**Supporting Information Appendix** 

Cluster failure: Why fMRI inferences for spatial extent have inflated false positive rates

Anders Eklund, Thomas Nichols, Hans Knutsson

**Methods** 

Resting state fMRI data

Resting state fMRI data from 499 healthy controls were downloaded from the 1000 functional connectomes project [1]

(http://fcon\_1000.projects.nitrc.org/fcpClassic/FcpTable.html). The Beijing, Cambridge, and Oulu datasets were selected for

their large sample sizes (198, 198 and 103 subjects respectively) and their narrow age ranges (Beijing: 18 - 26 years, mean

21.16, SD 1.83, Cambridge: 18 - 30 years, mean 21.03, SD 2.31, Oulu: 20 - 23 years, mean 21.52, SD 0.57). For the Beijing

data, there are 76 male and 122 female subjects. For the Cambridge data, there are 75 male and 123 female subjects. For the

Oulu data, there are 37 male and 66 female subjects. Three Tesla (T) MR scanners were used for the Beijing as well as for the

Cambridge data, while a 1.5 T scanner was used for the Oulu data.

The Beijing data were collected with a repetition time (TR) of 2 seconds and consist of 225 time points per subject, 64 x 64

x 33 voxels of size 3.125 x 3.125 x 3.6 mm<sup>3</sup>. The Cambridge data were collected with a TR of 3 seconds and consist of 119

time points per subject, 72 x 72 x 47 voxels of size 3 x 3 x 3 mm<sup>3</sup>. The Oulu data were collected for with a TR of 1.8 seconds

and consist of 245 time points per subject,  $64 \times 64 \times 28$  voxels of size  $4 \times 4 \times 4.4$  mm. For each subject there is one  $T_1$ -weighted

anatomical volume which can be used for normalization to a brain template. According to the motion plots from FSL, four Oulu

subjects moved slightly more than 1 mm in any direction. According to motion plots from AFNI, one Cambridge subject, three

Beijing subjects and eight Oulu subjects moved slightly more than 1 mm. The fMRI data have not been corrected for geometric

distortions, and no field maps are available for this purpose.

We randomly selected subsets of subjects for one sample t-tests (group activation) and two-sample t-tests (group difference).

Since the subjects were not performing any task and all are healthy and of similar age, the number of analyses with one or more

significant effects should follow the nominal rate (analyses were performed separately for Beijing, Cambridge and Oulu). The

same approach has previously been used to test the validity of parametric statistics for voxel based morphometry [2, 3].

Random group generation

Each random group was created by first applying a random permutation to a list containing all the 198, or 103, subject numbers.

To create two random groups of 20 subjects each, the first 20 permuted subject numbers were put into group 1, and the

following 20 permuted subject numbers were put into group 2. According to the n choose k formula  $\frac{n!}{k!(n-k)!}$  it is possible to

create approximately  $1.31 \cdot 10^{42}$  such random group divisions (for n = 198 and k = 40). This collection of random analyses is

not independent, but the estimate of the familywise false positive rate is unbiased (as the expectation operator is additive under dependence). A total of 1,000 random analyses were used to estimate the FWE (the same 1,000 analyses for all softwares and all parameter combinations), for which the normal approximation of the Binomial 95% confidence interval is 3.65% - 6.35% for a nominal FWE of 5%. Since the independence assumption of this normal approximation does not hold, we conducted Monte Carlo simulations to assess its accuracy (see Supplementary Table 1).

Number of subjects	Sample size	Inference	95% CI
103	20	Voxel	3.40% - 7.00%
103	20	Cluster, CDT $p = 0.001$	3.00% - 7.80%
103	20	Cluster, CDT $p = 0.01$	2.50% - 8.70%
103	40	Voxel	2.40% - 9.30%
103	40	Cluster, CDT $p = 0.001$	1.90% - 11.30%
103	40	Cluster, CDT $p = 0.01$	1.50% - 13.50%
198	20	Voxel	3.40% - 6.60%
198	20	Cluster, CDT $p = 0.001$	3.20% - 6.80%
198	20	Cluster, CDT $p = 0.01$	2.80% - 7.20%
198	40	Voxel	3.10% - 6.90%
198	40	Cluster, CDT $p = 0.001$	2.50% - 7.50%
198	40	Cluster, CDT $p = 0.01$	2.00% - 8.00%

## Code availability

Parametric group analyses were performed using SPM 8 (http://www.fil.ion.ucl.ac.uk/spm/software/spm8/),

FSL 5.0.7 (http://fsl.fmrib.ox.ac.uk/fsldownloads/) and AFNI (http://afni.nimh.nih.gov/afni/download/afni/releases, compiled August 13 2014, version 2011\_12\_21\_1014). FSL can perform non-parametric group analyses using the function randomise, but we here used our BROCCOLI software [4] (https://github.com/wanderine/BROCCOLI) to lower the processing time. All the processing scripts are freely available (https://github.com/wanderine/ParametricMultisubjectfMRI) to show all the processing settings and to facilitate replication of the results. Since all the software packages and all the fMRI data are also freely available, anyone can replicate the results in this paper.

## First level analyses

A processing script was used for each software package to perform first level analyses for each subject, resulting in brain activation maps in a standard brain space (Montreal Neurological Institute (MNI) for SPM and FSL, and Talairach for AFNI).

All first level analyses involved normalization to a brain template, motion correction and different amounts of smoothing (4, 6, 8 and 10 mm full width at half maximum). Slice timing correction was not performed, as the slice timing information is not available for these fMRI datasets. A general linear model (GLM) was applied to the preprocessed fMRI data, using different regressors for activity (B1, B2, E1, E2). The estimated head motion parameters were used as additional regressors in the design matrix, for all packages, to further reduce effects of head motion.

First level analyses for SPM were performed using a Matlab batch script, closely following the SPM manual. The spatial normalization was done as a two step procedure, where the mean fMRI volume was first aligned to the anatomical volume (using the function 'Coregister' with default settings). The anatomical volume was aligned to MNI space using the function 'Segment' (with default settings), and the two transforms were finally combined to transform the fMRI data to MNI space at 2 mm isotropic resolution (using the function 'Normalise: Write'). Spatial smoothing was finally applied to the spatially normalized fMRI data. The first level models were then fit in the atlas space, i.e. not in the subject space.

For FSL, first level analyses were setup through the FEAT GUI. The spatial normalization to the brain template (MNI152\_T1\_2mm\_brain.nii.gz) was performed as a two step linear registration using the function FLIRT (which is the default option). One fMRI volume was aligned to the anatomical volume using the BBR (boundary based registration) option in FLIRT (default). The anatomical volume was aligned to MNI space using a linear registration with 12 degrees of freedom (default), and the two transforms were finally combined. The first level models were fit in the subject space (after spatial smoothing), and the contrasts and their variances were then transformed to the atlas space.

First level analyses in AFNI were performed using the standardized processing script afni\_proc.py, which creates a tesh script which contains all the calls to different AFNI functions. The spatial normalization to Talairach space was performed as a two step procedure. One fMRI volume was first linearly aligned to the anatomical volume, using the script align\_epi\_anat.py. The anatomical volume was then linearly aligned to the brain template (TT\_N27+tlrc) using the script @auto\_tlrc. The transformations from the spatial normalization and the motion correction were finally applied using a single interpolation, resulting in normalized fMRI data in an isotropic resolution of 3 mm. Spatial smoothing was applied to the spatially normalized fMRI data, and the first level models were then fit in the atlas space (i.e. not in the subject space).

Default drift modeling or highpass filtering options were used in each of SPM, FSL and AFNI. A discrete cosine transform with cutoff of 128 seconds was used for SPM, while highpass filters with different cutoffs where used for FSL (20 seconds for activity paradigm B1, 60 seconds for B2 and 100 seconds for E1 and E2), matching the defaults used by the FEAT GUI, and AFNI's Legende polynomial order is 4 and 3 for the Beijing and the Cambridge data, respectively (based on total scan duration). Temporal correlations were further corrected for with a global AR(1) model in SPM, an arbitrary temporal autocorrelation function regularized with a Tukey taper and adaptive spatial smoothing in FSL and a voxel-wise ARMA(1,1) model in AFNI.

#### Group analyses

A second processing script was used for each software package to perform random effect group analyses, using the results from the first level analyses. For SPM, group analyses were only performed with the resulting beta weights from the first level analyses, using ordinary least squares (OLS) regression over subjects. For FSL, group analyses were performed both using FLAME1 (which is the default option) and OLS. The FLAME1 function uses both the beta weight and the corresponding variance of each subject, subsequently estimating a between subject variance. For AFNI, group analyses were performed using the functions 3dttest++ (OLS, using beta estimates from the function 3dDeconvolve which assumes independent errors) and 3dMEMA (which is similar to FLAME1 in FSL, using beta and variance estimates from the function 3dREMLfit which uses a voxel-wise ARMA(1,1) model of the errors).

