

# fNIRS研究設計流程

## 近紅外腦功能資料處理工作坊

[http://www.ym.edu.tw/~cflu/CFLU\\_course\\_fnirsWorkshop.html](http://www.ym.edu.tw/~cflu/CFLU_course_fnirsWorkshop.html)

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2018/3/25 Chia-Feng Lu

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## 講習內容安排

- 09:10~11:00 fNIRS原理簡介
- 10:10~11:00 fNIRS實驗設計
- 11:10~12:00 fNIRS探頭擺放設計與位置確認
- **12:00~13:30 用餐與休息**
- 13:30~14:20 fNIRS實驗操作技巧
- 14:30~15:20 fNIRS標準訊號處理流程
- 15:30~16:20 fNIRS數據結果呈現與相關性分析



## 神經活化生理機轉

### Physiology of neural activity

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## Aspects of Neural Activity

### Synaptic transmission

- Local field potential (LFP)
- Input to the neuron

### Action potentials (spikes)

- Output signals
- Permit communications between neurons

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# Neurovascular Coupling

ATP is essential for neural activity

- Restoration of ionic gradients
- neurotransmitter recycling

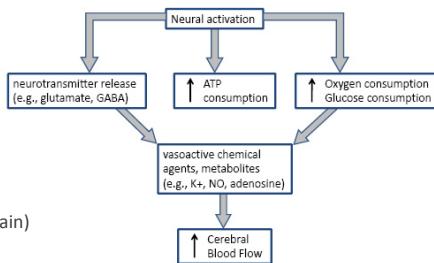
Glycolysis

- a small amount of ATP

Oxidative glucose metabolism (90% in brain)

- a large amount of ATP

Cerebral metabolism depends on a constant supply glucose and oxygen



Neurovascular coupling, scholarpedia.

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# Neurovascular Coupling

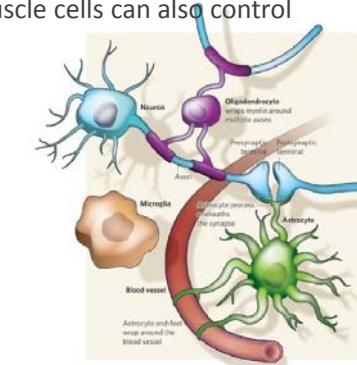
Multiple mechanisms...

- Astrocytes links neurotransmitter activity (glutamate cycling) to vascular responses.
- Direct neuronal innervation of smooth muscle cells can also control blood flow.

Requirement of metabolic nutrients

Elimination of waste products

- CO<sub>2</sub> and excessive heat



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# Neurovascular Coupling

A continuous supply of energy substrates is maintained by CBF

Neural activity

- Blood perfusion via capillaries ↑
- regional cerebral blood flow (rCBF) ↑
- regional cerebral blood oxygenation (rCBO) ↑

Changes in rCBF or rCBO can be used to

map brain activity

- Functional neuroimaging



Zlokovic & Apuzzo, 1998.

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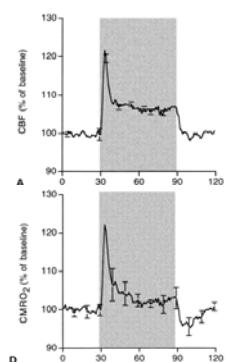
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# CBF and O<sub>2</sub> Consumption Mismatch

During neural activity...

- The fractional increases in CBF and glucose consumption are similar in magnitude.
- Oxygen consumption increases much less than CBF.

→ A net increase of oxygen in the blood and tissue.



CBF: cerebral blood flow

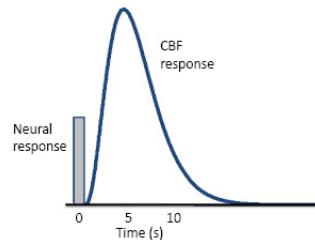
Anes et al., JCBFM 2001.

