

Detecting microstructural deviations in individuals with deep diffusion MRI tractometry



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Along-tract profiling



A. Bundle segmentation

Jones et al. MRM (2005); Corouge et al. MedIA (2006); Yeatman et al. PLOS One (2012); Colby et al. Nimg (2012); Cousineau et al. Nimg Clin. (2017); Yeatman et al. Nat. Comms. (2018)

Understanding clinical heterogeneity





Marquand AF. et al. Biological psychiatry (2016)
 Yeatman J. et al. Nature Communications (2018)

One of the main goal of neuroimaging is *personalized-medicine*

Normative modeling



Idea: learn a set of normative microstructural features from healthy controls only

To shift from group-wise comparisons¹ (N vs M) to individual diagnosis (1 vs M) in diffusion MRI (dMRI) would enable the analysis of rare cases and clinically-heterogeneous groups².

Jones DK., and Cercignani M. NMR in Biomedicine (2010)
 Marquand AF. et al. Biological psychiatry (2016)

d

Tract-profiling Univariate *z*-score approach

Cerebral palsy



Left Corticospinal





Left: Yeatman J. et al. **PLOS One** (2012) Right:Yeh PH. et al. **Human Brain Mapping** (2017)



Multivariate PCA approach





Left: Taylor PN. et al. **Neurology** (2020) Right: Yeatman J. et al. **Nature Communications** (2018)



Multidimensional generalization





Yeatman J. et al. PLOS One (2012), Taylor PN. et al. Neurology (2020), Chamberland M. et al. Nature Computational Science (2021)

Deep autoencoder

Unsupervised learning & normative modeling





Tractometry approach

Input features

- Automated tract segmentation using TractSeg¹
- Tractometry:
 - FA, MD (low $b = 1200 \text{ s/mm}^2$)
 - **RISH0**, **RISH2** (high b = 6000 s/mm²)
- Feature vector \rightarrow n = 26 tracts × 20 locations = 520 features for each subject.



Data acquisition and pre-processing steps are detailed in²

Feature vector (**x**)

Discriminating power



White-matter anomaly detection in CNV participants



90 healthy controls children (HC)8 children with copy number variants (CNV)Train: 80% HC, repeat 100x

Consistent locations but not required

Tract-specific deviations



White-matter anomaly detection in CNV participants





MAE: Mean Absolute Error

Focal cortical dysplasia

White-matter anomaly detection in epilepsy



75 healthy controls1 epilepsy patient



Linking brain heterogeneity with epidemiological findings in schizophrenia



Challenging task at hand \rightarrow a **supervised** support vector machine classifier provides similar accuracy (AUC = 0.65 ± 0.13)

109 healthy controls

43 schizophrenia patients

Train: 80% HC, repeat 100x

Visual Analytics Framework

github.com/chamberm/detect



Additional information

Peer review information *Nature Computational Science* thanks Laurent Petit, Daniel C. Alexander and the other, anonymous, reviewer(s) for their contribution to the peer review of this work.

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Chamberland M. et al. **Nature Computational Science** (2021) Commentary News & Views by Rokem A. **Nature Computational Science** (2021)



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