

2017.07.27 政大 fMRI進階工作坊  
Psychophysiologic interaction analysis

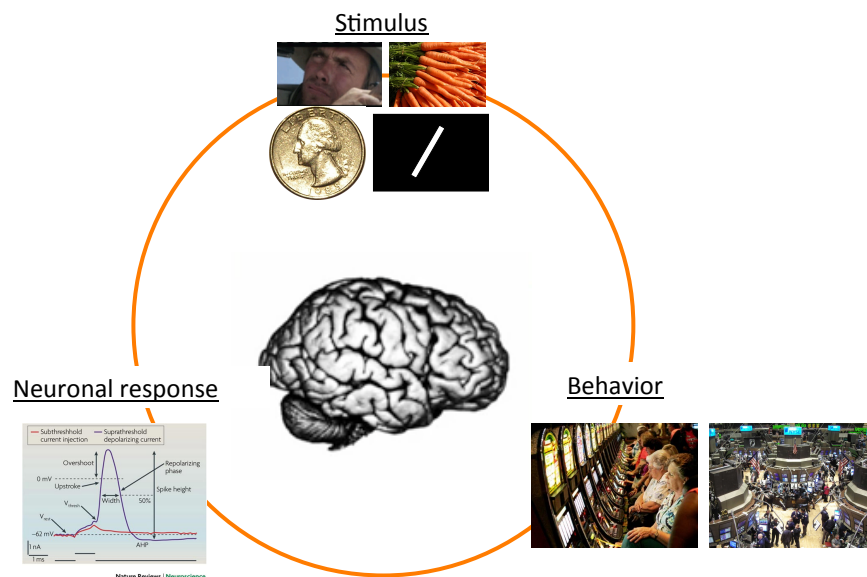
陽明大學神經科學所  
吳仕煒

Outline

- Overview on functional connectivity
- Psycho-Physiologic Interaction (PPI) analysis
  - What is it?
  - What can it address?
- Connectivity dynamics

# 0.A brief introduction to cognitive neuroscience

## 系統/認知神經科學 (Systems/cognitive neuroscience)



## Neurophysiology

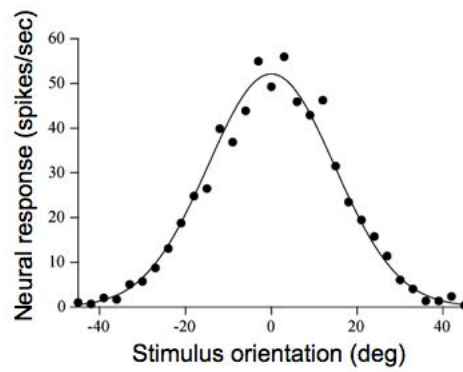
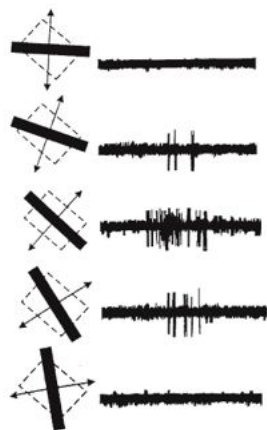
Measuring activity of single neurons (1960)




<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IOHayh06LJ4>

## Measuring activity of single neurons


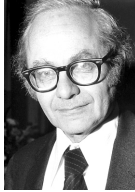
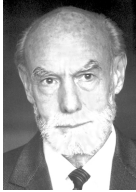
透過紀錄神經元活動，瞭解神經系統如何處理訊息







Nobel laureates in physiology or medicine  
Neurophysiologists

1981






R Sperry    D Hubel    T Wiesel

2004






R Axel    L Buck

2000



A Carlson    P Greengard    E Kandel

2014



J O'keefe    M-B Moser    E Moser

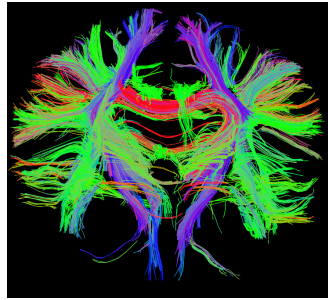
### What is a network?

- Neurons or brain regions that are anatomically and/or functionally connected

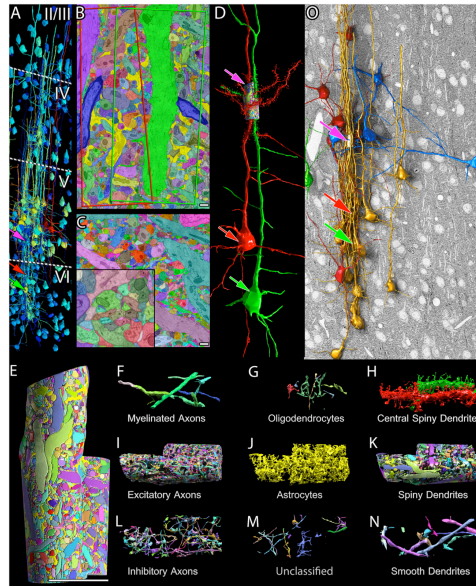
## Anatomical/Structural connectivity

Def – Based on “structures”

Diffusion tensor imaging (DTI)



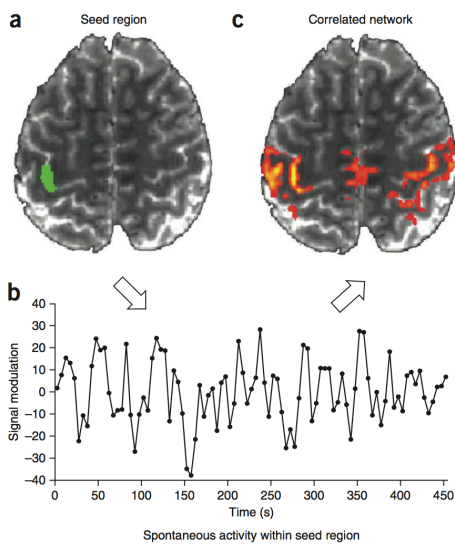
<http://www.martinos.org/neurorecovery/technology.htm>



Kasthuri et al., 2015, Cell

## Functional connectivity

Based on brain “activity”



This will be today's focus!

Buckner et al. (2013, Nat Rev Neurosci)

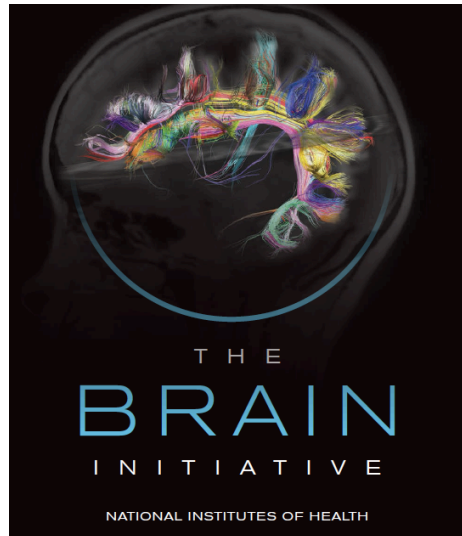
**Relation between structural and functional connectivity:**

Functional connectivity is not a simple proxy for  
static anatomic connectivity

Buckner et al. (2013, Nat Rev Neurosci)

**Why is understanding brain dynamics important?**  
Its role in understanding behavior

**Brain Research through Advancing Innovative  
Neurotechnologies (BRAIN) Initiative**



<http://www.braininitiative.nih.gov>

**BRAIN Initiative: April, 2013**

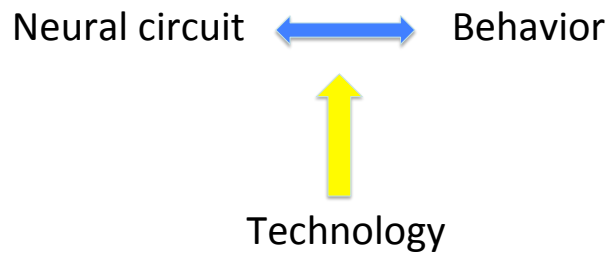
“To understand the circuits and patterns of neural activity that gives rise to mental experience and behavior”



(6:00-7:30)

<http://www.braininitiative.nih.gov>

## Creating a dynamic picture of brain function



“Accelerate the development and application of new technologies to construct a dynamic picture of brain function that integrates neuronal and circuit activity over time and space”

<http://www.braininitiative.nih.gov>

## BRAIN Initiative: 6 research areas

1. Mapping neural circuits
2. Recording neuronal dynamics
3. Manipulating circuit activity
4. Studying and measuring behavior
5. Modeling: theory, modeling, and statistics
6. Human neuroscience and neurotechnology

<http://www.braininitiative.nih.gov>



What is the level/scale of the measurements of brain activity I will be talking about?



