Quantifying differences between passive and task-evoked intrinsic functional connectivity in a large-scale brain simulation

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Abstract

Establishing a connection between intrinsic and task-evoked brain activity is critical because it would provide a way to map task-related brain regions in patients unable to comply with such tasks. A crucial question within this realm is to what extent the execution of a cognitive task affects the intrinsic activity of brain regions not involved in the task. Computational models can be useful to answer this question because they allow us to distinguish task from non-task neural elements while giving us the effects of task execution on non-task regions of interest at the neuroimaging level. The quantification of those effects in a computational model would represent a step towards elucidating the intrinsic versus task-evoked connection. Here we used computational modeling and graph theoretical metrics to quantify changes in intrinsic functional brain connectivity due to task execution. We used our Large-Scale Neural Modeling framework to embed a computational model of visual short-term memory into an empirically derived connectome. We simulated a neuroimaging study consisting of ten subjects performing passive fixation (PF), passive viewing (PV) and delay match-to-sample (DMS) tasks. We used the simulated BOLD fMRI time-series to calculate functional connectivity (FC) matrices and used those matrices to compute several graph theoretical measures. After determining that the simulated graph theoretical measures were largely consistent with experiments, we were able to quantify the differences between the graph metrics of the PF condition and those of the PV and DMS conditions. Thus, we show that we can use graph theoretical methods applied to simulated brain networks to aid in the quantification of changes in intrinsic brain functional connectivity during task execution. Our results represent a step towards establishing a connection between intrinsic and task-related brain activity.

Author Summary

Studies of resting-state conditions are popular in neuroimaging. Participants in resting-state studies are instructed to fixate on a neutral image or to close their eyes. This type of study has advantages over traditional task-based studies, including its ability to allow participation of those with difficulties performing tasks. Further, a resting-state neuroimaging study reveals intrinsic activity of participants' brains. However, task-related brain activity may change this intrinsic activity, much as a stone thrown in a lake causes ripples on the water's surface. Can we measure those activity changes? To answer that question, we merged a computational model of visual short-term memory (task regions) with an anatomical model incorporating major connections between brain regions (non-task regions). In a computational model, unlike real data, we know how different regions are connected and which regions are doing the task. First, we simulated neuronal and neuroimaging activity of both task and non-task regions during three conditions: passive fixation (baseline), passive viewing, and visual short-term memory. Then, applying graph theory to the simulated neuroimaging of non-task regions, we computed differences between the baseline and the other conditions. Our results show that we can measure changes in non-task regions due to brain activity changes in task-related regions.

52 **INTRODUCTION**

53 Recently, there has been significant interest in investigating the relationship between intrinsic
54 and task-evoked brain activity. This interest is driven by the potential to discover information
55 contained in intrinsic brain activity that would reveal the repertoire of functional brain
56 networks used to execute goal-directed tasks (Cole, Bassett, Power, Braver, & Petersen, 2014).
57 Intrinsic and task-evoked activity are strongly interdependent (Bolt, Anderson, & Uddin, 2017)
58 and understanding this interdependence holds the promise of providing a link between resting
59 state and task-based empirical findings (Cole et al., 2014). Furthermore, the establishment of a
60 clear relationship between intrinsic and task brain activity would allow the mapping of task-
61 related brain areas in patients unable to comply with such tasks (Branco et al., 2016; Liu et al.,
62 2009)

63

64 Neuroimaging studies have shown that performance of a cognitive task alters the intrinsic
65 functional connectivity in non-task related brain regions (Bluhm et al., 2011; Tommasin et al.,
66 2017; Vatansever, Menon, Manktelow, Sahakian, & Stamatakis, 2015). Bluhm and colleagues,
67 for example, found increases in functional connectivity between two "default network" brain
68 regions (posterior cingulate / precuneus and medial prefrontal cortex) and the rest of the brain
69 during a visual working memory task as compared to a passive fixation task. In another study,
70 Tommasin and colleagues found reductions in functional connectivity between brain regions
71 within the "default mode network" (DMN) during an auditory working memory task as
72 compared to an eyes-open resting state (RS) task. Similarly, Vatansever and colleagues found

reductions in functional connectivity within DMN brain regions during a motor task as compared to a RS task.

A very powerful tool that has been used to quantify changes in intrinsic functional connectivity due to task execution employs graph theoretical methods (Adams, Shipp, & Friston, 2013; Bolt, Nomi, Rubinov, & Uddin, 2017; Cohen & D'Esposito, 2016; Fuertinger, Horwitz, & Simonyan, 2015; Krienen, Yeo, & Buckner, 2014; Moussa et al., 2011). Graph theoretical metrics have been used in the last decade to study functional and structural brain networks as they provide ways to quantify both global network organization and local network properties (Bolt, Nomi, et al., 2017; Rubinov & Sporns, 2010).

A recent computational study (Lee, Bullmore, & Frangou, 2017) demonstrated the reliability of graph theoretical metrics obtained from simulated intrinsic brain activity. Lee and colleagues modeled brain regions as Kuramoto oscillators coupled by weights extracted from a structural connectome (Hagmann et al., 2008). After finding an optimal functional connectivity matrix (one that resembled the RS empirical connectivity matrix), they set out to compute global and local network metrics and compared them to empirically-obtained graph metrics during the resting state. They found that simulated brain activity can be reasonably used to model graph theoretical metrics of brain organization.

However, there is a need to test the use of graph theoretical metrics on simulated intrinsic activity during task execution. We aimed to use computational modeling and graph theoretical metrics to quantify differences in intrinsic functional brain connectivity of non-task-related

95 brain regions due to increasing task demands. We used a large-scale computational model of
96 visual processing (Horwitz et al., 2005; Tagamets & Horwitz, 1998; Ulloa & Horwitz, 2016)
97 embedded in a structural connectome (Hagmann et al., 2008) to examine differences in
98 intrinsic neural activity between three conditions: passive fixation (PF), passive viewing (PV),
99 and a visual delayed match-to-sample (DMS) task. Specifically, we set out to investigate
100 whether computational modeling and graph theoretical metrics could be used to quantify and
101 understand intrinsic neural activity changes in non-task brain regions due to increasing task
102 demands.
103
104 **RESULTS**
105 To perform the current study, we embedded a biologically realistic model of visual short-term
106 memory (Tagamets & Horwitz, 1998), shown in Figure 1, into an anatomical skeleton defined by
107 a 998-node structural connectome (Hagmann et al., 2008), shown in Figure 2, using a blend of
108 our large-scale neural model (LSNM) simulator (Ulloa & Horwitz, 2016) and the Virtual Brain
109 (TVB) simulator (Sanz Leon et al., 2013). The visual short-term memory model comprises brain
110 regions that are directly involved in performing a delayed match-to-sample (DMS) task for
111 visual objects. The structural connectome was added to provide neural noise to the simulated
112 neural activity during the DMS task, and in return, to receive inputs back from the DMS task
113 nodes. We have described our framework in a previous paper (Ulloa & Horwitz, 2016) where
114 we focused on the fMRI BOLD signal generation during the DMS task. In the current work, we
115 sought to analyze the FC configurations in brain regions not driving task execution. These 'non-
116 task' brain regions exhibit intrinsic activity and because of their reciprocal connections with

task-specific brain regions, their neural activity can potentially be modulated during task execution.

We generated ten virtual subjects by randomly varying the connection weights among brain regions in the structural visual model (see Methods section for details). We created three experimental conditions: passive fixation (PF), during which simulated subjects with a low "task signal" (roughly equivalent to subjects' attention level during task execution, but see Methods for definition of this parameter) are fixating on a small dot; passive viewing (PV), during which subjects passively look at visual shapes; and a DMS task, during which subjects compared two shapes presented within 1.5 seconds of each other and responded whether the second shape matched the memory of the first. Each simulated subject performed one 198-second experiment that consisted of 3-trial blocks interspersed with rest blocks (see Methods section for details).

Changes in BOLD activity of non-task brain regions due to different task conditions.

Figure 3 shows typical (averaged across neuronal populations within each brain region) neuronal activity for each condition for task-related brain regions during one trial. Figure 3 shows the task regions increasing activity due to both stimuli presentation (V1, V4, IT, PF), short-term memory maintenance (D1, D2), and response (FR). This increase occurs in the PV and DMS conditions (green and red lines) but not in the PF condition (blue line). Thus, the stimulus used in the PF condition (a small dot) does not generate visible changes in the neuronal activity of task regions. The details of the task-related responses shown in Figure 3

139 have been discussed in detail in previous papers (Horwitz et al., 2005; Ulloa & Horwitz, 2016).
140 Figure 4 shows the BOLD signal averaged across those brain regions with direct anatomical
141 connections to task regions. Figure 2 shows a graphical depiction of the non-task nodes that are
142 directly connected to task nodes. Notice how BOLD activity increases during the task blocks
143 (shaded areas) and how they do so more prominently during DMS than during PV and during PV
144 than during PF. Also notice how that BOLD activity change is larger for some of the brain
145 regions with direct connections to IT, FS, D1, D2, FR than those regions with direct connections
146 to V1 and V4. This is due to variations in the strength of the connecting weights from task-
147 related nodes to non-task nodes. As we can see in Figure 4, changes in all task-related brain
148 regions correlate with BOLD signal changes in non-task brain regions directly connected to
149 them.
150
151 **Intrinsic FC differences between PF, PV and DMS conditions.**
152 We computed FC matrices for the three simulated conditions and for all subjects. Figure 5
153 shows across-subject averages of FC matrices for the three conditions. Figure 6 shows scatter
154 plots between PF and PV and between PF and DMS conditions. As shown in Figure 6, the
155 correlation coefficients between PF and both PV and DMS were high (0.90 and 0.83,
156 respectively), demonstrating only small differences in the pair-wise consistency of functional
157 connections across conditions. As noted above, these correlation matrices consist only of
158 connectome nodes (e.g., no LSNM task-based nodes were used to construct these matrices). In
159 summary, there were small changes in the pair-wise functional connectivity between PF and PV
160 and between PF and DMS conditions.

Graph theoretical metrics of PF, PV, and DMS conditions.

Using graph theoretical methods (Rubinov & Sporns, 2010), we computed eight network metrics (see Methods section for definition of each metric): global and local efficiencies, average clustering coefficient, characteristic path length, eigenvector centrality, betweenness centrality, participation coefficient, and modularity. We calculated these metrics using weighted FC matrices for a range of plausible threshold densities (Di, Gohel, Kim, & Biswal, 2013). Figure 7 shows across-subject averages of those metrics for a range of network densities (Di et al., 2013). Figure 7 shows that as the task changed from PF to PV to DMS, there was an increase in global efficiency, local efficiency, average clustering coefficient and average betweenness centrality (mostly at the lowest threshold studied, 5%), and modularity. Conversely, as the task changed from PF to PV to DMS, there was a decrease in average characteristic path length, average eigenvector centrality, and average participation coefficient.

Differences in graph metrics between PF and PV and between PF and DMS.

