# Introduction à la statistique médicale

# Statistical Parametric Mapping short course

### Course 4:

# Multiple comparison problem & levels of inference



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### Content

- Introduction
- Family-wise error rate (FWER)
- Levels of inference in SPM
- Non-parametric permutation test
- Conclusion

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- Introduction
  - Single voxel inference
  - Multiple comparison problem
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# Single voxel inference



# Classical hypothesis testing...

- Null hypothesis *H* 
  - test statistic
  - null distributions
- Hypothesis test
  - control Type I error
    - incorrectly reject H
  - test *level*  $\alpha$ 
    - Pr("reject"  $H \mid H$ )  $\leq \alpha$
- *p* -value
  - min  $\alpha$  at which *H* rejected
  - $\Pr(T \ge t \mid H)$
  - characterising "surprise"

t -distribution, 32 df.



# Sensitivity & specificity

	ACTION							
		Don't reject	Reject					
TRUTH	H <sub>o</sub> true	True Negative	False Positive					
	$H_0$ false	False Negative	True Positive					

Sensitivity = TP/(TP+FN) =  $\beta$ Specificity = TN/(TN+FP) = 1 -  $\alpha$ FP = Type I error or 'error' FN = Type II error  $\alpha$  = p-value/FP rate/error rate/significance level  $\beta$  = power

### Multiple tests



# Multiple tests



# If we have 100000 voxels, $\alpha = 0.05 \Rightarrow$ **5000 false positive voxels**.

This is clearly undesirable! Need to define a *null hypothesis* for a *collection of tests*.

Noisy data



#### Use of `uncorrected' *p*-value, $\alpha = 0.1$

















11.3% 11.3% 12.5% 10.8% 11.5% 10.0% 10.7% 11.2% 10.2% 9.5% Percentage of Null Pixels that are False Positives Assessing statistics images

### Where's the signal?

High Threshold



Good Specificity

Poor Power (risk of false negatives)

#### Med. Threshold



### Low Threshold



Poor Specificity (risk of false positives)

Good Power

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  - Family-wise Null hypothesis
  - Bonferroni correction
  - Random Field Theory
- Levels of inference in SPM
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# Family-Wise Null Hypothesis

*Family-Wise Null Hypothesis: Activation is zero everywhere* 

If we reject a voxel null hypothesis at *any* voxel, we reject the family-wise Null hypothesis

A FP anywhere in the image gives a Family Wise Error (FWE)

Family-Wise Error rate (FWER) = `corrected' p-value



The Family-Wise Error rate (FWER),  $\alpha_{FWE}$ , for a family of *N* tests follows the inequality:

$$\alpha_{FWE} \le N\alpha$$

where  $\alpha$  is the test-wise error rate.

Therefore, to ensure a particular FWER choose:

$$\alpha = \frac{\alpha_{FWE}}{N}$$

This correction does not require the tests to be independent but becomes very stringent if dependence.

# Bonferroni correction, example

- Experiment with N = 100000 independent voxels and 40 d.f.
  - v = unknown corrected probability threshold,
  - find v such that family-wise error rate  $\alpha = 0.05$
- Bonferroni correction:
  - probability that all tests are below the threshold,
  - use v =  $\alpha$  / N
  - here v=0.05/100000=0.0000005

 $\Rightarrow$  threshold *t* = 5.77

#### • Interpretation:

Bonferroni procedure gives a corrected p-value,

i.e. for a t statistics = 5.77,

- uncorrectd p value = 0.0000005
- corrected p value = 0.05

### Bonferroni & independent observations



100 by 100 voxels. **10000** independent measures Fix the  $P^{FWE} = 0.05$ , *z* threshold ?

Bonferroni: v = 0.05 / 10000 = 0.000005 $\Rightarrow$  threshold z = 4.42



100 by 100 voxels. **100** independent measures Fix the  $P^{FWE} = 0.05$ , *z* threshold ?

