

Signal, Noise and Preprocessing *

10th Zurich SPM for fMRI Course

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Lars Kasper, PhD

TNU & MR-Technology Group

Institute for Biomedical Engineering, UZH & ETHZ

Generous slide support:

Guillaume Flandin

Ged Ridgway

Klaas Enno Stephan

John Ashburner

*Huettel et al.



Overview of SPM for fMRI



SNR & Preproc

Temporal

Spatial

General

Realign

Coreg

Normalise

Smooth

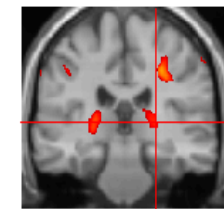
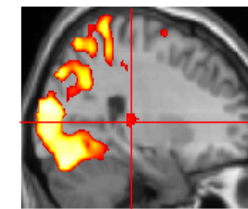
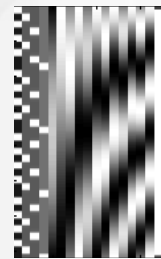
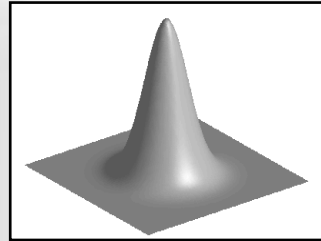
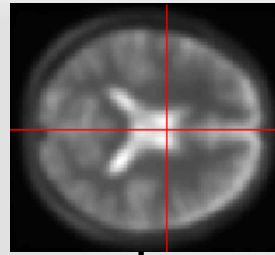
Preprocessing

Image time-series

Kernel

Design matrix

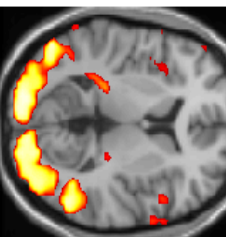
Statistical parametric map (SPM)



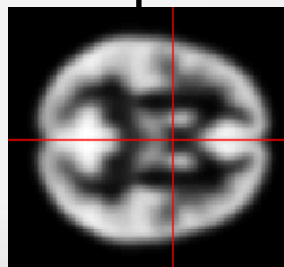
Realignment

Smoothing

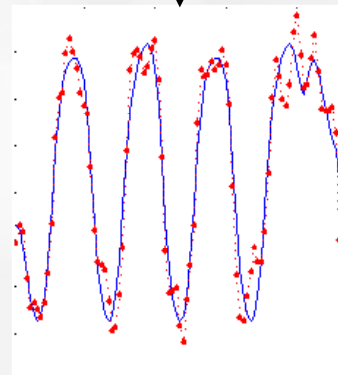
General linear model



Normalisation



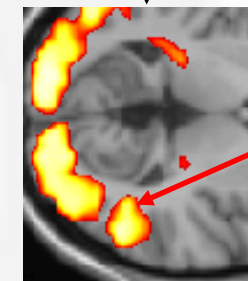
Template



Parameter estimates

Statistical inference

Random field theory



$p < 0.05$

fMRI = Acquiring Movies



SNR & Preproc

Temporal

Spatial

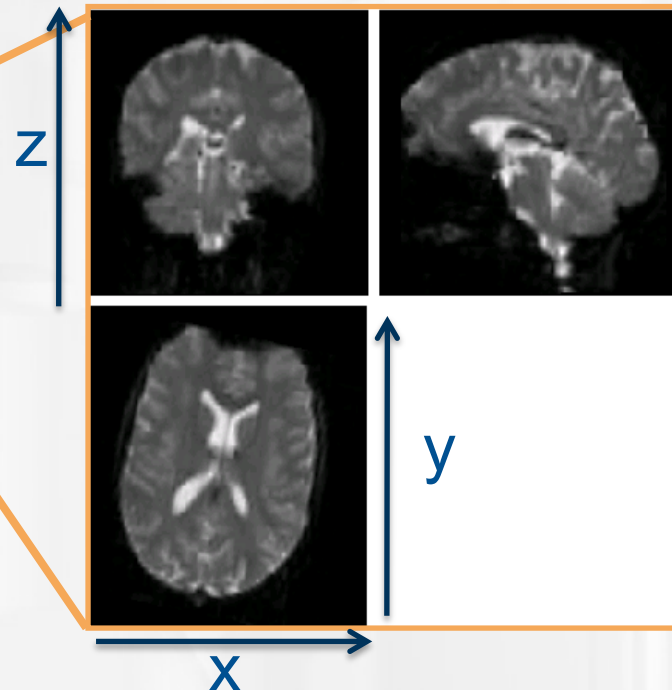
General

Realign

Coreg

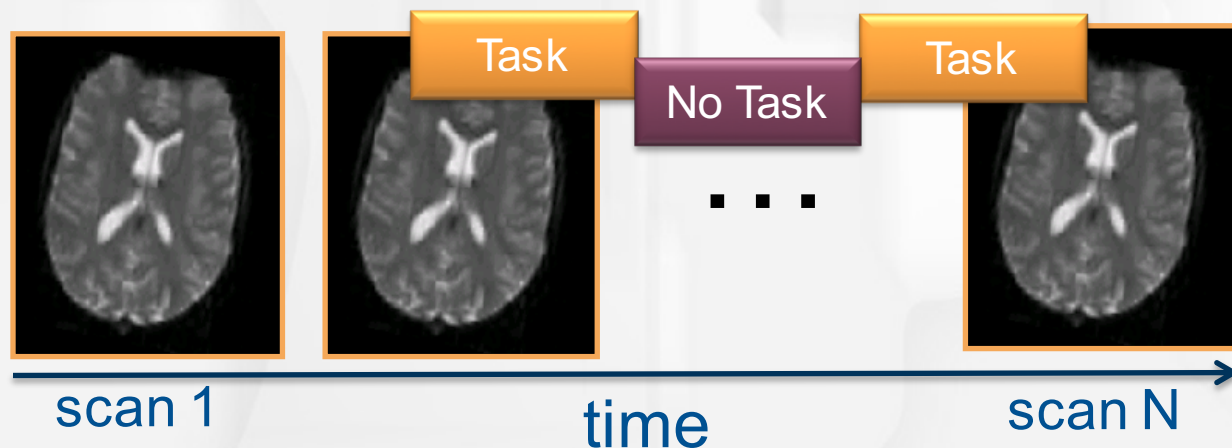
Normalise

Smooth



- ...of three-dimensional Blood Oxygen-Level Dependent (BOLD) contrast images
- typically echo-planar images (EPI)

- Run/Session: Time Series of Images



fMRI = Acquiring Movies



SNR & Preproc

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Spatial

General

Realign

Coreg

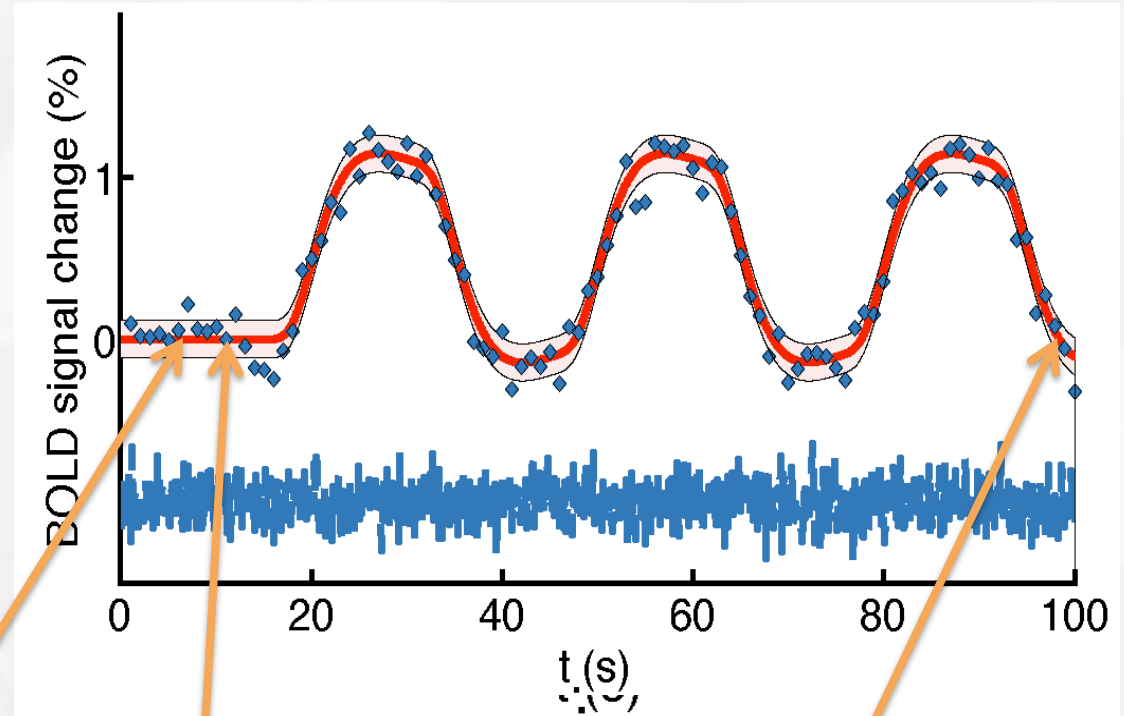
Normalise

Smooth

- The Localized Time-series is the Fundamental Information Unit of fMRI

Signal: Fluctuation through Blood oxygen level dependent (BOLD) contrast

Noise: All other fluctuations



- Run/Session: Time Series of Images



fMRI Movie: An example



SNR & Preproc

Temporal

Spatial

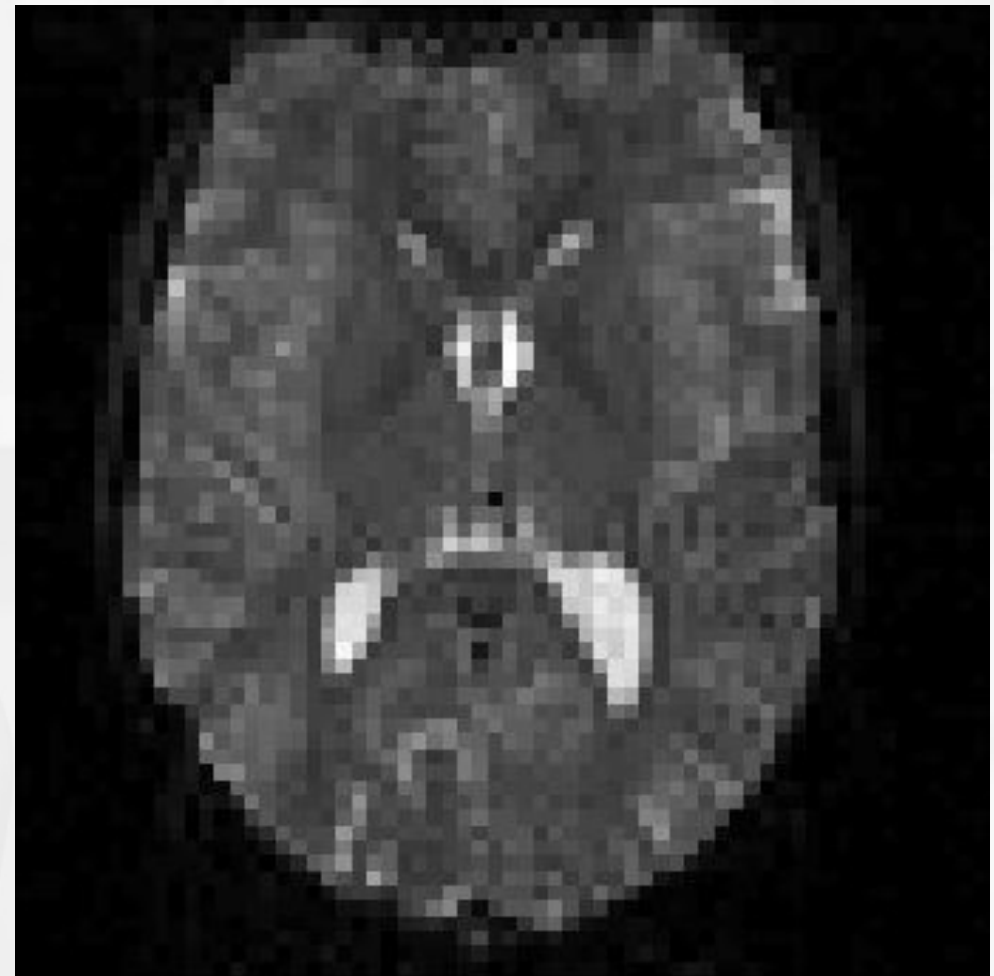
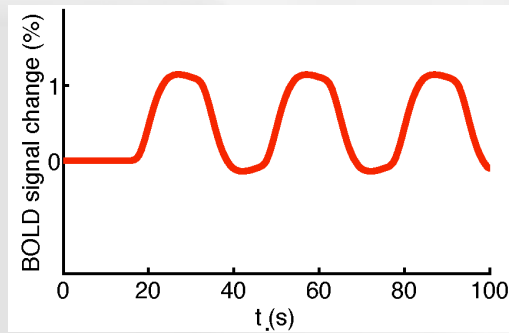
General

Realign

Coreg

Normalise

Smooth



fMRI Movie: Subtract the Mean



SNR & Preproc

Temporal

Spatial

General

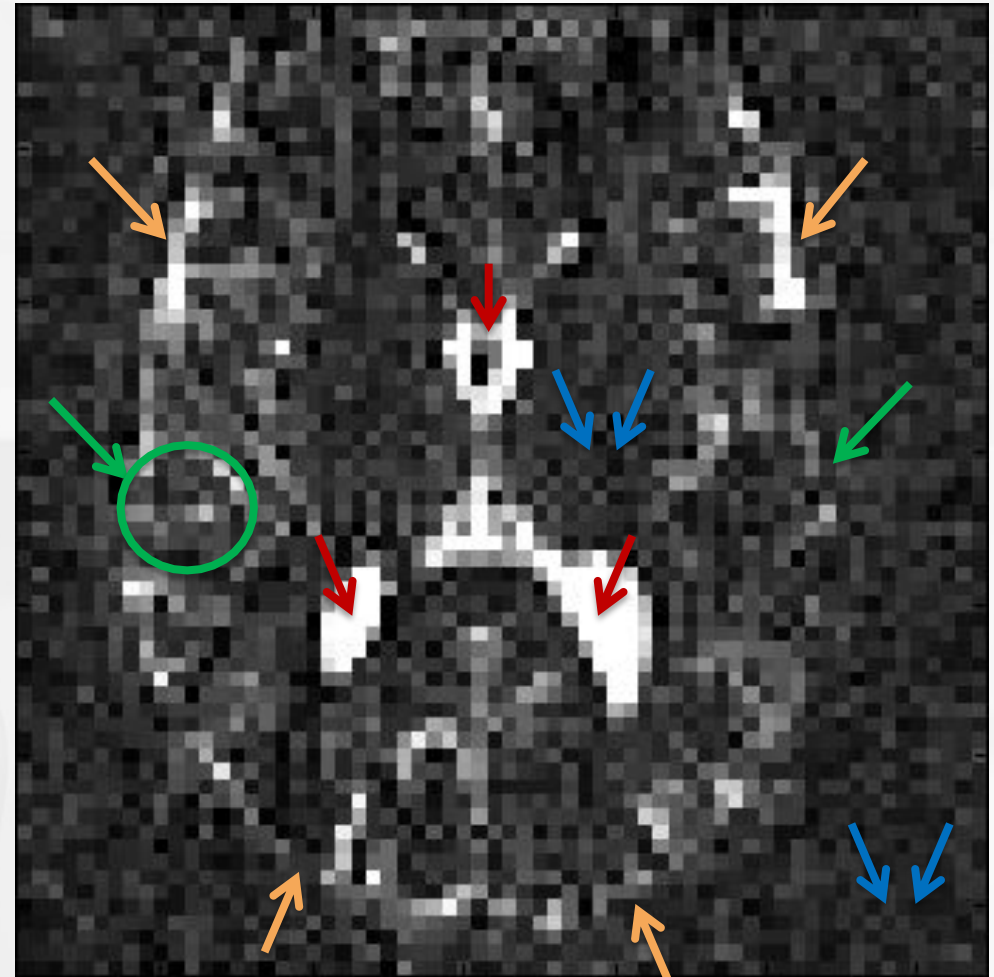
Realign

Coreg

Normalise

Smooth

- interest in fluctuations only



Introducing the Dataset (MoAE)



SNR & Preproc

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- Mother of All Experiments: Auditory Stimulation

- TR 7 seconds

- 6 TR rest

- 6 TR binaural stimulation

(1 bi-syllabic word per second)

- Chapter 28 of SPM manual

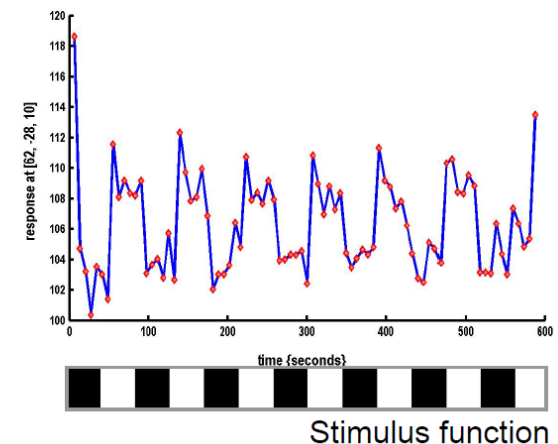
A very simple fMRI experiment

One session

Passive word
listening
versus rest

7 cycles of
rest and listening

Blocks of 6 scans
with 7 sec TR



Question: Is there a change in the BOLD response
between listening and rest?

