



# Multivariate Pattern Analysis and Brain Decoding

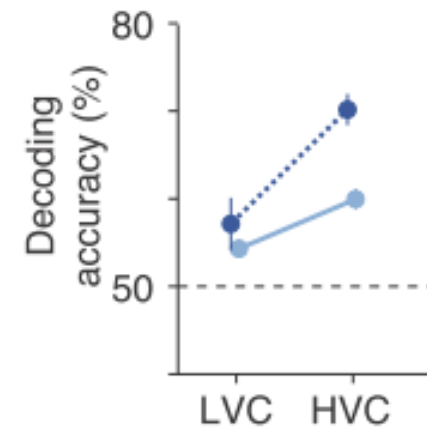
Martin N. Hebart  
Laboratory of Brain and Cognition  
NIMH



## Neural Decoding of Visual Imagery During Sleep

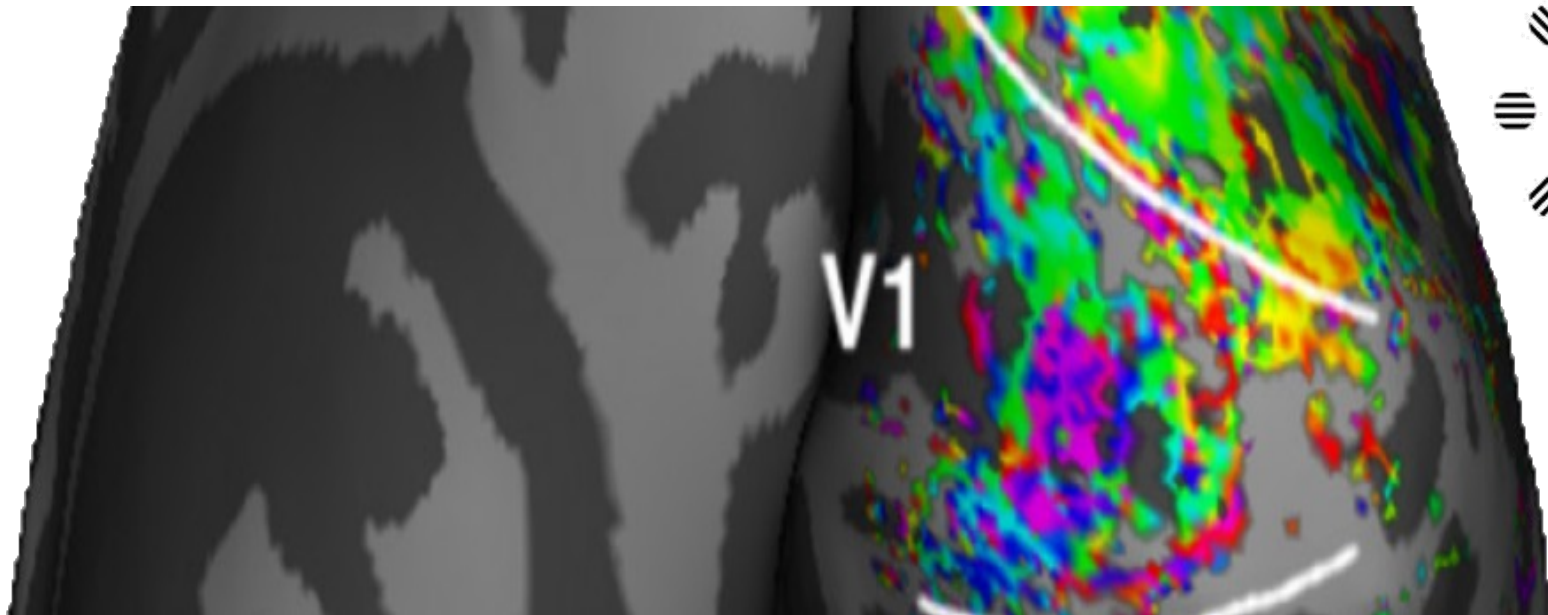
T. Horikawa,<sup>1,2</sup> M. Tamaki,<sup>1\*</sup> Y. Miyawaki,<sup>3,1†</sup> Y. Kamitani<sup>1,2‡</sup>

www.sciencemag.org SCIENCE VOL 340 3 MAY 2013

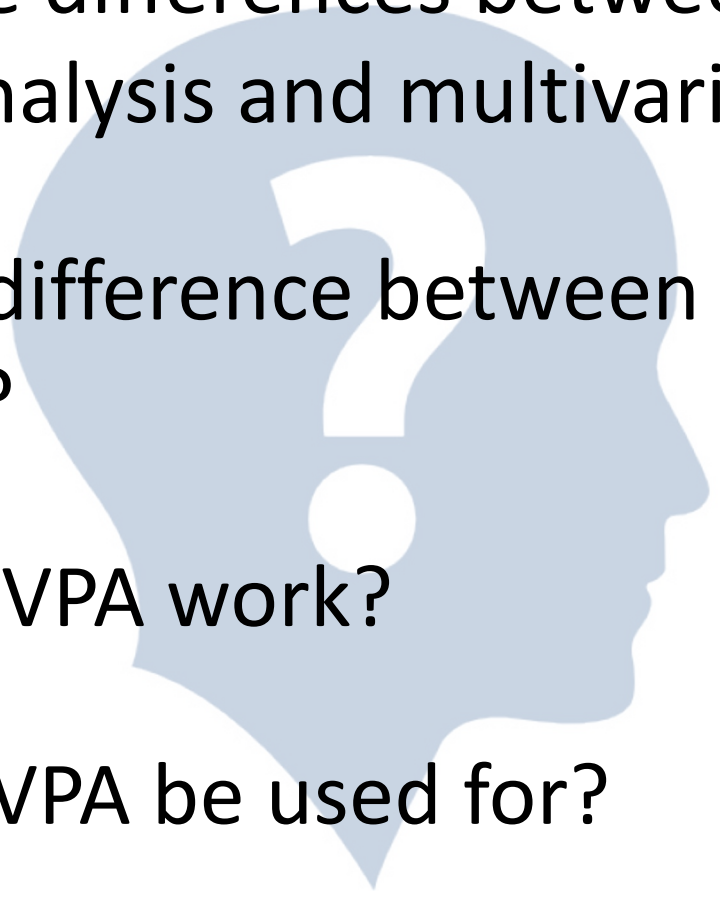


# What is Multivariate Pattern Analysis?

Combined use of multiple variables measuring the brain (e.g. BOLD signal in multiple voxels) to predict or characterize states of the brain



# Central Questions for This Lecture

- What are the differences between classical univariate analysis and multivariate decoding?
  - What is the difference between activity and information?
  - How does MVPA work?
  - What can MVPA be used for?
- 

# Why Multivariate Pattern Analysis?

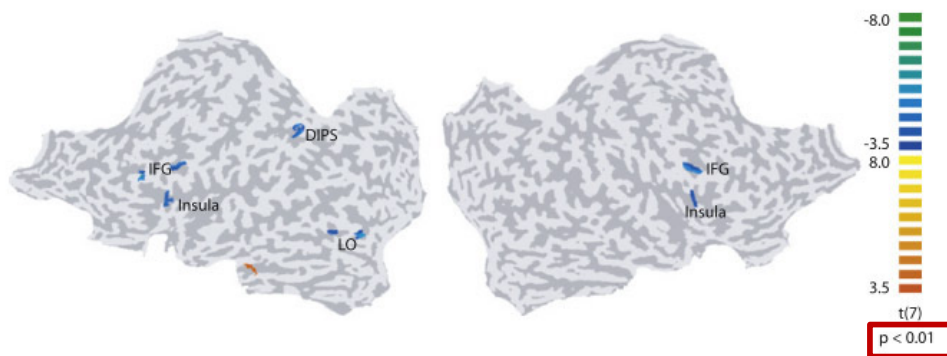
two reasons

# Why Multivariate Pattern Analysis?

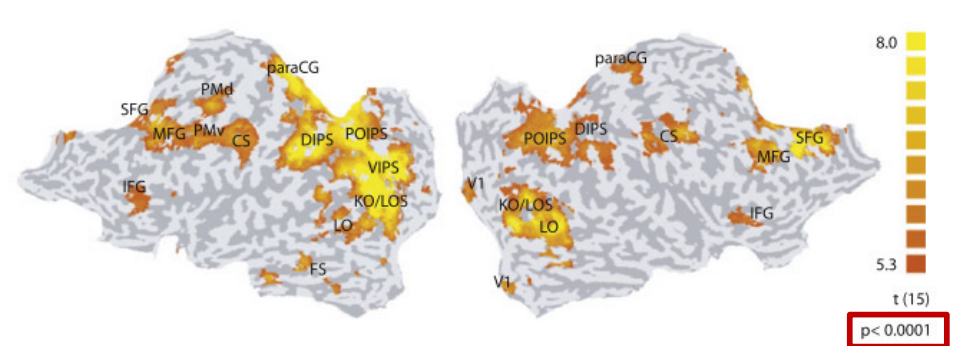
1. Higher sensitivity compared to classical univariate analysis

