



Multivariate Pattern Analysis and Brain Decoding

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“Let’s try Cognitive Pattern Recognition”

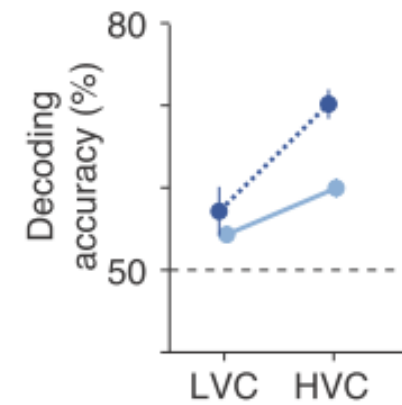




Neural Decoding of Visual Imagery During Sleep

T. Horikawa,^{1,2} M. Tamaki,^{1*} Y. Miyawaki,^{3,1†} Y. Kamitani^{1,2‡}

www.sciencemag.org SCIENCE VOL 340 3 MAY 2013

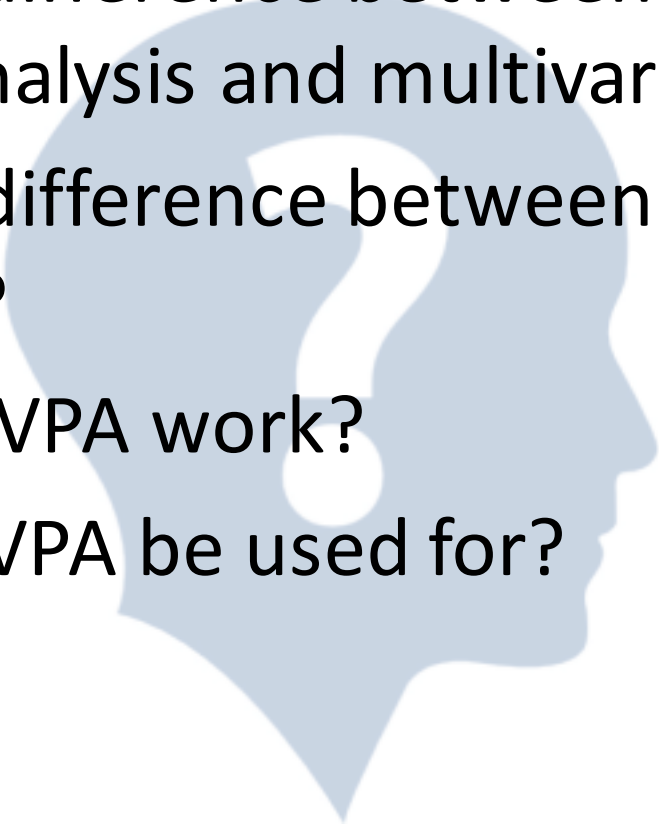


What is Multivariate Pattern Analysis?

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

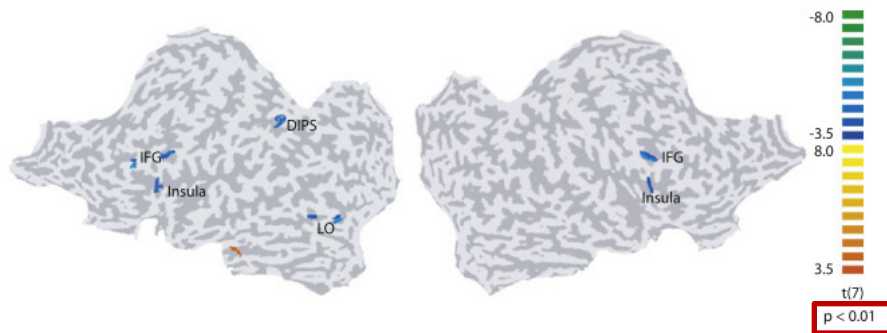
- What is the difference between a “classical” brain data analysis and multivariate decoding?
 - What is the difference between activity and information?
 - How does MVPA work?
 - What can MVPA be used for?
- 

Why Multivariate Pattern Analysis?

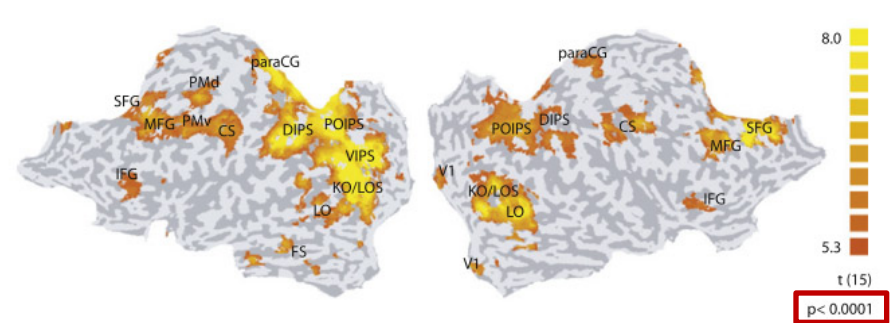
1. Higher sensitivity compared to „normal“ univariate analyses

Example: Representation of perceptual choices

classical univariate



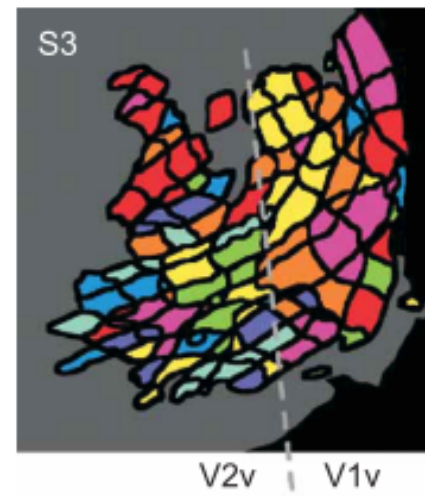
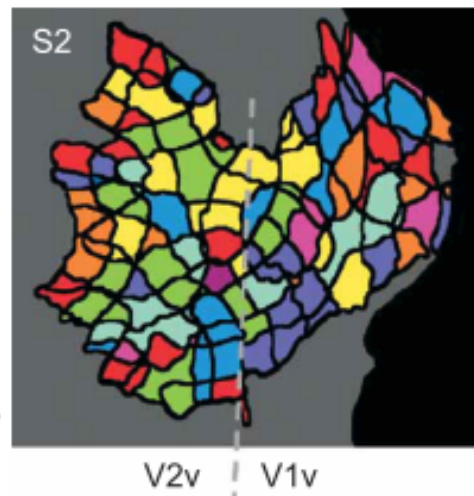
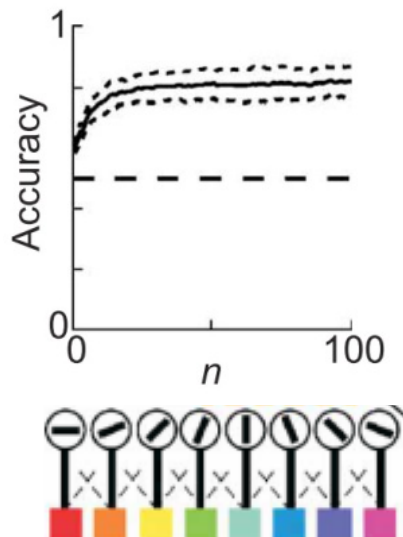
multivariate



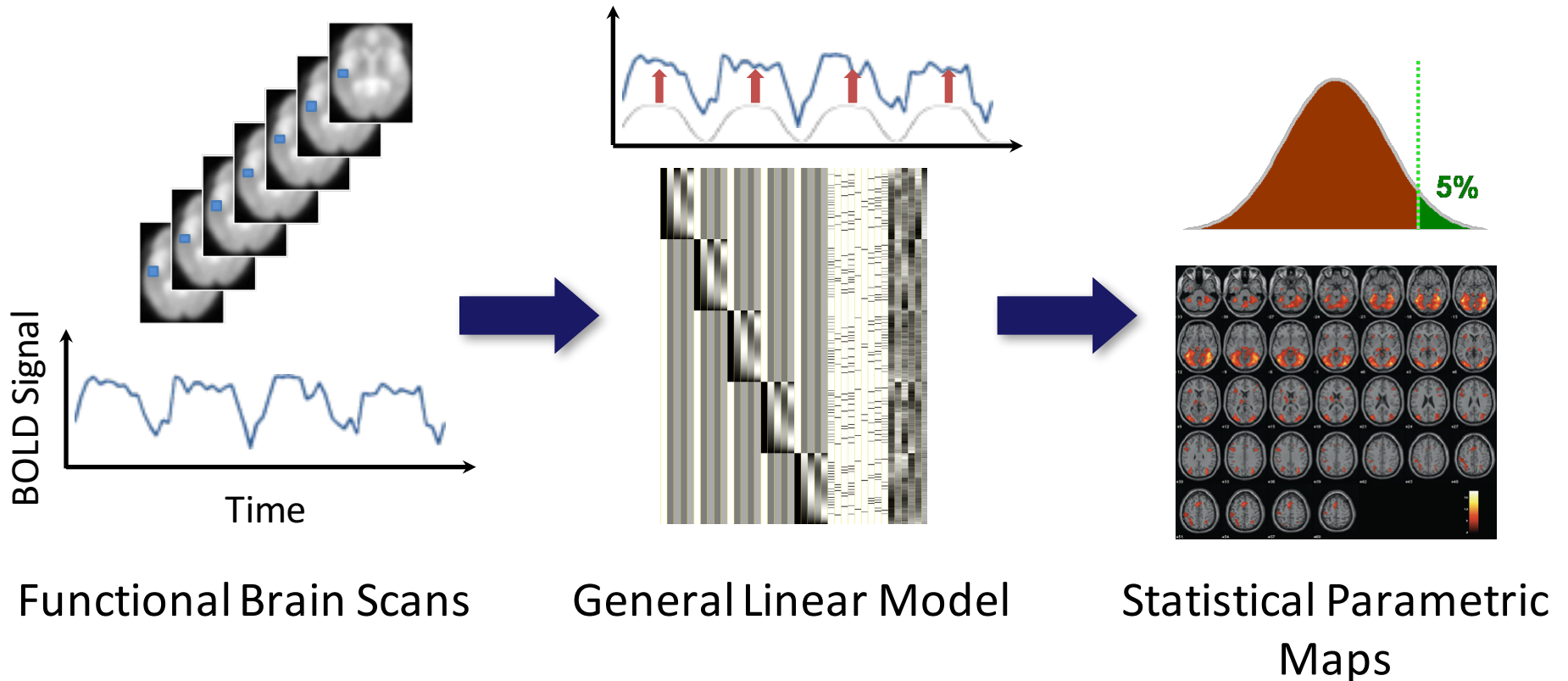
Why Multivariate Pattern Analysis?

