

# **Psychophysiological Interactions:**

## A context dependent functional connectivity

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# Contents

- Theoretical backgrounds
- PPI analysis steps in SPM12
- Useful Matlab functions

# Keywords

- Convolution with Hemodynamic Response Function (HRF)
- Deconvolution with HRF
- General Linear Modeling (GLM)
- Interaction term in GLM
- Psychophysiological Interaction (PPI)

# Theoretical Background

# Understanding an Interaction in GLM

Factor A		
Factor B	A1 / B1	A2 / B1
A1 / B2	A1 / B2	A2 / B2

## Example)

A1: Self Face  
B1: Positive Word

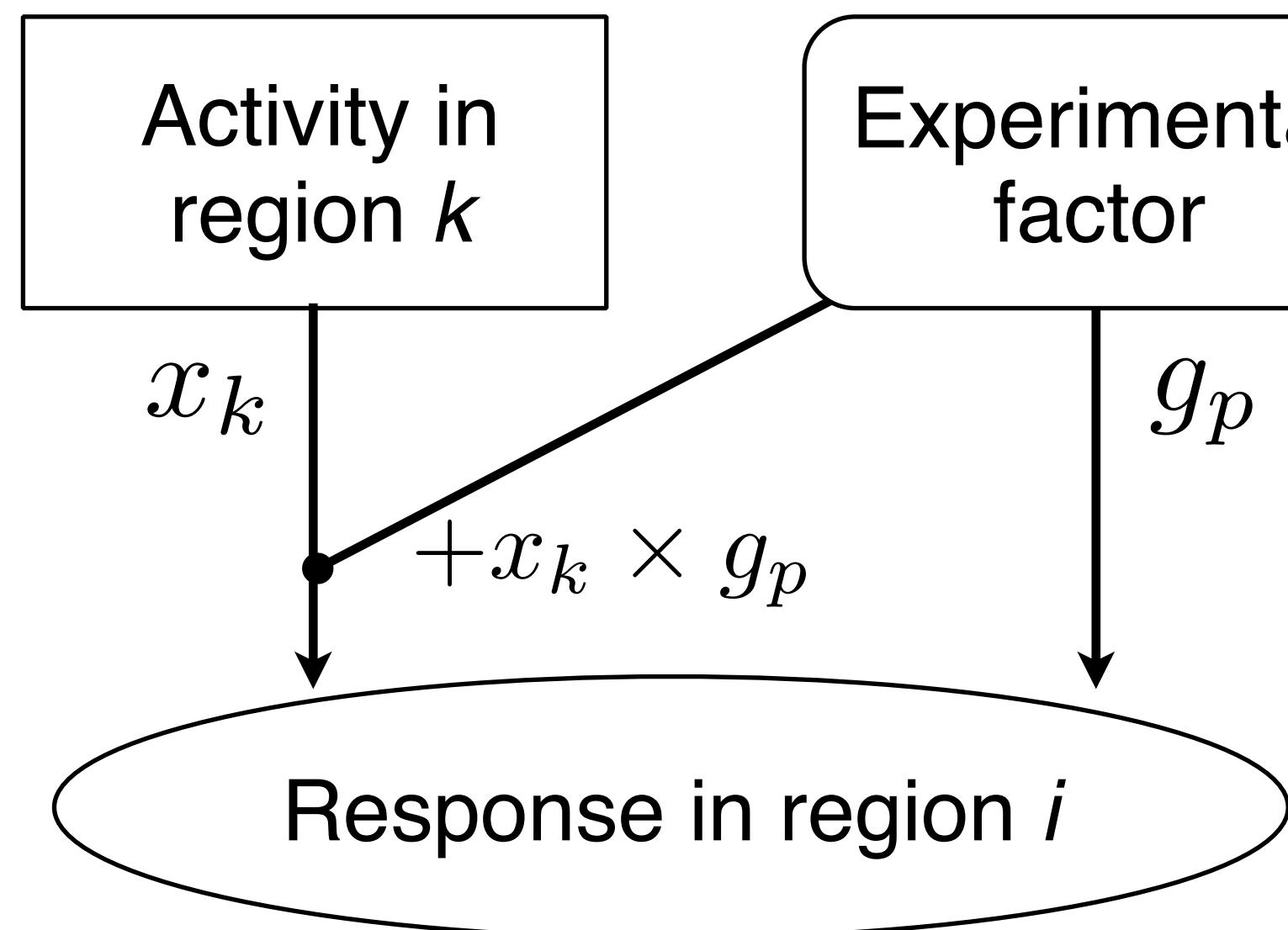
A2: Other Face  
B2: Negative Word

## Equation for factorial design

$$y = \underline{(A_2 - A_1)\beta_1} + \underline{(B_2 - B_1)\beta_2} + \underline{(A_2 - A_1)(B_2 - B_1)\beta_3} + \underline{G\beta_4} + \epsilon$$

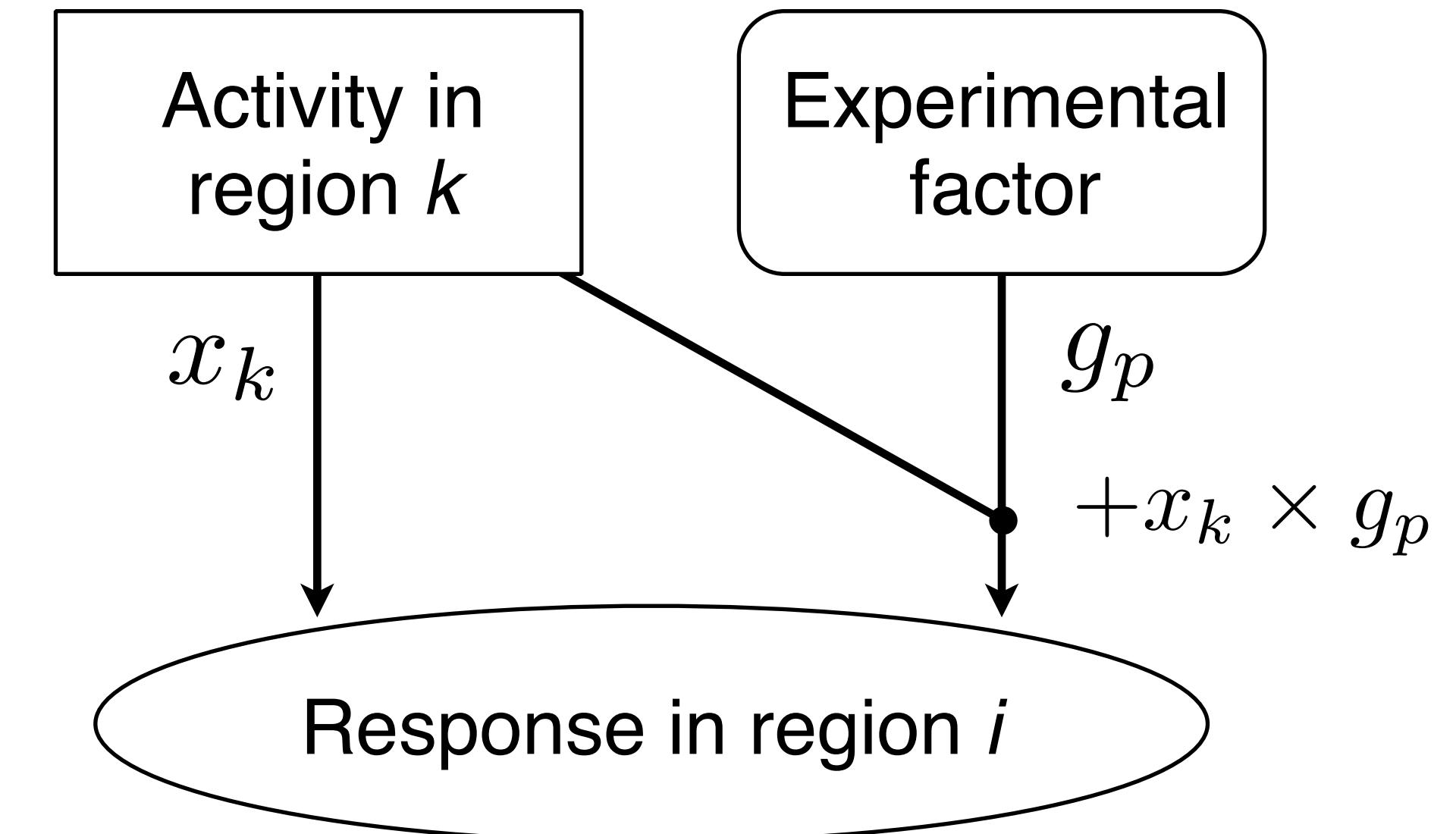
Main effects for A      Main effects for B      Interaction term      Confounding effects

# Psychophysiological Interaction



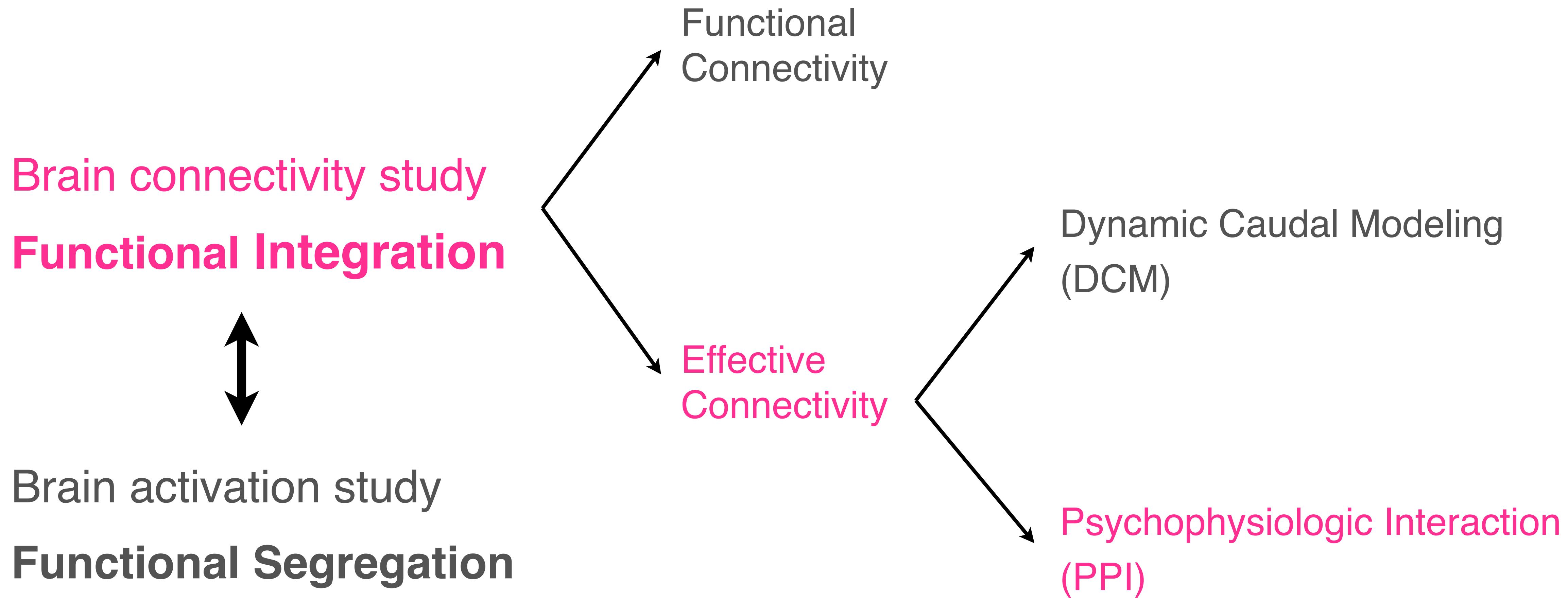
The contribution of one area ( $k$ ) to another ( $i$ ) is altered by the experimental context

$$y_i = x_k \beta_1 + g_p \beta_2 + (x_k \times g_p) \beta_3 + \epsilon$$



The responses of an area ( $i$ ) to an experimental (psychological) context due to the contribution of region ( $k$ )

# Functional Neuroimaging Study



# Functional Connectivity

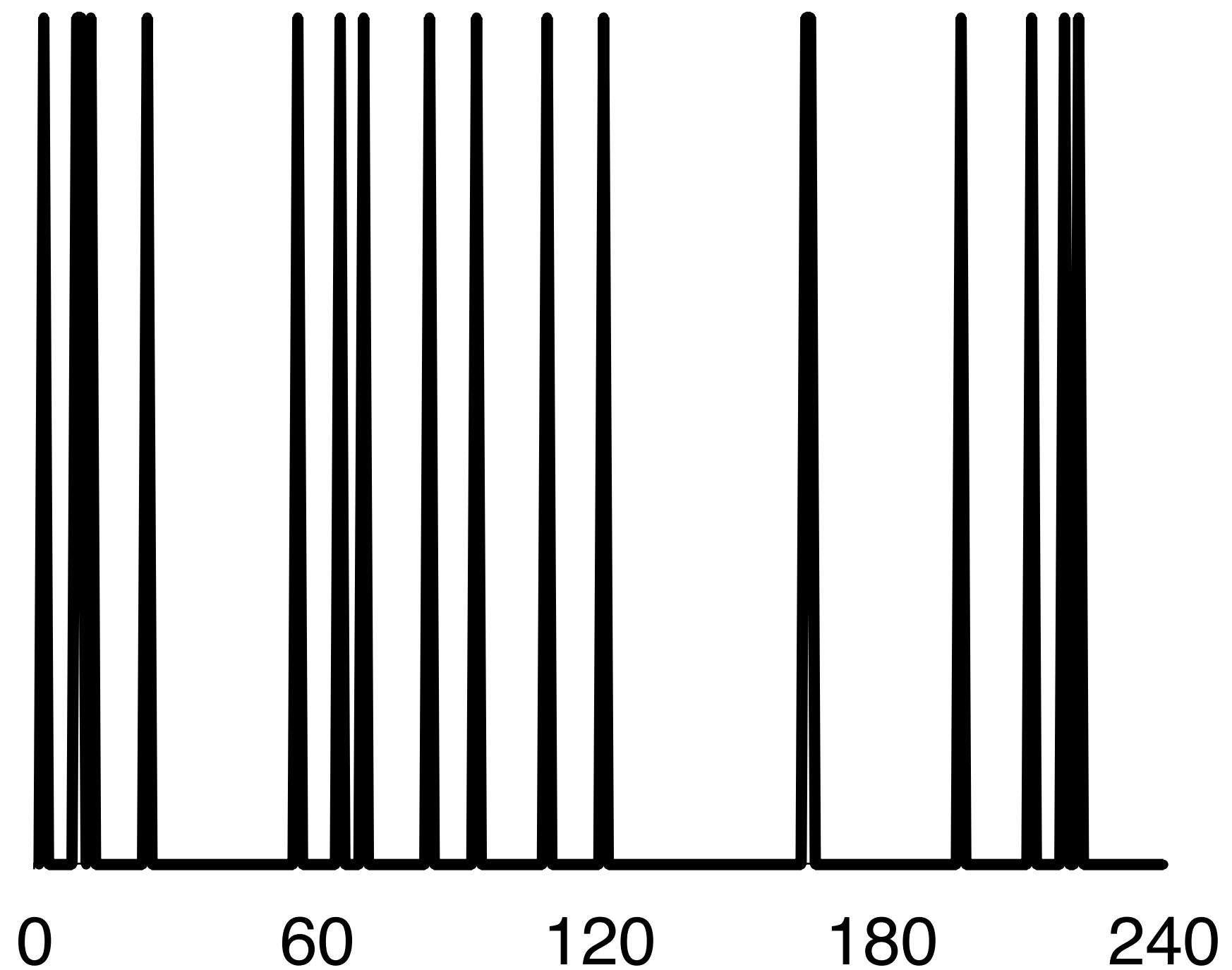
- **Intrinsic functional connectivity**  
resting-state (Unconstrained) activity correlations,  
interpreted as reflecting intrinsic functional connectivity.
- **Context-dependent functional connectivity**  
Physiological correlation as modulated by psychological  
variable(s), interpreted as reflecting context-dependent  
changes in connectivity.

# Psychophysiological Interactions

- Psychophysiological interactions (PPI) model the response in one cortical area as **the influence of another region and its interaction with an experimental treatment.**
- Interactions in the brain take place at the neural and not the hemodynamic level.
- The PPI software (`spm_peb_ppi.m`) was developed in order to provide robust deconvolution of the HRV and the proper derivation of the interaction term.

