

Bayesian Methods in Neuroimaging

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SAMSI Program

2015-16: Challenges in Computational Neuroscience (CCNS) | Statistical and Applied Mathematical Sciences Institute (SAMSI)

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2015-16: Challenges in Computational Neuroscience (CCNS)

Recently the NIH Brain Research through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies Initiative (BRAIN) was announced, which is part of a new Presidential focus aimed at revolutionizing studies of the human brain. Neuroscience is accumulating exponentially growing volumes of data and knowledge on specific aspects of the healthy and diseased brain, in different species, at different ages as BRAIN and Human brain projects gather momentum. Brain theory, modeling, and statistics will be essential to turn knowledge into better understanding of the brain, even though this is a formidable task.

To meet this critical need and important challenge, we must develop sophisticated mathematical and statistical methods in neuroscience to understand the underlying mechanisms that bridge multiple spatial and temporal scales, linking the activity of individual components (e.g., atoms, genes, or neurons), and their interactions to the dynamic behavior of the complex brain system. These important issues have attracted the attention of researchers in engineering, computer science, applied mathematics, as well as statistics.

The Challenges in Computational Neuroscience (CCNS) program builds upon three earlier full-year programs on Analysis of Object Oriented Data (AOOD) (2010-2011), Massive Dataset (MD) (2012-2013), and Low-dimensional Structure in High-dimensional Systems (LDHS) (2013-2014). The previous general programs have offered a good starting point, a solid foundation, which enables the participants of the CCN program to further address unique challenges imposed by the problems in computational neuroscience.

The CCNS program will focus on the following research topics:

- Inverse problems
- Signal processing
- Machine learning

Academic Year of Program

When: August 1, 2015 - May 30, 2016

Organizing Committee

Program Leaders:
[Hongtu Zhu](#)

Local Scientific Coordinators:
[David Dunson](#)
[J. S. Marron](#)
[Ezra Miller](#)
[Haipeng Shen](#)
[Rui Song](#)

Outline

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Neuroimaging Examples
- 3 Alternatives to MCMC
- 4 Parallelization
- 5 Concluding Remarks

Bayes Theorem

$$\pi(\theta | Y) = \frac{\pi(Y | \theta)\pi(\theta)}{\pi(Y)}$$

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Simple, yet profound

Example—Gaussian Data

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- ν, ϕ^2 and σ^2 known constants
- Then

$$[\mu | Y] \sim N(m, v)$$

where

$$v = \frac{\sigma^2 \phi^2}{n\phi^2 + \sigma^2}$$

$$m = \left(\frac{\sum_i^n y_i}{\sigma^2} + \frac{\nu}{\phi^2} \right) / v$$

Example (cont.)

- This example is a simple "toy example" with a simple posterior distribution

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Must rely on Monte Carlo simulation techniques

Monte Carlo Simulation

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 - Metropolis algorithm

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...to name a few

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- No guarantee how long it will take

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 - these (MC)MC simulations methods computationally intense
 - “behave poorly”—samples highly correlated (called slow mixing)

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- For complex problems, including those in Neuroimaging,
 - these (MC)MC simulations methods computationally intense
 - “behave poorly”—samples highly correlated (called slow mixing)
- Must run the simulation a very long time to obtain good estimates of the posterior
 - Weeks to months

[Back to this latter](#)

Pre-surgical fMRI

Liu, Z., Berrocal, V. J., Bartsch, A. J., Johnson, T. D. (2014) Pre-Surgical fMRI data analysis using a spatially adaptive conditionally autoregressive model. Submitted to *Bayesian Analysis*.

- Standard fMRI methods have too strict control of false positives

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- For pre-surgical fMRI, control of false negatives is vital
 - Don't want to cut out functionally eloquent regions by mistake

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- For pre-surgical fMRI, control of false negatives is vital
 - Don't want to cut out functionally eloquent regions by mistake
- As is control of smoothing between boundaries of high and low signal intensity
 - Want to smooth where signal changes slowly
 - Don't want to smooth where signal is rapidly changing