For each graph metric obtained, we computed the relative difference (see Methods section for details) between PF and PV and between PF and DMS (see Figure 8). We observed significant differences between PF and PV and between PF and DMS in modularity (54.2 $\pm$ 8% and 81.3 $\pm$ 11.6%, respectively), eigenvector centrality (16.3 $\pm$ 1.7% and 22.1 $\pm$ 1.8%, respectively) and clustering coefficient (7.9 $\pm$ 1.3% and 12.7 $\pm$ 2%); smaller changes in global efficiency (1.7 $\pm$ 0.2% and 2.4 $\pm$ 0.3), local efficiency (2.2 $\pm$ 0.3% and 3.2 $\pm$ 0.4%), characteristic path length (1.7

182 ± 0.1% and 2.3 ± 0.3%), betweenness centrality (1.6 ± 0.3% and 2.6 ± 0.4%), and participation
183 coefficient (0.2 ± 0.1% and 0.4 ± 0.1%).
184
185 **Differences in modularity between conditions.**
186 To further visualize the large differences in modularity configurations during the three
187 simulated conditions, we rendered the binary FC network in each condition as connection space
188 graphs using Gephi (Bastian, Heymann, & Jacomy, 2009); www.gephi.org). We used the
189 algorithm of Blondel et al (Blondel, Guillaume, Lambiotte, & Lefebvre, 2008) to find the
190 modularity at a density threshold of 10%. Figure 10 shows connection space graphs displayed
191 on a radial axis layout (axis have a slight spiral to improve visualization of inter-module
192 connectivity). Nodes that belong to the same module are represented by the same color and
193 group together on the same radial axis. The connections between nodes have the color of the
194 node where those connections originate. We can see a decrease in the number of modules,
195 from 8 in PF to 6 in PV to 3 in DMS and an increase in modularity (see increase in modularity
196 graph in Figure 7). The increase in modularity from PF to PV to DMS means that the functional
197 network rearranges itself into fewer modules with more functional connections between nodes
198 within the same module (compare the very clearly defined modules in DMS versus PF and DMS
199 versus PV in Figure 10). We emphasize again that these results refer to non-task related nodes.
200
201 **DISCUSSION**
202 Using a large-scale computational model of visual short-term memory embedded into an
203 anatomical connectome, we compared simulated intrinsic brain activity of non-task related

204 brain regions during three tasks: passive fixation (PF), during which simulated subjects with a
205 low “task signal” or “attention” level are fixating on visual stimuli (a small dot); passive viewing
206 (PV), during which subjects passively watch changing visual shapes but take no action; and a
207 DMS task, during which subjects compared two shapes presented within 1.5 seconds of each
208 other and responded whether the second shape matched the memory of the first. The PF
209 condition may be considered equivalent to a resting state condition as a passive fixation task
210 has been often used in RS fMRI studies. The key difference between the PF and the PV
211 conditions was that the stimulus during the PF condition was an unchanging small dot whereas
212 in the PV condition several different and larger stimuli were presented. The key difference
213 between the PV and the DMS conditions was the level of the “task” or attention signal, which
214 was set to a low level in the PV condition and to a high level during the DMS condition. As
215 discussed in the Methods section, the task signal level determines whether an input stimulus is
216 going to be retained in short-term memory (Horwitz et al., 2005). Additionally, because of
217 feedback connections from D1 in prefrontal cortex to IT and V4 (see model diagram in Figure 1),
218 the task signal level indirectly influences neuronal activity in V1, V4, and IT (compare neuronal
219 activity in V1, V4, and IT during different conditions in Figure 3).
220
221 To quantify differences between PF, PV and DMS conditions, we used pair-wise temporal
222 Pearson correlations (FC matrices) and graph theory metrics of fMRI FC matrices. Whereas we
223 found small differences between the FC matrices of the simulated conditions, these differences
224 we not particularly impressive. However, we found clear-cut differences in each of the graph
225 theory metrics: Graded increases from PF to PV to DMS in global efficiency, local efficiency,

clustering coefficient, betweenness centrality and modularity; and graded decreases in the from PF to PV to DMS in characteristic path length, eigenvector centrality, and average participation coefficient. Our simulated graph theory results largely agreed with empirical studies.

In our computer simulations, the intrinsic brain activity across different conditions is modulated by ongoing neural activity in brain regions engaged in each task (task brain regions). This modulation happens through the strength of the anatomical connections of those brain regions to the rest of the brain (non-task brain regions, see Figure 2).

When the brain engages in a behavioral task, the activity in neuronal populations driving the task has the potential of reverberating throughout the brain, thereby altering the intrinsic neural activity of neuronal populations not involved in the task. A crucial question is whether one can quantify those changes in intrinsic functional connectivity. Computational modeling can be useful in this regard, as it allows us to isolate non-task from task neuronal populations and to convert simulated synaptic activity into neuroimaging time-series which in turn can be converted to FC matrices.

A commonly used method to simulate the resting state is by modeling local neuronal populations with oscillators and using the structural connections obtained from diffusion tractography as connection weights between the model neuronal populations. A parameter search is then conducted to find a global coupling parameter and a white matter conduction

248 speed producing a simulated FC matrix that best matches an empirical FC matrix (Cabral,
249 Hugues, Sporns, & Deco, 2011; Ghosh, Rho, McIntosh, Kotter, & Jirsa, 2008; Gilson, Moreno-
250 Bote, Ponce-Alvarez, Ritter, & Deco, 2016; Hansen, Battaglia, Spiegler, Deco, & Jirsa, 2015;
251 Honey et al., 2009; Lee et al., 2017; Roy et al., 2014; Sanz-Leon, Knock, Spiegler, & Jirsa, 2015).
252 This is the method we used to generate intrinsic activity in the "rest of the brain" of our
253 simulations.
254
255 **Consistency of pair-wise functional connectivity across task conditions**
256 There was a high correlation between the pairs in the FC connectivity matrices between PF and
257 PV and between PF and DMS (Figure 6). Several researchers have used pair-wise spatial
258 correlations between functional connectivity (FC) matrices to compare intrinsic to task-evoked
259 conditions (Bolt, Nomi, et al., 2017; Buckner et al., 2009; Cohen & D'Esposito, 2016; Cole et al.,
260 2014; Di et al., 2013; Krienen et al., 2014; Smith et al., 2009). Generally, there is a relatively high
261 spatial correlation (i.e., 0.64 – 0.9) between a passive condition (such as visual fixation or eyes
262 closed, which are often used to study intrinsic brain activity) and a task condition. Despite such
263 high correlations, differences do exist between passive and task FC, and those differences may
264 be attributable to functional modifications that allow the brain to focus on performing a given
265 task (DeSalvo, Douw, Takaya, Liu, & Stufflebeam, 2014; Di et al., 2013; Tomasi, Wang, Wang, &
266 Volkow, 2014).
267
268 Bolt and colleagues (Bolt, Nomi, et al., 2017) recently showed that one can have largely
269 consistent FC between passive and task conditions, and at the same time have largely different

whole-brain graph theoretical metrics between passive and task conditions. However, a description of the mechanisms behind those seemingly divergent results has not yet been provided.

Increases in Global Efficiency

Our study resulted in higher global efficiency for DMS than for PV and for PV than for PF. During the simulated PF condition, the stimuli used is small and mostly activates V1/V2 and V4 and IT areas to a small degree (blue lines in Figure 3), During the PV condition, the larger stimuli used causes an increase of neuronal activity in V1/V2, V4, IT, FS, D1, D2, FR (as shown in the trial time-series of Figure 3, green lines), thereby contributing to an increase in neuronal activity of non-task nodes directly connected to task nodes (see green lines in the shaded areas of the time-series in Figure 4). During the DMS condition, the neuronal activity across the task brain regions is higher than during the PV condition (red lines in Figure 3). This increase in neuronal activity of task brain regions contributes to an increase in neuronal activity of several of the non-task brain regions with direct connections to task regions during PV and DMS conditions as compared to PF condition (see Figure 4). As shown in the FC matrices of Figure 5, there is an increase in the correlation of several pair-wise connections from PF to PV to DMS. This increase in functional connectivity contributed to a consistent increase in global efficiency from PF to PV to DMS (Figure 7).

Graph theoretical measures in empirical studies have consistently shown higher global efficiency during task than during passive conditions (although this could depend on the

292 complexity of the task, but see (Cohen and D'Esposito 2016)). The global efficiency has been
293 found to be higher during a task than during passive fixation (Bolt, Nomi, et al., 2017; Cohen &
294 D'Esposito, 2016), higher during a task than during an eyes closed condition (Fuertinger et al.,
295 2015), greater during a one-back visual memory task than during passive viewing and an eyes
296 closed condition (Wen et al., 2015), and higher for coactivation studies than during RS (Di et al.,
297 2013). In our simulations, the global efficiency is higher during DMS than during PV and PV. This
298 is due to the short-memory task causing an increase of neural activity in brain regions that are
299 in turn connected to a widely distributed network in the rest of the brain.
300
301 **Increases in Local efficiency**
302 Our simulations showed a greater local efficiency for DMS than for PV and for DMS than for PF.
303 This is consistent with empirical studies showing an increase in local efficiency with increasing
304 task demands (Wen et al., 2015).
305
306 **Increases in Clustering Coefficient**
307 Our simulations showed a greater clustering coefficient during DMS than during PV and during
308 PV than during PF. Previous empirical studies have found a clustering coefficient that is greater
309 for task than during passive fixation (Bolt, Nomi, et al., 2017), lower during a blend of activation
310 studies than during resting state (Di et al., 2013), and greater during a language task than
311 during eyes closed (Fuertinger et al., 2015).
312
313 **Increases in characteristic path length**

Our simulations showed smaller characteristic path length during DMS than during PV and during PV than during PF. This is to be expected because as the global efficiency increases, the characteristic path length decreases.

Decreases in mean Eigenvector Centrality

Our simulations showed smaller eigenvector centrality during DMS than during PV and during PV than during PF. The eigenvector centrality metric provides a measure of how well connected a given node is considering how well connected that node's neighbors are. Thus, eigenvector centrality is recursive because a given node's eigenvector centrality depends on the node's neighbors' eigenvector centrality. To get a more detailed view of the reason behind smaller mean eigenvector centrality for more complex tasks (Figure 7), we rendered the eigenvector centrality for each node on axial and sagittal views of the brain (Figure 9A). Figure 9A shows that as the task complexity increases (from PF to PV to DMS) the eigenvector centrality increases in a few nodes and decreases in most other nodes. Thus, on average the eigenvector centrality decreases but the nodal eigenvector centrality in a few nodes increases as the task complexity increases. Note that several of the nodes in which the eigenvector centrality increases during PF and DMS are the nodes that are directly connected to task nodes (compare to Figure 2). The reason the increases are concentrated on the right side of the brain is due to the task nodes, which are embedded in the right side of the brain, having direct connections mostly to the right side of the brain (see Figure 2). Compare the changes in eigenvector centrality with the changes in betweenness centrality (Figure 7) which remain almost the same during PF, PV and DMS (Figure 9B).

336

337 **Increases in Betweenness Centrality**

338 Our simulations show a higher betweenness centrality at the lower density threshold (5%) but
339 the average betweenness centrality is very similar across all the other density thresholds
340 (Figure 7). As mentioned above, the betweenness centrality at each individual node (Figure 9B)
341 remains relatively constant across conditions. Previous empirical studies have shown a
342 difference in nodal centrality when resting state and task are compared (Di et al., 2013).

343

344 **Decreases in Participation Coefficient**

345 Our simulations showed greater participation coefficient (in a predefined set of modules) for PF
346 than for PV and for PV than for DMS (Figure 7). Participation coefficient measures each node
347 participation in a set of predefined modules. We used the modules defined by Hagmann et al
348 (Hagmann et al., 2008). Previous studies have shown a higher participation coefficient
349 (between-module connectivity) during passive fixation than during a semantic task (DeSalvo et
350 al., 2014).

