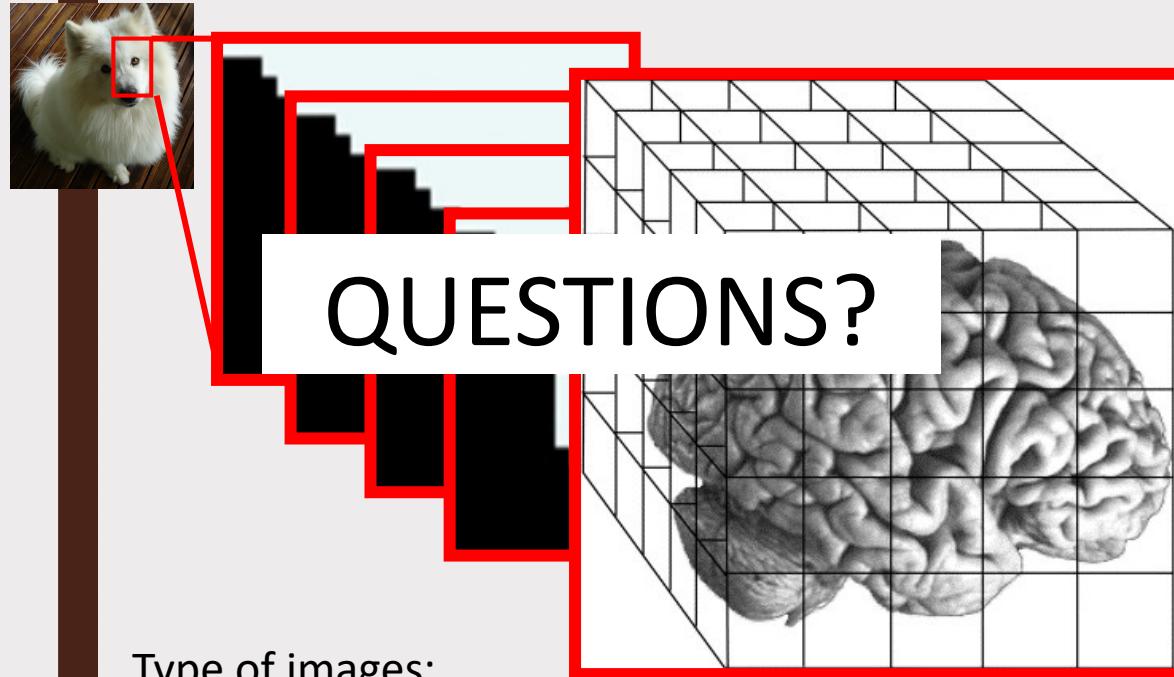


Introduction into fMRI analysis. PsyMsc4 (Goethe 2021).

Session-2

Javier Ortiz-Tudela and Francesco Pupillo

Recap of last week



Type of images:

- MR images can be roughly grouped into **anatomical** and **functional** images.
- Anatomical images (usually one volume) have higher spatial resolution than functional images (usually several volumes).
- TR = time to collect one brain volume.
- Runs = acquisition windows.

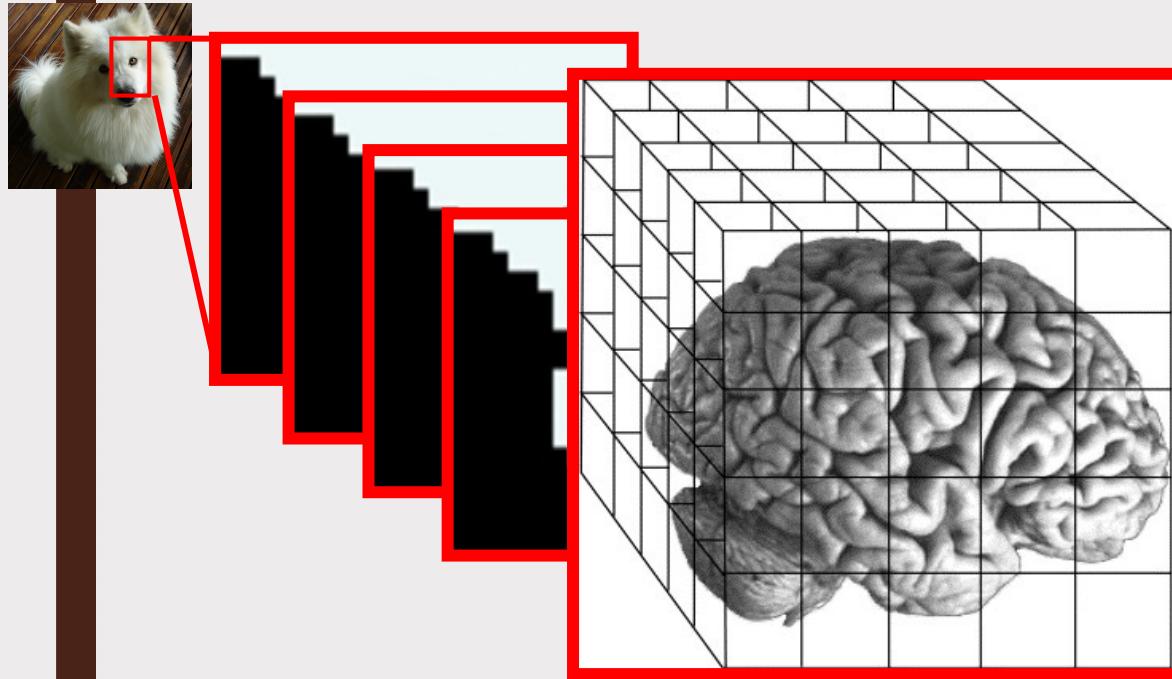
MR basics:

- Scanner = magnet + RF transmitter
- MRI relies on the magnetic properties of the tissue.
- MR images are 3D “pictures” composed of voxels with one value per voxel.
- Most common 3D files: NifTi (.nii) and compressed NifTi (nii.gz).
- Spatial resolution depends on scanner strength.

Preprocessing:

- Slice-time correction
- Magnetic field distortions
- Intensity inhomogeneities
- Motion correction
- Registration
- Normalization

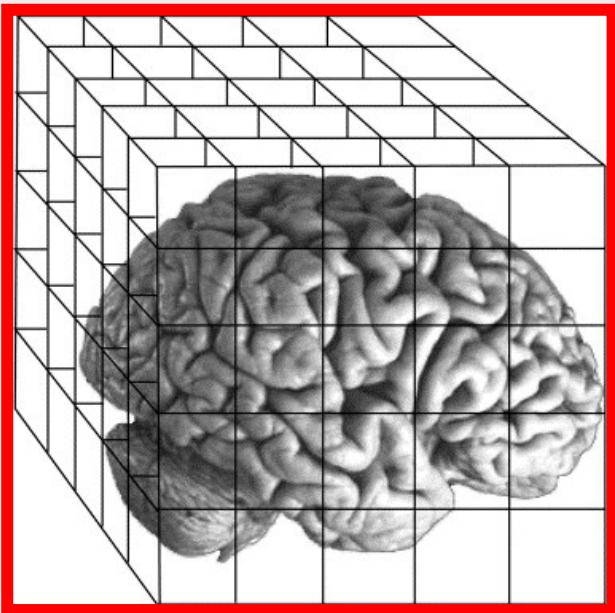
Recap of last week



MR images are a collection of voxels (3D matrix) with a value (a number) in each cell.

The value represents a different thing for anatomical and functional images.

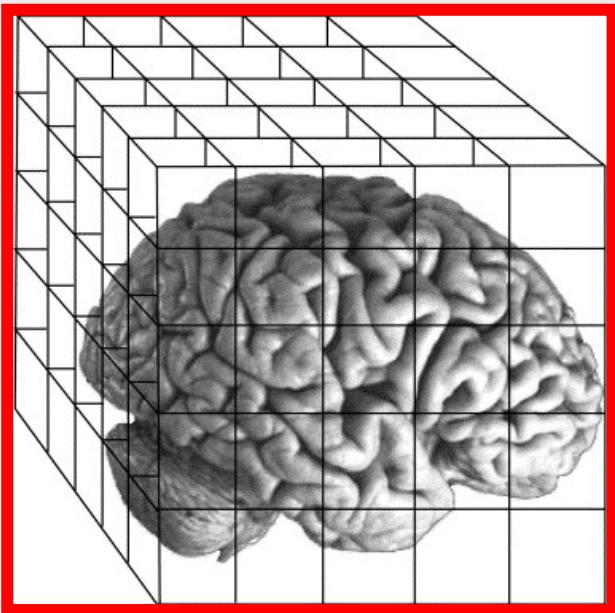
Functional MRI. BOLD signal.



Functional images are used to study brain activity.

But what does brain activity look like when looked through a MR scanner?

Functional MRI. BOLD signal.

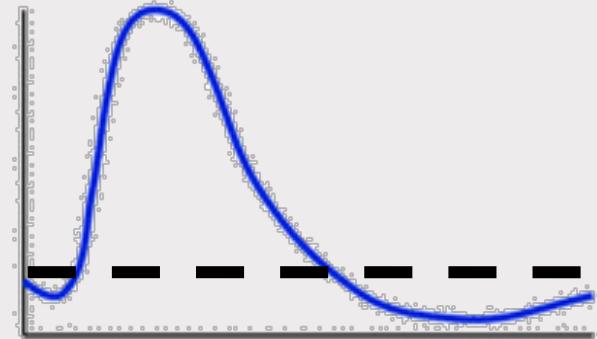


Functional images are used to study brain activity.

What we are recording in our functional sequences is actually blood oxygen level dependent (BOLD) signal.

