## MRI based brain parcellation

Kurmukov Anvar, 2019

# What is brain parcellation?









In computational neuroimaging, brain parcellation methods subdivide the brain into individual regions <...> to study its **structure and function**.

Brain parcellation based on information theory

## 2. Why do we need

## parcellations?

- 1. Because brain structure is somehow related to its function.
- Because typical MRI consists of ~10^5 up to ~ 10^7 voxels and typical study has ~10^1 up to ~10^3 observations (dimensionality reduction).
- 3. Because in multimodal studies we need to have 1 to 1 correspondence between different modalities.
- 4. Because in population studies we need to have 1 to 1 correspondence between subjects.
- 5. To build connectomes;)





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#### Narrow-sense heritability: $\Omega = 2 \cdot \Phi \cdot \sigma_g^2 + I \cdot \sigma_e^2$

 $Var(y)\sigma_P^2 = \Omega$  – pedigree covariance,  $\Phi$  – kinship matrix  $\sigma_q^2$  – genetic variance,  $\sigma_e^2$  – environmental variance

\*Typically, done in family/twin studies

 $\sigma_P^2 = \sigma_g^2 + \sigma_e^2$  $h^2 = \sigma_g^2 / \sigma_P^2$ 

<u>Heritability of the shape of</u> <u>subcortical brain structures in</u> <u>the general population</u>

> Interpretation: Relative importance of genetics vs. environment for a given trait



Robust Identification of Alzheimer's Disease subtypes based on cortical atrophy patterns

Gray matter

#### Freesurfer segmentation



White matter

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### Brain network = Connectome

#### Brain regions become nodes



Neural connections between regions become edges



Graph G = (V, E, l, w), where

- *V* is the set of nodes
- *E* is the set of edges
- *l* is node's labeling mapping
- w is edge's weighting mapping

#### is called a brain network or a **connectome**





# 3. Anatomical parcellations

Cortical parcellations = parcellation of the brain surface, popular examples are:

- 1. Destrieux Atlas
- 2. Desikan-Killiany Atlas
- 3. DKT Atlas
- 4. Lausanne atlas
- 5. Harvard-Oxford atlas
- 6. Automated Anatomical Labeling
- 7. <u>more</u>

<u>101 labeled brain images</u> <u>and a consistent human</u> <u>cortical labeling protocol</u>

They used DKT protocol. Manual segmentation of anatomical areas



## Lausanne atlas



83 ROI







234 ROI



463 ROI





## 4. Couple of words on Image Registration



## Voxel-wise registration

## Register on template





Atlas Brain



Subject Brain



Warped atlas by surfaceconstrained mapping Warped atlas after intensity registration

## Register on modality



## Surface-based registration









# 4. Data driven brain parcellations

#### Dozens (or even hundreds) of them



<u>Human Brain Mapping: A Systematic Comparison of Parcellation</u> <u>Methods for the Human Cerebral Cortex</u>

- 1. 2015 Multi-Level Parcellation of the Cerebral Cortex Using Resting-State fMRI, Salim Arslan, Daniel Rueckert https://www.doc.ic.ac.uk/~sa1013/pub/2015\_S\_Arslan\_MICCAI.pdf
  - a. 100 HCP subjects. Initial parcellation using k-means, distance is a combination of geodesic distance and time series correlation (from MRI) -> hierarchical (agglomerative) clustering of these supervertices into larger ones -> Construct meta-graph edges #times vertices co-occur in the same community -> Cluster this graph using n-cut
- 2. 2015 A Continuous Flow-Maximisation Approach to Connectivity-driven Cortical Parcellation, Sarah Parisot, Martin Rajchl, Jonathan Passerat-Palmbach, Daniel Rueckert, 2015
  - a. Start with random parcellation (spatially constrained) -> Update parcel centers seeking for a point with maximum correlation with all other nodes in a parcel (correlation from MRI) -> Attach each node to a parcel with the highest correlation (s.t. Spatially smoothness constraints) -> Repeat until convergence.
  - b. 25 HCP Subjects
- 3. 2008 Normalized Cut Group Clustering of Resting-State fMRI Data, Martijn van den Heuvel ,Rene Mandl, Hilleke Hulshoff Pol, 2008, https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0002001#s2
  - a. 2-level procedure. 1 construct subject level parcellation from **MRI** (correlation, 0.4 cutoff) 20 clusters (authors call them resting-state networks RSNs). Individual graph consist of 8500-9500 nodes. Use ncut clustering, no spatial constraints. Construct group graph edge +1 between 2 nodes if they were in the same cluster (for a subject). Finally group graph was clustered using ncut. 26 fMRI subjects.
- 4. 2012 A whole brain fMRI atlas generated via spatially constrained spectral clustering, R. Cameron Craddock, G. Andrew James, Paul E. Holtzheimer,