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

Example: Representation of orientations in visual cortex



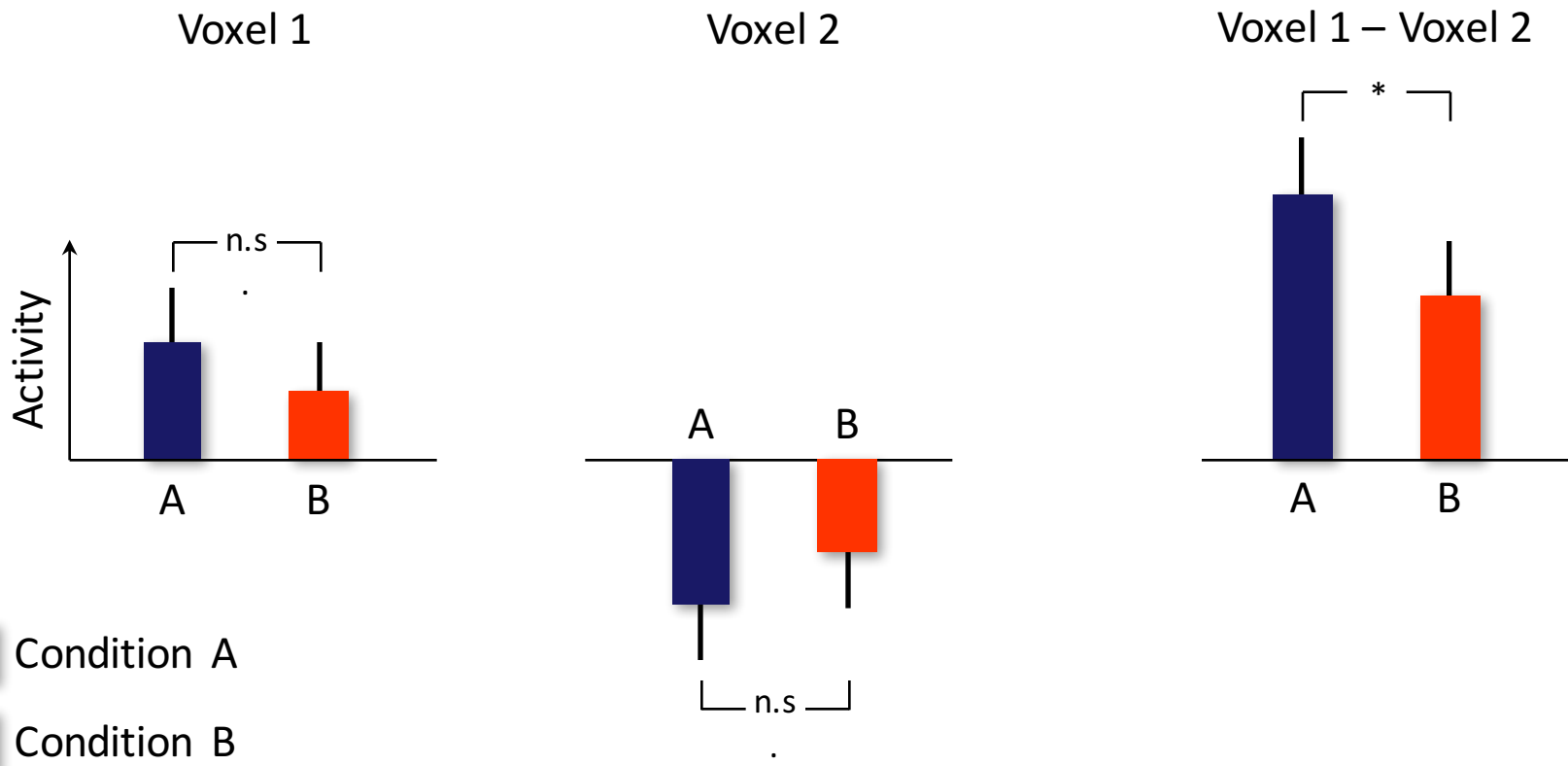
“Classical” Analysis: Mass-Univariate



Each voxel is treated separately, only statistical correction across voxels

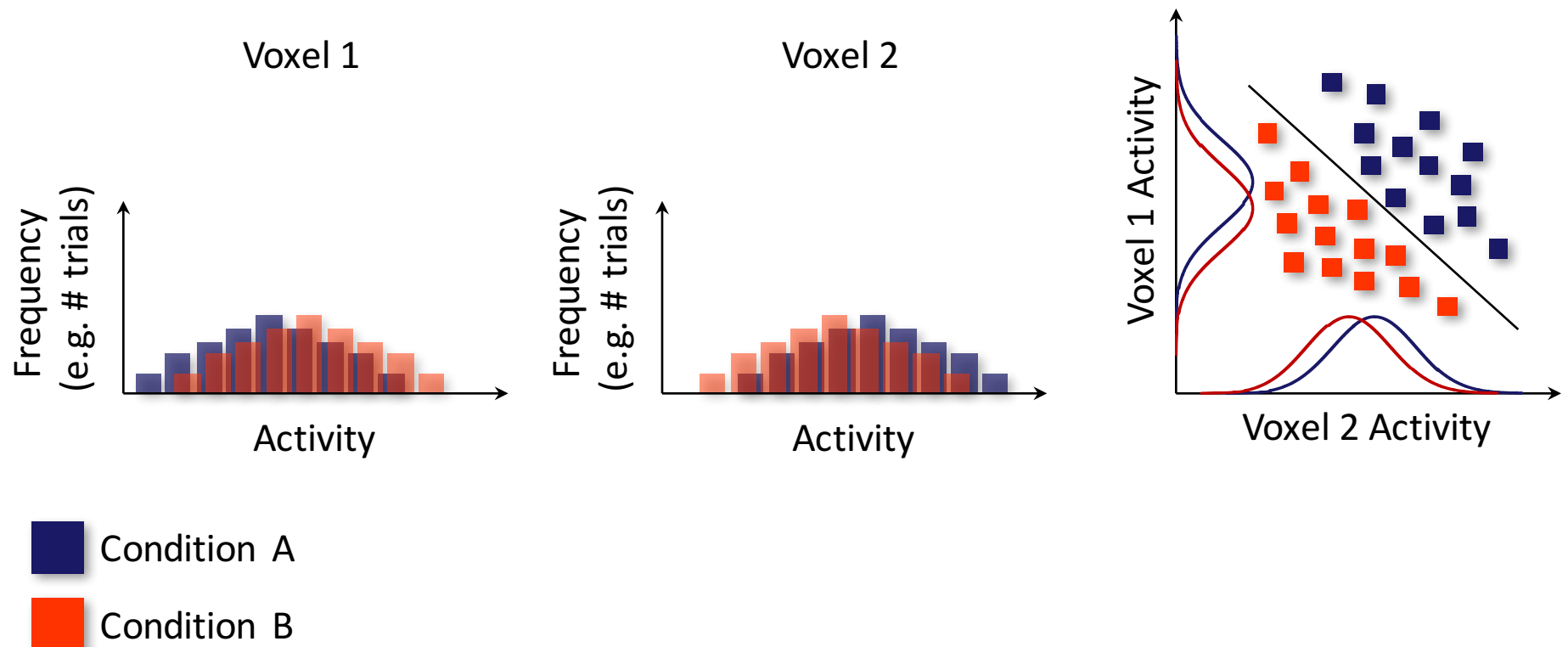
How Does Multivariate Pattern Analysis Work?

1. Information of multiple voxels can be combined



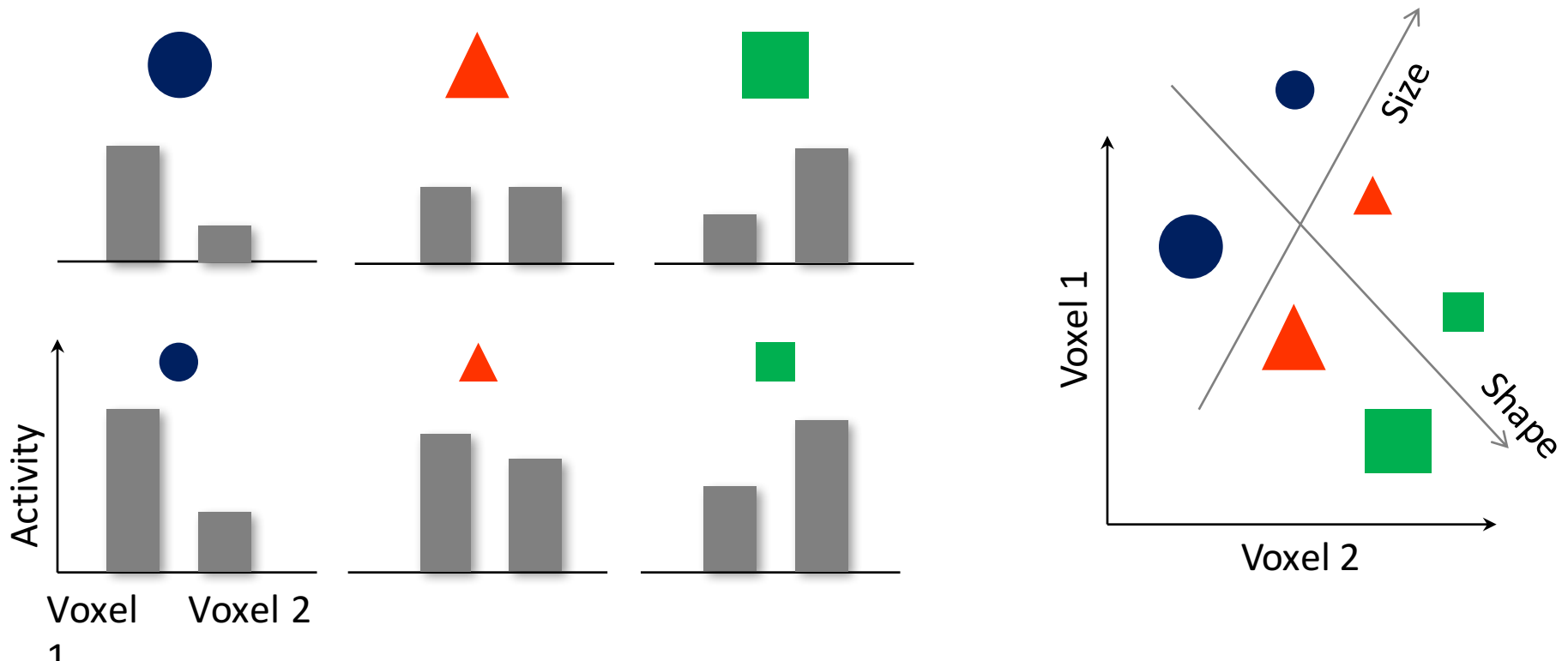
How Does Multivariate Pattern Analysis Work?

