Quantifying differences between passive and task-evoked intrinsic functional connectivity in

a large-scale brain simulation

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Abstract

13 Establishing a connection between intrinsic and task-evoked brain activity is critical because it

14 would provide a way to map task-related brain regions in patients unable to comply with such

15 tasks. A crucial question within this realm is to what extent the execution of a cognitive task

16 affects the intrinsic activity of brain regions not involved in the task. Computational models can

17 be useful to answer this question because they allow us to distinguish task from non-task

18 neural elements while giving us the effects of task execution on non-task regions of interest at

19 the neuroimaging level. The quantification of those effects in a computational model would

20 represent a step towards elucidating the intrinsic versus task-evoked connection. Here we used

21 computational modeling and graph theoretical metrics to quantify changes in intrinsic

22 functional brain connectivity due to task execution. We used our Large-Scale Neural Modeling

23 framework to embed a computational model of visual short-term memory into an empirically

24 derived connectome. We simulated a neuroimaging study consisting of ten subjects performing

25 passive fixation (PF), passive viewing (PV) and delay match-to-sample (DMS) tasks. We used the

26 simulated BOLD fMRI time-series to calculate functional connectivity (FC) matrices and used

27 those matrices to compute several graph theoretical measures. After determining that the

28 simulated graph theoretical measures were largely consistent with experiments, we were able

29 to quantify the differences between the graph metrics of the PF condition and those of the PV

30 and DMS conditions. Thus, we show that we can use graph theoretical methods applied to

31 simulated brain networks to aid in the quantification of changes in intrinsic brain functional

32 connectivity during task execution. Our results represent a step towards establishing a

33 connection between intrinsic and task-related brain activity.

INTRODUCTION

Recently, there has been significant interest in investigating the relationship between intrinsic

and task-evoked brain activity. This interest is driven by the potential to discover information

contained in intrinsic brain activity that would reveal the repertoire of functional brain

networks used to execute goal-directed tasks (Cole, Bassett, Power, Braver, & Petersen, 2014).

Intrinsic and task-evoked activity are strongly interdependent (Bolt, Anderson, & Uddin, 2017)

and understanding this interdependence holds the promise of providing a link between resting

state and task-based empirical findings (Cole et al., 2014). Furthermore, the establishment of a

clear relationship between intrinsic and task brain activity would allow the mapping of task-

related brain areas in patients unable to comply with such tasks (Branco et al., 2016; Liu et al.,

2009)

Neuroimaging studies have shown that performance of a cognitive task alters the intrinsic

functional connectivity in non-task related brain regions (Bluhm et al., 2011; Tommasin et al.,

2017; Vatansever, Menon, Manktelow, Sahakian, & Stamatakis, 2015). Bluhm and colleagues,

for example, found increases in functional connectivity between two "default network" brain

regions (posterior cingulate / precuneus and medial prefrontal cortex) and the rest of the brain

during a visual working memory task as compared to a passive fixation task. In another study,

Tommasin and colleagues found reductions in functional connectivity between brain regions

within the "default mode network" (DMN) during an auditory working memory task as

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

brain regions due to increasing task demands. We used a large-scale computational model of

visual processing (Horwitz et al., 2005; Tagamets & Horwitz, 1998; Ulloa & Horwitz, 2016)

embedded in a structural connectome (Hagmann et al., 2008) to examine differences in

intrinsic neural activity between three conditions: passive fixation (PF), passive viewing (PV),

and a visual delayed match-to-sample (DMS) task. Specifically, we set out to investigate

whether computational modeling and graph theoretical metrics could be used to quantify and

understand intrinsic neural activity changes in non-task brain regions due to increasing task

demands.

RESULTS

To perform the current study, we embedded a biologically realistic model of visual short-term

memory (Tagamets & Horwitz, 1998), shown in Figure 1, into an anatomical skeleton defined by

a 998-node structural connectome (Hagmann et al., 2008), shown in Figure 2, using a blend of

our large-scale neural model (LSNM) simulator (Ulloa & Horwitz, 2016) and the Virtual Brain

(TVB) simulator (Sanz Leon et al., 2013). The visual short-term memory model comprises brain

regions that are directly involved in performing a delayed match-to-sample (DMS) task for

visual objects. The structural connectome was added to provide neural noise to the simulated

neural activity during the DMS task, and in return, to receive inputs back from the DMS task

nodes. We have described our framework in a previous paper (Ulloa & Horwitz, 2016) where

we focused on the fMRI BOLD signal generation during the DMS task. In the current work, we

sought to analyze the FC configurations in brain regions not driving task execution. These 'non-

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

have been discussed in detail in previous papers (Horwitz et al., 2005; Ulloa & Horwitz, 2016).