Xiaoping P. Hu, and Helen S. Mayberg, 2012

- a. Build a network from **MRI**, such that every node is a voxel and an edge between two nodes exist only if they are in 3D neighborhood (for every voxel there are 26 neighborhood voxels), the weight on an edge is a correlation. Cluster it using neut, group atlas generated either by averaging subject networks and cluster an averaged one, or by using the same technique as in [3] (Martijn van den Heuvel, 2008)
- 5. 2014 OPTIMIZING BRAIN CONNECTIVITY NETWORKS FOR DISEASE CLASSIFICATION USING EPIC Gautam Prasad, Shantanu H. Joshi,

and Paul M. Thompson https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4232940/

a. Start with Desikan atlas proposed algorithm combine separate regions into bigger ones, recompute connectivity matrix and run a classification algorithm on it (using PCA as prep step). In such a way authors find "optimal" in terms of classification (AD vs NC) brain parcellation. The search of best combination of regions is done in a probabilistic manner (simulated annealing/random search).

#### Methodology





#### Method Overview



A Continuous **Flow-Maximisation** Approach to **Connectivity-driven Cortical** Parcellation

### Connectivity-Driven Brain Parcellation via Consensus Clustering



1. Surface mesh

- 2. Individual continuous connectomes
- 3. Partitions of the individual connectomes
  - 4. Consensus vertex clustering
  - 5. Mapping clusters on brain surface





## Features

- Obtained parcellation is highly symmetrical (left vs right hemisphere)
- Has substantial intersection with classical gyral based parcellations
- Spatially continuous without specific spatial constraints
- Arbitrar subject to clustering approach and averaging approach
- Could be used for subject or group analysis





### Random picture sources

- 1. http://www.clipartpanda.com/clipart\_images/black-and-white-human-brain-3-29489506
- 2. <u>https://braintumor.org/brain-tumor-information/signs-and-symptoms/brain-illustration/</u>
- 3. <u>https://www.britannica.com/topic/phrenology</u>
- 4. <u>https://www.humanbrainfacts.org/basic-structure-and-function-of-human-brain.php</u>
- 5. http://cs.wellesley.edu/~cs112/courseMaterials/assignments/assign5/assign5.html
- 6. <u>https://miykael.github.io/nipype-beginner-s-guide/neuroimaging.html</u>
- 7. http://www.clinica.run/doc/Pipelines/T1\_FreeSurfer/
- 8. <u>https://fcp-indi.github.io/docs/user/anat.html</u>
- 9. <u>http://brainsuite.org/processing/svreg/details/</u>
- 10. <u>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Image\_registration</u>
- 11. <u>https://www.spiedigitallibrary.org/conference-proceedings-of-spie/10133/1/Multi-atlas-based-CT-synthesis-from-conventional-MRI-w</u> <u>ith-patch/10.1117/12.2254571.short?SSO=1</u>
- 12. https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2319417017300653
- 13. <u>https://www.semanticscholar.org/paper/Shape-analysis-of-the-human-brain.-Nitzken-Joseph/c47a238ce4a943a30da38f1047c0158</u> 0a47fab7d/figure/63
- 14. <u>https://www.semanticscholar.org/paper/Shape-analysis-of-the-human-brain.-Nitzken-Joseph/c47a238ce4a943a30da38f1047c0158</u> 0a47fab7d
- 15. <u>https://brainder.org/2016/05/31/downsampling-decimating-a-brain-surface/</u>

## Conclusion

- Problems:
  - Huge amount of different parcellation approaches
  - $\circ$   $\,$  No obvious way to choose amongst them
- Solution:
  - Use common sense
  - Use anatomical parcellations, they are good enough in most cases.
  - $\circ$  Do not use parcellation at all.
  - In case of structural connectomes use Connectivity-driven parcellation!

#### Szemerédi regularity lemma

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

In mathematics, **the Szemerédi regularity lemma** states that every large enough graph can be divided into subsets of about the same size so that the edges between different subsets behave almost randomly. Szemerédi (1975) introduced a weaker version of this lemma, restricted to bipartite graphs, in order to prove Szemerédi's theorem,<sup>[1]</sup> and in (Szemerédi 1978) he proved the full lemma.<sup>[2]</sup> Extensions of the regularity method to hypergraphs were obtained by Rödl and his collaborators<sup>[3][4][5]</sup> and Gowers.<sup>[6][7]</sup>

