

Graph-theoretical analysis of language networks in temporal lobe epilepsy

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Introduction

atypical language organization in epilepsy

Language organization and reorganization in epilepsy

language is the product of a distributed brain network

- early language processing and final speech bilaterally distributed
- circuits responsible for naming predominately in the left hemisphere



Phonologie

(Tate et al., 2014)

 individuals in whom brain regions for naming reside exclusively or mainly in the right hemisphere



On the Site of the Faculty of Articulated Speech (Broca, 1865)



Language organization and reorganization in epilepsy



 language assessment as vital part of pre-operative work-up in drug-resistant epilepsy

- Wada test for lateralizing language function (Wada & Rasmussen, 1958)
 - barbiturate injected into one hemisphere via the carotid artery
 - injected hemisphere looses function for a period of 5-10 minutes
 - neuropsychological testing during this period and immediately afterwards
- **functional MRI** (Arora et al., 2009; Janecek et al., 2013)
 - advantages: localization of activation in regard to lesion and other structures easier recognition of mixed dominance
 - **disadvantage:** fMRI is an activation method, Wada a deactivation method
 - good overall good concordance reported 73-91 %)
- atypical language organization in drug-resistant temporal lobe epilepsy (TLE) in 19-43% of cases (Benke et al., 2006; Janecek et al., 2013)

FULL-LENGTH ORIGINAL RESEARCH

Language lateralization by fMRI and Wada testing in 229 patients with epilepsy: Rates and predictors of discordance

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- Inter-hemispheric (Benke et al., 2006; Janecek et al., 2013)
 - bilateral language dominance 12-15%
 - right language dominance 6-13%
- Intra-hemispheric (Hamberger et al., 2007; Rosenberg et al., 2009; Mbwana et al., 2009)
 - cortical stimulation mapping showed a more posterior distribution of naming sites in TLE patients with hippocampal sclerosis
 - left-dominant TLE patients had more variable area of BOLD activation in the middle temporal gyrus compared to controls
 - additional BOLD activation in left posterior superior temporal sulcus compared to controls

Atypical language organization in TLE





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Atypical language organization in TLE





- Predictors of atypical language organization
 - structural lesion in the left hemisphere, especially left hippocampus (Weber et al., 2006; Hamberger et al., 2007)
 - left-seizure focus (lsaacs et al., 2006; Stewart et al., 2014)
 - early age of "injury" (Rasmussen and Milner 1977; Rausch et al. 1991) or early or intermediate age of epilepsy onset (12-20 yr of age) (Stewart et al., 2014)
 - handedness only in case of early onset and left-seizure focus (Stewart et al., 2014)



Introduction

fMRI connectivity and atypical organization of language in epilepsy



Functional connectivity (FC)

- definition: "...the statistical association or dependency among two or more anatomically distinct time-series" (Friston, 1994)
- measures: Pearson r, Spearman rho, partial r, mutual information...

Pravata et al. 2011

- II patients with left-sided, II right-sided focus (73% TLE), I2 controls
- reduced FC within left hemisphere and between hemisphere in both groups of patients
- during verb-generation task reduced FC of language network in patients with left-sided focus
- in this group lower left intra-hemispheric FC predicted lower verbal IQ (r =.70)

regions of interest (6-mm radius) were:

- \square the pars triangularis of the IFG
- posterior part of the superior temporal gyrus
- middle-lateral part of the middle temporal gyrus









Waites et al. 2006

- I7 patients with left-sided,
 8 healthy control participants
- seed regions defined by separate fMRI study on a control group of 30 healthy control participants
- no differences in activation
- during resting-state fMRI reduced FC of language network in patients:
 - left interior frontal gyrus less connectivity with angular gyrus and ACC, more with posterior cingulate cortex
 - left middle frontal gyrus less connectivity with angular gyrus





- Vlooswijk et al. 2010
 - 34 patients with cyrptogenic localization-related epilepsy,
 27 healthy controls
 - word-generation and text-reading fMRI paradigm
 - no differences in activation, however in patients lower FC:
 - during the word-generation paradigm in prefrontal network
 - during the text-reading task paradigm in frontotemporal network
 - Iower FC in prefrontal and frontotemporal networks associated with
 - poorer performance on test of verbal fluency
 - poorer performance on test of reading ability



