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Real-time feedback reduces participant motion during task-based fMRI

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Abstract

The potential negative impact of head movement during fMRI has long been appreciated.
Although a variety of prospective and retrospective approaches have been developed to help
mitigate these effects, reducing head movement in the first place remains the most appealing
strategy for optimizing data quality. Real-time interventions, in which participants are provided
feedback regarding their scan-to-scan motion, have recently shown promise in reducing motion
during resting state fMRI. However, whether feedback might similarly reduce motion during
task-based fMRI is an open question. In particular, it is unclear whether participants can
effectively monitor motion feedback while attending to task-related demands. Here we assessed
whether a combination of real-time and between-run feedback could reduce head motion during
task-based fMRI. During an auditory word repetition task, 78 adult participants (aged 19–81)
were pseudorandomly assigned to receive feedback or not. Feedback was provided FIRMM
software that used real-time calculation of realignment parameters to estimate participant
motion. We quantified movement using framewise displacement (FD). We found that motion
feedback resulted in a statistically significant reduction in participant head motion, with a small-
to-moderate effect size (reducing average FD from 0.347 to 0.282). Reductions were most
apparent in high-motion events. We conclude that under some circumstances real-time
feedback may reduce head motion during task-based fMRI, although its effectiveness may
depend on the specific participant population and task demands of a given study.
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Introduction

Head movement during fMRI can introduce a number of different challenges to data analysis.
Although long appreciated (Friston et al., 1996), the detrimental influence of head motion on
resting state functional connectivity has only recently been widely recognized (Power et al.,
2015). Rigid body realignment—a mainstay of fMRI analysis for decades—goes some way
towards improving correspondence across images (Ashburner and Friston, 2004), but does not
remove extraneous signal components introduced by movement (Friston et al., 1996). A
common approach for mitigating motion-related artifacts is to include the 6 realignment
parameters (translation and rotation around the X, Y, and Z axes) as nuisance regressors in
first-level models. Additional approaches include wavelet despiking (Patel et al., 2014), ICA
(Pruim et al., 2015), robust-weighted least squares (Diedrichsen and Shadmehr, 2005),
Bayesian approaches (Eklund et al., 2017), and frame censoring (Lemieux et al., 2007).
However, recent work investigating motion correction strategies in multiple data sets suggests
that the optimal strategy may depend on the specific data set and output metric (Jones et al.,
2022), precluding a simple one-size-fits-all solution.
Given the lack of certainty regarding how to best handle head motion during analysis,
reducing head motion in the first place is a particularly appealing option. Common approaches
to reducing head motion during MRI scanning include foam padding and instructing participants
to not move during the scan. Other existing strategies include using custom head molds (Power
et al., 2019) and playing participants a relaxing abstract movie (Vanderwal et al., 2015).
A complementary approach for reducing head motion is to provide participants with
feedback regarding their head movement so they can learn to minimize motion. FIRMM
software[1] (Dosenbach et al., 2017) is one implementation of motion feedback. FIRMM uses
rapid image reconstruction and rigid-body alignment to estimate frame-by-frame movement,
providing visual cues to participants based on estimated movement. Feedback can either be
provided in real time, or between scanning runs. FIRMM has been shown to reduce movement
during resting state scans in both adults (Dosenbach et al., 2017) and in young children
(Greene et al., 2018; Badke D'Andrea et al., 2022).
Despite its success in resting state fMRI, it is unclear whether motion feedback would
lead to similar improvements during a typical task-based fMRI paradigm. Task-based paradigms
have been shown to produce greater head motion both in terms of displacement and rotation
relative to resting state scans (Huang, 2019), and could represent a natural target for motion
feedback. On the one hand, if participants are able to modulate their motion in one experimental
paradigm (namely, resting state studies) it stands to reason they could do so in a different
experimental context (a task-based study). On the other hand, task-based fMRI studies require
participants to attend to the experimental task at hand, which will reduce the cognitive resources
available for noting and processing the feedback, as well as the ability to attend to
proprioceptive cues related to self-motion. In addition, if experimental stimuli and motion
feedback are in the same modality, subjects may also have difficulty accurately processing
motion-related feedback.
Most fMRI processing pipelines rely on 6 parameter rigid body procedures to correct for
frame-to-frame movement. The estimated translations in the x, y, and z planes (and rotations
around the x, y, and z axes) provide 6 parameters that are typically used as a measurement of
motion. Framewise displacement (FD) has been increasingly used to summarize total motion
across these 6 parameters (with rotations converted to distance using simplifying assumptions
about head shape) (Power et al., 2012). FD relies on absolute values of differences and thus is
always positive; larger numbers reflect more total movement.

