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1 **Title: Separate neural representations of prediction error valence and surprise:**
2 **evidence from an fMRI meta-analysis**

3

4 **Short title:** Separate neural correlates of prediction error valence and surprise

5

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11

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17

18 **Abstract**

19

20 Learning occurs when an outcome differs from expectations, generating a reward prediction
21 error signal (RPE). The RPE signal has been hypothesized to simultaneously embody the
22 valence of an outcome (better or worse than expected) and its surprise (how far from
23 expectations). Nonetheless, growing evidence suggests that separate representations of the
24 two RPE components exist in the human brain. Meta-analyses provide an opportunity to test
25 this hypothesis and directly probe the extent to which the valence and surprise of the error
26 signal are encoded in *separate* or *overlapping* networks. We carried out several meta-
27 analyses on a large set of fMRI studies investigating the neural basis of RPE, locked at
28 decision outcome. We identified two valence learning systems by pooling studies searching
29 for differential neural activity in response to *categorical* positive-vs-negative outcomes. The
30 first valence network (negative > positive) involved areas regulating alertness and switching
31 behaviors such as the midcingulate cortex, the thalamus and the dorsolateral prefrontal
32 cortex whereas the second valence network (positive > negative) encompassed regions of
33 the human reward circuitry such as the ventral striatum and the ventromedial prefrontal
34 cortex. We also found evidence of a largely distinct surprise-encoding network including the
35 anterior cingulate cortex, anterior insula and dorsal striatum. Together with recent animal
36 and electrophysiological evidence this meta-analysis points to a sequential and distributed
37 encoding of different components of the RPE signal, with potentially distinct functional roles.

38

39 Introduction

40

41 Effective decision-making depends upon accurate outcome representations associated with
42 potential choices. These representations can be defined through reinforcement learning (RL)
43 [Rescorla and Wagner, 1972; Sutton, 1998], a modelling framework that uses the reward
44 prediction error (RPE), the difference between actual and expected outcomes, as a learning
45 signal to update future outcome expectations. In this framework, RPE is a signed quantity
46 and learning is driven by two separate components of the RPE signal: its *valence* (i.e. the
47 sign of the RPE, representing whether an outcome is better [+] or worse [-] than expected)
48 and its *surprise* (i.e. the modulus of the RPE, representing the degree [high or low] of
49 deviation from expectations). Whereas the valence informs an agent whether to reinforce or
50 extinguish a certain behaviour [Fouragnan et al., 2015; Fouragnan et al., 2017; Frank et al.,
51 2004], the surprise component determines the extent to which the strength of association
52 between outcome and expectations needs to be adjusted [Collins and Frank, 2016; Niv et
53 al., 2015; den Ouden et al., 2012].

54

55 This modelling framework has received considerable attention in neuroscience since the
56 early 90's when animal neurophysiological studies identified dopaminergic neurons in the
57 midbrain, in particular in the ventral tegmental area (VTA), the substantia nigra pars
58 compacta (SNc) and reticulata (SNr), whose tonic response profile appears to
59 simultaneously capture both components of the RPE signal outlined above [Montague et al.,
60 1996; Schultz et al., 1993; Schultz et al., 1997]. Specifically, these neurons show
61 anticipatory increase and suppression of their tonic activity in response to positive and
62 negative RPE respectively. While the anticipatory increase is proportional to the magnitude
63 of positive RPE, the magnitude of negative RPE is encoded by the duration of the basal
64 tonic suppression.

65

66 This discovery was a breakthrough in the field of learning and decision making and has
67 continued to be influential in the field over the past two and half decades (see [Schultz,
68 2016a; Schultz, 2016b] for a review). As a result, this neurophysiological work has strongly
69 motivated human functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) research to identify the
70 corresponding macroscopic Blood-Oxygen-Level-Dependent (BOLD) pattern of the signed
71 RPE. This pattern of activity was expected to be such that the strength of the BOLD would
72 proceed from high positive RPEs > low positive RPEs > low negative RPEs > high negative
73 RPEs. More specifically, studies have employed a model-based fMRI approach, whereby
74 different types of reinforcement-learning models are first fitted to subjects' behavior to yield
75 parametric predictors for signed RPE against which fMRI data are subsequently regressed
76 [Daw et al., 2011; Fouragnan et al., 2013; Gläscher et al., 2010; O'Doherty et al., 2004;
77 O'doherty et al., 2007; Queirazza et al., 2017].

78

79 These fMRI studies have employed different algorithms to derive the signed RPE, ranging
80 from the simple formulation of the temporal difference learning algorithm to incorporating
81 action learning, notably using the Q-learning and SARSA ('state, action, reward, state, and
82 action') algorithms [Schonberg et al., 2010; Seymour et al., 2007; Tanaka et al., 2006].
83 According to qualitative reviews of this previous findings [O'doherty et al., 2007] as well as
84 quantitative, coordinate-based meta-analyses of these studies, the regions correlating with
85 the different formulations of signed RPE have been found to be predominantly subcortical,
86 including the striatum and amygdala, with some cortical regions, such as the ventromedial
87 prefrontal cortex and the cingulate cortex also reported [Bartra et al., 2013; Garrison et al.,
88 2013; Liu et al., 2011]. Additionally, substantial effort has been undertaken to identify how
89 different types of outcomes (primary reward such as food, or secondary reward such as
90 monetary outcomes) can modulate signed RPE in the same regions and the extent to which
91 it can be considered a domain-general, common currency signal [Sescousse et al., 2013].

92

93 While using trial-by-trial estimates of signed RPE from reinforcement-learning models has
94 provided an enormously productive framework for understanding learning and decision-
95 making, a growing number of studies have also discussed the complementary role of
96 surprise, namely the unsigned RPE, which can also be estimated at the single-trial level.
97 These include, but are not limited to, the use of trial-by-trial estimates of the modulus of RPE
98 or Bayesian surprise according to Bayesian learning theory [Hayden et al., 2011; Iglesias et
99 al., 2013]. Additionally, human electroencephalography (EEG) studies, attempting to offer a
100 temporal account of the cortical dynamics associated with RPE processing, did not find a
101 systematic monotonic response profile consistent with a single RPE representation but
102 instead offered evidence suggestive of separate representations for valence and surprise at
103 the macroscopic level of responses recorded on the scalp. Specifically, multiple recent EEG
104 studies combining model-based RPE estimates with single-trial analysis of the EEG revealed
105 an early outcome stage reflecting a purely categorical valence signal and a later processing
106 stage reflecting separate representations for valence and surprise [Fouragnan et al., 2015;
107 Fouragnan et al., 2017; Philiastides et al., 2010b]. These later valence and surprise signals
108 appeared in spatially distinct but temporally overlapping EEG signatures.

109

110 These findings suggest that, in addition to the fully monotonic firing pattern of midbrain
111 neurons, there exist individual representations for valence and surprise, potentially
112 subserving different functional roles during reward-based learning (e.g. approach-avoidance
113 behavior and the speed of learning via varying degrees of attentional engagement,
114 respectively). Here, we conducted an fMRI meta-analysis to explore the possibility that there
115 exist separate neuronal representations encoding valence and surprise promoting reward
116 learning in humans. We discuss the findings of our work in the context of recent reports from
117 animal neurophysiology and human neuroimaging experiments that provide evidence
118 towards a distributed coding of the different facets of the RPE signal [Brischoux et al., 2009;
119 Fouragnan et al., 2015; Fouragnan et al., 2017; Matsumoto and Hikosaka, 2009].

120

121 **Materials and Methods**

122

123 **Literature search.** We selected fMRI studies using the Pubmed database
124 (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed>) with the following search keywords: "(fMRI OR
125 neuroimaging) AND (prediction error OR reward OR surprise)" along with three initial filters
126 preselecting studies in which participants were human adults of over 19 years of age and
127 excluding reviews. This initial selection resulted in 724 candidates for inclusion to which a
128 further twenty papers were added from existing in-house reference libraries. Note that
129 previous meta-analyses used the terms "prediction error" or "reward" but we are the first to
130 include "surprise" in our systematic search for relevant papers [Bartra et al., 2013; Garrison
131 et al., 2013; Sescousse et al., 2013].

132

133 Abstracts from the 788 candidate-papers identified were then evaluated for inclusion in the
134 corpus according to the following criteria. We required studies of healthy human adults,
135 reporting changes in BOLD as a function of three different components of RPE: the
136 categorical valence, surprise and signed RPE, including statistical comparisons either in the
137 form of binary contrasts or continuous parametric analyses. Because the main objective of
138 the present meta-analysis is to examine the neural coding of RPE processing at decision
139 outcome, we also imposed the restriction that fMRI analyses were time-locked to the
140 presentation of outcomes (feedback). We used studies involving outcomes consisting of
141 abstract points, monetary payoffs, consumable liquids and arousing pictures but excluded
142 papers in which outcomes consisted of social feedback. We also required that studies used
143 functional brain imaging and did not use pharmacological interventions and ensured that the
144 reported coordinates were either in Montreal Neurological Institute (MNI) or Talairach space.
145 Finally, we excluded papers in which results were derived from region of interest (ROI) since
146 our meta-analytic statistical methods assume that foci are randomly distributed in the whole
147 brain under the null hypothesis. After applying these constraints our meta-analysis

148 comprised 102 publications with a total of 2316 participants, 144 contrasts, and 991
149 activation foci. The number of participants per study ranged from 8 to 66 (median = 24,
150 interquartile range [IQR] = 7).

151

152 **Study categorization.** The goal of this meta-analysis was to separately categorize studies
153 along the three components of RPE, locked at time of outcome, in order to: 1) identify the
154 extent to which there exist distinct neural representations for valence and surprise and 2)
155 identify whether the neural correlates of the signed RPE simply intersect those of valence
156 and surprise (possibly due to colinearities across these components) or appear as unique
157 clusters of activation reflecting the true combined influence of the two measures.

158

159 To group the relevant papers according to the three main RPE components we used the
160 following definitions: 1) *valence* represents the sign of the RPE and as such it is positive
161 when an outcome is better than expected and negative when worse than expected, 2)
162 *surprise* represents the absolute degree of deviation from expectations and is treated as an
163 unsigned quantity and 3) *signed RPE* simultaneously reflects the influence of both valence
164 and surprise and appears as a fully signed parametric signal. According to these definitions,
165 we identified several fMRI statistical analyses conducted in the original studies that fall under
166 each of the three RPE components (Table 1). The main assumptions of these fMRI
167 analyses, with regard to the BOLD signal as a function of each RPE component, are
168 presented schematically in Figure 1.