2. Covariation of voxel information can be used

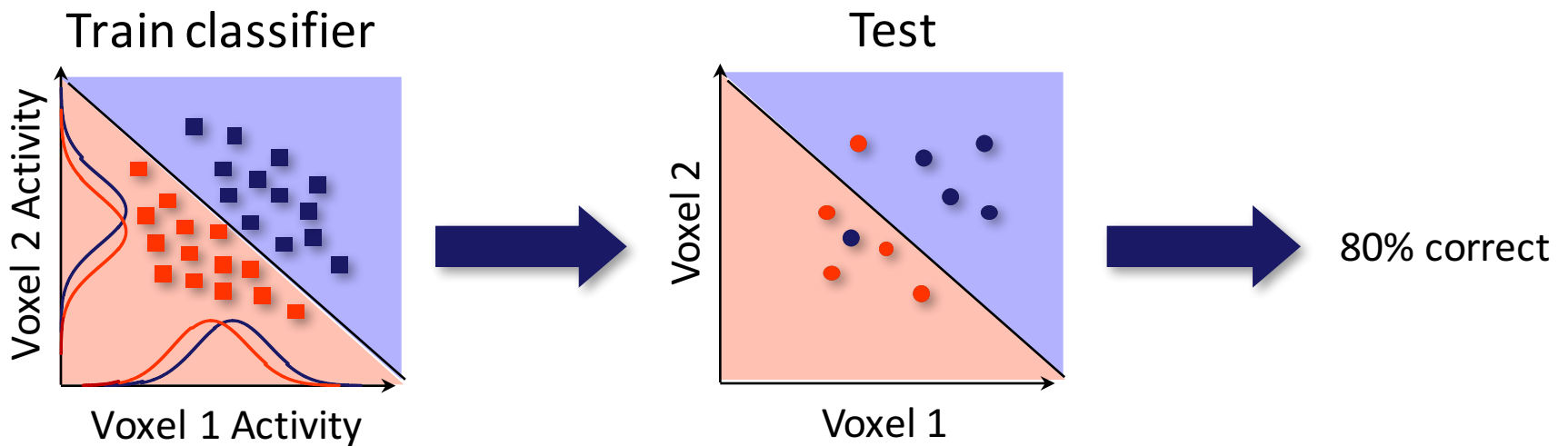
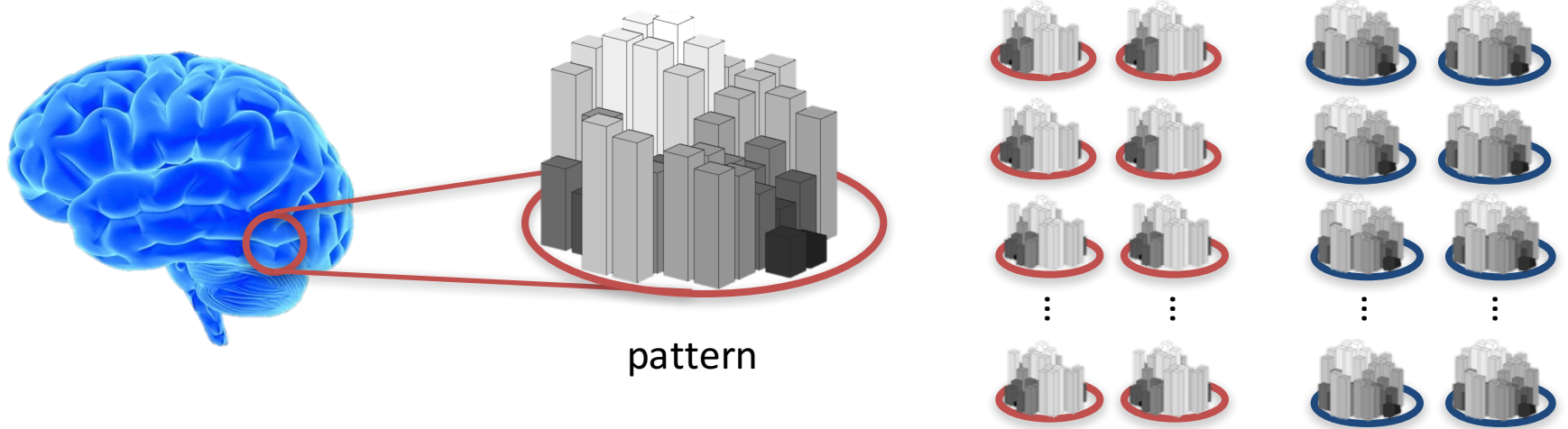


How Does Multivariate Pattern Analysis Work?

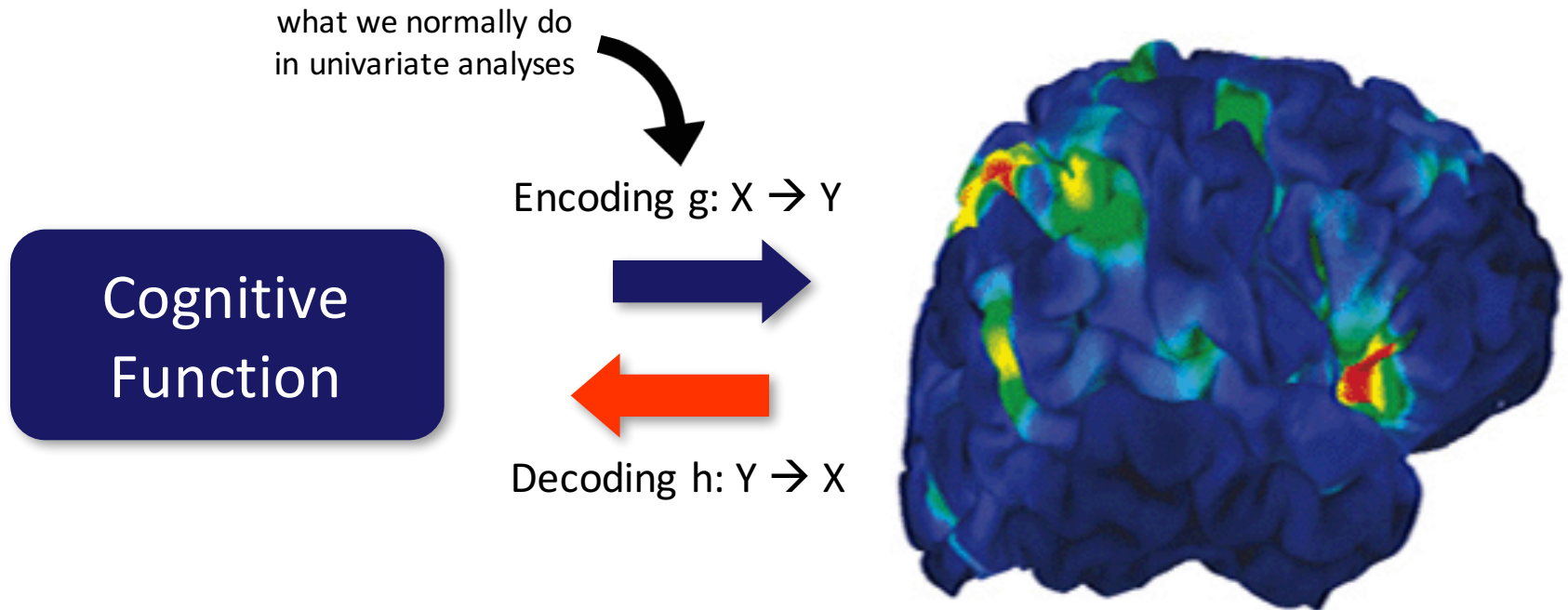
3. Multidimensional representations encoded in distributed patterns of activity can be revealed



Multivariate Decoding



Encoding vs. Decoding



X: Explaining variable

Example: Stimulus, response, cognitive condition

Y: Measured data

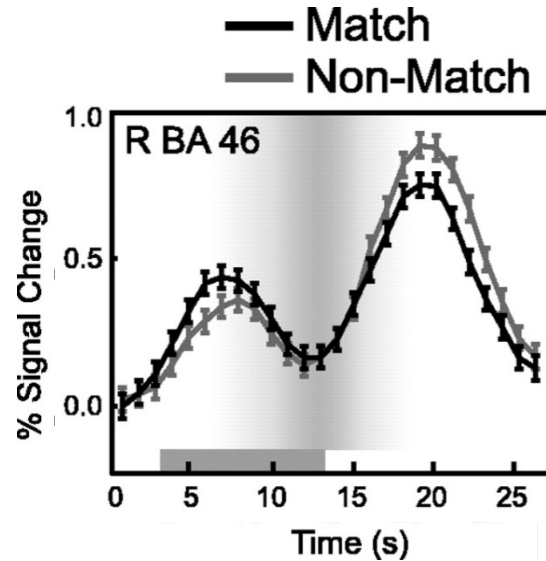
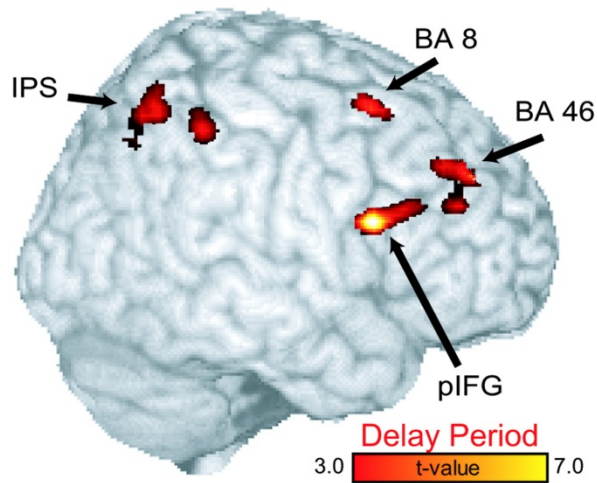
Example: BOLD signal, EEG signal, VBM intensity

Overview Over Analysis Methods

	Encoding	Decoding
univariate	GLM Model-based	Simple Classification
multivariate	MANOVA Similarity Analysis	Multivariate Decoding

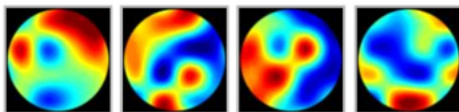
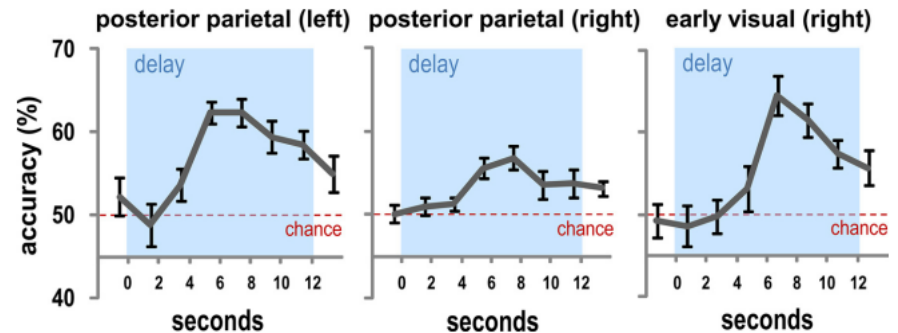
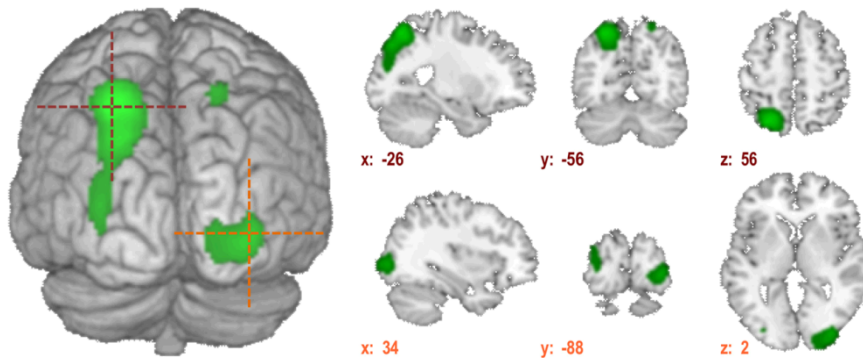
Activity vs. Information

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)



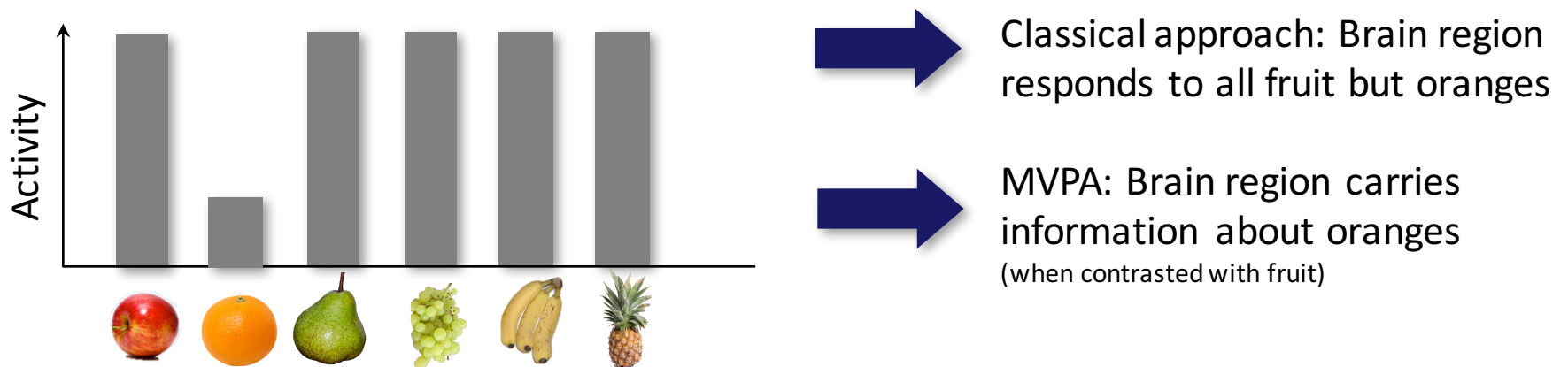
individual sample set

Different Methodological Philosophies

Classical approach: More active = more involved

Multivariate decoding: More distinct = more involved

Thought experiment:



Goals of Decoding

Prediction: Goal is to maximize future correct predictions
→ Any information is useful as long as it increases accuracy



Lie Detection Companies

Quote (not literal) by one company:

“Lie detection using traditional polygraphy is unlawful for screening of employees. Our company measures the brain directly and as such is not limited by these regulations.”

