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# Brain connectivity networks in schizophrenia underlying resting state functional magnetic resonance imaging

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### Abstract

Schizophrenia (SZ) is a severe neuropsychiatric disorder. A leading hypothesis is that SZ is a brain dysconnection syndrome, involving abnormal interactions between wide-spread brain networks. Resting state functional magnetic resonance imaging (R-fMRI) is a powerful tool to explore the dysconnectivity of brain networks in SZ and other disorders. Seed-based functional connectivity analysis, spatial independent component analysis (ICA), and graph theory-based analysis are popular methods to quantify brain network connectivity in R-fMRI data. Wide-spread network dysconnectivity in SZ has been observed using both seed-based analysis and ICA, although most seed-based studies report decreased connectivity while ICA studies report both increases and decreases. Importantly, most of the findings from both techniques are also associated with typical symptoms of the illness. Disrupted topological properties and altered modular community structure of brain system in SZ have been shown using graph theory-based analysis. On the whole, the resting-state findings regarding brain networks deficits have advanced our understanding of the underlying pathology of SZ. In this article, we review aberrant brain connectivity networks in SZ measured in R-fMRI by the above approaches, and discuss future challenges.

### Keywords

Schizophrenia; Resting state-fMRI; Dysconnectivity; Brain network; Seed-based; ICA; Graph

### 1. Introduction

Schizophrenia (SZ) is a severe mental illness characterized by symptoms including delusions, hallucinations, apathy, social withdrawal, and deficits in cognitive functions such

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as attention and working memory [1]. This disorder affects about 1% of the population worldwide [2, 3]. Although SZ is one of the most complex mental disorders, decades of research which report altered brain structure and function have provided us with some understanding of the neurobiological mechanisms underlying its symptoms [4-7]. For example, structural brain studies which involved subjects with high risk for psychosis or first-episode psychosis suggest neuroanatomical alterations may underlie the clinical onset of psychotic symptoms [8-13]. In addition, a large number of findings from functional brain imaging studies support a leading hypothesis that SZ stems from dysconnectivity, that is, abnormal interactions between wide-spread brain networks [14-18]. Recently, resting state functional magnetic resonance imaging (R-fMRI) has become a powerful tool to examine the aberrant connectivity of brain networks in SZ, helping to understand the underlying pathology of this brain disorder.

During resting state experiments, participants are instructed to relax, stay awake and not to think of anything in particular while their patterns of spontaneous brain activation are measured [19]. Functional connectivity, which can be defined as the coordination of activity across brain regions [20-22], is often estimated as the temporal correlations of low frequency (0.01-0.10 HZ) oscillations in the blood oxygen level dependent (BOLD) signal between anatomically distinct brain areas [19]. In the resting state, brain regions are functionally connected with somewhat prototypical patterns, revealing the intrinsic organization of so-called resting state networks (RSNs). Researches demonstrate that RSNs are largely present in both rest and task, though they do change during tasks [23, 24] and between eyes open and closed conditions [25, 26]. Using R-fMRI, the motor network [27], default mode network [28, 29], and several other RSNs are readily identified [30-32].

There are a number of advantages of studying the functional organization of brain networks during the resting state, as opposed to during a task [33]. First, spontaneous activity accounts for the large majority of the brain's activity [34], whereas task-related increases in neuronal metabolism are usually small (<5%) [35]. It is important to assess the spontaneous activity of brain during resting state to fully understand brain function [36]. Secondly, in practice, it is difficult to attain equivalent level of performance in a task for healthy controls and patients whereas R-fMRI is largely free from this potentially confounding effect [33, 37]. In addition, R-fMRI experiments are less prone to multi-site variability stemming from differences in experimental design or implementation, allowing for a wider range of patients to be included and considered in analyses [38]. Finally, R-fMRI leads to less movement than task fMRI studies requiring subjects to respond with motor activity [32].

