

1 **Intersubject consistent dynamic connectivity during natural vision revealed by functional MRI**

2

3 Xin Di ^{1,2}, Bharat B Biswal ^{1,2*}

4

5 1. Department of Biomedical Engineering, New Jersey Institute of Technology, Newark, NJ, 07029, USA

6 2. School of Life Sciences and Technology, University of Electronic Science and Technology of China,

7 Chengdu, China

8

9 * Corresponding author:

10 Bharat B. Biswal, PhD

11 607 Fenster Hall, University Height

12 Newark, NJ, 07102, USA

13 bbiswal@yahoo.com

14

15 **Abstract**

16 The functional communications between brain regions are thought to be dynamic. However, it is usually
17 difficult to elucidate whether the observed dynamic connectivity is functionally meaningful or simply due
18 to noise during unconstrained task conditions such as resting-state. During naturalistic conditions, such
19 as watching a movie, it has been shown that brain activities in the same region, e.g. visual cortex, are
20 consistent across subjects. Following similar logic, we proposed to study intersubject correlations of the
21 time courses of dynamic connectivity during naturalistic conditions to extract functionally meaningful
22 dynamic connectivity patterns. We analyzed a functional MRI (fMRI) dataset when the subjects watched
23 a short animated movie. We calculated dynamic connectivity by using sliding window technique, and
24 further quantified the intersubject correlations of the time courses of dynamic connectivity. Although the
25 time courses of dynamic connectivity are thought to be noisier than the original signals, we found similar
26 level of intersubject correlations of dynamic connectivity. Most importantly, highly consistent dynamic
27 connectivity could occur between regions that did not show intersubject correlations of regional activity,
28 and between regions with little stable functional connectivity. The analysis highlighted higher order brain
29 regions such as the lateral prefrontal cortex and the default mode network that dynamically interact with
30 posterior visual regions during the movie watching, which may be associated with the understanding of
31 the movie.

32

33 **Keywords:** default mode network; dynamic connectivity; intersubject correlation; naturalistic condition;
34 supramarginal gyrus

35

36 **Highlights**

- 37 • Intersubject shared time courses may provide a complementary approach to study dynamic
38 connectivity
- 39 • Widespread regions showed highly shared dynamic connectivity during movie watching, while
40 these regions themselves did not show shared regional activity
- 41 • Shared dynamic connectivity often occurred between regions from different functional systems

42

43 **1. Introduction**

44 The functional communications between spatially remote brain regions, especially the dynamics of
45 connectivity, is a key to understand brain functions (Bullmore and Sporns, 2012; Friston, 2011; Park and
46 Friston, 2013). Recently, the study of dynamic connectivity has drawn increasing research interest,
47 especially in resting-state (Allen et al., 2014; Fu et al., 2019, 2018; Hutchison et al., 2013). However, due
48 to the unconstrained nature of resting-state, it is difficult to elucidate whether the observed changes of
49 connectivity across sliding windows are due to real fluctuations of functional communications, or simply
50 due to random fluctuations (Lindquist et al., 2014). Moreover, the blood-oxygen-level dependent (BOLD)
51 signals measured by fMRI are sensitive to physiological noises, such as respiration, heartbeat (Teichert et
52 al., 2010), and head motion (Power et al., 2012), which may give rise to spurious correlation estimates for
53 short window.

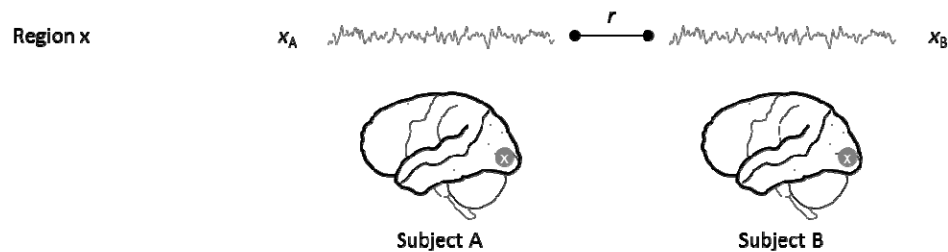
54 One way to capture meaningful dynamic functional connectivity is to manipulate subjects' mental
55 states during the course of scan, so that there is known reference for the changes of connectivity. For
56 example, in a typical task-based fMRI study with blocked design, different task conditions are assigned as
57 blocks. Therefore, the time courses of dynamic connectivity can be correlated with the task design to
58 identify task related connectivity changes (Di et al., 2015; Rosenthal et al., 2017). An alternative
59 approach is to expose the subjects with naturalistic stimuli, such as a short movie. Although there is no
60 predefined references of dynamic connectivity changes, one may take advantage of the phenomenon of
61 intersubject correlation to capture changes that are consistent across different subjects (Hasson et al., 2004;
62 Nastase et al., 2019).

63 In the seminal study, Hasson and colleagues calculated intersubject correlations of the time series
64 of BOLD signal (Figure 1A) when the subjects were watching a movie (Hasson et al., 2004). They
65 demonstrated that several brain regions, especially the visual cortex, are highly correlated across subjects
66 during movie watching. We propose that similar approach can be applied to the time courses of dynamic
67 connectivity to capture meaningful functional communication dynamics during natural vision.

