

<https://wustl.box.com/v/OHBM2019EtzelQC>

# Dataset QC

---

Joset A. Etzel, PhD

jetzel@wustl.edu | mvpa.blogspot.com | @JosetAEtzel

Cognitive Control and Psychopathology Lab  
Washington University in St. Louis (USA)

# The goal of Dataset QC is verify that a dataset's contents match its description.

In the narrow sense, this is a defined problem: are the expected files and structure present?

Organized files are necessary (BIDS is good!) but not sufficient: a valid dataset can still be unusable. ... contaminated by artifact, incorrect participant instructions, etc., etc.

Dataset QC is not only a chore to be done at the end of a project, but **procedures** to be **woven into all stages**: data acquisition, processing, and analysis.

... this talk is organized into acquisition, processing, and analysis stages, but the concepts and suggestions are not that discrete.

## Why are Dataset QC procedures needed?

So that your dataset is **usable**, both by you now and by people (including you) in the future.

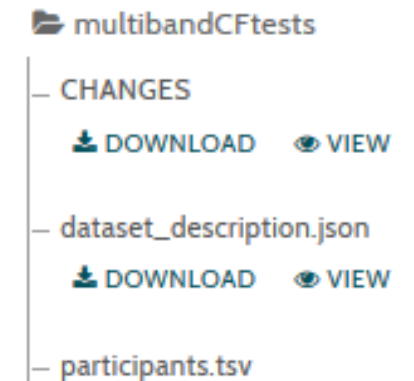
To maximize chances that analyses produce **accurate** results: very nice (but false) blobs can come from errors.

To prepare for **submitting** the dataset to a repository (e.g., NDAR, openneuro.org).

### BIDS Validation



### Dataset File Tree



# What can Dataset QC look like in practice?

I'll start with how I ran an experiment back in 2007, which will probably still sound very familiar.

Two people were involved in data collection; we used scripts for key screening questions and instructions.

I put the files for each participant in separate directories, checking by eye that the naming was consistent.

I did preprocessing in SPM with a combination of clicking through menus and batch jobs, documented with Word notes and screenshots.

I later summarized analyses and results in Word, copy-pasting images and tables from SPM and R output.

Is this “manual” procedure horrible?

No. I **could** find the files and results after 12 years. With only 16 participants (!) and two people running the experiment, I think we did keep everything consistent and as described.

Is this “manual” procedure perfect?

No. I'll point out flaws and better solutions in the rest of this talk.

### English Questions for Telephone Screening

1. Do you have any metal in your body? This could be something like an insulin pump, a pacemaker, or pins after breaking a bone.

th? This could be something like braces a

ter

vol

D:\svnFiles\modulatedMirroring\dataP

Name

Size

- anatomy
- log
- Results
- Run1
- Run2
- Run3
- Run4
- dmatrix.m
- formulas.m
- n16\_4\_1.hdr
- n16\_4\_1.img
- n16\_5\_1.hdr
- n16\_5\_1.img
- n16\_6\_1.hdr
- n16\_6\_1.img
- n16\_8\_1.hdr
- n16\_8\_1.img
- n16\_9\_1.hdr
- n16\_9\_1.img

#### preprocess the function

4. Realignment with the fo

- a. Click “Realign (Est &
- b. Click “Data” in the li
- c. Click “New: Session’
- d. Click “Session” in th

into each session, in

The file selection for mul

Don't click on the .nii file

files in the multi-volume

1 in it when you start. In

there are 520 files.

Session

Dir D:\svnFiles\DAPINA\images

Up D:\svnFiles\DAPINA\imagesAnd

Prev D:\svnFiles\DAPINA\imagesAnd

Drive D:

If there are fewer files th

error message. So if inste

e. In the Batch Editor w

and calling the file “

mean classification

parL parR amygl amyglR audL audR M1L M1R preM1 preMR S1L S1R S2L S2R visualL visualR

mean classification

Figure 2<sup>2</sup>. Accuracy (moving movies vs. still movies) 2 and 16 included in the “normal” analyses, by dup number; but omitted from the mean-detrended.

Table 5<sup>3</sup>. Accuracy (moving movies vs. still movies) splits different for parL & parR, but still 10 different smoothed, but all ROIs have the same splits.) Subje volumes to have the correct number. Shaded cells l splits are the same as the “normal” ones.

ROI	normal <sup>4</sup>		smoothed		smoothed, linear detrend	
	mean	t-test	mean	t-test	mean	t-test
parL	0.7763	0	0.6904	0.0001	0.7356	0
parR	0.7496	0	0.7174	0.0001	0.7206	0
amygl	0.5204	0.3602	0.5031	0.4642	0.5367	0.34
amyglR	0.5149	0.4252	0.4763	0.9352	0.5322	0.34
audL	0.5854	0.0011	0.5162	0.2491	0.59	0.01
audR	0.5565	0.01	0.4944	0.6468	0.5675	0.01
M1L	0.6394	0	0.6126	0.001	0.6126	0.01
M1R	0.6401	0.0001	0.6281	0.0002	0.6258	0.01
preM1	0.7307	0	0.7315	0	0.6547	0.01
preMR	0.6996	0	0.689	0	0.6432	0.01
S1L	0.8204	0	0.8111	0	0.7474	0
S1R	0.8514	0	0.8054	0	0.761	0
S2L	0.6686	0	0.5931	0.0046	0.6325	0.01
S2R	0.6804	0.0001	0.6007	0.0051	0.6442	0.01
visualL	0.7662	0	0.7454	0	0.6682	0
visualR	0.8514	0	0.8054	0	0.761	0
clu28						
clu32						
MNS						

\* these are non-scaled

Let's try a poll!

## ***Live Content Slide***

*When playing as a slideshow, this slide will display live content*

**Poll: How many participants are in a typical neuroimaging dataset you work with now?**

# A fundamental problem with manual workflows: they **don't scale up**.

In the DMCC project we have around 90 subjects (so far), each of whom have at least 3 scanning sessions; 8 task and 2 resting state runs per session.

And the DMCC is not an extraordinarily large project: 1200 participants in the Young Adult HCP, 500,000 in the UK Biobank.

... I won't be clicking through 100,000 files to confirm they're present and have sensible contents.

But even if I wanted to try, I'd probably make **mistakes**.

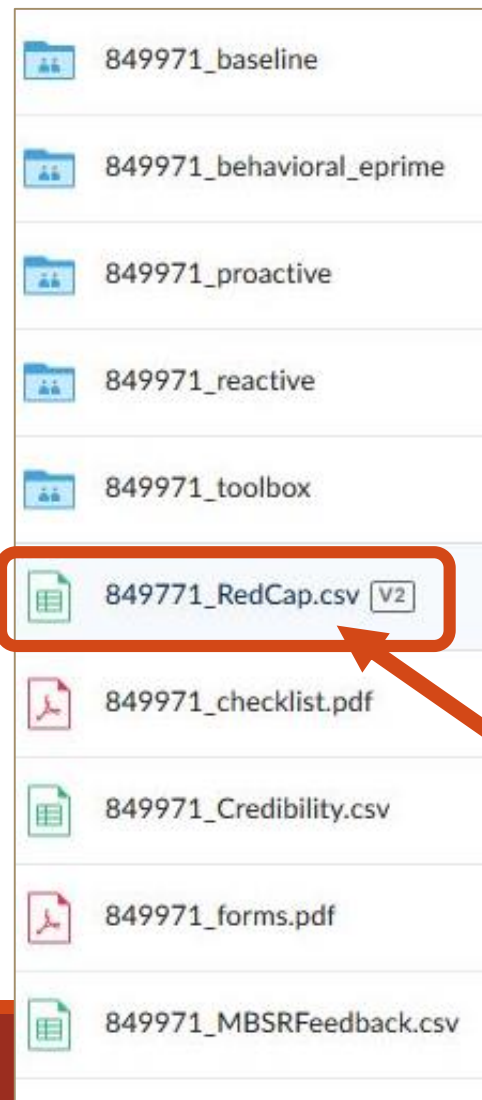
## Manual workflows are not robust to **human nature**.

For example, we humans aren't great at visual search.

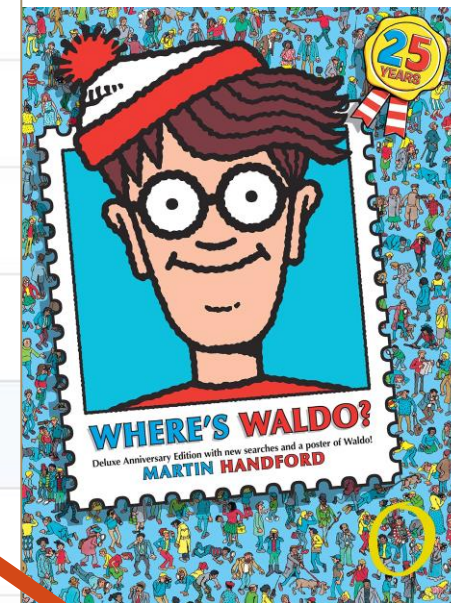
... that's a small error, but could cause large problems:

if the transposed ID matches another ID we could use the wrong file  
the file will appear missing when the dataset is submitted to a repository ... etc.

<https://pages.wustl.edu/dualmechanisms>



Find the subject ID with a typo!



ID is 849771  
instead of 849971

File checking after data collection is **necessary, but not sufficient.**

We can of course automate that type of file checking: **use a script** to search the directory structures and report which files are present.

This questionnaire is missing because the RA forgot to bring a copy ... should we invite the participant back?

There's a file in this person's directory named `s_span` but not `sspan`; should I consider that just a typo and change its name?

etc., etc. ... it's so much better to collect the needed data properly than try to fix errors afterwards.