R-fMRI data have typically been investigated using seed-based functional connectivity analysis or spatial independent component analysis (ICA). In addition, graph theory-based complex network analysis methods have been applied to further characterize the underling networks in both seed-based/ROI-based and ICA (or network-based) analyses. In this paper, we review recent advances in the study of brain dysconnectivity in SZ discovered by these approaches in R-fMRI data and also discuss potential future challenges. The following sections of this article are organized into: dysconnectivity of SZ indentified by seed-based analysis; dysconnectivity of SZ indentified by ICA; dysconnectivity of SZ indentified by graph theory-based analysis; and summary and challenges of future works.

### 2. Dysconnectivity of SZ indentified by seed-based analysis

In seed-based or region-of-interest (ROI)-based approaches to functional connectivity [32], BOLD time series are first extracted from an ROI (or seed). Then the temporal correlation between this extracted signal and the time series from all other brain voxels is determined after some preprocessing (e.g. band-pass filtering, autocorrelation correction, covarying for white matter variance or other confounding variables). For a schematic pipeline of this approach see Figure 1. Although this method has some disadvantages, such as dependence on a priori defined seed region, a limited ability to study multiple systems simultaneously and the extracted waveform may not be a true independent variable when assessing statistical significance [36], this approach is widely used owing to its inherent simplicity, sensitivity and ease of interpretation [20, 32, 36, 37]. It also gives results largely consistent with ICA measures [39].

Seed-based comparisons in functional connectivity have revealed widespread dysconnectivity in SZ when using a number of different ROIs as seeds. In most studies, patients with SZ show decreased connectivity. For example, when using the anterior hippocampus as a seed, functional connectivity between the bilateral hippocampi and some brain regions including postierior cingulate cortex, extrastriate cortex, medial prefrontal cortex, and parahippocampus gyrus is reduced in patients with paranoid SZ [40]. In Bluhm et al. [41], lower correlations in SZ between the retrosplenial cortex and both the temporal lobe and regions of the default network are observed. Bluhm et al. [42] find that Schizophrenic patients have significantly less correlation between posterior cingulate and lateral parietal, medial prefrontal, and cerebellar regions. When comparing the correlation of each pair of 116 ROIs of the whole brain, decreased connectivity is widely distributed throughout the entire brain in SZ [43]. In Zhou et al. [44], bilateral dorsolateral prefrontral cortex show reduced functional connectivity to the parietal lobe, posterior cingulated cortex, thalamus and striatum, whereas functional connectivity between the left dorsolateral prefrontal cortex and the left mid-posterior temporal lobe and the paralimbic regions is enhanced in patients with first-episode SZ. Most interestingly, some findings of dysconnectivity are associated with symptoms. For example, SZ patients with a history of auditory hallucinations have significantly reduced interhemispheric connectivity in primary and secondary auditory cortices when compared with SZ patients without auditory hallucinations and healthy controls [45]. When using a bilateral amygdala seed, Hoptman et al. [46] reveal reductions in connectivity between amygdala and ventral prefrontal cortex regions in patients with SZ or schizoaffective disorder. Furthermore, the lower connectivity in patients is associated with higher levels of self-rated aggression. When using bilateral temporo-parietal junction as seed regions, Vercammen et al. [47] reveal reduced connectivity between left temporo-parietal junction and the right homotope of Broca in SZ patients with auditory-verbal hallucinations. More severe auditory-verbal hallucinations are associated with reduced correlation between left temporo-parietal junction and bilateral anterior cingulate as well as the bilateral amygdale.

In terms of connectivity in RSNs, Whitfield-Gabrieli et al. [48] find abnormal high functional connectivity within the default mode network in SZ, consistent with Garrity et al. [49]. Woodward et al. [50] investigate the functional connectivity in several RSNs including

default mode, dorsal attention, executive control, and salience networks using seed-based method. A number of differences between patients with SZ and controls are revealed in default mode, dorsal attention, and executive control networks. Specifically, patients demonstrate greater connectivity between the posterior cingulated cortex and the left inferior gyrus, left middle frontal gyrus, and left middle temporal gyrus. These regions are more strongly connected to the executive control network in healthy controls. And less connectivity in the executive control and dorsal attention networks in SZ are discovered by calculating the correlation among clusters within each network. The findings suggest the process of functional specialization is altered in SZ. In another study, after identification of ROIs in "task-positive" network which is identified by using the right dorsolateral prefrontal cortex as seed and ROIs in "task-negative" network which is identified by using the right dorsolateral prefrontal cortex, the lateral parietal region, the inferior temporal gyrus, the right dorsolateral prefrontal prefrontal cortex, and the right dorsal premotor cortex in patients with paranoid SZ [51].