For the non-parametric analyses in BROCCOLI, first level results from FSL were used with OLS regression. A one-sample permutation test on measures of change (i.e. BOLD contrast images) is conducted by randomly flipping the sign of each subject's data. Also known as the wild bootstrap, this is an exact test when the errors at each voxel are symmetrically distributed [5]. A two-sample permutation test proceeds by randomly re-assigning group labels to subjects. Each non-parametric group analysis was performed using 1,000 permutations or sign flips, a random sample of the millions of possible sign-flips and permutations. For each permutation the maximal test statistic (voxel statistic or cluster size) over the brain is retained, creating the null maximum distribution used for FWE inference.

Voxel-wise FWE-corrected p-values from SPM and FSL were obtained based on their respective implementations of random field theory [6], while AFNI FWE p-values were obtained with a Bonferroni correction for the number of voxels (AFNI does not provide any specific program for voxel-wise FWE p-values). For the non-parametric analyses, FWE-corrected p-values were calculated as the proportion of the maximum statistic null distribution being as large or larger than a given statistic value.

Cluster-wise FWE-corrected p-values from SPM and FSL were likewise obtained based on their implementations of random field theory [7]. AFNI estimates FWE p-values with a simulation based procedure, 3dClustSim [8]. SPM and FSL estimate smoothness from the residuals of the group level analysis (used for both voxel-wise and cluster-wise inference), while AFNI uses the average of the first level analyses' smoothness estimates. For the non-parametric analyses, FWE-corrected p-values were calculated as the proportion of the maximum cluster size null distribution being as large or larger than a given cluster's size.

Each group analysis was considered to give a significant result if any cluster or voxel had a FWE-corrected p-value p < 0.05.

### Symmetry assumption for permutation based one-sample t-test

The permutation based one-sample t-test requires that the errors are symmetrically distributed. To investigate this assumption, voxel-wise skewness s was estimated according to

$$s = \frac{\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} (x_i - \bar{x})^3}{\left(\frac{1}{n-1} \sum_{i=1}^{n} (x_i - \bar{x})^2\right)^{3/2}},\tag{1}$$

where n is the number of subjects in each group analysis and  $x_i$  represents the first level activity estimate for subject i. For each random group analysis a sign flipping test (with 100 sign flips) was used to calculate voxel-wise p-values of skewness. The voxel-wise mean was removed prior to the sign flipping, and the maximum and minimum skewness values across the entire brain were saved for each sign flip to form the maximum and minimum null distributions (required to calculate corrected p-values).

Testing 100 random one-sample n = 20 group analyses for skew, the vast majority of analyses had evidence for both positive and negative skew. For the Beijing datasets analyzed with paradigm B1, 82 analyses had 5% FWE-significant positive skew, 86 significant negative skew; for Cambridge B1, 91 analyses had significant negative skew, 72 significant positive skew; for Oulu B1, 99 analyses had significant positive skew and 94 significant negative skew. A given voxel cannot be both positively and negatively skewed, but rather these results show that both positively and negatively skewed voxels are prevalent in all three datasets. Interestingly, the skewness varies both with the spatial location and the assumed activity paradigm.

#### Why is cluster-wise inference more problematic than voxelwise?

Supplementary Figure 14 shows that the SACFs are far from a squared exponential. The empirical SACFs are close to a squared exponential for small distances, but the autocorrelation is higher than expected for large distances. This could be the reason why the parametric methods work rather well for a high cluster defining threshold (p = 0.001), and not at all for a low threshold (p = 0.01). A low threshold gives large clusters with a large radius, for which the tail of the SACF is quite important. For a high threshold, resulting in rather small clusters with a small radius, the tail is not as important. Also, it could simply be that the high-threshold assumption is not satisfied for a CDT of p = 0.01. Supplementary Figure 19 shows that the spatial smoothness is not constant in the brain, but varies spatially. Note that the bright areas match the spatial distribution of false clusters in Supplementary Figure 18; it is more likely to find a large cluster for a high smoothness. The permutation test does not assume a specific shape of the SACF, nor does it assume a constant spatial smoothness, nor require a high CDT. For these reasons, the permutation test provides valid results, for two sample t-tests, for both voxel and cluster-wise inference.

### Which parameters affect the familywise error rate for cluster-wise inference?

The cluster defining threshold is the most important parameter for SPM, FSL and AFNI; using a more liberal threshold increases the degree of false positives. This result is consistent with previous work [9, 10, 11]. However, the permutation test is completely unaffected by changes of this parameter. According to a recent review looking at 484 fMRI studies [10], the CDT used varies greatly between the three software packages (mainly due to different default settings). SPM and FSL have default thresholds of p = 0.001 and p = 0.01, respectively; while AFNI has no default setting, p = 0.005 is most prevalent.

The amount of smoothing has a rather large impact on the degree of false positives, especially for FSL OLS. The results from the permutation test, on the other hand, do not depend on this parameter. The original fMRI data has an intrinsic SACF, which is combined with the SACF of the smoothing kernel. The final SACF will more closely resemble a squared exponential for high levels of smoothing, simply because the smoothing operation forces the data to have a more Gaussian SACF. The permutation test does not assume a specific form of the SACF, and therefore performs well for any degree of smoothing.

All software packages are affected by the analysis type; the familywise error rates are generally lower for a two-sample t-test compared to a one sample t-test. This is a reflection of the greater robustness of the two-sample t-test: a difference of two variables (following the same distribution) has a symmetric distribution, which is an important facet of a normal distribution.

## Task based fMRI data

### **OpenfMRI**

Task based fMRI data were downloaded from the OpenfMRI project [12] (http://openfmri.org), to investigate how cluster based p-values differ between parametric and non-parametric group analyses. Each task dataset contains fMRI data, anatomical data and timing information for each subject. The datasets were only analyzed with FSL, using 5 mm of smoothing (the default option). Motion regressors were used in all cases, to further suppress effects of head motion. Group analyses were performed using the parametric OLS option (i.e. not the default FLAME1 option) and the non-parametric randomise function (which performs OLS regression in each permutation).

# Rhyme judgment

The rhyme judgment dataset is available at http://openfmri.org/dataset/ds000003. The 13 subjects (8 male, age range 18 - 38 years, mean 24.08, SD 6.52) were presented with pairs of either words or pseudo words and made rhyming judgments for each pair. The design contains four 20 second blocks per category, with eight 2 second events in each block (each block is separated with 20 seconds of rest). The fMRI data were collected with a repetition time of 2 seconds and consist of 160 time points per subject, the spatial resolution is 3.125 x 3.125 x 4 mm<sup>3</sup> (resulting in volumes of 64 x 64 x 33 voxels). The data were analyzed with two regressors; one for words and one for pseudo words. A total of four contrasts were applied; words, pseudowords,

words - pseudo words, pseudo words - words. For a cluster defining threshold of p = 0.01, a t-threshold of 2.65 was used. For a cluster defining threshold of p = 0.001, a t-threshold of 3.95 was used.

### Mixed-gambles task

The mixed-gambles task dataset is available at http://openfmri.org/dataset/ds000005. The 16 subjects (8 male, age range 19 - 28 years, mean 22.06, SD 2.86) were presented with mixed (gain/loss) gambles, in an event related design, and decided whether they would accept each gamble. No outcomes of these gambles were presented during scanning, but after the scan three gambles were selected at random and played for real money. The fMRI data were collected using a 3 T Siemens Allegra scanner. A repetition time of 2 seconds was used and a total of 240 volumes were collected for each run, the spatial resolution is  $3.125 \times 3.125 \times 4 \text{ mm}^3$  (resulting in volumes of  $64 \times 64 \times 34$  voxels). The dataset contains three runs per subject, but only the first run was used in our analysis. The data were analyzed using four regressors; task, parametric gain, parametric loss and distance from indifference. A total of four contrasts were applied; parametric gain, - parametric gain, parametric loss, - parametric loss. For a cluster defining threshold of p = 0.001, a t-threshold of 2.57 was used. For a cluster defining threshold of p = 0.001, a t-threshold of 3.75 was used.

## Living-nonliving decision with plain or mirror-reversed text

The living-nonliving decision task dataset is available at http://openfmri.org/dataset/ds000006a. The 14 subjects (5 male, age range 19 - 35 years, mean 22.79, SD 4.00) made living-nonliving decisions, in an event related design, on items presented in either plain or mirror-reversed text. The fMRI data were collected using a 3 T Siemens Allegra scanner. A repetition time of 2 seconds was used and a total of 205 volumes were collected for each run, the spatial resolution is  $3.125 \times 3.125 \times 5$  mm<sup>3</sup> (resulting in volumes of 64 x 64 x 25 voxels). The dataset contains six runs per subject, but only the first run was used in our analysis. The data were analyzed using five regressors; mirror-switched, mirror-nonswitched, plain-switched and junk. A total of four contrasts were applied; mirrored versus plain (1,1,-1,-1,0), switched versus non-switched (1,-1,1,-1,0), switched versus non-switched mirrored only (1,-1,0,0,0) and switched versus non-switched plain only (0,0,1,-1,0). For a cluster defining threshold of p = 0.01, a t-threshold of 2.615 was used. For a cluster defining threshold of p = 0.001, a t-threshold of = 3.87 was used.

