Functional connectomics: Extracting and quantifying connectivity in fMRI

Gaël Varoquaux









Functional connectivity



Captures functional interactions



Probing rest



 Activation mapping is paradigm-driven: not ecologic Resting-state probes *intrinsic* structure

■ Activation mapping requires demanding tasks ⇒ inapplicable to diminished subjects Resting-state is easily applicable everywhere G Varoquaux

Probing rest



Population imaging

 Scanning many subjects to study variability
 Links with neuropsychological profiling, genomics...
 A window to imaging epidemiology Rest fMRI on dozens of thousands of subjects

■ Activation mapping requires demanding tasks ⇒ inapplicable to diminished subjects Resting-state is easily applicable everywhere G Varoquaux

The brain at rest?

Metabolism (measured via PET)

- The brain represents 2% of body weight, but 20% of energy consumed
- Difficult cognitive tasks modulate consumption by less than 10%

[Raichle and Mintun 2006]

Neural firing never stop (EEG/MEG evidence)

Study of brain activity in the absence of task "Resting state"

Resting-state activity to study cognition?

Shared structured between on-going and evoked

[Biswal... 1995]



[Biswal... 1995]: fMRI
Finger-tapping task to map the motor finger cortex
During rest: which voxels correlate to the activity of this region?

Resting-state activity to study cognition?

Shared structured between on-going and evoked

[Biswal... 1995]









- [Kenet... 2003]: Voltage sensitive dye imaging
 Visual cortex: cortical columns related to stimuli orientation
- Without stimuli, similar activity maps sometimes appear

Resting-state activity to study cognition?

Shared structured between on-going and evoked



The physical brain architecture (connections, cortical columns) is present in the absence of stimuli

Brain structures not directly task-related

The "default mode network"



Minimum Decrease

Maximum

Decrease

 Brain regions that deactivate during task [Raichle... 2001]



 Appear as an integrated network during rest [Greicius... 2003]

Notion of resting-state network





Resting-state activity can be decomposed into networks

How to do it systematically is a difficult question...

Capturing behavior or phenotype

[Lewis... 2009] Learning sculpts the spontaneous activity of the resting human brain

Strong perceptual training changed resting-state correlations

Cognition-less intrinsic activity



[Doria... 2010] Emergence of resting state networks in the preterm human brain



Low

Moderate

[Stamatakis... 2010] Changes in resting neural connectivity during propofol sedation

Awake G Varoquaux

Functional connectivity and resting-state

Notion of distributed functional networks

- "Functional connectivity" links and reveals them
- They correspond to an "intrinsic" brain architecture
- They can capture phenotype with simple experiments applicable disabled patient







Functional regions

Functional connections

Variations in connections





Outline

1 Spatial analysis

2 Connectome: graph structure of brain activity

3 Comparing connectomes

1 Spatial analysis

Defining brain territories: Functional networks Functional regions

Defining functional regions

Dividing the brain in regions

anatomical atlases, functional atlases, region extraction methods

Some examples



1 Anatomical regions and atlases

Anatomical atlases do not resolve functional structures

Harvard Oxford













1 Clustering approaches

Group together voxels with similar time courses



Give a *parcellation*: each and every voxel is affected to one cluster

[Thirion... 2014]

1 Clustering approaches: K-Means



Finds cluster centers (prototype time-series) and assignements to minimize squared residuals

Pros

There exists fast variantsGood for few clusters

Cons

■ No spatial constraint ⇒ (smooth the data)

KMeans





[Thirion... 2014]

1 Clustering approaches: Normalized cuts



A variant of *spectral clustering* Adds a "surface energy" term: cost of cutting the graph of neighbors

Pros

Spatial constraints
 Good for few clusters

Cons Slow Very geometrical



[Craddock... 2012, Thirion... 2014]

1 Clustering approaches: Ward clustering



An algomerative clustering approach that minimizes variance

Pros

 Fast spatial constraints (even with many clusters)
 Good for many clusters

Cons

Capture noise in big clusters





[Thirion... 2014]

1 Clustering: Which approach?

Validation is hard



[Thirion... 2014]

1 Clustering: Which approach?

Validation is hard



K-means for small # of clusters
Ward for large # of clusters

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[Thirion... 2014]

Observing linear mixtures of networks at rest



Observing linear mixtures of networks at rest



Observing linear mixtures of networks at rest



Observing linear mixtures of networks at rest



Observing linear mixtures of networks at rest



Observing linear mixtures of networks at rest



Observing linear mixtures of networks at rest



Observing linear mixtures of networks at rest



Observing linear mixtures of networks at rest


Working hypothesis:

Observing linear mixtures of networks at rest

ime courses my when when the many mm M Observe a mixture Min May and March Mr. mmmmmmmmmm



How to unmix networks?

