

# Mapping **fNIRS** to **fMRI** with Neural Data Augmentation and **Machine Learning Models**

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# Introduction

# Neuroimaging

**Neuroimaging** is to measure the structure and function of the brain.



# Neuroimaging Techniques

## fMRI\*

- Uses magnetic resonance
- Most widely used
- High costs
- Weak at head motion

\*fMRI: functional magnetic resonance imaging



Magnetom; Siemens, Germany

## fNIRS\*

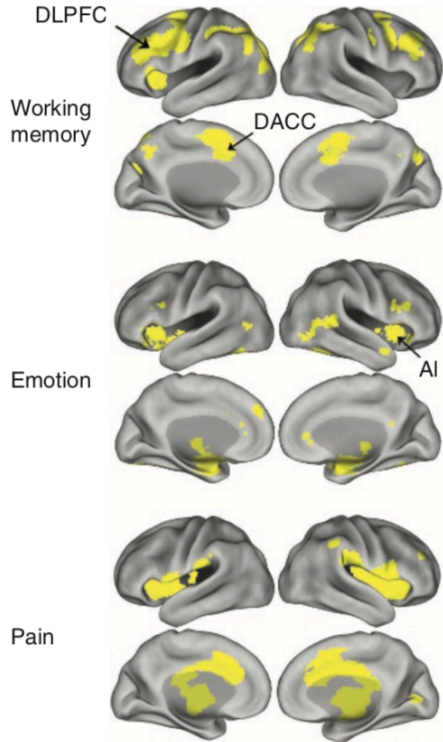
- Uses near-infrared light
- Cheap and portable
- Strong at head motion
- Low spatial resolution

\*fNIRS: functional near-infrared spectroscopy



NIRSIT; OBELAB, Korea

# Neuroimaging Literature



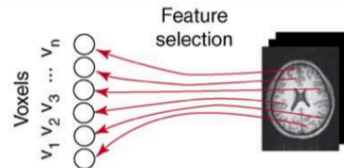
## Large-scale automated synthesis of human functional neuroimaging data

Tal Yarkoni<sup>1</sup>, Russell A Poldrack<sup>2-4</sup>, Thomas E Nichols<sup>5,6</sup>, David C Van Essen<sup>7</sup> & Tor D Wager<sup>1</sup> (2011)

### “fMRI-based biomarkers”

## Beyond mind-reading: multi-voxel pattern analysis of fMRI data

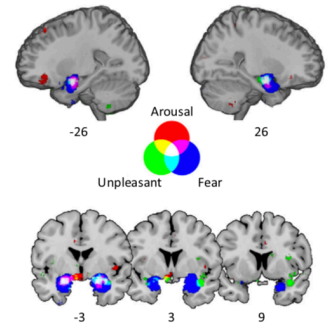
Kenneth A. Norman<sup>1</sup>, Sean M. Polyn<sup>2</sup>, Greg J. Detre<sup>1</sup> and James V. Haxby<sup>1</sup> (2006)



## Review

## Decoding the Nature of Emotion in the Brain

Philip A. Kragel<sup>1</sup> and Kevin S. LaBar<sup>1,\*</sup> (2016)

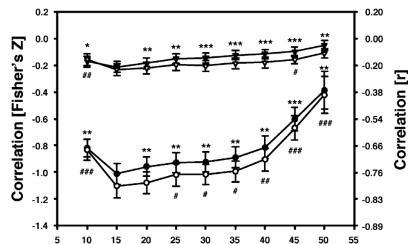
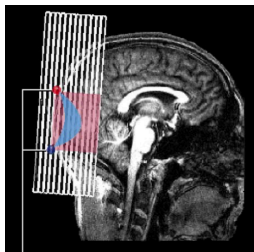


# Needs for Finding a Mapping Function

Previous literature has focused on 1) simultaneously recording and 2) correlation.