**Inconsistencies will multiply** with the scale and complexity of the project.

We're all human; mistakes and surprises will happen. The goal is not to eliminate all errors, but to **minimize** their likelihood and severity.

A	Y	Z	AA	
	sspan_mod-	sspan_n	sspan_mod-	
102008	0	1	1	
107321	1	1	1	
115825	1	1	1	
123117	1	1	1	
130114	1	1	1	
130518	1	1	1	
132017	1	1	1	
135730	1	1	1	
138837	1	1	1	
141422	0	1	1	
150423	1	1	1	
155938	1	1	1	
158136	1	1	1	

How? Checklists and SOPs.



# Checklists?

Yes, I mean to follow and physically mark a checklist for every single participant.

if you (or your RAs) need convincing, consider:

My husband was a Jumpmaster. He had to know all the parachute and harness parts, how to tell if each was in working order, safety procedures, etc. He took courses and passed tests proving he knew all the details.

sensible: you don't want just anyone telling you it's ok to jump out of a plane.

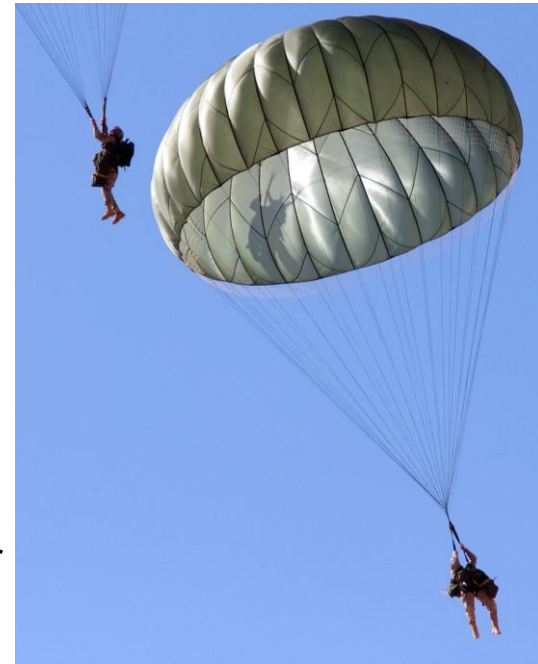
But even after being fully qualified, he didn't rely on his memory or invent his own system for checking jumpers: he used a standard checklist. Pilots had checklists, too.

Why? Pilot and Jumpmasters are smart, educated, and experienced; can't we just trust them to do things right?

Well, no. **Expert humans are still human**; we all miss things. Strictly following well-designed checklists is a practical way to increase the chances that critical steps are completed every time.

I think checklists are more accepted for parachutists and pilots because the consequences of failure are so obvious and immediate, but they're serious for us, too:

... an unusable dataset is a tremendous waste of time and money.



There's no perfect or all-purpose checklist. Start with what you think are the key steps and critical information for your experiment, then **update as needed**. (something missed with a participant? add it to the checklist!)

DMCC2

SUBJECT ID: <u>DMCC3963378</u> BEHAVIORAL DATE: <u>12/21/18</u>		BP/Cortisol/DNA
MB: <u>4</u> MBSR Class Order: <u>1</u>		Time: <u>3:18 PM</u>
Intake	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1. Consent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3. RedCap Demographics <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5. DNA (oragene)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Intake
Notes:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2. Screener <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Measure: BP/HR, Height: <u>5'4"</u> Weight: <u>129</u>	Pulse: <u>85</u>
Day One Behavioral Session		BP: <u>127/84</u>
RA: <u>AL</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1. Ospan (2 blocks) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4. Letter Sets	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DNA
Notes:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2. Symspan (2 blocks) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5. Number Series	<input type="checkbox"/> Mock Cortisol
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3. Raven's	Time: _____
	<input type="checkbox"/> 5. Toolbox (DMCC2): ORR, Flanker's, Pattern Completion	Instructions & supplies for at-home samples
	<input type="checkbox"/> ERS? (See Day 2 for list) <u>Online/In-Session</u>	
Baseline Scan		
RA: <u>MF</u>	BASELINE SCAN DATE: <u>12/19 - 21 - 14</u>	
Notes:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1. Baseline Practice	Time: <u>5:50 PM</u>
<u>plse + nsp out @ 5:30</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2. Baseline Pre-Task Questions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pre-Baseline Scan
<u>no track; eyelink not pulled</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3. Pre-Scan BP & Cortisol (if cortisol collected pre-baseline)	Pulse: <u>88</u>
<u>94, 99, 100</u>	Time of scan start: <u>5:57 PM</u> Gender, Handedness: <u>F, R</u>	BP: <u>150/100</u>
<u>Cort 5 not collected</u>	Access Code: <u>M-1005-46535</u>	IF cortisol collected pre-baseline session:
<u>is the PDF scanner functional?</u>	Counterbalanced Task Order: <u>CTS, Stern, AX, Stroop</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bedtime Cortisol (1)
<u>Num.</u>	MR lenses?: _____ Prescription: L _____ R _____	Date: <u>12/13/18</u>
	T1 rating: <u>2.5 (6-2)</u>	Time: <u>10:19 PM</u>
	T2 rating: <u>2.5</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wake Cortisol (2)
	Rest 1 participant report= <u>"wake"</u>	Date: <u>1/14/19</u>
	eye read= <u>poor, occluded</u>	Time: <u>7:03 AM</u>
	Rest 2 participant report= _____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Morning Cortisol (3)
	eye read= <u>poor, occluded</u>	Time: <u>7:36 PM</u>
	(open/closed, mostly open/closed, drowsy, occluded by coil, jumpy/poor read, X then...Y)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pre-Scan Cortisol (4)
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> passed Stroop audiotest <input type="checkbox"/> Re-ran Stroop Test	Time: <u>5:44 PM</u>
	Subjective measure of p comfort in scanner (1-5)= <u>5</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Post Scan Cortisol (5)
	When did you last eat? <u>5:20 PM</u>	Time: _____
	Did you have any caffeine today (oz estimate)? <u>0.2</u>	ELSE, see Day 2
	Is this intake in line with your normal routine? <u>yes</u>	
Post-Scan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Baseline Post-Task Questions	
Storage	<input type="checkbox"/> Send Scan	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pull scan-linked eprime, physio, and eyelink data	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pull behavioral eprime data	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Send intake info to RedCap & Toolbox data to iCloud	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Scan checklist and upload to Box > Scanned Checklists	

DMCC2

SUBJECT ID: <u>DMCC3963378</u> SCAN TWO DATE: <u>1/18/19</u>		BP/Cortisol
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Proactive/Reactive Scan		<input type="checkbox"/> Bedtime Cortisol
RA: <u>EF PL</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1. Proactive/Reactive Practice <u>binder, button box not working</u>	(1)
Notes:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2. Proactive/Reactive Pre-Task Questions <u>after multiple attempts</u>	Date: _____
<u>no eye track, coil in the way, no files, weak rep first half</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3. Pre-scan BP & Cortisol	Time: _____
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4. Screener Review	<input type="checkbox"/> Wake Cortisol
	Time of scan start: <u>6:20 PM</u>	(2)
	Access Code: <u>M-1005-46535</u>	Date: _____
	Counterbalanced Task Order: <u>CTS, Stern, AX, Stroop</u>	Time: _____
	MR lenses?: <u>no</u> Prescription: L _____ R _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Morning Cortisol (3)
	Rest 1/5 participant report= <u>wake</u>	Time: _____
	eye read= <u>open</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Scan Cortisol (4)
	Rest 2/6 participant report= <u>wake</u>	Time: _____
	eye read= <u>open</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pre-Second Scan
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> passed audiotest (for Stroop) <input type="checkbox"/> Re-ran Stroop Test	Pulse: <u>41</u>
	Subjective measure of p comfort in scanner (1-5)= <u>5</u>	BP: <u>121/71</u>
	When did you last eat? <u>5:00 PM</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Post Scan Cortisol (5)
	Did you have any caffeine today? <u>8 oz coffee</u>	Time: _____
	Is this intake in line with your normal routine? <u>yes</u>	
Post-Scan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Proactive/Reactive Post-Task Questions	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Post-Scan Cortisol	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Send Scan	
Day Two/ Three Self-Report Questionnaires		
RA:	RedCap Self-Report Battery:	
Notes:	<input type="checkbox"/> BSCS <input type="checkbox"/> SPSRQ <input type="checkbox"/> GRAPES <input type="checkbox"/> FEQ <input type="checkbox"/> NEO	
	<input type="checkbox"/> PSQI <input type="checkbox"/> STAI <input type="checkbox"/> DOSPERT <input type="checkbox"/> PHQ <input type="checkbox"/> NFC	
	<input type="checkbox"/> FFMQ <input type="checkbox"/> Barratt Impulsiveness Scale <input type="checkbox"/> SWLS <input type="checkbox"/> ERQ	
	<input type="checkbox"/> MAAS Trait <input type="checkbox"/> PANAS <input type="checkbox"/> BISBAS <input type="checkbox"/> SCS <input type="checkbox"/> PWB	
	Breath Counting Task	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Breath Counting:	
	<a href="http://ccpext.wustl.edu/phpFiles/DMCC/Test/Breath/ID_breath_DMCC.T.php">http://ccpext.wustl.edu/phpFiles/DMCC/Test/Breath/ID_breath_DMCC.T.php</a>	

It can work well to print a copy of the checklist for each participant; scan and archive afterwards.

Aim is for everyone to know that checklists are not optional; a sign of **project importance**, not lack of trust.



# Beyond Checklists: SOPs (“Standard Operating Procedures”)

SOPs explain **how** to do the steps listed on the checklists: recruitment, running the experiment, data storage, generating reports, etc.