## The birth of magnetic resonance imaging (MRI)

2003



P Lauterbur



P Mansfield

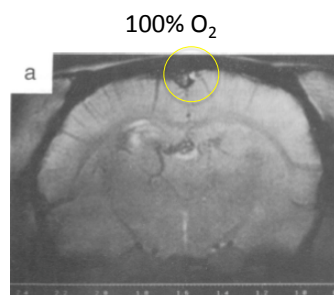


## Functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI)

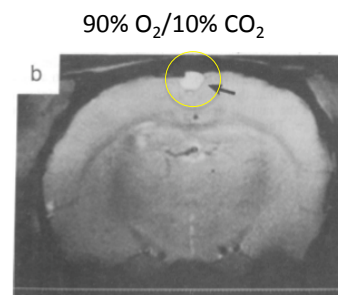
- ⊙ Blood oxygen level dependent (BOLD) signal (a proxy of local neural activity)
- ⊙ Spatial resolution: 1mm – 3mm
- ⊙ Temporal resolution: on the order of seconds

## Functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI)

- Ogawa et al. (1990)
- Manipulation: the amount of oxygen the animal breathed
- Find Blood oxygen level dependent (BOLD) signal



Strong BOLD contrast

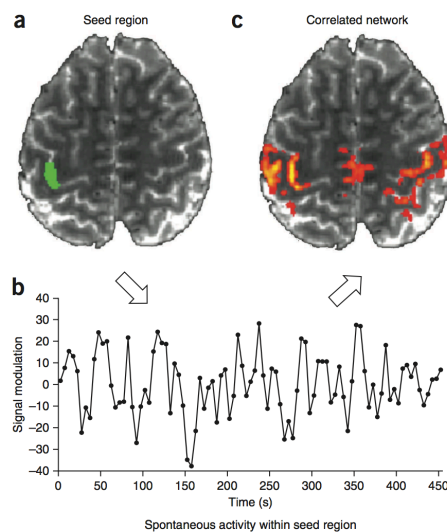


Weak BOLD contrast

## I. Brain networks and resting-state fMRI

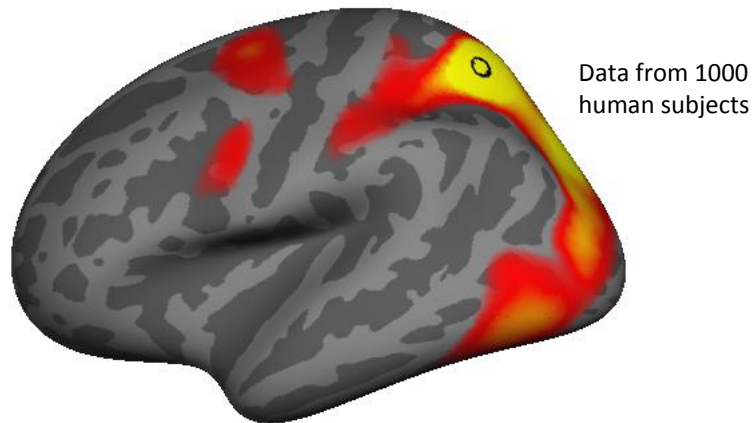
### Resting state fMRI

- Subjects are scanned without being asked to perform tasks



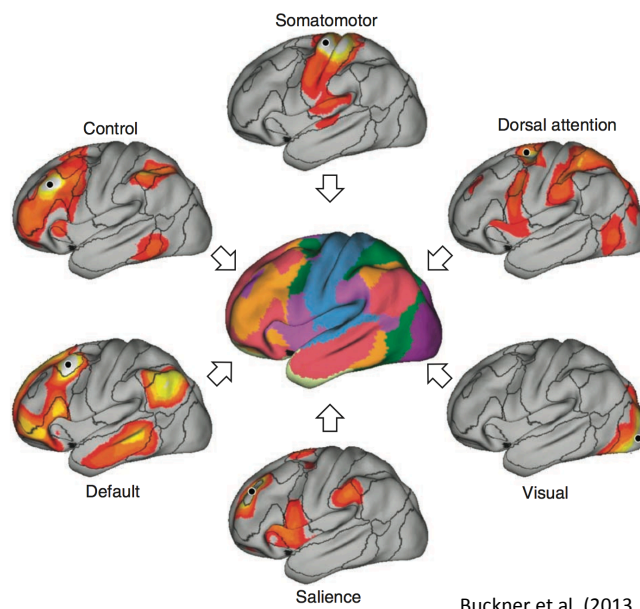
## Resting state functional connectivity

- Focus of the field: to identify networks based on functional connectivity (coactivation patterns) between regions



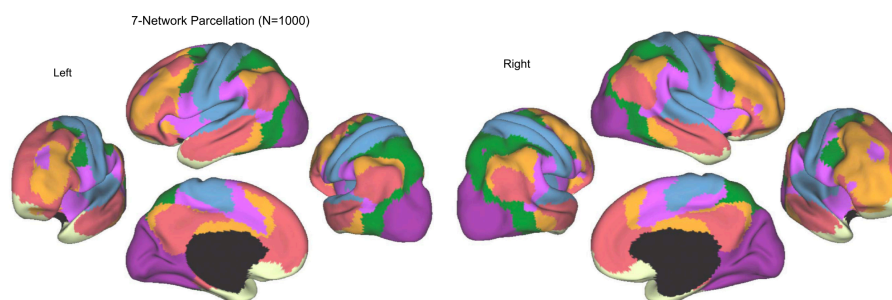
Buckner et al. (2013, Nat Rev Neurosci)

## Large-scale brain networks



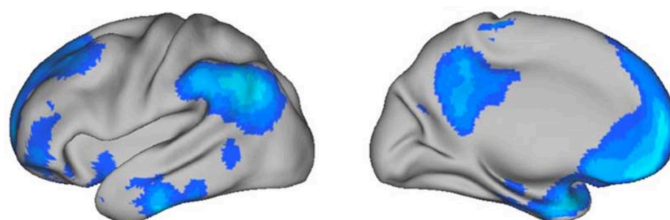
Buckner et al. (2013, Nat Rev Neurosci)

## Network parcellation



Yeo et al. (2011, J Neurophysiol)

## Default-mode network

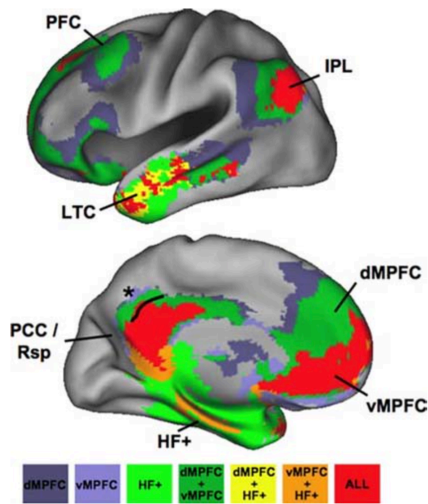


**TABLE 1. Core regions associated with the brain's default network**

REGION	ABREV	INCLUDED BRAIN AREAS
Ventral medial prefrontal cortex	vMPFC	24, 10 m/10 r/10 p, 32ac
Posterior cingulate/retrosplenial cortex	PCC/Rsp	29/30, 23/31
Inferior parietal lobule	IPL	39, 40
Lateral temporal cortex†	LTC	21
Dorsal medial prefrontal cortex	dMPFC	24, 32ac, 10p, 9
Hippocampal formation††	HF+	Hippocampus proper, EC, PH

from Buckner et al. (2008)

### “Hubs” in the default-mode network



- Hub: a region that connects (co-vary) with all other regions
- Hubs in default-mode network: vmPFC, PCC, IPL

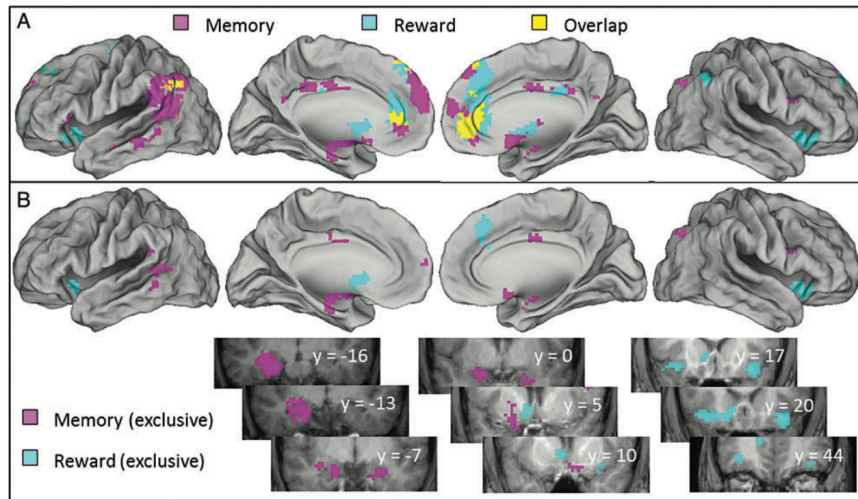
from Buckner et al. (2008)

