

Group of Subjects with Connectivity Data

The BRAPH 2 Developers

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For *connectivity data*, a connectivity matrix per subject is already available and can be directly imported into the relative analysis pipeline. For example, the connectivity matrix could correspond to white matter tracts obtained from dMRI or pre-calculated coactivations maps obtained from fMRI data. This Tutorial explains how to prepare and work with this kind of data.

Contents

- [Open the GUI](#) 2
- [Visualize the Group Data](#) 3
- [Visualize Each Subject's Data](#) 4
- [Preparation of the Data to be Imported](#) 5
- [Adding Covariates](#) 5

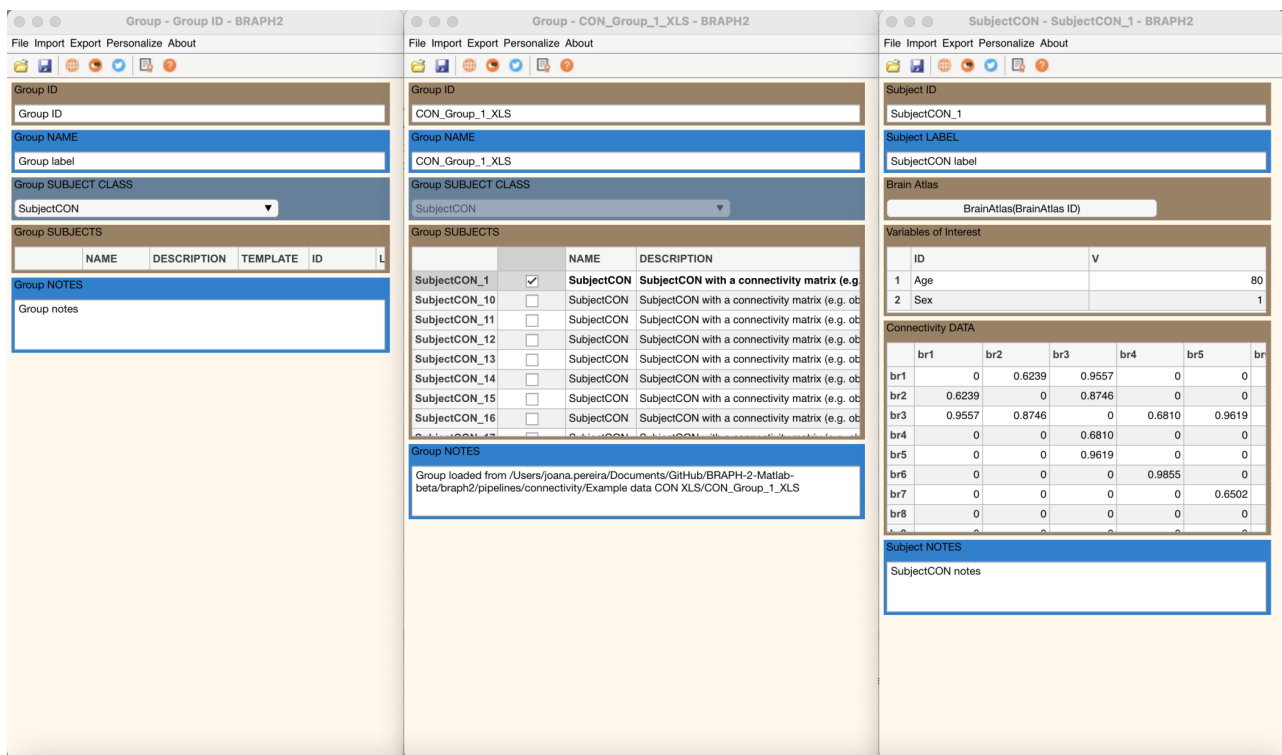


Figure 1: GUI for a group of subjects with connectivity data.. Full graphical user interface to upload a group of subject with connectivity data in BRAPH 2.0.

Open the GUI

In most analyses, the group GUI is the second step after you have selected a brain atlas. You can open it by typing `braph2` in the MatLab's terminal, which allows you to select a pipeline containing the steps required to perform your analysis and upload a brain atlas. After these steps have been completed you can upload your group's data, as shown in Figure 2.