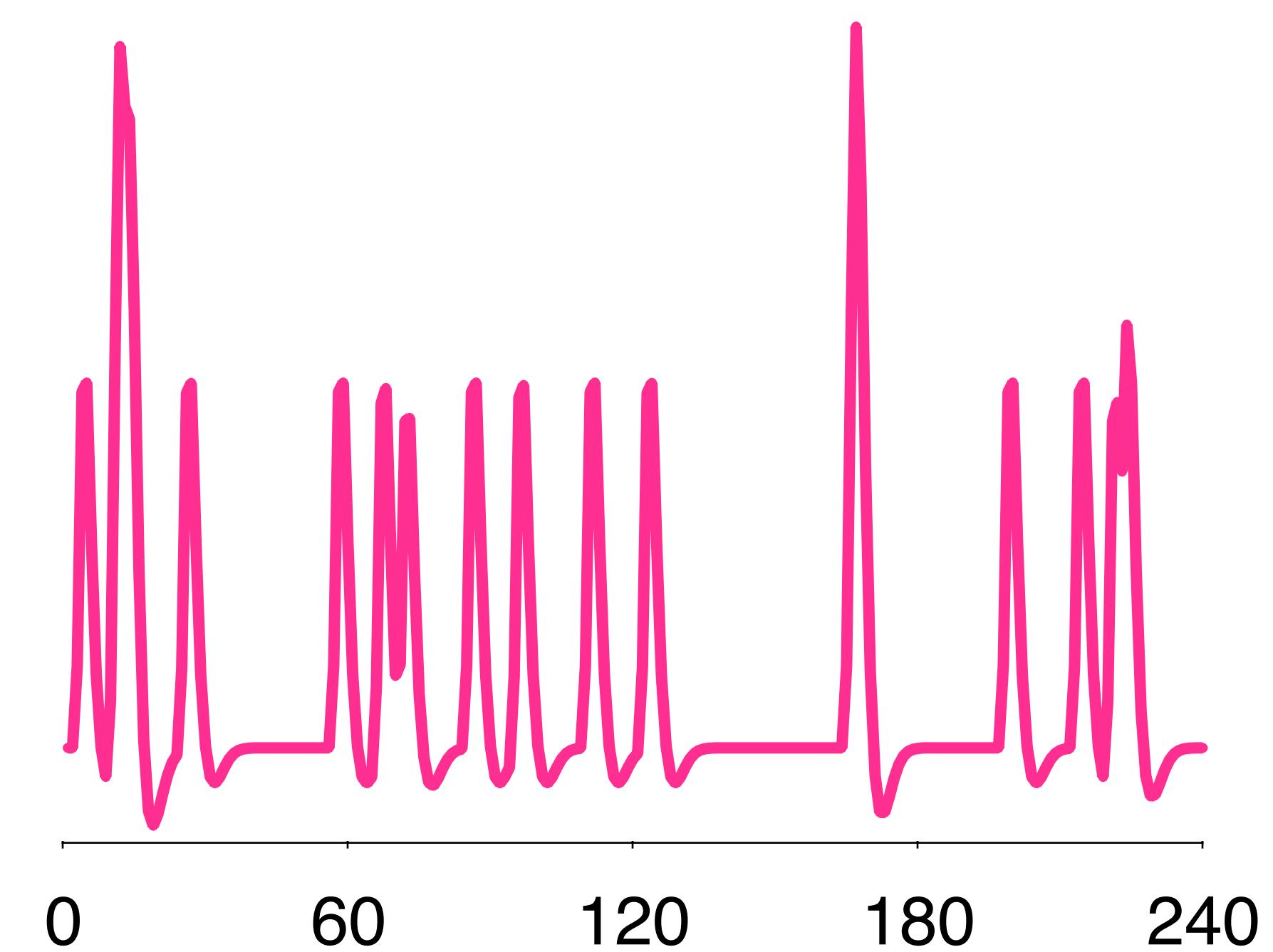
# Neural Activity vs. BOLD signal

**Experimental Stimulus**  
(Psychological)

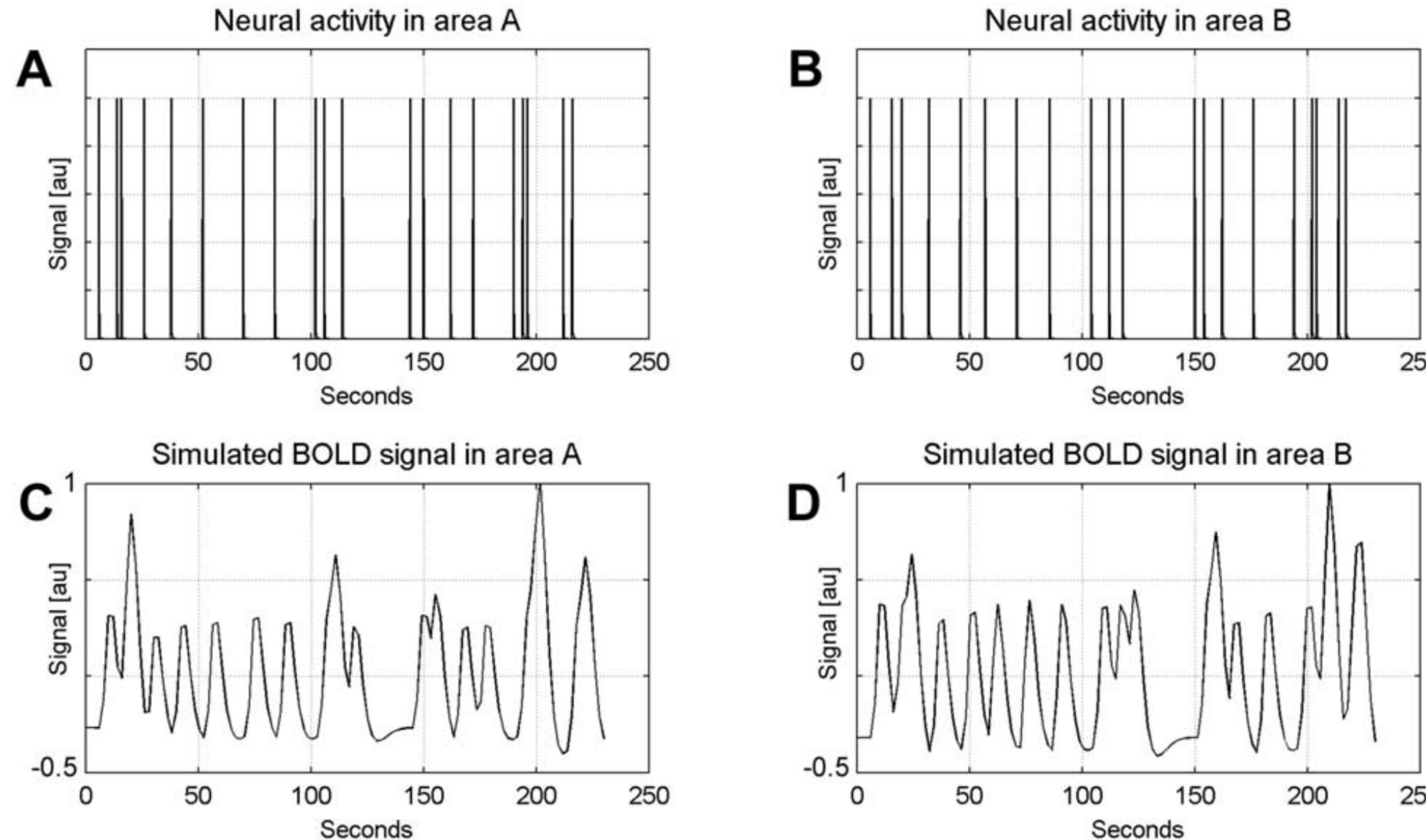


$$\text{Experimental Stimulus} \otimes \text{HRF} = \text{BOLD Response}$$

**BOLD Response**  
(Psychological)



# Neural vs BOLD signal



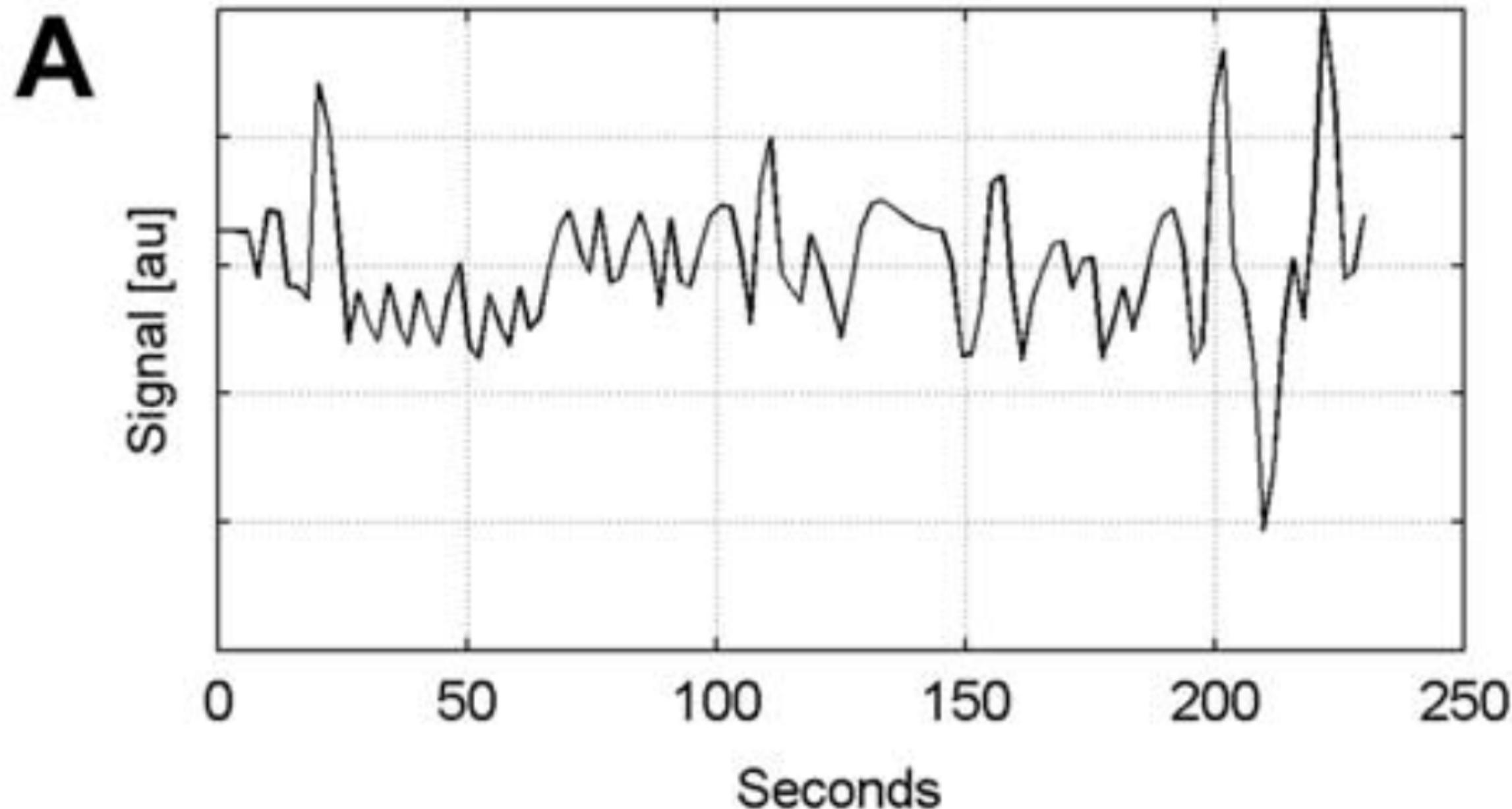
Neural activity from 20 simulated neural events.

Simulated noiseless BOLD signal generated by convolving the neural activity with a HRF.

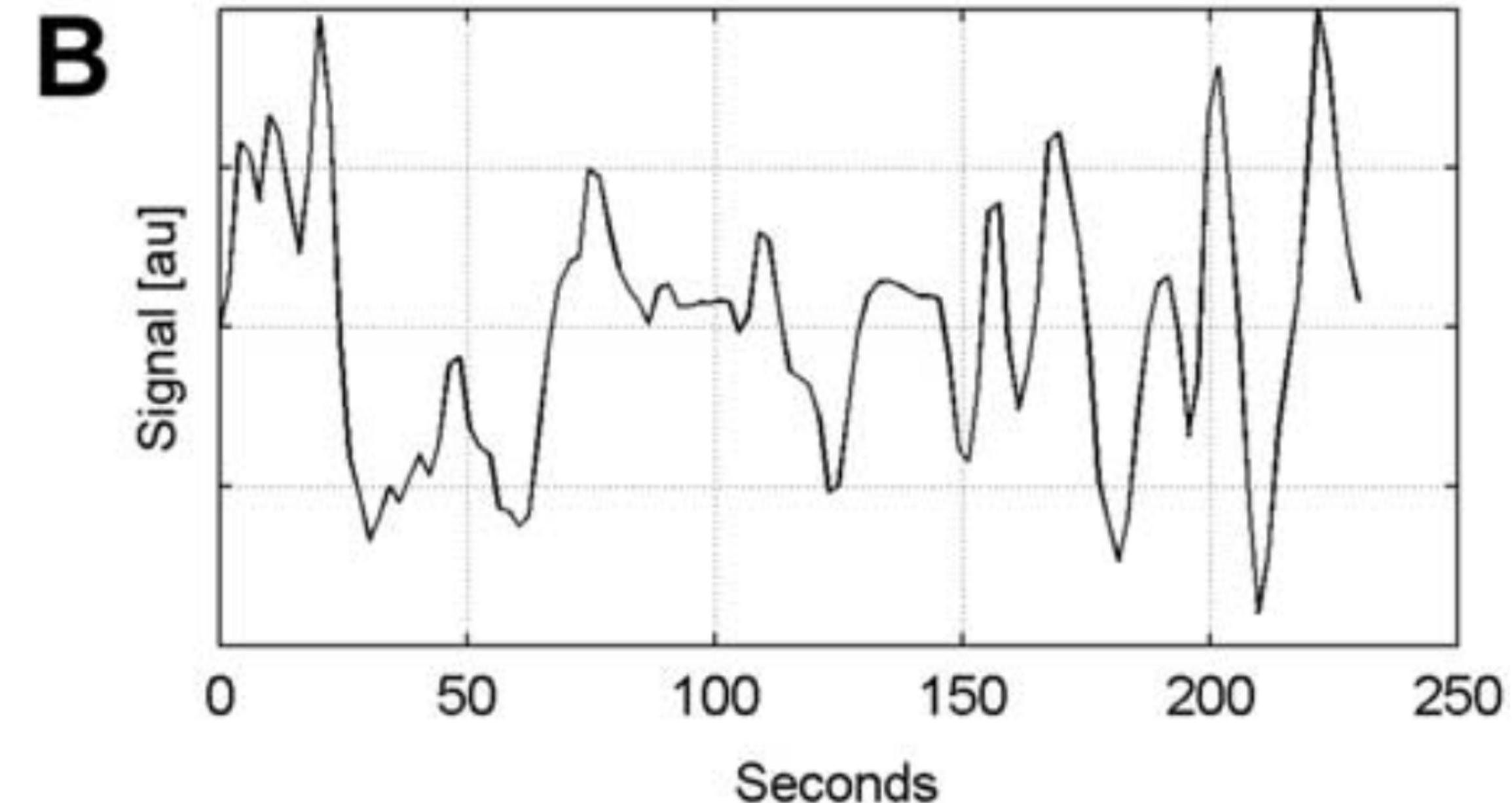
Darren R. Gitelman et al., Modeling regional and psychophysiological interactions in fMRI: the importance of hemodynamic deconvolution, *NeuroImage* **19** (2003) 200-207

# Interactions

Interaction term for Bold-A with Bold-B



Interaction term for neural activity-A with neural activity-B, reconolved with a HRF

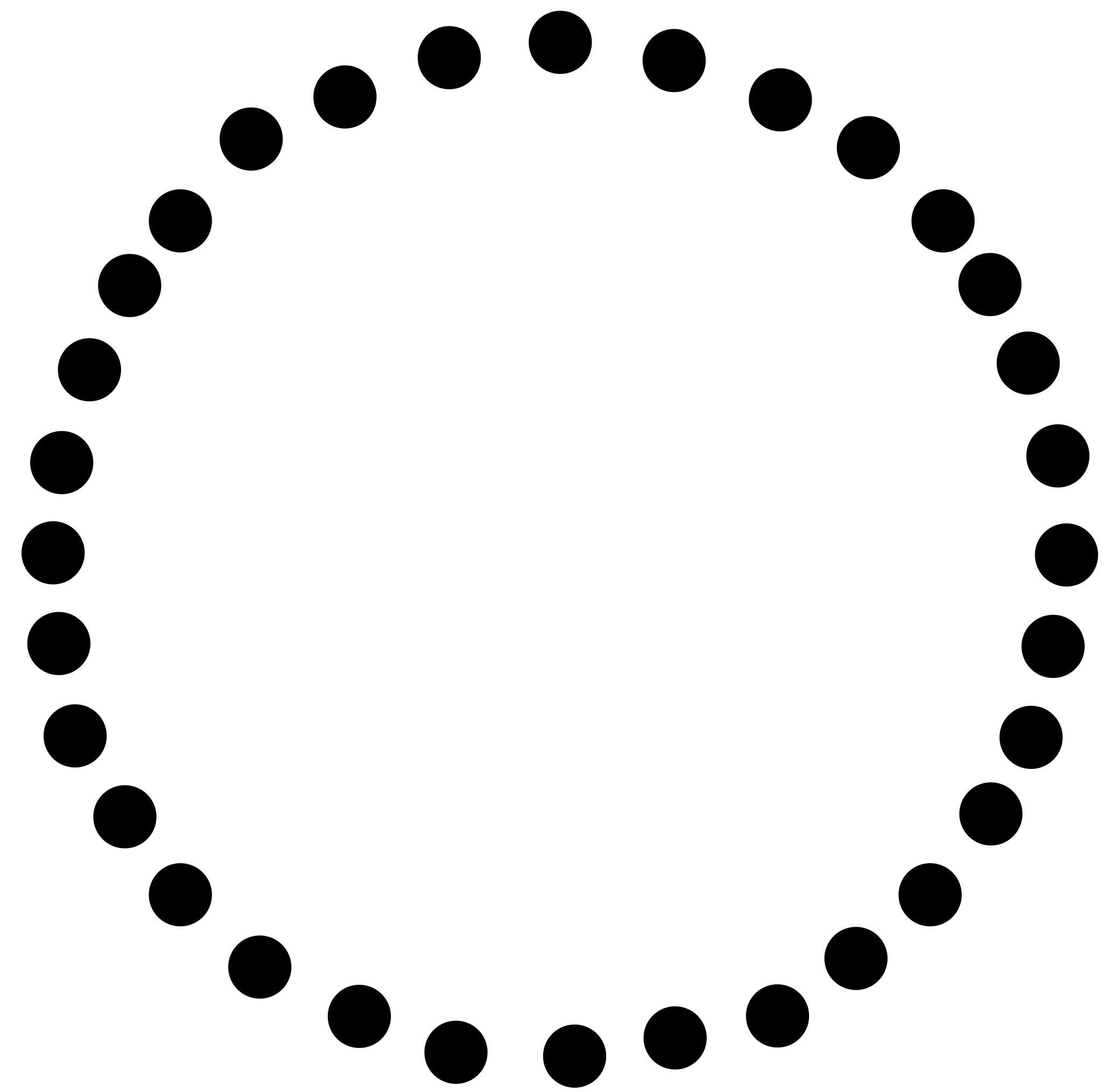


Darren R. Gitelman et al., Modeling regional and psychophysiological interactions in fMRI: the importance of hemodynamic deconvolution, *NeuroImage* **19** (2003) 200-207

# **PPI Steps in SPM12**

# Dataset and Experiment Design

- Preprocessed example fMRI dataset can be downloaded from  
<http://www.fil.ion.ucl.ac.uk/spm/download/data/attention/attention.zip>
- Interscan interval (TR) = 3.22 second
- In **Attention** condition, the subject viewed 250 dots moving radially from the center at  $4.7^\circ$  per second and were asked to detect changes in radial velocity.
- In **No-attention** condition, the subjects were asked simply to view the moving dots.
- In **Stationary** condition, the subjects viewed stationary dots.
- In all conditions, the subject fixated the center of the screen. In a prescanning session, the subjects were given five trials with five speed changes (reducing to 1%).



# A goal of this practice

- Examining the change in **effective connectivity** between V2 and V5 while the subject observes visual motion (radially moving dots) under the **experimental treatments** of attending vs. not attending to the speed of the dots.
- Psychophysiological interaction conceived of as looking for a significant difference in the regression slopes of V1 vs. V5 activity under the influence attentional states.

# PPI Analysis Steps

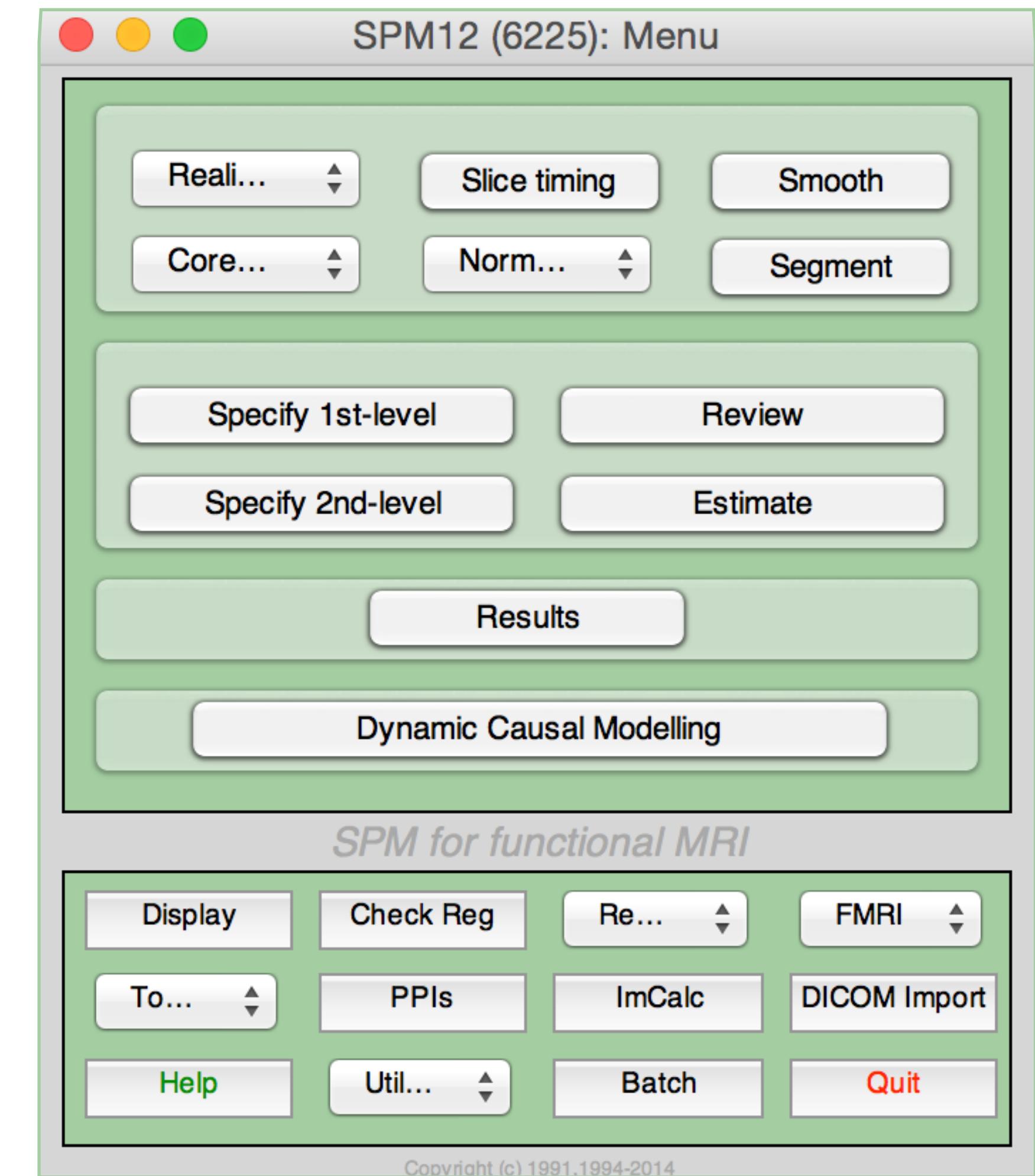
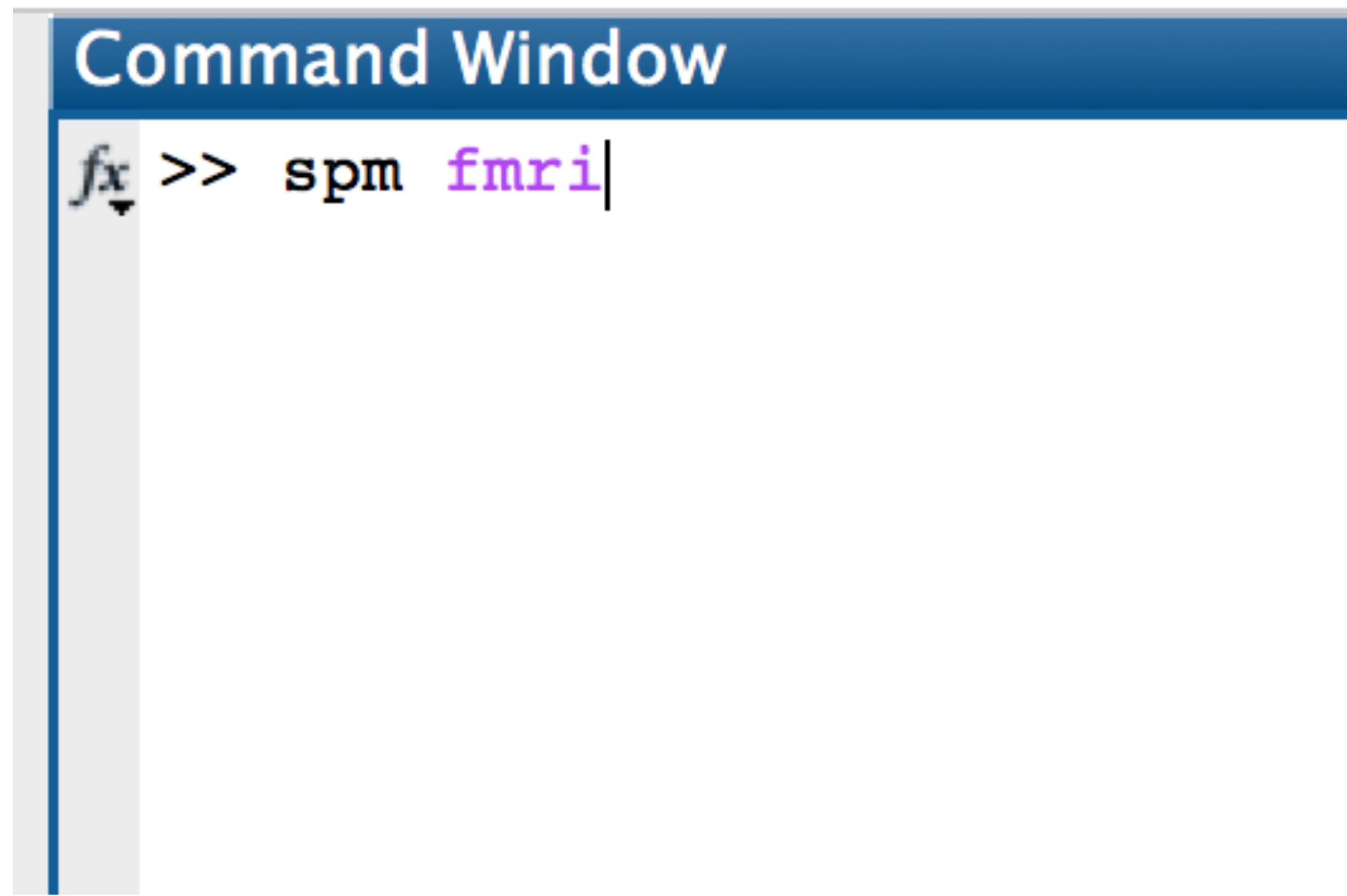
- Performing a standard GLM analysis (*i.e.*, 1st level analysis)
- Extracting BOLD signal from a source region identified in the GLM analysis
- Forming the interaction term as:  
**psycho**(experimental treatment) x **physiological**(BOLD signal)
- Performing a second GLM analysis that includes the interaction term, the source region's extracted signal and the experimental vector in the design.