The Goal of Preprocessing



SNR & Preproc

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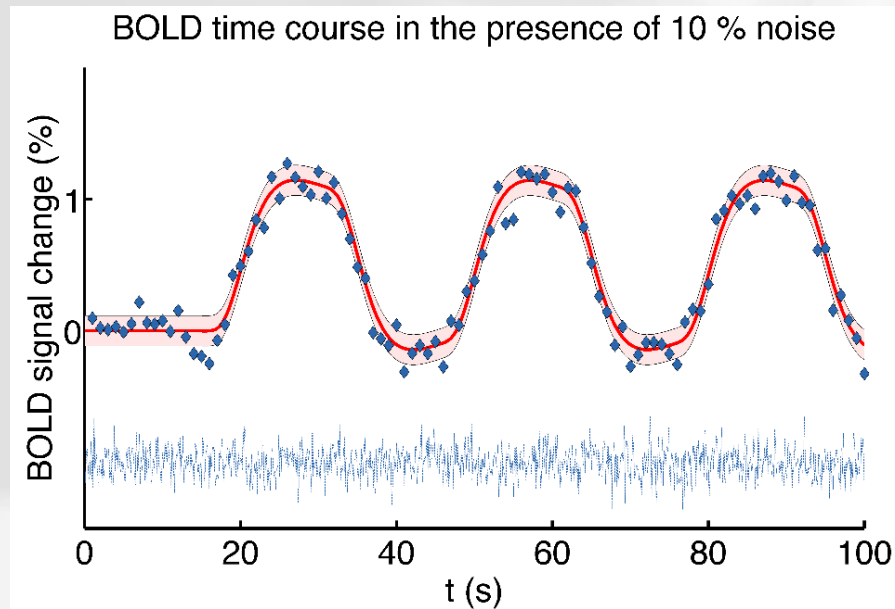
Realign

Coreg

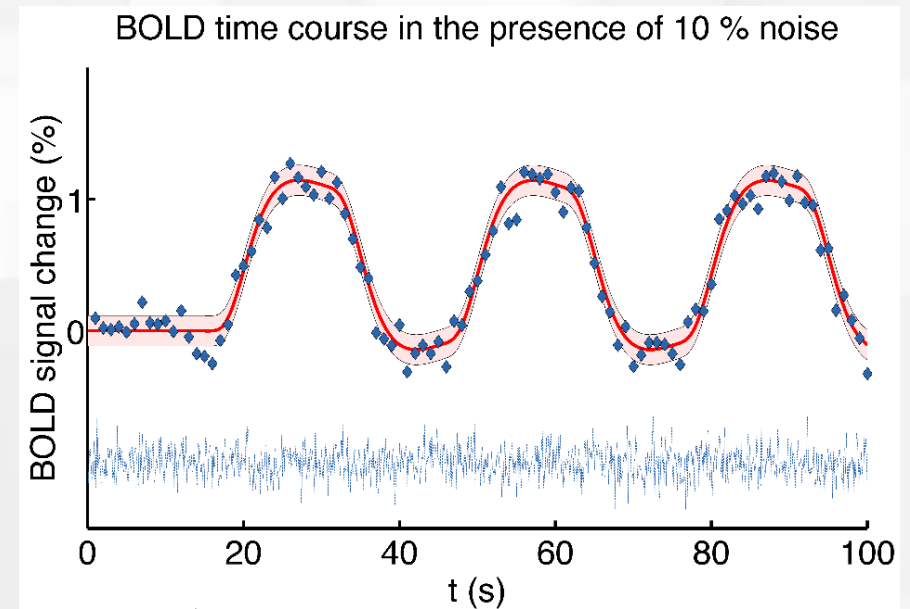
Normalise

Smooth

Before



After



Preprocessing

Sources of Noise in fMRI



SNR & Preproc

Temporal

Spatial

General

Realign

Coreg

Normalise

Smooth

- Acquisition Timing
- Subject Motion
- Anatomical Identity
- Inter-subject variability
- Thermal Noise
- Physiological Noise

Temporal Preproc

Spatial Preproc

Spatial Preproc

Spatial Preproc

Spatial Preproc

Noise Modeling

- Slice-Timing
- Realignment
- Co-registration
- Segmentation
- Smoothing
- PhysIO Toolbox

fMRI Movie: Noise Sources



SNR & Preproc

Temporal

Spatial

General

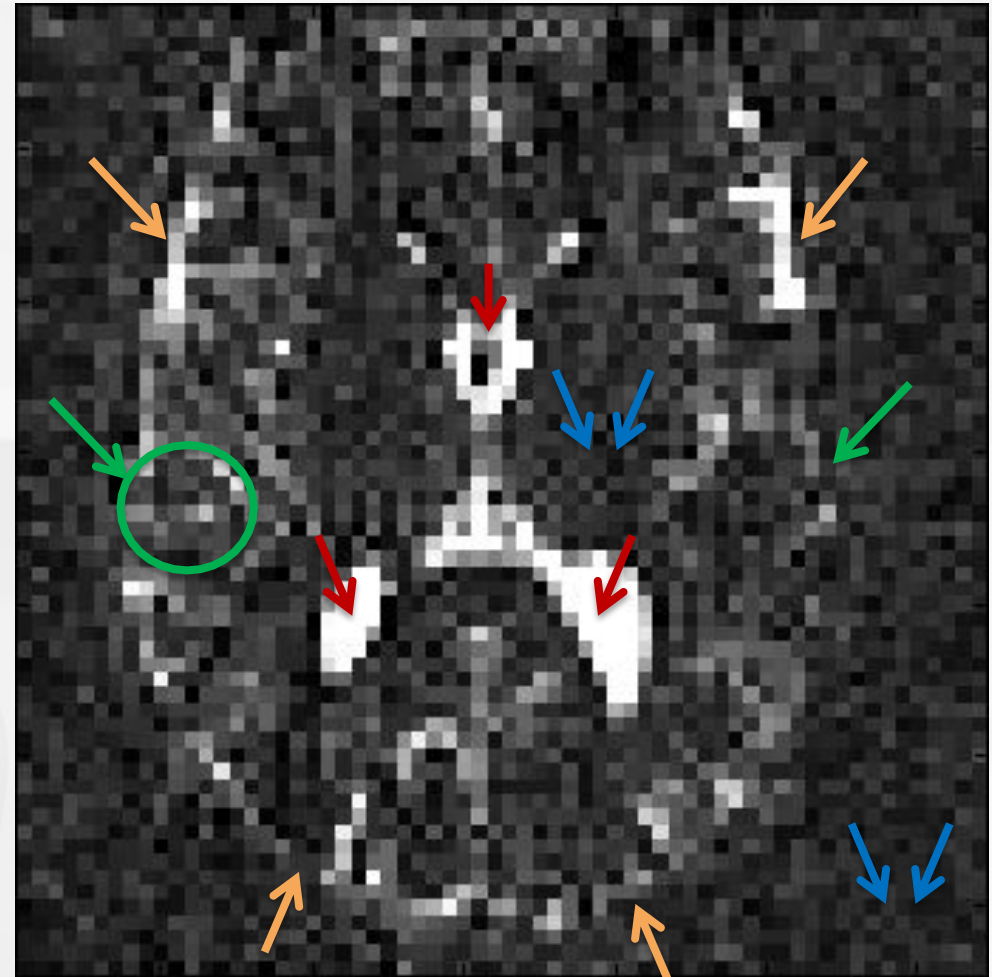
Realign

Coreg

Normalise

Smooth

- interest in fluctuations only



The SPM Graphical User Interface



SNR & Preproc

Temporal

Spatial

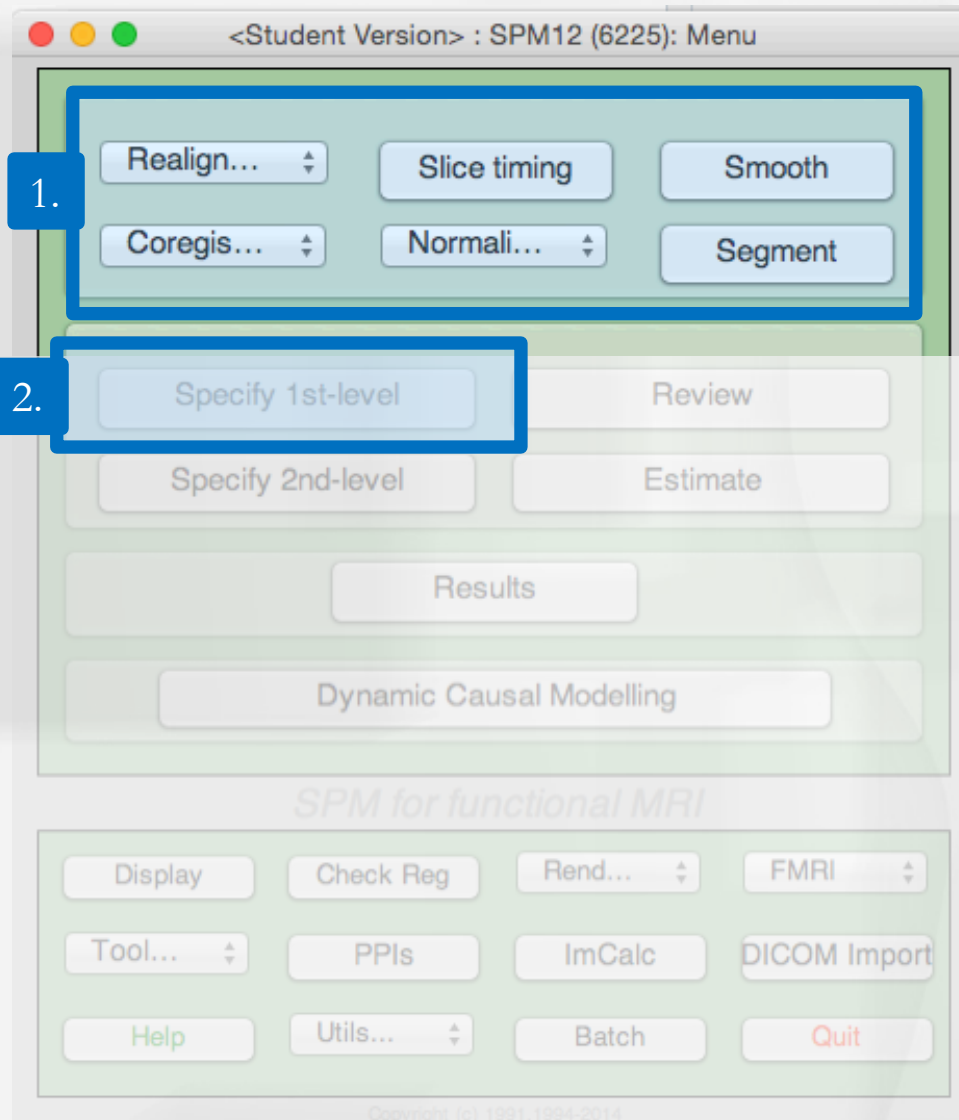
General

Realign

Coreg

Normalise

Smooth



■ Preprocessing

- Realignment
- Slice-Timing Correction
- Co-registration
- Unified Segmentation & Normalisation
- Smoothing...

■ Noise Modeling

- Physiological Confound Regressors

Sources of Noise in fMRI



SNR & Preproc

Temporal

Spatial

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Realign

Coreg

Normalise

Smooth

Temporal Preproc

- Acquisition Timing
- Subject Motion
- Anatomical Identity
- Inter-subject variability
- Thermal Noise
- Physiological Noise
- Slice-Timing
- Realignment
- Co-registration
- Segmentation
- Smoothing
- PhysIO Toolbox

Slice-timing correction (STC)



SNR & Preproc

Temporal

Spatial

General

Realign

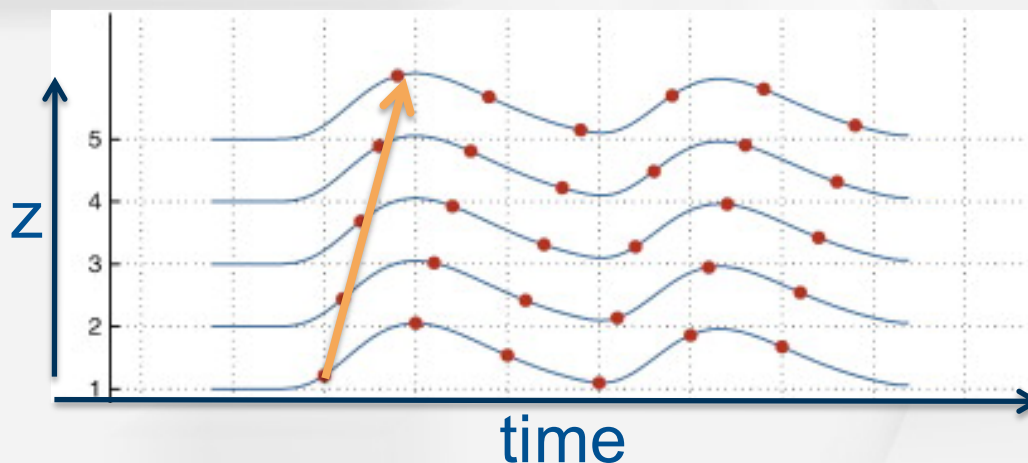
Coreg

Normalise

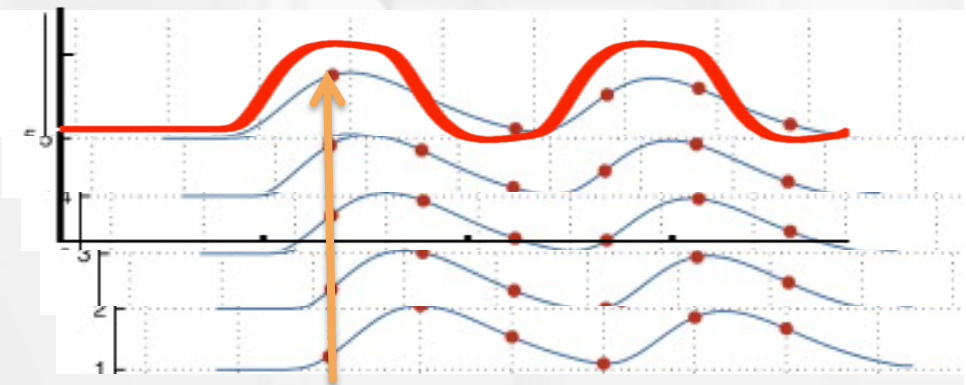
Smooth

- Slices of 1 scan volume are not acquired simultaneously (60 ms per slice)
- Creates shifts of up to 1 volume repetition time (TR), i.e. several seconds
- Reduces sensitivity for time-locked effects (smaller correlation)

True 2D Acquisition



Same-Timepoint Assumption



Slice-timing correction (STC)



SNR & Preproc

Temporal

Spatial

General

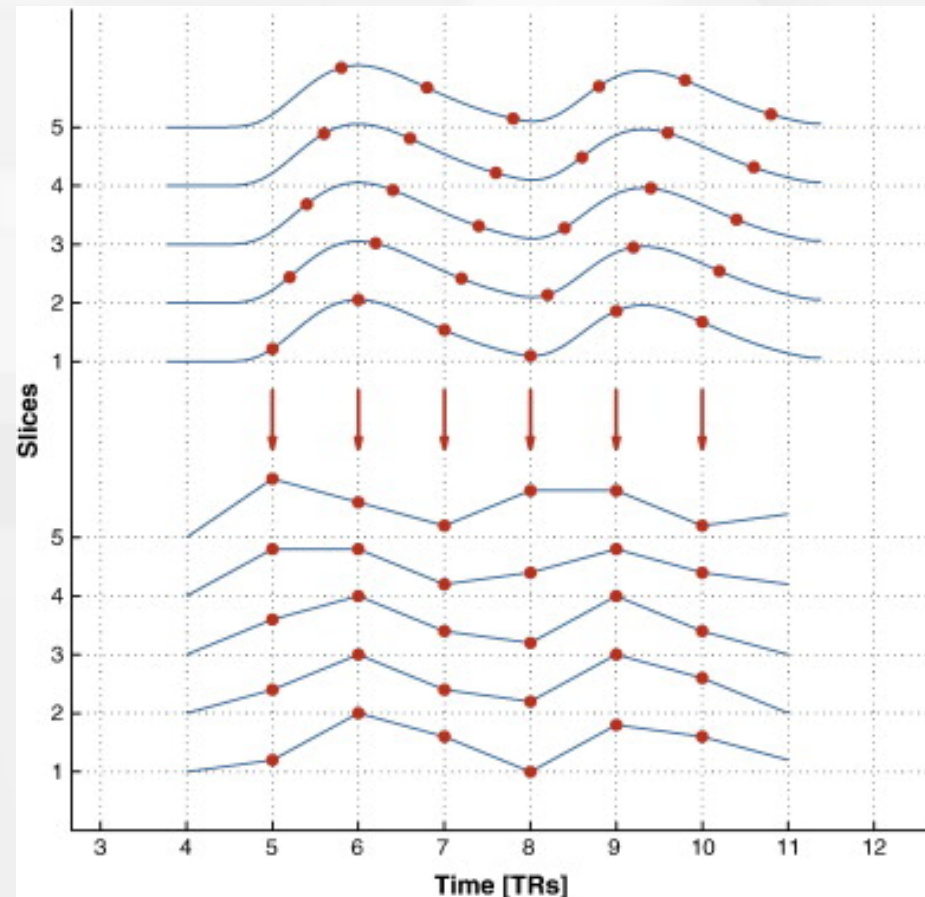
Realign

Coreg

Normalise

Smooth

- Slice-timing correction: All voxel time series are aligned to acquisition time of 1 slice
- Missing data is sinc-interpolated (band-limited signal)



Sladky et al, NeuroImage 2011

Interpolation



SNR & Preproc

Temporal

Spatial

General

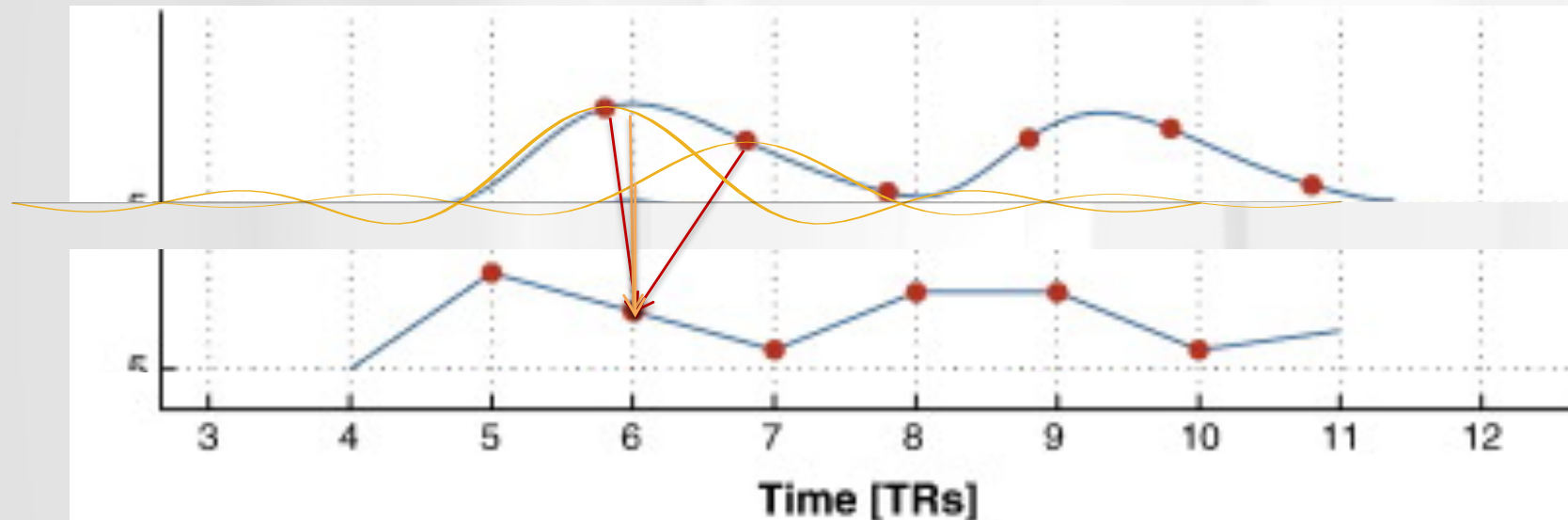
Realign

Coreg

Normalise

Smooth

- Interpolation: Estimate missing data between existing data via certain regularity assumptions



- Signal at missing point is weighted average of neighbors
- Weighting function = interpolation “kernel”
- Here: assumption of limited frequency range of signal:
sinc-interpolation

Slice-timing correction (STC)



SNR & Preproc

Temporal

Spatial

General

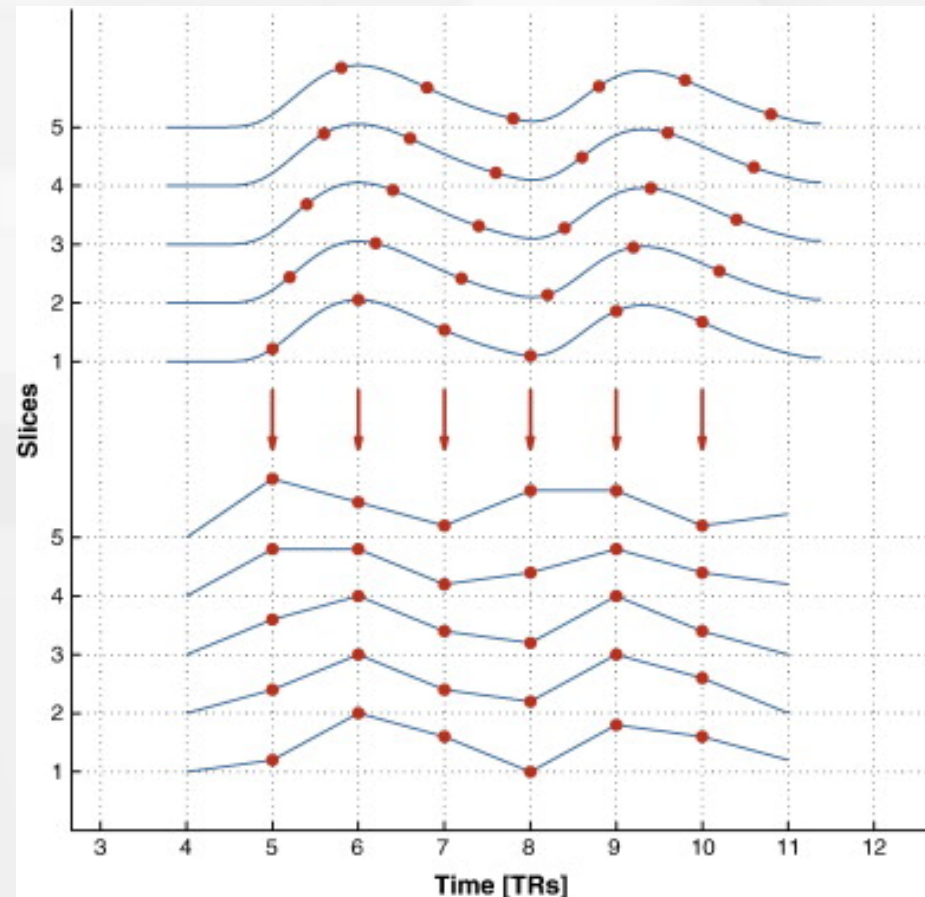
Realign

Coreg

Normalise

Smooth

- Slice-timing correction: All voxel time series are aligned to acquisition time of 1 slice
- Missing data is sinc-interpolated (band-limited signal)
- Before or after realignment?
 - before: dominant through-slice motion
 - after: dominant within-slice motion
- At all?