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[1] Now a commercial product offered by Turing Medical (St. Louis, MO).

To evaluate the degree to which feedback might affect head motion during task-based
fMRI, we assigned participants in a task-based fMRI study of spoken word recognition to
receive feedback (the feedback group) or not (the no-feedback group). All other instructions,
scanning parameters, and task requirements were identical. We included both young and older
adults, and a task (word repetition) that we anticipated would typically require head movement.
Finally, we were able to capitalize on the fact that each subject has many observations
(hundreds of frames) by using linear mixed effects analysis.

121   **Method**

MRI data are available from OpenNeuro (Markiewicz et al., 2021) at
https://doi.org/10.18112/openneuro.ds004285.v1.0.0, reference number ds004285, and motion
data and analysis scripts are available from https://github.com/jpeelle/motion-feedback.
(Although we collected these data in the context of a task-based fMRI study, described below,
here we focus only on effects of feedback on head motion and not the task results.)

Participants
We tested 78 participants aged 19–81. All reported themselves to have normal hearing, to be
right-handed, and not have a history of neurological disease. There were no exclusions based
on sex, gender, race, or ethnicity. Participants were limited to adults because of our scientific
focus on adult language processing. Because the task involved spoken language, all were
native speakers of American English.
133   Participants were randomly assigned to control (no motion feedback) or intervention
134   (real-time motion feedback) groups. Demographic characteristics for these groups are shown in
135   **Table 1**. Because data collection was ended early due to COVID-19 safety requirements the
136   groups did not have equal numbers of participants. All provided informed consent under a
137   process approved by the Washington University in Saint Louis Institutional Review Board.
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Table 1. Participant characteristics

		No feedback	Feedback
Young adults	N	17	31
	Age (mean ± SD)	23.3 (3.06)	22.4 (2.64)
	Sex	13 F, 4 M	28 F, 3 M
Older adults	N	5	25
	Age (mean ± SD)	70.4 (5.22)	71.3 (3.81)
	Sex	5 F, 0 M	17 F, 8 M

Procedure
The procedure is modeled after that in Rogers et al. (2020) and illustrated in **Figure 1**.
Participants performed a word repetition task in which on every trial they heard a spoken word, presented in stationary background noise (3 dB SNR), and repeated it back aloud.
    The no-feedback group was given the following instructions:

        During this task, it is important that you hold your body and head very still. Please stay relaxed, stay alert, and keep your eyes open and on the fixation cross.

Figure 1. Summary of task design and processing pipeline. **a)** Schematic of the word repetition task. Participants heard a word presented in the midst of background noise during the gap between volume acquisitions; during the following gap, they repeated the word aloud. **b)** Illustration of the two groups to which a participant could be pseudorandomly assigned. The group without feedback received standard instructions to keep still at the beginning of the study; the feedback group received instructions regarding real-time feedback, a colored crosshair indicating their scan-to-scan motion (framewise displacement; FD) during each run; and a visual report on feedback at the end of each run. **c)** Illustration of time variables available for modeling.

        FIRMM was run in the background for experimenters to monitor motion during scanning sequences and participants were given verbal feedback after each sequence.
    The group receiving motion feedback was given the following instructions:

        It is very important to remain still during your MRI so that we can obtain clear images. Even very small movements that you are not aware of can affect the

image quality. While performing the task, you will be receiving feedback
corresponding to your ability to remain still. This is to help you be aware of any
movements you may be making. You will see a white fixation cross on the
screen. The cross will change to yellow and then red depending on how much
you are moving. It will go back to white if you become still again. Sometimes
even if you are doing your best you will still see a red cross. This may mean that
the computer is too strict and not that you are necessarily doing anything wrong.
Just keep trying your best to keep the cross in the white.

