

# Gaussian process regression and recurrent neural networks for fMRI image classification

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Via Sommarive, Povo – Trento (Italy)



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# Or better...

## Dimensionality reduction and recurrent neural networks for feature rating prediction from fMRI data

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# Outline

- Foreword
- Pre-Processing:
  - Smoothing
  - Mutual Information
  - Clustering
- Prediction:
  - Recurrent Neural Networks (**NO GPR!**)
- Results & Conclusion
- Future Work

# Prologue: February 2006

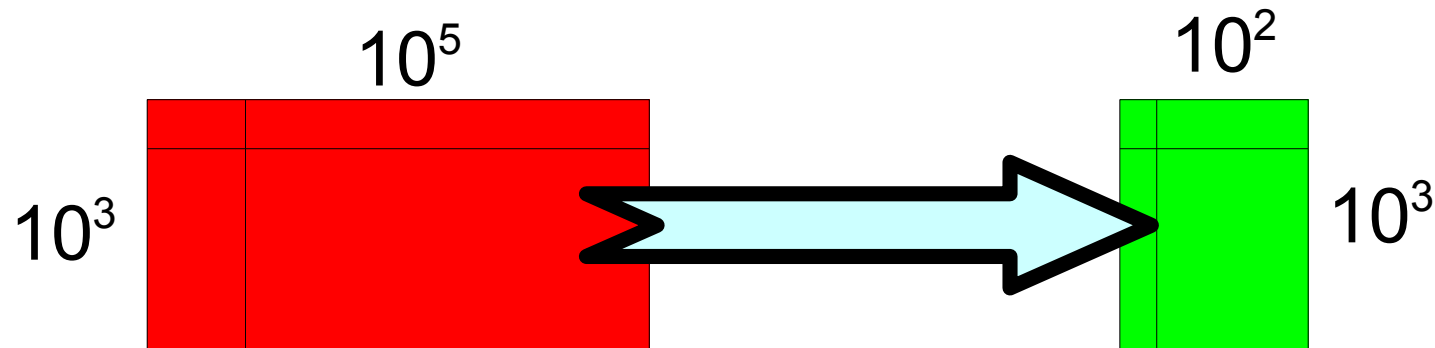
- no prior domain knowledge (wikipedia)
- no specific software
- just for fun, starting from scratch

## Initial Dataset:

- **3x3** Pre-processed and Spatially Normalized Brain Image Data (Analyze format): INPUT
- **2x3x27(19)** Feature ratings data convolved with a hemodynamic filter : TARGET

# Schema of our Approach

- Create a generic model to map fMRI data of a single subject to a single Target Feature Rating
  - **Pre-processing:** reduce noise and dimensionality of the input dataset (*curse of dimensionality*)