Figure 4 shows the BOLD signal averaged across those brain regions with direct anatomical

connections to task regions. Figure 2 shows a graphical depiction of the non-task nodes that are

directly connected to task nodes. Notice how BOLD activity increases during the task blocks

(shaded areas) and how they do so more prominently during DMS than during PV and during PV

than during PF. Also notice how that BOLD activity change is larger for some of the brain

regions with direct connections to IT, FS, D1, D2, FR than those regions with direct connections

to V1 and V4. This is due to variations in the strength of the connecting weights from task-

related nodes to non-task nodes. As we can see in Figure 4, changes in all task-related brain

regions correlate with BOLD signal changes in non-task brain regions directly connected to

them.

Intrinsic FC differences between PF, PV and DMS conditions.

We computed FC matrices for the three simulated conditions and for all subjects. Figure 5

shows across-subject averages of FC matrices for the three conditions. Figure 6 shows scatter

plots between PF and PV and between PF and DMS conditions. As shown in Figure 6, the

correlation coefficients between PF and both PV and DMS were high (0.90 and 0.83,

respectively), demonstrating only small differences in the pair-wise consistency of functional

connections across conditions. As noted above, these correlation matrices consist only of

connectome nodes (e.g., no LSNM task-based nodes were used to construct these matrices). In

summary, there were small changes in the pair-wise functional connectivity between PF and PV

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 ± 0.3), local efficiency ($2.2 \pm 0.3\%$ and $3.2 \pm 0.4\%$), characteristic path length (1.7

± 0.1% and 2.3 ± 0.3%), betweenness centrality (1.6 ± 0.3% and 2.6 ± 0.4%), and participation

coefficient (0.2 ± 0.1% and 0.4 ± 0.1%).

Differences in modularity between conditions.

To further visualize the large differences in modularity configurations during the three

simulated conditions, we rendered the binary FC network in each condition as connection space

graphs using Gephi (Bastian, Heymann, & Jacomy, 2009); www.gephi.org). We used the

algorithm of Blondel et al (Blondel, Guillaume, Lambiotte, & Lefebvre, 2008) to find the

modularity at a density threshold of 10%. Figure 10 shows connection space graphs displayed

on a radial axis layout (axis have a slight spiral to improve visualization of inter-module

connectivity). Nodes that belong to the same module are represented by the same color and

group together on the same radial axis. The connections between nodes have the color of the

node where those connections originate. We can see a decrease in the number of modules,

from 8 in PF to 6 in PV to 3 in DMS and an increase in modularity (see increase in modularity

graph in Figure 7). The increase in modularity from PF to PV to DMS means that the functional

network rearranges itself into fewer modules with more functional connections between nodes

within the same module (compare the very clearly defined modules in DMS versus PF and DMS

versus PV in Figure 10). We emphasize again that these results refer to non-task related nodes.

DISCUSSION

Using a large-scale computational model of visual short-term memory embedded into an

anatomical connectome, we compared simulated intrinsic brain activity of non-task related

brain regions during three tasks: passive fixation (PF), during which simulated subjects with a

low "task signal" or "attention" level are fixating on visual stimuli (a small dot); passive viewing

(PV), during which subjects passively watch changing visual shapes but take no action; 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. The PF

condition may be considered equivalent to a resting state condition as a passive fixation task

has been often used in RS fMRI studies. The key difference between the PF and the PV

conditions was that the stimulus during the PF condition was an unchanging small dot whereas

in the PV condition several different and larger stimuli were presented. The key difference

between the PV and the DMS conditions was the level of the "task" or attention signal, which

was set to a low level in the PV condition and to a high level during the DMS condition. As

discussed in the Methods section, the task signal level determines whether an input stimulus is

going to be retained in short-term memory (Horwitz et al., 2005). Additionally, because of

feedback connections from D1 in prefrontal cortex to IT and V4 (see model diagram in Figure 1),

the task signal level indirectly influences neuronal activity in V1, V4, and IT (compare neuronal

activity in V1, V4, and IT during different conditions in Figure 3).

To quantify differences between PF, PV and DMS conditions, we used pair-wise temporal

Pearson correlations (FC matrices) and graph theory metrics of fMRI FC matrices. Whereas we

found small differences between the FC matrices of the simulated conditions, these differences

we not particularly impressive. However, we found clear-cut differences in each of the graph

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

speed producing a simulated FC matrix that best matches an empirical FC matrix (Cabral,

Hugues, Sporns, & Deco, 2011; Ghosh, Rho, McIntosh, Kotter, & Jirsa, 2008; Gilson, Moreno-

Bote, Ponce-Alvarez, Ritter, & Deco, 2016; Hansen, Battaglia, Spiegler, Deco, & Jirsa, 2015;

Honey et al., 2009; Lee et al., 2017; Roy et al., 2014; Sanz-Leon, Knock, Spiegler, & Jirsa, 2015).