351

352 **Increases in Modularity**

353 Our simulations showed a smaller modularity for PF than for PV and for PF than for DMS. Some
354 empirical studies have found a greater modularity metric during RS than during a blend of
355 activation studies (Di et al., 2013), and a greater modularity during passive fixation than during
356 an n-back task using visually-presented phonemes (Cohen & D'Esposito, 2016). However, Cohen
357 et al (Cohen & D'Esposito, 2016) found a similar modularity during passive fixation and a finger

358 tapping task. Other empirical studies have found that that the modularity varies as a function of
359 performance, but here the evidence is also inconsistent. For example, Stevens et al (Stevens,
360 Tappon, Garg, & Fair, 2012) found a positive correlation between RS modularity and visual
361 working memory capacity and Meunier et al (Meunier et al., 2014) found a negative correlation
362 between modularity and memory scores in an odor recognition task. Additionally, Yue et al (Yue
363 et al., 2017) have found significant individual variability in modularity during resting state.
364
365 **Related computational studies comparing resting state and task-based functional**
366 **connectivity.**
367 Two previous computational approaches have compared the intrinsic brain activity obtained
368 during resting state versus the one obtained during task; however, none of those models was
369 specifically concerned with quantifying intrinsic activity differences between different task
370 conditions (which is the goal of our paper). The first one of those studies, by Ponce-Alvarez and
371 colleagues (Ponce-Alvarez, He, Hagmann, & Deco, 2015) simulated RS using a set of mean field
372 equations (excitatory-inhibitory pairs) interconnected by the anatomical connections of a 66-
373 node connectome. A visual task was approximated by applying external stimulation (stationary
374 inputs) to visual nodes during the RS simulation. Ponce-Alvarez's model revealed a decreased
375 synaptic activity variability during the visual task as compared to the RS condition.
376
377 The second computational study comparing task versus rest (Cole, Ito, Bassett, & Schultz, 2016)
378 similarly applied stationary inputs to a set of neighboring nodes in a simplified computational
379 model to simulate six different tasks. Cole and colleagues used the FC strengths during a

380 passive task to predict the fMRI task activation of a held-out brain region. They did this for each
381 one of the brain areas simulated to produce a prediction of the fMRI activity in each one of the
382 brain areas simulated given a passive task FC matrix.
383
384 **Caveats and limitations of our study**
385 Different passive experimental conditions have been used in neuroimaging to study intrinsic
386 brain activity (also referred to as the "resting state (RS)") (Biswal, Yetkin, Haughton, & Hyde,
387 1995; Fox, Corbetta, Snyder, Vincent, & Raichle, 2006; Greicius, Krasnow, Reiss, & Menon,
388 2003). Three of the conditions most commonly used as a resting state condition are passive
389 fixation (PF), eyes open with no fixation, and eyes closed. Yan and colleagues (Yan et al., 2009)
390 found significantly higher FC in Default Mode Network (DMN) brain areas during eyes open
391 than during eyes closed condition. It is also important to emphasize that the functional
392 magnetic resonance (fMRI) results can vary depending on several other factors including: how a
393 RS task is defined (Van Dijk et al., 2010; Yan et al., 2009), which task instructions are given to
394 subjects (Benjamin et al., 2010), and whether subjects were engaged in a task prior to RS
395 (Waites, Stanislavsky, Abbott, & Jackson, 2005). Thus, whereas one can compare (within the
396 limitations outlined below) the results of our study with empirical studies using passive fixation,
397 our results cannot be directly extrapolated to all RS-fMRI studies.
398
399 One way in which the simulations presented here are different from our previous paper (Ulloa
400 & Horwitz, 2016) is that the model response units have been relocated from prefrontal cortex
401 to PreSMA. The relocation of the response units to PreSMA is based on an fMRI study by

402 (Pessoa, Gutierrez, Bandettini, & Ungerleider, 2002), who found an increase in BOLD fMRI in
403 the PreSMA area at the end of the delay period during a visual working memory task.
404 Additionally, a study by (Petit, Courtney, Ungerleider, & Haxby, 1998) has also demonstrated
405 BOLD fMRI activity in the PreSMA area during a working memory task. The relocation from
406 previous studies from our lab of the model response units to PreSMA makes biological sense as
407 it better reflects the complexity of the task we are trying to simulate. The identification of
408 realistic locations within the brain for each one of the model units is crucial as different
409 locations of task-related modules will modulate different non-task nodes in the connectome,
410 thereby producing different FC configurations.
411
412 One of the limitations of our study is that our model connectome does not have other sensory
413 systems apart from the visual system. Therefore, one should exercise caution when comparing
414 FC matrices of our simulation to empirical ones as the empirical ones would contain higher FC
415 that are the result of other sensory systems being activated by either intrinsic or extrinsic
416 processes. For example, in an fMRI scanner room, there is significant auditory stimulation
417 (scanner noise) as well as somatosensory input, which we have not simulated in the present
418 work.
419
420 In our simulations, we only embedded the visual model in the right hemisphere. As a result, the
421 intrinsic activity was mostly localized to the right hemisphere. Nonetheless, there were
422 significant intrinsic activity changes in the left hemisphere, and those were caused by structural
423 connectivity between both hemispheres.

Another limitation of our study is that the weights of the structural connectome used in this paper are undirected and we assumed all connection weights to be excitatory. It is well known that diffusion tractography has serious limitations as it produces a significant number of false positives (Maier-Hein et al., 2017), has relatively low resolution and measures white tracts only indirectly (Jbabdi, Sotiropoulos, Haber, Van Essen, & Behrens, 2015). Some researchers have simulated whole brain activity using connectome datasets obtained from reconstructions of retrograde tracer injections in macaques (Chaudhuri, Knoblauch, Gariel, Kennedy, & Wang, 2015) or a composite of diffusion spectrum imaging in humans and macaque tracer data (Sanz-Leon et al., 2015). Despite the low resolution and lack of sign and direction of the human tractography data, we decided to use it as it allowed the "brain regions" of our task based simulator to be embedded into plausible locations within the structural connectome.

CONCLUSIONS

In conclusion, we used our large-scale neural modeling framework to quantitatively compare neural dynamics of non-task brain regions during passive fixation, passive viewing, and a visual short-term memory task. We were able to obtain quantitative measures of differences in simulated functional connectivity by using graph theoretical methods. Our simulated graph theory results largely agreed with experiments. We were also able to relate those network-level changes to the underlying model mechanisms. We showed that we can use computational modeling, functional connectivity and graph theoretical metrics to quantify changes in intrinsic FC of non-task brain regions due to increasing task demands. Our work is relevant to the

446 characterization of intrinsic brain activity differences between passive and active task
447 conditions and to the use of neural modeling in the design of empirical studies and the
448 comparison of competing hypothesis of brain function.
449
450 **METHODS**
451 In the present work, we analyzed functional connectivity derived from BOLD fMRI time-series,
452 calculated from simulated neural activity data using the framework presented in a previous
453 paper (Ulloa & Horwitz, 2016). Whereas in our previous paper we evaluated the FC between
454 brain regions directly involved in executing a task, in the present paper we examined the
455 intrinsic FC in the rest of the brain (brain regions not involved in task execution). To better
456 address that question, we performed a model parameter search to find a reasonable match
457 between empirical and model FC. Below we briefly describe the components of the framework
458 and how it was used to generate the simulated multi-subject experiment presented in this
459 study. The source code of our modeling work, including simulation, analysis and visualization
460 scripts, is freely available at https://nidcd.github.io/lsnm_in_python/.
461
462 **Visual object processing model and The Virtual Brain**
463 *a. Visual object processing model*
464 Our in-house visual (Tagamets & Horwitz, 1998) object processing model consists of
465 interconnected neuronal populations representing the cortical ventral pathway that has been
466 shown to process primarily the features of a visual object. This stream begins in striate visual
467 cortex, extends into the inferior temporal lobe and projects into ventrolateral prefrontal cortex

468 (Haxby et al., 1991; McIntosh et al., 1994; Ungerleider & Mishkin, 1982). The regions that
469 comprise the visual model include ones representing primary and secondary visual cortex
470 (V1/V2), area V4, anterior inferotemporal cortex (IT), and prefrontal cortex (PFC) (see Fig. 1).
471 Each of these regions contain one or more neural populations with different functional
472 attributes (see caption to Fig. 1 for details). This model was designed to perform a short-term
473 memory delayed match-to-sample (DMS) task during each trial of which a stimulus S1 is
474 presented for a certain amount of time, followed by a delay period in which S1 must be kept in
475 short-term memory. When a second stimulus (S2) is presented, the model must respond as to
476 whether S2 matches S1. The model can also perform control tasks: passive fixation (PF) and
477 passive perception of the stimuli (PV), in which no response is required. Multiple trials of the
478 active and passive tasks constitute a simulated functional neuroimaging study.

479 The key feature used to define a visual object was shape. Model neurons in V1/V2 and
480 V4 were assumed to be orientation selective (for simplicity, horizontal and vertical orientations
481 were used). The structural submodels employed were based on known monkey
482 neuroanatomical data. An important assumption for the visual model, inferred from such
483 experimental data, was that the spatial receptive field on neurons increased along the ventral
484 processing pathway (see (Tagamets & Horwitz, 1998) for details).

485 Each neuronal population consisted of 81 microcircuits, each representing a cortical
486 column. The model employed modified Wilson-Cowan units (an interacting excitatory and
487 inhibitory pair of elements for which spike rate was the measure of output neural activity) as
488 the microcircuit (Wilson & Cowan, 1972). The input synaptic activity to each neuronal unit can

489 also be evaluated and combinations of this input activity were related to the fMRI BOLD signals
490 via a forward model.

491 In an earlier version of the model (Horwitz et al., 2005), half the neural populations
492 within the model were 'non task-specific' neurons that served as noise generators to 'task-
493 specific' neurons that processed shapes during the DMS task. The model generated time series
494 of simulated electrical neuronal and synaptic activity for each module that represents a brain
495 region. The time series of synaptic activity, convolved with a hemodynamic response function,
496 was then used to compute simulated fMRI BOLD signal for each module representing a brain
497 region, as well as functional connectivity among key brain regions (see (Horwitz et al., 2005) for
498 details on this method). This model was able to perform the DMS task, generate simulated
499 neural activities in the various brain regions that matches empirical data from non-human
500 preparations, and produces simulated functional neuroimaging data that generally agree with
501 human experimental findings (see (Tagamets & Horwitz, 1998) and (Horwitz et al., 2005) for
502 details). In the current paper, we employ the version of the model introduced by Ulloa and
503 Horwitz (Ulloa & Horwitz, 2016) in which non task-specific neurons are replaced by noise-
504 generated activity from neural elements in The Virtual Brain software simulator (Sanz Leon et
505 al., 2013).

506

507 *b. The Virtual Brain*

508 The Virtual Brain (TVB) software (Sanz Leon et al., 2013; Sanz-Leon et al., 2015) is a simulator of
509 primarily resting state brain activity that combines: (i) white matter structural connections
510 among brain regions to simulate long-range connections, and (ii) a given neuronal population

511 model to simulate local brain activity. It also employs forward models that convert simulated
512 neural activity into simulated functional neuroimaging data. TVB source code and
513 documentation are freely available from https://github.com/the-virtual-brain.
514 In the current paper, for the structural model, we chose the DSI-based connectome described
515 by (Hagmann et al., 2008), which contains 998 nodes. For the neural model for each node, we
516 employed Wilson-Cowan population neuronal units (Wilson & Cowan, 1972) to model the local
517 brain activity because our in-house LSNM simulators use modified Wilson-Cowan equations as
518 their basic neuronal unit. Our forward model that converts simulated neural activity into
519 simulated fMRI is a modification of the Balloon-Windkessel model of Friston et al. (Friston,
520 Mechelli, Turner, & Price, 2000; Stephan, Marshall, Penny, Friston, & Fink, 2007) that is
521 included in the TVB.

522

523 **Integrating TVB and LSNM**

524 To perform our computational study, we concurrently ran two neural simulators: Our Large-
525 Scale Neural Model (LSNM) simulator, which generated task-driven neural activity of the brain
526 regions directly involved in the visual DMS task, and The Virtual Brain simulator (TVB) (Sanz
527 Leon et al., 2013) to generate resting-state neural activity in the brain regions not involved in
528 the task. Because the task-based brain nodes were embedded within resting-state brain ROIs,
529 we expected that the neuroimaging activity in key connectome ROIs would differ between
530 passive fixation (PF), passive viewing (PV), and task-based simulations. Here, we sought to

quantify those differences, first by comparing the pattern of functional connectivity across conditions, then by using graph theoretical methods to quantify those differences.

