

1 **Title:** Resting-state connectivity predicts patient-specific effects of deep brain  
2 stimulation for Parkinson's disease

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9

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## 1 **Abstract**

2 Neural circuit-based guidance for optimizing patient screening, target selection and  
3 parameter tuning for deep brain stimulation (DBS) remains limited. To this end, we  
4 propose a functional brain connectome-based modeling approach that simulates  
5 network-spreading effects of stimulating different brain regions and quantifies  
6 rectification of abnormal network topology *in silico*. We validate these analyses by  
7 predicting nuclei in basal-ganglia circuits as top-ranked targets for 43 local patients  
8 with Parkinson's disease and 90 patients from public database. However, individual  
9 connectome-based predictions demonstrate that globus pallidus and subthalamic  
10 nucleus (STN) constituted as the best choice for 21.1% and 19.5% of patients,  
11 respectively. Notably, the priority rank of STN significantly correlated with motor  
12 symptom severity in the local cohort. By introducing whole-brain network diffusion  
13 dynamics, these findings unfold a new dimension of brain connectomics and  
14 underscore the importance of neural network modeling for personalized DBS therapy,  
15 which warrants experimental investigation to validate its clinical utility.

1 Brain stimulation via optic, sonic, electrical and magnetic means enables the  
2 adjustable and selectable modulation of network-level activity, thereby producing  
3 varying degrees of therapeutic effects. As one of the most successful  
4 neuromodulation-based clinical interventions, deep brain stimulation (DBS) has  
5 demonstrated remarkable symptomatic amelioration in a wide range of neurological<sup>1</sup>,  
6<sup>2, 3, 4, 5</sup>, and psychiatric conditions<sup>6, 7</sup>. However, the clinical efficacy of brain  
7 stimulation is unpredictable on a case-by-case basis, as it is inevitably susceptible to  
8 unexpected postoperative side effects on cognitive function, mood and behavior<sup>8,9,10</sup>.  
9 This may be partially caused by our incomplete understanding of its neural  
10 circuit-level mechanisms<sup>2, 4, 5, 11, 12</sup>. Meanwhile, considerable variability in terms of  
11 heterogeneous neuropathology, clinical trajectory and treatment protocols exists  
12 between individual patients. To date, there are no theoretical principles or pre-surgical  
13 consensuses for the determination of desirable stimulation targets (e.g. pallidal versus  
14 subthalamic DBS)<sup>13, 14, 15, 16, 17</sup> and the fine-tuning of stimulation parameters (e.g.,  
15 current amplitude, frequency, and pulse-width etc.)<sup>4,9,10</sup> to optimize a single patient's  
16 outcome. Inter-individual differences in stimulation-induced effects therefore pose a  
17 tremendous challenge for pertinent empirical studies and therapeutic interventions  
18 alike, heightening the urgent demand for optimizing patient-specific stimulation  
19 protocols<sup>15, 18</sup>.

20 The functional brain connectome constructed from resting-state functional  
21 connectivity is powerful in characterizing the nature of topological organization<sup>19, 20</sup>,

1   <sup>21, 22, 23</sup> and the neuropathology of the diseased brain <sup>24, 25, 26, 27</sup>. Grounded in network  
2   science and graph theory, the human connectome can be readily formulated as a brain  
3   graph or matrix consisting of nodes (parcellated brain regions) and edges (connections  
4   between nodes)<sup>20</sup>. Emerging evidence suggests that both invasive and noninvasive  
5   therapeutics can reconfigure brain networks and normalize maladaptive functional  
6   connectivity of brain circuitry concomitantly with clinical symptomatic improvement  
7   <sup>28, 29, 30</sup>. In other words, the therapeutic effects of neurostimulation are attributable to  
8   the rectification or rebalance of abnormal network topology associated with  
9   pathological behaviors <sup>11, 31, 32, 33</sup>. This has enabled the development of a variety of  
10  whole-brain computational models with an emphasis on clinical applications <sup>18, 19, 25, 26,</sup>  
11  <sup>34</sup>. Nevertheless, a majority of current fMRI studies employ the case-control approach  
12  to detect group effects by leveraging the statistical benefits of averaging across  
13  subjects. They typically ignore the considerable heterogeneity of clinical cohorts and  
14  draw inferences about general patterns of brain pathology commonly shared across a  
15  cluster of patients, which is not directly applicable to clinical situations. A growing  
16  number of studies have demonstrated that an individual brain can be differentially  
17  characterized by its connectome in both healthy <sup>35, 36, 37</sup> and diseased conditions <sup>38, 39</sup>.  
18  However, no existing neural circuit-based methods can be harnessed to guide patient  
19  screening or to predict treatment outcome before surgical intervention <sup>2, 4, 31</sup>.  
20  To address these bedrock issues, we propose a functional connectome-based  
21  neuromodeling approach by which we are able to predict neurostimulation targets and

1 strengths at both population and individual levels (as illustrated in Figure 1). The  
2 basic intuition is that quantitative analysis of the rectification of dysfunctional  
3 connectivity towards a healthy regime in an individual patient at the brain-wide scale  
4 gives rise to the optimal determination of stimulation conditions. In comparison to a  
5 group of 46 healthy subjects, we launched a proof-of-principle test in two patient  
6 groups: 43 PD patients recruited from the local community and 90 PD patients from a  
7 public dataset (as an independent validation). Using fully cross-validated analysis, we  
8 identified brain areas mainly located in basal-ganglia circuits including the globus  
9 pallidus and subthalamic nucleus, as prime targets in 86.1% of the local and 87.8% of  
10 the public cohort. We further determined the optimal range of neurostimulation  
11 strength for each targeted area. This computational study allows the exploration of a  
12 wide array of potential therapeutic brain regions beyond basal-ganglia circuits, and  
13 guidance of fine-tuning stimulation parameters in individual patients with Parkinson's  
14 disease, which can be integrated as part of a pre-surgical treatment plan in future trials.  
15 Although thus far only substantiated using PD data, it can be readily generalized to  
16 other neuropsychiatric disorders and therapeutic stimulation modalities (e.g.,  
17 transcranial magnetic stimulation), providing a general analytics whole-brain  
18 modeling framework for brain stimulation at the macroscale.  
19