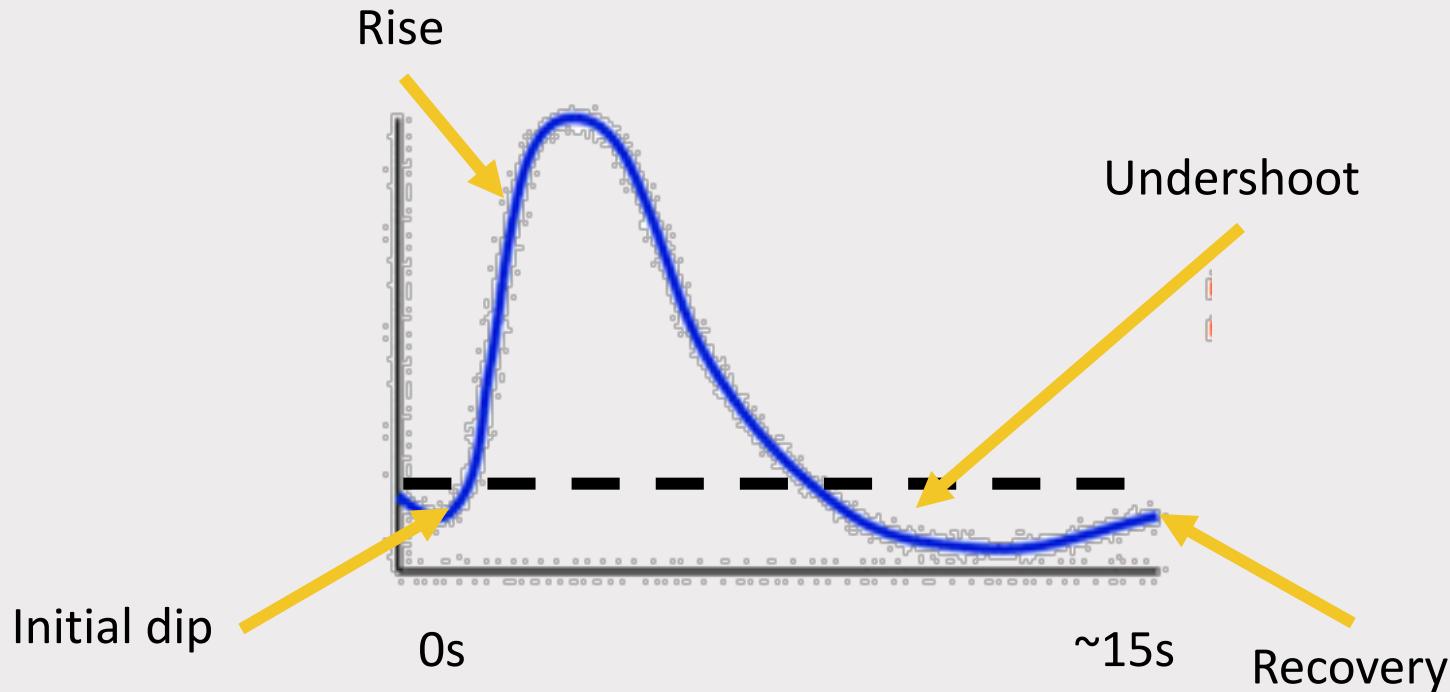
But what does brain activity (BOLD) look like when looked through a MR scanner?

*Hemodynamic Response
Function (HRF)*



Functional MRI. BOLD signal.

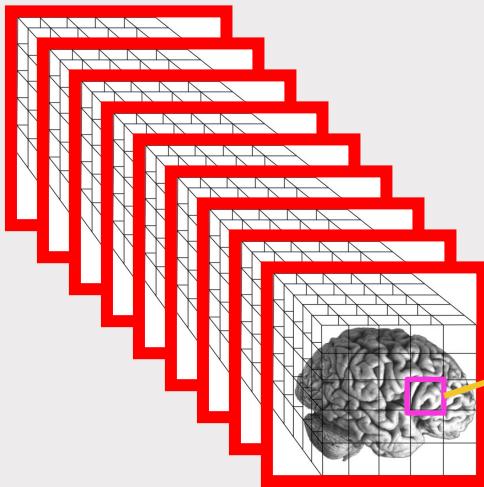
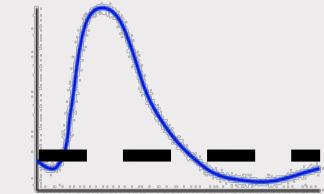
Hemodynamic Response Function (HRF)



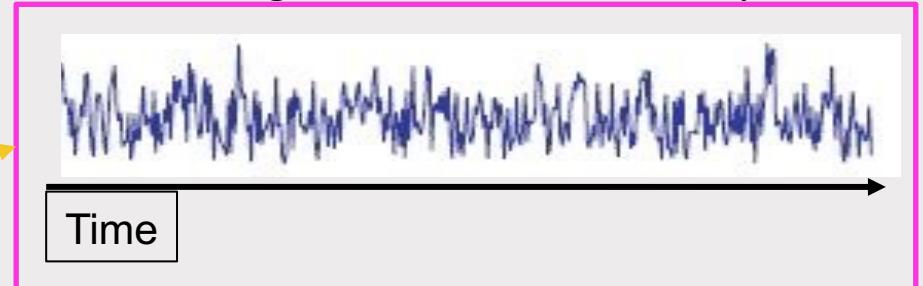
Functional MRI. BOLD signal.

This is the ‘ideal’ response to stimulation but, of course, the measured signal is noisier.

Hemodynamic Response Function (HRF)



Measured signal in 1 voxel over many volumes



GLM. Generalized Linear Models

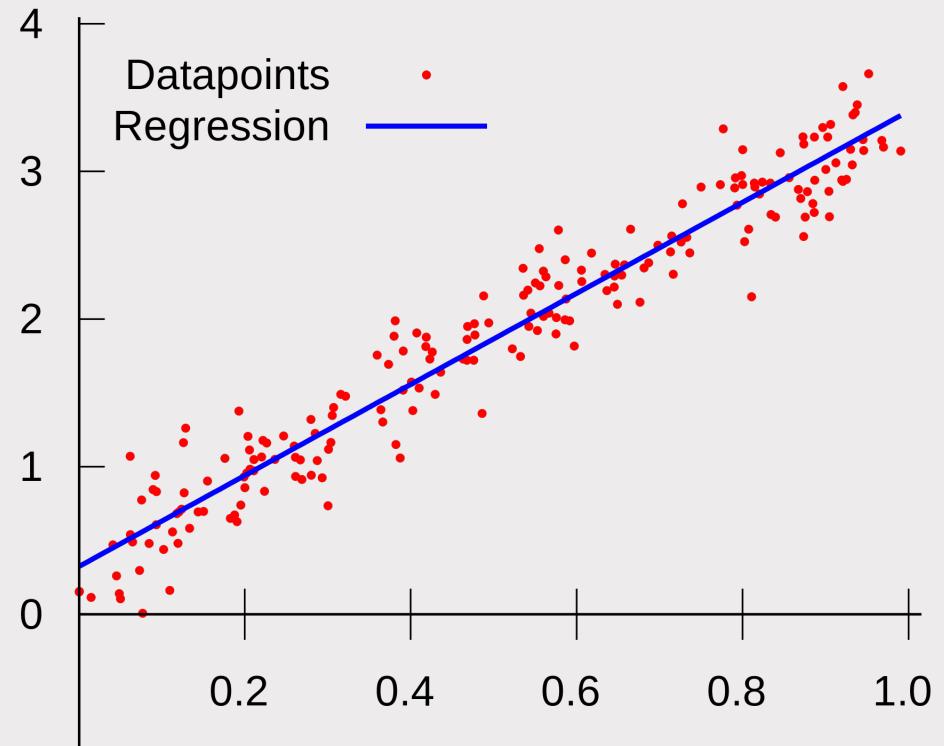
If you remember your stats class...

Linear Regression: Single Variable

$$\hat{y} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x + \epsilon$$

Legend:

- \hat{y} : Predicted output
- β_0 : Intercept
- β_1 : Slope
- x : Input
- ϵ : Error



from Wikipedia

GLM. Generalized Linear Models

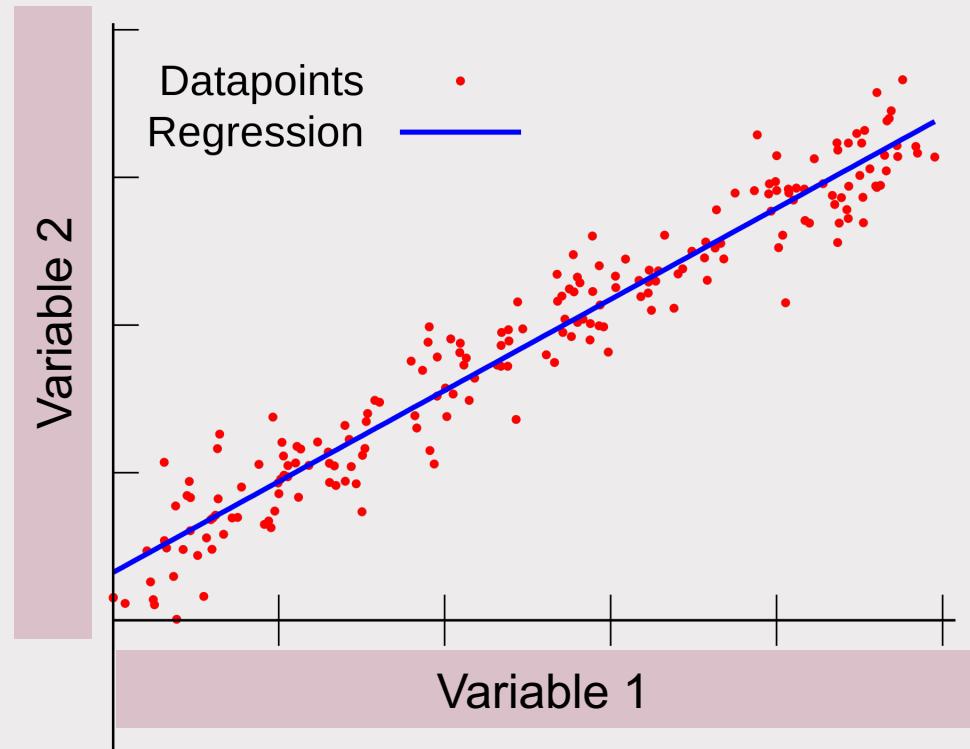
If you remember your stats class...

