

# **Equitable Thresholding and Clustering**

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June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018

NKI



# Neural correlates of interspecies perspective taking in the post-mortem Atlantic Salmon: An argument for multiple comparisons correction

Craig M. Bennett<sup>1</sup>, Abigail A. Baird<sup>2</sup>, Michael B. Miller<sup>1</sup>, and George L. Wolford<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Department of Psychological & Brain Sciences, Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH

## INTRODUCTION

With the extreme dimensionality of functional neuroimaging data comes extreme risk for false positives. Across the 130,000 voxels in a typical fMRI volume the probability of a false positive is almost certain. Correction for multiple comparisons should be completed with these datasets, but is often ignored by investigators. To illustrate the magnitude of the problem we carried out a real experiment that demonstrates the danger of not correcting for chance properly.

## METHODS

**Subject.** One mature Atlantic Salmon (*Salmo salar*) participated in the fMRI study. The salmon was approximately 18 inches long, weighed 3.8 lbs, and was not alive at the time of scanning.

**Task.** The task administered to the salmon involved completing an open-ended mentalizing task. The salmon was shown a series of photographs depicting human individuals in social situations with a specified emotional valence. The salmon was asked to determine what emotion the individual in the photo must have been experiencing.

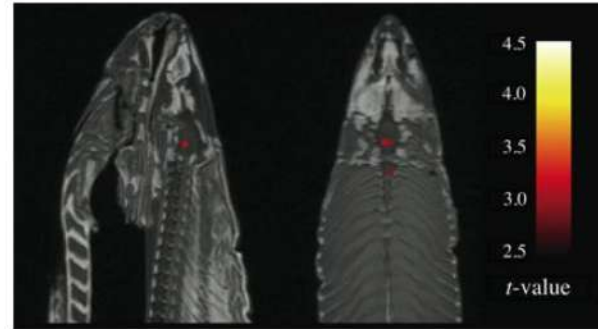
**Design.** Stimuli were presented in a block design with each photo presented for 10 seconds followed by 12 seconds of rest. A total of 15 photos were displayed. Total scan time was 5.5 minutes.

**Preprocessing.** Image processing was completed using SPM2. Preprocessing steps for the functional imaging data included a 6-parameter rigid-body affine realignment of the fMRI timeseries, coregistration of the data to a T<sub>1</sub>-weighted anatomical image, and 8 mm full-width at half-maximum (FWHM) Gaussian smoothing.

**Analysis.** Voxelwise statistics on the salmon data were calculated through an ordinary least-squares estimation of the general linear model (GLM). Predictors of the hemodynamic response were modeled by a boxcar function convolved with a canonical hemodynamic response. A temporal high pass filter of 128 seconds was included to account for low frequency drift. No autocorrelation correction was applied.

**Voxel Selection.** Two methods were used for the correction of multiple comparisons in the fMRI results. The first method controlled the overall false discovery rate (FDR) and was based on a method defined by Benjamini and Hochberg (1995). The second method controlled the overall familywise error rate (FWER) through the use of Gaussian random field theory. This was done using algorithms originally devised by Friston et al. (1994).

## GLM RESULTS

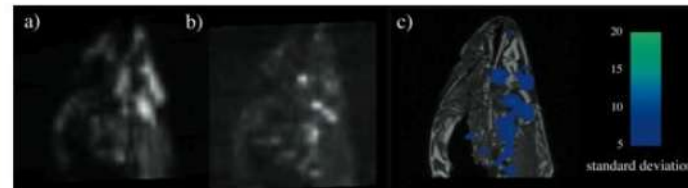


A *t*-contrast was used to test for regions with significant BOLD signal change during the photo condition compared to rest. The parameters for this comparison were: photo > rest. The threshold was  $p < 0.001$  uncorrected.

Several brain clusters were identified. The largest cluster was in the caudal brain, with a peak *t*-value of 4.5. Other clusters were found in the rostral brain, with peak *t*-values of 3.5 and 3.0. Out of a total of 130,000 voxels, 1000 voxels were identified as significant.

Identical results were obtained when the data were analyzed using Gaussian random field theory. These contrasts indicated no active voxels, even at relaxed statistical thresholds ( $p = 0.25$ ).

## VOXELWISE VARIABILITY



OHBM 2010

Ig Nobel Neuroscience  
2012

And then in 2016, this paper came out...



# Cluster failure: Why fMRI inferences for spatial extent have inflated false-positive rates

Anders Eklund<sup>a,b,c,1</sup>, Thomas E. Nichols<sup>d,e</sup>, and Hans Knutsson<sup>a,c</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Division of Medical Informatics, Department of Biomedical Engineering, Linköping University, S-581 85 Linköping, Sweden; <sup>b</sup>Division of Statistics and Machine Learning, Department of Computer and Information Science, Linköping University, S-581 83 Linköping, Sweden; <sup>c</sup>Center for Medical Image Science and Visualization, Linköping University, S-581 83 Linköping, Sweden; <sup>d</sup>Department of Statistics, University of Warwick, Coventry CV4 7AL, United Kingdom; and <sup>e</sup>WMG, University of Warwick, Coventry CV4 7AL, United Kingdom

Edited by Emery N. Brown, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, MA, and approved May 17, 2016 (received for review February 12, 2016)

Which had the following statement in the Highlights section of the paper ...

“These results question the validity of some 40,000 fMRI studies and may have a large impact on the interpretation of neuroimaging results”

# Which generated ...

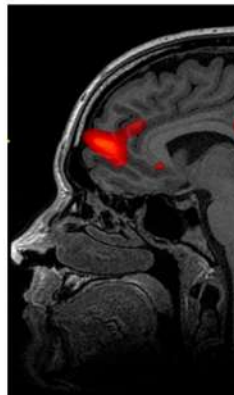
## Technology

15 years of brain research invalidated by Swedish scientists

Up to 70% of fMRI analysis challenging the validity of



By Mary-Ann Russon  
Updated July 13, 2016



Scientists claim to have found certain

## NEWS ANALYSIS

# Do You Believe Is That a Software Bug?

By Kate Murphy

Aug. 27, 2016



Yoshi Sodeoka



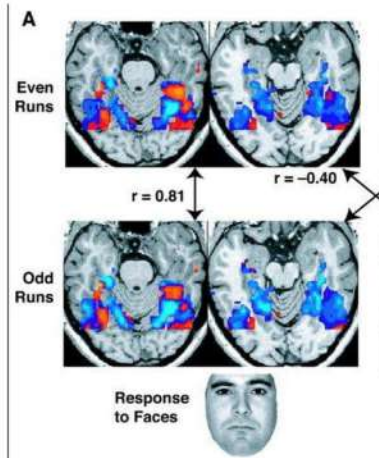
JUL 7, 2016 @ 02:39 AM 7,694

Tens Of Thousands Of



Kevin Murnane, CONTRIBUTOR  
FULL BIO

Opinions expressed by Forbes Contributors are their own.



