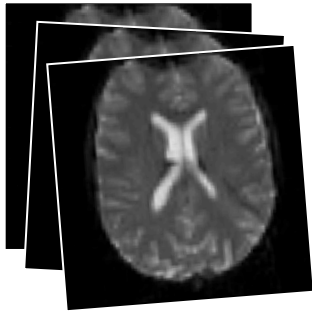


# Topological Inference

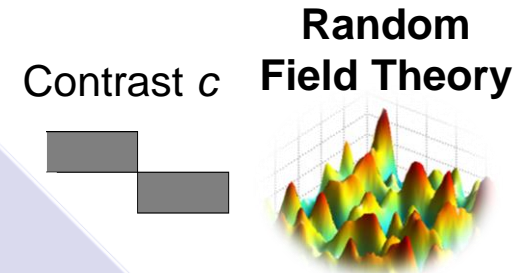
*Christophe Phillips*

GIGA – Cyclotron Research Centre *in vivo* imaging  
University of Liège

*With thanks to Guillaume Flandin, Justin Chumbley and Tom Nichols*



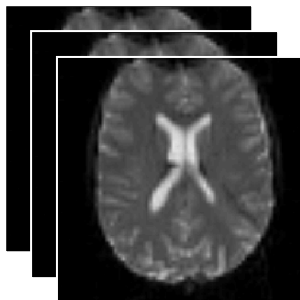
$$y = \begin{bmatrix} \text{white} & \text{black} \\ \text{black} & \text{white} \end{bmatrix} \beta + \varepsilon$$



Pre-  
processings

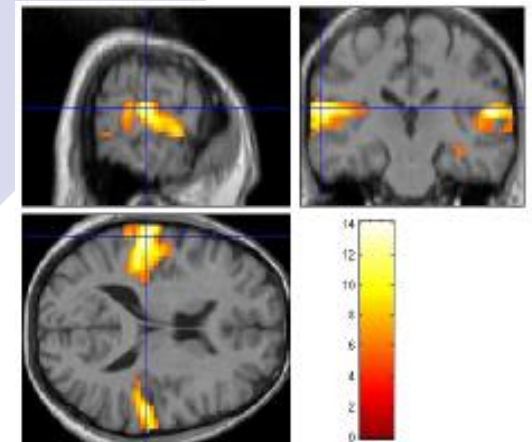
General  
Linear  
Model

Statistical  
Inference



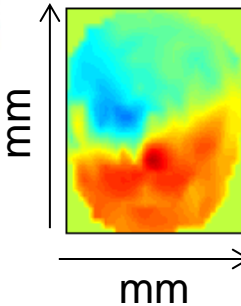
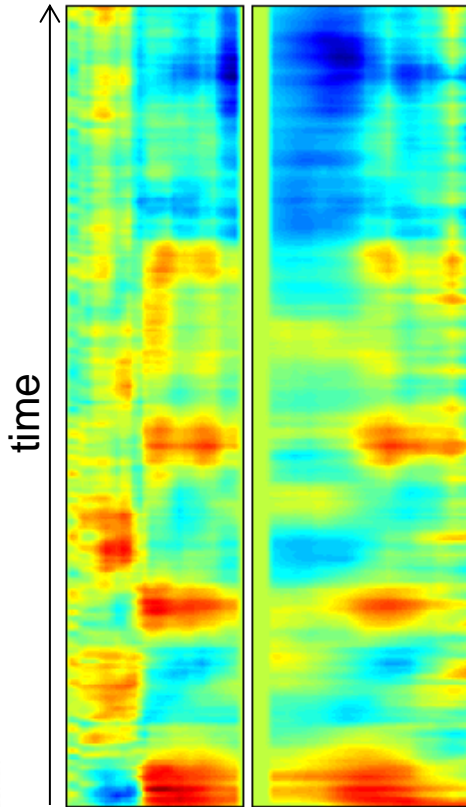
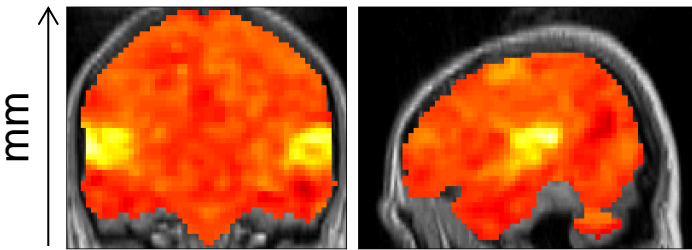
$$\hat{\beta} = (X^T X)^{-1} X^T y$$

$$\hat{\sigma}^2 = \frac{\hat{\varepsilon}^T \hat{\varepsilon}}{\text{rank}(X)}$$