169

170 [Figure 1]

171

172 For the valence components, the literature has looked at neural responses which vary
173 categorically along positive-negative axes, as represented in patterns A (i) and (ii) of Figure
174 1. We therefore extracted activations exhibiting a relative BOLD signal increase for negative
175 relative to positive outcomes (NEG > POS: pattern A (i)) and greater BOLD for positive

176 relative to negative outcomes (POS > NEG: pattern A (ii)), respectively. We considered six
177 types of fMRI statistical comparisons which reported coordinate results from either: (1) a
178 contrast associated with negative > positive outcomes, (2) a contrast associated with
179 negative > no outcomes, (3) a negative correlation with a trial-by-trial regressor modulated
180 by [+1] for positive outcomes and [-1] for negative outcomes, (4) the positive correlation with
181 the regressor described in (3), (5) a contrast associated with positive > negative outcomes
182 and (6) a contrast associated with positive > no outcomes. We grouped results from
183 contrasts 1-3 (i.e. NEG > POS) and contrasts 3-6 (i.e. POS > NEG) to capture regions
184 yielding greater BOLD activity for negative relative to positive outcomes and a greater
185 activity for positive relative to negative outcomes respectively (Table 1).

186

187 While the fMRI literature on RPE processing has produced a large amount of theoretical and
188 empirical evidence for the valence and the signed RPE components, comparatively little has
189 been done to directly investigate surprise as a separate component. Fewer studies have
190 used fMRI regressors that were parametrically modulated by trial-to-trial changes in surprise
191 using the unsigned RPE [Fouragnan et al., 2017; Hayden et al., 2011; Iglesias et al., 2013].
192 These studies used the terms "surprise", "unsigned RPE", or outcome "saliency" to refer to
193 the mathematical modulus of RPE from computational learning models. In addition to these
194 papers, our literature search has revealed a number of other measures (see below), which
195 are highly correlated with outcome surprise, as defined by learning theory. We therefore
196 used these measures as proxies of surprise to gain insights into the spatial extent of the
197 relevant neural responses and the degree to which they overlap with those associated with
198 valence.

199

200 Specifically, a recent line of research has investigated the neural basis of "Bayesian
201 surprise" or "volatility", computed as the direct modulus of Bayesian predictive error [Ide et
202 al., 2013; Iglesias et al., 2013; Mathys et al., 2014; O'Reilly et al., 2013] which correspond to
203 the absolute difference between categorical outcomes and the probabilistic expectation of

204 these outcomes, estimated using Bayesian inference. In the framework of Bayesian learning,
205 the absolute Bayesian RPE plays an important role in learning from rapid changes in
206 behavioral exploration [Courville et al., 2006]. Finally, other studies used the term
207 “associability” which is a parameter in the Pearce-Hall model [Hall and Pearce, 1979; Pearce
208 and Hall, 1980] defined as the degree of divergence between an actual outcome and the
209 original expectation (e.g., the associative strength between a choice and an outcome). We
210 note however, that in the RL framework, associability can also refer to the learning rate. It is
211 clear from these reports that there is a lack of consistent terminology to refer to unsigned
212 RPE, which emphasizes the need for a more unified framework for studying RPE
213 processing.

214

215 To test for consistencies in the neuronal responses across these different reports, and
216 provide initial support for a unified representation of surprise, we grouped fMRI analyses
217 which reported outcome-locked activations resulting from: (1) a positive correlation with a
218 trial-by-trial regressor of the modulus (unsigned) RPE resulting from RL models across both
219 positive and negative outcomes (“surprise” or “unsigned RPE”), (2) a positive correlation
220 with a trial-by-trial regressor of the unsigned RPE resulting from Bayesian modelling
221 (“Bayesian Surprise” or “volatility”), (3) a positive correlation with a trial-by-trial regressor of
222 the free parameter of the Pearce-Hall model (“associability” term), (4) a contrast associated
223 with (high positive outcomes and high negative outcomes) > (low positive outcomes and low
224 negative outcomes OR no outcomes), (5) a positive correlation with a parametric regressor of
225 surprising positive RPE alone and (6) a positive correlation with a parametric regressor of
226 surprising negative RPE alone (Table 1). Figure 1 illustrates the hypothesized pattern of
227 BOLD signal predicted by these contrasts (pattern B), exhibiting a V shaped response profile
228 that is maximal for both highly surprising negative and positive RPEs. Despite possible
229 subtle differences in the definition of these measures we expected that only foci consistently
230 correlating with deviations from reward expectations would be revealed in this analysis.

231

232 One reason the surprise component has not been looked at closely in isolation is because
233 the literature has focused primarily on signed RPE representations instead. This approach
234 was motivated by neurophysiology experiments showing monotonic responses as a function
235 of both valence and surprise and by a theoretical framework suggesting that learning is
236 driven by a single signed RPE representation. To identify the spatial extent of these
237 representations we also looked at fMRI data reporting positive correlations with signed RPE
238 (negative correlation were discarded). Specifically, we combined four types of fMRI
239 analyses, which estimated trial-by-trial signed RPE from different computational models. We
240 used fMRI reports from (1) model-free and (2) model-based RL methods. Model-free
241 methods include Markov Chain Monte Carlo and temporal difference methods [Samson et
242 al., 2010; Seymour et al., 2007]. Model-based methods include dynamic programming and
243 certainty equivalent methods [Daw et al., 2005; Doya et al., 2002]. More on these algorithms
244 can be found in the review by [Kaelbling et al., 1996]. We also included continuous
245 parametric analyses using trial-by-trial signed RPE from (3) Bayesian RL framework
246 described above [Iglesias et al., 2013; Mathys et al., 2014; den Ouden et al., 2012]. Finally,
247 our analysis for signed RPE also contained one type of parametric analysis that employed
248 fixed RPE values (not estimated from RL models) ranked on a scale such that (4) high
249 positive RPEs > low positive RPEs > low negative RPEs > high negative RPEs (Table 1).
250 Figure 1 illustrates the hypothesized pattern of BOLD signal predicted by these contrasts
251 (pattern C) and it is assumed to increase linearly as a function of signed RPE.

252

253 Crucially, we note that an issue requiring closer scrutiny pertains to the difficulty in
254 disambiguating the signed RPE pattern of activity from those associated with valence and
255 surprise. Specifically, pattern C (signed RPE) is generally highly correlated with pattern A (ii),
256 (POS > NEG valence) and in studies in which only positive RPEs are considered, pattern C
257 (signed RPE) and pattern B (surprise) are perfectly correlated. Nonetheless, comparing
258 clusters of activations across the three RPE components could potentially reveal whether or
259 not there exist unique clusters of activations associated with signed RPE.

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[Table 1]

2.1. Activation Likelihood Estimation (ALE) analysis

We conducted the meta-analysis using the GingerALE software (version 2.3.6) [Eickhoff et al., 2009] that employs a revised (and rectified [Eickhoff et al., 2017]) version of the activation likelihood estimation (ALE) algorithm [Laird et al., 2005; Turkeltaub et al., 2002], which identifies common areas of activation across studies. This method performs coordinate based meta-analysis which considers each reported foci as a 3D Gaussian probability distribution, centred at the coordinates provided by each study reflecting the spatial uncertainty associated with each reported set of coordinates. Note that each contrast provided to the ALE algorithm is treated as a separate experiment. The probabilities distributions are then combined to create a modelled activation map, namely an ALE map for that contrast. Studies are weighted according to the number of subjects they contain by adjusting the full width at half maximum of the Gaussian distributions. The convergence of results across the whole brain is obtained by computing the union of all resulting voxel-wise ALE scores. To distinguish meaningful convergence from random noise, statistics are computed by comparing ALE scores with an empirical null-distribution representing a random spatial association between studies. To infer true convergence, a random-effect inference is applied to capitalize on the differences between studies rather than between foci within a particular study. The null-hypothesis is modelled by randomly sampling voxels from each of the ALE maps from which the union is obtained. The ALE maps are assessed against the null distribution using a cluster level threshold of specific p-values. Contrast analyses between categories of the entire dataset are determined by ALE subtraction method, including a correction for differences in sample size between the categories.

287 Here, we manually extracted all coordinates from the studies shown in Table 1 and entered
288 them into separate files for each of the three RPE components in preparation for the ALE
289 analyses. Any studies that provided coordinates in Talairach space were converted into MNI
290 space by the Matlab (MathWorks, Natick, Massachusetts) function *tal2mni* in the fieldtrip
291 toolbox [Oostenveld et al., 2011]. We conducted ALE analyses for each of the three
292 components of RPE individually. Along the valence component, we looked at both patterns A
293 (i) and A (ii) in Figure 1 (i.e. to identify activations for negative > positive RPE and vice
294 versa, respectively). Accordingly, we ran separate ALE analyses for each of the two
295 patterns. In addition, we performed two conjunction analyses – one between the valence and
296 surprise components to investigate our hypothesis of largely separate neural representations
297 and another between all three RPE components to identify regions that simultaneously
298 encode these representations. Subsequently, we also performed all possible pairwise
299 contrast analyses between the three patterns (A, B and C), using the individual maps
300 associated with each pattern.

301 A total of 402 foci from 66 contrasts were used with 262 foci from 31 contrasts for Pattern A
302 (i) revealing BOLD patterns greater for negative than positive outcomes and 205 from 35
303 contrasts for Pattern A (ii) (e.g. the opposite contrast). For the surprise (Pattern B) and
304 signed RPE (Pattern C) analyses, we applied individual ALE analyses, with 284 foci from 40
305 contrasts for surprise and 240 foci from 38 contrasts for signed RPE. Overall, the number of
306 contrasts used for each separate outcome component was large enough (> 30) to allow
307 sufficient power for the required statistical tests [Eickhoff and Etkin, 2016]. Finally, we
308 transformed the resulting ALE maps from the Colins MNI individual brain space
309 (Colin27_T1_seg_MNI) to the MNI normalized brain space (MNI ICBM152 template) by
310 applying an affine transformation using the FSL *flirt* program [Jenkinson et al., 2002], prior to
311 overlaying onto the canonical MNI template for visualization.