### Word and object processing

The word and object processing task dataset is available at http://openfmri.org/dataset/ds000107. The 49 subjects (age range 19 - 38 years, mean 25) performed a visual one-back task with four categories of items: written words, objects, scrambled objects and consonant letter strings. The design contains six 15 second blocks per category, with 16 fast events in each block. The fMRI data were collected using a 1.5 T Siemens scanner. A repetition time of 3 seconds was used and a total of 165 volumes

were collected for each run, the spatial resolution is  $3 \times 3 \times 3 \text{ mm}^3$  (resulting in volumes of  $64 \times 64 \times 35$  voxels). The dataset contains two runs per subject, but only the first run was used in our analysis. The data were analyzed using four regressors; words, objects, scrambled objects, consonant strings. A total of six contrasts were applied; words, objects, scrambled objects, consonant strings, objects versus scrambled objects (0,1,-1,0) and words versus consonant strings (1,0,0,-1). For a cluster defining threshold of p = 0.01, a t-threshold of p = 0.001, a t-threshold of p = 0.0

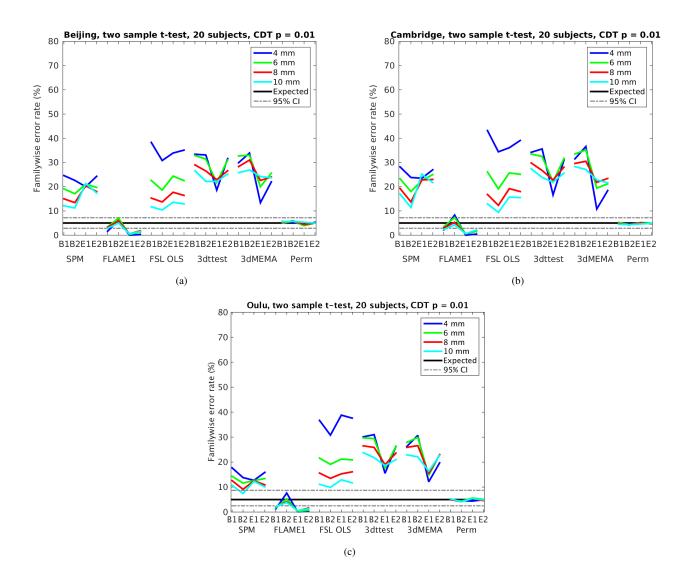
## **Human connectome project**

We undertook a follow-up study to understand the conservative results in FSL's FLAME1. FLAME1 estimates the between-subject variance as a positive quantity; while this is natural, if the true between-subject variance is zero, an imperfect (i.e. non-zero) estimation will induce a positive bias and attenuate Z values. The resting fMRI data should have between-subject variance of zero, while task data usually would have a non-zero between-subject variance. To assess FLAME1 under more typical but still null settings, we created randomized two-group studies on *task* fMRI data; a homogeneous group of subjects were split into two equal groups, meaning that the null of equal group activation is true, but there is activation present in the data and likely appreciable between-subject variance.

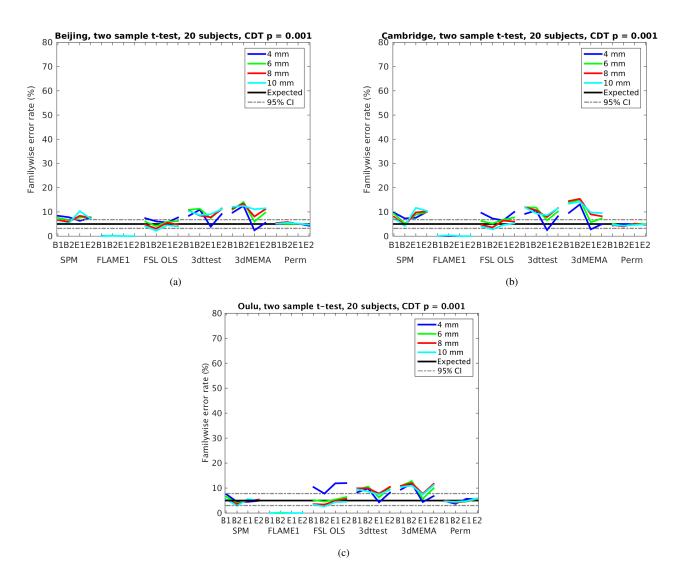
Specifically, task based fMRI data were downloaded from the human connectome project

(HCP, http://www.humanconnectome.org/, "Unrelated 80"), to investigate the degree of false positives using task data. fMRI data from 80 unrelated healthy subjects (36 male, age range 22 - 36 years) were downloaded. A total of 7 task datasets were used for all subjects (working memory, gambling, motor, language, social cognition, relational processing, emotion processing), resulting in a total of 87 task contrasts. The fMRI data were collected using a 3 T Siemens Connectome Skyra scanner, with a multiband gradient echo EPI sequence. A repetition time of 0.72 seconds was used, and the spatial resolution is 2 x 2 x 2 mm<sup>3</sup> (resulting in volumes of 104 x 90 x 72 voxels). See the HCP website for information about the tasks; http://www.humanconnectome.org/documentation/Q1/task-fMRI-protocol-details.html.

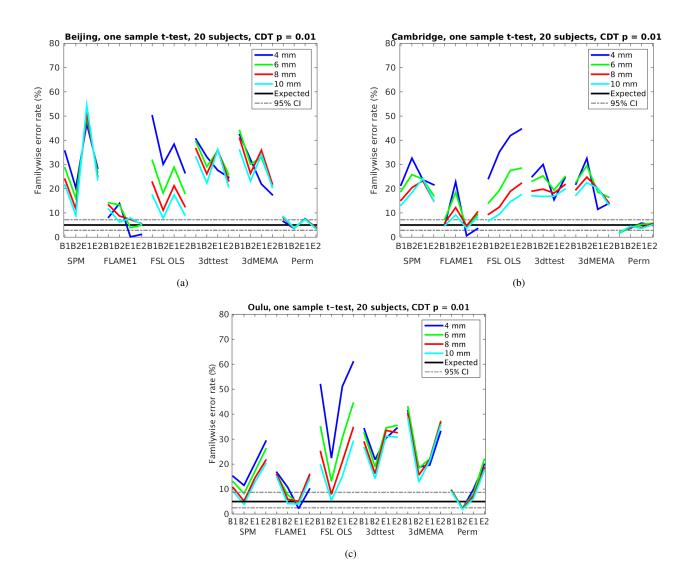
For each of the 87 contrasts, a two sample t-test was applied to a random split of the 80 subjects into two groups of 40 subjects. Each contrast resulting in a significant group difference (p < 0.05, FWE cluster corrected) was then counted as a false positive.



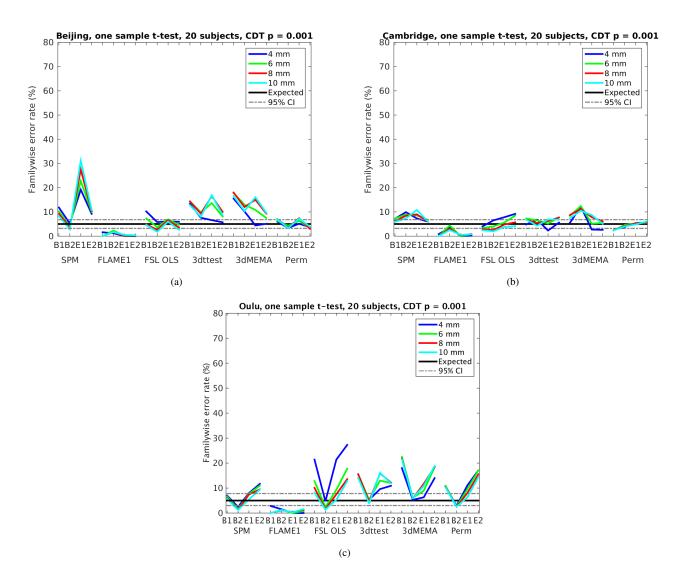
**Supplementary Figure 1**: Results for two sample t-test and cluster-wise inference using a cluster defining threshold (CDT) of p=0.01, showing estimated familywise error rates for 4-10 mm of smoothing and four different activity paradigms (B1, B2, E1, E2), for SPM, FSL, AFNI and a permutation test. These results are for a group size of 10 (giving a total of 20 subjects). Each statistic map was first thresholded using a CDT of p=0.01, uncorrected for multiple comparisons, and the surviving clusters were then compared to a FWE-corrected cluster extent threshold,  $p_{FWE}=0.05$ . The estimated familywise error rates are simply the number of analyses with any significant group differences divided by the number of analyses (1,000). Note that the default CDT is p=0.001 in SPM and p=0.01 in FSL (AFNI does not have a default setting). Also note that the default amount of smoothing is 8 mm in SPM, 5 mm in FSL and 4 mm in AFNI. (a) results for Beijing data (b) results for Cambridge data (c) results for Oulu data.