This is the method we used to generate intrinsic activity in the "rest of the brain" of our

simulations.

Consistency of pair-wise functional connectivity across task conditions

There was a high correlation between the pairs in the FC connectivity matrices between PF and

PV and between PF and DMS (Figure 6). Several researchers have used pair-wise spatial

correlations between functional connectivity (FC) matrices to compare intrinsic to task-evoked

conditions (Bolt, Nomi, et al., 2017; Buckner et al., 2009; Cohen & D'Esposito, 2016; Cole et al.,

2014; Di et al., 2013; Krienen et al., 2014; Smith et al., 2009). Generally, there is a relatively high

spatial correlation (i.e., 0.64 – 0.9) between a passive condition (such as visual fixation or eyes

closed, which are often used to study intrinsic brain activity) and a task condition. Despite such

high correlations, differences do exist between passive and task FC, and those differences may

be attributable to functional modifications that allow the brain to focus on performing a given

task (DeSalvo, Douw, Takaya, Liu, & Stufflebeam, 2014; Di et al., 2013; Tomasi, Wang, Wang, &

Volkow, 2014).

Bolt and colleagues (Bolt, Nomi, et al., 2017) recently showed that one can have largely

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

complexity of the task, but see (Cohen and D'Esposito 2016)). The global efficiency has been

found to be higher during a task than during passive fixation (Bolt, Nomi, et al., 2017; Cohen &

D'Esposito, 2016), higher during a task than during an eyes closed condition (Fuertinger et al.,

2015), greater during a one-back visual memory task than during passive viewing and an eyes

closed condition (Wen et al., 2015), and higher for coactivation studies than during RS (Di et al.,

2013). In our simulations, the global efficiency is higher during DMS than during PV and PV. This

is due to the short-memory task causing an increase of neural activity in brain regions that are

in turn connected to a widely distributed network in the rest of the brain.

Increases in Local efficiency

Our simulations showed a greater local efficiency for DMS than for PV and for DMS than for PF.

This is consistent with empirical studies showing an increase in local efficiency with increasing

task demands (Wen et al., 2015).

Increases in Clustering Coefficient

Our simulations showed a greater clustering coefficient during DMS than during PV and during

PV than during PF. Previous empirical studies have found a clustering coefficient that is greater

for task than during passive fixation (Bolt, Nomi, et al., 2017), lower during a blend of activation

studies than during resting state (Di et al., 2013), and greater during a language task than

during eyes closed (Fuertinger et al., 2015).

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).

Increases in Betweenness Centrality

320   Our simulations show a higher betweenness centrality at the lower density threshold (5%) but

321   the average betweenness centrality is very similar across all the other density thresholds

322   (Figure 7). As mentioned above, the betweenness centrality at each individual node (Figure 9B)

323   remains relatively constant across conditions. Previous empirical studies have shown a

324   difference in nodal centrality when resting state and task are compared (Di et al., 2013).

Decreases in Participation Coefficient

Our simulations showed greater participation coefficient (in a predefined set of modules) for PF

than for PV and for PV than for DMS (Figure 7). Participation coefficient measures each node

participation in a set of predefined modules. We used the modules defined by Hagmann et al

(Hagmann et al., 2008). Previous studies have shown a higher participation coefficient

(between-module connectivity) during passive fixation than during a semantic task (DeSalvo et

al., 2014).

Increases in Modularity

Our simulations showed a smaller modularity for PF than for PV and for PF than for DMS. Some

empirical studies have found a greater modularity metric during RS than during a blend of

activation studies (Di et al., 2013), and a greater modularity during passive fixation than during

an n-back task using visually-presented phonemes (Cohen & D'Esposito, 2016). However, Cohen

et al (Cohen & D'Esposito, 2016) found a similar modularity during passive fixation and a finger

tapping task. Other empirical studies have found that that the modularity varies as a function of

performance, but here the evidence is also inconsistent. For example, Stevens et al (Stevens,

Tappon, Garg, & Fair, 2012) found a positive correlation between RS modularity and visual

working memory capacity and Meunier et al (Meunier et al., 2014) found a negative correlation

between modularity and memory scores in an odor recognition task. Additionally, Yue et al (Yue

et al., 2017) have found significant individual variability in modularity during resting state.

Related computational studies comparing resting state and task-based functional

connectivity.