SOP detail should increase with the number of people and time involved in data collection.

But every neuroimaging dataset has key procedures and settings – **if an experiment is important enough to be run, it should have an SOP.**

... I think every dataset release should include its SOP.

## Dual Mechanisms of Cognitive Control: Standard Operating Procedures

Updated April 20

DO NOT MOVE THE PROTOCOL OVER UNTIL BOTH PARTS OF THE HEAD COIL ARE PLUGGED IN– leave the window up without clicking anything. **\*\*ALSO APPLICABLE WHEN PARTICIPANT TAKES BREAK\*\***

Hardware set up:

1. Check that FORP box is set to USB 000 HHSC-1X4-L BYGRT (located on the side of the desk under the Bay3 iMac) instructions for changing the setting (if not already set to 1x4) are located near box.
2. Turn on the Braver portable desktop computer- stored in middle storage area between bays 2 and 3. Roll the cart out and plug into outlet to left of control room counter. (Password: )
3. Connect prime serial port (labeled and found in the bundle of cords behind the bay 3 mac computer, sometimes will need to be decoupled from an extension cable) to blue “S” USB converter (found on portable metal Braver cart). Setup:



4. Plug FOMRI-III optical microphone USB cord into computer (found in bundle of cords behind Mac) Turn on white FOMRI microphone box behind Mac by pressing power button (should be glowing blue). Make sure a pair of headphones is plugged into the green headphone jack on the Braver computer (our Eprime tasks are coded to expect speakers). Turn on eyelink power switch and eyelink computer by pressing Power on desktop CPU

Baseline Scan Session:

For all scans, communicate with participant by pressing the speaker button on the Siemens speaker device between scans, and hold down black button on the base of the microphone to talk to the participant. When scans are running, ensure that the speaker button is turned off to avoid very loud noise transmission from the scanner room.

Once p is registered, check in with him/her to ensure comfort, and click “confirm” on the selected protocol to bring the session into the active run. Once the participant is ready, run localizers. During localizers, rearrange scan order by clicking and dragging on the console, according to task order marked on checklist from scheduling spreadsheet.

Meanwhile, make sure that you have clicked the “physio” icon on the right hand side of the menu on the screen of the “exam” tab on scanner console to view physiology recordings during scan and inline viewer (will begin to show images during tasks); choose display=2 signals and choose “RESP” and “PULSE” from drop down menus to specify signals to display. Monitor the pulse ox and respiration signal during scanning. If signal degrades sufficiently, make a note and ask participant to readjust belt or finger position in clip, or enter the scanner room between scans to manually adjust.

Despite changing task order, the outline of the baseline scan will always be:

1. Localizers/SpinEchos
2. T1
3. T2
4. Rest 1
5. Task 1 (2 runs)
6. Task 2 (2 runs)
7. Rest 2
8. Task 3 (2 runs)
9. Task 4 (2 runs)

*During localizers, click the green check mark on scanner console to approve FOV determination. If brain fits in the yellow outlined box on the (top) leftmost view of the brain in the “exam” tab, the green check mark can be clicked. However, if some part of the brain is not encompassed in the box, the FOV will need to be manually adjusted. The only view that needs to be considered to FOV determination is this leftmost view.*

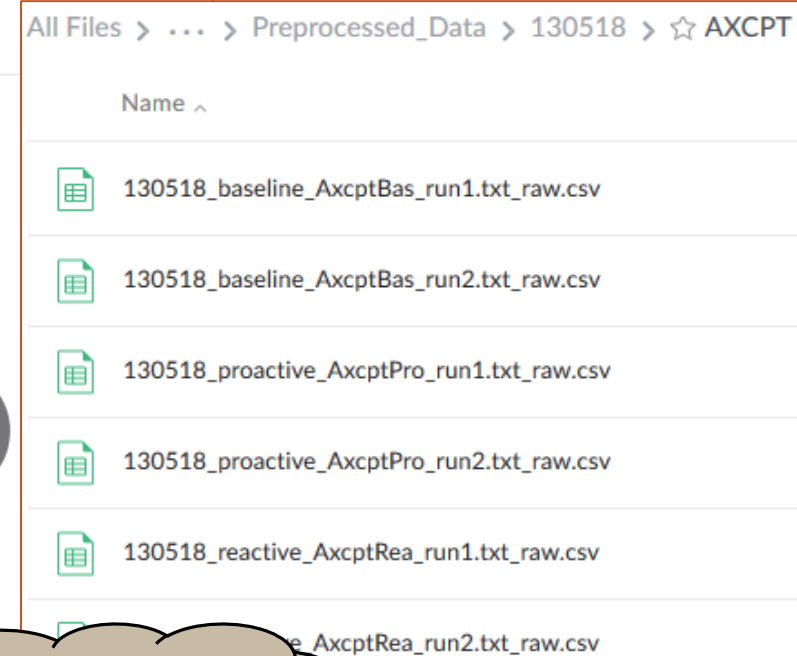
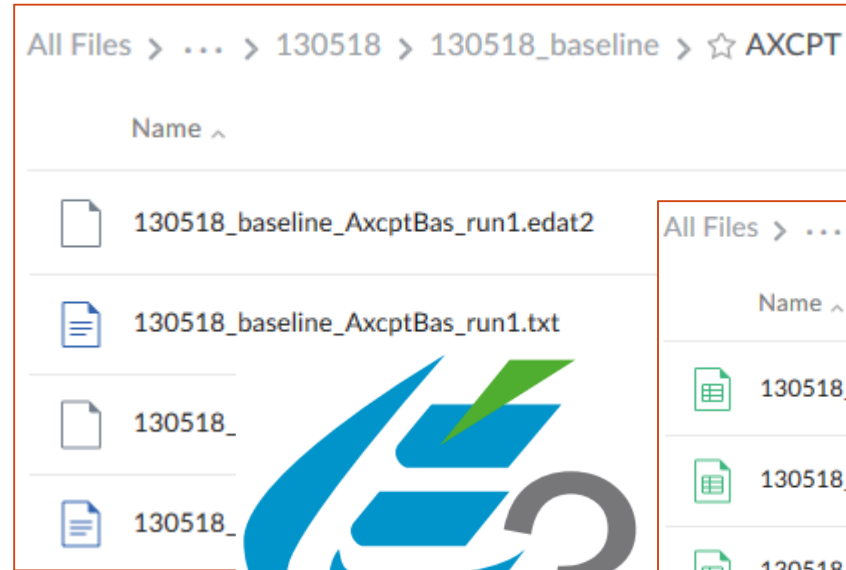
*How to change FOV if needs adjusting after localizers (e.g., brain does not fit in the yellow outlined box in leftmost view): After autoalign scans are run, when suggested FOV*

# Practical QC Strategy: Don't click if you can script

A bit of scripting can make a big difference in how quickly errors are caught (and reducing how many are created).

Concrete example: converting eprime files to text.

- 1: click through box to the “raw” directory for the person, select, then download the files.
- 2: open each in eprime, click the menu conversion option, and save locally with the new name.
- 3: click through box to the person’s “preprocessed” directory and drag the converted files to upload.



This works ... but is incredibly tedious, slow, and error-prone: a perfect candidate for scripting.



# Practical QC Strategy: Don't click if you can script

This R script replaces all of that clicking!

eprime conversion steps using the script:

- 1: navigate to the template script file in git; make a local copy if needed.
- 2: open the script in R and set the three variables at the top of the template (`on.computer`, `sub.ID`, `which.DMCC`) for the current person.
- 3: run the script, watching for error messages.



```
fname <- paste0("'", sub.id, "_", session.ids[ssid], "_", task.ids.short[tid], session.ids.short[ssid], "_run", rid, "'");
boxr.in <- box_search(fname, type='file', content_types='name', file_extensions='txt', ancestor_folder_ids=folder.in[[1]]$id);
(length(boxr.in) == 1) {
  # can't just read in the edat file from box, since it's binary. so download it locally first.
  box_dl(boxr.in[[1]]$id, local_dir=out.path); # do the download
  local.fname <- paste0(out.path, "/", sub.id, "_", session.ids[ssid], "_", task.ids.short[tid], session.ids.short[ssid], "_",
  if (file.exists(local.fname)) { # check that the file got downloaded
    edat.tbl <- as.data.frame(edat(local.fname)); # read in the erecovery text file and convert to a data.frame.
```

```
rm(list=ls()); on.computer <- "JoDesktop";
# rm(list=ls()); on.computer <- "LeahDesktop";
#rm(list=ls()); on.computer <- "JessDesktop";
#rm(list=ls()); on.computer <- "AlexDesktop";
```

```
sub.id <- "#####"; # change
which.DMCC <- 2; # which.DMCC
```

success message,  
so all is ok

Why am I more confident of success with the scripted procedure?

Because it was **designed to fail** if something is **not exactly correct** (and updated whenever a problem or oversight is found).

For example: the input file name and box source directory is specified in this template code, so a typo will be immediately caught (file missing?). Important file contents can also be tested (e.g., is the start time plausible?).

Like the checklists and SOPs, these standard template scripts are part of the dataset; saved (and later potentially released) to increase reproducibility.

# Practical QC Strategy: Pull out what's most important or diagnostic for you

Even the best automatically-generated summary won't be used if it's too long or difficult to navigate.

... fMRIPrep reports for a single DMCC participant are > 50 pages; impossible to quickly survey across runs or people.

... XNAT BIRN QA reports have useful summaries, but clicking through every run is tedious.

Yes, this is whiny, but **practicality** and **human nature** matter. I can't efficiently or accurately compare across thousands of QC report pages.

