

# Uncovering the Latent Structure of Visuospatial Ability and Predicting Visuospatial Dysfunction

**Doctoral Dissertation Defense**

**May 16, 2023**

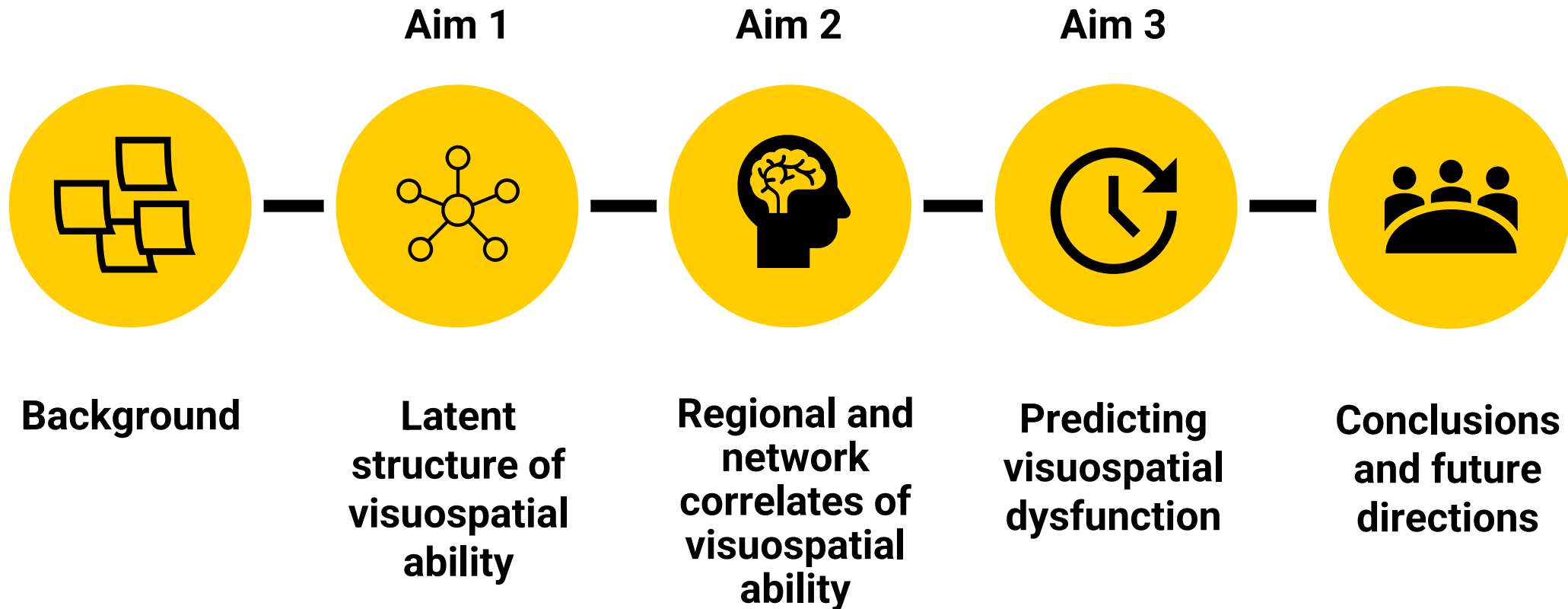
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Jax Skye, BS



# Where are we going?

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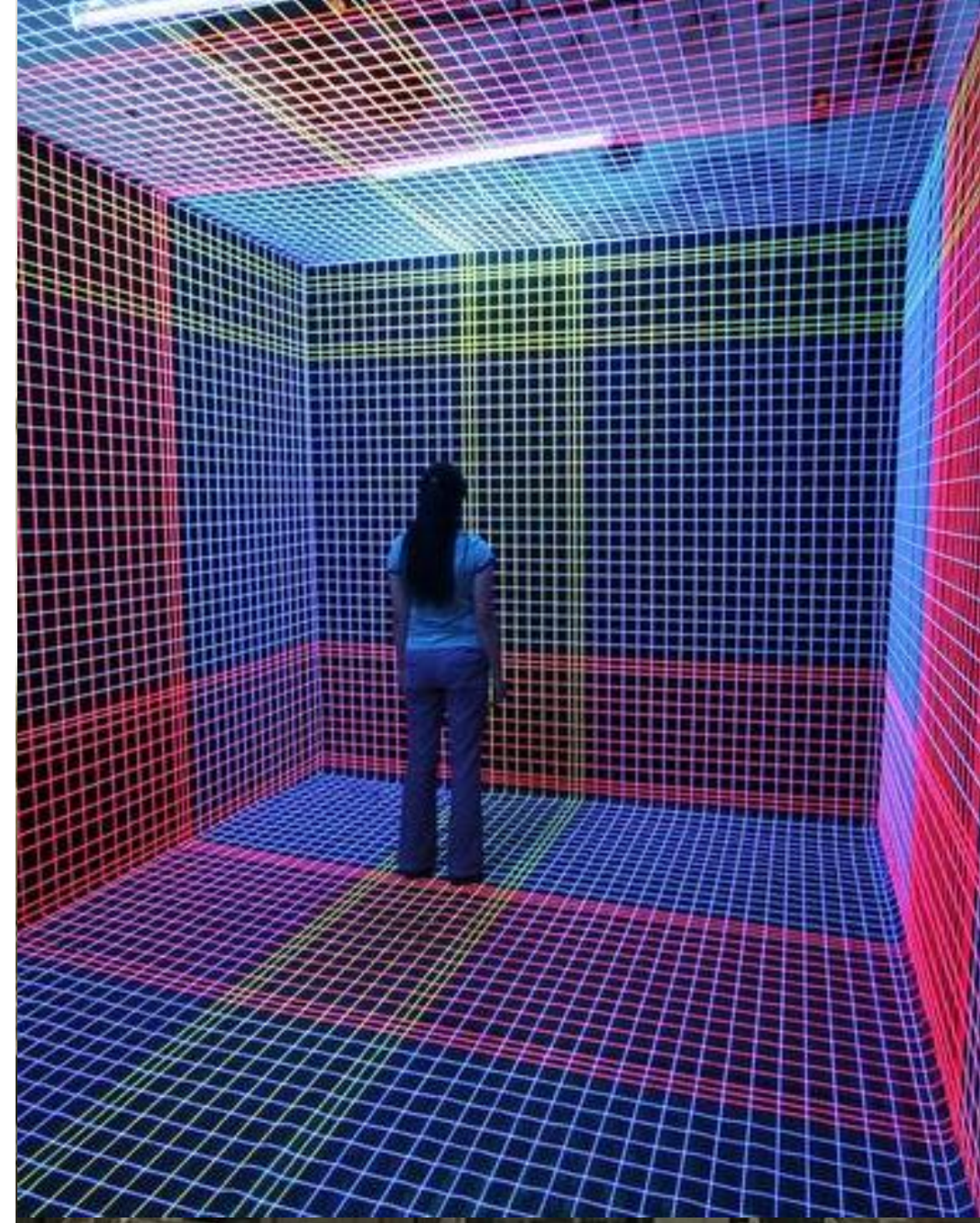
# Background



# Visuospatial Ability

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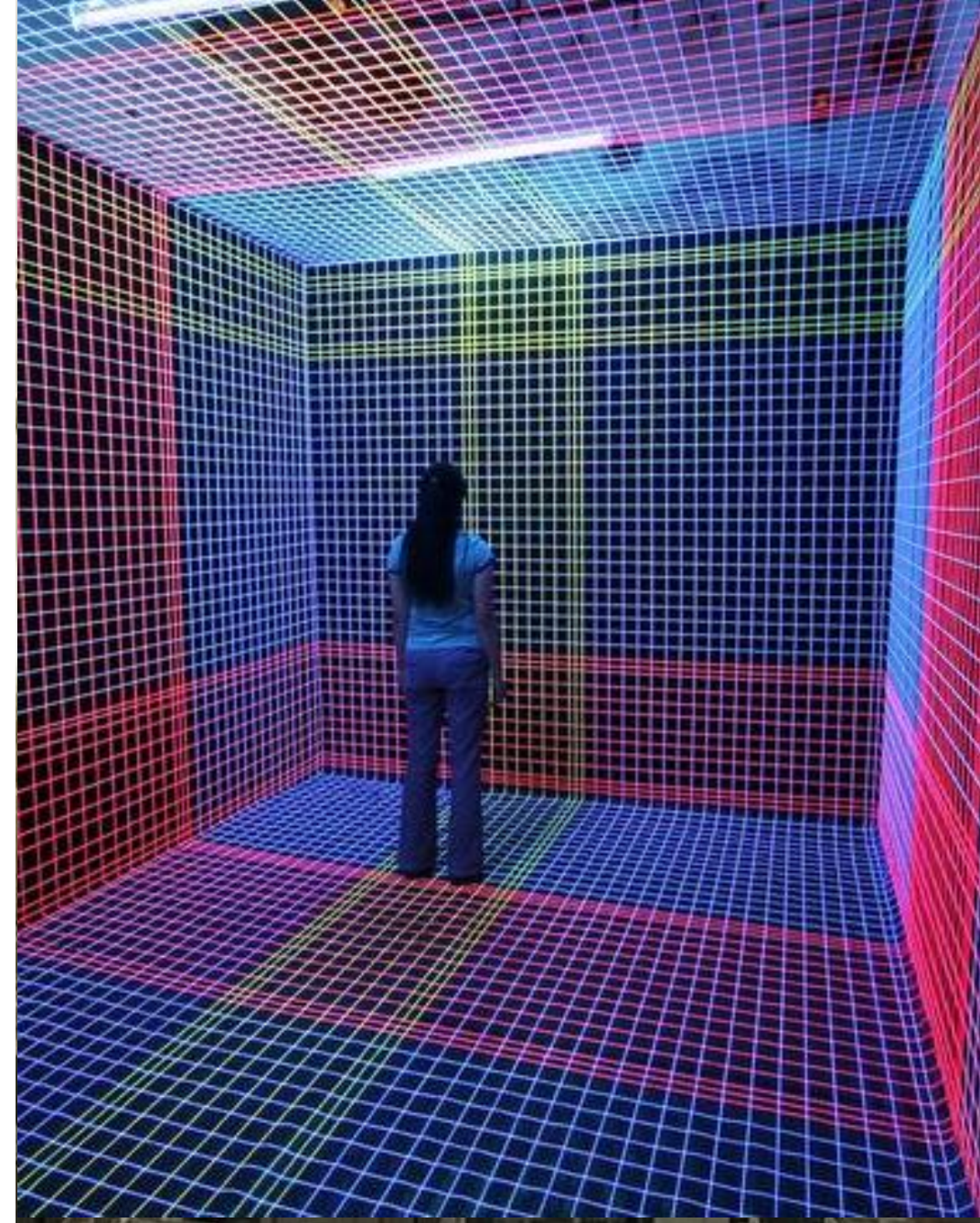
The ability to perceive, understand, and utilize visual information to create a map of one's spatial environment



# Visuospatial Ability

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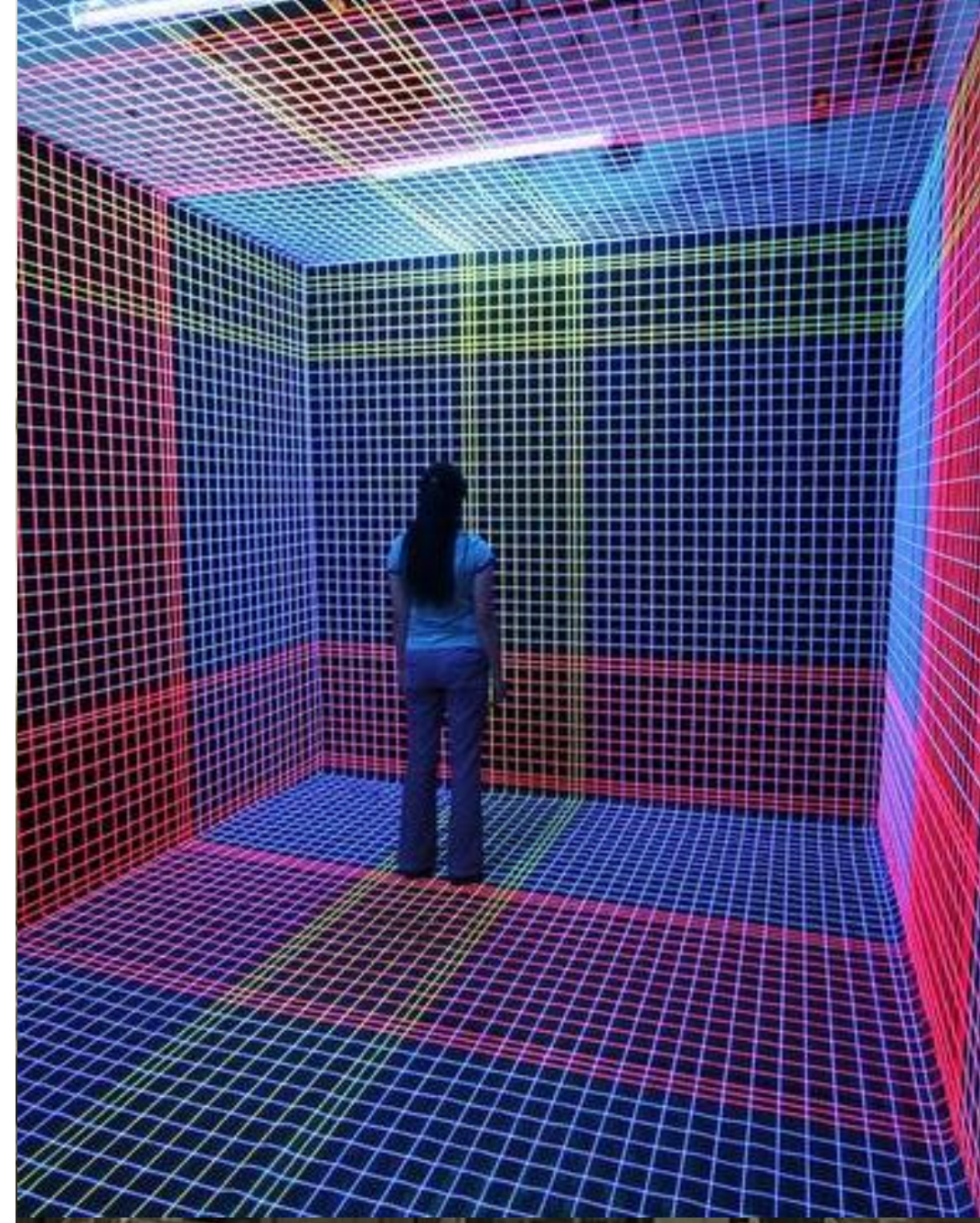
The ability to **perceive**, understand, and utilize visual information to create a map of one's spatial environment



# Visuospatial Ability

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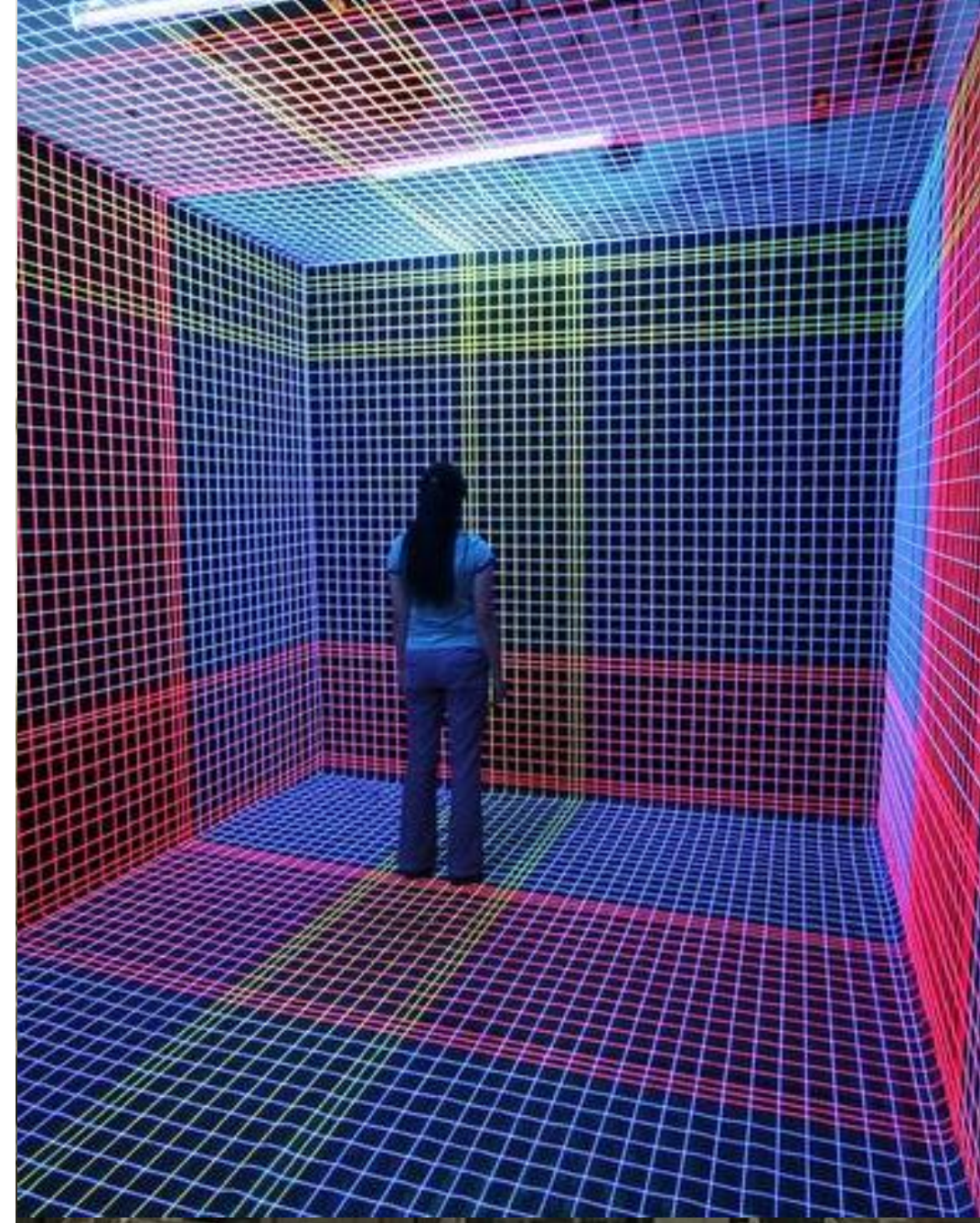
The ability to perceive, **understand**, and utilize visual information to create a map of one's spatial environment



# Visuospatial Ability

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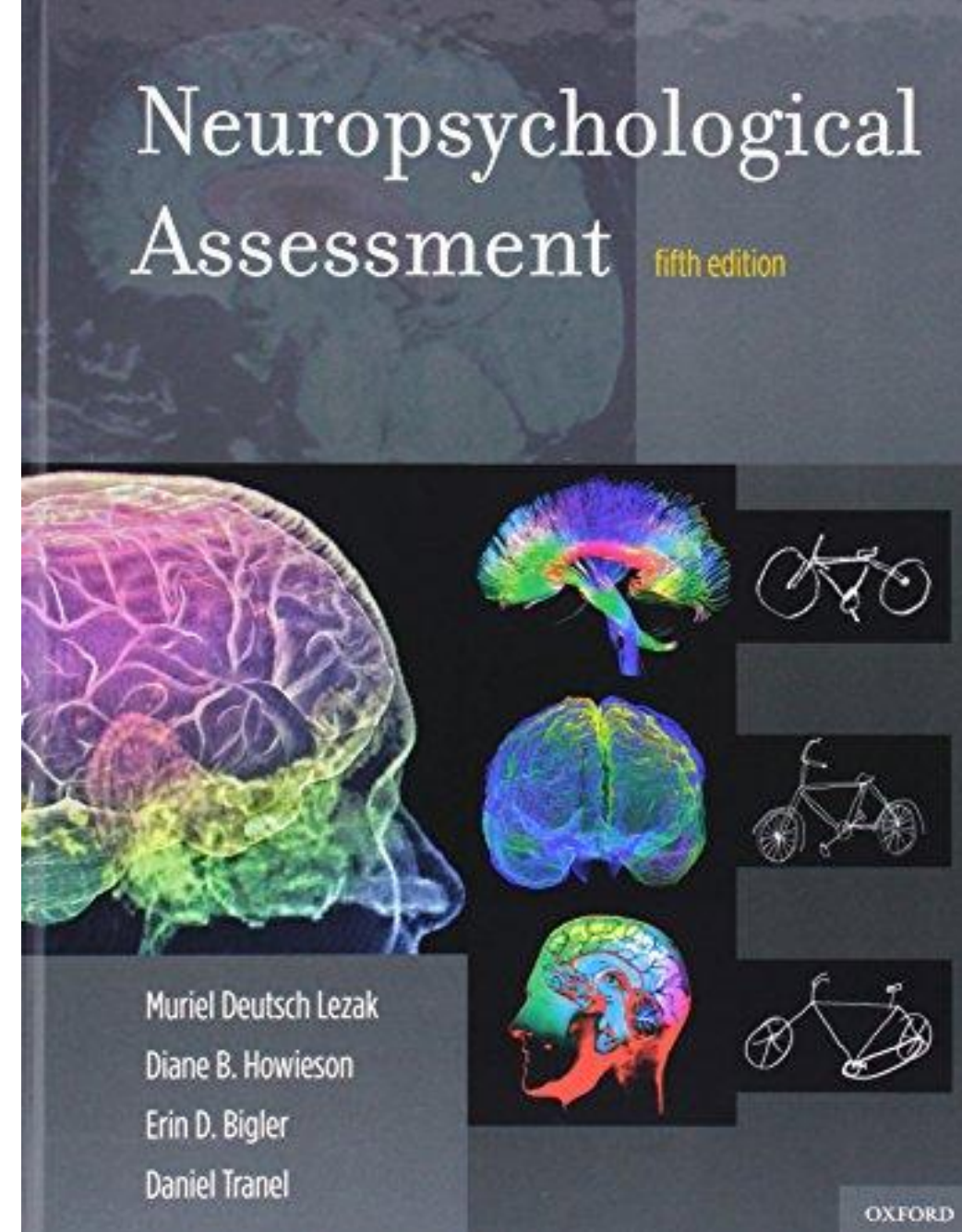
The ability to perceive, understand, and **utilize** visual information to create a map of one's spatial environment



# Neuropsychological Assessment

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- Clinical neuropsychology
- Identifies specific behavioral and cognitive impairments
- Standardized assessment
- Informs diagnoses and treatment recommendations

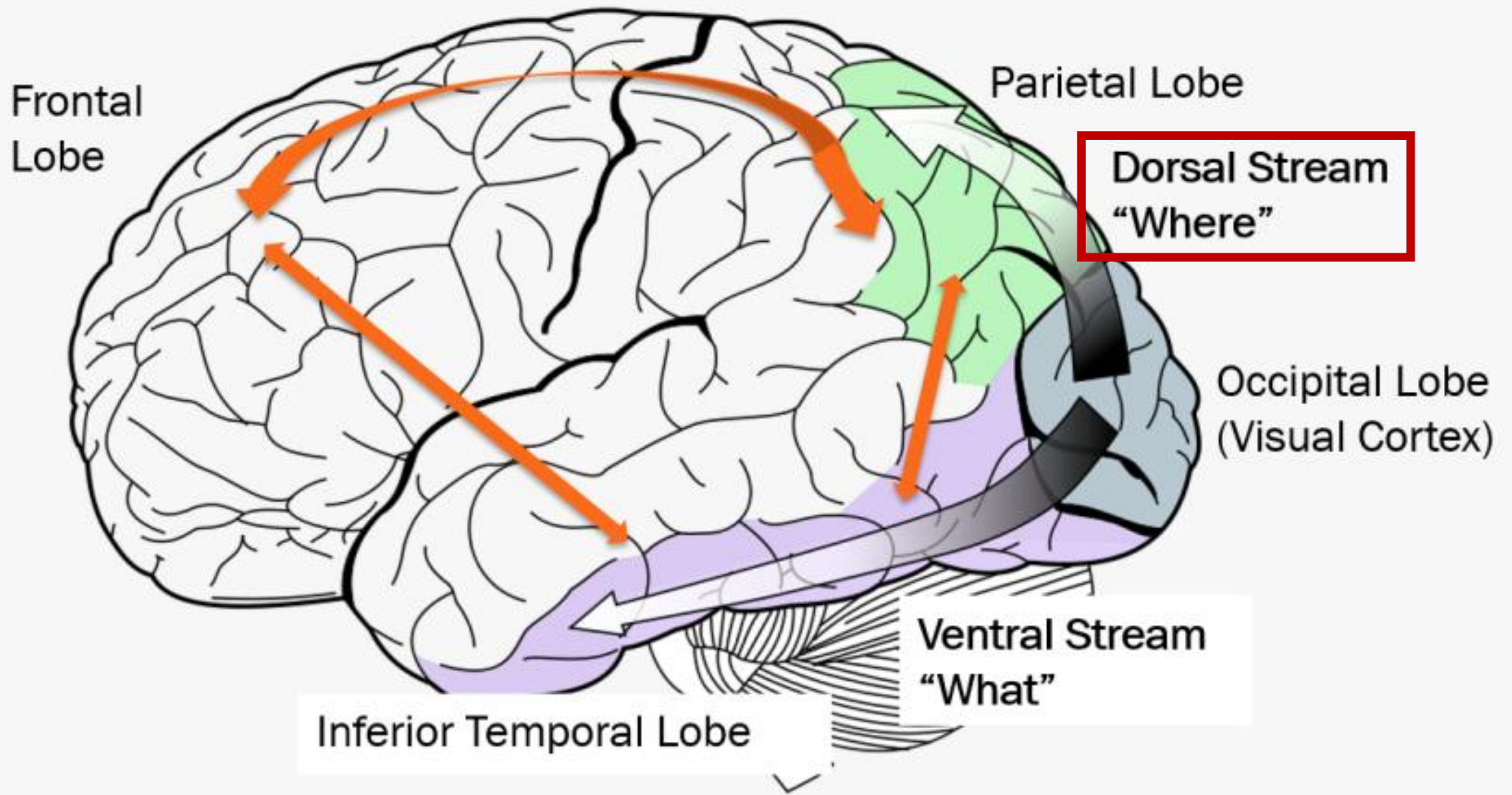


# Neuropsychological Tests of Visuospatial Ability

## WAIS subtests

- Digit-Symbol Coding
  - Matrix Reasoning
  - Block Design
  - Picture Completion
  - Symbol Search
- Benton Facial Recognition Test
  - Judgment of Line Orientation
  - Hooper Visual Organization Test
  - Rey-Osterrieth Complex Figure copy
  - Clock Drawing
  - Benton Visual Retention Test
  - Spatial Span





