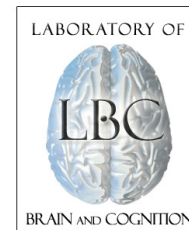


Methods for Whole-Brain Comparisons of Resting State Functional Connectivity

Stephen J. Gotts
Laboratory of Brain and Cognition
NIMH/NIH
Bethesda, MD



Functional Connectivity of Spontaneous Activity at Rest (i.e. "Resting State")

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- very popular (easy and fast to administer)
- subjects passively view a fixation cross
- fluctuations in spontaneous activity ($< .1$ Hz) are correlated throughout the brain in a spatially restricted manner

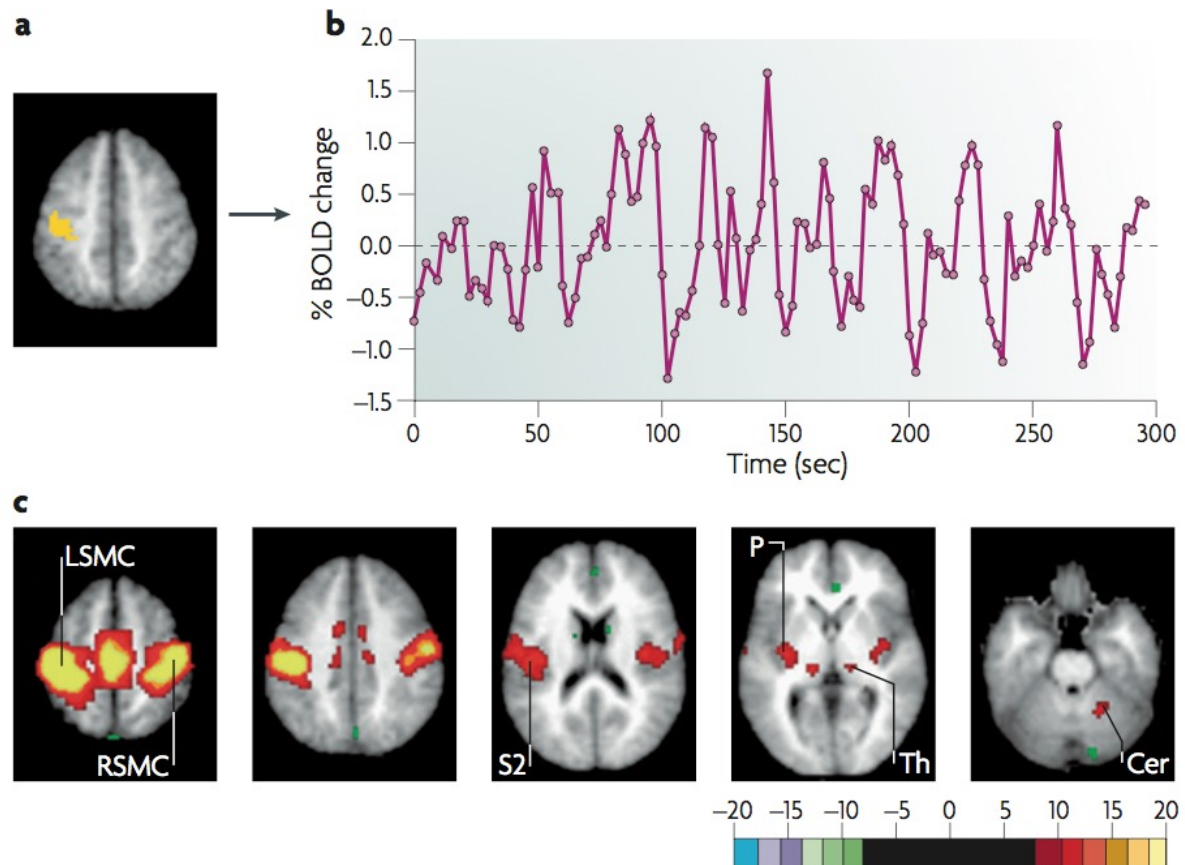
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For review:

Fox & Raichle (2007).
Nat Rev Neurosci

Power, Schlaggar,
& Petersen (2014).
Neuron



Problem:

How can we do brain-wide testing in fMRI?

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But what to do for functional connectivity studies?

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Other options:

- Predefined Regions of Interest
 - but might not capture the full picture
- Methods that decompose the data into smaller numbers of elements, such as **ICA**
 - requires some assumptions about the nature of the data

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Two different whole-brain approaches that are more purely statistical (based in cluster-size correction), with fewer *a priori* assumptions about network structure:

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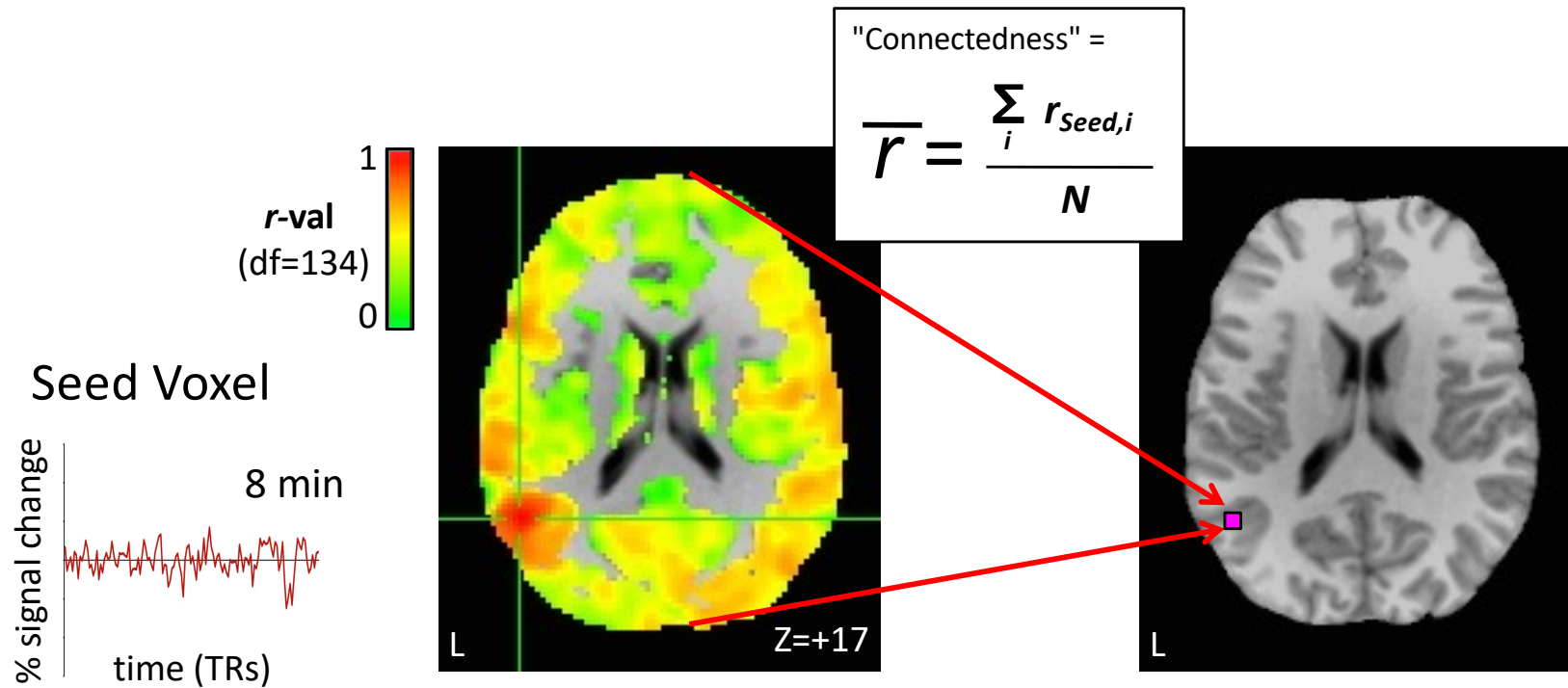
Two different whole-brain approaches that are more purely statistical (based in cluster-size correction), with fewer *a priori* assumptions about network structure:

- Using average "connectedness" (centrality)
- Testing every voxel as a seed (without averaging)

Average Connectedness (Centrality)

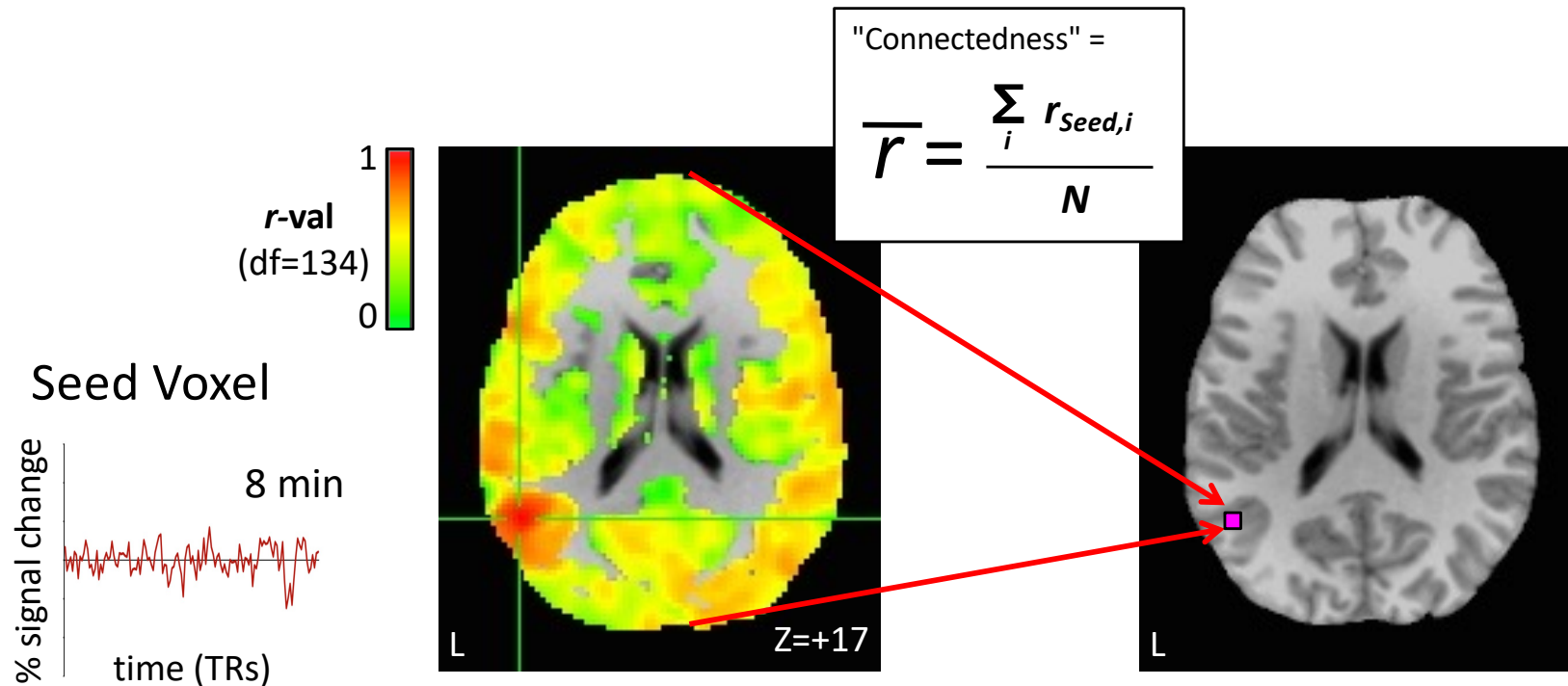
Average Connectedness (Centrality)

Compress the all-to-all voxels problem into a single map of "connectedness" for each subject (per condition)



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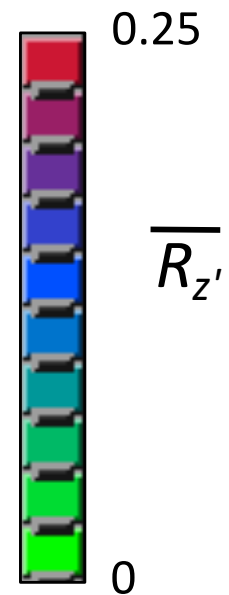
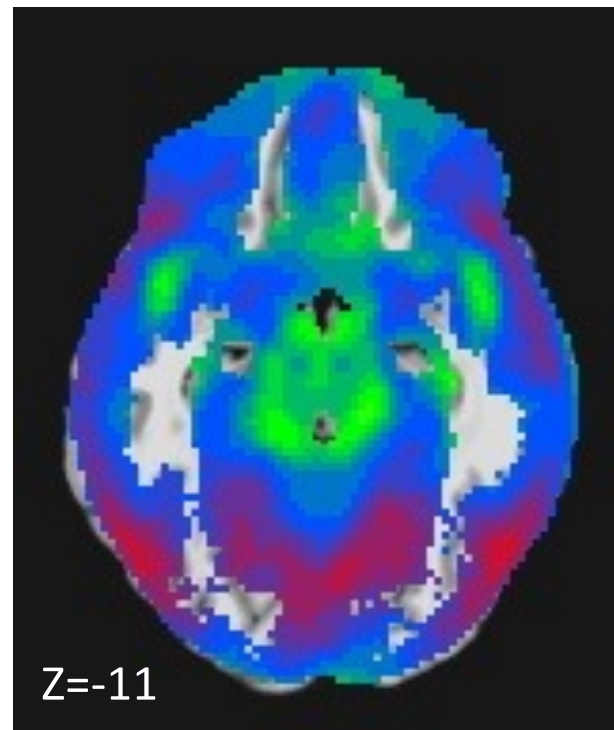
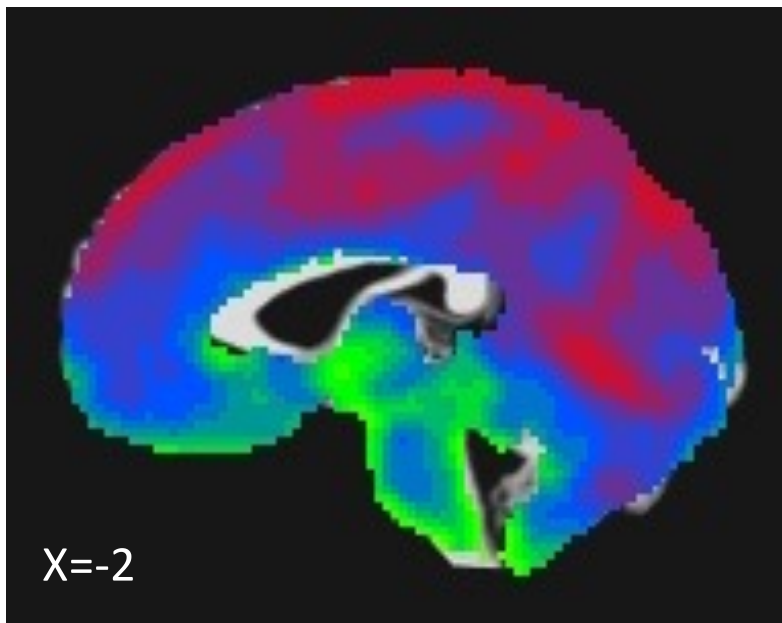


** a la Bob Cox and his AFNI group*

Average Connectedness (Centrality)

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Group Average Connectedness (per condition):



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Compress the all-to-all voxels problem into a single map of "connectedness" for each subject (per condition)

Pro: Preserves a lot of the spatial resolution in the data,
Regardless of the group comparison, has a shot at finding "under" or "over-connected" voxels

Con: Might miss more spatially restricted effects and mixtures of under/over-connection

Example:

Autism (ASD) vs. Typically Developing (TD)

doi:10.1093/brain/aws160

Brain 2012; 135; 2711–2725 | 2711

BRAIN
A JOURNAL OF NEUROLOGY

Fractionation of social brain circuits in autism spectrum disorders

Stephen J. Gotts,¹ W. Kyle Simmons,² Lydia A. Milbury,¹ Gregory L. Wallace,¹
Robert W. Cox³ and Alex Martin¹

Altered Functional Connectivity in Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD)

31 High-Functioning ASD adolescents

- Using DSM-IV criteria + ADI, ADOS
- "Triad" of impairments:
 - Impaired social functioning
 - Restricted interests/repetitive behaviors
 - Language/communication impairments

29 Typically Developing (TD) controls

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Groups matched on:

AGE:~17 (12-24)

IQ: ~113 (85-143)

Sex 95% male subjects

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Scanned at rest with 3.5 sec TR for 8 min 10 sec with
1.7 x 1.7 x 3 voxels

Altered Functional Connectivity in Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD)

How is functional connectivity altered in ASD ?

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... or System-specific disruption ?
(e.g. circuits involved in social processing)
- Increase in Local Interactions ? (**)

The "Social Brain"

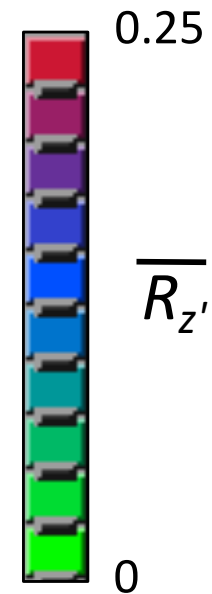
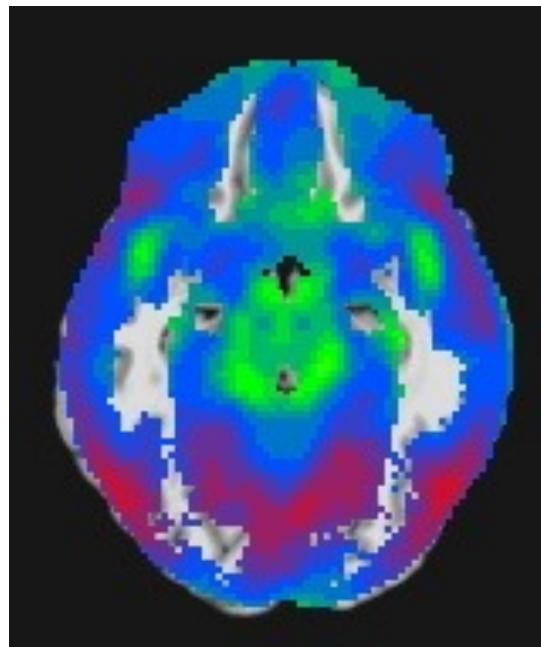
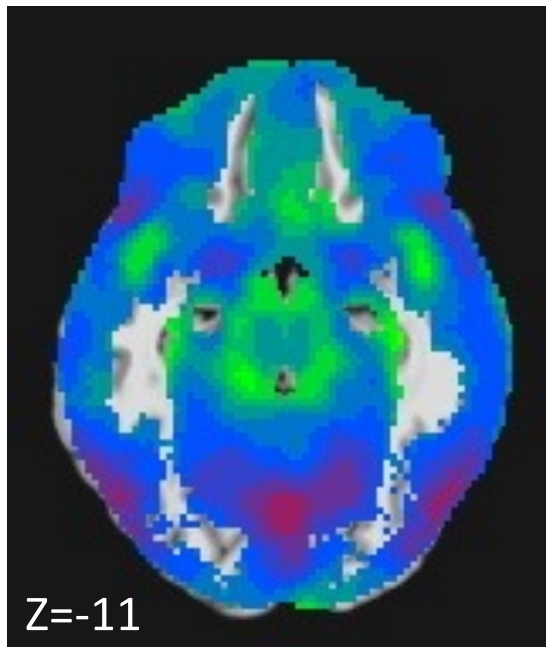
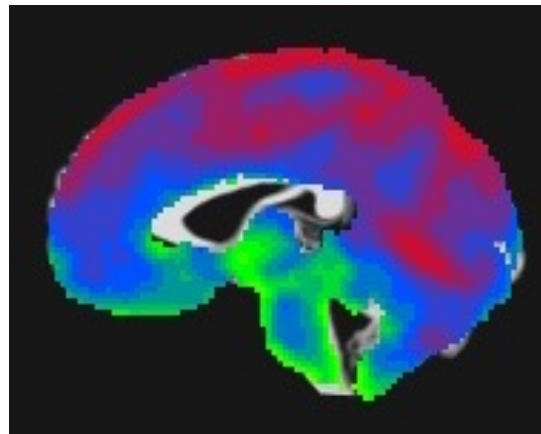
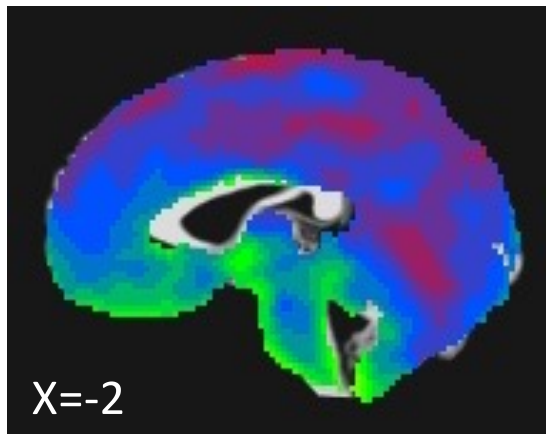
(a la Brothers, 1990; Frith & Frith, 2007; Adolphs, 2009)