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# Coupling Properties

Use of vascular responses to infer neural activity

- **Time:** lack of temporal information in vascular response
- **Space:** focal activation of neurons  $\Leftrightarrow$  local vascular response?
- **Amplitude:** linear relationship?



# Coupling Properties: Time

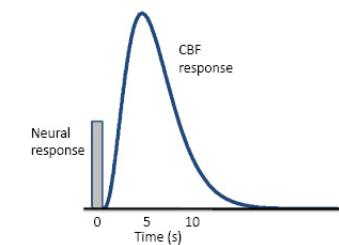
CBF vs. neural activation

- Delayed by 1 ~ 2 s
- Peaks 4 ~ 6 s after the neural response

Fast modulation of neural activity

is unlikely to be reflected in the vascular response.

- slow reaction of smooth muscle cells
- slow diffusion and uptake of neurovascular mediators



# Coupling Properties: Space

Spatial resolution of the vascular response

Vascular point spread function (PSF)

- 1~5 mm
- Depends on imaging conditions: monitoring tech., magnetic field, pulse sequence, species, and brain regions.

Gray matter,

- densest network of capillaries, intervessel distance of  $\sim 25 \mu\text{m}$

# Coupling Properties: Amplitude

In general, amplitude coupling appears to be largely linear.

- For stimulus durations larger than 4 s

Various nonlinearities have been noted

- neural responses below a certain amplitude may not evoke a CBF response
- neural responses may saturate, while vascular responses continue to increase

# Alteration Factors

## Disease

- the chemical mediators
- the dynamics of the vascular system
- hypertension, diabetes, and AD alter Ionic channels on vascular smooth muscle

## Aging

- change the vascular system
- increasing tortuosity or reducing elasticity of the blood vessels

## Pharmacology

- Diazoxide is used as a vasodilator → large vascular responses with little or no change in neural activity.
- Hypercapnia (the concentration of CO<sub>2</sub> in the blood ↑) → vasodilation.



# 實驗設計

## Experimental Design

**Reference:** *Basics of Experimental Design for fMRI: Block Designs & ER designs* <http://www.fmri4newbies.com>

# Concept of Exp. Design

## If neuroimaging is the answer, what is the question?

- Stephen M. Kosslyn (1999). *Phil Trans R Soc Lond B*.

Is your study designed to answer questions about the functioning of the brain?

Does your study bear on specific questions about the roles of particular brain regions?

# Considerations in fNIRS

The foreknowledge of the location

The expected characteristics of the activation signal

The specific hypothesis addressed by the study

→ Block design or Event-related (ER) design ?

# Location of activation

Limited source and detector optodes

Limited to the outer layers of the brain (approximately 5-8 mm)

The depth sensitivity may be adjusted based on the source-to-detector distance

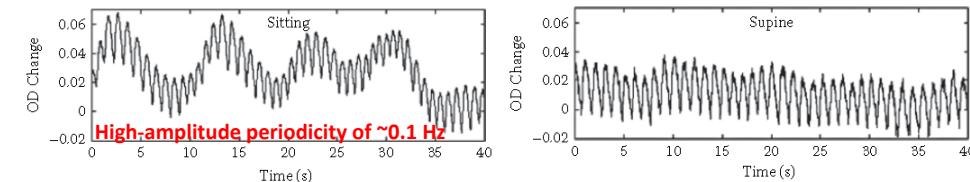
- Visual cortex vs. prefrontal cortex

# Baseline Recording

without stimulation

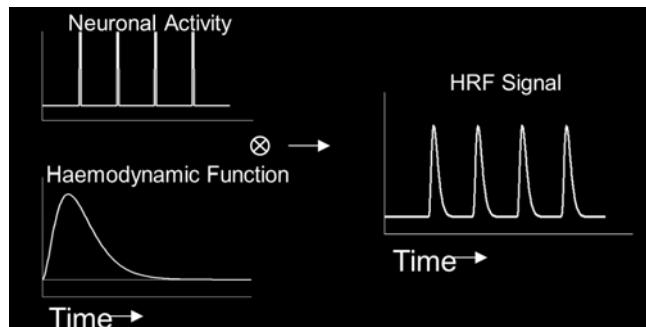
Eye-closed resting for a subject

- 830nm, at C3 location
- The Mayer wave (~0.1 Hz), a systemic blood pressure oscillation, is more prominent when standing or sitting
- Vascular physiology, vasomotion or autonomic regulation