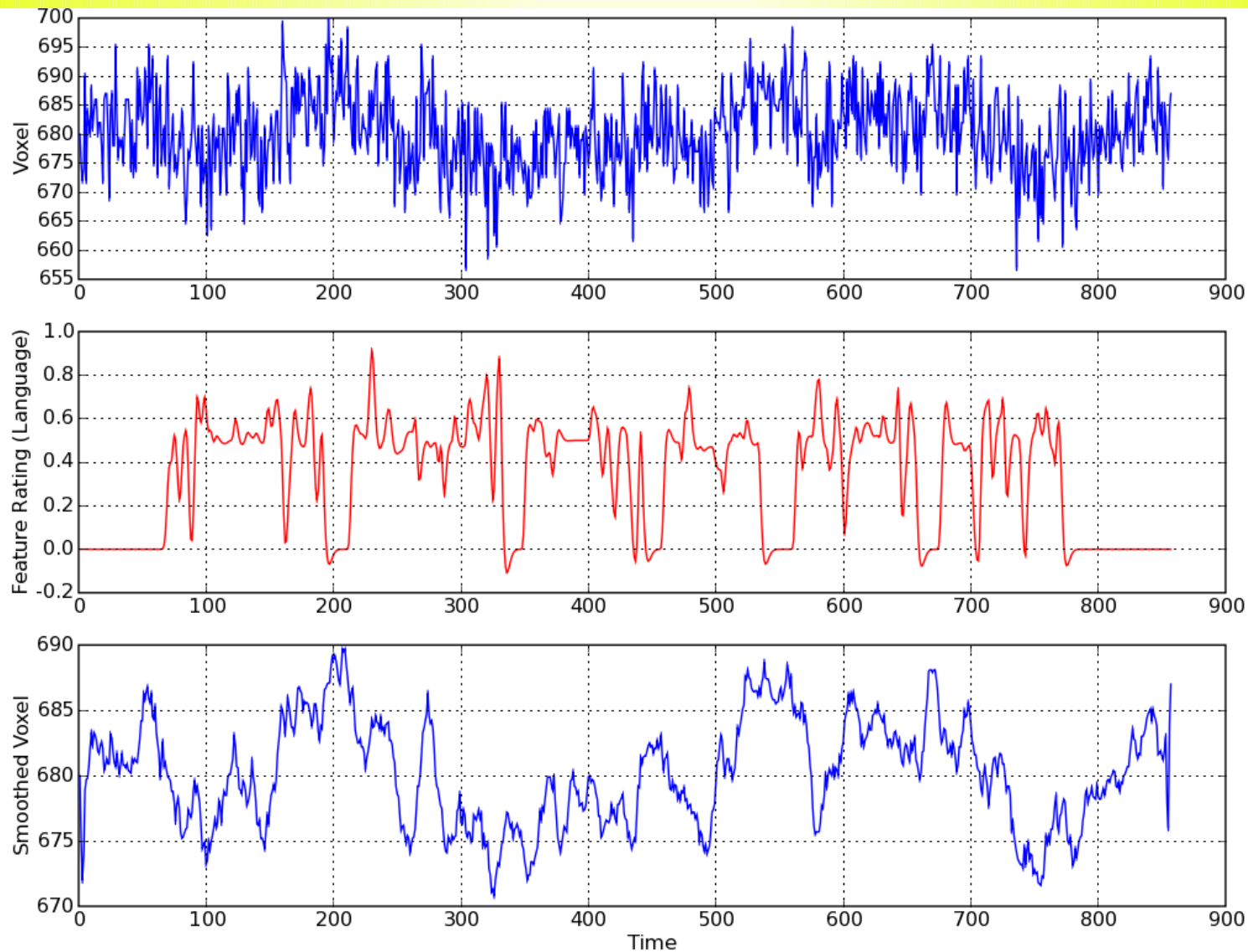


- **Predict** Feature Ratings using non-linear time-dependent regression

From now on: Subject 1 and Language

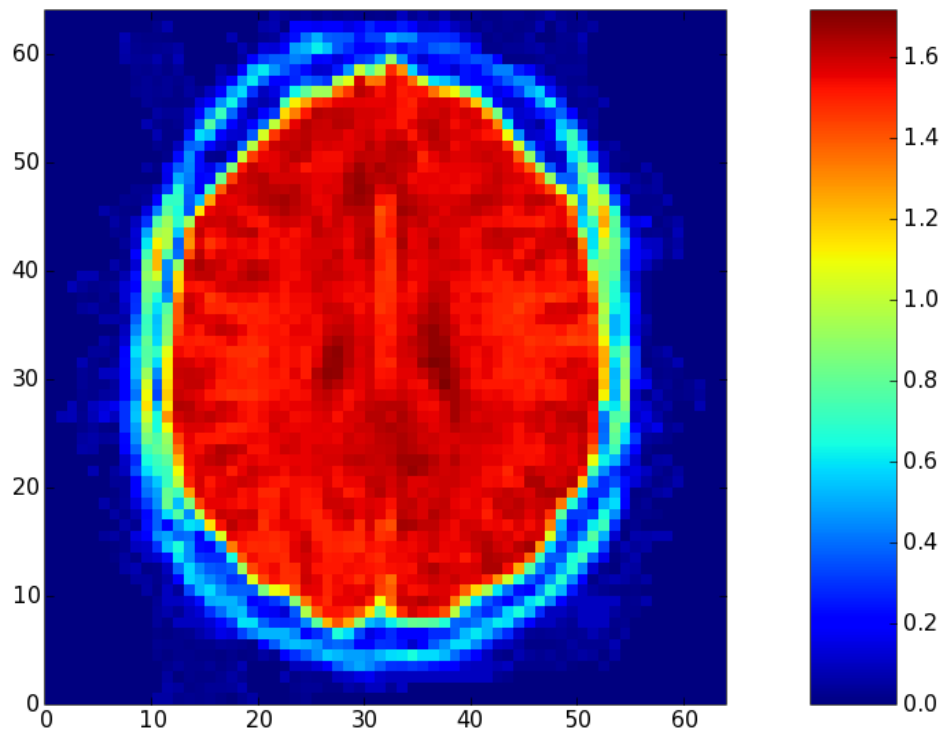
# Pre-processing

# Pre-Processing (1): Smoothing



# Pre-Processing (2): Mutual Information

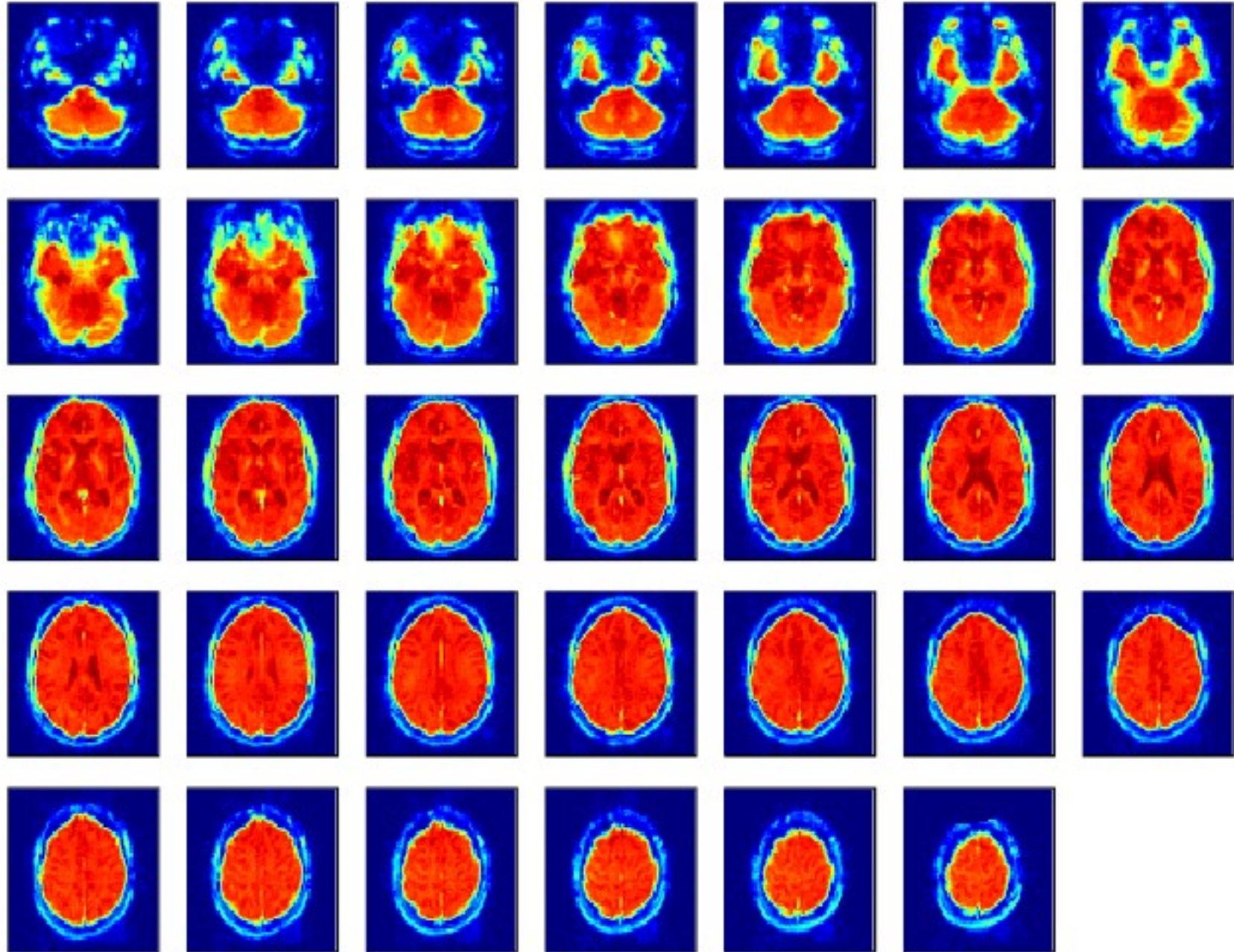