Using Group Connectedness to Find Seeds

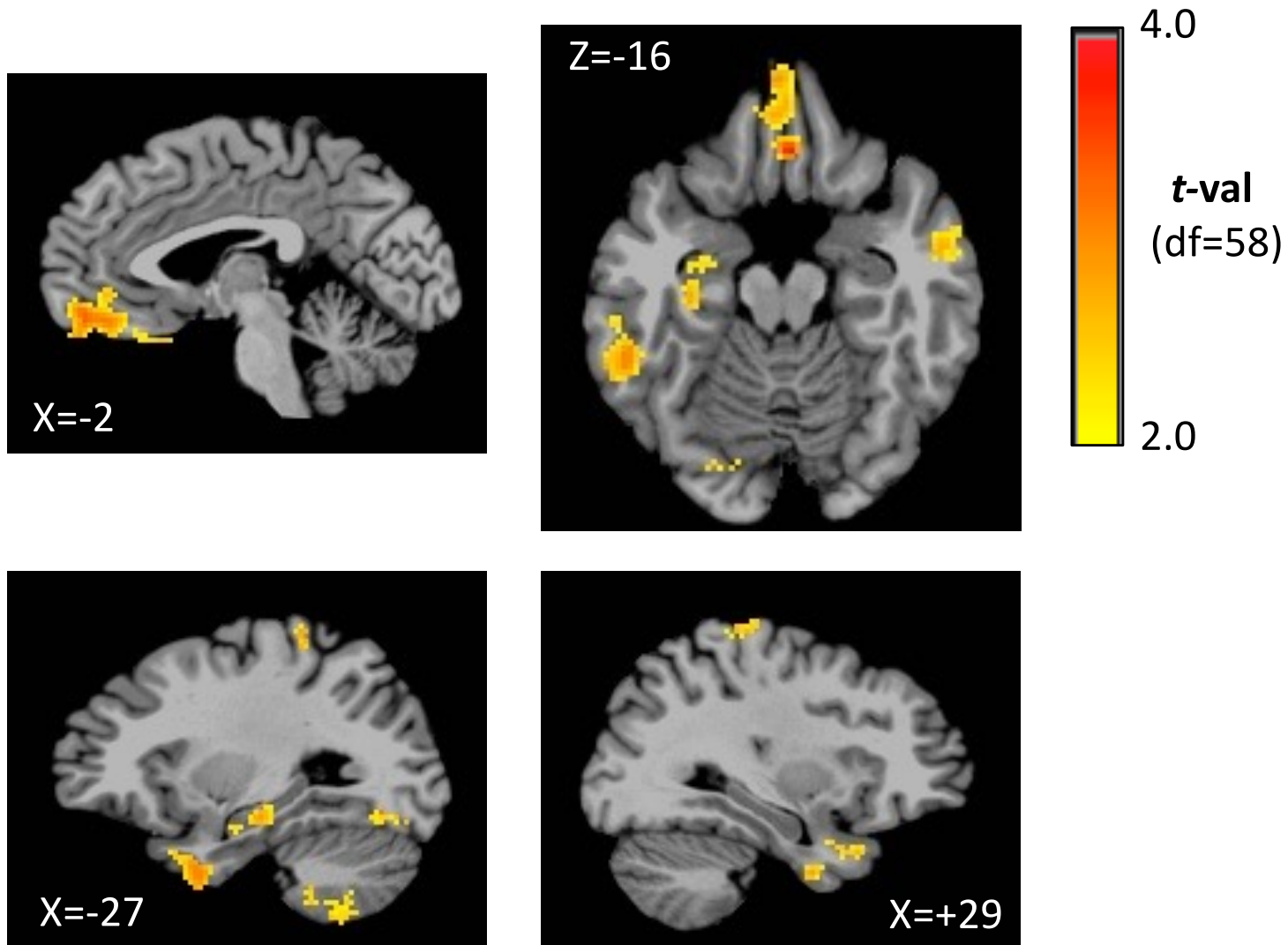
ASD

TD



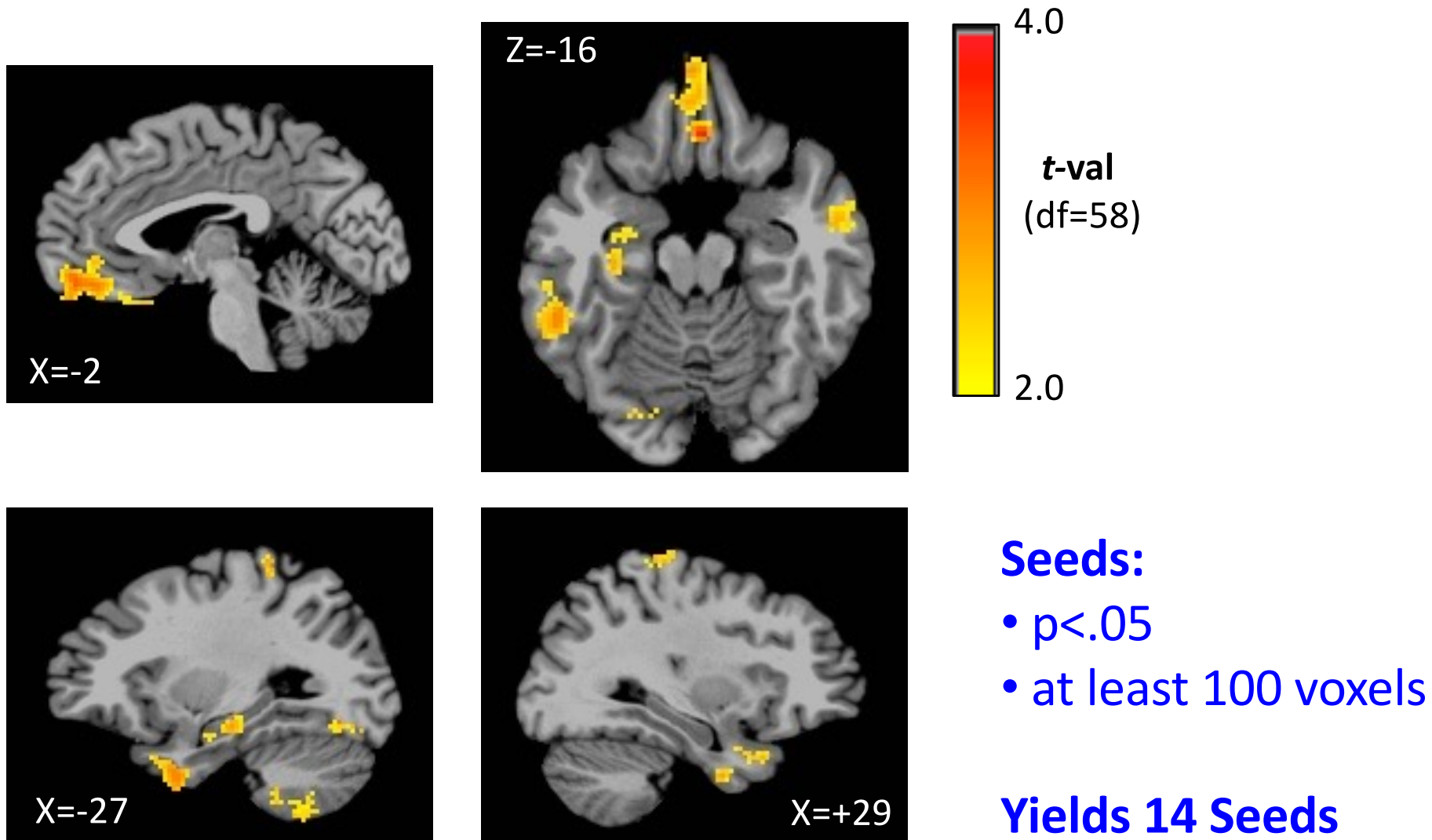
Using Group Connectedness to Find Seeds

TD - ASD

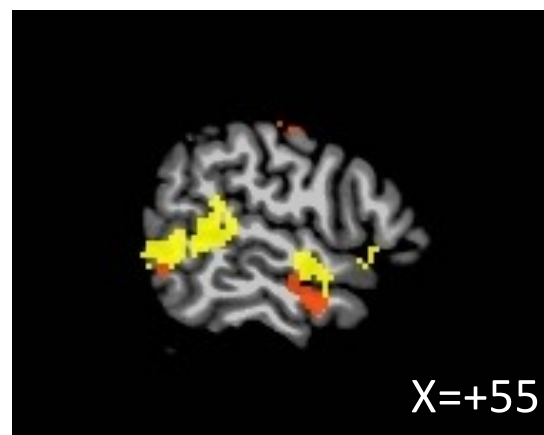
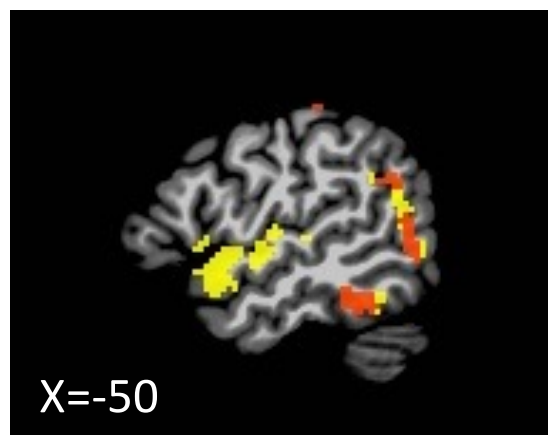
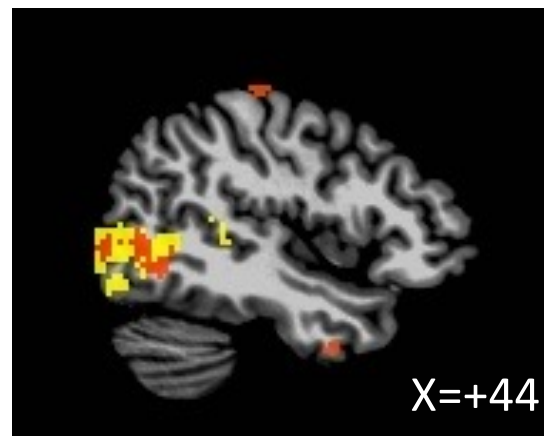
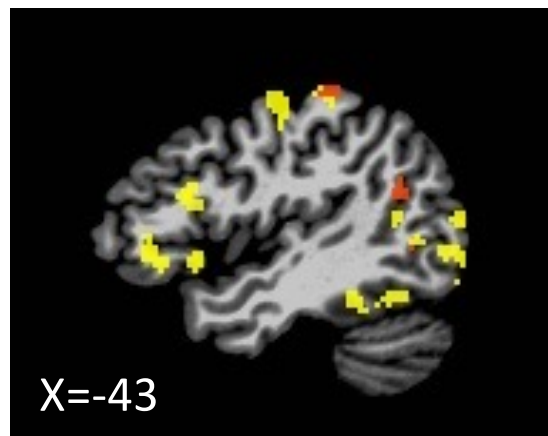
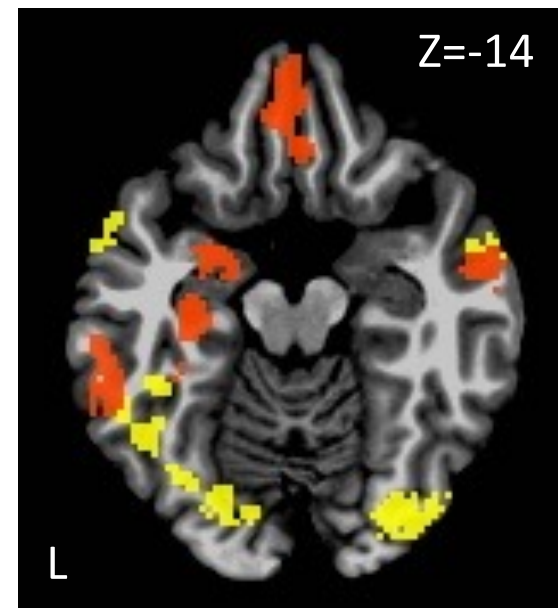
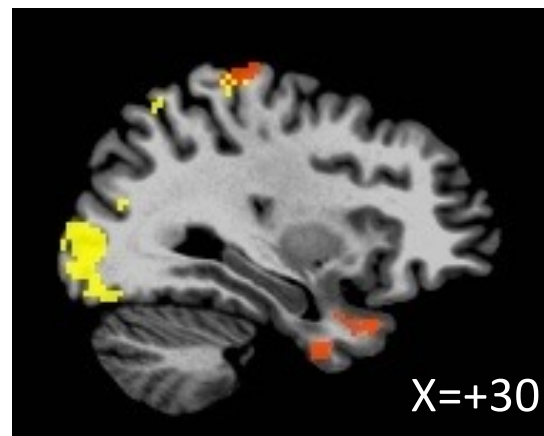
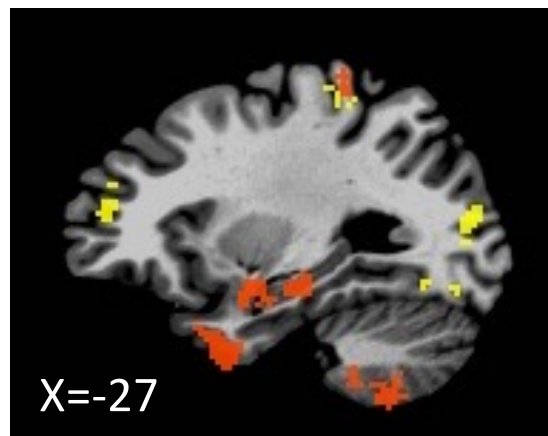


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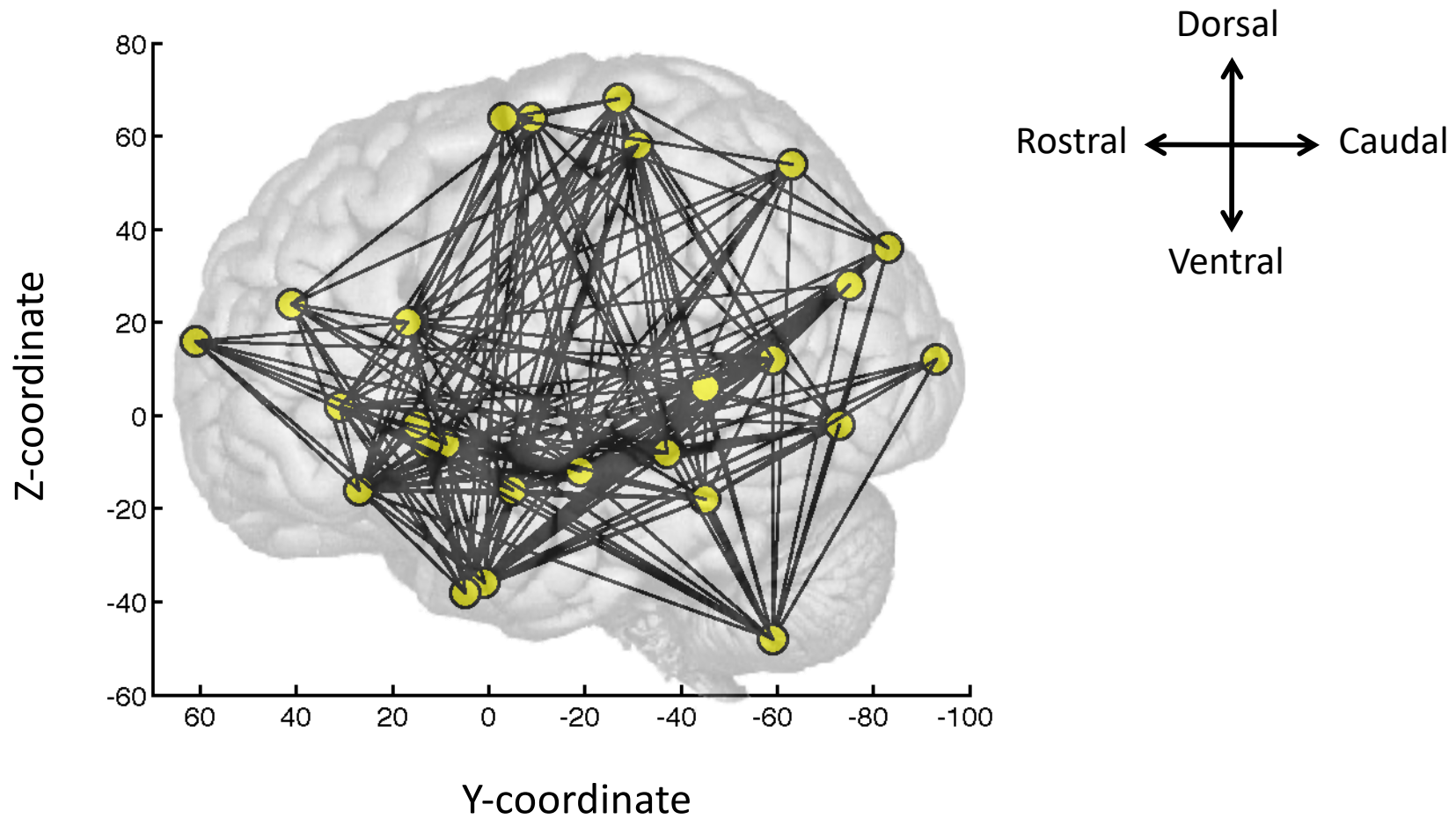
Seeds + Seed Tests --> 27 Total Regions of Interest



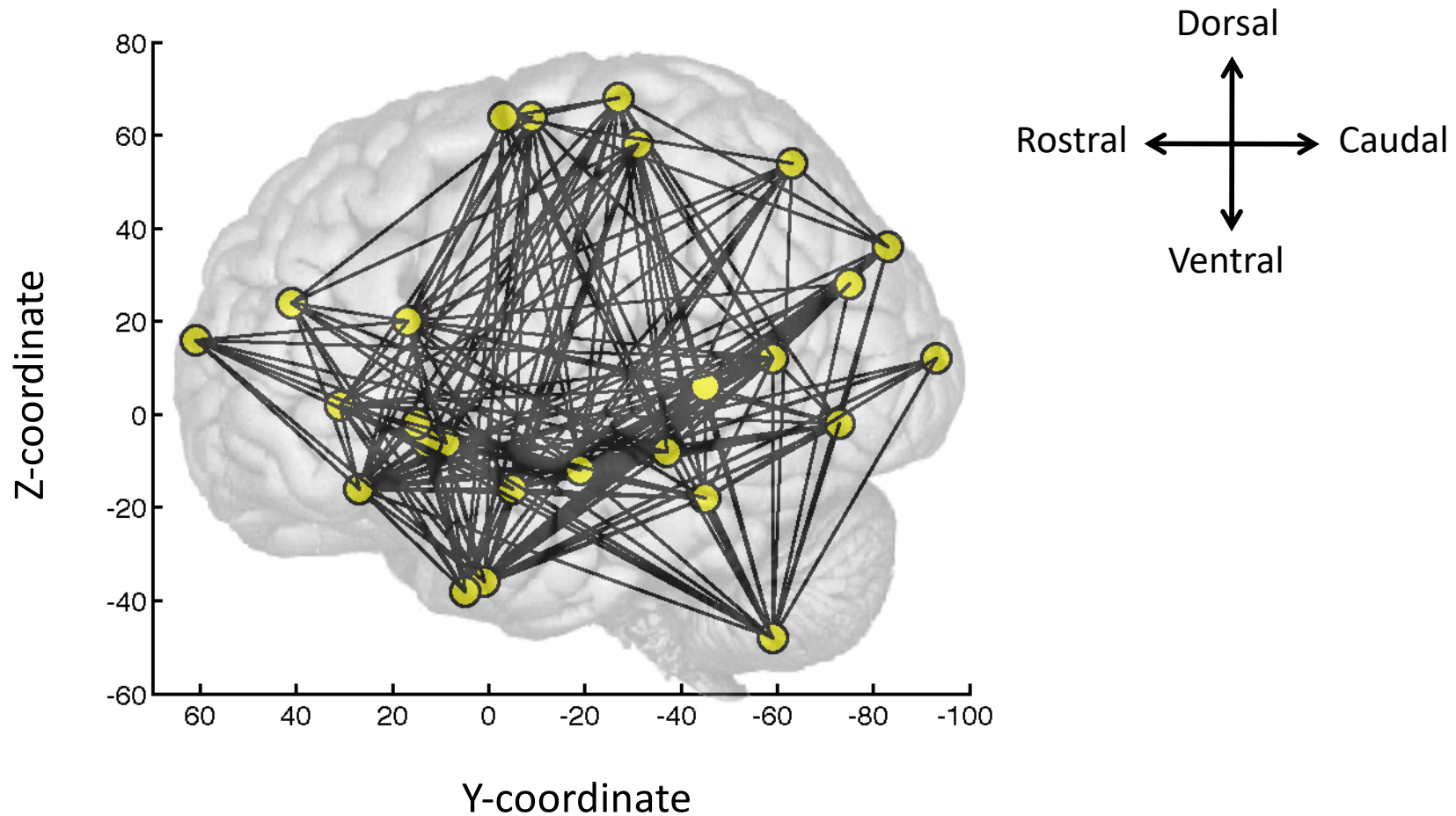
TD > ASD:
Seed ROIs

TD > ASD:
Non-seed voxels
($p < .001$, corrected)