## 1 **Results**

### 2 **Internal validation: target and strength prediction**

3 We began by screening all 46 bilateral brain regions as potential targets in the local  
4 PD group. The most effective neurostimulation strength for each region (resulting in  
5 the largest percentage of improvement) was used to compare outcomes among all  
6 regions. At group level, the globus pallidus (GP) was clearly identified as the best  
7 choice for neurostimulation, exhibiting the largest relative change of 2.22% (Figure  
8 2A). This indicates that the greatest improvement in the local PD group may be  
9 achieved by focal modulation of the GP. The STN, thalamus and putamen evidently  
10 emerged as top-ranked targets with relative changes of 0.97%, 1.48% and 1.17%,  
11 respectively. The hippocampus was found to be a desirable target for which  
12 neurostimulation could attain a 1.00% improvement. Importantly, these results  
13 withstood a 1000-round sub-sampling cross-validation process (Figure S1A and S1B).  
14 Using a delicate 1024-region parcellation template to repeat the analysis, we  
15 confirmed that the GP, STN, putamen, thalamus, and hippocampus remained  
16 top-ranked candidates for neurostimulation (Figure S2). Note that the performance of  
17 different subregions within the thalamus varies widely, suggesting that some  
18 particular nuclei of the thalamus could be extremely sensitive to stimulation.  
19 Furthermore, we randomly selected half of the healthy control sample as “patients”  
20 for target prediction to demonstrate that this model would not biasedly predict any  
21 specific brain region as a potential target (Figure S3A and S3B). Meanwhile,

1 neurostimulation strength, another key element of a typical stimulation protocol, was  
2 estimated for each candidate target. In the local PD group, optimal neurostimulation  
3 strengths for top-five targets including the GP, STN, putamen, thalamus and  
4 hippocampus were determined as 50%, 56%, 36%, 32% and 32% down-regulation of  
5 their original connectivity strengths, respectively (Figure 2B). Predicted strengths for  
6 the remaining regions are displayed in Figure S4.

7 We then moved on to target and strength prediction for individual patients. For  
8 each brain region, we plotted the relative change in individual patients (mean  $\pm$  SEM,  
9 left panel of Figure 3A). In the local cohort, the top-five brain regions, including the  
10 GP, STN, thalamus, putamen and hippocampus, consistently demonstrate significant  
11 improvement ( $p < 10^{-11}$ , one sample t-test, indicated by stars in left panel of Figure  
12 3A), with rather large effect sizes (Cohen's  $d > 1.5$ , right panel of Figure 3A). We  
13 subsequently plotted the complete rank of all regions as potential candidates for each  
14 patient in the local cohort (left panel of Figure 3B) and counted their occurring  
15 frequencies as the best or top five choice (right panel of Figure 3B). Evidently, the GP  
16 and STN are the best choices for 11 (25.6%) and 11 (25.6%) patients (pie plot in the  
17 right panel of Figure 3B) and top-five choices for 33 (76.7%) and 36 (83.7%) patients,  
18 respectively. Meanwhile, the caudate, thalamus and hippocampus are the best targets  
19 for 9 (20.9%), 6 (14.0%), and 4 (9.3%) patients, and top-five choices for 22 (51.2%),  
20 28 (65.1%), and 25 (58.1%) patients, respectively. In sum, the nuclei of the basal  
21 ganglia circuit are predicted as the best choices for 86.1% and as top-five choices for



1 97.7% of the local cohort, upholding striking agreement with prior clinical results <sup>40</sup>.  
2 Intriguingly, we found a significant relationship between the rank of the STN in this  
3 cohort and the severity of symptoms as indexed by UPDRS-III ( $p < 0.05$ , Kendall  
4 rank correlation), but not for any other top sites. Moreover, we made personalized  
5 predictions of optimal strengths for each region in individual patients of the local  
6 cohort (left panel of Figure 4), where hot colors represent up-regulation and cold  
7 colors represent down-regulation of the original connectivity. Regardless of marked  
8 variability between individuals, consistent down-regulation ( $p < 10^{-11}$ , right panel of  
9 Figure 4) of basal ganglia- and hippocampal- related functional connectivity  
10 substantially contributes to the rectification of dysfunctional networks.

11

## 12 **External validation: target and strength predictions**

13 As a robust test of generalizability, we applied the present modeling analysis to a  
14 completely independent validation dataset from the public PPMI database, which  
15 provides resting-state fMRI data for 90 patients with PD (Figure 5). We observed that  
16 nuclei of the basal ganglia circuit and hippocampus stand out as the prioritized  
17 selections, in agreement with results from the local PD cohort (Figure 5A).  
18 Correspondingly, we found that optimal neurostimulation strengths for the GP, STN,  
19 caudate, putamen and hippocampus are almost identical to those in the local group  
20 (58%, 82%, 84%, 40% and 52% down-regulation shown in Figure 3B, respectively).  
21 At the single subject level, the predicted top-five targets for each patient in the public

1 cohort are also consistent with those of the local group. Stimulation of regions  
2 including the GP, STN, thalamus, putamen, hippocampus and amygdala demonstrates  
3 significant percentage improvement ( $p < 10^{-20}$ , one sample t-test, left panel of Figure  
4 5C) in this group with large effect sizes (Cohen's  $d > 1.3$ , right panel of Figure 5C).  
5 The GP and STN are the best targets for 17 (18.9%) and 15 (16.7%) patients, and  
6 top-five choices for 77 (85.6%) and 67 (74.4%) patients, respectively (Figure 5D).  
7 The caudate, thalamus, hippocampus and amygdala are the best choices for 45  
8 (50.0%), 2 (2.2%), 8 (8.9%) and 1 (1.1%) individual patients, respectively, and  
9 top-five choices for 66 (73.3%), 50 (55.6%), 75 (83.3%) and 24 (26.7) patients  
10 (Figure 5D). We can therefore summarize the nuclei of the basal ganglia circuits as  
11 prioritized targets for 87.8% and as top-five choices for 100% of this public group.  
12 Note that we did not observe a statistically significant relationship between the ranks  
13 of any top-five sites and the severity of motor symptoms in the public cohort ( $p > 0.05$ ,  
14 Kendall rank correlation). Meanwhile, personalized predictions of optimal strength  
15 for each region are shown for the public cohort in Figure 5E, as manifested consistent  
16 down-regulation.