Linear Regression: Single Variable

$$\hat{y} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x + \epsilon$$

Legend:

- \hat{y} : Predicted output
- β_0 : Intercept
- β_1 : Slope
- x : Input
- ϵ : Error



from Wikipedia

GLM. Generalized Linear Models

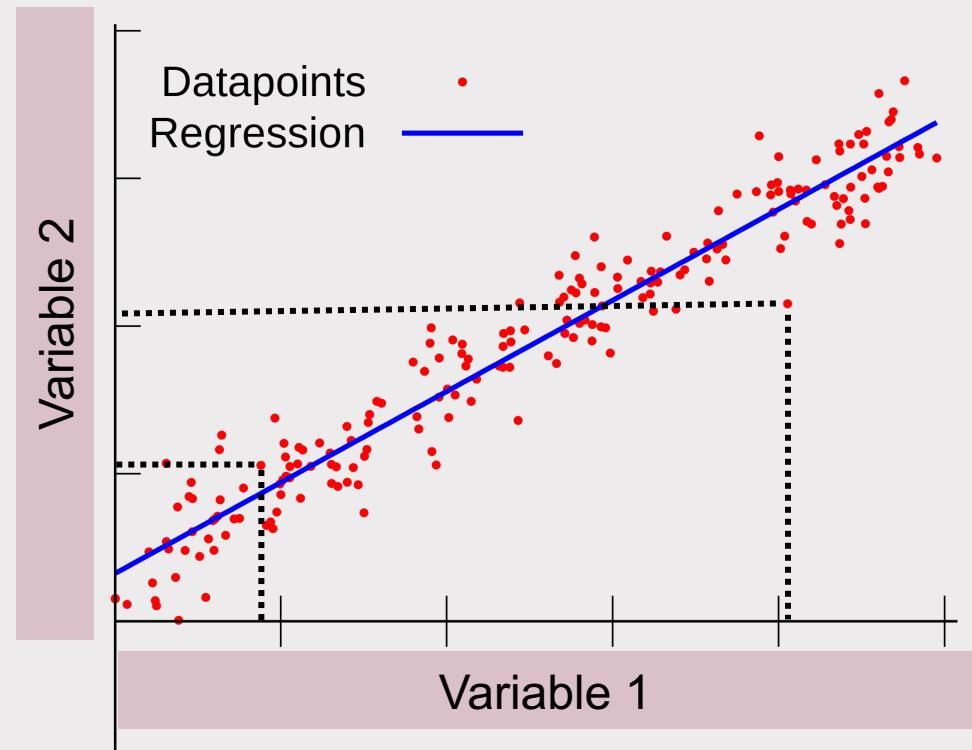
If you remember your stats class...

Linear Regression: Single Variable

$$\hat{y} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x + \epsilon$$

Legend:

- \hat{y} : Predicted output
- β_0 : Intercept
- β_1 : Slope
- x : Input
- ϵ : Error



from Wikipedia

GLM. Generalized Linear Models

If you remember your stats class...

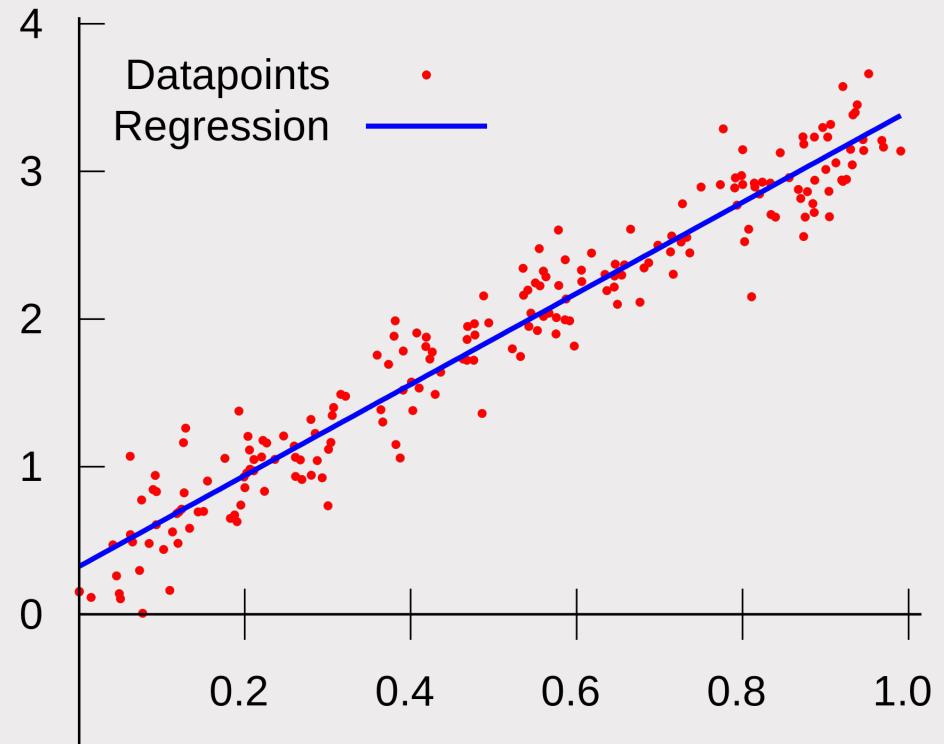
Linear Regression: Single Variable

$$\hat{y} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x + \epsilon$$

Legend:

- \hat{y} : Predicted output
- β_0 : Intercept
- β_1 : Slope
- x : Input
- ϵ : Error

QUESTION: What does the beta value represent?



from Wikipedia

GLM. Generalized Linear Models

If you remember your stats class...

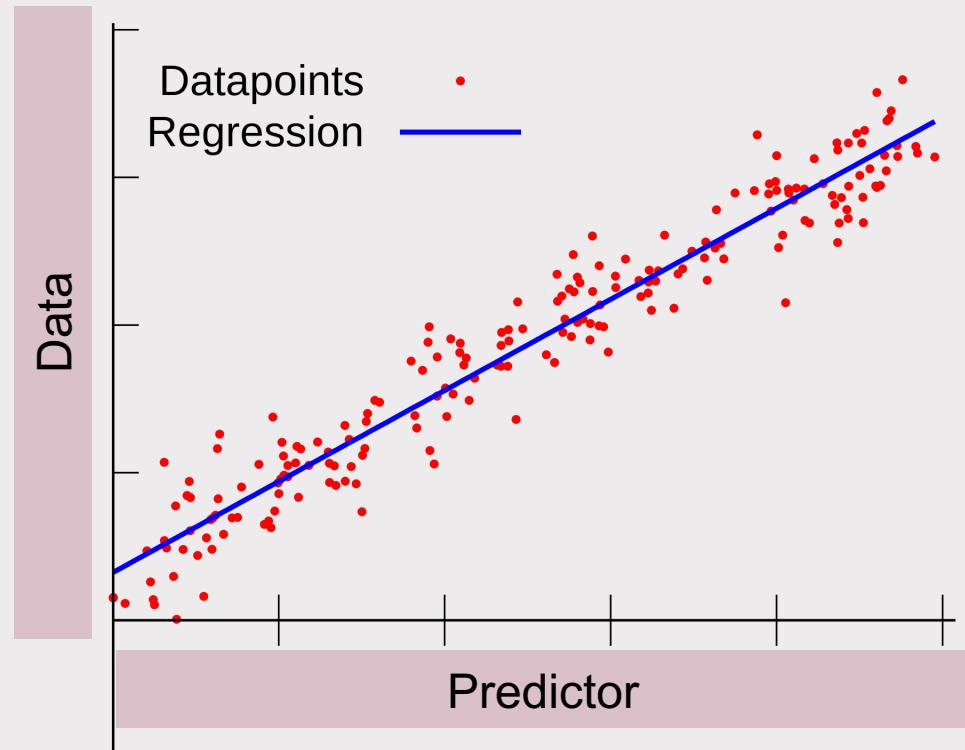
Linear Regression: Single Variable

$$\hat{y} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x + \epsilon$$

Legend:

- \hat{y} : Predicted output
- β_0 : Intercept
- β_1 : Slope
- x : Input
- ϵ : Error

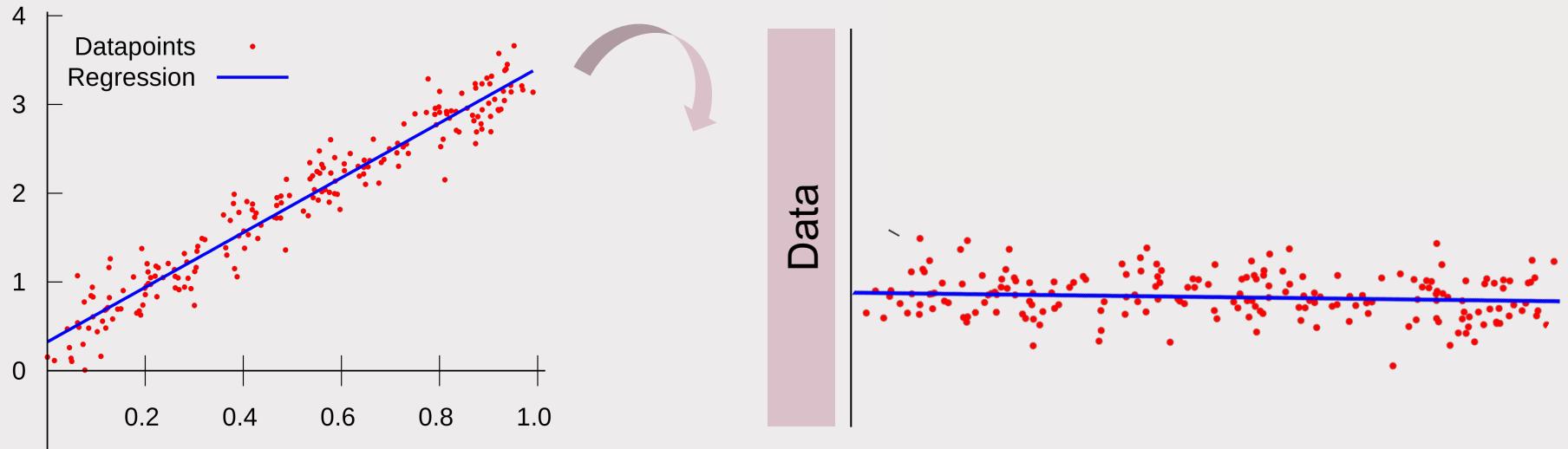
QUESTION: What does the beta value represent?



from Wikipedia

GLM. Generalized Linear Models

Regression is the usual approach for analysis of fMRI signals.



