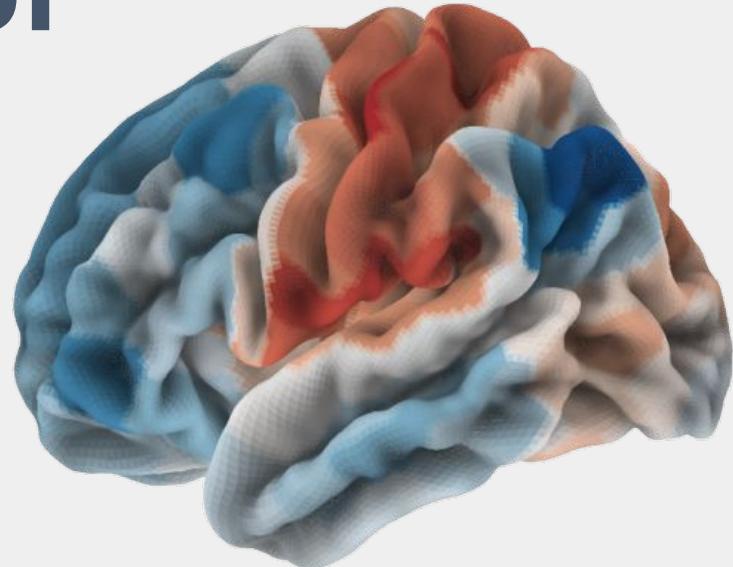


# Fundamentals of fMRI data analysis

Karolina Finc

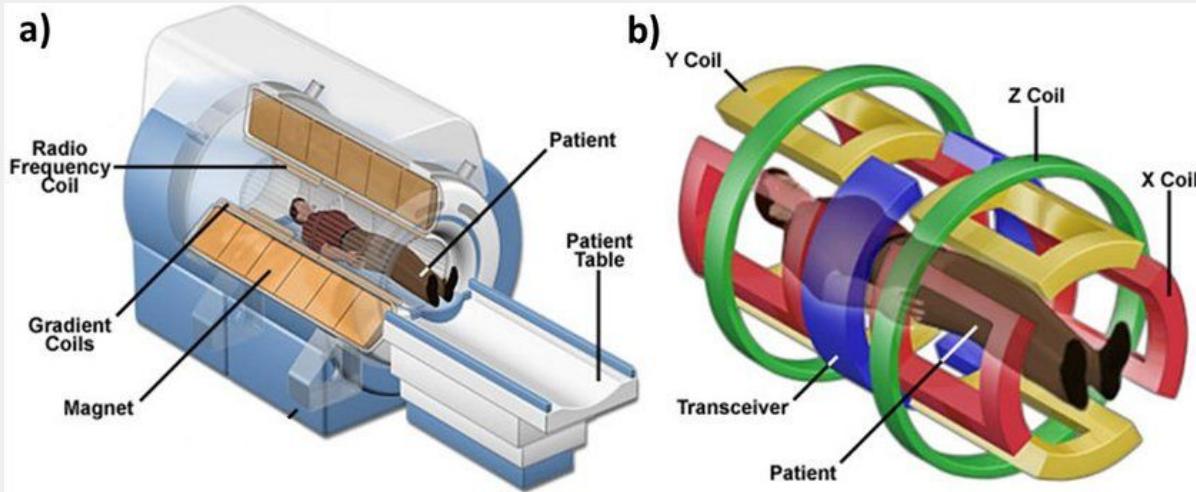
Centre for Modern Interdisciplinary Technologies

Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń



COURSE #00: **Introduction**

# MRI machine

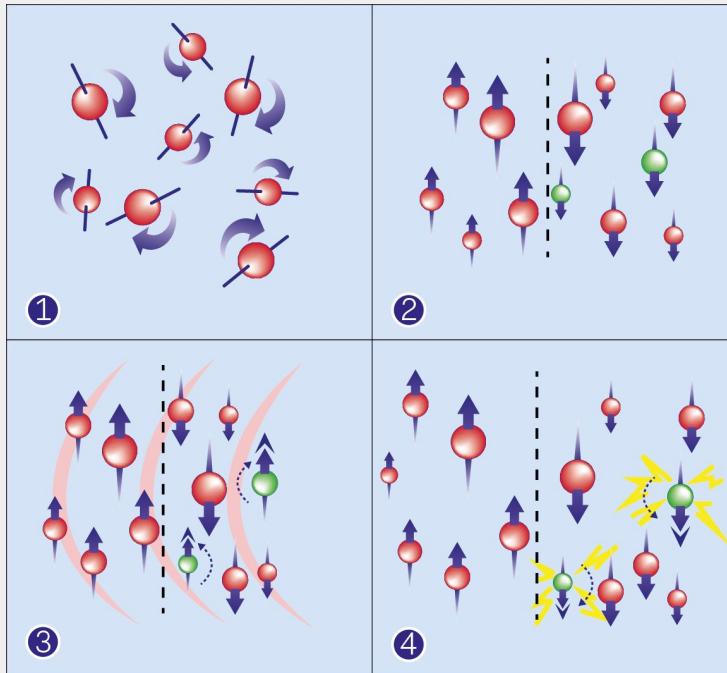


MRI machine is composed of four main components:

- (1) primary magnet
- (2) gradient magnets
- (3) radiofrequency (RF) coils
- (4) computer system

