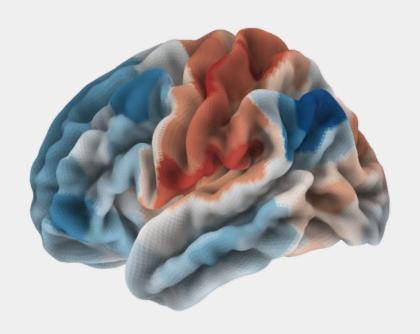
# Fundamentals of fMRI data analysis

Karolina Finc

Centre for Modern Interdisciplinary

Technologies Nicolaus Copernicus University
in Toruń

PART #6: Functional connectivity



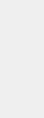
# Study plan

Functional connectivity





**AFTER** 



fMRI data preprocessing





General Linear Model



Machine Learning on fMRI data



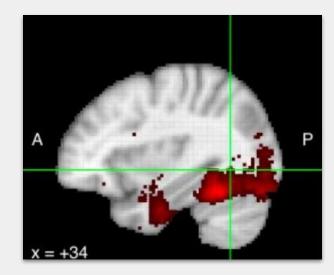
**BEFORE** 



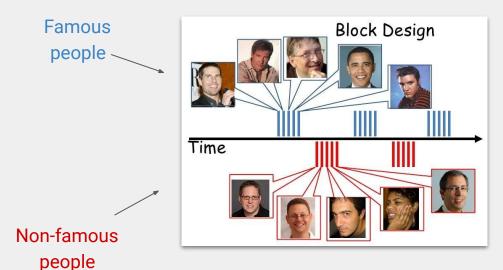
fMRI data manipulation in python

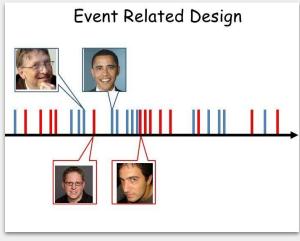
## Goals of task-based fMRI

- Induce in a study participant to do actions or experience cognitive states you're interested in.
- You want to detect brain signals that are related to this cognitive states or actions.



## Task designs





Block design similar events are grouped

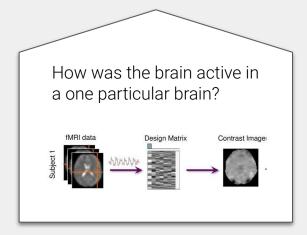
**Event-related design** events are mixed

## **Fixatio Events parameters** inter-stimulus duration interval (ISI) +/jitter **Condition A Condition B** inter-trial stimul onset +/interval (ITI) jitter

## **Analysis steps**

1-level analysis

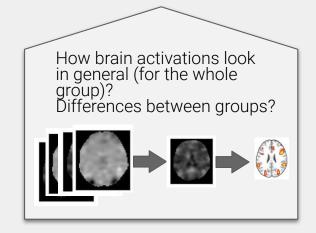
(within-subject; individual)



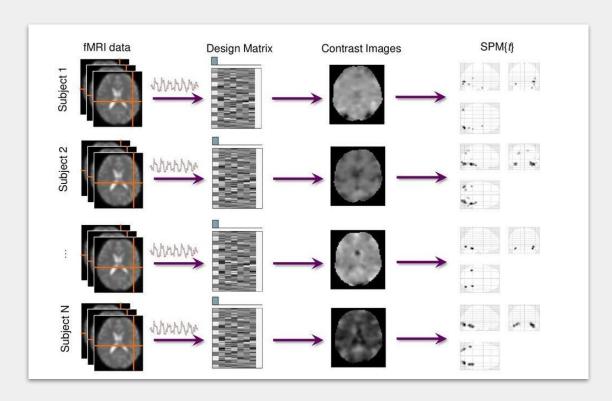


2-level analysis

(across-subject; group)