## II. Brain networks and cognition

### Default-mode network



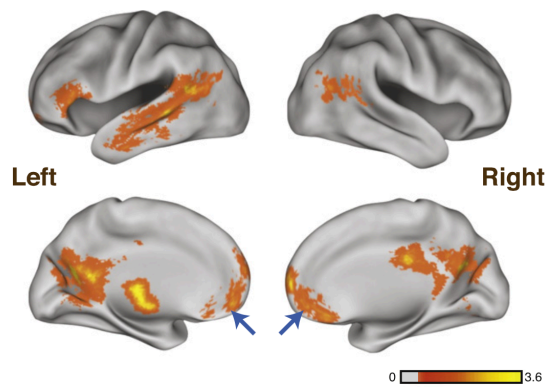
### Memory, reward, and default-mode network



Elward et al. (2014, Cereb Cortex)

### Moral judgment and default-mode network

Expected number of lives to be saved



Shenhav & Greene (2010, Neuron)



### III. Understanding network dynamics

#### A. resting-state (task-independent)

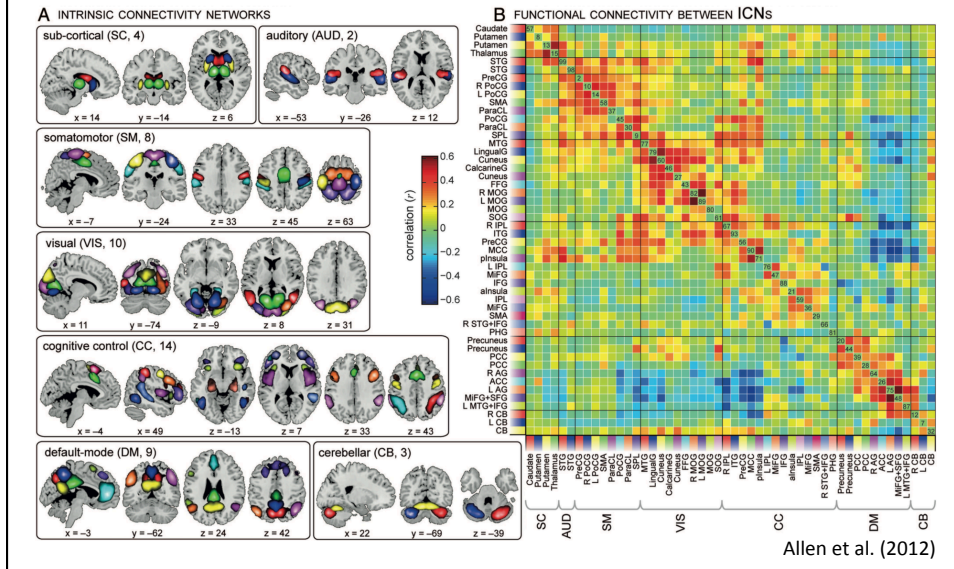
#### Resting-state network dynamics

- Does functional connectivity change over time?
- Past resting-state fMRI identifies networks but did not consider such possibility
- Dynamics can potentially be prominent in the resting state, during which mental activity is unconstrained

Allen et al. (2012)

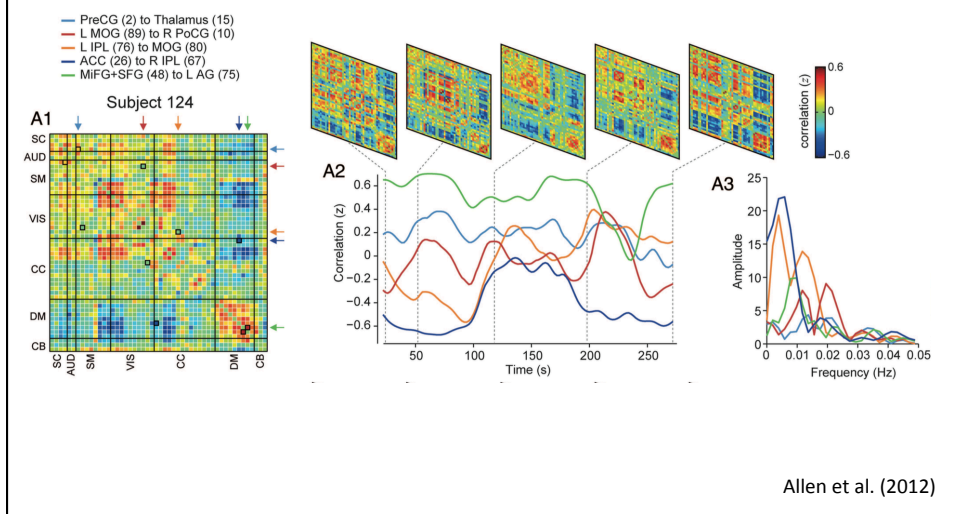
## Tracking dynamics

- Identifying network components



## Tracking dynamics of connectivity

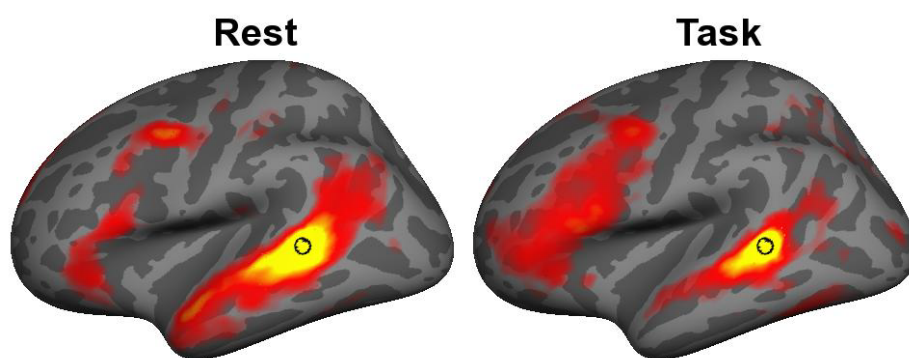
- Functional connectivity can change over time



### III.B. Task-dependent network dynamics

- Does **task-related** functional connectivity change over time?

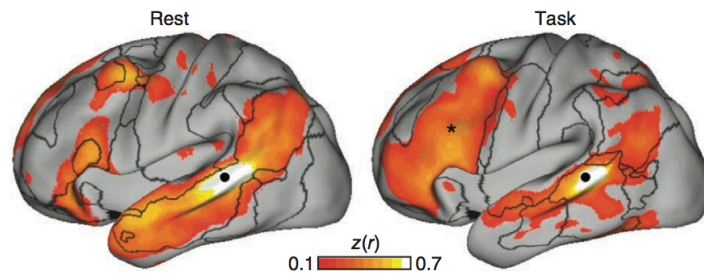
### Task-dependent functional connectivity



Buckner et al. (2013, Nat Rev Neurosci)

## Task-dependent functional connectivity

Change in connectivity when comparing task with rest



Buckner et al. (2013, Nat Rev Neurosci)

## Psychophysiological Interaction (PPI) analysis

A tool to investigate task-dependent functional connectivity

## Psycho-Physiologic Interaction (PPI)

### Goal

- To identify regions in the brain whose time course are correlated with a 'seed' region and the extent of correlation is modulated by some task-related manipulation in the experiment

- example: Hare et al. (2009, Science)