# PPI Analysis in SPM12

**Step 1: GLM analysis (*i.e.*, 1st level analysis)**

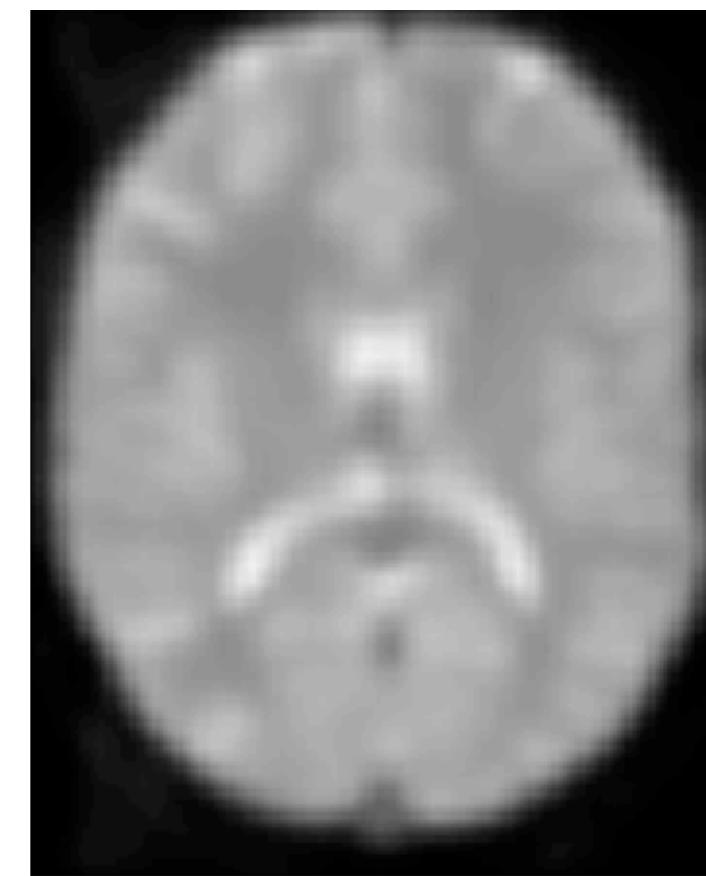
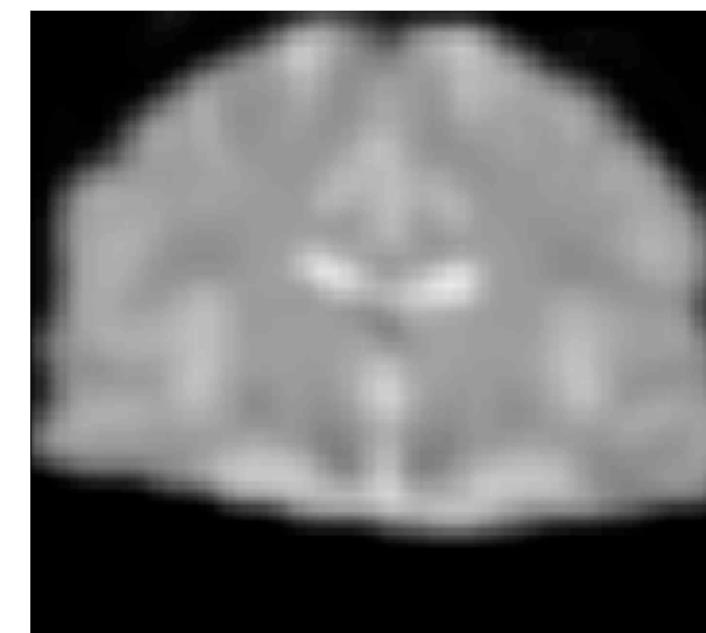
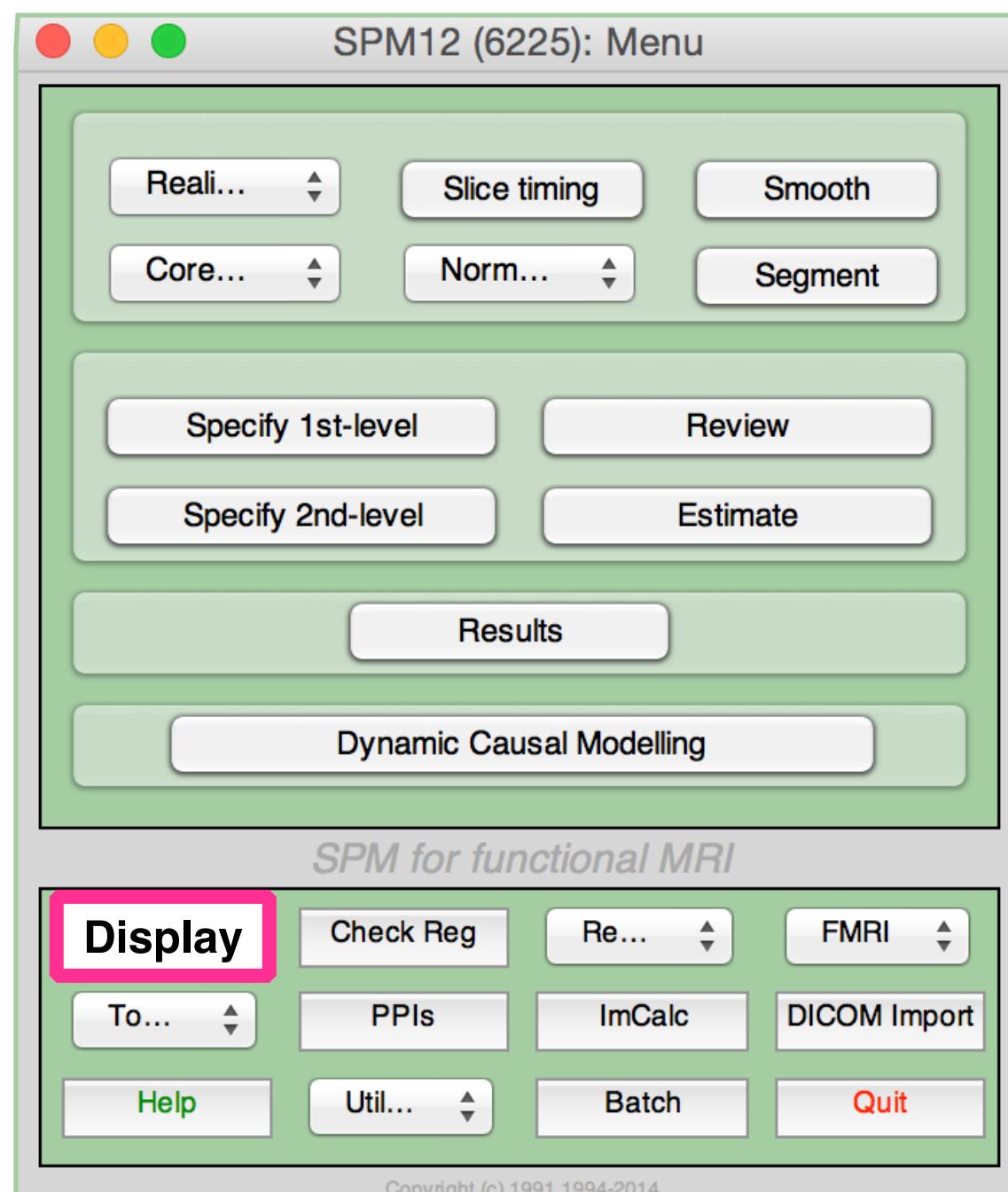
# Execute SPM ('fMRI')

type '**spm fmri**'  
in command window



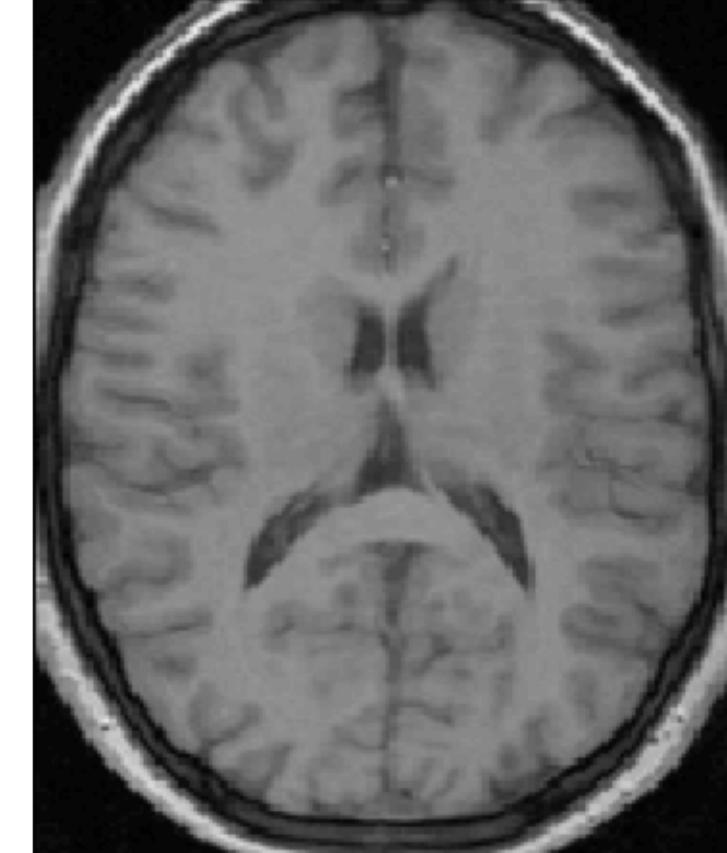
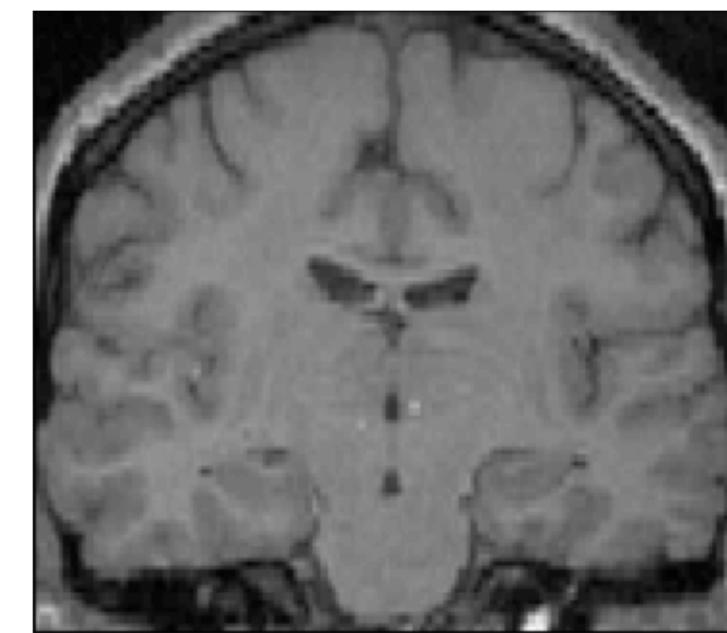
# Explore Image Files

A smoothed & normalised fMRI Image

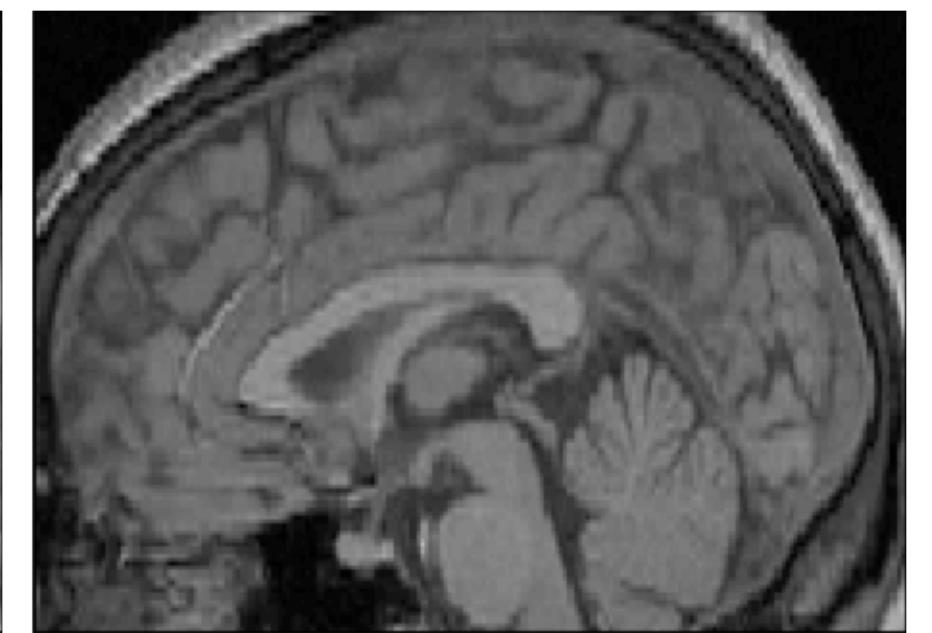


snffM00587\_0016.img

...



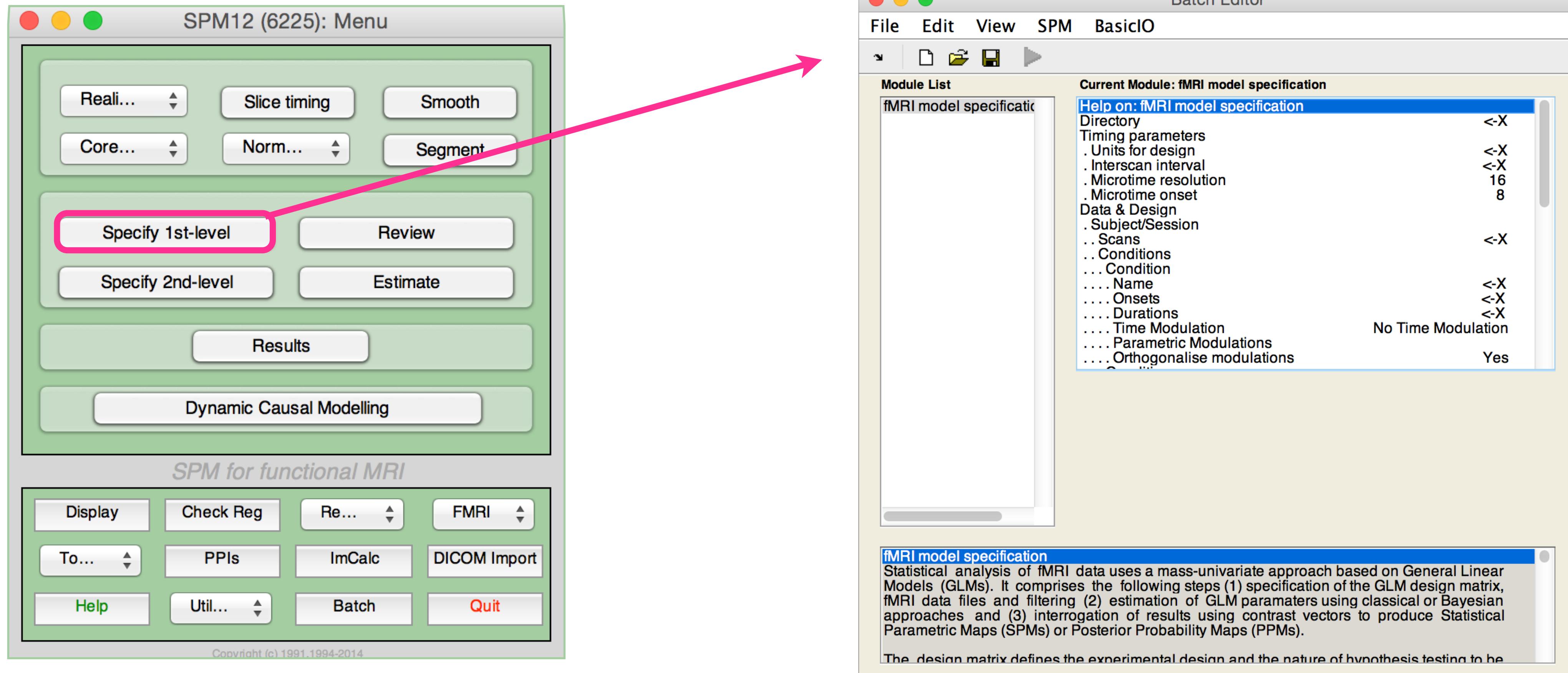
A normalised T1 Image



...

nsM00587\_0002.img

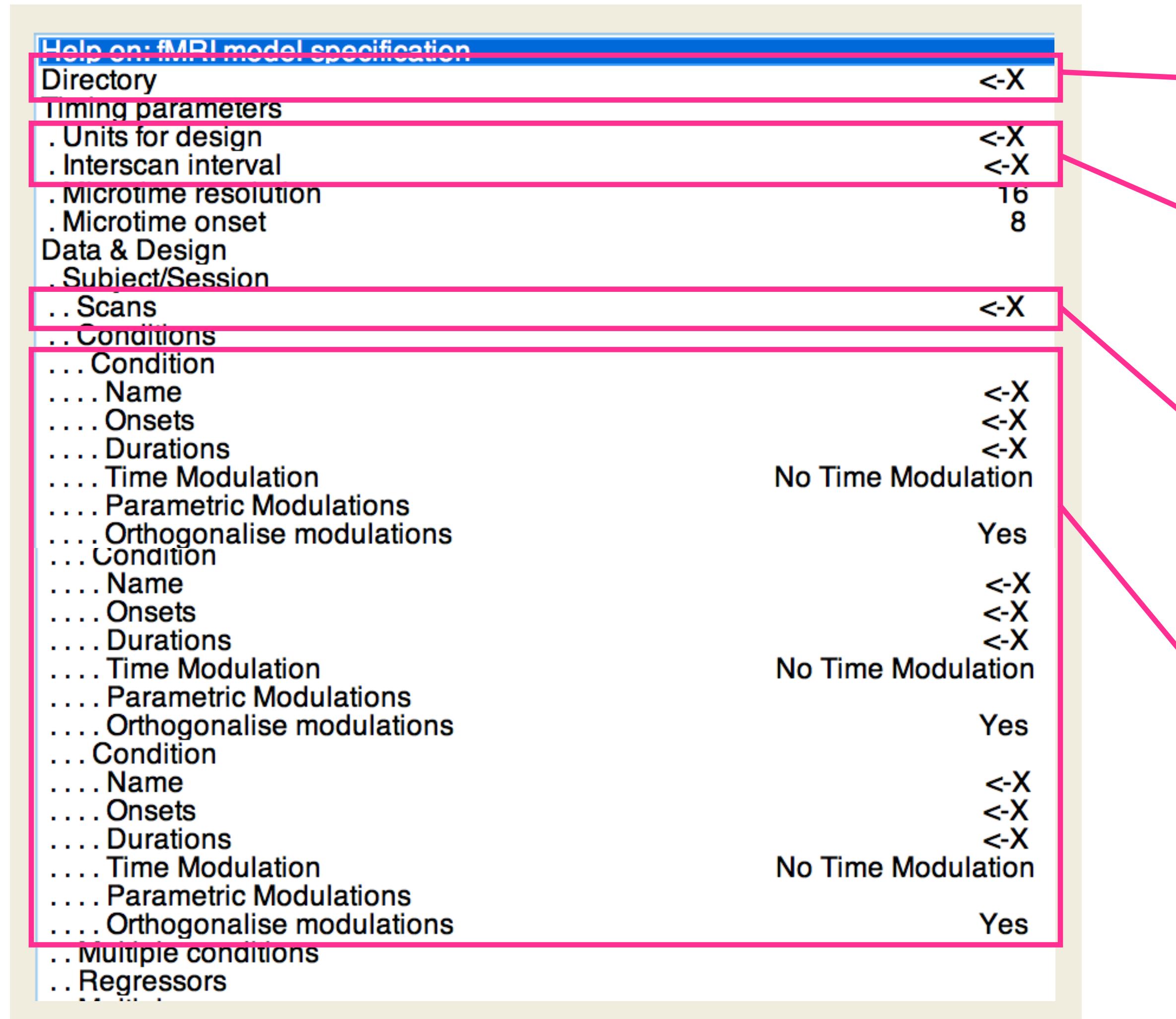
# GLM analysis - 1st level (1/3)