Bonferroni: v = 0.05 / 100 = 0.0005 $\Rightarrow$  threshold z = 3.29

 $v = \alpha / n_i$  where  $n_i$  is the number of independent observations.

### Bonferroni & independent observations



100 by 100 voxels. **10000** independent measures Fix the  $P^{FWE} = 0.05$ , *z* threshold ?

Bonferroni:

v = 0.05 / 10000 = 0.000005 $\Rightarrow$  threshold z = 4.42 Hinge 1 - smoothed with Causaian kannel of PMHM 15 by 15 points

100 by 100 voxels. How many independent measures ???

# Random Field Theory

 $\Rightarrow$  Consider a statistic image as a discretisation of a continuous underlying random field.

 $\Rightarrow$  Use results from continuous **random field theory**.



# **RFT and Euler Characteristic**

#### **Euler Characteristic** $\chi_u$ :

- Topological measure  $\chi_u = \#$  blobs # holes
- at high threshold *u*:
   *χ<sub>u</sub>* = # blobs



$$FWER = p(FWE) \\ \approx E[\chi_u]$$

### Euler characteristic...







### **Expected Euler Characteristic**

#### 2D Gaussian Random Field







# Smoothness

#### **Smoothness parameterised in terms of FWHM:**

Size of Gaussian kernel required to smooth i.i.d. noise to have same smoothness as observed null (standardized) data.

### **RESELS (Resolution Elements):**

 $1 \text{ RESEL} = FWHM_xFWHM_yFWHM_z$ 

RESEL Count R = volume of search region in units of smoothness



The number of resels is similar, but not identical to the number independent observations.

#### Smoothness estimated from spatial derivatives of standardised residuals:

Yields an RPV image containing local roughness estimation.

Eg: 10 voxels, 2.5 FWHM, 4 RESELS



### Corrected *p*-value for statistic value *t*

$$p_{c} = p(\max T > t)$$
  

$$\approx E[\chi_{t}]$$
  

$$\propto \lambda(\Omega) |\Lambda|^{1/2} t \exp(-t^{2}/2)$$

• Statistic value *t* increases ?

 $-p_c$  decreases (better signal)

• Search volume increases (  $\lambda(\Omega) \uparrow$  ) ?

 $-p_c$  increases (more severe correction)

• Smoothness increases (  $|\Lambda|^{1/2}\downarrow$  ) ?

 $-p_c$  decreases (less severe correction)

### General form for expected Euler characteristic

*t*, *F* &  $\chi^2$  fields • restricted search regions • *D* dimensions •

$$E[\chi_u(\Omega)] = \sum_{d=0}^D R_d(\Omega)\rho_d(u)$$

 $R_d(Ω)$ : *d*-dimensional Lipschitz-Killing curvatures of Ω (≈ *intrinsic volumes*):

-function of dimension, space  $\Omega$  and smoothness:

 $\begin{aligned} R_0(\Omega) &= \chi(\Omega) \text{ Euler characteristic of } \Omega \\ R_1(\Omega) &= \text{resel diameter} \\ R_2(\Omega) &= \text{resel surface area} \\ R_3(\Omega) &= \text{resel volume} \end{aligned}$ 

 $\rho_d(\mathbf{u})$ : *d*-dimensional EC density of the field

- function of dimension and threshold, specific for RF type:

E.g. Gaussian RF:

$$\rho_0(u) = 1 - \Phi(u)$$

$$\rho_1(u) = (4 \ln 2)^{1/2} \exp(-u^2/2) / (2\pi)$$

$$\rho_2(u) = (4 \ln 2) \quad u \quad \exp(-u^2/2) / (2\pi)^{3/2}$$

$$\rho_3(u) = (4 \ln 2)^{3/2} (u^2 - 1) \quad \exp(-u^2/2) / (2\pi)^2$$

$$\rho_4(u) = (4 \ln 2)^2 \quad (u^3 - 3u) \quad \exp(-u^2/2) / (2\pi)^{5/2}$$

# Estimated component fields



#### estimate









# Smoothness, PRF, resels...

- Smoothness  $\sqrt{|\Lambda|}$ 
  - variance-covariance matrix of partial derivatives (possibly location dependent)