### 3. Dysconnectivity of SZ indentified by ICA

Spatial ICA is a technique to decompose the spatio-temporal BOLD signal into spatial brain components and their associated time courses [52-55]. Each component provides a grouping of brain activity into regions that share the same response pattern thus providing a natural measure of functional connectivity [56]. Although the results are dependent on the number of components and the user must determine which components reflect noise and which components resemble neuro-anatomical systems [36], it is a data driven approach which does not require a priori definition of seed regions to analyze the functional connectivity networks in human brain. Spatial ICA has became a popular technique to identify temporally coherent networks and detect biomarkers in SZ by processing R-fMRI data [23].

In line with studies using seed-based analysis, multiple dysconnected brain networks in SZ have been observed using ICA approaches. In Ongur et al. [57], SZ subjects show greater recruitment (spatial extent) of the frontopolar cortex/basal ganglia and decreased recruitment in the dorsal anterior cingulate cortex, as well as reduced DMN connectivity in the medial prefrontal cortex. A number of findings have also been associated with symptoms. For example, Camchong et al. [58] find lower functional connectivity in medial frontal gyrus and anterior cingulate gyrus in patients with chronic SZ. Frontal connectivity in patients is positively associated with symptoms as well as with general cognitive ability measures. Wolf et al. [59] evaluate the functional connectivity of some RSNs in patients with SZ who have auditory verbal hallucinations (AVHs). Within a speech-related network, patients show increased connectivity in bilateral temporal regions and decreased connectivity in the cingulate cortex. Within two additional RSNs associated with attention and executive control, respectively, patients exhibit less connectivity in the left precuneus and increased connectivity in the right lateral prefrontal areas. They also find correlations between measures of AVH severity and functional connectivity of the left anterior cingulate, left superior temporal gyrus and right lateral prefrontal cortex. Sorg et al. [60] investigate the intrinsic activity of striatum underlining different disorder states using ICA. During psychosis, coherent intrinsic activity of the striatum is increased in the dorsal part and

correlated with positive symptoms. In psychotic remission of the same patients, activity of the ventral striatum is increased and correlated with negative symptoms. Rotarska-Jagiela et al. [61] report that, SZ patients show decreased connectivity in posterior cingulate and hippocampus, which correlated with severity of hallucinations and delusions, and decreased hemispheric separation of fronto-parietal activity, which correlated with disorganization symptoms.

Other interesting findings based on ICA include altered functional network connectivity (FNC) in SZ. FNC is the functional connectivity of ICA components by evaluating the temporal relationships among ICA time courses across different components, rather than within components [62]. Jafri et al. [63] is the first study to evaluate the differences in FNC of resting state brain components in SZ patients versus healthy controls. They find higher correlation among most of the dominant resting state networks in SZ (Figure 2). Subsequent studies report both increased and decreased FNC in SZ. For example, Lui et al. [64] report increased connectivity within the frontoparietal-temporal network and decreased connectivity within the temporal-ventromedial frontal network, DMN, and medial frontal areas in drug naive first episode SZ patients. Meda et al. [65] find lower connectivity between Fronto/Occipital network and Anterior Default Mode/Prefrontal network, also between Meso/Paralimbic network and Sensory/Motor network in SZ patients.

### 4. Dysconnectivity of SZ indentified by graph theory-based analysis

Graph theory-based network analysis is another widely-used method to describe R-fMRI data in order to study mind-brain mechanisms [66]. Topological properties of brain networks described by nodes and edges can be investigated by graph theory-based analysis. In practice, graph measures such as clustering coefficient, degree, betweenness, path length, local efficiency, global efficiency and modularity (for the definition of these metrics see Rubinov and Sporns [67]) are often used to characterize system properties [68]. See Figure 3 for a flow chart of the graph theory-based analysis implementing in R-fMRI studies. Applications of this approach demonstrated that the intrinsic activity of human brain tends to be organized as small-world, with significant modularity and highly connected hub regions which indicate high efficiency of brain systems [69, 70]. Recent studies implemented the graph-based analysis in brain disorders found altered network metrics in patients with SZ during resting state [71].