Brains

# Bug in fMRI software years of research in question

Popular pieces of software for fMRI were found to have up to 70% of research in question



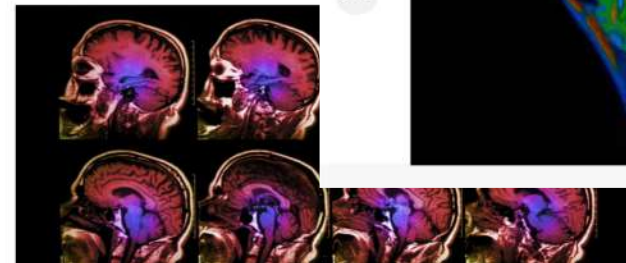
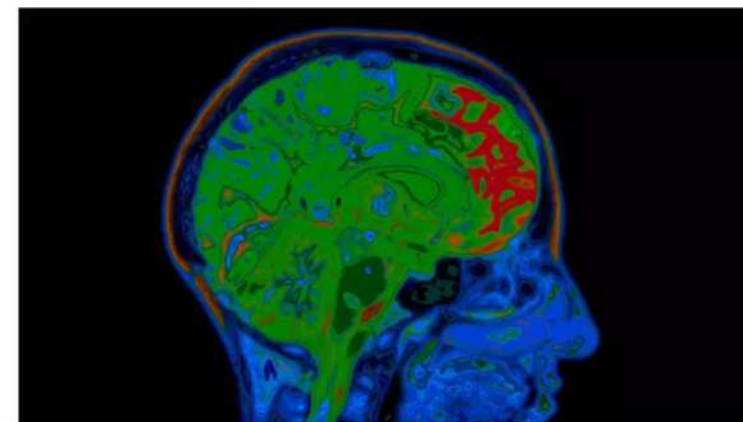
By EMILY REYNOLDS

Ciência

# Bug em software de ressonância magnética pode invalidar 15 anos de pesquisas sobre o cérebro

Cientistas descobrem problema no método usado para medir atividade cerebral. Se eles estiverem certos, mais de 40 mil pesquisas sobre o funcionamento do cérebro podem ser perdidas.

Por Denis Russo Burgierman  
31 out 2016, 19h01 - Publicado em 6 jul 2016, 20h00



# And in the Scientific community...

## Reevaluating “cluster inference” using nonparametric control rates

Daniel Kessler, Mike Angstadt, and Charles R. Nelson  
PNAS April 25, 2017. 114 (17) E3372-E3373; published online April 25, 2017  
<https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1614502114>

**This article has letters. Please see:**  
[Relationship between Letter and Research Article](#)  
[Relationship between Research Article and Letter](#)

Article Figures & SI

In a substantial contribution to the field, Eklund et al. (1) demonstrate that random field theory (RFT) cluster inference does not control error rates as pronounced for lenient cluster definitions. The authors compare familywise error rates (FWER) of RFT assumptions as the culprit for

## Controversy in functional magnetic resonance imaging

Emery N. Brown and Marlene B. Scanziani  
PNAS April 25, 2017. 114 (17) E3368-E3371; published online April 25, 2017  
<https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1705511114>

**This article has letters. Please see:**  
[Relationship between Letter and Research Article](#)  
[Relationship between Research Article and Letter](#)

Article Authors

To test the validity of statistical models used in functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) measurements to represent brain activity, the authors compare familywise error rates (FWER) of random field theory (RFT) assumptions as the culprit for

## fMRI clustering

Robert W. Cox, Gang Chen, and Charles R. Nelson  
PNAS April 25, 2017. 114 (17) E3370-E3373; published online April 25, 2017  
<https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1614961114>

**This article has letters. Please see:**  
[Relationship between Letter and Research Article](#)  
[Relationship between Research Article and Letter](#)

Article Figures

Recently, Eklund et al. (1) demonstrate that random field theory (RFT) cluster inference does not control error rates as pronounced for lenient cluster definitions. The authors compare familywise error rates (FWER) of RFT assumptions as the culprit for

## HUMAN BRAIN MAPPING

Technical Report | [Open Access](#)  

## Analysis of family-wise error rates in statistical parametric mapping using random field theory

Guillaume Flandin , Karl J. Friston

First published: 01 November 2017 | <https://doi.org/10.1002/hbm.23839> | Cited by: 2

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## Abstract

This technical report revisits the analysis of family-wise error rates in statistical parametric mapping—using random field theory—reported in (Eklund et al. [2015]: arXiv 1511.01863). Contrary to the understandable spin that these sorts of analyses attract, a review of their results suggests that they endorse the use of parametric assumptions—and random field theory—in the analysis of functional neuroimaging data. We briefly rehearse the advantages parametric analyses offer over nonparametric alternatives and then unpack the implications of (Eklund et al. [2015]: arXiv 1511.01863) for parametric procedures. *Hum Brain Mapp*, 2017. © 2017 The Authors Human Brain Mapping Published by Wiley Periodicals, Inc.

## Later the Highlights where changed...

### From:

“These results question the validity of some 40,000 fMRI studies and may have a large impact on the interpretation of neuroimaging results”

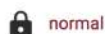
### To:

“These results question the validity of a number of fMRI studies and may have a large impact on the interpretation of weakly significant neuroimaging results.”

# FMRI Clustering in AFNI: False-Positive Rates Redux

Cox Robert W. , Chen Gang, Glen Daniel R., Reynolds Richard C., and Taylor Paul A.

Published Online: 1 Apr 2017 | <https://doi.org/10.1089/brain.2016.0475>



normal

 Tools  Share

## Abstract

AbstractRecent reports of inflated false-positive rates (FPRs) in FMRI group analysis tools by Eklund and associates in 2016 have become a large topic within (and outside) neuroimaging. They concluded that existing parametric methods "can be inflated to 70%," mainly due to the fact that the data are not spatially smooth (i.e., not spatially shaped and stationary), calling for nonparametric methods, such as permutation testing. However, we found that AFNI showed "particular

## GENERAL COMMENTARY ARTICLE

Front. Hum. Neurosci., 28 June 2017 | <https://doi.org/10.3389/fnhum.2017.00345>



# Commentary: Cluster failure: Why fMRI inferences for spatial extent have inflated false-positive rates

 Karsten Mueller<sup>1\*</sup>,  Jöran Lepsien<sup>1</sup>,  Harald E. Möller<sup>1</sup> and  Gabriele Lohmann<sup>2,3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Unit, Max Planck Institute for Human Cognitive and Brain Sciences, Leipzig, Germany

<sup>2</sup>Department of Biomedical Magnetic Resonance, University Hospital Tuebingen, Tuebingen, Germany

<sup>3</sup>Magnetic Resonance Center, Max Planck Institute for Biological Cybernetics, Tuebingen, Tuebingen, Germany

[arXiv.org](#) > [stat](#) > [arXiv:1709.07471](#)

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Statistics > Applications

## Stability of Spatial Smoothness and Cluster-Size Threshold Estimates in FMRI using AFNI

Robert W Cox, Paul A Taylor

(Submitted on 21 Sep 2017)

In a recent analysis of FMRI datasets [K Mueller et al, Front Hum Neurosci 11:345], the estimated spatial smoothness parameters and the statistical significance of clusters were found to depend strongly on the resampled voxel size (for the same data, over a range of 1 to 3 mm) in one popular FMRI analysis software package (SPM12). High sensitivity of thresholding results on such an arbitrary parameter as final spatial grid size is an undesirable feature in a processing pipeline. Here, we examine the stability of spatial smoothness and cluster-volume threshold estimates with respect to voxel resampling size in the AFNI software package's pipeline. A publicly available collection of resting-state and task FMRI datasets from 78 subjects was analyzed using standard processing steps in AFNI. We found that the spatial smoothness and cluster-volume thresholds are fairly stable over the voxel resampling size range of 1 to 3 mm, in contradistinction to the reported results from SPM12.