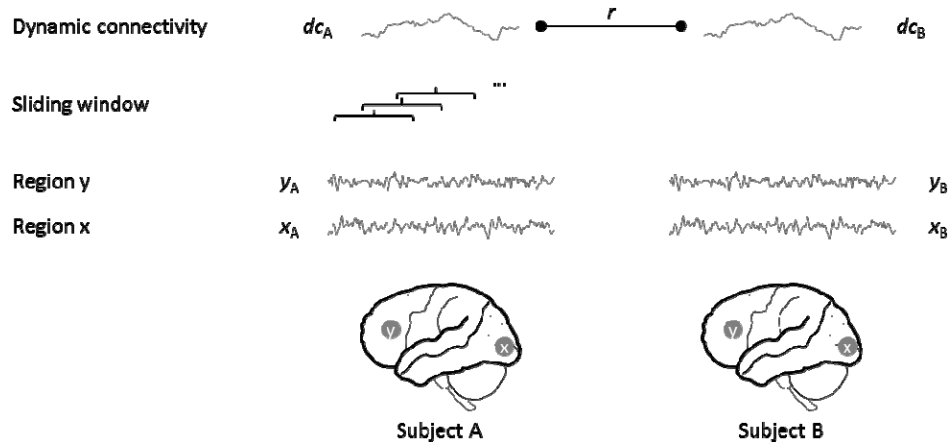
68 Specifically, dynamic connectivity is usually calculated using a sliding window approach, so that a time

69 series of dynamic connectivity can be obtained. The time courses of dynamic connectivity can then be
70 correlated across-subjects (Figure 1B). If the dynamic connectivity reflects real time functional
71 communications between regions that are caused by the viewing of natural stimuli, then the time courses
72 of dynamic connectivity from different subjects should somehow correlated. Therefore, we can apply
73 intersubject correlation method to identify meaningful dynamic communications between regions.

A. Intersubject correlation of regional activity



B. Intersubject correlation of dynamic connectivity



74
75 **Figure 1** Illustrations of the calculations of intersubject correlations of the time series of regional activity
76 (A) and the time courses of dynamic connectivity between two regions (B).

77
78 In the current study, we analyzed an fMRI dataset where the subjects were scanned when viewing
79 a short animated movie. The aim was to identify dynamic connectivity that were shared cross subjects
80 during the movie watching. In order to do so, we first performed regular intersubject correlation analysis
81 to identify brain regions that showed consistent regional activity. Given these regions, we adopted a seed-

82 based strategy to calculate dynamic connectivity between a seed region and every voxels in the brain. We
83 then evaluated and identified regions whose connectivity with the seed were consistent cross subjects.
84 Even though higher order association regions did not typically show high intersubject correlations of
85 regional activity (Hasson et al., 2004), their functional communications with lower order regions may be
86 consistent across subject following the narrative of the movie. We therefore hypothesized that
87 intersubject correlations of dynamic connectivity may be able to identify more widespread regions and
88 functional dynamics that are associated with the watching of the movie.

89

90 **2. Materials and methods**

91 **2.1. Data and task**

92 The fMRI data were obtained through openneuro (<https://openneuro.org/>; accession #: ds000228). Only
93 the data from adult subjects were analyzed. There were originally 33 adult subjects. Two subjects' data
94 were discarded because of poor brain coverage (subject #: sub-pixar123 and sub-pixar123), and two were
95 discarded due to large head motions (sub-pixar149 and sub-pixar150). As a result, a total of 29 subjects
96 were included for the current analysis (17 females). The mean age is 24.6 years old (18 to 39 years).

97 During the fMRI scan, the subjects watched a silent version of Pixar animated movie “Partly
98 Cloudy”, which is 5.6 minutes long (<https://www.pixar.com/partly-cloudy#partly-cloudy-1>). Brain MRI
99 images were acquired on a 3-Tesla Siemens Tim Trio scanner using the standard Siemens 32-channel
100 head coil. Functional images were collected with a gradient-echo EPI sequence sensitive to BOLD
101 contrast in 32 interleaved near-axial slices (EPI factor: 64; TR: 2□s, TE: 30□ms, flip angle: 90°). The
102 voxel size were 3.13□mm isotropic, with 3 subjects with no slice gap and 26 subjects with 10% slice gap.
103 168 functional images were acquired for each subject, with four dummy scans collected before the real
104 scans to allow for steady-state magnetization. T1-weighted structural images were collected in 176
105 interleaved sagittal slices with 1□mm isotropic voxels (GRAPPA parallel imaging, acceleration factor of
106 3; FOV: 256□mm). For more information for the dataset please refers to (Richardson et al., 2018).

107 **2.2. FMRI data analysis**

108 **2.2.1. Preprocessing**

109 FMRI data processing and analyses were performed using SPM12 and MATLAB (R2017b) scripts. A
110 subject's T1 weighted structural image was first segmented into gray matter, white matter, cerebrospinal
111 fluid, and other tissue types, and was normalized into standard Montreal Neurological Institute (MNI)
112 space. The T1 images were then skull stripped based on the segmentation results. Next, all the functional
113 images of a subject were realigned to the first image of the session and coregistered to the skull stripped
114 T1 image of the same subject. Framewise displacement was calculated for the translation and rotation
115 directions for each subject (Di and Biswal, 2015). Subjects who had maximum framewise displacement
116 greater than 1.5 mm or 1.5° were discarded from further analysis. The functional images were then
117 normalized to MNI space using the parameters obtained from the segmentation step with resampled voxel
118 size of $3 \times 3 \times 3 \text{ mm}^3$. The functional images were then spatially smoothed using a Gaussian kernel of 8
119 mm. Lastly, a voxel-wise general linear model (GLM) was built for each subject to model head motion
120 effects (Friston's 24-parameter model) (Friston et al., 1996), low frequency drift (1/128 Hz), and constant
121 offset. The residuals of the GLM were saved as a 4-D image series, which were used for further
122 intersubject correlation analysis.

123 **2.2.2. Intersubject correlation analysis**

124 The correlations of time series of either brain activity or dynamic connectivity are calculated between
125 pairs of subjects. If there are N subjects, then there will be $N \times (N-1) / 2$ correlation coefficients. The
126 statistics of these correlations become tricky, because they are calculated from only N subjects, therefore
127 not independent. An alternative approach is leave-one-out (Nastase et al., 2019), where the time series of
128 one hold-out subject were correlated with the averaged time series of the remaining $N - 1$ subjects. The
129 averaged time series of $N - 1$ subjects were thought to reflect the consistent component rather than the
130 noisy individual's time series. Therefore, the resulting correlations should be higher than the pair-wise
131 correlations. Another benefit is that this approach estimates one correlation for each subject, making
132 group level statistics easier. Therefore, we adopt the leave-one-out approach in the current analysis.