Within the LSNM, connections and parameter choices closely follow those in the original papers. Likewise, the connections and parameter choices among TVB nodes closely follow those described by Sanz-Leon et al. (Sanz-Leon et al., 2015). There are two differences between the simulations presented in this paper and the previous (Ulloa & Horwitz, 2016) paper: The location of the FR units has been changed to PreSMA and the global coupling parameter has been changed (after a parameter search procedure detailed below).

a. Task-based model node placement in the TVB

The connectome derived by Hagmann and colleagues (Hagmann et al., 2008) serves as a source of neural noise to our task-based neural model. Such a connectome was obtained by averaging the weighted network of five experimental subjects, where each one of the 998 nodes represents a region of interest covering a surface area of approximately 1.5 cm^2. The connection weights among the nodes represent cortico-cortical connections given by white matter connection density among the given nodes. As stated above, each node is represented by a Wilson-Cowan population unit and thus each node is assumed to be comprised of one excitatory and one inhibitory neural population. We implemented noise as an additive term to the stochastic Euler integration scheme provided by the TVB software.

The locations of the four PFC nodes (FS, D1, D2, FR) require some comment. The inclusion of these four neural populations in the original LSNMs was based on the

552 electrophysiological studies of Funahashi et al. (Funahashi, Bruce, & Goldman-Rakic, 1990) that
553 found in monkey PFC four distinct neuronal responses during a delayed response task: neurons
554 that (1) increased their activity when a stimulus was present (FS), (2) increased their activity
555 during the delay part of the task (D1), (3) increased their activity during both when a stimulus
556 was present and during the delay period (D2), and (4) increased their activity prior to making a
557 correct response (FR). It is not known if these neuronal types are found in separate anatomical
558 locations in PFC or are intermixed within the same brain area, although the latter is the more
559 likely case (except possibly for the FR population). In the original modeling studies of Tagamets
560 and Horwitz (Tagamets & Horwitz, 1998) and Husain et al. (Husain, Tagamets, Fromm, Braun, &
561 Horwitz, 2004), the functional neuroimaging data represented a single region that included all
562 four nodes. To illustrate the integrated synaptic activity and fMRI signal for each one of the
563 modules of the combined LSNM / TVB model separately, we have assigned a different spatial
564 location to each one of the four PFC sub-modules. We have used the Talairach coordinates of
565 the prefrontal cortex, based on (Haxby et al., 1991), for the submodule D1 and have designated
566 spatial locations in adjacent regions of interest for the FS and D2 submodules. The FR
567 submodule has been allocated to a spatial location determined by an fMRI study of working
568 memory in humans (Pessoa et al., 2002). See Table 1 for coordinate locations of each
569 module/submodule of the visual short-term memory nodes within the structural connectome.

570 *b. Simulating electrical activity and fMRI activity*

571 Electrical activities of each node in Hagmann's connectome (TVB equations)

Each one of the nodes in Hagmann's connectome is represented as a Wilson-Cowan model of excitatory (E) and inhibitory (I) neuronal populations, as described in Sanz-Leon et al. (Sanz-Leon et al., 2015):

$$\frac{dE_i}{dt} = \frac{1}{\tau_E}\left(-E_i + (k_E - r_E E_i)S_E\left[\alpha_E\left(c_{EE}E_i - c_{IE}I_i - \theta_E + \mathbf{\Gamma}\left(E_i, E, u_{ij}\right)\right)\right]\right)$$

and

$$\frac{dI_i}{dt} = \frac{1}{\tau_I}\left(-I_i + (k_I - r_I I_i)S_I\left[\alpha_I\left(c_{EI}E_i - c_{II}I_i - \theta_I + \mathbf{\Gamma}\left(E_i, E, u_{ij}\right)\right)\right]\right)$$

where S_E and S_I are sigmoid functions described by

$$S_a[f(\varphi)] = \frac{c}{1 + e^{\left(-a(f(\varphi_a)-b)\right)}}$$

$c_{EE}, c_{EI}, c_{II}, c_{IE}$ are the connections within the single neuronal unit itself; note that, although the original TVB Wilson-Cowan population model allows us to consider the influence of a local neighborhood of neuronal populations, we have not used this feature in our current simulations and have left that term out of the equations above; $\mathbf{\Gamma}(E_k, E, u_{kj})$ is the long-range coupling function, defined as

$$\mathbf{\Gamma}(E_i, E, u_{ij}) = a_\Gamma \left(\sum_{j=1}^{l} u_{ij} E_j(t - \tau_{ij}) + \sum_{j=1}^{n} u_{ij} E_j(t - \tau_{ij}) \right)$$

where l is the number of nodes in the connectome and *n* is the number of LSNM units connected to a connectome node; a_Γ is a global coupling parameter (see Supplementary Table S1 and Table S2 for the definition and value of the parameters in the above equations).

<u>Electrical activities of each LSNM unit</u>

Each one of the submodules of the LSNM model contains 81 neuronal population units. Each one of those units is modeled as a Wilson-Cowan population of excitatory (E) and inhibitory (I) elements. The electrical activities of each one of those elements at time *t* is given by the following equations:

$$\frac{dE_i(t)}{dt} = \Delta \left(\frac{1}{1 + e^{-K_E[w_{EE}E_i(t) + w_{IE}I_i(t) + in_{iE}(t) - \phi_E + N(t)]}} \right) - \delta E_i(t)$$

and

$$\frac{dI_i(t)}{dt} = \Delta \left(\frac{1}{1 + e^{-K_I[w_{EI}E_i(t) + in_{iI}(t) - \phi_I + N(t)]}} \right) - \delta I_i(t)$$

where Δ is the rate of change, δ is the rate of decay, K_E, K_I are gain constants, ϕ_E, ϕ_I are input threshold values, $N(t)$ is a noise term, w_{EE}, w_{IE}, w_{EI} are the weights within a unit (the values of $\Delta, \delta, K, \tau, N$ are given in the Supplementary Table S3); $in_{iE}(t), in_{iI}(t)$ are the inputs coming from other brain regions at time t. $in_{iE}(t)$ is given by:

$$in_{iE}(t) = \sum_j w_{ji}^E E_j(t) + \sum_j w_{ji}^I I_j(t) + \sum_j c_{ji} z_{ji}^C C_j(t)$$

where w_{ji}^E and w_{ji}^I are the weights originating from excitatory (E) or inhibitory (I) unit *j* from another LSNM unit into the *i*th excitatory element, C_j is the connectome excitatory unit *j* with connections to the LSNM unit *i*, z_{ji}^C is the value of the anatomical connection weight from connectome unit *j* to LSNM unit *i*, and $c_{ji}$is a coupling term, which was obtained by using Python's Gaussian pseudo-random number generator (*random.gauss*), using $a_\Gamma/81$ as the mean value. The input coming into the *i*th inhibitory element, $in_{iI}(t)$, is given by:

$$in_{iI}(t) = \sum_k w_{ki}^E E_k(t) + \sum_k w_{ki}^I I_k(t)$$

where w_{ki}^E and w_{ki}^I are the weights originating from excitatory (E) or inhibitory (I) unit *k* from another LSNM unit into the *i*th inhibitory element. Note that there are no connections from the connectome to LSNM inhibitory units. See Supplementary Tables S4 and S5 for details. Note also that, whereas TVB simulator incorporates transmission delay among the connectome nodes, the LSNM nodes do not.

<u>Integrated synaptic activity</u>

Prior to computing fMRI BOLD activities we compute the synaptic activity, spatially integrated over each LSNM module (or connectome node) and temporally integrated over 50 milliseconds as described by (Horwitz & Tagamets, 1999)

$$rSYN = \sum_{t,i} IN_i(t)$$

where $IN_i(t)$ is the sum of absolute values of all inputs to both *E* and *I* elements of unit *i*, at time *t*, and is given by:

$$IN_i(t) = w_{EE}E_i(t) + w_{EI}E_i(t) + |w_{IE}I_i(t)| + \sum_{k,i} w_{ki}E_k(t)$$

Note that the first three terms above are the synaptic weights from within unit *i* and the last term is the sum of synaptic connections originating in all other LSNM units and connectome nodes connected to unit *i*. Note also that, in our current scheme, there are no long-range connections from inhibitory populations.

<u>Generation of subjects and task performance of the LSNM model</u>

We generated simulated subjects by creating several different sets of connection weights among submodules of the LSNM visual network until we obtained the number of desired subjects whose task performance was above 60 percent. However, the weights among the nodes with the TVB connectome remained unchanged across subjects. The generation of different connectome sets to simulate individual subjects is outside the scope of the current paper but will be essential for future simulation studies investigating the effects of a behavioral task on non-task brain nodes. Task performance was measured as the proportion of correct

responses over an experiment. A response in the response module (FR, described in the caption to Fig. 1) was considered a correct response in each trial if at least 2 units had neuronal electrical responses above a threshold of 0.7 during the response period. To create different sets of weights that were different from the ideal subject, we multiplied feedforward connections among modules in the LSNM visual model by a random proportion of between 0.95 and 1.

Equations for the forward fMRI BOLD model

We implemented the BOLD signal model described by (Stephan et al., 2007). We use the output of the integrated synaptic activity above as the neural state equation to the hemodynamic state equations below. The BOLD signal for each region of interest, *y(t)*, is computed as follows:

$$y(t) = V_0\left(k_1(1-q(t)) + k_2\left(1-\frac{q(t)}{v(t)}\right) + k_3(1-v(t))\right).$$

where the coefficients k_1, k_2, k_3 are computed as:

$$k_1 = 4.3\vartheta_0 E_0 TE$$

$$k_2 = \varepsilon r_0 E_0 TE$$

$$k_3 = 1-\varepsilon$$

where V_0 is the resting venous blood volume fraction, q is the deoxyhemoglobin content, v is the venous blood volume, E_0 is the oxygen extraction fraction at rest, ε is the ratio of intra- and extravascular signals, and r_0-is the slope of the relation between the intravascular relaxation rate and oxygen saturation, ϑ_0 is the frequency offset at the outer surface of the magnetized vessel for fully deoxygenated blood at 3T, and TE is the echo time. The evolution of the venous blood volume v and deoxyhemoglobin content q is given by the balloon model hemodynamic state equations, as follows:

$$\tau_0 \frac{dv}{dt} = f(t) - v(t)^{1/\alpha}$$

$$\tau_0 \frac{dq}{dt} = f(t) \frac{1 - (1 - E_0)^{1/f}}{E_0} - v(t)^{1/\alpha} \frac{q(t)}{v(t)}$$

where τ_0-is the hemodynamics transit time, αrepresents the resistance of the venous balloon (vessel stiffness), and $f(t)$ is the blood inflow at time t and is given by

$$\frac{df}{dt} = s$$

where s is an exponentially decaying, vasodilatory signal given by

$$\frac{ds}{dt} = \epsilon x(t) - \frac{s(t)}{\tau_s} - \frac{(f(t) - 1)}{\tau_f}$$

695 where $\epsilon$is the efficacy with which neuronal activity *x(t)* (i.e., integrated synaptic activity) causes
696 an increase in signal, τ_s-is the time constant for signal decay, and τ_f-is the time constant for
697 autoregulatory feedback from blood flow (Friston et al., 2000). See Supplementary Table S6 for
698 the values of the above parameters. The simulated fMRI BOLD time series resulting from the
699 above equations were low-pass filtered (<0.25Hz) and down-sampled every two seconds.
700
701 **Resting State parameter exploration**
702 We performed a global parameter exploration (for which we used exclusively the TVB simulator
703 and the structural connectome with no task nodes) to obtain a reasonable match between
704 empirical and model FC (Cabral et al., 2011). We obtained the empirical functional connectivity
705 datasets from (Hagmann et al., 2008) which we used as a target for our simulated FC. Note that
706 we used a low resolution (66 nodes) FC of matrices to perform the comparisons between
707 empirical and resting state simulations (Honey et al., 2009): We transformed all correlation
708 coefficients to Fisher's Z values and averaged the FC matrices across subjects within each
709 condition. We then calculated low-resolution (66 ROIs) matrices (each ROI corresponding to a
710 brain region in the Desikan-Killiany parcellation (Desikan et al., 2006) for each condition
711 (Hagmann et al., 2008; Honey et al., 2009) by averaging FC coefficients within each one of the
712 low-resolution ROIs (Hagmann et al., 2008) and converted back to correlation coefficients using
713 an inverse Fisher's Z transformation. We systematically varied the global coupling parameter
714 (a_Γ in the long-range coupling equation above) and the white matter conduction speed and
715 conducted a 198-second resting state simulation for each parameter combination. We
716 calculated a Pearson correlation coefficient between the model FC matrix (for each parameter