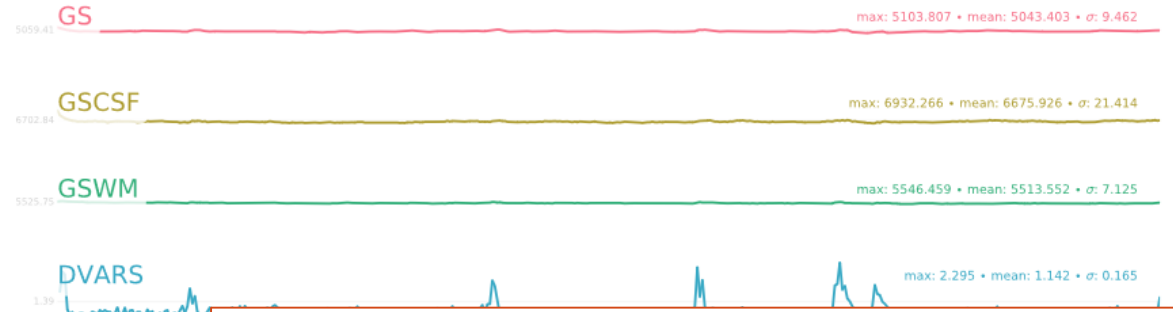
Alternative: make summary files (using knitr or another **dynamic report generation** tool) for what you think are the most important or diagnostic metrics for the particular experiment; consult the full reports as needed.

a few concrete examples

## BOLD Summary

Summary statistics are plotted, which may reveal trends or artifacts in the BOLD data. Global signals calculated within the whole-brain (GS) within the white-matter (WM) and within cerebro-spinal fluid (CSF) show the mean BOLD signal in their corresponding masks. DVARS and FD show the standardized DVARS and framewise-displacement measures for each time point.

A carpet plot shows the time series for all voxels within the brain mask. Voxels are grouped into cortical (blue), and subcortical (orange) gray matter, cerebellum (green) and white matter and CSF (red), indicated by the color map on the left-hand side.



BIRN Human QA: 130518 baseline, Scan 22

[View Graphs](#) [View](#)

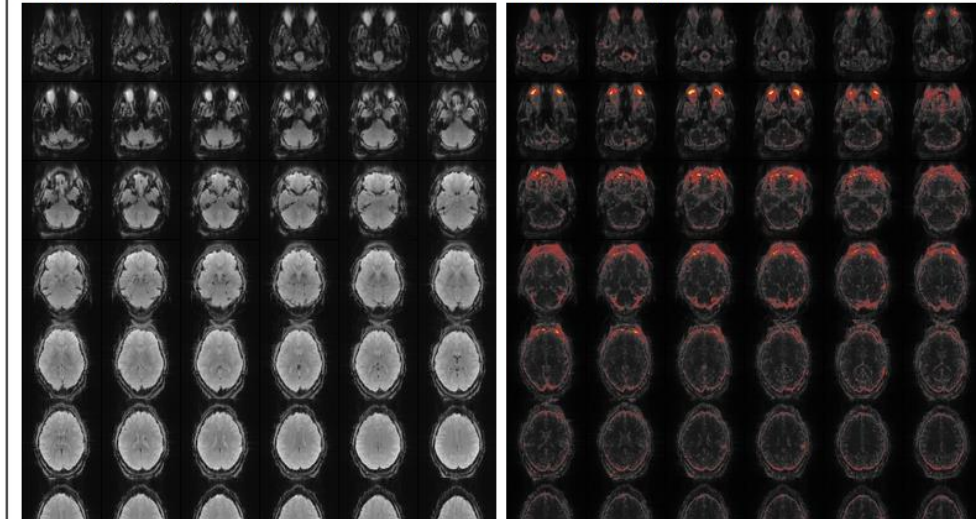
22\_image.xml:

Mean [\(What's this?\)](#)  
0 10462.6

Standard Deviation [\(What's this?\)](#)  
0 3138.78

image min: 0, image max: 10462.6

image min: 0, image max: 2991.63





example #1: SUBID\_fMRI\_movementSummary.pdf (<https://wustl.box.com/v/OHBM2019EtzelQC> GLM templates)

3-slice views of mean, SD, and tSNR volumes for each run.

Bas Aoxpt 1\_AP  
sd i=34

Bas Aoxpt 1\_AP  
sd j=45

Bas Aoxpt 1\_AP  
sd k=34

Bas Aoxpt 2\_PA  
sd i=34

Bas Aoxpt 2\_PA  
sd j=45

Bas Aoxpt 2\_PA  
sd k=34

clr: 0 to 210

Bas Cuedts 1\_AP  
sd i=34

Bas Cuedts 1\_AP  
sd j=45

Bas Cuedts 1\_AP  
sd k=34

Bas Cuedts 2\_PA  
sd i=34

Bas Cuedts 2\_PA  
sd j=45

Bas Cuedts 2\_PA  
sd k=34

clr: 0 to 210

clr: 0 to 210

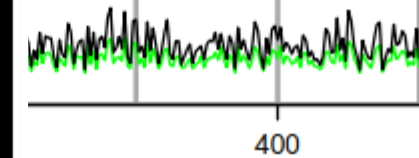
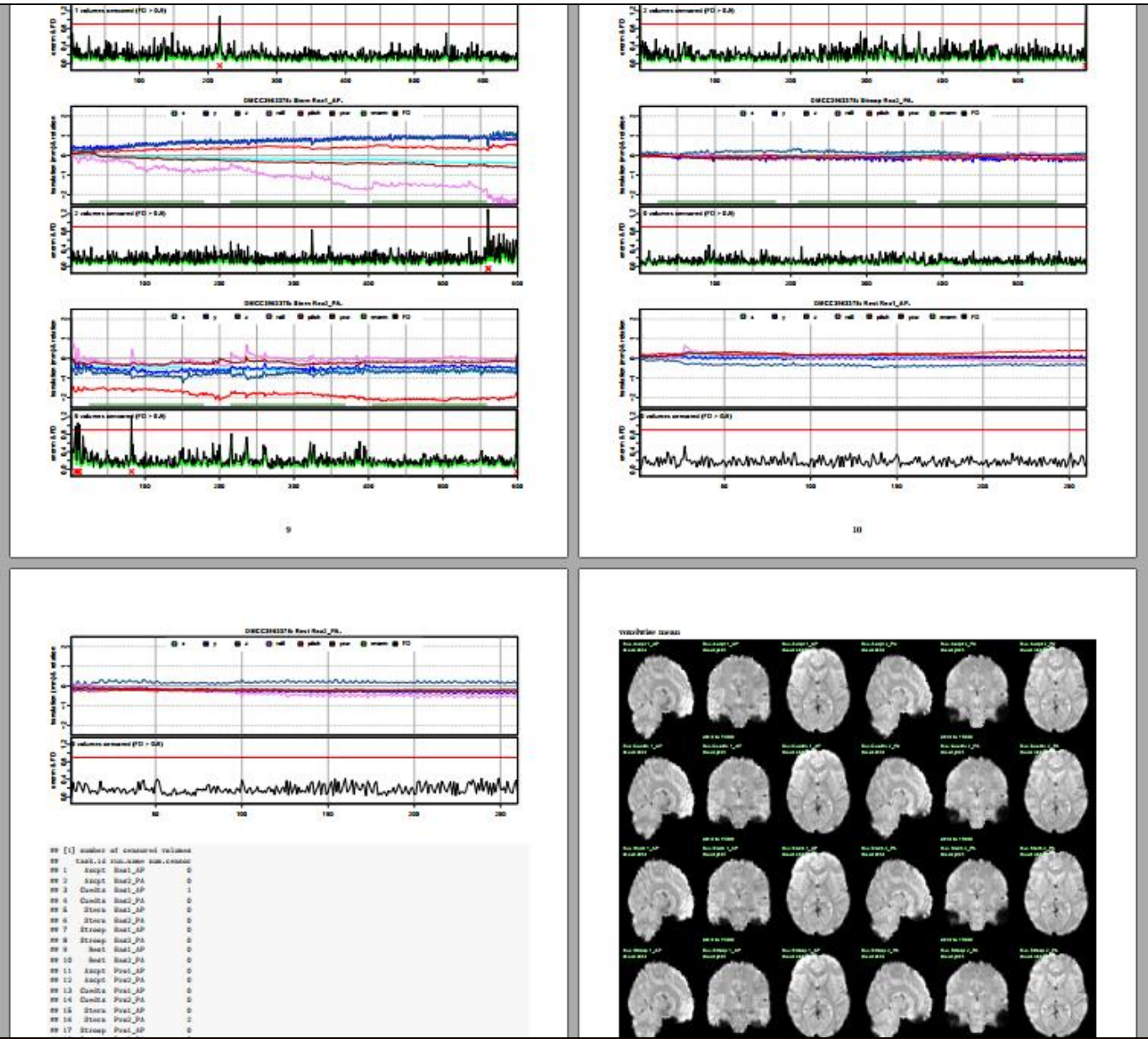


Table listing total numbers of censored frames.