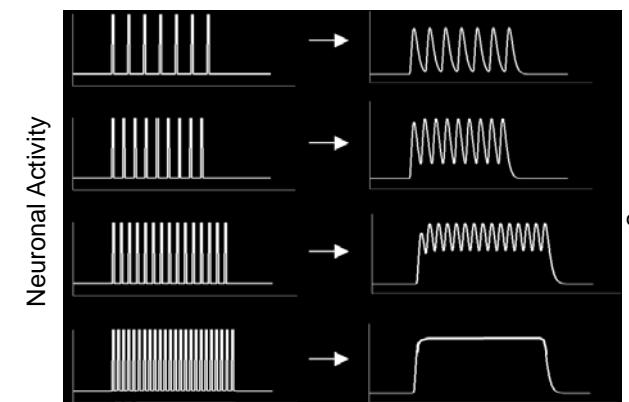


# Convolution of Single Trials

Anticipated temporal profile of HRF

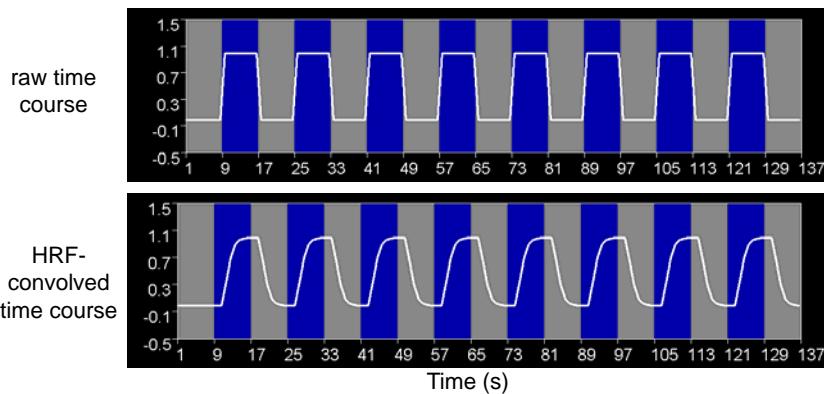


# Convolution of Single Trials



## Temporal dynamics of signal

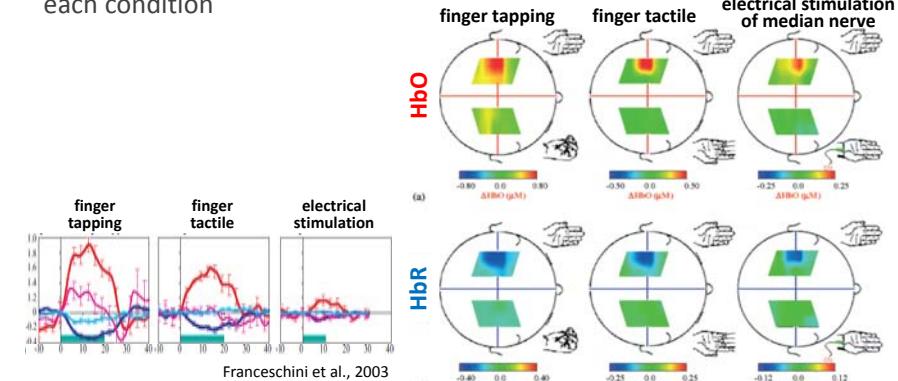
Block design



## fNIRS evoked response

Blocked design

alternated stimulation periods (20s) and rest periods (20s), 10 blocks for each condition



## Statistical Power

The probability of rejecting the null hypothesis when it is actually false

- if there's an effect, how likely are you to find it?

