

# Multiple testing

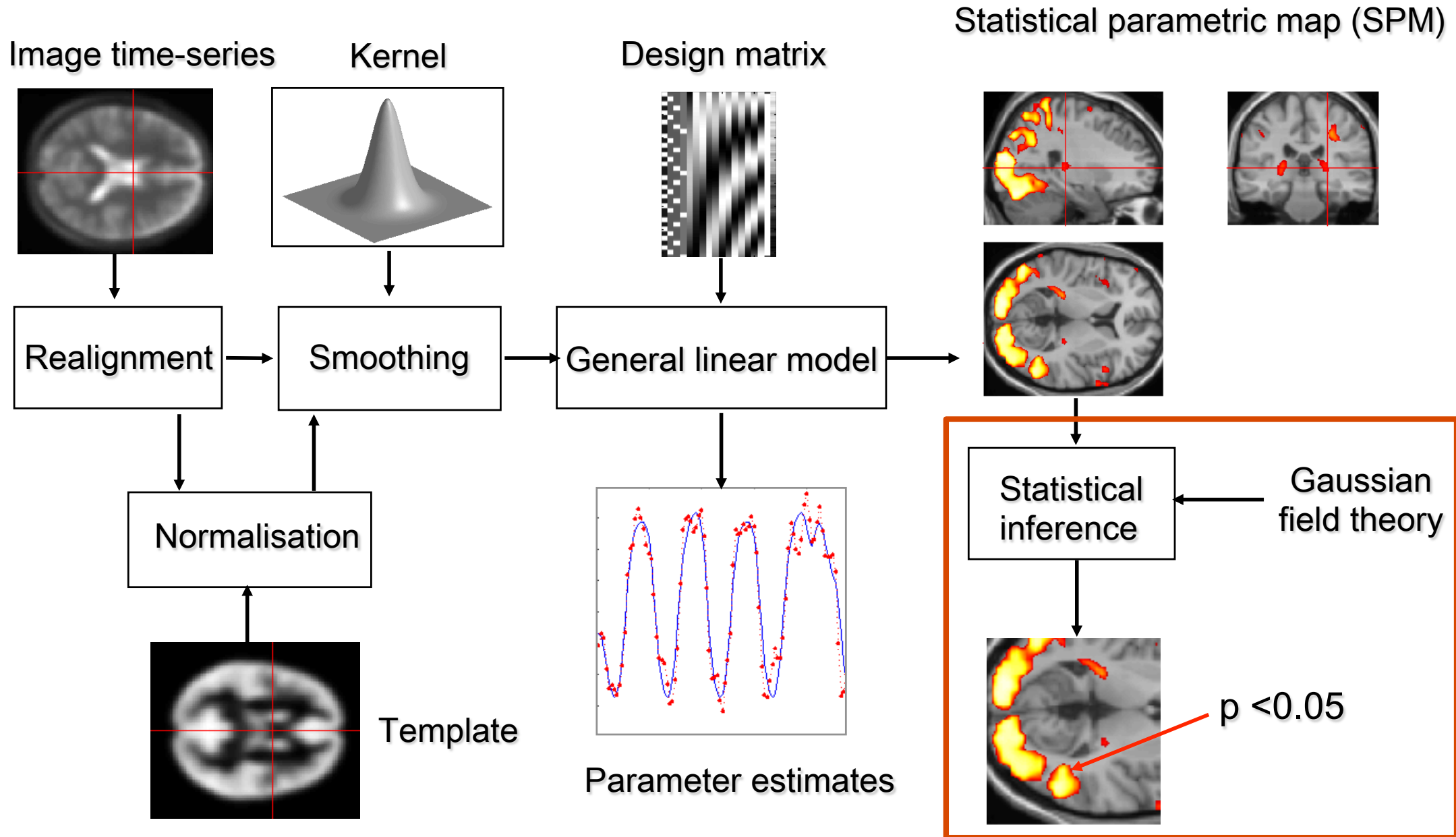
Justin Chumbley

Laboratory for Social and Neural Systems Research  
University of Zurich

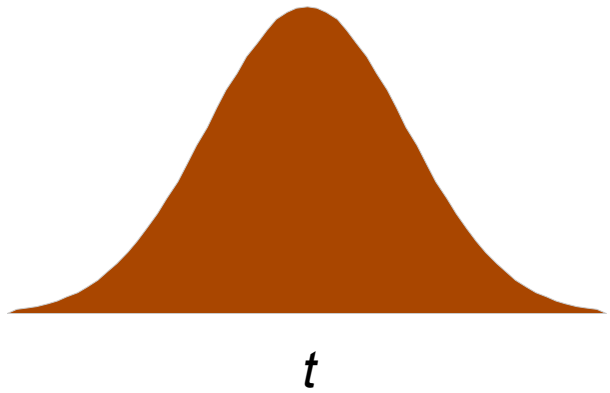
**With many thanks for slides & images to:**