Sladky et al, NeuroImage 2011

STC Results: Simulation



SNR & Preproc

Temporal

Spatial

General

Realign

Coreg

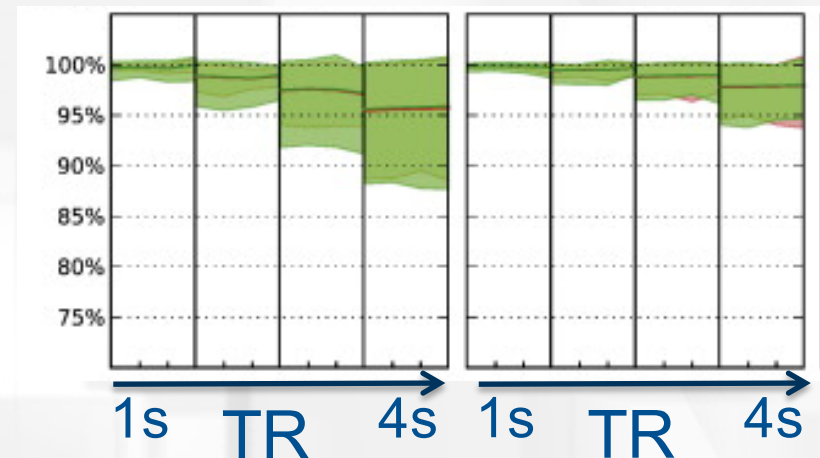
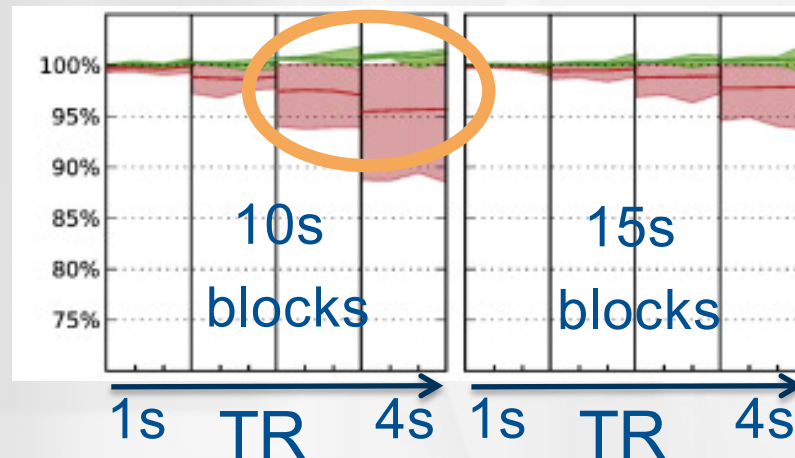
Normalise

Smooth

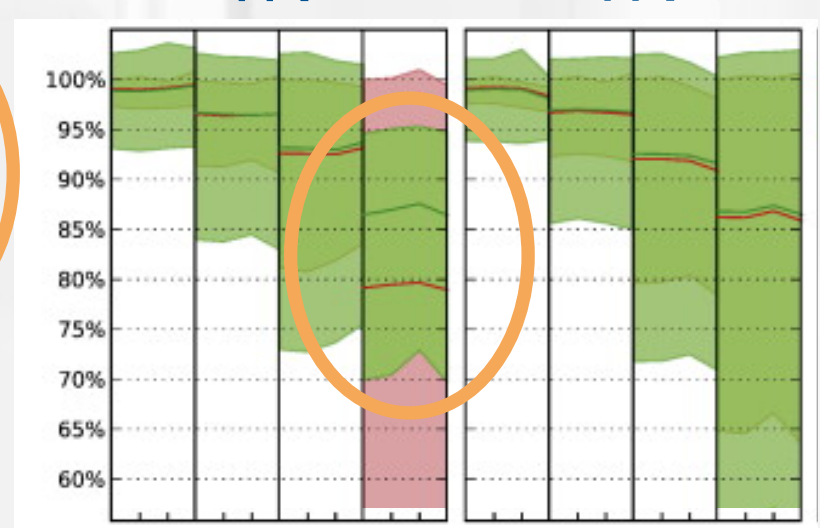
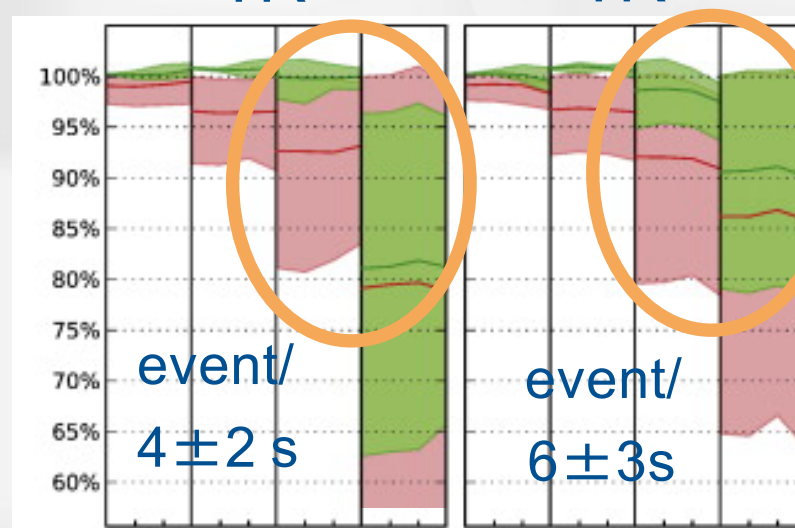
**Slice-timing
Correction**

**Temporal-Derivative
Modelling**

**Block
Stimulation**



**Event-Related
Stimulation**



true beta = 100 %

uncorrected

corrected

Sladky et al, NeuroImage 2011

Slice-timing correction (STC)



SNR & Preproc

Temporal

Spatial

General

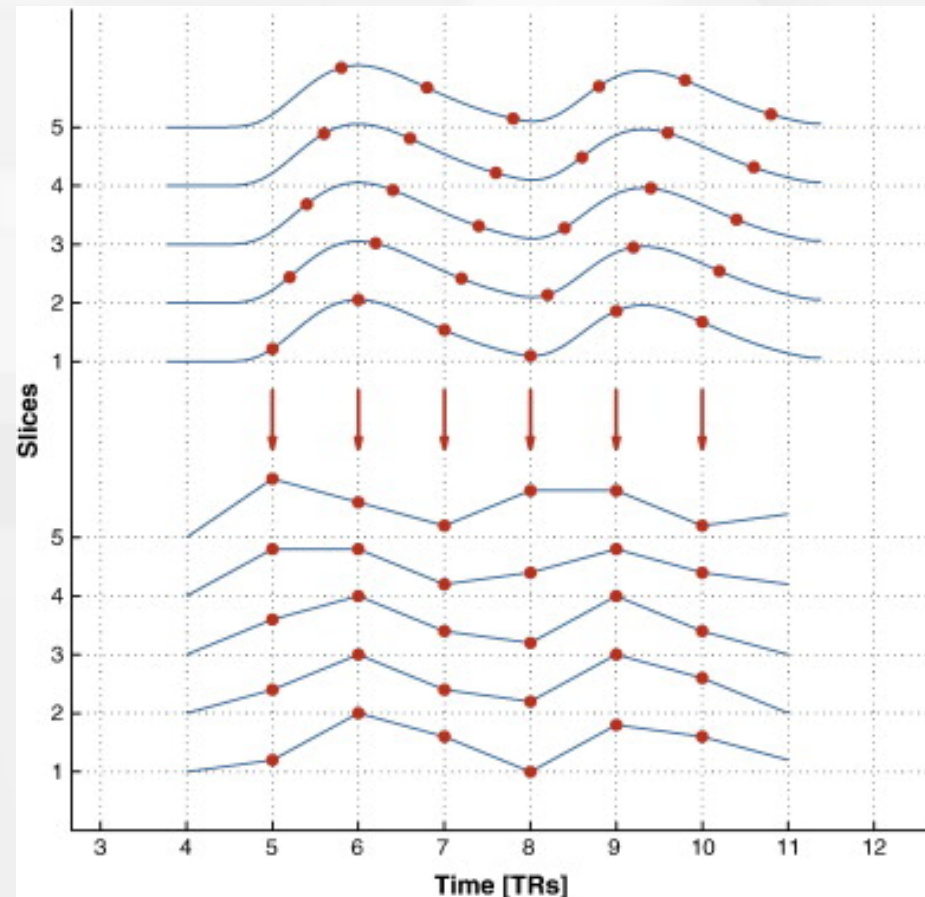
Realign

Coreg

Normalise

Smooth

- Slice-timing correction: All voxel time series are aligned to acquisition time of 1 slice
- Missing data is sinc-interpolated (band-limited signal)
- Before or after realignment?
 - before: dominant through-slice motion
 - after: dominant within-slice motion
- At all?
 - block design: for long TR (3s+) & short blocks (10s) improves estimates > 5 %
 - event-related: for normal TRs (2s+) improves estimates > 5 %



Sladky et al, NeuroImage 2011

STC Results: Experiment



SNR & Preproc

Temporal

Spatial

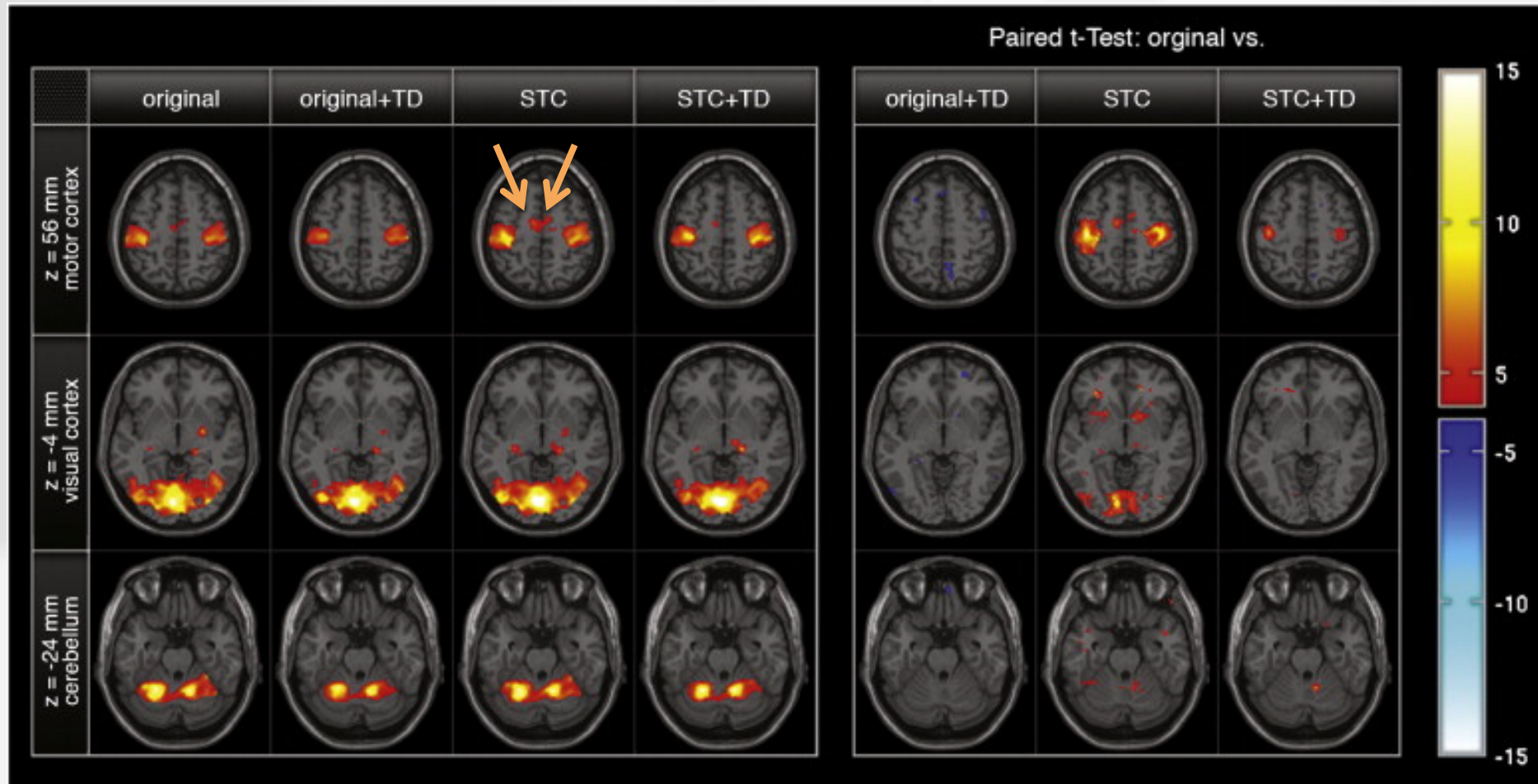
General

Realign

Coreg

Normalise

Smooth



Sladky et al, Neurolmage 2011

Sources of Noise in fMRI



SNR & Preproc

Temporal

Spatial

General

Realign

Coreg

Normalise

Smooth

- Acquisition Timing
- Subject Motion
- Anatomical Identity
- Inter-subject variability
- Thermal Noise
- Physiological Noise

Spatial Preproc

Spatial Preproc

Spatial Preproc

Spatial Preproc

- Slice-Timing
- Realignment
- Co-registration
- Segmentation
- Smoothing
- PhysIO Toolbox

Finite Resolution and Voxel Identity



SNR & Preproc

Temporal

Spatial

General

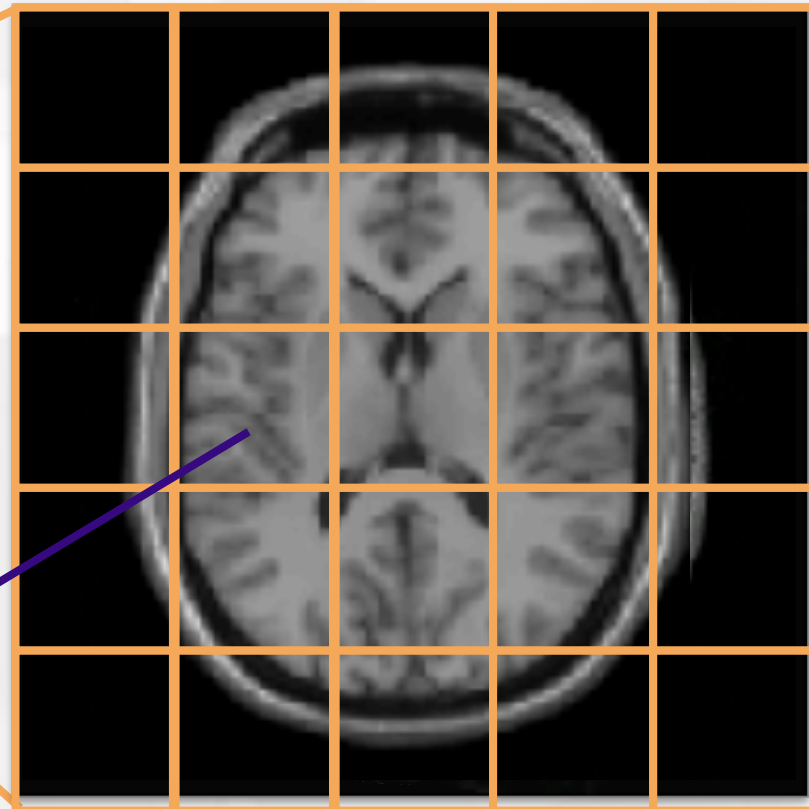
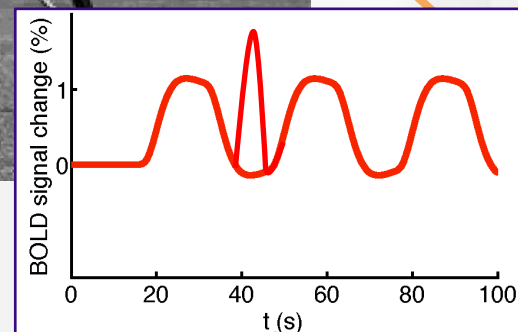
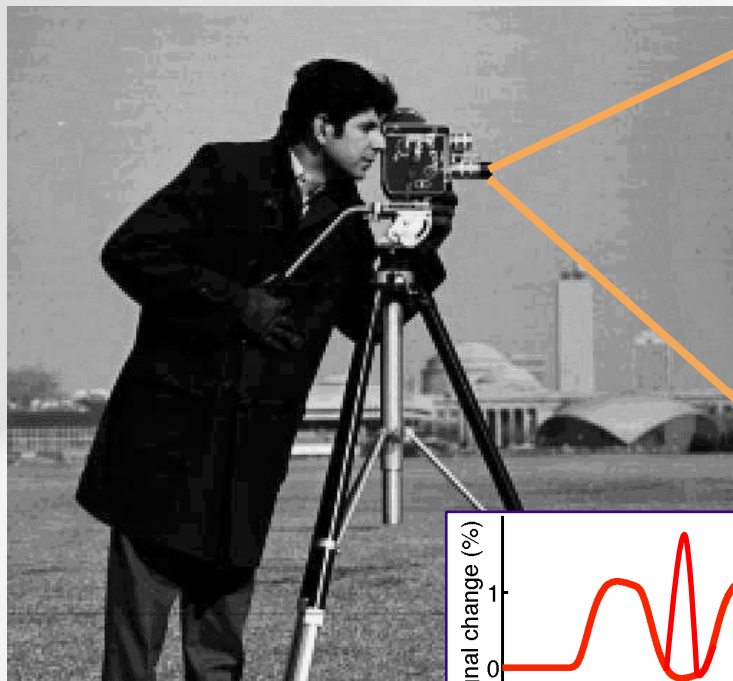
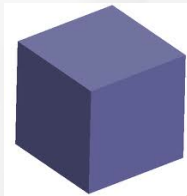
Realign

Coreg

Normalise

Smooth

- voxel = volume element (3D pixel)