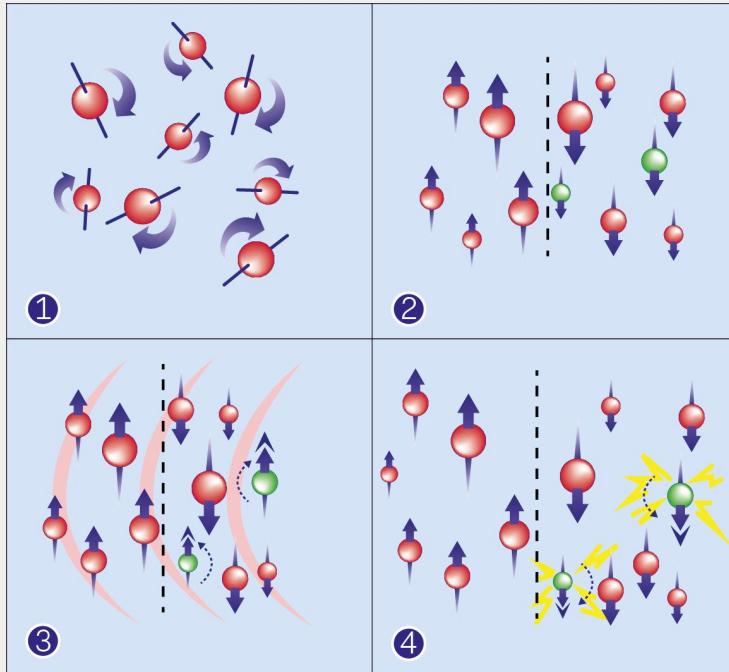
The strength of magnetic field is measured in Tesla (T).

# How MRI works?



Human body - 70% of water ( $H_2O$ ).

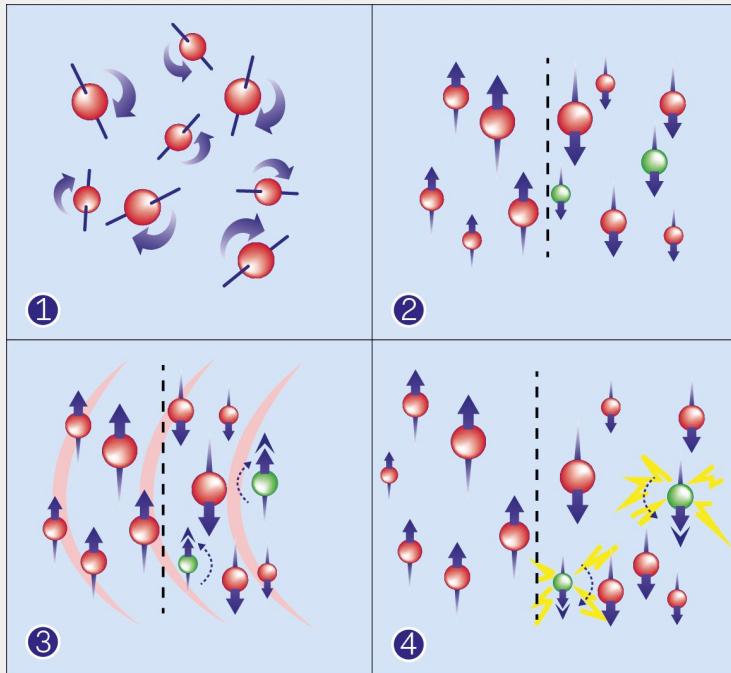
# How MRI works?



Human body - 70% of water ( $H_2O$ ).

- (1)** Without external magnetic field spin axes of hydrogen protons align randomly

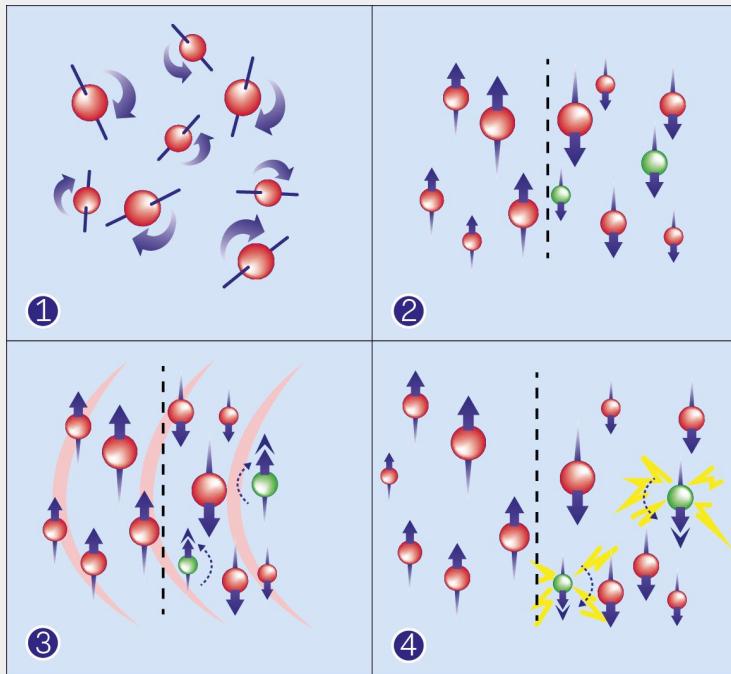
# How MRI works?



Human body - 70% of water ( $H_2O$ ).

- (1)** Without external magnetic field spin axes of hydrogen protons align randomly
- (2)** Spin axes of hydrogen protons tend to align either parallel (low energy state) or anti-parallel (high energy state) to the direction of the external magnetic field