Example: Representation of perceptual choices

classical univariate analysis



multivariate decoding

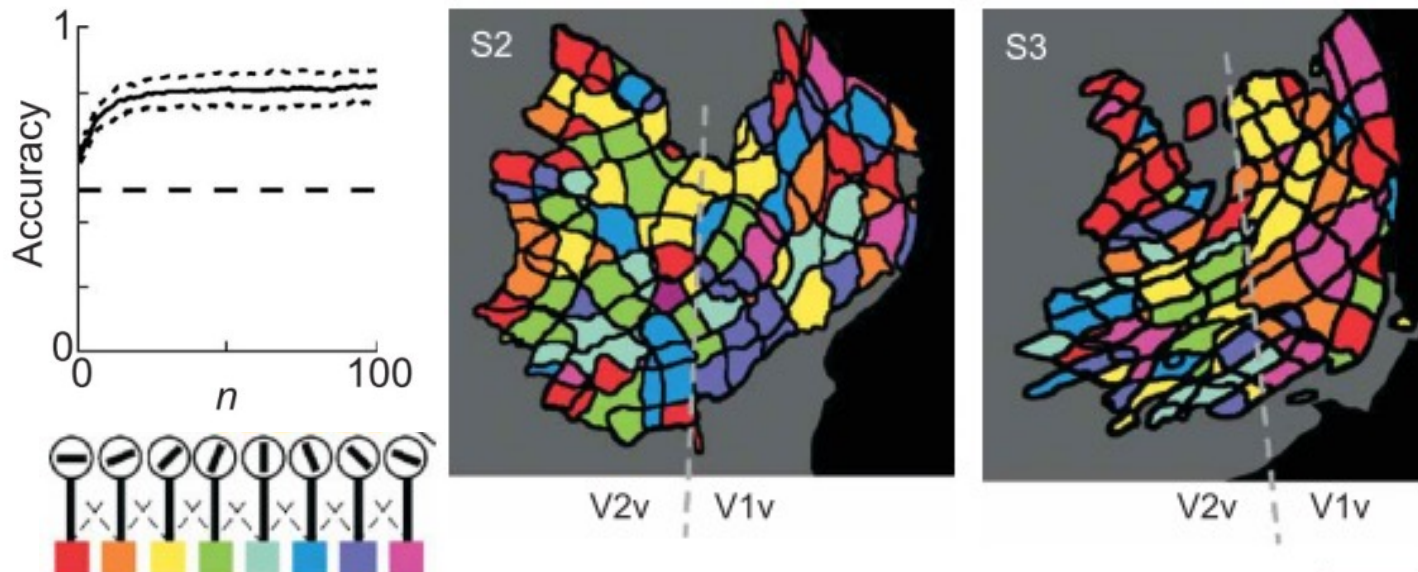




# Why Multivariate Pattern Analysis?

2. Representational content in brain region rather than general activation can be studied

Example: Representation of orientations in visual cortex



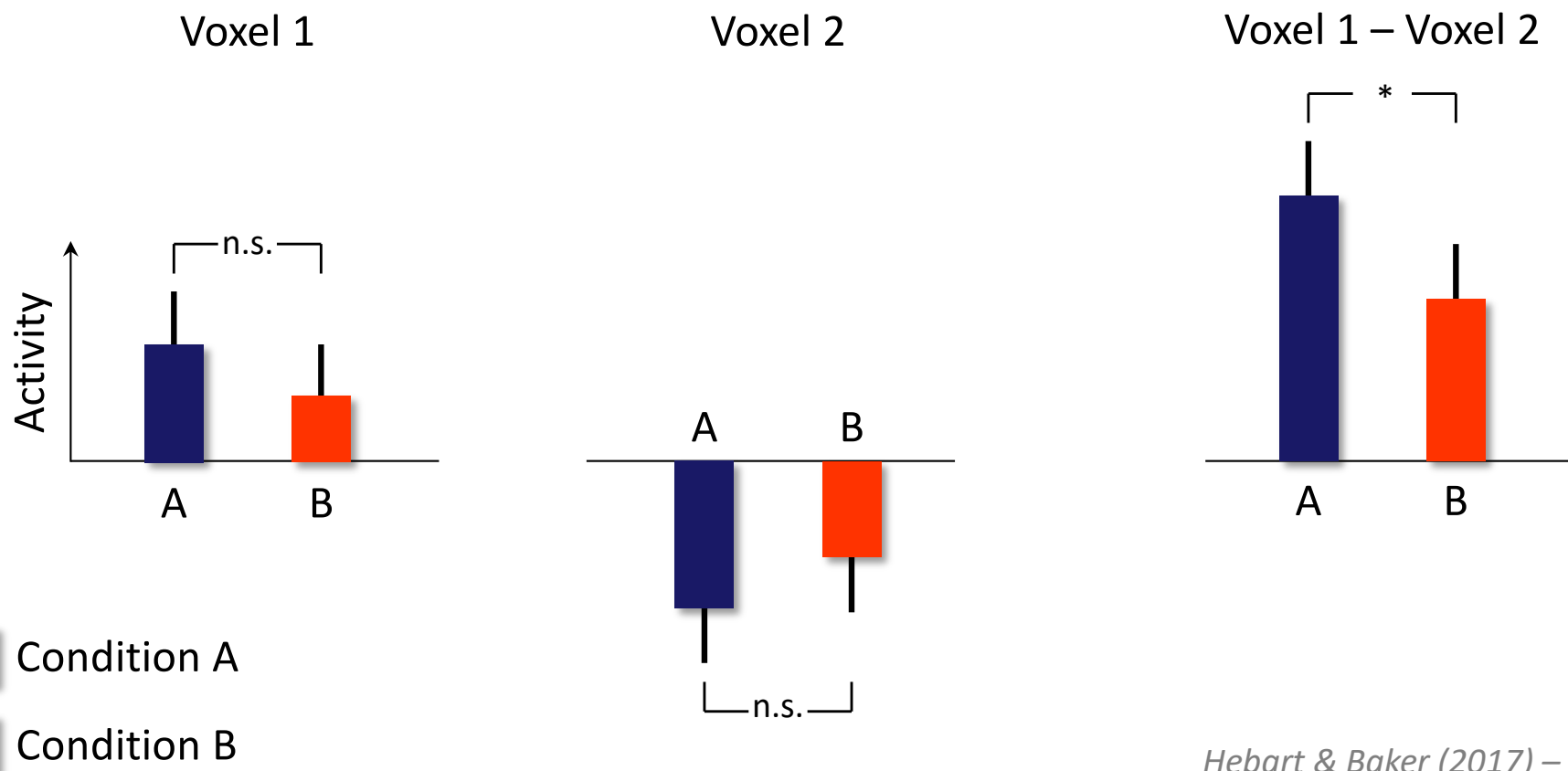
# How does MVPA work?

three principles



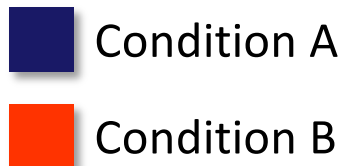
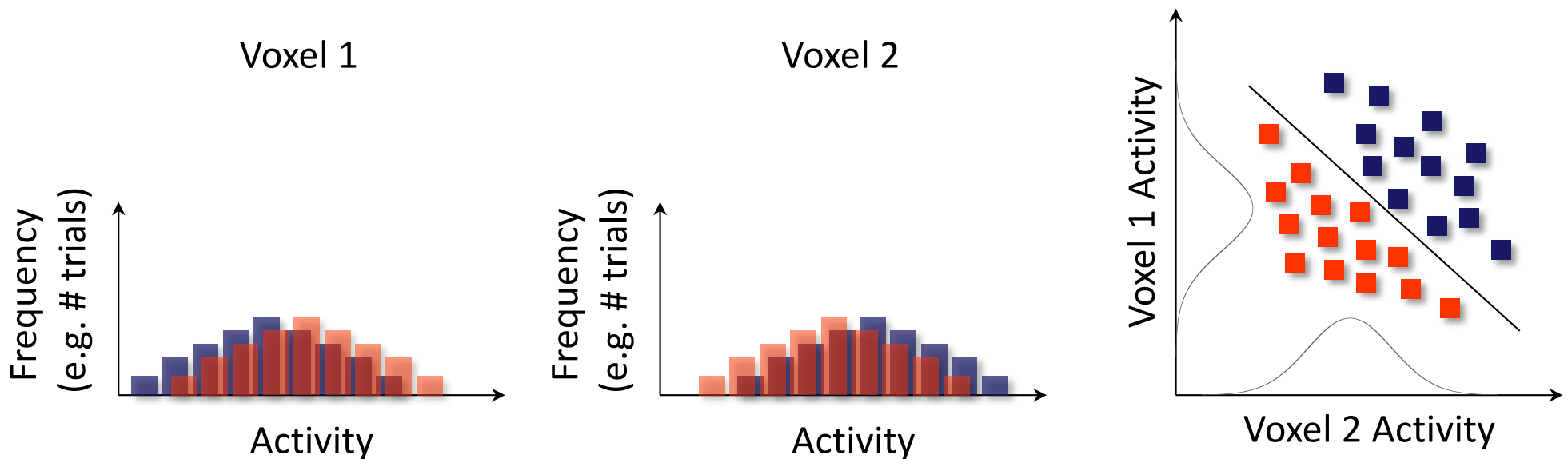
# How Does Multivariate Pattern Analysis Work?

## 1. Information across multiple voxels can be combined



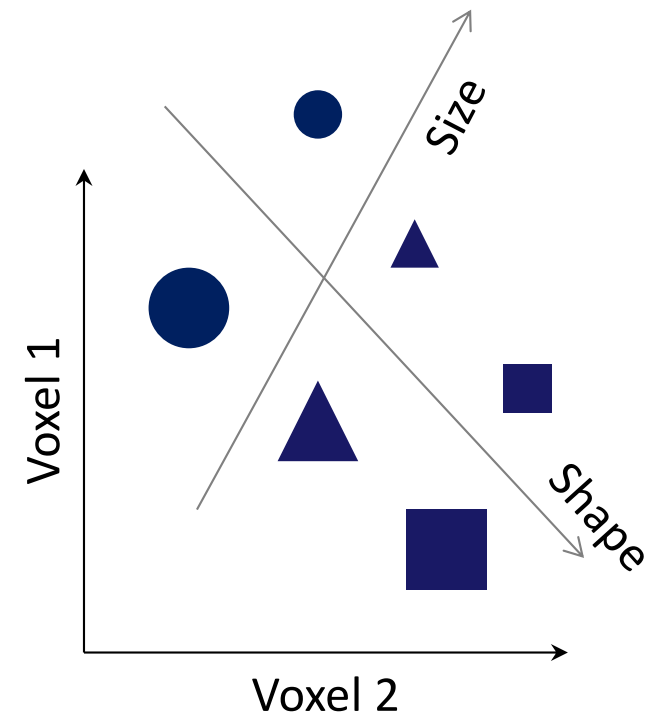
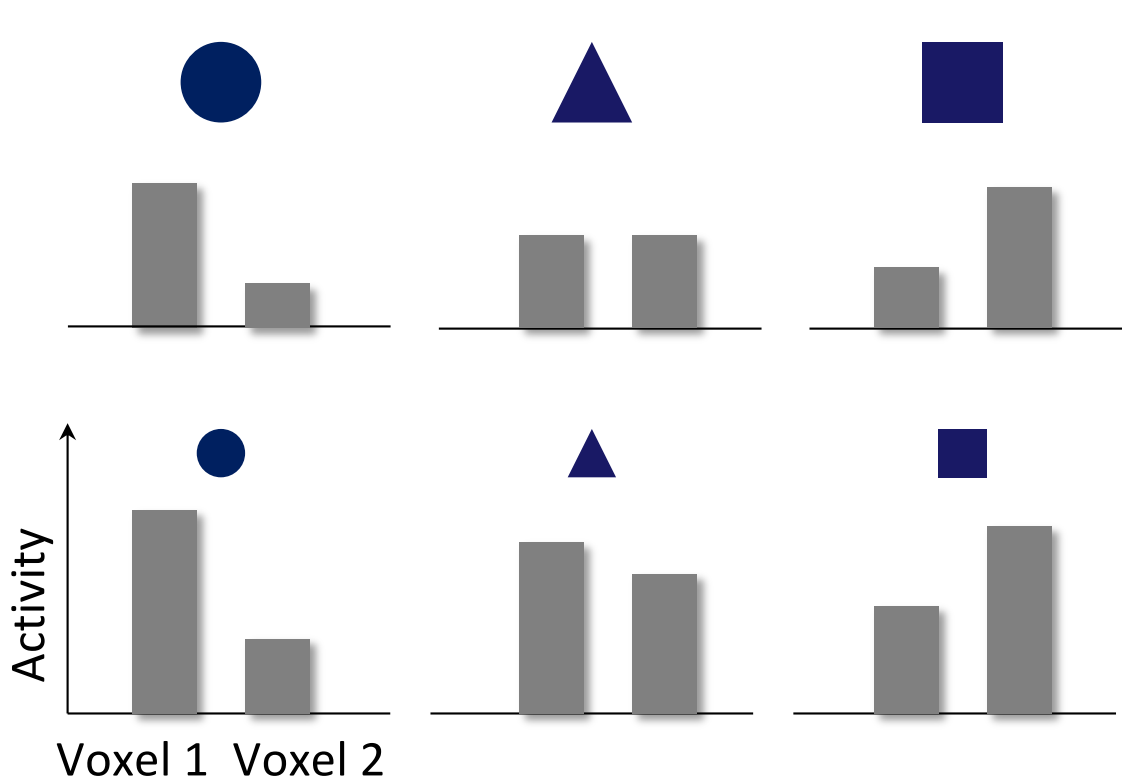
# How Does Multivariate Pattern Analysis Work?