17

### 18 **Reconfiguration of network topology by neurostimulation**

19 We investigated whether and how focal stimulation of the GP or STN resulted in  
20 topological reconfiguration of the functional brain connectome in local (Figure 6) and  
21 public cohorts (Figure S5). The removed (green) and remaining (grey) abnormal

1 connections after neurostimulation are illustrated as compared to the pre-stimulation  
2 connectomic matrix ( $p < 0.05$ , Bonferroni corrected for multiple comparisons).  
3 Neurostimulation remarkably resulted in the removal of a large number of abnormal  
4 connections between the target regions and widespread areas in temporal, parietal,  
5 frontal and limbic brain regions. Although not found in the local cohort, considerable  
6 abnormal connections in the basal ganglia circuits that bypass the GP (Figure S5A  
7 and B) or STN (Figure S5E and F) were eliminated in the public cohort. Findings for  
8 the public PD cohort were largely comparable, though a substantial number of  
9 connections emerged from the intervention process. Taken together, these results  
10 demonstrate that focal stimulation leads to remarkable topological reconfiguration  
11 toward healthy bifurcation of the functional connectomes as measured in controls,  
12 suggesting potential therapeutic mechanisms for the alleviation of clinical symptoms.

13

## 14 **Discussion**

15 The present whole-brain modeling approach indeed describes a fundamental  
16 biological process with an analytic solution, and then translates the process of  
17 simulating the global effects of focal stimulation for clinically relevant purposes. It  
18 also suggests that spontaneous functional connectivity encoded in brain networks is  
19 sufficiently sensitive to capture the predisposition of individual's susceptibility in  
20 Parkinson's disease. Pioneering work based on the structural brain connectome or in  
21 combination with functional brain connectome has shown promising results that

1 model the dynamic network effects of a neural insult (lesion or stimulation), and  
2 predict network spreading and functional consequences<sup>32, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45</sup>. The present  
3 approach requires only resting-state functional MRI data of individuals to derive an  
4 empirical subject-specific transformation rule from the local to the global scale. This  
5 type of network diffusion process may stand for a fundamental process widely  
6 applicable to various biological systems, in that aberrant activity easily spreads  
7 through connected nodes and induces extensive pathological effusions in the system.  
8 Moreover, we posit that reversal of abnormal network topology can be indicative of a  
9 positive outcome for brain stimulation therapy *in silico*, which formulates the  
10 fundamental basis for the predictions of pre-stimulation protocols in individuals,  
11 including candidate screening, target selection and parameter tuning.

12 Target selection remains an unresolved challenge in the field of deep-brain  
13 stimulation in both neurological and psychiatric conditions<sup>1, 6, 46, 47</sup>. Insights gained  
14 from small animal experiments typically involve tedious procedures in which multiple  
15 brain regions are sequentially stimulated<sup>48</sup>, and are not directly applicable as  
16 guidance for surgical procedure in human subjects<sup>49</sup>. Our resting-state  
17 connectivity-based approach was able to predict nuclei of the basal ganglia circuits as  
18 optimal targets in two independent cohorts, in striking accordance with previous  
19 reports and clinical treatment routines for various movement disorders<sup>3, 13, 14, 15, 40, 50,</sup>  
20<sup>51</sup>. Nevertheless, we observed a rather large proportion of patients (51.2% in local  
21 cohort, 35.6% in public cohort) for whom the best target was neither the GP nor the

1 STN. In a very few patients (as shown in Figure 3B), all the nuclei of the basal  
2 ganglia circuits ranked extremely low, suggesting that focal stimulation therapeutics  
3 may not be appropriate for them at all. Hence, our computational approach provides a  
4 more tailored strategy to guide individualized selection between these candidate  
5 targets, thereby improving the overall outcome of neurostimulation <sup>15</sup>. It has been  
6 shown that the thalamus was the best choice for stimulation in patients with severe  
7 tremor-related symptoms <sup>52</sup>. The putamen, another key component of the basal  
8 ganglia circuits, was identified among top-ranking candidates, which is consistent  
9 with prior experience in patients <sup>53</sup>. Interestingly, the caudate emerged as a good  
10 candidate for some patients, especially in the public cohort (Figure 5), despite its  
11 occurrence as a common target for stimulation in patients with epilepsy <sup>47</sup> or  
12 psychiatric conditions <sup>6</sup>. Treatment outcomes for the caudate had high variation as  
13 may lead to relatively small effect size. Surprisingly, the hippocampus was identified  
14 here as a potential target, most likely because it emerged as one of key abnormal  
15 nodes comparing the brain matrices of patients to controls. And it is known to be  
16 pathologically involved in the non-motor clinical symptoms of Parkinsonism <sup>54</sup>.  
17 However, it has not been reported hitherto in the clinical treatment of PD patients and  
18 future investigation in animal and human subjects is required to test experimental  
19 outcomes of stimulation in this area.

20 Neurostimulation strength is another critical parameter affecting therapeutic  
21 outcomes in individuals. Determination of optimal strength in our modeling is

1 analogous to the programming of a DBS device in individual patients, which often  
2 demands labor-intensive adjustment based on frequent symptom assessment by  
3 clinicians. In the present study, the priority of all brain regions as potential  
4 neurostimulation targets is ranked in each single patient when the optimal stimulation  
5 strength is applied to each area. Our predictions clearly show that excessively strong  
6 or weak neurostimulation may not result in desirable modulation even at an  
7 appropriately selected target, and that optimal strengths (including up- or  
8 down-regulation) vary substantially among different targets across patients. These  
9 findings may serve as theoretical guidance for the tuning of stimulation protocols and  
10 possibly obviate the need for testing by trial and error on human subjects. This is a  
11 rather attractive premise, as brain stimulation with inappropriate parameters usually  
12 induces certain adverse effects and shortens battery life <sup>2, 15</sup>. More importantly, the  
13 present integrated strategy of predicting stimulation targets and strengths can be  
14 implemented on the basis of single patients, thereby opening a new avenue for the  
15 derivation of personalized treatments in phenomenologically inhomogeneous  
16 populations.

17 At the current stage, this connectome-based computational method has several  
18 practical limitations. First, the precise correspondence between metrics of the  
19 computational model (e.g. neurostimulation strength) and the parameters of a  
20 stimulation device (such as current amplitude and frequency of stimulus pulse) merits  
21 future *in vivo* experimental validation. The device must be calibrated so that the actual

1 dose of stimulation is known. Future retrospective or prospective clinical  
2 investigation in patients with DBS implantation would invaluablely facilitate this  
3 translational application. Second, the prediction accuracy of the present modeling  
4 relies on the parcellation of brain regions. As such, a delicately charted brain map<sup>55</sup>  
5 would be preferred to provide executable guidance with greater precision, although it  
6 heightens the risk of increased model complexity and computation load. Thus, more  
7 insights into the biological validity of the present model using well-controlled animal  
8 studies<sup>49</sup> will help to balance this tradeoff.