# Load Condition Parameters

```
Command Window
>> load factors.mat % same information with multi_condition.mat
>> whos
  Name      Size            Bytes  Class     Attributes
  att       1x8              64    double
  natt      1x8              64    double
  stat      1x4              32    double
>> att
att =
    10    50   100   140   210   250   300   340
>> natt
natt =
    30    70   120   160   190   230   280   320
>> stat
stat =
    80   170   260   350
```

# GLM analysis - 1st level (2/3)



**Directory:** Select a directory to save outputs

## Timing parameters

- Units for design: scans
- Interscan interval: 3.22

## Subject/Session

- Scans: select all functional images (snff\*.img)

## Condition 1:

- Name=Stationary, Onset=stat, Durations=10

## Condition 2:

- Name=No-attention, Onset=natt, Durations=10

## Condition 3:

- Name=Attention, Onset=att, Durations=10

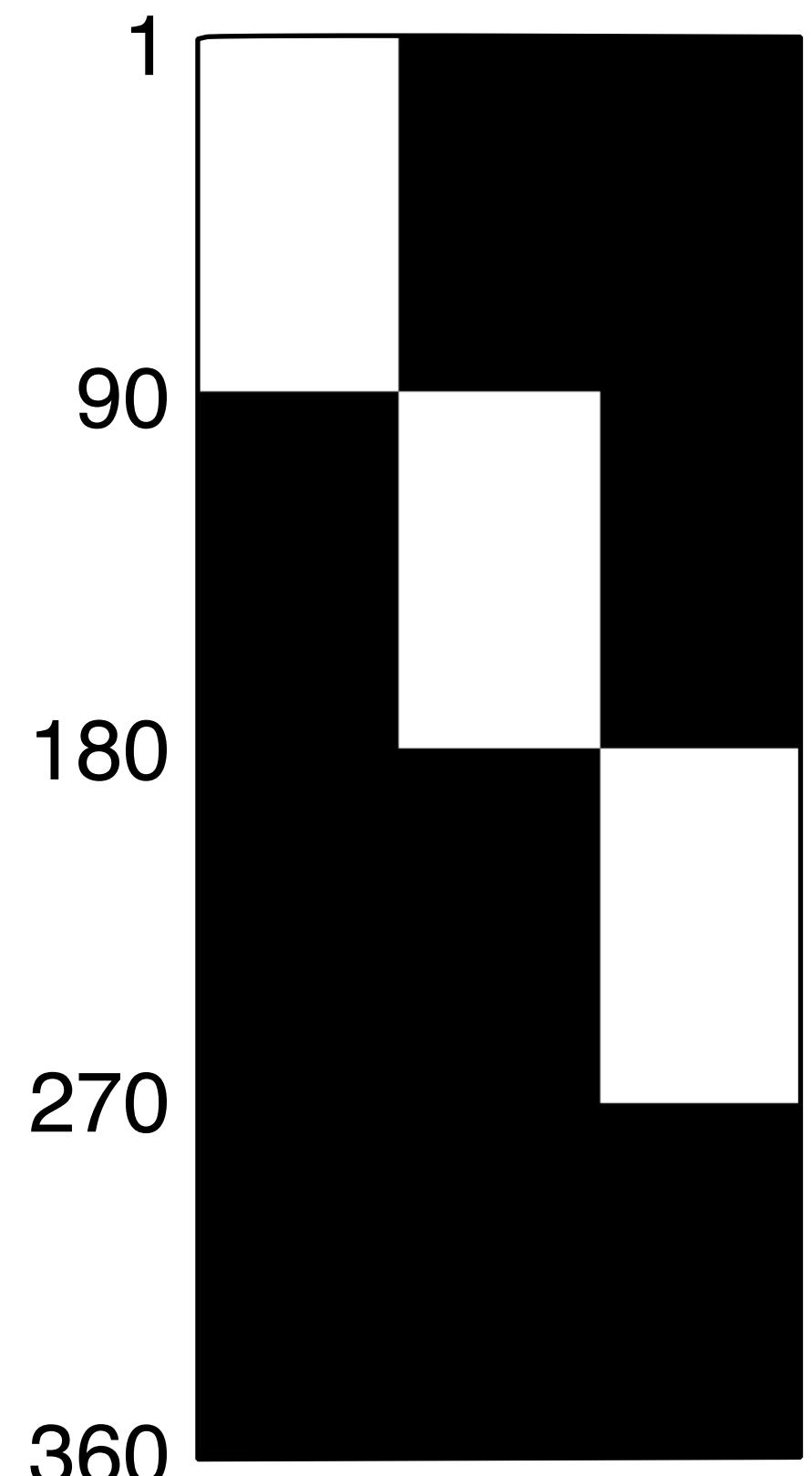
# Load Regressor Parameters

## Command Window

```
>> load block_regressors.mat
>> whos

  Name      Size            Bytes  Class    Attributes
  block1    360x1          2880  double
  block2    360x1          2880  double
  block3    360x1          2880  double

>> figure;
>> imagesc([block1, block2, block3]);
>> load multi_block_regressors
>> R      % the same as [block1, block2, block3]
```



# GLM analysis - 1st level (3/3)

.... Time Modulation	No Time Modulation
.... Parametric Modulations	Yes
.... Orthogonalise modulations	Attention 8x1 double 10
.... Condition	No Time Modulation
.... Name	Yes
.... Onsets	Attention 8x1 double 10
.... Durations	No Time Modulation
.... Time Modulation	Yes
.... Parametric Modulations	Attention 8x1 double 10
.... Orthogonalise modulations	No Time Modulation
... Multiple conditions	Yes
<b>.. Regressors</b>	
.... Regressor	<-X
.... Name	<-X
.... Value	<-X
.... Regressor	<-X
.... Name	<-X
.... Value	<-X
.... Regressor	<-X
.... Name	<-X
.... Value	<-X
<b>.. Multiple regressors</b>	
<b>.. High-pass filter</b>	128
<b>Editorial decision</b>	

## Regressor 1:

- Name=Block 1, Value=block1

## Regressor 2:

- Name=Block 2, Value=block2

## Regressor 3:

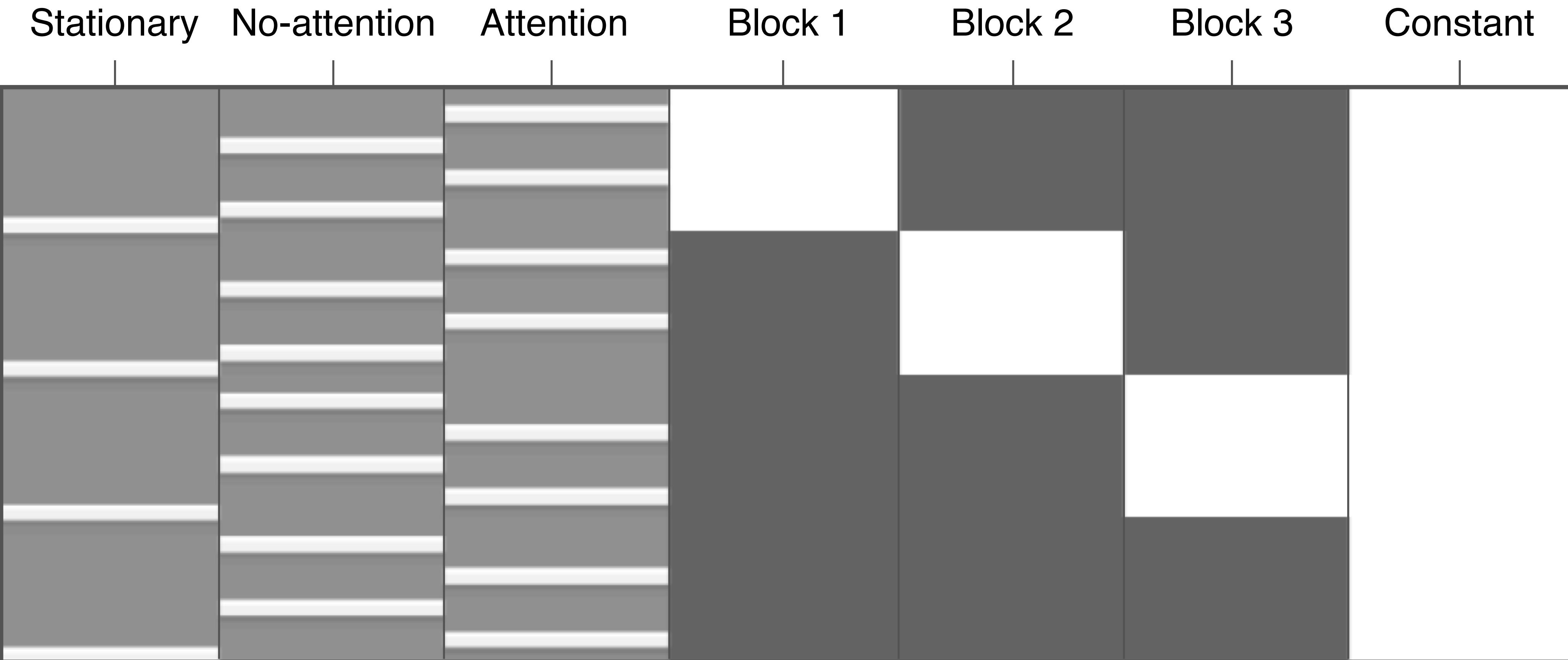
- Name=Block 3, Value=block3

## High-pass filter:

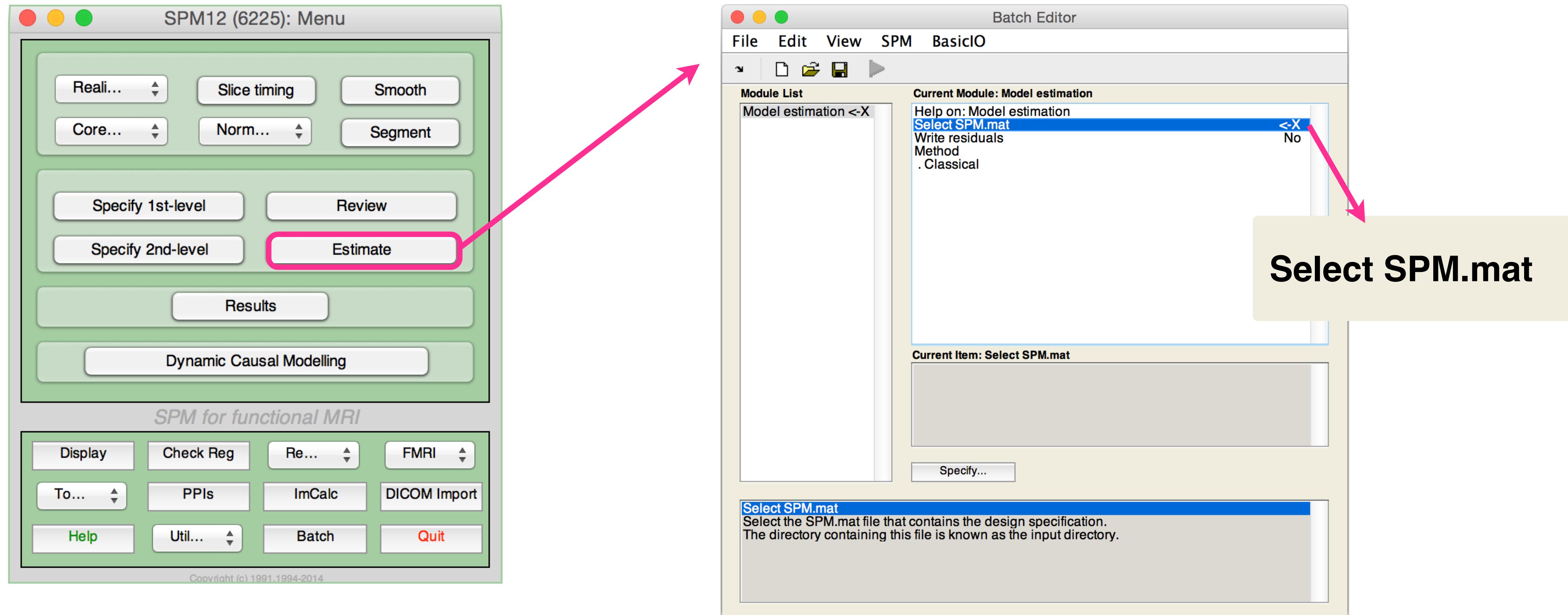
- 192 (in second, i.e., freq. >1/192 Hz)

**Note**) Most designs will use a high-pass filter value of 128 (default value). However, this dataset requires a longer high-pass filter in order not to lose the low frequency components of the design.