Quote (not literal) by another company:

“Our technology prevents unlawful infiltration at borders, brings criminals into prison, supports law enforcement and fights terrorism.”

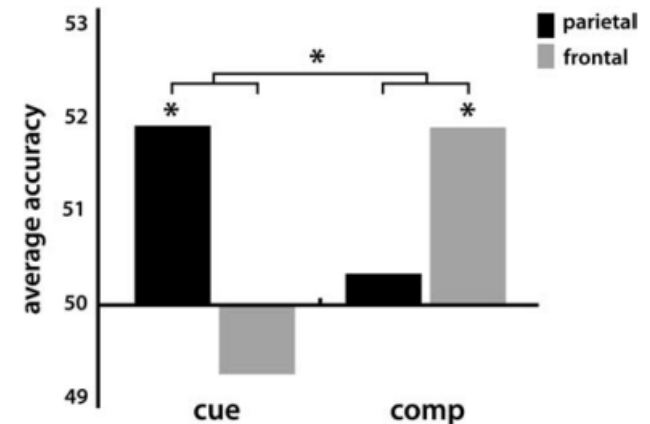
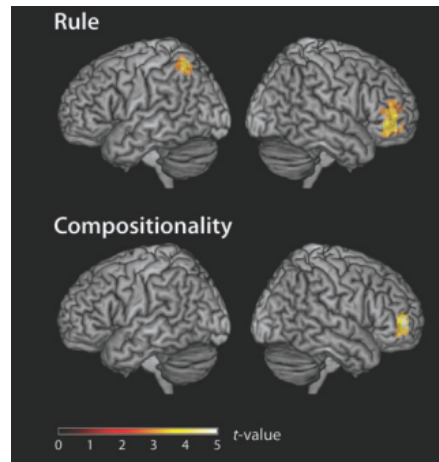
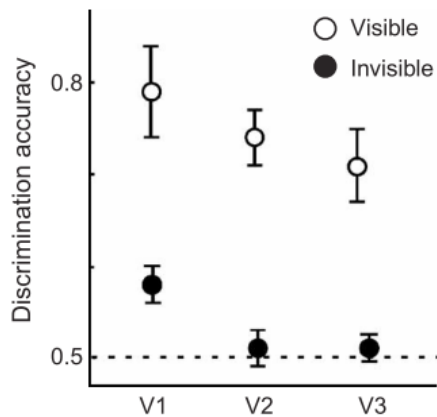
For more information, see: Editorial: Nature Neuroscience 11, 1231 (2008)

Goals of Decoding

Inference: Is there information about XYZ?

→ Sufficient to show above chance accuracy (statistically!)

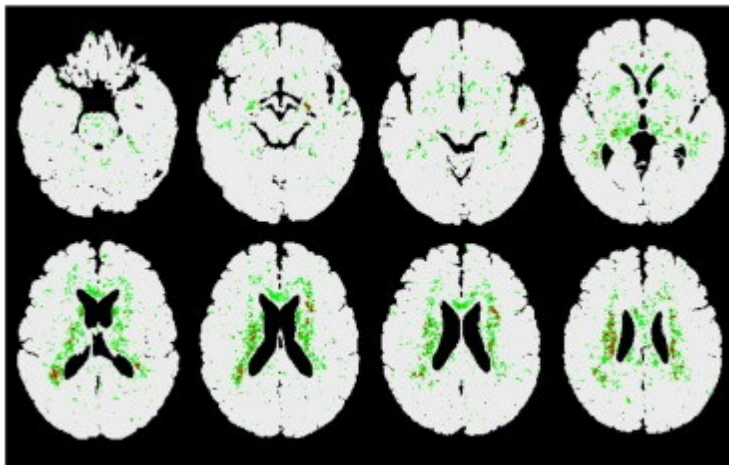
→ Not all information sources ok, need to rule out confounds



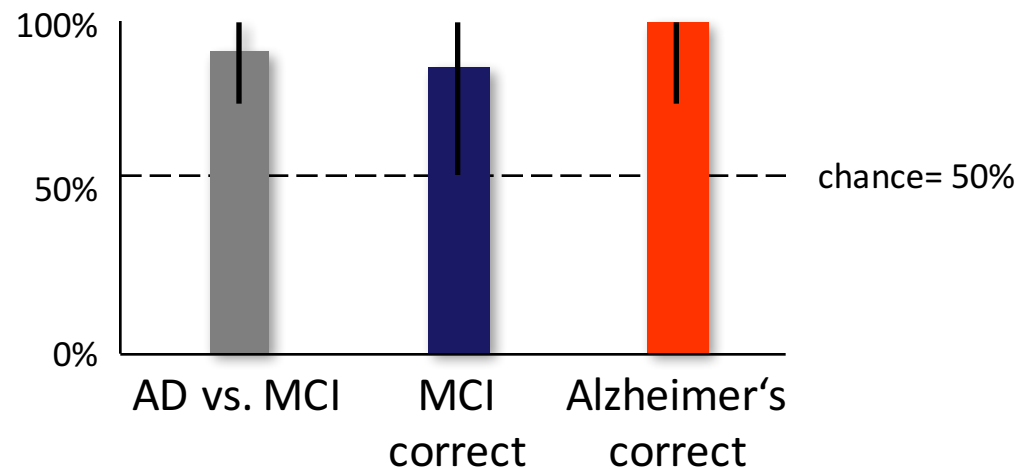
Types of Questions for MVPA

1. Presence of Information

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



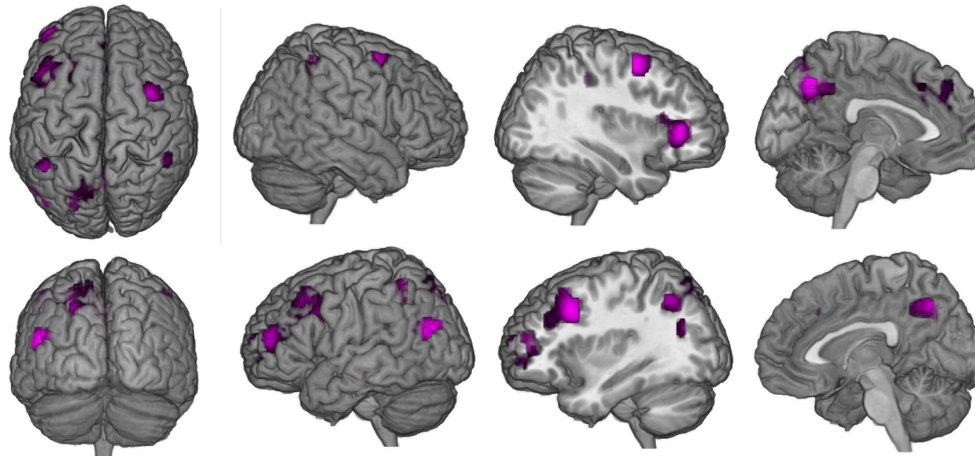
structural data



Types of Questions for MVPA

2. Localization of Information

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

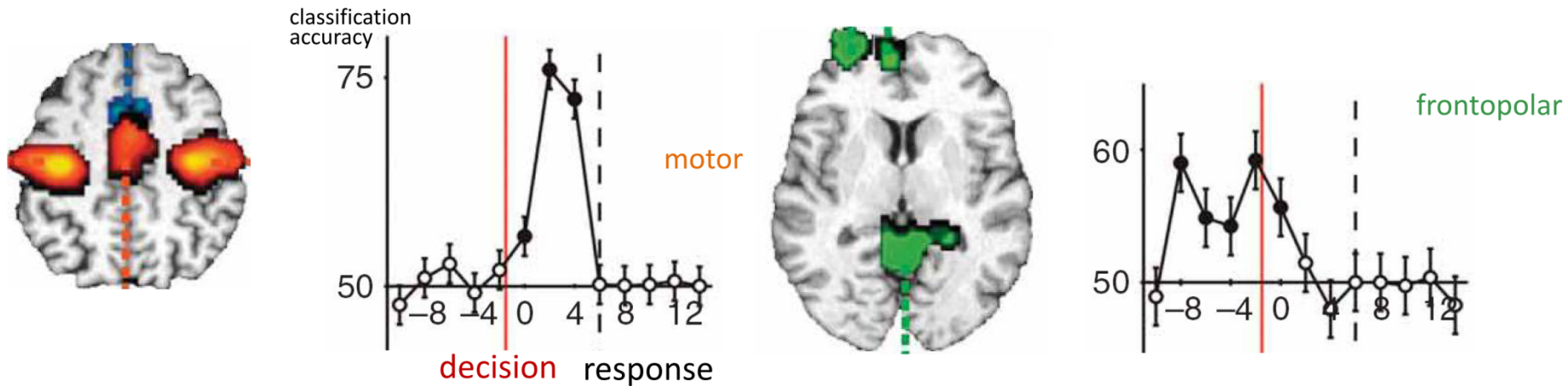


$p < 0.0001$, cluster-corrected FWE $p < 0.05$

Types of Questions for MVPA

3. Time Course of Information

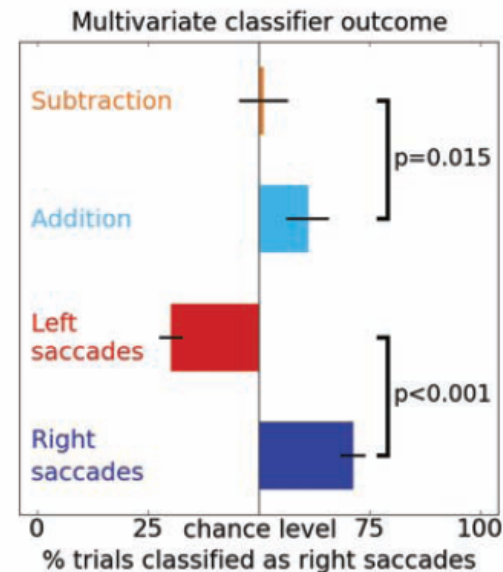
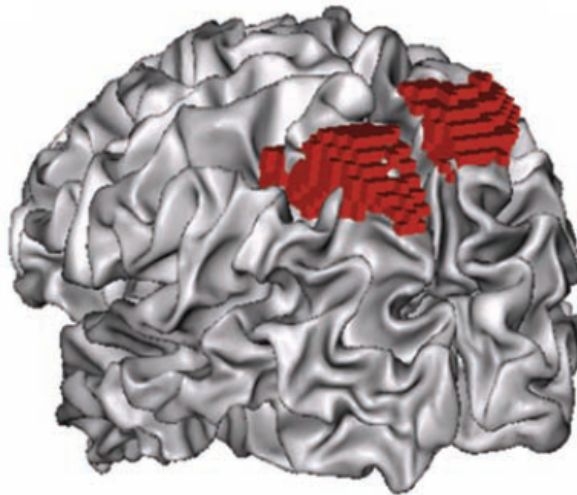
Example: At what time do you find information about “free” decision of a person?



