

Brain Atlas

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This tutorial explains how to work with the Graphical User Interface (GUI) to manage brain atlases. This is typically the first step required to perform a graph analysis in BRAPH 2. In this tutorial, you will learn how to upload a brain atlas, how to visualize it, and how to export publication-ready brain figures.

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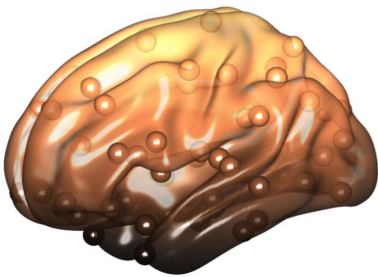


Figure 1: **Brain atlas figure created with BRAPH 2.** Example of a brain surface image with some nodes representing brain regions.

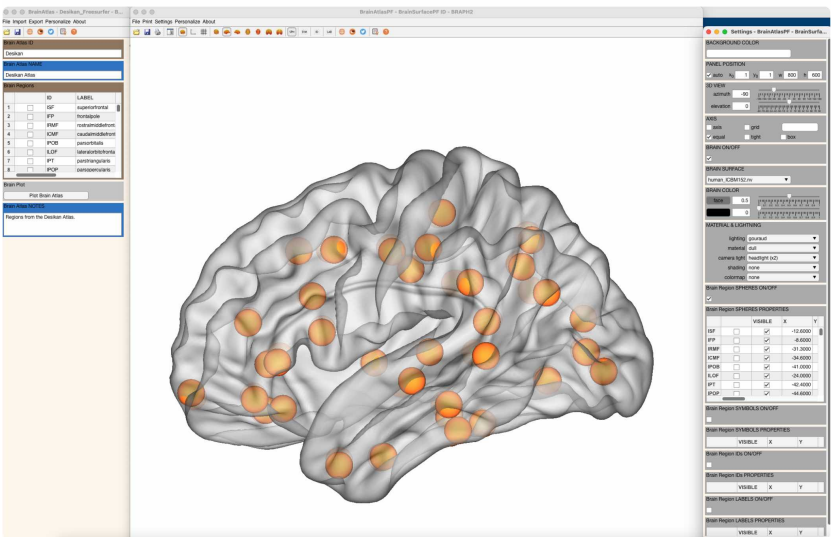


Figure 2: **Brain Atlas GUI.** Full graphical user interface to work with a brain atlas in BRAPH 2.

Open the GUI

The brain atlas GUI is the first step in most BRAPH 2 pipelines. You can open it by typing `braph2` in MatLab's terminal, which allows you to select a pipeline containing the steps required to perform your analysis. The initial step is typically to upload the brain atlas directly (Figure 3c-d) after clicking "Load Atlas".