133 We first performed intersubject correlation analysis on regional activity time series. The
134 preprocessed BOLD time series were extracted for each voxel and subject in a gray matter mask. For a
135 given voxel, the time series of one subject was hold out, and the averaged time series of the remaining
136 subject were calculated. Then the time series of the hold-out subject were correlated with the averaged
137 time series. This process was performed for every subject and every voxel, resulting in one correlation
138 map for one subject. The correlation maps were transformed into Fisher's z maps. Group level one
139 sample t test was then performed to identify regions whose intersubject correlations were consistently
140 greater than 0. However, the null hypothesis statistical significance testing may not provide much
141 information of the effect size. There may be only small but consistent correlations for each subject,
142 which could give rise to very high statistical significance in a one sample t test. Indeed, when doing such
143 null hypothesis statistical significance testing for intersubject correlation analysis, usually almost all the
144 brain regions will show somehow significant correlations (Chen et al., 2016). We are more interested and
145 focused on the real effect size, i.e. correlation coefficients, in our analysis. We therefore averaged the
146 Fisher's z maps, and transformed them back into r maps. The continuous r maps were shown in the
147 results section.

148 We next performed intersubject correlation analysis on dynamic connectivity using a seed-based
149 approach. Given that a set of brain regions showed high intersubject correlations of regional activity, we
150 defined these regions as seeds. We adopted a relatively high threshold of $r > 0.45$ for the averaged
151 intersubject correlation map of regional activity to isolate four visual related seeds. Two of the seeds
152 were located in the medial and posterior portion of the occipital lobe, which mainly covered the lingual
153 gyrus and calcarine sulcus. The other two seeds were located bilaterally in the middle occipital gyrus and
154 extended to the middle temporal gyrus. We labeled them as left and right medial visual and lateral visual
155 seeds, respectively. In addition, we adopted a relatively low threshold of $r > 0.35$ to isolate the left and
156 right supramarginal gyrus seeds. For each seed, we performed a voxel-wise correlation analysis, i.e.
157 calculating intersubject correlations of dynamic connectivity between the seed and every voxel in the gray
158 matter mask. For two given time series from a seed and a voxel, we used sliding window technique to

159 calculate dynamic connectivity. The window length was set as 30 time points (60 s) (Nastase et al., 2019),
160 and the time step was set as 2 time point (4 s). Therefore, the time course of dynamic connectivity had 70
161 window steps. Similarly, we calculated correlations between the time courses of dynamic connectivity of
162 a given subject with the averaged dynamic connectivity of remaining subjects for a given voxel. As a
163 result, there was one correlation map for each seed and subject.

164 The r maps of correlations of dynamic connectivity were transformed into Fisher's z maps for
165 group level statistical analysis. Again, we also simply calculated averaged z map for a seed, and
166 transformed it back into r map. In addition, we performed a voxel-wise repeated measure one way
167 analysis of variance (ANOVA) to identify regions that showed specific dynamic connectivity patterns
168 with different seeds.

169 In addition to the voxel-based analysis, we also performed region of interest (ROI)-based analysis
170 for in-depth examinations of the dynamic connectivity effects. In addition to the six seeds, we included
171 four more regions that showed high intersubject correlations of dynamic connectivity with the seeds.
172 They were left precentral gyrus and left inferior frontal gyrus, which showed high intersubject
173 correlations of dynamic connectivity with the medial visual seeds, and posterior cingulate cortex and
174 medial prefrontal cortex, which showed high intersubject correlations of dynamic connectivity with the
175 supramarginal gyrus seeds. The calculations of intersubject correlations of dynamic connectivity were the
176 same as the seed-based analysis.

177 The selections of sliding window length is nontrivial (Fu et al., 2014; Zhang et al., 2013). In
178 addition to the 30-TR window length, we also explored other window length of 10 TRs (20 s), 20 TRs (40
179 s), and 40 TRs (80 s). For each window length, we calculated intersubject correlations of dynamic
180 connectivity among the 10 ROIs.

181 **2.2.3. Stable functional connectivity**

182 We also calculated stable functional connectivity among the 10 ROIs to compare them with the dynamic
183 connectivity. First, for each subject, we calculated correlation coefficients across the 10 ROIs, and
184 transformed them into Fisher's z . Then the z matrices were averaged across the 29 subjects, and

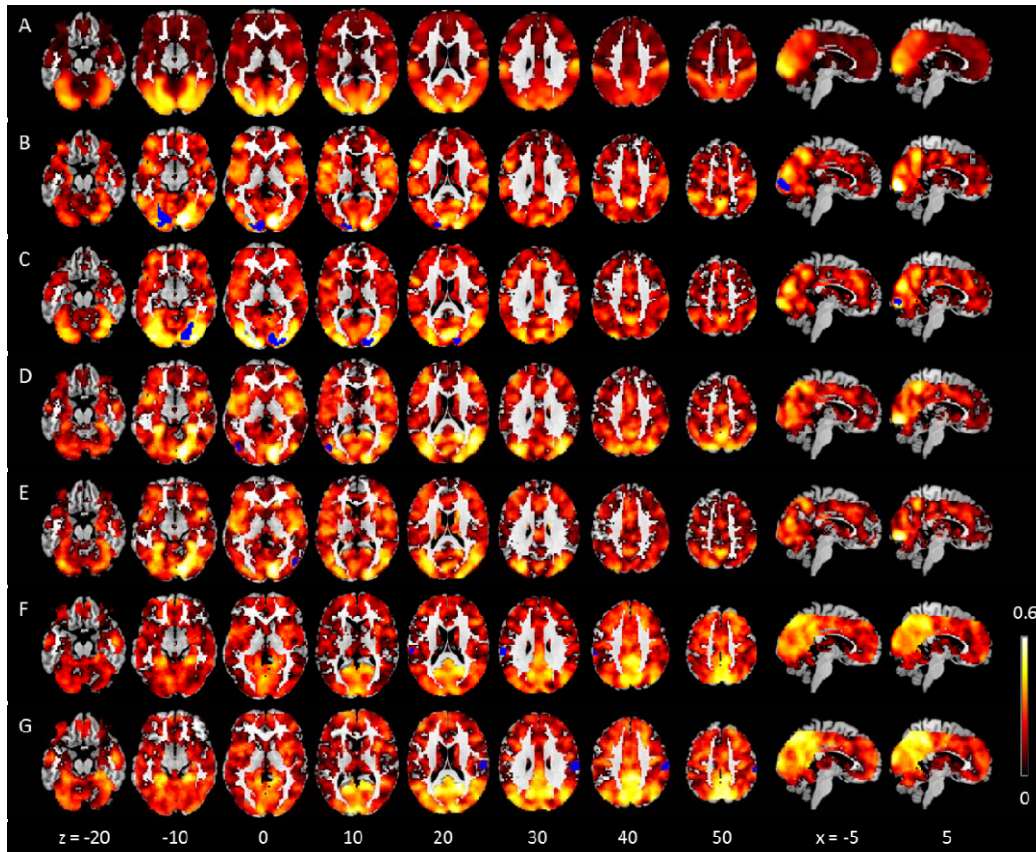
185 transformed back into r values. Second, we calculated the consistent component of each ROI, i.e.
186 averaging the time series across the 29 subjects. And then one single correlation matrix among the 10
187 ROIs was calculated. This connectivity of the consistent component is essentially the same as
188 intersubject functional connectivity proposed by Simony and colleagues (Simony et al., 2016).