### Effect size

- More trials/blocks

### Sample size

- More subjects, more runs

### Signal to noise ratio

- Careful setup, fewer artifacts

→ increase power

## Put conditions in a run

As far as possible, put the two/all conditions you want to compare within the same run.

### Why?

- subjects get drowsy and bored
- Instrumentation may have different amounts of noise from one run to another (e.g., baseline shift)
- May cause stats differently between runs

# Experiment Duration

Short enough that the subject can remain comfortable without unnecessary moving or distraction

Long enough that studied condition can be included in run

- Simplify the task condition, usually 2~6 conditions
- At least 3 repetition for each condition
- 

Ideal duration is between 10 to 30 minutes

# Block Design

## Repeating Sequence

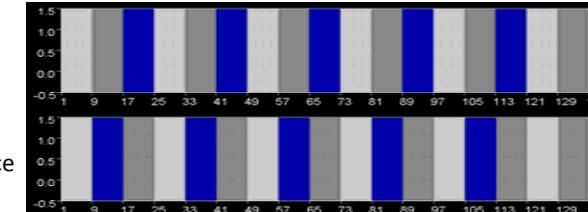
We could just order the epochs in a repeating sequence...

**Problem:** There might be order effects (especially for cognitive study)

**Solution:** Counterbalance with another order

**Caution:** remember the order !

repeating sequence



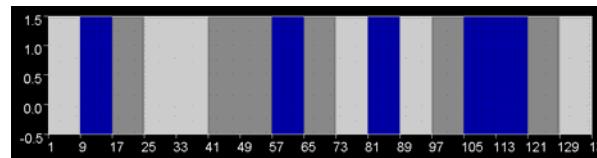
counterbalance

# Block Design

## Random Sequence

We could make multiple runs with the order of conditions randomized...

**Problem:** To avoid flukiness, you'd want to have different randomization for different runs and different subjects, but then you're going to spend ages defining protocols for analysis



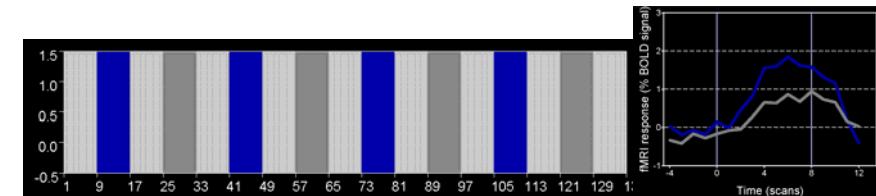
# Block Design

## Regular Baseline

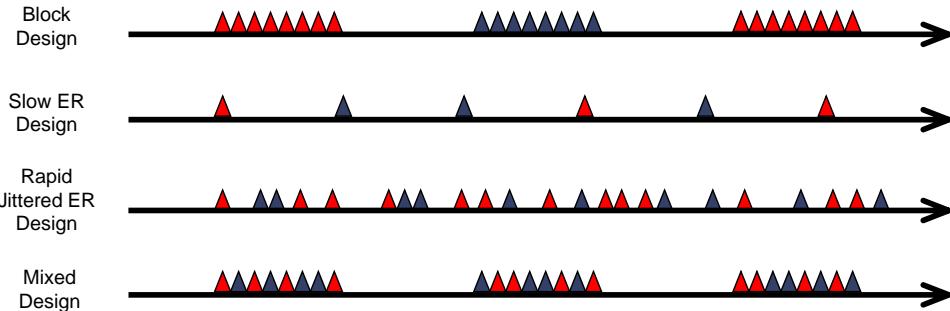
A fixation baseline between all stimulus conditions (either with regular or random order)

**Benefit:** With event-related averaging, this regular baseline design provides nice clear time courses, even for a block design