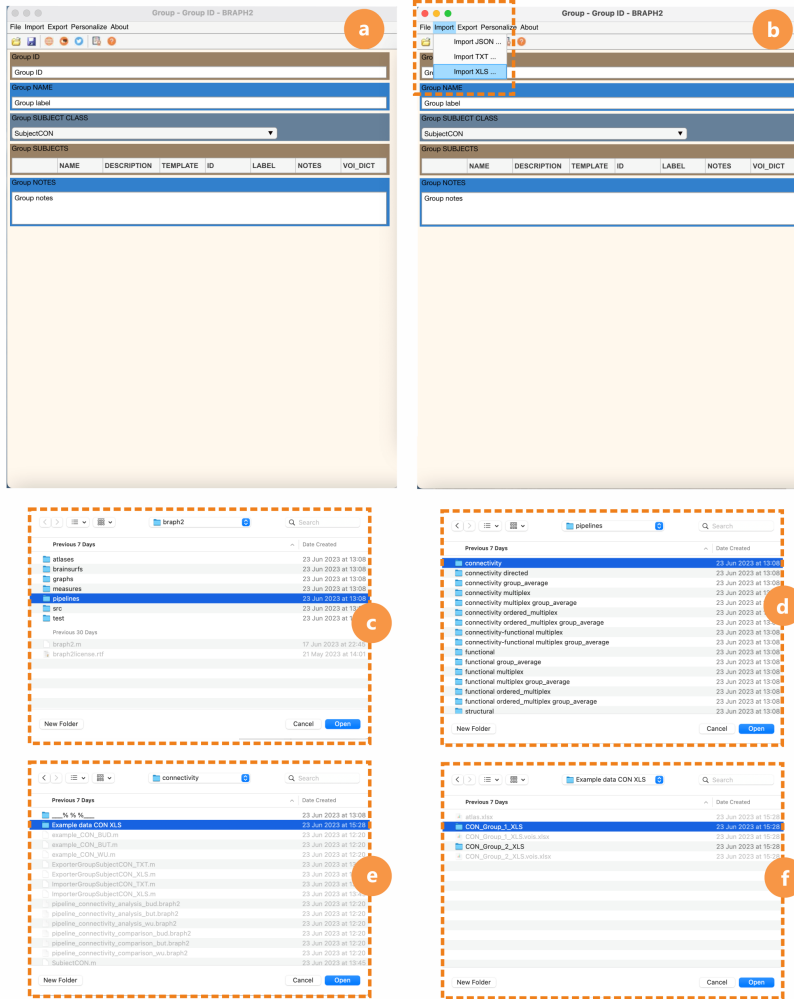


Figure 2: Upload the data of a group of subjects. Steps to upload a group of subjects with connectivity data using the GUI and an example dataset: **a** Open the group GUI. **b** Import a folder containing the connectivity matrices in XLS or TXT format (see below for details on their format). To upload the test connectivity data: **c-f** navigate to the BRAPH 2.0 folder pipelines, **d** connectivity, **e** Example data CON XLS, and **f** select the folder containing the connectivity matrices of one group `CON_Group_1_XLS`.

To open the GUI and upload the brain connectivity data, you can also do it from the command line (i.e., without opening an analysis pipeline) by typing the commands in Code 1.

Code 1: Code to launch the GUI to upload a group of subjects with connectivity data. This code can be used in the MatLab command line

to launch the GUI to upload a group of subjects with connectivity data without having to open a pipeline.

```
1 gr = Group('SUB_CLASS', 'SubjectCON'); ①
2
3 gui = GUIElement('PE', gr); ②
4 gui.get('DRAW') ③
5 gui.get('SHOW') ④
```

① creates a new object Group with subjects with connectivity data, i.e., SubjectCON.

② creates a GUI to upload the group data.

③ draws the GUI.

④ shows the GUI.

Visualize the Group Data

After completing the steps described in Figure 2, you can see the data (Figure 3a), and change the Group ID, name, and notes (Figure 3b).

