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One of the initial steps of the preprocessing pipeline implemented by the SNP\_preprocess\_pipeline\_template.m function is to check the imaging file timestamp (i.e. beginning of image acquisition, starting with dummy scans) compared to the E-prime file timestamp (i.e. initiation of experiment file). The SNP\_check\_run\_timestamps.m function looks at both values for each of the specified functional runs, to ensure that the E-prime file was initiated \*before\* the functional data was acquired. This should always be the case for an associated pair of files, because the E-prime experiment is already running and awaiting the ` signal from the scanner (i.e. instruction screen(s) have been shown to subject and experiment is on the “Waiting for scanner…” screen).

The main logic here is to be sure, particularly in the case where multiple experiment files were run (i.e. the “combined” experiment was aborted for some reason), that the E-prime data and imaging runs line up correctly, and the onset files can be interpreted appropriately in subsequent processing. This is intended to avoid user error, e.g. if E-prime run 2 was accidently performed during imaging run 3. In addition, when multiple E-prime files exist, the SNP\_check\_run\_timestamps.m function accounts for this by extracting the necessary onsets from each run separately and then places them in a single onset file with the tag “FINAL” in the file name. This is necessary because in a multi-run dataset, AFNI requires a single text file with onsets for each run/condition corresponding to each line.

Today, I found a subject where the first imaging timestamp *preceded* the E-prime data by ~3 minutes, but there was no obvious reason for this, and the “combined” E-prime experiment was completed without aborting.

We traced this back to an issue with the laptop clock. Over several (?) months, the time on the laptop had drifted ahead of real time (i.e. the time on the scanner console). This was presumably a result of the Wifi not being turned on on the laptop over an extended period.

It seems that checking the run/imaging timestamps is still good practice going forward, but to account for this for the current set of scans, I have added a parameter to the pipeline which can turn OFF the timestamp checking.

Going forward, we will ensure the time on the laptop is correct by briefly turning on wifi, and then toggling the “Set time automatically” switch within the Date & Time menu, before each scan.