

Effective Connectivity (for fMRI and M/EEG)

Rik Henson

MRC CBU, Cambridge

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Structural, functional & effective connectivity

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- Structural/anatomical connectivity
	- $=$ presence of axonal connections \diagup white matter tracks (eg, DWI)

• Functional connectivity

= statistical dependencies between regional time series (eg, ICA)

Effective connectivity

= causal (directed) influences between neuronal populations (eg, DCM) (based on explicit network models)

Structural vs Functional connectivity

• Tracing studies

• Tractography from DWI

But functionally, effect of one neuron on another can depend on:

- Activity of a third (gating)
- Rapid changes in plasticity

Functional vs Effective connectivity

No connection between B and C, yet B and C correlated because of common input from A, eg: **Correlations: A B C 1 0.49 1 0.30 0.12 1**

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Functional/Effective Connectivity for fMRI

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Functional connectivity

Useful when no model, no experimental perturbation (eg resting state)

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- Popular examples: seed-voxel correlations, PCA, ICA, etc
- Graph-theory summaries of functional networks

- Correlations in fMRI timeseries could be spurious haemodynamics (e.g, effects of heart-rate/breathing; movement confounds...)
- Condition-dependent changes in functional connectivity (e.g, PPIs...)

Effective-connectivity: Definitions of Causality?

- 1. Direct experimental interventions (e.g, lesion, drugs)
- 2. Indirect experimental manipulations (e.g, PPI, DCM)
- 3. Network model inference (e.g, SEM, DCM)
- 4. Temporal precedence (e.g, Granger Causality, DCM)

5. …

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5. …

2. Condition-dependent changes: eg PPI

Parametric, factorial design, in which one factor is psychological (eg attention)

...and other is physiological *(viz. activity extracted from a brain region of interest)*

2. Condition-dependent changes: eg PPI

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3. Explicit Network Models of **Causality**

• (Bivariate) correlations do not use an explicit network (graph) model

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- Structural Equation Modelling (SEM) can test different network models, by simply comparing *predicted* with *observed* covariance matrices, but...
	- has no dynamical model (stationary covariances)
	- has no neural-BOLD model
	- cannot test some graphs, eg loops (no temporal definition of direction)
	- restricted to classical inference comparing nested models

Effective-connectivity: Definitions of Causality?

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4. Temporal definition of Causality

Stationary (correlations, SEM)

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Dynamic (Granger, DCM)

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("unfolding" in time is one way to infer direction of connectivity)

4. Note on temporal causality and fMRI

- Problem with time-based measures of connectivity arises with fMRI: BOLD timeseries is not direct reflection of Neural timeseries
	- (e.g, peak BOLD response in motor cortex can precede that in visual cortex in a visually-cued motor task, owing to different neural-BOLD mappings)

• This compromises methods like Granger Causality and Multivariate Auto-Regressive models (MAR) that operate directly on fMRI data (Friston, 2010; Smith et al, 2011)

• Note that this does not preclude these methods (eg MAR) for MEG/EEG timeseries, assuming these are more direct measures of neural activity

\Rightarrow Development of DCM

- 1.Dynamic: based on first-order differential equations
	- $-$ at level of neural activity, with separate haemodynamic model for fMRI
- 2.Causal: based on explicit directed graph models
- 3.*Modelling:* designed to test experimental manipulations
	- "bilinear" approximation to interactive dynamics
- 4. (Estimated in a Bayesian context, allowing formal comparison of any number/type of models \cdots)

Rough comparison of popular methods?

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Friston et al. 2003, *NeuroImage*

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DCM Neural Level

Oridinary Differential Equations:

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DCM parameters = rate constants MRC | Medical Research Council

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Neurodynamics: …+ reciprocal connections

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$$
\dot{z} = (A + \sum_{j=1}^{m} u_j B^{(j)}) z + C u
$$

The haemodynamic "Balloon" model

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y represents simulated observation of BOLD response, i.e. includes noise

$$
y = h(u, \theta) + e
$$

Inference on model space

Model evidence: The optimal balance of fit and complexity

Comparing models

• Which is the best model?