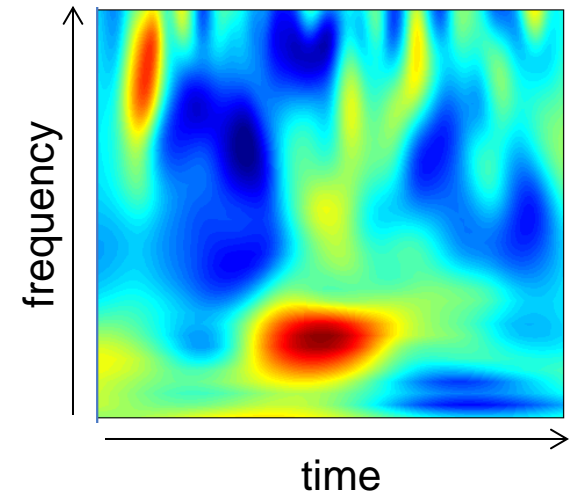
# Statistical Parametric Maps

fMRI, VBM,  
M/EEG source reconstruction

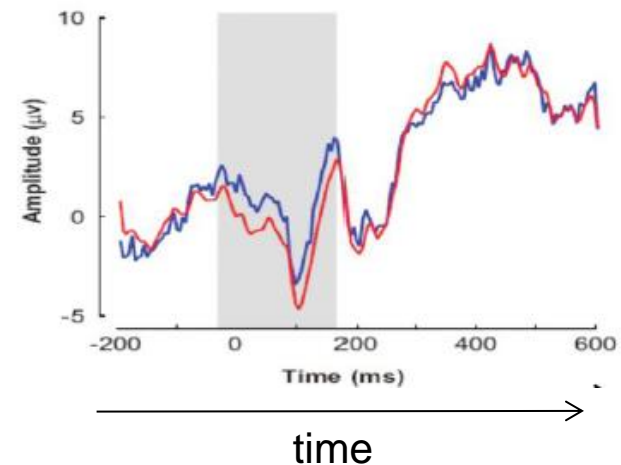


M/EEG  
2D+t  
scalp-time

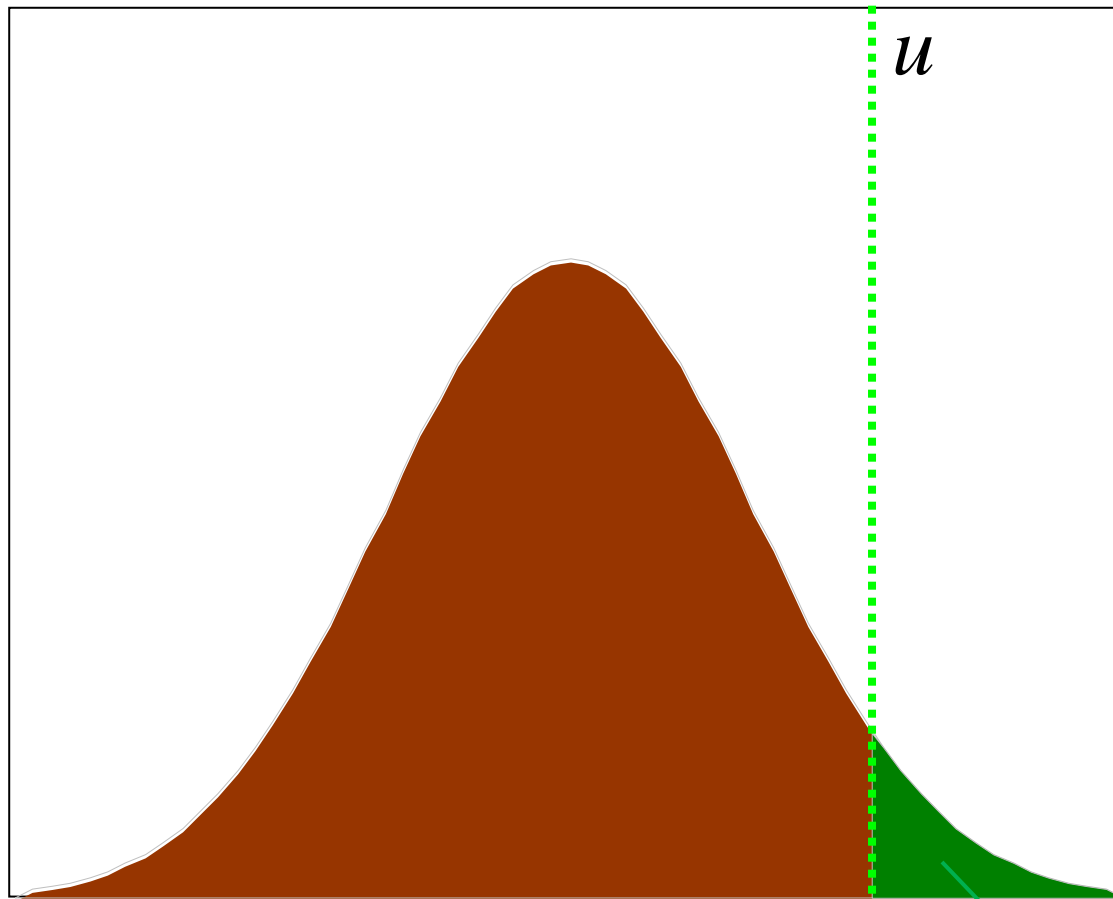
M/EEG 2D time-frequency



M/EEG 1D channel-time



# Inference at a single voxel



Null distribution of test statistic  $T$

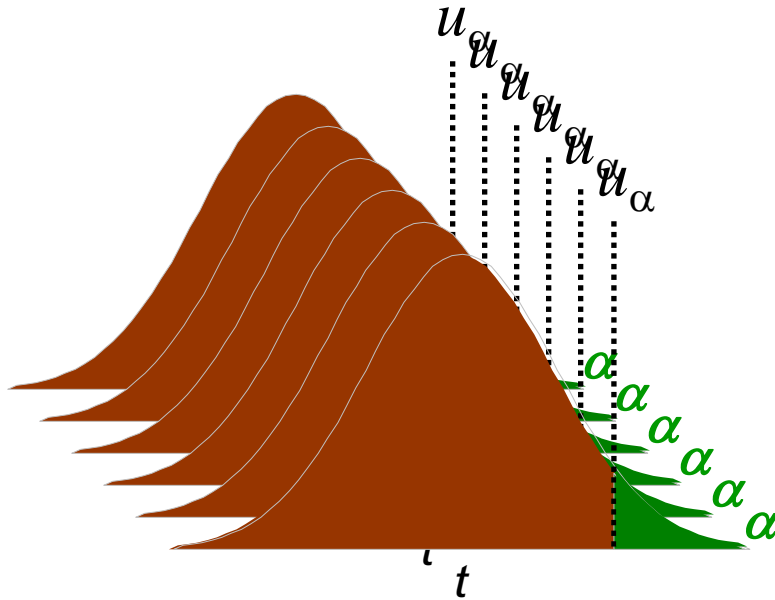
Null Hypothesis  $H_0$ :  
zero activation

Decision rule (threshold)  $u$ :  
determines false positive  
rate  $\alpha$

$\Rightarrow$  Choose  $u$  to give acceptable  
 $\alpha$  under  $H_0$

$$\alpha = p(t > u | H_0)$$

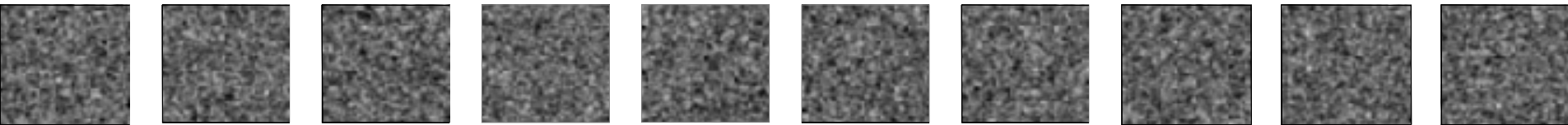
# Multiple tests



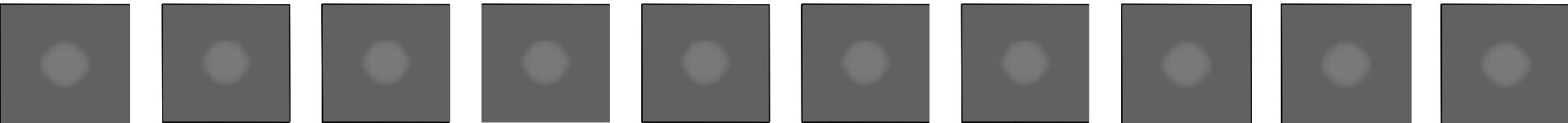
If we have 100,000 voxels,  
 $\alpha=0.05 \Rightarrow 5,000$  false positive voxels.

This is clearly undesirable; to correct for this we can define a null hypothesis for a collection of tests.

