

# General Linear Model & Classical Inference

Lyon, SPM-M/EEG course  
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# Overview

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- Introduction
  - ERP example
- General Linear Model
  - Definition & design matrix
  - Parameter estimation & interpretation
  - Contrast & inference
  - Correlated regressors
- Conclusion

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# Overview of SPM

Raw EEG/MEG data

Design matrix

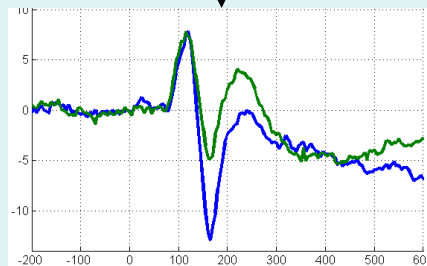
Statistical Parametric Map (SPM)

## Pre-processing:

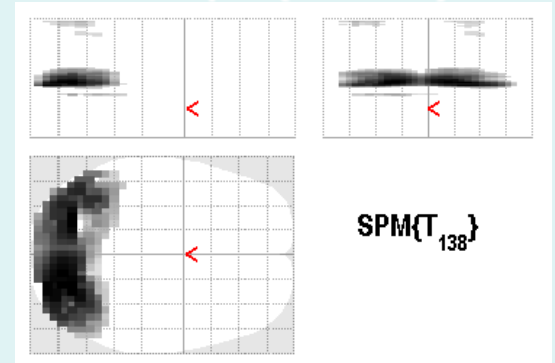
- Converting
- Filtering
- Resampling
- Re-referencing
- Epoching
- Artefact rejection
- Time-frequency transformation
- ...

Image conversion

General Linear Model



Parameter estimates



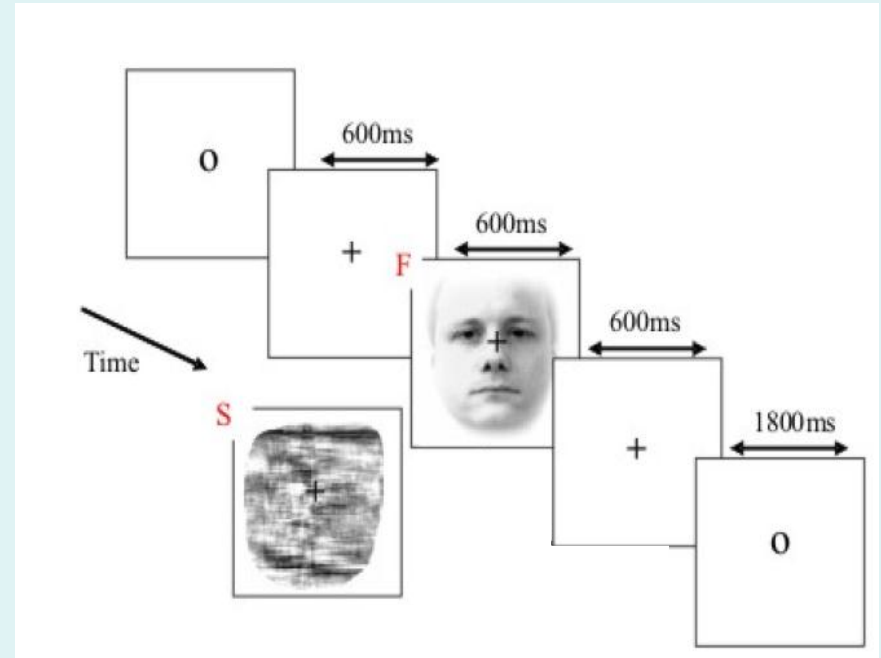
Inference & correction for multiple comparisons