# Why do we need to predict visuospatial dysfunction?



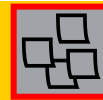
**Inform  
recommendations**



**Set realistic recovery  
expectations**



**Guide cognitive  
rehabilitation**



# Aim 1

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**Identify and describe relationships between constituent processes that comprise visuospatial ability**

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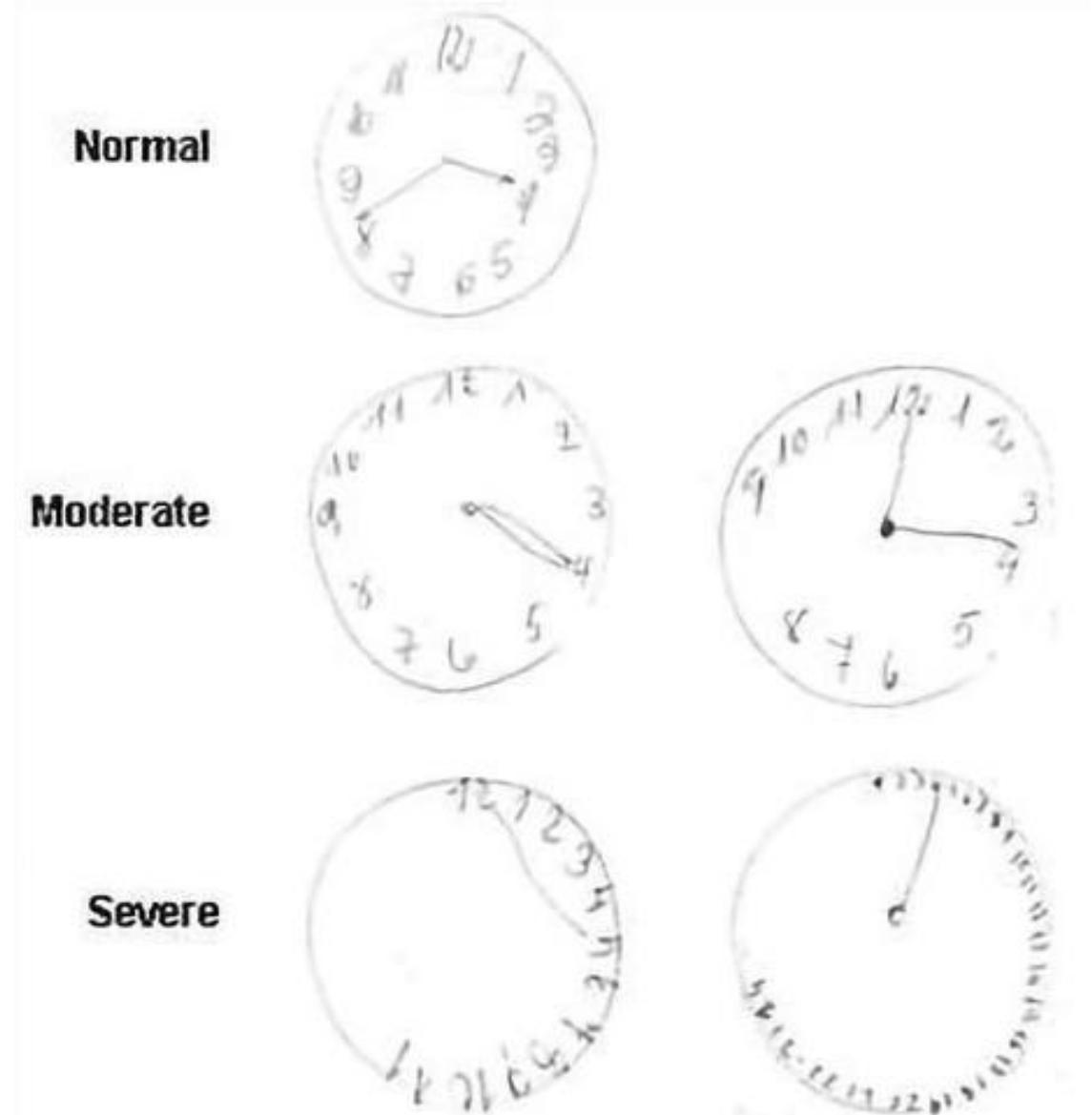
# Exploratory Factor Analysis

A data reduction technique



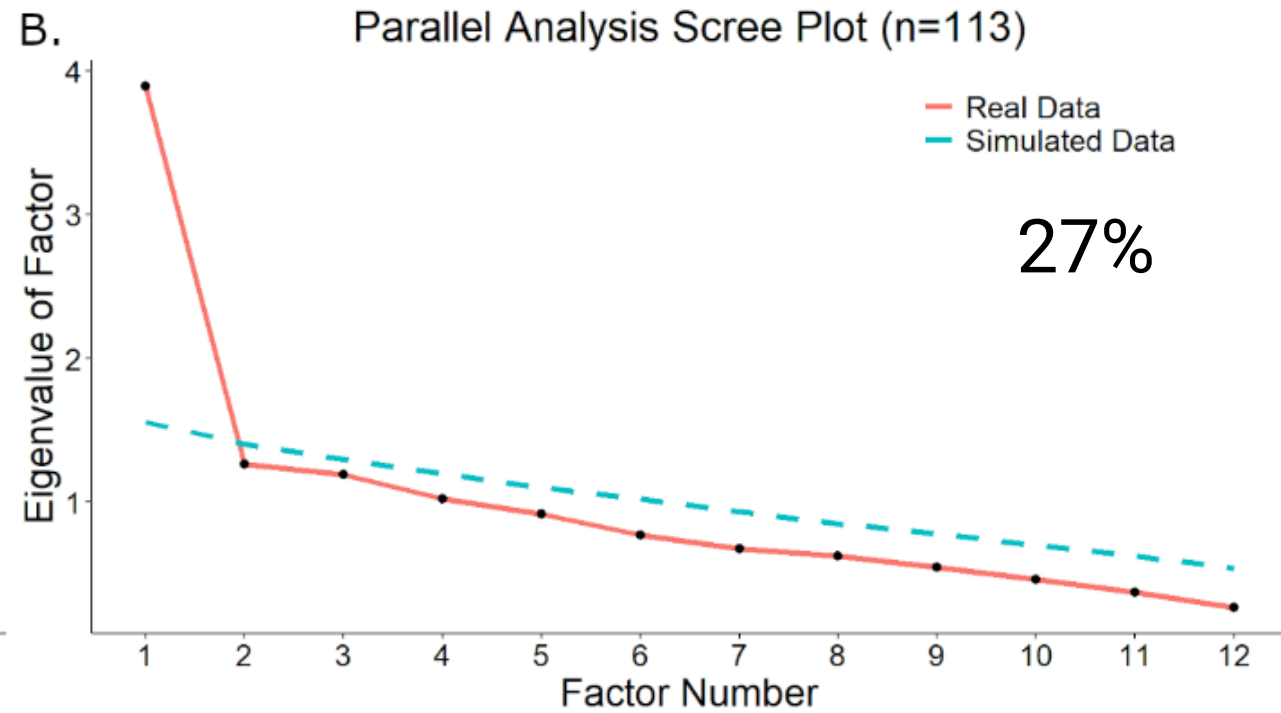
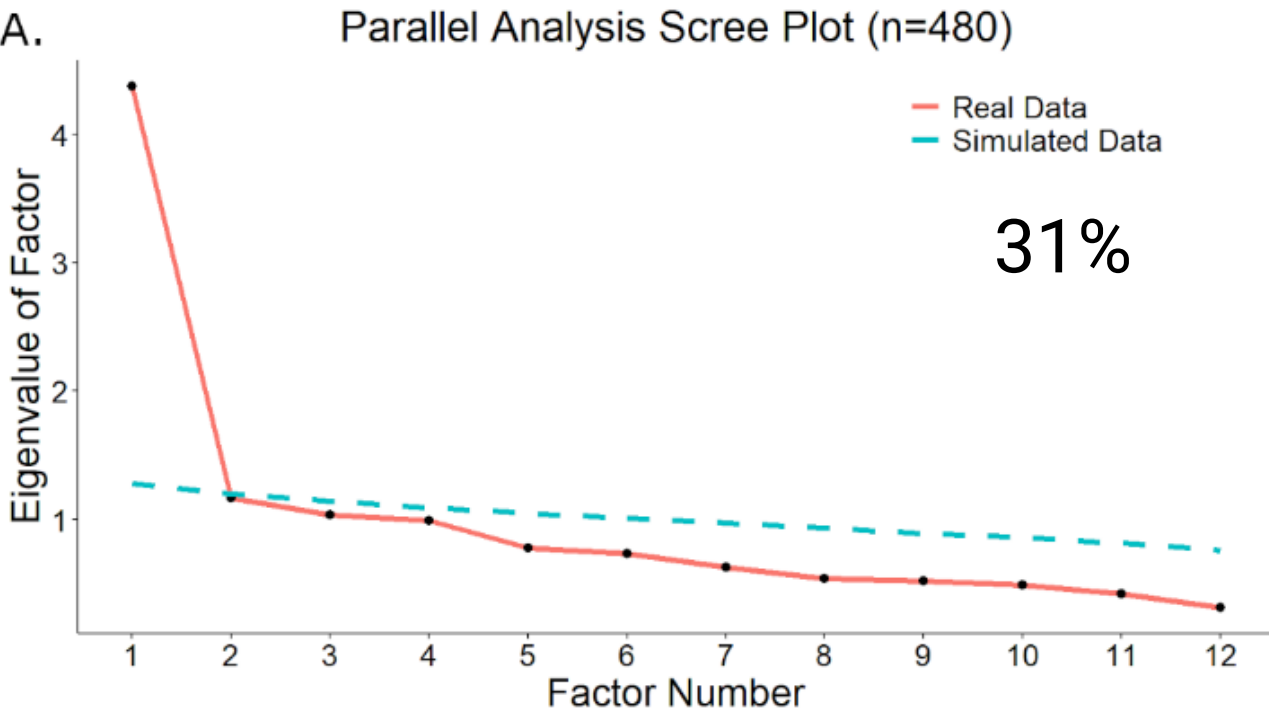
# Neuropsychological Assessments of Visuospatial Function

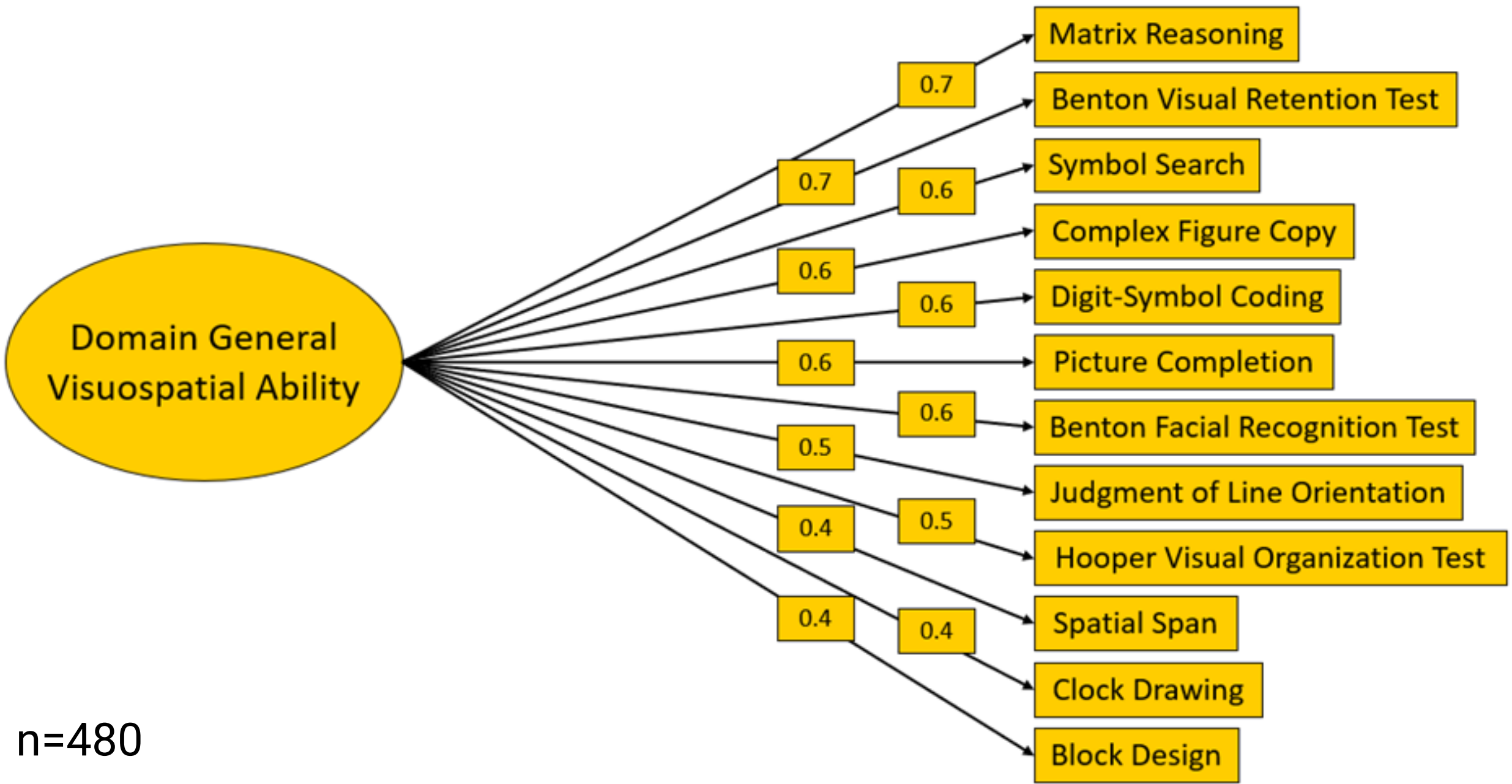
- Processing speed
- Visuoconstruction
- Facial recognition
- Visual memory
- Working memory



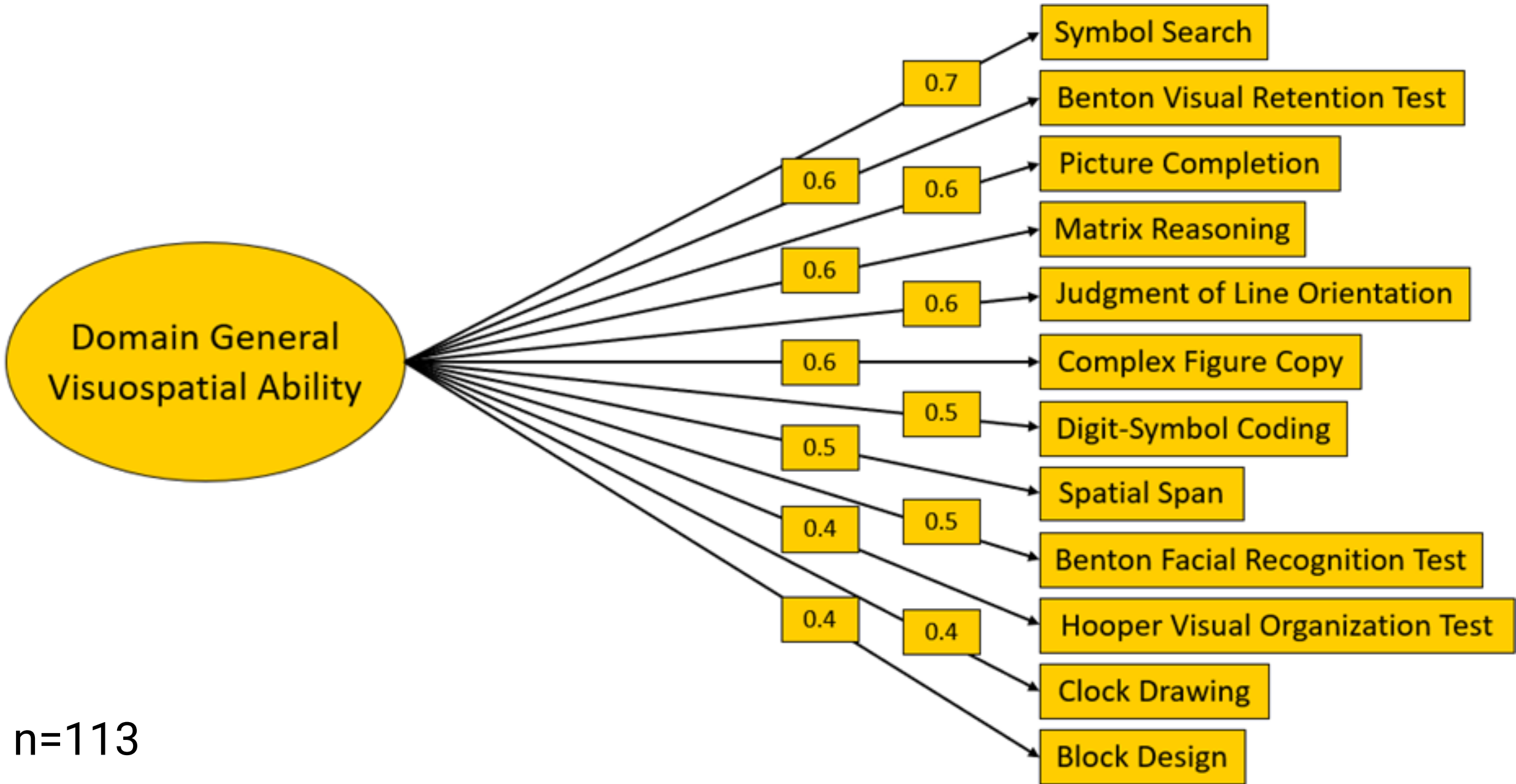
		Iowa Registry Cohort (n=480)	Benton Clinic Cohort (n=117)	Washington University Cohort (n=104)
Age (in years)	mean (sd)	52.5 (15.0)	54.8 (14.9)	53.6 (10.4)
Education (in years)	mean (sd)	13.6 (2.67)	13.1 (2.12)	13.1 (2.36)
Gender	Men	258	60	55
	Women	222	59	49
Handedness	Right	437	107	95
	Left	34	10	9
	Both	9	2	0
Race	African American	6	1	69
	American Indian	2	0	0
	Caucasian	470	118	35
	Other/Unknown	2	0	0
Ethnicity	Hispanic	2	2	2
	Non-Hispanic	477	117	102
	Unknown	1	0	0
Lesion volume (in mm <sup>3</sup> )	mean (sd)	46,066 (66,880)	47,329 (70,246)	29,814 (42,511)

		Iowa Registry Cohort (n=480)	Benton Clinic Cohort (n=117)	Washington University Cohort (n=104)
Lesion laterality	Right	183	44	54
	Left	196	58	50
	Bilateral	101	15	0
Etiology	Ischemic stroke	260	79	104
	Hemorrhage	104	7	0
	Tumor resection	87	19	0
	Focal contusion	16	0	0
	Herpes simplex or limbic encephalitis	12	0	0
	Epilepsy resection	0	14	0
	Multiple etiologies	1	0	0

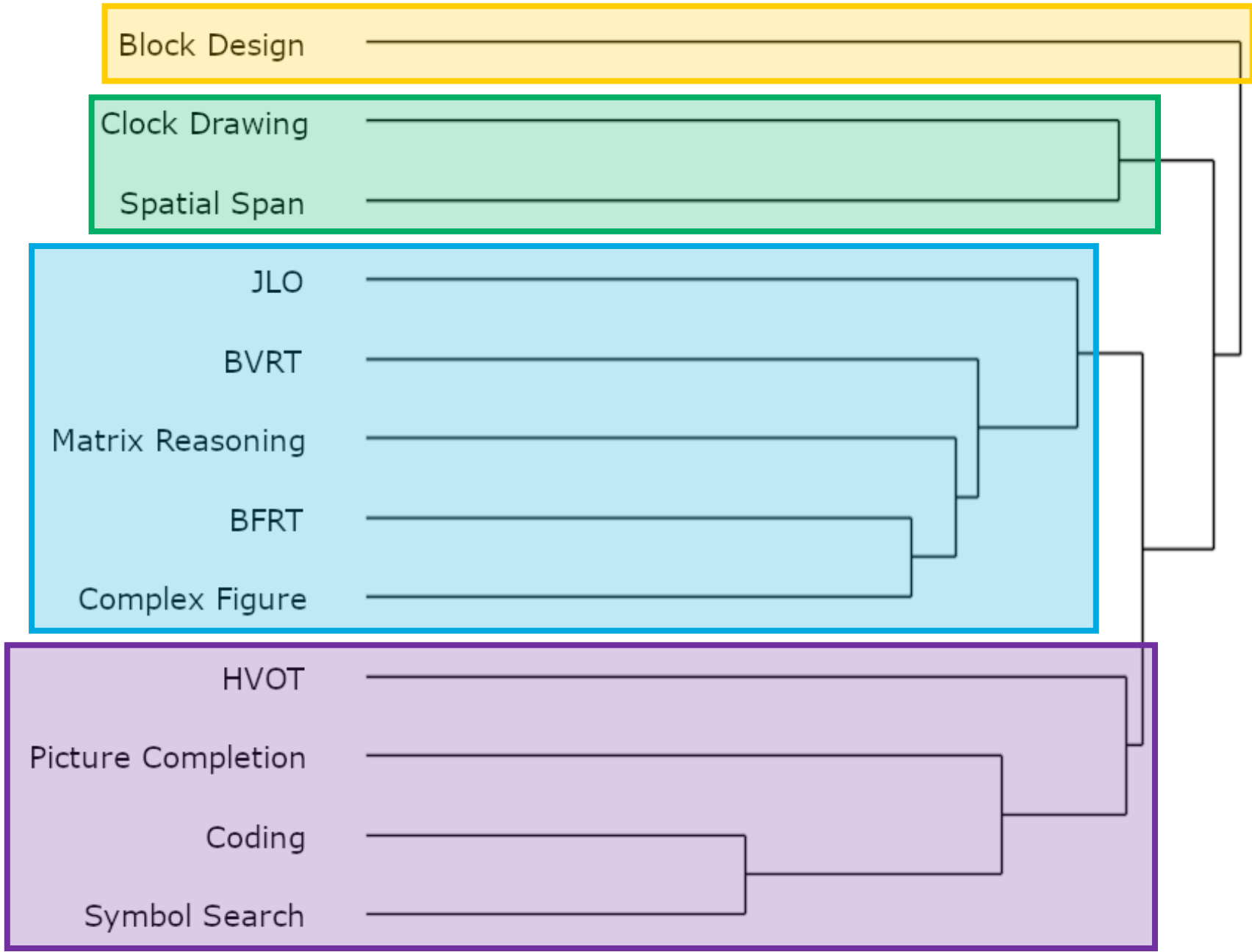




n=480



n=113



# Aim 1 Conclusion

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**The covariance among twelve tests sensitive to visuospatial dysfunction was best captured by one factor, domain general visuospatial ability.**

# Aim 2

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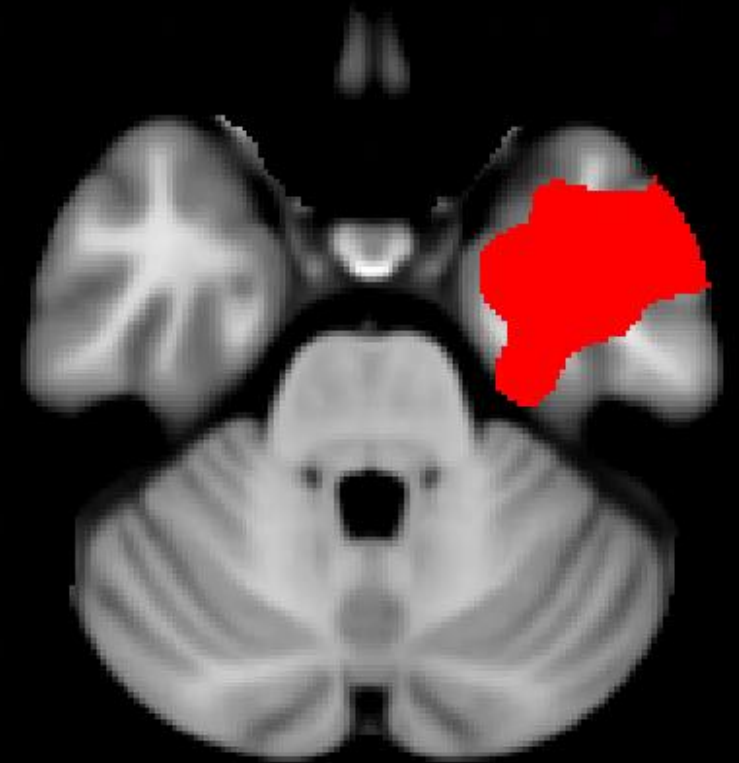
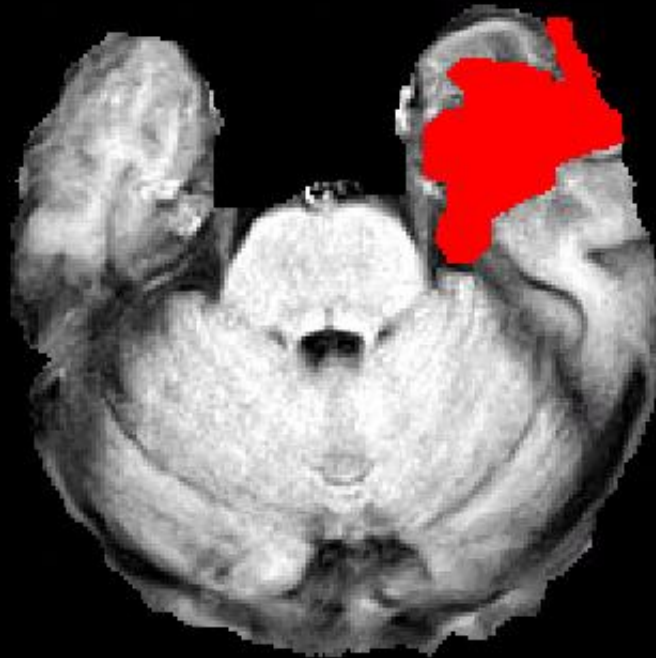
**Identify neural correlates of the latent variable identified in Aim 1 using multivariate lesion-symptom mapping and lesion network mapping**