Types of Questions for MVPA

4. Association of Cognitive Functions

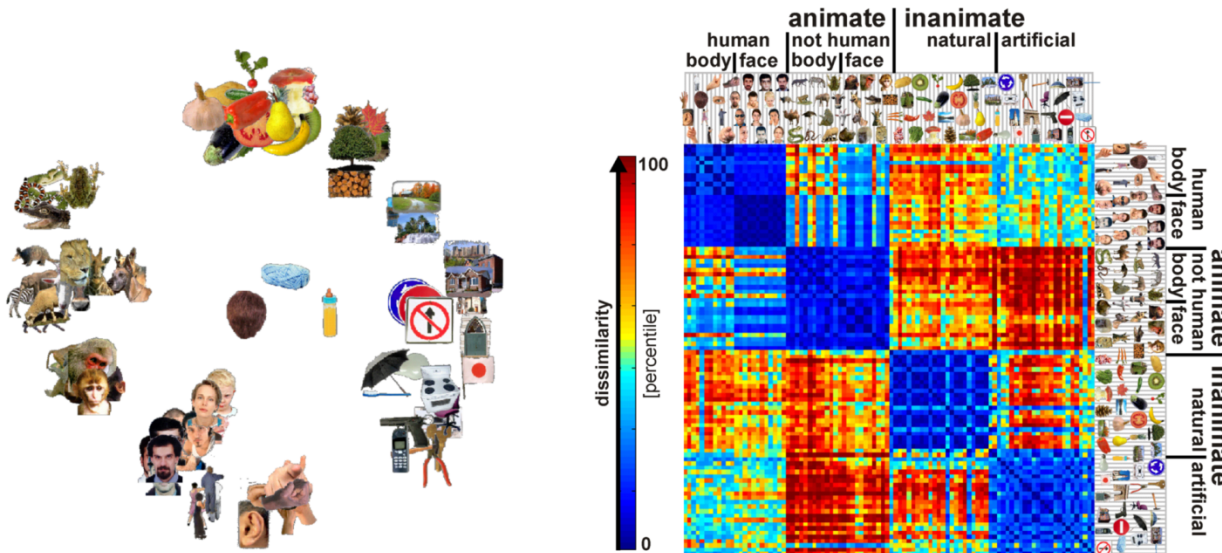
Example: Generalization of eye movements to calculations



Types of Questions for MVPA

5. Characterization of Activation Patterns

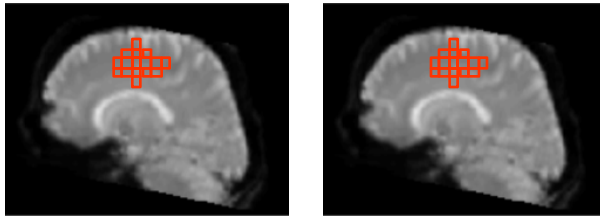
Example: Representational Similarity Analysis



Classification Overview: Example

Choice left  Choice right 

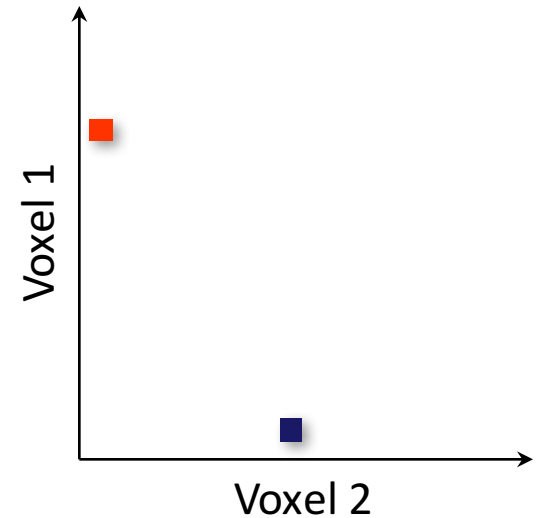
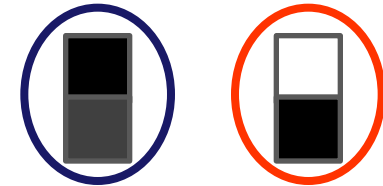
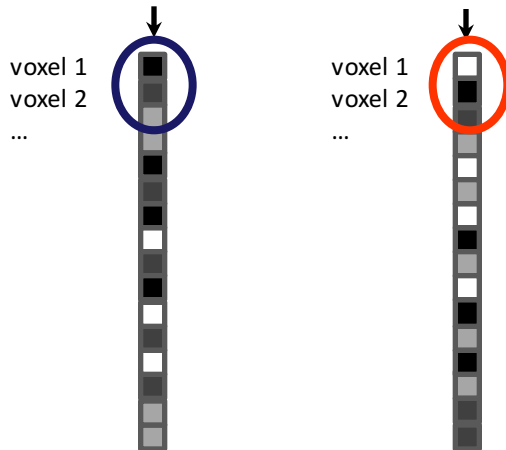
Brain data



Extraction of patterns

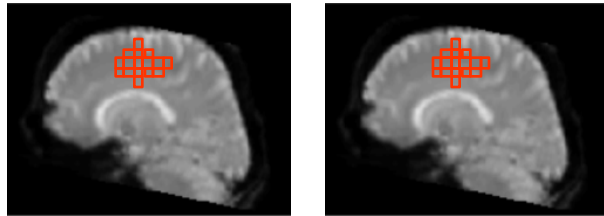


Vectorization



Classification Overview: Example

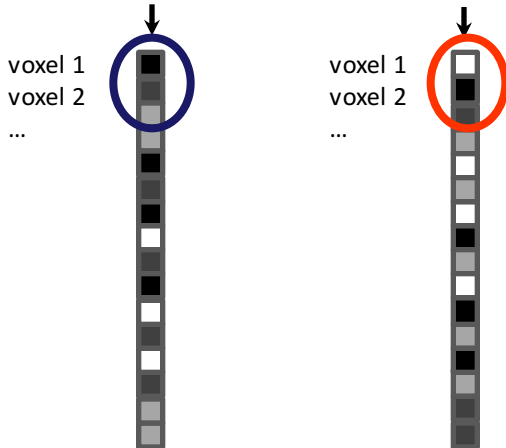
Choice left  Choice right 



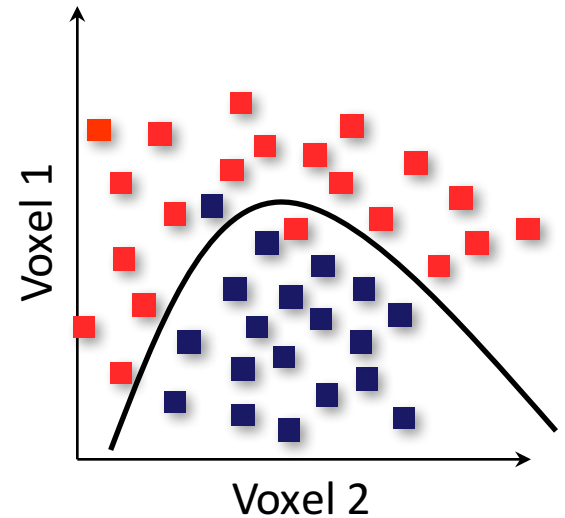
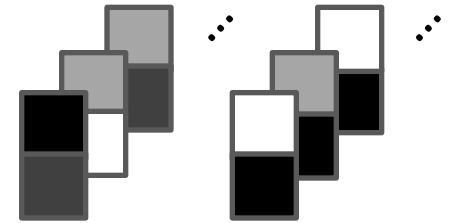
Brain data



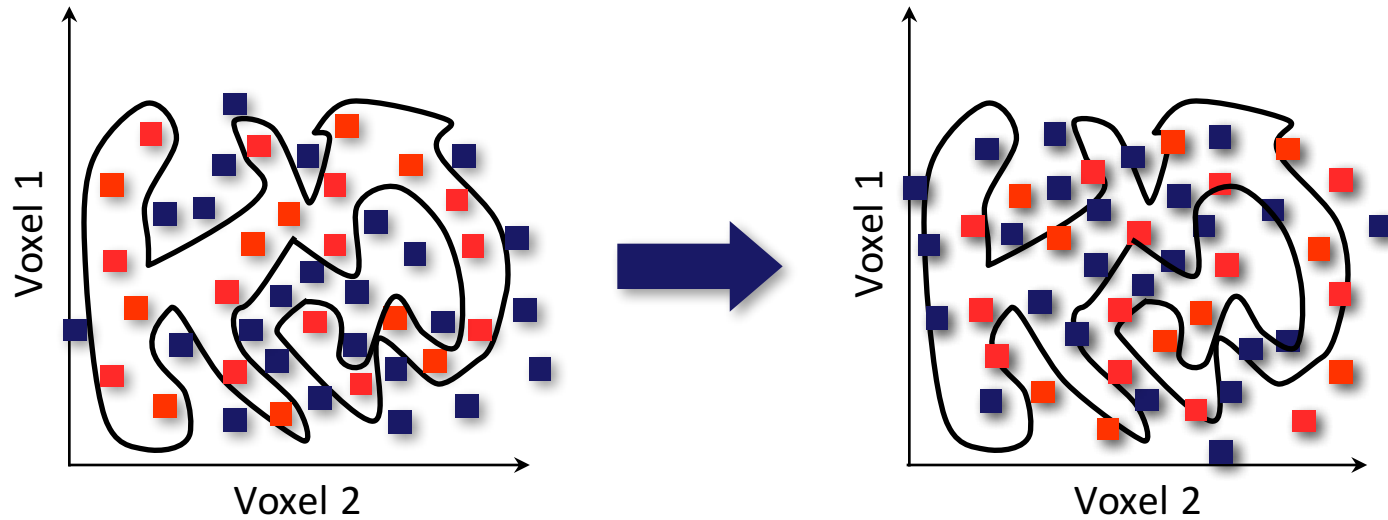
Extraction of patterns



Vectorization



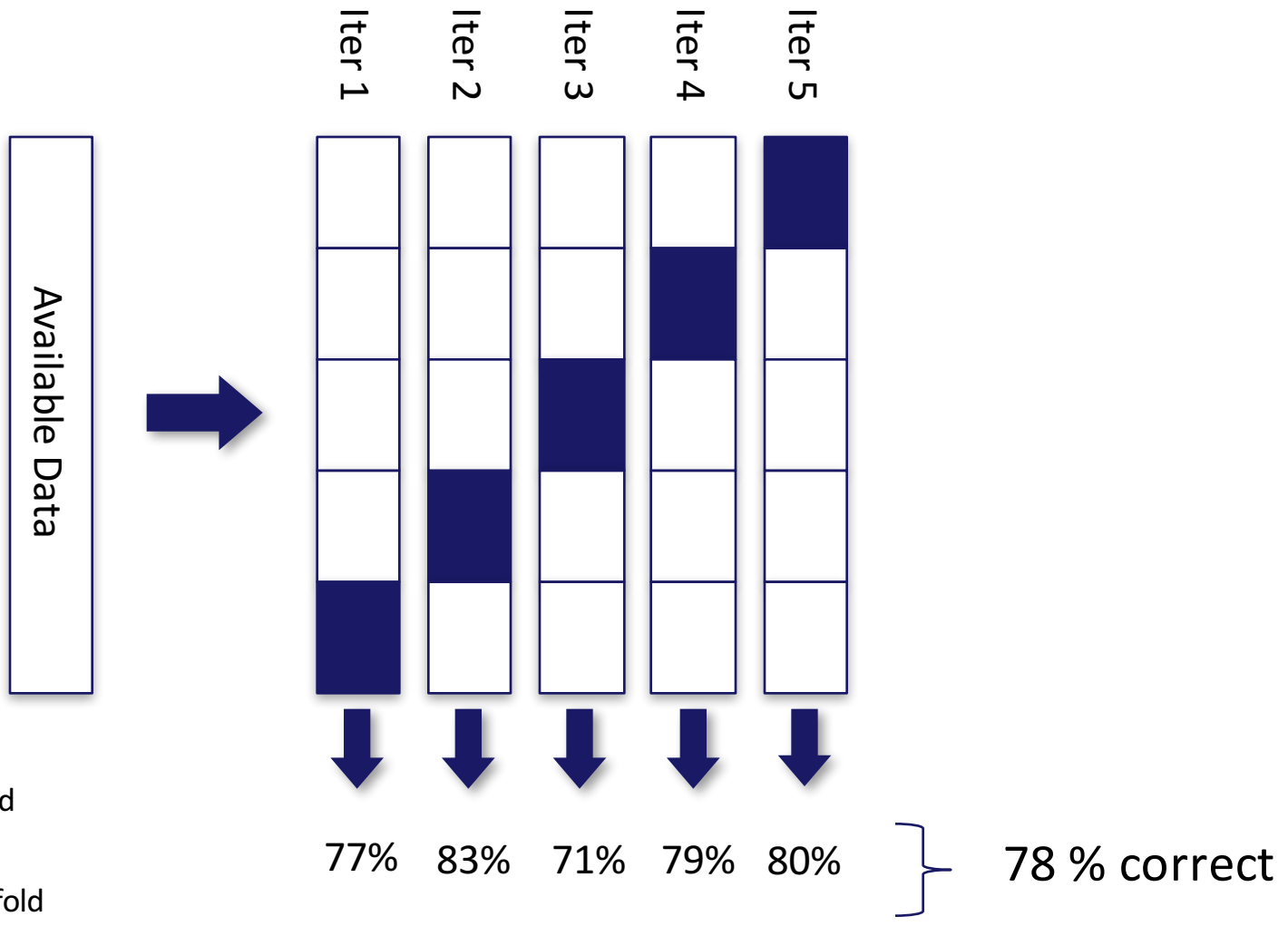
Why Train and Test a Classifier?