The same researchers participated in data collection for all sessions. During the task,
participants viewed a colored cross in the middle of the screen. FD thresholds were set to show
a white cross at < 0.2 mm, a yellow cross at 0.2 mm to < 0.3 mm, and a red cross at ≥ 0.3 mm.
At the conclusion of each run, participants viewed a Head Motion Report (**Supplemental Figure
1**) which displayed their performance on a gauge of 0–100 (a percentage score of 0% to 100%),
and a graph of their motion level over time to help visualize total movement during the session.
Participants were encouraged to bring their score closer to 100% on subsequent sequences.

MRI acquisition and analysis
MRI data were acquired using a Siemens Prisma scanner (Siemens Medical Systems) at 3 T
equipped with a 32-channel head coil. Scan sequences began with a T1-weighted structural
volume using an MPRAGE sequence [repetition time (TR) = 2.4 s, echo time (TE) = 2.2 ms, flip
angle = 8°, 300 × 320 matrix, voxel size = 0.8 mm isotropic]. Blood oxygenation level-dependent
(BOLD) functional MRI images were acquired using a multiband echo planar imaging sequence
(Feinberg et al., 2010) [TR = 3.07 s, TA = 0.770 s, TE = 37 ms, flip angle = 90º, voxel size = 2
mm isotropic, multiband factor = 8]. We used a sparse imaging design in which there was a 2.3
second delay between scanning acquisitions and the TR was longer than the acquisition time to
allow for minimal scanning noise during stimulus presentation and audio recording of participant
responses (Edmister et al., 1999; Hall et al., 1999). Due to slight variations in scanning
sessions, participants had 763–846 frames of data (median = 794).
Analysis of the MRI data was performed using Automatic Analysis version 5.8.1 (Cusack
et al., 2015) (RRID:SCR_003560) which scripted analyses run in SPM12 (Wellcome Trust
Centre for Human Neuroimaging) version 7487 (RRID:SCR_007037). Functional images
underwent rigid body realignment (i.e., "motion correction"). We used framewise displacement
(FD) to parsimoniously summarize frame-by-frame motion, calculated by combining the six head
motion estimates obtained from realignment, with a dimensional conversion of the three
rotations assuming the head is a 50 mm sphere (Power et al., 2012), to produce a summary
distance metric. We supplemented FD values with differential variance (DVARS), a measure of
variations in image intensity. DVARS was calculated as the root-mean-squared of the time
difference in the BOLD signal calculated across the entire brain, before realignment (Smyser et
al., 2011). Although FD and DVARS are highly correlated, they are not identical (Jones et al.,
2022), and we anticipated that these two metrics might differ in sensitivity to motion feedback.

199   **Results**

200 Movement parameters for young and older adults as a function of feedback are shown in **Figure
201 2**. **Figure 2a** shows FD values for two subjects (our first young adult without feedback, and our
202 first young adult with feedback), as well as the mean FD for all subjects in each feedback group.
203 Although we used all time points in the statistical analysis, for illustrative purposes we also
204 plotted summary values in **Figure 2b** (each point denoting mean FD per subject).
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Figure 2. Comparison of average framewise displacement (FD) values for feedback and no-feedback groups. **a)** *Top:* FD values for two example subjects, one with feedback and one without. *Bottom:* Mean FD values for all participants in the feedback or no-feedback group. **b)** Summary of mean FD values as a function of age and feedback. Individual subjects are dots, mean ± SE shown in bars.