Contrast:  
 $c' = [-1 \ 1]$



# ERP example

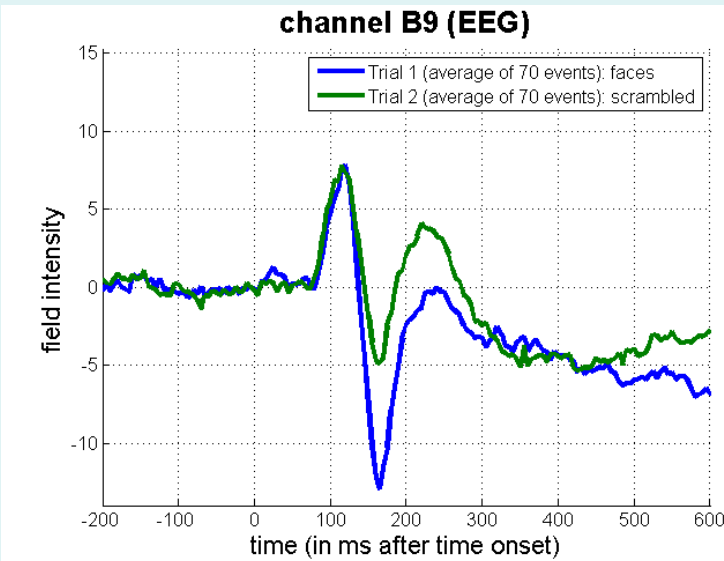
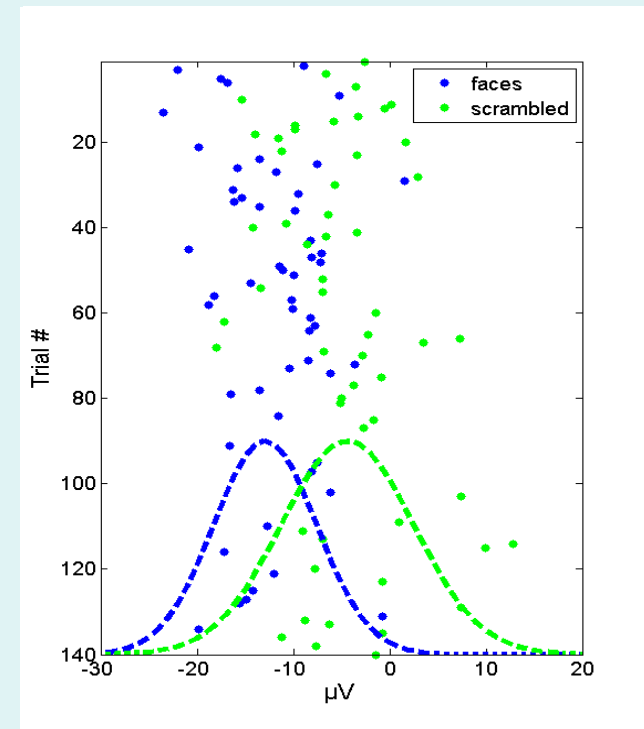
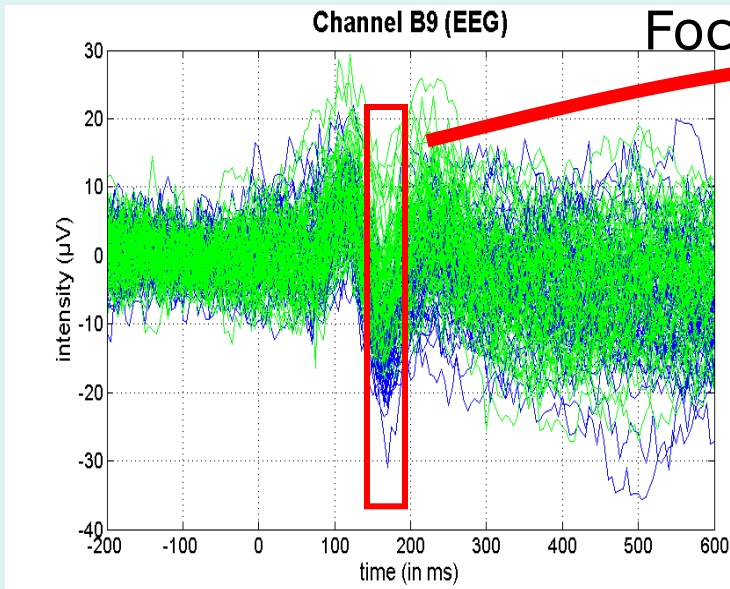
- Random presentation of ‘*faces*’ and ‘*scrambled faces*’
- 70 trials of each type
- 128 EEG channels



## Question:

is there a difference between the ERP of ‘*faces*’ and ‘*scrambled faces*’ ?

# ERP example: channel B9



$$t = \frac{\mu_f - \mu_s}{\sqrt{\hat{\sigma}^2 \left( \frac{1}{n_f} + \frac{1}{n_s} \right)}}$$

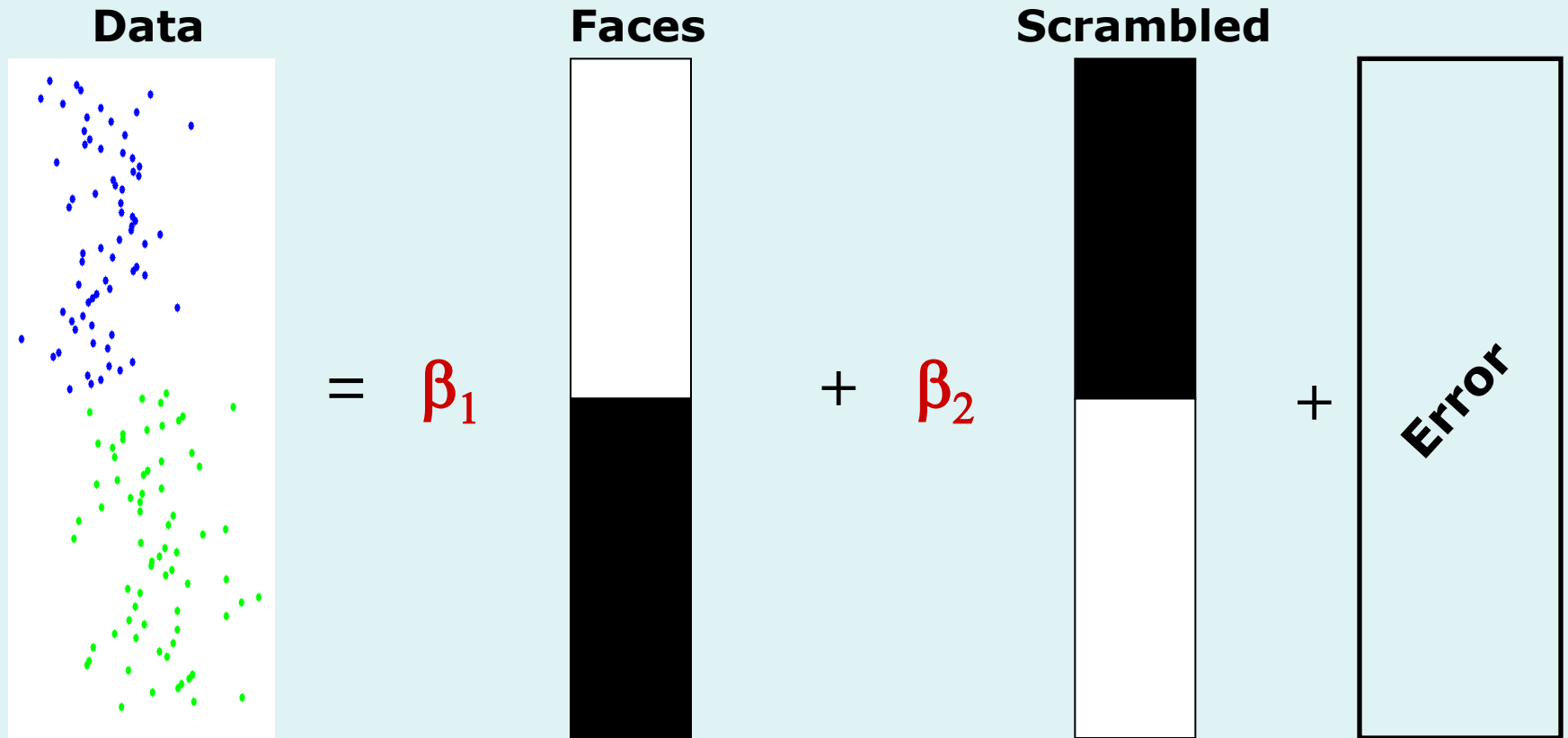
compares size of effect to its error standard deviation