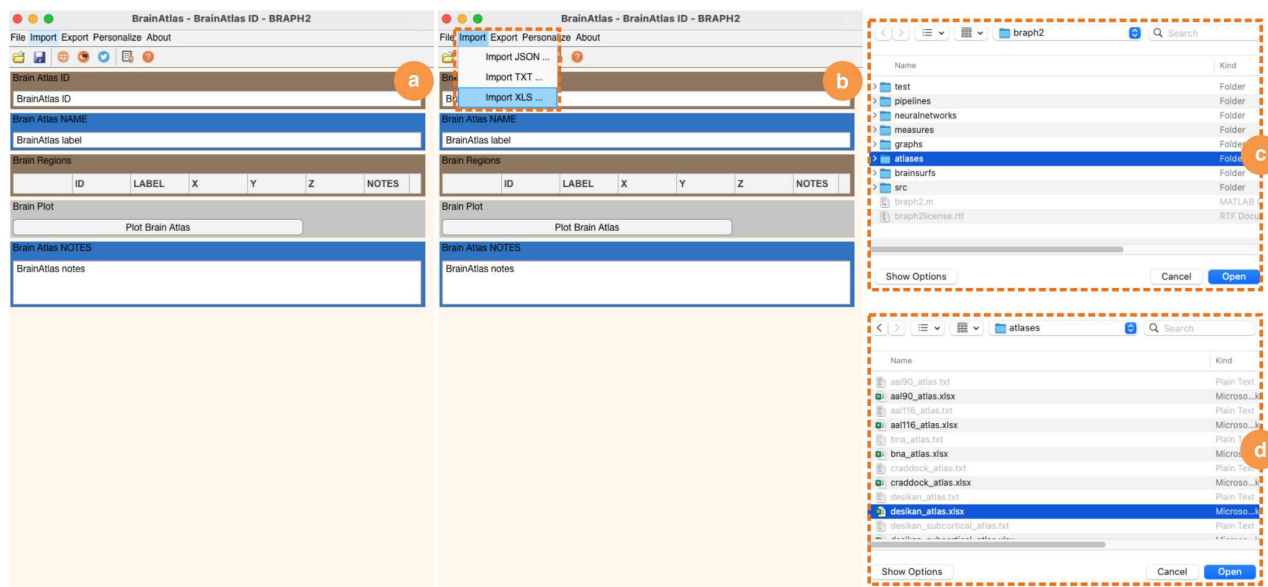


Figure 3: Upload a brain atlas. The different steps you need to follow to open a brain atlas using the GUI: **a** Open the brain atlas GUI. **b** Import a brain atlas from an XLS or TXT file. **c** Navigate to the BRAPH 2 folder atlases. **d** Select the desired atlas.

Brain Atlas GUI launch from command line

You can also open the GUI and upload the brain atlas using the command line (i.e., without opening an analysis pipeline) by typing the commands in Code 1. In this case, you can upload the atlas as shown in Figure 3a-d.

Code 1: Code to launch the Brain Atlas GUI. This code can be used in the MatLab command line to launch the Brain Atlas GUI without having to open a pipeline.

```
1 ba = BrainAtlas();
2
3 gui = GUIElement('PE', ba);
4 gui.get('DRAW')
5 gui.get('SHOW')
```

Upload the Brain Atlas

In the GUI launched in the previous step, you have a menu that can be used to import a brain atlas (Figure 3b) either by loading one of the already-available atlases in the BRAPH 2 folder atlases (Figure 3c) or by loading a file you have created. In this example, you upload the Desikan atlas (Figure 3d).

You can change the ID, name, and notes of the brain atlas (as shown in Figure 4a) as well as the IDs, labels, coordinates, and notes of the brain regions (Figure 4b).