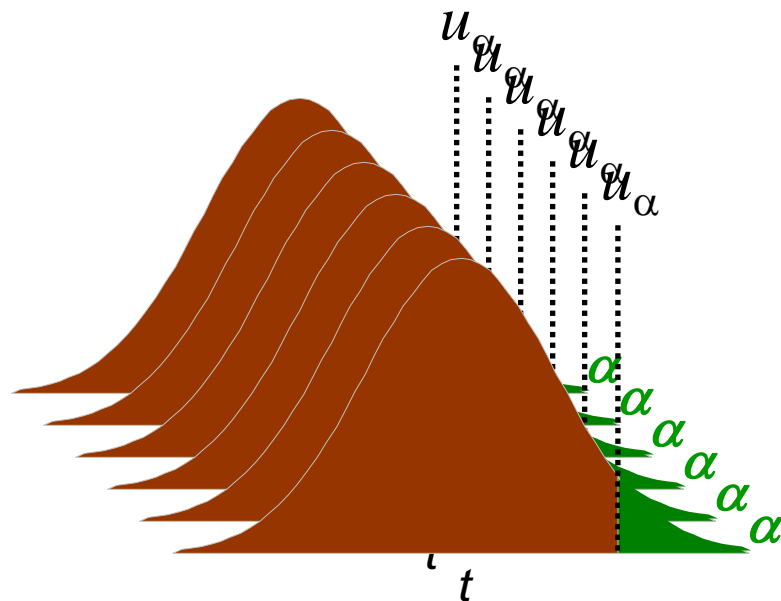
Noise



Signal

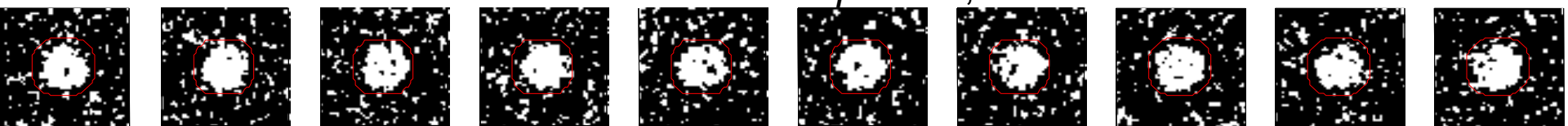
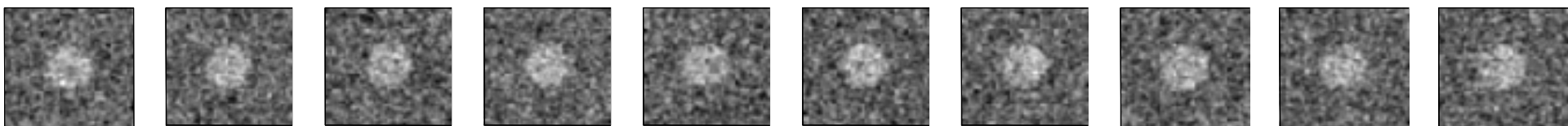


# Multiple tests



If we have 100,000 voxels,  
 $\alpha=0.05 \Rightarrow 5,000$  false positive voxels.

This is clearly undesirable; to correct for this we can define a null hypothesis for a collection of tests.



Use of 'uncorrected'  $p$ -value,  $\alpha = 0.1$

11.3% 11.3% 12.5% 10.8% 11.5% 10.0% 10.7% 11.2% 10.2% 9.5%

*Percentage of Null Pixels that are False Positives*

# Family-Wise Null Hypothesis

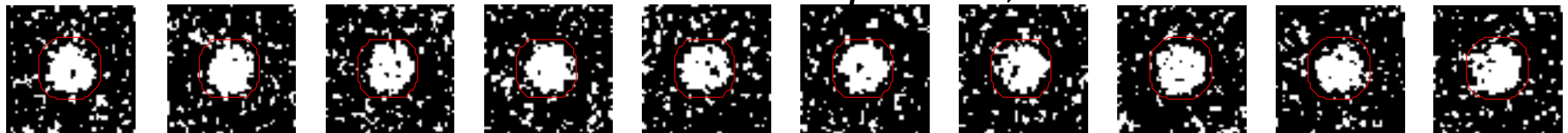
***Family-Wise Null Hypothesis:***  
*Activation is zero everywhere*

If we reject a voxel null hypothesis at *any* voxel,  
we reject the family-wise Null hypothesis

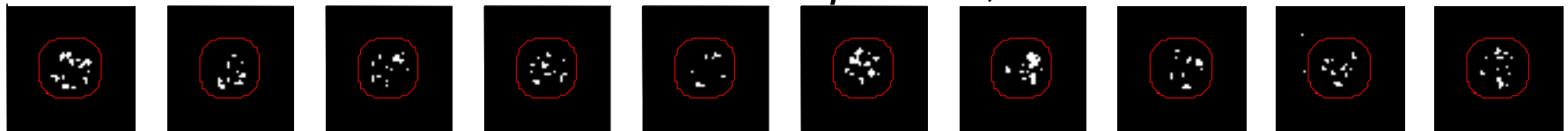
A FP ***anywhere*** in the image gives a **Family Wise Error** (FWE)

Family-Wise Error rate (FWER) = 'corrected'  $p$ -value

Use of 'uncorrected'  $p$ -value,  $\alpha = 0.1$



Use of 'corrected'  $p$ -value,  $\alpha = 0.1$



FWE

# Bonferroni correction

The Family-Wise Error rate (FWER),  $\alpha_{FWE}$ , for a family of  $N$  tests follows the inequality:

$$\alpha_{FWE} \leq N\alpha$$

where  $\alpha$  is the test-wise error rate.

Therefore, to ensure a particular FWER choose:

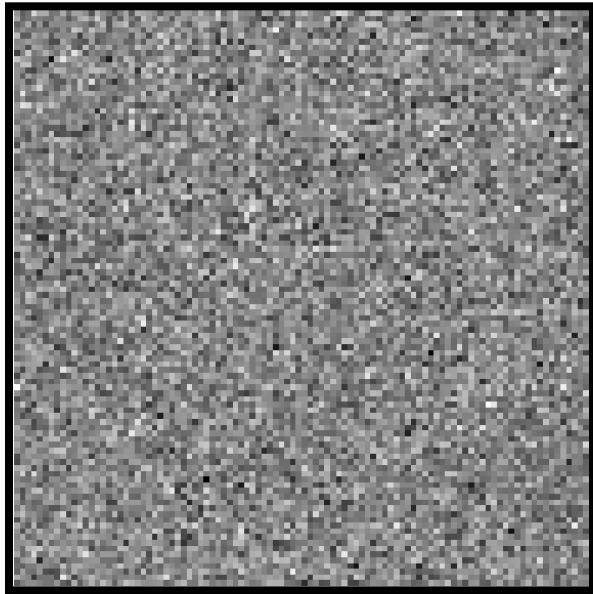
$$\alpha = \frac{\alpha_{FWE}}{N}$$

This correction does not require the tests to be independent but becomes very stringent if dependence.