312

313 **3. Results**

314

315 All coordinates used for the following ALE analyses were collated from fMRI studies in which
316 the components of RPE have been regressed onto BOLD activity time-locked to outcome
317 presentation. We report ALE maps with clusters surviving the False Discovery Rate (FDR)
318 yielding two p-value thresholds. The most conservative FDR correction yields a p-value with
319 no assumptions about how the data is correlated (FRN), and the least conservative FDR
320 correction assumes independence or positive dependence (FID) with $p < 0.05$ and a
321 minimum volume clustering value of 50 mm^3 . Note that, using a cluster-level family-wise
322 error (FWE) correction implemented with a cluster-extent threshold of $p < 0.05$ and a cluster-
323 forming threshold of $p < 0.001$ revealed virtually identical results (compared with FRN)
324 [Eickhoff et al., 2017] as per previous reports [R Garrison et al., 2017]. For all tables
325 presenting ALE cluster results, the size of each cluster is provided in mm^3 along with the
326 associated MNI coordinates and maximum ALE score. The ALE score indicates the relative
327 effect size for each peak voxel within each ALE analysis.

328

329 **3.1. Outcome Valence**

330

331 The first two ALE analyses were conducted to identify regions in which BOLD signals
332 correlate with outcome valence. Specifically, we looked at activations that yielded greater
333 BOLD for negative relative to positive outcomes (NEG > POS; pattern A (i) in Figure 1) and
334 greater BOLD for positive relative to negative outcomes (POS > NEG; pattern A (ii) in Figure
335 1), respectively. Accordingly, we considered all fMRI studies, which assumed BOLD
336 responses varying categorically along a positive-negative axis for outcome valence.

337

338 The findings of the two valence ALE analyses are shown in Figure 2. The resulting maps
339 revealed a highly distributed network of brain activations encompassing several cortical
340 regions and sub-cortical structures. More precisely, NEG > POS valence clusters were found

341 in a network encompassing the anterior and dorsal part of the mid-cingulate cortex (aMCC
342 and dMCC) including the pre supplementary motor area (pre-SMA), the bilateral anterior and
343 middle insular cortex (aINS, mINS), the bilateral dorsolateral prefrontal cortex (dlPFC), the
344 bilateral thalamus, right amygdala, left inferior parietal lobule (IPL) and the habenula.

345

346 POS > NEG valence clusters were found in the bilateral ventral striatum (vSTR), the
347 ventromedial prefrontal cortex (vmPFC), the posterior part of the cingulate cortex (PCC), as
348 well as the ventrolateral orbitofrontal cortex (vlOFC). At a lower threshold (uncorrected p-
349 value of 0.001), we also found the midbrain as part of this network, encompassing the VTA,
350 which is commonly associated with the delivery of reward [D'Ardenne et al., 2008]. Table 2
351 contains the complete list of regions, coordinates, and statistics of these two ALE analyses.

352

353 [Figure 2], [Table 2]

354

355 **3.2. Surprise**

356

357 fMRI investigations of RPE have focused primarily on the valence components while
358 neglecting potential contributions from possible separate representations along the surprise
359 component, defined as the degree by which outcomes deviate from expectations and
360 mathematically expressed as the modulus of RPE. A major goal of this work was to explore
361 the possibility that there exist largely separate neuronal representations encoding surprise.
362 To this end, we conducted a new ALE analysis in which the few empirical fMRI studies
363 making use of the surprise from RL models were combined with other fMRI measures
364 correlated with the surprise as defined by RL models (Table 1).

365

366 Figure 3 shows the areas in which BOLD signal correlated with surprise. We found evidence
367 for activations in a distributed network encompassing the aMCC, dMCC, the pre-SMA the
368 bilateral dorsal striatum (dSTR), the bilateral aINS, the MTG and the midbrain. Crucially, this

369 activation map shows that the neural network associated with surprise is largely distinct from
370 that of valence. This finding provides initial support for the notion that these two RPE
371 components are encoded in separate brain areas and, as such, they might be contributing
372 individually to promote learning. The full results of the surprise ALE analysis are also
373 summarized in Table 3.

374

375 [Figure 3], [Table 3]

376

377 **3.3. Valence and surprise conjunction and contrast analyses**

378

379 The activation maps for valence (NEG > POS and POS > NEG) and surprise ALE analyses
380 conducted above revealed little overlap between the spatial representations of these two
381 RPE components. To formally quantify the degree of overlap between the valence and
382 surprise networks, we next ran a conjunction analysis between the two components. The
383 statistical map resulting from this conjunction analysis and the two separate statistical maps
384 of valence and surprise (as already reported in Figures 2 and 3) are overlaid in Figure 4.

385

386 [Figure 4], [Table 4]

387

388 Contrast analyses were conducted for each possible pairing between any dimensions of
389 valence (POS > NEG [positive]; NEG > POS [negative] and POS + NEG [all valence]) and
390 surprise. These analyses allowed us to identify the areas that were unique and specific to
391 each individual outcome and RPE-related component. The positive valence (pattern A (ii))
392 minus surprise (pattern B) contrast revealed two main clusters in the vSTR and vmPFC
393 whereas the reverse contrast revealed a network of clusters including preSMA, aINS, and
394 MTG. Contrasting negative valence (pattern A (i)) and surprise also exposed separate
395 networks of areas for each subtraction. Specifically, this contrast revealed a network
396 encompassing the thalamus, the habenula, the right mINS and the dmCC, whereas the

397 reverse contrast showed clusters in the dorsal portion of the STR and the dIPFC. The
398 statistical maps resulting from these contrast analyses are presented in Figure 5.

399

400 [Figure 5], [Table 5]

401

402 **3.4. Signed RPE**

403

404 A major goal of this work was to investigate the spatial profile of the signed RPE component
405 and to scrutinise more closely the extent to which it overlaps with the separate
406 representations identified for valence (NEG > POS and POS > NEG) and surprise. The
407 fMRI-RPE literature has focused on this component largely due to neurophysiological
408 evidence suggesting that RPE-like learning is driven by a single, theoretically unified
409 representation of both POS > NEG valence and surprise (Table 1).

410

411 Results from this ALE analysis revealed very few unique activations for signed RPE
412 compared to valence and surprise. Instead, brain areas identified in this analysis overlapped
413 mostly with areas appearing in the POS > NEG valence component and, to a lesser extent,
414 surprise (Figure 6). Specifically, a large overlap between signed RPE and the POS > NEG
415 valence component was found in the STR and a smaller one in the vmPFC. Similarly, areas
416 appearing in the signed RPE analysis that overlapped with the surprise component were
417 also found, albeit only in small clusters comprising the aMCC and dorsal STR. Taken
418 together, these findings emphasize the potential collinearities between the BOLD predictors
419 used to identify neural representations associated with the three RPE components and
420 highlight the need for developing a methodology for properly disentangling their individual
421 contributions.

422

423 [Figure 6], [Table 6]

424

425 3.5. Putting it all together

426

427 Subsequently, to formally test for the overlap between all three RPE components and
428 identify potential regions integrating valence and surprise either into a signed RPE
429 representation or a linear superposition of the two signals [Fouragnan et al., 2017], we
430 performed a conjunction analysis between the valence (pattern A), the surprise (pattern B)
431 and signed RPE (pattern C) signals. We summarize our conjunction results in Figure 7,
432 which revealed a major overlap between all activations associated with signed RPE and
433 each of the other two RPE representations in the central part of the STR. Thus, one
434 possibility is that the STR meets the requirement that a full monotonic representation of the
435 error signal also simultaneously encodes valence and surprise, as per our last ALE analysis.

436

437 [Figure 7]

438

439 Another possibility is that the overlap between all components of outcomes in the STR is
440 arising, at least in part, due to collinearities across the different outcome representations,
441 particularly between the positive categorical nature of outcome valence (pattern A (ii)) and
442 the signed RPE. To formally test this hypothesis, we performed a new series of contrast
443 analyses between signed RPE and all dimensions of categorical valence and surprise.
444 Particularly, we performed contrast analyses between patterns C-A(i), C-A(ii), C-A and C-B
445 (and vice versa). The results are summarized in Figure 8. Particularly, we did not find any
446 area unique to signed RPE when looking at each of the individual comparisons of signed
447 RPE with the other three patterns. In fact, when comparing signed RPE to positive valence
448 (pattern A (ii)), no clusters were found to be significantly different than those found with the
449 categorical outcome valence (POS > NEG). Conversely, the STR was found for all the other
450 signed RPE comparisons (signed RPE > negative; signed RPE > surprise). Finally, the
451 unique network related to negative valence (pattern A (i)) was found in the dmCC, thalamus

452 and mINS, the unique cluster related to positive valence was found in the vmPFC and the
453 unique network related to surprise was found in the aMCC, preSMA and the aINS.

454

455 [Figure 8], [table 7]

456

457 **Discussion**

458

459 In this fMRI meta-analysis work, we demonstrated that reward learning in humans involves
460 separate neuronal signatures of RPE, comprising distinct representations for valence and
461 surprise. Together with recent neurophysiological and EEG evidence (including studies
462 using simultaneous EEG and fMRI), these findings point to a potentially sequential and
463 distributed encoding of different RPE components with potentially functionally distinct roles.

464

465 **Valence networks**

466

467 The ALE analyses related to valence revealed two distributed set of activations correlating
468 with both pattern A (i) and (ii) in Figure 1. Foci for which the BOLD signal was greater for
469 negative than positive outcomes showed significant clustering in a large network of areas
470 including the thalamus, the aMCC and dMCC, the aINS, mINS and the dIPFC. Conversely,
471 foci for which the BOLD signal was greater for positive than negative outcomes showed
472 significant clusters in a separate network including vmPFC, vSTR, PCC, and vIOFC. These
473 findings clearly suggest the presence of multiple systems responding to the categorical
474 nature of valence which supports the notion that separate valuation systems shape learning
475 in the human brain [Fiorillo, 2013; Fouragnan et al., 2013], although their functional role
476 remain debated. More specifically, the debate focuses on the number and exact nature of
477 the neural systems assigning value to decision outcomes and driving behaviors that are
478 evolutionarily appropriate in response to changes in the environment.

479

480 A first theory describes two distinct valence systems invoking two orthogonal axes of
481 decision-making: alertness (involving the implementation of action) and learning (including
482 the updates of value expectations for future avoidance and approach behaviors). In this
483 framework, the first system is thought to monitor on-going activity and interrupt it when
484 needed to trigger switching behaviors (e.g. following negative RPEs). In contrast, the second
485 system uses both negative and positive RPE values for decreasing or increasing internal
486 value representations associated with decisions to ultimately drive avoidance and approach
487 learning, respectively [Boureau and Dayan, 2011; Cools et al., 2011; Elliot, 2006; Fiorillo,
488 2013; Fouragnan et al., 2015; Gray and McNaughton, 2003; Guitart-Masip et al., 2012].

