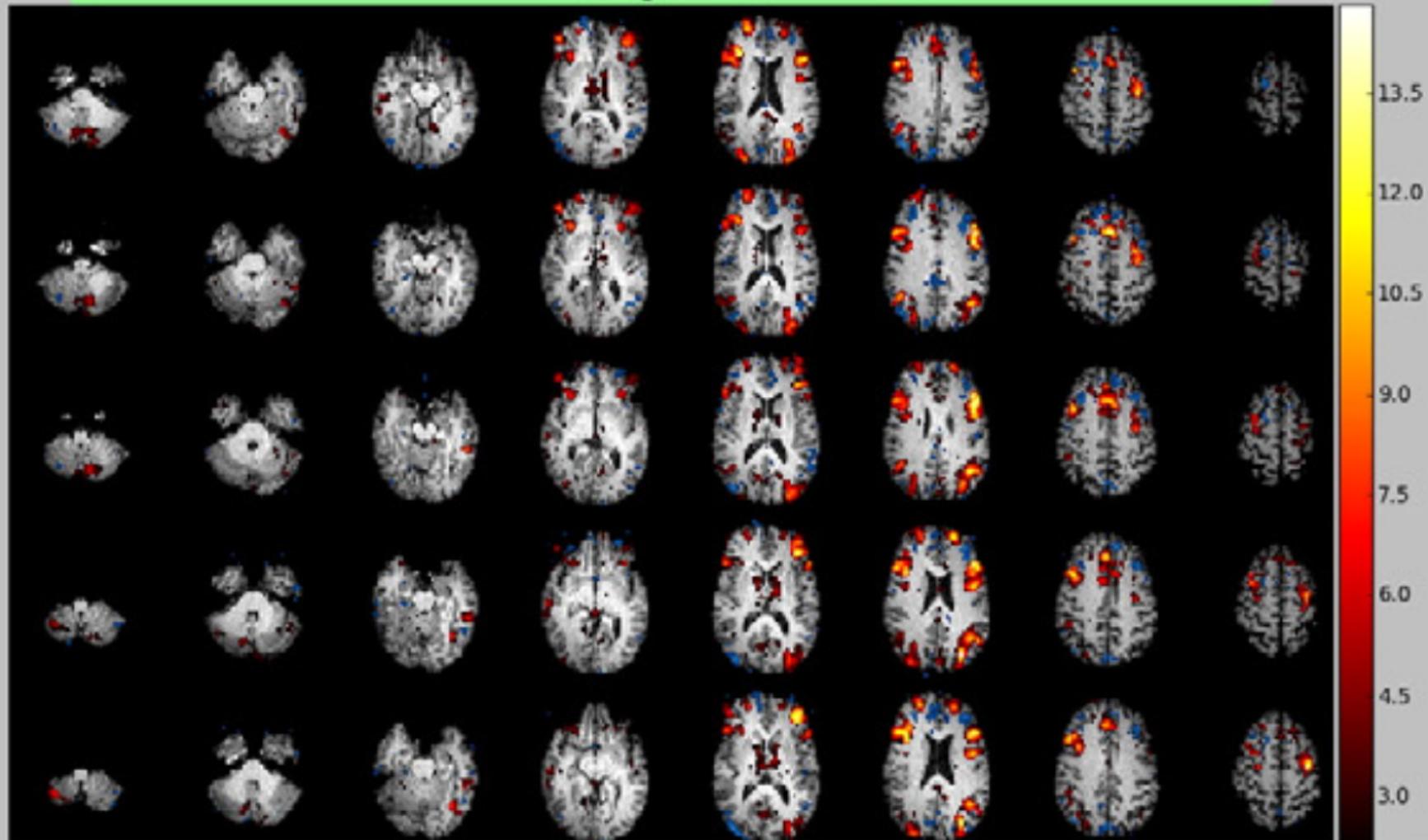
Show statistics: LUT min/max: 2.3 17.0142

Ignore blank slices:

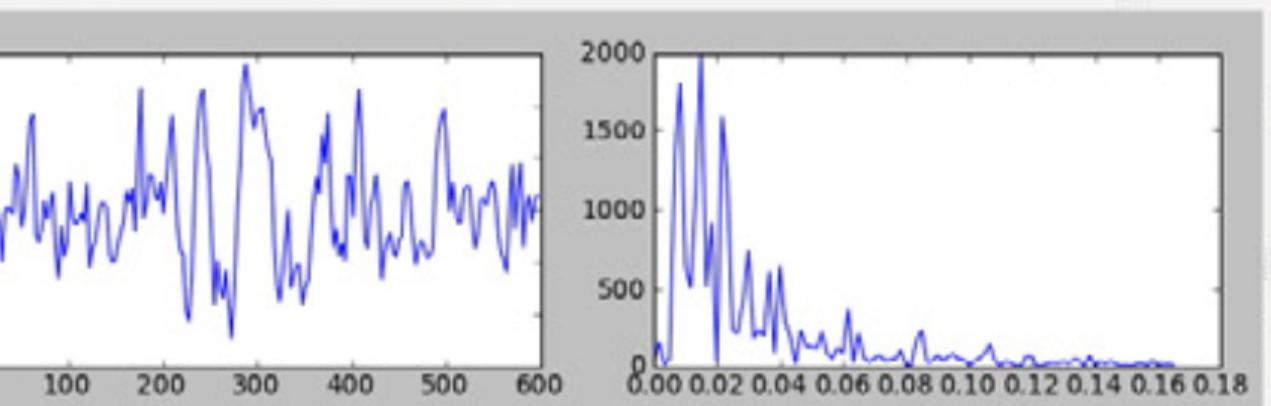
Reset LUT to data max/min



Signal



IC#	^	Class name
1	1	Movement
2	2	Movement
3	3	Cardiac
4	4	Movement
5	5	Movement
6	6	Movement
7	7	Movement
8	8	Movement
9	9	Signal
10	10	Cardiac
11	11	Signal
12	12	Movement
13	13	Signal
14	14	Movement
15	15	Signal
16	16	Cardiac
17	17	Signal
18	18	Susceptibility
19	19	Movement
20	20	Signal
21	21	Signal
22	22	Unknown
23	23	Cardiac