Comments: 4 figures, 20 pages

Subjects: **Applications (stat.AP)**

Cite as: [arXiv:1709.07471](#) [stat.AP]

(or [arXiv:1709.07471v1](#) [stat.AP] for this version)

...tial extent have inflated false-positive rates

(6). *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* 113, 7900–7905.

d inflated false positive rates in functional MRI  
ere we would like to draw attention to an important  
pecifically, we would like to note that statistical  
epend heavily on a preprocessing parameter not  
l resolution to which the data sets are resampled

# Eklund is still at it...

arXiv.org > stat > arXiv:1804.03185

Search or Article

(Help | Advanced search)

Statistics > Applications

## Cluster Failure Revisited: Impact of First Level Design and Data Quality on Cluster False Positive Rates

Anders Eklund, Hans Knutsson, Thomas E Nichols

*(Submitted on 9 Apr 2018)*

Methodological research rarely generates a broad interest, yet our work on the validity of cluster inference methods for functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) created intense discussion on both the minutia of our approach and its implications for the discipline. In the present work, we take on various critiques of our work and further explore the limitations of our original work. We address issues about the particular event-related designs we used, considering multiple event types and randomisation of events between subjects. We consider the lack of validity found with one-sample permutation (sign flipping) tests, investigating a number of approaches to improve the false positive control of this widely used procedure. We also discuss the implications of our work on the fMRI literature as a whole, estimating that at least 10% of the fMRI studies have used the most problematic cluster inference method ( $P = 0.01$  cluster defining threshold), and how individual studies can be interpreted in light of our findings. These additional results underscore our original conclusions, on the importance of data sharing and thorough evaluation of statistical methods on realistic null data.

# How do you solve the Multiple Comparison problem?

Family-wise error rate (FWER): defined as the probability of obtaining at least one false positive in a family of tests

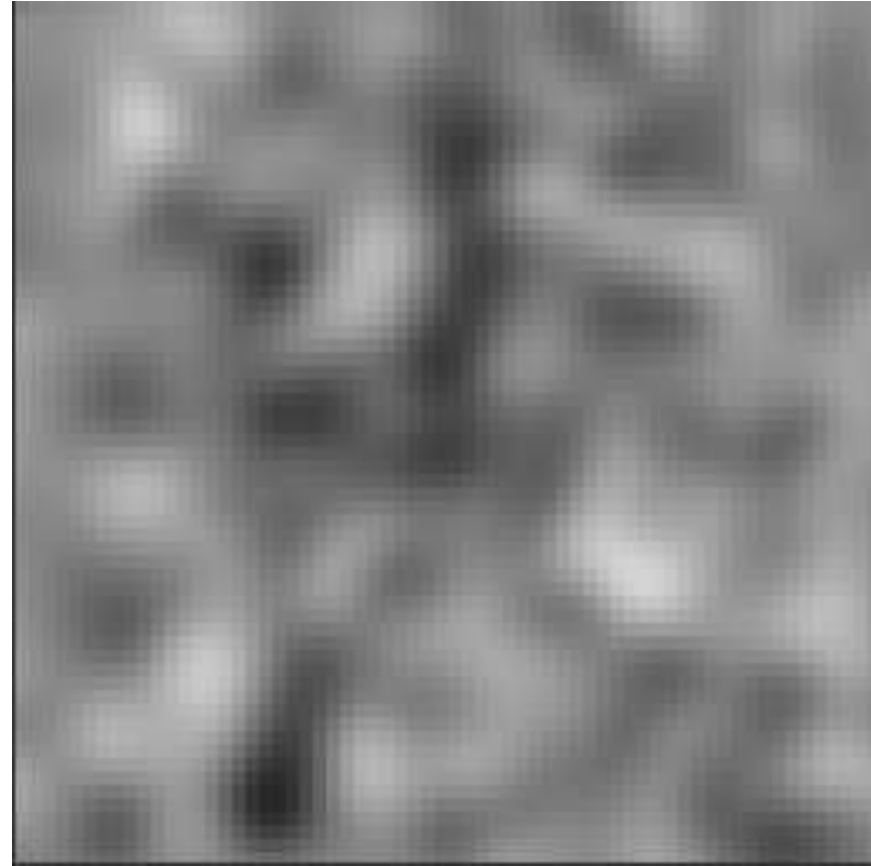
Bonferroni

Random Field Theory

False discovery rate (FDR): defined as the proportion of false positives among all rejected tests.

# Random Field Theory (RFT)

- Random field theory provides a method to determine statistical threshold while controlling FWE rate
- t-maps (or Z, F and  $X^2$ ) modeled as realizations of a random process
- Takes into account **smoothness** AND **number of activated voxels**



# How to measure smoothness

- AFNI – 3dFWHMx

## 2.1 Purpose

Program 3dFWHM provides a means of estimating the spatial correlation of voxels in an *AFNI* 3D dataset. In order to use program AlphaSim, it is necessary to know the degree of voxel spatial correlation, so that this can be accounted for in the simulation. Spatial correlation is modeled by applying a Gaussian filter to the random image data. The extent of spatial correlation is specified by entering the width of the Gaussian filter corresponding to each axis. The numbers  $FWHM_x$ ,  $FWHM_y$ , and  $FWHM_z$  (FWHM, for "Full Width Half Maximum") are estimated by program 3dFWHM for a user specified input dataset.

## 2.2 Theory

Forman *et al.* [1] derive the following equation for estimating the Gaussian filter width  $s$ :

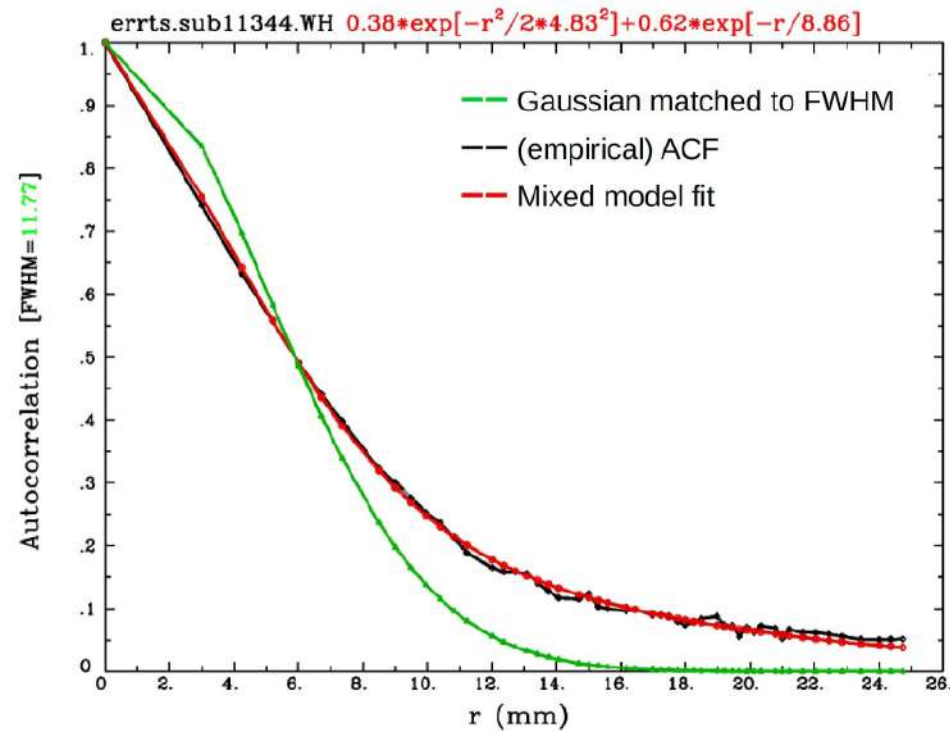
$$s = \sqrt{-\frac{1}{4 \times \ln \left( 1 - \frac{S_\delta^2}{2S^2} \right)}}$$

where

$s$  = width (standard deviation) of Gaussian filter in voxels;

$S_\delta^2$  = variance of the difference between each voxel and its nearest neighbors  
over the entire image;

$S^2$  = variance of voxel intensities over the entire image.



**Figure 3.** An example comparison of the original Gaussian fit (green) and the globally estimated empirical ACF values (black) from a single subject, which have large differences (importantly, in the tail drop-off above  $r \sim 8$  mm). The proposed mixed model (red) after fitting parameters as described in Eq. (3) provides a much better fit of the data in this case (and in all cases in the datasets used herein). This plot is automatically generated in program 3dFWHMx.

**Source:** Cox et al. FMRI Clustering in AFNI: False-Positive Rates Redux, Brian Connectivity (2017)

## Usage: 3dFWHMx [options] dataset

\*\*\*\* NOTICE \*\*\*\*

You should use the '**-acf**' option (which is what [afni proc.py](#) uses now).