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# Data modeling

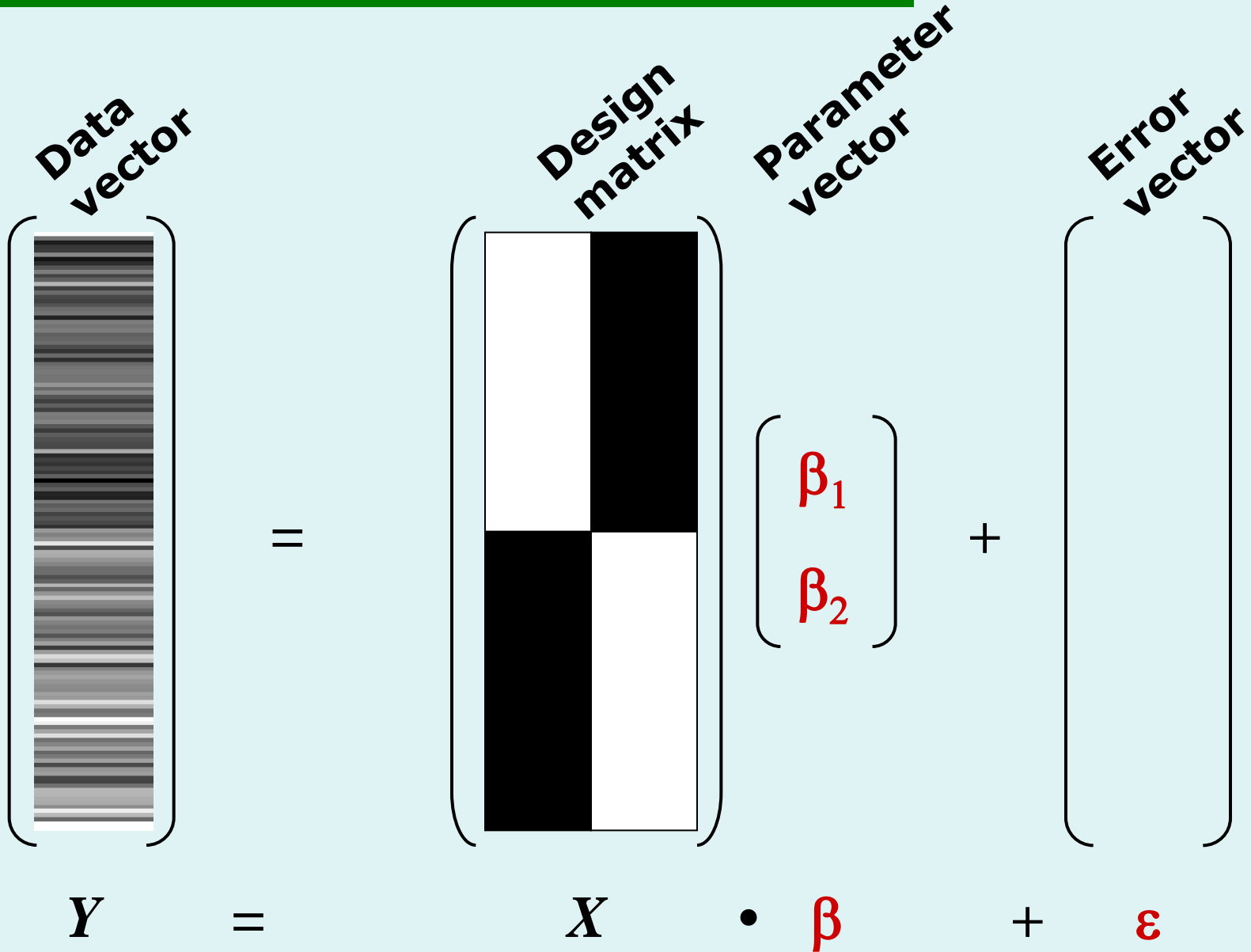


$$Y = \beta_1 \cdot X_1 + \beta_2 \cdot X_2 + \varepsilon$$

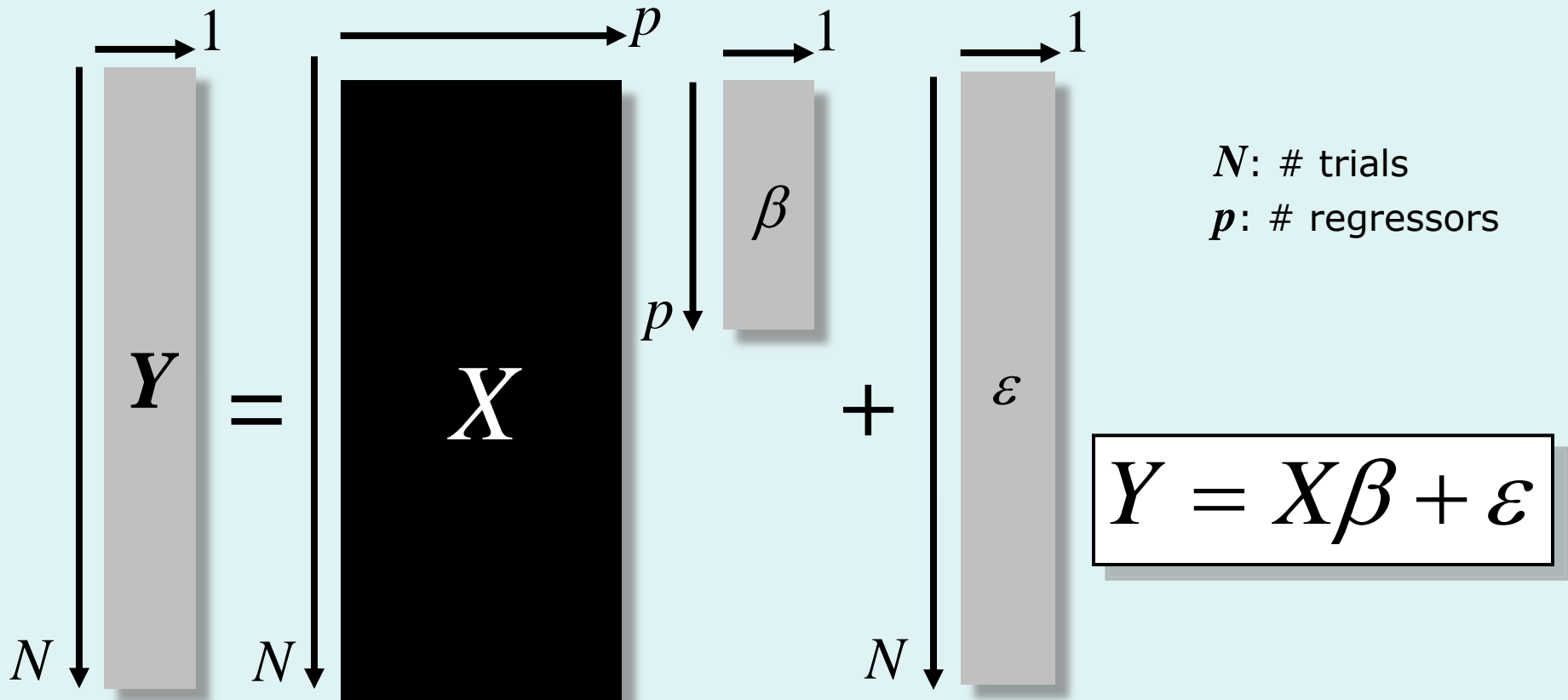


# Design matrix