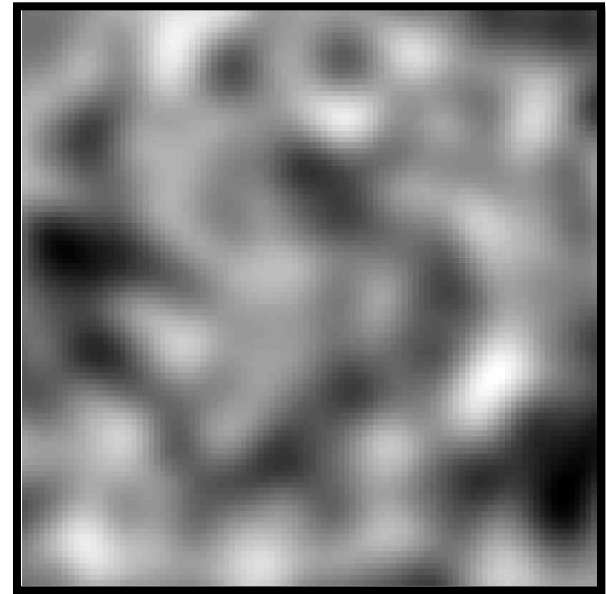
# Spatial correlations

100 x 100 independent tests



Discrete data

Spatially correlated tests (FWHM=10)



Spatially extended data

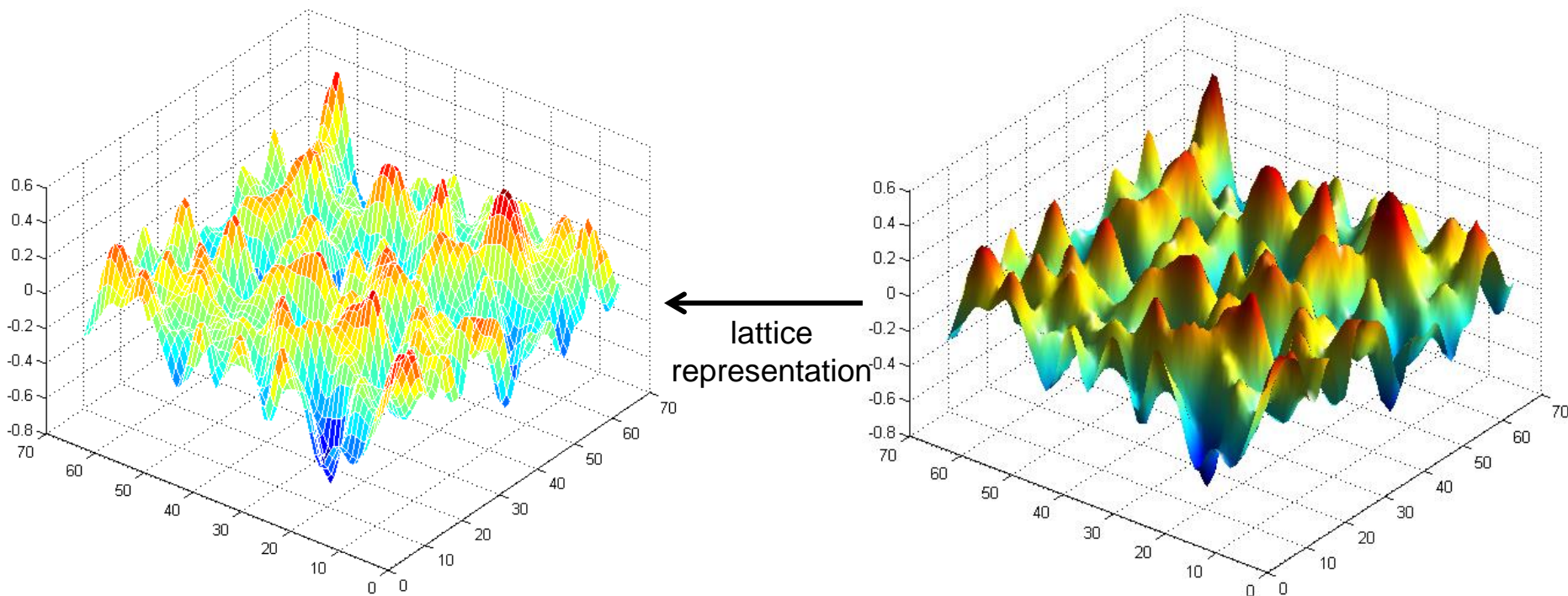
Bonferroni is too conservative for spatial correlated data.

$$10,000 \text{ voxels} \Rightarrow \alpha_{BONF} = \frac{0.05}{10,000} \Rightarrow u_c = 4.42 \quad (\text{uncorrected } u = 1.64)$$

# Random Field Theory

⇒ Consider a statistic image as a discretisation of a continuous underlying random field.

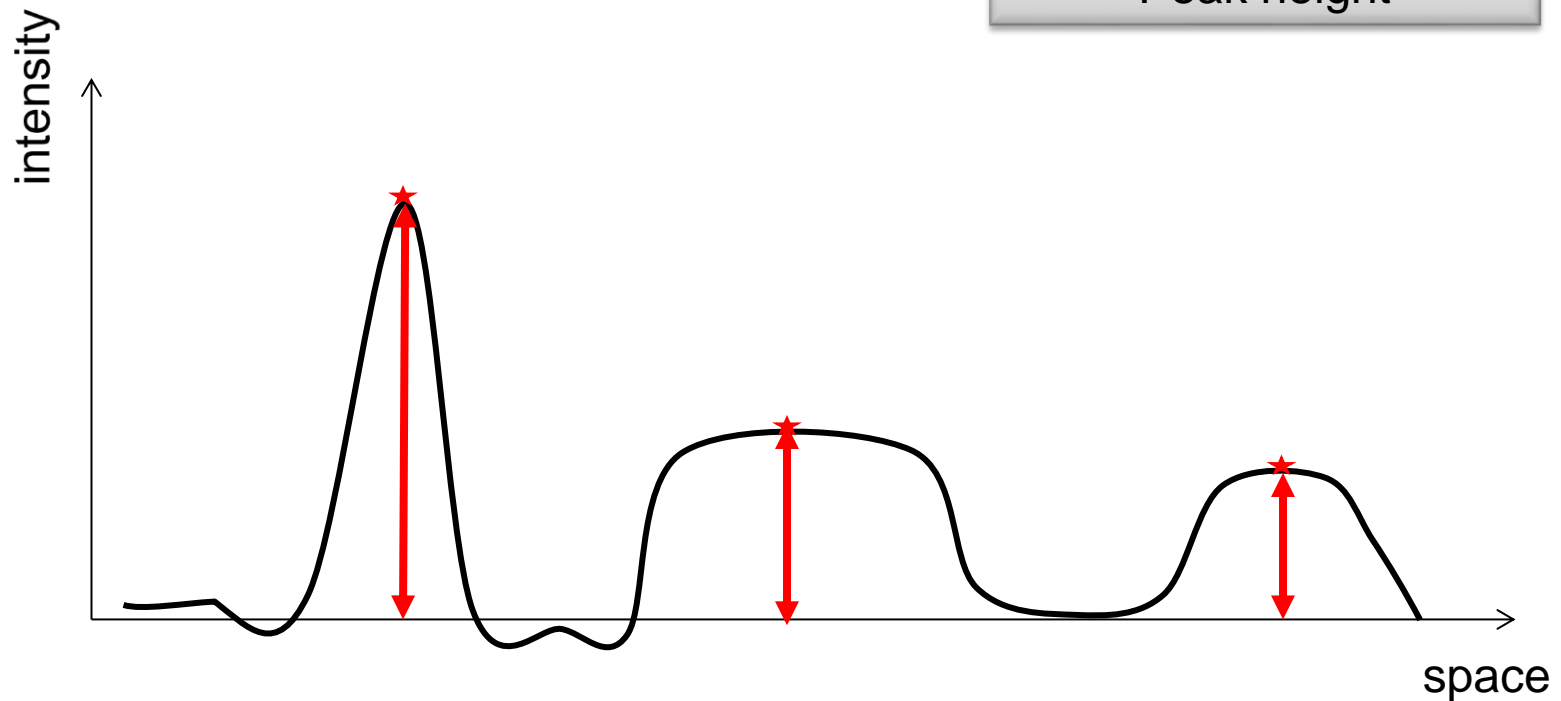
⇒ Use results from continuous **random field theory**.