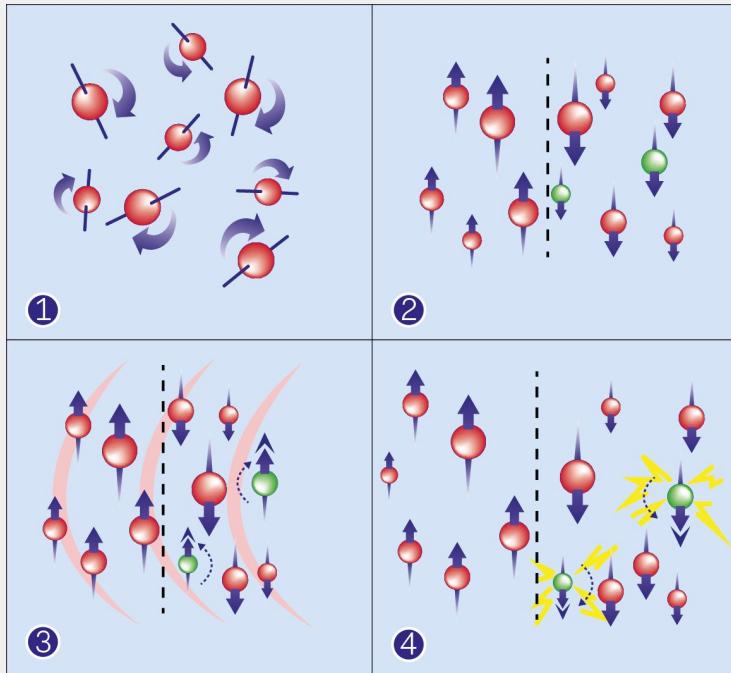
# How MRI works?



Human body - 70% of water ( $H_2O$ ).

- (1) Without external magnetic field spin axes of hydrogen protons align randomly
- (2) Spin axes of hydrogen protons tend to align either parallel (low energy state) or anti-parallel (high energy state) to the direction of the external magnetic field
- (3) A radiofrequency (RF) pulse is applied with the frequency exactly matching the frequency of hydrogen protons in the magnetic field. This results in absorbing the energy by hydrogen protons and flipping the protons aligned parallel to magnetic field to anti-parallel
- (4) The protons emit energy as they return to their original state, creating a signal

# How MRI works?



Human body - 70% of water ( $H_2O$ ).

- (1) Without external magnetic field spin axes of hydrogen protons align randomly
- (2) Spin axes of hydrogen protons tend to align either parallel (low energy state) or anti-parallel (high energy state) to the direction of the external magnetic field
- (3) A radiofrequency (RF) pulse is applied with the frequency exactly matching the frequency of hydrogen protons in the magnetic field. This results in absorbing the energy by hydrogen protons and flipping the protons aligned parallel to magnetic field to anti-parallel
- (4) After turning off the RF pulse, protons return to their initial equilibrium (relaxation) and emit energy in this process.

# fMRI

*Functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging*



# fMRI

*Functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging*



## Structural

MRI (T1)



DTI



# fMRI

*Functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging*



## Structural

MRI (T1)

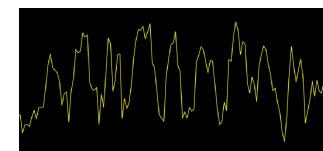
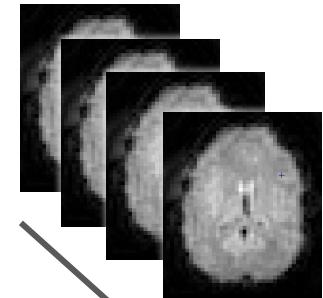


DTI



## Functional

fMRI (T2\*)

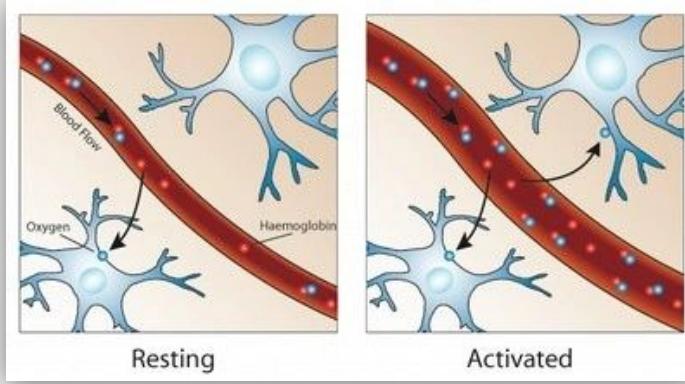


# How to measure brain activity with fMRI?



# BOLD signal

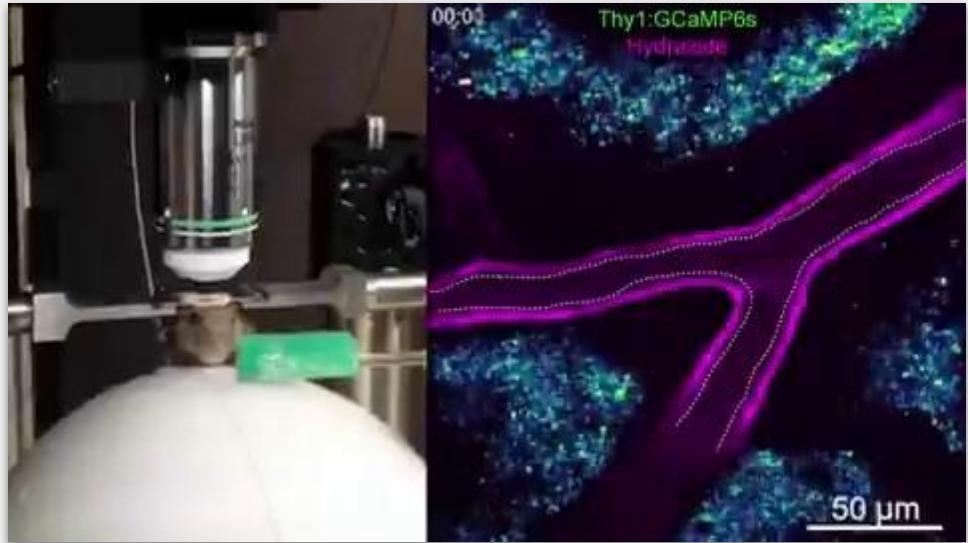
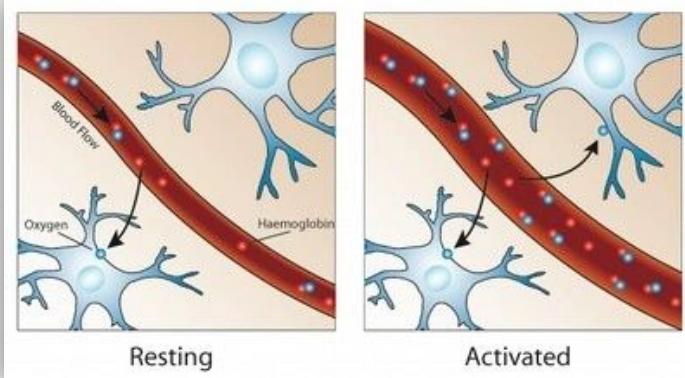
*Blood Oxygenation Level Dependent*



Ratio of **oxygenated** to deoxygenated  
hemoglobin in the blood.