Seeds + Seed Tests --> 27 Total Regions of Interest

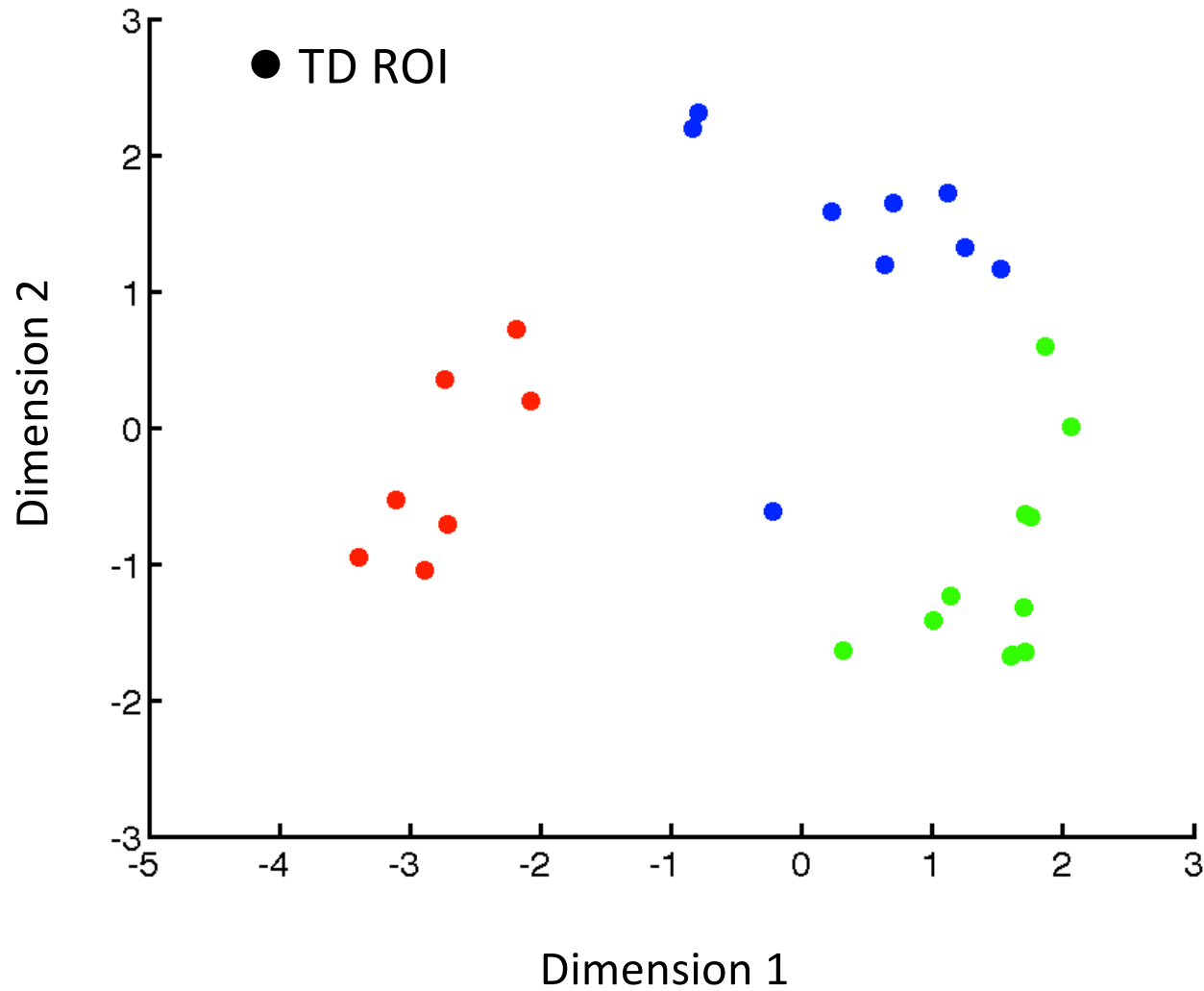


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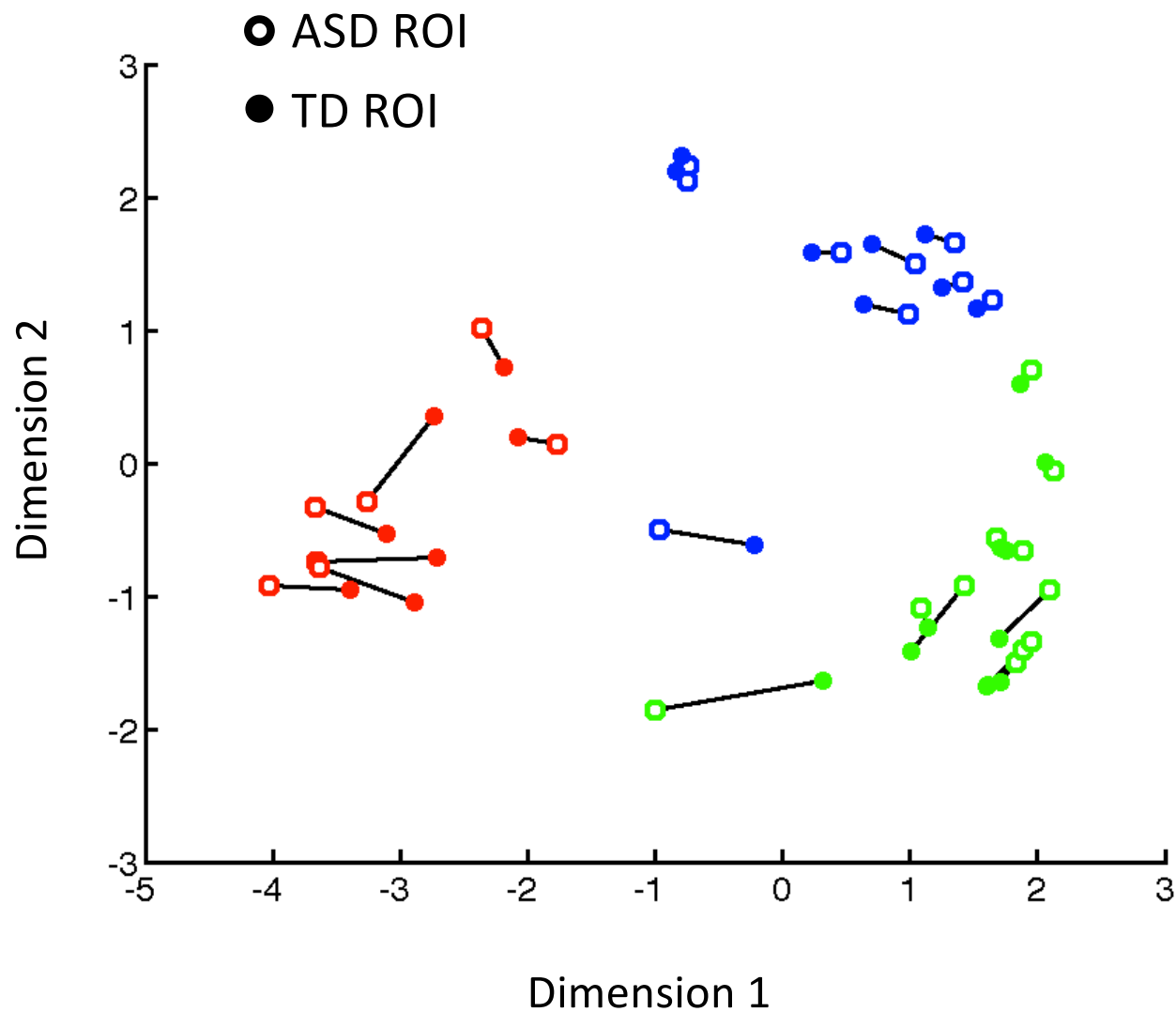


How do these areas relate to each other ?

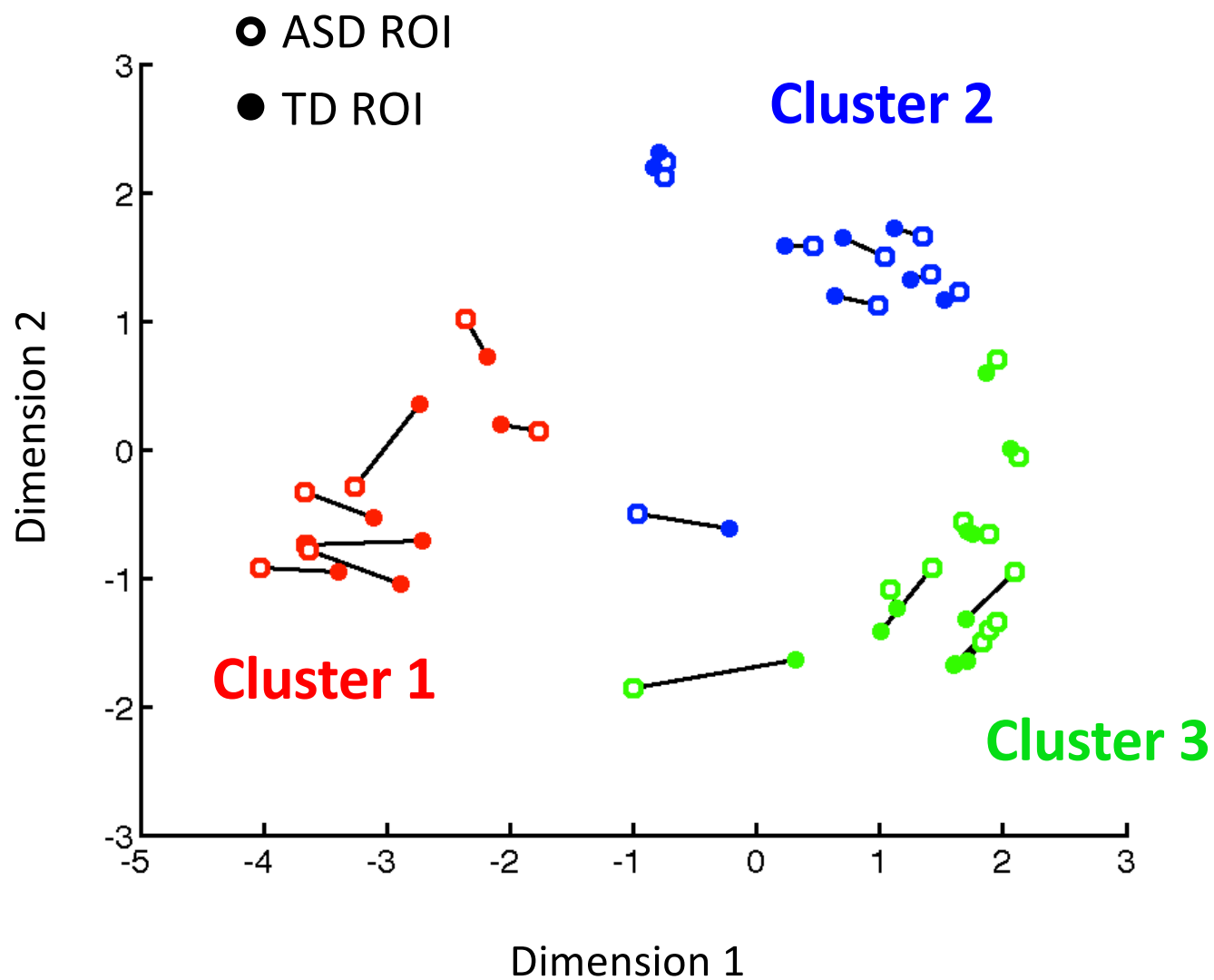
Visualizing ROI-ROI correlations with Multi-Dimensional Scaling and K-Means Clustering (K=3)



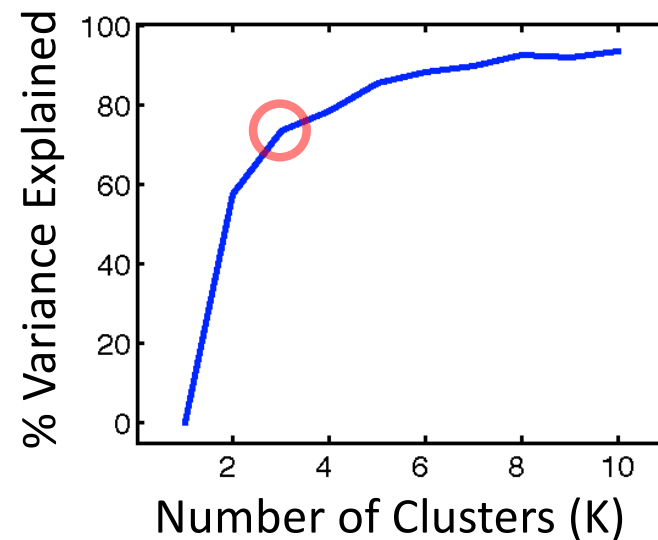
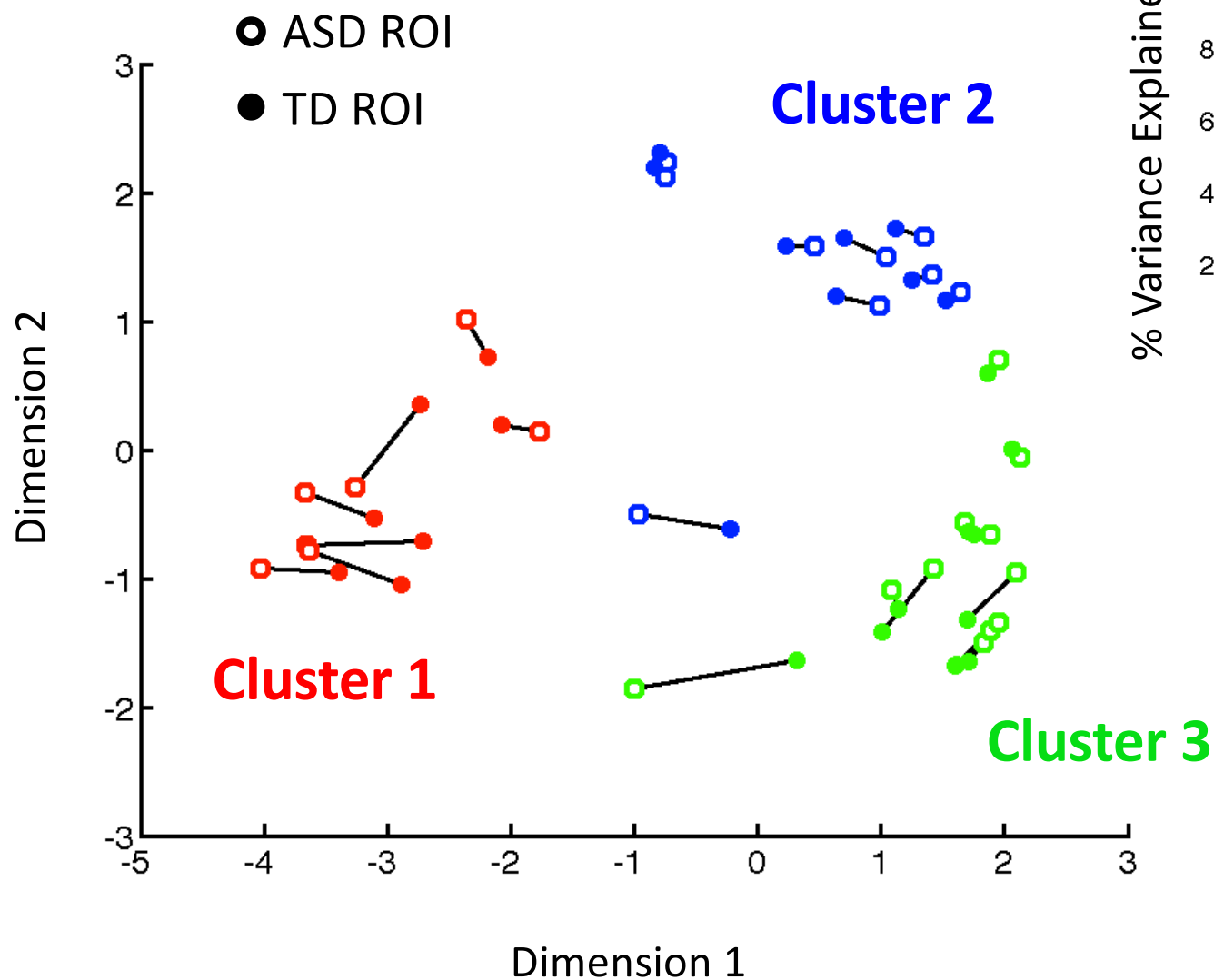
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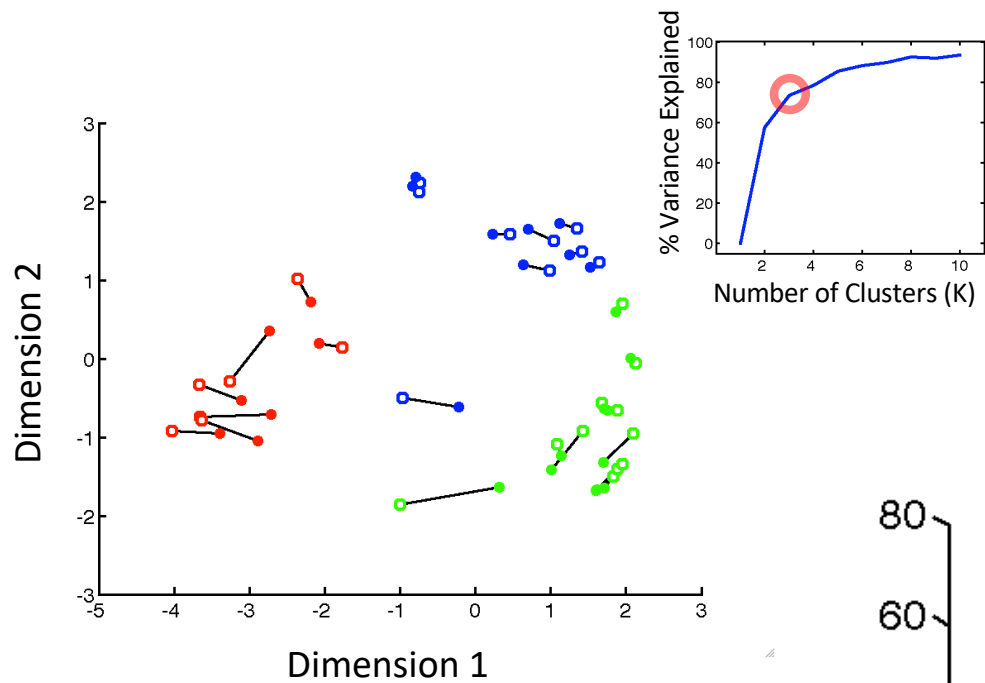


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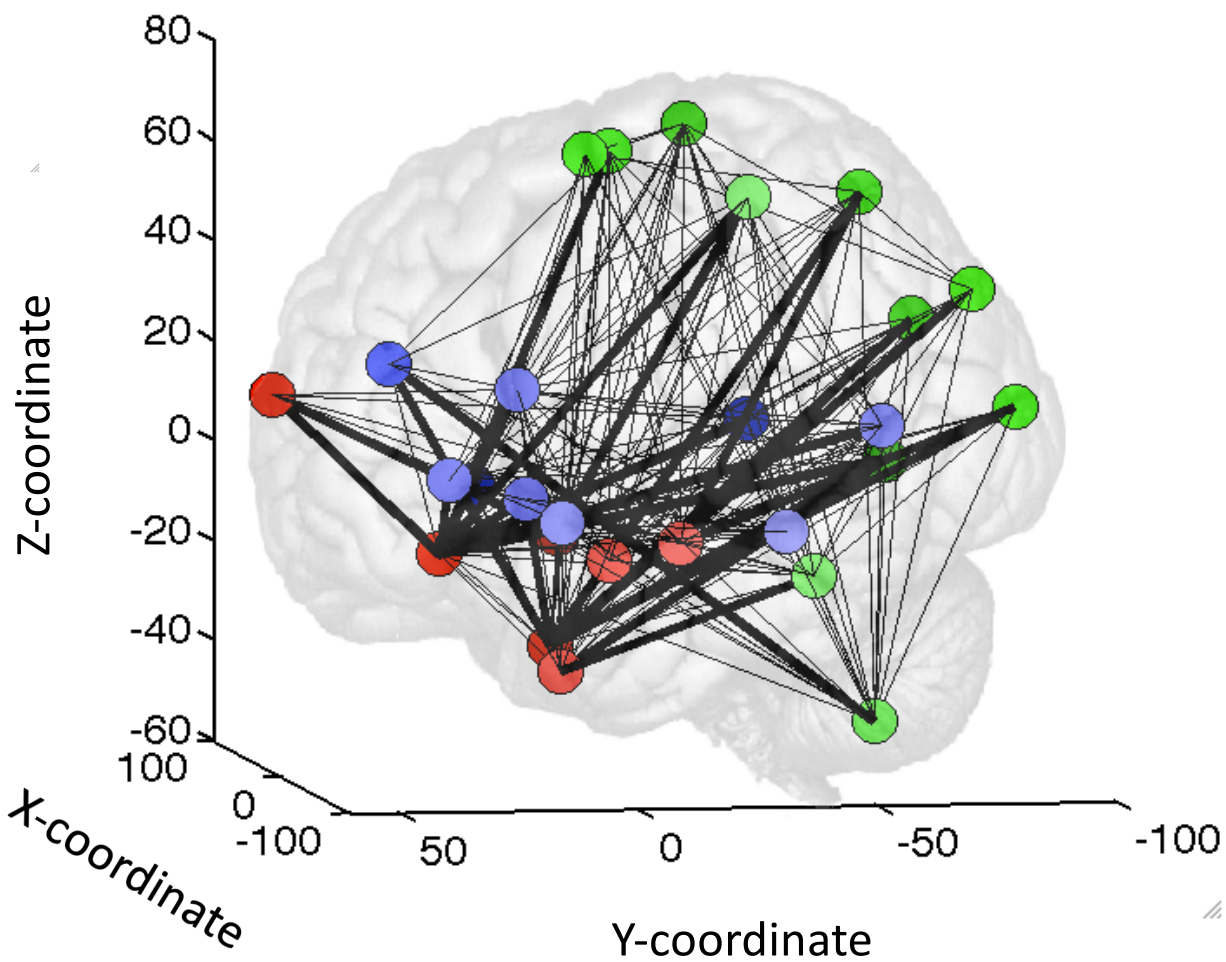


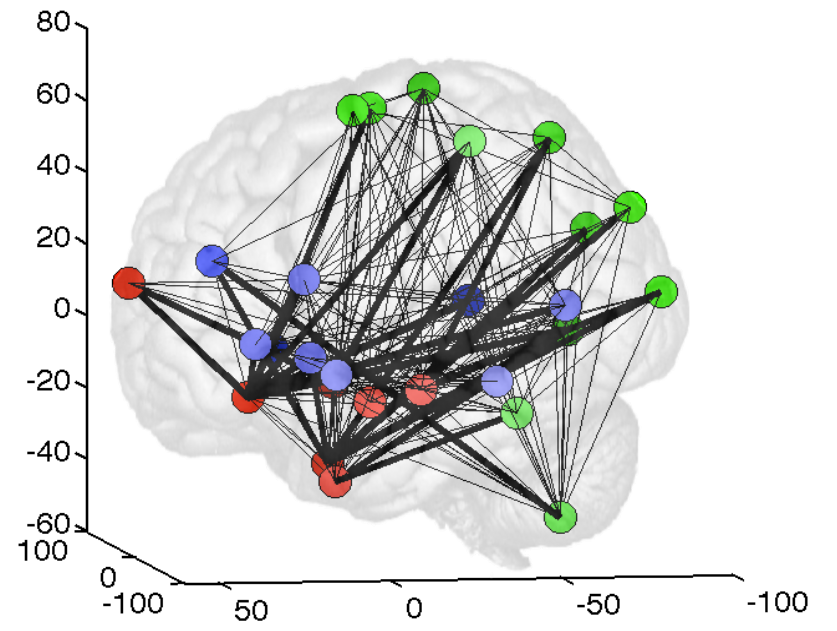


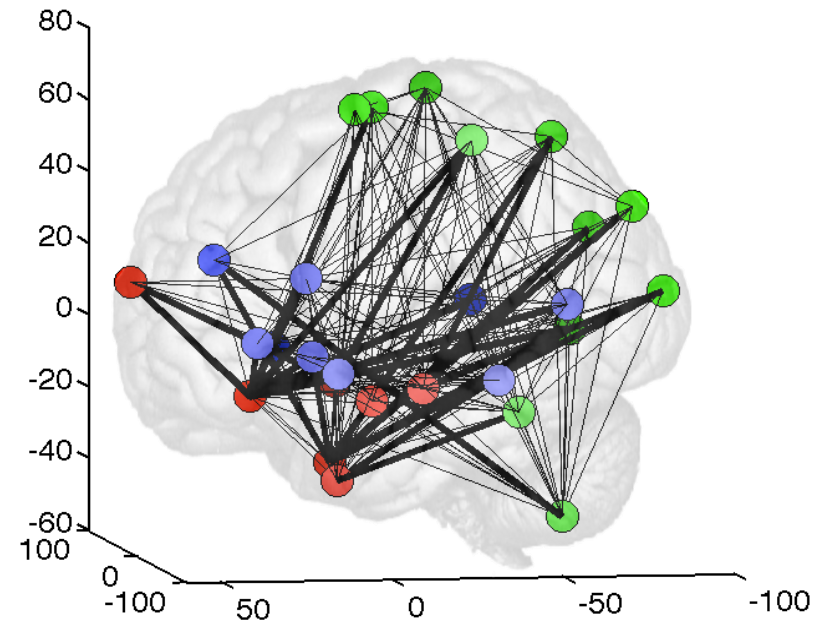
TD > ASD (t-val)

