Variance Component Estimation a.k.a. Non-Sphericity Correction

## Overview

- Variance-Covariance Matrix
- What is (and <u>isn't</u>) sphericity?
- Why is non-sphericity a problem?
- · How do proper statisticians solve it?
- How did SPM99 solve it.
- How does SPM2 solve it?
- What is all the fuss?
- Some 2nd level examples.



























































## What is all the fuss then?

• Did you ever wonder about the (n-1) when estimating sample variance?





















## **Non-Sphericity**

Error can be Non-Independent and Non-Identical when...

1) Several parameters per subject e.g. Repeated Measurement design



- 2) Conjunction over several parameters e.g. Common brain activity for different cognitive processes
- 3) Complete characterization of the hemodynamic response e.g. F-test combining HRF, temporal derivative and dispersion regressors

	Example I	U. Noppeney et al.		
Stimuli:	Auditory Presentation (i) words and (ii) wo	on (SOA = 4 secs) of rds spoken backwards		
Subjects:	<ul><li>(i) 12 control subjects</li><li>(ii) 11 blind subjects</li></ul>			
Scanning: fMRI, 250 scans per subject, block design				
Q. What are the regions that activate for real words relative to reverse words in <i>both</i> blind and control groups?				



<b>Example 2</b> U. Noppeney et al.						
Stimuli: Auditory Presentation (SOA = 4 secs) of words						
motion "jump"	sound "click"	visual "pink"	action "turn"			
<ul> <li>Subjects: (i) 12 control subjects</li> <li>Scanning: fMRI, 250 scans per subject, block design</li> <li>Q. What regions are affected by the semantic content of the words ?</li> </ul>						