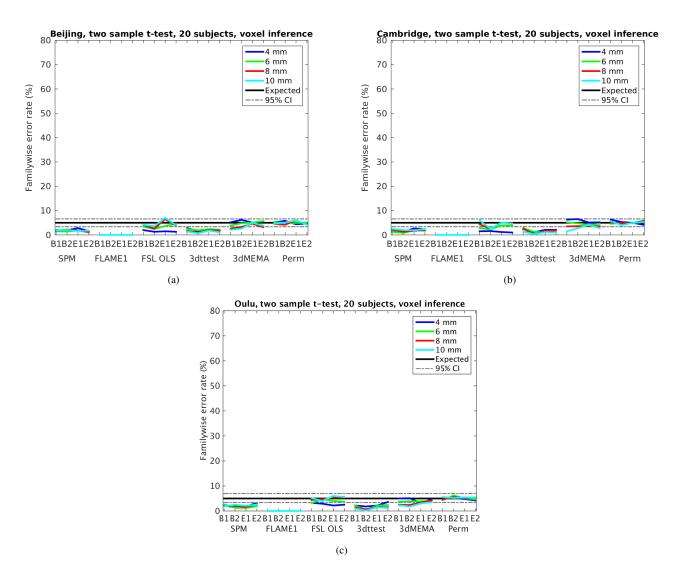
**Supplementary Figure 2**: Results for two sample t-test and cluster-wise inference using a cluster defining threshold (CDT) of p = 0.001, showing estimated familywise error rates for 4 - 10 mm of smoothing and four different activity paradigms (B1, B2, E1, E2), for SPM, FSL, AFNI and a permutation test. These results are for a group size of 10 (giving a total of 20 subjects). Each statistic map was first thresholded using a CDT of p = 0.001, uncorrected for multiple comparisons, and the surviving clusters were then compared to a FWE-corrected cluster extent threshold,  $p_{FWE} = 0.05$ . The estimated familywise error rates are simply the number of analyses with any significant group differences divided by the number of analyses (1,000). Note that the default CDT is p = 0.001 in SPM and p = 0.01 in FSL (AFNI does not have a default setting). Also note that the default amount of smoothing is 8 mm in SPM, 5 mm in FSL and 4 mm in AFNI. (a) results for Beijing data (b) results for Cambridge data (c) results for Oulu data.



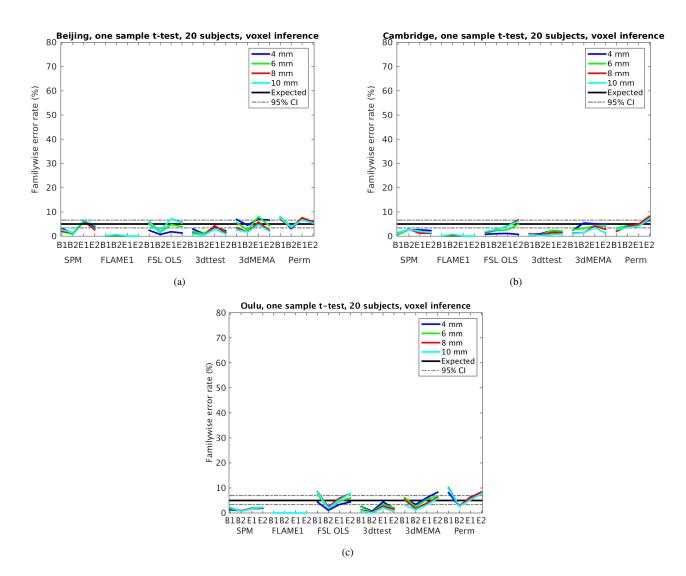
**Supplementary Figure 3**: Results for one sample t-test and cluster-wise inference using a cluster defining threshold (CDT) of p = 0.01, showing estimated familywise error rates for 4 - 10 mm of smoothing and four different activity paradigms (B1, B2, E1, E2), for SPM, FSL, AFNI and a permutation test. These results are for a group size of 20. Each statistic map was first thresholded using a CDT of p = 0.01, uncorrected for multiple comparisons, and the surviving clusters were then compared to a FWE-corrected cluster extent threshold,  $p_{FWE} = 0.05$ . The estimated familywise error rates are simply the number of analyses with any significant group activations divided by the number of analyses (1,000). Note that the default CDT is p = 0.001 in SPM and p = 0.01 in FSL (AFNI does not have a default setting). Also note that the default amount of smoothing is 8 mm in SPM, 5 mm in FSL and 4 mm in AFNI. (a) results for Beijing data (b) results for Cambridge data (c) results for Oulu data.



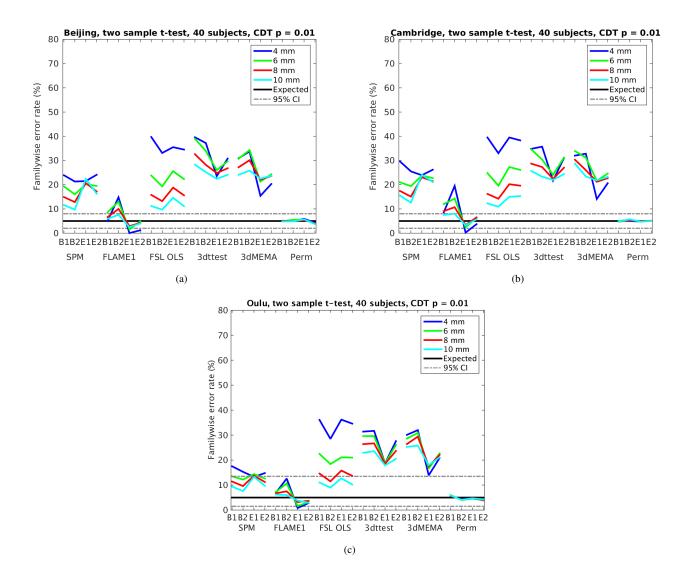
**Supplementary Figure 4**: Results for one sample t-test and cluster-wise inference using a cluster defining threshold (CDT) of p = 0.001, showing estimated familywise error rates for 4 - 10 mm of smoothing and four different activity paradigms (B1, B2, E1, E2), for SPM, FSL, AFNI and a permutation test. These results are for a group size of 20. Each statistic map was first thresholded using a CDT of p = 0.001, uncorrected for multiple comparisons, and the surviving clusters were then compared to a FWE-corrected cluster extent threshold,  $p_{FWE} = 0.05$ . The estimated familywise error rates are simply the number of analyses with any significant group activations divided by the number of analyses (1,000). Note that the default CDT is p = 0.001 in SPM and p = 0.01 in FSL (AFNI does not have a default setting). Also note that the default amount of smoothing is 8 mm in SPM, 5 mm in FSL and 4 mm in AFNI. (a) results for Beijing data (b) results for Cambridge data (c) results for Oulu data.



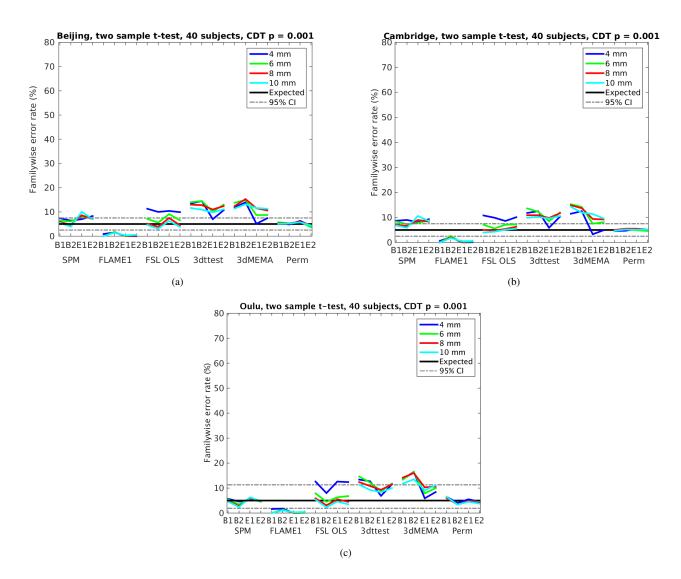
**Supplementary Figure 5**: Results for two-sample t-test and voxel-wise inference, showing estimated familywise error rates for 4 - 10 mm of smoothing and four different activity paradigms (B1, B2, E1, E2), for SPM, FSL, AFNI and a permutation test. These results are for a group size of 10 (giving a total of 20 subjects). Each statistic map was thresholded using a FWE-corrected voxel-wise threshold of  $p_{FWE} = 0.05$ . The estimated familywise error rates are simply the number of analyses with any significant results divided by the number of analyses (1,000). Note that the default amount of smoothing is 8 mm in SPM, 5 mm in FSL and 4 mm in AFNI. (a) results for Beijing data (b) results for Cambridge data (c) results for Oulu data.