# BOLD signal

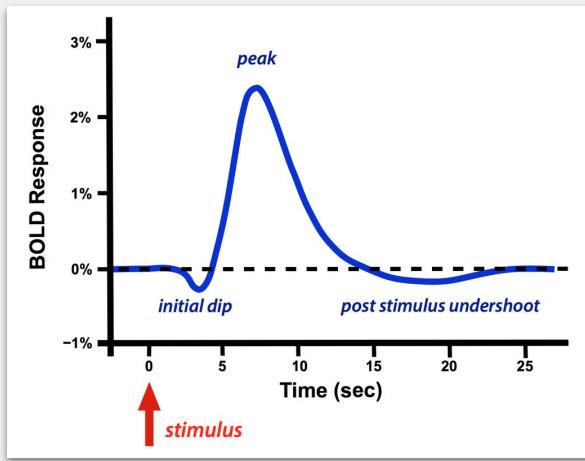
*Blood Oxygenation Level Dependent*



Ratio of **oxygenated** to deoxygenated hemoglobin in the blood.

Chow et al. (2020), *Nature*.

# Haemodynamic response function



The change in BOLD signal that follows a brief period of neuronal activity.

**Peak** about 5 seconds after stimulation

**Undershoot** (returns to baseline in for at least 15-20 seconds)

The shape of HRF may differ in different brain areas or between subjects subjects.

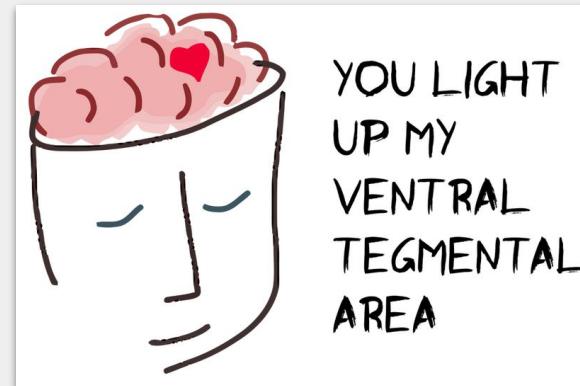
Cool stuff:

<https://www.slideshare.net/rnja8c/fmri-study-design>

# Remember!

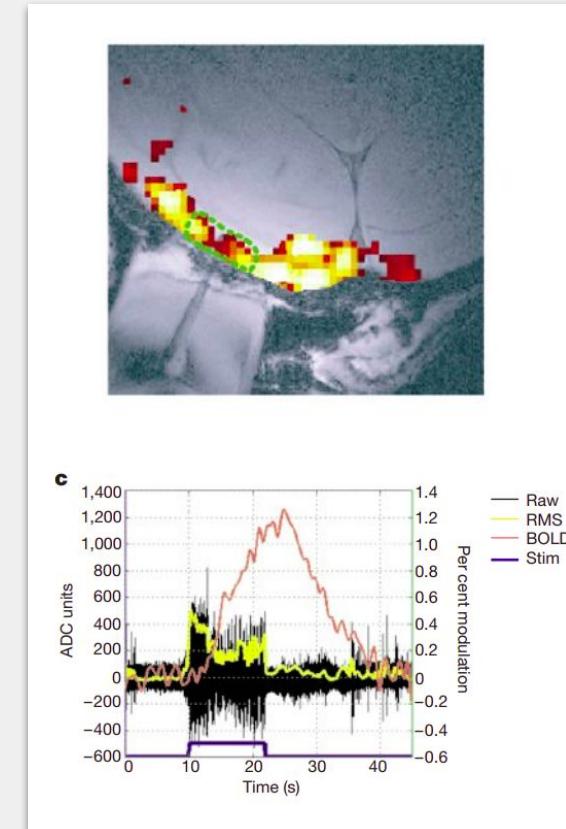
BOLD signal is not a direct measure of neuronal activity!

It measures **metabolic demands** of active neurons (oxygen consumption).



# But...

BOLD signal corresponds closely to the local field potential - the electrical field potential surrounding group of neurons.



Logothetis et al. (2001), *Nature*.

# Why we may want to analyze fMRI data?

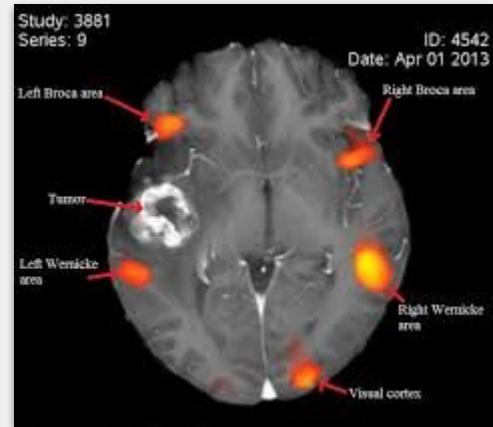


# Why we may want to analyze fMRI data?

Understanding how the human brain works in health and disease.

