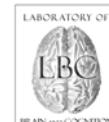


# Real-time fMRI / fMRI Neurofeedback

Javier Gonzalez-Castillo

Section on Functional Imaging Methods, NIMH, NIH

August, 2014



# Outline



- What is “REALTIME fMRI”?
- Specific Example: NIH/AFNI Real-time fMRI System.
- Most Common Applications
  - Automatic On-line Data Quality Control
  - On-line Computation of Functional Localizations Maps
  - Neurofeedback / Brain-Computer Interfaces
- What do we know from these early experiments/prototypes
- Considerations when designing your own real-time fMRI studies

# Traditional fMRI



1 – 2 Hours

DATA ACQUISITION

SCANNER



SCANNER  
CONSOLE



1 – 2 Days

DATA ANALYSIS



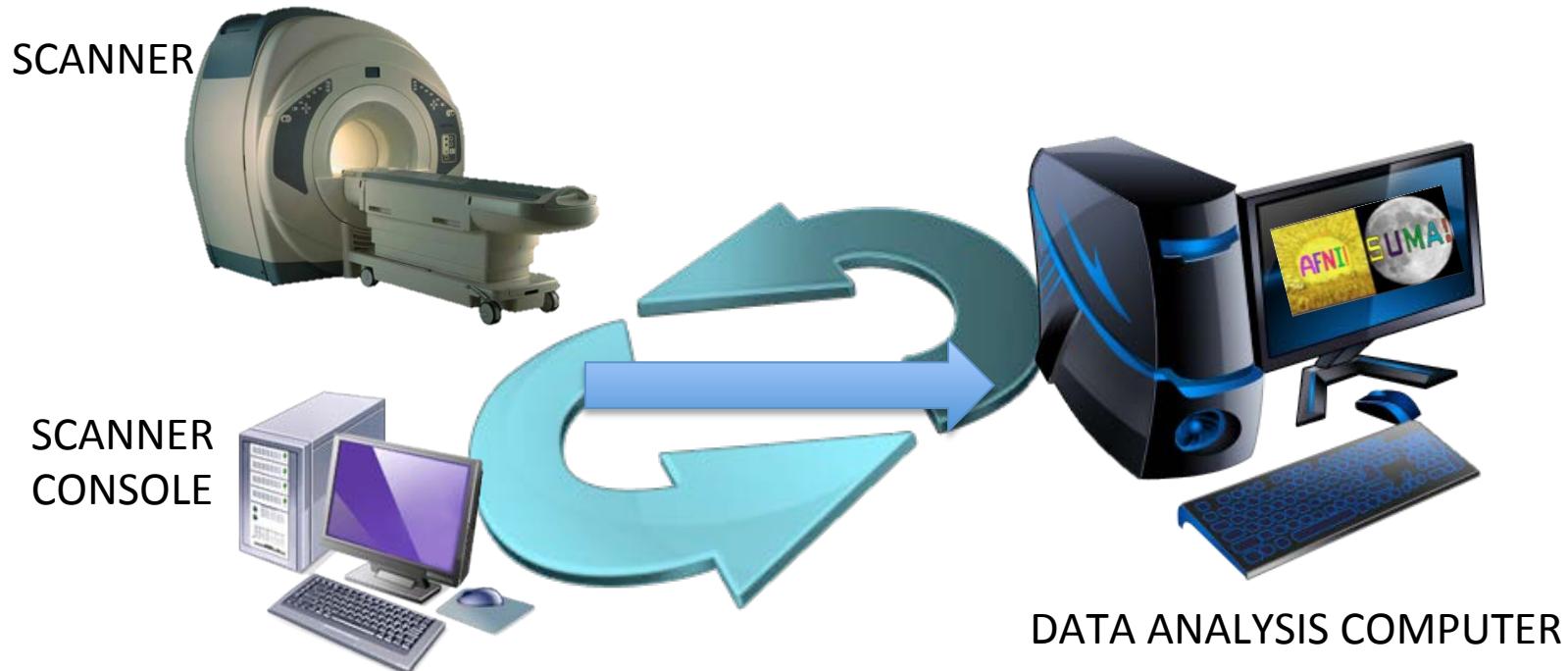
DATA ANALYSIS COMPUTER

# Real-time fMRI



1 – 2 Hours

## DATA ACQUISITION AND ANALYSIS



# Real-time fMRI: Original Work

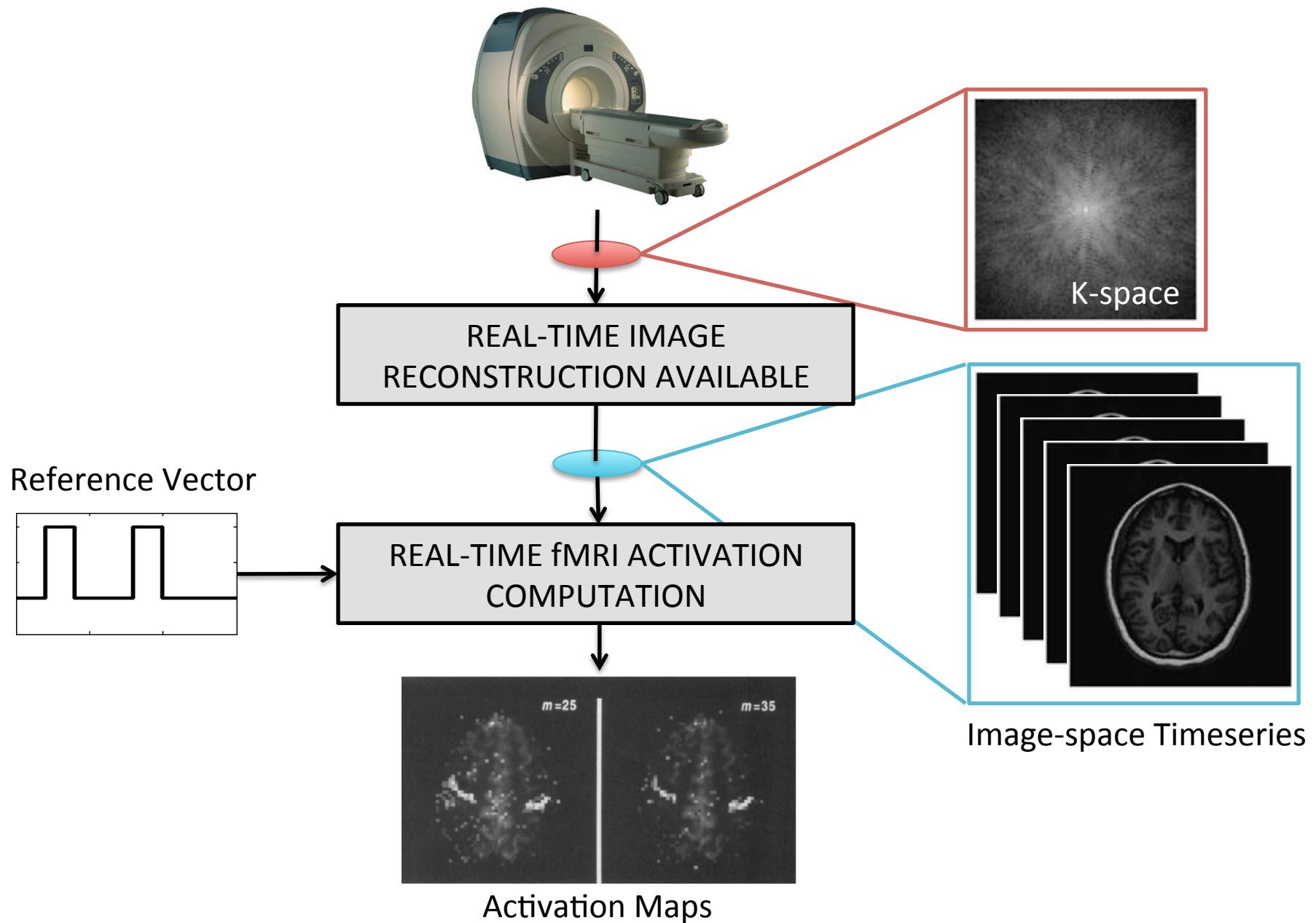


## Real-Time Functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging

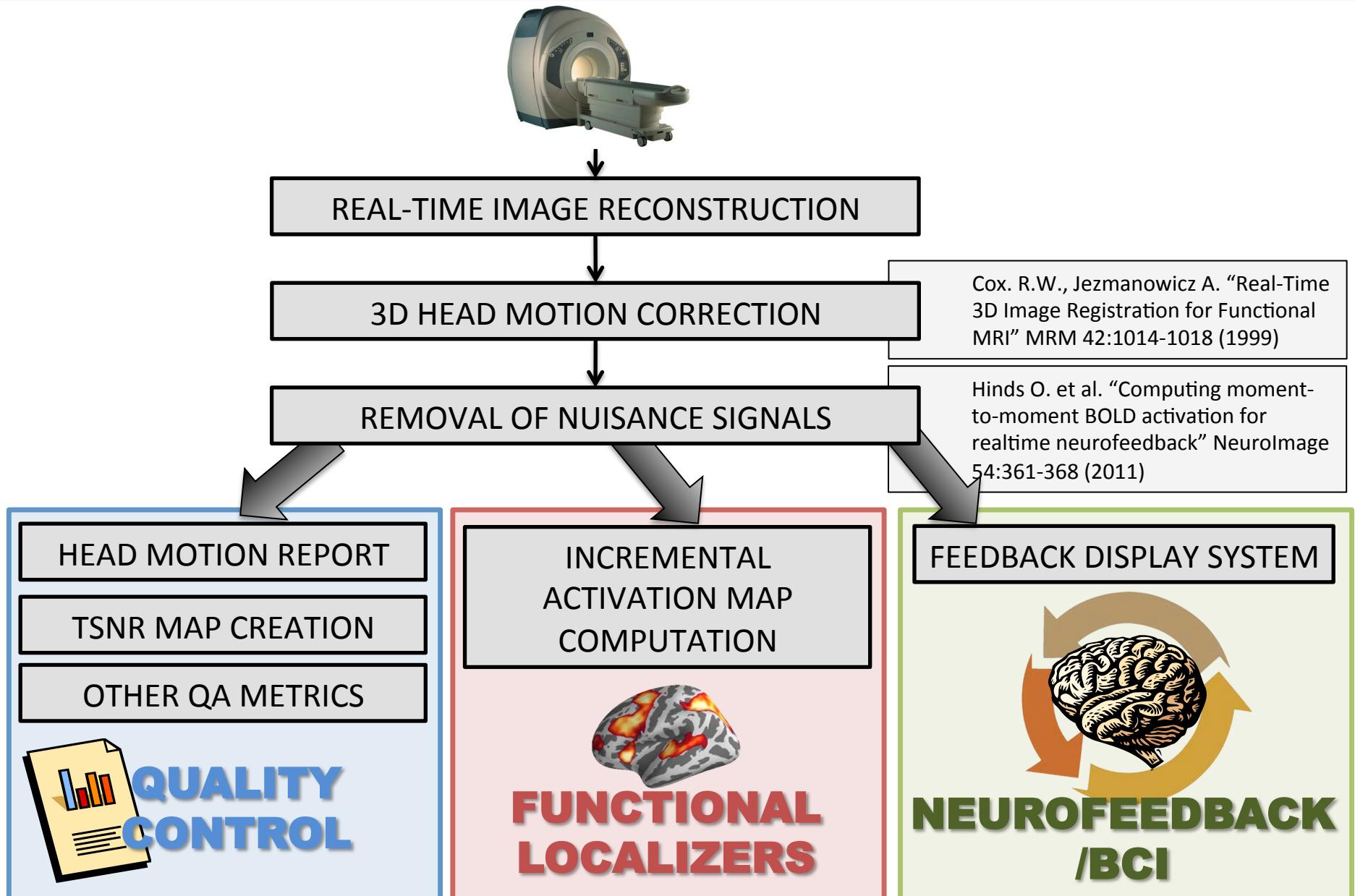
Robert W. Cox, Andrzej Jesmanowicz, James S. Hyde      MRM 33(2); 1995

- WHY NEAR-REAL-TIME VIEWING OF FMRI ACTIVATION IS DESIRABLE:
  1. Data Quality may be monitored as experiment progresses.
  2. Develop new task & stimulus protocols more quickly than offline analysis.
  3. Interactive experimental paradigms may be created.
- FAST ALGORITHM TO RECURSIVELY COMPUTE:
  1. Voxel-wise correlation between incoming time-series and reference vector
  2. Associated statistics and thresholded map.
- REAL-TIME fMRI WILL NOT BE A COMPLETE SUBSTITUTE FOR OFFLINE ANALYSIS