FIL Methods group

# Overview of SPM – Random field theory

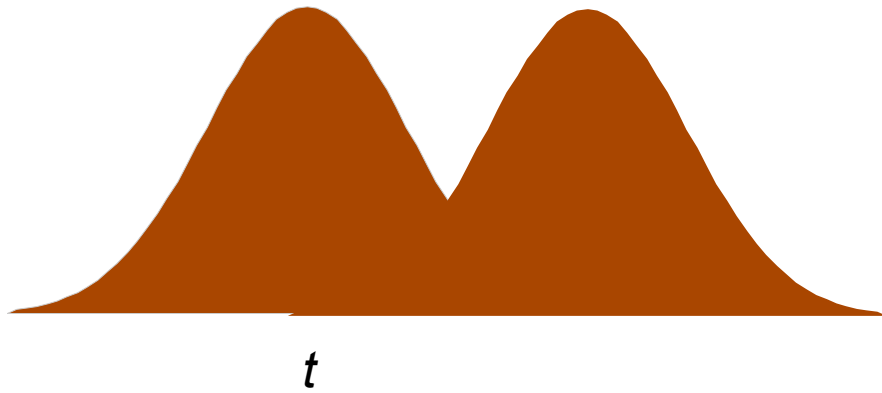


# Error at a single voxel



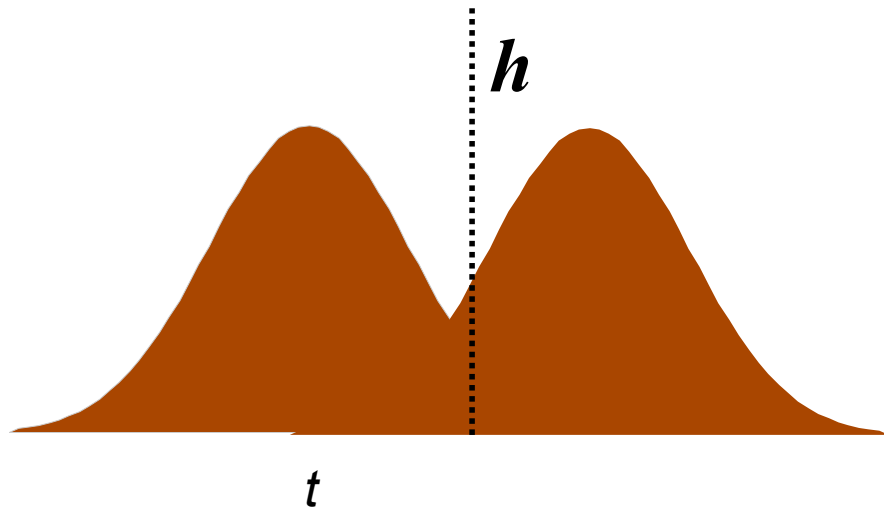
$$t = \frac{\text{contrast of estimated parameters}}{\sqrt{\text{variance estimate}}}$$

# Error at a single voxel



$$t = \frac{\text{contrast of estimated parameters}}{\sqrt{\text{variance estimate}}}$$

# Error at a single voxel

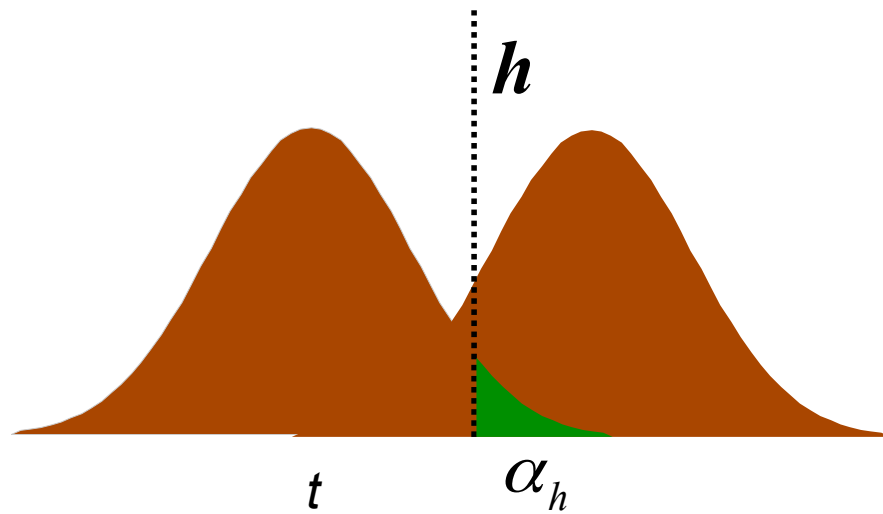


Decision:  
 $H_0$  ,  $H_1$ : zero/non-zero activation

***contrast* of  
estimated  
parameters**

$$t = \frac{\text{contrast of estimated parameters}}{\sqrt{\text{variance estimate}}}$$

# Error at a single voxel

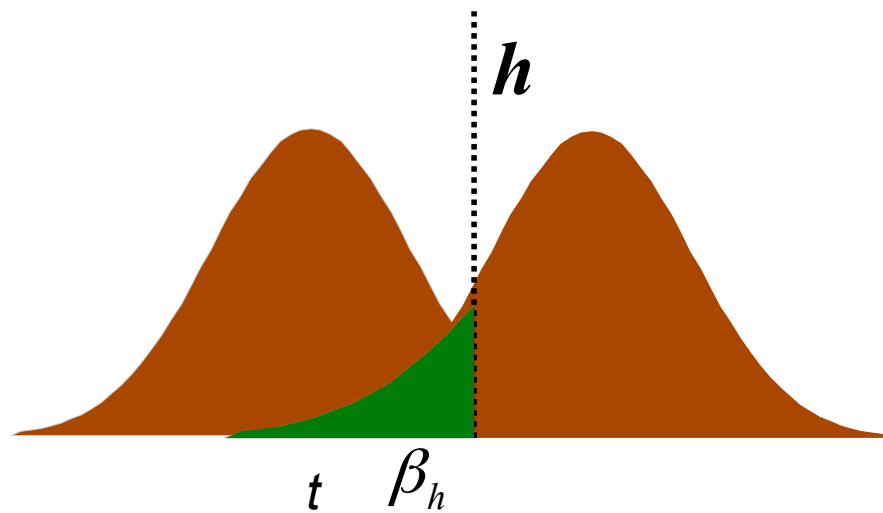


Decision:  
 $H_0$  ,  $H_1$ : zero/non-zero activation

***contrast* of  
estimated  
parameters**

$$t = \frac{\text{contrast of estimated parameters}}{\sqrt{\text{variance estimate}}}$$

# Error at a single voxel

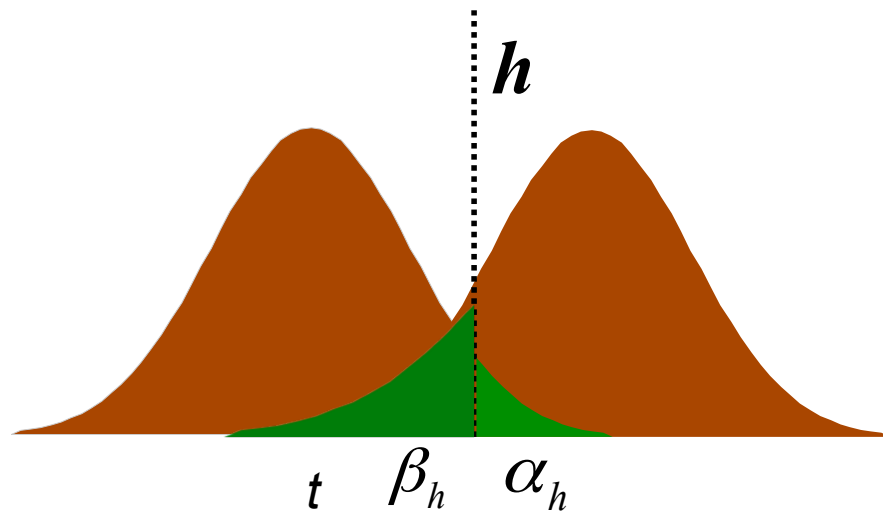


Decision:  
 $H_0$  ,  $H_1$ : zero/non-zero activation

***contrast* of  
estimated  
parameters**

$$t = \frac{\text{contrast of estimated parameters}}{\sqrt{\text{variance estimate}}}$$

# Error at a single voxel



Decision:

$H_0$  ,  $H_1$ : zero/non-zero activation

Decision rule (threshold)  $h$ ,  
determines related error rates  $\alpha_h$  ,  $\beta_h$

Convention: Penalize complexity  
Choose  $h$  to give acceptable  $\alpha_h$  under  $H_0$

**contrast of  
estimated  
parameters**

$$t = \frac{\text{contrast of estimated parameters}}{\sqrt{\text{variance estimate}}}$$



# Types of error

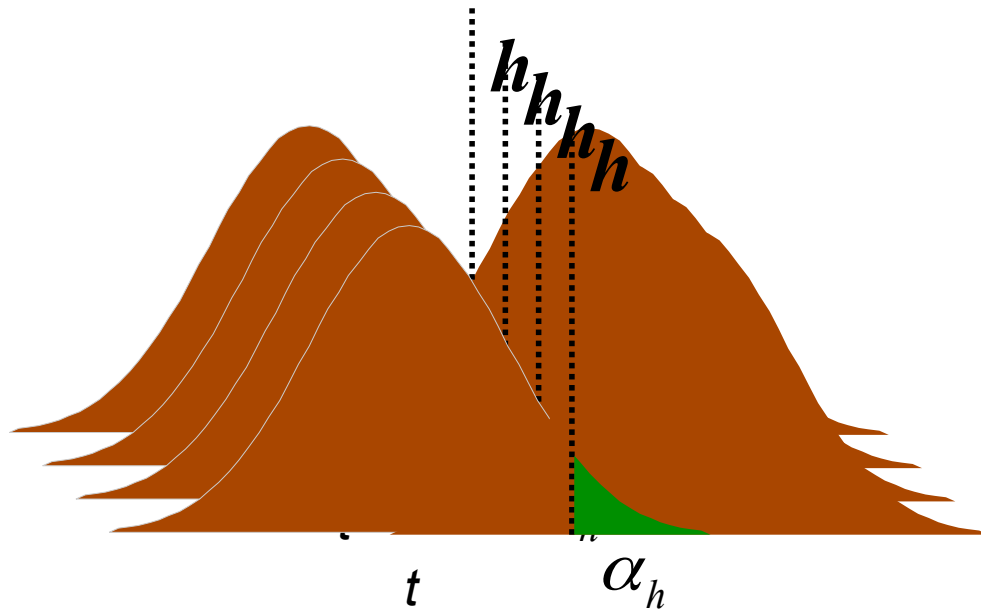
		Reality	
		$H_0$	$H_1$
Decision	$H_1$	<b>False positive (FP)</b> $\alpha_h$	<b>True positive (TP)</b>
	$H_0$	<b>True negative (TN)</b>	<b>False negative (FN)</b> $\beta_h$

**specificity:  $1 - \alpha_h$**   
=  $TN / (TN + FP)$   
= proportion of actual negatives which are correctly identified

**sensitivity (power):  $1 - \beta_h$**   
=  $TP / (TP + FN)$   
= proportion of actual positives which are correctly identified

# Multiple tests

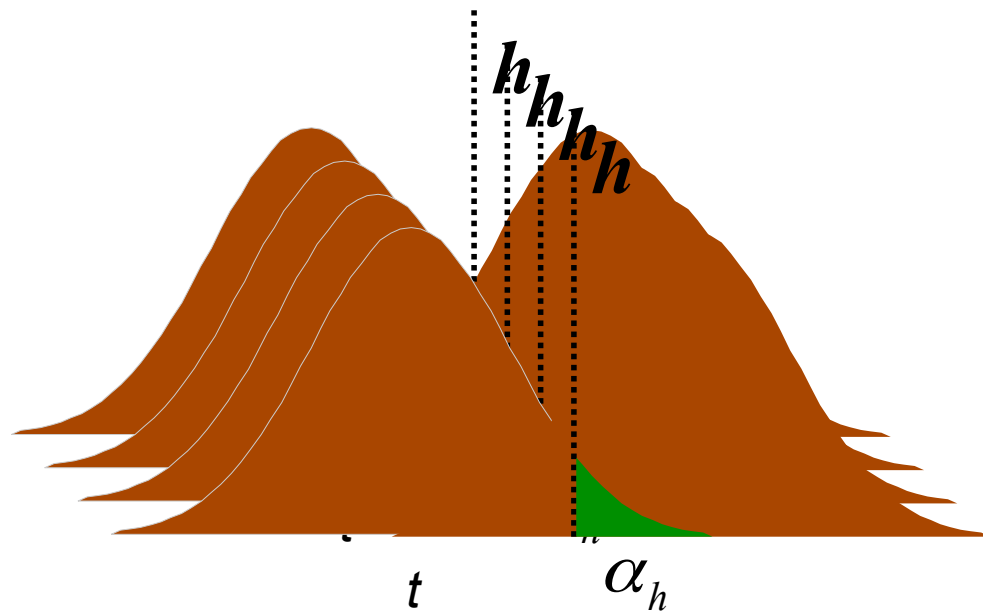
What is the problem?



**contrast of  
estimated  
parameters**

$$t = \frac{\text{contrast of estimated parameters}}{\sqrt{\text{variance estimate}}}$$

# Multiple tests



**Penalize each independent opportunity for error.**

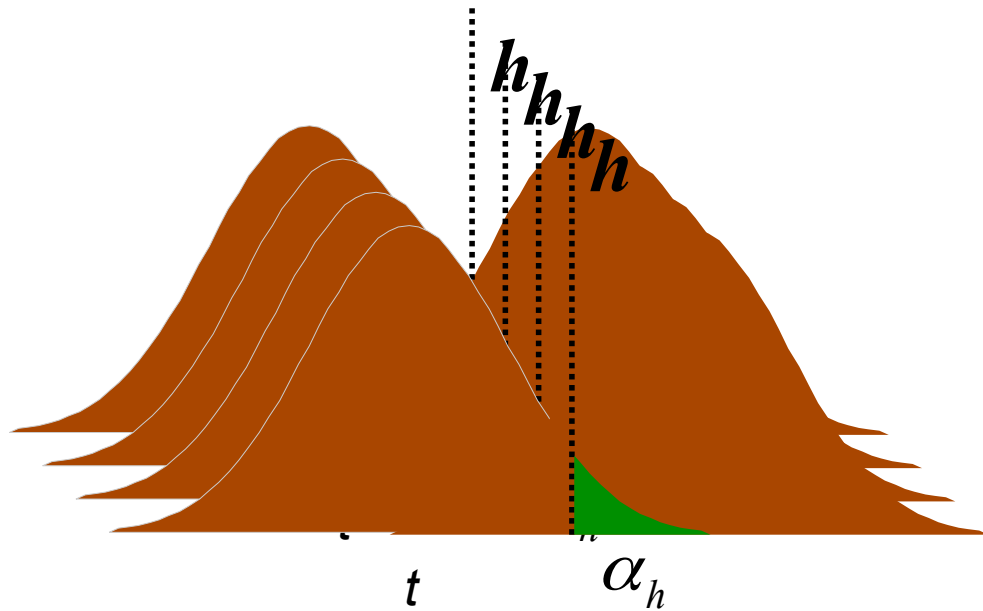
$$p(1 \text{ or more FP} ) = FWER_h$$

$$E\left( \frac{FP}{\text{All positives}} \right) = FDR$$

**contrast of  
estimated  
parameters**

$$t = \frac{\text{contrast of estimated parameters}}{\sqrt{\text{variance estimate}}}$$