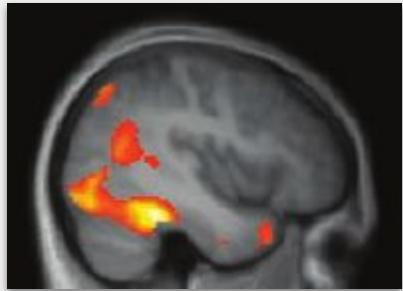
## Example questions:

- How cognitive functions are organized in the human brain?
- How the human brain changes during learning?
- Can we diagnose psychiatric illness based on brain activity ?
- Can we predict neurodegenerative disorder based on brain activity?
- Can we use knowledge about how the human brain works to build more efficient artificial intelligence?



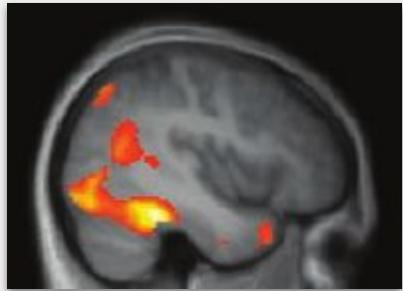
# How we can look at fMRI data?

Brain activation

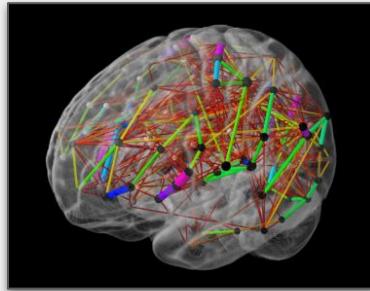


# How we can look at fMRI data?

Brain activation

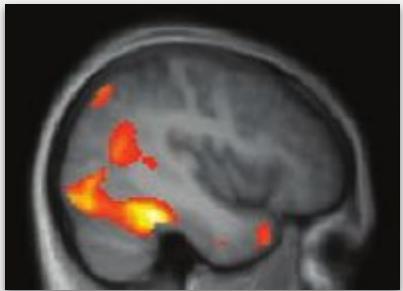


Functional connectivity

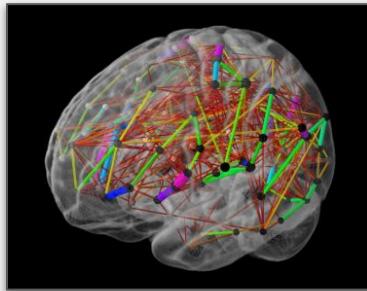


# How we can look at fMRI data?

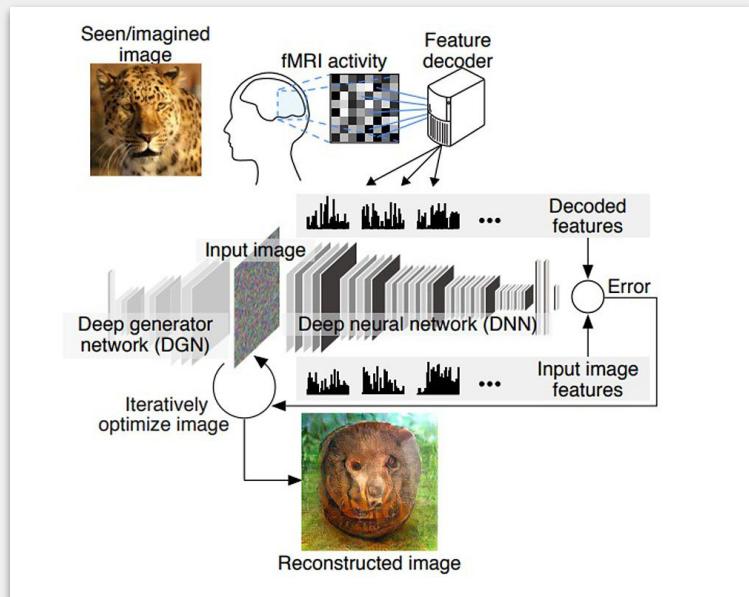
Brain activation



Functional connectivity



Machine learning



# How does fMRI study look like?



# How does fMRI study look like?

Question & hypothesis