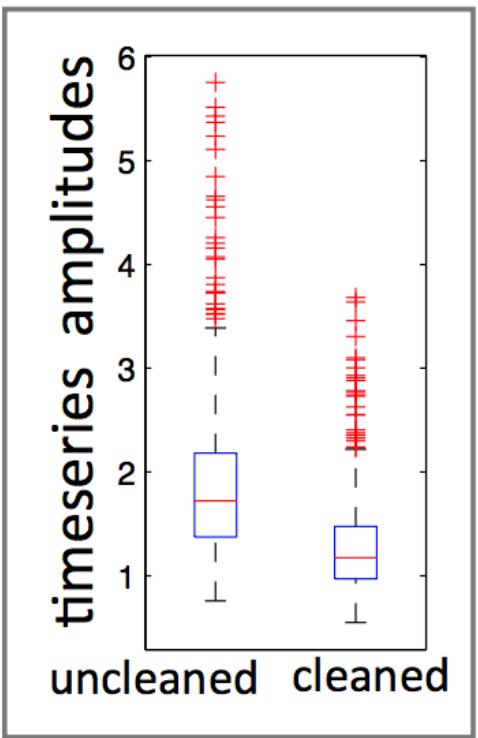


Classification: Signal Cardiac Susceptibility
 Unknown White matter Sagittal sinus
 Unclassified noise Non-brain Respiratory
 Movement Mri

Show statistics: LUT min/max: 2.3 14.8154

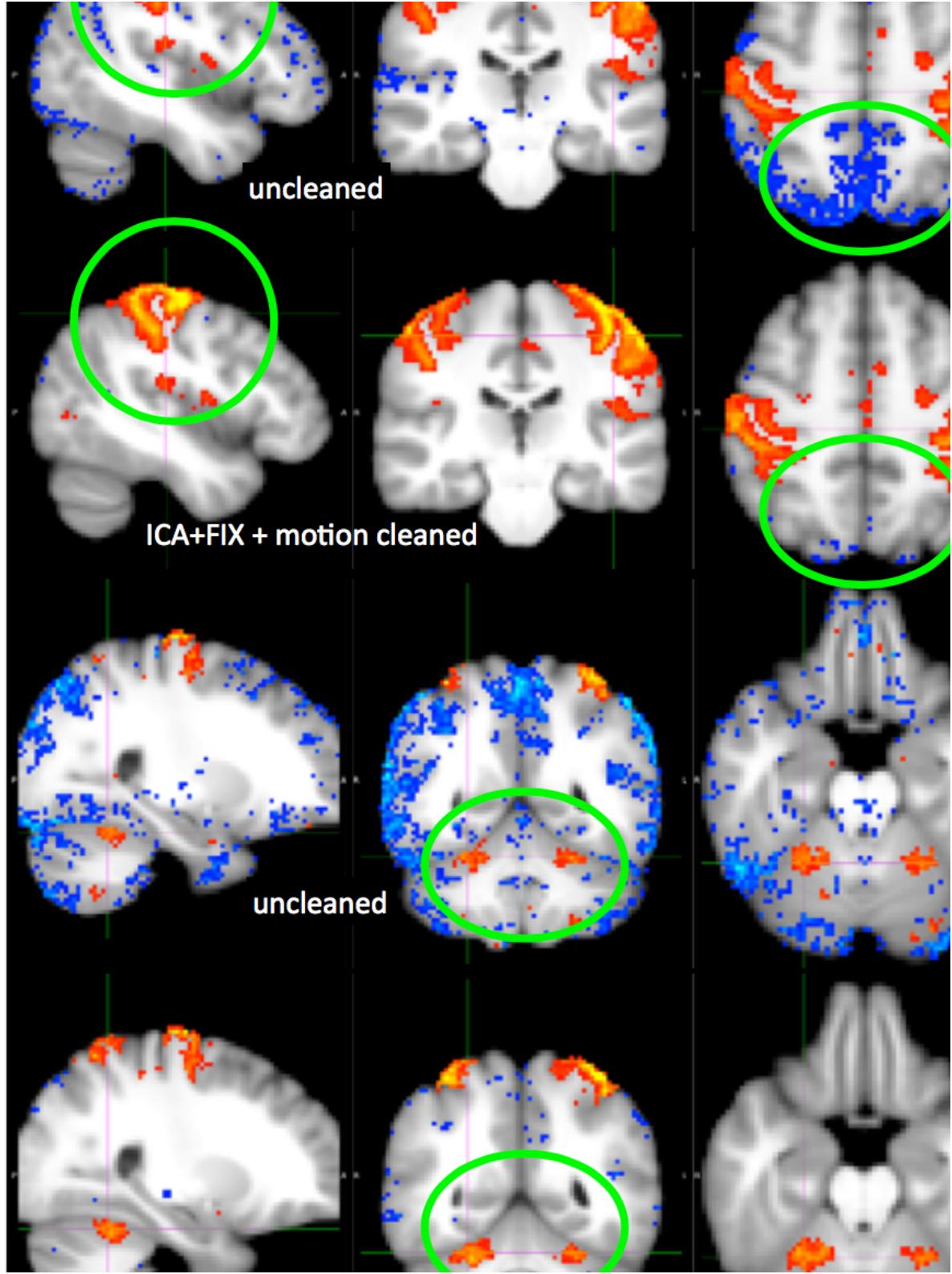
Ignore blank slices:

Reset LUT to data max/min



temporal power spectra

uncleaned
ICA+FIX + motion cleaned



ISL fMRI Processing Pipeline

Standard pre-processing:

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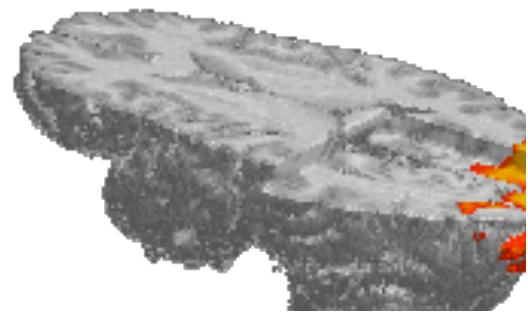
Quality Assessment

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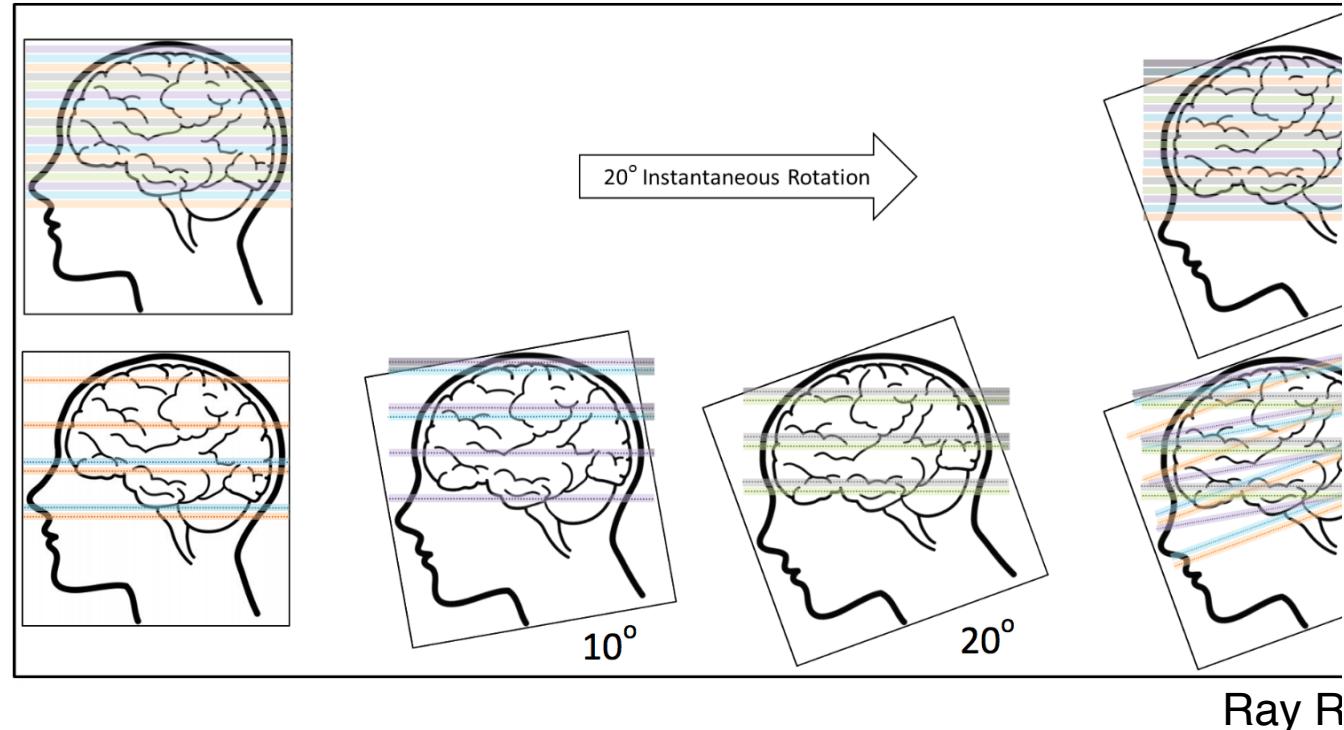
Complications

- Spatial and temporal interactions
- HRF variation



Spatial and temporal interactions

Acquiring a slice at a time
leads to complicated
interactions between
motion and slice-timing.



Ray R

Motion correction moves signals between slices (6 DOF)
Slice-timing-correction assumes spatial alignment of voxels
Spatial smoothing mixes slices (problem for derivative modelling)
HRF delays typically vary (problem for slice-timing-correction)

- ▶ These aspects are all inter-related

Interleaved sequences (incl. multi-band) are harder to correct
“Best” answer doesn’t yet exist (i.e. integrating all together)
Choice between current options depends on data and subjects

ISL fMRI Processing Pipeline

Standard pre-processing:

- Task fMRI
- Resting-state fMRI

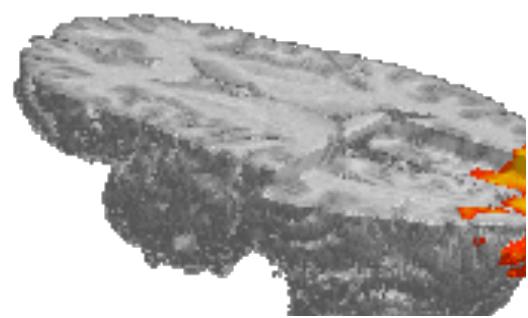
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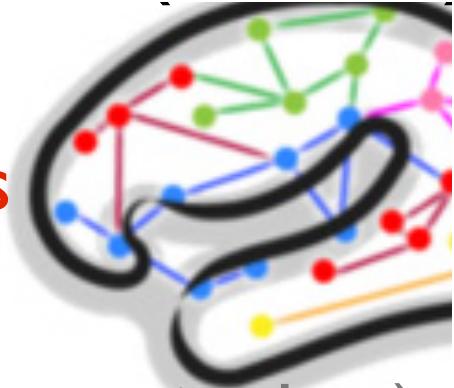
Complications

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0 million, 5-year project

- Characterize connectivity of **healthy adult humans**
- 1200 subjects:
 - **22-35 yrs** in sibling/twin groups (+ behavioural/genetic data)
- Includes Structural-MRI, Task-FMRI & Resting-FMRI
- Data + network models made freely available
- Provide user-friendly informatics platform