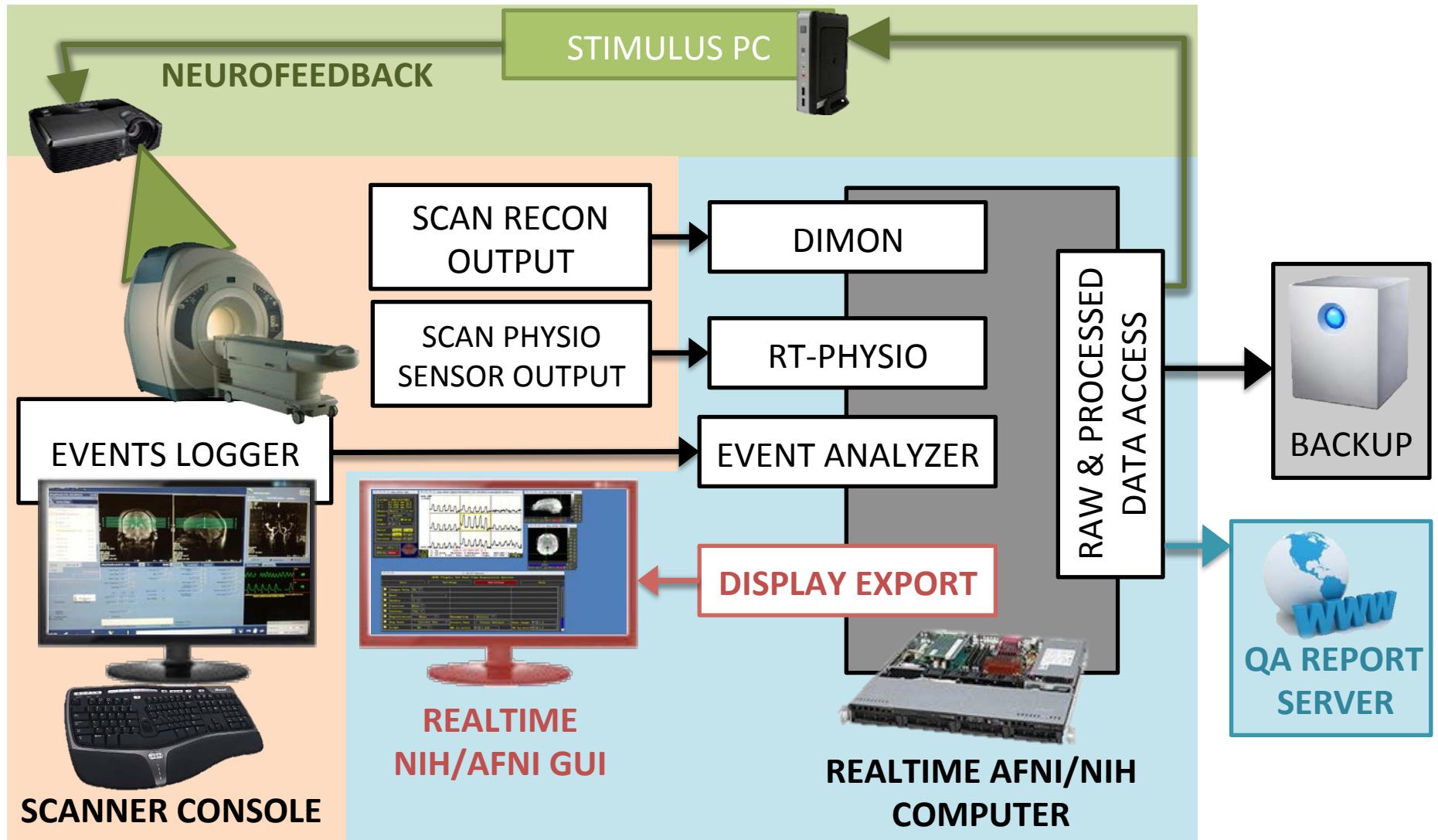
# Real-time fMRI: Original Work



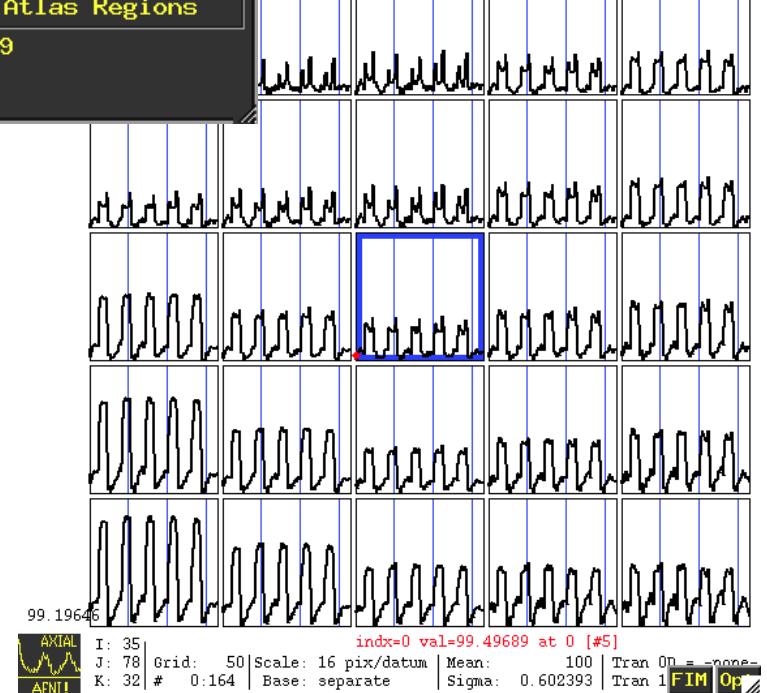
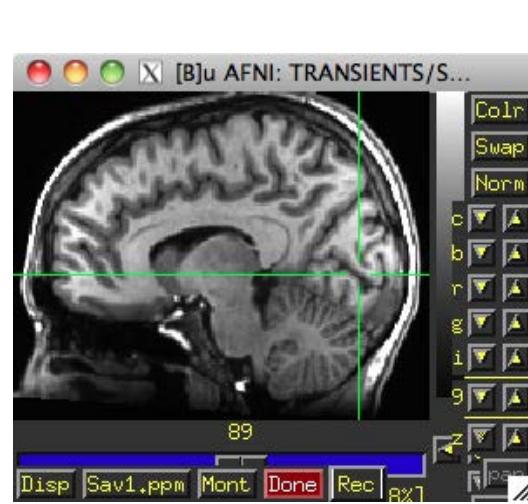
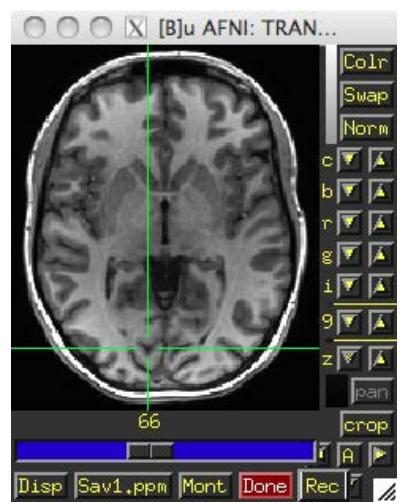
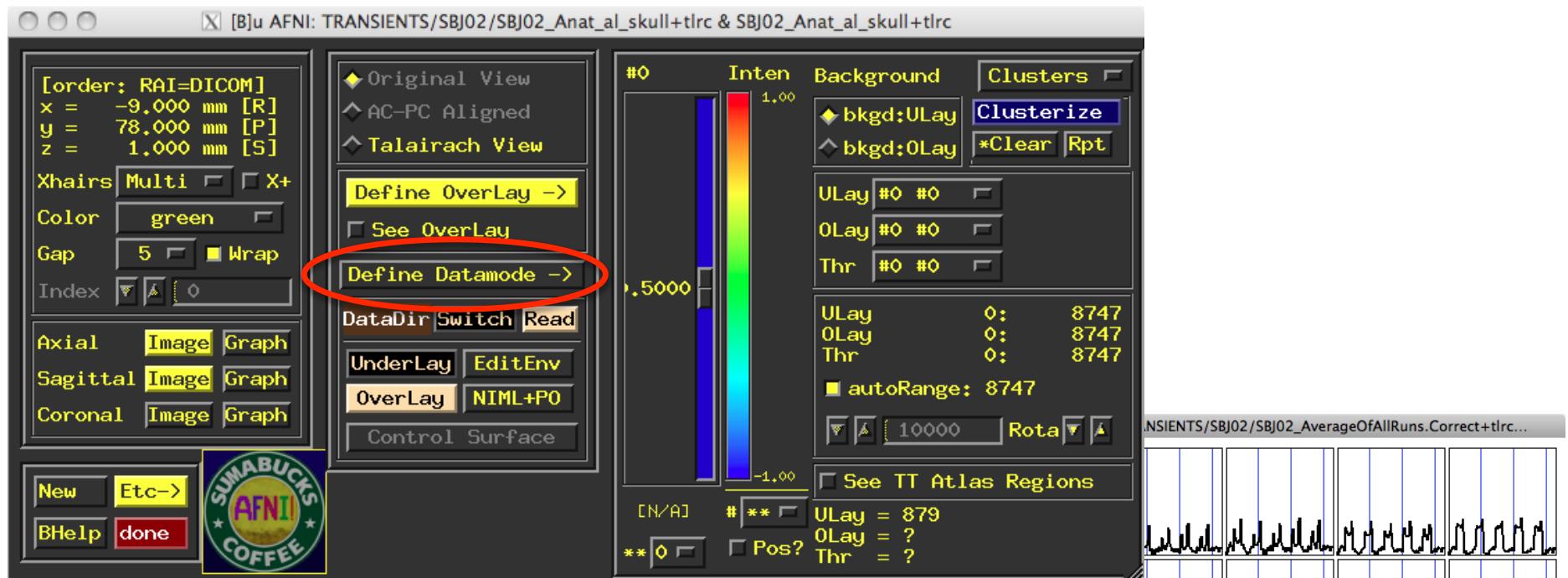
# Real-time fMRI Today



# NIH/AFNI Real-time System Architecture



# NIH/AFNI Real-time System: Look & Feel



# NIH/AFNI Real-time System: Look & Feel



**[B]u AFNI: TRANSIENTS/SBJ02/SBJ02\_Anat\_al\_skull+tlrc & SBJ02\_Anat\_al\_skull+tlrc**

**[order: RAI=DICOM]**  
 $x = -9.000 \text{ mm [R]}$   
 $y = 78.000 \text{ mm [P]}$   
 $z = 1.000 \text{ mm [S]}$

Xhairs Multi  X+  
Color green   
Gap 5  Wrap  
Index

Axial  Image  Graph  
Sagittal  Image  Graph  
Coronal  Image  Graph

New  Etc->   
BHelp  done



◆ Original View  
◆ AC-PC Aligned  
◆ Talairach View  
 Define OverLay ->  
 See OverLay  
 Define Datamode ->  
DataDir  Switch  Read  
UnderLay  EditEnv  
OverLay  NIML+PO  
Control Surface

View ULay Data Brick  
Warp ULay on Demand  
ULay Resam mode  Li   
Resam (mm)   1

View OLay Data Brick  
Warp OLay on Demand  
OLay Resam mode  NN   
Stat Resam mode  NN   
Resamp  ULay  OLay  Many  
SaveAs  ULay  OLay  
Rescan  This  All  \*.1D  
Read  Sess  1D  Web  
Lock  Misc  Plugins

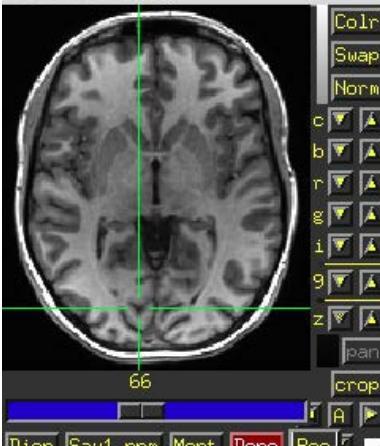
Clusters   
Clusterize   
 \*Clear  Rpt

0: 8747  
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0: 8747  
Range: 8747  
000  Rota

Atlas Regions  
79

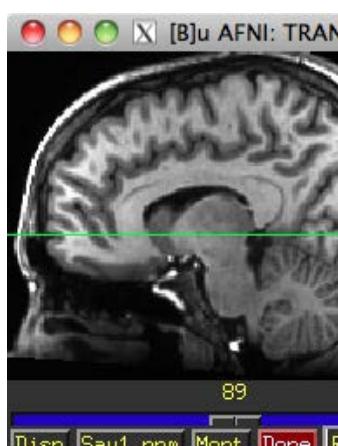
-- Cancel -- Dataset#2 Maxima  
2D Registration Dataset#N NLfit & NLerr  
3D Cluster Deconvolution Nudge Dataset  
3D Correlation Draw Dataset Permutation Test  
3D Dump98 Dset Zeropad Power Spectrum  
3D Edit Edit Tagset Render Dataset  
3D Registration Expr 0D Reorder  
3D+t Extract Fourier Stuff RETROICOR  
3D+t Statistic Gyrus Finder ROI Average  
3dsvm Hemi-subtract ROI Plot  
4D Dump Hilbert Delay98 RT Options  
ASL a3/d3 Histogram ScatterPlot  
BRIK Compressor Histogram: BFit SingleTrial Avg  
Coord Order Histogram: CC Threshold  
Dataset Copy Histogram: Multi TS Generate  
Dataset Dup L1\_Fit & Dtr Vol2Surf  
Dataset NOTES LSqFit & Dtr Wavelets

0 (#5)  
100 Tran 0n = -none-  
393 Tran 1 FIM Op



66

Disp Sav1.ppm Mont Done Rec



89

Disp Sav1.ppm Mont Done Rec

# NIH/AFNI Real-time System: Look & Feel



[X] [B] RT Options

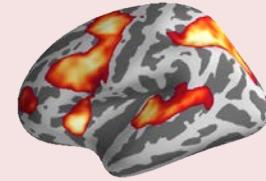
AFNI Plugin: Set Real-Time Acquisition Options

Quit      Set+Keep      **Set+Close**      Help

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Images Only	<input type="checkbox"/> No				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Root	<input type="text"/>				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Update	<input type="checkbox"/> 1				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Function	<input type="checkbox"/> None				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Verbose	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Registration	3D: realtime	Resampling	Quintic		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reg Base	Current Run	Extern Dset	-- Choose Dataset --	Base Image	<input type="button"/> 3
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Graph	Realtime	NR [x-axis]	<input type="button"/> 100	YR [y-axis]	<input type="button"/> 1
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mask	-- Choose Dataset --	Vals to Send	All Data		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ChannelMerge	none	MergeRegister	none	Chan List	<input type="text"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RT Write	Registered				



**QUALITY  
CONTROL**



**FUNCTIONAL  
LOCALIZERS**



**NEUROFEEDBACK  
/BCI**

## Real-time fMRI Applications:

**(1) Automatic Data Quality Assurance**



# Automatic HW-QA



- Conducted every morning before any research/clinical scans starts
- Subject: TLT Spherical Phantom
- Scans:
  - 3D Localizer
  - 2 Axial EPI Scans
  - 1 Sagittal EPI Scan
  - 1 Coronal EPI Scan
- Real-time automatically performs QA Analysis/Publish in the Web
  - Subject = QA\_<extra\_text>
  - History = QA-Compute
- QA Metrics
  - Image Signal-to-Noise Ratio (SNR)
  - Temporal Signal-to-Noise Ratio (TSNR)
  - Ghost Intensity
  - Background Noise Levels
  - Transmit Gain | Center Frequency



APPROX. 30 MINS OF  
SCAN TIME



MINIMUM  
HUMAN  
INTERACTION



# Automatic HW-QA: Web Server



FMRIF  
fmrif.nimh.nih.gov

Home News Internal

You are here: Home

**FMRIF QA »**

Site Navigation

**Public Resources**

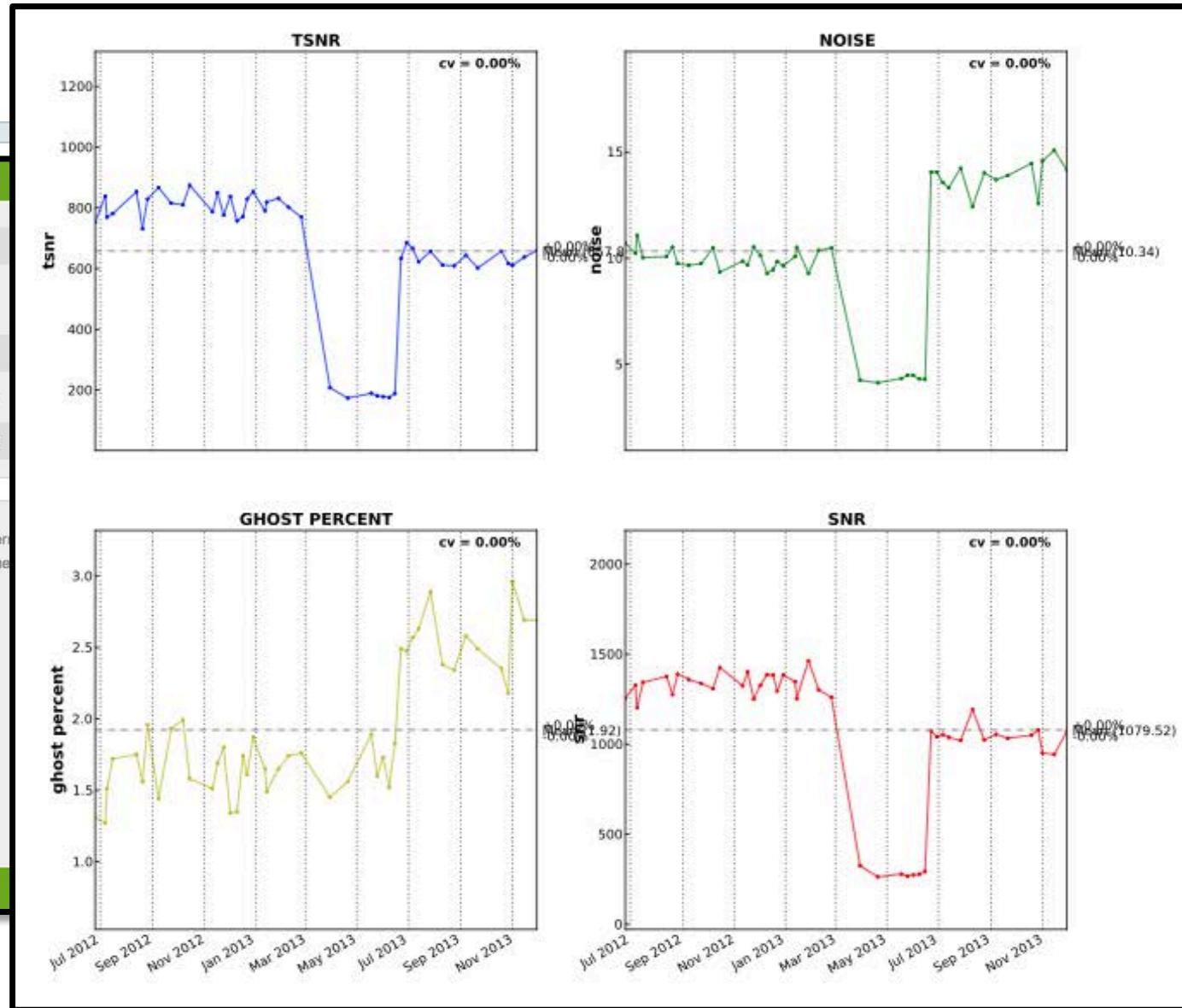
- About
- Investigators
- Staff
- Directions
- fMRI Course

**Internal Resources**

- FMRIF Manual
- Misc Forms + Data
- QA
- Mail Lists
- Scanlog
- Scheduling
- Tech Schedules

Enter search term or function name

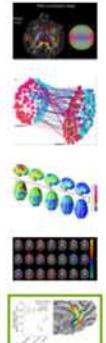
**FMRIF QA »**



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Vinai Roopchansingh



# In-session QA

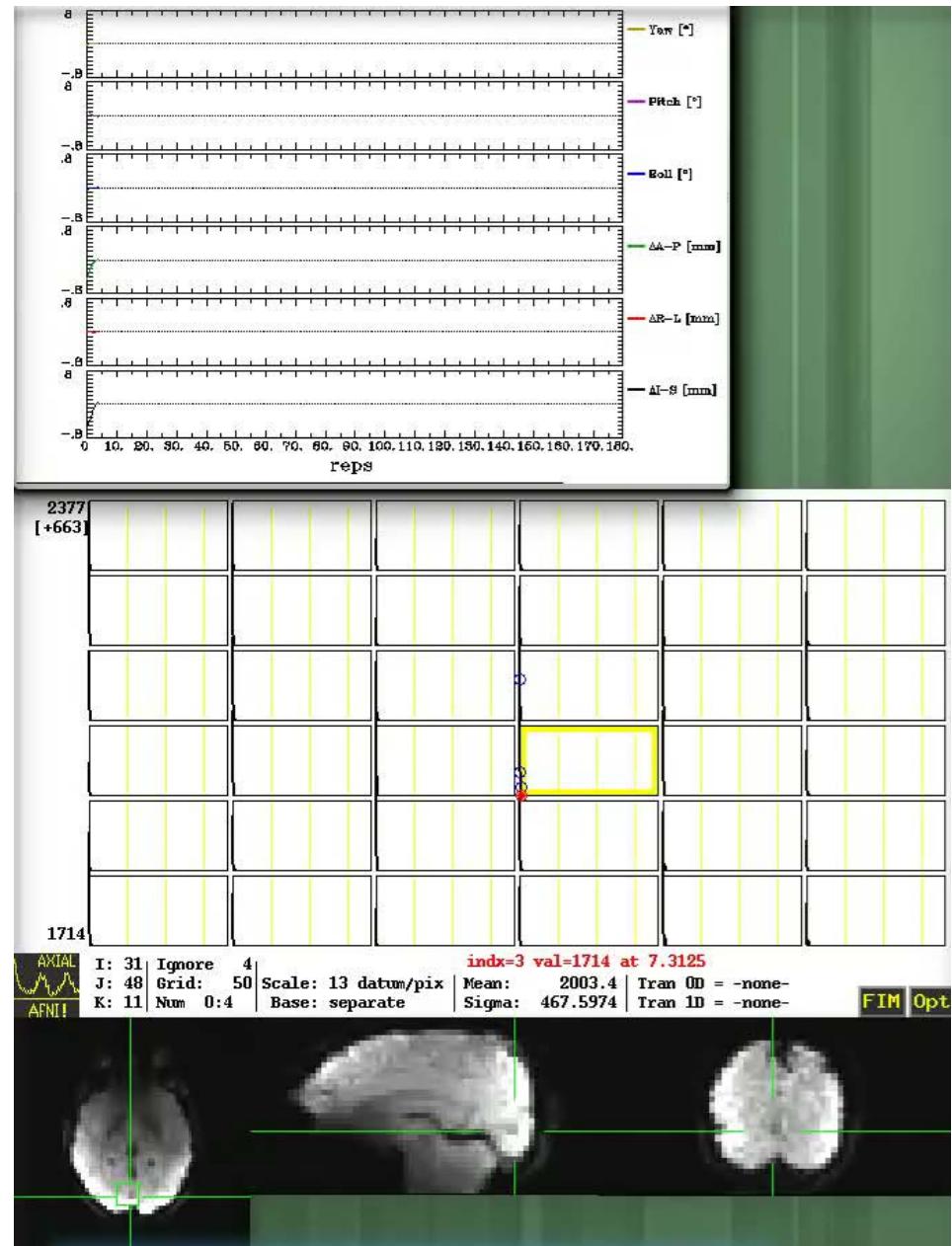


## WHY DO IN-SESSION QA?

- HW is just one part of the equation
- Subjects introduce additional noise
  - Head Motion
  - Physiological Noise
- HW can break throughout the day/be incorrectly connected.

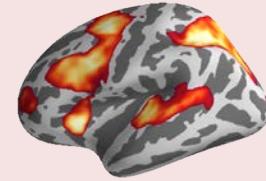
## WHAT DOES IT PROVIDE?

- Check Image Quality.
- Check Time-series: spikes, drift, task fluctuations.
- Check Head Motion Estimates.
- Generate TSNR Maps at the end of each scan.





**QUALITY  
CONTROL**



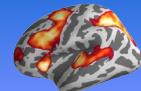
**FUNCTIONAL  
LOCALIZERS**



**NEUROFEEDBACK  
/BCI**

# Real-time fMRI Applications:

## (2) Online Functional Localizers



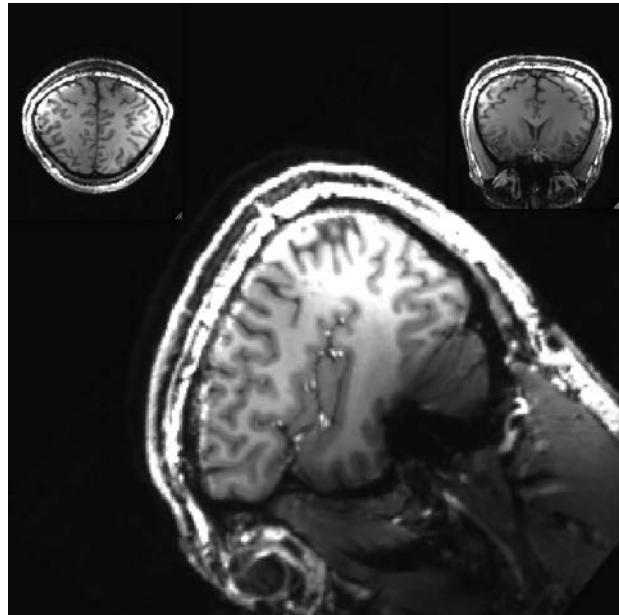
# Functional Localizers at Scan Time



**GOAL: HELP REVEAL THE SPECIFIC FUNCTIONAL NEURO-ANATOMY OF THE SUBJECT**

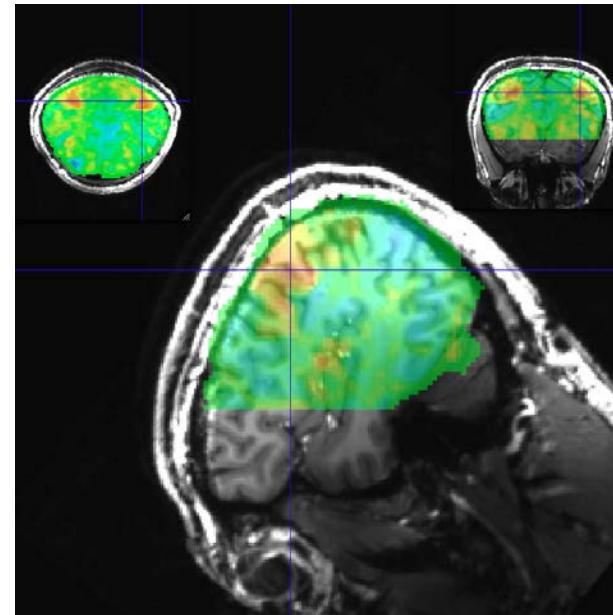
**1** Define target regions for main experiment more precisely...