189

190 **3. Results**

191 **3.1. Intersubject correlations of regional activity**

192 We first calculated intersubject correlations of regional activity for every voxel in the brain during the
193 video watching (Figure 2A). The highest correlations were around 0.5. The major regions that had high
194 intersubject correlations were the visual cortex extending anterior to the fusiform gyrus and middle
195 temporal lobe. The bilateral supramarginal gyrus also showed high intersubject correlations. The
196 bilateral precentral gyrus also showed intersubject correlations, but the effect sizes were much smaller.
197 Figure 2A shows all the voxels with positive correlation values. It is noteworthy that many regions
198 showed very small intersubject correlations, including largely the prefrontal cortex and anterior temporal
199 lobe.



200

201 **Figure 2** Intersubject correlation maps of regional activity (A) and dynamic connectivity with different
202 seeds (B through G). The seed regions were depicted in blue in respective rows. All voxels with positive
203 correlations are shown. The numbers at the bottom represent z and x coordinates in Montreal
204 Neurological Institute (MNI) space.

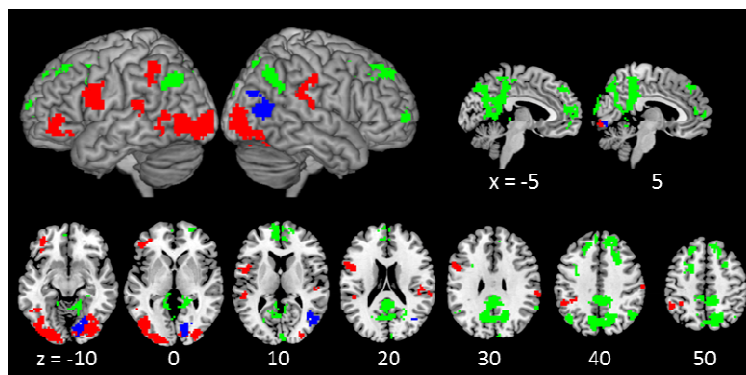
205

206 3.2. Intersubject correlations of dynamic connectivity

207 3.2.1 Seed-based analysis

208 We defined seed regions where there were high intersubject correlations of regional activity, which
209 included bilateral medial visual regions, lateral visual regions, and supramarginal gyrus. We next
210 calculated voxel-wise intersubject correlations of dynamic connectivity with the six seeds, respectively
211 (Figure 2B through 2G). There were widespread brain regions that showed intersubject consistent
212 dynamic correlations with different seeds. First of all, the effect sizes of the intersubject correlations of

213 dynamic connectivity, i.e. the correlation coefficients, were comparable to those in the intersubject
214 correlations of regional activity. Secondly, regions with intersubject correlations of dynamic connectivity
215 turned out to be more widespread and extended to the frontal and temporal regions that did not show high
216 intersubject correlations of regional activity. Thirdly, the left and right corresponding seeds showed
217 similar dynamic connectivity patterns, but there are substantial different patterns of dynamic connectivity
218 among medial visual, lateral visual, and supramarginal gyrus seeds. In order to highlight specific brain
219 regions that showed dynamic connectivity with different seeds, we performed repeated measure ANOVA
220 and compared the maps of different level of seeds with other seeds (Figure 3 and Table 1). The medial
221 visual seeds showed consistent dynamic connectivity with mainly lateral brain regions, including the left
222 inferior frontal gyrus/precentral gyrus, bilateral supramarginal gyrus, and left orbital gyrus/inferior frontal
223 gyrus. The lateral visual seeds showed consistent dynamic connectivity with several visual regions. In
224 contrast, the supramarginal seeds showed consistent dynamic connectivity with the precuneus/posterior
225 cingulate gyrus, medial prefrontal cortex, and bilateral angular gyrus, which basically formed the default
226 mode network.

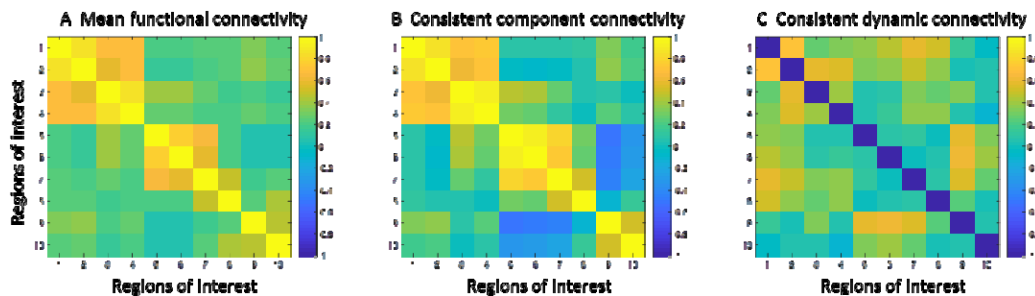


227
228 **Figure 3** Differential intersubject correlations of dynamic connectivity among the medial visual, lateral
229 visual, and supramarginal gyrus seeds. Red, medial visual seeds greater than lateral visual and
230 supramarginal gyrus seeds. Blue, lateral visual seeds greater than medial visual and supramarginal gyrus
231 seeds. Green, supramarginal gyrus seeds greater than medial and lateral visual seeds. All maps were
232 thresholded at $p < 0.001$, and cluster thresholded at $p < 0.0167$ ($0.05 / 3$) after false discovery rate (FDR)
233 correction.