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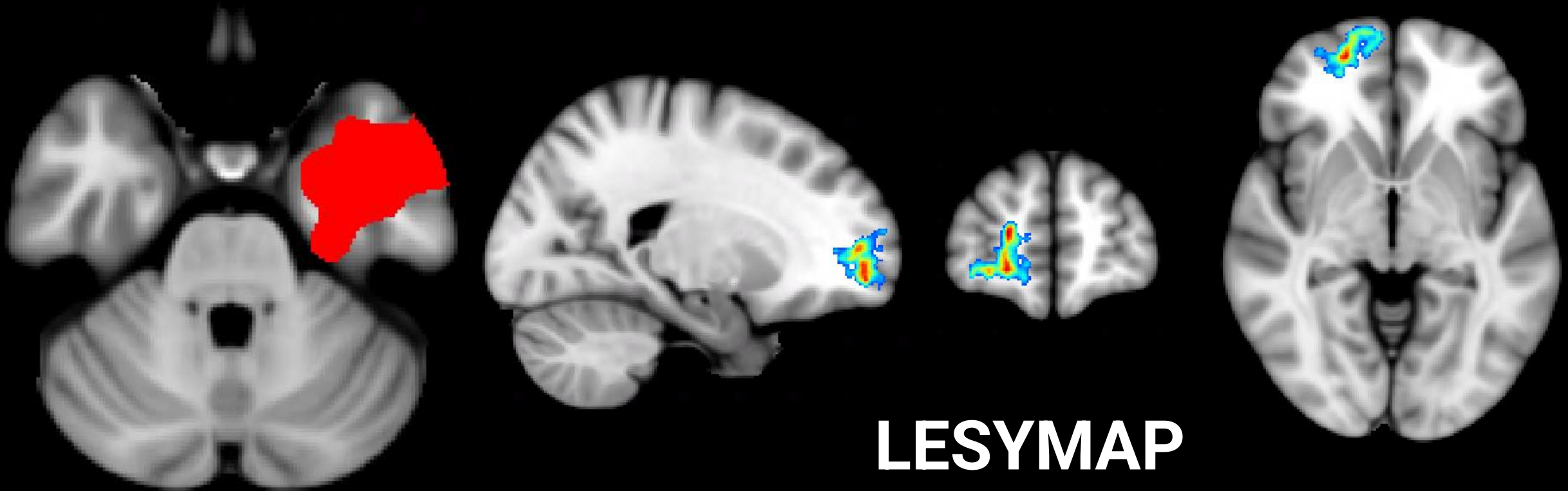
# Functional Neuroanatomy of Visuospatial Ability



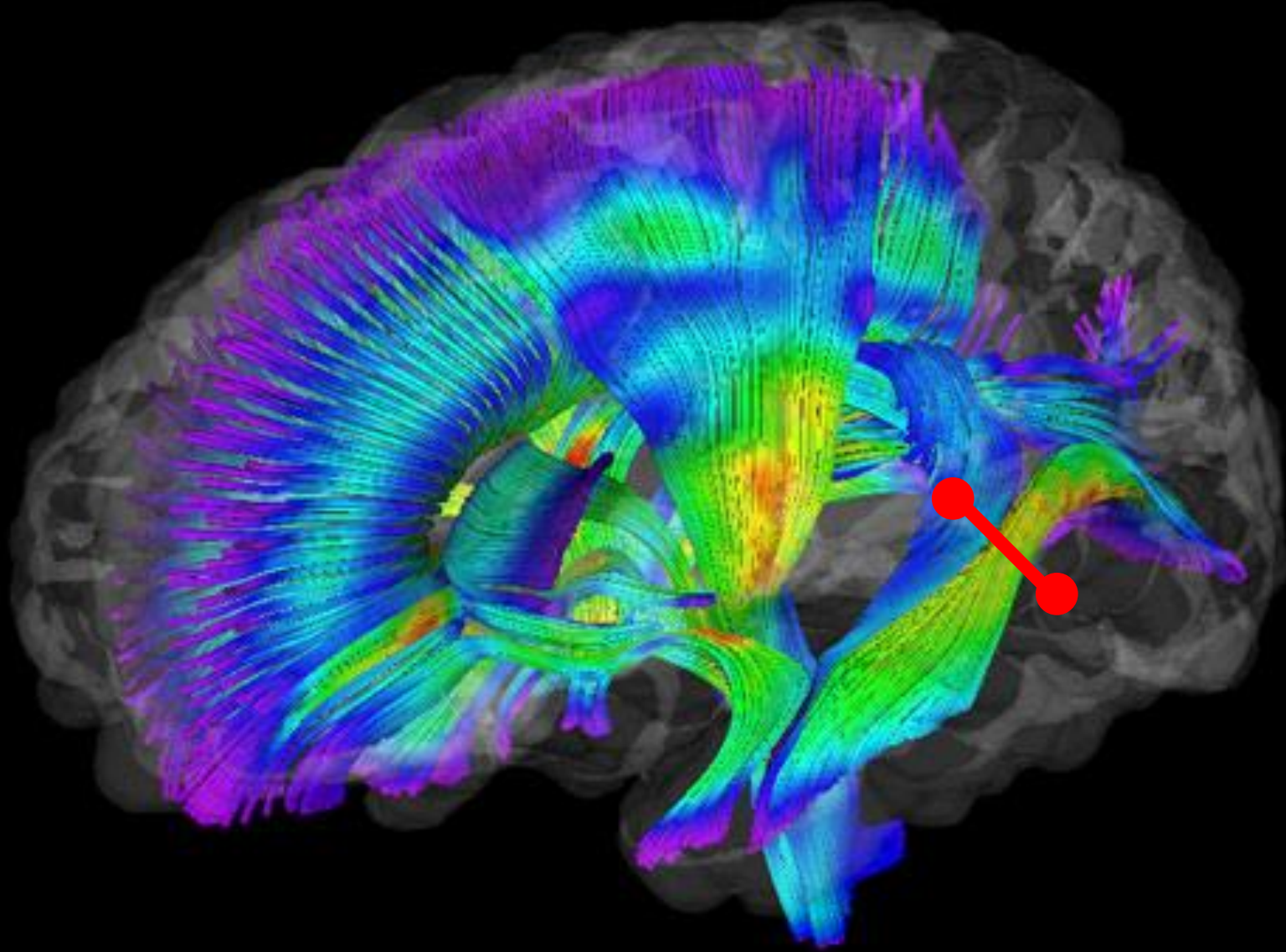
# Lesion-Symptom Mapping



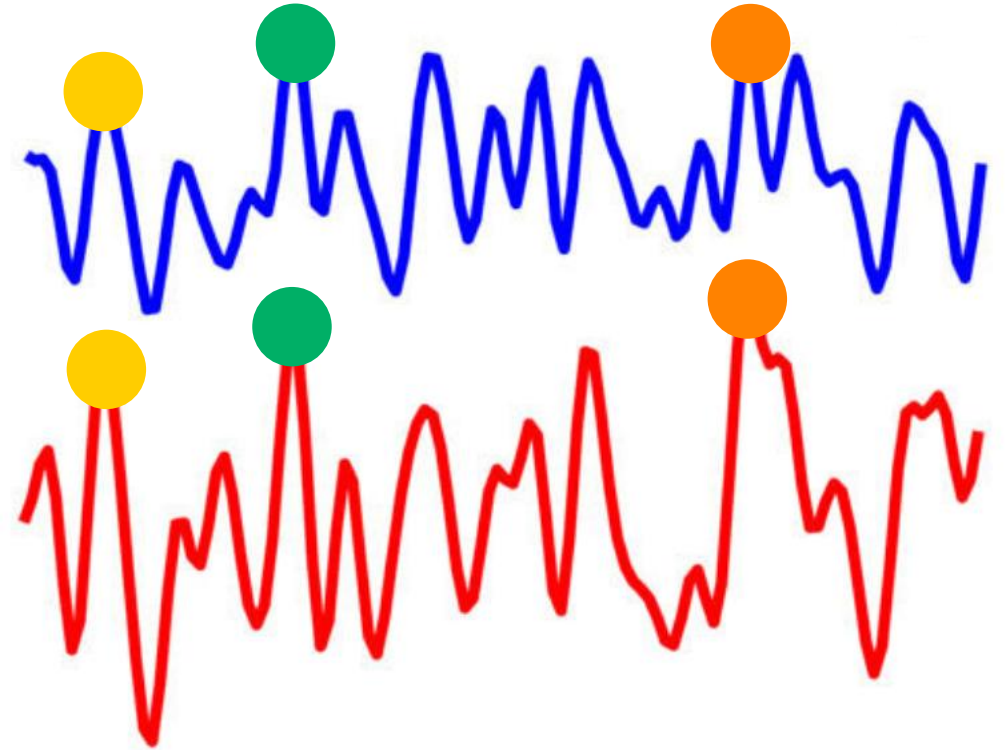
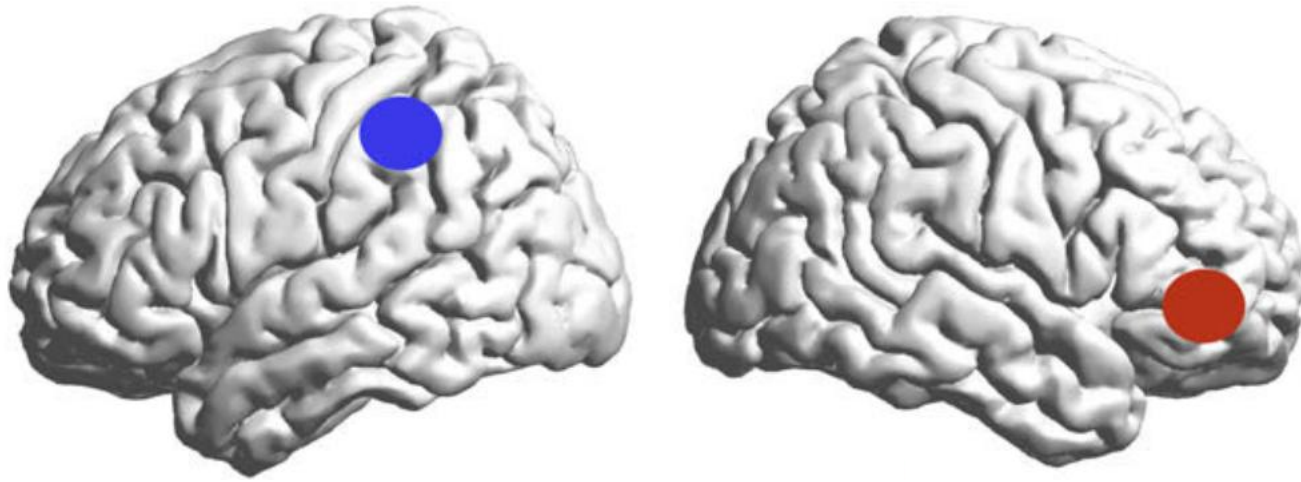
# Lesion-Symptom Mapping



# Structural Lesion Network Mapping



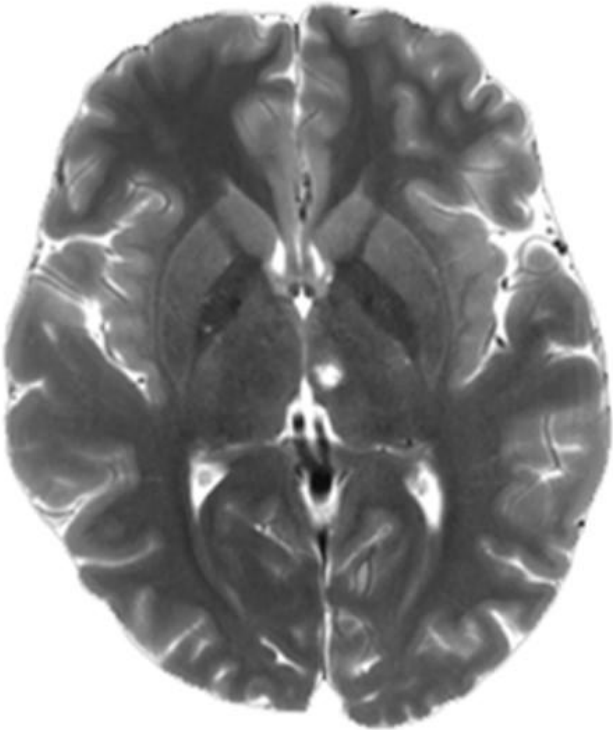
# Functional Connectivity



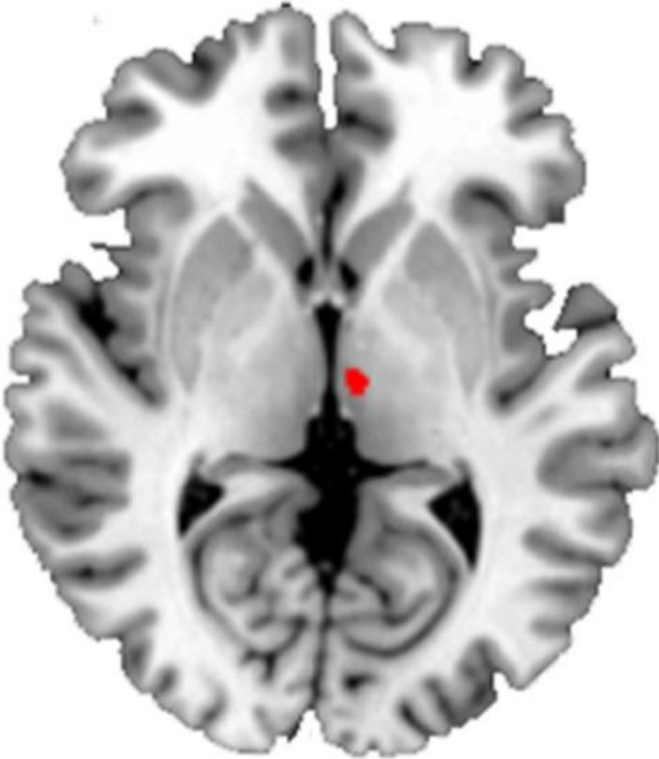
(adapted from King, J. & Anderson, J., 2018)

# Functional Lesion Network Mapping

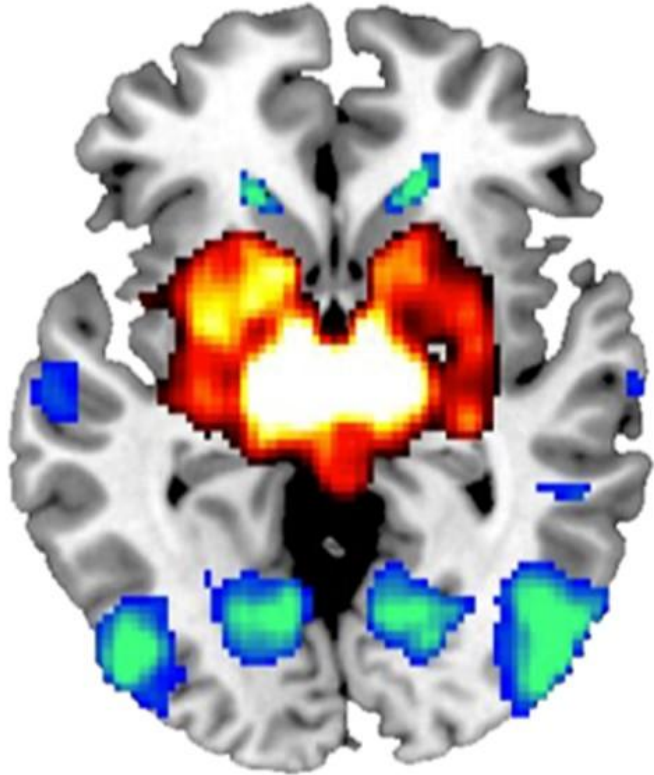
Individual brain lesion



Lesion on template brain



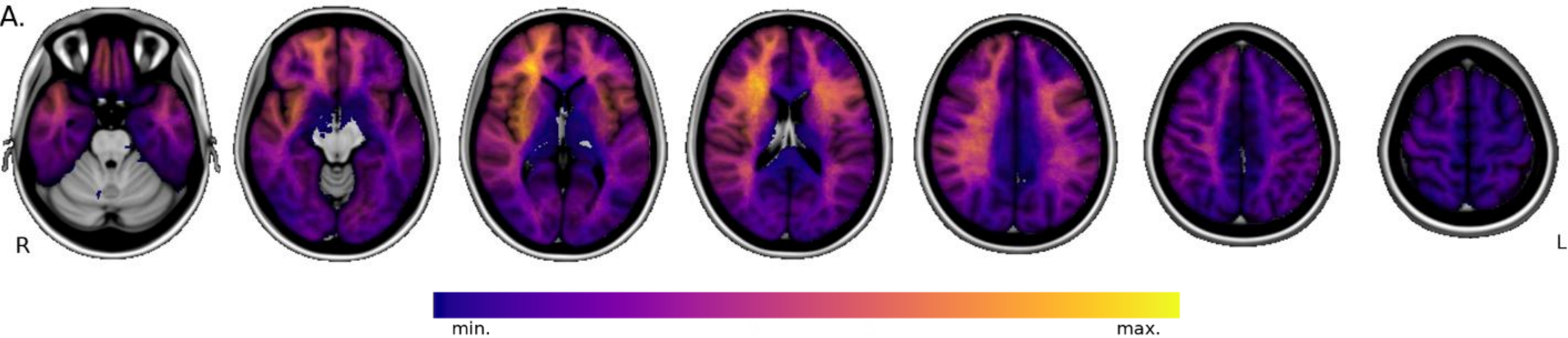
Lesion network



(Boes, 2021; Boes et al., 2015)

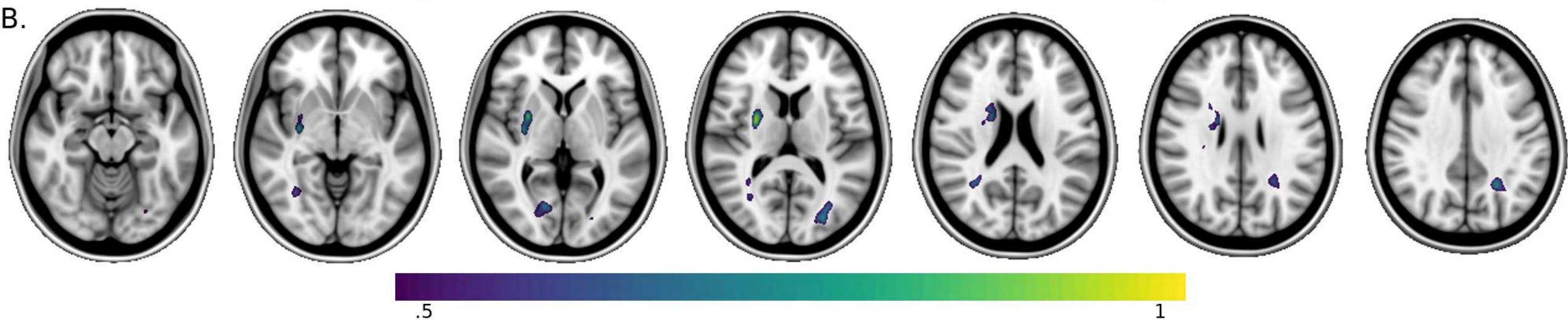
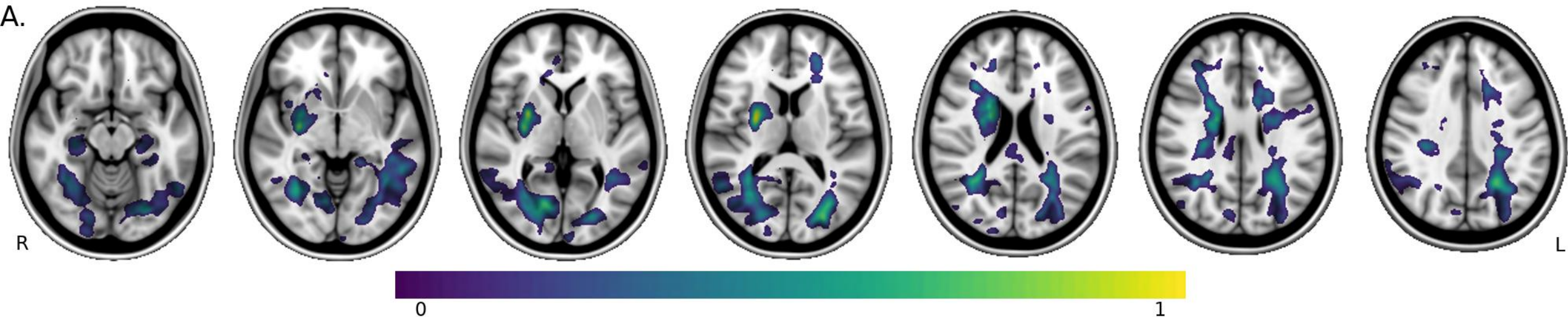
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# Lesion Overlap Map: Iowa Registry Cohort



# LESYMAP: Domain General Visuospatial Ability

n=480, r=.237, p=1.52x10<sup>-7</sup>



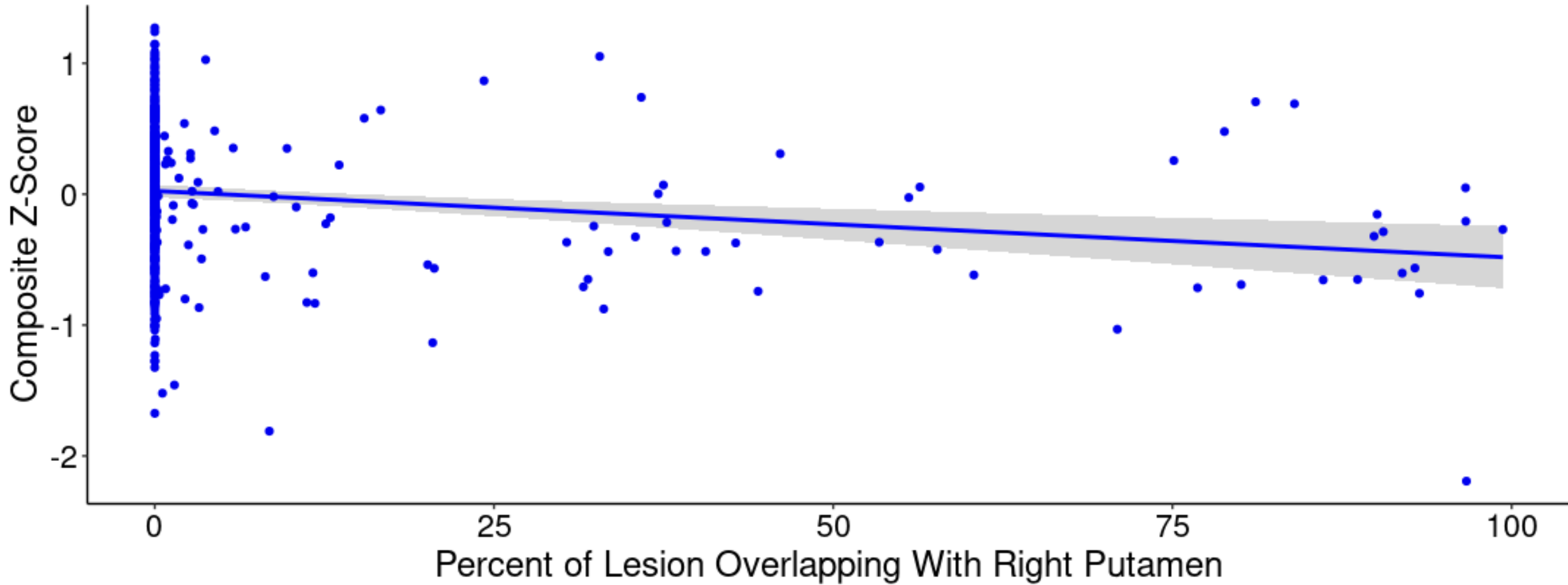
# What's going on in the right putamen?

After covarying for lesion volume, domain general visuospatial ability is worse in patients when more of their lesion intersects with the right putamen.

$$F_{2,477} = 25.4, \quad p = 3.3 * 10^{-11}$$

$$\frac{\text{number of lesioned voxels in the right putamen}}{\text{number of voxels in whole lesion}}$$

# LESYMAP: Domain General Visuospatial Ability



# What's going on in the right putamen?

After covarying for lesion volume, domain general visuospatial ability is worse in patients who have more of their right putamen lesioned.