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# General Linear Model



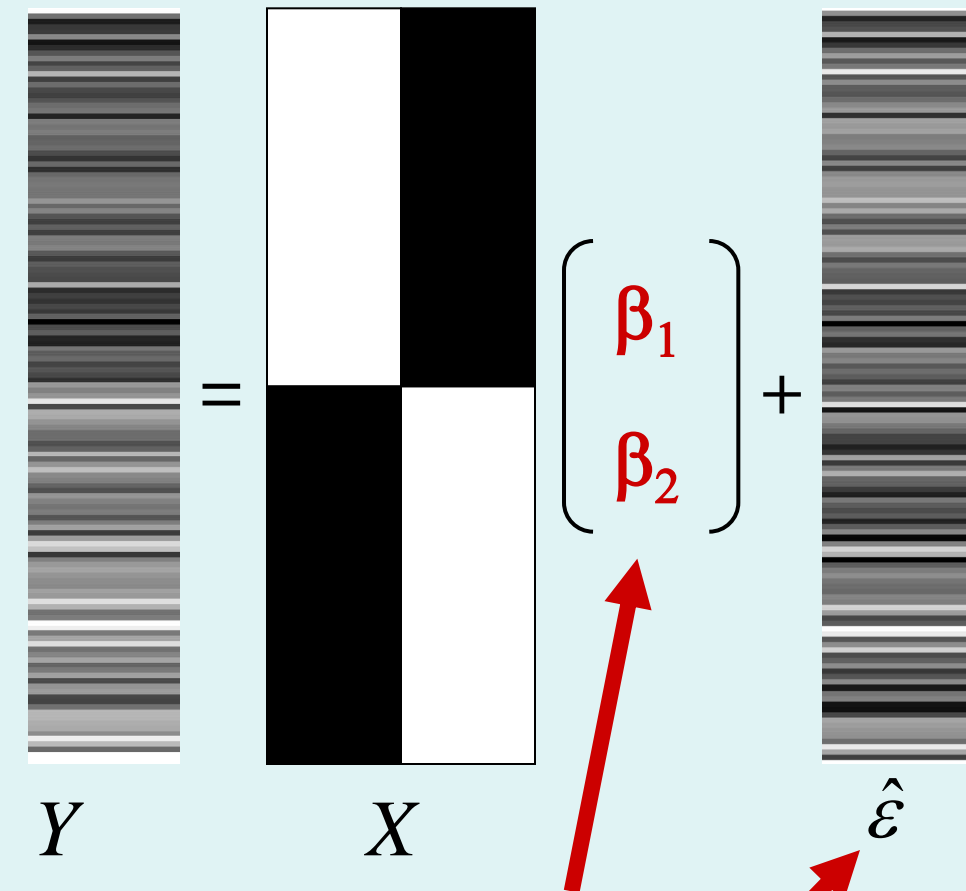
GLM defined by  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{design matrix } X \\ \text{error distribution } \varepsilon \sim N(0, \sigma^2 I) \end{array} \right.$