GLM

A practical example. Can we find voxels that respond to ANIMAL FACES?

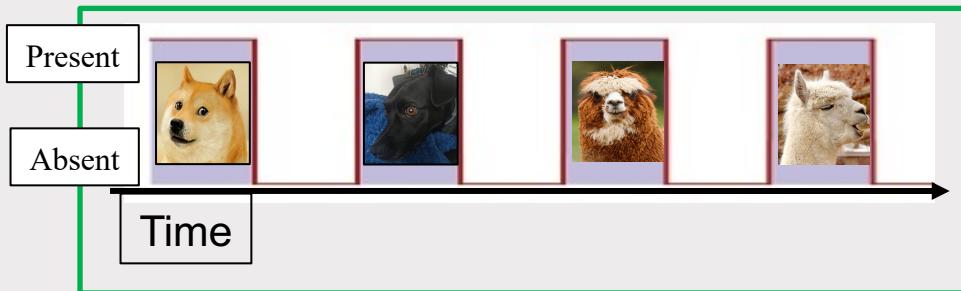
Task
(visual stim.)



Voxel
activity



Task
model



GLM

A practical example. Can we find voxels that respond to ANIMAL FACES?

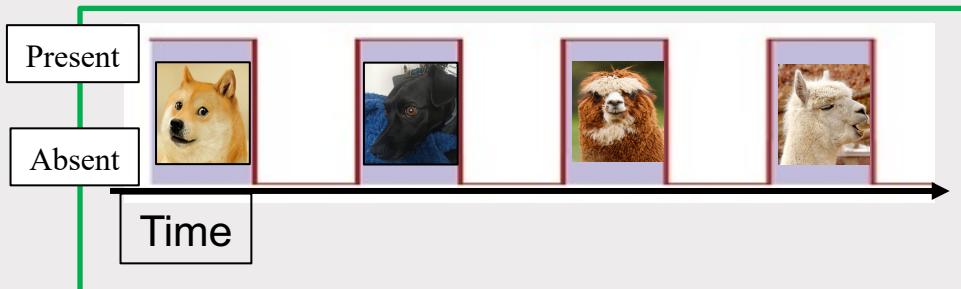
Task
(visual stim.)



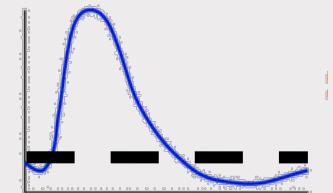
Voxel
activity



Task
model



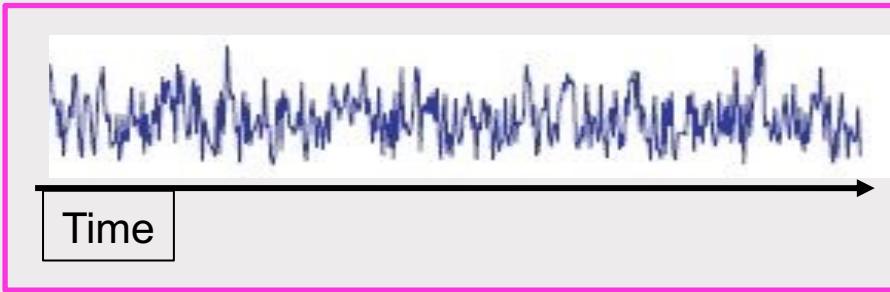
*Hemodynamic Response
Function (HRF)*



GLM

A practical example. Can we find voxels that respond to ANIMAL FACES?

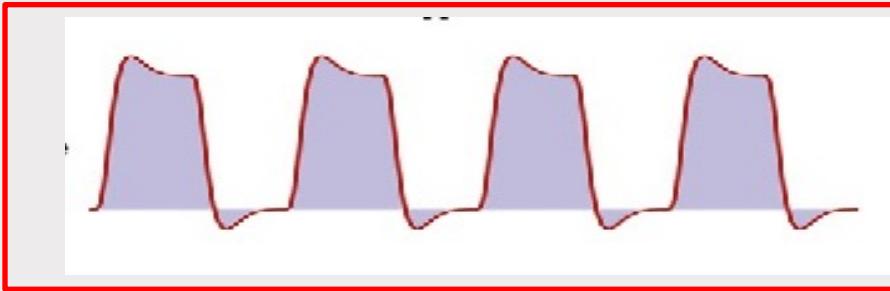
Voxel activity



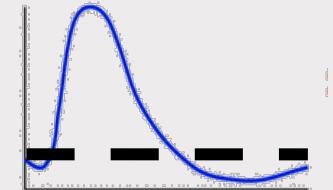
Task model



Response model

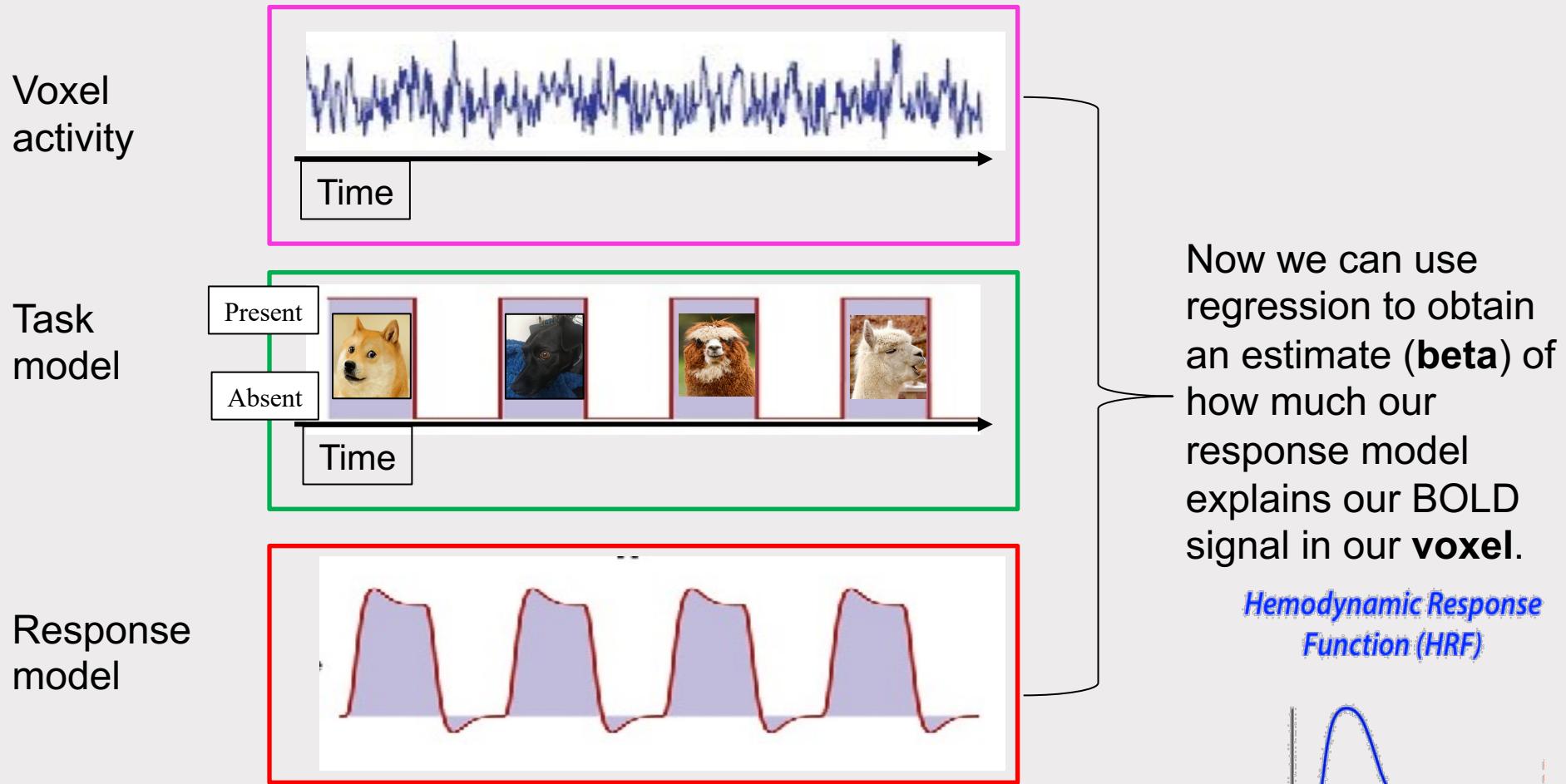


Hemodynamic Response Function (HRF)

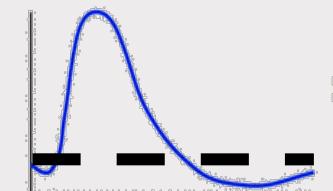


GLM

A practical example. Can we find voxels that respond to ANIMAL FACES?