The 'Classic' method giving just a Gaussian FWHM can no longer be considered reliable for FMRI statistical analyses!

\*\*\*\*\*

>>>> **20 July 2017: Results from the 'Classic' method are no longer output!**

>>>> If you want to see these values, you must give the

>>>> command line option '-ShowMeClassicFWHM'.

>>>> You no longer need to give the '-acf' option, as it

>>>> is now the default method of calculation (and

>>>> cannot be turned off). Note that if you need the

>>>> FWHM estimate, the '-acf' method gives a value

>>>> for that as its fourth output.

>>>> Options and comments that only apply to the 'Classic' FWHM estimation

>>>> method are now marked below with this '>>>>' marker, to indicate that

>>>> they are obsolete, archaic, and endangered (as well as fattening).

>>>> Unlike the older [3dFWHM](#), this program computes FWHMs for all sub-bricks

>>>> in the input dataset, each one separately. The output for each one is

>>>> written to the file specified by '-out'. The mean (arithmetic or geometric)

>>>> of all the FWHMs along each axis is written to stdout. (A non-positive

>>>> output value indicates something bad happened; e.g., FWHM in z is meaningless

>>>> for a 2D dataset; the estimation method computed incoherent intermediate results.)

(Classic) METHOD: <<<< NO LONGER OUTPUT -- SEE ABOVE >>>>

- Calculate ratio of variance of first differences to data variance.

- Should be the same as 3dFWHM for a 1-brick dataset.

(But the output format is simpler to use in a script.

```

**-----**
***** IMPORTANT NOTE [Dec 2015] *****
**-----**

```

A completely new method for estimating and using noise smoothness values is now available in 3dFWHMx and 3dClustSim. This method is implemented in the **'-acf'** options to both programs. **'ACF' stands for (spatial) AutoCorrelation Function**, and it is estimated by calculating moments of differences out to a larger radius than before.

Notably, **real FMRI data does not actually have a Gaussian-shaped ACF**, so the estimated ACF is then fit (in 3dFWHMx) to a mixed model (**Gaussian plus mono-exponential**) of the form

$$\text{ACF}(r) = a * \exp(-r*r/(2*b*b)) + (1-a)*\exp(-r/c)$$

where 'r' is the radius, and 'a', 'b', 'c' are the fitted parameters.

The apparent FWHM from this model is usually somewhat larger in real data than the FWHM estimated from just the nearest-neighbor differences used in the 'classic' analysis.

The longer tails provided by the mono-exponential are also significant. 3dClustSim has also been modified to use the ACF model given above to generate noise random fields.

```

**-----**
** The take-away (TL;DR or summary) message is that the 'classic' 3dFWHMx and **
** 3dClustSim analysis, using a pure Gaussian ACF, is not very correct for **
** FMRI data -- I cannot speak for PET or MEG data. **
**-----**

```

Code:

```
# -- estimate blur for each run in errts --
touch blur.errts.1D

# restrict to uncensored TRs, per run
foreach run ( $runs )
    set trs = `1d_tool.py -infile X.xmat.1D -show_trs_uncensored encoded \
                -show_trs_run $run`
    if ( $trs == "" ) continue
    3dFWHMx -detrend -mask full_mask.$subj+tlrc \
        -ACF files_ACF/out.3dFWHMx.ACF.errts.r$run.1D \
        errts.${subj}+tlrc["$trs]" >> blur.errts.1D
end

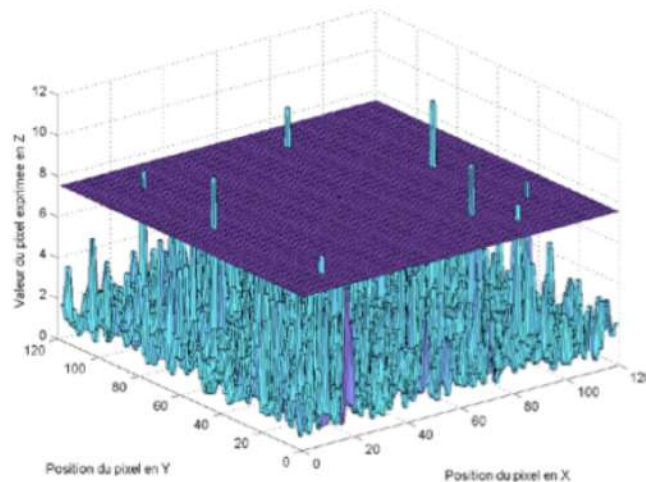
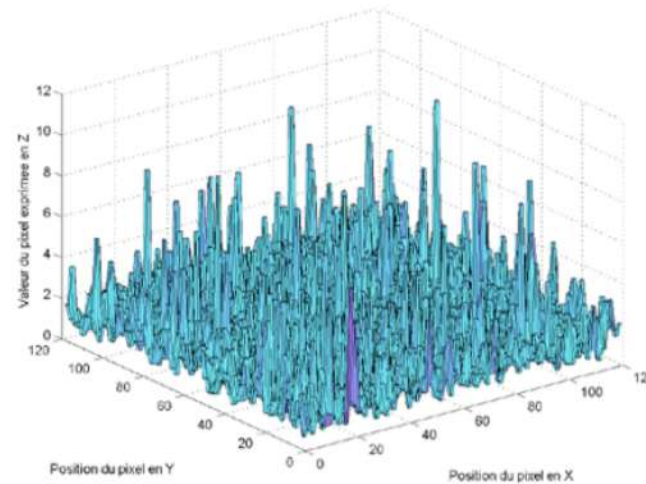
# compute average ACF blur (from every other row) and append
set blurs = ( `3dTstat -mean -prefix - blur.errts.1D'{1..$(2)}'\` )
echo average errts ACF blurs: $blurs
echo "$blurs    # errts ACF blur estimates" >> blur_est.$subj.1D
```

Output:

```
afranco@inscr:~/DATA/VIVA/VIVA023/visit1/PROC.RMET$ more blur_est.VIVA023.1D
10.4453 10.364 9.00825 9.91638    # epits FWHM blur estimates
0.437901 5.89822 13.1252 15.3785    # epits ACF blur estimates
10.3545 10.2873 8.93106 9.83491    # errts FWHM blur estimates
0.452279 5.90349 12.7922 15.195    # errts ACF blur estimates
```

# Topology of Random Fields

- Euler Characteristic (EC) is a measure of the 'roughness' of a random field
- In neuroimaging number of blobs (aka clusters) that remain after thresholding at a particular p-value defines EC (minus holes/hollows)



# 3dClustSim

Usage: 3dClustSim [options]

Program to estimate the probability of false positive (noise-only) clusters.  
An adaptation of Doug Ward's **AlphaSim**, streamlined for various purposes.

-----  
This program has several different modes of operation, each one involving  
simulating noise-only random volumes, thresholding and clustering them,  
and counting statistics of how often data 'survives' these processes at  
various threshold combinations (per-voxel and cluster-size).

**OLDEST method** = simulate noise volume assuming the spatial auto-correlation  
function (ACF) is given by a **Gaussian-shaped function**, where  
this shape is specified using the FWHM parameter. The FWHM  
parameter can be estimated by program [3dFWHMx](#).

**\*\* THIS METHOD IS NO LONGER RECOMMENDED \*\***

**NEWER method** = simulate noise volume assuming the ACF is given by a mixed-model  
of the form  $a \cdot \exp(-r \cdot r / (2 \cdot b \cdot b)) + (1 - a) \cdot \exp(-r / c)$ , where a,b,c  
are 3 parameters giving the shape, and can also be estimated  
by program 3dFWHMx.