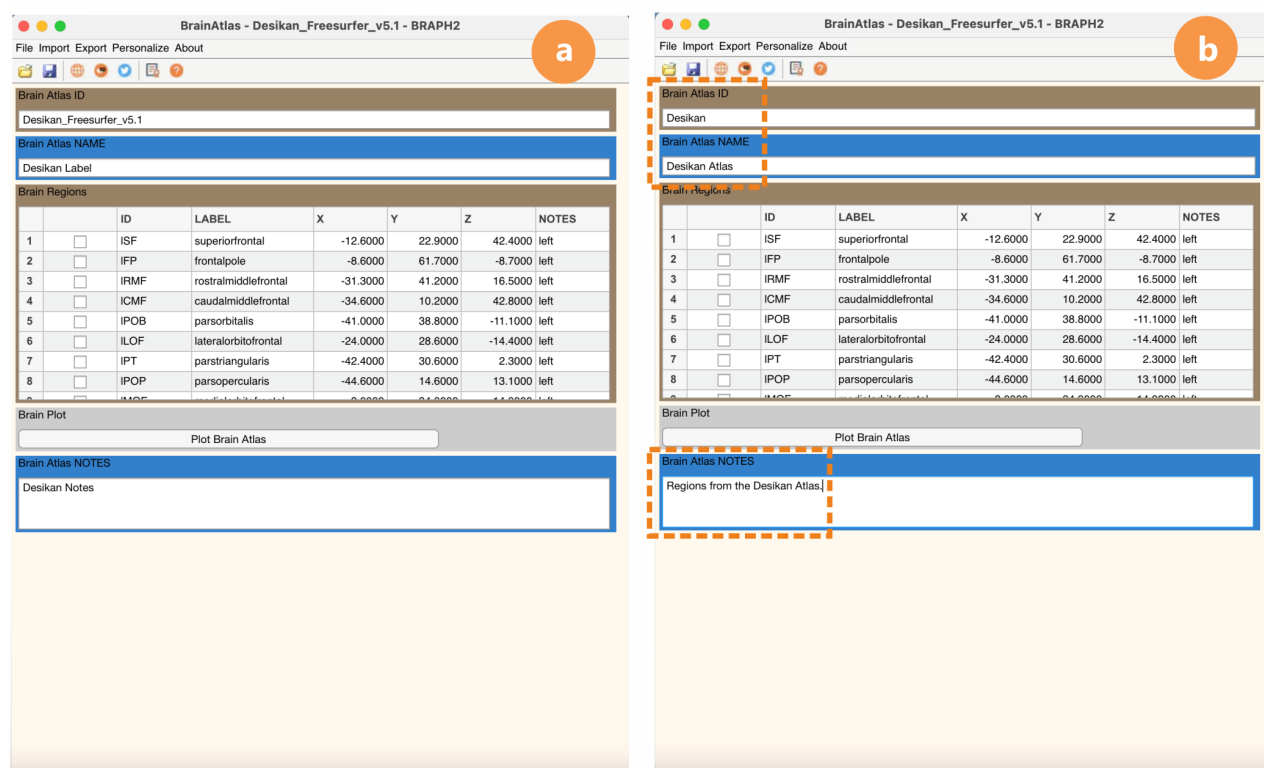


Figure 4: **Edit the brain atlas information.** In the brain atlas GUI: **a** You can see the ID, name, brain regions and notes of the brain atlas. **b** All of this information can be changed, in this example we have renamed the ID, name and notes of the brain atlas but you can also edit the IDs, labels, coordinates, and notes of the brain regions.

Ready Brain Atlases