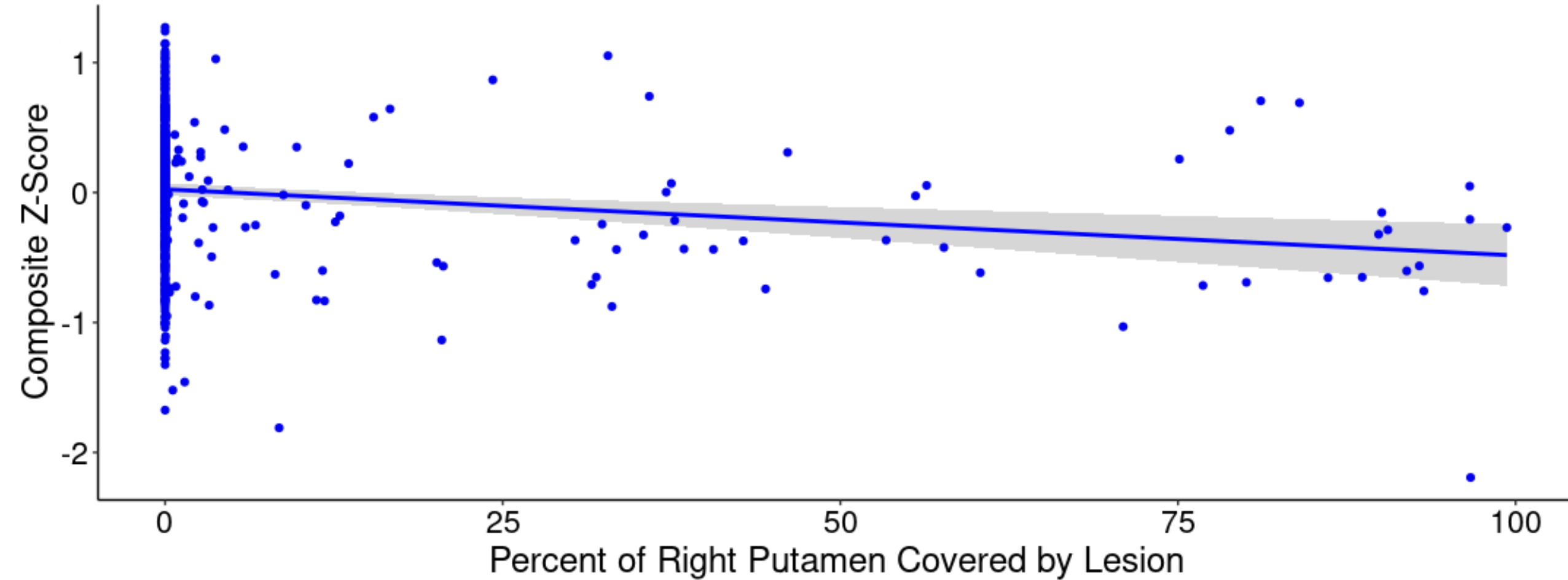
$$F_{2,477} = 27.1, \quad p = 7.0 * 10^{-12}$$

*number of lesioned voxels in the right putamen*  

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*total number of voxels in the right putamen*

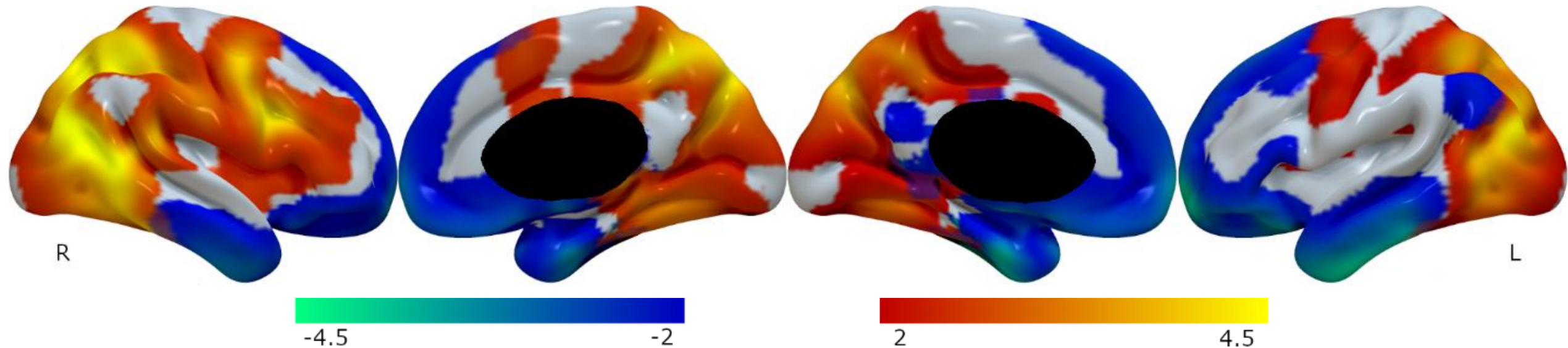
# LESYMAP: Domain General Visuospatial Ability





# Multi-Domain Generative Network Visual Mapping Ability

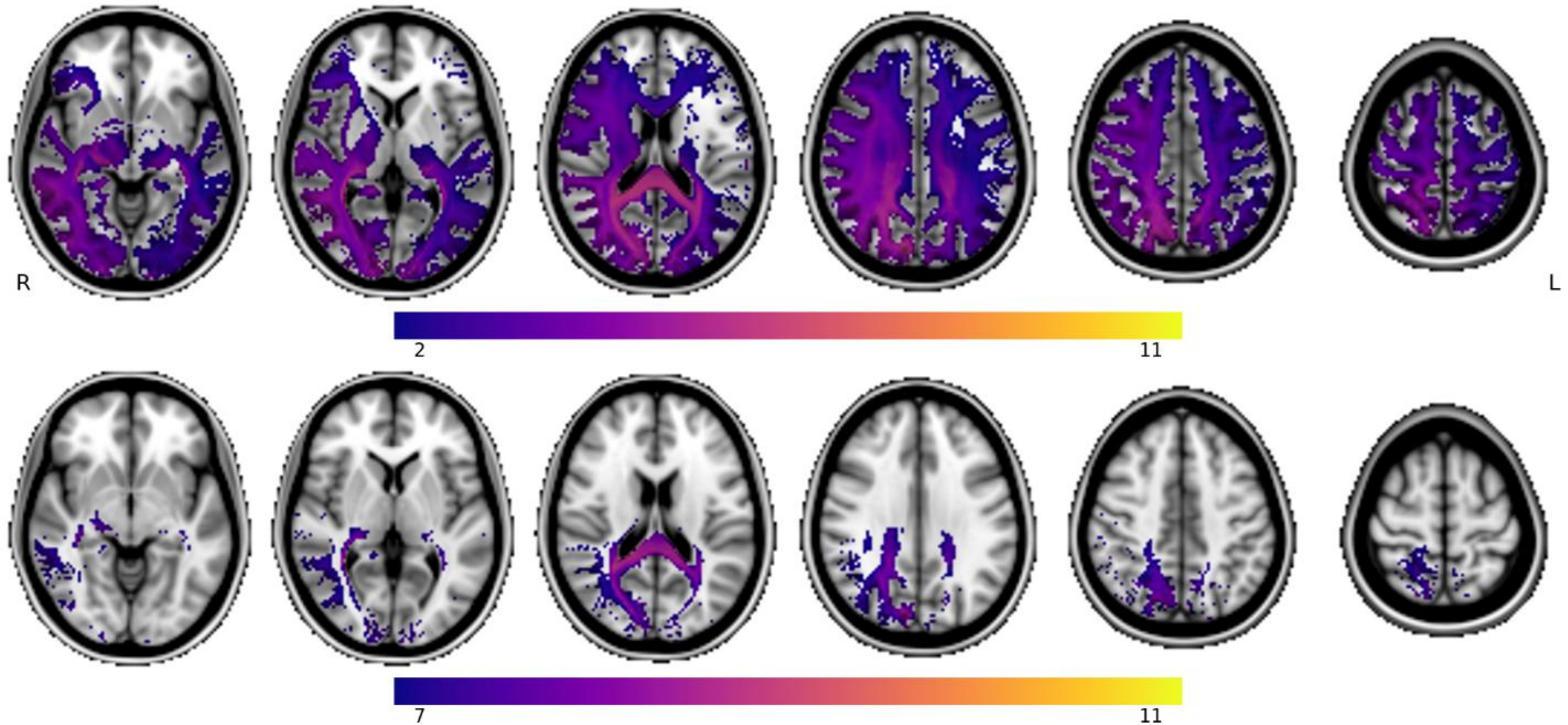
n=480, t=5.10, p=2.59x10<sup>-3</sup>



Dorsal Attention Network: r=.440  
Visual Network: r=.387

# Structural Basis of Network Mapping Ability

n=480, t=10.3, p=3.98x10<sup>-4</sup>



# General Intelligence (*g*)

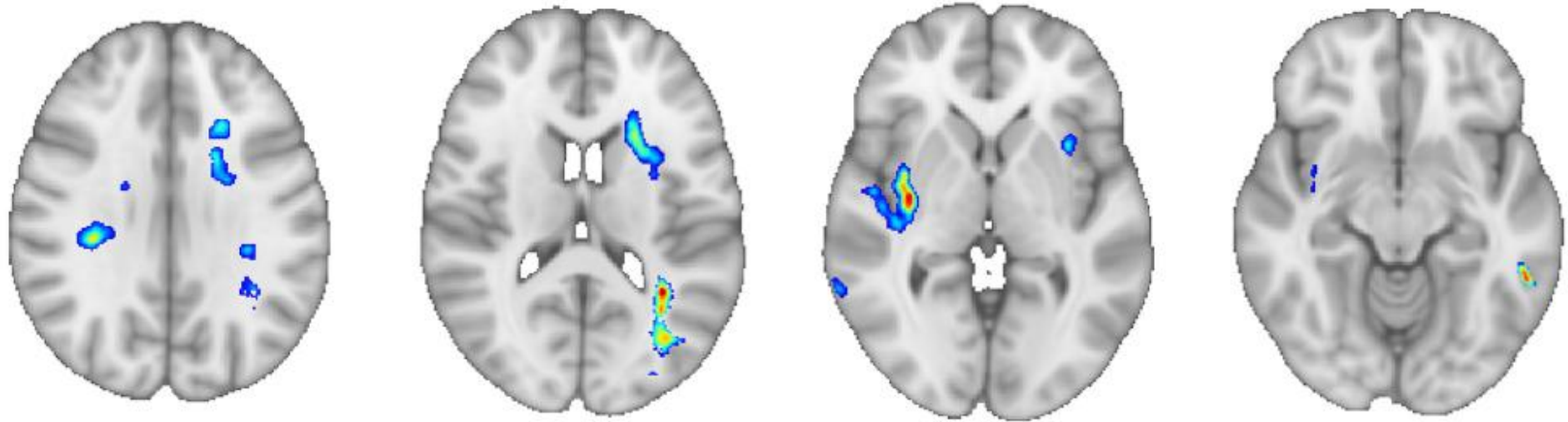
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General intelligence (*g*) is a psychometric construct that captures general cognitive ability as a summation of positive correlations across multiple cognitive tests.

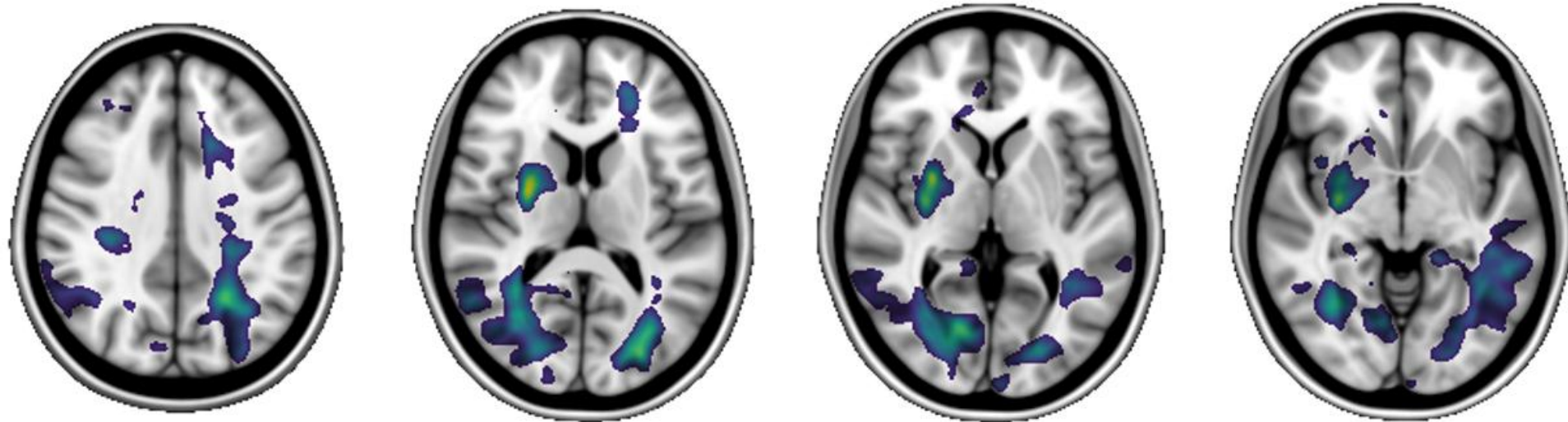
Domain General Visuospatial Ability is highly correlated with *g* ( $r=.569$ ,  $p=1.36 \times 10^{-42}$ ).

# Role of $g$ in Domain General Visuospatial Ability

Bowren's  $g$   
(Bowren et al, 2020)

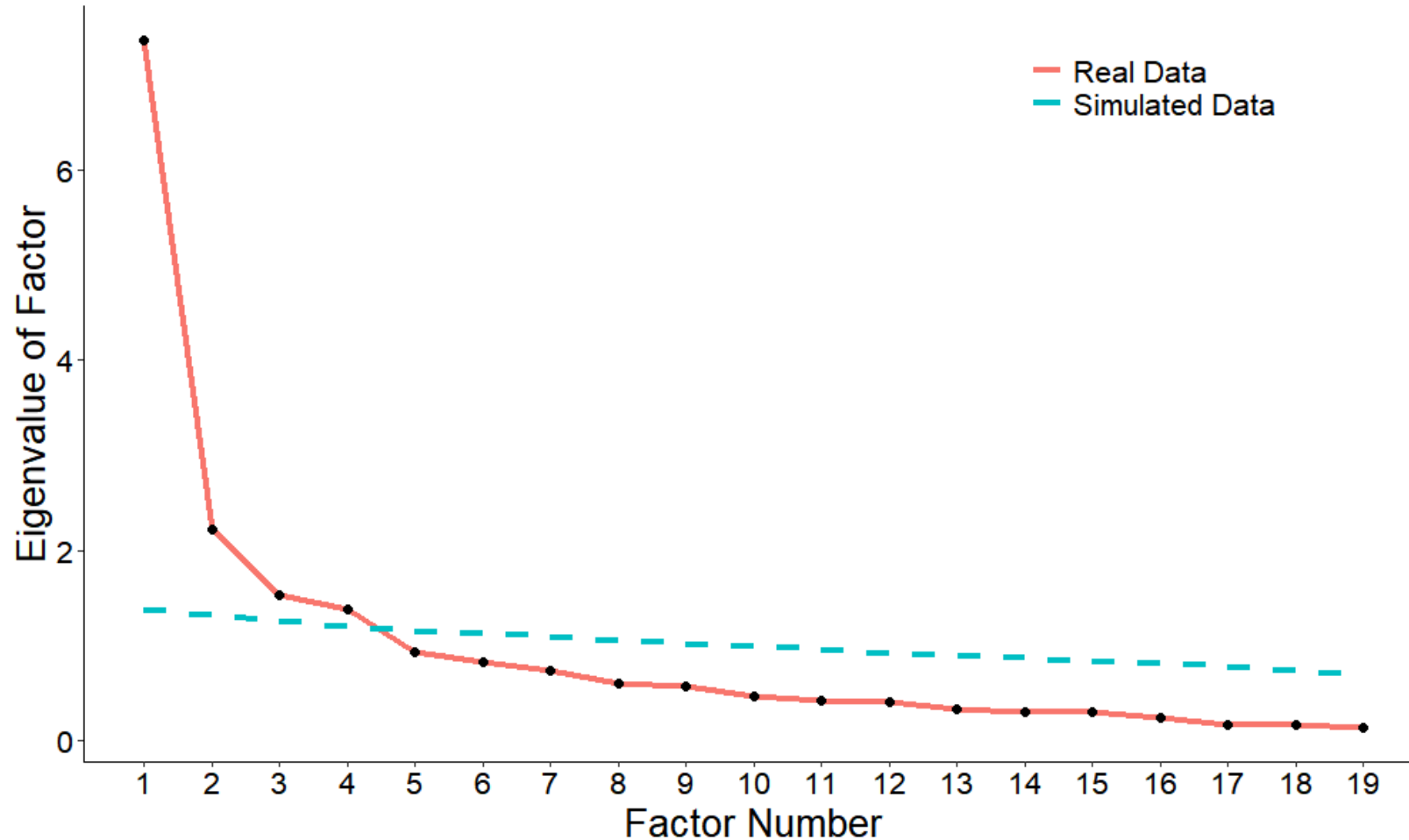


Domain General  
Visuospatial Ability  
(Skye et al, 2023)

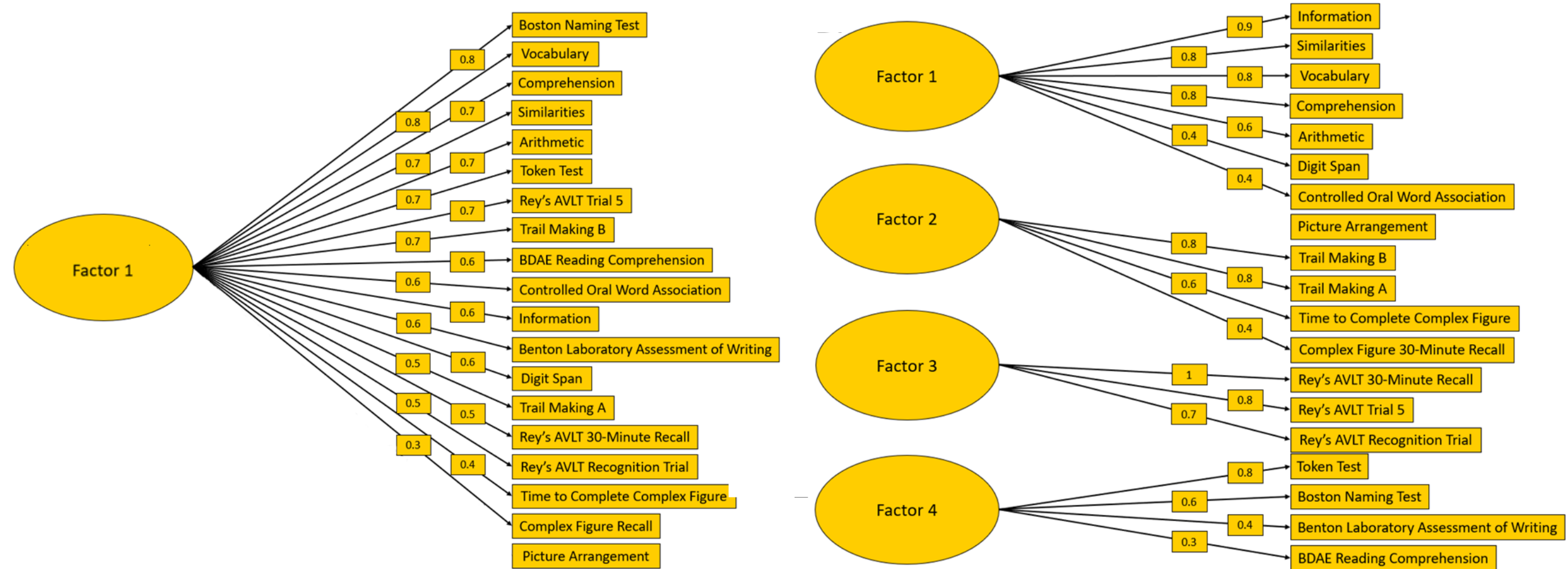


# Role of $g$ in Domain General Visuospatial Ability

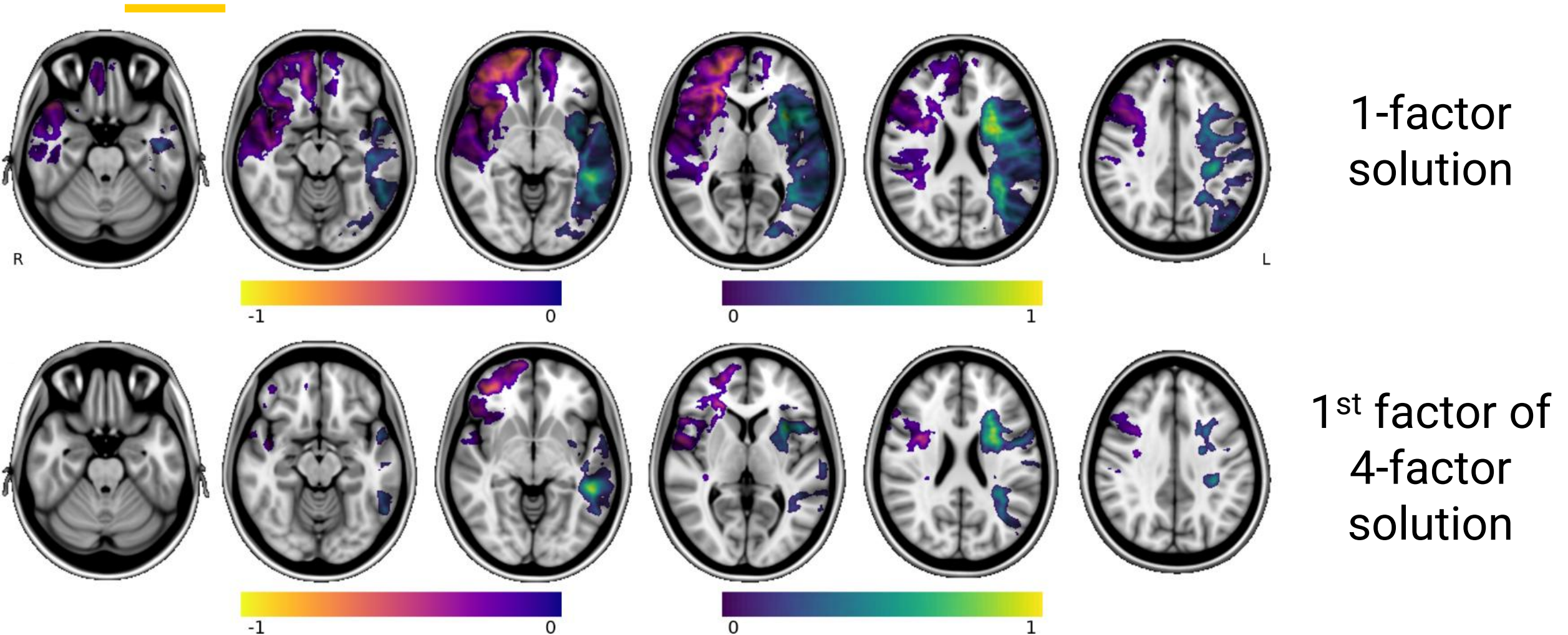
Parallel Analysis Scree Plot (N=480)



# Role of $g$ in Domain General Visuospatial Ability

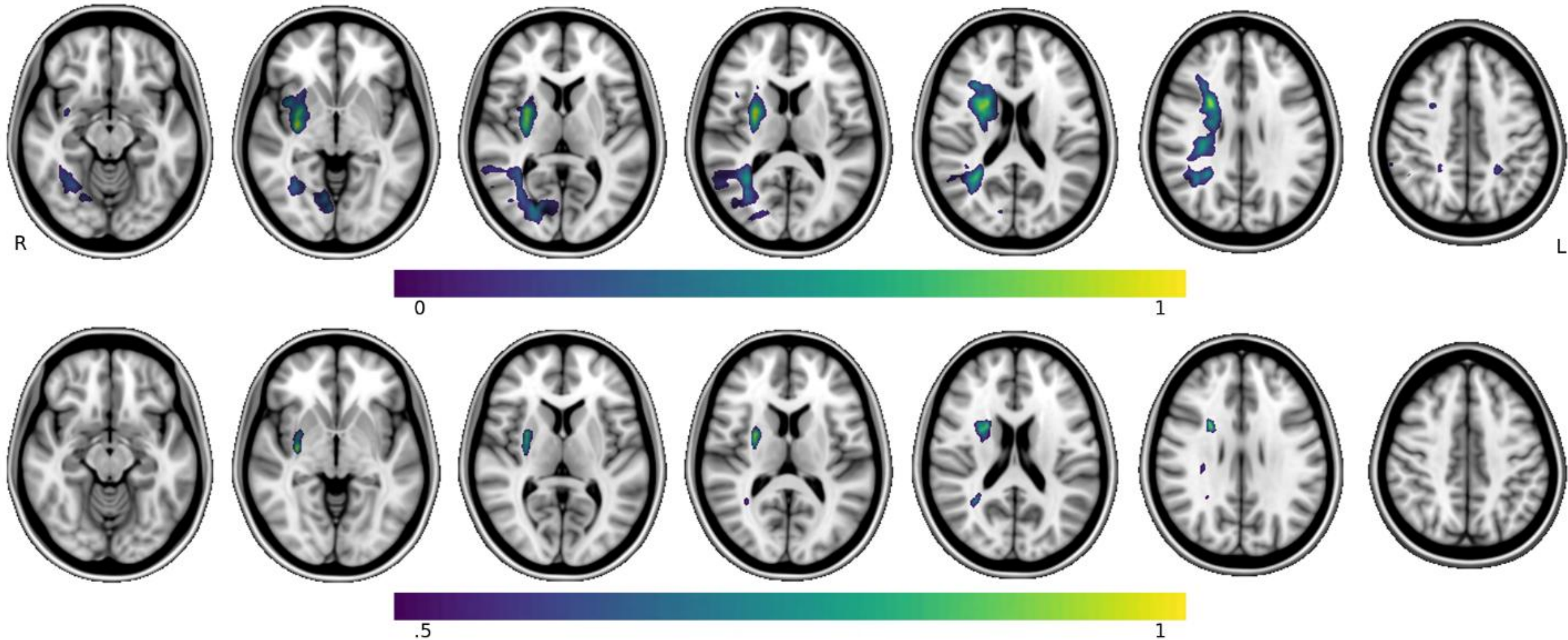


# LESYMAP: $g$



# LESYMAP: Domain General Visuospatial Ability Covarying for $g$

$n=480, r=.425, p=1.75 \times 10^{-22}$



# Aim 2 Conclusion

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**Chronic visuospatial dysfunction is associated with damage to the right putamen, distributed white matter including the dorsal visual stream, dorsal attention network, and visual network.**