— P<.05 (Bonferroni-corrected)

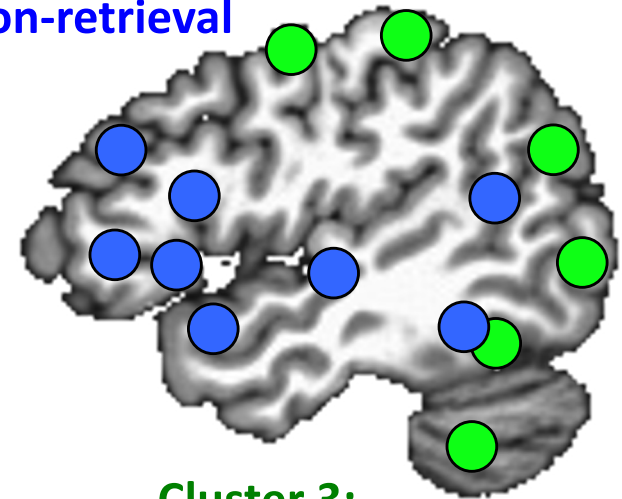
— P<.05 (uncorrected)



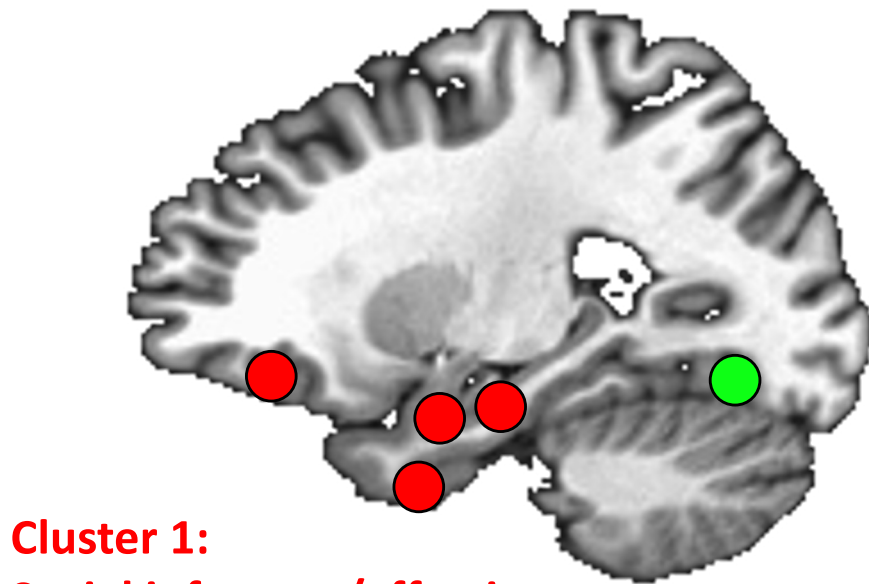




Cluster 2:
Control/selection-retrieval

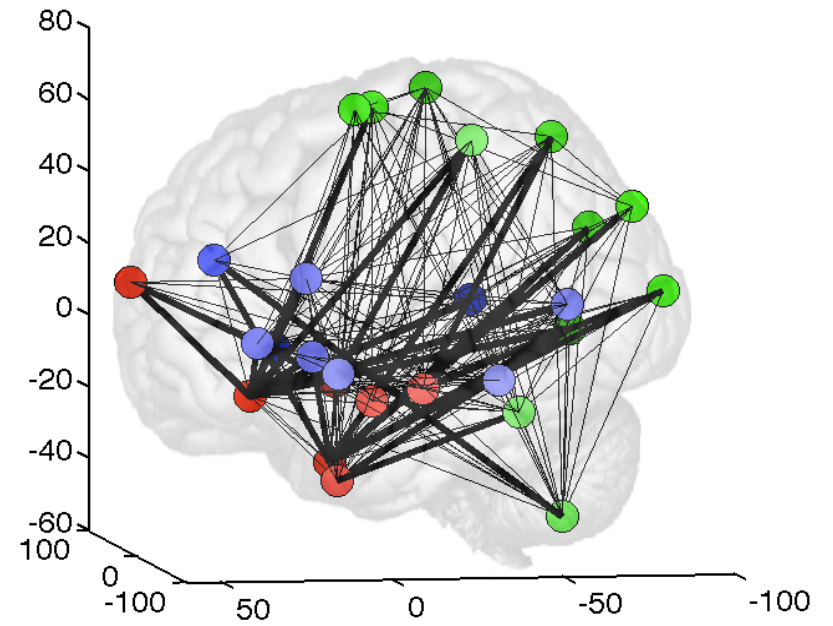


Cluster 3:
Social perception
Form / motion



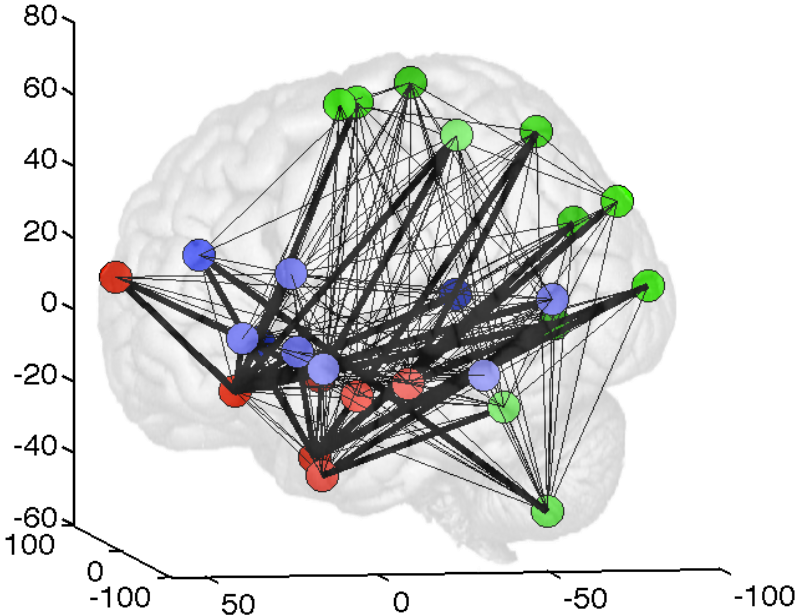
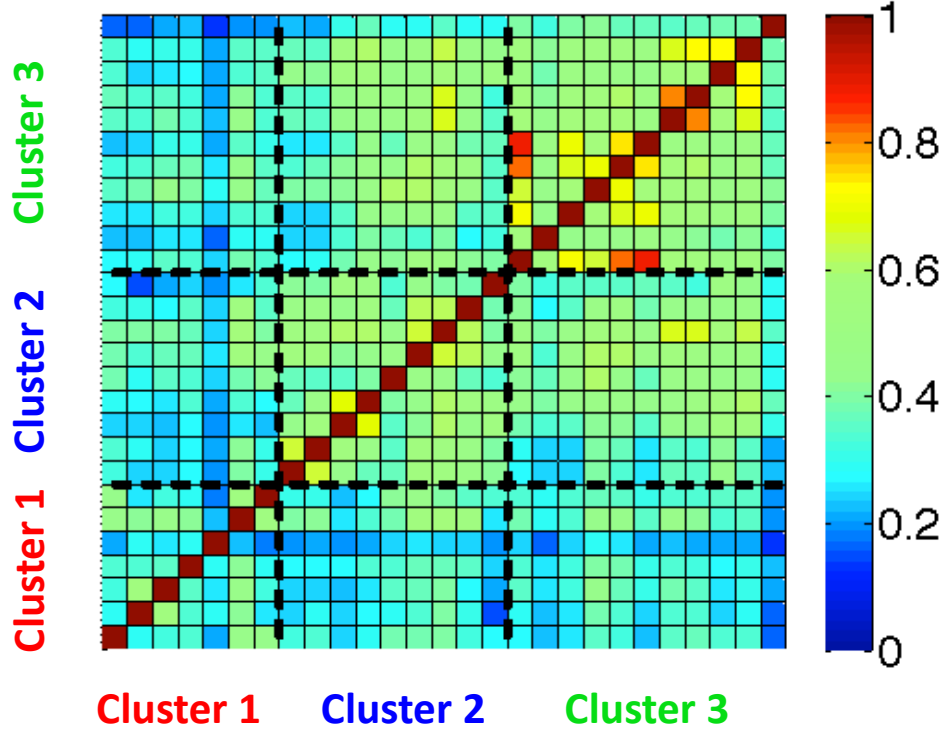
Cluster 1:
Social inference/affective

Back to ROI-ROI Correlation Matrices



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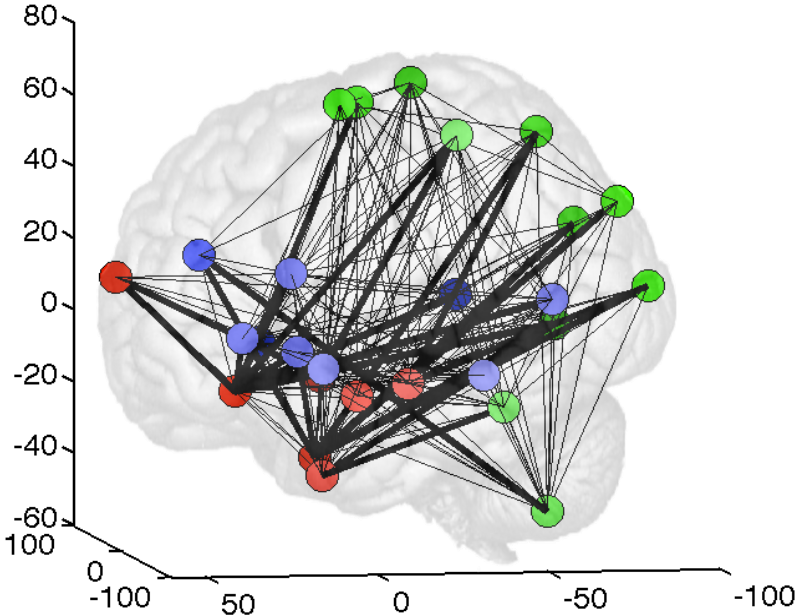
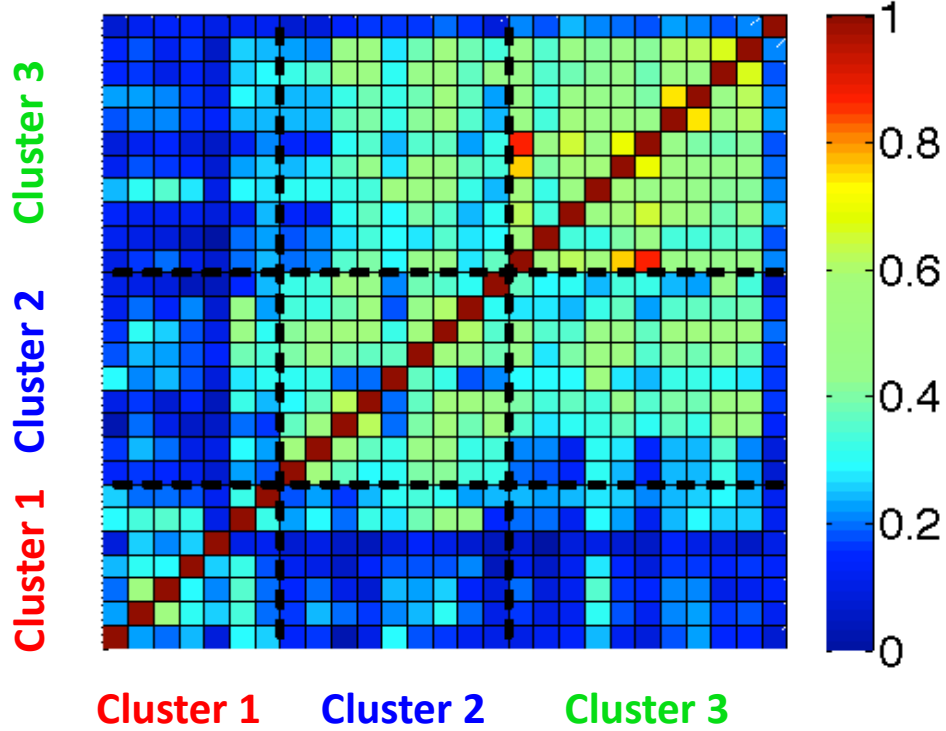
TD



r-val

Back to ROI-ROI Correlation Matrices

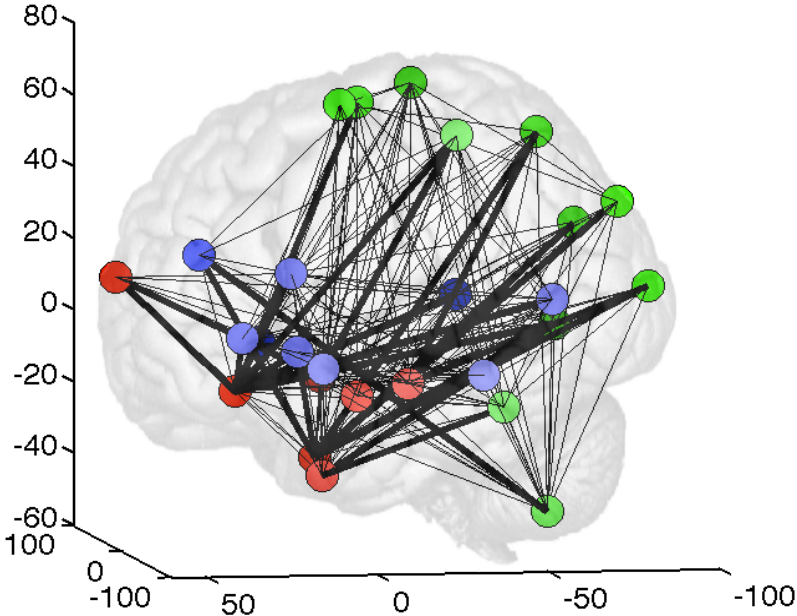
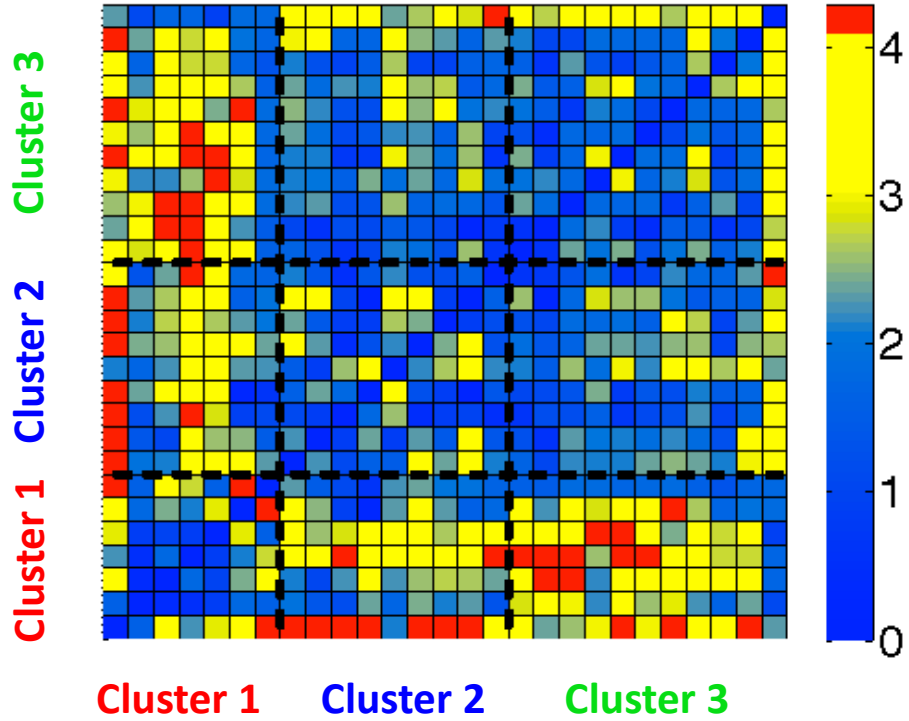
ASD



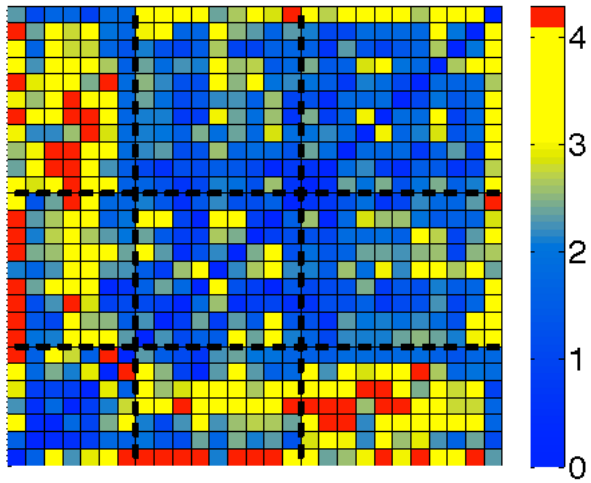
r-val

Back to ROI-ROI Correlation Matrices

TD - ASD

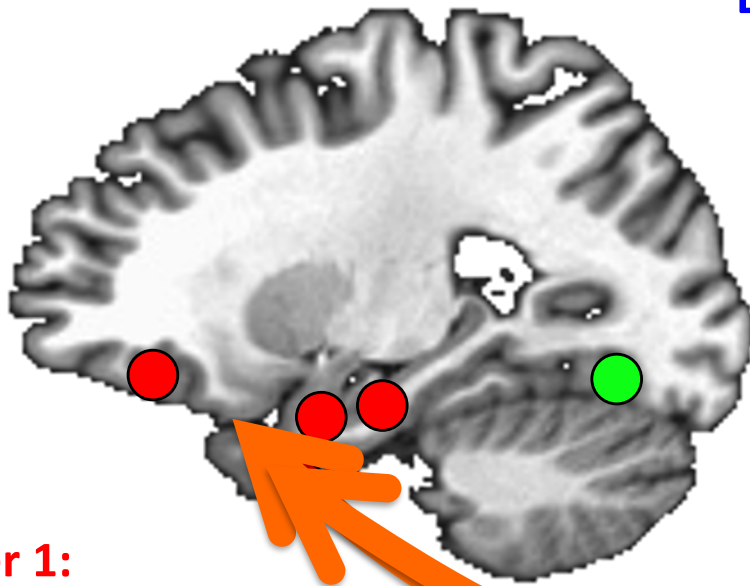


t-val
(df=58)

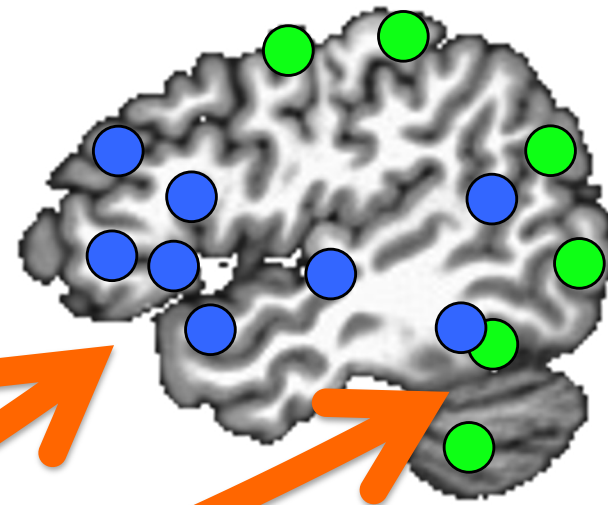


Is this clinically relevant?