...so that we can scan faster and/or at higher spatial resolution



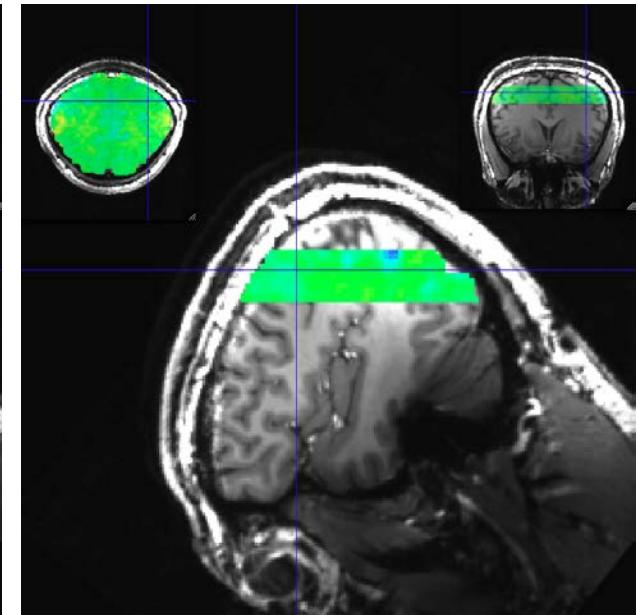
HIGH RES-ANATOMICAL

$1 \times 1 \times 1 \text{mm}$



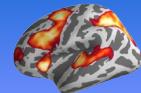
EPI FUNCTIONAL LOCALIZER

**52 Slices @  $2 \times 2 \times 2 \text{mm}$**   
**TR=2000ms**



MAIN EXPERIMENT

**11 Slices @  $2 \times 2 \times 2 \text{mm}$**   
**TR=400ms**

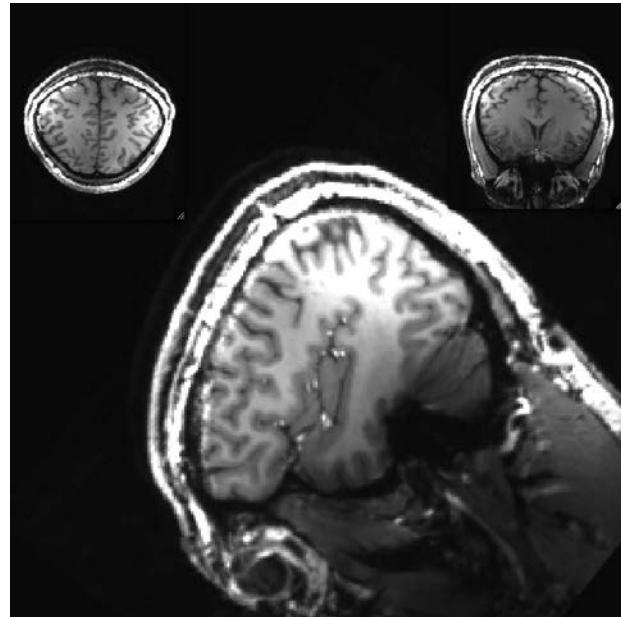


# Functional Localizers at Scan Time (II)



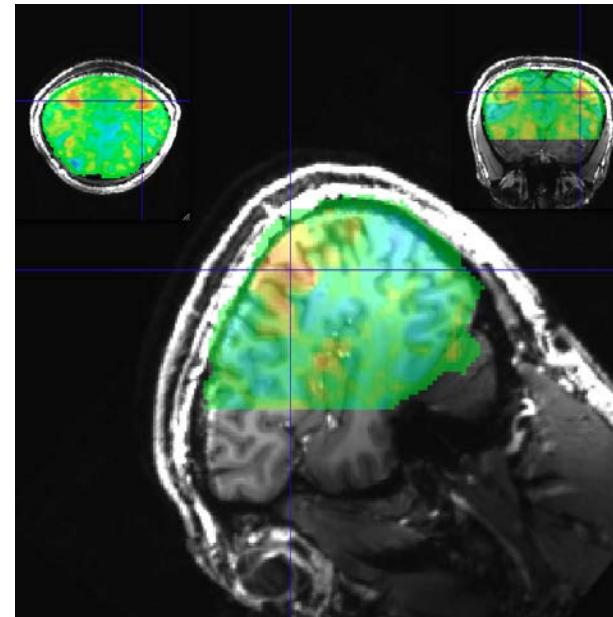
**2** Define target regions for main experiment more precisely...

... to obtain a Region of Interest (ROI) for a subsequent Neurofeedback scan



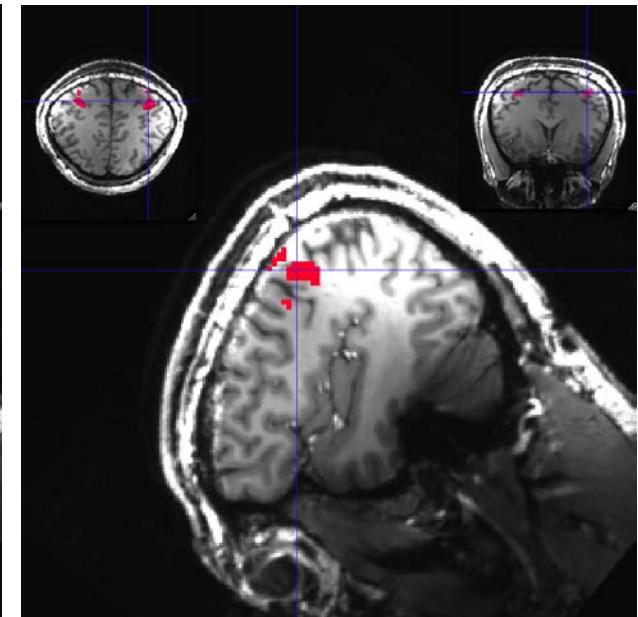
HIGH RES-ANATOMICAL

1x1x1mm



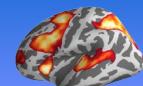
EPI FUNCTIONAL LOCALIZER

52 Slices @ 2x2x2mm  
TR=2000ms



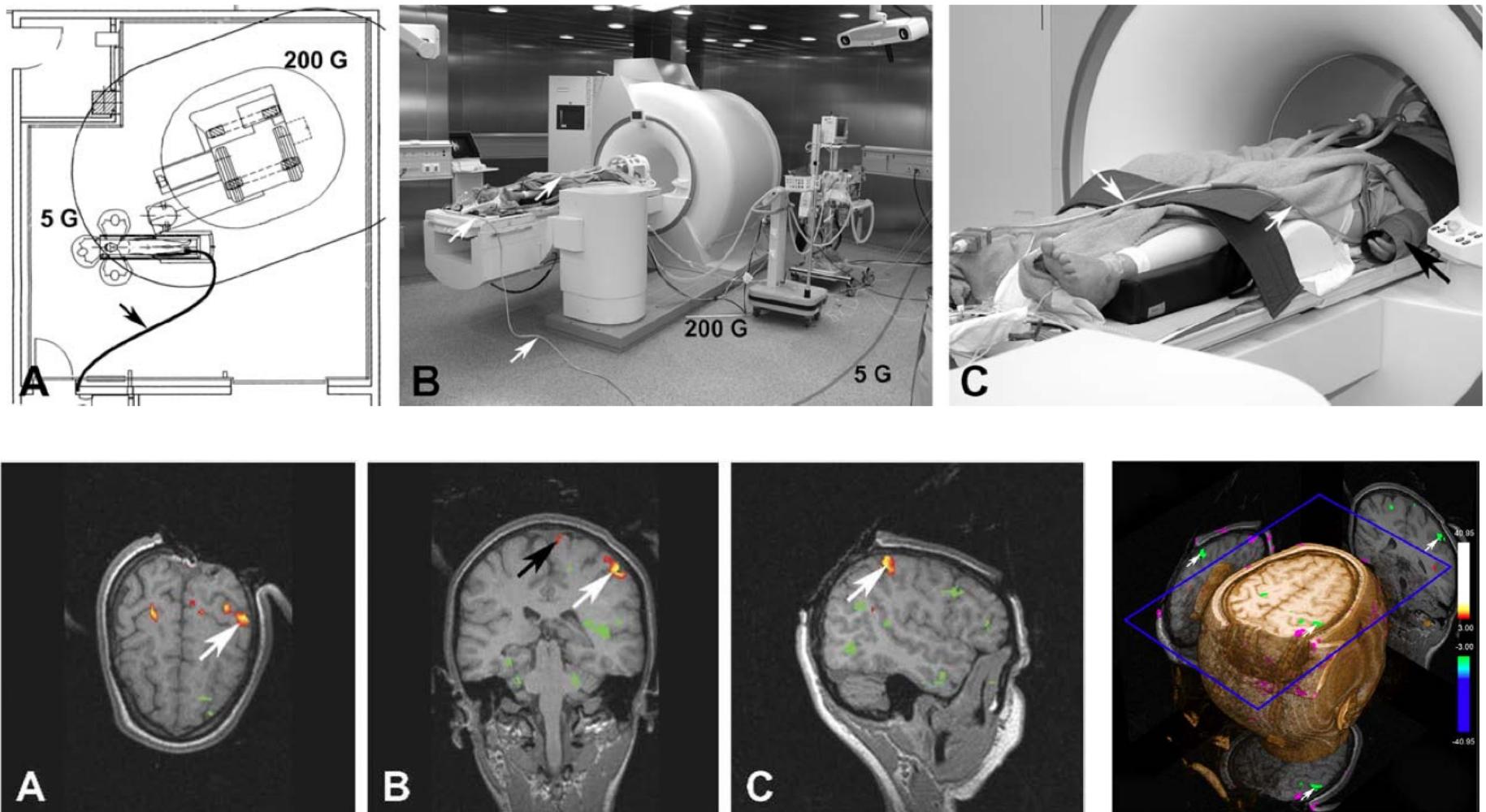
ROI FOR MAIN EXPERIMENT

NEUROFEEDBACK/BCI

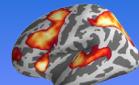


# Functional Localizers at Scan Time (III)

**3** Guide Surgical Interventions → Detect Tissue displacement during surgery



Gesser et al. "Intraoperative functional MRI: Implementation and preliminary experience"  
NeuroImage 26 (2005): 685-693



# Functional Localizers at Scan Time (IV)



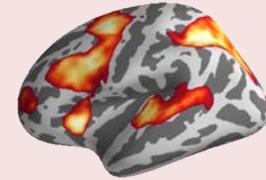
## 4 Teaching / Demonstrations to journalists and interested public.

- CAN BE VERY EFFECTIVE AT EXPLAINING:
  - BOLD Effect.
  - Hemodynamic Delay/Filter.
  - Artifacts: Head motion.
  - Effect of Imaging Parameters/Tuning of Scanning Protocols
- CAN HELP GET NEW STUDENTS INTERESTED IN FMRI
- REPORTED POSITIVE PAST EXPERIENCES:
  - Wellcome Trust Center for Neuroimaging (London, UK)
  - International Max Planck Research School (Tubingen, Germany)





**QUALITY  
CONTROL**



**FUNCTIONAL  
LOCALIZERS**

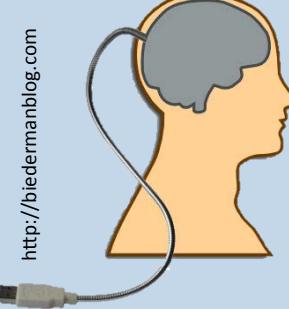


**NEUROFEEDBACK  
/BCI**

## Real-time fMRI Applications:

**(3) Brain-Computer Interfaces &  
Neurofeedback**

# Neurofeedback / Brain Computer Interfaces



<http://biedermanblog.com>

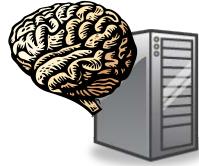
## BRAIN – COMPUTER INTERFACE

“Techniques that allow translation of brain activity into direct control of mechanical or computer components without the involvement of the peripheral nervous system or muscle” Lee JH et al. (2009)



**NEURO-FEEDBACK**

- Specific type of Biofeedback
- Conscious control of activity within a region of one's own brain.
- Applications: Therapy and Learning



**NEURO-CONTROL**

- Use “thoughts” to control an electronic/motorized device
- Applications: prosthesis, gaming

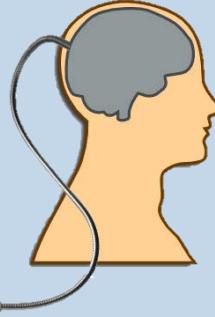


**COMMUNICATION**

- Use “thoughts” as a communication act.
- Applications: communicate with vegetative-state patients



http://biedermanblog.com



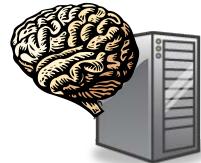
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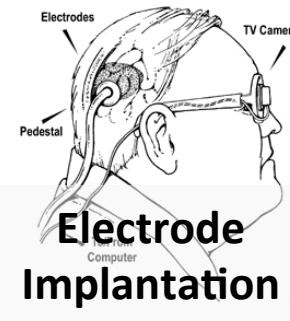
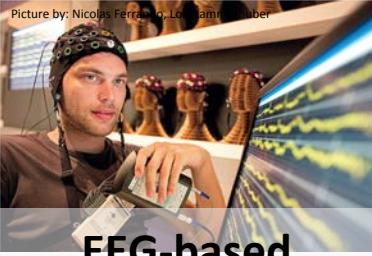


**COMMUNICATION**

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# fMRI BCI/Neurofeedback in Perspective

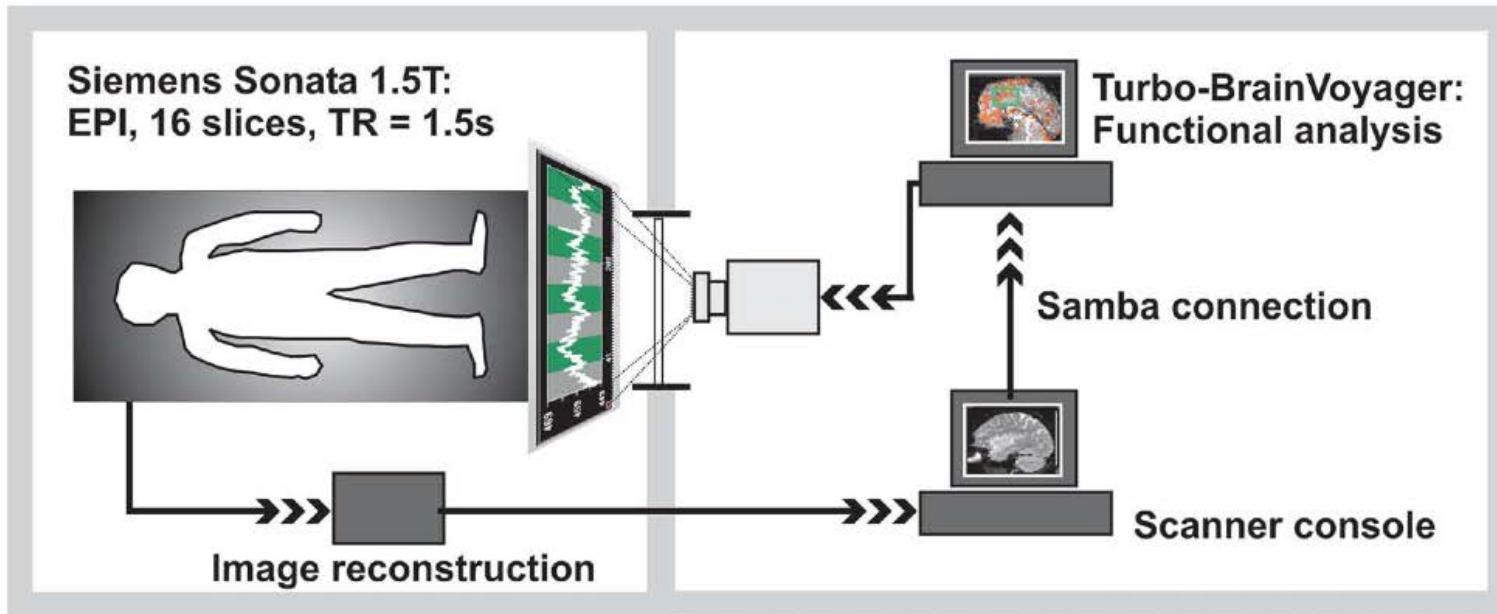
	NON INVASIVE	PORTABLE	INTERFACE	SPECIFICITY	REACH DEEP STRUCT.
 <b>Electrode Implantation</b>			<i>Neuronal Activity</i>	<b>VERY HIGH</b>	
 <b>EEG-based</b>			<i>Electric Fields</i>	<b>LOW</b>	
 <b>fMRI-based</b>			<i>Hemodynamic Response</i>	<b>HIGH</b>	



# Neurofeedback (1) – Original Experiments



## EXPERIMENTAL SETUP



Processing Time from Acquisition to Feedback < 2 seconds

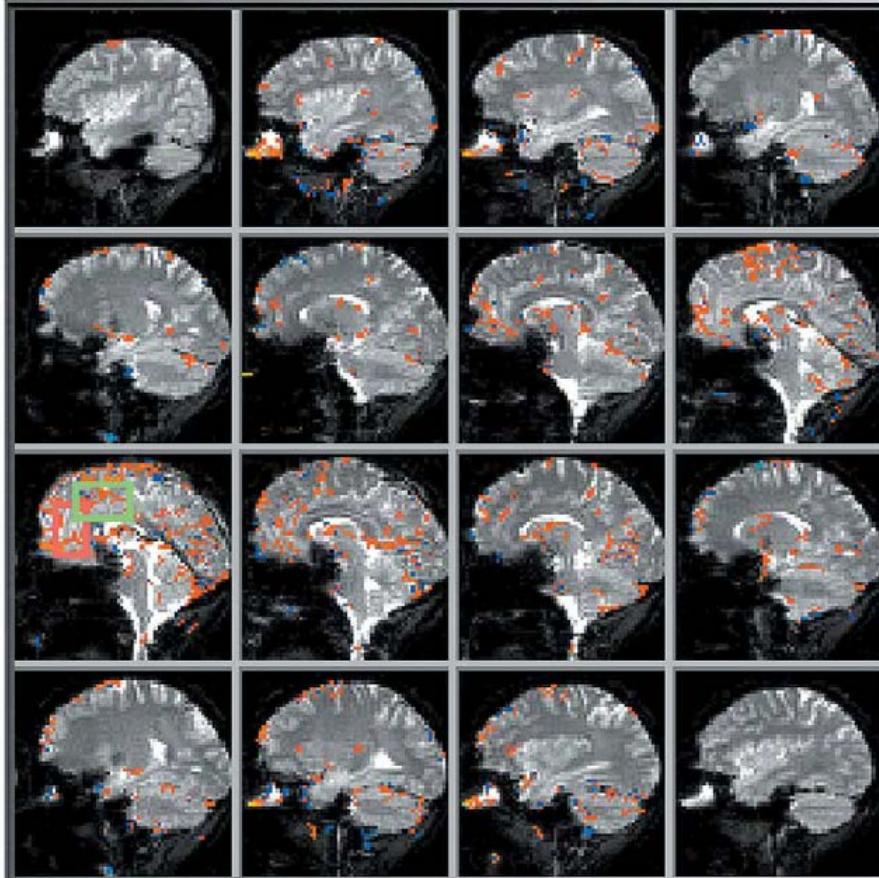
- 1 Subject.
- Consciously Increase and Decrease the BOLD signal of the Anterior Cingulate Cortex.
- Processing: (1) Linear Detrending, (2) Head Motion Correction, (3) Correlation Analysis