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We analyzed these data using R version 4.2 (R Core Team, 2020) (RRID:SCR_001905).
We conducted linear mixed effects analysis using the *nlme* package (Pinheiro and Bates, 2000).
Because of the skewed distribution of FD data, we Gaussianized the FD values (Georg, 2011)
prior to modeling using the *LambertW* package (Georg, 2022) (see **Supplemental Figure 1**).
We accounted for temporal autocorrelation (that is, motion at one frame is related to motion
during the following frame) using a first-order autoregressive model. The model specification
was:
218
219   ```
        m2 <- lme(FD ~ 1 + frame + age_group * feedback,
220   random = ~ frame | subject_number,
221   data = df,
222   method = "ML",
223   correlation = corAR1(value =
224   autocorrelation_estimate, form = ~ frame | subject_number, fixed
225   = FALSE))
        ```
226
227

228 where df is the data frame, FD is framewise displacement, and feedback is a dichotomous
229 variable denoting whether feedback was provided or not (reference: no feedback). We
230 calculated the autocorrelation_estimate from the data (value of 0.55). Model results are
231 shown in **Table 2**. Of note is a significant effect of feedback.
232
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**Table 2.** Fixed effects results for motion (FD) model by frame

|  | Est | SE | df | t | p |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Intercept | 0.3572638 | 0.021880945 | 61778 | 16.327621 | < .0001 | *** |
| frame | 0.0000273 | 0.000008824 | 61778 | 3.088461 | .0020 | ** |
| age group | -0.1033003 | 0.024837814 | 74 | -4.158994 | 0.0001 | *** |
| feedback | -0.0534164 | 0.023917879 | 74 | -2.233326 | 0.0286 | * |
| age group x feedback | 0.0184424 | 0.028091970 | 74 | 0.656502 | 0.5135 |  |

*** p < .001; ** p < .01; * p < .05

234
235      Although we first included time (frame) in the model, in fMRI research it is often
236 convenient to think about continuous scanning runs (sometimes also referred to as "sessions").
237 In the current study, each participant had 6 runs of data. We thus ran an additional model to see
238 whether the effect of feedback was comparable across run. Because time was expressed as 6
239 runs, we did not account for temporal autocorrelation in this model:
240
```
241 m3 <- lme(FD ~ 1 + run + age_group * feedback,
242   random = ~ run | subject_number,
243   data = df,
244   method = "ML",
245   correlation = NULL)
```
246
247
248      Results of this analysis by run are shown in **Table 3**, and FD as a function of run are
249 shown in **Figure 3**. We again found a significant effect of feedback.
250

**Figure 3.** Mean FD values for all participants in the feedback or no-feedback group as a function of run. Individual subjects are dots, mean ± SE shown in bars.

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**Table 3.** Fixed effects results for motion (FD) model by run

|  | Est | SE | df | t | p | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Intercept | 0.3555292 | 0.020471649 | 61774 | 17.366906 | < .0001 | *** |
| run2 | 0.0111638 | 0.004760753 | 61774 | 2.344960 | 0.0190 | * |
| run3 | 0.0189044 | 0.005247816 | 61774 | 3.602345 | 0.0003 | ** |
| run4 | 0.0229300 | 0.005437600 | 61774 | 4.216932 | < .0001 | *** |
| run5 | 0.0206506 | 0.006320480 | 61774 | 3.267252 | 0.0011 | ** |
| run6 | 0.0179240 | 0.006190537 | 61774 | 2.895389 | 0.0038 | * |
| age group | -0.1040961 | 0.023205030 | 74 | -4.485930 | < .0001 | *** |
| feedback | -0.0605921 | 0.022347092 | 74 | -2.711407 | 0.0083 | ** |
| age group x feedback | 0.0261700 | 0.026245629 | 74 | 0.997117 | 0.3220 | |

*** p < .001; ** p < .01; * p < .05

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255
256     Even though our analysis was focused on changes in mean FD, we wanted to look in
257 more detail at how feedback affected the distribution of movement. We thus plotted the density
258 of FD values for all scans as a function of feedback (**Figure 4**) for FD values up to 2.0. We used
259 density rather than the count to control for the different numbers of frames in the two groups
260 (resulting from different numbers of subjects). Although qualitative, this analysis highlights that
261 participants receiving feedback showed fewer high-FD scans than those receiving lower
262 feedback, with this effect becoming more apparent at higher FD values—for FD values above
263 1.5, the feedback group had less than a third of these scans than the group without feedback.
264
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**Figure 4. a)** Density plot of all FD values as a function of feedback. **b)** Density of FD values in the feedback condition relative to the no feedback condition. A value of 1 (dashed line) indicates equal density of FD values in the two conditions. The plot illustrates a decrease in high-FD values in the feedback condition, and an increase in low FD values, relative to the no feedback condition.