Besseling et al., 2013

- > 22 children with rolandic epilepsy and 22 controls (8-12 yr)
- resting-state fMRI, word-generation and reading task
- no differences in activation (used for ROI selection)
- reduced functional connectivity of the left inferior frontal gyrus with pre- and post-central gyri and superior temporal gyrus ("Rolandic Network")
- no association with neuropsychological assessment of language





• Sepeta et al., 2015

- ▶ 19 children with left-hemispheric focal epilepsy (~50% temporal), 19 controls
- regions of interest: inferior frontal gyrus, middle frontal gyrus, Wenicke's area
- reduced inter-hemispheric and intra-hemispheric connectivity in patients
- greater FC beween left language regions (IFG, WA) predictive of better verbal ability
- FC not associated wit age at epilepsy onset or duration of epilepsy





• Stretton et al., 2013

- ▶ 52 TLE patients with hippocampal sclerosis and 30 controls
- fMRI working-memory task + DTI
 - task-positive networks: 4 regions involving fronto-parietal activation
 - task-negative networks: 2 regions involving deactivation of the default-mode network
- "...the segregation of the task-positive and task-negative FC networks supporting working memory in TLE is disrupted, and is associated with abnormal structural connectivity of the sclerosed hippocampus."
- FC of regions which show task-associated increases with those showing task-associated decreases were predictive of poorer performance



Summary of FC research in language and epilepsy



Summary

- in children and adults with epilepsy there are differences in FC compared to controls, even in the absence of differences in activation
- in TLE and left localization-related epilepsy there is evidence of reduced FC between classical language regions
- in adults with TLE (Pravata et al. 2011) and children (Sepeta et al., 2015) with left-hemispheric focal epilepsy there is some evidence that reduced FC between language regions is associated with lower verbal abilities
- in patients with TLE an inability to decouple task-unassociated regions may be associated with impaired performance (Stretton et al., 2013)



Introduction

Graph-theory as a tool to understand cognition in epilepsy

Graph-theory as a tool to understand cognition in epilepsy



- beyond FC of individual regions towards investigating the connectome in patients with epilepsy - a comprehensive map of neural connections in the brain
- Connectomics and Epilepsy
 - offers an advantage in the delineation of the aberrant functional and structural connections of the whole brain (Engel et al., 2015)
 - graph theory as a tool for the analysis and quantification of network structure and function.
 - follows from the realization that the complexity in the macroscopic behaviour of a system of interacting elements (society cell, or brain), is shaped by interactions among their constituent elements.



Graph-theory and connectomics

How to define the elements of a system?

- anatomical regions (Destrieux et al., 2010)
- homogeneus functional regions (Craddock et al., 2012)
- regions based on previous research (Yarkoni et al., 2011)

• •



• Example:

 anatomical parcellation with the FreeSurfer Destrieux anatomical atlas (Destrieux et al., 2010) Graph-theory and connectomics



 appropriate fMRI pre-processing pipeline and choice of brain parcellation → time courses



Graph-theory and connectomics



can be used to identify regions of taskassociated increases

 \uparrow BOLD activation



Graph-theory and connectomics



can be used to identify regions of taskassociated increases and decreases in activation

 \uparrow BOLD activation

 \downarrow BOLD deactivation



- by looking at the impact of a task on the FC among all regions we can find those which show and increase in connectivity among regions
 - + DIFFRENTIAL NEWTORKS

Graph-theory and connectomics







Graph-theory and connectomics

+ DIFFRENTIAL NEWTORKS

NODAL DEGREE number of connections with other nodes

- NODE element of network (obtained by brain parcellation)
- EDGE connection between two elements (obtained by choosing a threshold)