## Investigating the post-stimulus undershoot of the BOLD signal— A simultaneous fMRI and fNIRS study

Matthias L. Schroeter,<sup>a,b,\*</sup> Thomas Kupka,<sup>a</sup> Toralf Mildner,<sup>a</sup>  
Kâmil Uludağ,<sup>c</sup> and D. Yves von Cramon<sup>a</sup> (2006)



## Validating an image-based fNIRS approach with fMRI and a working memory task

Sobanawartiny Wijekumar<sup>a,\*</sup>, Theodore J. Huppert<sup>b</sup>, Vincent A. Magnotta<sup>c</sup>, Aaron T. Buss<sup>d</sup>,  
John P. Spencer<sup>a,\*</sup> (2017)

## Research Needs

Obtain fNIRS and fMRI measures  
separately

Find a mapping function

Enable a direct mapping from  
fNIRS to fMRI measures

# Objectives

01.

To examine if different scanning environment impacts task performance

02.

To find a mapping function between independently obtained fNIRS and fMRI measures

03.

To utilize data augmentation and machine learning to build such model

04.

To improve the plausibility of fNIRS as a potential surrogate of fMRI markers



# Methods

# Method I - *Participants, Design and Tasks*

## Participants



- **50** (female: 21; male: 29)
- **Age:** 23.4 (mean)
- **Data exclusion criteria**
  - Head motions
  - Scanner issues
  - Poor performance

## Experimental Design

Session 1



fNIRS

1-3  
days

Session 2

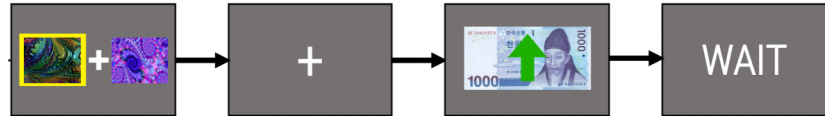


fMRI

## Tasks

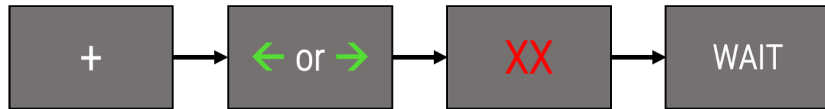
### Probabilistic Reversal Learning (PRL)

(Hampton et al., 2006)



- Decision-making in a volatile environment
  - Measure of interest: prediction error

### Stop Signal Task (SST) (Li et al., 2006)



- Response inhibition, an ability to inhibit action
  - Measure of interest: successful stop

# Method II – fMRI & fNIRS



Magnetom Trio;  
Siemens, Germany

## fMRI

- Records the BOLD\* signal
- 3T scanner
- Whole brain activity

\*BOLD: blood-oxygen-level-dependent



\*GLM: general linear modeling



NIRSIT;  
OBELAB, Korea

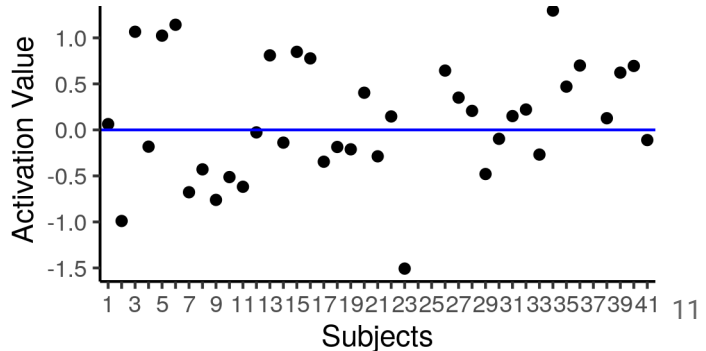
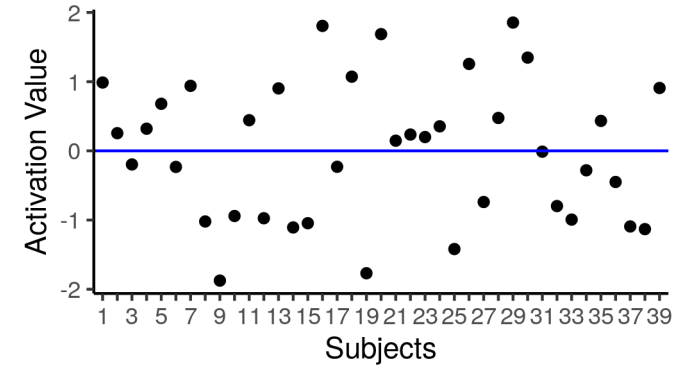
## fNIRS