Currently, we provide several brain atlases that are commonly used in the field of brain connectomics, some of which are shown in Figure 5. They are available in the BRAPH 2 folder atlases in XLS and TXT formats, and they can also be downloaded from our website (<http://braph.org/software/brain-atlases/>).

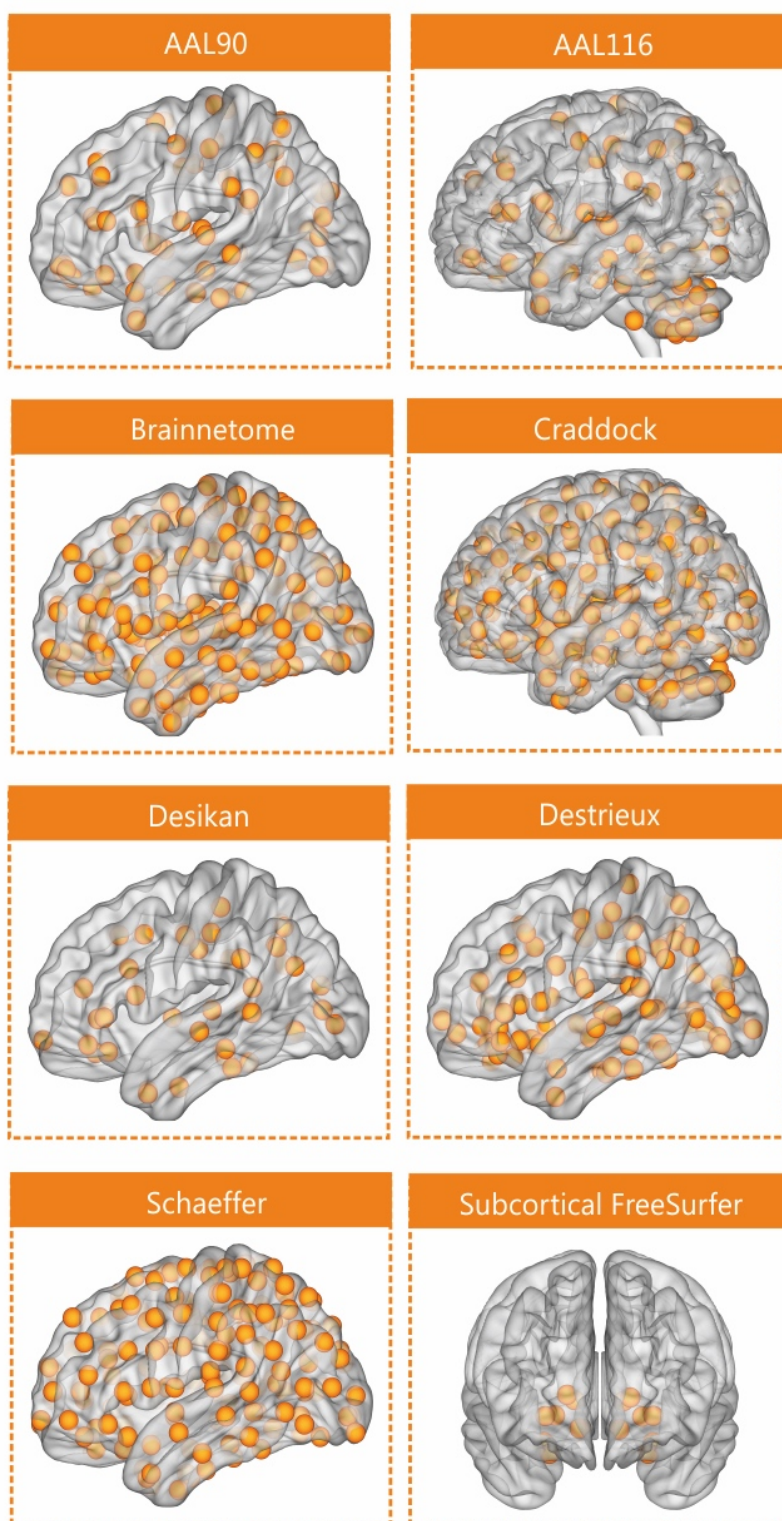


Figure 5: **Brain Atlases.** Some brain atlases provided by BRAPH 2:

AAL90 Automated Anatomical Labelling atlas with 90 cortical and subcortical regions.