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

➡ Way of testing generalization: Training and testing classifier

Cross-validation

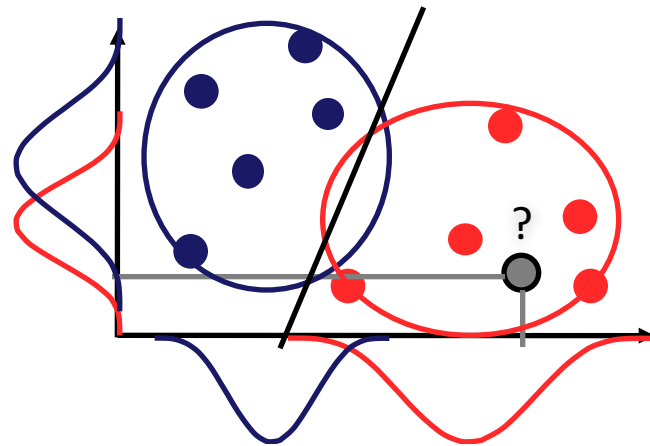


Typical linear classifiers

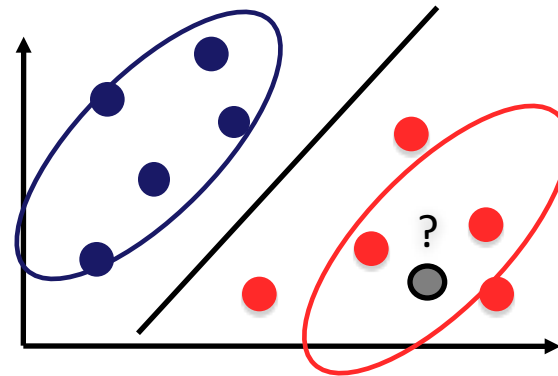
Gaussian Naïve Bayes

Linear Discriminant Analysis

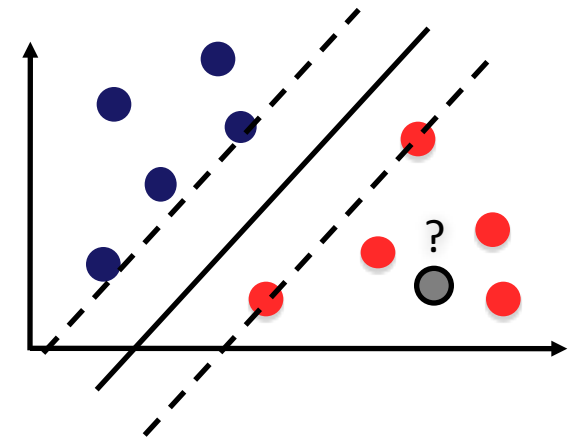
Support Vector Machine



Ignores covariance between voxels



Considers covariance between voxels



Maximizes margin (distance between closest points of different classes)



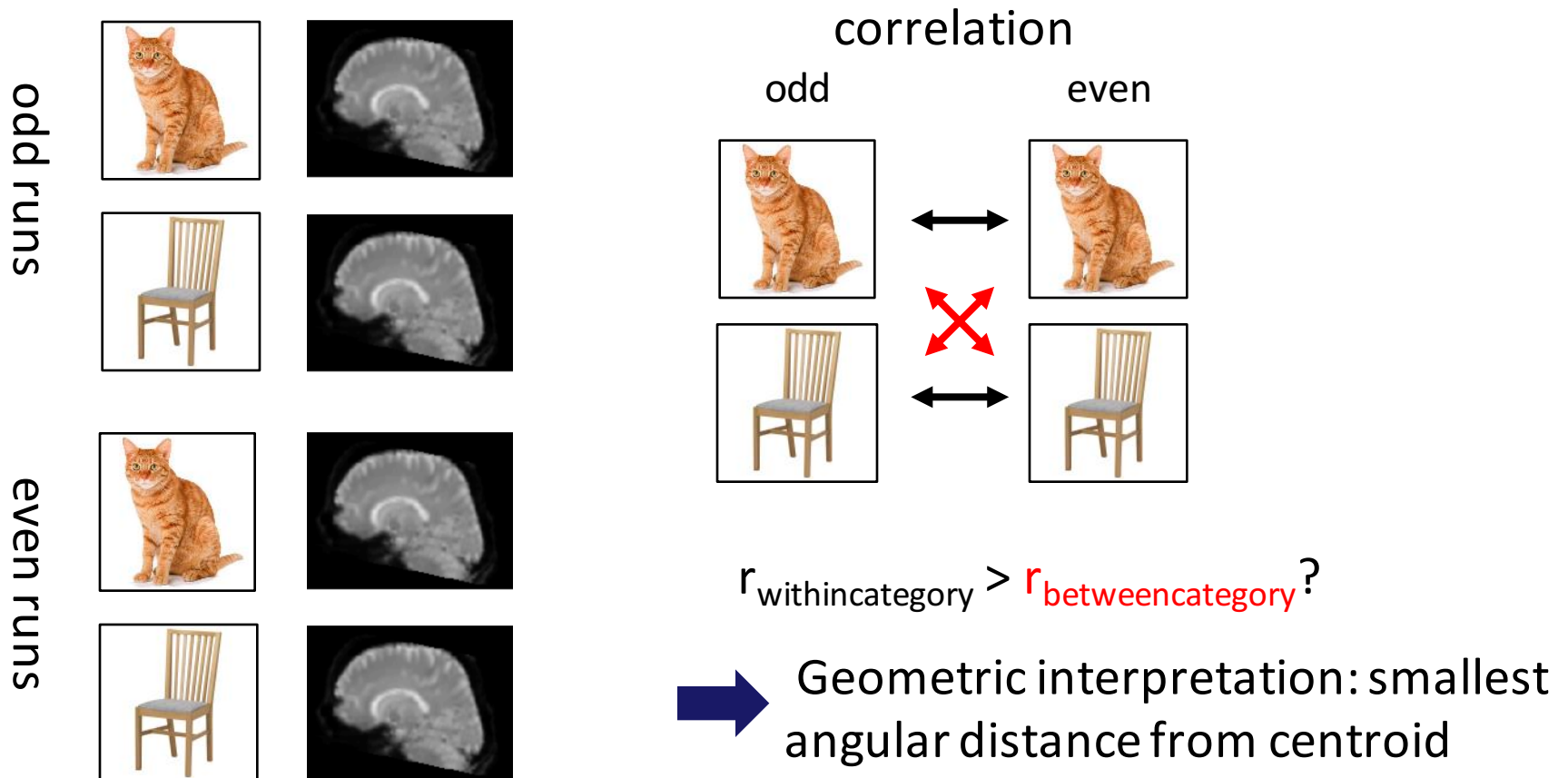
Linear classifiers are the most commonly used classifiers in MVPA