High quality data:

- 1 hour of task-FMRI and 1 hour of Resting-FMRI
- Structural data: 0.7mm isotropic T1-w and T2-w
- FMRI data: 2mm isotropic / TR=0.72s / Multiband 8

8 institution collaboration (>70 investigators) from:

- Washington U (Van Essen) / U Minnesota (Ugurbil)
- FMRIB Oxford / Donders Institute Nijmegen

FreeSurfer Pipeline Overview

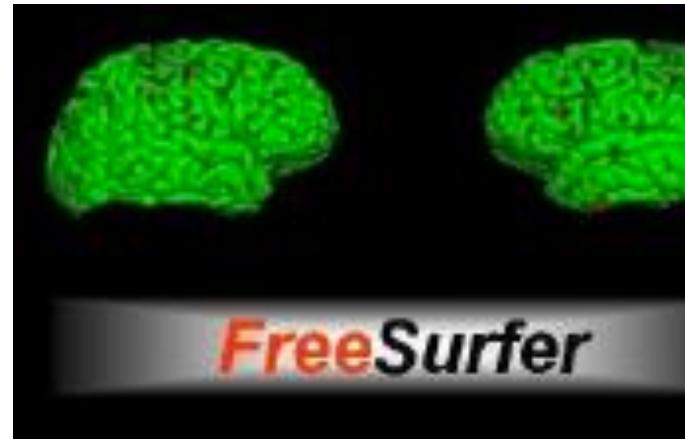
Pre FreeSurfer

FreeSurfer