$$\Lambda = \begin{pmatrix} \operatorname{var}\begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial e}{\partial x} \end{bmatrix} & \operatorname{cov}\begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial e}{\partial x} , \frac{\partial e}{\partial y} \end{bmatrix} & \operatorname{cov}\begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial e}{\partial x} , \frac{\partial e}{\partial z} \end{bmatrix} \\ \operatorname{cov}\begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial e}{\partial x} , \frac{\partial e}{\partial y} \end{bmatrix} & \operatorname{var}\begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial e}{\partial y} \end{bmatrix} & \operatorname{cov}\begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial e}{\partial y} , \frac{\partial e}{\partial z} \end{bmatrix} \\ \operatorname{cov}\begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial e}{\partial x} , \frac{\partial e}{\partial z} \end{bmatrix} & \operatorname{cov}\begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial e}{\partial y} , \frac{\partial e}{\partial z} \end{bmatrix} & \operatorname{var}\begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial e}{\partial z} \end{bmatrix} \end{pmatrix}$$

Point Response Function PRF



• Full Width at Half Maximum FWHM. Approximate the peak of the Covariance function with a Gaussian

- Gaussian PRF
  - $\Sigma$  kernel var/cov matrix

- ACF 
$$2\Sigma$$
  
-  $\Lambda = (2\Sigma)^{-1}$   
 $\Rightarrow$ FWHM f =  $\sigma \sqrt{8ln(2)}$   
-  $\Sigma = \begin{bmatrix} f_x & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & f_y & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & f_z \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 8ln(2) \\ ignoring \ covariances \\ \Rightarrow \sqrt{|\Lambda|} = (4ln(2))^{3/2} / (f_x \times f_y \times f_z)$ 

• Resolution Element (RESEL) – Resel dimensions  $(f_x \times f_y \times f_z)$ –  $R_3(\Omega) = \lambda(\Omega) / (f_x \times f_y \times f_z)$ *if strictly stationary* 

$$\begin{split} \mathsf{E}[\chi(A_{\mu})] &= \mathsf{R}_{3}(\Omega) \; (4\ln(2))^{3/2} \; (u^{2} - 1) \; \exp(-u^{2}/2) \\ &\approx \mathsf{R}_{3}(\Omega) \; (1 - \Phi(u)) \\ & \text{for high thresholds } u \end{split}$$

# **RFT** assumptions

- The statistic image is assumed to be a good lattice representation of an underlying random field with a multivariate Gaussian distribution.
- These fields are continuous, with an autocorrelation function twice differentiable at the origin.
- The threshold chosen to define clusters is high enough such that the expected EC is a good approximation to the number of clusters.
- The lattice approximation is reasonable, which implies the smoothness is relatively large compared to the voxel size.
- The errors of the specified statistical model are normally distributed, which implies the model is not misspecified.
- Smoothness of the data is unknown and estimated: very precise estimate by pooling over voxels ⇒ stationarity assumption.

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  - Topological inference
  - Small volume correction
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# **Topological** inference



# **Topological** inference



You MUST use a sufficiently high clusterforming threshold  $u_{clus}$ , i.e.  $p_{unc} < .001$ 

# **Topological** inference



# Peak, cluster & set level inference



# Levels of inference...



# Small volume correction

If one has some *a priori* idea of where an activation should be, one can pre-specify a small search space and make the appropriate correction instead of having to control for the entire search space

- mask defined by (probabilistic) anatomical atlases
- mask defined by separate "functional localisers"
- mask defined by orthogonal contrasts
- search volume around previously reported coordinates

With no prior hypothesis: 1. Test whole volume.