1 Spatial modes: ICA decomposition



Decomposing time series into: covarying spatial maps, S uncorrelated residuals, N

ICA: minimize mutual information across S

[Kiviniemi... 2003, Beckmann and Smith 2004, Varoquaux... 2010c] G Varoquaux

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1 Spatial modes: ICA decomposition

voxels



Histogram of interesting maps are non-Gaussian



ICA: minimize mutual information across S



1 Spatial modes: ICA decomposition

voxels





ICA: minimize mutual information across S

1 Spatial modes: Sparse decomposition



Estimation via minimization:

loss (error term) + penalty

$$\mathsf{E}, \mathsf{S} = \operatorname*{argmin}_{\mathsf{E},\mathsf{S}} \| \mathsf{Y} - \mathsf{E} \, \mathsf{S}^{\mathcal{T}} \|^2 + \lambda \| \mathsf{S} \|_1$$

ℓ_1 norm on S creates sparsity

Sparse decompositions: sparse penalty on maps

1 Spatial modes: Sparse decomposition















[Varoquaux in prep]

1 Multi-subject dictionary learning



Subject level spatial patterns: $\mathbf{Y}^{s} = \mathbf{U}^{s} \mathbf{V}^{s^{T}} + \mathbf{E}^{s}, \qquad \mathbf{E}^{s} \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \sigma \mathbf{I})$

Group level spatial patterns: $\mathbf{V}^{s} = \mathbf{V} + \mathbf{F}^{s}, \qquad \mathbf{F}^{s} \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \zeta \mathbf{I})$

Sparsity and spatial-smoothness prior:

$$\mathbf{V} \sim \exp{(-\xi \, \Omega(\mathbf{V}))}, \qquad \quad \Omega(\mathbf{v}) = \|\mathbf{v}\|_1 + \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{v}^T \mathbf{L} \mathbf{v}$$

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MSDL

1 Multi-subject dictionary learning

Estimation: maximum a posteriori $\underset{\mathbf{U}^{s},\mathbf{V}^{s},\mathbf{V}}{\operatorname{sujets}} \underbrace{ \left(\| \mathbf{Y}^{s} - \mathbf{U}^{s} \mathbf{V}^{sT} \|_{\operatorname{Fro}}^{2} + \mu \| \mathbf{V}^{s} - \mathbf{V} \|_{\operatorname{Fro}}^{2} \right)}_{\operatorname{Data fit}} + \lambda \Omega(\mathbf{V})$ $\underset{\operatorname{variability}}{\operatorname{Subject}} \underbrace{ \left(\| \mathbf{V}^{s} - \mathbf{U}^{s} \mathbf{V} \|_{\operatorname{Fro}}^{2} + \mu \| \mathbf{V}^{s} - \mathbf{V} \|_{\operatorname{Fro}}^{2} \right)}_{\operatorname{and smooth maps}} + \lambda \Omega(\mathbf{V})$



1 Multi-subject dictionary learning

Estimation: maximum a posteriori $\underset{\mathbf{U}^{s},\mathbf{V}^{s},\mathbf{V}}{\operatorname{sujets}} \underbrace{ \left(\| \mathbf{Y}^{s} - \mathbf{U}^{s} \mathbf{V}^{sT} \|_{\operatorname{Fro}}^{2} + \mu \| \mathbf{V}^{s} - \mathbf{V} \|_{\operatorname{Fro}}^{2} \right)}_{\operatorname{Data fit}} + \lambda \Omega(\mathbf{V})$ $\underset{\operatorname{Variability}}{\operatorname{Subject}} \xrightarrow{\operatorname{Penalization: sparse}}_{\operatorname{and smooth maps}}$

Alternate optimization on U^s, V^s, V:

Update U^s: standard dictionary learning procedure [Mairal... 2010]