Two previous computational approaches have compared the intrinsic brain activity obtained

during resting state versus the one obtained during task; however, none of those models was

specifically concerned with quantifying intrinsic activity differences between different task

conditions (which is the goal of our paper). The first one of those studies, by Ponce-Alvarez and

colleagues (Ponce-Alvarez, He, Hagmann, & Deco, 2015) simulated RS using a set of mean field

equations (excitatory-inhibitory pairs) interconnected by the anatomical connections of a 66-

node connectome. A visual task was approximated by applying external stimulation (stationary

inputs) to visual nodes during the RS simulation. Ponce-Alvarez's model revealed a decreased

synaptic activity variability during the visual task as compared to the RS condition.

The second computational study comparing task versus rest (Cole, Ito, Bassett, & Schultz, 2016)

similarly applied stationary inputs to a set of neighboring nodes in a simplified computational

model to simulate six different tasks. Cole and colleagues used the FC strengths during a

passive task to predict the fMRI task activation of a held-out brain region. They did this for each

one of the brain areas simulated to produce a prediction of the fMRI activity in each one of the

brain areas simulated given a passive task FC matrix.

Caveats and limitations of our study

Different passive experimental conditions have been used in neuroimaging to study intrinsic

brain activity (also referred to as the "resting state (RS)") (Biswal, Yetkin, Haughton, & Hyde,

1995; Fox, Corbetta, Snyder, Vincent, & Raichle, 2006; Greicius, Krasnow, Reiss, & Menon,

2003). Three of the conditions most commonly used as a resting state condition are passive

fixation (PF), eyes open with no fixation, and eyes closed. Yan and colleagues (Yan et al., 2009)

found significantly higher FC in Default Mode Network (DMN) brain areas during eyes open

than during eyes closed condition. It is also important to emphasize that the functional

magnetic resonance (fMRI) results can vary depending on several other factors including: how a

RS task is defined (Van Dijk et al., 2010; Yan et al., 2009), which task instructions are given to

subjects (Benjamin et al., 2010), and whether subjects were engaged in a task prior to RS

(Waites, Stanislavsky, Abbott, & Jackson, 2005). Thus, whereas one can compare (within the

limitations outlined below) the results of our study with empirical studies using passive fixation,

our results cannot be directly extrapolated to all RS-fMRI studies.

One way in which the simulations presented here are different from our previous paper (Ulloa

& Horwitz, 2016) is that the model response units have been relocated from prefrontal cortex

to PreSMA. The relocation of the response units to PreSMA is based on an fMRI study by

(Pessoa, Gutierrez, Bandettini, & Ungerleider, 2002), who found an increase in BOLD fMRI in

the PreSMA area at the end of the delay period during a visual working memory task.

Additionally, a study by (Petit, Courtney, Ungerleider, & Haxby, 1998) has also demonstrated

BOLD fMRI activity in the PreSMA area during a working memory task. The relocation from

previous studies from our lab of the model response units to PreSMA makes biological sense as

it better reflects the complexity of the task we are trying to simulate. The identification of

realistic locations within the brain for each one of the model units is crucial as different

locations of task-related modules will modulate different non-task nodes in the connectome,

thereby producing different FC configurations.

One of the limitations of our study is that our model connectome does not have other sensory

systems apart from the visual system. Therefore, one should exercise caution when comparing

FC matrices of our simulation to empirical ones as the empirical ones would contain higher FC

that are the result of other sensory systems being activated by either intrinsic or extrinsic

processes. For example, in an fMRI scanner room, there is significant auditory stimulation

(scanner noise) as well as somatosensory input, which we have not simulated in the present

work.

In our simulations, we only embedded the visual model in the right hemisphere. As a result, the

intrinsic activity was mostly localized to the right hemisphere. Nonetheless, there were

significant intrinsic activity changes in the left hemisphere, and those were caused by structural

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

characterization of intrinsic brain activity differences between passive and active task

conditions and to the use of neural modeling in the design of empirical studies and the

comparison of competing hypothesis of brain function.

METHODS

In the present work, we analyzed functional connectivity derived from BOLD fMRI time-series,

calculated from simulated neural activity data using the framework presented in a previous

paper (Ulloa & Horwitz, 2016). Whereas in our previous paper we evaluated the FC between

brain regions directly involved in executing a task, in the present paper we examined the

intrinsic FC in the rest of the brain (brain regions not involved in task execution). To better

address that question, we performed a model parameter search to find a reasonable match

between empirical and model FC. Below we briefly describe the components of the framework

and how it was used to generate the simulated multi-subject experiment presented in this

study. The source code of our modeling work, including simulation, analysis and visualization

scripts, is freely available at https://nidcd.github.io/lsnm_in_python/.