489

490 A second (not mutually exclusive) proposition supports the idea that there are at least two
491 separate systems responsible for aversive and appetitive reinforcements such that
492 punishments and rewards are encoded separately (i.e. a punishment space and a reward
493 space [Morrens, 2014]). This proposition was developed on the basis of neurophysiological
494 evidence showing that different types of neurons exhibit differential activity in response to
495 punishing vs. non-punishing outcomes and rewarding vs. non-rewarding outcomes,
496 respectively [Fiorillo et al., 2003; Fiorillo, 2013; Schultz et al., 1992; Schultz, 1998]. In this
497 second theory, the punishment space is responsible for avoidance behaviors as well as
498 avoidance learning and the reward space is responsible for approach behaviors and
499 approach learning.

500

501 It is noteworthy that our meta-analysis on itself cannot directly distinguish between the two
502 theories because the results do not reveal whether the relevant activations respond
503 exclusively to either positive or negative outcomes or are modulated by both outcomes in
504 opposite directions. This distinction is critical because the former response profile would
505 suggest the presence of separate approach and avoidance systems that might not
506 necessarily be linked to the learning processes as such, while the latter might point to both
507 up- and down-regulation of activity consistent with learning and updating of reward

508 expectations. Nonetheless, the meta-analysis results suggest that two main networks
509 process valence. The network encompassing aINS, aMCC, thalamus and dIPFC could
510 regulate on-going activity and alertness or could represent the punishment space in
511 accordance to the first and the second theories respectively. Conversely, the network of
512 regions encompassing the vmPFC, vSTR, PCC and vIOFC could represent the learning
513 system depicted in the first theory or could represent the reward space depicted in the
514 second theory. Further research is required to tease apart the roles of these systems,
515 especially by investigating their precise response profiles in the appetitive (where rewarding
516 and non-rewarding outcomes are manipulated) and in a true aversive (where punishing and
517 non-punishing outcomes are manipulated) domains, respectively.

518

519 **Surprise network**

520

521 Emerging evidence indicates that the brain encodes the unsigned RPE signal (surprise),
522 which alerts the organism of relative deviations from expectations, regardless of the outcome
523 value. However, to date, only few papers have modelled surprise as such to search for
524 independent neural representations, with the exception of recent neurophysiological
525 developments [Brischoux et al., 2009; Matsumoto and Hikosaka, 2009], recent EEG work
526 [Philiastides et al., 2010b; Yeung and Sanfey, 2004] and an increasing number of fMRI
527 studies [Fouragnan et al., 2017; Gläscher et al., 2010; Li and Daw, 2011; Metereau and
528 Dreher, 2013]. Nevertheless, other fMRI studies used variables highly correlated with
529 surprise that can be employed as proxies [Behrens et al., 2007; Iglesias et al., 2013; Nassar
530 et al., 2012; den Ouden et al., 2012; Yu and Dayan, 2005]. These studies share the
531 assumption that the corresponding BOLD response profile is maximal for high positive and
532 high negative RPE and minimal for no RPE, resembling a V-shape, as illustrated with
533 Pattern B in Figure 1. By combining these fMRI results into a single ALE-analysis, we
534 expose for the first time the network associated with surprise while stressing the need for a
535 common lexicon for this learning component to guide subsequent research in the field.

536

537 The surprise ALE-analysis revealed a large network including cortical and sub-cortical areas
538 such as aMCC, bilateral aINS, dSTR and midbrain, that differed majoritarily from those of
539 valence processing although small overlaps were found between the two components at the
540 junction of ventral and dorsal STR, in left aINS and aMCC. Importantly, the role of surprise is
541 still a subject of debate. Some studies propose that this network encodes the saliency of an
542 outcome or how much a stimulus stands out from others [Litt et al., 2011; Zink et al., 2004].
543 As such, the surprise system could be considered as a key attentional mechanism that
544 enables an organism to focus its limited perceptual and cognitive resources on the most
545 pertinent subset of the available sensory data, similarly to the attentional mechanism used to
546 guide decisions in the case of salient stimuli [Kahnt and Tobler, 2013]. Consistent with a role
547 in attention regulation, representations of such signal have been found in lower-level visual
548 areas [Serences, 2008], lateral intraparietal cortex [Huettel et al., 2006; Kahnt and Tobler,
549 2013] and areas involved in visual and motor preparation such as the supplementary motor
550 area [Wunderlich et al., 2009] or the supplementary eye field [Middlebrooks and Sommer,
551 2012; So and Stuphorn, 2012].

552

553 In contrast, it has also been suggested that a surprise system can independently monitor
554 unexpected information and act as a learning signal that allows better predictions of
555 upcoming events, and help plan appropriate behavioral adjustments [Dayan and Balleine,
556 2002; Fouragnan et al., 2017; Kolling et al., 2012; Wittmann et al., 2016]. In particular, some
557 studies suggest that the aINS receives information related to surprise and direct modulation
558 from the dSTR providing crucial information for behavioral adjustment [Menon and Levitin,
559 2005]. Along these lines, the surprise signal also captures the essence of a learning signal
560 that the brain needs to compute to maintain a homeostatic state [Friston et al., 2006; Friston,
561 2009]. Practically, this means that the brain elaborates internal predictions about sensory
562 input and updates them according to surprise, a process that can be formulated as
563 generalized Bayesian filtering or predictive coding in the brain. Finally, still in the framework

564 of learning, some authors argue that surprise can also be considered as a signal predicting
565 the level of risk associated with a future decision outcome, and thus reflect a risk RPE
566 [Fiorillo et al., 2003; Preuschoff et al., 2008; Rudolf et al., 2012].

567

568 **Neuromodulatory pathways encoding multicomponent RPE signals**

569

570 Supporting the idea of separate neural systems for valence and surprise, recent
571 electrophysiological work has revealed both signals existing in neighbouring groups of
572 neurons. The first study of this kind observed the response of dopaminergic neurons in
573 ventral and dorsal areas of the SNc and reported two categories of dopamine neurons
574 [Matsumoto and Hikosaka, 2009]. Some dopamine neurons increase their phasic firing
575 activity in response to valence while others responded only to the changes in unsigned RPE,
576 regardless of the valence component. The latter population of neurons was located more
577 dorsolaterally in the SNc, whilst the neurons encoding valence were located more
578 ventromedially, including the VTA. Interestingly, the dorsolateral SNc projects mainly to the
579 dorsal STR, whereas the ventral SNc and VTA project to the ventral STR, which matches
580 the results of our last conjunction analysis (Figure 7). We found that the only region that
581 encodes the full monotonic representation of the RPE as well as the separate valence and
582 surprise components of RPE seems to be the central part of the STR as shown in Figure 7.
583 This result aligns with the assumption that this region receives direct projections from the
584 midbrain dopaminergic neurons encoding a fully monotonic signed RPE signal [Schultz et
585 al., 1997]. Additionally, the meta-analysis also revealed that both the valence (POS > NEG)
586 and surprise networks include activity in the midbrain, confirming this hypothesis.

587

588 It is important to note that identifying neural activity associated with valence and surprise
589 signals is challenging because in many experimental paradigms both components are highly
590 correlated. For example, when positive RPE are manipulated in isolation, valence (POS >
591 NEG) strongly correlates with surprise. Additionally, whether positive or negative, an

592 unexpected outcome attracts more attention, leads to higher levels of emotional arousal and
593 involves higher levels of motor preparation compared to no RPE [Matsumoto and Hikosaka,
594 2009; Maunsell, 2004; Roesch and Olson, 2004]. Consequently, to disentangle these
595 signals, one needs to design tasks in which the level of valence and surprise can
596 independently be controlled and decoupled [Kahnt, 2017; Kahnt and Tobler, 2013] or
597 capitalize on the variability of physiologically-derived responses (i.e. endogenous variability)
598 associated with valence and surprise [Fouragnan et al., 2015; Fouragnan et al., 2017;
599 PISAURO et al., 2017].

600

601 It is important to note that since the problem of collinearity and functional specificity of some
602 brain regions is already present in single studies, it will inevitably be carried over to studies
603 performing conjunction meta-analyses. Virtually every experimental design engages a large
604 number of cognitive operations and, thereby, activates functional neural networks that may
605 be irrelevant to a particular regressor (psychological construct) of interest. For example in
606 our study, regions related to outcome value and surprise might share variance with outcome
607 confidence [Gherman and Philiastides, 2015; Gherman and Philiastides, 2017; Lebreton et
608 al., 2015; Philiastides et al., 2014]. Despite this general limitation and the difficulty of
609 interpreting conjunction results, aggregating results across a large number of experiments
610 allows one to expose convergence of findings across studies and increasing the
611 generalizability of the conclusions. In particular, this meta-analysis, capitalizing on both
612 individual maps of activations as well as contrasts between different outcome components,
613 points to a distributed encoding of valence and surprise, with potentially distinct functional
614 roles.

615

616 **Temporally specific components of RPE processing**

617

618 The presence of separate RPE-related neural systems raises the question of how these
619 systems unfold in time. Capitalizing on the high temporal resolution of EEG, three recent

620 studies using simultaneous EEG-fMRI have started to shed light on the spatiotemporal
621 characterisation of the RPE components. First, these studies have revealed two temporally
622 specific EEG components discriminating between positive and negative RPEs peaking
623 around 220ms and 300ms respectively, largely consistent with the timing of the feedback-
624 related negativity and feedback-related positivity ERP components [Cohen et al., 2007;
625 Hajcak et al., 2006; Yeung and Sanfey, 2004]. Additionally, the studies also revealed a late
626 unsigned RPE component which overlaps temporally with the late valence signal
627 [Philiastides et al., 2010b] but appears in a largely separate and distributed neural network
628 [Fouragnan et al., 2017].

629

630 Based on these previous studies and the current meta-analysis, we propose that the early
631 and late EEG valence components might reflect the separate contributions of the two
632 networks of areas found for the ALE-valence analyses. This proposal assumes that an early
633 network processes mainly negative RPEs in order to initiate a fast alertness response in the
634 presence of negative outcomes. Conversely, a later network – associated with the brain’s
635 reward circuitry – is modulated by both positive and negative RPEs, consistent with a role in
636 approach/avoidance learning and value updating [Philiastides et al., 2010a]. We also
637 propose that the surprise network unfolds near simultaneously with the late valence
638 component and thus influences learning through largely distinct spatial representations of
639 the two outcomes signals, which happen to form a composite signal in overlapping areas
640 [Fouragnan et al., 2017].