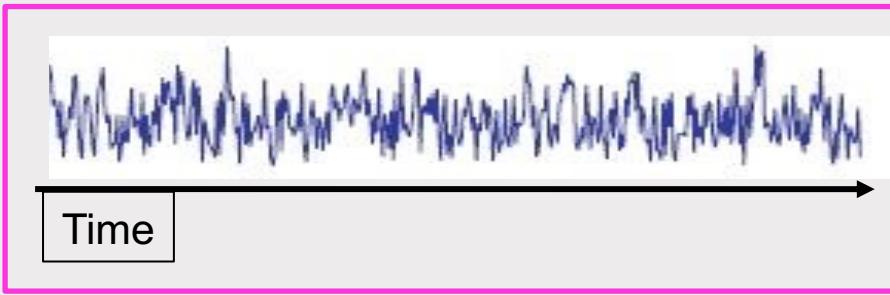
*Hemodynamic Response
Function (HRF)*



GLM

A practical example. Can we find voxels that respond to ANIMAL FACES?

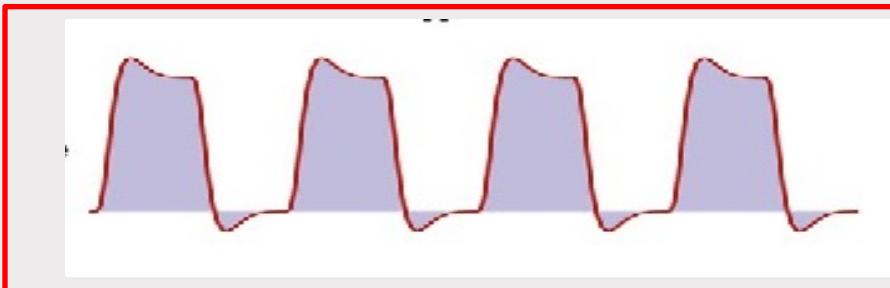
Voxel activity



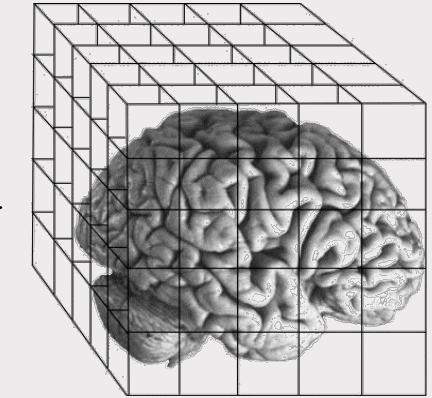
Task model



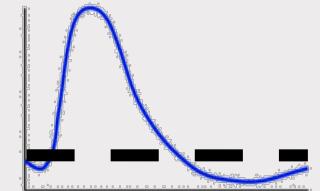
Response model



If run for every voxel, we will get one beta estimate per voxel, i.e., a beta map



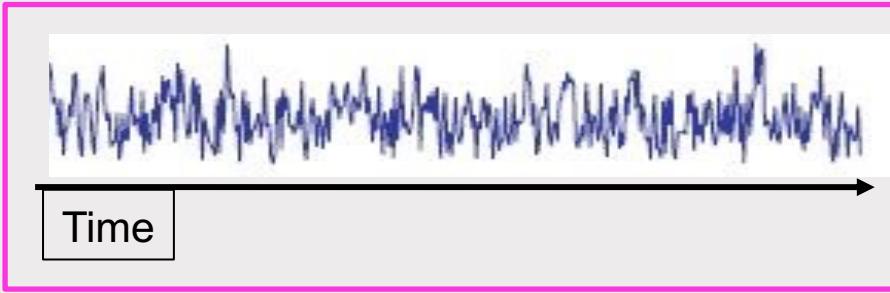
Hemodynamic Response Function (HRF)



GLM

A practical example. Can we find voxels that respond to ANIMAL FACES?

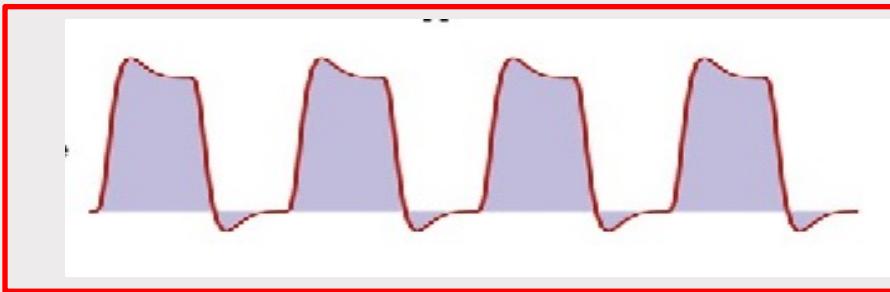
Voxel activity



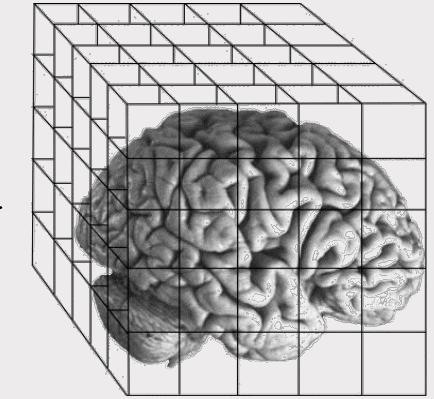
Task model



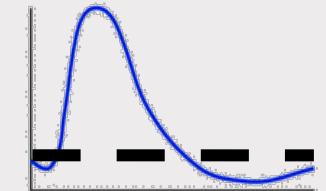
Response model



QUESTION: What would the value in each voxel of the beta map represent?



Hemodynamic Response Function (HRF)



GLM

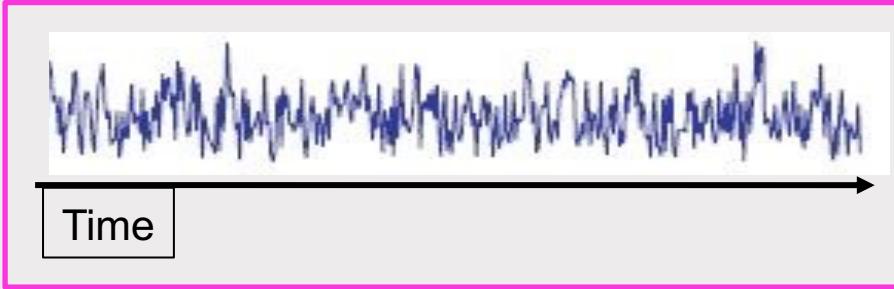
A practical example. Can we find voxels that distinguish DOGS FACES from ALPACAS FACES?



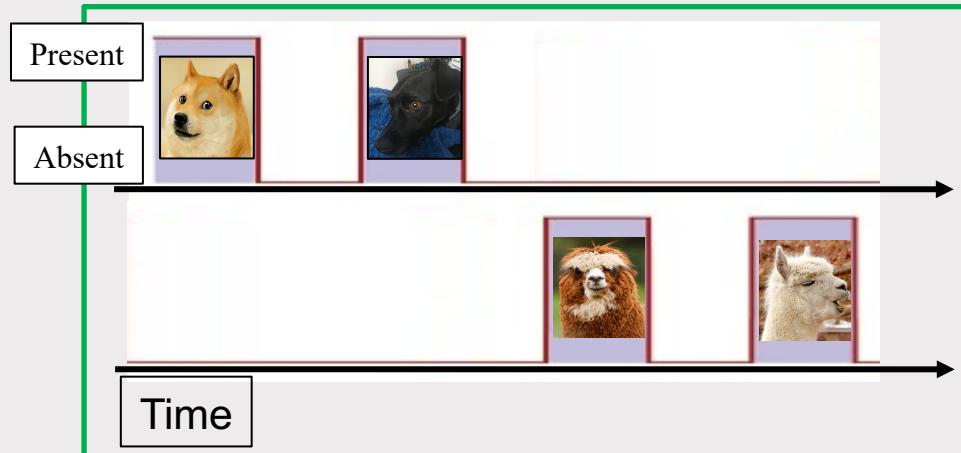
GLM

A practical example. Can we find voxels that distinguish DOGS FACES from ALPACAS FACES?

Voxel activity

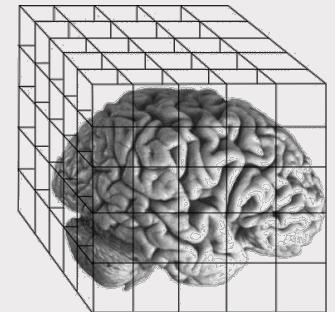


Task model

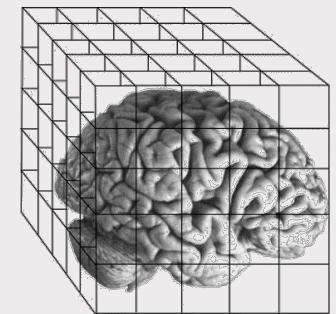


If run for every voxel, we will get one beta estimate per voxel, i.e., a beta map