Comparing families of models

- What type of model is best?
	- Feedforward vs feedback
	- Parallel vs sequential processing
	- With or without modulation

Only compare models with the same data

A

Example DCM: Attention to motion

What is site of *attention modulation* during *visual motion processing*

-
- observe moving dots $+$ motion \rightarrow V5
-
-
-
-

Example DCM: Attention to motion

Model 1: attentional modulation of $V1 \rightarrow V5$

Model 2: attentional modulation of SPC→V5

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Bayesian model selection: Model 1 better than model 2

 $\log p(y | m_1) >> \log p(y | m_2)$

 \rightarrow attention primarily modulates V1 \rightarrow V5 (in these data)

So, DCM….

- enables one to **infer hidden neuronal processes**
- allows one to **test mechanistic hypotheses** about observed effects
	- uses a deterministic differential equation to model neuro-dynamics (represented by matrices A, B and C)
- is informed by anatomical and physiological principles
- uses a **Bayesian framework** to estimate model parameters
- is a generic approach to modelling experimentally perturbed dynamic systems
	- provides an observation model for neuroimaging data, e.g. fMRI, M/EEG
	- DCM is **not model or modality specific** (models will change and the method extended to other modalities e.g. LFPs)

Variants of DCM

- DCM for fMRI
	- "non-linear" DCM: modulatory input (B) equal to activity in another region
	- "two-state" DCM: inhibitory and excitatory neuronal subpopulations
	- "stochastic" DCM: random element to activity (e.g, for resting state)
- DCM for E/MEG
	- "evoked" responses (complex neuronal model based on physiology)
	- "induced" responses (within/across frequency power coupling; no physiological model (more like DCM for fMRI))
	- "steady-state" responses
	- with (e.g, EEG/MEG) or without (e.g, LFP, iEEG) a forward (head) model

Functional/Effective Connectivity for M/EEG

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Functional Connectivity **Background**

- Much interest in functional connectivity in fMRI
- And yet many neural interactions (e.g, coupled oscillations) occur at a timescale faster than visible by fMRI
- So, real promise of MEG/EEG is functional connectivity?

- 1. Problem of Field Spread (Volume Conduction)
- 2. Linear vs Nonlinear measures
- 3. Directed vs Undirected measures
- 4. Direct vs Indirect measures
- 5. Generative Models

Field Spread Problem

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Many (zero-lag) measures of functional connectivity between sensors can be spurious, i.e, reflect activity from single source

No true source connectivity

True source connectivity

Source reconstruction reduces field spread problem…

…and allows easier comparison with fMRI connectivity

BUT spurious connections between sources can remain ("point-spread")

Hillebrand et al (2012) Neuroimage

One approach is to orthogonalise raw data, then correlate (0-lag) power envelopes… *Colclough et al (2015) Neuroimage*

…another uses fact that field-spread is instantaneous, so time- or phase-lagged measures are immune to field spread (though assume no true zero-lag connectivity)

Different Types of Connection

Undirected, Indirect (bivariate)

Directed, Indirect (bivariate)

Directed, Direct (multivariate) ("effective connectivity")

Cross-Correlation

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Undirected, Indirect, Linear (sensitive to Field-spread when $l = 0$)

$$
c_{xy}(l) = \langle (x_t - \overline{x})(y_{t+l} - \overline{y}) \rangle_t
$$

Cross-covariance

l ="lag"

$$
\rho_{xy}(l) = \frac{c_{xy}(l)}{\sigma_x \sigma_y}
$$

Cross-correlation

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Coherency (Fourier transform of cross-covariance)

Undirected, Indirect, Linear, sensitive to Field-spread

$$
c_{xy}(l) = \langle (x_t - \overline{x})(y_{t+l} - \overline{y}) \rangle_t
$$

Cross-covariance

$$
C_{xy}(f) = \sum_{l} c_{xy}(l) e^{-2\pi i.l.f}
$$
Coherency

$$
\Upsilon_{xy}(f) = \frac{\left|C_{xy}(f)\right|^2}{\left|C_{xx}(f)\right| \left|C_{yy}(f)\right|}
$$