This motivates our approach

Pre-surgical fMRI—Our Approach

- At voxel i model the signal indep. with mean μ_i and var. σ_i^2
- Place a **spatially adaptive** CAR model on the μ_i
 - Spatially correlates the means
 - Spatially adapts smoothness to the image

$$\left[Y_i \mid \mu_i, \sigma_i^2 \right] \sim \mathbf{N}(\mu_i, \sigma_i^2)$$

$$\left[\mu_i \mid \mu_{-i}, \sigma_i^2 \right] \sim \mathbf{N} \left(\sum_{j \sim i} \mu_j / N_i, c_i \sigma_i^2 \right)$$

$$\left[\ln(\sigma_i^2) \mid \ln(\sigma_{-i}^2), \phi^2 \right] \sim \mathbf{N} \left(\sum_{j \sim i} \ln(\sigma_j^2) / N_i, \phi^2 / N_i \right)$$

$$c_i = \rho_i / (1 - \rho_i), \quad \rho_i \sim \mathbf{Beta}(\alpha, \beta)$$

ρ_i controls the amount of smoothing in the full conditional of μ_i

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- Bayesian decision theory: loss function penalizes false positives and false negatives asymmetrically.

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- With the guidance of a subject area expert
 - We penalize false negatives 11 times more heavily than false positives

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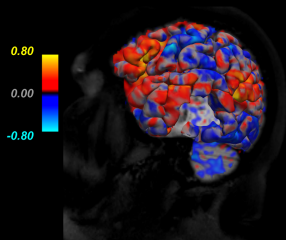
- Bayesian decision theory: loss function penalizes false positives and false negatives asymmetrically.
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We compare results with those from two other spatially adaptive CAR models

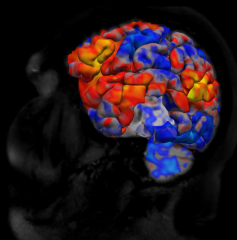
Speed: Fast, about 1 hour

Pre-surgical fMRI—Results

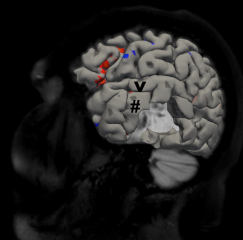
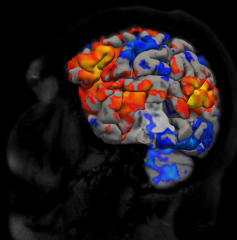
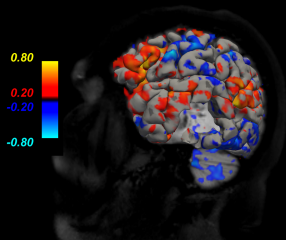
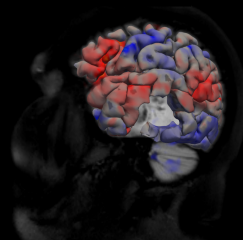
CWAS



RH



BN



Group Level fMRI Analysis

Xu, L., Johnson, T. D., Nichols, T. E., Nee, D. (2009) Modeling inter-subject variability in fMRI activation location: a Bayesian hierarchical spatial model. *Biometrics* **65** 1041–1051.

Study of Proactive Interference Resolution

- Proactive interference occurs when current information is lost because it is mixed up with previously learned, similar, information

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Study of Proactive Interference Resolution

- Proactive interference occurs when current information is lost because it is mixed up with previously learned, similar, information
 - One's ability to resolve proactive interference is key to in determining how much information one can store in short term memory

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 - Performance decrease a marker of proactive interference
- The left lateral prefrontal cortex is a region linked to proactive interference resolution

Group Level fMRI Analysis—Overview of Our Approach

A Bayesian Spatial Hierarchical Model

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A Bayesian Spatial Hierarchical Model

- Level 1: subject level data
 - Unsmoothed Z-stat image modeled as a mixture distribution
 - Spatial correlation accounted for in the mixing weights

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- **Level 4: Dirichlet process prior**
 - Population parameters modeled as a Dirichlet process

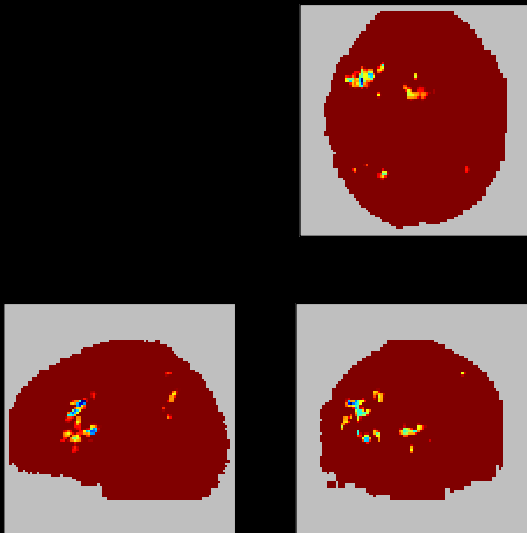
Group Level fMRI Analysis—Overview of Our Approach