- 2. Identify SPM peak.
- 3. Then make a test assuming a single voxel.

SVC = correction for multiple comparison in a user's defined volume 'of interest'.

Shape and size of volume become important for small or oddly shaped volume !

Example of SVC (900 voxels)

- compact volume: samples from maximum 16 resels
- spread volume: sample from up to 36 resels
  - ⇒ threshold higher for spread volume than compact volume.



# Small volume correction, topology

TABLE 3. Representative examples of resel counts and critical values.										
	Vol.		Resel counts			$t \text{ for } \mathbf{P}(M \ge t) =$				
Search region $V$	(cc)	$R_0(V)$	$R_1(V)$	$R_2(V)$	$R_3(V)$	0.10	0.05	0.01		
Single voxel	0	1	0	0	0	1.28	1.64	2.33		
Head Of Caudate	7	0	6.18	4.63	0.65	2.75	3.02	3.55		
Putamen	12	1	7.32	6.80	1.18	2.89	3.15	3.66		
Globus Pallidus	3	0	4.03	2.29	0.24	2.49	2.78	3.35		
Thalamus	11	1	4.94	5.14	1.13	2.79	3.05	3.59		
Anterior Cingulate Gyrus	9	1	8.20	5.79	0.86	2.86	3.11	3.63		
Posterior Cingulate Gyrus	6	1	5.32	3.85	0.58	2.70	2.97	3.51		
Cingulate Gyri	15	0	12.89	9.63	1.44	3.03	3.27	3.77		
Superior Frontal Gyrus	80	1	15.64	25.69	8.97	3.38	3.60	4.07		
Middle Frontal Gyrus	57	1	14.89	21.14	6.23	3.31	3.53	4.00		
Inferior Frontal Gyrus	37	1	11.22	14.25	4.06	3.17	3.41	3.89		
Precentral Gyrus	32	1	12.30	14.23	3.40	3.16	3.40	3.88		
Frontal Gyri	207	1	19.30	53.39	23.63	3.63	3.84	4.28		
Occipital Lobe	65	-1	10.68	23.11	7.17	3.32	3.55	4.02		
4mm shell	254	2	0.54	207.27	15.88	3.85	4.04	4.45		
Whole brain	1294	1	20.43	107.09	153.42	4.05	4.23	4.63		

FWHM=20mm
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# Non-parametric permutation test

- Parametric methods
  - Assume distribution of statistic under null hypothesis



- Nonparametric methods
  - Use *data* to find distribution of statistic under null hypothesis
  - Any statistic!



• Data from V1 voxel in visual stim. experiment A: Active, flashing checkerboard B: Baseline, fixation 6 blocks, ABABAB Just consider block averages...

Α	В	Α	В	Α	В
103.00	90.48	99.93	87.83	99.76	96.06

- Null hypothesis *H*<sub>o</sub>
  - No experimental effect, A & B labels arbitrary
- Statistic
  - Mean difference

- Under *H*<sub>o</sub>
  - Consider all equivalent relabelings

AAABBB	ABABAB	BAAABB	BABBAA
AABABB	ABABBA	BAABAB	BBAAAB
AABBAB	ABBAAB	BAABBA	BBAABA
AABBBA	ABBABA	BABAAB	BBABAA
ABAABB	ABBBAA	BABABA	BBBAAA

- Under *H*<sub>o</sub>
  - Consider all equivalent relabelings
  - Compute all possible statistic values

AAABBB	4.82	ABABAB	9.45	BAAABB	-1.48	BABBAA	-6.86
AABABB	-3.25	ABABBA	6.97	BAABAB	1.10	BBAAAB	3.15
AABBAB	-0.67	ABBAAB	1.38	BAABBA	-1.38	BBAABA	0.67
AABBBA	-3.15	ABBABA	-1.10	BABAAB	-6.97	BBABAA	3.25
ABAABB	6.86	ABBBAA	1.48	BABABA	-9.45	BBBAAA	-4.82