# Aim 3

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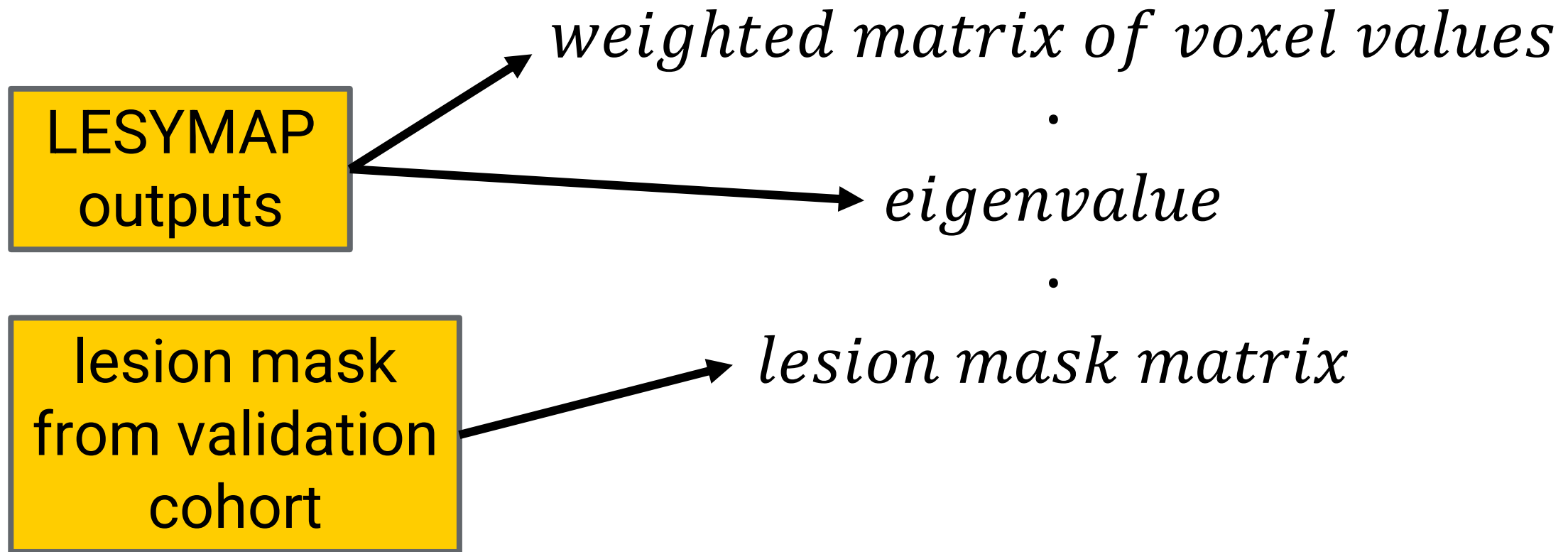
**Evaluate the predictive ability of factor-derived lesion-symptom maps and lesion network maps in two validation datasets.**

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# Predicting Visuospatial Dysfunction



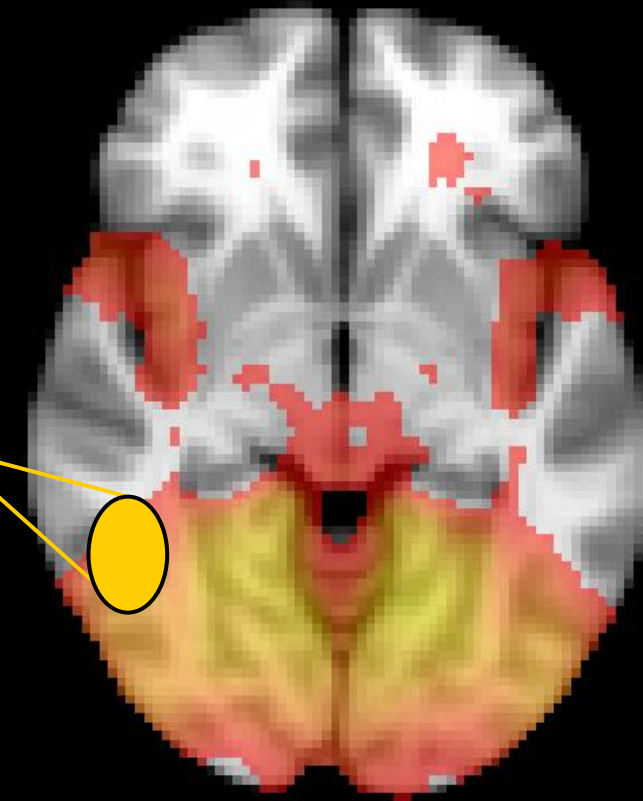
# How to predict visuospatial dysfunction in other patient cohorts



# How to predict visuospatial dysfunction in other patient cohorts

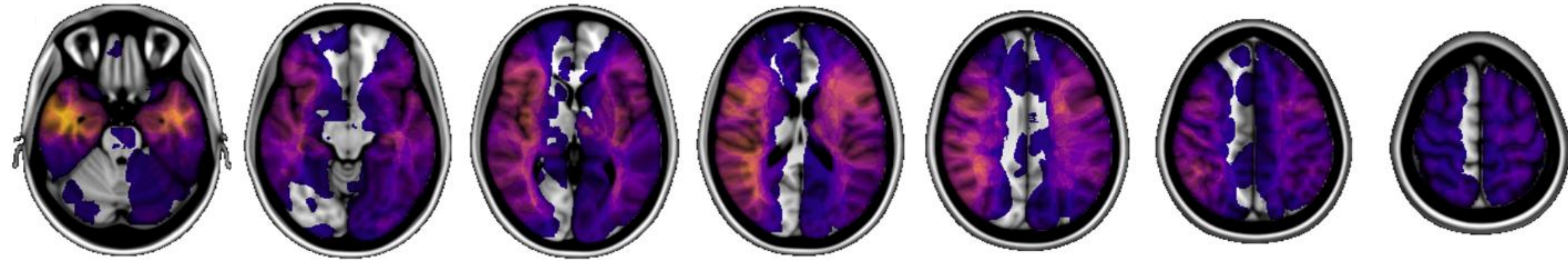
$$LL = \sum_{n=1}^{n_{max}} [voxel\ intensities \cdot voxel\ volume]$$

0	0	2	0
4	6	6	10
7	9	13	13
8	10	11	14



# Benton Clinic Cohort

LESYMAP:  $n=117$ ,  $r=.0964$ ,  $p=.301$



**Amount of patient's lesion covering right putamen**

adj.  $R^2=.0380$ ,  $F(2,114)=3.29$ ,  $p=.0409$

**Lesioned : total voxels in right putamen**

adj.  $R^2=.0360$ ,  $F(2,114)=3.16$ ,  $p=.0460$

# Benton Clinic Cohort

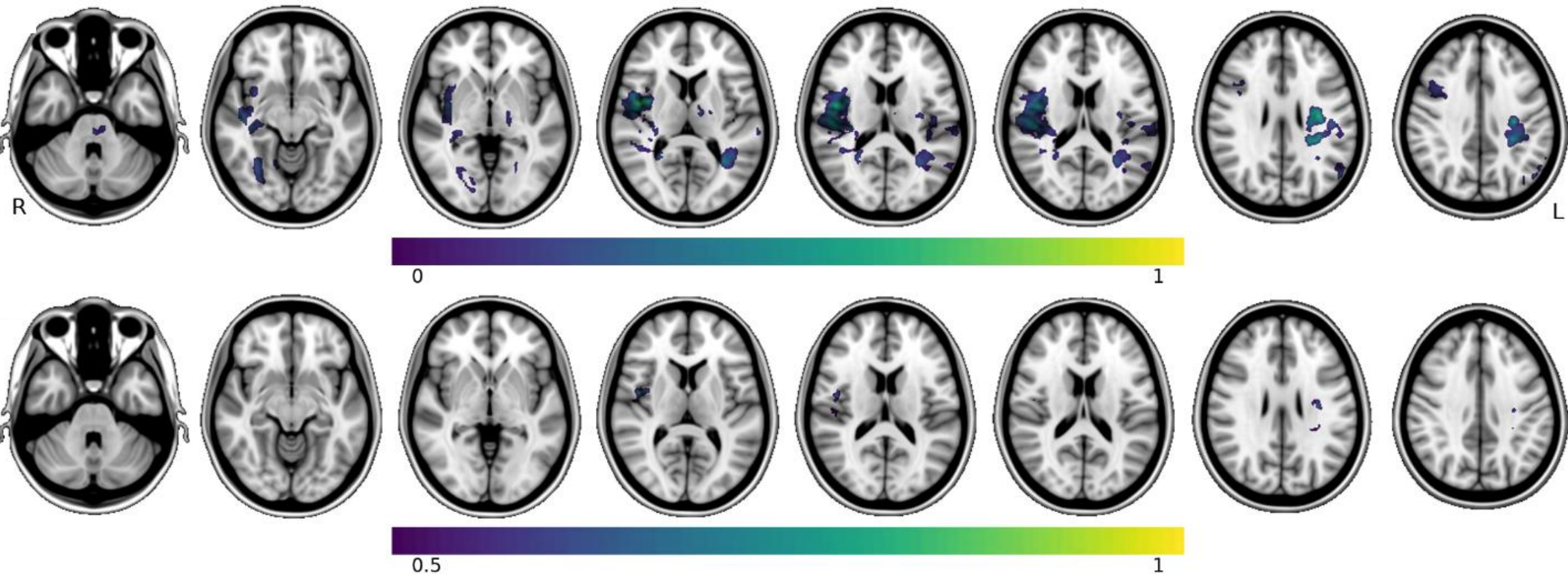
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A linear model with fLNM, sLNM, and lesion volume as predictors best predicts outcomes in the Benton Clinic cohort.

RMSE=.628,  $R^2=.0998$ , AIC=220.7, BIC=234.5  
adj.  $R^2=.0664$ ,  $F(3,113)=3.75$ ,  $p=.0130$

# Washington University Cohort

LESYMAP:  $n=104$ ,  $r=.193$ ,  $p=.0493$



# Washington University Cohort

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A linear model with fLNM, sLNM, and lesion volume as predictors best predicts outcomes in the Washington University cohort.

RMSE=.584,  $R^2=.115$ , AIC=175.1, BIC=188.3  
adj.  $R^2=.144$ ,  $F(3,100)=6.76$ ,  $p=3.39 \times 10^{-4}$

# Aim 3 Conclusion

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**A linear model with functional lesion network mapping, structural lesion network mapping, and lesion volume as predictors best predicts outcomes in two validation cohorts.**

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# Conclusions and Future Directions



# Conclusion

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**One factor best represents  
visuospatial ability.**

# Conclusion

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**Damage to the right putamen is most associated with domain general visuospatial dysfunction.**

# Conclusion

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**Functional lesion network mapping,  
structural lesion network mapping,  
and lesion volume predict domain  
general visuospatial dysfunction.**

# Future Directions

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- Mix Iowa Registry and Benton Clinic cohorts
- Network correlates of right putamen
- Control for **nonverbal  $g$**  on individual tests
- Use ridge regression to test models



THANK YOU TO OUR  
AWESOME REGISTRY  
PATIENTS!!!



**IOWA**

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Interdisciplinary Graduate  
Program in Neuroscience



Thank you!  
Tranel Lab  
Boes Lab  
Jeff Long, PhD  
Justin Sipla, PhD  
James Traer, PhD

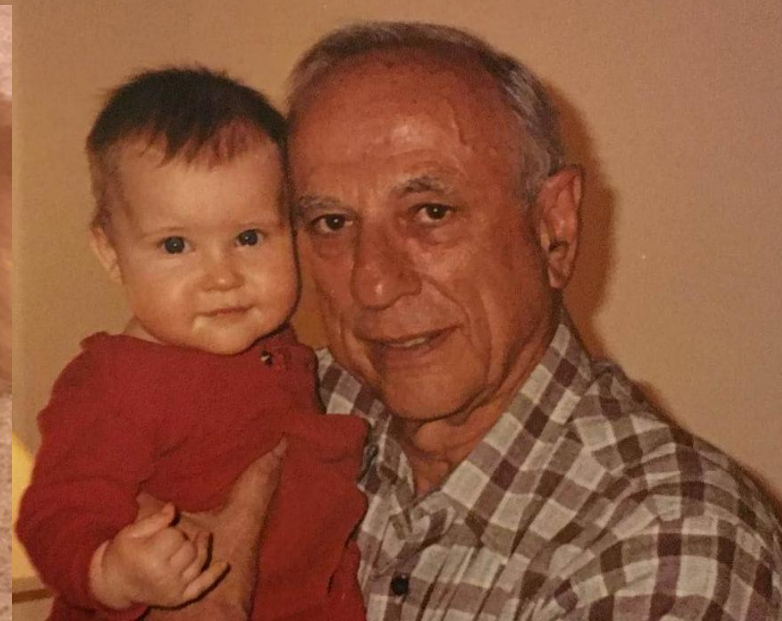


**UNIVERSITY OF IOWA**  
HOSPITALS & CLINICS

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University of Iowa Health Care

Funding:  
NIH Diversity Supplement 3R01NS114405-01S2





Celebrating 150 years of advancing medical research, education, and patient care to help people live longer, healthier lives



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# Questions?



→ [jax-skye@uiowa.edu](mailto:jax-skye@uiowa.edu)

**Jax Skye**  
Departments of  
Neurology and  
Pediatrics

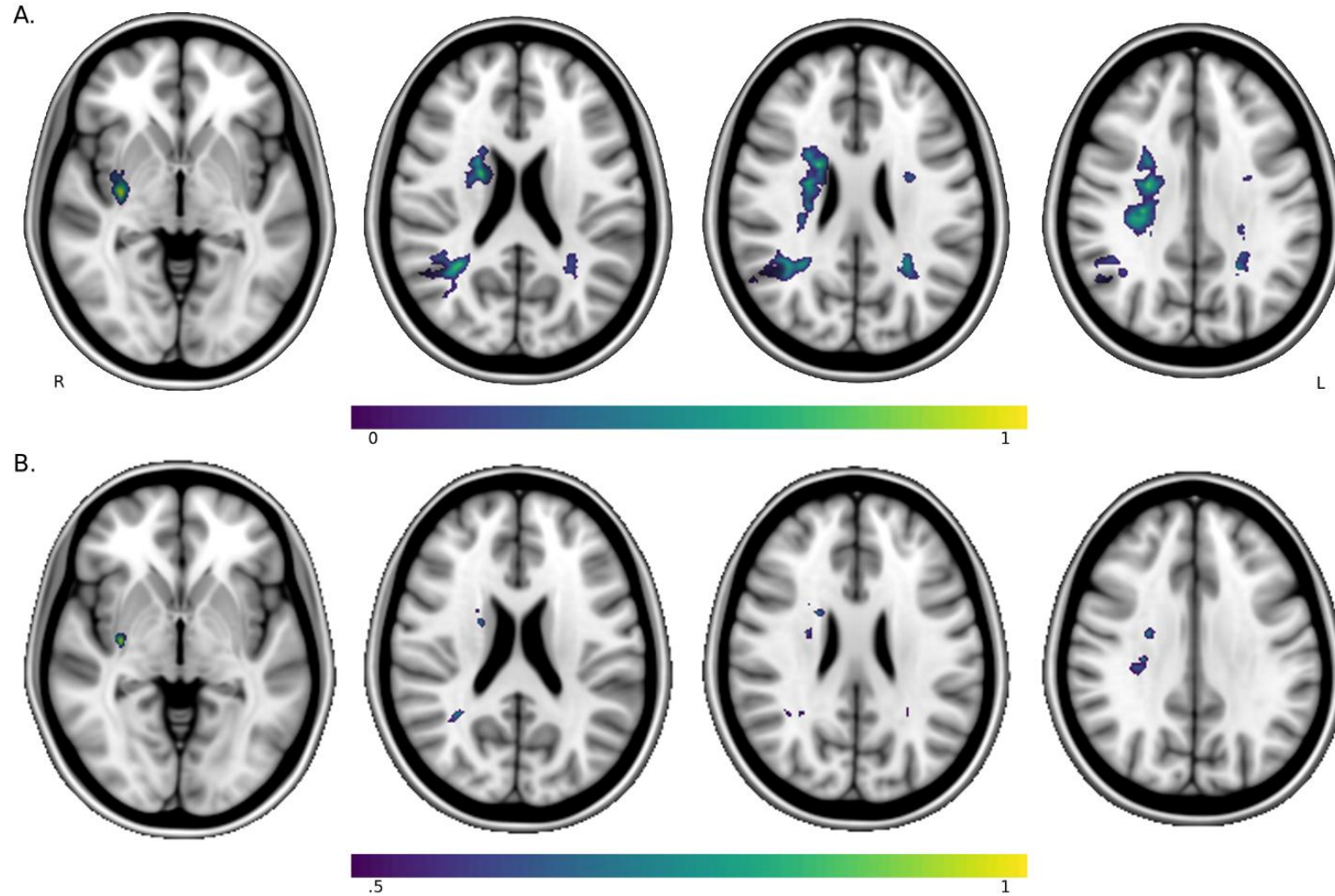
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# Supplementary Material

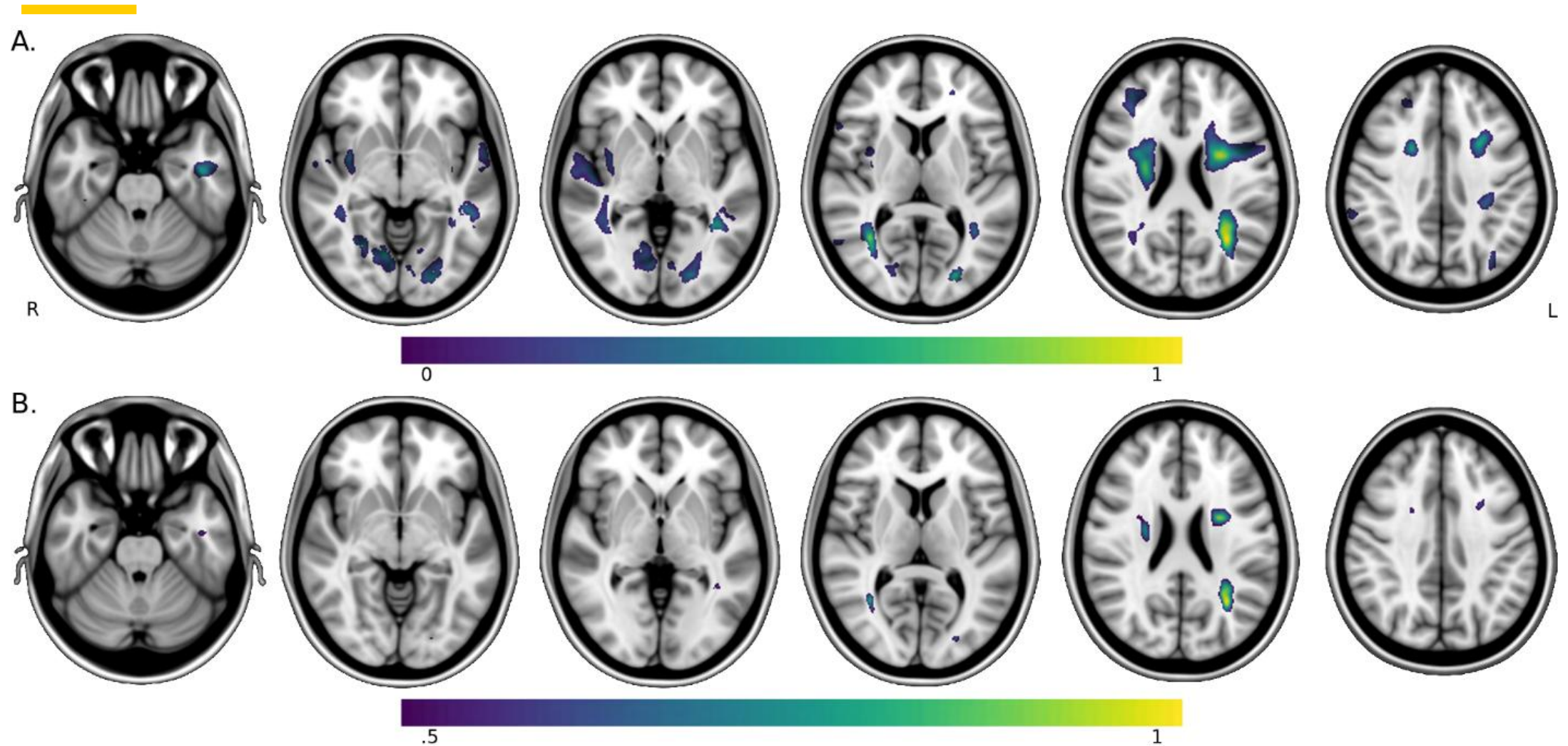
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 **BONUS SLIDES** 

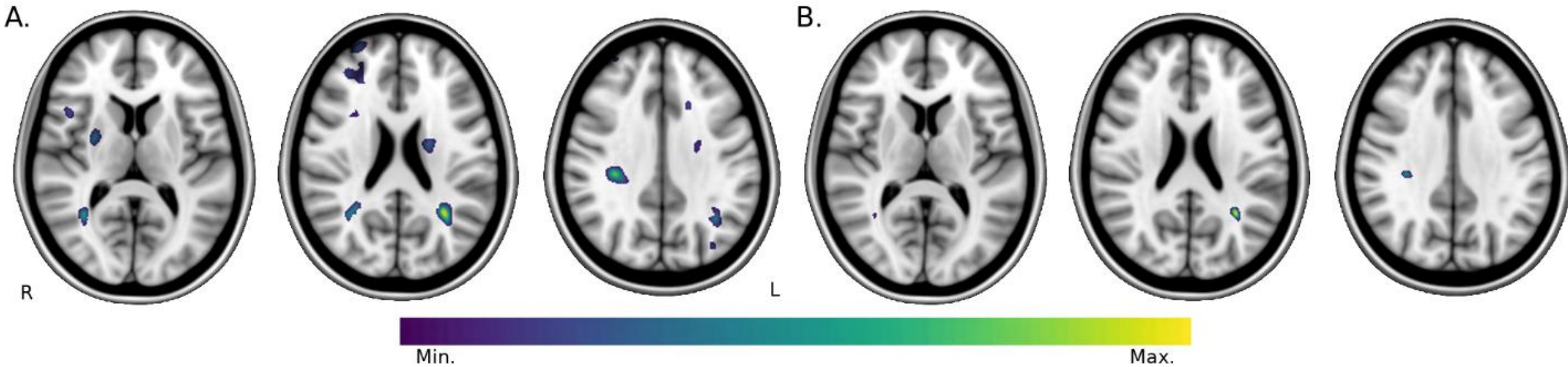
# Block Design



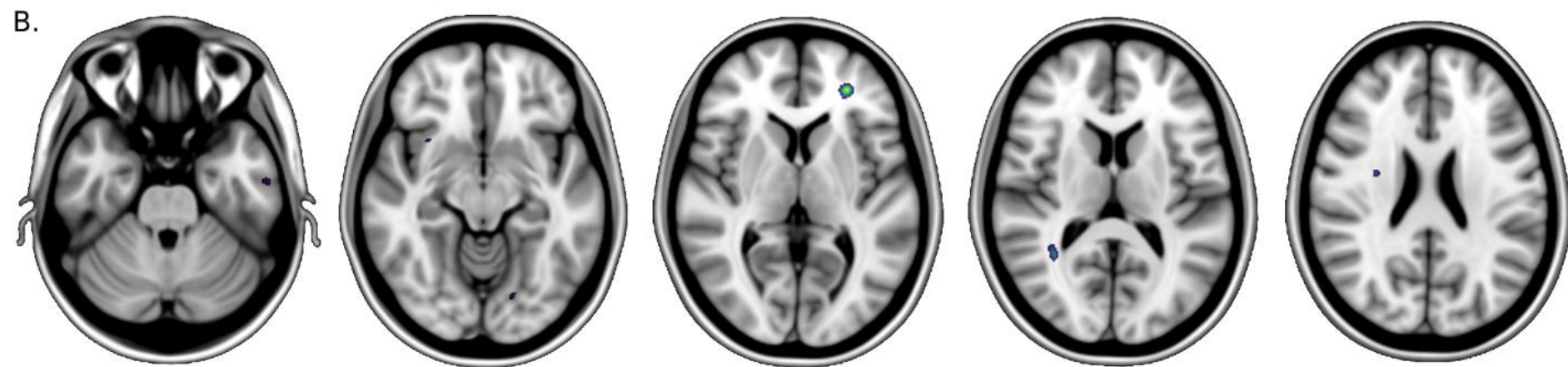
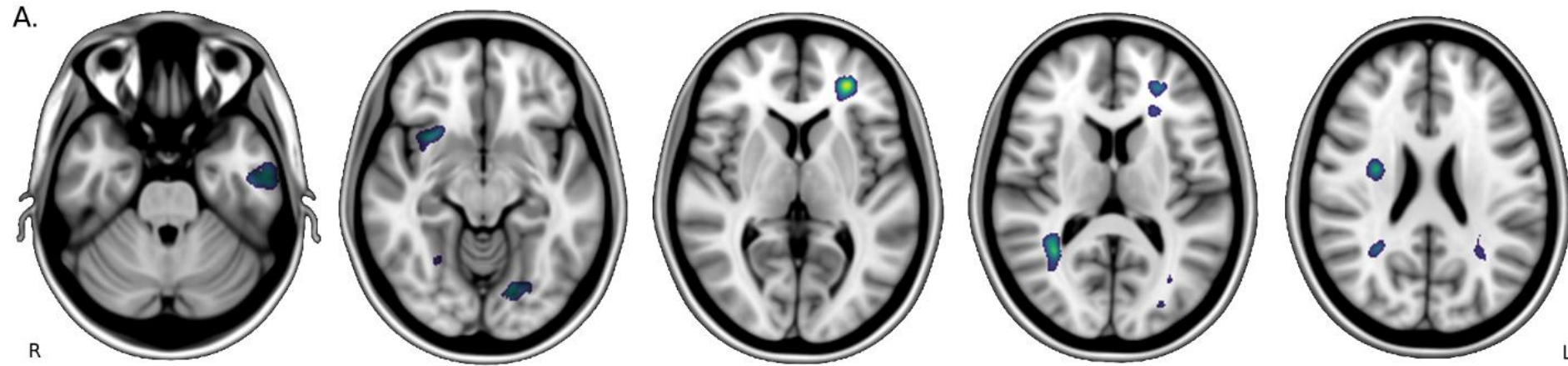
# Digit-Symbol Coding