## 2. Covariation of voxel information can be used

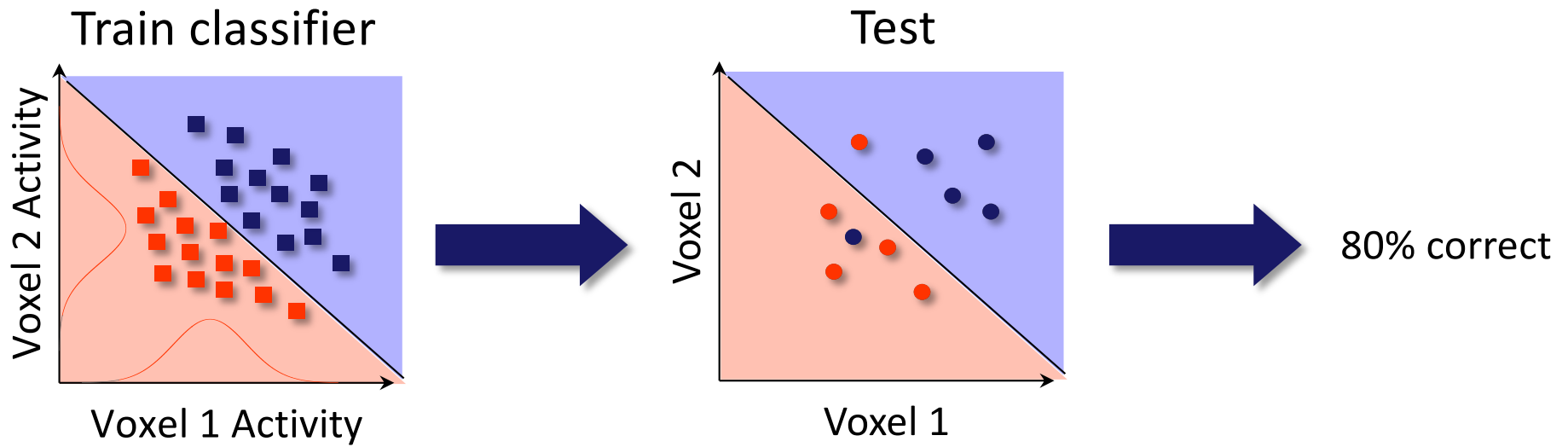
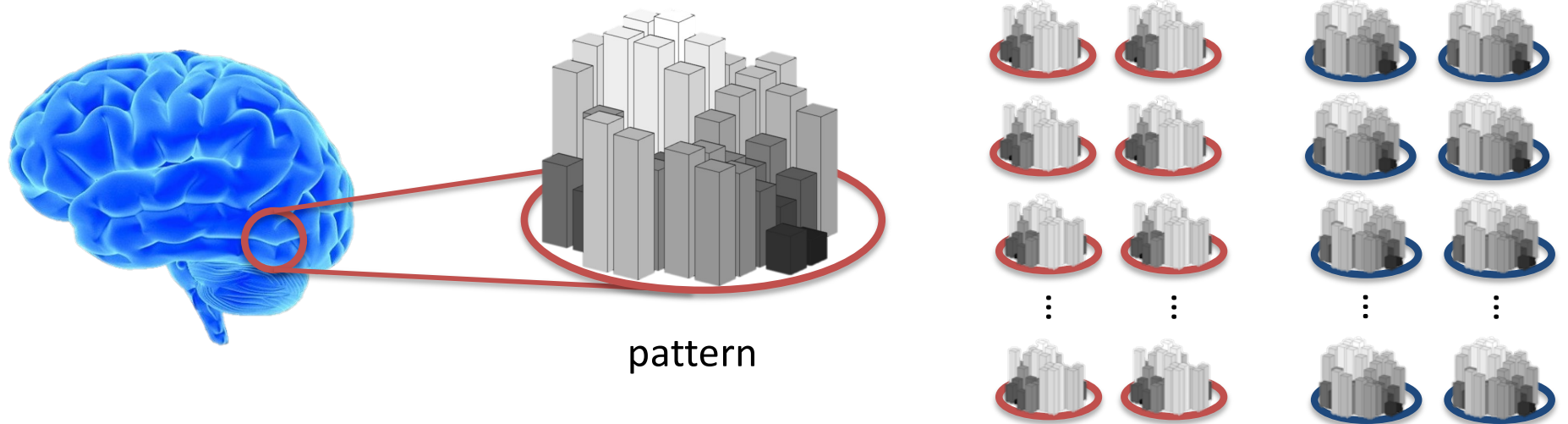


# How Does Multivariate Pattern Analysis Work?

3. Multidimensional representations encoded in distributed patterns of activity can be revealed

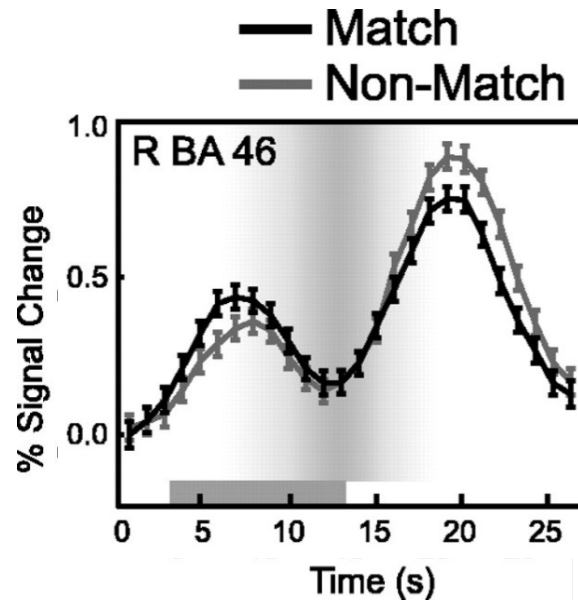
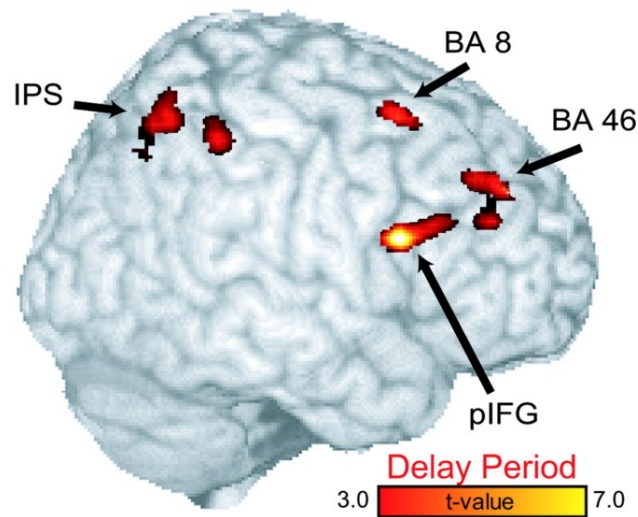


# Multivariate Decoding



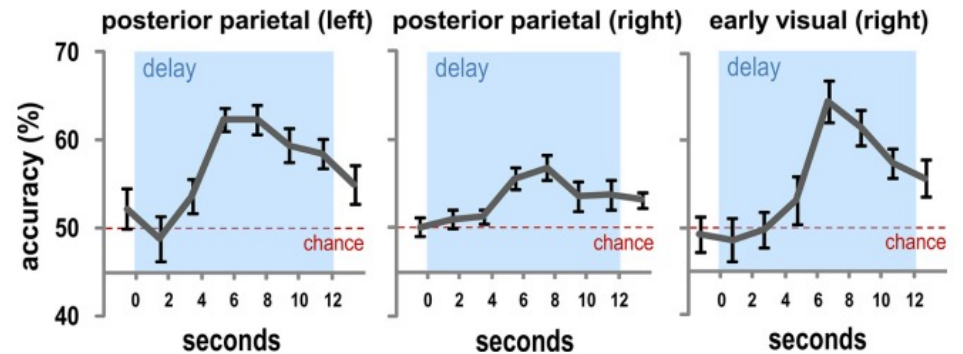
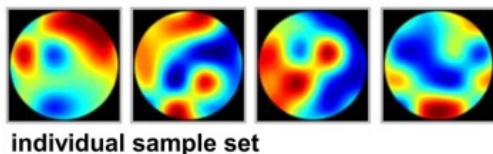
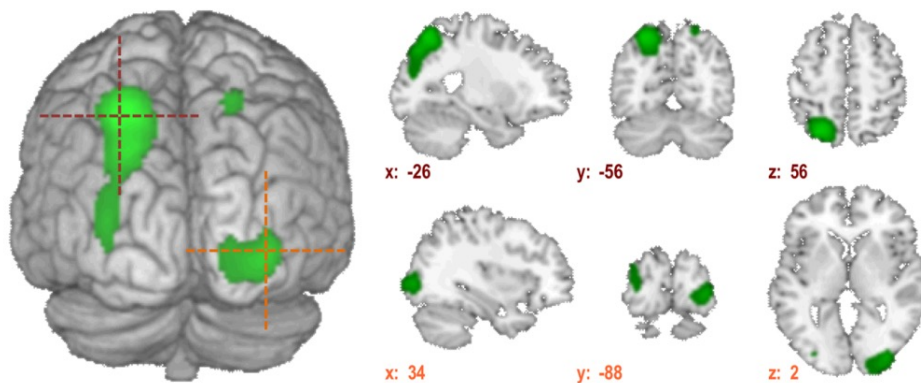
# Activity vs. Information

Activity: Tells us about general involvement in cognitive function (e.g. working memory vs. no working memory)



# Activity vs. Information

Information: Tells us about representational content (e.g. memory trace of A vs. memory trace of B)





# Different Methodological Philosophies

Classical approach: More active = more involved

Multivariate decoding: More distinct = more involved

Thought experiment:



Classical approach: Brain region responds to all fruit but oranges



MVPA: Brain region carries information about oranges (when contrasted with fruit)

# Why Decoding?

two goals

# Goals of Decoding

**Prediction:** Goal is to maximize future correct predictions

→ Any information is useful as long as it increases accuracy



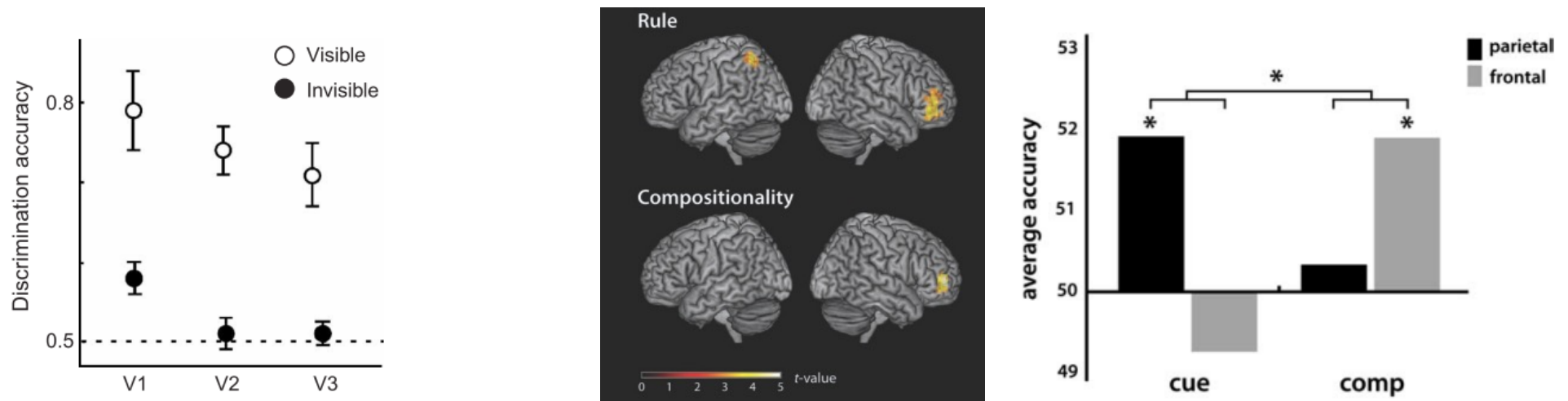
[http://www.heise.de/tp/artikel/26/26759/26759\\_2.jpg](http://www.heise.de/tp/artikel/26/26759/26759_2.jpg), <http://thinktechuk.files.wordpress.com/2011/10/97877.jpg>,  
[http://www.poly.edu/sites/polyproto.poly.edu/files/pressrelease/MRI\\_Alzheimers\\_Research.jpg](http://www.poly.edu/sites/polyproto.poly.edu/files/pressrelease/MRI_Alzheimers_Research.jpg)

# Goals of Decoding

**Interpretation:** Is there information about XYZ?

→ Sufficient to show above chance accuracy (statistically!)