Most of the topological metrics of small-world brain networks have been found to be altered in SZ. For example, when using atlas-based ROIs as brain network nodes, Lui et al. [72] observe lower degree, lower connectivity strength, decreased clustering coefficient and longer characteristic path length in patients with SZ. The properties of particular brain regions in the prefrontal, parietal and temporal lobes are also altered. Lynall et al. [73] consistently find decreased connectivity strength, reduced clustering and small-worldness. In addition, reduced degree and clustering are locally significant in medial parietal, premotor and cingulated, and right orbitofrontal areas. Alexander-Bloch et al. [74] also reveal reduced connectivity strength, decreased clustering and local efficiency, but increased global efficiency and robustness in patients with childhood-onset SZ. Cortical regions with abnormally reduced local connectivity include the left and right superior temporal gyrus, left

ventral occipital cortex, right cingulate, right insula, and right frontal operculum; subcortical decreases of clustering bilaterally in the thalamus, caudate, and accumbens; increased efficiency in the right inferior parietal lobule, left ventral temporal cortex, bilateral frontal operculum, and right planum polare. When using brain components as network nodes, Yu et al. [75] discover higher clustering coefficient, higher local efficiency, higher characteristic path length, and lower global efficiency. The topological measures were locally altered in brain components involving frontal, parietal, occipital and cerebellar areas in SZ. Importantly, characteristic path length and global efficiency were correlated with negative scale of PANSS in patients.

Multi-level analysis can also be performed by combining graph theory-based analysis and other techniques. For example, Bassett et al. [76] quantitatively characterize the univariate wavelet entropy of regional activity, the bivariate pairwise functional connectivity between regions, and the multivariate network organization of connectivity patterns. The results indicated that univariate measures are less sensitive to disease state than higher level bivariate and multivariate measures. In addition, by considering the network structure as a function of correlation strength, network organization specifically of weak connections is strongly correlated with attention, memory, and negative symptom scores of patients with SZ and displays potential as a clinical biomarker. This study provides a new framework in which to explore the neuro-mechanism of SZ.

Modular community structure is repeatedly demonstrated in resting state functional brain connectivity networks [77-79]. Modular organization of brain networks may play a critical role in its evolution and neurodevelopment [80-82]. Since it has been hypothesized that brain disorders such as SZ are associated with developmental factors [83], the examination of modular organization in SZ may provide biomarkers of altered brain development in this psychosis [74]. Indeed, reduced modularity which implies proportionally less intra-modular edges and more inter-modular edges in patients with childhood-onset SZ is detected [74]. When using brain components as network nodes to build weighted networks, Yu et al. [84] find more and smaller modules with different hubs in SZ (see Figure 4). Alexander-Bloch et al. [85] also report altered modular community structure in patients with childhood-onset SZ. The difference in the modular partition is most striking for a module that consistently includes brain regions around the right anterior insula in healthy controls. In contrast, these regions are distributed over a number of other modules in patient group.

### 5. Summary and challenges of future works

In summary, widespread dysconnectivity across the whole brain in SZ is identified by both seed-based analysis and ICA studies. The majority of seed-based studies show decreased connectivity, while ICA studies report both increased and decreased connectivity in SZ (in different networks). Medial frontal cortex is often identified to be involved in aberrant connectivity in SZ by both approaches (see Table 1 and Table 2). Findings revealed by graph theory-based analysis which can examine the properties (such as efficiency and modular organization) of the whole system are good supplements to seed-based and ICA studies. For a summary of the findings by graph theory-based analysis see Table 3. All of the studies support a dysconnectivity hypothesis of SZ. Some studies also show relationships

between dysconnectivity and typical symptoms of the disorder. The findings are improving our understanding of the underlying deficits of brain networks in SZ. However, there are some limitations. For example, in most studies, medication effects are not distinguished from those related purely to the disease; because there are very few studies of unmedicated subjects. One approach to clarifying this is to examine unaffected first-degree relatives of schizophrenia patients see if abnormal connectivity is inherited as a marker of illness predisposition (i.e. an endophenotype) as opposed to a biological illness marker (e.g. Meda et al. [65]).