Tasty, bad for health

Or



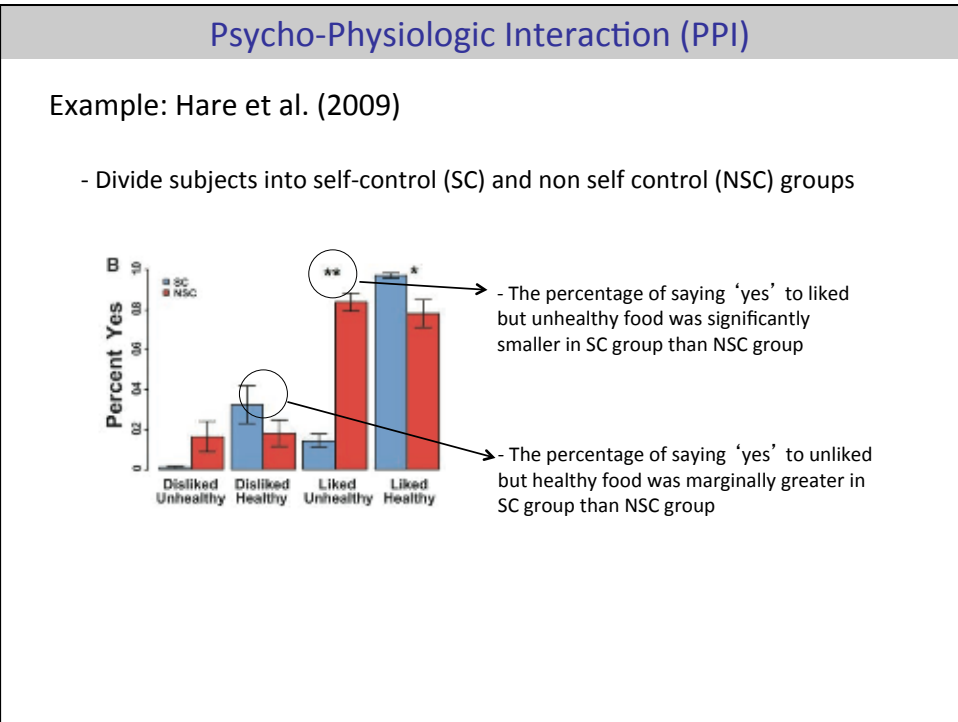
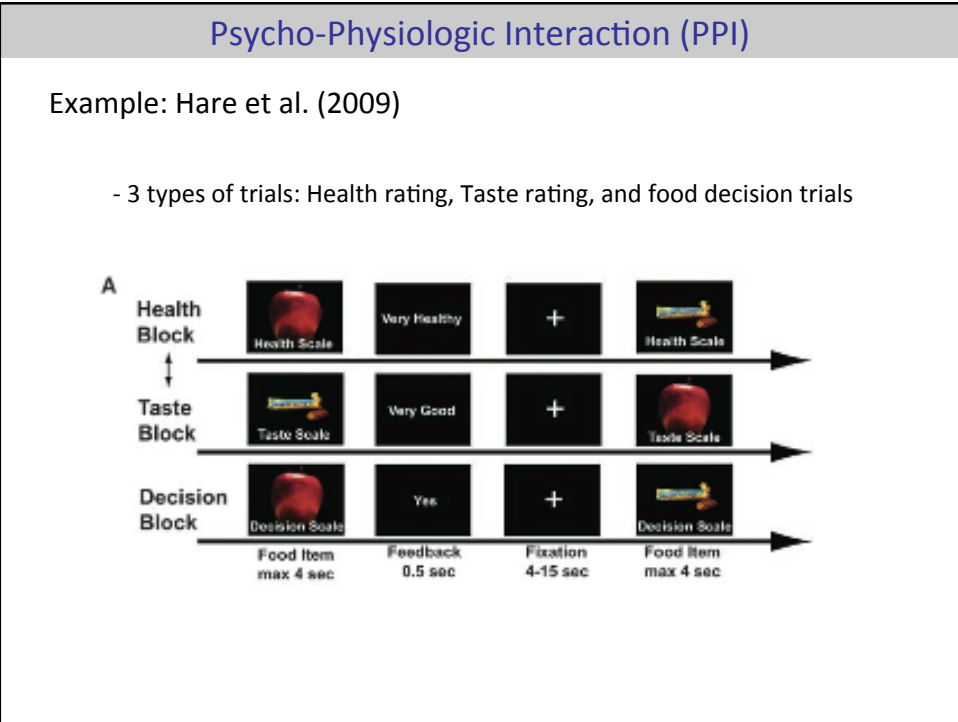
Not tasty, good for health

## Psycho-Physiologic Interaction (PPI)

Example: Hare et al. (2009)

- How do people exercise self-control when choosing among food to eat?

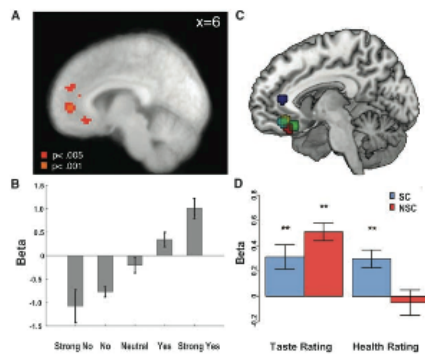
- What are the neural mechanisms for *exercising* self-control during decision making?



### Psycho-Physiologic Interaction (PPI)

Example: Hare et al. (2009)

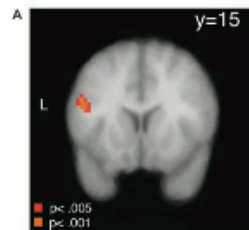
- Activity in ventro-medial prefrontal cortex (vmPFC) correlated with subjective value of food (irrespective of its taste and health)



- NSC's taste rating is more correlated with vmPFC activity than SC's; SC's health rating is more correlated with vmPFC activity than NSC's

### Psycho-Physiologic Interaction (PPI)

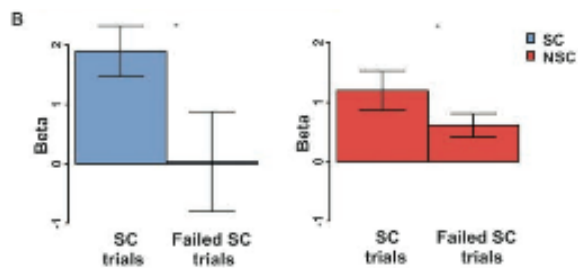
How might the brain exercise self control?



1. Activity in dorsolateral prefrontal cortex (DLPFC) was **greater** in successful self-control trials in SC group than in NSC group

## Psycho-Physiologic Interaction (PPI)

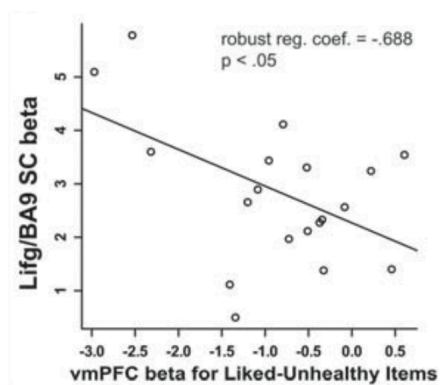
2. Both groups showed greater activity in SC trials than failed SC trials



Could DLPFC be responsible for exercising self control??

## Psycho-Physiologic Interaction (PPI)

3. In trials where liked-but-unhealthy trials were avoided, vmPFC activity negatively correlated with DLPFC activity in SC groups





### Psycho-Physiologic Interaction (PPI)

#### PPI analysis

- Looking at the SC group:
  - Decreased functional connectivity during unhealthy trials between DLPFC and IFG (seed: DLPFC)
  - Increased functional connectivity during unhealthy trials between IFG and vmPFC (seed: IFG)
- No PPI effect on NSC group

Neural mechanism: DLPFC exercise self-control to vmPFC through IFG

### Psycho-Physiologic Interaction (PPI)

Example: Hare et al. (2009)

#### PPI procedure

1. Extract the BOLD time course of the seed regions
2. Estimate the time course of neuronal activity of seed using deconvolution
3. Construct GLM for PPI analysis

## Psycho-Physiologic Interaction (PPI)

### PPI GLM

$$y = \beta_{\text{psych}} x_{\text{psych}} + \beta_{\text{physio}} x_{\text{physio}} + \beta_{\text{PPI}} [x_{\text{psych}} \cdot x_{\text{physio}}] + \dots$$

- Psychological regressor (psych): some task regressor (e.g. trials in which subjects made successful self-control; 1 for successful self-control, 0 otherwise)
- Physiological regressor (physio): time course of neuronal activity Of the seed region
- PPI regressor: interaction between psych and physio

## Psycho-Physiologic Interaction (PPI)

### Why deconvolution?

$$y = \beta_{\text{psych}} x_{\text{psych}} + \beta_{\text{physio}} x_{\text{physio}} + \beta_{\text{PPI}} [x_{\text{psych}} \cdot x_{\text{physio}}] + \dots$$

$$H[x_{\text{psych}} \cdot x_{\text{physio}}] \neq [H(x_{\text{psych}})] \cdot x_{\text{BOLD}}$$

It is critical to deconvolve the BOLD time series ( $x_{\text{BOLD}}$ ) to neuronal activity  $x_{\text{physio}}$

## Psycho-Physiologic Interaction (PPI)

### Discussion PPI

- PPI can address task-related changes in functional connectivity between 2 regions
- Beware of efficiency of your PPI GLM (especially check the correlation between psych and physio regressors)
- It is a model-based approach (GLM) to understand functional connectivity, but could definitely be more informative than simply correlating time course between 2 regions
- The results of PPI are often complementary to the main results; they are typically not the main results of the experiment

Task-related, time-dependent connectivity and the dynamics of **decision making**