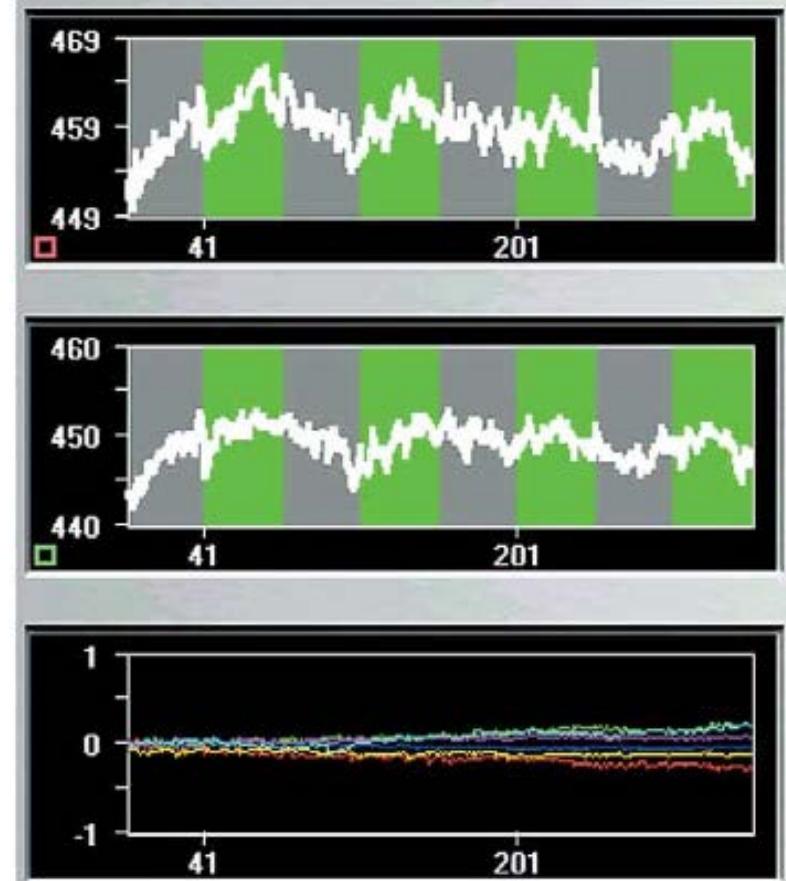
# Neurofeedback (1) – Original Experiments

## FEEDBACK SCREEN

TO THE EXPERIMENTER



TO THE SUBJECT



GREEN = Increase Signal | GREY = Return to Baseline

N. Weiskopf, R. Veit, M. Erb, et al. "Physiological self-regulation of regional brain activity using real-time functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI): methodology and exemplary data". *NeuroImage* 19 (2003): 577-586

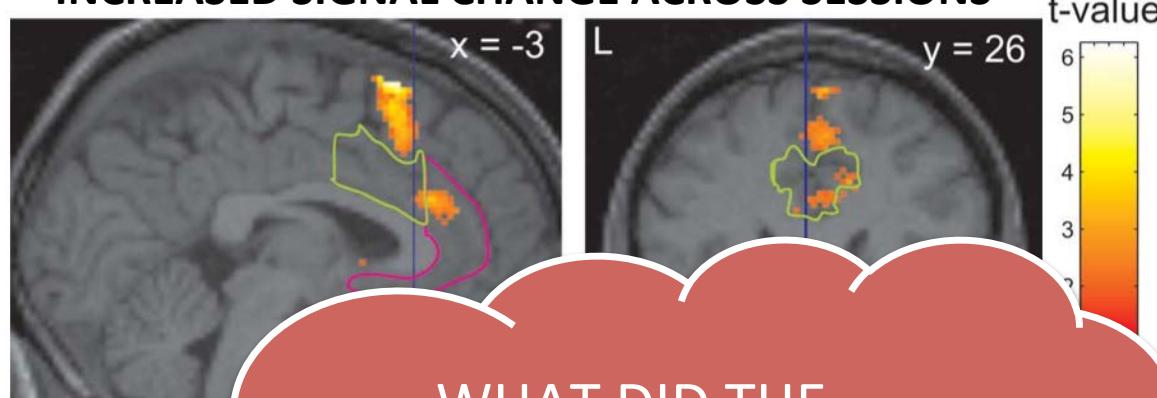


# Neurofeedback (1) – Original Experiments

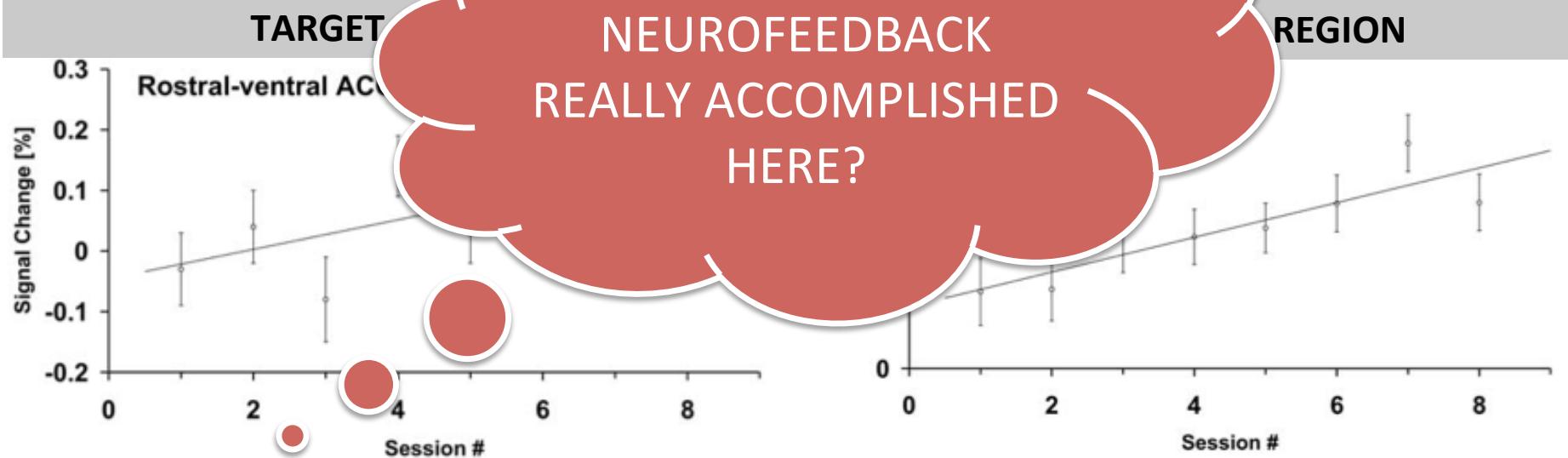


## RESULTS

### INCREASED SIGNAL CHANGE ACROSS SESSIONS



WHAT DID THE  
NEUROFEEDBACK  
REALLY ACCOMPLISHED  
HERE?



N. Weiskopf, R. Veit, M. Erb, et al. "Physiological self-regulation of regional brain activity using real-time functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI): methodology and exemplary data". *NeuroImage* 19 (2003): 577-586

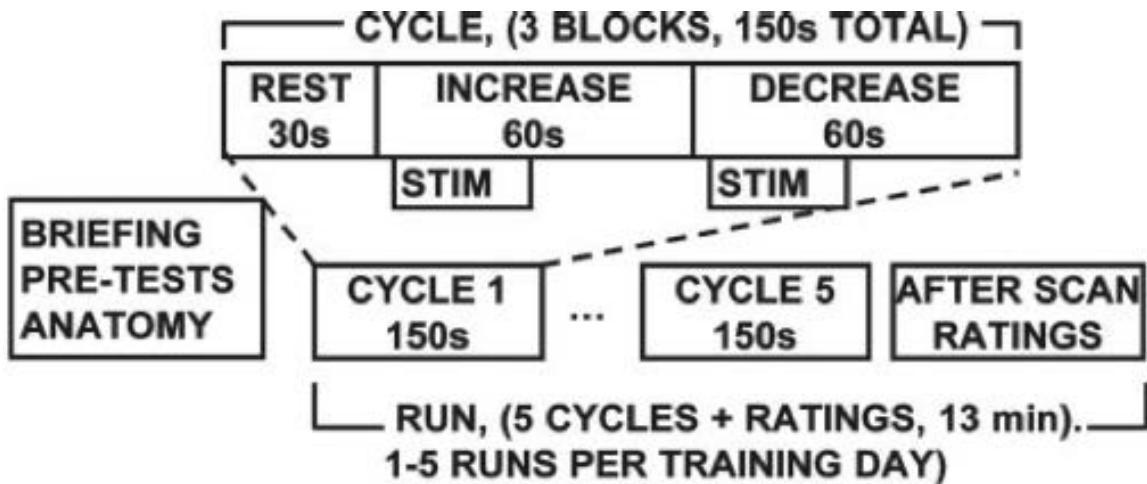


# Neurofeedback (2) – Mitigation of Chronic Pain

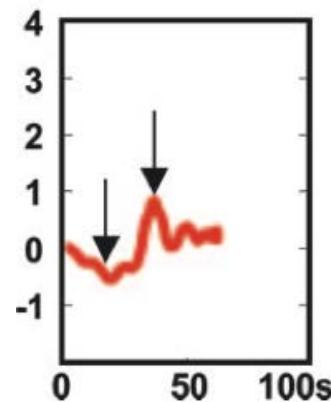


Does learned, deliberate manipulation of rostral anterior cingulate cortex (rACC) activation by subjects lead to predicted effects on pain perception?

## EXPERIMENTAL DESIGN



## FEEDBACK SCREEN



- 36 healthy subjects & 8 Chronic Pain Patients
- Type of Scans:
  - Localizer + Anatomical Scans
  - 3 Training Runs (Rate Stimuli at end of run)
  - 1 Post-test Run (Rate Stimuli at each presentation)
- Pain Rating using a Visual Analog Scale 1 - 10

deCharms RC, Maeda D et al. "Control over brain activation and pain learned by using real-time functional MRI" PNAS 102(2005):18626-31



# Neurofeedback (2) – Mitigation of Chronic Pain



GROUP	N	POPULATION	FEEDBACK TYPE	#TRAINING RUNS (13mins)	INSTRUCTIONS
H1	8	HEALTHY	fMRI from rACC	3	Attention/Control Stim. Quality/Severity
H2	8		No fMRI Feedback	3	Attention/Control Stim. Quality/Severity
H3	8		No fMRI Feedback	6	Attention
H4	8		fMRI other ROI	3	Attention/Control Stim. Quality/Severity
H5	4		fMRI other Person	3	Attention/Control Stim. Quality/Severity
P1	4	CHRONIC PAIN	fMRI from rACC	3	Attention/Control Stim. Quality/Severity
P2	4		Autonomic Biofeedback	3	Methods to induce Relaxation

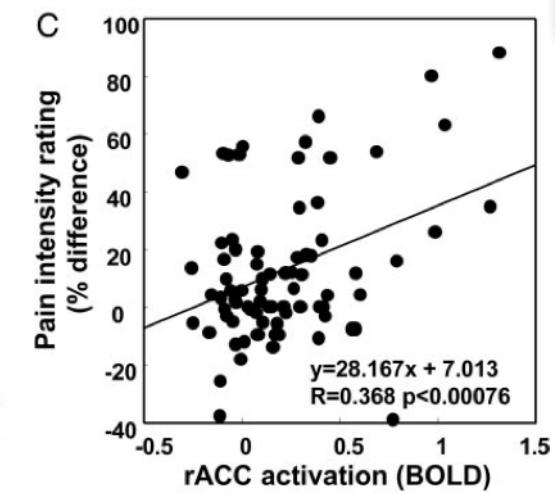
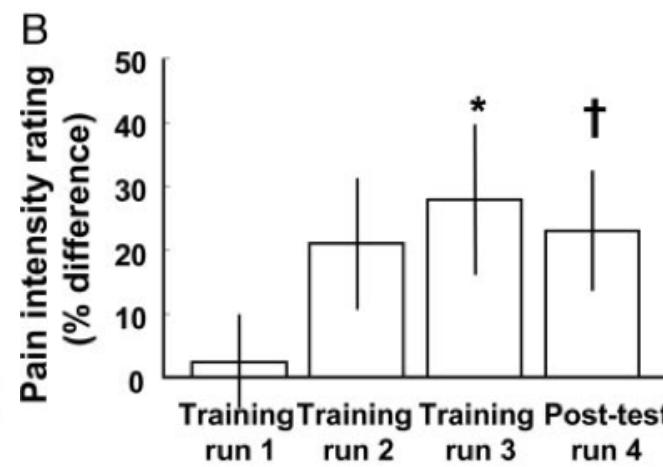
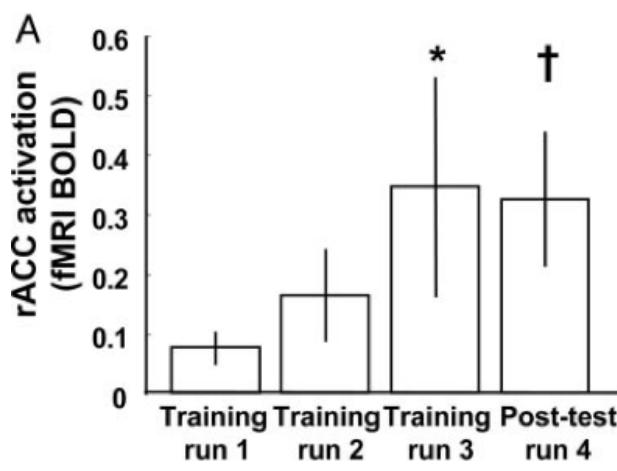
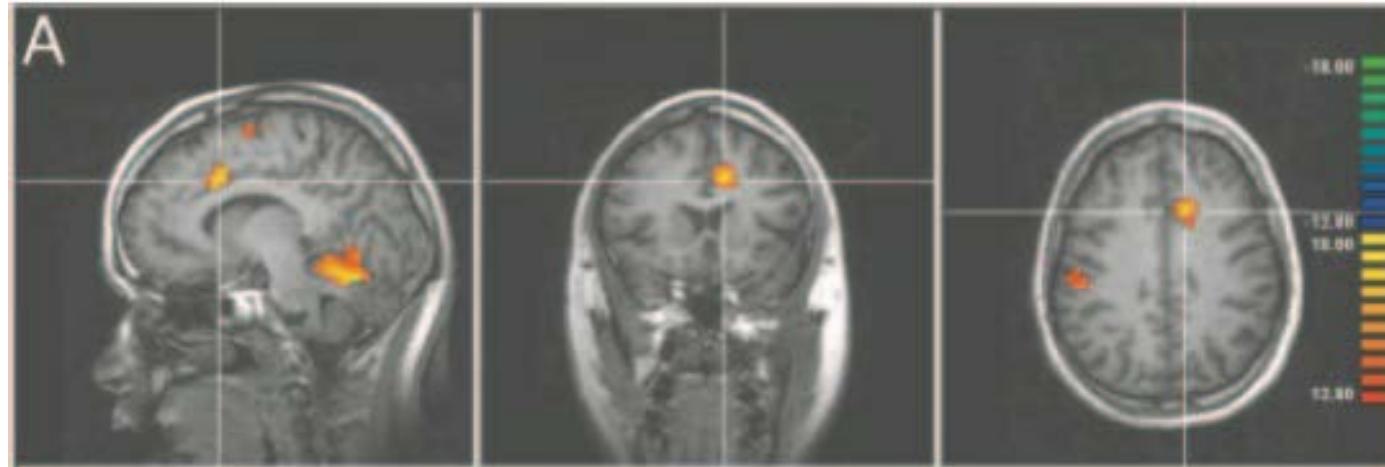
deCharms RC, Maeda D et al. "Control over brain activation and pain learned by using real-time functional MRI" PNAS 102(2005):18626-31



# Neurofeedback (2) – Mitigation of Chronic Pain



## RESULTS: H1 GROUP (HEALTHY, rtFMRI rACC)



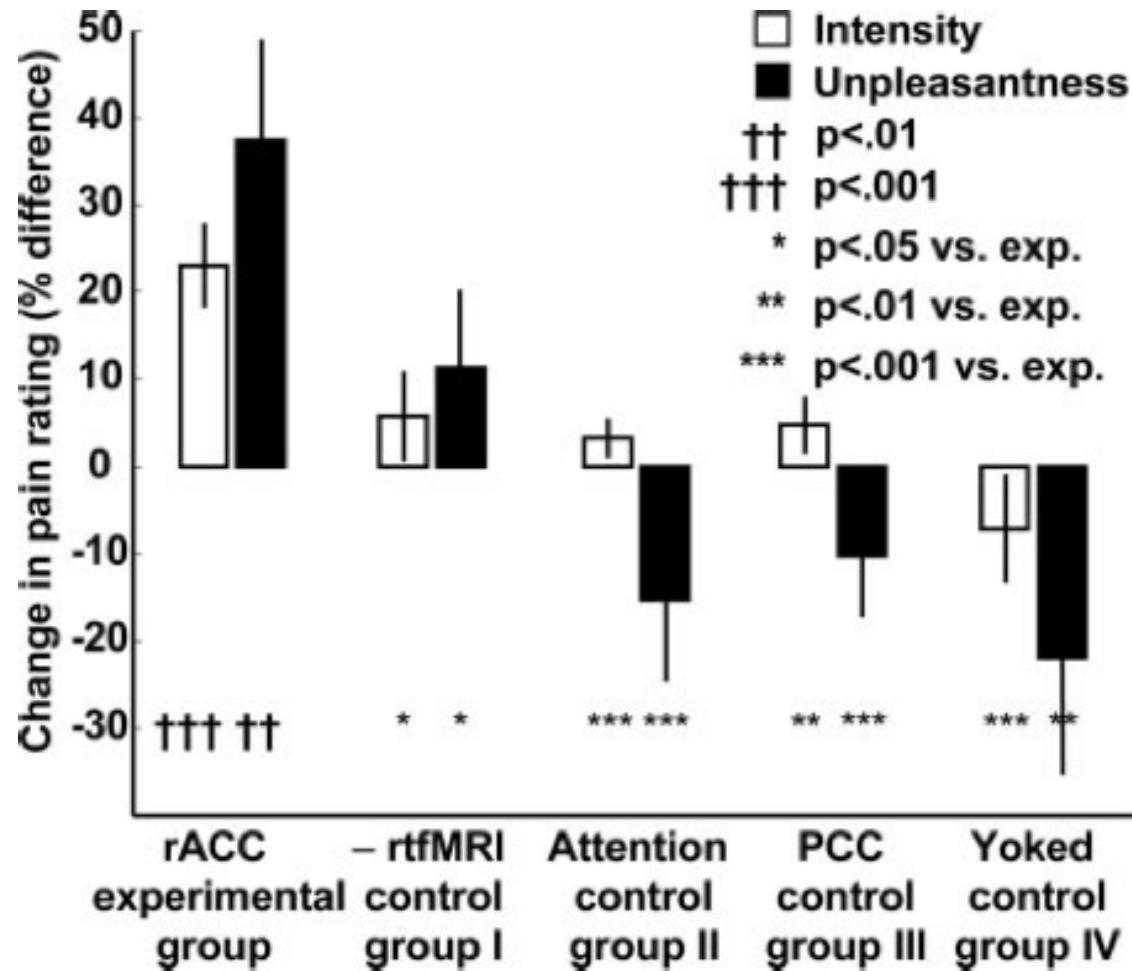
deCharms RC, Maeda D et al. "Control over brain activation and pain learned by using real-time functional MRI" PNAS 102(2005):18626-31