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267
268     We next repeated our primary FD analyses, but using DVARS (rather than FD) as a
269 dependent measure, under the assumption that FD and DVARS may be differently sensitive to
270 effects of motion, and one or the other may be of more interest in any specific study. As with
271 FD, we used Gaussianized data to reduce the influence of the skewed distribution. Summary
272 results are shown in **Figure 5** and **Table 4**. Results as a function of run are additionally shown
273 in **Figure 6** and **Table 5**. Although DVARS was numerically lower for the feedback group than
274 the no-feedback group, the difference was not statistically significant.
275

**Figure 5.** Comparison of average DVARS values for feedback and no-feedback groups. **a)** *Top:* DVARS values for two example subjects, one with feedback and one without. *Bottom:* Mean DVARS values for all participants in the feedback or no-feedback group. **b)** Summary of mean DVARS values as a function of age and feedback. Individual subjects are dots, mean ± SE shown in bars.

**Table 4.** Fixed effects results for DVARS model by frame

|  | Est | SE | df | t | p |  |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Intercept | 228.48139 | 9.306936 | 61778 | 24.549584 | <.0001 | *** |
| frame | 0.00521 | 0.003254 | 61778 | 1.602724 | 0.1090 |  |
| age group | -24.05534 | 10.517516 | 74 | -2.287169 | 0.0250 | * |
| feedback | -15.40664 | 10.127865 | 74 | -1.521213 | 0.1325 |  |
| age group x feedback | 2.17760 | 11.895410 | 74 | 0.183062 | 0.8552 |  |

*** p < .001; ** p < .01; * p < .05

**Figure 6.** Mean DVARS values for all participants in the feedback or no-feedback group as a function of run. Individual subjects are dots, mean ± SE shown in bars.

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**Table 5.** Fixed effects results for DVARS model by run

|  | Est | SE | df | t | p | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Intercept | 227.31594 | 8.962557 | 61774 | 25.362843 | < .0001 | *** |
| run 2 | 2.05963 | 1.436412 | 61774 | 1.433874 | 0.1516 | |
| run 3 | 3.98708 | 1.706406 | 61774 | 2.336538 | 0.0195 | * |
| run 4 | 5.40560 | 1.858504 | 61774 | 2.908578 | 0.0036 | ** |
| run 5 | 4.34756 | 2.478246 | 61774 | 1.754289 | 0.0794 | |
| run 6 | 2.73375 | 2.081469 | 61774 | 1.313377 | 0.1891 | |
| age group | -23.11906 | 10.120695 | 74 | -2.284335 | 0.0252 | * |
| feedback | -16.27255 | 9.745900 | 74 | -1.669682 | 0.0992 | |
| age group x feedback | 2.64483 | 11.446654 | 74 | 0.231057 | 0.8179 | |

*** p < .001; ** p < .01; * p < .05

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281
282  In addition to framewise measurements of FD and DVARS, we investigated whether
283  motion feedback affected the temporal signal-to-noise ratio (tSNR) of the data. We first created
284  a brain mask using each subject's tissue class segmentation, binarizing at a gray matter
285  probability of 0.8. We then calculated tSNR (the mean of the signal divided by its standard
286  deviation, over frames) in every voxel within the brain mask. We then performed two
287  complementary analyses. First, for each run, we took the mean tSNR over voxels, and used the
288  same statistical model as for FD and DVARS, shown in **Figure 7** and shown in **Table 6**.
289  Although the tSNR values were numerically higher in the feedback group, there was no
290  significant effect of feedback ($p = 0.0814$).
291
292
293

**Figure 7.** Comparison of average temporal SNR (tSNR) values for feedback and no-feedback groups. Each participant is represented by a single point per run, averaging the tSNR over all voxels in the gray matter mask.