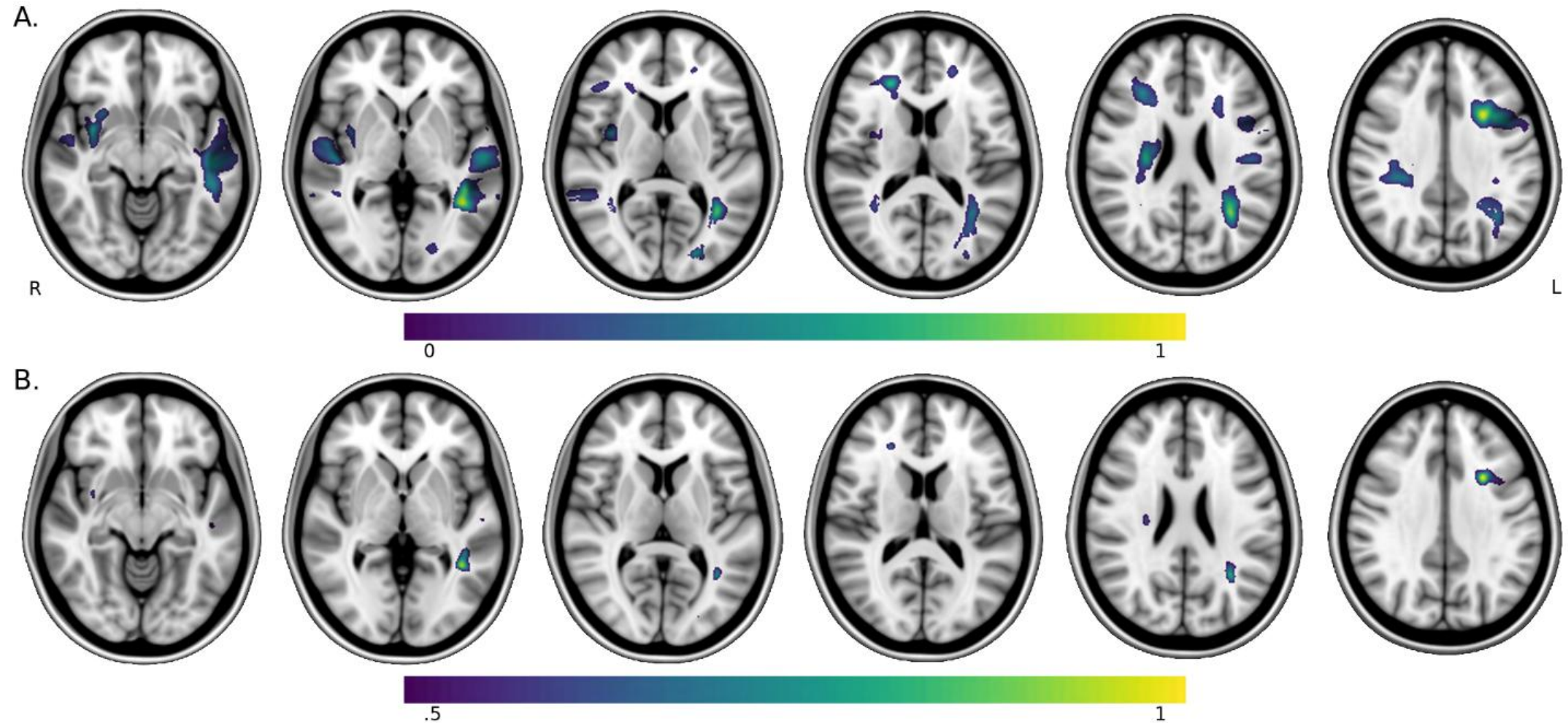
# Matrix Reasoning



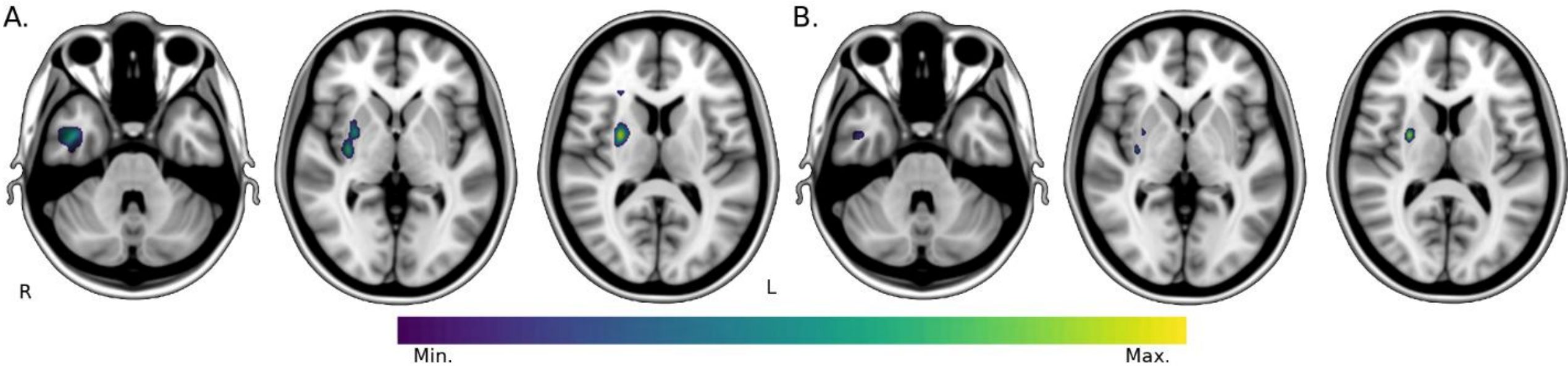
# Picture Completion



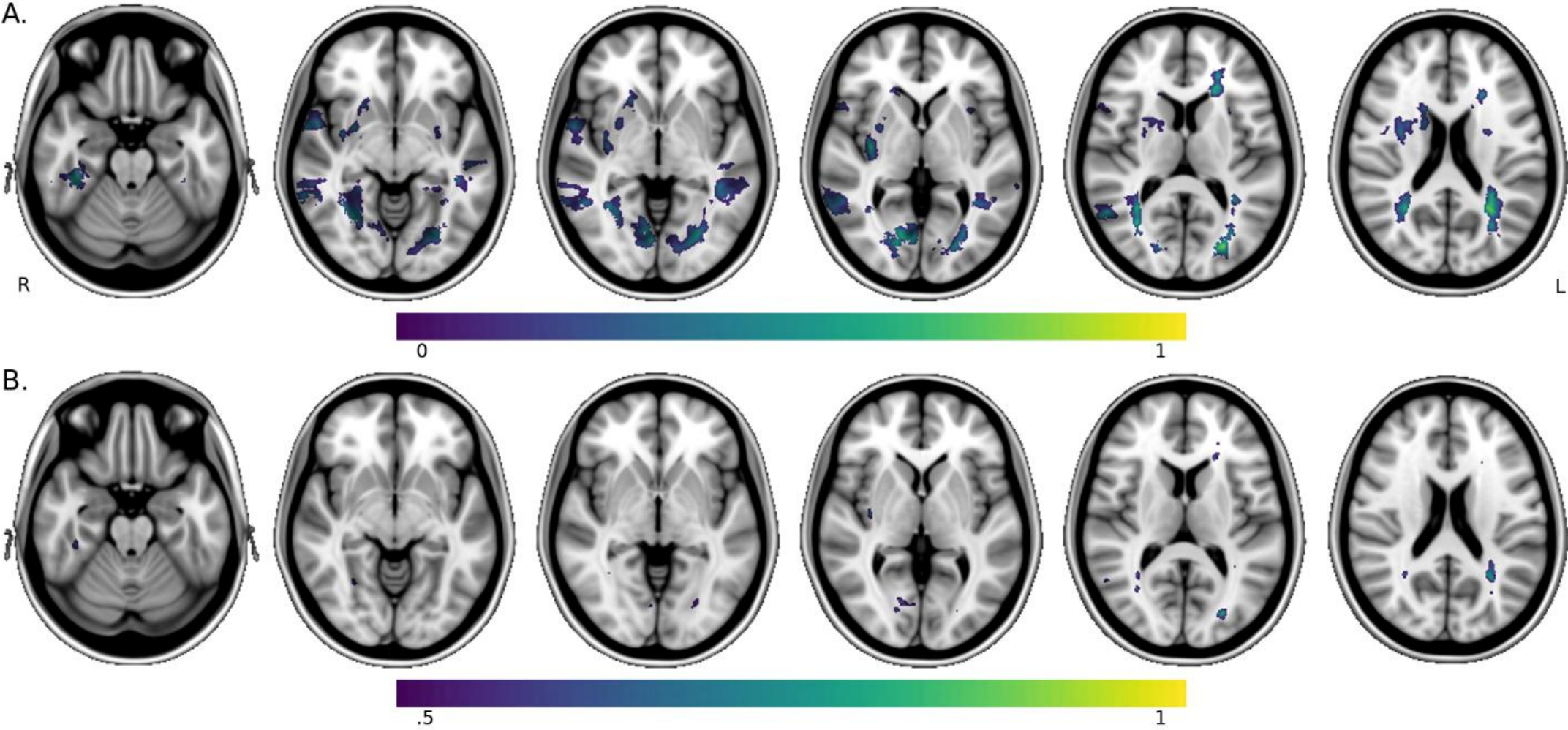
# Symbol Search



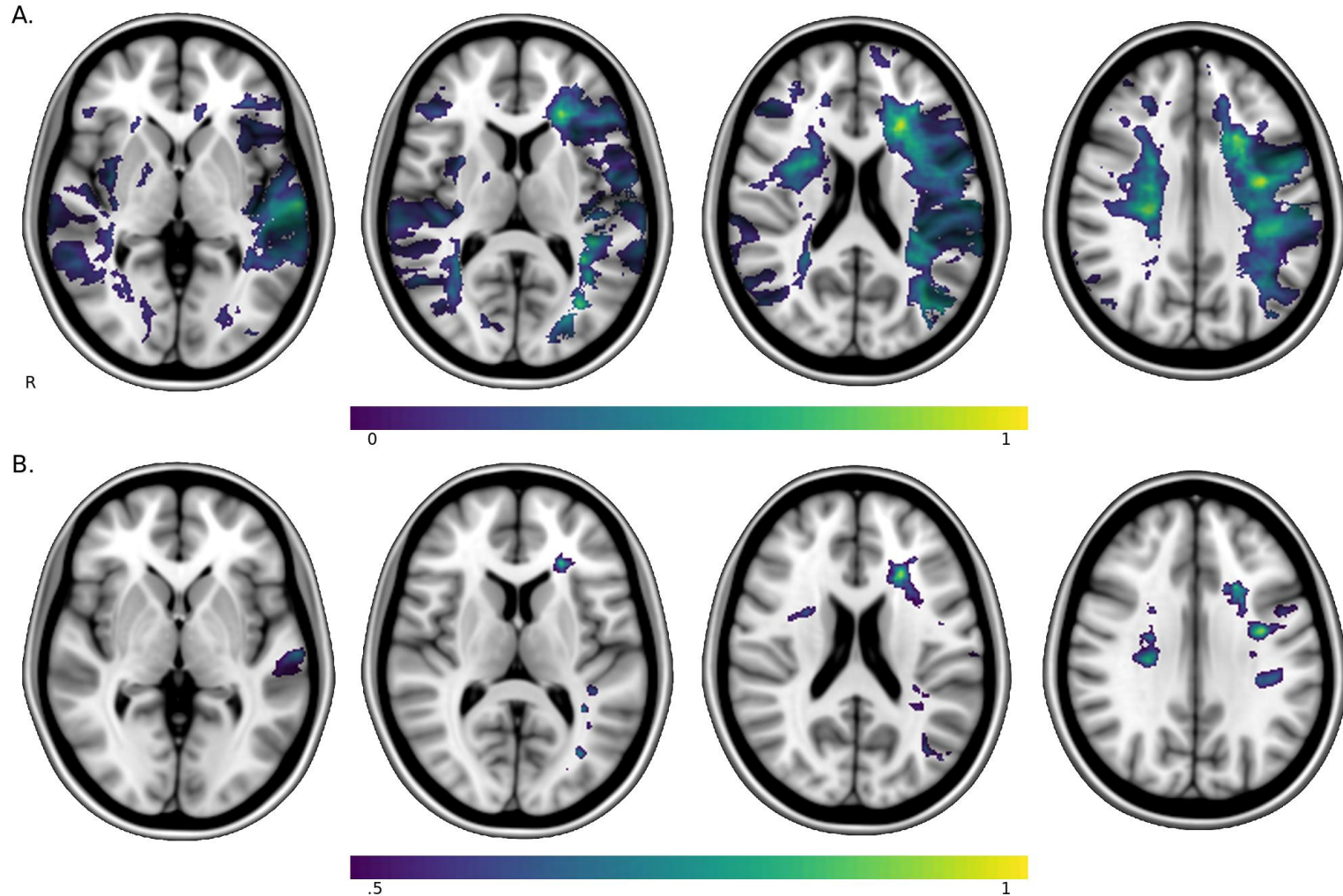
# Benton's Facial Recognition Test



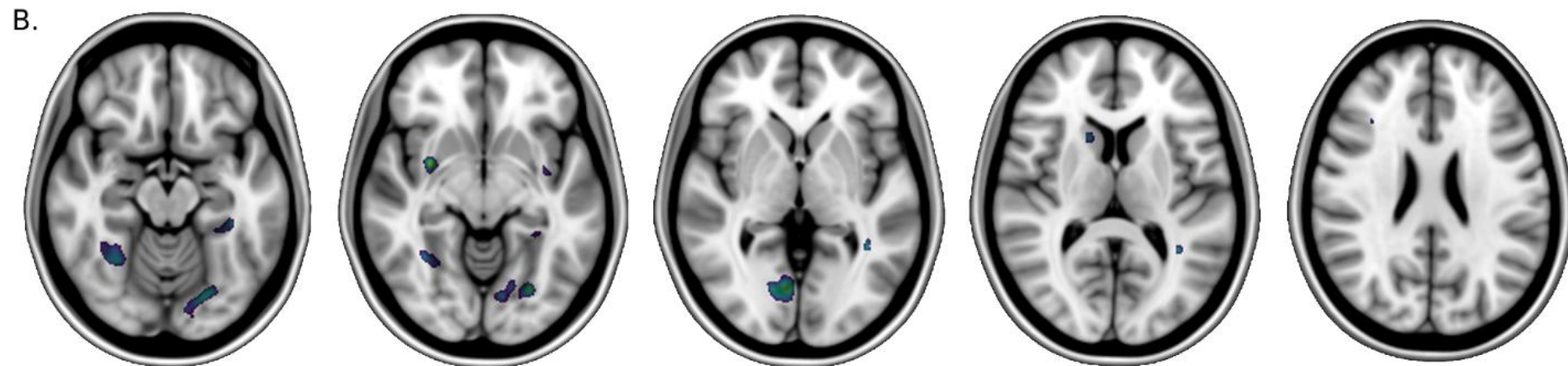
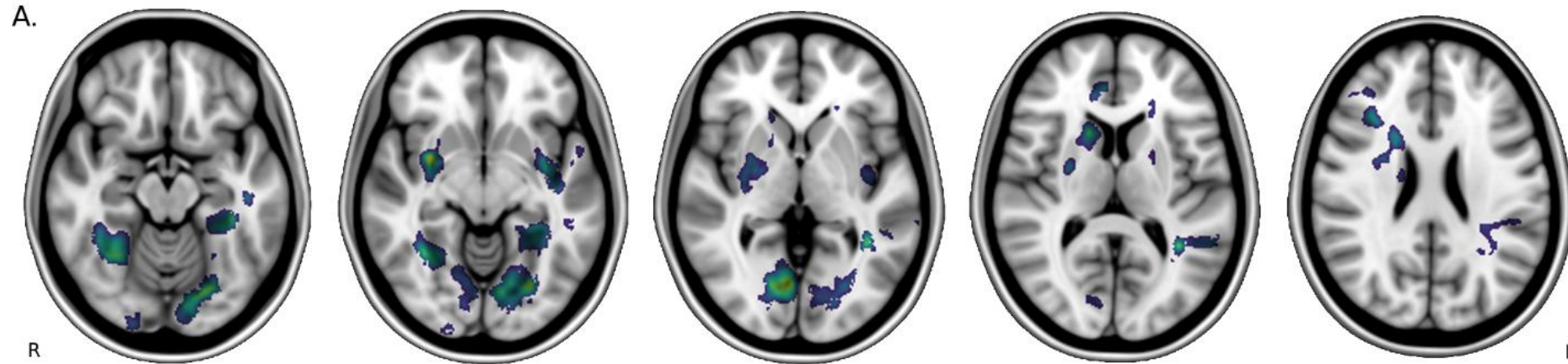
# Benton's Visual Retention Test



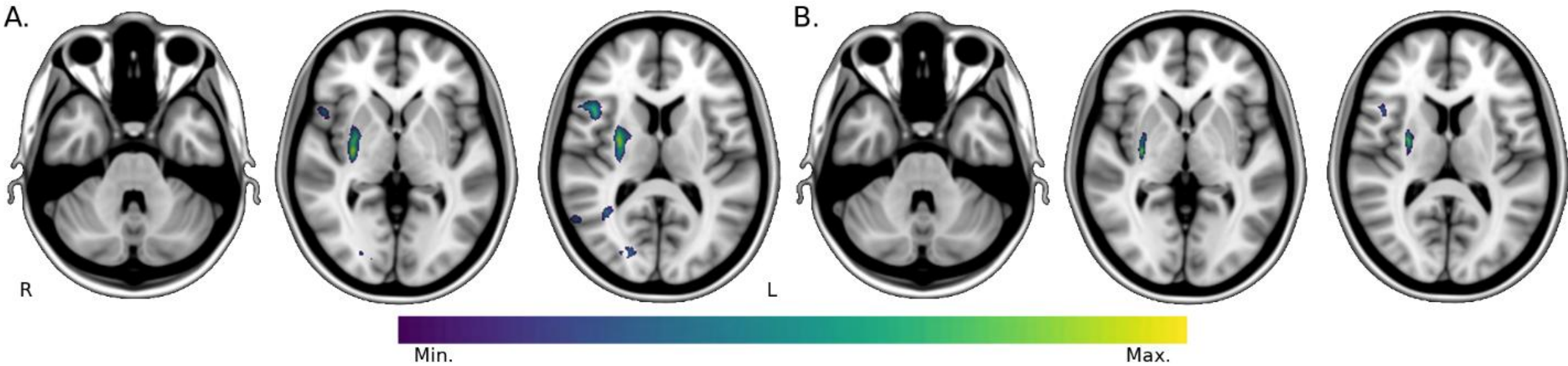
# Clock Drawing



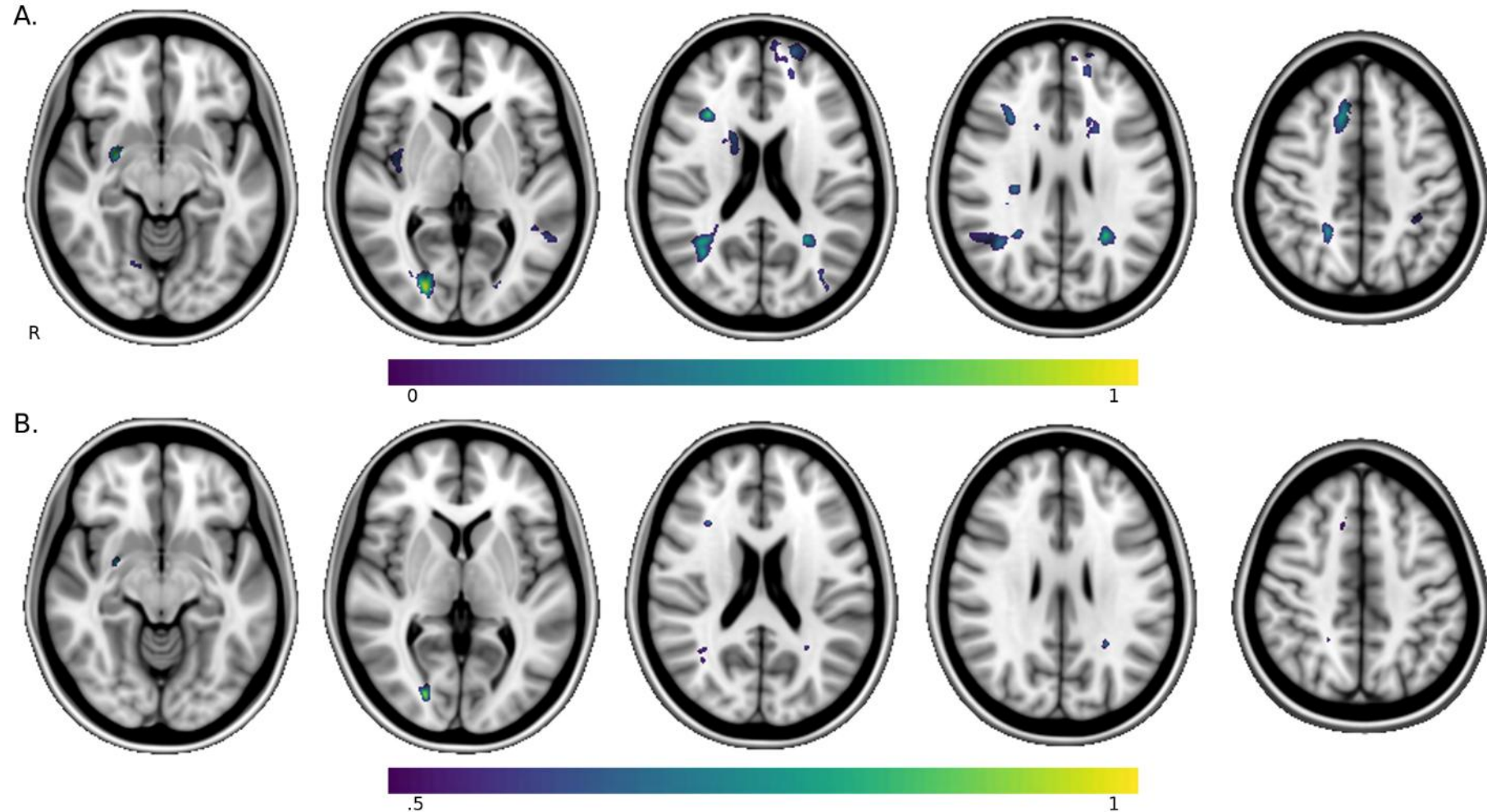
# Hooper's Visual Organization Test



# Judgment of Line Orientation



# Rey-Osterrieth Complex Figure Copy



# Spatial Span

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# Block Design (BD)





# Digit Symbol Coding (CD)

**Coding**

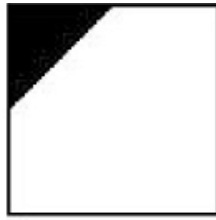
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
└	)	^	—		┌	(	7	└

**Demo**      **Sample**

6	8	3	9	5	4	1	7	2	1	4	8	2	7	6	9	3	5
┌	7	^															
8	3	1	9	2	5	6	4	3	7	2	9	8	1	4	7	6	5



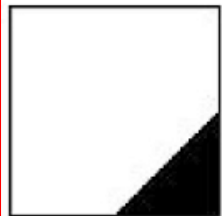
# Matrix Reasoning (MR)



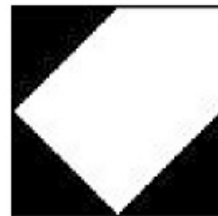
?