→ Not all information sources ok, need to rule out confounds



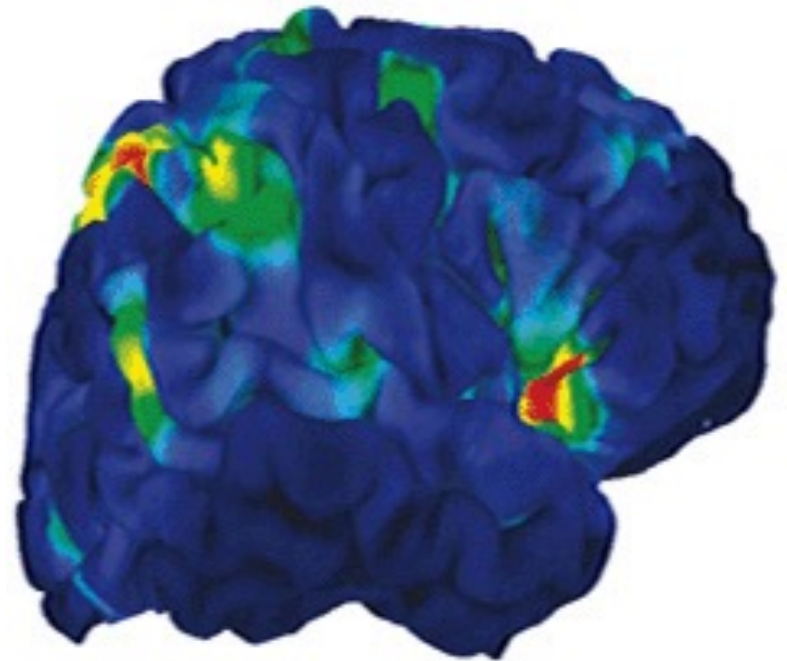
# Encoding vs. Decoding

what we normally do  
in univariate analyses

Encoding  $g: X \rightarrow Y$

Cognitive  
Function

Decoding  $h: Y \rightarrow X$



X: Explaining variable

Y: Measured data

Example: Stimulus, response,  
cognitive condition

Example: BOLD signal,  
EEG signal, VBM intensity

# Overview Over Analysis Methods

|              | Encoding                      | Decoding              |
|--------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| univariate   | GLM<br>Model-based            | Simple Classification |
| multivariate | MANOVA<br>Similarity Analysis | Multivariate Decoding |



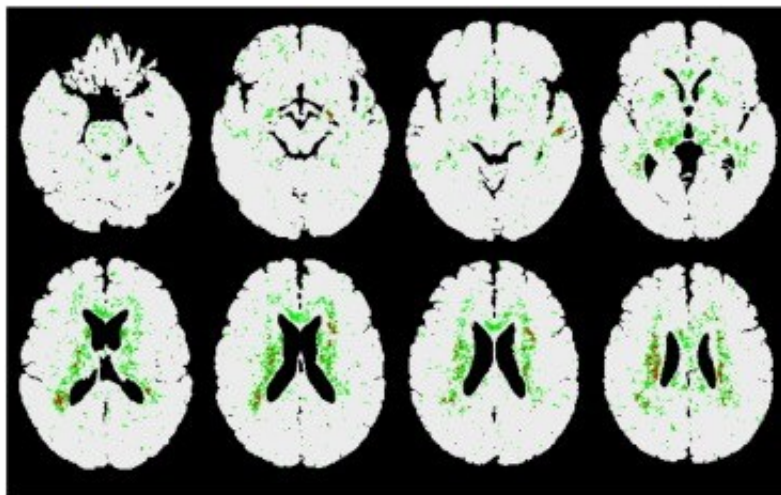
# What Questions can you Address with Multivariate Decoding?

five types of questions

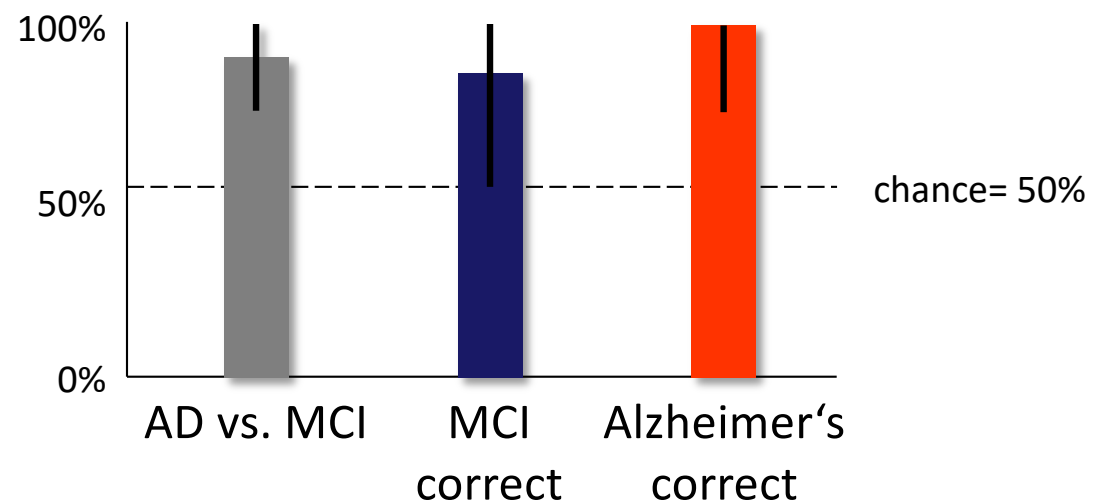
# Types of Questions for MVPA

## 1. Presence of Information

Example: Will a patient with mild cognitive impairment develop Alzheimer's 2 ½ years later?



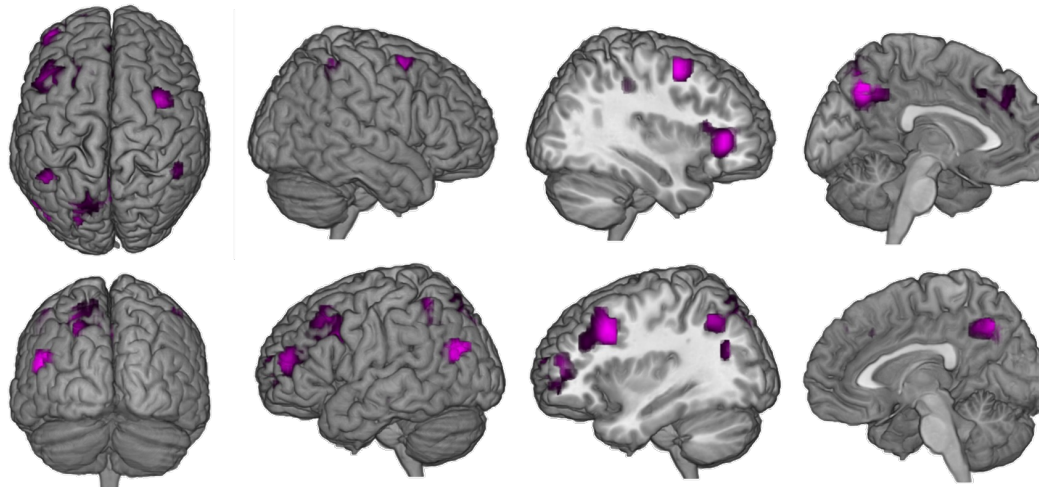
structural data



# Types of Questions for MVPA

## 2. Localization of Information

Example: Which brain regions carry information about perceptual decision variables irrespective of the response format?

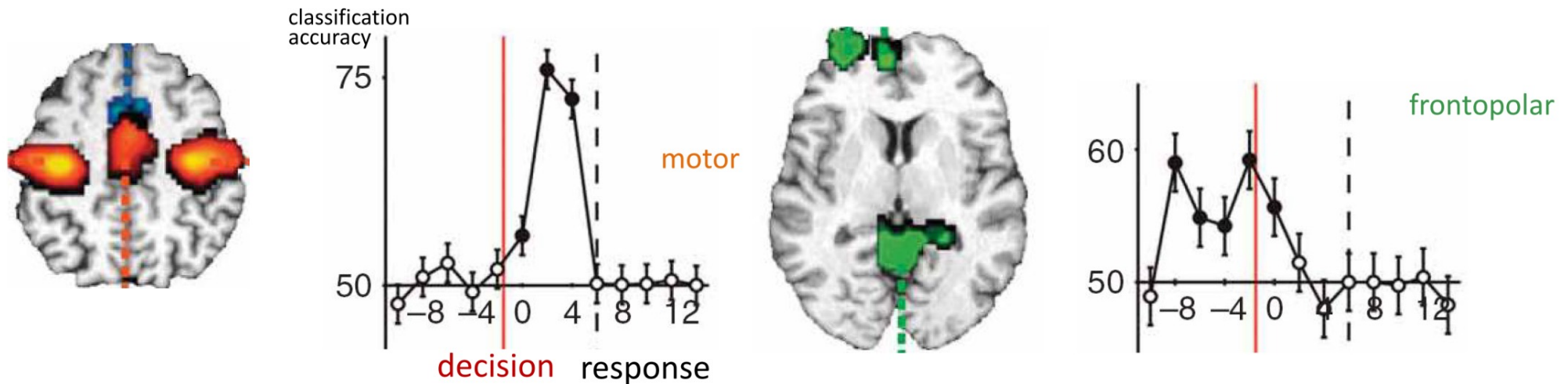


$p < 0.0001$ , cluster-corrected FWE  $p < 0.05$

# Types of Questions for MVPA

## 3. Time Course of Information

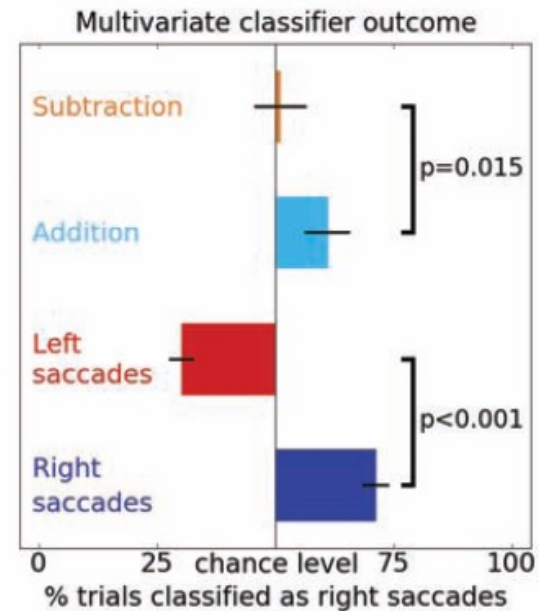
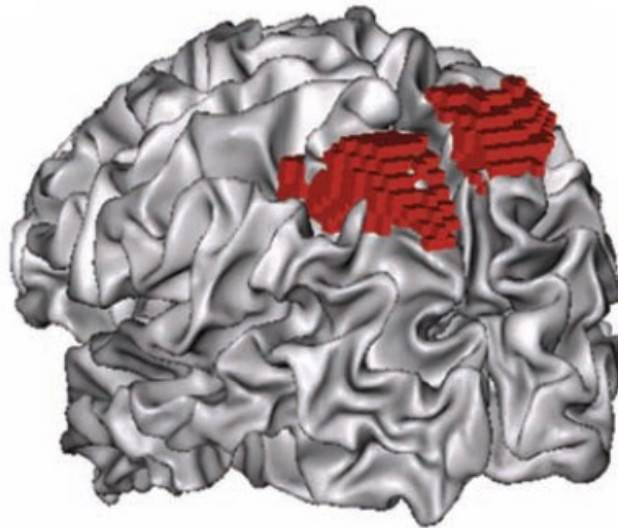
Example: At what time do you find information about “free” decision of a person?  
of a person?



