Harmonizing DTI data: Mind Research Network, Oxford, and Rotterdam, a view from the trenches



Generation **R**



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Sources of Noise

- Physiological noise
- B₀ inhomogeneity
 - Imperfect shimming
 - Imperfections in B0 field
 - Localized susceptibility differences
- Eddy currents
- Hardware instability
 - Time variant (drift)





Within- versus across-site differences



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ORIGINAL DATA ARTICLE

The MCIC Collection: A Shared Repository of Multi-Modal, Multi-Site Brain Image Data from a Clinical Investigation of Schizophrenia

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The MCIC imaging and clinical data are available through the COINS (COllaborative Informatics Neuroimaging Suite) database (Scott et al. 2011) and may be freely used with no restrictions.



University of Minnesota

Patients n = 27

Controls n = 22

Siemens Trio 3 T

12 directions

University of New Mexico

Patients n = 41

Controls n = 43

Siemens Sonata 1.5 T

12 directions

Massachusetts General Hospital Patients n = 28Controls n = 21Siemens Sonata 1.5 T 60 directions

> University of Iowa Patients n = 19Controls n = 52Siemens Trio 3 T 6 directions





Vollmar et al. (2010)

Z-Transformed Measures of Fractional Anisotropy



afing

"The limitations of the study are that the original data were assembled from 4 different regions of the U.S., that both 3 T and 1.5 T scanners were used, that protocols were not standardized/designed a priori, and that subject samples from each of the regions were not very large. Therefore, any conclusions must necessarily address these possible confounds and this is also well addressed in the discussion section. No measure is provided on how well results from the different sites measure up, that is no subject seemed to have been examined at more that one site."

















-25

lowa

MGH





-10

0













































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White Matter Abnormalities in Schizophrenia Summary of 50+ Studies







White, Nelson, Lim (2009)







Potholes in nature





Number of Contiguous Voxels

Number of Contiguous Voxels



Spatial Location of at Least Six Overlapping Potholes in Patients

B



Number of Overlapping Potholes at z = -25

Oxford Data

Subjects

- Schizophrenia spectrum
 - n = 42 (24 males / 19 females)
 - Mean age: 17.0 (SD 1.8) years
- Bipolar affective disorder
 - n = 13 (6 males / 7 females)
 - Mean age: 15.4 (SD 2.1) years
- Obsessive compulsive disorder
 - n = 17 (9 males / 8 females)
 - Mean age: 16.2 (SD 1.6) years
- Controls
 - n = 29 (15 males / 14 females)
 - Mean age: 16.5 (SD 2.0) years



Sequence Acquisition 1.5 Tesla 2.5 x 2.5 x 2.5 mm 60 directions







Intra-scanner correlation of number of potholes between runs







Spatial overlap of potholes at time 1, 2 & 3 as a function of cluster size threshold



Scatter plot of z-scores







Generation R Study Design

- Prospective cohort design
- 9,778 mothers and their children
- Born between 2002 and 2006
- Plan is to follow the children into young adulthood
- Goal to describe normal and abnormal patterns of growth and development







Generation R Neuroimaging

- Pilot/feasibility study: Began September 2009
 - Completed phase I in July 2013
 - 1,070 six to eight year old children scanned
 - 2013: Dedicated Scanner Installed
 - Began scanning Focus @ 9 cohort in April 2013
 - Scanned over 3,500 nine to ten year old children to date.
 - Averaging 140 160 children per month
 - Goal of 5,000 children scanned at time 2
 - Then begin scanning at time 3

















Conclusions

- Harmonization should also consider harmonization in demographics and an accurate classification of the clinical phenotype
- Specific image processing algorithms are associated with corresponding assumptions.
- Decreasing the inter-site image acquisition variability can be achieved by:
 - Selecting similar sequence parameters and scanners
 - Non-linear registration approaches
 - Focal ROI's (corpus callosum) or whole brain DWI measures
- Big data is good







DTI data – different scanners and acquisition sequences were used at the different sites. No information is provided on reliability of measures between scanners as could be obtained by imaging the same individuals on scanners at each site.

This is an excellent point and prior to the current study, a reliability study was performed where subjects traveled between sites and were scanned. However, since then one site (Iowa) upgraded from a 1.5 Tesla GE to a 3 Tesla Siemens scanner and several sites altered their DTI sequences. After these changes in scanner updates and sequences were made, we lacked the resources to perform a second reliability study. To address site related differences, we have analyzed and presented the data for each site separately, as shown in Figure 2. We agree that had we been able to repeat the reliability study it would be a very valuable contribution to this paper and the literature at large.

June 2009



Thank you for your attention









Generation R









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Neuroimaging

- GE 3 Tesla 750 System

- 8 Channel head coil

- High-resolution structural MRI

- T1 FLASH sequence
- 0.9 mm isotropic resolution

- Diffusion Tensor Imaging

- 2 mm isotropic resolution
- 35 directions

- Functional MRI

- Gradient Echo (BOLD) sequence
- 4 mm isotropic resolution with whole brain coverage

Methods

- Preprocessing:
 - Eddy-current corrected and upsampled to 1mm isotropic (Elastix)
 - Rotated gradient tables with eddy current according to transform parameters
 - Brain mask generated
 - Fit tensors, generate FA iamges (dtifit)
 - Registration to MNI 152 (Elastix):
 - Rigidly registered all 3 repetitions to their mean space
 - Registered mean FA image to MNI152 (affine + b-spline)
 - Applied rigid + affine + b-spline registrations to each repetition





Distribution of z-score correlations











Group Difference in Number of Potholes



	Controls	Sz	BPAD	OCD
Controls		p = 0.012	p = 0.003	n.s.
Sz			n.s.	p = 0.03
BPAD				p = 0.03
OCD				





Overview

- Mind Research Network
 - Combining multisite data
- Oxford
 - Scan/rescan reliability
- Rotterdam
 - Combining time 1/time 2 data







The Mind Research Network