# Neurofeedback (2) – Mitigation of Chronic Pain



## RESULTS: SPECIFICITY DUE TO rtFMRI TRAINING IN HEALTHY PATIENTS

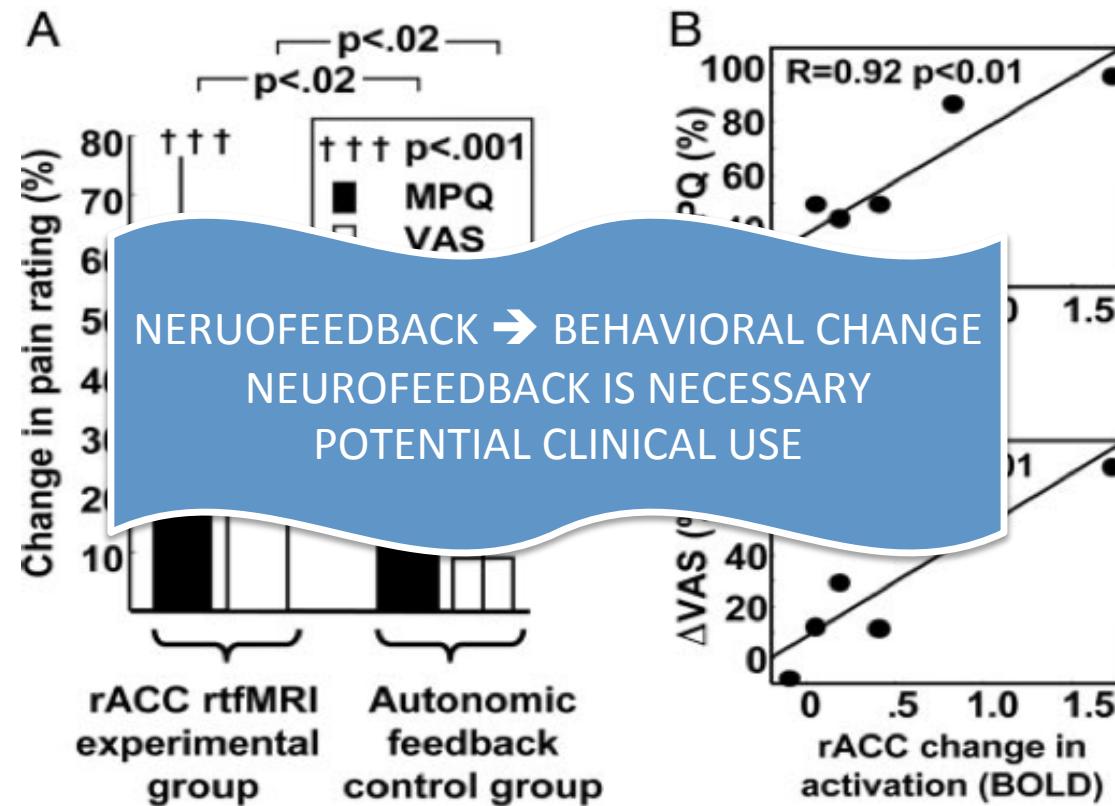




# Neurofeedback (2) – Mitigation of Chronic Pain



## RESULTS: CHRONIC PAIN PATIENTS



"In interviews after the procedure, patients described an increased sense of control over their pain as well as an overall decrease in pain level when not overtly attempting to exercise control, but they were not able to provide clear details regarding the strategies that they used."

deCharms RC, Maeda D et al. "Control over brain activation and pain learned by using real-time functional MRI" PNAS 102(2005):18626-31



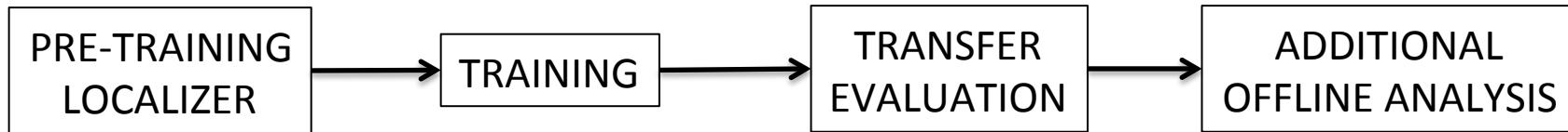
## Neurofeedback (3) – Other Studies



REGION	POPULATION	#SUBJECTS	VOLITIONAL CONTROL	BEHAVIORAL CHANGE	REFERENCE
Amygdala	Healthy	6	YES	YES	Posse et al. 2003
Anterior Insula	Schizophrenia	9	YES	YES	Ruiz et al. 2011
Insula	Healthy	15	YES	N/A	Caria et al. 2007
Suppl. Motor Area	Healthy	1	YES	N/A	Weiskopf et al. 2004
Parahippoc. Place Area	Healthy	1	YES	N/A	Weiskopf et al. 2004
Right Inferior Frontal G.	Healthy	7	YES	YES	Rota et al. 2009
Primary Auditory Ctx.	Tinnitus Patients	6	YES	2/6	Haller et al. 2009
Subgenual ACC	Healthy	18	YES	N/A	Hamilton et al. 2001
Ventral Pre-motor Ctx.	Healthy & Subcortical Stroke Patients	4/ 2	YES	YES	Sitaram et al. 2012
Orbito-frontal Cortex	Healthy	?	YES	N/A	Hampson et al. 2012



## COMMON EXPERIMENTAL SETUP



## EXPERIMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

- ROI Definition
- Data pre-processing prior to Feedback
- Baseline Calculation
- Feedback Display Configuration
- Provide Strategy: Yes/No
- Control for Motion, Physiology, etc.
- Do I really need a multi-million machine to do this?

## DESIRED OUTCOMES

	Volitional Control	Behavioral Change
Real Feedback	YES	YES
Sham Feedback	NO	NO



Transfer of Behavioral Change beyond Scanning Sessions



# NIH/AFNI Neurofeedback System



[A]u AFNI: ./DummyN27+orig & DummyN27+orig

[order: RAI=DICOM]  
x = 1.250 mm [L]  
y = 16.250 mm [P]  
z = 8.750 mm [S]

Xhairs Multi  X+  
Color green   
Gap 5  Wrap  
Index

Axial  Image  Graph  
Sagittal  Image  Graph  
Coronal  Image  Graph

New  Etc->   
BHelp  done

Original View  
AC-PC Aligned  
Talairach View

View U Lay Data Brick  
Warp U Lay on Demand

Define Overlay ->  
 See Overlay

Define Datamode ->  
DataDir  Switch  Read  
UnderLay  EditEnv   
OverLay  NIML  
Control Surface

Plugins Tear-off

-- Cancel --	Dataset#N	NIH RT Neurofeedback
2D Registration	Deconvolution	NLfit & NLerr
3D Cluster	Draw Dataset	Nudge Dataset
3D Correlation	Dset Zeropad	Permutation Test
3D Dump98	Edit Tagset	Power Spectrum
3D Edit	Expr OD	Render Dataset
3D Registration	Fourier Stuff	Reorder
3D+t Extract	Gyrus Finder	RETROICOR
3D+t Statistic	Hemi-subtract	ROI Average
4D Dump	Hilbert Delay98	ROI Plot
ASL a3/d3	Histogram	RT 3dsvm
BRIK Compressor	Histogram: BFit	RT Options
Coord Order	Histogram: CC	ScatterPlot
Dataset Copy	Histogram: Multi	SingleTrial Avg
Dataset Dup	L1_Fit & Dtr	Threshold
Dataset NOTES	LSqFit & Dtr	TS Generate
Dataset Rename	maskcalc	Vol2Surf
Dataset#2	Maxima	Wavelets



# NIH/AFNI Neurofeedback System



[A] NIH RT Neurofeedback

AFNI Plugin: Configuration of NIH-RT Neurofeedback Visual Interface

PROGRAM		Executable	FIM Neurofeed	Other						
GENERAL		ROI Input	1 ROI	#Volumes	Ignore (#Vols)	Baseline (#Vols)				
METRICS CONF.		Metric	%SignalChange	StDev Win Size	5					
ROI 1/DIFF CONF.		Max %SChange	50	Max StDev	10					
ROI 2 CONF.		Max %SChange	50	Max StDev	10					
FEEDBACK MODE		Vis. Type	Thermometer							
DISPLAY		Display	StimPC (VNC)	Other	Screen Size [%]	90				
SCREEN		Legend	None							
PARADIGM		Type	Training	Icon Shape	Circle	Icon Color	White	Onsets	Rest Display	Feedback
TARGET		ROI1 Type	None	ROI1 Value	5	ROI2 Type	None	ROI2 Value	5	
MOTION		Type	None	Weight	0.35	Color Thresh. 1	0.2	Color Thresh. 2	0.4	Color Thresh. 3
EXPORT		Write PIPE	No	Path						

- (1) External Presentation Software to Use → Default is our in-house development.
- (2) Number of ROIs: 1 ROI, 2 ROIs, (A – B)
- (3) Number of Acquisitions
- (4) How many volumes to ignore
- (5) How many volumes to use for baseline computation



# NIH/AFNI Neurofeedback System



[A] NIH RT Neurofeedback

AFNI Plugin: Configuration of NIH-RT Neurofeedback Visual Interface

PROGRAM		Executable	FIM Neurofeed	Other															
GENERAL		ROI Input	1 ROI	#Volumes	▼	▲	200	Ignore (#Vols)	▼	▲	5	Baseline (#Vols)	▼	▲	20				
METRICS CONF.		Metric	%SignalChange	StDev Win Size	▼	▲	5												
ROI 1/DIFF CONF.		Max %SChange	▼	▲	50	Max StDev	▼	▲	10										
ROI 2 CONF.		Max %SChange	▼	▲	50	Max StDev	▼	▲	10										
FEEDBACK MODE		Vis. Type	Thermometer																
DISPLAY		Display	StimPC (VNC)	Other			Screen Size [%]	90	□										
SCREEN		Legend	None																
PARADIGM		Type	Training	Icon Shape	Circle	Icon Color	White	Onsets		Rest Display	Feedback								
TARGET		ROI1 Type	None	ROI1 Value	▼	▲	5	ROI2 Type	None	ROI2 Value	▼	▲	5						
MOTION		Type	None	Weight	▼	▲	0.35	Color Thresh. 1	▼	▲	0.2	Color Thresh. 2	▼	▲	0.4	Color Thresh. 3	▼	▲	0.65
EXPORT		Write PIPE	No	Path															

## (6) DISPLAY METRIC

- Percent Signal Change from Baseline: [Min, Max]
- Standard Deviation from Baseline over time: [Min, Max, Window]



# NIH/AFNI Neurofeedback System



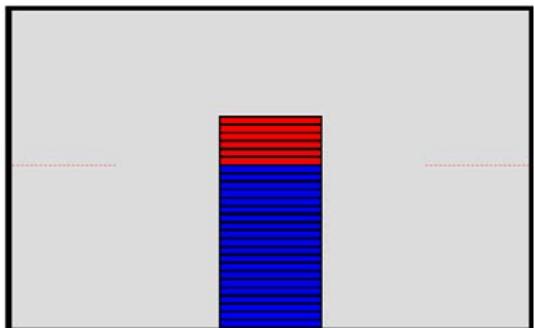
[A] NIH RT Neurofeedback

AFNI Plugin: Configuration of NIH-RT Neurofeedback Visual Interface

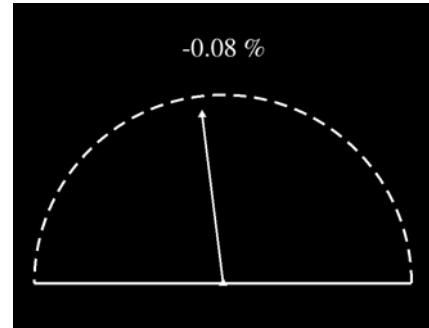
PROGRAM	Executable	FIM Neurofeed	Other							
GENERAL	ROI Input	1 ROI	#Volumes	200	Ignore (#Vols)	5	Baseline (#Vols)	20		
METRICS CONF.	Metric	%SignalChange	StDev Win Size	5						
ROI 1/DIFF CONF.	Max %SChange	50	Max StDev	10						
ROI 2 CONF.	Max %SChange	50	Max StDev	10						
FEEDBACK MODE	Vis. Type	Thermometer								
DISPLAY	Display	StimPC (VNC)	Other		Screen Size [%]	90				
SCREEN	Legend	None								
PARADIGM	Type	Training	Icon Shape	Circle	Icon Color	White	Onsets	Rest Display	Feedback	
TARGET	ROI1 Type	None	ROI1 Value	5	ROI2 Type	None	ROI2 Value	5		
MOTION	Type	None	Weight	0.35	Color Thresh. 1	0.2	Color Thresh. 2	0.4	Color Thresh. 3	0.65
EXPORT	Write PIPE	No	Path							

## (7) FEEDBACK DISPLAY CONFIGURATION

SINGLE ROI

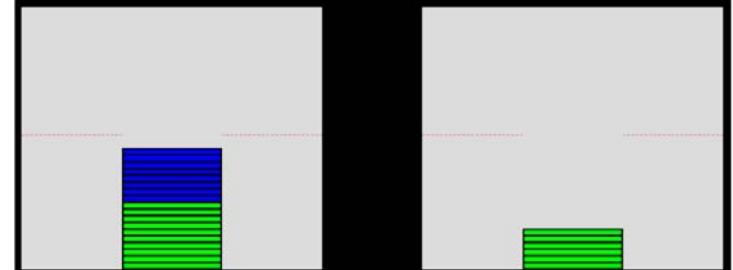


THERMOMETER | LEGEND OFF



GAUGE | LEGEND ON

TWO ROIS



THERMOMETER | LEGEND OFF



# NIH/AFNI Neurofeedback System

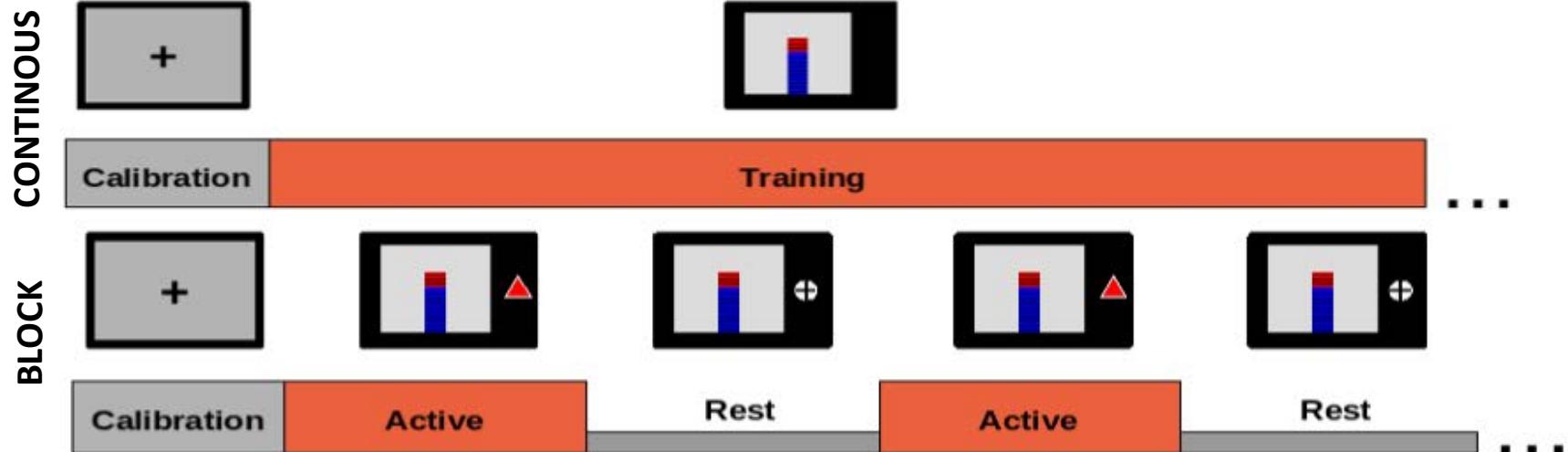


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DISPLAY	Display	StimPC (VNC)	Other		Screen Size [%]	90				
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PARADIGM	Type	Training	Icon Shape	Circle	Icon Color	White	Onsets	Rest Display	Feedback	
TARGET	ROI1 Type	None	ROI1 Value	5	ROI2 Type	None	ROI2 Value	5		
MOTION	Type	None	Weight	0.35	Color Thresh. 1	0.2	Color Thresh. 2	0.4	Color Thresh. 3	0.65
EXPORT	Write PIPE	No	Path							