# Types of Questions for MVPA

## 4. Association of Cognitive Functions

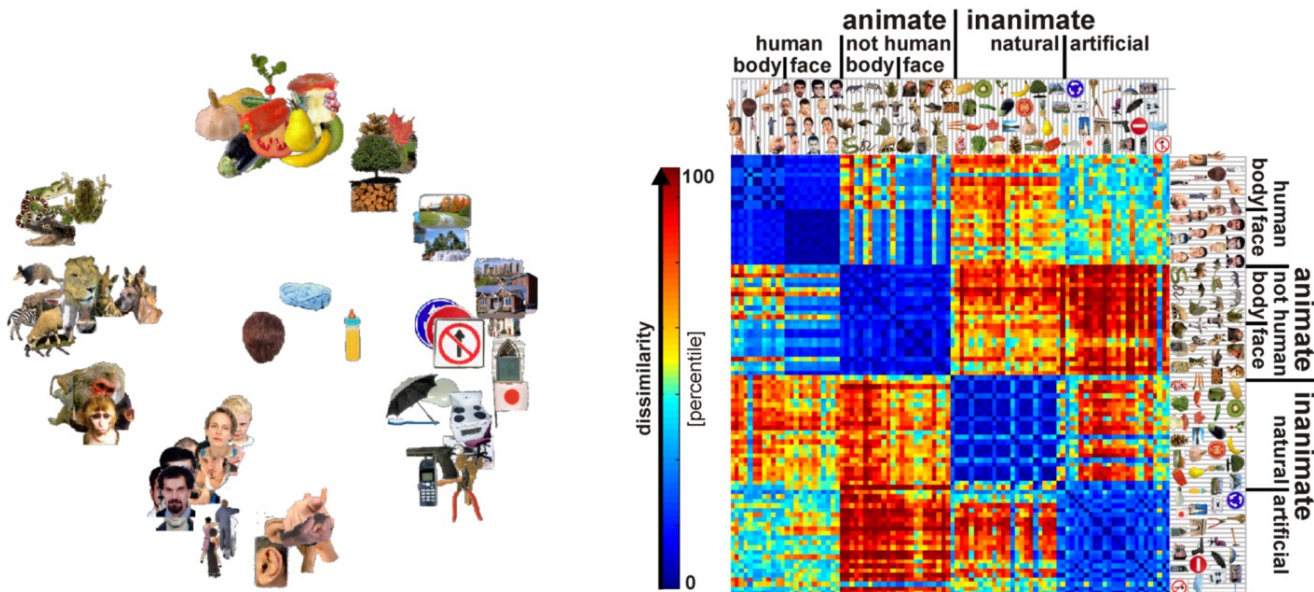
Example: Generalization of eye movements to calculations



# Types of Questions for MVPA

## 5. Characterization of Activation Patterns

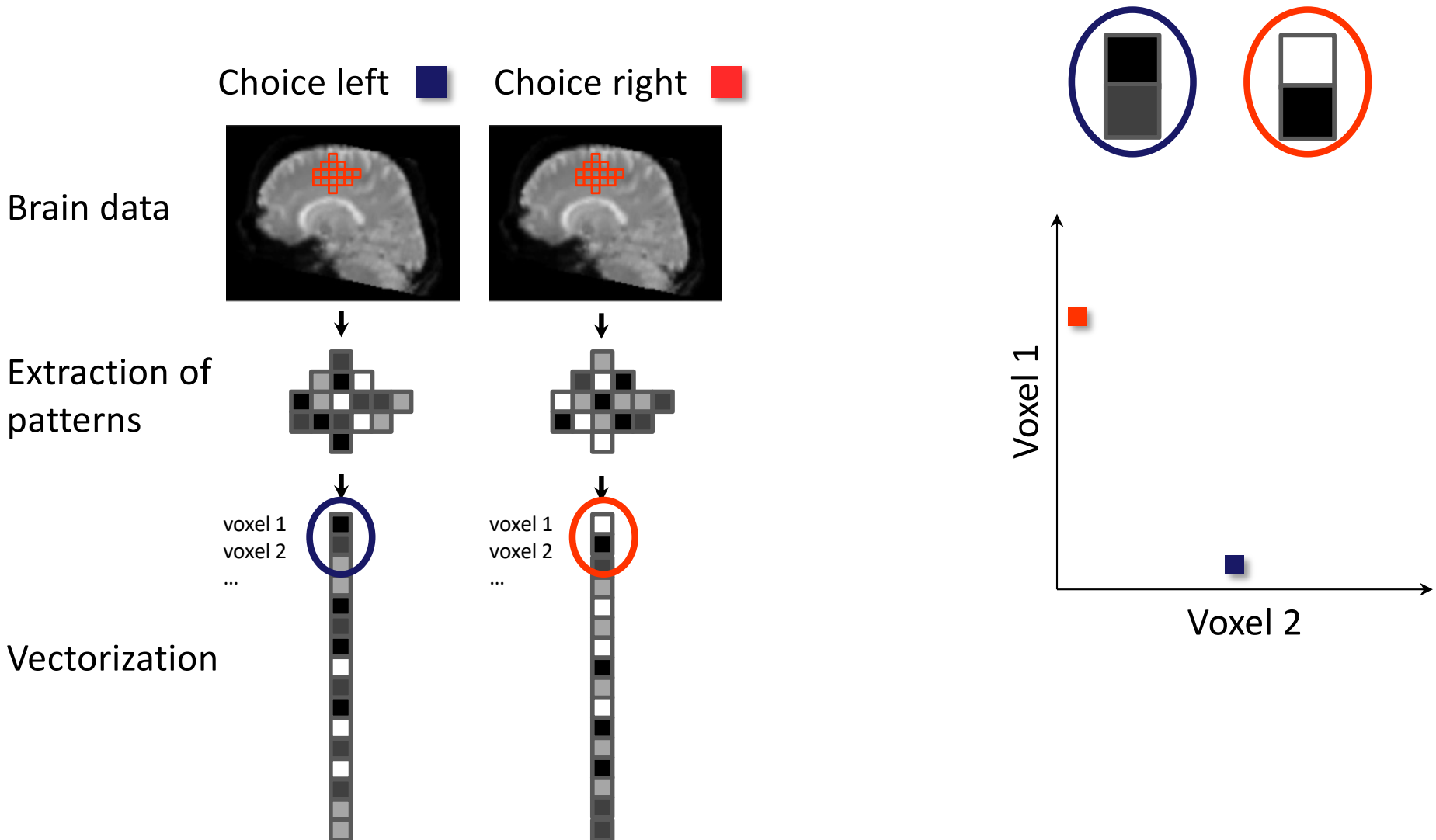
Example: Representational Similarity Analysis