$$I(X; Y) = \sum_{y \in Y} \sum_{x \in X} p(x, y) \log \frac{p(x, y)}{p(x) p(y)}$$



Subject 1 – Movie 1 – Language: slice 22

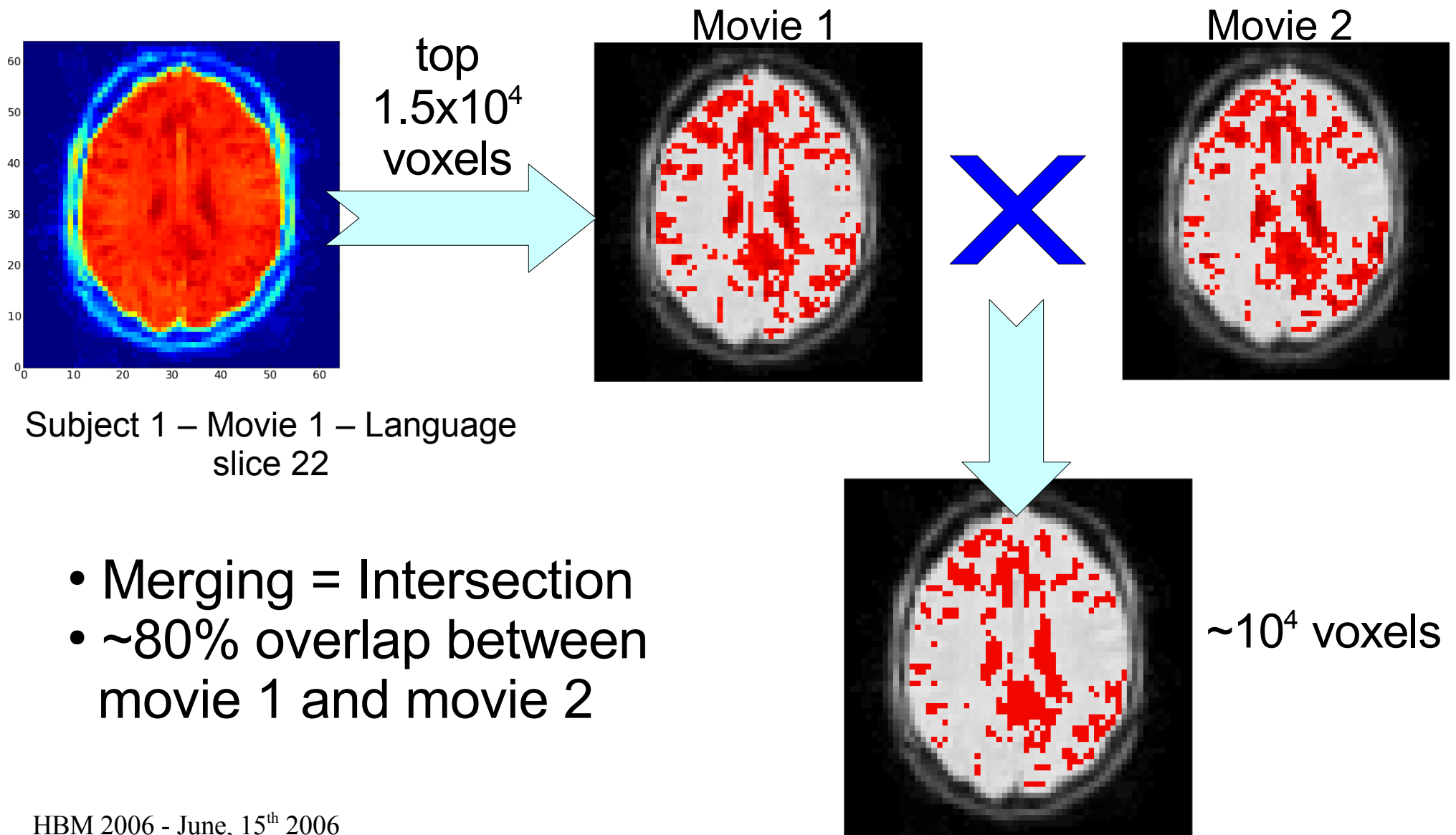
- **Mutual Information** measures “informativeness” of a voxel with respect to a given Target Feature
- For each voxel: compute Mutual Information between its values in time and each feature rating