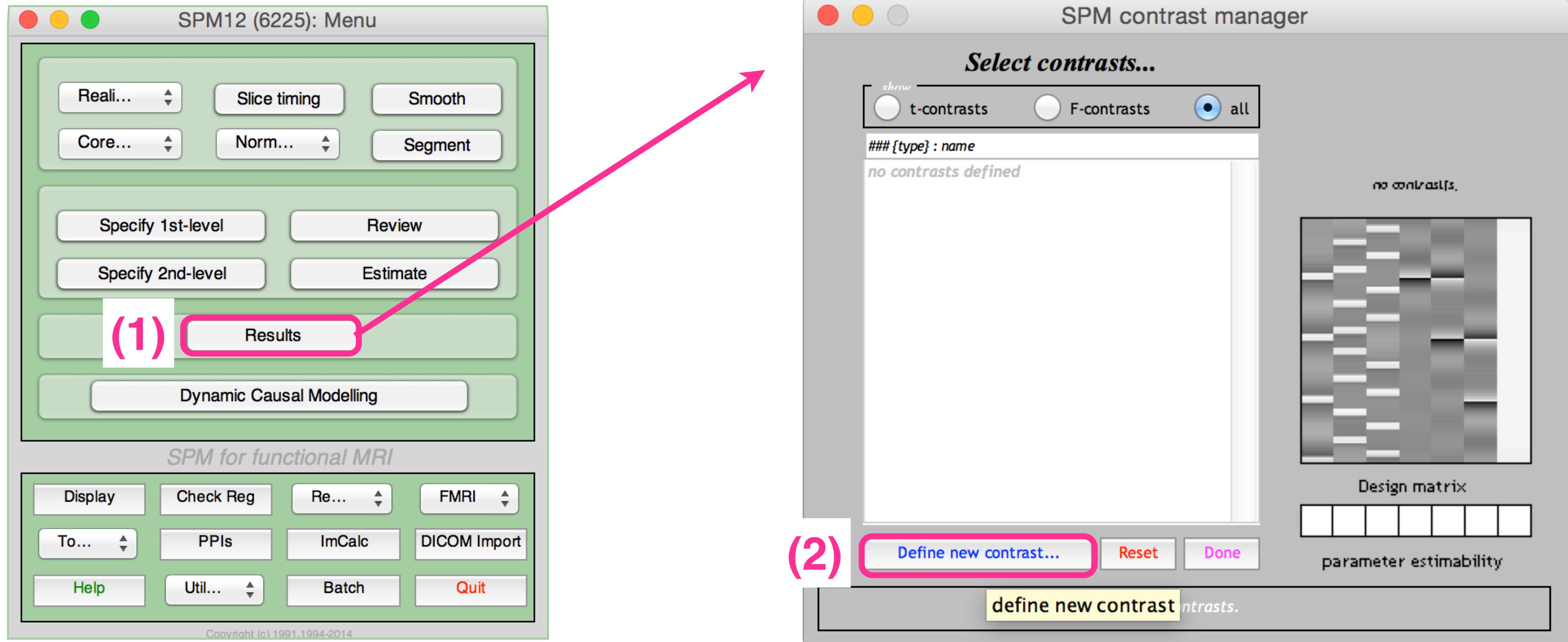
# Design Matrix



# GLM analysis - Estimate

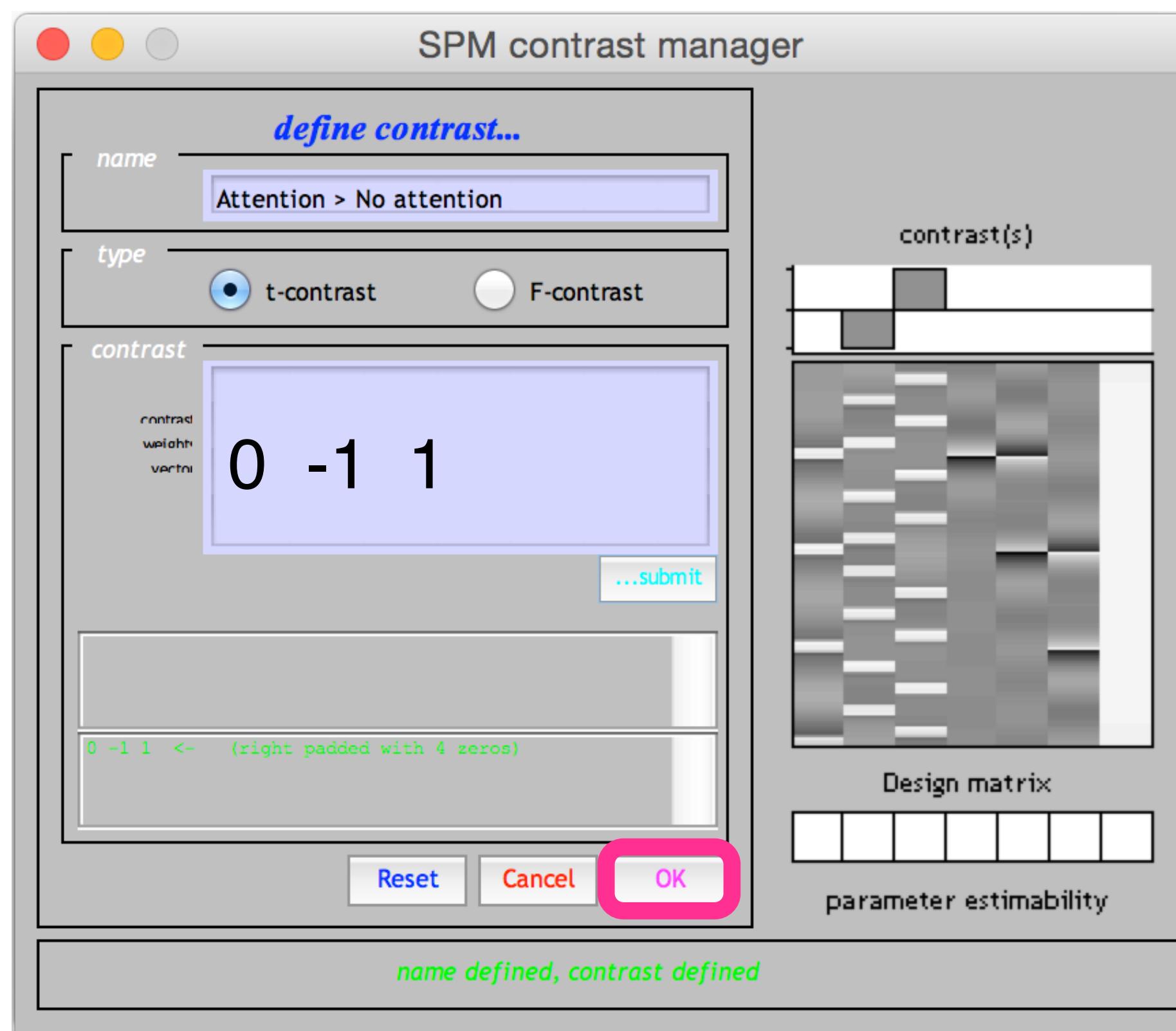


# GLM analysis - SPM Results

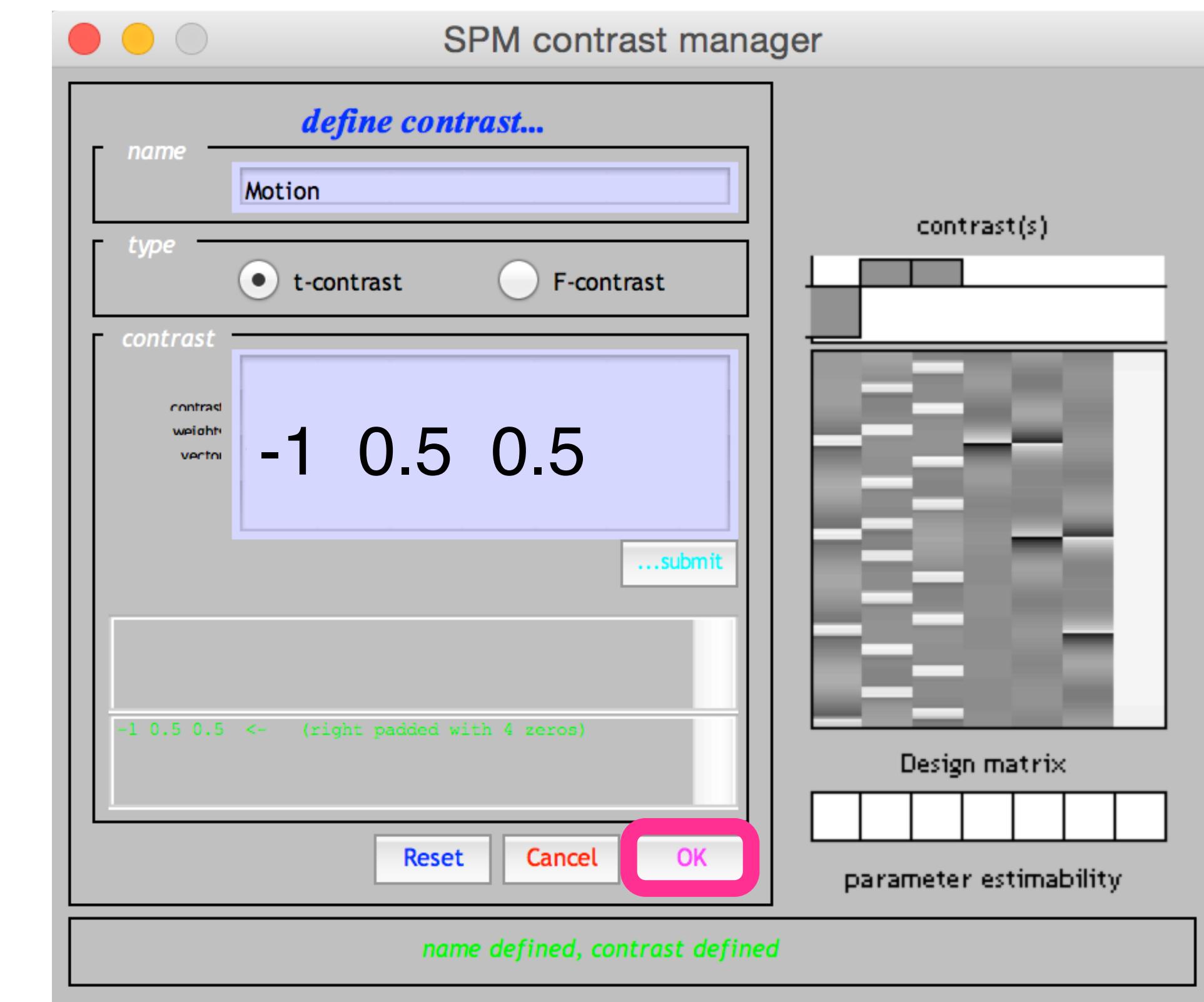


# GLM analysis - Contrast

Contrast for “Attention > No Attention”



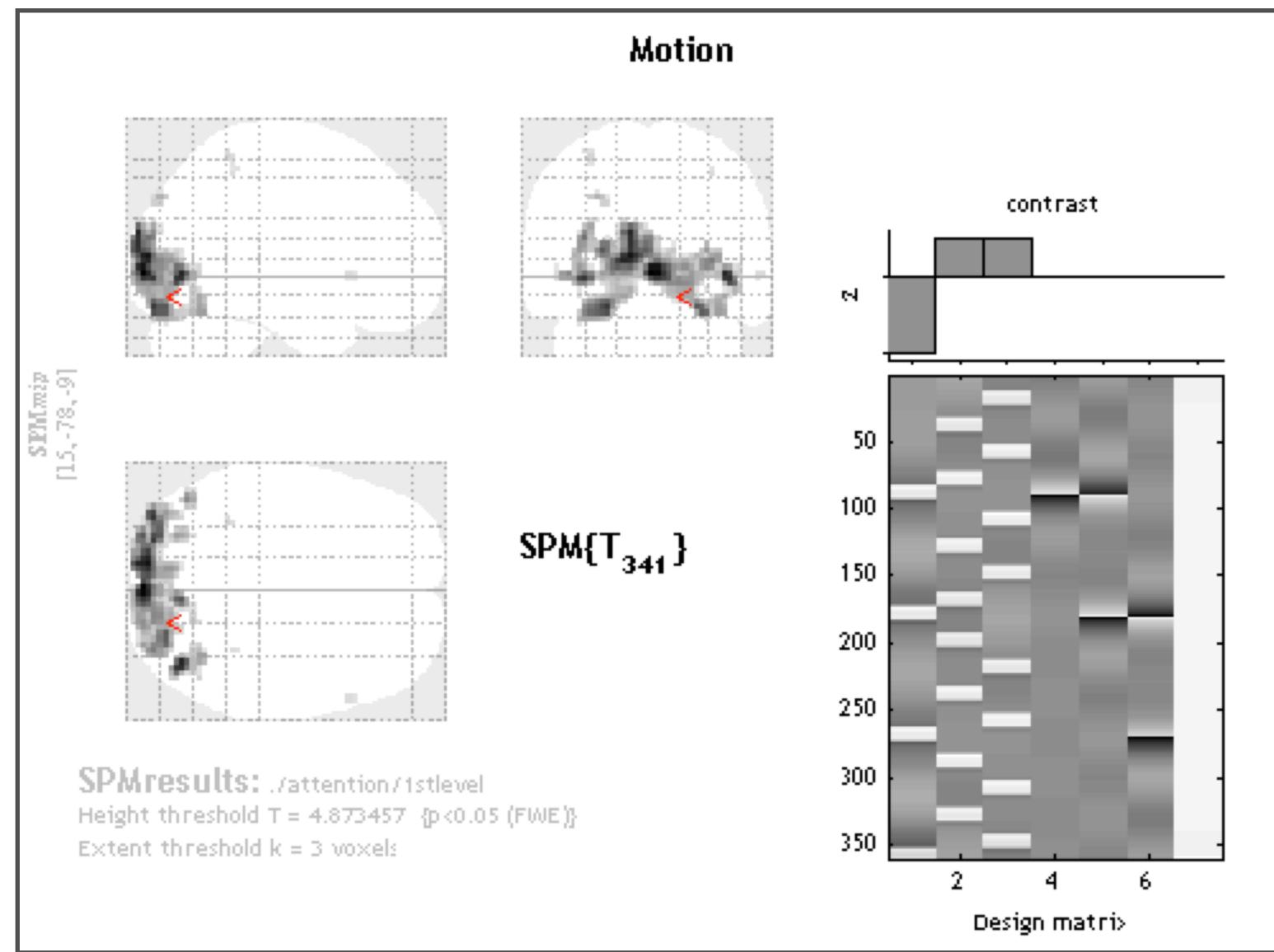
Contrast for Motion (“Moving > Stationary”)



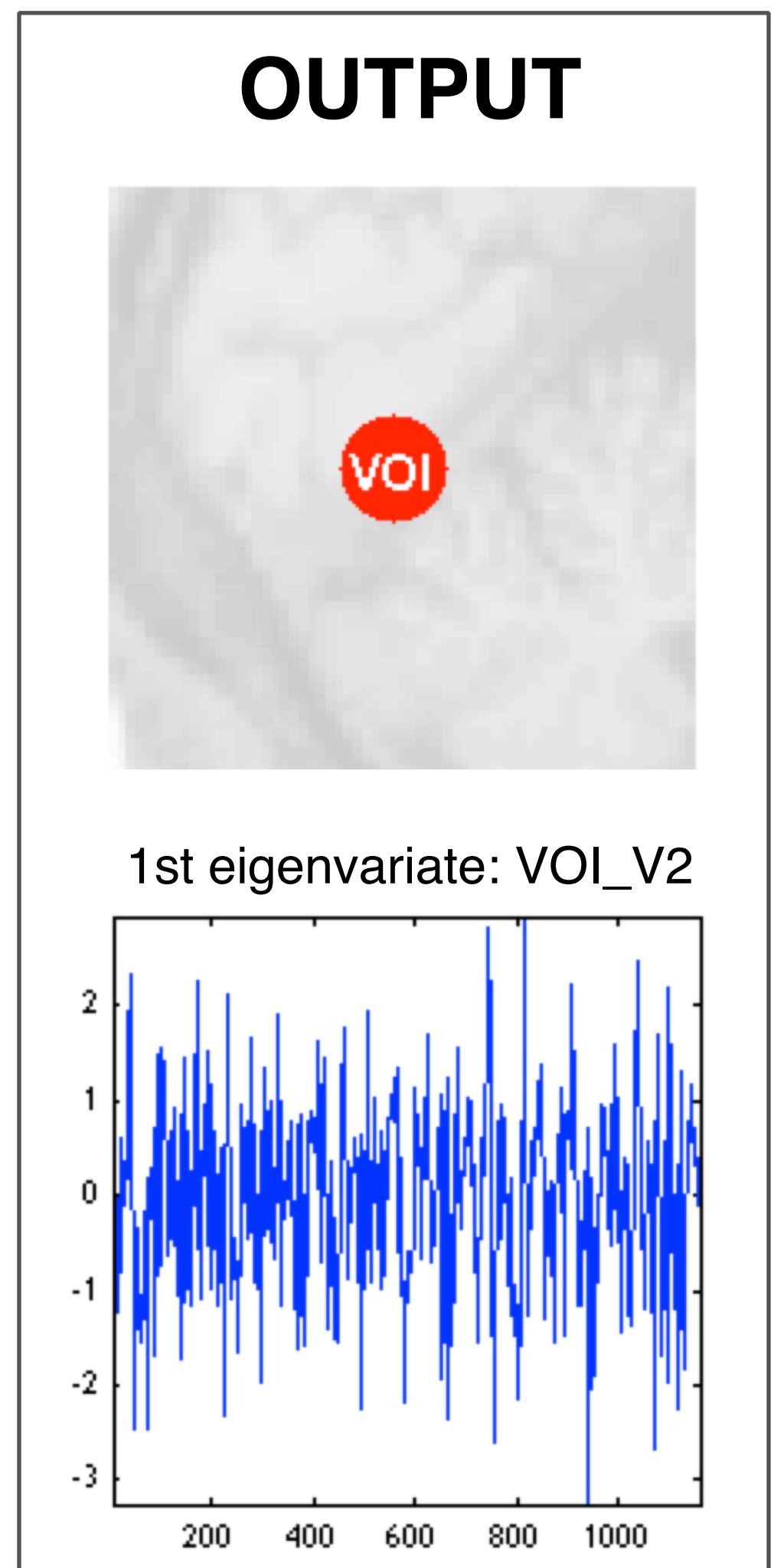
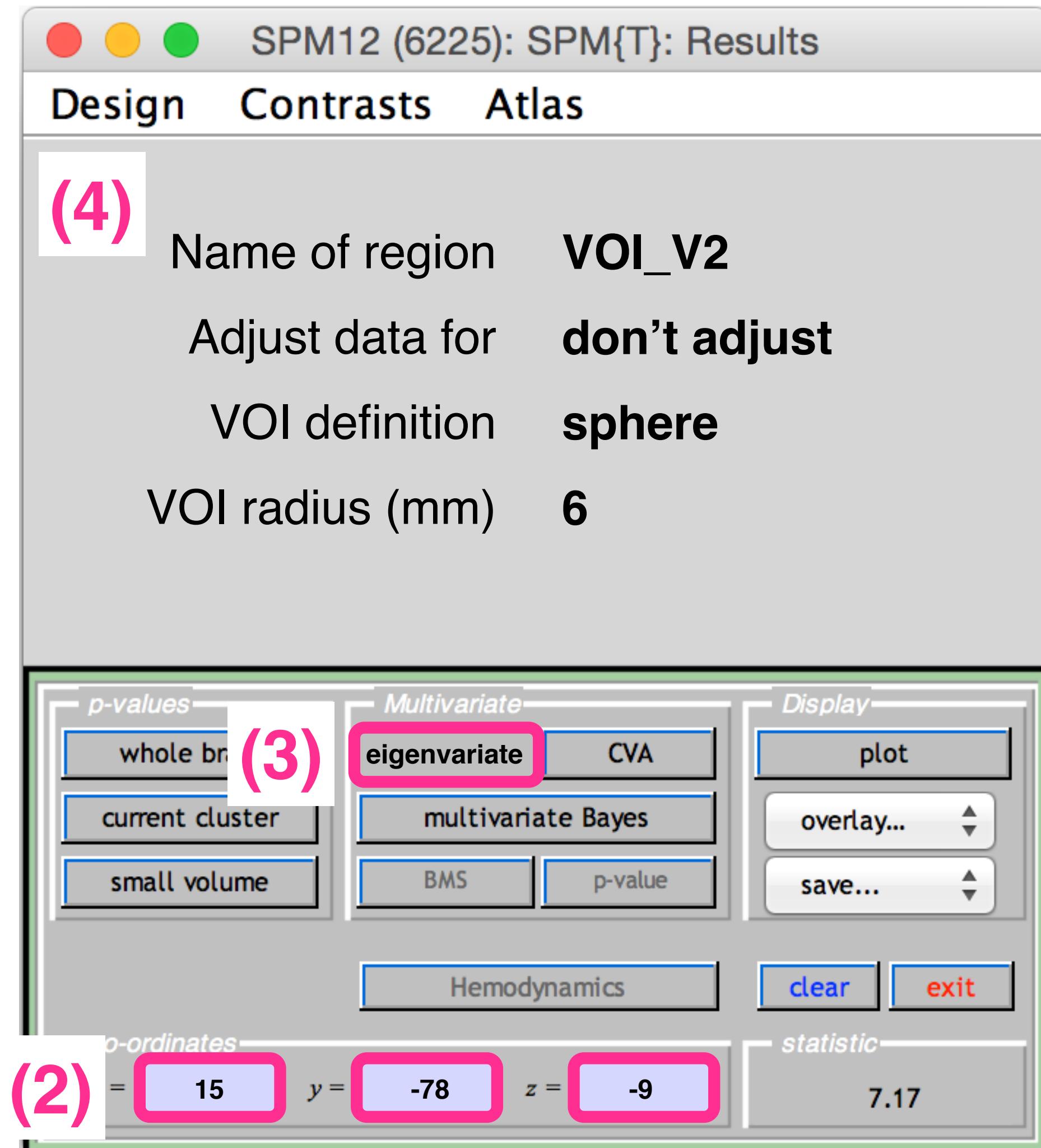
# PPI Analysis in SPM12

**Step 2: Extracting eigenvariate in V2 region**

# Extracting Eigenvariates



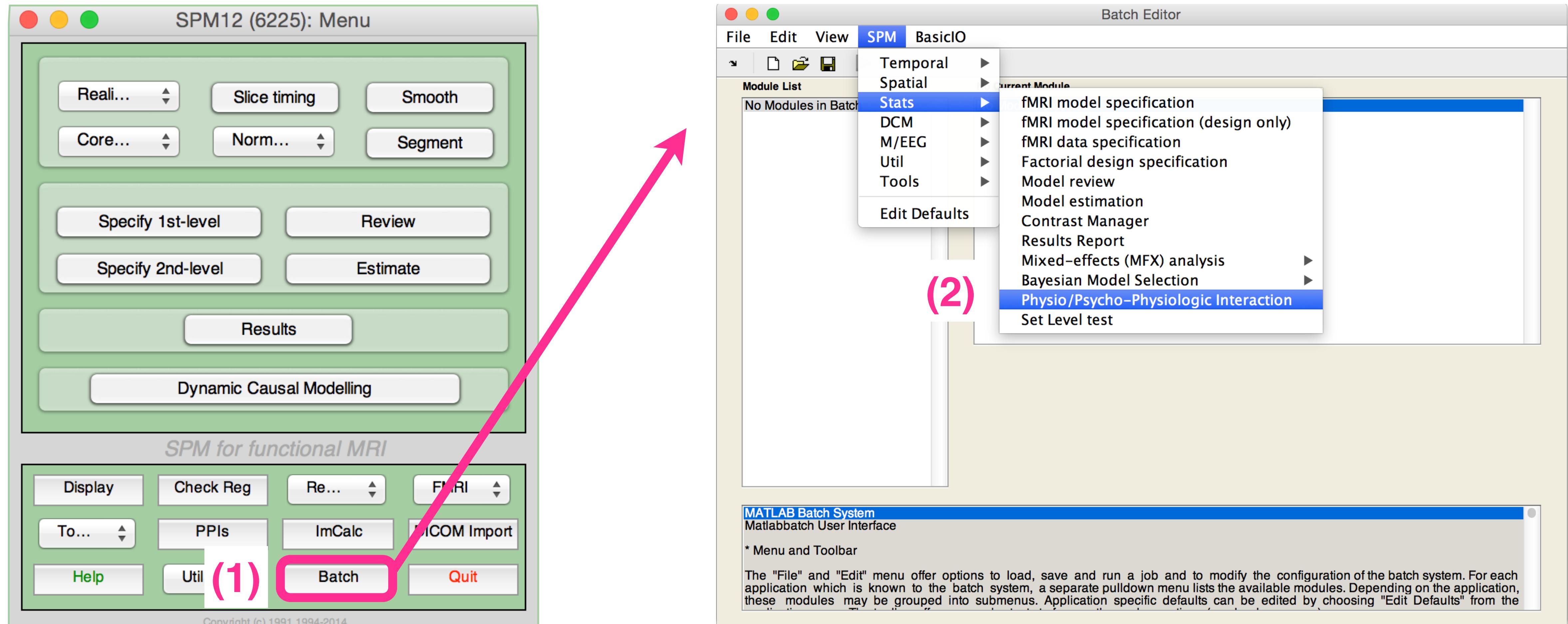
**(1)**  
**Select the Motion contrast,**  
- do not include masking  
- FWE p<0.05  
- cluster size threshold of 3