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

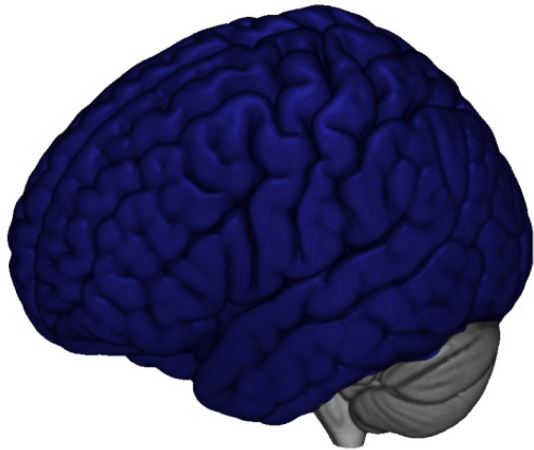
Correlation classifier

Very simple classifier: find maximal pattern correlation

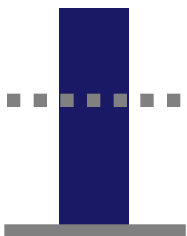


Levels of MVPA Analyses

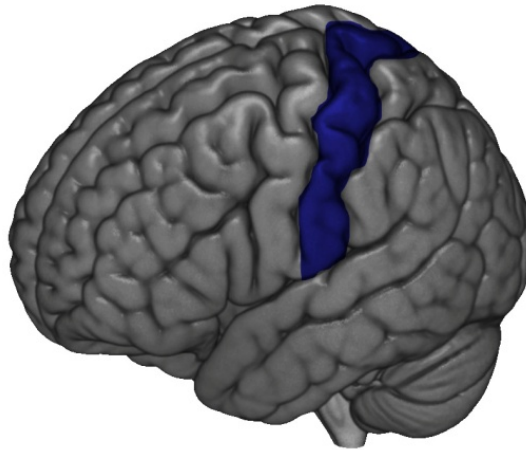
Wholebrain



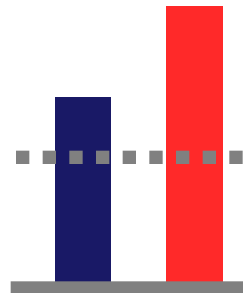
One value per brain



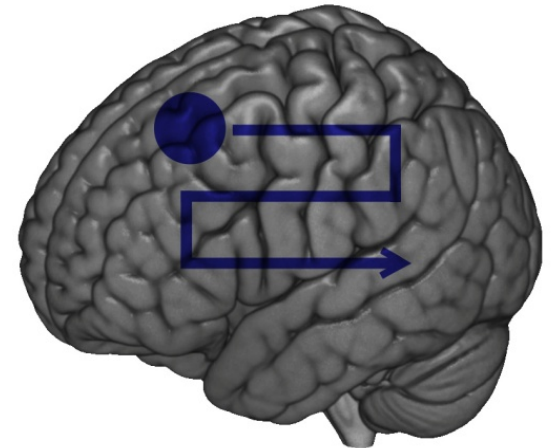
Region of Interest



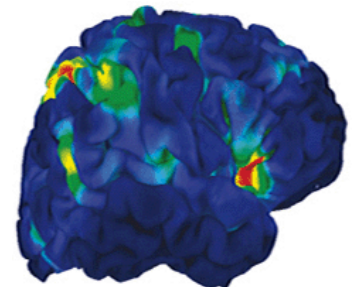
One value per ROI



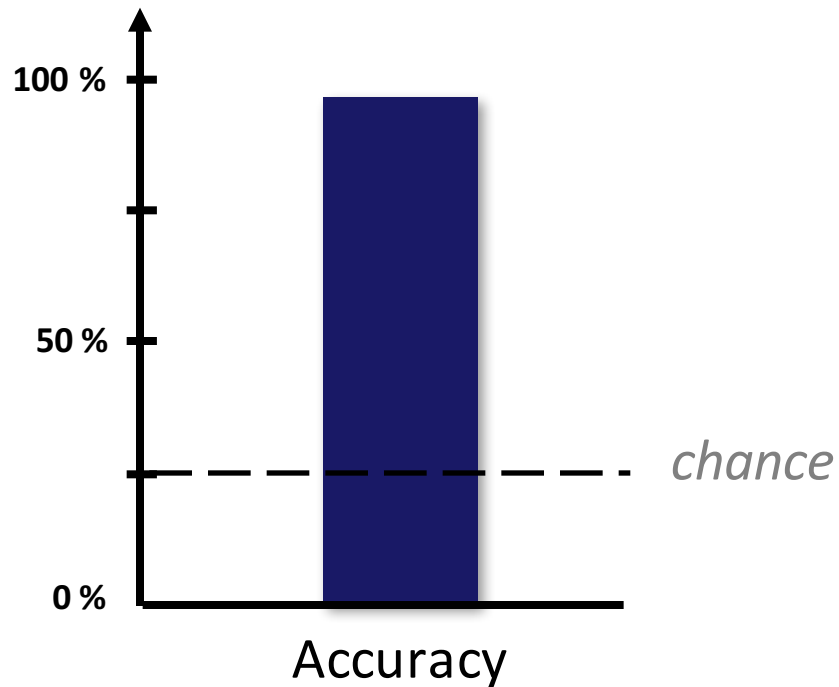
Searchlight



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



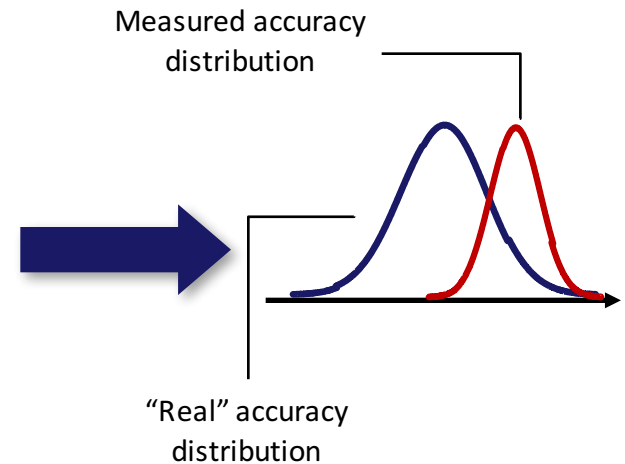
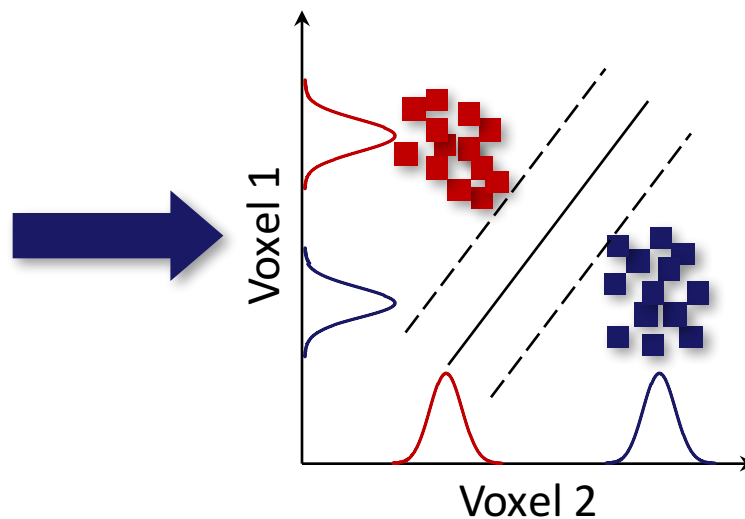
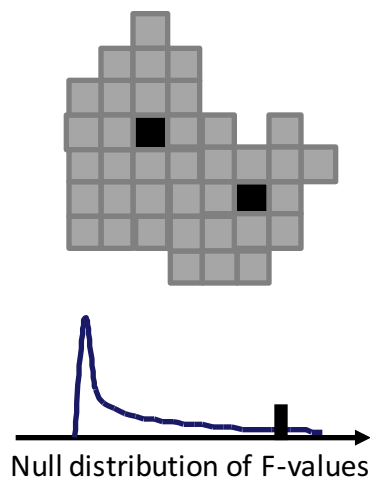
Great Finding?



Non-independence and Double Dipping

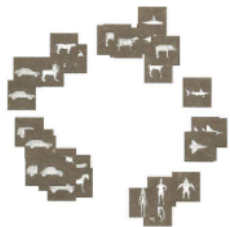
For classification: Information about class membership leaks from training set to test set

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



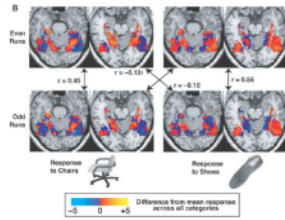
Milestones of MVPA

Edelman et al (1998)



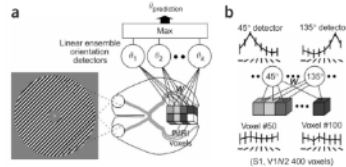
1998

Haxby et al (2001)



2001

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

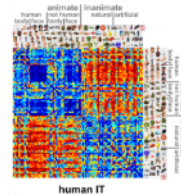


Kriegeskorte et al (2006)

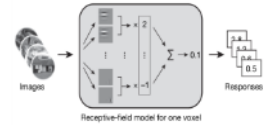


2005 2006

Kriegeskorte et al (2008)

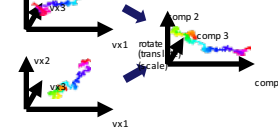


Kay & Gallant (2008)



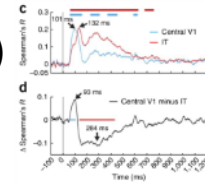
2008

Haxby et al (2011)



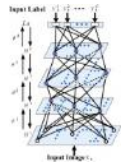
2011

Cichy et al (2014)