- Records HbO\*, HbR\* and HbT\* signals (48 channels)
- Prefrontal brain activity

\*HbO: oxygenated hemoglobin  
\*HbR: deoxygenated hemoglobin  
\*HbT: total hemoglobin



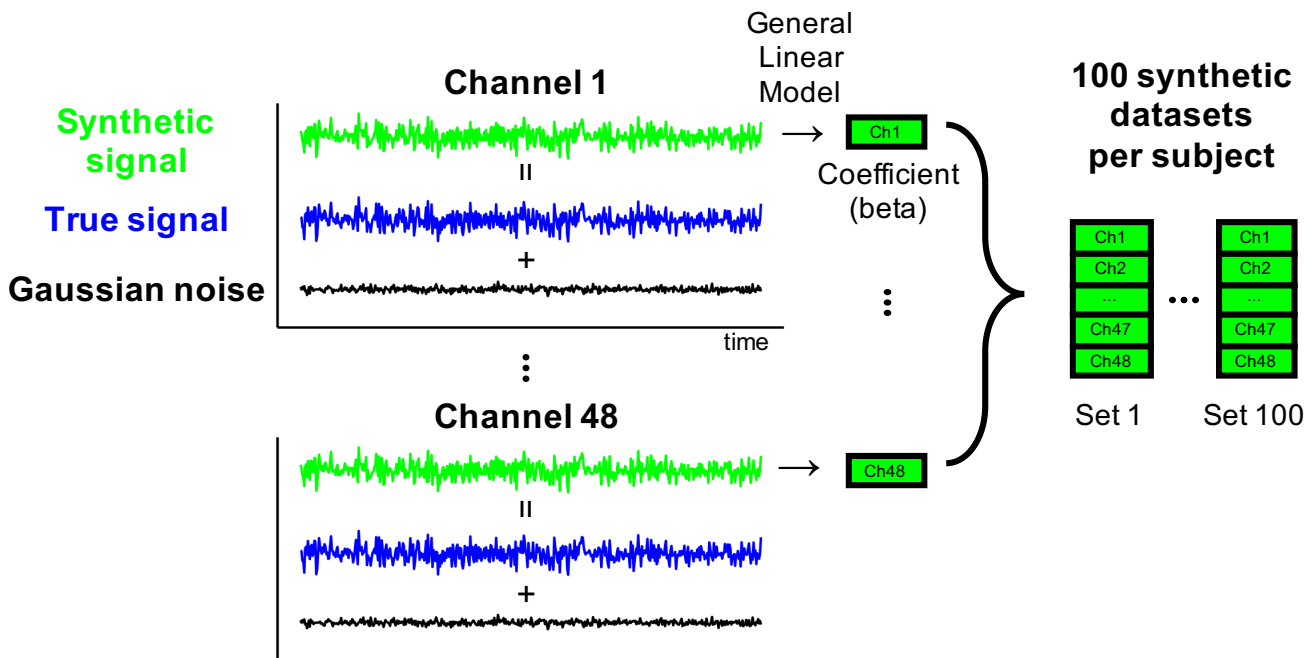
## SST Successful Response Inhibition Right Inferior Frontal Gyrus