Update V^s: ridge regression on $(\mathbf{V}^s - \mathbf{V})^T$

Update V: proximal operator for $\lambda \Omega$: $\underset{\mathbf{v}}{\operatorname{argmin}} \sum_{s=1}^{s} \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{v}^{s} - \mathbf{v}\|_{2}^{2} + \gamma \Omega(\mathbf{v}) = \underset{\gamma/s \Omega}{\operatorname{prox}} \mathbf{\bar{v}}, \qquad \mathbf{\bar{V}} = \underset{s}{\operatorname{mean}} \mathbf{V}^{s}$

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[Varoquaux... 2011] 24

1 From group to subject networks

MSDL



Multi-Subject Dictionary Learning





1 From group to subject networks

Individual maps + Population-level atlas

MSDL

1 Defining regions: linear decompositions

[Kiviniemi... 2009] Extracting many networks with ICA almost forms a brain parcellation



1 In dictionary learning: Total-variation MSDL

Create a region-forming penalty:



Total-variation penalization Impose sparsity on the gradient of the image:

$$ho({f w})=\ell_1(
abla{f w})$$





Clustering

Total-variation



1 In dictionary learning: Total-variation MSDL







Visual Cortex



Auditory Network

[Abraham... 2013]



трј

Data-driven brain parcellations









Group ICA







K-Means

[Abraham... 2013]

Data-driven brain parcellations





Group ICA





K-Means

[Abraham... 2013]

Data-driven brain parcellations





Group ICA





K-Means

[Abraham... 2013]

Functional regions











AAL

Smith 2009 ICAs

Craddock 2011 Ncuts

Abraham 2013 TV-MSDL

Ward



Harvard-Oxford G Varoquaux



High model order ICA



K-Means



Varoquaux 2011 Smooth-MSDL



Yeo 2011

1 In connectome prediction settings





1 In connectome prediction settings



Choice of regions for best prediction?



1 In connectome prediction settings



2 Connectome: graph structure of brain activity

Functional connectome Graph of interactions between regions

[Varoquaux and Craddock 2013]



2 Graphical model in cognitive neuroscience



2 Graphical model in cognitive neuroscience



2 Graphical model in cognitive neuroscience



Independence structure Knowing *IPS*, *FEF* is independent of *V2* and *MT*

2 From correlations to connectomes





Conditional independence structure?



2 Probabilistic model for interactions

Simplest data generating process = multivariate normal:

$$\mathcal{P}(\mathbf{X}) \propto \sqrt{|\mathbf{\Sigma}^{-1}|} e^{-rac{1}{2}\mathbf{X}^{\mathcal{T}}\mathbf{\Sigma}^{-1}\mathbf{X}}$$



• Model parametrized by inverse covariance matrix, $\mathbf{K} = \mathbf{\Sigma}^{-1}$: *conditional* covariances

Goodness of fit: likelihood of observed covariance $\hat{\Sigma}$ in model Σ $\mathcal{L}(\hat{\Sigma}|\mathbf{K}) = \log |\mathbf{K}| - \text{trace}(\hat{\Sigma} \mathbf{K})$

2 Graphical structure from correlations



Diagonal: signal variance Diagonal: node innovation 2 Independence structure (Markov graph)

Zeros in partial correlations give **conditional independence**

Reflects the large-scale brain interaction structure



2 Independence structure (Markov graph)

Zeros in partial correlations give **conditional independence**

Ill-posed problem: multi-collinearity ⇒ noisy partial correlations



Independence between nodes makes estimation of partial correlations well-conditionned.

Chicken and egg problem

2 Independence structure (Markov graph)

Zeros in partial correlations give **conditional independence**

Ill-posed problem: multi-collinearity ⇒ noisy partial correlations



Independence between nodes makes estimation of partial correlations well-conditionned.



2 Sparse inverse covariance: penalization

Maximum a posteriori:

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Fit models with a penalty

Sparsity \Rightarrow Lasso-like problem: ℓ_1 penalization



[Friedman... 2008, Varoquaux... 2010b, Smith... 2011] 39

2 Sparse inverse covariance: penalization



Likelihood of new data (cross-validation) Subject data, Σ^{-1} -57.1 Subject data, sparse inverse 43.0



2 Limitations of sparsity

Skeptical neuroimager

Theoretical limitation to sparse recovery

<u>Number of samples for s edges, p nodes:</u> $n = \mathcal{O}((s + p) \log p)$ [Lam and Fan 2009]

High-degree nodes fail [Ravikumar... 2011]