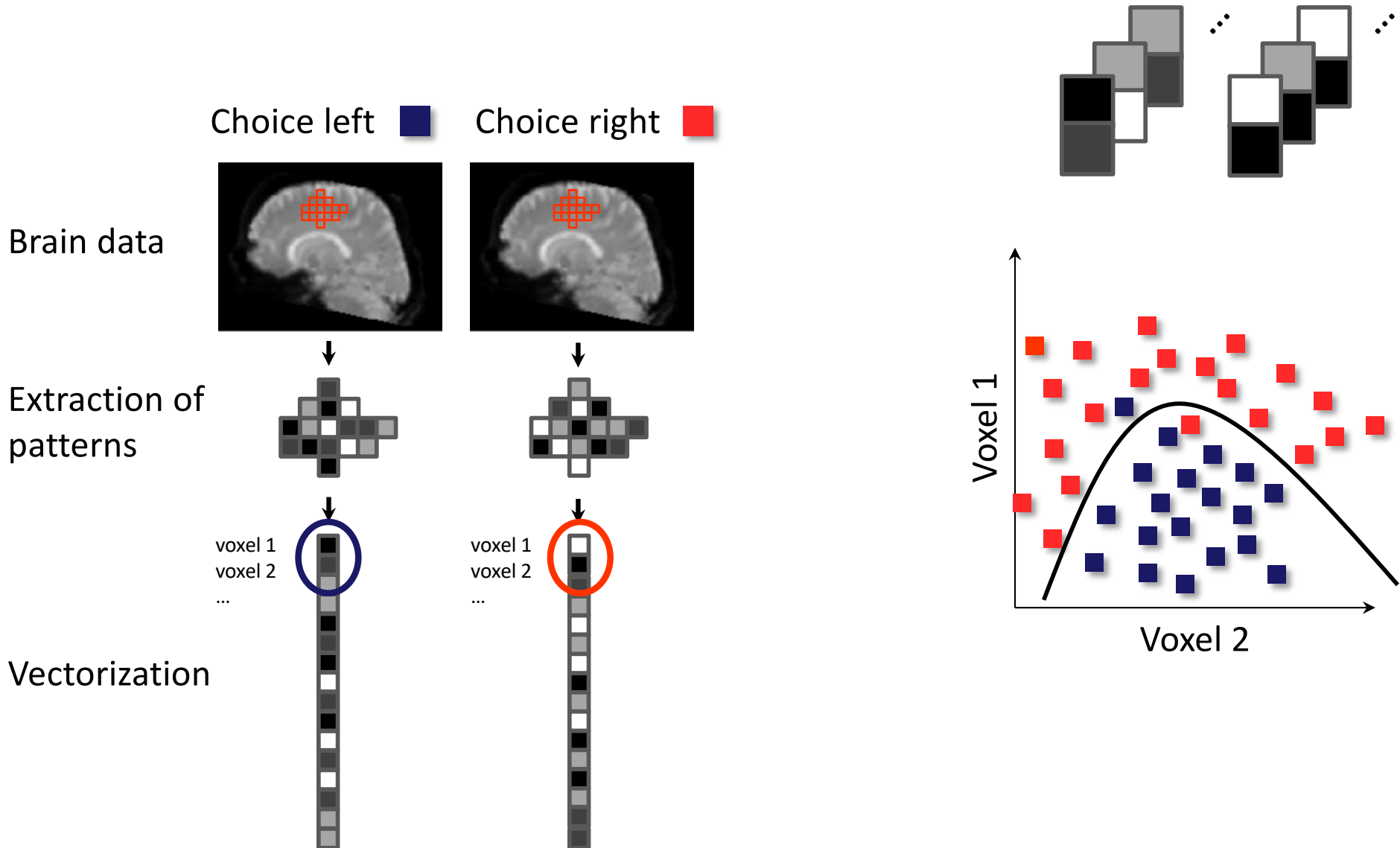


# How Does Classification Work?

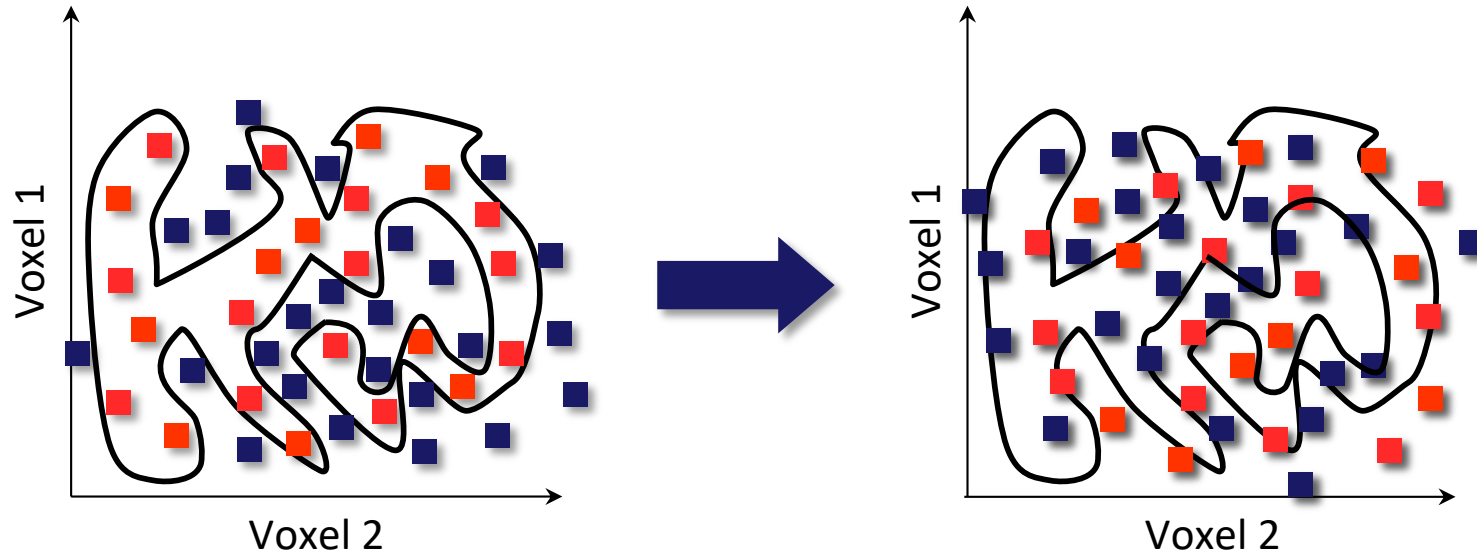
# Classification Overview: Example



# Classification Overview: Example



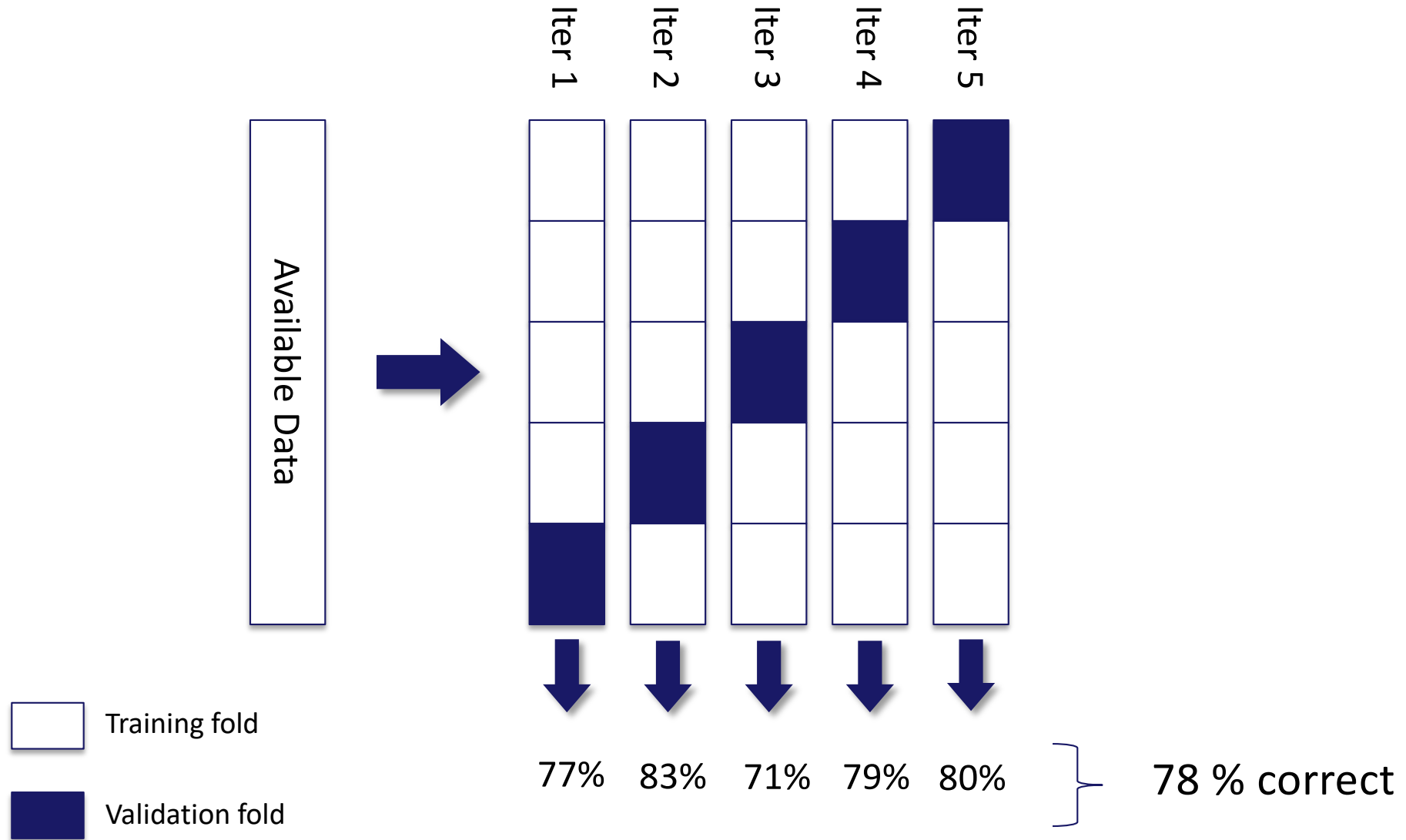
# Why Train and Test a Classifier?



➔ Goal of classification: Finding a general model beyond noise in the data

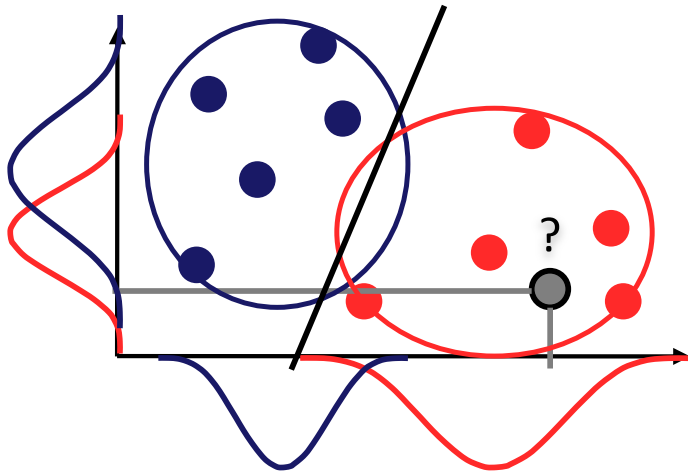
➔ Way of testing generalization: Training and testing classifier

# Cross-validation



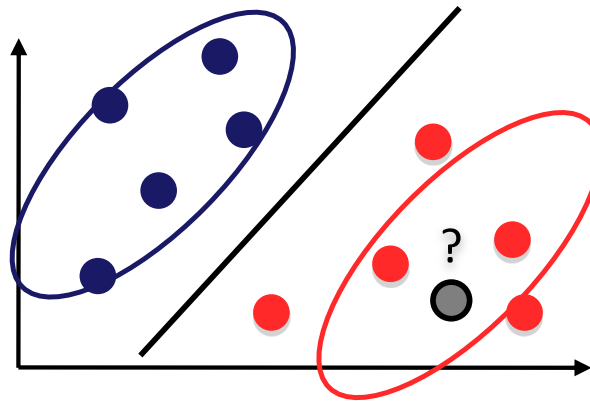
# Typical linear classifiers

Gaussian Naïve Bayes



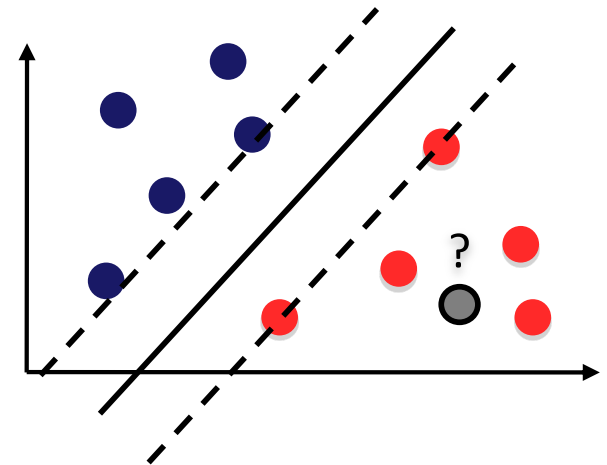
Ignores covariance between voxels

Linear Discriminant Analysis



Considers covariance between voxels

Support Vector Machine



Maximizes margin (distance between closest points of different classes)



Linear classifiers are the most commonly used classifiers in MVPA

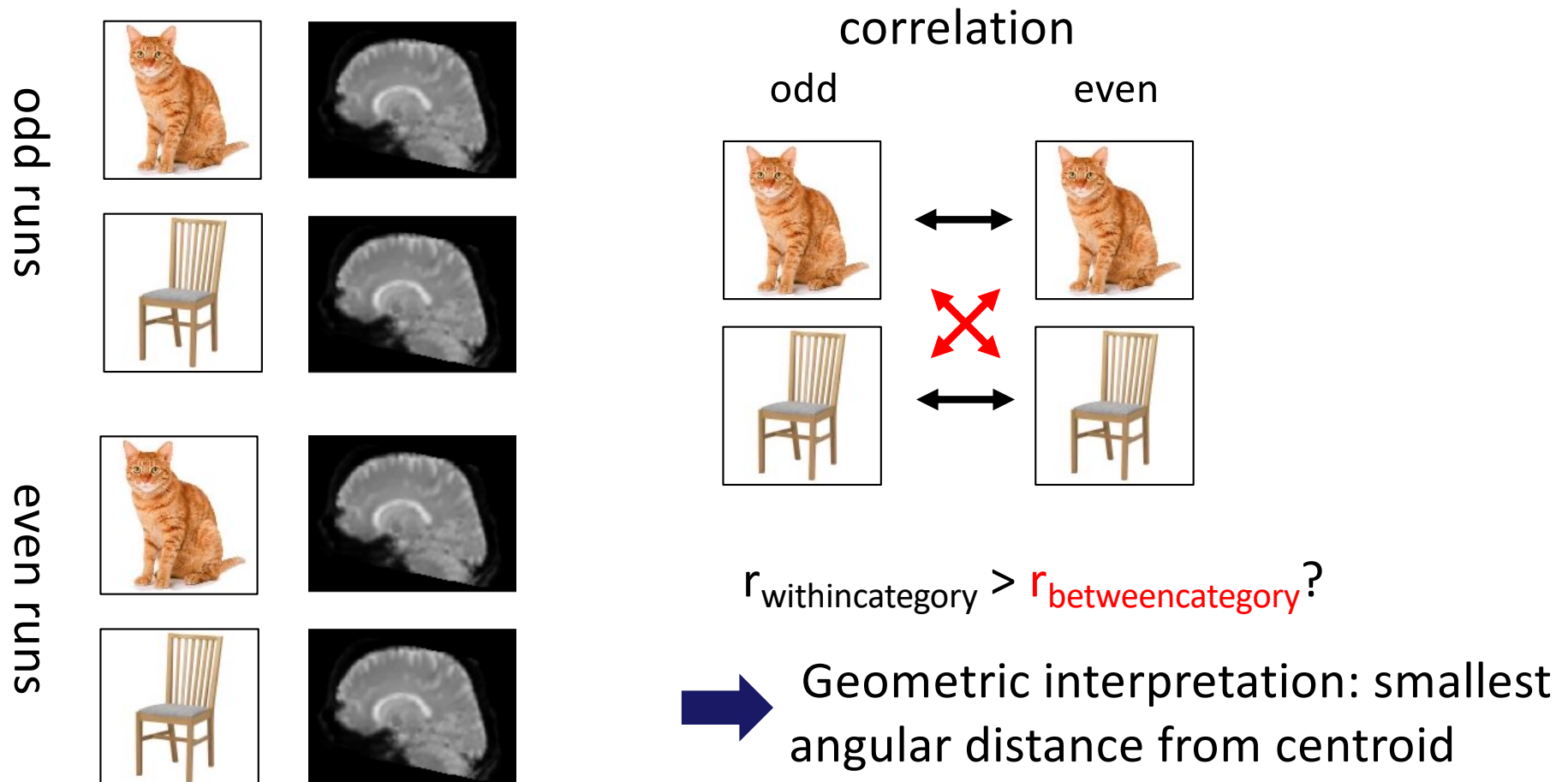


All share the same formula  $y = \sum w_i x_i$  but differ in how they find parameters  $w$