9 Taken together, these findings, although exploratory in nature and requiring  
10 clinical validation, advance an unprecedented view of the global dynamics of brain  
11 function through selective manipulation of a local brain area. This suggests that the  
12 ability to simulate, predict and assess perturbation of large-scale network dynamics  
13 evoked by focal stimulation may unfold a new dimension in the increasingly attractive  
14 field of brain connectomics, with which one can describe the dynamic spread and  
15 functional consequences of pathological processes. The development of neural  
16 circuit-based guidance approaches, coupling whole-brain connectomic modeling to  
17 clinical considerations of therapeutic intervention plans, which is yet to be established,  
18 may help to reach this goal and possibly diminish the risk of the DBS-linked side  
19 effects. Stratification by patient-specific functional connectome may have predictive  
20 value in respect to the efficacy of a neuromodulation treatment and even guide its

1 choice, providing a stepping-stone in the advancement of translational progress in  
2 precision medicine.

3

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5

## 6 **Methods**

### 7 **Participants**

8 Demographic and clinical characteristics of 179 participants used in this study are  
9 summarized in **Table 1**. The locally enrolled sample consisted of 94 subjects, among  
10 whom 47 were patients recruited at the Department of Neurology at Ruijin Hospital  
11 with a diagnosis of PD according to UK Brain Bank criteria. All these PD patients  
12 received medication and the severity of motor symptom in patients was evaluated by  
13 study-site personnel and qualified neurologists using the Unified Parkinson's Disease  
14 Rating Scale (UPDRS-III) and the Hoehn-Yahr Staging Scale. 47 healthy comparison  
15 (HC) subjects were recruited by advertisement and administered the  
16 Mini-International Neuropsychiatric Interview (MINI 6.0.0). All recruited subjects  
17 were without any neurological or psychiatric condition, a history of substance abuse,  
18 brain injury or other notable abnormality upon MRI examination. Four PD patients  
19 and one healthy subject were excluded due to severe head motion during MRI  
20 scanning (larger than 2 mm translation displacement or 2.0° rotation). This study was  
21 approved by the Institutional Review Board at Ruijin Hospital of Shanghai Jiao Tong



1 University and by the Biomedical Research Ethics Committee, Shanghai Institutes for  
2 Biological Sciences, Chinese Academy of Sciences. Informed consent was obtained  
3 from each subject or their legal guardian upon receiving a complete description of the  
4 study.

5 Data for an additional set of 93 PD patients with resting-state fMRI were obtained  
6 from the Parkinson's Progression Markers Initiative (PPMI) database. Three cases  
7 were excluded due to severe head motion using the same exclusion criteria. All data  
8 are fully anonymized as required by HIPAA regulations and participating sites  
9 received local Institutional Review Board approval for acquisition of contributed data.  
10 Detailed information about PPMI patients is available at ([www.ppmi-info.org](http://www.ppmi-info.org)).

11

## 12 **MRI data sets**

13 All local participants were scanned with a standard 12-channel head coil on a Siemens  
14 Tim Trio 3.0 T scanner (Erlangen, Germany), located at the Institute of Neuroscience,  
15 Chinese Academy of Sciences. Each participant was instructed to lie supine in the  
16 scanner wearing earplugs, with their head snugly fixed by tight but comfortable foam  
17 pads. Real-time electrocardiogram output and heart rate were continuously monitored  
18 throughout the scan (Erlangen, Germany). High-resolution T1-weighted images were  
19 acquired using a 3D magnetization-prepared rapid gradient-echo sequence (TR/TE =  
20 2300/3 ms, TI = 1000 ms, flip angle = 9°, FOV= 256×256 mm<sup>2</sup>, voxel size = 1×1×1  
21 mm<sup>3</sup>, 176 consecutive sagittal slices). Resting-state fMRI images for patients were

1 acquired for 300 volumes using a multiband echo planar imaging sequence (TR/TE =  
2 2000/30ms, flip angle =  $62^\circ$ , in-plane resolution =  $3 \times 3 \text{ mm}^2$ , slice thickness = 3 mm,  
3 56 axial slices, multiband acceleration factor = 2). Note that local PD patients had  
4 received their medication accordingly at the time of the scan. For healthy subjects,  
5 resting-state fMRI images were acquired for 300 volumes with a single-shot echo  
6 planar imaging sequence (TR/TE = 3000/30ms, flip angle =  $90^\circ$ , in-plane resolution =  
7  $2 \times 2 \text{ mm}^2$ , 3 mm slice thickness, 47 axial slices). During the resting-state scan,  
8 participants were instructed to lie still in the scanner with their eyes closed, remain  
9 awake, and not think of anything in particular (adherence was confirmed by  
10 participants immediately after the scan).

11 Anatomical and resting-state fMRI data from the public PPMI dataset were  
12 acquired on Siemens Tim Trio 3.0 T scanners. Structural images were recorded using  
13 a similar protocol as described above. Resting-state fMRI images were acquired for  
14 210 volumes using an echo-planar imaging sequence (TR/TE = 2400/25 ms, flip angle  
15 =  $80^\circ$ , in-plane resolution =  $3.3 \times 3.3 \text{ mm}^2$ , slice thickness = 3.3 mm, 40 axial slices).  
16 Further technical details can be found in the MRI operation manual available at  
17 <http://www.ppmi-info.org/>.

18

### 19 **Network construction**

20 The fMRI data were minimally preprocessed using Statistical Parametric Mapping  
21 (SPM, <http://www.fil.ion.ucl.ac.uk/spm>). The first 10 volumes were discarded for

1 signal equilibrium and the remaining volumes were corrected for temporal difference  
2 in slice acquisition and rigid-body head movement. The corrected data were spatially  
3 normalized to the MNI (Montreal Neurological Institute) space and resampled to 3  
4 mm isotropic voxels. After normalization, six motion parameters (three for translation  
5 and three for rotation) estimated during the realignment process were regressed out  
6 and linear drift was removed. A band-pass filter (0.01 – 0.08 Hz) was applied to  
7 remove the low frequency drift and high frequency respiratory and cardiac noise. We  
8 constructed the whole-brain connectivity network using a custom parcellation scheme  
9 based on the standard Automated Anatomical Labeling (AAL) atlas with the addition  
10 of the subthalamic nucleus as defined by the ATAG subcortical atlas<sup>56</sup> (the details of  
11 a total of 92 brain regions are listed in Supplemental information **Table S1**). The time  
12 series of all voxels within each region were extracted and averaged to obtain a mean  
13 time series. Functional connectivity  $f_{ij}$  between brain regions was represented by  
14 calculating the Pearson correlation coefficients between the mean time series of any  
15 pair of parcellated regions ( $i$  and  $j$ ). A 92×92 connectivity matrix **F** was generated for  
16 each subject and then subjected to Fisher's Z-transformation for subsequent analysis.