AAL116 Automated Anatomical Labelling atlas with 116 cortical and subcortical regions, including cerebellar areas.

BNA Brainnetome atlas with 246 cortical and subcortical regions.

Craddock Functional atlas with 200 cortical and subcortical regions, including cerebellar areas.

Desikan Anatomical atlas with 68 cortical from the FreeSurfer software.

Destrieux Anatomical atlas with 148 cortical from the FreeSurfer software.

Schaeffer Functional brain atlas with 200 cortical regions that belong to 7 different resting-state fMRI networks.

Subcortical FreeSurfer Anatomical atlas with 14 subcortical gray matter regions from the FreeSurfer software.

Create a New Brain Atlas

To create a new brain Atlas in BRAPH 2 format, you should create a new XLS file (*.xls or *.xlsx), as shown in Figure 6. (It is also possible to create it in TXT format (*.txt), for which we refer to the examples available in the BRAPH 2 folder atlases.)

a						continuation b							
1	Desikan_Freesurfer					37	IPHIP	parahippocampal	-24,7	-31,2	-17,4	left	
2	Desikan Label					38	IFUS	fusiform	-35,7	-43,3	-19,7	left	
3	Desikan Notes					39	rSF	superiorfrontal	13,4	24,7	42	right	
4	BrainMesh_ICBM152.nv					40	rFP	frontalpole	10,3	61,1	-10	right	
5	ISF	superiorfrontal	-12,6	22,9	42,4	left	41	rCAC	caudalanteriorcingulate	7,3	18,7	26,3	right
6	IFP	frontalpole	-8,6	61,7	-8,7	left	42	rCMF	caudalmiddlefrontal	34,9	11,8	43	right
7	IRMF	rostralmiddlefrontal	-31,3	41,2	16,5	left	43	rPOB	parsorbitalis	42,1	39,2	-10	right
8	ICMF	caudalmiddlefrontal	-34,6	10,2	42,8	left	44	rLOF	lateralorbitofrontal	23,6	28,5	-15,2	right
9	IPOB	parsorbitalis	-41	38,8	-11,1	left	45	rPT	parstriangularis	45	29,7	4,5	right
10	ILOF	lateralorbitofrontal	-24	28,6	-14,4	left	46	rPOP	parsopercularis	44,9	14,4	14,2	right
11	IPT	parstriangularis	-42,4	30,6	2,3	left	47	rMOF	medialorbitofrontal	8,8	35,7	-14,8	right
12	IPOP	parsopercularis	-44,6	14,6	13,1	left	48	rRMF	rostralmiddlefrontal	32,3	40,9	17,3	right
13	IMOF	medialorbitofrontal	-8	34,9	-14,9	left	49	rRAC	rostralanteriorcingulate	8	33,5	2,1	right
14	IRAC	rostralanteriorcingulate	-6,8	33,9	1,6	left	50	rINS	insula	35,1	-3,9	2,4	right
15	ICAC	caudalanteriorcingulate	-6,6	18	26,1	left	51	rPRC	precentral	36,8	-9,9	43,5	right
16	IINS	insula	-34,2	-4,3	2,2	left	52	rPOC	postcentral	41,6	-22,4	43,8	right
17	IPRC	precentral	-37,8	-10,7	42,1	left	53	rSUPRA	supramarginal	50,6	-33,3	30,7	right
18	IPOC	postcentral	-42,3	-23,8	43,6	left	54	rSP	superiorparietal	22,6	-59,5	48,1	right
19	ISUPRA	supramarginal	-50,4	-38,8	31	left	55	rIP	inferioparietal	42,8	-60,9	28,1	right
20	ISP	superioparietal	-22,8	-60,9	46,3	left	56	rPARAC	paracentral	9,9	-27,4	55,6	right
21	IIP	inferioparietal	-40	-66,4	27,3	left	57	rPCG	posteriorcingulate	7,6	-17,1	36,2	right
22	IPARA	paracentral	-10	-28,7	56,1	left	58	rIST	isthmuscingulate	8,9	-45,4	17,6	right
23	IPCG	posteriorcingulate	-7,3	-17,4	35,7	left	59	rPREC	precuneus	11,7	-56,5	37,7	right
24	IIST	isthmuscingulate	-9,8	-44,8	16,9	left	60	rCUN	cuneus	8,7	-80,1	19	right
25	IPREC	precuneus	-11,6	-57,5	36,7	left	61	rPERI	pericalcarine	14	-79,7	6,7	right
26	ICUN	cuneus	-8,7	-79,6	18	left	62	rLIN	lingual	16,8	-66,3	-3,6	right
27	IPERI	pericalcarine	-13,9	-80,6	6	left	63	rLO	lateraloccipital	30,3	-86,3	0,5	right
28	ILIN	lingual	-16,5	-66,8	-4,3	left	64	rTRANS	transversetemporal	44,8	-22,4	6,5	right
29	ILO	lateraloccipital	-29,7	-86,9	-1	left	65	rBKS	bankssts	51,9	-40,6	5,6	right
30	ITRANS	transversetemporal	-44	-24,2	6	left	66	rST	superiortemporal	53	-14	-5,5	right
31	IBKS	bankssts	-52,7	-44,5	4,6	left	67	rMT	middletemporal	55,9	-29,5	-12,9	right
32	IST	superiortemporal	-52,1	-17,8	-4,4	left	68	rIT	inferiortemporal	49,3	-31,7	-23	right
33	IMT	middletemporal	-55,6	-31,1	-12,9	left	69	rTP	temporalpole	34	8,4	-33,1	right
34	IIT	inferiortemporal	-48,9	-34,4	-22,2	left	70	rENT	entorhinal	26,2	-6,8	-31,9	right
35	ITP	temporalpole	-32,8	8,4	-34,8	left	71	rPHIP	parahippocampal	26,1	-31,3	-16,2	right
36	IENT	entorhinal	-25,8	-7,6	-31,6	left	72	rFUS	fusiform	35,9	-43	-19,2	right