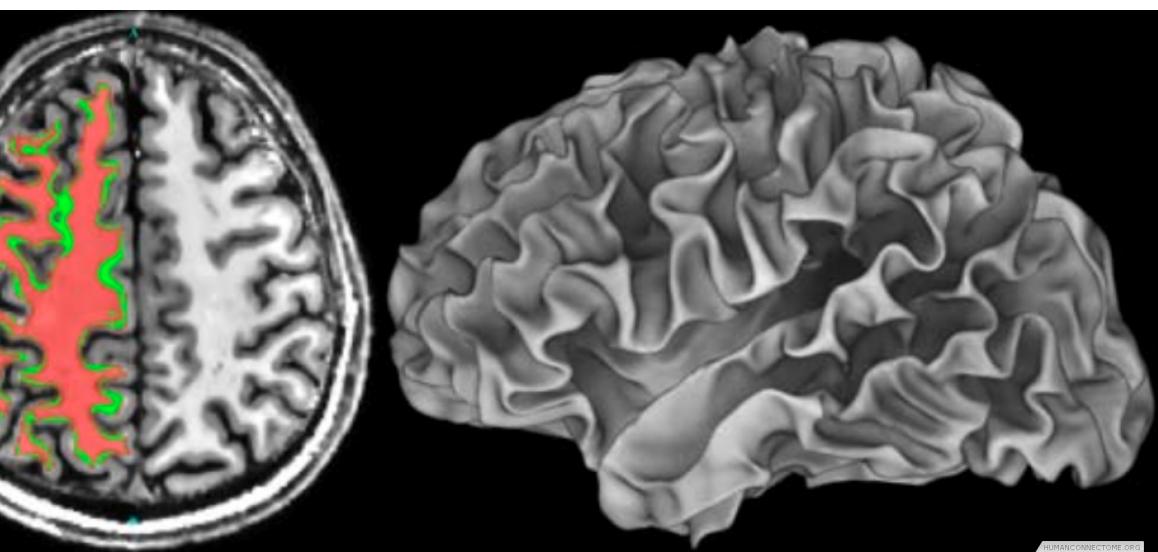
Post FreeSurfer

fMRIVol

fMRISurf



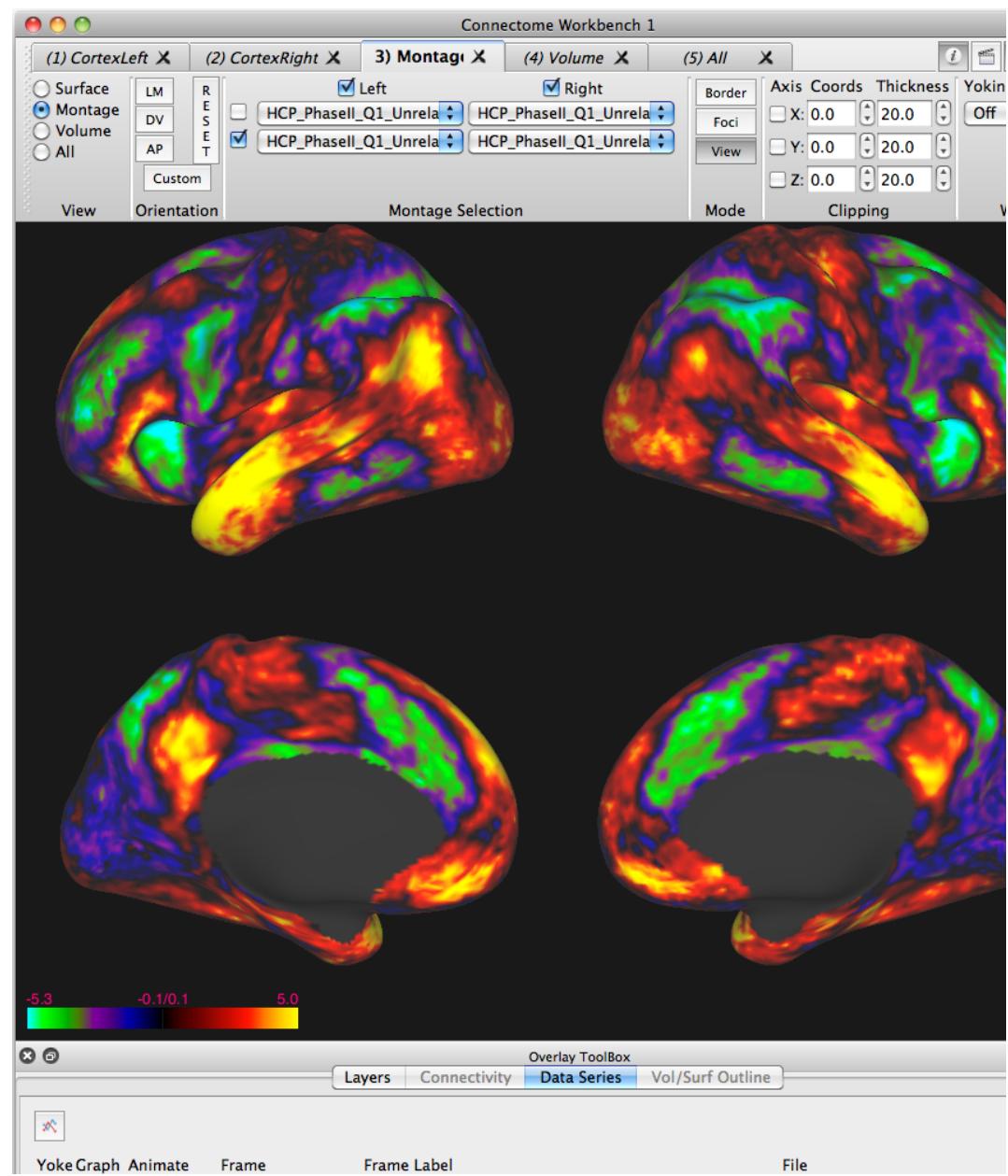
Brain Imaging Overview



Surface-based analysis



FreeSurfer

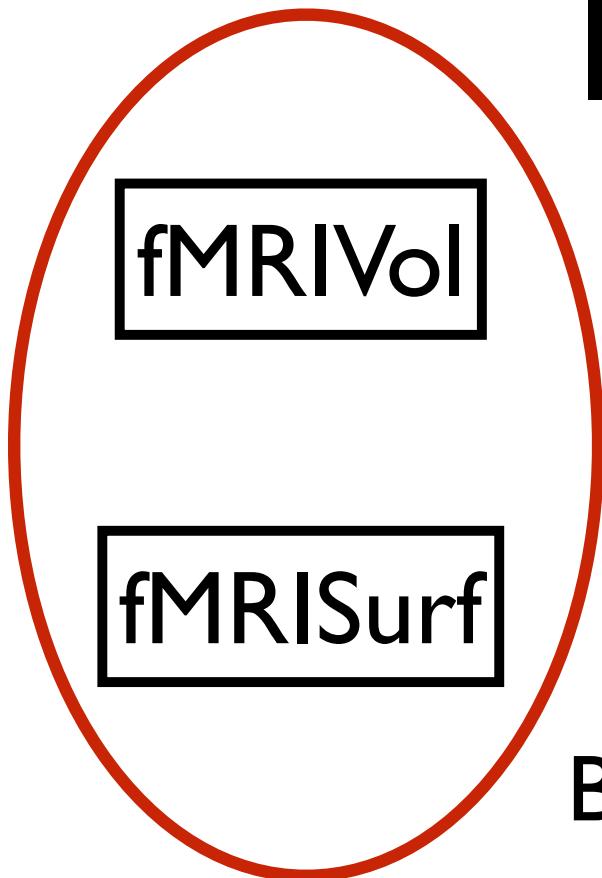


Brain Processing Overview

Pre FreeSurfer

FreeSurfer

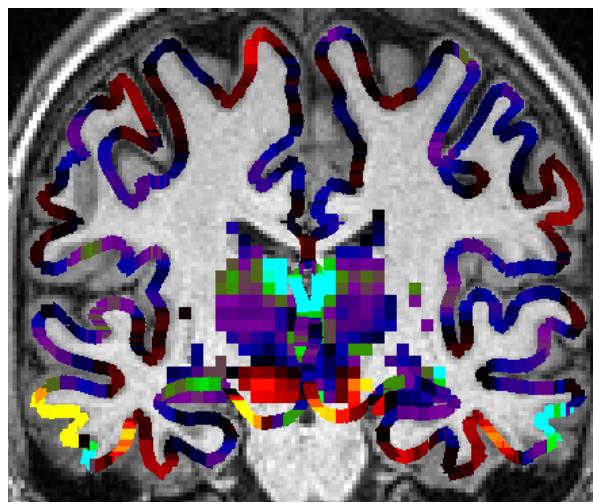
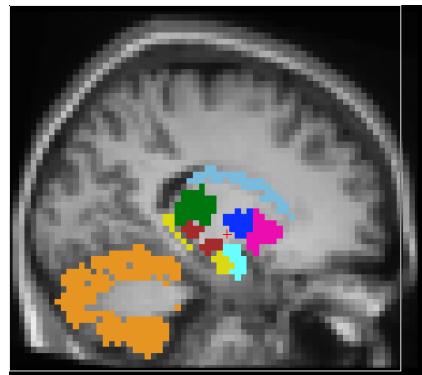
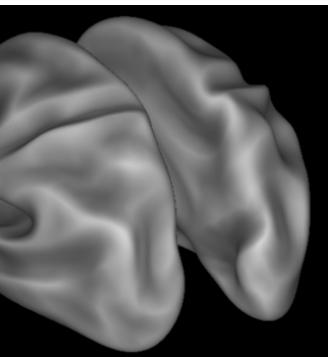
Post FreeSurfer