Cluster 2:
Language / communication



Cluster 1:
Social inference/affective

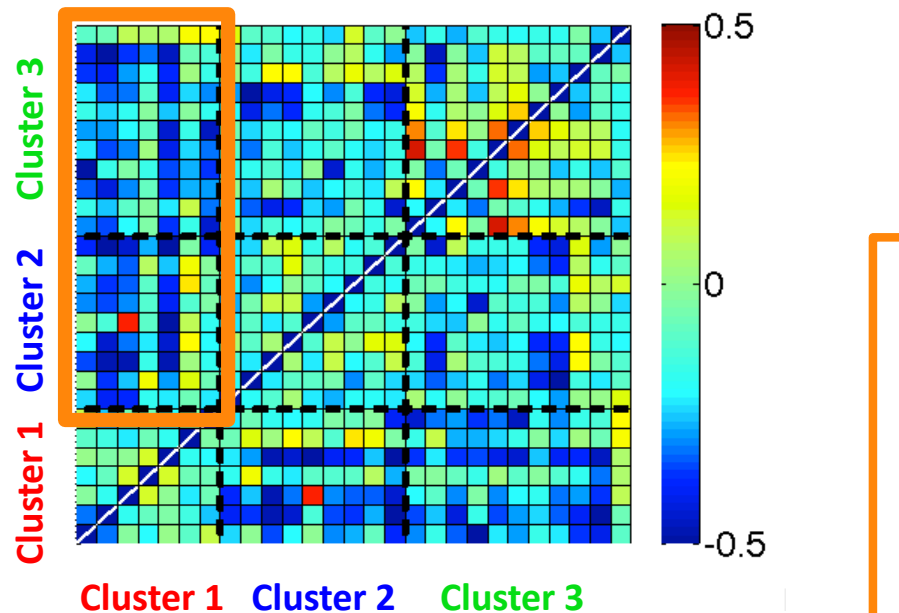


Cluster 3:
Social perception
Form / action

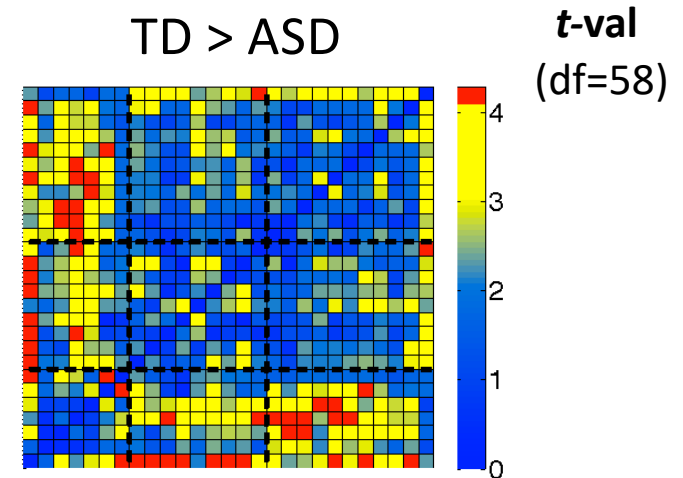
‘Functional decoupling’

Correlations of **Social Responsiveness Scale (SRS)** ROI x ROI correlations in ASD sample alone (N=29)

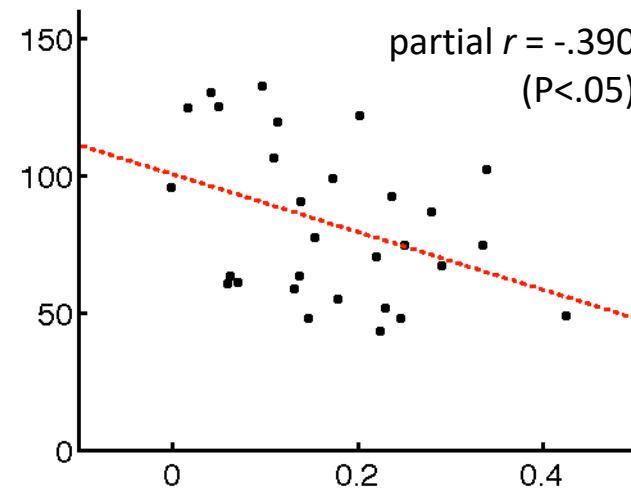
ASD: Correlation with **SRS**
(adjusted for Age, IQ)



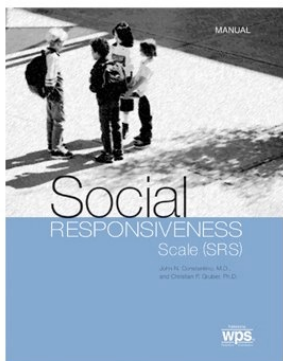
TD > ASD



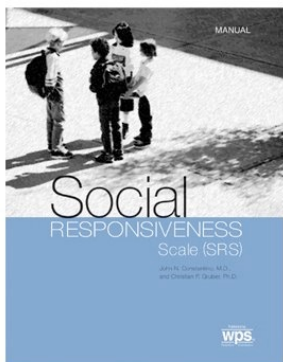
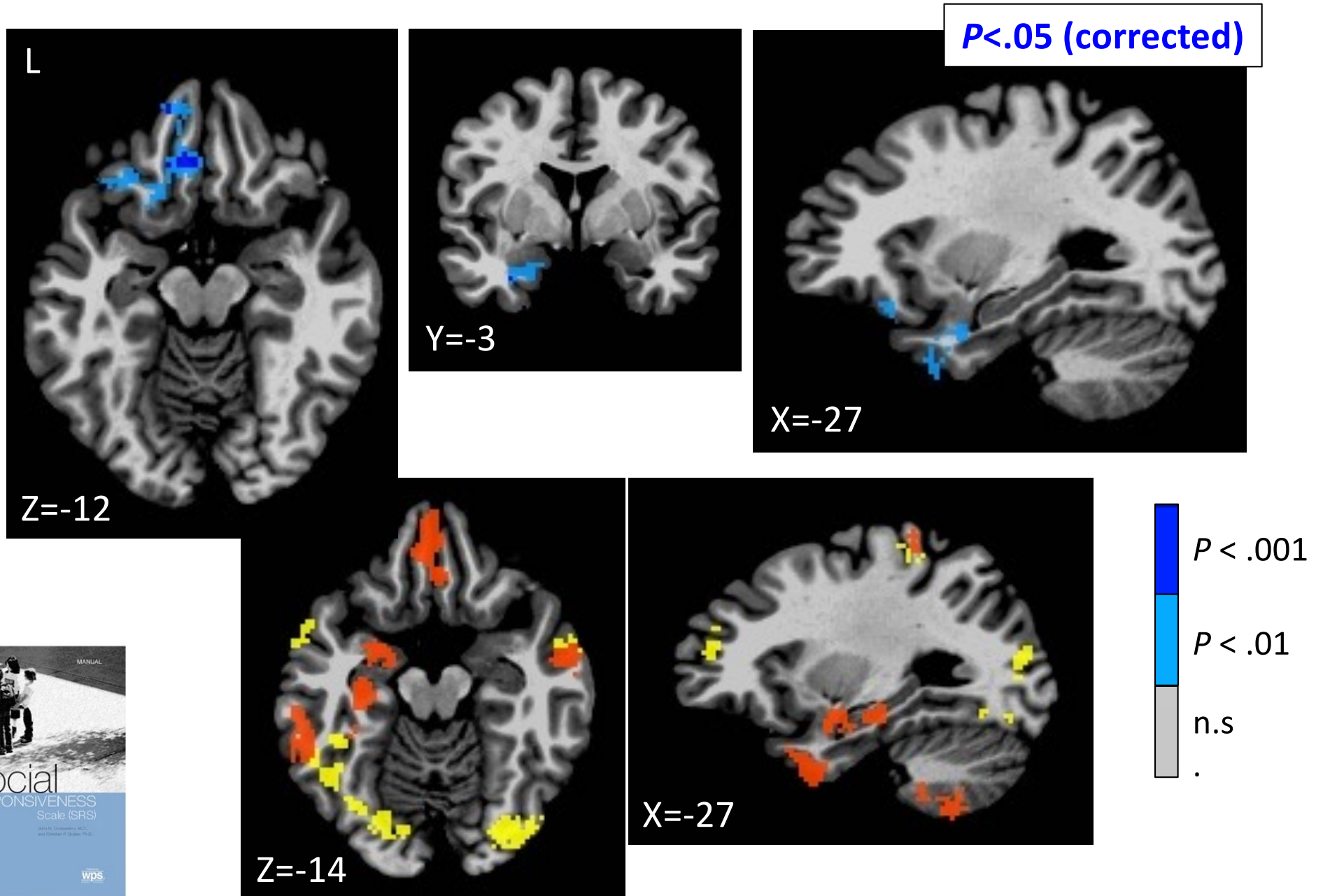
SRS (adjusted for Age, IQ)



ASD median r_{C1} ROIs with $C2, C3$ ROIs
(adjusted for Age, IQ)

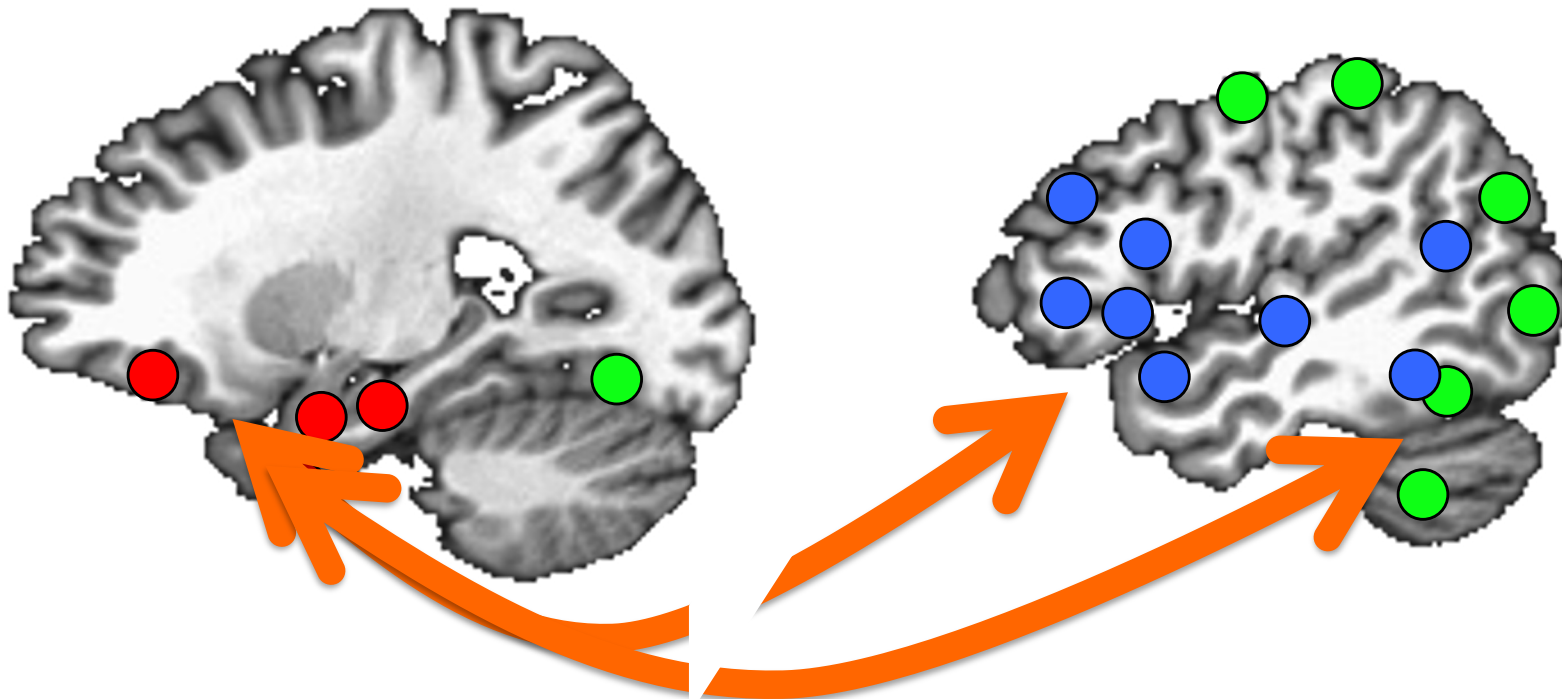


Correlations of **Social Responsiveness Scale (SRS)** with Connectedness in ASD sample alone (N=29)



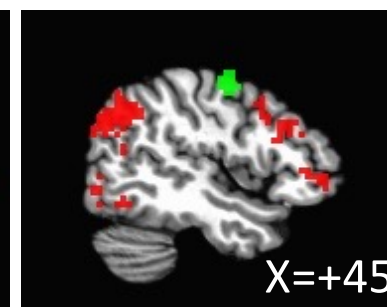
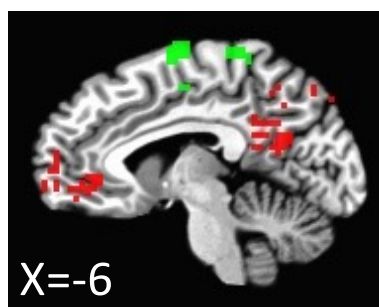
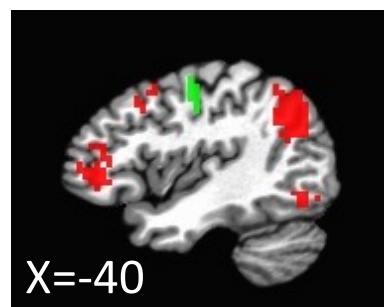
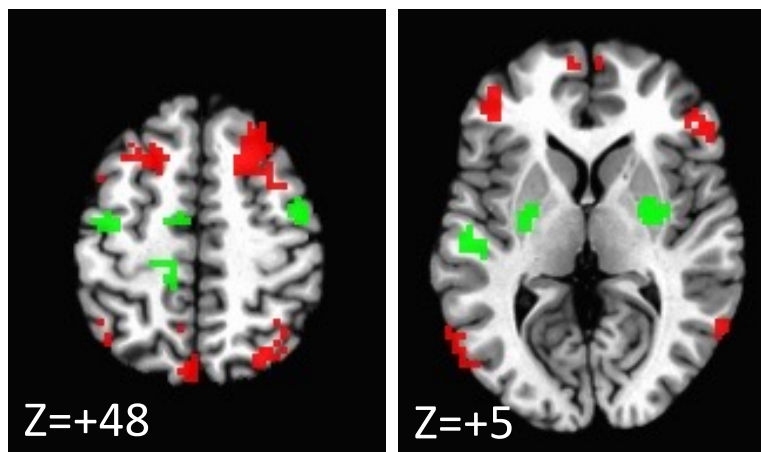
Summary for ASD Study

- At least for high-functioning ASD subjects, the largest differences in correlation were concentrated among regions of the 'social brain'
- We observed a fractionation of social brain circuits into two parts
- Social/affective component (Cluster 1) was 'functionally' decoupled from language and visuomotor components

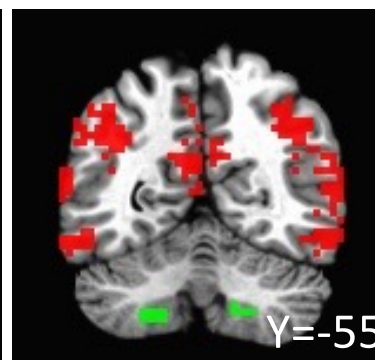
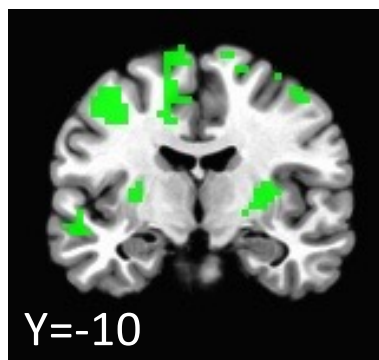


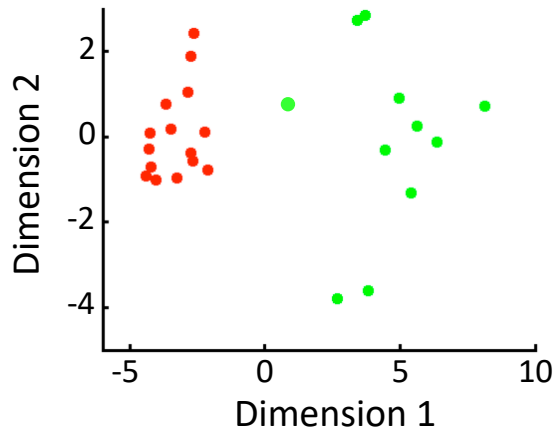
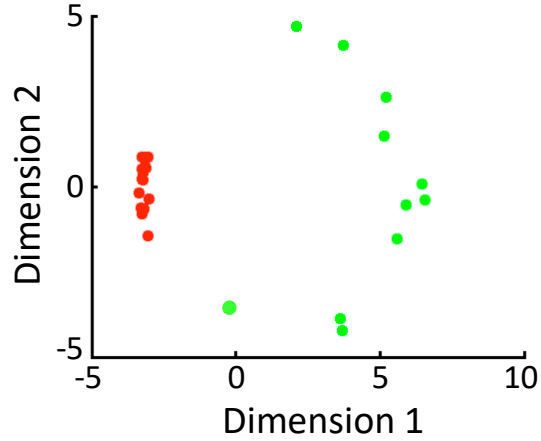
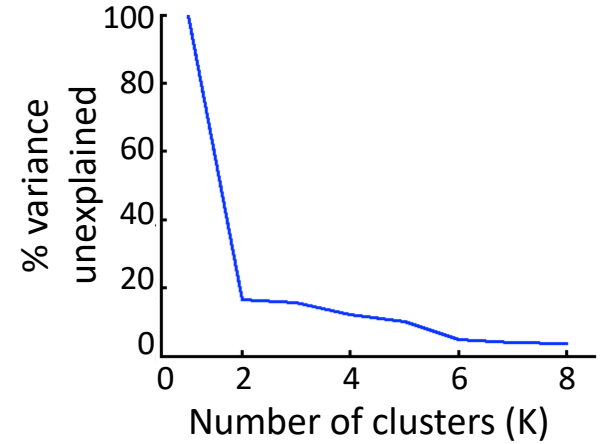
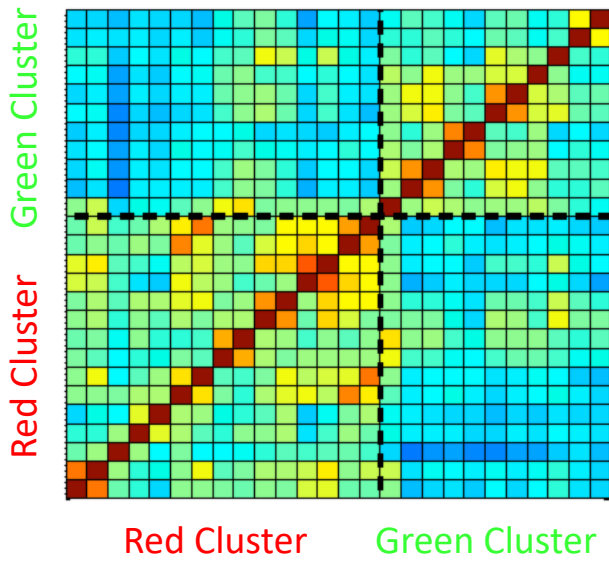
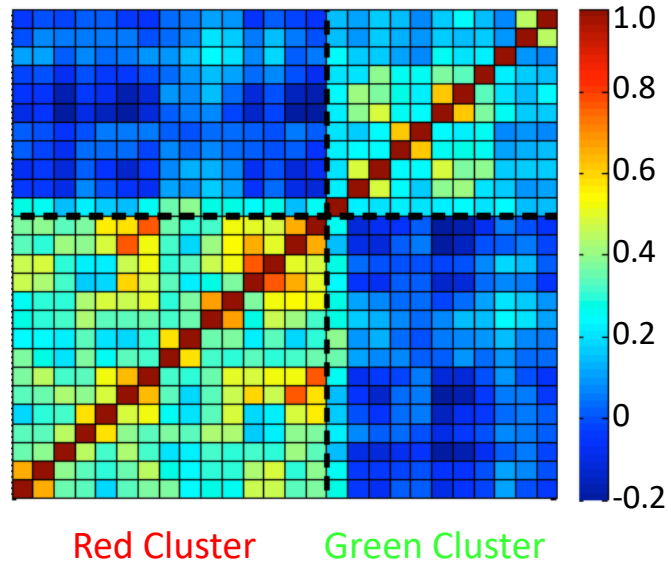
Applying the same method to Childhood Onset Schizophrenia (vs. Typ. Developing)

Collaboration with:
Becky Berman
Harrison McAdams
Nitin Gogtay
Judy Rapoport
et al.

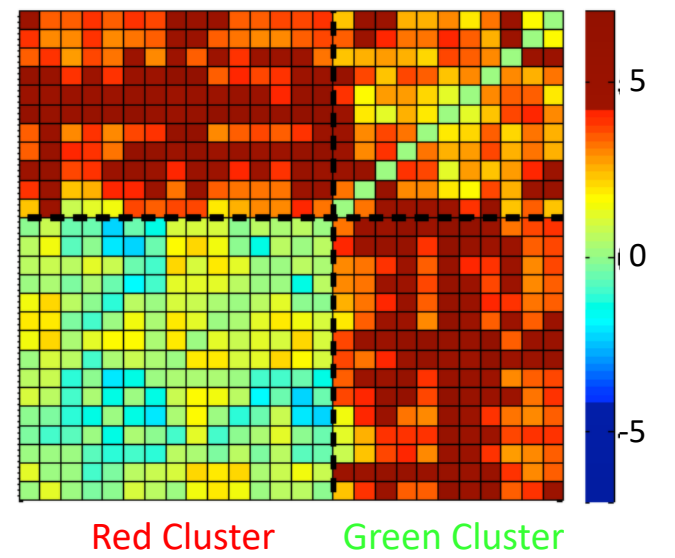


- Red cluster: Social-cognitive
- Green cluster: Sensorimotor



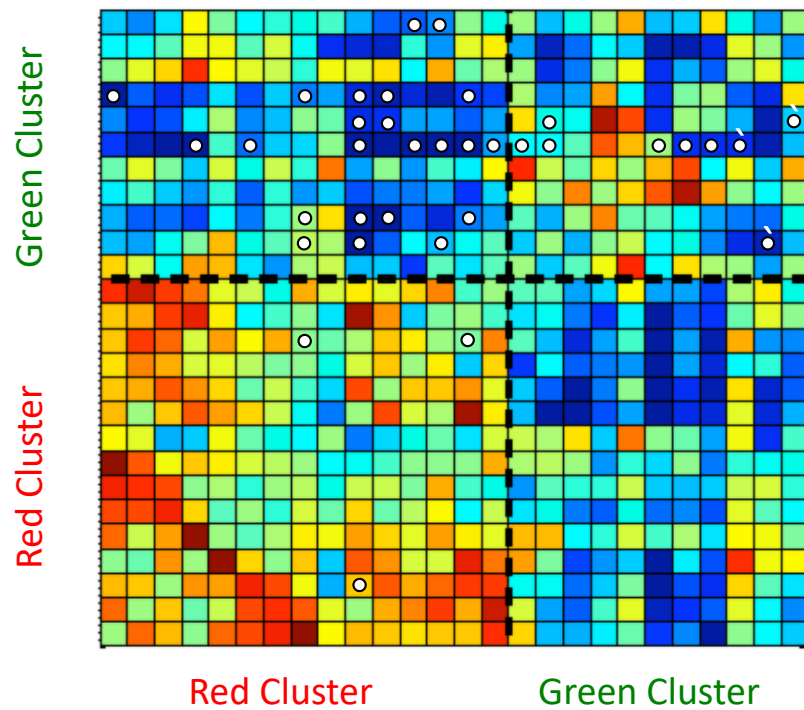
A PCA with K-means (K=2)**B** MDS with K-means (K=2)**C** Elbow plot**D** TD**E** COS

r-val
1.0
0.8
0.6
0.4
0.2
0
-0.2

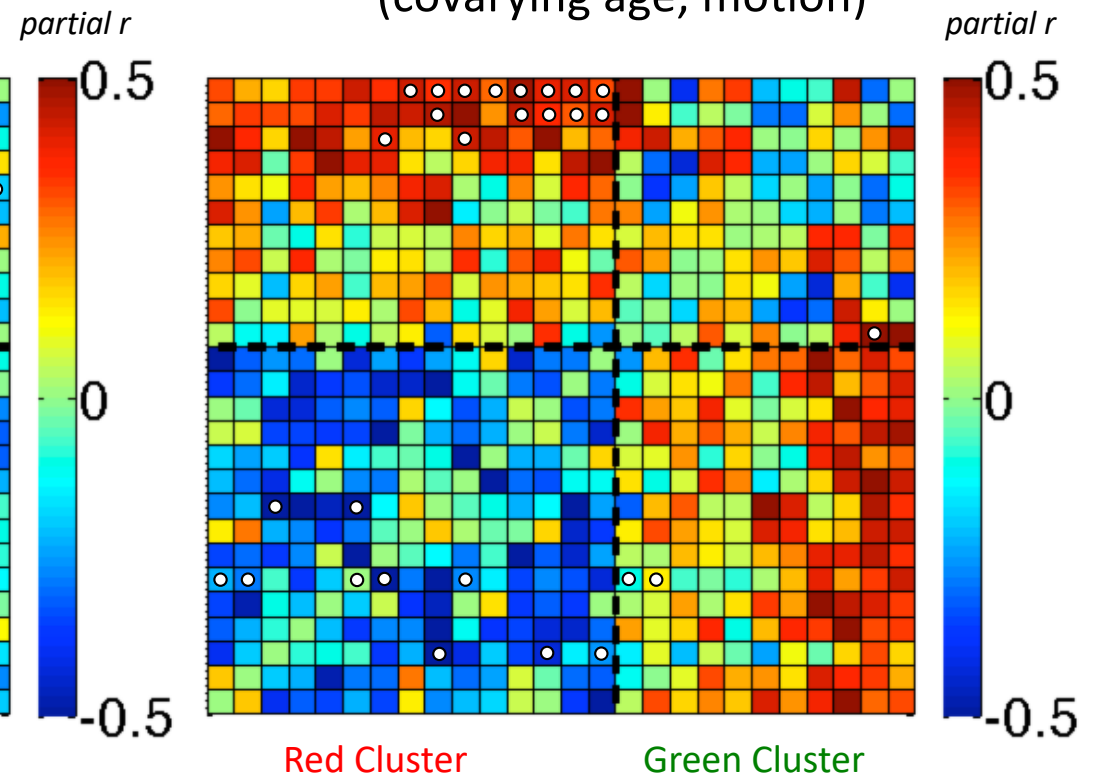
F TD - COS

t-val
(*df*=43)
5
0
-5

Correlation with Positive Symptoms (SAPS)
(covarying age, motion)