Preproc = Correct Voxel Mismatch



SNR & Preproc

Temporal

Spatial

General

Realign

Coreg

Normalise

Smooth

Voxel Mismatch Between

Functional
Scans/Runs

Functional/Structural
Images

Subjects

Realignment

Inter-Modal
Coregistration

Normalisation/
Segmentation

Smoothing

Spatial Preprocessing



SNR & Preproc

Temporal

Spatial

General

Realign

Coreg

Normalise

Smooth

REALIGN

COREG

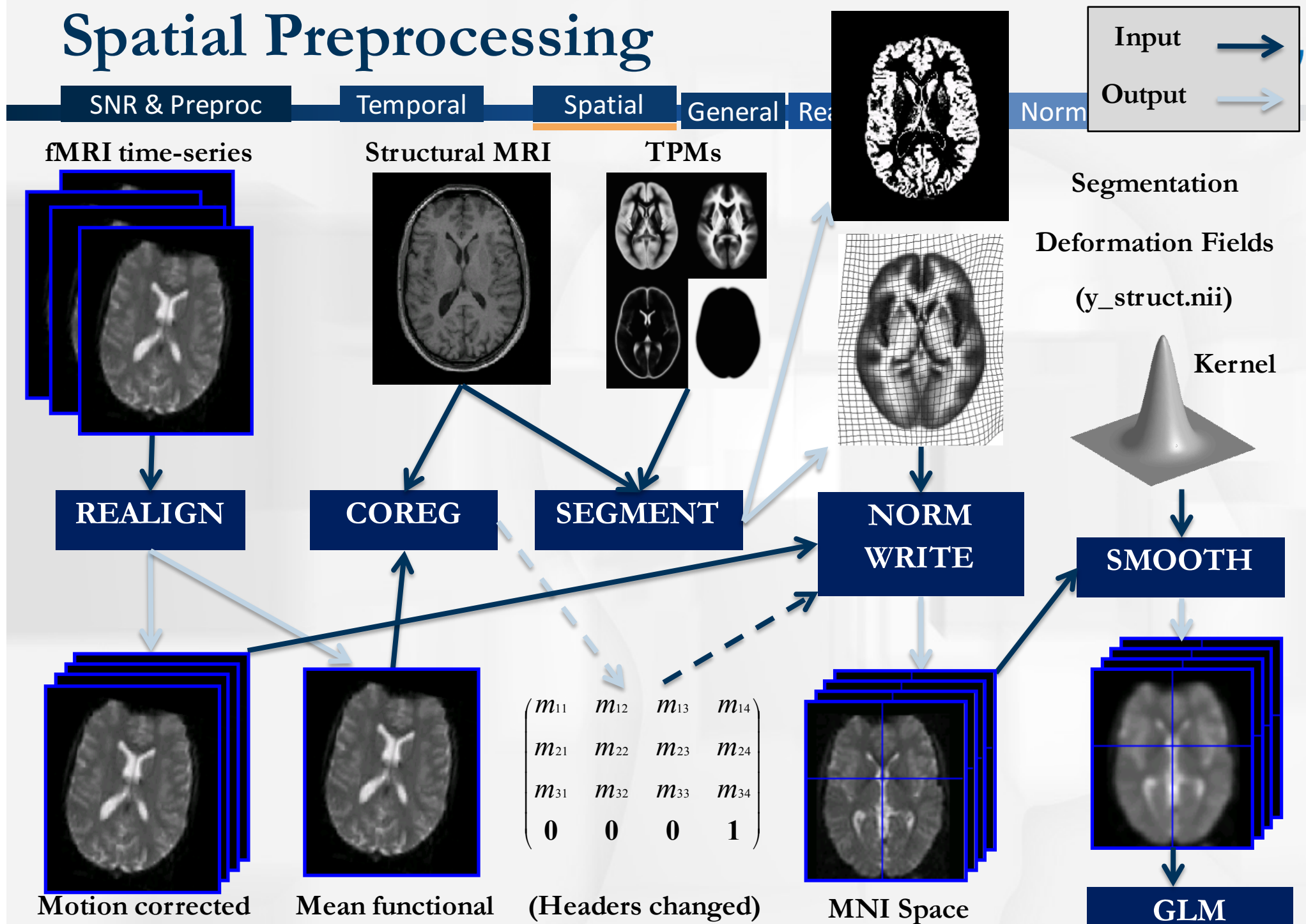
SEGMENT

**NORM
WRITE**

SMOOTH

GLM

Spatial Preprocessing



General Remarks: Image Registration



SNR & Preproc

Temporal

Spatial

General

Realign

Coreg

Normalise

Smooth

- Realignment, Co-Registration and Normalisation (via Unified Segmentation) are all *image registration methods*
- Goal: Manipulate one set of images to arrive in same coordinate system as a reference image
- Key ingredients for image registration
 - A. Voxel-to-world mapping
 - B. Transformation
 - C. Similarity Measure
 - D. Optimisation
 - E. Interpolation

A. Voxel-to-World Mapping



SNR & Preproc

Temporal

Spatial

General

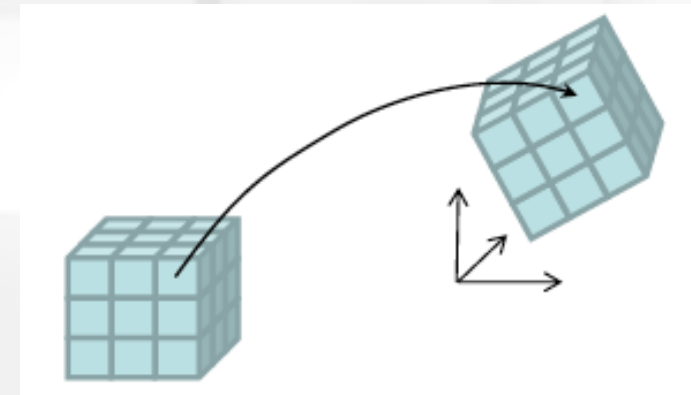
Realign

Coreg

Normalise

Smooth

- 3D images are made up of voxels.
- Voxel intensities are stored on disk as lists of numbers.
- Meta-information about the data:
 - image dimensions
 - conversion from list to 3D array
 - “voxel-to-world mapping”
 - Spatial transformation that maps
 - from: data coordinates (voxel column i , row j , slice k)
 - to: a real-world position (x,y,z mm) in a coordinate system e.g.:
 - Scanner coordinates
 - T&T/MNI coordinates



A. Voxel-to-World: Standard Spaces



SNR & Preproc

Temporal

Spatial

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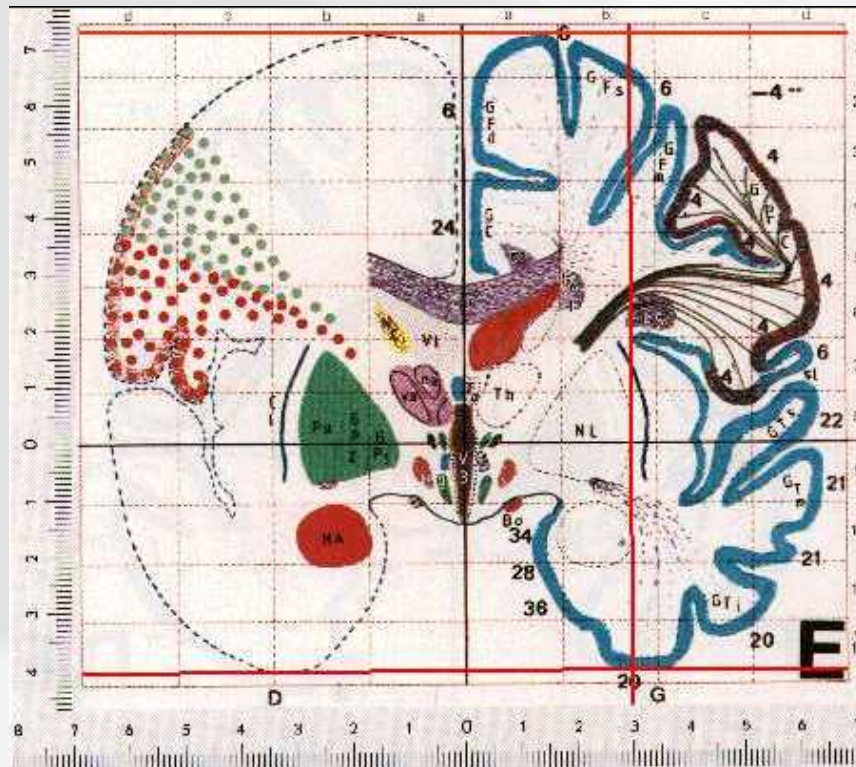
Realign

Coreg

Normalise

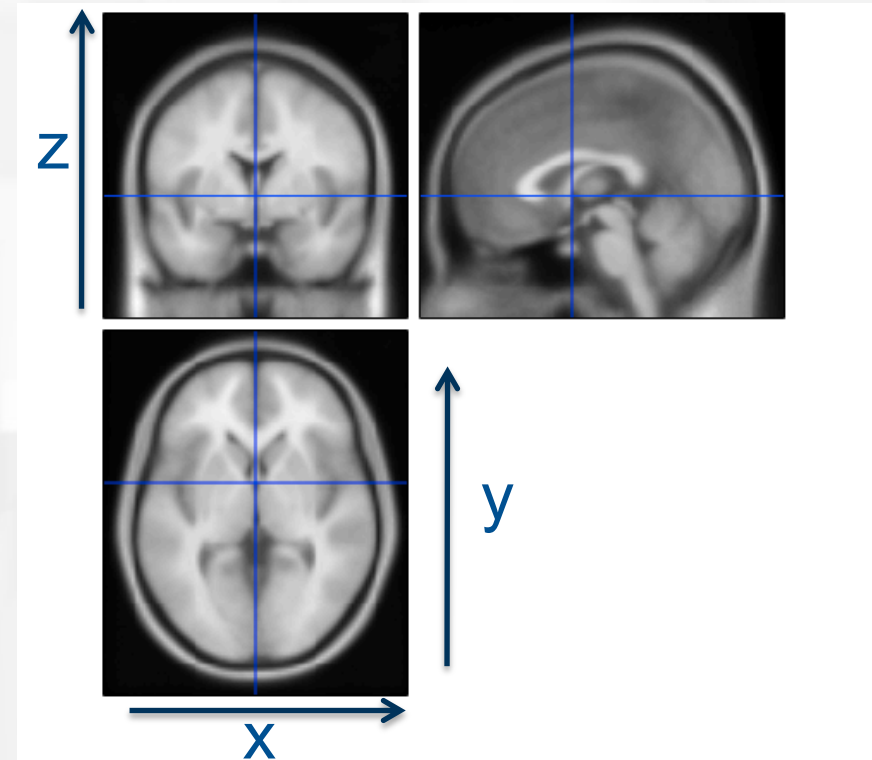
Smooth

Talairach Atlas



- Definition of coordinate system:
 - Origin (0,0,0): anterior commissure
 - Right = +X; Anterior = +Y; Superior = +Z

MNI/ICBM AVG152 Template



- Actual brain dimensions
 - European brains, a bit dilated (bug)

B. Transformations



SNR & Preproc

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Realign

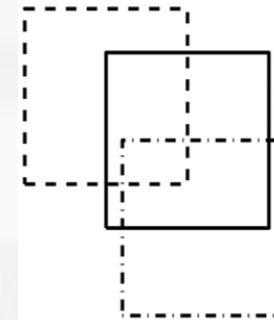
Coreg

Normalise

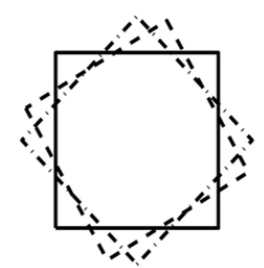
Smooth

- Transformations describe the mapping of all image voxels from one coordinate system into another
- Types of transformations
 - rigid body = translation + rotation
 - affine = rigid body + scaling + shear
 - non-linear = any mapping
 - (x,y,z) to new values (x',y',z')
 - described by deformation fields

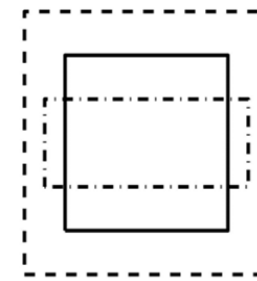
Translation



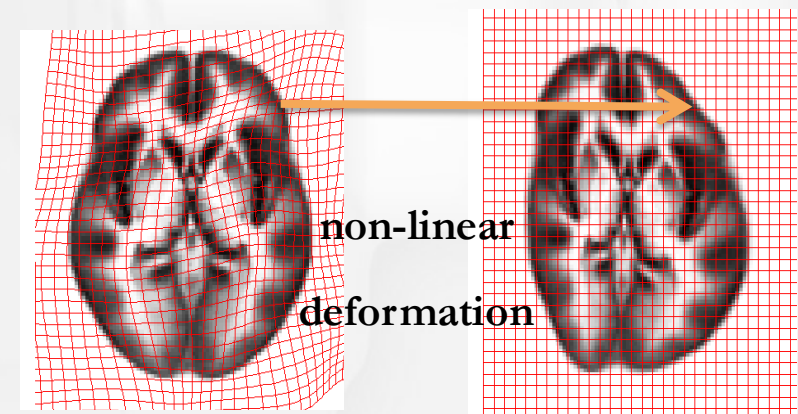
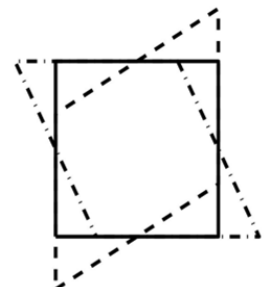
Rotation



Scaling

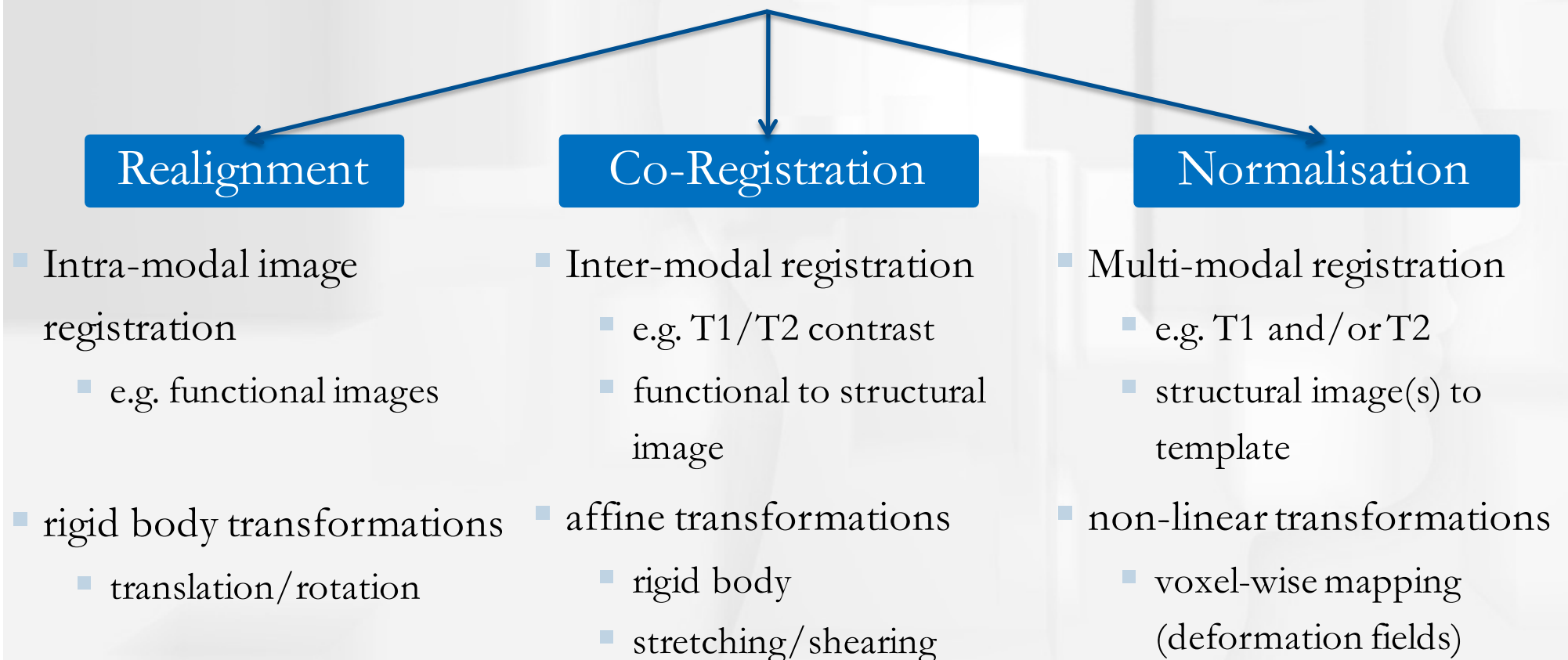


Shear





- SPM uses different names for different modes of image registration
- depending on input images and allowed transformations



C. Similarity & D. Optimisation



SNR & Preproc

Temporal

Spatial

General

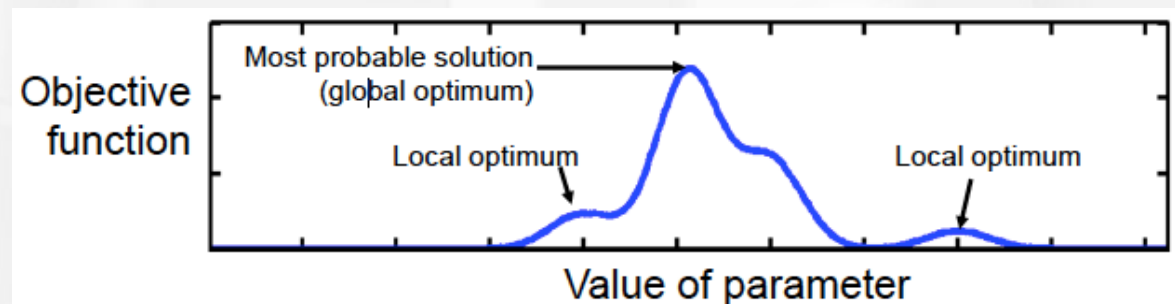
Realign

Coreg

Normalise

Smooth

- Similarity measure summarizes resemblance of (transformed) image and reference into 1 number
 - mean-squared difference
 - correlation-coefficient
 - mutual information
- Automatic image registration uses an optimisation algorithm to maximise/minimise an “objective function”
 - Similarity measure is part of objective function
 - Algorithm searches for transformation that maximises similarity of transformed image to reference
 - Also includes constraints on allowed transformations (priors)



Preprocessing Step Categorisation



SNR & Preproc

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Smooth

B. Allowed Transformations

Rigid-Body

Affine

Non-linear

REALIGN

COREG

SEGMENT

**NORM
WRITE**

C. Similarity Measure

Mean-squared
Difference

Mutual
Information

Tissue Class
Probability

D. Optimisation

Exact Linearized
Solution

Conjugate Direction
Line Search

Iterated Conditional Modes
(EM/Levenberg-Marquardt)

E. Reslicing/Interpolation



SNR & Preproc

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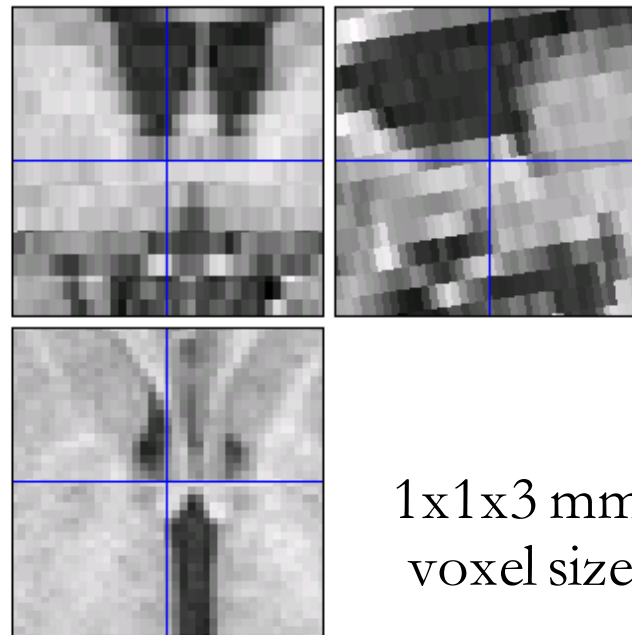
Normalise

Smooth

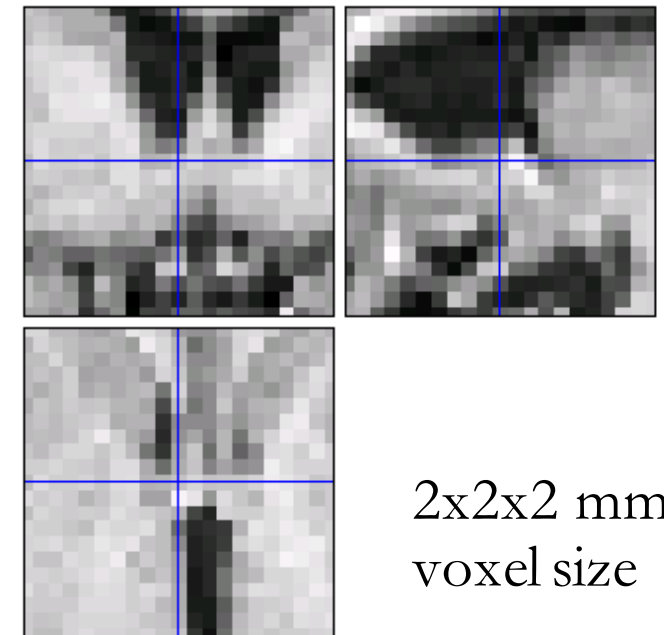
- Finally, images have to be saved as voxel intensity list on disk again
- After applying transformation parameters, data is re-sampled onto same grid of voxels as reference image