Start by writing the following information in the first 4 rows:

- Brain Atlas ID (row 1, column 1). For example: Desikan FreeSurfer
- Brain Atlas LABEL (row 2, column 1). For example: Desikan Labels
- Brain Atlas NOTES (row 3, column 1). For example: Desikan Nodes
- Brain Surface Name (row 4, column 1). For example: BrainMeshICBM152.nv

Then, from row 5, you should include the IDs of the regions of your atlas (1st column), the labels of the regions of your atlas (2nd column), the X, Y and Z coordinates (3rd, 4th, and 5th columns), and any relevant notes (in this case, the brain hemisphere, 6th column).

Figure 6: **Create your own brain atlas.**
Overview of how the XLS file containing your atlas information should look like.

Plot the Brain Atlas

Once you are satisfied with the brain atlas, you can plot it by pushing the button “Plot Brain Atlas” (Figure 7a). This will open an image with a brain surface and nodes corresponding to the brain regions (Figure 7b).

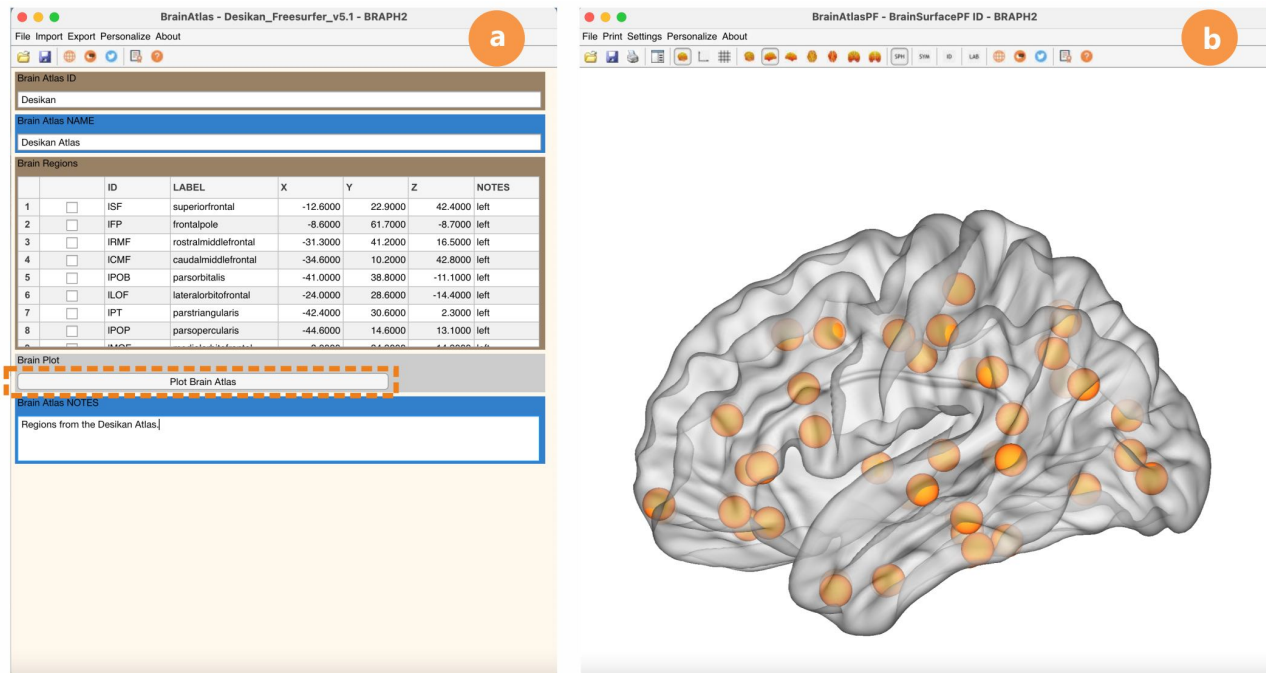


Figure 7: **Brain atlas visualization.** Plotting the nodes of a brain atlas on a 3D brain surface.

This new window has a large toolbar that allows you to change the visualization of the atlas. We suggest you try the different options to understand how they change the figure. Importantly, within this menu, there is one option called “Settings Brain Surface” (highlighted in Figure 8a), which opens the settings window shown in Figures 8b-c.

The settings window allows you to optimize how the brain regions included in your analysis are visualized. This is often included as a first figure in a manuscript.

Most options in the settings window are intuitive. So we encourage you to try them out until you achieve the visualization you want. There are many possibilities for visualization. Figure 9 shows just one example.

Each brain region can be represented with spheres, symbols, IDs, and labels. Spheres are objects that are rendered in 3D — often prettier, but also more computationally expensive. Symbols are objects

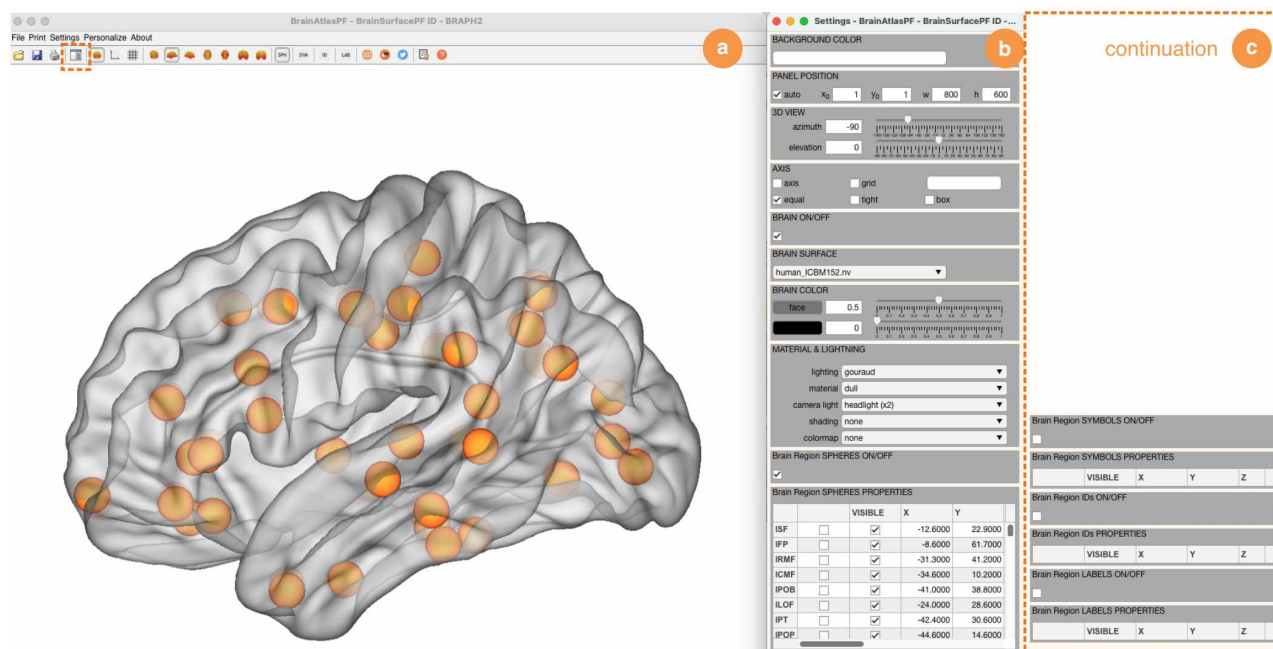


Figure 8: **Visualize the brain atlas.** a The “Settings Brain Surface” button in the toolbar opens b-c A window with the settings available for this brain figure.

rendered in 2D — more stylized and less computationally expensive. IDs and labels are the texts associated to the brain region.