17

### 18 **Whole-brain network model of neurostimulation**

19 We first simulated the network effects of neurostimulation by considering the  
20 constructed connectome **F** as the resultant network of information spread or diffusion  
21 over a direct network **D**. The rationale here is that the local effect is the action of

1 stimulation imposed on the direct network **D**, and the globally distributed effect is the  
2 propagation result of the local effect on the direct network. As such, we adopted a  
3 network deconvolution algorithm<sup>57</sup> to derive a direct network **D** from the observed  
4 network **F**, and used the corresponding transformation rule, transitive closure, to  
5 simulate the global effects of local stimulation on a large-scale neuronal network. A  
6 detailed description of the modeling is provided in the Supplemental Information. We  
7 then denote a hypothetical neurostimulation event as a regulation operator **P**, which is  
8 imposed onto the direct network **D** (i.e.,  $\mathbf{D}' = \mathbf{D} \odot \mathbf{P}$ , where  $\odot$  is the element-wise  
9 product of two matrices). If neurostimulation targets one pair of bilateral loci, most **P**  
10 entries will have a value of one, with the exception of two columns and two rows that  
11 are directly connected to the locus. For simplicity, the same value that represents the  
12 neurostimulation strength is applied to the remaining entries in **P**: a value larger than  
13 one signifies up-regulation, whereas a value smaller than one indicates  
14 down-regulation (e.g., 1.5 represents a 50% up-regulation, 0.7 represents a 30%  
15 down-regulation). Finally, the neurostimulation-tuned direct network **D'** is  
16 convolved with transitive closure to obtain the post-neurostimulation connectivity  
17 matrix **F'** (Figure 1A).

18 The simulated outcome of neurostimulation was evaluated by quantitatively  
19 measuring the similarity between a group-averaged healthy matrix obtained from  
20 healthy subjects and an individual or group-averaged post-neurostimulation matrix  
21 obtained from PD patients. Connectomic similarity was quantified as the Pearson

1 correlation coefficient between two vectorized (concatenated by rows) upper triangles  
2 of the connectivity matrix. This index was appropriate to characterize the discriminant  
3 difference between HC and PD patients, as demonstrated in Figure S6A and S6B. In  
4 order to compare the outcomes across brain regions, individuals, and groups, we  
5 standardized all outcome similarities using *relative change*, defined as follows:

$$relative\ change = \frac{CC(poststim, healthy) - CC(prestim, healthy)}{CC(prestim, healthy)} \times 100\%$$

6 Relative change was used as a quantitative measure to represent the percentage  
7 improvement in connectomic similarity towards a healthy regime that is achieved by  
8 neurostimulation. The higher the connectomic similarity with the matrix of the  
9 healthy subject group, the better the simulated therapeutic effect is. At each targeted  
10 brain region, the up- or down-regulation magnitude that resulted in the highest  
11 *relative change* was deemed as the best strength. All target regions were then ranked  
12 according to their *relative change* at optimal neurostimulation strength. Higher ranks  
13 indicate desirable stimulation candidates with better therapeutic effects. All  
14 predictions were made at both single patient and patient group levels, as illustrated in  
15 Figure 1B.

16

### 17 **Study design, statistical analysis and cross-validation**

18 As a proof-of-principle study, we rigorously tested the robustness and consistency of  
19 the predicted results using various cross-validation procedures. To validate whether  
20 the model is biased by the inclusion or exclusion of subject data, we randomly

1 sampled half of the PD and HC groups 1000 times for predictions. Unblinding of  
2 between-group labels is also necessary to generate cross-validated prediction  
3 accuracies. We randomly sampled half of the HC group 1000 times as the “patient  
4 group” to validate whether the present strategy for target prediction is biased by the  
5 modeling *per se*. Moreover, we generated a new 1024-region parcellation template to  
6 examine whether the prediction of targets or strengths was biased by a specific brain  
7 parcellation scheme. As for the results of individual patients, we assessed the  
8 statistical significance (one sample t-test) and the effect size (Cohen’s *d* value) of the  
9 simulated therapeutic effects for all brain regions. We assigned the rank for each brain  
10 region across individuals and summarized the occurring times of the ranks. The  
11 optimal neurostimulation strength of each region for each individual patient was also  
12 plotted and summarized statistically (one sample t-test). For external validation, we  
13 repeated the same procedure using an independent public dataset (PPMI PD patients).

14 To reveal the extent of rectification of network topology achieved through  
15 neurostimulation, we conducted edge-wise statistical comparison between the two  
16 groups. The results of two sample t-tests after Bonferroni correction for multiple  
17 comparisons ( $p < 0.05$  corrected) were categorized into three types: removed  
18 abnormal connections (i.e., significantly different between the PD and HC groups  
19 before, but not after neurostimulation); newly emerged abnormal connections, and  
20 unchanged abnormal connections. Finally, to examine the relationship between the

1 predicted priority of brain regions and symptom severity, a Kendall rank correlation  
2 was calculated between each target's rank and UPDRS-III score for two datasets.

3

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17  
18

## 19 **Author contributions**

20 Z.W. and B.M.S. were responsible for the concept and the design of the study. X.Y.C.,  
21 C.C.Z., Y.X.L., W.W.Y., P.H., and S.D.C. acquired the data. X.Y.C., C.C.Z., Y.X.L.,  
22 Q.L., and P.H. analyzed all or parts of the data. X.Y.C., C.C.Z., Y.X.L., and Z.W.

1 drafted all or parts of the article, with input from other authors. Z.W., B.M.S., and

2 S.D.C. obtained the funding and supervised the study.

3

4 **Competing interests**

5 X.Y.C. and Z.W. have been named as inventors on submitted patents that predict

6 personalized targets for brain stimulation in individual patients.

7

8 **Supplementary Information** accompanies this paper available at online.