Visual object processing model and The Virtual Brain

a. Visual object processing model

Our in-house visual (Tagamets & Horwitz, 1998) object processing model consists of

interconnected neuronal populations representing the cortical ventral pathway that has been

shown to process primarily the features of a visual object. This stream begins in striate visual

cortex, extends into the inferior temporal lobe and projects into ventrolateral prefrontal cortex

(Haxby et al., 1991; McIntosh et al., 1994; Ungerleider & Mishkin, 1982). The regions that

comprise the visual model include ones representing primary and secondary visual cortex

(V1/V2), area V4, anterior inferotemporal cortex (IT), and prefrontal cortex (PFC) (see Fig. 1).

Each of these regions contain one or more neural populations with different functional

attributes (see caption to Fig. 1 for details). This model was designed to perform a short-term

memory delayed match-to-sample (DMS) task during each trial of which a stimulus S1 is

presented for a certain amount of time, followed by a delay period in which S1 must be kept in

short-term memory. When a second stimulus (S2) is presented, the model must respond as to

whether S2 matches S1. The model can also perform control tasks: passive fixation (PF) and

passive perception of the stimuli (PV), in which no response is required. Multiple trials of the

active and passive tasks constitute a simulated functional neuroimaging study.

The key feature used to define a visual object was shape. Model neurons in V1/V2 and

V4 were assumed to be orientation selective (for simplicity, horizontal and vertical orientations

were used). The structural submodels employed were based on known monkey

neuroanatomical data. An important assumption for the visual model, inferred from such

experimental data, was that the spatial receptive field on neurons increased along the ventral

processing pathway (see (Tagamets & Horwitz, 1998) for details).

Each neuronal population consisted of 81 microcircuits, each representing a cortical

column. The model employed modified Wilson-Cowan units (an interacting excitatory and

inhibitory pair of elements for which spike rate was the measure of output neural activity) as

the microcircuit (Wilson & Cowan, 1972). The input synaptic activity to each neuronal unit can

also be evaluated and combinations of this input activity were related to the fMRI BOLD signals

via a forward model.

In an earlier version of the model (Horwitz et al., 2005), half the neural populations

within the model were 'non task-specific' neurons that served as noise generators to 'task-

specific' neurons that processed shapes during the DMS task. The model generated time series

of simulated electrical neuronal and synaptic activity for each module that represents a brain

region. The time series of synaptic activity, convolved with a hemodynamic response function,

was then used to compute simulated fMRI BOLD signal for each module representing a brain

region, as well as functional connectivity among key brain regions (see (Horwitz et al., 2005) for

details on this method). This model was able to perform the DMS task, generate simulated

neural activities in the various brain regions that matches empirical data from non-human

preparations, and produces simulated functional neuroimaging data that generally agree with

human experimental findings (see (Tagamets & Horwitz, 1998) and (Horwitz et al., 2005) for

details). In the current paper, we employ the version of the model introduced by Ulloa and

Horwitz (Ulloa & Horwitz, 2016) in which non task-specific neurons are replaced by noise-

generated activity from neural elements in The Virtual Brain software simulator (Sanz Leon et

al., 2013).

b. The Virtual Brain

The Virtual Brain (TVB) software (Sanz Leon et al., 2013; Sanz-Leon et al., 2015) is a simulator of

primarily resting state brain activity that combines: (i) white matter structural connections

among brain regions to simulate long-range connections, and (ii) a given neuronal population

model to simulate local brain activity. It also employs forward models that convert simulated

neural activity into simulated functional neuroimaging data. TVB source code and

documentation are freely available from https://github.com/the-virtual-brain.

In the current paper, for the structural model, we chose the DSI-based connectome described

by (Hagmann et al., 2008), which contains 998 nodes. For the neural model for each node, we

employed Wilson-Cowan population neuronal units (Wilson & Cowan, 1972) to model the local

brain activity because our in-house LSNM simulators use modified Wilson-Cowan equations as

their basic neuronal unit. Our forward model that converts simulated neural activity into

simulated fMRI is a modification of the Balloon-Windkessel model of Friston et al. (Friston,

Mechelli, Turner, & Price, 2000; Stephan, Marshall, Penny, Friston, & Fink, 2007) that is

included in the TVB.