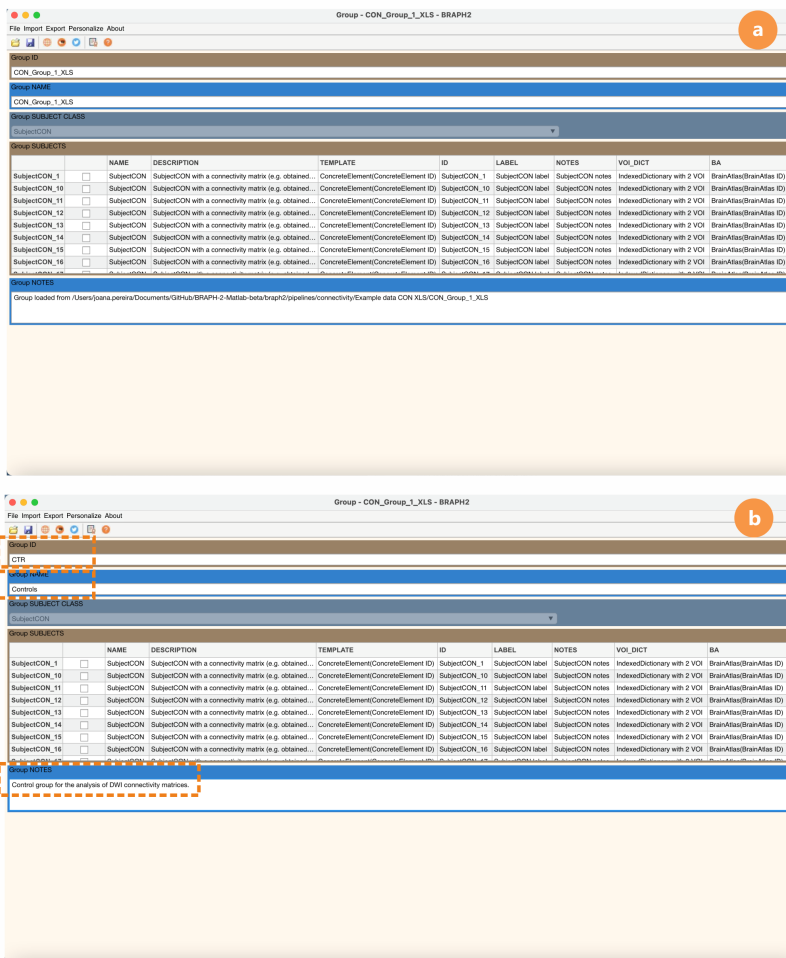


Figure 3: **Edit the group metadata.** Information that can be changed in the GUI: **a** The ID, name, and notes of each subject. **b** The ID, name, and notes of the group.

Visualize Each Subject's Data

Finally, you can open each subject's connectivity matrix by selecting the subject, right click, and select "Open selection" (Figure 4a), which shows the matrix values (Figure 4b). Here, you can also change the subject's metadata (ID, label, notes), its variables of interest, and the values of its connectivity matrix.