# Multiple tests



*Bonferonni*

$$FWER_h \leq N\alpha_h$$
$$FWER_h / N \leq \alpha_h$$

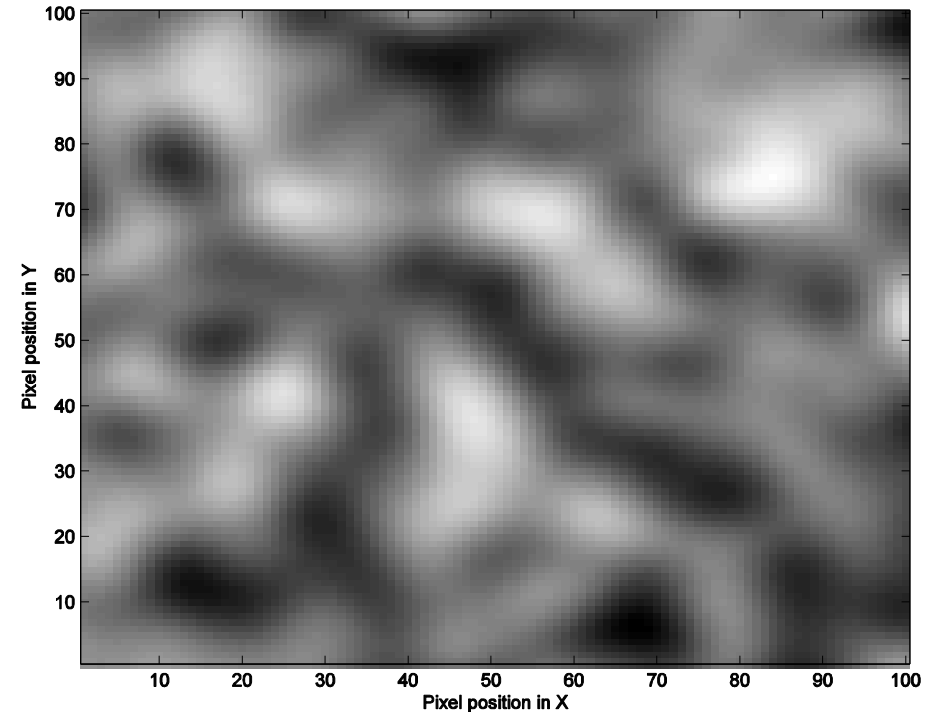
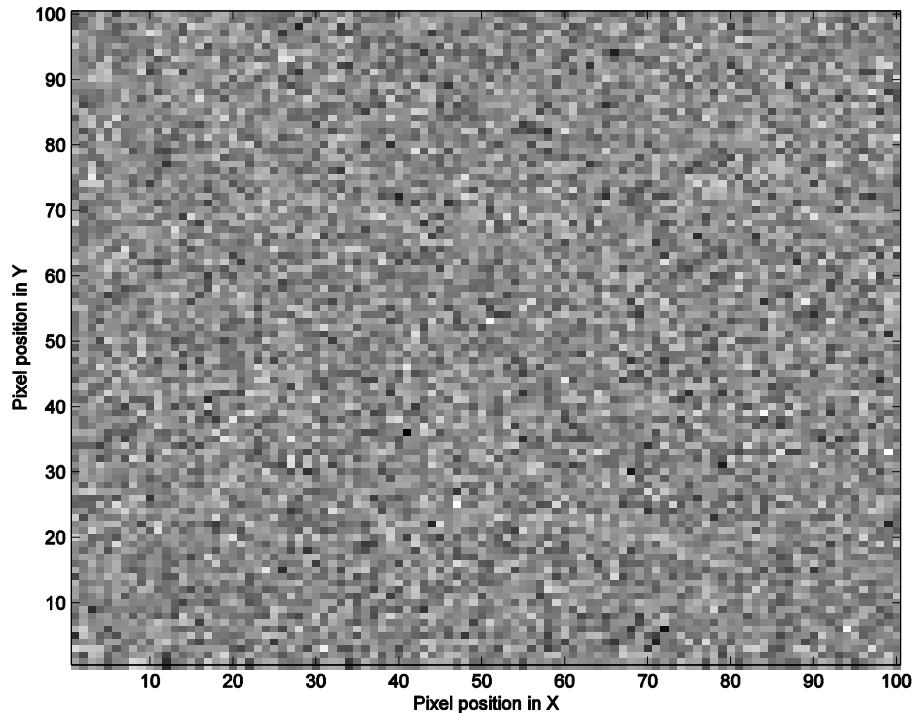
**contrast of  
estimated  
parameters**

$$t = \frac{\text{contrast of estimated parameters}}{\sqrt{\text{variance estimate}}}$$