**Problem:** Spending half of scan time collecting the condition you care the least about



# Design Types



# Block Designs

## Pros & Cons

### Pros

- high detection power (identify channels of activation)
- has been the most widely used approach
- accurate estimation of hemodynamic response function is not as critical as with event-related designs

### Cons

- poor estimation power (measure the time course of Hb)
- subjects get into a mental set for a block
- very predictable for subject
- can't look at effects of single events (e.g., correct vs. incorrect trials, remembered vs. forgotten items)
- long experiment duration with too many conditions (e.g., more than 4 conditions + baseline)

# Slow Event-Related Designs

## Pros & Cons

### Pros

- excellent estimation
- useful for studies with delay periods
- very useful for designs with motion artifacts (grasping, swallowing, speech) because you can tease out artifacts
- analysis is straightforward

### Cons

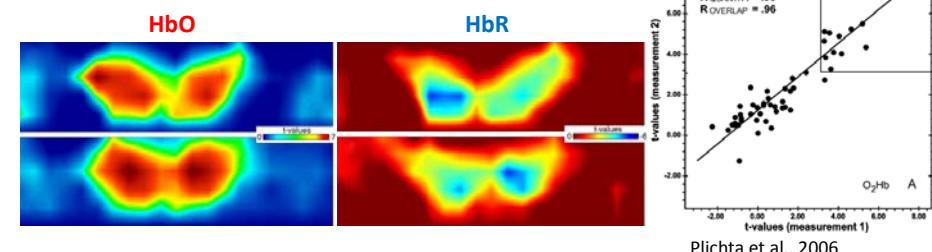
- poor detection power because you get very few trials per condition by spending most of your sampling power on estimating the baseline
- subjects can get VERY bored and sleepy with long inter-trial intervals

# Reliability of ER fNIRS

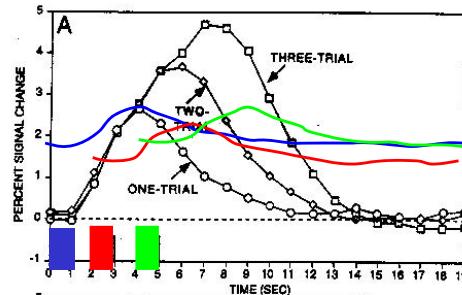
a simple checkerboard for 1200 ms reversing in contrast at 6 Hz followed by 13.8 s of a black screen presentation

number of trials was set to  $n = 60$

retest interval = 3 weeks



# Linearity of BOLD signal



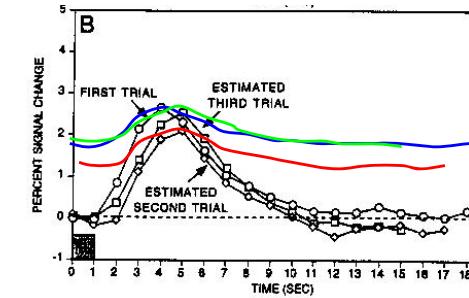
Linearity:  
"Do things add up?"

red = 2 - 1

green = 3 - 2

Dale & Buckner, 1997

# Linearity of BOLD signal



Sync each trial response  
to start of trial

Not quite linear but good enough!  
(with interval of 2~4 s)

Dale & Buckner, 1997

Similar Concepts can be applied to fNIRS signals.

# Design Steps

## Participants' tolerance

- Age, disease ...

