Extracting interpretable signatures of wholebrain dynamics through systematic comparison

Annie G. Bryant¹, Kevin Aquino¹, Linden Parkes², Alex Fornito², Ben D. Fulcher¹

¹School of Physics, The University of Sydney, Camperdown, NSW 2006; ²The Turner Institute for Brain and Mental Health, School of Psychological Sciences, Monash University, Clayton, VIC 3800

Background

Despite myriad methods for **quantifying restingstate brain dynamics**, the choice of how to represent fMRI multivariate time series is typically made **subjectively** with a limited set of statistics. Instead, we propose the first **comprehensive framework** for the **systematic comparison** of **interpretable feature-based representations** of both **local intra-regional dynamics** and **interregional coupling** that is flexible across many modalities and clinical applications.



Five distinct dynamical representations were compared for neuropsychiatric disorder case-control analysis







4. FC across all region

pairs with one SPI



5. FC across all region pairs +

all whole-brain local dynamics

3. Whole-brain maps of all features







fMRI dynamics of individual brain regions distinguish cases vs. controls



Including brain-wide local dynamics improves FC classification performance



Linear properties are well suited to quantify whole-brain resting fMRI dynamics



Combining multiple properties of intra-regional dynamics can be beneficial



Conclusions

We introduce a **general methodology** to systematically compare **intra-regional dynamics** and **inter-regional coupling** using **diverse** and **interpretable** time-series features. Our case study with neuropsychiatric disorders highlights surprisingly strong performance of **simpler statistical representations**, such as dynamics within an individual brain region, and underscores the utility of **linear time-series analysis** techniques for fMRI case-control analysis.

Further info

Check out our preprint (Bryant et al., *biorXiv* 2024) or email me with any follow-up questions:



annie.bryant@sydney.edu.au

Selected References

- 1. Poldrack R, et al. Sci Data (2016)
- 2. Traut N, et al. *Neuroimage* (2022)
- 3. Lubba CH, et al. Data Min Knowl Discov (2019)
- 4. Cliff OM, et al. Nat Comp Sci (2023)
- 5. Shafiei G, et al. Nat Comms (2023)
- 6. Mohanty R, et al. *Sci Rep* (2020)

Acknowledgements

This work was supported by the Australian Government Research Training Program, The University of Sydney Physics Foundation, and the American Australian Association Graduate Education Fund.



