

## The Neurosurgeon, the Connectome, & the Resting Brain

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#### Contents

- Brain mapping: a brief guide
- The 'quantum leap' of the resting brain
- Rise of the connectome
- Neurosurgery: making the connectome 'work'

# Chapter 1: The brain mapper



Map of the world, 1570 Abraham Orterlius

#### functional localisation



# functional integration

- Geswhind-Wernicke-Lichtheim language circuit
- Still a 'discrete' model





# Critique

- Pros: applicable / practical
- Cons: limited numbers, not replicable, pathological brains, heterogenous
- Conclusion: an inevitable
  'dead' end



# Chapter 2: The resting brain





# task based functional MRI

- Task activity = feature of interest
- Brain like a computer (processor)
- Rest = background 'noise'
- Big advance in neurosciences
  ~1990s onwards



# PET & the paradigm shift

- Majority of energy (>95%) used at rest)
- Typical patterns or selforganising activity
- Characteristic 'task negative' default mode network



# Analysing resting state FMRI data



# Resting state networks



#### Activation & rest

#### Resting networks reflect those from task meta-analysis



Resting networks arranged in a hierarchy of sub-networks



Smith et al, PNAS, 2009

# Organisation at rest

- Majority of energy
- Correspondence of activation & rest architectures
- Dynamically active repertoire of networks

"The fact that the body is lying down is no reason for supposing that the mind is at peace. Rest is far from restful". Seneca the younger, ~65 AD

## Chapter 3: The Connectome - what, how, why?



Leonhard Euler 1707-1783

## What is the connectome?











'Backwardness of human neuroanatomy....new techniques are needed...." Crick & Jones, Nature, 1993

## aside 1: what networks?



# A problem of bridges....



#### Make a graph.....



**Graph theory - the language of networks** 

# Graph vocabulary

✤ G(V,E)

- Vertices (nodes)
- Edges (links)
- Degree (k)
  - number of links per node
- Clustering (C)
- Path length (L)



# Small world



Watts & Strogatz, Nature, 1998

#### Scale-free networks & 'hubs'



Small number of highly connected (central) nodes

Most nodes have low connectivity (degree)

Defines hubs & rich club

Vulnerably to attack on hubs but robust to random error

Can be simulated by growth & preferential attachment

Barabasi & Albert, Science, 1999

## Six Degrees of Kevin Bacon



*Hollywood actor network* (>200,000 nodes, >3 million links): small-world, scale-free, central hubs, rich club

## Airlines

**Duration of Travel** 

(hours)

<]



>20

## aside 2: how to make brain networks?

# Connectome making



# aside 3: why networks?

## Brains are networks



Appraising a new theory

- Explain current models | consistent
- Resolves conflicts | clarifying
- Offer new approaches | motivating

# Universal principles

#### Small world

#### Communities

#### Weak links "Achille's heel"



#### Chapter 4: the neurosurgeon & real world connectomics



# Biomarkers: 'blast injury'

#### Reduced between module communication



Han et al, Neuroimage, 2014

# Functional neurosurgery

DBS for obsessive compulsive disorder normalises fronto-striatal connectivity



Figee et al, Nature Neuroscience, 2013

#### Modelling effects of lesions



#### What are the questions?

- Is function local or long distance?
- What is the localisation of cognition?
- Can we see what is going to happen?

"....and can we use this to plan what we do at surgery?"

#### Distant effects of brain tumours



## Plasticity: new & absent hubs



#### Predicted robustness / resilience

Spheres = nodes / parcels / brain regions

Red = peri-tumoural regions

Yellow = brain region not adjacent to tumour



Size = reduction in network efficiency on node removal

Small = little effect

Big = larger effect ('network hubs' or 'central nodes')





#### The Connectome

- Paradigm shift in neuroscience
- Small world encompassing connectivity and localisation
- Hubs & 'cognitive eloquence'
- New 'graph theory' language for:
  - functional brain mapping
  - lesion modelling
  - dynamic changes & plasticity



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