Specificity is another unresolved problem, i.e. whether abnormal connectivity detected in schizophrenia patients is unique to that disorder or shared with other psychotic illnesses such as psychotic bipolar disorder. Again, relatively few studies have attempted to clarify this distinction (see Meda et al. [65]).

Regarding the direction of alteration in connectivity, both decreased and increased connectivity in SZ have been reported, although most seed-based studies reveal reduced connectivity in SZ. Bi-directed topological metrics are also revealed by graph theory-based analysis. The explanation of these inconsistencies in direction is not clear, though methodological differences among studies (such as seeds definition in seed-based analysis, number of components in FNC analysis, nodes definition in graph theory-based analysis) may play a role.

In addition, all studies focused on dysconnectivity in SZ at a group level, and it is difficult to identify dysconnectivity at single subject level to be used in clinic. However, classification may be a potential approach to do discrimination on a case-by-case basis, because classification provides information for each individual subject [86]. Although it is not easy to design an accurate, robust classifier for classifying SZ patients based on small number of training samples and high dimensional data, a few studies have tried to design objective prognostic/diagnostic tools using R-fMRI data. For example, based on functional connectivity between pairs of 116 ROIs, Shen et al. [87] classify SZ patients from controls with a high accuracy (94% for patients and 75% for healthy controls). Arbabshirani et al. [88] also classify patients from healthy controls with high accuracy using FNC. These results suggest machine learning applied to resting fMRI may be a useful tool for improving the current diagnosis of SZ.

There are also some specific challenges for each technique. In studies using seed-based analysis, different seeds (or ROIs) are selected in different studies (for a summary see Table 1). A criterion for determining seed(s) should be developed. In studies doing ICA-based FNC analysis, different numbers of brain components involving different areas were selected. How many brain components and involving which areas should be uniformed when doing FNC analysis. In graph theory-based analysis studies, nodes and edges are defined differently (see Table 3 for a summary). Nodes are usually defined by atlas-based ROIs or ICA components. Edges are usually defined by partial correlation or Pearson correlation. The best method of building brain graphs to explore brain networks is also not clear. The above challenges should be considered in future studies.

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### Figure 1.

Pipeline for seed-based functional connectivity analysis in R-fMRI studies. The first step is to select a brain region of interest as a seed. Next, time courses are extracted from the seed and all other brain voxels. After preprocessing (e.g. band-pass filtering, autocorrelation correction, covarying for white matter variance or other confounding variables), a functional connectivity brain map showing the temporal correlation between the given seed and all other brain voxels is produced.



### Figure 2.

Group differences of FNC (from Jafri et al. [63]). Out of 21 possible correlation combinations between 7 components, only 5 combinations passed the two sample t-test (p < 0.01). The solid line represents the significant connectivity where controls have higher mean correlation than patients, while dotted line represents connectivity where patients have higher mean correlation. Presence of dotted lines rejects the hypothesis that controls should have more correlation between two components than patients.



### Figure 3.

A schematic flow chart for implementing graph theory-based analysis into R-fMRI data. The first step is defining nodes based on ROIs of brain atlas, voxels or brain components. Secondly, the time courses of all nodes are extracted followed by preprocessing (e.g. band-pass filtering, autocorrelation correction, covarying for white matter variance or other confounding variables). Subsequently, a correlation matrix represents the temporal correlation between any pair nodes is computed. Next, a brain graph with nodes and edges could be built based on the correlation matrix. Then, some properties of the graph such as clustering, efficiencies, path length could be evaluated. (The brain maps with nodes/edges were from the manual of the BrainNet Viewer http://www.nitrc.org/projects/bnv/).

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### Figure 4.

Schematic modular architecture of FNC for healthy controls (HC) and patients with SZ (from Yu et al. [84]). Nodes in a given module are placed in a small circle. To show how edges disappear with threshold (T) change, graphs (each consisted of 57 brain components) built by T at 0.4, 0.5, 0.6, and 0.7 are shown respectively. An edge (either- or intra-module edge) is shown in the graph if its weight bigger than T. the thicker and the darker an edge, the higher its weight. Hubs are indicated by square nodes.