Regressor 1



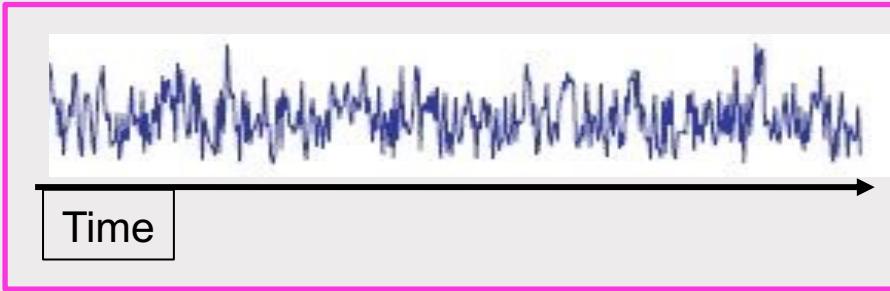
Regressor 2



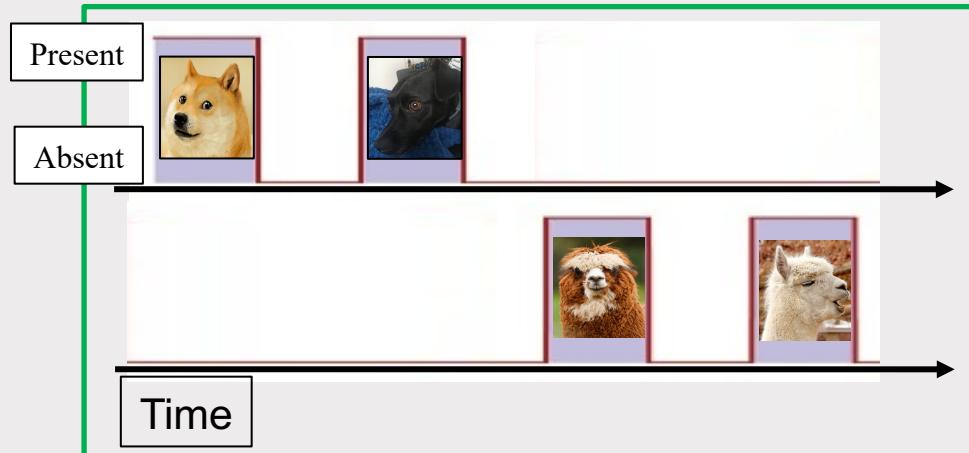
GLM

A practical example. Can we find voxels that distinguish DOGS FACES from ALPACAS FACES?

Voxel activity

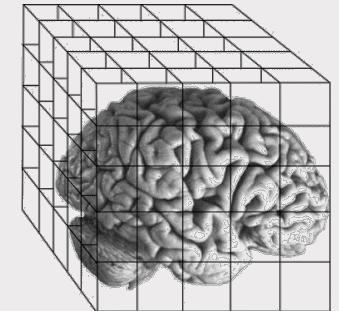


Task model

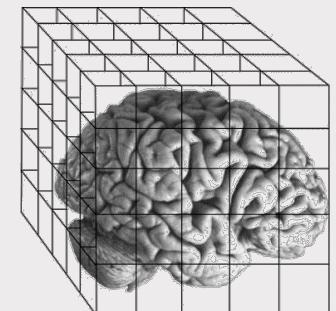


QUESTION: What would the value in each voxel of the beta map represent?

Regressor 1

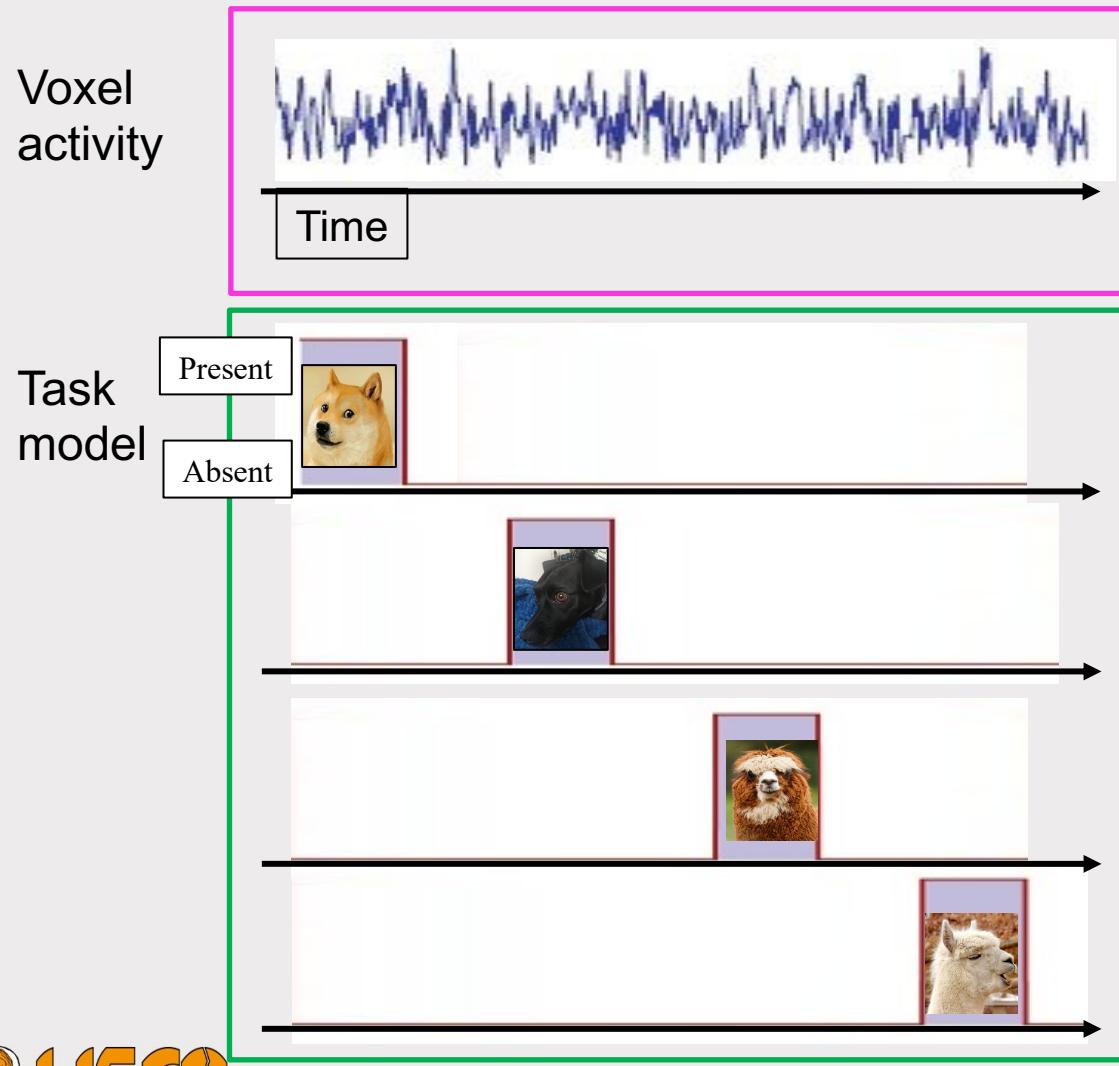


Regressor 2



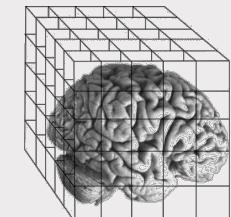
GLM

Another practical example. Can we find voxels that distinguish each CHARACTER?

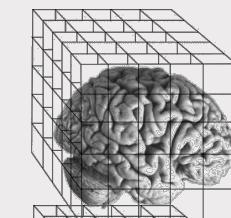


We can have a regressor and, therefore, a beta for **every** trial.

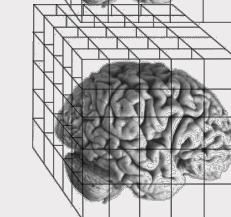
Beta1



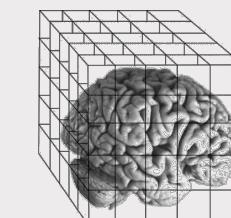
Beta2



Beta3



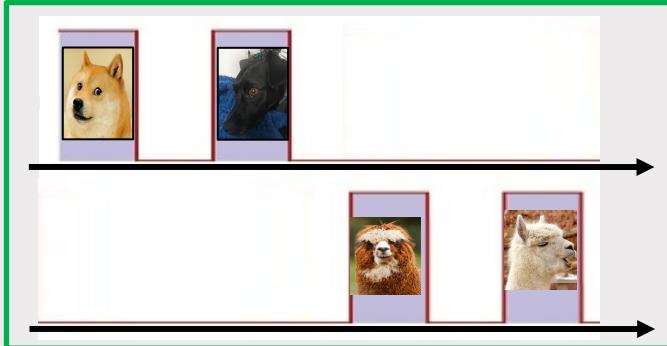
Beta4



GLM

Different GLM (task) models. LSU is widely used for **univariate** analysis while LSA (or more complex models) are often used for **multivariate** analysis.

Least-Squares
Unitary (LSU)



“One beta per condition is estimated”

Least-
Squares All
(LSA)

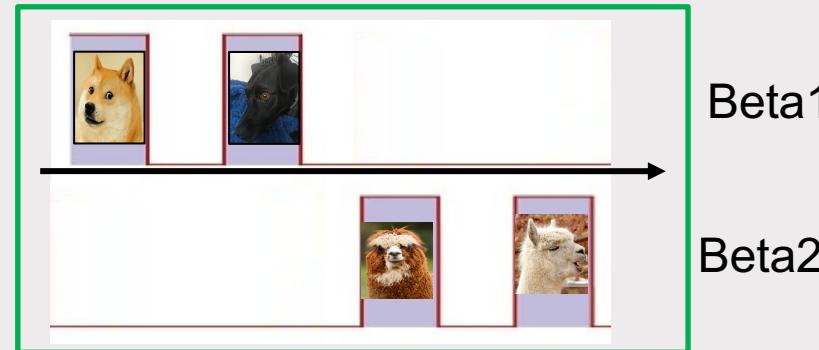


“One beta per trials is estimated”

GLM

Interim recap.

- fMRI sequences measure BOLD signal.
- Regression is the usual approach to analyze BOLD signal change.
- We use the condition (or stimulus) time course to model BOLD time course in each voxel.
- Regression will give us beta estimates for each voxel.
- The number (and meaning) of each beta estimates depends on the task model that we use.