## Pre-processing (2): Mutual Information

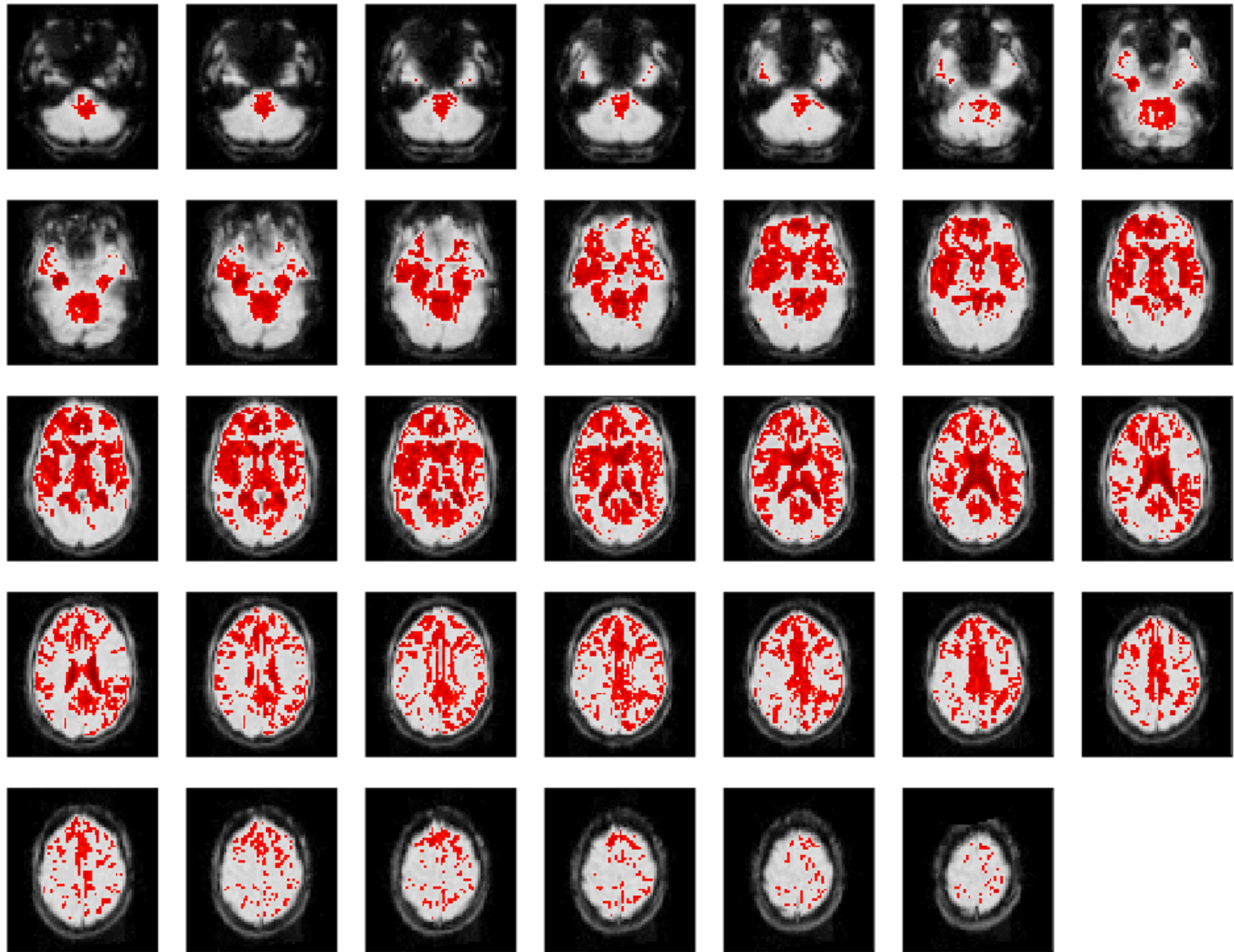


Language – Subject 1, Movie 1

# Pre-processing (2): Mutual Information Thresholding and Merging

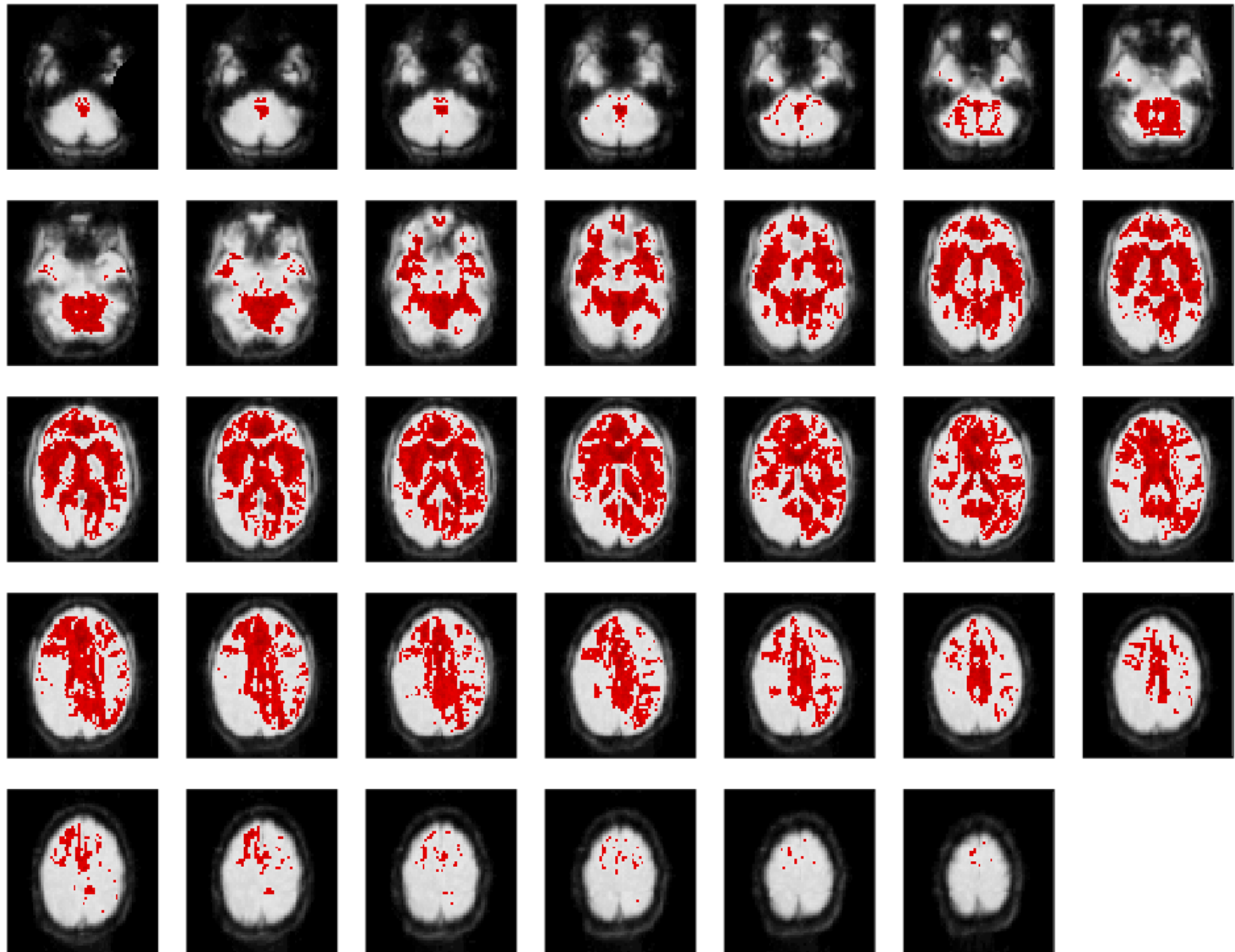


# Pre-processing (2): Mutual Information - Thresholding and Merging



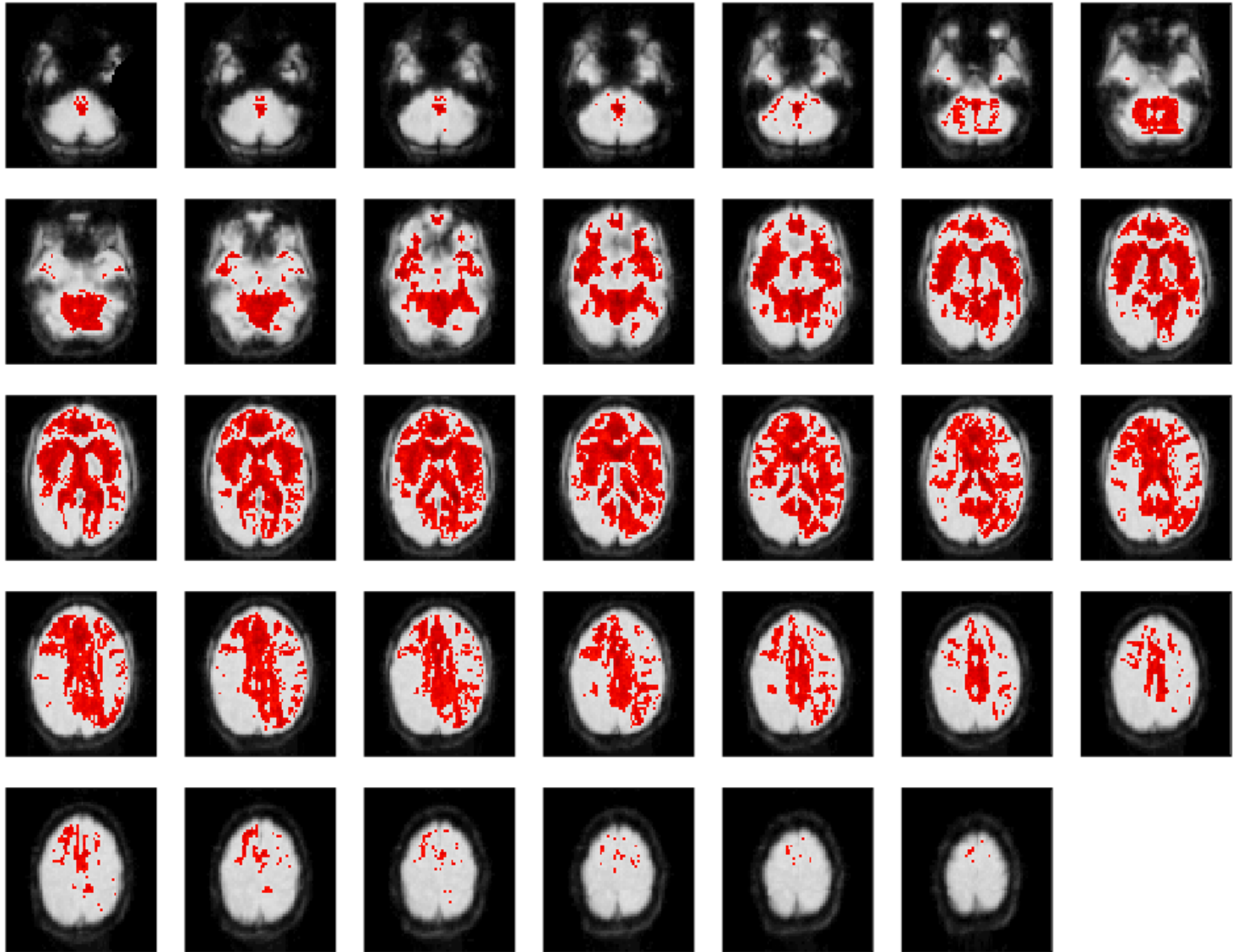
Language – Subject 1

# Pre-processing (2): Mutual Information - Thresholding and Merging



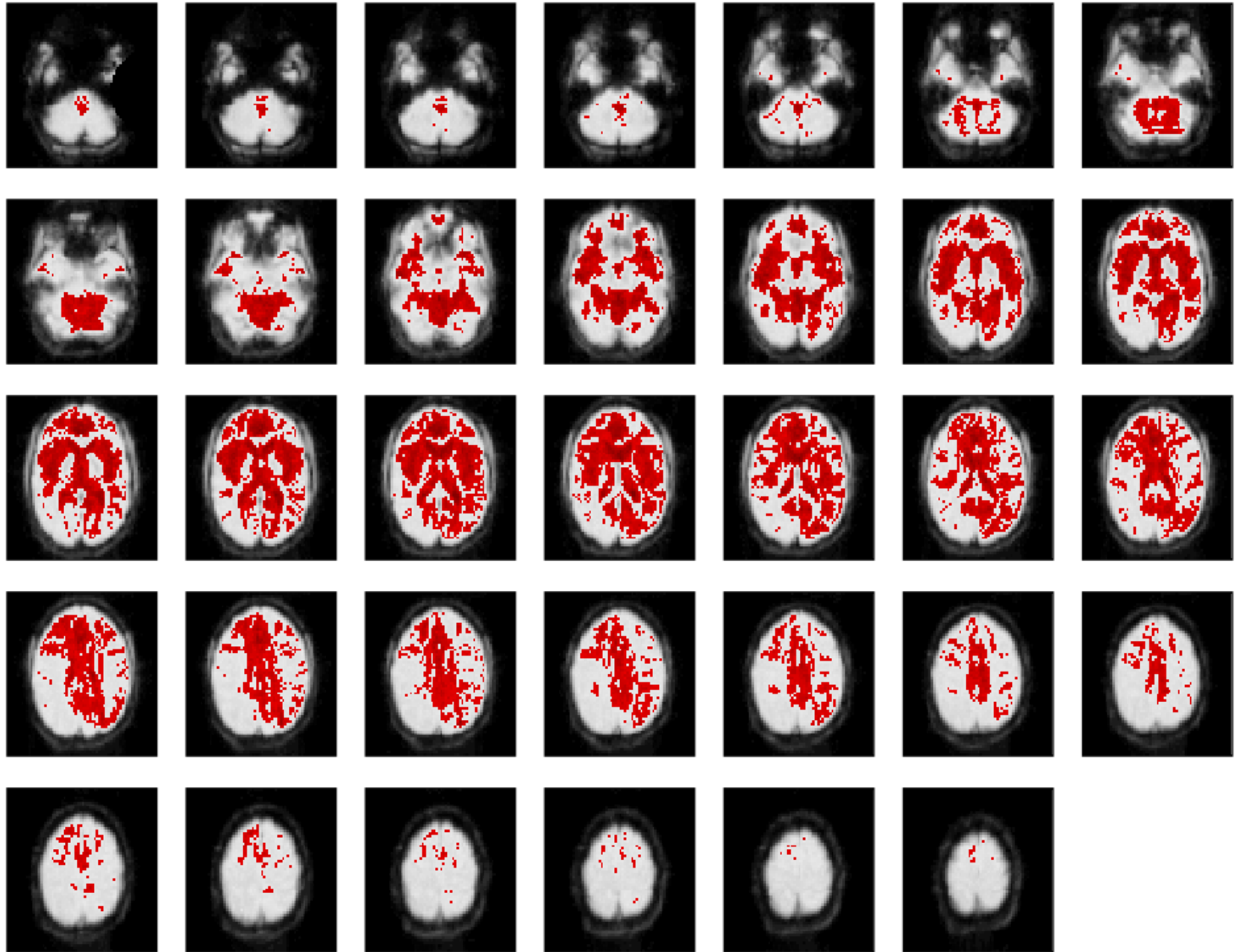
Language – Subject 2

