VISUALLY DRIVEN FUNCTIONAL NETWORKS IN THE BRAIN



CLAUDIA VARGAS & DANIEL FRAIMAN



Perception's shadow: longdistance synchronization of human brain activity

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Scale-Free Brain Functional Networks

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Emergence of Stable Functional Networks in Long-Term Human Electroencephalography

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A core EEG network



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Research report

Electrophysiological correlates of biological motion permanence in humans

Ghislain Saunier^{a,b}, Eduardo F. Martins^a, Elisa C. Dias^c, José M. de Oliveira^a, Thierry Pozzo^{d,e,f}, Claudia D. Vargas^{a,*}

ACTION OBSERVATION/MOTOR COGNITION





Point light display (Johansson, 1973)

EXPERIMENTAL SET UP



Biological Motion (BM)

Scrambled Motion (SM)

- Sixteen subjects
- Fifty repetitions of BM and SM randomized in two blocks
- Event related potentials (ERP) measured in 20 channels

EVENT RELATED POTENTIALS



IN: Quantitative EEG Analysis Methods and Clinical Applications Ed. By Martin L. Yarmush, Christopher J. James (2009).



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Biological Motion Coding in the Brain: Analysis of Visually Driven EEG Functional Networks

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INTERACTION CRITERION:



NETWORK PROPERTIES



- Average path length (L), defined as the average number of steps along the shortest paths for all possible pairs of network nodes
- (i.e., the number of people you will have to communicate through, on an average, to contact a complete stranger).



• **Degree centrality (D)**, defined as the number of links incident upon a node (i.e., the number of ties that a node has, or how influential a person is within a social network).





• **Clustering coefficient (C)** is a measure of how likely it is that node neighbors are connected to each other.



Betweenness (P3)="proportion of all shortest paths that pass through P3"



















RESULTS I Global network properties



HIGH VARIABILITY INTER-TRIAL /BETWEEN CONDITIONS

Comparing global properties of Biological motion (BM) vs Scrambled motion (SM).



.....No difference in global properties regardless of the number of links!

II Local network properties



II Local network properties





The Parieto-frontal circuit codes biological movement in primates and humans (Kalaska et al., 1990; Desmurget et al., 2012)





TMS in PMC (corresponding roughly to F7 region) affected participants' response bias to biological motion stimuli by increasing the tendency to respond that biological motion was present when it was not.

B. van Kemenade, N. Muggleton, V. Walsh, A. Saygin (2012)

Summary

- The use of a new fast-scale network methodology was herein proposed for the mapping of functional networks extracted from electroencephalographic activity driven by visual stimulation.
- Local network graph parameters of degree, betweenness, and clustering allowed us to distinguish between biological and scrambled motion conditions in precise moments in time and for specific node points.
- Thus, the functional network approach is a suitable method for studying brain function on the time scale of cognitive processing and it allows for a new level of understanding of the complex phenomena associated with brain function.