# Topological inference

Peak level inference

**Topological feature:**  
Peak height



# RFT and Euler Characteristic

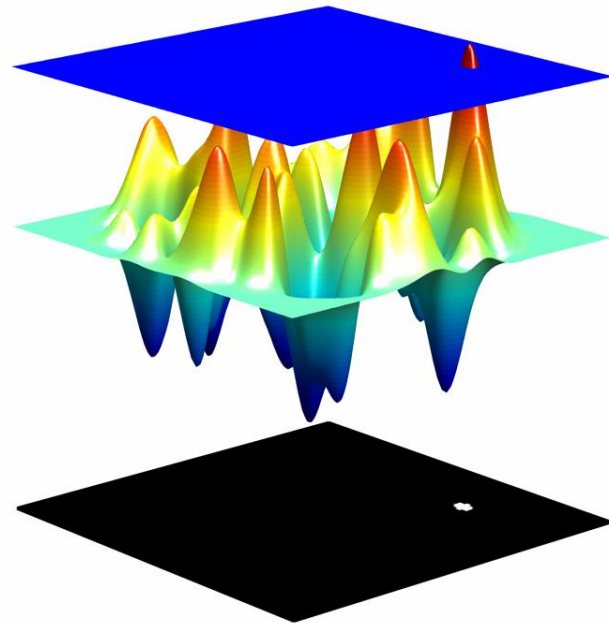
## Euler Characteristic $\chi_u$ :

- Topological measure

$$\chi_u = \# \text{ blobs} - \# \text{ holes}$$

- at high threshold  $u$ :

$$\chi_u = \# \text{ blobs}$$



$$\begin{aligned} FWER &= p(FWE) \\ &\approx E[\chi_u] \end{aligned}$$

# Expected Euler Characteristic

*2D Gaussian Random Field*

$$E[\chi_u] = \lambda(\Omega) |\Lambda|^{1/2} u \exp(-u^2/2) / (2\pi)^{3/2}$$

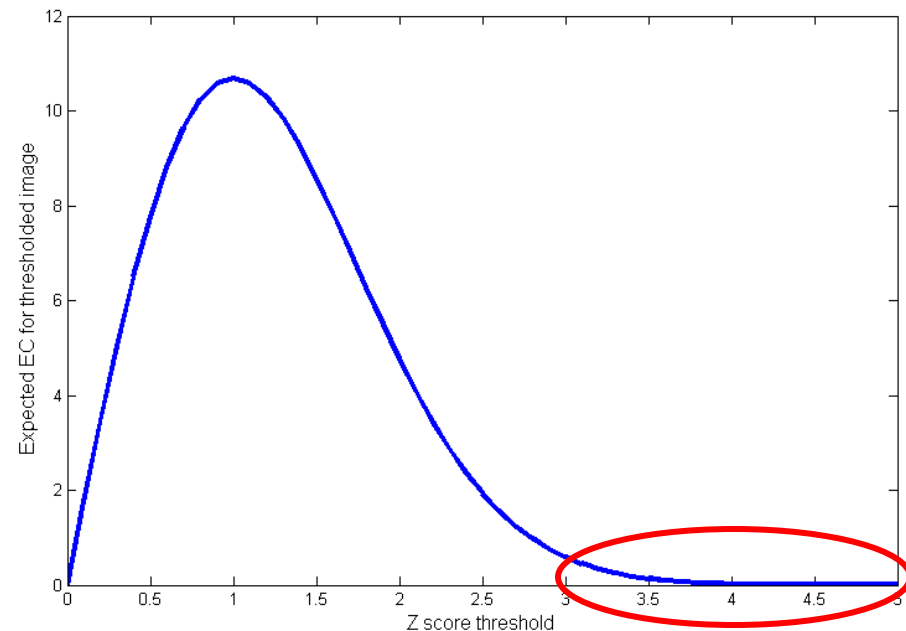
Search volume

Roughness  
(1/smoothness)

Threshold

100 x 100 Gaussian Random Field  
with FWHM=10 smoothing

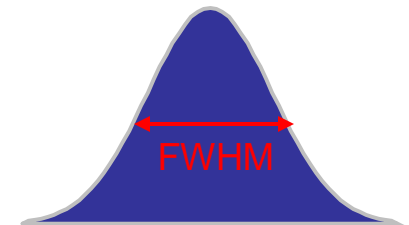
$\alpha_{FWE} = 0.05 \Rightarrow u_{RFT} = 3.8$   
 $(u_{BONF} = 4.42, u_{uncorr} = 1.64)$



# Smoothness

## Smoothness parameterised in terms of FWHM:

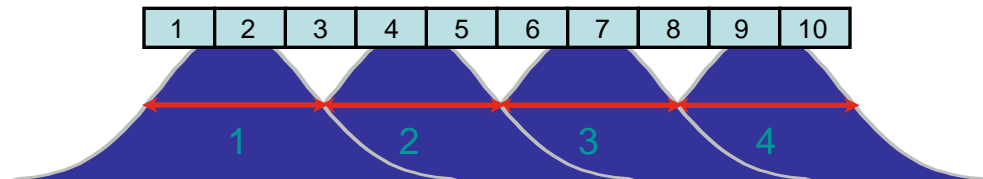
Size of Gaussian kernel required to smooth i.i.d. noise to have same smoothness as observed null (standardized) data.



## RESELS (Resolution Elements):

$$1 \text{ RESEL} = FWHM_x FWHM_y FWHM_z$$

RESEL Count  $R$  = volume of search region in units of smoothness

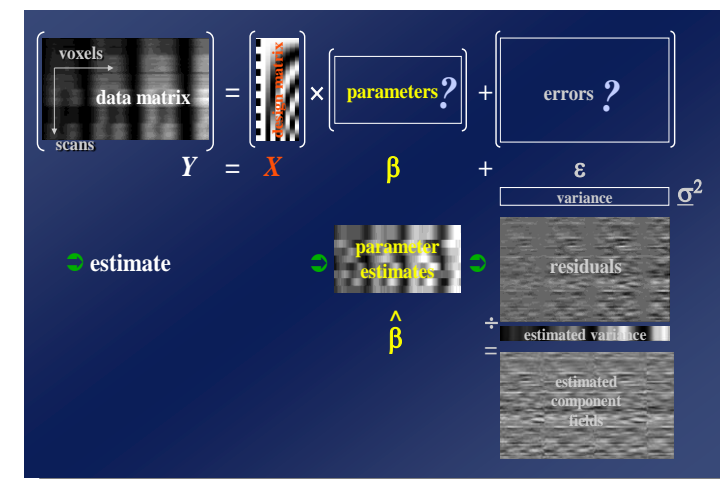


Eg: 10 voxels, 2.5 FWHM, 4 RESELS

The number of resels is similar, but not identical to the number independent observations.