Graph-theory and connectomics

+ DIFFRENTIAL NEWTORKS

PATH LENGTH

number of edges neeeded to get from one node to another

MEAN PATH LENGTH

mean path length average over all nodes

COST overall level of connectivity



$$E(G) := \frac{1}{N_V(N_V-1)} \sum_{i \in V} \sum_{j \neq i \in V} d_{ij}^{-1}$$

▶ G…graph

- N_v...number of vertices
- d_{ii}...length of the shortest path from nodes i to j

Graph-theory and connectomics

+ DIFFRENTIAL NEWTORKS

NETWORK EFFICIENCY

GLOBAL EFFICIENCY

LOCAL EFFICIENCY

REGIONAL EFFICIENCY

Latora and Marchiori, 2001

Ginestet and Simmons, 2011

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$$E^{Loc}(G) := \frac{1}{N_V} \sum_{i \in V} E(G_i)$$

• G_i...subnetwork of G which contains all neighbors of i

- while global efficiency is the efficiency of the entire graph G, local efficiency is the averaged efficiency of all first-order neighborhoods
- measures how fault tolerant the system is locally

Graph-theory and connectomics + DIFFRENTIAL NEWTORKS

NETWORK EFFICIENCY

GLOBAL EFFICIENCY

LOCAL EFFICIENCY

REGIONAL EFFICIENCY

Latora and Marchiori, 2001

Ginestet and Simmons, 2011

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$$E^{Glo}(G, v) := \frac{1}{N_V - 1} \sum_{j \neq v \in V} d_{vj}^{-1}$$

- is the region-specific global efficiency and sometimes simply referred to as regional efficiency
- quantifies the connectivity of each node to all the other nodes in the network.



Ginestet and Simmons, 2011



Graph-theory and connectomics



 by looking at the impact of a task on the FC among all regions we can find those which show a decrease in connectivity among regions
 DIFFRENTIAL NEWTORKS Graph-theory and connectomics



 also possible to calculate the global, local and regional efficiency in networks that show decoupling during a task (i.e. N-back task - Ginestet and Simmons, 2011)



Graph-theory and connectomics

NETWORK EFFICIENCY

GLOBAL EFFICIENCY

LOCAL EFFICIENCY

REGIONAL EFFICIENCY

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Graph-theory as a tool to understand cognition in epilepsy



- How does this relate to epilepsy and language?
 - Vlooswijk et al. (2011)
 - fMRI silent-word generation paradigm,
 - 41 patients with frontal and temporal lobe epilepsy had globally as well as locally less efficient networks compared to 23 controls
 - greater disruptions in local efficiency in these patients were associated with lower full scale IQ
- How does this relate to epilepsy and cognition
 - Wang et al. (2014)
 - resting state fMRI study of 26 TLE patients
 - reduced global efficiency and increased local interconnectivity
 - increased local efficiency in patients with left temporal epilepsy being associated with longer duration of epilepsy
 - focal changes in the network parameters of several nodes, including the bilateral angular gyri, left middle temporal gyrus and the left pars triangularis (significance for language)

Study



Aim: to investigate atypical language organization using two fMRI language paradigms and graph-theoretical measures

• Hypotheses:

- I. in patients with atypical language organization greater taskmodulated activation in right frontal and temporal lobes
- 2. in patients with atypical language organization greater taskmodulated FC in right frontal and temporal lobes
- 3. lower global network efficiency in TLE patients
- 4. reduced ability of patients with epilepsy to deactivate task non-relevant regions
- 5. age of epilepsy onset to be associated with greater languageassociated activation and connectivity of the right hemisphere



Methods

Participants, fMRI pipeline and graph analysis

Participants

		Left language-	Right language-
	Control group	dominant TLE	dominant TLE
Ν	9	6	6
N female	4	3	3
N right-handed	9	5	3
Age	30.7 (7.9)	48.8 (7.1)	35.2 (9.2)
Age at epilepsy onset		34.8 (16.4)	16.5 (12.7)
Duration of epilepsy		14.0 (17.6)	18.7 (10.8)
Hippocampal sclerosis		4	4
Febrile seizures		0	4
Early insult		2	4
Number of AEDs		2.2 (0.8)	2.5 (0.8)
Verbal IQ		96.6 (17.9)	94.5 (6.2)
BNT score		61.6 (35.5)	90.5 (36.6)

all 12 patients had a left-seizure focus in the temporal lobe

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Neuropsychological assessment