# General Linear Model

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- The *design matrix* embodies all available knowledge about experimentally controlled factors and potential confounds.
- Applied to all channels & time points
- Mass-univariate parametric analysis
  - one sample  $t$ -test
  - two sample  $t$ -test
  - paired  $t$ -test
  - Analysis of Variance (ANOVA)
  - factorial designs
  - correlation
  - linear regression
  - multiple regression

# Parameter estimation



Estimate parameters

such that  $\sum_{i=1}^N \hat{\varepsilon}_i^2$  minimal  $\rightarrow$

$$Y = X\beta + \varepsilon$$

Residuals:  $\hat{\varepsilon} = Y - X\hat{\beta}$

Assume iid. error:

$$\varepsilon \sim N(0, \sigma^2 I)$$

$$\hat{\beta} = (X^T X)^{-1} X^T Y$$

**Ordinary Least Squares**  
parameter estimate

# Hypothesis Testing

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## The Null Hypothesis $H_0$

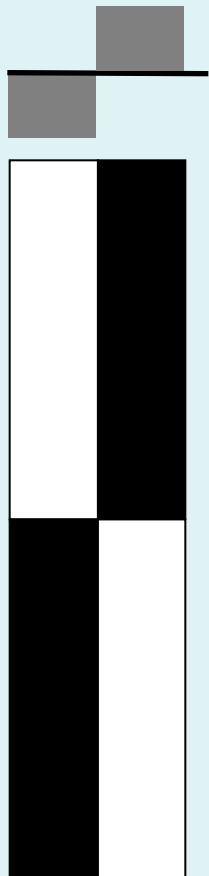
Typically what we want to disprove (i.e. *no* effect).

⇒ Alternative Hypothesis  $H_A$  = outcome of interest.

# Contrast & t-test

*Contrast* : specifies linear combination of parameter vector:  $c' \beta$

$$c' = -1 \quad +1$$



ERP: **faces** < **scrambled** ?

$$\hat{\beta}_1 < \hat{\beta}_2 ? \quad (\hat{\beta}_i : \text{estimation of } \beta_i)$$

$$-1 \times \hat{\beta}_1 + 1 \times \hat{\beta}_2 > 0 ?$$

$$\text{test } H_0 : c' \hat{\beta} > 0 ?$$

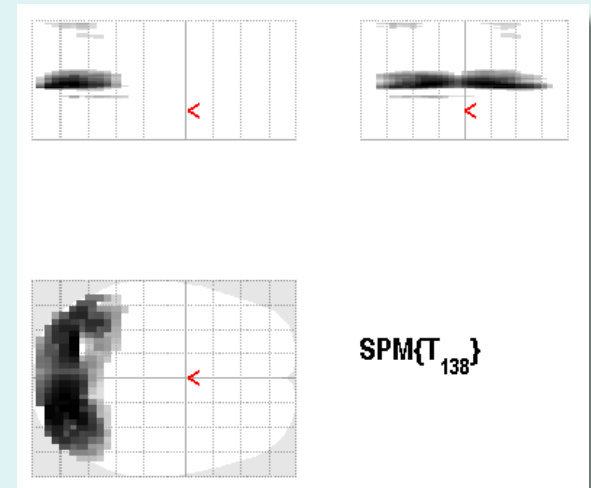
**contrast of  
estimated  
parameters**

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



$$T = \frac{c' \hat{\beta}}{\sqrt{s^2 c' (X'X)^{-1} c}}$$

SPM-t over  
time & space



# Hypothesis Testing

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## The Null Hypothesis $H_0$

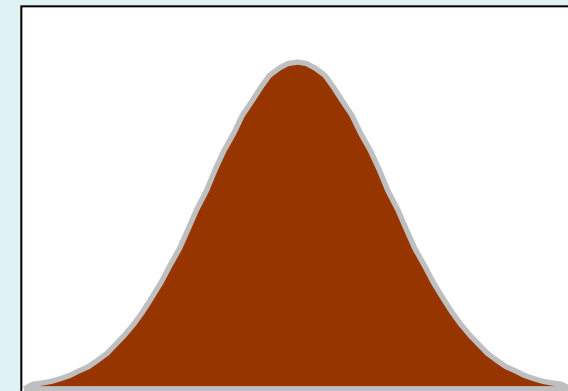
Typically what we want to disprove (i.e. *no* effect).

⇒ Alternative Hypothesis  $H_A$  = outcome of interest.

## The Test Statistic T

- summarises evidence about  $H_0$ .
- (typically) small in magnitude when  $H_0$  is true and large when false.

⇒ know the distribution of T under the null hypothesis.