Reoriented

Resliced



1x1x3 mm
voxel size



2x2x2 mm
voxel size

E. B-spline Interpolation



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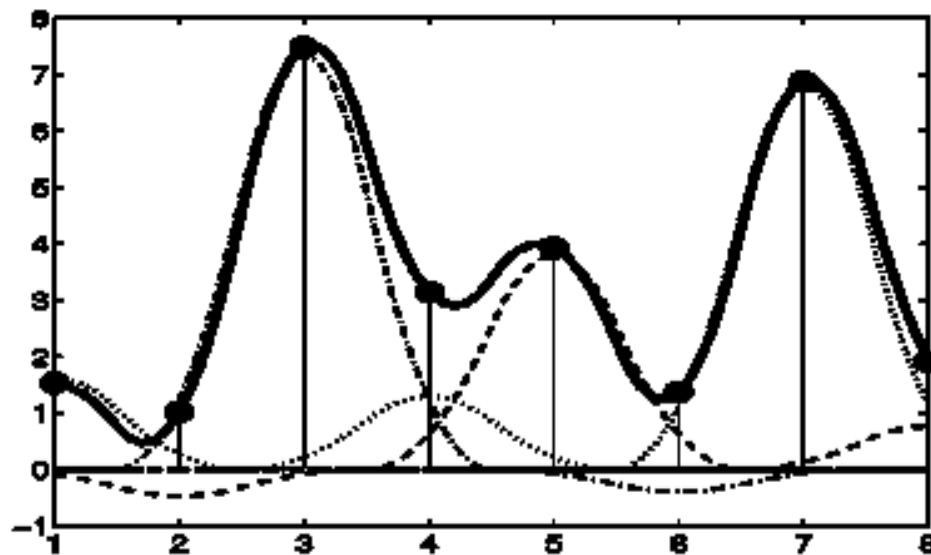
Realign

Coreg

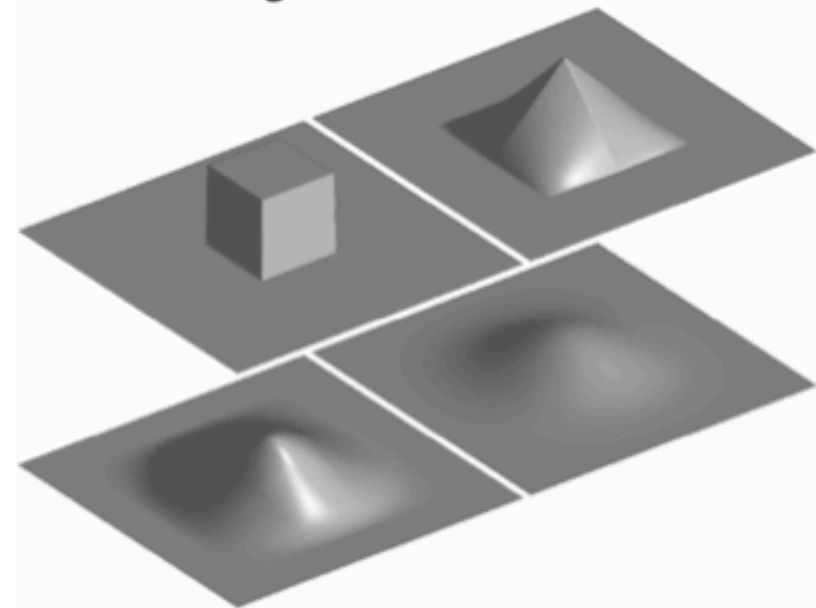
Normalise

Smooth

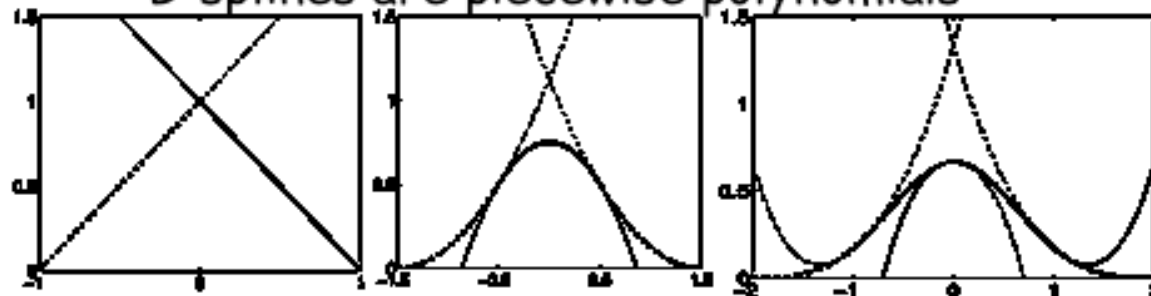
A continuous function is represented by a linear combination of basis functions



2D B-spline basis functions of degrees 0, 1, 2 and 3

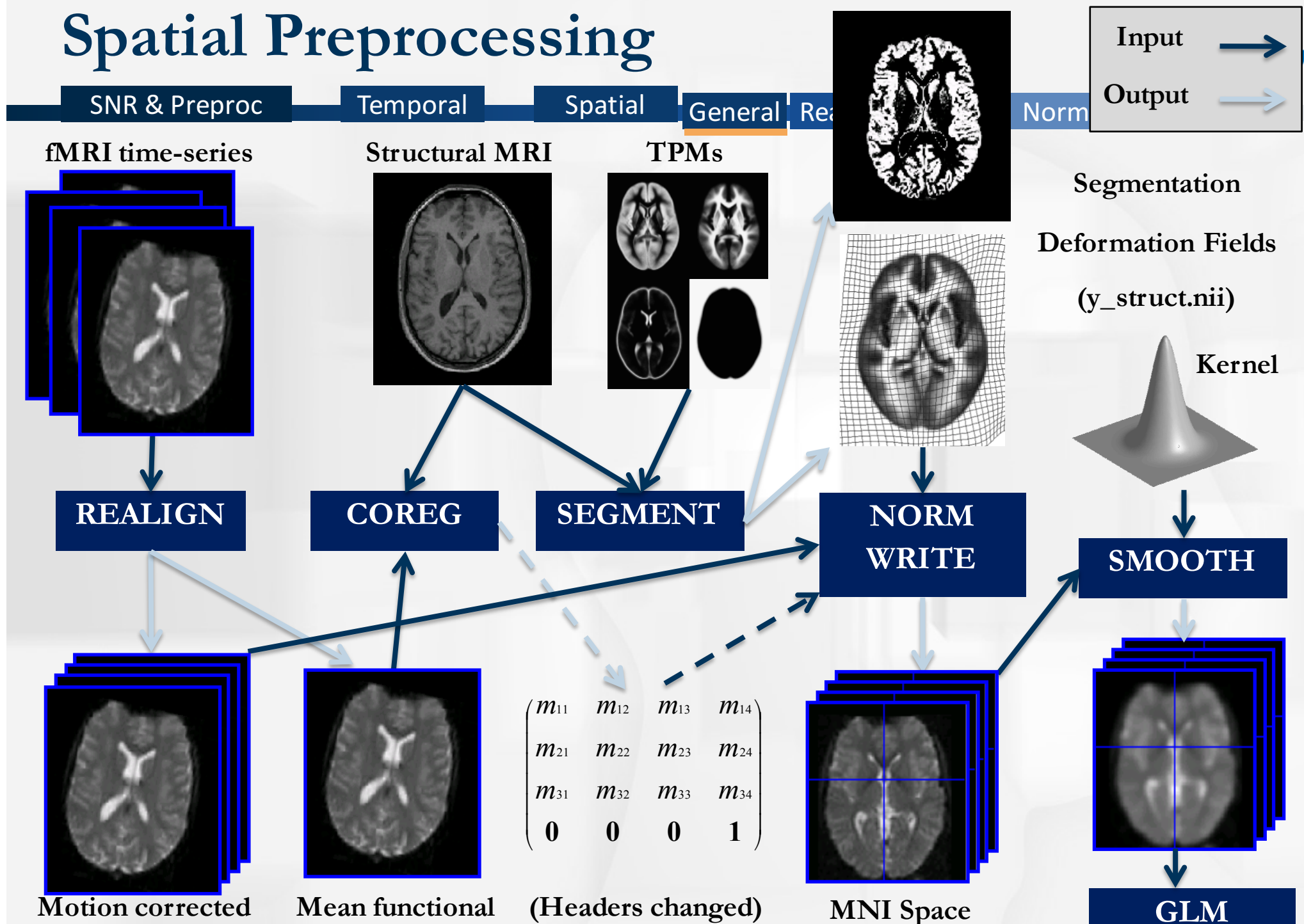


B-splines are piecewise polynomials



Nearest neighbour and trilinear interpolation are the same as B-spline interpolation with degrees 0 and 1.

Spatial Preprocessing



Realignment



SNR & Preproc

Temporal

Spatial

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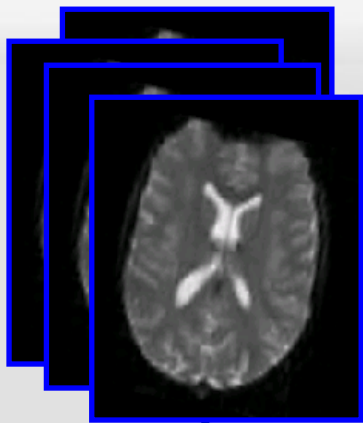
Realign

Coreg

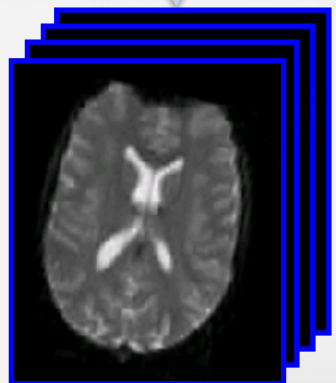
Normalise

Smooth

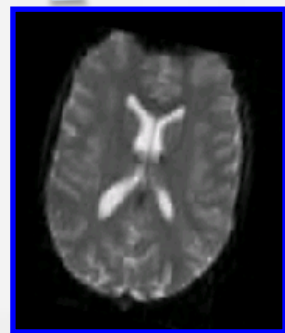
fMRI time-series



REALIGN



Motion corrected



Mean functional

- Aligns all volumes of all runs spatially
- Rigid-body transformation: three translations, three rotations
- Objective function: mean squared error of corresponding voxel intensities
- Voxel correspondence via Interpolation

Realignment Output: Parameters



SNR & Preproc

Temporal

Spatial

General

Realign

Coreg

Normalise

Smooth



fMRI Run after Realignment



SNR & Preproc

Temporal

Spatial

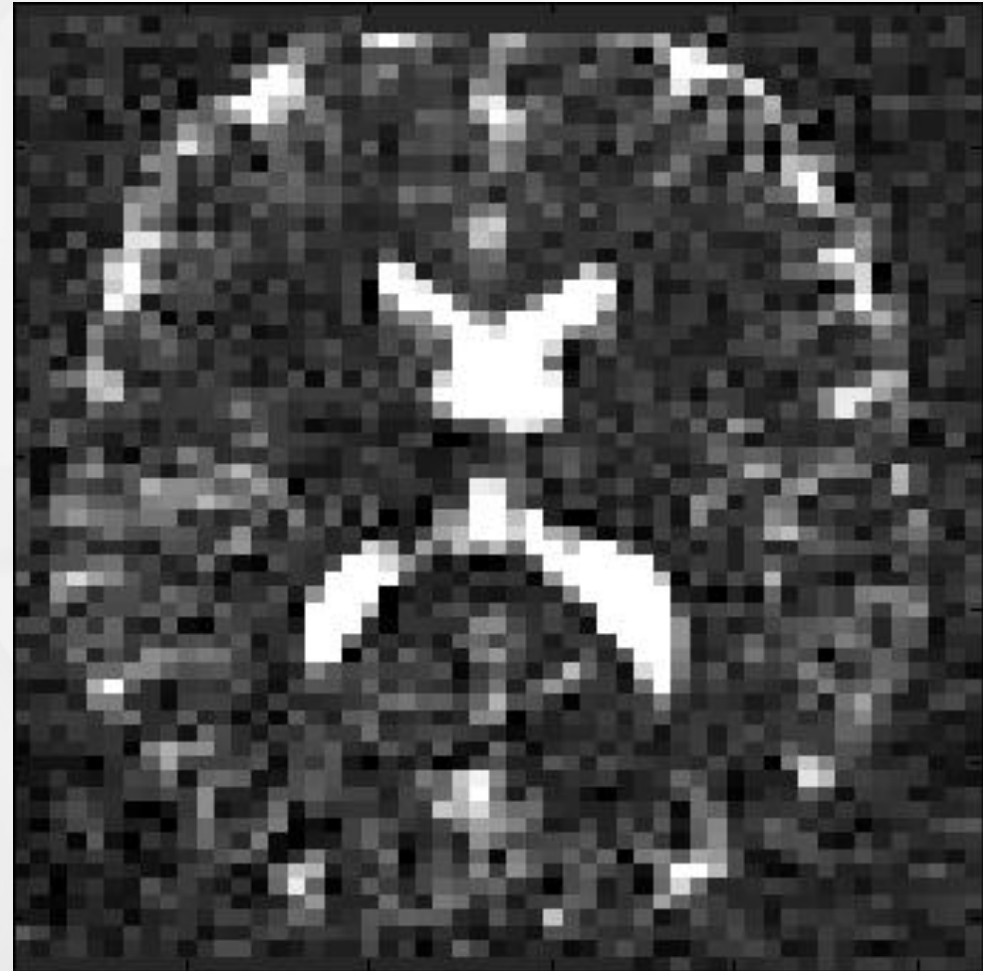
General

Realign

Coreg

Normalise

Smooth



Co-Registration



SNR & Preproc

Temporal

Spatial

General

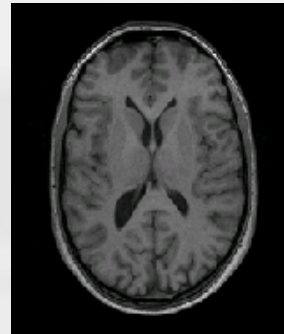
Realign

Coreg

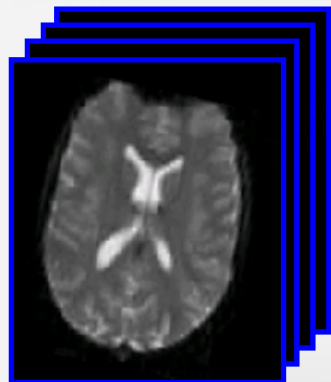
Normalise

Smooth

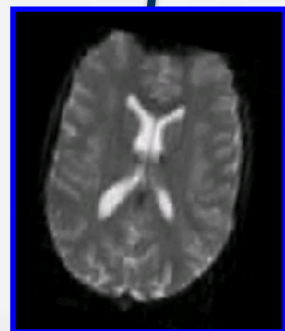
Structural MRI



COREG



Motion corrected



Mean functional

$$\begin{pmatrix} m_{11} & m_{12} & m_{13} & m_{14} \\ m_{21} & m_{22} & m_{23} & m_{24} \\ m_{31} & m_{32} & m_{33} & m_{34} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

(Headers changed)

- Aligns structural image to mean functional image
- Affine transformation: translations, rotations, scaling, shearing
- Objective function: mutual information (diff. contrast!)
 - Optimisation via Powell's method: conjugate directions, line search along parameters
- Typically only trafo matrix ("header") changed

Co-Registration: Mutual Information



SNR & Preproc

Temporal

Spatial

General

Realign

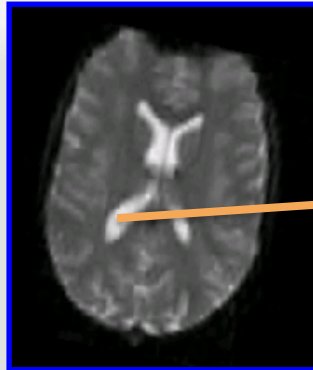
Coreg

Normalise

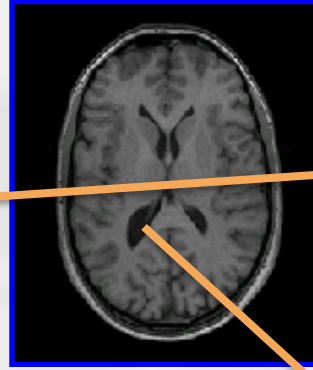
Smooth

Joint Histogram

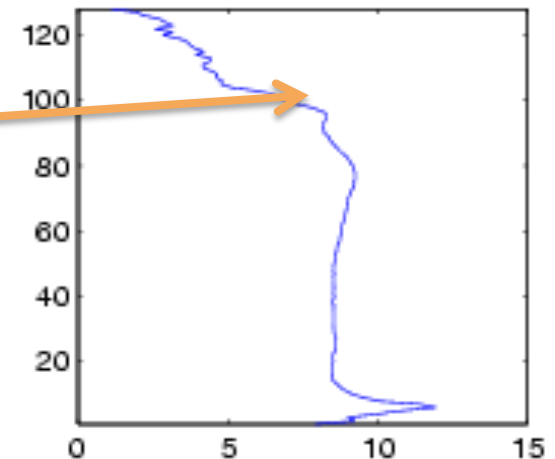
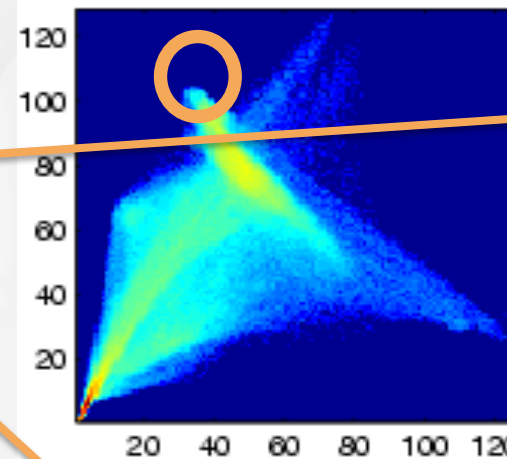
Marginal Histogram



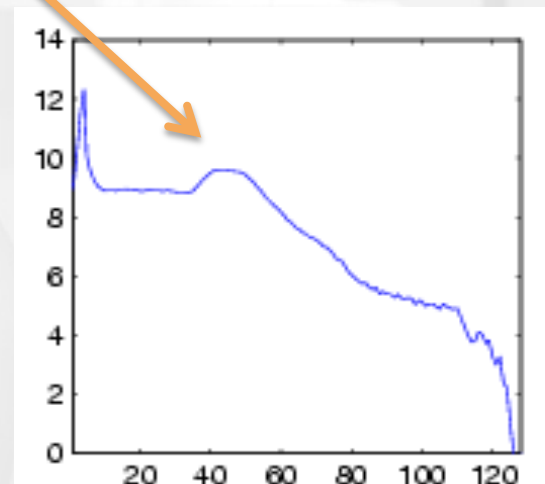
Mean functional



Anatomical MRI



- Voxels of same tissue identity have same intensity in an MR-contrast
- In second MR contrast, intensity might be different, but still the same among all voxels of the same tissue
- Therefore, aligned voxels in 2 images induce crisp peaks in joint histogram



intensity bins
structural

intensity bins
functional

Joint Histogram:
 $h(i_f i_s)$

Count of voxels who
have intensity i_f in
functional and i_s in
structural image

Co-Registration: Output



SNR & Preproc

Temporal

Spatial

General

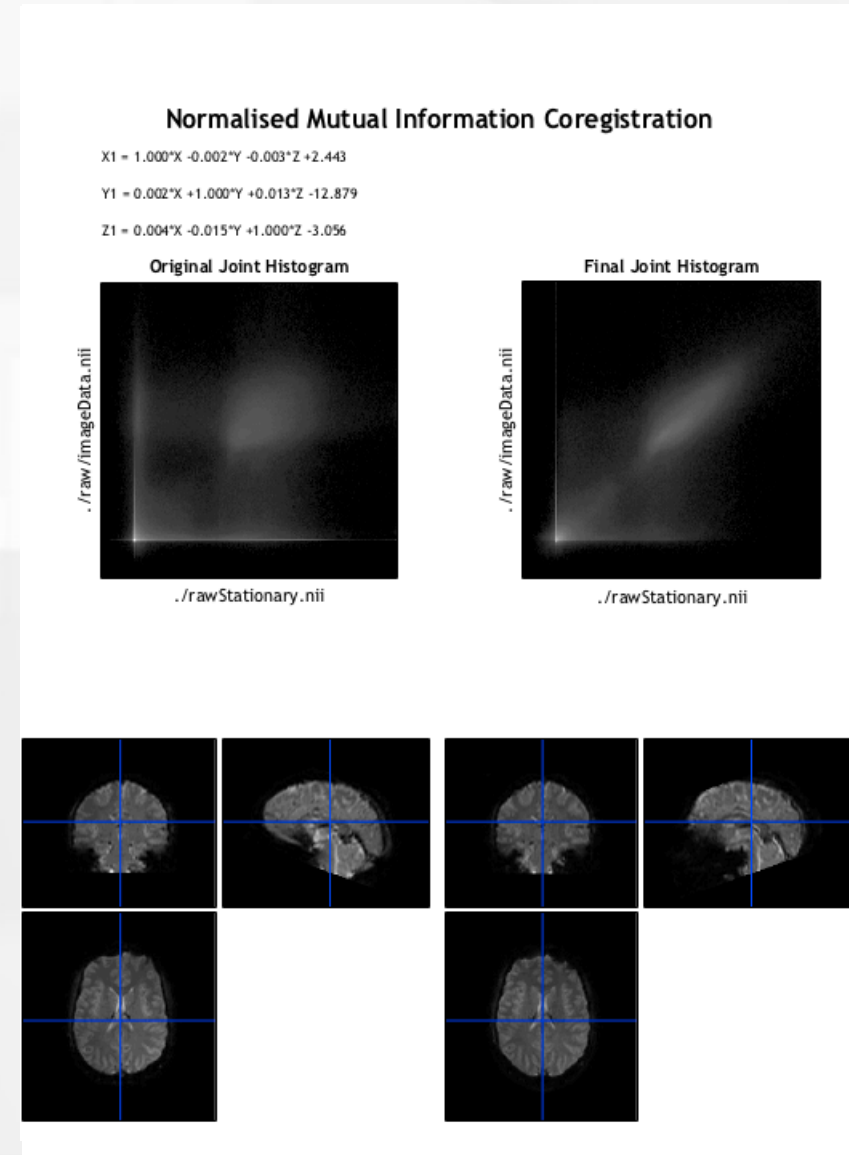
Realign

Coreg

Normalise

Smooth

- Aligned voxels in 2 images induce crisp peaks in joint histogram
- Optimization criterion:
 - Joint histogram: Quantify how well voxel intensity in one image predicts the intensity in the other
 - how much shared (=mutual) information
 - Joint histogram: proxy to joint probability distribution