**memory retrieval**

**learning**

**Something ...**

## Sharing experiences in functional connectivity analysis

I. Individual differences ↔ connectivity profile

II. Within-trial dynamical interactions

III. characterizing connectivity time-series

I. Interested in –  
Individual differences ↔ connectivity profile

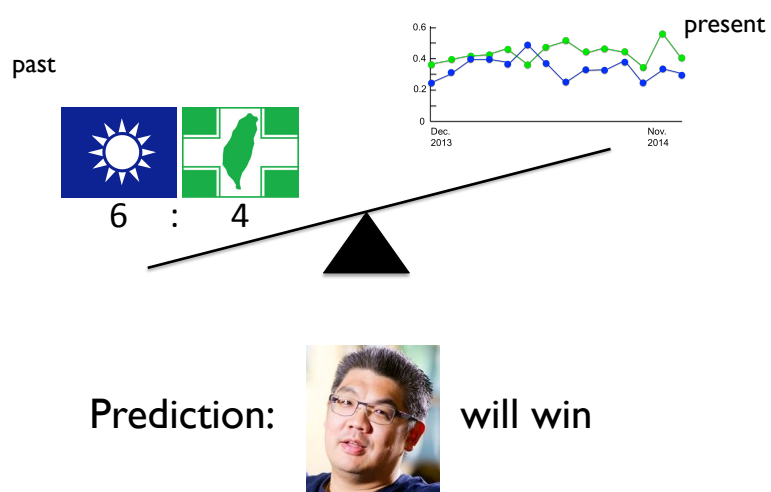


Issue:  
Probabilistic/statistical inference



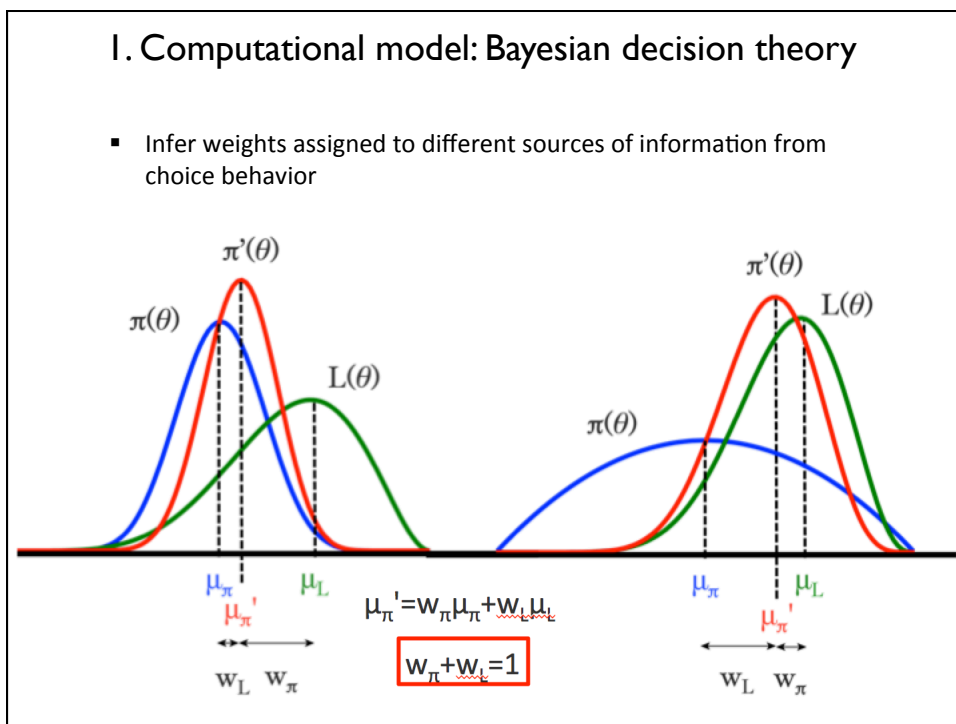
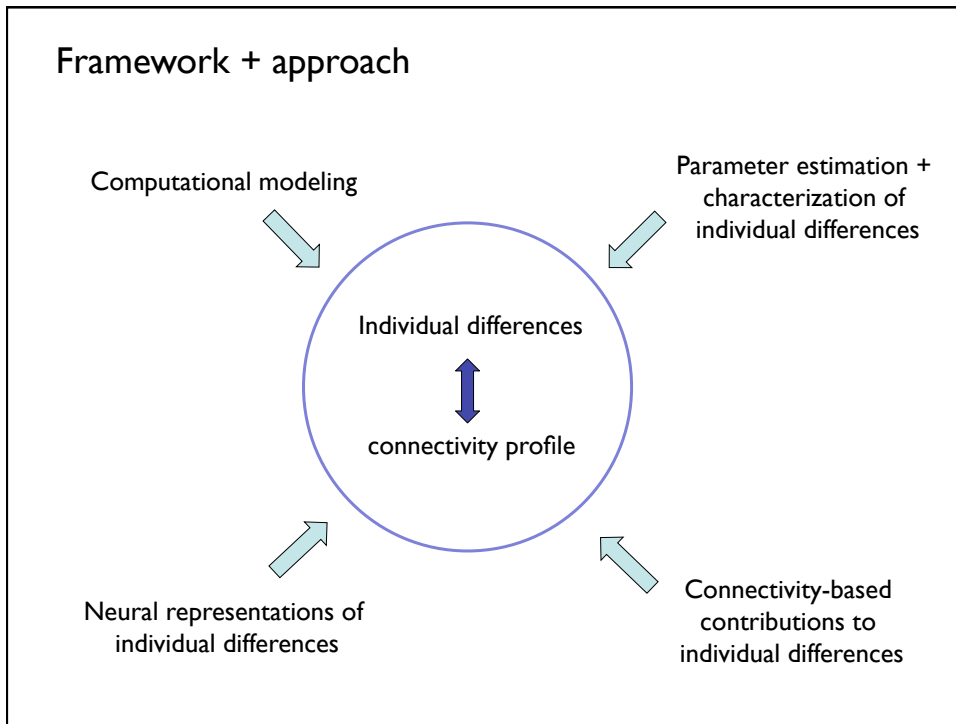
Ting et al. (2015, J Neurosci), Yang & Wu (in prep)

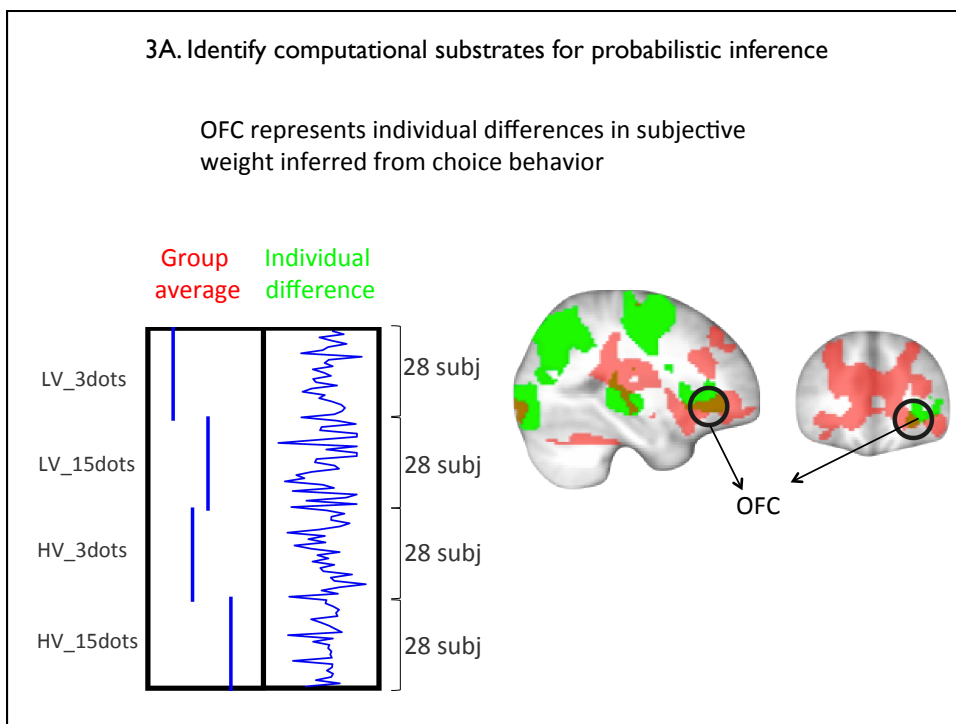
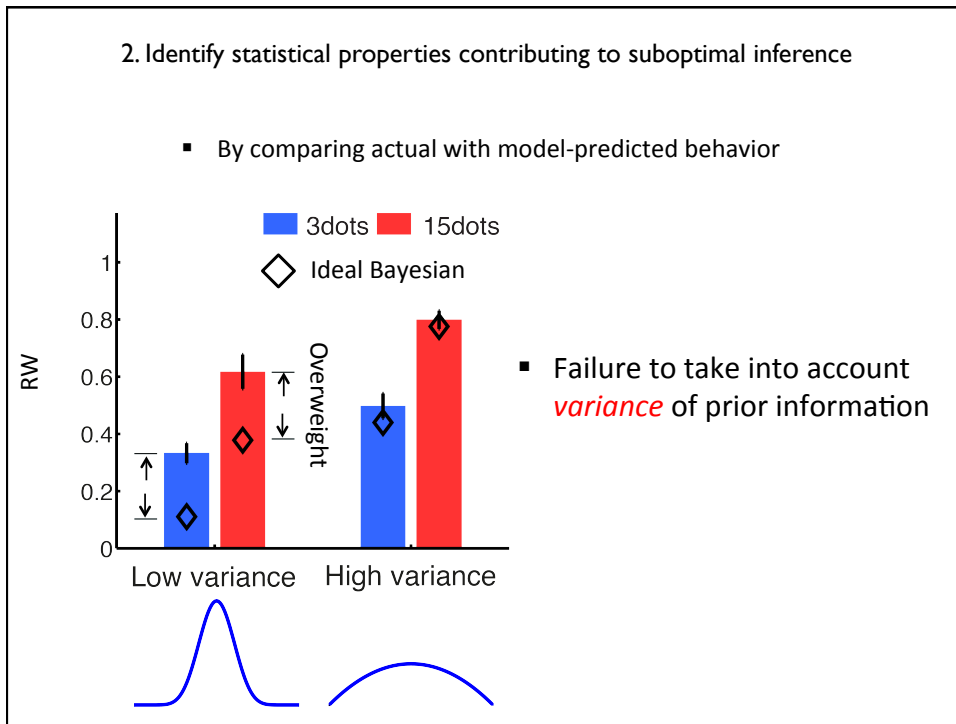
How people **weight** past and present information will determine his/her prediction