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# Table 1

Summary of the methods and main findings in R-fMRI studies of brain connectivity network in schizophrenia by seed-based analysis

Study	Sample	Seed(s)/ROIs	Main findings
Zhou et al. [44]	17 patients with first-episode SZ 17 matched controls	Bilateral Brodmann's area 46 (DLPFC)	Bilateral DLPFC show reduced functional connectivity to the parietal lobe, posterior cingulate cortex, thalamus and striatum in patients. Functional connectivity between the left DLPFC and the left mid-posterior temporal lobe and the paralimbic regions is enhanced in patients.
Zhou et al. [51]	18 patients with paranoid SZ 18 healthy controls	The right DLPFC as seed to identify ROIs in "Task-positive" network; PCC/precuneus as seed to identify ROIs in "Task-negative" network; Connectivity between each pair of these ROIs is evaluated.	Abnormal connectivity associated with the bilateral dorsal medial prefrontal cortex, the lateral parietal regions, the inferior temporal gyrus, the right dorsolateral prefrontal cortex, and the right dorsal premotor cortex in patients.
Bluhm et al. [42]	17 schizophrenic patients 17 healthy controls	PCC	Less correlation between posterior cingulate and lateral parietal, medial prefrontal, and cerebellar regions.
Zhou et al. [40]	17 patients with paranoid SZ 14 healthy controls	Anterior hippocampus	Functional connectivity between the bilateral hippocampi and some brain regions including postierior cingulate cortex, extrastriate cortex, medial prefrontal cortex, and parahippocampus gyrus is reduced in patients.
Bluhm et al. [41]	17 patients with SZ (15 paranoid SZ, 2 undifferentiated SZ) 17 healthy controls	Retrosplenial cortex	Lower correlations between the retrosplenial cortex and the right precuneus, right medial frontal gyrus, bilateral superior temporal gyrus, and cerebellum in patients.
Whitfield-Gabrieli et al. [48]	13 SZ patients 13 healthy controls	Medial prefrontal cortex PCC/precuneus Bilateral parietal cortices	Greater connectivity between the default network and medial prefrontal cortex; greater connectivity between the default network and posterior cingulate cortex in patients.
Hoptman et al. [46]	<ul> <li>21 SZ (1 disorganized SZ; 7 paranoid SZ; 3 residual SZ; 10 undifferentiated SZ)</li> <li>4 schizoaffective disorder</li> <li>21 healthy controls</li> </ul>	Amygdala	Significant reductions in functional connectivity between amygdala and ventral prefrontal cortex regions in patients.
Vercammen et al. [47]	<ul><li>27 SZ patients with auditory-verbal hallucinations</li><li>27 matched healthy controls</li></ul>	Left temporo-parietal junction and right temporo-parietal junction	Reduced connectivity between left temporo-parietal junction and the Right homotope of Broca in patients.
Gavrilescu et al. [45]	<ul><li>13 SZ patients with a current history of auditory hallucinations</li><li>13 SZ patients with no history of auditory hallucinations</li><li>16 healthy controls</li></ul>	Bilateral primary and secondary auditory cortices	SZ patients with auditory hallucinations have significantly reduced interhemispheric connectivity in both primary and secondary auditory cortices when compared with SZ patients with no auditory hallucinations and healthy controls.
Woodward et al. [50]	28 patients with schizophrenia 14 schizoaffective disorder 61 healthy controls	Using PCC, left and right IPS/SPL, left and right DLPFC, left and right fronto-insular cortx to identify the default mode, dorsal attention, executive control, and salience networks separately.	A number of differences between patients and controls are revealed in default mode, dorsal attention, and executive control networks.
Liang et al. [43]	15 patients with SZ 15 healthy controls	116 brain regions of AAL	Decreased connectivity in SZ is widely distributed throughout the entire brain.