## Study aims

- Target Locations
- Number of conditions
- Anticipated signals

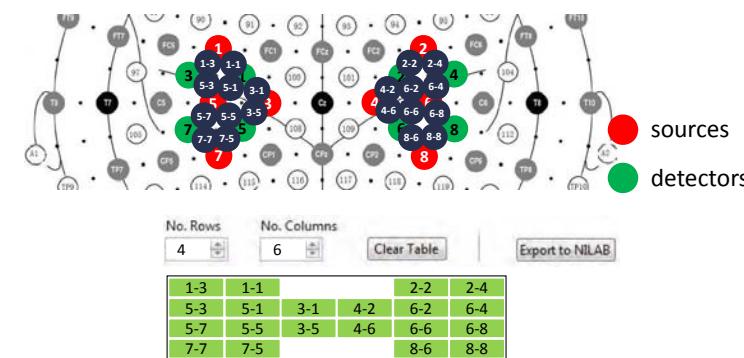
## Experiment paradigm

- S-D arrangement, number of channel
- Block design or event-related design
- Task instruction & stimulation delivery

## Log sheet

- Name, gender, age, history number/ID, habitual hand, study group
- Experiment paradigm and notation

# Bilateral Arm lifting

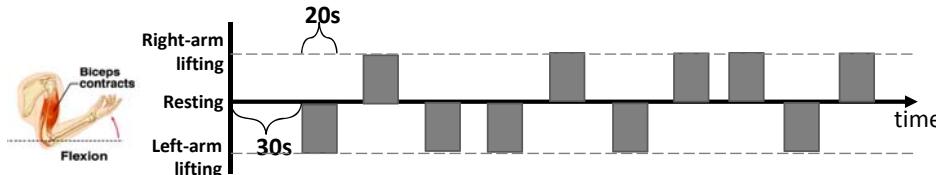


## Block design diagram

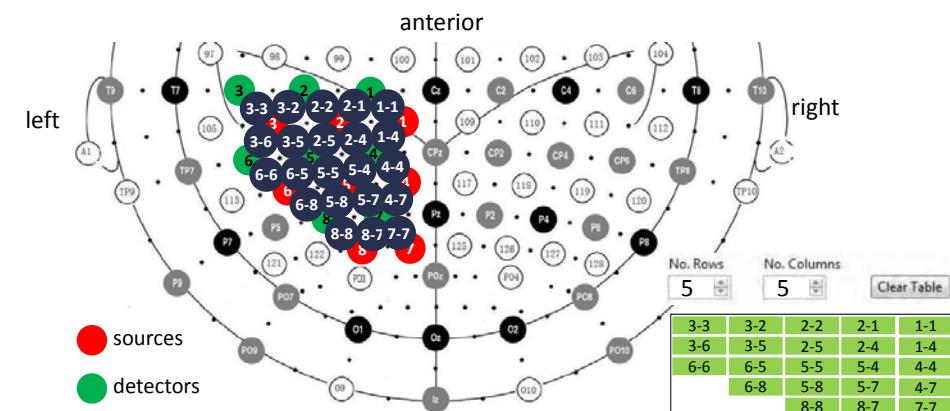
**Baseline** Relax and sit on an armchair (30s)  
**Experiment I** Right-arm lifting (20 s)  
**Rest interval** Relax and sit on an armchair 20 s  
**Experiment II** Left-arm lifting (20 s)

(Overall ~7.2 mins)

※Experiment States were marked by "F1" and Rest intervals were marked by "F3"



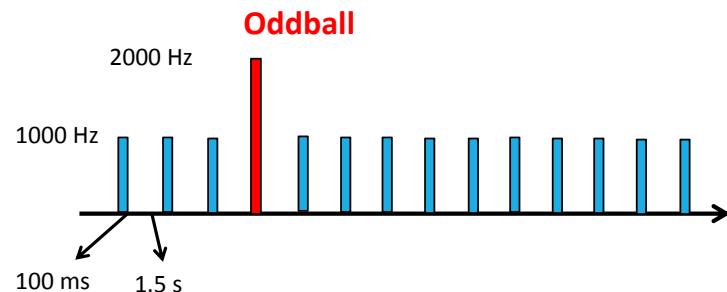
## Oddball task



## Event-Related design

12 oddball events (8% of total number)

3~6 regular tones before, and 10 after oddball



## Q & A

Thanks for your attention : )