Integrating TVB and LSNM

To perform our computational study, we concurrently ran two neural simulators: Our Large-

Scale Neural Model (LSNM) simulator, which generated task-driven neural activity of the brain

regions directly involved in the visual DMS task, and The Virtual Brain simulator (TVB) (Sanz

Leon et al., 2013) to generate resting-state neural activity in the brain regions not involved in

the task. Because the task-based brain nodes were embedded within resting-state brain ROIs,

we expected that the neuroimaging activity in key connectome ROIs would differ between

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

electrophysiological studies of Funahashi et al. ([Funahashi, Bruce, & Goldman-Rakic, 1990](#)) that

found in monkey PFC four distinct neuronal responses during a delayed response task: neurons

that (1) increased their activity when a stimulus was present (FS), (2) increased their activity

during the delay part of the task (D1), (3) increased their activity during both when a stimulus

was present and during the delay period (D2), and (4) increased their activity prior to making a

correct response (FR). It is not known if these neuronal types are found in separate anatomical

locations in PFC or are intermixed within the same brain area, although the latter is the more

likely case (except possibly for the FR population). In the original modeling studies of Tagamets

and Horwitz ([Tagamets & Horwitz, 1998](#)) and Husain et al. ([Husain, Tagamets, Fromm, Braun, &](#)

[Horwitz, 2004](#)), the functional neuroimaging data represented a single region that included all

four nodes.   To illustrate the integrated synaptic activity and fMRI signal for each one of the

modules of the combined LSNM / TVB model separately, we have assigned a different spatial

location to each one of the four PFC sub-modules. We have used the Talairach coordinates of

the prefrontal cortex, based on ([Haxby et al., 1991](#)), for the submodule D1 and have designated

spatial locations in adjacent regions of interest for the FS and D2 submodules. The FR

submodule has been allocated to a spatial location determined by an fMRI study of working

memory in humans ([Pessoa et al., 2002](#)). See Table 1 for coordinate locations of each

module/submodule of the visual short-term memory nodes within the structural connectome.

b. Simulating electrical activity and fMRI activity

<u>Electrical activities of each node in Hagmann's connectome (TVB equations)</u>

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):

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

and

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

where S_E and S_I are sigmoid functions described by

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

$c_{EE}, c_{EI}, c_{II}, c_{IE}$ 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

574
$$\Gamma(E_i, E, u_{ij}) = a_\Gamma \left(\sum_{j=1}^{l} u_{ij} E_j(t - \tau_{ij}) + \sum_{j=1}^{n} u_{ij} E_j(t - \tau_{ij}) \right)$$

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).

Electrical activities of each LSNM unit

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:

586
$$\frac{dE_i(t)}{dt} = \Delta \left(\frac{1}{1 + e^{-K_E[w_{EE}E_i(t) + w_{IE}I_i(t) + in_{iE}(t) - \phi_E + N(t)]}} \right) - \delta E_i(t)$$

588   and

589
$$\frac{dI_i(t)}{dt} = \Delta \left(\frac{1}{1 + e^{-K_I[w_{EI}E_i(t) + in_{iI}(t) - \phi_I + N(t)]}} \right) - \delta I_i(t)$$

591   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

592   threshold values, $N(t)$ is a noise term, w_{EE}, w_{IE}, w_{EI} are the weights within a unit (the values of

593   $\Delta, \delta, K, \tau, N$ are given in the Supplementary Table S3); $in_{iE}(t), in_{iI}(t)$ are the inputs coming

594   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 ith 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 ith 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 ith 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)

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

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

619   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

644   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:

665
$$\tau_0 \frac{dv}{dt} = f(t) - v(t)^{1/\alpha}$$

666
$$\tau_0 \frac{dq}{dt} = f(t)\frac{1 - (1 - E_0)^{1/f}}{E_0} - v(t)^{1/\alpha}\frac{q(t)}{v(t)}$$

668   where τ_0 is the hemodynamics transit time, α represents the resistance of the venous balloon

669   (vessel stiffness), and $f(t)$ is the blood inflow at time t and is given by

671
$$\frac{df}{dt} = s$$

673   where s is an exponentially decaying, vasodilatory signal given by

675
$$\frac{ds}{dt} = \epsilon x(t) - \frac{s(t)}{\tau_s} - \frac{(f(t) - 1)}{\tau_f}$$

where ϵ is the efficacy with which neuronal activity *x(t)* (i.e., integrated synaptic activity) causes

an increase in signal, τ_s-is the time constant for signal decay, and τ_f-is the time constant for

autoregulatory feedback from blood flow (Friston et al., 2000). See Supplementary Table S6 for

the values of the above parameters. The simulated fMRI BOLD time series resulting from the

above equations were low-pass filtered (<0.25Hz) and down-sampled every two seconds.