9

10

1 **Figure legends:**

2 **Figure 1** A schematic diagram of the whole-brain neurostimulation modeling in both  
3 population and individual levels. **(A)** The pre-neurostimulation functional brain  
4 connectome of an individual PD patient (red) is subjected to focal stimulation of a  
5 selected target site (yellow node), where neurostimulation generates globally  
6 distributed network effects to the whole brain (yellow edges), and then results in a  
7 post-neurostimulation connectome (pink). **(B)** Compared to the healthy connectome  
8 (middle, green), abnormal network topology in a single patient (left) or patient  
9 population (right) may be partially normalized by neurostimulation. The  
10 neurostimulation-induced topological rebalance effects can be assessed on both  
11 population-averaged and individual connectomes.

12

13 **Figure 2** Neurostimulation target prediction for the local PD group. **(A)** The highest  
14 relative changes of all brain regions after neurostimulation at the population level are  
15 plotted for the local cohort. The parcellated regions are shown on the Y-axis and  
16 categorized into frontal, insula, limbic, occipital, parietal, and temporal lobes, and the  
17 basal ganglia. **(B)** Relative change is plotted against varying neurostimulation  
18 strengths for each top-five target. Red bars mark the optimal neurostimulation  
19 strength with the largest relative change at each region.

20

1 **Figure 3** Neurostimulation target prediction for individual local PD patients. **(A)** In  
2 the left panel, the relative changes (x-axis) of all brain regions for each patient  
3 (denoted as dots) are plotted, in which the bar plot with error bars represents mean  
4  $\pm$  SEM (\* indicates top-five targets with statistical significance  $p < 10^{-11}$ , one sample  
5 t-test). The corresponding effect sizes (Cohen's *d* value) for each brain region are  
6 illustrated in the right panel. **(B)** In the left panel, a complete rank of all brain regions  
7 is plotted for each patient; the x-axis represents the patient ID in the local PD cohort.  
8 Top-five brain regions of each patient are highlighted with white color. In the right  
9 panel, the occurring frequencies of the best and top-five sites are counted and  
10 displayed as red and grey bars, respectively. The pie plot summarizes the occurring  
11 frequency of the best target for each patient of this local group.

12  
13 **Figure 4** Neurostimulation strength prediction for individual local PD patients. In the  
14 left panel, the optimal neurostimulation strengths for all regions for each patient of the  
15 local group are illustrated. The color bar represents the range of simulated  
16 neurostimulation strengths. In the right panel, the neurostimulation strengths (x-axis)  
17 of all regions are plotted for all patients (denoted as dots); the bar plot with error bars  
18 represents mean  $\pm$  SEM.

19  
20 **Figure 5** Prediction of neurostimulation target and strength for the public PD cohort.  
21 Predictive results of the public group including targets **(A)** and strengths **(B)** are

1 shown in the same manner as Figure 2. Predictive results of individual patients of this  
2 public group are shown in (C-E). In the left panel of (C), each dot stands for one  
3 patient, and the bar plot with error bars represents mean  $\pm$  SEM of the relative change  
4 (\*indicates top-five targets with statistical significance  $p < 10^{-20}$ , one sample t-test).

5

6 **Figure 6** Representative topological changes of the functional brain connectome  
7 induced by stimulating GP (A-E, top panel) and STN (F-J, bottom panel) for the local  
8 PD cohort. All involved brain regions (nodes, shown as red spheres) and connections  
9 (edges, shown as lines between nodes) were rendered on a transparent brain from  
10 superior (A) and inferior (B) axial view angles. As illustrated in C, all connections  
11 were categorized into different brain lobes. Green lines represent the removed  
12 abnormal connections that were significantly different between the local PD cohort  
13 and healthy comparison subject group ( $p < 0.05$  corrected) before, but not after,  
14 neurostimulation. Grey lines represent the remaining abnormal connections after  
15 neurostimulation ( $p < 0.05$  corrected). (D-E) Illustration of altered connections  
16 indicated by green and grey lines in (C). (F-J) Illustration of topological changes of  
17 functional connections if stimulating STN for the local PD cohort.

18



1

2

3 **Table 1.** Demographic and clinical characteristics of local PD patients, public PD  
4 patients and healthy comparison subjects.

5

	Local PD (N = 43)	Public PD (N = 90)	HC (N = 46)
Age (years)	62.00 ± 6.04	61.70 ± 10.33	31.37 ± 8.30
Gender (No. of males/females)	21/22	61/29	27/19
Duration of illness (years)	4.41 ± 2.54	2.24 ± 1.04	-
UPDRS-III	21.93 ± 11.39	-	-
MDS-UPDRS-III	-	21.28 ± 11.00	-
H-Y scale	1.62 ± 0.53	1.73 ± 0.47	-

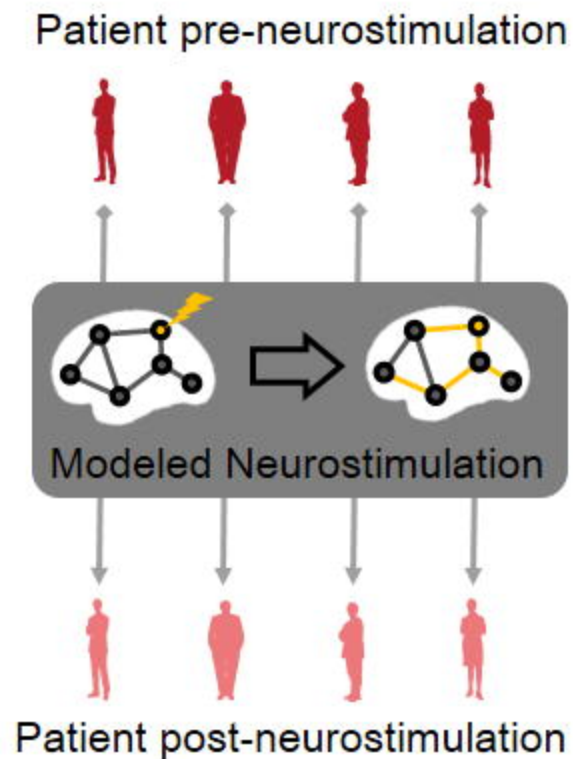
6 Values are mean ± SD. UPDRS-III, Unified Parkinson's Disease Rating Scale part III;  
7 MDS, Movement Disorder Society; H-Y scale, Hoehn and Yahr scale.