If you wish to apply some properties to a set of brain regions, you can select multiple regions by clicking on the checkboxes on the right, and then right-click and select “apply to selection” before applying some property.

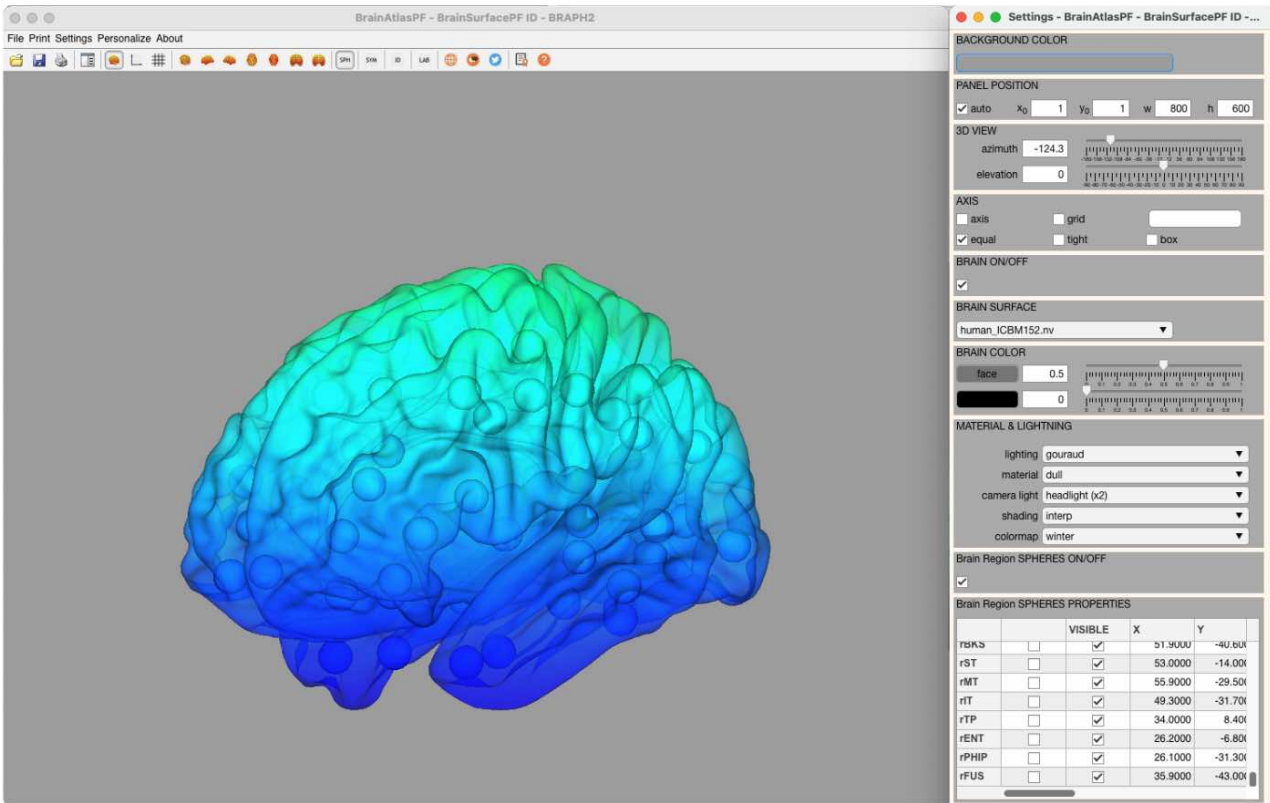


Figure 9: Example of a visualization of the brain atlas. A final figure was created with BRAPH 2 by changing different options in the menu.

Importantly, BRAPH 2 provides different brain surfaces, as shown in Figure 10, for the human brain and cerebellum in addition to animals such as the ferret, macaque, mouse, and rat. It is also possible to add additional brain surfaces by adding the required NV files in the BRAPH 2 folder brainsurfs.