234

235 3.2.2. Relationships with stable functional connectivity

236 In order to better understand and interpret the brain regions and connectivity relationships, we further
237 calculated different types of connectivity measures among a set of regions of interest. In addition to the
238 six seeds, we defined left precentral gyrus and left inferior frontal gyrus ROIs that showed higher
239 dynamic connectivity with the medial visual seeds, and posterior cingulate cortex and medial prefrontal
240 cortex ROIs that showed high dynamic connectivity with the supramarginal seeds. Among the 10 regions,
241 we calculated regular mean functional connectivity (Figure 4A) and connectivity derived from the
242 consistent components (Figure 4B). These two correlations matrices look similar, and clearly showed
243 three clusters of brain regions. The first four regions were all visual. The fifth to eight regions were the
244 bilateral supramarginal gyrus, and lateralized frontal regions, which were all high order association brain
245 regions. The last two regions were part of the default mode network, which also showed negative
246 correlations with the association regions in the consistent component correlations.



247

248 **Figure 4** Correlation matrices among the 10 regions of interest (ROI) using different methods. A) Mean
249 functional connectivity across the 29 subjects. B) Correlations of the consistent component of each ROI
250 (averaged time series across the 29 subjects). C) Intersubject correlations of dynamic connectivity.

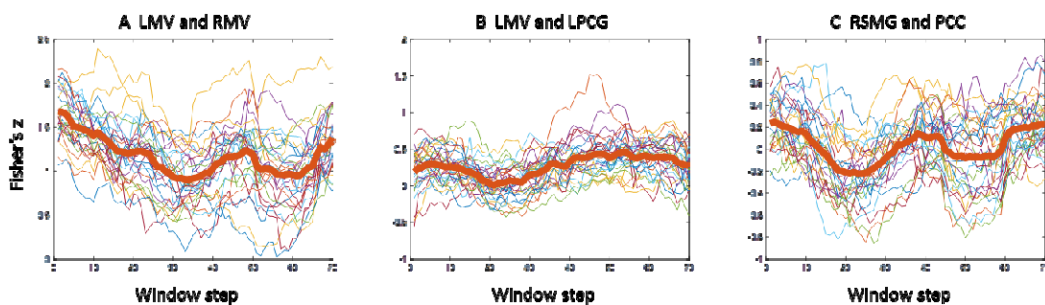
251

252 The intersubject consistent dynamic connectivity matrix (Figure 4C) was largely different from
253 the two stable correlation matrices. Some high consistent dynamic connectivity was observed within the
254 visual regions. The highest correlation was observed between the left and right medial visual regions ($r =$
255 0.70). In contrast, many consistent dynamic connectivity were shown between different functional

256 networks, where there were virtually none or even negative stable correlations. Specifically, the medial
257 visual regions showed high consistent dynamic connectivity with the left frontal regions. The highest
258 intersubject correlation was 0.56 between left medial visual region and left precentral gyrus. The default
259 mode regions and supramarginal regions also showed high consistent dynamic connectivity. The highest
260 correlation was 0.60 between the posterior cingulate cortex and right supramarginal gyrus. It is
261 noteworthy that these regions generally showed negative stable correlations in Figure 4B.

262 3.2.3. The time courses of dynamic connectivity

263 Lastly, we analyzed the time courses of dynamic connectivity for the above mentioned pairs of regions
264 (Figure 5). The consistent dynamic connectivity between left and right medial visual regions was in
265 general high, which is consistent with the results of stable connectivity. But it can be seen that the
266 connectivity level went down during the first half of windows, and continued with two cycles of up and
267 down fluctuations. The fluctuations rather than a monotonic linear trend suggest that the dynamics of
268 connectivity is not simply due to sensory habituations. The left medial visual region and left precentral
269 gyrus did not show high level of correlations in general. But it had small positive correlations at the
270 beginning of the run, went down to around zero, and then went back to small positive correlations. What
271 is more interesting is the dynamic connectivity between the right supramarginal gyrus and posterior
272 cingulate cortex, where the connectivity switched between positive and negative values during the whole
273 course.



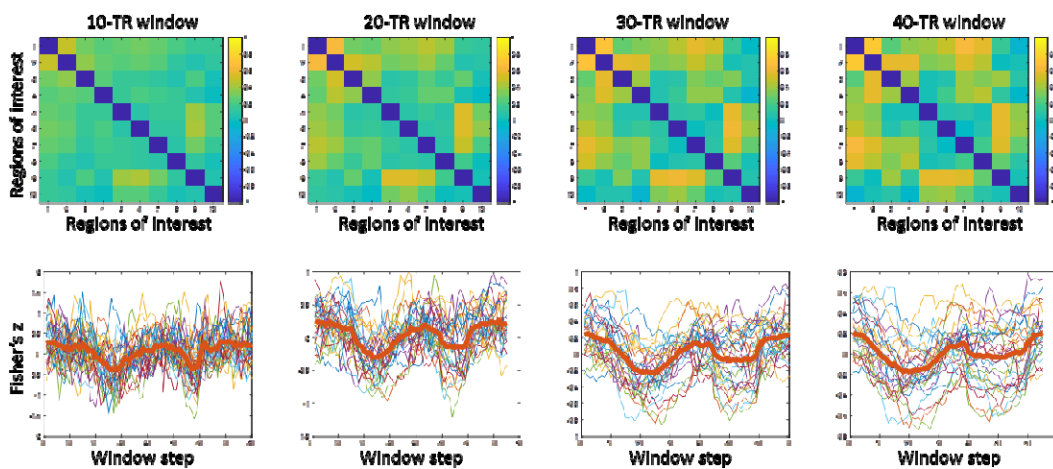
274 **Figure 5** Time courses of dynamic connectivity (Fisher's z) for three pairs of brain regions. Each thinner
275 line represents the time course of one subject, and the thicker red lines represent the averaged time
276 course.