1



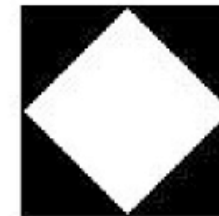
2



3



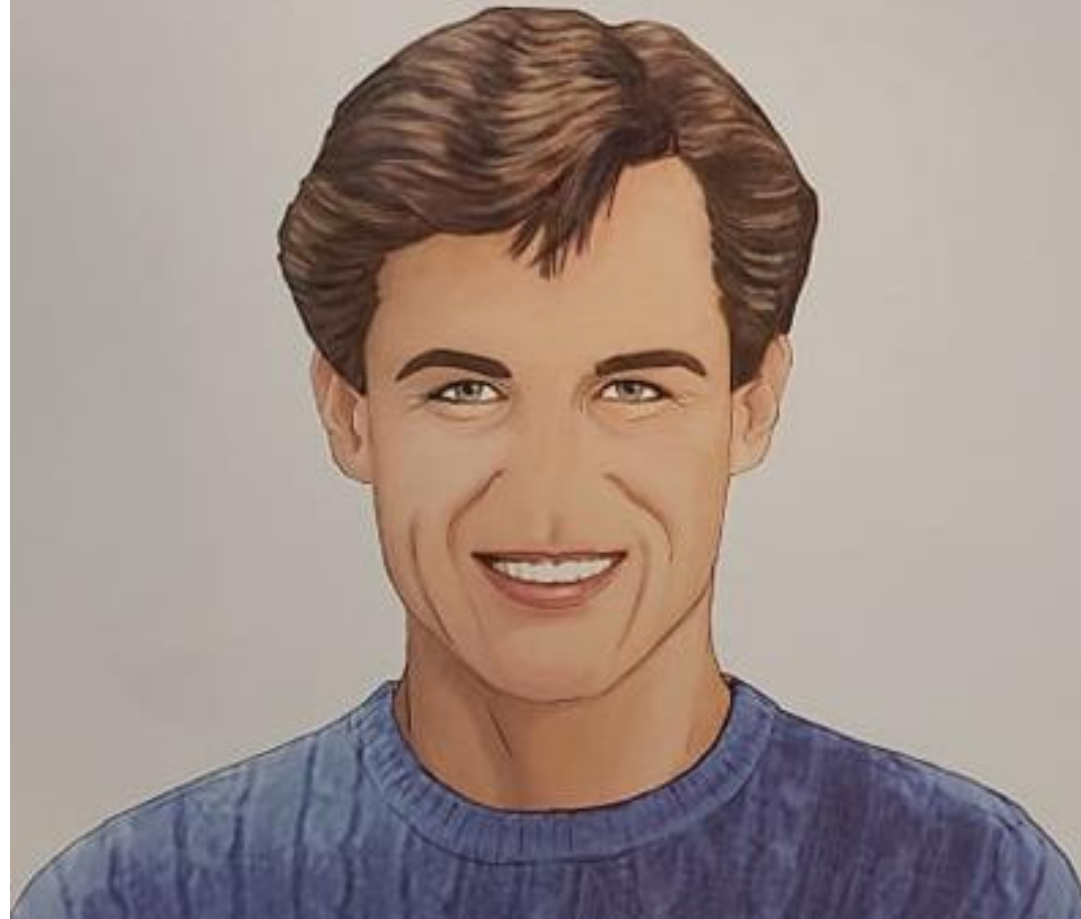
4



5



# Picture Completion (PC)





# Symbol Search (SymS)

							NO
							NO

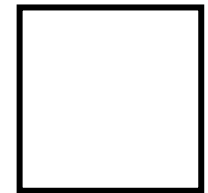
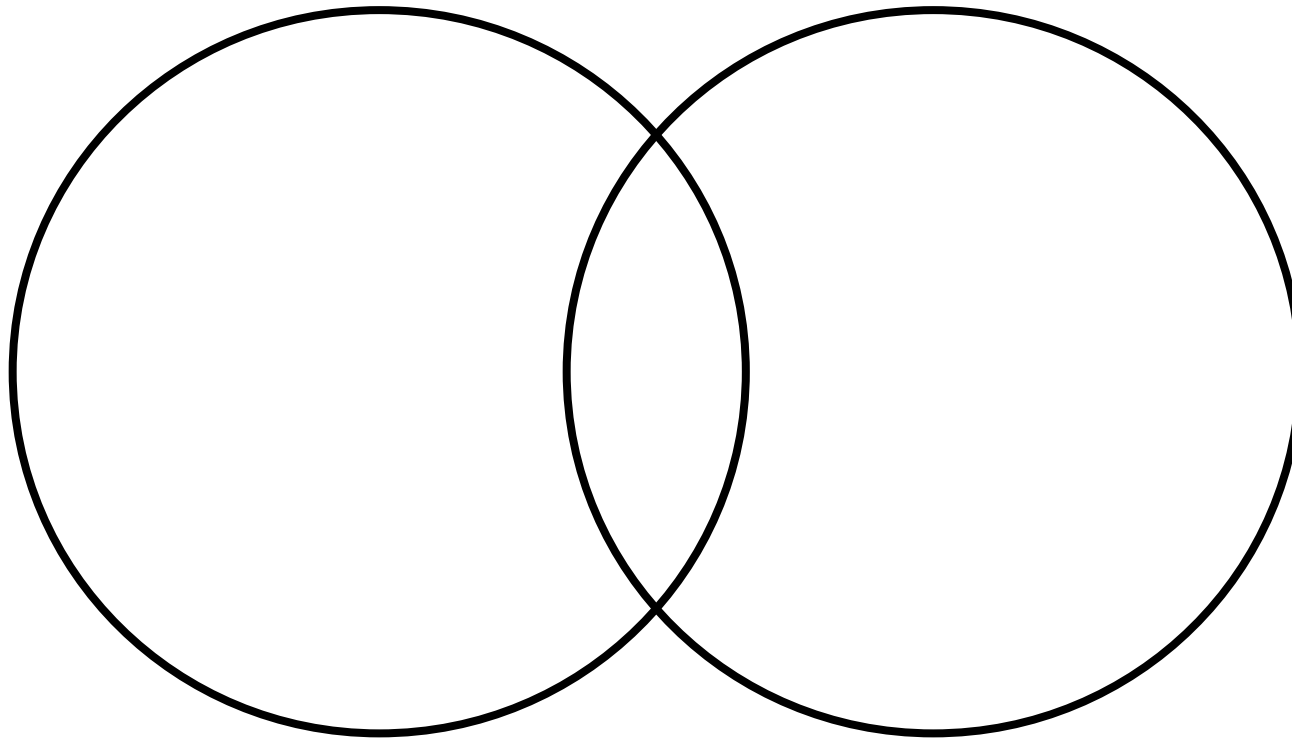
# Benton Facial Recognition Test (BFRT)

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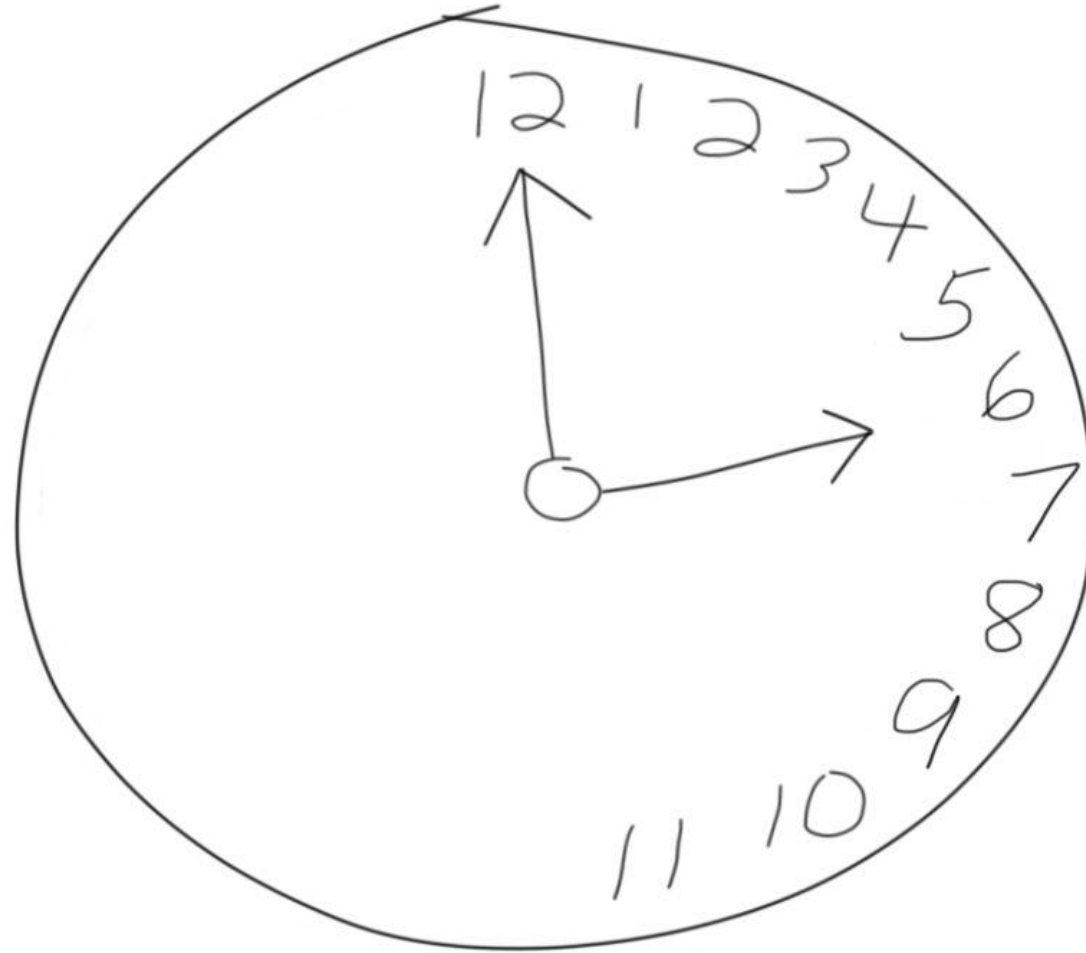
# Benton Visual Retention Test (BVRT)

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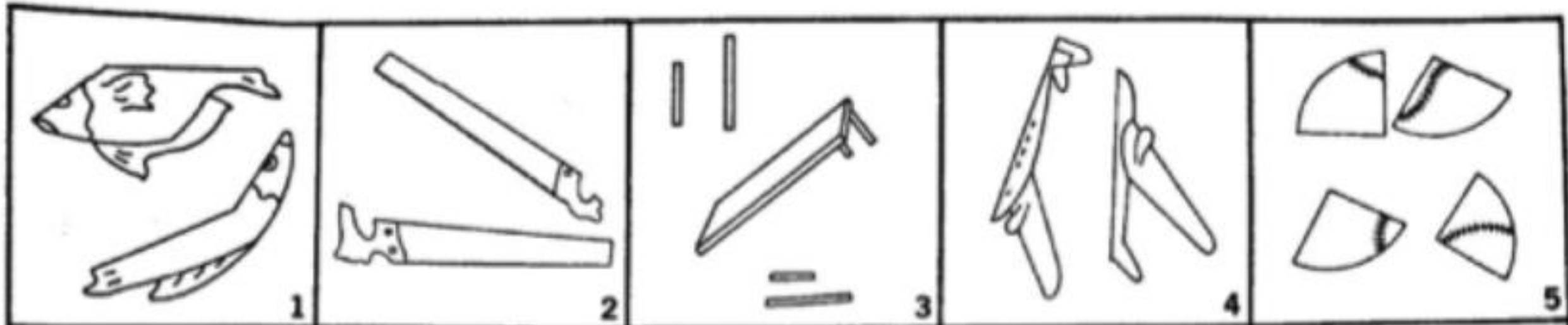


# Clock Drawing

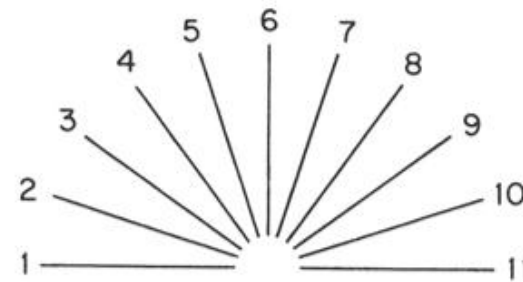
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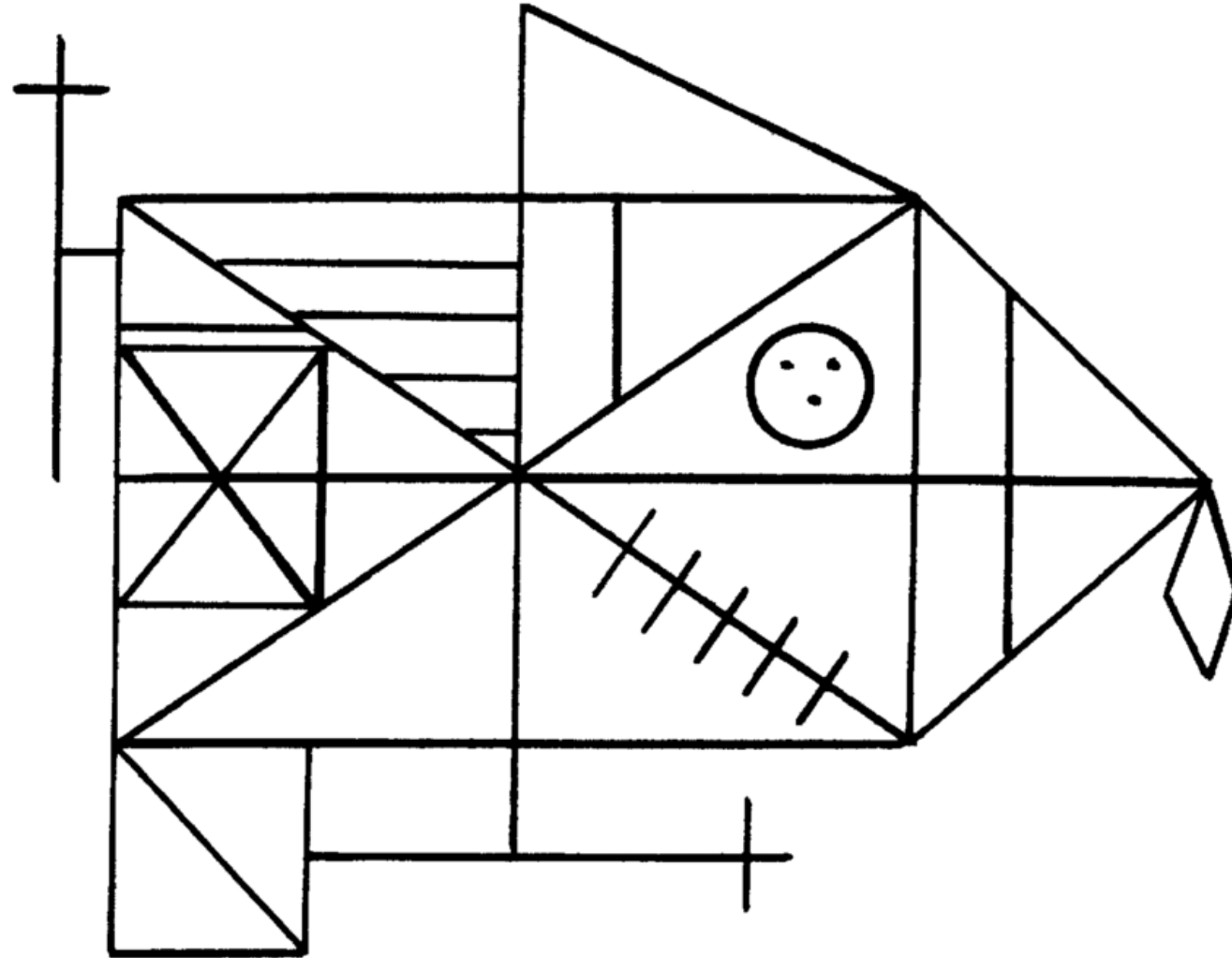
# Hooper Visual Organization Test (HVOT)



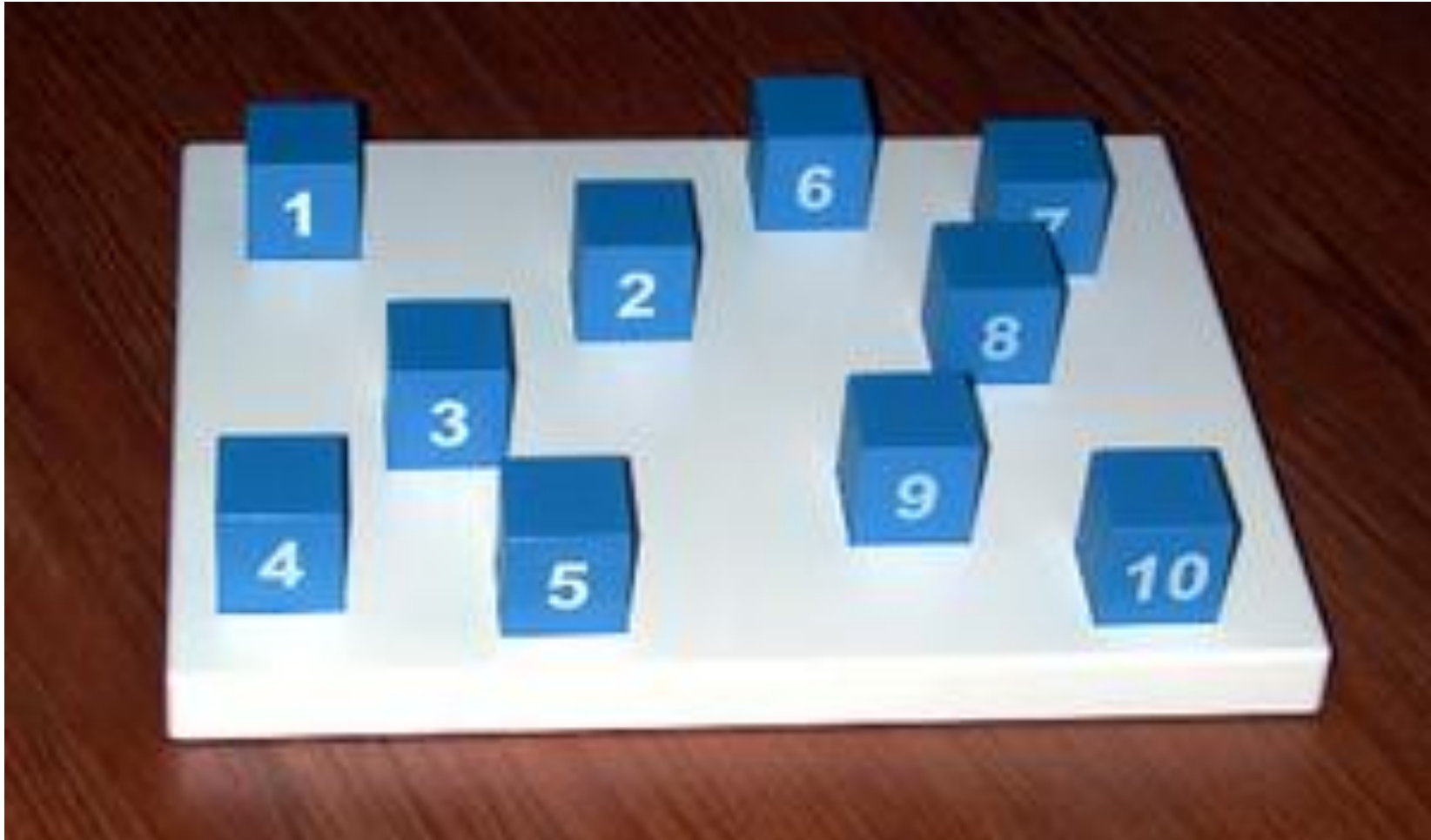
# Judgment of Line Orientation (JLO)



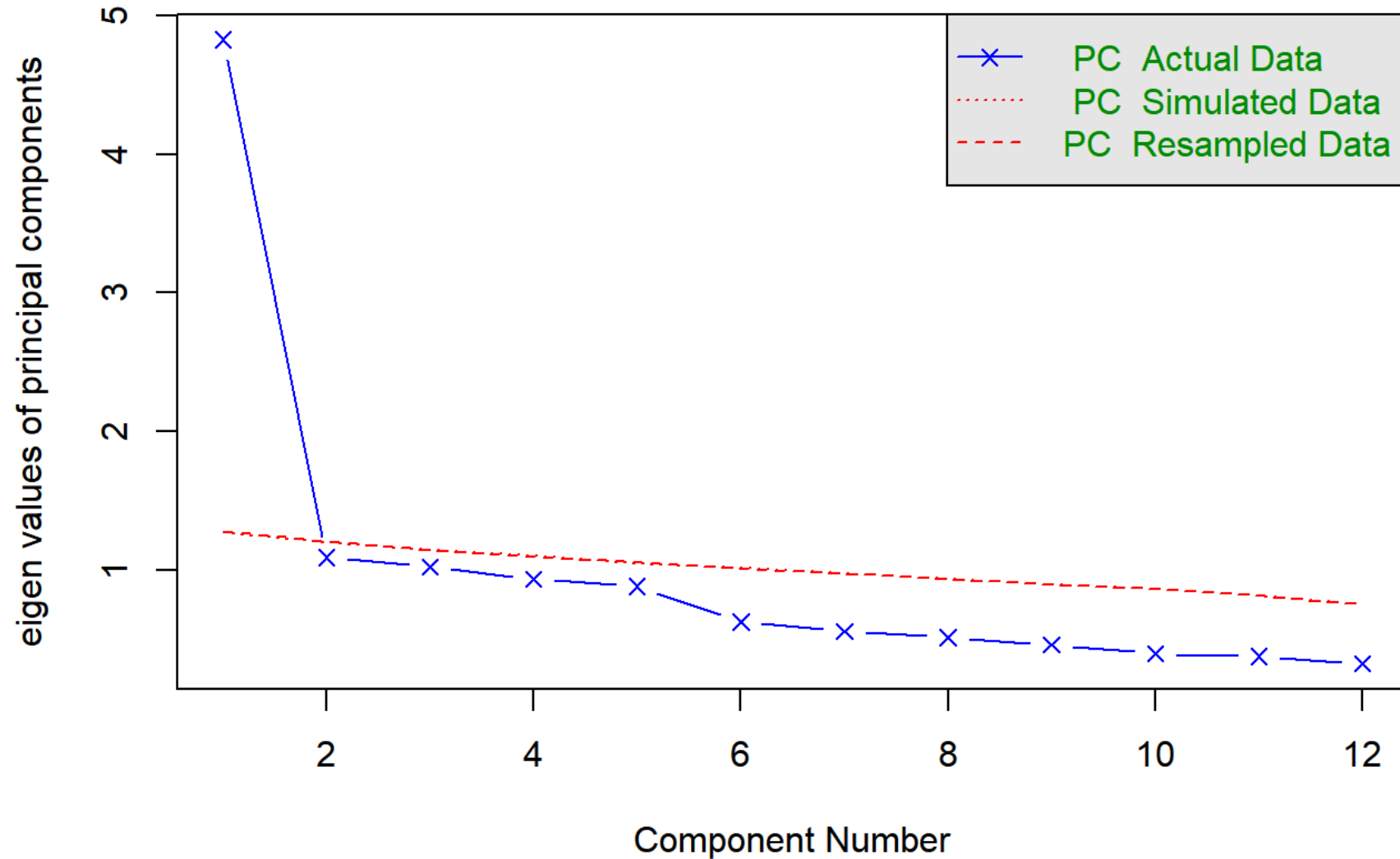
# Rey-Osterrieth Complex Figure Test (CFT)



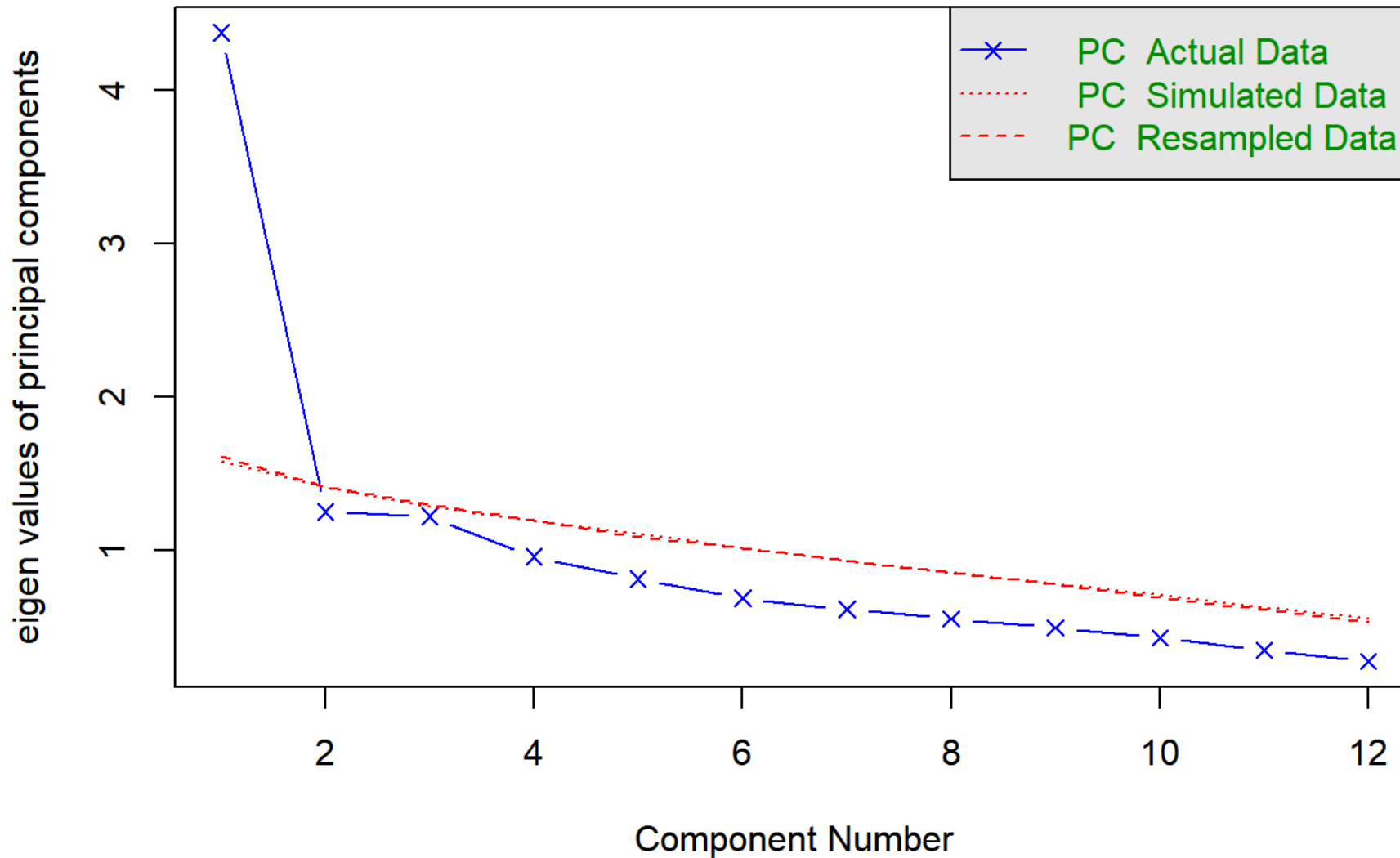
# Spatial Span (SpaS)