**Table 6.** Fixed effects results for tSNR model

|  | Est | SE | df | t | p |  |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Intercept | 35.62189 | 2.3494343 | 389 | 15.161899 | < .0001 | *** |
| run | -0.01283 | 0.1116692 | 389 | -0.114888 | 0.9086 |  |
| age group | 5.61719 | 2.6542796 | 74 | 2.116276 | 0.0377 | * |
| feedback | 4.51521 | 2.5559386 | 74 | 1.766556 | 0.0814 |  |
| age group x feedback | -0.11883 | 3.0020112 | 74 | -0.039584 | 0.9685 |  |

*** p < .001; ** p < .01; * p < .05

300
301      Finally, we assessed the degree to which feedback may have affected performance on
302   the behavioral task. Accuracy on the word repetition task is shown in **Figure 8** as a function of
303   age group and feedback. We used a linear model to test for the impact of feedback on
304   behavioral accuracy (averaging over experimental runs). We found no significant effect of age
305   group, no significant effect of feedback, and no significant age x feedback interaction, although
306   in older adults there was a small numerical decrease in accuracy during the feedback condition.
307

**Figure 8.** Behavioral accuracy for young and older adults as a function of feedback.

### Discussion

310 Given the pernicious and sometimes unpredictable effects of head movement in fMRI studies,
311 reducing motion in the first place is on its face an appealing strategy. In the current study we
312 evaluated the degree to which a combination of real-time and summary motion feedback could
313 reduce head movement in adult participants by pseudorandomly assigning participants to
314 feedback or no feedback groups. We found that motion feedback was associated with a
315 statistically significant reduction in average FD of approximately 0.06, with consistent (though
316 not significant) changes in DVARS and tSNR. We discuss these findings and their implications
317 below.
318       First, our primary finding that providing motion feedback can significantly reduce head
319 motion in participants undergoing task-based MRI is notable. Our findings are also consistent
320 with those of Yang and colleagues (2005), who reported a reduction in head motion after
321 integrating visual feedback in the display of an N-back task. These findings add motion
322 feedback to the limited set of tools MRI researchers have for reducing head motion during
323 acquisition. Although numerous strategies exist for accounting for head motion in preprocessing
324 and analysis, none are perfect, and it is difficult to ascertain the most appropriate approach
325 (Ardekani et al., 2001; Oakes et al., 2005; Johnstone et al., 2006; Jones et al., 2022). Reducing
326 motion during acquisition may therefore be a preferable alternative in many circumstances.
327       It is important to highlight the magnitude of the effect we observed. Compared to the
328 participants with no motion feedback, participants with feedback showed a reduction in FD of
329 approximately .06. Although this may be helpful in reducing motion-related artifacts in data
330 processing, it is not a large effect (though in theory it might be increased if different types of
331 feedback were used, or in the context of a different task). It is also important to remember that
332 we tested healthy adults aged 19–81. It could be that the effect of motion feedback would be
333 larger (or smaller) in different populations.
334       That being said, the principal effect of feedback may not be the *average* reduction in FD
335 observed, but rather a reduction in the number of large motion events. Rapid head motion tends
336 to have a larger effect on the BOLD signal than slower motion. Thus, reducing the number of
337 large, quick movements may improve signal quality to a greater extent than a simple reduction
338 in mean FD. Indeed, we saw the biggest proportional difference between feedback groups at
339 higher FD values (**Figure 4b**). Interestingly, the reduction in high motion events roughly
340 corresponds to an FD of 0.3, the value at which participants received "red" feedback.
341       An important consideration when implementing real-time feedback during fMRI is
342 whether doing so changes task demands. Although we found accuracy was statistically
343 comparable across feedback groups, we cannot rule out other changes. Indeed, we observed a
344 numeric (albeit not significant) decrease in task accuracy in older adults when they were
345 presented with real-time feedback relative to the no-feedback group. Broadly speaking, we
346 might expect monitoring the display for feedback and adjusting one's movement in response to
347 engage systems related to cognitive control (sometimes also referred to as attentional control or
348 executive function) (see also McCabe et al., 2010). In one framing of cognitive control, cognitive
349 control is proposed to operate in at least two complementary modes: a *proactive* mode that is
350 concerned with maintaining goal-directed behavior, and a *reactive* mode that is engaged when
351 goal-directed performance falters (Braver, 2012). There are two implications of such a
352 framework. First, participants who are less able to engage cognitive control may benefit less
353 from motion feedback compared to those who are better able to engage control systems.
354 Second, researcher concerns about how task demands may affect imaging results of interest
355 may depend on the nature of the main fMRI task. For example, tasks tapping cognitive control