717 combination) and the empirical FC matrix. Then, we chose the parameter combination that
718 gave us the highest correlation value and used that combination for the PF, PV and DMS
719 simulations of our study. The global strength parameter range used was between 0.0042 and
720 0.15 with a step of 0.01. The conduction speed parameter range used was between 1 and 10
721 m/s with a step of 1. The best combination of parameters was (0.15, 3) which yielded a
722 correlation value between simulated and empirical FC of r=0.37. Note that absent structural
723 connections were removed from this correlation calculation as in (Honey et al., 2009), but not
724 in the rest of the paper.
725
726 **From RS to PF, PV, and DMS**
727 After finding an optimal match between empirical and simulated RS, we performed a simulation
728 of RS with stimulation in visual task nodes using only the TVB simulator (Sanz-Leon et al., 2015).
729 The correlation between RS FC and RS with stimulation FC was 0.90. Subsequently, we used a
730 blend of our LSNM simulator and TVB to simulated PF. The correlation between RS with
731 stimulation and PF was 0.9. As a last step, we performed a DMS simulation and compared it to
732 the PF simulation (correlation was 0.79). Thus, we used a TVB RS simulation (matched to
733 empirical RS) as a starting point for our PF and task-based simulations.
734
735 **Network construction**
736 The simulations were performed using the TVB simulator with the 998-node Hagmann
737 connectome and the LSNM visual short-term memory simulator described above. We isolated
738 the synaptic activity timeseries of connectome nodes from the task nodes' synaptic activity. We

739 used the Balloon model to estimate fMRI BOLD activation over each one of the 998 nodes, for
740 each condition, and for each subject separately. We calculated zero lag Pearson correlation
741 coefficients for each pair of the BOLD timeseries to obtain a FC matrix for each condition and
742 for each subject. We used the weighted FC matrices within each condition to construct graphs
743 where each one of the 998 ROIs corresponded to a graph node and the correlation coefficients
744 between each pair of ROIs corresponded to graph edges (Bolt, Nomi, et al., 2017; Di et al.,
745 2013). To keep the same number of edges across conditions, we thresholded the network
746 edges to a sparsity level of between 5% and 40% (Di et al., 2013) with a step size of 5%.
747
748 **Graph theory analysis**
749 A set of eight graph theoretical metrics (global efficiency, local efficiency, clustering coefficient,
750 characteristic path length, eigenvector centrality, betweenness centrality, participation
751 coefficient, and modularity) were calculated using the FC matrices for each of the conditions
752 using the Brain Connectivity Toolbox (Rubinov & Sporns, 2010) in Python, publicly available at
753 https://github.com/aestrivex/bctpy. We calculated graph metrics for each individual FC matrix,
754 for each condition and for each density threshold. Then we calculated the average and standard
755 deviation of each graph metric for each density threshold.
756 *Global efficiency* (Latora & Marchiori, 2001) measures "functional integration" (Rubinov &
757 Sporns, 2010) and indicates how well nodes are coupled through functional connections across
758 the entire brain. Global efficiency is calculated as the average inverse shortest path length
759 (Rubinov & Sporns, 2010). *Local efficiency* is the inverse of the average shortest path
760 connecting a given node to its neighbors (Lee et al., 2017). *Clustering coefficient* (Watts &

761 Strogatz, 1998) is a measure of "functional segregation" (Rubinov & Sporns, 2010). The
762 clustering coefficient of a network node is the proportion of the given node's neighbors that are
763 functionally connected to each other. Whole brain clustering coefficient is calculated as the
764 average of the clustering coefficients in a functional connectivity matrix (Rubinov & Sporns,
765 2010). *Characteristic path length* is the average shortest path length between all node pairs in a
766 network (Rubinov & Sporns, 2010). *Eigenvector centrality* is a measure of centrality that
767 considers degree of a given node and degree of that node's neighbors (Fornito, Zalesky, &
768 Bullmore, 2016 2016). Betweenness centrality is the fraction of shortest paths that cross a given
769 network node (Rubinov & Sporns, 2010). *Participation coefficient* is a measure of each node's
770 participation in a given set of network communities. We used a set of six network communities
771 for the participation coefficient calculation, as shown in Table S1 of (Hagmann et al., 2008),
772 Table S1. *Modularity* (Newman, 2004) is a metric of functional segregation and it detects
773 community structure in a network by dividing a functional connectivity matrix into sets of non-
774 overlapping modules and it measures how well a network can be divided into those modules
775 (Rubinov & Sporns, 2010).
776
777 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**
778 Table S1. Parameters used in the Wilson-Cowan equation for each connectome within TVB.
779 Table S2. Parameters used for simulating the Hagmann connectome within the TVB simulator.
780 Table S3. Parameters used in the Wilson-Cowan unit model of each LSNM submodule.
781 Table S4. Connection patterns among submodules of the LSNM model.
782 Table S5. Connection weights among submodules in the prefrontal cortex regions of LSNM.

Table S6. Parameters used for the Balloon model of hemodynamic response.

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1004 **Table 1.** Hypothesized locations, in Talairach coordinates, of visual LSNM modules, along with
1005 the closest node in the Hagmann et al. connectome. Note that the locations of FS and D2 are
1006 not explicitly known (see text) and were chosen only to demonstrate validity of the method**.**
1007

Visual submodule	Talairach location	Source	Host connectome node
V1/V2	(18, -88, 8)	(Haxby, Ungerleider, Horwitz, Rapoport, & Grady, 1995)	(14, -86, 7)
V4	(30, -72, -12)	(Haxby et al., 1995)	(33, -70, -7)
IT	(28, -36, -8)	(Haxby et al., 1995)	(31, -39, -6)
FS	Location selected for illustrative purposes		(47, 19, 9)
D1	(42, 26, 20)	(Haxby et al., 1995)	(43, 29, 21)
D2	Location selected for illustrative purposes		(42, 39, 2)
FR	(1, 7, 48)	(Pessoa et al., 2002)	(8, 6, 50)

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1009

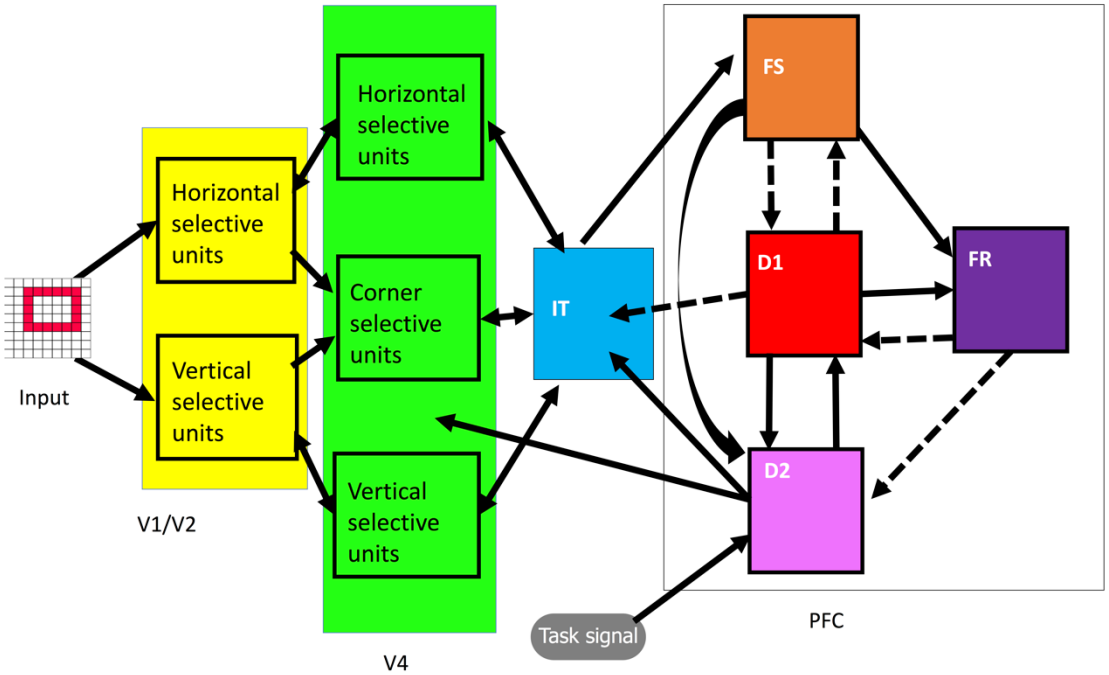


Figure 1. Visual short-term memory model consisted of interconnected neural populations that represent primary and secondary visual (V1/V2, V4), inferotemporal (IT), and prefrontal cortex (PFC). Each one of the sub-modules (shown above as squares) within a given brain module is modeled with 81 (9x9) modified Wilson-Cowan neuronal population units. Solid arrows represent Excitatory to Excitatory connections and dashed arrows represent Excitatory to Inhibitory connections. Adapted from (Horwitz et al., 2005).

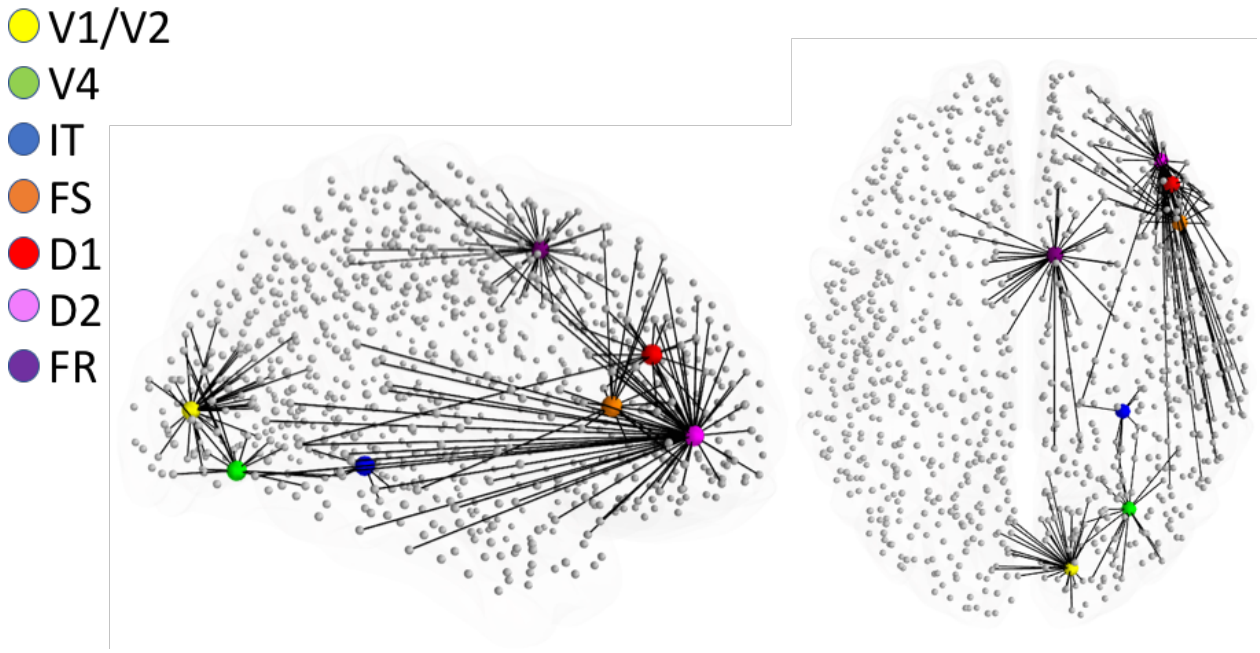


Figure 2. Graphical representation of the location where each of the visual short-term memory nodes was embedded within Hagmann's connectome (Hagmann et al., 2008). Also shown are direct anatomical connections to connectome nodes from each one of the embedded LSNM nodes.