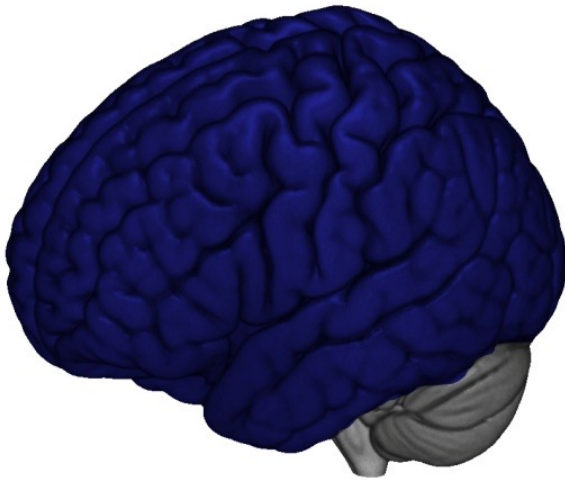
# Correlation-based classifier

Very simple classifier: find maximal pattern correlation

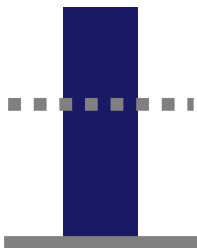


# Levels of MVPA Analyses

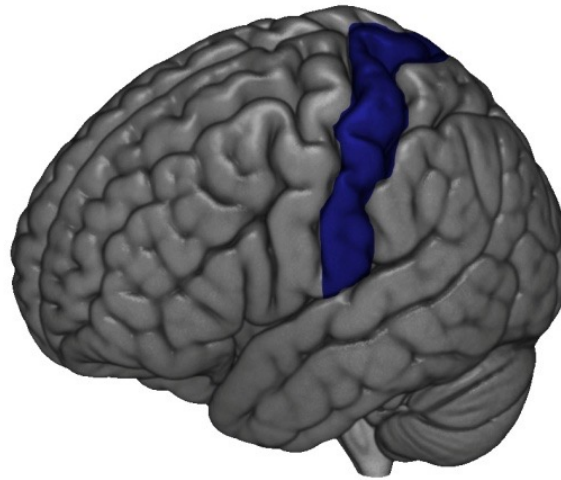
Wholebrain



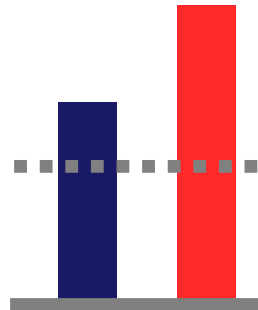
One value per brain



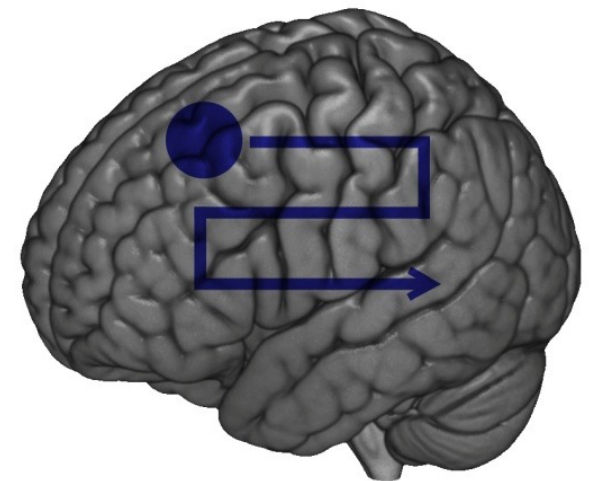
Region of Interest



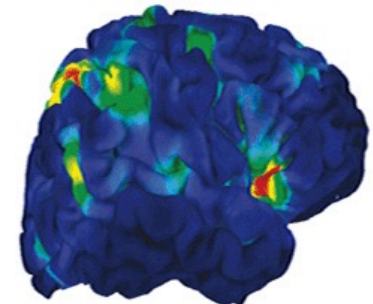
One value per ROI



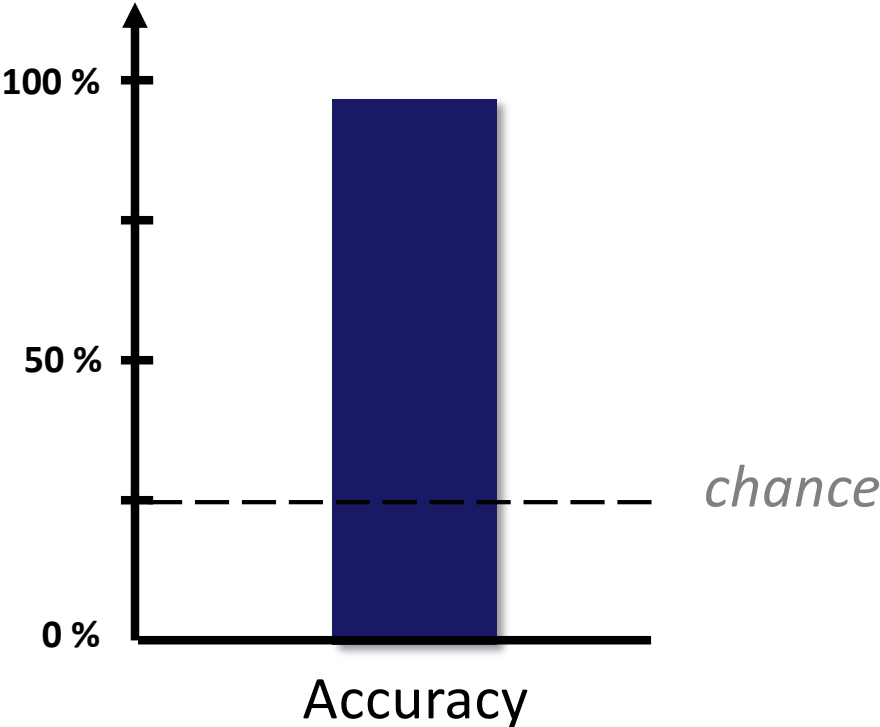
Searchlight



A value per searchlight,  
i.e. a map of values



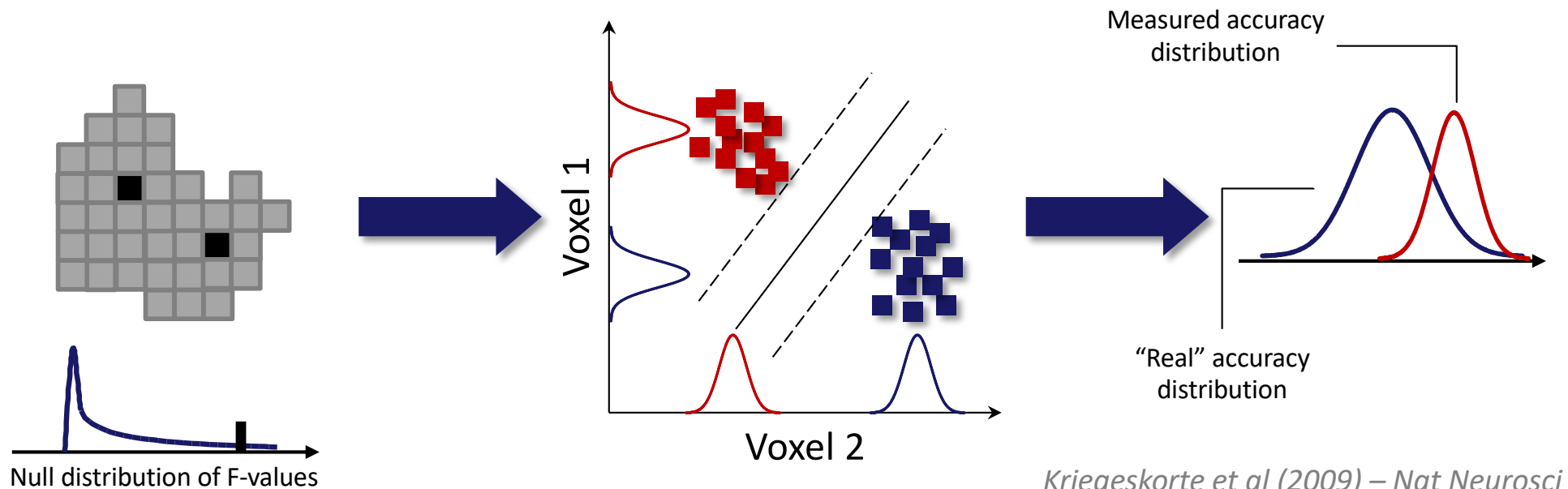
# Great Finding?



# Non-independence and Double Dipping

For classification: Information about class membership leaks from training set to test set

Example: Voxel selection prior to classification that is (1) based on label (red vs. blue) and (2) uses **all data**



# Milestones of MVPA

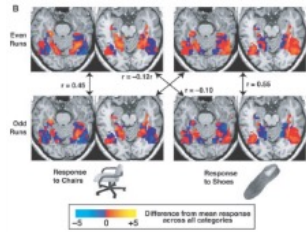
Edelman et al (1998)



1998

“first” MVPA study

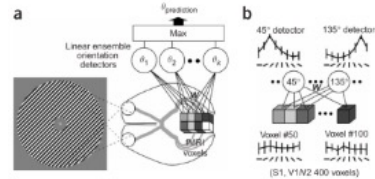
Haxby et al (2001)



2001

first multivariate decoding study

Kamitani & Tong (2005)  
Haynes & Rees (2005)



2005

popularization of multivariate decoding

searchlight approach

Kriegeskorte et al (2006)

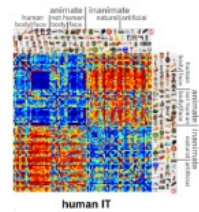


2006

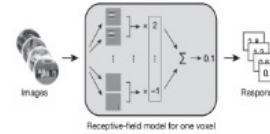
representational similarity analysis

model-based encoding methods

Kriegeskorte et al (2008)

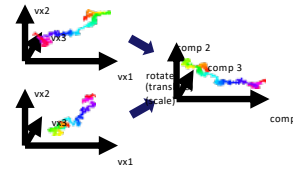


Kay & Gallant (2008)



2008

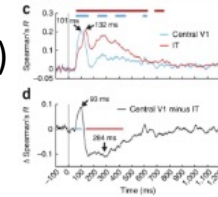
Haxby et al (2011)



2011

hyperalignment

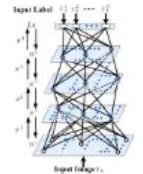
Cichy et al (2014)



2014

combination of fMRI and MEG using RSA

e.g. Di Carlo

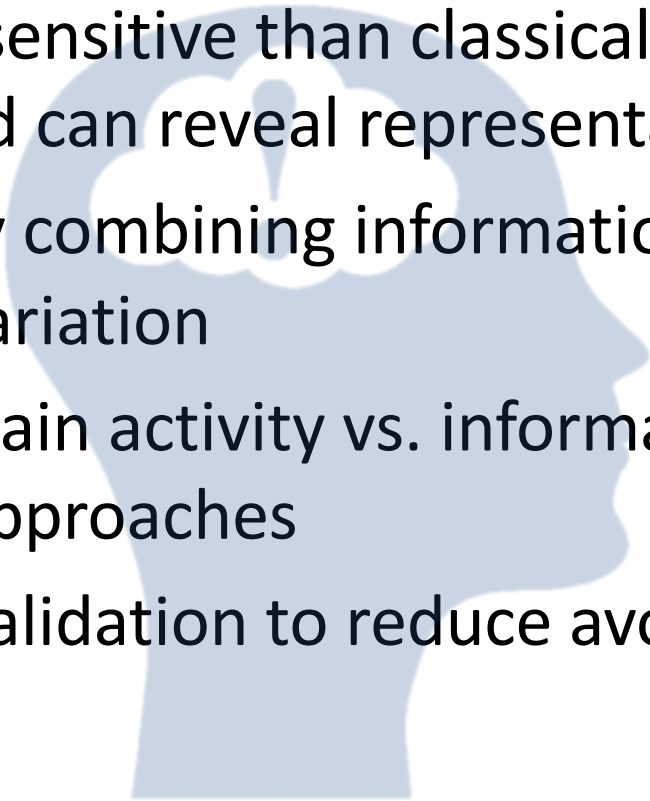


2015/2016

Demonstration of homologies in feed-forward architecture btw artificial neural networks and visual cortex



# Summary

- MVPA is more sensitive than classical univariate approaches and can reveal representational content
  - MVPA works by combining information across voxels and using their covariation
  - Investigating brain activity vs. informational content are two different approaches
  - We use cross-validation to reduce avoid bias from overfitting
- 

# The Decoding Toolbox

- Fast and easy to use MVPA software package in Matlab (for Python, we recommend PyMVPA, Scikit-Learn, and MNE Python)
- Provides searchlight, ROI and wholebrain analyses
- Comes with a wide range of options, classifiers and similarity analysis
- Runs with SPM and AFNI



## Command Window

```
f> >> decoding_example_afni('searchlight', 'Numbers', 'Letters', '/misc/data/study/res*.BRIK', '/misc/data/decoding', 4);
```

```
decoding_example_afni(decoding_type, labelname1, labelname2, beta_loc, output_dir, radius, cfg)
```

[More Help...](#)

<https://sites.google.com/site/tdddecodingtoolbox/>

Hebart MN\*, Grgeren K\*, Haynes JD (2015). The Decoding Toolbox (TDT): A versatile software package for multivariate analyses of functional imaging data. *Front. Neuroinform.* 8:88.