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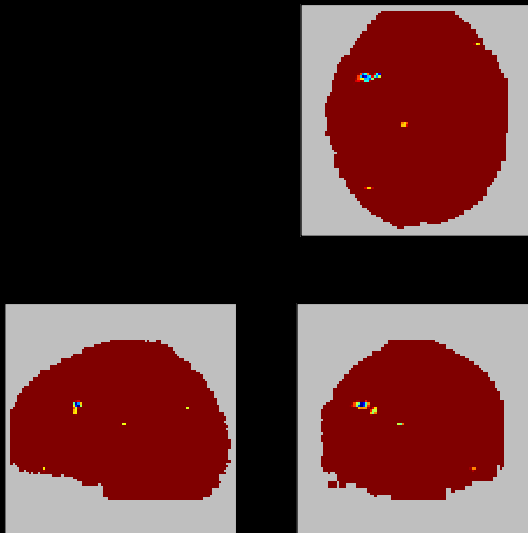
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SLOW—days to converge

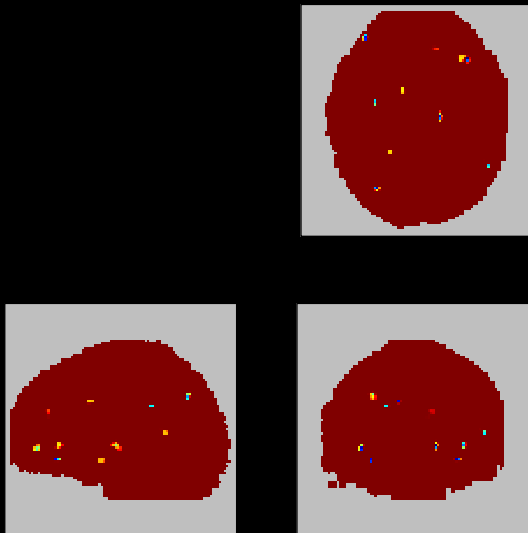
Group Level fMRI Analysis—Patient Level Results (Sbj 4)



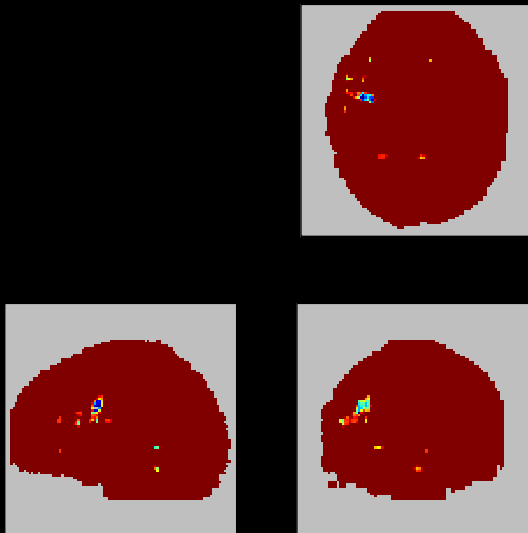
Group Level fMRI Analysis—Patient Level Results (Sbj 6)



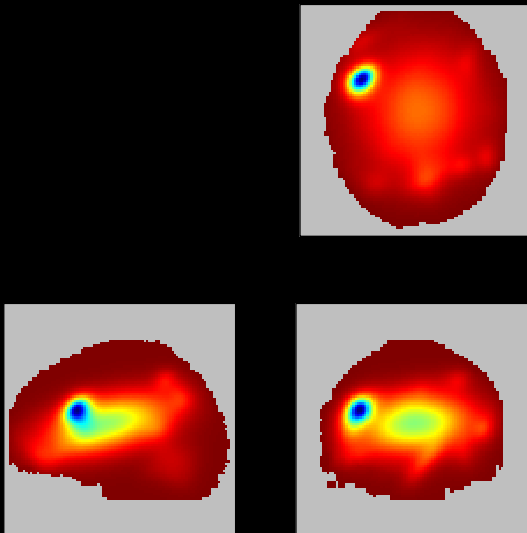
Group Level fMRI Analysis—Patient Level Results (Sbj 13)