(Magnitude-squared) Coherence

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Digression on Complex Numbers

An oscillation of frequency *f* can be represented in terms of amplitude and phase (polar coordinates), which can also be represented by a complex number

$$
C(f) = A(f)e^{i\Phi(f)}
$$

= $\Lambda(f) + i\Psi(f)$
 $\Phi(phase/angle)$
 $\Lambda(real)$

$$
A(f) = |C(f)| = \sqrt{\Lambda^2(f) + \Psi^2(f)}
$$

$$
\Phi(f) = \arctan(\Psi(f) / \Lambda(f))
$$

Coherence

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Undirected, Indirect, Linear, sensitive to Field-spread

$$
c_{xy}(l) = \langle (x_t - \overline{x})(y_{t+l} - \overline{y}) \rangle_t
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(Magnitude-squared) Coherence

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Undirected, Indirect, Linear, immune to Field-spread

$$
c_{xy}(l) = \left\langle \left(x_t - \overline{x}\right)\left(y_{t+l} - \overline{y}\right)\right\rangle_t
$$

$$
C_{xy}(f) = \sum_{l} c_{xy}(l) e^{-2\pi i.l.f}
$$
_{Coherency}

 $\Psi_{xy}(f) = imag(C_{xy}(f))$

Imaginary Coherency

Nolte et al (2004) Clin Neurophys

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A zero imaginary component implies a phase of the coherency of either 0° or 180°, which could be caused by field-spread...

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A zero imaginary component implies a phase of the coherency of either 0° or 180°, which could be caused by field-spread...

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…whereas a NON-zero imaginary component implies a phase of the coherency other than 0° or 180°, which can NOT be caused by field-spread

Digression on Analytic Signals

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A signal can be represented analytically in terms of its amplitude and phase over time (within a narrow frequency band) (e.g, using Hilbert transform)

$$
x(t, f) = A(t, f)e^{i\Phi(t, f)}
$$

$$
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$$

$$
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$$

$$
x(t, f) = A(t, f)e^{i\Phi(t, f)}
$$

Phase-related Measures

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Undirected, Indirect, Linear, immune to Field-spread (when $\Delta \Phi \neq 0$)

$$
x(t) = A_x(t)e^{i\Phi_x(t)}
$$

$$
y(t) = A_y(t)e^{i\Phi_y(t)}
$$

$$
\Delta \Phi(t) = \Phi_x(t) - \Phi_y(t)
$$

$$
PLV = \left\langle e^{i\Delta\Phi(t)} \right\rangle_t
$$

Phase-Locking Value

 $PLI = \langle sign(\Delta\Phi(t)) \rangle_t$

Phase-Lag Index

Stam et al (2007) Human Brain Mapp

Phase-Phase $\Phi_{x}(t)$: $\Phi_{y}(t)$

Phase-Freq $\Phi_{x}(t)$: $F_{y}(t)$

Phase-Power $\Phi_{x}(t)$: $A_{y}(t)$

Jenson & Colgin (2007) TICS

1. Problem of Field Spread (Volume Conduction)

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Nonlinear Measures

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Nonlinear Measures

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Cross-correlation/coherence insensitive to nonlinear dependencies

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Mutual Information

Sensitive to Field-spread, Undirected, Indirect, Nonlinear

$$
MI(x, y) = \sum_{x, y} p(x, y) \log \left(\frac{p(x, y)}{p(x) p(y)} \right)
$$

1. Problem of Field Spread (Volume Conduction)

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Directed Measures

(bivariate) Granger Causality Immune to Field-spread, Directed, Indirect, Linear

Auto-regressive model to order *p* (assuming mean-corrected, with residuals *e*)

$$
y_y(t) = a_1y(t-1) + ... + a_py(t-p) + e(t)
$$

$$
=\sum_{l=1}^p a_l y(t-l)+e(t)
$$

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Augmented model including past values of *x* (to order *q*)

$$
y_{y \leftarrow x}(t) = \sum_{l=1}^{p} a_{l} y(t-l) \left(\sum_{l=1}^{q} b_{l} x(t-l) \right) e(t)
$$