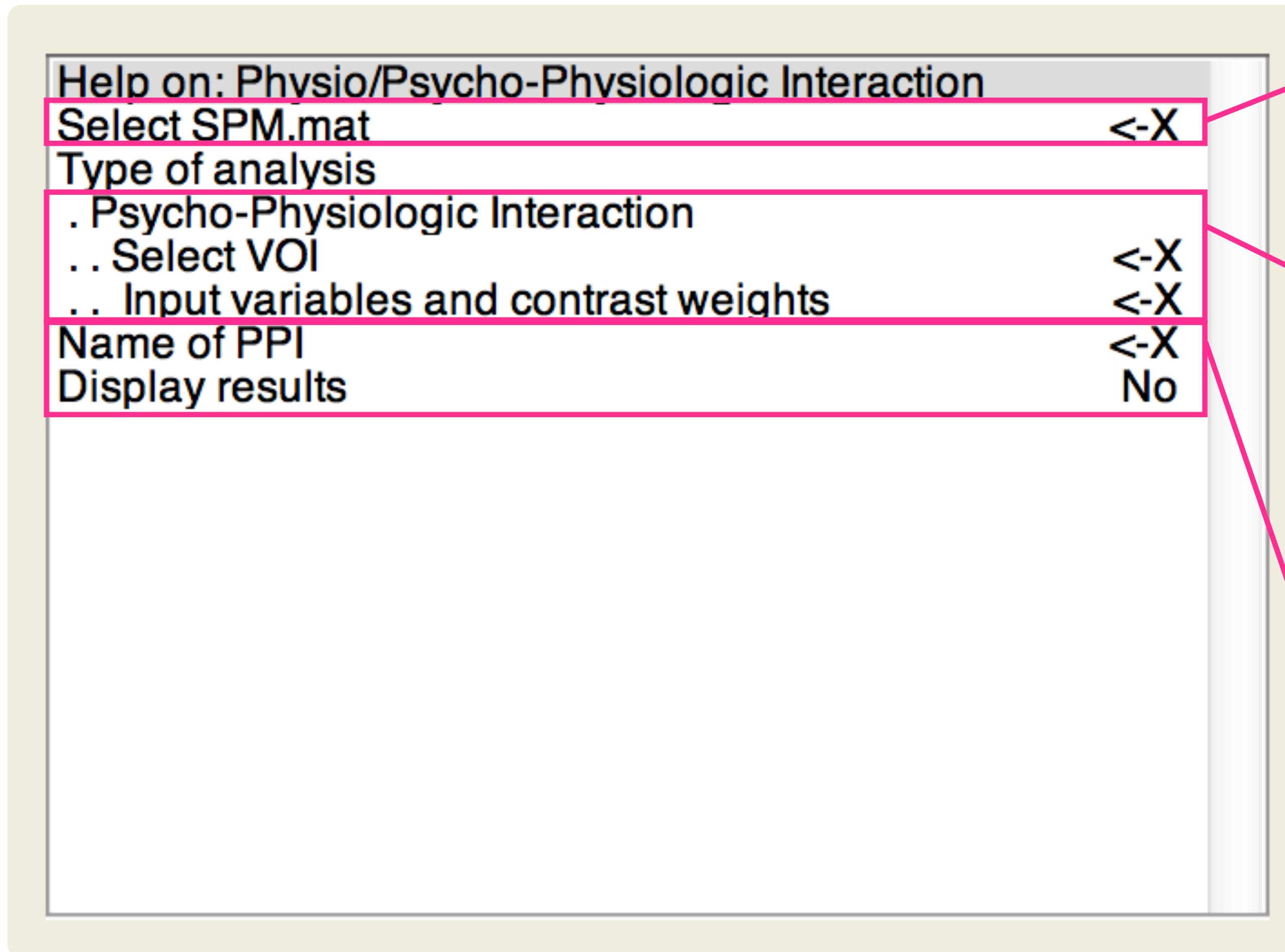
# PPI Analysis in SPM12

**Step 3: Create PPI variables**

# PPI analysis - Create PPI variable



# PPI analysis - Create PPI variable



## Select SPM.mat

- Select 1st level analysis result file

## Type of analysis:

- Psycho-Physiologic Interaction

**Select VOI:** VOI\_VOI\_V2\_1.mat

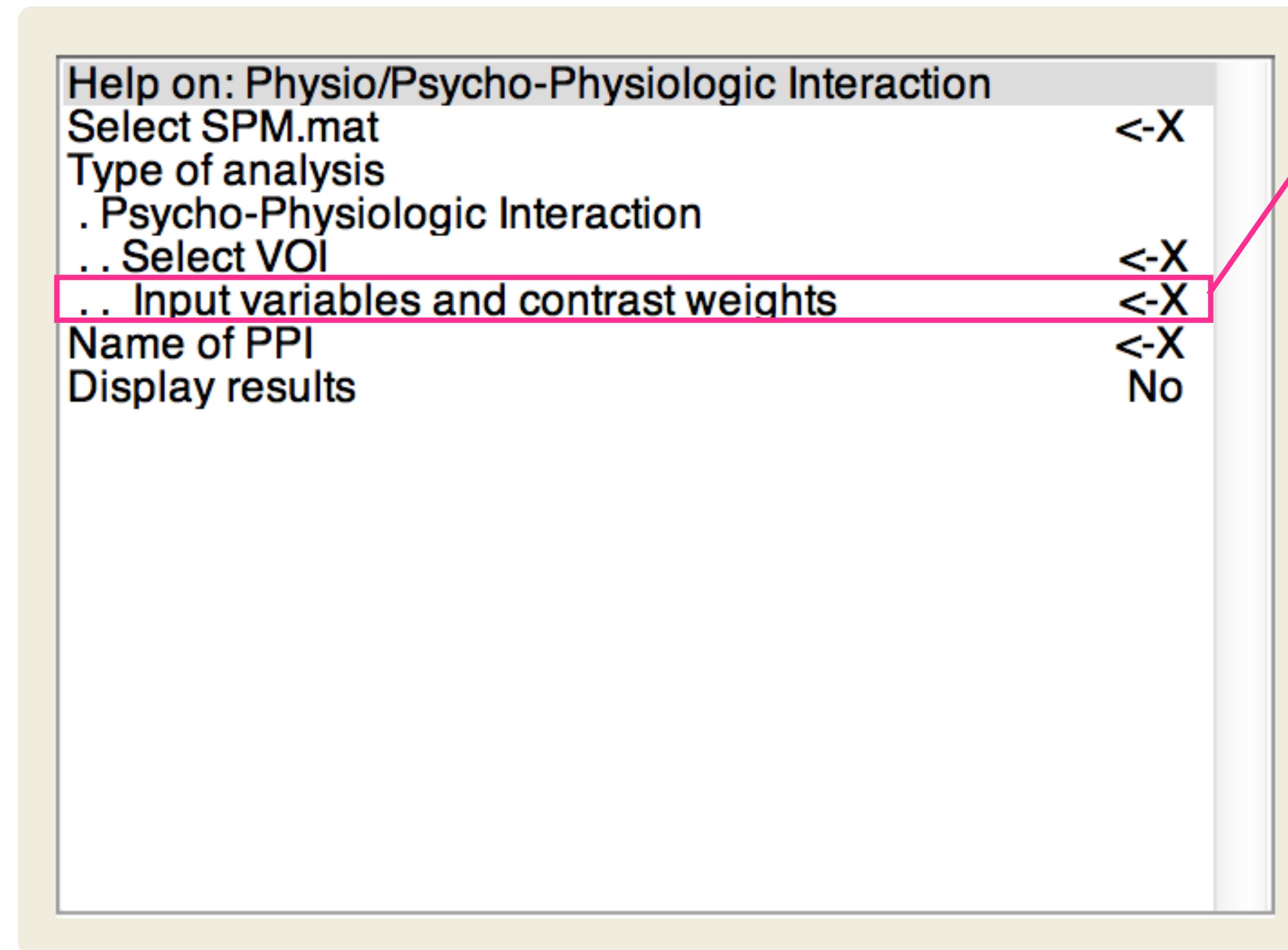
**Input variables and contrast**

**weights:** [2 1 -1; 3 1 1]

**Name of PPI:** V2x(Att-NoAtt)

**Display results:** Yes

# Continued ...



**Input variables and contrast weights:** [2 1 -1; 3 1 1]

The number of conditions included in the PPI

2	1	-1
3	1	1

- 1: Stationary  
2: No attention  
3: Attention

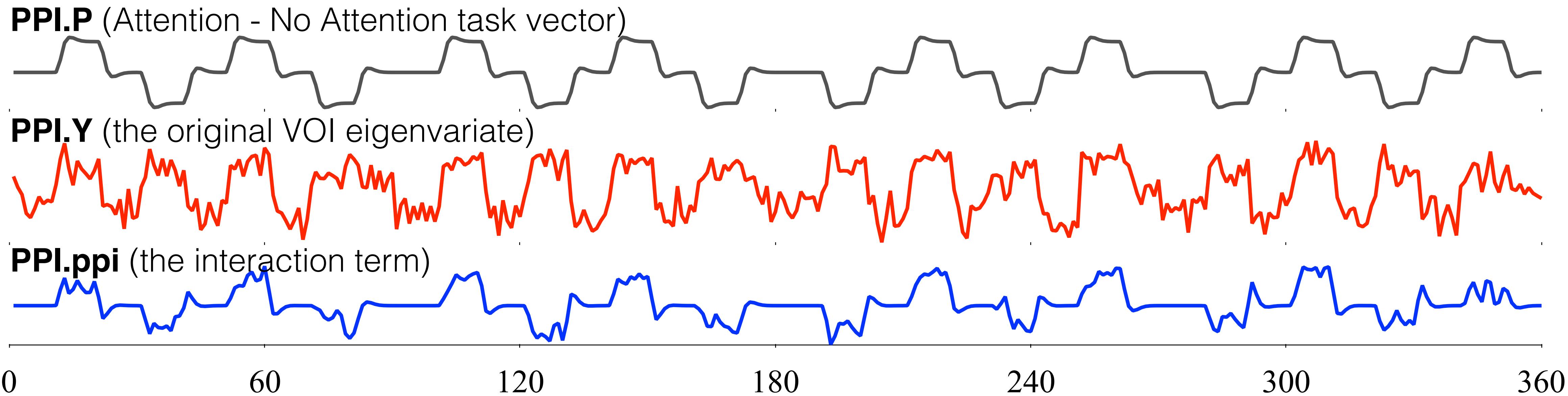
Generally be a 1 unless there are parametric effects

Contrast Weight

# Load PPI Output Parameters

Command Window

```
fx >> load PPI_V2x(Att-NoAtt).mat  
  
>> figure; plot(PPI.P) % PSY convolved with HRF for psychophysiological interactions  
  
>> figure; plot(PPI.Y) % Original BOLD eigenvariate.  
  
>> figure; plot(PPI.ppi) % PSY*(neural level activity at V2) convolved with the HRF
```



# PPI Structure

<b>PPI.ppi</b>	= (PSY*xn or xn1*xn2) convolved with the HRF
<b>PPI.y</b>	= Original BOLD eigenvariate. Use as covariate of no interest.
<b>PPI.P</b>	= PSY convolved with HRF for psychophysiological interactions, or in the case of physiophysiological interactions contains the eigenvariate of the second region.
PPI.name	= Name of PPI
PPI.xY	= Original VOI information
<b>PPI.xn</b>	= Deconvolved neural signal(s)
PPI.U.u	= Psychological variable or input function (PPIs only)
PPI.U.w	= Contrast weights for psychological variable (PPIs only)
PPI.U.name	= Names of psychological conditions (PPIs only)

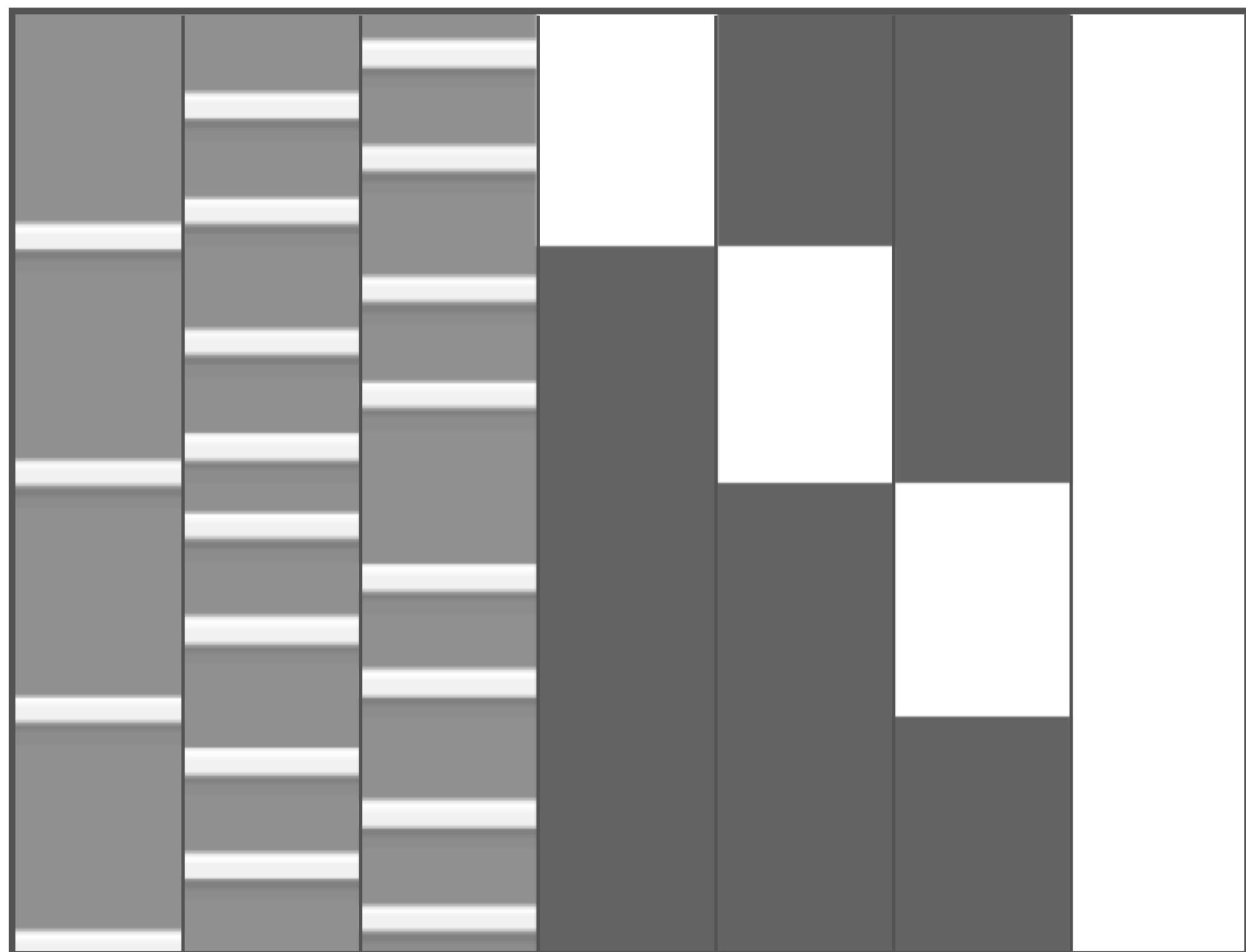
# PPI Analysis in SPM12

**Step 4: GLM Analysis for PPI**

# Design Matrices - Task vs. PPI

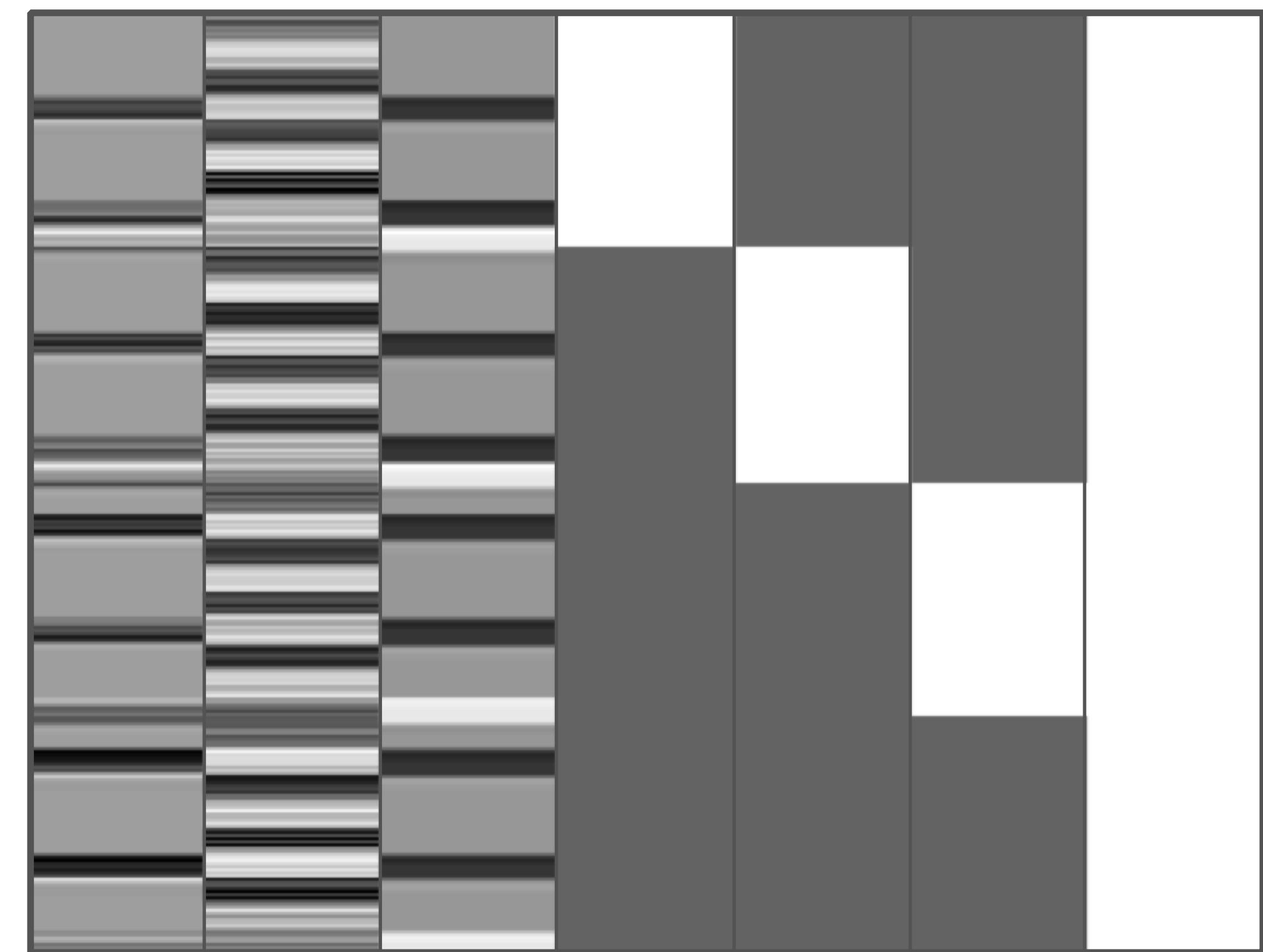
GLM for Task Related Activation

Stationary  
No-attention  
Attention  
Block 1  
Block 2  
Block 3  
Constant



GLM for PPI Analysis

PPI-interaction  
V2-BOLD  
Psych\_Att-NoAtt  
Block 1  
Block 2  
Block 3  
Constant



# How GLM works in PPI analysis

$$Y = (\text{PPI\_interaction}) * b_1 + V2\_BOLD * b_2 + (\text{Psych\_Att-NoAtt}) * b_3 + e$$

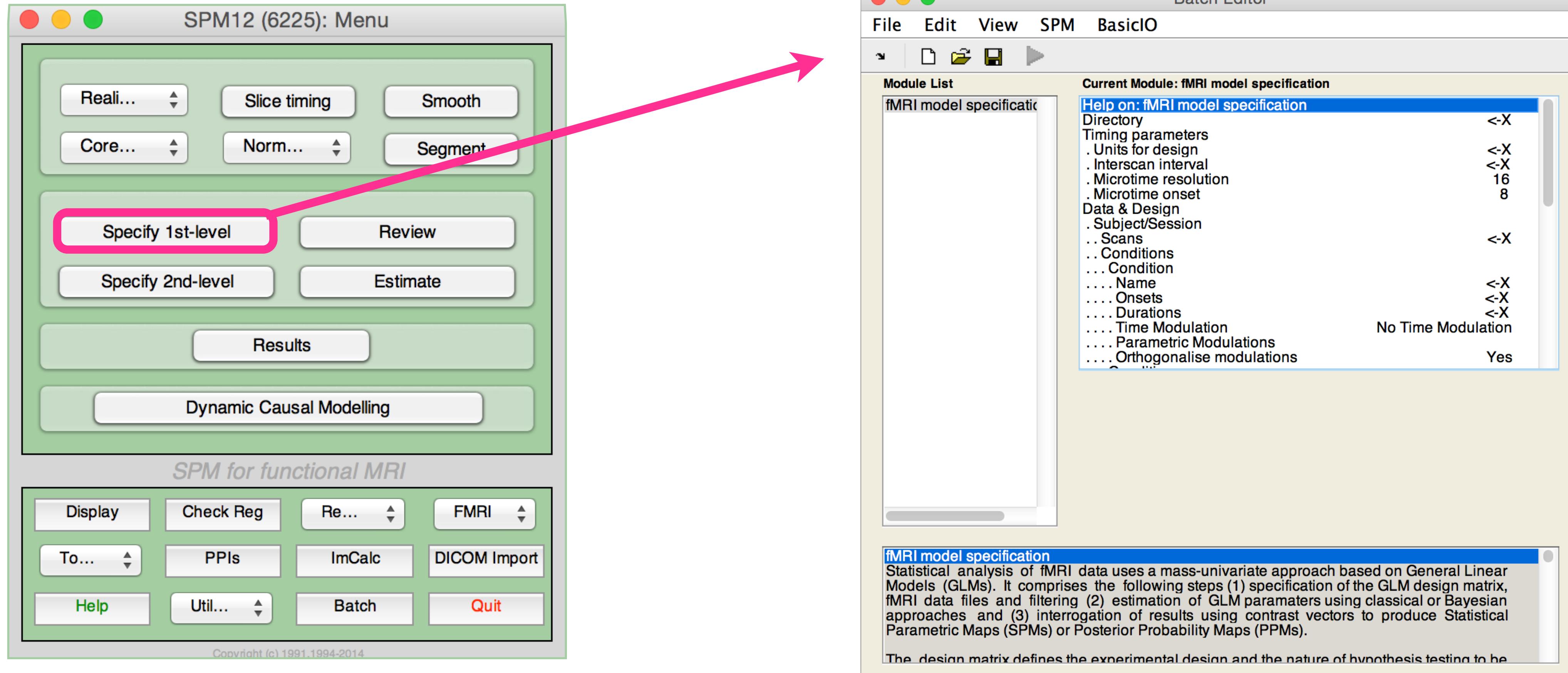
where

$$\begin{aligned} \text{PPI\_interaction} &= \text{HRF} \otimes (\text{V2\_neural} \times \text{Att-NoAtt}) \\ &\neq (\text{HRF} \otimes \text{V2\_neural}) \times (\text{HRF} \otimes \text{Att-NoAtt}) \end{aligned}$$