# How does fMRI study look like?

Question & hypothesis



Designing experiment



# How does fMRI study look like?

Question & hypothesis



Designing experiment



Collecting data



# How does fMRI study look like?

Question & hypothesis



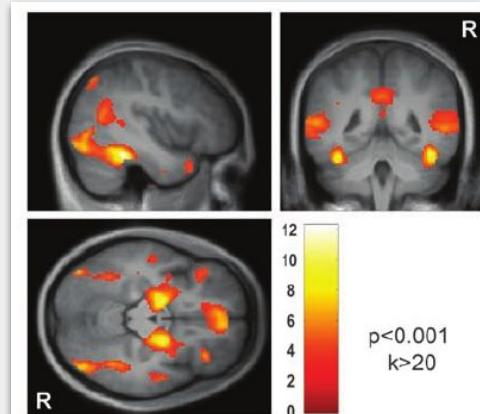
Designing experiment



Collecting data



Data analysis



# How does fMRI study look like?

Question & hypothesis



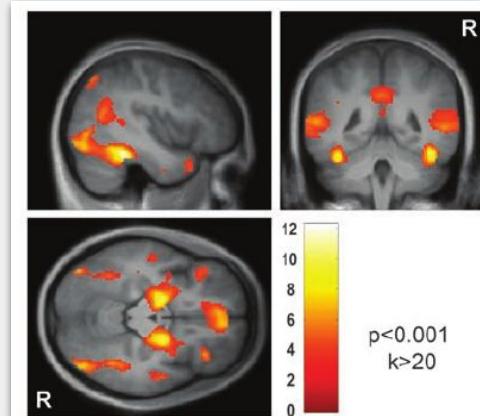
Designing experiment



Collecting data

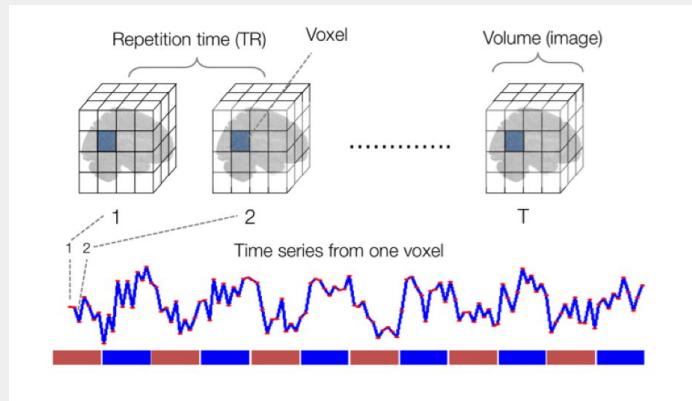
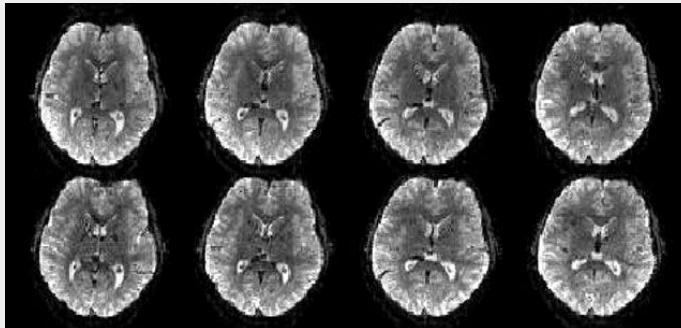


Data analysis

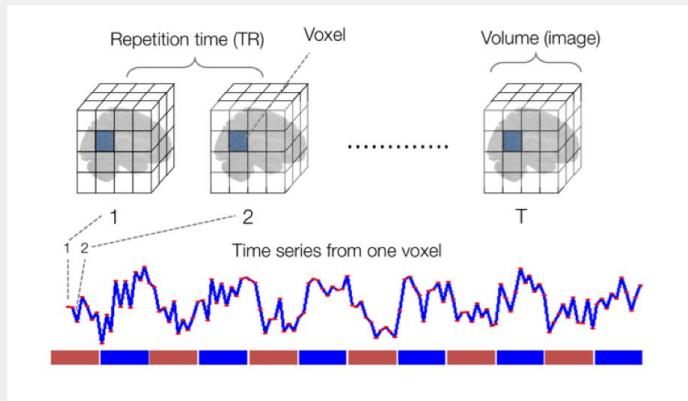
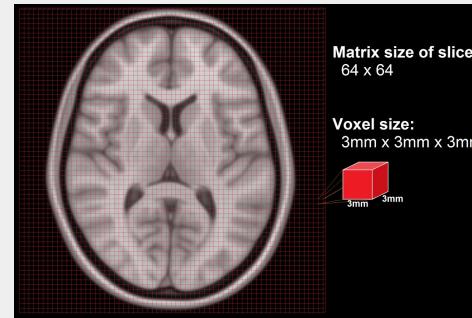
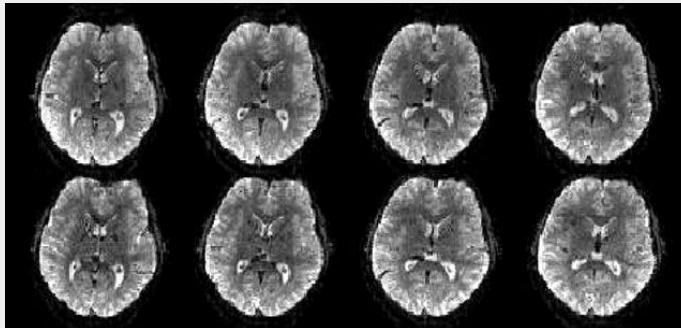


Reporting & interpretation

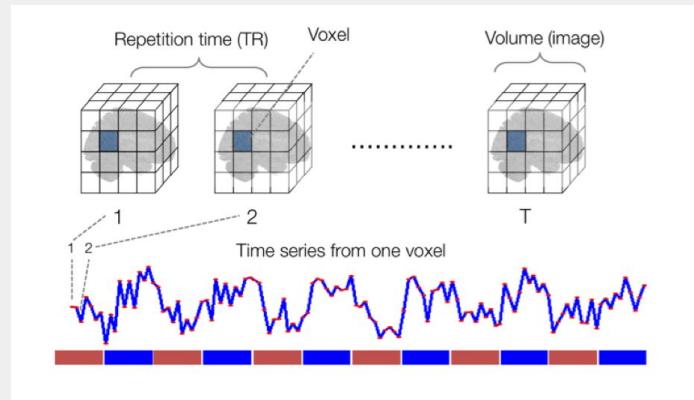
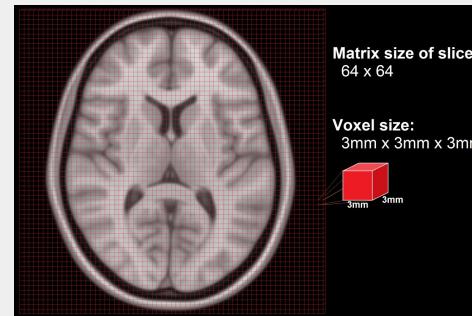
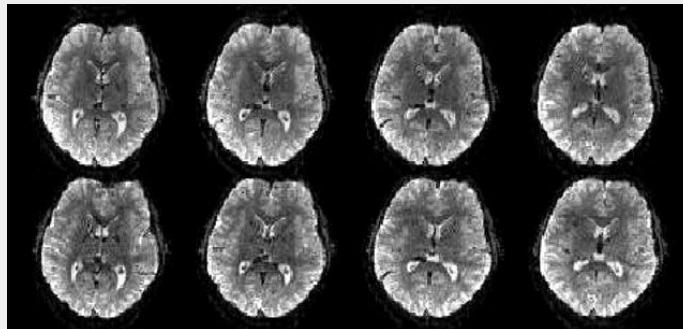
# How does fMRI data look like?