## (8) MODE OF OPERATION

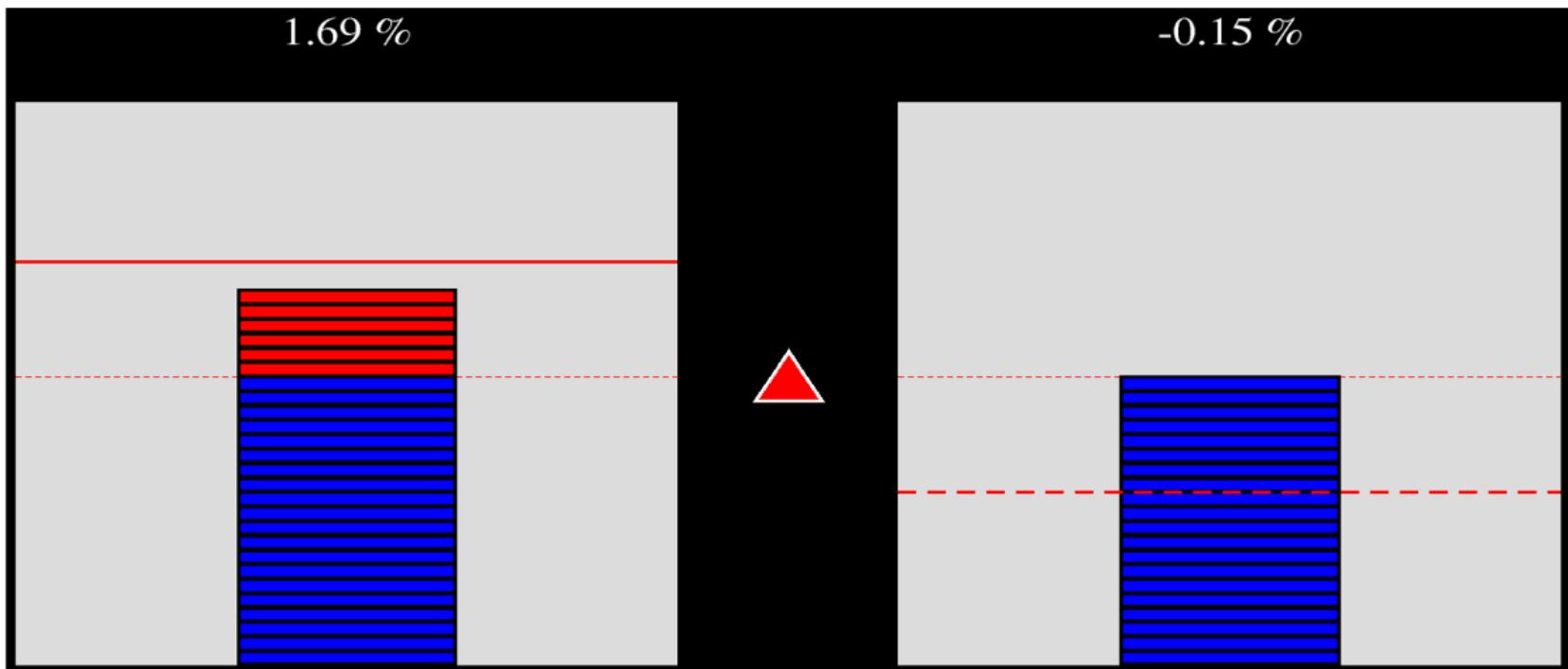




# NIH/AFNI Neurofeedback System



## TARGET VALUES



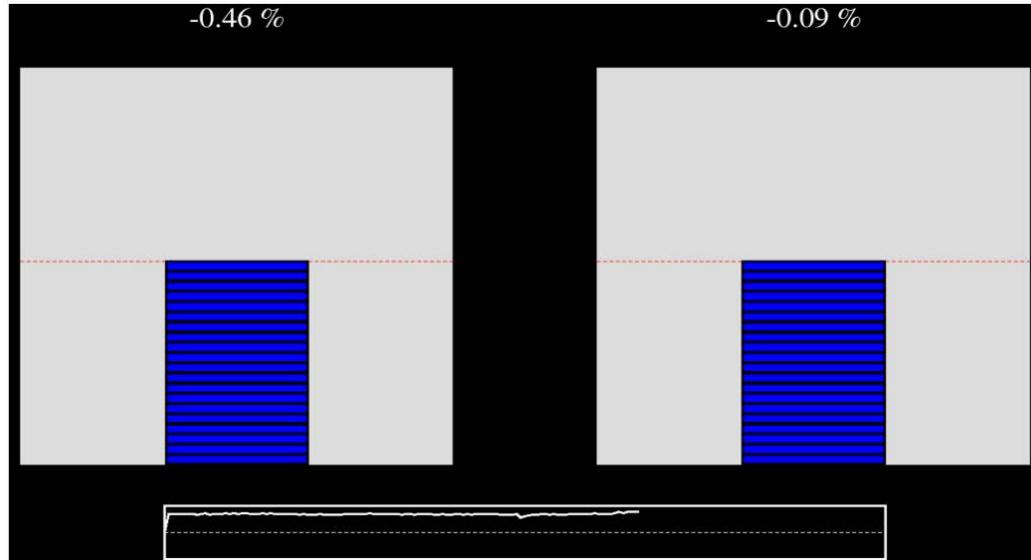


# NIH/AFNI Neurofeedback System

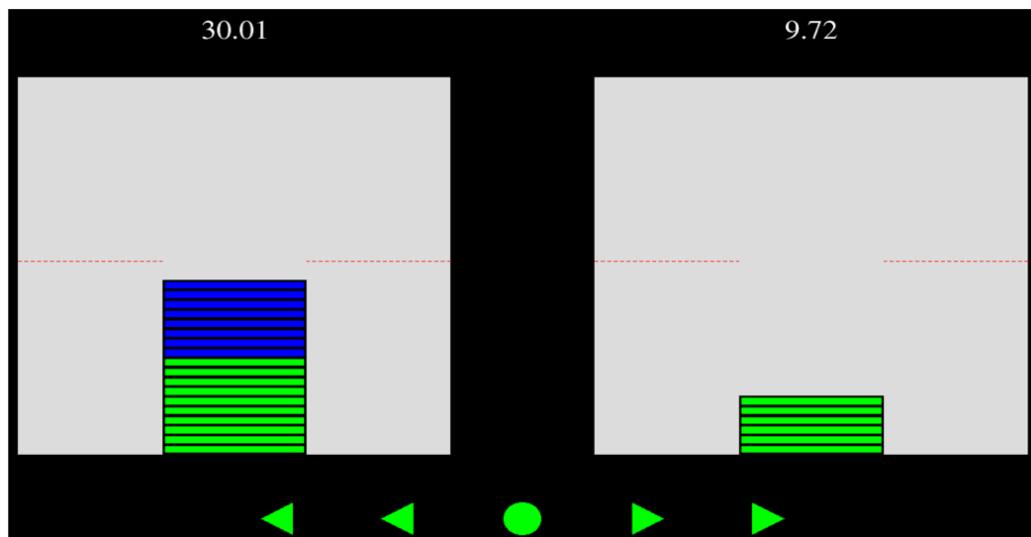


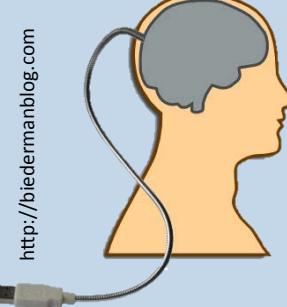
## MOTION FEEDBACK

AS TIMESRIES



AS COLORED DOTS



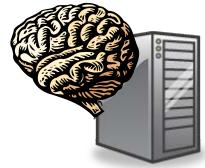


## BRAIN – COMPUTER INTERFACE

“Techniques that allow translation of brain activity into direct control of mechanical or computer components without the involvement of the peripheral nervous system or muscle” Lee JH et al. (2009)



- Specific kind of Biofeedback
- Conscious control of activity within a region of one's own brain.
- Applications: Therapy and Learning



NEURO-CONTROL

- Use “thoughts” to control an electronic/motorized device
- Applications: prosthesis, gaming



COMMUNICATION

- Use “thoughts” as a communication act.
- Applications: communicate with vegetative-state patients

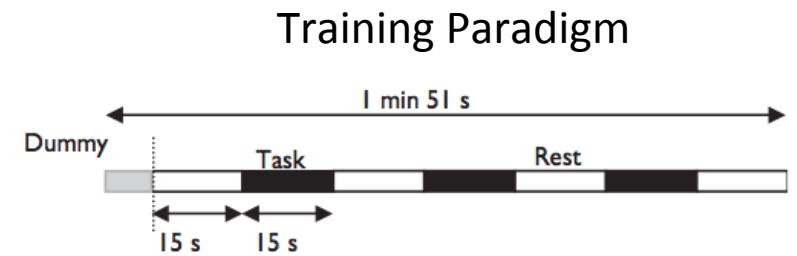
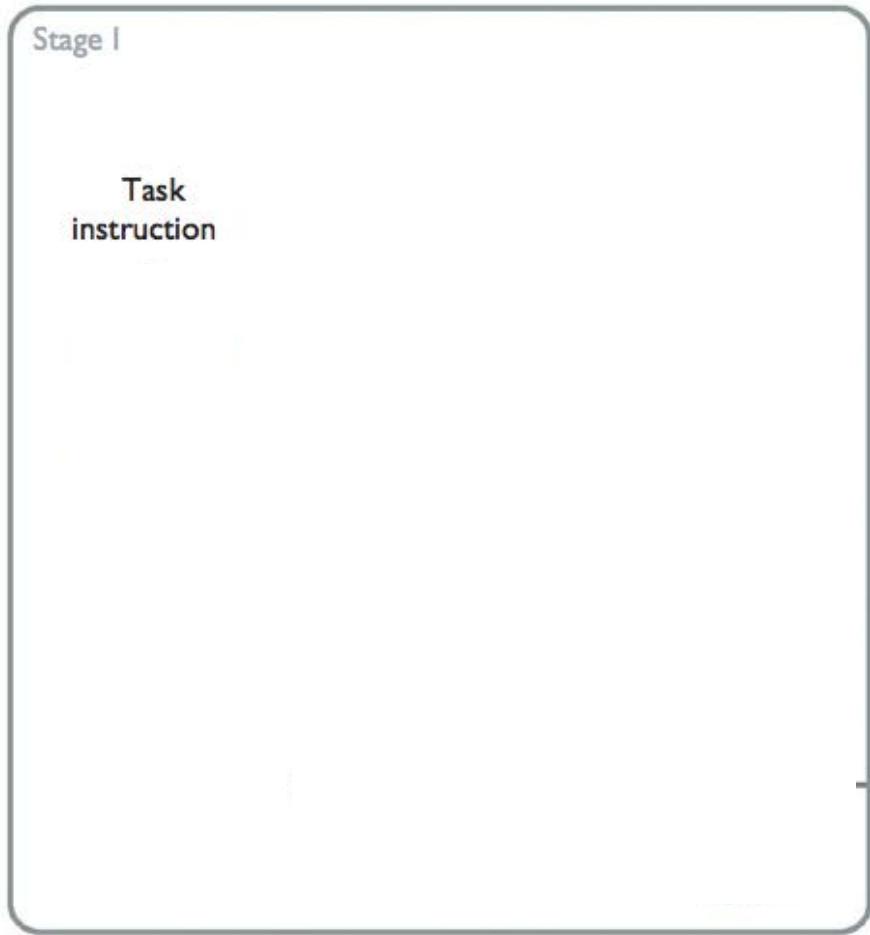


# Neuro-control (1) – Cursor Control



BOLD activity patterns from 4 different tasks were measured and translated into four directional cursor commands for navigation through a 2D maze presented to the subjects.

## PHASE I SUBJECT TRAINING & ROI DEFINITION



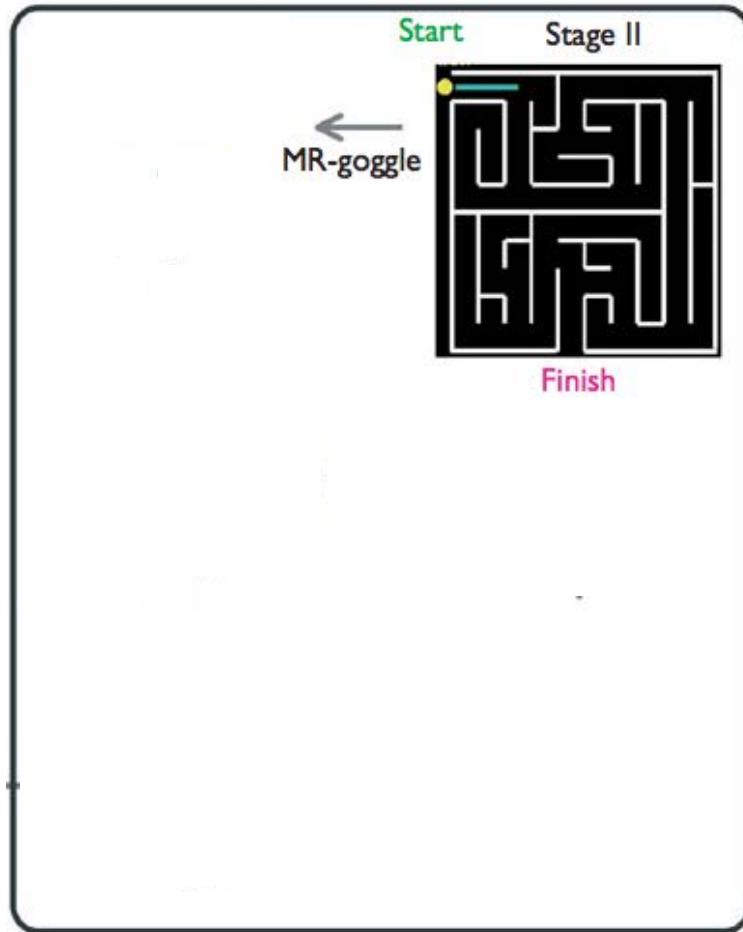


# Neuro-control (1) – Cursor Control



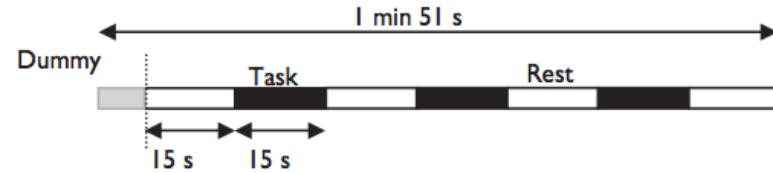
BOLD activity patterns from 4 different tasks were measured and translated into four directional cursor commands for navigation through a 2D maze presented to the subjects.

PHASE II  
ATTEMPT TO NAVIGATE THE MAZE

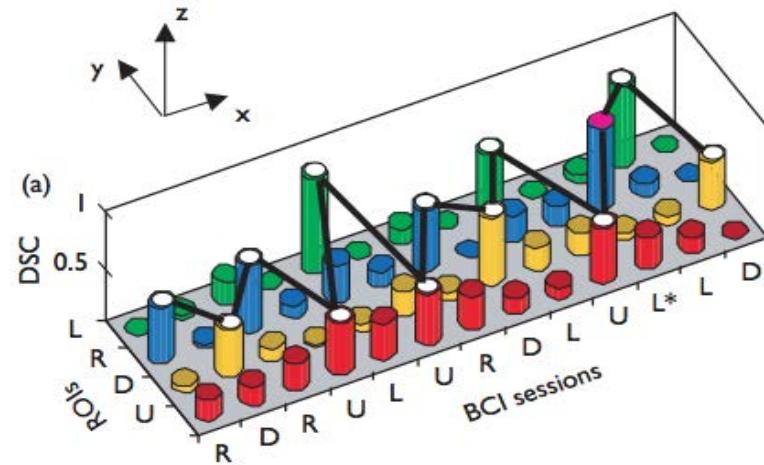


TR=1.5s | 3.75x3.75x5mm

- Data processed in near real-time (2min 15s).



- Cursor moved according to the pattern with the best match (Max Overlap).



No errors for 2 subjects | 1 error for 1 subject

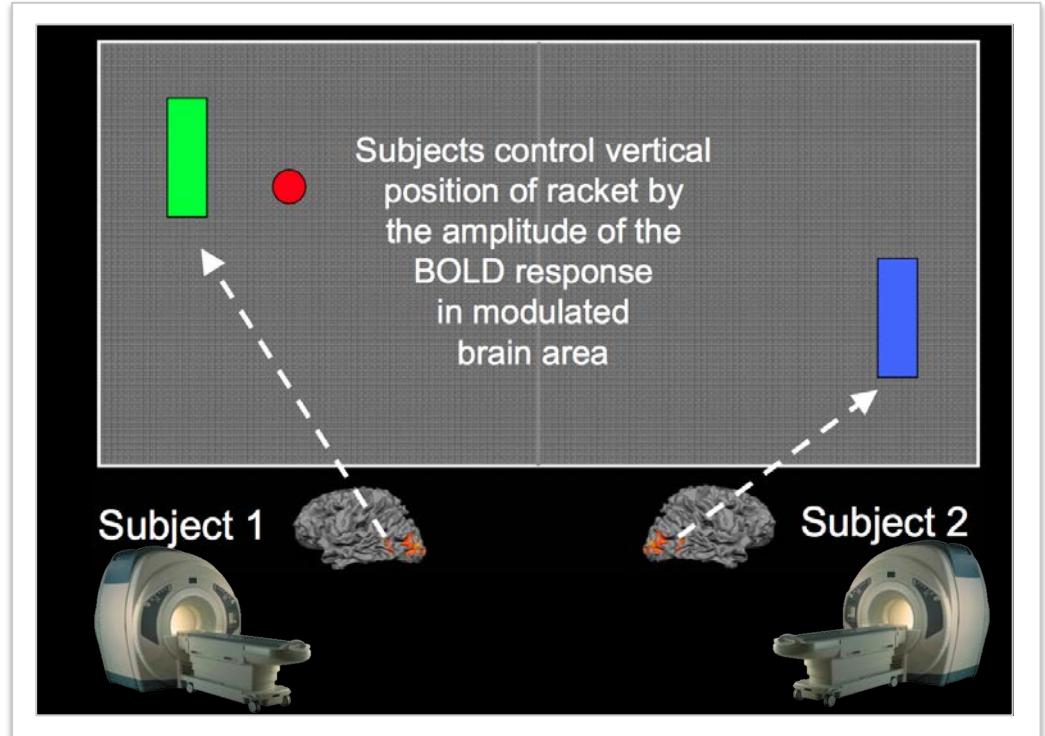
S.S. Yoo, T. Fairneny, N.K. Chen, S.E. Choo, L.P. Panych, H. Park, S.Y. Lee, F.A. Jolesz, "Brain-computer interface using fMRI: spatial navigation by thoughts", Neuroreport 15 (2004) 1591–1595.



## Neuro-control (2) - BOLD Brain-Pong



Play the traditional Ping-Pong videogame controlling the racket with the level of BOLD activity within a given brain ROI.



- How difficult is adaptation to the hemodynamic delay?
- Can two subjects exchange information based on ongoing fMRI measurements?
- Can we finely control activation levels within an ROI?

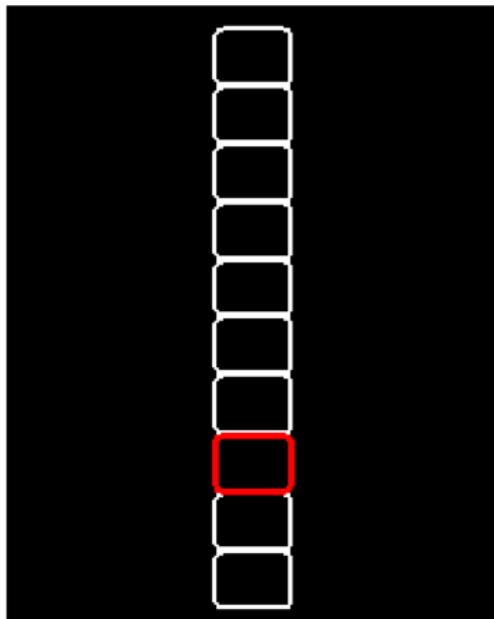
Goebel R, Sorger B, Kaiser J, Birbaumer N, Weiskopf N. BOLD Brain Pong: self-regulation of local brain activity during synchronously scanned, interacting subjects" Washington (DC) Society for Neuroscience; 2004.