2014

e.g. Di Carlo



2015/2016

“first” MVPA study

first multivariate
decoding study

popularization of
multivariate decoding

searchlight approach

representational
similarity
analysis

model-based
encoding methods

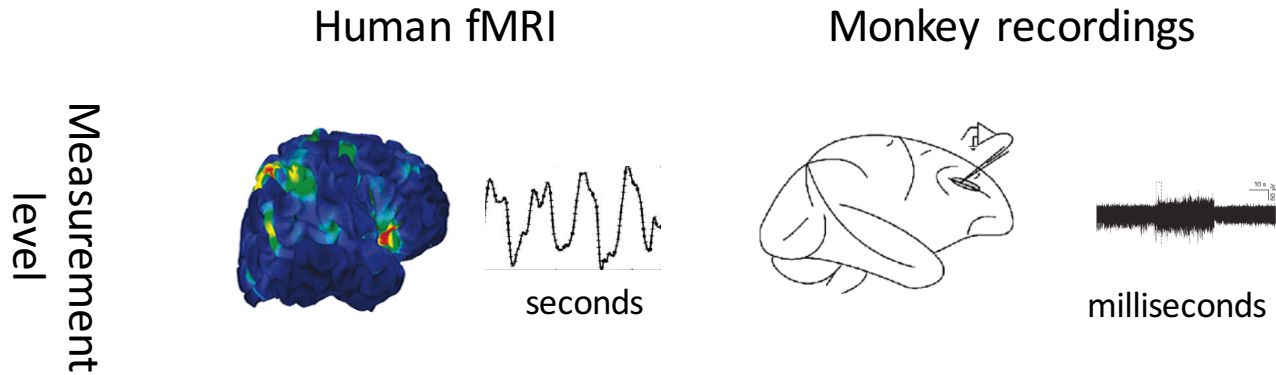
hyperalignment

combination of fMRI
and MEG using RSA

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

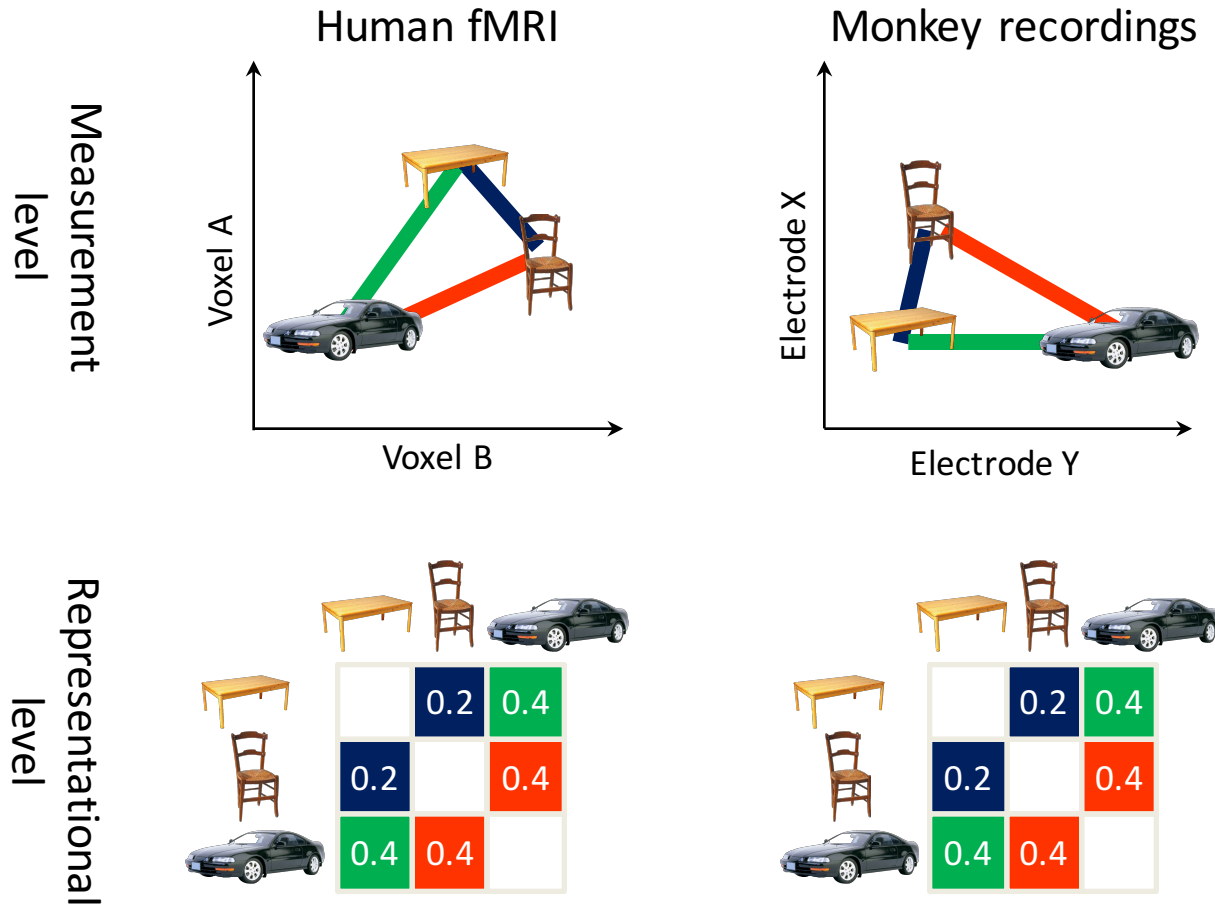
More Recent Developments

Idea of a representational geometry



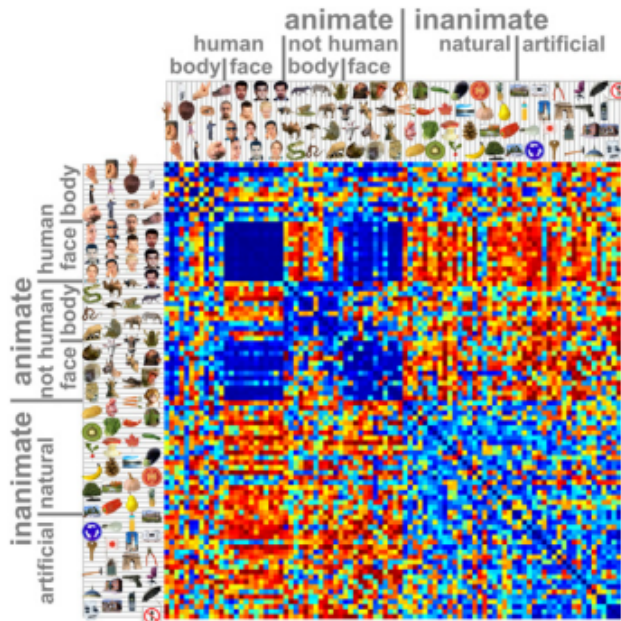
More Recent Developments

Idea of a representational geometry



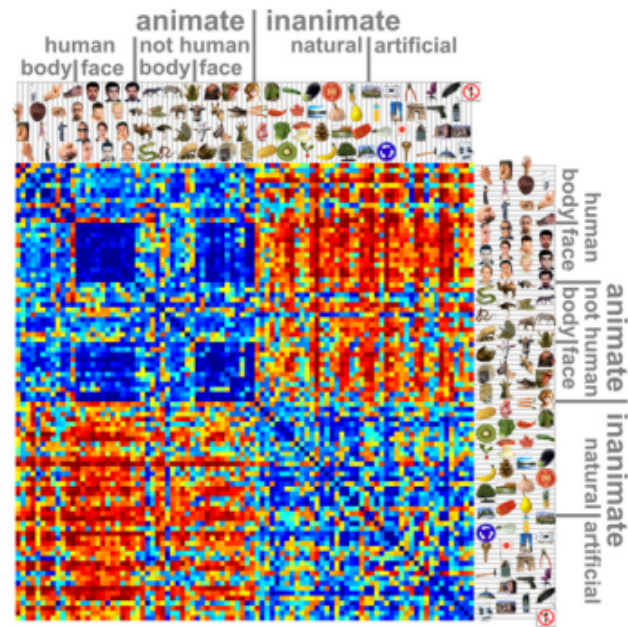
Representational Similarity Analysis

Monkey Dissimilarity Matrix



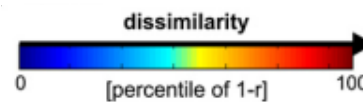
monkey IT

Human Dissimilarity Matrix



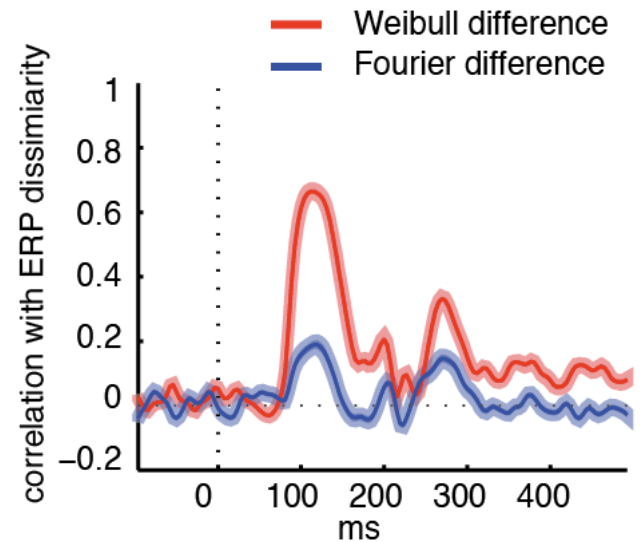
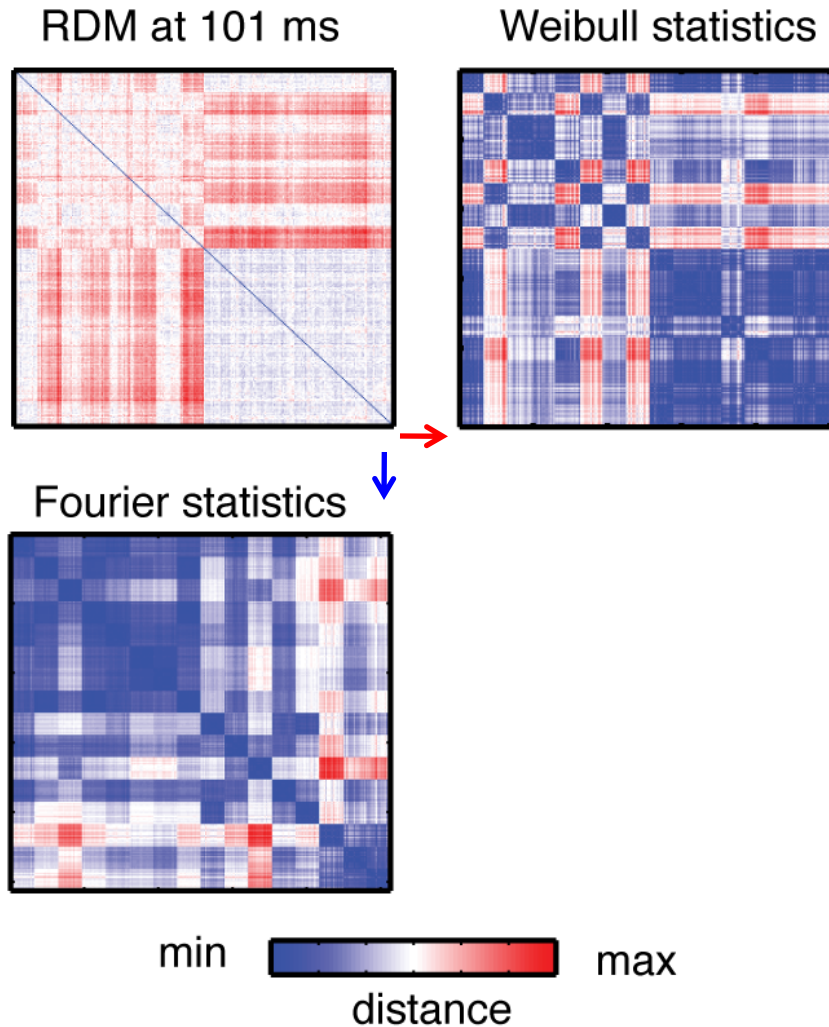
human IT

Comparison



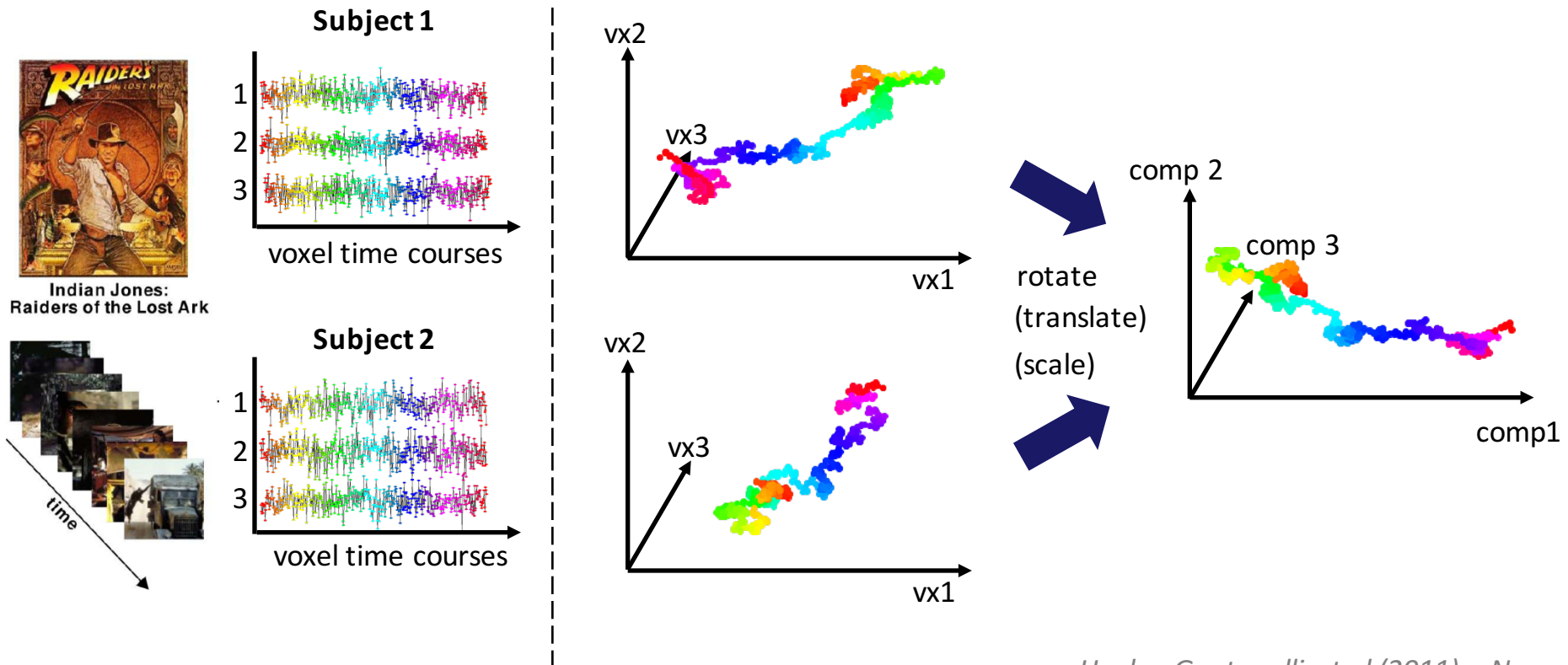
Relative similarity of pairs of patterns can be compared

EEG-based Model Comparison

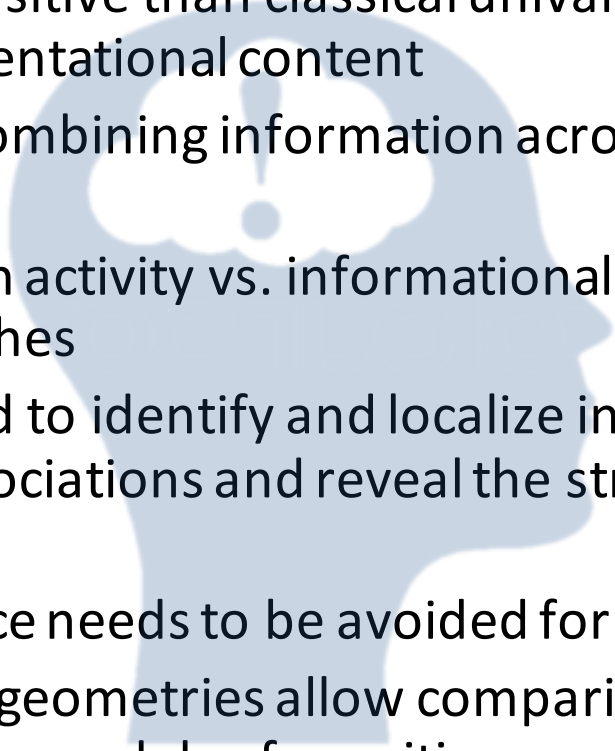


Hyperalignment

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



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
 - MVPA can be used to identify and localize information in space and time, can test associations and reveal the structure of representations
 - Non-independence needs to be avoided for representative data
 - Representational geometries allow comparing people, modalities, species and testing models of cognition
- 

The Decoding Toolbox

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



Command Window

```
fx >> 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*, G6rger 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

Martin N. Hebart
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