# Method III - Data Augmentation

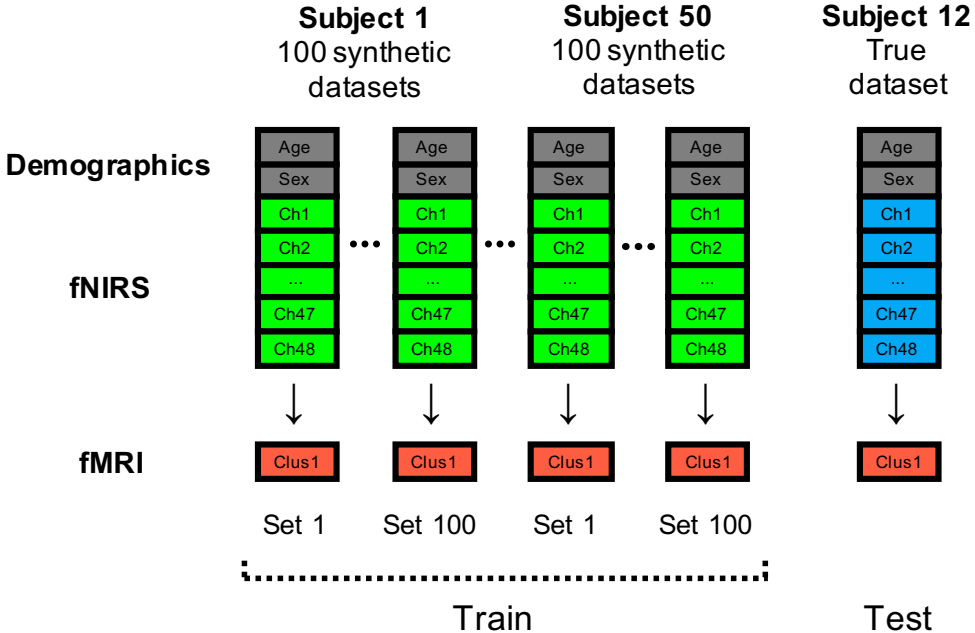
## Data augmentation to generate synthetic data based on the true data

(Nagasawa et al., 2020; Safdar et al., 2020).



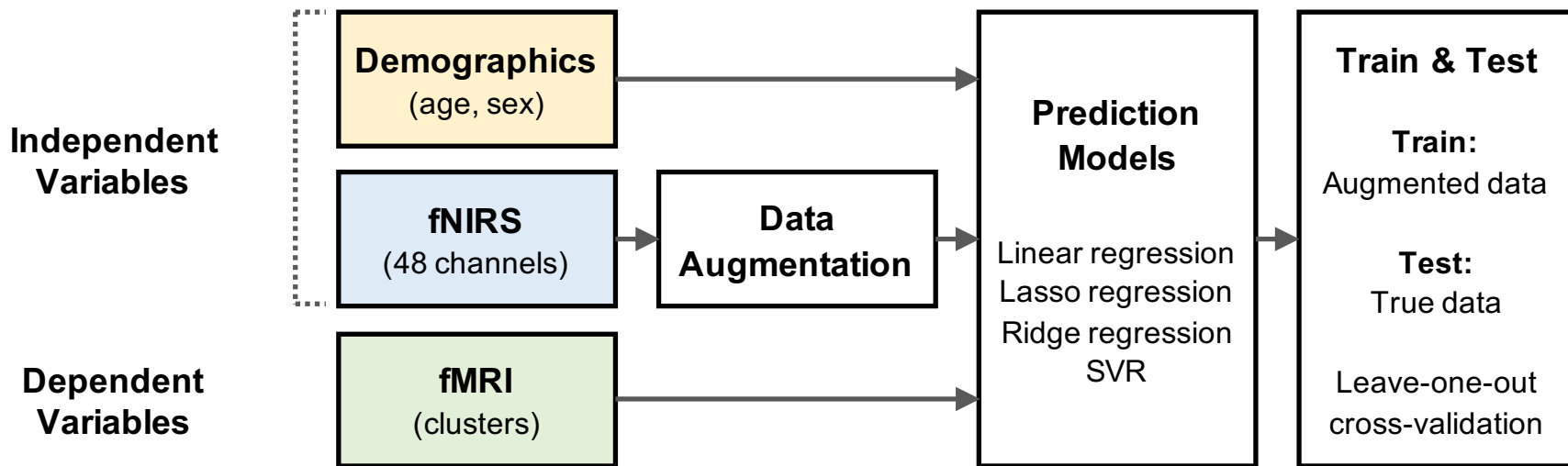
# Method IV - Leave-one-out cross-validation