- Under H<sub>o</sub>
  - Consider all equivalent relabelings
  - Compute all possible statistic values
  - Find 95%ile of permutation distribution

AAABBB	4.82	ABABAB	9.45	BAAABB	-1.48	BABBAA	-6.86
AABABB	-3.25	ABABBA	6.97	BAABAB	1.10	BBAAAB	3.15
AABBAB	-0.67	ABBAAB	1.38	BAABBA	-1.38	BBAABA	0.67
AABBBA	-3.15	ABBABA	-1.10	BABAAB	-6.97	BBABAA	3.25
ABAABB	6.86	ABBBAA	1.48	BABABA	-9.45	BBBAAA	-4.82

- Under *H*<sub>o</sub>
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ABAABB	6.86	ABBBAA	1.48	BABABA	-9.45	BBBAAA	-4.82

#### Controlling FWER: Permutation Test

- Parametric methods
  - Assume distribution of
     *max* statistic under null hypothesis



- Nonparametric methods
  - Use *data* to find
     distribution of *max* statistic
     under null hypothesis
  - Again, any max statistic!



#### Permutation Test & Exchangeability

- Exchangeability is fundamental
  - Def: Distribution of the data unperturbed by permutation
  - Under H<sub>0</sub>, exchangeability justifies permuting data
  - Allows us to build permutation distribution
- Subjects are exchangeable
  - Under  $H_o$ , each subject's A/B labels can be flipped
- Are fMRI scans exchangeable under H<sub>o</sub>?
  - If no signal, can we permute over time?

#### Permutation Test & Exchangeability

- fMRI scans are *not* exchangeable
  - Permuting disrupts order, temporal autocorrelation
- *Intra*subject fMRI permutation test
  - Must decorrelate data, model before permuting
  - What is correlation structure?
    - Usually must use parametric model of correlation
  - E.g. Use wavelets to decorrelate
    - Bullmore et al 2001, HBM 12:61-78
- *Inter*subject fMRI permutation test
  - Create difference image for each subject
  - For each permutation, flip sign of some subjects

#### • fMRI Study of Working Memory

- 12 subjects, block design Marshuetz et al (2000)
- Item Recognition
  - Active: View five letters, 2s pause, view probe letter, respond
  - Baseline: View XXXXX, 2s pause, view Y or N, respond
- Second Level RFX
  - Difference image, A-B constructed for each subject
  - One sample, smoothed variance t test





#### • Permute!

- $-2^{12} = 4,096$  ways to flip 12 A/B labels
- For each, note maximum of *t* image







Maximum Intensity Projection Thresholded *t* 



 $t_{11}$  Statistic, Nonparametric Threshold



Test Level vs.  $t_{11}$  Threshold



t<sub>11</sub> Statistic, RF & Bonf. Threshold

Compare with Bonferroni

 α = 0.05/110,776

 Compare with parametric RFT

 110,776
 2×2×2mm voxels
 5.1×5.8×6.9mm FWHM

smoothness 462.9 RESELs

## Generalization: RFT vs Bonf. vs Perm.

		t Threshold			
		(0.05 Corrected)			
	df	RF	Bonf	Perm	
Verbal Fluency	4	4701.32	42.59	10.14	
Location Switching	9	11.17	9.07	5.83	
Task Switching	9	10.79	10.35	5.10	
Faces: Main Effect	11	10.43	9.07	7.92	
Faces: Interaction	11	10.70	9.07	8.26	
Item Recognition	11	9.87	9.80	7.67	
Visual Motion	11	11.07	8.92	8.40	
<b>Emotional Pictures</b>	12	8.48	8.41	7.15	
Pain: Warning	22	5.93	6.05	4.99	
Pain: Anticipation	22	5.87	6.05	5.05	