2 Multi-subject to overcome subject data scarsity



Likelihood of new data (cross-validation)

- Subject data, Σ^{-1} -57.1
- Subject data, sparse inverse 43.0
 - Group concat data, Σ^{-1} 40.6
- Group concat data, sparse inverse 41.8

Inter-subject variability

2 Multi-subject sparsity

Common independence structure but different connection values



Multi-subject data fit, Group-lasso penalization Likelihood

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Varoquaux... 2010b]
2 Multi-subject sparsity

Common independence structure but different connection values



$$\{ \mathbf{K}^{s} \} = \underset{\{ \mathbf{K}^{s} \succ 0 \}}{\operatorname{argmin}} \underbrace{\sum \mathcal{L}(\hat{\mathbf{\Sigma}}^{s} | \mathbf{K}^{s})}_{s} + \lambda \ell_{21}(\{ \mathbf{K}^{s} \})$$
Multi-subject data fit, ℓ_{1} on the connections of

Multi-subject data fit, ℓ_1 Likelihood the

 ℓ_1 on the connections of the ℓ_2 on the subjects

2 Multi-subject sparse graphs perform better



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2 Independence structure of brain activity

Subject-sparse estimate

2 Independence structure of brain activity



2 Large scale organization: communities

Graph communities

[Eguiluz... 2005]

Neural communities

Non-sparse

2 Large scale organization: communities

Graph communities

[Eguiluz... 2005]

Neural communities

= large known functional networks

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Group-sparse

Varoguaux... 2010b]

2 Giving up on sparsity?

Sparsity is finicky

Sensitive hyper-parameter
Slow and unreliable convergence
Unstable set of selected edges





Shrinkage

Softly push partial correlations to zero $\mathbf{\Sigma}_{\mathsf{Shrunk}} = (1 - \lambda) \mathbf{\Sigma}_{\mathsf{MLE}} + \lambda \mathsf{Id}$

Ledoit-Wolf oracle to set λ [Ledoit and Wolf 2004]

Comparing connectomes

from connectomes



Detecting differences in connectivity Functional markers on diminished patients? Stroke outcome prognosis in ongoing activity



[Varoquaux... 2010a]

3 Failure of univariate approach on correlations

Subject variability spread across correlation matrices



 $\label{eq:star} \begin{array}{l} \bullet \ d \pmb{\Sigma} = \pmb{\Sigma}_2 - \pmb{\Sigma}_1 \ \text{is not definite positive} \\ \Rightarrow \ \text{contradictory with Gaussian models} \end{array}$

$\boldsymbol{\Sigma}$ does not live in a vector space



3 Inverse covariance very noisy

Partial correlations are hard to estimate





3 Simulation on a toy problem

Simulate two processes with different inverse covariance





Add jitter in observed covariance... sample $MSE(\mathbf{K}_1 - \mathbf{K}_2):$ $MSE(\mathbf{\Sigma}_1 - \mathbf{\Sigma}_2)$





Non-local effects and non homogeneous noise

3 Theoretical settings: comparison of estimates

- Observations in 2 populations: X^1 and X^2
- Goal: comparing estimates: $\hat{\theta}(\mathbf{X}^1)$ and $\hat{\theta}(\mathbf{X}^1)$
- Asymptotic normality: $\hat{ heta}(X^1) \sim \mathcal{N}(heta^1, I(heta^1)^{-1})$



3 Theoretical settings: comparison of estimates

- [Rao 1945] Fisher information I defines a metric on the manifold of models.
- We use it to choose a global parametrization for comparisons



3 Covariance manifold $-Sym_n^+$

■ Metric tensor (Fisher information) [Lenglet... 2006] $\langle \mathbf{d\Sigma}_1, \mathbf{d\Sigma}_2 \rangle_{\boldsymbol{\Sigma}} = \frac{1}{2} \operatorname{trace}(\boldsymbol{\Sigma}^{-1} \mathbf{d\Sigma}_1 \, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}^{-1} \mathbf{d\Sigma}_2)$

Nice properties of the Sym_n^+ manifold (Lie group): metric can be fully integrated, gives rise to global mapping to a vector space (*Logarithmic map*).