Sources of Noise in fMRI



SNR & Preproc

Temporal

Spatial

General

Realign

Coreg

Normalise

Smooth

- Acquisition Timing
- Subject Motion
- Anatomical Identity
- Inter-subject variability
- Thermal Noise
- Physiological Noise

Spatial Preproc

- Slice-Timing
- Realignment
- Co-registration
- Segmentation
- Smoothing
- PhysIO Toolbox

Spatial Normalisation: Reasons



SNR & Preproc

Temporal

Spatial

General

Realign

Coreg

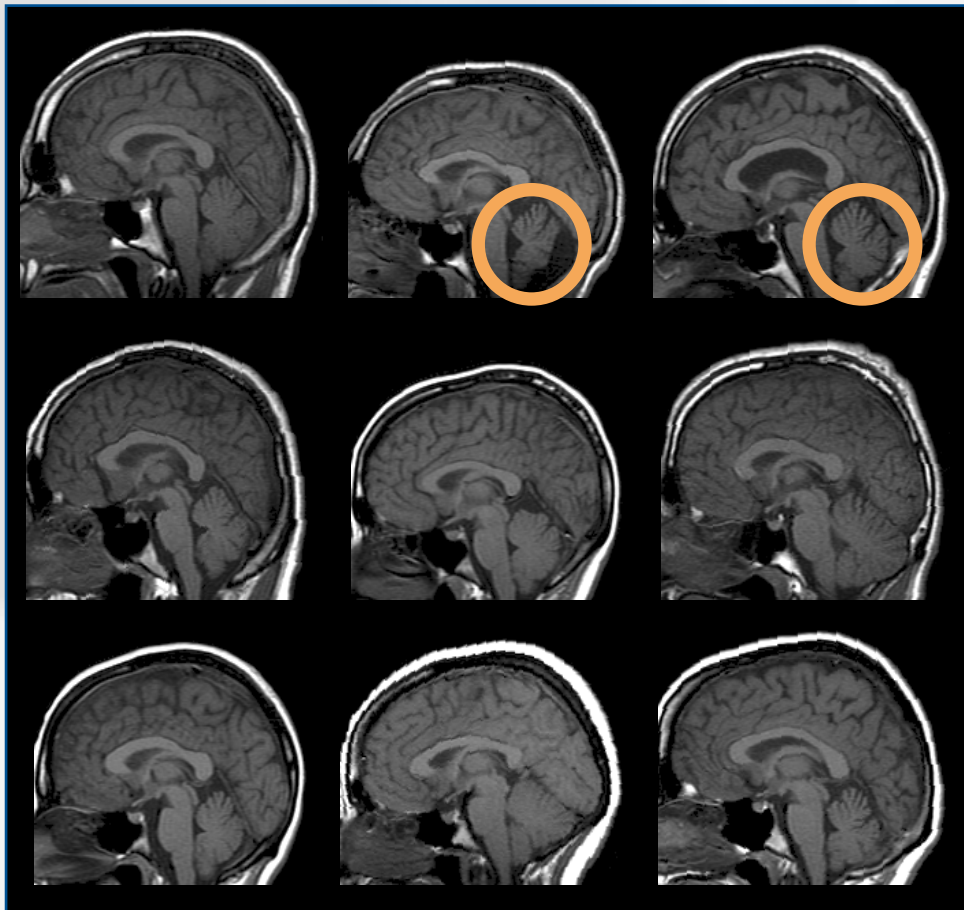
Normalise

Smooth

- Inter-Subject Variability



- Inter-Subject Averaging



- Increase sensitivity with more subjects (fixed-effects)
- Generalise findings to population as a whole (mixed-effects)
- Ensure Comparability between studies (alignment to standard space)
 - Talairach and Tournoux (T&T) convention using the Montreal Neurological Institute (MNI) space
 - Templates from 152/305 subjects

Unified Segmentation



SNR & Preproc

Temporal

Spatial

General

Realign

Coreg

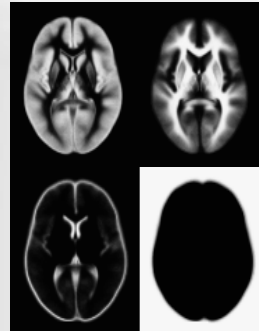
Normalise

Smooth

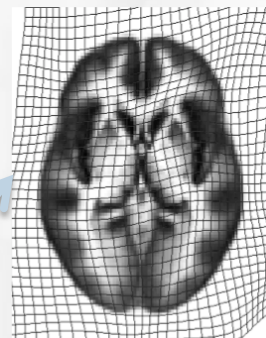
Structural MRI



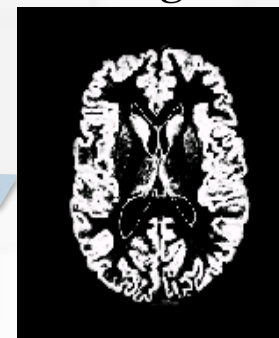
TPMs



Deformation
Fields

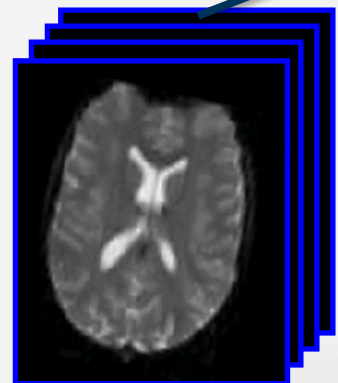


Segmented
Images



SEGMENT

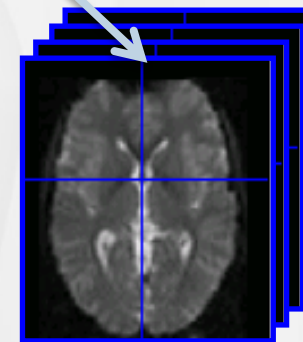
**NORM
WRITE**



Motion corrected

$$\begin{pmatrix} m_{11} & m_{12} & m_{13} & m_{14} \\ m_{21} & m_{22} & m_{23} & m_{24} \\ m_{31} & m_{32} & m_{33} & m_{34} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

(Headers changed)



MNI Space

- Warps structural image to standard space (MNI)
- Non-linear transformation: discrete cosine transforms (~1000)
- Objective function: Bayes probability of voxel intensity

Theory: Segmentation/Normalisation



SNR & Preproc

Temporal

Spatial

General

Realign

Coreg

Normalise

Smooth

- Why is normalisation difficult?
 - No simple similarity measure, a lot of possible transformations...
 - Different Imaging Sequences (Contrasts, geometry distortion)
 - Noise, artefacts, partial volume effects
 - Intensity inhomogeneity (bias field)
 - **Normalisation** of segmented tissues is more robust and precise than of original image
 - Tissue **segmentation** benefits from spatially aligned tissue probability maps (of prior segmentation data)
- ➔ Motivates a unified model of segmentation/normalisation

Summary of the unified model



SNR & Preproc

Temporal

Spatial

General

Realign

Coreg

Normalise

Smooth

- SPM12 implements a generative model of voxel intensity from tissue class probabilities
 - Principled Bayesian probabilistic formulation
 - Gaussian mixture model: segmentation by tissue-class dependent Gaussian intensity distributions
 - voxel-wise prior mixture proportions given by tissue probability maps
- Deformations of prior tissue probability maps also modelled
 - Non-linear deformations are constrained by regularisation factors
 - inverse of estimated transformation for TPMs normalises the original image
- Bias field correction is included within the model

Theory: Unified Model Segmentation



SNR & Preproc

Temporal

Spatial

General

Realign

Coreg

Normalise

Smooth

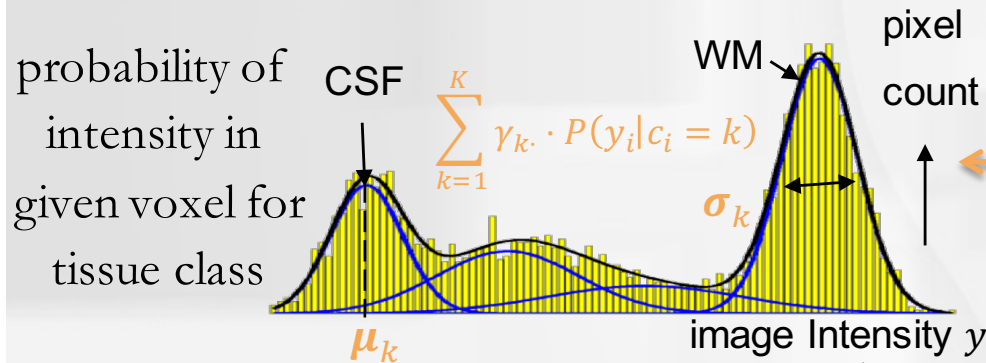
$$\mathcal{E} = - \sum_{i=1}^I \log \left(\frac{\rho_i(\beta)}{\sum_{k=1}^K \gamma_k b_{ik}(\alpha)} \sum_{k=1}^K \gamma_k b_{ik}(\alpha) (2\pi\sigma_k^2)^{-\frac{1}{2}} \times \exp \left(- \frac{(\rho_i(\beta)y_i - \mu_k)^2}{2\sigma_k^2} \right) \right)$$

(2005), Neuroimage

- Objective function: log joint probability of all voxel intensities $\mathbf{y}$

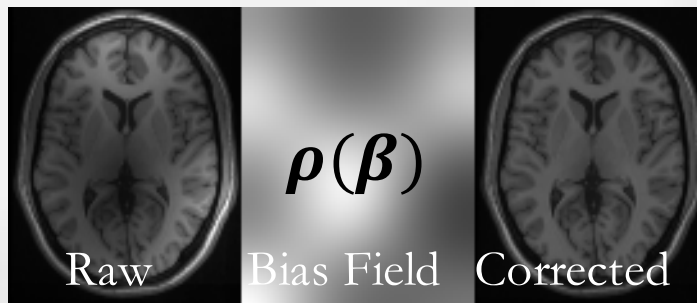
$$\mathcal{E} = \log P(\mathbf{y} | \mu, \sigma, \gamma, b_{1...K}, \alpha, \beta)$$

Gaussian Mixture Model

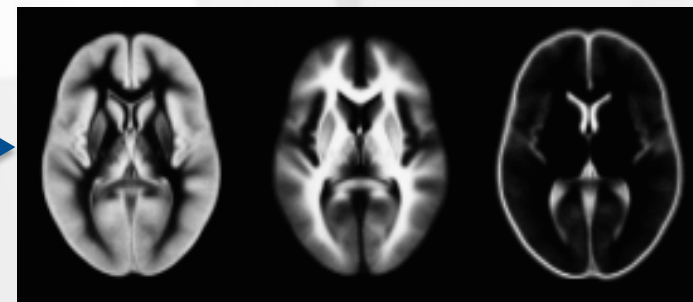


Bias Field

coil inhomogeneities

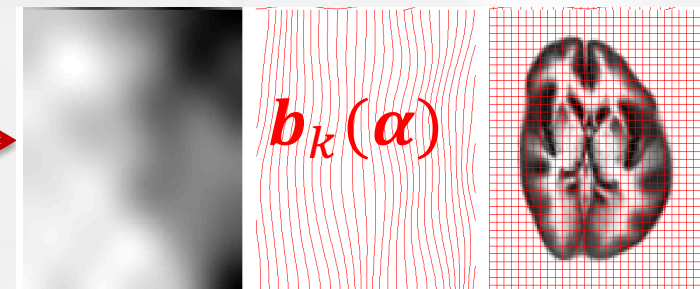


Prior: Tissue probability maps



TPMs
in MNI
space

Deformation Fields



~1000
discrete
cosine
transforms

Segmentation results



SNR & Preproc

Temporal

Spatial

General

Realign

Coreg

Normalise

Smooth

- segmentation works irrespective of image contrast

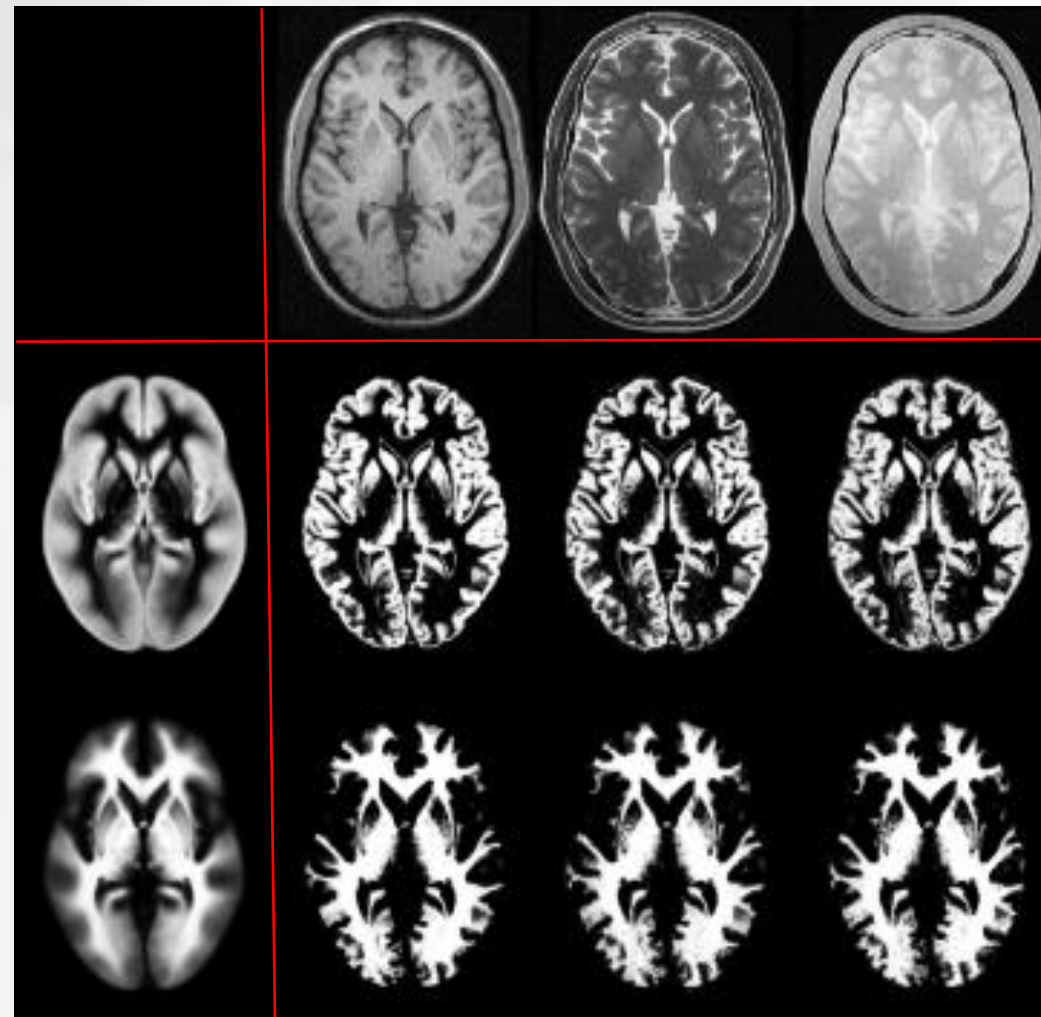
T1

T2

PD

Spatially
normalised
BrainWeb
phantoms

Estimated
Tissue
probability
maps (TPMs)



Cocosco, Kollokian, Kwan &
Evans. "BrainWeb: Online Interface
to a 3D MRI Simulated Brain
Database". NeuroImage
5(4):S425 (1997)

Benefits of Unified Segmentation



SNR & Preproc

Temporal

Spatial

General

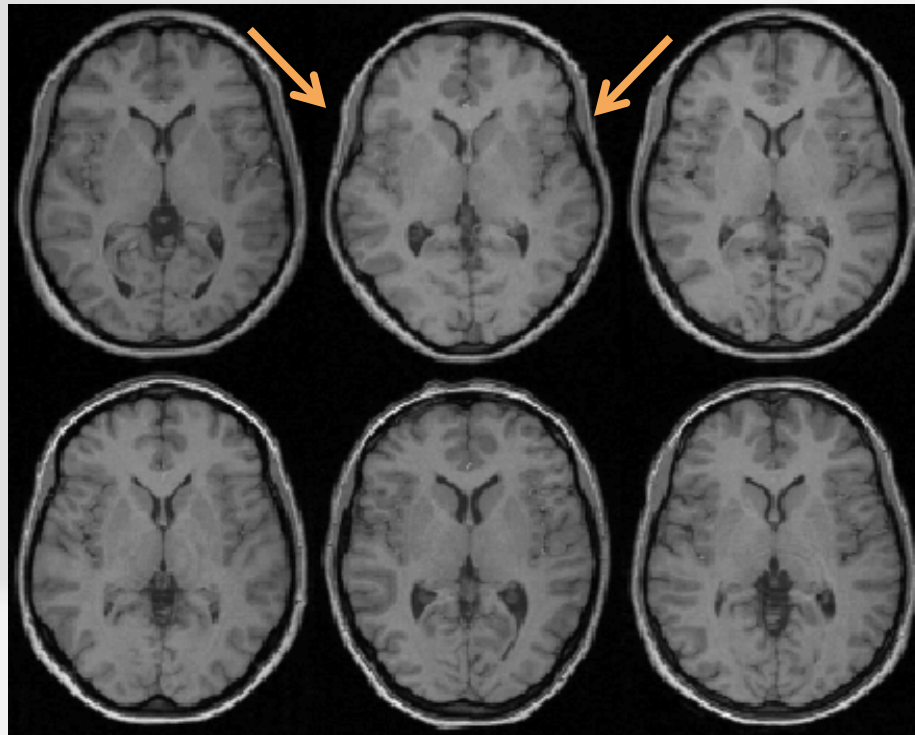
Realign

Coreg

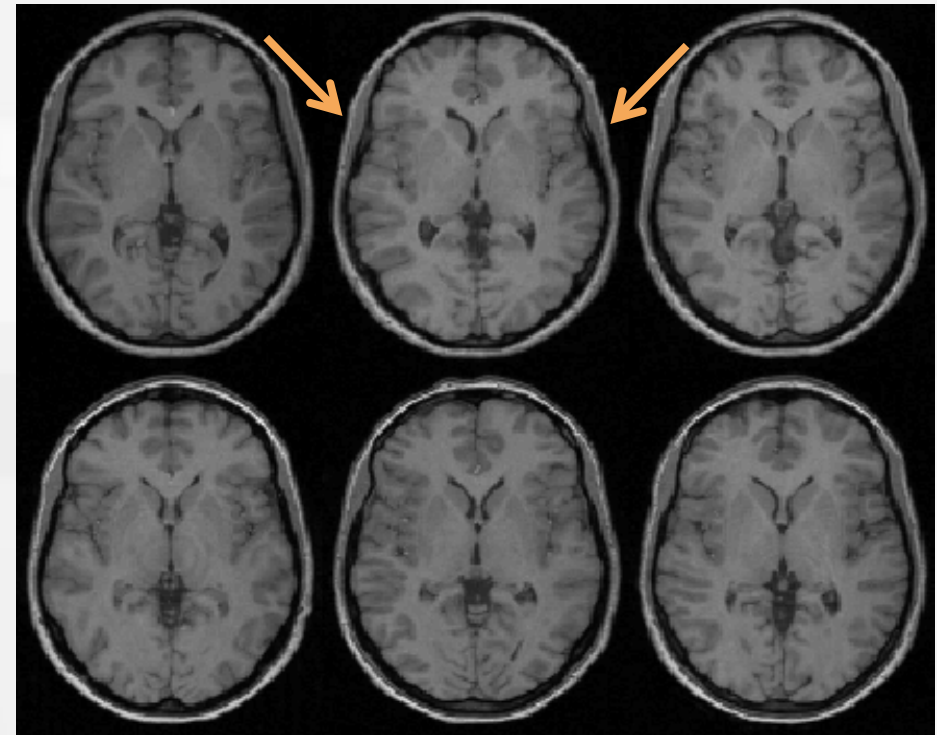
Normalise

Smooth

Affine registration



Non-linear registration



Spatial normalisation – Limitations



SNR & Preproc

Temporal

Spatial

General

Realign

Coreg

Normalise

Smooth

- Seek to match functionally homologous regions, but...
 - Challenging high-dimensional optimisation
 - many local optima
 - Different cortices **can** have different folding patterns
 - No exact match between structure and function
 - Interesting recent paper Amiez et al. (2013), PMID:23365257
- Compromise
 - Correct relatively large-scale variability
 - Smooth over finer-scale residual differences

Smoothing – Why blurring the data?