**\*\* THIS METHOD IS ACCEPTABLE \*\***

**NEWEST method** = program [3dtttest++](#) simulates the noise volumes by randomizing  
and permuting input datasets, and sending those volumes into  
3dClustSim directly. There is no built-in math model for the  
spatial ACF.

**\*\* THIS METHOD IS MOST ACCURATE AT CONTROLLING FALSE POSITIVE RATE \*\***

**\*\* You invoke this method with the '-Clustsim' option in 3dtttest++ \*\***

# ClustSim: Table of Sizes Found

size   count

1   1830

2   2106

3   1572

4   1204

5   792

6   595

7   405

8   302

9   177

10   127

11   82

12   45

13   44

14   32

15   12

16   13

17   11

18   9

19   6

20   5

Out of 10000 simulations

21   2

22   3

23   0

24   3

25   0

26   1

27   0

28   0

29   1

Add up  
until total  
just less  
than 500

Smallest cluster size with < 500 false positives (5% FPR) above

## Output from ClustSim

```

2. bash
alexandre.franco@CMI-RSCH-MBP031:~/TEMP/ETAC/DATA/GNG$ more ClustSim.NN2_2sided.1D
# 3dClustSim -acf 0.479023889 5.571080278 12.30551389 -LOTS -iter 10000 -NN 123 -both -mask /home/afranco/DATA/ROHDE_WM/RWM002/visit1
/PROC.GNG/mask_group+tlrc.BRIK.gz -prefix ClustSim
# 2-sided thresholding
# Grid: 60x73x61 3.00x3.00x3.00 mm^3 (53752 voxels in mask)
#
# CLUSTER SIZE THRESHOLD(pthr,alpha) in Voxels
# -NN 2 | alpha = Prob(Cluster >= given size)
# pthr | .10000 .09000 .08000 .07000 .06000 .05000 .04000 .03000 .02000 .01000
# -----|-----
0.100000 1561.3 1606.5 1650.3 1708.3 1778.5 1852.7 1942.0 2064.0 2252.0 2515.0
0.090000 1305.7 1350.0 1400.0 1442.3 1500.2 1568.2 1657.0 1740.0 1897.5 2156.0
0.080000 1082.0 1115.5 1161.0 1202.7 1249.0 1304.0 1374.0 1460.0 1579.0 1821.0
0.070000 887.7 914.0 944.7 989.0 1028.2 1079.0 1135.0 1211.0 1300.0 1477.0
0.060000 708.5 736.5 764.7 792.0 829.7 870.3 919.5 977.0 1065.0 1214.0
0.050000 556.5 574.3 593.6 620.5 652.2 683.3 723.0 776.2 846.0 972.0
0.040000 425.5 437.9 450.5 467.7 488.4 515.0 553.0 593.0 654.0 754.0
0.030000 307.2 317.8 327.9 341.2 355.2 372.0 392.0 426.0 473.9 539.3
0.020000 208.7 214.8 222.2 230.6 240.7 252.6 265.0 285.3 311.0 369.2
0.015000 161.2 166.7 172.3 179.1 185.9 195.3 206.7 222.0 243.7 294.7
0.010000 116.1 120.6 124.9 129.5 135.2 142.8 151.8 164.3 179.7 212.3
0.007000 88.7 92.1 95.2 99.4 104.6 110.6 117.8 126.5 140.9 162.5
0.005000 70.6 72.8 75.5 78.8 82.9 88.4 94.0 102.2 113.2 130.4
0.003000 50.6 52.5 54.6 57.0 59.8 63.6 67.4 74.1 81.7 96.4
0.002000 39.4 40.7 42.2 44.1 46.1 48.8 52.8 57.9 65.5 78.0
0.001500 33.1 34.3 35.7 37.3 39.2 41.5 44.5 49.1 55.0 66.6
0.001000 26.4 27.4 28.5 29.9 31.7 33.6 36.2 39.4 44.0 54.2
0.000700 21.7 22.6 23.7 24.8 26.0 27.7 29.7 32.6 36.9 44.8
0.000500 18.0 18.8 19.8 20.8 21.8 23.2 25.0 27.3 31.0 37.1
0.000300 13.6 14.2 15.0 15.8 16.9 17.9 19.2 21.1 23.8 29.2
0.000200 10.8 11.4 12.0 12.7 13.5 14.4 15.5 17.1 19.4 23.4
0.000150 9.2 9.6 10.1 10.7 11.4 12.2 13.3 14.6 17.0 20.7
0.000100 7.3 7.7 8.1 8.6 9.2 9.8 10.6 12.0 13.8 17.5
7.000e-5 5.9 6.2 6.6 7.0 7.5 8.0 8.7 9.7 11.4 14.9
5.000e-5 4.8 5.1 5.4 5.8 6.2 6.7 7.4 8.2 9.7 12.8
3.000e-5 3.6 3.8 4.0 4.3 4.7 5.1 5.6 6.3 7.5 10.2
2.000e-5 2.8 3.0 3.2 3.5 3.7 4.1 4.6 5.2 6.2 8.4
1.500e-5 2.4 2.5 2.7 2.9 3.2 3.5 3.9 4.5 5.4 7.2
1.000e-5 1.9 2.0 2.1 2.3 2.5 2.8 3.1 3.6 4.4 6.0
alexandre.franco@CMI-RSCH-MBP031:~/TEMP/ETAC/DATA/GNG$

```

[X] [A]u AFNI: DATA/GNG/HaskinsPeds\_NL\_template1.0+tlrc & ANOVA.GNG.BRAIN+tlrc

[order: RAI=DICOM]  
 x = -28.000 mm [R]  
 y = 59.000 mm [P]  
 z = 38.000 mm [S]

Xhairs Multi ☐ X+  
 Color green ☐  
 Gap 5 ☐ Wrap ☒  
 Index 4

Axial Image Graph  
 Sagittal Image Graph  
 Coronal Image Graph

New Etc->  
 BHelp done

Original View  
 AC-PC Aligned  
 Talairach View

Define OverLay ->  
 See OverLay

Define Datamode ->  
 DataDir Switch Read

OverLay EditEnv  
 UnderLay NIML+P0  
 Control Surface

F-t 0Lay Edit 0Lay InstaCorr ☐  
 \*Clusterize Setup ICorr  
 Clear Rpt \*NOT Ready\*