What are the **statistical properties** of information that contribute to **suboptimal** inference?

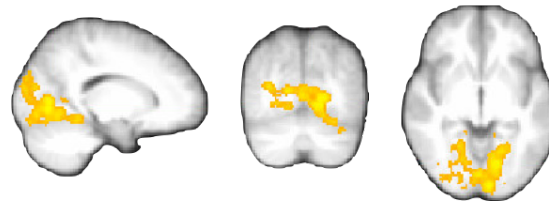
How can we characterize the **boundary** of rational inference at the **neural-mechanistic** level?





3B. Identify representations for statistical properties contributing to suboptimal inference

The ventral visual pathway represents prior uncertainty



x= -16

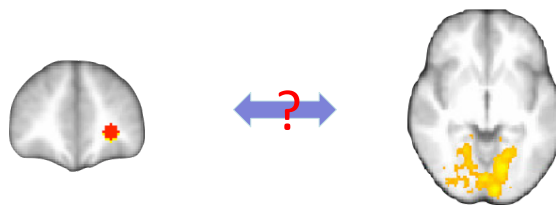
y= -70

z= -4

$p < 0.05$  (corrected)

- Higher activity for larger prior uncertainty

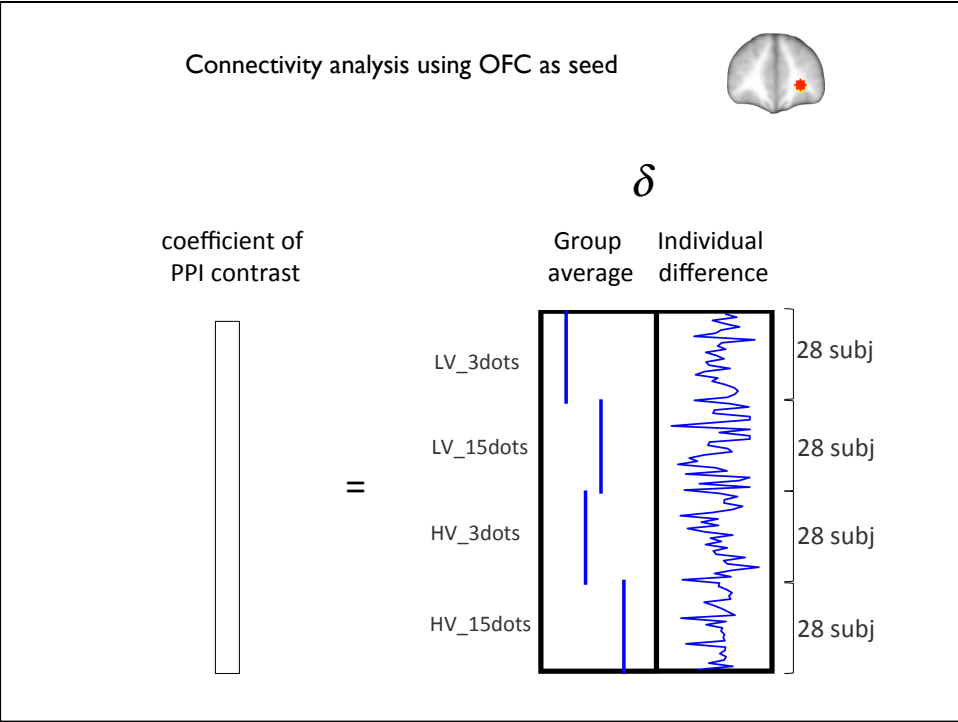
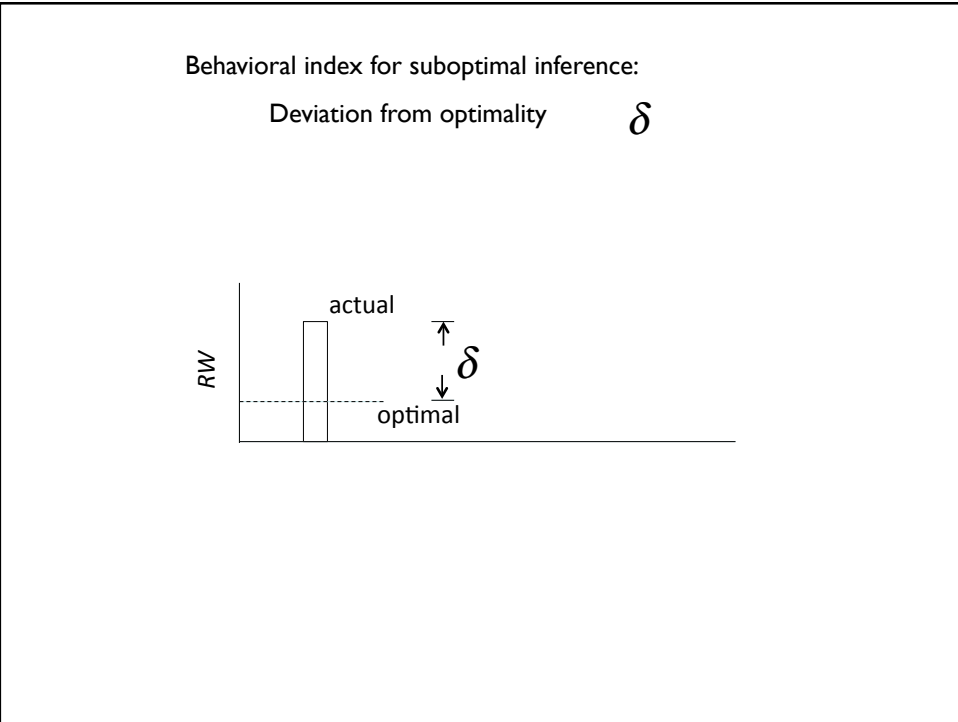
Why is it that humans are suboptimal?  
What might be the neural-mechanistic interpretation?