As part of presurgical work-up:

- Wada test (Pauli et al., 2006)
- Neuropsychological assessment
 - Test of verbal IQ (Lehrl, 2005)
 - Boston Naming Test (BNT)
- fMRI language assessment
 - Verbal fluency paradigm
 - 30s task blocks of generating words to a letter interspaced with a control task of reading nonsense words
 - Verb generation paradigm
 - 30s task blocks of generating verbs based on nouns interspaced with a control task of reading nonsense words









- MRI sequences (3T Siemens Trio, 12-chanel standard head coil)
 - TI weighted 3D-MPRAGE sequence (voxel size = IxIxImm³)
 - T2 weighted 3D-FLAIR sequence (voxel size = 0.5x0.5x0.5mm³)
 - fMRI tasks two gradient-echo planar T2*-weighted sequences (TR = 3000 ms, TE = 30 ms, voxel size = 1.5 x 1.5 x 3.75 mm³, 36 interleaved slices, 130 and 170 volumes)

Preprocessing

- preprocessing using FSL FEAT (high-pass filter, slice timing correction, motion correction, spatial smoothing, FSL variance normalization (Beckmann and Smith, 2004))
- Conversion into time-series via to parcellation schemes

Parcellation schemes



FreeSurfer

(Destiroux, 2009)

fMRI-based atlas (200 regions)

(Cradock et al., 2011)







Transformation of correlation coefficients

Networks

- significance of correlations coefficients (FDR correction)
- identification of high degree nodes (random networks)
- task-positive (task-modulated increase in correlation) and tasknegative (task-negative increase in correlation) networks

Age at epilepsy onset

activation and nodal degree

Functional Connectivity and Brain Activation: A Synergistic Approach

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- Additional network efficiency assessment across individual participants with cost-integrated measures
 - for brain regions showing task-modulated increases in the BOLD signal
 - for brain regions showing task-modulated decreases in the BOLD signal

Correlation analyses

- BOLD activation/deactiovation and connectivity
- Network efficiency and clinical variables



Results

Activation and connectivity in atypical language organization

Verbal Fluency

Verb Generation

Control group



ITLE typical language representation



Control group



ITLE typical language representation



ITLE atypical language organization



ITLE atypical language organization



Task-positive networks



ITLE atypical language representation





Atypical TLE vs. controls

- greater nodal degree on both fMRI task:
 - **left:** frontomarginal gyrus, orbital gryus and lateral sulcus,
 - **right**: cuneus, central insula, occipital middle and superior gyrus

Atypical vs. typical TLE

- greater nodal degree on both fMRI task:
 - **left:** posterior cingulate cortex, inferior frontal gyrus (orbital, pars triang.) and sulcus, orbital gyrus and sulcus, vertical ramus of the lateral fissure, temporal pole,
 - **right**: posterior cingulate, inferior frontal gyrus (orbital, pars triang.), orbital gyrus superior temporal gyrus, , horizontal ramus of the lateral fissure

Task-negative networks



Less consistent (Verbal fluency):

- **left:** left planum temporale anad posterior part of the lateral fissure , frontomarginal gyrus, orbital gryus and lateral sulcus, parieto-occipital sulcus, superior part of the precentral sulcus, sup. occipital (TLE)
- **right:** post-central gyrus, temporal pole, sup. occipital (TLE), parahippocampa gyrus (TLE)

Task-negative networks



Less consistent (Verb Generation):

- Left: calcarine sulucs, lateral obrital sulcus, post-central sulcus, insular cortex (TLE)
- **Right:** frontomarginal gyrus, suborbital sulcus, posterior cingulate (TLE), precentral gyrus (TLE), vertical ramus of the lateral fissure (TLE), insular cortex (TLE), superior occipital sulcus (TLE)

Activation 0.026 per year 0 0.018 per year greater activation with earlier onset

Connectivity



Age at epilepsy onset (Verbal Fluency)