# Pre-processing (2): Mutual Information - Thresholding and Merging



**Music** – Subject 2

# Pre-processing (2): Mutual Information - Thresholding and Merging



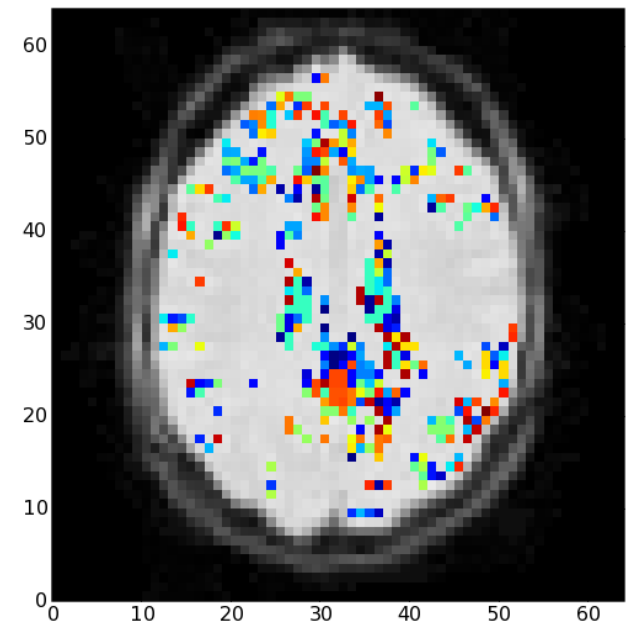
**Motion** – Subject 2

# Pre-Processing (3): Clustering

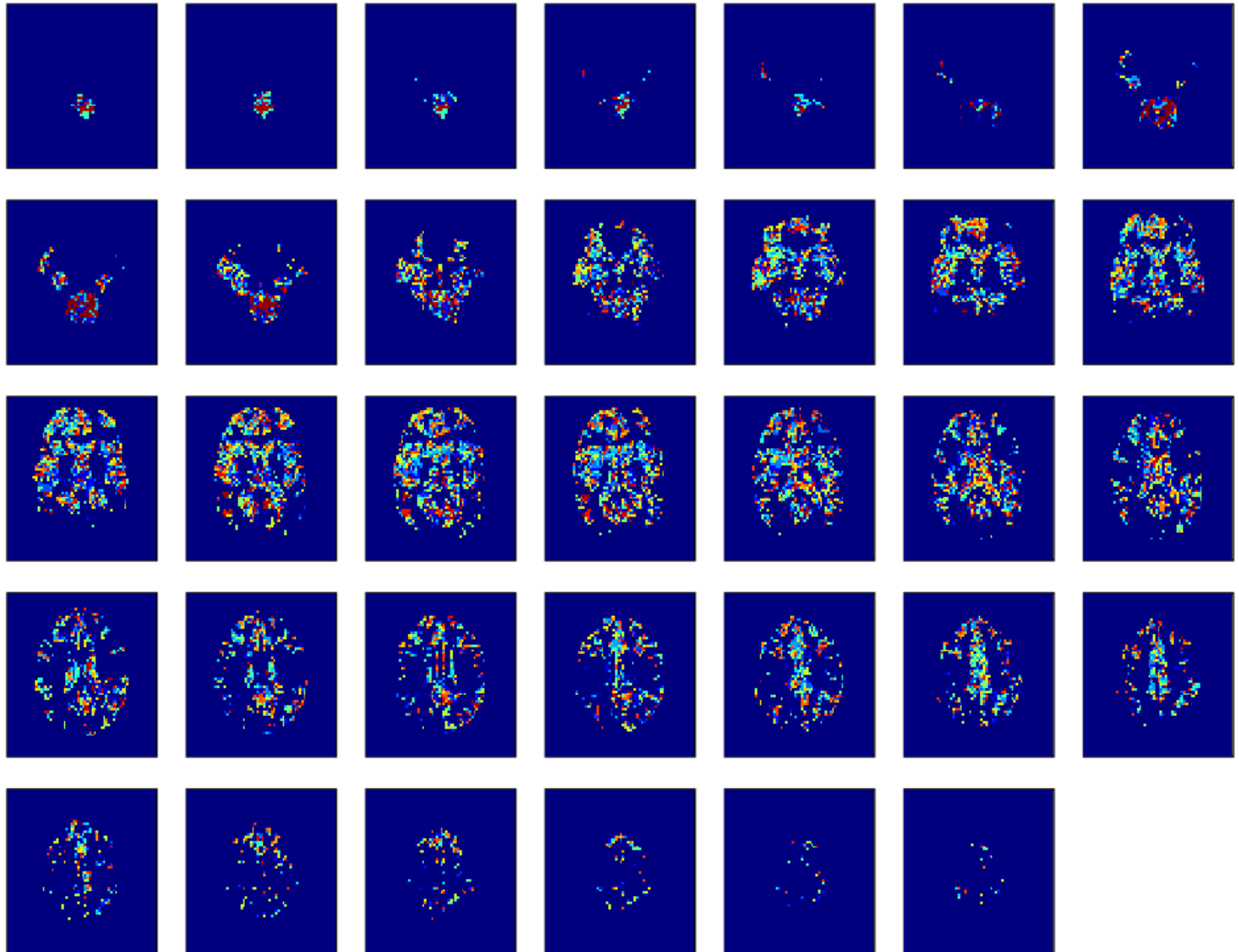
- Idea: reduce  $10^4$  voxels to  $\sim 10^2$  representatives
- K-Means clustering,  $K=200$
- $d(\text{voxel}_A, \text{voxel}_B) = f(\text{spatial distance, temporal correlation})$