## Leave-one-out cross-validation with the augmented and true dataset



# Prediction Pipeline

## Prediction with Data Augmentation and Machine Learning Models

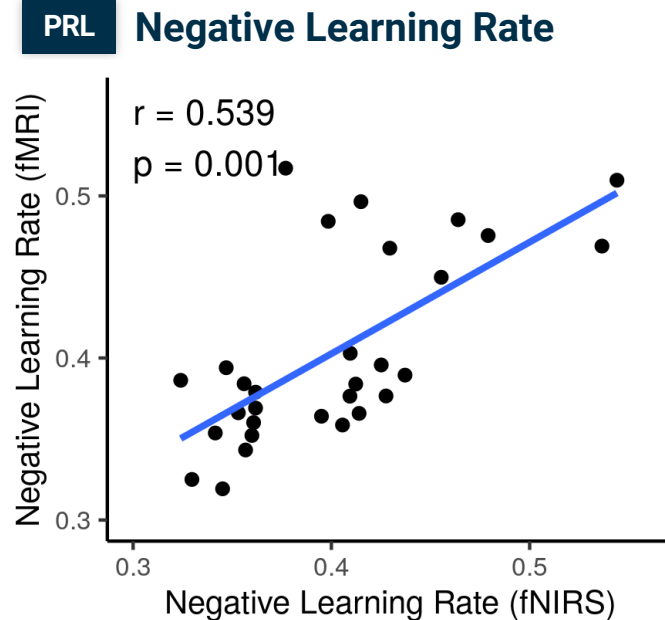
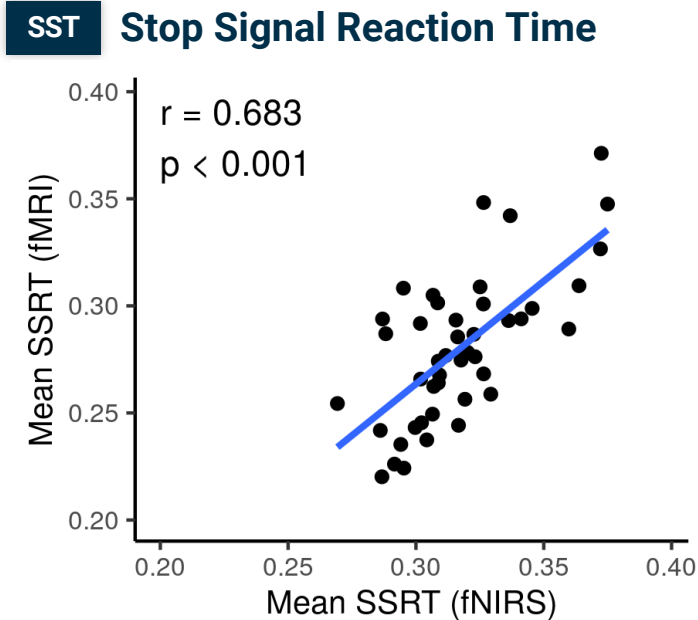


\*SVR: support vector regression (with radial basis function; RBF)

# Results

# Result I – Behavioral Consistency

- 1 Scanning environment did not significantly impact task performance.