ULay #0 #0 ☐  
 0Lay # 4 G0 F ☐  
 Thr # 4 G0 F ☐

ULay 0: 248  
 0Lay 0: 14.7044  
 Thr 0: 14.7044

autoRange: 14.7044 % ☐  
 10000 Rota F

See TT Atlas Regions ☐

p=.0050  
 q=.2766  
 \*\* 1 ☐ Pos? ☐

AFNI Tips

menu

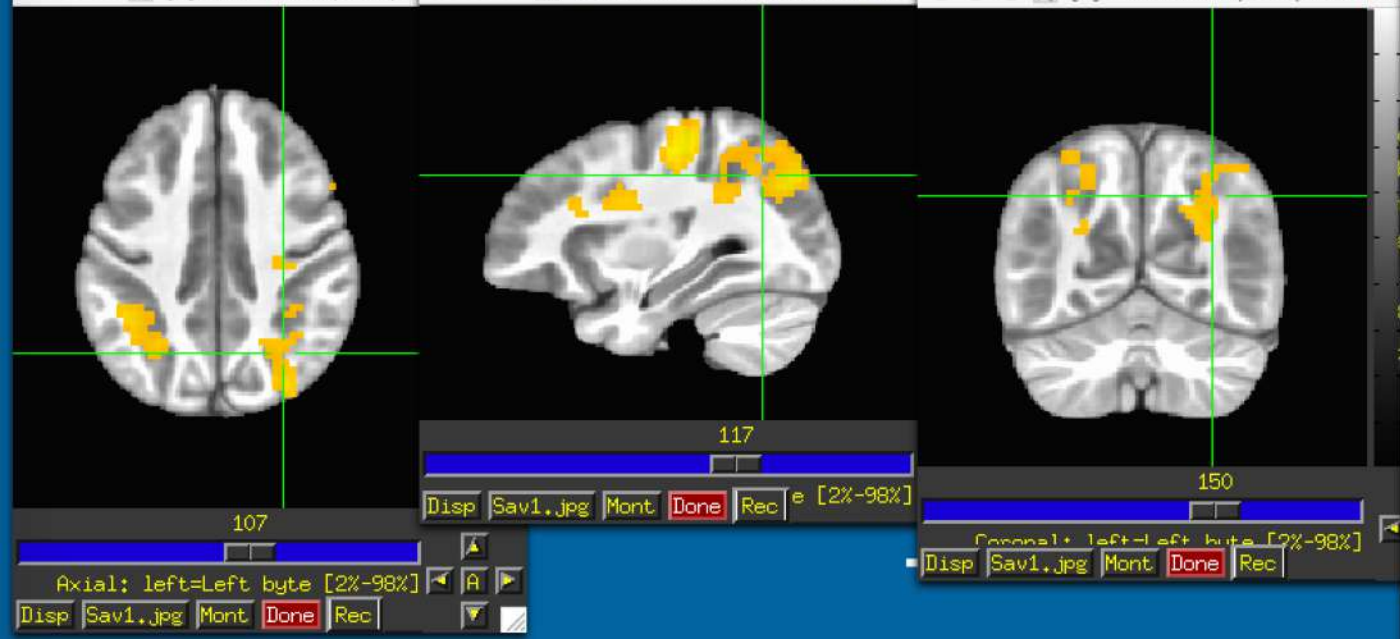
----- Set Clusterize Parameters -----  
 \* NN level => NN clustering method  
 1 : faces must touch  
 2 : faces or edges touch  
 3 : faces or edges or corners  
 \* Voxels => minimum cluster size that will be kept [at least 2]  
 \* Bi-sided => positively and negatively thresholded voxels get clustered separately (eg, thresh=t-statistic)

\* Click on the 'Rpt' button to open a complete cluster report panel.

NN level 2  
 Voxels 89  
 Bi-sided? No

Quit Apply Set

[X] [A]u AFNI: DATA/GNG/HaskinsPeds\_NL\_template1.0+tlrc & ANOVA.GNG.BRAIN+tlrc



[X] AFNI Cluster Results [A]

Voxels survived clustering = 1365  
 Voxels edited out = 683  
 NN clustering level = 2 [edges touch]  
 Alpha -> Cluster thresh: 0.10->71 : 0.05->89 : 0.01->130

Use internal mask from 3dClustSim

XYZ CMass 3dclust SaveTab1 Clust SaveMsk WamI Done

###	Size	X	Y	Z	Alpha
1:	302 vox	-27.9	+58.5	+38.0	<<0.01
2:	293 vox	+30.5	+52.8	+38.2	<<0.01
3:	241 vox	+34.3	+21.7	+53.5	< 0.01
4:	216 vox	-35.6	-13.5	+26.3	< 0.01
5:	204 vox	-31.2	+21.7	+50.7	< 0.01
6:	109 vox	+36.9	-8.6	+29.9	< 0.03

# 3dttest++

\* The new-ish options '-Clustsim' and '-ETAC' will use randomization and permutation simulation to produce cluster-level threshold values that can be used to control the false positive rate (FPR) globally. These options are slow, since they will run 1000s of simulated 3D t-tests in order to get cluster-level statistics about the 1 actual test.

-Clustsim = With this option, after the commanded t-tests are done, then:

- (a) the residuals from '-resid' are used with '-randomsign' to simulate about 10000 null 3D results, and then
- (b) 3dClustSim is run with those to generate cluster-threshold tables, and then
- (c) [3drefit](#) is used to pack those tables into the main output dataset, and then
- (d) the temporary files created in this process are deleted.

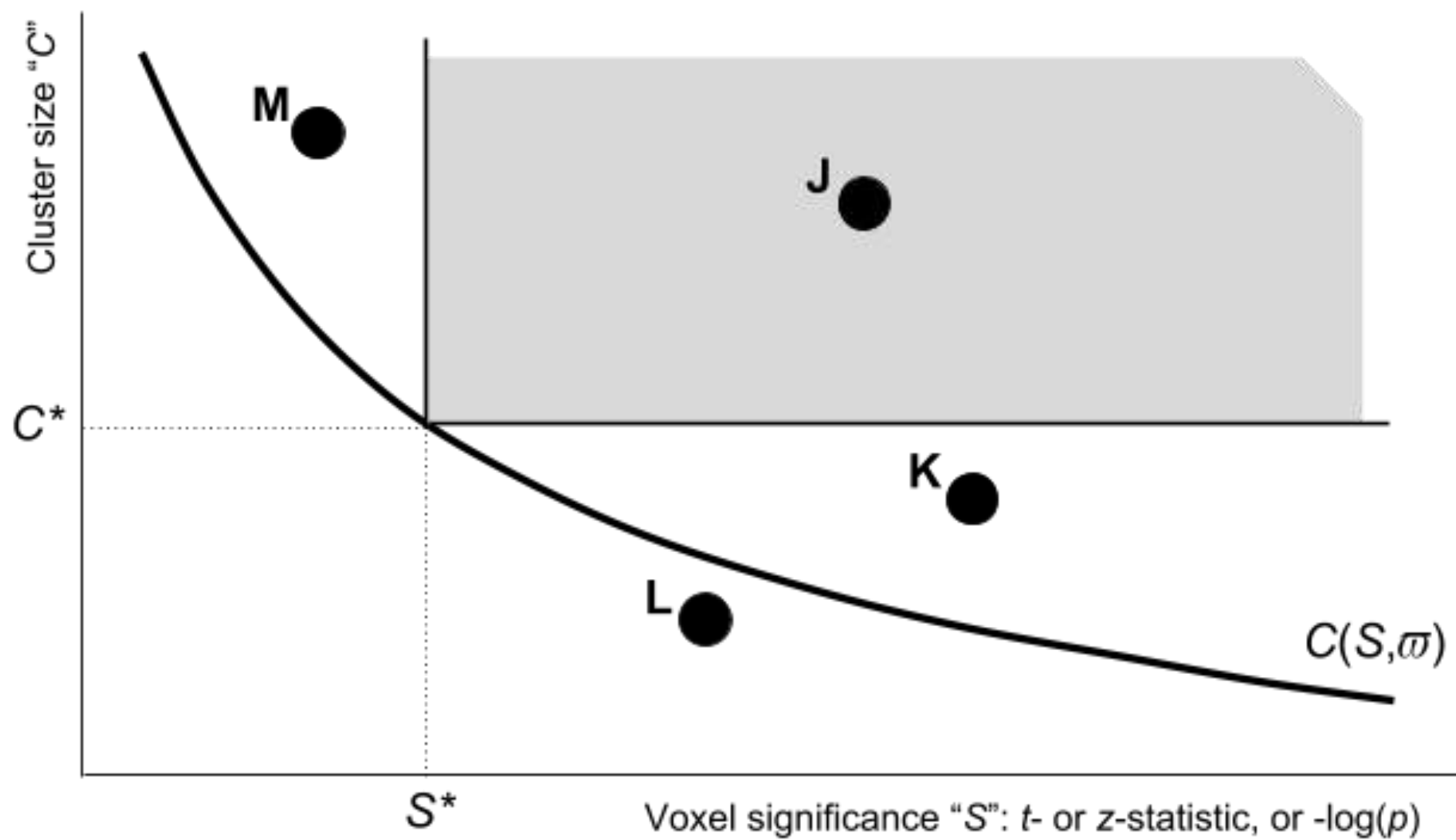
-resid q = Output the residuals into a dataset with prefix 'q'.