Convention: Choose  $h$  to limit  $FWER_h$   
assuming family-wise  $H_0$

# Issues

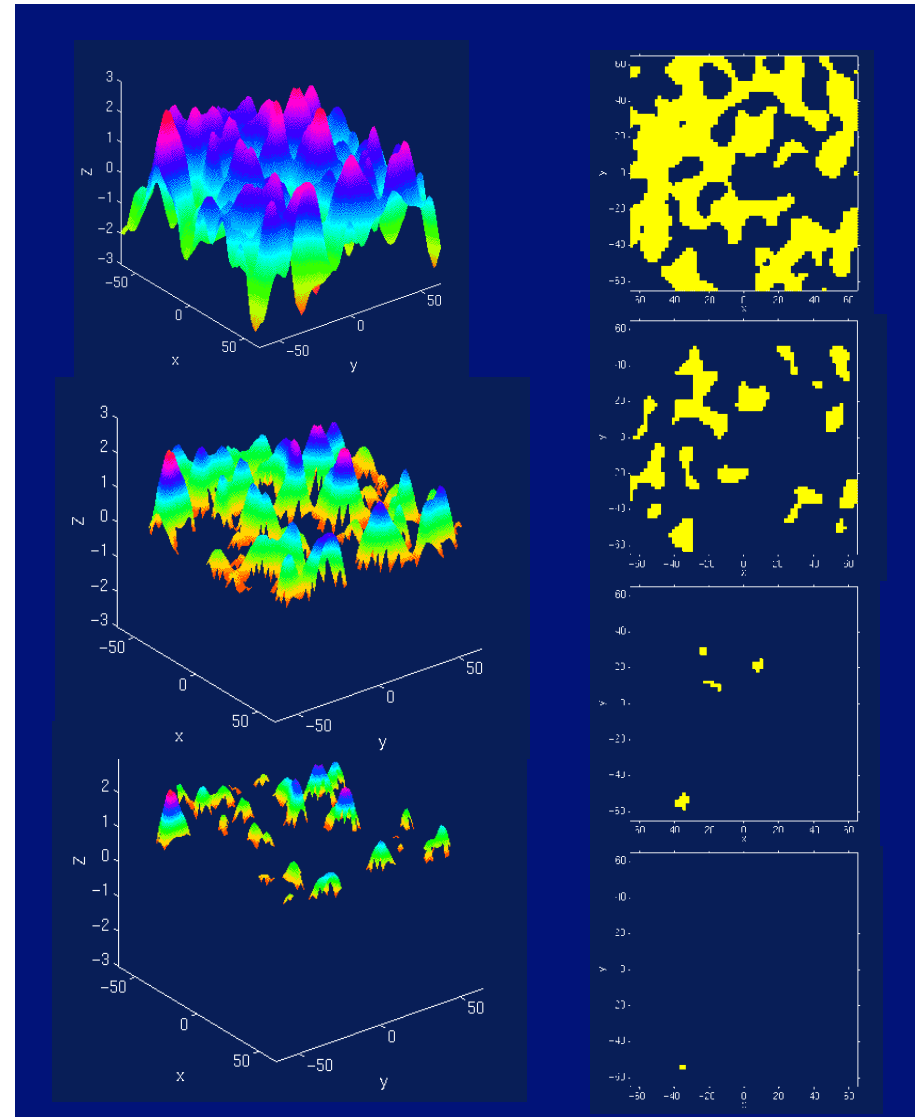
1. Voxels or regions
2. Bonferroni too harsh (insensitive)
  - Unnecessary penalty for sampling resolution (#voxels/volume)
  - Unnecessary penalty for independence



- intrinsic smoothness
  - MRI signals are acquired in k-space (Fourier space); after projection on anatomical space, signals have continuous support
  - diffusion of vasodilatory molecules has extended spatial support
- extrinsic smoothness
  - resampling during preprocessing
  - matched filter theorem
    - deliberate additional smoothing to increase SNR
  - Robustness to between-subject anatomical differences

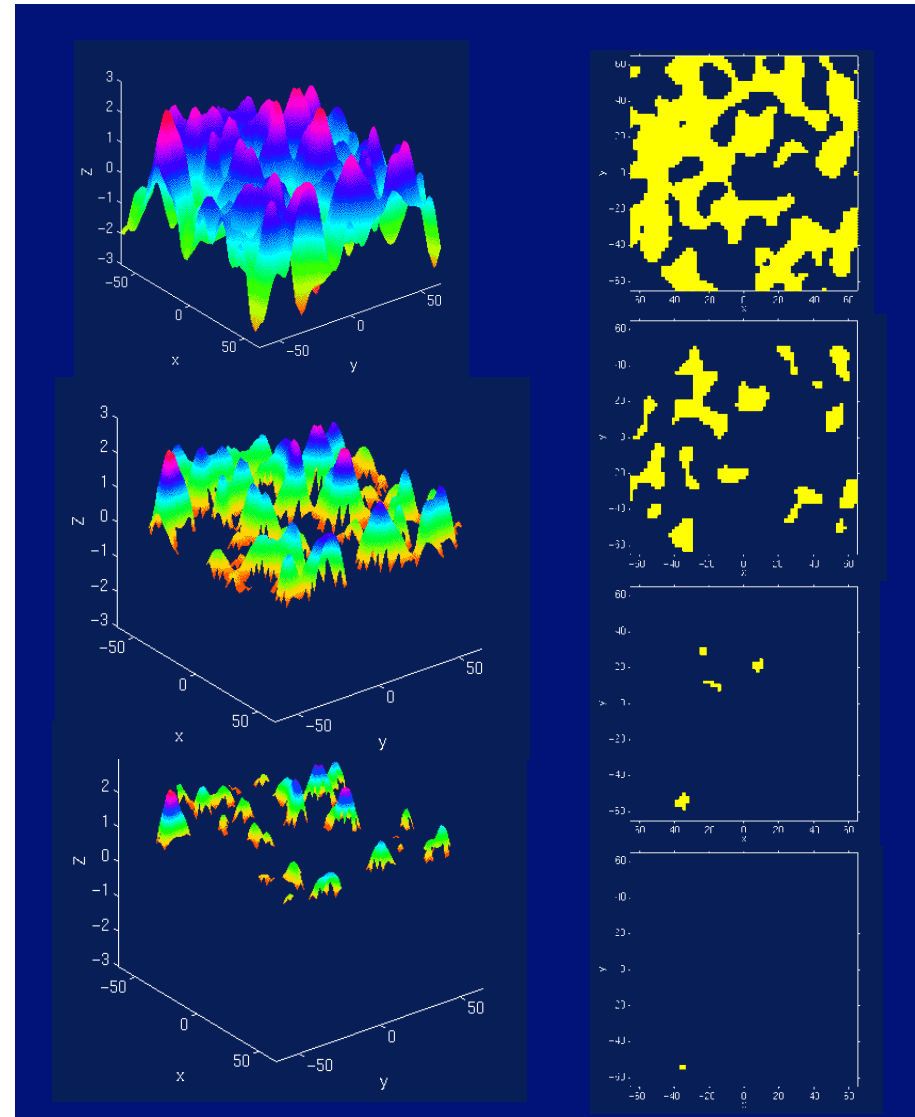
Acknowledge/estimate dependence  
Detect effects in smooth landscape, not voxels

1. Apply high threshold:  
identify improbably high  
peaks
2. Apply lower threshold:  
identify improbably broad  
peaks
3. Total number of regions?



Null distribution?