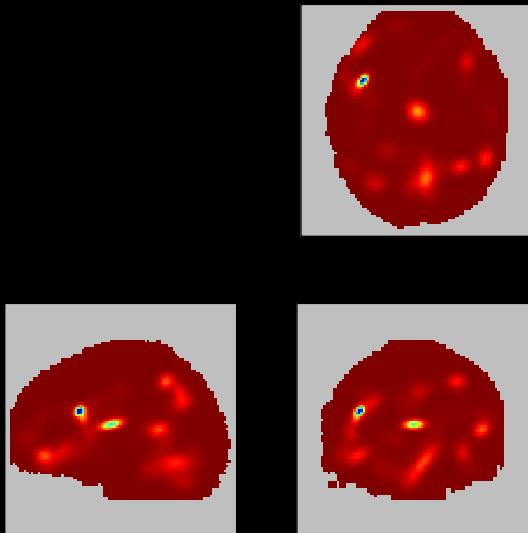
Group Level fMRI Analysis—Patient Level Results (Sbj 15)



Group Level fMRI Analysis—Marginal PPD of Ind Centers



Group Level fMRI Analysis—Marginal PPD of Population Centers



Other Areas

For every imaging problem there is a Bayesian solution

- Review paper:
 - Zhang, L., Guindani, M., Vannucci M. (2014) Bayesian Models for fMRI Data Analysis, *WIRES: Computational Statistics* (to appear)
- Particle Filtering:
 - Aston, J. A. D., Johansen, A. D. (2014) Bayesian Inference on the Brain: Bayesian Solutions to Selected Problems in Neuroimaging, To appear in *Proceedings of the IWBCCTA 2013*, Varanasi, India..

Approximation Algorithms

Stochastic

- Hamiltonian Monte Carlo (HMC)
- Reimannian Manifold HMC (RMHMC)

Deterministic

- Variational Bayes (VB)
- Integrated Nested Laplacian Approximation (INLA)

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Partial derivatives of the Hamiltonian determine how q and p change over time

HMC

Hamiltonian (partial differential) equations:

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dq_i}{dt} &= \frac{\partial H(q, p)}{\partial p_i} = \frac{\partial K(p)}{\partial p_i} \\ \frac{dp_i}{dt} &= -\frac{\partial H(q, p)}{\partial q_i} = -\frac{\partial U(q)}{\partial q_i}\end{aligned}$$

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For HMC:

- $U(q)$ —minus the log posterior density
- $K(p) = \frac{1}{2}p'M^{-1}p$
 - M is a SPD matrix, typically a scalar multiple of the identity matrix
- IF analytic solution to Hamilton equations, we have a deterministic solution to our Bayesian problem
- Typically need to solve equations numerically

HMC

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For HMC:

- Integrals approx. by iterating with the *Leapfrog Method*
- Solution will be biased (due to approx. error) unless
 - Metropolis update performed (either accept or reject current state)
 - Acceptance rates typically high (so almost deterministic solution)
- Mixing typically much faster than Metropolis-Hastings
 - Don't have to draw as many samples
 - <http://mc-stan.org>

RMHMC

For RMHMC:

- $K(q, p) = \frac{1}{2}p' M^{-1}(q)p$
- Don't need to guess $M(q)$
 - Automatically adjusts to geometry of parameter manifold
- $M(q)$ is expected Fisher info. matrix + negative Hessian of log-prior
- For RMHMC, need the inverse of $M(q)$ (no longer diagonal)
 - In most imaging problems the dim. of $M(q)$ is too large to invert

VB

- Approximates solution to $\pi(\theta | y)$ with a density $q(\theta)$

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- Restrict q to a manageable class of densities
 - $q(\theta) = \prod_{i=1}^p q_i(\theta_i)$ (mean-field approximation)
 - q is a member of a parametric family

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- Iterate until some convergence criteria is met

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- KEY: find a good variational density q that is much easier to deal with than $\pi(\theta | y)$
- Typically much faster than MCMC

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- Minimize the K-L distance between $q(\theta)$ and $\pi(\theta | y)$:

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- Iterate until some convergence criteria is met
- KEY: find a good variational density q that is much easier to deal with than $\pi(\theta | y)$
- Typically much faster than MCMC
 - However, posterior variances underestimated—sometimes severely

INLA

Consider the posterior of a latent Gaussian model: $\pi(x, \theta | y)$
Posterior marginals are

$$\pi(x_i | y) = \int \pi(x_i | \theta, y) \pi(\theta | y) d\theta$$
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Construct nested approximations:

$$\tilde{\pi}(x_i | y) = \int \tilde{\pi}(x_i | \theta, y) \tilde{\pi}(\theta | y) d\theta$$
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INLA