# How does fMRI data look like?



# How does fMRI data look like?

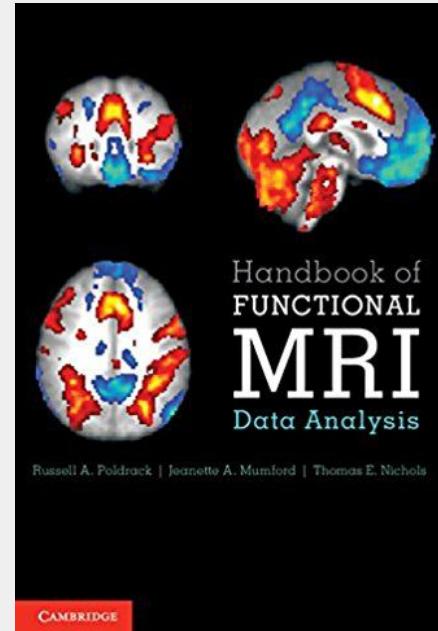


## Challenges:

- Magnitude of signal changes is quite small - 0.5 - 5%
- Number of artifacts, head movement
- Variability within and between individuals
- High dimensionality of data

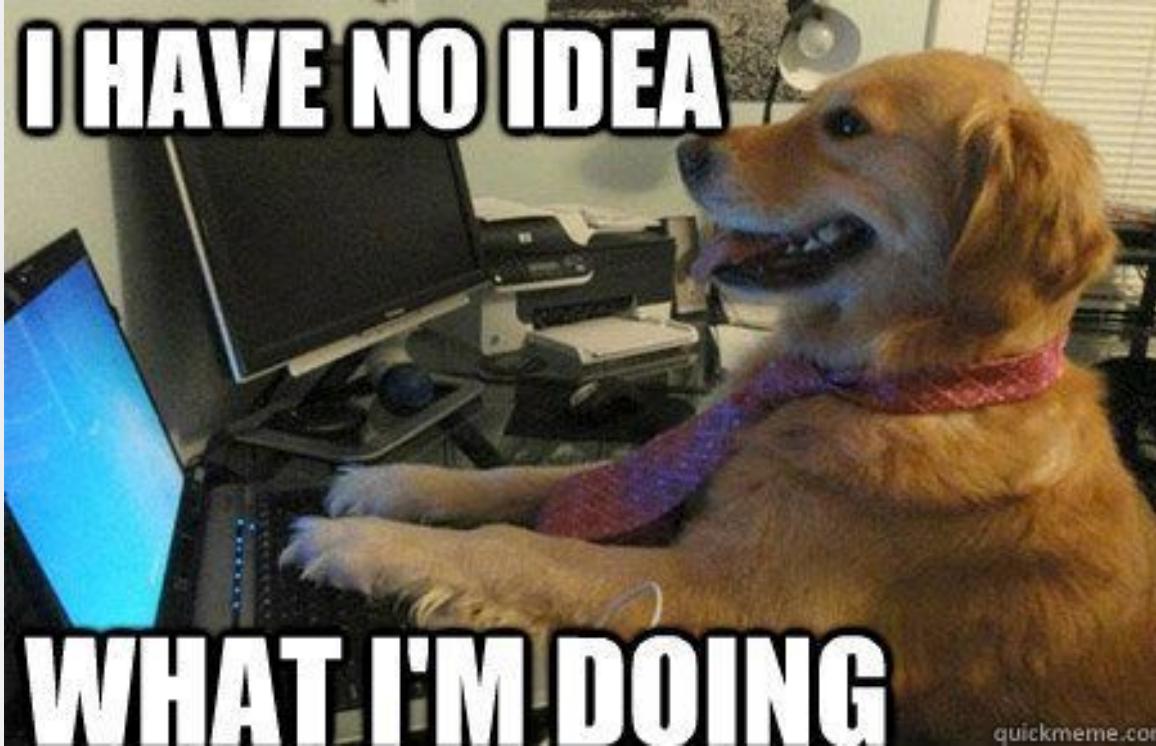
# How to become an fMRI data analysis master?

1. Probability and statistics
2. Computer programming (Python/MATLAB)
3. Linear algebra
4. Magnetic resonance imaging
5. Neurophysiology and biophysics
6. Signal and image processing



... it can take many years!