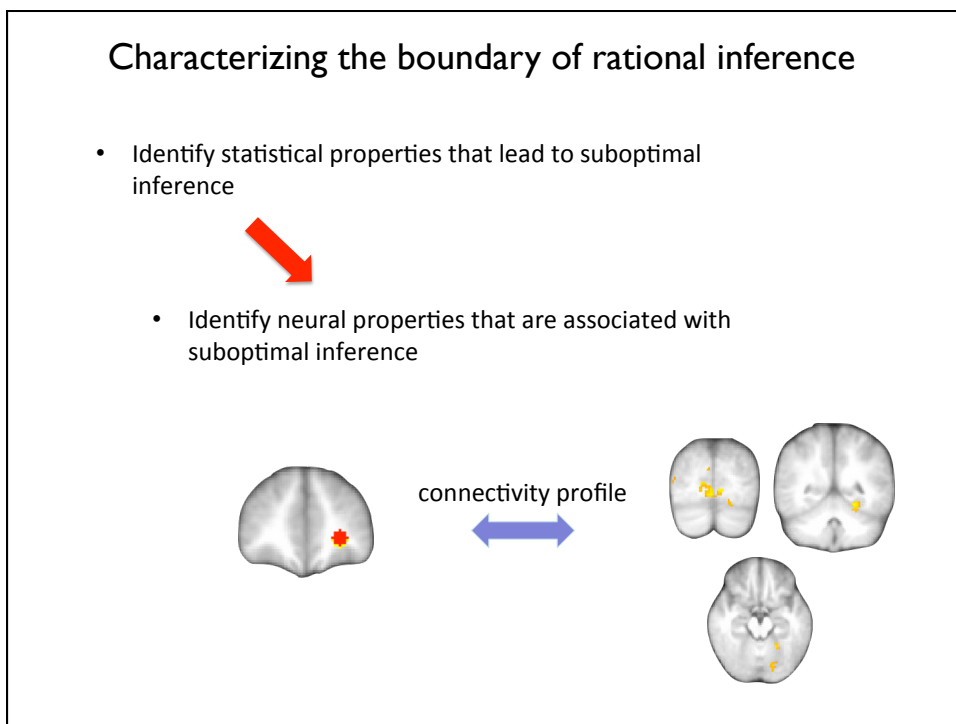
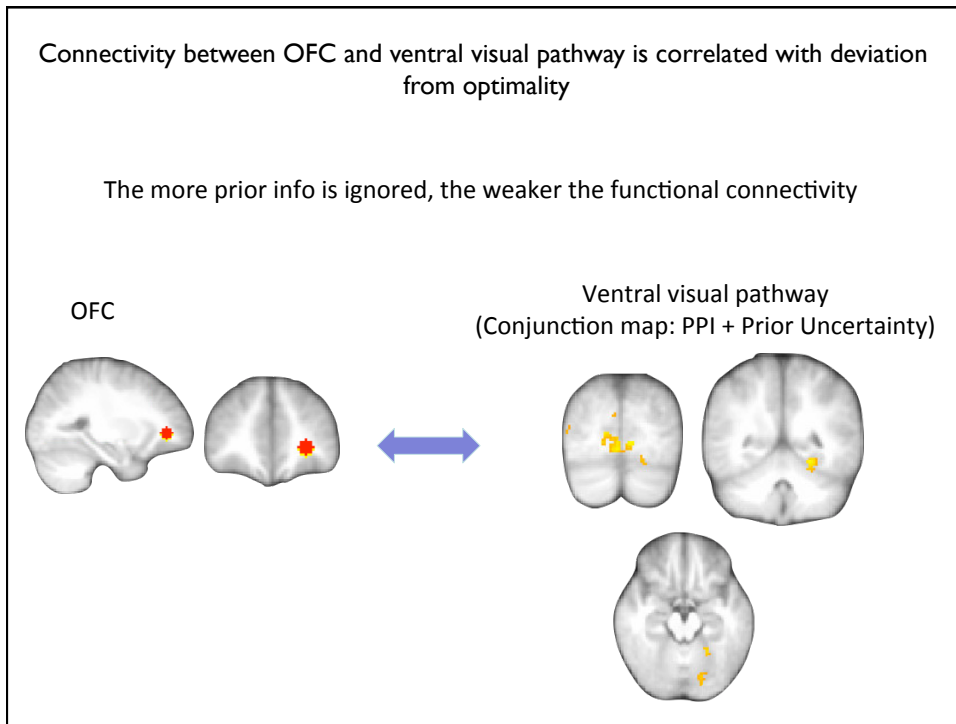


Conjecture:

Is suboptimal inference associated with efficiency in information communication between OFC and ventral visual pathway?



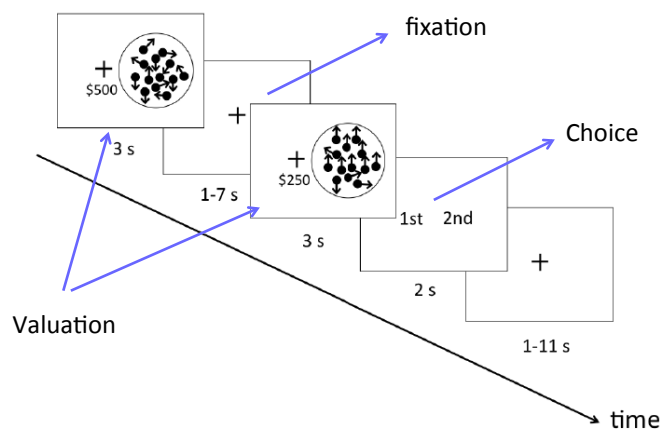




## II. Interested in – Within-trial dynamical interactions

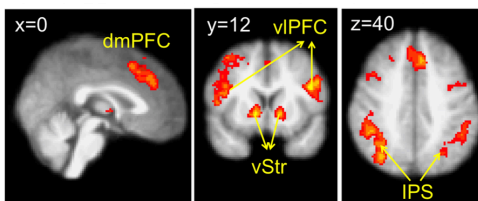
Wu, Delgado, Maloney (2015, Front Neurosci)

A perceptual decision task

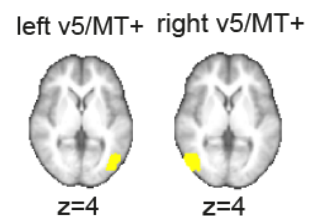


## Neural representations of expected reward

Valuation network:  
reward, probability, and expected reward

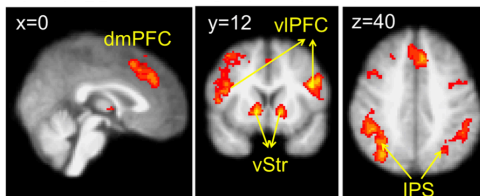


Sensory system:  
probability

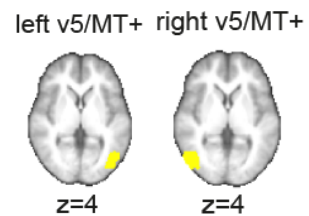


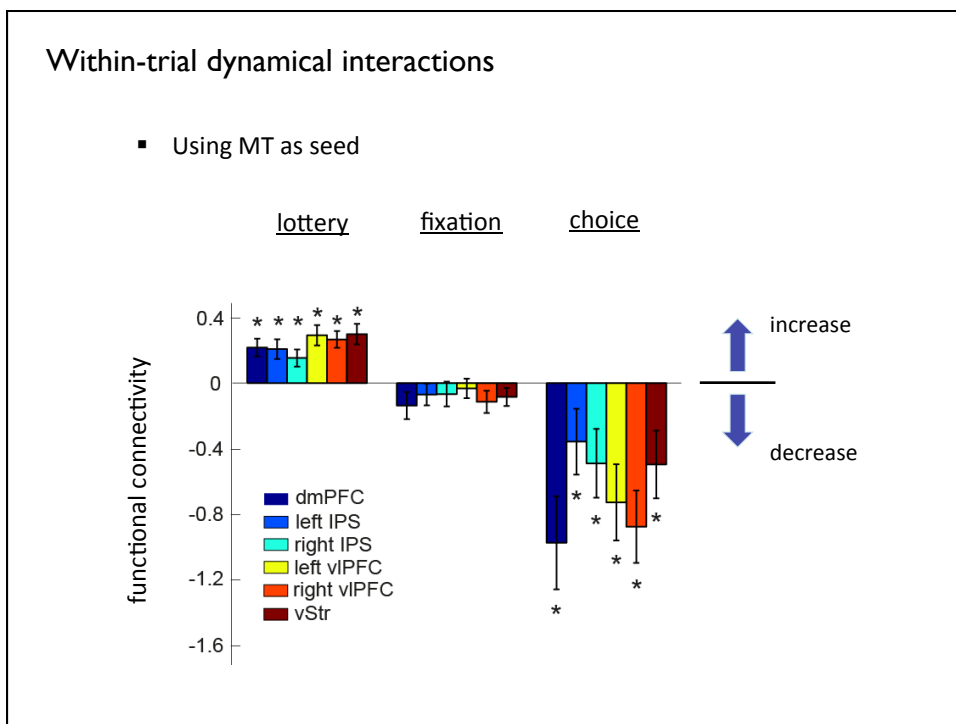
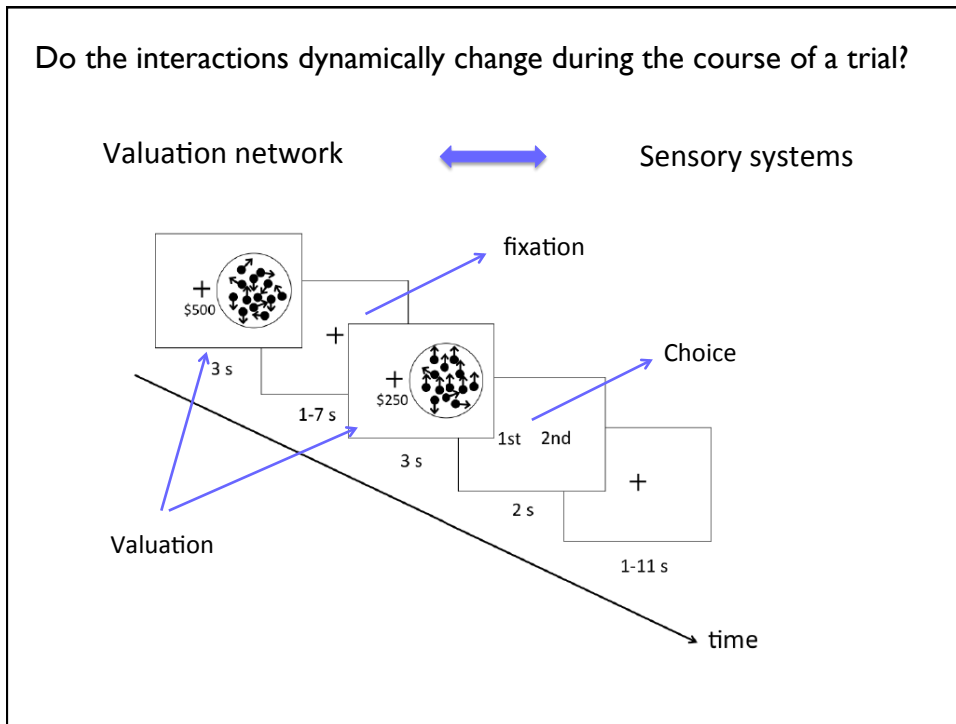
## Understanding interactions between networks