# Practical QC Strategy: Pull out what's most important or diagnostic for you

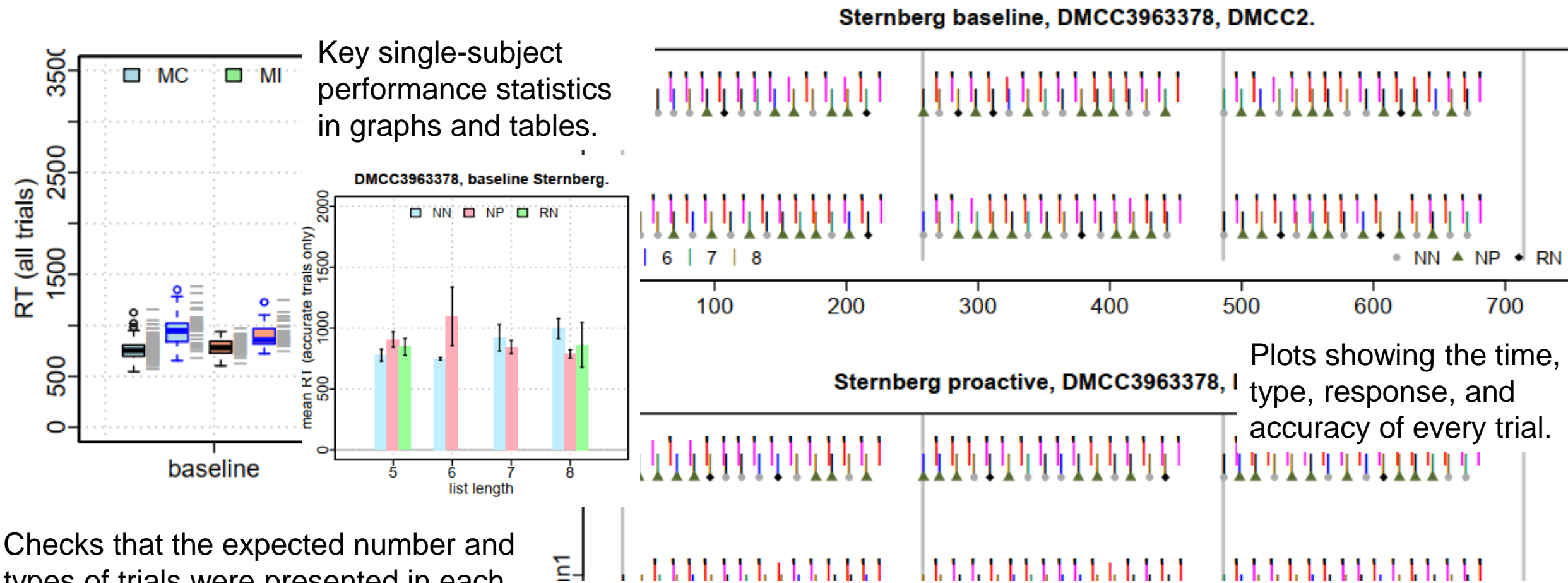
example #1: SUBID\_fMRI\_movementSummary.pdf (<https://wustl.box.com/v/OHBM2019EtzelQC> GLM templates)



The plots for each task and run are collected into a single, more interpretable report.

# Practical QC Strategy: Pull out what's most important or diagnostic for you

example #2: SUBID\_fmri\_behavioralSummary.pdf (at <https://github.com/ccplabwustl/dualmechanisms>)



Checks that the expected number and types of trials were presented in each task.

```
## [1] "Found an error in the AX-CPT trial counting or stimulus matching? FALSE"
```

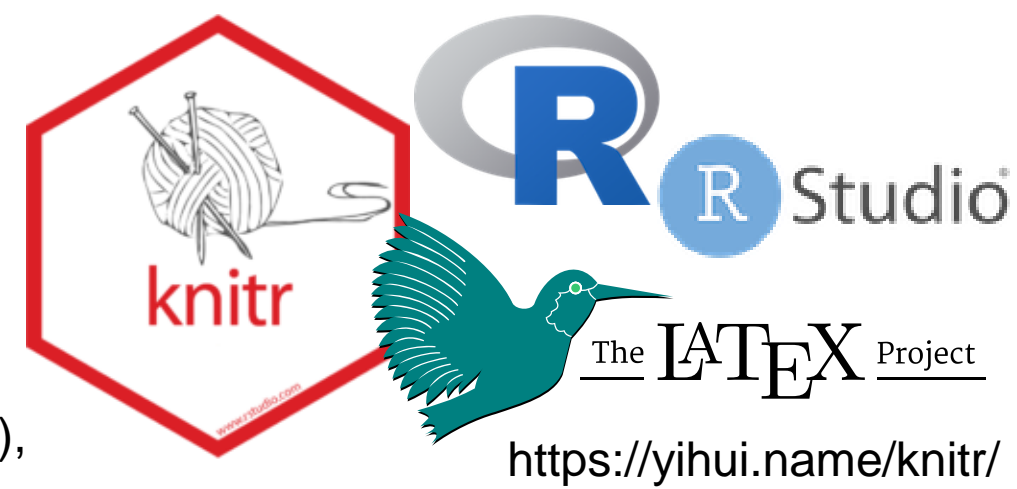
```
## [1] "was there an error with the NN, NP, or RN trial words? FALSE"
```

# Practical QC Strategy: Dynamic Report Generation

Those were dynamic reports: pdfs compiled from knitr code templates.

(I really like R and knitr, and will be giving a “lightning talk” on them in the open science room Tuesday – ask me for more!)

Dynamic report generation is not restricted to R, LaTeX, or pdfs: other language options exist for the code (e.g., python), text (e.g., markdown), and the output (e.g., html).



What is “dynamic report generation”?

A bit like Jupyter notebooks (mixed code and text in a single source file), but compiled to produce a static document.

LaTeX descriptions and headers

**123117\_GLMs\_Buttons\_brains`censored.rnw**

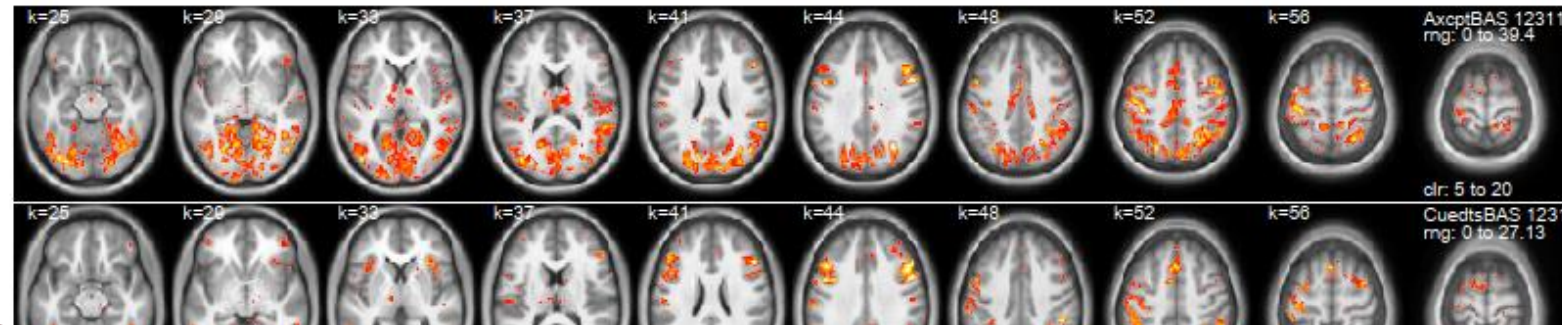
compiled July 27, 2018

set **2aFix**: with blockONandOFF, polort A, BLOCK (convolved block); durations fixed.

123117, DMCC Phase 2, who was scanned at MB4. Buttons GLM results, for the AX-CPT, CuedTS, and Sternberg tasks. All are REML, not ICA-FIX, 2 TRs for each TENT knot for MB4, 3 TRs for MB8 knots. TENTs are mean coefficients. In each task the contrast was button1 - button2 == B1\_B2; only the button and block-related regressors were in the model.

**Buttons GLMs: button1\_Fstats**

## [1] "123117 BAS: Buttons GLM button1\_Fstat"



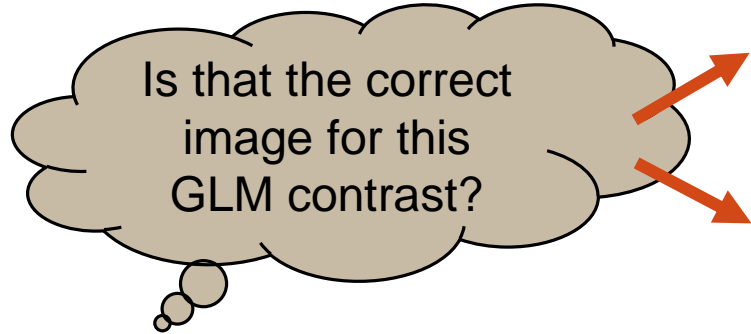
NIfTI images read in an R code loop, plotted with a function (code at mvpa.blogspot.com, knitr tag)



# Practical QC Strategy: Dynamic Report Generation

In that 2007 study I summarized results for my collaborators by copy-pasting images and tables into Word.

Dynamic (knitr) documents serve the same purpose, but have major advantages for reproducibility: the source of images, tables, and figures can be checked, and much more efficiently updated.



look in the corresponding `.rnw` code block and check if the correct contrast image path and thresholds were sent to the plotting function.

look in the Word document (or other notes) for a description of which image file corresponds to the contrast; open the statistic image as an overlay (e.g., in afni); apply the statistical threshold and slicing; compare to plotted image.

The confirmation is much easier (and unambiguous) with the knitr ... if **both** the compiled `.pdf` and source `.rnw` files are kept together.