## Smoothness estimated from spatial derivatives of standardised residuals:

Yields an RPV image containing local roughness estimation.



# Random Field intuition

Corrected  $p$ -value for statistic value  $t$

$$\begin{aligned} p_c &= p(\max T > t) \\ &\approx E[\chi_t] \\ &\propto \lambda(\Omega) |\Lambda|^{1/2} t \exp(-t^2/2) \end{aligned}$$

- ❑ Statistic value  $t$  increases ?
  - $p_c$  decreases (better signal)
- ❑ Search volume increases (  $\lambda(\Omega) \uparrow$  ) ?
  - $p_c$  increases (more severe correction)
- ❑ Smoothness increases (  $|\Lambda|^{1/2} \downarrow$  ) ?
  - $p_c$  decreases (less severe correction)

# Random Field: Unified Theory

## General form for expected Euler characteristic

- $t$ ,  $F$  &  $\chi^2$  fields
- restricted search regions
- $D$  dimensions

$$E[\chi_u(\Omega)] = \sum_{d=0}^D R_d(\Omega) \rho_d(u)$$

$R_d(\Omega)$ :  $d$ -dimensional Lipschitz-Killing

curvatures of  $\Omega$  ( $\approx$  *intrinsic volumes*):

– *function of dimension,*  
space  $\Omega$  and smoothness:

$R_0(\Omega) = \chi(\Omega)$  Euler characteristic of  $\Omega$

$R_1(\Omega)$  = resel diameter

$R_2(\Omega)$  = resel surface area

$R_3(\Omega)$  = resel volume

$\rho_d(u)$  :  $d$ -dimensional EC density of the field

– *function of dimension and threshold,*  
*specific for RF type:*

E.g. Gaussian RF:

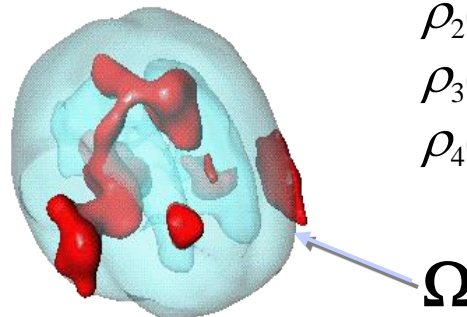
$$\rho_0(u) = 1 - \Phi(u)$$

$$\rho_1(u) = (4 \ln 2)^{1/2} \exp(-u^2/2) / (2\pi)$$

$$\rho_2(u) = (4 \ln 2) u \exp(-u^2/2) / (2\pi)^{3/2}$$

$$\rho_3(u) = (4 \ln 2)^{3/2} (u^2 - 1) \exp(-u^2/2) / (2\pi)^2$$

$$\rho_4(u) = (4 \ln 2)^2 (u^3 - 3u) \exp(-u^2/2) / (2\pi)^{5/2}$$

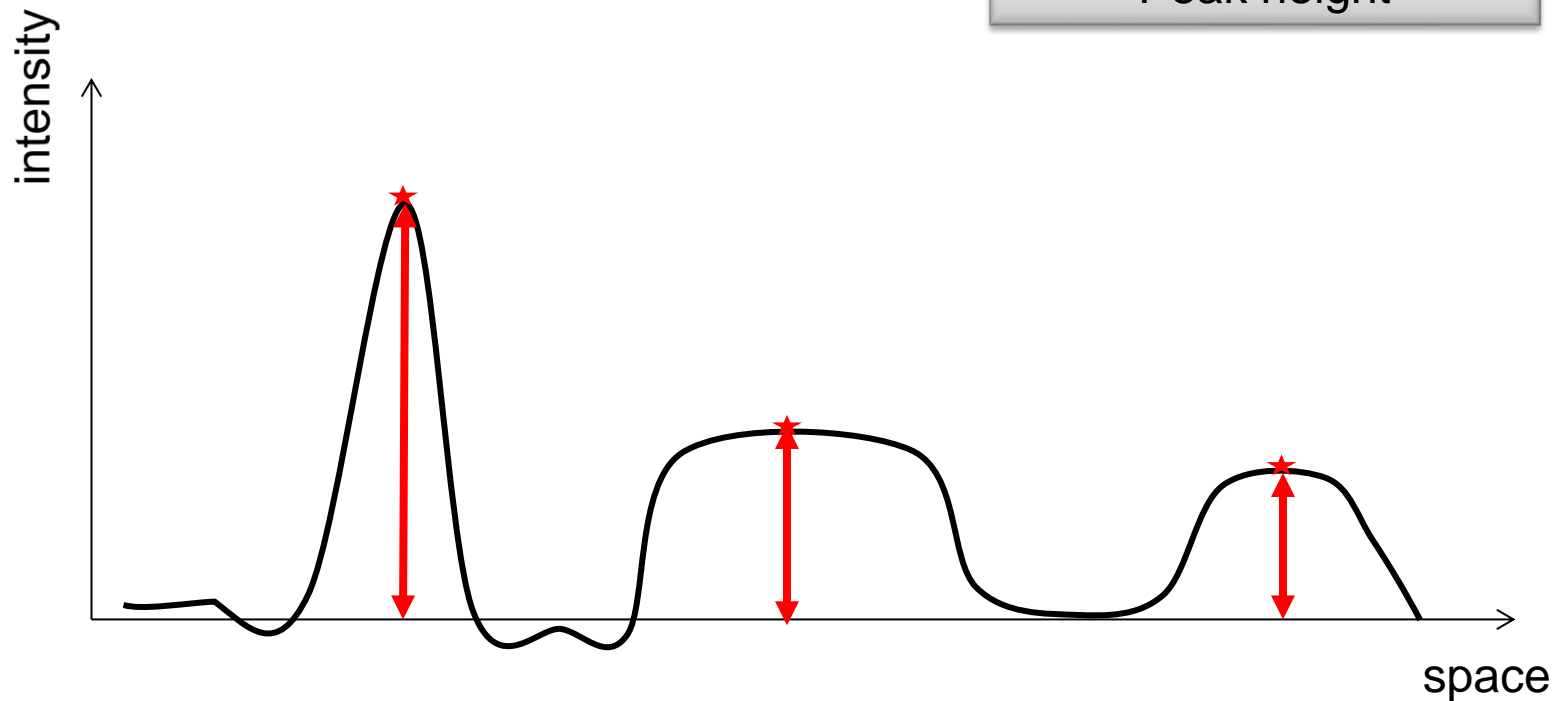




# Topological inference

Peak level inference

**Topological feature:**  
Peak height

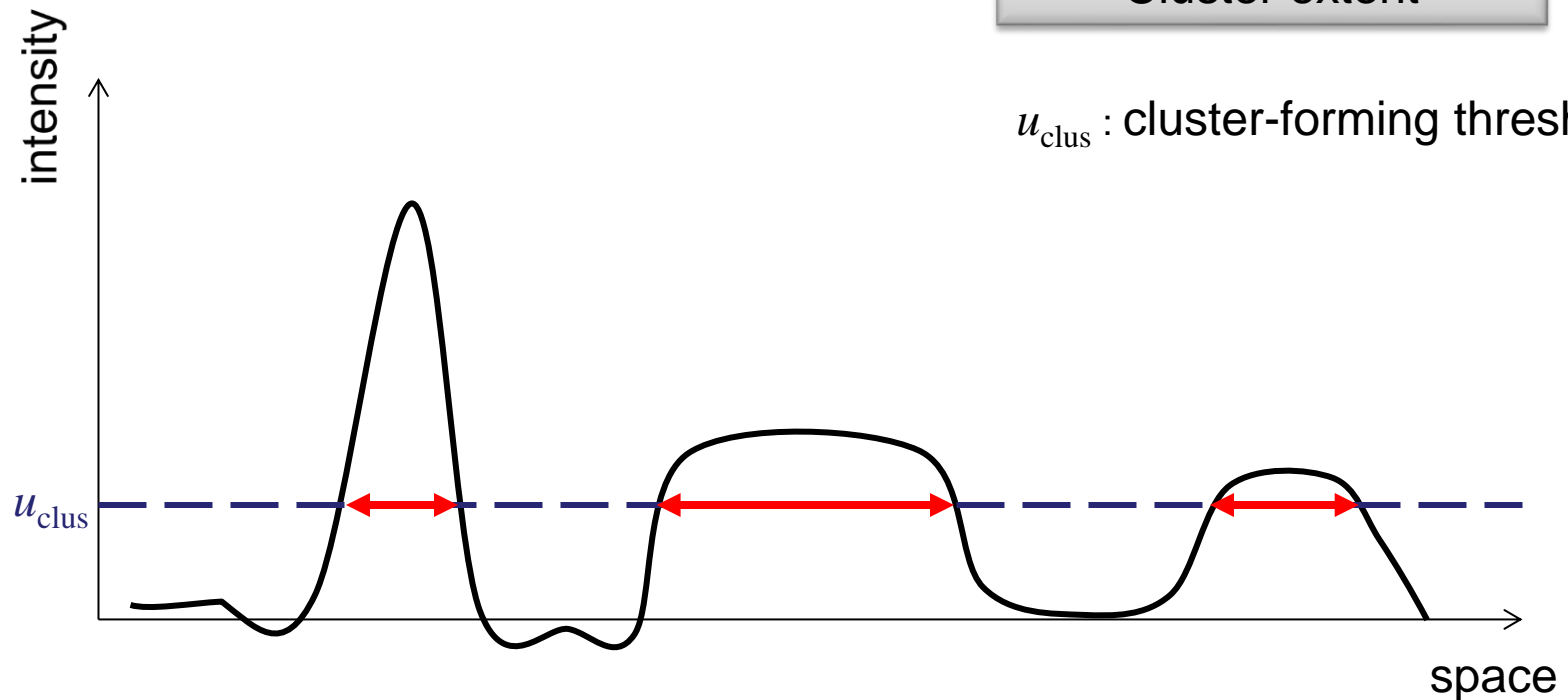


# Topological inference

## Cluster level inference

**Topological feature:**  
Cluster extent

$u_{\text{clus}}$  : cluster-forming threshold

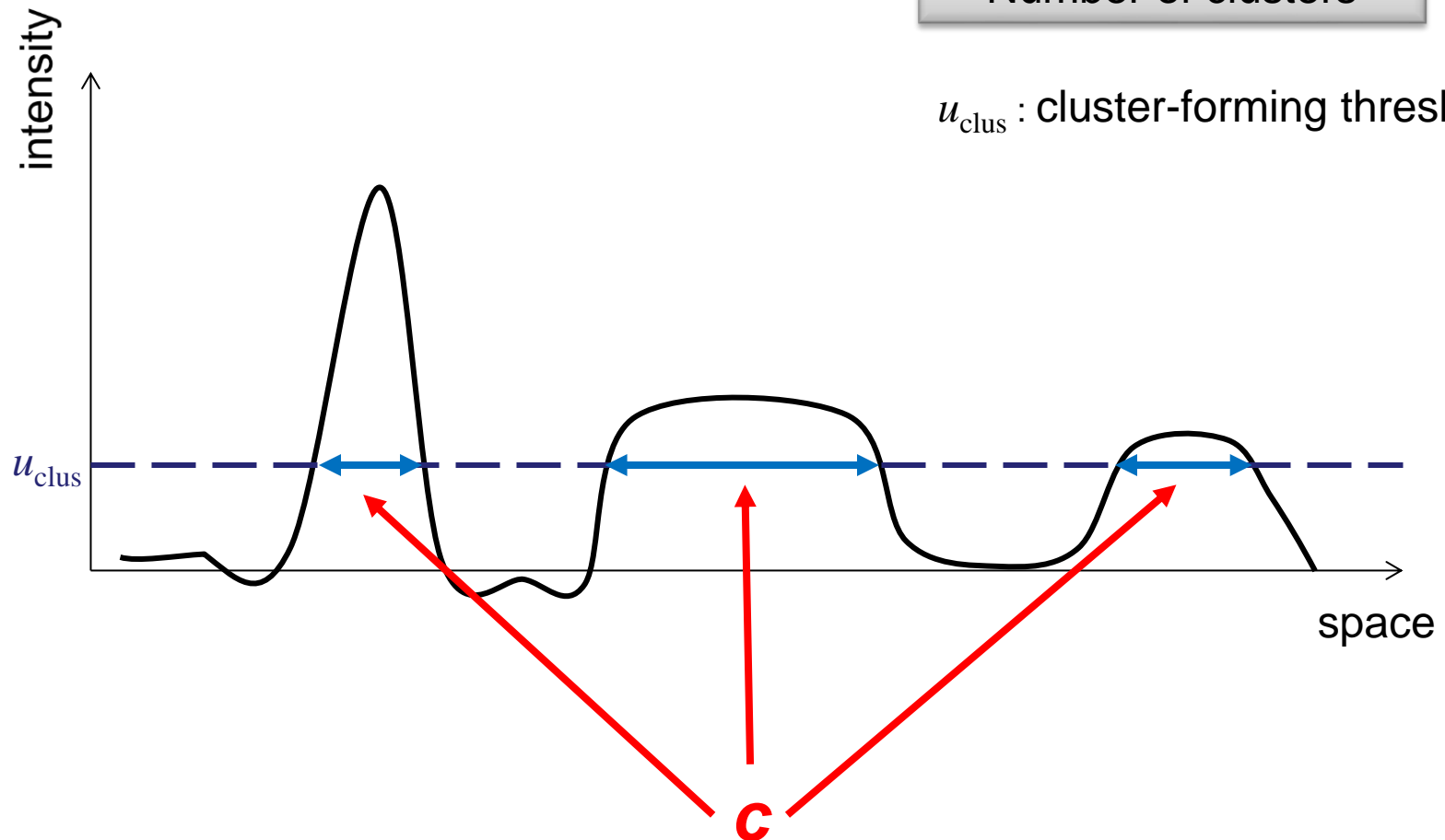


# Topological inference

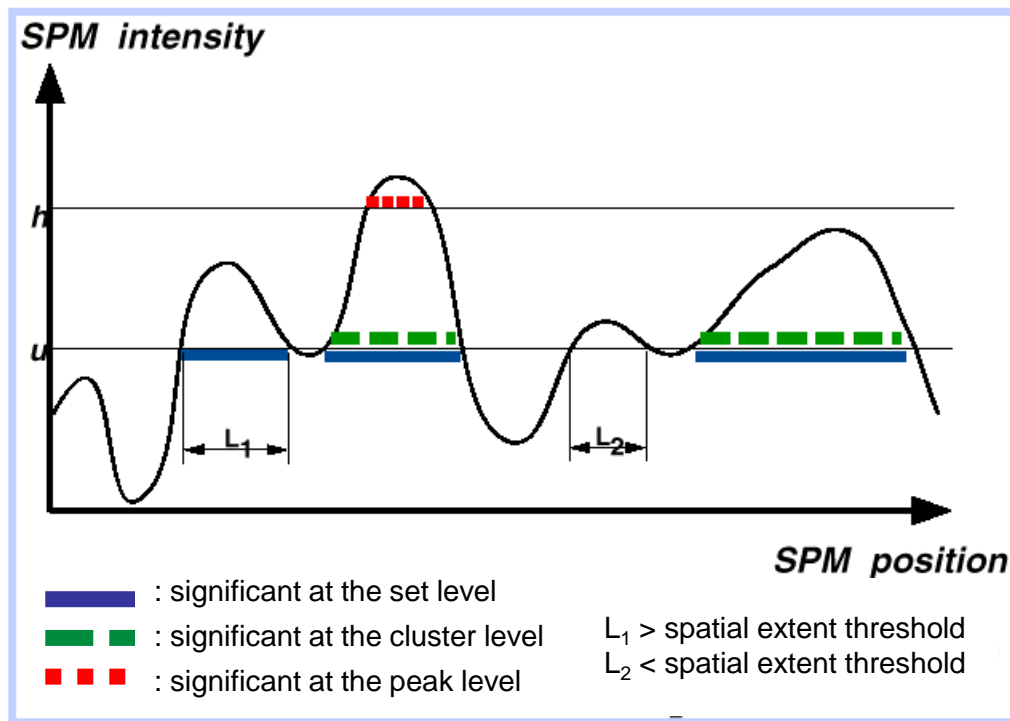
Set level inference

**Topological feature:**  
Number of clusters

$u_{\text{clus}}$  : cluster-forming threshold



# Peak, cluster and set level inference



Sensitivity

Regional specificity

**Peak level test:**

height of local maxima

**Cluster level test:**

spatial extent above  $u$

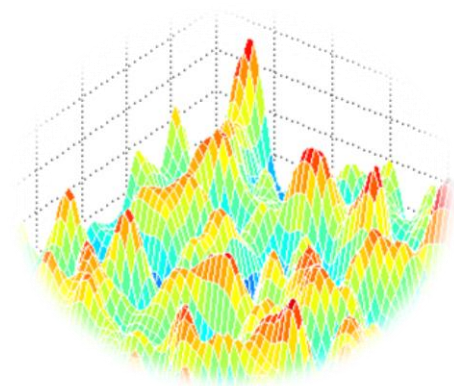
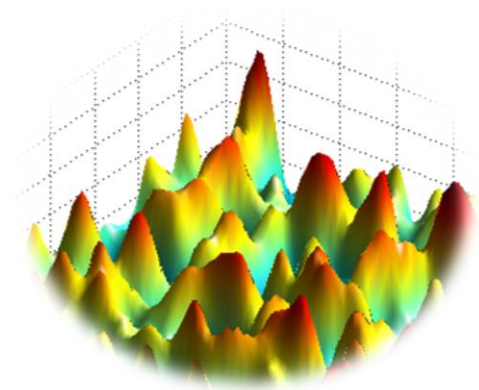
**Set level test:**

number of clusters above  $u$



# Random Field Theory Assumptions

- ❑ The statistic image is assumed to be a good lattice representation of an underlying random field with a multivariate Gaussian distribution.
- ❑ These fields are continuous, with an autocorrelation function twice differentiable at the origin.
- ⇒ The threshold chosen to define clusters is high enough such that the expected EC is a good approximation to the number of clusters.
- ⇒ The lattice approximation is reasonable, which implies the smoothness is relatively large compared to the voxel size.
- ⇒ The errors of the specified statistical model are normally distributed, which implies the model is not misspecified.
- ❑ Smoothness of the data is unknown and estimated:  