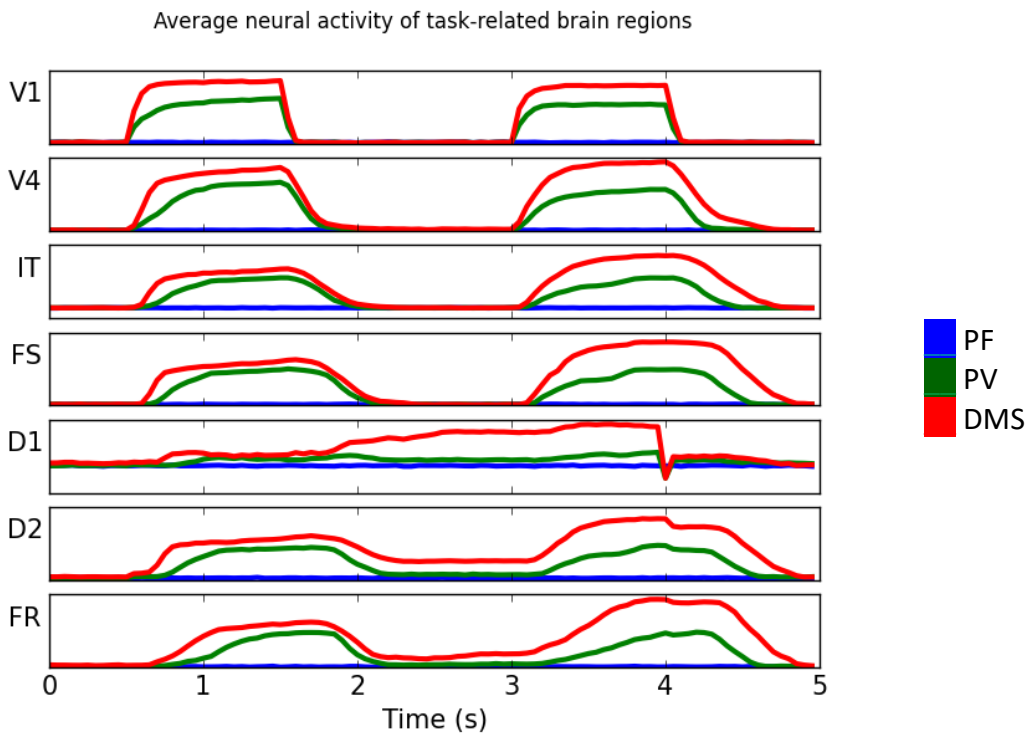


Figure 3. Typical electrical and in neuronal populations of task-related brain regions during one trail of each of the simulated conditions. Key: PF (blue line), PV (green line), DMS (red line). What is shown is the average across all cortical columns in a brain region.

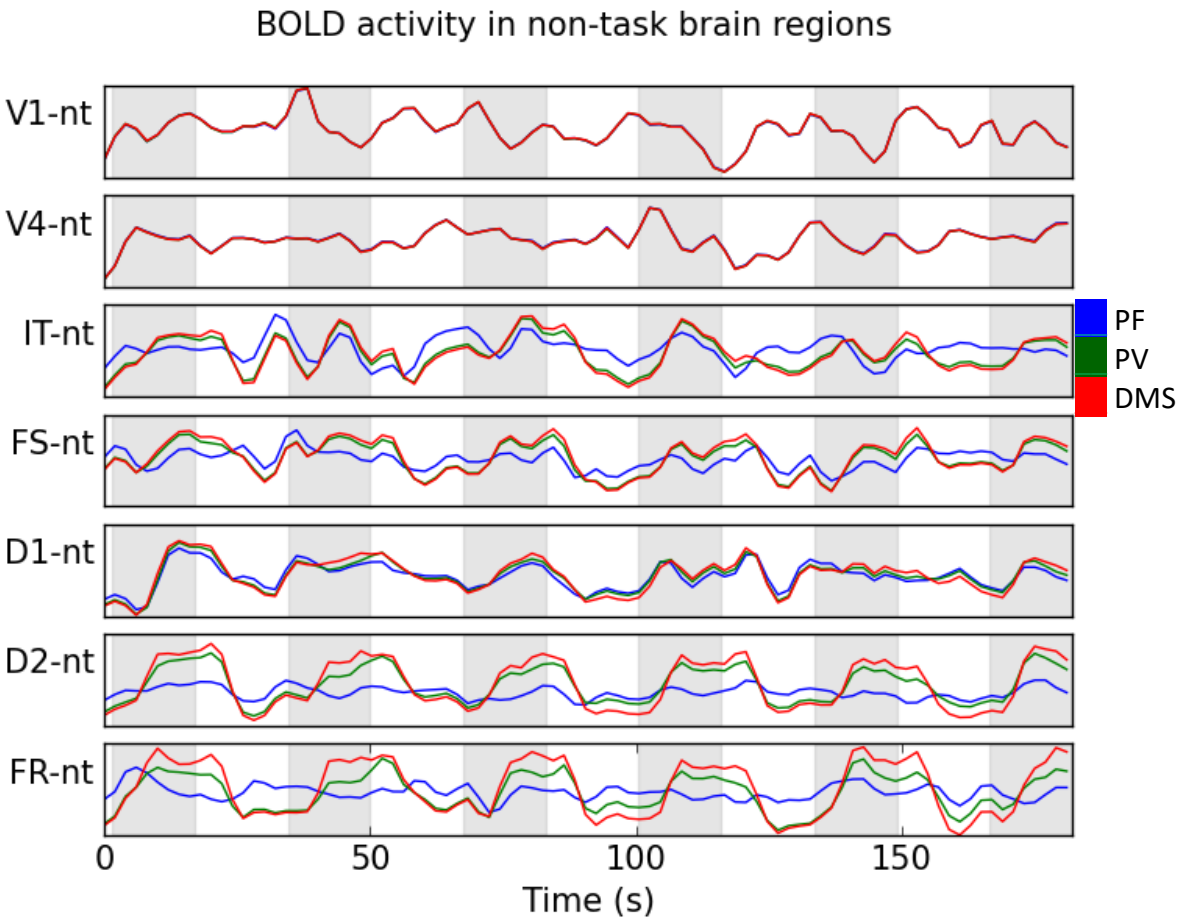
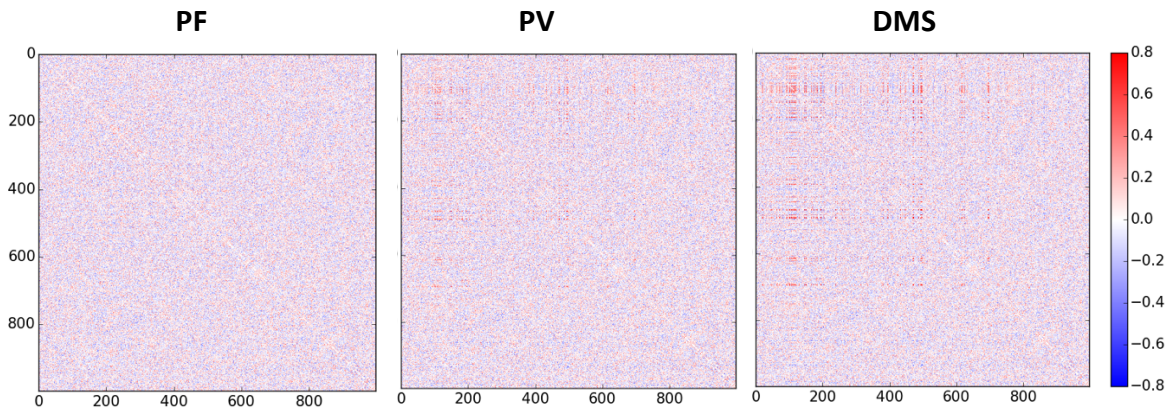
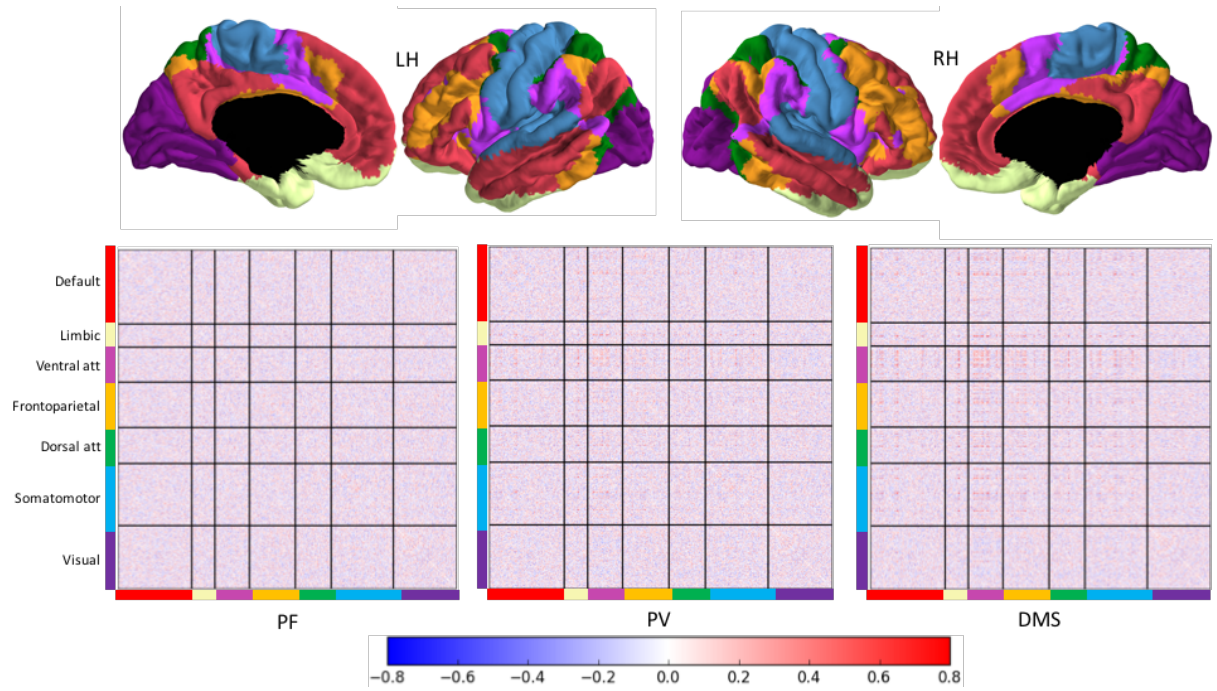


Figure 4. Average BOLD signal of non-task brain regions with direct connections to task related brain regions. A complete trial corresponding to 91 scans is shown above. for the PV and DMS conditions, each experiment above contains 6 task blocks (shaded regions) interspersed with rest blocks.