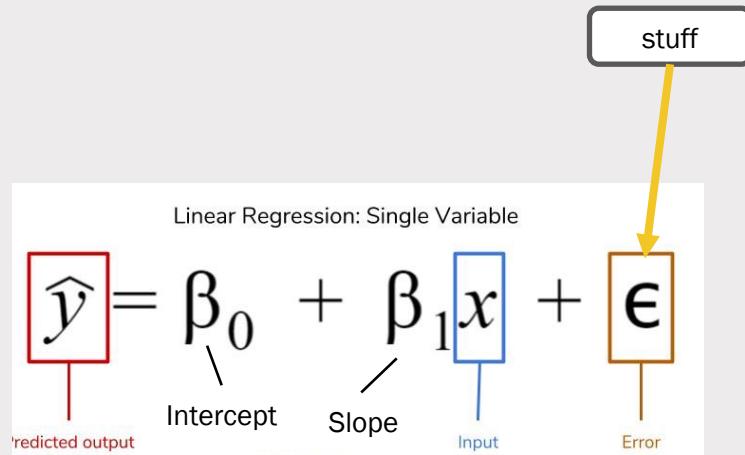
GLM

Back to theory.

We have seen that (task) regressors can be used to check if the time course of our variables correlates with signal change in the brain.

But the BOLD signal can also change with *stuff* other than our variables.

We do not want our results to be driven by (confounded with) other *stuff*.



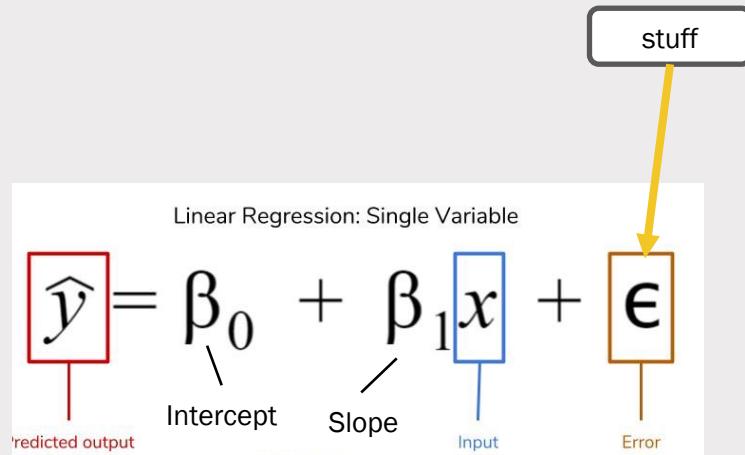
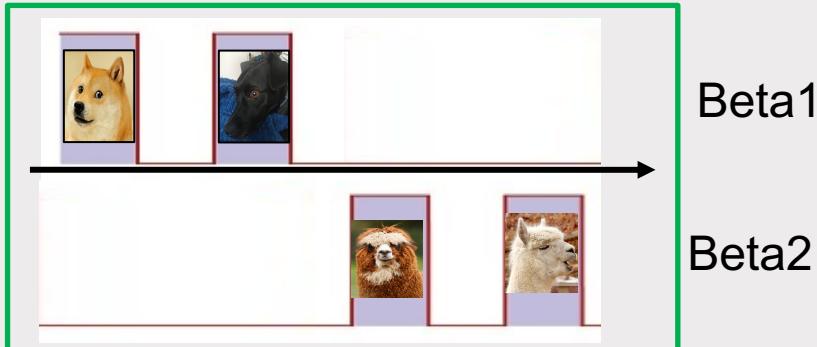
GLM

Back to theory.

We have seen that (task) regressors can be used to check if the time course of our variables correlates with signal change in the brain.

But the BOLD signal can also change with *stuff* other than our variables.

Enter: Nuisance/confound regressors.

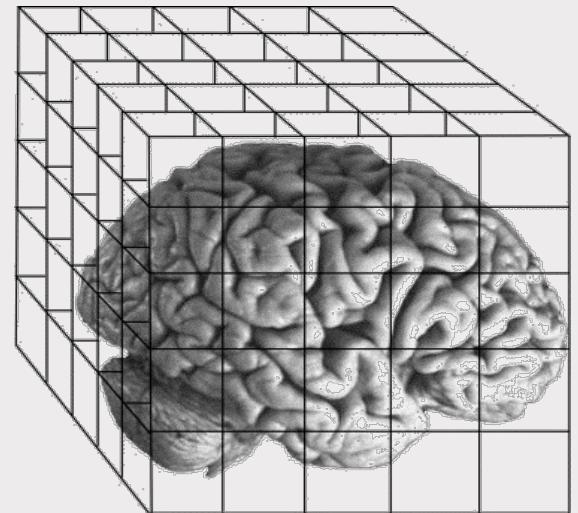


GLM

Nuisance regressors.

What can affect signal *change* in a given voxel?

- Head motion.
- Breathing.
- Heart rate.
- Scanner drift.
- ...



GLM

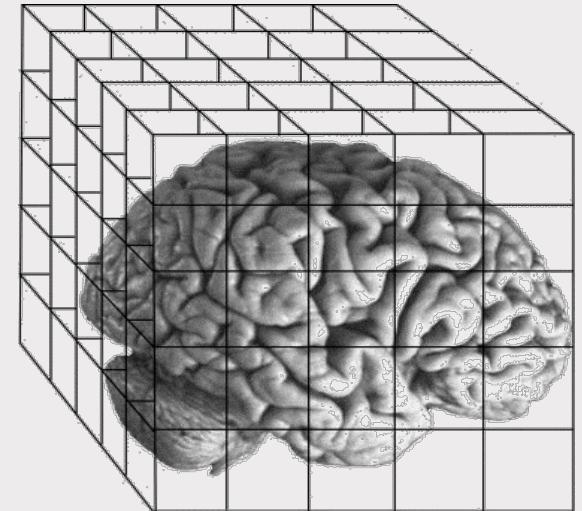
Nuisance regressors.

What can affect signal *change* in a given voxel?

- Head motion.
- Breathing.
- Heart rate.
- Scanner drift.
- ...

What should nuisance regressor look like?

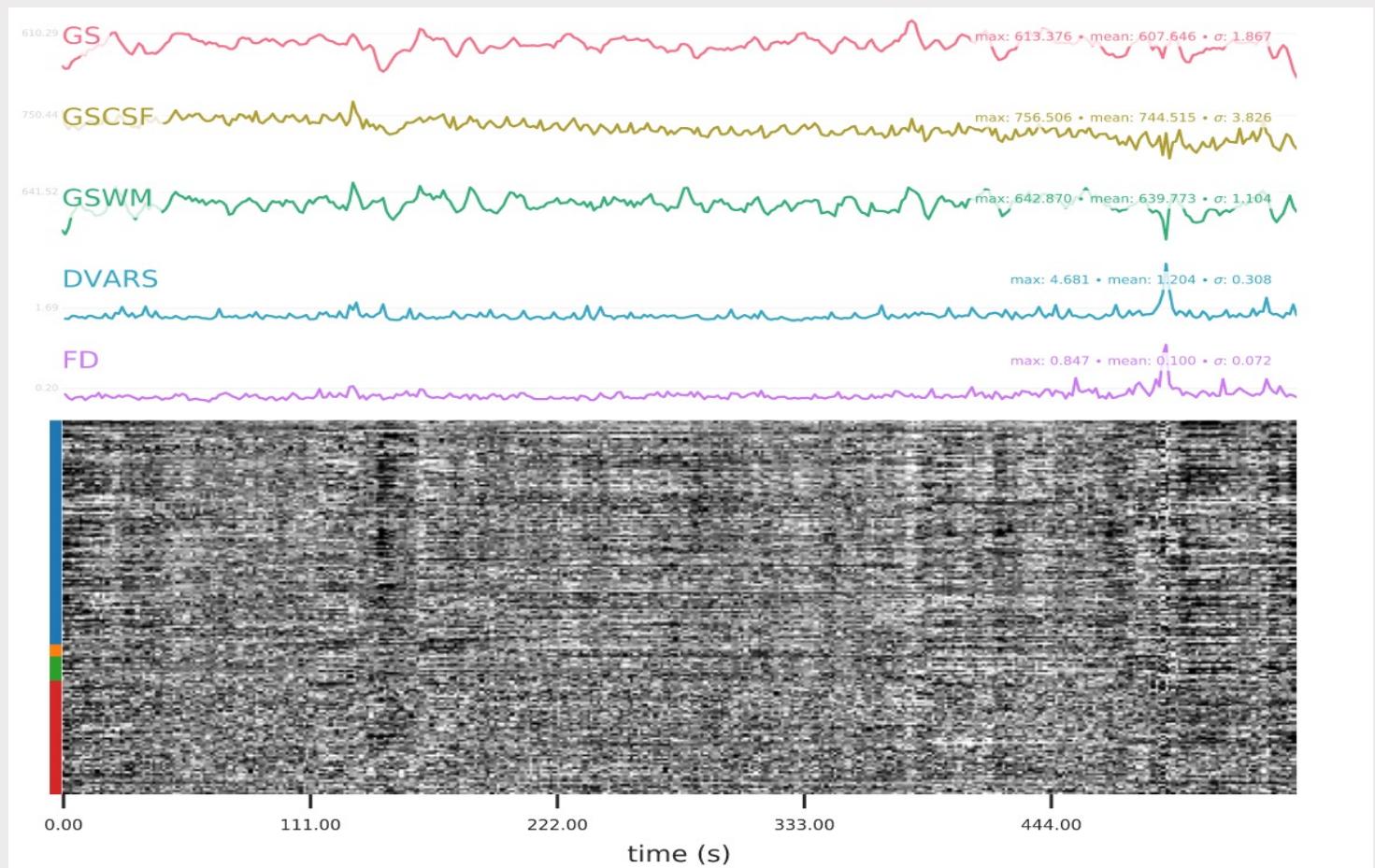
One **value** per each **datapoint** in our data.