#### RFT vs Bonf. vs Perm.

		No. Significant Voxels						
			(0.05 Corrected)					
			t					
	df	RF	Bonf	Perm				
Verbal Fluency	4	0	0	0				
Location Switching	9	0	0	158				
Task Switching	9	4	6	2241				
Faces: Main Effect	11	127	371	917				
Faces: Interaction	11	0	0	0				
Item Recognition	11	5	5	58				
Visual Motion	11	626	1260	1480				
Emotional Pictures	12	0	0	0				
Pain: Warning	22	127	116	221				
Pain: Anticipation	22	74	55	182				

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# What we'd like

- Don't threshold, model the signal!
  - Signal location?
    - Estimates and CI's on (x,y,z) location
  - Signal magnitude?
    - CI's on % change
  - Spatial extent?
    - Estimates and CI's on activation volume
    - Robust to choice of cluster definition
- ...but this requires an explicit spatial model



# Real-life inference: What we get

- Signal location
  - Local maximum no inference
  - Center-of-mass no inference
    - Sensitive to blob-defining-threshold
- Signal magnitude
  - Local maximum intensity P-values (& CI's)
- Spatial extent
  - Cluster volume P-value, no CI's
    - Sensitive to blob-defining-threshold

# Conclusion

- There is a **multiple testing problem** and corrections *must* be applied on p-values, possibly for the volume of interest only (see SVC).
- Inference is made about topological features (peak height, spatial extent, number of clusters).
   Use results from the Random Field Theory.
   Or permutation tests.
- **Control of FWER** (probability of a false positive anywhere in the image) for a space of any dimension and shape.

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## FDR illustration:

#### Noise





#### Signal+Noise





Control of Per Comparison Rate at 10%



11.3% 11.3% 12.5% 10.8% 11.5% 10.0% 10.7% 11.2% 10.2% 9.5% Percentage of Null Pixels that are False Positives

Control of Familywise Error Rate at 10%



FWE

Occurrence of Familywise Error

#### Control of False Discovery Rate at 10%



6.7% 10.4% 14.9% 9.3% 16.2% 13.8% 14.0% 10.5% 12.2% 8.7% Percentage of Activated Pixels that are False Positives

#### Benjamini & Hochberg Procedure

- Select desired limit  $\alpha$  on E(FDR)
- Order p-values,  $p_{(1)} \leq p_{(2)} \leq \ldots \leq p_{(V)}$
- Let *r* be largest *i* such that

 $p_{(i)} \leq i/V^* \alpha$ 

 Reject all hypotheses corresponding to p<sub>(1)</sub>, ..., p<sub>(r)</sub>.





Signal Intensity 3.0 Signal Extent 1.0 Noise Smoothness 3.0



Signal Intensity 3.0 Signal Extent 2.0 Noise Smoothness 3.0



Signal Intensity 3.0 Signal Extent 3.0 Noise Smoothness 3.0

$$p = 0.000252$$
  $z = 3.48$ 



Signal Intensity 3.0 Signal Extent 5.0 Noise Smoothness 3.0





Signal Intensity 3.0 Signal Extent 9.5 Noise Smoothness 3.0

$$p = 0.007157$$
  $z = 2.45$ 



Signal Intensity 3.0 Signal Extent16.5 Noise Smoothness 3.0

$$p = 0.019274$$
  $z = 2.07$ 



Signal Intensity 3.0 Signal Extent25.0 Noise Smoothness 3.0

# Benjamini & Hochberg: Properties

#### • Adaptive

- Larger the signal, the lower the threshold
- Larger the signal, the more false positives
  - False positives constant as fraction of rejected tests
  - Not a problem with imaging's sparse signals
- Smoothness OK
  - Smoothing introduces positive correlations

#### Conclusions: FWER vs. FDR

#### You <u>MUST</u> account for multiplicity (Otherwise have a fishing expedition)

• FWER

- Very specific, not very sensitive

• FDR

Less specific, more sensitive
 (Sociological calibration still underway)

#### • And now a little demo!