Now

$$\pi(\theta | y) \approx \tilde{\pi}(\theta | y) \propto \frac{\pi(x, \theta, y)}{\tilde{\pi}_G(x | \theta, y)} \Big|_{x=x^*(\theta)}$$

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- Very fast and accurate
- R package available that solves many problems
 - <http://www.r-inla.org>

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 - HMC:
 - Need analytic derivatives
 - Need to tune numerical integration step
 - Theory ensures approximation error can be made arbitrarily small

Simulation Study: HMC, VB or INLA?

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- Assessed stat. properties of estimators from INLA, VB and HMC

Simulation Study—Results

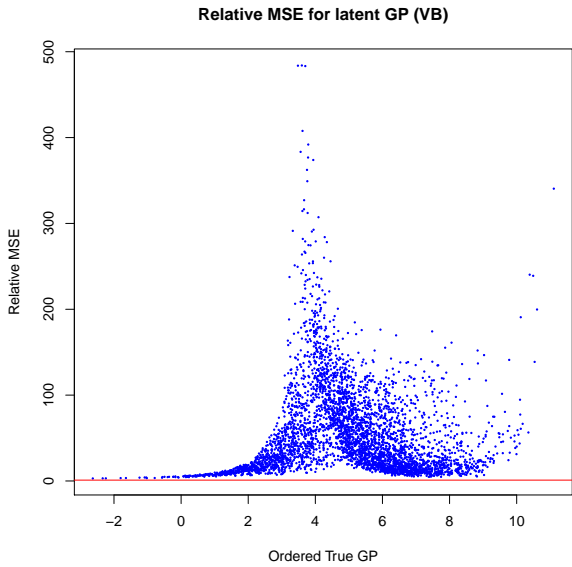
True Simulation Values: $\mu = 5$ $\sigma^{-2} = 0.286$ $E(N) = 792.1$

| Parm | HMC | | INLA | | VB | |
|---------------|-------|-----------|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | Bias | MSE | Bias(rel) | MSE(rel) | Bias(rel) | MSE(rel) |
| μ | 0.071 | 0.014 | 0.261(3.69) | 0.077(5.39) | 1.23(17.07) | 1.52(106.73) |
| σ^{-2} | 0.015 | $6e^{-4}$ | 0.061(4.15) | 0.004(7.01) | 0.281(19.20) | 0.079(131) |
| $E(N)$ | 0.877 | 791 | -179(-204) | 32666(41.28) | -11.36(-13) | 958.5(1.21) |

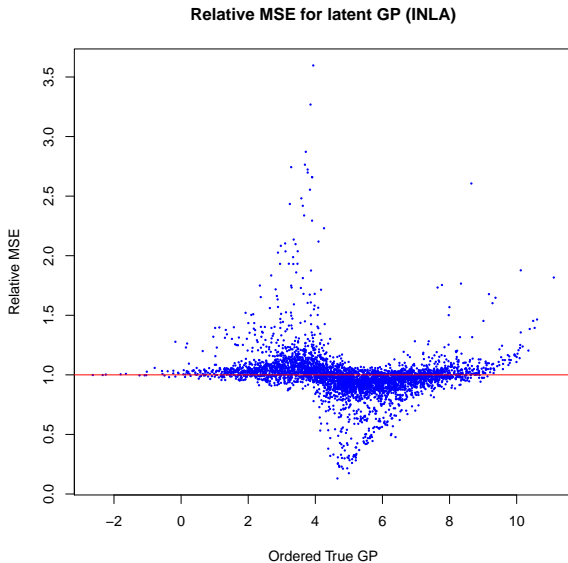
$E(N)$ is the expected number of points over the region.

It is the integrated intensity function.

Simulation Study—Results



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- GPUs
 - Best for data parallelization
 - Extremely good at “embarrassingly parallel” operations

GPU Example

Ge, T., Müller-Lenke, N., Bendfeldt, K., Nichols, T. E., Johnson, T. D. (2014) Analysis of Multiple Sclerosis lesions via spatially varying coefficients. *AOAS* **8** 1095–1118.