Null Distribution of T

# Hypothesis Testing

Significance level  $\alpha$ :

Acceptable *false positive rate*  $\alpha$ .

$\Rightarrow$  threshold  $u_\alpha$ , controls the false positive rate

$$\alpha = p(T > u_\alpha | H_0)$$

*Observation* of test statistic  $t$ , a realisation of  $T$

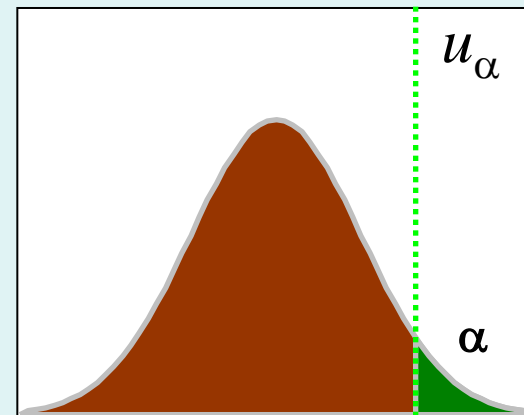
$\Rightarrow$  Conclusion about the hypothesis:  
reject  $H_0$  in favour of  $H_a$  if  $t > u_\alpha$

$\Rightarrow$  *P*-value:

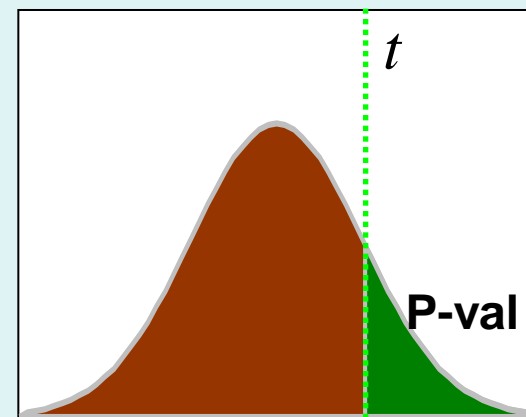
summarises evidence against  $H_0$ .

= chance of observing value more extreme than  $t$  under  $H_0$ .

$$p(T > t | H_0)$$



Null Distribution of T



Null Distribution of T



# Contrast & $T$ -test, a few remarks

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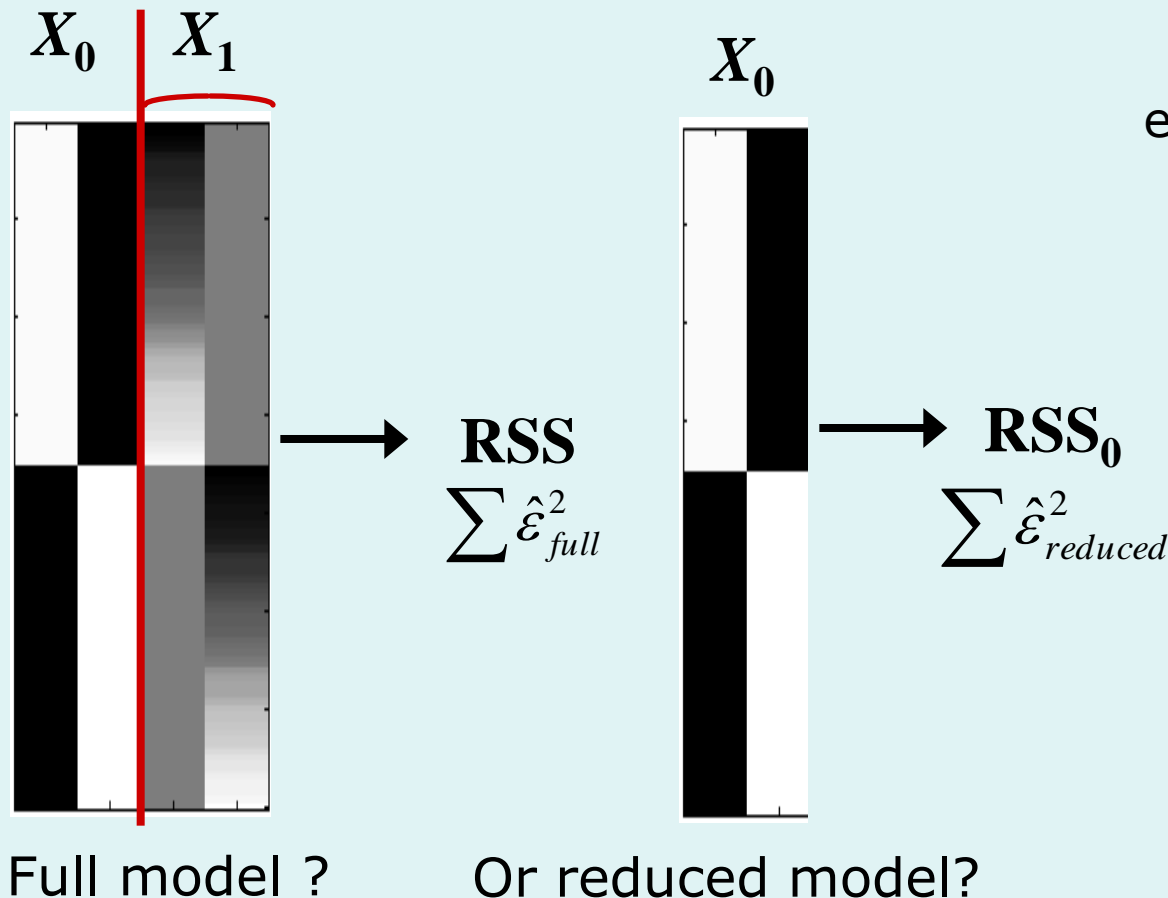
- Contrasts = simple linear combinations of the betas
- $T$ -test = signal-to-noise measure (ratio of estimate to standard deviation of estimate).
- $T$ -statistic, NO dependency on scaling of the regressors or contrast
- Unilateral test:

$$H_0: c^T \beta = 0 \quad \text{vs.} \quad H_A: c^T \beta > 0$$

# Extra-sum-of-squares & $F$ -test

Model comparison: *Full vs. Reduced model?*

Null Hypothesis  $H_0$ : True model is  $X_0$  (reduced model)