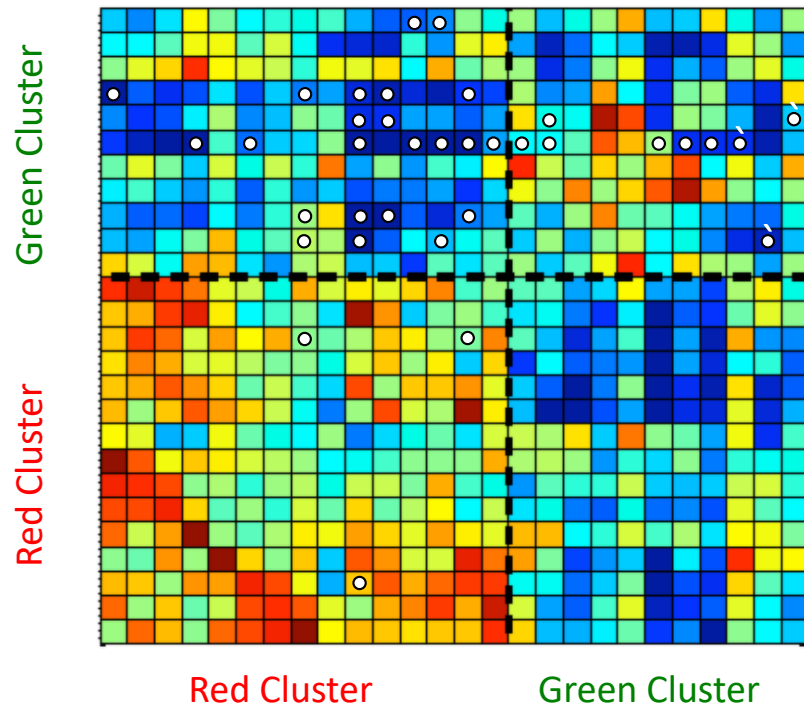


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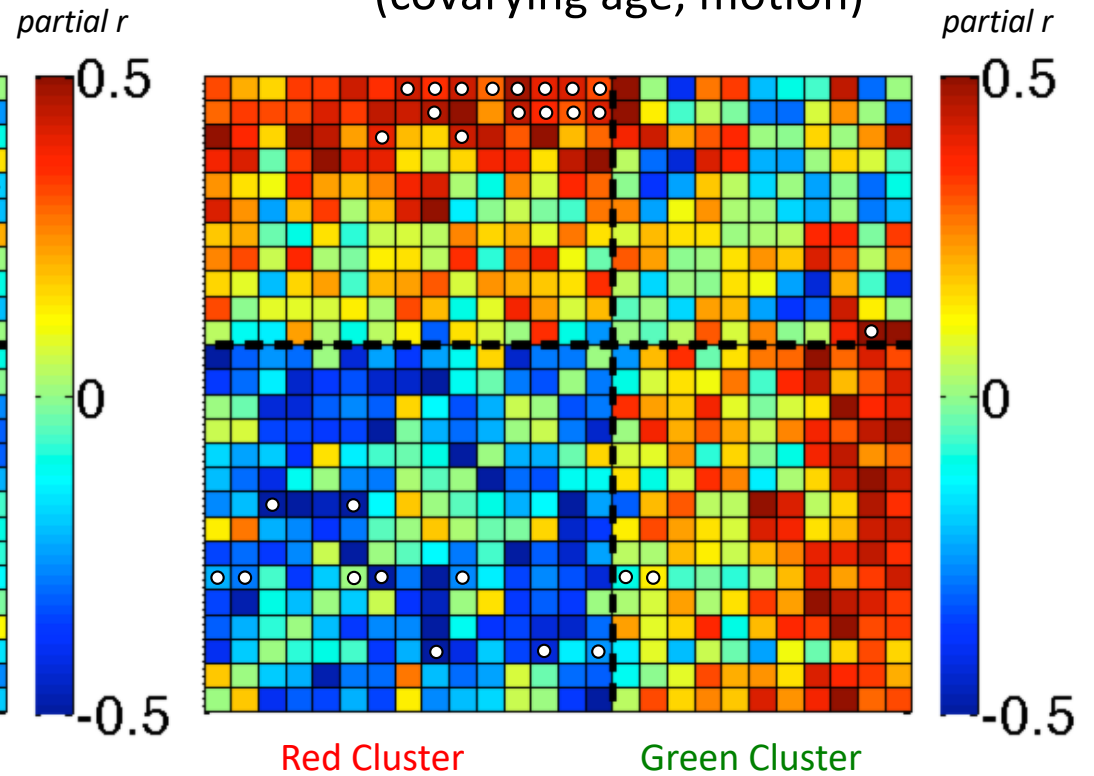


○ spatial overlap with seed-based symptom correlation analyses
($p < .05$, corrected by cluster size)

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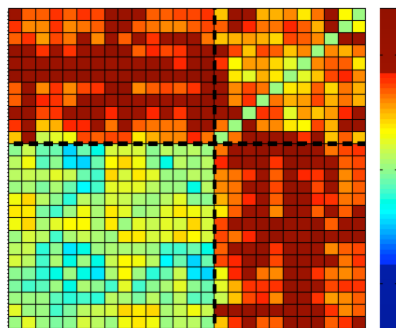


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Group t-tests:



Increased Resting Correlations in Primary Lateral Sclerosis (PLS)

Collaboration with [Mary Kay Floeter](#) (NINDS) and [Avner Meoded](#) (Johns Hopkins):

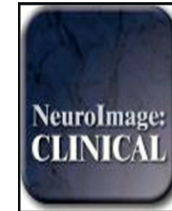
NeuroImage: Clinical 7 (2015) 288–296



Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

NeuroImage: Clinical

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/ynicl



Cerebro-cerebellar connectivity is increased in primary lateral sclerosis

Avner Meoded^{a,1}, Arthur E. Morrisette^{a,2}, Rohan Katipally^{a,3}, Olivia Schanz^a,
Stephen J. Gotts^b, Mary Kay Floeter^{a,*}

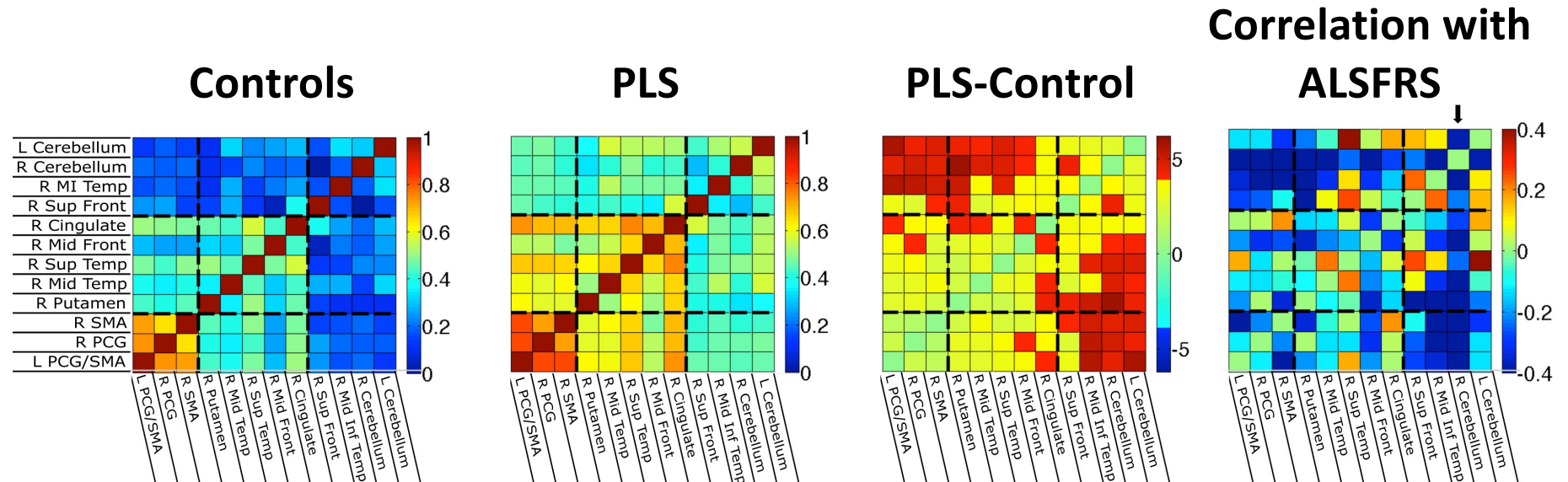
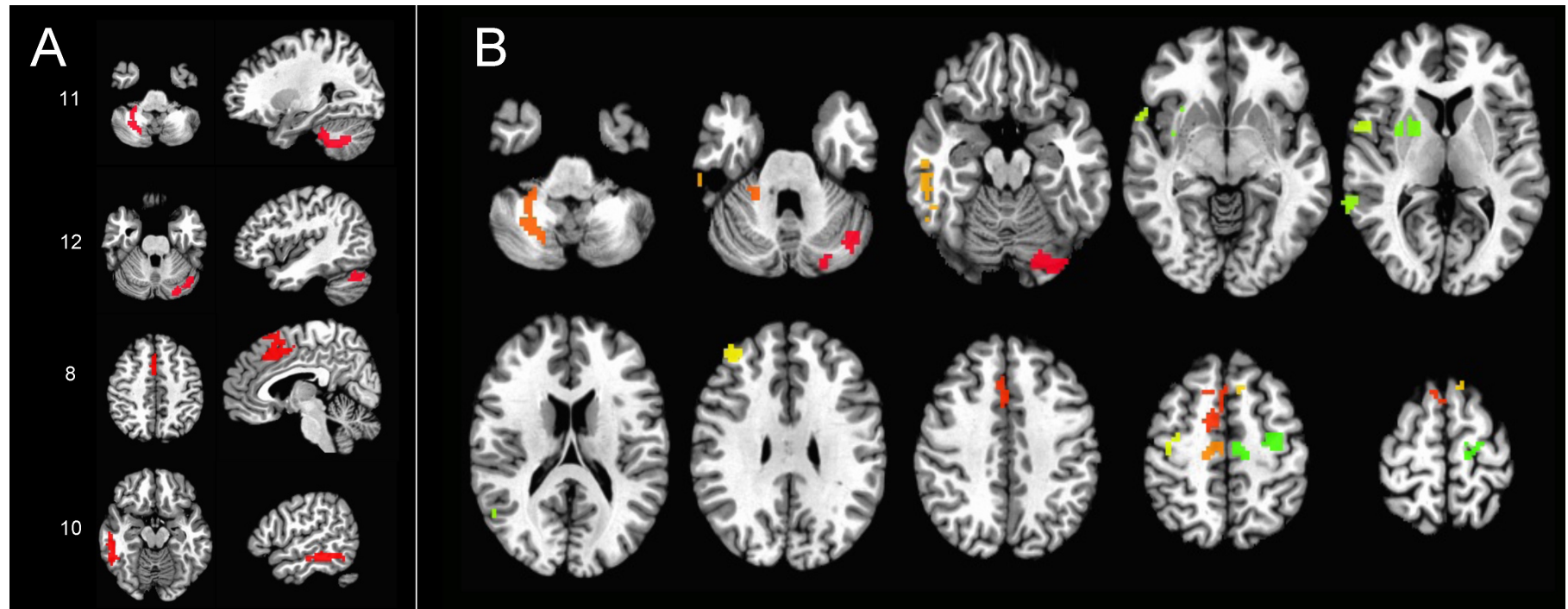


^aNational Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD, USA

^bNational Institute of Mental Health, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD, USA

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Eliminates the averaging approach, but can take a long time (~ 2 weeks on a fast desktop with 32 GB of RAM)

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- Do same tests on actual data using these critical thresholds to find corrected results

Larger ASD/TD Dataset (Martin lab)

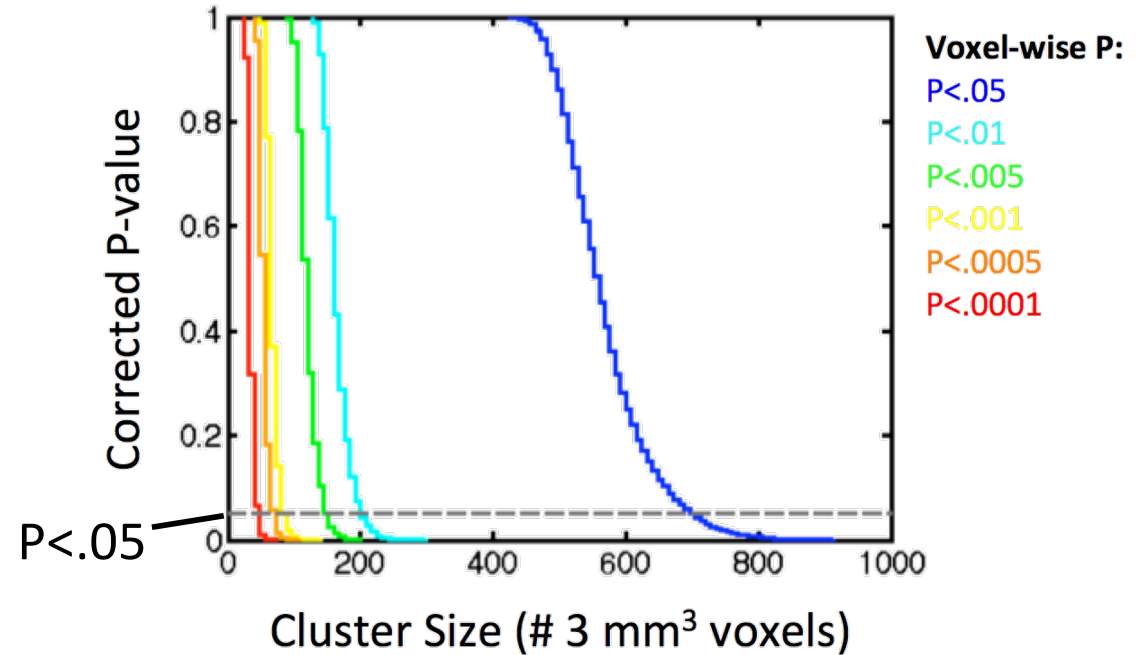
56 ASD, 62 TD, separated into two independent sets (Sets 1 and 2: 28 ASD, 31 TD each) that are matched for Motion and Age ($P > .1$ for all)

All voxel-wise t-tests also include Motion and Age as covariates (AFNI's 3dttest++, with common median centering)

Cluster-size Thresholds from Monte Carlo Simulations (5000 iterations)

Analysis Mask

(85% of Both ASD/TD Groups)



Voxelwise P-value	1 test	Test All Voxels	Factor of Expansion
P<.05	288	704	2.44
P<.01	73	200	2.74
P<.005	49	152	3.10
P<.001	22	88	4.00
P<.0005	16	72	4.50
P<.0001	8	48	6.00
P<.00005	6	40	6.67

Larger ASD/TD Dataset (Martin lab)

Set 1 (28 ASD, 31 TD)

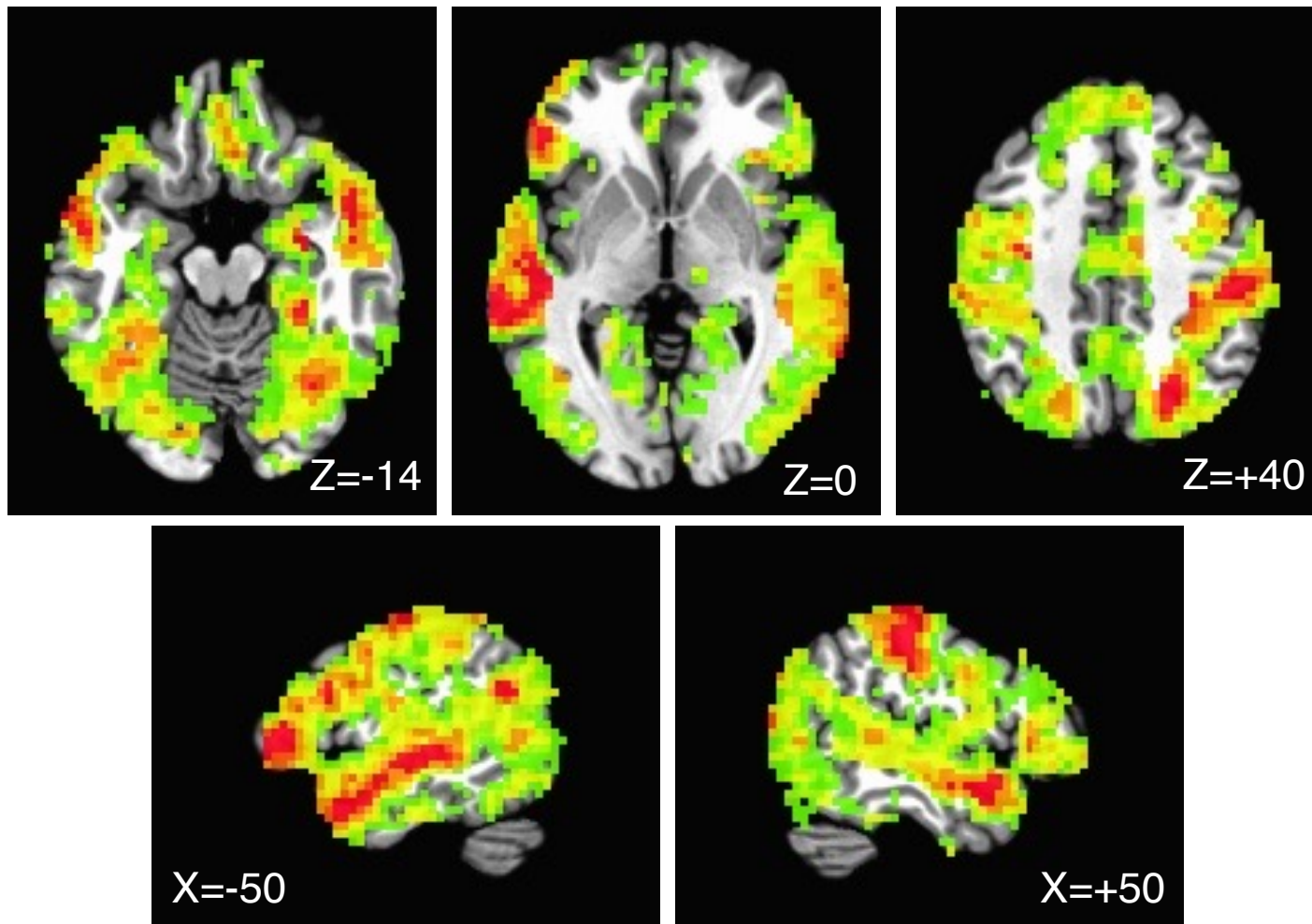
Seed Voxels involved in significant differences for which

TD > ASD (ranging from $P < .05$ down to $P < .00005$, corrected):