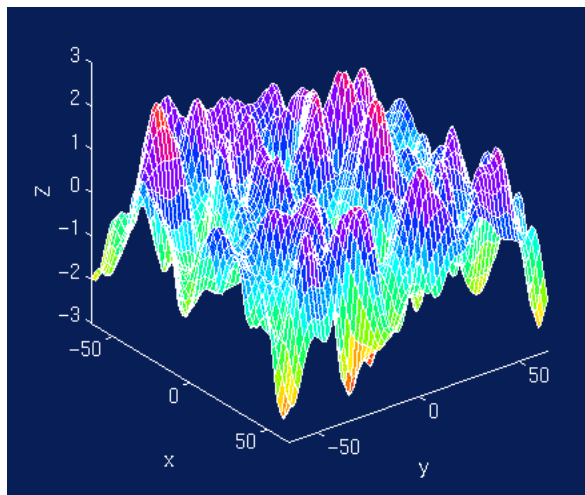
1. Simulate null experiments
2. Model null experiments



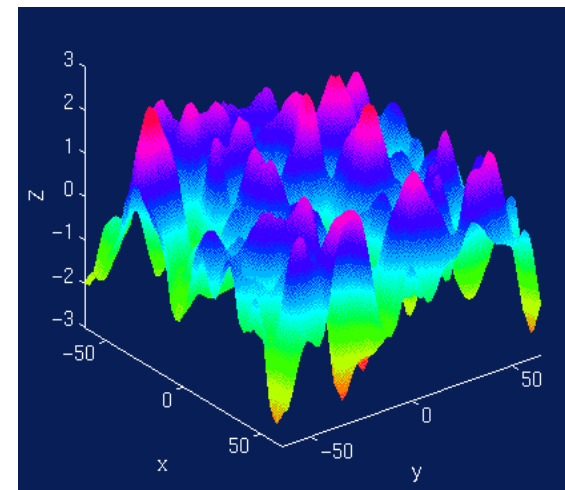


# Use continuous random field theory

- image  $\approx$  discretised continuous random field



←  
Discretisation  
("lattice  
approximation")



Smoothness quantified: resolution elements ('resels')

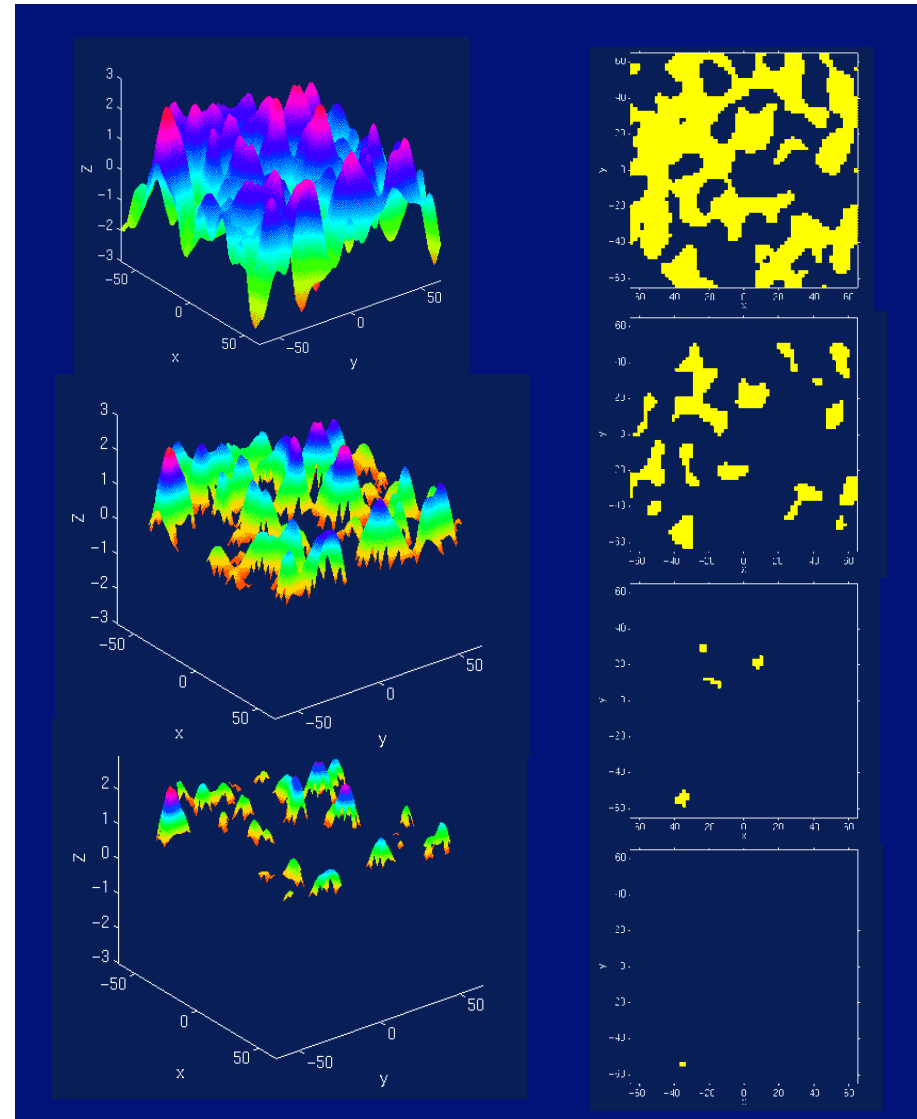
- similar, but not identical to # independent observations
- computed from spatial derivatives of the residuals

# Euler characteristic

– threshold an image at high  $h$

# blobs =  $N_h$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{FWER} &\approx E [N_h] \\ &= p(\text{blob}) \end{aligned}$$



# Unified Formula

- General form for expected Euler characteristic
  - $\chi^2$ ,  $F$ , &  $t$  fields

$$E[N_h(\Omega)] = \sum_d R_d(\Omega) \rho_d(h)$$

Small volumes: Anatomical atlas, ‘functional localisers’, orthogonal contrasts, volume around previously reported coordinates...

$R_d(\Omega)$ :  $d$ -dimensional Minkowski functional of  $\Omega$

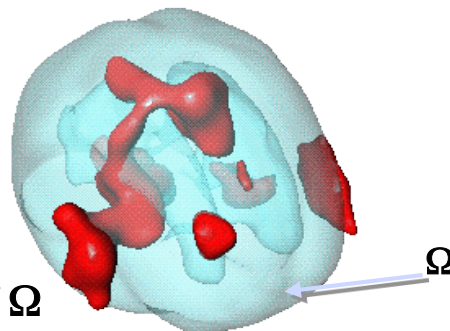
– function of dimension, space  $\Omega$  and smoothness:

$R_0(\Omega) = N(\Omega)$  Euler characteristic of  $\Omega$

$R_1(\Omega) =$  resel diameter

$R_2(\Omega) =$  resel surface area

$R_3(\Omega) =$  resel volume



$\rho_d(\Omega)$ :  $d$ -dimensional EC density of  $Z(\underline{x})$

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

E.g. Gaussian RF:

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

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

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

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

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

# Euler characteristic (EC) for 2D images

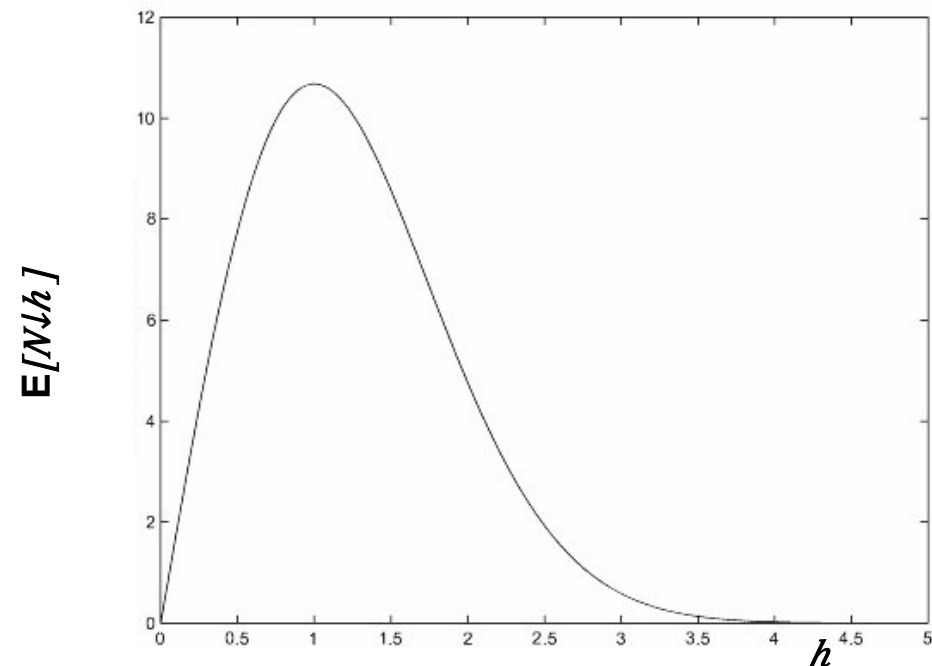
$$E[N_h] = R(4 \log 2)(2\pi)^{-3/2} h \exp(-0.5h^2)$$

R = number of resels

$h$  = threshold

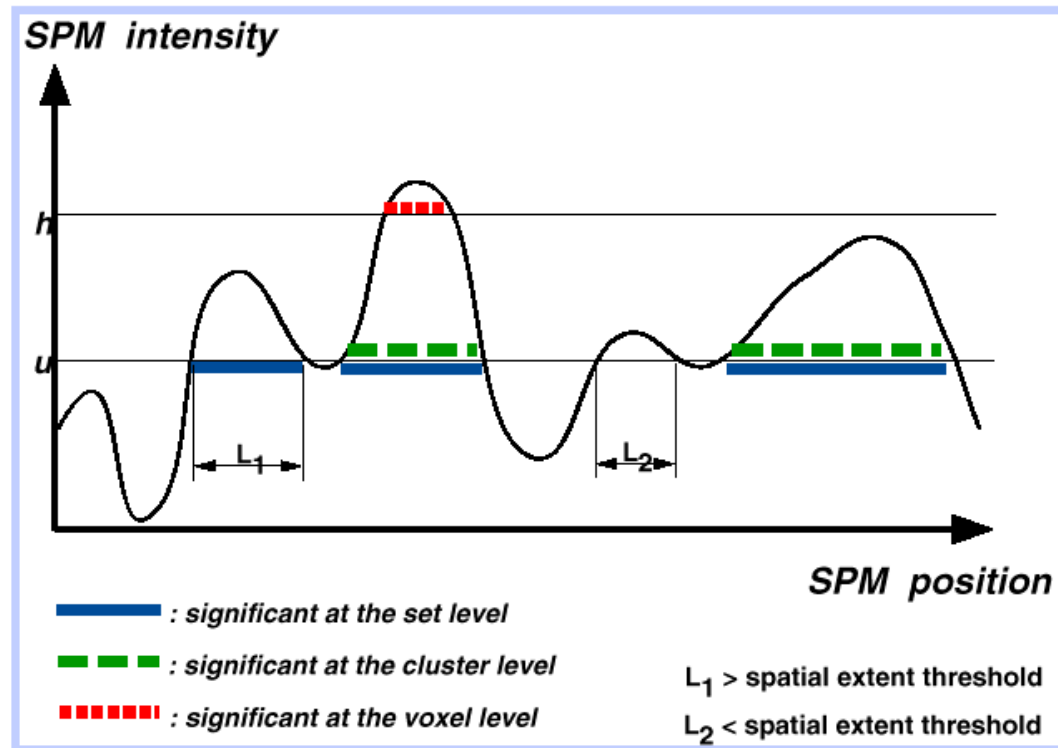
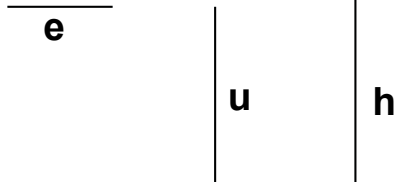
Set  $h$  such that  $E[N_h] = 0.05$

Example: For 100 resels,  $E[N_h] = 0.049$  for a  $Z$  threshold of 3.8. That is, the probability of getting one or more blobs where  $Z$  is greater than 3.8, is 0.049.



**Spatial extent: similar**

# Voxel, cluster and set level tests



## Statistics: $p$ -values adjusted for search volume

set-level		cluster-level				peak-level					mm mm mm		
$p$	$C$	$p_{FWE-corr}$	$q_{FDR-corr}$	$k_E$	$p_{uncorr}$	$p_{FWE-corr}$	$q_{FDR-corr}$	$T$	$(Z)$	$p_{uncorr}$			
<b>0.000</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>11.04</b>	<b>7.64</b>	<b>0.000</b>	-34	-70	-28
						0.000	0.009	7.31	5.90	0.000	-44	-74	-24
		<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>452</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>9.82</b>	<b>7.14</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>40</b>
		<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>9.14</b>	<b>6.84</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>0</b>
						0.041	0.833	5.29	4.64	0.000	38	12	16
		<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.009</b>	<b>7.39</b>	<b>5.95</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>-58</b>	<b>-28</b>
						0.000	0.009	7.35	5.93	0.000	52	-58	-20
						0.002	0.087	6.42	5.38	0.000	50	-66	-24
		<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.025</b>	<b>6.93</b>	<b>5.69</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>-2</b>	<b>-66</b>	<b>-24</b>
						0.012	0.418	5.73	4.94	0.000	4	-78	-24
						0.014	0.472	5.65	4.89	0.000	2	-86	-28
		0.013	0.374	3	0.257	<b>0.010</b>	<b>0.406</b>	<b>5.77</b>	<b>4.97</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>-52</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>4</b>
		<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.019</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>0.008</b>	<b>0.011</b>	<b>0.406</b>	<b>5.76</b>	<b>4.96</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>-10</b>	<b>8</b>
		<b>0.008</b>	<b>0.263</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0.148</b>	<b>0.016</b>	<b>0.472</b>	<b>5.63</b>	<b>4.87</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>-8</b>	<b>-16</b>	<b>12</b>
		<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.012</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>0.004</b>	<b>0.016</b>	<b>0.472</b>	<b>5.61</b>	<b>4.86</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>28</b>
						0.035	0.736	5.34	4.68	0.000	46	6	20
		<b>0.006</b>	<b>0.231</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0.116</b>	<b>0.018</b>	<b>0.472</b>	<b>5.59</b>	<b>4.84</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>-6</b>	<b>-48</b>	<b>-16</b>
		<b>0.026</b>	<b>0.520</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0.520</b>	<b>0.021</b>	<b>0.538</b>	<b>5.52</b>	<b>4.80</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>-6</b>	<b>-54</b>	<b>-16</b>
		<b>0.026</b>	<b>0.520</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0.520</b>	<b>0.030</b>	<b>0.713</b>	<b>5.40</b>	<b>4.72</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>-84</b>	<b>-28</b>