Resting State parameter exploration

We performed a global parameter exploration (for which we used exclusively the TVB simulator

and the structural connectome with no task nodes) to obtain a reasonable match between

empirical and model FC (Cabral et al., 2011). We obtained the empirical functional connectivity

datasets from (Hagmann et al., 2008) which we used as a target for our simulated FC. Note that

we used a low resolution (66 nodes) FC of matrices to perform the comparisons between

empirical and resting state simulations (Honey et al., 2009): We transformed all correlation

coefficients to Fisher's Z values and averaged the FC matrices across subjects within each

condition. We then calculated low-resolution (66 ROIs) matrices (each ROI corresponding to a

brain region in the Desikan-Killiany parcellation (Desikan et al., 2006) for each condition

(Hagmann et al., 2008; Honey et al., 2009) by averaging FC coefficients within each one of the

low-resolution ROIs (Hagmann et al., 2008) and converted back to correlation coefficients using

an inverse Fisher's Z transformation. We systematically varied the global coupling parameter

(a_Γ in the long-range coupling equation above) and the white matter conduction speed and

conducted a 198-second resting state simulation for each parameter combination. We

calculated a Pearson correlation coefficient between the model FC matrix (for each parameter

combination) and the empirical FC matrix. Then, we chose the parameter combination that

gave us the highest correlation value and used that combination for the PF, PV and DMS

simulations of our study. The global strength parameter range used was between 0.0042 and

0.15 with a step of 0.01. The conduction speed parameter range used was between 1 and 10

m/s with a step of 1. The best combination of parameters was (0.15, 3) which yielded a

correlation value between simulated and empirical FC of r=0.37. Note that absent structural

connections were removed from this correlation calculation as in (Honey et al., 2009), but not

in the rest of the paper.

From RS to PF, PV, and DMS

After finding an optimal match between empirical and simulated RS, we performed a simulation

of RS with stimulation in visual task nodes using only the TVB simulator (Sanz-Leon et al., 2015).

The correlation between RS FC and RS with stimulation FC was 0.90. Subsequently, we used a

blend of our LSNM simulator and TVB to simulated PF. The correlation between RS with

stimulation and PF was 0.9. As a last step, we performed a DMS simulation and compared it to

the PF simulation (correlation was 0.79). Thus, we used a TVB RS simulation (matched to

empirical RS) as a starting point for our PF and task-based simulations.

Network construction

The simulations were performed using the TVB simulator with the 998-node Hagmann

connectome and the LSNM visual short-term memory simulator described above. We isolated

the synaptic activity timeseries of connectome nodes from the task nodes' synaptic activity. We

used the Balloon model to estimate fMRI BOLD activation over each one of the 998 nodes, for

each condition, and for each subject separately. We calculated zero lag Pearson correlation

coefficients for each pair of the BOLD timeseries to obtain a FC matrix for each condition and

for each subject. We used the weighted FC matrices within each condition to construct graphs

where each one of the 998 ROIs corresponded to a graph node and the correlation coefficients

between each pair of ROIs corresponded to graph edges (Bolt, Nomi, et al., 2017; Di et al.,

2013). To keep the same number of edges across conditions, we thresholded the network

edges to a sparsity level of between 5% and 40% (Di et al., 2013) with a step size of 5%.

Graph theory analysis

A set of eight graph theoretical metrics (global efficiency, local efficiency, clustering coefficient,

characteristic path length, eigenvector centrality, betweenness centrality, participation

coefficient, and modularity) were calculated using the FC matrices for each of the conditions

using the Brain Connectivity Toolbox (Rubinov & Sporns, 2010) in Python, publicly available at

https://github.com/aestrivex/bctpy. We calculated graph metrics for each individual FC matrix,

for each condition and for each density threshold. Then we calculated the average and standard

deviation of each graph metric for each density threshold.

Global efficiency (Latora & Marchiori, 2001) measures "functional integration" (Rubinov &

Sporns, 2010) and indicates how well nodes are coupled through functional connections across

the entire brain. Global efficiency is calculated as the average inverse shortest path length

(Rubinov & Sporns, 2010). *Local efficiency* is the inverse of the average shortest path

connecting a given node to its neighbors (Lee et al., 2017). *Clustering coefficient* (Watts &

Strogatz, 1998) is a measure of "functional segregation" (Rubinov & Sporns, 2010). The

clustering coefficient of a network node is the proportion of the given node's neighbors that are

functionally connected to each other. Whole brain clustering coefficient is calculated as the

average of the clustering coefficients in a functional connectivity matrix (Rubinov & Sporns,

2010). *Characteristic path length* is the average shortest path length between all node pairs in a

network (Rubinov & Sporns, 2010). *Eigenvector centrality* is a measure of centrality that

considers degree of a given node and degree of that node's neighbors (Fornito, Zalesky, &

Bullmore, 2016 2016). Betweenness centrality is the fraction of shortest paths that cross a given

network node (Rubinov & Sporns, 2010). *Participation coefficient* is a measure of each node's

participation in a given set of network communities. We used a set of six network communities

for the participation coefficient calculation, as shown in Table S1 of (Hagmann et al., 2008),

Table S1. *Modularity* (Newman, 2004) is a metric of functional segregation and it detects

community structure in a network by dividing a functional connectivity matrix into sets of non-

overlapping modules and it measures how well a network can be divided into those modules

(Rubinov & Sporns, 2010).