Both volume and surface streams

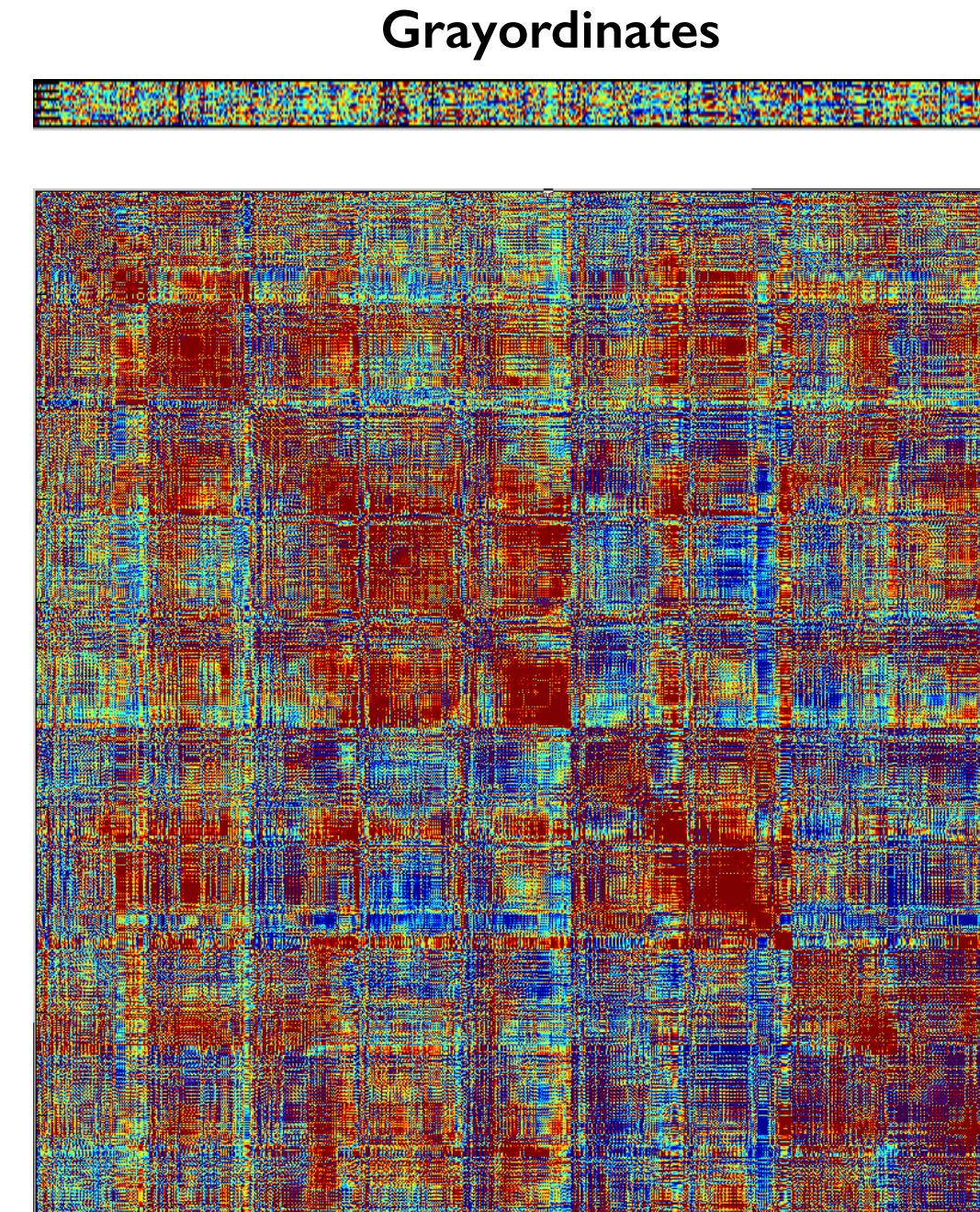


CIFTI Data Format



Grayordinates

Time
points



functional connectivity matrix

FreeSurfer Pipeline Overview

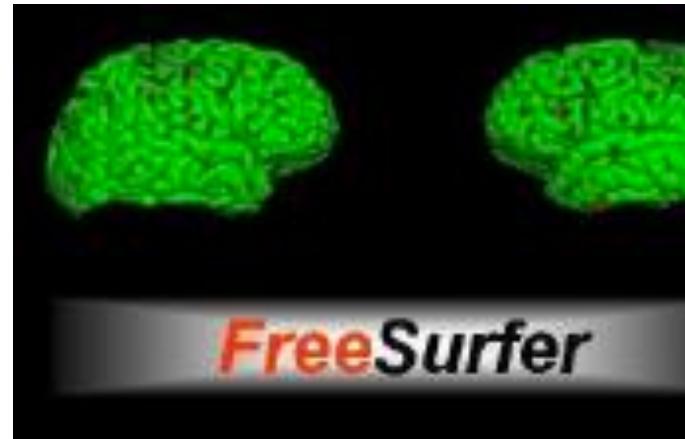
Pre FreeSurfer

FreeSurfer

Post FreeSurfer

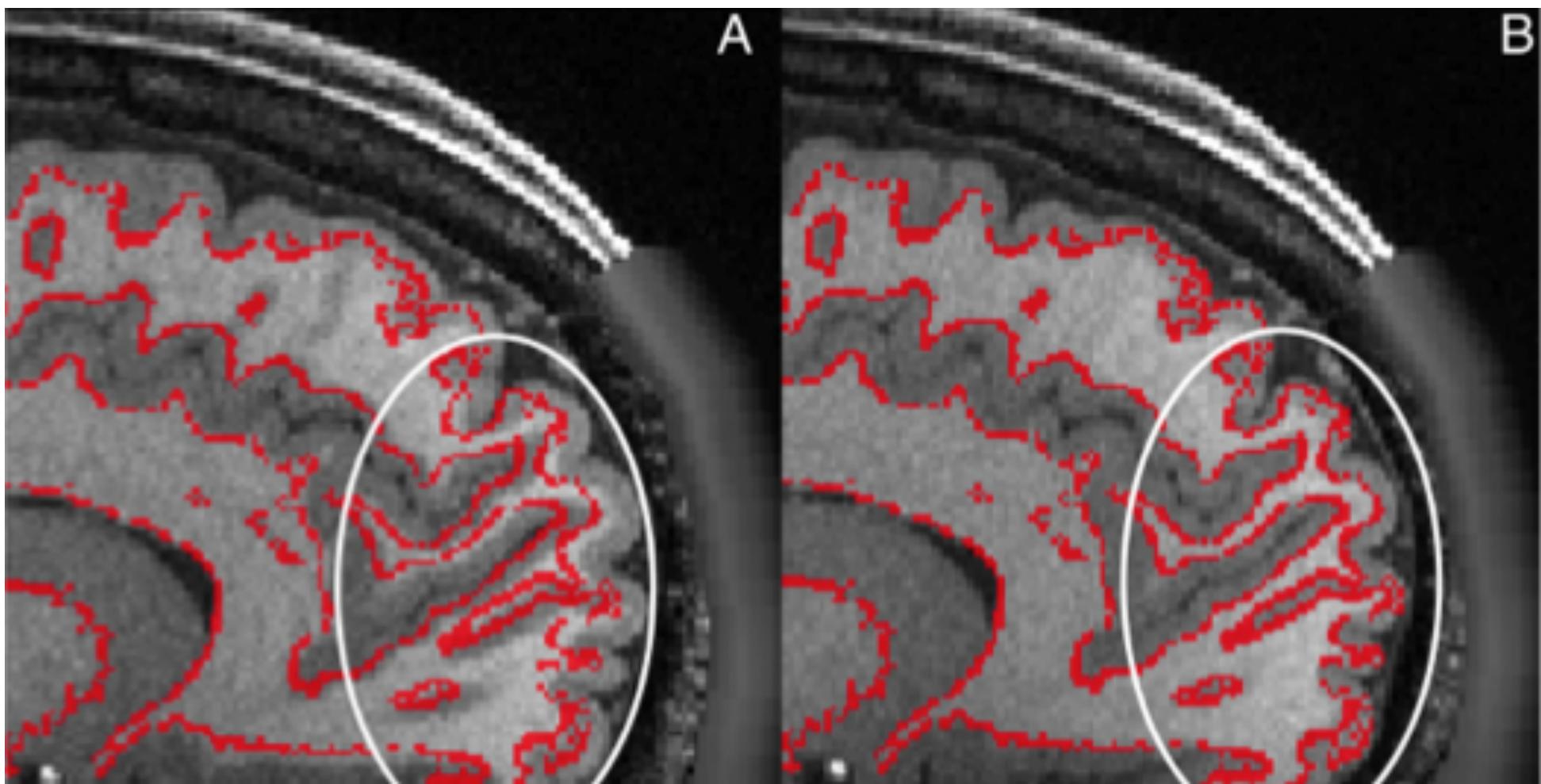
fMRIVol

fMRISurf

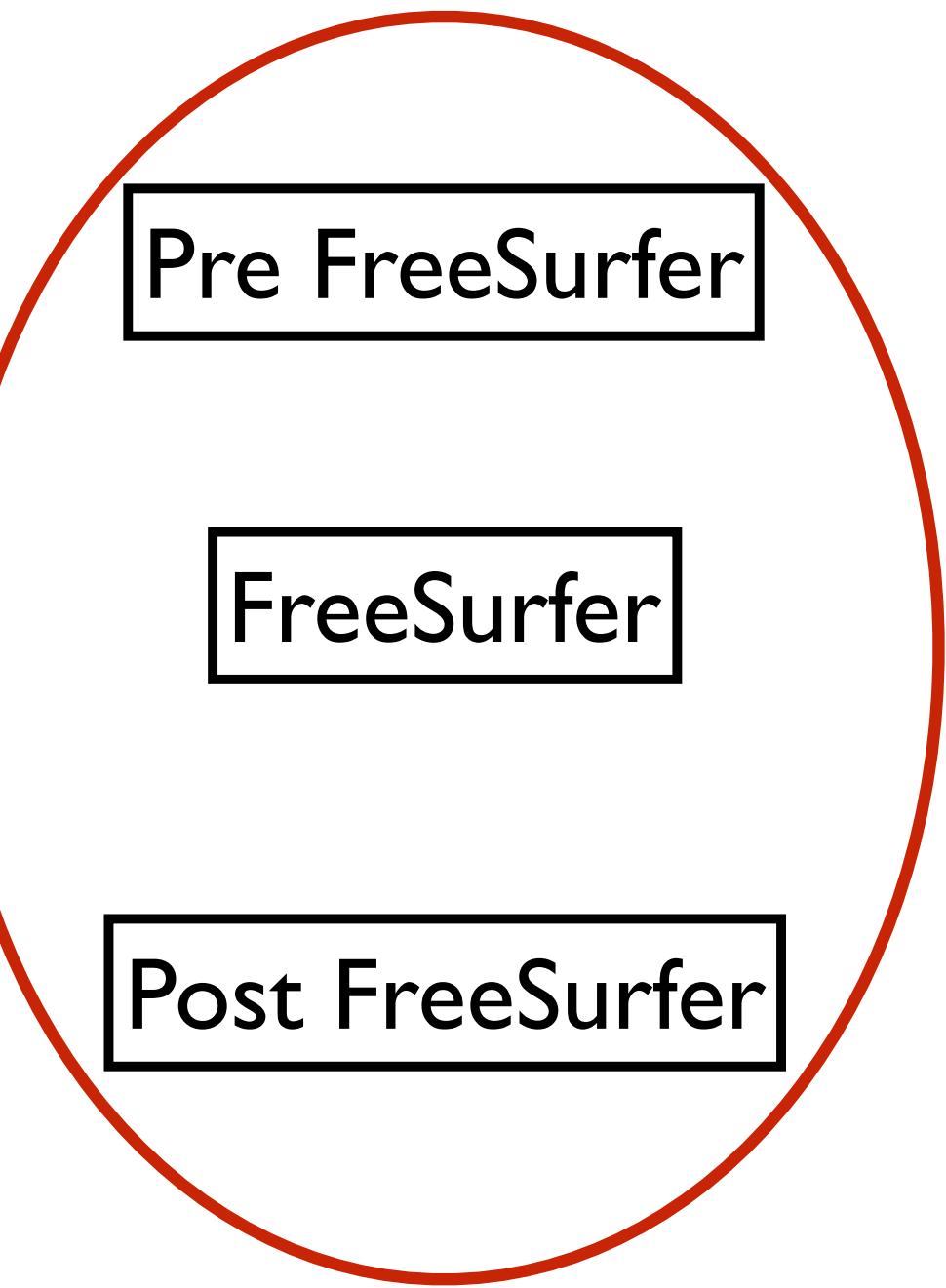


Distortion

- Correction method (based on MGH code and Siemens coil coefficients) works well

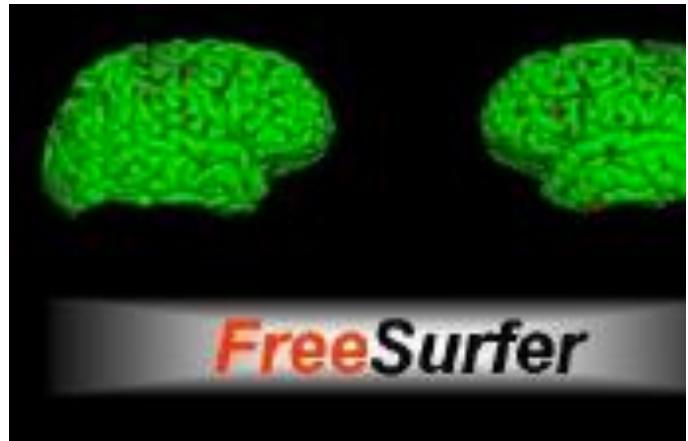


FreeSurfer Pipeline Overview



fMRIVol

fMRISurf





Implicit Over View

- Conversion of DICOM to NIfTI
- Anonymise images
- Reorienting to “standard” orientation (MNI) - swapping axes

Pre FreeSurfer

- Gradient Non-Linearity Correction