641

642 **Full representation of a monotonic signed RPE signal**

643

644 To examine the spatial profile of a true monotonic signed RPE representation in the human
645 brain, we pooled results from fMRI studies, which hypothesized that RPE-like learning is
646 driven by a simultaneous representation of both categorical valence and surprise. These

647 fMRI studies are based on the influential assumption that BOLD signal increases
648 monotonically as a function of signed RPE, as illustrated in pattern C (Fig. 1), equivalent to
649 the teaching signal that is predicted in the Rescorla–Wagner model of RL [Rescorla and
650 Wagner, 1972]. Additionally, we combined the valence and surprise networks and
651 subsequently compared it with the signed RPE to test the requirement that the signed RPE
652 simultaneously encodes both components. This conjunction analysis revealed that the only
653 brain region that seems to encode a true monotonic signal is the STR in the basal ganglia,
654 which could explain why such a signal is not tractable with EEG recordings as highlighted
655 earlier. This result confirms the long standing view that the BOLD activity in STR mirrors the
656 dopaminergic signalling of the mesolimbic neurons [Delgado et al., 2000; Haber et al., 1995;
657 O’Doherty et al., 2004; Pagnoni et al., 2002] that fully encode the RL prediction error signal
658 of the Rescorla-Wagner rule [Ikemoto, 2007; Schultz et al., 1992].

659
660 Nonetheless, the ALE contrast analyses between valence (the positive correlation with
661 pattern A (ii)) and signed RPE revealed no significant activation, whereas the reverse
662 contrast revealed a denser cluster of activity in vmPFC for valence than signed RPE. Given
663 the evidence presented above that the signed RPE may only be encoded in the STR, we
664 suggest that this result may arise due to collinearities between valence and signed RPE or
665 surprise and signed RPE. More precisely, a parametric predictor for signed RPE would be
666 positively correlated with the contrast positive > negative outcomes whereas the signed RPE
667 and surprise would be perfectly correlated in the positive (appetitive) domain.

668

669 **Conclusion**

670

671 In conclusion, the current meta-analysis points to a framework whereby heterogeneous
672 signals are involved in RPE processing. The proposal of a temporally distinct and spatially
673 distributed representation of valence and surprise is open to debate and many questions
674 remain about how these signals interact and how they correspond to the computations made

675 in the brain. For example, it is currently unclear whether valence and surprise encoding
676 occur before the computation of the signed RPE, or whether these three computations are
677 performed in parallel. Nevertheless the taxonomy proposed is conceptually useful because it
678 breaks down the learning and valuation processes into testable components and organizes
679 the RPE literature in terms of the computations that are potentially involved. It will require
680 additional experiments to validate the current proposal and to better understand the
681 complexity of RPE processing.

682

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Table 1. Categorisation of fMRI studies into the three RPE components (valence, surprise, signed RPE) and broken down by the relevant fMRI contrast/regressor.

Statistical comparisons	Number	Total	Reference
Valence Pattern A i (NEG>POS)		32	[de Bruijn et al., 2009; Daniel et al., 2011; Demos et al., 2012; van Duijvenvoorde et al., 2014; Elward et al., 2015; Ferdinand and Opitz, 2014; Fouragnan et al., 2015; Gläscher et al., 2009; Haruno et al., 2004; Häusler et al., 2016; Jocham et al., 2016; Kahnt et al., 2010; Katahira et al., 2015; Klein-Flügge et al., 2011; Klein-Flügge et al., 2011; Knutson et al., 2000; Knutson et al., 2001; Koch et al., 2008; Leknes et al., 2011; Losecaat Vermeer et al., 2014; Marsh et al., 2010; Mattfeld et al., 2011; Noonan et al., 2011; O'Doherty et al., 2001; O'Doherty et al., 2003; Rodriguez, 2009; Rolls et al., 2008; Scholl et al., 2015; Seymour et al., 2007; Spicer et al., 2007; Spoomaker et al., 2011; Ullsperger and Cramon, 2003; Yacubian et al., 2006]
Negative > Positive	19		
Negative > No outcomes	9		
Negative correlation with a regressor defining valence RPE (with a binary modulation whereby positive RPE = 1, and negative RPE = -1)	4		
Valence Pattern A ii (POS>NEG)		33	[Amiez et al., 2012; Aron et al., 2004; Bickel et al., 2009; de Bruijn et al., 2009; Canessa et al., 2013; Daniel et al., 2011; van Duijvenvoorde et al., 2014; Elliott et al., 2000; Ernst et al., 2004; Forster and Brown, 2011; Fouragnan et al., 2015; Fujiwara et al., 2009; Häusler et al., 2016; Hester et al., 2008; Hester et al., 2010; Jocham et al., 2016; Katahira et al., 2015; Knutson et al., 2000; Knutson et al., 2001; Knutson et al., 2001; Kurniawan et al., 2013; Losecaat Vermeer et al., 2014; Luking et al., 2014; Paschke et al., 2015; Sarinopoulos et al., 2010; Scholl et al., 2015; Schonberg et al., 2010; Seymour et al., 2007; Späti et al., 2014; Spoomaker et al., 2011; Ullsperger and Cramon, 2003]
Positive > Negative	18		
Positive > No outcomes	9		
Positive correlation with a regressor defining valence RPE (with a binary modulation whereby positive RPE = 1, and negative RPE = -1)	6		
Surprise Pattern B		41	[Allen et al., 2016; Amado et al., 2016; Amiez et al., 2012; Boll et al., 2013; Browning et al., 2010; Chumbley et al., 2014; Daw et al., 2011; Dreher, 2013; Ferdinand and Opitz, 2014; Forster and Brown, 2011; Fouragnan et al., 2015; Fouragnan et al., 2017; Fujiwara et al., 2009; Ide et al., 2013; Iglesias et al., 2013; Jensen et al., 2007; Knutson et al., 2001; Kotz et al., 2015; Leong et al., 2017; Losecaat Vermeer et al., 2014; Manza et al., 2016; McClure et al., 2003; Metereau and Dreher, 2013; Metereau and Dreher, 2015; Meyniel and Dehaene, 2017; Nieuwenhuis et al., 2005; O'Reilly et al., 2013; den Ouden et al., 2012; Poudel et al., 2013; Rodriguez, 2009; Rohe et al., 2012; Rohe and Noppeney, 2015; Rohe and Noppeney, 2015; Rolls et al., 2008; Schwartenbeck et al., 2016; Silvetti and Verguts, 2012; Tobia et al., 2016; Watanabe et al., 2013; Wunderlich et al., 2009; Wunderlich et al., 2011; Yacubian et al., 2006; Zalla et al., 2000; Zhang et al., 2016]
Unsigned RPE ("RL surprise")	12		
Unsigned Bayesian RPE ("Volatility", "Bayesian surprise")	13		
Positive and Negative outcomes > No or low outcomes	9		
"Associability" term of the Pearce et Hall model	2		
Parametric changes in magnitude of surprising positive RPE (unsigned)	3		
Parametric changes in magnitude of surprising negative RPE (unsigned)	2		
Signed RPE Pattern C		38	[Abler et al., 2006; Behrens et al., 2007; van den Bos et al., 2012; Cohen and Ranganath, 2007; Daw et al., 2011; Delgado et al., 2000; Delgado, 2007; Diederer et al., 2017; Diuk et al., 2013; Dunne et al., 2016; Gläscher et al., 2010; Guo et al., 2016; Hare et al., 2008; Ide et al., 2013; Katahira et al., 2015; Leong et al., 2017; Li and Zhang, 2006; Lin et al., 2012; Mattfeld et al., 2011; McClure et al., 2003; Metereau and Dreher, 2013; Metereau and Dreher, 2015; O'Doherty et al., 2003; Pessiglione et al., 2006; Pessiglione et al., 2008; Ribas-Fernandes et al., 2011; Rolls et al., 2008; Schlagenhauf et al., 2013; Schonberg et al., 2010; Scimeca et al., 2016; Seymour et al., 2007; Takemura et al., 2011; Tanaka et al., 2004; Tanaka et al., 2006; Valentin and O'Doherty, 2009; Watanabe et al., 2013; Wunderlich et al., 2011]
Signed RPE (from model-free RL models)	16		
Signed RPE (from model-based RL models)	8		
Signed Bayesian RPE	10		
High positive RPEs > low positive RPEs > low negative RPEs > high negative RPEs	4		

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1153 **Table 2.** ALE cluster results for the valence analysis: Pattern A (i) and (ii) (FDR-ID P < 0.05,
 1154 with a minimum volume cluster size of 50 mm³.

Region	R/L	x	y	z	Cluster size	ALE score
Pattern A (i) (NEG > POS)						
Dorsomedial cingulate cortex (dMCC)	R	2	24	36	12712	0.051
Anterior Insula (aINS)	R	32	24	-2	6120	0.062
-	L	-32	22	-4	4880	0.056
Pallidum	R	12	8	4	3360	0.04
-	L	-14	6	2	2520	0.029
Middle Frontal Gyrus	R	38	4	32	3152	0.029
-	R	30	10	56	488	0.021
-	L	-28	12	60	104	0.019
Inferior Parietal Lobule (IPL)	R	40	-48	42	2416	0.039
-	L	-38	-48	42	2216	0.043
Middle Temporal Gyrus (MTG)	R	60	-28	-6	1192	0.031
Amygdala	R	18	-6	-12	704	0.024
Thalamus	L	-12	-12	10	624	0.025
-	L	-6	-26	8	280	0.023
Habenula	R	2	-20	-18	312	0.022
Dorsolateral Prefrontal Cortex (dlPFC)	L	-44	28	32	360	0.020
-	R	40	34	30	344	0.020
Fusiform Area	L	-40	-62	-10	272	0.023
Precentral Cortex	L	-52	0	34	256	0.021
Dorsomedial Orbitofrontal Cortex (dmOFC)	R	38	58	-2	192	0.020
Dorsomedial Prefrontal Cortex (dmPFC)	R	20	50	4	120	0.018
Superior Temporal Sulcus	R	58	-42	22	120	0.017
Pattern A (ii) (POS > NEG)						
Ventral striatum (vSTR)	L	-12	8	-4	4880	0.052
-	R	8	8	-2	2880	0.038
Ventromedial Prefrontal Cortex (vmPFC)	L	-2	42	0	3416	0.037
Posterior Cingulate Cortex (PCC)	L	0	-32	36	240	0.016
-	L	0	-36	26	88	0.014
Ventrolateral OFC (vlOFC)	R	32	44	-10	144	0.015
Dorsomedial Prefrontal Cortex (dmPFC)	L	-6	-56	14	96	0.016
Medial Prefrontal Cortex (mPFC)	L	-2	46	20	88	0.014

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1157 **Table 3.** ALE clusters results for the surprise analysis (FDR-ID $P < 0.05$, with a minimum
 1158 volume cluster size of 50 mm^3).