# Neuro-control (2) - BOLD Brain-Pong

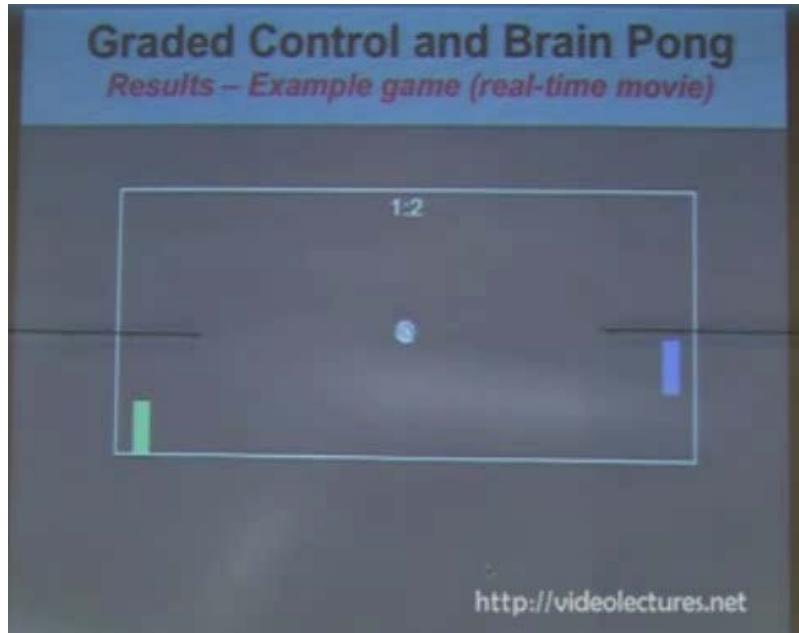


## TRAINING SESSION



- (1) Adapt to Hemodynamic Delay
- (2) Learn Fine control of activity level
- (3) Select optimal ROI per subject

## VIDEO-GAME SESSION



- Hit Rate: 60 – 80%
- The game was highly motivating to practice the otherwise effortful brain modulation process.
- With extensive practice subjects could reach & maintain levels of brain activity with high accuracy.
- Potential use to explore the neural substrate of social cognitive processes.

Goebel R, Sorger B, Kaiser J, Birbaumer N, Weiskopf N. BOLD Brain Pong: self-regulation of local brain activity during synchronously scanned, interacting subjects" Washington (DC) Society for Neuroscience; 2004.



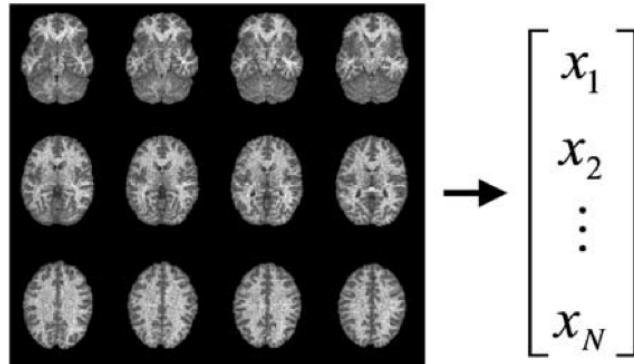
# Neuro-control (3) – SVM



SVM = Support Vector Machine | Supervised Learning & Classification Technique

Every BOLD volume is regarded as a high dimensional vector

A Vector representation of a brain image time point



$N$  = number of brain voxels

## CLASSIFICATION PROBLEM

High Dimensional Input Space

$x_t$



Brain Volume

Mental State/  
Action

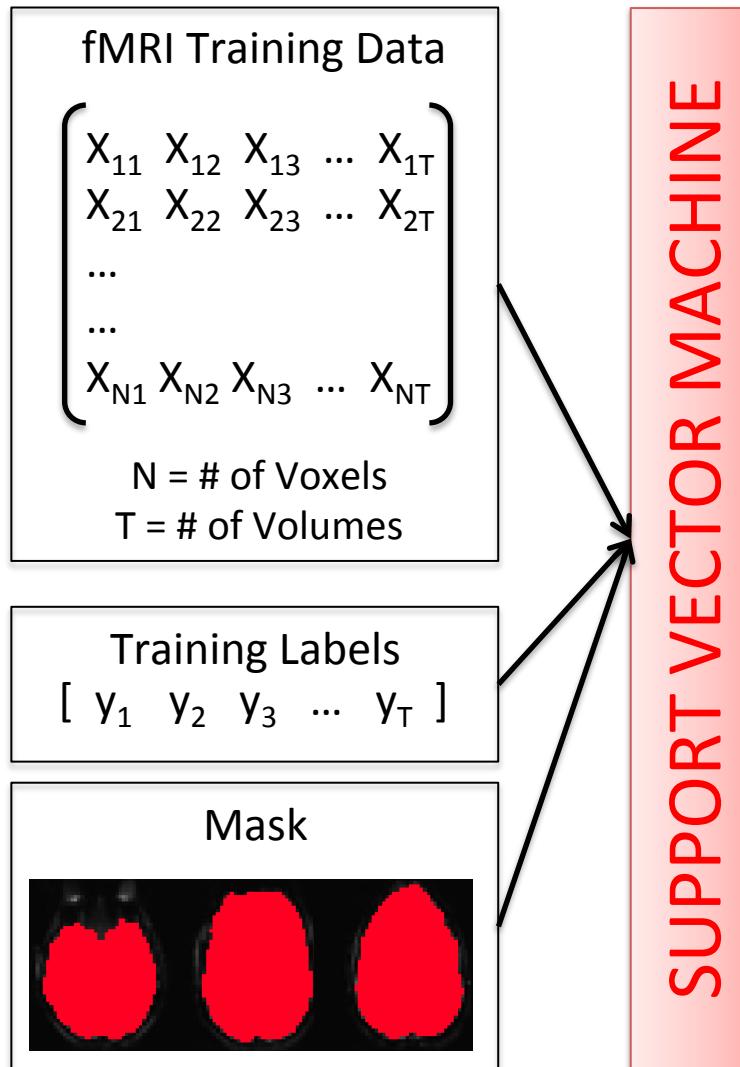
- Does not require feature selection.
- Classifies every incoming volume



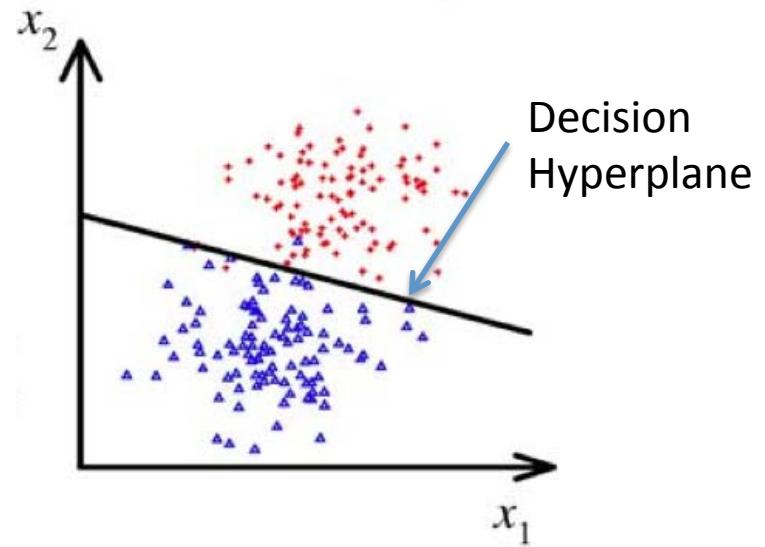
# Neuro-control (3) – SVM



## CLASSIFIER TRAINING

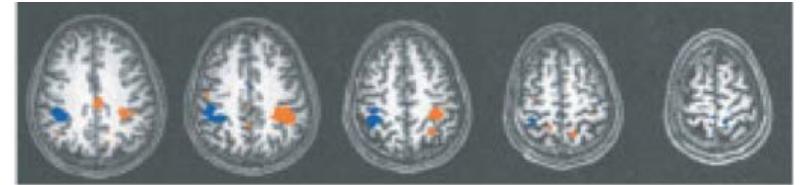


## OUTPUT: CLASSIFICATION MODEL



Decision Function:  $D(X_t) \rightarrow \begin{cases} > 0 : \text{Label A (Left)} \\ < 0 : \text{Label B (Right)} \end{cases}$

SVM Map:

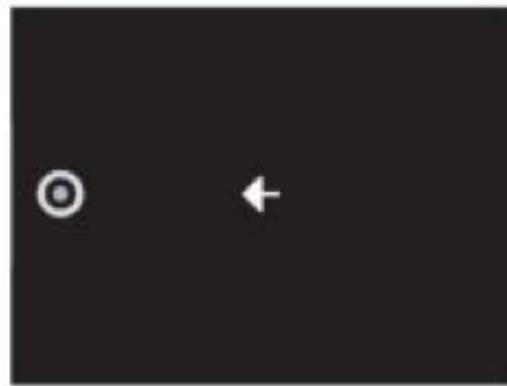




# Neuro-control (3) – SVM for Cursor Control



## TRAINING RUN



OR



Left Button Press

OR

Sad Thoughts

OR

English Inner Speech

OR

Left Motor Imagery

Right Button Press

OR

Happy Thoughts

OR

Chinese Inner Speech

OR

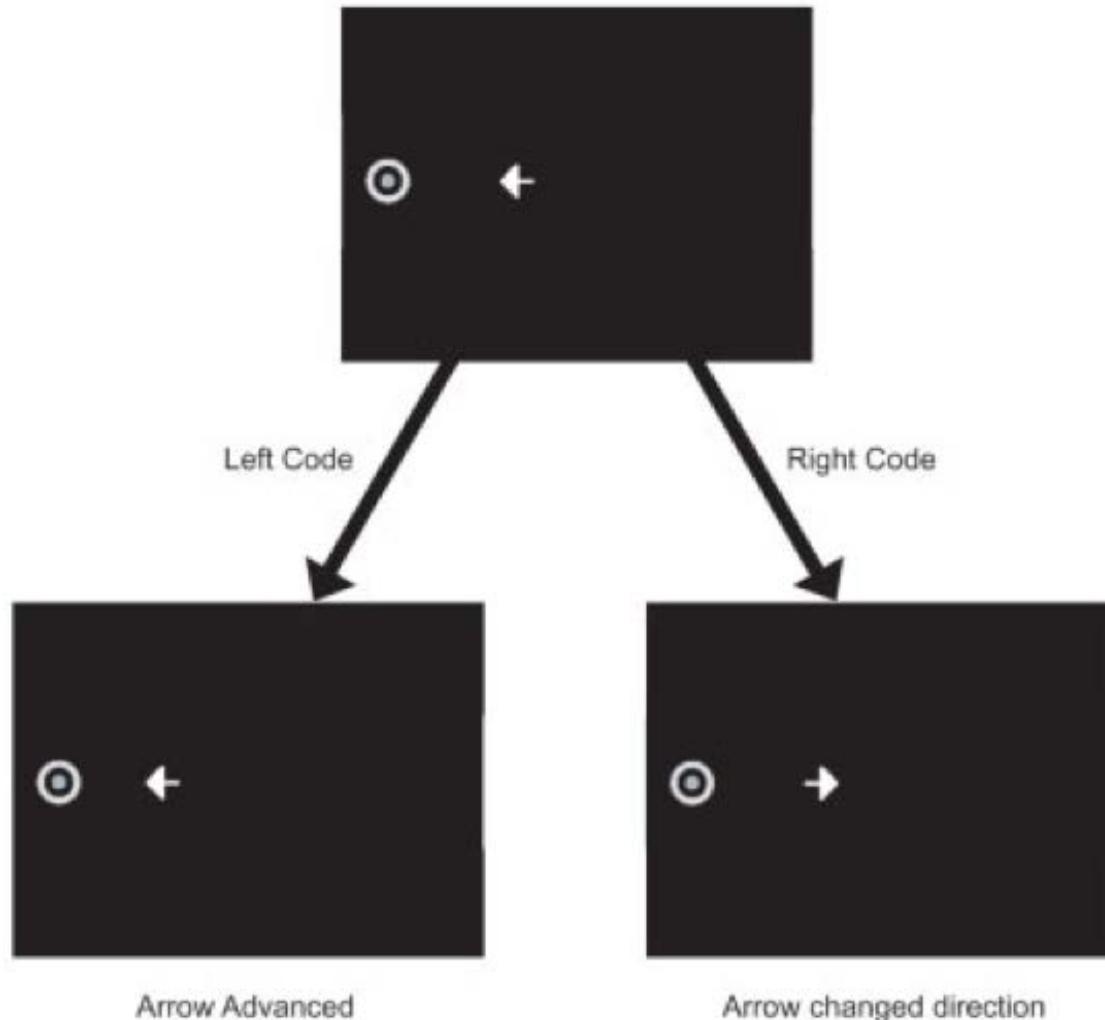
Right Motor Imagery



# Neuro-control (3) – SVM for Cursor Control



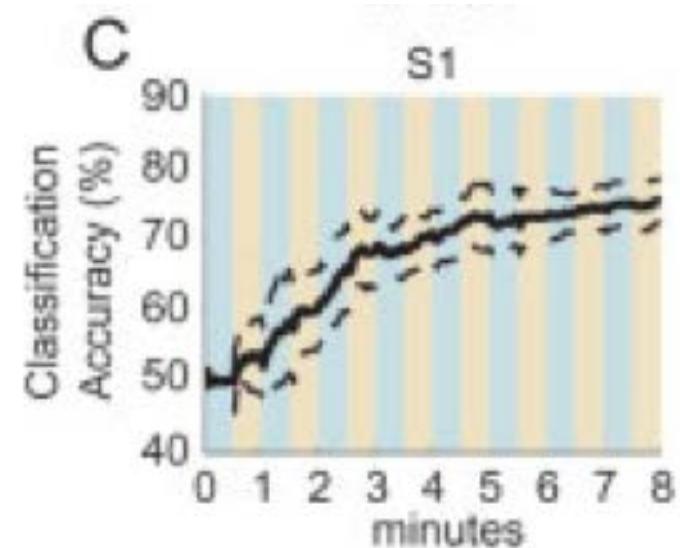
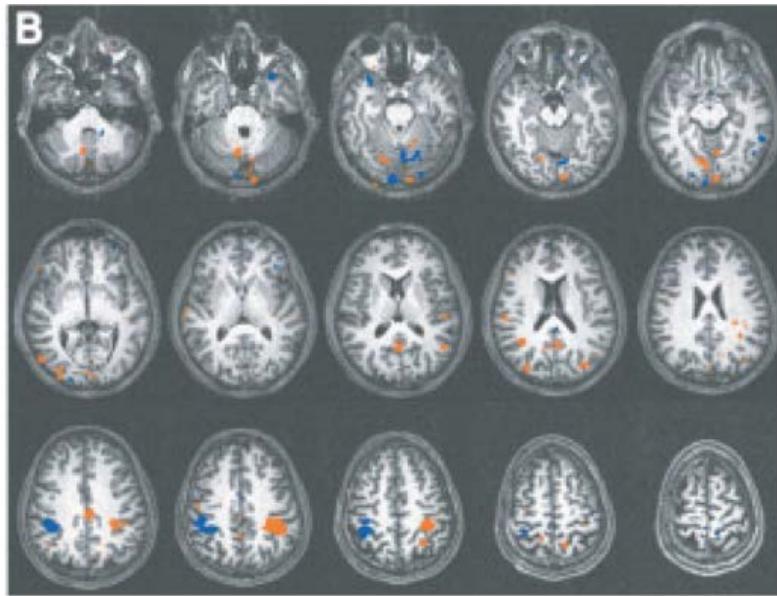
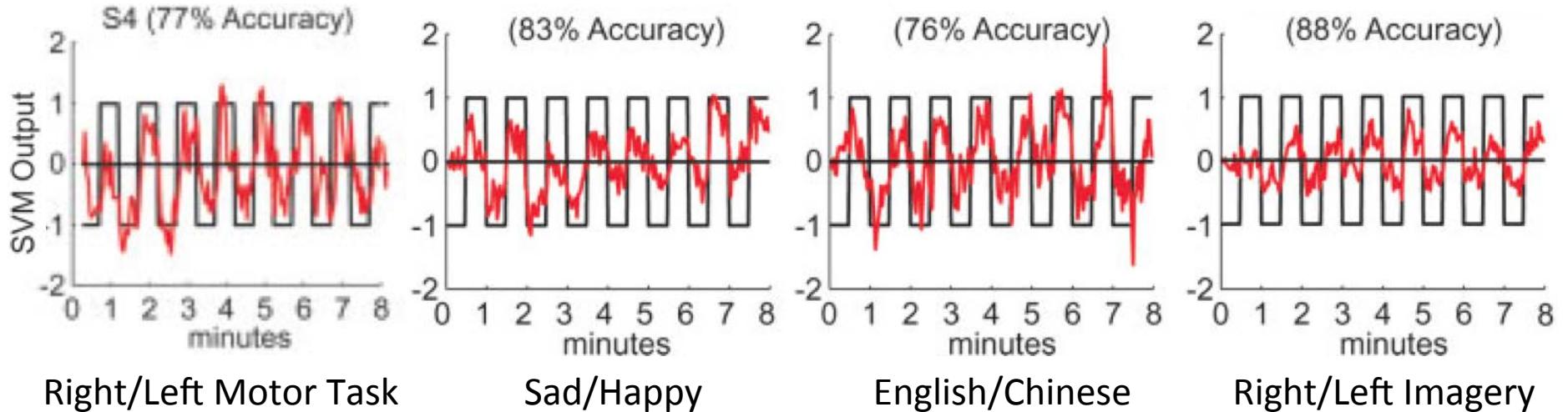
## TEST RUN



LaConte S, Peltier SJ, Hu XP. "Real-time fMRI using brain-state classification." Human Brain Mapping (2007) 28:1033-1044



## Neuro-control (3) – SVM for Cursor Control





# AFNI Realtime SVM Support

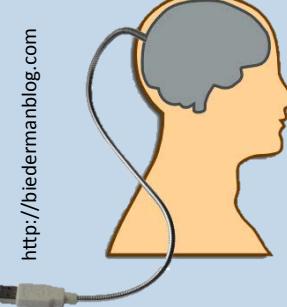


[A] RT 3dsvm

AFNI Plugin: Set Real-Time Options for 3dsvm – An AFNI SVM-Light Plugin

Real-time	Training	Type	classification	Train Data	Labels	-Choose Timeseries-	Censors	-Choose Timeseries-
Training	Train Params	Mask	-- Choose Dataset --	C	1000	Epsilon	0.001	
Train Params	Kernel Params	Kernel Type	linear	poly order (d)	3	rbf gamma (g)	1	
Model Output	Model Inspection	Prefix	FIM Prefix	Alpha Prix (.1D)				
Testing	Test Data	Model	-- Choose Dataset --					
Predictions	Prefix (.1D)							
Stimulus	IP	PORT						

# Neurofeedback / Brain Computer Interfaces



<http://biedermanblog.com>

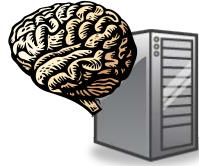
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- Specific kind of Biofeedback
- Conscious control of activity within a region of one's own brain.
- Applications: Therapy and Learning



**NEURO-CONTROL**

- Use “thoughts” to control an electronic/motorized device
- Applications: prosthesis, gaming



**COMMUNICATION**

- Use “thoughts” as a communication act.
- Applications: communicate with vegetative-state patients