# Thank you for your attention



## Suggested Readings

### Beginners

Tong & Pratte (2012) – Decoding patterns of human brain activity

Haxby et al (2014) – Decoding neural representational spaces

**Haynes (2015) – A primer on pattern-based approaches**

### More Advanced

Pereira et al (2009) – Machine learning classifiers and fMRI: a tutorial

**Hebart & Baker (2017) – Deconstructing multivariate decoding**

### Representational models

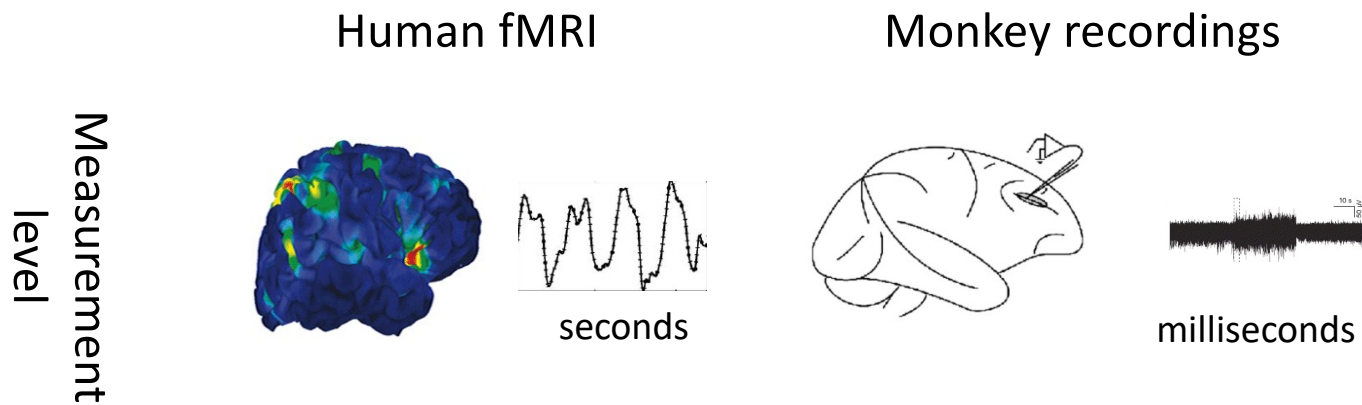
**Kriegeskorte & Kievit (2013) – Representational geometry**

Diedrichsen & Kriegeskorte (2017) – Representational models: A common framework for understanding encoding, pattern-component, and representational-similarity analysis



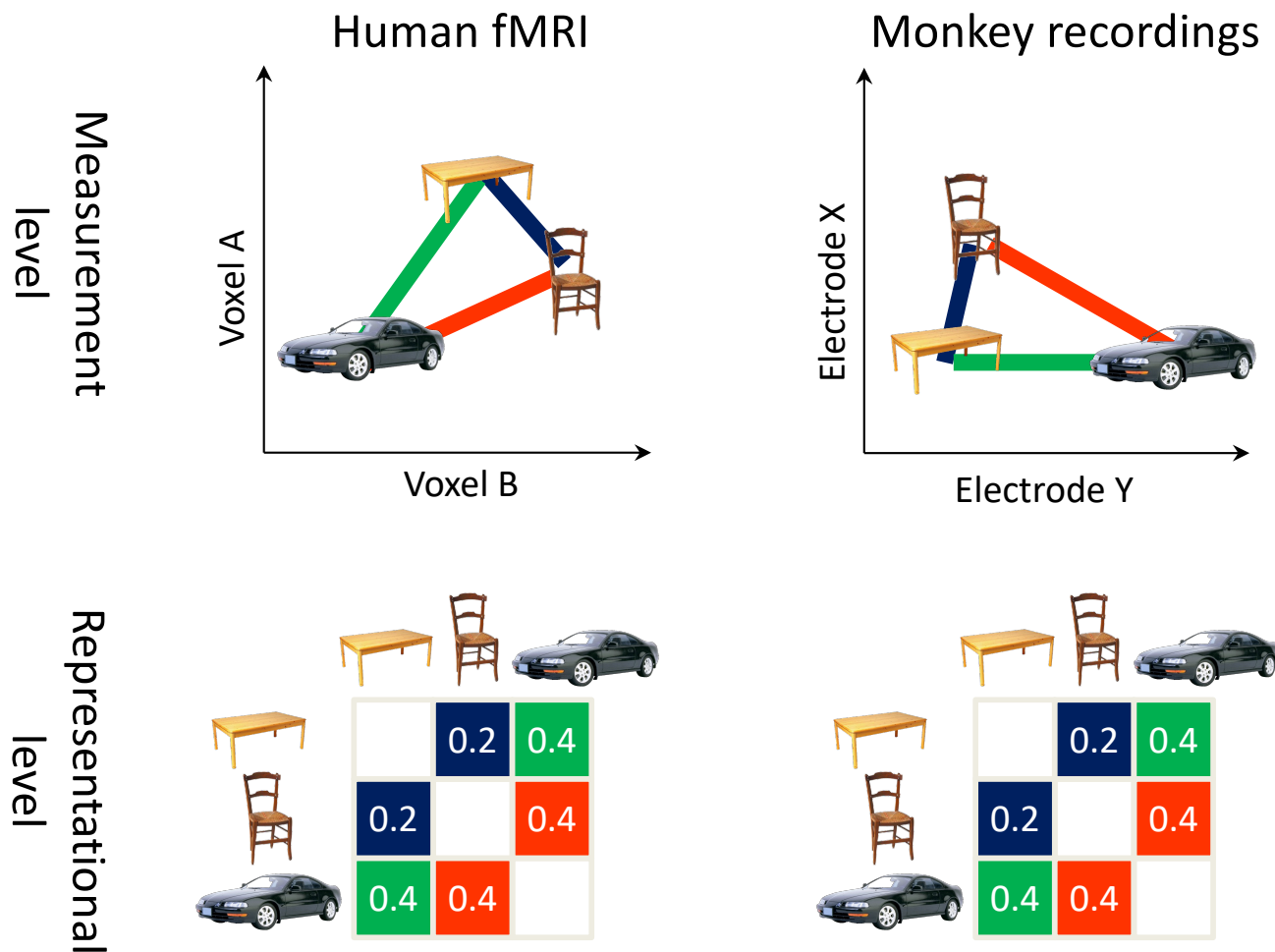
# More Recent Developments

## Idea of a representational geometry



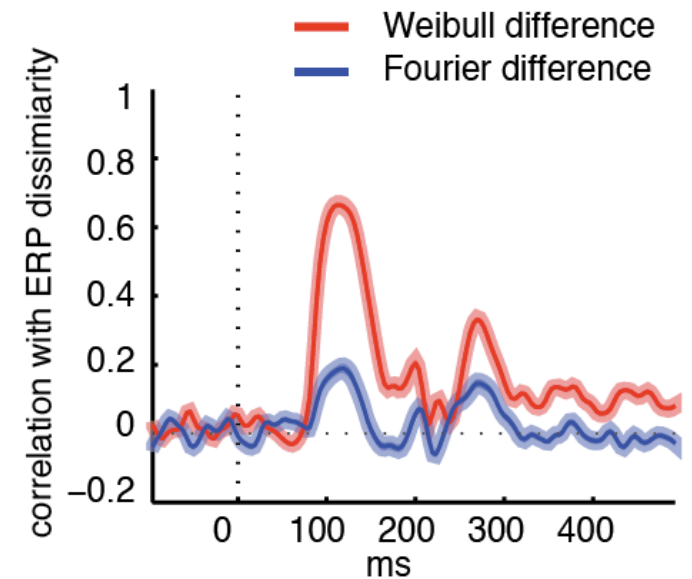
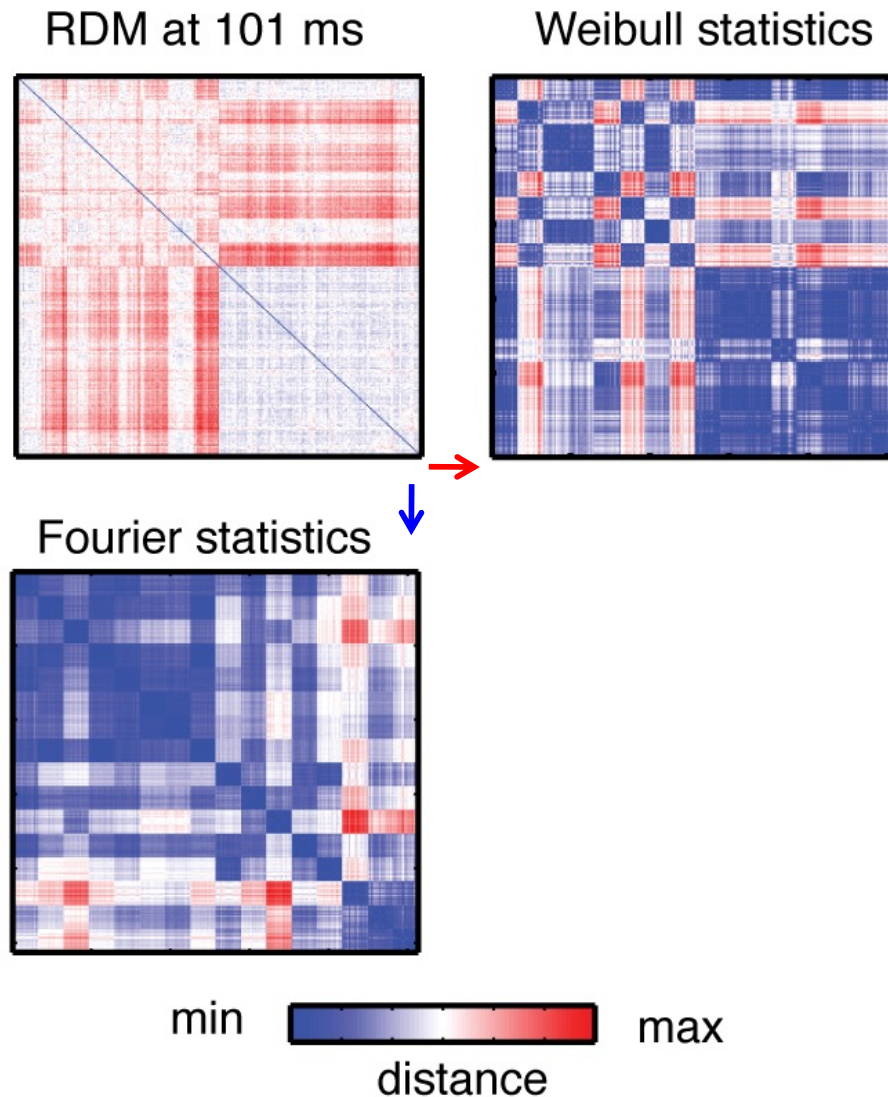
# More Recent Developments

## Idea of a representational geometry





# EEG-based Model Comparison



# Hyperalignment

- Brings subjects functionally in common space
- Allows predicting one brain from another