277 courses. LMV, left medial visual; RMV, right medial visual; LPCG, left precentral gyrus; RSMG, right
278 supramarginal gyrus; PCC, posterior cingulate cortex.

279

280 3.2.4. The effects of sliding-window length

281 We repeated the ROI-based intersubject correlation analysis of dynamic connectivity using different
282 window length from 10 TRs to 40 TRs. The overall patterns of intersubject correlations of dynamic
283 connectivity looked similar (Figure 6), especially for the 30-TR window and 40-TR window results. But
284 the correlation values were weaker for shorter window lengths, especially for 10-TR window length. The
285 bottom row of Figure 6 illustrated the time courses of dynamic connectivity of a typical pair of regions,
286 i.e. the right supramarginal gyrus and posterior cingulate cortex. It can be seen that for short window, e.g.
287 10-TR window, the time course of dynamic connectivity were very noisy. Moreover, the fluctuations of
288 dynamic connectivity changed fast, and it seems that different subjects had different delays of certain
289 increases or decreases of connectivity. For longer window, the dynamic connectivity time courses
290 became smoother, and the fluctuations across subjects were more aligned across subjects, which in turn
291 gave rise to higher intersubject correlations.



292

293 **Figure 6** The effects of sliding-window length on the intersubject correlations of dynamic connectivity
294 (top row), and on the time courses of dynamic connectivity between the right supramarginal gyrus and
295 posterior cingulate cortex (bottom row).

296

297

298 **4. Discussion**

299 In the current study, we proposed intersubject correlation analysis on the time courses of dynamic
300 connectivity during natural vision. We were able to identify intersubject consistent dynamic connectivity
301 at similar level as the intersubject correlations of regional activity, although the time courses of dynamic
302 connectivity were thought to be noisier than the original time series. By using seed regions from the
303 visual cortex and supramarginal gyrus, we demonstrated widespread brain regions that showed high
304 intersubject consistent dynamic connectivity with these seeds, although these regions themselves did not
305 show intersubject correlations of regional activity. These regions included high order association regions
306 such as the left precentral cortex and left inferior frontal gyrus, as well as the default mode network. The
307 intersubject consistent patterns of dynamic connectivity support the functional meaningfulness of
308 dynamic connectivity during movie watching, and suggest that dynamic connectivity could be a
309 complementary avenue to characterize the functions of a brain region.

310 The brain regions that had the highest intersubject correlations of regional activity are mainly in
311 the posterior visual related regions, which are consistent with previous studies (Hasson et al., 2004;
312 Nummenmaa et al., 2012). In addition to this, the current study also found high intersubject correlations
313 among different levels of visual areas, and the highest intersubject correlation of dynamic connectivity
314 was between the left and right medial visual regions. This is interesting because the dynamic connectivity
315 is on top of overall high level of stable functional connectivity (Figure 4A). The observable dynamics of
316 connectivity among visual areas are also consistent with previous studies showing task modulated
317 connectivity among visual areas in different task conditions (Di et al., 2018, 2015; Di and Biswal, 2017).

318 In addition to the dynamic connectivity among visual regions, the visual regions also showed
319 consistent dynamic connectivity with regions outside the visual network. Specifically, the medial visual
320 regions showed high intersubject correlations of dynamic connectivity with the bilateral supramarginal
321 gyrus, left precentral gyrus, and left inferior frontal gyrus, which are all high order association areas. The

322 stable connectivity results also showed that there were high stable connectivity among these association
323 regions, but weak stable connectivity with the visual regions, further confirmed that they were two
324 functional modules in the brain. In addition, the supramarginal gyrus, which is a part of the task positive
325 network (Fox et al., 2005), showed high intersubject correlations with the default mode network. The
326 stable connectivity results also showed negative correlations between the supramarginal gyrus and default
327 mode network regions, which further confirmed they were from two different functional modules. These
328 results suggest that the functional communications between the regions from different functional
329 modulates are not stable, but highly depend on task contexts (Bullmore and Sporns, 2012). It is also
330 consistent with findings that the connectivity between regions from different functional modules are more
331 dynamic and context dependent (Di and Biswal, 2019; Fu et al., 2017).

332 The supramarginal gyrus is the major region outside the visual cortex that showed high
333 intersubject correlations of regional activity. The involvements of supramarginal gyrus of intersubject
334 correlations are inconsistent in the literature (Hasson et al., 2004; Kauppi et al., 2010), which probably
335 due to different movies used. Given its critical role in empathy (Silani et al., 2013), it is reasonable to
336 find high intersubject correlations in the supramarginal gyrus during the watching of the animated movie,
337 which involves the understanding the intentions of different animated characters. More interestingly, we
338 also found that the default mode network showed high intersubject correlations of dynamic connectivity
339 with the supramarginal gyrus seeds. Similar to a previous study on the dynamics of intersubject
340 connectivity (Simony et al., 2016), both of the studies highlighted the critical role of the default mode
341 network in understanding of the narratives of a movie.

342 The selection of window length for dynamic connectivity analysis is nontrivial (Fu et al., 2014;
343 Zhang et al., 2013). The shorter the window length, the finer the temporal resolution for dynamic
344 connectivity could be. Nevertheless, there would also be less number of time points for each window,
345 resulting in noisier estimates of connectivity. The current results showed that the overall patterns of
346 intersubject correlation matrices of dynamic connectivity were similar across different window length.
347 But the effect sizes changed dramatically. From Figure 6, it seems that in shorter window length, e.g. 10-

348 TR, the dynamic connectivity time courses were not only noisier, but also with intersubject variability of
349 delays. The offset of connectivity fluctuations across subjects might compromise the intersubject
350 correlations. But when longer window length was used, the time courses become smoother, therefore
351 becoming more intersubject correlated. In other words, the consistent component of dynamic
352 connectivity reflects a slow and averaged pattern of dynamic communication between brain regions.
353 Further studies may use other correlations methods that were not sensitive to phase delays, e.g. coherence,
354 to capture dynamic patterns of connectivity in a finer temporal scale.