$$\begin{split} \|\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{1}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{2}\|_{\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{1}}^{2} &= \left\|\log\left(\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{1}^{-\frac{1}{2}}\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{2}\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{1}^{-\frac{1}{2}}\right)\right\|^{2}, \\ \text{Locally:} \ \|\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{1}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{2}\|_{\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{1}} \propto \left|\operatorname{trace}(\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{1}^{-\frac{1}{2}}\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{2}\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{1}^{-\frac{1}{2}}) - p\right| \\ &= \|\mathbf{d}\boldsymbol{\Sigma}\|_{\operatorname{Fro}} \end{split}$$

where
$$\mathbf{d}\mathbf{\Sigma} = \mathbf{\Sigma}_1^{-1/2} \mathbf{\Sigma}_2 \mathbf{\Sigma}_1^{-1/2}$$

3 Reparametrization for uniform error geometry

Logarithmic map:

$$\mathbf{\Sigma}_1 \in \mathcal{S}ym_n^+ \mathbf{\Sigma}_2 \in \mathcal{S}ym_n^+ o \overrightarrow{\mathbf{\Sigma}_1\mathbf{\Sigma}_2} \in \mathbb{R}^{rac{1}{2}p(p-1)}$$



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3 Reparametrization for uniform error geometry

Logarithmic map:

$$\begin{split} \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_1 \in \mathcal{S}ym_n^+ \; \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_2 \in \mathcal{S}ym_n^+ \to \overrightarrow{\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_1\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_2} \in \mathbb{R}^{\frac{1}{2}p\,(p-1)} \\ d(\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_1,\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_2) = \|\overrightarrow{\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_1\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_2}\|_2 \end{split}$$



3 Statistics...



Do *intrinsic* statistics on the parameterization: PDF

Mean

Parameter-level hypothesis testing

3 Random effects on the covariance manifold

Population covariance distribution: generalized normal

$$p(\mathbf{\Sigma}) \propto \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} \|\mathbf{\Sigma}^* \mathbf{\Sigma}\|_{\mathbf{\Sigma}^*}^2\right)$$
 (1)

Population mean: (Frechet mean) $\boldsymbol{\Sigma}^{\star} = \operatorname{argmin}_{\boldsymbol{\Sigma}} \|\boldsymbol{\Sigma}\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{i}\|_{\boldsymbol{\Sigma}}^{2}$

[Pennec 2006]

[Varoquaux... 2010a]

(2)

Edge-level statistics H_0 : subject \in group model (1) $\overrightarrow{d\Sigma} \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma \mathbf{I})$: Independant coefficients

 \Rightarrow Univariate statistics on d $\Sigma_{i,j}$

3 Residuals

Correlation matrices: Σ



-1.0

-1.0

0.0

0.0

1.0

1.0

Residuals: dΣ



3 Number of edge-level differences detected



p-value: 5.10^{-2} Bonferroni-corrected

3 Post-stroke covariance modifications



3 Post-stroke covariance modifications

p-value: $5 \cdot 10^{-2}$ Bonferroni-corrected

3 In connectome prediction settings





3 In connectome prediction settings



Connectivity matrix

Correlation
 Partial correlations
 Tangent space

3 In connectome prediction settings



3 In population estimation settings

Dispersion of covariances in tangent space
 James-Stein shrinkage using this population model
 ⇒ Gives better biomarkers



Covariance space

- empirical covariance
- mean of covariances

Tangent space

- 🔺 covariance embedding
- 🔺 reference (mean)

Shrinkage

- population dispersion (covariance)
 - shrinkage of a new estimate

[Rahim... 2017]

Statistics on covariance matrices

Do not live in vector space: \Rightarrow coefficients are not independent

Are a multivariate model \Rightarrow can be reparametrized with Cramer-Rao metric

Population imaging and biomarkers



Brain aging: a biomarker and its covariates

Predicting brain aging ≠ chronological age
Combines brain connectivity and morphology
Predicts age with a mean absolute error of 4.3 years

Discrepency with chronological age

correlates with cognitive impairment



[Liem... 2016] **Biomarker** surrogate, but useful

Heterogeneity: predicting autism across sites



Software

Nilearn: neuroimaging



http://nilearn.github.io

Extracting signal in brain images

- Simple visualizations
- Extracting connectomes
- Learning networks and regions
- Very easy to install and to script



Software

Scikit-learn: machine learning

http://scikit-learn.org

Supervised & unsupervised learning
 > 160 models
 Sparse models, random forests, clustering...

Model selection, parallel computing

Excellent documentation



Connectomics: from mapping intrinsic activity to predicting phenotype





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