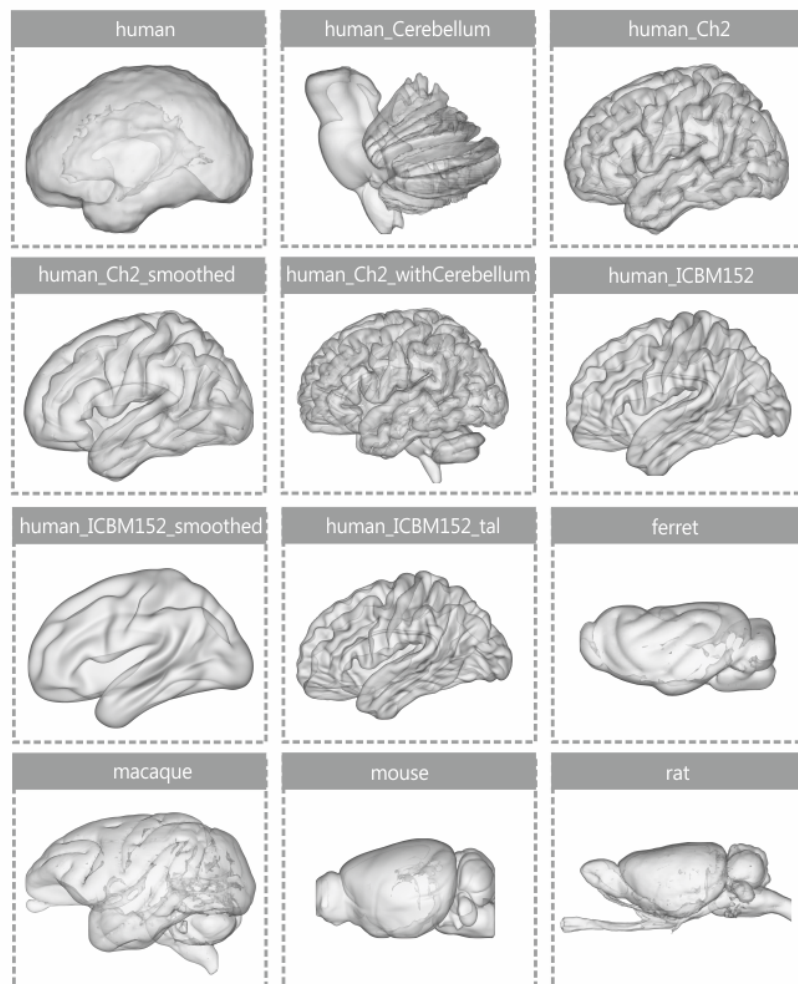


Figure 10: **Brain surfaces in BRAPH 2.** Some of the brain surfaces available in BRAPH 2 to plot the brain atlas.

Export the Figure

To export and save a (publication-ready) figure, you can select “Print” from the brain atlas GUI and select one of the various provided options Figure 11.

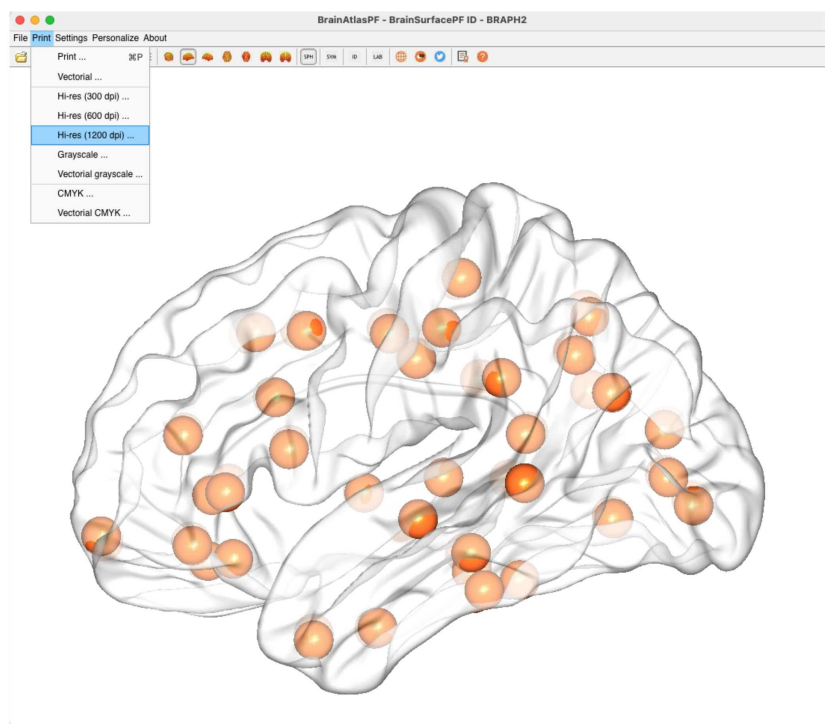


Figure 11: **Save a brain atlas figure.** BRAPH 2 provides different options that allow saving a figure with different resolutions and color modes, adequate to any requirement for presentations and publications.