	DMCC6904377_Axcpt_surfaceGLMs_brains_censored.pdf
	DMCC6904377_Axcpt_surfaceGLMs_brains_censored.rnw
	DMCC6904377_Axcpt_surfaceGLMs_Gordon_censored.pdf
	DMCC6904377_Axcpt_surfaceGLMs_Gordon_censored.rnw

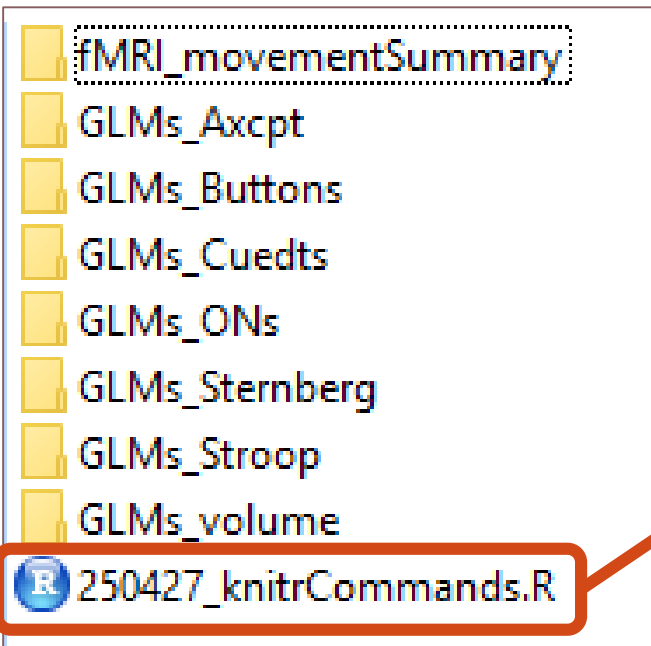
# Practical QC Strategy: Automate report generation

It's fine to compile several knitr "by hand," but not dozens at once: automate with templates.

Templates are normal knitr code, except that key variables are blank.

A "startHERE" script copies the templates and fills in their blanks, so to make a set of reports you change then run the startHERE script ...

```
sub.id <- "###";  
MB.lbl <- "###"; # MB.lbl  
dir.suffix <- "###"; #  
which.DMCC <- 0; # filler
```



which generates the needed set of directories with ready-to-compile .rnw files ... along with a script, which, when sourced, compiles all the knitr and moves each resulting .pdf and .rnw to a single directory for easy checking and archiving.

```
library(knitr); # for knit2pdf  
  
setwd('/scratch1/AlexaRakusin/250427vol/fMRI_movementSummary/');  
knit2pdf('250427_fMRI_movementSummary.rnw');  
  
setwd('/scratch1/AlexaRakusin/250427vol/GLMs_Axcpt/GLMs_Axcpt_brains/');  
knit2pdf('250427_Axcpt_brains_censored.rnw');  
file.copy(from='/scratch1/AlexaRakusin/250427vol/GLMs_Axcpt/GLMs_Axcpt_b  
file.copy(from='/scratch1/AlexaRakusin/250427vol/GLMs_Axcpt/GLMs_Axcpt_b
```

We've found this process to work well: an expert initially writes and then maintains the scripts and templates, but anyone can generate the reports, and they can be altered for new projects.



# Practical QC Strategy: Control analyses

Before running the key analyses, run a **positive control**: is a strong effect that must be present, actually present?

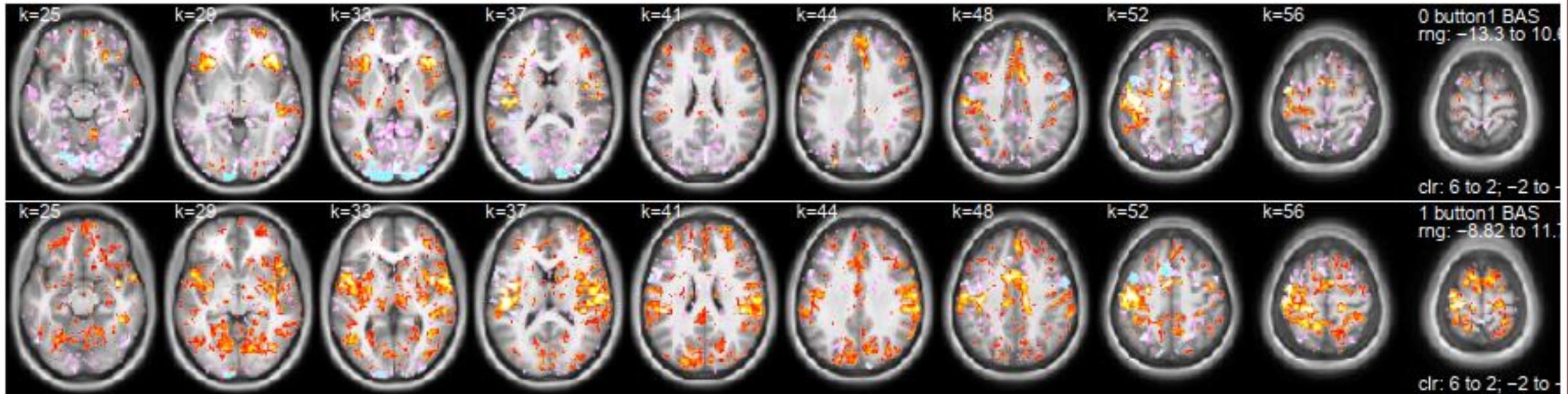
One of my favorites is button-pressing: we know when the person made a motor response, and M1's location.

If a GLM (or whatever) fit to the button presses doesn't find motor activation, something is wrong!

... **should I believe** a cognitive effect that appears if the (presumably) stronger and focal motor effect does not?

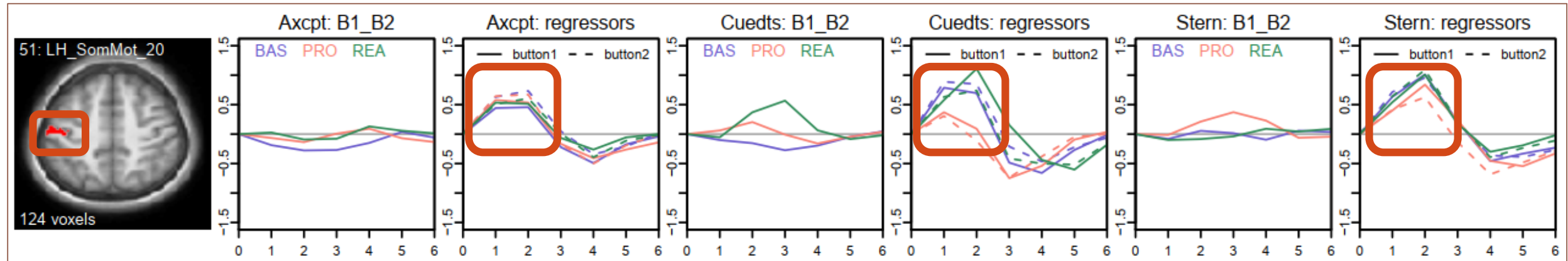
Including controls in the standard (automated) reports make it easy to check any subject or group.

```
## [1] "Stern Buttons GLM TENT Tstats, baseline: button1"
```



# Practical QC Strategy: Control analyses

The positive control analyses are a **powerful quality check** of the dataset as a whole, especially when combined with scripts, automation, and dynamic report generation.



TENT coefficient increases in a left motor ROI at the proper time in all tasks and sessions.

For this part of the knitr to be automatically created and have the expected activation:

R read the GLM output files from the expected locations, which means the afni scripts completed properly,  
which mean the event onsets were specified correctly, which means the eprime files were processed,  
which means the event files are in the expected location, etc. etc. etc.

I could make similar arguments about the fMRI image quality, preprocessing, subject behavior, etc.

# Some Final Dataset QC Thoughts

I started by stating that the goal of Dataset QC is to “verify that the dataset’s contents match its description”; something that must be true for a dataset to be usable.

Dataset QC is not a chore to be done once at the end of a project, but rather **woven into all its stages**: checklists, SOPs, scripts, dynamic reports, and control analyses are all valuable strategies to increase the chance of a high-quality dataset.

The consequences may not be as severe as for a failed parachute, but they are serious. I’ve been involved in projects in which problems were found late (fraud, missed artifacts, unacceptable movement, etc.), and recovery is slow and difficult, if possible at all.

There is no perfect solution; nothing that will guarantee a flawless dataset for every experiment. Instead, we should aim to create an environment in which problems are **less likely** to occur – and **discovered quickly** when they do – because surprises and errors will happen.



# Dataset QC

Joset A. Etzel, PhD  
jetzel@wustl.edu | mvpa.blogspot.com | @JosetAEtzel  
Cognitive Control and Psychopathology Lab  
Washington University in St. Louis (USA)

This work was supported by the National Institutes of Health, grant number R37MH066078 to Todd Braver.

<https://wustl.box.com/v/OHBM2019EtzelQC>

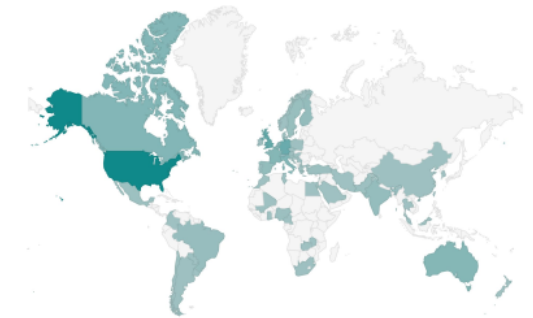
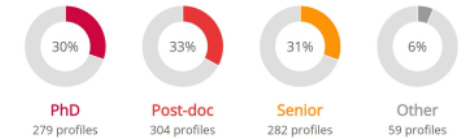


## Repository for women in neuroscience

- [www.winrepo.org](http://www.winrepo.org)
- over 900 profiles
- easy search
- recommendations

### Support the project:

- sign up
- spread the word
- submit recommendations



@WINRePo1  
[www.facebook.com/WiNRepository/](https://www.facebook.com/WiNRepository/)



Can it be useful to minimize error-checking,  
designing code to fail?

**Yes:** when the error requires immediate attention.

**No:** code should always complete, but with warning messages.



Is dynamic report generation only an option if using R?

**Yes.**

**No.**

Are control analyses (e.g., of motor responses) good practice for dataset QC?