Region	R/L	x	y	z	Cluster size	ALE score
Anterior mid-cingulate Cortex (aMCC)	R	4	24	34	4072	0.029
Anterior Insula (aINS)	R	32	24	-4	2496	0.050
-	L	-32	20	-4	1544	0.038
Inferior Parietal Lobule (IPL)	R	40	-46	42	1672	0.033
-	L	-40	-48	42	568	0.025
Dorsal Striatum (dSTR)	R	12	8	4	1400	0.034
-	L	-14	10	2	1216	0.021
Middle Temporal Gyrus (MTG)	R	60	-28	-8	648	0.022
Lateral Inferior Frontal Cortex	R	52	10	18	488	0.025
Lateral Central Frontal Gyrus	L	-44	26	30	392	0.019
Precentral Gyrus	R	48	12	34	360	0.019
-	L	-52	0	34	224	0.020
Midbrain	R	2	-20	-18	304	0.021
Dorsal mid-cingulate cortex (dMCC)	R	12	14	42	224	0.019
Hippocampus	R	20	-6	-10	160	0.018
Fusiform Gyrus	L	-40	-60	-10	112	0.017
Mid Occipital Pole	L	-16	-90	-6	112	0.016
Superior Temporal Sulcus	R	60	-40	20	64	0.015

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1161 **Table 4.** ALE cluster results for the conjunction analysis of valence and surprise (FDR-ID $p <$
 1162 0.05, with a minimum volume cluster size of 50 mm³).

Region	R/L	x	y	z	Cluster size	ALE score
Striatum (STR)	R	12	6	4	1082	0.031
-	L	-12	12	4	376	0.021
Anterior Insula (aINS)	L	-32	20	-6	453	0.018
Anterior Mid-cingulate cortex (aMCC)	R	3	22	37	221	0.014
Inferior Parietal Lobule	L	40	-46	42	327	0.014

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1164 **Table 5.** ALE cluster results for the contrast analyses of valence and surprise (FDR-pN $p <$
 1165 0.05, with a minimum volume cluster size of 50 mm³).

Region	R/L	x	y	z	Cluster size	ALE score
Valence vs. Surprise						
Ventral Striatum (vSTR)	L	-10	8	-10	1096	3.29
ventromedial prefrontal cortex (vmPFC)	L	-2	44	0	256	3.29
Positive vs. Surprise						
Ventral Striatum (vSTR)	L	-12	-8	-8	1872	3.29
ventromedial prefrontal cortex (vmPFC)	R	0	46	0	512	3.29
Ventral Striatum (vSTR)	R	8	8	-6	168	3.29
Negative vs. Surprise						
Middle Insula (mINS)	R	40	10	2	544	3.29
Mid Cingulate Cortex (MCC)	R	6	20	42	144	3.29
Surprise vs. Valence						
Anterior Insula (aINS)	R	32	24	-4	1224	3.29
Anterior Insula (aINS)	L	-32	20	-2	112	3.29
Ventral Tegmental Area (VTA)	L	-6	-16	-10	96	3.29
Ventral Tegmental Area (VTA)	R	2	-20	-16	72	3.29
Occipital Lobe	R	24	-80	-6	72	3.29
Surprise vs. Positive						
Anterior Insula (aINS)	R	32	22	-2	1648	3.29
Middle Temporal Gyrus (MTG)	R	40	-46	42	1184	3.29
Anterior Insula (aINS)	L	-32	22	-2	1016	3.29
Inferior Frontal Gyrus	R	52	10	18	184	3.29
Supplementary Motor Area (SMA)	L	-2	12	52	160	3.29
Surprise vs. Negative						
Angular Gyrus	R	40	-46	40	248	3.29
Anterior Insula (aINS)	R	32	28	-6	80	3.29
Dorsal Striatum (dSTR)	R	12	10	2	56	3.29

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1167 **Table 6.** ALE clusters results for the signed RPE studies (FDR-ID $p < 0.05$, with a minimum
 1168 volume cluster size of 50 mm^3).

Region	R/L	x	y	z	Cluster size	ALE score
Striatum (STR) (encompasses left and right hemispheres)	R	12	10	-4	10888	0.053
Putamen	R	30	-6	8	688	0.024
Anterior Mid-cingulate Cortex (aMCC)	R	6	26	46	160	0.018
-	L	-2	14	40	120	0.016
Anterior Cingulate Cortex (ACC)	R	4	36	20	112	0.017
Ventromedial prefrontal (vmPFC)	L	0	34	0	64	0.015
Lateral Inferior Frontal Gyrus (IIFC)	L	-46	4	24	64	0.016

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1170 **Table 7.** ALE cluster results for the contrast analyses of signed RPE and valence as well as
 1171 signed RPE and surprise (FDR-pN $p < 0.05$, with a minimum volume cluster size of 50 mm^3).

Region	R/L	x	y	z	Cluster size	ALE score
Positive – Signed RPE						
Ventromedial Prefrontal Cortex (vmPFC)	R	2	44	-15	160	3.29
Signed RPE - Positive						
No significant						
Negative – Signed RPE						
Middle Insula (mINS)	R	40	12	0	528	3.29
Dorsal Middle Cingulate Cortex (dMCC)	R	6	22	36	208	3.29
Middle Insula (mINS)	L	-38	18	-4	184	3.29
Habenula	L	-2	-26	8	168	2.58
Thalamus	R	8	-10	5	96	2.58
Signed RPE - Negative						
Ventral Striatum (vSTR)	R	10	10	-6	2208	3.29
Valence – Signed RPE						
Ventromedial Prefrontal Cortex (vmPFC)	R	2	44	-12	760	3.29
Middle Insula (mINS)	R	40	12	2	568	2.58
Dorsal Middle Cingulate Cortex (dMCC)	R	6	24	38	480	2.58
Signed RPE - Valence						
Ventral Striatum (vSTR)	R	12	16	-2	184	3.29
Surprise – Signed RPE						
Anterior Insula (aINS)	L	-34	22	0	704	3.29
Anterior Midcingulate Cortex (aMCC)	R	0	14	52	136	3.29
Pre supplementary motor area (preSMA)	R	0	14	52	136	3.29
Anterior Insula (aINS)	R	38	18	-2	88	3.29

Signed RPE - Surprise

Ventral Striatum (vSTR)	L	-10	8	-10	904	3.29
Ventral Striatum (vSTR)	R	12	14	-3	192	3.29
Ventral Striatum (vSTR)	R	4	6	-6	72	3.29

1172

1173 **Figure Legends**

1174

1175 **Figure 1.** Hypothesized profiles for BOLD responses as function of the three RPE
1176 components. Pattern A (i and ii) describe the two categorical valence responses (orange and
1177 blue colours indicate (i) responses being greater for negative compared to positive outcomes
1178 [NEG > POS] and (ii) responses being greater for positive compared to negative outcomes
1179 [POS > NEG]). Pattern B captures surprise effects with greater responses to higher outcome
1180 deviations from expectations, independent of the sign (valence) of the RPE. Pattern C shows
1181 a monotonically increasing response profile consistent with a signed RPE representation.

1182

1183 **Figure 2.** Results of whole-brain ALE analysis along the valence component. Overlays of
1184 brain areas activated by correlations with NEG > POS (blue) and POS > NEG (orange)
1185 (Pattern A (i) and (ii), respectively; Fig. 1) (P-values corrected with FDR-ID [FID] and FDR-
1186 pN [FRN] < 0.05 and a minimum cluster volume of 50 mm³). Representative slices are
1187 shown with MNI coordinates given below each image.

1188

1189 **Figure 3.** Results of the whole brain ALE analysis for the surprise component of RPE
1190 (pattern B, Figure 1). Overlay of brain areas activated by all analyses representing direct or
1191 indirect measures of the surprise component of RPE (P-values corrected with FDR-ID [FID]
1192 and FDR-pN [FRN] < 0.05 and a minimum cluster volume of 50 mm³). Representative slices
1193 are shown with MNI coordinates given below each image.

1194

1195 **Figure 4.** Results of the ALE conjunction analysis between valence and surprise (purple).
1196 The regions identified earlier with separate ALE analyses along the valence (NEG > POS:
1197 blue, POS > NEG: orange) and surprise (green) components are shown for comparison
1198 purposes. P-values were corrected with FDR-pN [FRN] < 0.05 and a minimum cluster
1199 volume of 50 mm³ for the initial maps. Representative slices are shown with MNI coordinates
1200 given bellow each image.

1201 **Figure 5.** Results of the ALE contrast analyses for [valence – surprise] (left panel) and
1202 [surprise – valence]. P-values were corrected with FDR-pN [FRN] < 0.05 and a minimum
1203 cluster volume of 50 mm³ for the initial maps. Representative slices are shown with MNI
1204 coordinates given bellow each image.

1205

1206 **Figure 6.** Results of whole brain ALE analysis for signed RPE. Overlay of brain areas
1207 activated by positive correlation with signed RPE (P-values corrected with FDR-ID [FID] and
1208 FDR-pN [FRN] < 0.05 and a minimum cluster volume of 50 mm³). Representative slices are
1209 shown with MNI coordinates given bellow each image.