table shows 3 local maxima more than 8.0mm apart

Height threshold:  $T = 5.21$ ,  $p = 0.000$  (0.050)  
 Extent threshold:  $k = 0$  voxels,  $p = 1.000$  (0.050)  
 Expected voxels per cluster,  $\langle k \rangle = 2.519$   
 Expected number of clusters,  $\langle c \rangle = 0.05$   
 FWEp: 5.213, FDRp: 6.702, FWEc: 1, FDRc: 20

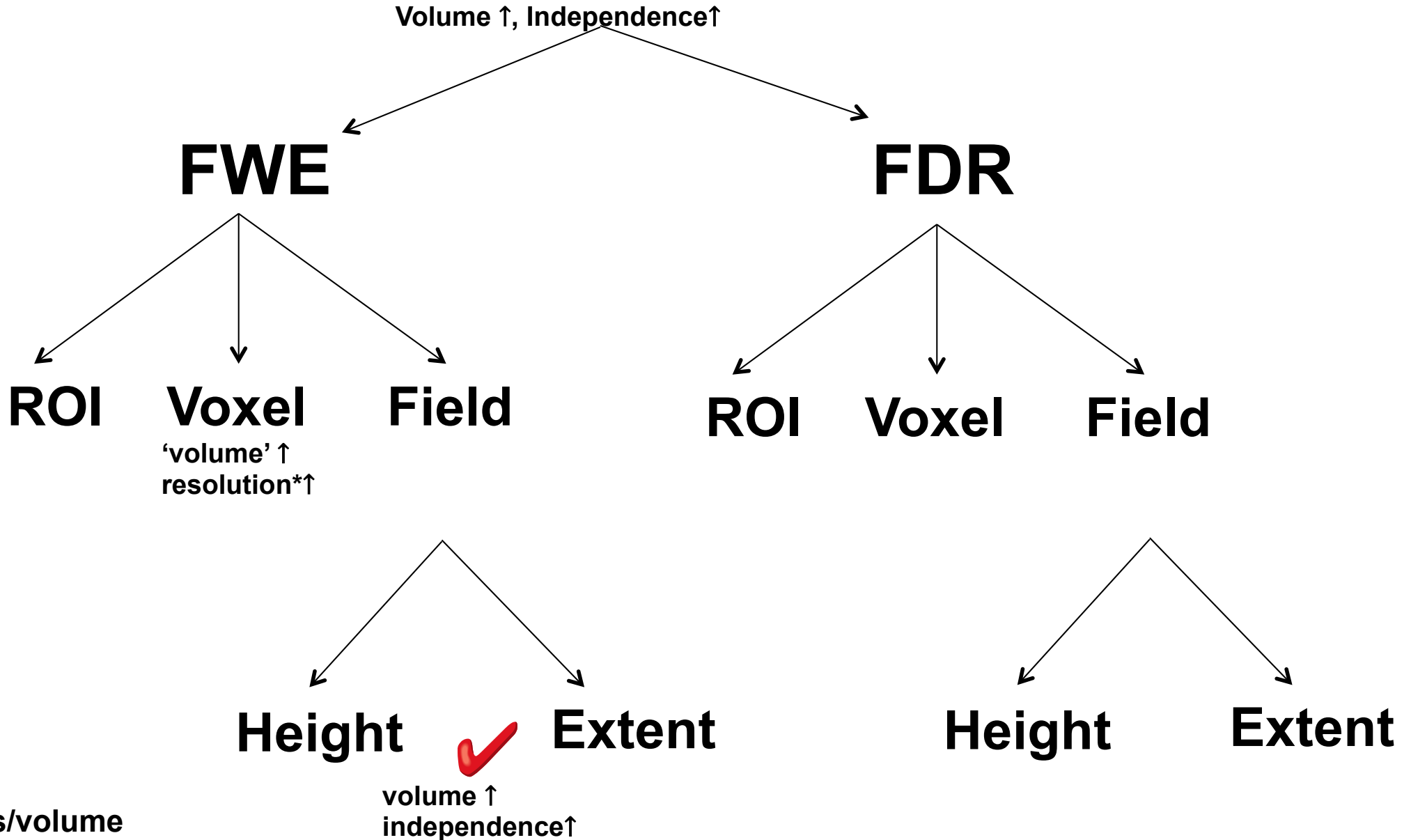
Degrees of freedom = [1.0, 45.0]  
 FWHM = 9.8 10.6 15.6 mm mm mm; 4.9 5.3 3.9 (voxels)  
 Volume: 880432 = 55027 voxels = 472.2 resels  
 Voxel size: 2.0 2.0 4.0 mm mm mm; (resel = 102.26 voxels)  
 Page 7



# Detect an effect of *unknown* extent & location

There is a multiple testing problem ('voxel' or 'blob' perspective).

More corrections needed as ..





## Further reading

- Friston KJ, Frith CD, Liddle PF, Frackowiak RS. Comparing functional (PET) images: the assessment of significant change. *J Cereb Blood Flow Metab.* 1991 Jul;11(4):690-9.
- Genovese CR, Lazar NA, Nichols T. Thresholding of statistical maps in functional neuroimaging using the false discovery rate. *Neuroimage.* 2002 Apr;15(4):870-8.
- Worsley KJ, Marrett S, Neelin P, Vandal AC, Friston KJ, Evans AC. A unified statistical approach for determining significant signals in images of cerebral activation. *Human Brain Mapping* 1996;4:58-73.