355

356 **5. Conclusion**

357 In the current study, we proposed intersubject correlation analysis on dynamic connectivity. The results
358 revealed widespread brain regions that showed consistent intersubject correlations of dynamic
359 connectivity. The consistent correlations support the functional significance of dynamic connectivity
360 during natural vision. The method may provide complementary approach to understand the dynamic
361 nature of brain functional integrations.

362

363

364 **Acknowledgement:**

365 This study was supported by grants from (US) National Institute of Health (R01 AT009829; R01
366 DA038895).

367

368 **Conflict of interest**

369 The authors declared that there is no conflict of interest.

370

371

372 **References:**

- 373 Allen, E.A., Damaraju, E., Plis, S.M., Erhardt, E.B., Eichele, T., Calhoun, V.D., 2014. Tracking whole-
374 brain connectivity dynamics in the resting state. *Cereb. Cortex N. Y. N* 1991 24, 663–76.
375 <https://doi.org/10.1093/cercor/bhs352>
- 376 Bullmore, E., Sporns, O., 2012. The economy of brain network organization. *Nat. Rev. Neurosci.* 13,
377 336–349. <https://doi.org/10.1038/nrn3214>
- 378 Chen, G., Shin, Y.-W., Taylor, P.A., Glen, D.R., Reynolds, R.C., Israel, R.B., Cox, R.W., 2016.
379 Untangling the relatedness among correlations, part I: Nonparametric approaches to inter-subject
380 correlation analysis at the group level. *NeuroImage* 142, 248–259.
381 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.neuroimage.2016.05.023>
- 382 Di, X., Biswal, B.B., 2019. Toward Task Connectomics: Examining Whole-Brain Task Modulated
383 Connectivity in Different Task Domains. *Cereb. Cortex* 29, 1572–1583.
384 <https://doi.org/10.1093/cercor/bhy055>
- 385 Di, X., Biswal, B.B., 2017. Psychophysiological Interactions in a Visual Checkerboard Task:
386 Reproducibility, Reliability, and the Effects of Deconvolution. *Front Neurosci* 1–36.
387 <https://doi.org/10.3389/fnins.2017.00573>
- 388 Di, X., Biswal, B.B., 2015. Characterizations of resting-state modulatory interactions in the human brain.
389 *J. Neurophysiol.* 114, 2785–96. <https://doi.org/10.1152/jn.00893.2014>
- 390 Di, X., Fu, Z., Chan, S.C., Hung, Y.S., Biswal, B.B., Zhang, Z., 2015. Task-related functional
391 connectivity dynamics in a block-designed visual experiment. *Front. Hum. Neurosci.* 9, 1–11.
392 <https://doi.org/10.3389/fnhum.2015.00543>
- 393 Di, X., Zhang, Z., Biswal, B.B., 2018. Psychophysiological interaction and beta series correlation for task
394 modulated connectivity: modeling considerations and their relationships. *bioRxiv* 322073.
395 <https://doi.org/10.1101/322073>
- 396 Fox, M.D., Snyder, A.Z., Vincent, J.L., Corbetta, M., Van Essen, D.C., Raichle, M.E., 2005. The human
397 brain is intrinsically organized into dynamic, anticorrelated functional networks. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U. S. A.* 102, 9673–8.
398
- 399 Friston, K.J., 2011. Functional and effective connectivity: a review. *Brain Connect.* 1, 13–36.
400 <https://doi.org/10.1089/brain.2011.0008>
- 401 Friston, K.J., Williams, S., Howard, R., Frackowiak, R.S., Turner, R., 1996. Movement-related effects in
402 fMRI time-series. *Magn. Reson. Med. Off. J. Soc. Magn. Reson. Med. Soc. Magn. Reson. Med.*
403 35, 346–55. [https://doi.org/DOI 10.1002/mrm.1910350312](https://doi.org/DOI%2010.1002/mrm.1910350312)
- 404 Fu, Z., Chan, S.-C., Di, X., Biswal, B., Zhang, Z., 2014. Adaptive covariance estimation of non-stationary
405 processes and its application to infer dynamic connectivity from fMRI. *IEEE Trans. Biomed.*
406 *Circuits Syst.* 8, 228–39. <https://doi.org/10.1109/TBCAS.2014.2306732>
- 407 Fu, Z., Tu, Y., Di, X., Biswal, B.B., Calhoun, V.D., Zhang, Z., 2017. Associations between Functional
408 Connectivity Dynamics and BOLD Dynamics Are Heterogeneous Across Brain Networks. *Front.*
409 *Hum. Neurosci.* 11. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fnhum.2017.00593>
- 410 Fu, Z., Tu, Y., Di, X., Du, Y., Pearlson, G.D., Turner, J.A., Biswal, B.B., Zhang, Z., Calhoun, V.D., 2018.
411 Characterizing dynamic amplitude of low-frequency fluctuation and its relationship with dynamic
412 functional connectivity: An application to schizophrenia. *NeuroImage* 180, 619–631.
413 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.neuroimage.2017.09.035>
- 414 Fu, Z., Tu, Y., Di, X., Du, Y., Sui, J., Biswal, B.B., Zhang, Z., de Lacy, N., Calhoun, V.D., 2019.
415 Transient increased thalamic-sensory connectivity and decreased whole-brain dynamism in
416 autism. *NeuroImage* 190, 191–204. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.neuroimage.2018.06.003>
- 417 Hasson, U., Nir, Y., Levy, I., Fuhrmann, G., Malach, R., 2004. Intersubject synchronization of cortical
418 activity during natural vision. *Science* 303, 1634–40. <https://doi.org/10.1126/science.1089506>
- 419 Hutchison, R.M., Womelsdorf, T., Allen, E. a., Bandettini, P. a., Calhoun, V.D., Corbetta, M., Della
420 Penna, S., Duyn, J.H., Glover, G.H., Gonzalez-Castillo, J., Handwerker, D. a., Keilholz, S.,
421 Kiviniemi, V., Leopold, D. a., de Pasquale, F., Sporns, O., Walter, M., Chang, C., 2013. Dynamic
422 functional connectivity: Promise, issues, and interpretations. *NeuroImage* 80, 360–378.
423 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.neuroimage.2013.05.079>