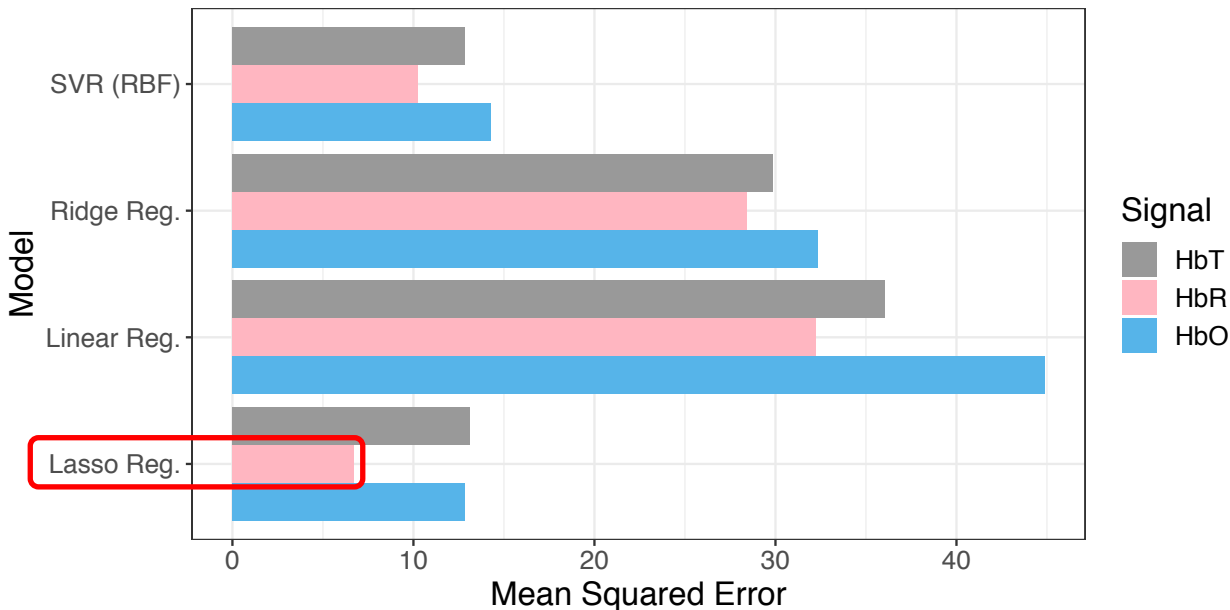




# Result II – *SST* Model Comparison

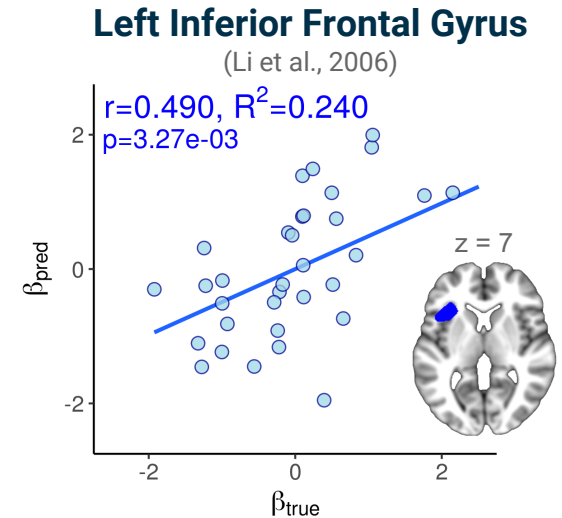
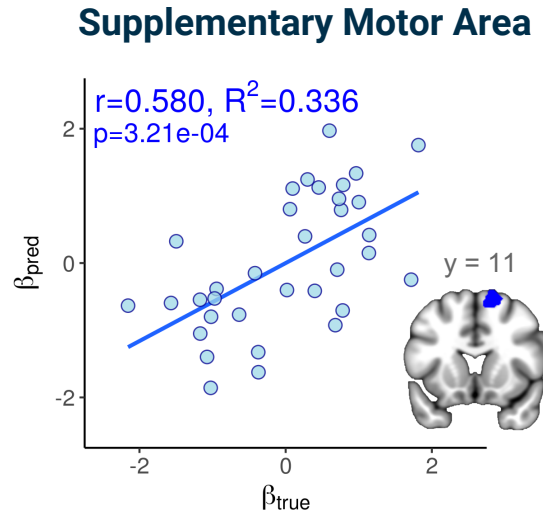
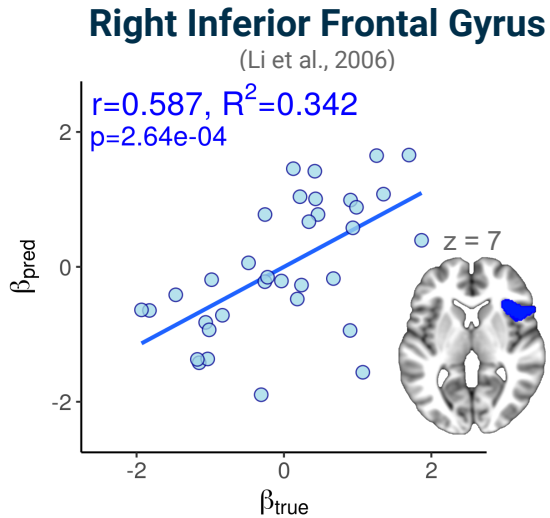
- 2 Lasso regression with the HbR signals outperformed other models.