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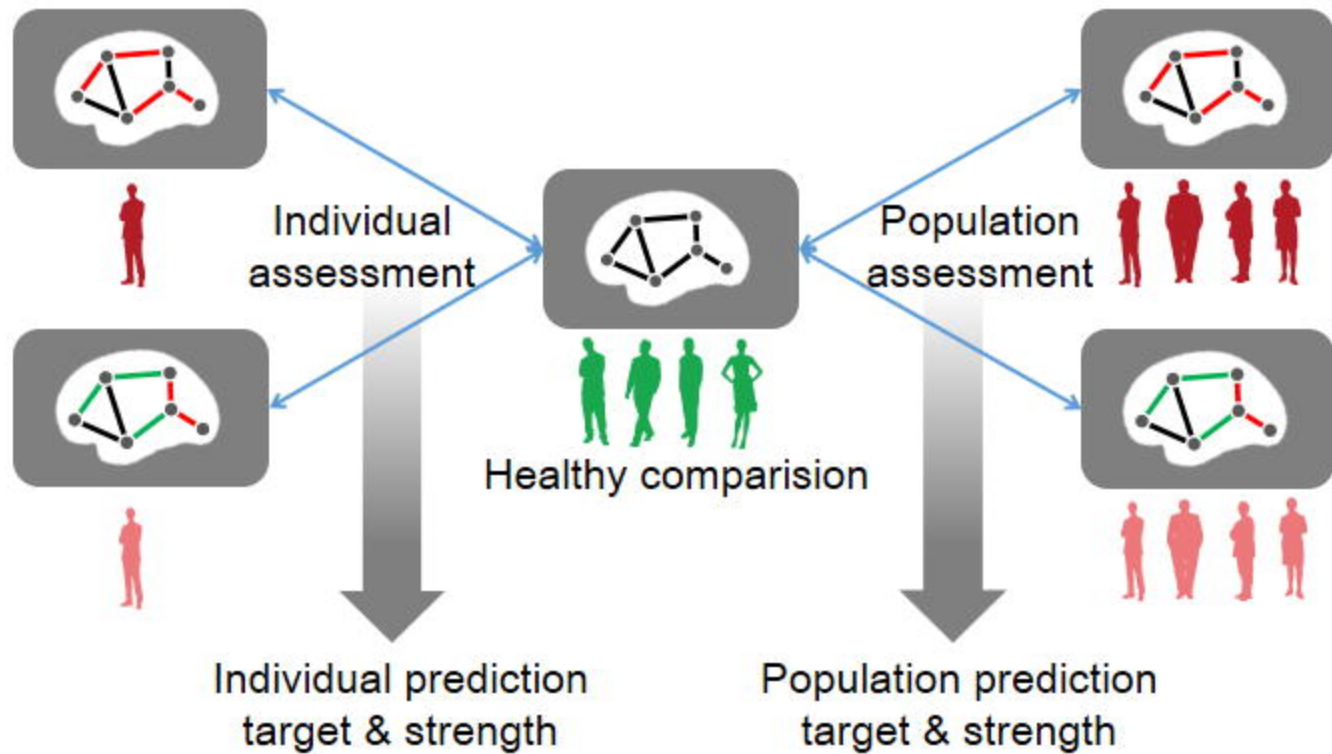
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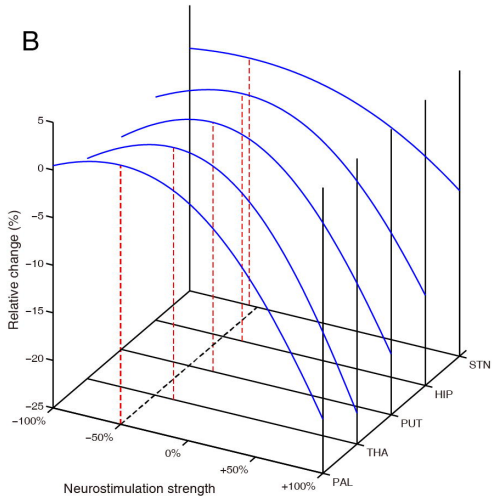
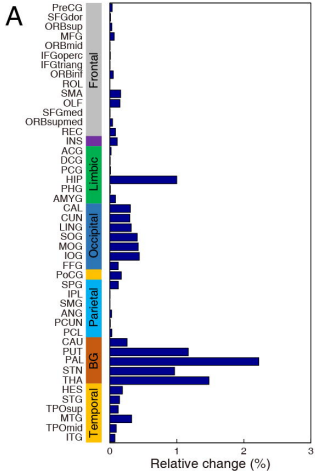
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A