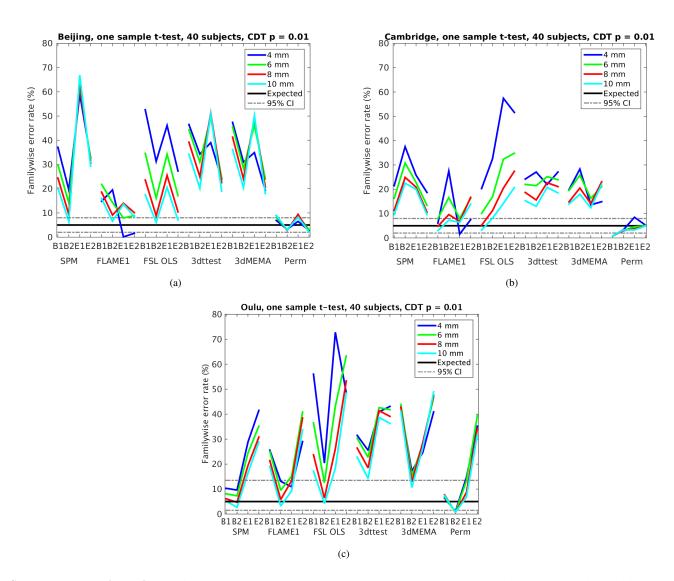
**Supplementary Figure 6**: Results for one-sample t-test and voxel-wise inference, showing estimated familywise error rates for - 10 mm of smoothing and four different activity paradigms (B1, B2, E1, E2), for SPM, FSL, AFNI and a permutation test. These results are for a group size of 20. Each statistic map was thresholded using a FWE-corrected voxel-wise threshold of  $p_{FWE} = 0.05$ . The estimated familywise error rates are simply the number of analyses with any significant results divided by the number of analyses (1,000). Note that the default amount of smoothing is 8 mm in SPM, 5 mm in FSL and 4 mm in AFNI. (a) results for Beijing data (b) results for Cambridge data (c) results for Oulu data.



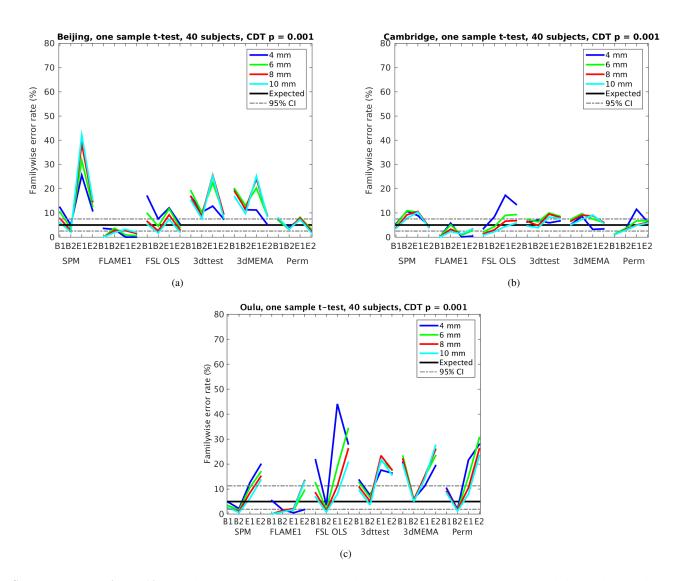
**Supplementary Figure 7**: Results for two sample t-test and cluster-wise inference using a cluster defining threshold (CDT) of p=0.01, showing estimated familywise error rates for 4-10 mm of smoothing and four different activity paradigms (B1, B2, E1, E2), for SPM, FSL, AFNI and a permutation test. These results are for a group size of 20 (giving a total of 40 subjects). Each statistic map was first thresholded using a CDT of p=0.01, uncorrected for multiple comparisons, and the surviving clusters were then compared to a FWE-corrected cluster extent threshold,  $p_{FWE}=0.05$ . The estimated familywise error rates are simply the number of analyses with any significant group differences divided by the number of analyses (1,000). Note that the default CDT is p=0.001 in SPM and p=0.01 in FSL (AFNI does not have a default setting). Also note that the default amount of smoothing is 8 mm in SPM, 5 mm in FSL and 4 mm in AFNI. (a) results for Beijing data (b) results for Cambridge data (c) results for Oulu data.



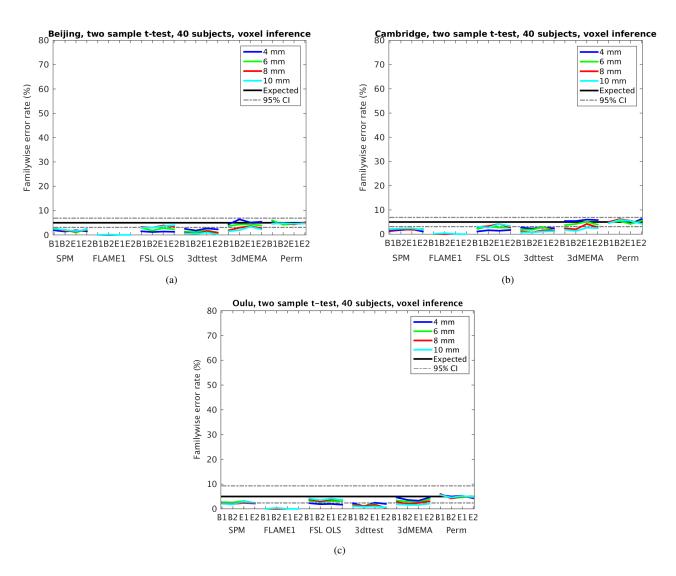
**Supplementary Figure 8**: Results for two sample t-test and cluster-wise inference using a cluster defining threshold (CDT) of p = 0.001, showing estimated familywise error rates for 4 - 10 mm of smoothing and four different activity paradigms (B1, B2, E1, E2), for SPM, FSL, AFNI and a permutation test. These results are for a group size of 20 (giving a total of 40 subjects). Each statistic map was first thresholded using a CDT of p = 0.001, uncorrected for multiple comparisons, and the surviving clusters were then compared to a FWE-corrected cluster extent threshold,  $p_{FWE} = 0.05$ . The estimated familywise error rates are simply the number of analyses with any significant group differences divided by the number of analyses (1,000). Note that the default CDT is p = 0.001 in SPM and p = 0.01 in FSL (AFNI does not have a default setting). Also note that the default amount of smoothing is 8 mm in SPM, 5 mm in FSL and 4 mm in AFNI. (a) results for Beijing data (b) results for Cambridge data (c) results for Oulu data.



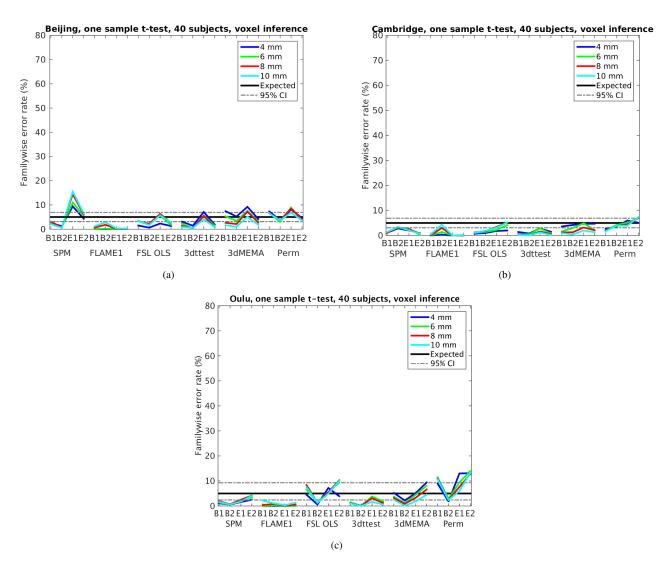
**Supplementary Figure 9**: Results for one sample t-test and cluster-wise inference using a cluster defining threshold (CDT) of p=0.01, showing estimated familywise error rates for 4-10 mm of smoothing and four different activity paradigms (B1, B2, E1, E2), for SPM, FSL, AFNI and a permutation test. These results are for a group size of 40. Each statistic map was first thresholded using a CDT of p=0.01, uncorrected for multiple comparisons, and the surviving clusters were then compared to a FWE-corrected cluster extent threshold,  $p_{FWE}=0.05$ . The estimated familywise error rates are simply the number of analyses with any significant group activations divided by the number of analyses (1,000). Note that the default CDT is p=0.001 in SPM and p=0.01 in FSL (AFNI does not have a default setting). Also note that the default amount of smoothing is 8 mm in SPM, 5 mm in FSL and 4 mm in AFNI. (a) results for Beijing data (b) results for Cambridge data (c) results for Oulu data.