$$d = d_{\text{spatial}}^{\alpha} (1 - r_{\text{temporal}})^{1-\alpha}$$

- $\alpha = 0.5$
- correlation: movie 1\*+2\*+3

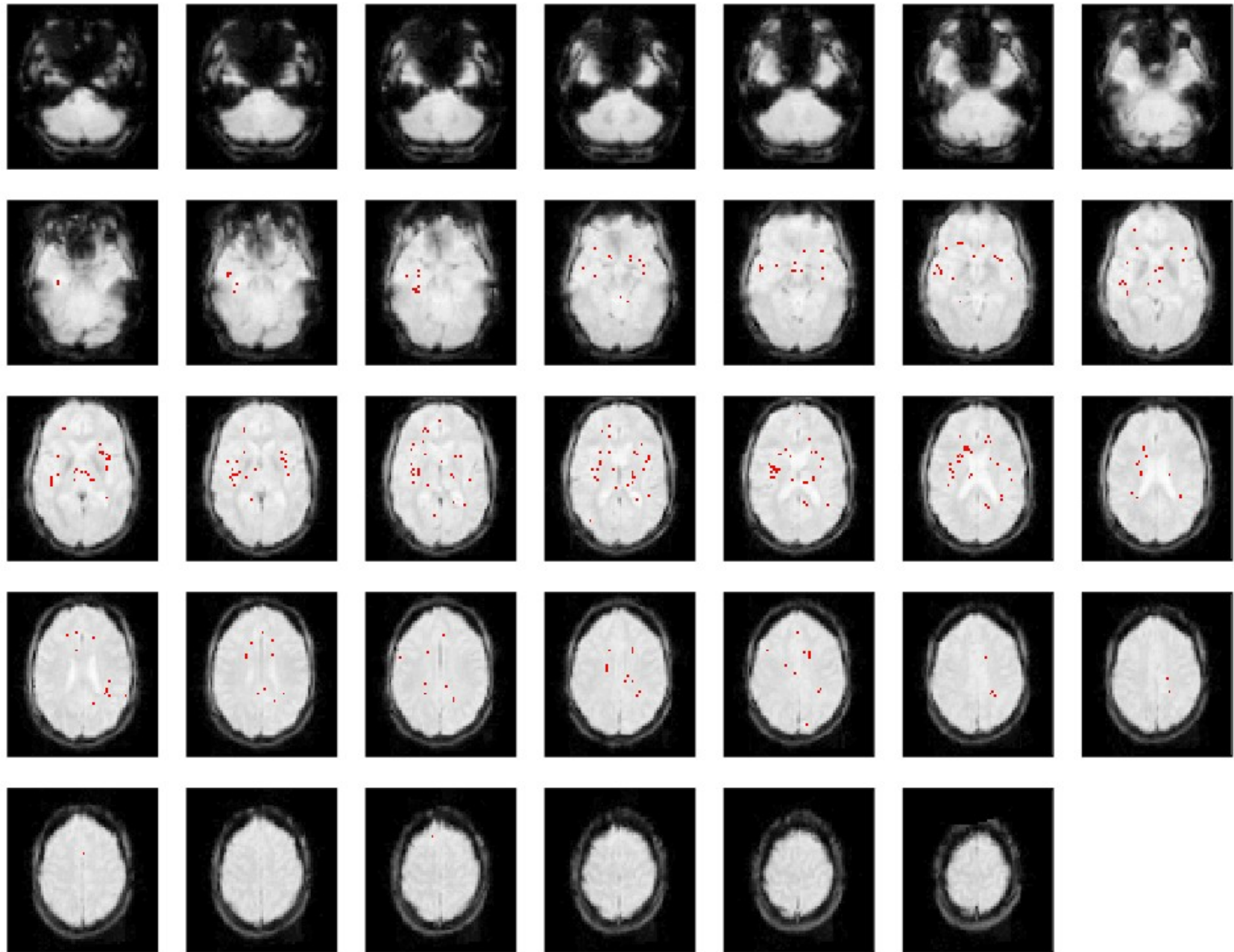


## Pre-processing (3): Clustering



Language – Subject 1

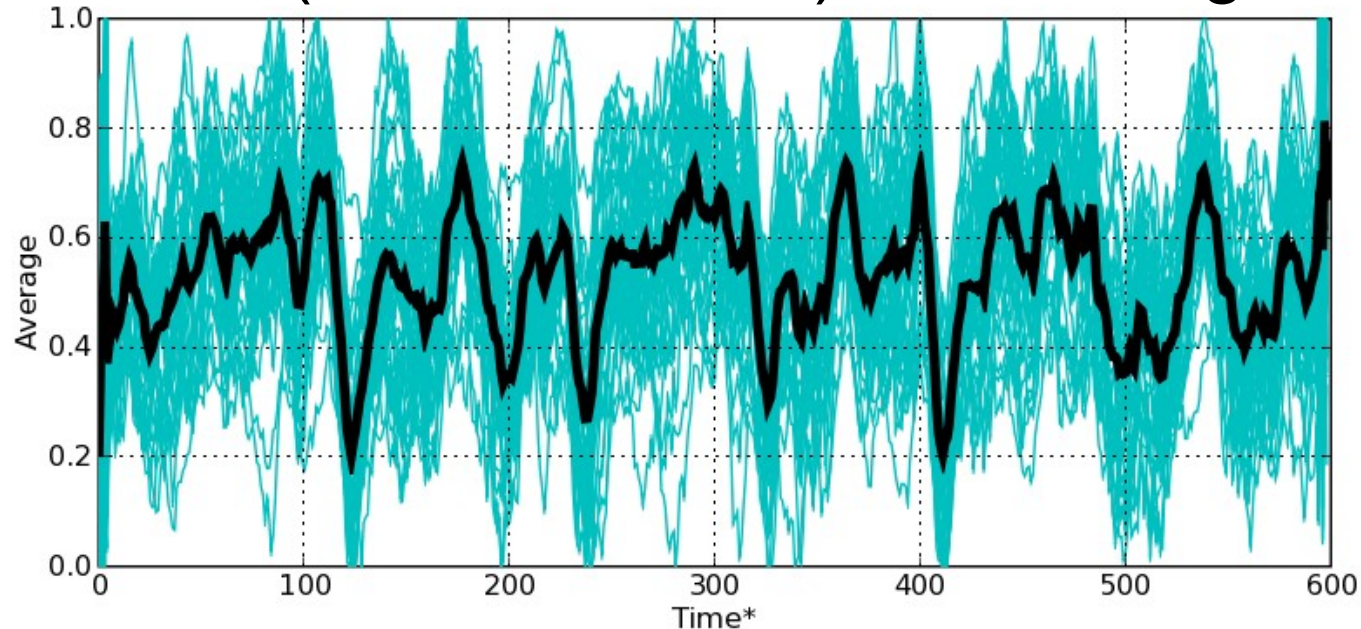
## Pre-processing (3): Clustering



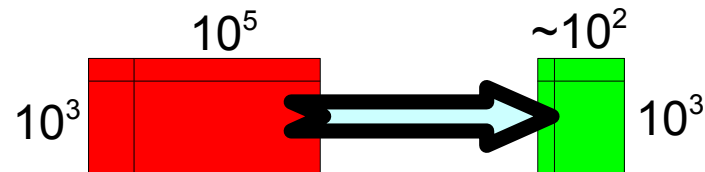
Language - Subject 1 - cluster 21 (~300)

# Pre-processing (3): Clustering Averaging

- For each cluster compute **average** over its voxels:
  - 1 cluster (=  $\sim 10^2$  voxels)  $\rightarrow$  1 average