**Yes:** they can help identify problems

**No:** GLMs should be run on the experimental questions only to avoid double-dipping

**Sometimes:** if a problem is suspected

## ***Live Content Slide***

*When playing as a slideshow, this slide will display live content*

**Poll: What do you think of dynamic report generation?**

+ New list

To-dos 2886/2963

View as... ▾

## BC &amp; NS Preprocessi

- ✓ 448347 DMCC2 1 MO Maria G.
- ✓ DMCC6484785 DMCC3 1 MO Maria G.
- ✓ DMCC6484785 DMCC2 4 MO Maria G.
- ✓ DMCC6755891 DMCC2 1 AK Alex K.



85/96 completed

## Preparcellated GLMs

- ☐ 568963 DMCC2
- ☐ 214524 DMCC2
- ☐ 198855 DMCC2
- ☐ 179245 DMCC2
- ☐ 162026 DMCC2
- ☐ 182840 DMCC2
- ☐ 205220 DMCC2
- ☐ ...

2 MJ

21/23 completed

## RS\_FC

- ☐ 127895 (DMCC2) Blue/Blank 1 MJ Mitch J.
- ☐ 123117 (DMCC2) Blue/Blank 2 MJ Mitch J.
- ✓ 594156 (DMCC2) Blue/Blank 1 MJ Mitch J.
- ✓ 250427 (DMCC2) Blue/Blank 1 MJ Mitch J.

90/95 completed

## GLM re-runs

- ☐ 198855 DMCC2
- ☐ 568963 DMCC2
- ☐ 623844 DMCC2
- ☐ 205220 DMCC2 (MB8)
- ☐ 182840 DMCC2 (MB8)

69/78 completed

## Surface Knits

- ☐ 877168 DMCC2 1
- ☐ 300618 DMCC2 1
- ☐ DMCC8033964 DMCC2 1
- ☐ 123117 DMCC2 1
- ☐ 155938 DMCC2 1

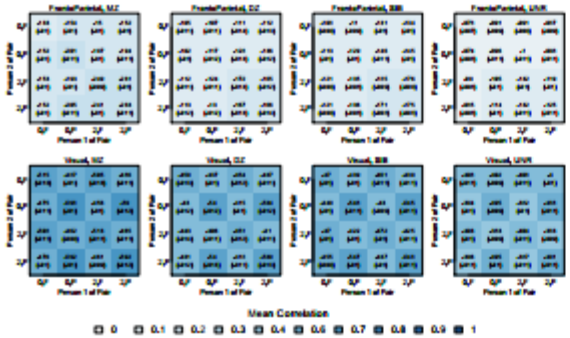
## Meditation Log Entry

- ✓ OMBSR83 KN Katya N.
- ✓ DMCC2834766 KN Katya N.
- ✓ OMBSR95 KN Katya N.
- ✓ OMBSR17 1



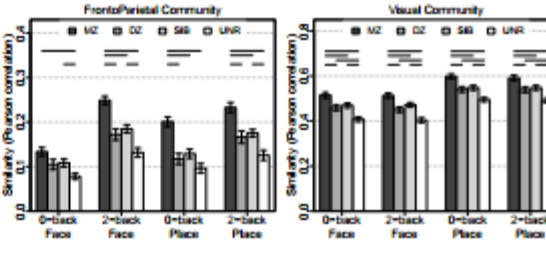
basecamp

Group-average pairwise similarity matrices. Numbers printed on each cell are the mean and SEM (in brackets). Both are robust statistics, trimmed at 0.1. The diagonal has matched conditions (e.g., 0-back Face with 0-back Face) and are the same as in Figure 7 and S3.2.



### S3.2 Pairwise similarity of matched conditions

Mean similarity of each stimulus type separately, since here are standard error of the mean (SEM). Both are robust statistics, trimmed at 0.1. Horizontal lines indicate here that significantly ( $p < 0.0005$ , Bonferroni-corrected) difference in a t-test; see below for t-test t and p values. Note that the y-axis making differ between the two plots.



Mean (SEM) of each stimulus type separately, as plotted above and Figure 7. Both are robust statistics, trimmed at 0.

Community	Condition	MZ	DZ	SNR	UNR
Frontoparietal	0-back,Face	.133 (.0096)	.195 (.0113)	.185 (.0092)	.078 (.0069)
Frontoparietal	2-back,Face	.219 (.0092)	.172 (.0108)	.185 (.0092)	.132 (.0093)
Frontoparietal	0-back,Place	.201 (.0109)	.117 (.0122)	.129 (.0103)	.096 (.0098)
Frontoparietal	2-back,Place	.233 (.0113)	.166 (.0115)	.175 (.0094)	.125 (.0111)
Visual	0-back,Face	.255 (.0129)	.259 (.0125)	.17 (.0094)	.108 (.0090)
Visual	2-back,Face	.253 (.013)	.251 (.0123)	.172 (.0105)	.101 (.0097)
Visual	0-back,Place	.258 (.0103)	.24 (.0123)	.248 (.0108)	.105 (.0093)
Visual	2-back,Place	.292 (.0118)	.239 (.013)	.248 (.0105)	.101 (.0093)

```
ethi <- subset(mn.thi, mn.thi$community.id == "Frontoparietal") # mn.thi$condition.id == "0,2";
lm.out <- lm(fitPairSimilarity(pair.group, random)(pair.id, dataethi));
anova(lm.out);
summary(glm(lm.out, mcp(pair.group="Tukey")));

## Simultaneous Tests for General Linear Hypotheses
## Multiple Comparisons of Means: Tukey Contrasts
## Fit: lm.formula(fixed ~ similarity ~ pair.group, data = ethi, random = "1 |
## pair.id)
## Linear Hypotheses:
## Community Estimate Std. Error z value Pr(>|z|)
## MZ ~ DZ == 0 0.06573 0.01462 4.504 < 0.001 ***
## DZ ~ DZ == 0 0.01097 0.01481 0.741 0.45833
## SNR ~ DZ == 0 -0.04000 0.01478 -2.707 0.00655 *
## UNR ~ DZ == 0 -0.05576 0.01370 -4.069 < 0.001 ***
## SNR ~ MZ == 0 -0.10673 0.01367 -7.809 < 0.001 ***
## UNR ~ SNR == 0 -0.05097 0.01387 -3.676 0.00133 **
## ---
## Signif. codes: 0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
## (Adjusted p values reported -- singlestep method)
```

### S3.4 Similarity of matched conditions: ACE modeling

For MZ and DZ.

Community	Condition	k2	c2	e2
Frontoparietal	0-back,Face	0.06 [0.01]	0.09 [0.0112]*	0.87 [0.85,0.89]*
Frontoparietal	2-back,Face	0.10 [0.0121]*	0.09 [0.05,0.14]*	0.75 [0.73,0.77]*
Frontoparietal	0-back,Place	0.10 [0.0122]*	0.04 [0.01,0.06]	0.8 [0.78,0.82]*
Frontoparietal	2-back,Place	0.12 [0.07,0.14]*	0.1 [0.05,0.15]*	0.76 [0.74,0.79]*
Visual	0-back,Face	0.1 [0.06,0.15]*	0.41 [0.36,0.45]*	0.49 [0.48,0.51]*
Visual	2-back,Face	0.13 [0.07,0.15]*	0.38 [0.34,0.43]*	0.49 [0.47,0.51]*
Visual	0-back,Place	0.12 [0.08,0.16]*	0.48 [0.44,0.53]*	0.41 [0.39,0.42]*
Visual	2-back,Place	0.11 [0.06,0.16]*	0.45 [0.41,0.52]*	0.41 [0.4,0.43]*

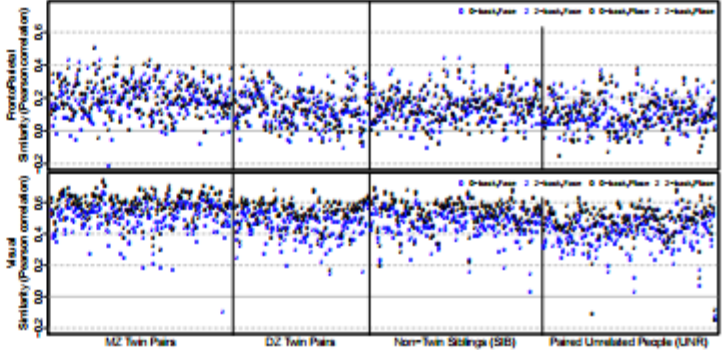
For MZ and DZ+SNR.

Community	Condition	k2	c2	e2
Frontoparietal	0-back,Face	0.04 [0.009]	0.09 [0.06,0.12]*	0.87 [0.85,0.89]*
Frontoparietal	2-back,Face	0.14 [0.09,0.14]*	0.11 [0.09,0.14]*	0.75 [0.73,0.77]*
Frontoparietal	0-back,Place	0.15 [0.0131]*	0.05 [0.02,0.08]	0.8 [0.78,0.82]*
Frontoparietal	2-back,Place	0.12 [0.08,0.17]*	0.11 [0.08,0.15]*	0.76 [0.75,0.78]*
Visual	0-back,Face	0.09 [0.05,0.14]*	0.41 [0.38,0.45]*	0.49 [0.48,0.51]*
Visual	2-back,Face	0.11 [0.06,0.15]*	0.4 [0.37,0.44]*	0.49 [0.47,0.51]*
Visual	0-back,Place	0.11 [0.07,0.15]	0.42 [0.4,0.53]*	0.41 [0.39,0.42]*
Visual	2-back,Place	0.1 [0.06,0.13]*	0.49 [0.47,0.52]*	0.41 [0.4,0.43]*

t and p (in parentheses) values from two-sided t-tests of the difference between the (p-transformed) correlations in each subject group. Asterisks and shading mark differences with  $p < 0.005$ , Bonferroni-corrected threshold for  $p < 0.05$  with 6 comparisons.