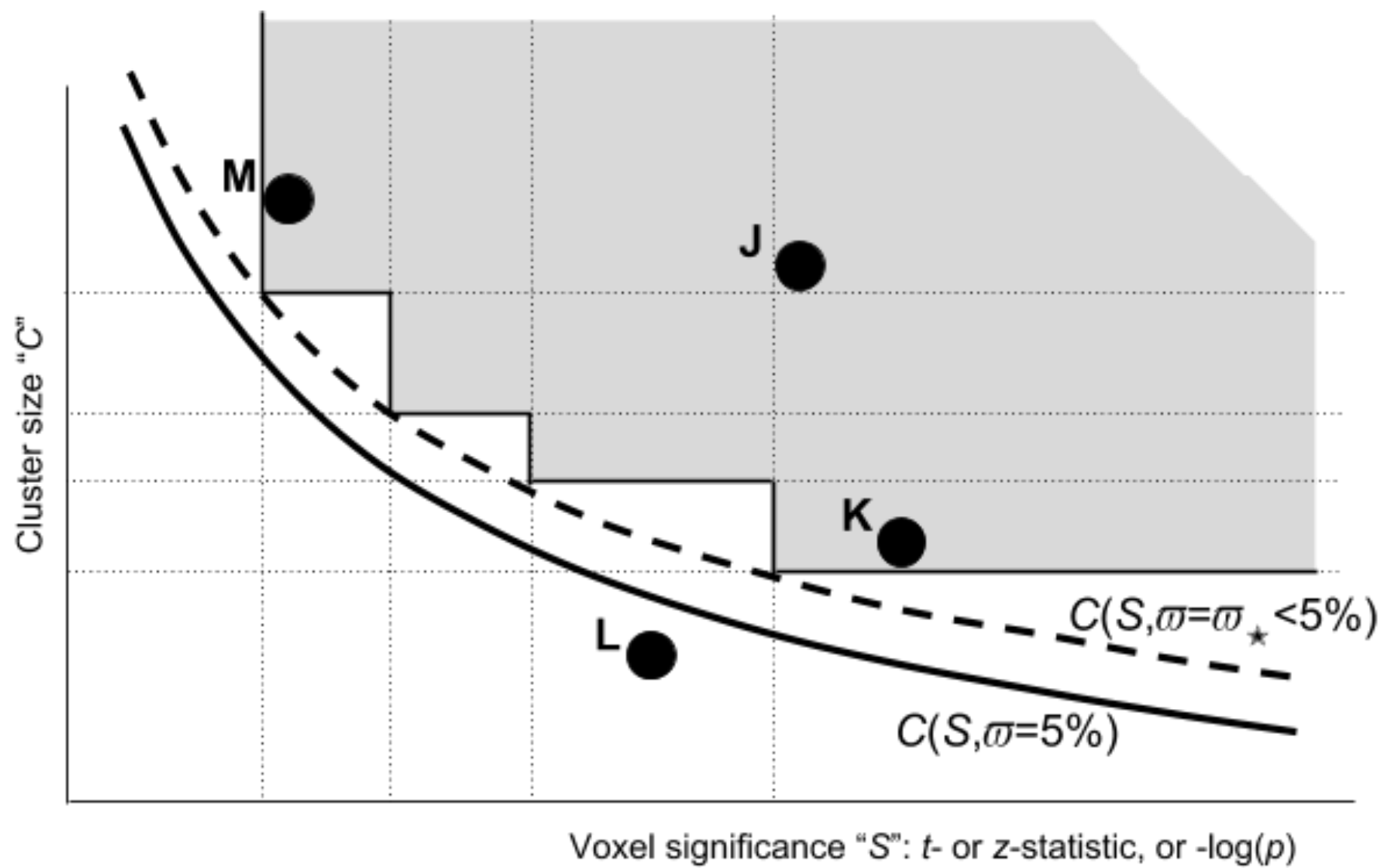
++ The residuals are the difference between the data values and their prediction from the set mean (and set covariates).

# Equitable Thresholding and Clustering - ETAC

ETAC approach is grounded in two ideas:

- (i) reducing the dependence of clustering results on **arbitrary parameter values** by using multiple sub-tests—each equivalent to a “standard” FMRI clustering analysis—to make decisions about which groups of voxels are potentially “significant”, then combining the results of each sub-test to decide which voxels are "accepted" ;
- (ii) **adjusting the cluster-thresholding parameters** of each sub-test from (i) in an equitable way—so that the individual false positive rates (FPRs) are balanced across sub-tests and voxels—to achieve a desired global FPR (e.g., 5%).





# Simulation

**Paired t-test**

**Go x NoGo**

**N = 36**

**Average ate = 12**

**ADHD**

## Script for simulations

```
244 3dttest++ -paired \n
245 -mask $mask \n
246 -Clustsim \n
247 -ETAC \n
248 -ETAC_blur 2 4 \n
249 -ETAC_opt sid=2:pthr=0.01,0.005,0.002,0.01:fpr=5:name=FPR5 \n
250 -prefix ttest_Go_vs_NG_ClustSim \n
251 -prefix_clustsim Clustsim_Pxfpr5 \n
252 -setA \n
253 ${base_folder}/visit1/stats.RWM002.GO+tlrc \n
254 ${base_folder}/visit1/stats.RWM003.GO+tlrc \n
255 ${base_folder}/visit1/stats.RWM005.GO+tlrc \n
256 ${base_folder}/visit1/stats.RWM008.GO+tlrc \n
257 ${base_folder}/visit1/stats.RWM012.GO+tlrc \n
258 ${base_folder}/visit1/stats.RWM013.GO+tlrc \n
```