- 1 movie = 200 averages  $\times 10^3$  timesteps

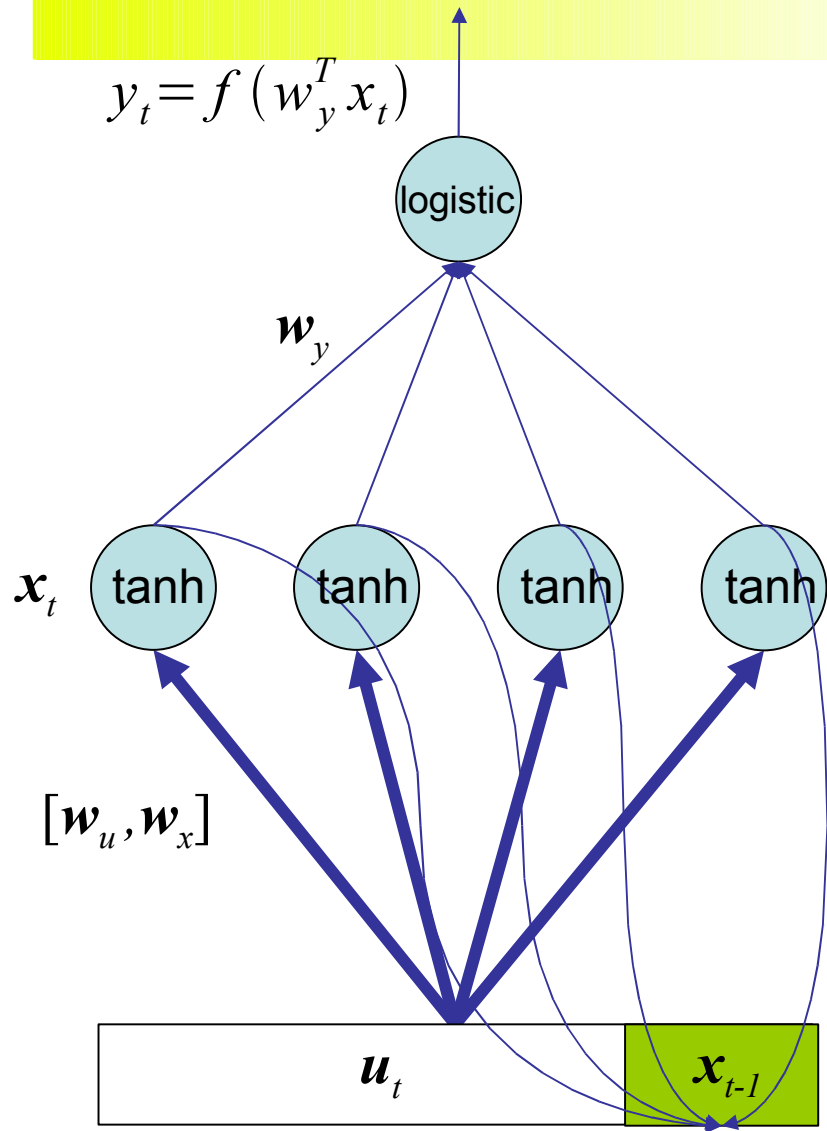


# Prediction

# Prediction: mixture of **Recurrent Neural Networks**

- RNN pros:
  - simple/standard
  - non-linear
  - exploit time-dependence inputs (brain and movie inertia)
  - no need for priors on data distribution
- RNN cons:
  - RNN could overfit

# Prediction: RNN - Model



- 200 input units
- 1 output unit
- 4 hidden units

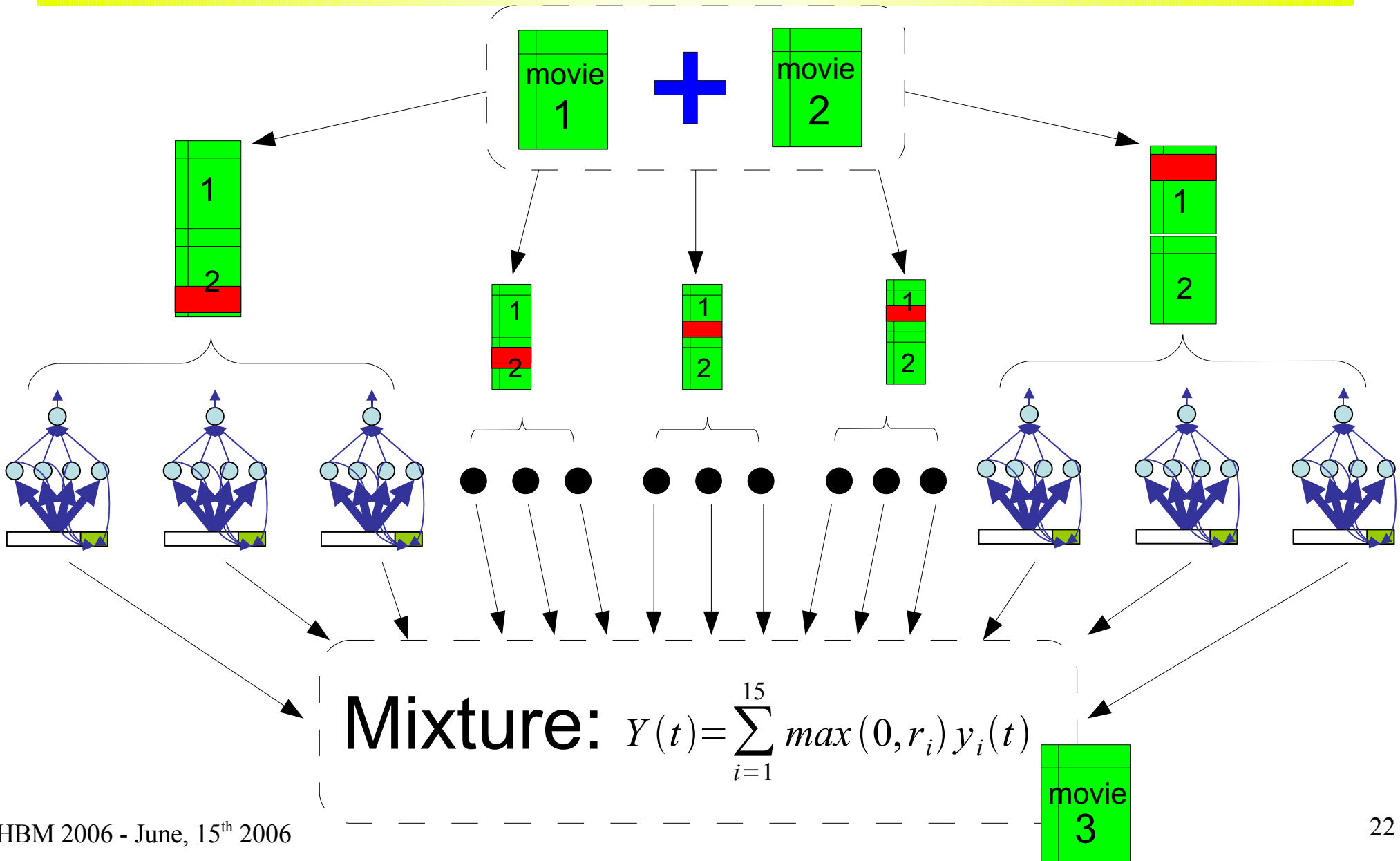
$$x_t = g(w_u^T u_t + w_x^T x_{t-1}), x_0 = 0$$

- trained with Back-Propagation through time
- each input normalized separately

$u_t$  = input vector

$x_{t-1}$  = internal state at (t-1)

# Prediction: RNN mixture



# Prediction: Observations / Insights

- *easy* features (Faces, Language, etc.): 1 or 2 hidden units are good
- *difficult* features (Food, Attention, etc.): accuracy (low) independent of number of hidden units:
  - Pre-processing removed important information?
  - Information not present in fMRI data?
- **NOTE:** we don't exploit correlation between features