SNR & Preproc

Temporal

Spatial

General

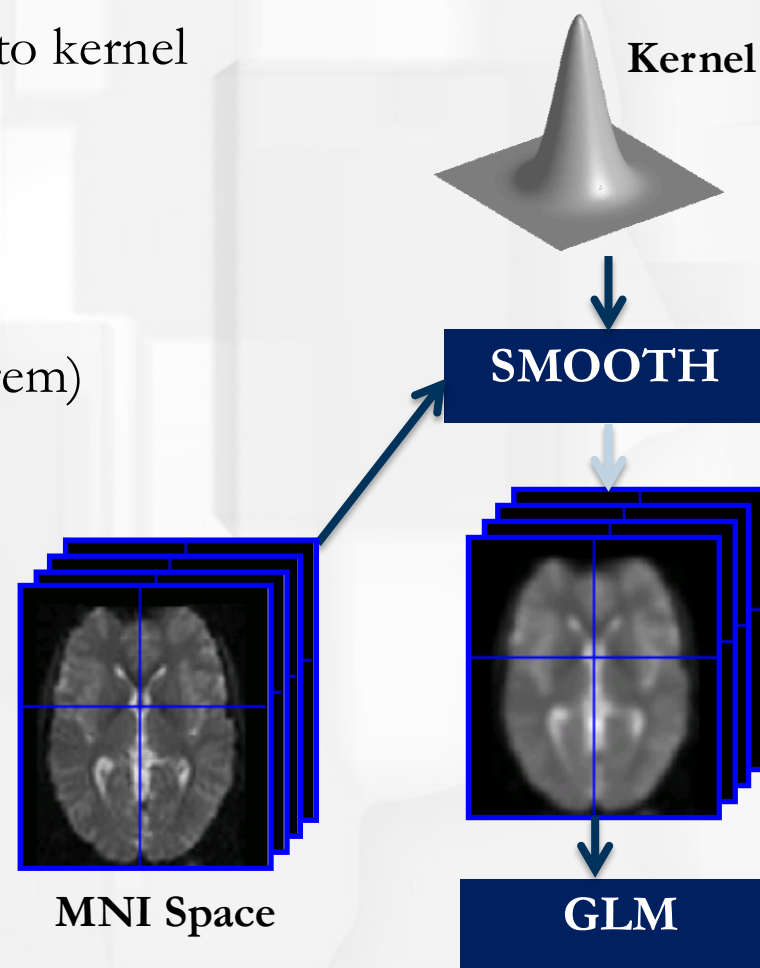
Realign

Coreg

Normalise

Smooth

- Intra-subject signal quality
 - Suppresses thermal noise (averaging)
 - Increases sensitivity to effects of similar scale to kernel (matched filter theorem)
- Single-subject statistical analysis
 - Makes data more Gaussian (central limit theorem)
 - Reduces the number of multiple comparisons
- Second-level statistical analysis
 - Improves spatial overlap by blurring anatomical differences



Smoothing – How is it implemented?



SNR & Preproc

Temporal

Spatial

General

Realign

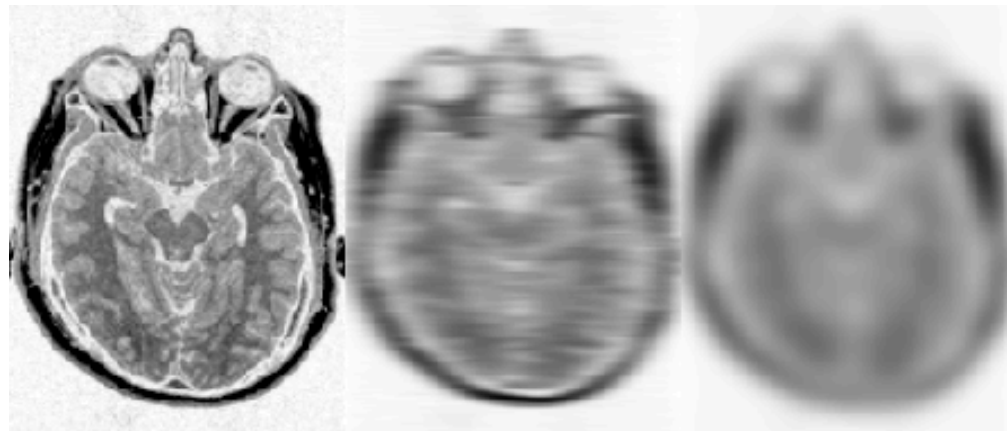
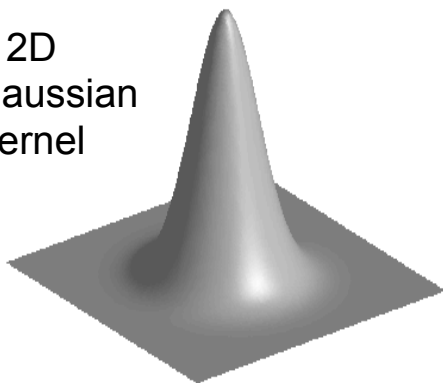
Coreg

Normalise

Smooth

- Convolution with a 3D Gaussian kernel, of specified full-width at half-maximum (FWHM) in mm
 - mathematically equivalent to slice-timing operation or reslicing, but different kernels there (Sinc, b-spline)
- Gaussian kernel is separable, and we can smooth 2D data with 2 separate 1D convolutions

A 2D
Gaussian
Kernel



fMRI Run after Smoothing



SNR & Preproc

Temporal

Spatial

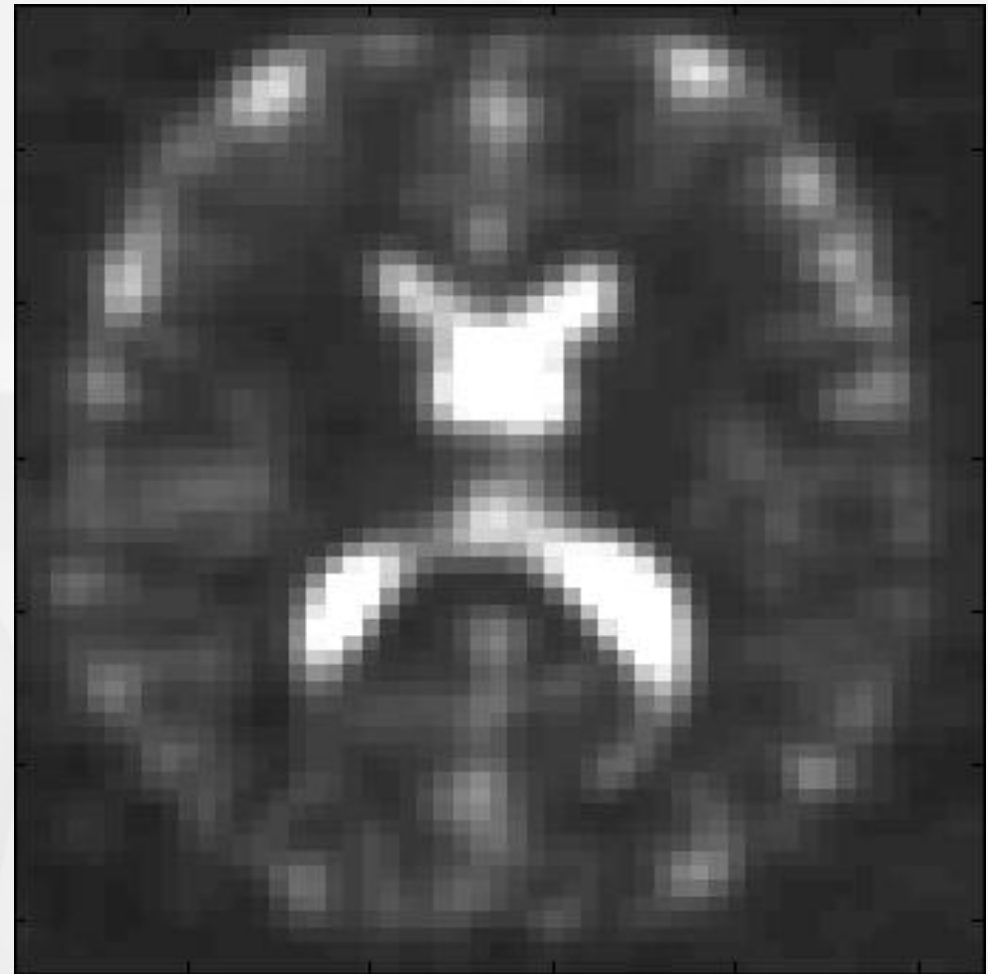
General

Realign

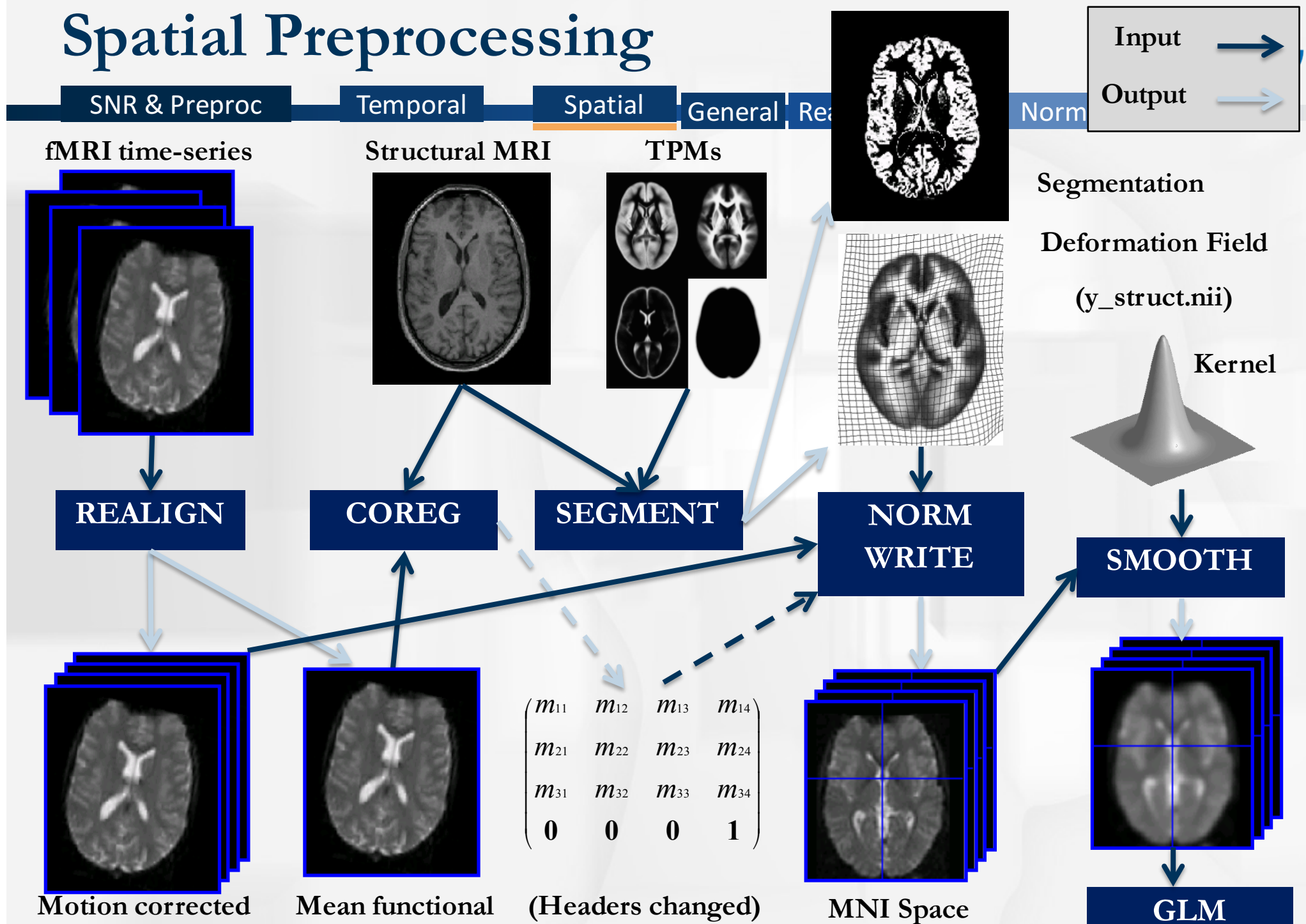
Coreg

Normalise

Smooth



Spatial Preprocessing



Sources of Noise in fMRI



SNR & Preproc

Temporal

Spatial

General

Realign

Coreg

Normalise

Smooth

- Acquisition Timing
- Subject Motion
- Anatomical Identity
- Inter-subject variability
- Thermal Noise
- Physiological Noise

Temporal Preproc

Spatial Preproc

Spatial Preproc

Spatial Preproc

Spatial Preproc

Noise Modeling

- Slice-Timing
- Realignment
- Co-registration
- Segmentation
- Smoothing
- PhysIO Toolbox

Teaser: PhysIO Noise Modelling



SNR & Preproc

Temporal

Spatial

General

Realign

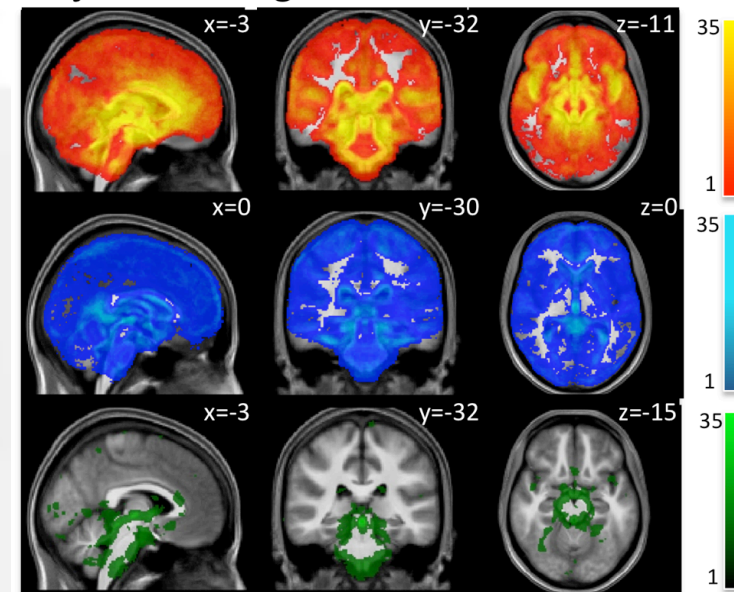
Coreg

Normalise

Smooth

- We can model time series of non-BOLD physiological fluctuations from prior knowledge (locations, dominant frequencies) or peripheral recordings (ECG, breathing belt)
- “Filter” these out via incorporation into general linear model
 - See next talk!
- Result:
 - Cardiac (red), respiratory (blue) physiological time courses, and their interaction (green) contribute severely to remaining non-Gaussian voxel fluctuations
- For more details: See our practical session tomorrow...

Subjects with Significant Noise Reduction



Thank you...



SNR & Preproc

Temporal

Spatial

General

Realign

Coreg

Normalise

Smooth

- ...and:
 - TNU Zurich,
in particular: Klaas
 - MR-technology Group IBT,
in particular: Klaas
 - Everyone I borrowed slides from 😊



Mixture of Gaussians



SNR & Preproc

Temporal

Spatial

General

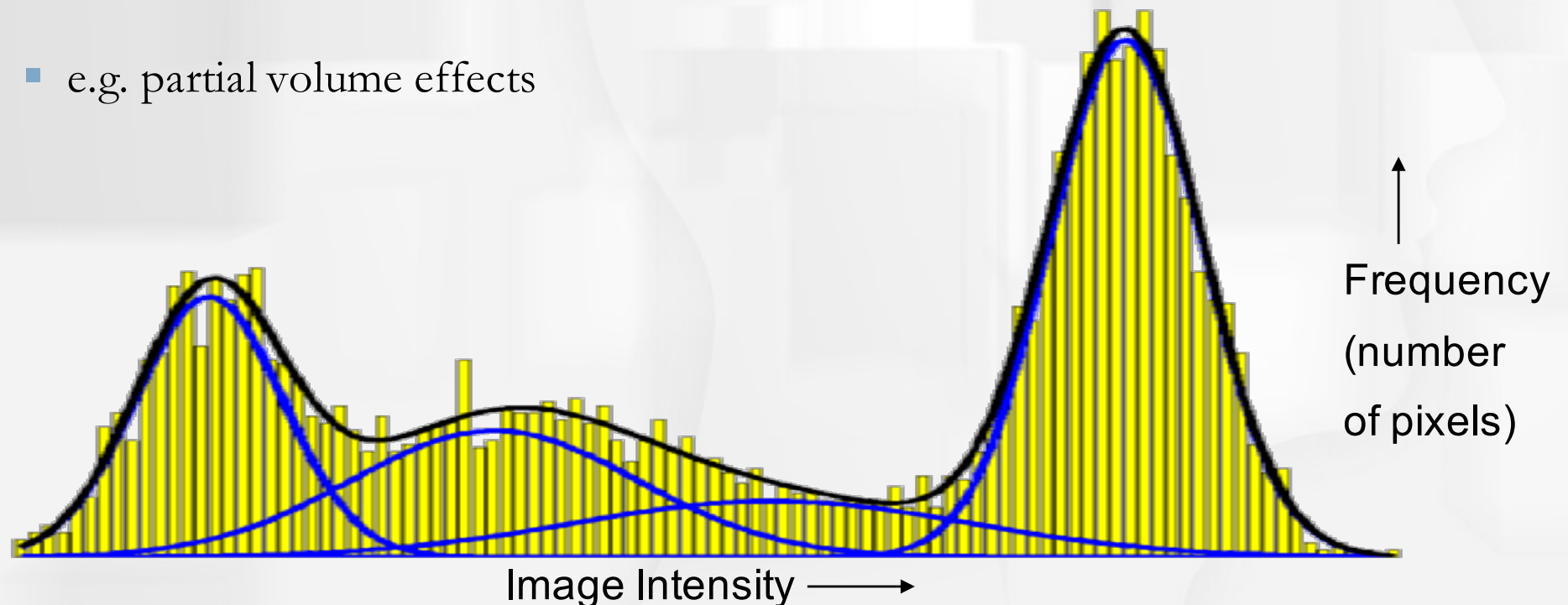
Realign

Coreg

Normalise

Smooth

- Classification is based on a Mixture of Gaussians model, which represents the intensity probability density by a number of Gaussian distributions.
- Multiple Gaussians per tissue class allow non-Gaussian intensity distributions to be modelled
 - e.g. partial volume effects