- 424 Kauppi, J.-P., Jääskeläinen, I.P., Sams, M., Tohka, J., 2010. Inter-subject correlation of brain
425 hemodynamic responses during watching a movie: localization in space and frequency. *Front.*
426 *Neuroinformatics* 4. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fninf.2010.00005>
- 427 Lindquist, M.A., Xu, Y., Nebel, M.B., Caffo, B.S., 2014. Evaluating dynamic bivariate correlations in
428 resting-state fMRI: A comparison study and a new approach. *NeuroImage* 101, 531–546.
429 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.neuroimage.2014.06.052>
- 430 Nastase, S.A., Gazzola, V., Hasson, U., Keysers, C., 2019. Measuring shared responses across subjects
431 using intersubject correlation. *Soc. Cogn. Affect. Neurosci.* 14, 667–685.
432 <https://doi.org/10.1093/scan/nsz037>
- 433 Nummenmaa, L., Glerean, E., Viinikainen, M., Jääskeläinen, I.P., Hari, R., Sams, M., 2012. Emotions
434 promote social interaction by synchronizing brain activity across individuals. *Proc. Natl. Acad.*
435 *Sci. U. S. A.* 109, 9599–9604. <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1206095109>
- 436 Park, H.-J., Friston, K., 2013. Structural and Functional Brain Networks: From Connections to Cognition.
437 *Science* 342, 1238411–1238411. <https://doi.org/10.1126/science.1238411>
- 438 Power, J.D., Barnes, K.A., Snyder, A.Z., Schlaggar, B.L., Petersen, S.E., 2012. Spurious but systematic
439 correlations in functional connectivity MRI networks arise from subject motion. *NeuroImage* 59,
440 2142–2154. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.neuroimage.2011.10.018>
- 441 Richardson, H., Lisandrelli, G., Riobueno-Naylor, A., Saxe, R., 2018. Development of the social brain
442 from age three to twelve years. *Nat. Commun.* 9, 1–12. [https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-018-](https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-018-03399-2)
443 03399-2
- 444 Rosenthal, G., Sporns, O., Avidan, G., 2017. Stimulus Dependent Dynamic Reorganization of the Human
445 Face Processing Network. *Cereb. Cortex* 27, 4823–4834. <https://doi.org/10.1093/cercor/bhw279>
- 446 Silani, G., Lamm, C., Ruff, C.C., Singer, T., 2013. Right Supramarginal Gyrus Is Crucial to Overcome
447 Emotional Egocentricity Bias in Social Judgments. *J. Neurosci.* 33, 15466–15476.
448 <https://doi.org/10.1523/JNEUROSCI.1488-13.2013>
- 449 Simony, E., Honey, C.J., Chen, J., Lositsky, O., Yeshurun, Y., Wiesel, A., Hasson, U., 2016. Dynamic
450 reconfiguration of the default mode network during narrative comprehension. *Nat. Commun.* 7,
451 12141. <https://doi.org/10.1038/ncomms12141>
- 452 Teichert, T., Grinband, J., Hirsch, J., Ferrera, V.P., 2010. Effects of heartbeat and respiration on macaque
453 fMRI: Implications for functional connectivity. *Neuropsychologia* 48, 1886–1894.
454 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.neuropsychologia.2009.11.026>
- 455 Zhang, Z.G., Fu, Z.N., Chan, S.C., Hung, Y.S., Motta, G., Di, X., Biswal, B.B., 2013. Adaptive window
456 selection in estimating dynamic functional connectivity of resting-state fMRI, in: 2013 9th
457 International Conference on Information, Communications & Signal Processing. IEEE, pp. 1–4.
458 <https://doi.org/10.1109/ICICS.2013.6782935>
- 459

460

461 **Table 1** Clusters with differential intersubject correlations of dynamic connectivity among the medial
 462 visual, lateral visual, and supramarginal gyrus seeds. All clusters were thresholded at $p < 0.001$, and
 463 cluster thresholded at $p < 0.0167$ ($0.05 / 3$) after false discovery rate (FDR) correction.

cluster FDR	Voxel	MNI Coordinates			Peak t	Label
		x	y	z		
Medial visual > (lateral visual + supramarginal)						
< 0.001	157	-51	8	23	6.00	Left precentral gyrus
< 0.001	439	-12	-100	-4	5.90	Occipital pole
< 0.001	87	-51	-49	50	5.23	Left supramarginal gyrus
< 0.001	86	-33	44	-10	5.15	Left lateral orbital gyrus
< 0.001	408	24	-88	-4	5.10	Right inferior occipital gyrus
0.007	46	-60	-58	5	5.05	Left middle temporal gyrus
< 0.001	95	66	-31	26	4.92	Right supramarginal gyrus
0.003	57	-48	-34	14	4.58	Left planum temporale
Lateral visual > (medial visual + supramarginal)						
< 0.001	165	15	-79	-4	6.09	Lingual gyrus
< 0.001	99	48	-70	8	5.98	Right inferior occipital gyrus
Supramarginal > (medial visual + lateral visual)						
< 0.001	1582	6	-40	44	6.92	Precuneus
< 0.001	142	-3	59	8	5.87	Medial superior frontal gyrus
< 0.001	254	27	11	47	5.50	Right middle frontal gyrus
< 0.001	105	-30	11	35	5.38	Left middle frontal gyrus
0.001	77	-45	-67	38	5.17	Left angular gyrus
< 0.001	90	48	-61	44	4.98	Right angular gyrus
< 0.001	85	-21	29	50	4.83	Left superior frontal gyrus
< 0.001	104	24	62	2	4.79	Right superior frontal gyrus
0.006	49	0	-91	11	4.40	Cuneus

464

465 MNI, Montreal Neurological Institute

466