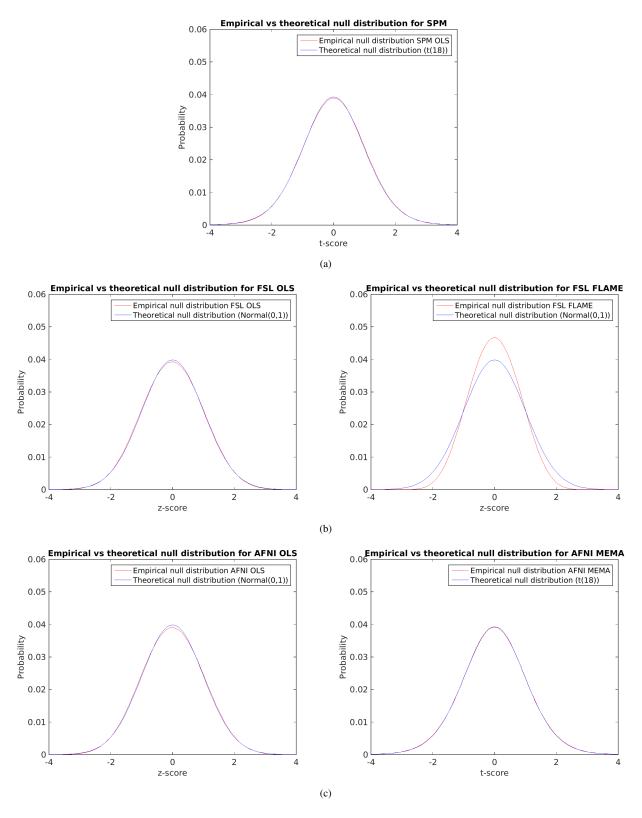
**Supplementary Figure 10**: Results for one sample t-test and cluster-wise inference using a cluster defining threshold (CDT) of p = 0.001, showing estimated familywise error rates for 4 - 10 mm of smoothing and four different activity paradigms (B1, B2, E1, E2), for SPM, FSL, AFNI and a permutation test. These results are for a group size of 40. Each statistic map was first thresholded using a CDT of p = 0.001, uncorrected for multiple comparisons, and the surviving clusters were then compared to a FWE-corrected cluster extent threshold,  $p_{FWE} = 0.05$ . The estimated familywise error rates are simply the number of analyses with any significant group activations divided by the number of analyses (1,000). Note that the default CDT is p = 0.001 in SPM and p = 0.01 in FSL (AFNI does not have a default setting). Also note that the default amount of smoothing is 8 mm in SPM, 5 mm in FSL and 4 mm in AFNI. (a) results for Beijing data (b) results for Cambridge data (c) results for Oulu data.



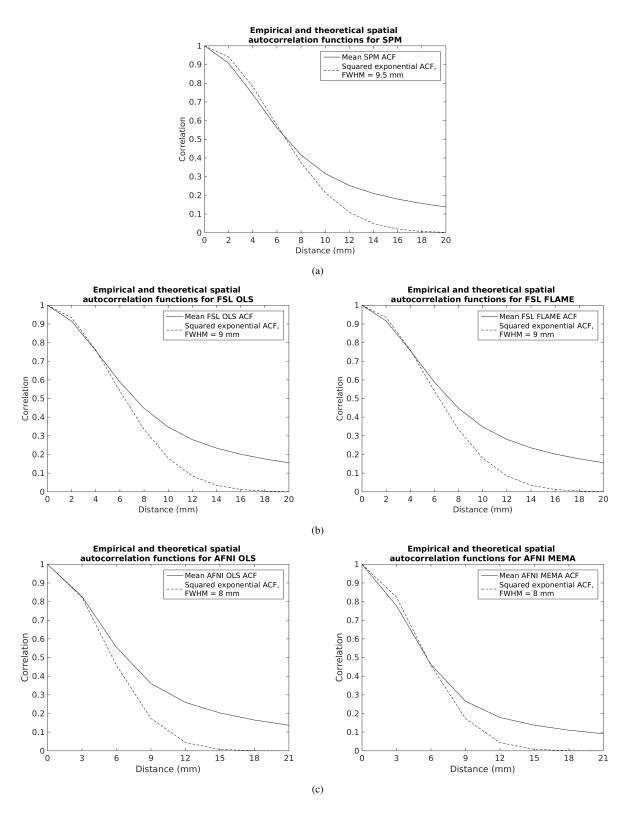
**Supplementary Figure 11**: Results for two-sample t-test and voxel-wise inference, showing estimated familywise error rates for 4-10 mm of smoothing and four different activity paradigms (B1, B2, E1, E2), for SPM, FSL, AFNI and a permutation test. These results are for a group size of 20 (giving a total of 40 subjects). Each statistic map was thresholded using a FWE-corrected voxel-wise threshold of  $p_{FWE}=0.05$ . The estimated familywise error rates are simply the number of analyses with any significant results divided by the number of analyses (1,000). Note that the default amount of smoothing is 8 mm in SPM, 5 mm in FSL and 4 mm in AFNI. (a) results for Beijing data (b) results for Cambridge data (c) results for Oulu data.



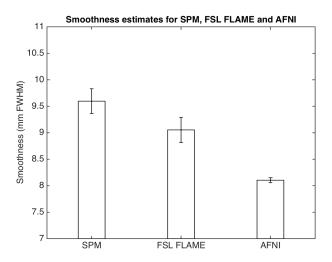
**Supplementary Figure 12**: Results for one-sample t-test and voxel-wise inference, showing estimated familywise error rates for - 10 mm of smoothing and four different activity paradigms (B1, B2, E1, E2), for SPM, FSL, AFNI and a permutation test. These results are for a group size of 40. Each statistic map was thresholded using a FWE-corrected voxel-wise threshold of  $p_{FWE} = 0.05$ . The estimated familywise error rates are simply the number of analyses with any significant results divided by the number of analyses (1,000). Note that the default amount of smoothing is 8 mm in SPM, 5 mm in FSL and 4 mm in AFNI. (a) results for Beijing data (b) results for Cambridge data (c) results for Oulu data.



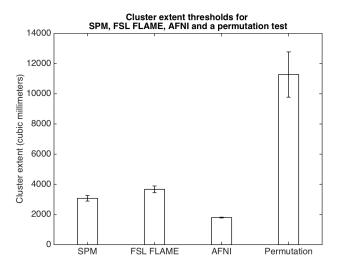
**Supplementary Figure 13**: Empirical versus theoretical null distributions for a) SPM, b) FSL and c) AFNI. The empirical null distributions were estimated by pooling test values over all brain voxels for 1,000 random group comparisons. The test values were drawn from two sample t-tests (10 subjects per group) using the Beijing data (analyzed with the E2 paradigm and 6 mm smoothing). Note that the empirical null distribution for FLAME1 in FSL has a much lower variance (0.67) compared to a normal distribution with unit variance. For this reason, the familywise error rates are much lower for FLAME in FSL, compared to the other functions.



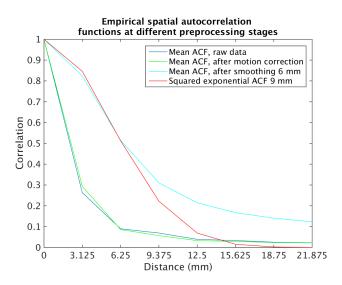
**Supplementary Figure 14**: Empirical versus theoretical spatial autocorrelation functions (SACFs) for a) SPM, b) FSL and c) AFNI. The SACFs were estimated and averaged using 1,000 group difference maps, generated from two sample t-tests (10 subjects per group) using the Beijing data (analyzed with the E2 paradigm and 6 mm smoothing). Note that the empirical SACFs have a much longer tail compared to the theoretical squared exponential SACF, thereby violating one of the required assumptions for parametric cluster-wise inference using Gaussian random field theory. Both SPM and FSL resample the fMRI data to a resolution of 2 mm, while AFNI instead uses a resolution of 3 mm for the specific datasets. For this reason, the SACFs are sampled differently for AFNI.



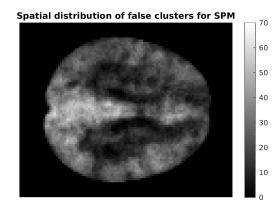
**Supplementary Figure 15**: Group smoothness estimates (mm full width at half maximum) for SPM, FSL FLAME and AFNI. The smoothness estimates originate from 1,000 two sample t-tests (10 subjects per group) using the Beijing data (analyzed with the E2 paradigm and 6 mm smoothing). Note that AFNI estimates the group smoothness differently compared to SPM and FSL. Also note that AFNI uses higher order interpolation for motion correction and spatial normalization, which leads to a lower smoothness compared to more common linear interpolation. The error bars represent the standard deviation.



**Supplementary Figure 16**: Cluster extent thresholds (in cubic millimeters) for SPM, FSL FLAME, AFNI and a permutation test, for a cluster defining threshold of p = 0.01 and a familywise cluster error rate of p = 0.05. The thresholds originate from 1,000 two sample t-tests (10 subjects per group) using the Beijing data (analyzed with the E2 paradigm and 6 mm smoothing). Note that the permutation threshold can only be directly compared with the threshold from the FSL software, as first level results from FSL were used for the non-parametric analyses. The error bars represent the standard deviation.