Tissue Probability Maps



SNR & Preproc

Temporal

Spatial

General

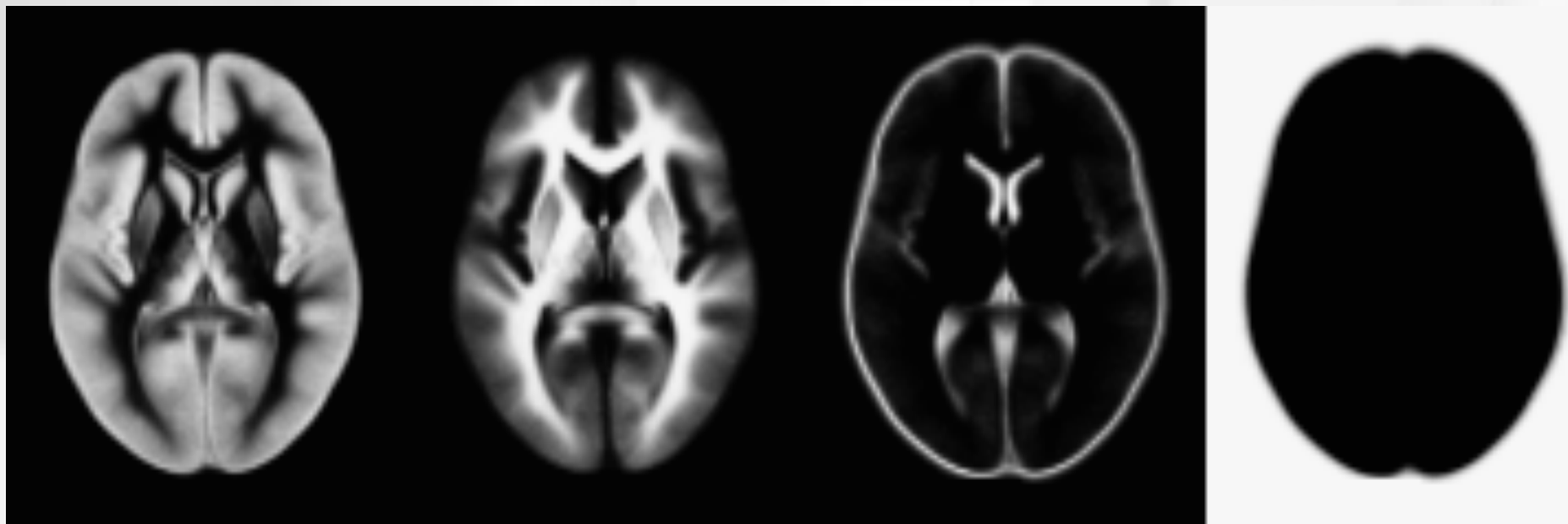
Realign

Coreg

Normalise

Smooth

- Tissue probability maps (TPMs) are used as the prior, instead of the proportion of voxels in each class



ICBM Tissue Probabilistic Atlases. These tissue probability maps were kindly provided by the **International Consortium for Brain Mapping**

Deforming the Tissue Probability Maps



SNR & Preproc

Temporal

Spatial

General

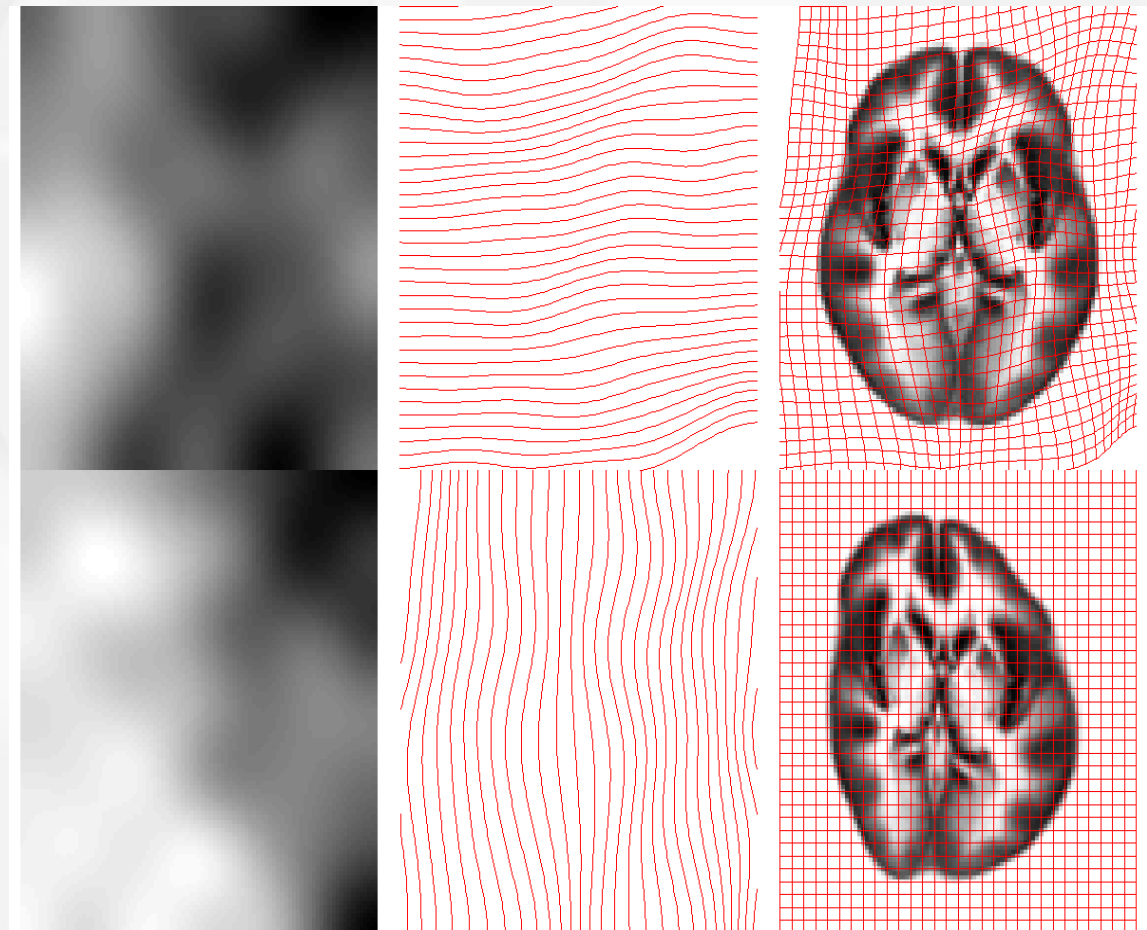
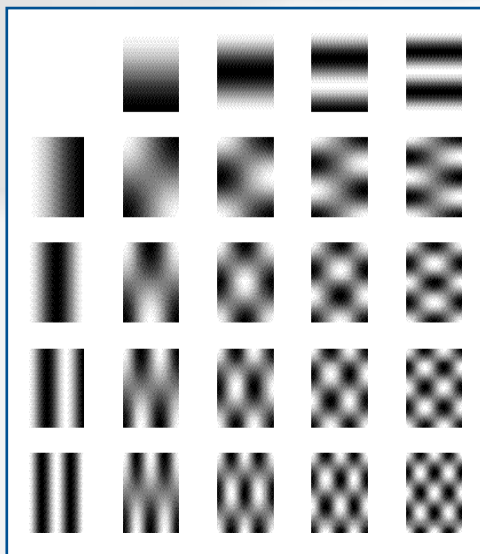
Realign

Coreg

Normalise

Smooth

- Tissue probability maps images are warped to match the subject
- The inverse transform warps to the TPMs



Why regularisation? – Overfitting



SNR & Preproc

Temporal

Spatial

General

Realign

Coreg

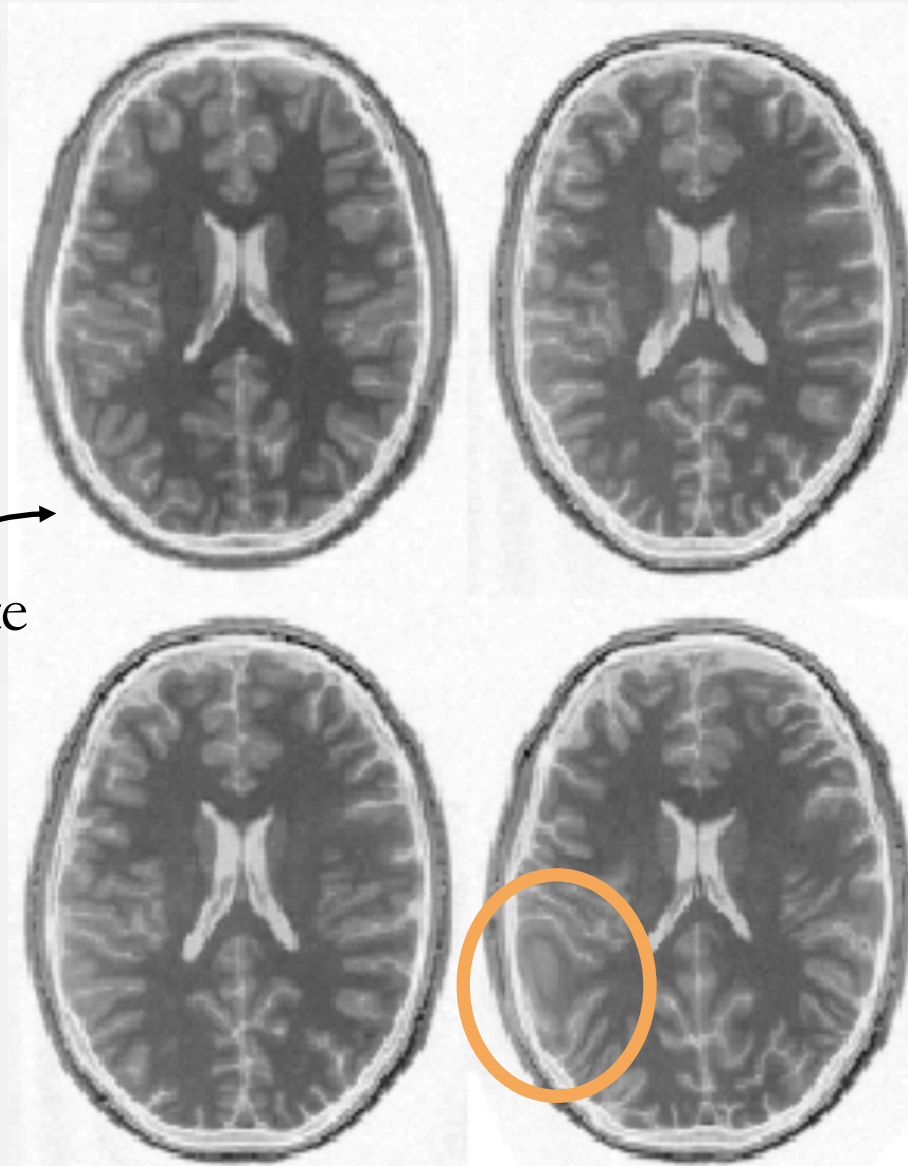
Normalise

Smooth

- Regularisation constrains deformations to realistic range (implemented as priors)

Non-linear registration using regularisation (error = 302.7)

Template image



Affine registration (error = 472.1)

Non-linear registration without regularisation (error = 287.3)

Modelling inhomogeneity

SNR & Preproc

Temporal

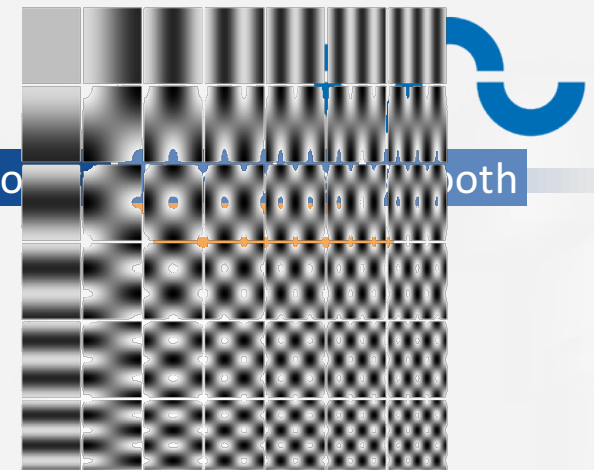
Spatial

General

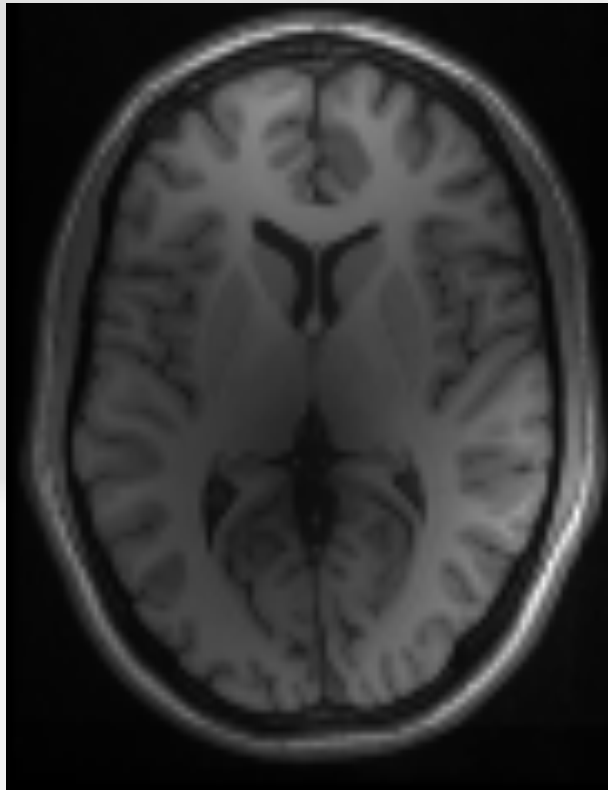
Realign

Co

both



- A multiplicative bias field is modelled as a linear combination of basis functions.



Corrupted image



Bias Field



Corrected image

Unified segmentation: The maths



SNR & Preproc

Temporal

Spatial

General

Realign

Coreg

Normalise

Smooth

- Mixture of Gaussians: probability of voxel i having intensity y_i , given it is from a specific cluster k (e.g. tissue class gray matter)

$$P(y_i | c_i = k, \mu_k, \sigma_k) = \frac{1}{(2\pi\sigma_k^2)^{\frac{1}{2}}} \exp\left(-\frac{(y_i - \mu_k)^2}{2\sigma_k^2}\right) \quad (1)$$

- Prior probability of voxel's tissue class (e.g. voxel proportion) γ_k

$$P(c_i = k | \gamma_k) = \gamma_k$$

- Joint Probability: $P(y_i, c_i = k | \mu_k, \sigma_k, \gamma_k) = P(y_i | c_i = k, \mu_k, \sigma_k) P(c_i = k | \gamma_k)$
- Marginal probability of voxel intensity:

$$P(y_i | \mu, \sigma, \gamma) = \sum_{k=1}^K P(y_i, c_i = k | \mu_k, \sigma_k, \gamma_k)$$

- Joint probability all voxels' intensity:

$$P(\mathbf{y} | \mu, \sigma, \gamma) = \prod_{i=1}^I P(y_i | \mu, \sigma, \gamma) = \prod_{i=1}^I \left(\sum_{k=1}^K \frac{\gamma_k}{(2\pi\sigma_k^2)^{\frac{1}{2}}} \exp\left(-\frac{(y_i - \mu_k)^2}{2\sigma_k^2}\right) \right) \quad (5)$$



- Implemented by adjusting the Means and Variances of the Gaussians on a pixel-by pixel basis by a function smoothly varying in space, $\rho_i(\boldsymbol{\beta})$:
 - $\mu_k \mapsto \frac{\mu_k}{\rho_i(\boldsymbol{\beta})}, \sigma_k^2 \mapsto \left(\frac{\sigma_k}{\rho_i(\boldsymbol{\beta})}\right)^2$
 - ρ_i is the exponential of a linear combination of low frequency basis functions
 - Parameters to be estimated: vector $\boldsymbol{\beta}$
- intensity probability conditioned on cluster identity:

$$\begin{aligned} P(y_i | c_i = k, \mu_k, \sigma_k, \boldsymbol{\beta}) &= \frac{1}{\left(2\pi(\sigma_k/\rho_i(\boldsymbol{\beta}))^2\right)^{\frac{1}{2}}} \exp\left(-\frac{(y_i - \mu_k/\rho_i(\boldsymbol{\beta}))^2}{2(\sigma_k/\rho_i(\boldsymbol{\beta}))^2}\right) \\ &= \rho_i(\boldsymbol{\beta}) \frac{1}{(2\pi\sigma_k^2)^{\frac{1}{2}}} \exp\left(-\frac{(\rho_i(\boldsymbol{\beta})y_i - \mu_k)^2}{2\sigma_k^2}\right) \end{aligned}$$

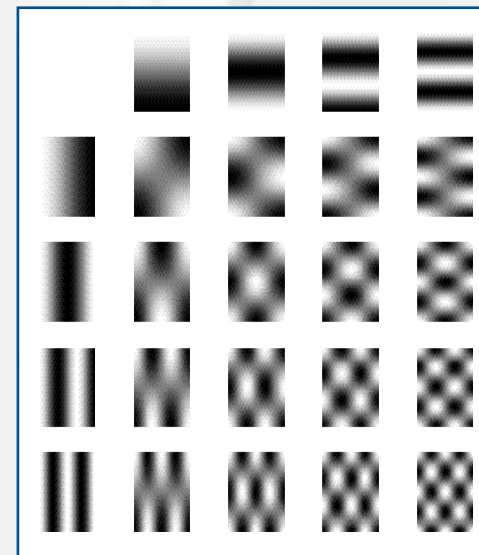


- Replacing stationary mixing proportions γ_k by voxel-dependent proportions which are informed by the prior tissue probabilities b_{ik} for this voxel i and different tissue types k
- $\gamma_k \mapsto \gamma_k(i) = \gamma_k \cdot \frac{b_{ik}}{\sum_{j=1}^K \gamma_j b_{ij}}$
- Note: K can be larger than the number of tissue classes, since each class can be reflected by a mixture of Gaussians, e.g. 3 Gaussians for gray matter (to allow for non-Gaussian distributions per tissue class)
 - E.g. partial volume effects

- Deformation (and thereby normalisation) is implemented by allowing the prior TPMs (which are in MNI-space) to be spatially transformed by a parameterised mapping

- $b_{ik} \mapsto b_{ik}(\alpha) \Rightarrow P(c_i = k | \gamma, \alpha) = \frac{\gamma_k b_{ik}(\alpha)}{\sum_{j=0}^K \gamma_j b_{ij}(\alpha)}$

- Parameter vector to be estimated: α
- about 1000 discrete cosine transforms



- Linear Regularisation of Bias Field and Deformation Field Estimates
 - By including prior distributions for α and β as zero-mean multivariate Gaussians
 - Covariance: $\alpha^T C_\alpha \alpha = \text{bending energy}$; $\rho(\beta) = \exp(K_{70mm} * N(0, \beta))$
- Thus, the final objective function to be maximised is the log-joint probability of intensity, bias and deformation field parameters:

$$P(y, \beta, \alpha | \gamma, \mu, \sigma^2) = P(y | \beta, \alpha, \gamma, \mu, \sigma^2) P(\beta) P(\alpha)$$

- Equivalently, the negative free energy is minimised:

$$\mathcal{F} = -\log P(y, \beta, \alpha | \gamma, \mu, \sigma^2) = \mathcal{E} - \log P(\beta) - \log P(\alpha)$$

$$\mathcal{E} = - \sum_{i=1}^I \log \left(\frac{\rho_i(\beta)}{\sum_{k=1}^K \gamma_k b_{ik}(\alpha)} \sum_{k=1}^K \gamma_k b_{ik}(\alpha) (2\pi\sigma_k^2)^{-\frac{1}{2}} \right. \\ \left. \times \exp \left(- \frac{(\rho_i(\beta) y_i - \mu_k)^2}{2\sigma_k^2} \right) \right)$$