$$V2\_BOLD = \text{HRF} \otimes \text{V2\_neural}$$

$$\text{Psych\_Att-NoAtt} = \text{HRF} \otimes \text{Att-NoAtt}$$

# PPI GLM analysis - Design (1/3)



# PPI GLM analysis - Design (2/3)

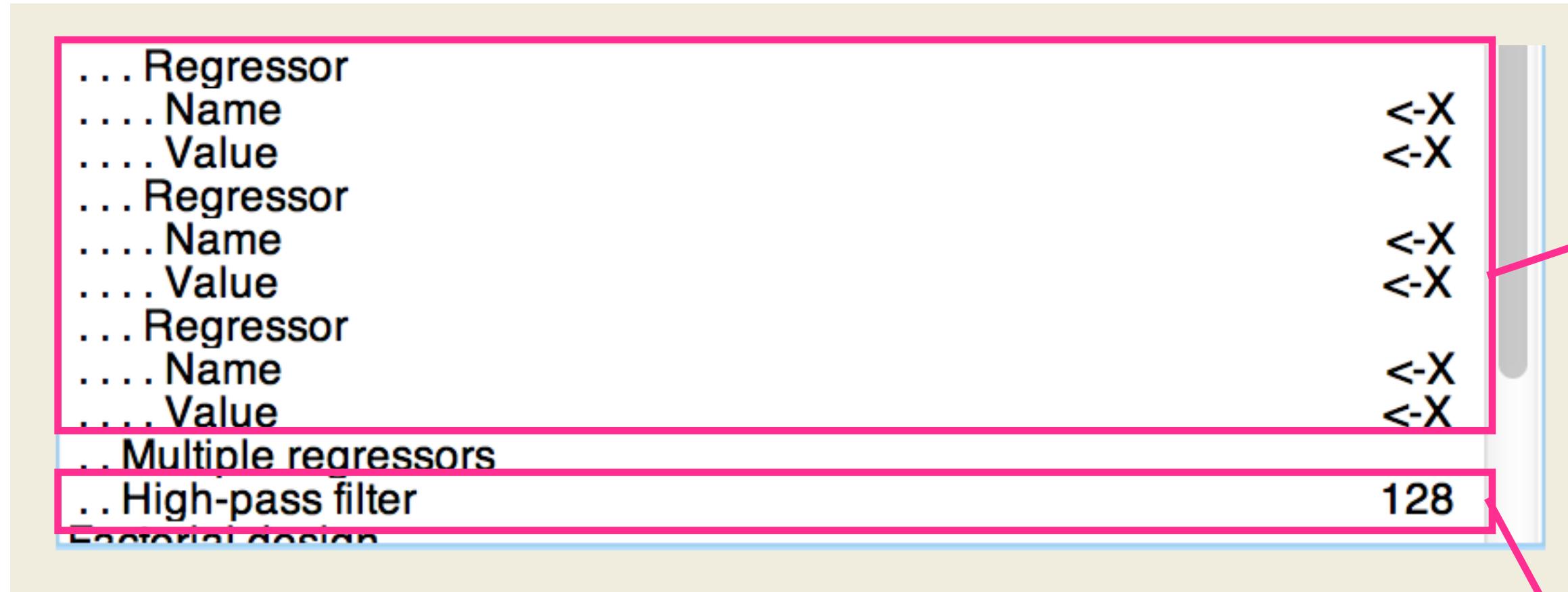
The screenshot shows a software interface for PPI GLM analysis. On the left, a tree view displays various parameters:

- Help on: fMRI model specification
- Directory: /Users/skyeong/Desktop/ppi\_example/ppi
- Timing parameters
  - . Units for design
  - . Interscan interval
  - . Microtime resolution
  - . Microtime onset
- Data & Design
  - . Subject/Session
  - .. Scans: 360 files
  - .. Conditions
  - .. Multiple conditions
- Regressors
  - ... Regressor
    - .... Name
    - .... Value
  - ... Regressor
    - .... Name
    - .... Value
  - ... Regressor
    - .... Name
    - .... Value

On the right, four boxes explain the corresponding parameters:

- Select OUTPUT directory**: Points to the Directory path.
- Timing parameters**: Points to the Interscan interval parameter. It lists:
  - Units for design [**Scans**]
  - Interscan interval [**3.22**]
- Subject/Session**: Points to the Subject/Session section. It lists:
  - Scans: select all functional images (snff\*.img)
- Regressors**: Points to the Regressors section. It lists:
  - Name = PPI-interaction, Value = PPI.ppi
  - Name = V2-BOLD, Value = PPI.Y
  - Name = Psych\_Att-NoAtt, Value = PPI.P

# PPI GLM analysis - Design (3/3)



## Regressor 1:

- Name=Block 1, Value=`block1`

## Regressor 2:

- Name=Block 2, Value=`block2`

## Regressor 3:

- Name=Block 3, Value=`block3`

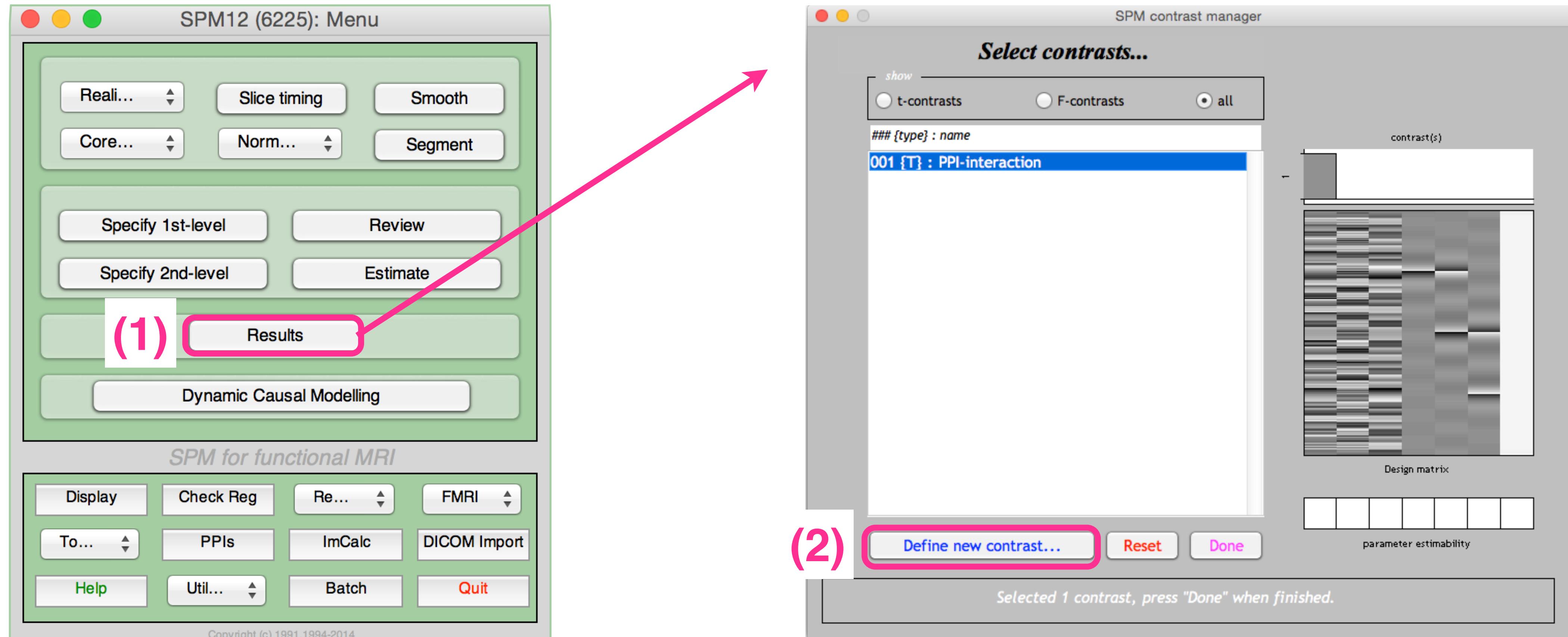
## High-pass filter:

- 192 (in second, i.e., freq.  $>1/192$  Hz)

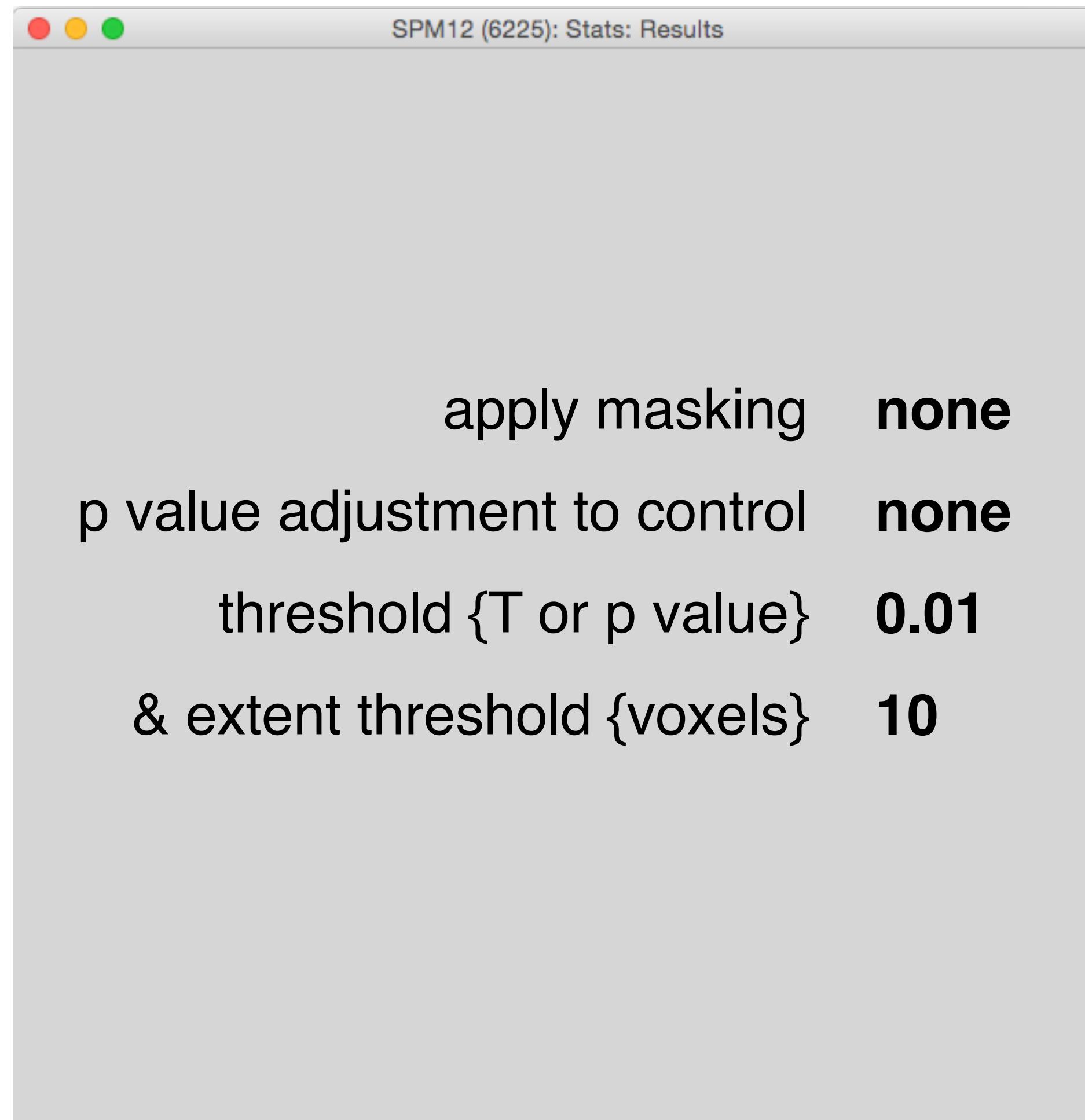
# PPI Analysis in SPM12

**Step 5: PPI results**

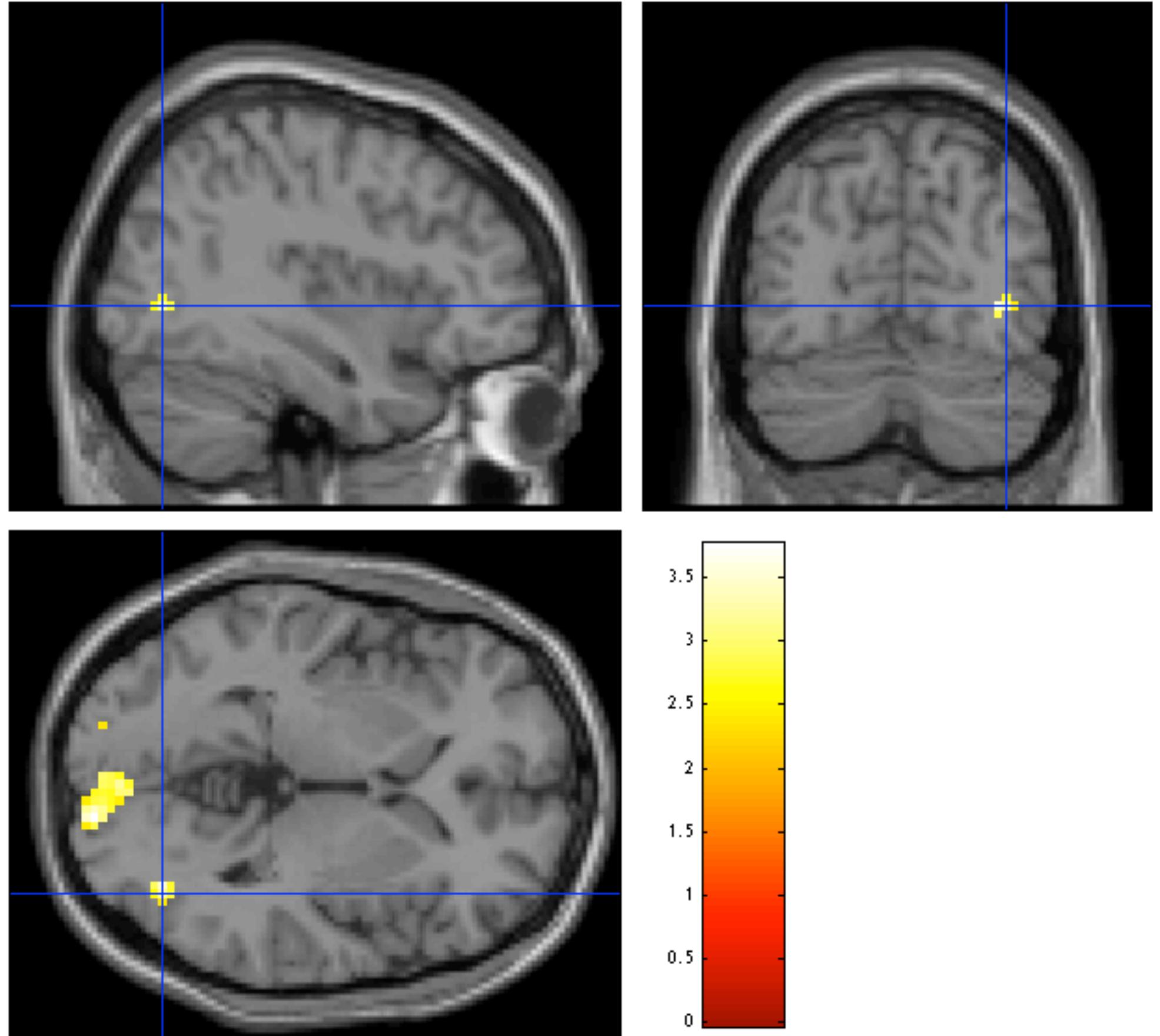
# PPI analysis - Results



# PPI analysis - Results



Go to MNI coordinate: [36 -72 0]



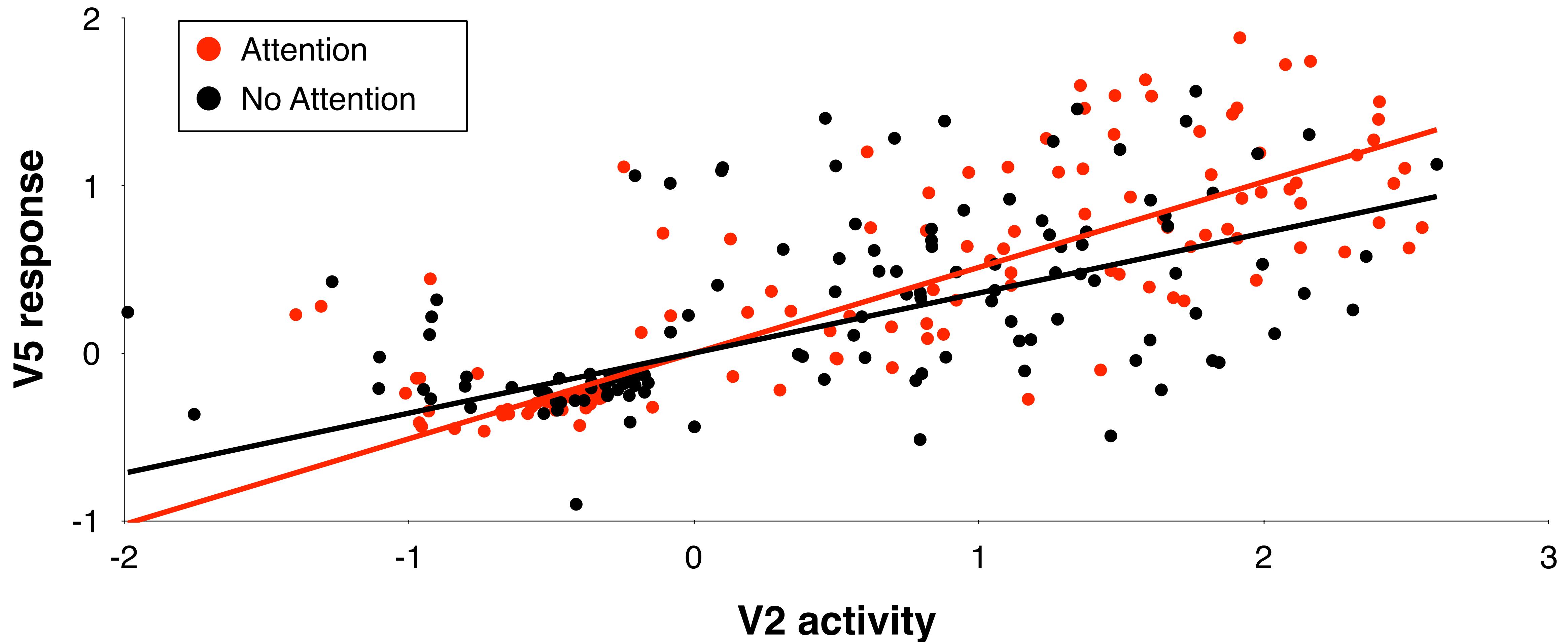
# Group Statistics

- Collecting all con\_0001.nii (*i.e.*, PPI-interaction contrast)
- Insert them into 2nd level specify in SPM12
- Model Parameter Estimation

# PPI Analysis in SPM12

**Extra step: Demonstrating PPI interaction**

# Demonstrating PPI interaction



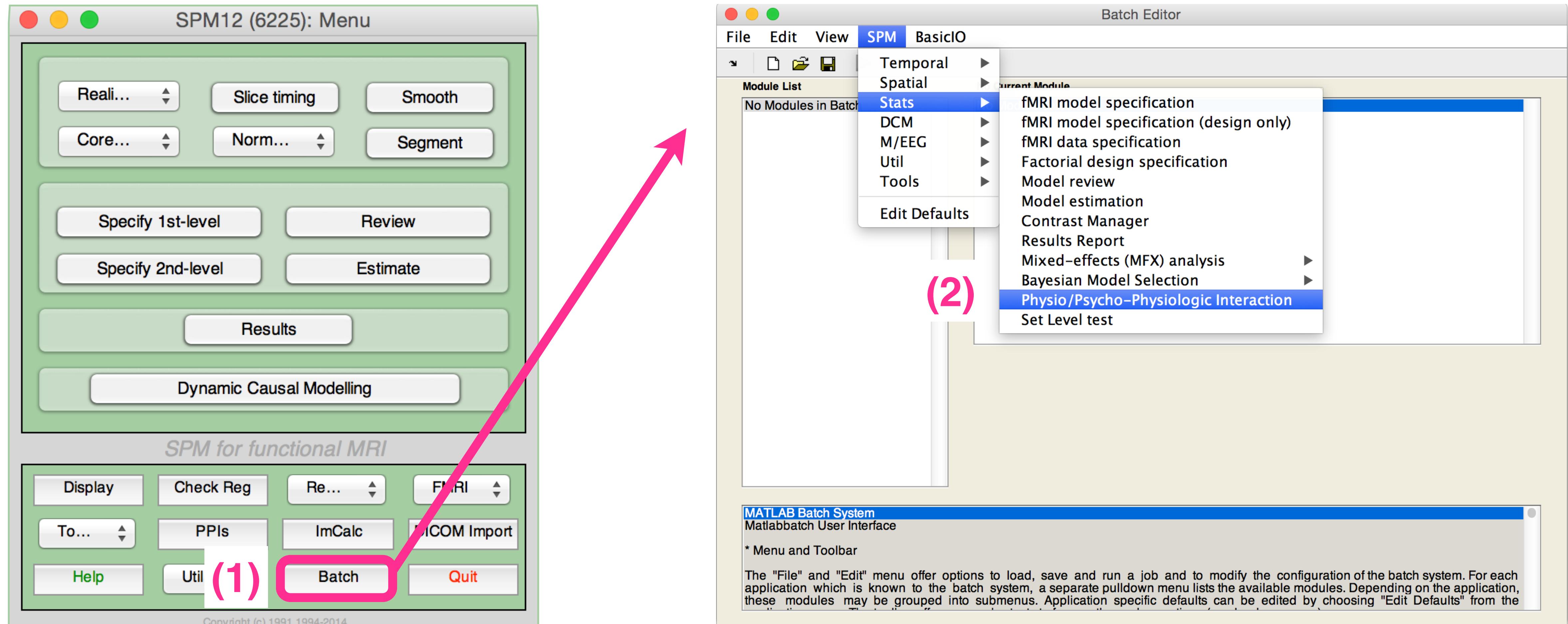
# Create four PPI variables

VOI of **V2**: MNI=[15 -78 -9], sphere with radius 6mm

VOI of **V5**: MNI=[39 -72 0], sphere with radius of 6mm

- **V2xNoAttention**: Use the V2 VOI and include No-Attention with a contrast weight of 1, do not include Stationary, No-Attention
- **V2xAttention**: Use the V2 VOI and include Attention with a contrast weight of 1, do not include Stationary, Attention
- **V5xNoAttention**: Use the V5 VOI and include No-Attention with a contrast weight of 1, do not include Stationary, No-Attention
- **V5xAttention**: Use the V5 VOI and include Attention with a contrast weight of 1, do not include Stationary, Attention

# PPI analysis - Create PPI variable



# Create PPI - V2xNoAttention

The screenshot shows a software window with the following configuration:

- Help on: Physio/Psycho-Physiologic Interaction**: No arrow.
- Select SPM.mat**: Points to the **Select SPM.mat** section on the right.
- Type of analysis**:
  - . Psycho-Physiologic Interaction**: Points to the **Type of analysis** section on the right.
  - . . Select VOI**: Points to the **Select VOI** section on the right.
  - . . Input variables and contrast weights**: Points to the **Input variables and contrast weights** section on the right.
- Name of PPI**: No arrow.
- Display results**: Points to the **Display results** section on the right.