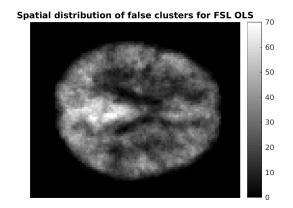


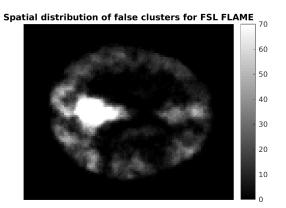
**Supplementary Figure 17**: Spatial autocorrelation functions (SACFs) for raw fMRI data, fMRI data after motion correction and fMRI data after motion correction and 6 mm smoothing. A theoretical squared exponential is included as reference. The SACFs were estimated and averaged using the 198 subjects in the Beijing dataset. Note that the long tail exists for the SACF of the raw data. These long tails have also been observed in data collected with an MR phantom [13], indicating that it is a scanner artifact.



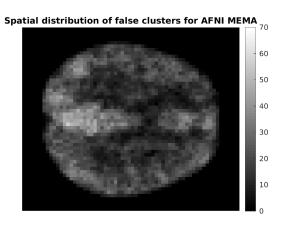
(a)

(b)



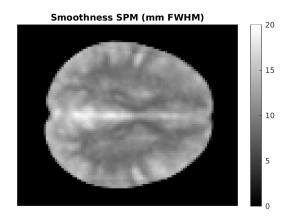


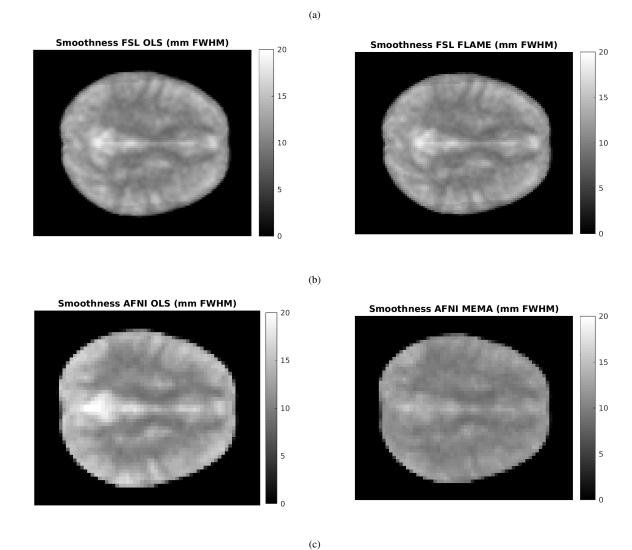
Spatial distribution of false clusters for AFNI OLS 70 60 50 40 30 20 10 0



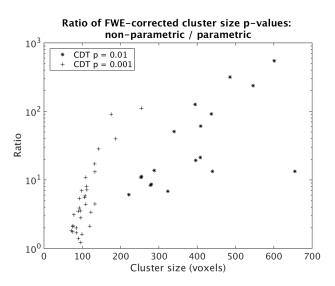
(c)

**Supplementary Figure 18**: The maps show voxel-wise incidence of false clusters. Image intensity is the number of times, out of 10,000 random analyses (200,000 for FSL FLAME, to account for fewer clusters per analysis), a significant cluster occurred at a given voxel (CDT p = 0.01), for a) SPM, b) FSL and c) AFNI. Each analysis is a two sample t-test (10 subjects per group) using the Beijing data, analyzed with the E2 paradigm and 6 mm smoothing. The bright spot in the posterior cingulate corresponds to a region of high smoothness, and suggests non-stationarity as a possible contributing factor.

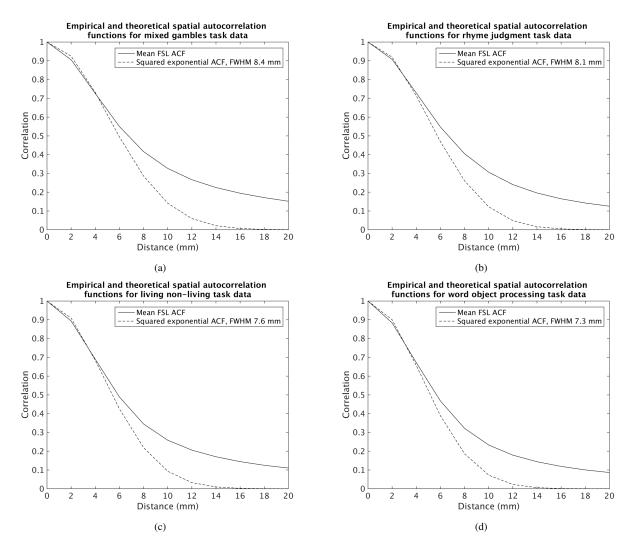




**Supplementary Figure 19**: Maps of voxel-wise smoothness for a) SPM, b) FSL and c) AFNI. The smoothness was estimated and averaged using 1,000 group residuals, generated from two sample t-tests (10 subjects per group) using the Beijing data (analyzed with the E2 paradigm and 6 mm smoothing). It is clear that the smoothness varies spatially; one of the required assumptions for parametric cluster-wise inference using Gaussian random field theory is thereby violated. Note that the bright areas (high smoothness) match the spatial maps of the false clusters; it is more likely to find a large cluster for areas with a high smoothness. Note the reduced smoothness for the iterative method AFNI 3dMEMA compared to the corresponding non-iterative method AFNI OLS; the voxel-by-voxel estimation of between subject variance in the iterative methods reduces the smoothness slightly.



**Supplementary Figure 20**: Ratio of non-parametric to parametric FWE corrected p-values for cluster size inference on 4 task (non-null) fMRI datasets, for parametric FWE p-values  $0.05 \ge p \ge 10^{-4}$ . Results for two CDT are shown, p = 0.01 and p = 0.001, and larger ratios indicate parametric p-values being smaller (more significant) than non-parametric p-values (note the logarithmic scale on the y-axis). Clusters with a parametric FWE p-value more significant than  $10^{-4}$  are excluded because a permutation test with 5000 permutations can only resolve p-values down to 0.0002, and such p-values would generate large ratios inherently. These results suggest cluster size inference with a CDT of p = 0.01 has FWE inflated by 2 to almost 3 orders of magnitude, and a CDT of p = 0.001 has FWE significance inflated by up to 2 orders of magnitude.



**Supplementary Figure 21**: Empirical versus theoretical spatial autocorrelation functions (SACFs) for the four task datasets; a) mixed-gambles b) rhyme judgment c) living-nonliving decision with plain or mirror-reversed text d) word and object processing. The SACFs were estimated using the group residuals from each group analysis. The fMRI data for each subject were analyzed in FSL, using 5 mm of smoothing (FSL default). Note that the empirical SACFs have a much longer tail compared to the theoretical squared exponential SACF, thereby violating one of the required assumptions for parametric cluster-wise inference using Gaussian random field theory.

**Supplementary Table 2**: Estimated familywise error rates (FWE) for parametric stationary and non-stationary cluster inference. The results are for a two-sample t-test, 10 subjects per group, for data analyzed with the B2 paradigm and 4 mm smoothing.

Dataset	Cluster defining threshold	Stationary FWE	Non-stationary FWE
Beijing	p = 0.01	21.8%	15.8%
Beijing	p = 0.001	7.6%	10.9%
Cambridge	p = 0.01	23.8%	17.6%
Cambridge	p = 0.001	7.9%	10.9%
Oulu	p = 0.01	15.5%	12.5%
Oulu	p = 0.001	6.3%	13.4%

**Supplementary Table 3**: Cluster FWE p-values for FSL OLS and a permutation test, for 4 fMRI studies comprising a total of 18 contrasts. A cluster defining threshold of p = 0.01 (z = 2.3) was used, all clusters with FSL OLS FWE p < 0.05 are listed. A star denotes that the parametric p-value is below 0.05, while the non-parametric p-value is not. Note that the resolution of the permutation p-values is 0.0002, since 5000 permutations (or sign flips) were used.