very precise estimate by pooling over voxels  $\Rightarrow$  stationarity assumption.



# ***Small Volume Correction***

- ❑ If one has some *a priori* idea of where an activation should be, one can **prespecify a small search space** and make the appropriate correction instead of having to control for the entire search space
- mask defined by (probabilistic) anatomical atlases
  - mask defined by separate "functional localisers"
  - mask defined by orthogonal contrasts
  - search volume around previously reported coordinates

With no prior hypothesis:

1. Test whole volume.
2. Identify SPM peak.
3. Then make a test assuming a single voxel.

# Conclusion

- ❑ There is a ***multiple testing problem*** and *corrections* have to be applied on  $p$ -values (for the volume of interest only (see SVC)).
- ❑ Inference is made about ***topological features*** (peak height, spatial extent, number of clusters).  
Use results from the ***Random Field Theory***.
- ❑ **Control of *FWER*** (probability of a false positive anywhere in the image) for a space of any dimension and shape.

# References

- ❑ Friston KJ, Frith CD, Liddle PF, Frackowiak RS. *Comparing functional (PET) images: the assessment of significant change*. Journal of Cerebral Blood Flow and Metabolism, 1991.
- ❑ Worsley KJ, Evans AC, Marrett S, Neelin P. *A three-dimensional statistical analysis for CBF activation studies in human brain*. Journal of Cerebral Blood Flow and Metabolism. 1992.
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- ❑ Kilner J and Friston KJ. *Topological inference for EEG and MEG data*. Annals of Applied Statistics, 2010.
- ❑ Flandin G and Friston KJ. *Topological Inference*. Brain Mapping: An Encyclopedic Reference, 2015.
- ❑ Flandin G and Friston KJ. *Analysis of family-wise error rates in statistical parametric mapping using random field theory*. Human Brain Mapping, 2017.