# 1-level analysis



# Study plan

Open science & neuroimaging

Functional connectivity





**AFTER** 



fMRI data preprocessing







Machine Learning on fMRI data



**BEFORE** 





# Study plan

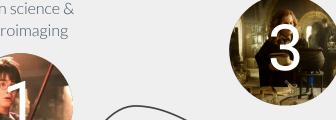
Functional connectivity





**AFTER** 

Open science & neuroimaging



fMRI data preprocessing



General Linear Model



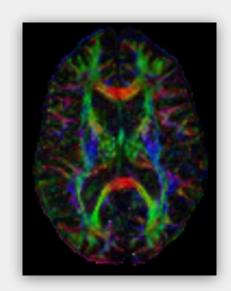
Machine Learning on fMRI data



**BEFORE** 

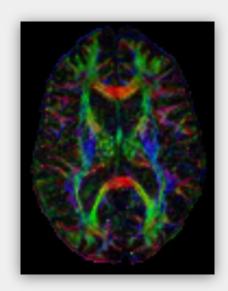


## **Structural connectivity**

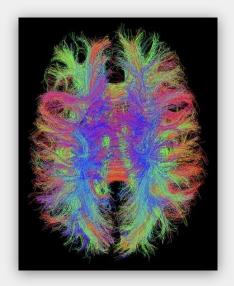


Diffusion MRI
image contrast is determined by
the random microscopic motion
of water protons

## **Structural connectivity**

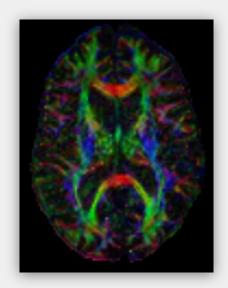


Diffusion MRI
image contrast is determined by
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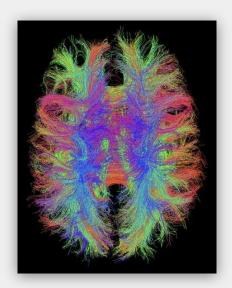


Tractography
is a modeling technique used to
visually represent nerve tracts using
data collected by diffusion MRI.

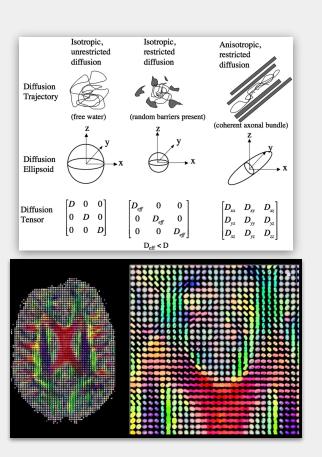
## Structural connectivity

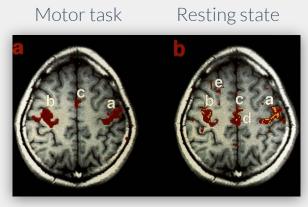


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image contrast is determined by
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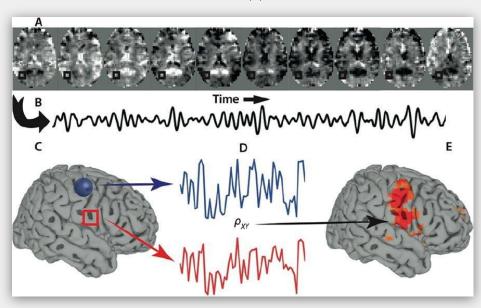


Biswal et al. (1995)

# Motor task Resting state

Biswal et al. (1995)

### Seed-based approach



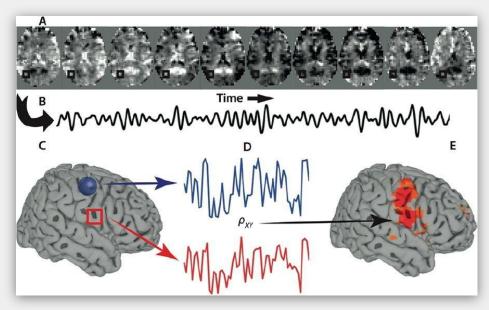
Hart et al. (2016)