**Select SPM.mat**

- Select 1st level analysis result file

**Type of analysis:**

- Psycho-Physiologic Interaction

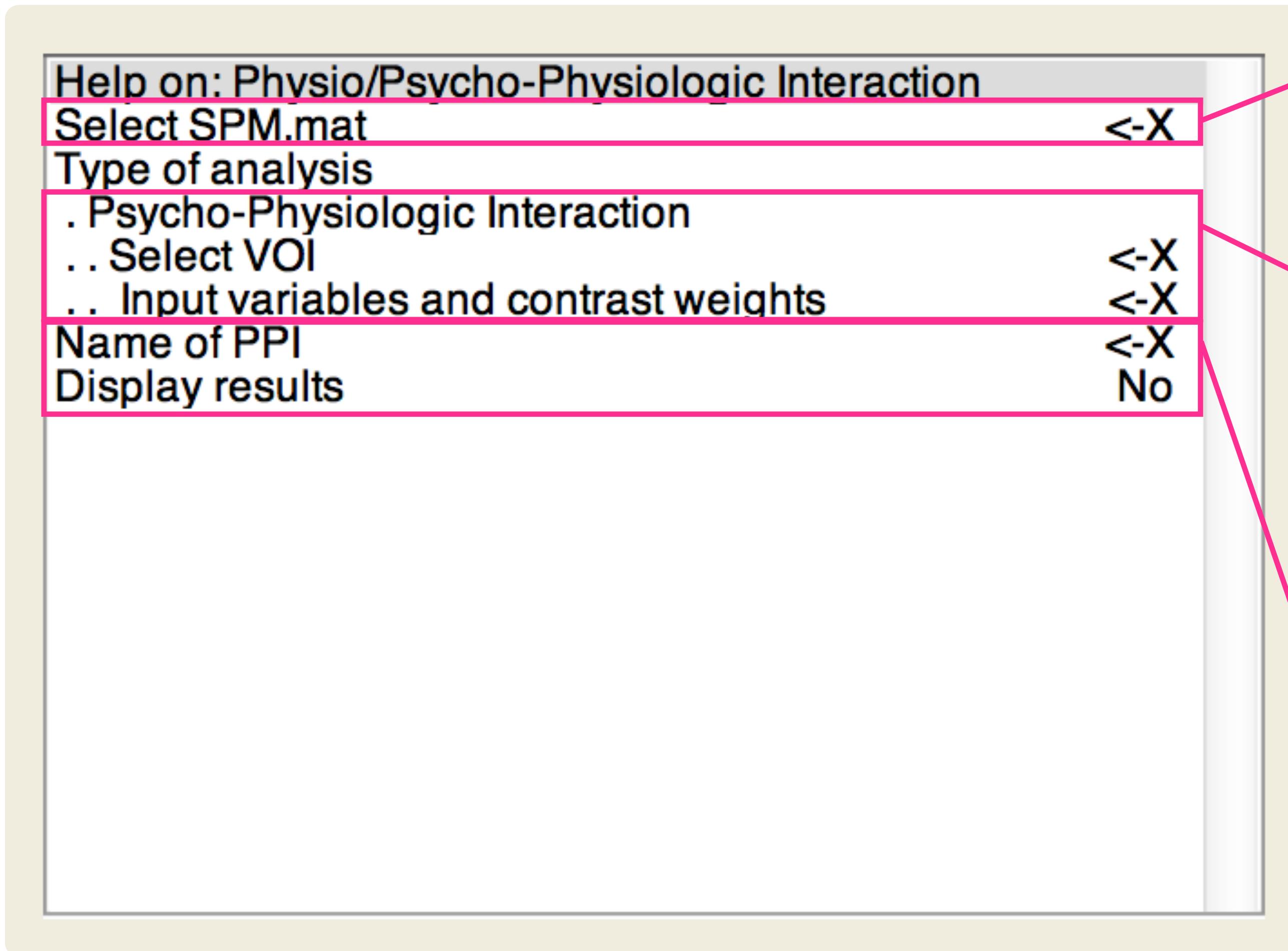
**Select VOI:** VOI\_VOI\_V2\_1.mat

**Input variables and contrast weights:** [2 1 1]

**Name of PPI:** V2xNoAttention

**Display results:** Yes

# Create PPI - V2xAttention



## Select SPM.mat

- Select 1st level analysis result file

## Type of analysis:

- Psycho-Physiologic Interaction

**Select VOI:** VOI\_VOI\_V2\_1.mat

**Input variables and contrast**

**weights:** [3 1 1]

**Name of PPI:** V2xAttention

**Display results:** Yes

# Create PPI - V5xNoAttention

**Select SPM.mat**  
- Select 1st level analysis result file

**Type of analysis:**  
- Psycho-Physiologic Interaction  
  Select VOI  
  Input variables and contrast weights

**Name of PPI:** V5xNoAttention  
**Display results:** Yes

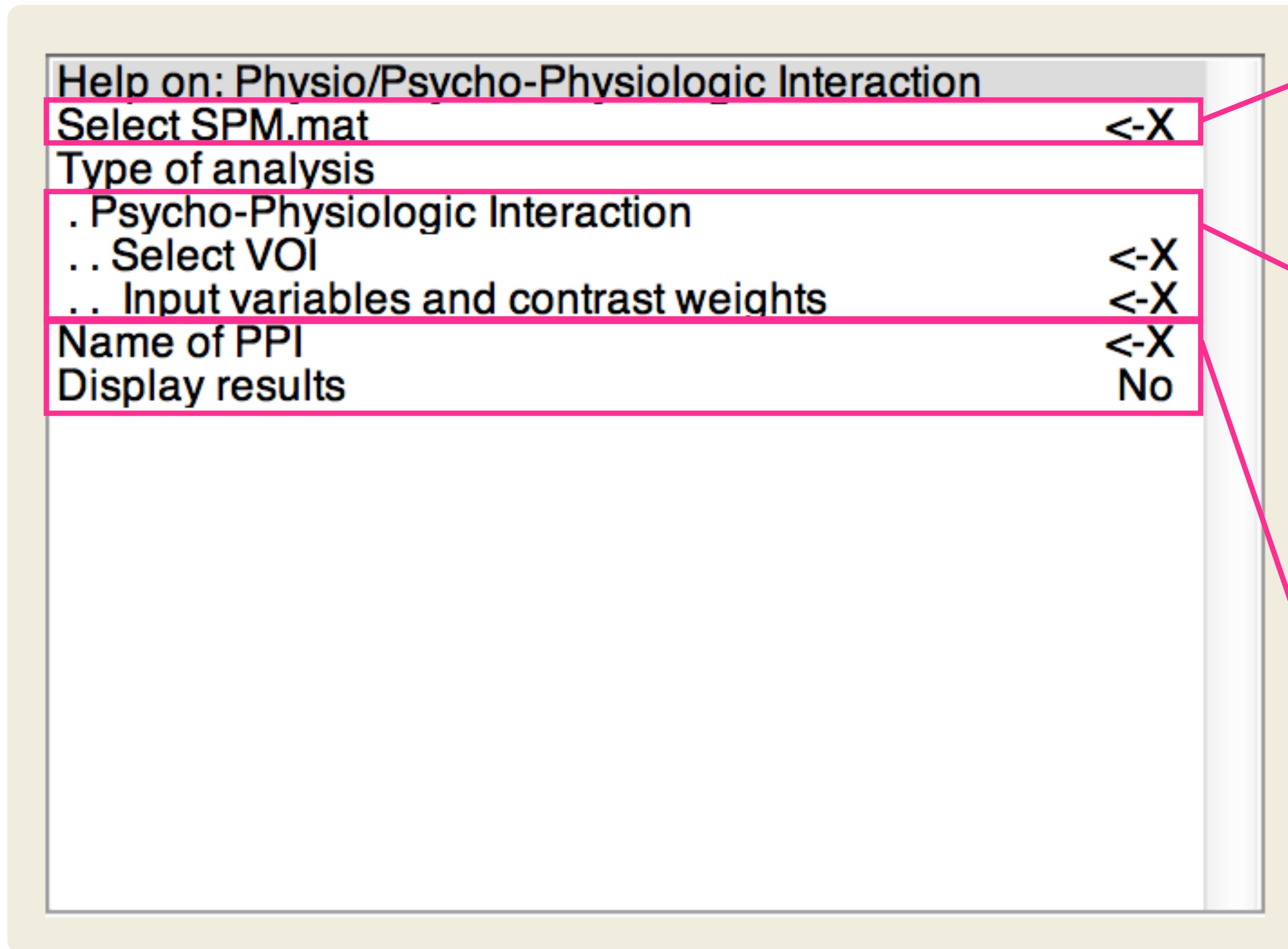
Help on: Physio/Psycho-Physiologic Interaction

Select SPM.mat <-X

Type of analysis:  
. Psycho-Physiologic Interaction  
. Select VOI  
. Input variables and contrast weights <-X  
Name of PPI No

Display results

# Create PPI - V5xAttention



## Select SPM.mat

- Select 1st level analysis result file

## Type of analysis:

- Psycho-Physiologic Interaction

**Select VOI:** VOI\_VOI\_V5\_1.mat

**Input variables and contrast**

**weights:** [3 1 1]

**Name of PPI:** V5xAttention

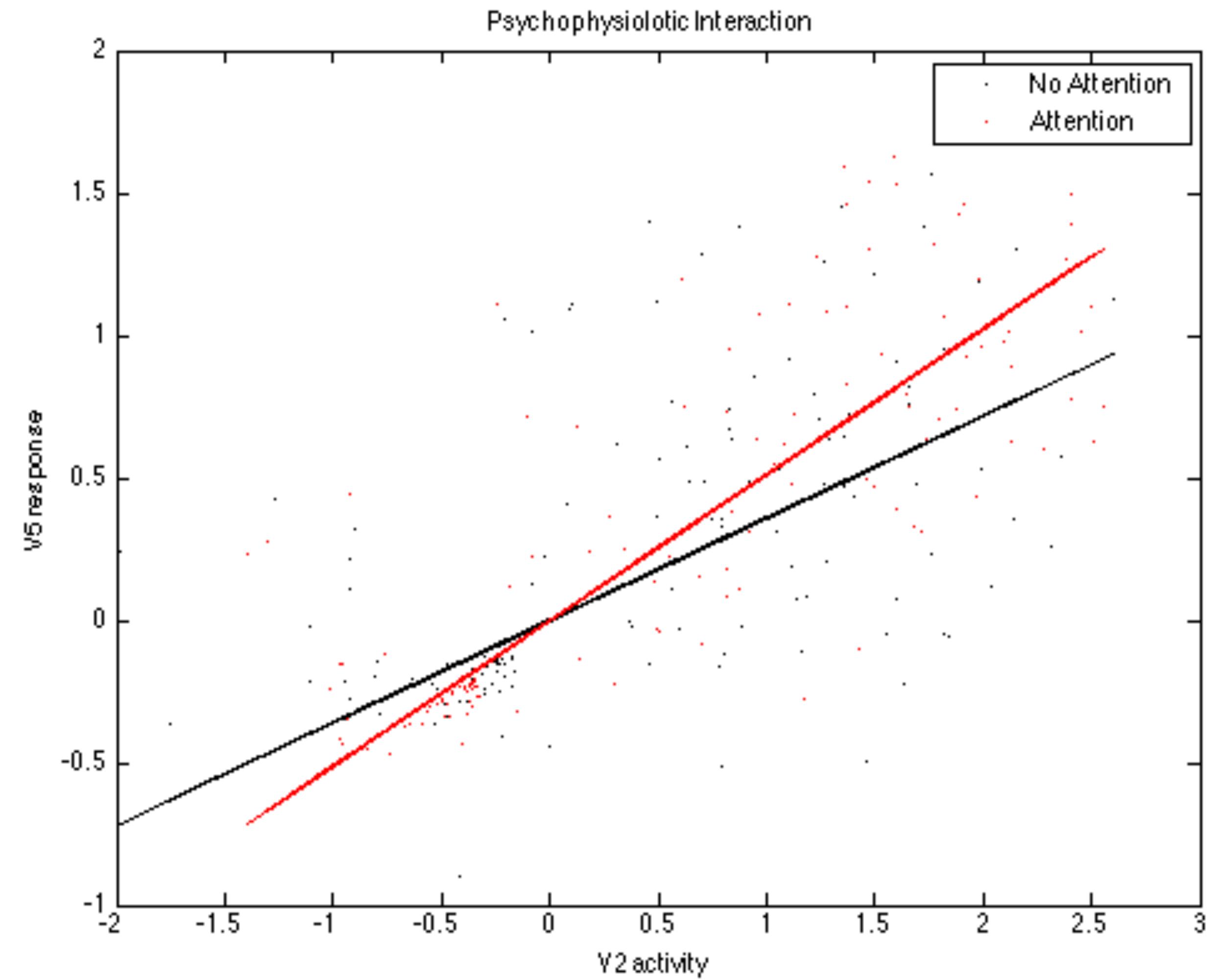
**Display results:** Yes

# Matlab Codes (1/2)

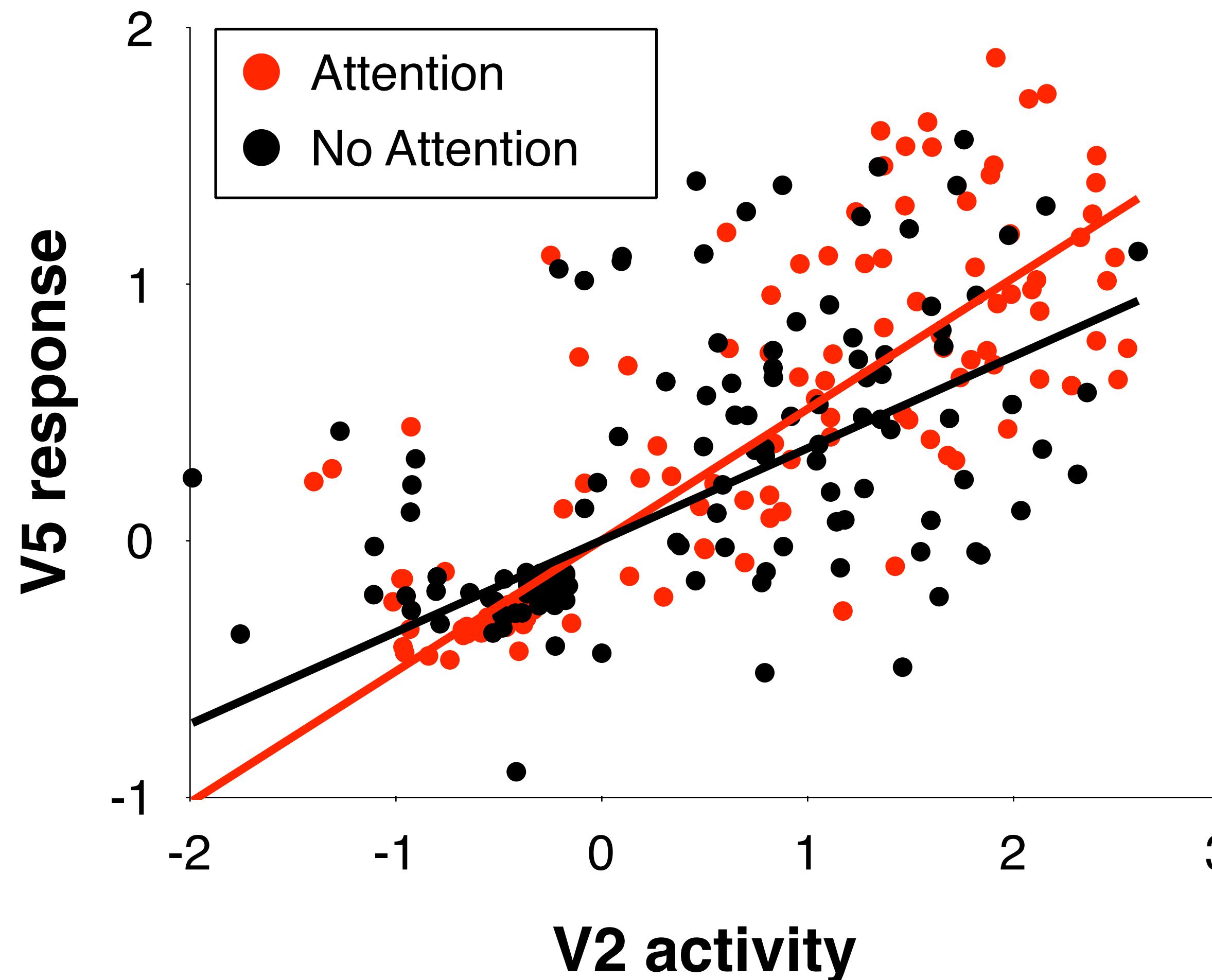
```
>> % Load PPI files
>> v2noatt = load('PPI_V2xNoAttention.mat');
>> v2att = load('PPI_V2xAttention.mat');
>> v5noatt = load('PPI_V5xNoAttention.mat');
>> v5att = load('PPI_V5xAttention.mat');
>>
>>
>> % Plot the PPI data points with the following commands at the Matlab
>> figure;
>> plot(v2noatt.PPI.ppi, v5noatt.PPI.ppi, 'k.');
>> hold on
>> plot(v2att.PPI.ppi, v5att.PPI.ppi, 'r.');
```

# Matlab Codes (2/2)

```
>> % Plot the best fit lines for NoAttention  
>> x = v2noatt.PPI.ppi(:);  
>> x = [x, ones(size(x))];  
>> y = v5noatt.PPI.ppi(:);  
>> B = pinv(x)*y; % Linear Regression  
>> y1 = B(1)*x(:,1)+B(2);  
>> plot(x(:,1), y1, 'k-');  
>  
>  
>> % Plot the best fit lines for Attention  
>> x = v2att.PPI.ppi(:);  
>> x = [x, ones(size(x))];  
>> y = v5att.PPI.ppi(:);  
>> B = pinv(x)*y; % Linear Regression  
>  
> y1 = B(1)*x(:,1)+B(2);  
>> plot(x(:,1), y1, 'r-');  
>  
>> legend('No Attention', 'Attention');  
>> xlabel('V2 activity');  
>> ylabel('V5 response');  
>> title('Psychophysiolotic Interaction');
```



# Demonstrating PPI interaction



## Linear Regression Model

$$V5\_response = V2\_activity * b1 + b2 + e$$

## Estimated Parameters

	Attention	No Attention
b1	0.5112	0.3585
b2	0.0000	0.0000

# References

- Chapter 36 (Psychophysiological Interaction) of the SPM12 manual  
<http://www.fil.ion.ucl.ac.uk/spm/data/>
- K. J. Friston *et al.*, Psychophysiological and Modulatory Interactions in Neuroimaging, *NeuroImage*, 6, 218-229 (1997)
- Darren R. Gitelman *et al.*, Modeling regional and psychophysiological interactions in fMRI: the importance of hemodynamic deconvolution, *NeuroImage*, 19, 2000-207 (2003)