Study	Sample	Seed(s)/ROIs	Main findings
<u>He et al.</u> [16]	115 first-episode, treatment-naïve patients with SZ 113 healthy controls	PCC	Increased anticorrelated functional connectivity in the left insula and bilateral DLPFC.

DLPFC: dorsolateral prefrontal cortex; PCC: posterior cingulate cortex; IPS: intraparietal sulcus; SPL: superior parietal lobule; AAL: automated anatomical labeling [89].

# Table 2 Summary of the R-fMRI studies about brain connectivity in schizophrenia by ICA

Study	Sample	Main findings
Jafri et al. [63]	29 patients with SZ 25 healthy controls	Higher correlation among most of the dominant resting state networks in SZ.
Lui et al. [64]	34 drug-naïve patients with first-episode SZ 34 healthy controls	Increased connectivity within the frontoparietal-temporal network and decreased connectivity within the temporal- ventromedial frontal network, DMN, and medial frontal areas in drug naive first episode SZ patients.
Ongur et al. [57]	14 SZ patients 15 healthy controls	SZ subjects show greater recruitment (spatial extent) of the frontopolar cortex/basal ganglia and decreased recruitment (spatial extent) in the dorsal anterior cingulate cortex, as well as reduced DMN connectivity in the medial prefrontal cortex.
Rotarska-Jagiela et al. [61]	16 patients with paranoid SZ 16 healthy controls	SZ patients show decreased connectivity in posterior cingulated and hippocampus, and decreased hemispheric separation of fronto-parietal activity.
Camchong et al. [58]	29 chronic SZ patients 29 healthy controls	Lower functional connectivity in medial frontal gyrus and anterior cingulate gyrus in patients.
Wolf et al. [59]	10 patients with SZ who have auditory verbal hallucinations 14 healthy controls	Increased connectivity in bilateral temporal regions, decreased connectivity in the cingulate cortex, and less connectivity in the right lateral prefrontal areas in patients.
Sorg et al. [60]	21 patients with SZ 21 healthy controls	During psychosis, coherent intrinsic activity of the striatum is increased in the dorsal part. In psychotic remission of the same patients, activity of the ventral striatum is increased.
Meda et al. [65]	70 SZ patients 118 normal controls	Lower connectivity between Fronto/Occipital network and Anterior Default Mode/Prefrontal network, also between Meso/Paralimbic network and Sensory/Motor network in SZ patients.

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# Table 3

Summary of the methods and main findings in R-fMRI studies investigating dysconnectivity in schizophrenia by graph theory-based method

AAL: automated anatomical labeling.

	Sample	Nodal definition	Nodal number	Edge definition	Main findings
t al. [72]	31 patients with SZ 31 healthy controls	AAL	06	Partial correlation	Lower degree, lower connectivity strength, decreased clustering coefficient and longer characteristic path length in patients with SZ.
all et al. [73]	12 patients with chronic SZ 15 healthy controls	AAL	72	Wavelet correlation	Decreased connectivity strength, reduced clustering and small- worldness.
xander-Bloch et al.	13 patients with childhood-onset SZ 19 healthy controls	Harvard-Oxford Probabilistic Atlas [90]	100	Wavelet correlation	Reduced connectivity strength, decreased clustering and local efficiency, but increased global efficiency and robustness in patients with childhood-onset SZ.
et al. [75]	19 patients with SZ 19 healthy controls	Brain components	57	Partial correlation	Higher clustering coefficient, higher local efficiency, higher characteristic path length, and lower global efficiency.
et al. [84]	24 patients with SZ 24 healthy controls	Brain components	57	Pearson correlation	More and smaller modules with different hubs in SZ.
sett et al. [76]	29 patients with chronic SZ 29 healthy controls	AAL	06	Pearson correlation	Univariate measures are less sensitive to disease state than higher level bivariate and multivariate measures.
kander-Bloch et al.	23 patients with childhood-onset SZ 23 healthy controls	Gray matter of Harvard- Oxford Probabilistic Atlas	278	Wavelet correlation	Altered modular community structure in patients with childhood- onset SZ. The difference in the modular partition is most striking for a module that consistently includes brain regions around the right anterior insula in healthy controls. In contrast, these regions are distributed over a number of other modules in patient group.