# Motor task Resting state

Biswal et al. (1995)

**Resting-state functional connectivity** measures temporal correlation of spontaneous BOLD signal among spatially distributed brain regions, with the assumption that regions with correlated activity form functional networks

### Seed-based approach



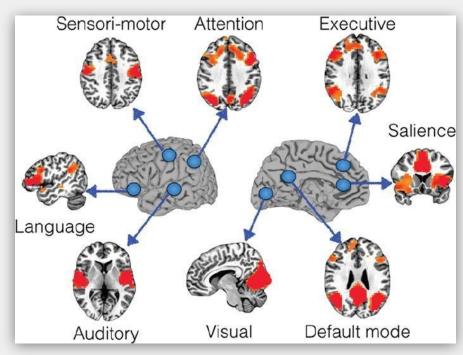
Hart et al. (2016)

# Motor task Resting state

Biswal et al. (1995)

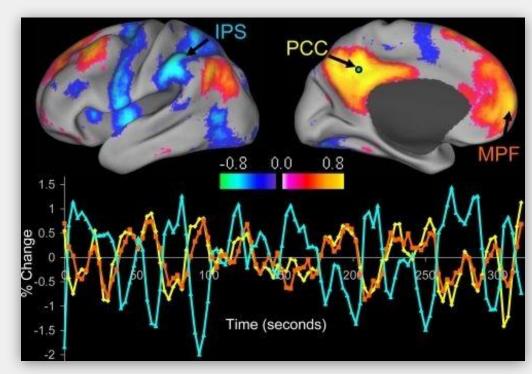
**Resting-state functional connectivity** measures temporal correlation of spontaneous BOLD signal among spatially distributed brain regions, with the assumption that regions with correlated activity form functional networks

### Resting-state networks



Hart et al. (2016)

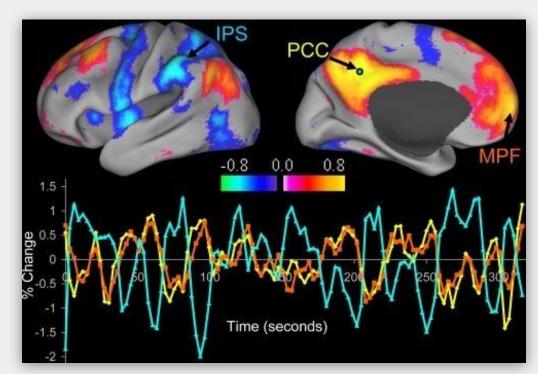
## **Anticorrelated networks**



**Task-positive** networks - networks that are active during cognitively demanding tasks (e.g. frontoparietal network, dorsal attention network).

Fox et al. (2005)

## **Anticorrelated networks**

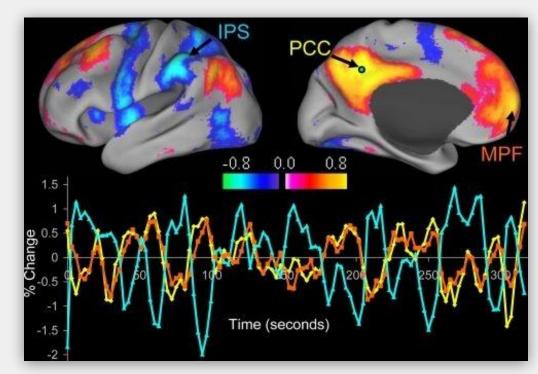


**Task-positive** networks - networks that are active during cognitively demanding tasks (e.g. frontoparietal network, dorsal attention network).