# PA Scree Plot For Patients with 8+ Tests



# PA Scree Plot For Patients with All Tests

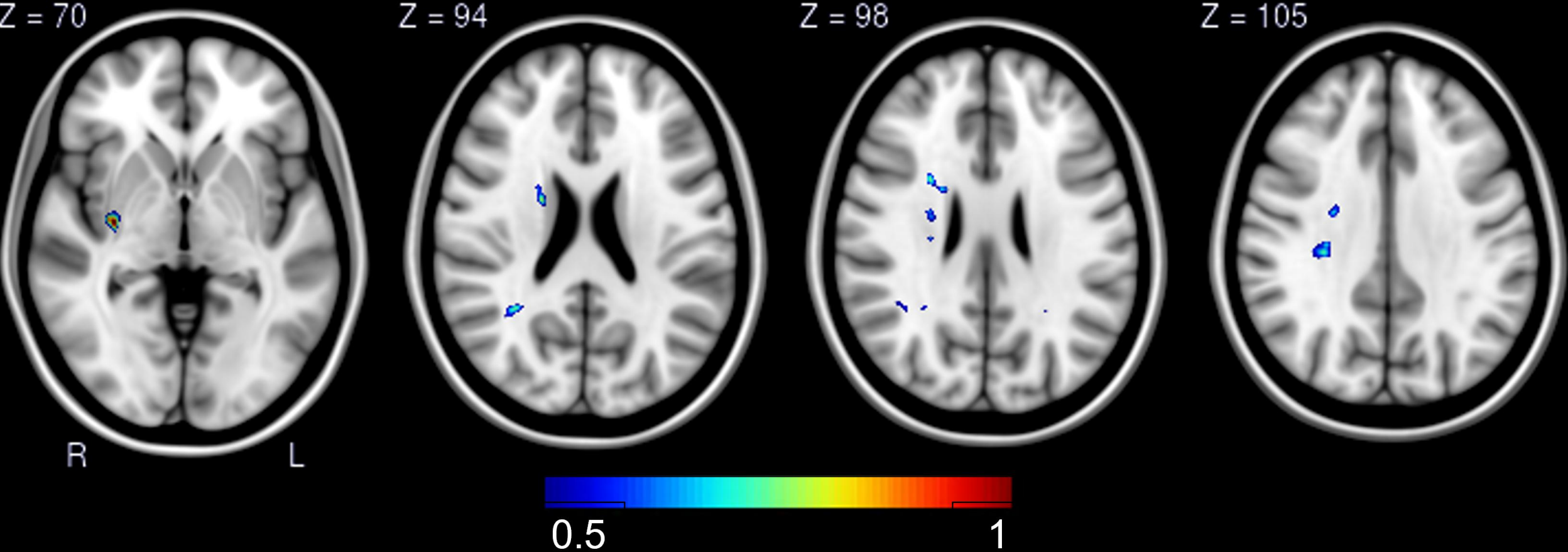




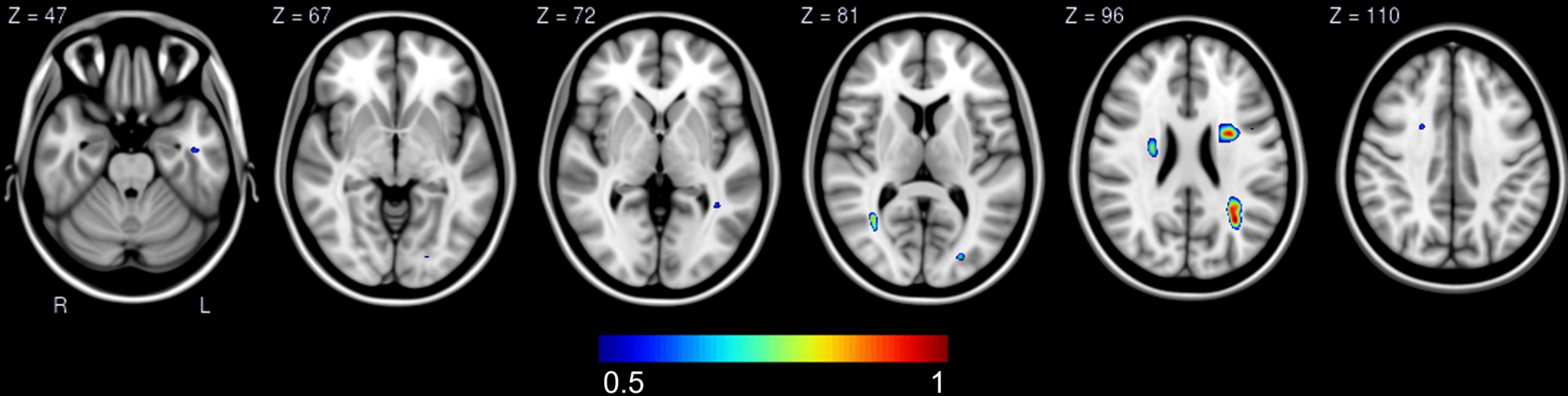
# **Bonus Slides**

**Individual Test LESYMAPs**

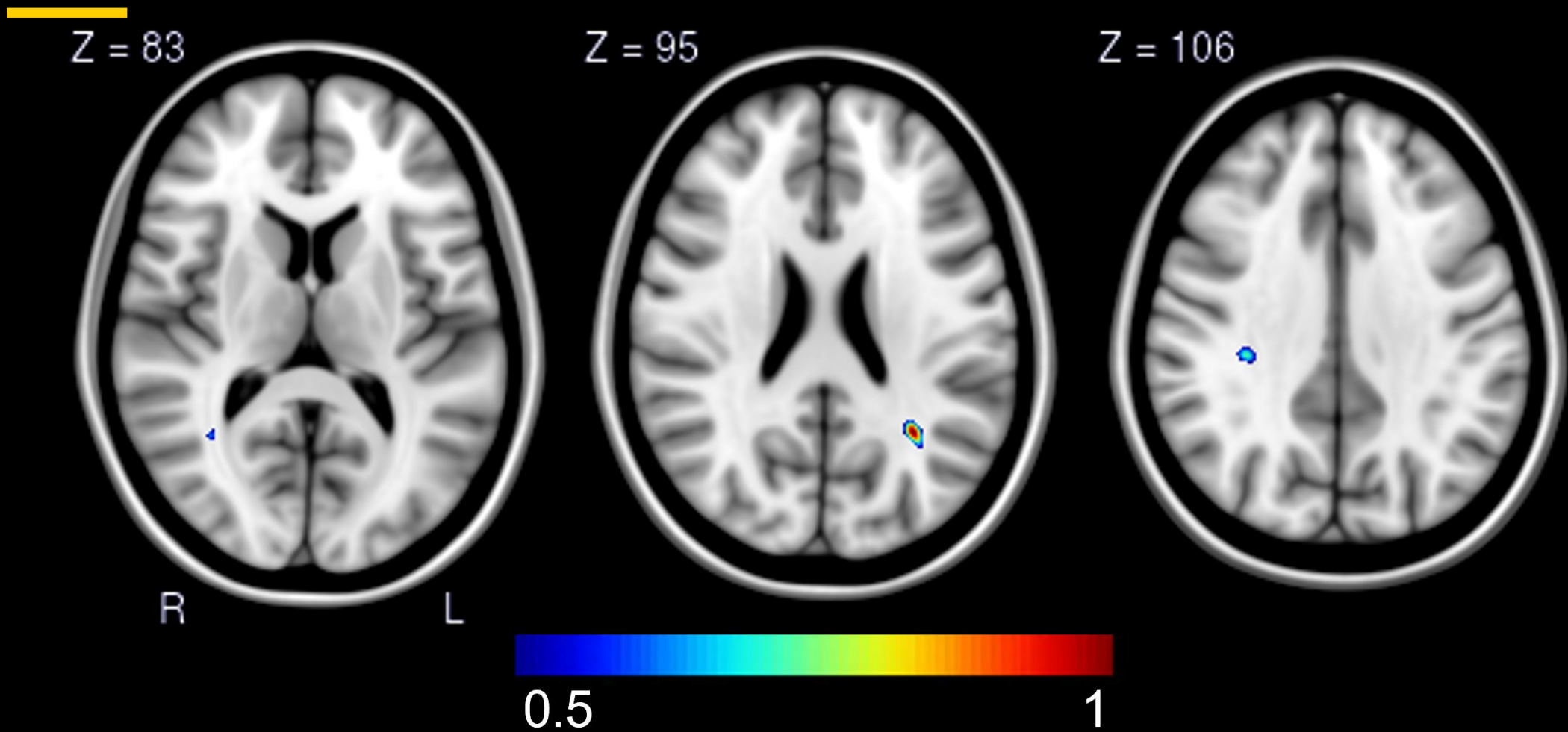
# Block Design



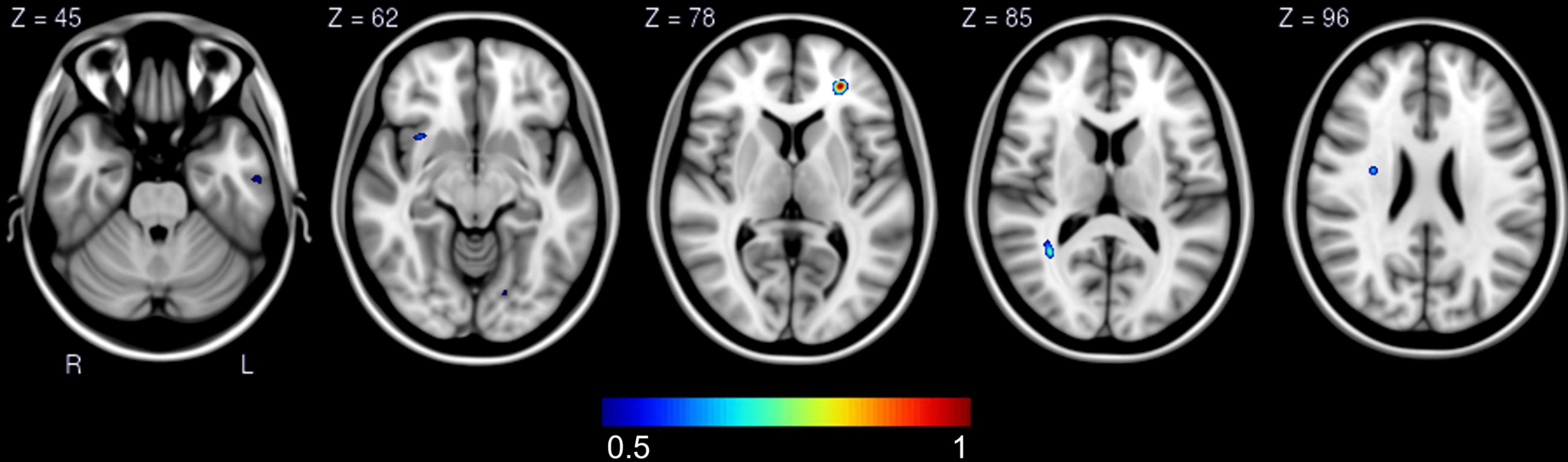
# Digit-Symbol Coding



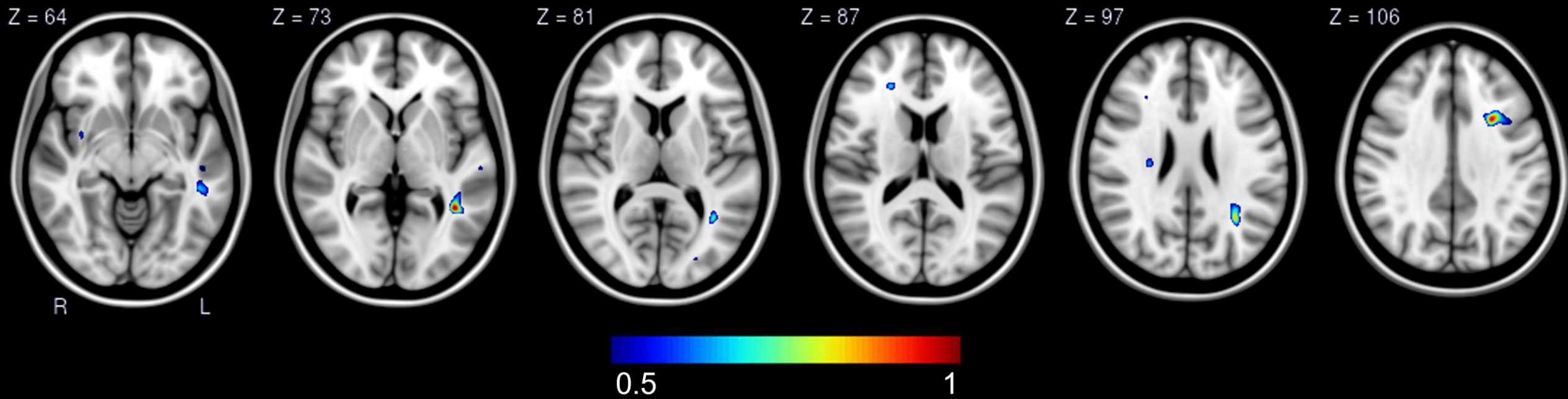
# Matrix Reasoning



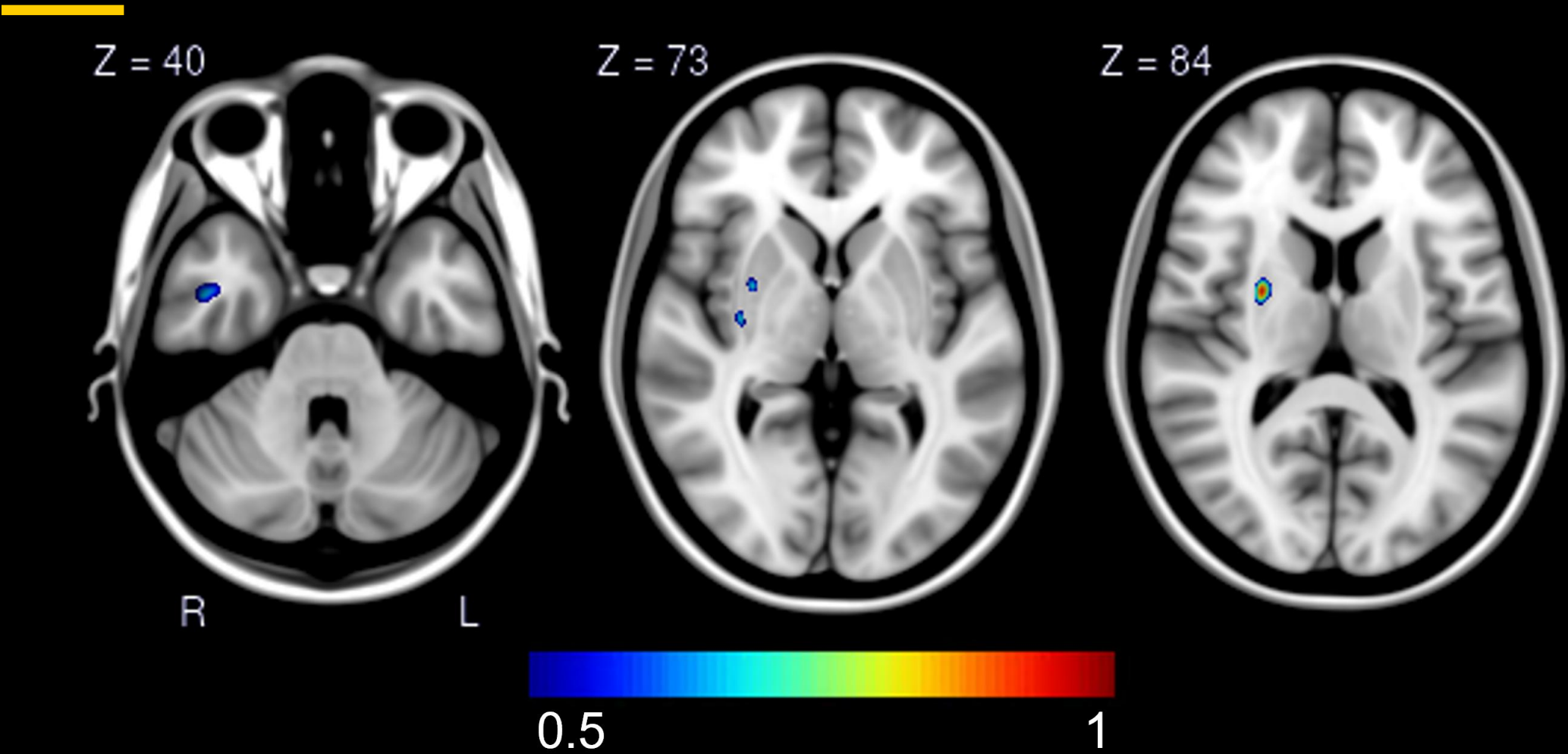
# Picture Completion



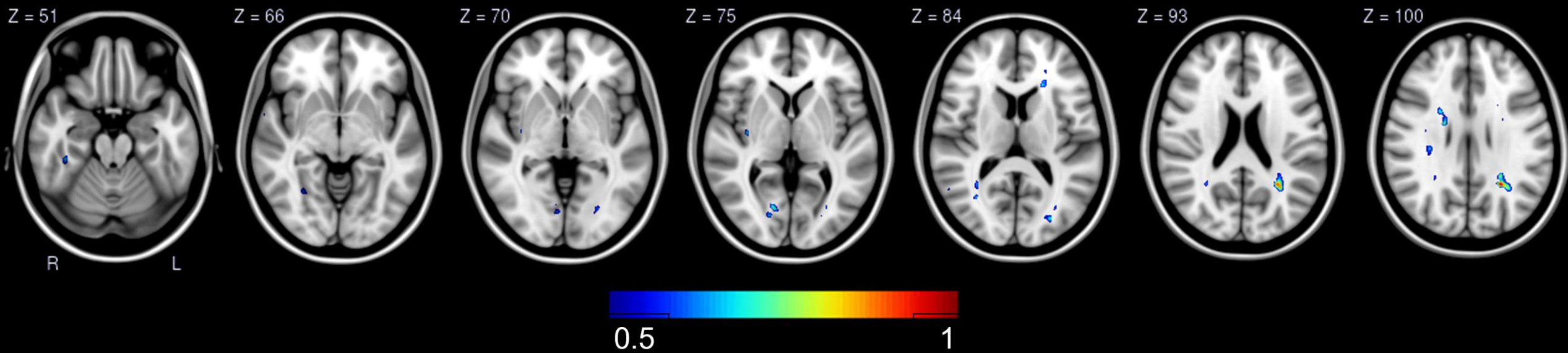
# Symbol Search



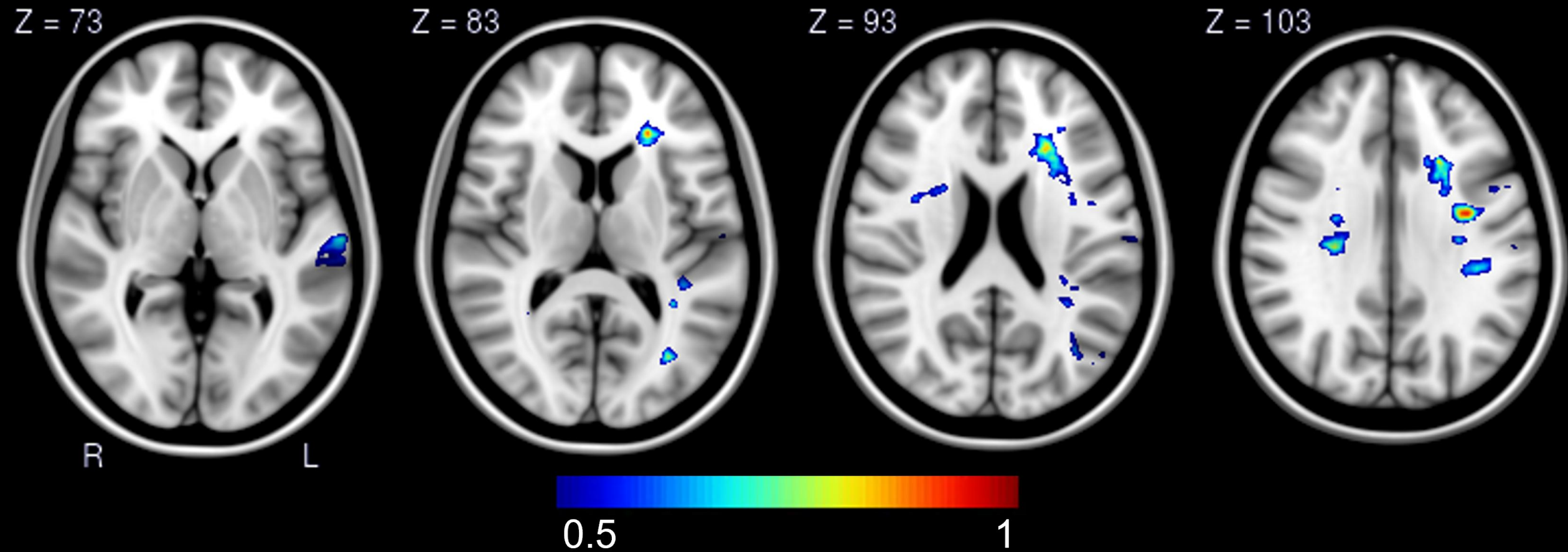
# Benton Facial Recognition Test



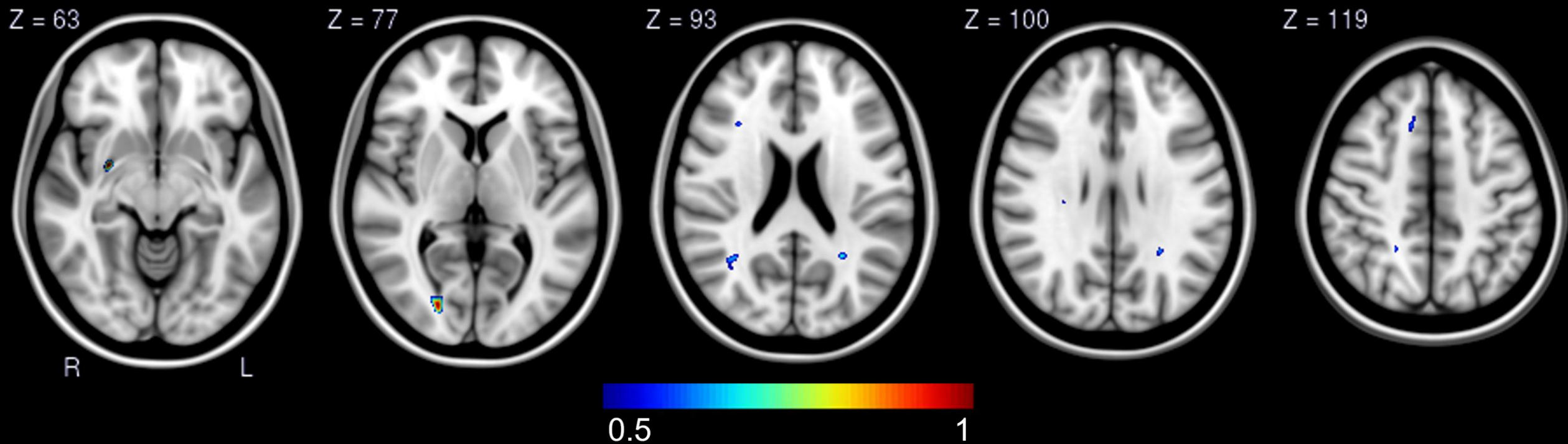
# Benton Visual Retention Test



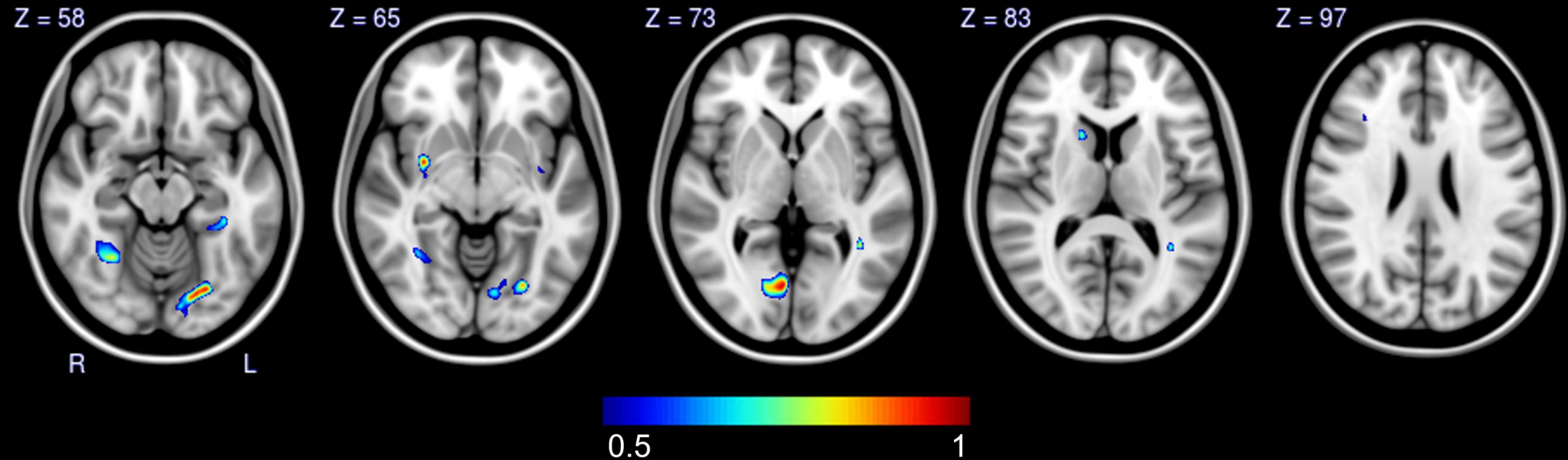
# Clock Drawing



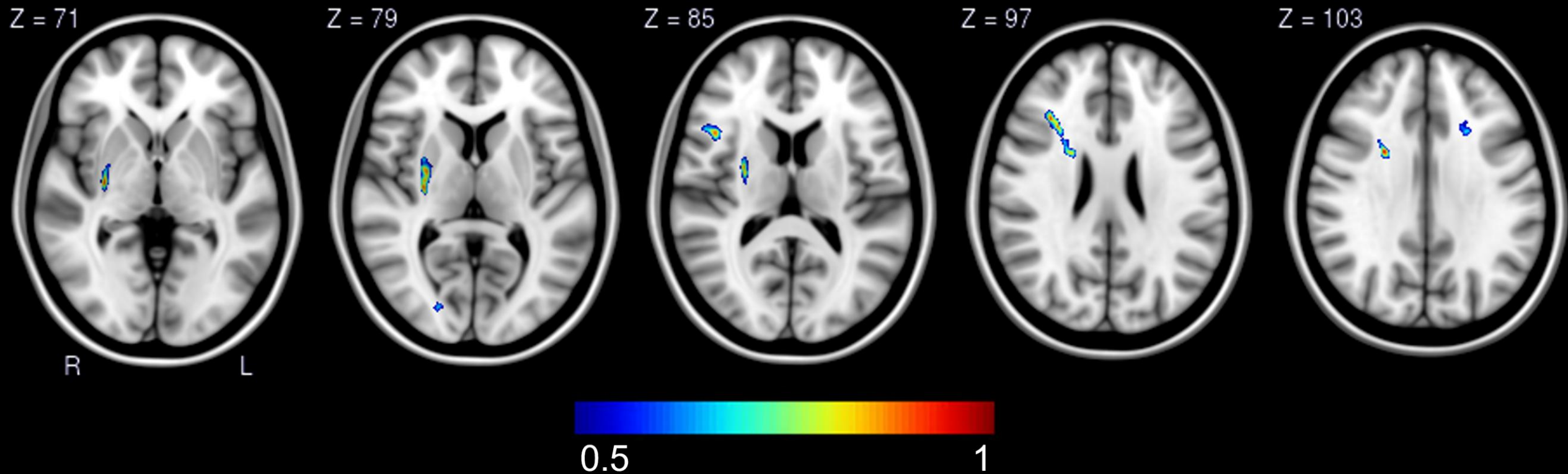
# Complex Figure Copy



# Hooper Visual Organization Test



# Judgment of Line Orientation





# **Bonus Slides**

**Neuropsychological tests to be used**