- Averaging of separate T1w (and T2w) scans
 - using BBR (topup is an alternative)
- ACPC alignment (via MNI registration)
- Brain Extraction (via non-linear registration)
- T2w to T1w registration (BBR)
- Bias correction (BI inhomog.) - via $\sqrt{T1w * T2w}$
- Atlas (MNI) Registration

Combine all warps together to avoid repeated interpolation



Intermediate Overview

FreeSurfer

- creates surfaces

- Create 1mm version
- Run initial FreeSurfer stages (autorecon 1 & 2)
- Fine tune WM intensity normalisation and registration to T2w
- Run intermediate FreeSurfer stages (inflation, etc.)
- Adjustments to Pial surface (using T2w)
- Run final FreeSurfer stages

Post FreeSurfer

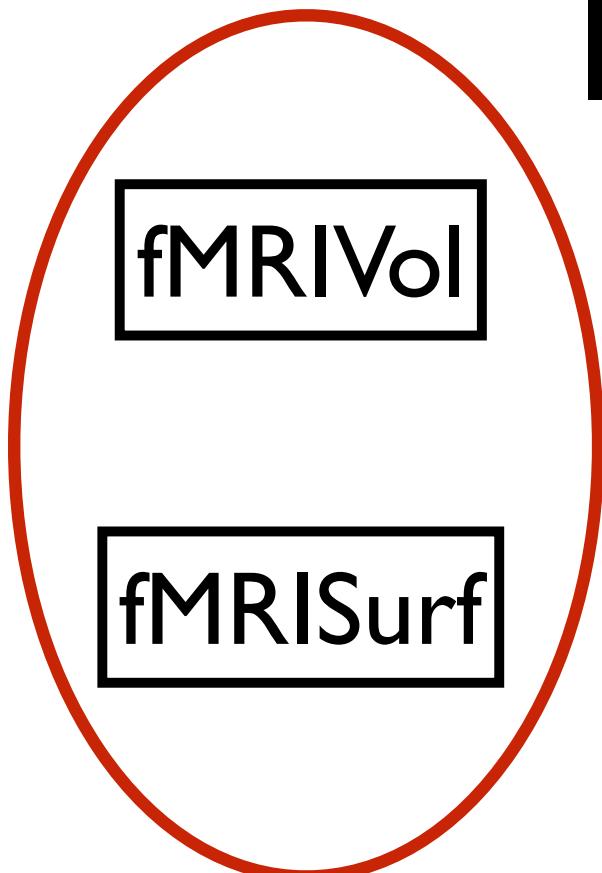
- Non-linear registration to fsLR
- Create ribbon
- Complete myelin mapping

FCI Pipeline Overview

Pre FreeSurfer

FreeSurfer

Post FreeSurfer





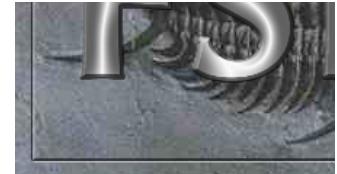
Implicit Overviews

fMRIVol

- Gradient Non-Linearity Correction
- Motion Correction
- Registration of EPI to T1w
 - with B0 distortion correction (fieldmap)
- Bias field (BI) correction (taken from structural)

fMRISurface

- Extract ribbon from fMRI with voxel outlier exclusion
- Surfaced-based smoothing (2mm FWHM)
- SubCortical processing
 - smooth in volume (same FWHM as on surface)
- Create dense time series (CIFTI)



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Stephen Smith

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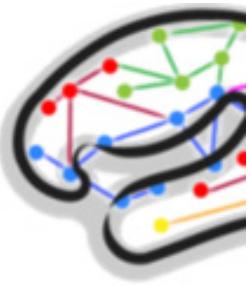
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