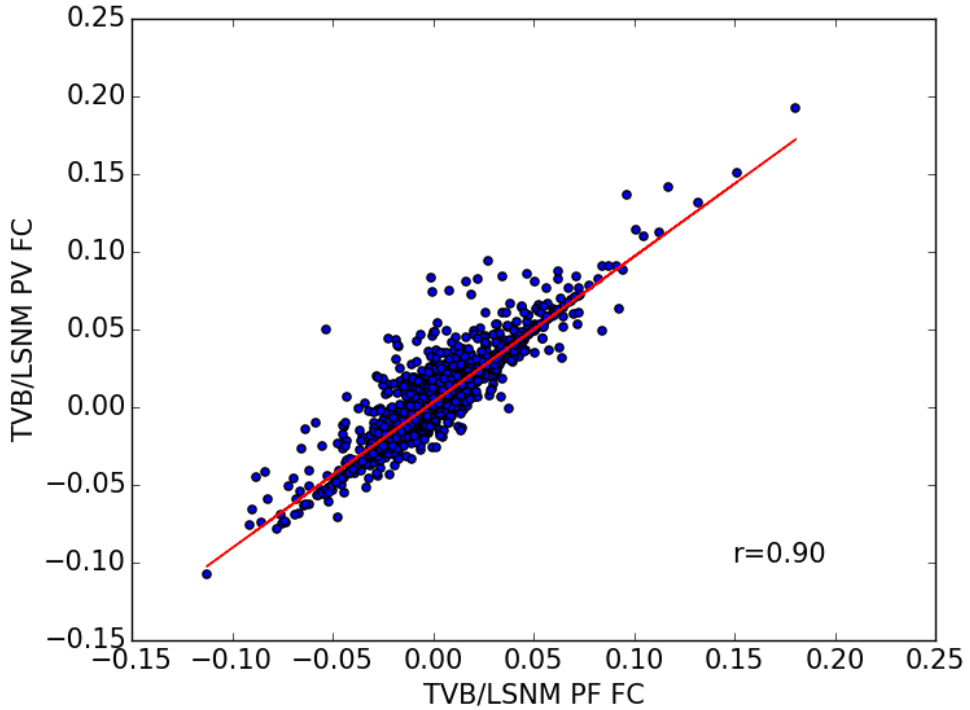


(A)



(B)

Figure 5. Representative correlation-based functional connectivity matrices for the three conditions simulated. Subject 12 is shown above. (A) The nodes in each matrix are arranged using the standard connectome files in (Hagmann et al., 2008). (B) Nodes in the matrix have been rearranged to match Yeo et al (Yeo et al., 2011) parcellation (7 modules). Brain parcellation was displayed using Freesurfer.



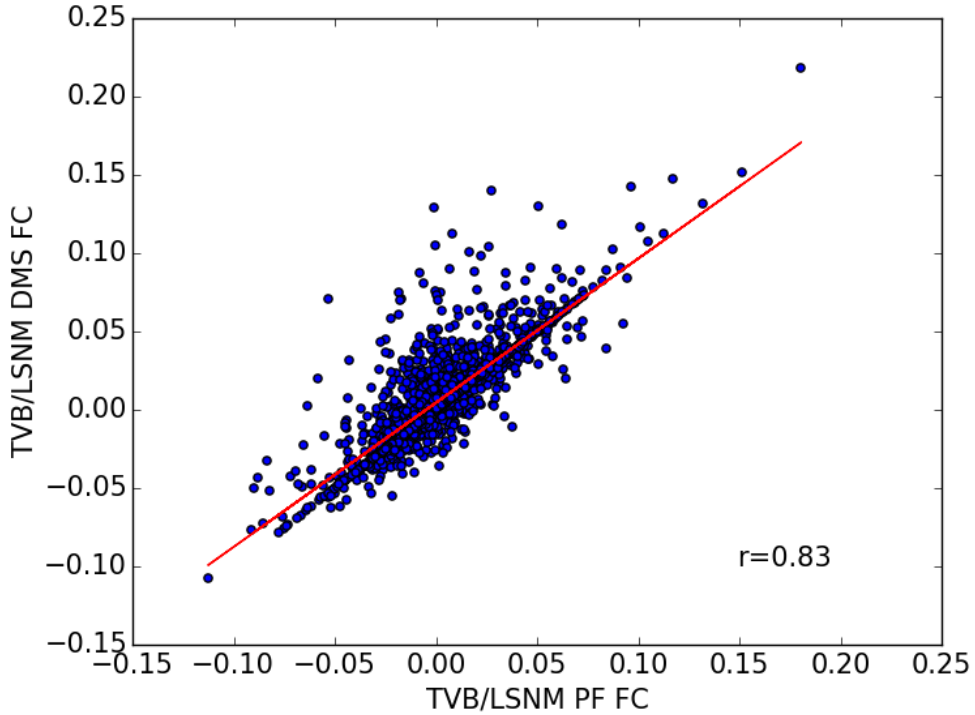


Figure 6. Correlation between PF and PV and between PF and DMS weighted functional connectivity matrices.

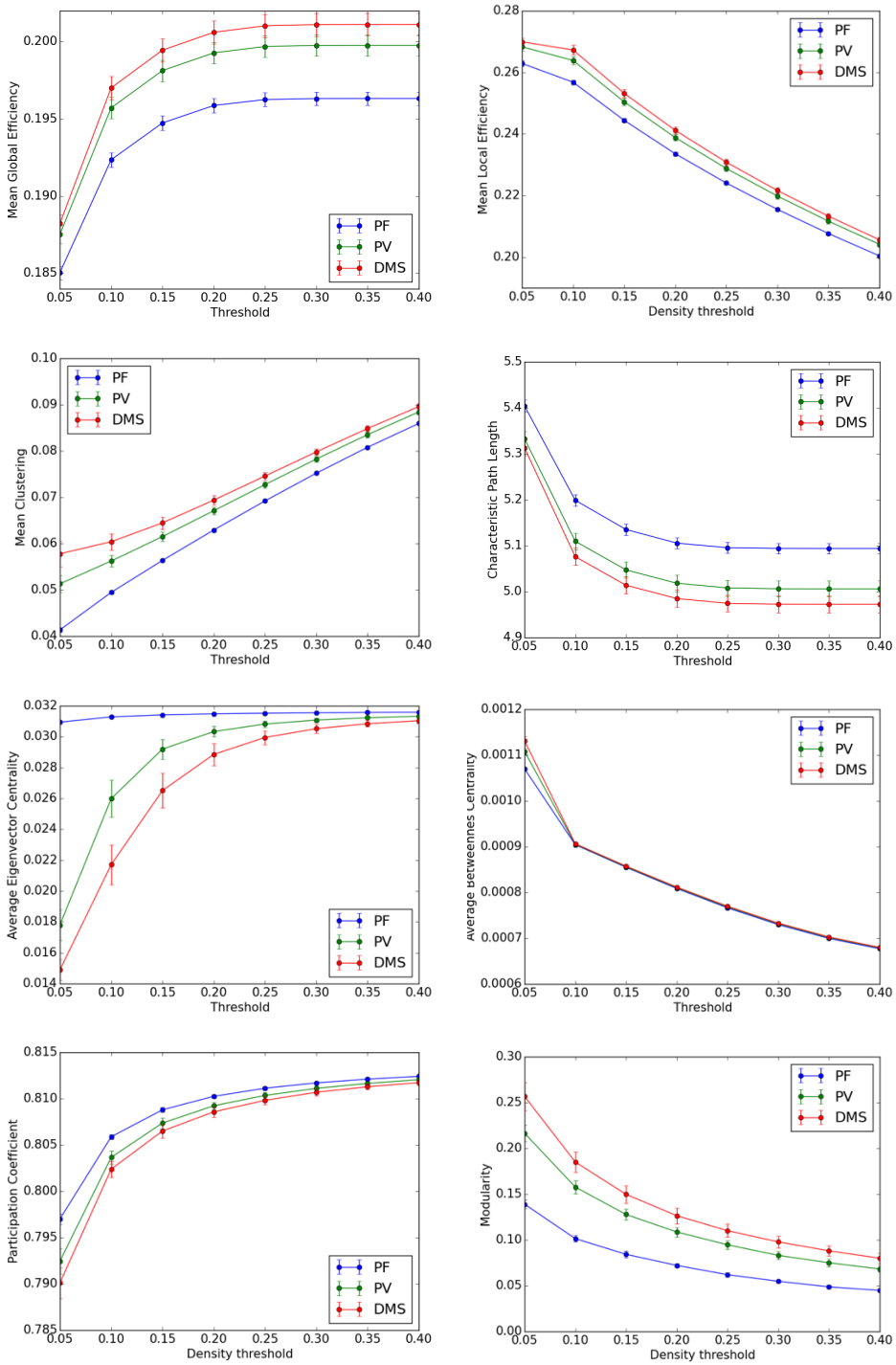


Figure 7. Mean graph theoretical metrics for each condition and for a range of network densities (5 to 40%). Error bars correspond to standard deviation.

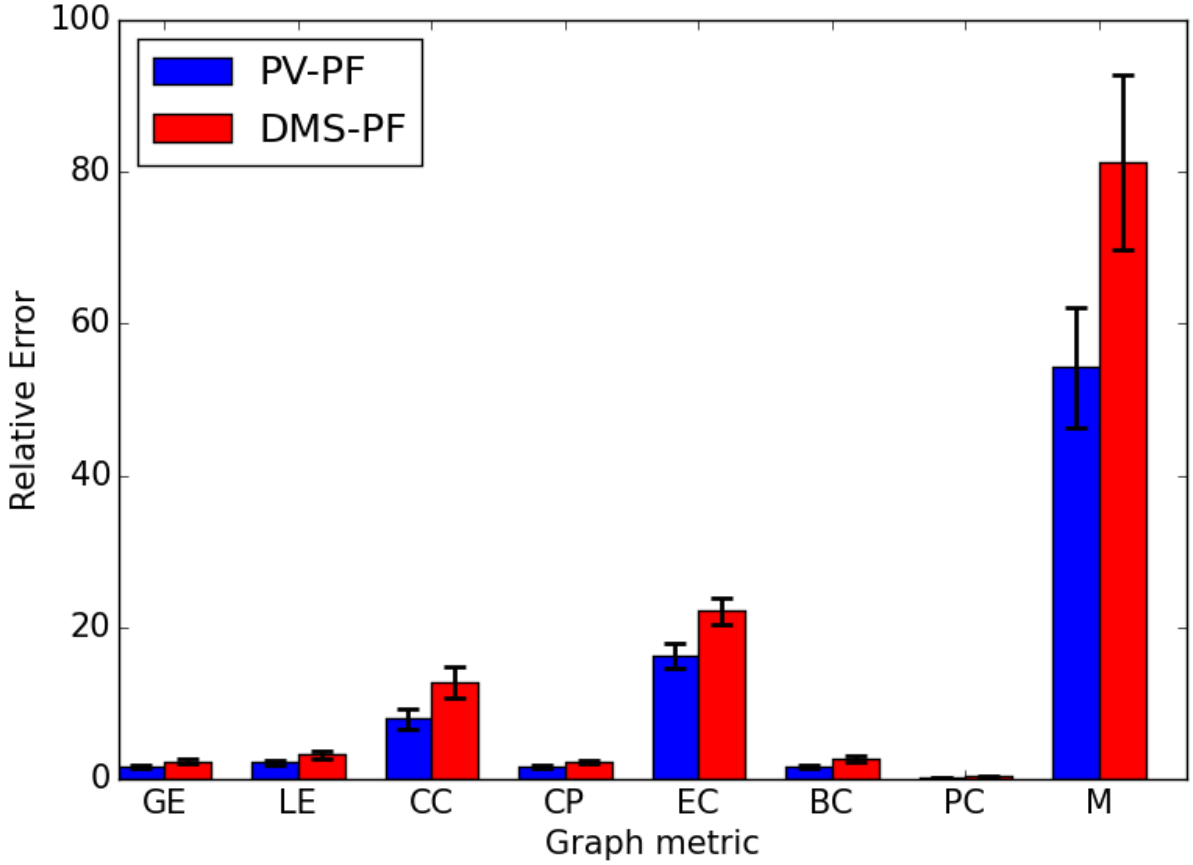


Figure 8. Relative difference between PF and PV and between PF and DMS for each one of the graph metrics in Figure 7. Error bars correspond to standard deviation.