Frontoparietal, 0-back Face	Frontoparietal, 2-back Face
MZ DZ SNR UNR	MZ DZ SNR UNR
0.133 (.0096) 0.219 (.0092) 0.201 (.0109) 0.233 (.0113)	0.195 (.0113) 0.172 (.0108) 0.117 (.0122) 0.166 (.0115)
Visual, 0-back Face	Visual, 2-back Face
MZ DZ SNR UNR	MZ DZ SNR UNR
0.255 (.0129) 0.253 (.013) 0.258 (.0103) 0.292 (.0118)	0.259 (.0125) 0.251 (.0123) 0.24 (.0123) 0.239 (.013)
Frontoparietal, 0-back Place	Frontoparietal, 2-back Place
MZ DZ SNR UNR	MZ DZ SNR UNR
0.10 [0.0121]* 0.10 [0.0122]* 0.10 [0.0122]* 0.12 [0.07,0.14]*	0.09 [0.05,0.14]* 0.04 [0.01,0.06] 0.05 [0.02,0.08] 0.11 [0.08,0.15]*
Visual, 0-back Place	Visual, 2-back Place
MZ DZ SNR UNR	MZ DZ SNR UNR
0.1 [0.06,0.15]* 0.13 [0.07,0.15]* 0.12 [0.08,0.16]* 0.11 [0.06,0.16]*	0.41 [0.36,0.45]* 0.38 [0.34,0.43]* 0.48 [0.44,0.53]* 0.45 [0.41,0.52]*

Similarity on matching stimulus types, full dataset. The paired participants are arranged along the x-axis in arbitrary order within each type (MZ, DZ, SNR, UNR), with their less similarities (0-back Face, 2-back Face, 0-back Place, 2-back Place) shown in each column. Note the higher overall similarity in Visual, with Place (dark symbols) more similar than Face (blue symbols) in Frontoparietal 2-back trials to be higher. In both Frontoparietal and Visual the variability of similarities in each pair of people is approximately the same (e.g., SNR pairs are not noticeably more variable than DZ pairs), with the band of similarity decreasing from left to right (UNR pairs tend to be less similar than MZ pairs).



more example knits: syntax coloring, formatted tables, rotated pages for longer graphs, itemized lists of text, captions, ...

### S3.5 Comparison of variance components with other studies

Reference	Mean Age	MZ... similarity (Npairs)	DZ... similarity (Npairs)	SNR similarity (Npairs)	c2	e2	e2	Reference table or figure
End FPN	25-30	13-25 (105)	11-10 (78+99)	46-33 (100)	5-15%*	5-15%*	75-85%*	Figure 3, S3.2, S3.4
End Visual	25-30	13-25 (105)	46-33 (100)	46-33 (100)	5-15%*	46-49%*	49%*	Figure 4, S3.2, S3.4
Polk (2007)	16-29	73 (13)	63 (11)	42 (22)	30%*	55%*	25%*	Figure 2 (low)
Polk (2013)	Avg 21.7	40 (16)	25 (13)	37*	30%*	10%*	60%*	Figure 6 (new)
Polk (2013)	Avg 21.7	489 (16)	302 (13)	-	55%*	10-17%*	45%*	3, 4 (OFAbsc, L1)
Blakland (2009)	21-27 (29)	19-42 (21)	24-30 (21)	-	11-36.5%*	0-19.3%	63.5-81.4%	Table 2
Blakland (2011)	26-30 (75)	24-30 (66)	-	-	25%* (average across regions)	-	65%*	Figure 2b, 3
Blakland (2017)	16-30 (110)	26-34 (126)	26-33 (126)	-	41%* (average across regions)	-	59%*	Supplement Table 1

N.B. MZ and DZ similarity coefficients (typically, correlations) prefaced by a ~ represent approximations from Figures where a precise estimate of the correlation was not provided; similarly, the \* in the estimate of additive genetic (a2), common environment (c2) and individual-specific environment (e2) denotes that these estimates were computed for the purpose of this table, based on:  $e2 = 1 - MZ - DZ$ ;  $a2 = 2(MZ - DZ)$ ; and  $c2 = MZ - a2$ , and were not provided in the study either using such equations or via formal model-fitting (latter denoted by \*\*); # study does not specify number of unrelated pairs.

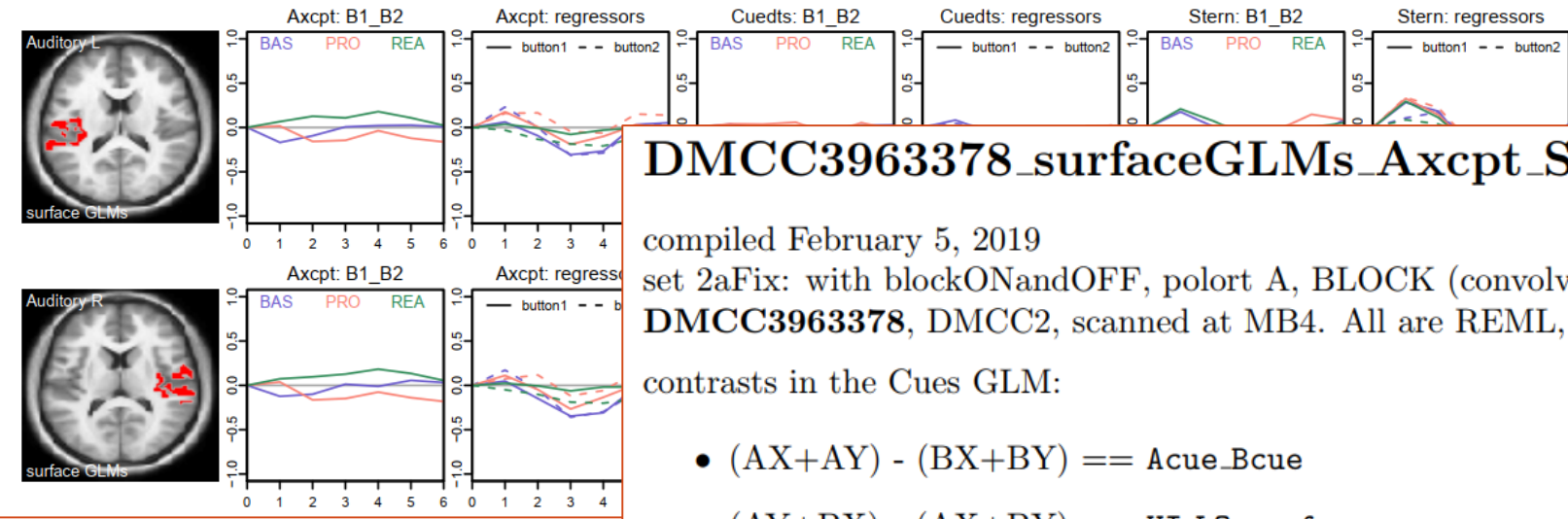
The table above outlines variance components estimates for brain activation during a working memory task across multiple studies of MZ and DZ twins. The current study (Ends) is among the largest. Based on the table above, we see similarities and distinctions across the studies with regards to each variance component:

- Individual-specific environment: The estimate of individual-specific environment (e2) is roughly derived from subtracting the MZ correlation from unity; this estimate is typically estimated with reasonable power even in smaller samples and includes an estimate of measurement error. With the exception of Polk (2007), which includes the lowest MZ pairs and thus may have derived a higher e2 (the feature selection procedure may also have increased the e2), estimates of e2 are >40%, and often >60%, although low as for Visual in the current study. The observation that e2 estimates are the highest for FPN also support our hypothesis of that this network's structure is more idiosyncratic (and so has additional sources of person-specific variance).
- Additive genetics, or heritability: Despite the larger sample size of the current study, estimates of heritability (a2) were lower for both Frontoparietal (FPN) and Visual in the current study, although when compared to Blakland (2011), heritability of behavioral performance (accuracy and mean reaction time, see Table 2 in Blakland and S1.6 in current study) were quite comparable especially for the 2-back in Blakland (2011) suggesting that the lower heritability in our study may be attributed to our analytic approach and our community of interest.
- Common environment: Importantly, unlike a majority of the other studies, we were able to parse familial effects (i.e., c2) into its heritable and common environmental sources, where the latter reflects those environments that are received or perceived equivalently by members of MZ and DZ pairs (and, in our case, non-twin siblings as our analyses did not reveal any evidence for special twin environment). The only other study to hint at common environmental influence is Polk (2007) although we arrive at this estimate via approximation based on the relative magnitude of their MZ and DZ correlations where the latter appears considerably greater than half the former. Interestingly, our choice to contrast the FPN and Visual communities further underscored the role of c2. For instance, while familial effects (i.e., MZ similarity) on Visual were greater than those on FPN, the greater familiarity in Visual was primarily attributable to common environment. We might speculate that our estimates deviate from those reported by other studies due to



Gordon communities

more example knitr: parcel-average  
TENT GLM results, with brain images  
to show parcel locations.



DMCC3963378\_surfaceGLMs\_Axcpt\_Schaefer\_censored.rnw

compiled February 5, 2019  
set 2aFix: with blockONandOFF, polort A, BLOCK (convolved block); durations fixed.  
DMCC3963378, DMCC2, scanned at MB4. All are REML, not ICA-FIX, 2 TRs for each TENT knot for MB4.  
contrasts in the Cues GLM:

- $(AX+AY) - (BX+BY) == Acue\_Bcue$
- $(AY+BX) - (AX+BY) == HI\_LO\_conf$
- $(Ang+Bng) - (AX+AY+BX+BY) == Nogo\_Go$  (calculated, but replaced here with  $BX - BY$ )

