Section on Functional Imaging Methods

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1. Dynamics

Motivation:

•To understand neuronal and non-neuronal influences on the fMRI signal.

Studies:

•Modulate "on" duration, "off" duration, and duty cycle of visual cortex activation.

•Neuronal and Hemodynamic Modeling

Brief "on" periods produce larger increases than expected.



R. M. Birn, Z. Saad, P. A. Bandettini, NeuroImage, 14: 817-826, (2001)

Brief "off" periods produce smaller decreases than expected.



R.M. Birn, P. A. Bandettini, NeuroImage, 27, 70-82 (2005)

Varying the Duty Cycle





Deconvolved Response



R.M. Birn, P. A. Bandettini, NeuroImage, 27, 70-82 (2005)

Simulation of Hemodynamic Mechanisms (Balloon model)



E(f) = oxygen extraction fraction



Simulation of Neuronal Mechanisms



1. Dynamics



Conclusion:

•Nonlinearities are not fully explained by the Balloon model.

 $\cdot \circ \mathsf{OFF}''$ modulation sub-linearity suggests that blood volume change is not slower than flow change.

Future:

•Modulate neural activity or hemodynamic variables independently.

•Measure flow, volume to help constrain balloon model.

•Determine spatial and across-subject heterogeneity.

2. Fluctuations

Motivation:

•Applications of connectivity mapping (autism, schizophrenia, Alzheimer's, ADHD).

•Distinguish neuronal activity-related fluctuations from nonneuronal physiological fluctuations.

-reduce false positives in resting state connectivity maps -increase functional contrast to noise for activation maps

•fMRI *activation magnitude* calibration using fluctuations rather than hypercapnic or breath-hold stress.

Studies:

•Time course of respiration volume per unit time (RVT)

The Respiration Response Function (RRF)

•FMRI Calibration using RRF

Sources of time series fluctuations:

- •Blood, brain and CSF pulsation
- Vasomotion
- •Breathing cycle (B_0 shifts with lung expansion)
- Bulk motion
- Scanner instabilities

•Changes in blood CO₂ (changes in breathing)

•Spontaneous neuronal activity

Estimating respiration volume changes



Respiration induced signal changes

Rest



Breath-holding





(N=7)

RVT Correlation Maps & Functional Connectivity Maps

Resting state correlation with RVT signal



Resting state correlation with signal from posterior cingulate





Group (n=10)

Effect of Respiration Rate Consistency on Resting Correlation Maps

Spontaneously Varying Respiration Rate



Constant Respiration Rate



Ζ

Lexical Decision Making Task

Group (n=10)



Blue: deactivated network

Respiration Changes vs. BOLD

How are the BOLD changes related to respiration variations?



fMRI response to a single Deep Breath



R.M. Birn, M. A. Smith, T. B. Jones, P. A. Bandettini, NeuroImage, (in press)

Respiration response function predicts BOLD signal associated with breathing changes better than activation response function.



BOLD magnitude calibration

Before Calibration

% Δ S (BOLD) BOLD_{calib} = -%∆S (Resp)

After Calibration















Rate

Rest





2. Fluctuations

Conclusion:



- •RVT maps resemble connectivity maps.
- •Constant breathing is effective in reducing fluctuations.
- •Respiration Response Function is characterized.
- •Breath hold, rate changes, depth changes, AND resting fluctuations can be used to calibrate BOLD magnitude.

Future:

Test calibration effectiveness.

•Compare ICA derived maps before and after RVT regression or breathing rate controls.

3. Experimental Design

Motivation:

•Guides for *individual* subject scanning at the limits of detectability, resolution, available time, and subject performance.

Studies:

•Overt response timing

Suggested resolution

Overt Responses - Simulations



R.M. Birn, R. W. Cox, P. A. Bandettini, NeuroImage, 23, 1046-1058 (2004)

Overt Responses



Finding the "suggested voxel volume"

Temporal Signal to Noise Ratio (TSNR) vs. Signal to Noise Ratio (SNR)

TSNR



J. Bodurka, F. Ye, N Petridou, K. Murphy, P. A. Bandettini, *NeuroImage*, 34, 542-549 (2007)

3. Experimental Design

Conclusion:



•Overt response paradigms are experimentally verified (blocked, 10 on/ 10 off is best).

•The "suggested voxel volume" concept shows the importance of TSNR in gray matter rather than SNR.

Future:

•Implement rapid "suggested voxel volume" calculation at scanner, based on TSNR measure.

4. Pattern-Information Analysis

Motivation:

•Classical fMRI analysis: Is a region activated during a task?

 Pattern-information analysis: Does a region carry a particular kind of information?

Study:

Pattern-Information Mapping

Dis-similarity matrix



N. Kriegeskorte, R. Goebel, P. Bandettini, Proc. Nat'l. Acad. Sci. USA, 103, 3863-3868 (2006)



Visual Stimuli









4. Pattern-Information Analysis

Conclusion:



•Useful for mapping and comparing voxel wise patterns that may be missed with classical approaches.

Future:

 Spatial scale/distribution of most informative patterns with learning, categorization?

•Careful comparisons to mapping approaches.

•High resolution, high field.

5. Neuronal Current MRI

Motivation:

•Direct fMRI of neuronal activity.

Studies:

•7T and 3T



Neuronal Cell Cultures at 7T

N. Petridou, D. Plenz, A. C. Silva, J. Bodurka, M. Loew, P. A. Bandettini, *Proc. Nat'l. Acad. Sci. USA*. 103, **16015-16020 (2006)**.

5. Neuronal Current MRI



Conclusion:

•MR phase and magnitude of cell cultures was modulated by TTX administration – suggestive of neuronal currents (phase >> magnitude).

Future:

•Detection in humans: pulse-sequence based neuronal frequency tuning, multivariate processing strategies, matched filters, high field.



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| Parameter | Description | Default value | Range evaluated |
|-----------------------|--|-----------------------|-----------------|
| E_0 | Resting oxygen extraction fraction | 0.4 | 0.3-0.6 |
| vo | Resting blood volume fraction | 0.03 | 0.03-0.18 |
| fo | Resting relative blood flow | 0.01 s^{-1} | 0.01 s-0.16 s |
| Δf | Fractional blood flow change | 0.4 | _ |
| α | Steady-state flow-volume relationship | 0.4 | 0.25-1.0 |
| τ_{MTT} | Blood mean transit time (v_0/f_0) | 3 s | 1.1 s-18 s |
| τ_+ | Viscoelastic time constant (inflation) | 20 s | 10 s-40 s |
| τ_ | Viscoelastic time constant (deflation) | 20 s | 10 s-40 s |
| a_1 | Weight for deoxyhemoglobin change | 3.7 | 2.8 - 5.6 |
| <i>a</i> ₂ | Weight for blood volume change | 1.1 | 0.7 - 1.9 |

| ON response amplitude: initial amp: | 1.5 times steady state amp |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Adaptation time constant: | 1.5 <i>s</i> |
| Refractory period: | 5 <i>s</i> |
| OFF response amplitude: | initial amp 0.5 times steady state amp |
| OFF response time constant: | 0.5s |

The initial overshoot amplitude and decay time were chosen to roughly match the local field potential change measured in macaque visual cortex in response to rotating checkerboard, as measured by Logothetis et al. (2001).

The refractory period was chosen to produce results somewhat consistent with observed BOLD refractory period (Huettel et al., 2000).