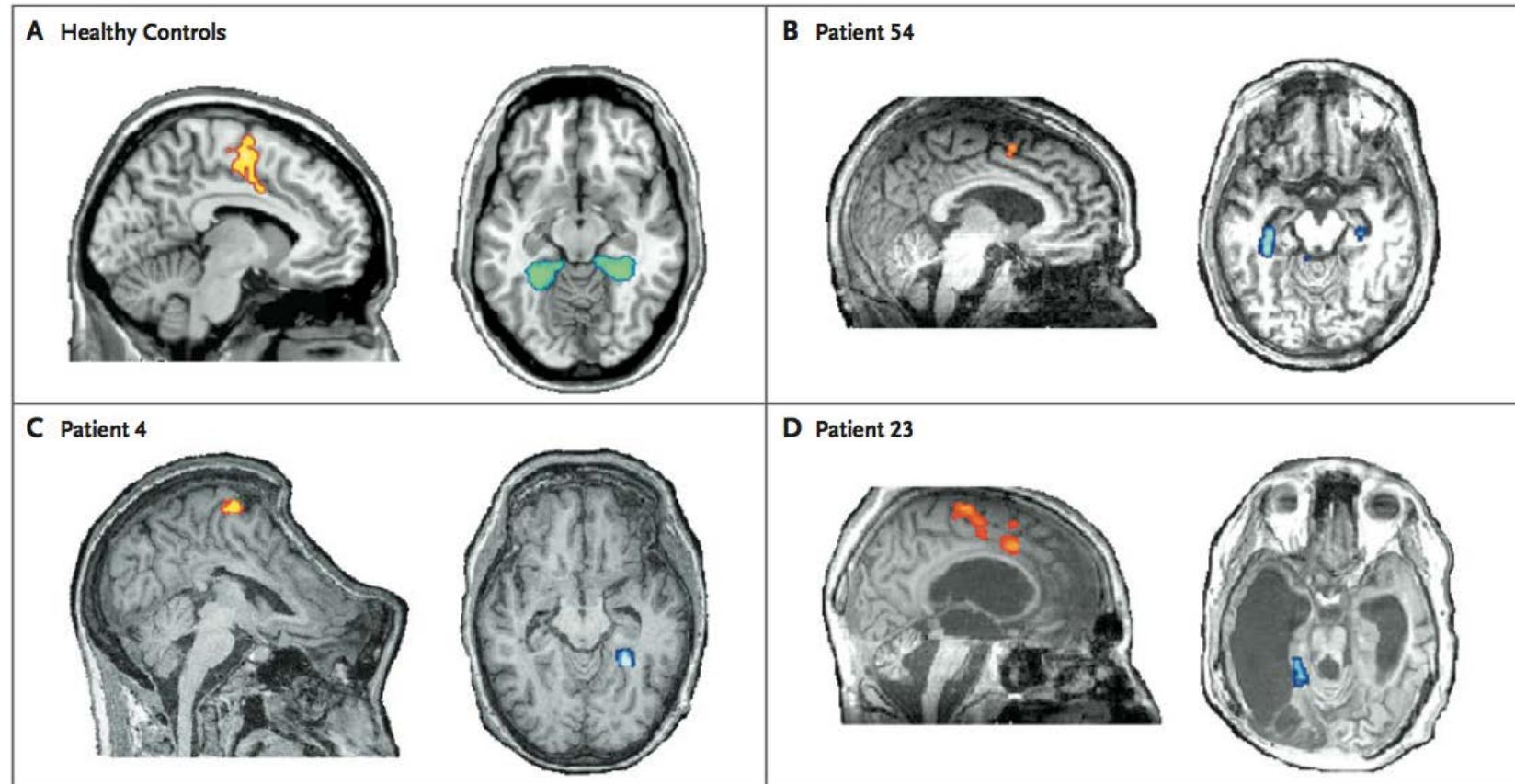


# Neuro-Communication



## IN SUBJECT WITH ZERO MOTOR CONTROL/RESPONSIVENESS

(1) Detect potential ability to generate willful, neuroanatomical specific BOLD responses.



Mental Imagery (Yellow & Red) | Motor Imagery (Blue & Green)

Monti M, Vanhaudenhuyse A, Coleman M, Boly M, Pickard J, Tshibanda L, Owen A, Laureys S. "Willful modulation of brain activity in disorders of consciousness" The New England Journal of Medicine. 2010: 579-589



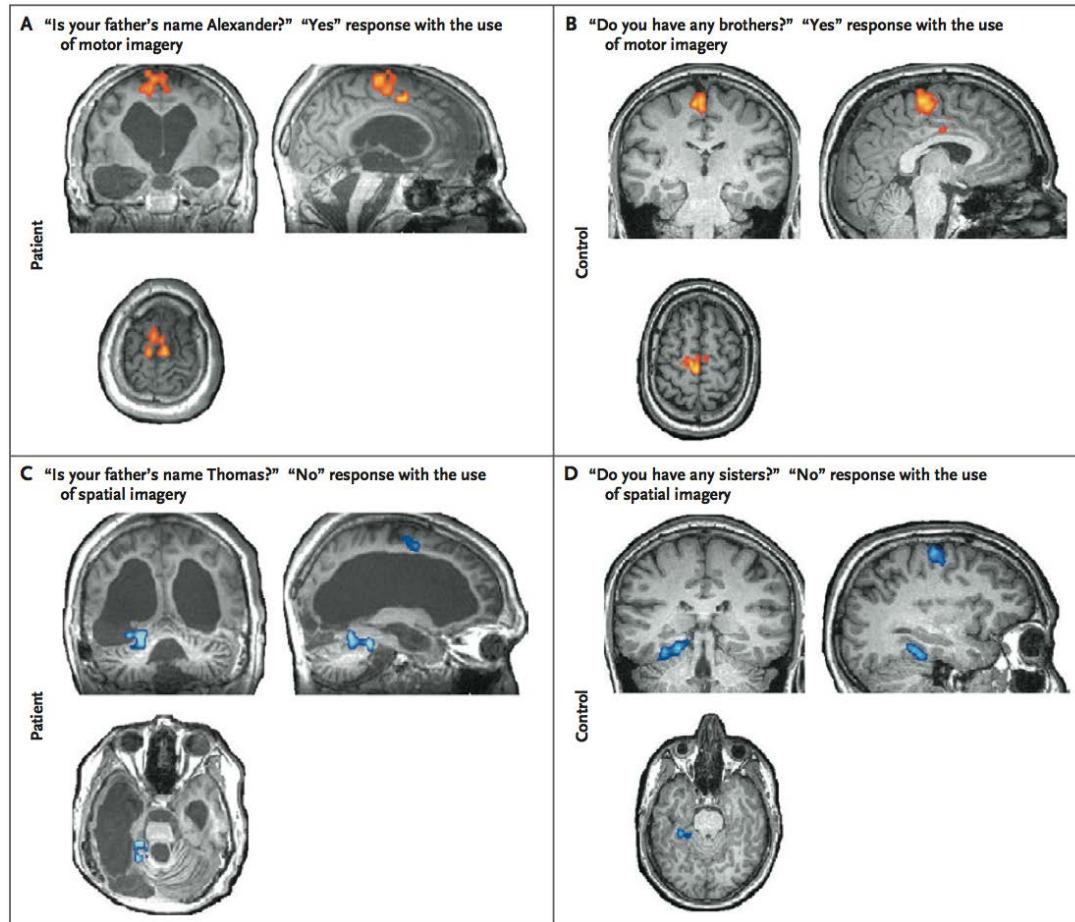
# Neuro-Communication



## IN SUBJECT WITH ZERO MOTOR CONTROL/RESPONSIVENESS

(2) Determine whether such responses could be used to answer simple yes-no questions.

MOTOR IMAGERY = YES  
SPATIAL IMAGERY = NO



# PATIENTS = 54

5 Willfully modulated brain activity

1 Was able to answer questions correctly

Identify incorrect diagnosis

Establish basic communication with patients

Monti M, Vanhaudenhuyse A, Coleman M, Boly M, Pickard J, Tshibanda L, Owen A, Laureys S. "Willful modulation of brain activity in disorders of consciousness" The New England Journal of Medicine. 2010: 579-589

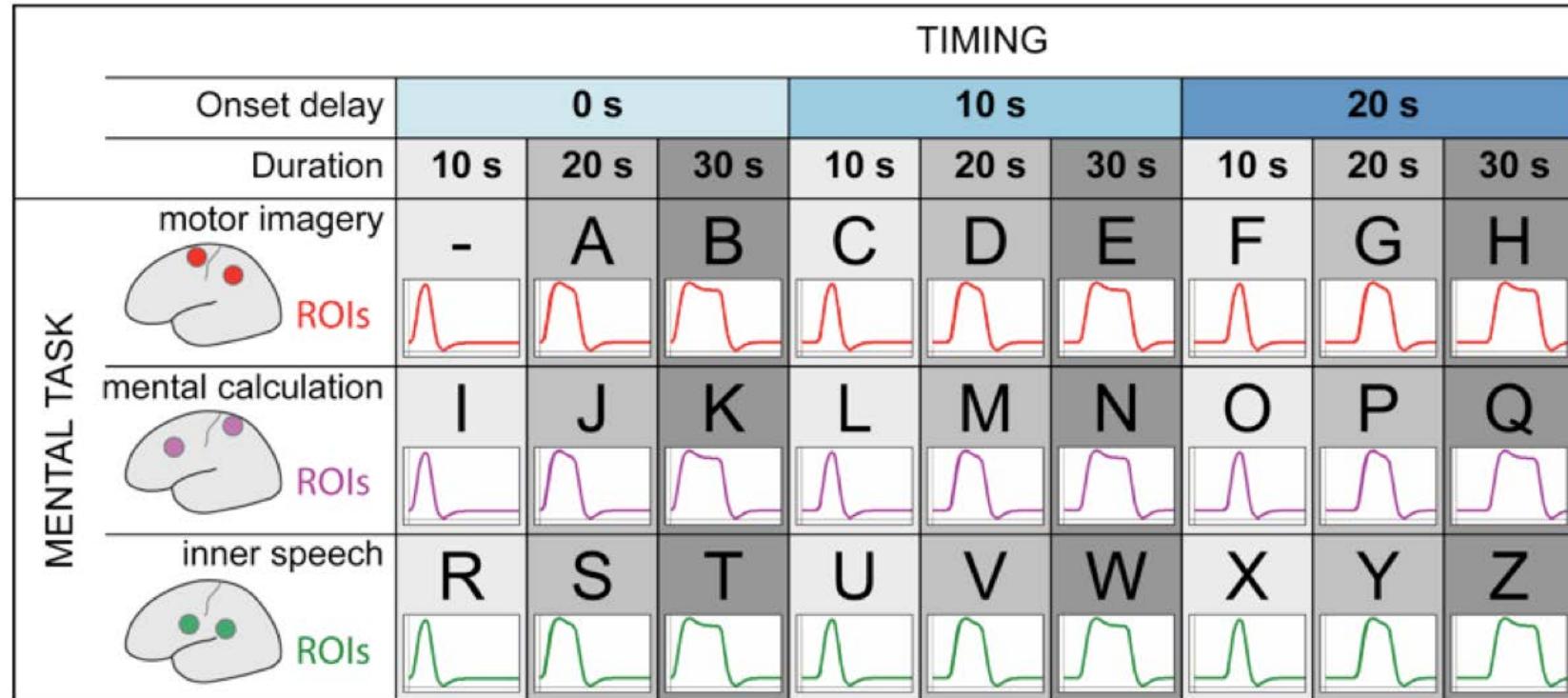


# Neuro-Communication – BOLD Spelling



System to allow subjects spell any word based on their pattern of BOLD activity

## MULTI-DIMENSIONAL CODING TECHNIQUE



Letter = f(task, when you start, for how long you do it)

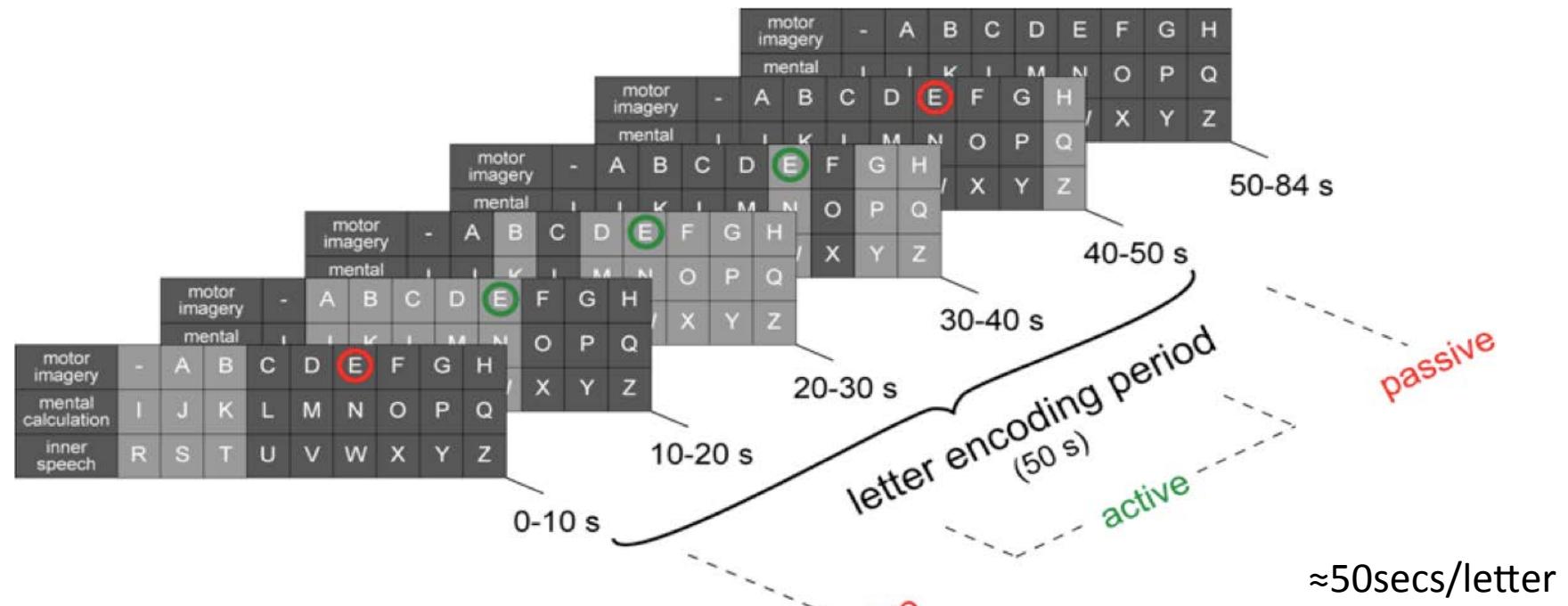
Sorger, B., Reithler, J., Dahmen B. & Goebel, R. (2007). "A Realtime-based spelling device immediately enabling robust motor-independent communication". Current Biology (22):14, 1333-1338 (2012)



# Neuro-Communication – BOLD Spelling



motor imagery	-	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
mental calculation	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q
inner speech	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z



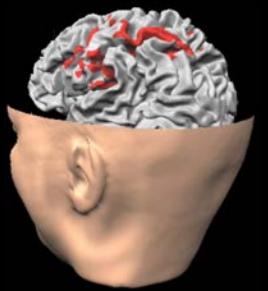
Sorger, B., Reithler, J., Dahmen B. & Goebel, R. (2007). "A Realtime-based spelling device immediately enabling robust motor-independent communication". Current Biology (22):14, 1333-1338 (2012)



# Neuro-Communication – BOLD Spelling



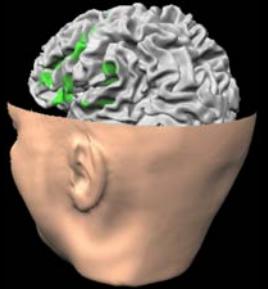
## MOTOR IMAGERY



## CALCULATIONS



## INNER SPEECH



Word encoding and automated letter decoding

Sorger, B., Reithler, J., Dahmen B. & Goebel, R. (2007). "A Realtime-based spelling device immediately enabling robust motor-independent communication". Current Biology (22):14, 1333-1338 (2012)



# Neuro-Communication – BOLD Spelling

participant	initial question		follow-up question	
	stated question	decoder output/ human interpreter's decision	stated question	decoder output/ human interpreter's decision
1	"What is your hobby?"	<b>P H O T O G R A P H Y - -</b> Q G M X X E I C N G W R R N E P S V H S - Y Z X I I <b>P H O T O G R A P H Y - -</b>	"What did you <b>PHOTOGRAPH</b> last?"	- D Y - H O M E - R M W R Z M O G R A T Z S G V T W A - M Y - H O M E -
2	"Where did you spend your most recent vacation?"	- I N D O C N E R C A - A F Q F M M G S I - A I R D B D O F J D C B <b>- I N D O N E S I A -</b>	"What did you like most in <b>INDONESIA</b> ?"	- T E K P L E S - I R G M X U D J I A S O L O M G R A <b>- T E M P L E S -</b>
3	"Where did you spend your most recent vacation?"	- I N D I A - S - E B - C A U A M E A B B <b>- I N D I A -</b>	"What do you consider most typical for <b>INDIA</b> ?"	- C L O S H I N G - A A J X T G R M E A R D U P R E A V D R <b>- C L O T H I N G -</b>
4	"What is your hobby?"	- D R S C U S R R N G - R C I T U S U S I P E R A B - R S T R U F M F I <b>- D I S C U S S I N G -</b>	"What is your favorite <b>DISCUSSION</b> topic?"	- A W Y T H I N G - A - N Z S G R P E I B K P W V Z J W H A <b>- A N Y T H I N G -</b>
5	"What are you interested in?"	- X O V I D R A V M U R E S I M X W - N J <b>- M O V I E S</b>	"Which <b>MOVIE</b> did you watch last?"	T O P F U N - V X N N L M I U Y O G J P A <b>T O P G U N -</b>
6	"Where did you spend your most recent vacation?"	- - U D - D E S T - I A V C A P C U U I A B C F B Y D R V A <b>- B U D A P E S T -</b>	"What did you like most in <b>BUDAPEST</b> ?"	- S W N - E D F U E - A U X L A G X E V D A J T Y M D F M G S C R <b>- S Y N A G O G U E -</b>

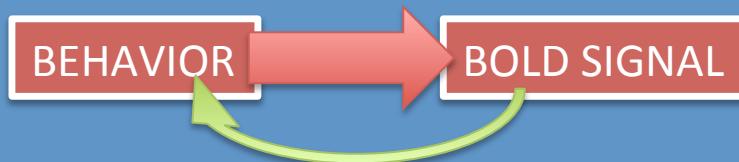
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# Conclusions

1

## REALTIME FMRI CAN

- Help increase the quality and productivity of your fMRI center.
- Allow novel/more interactive scanning protocols.



- Incorporate More and More Offline Processing Tools / Get Faster.

- Gone a long way....



2

## fMRI NEUROFEEDBACK/BCI HAS TEACH US THAT:

- Healthy and Clinical subjects can gain volitional control of regional brain activity.
  - How fine is that control?
- Volitional control can translate into behavioral changes.
- Results are quite variable across subjects / not very strong.
- Neurofeedback has no adverse effects (safe therapy) [Hawkinson et al. 2011]

# Conclusions



3

## WHEN DESIGNING NEUROFEEDBACK EXPERIMENTS WE NEED TO

- Make sure subjects understand hemodynamic delay & variability of signal.
- Make sure we account for signal drift & motion artifacts.
- Make sure our baseline calculation is not contaminated.
- Use simple interfaces the subject can understand (Fire Metaphor)
- As scanning progresses, make sure our ROIs are still in the correct place.
- Too small ROI (Motion problems) | Too big ROI (wash out effect of interest)
- Providing strategy seems to accelerate learning.
- We need to show that the Neurofeedback is essential to the result (Sham group).
- Do we want to show consolidation effects beyond scanning sessions?
- Use more subjects / Show more convincing results

# Bibliography / Questions



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