**Test statistic:** ratio of explained and unexplained variability (error)

$$F \propto \frac{RSS_0 - RSS}{RSS}$$

$$F \propto \frac{ESS}{RSS} \sim F_{v_1, v_2}$$

$$v_1 = \text{rank}(X) - \text{rank}(X_0)$$

$$v_2 = N - \text{rank}(X)$$

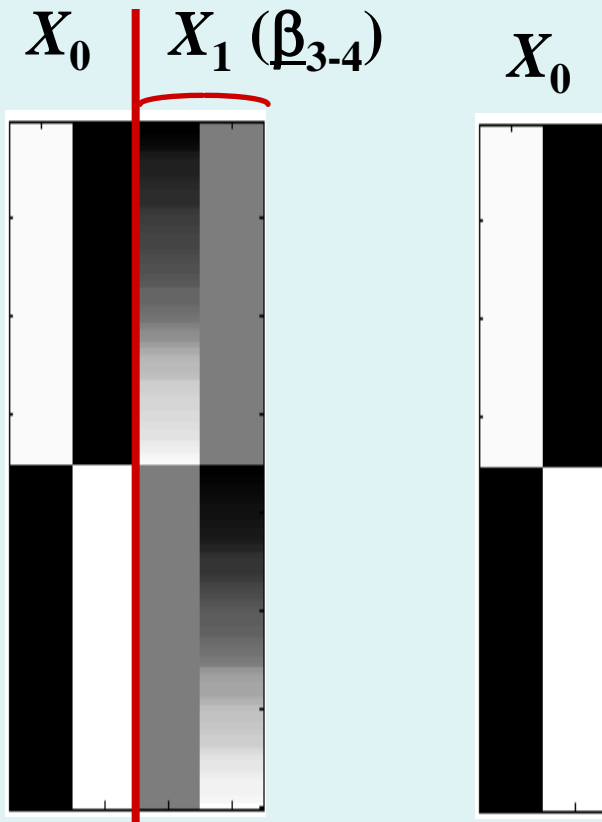
# F-test & multidimensional contrasts

Tests multiple linear hypotheses:

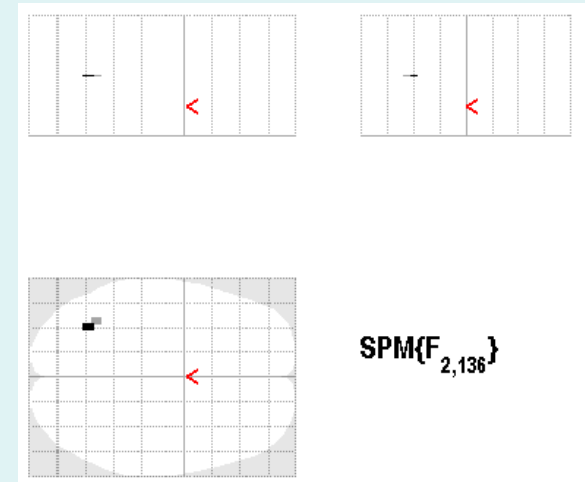
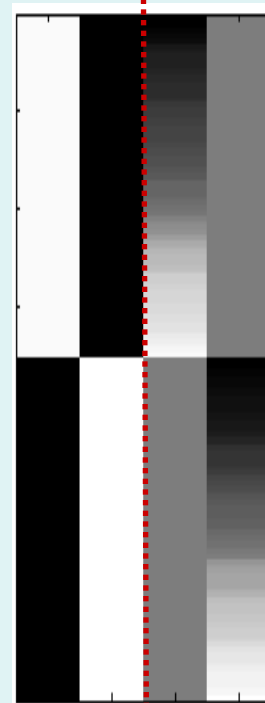
$H_0$ : True model is  $X_0$

$H_0: \beta_3 = \beta_4 = 0$

test  $H_0: c^T \beta = 0$  ?