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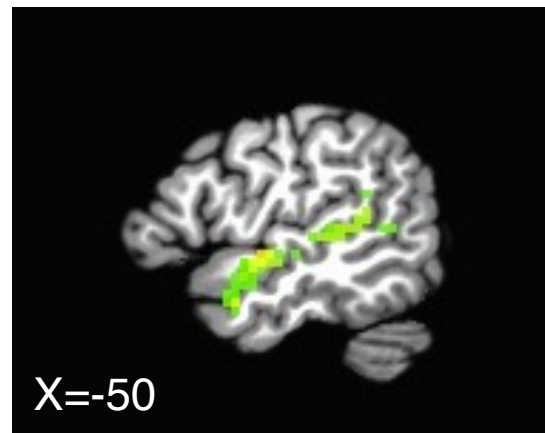
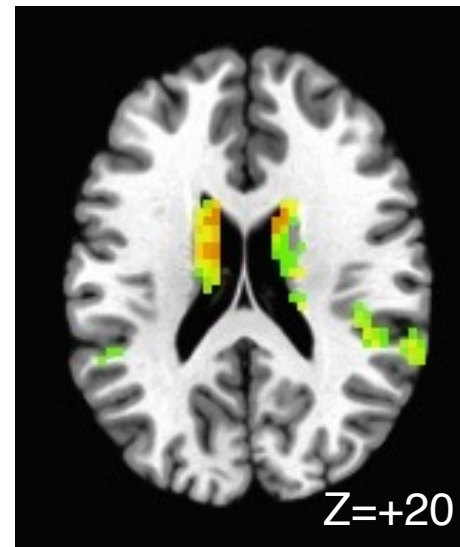
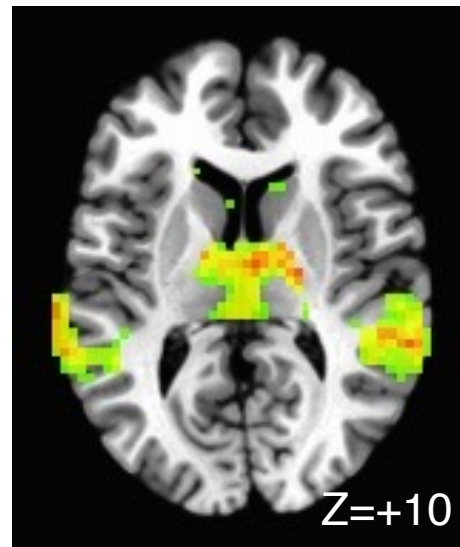
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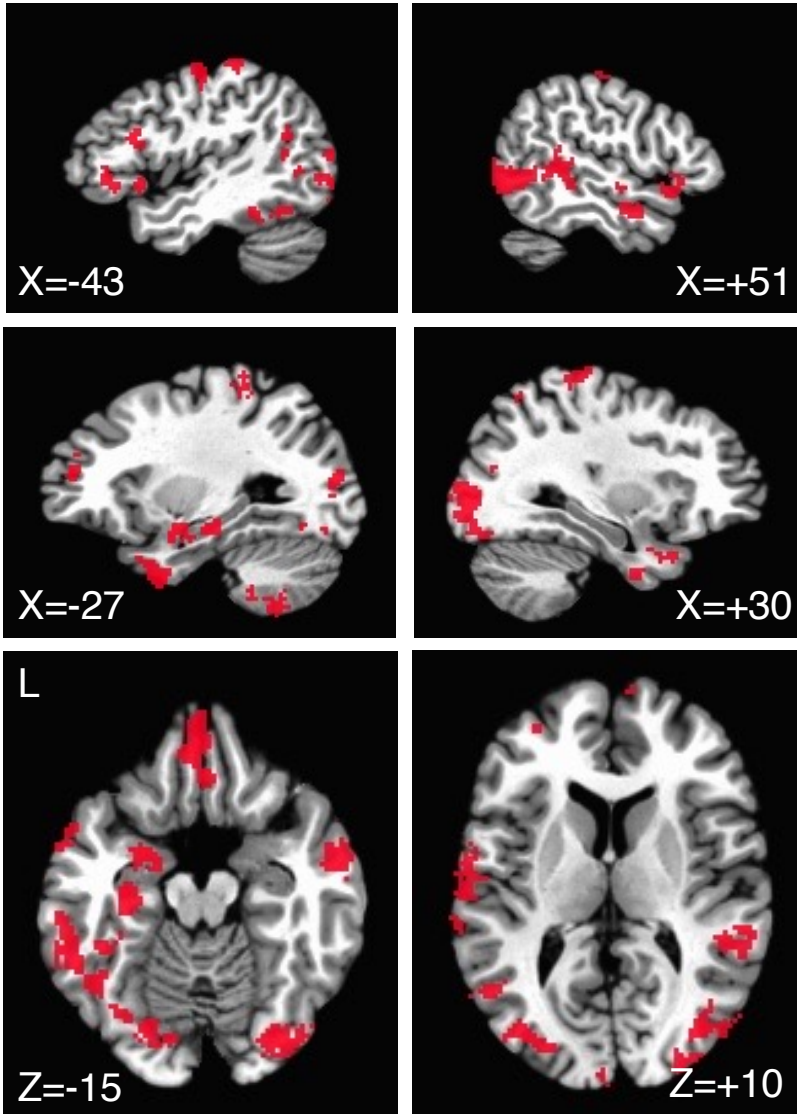
What is the relationship to Connectedness comparisons?

... and the previously reported results? (Brain 2012)

Brain 2012 ROIs

(31 ASD, 29 TD)

27 ROIs (ANATICOR)



Larger NIMH Dataset

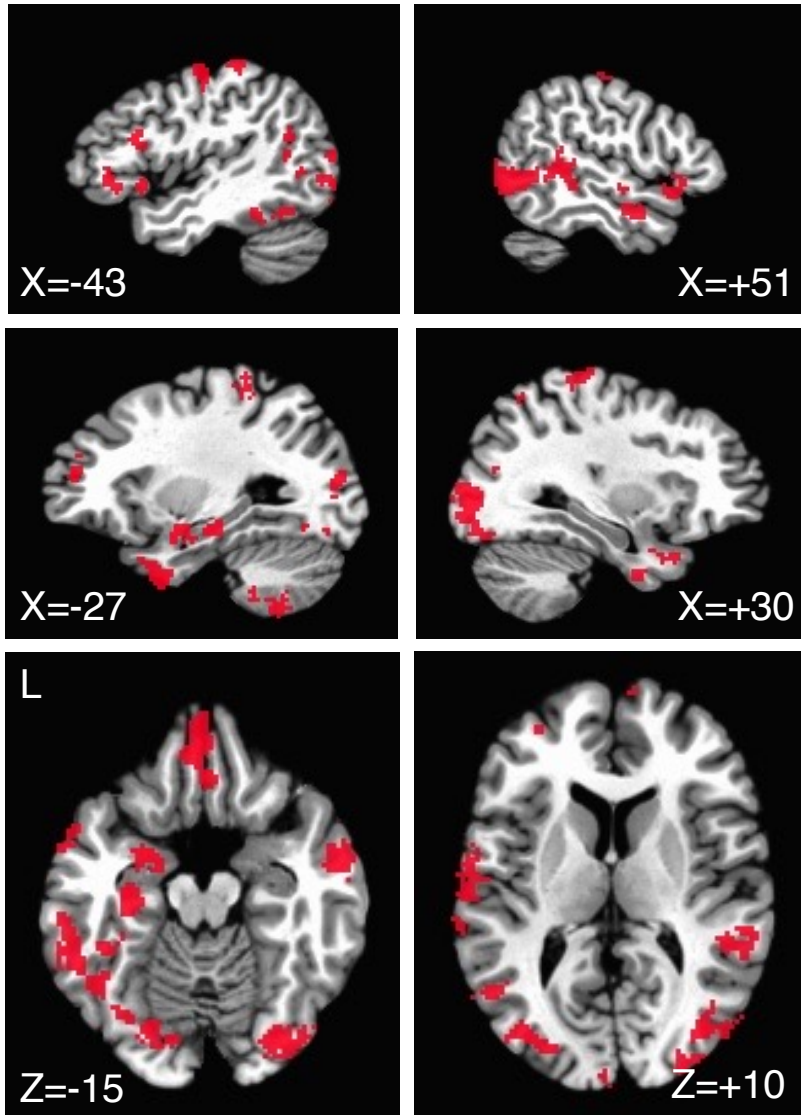
(56 ASD, 62 TD)

Connectedness Tests (TD-ASD),
P<.05, uncorrected (>100 voxels)

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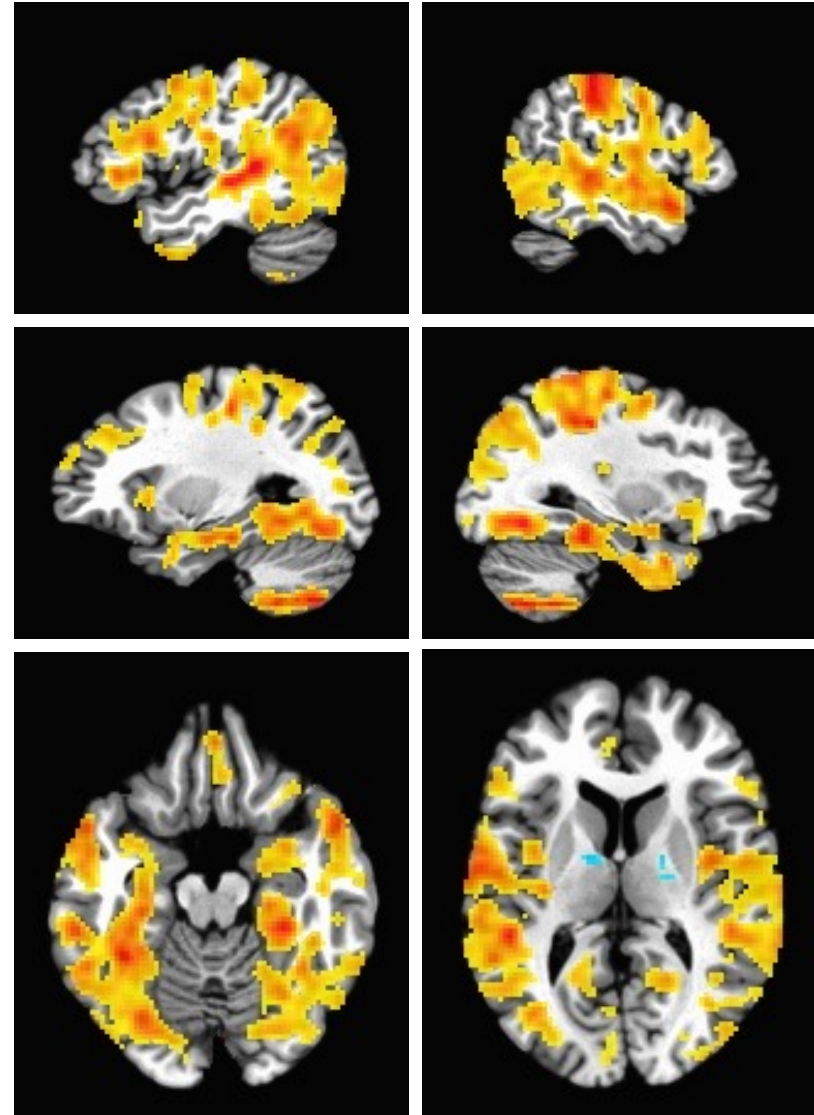
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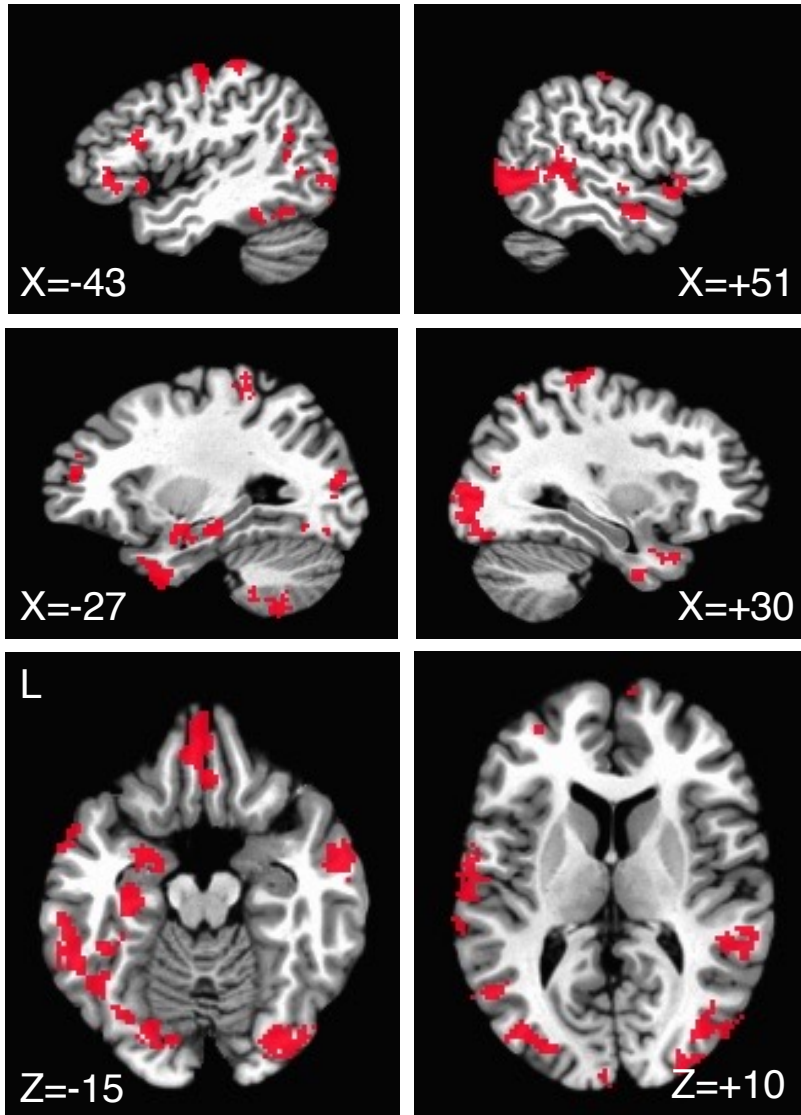
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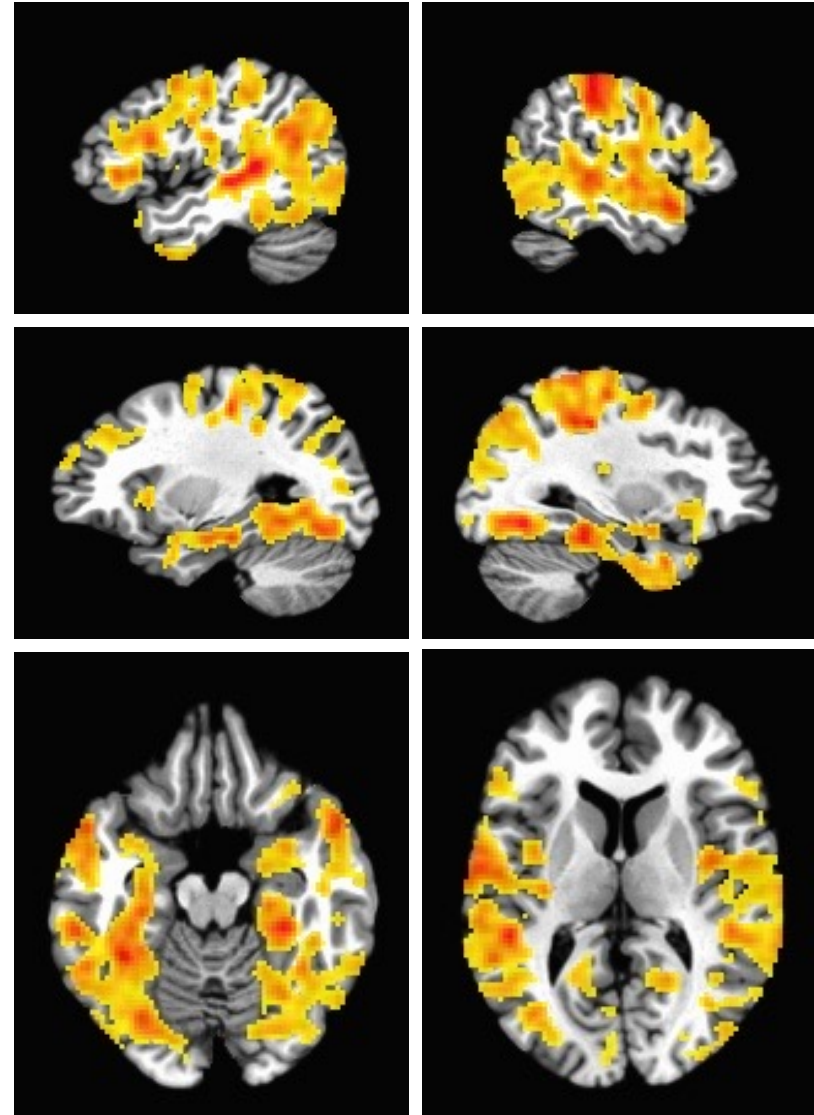
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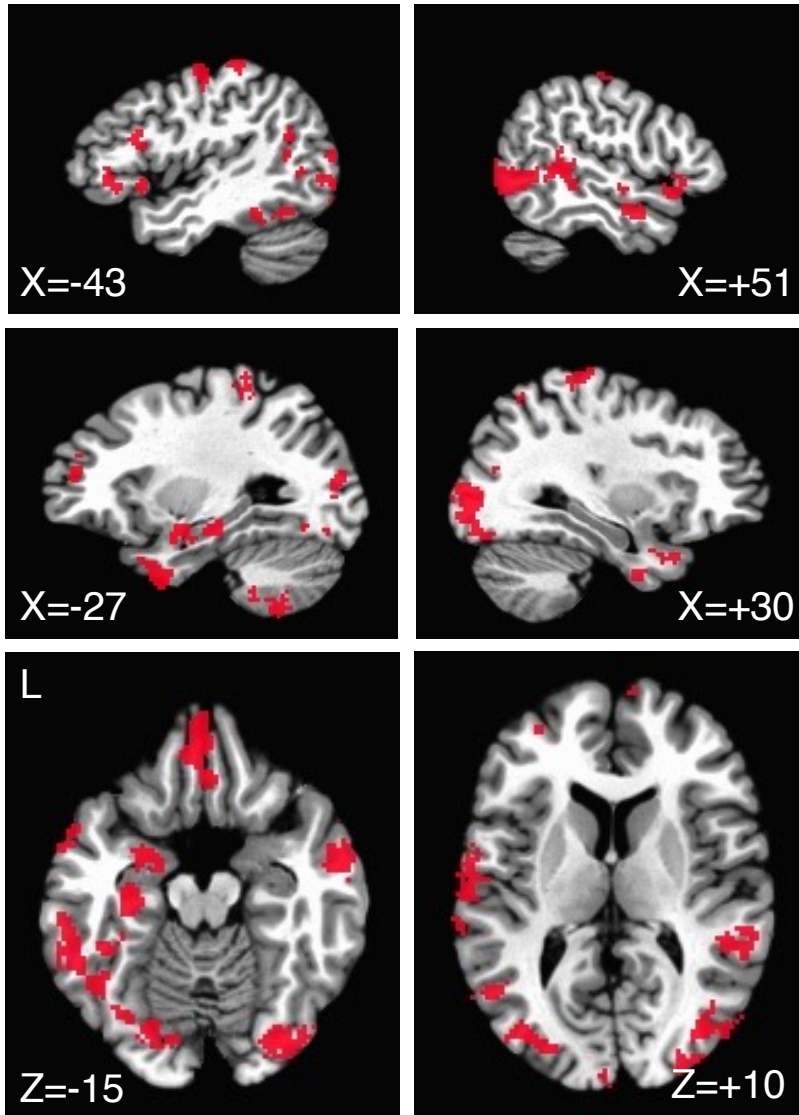
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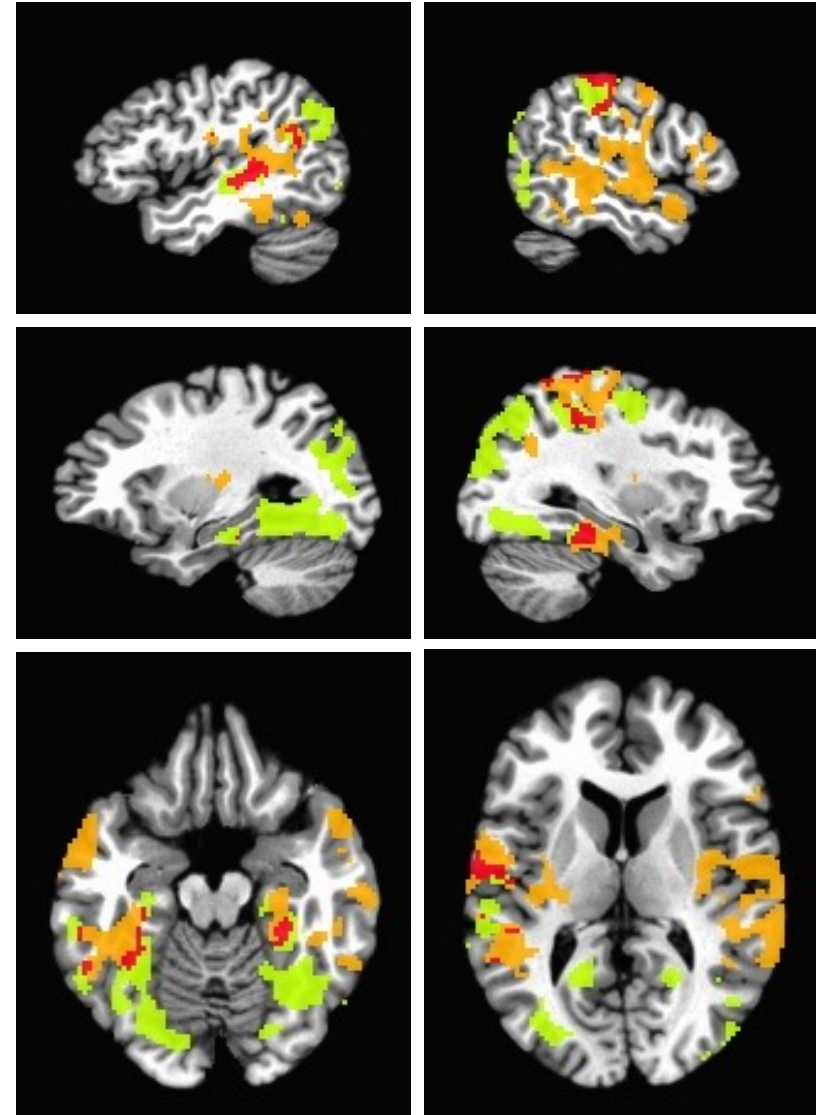
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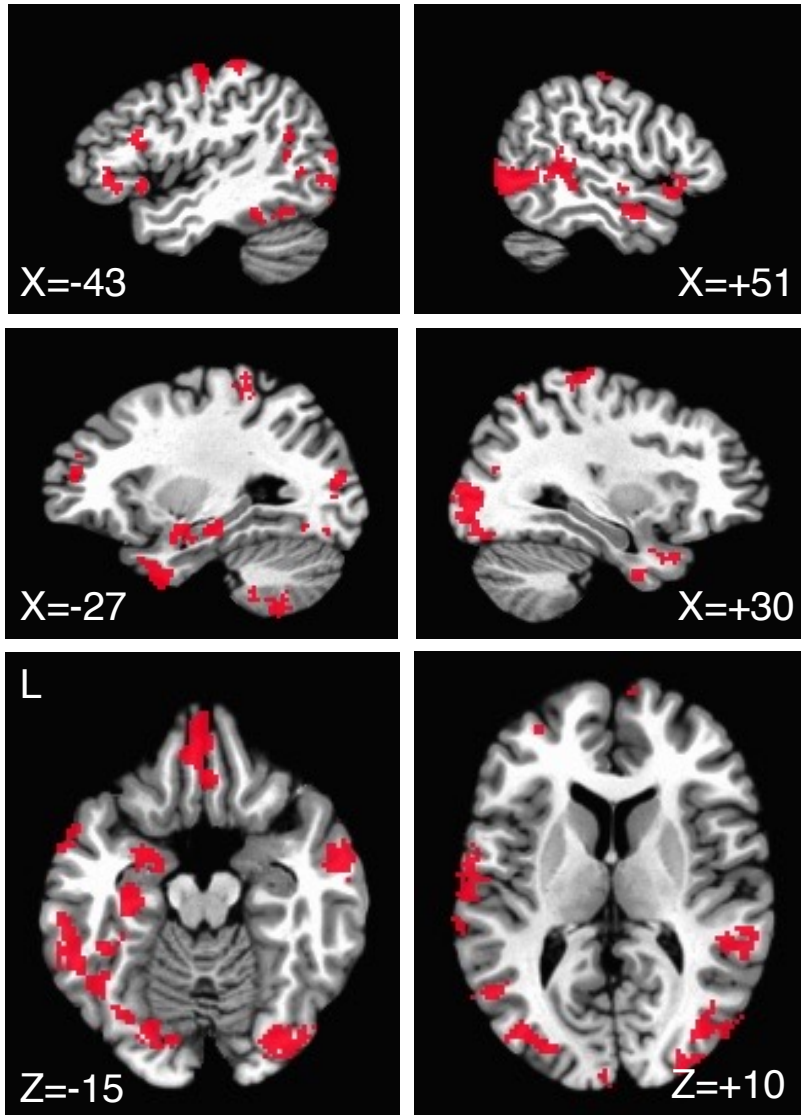
Connectedness Tests (TD-ASD),
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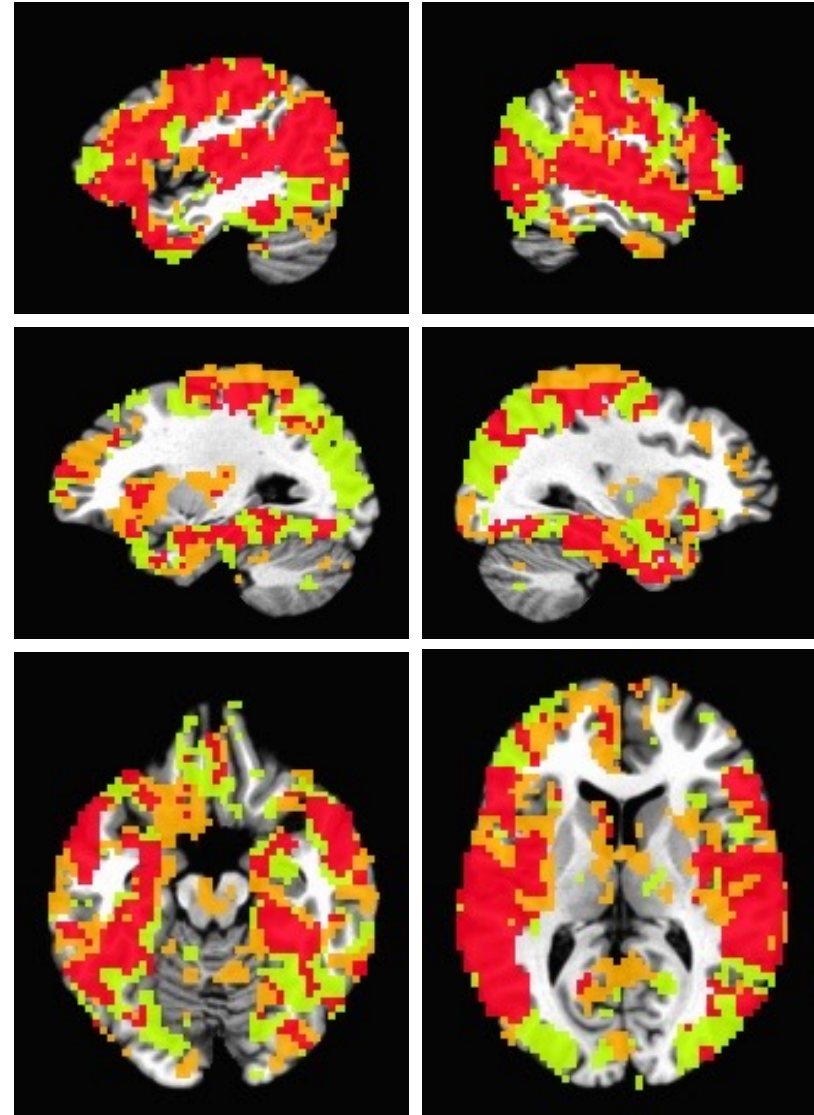
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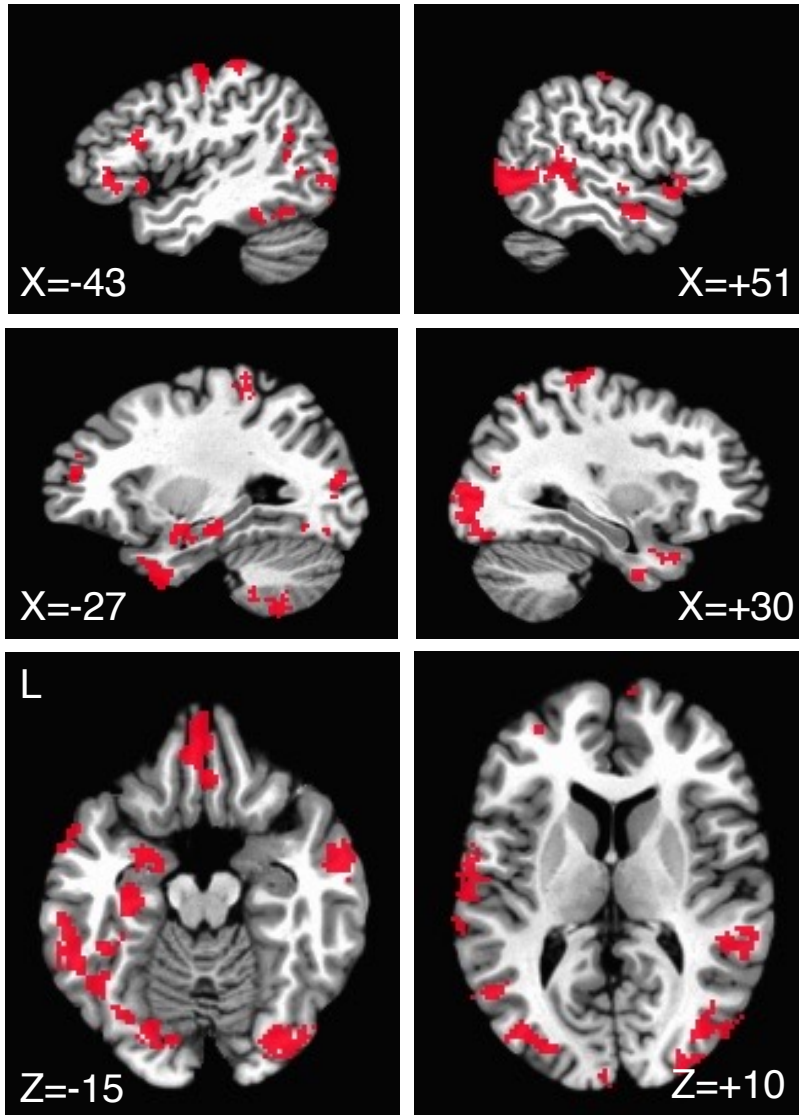
Testing All Voxels as Seeds (TD-ASD),
Replication Across Two Sets, $P < .05$, corrected