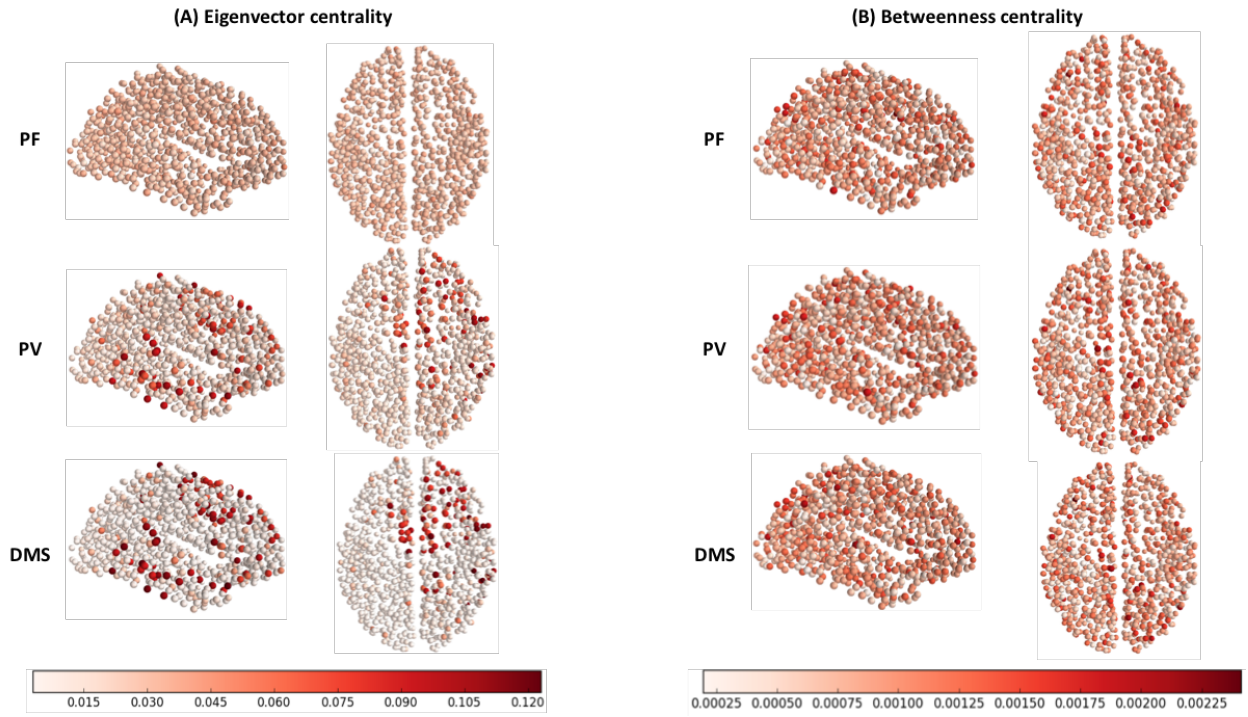


Figure 9. Eigenvector centrality (A) and betweenness centrality (B) depicted on a node-by-node basis on sagittal (left) and axial (right) views of the brain. The density threshold used for the depiction above was 10%.

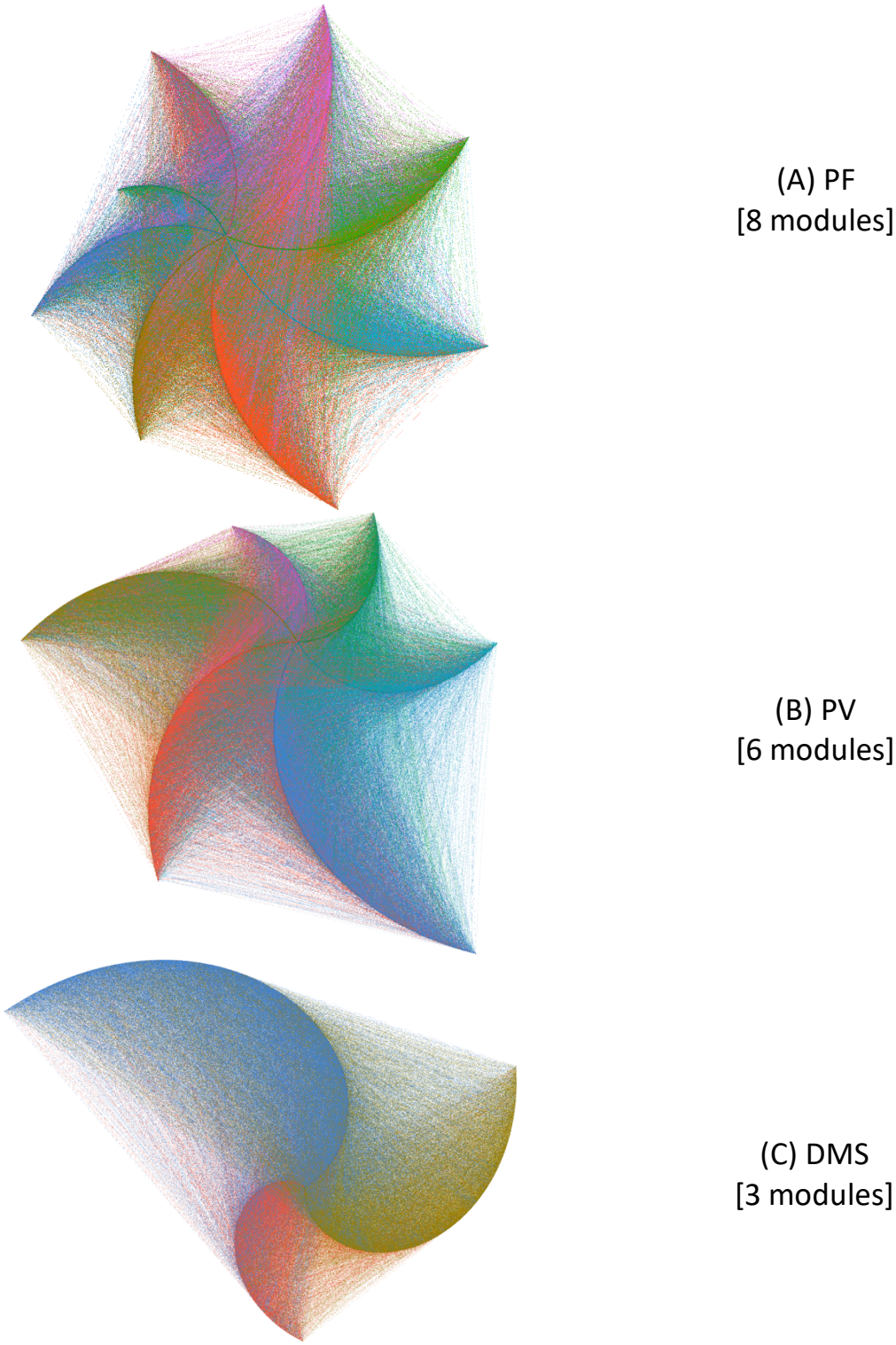


Figure 10. Modular structure of functional connectivity between non-task nodes in conditions (A) PF, (B) PV, and (C) DMS. The graphs used unweighted, undirected functional connectivity matrices at a density threshold of 10%. These graphs were rendered using the radial axis layout of Gephi (Bastian et al., 2009) and the modular structures were computed using the algorithm of (Blondel et al., 2008).

Parameter	Description	Value
c_{EE}	Excitatory to excitatory weight	12.0
c_{IE}	Inhibitory to excitatory weight	4.0
c_{EI}	Excitatory to inhibitory weight	13.0
c_{II}	Inhibitory to inhibitory weight	11.0
τ_E	Membrane time-constant, excitatory population	10.0
τ_I	Membrane time-constant, inhibitory population	10.0
a_E	Slope of excitatory response function	1.2
b_E	Position of maximum slope of excitatory sigmoid function	2.8
c_E	Amplitude of excitatory response function	1.0
θ_E	Excitatory threshold	0.0
a_I	Slope of inhibitory response function	1.0
b_I	Position of maximum slope of inhibitory sigmoid function	4.0
θ_I	Inhibitory threshold	0.0
c_I	Amplitude of inhibitory response function	1.0
r_E	Excitatory refractory period	1.0
r_I	Inhibitory refractor period	1.0
k_E	Maximum value of excitatory response function	1.0
k_I	Maximum value of inhibitory response function	1.0
α_E	Balance between excitatory and inhibitory	1.0
α_I	Balance between excitatory and inhibitory	1.0

Table S1. Parameters used in the Wilson-Cowan equation for each connectome node within TVB. The parameters shown above are the default parameters within TVB and are also shown in Table 11(a) of (Sanz-Leon et al., 2015).

Parameter	Value
Number of nodes	998
Global coupling strength	0.15
White matter transmission speed (mm/ms)	3.0
Integrator	Euler stochastic (dt=5)

Table S2. Parameters used for simulating the Hagmann et al. (Hagmann et al., 2008) connectome within the TVB resting state simulator. Please note the values of Global coupling strength and white matter transmission speed above are different to those presented in (Ulloa & Horwitz, 2016). In the present study we implemented a parameter search to better reproduce empirical RS FC of (Hagmann et al., 2008). See methods sections for details.

Parameter	E element	I element
K	9.0	20.0
$\boldsymbol{\phi}$	0.3	0.1
N	± 0.025	± 0.025
Δ	0.5	0.5
$\boldsymbol{\delta}$	0.5	0.5

Table S3. Parameters used in the Wilson-Cowan unit model of each LSNM submodule

Source	Destination	Fanout	Mean/SD	Percent to create	Comments
LGN	V1	7x7	34 @ 0.003±0.003 2 x 5 @ 0.006 ± 0.003 1 x 5 @ 0.020 ± 0.002	100	Highest values oriented either vertically or horizontally
V1h	V4h	1x5	0.04 ± 0.01	50	
V1v	V4v	5x1	0.04 ± 0.01	50	
V1h	V4c	3x3	4 @ 0.0 ± 0.01 5 @ 0.02 ± 0.01	50	Lowest values at the corners
V1v	V4c	3x3	4 @ 0.0 ± 0.01 5 @ 0.02 ± 0.01	50	Lowest values at the corners
V4	IT	5x5	0.01 ± 0.01	50	Learned
IT	FS	1x1	0.2 ± 0.02	100	
D2	V4	5x5	0.0014 ± 0.0007	100	
D1	IT	1x1	0.03 ± 0.001	100	Inhibitory
D2	IT	1x1	0.01 ± 0.002	100	
IT	V4	4x4	0.00125 ± 0.0006	100	

Table S4. Connection patterns among submodules of LSNM model

Source	Destination	Element	Weight
FS	D2	E	0.07
FS	FR	E	0.05
D1	FR	E	0.06
D1	D2	E	0.105
D2	D1	E	0.10
D1	FS	I	0.02
FS	D1	I	0.05
FR	D1	I	0.03
FR	D2	I	0.065

Table S5. Connection weights among submodules in the prefrontal cortex region of LSNM

Parameter	Description	Value	Reference
τ_s	Rate constant of vasodilatory signal decay in seconds	1.54	(Heinzle, Koopmans, den Ouden, Raman, & Stephan, 2016)
τ_f	Time of flow-dependent elimination in seconds	2.44	(Heinzle et al., 2016)
α	Grubb's vessel stiffness exponent	0.32	(Heinzle et al., 2016)
τ_0	Hemodynamic transit time in seconds	2.0	(Havlicek et al., 2015)
ϵ	Efficacy of synaptic activity to induce signal	0.1	(Friston et al., 2000)
r_0	Slope of intravascular relaxation rate in Hertz	108.0	(Havlicek et al., 2015)
ϑ_0	Frequency offset at outer surface of magnetized vessels	80.6	(Obata et al., 2004)
ε	Ratio of intra- and extravascular BOLD signal at rest	0.47	(Heinzle et al., 2016)
V_0	Resting blood volume fraction	0.02	(Obata et al., 2004)
E_0	Resting oxygen extraction fraction	0.34	(Heinzle et al., 2016)
TE	Echo time	0.03	(Heinzle et al., 2016)

Table S6. Parameters used for the Balloon model of hemodynamic response used in our simulations. Values are based on a 3T MRI magnet.