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## **Anticorrelated networks**



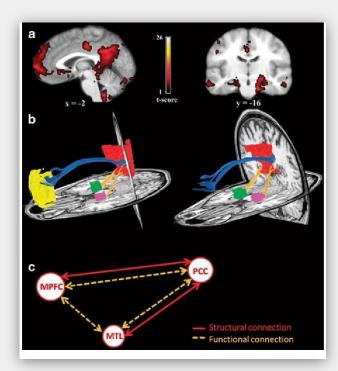
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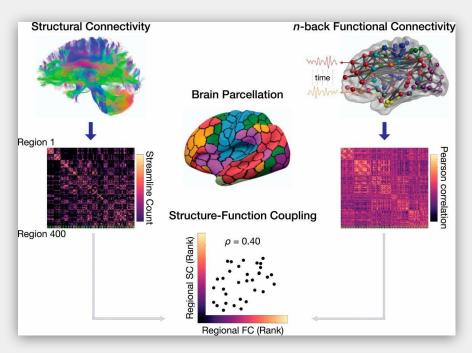
**Task-positive** networks - networks that are active during cognitively demanding tasks (e.g. frontoparietal network, dorsal attention network).

**Task-negative** networks that are inactive during cognitively demanding tasks (e.g. default mode network).

**Task-positive** and **task-negative** networks are *often* **anticorrelated** during task and rest.

## Functional connectivity vs structural connectivity

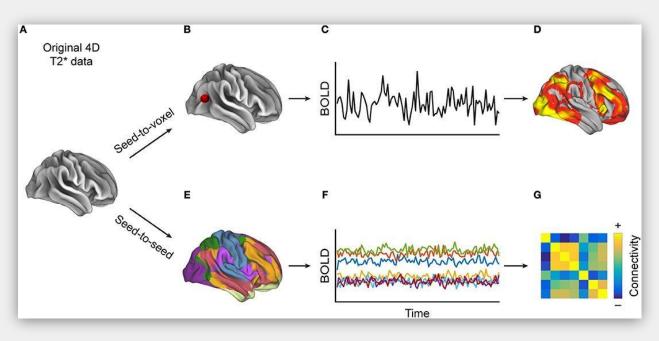




Greicius et al. (2009)

Baum et al. (2019)

## Functional connectivity: methods



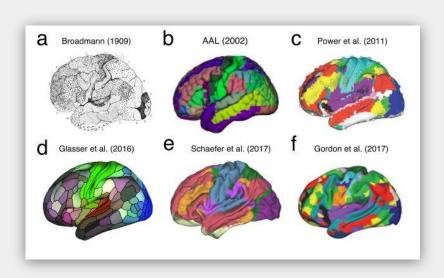
**Seed** - predefined region of the brain.

**Seed-to-voxel** - calculating correlations between seed and all voxels in the brain.

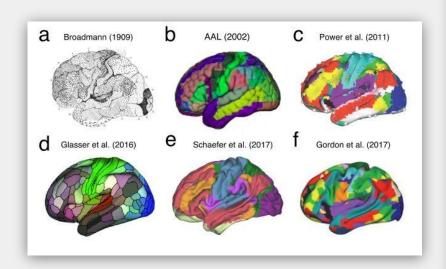
**Seed-to-seed** - calculating correlations between seed regions.