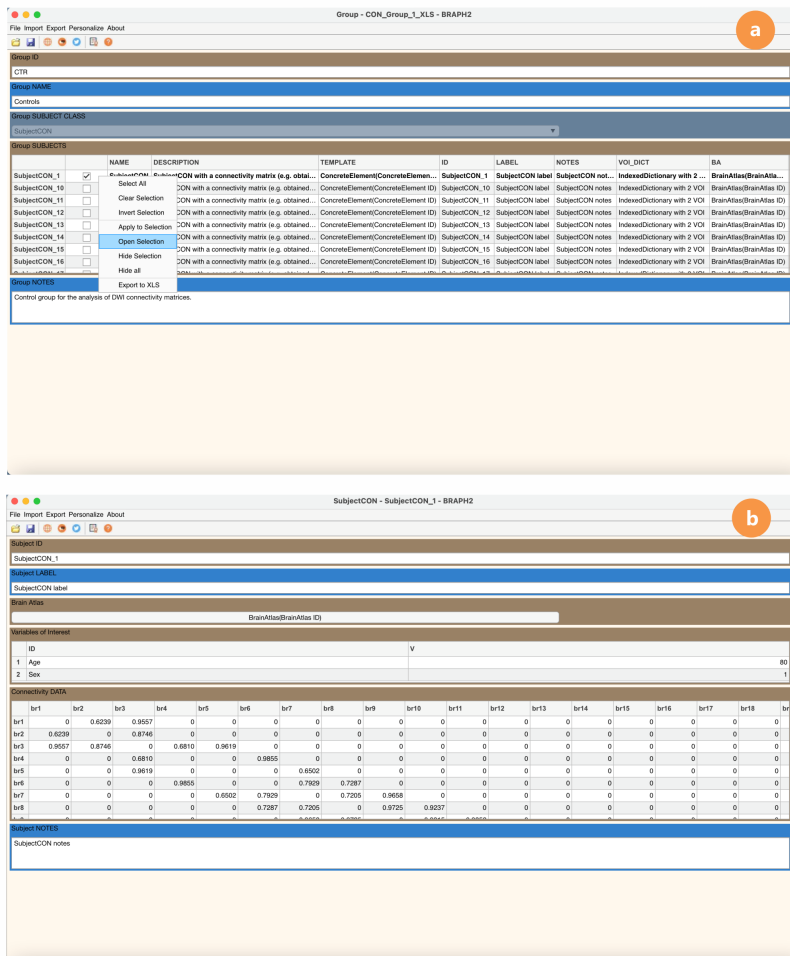


Figure 4: **Edit the individual subject data..** **a** Each subject's connectivity matrix can be opened by selecting the subject, right click, and select "Open selection" **b** In this subject GUI, it is possible to view and edit the metadata of the subject (ID, label, notes), its variables of interest (in this case, age and sex), and the values of the connectivity matrix.

Preparation of the Data to be Imported

To be able to import connectivity data into BRAPH 2.0, you need to include the connectivity matrices for each subject in excel or text format inside a folder with the name of the group. Below you can see how your group directory should look like as well as an example of a brain connectivity matrix.



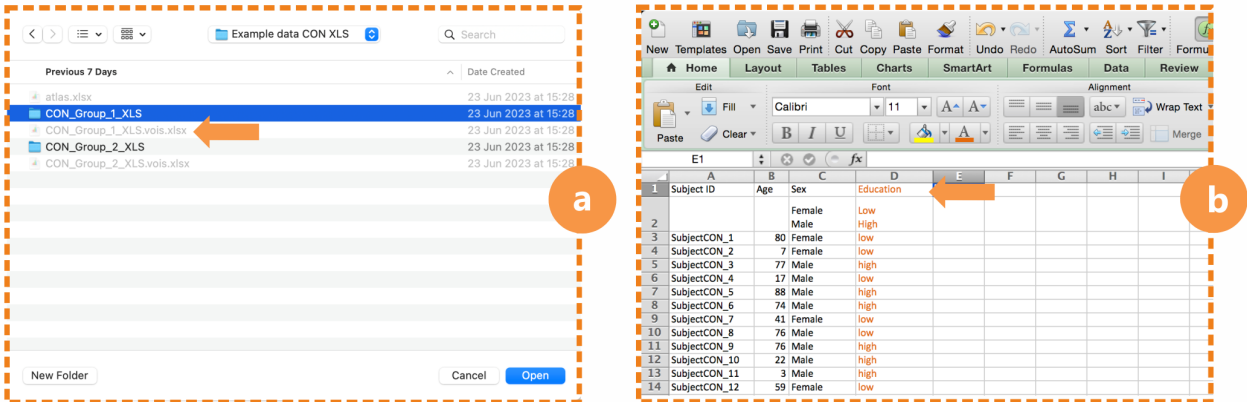
Adding Covariates

It is very common to have *variables of interest* (i.e., *covariates* and *correlates*) in an analysis. In BRAPH 2.0, these variables of interest should be included in a separate excel file placed just outside the group's folder and with the same name as the folder followed by `.vois` (Figure 6a). This file should have a specific format (Figure 6b):

Subject IDs (column A). Column A should contain the subject IDs starting from row 3.

Variables of interest (column B and subsequent columns). Column B (and subsequent columns) should contain the variables of interest (one per column). In this example we have "Age" and "Sex", as in the

Figure 5: Data preparation. The data should be organised in the following format: **a** The connectivity matrices from each subject should be included in one folder (for example, `CON_group_1_XLS`). **b** Each matrix should contain the connectivity values between each pair of brain regions denoted by the rows and columns. In example, the (simulated) values in the matrix correspond to the fractional anisotropy (white matter integrity) of anatomical connections derived from diffusion weighted imaging.



example file, as well as the additional “Education”. In each column, row 1 should contain the name of the variable of interest, row 2 should contain the categories separated by a return (only for categorical variables of interest, like “Sex” and “Education”), and the subsequent rows the values of the variable of interest for each subject.

Figure 6: **Edit the Covariates.** Information that can be changed in the Covariates file: **a** The names of the variables of interest (vois). **b** In case the vois are categorical, you can state which categories they have.