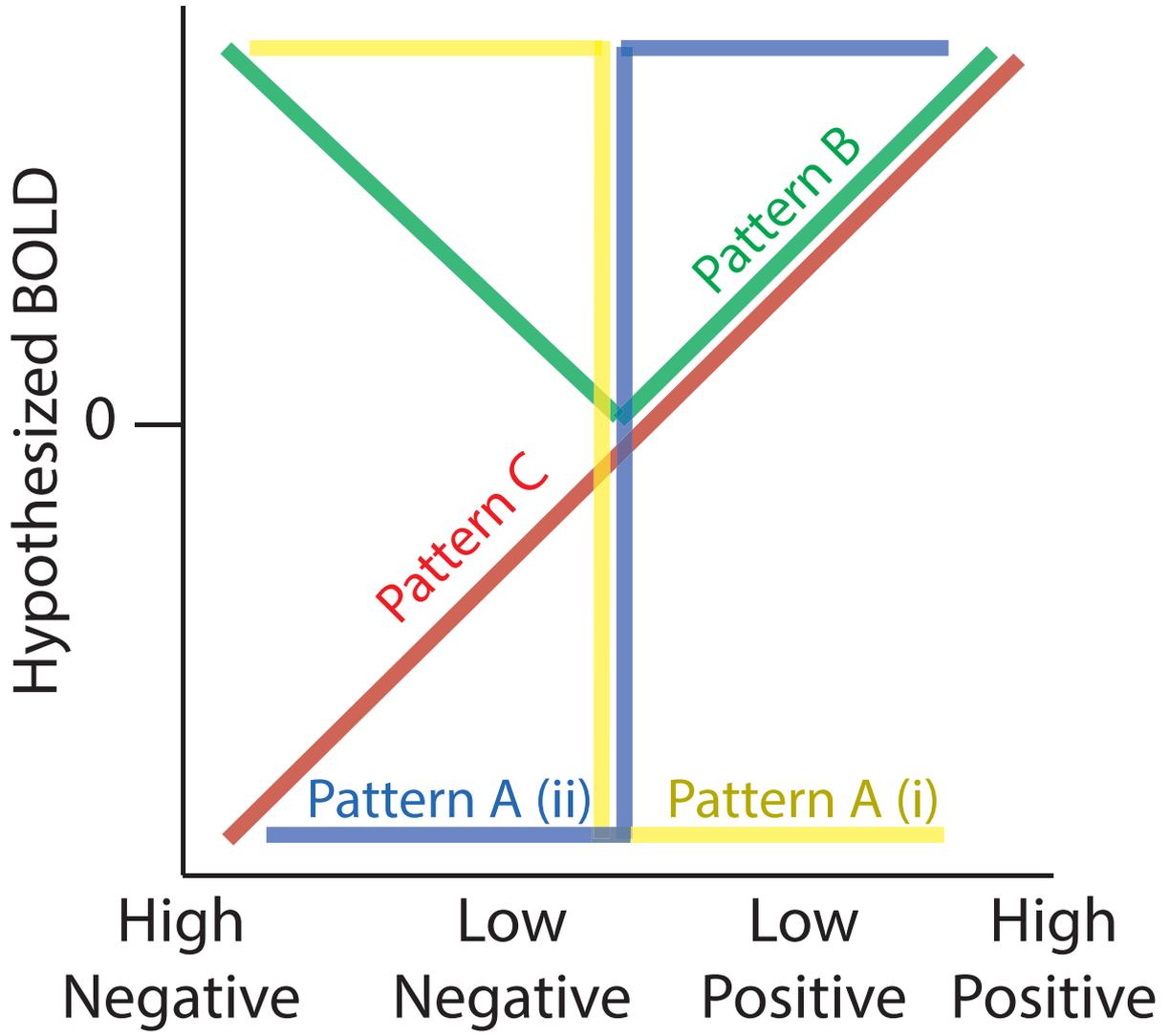
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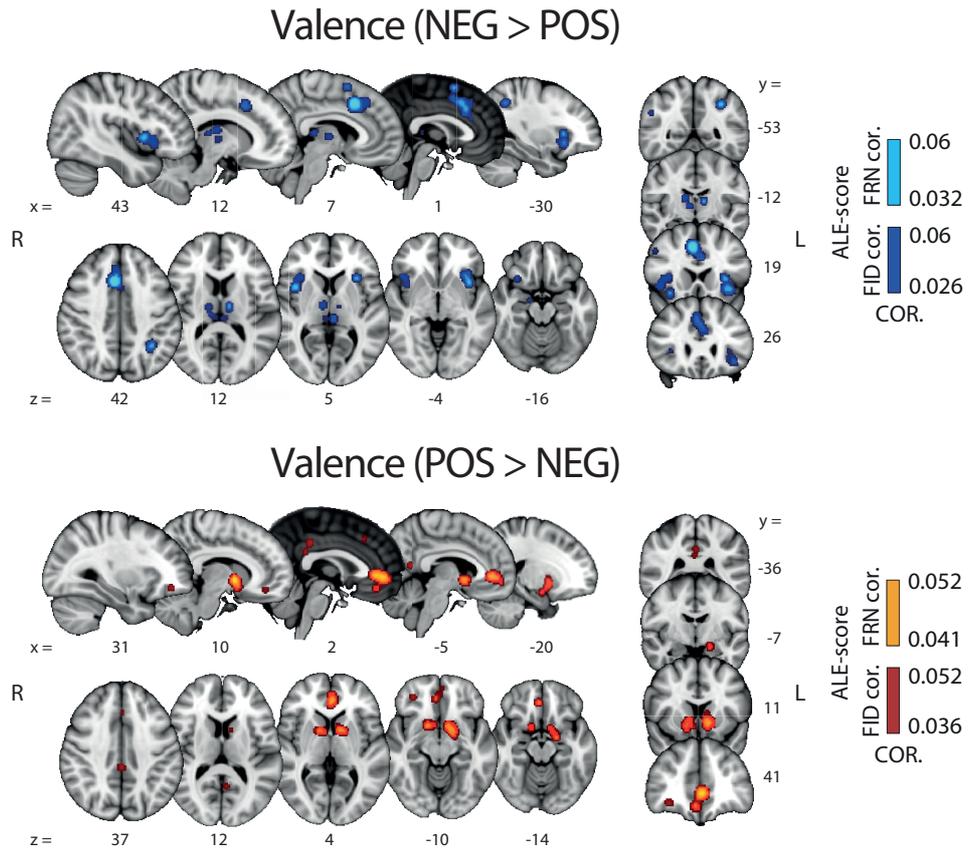
1211 **Figure 7.** Results of the ALE conjunction analysis for all components of RPE. Overlay of
1212 brain areas individually activated by (1) valence (orange), (2) surprise (green), and (3)
1213 signed RPE (red), with P-values corrected with FDR-pN [FRN] < 0.05 and a minimum cluster
1214 volume of 50 mm³ for the initial maps. Importantly, the overlap between the three analyses,
1215 shown in white, also corresponds to the only cluster found for the ALE conjunction analysis
1216 between valence/surprise vs. signed RPE. MNI coordinates are given below each image.

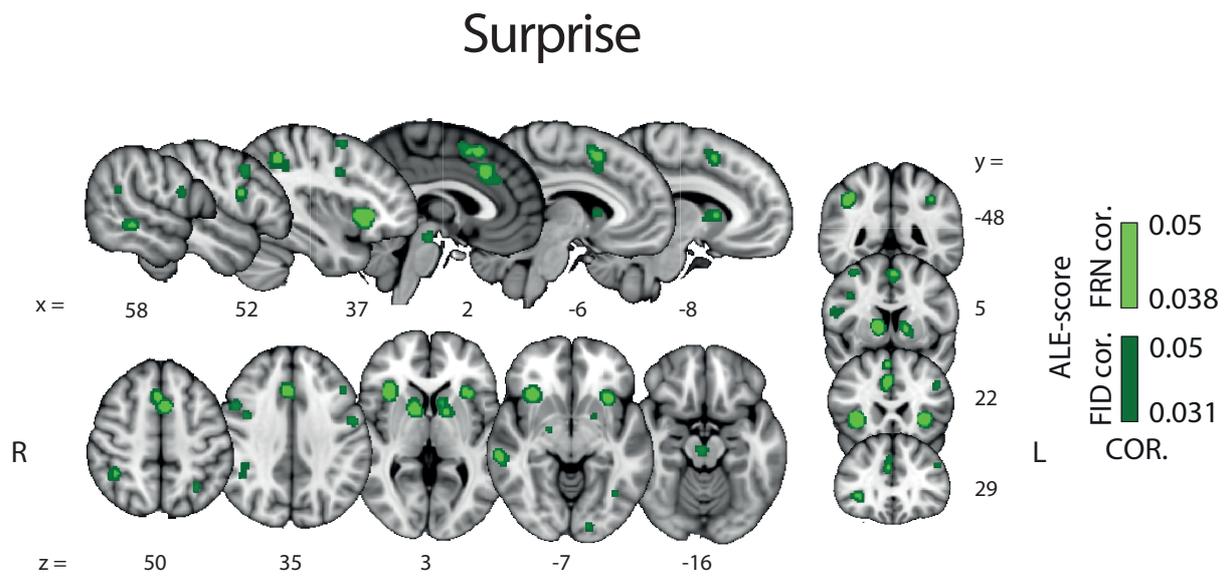
1217

1218 **Figure 8.** Results of the ALE contrast analyses for [signed RPE – positive valence] (left
1219 panel), [signed RPE – negative valence] (middle panel) and [signed RPE – (positive +
1220 negative valence)] (right panel). P-values were corrected with FDR-pN [FRN] < 0.05 and a
1221 minimum cluster volume of 50 mm³ for the initial maps. Representative slices are shown with
1222 MNI coordinates given bellow each image.