Brain 2012 ROIs

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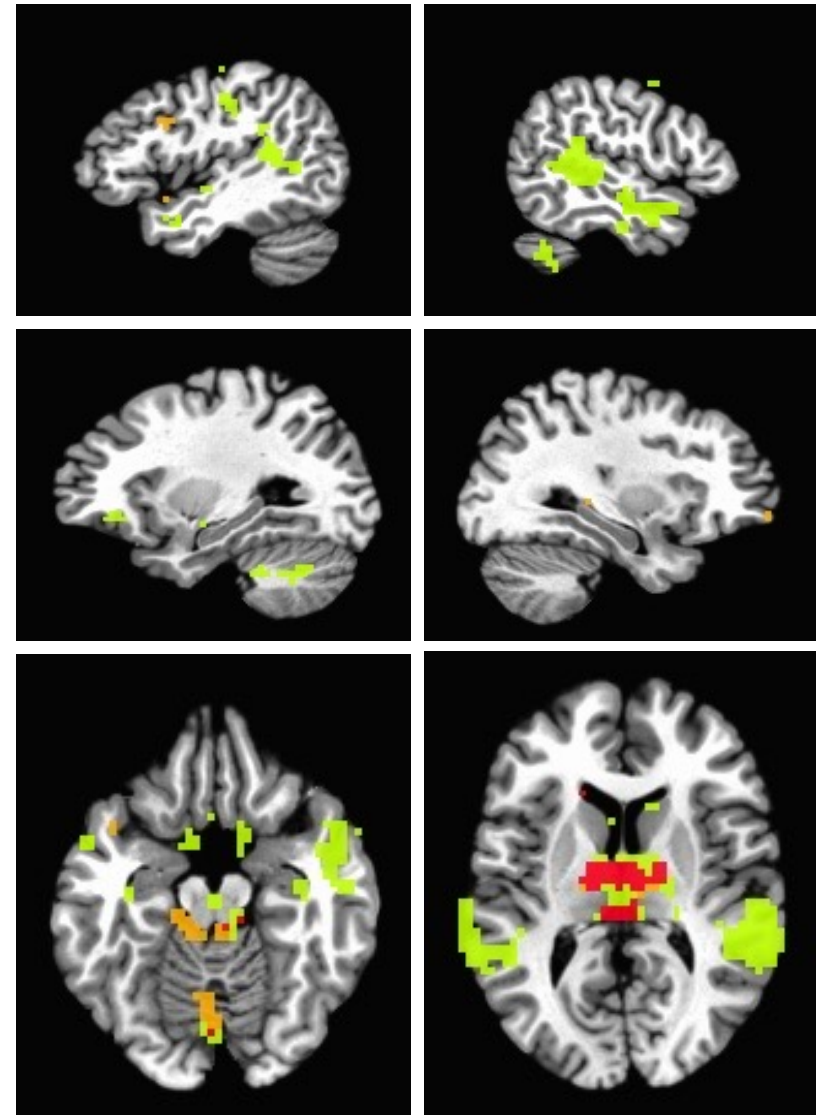
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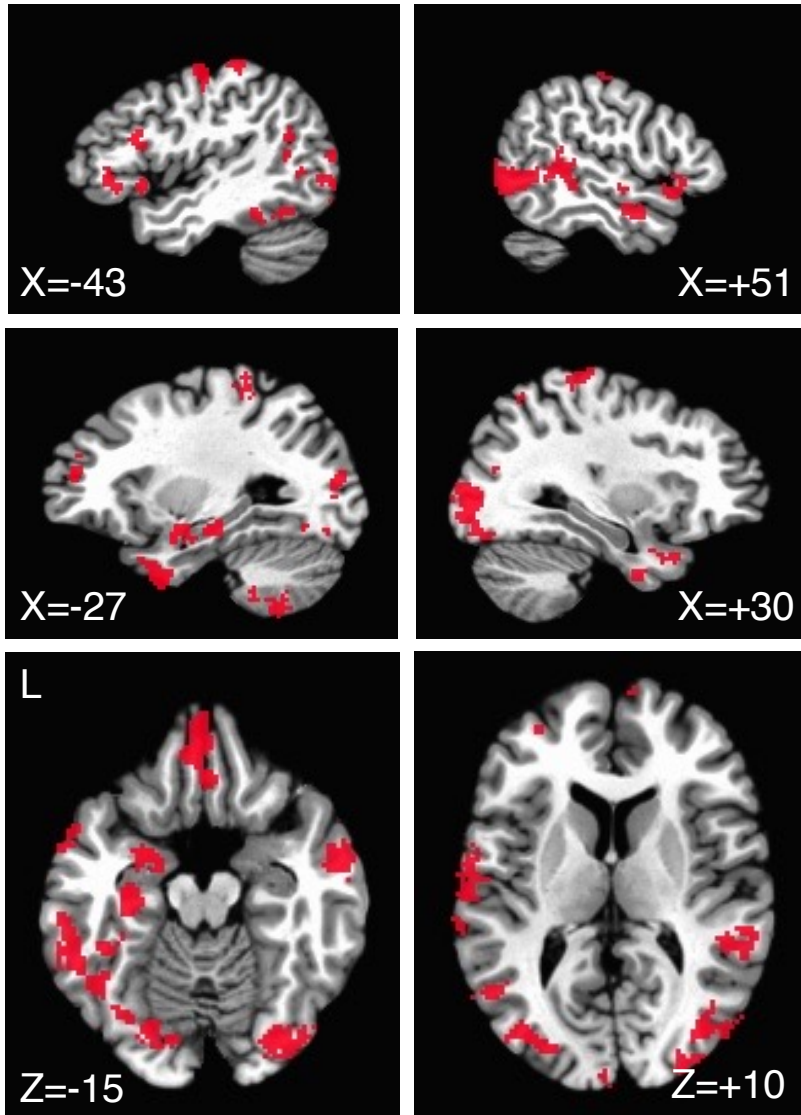
Testing All Voxels as Seeds (TD-ASD),
Replication Across Two Sets, ASD>TD



Brain 2012 ROIs

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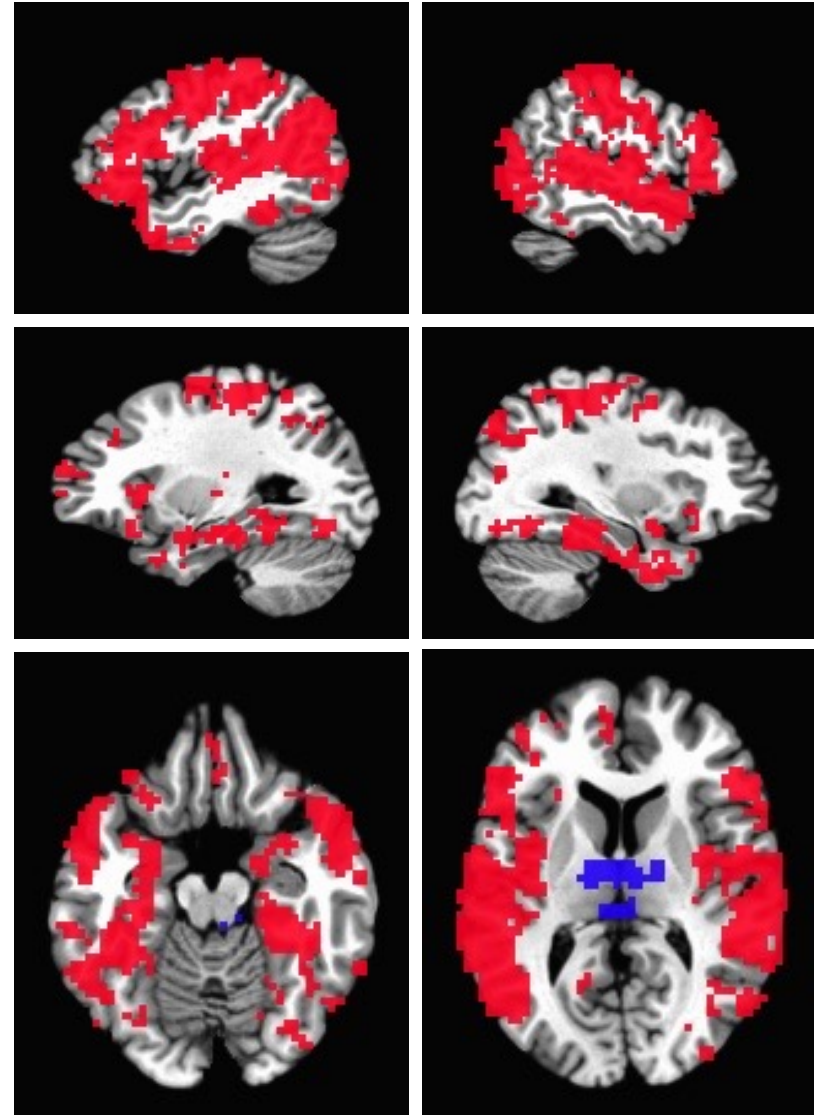
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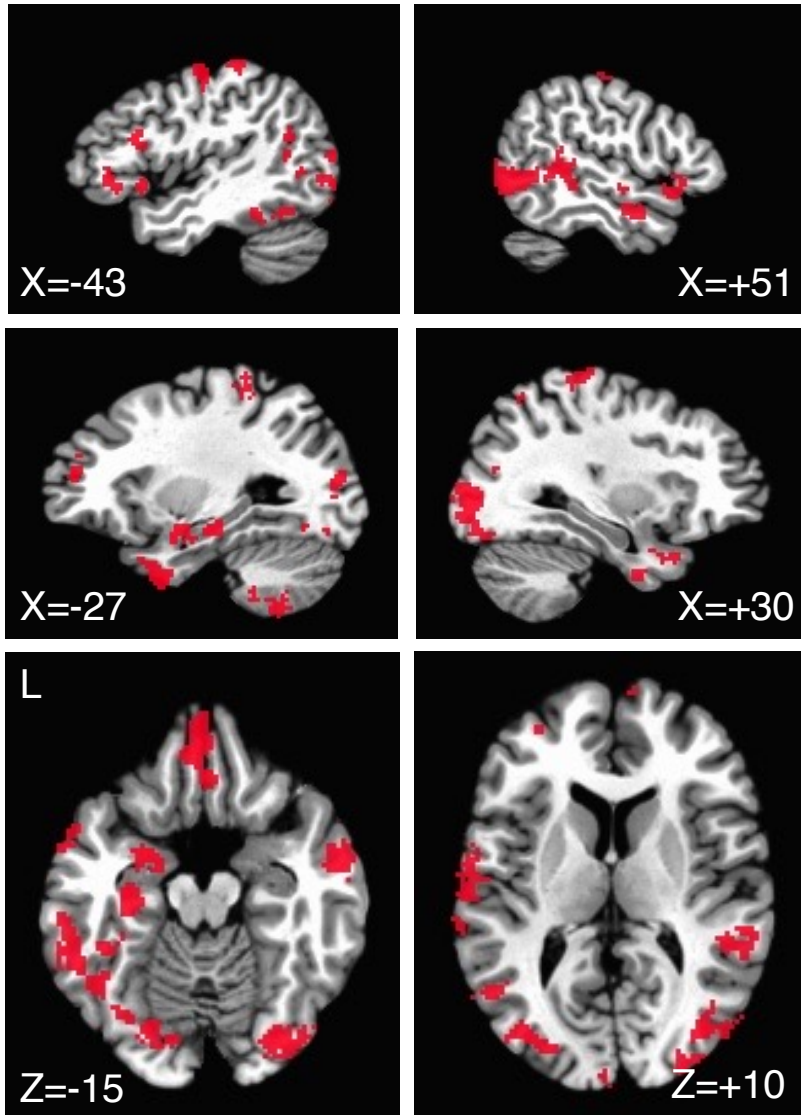
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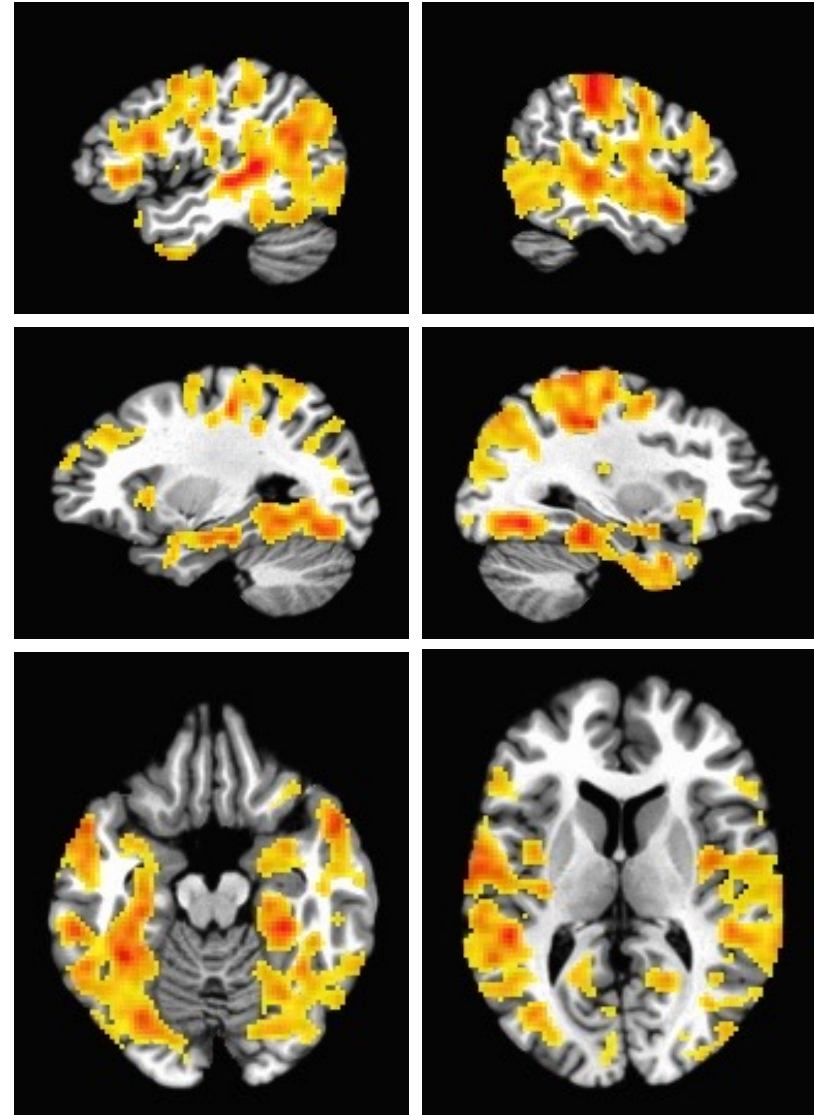
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- Searches are possible for any type of test statistic for which p-values can be calculated (e.g. correlation with behavioral measures, more complex ANOVAs, etc.)

Acknowledgements:

Section on Cognitive Neuropsychology, LBC (NIMH)

Alex Martin, Chief

Kyle Simmons (now at *LIBR*, Tulsa)

Lydia Milbury

Greg Wallace

Scientific and Statistical Computing Core (NIMH)

Bob Cox, Chief

Ziad Saad

Gang Chen