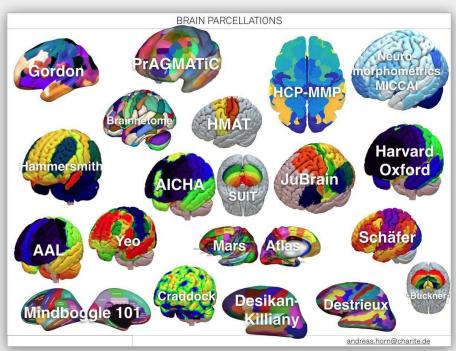


# **Brain parcellations**



## **Brain parcellations**

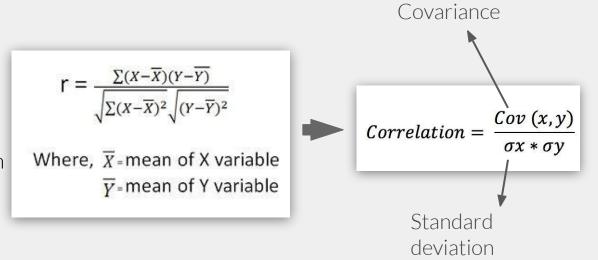


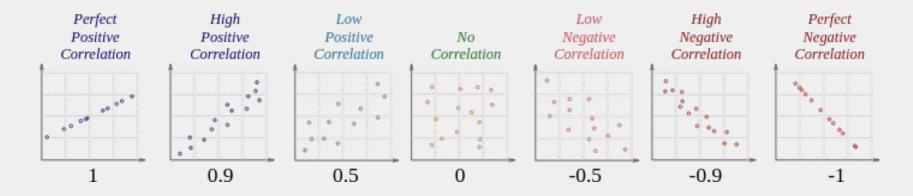




## Correlation

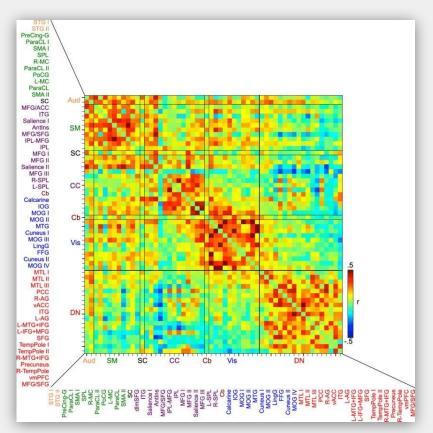
**Correlation** is a statistic that measures the degree to which two variables are related to each other.





## **Correlation matrix**

Each *ij* element of a matrix represent the **correlation coefficient** (functional connectivity strength) between two regions.

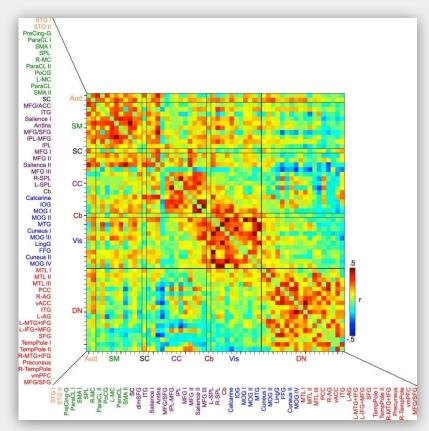


Hutchison & Morton, 2015

## **Correlation matrix**

Each *ij* element of a matrix represent the **correlation coefficient** (functional connectivity strength) between two regions.

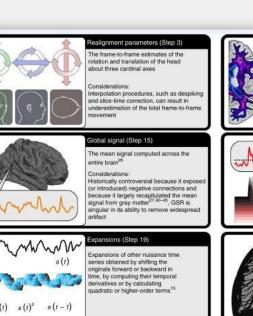
**Clusters** on a correlation matrix represents brain subnetworks (also known called **modules** or **large-scale systems**).



Hutchison & Morton, 2015

## **Spurious correlations**

Signal of non-neuronal origin (motion, physiological effects) can pump the correlation values between BOLD time-series.



ICA (Step 14)

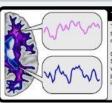
Signals identified via ICA-based data

ICA-based denoising can effectively remove

local motion artifact but is less effective at emoving widespread motion artifact<sup>24,48</sup>

decomposition and then identified as artifactual by either a trained

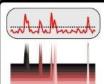
classifier21 or a heuristic20



#### Fissue compartments (Step 17A)

The mean signal computed across tissue compartments susceptible to noise, typically WM and CSF

Superficial WM and CSF signals correlate with the global and GM signals 13. To limit partial volume effects along the GM interface, mask erosion is recommended



#### Spikes (censoring) (Step 8)

A set of delta functions that remove all variance from frames that exceed a noise threshold 11,17,53

#### Considerations:

To minimize the influence of noisy frames, censoring should be incorporated iteratively 18. Censoring also alters the autocorrelation structure of the data and leads to variable loss of temporal degrees of freedom across subjects