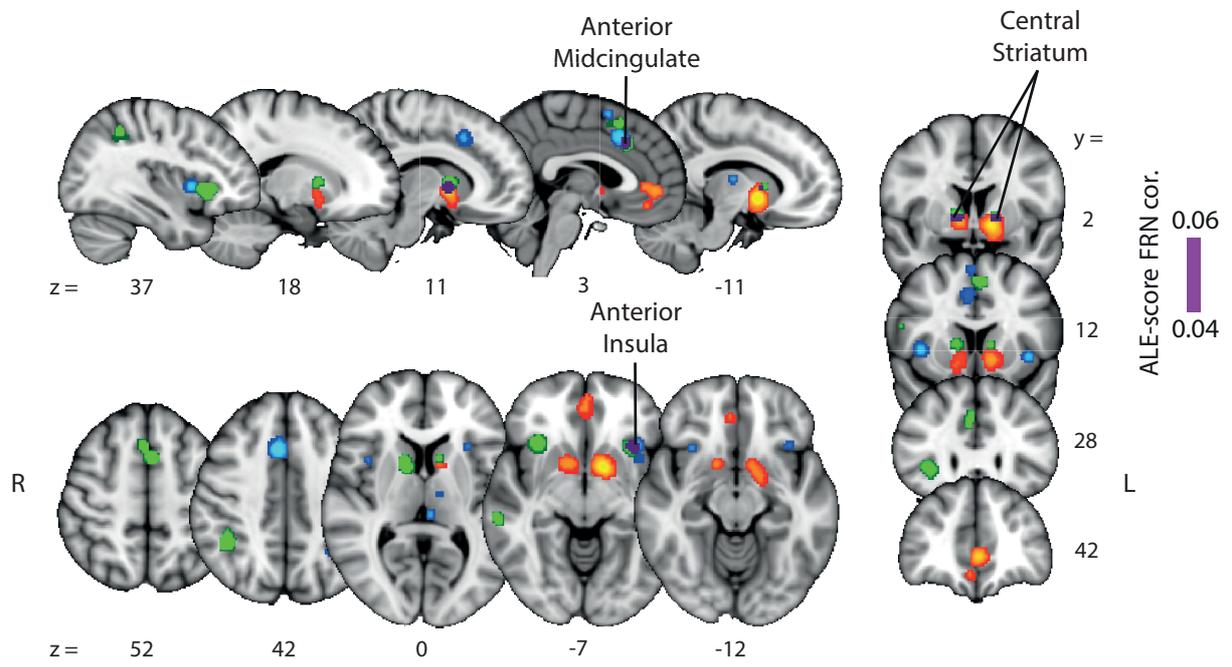
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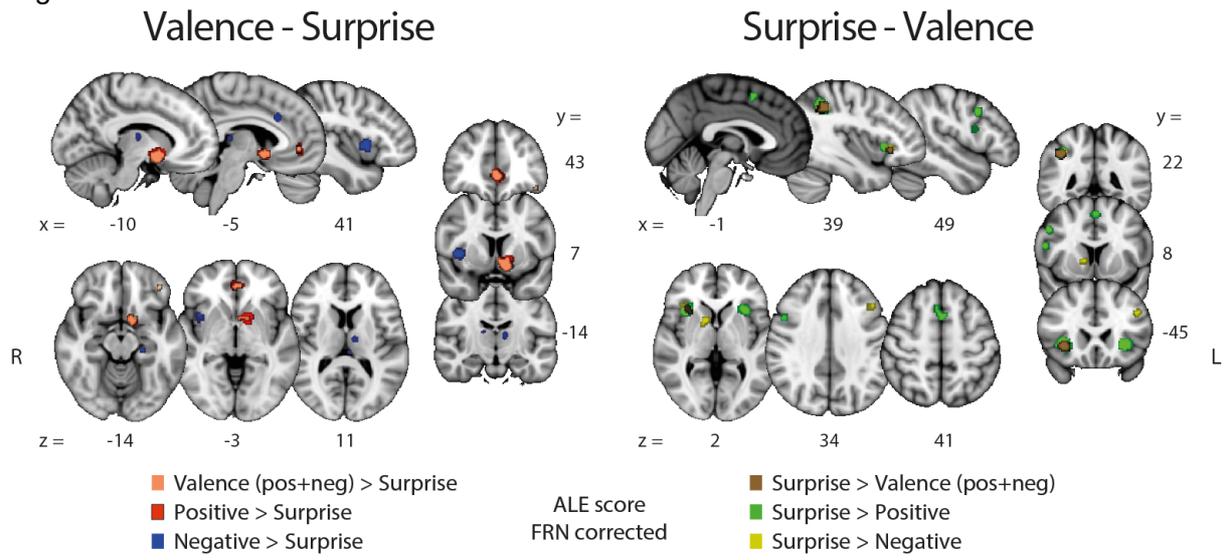




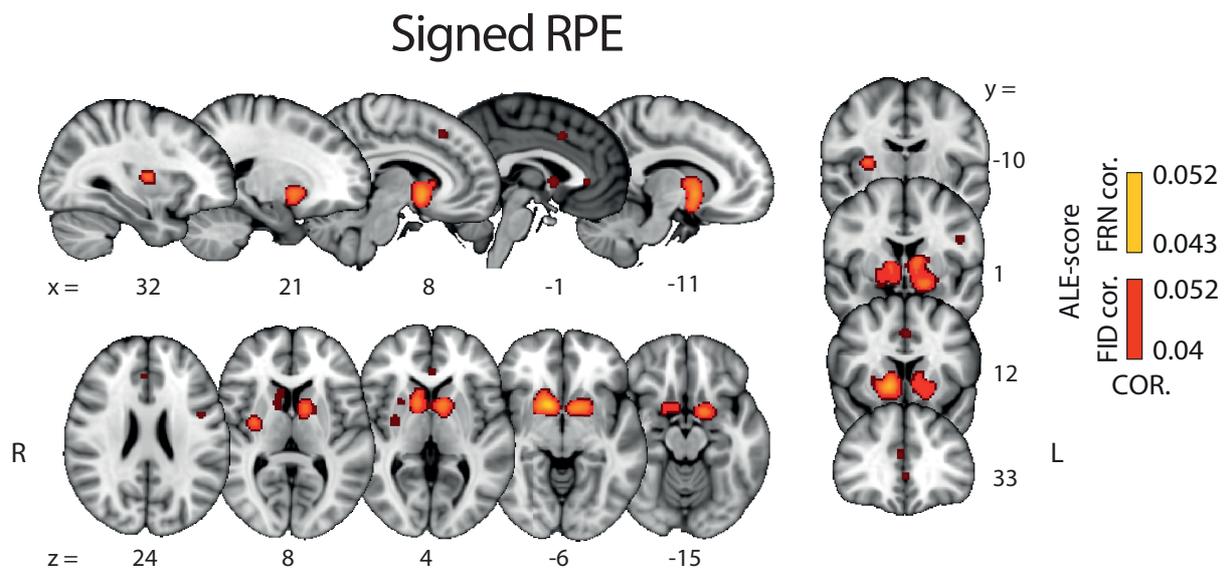
Conjunction Surprise & Valence



1233 Fig. 5

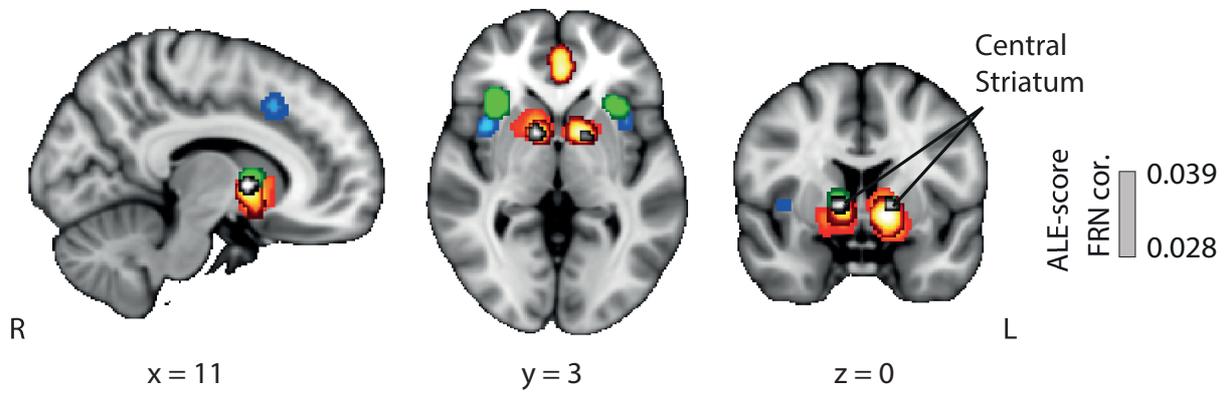


1236 Fig. 6

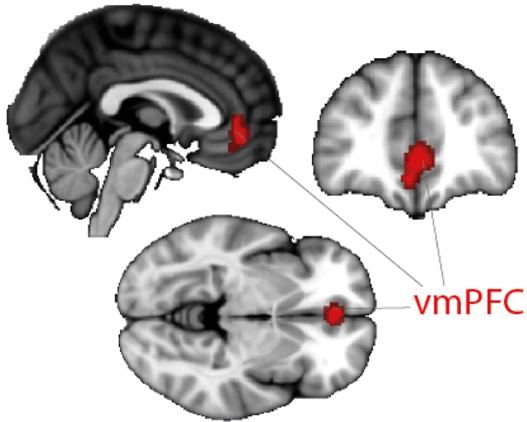


1237

Conjunction Surprise & Valence & Signed PE

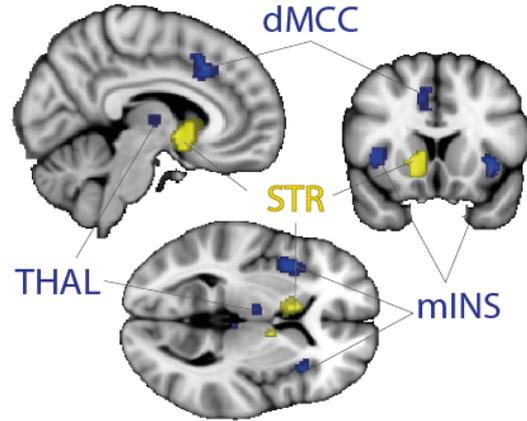


Positive - signed RPE



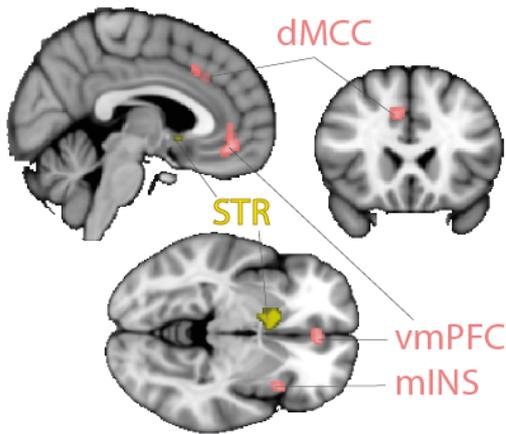
- Positive > Signed RPE
- Signed RPE > Positive (non sig.)

Negative - signed RPE



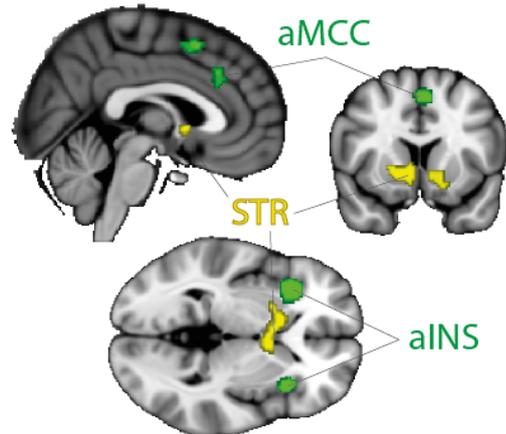
- Negative > Signed RPE
- Signed RPE > Negative

all valence - signed RPE



- Valence > Signed RPE
- Signed RPE > Valence

Surprise - signed RPE



- Surprise > Signed RPE
- Signed RPE > Surprise