- Right-sided activation associated with earlier onset
- Greater nodal degree with earlier onset:
 bilateral connectivity of the insula and of the left orbital gyrus and lateral orbiral sulcus, inferior temporal sulcus, as well as right orbital gyrus



Connectivity



Age at epilepsy onset (Verb Generation)

Right-sided activation in inferior frontal gyrus associated with earlier onset

Greater nodal degree
 with earlier onset:
 bilateral connectivity of
 the insula and of the left
 orbital gyrus and the
 right tranverse sulcus



Results

Association between activity and connectivity



	Verbal fluency			Verb generation			
	r	df	р	r	df	р	
Destrieux atlas							
Control group							
deactivation	24	86	.026	30	53	.027	
activation	18	38	.278	03	45	.853	
Left language-dominant ITLE							
deactivation	18	116	.046	.09	76	.439	
activation	.38	7	.314	30	42	.047	
Right language-dominant ITLE							
deactivation	13	75	.276	45	49	.001	
activation	.11	22	.607	02	66	.859	
fMRI connectivity-based atlas							
Control group							
deactivation	57	74	.001	51	57	.001	
activation	.24	55	.074	.14	59	.281	
Left language-dominant ITLE							
deactivation	42	124	.001	24	79	.031	
activation	.30	9	.374	03	50	.821	
Right language-dominant ITLE							
deactivation	24	68	.044	48	32	.004	
activation	.48	28	.007	.36	89	.001	

Is connectivity associated with the up or down-regulation of activation?

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	Verbal fluency			Verb generation			
	r	df	р	r	$d\!f$	р	
Destrieux atlas							
Control group							
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activation	.48	28	.007	.36	89	.001	

Is connectivity associated with the up or down-regulation of activation? Only in TLE patients with atypical language



	Verbal fluency			Verb generation			
	r	df	р	r	$d\!f$	р	
Destrieux atlas							
Control group							
deactivation	24	86	.026	30	53	.027	
activation	18	38	.278	03	45	.853	
Left language-dominant ITLE							
deactivation	18	116	.046	.09	76	.439	
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Right language-dominant ITLE							
deactivation	13	75	.276	45	49	.001	
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deactivation	57	74	.001	51	57	.001	
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Left language-dominant ITLE							
deactivation	42	124	.001	24	79	.031	
activation	.30	9	.374	03	50	.821	
Right language-dominant ITLE							
deactivation	24	68	.044	48	32	.004	
activation	.48	28	.007	.36	89	.001	

Is connectivity associated with the up or down-regulation of activation? It would seem so.

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Results

Efficiency of networks - indicator of atypical language organization



Network efficiency

Global efficiency

- significant interaction between task x group for both the verbal fluency (F = 17.3, $df_1 = 2$, $df_2 = 54$, p < .001) and verb generation tasks (F = 6.0, $df_1 = 2$, $d_2 = 54$, p < .004)
- Verbal Fluency
 - Control participants higher global efficiency in network consisting of regions with task-related activation:
 - \Box compared to typical TLE (95% CI for diff. = .026 .068)
 - □ compared to atypical TLE (95% CI for diff. = .005 .039)
 - No differences in global efficiency in network consisting of regions with task-related deactivation
- similar results for Verb Generation
- the control group had the highest global efficiency for task activation networks, followed by atypical ITLE patients and typical ITLE patients



Local efficiency

- significant interaction between task x group for both the verbal fluency $(F = 117.3, df_1 = 2, df_2 = 54, p < .001)$ and verb generation tasks $(F = 20.8, df_1 = 2, df_2 = 54, p < .001)$
- Verbal Fluency
 - Control participants higher local efficiency in network consisting of regions with task-related activation:
 - □ compared to typical TLE (95% CI for diff. = .089 .123)
 - □ compared to atypical TLE (95% CI for diff. = .024 .050)
 - No differences in local efficiency in network consisting of regions with task-related deactivation
- different results for Verb Generation
 - for regions with task-related activation atypical TLE patients had higher local efficiency than controls (95% CI = .002-.034) and typical TLE patients (95% CI = .002-.034)
 - for regions with task-related activation typical TLE patients had the highest local efficiency