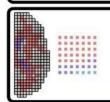


#### Physiological nuisance (Step 18)

Signals computed from records of physiological processes such as pulse and respiration

#### Considerations:

Physiological recordings are not often available. Prior work has shown that much physiological noise is captured by the global signal<sup>13</sup>



#### CompCor (Step 17B)

A set of orthogonal time series computed via PCA over WM and CSF (anatomical CompCor) or over brain regions with high temporal variance (temporal CompCor)<sup>16,19</sup>

#### Considerations:

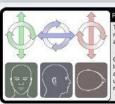
In our experience, aCompCor has outperformed tCompCor. but aCompCor may not perform as well in high-motion

## **Spurious correlations**

Signal of **non-neuronal origin** (motion, physiological effects) can pump the correlation values between BOLD time-series.

## Denoising procedure -

regressing out confounding signals might minimise the level of spurious correlations in studies focused on functional connectivity.



#### Realignment parameters (Step 3)

The frame-to-frame estimates of the rotation and translation of the head about three cardinal axes

#### Considerations:

Interpolation procedures, such as despiking and slice-time correction, can result in underestimation of the total frame-to-frame movement

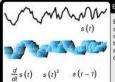


#### Global signal (Step 15)

The mean signal computed across the entire brain 26

#### Considerations:

Historically controversial because it exposed (or introduced) negative connections and because it largely recapitulated the mean signal from gray matter?" 45–45. GSR is singular in its ability to remove widespread artifact



#### Expansions (Step 19)

Expansions of other nuisance time series obtained by shifting the originals forward or backward in time, by computing their temporal derivatives or by calculating quadratic or higher-order terms <sup>15</sup>

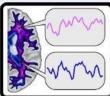


#### CA (Step 14)

Signals identified via ICA-based data decomposition and then identified as artifactual by either a trained classifier<sup>21</sup> or a heuristic<sup>20</sup>

#### Consideration

ICA-based denoising can effectively remove local motion artifact but is less effective at removing widespread motion artifact.<sup>24,48</sup>

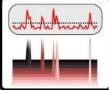


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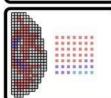


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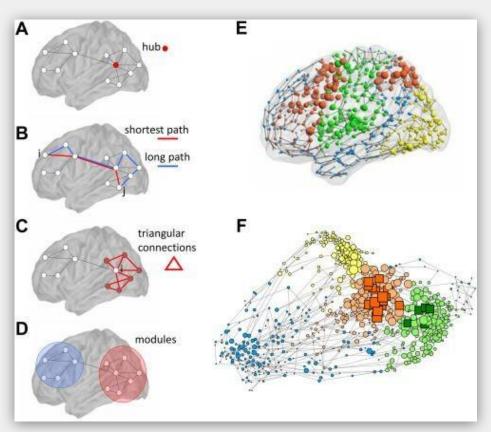
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#### Considerations

In our experience, aCompCor has outperformed tCompCor, but aCompCor may not perform as well in high-motion samples<sup>63</sup>

## **Network neuroscience**

The goal of the **network neuroscience** is to understand
properties of brain network
reorganization using **network science** tools.

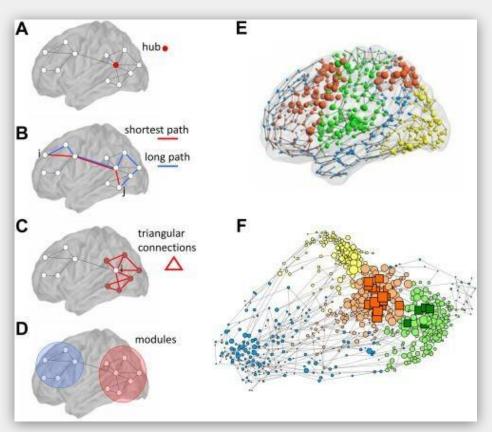


Morgan et al., 2018

## **Network neuroscience**

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Network science - field which studies complex networks, considering distinct elements represented by **nodes** (or vertices) and the **edges** (or connections) between them.