If classical F-test shows *b* parameters are non-zero, then *x* "Granger-causes" *y* (special case of MVAR; see later)

Directed, Nonlinear Measures

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Transfer Entropy (lagged generalisation of mutual information) Immune to Field-spread, Directed, Indirect, Nonlinear

$$
TE_{y \to x}(l) = \sum_{x_{n+l}, x_n, y_n} p(x_{n+l}, x_n, y_n) \log \left(\frac{p(x_{n+l} | x_n, y_n)}{p(x_{n+l} | x_n)} \right)
$$

$$
TE_{x \to y}(l) = \sum_{y_{n+l}, y_n, x_n} p(y_{n+l}, x_n, y_n) \log \left(\frac{p(y_{n+l} | x_n, y_n)}{p(y_{n+l} | y_n)} \right)
$$

Schreiber (2000) Phys Rev Letters

Generalised Synchronisation Sensitive to Field-spread, Directed, Indirect, Nonlinear

$$
x_{t} = [x_{t}, x_{t+1}, ..., x_{t+(m-1)l}]
$$

$$
y_{t} = [y_{t}, y_{t+1}, ..., y_{t+(m-1)l}]
$$

$$
S(x | y) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{t=1}^{N} \frac{D_{t}(x)}{D_{t}(x | y)}
$$

m is the embedding dimension and *l* lag

D is the Euclidean distance between x_t and embedded neighbours

Quian Quiroga et al (2000) Phys Rev E

- 1. Problem of Field Spread (Volume Conduction)
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Direct Measures

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Multivariate Autoregressive Modelling (MVAR) Immune to Field-spread, Directed, Direct, Linear

$$
X_i(t) = \sum_{j=1}^N \sum_{l=1}^p a_{ij}(l) X_j(t-l) + u_i(t)
$$

Various summary measures, eg, Partial Directed Coherence (PDC):

$$
PDC_{ij}(f) = \frac{A_{ij}(f)}{\sqrt{\sum_{k=1}^{M} |A_{kj}(f)|^{2}}}
$$

Baccala & Sameshima (2001) Biol Cybernet

$$
A_{ij}(f) = F(a_{ij}(l))
$$

Generalised form of Granger Causality

Though insensitive to true zero-lag dependencies (occur in reality?)

- 1. Problem of Field Spread (Volume Conduction)
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Generative Models

Immune to Field-spread, Directed, Direct, Nonlinear, model-driven

Connectivity modelled between sources

Projected to sensors via headmodel

Typically a handful of sources, and a range of networks fit to data

Bayesian methods for comparing which network model is best

Dynamic Causal Modelling (DCM) is one approach

Chen et al, 2009, Neuroimage

The End

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DCM Neural Level

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System changes depend on:

- the current state z
- the connectivity θ
- external inputs u
	- driving (to nodes)
	- modulatory (on links)

Input $u(t)$ connectivity parameters θ system $z(t)$ state *(cf GLM, "inputs" to all nodes simultaneously!)*

– time constants & delays $\frac{d\mathbf{x}}{dt} = F(z, u, \theta)$ *dz* =

DCM Estimation: Bayesian framework

Inference about DCM parameters Cognition and

Bayesian single subject analysis

- The model parameters are distributions that have a mean $\eta_{\theta k}$ and covariance $C_{\theta k}$.
	- Use of the cumulative normal distribution to test the probability that a certain parameter is above a chosen threshold γ :

Classical frequentist test across Ss

• Test summary statistic: mean $\eta_{\theta k}$

- One-sample t-test: Parameter>0?
- Paired t-test: parameter $1 \n>$ parameter 2?
- rmANOVA: e.g. in case of multiple sessions per subject

Model comparison and selection and Sciences Unit

Given competing hypotheses, which model is the best?

> $\log p(y | m) =$ () *accuracy m* − complexity(m)

$$
B_{ij} = \frac{p(y \mid m = i)}{p(y \mid m = j)}
$$

Bayes Factor
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Pitt & Miyung (2002) *TICS*