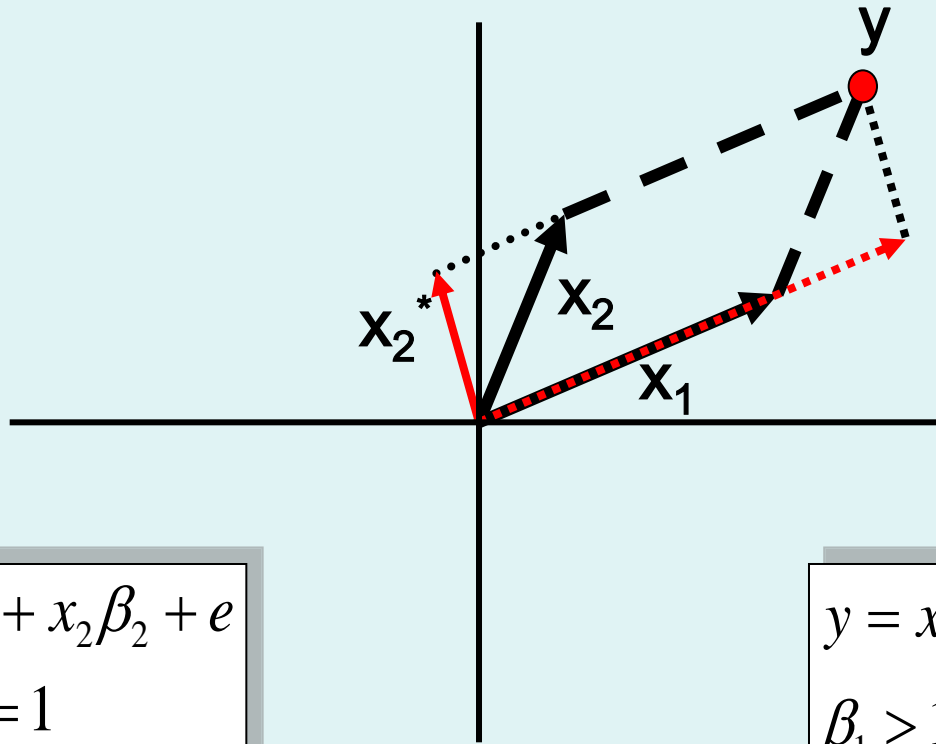


$$c^T = \begin{matrix} 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{matrix}$$



Full or reduced model?

# Correlated and orthogonal regressors



$$y = x_1\beta_1 + x_2\beta_2 + e$$
$$\beta_1 = \beta_2 = 1$$

$$y = x_1\beta_1 + x_2^*\beta_2^* + e$$
$$\beta_1 > 1; \beta_2^* = 1$$

Correlated regressors  
⇒ explained variance  
shared between  
regressors

$x_2$  orthogonalized w.r.t.  $x_1$   
⇒ only the parameter  
estimate for  $x_1$  changes,  
not that for  $x_2$ !

# Inference & correlated regressors

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- implicitly test for an *additional* effect only
  - be careful if there is correlation
  - orthogonalisation = decorrelation (not generally needed)
    - ⇒ parameters and test on the non modified regressor change
- always simpler to have orthogonal regressors and therefore designs.
- use F-tests in case of correlation, to see the overall significance. There is generally no way to decide to which regressor the « common » part should be attributed to.
- original regressors may not matter: it's the contrast you are testing which should be as decorrelated as possible from the rest of the design matrix

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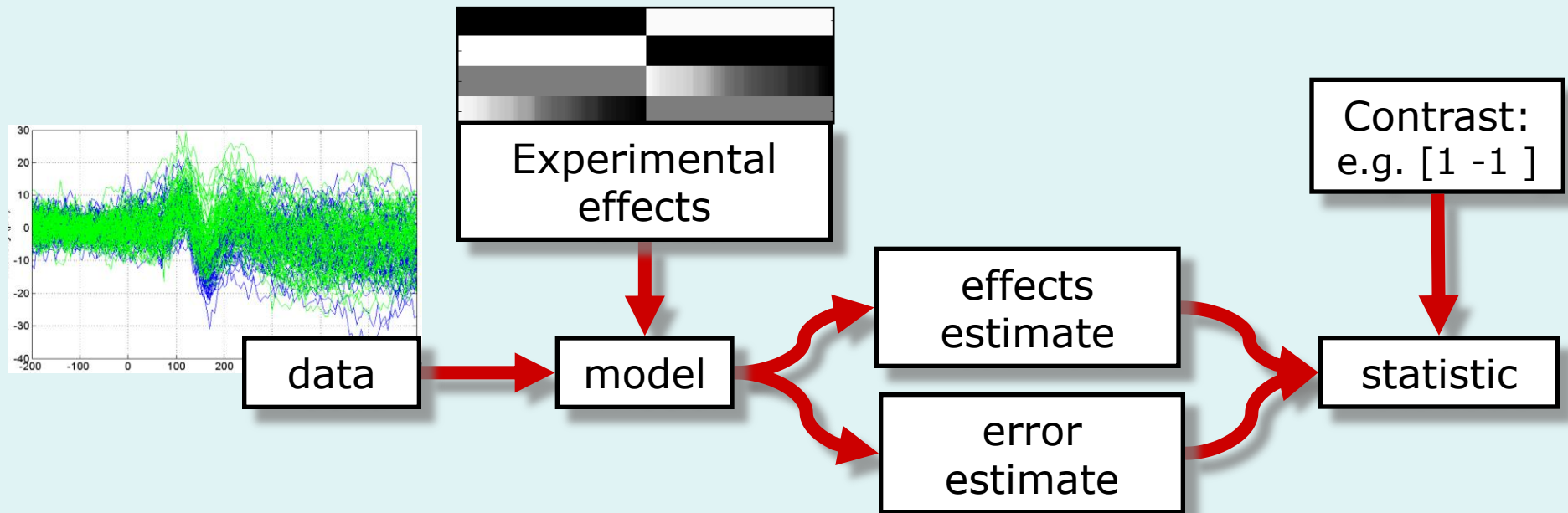
# Modelling?

*Why?* Make *inferences* about effects of interest

*How?*

1. Decompose data into *effects* and *error*
2. Form *statistic* using estimates of effects (of interest) and error

*Model?* Use any available *knowledge*



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Thank you for your attention!

Any question?

Thanks to Klaas, Guillaume, Rik, Will, Stefan, Andrew & Karl  
for the borrowed slides!