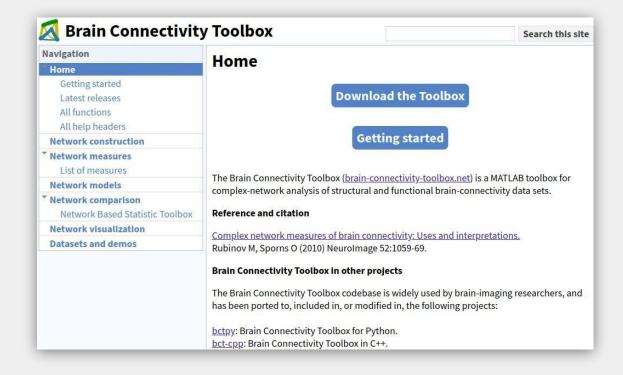


Morgan et al., 2018

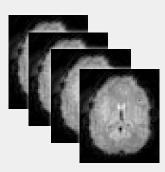
## **Network neuroscience**

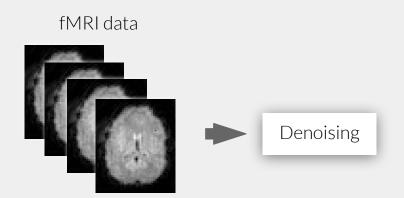
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fMRI data

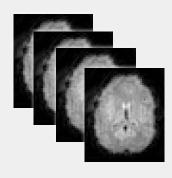




## Definition of brain regions



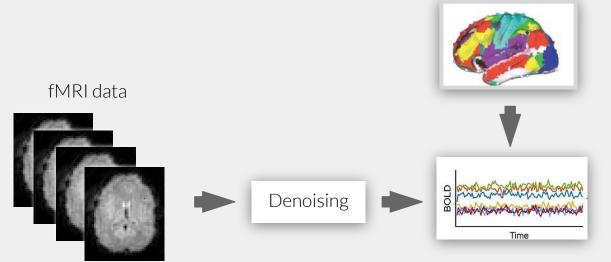




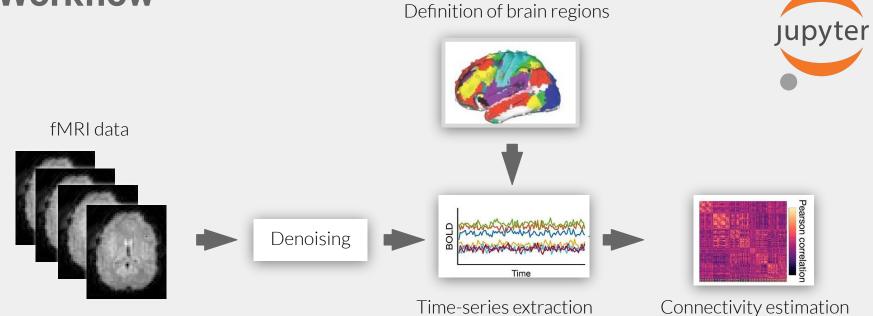


Denoising

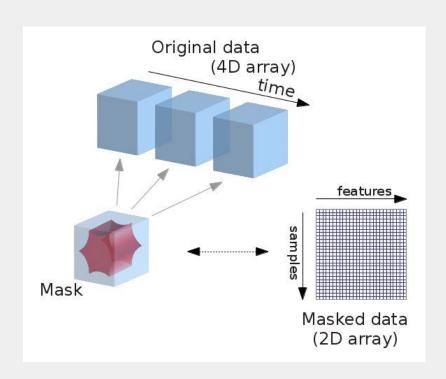
## Definition of brain regions



Time-series extraction



## Masking data: from 4D to 2D





## Homework

### 1. GitHub Classroom

Functional connectivity



## Next



# **Machine learning**