Average Mean Squared Error of the Three Predicted Regions Prediction



# Result III – *SST* Prediction

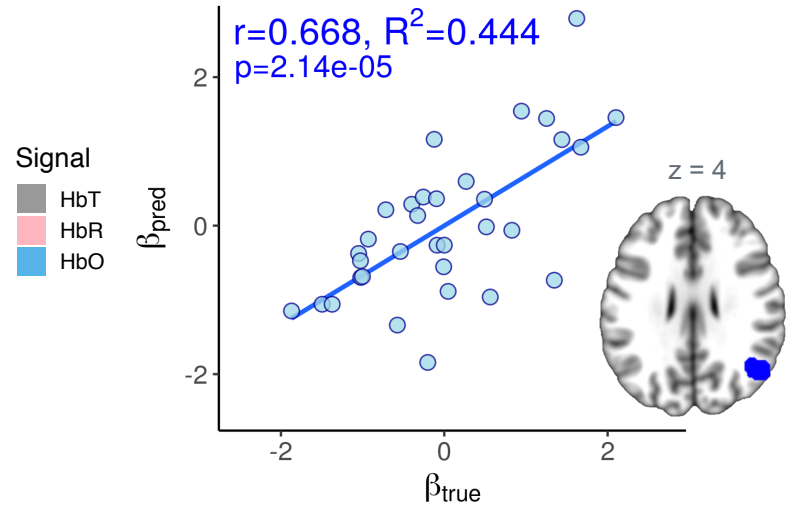
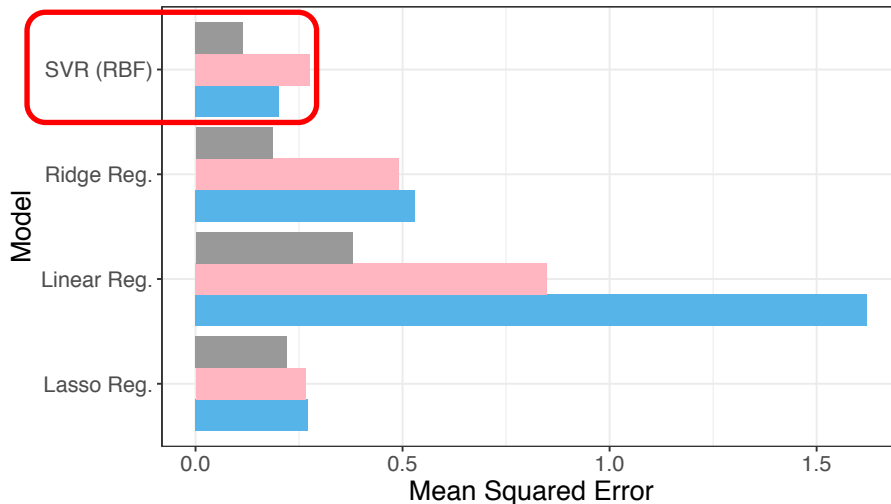
- 3 Three activated areas related to response inhibition in fMRI were predicted by the fNIRS pattern.



# Result IV – PRL Model Comparison & Prediction

- 4 One activated area related to prediction error in fMRI was predicted by the fNIRS pattern.

Mean Squared Error of the Inferior Parietal Lobule Prediction Inferior Parietal Lobule (Jane et al., 2013)



# Summary

# Summary



**Scanning environment did not significantly alter task performance.**



**fNIRS could predict fMRI markers of response inhibition.**



**fNIRS could predict activation reflecting prediction error during learning.**



**Our novel prediction pipeline including data augmentation and machine learning models mapped fNIRS into fMRI activation well.**

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**Thank you for your listening!**