- A study of Multiple Sclerosis MRI data

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- A study of Multiple Sclerosis MRI data
- Want to correlate clinical symptoms with lesion location
- Lesions segmented by Neuroradiologists
- Work with binary images as outcomes
 - Spatial generalized linear model (probit or logit link)
- Clinical symptoms + nuisance covariates
 - Parameters are spatially varying over the brain and are spatially correlated
 - GMRF used to model the spatial correlation

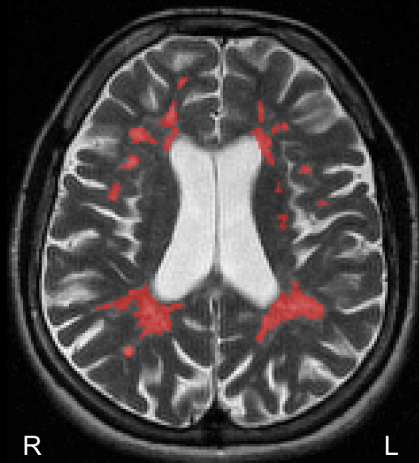
GPU Example—MS high-resolution imaging

Data are T_2 hyperintense lesions



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GPU Example

Covariates:

- 15 subject specific covariates
 - 7 FSS, PASAT score, age, gender, disease duration
 - 4 MS subtypes (dummy coded into 4 variables)

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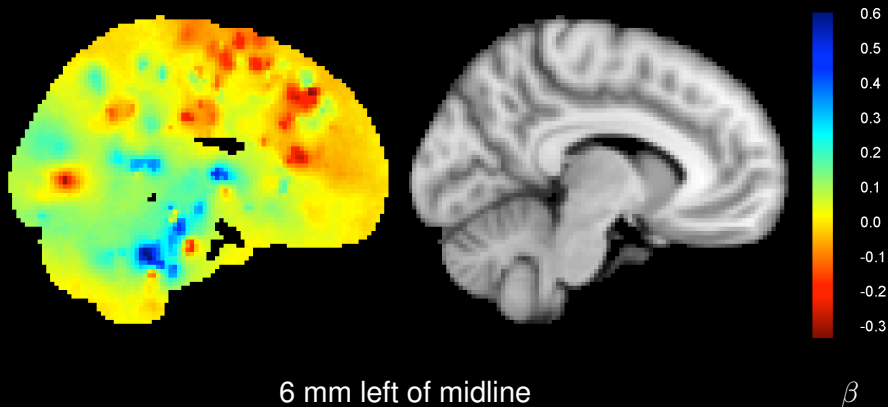
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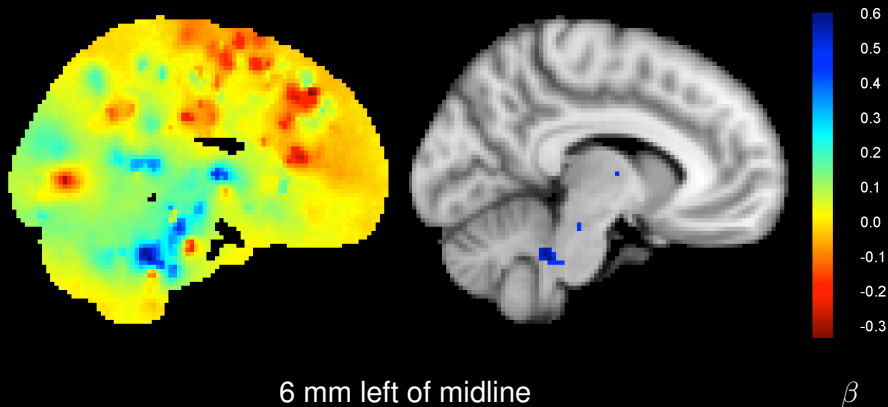
Problem Size:

- \approx 66 million observations (275K voxels \times 239 subjects)
- \approx 41 million spatially varying coefficients (275K voxels \times 15 covariates)

Spatially Varying Coefficients: Cerebellar Func. System Score



Spatially Varying Coefficients: Cerebellar Func. System Score



GPU Example

Timing:

- 10K iterations after 20K of burning
 - CPU: (Serial code). 38.67 sec/iteration (3.3 GHz processor, Linux)
 - GPU: (Parallel code). 0.21 sec/iteration (NVIDIA K20c, 2496 threads)

- Speed up: approximately 184 times faster.
 - 13.4 days (CPU) vs. 1hr 45min (GPU)

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The future of Bayesian Analysis in Neuroimaging appears Bright

References

INLA

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