Valuation network:  
reward, probability, and expected reward



Sensory system:  
probability



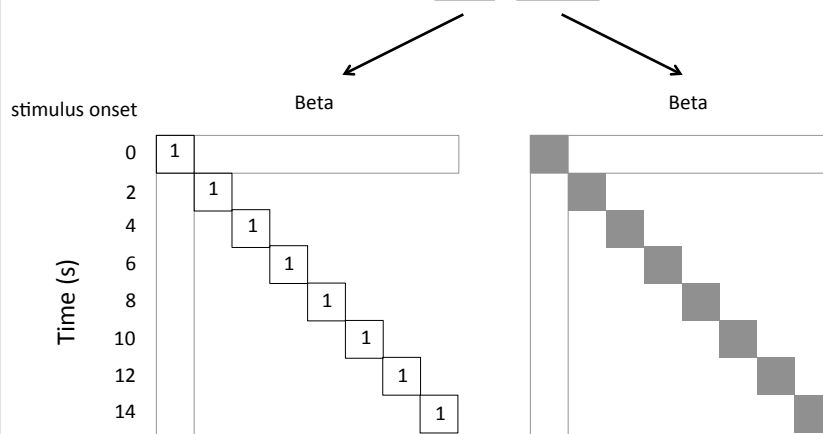


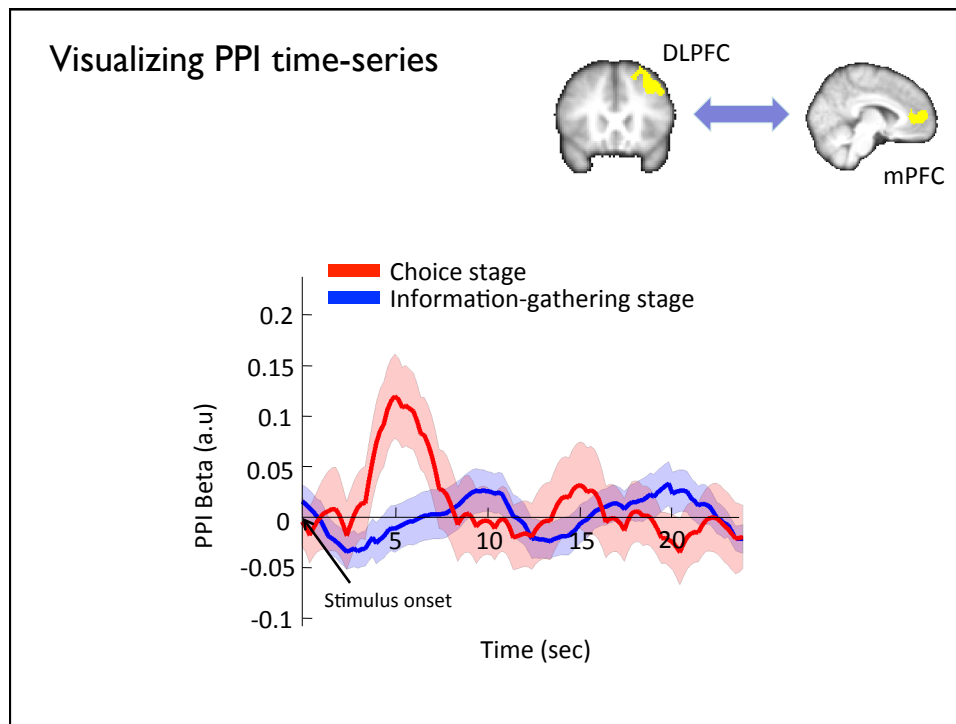
### III. Interested in – characterizing connectivity time-series

#### Visualizing the time series of PPI

- FIR-like regression

$$\text{Model: } \beta_{PPI}(t) = \beta_{A'A}(t) + \beta_{B'B}(t), t = [0, 24]$$





#### IV. Dynamics of mental representations

- Characterizing the dynamics of mental representations: the temporal generalization method (King & Dehaene, 2014 Trends in Cognitive Sciences)

## Objective

- Understanding how mental representations unfold in time
- Behavioral techniques are limited in revealing the temporal organization of cognitive computations

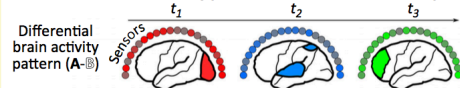
Data with high temporal resolution: EEG, MEG, and intracranial recordings data

Multivariate pattern analysis (MVPA) analysis using machine learning methods

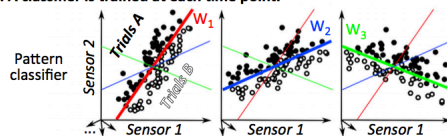
- Temporal decoding method

## Basic idea

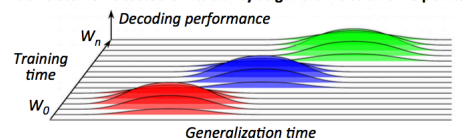
1. A differential brain activity pattern is recorded at each time point.



2. A classifier is trained at each time point.



3. Each classifier is tested on its ability to generalize to all time points.



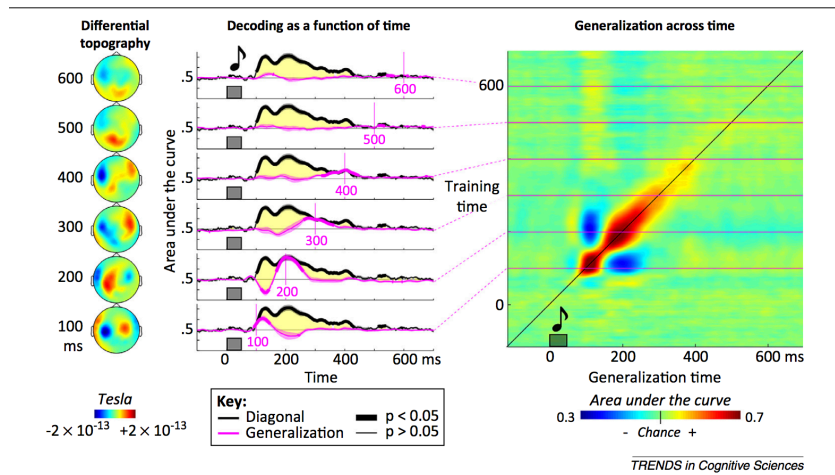
TRENDS in Cognitive Sciences

- Look at each time point separately
- Train multivariate classifier (multivariate = spatial) at each time point
- Evaluate if the classifier can successfully predict activity at a different time point



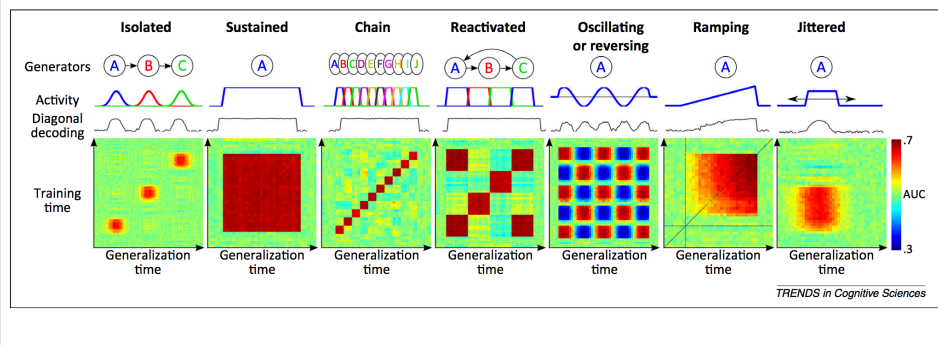
## Visualizing classifier performance

- Generalization across time



## Principles and possibilities

- Possibility to dissociate different mental operation dynamics
- Key: simply looking at diagonal patterns cannot allow you to distinguish between chained, and reactivated; but they differ in the off-diagonal entries



## Summary

- Dynamic pictures of the brain
- Network dynamics and cognition
- Dynamics of network connectivity and cognition