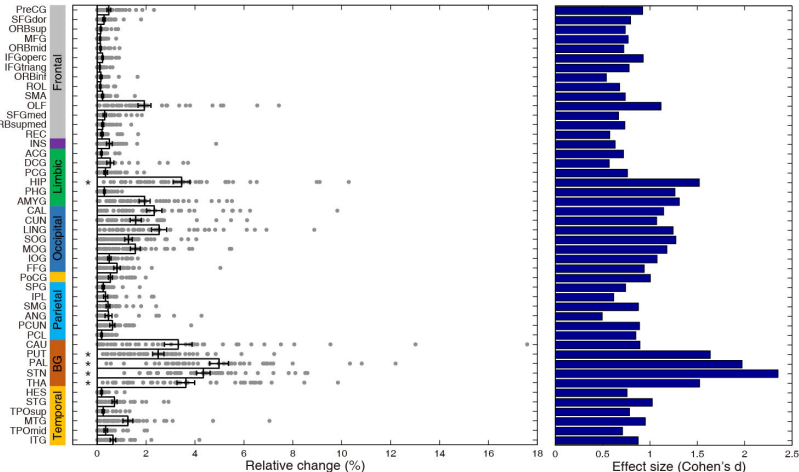


B

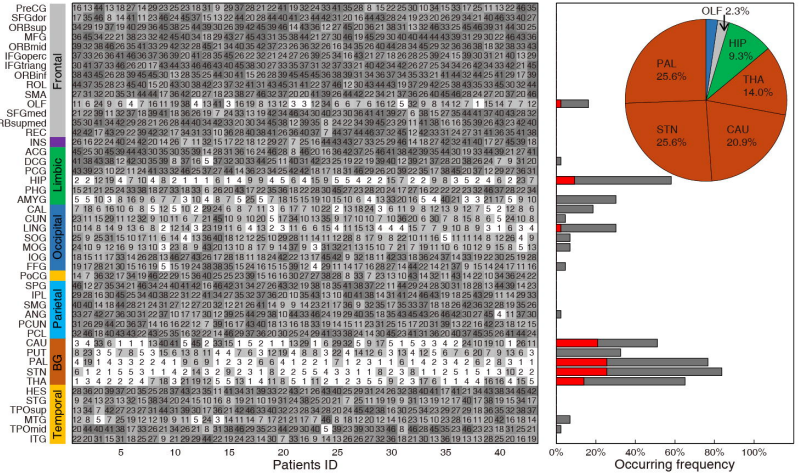




**A**



**B**



PreCG	16	13	44	13	18	27	14	29	25	25	18	31	9	29	37	28	21	22	11	10	32	24	33	41	38	28	8	15	22	25	30	10	34	15	8	11	13	22	46	30		
SFGdor	17	36	46	8	14	11	23	46	24	45	37	15	13	22	44	30	28	44	42	31	20	16	44	43	28	19	23	20	26	34	21	20	29	34	21	40	46	33	40	27		
ORBsup	18	29	31	38	45	38	25	40	38	29	49	45	39	14	18	36	12	27	80	30	21	38	31	132	46	33	26	46	39	31	44	23	25	44	30	31	44	23	25			
ORBmid	38	45	34	22	38	23	42	45	40	18	29	43	27	45	43	31	20	30	46	19	45	29	40	40	44	44	43	39	31	20	32	46	43	38	22	46	43	38				
IFoperc	39	32	38	26	41	33	29	42	32	28	45	21	34	40	35	42	37	26	38	32	26	16	34	25	26	40	44	29	36	38	18	19	32	33	43	38	38	38	38			
IFGiang	37	33	26	41	46	37	30	39	20	41	28	35	45	22	31	24	27	26	39	25	14	16	43	21	16	43	21	18	26	25	39	24	15	38	30	31	21	40	13	20		
ORBinf	30	41	47	46	40	27	17	43	45	16	46	43	40	45	30	27	33	25	27	31	32	37	23	41	40	42	34	49	27	25	34	26	42	34	42	34	42	16	38	42	16	
ROL	38	43	45	26	38	45	46	30	13	28	35	25	44	30	15	26	39	45	45	45	36	38	39	31	34	36	37	34	35	33	21	41	44	34	24	25	41	29	17	39		
SMA	44	37	35	28	38	45	40	15	30	38	42	23	37	41	31	43	45	41	45	27	40	12	30	43	44	13	17	29	42	25	38	43	36	43	36	40	34	30	42	34		
OLF	11	6	24	9	6	4	7	16	11	19	38	4	13	8	3	16	19	8	13	2	3	12	3	6	7	6	16	12	5	8	1	4	12	1	15	14	7	12	1	2		
SFGmed	12	29	11	32	17	19	41	18	26	19	7	24	13	19	19	42	14	46	34	30	40	23	30	36	41	41	39	2	6	38	15	35	44	41	40	40	40	42	38	38		
ORBsupmed	5	31	43	24	32	29	28	40	29	44	34	42	30	34	45	38	12	19	35	8	24	23	19	45	23	11	41	38	16	15	38	26	43	2	40	40	40	40	40	40		
REC	42	42	17	45	29	32	39	42	37	34	31	33	10	26	28	40	37	44	37	44	37	44	37	44	37	44	37	44	37	44	37	44	37	44	37	44	37	44	37	44	37	44
INS	16	26	12	24	42	20	14	26	7	1	32	15	12	18	27	27	25	16	44	43	32	25	29	44	18	12	42	32	41	27	45	19	42	32	41	27	45	19	42	32	41	
ACG	45	25	30	45	34	30	35	30	38	14	29	31	36	16	24	28	8	40	20	16	42	37	25	46	41	38	42	36	35	44	10	33	44	32	41	27	45	19	42	32	41	
PCG	15	38	43	23	14	6	9	16	5	17	32	33	44	25	11	6	40	42	25	19	19	35	40	12	38	1	37	20	28	16	9	1	9	12	1	9	12	1	9	12	1	9
HIP	13	3	29	12	21	14	41	33	24	25	37	44	14	38	23	34	25	42	44	18	17	18	1	31	46	26	20	36	22	18	45	11	38	40	12	29	27	35	31	2	2	2
AMYG	7	2	12	19	7	10	4	8	2	1	9	4	5	6	4	15	9	5	4	2	2	15	7	2	2	9	8	5	2	4	6	2	9	7	2	9	7	2	9	7	2	
CAL	5	18	6	10	6	8	5	12	5	10	4	7	11	3	6	7	18	15	19	10	15	10	4	13	20	16	5	4	10	3	21	7	9	5	10	7	8	10	6	8	5	10
CUN	23	11	15	28	11	12	38	9	10	11	7	21	40	10	20	5	17	40	13	38	11	10	7	10	36	20	6	8	7	15	16	8	7	15	16	8	7	15	16	8	7	15
OCG	10	14	8	10	13	6	8	12	14	3	23	19	11	6	4	13	2	1	6	15	4	4	15	7	9	10	8	9	1	3	1	6	3	1	6	3	1	6	3	1	6	
MOG	24	9	12	16	13	10	3	23	9	4	20	13	10	8	17	14	9	3	31	32	13	15	10	7	21	19	11	10	12	15	5	13	12	15	5	13	12	15	5	13	12	15
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PCG	14	7	36	32	17	34	19	46	22	25	23	38	15	16	10	32	27	38	28	8	7	23	13	10	43	14	38	11	43	12	11	34	36	24	34	36	24	34	36	24	34	36
SFG	18	17	23	25	13	38	17	38	13	6	26	17	29	38	16	22	30	46	23	28	20	24	17	16	22	22	22	38	16	22	22	38	16	22	22	38	16	22	22	38	16	
IPL	15	23	11	12	38	9	10	11	7	21	40	10	20	5	17	40	13	38	11	10	7	10	36	20	6	8	7	15	16	8	7	15	16	8	7	15	16	8	7	15	16	
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SMA	24	9	12	16	13	10	3	23	9	4	20	13	10	8	17	14	9	3	31	32	13	15	10	7	21	19	11	10	12	15	5	13	12	15	5	13	12	15	5	13	12	
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TPOpus	10	14	7	42	27	27	31	64	31	36	17	30	21	46	33	40	32	23	24	26	20	24	45	42	16	20	25	34	23	29	29	19	36	25	32	39	27					