OpenfMRI dataset	Subjects	Cluster size (voxels)	FSL OLS p-value	Perm OLS p-value
Rhyme judgment, contrast 1	13	53877	0	0.0002
Rhyme judgment, contrast 2	13	27484	0	0.0002
		14682	$1.37 \cdot 10^{-40}$	0.002
		3467	$1.16 \cdot 10^{-14}$	0.024
Rhyme judgment, contrast 3	13	799	$4.8 \cdot 10^{-5}$	0.097 *
		408	0.0103	0.219 *
Rhyme judgment, contrast 4	13	No surviving clusters		
Mixed gambles, contrast 1	16	13284	$1.36 \cdot 10^{-36}$	0.005
		440	0.0152	0.202 *
Mixed gambles, contrast 2	16	No surviving clusters		
Mixed gambles, contrast 3	16	No surviving clusters		
Mixed gambles, contrast 4	16	655	0.00888	0.118 *
Living-nonliving decision, contrast 1	14	8612	$3.46 \cdot 10^{-33}$	0.001
		7577	$2.37 \cdot 10^{-30}$	0.002
		5920	$1.6 \cdot 10^{-25}$	0.003
		1439	$4.88 \cdot 10^{-9}$	0.035
		601	0.000213	0.116 *
Living-nonliving decision, contrast 2	14	751	$2.75 \cdot 10^{-5}$	0.08 *
		669	$8.71 \cdot 10^{-5}$	0.096 *
		546	0.000541	0.128 *
Living-nonliving decision, contrast 3	14	396	0.00889	0.172 *
		323	0.0302	0.207 *
Living-nonliving decision, contrast 4	14	No surviving clusters		
Word and object processing, contrast 1	49	7397	$2.3 \cdot 10^{-32}$	0.001
		6586	$7.57 \cdot 10^{-30}$	0.001
		6232	$1.02 \cdot 10^{-28}$	0.002
		2834	$2.11 \cdot 10^{-16}$	0.01
		486	0.00044	0.139 *
		288	0.0182	0.249 *
Word and object processing, contrast 2	49	7062	$9.77 \cdot 10^{-30}$	0.001
		6158	$5.08 \cdot 10^{-27}$	0.002
		5529	$4.73 \cdot 10^{-25}$	0.003
		1853	$2.27 \cdot 10^{-11}$	0.025
		1523	$8.3 \cdot 10^{-10}$	0.035
		1465	$1.6 \cdot 10^{-9}$	0.037
		1382	$4.18 \cdot 10^{-9}$	0.04
		437	0.00174	0.159 *
	40	409	0.00283	0.173 *
Word and object processing, contrast 3	49	42205	0	0.0002
Wind and all and an and a second	40	998	$1.79 \cdot 10^{-7}$	0.054 *
Word and object processing, contrast 4	49	32404	0	0.0002
		12837	$2.8 \cdot 10^{-45}$	0.001
		280	0.0287	0.248 *
Word and object processing and of	40	278	$\begin{array}{c c} 0.0299 \\ 3.05 \cdot 10^{-14} \end{array}$	0.251 *
Word and object processing, contrast 5	49	2118 881	$2.98 \cdot 10^{-7}$	0.017 0.051 *
		395	0.00115	0.031 *
		340	0.00113	0.146 *
		255	0.00334	0.18 * 0.253 *
		253	0.0226	0.258 *
		222	0.0237	0.238 *
Word and object processing, contrast 6	49	27767	0.0480	0.0002
Trota and object processing, contrast o	T2	6183	$9.65 \cdot 10^{-29}$	0.002
		0103	9.03 . 10	0.003

**Supplementary Table 4**: Cluster FWE p-values for FSL OLS and a permutation test, for 4 fMRI studies comprising a total of 18 contrasts. A cluster defining threshold of p = 0.001 (z = 3.1) was used, all clusters with FSL OLS FWE p < 0.05 are listed. A star denotes that the parametric p-value is below 0.05, while the non-parametric p-value is not. Note that the resolution of the permutation p-values is 0.0002, since 5000 permutations (or sign flips) were used.

OpenfMRI dataset	Subjects	Cluster size (voxels)	FSL OLS p-value	Perm OLS p-value
Rhyme judgment, contrast 1	13	13877	0	0.0002
		4859	$1.18 \cdot 10^{-38}$	0.001
		2273	$5.44 \cdot 10^{-23}$	0.002
		2039	$2.49 \cdot 10^{-21}$	0.002
		1081	$1.04 \cdot 10^{-13}$	0.005
		473	$1.19 \cdot 10^{-7}$	0.008
		306	$1.78 \cdot 10^{-5}$	0.011
		133	0.00806	0.038
		122	0.0127	0.042
		99	0.0347	0.055 *
Rhyme judgment, contrast 2	13	14470	0	0.0002
		3074	$5.43 \cdot 10^{-27}$	0.001
		1868	$3.7 \cdot 10^{-19}$	0.002
		1558	$6.83 \cdot 10^{-17}$	0.002
		874	$2.95 \cdot 10^{-11}$	0.004
		422	$1.19 \cdot 10^{-6}$	0.008
		255	0.000153	0.014
		96	0.0498	0.06 *
Rhyme judgment, contrast 3	13	No surviving clusters		
Rhyme judgment, contrast 4	13	No surviving clusters		
Mixed gambles, contrast 1	16	766	$7.01 \cdot 10^{-10}$	0.001
		120	0.0237	0.053 *
Mixed gambles, contrast 2	16	No surviving clusters		
Mixed gambles, contrast 3	16	No surviving clusters		
Mixed gambles, contrast 4	16	No surviving clusters		
Living-nonliving decision, contrast 1	14	3310	$1.69 \cdot 10^{-33}$	0.0002
		1901	$6.95 \cdot 10^{-23}$	0.0002
		761	$4.8 \cdot 10^{-12}$	0.001
		569	$8.96 \cdot 10^{-10}$	0.002
		417	$5.96 \cdot 10^{-8}$	0.002
		187	0.000326	0.013
		109	0.0109	0.038
		96	0.021	0.047
		85	0.0373	0.06 *
		84	0.0394	0.061 *
Living-nonliving decision, contrast 2	14	90	0.0301	0.046
Living-nonliving decision, contrast 3	14	No surviving clusters		
Living-nonliving decision, contrast 4	14	No surviving clusters		

**Supplementary Table 5**: Cluster FWE p-values for FSL OLS and a permutation test, for 4 fMRI studies comprising a total of 18 contrasts. A cluster defining threshold of p = 0.001 (z = 3.1) was used, all clusters with FSL OLS FWE p < 0.05 are listed. A star denotes that the parametric p-value is below 0.05, while the non-parametric p-value is not. Note that the resolution of the permutation p-values is 0.0002, since 5000 permutations (or sign flips) were used.

OpenfMRI dataset	Subjects	Cluster size (voxels)	FSL OLS p-value	Perm OLS p-value
Word and object processing, contrast 1	49	4644	$1.4 \cdot 10^{-45}$	0.0002
		4017	$2.35 \cdot 10^{-41}$	0.0002
		2615	$7.21 \cdot 10^{-31}$	0.0002
		828	$6.38 \cdot 10^{-14}$	0.001
		765	$3.64 \cdot 10^{-13}$	0.001
		543	$2.57 \cdot 10^{-10}$	0.003
		306	$8.34 \cdot 10^{-7}$	0.006
		292	$1.49 \cdot 10^{-6}$	0.006
		176	0.000187	0.017
Word and object processing, contrast 2	49	5000	$1.4 \cdot 10^{-45}$	0.0002
		3902	$1.61 \cdot 10^{-38}$	0.0002
		1540	$2.22 \cdot 10^{-20}$	0.0002
		1199	$3.92 \cdot 10^{-17}$	0.0002
		1035	$1.84 \cdot 10^{-15}$	0.0002
		989	$5.6 \cdot 10^{-15}$	0.001
		759	$1.96 \cdot 10^{-12}$	0.001
		699	$9.92 \cdot 10^{-12}$	0.001
		497	$3.42 \cdot 10^{-9}$	0.003
		413	$5.96 \cdot 10^{-8}$	0.004
		133	0.00222	0.029
		95	0.0149	0.053 *
Word and object processing, contrast 3	49	27735	0	0.0002
		1312	$2.62 \cdot 10^{-19}$	0.001
		1264	$8.15 \cdot 10^{-19}$	0.001
		789	$1.57 \cdot 10^{-13}$	0.002
		525	$3.99 \cdot 10^{-10}$	0.004
		415	$1.53 \cdot 10^{-8}$	0.005
		209	$4.05 \cdot 10^{-5}$	0.013
		143	0.000845	0.024
Word and object processing, contrast 4	49	24890	0	0.0002
		3525	$2.79 \cdot 10^{-36}$	0.0002
		1678	$7.98 \cdot 10^{-22}$	0.0002
		1492	$4.01 \cdot 10^{-20}$	0.001
		996	$3.42 \cdot 10^{-15}$	0.002
		845	$1.55 \cdot 10^{-13}$	0.003
		346	$4.17 \cdot 10^{-7}$	0.008
		112	0.00582	0.042
		107	0.00751	0.044
		106	0.00791	0.044
XX 1 1 1 1	40	75	0.0425	0.074 *
Word and object processing, contrast 5	49	373	$2.03 \cdot 10^{-8}$	0.005
		282	$7.75 \cdot 10^{-7}$	0.006
		109	0.00302	0.033
		98	0.00574	0.04
		92	0.00821	0.044 0.06 *
Word and object processing, contrast 6	49	78 11134	0.0195	0.0002
word and object processing, contrast o	49		$\begin{array}{c c} & 0 \\ 1.21 \cdot 10^{-37} \end{array}$	
		3466 1630	$\begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	0.001 0.001
		609	$2.86 \cdot 10^{-11}$	0.001
		475	$1.98 \cdot 10^{-9}$	0.003
		270	$3.16 \cdot 10^{-6}$	0.004
		132	0.00145	0.009
		111	0.00143	0.025
		92	0.00433	0.033
		89	0.0123	0.048
		76	0.0313	0.051 *
		75	0.0313	0.069 *
		13	0.0332	0.009 **

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