Network efficiency and clinical outcome

	Verbal fluency (N=12)				Verb generation (N=12)				
Networks / Clinical var.	Epilepsy onset	Epilepsy duration	Verbal IQ	BNT	Epilepsy onset	Epilepsy duration	Verbal IQ	BNT	
Regions of task deactivation									
LE (task)	63	.38	44	34	18	25	30	.46	
LE (rest)	06	01	57	.37	.37	46	33	19	
GE (act)	21	.19	84	06	24	06	62	17	
GE (rest)	.34	16	.03	.15	62	.30	65	.24	
Regions of task activation									
LE (task)	24	05	40	28	.14	32	38	.04	
LE (rest)	.23	02	20	.20	.11	21	29	26	
GE (act)	13	.24	88	18	16	08	38	01	
GE (rest)	.46	26	.20	.34	67	.38	56	.05	

FDR-corrected significant correlatons are given in red (p < .05)

- global efficiency of networks composed of regions showing task-modulated down-regulation of activity during the tasks is associated with verbal IQ
- on the verbal fluency task global efficiency of networks showing task-modulated up-regulation during the task is associated with verbal IQ
- limited statistical power

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Conclusions

Main findings

- I. TLE patients with atypical language organization showed increased BOLD activation in the classical language regions, the left insula and the left orbital cortex as well as right-sided homologue regions
- 2. Compared to TLE patients with typical language organization and participants in the control group, they also displayed higher FC in some of these right-sided brain regions.
- 3. Task-activation networks of ITLE patients were less globally efficient
 - may be significant for the ability of the brain to dynamically reduce the activation of task-irrelevant regions.









Main findings





Disrupted segregation of working memory networks in temporal lobe epilepsy

CrossMark

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The effect of topiramate on cognitive fMRI

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Increased neural activity during overt and continuous semantic verbal fluency in major depression: mainly a failure to deactivate

Heidelore Backes · Bruno Dietsche · Arne Nagels · Mirjam Stratmann · Carsten Konrad · Tilo Kircher · Axel Krug

- the importance of deactivation of parts of the DMN
 - WM in TLE patients (Stretton et al., 2013)
 - Topiramate and verbal fluency in FLE (Yasuda et al., 2013)
 - a reduction in the task-related deactivation of the default mode network (DMN) in patients taking TPM
 - depression (Backes et al., 2014)
 - failure to suppress potentially interfering activity from inferior temporal regions involved in defaultmode network functions and visual imagery → poor performance on verbal fluency



- 4. our results on network efficiency indicate that an inability to dynamically inhibit task-irrelevant regions may be associated with poorer verbal abilities in TLE patients, as measured by a measure of verbal IQ
- 5. our analyses of task-modulated activation and connectivity indicate that the age which a person develops seizures has significant impact on the ability of their brain to reorganize the brain regions involved in language (Rasmussen and Milner, 1977; Moddel et al., 2009; Stewart et al., 2014)
 - connectivity, of the right inferior frontal gyrus and right orbital gyrus
 - connectivity in left-sided regions of the cortex, especially the orbital cortex, which has a prominent role in semantics (Mandonnet et al., 2007), the ability to distinguish between the content and function words (Diaz and McCarthy, 2009)
 - ▶ pruning of connections in the frontal cortex, including the orbital cortex, is thought to be the most protracted, reaching well into adolescence (Zecevic and Rakic, 2001) \rightarrow early insult or onset of epilepsy may favor the retention of compensatory bilateral connectivity

Detection of abnormal resting-state networks in individual patients suffering from focal epilepsy: an initial step toward individual connectivity assessment

Christian L. Dansereau ¹²³, Pierre Bellec²⁴, Kangjoo Lee¹², Francesca Pittau², Jean Gotman² and Christophe Grova¹²⁵*



The Chronnectome: Time-Varying Connectivity Networks as the Next Frontier in fMRI Data Discovery

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Thank you for your attention

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