**I HAVE NO IDEA**  
**WHAT I'M DOING**



# How to become neuro(i)magician?



Hogwarts approach

# Study plan



BEFORE

# Study plan



BEFORE



AFTER

# Study plan

Open science &  
neuroimaging



**BEFORE**



**AFTER**

# Study plan

Open science &  
neuroimaging



**BEFORE**

Python language for  
neuroimaging



**AFTER**

# Study plan

Open science &  
neuroimaging



**BEFORE**

fMRI data  
preprocessing



Python language for  
neuroimaging



3



**AFTER**

# Study plan

Open science & neuroimaging



**BEFORE**

Python language for neuroimaging



fMRI data preprocessing



General Linear Model



**AFTER**

# Study plan

Open science & neuroimaging



**BEFORE**

Python language for neuroimaging



fMRI data preprocessing



3

General Linear Model



Functional connectivity



5



**AFTER**

# Study plan

Open science & neuroimaging



**BEFORE**

Python language for neuroimaging



fMRI data preprocessing



3

Functional connectivity



5



4

General Linear Model



**AFTER**



6

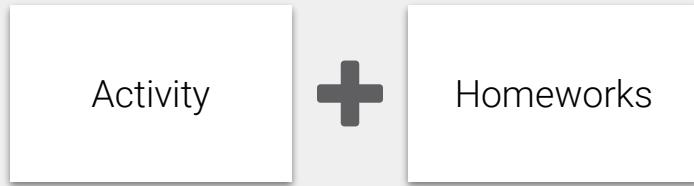
Machine Learning on fMRI data

# Grading

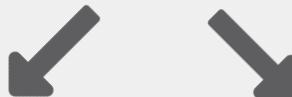
Activity



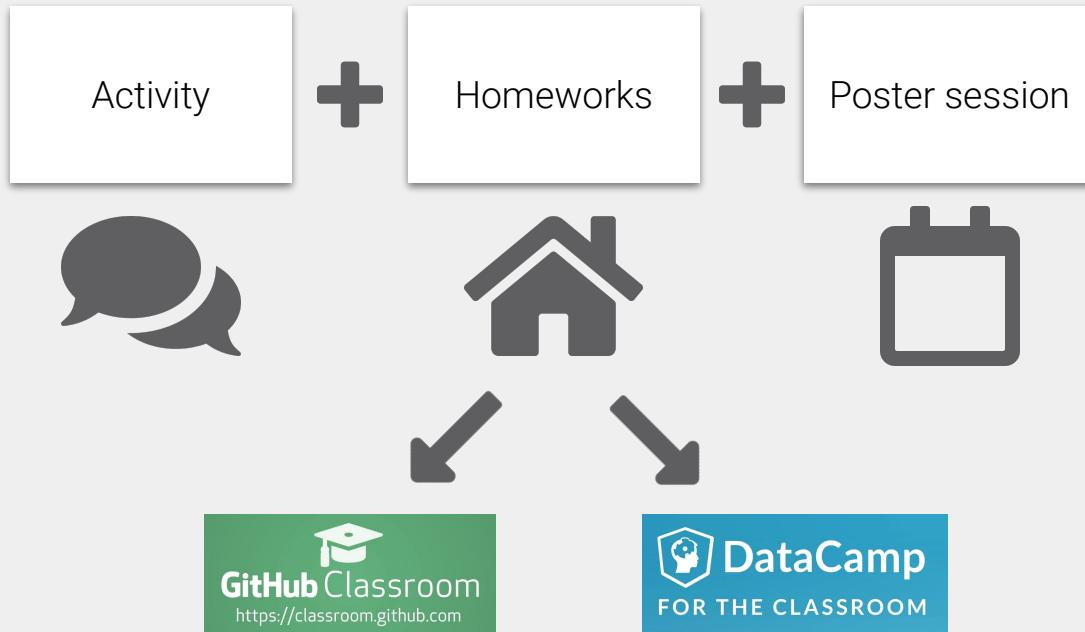
# Grading



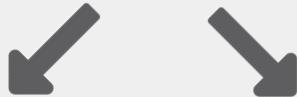
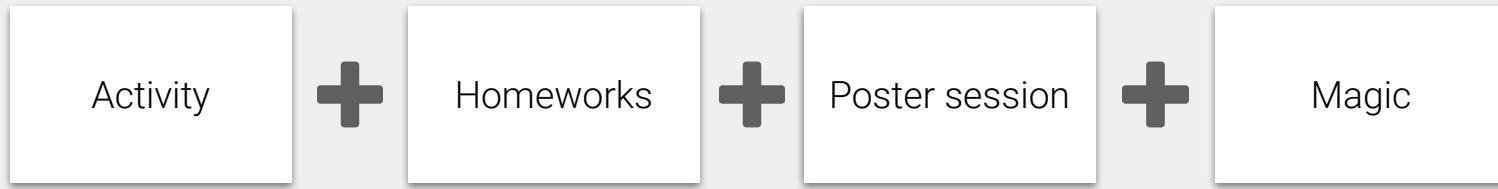
# Grading



# Grading



# Grading



# Rules & consultations

**2** allowed absence

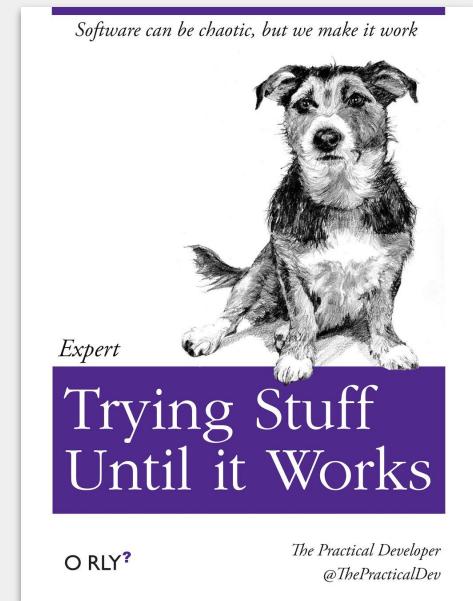
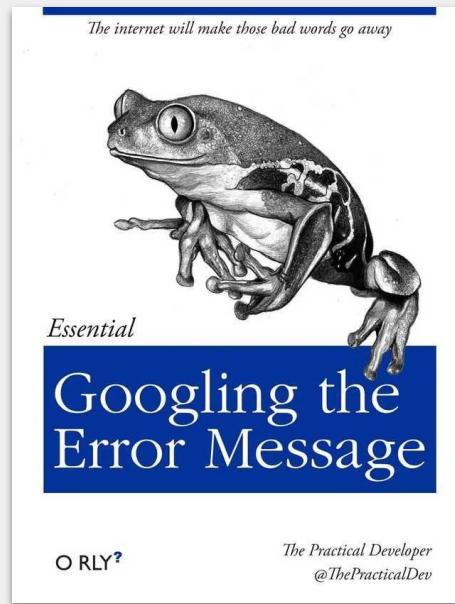
**1** allowed missed homework

Consultations:

**ICNT**, Wednesdays (text me about time)

Email:

[finc@umk.pl](mailto:finc@umk.pl)



# Homework

## 1. Data Camp Classroom

<https://www.datacamp.com/enterprise/advanced-fmri-data-analysis/assignments>

Introduction to Python



Next



**Reproducible neuroimaging  
and open science**