356  or executive function may be more impacted by motion feedback than those focused on primary
357  sensory or motor systems. In our case, we used a speech-in-noise task, one that is
358  hypothesized to engage cognitive control networks (Peelle, 2018; McLaughlin et al., 2021).
359      We did notice a trend towards age effects, such that older adults' behavioral
360  performance was more affected than that of young adults in the feedback condition. In this
361  context it may also be relevant that older adults can be more sensitive to errors (and thus
362  differentially sensitive to feedback). For example, in drift diffusion models of cognitive tasks,
363  older adults often differ in threshold than drift rate compared to young adults (e.g., Ratcliff et al.,
364  2004).
365      In our implementation, participants received brief instructions before entering the
366  scanner, and once in the scanner the display was explained to them. One interesting future
367  direction would be to provide participants with motion training over a longer period to see
368  whether they might learn to better limit their motion in the absence of feedback (for example, by
369  training in a mock scanner). Such an approach would take more time, but might circumvent
370  some of the challenges associated with real-time feedback (such as introducing a "dual-task"
371  situation) (Pashler, 1994).
372      Although we found a significant effect of motion feedback on FD, we did not observe a
373  significant effect on motion feedback on DVARS (although DVARS values were numerically
374  lower in the feedback group). FD and DVARS are typically strongly correlated (Jones et al.,
375  2022), but not identical, and thus the divergence in findings is not entirely unexpected. The
376  numerical (albeit not significant) reductions in DVARS in participants receiving motion feedback
377  is consistent with the effect we saw for FD. In addition, we found that feedback led to increased
378  whole-brain tSNR, which we used as a proxy of overall image quality. Despite the tSNR being
379  numerically larger in the group receiving motion feedback, the difference was not statistically
380  significant. However, it is still possible that small improvements in tSNR would result in
381  appreciable improvements in the accuracy or reliability of statistical models.
382      There are several important caveats associated with the current report. One is that the
383  instructions were not perfectly matched across group; specifically, the group receiving feedback
384  was told that "[e]ven very small movements that you are not aware of can affect the image
385  quality", an instruction not given to the group not receiving feedback. It could be that the specific
386  wording of the instructions affected participant behavior. A related point pertains to our task
387  design. We opted for a between-subjects design to avoid any "contamination" of motion
388  feedback. However, this choice necessarily resulted in groups that contained different
389  individuals (and in our case, different instructions). An alternative design would be a within-
390  subjects manipulation, which may be a fruitful area for further extensions of this work.
391      Finally, it is worth considering real-time feedback using estimated motion, as
392  implemented here, compares with other real-time feedback approaches. One particularly
393  attractive approach was introduced by Krause and colleagues (2019), in which the authors
394  affixed medical tape to participants' heads. The adhesion of the tape provided tactile feedback
395  when participants moved their heads, and this real-time feedback significantly reduced
396  participant's head motion (both translation and rotation). An added advantage of this approach
397  is the simplicity of implementation and lack of custom software (e.g., real-time analysis of
398  movement parameters) or interference with task (i.e., tactile feedback does not interfere with
399  visual stimuli). Individual researchers will need to decide which approach to motion reduction, if
400  any, is appropriate for a given task and specific population.
401      In conclusion, we found that motion feedback as implemented in FIRMM significantly
402  reduced the amount of head motion we observed during task-based fMRI. Real-time feedback
403  may thus be well-suited to complement other approaches to motion reduction depending on the
404  specific needs of a given study.

405 **Data availability statement**

408 **Ethics statement**

409 The study reported here was conducted according to a protocol approved by the Washington
410 University in Saint Louis Institutional Review Board.

411 **Declaration of competing interests statement**

412 The authors have no competing interests to declare.

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