GLM

Nuisance regressors.

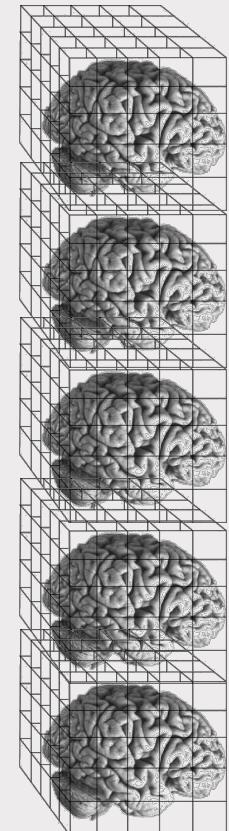
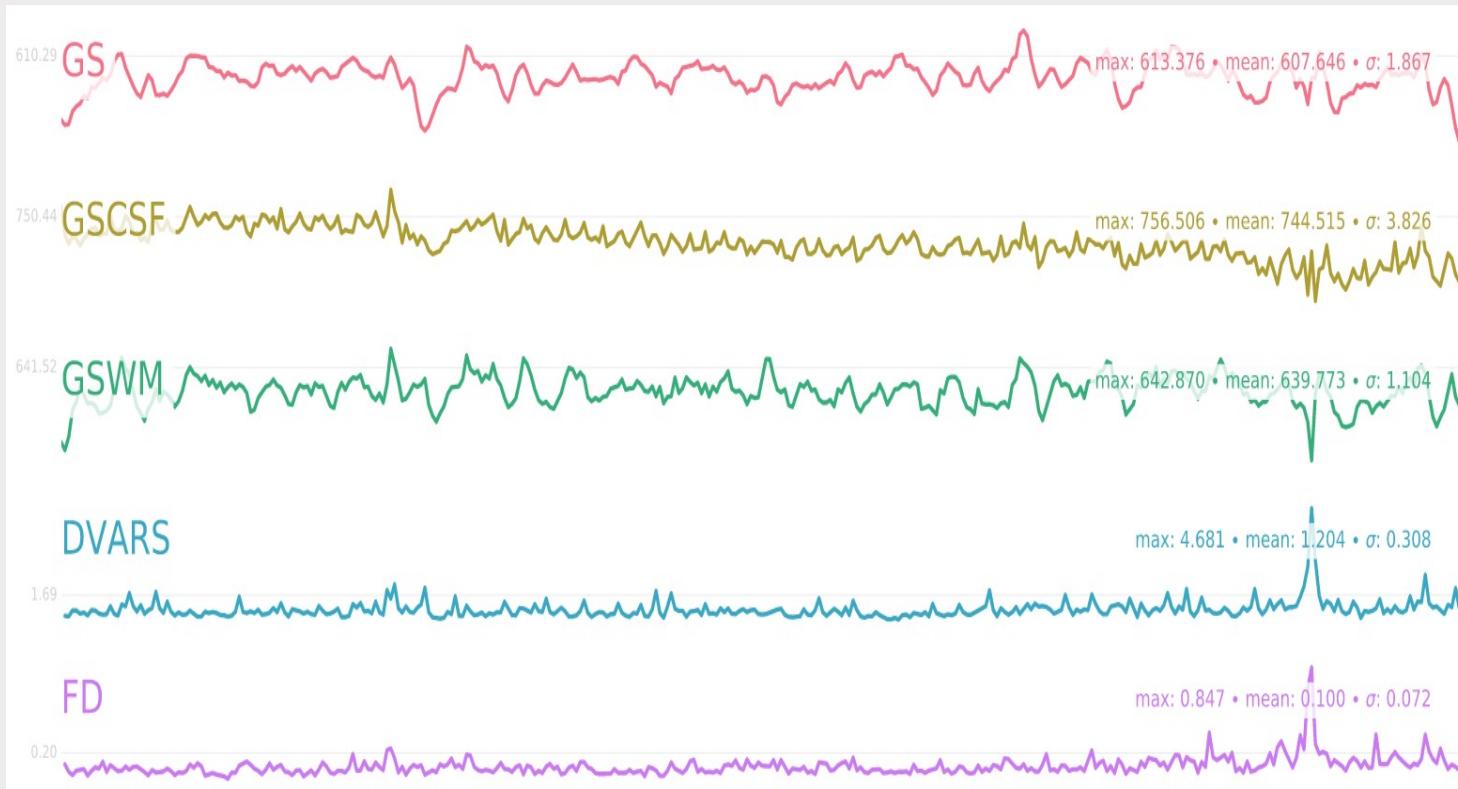
Some measures that we get *for free*...



GLM

Nuisance regressors.

If we can identify the time course of each factor that we believe can influence our signal change, we can add them in our model.



GLM

Nuisance regressors.

Betas estimated from nuisance regressors are usually not of interest for our analysis, but they can account for an important portion of the variance in our signal.

It is important to know *how many* nuisance regressors we will include in our model because that will change the number of betas we get out of the regression!

Linear Regression: Single Variable

$$\hat{y} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x + \epsilon$$

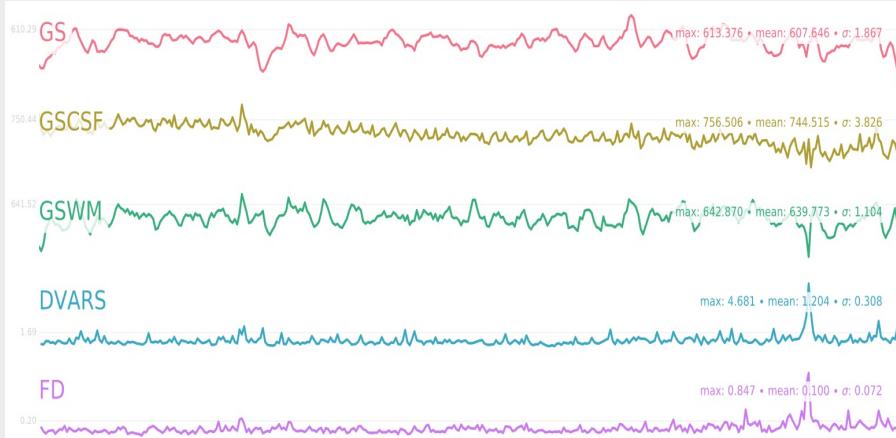
predicted output Intercept Slope Input Error

Error to be minimized

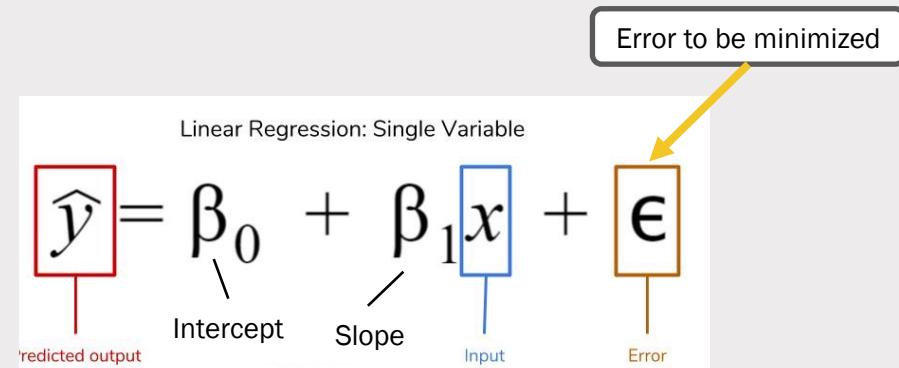
The diagram illustrates the linear regression equation $\hat{y} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x + \epsilon$. It labels the components: 'predicted output' for \hat{y} , 'Intercept' for β_0 , 'Slope' for β_1 , 'Input' for x , and 'Error' for ϵ . A yellow arrow points from the ϵ term to a box labeled 'Error to be minimized'.

GLM

Nuisance regressors.



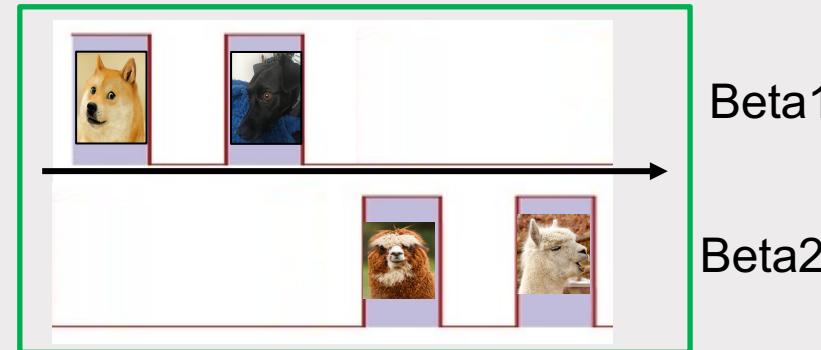
QUESTION: Should we convolve our nuisance regressors with an HRF?



GLM

General recap.

- fMRI sequences measure BOLD signal.
- Regression is the usual approach to analyze BOLD signal change.
- We use the condition (or stimulus) time course to model BOLD time course in each voxel.
- Regression will give us beta estimates for each voxel.
- The number (and meaning) of each beta estimates depends on the task model that we use.
- Nuisance regressors can help “cleaning” our signal.
- Estimations on head motions are the most common nuisance regressors used.



GLM

General recap.

- fMRI sequences measure BOLD signal.
- Regression is the usual approach to analyze BOLD signal change.
- We use the condition (or stimulus) time course to model BOLD time course in each voxel.
- Regression will give us beta estimates for each voxel.
- The number (and meaning) of each beta estimates depends on the task model that we use.
- Nuisance regressors can help “cleaning” our signal.
- Estimations on head motions are the most common nuisance regressors used.