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Table S1. Parameters used in the Wilson-Cowan equation for each connectome within TVB.

Table S2. Parameters used for simulating the Hagmann connectome within the TVB simulator.

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

Table S4. Connection patterns among submodules of the LSNM model.

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

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1003 **Figure 2.** Graphical representation of the location where each of the visual short-term memory

1004 nodes was embedded within Hagmann's connectome (Hagmann et al., 2008). Also

1005 shown are direct anatomical connections to connectome nodes from each one of the

1006 embedded LSNM nodes.

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Average neural activity of task-related brain regions

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1010 **Figure 3.** Typical electrical and in neuronal populations of task-related brain regions during one
1011 trail of each of the simulated conditions. Key: PF (blue line), PV (green line), DMS (red line).
1012 What is shown is the average across all cortical columns in a brain region.

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1015 Figure 4. Average BOLD signal of non-task brain regions with direct connections to task related
1016 brain regions. A complete trial corresponding to 91 scans is shown above. for the PV and DMS
1017 conditions, each experiment above contains 6 task blocks (shaded regions) interspersed with
1018 rest blocks.

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1022 **(A)**
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1025 **(B)**
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1027 **Figure 5.** Representative correlation-based functional connectivity matrices for the three
1028 conditions simulated. Subject 12 is shown above. (A) The nodes in each matrix are arranged
1029 using the standard connectome files in (Hagmann et al., 2008). (B) Nodes in the matrix have
1030 been rearranged to match Yeo et al (Yeo et al., 2011) parcellation (7 modules). Brain
1031 parcellation was displayed using Freesurfer.
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1037 **Figure 6.** Correlation between PF and PV and between PF and DMS weighted functional
1038 connectivity matrices.

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1043 **Figure 7.** Mean graph theoretical metrics for each condition and for a range of network
1044 densities (5 to 40%). Error bars correspond to standard deviation.

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1046 **Figure 8.** Relative difference between PF and PV and between PF and DMS for each one of the
1047 graph metrics in Figure 7. Error bars correspond to standard deviation.
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1053 **Figure 9.** Eigenvector centrality (A) and betweenness centrality (B) depicted on a node-by-node
1054 basis on sagittal (left) and axial (right) views of the brain. The density threshold used for the
1055 depiction above was 10%.

(A) PF
[8 modules]

1056

(B) PV
[6 modules]

1057

(C) DMS
[3 modules]

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1059 **Figure 10.** Modular structure of functional connectivity between non-task nodes in conditions
1060 (A) PF, (B) PV, and (C) DMS. The graphs used unweighted, undirected functional connectivity
1061 matrices at a density threshold of 10%. These graphs were rendered using the radial axis layout
1062 of Gephi (Bastian et al., 2009) and the modular structures were computed using the algorithm
1063 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

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1065 **Table S1.** Parameters used in the Wilson-Cowan equation for each connectome node within

1066 TVB. The parameters shown above are the default parameters within TVB and are also shown in

1067 Table 11(a) of (Sanz-Leon et al., 2015).

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

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1071   **Table S2.** Parameters used for simulating the Hagmann et al. (Hagmann et al., 2008)

1072   connectome within the TVB resting state simulator. Please note the values of Global coupling

1073   strength and white matter transmission speed above are different to those presented in (Ulloa

1074   & Horwitz, 2016). In the present study we implemented a parameter search to better

1075   reproduce empirical RS FC of (Hagmann et al., 2008). See methods sections for details.

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Parameter	E element	I element
K	9.0	20.0
ϕ	0.3	0.1
N	± 0.025	± 0.025
Δ	0.5	0.5
δ	0.5	0.5

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1078   **Table S3.** Parameters used in the Wilson-Cowan unit model of each LSNM submodule

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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	

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1081   **Table S4.** Connection patterns among submodules of LSNM model

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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

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1084 **Table S5.** Connection weights among submodules in the prefrontal cortex region of LSNM

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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)

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1087 **Table S6.** Parameters used for the Balloon model of hemodynamic response used in our

1088 simulations. Values are based on a 3T MRI magnet.