Generated 8.1 GB of data in the process

Took 2 hours to process on this laptop: 2.3GHz i5, 8GB ram

# 3dClustSim – output

```
afranco@edias-pc:~/TEMP/VIRGINIA/GNG$ more ClustSim.NN2_2sided.1D
# 3dClustSim -acf 0.479023889 5.571080278 12.30551389 -LOTS -iter 10000 -NN 123 -both -mask /home/afranco/DATA/ROHDE_WM/RWM002/vis
it1/PROC.GNG/mask_group+tlrc.BRIK.gz -prefix ClustSim
# 2-sided thresholding
# Grid: 60x73x61 3.00x3.00x3.00 mm^3 (53752 voxels in mask)
#
# CLUSTER SIZE THRESHOLD(pthr,alpha) in Voxels
# -NN 2 | alpha = Prob(Cluster >= given size)
# pthr | .10000 .09000 .08000 .07000 .06000 .05000 .04000 .03000 .02000 .01000
# -----|-----
0.100000 1561.3 1606.5 1650.3 1708.3 1778.5 1852.7 1942.0 2064.0 2252.0 2515.0
0.090000 1305.7 1350.0 1400.0 1442.3 1500.2 1568.2 1657.0 1740.0 1897.5 2156.0
0.080000 1082.0 1115.5 1161.0 1202.7 1249.0 1304.0 1374.0 1460.0 1579.0 1821.0
0.070000 887.7 914.0 944.7 989.0 1028.2 1079.0 1135.0 1211.0 1300.0 1477.0
0.060000 708.5 736.5 764.7 792.0 829.7 870.3 919.5 977.0 1065.0 1214.0
0.050000 556.5 574.3 593.6 620.5 652.2 683.3 723.0 776.2 846.0 972.0
0.040000 425.5 437.9 450.5 467.7 488.4 515.0 553.0 593.0 654.0 754.0
0.030000 307.2 317.8 327.9 341.2 355.2 372.0 392.0 426.0 473.9 539.3
0.020000 208.7 214.8 222.2 230.6 240.7 252.6 265.0 285.3 311.0 369.2
0.015000 161.2 166.7 172.3 179.1 185.9 195.3 206.7 222.0 243.7 294.7
0.010000 116.1 120.6 124.9 129.5 135.2 142.8 151.8 164.3 179.7 212.3
0.007000 88.7 92.1 95.2 99.4 104.6 110.6 117.8 126.5 140.9 162.5
0.005000 70.6 72.8 75.5 78.8 82.9 88.4 94.0 102.2 113.2 130.4
0.003000 50.6 52.5 54.6 57.0 59.8 63.6 67.4 74.1 81.7 96.4
0.002000 39.4 40.7 42.2 44.1 46.1 48.8 52.8 57.9 65.5 78.0
0.001500 33.1 34.3 35.7 37.3 39.2 41.5 44.5 49.1 55.0 66.6
0.001000 26.4 27.4 28.5 29.9 31.7 33.6 36.2 39.4 44.0 54.2
0.000700 21.7 22.6 23.7 24.8 26.0 27.7 29.7 32.6 36.9 44.8
0.000500 18.0 18.8 19.8 20.8 21.8 23.2 25.0 27.3 31.0 37.1
0.000300 13.6 14.2 15.0 15.8 16.9 17.9 19.2 21.1 23.8 29.2
0.000200 10.8 11.4 12.0 12.7 13.5 14.4 15.5 17.1 19.4 23.4
0.000150 9.2 9.6 10.1 10.7 11.4 12.2 13.3 14.6 17.0 20.7
0.000100 7.3 7.7 8.1 8.6 9.2 9.8 10.6 12.0 13.8 17.5
7.000e-5 5.9 6.2 6.6 7.0 7.5 8.0 8.7 9.7 11.4 14.9
5.000e-5 4.8 5.1 5.4 5.8 6.2 6.7 7.4 8.2 9.7 12.8
3.000e-5 3.6 3.8 4.0 4.3 4.7 5.1 5.6 6.3 7.5 10.2
2.000e-5 2.8 3.0 3.2 3.5 3.7 4.1 4.6 5.2 6.2 8.4
1.500e-5 2.4 2.5 2.7 2.9 3.2 3.5 3.9 4.5 5.4 7.2
1.000e-5 1.9 2.0 2.1 2.3 2.5 2.8 3.1 3.6 4.4 6.0
afranco@edias-pc:~/TEMP/VIRGINIA/GNG$
```

```
sim_Pxfpr5
kfr5.CSimB
CSimB2.0.NN
nB2.0.NN2_b
```

The screenshot displays the AFNI software interface. On the left, three brain slices (axial, sagittal, and coronal) are shown with a cluster of voxels highlighted in orange. The interface includes a command window at the bottom with text like "Axial: left=Left byte" and "Coronal: left=Left byte". On the right, a "Cluster Results" panel displays statistics: "Voxels survived clustering = 252", "Voxels edited out = 592", and "NN clustering level = 2 [edges touch]". Below this, a table lists two clusters with their sizes, coordinates (X, Y, Z), and various action buttons like "Jump", "Flash", "Plot", "Save", and "Write".

# ClustSim from 3dtttest++

```
1. bash
alexandre.franco@CMI-RSCH-MBP031:~/TEMP/ETAC/DATA/GNG/ETAC$
alexandre.franco@CMI-RSCH-MBP031:~/TEMP/ETAC/DATA/GNG/ETAC$ more Clustsim_Pxfpr5_noBlur.CSimA.NN2_2sided.1D
# 3dClustSim -prefix Clustsim_Pxfpr5_noBlur.CSimA -LOTS -both -nec -cmd Clustsim_Pxfpr5_noBlur.CSimA.cmd -
insdat /Users/alexandre.franco/TEMP/ETAC/DATA/GNG/HaskinsPeds_NL_template.MASK+tlrc.HEAD ./Clustsim_Pxfpr5_n
oBlur.0000.sdat ./Clustsim_Pxfpr5_noBlur.0001.sdat ./Clustsim_Pxfpr5_noBlur.0002.sdat ./Clustsim_Pxfpr5_noBl
ur.0003.sdat
# 2-sided thresholding
# Grid: 60x73x61 3.00x3.00x3.00 mm^3 (52603 voxels in mask)
#
# CLUSTER SIZE THRESHOLD(pthr,alpha) in Voxels
# -NN 2 | alpha = Prob(Cluster >= given size)
# pthr | .10000 .09000 .08000 .07000 .06000 .05000 .04000 .03000 .02000 .01000
# -----|-----
0.100000 7581 8133 8706 9276 9946 10727 11696 12830 14374 16876
0.090000 6511 7040 7622 8240 8891 9623 10587 11699 13223 15651
0.080000 5444 5920 6413 7053 7750 8465 9360 10462 11971 14433
0.070000 4384 4780 5251 5797 6487 7204 8090 9175 10685 13083
0.060000 3304 3671 4077 4547 5128 5854 6675 7757 9256 11590
0.050000 2397 2680 3017 3375 3776 4358 5117 6208 7610 9906
0.040000 1606 1790 2016 2305 2614 3044 3597 4442 5749 8030
0.030000 972 1083 1218 1392 1615 1883 2274 2819 3743 5720
0.020000 503 556 629 709 820 959 1167 1453 1964 3141
0.015000 333 367 406 457 530 615 740 935 1252 2067
0.010000 192 211 234 261 297 344 414 512 697 1119
0.007000 120 132 146 163 186 215 253 315 417 667
0.005000 81 88 96 108 122 143 168 206 265 423
0.003000 45 49 54 60 68 78 91 113 148 232
0.002000 30 32 35 39 44 50 59 72 95 147
0.001500 22 24 26 29 33 37 43 53 68 108
0.001000 15 16 18 20 22 25 29 35 46 71
0.000700 11 12 13 14 16 18 21 25 33 50
0.000500 8 9 10 10 12 13 15 18 24 35
0.000300 5 6 6 7 7 8 10 12 15 22
0.000200 4 4 4 5 5 6 7 8 10 15
0.000150 3 3 3 4 4 5 5 7 8 12
0.000100 2 2 3 3 3 3 4 5 6 9
7.000e-5 2 2 2 2 2 3 3 4 5 7
5.000e-5 1 2 2 2 2 2 2 3 4 5
3.000e-5 1 1 1 1 1 2 2 2 2 4
2.000e-5 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 2 2 3
1.500e-5 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 2 2
1.000e-5 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 2
alexandre.franco@CMI-RSCH-MBP031:~/TEMP/ETAC/DATA/GNG/ETAC$
```

# ETAC Output



# AFNI Cluster Results [A]

Voxels survived clustering = 202  
 Voxels edited out = 0  
 NN clustering level = 2 [edges touch]

☐ Use internal mask from 3dClustSim

--

###:	__Size__	__X__	__Y__	__Z__	Alpha					
<input type="checkbox"/> 1:	87 vox	-31.5	+20.5	+45.5	<input type="button" value="Jump"/>	<input type="button" value="Flash"/>	<input type="button" value="Plot"/>	<input type="button" value="Save"/>	<input type="button" value="Write"/>	N/Csim
<input type="checkbox"/> 2:	69 vox	-16.5	+83.5	-2.5	<input type="button" value="Jump"/>	<input type="button" value="Flash"/>	<input type="button" value="Plot"/>	<input type="button" value="Save"/>	<input type="button" value="Write"/>	N/Csim
<input type="checkbox"/> 3:	46 vox	+10.5	+89.5	-2.5	<input type="button" value="Jump"/>	<input type="button" value="Flash"/>	<input type="button" value="Plot"/>	<input type="button" value="Save"/>	<input type="button" value="Write"/>	N/Csim

# Acknowledgments

Cox:

“The ideas for equitable application of multiple sub-tests came to RWC while hiking in Grand Canyon National Park and in Gunnison National Forest; thanks go to the US National Park Service and US Forest Service for maintaining these inspirational public treasures.”