# Conclusions

- Proposed method very general:
  - No hand tuning for features
  - No hand tuning for subjects
- score > 0.482 on base features using movie 1 and 2 (train set) to predict movie 3
- Pre-processing more important than prediction
- Averaging predictions over subjects is more accurate (objectivity vs. subjectivity ?)
- Our 3<sup>rd</sup> (best) submission was only on base features because lack of CPU time

# Future Work

- Exploit:
  - volumes' autocorrelation during pre-processing
  - objectivity/subjectivity *per feature*
  - features inter-dependence
  - linguistic context (features' smooth evolution)
  - morphological context (volumes' smooth evolution)
  - past and future (*contextual RNN*)
- Explore different spatial/temporal trade-off during clustering

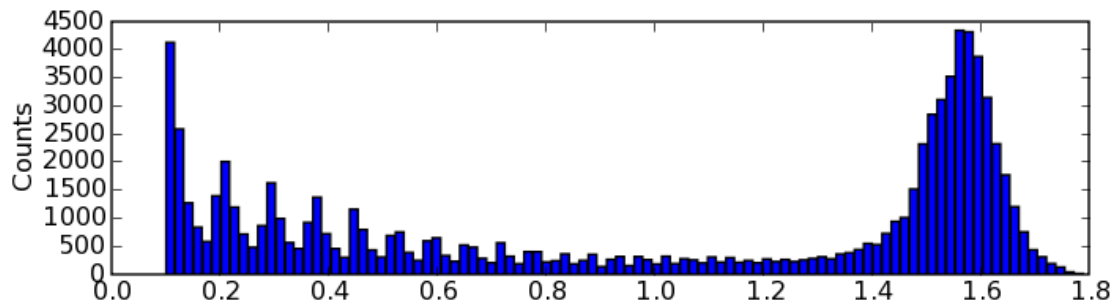
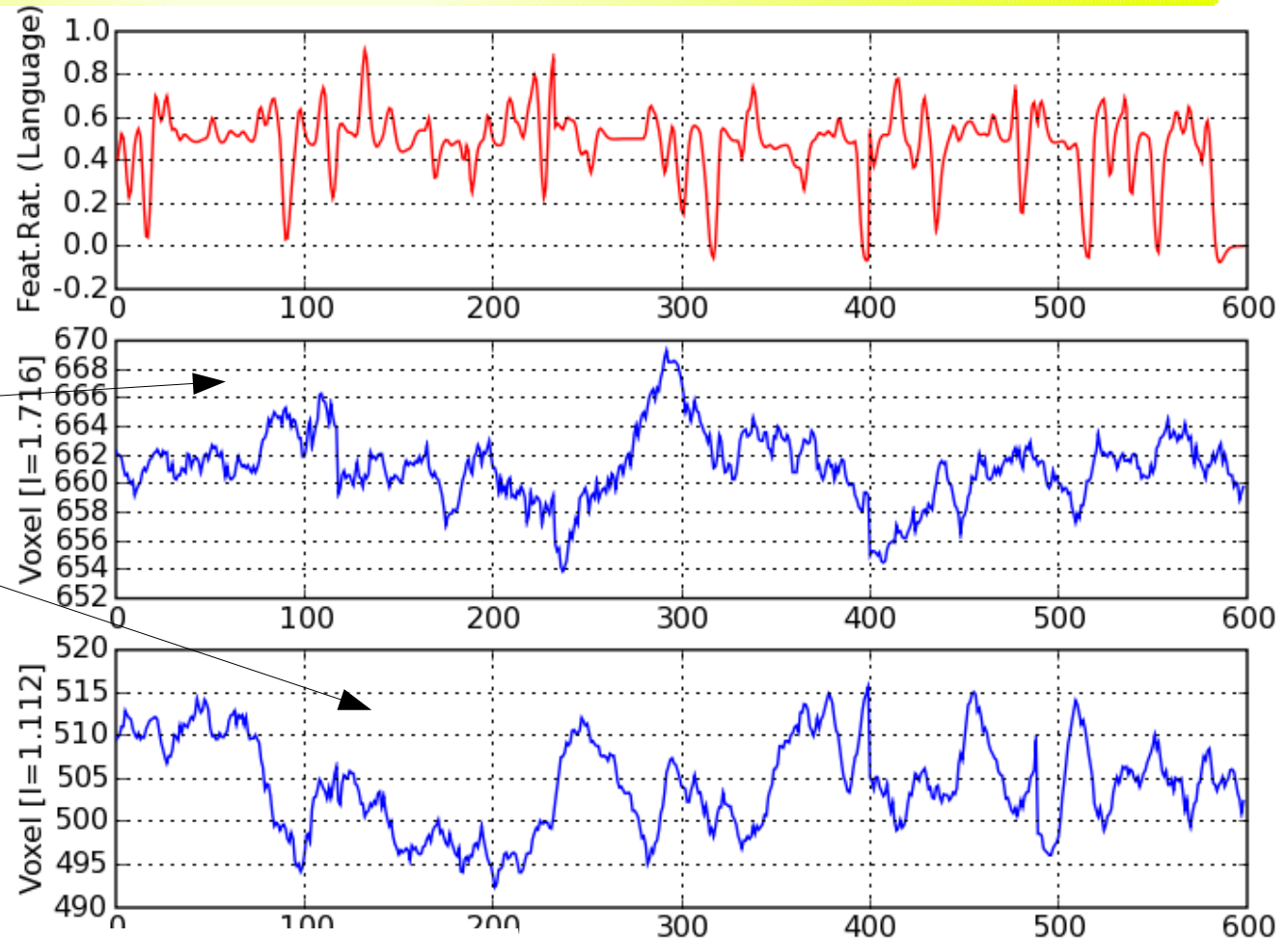
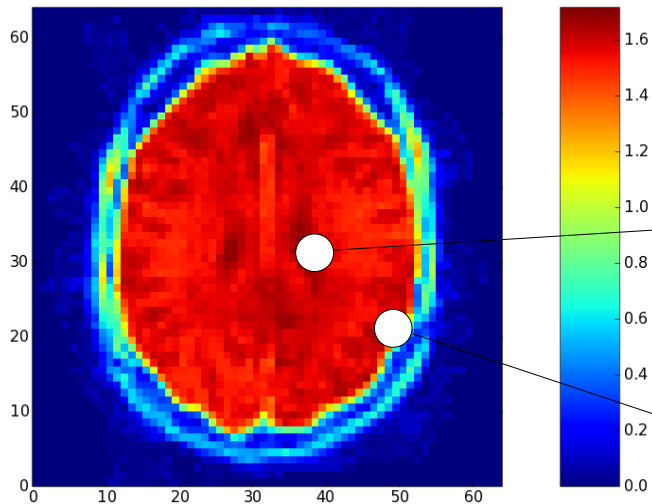
interested in details? Come to poster 677

# We'd like to thank...

- Scientific/Numerical Python project  
<http://www.scipy.org>, <http://www.numpy.org> for their amazing numerical libraries
- M.de Hoon, S.Imoto, S.Miyano, Laboratory of DNA Information Analysis, Human Genome Center – University of Tokyo, for **pycluster** library
- Francisco Pereira, for his post on “Machine Learning (Theory)” blog:  
<http://hunch.net/?p=166>

Some extra slides

# Mutual Information (continued)



# Training Process: RNN mixture

Given a subject and a feature:

- join movie 1 and movie 2, remove blanks
- 5-fold cross validation
- train 3 times each of the five models with different random initialization of parameters,
- among the 15 resulting models remove those having negative correlation on the validation set
- evaluate remaining models on movie 3
- average all outputs according to the correlations on validation set (weighted average)

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