Learning Macroscopic Brain Connectomes via Group-Sparse Factorization

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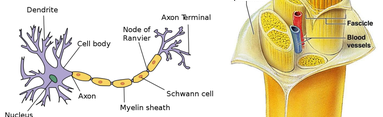
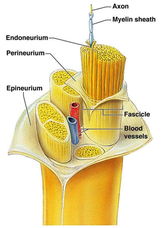
BACKGROUND & SETTING

1. Motivations

Goal:

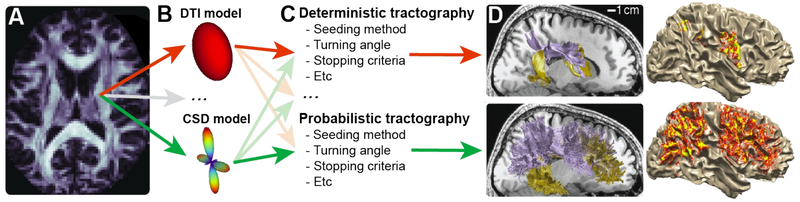
- Given:
  - Diffusion magnetic resonance imaging (dMRI) data
- We want to:
  - Map structural brain connectome





Applications:

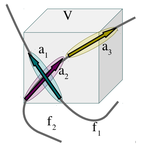
- Investigating white matter health and disease



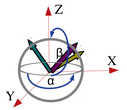
2. Encoding Brain Connectomes as Tensors

ENCODE:

- Represents brain structure by a 3D sparse tensor
  - $\mathbf{\Phi} \in R^{Na \times Nv \times Nf}$
    - N_a: #orientations, fascicles orientation at each position
    - N_v: #voxels, fascicles spatial position
    - N_f: #fascicles, indices of each fascicle

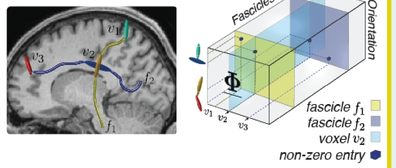


A. Encoding one voxel



B. Discretizing space

- Unifies dMRI signal with connectome structure
  - Matrix of dMRI signal $Y \in R^{N\theta \times Nv}$,
    - θ is gradient direction
  - Factorizing **Y** into **Φ** and dictinary **D**
    - $D \in R^{N\theta \times Na}$
    - $Y \approx \mathbf{\Phi} \times_1 D \times_3 W$, where $W \in R^{Nf}$

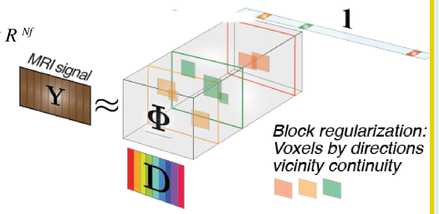


C. Natural brain space and tensor encoding

THEORY & ALGORITHMS

3. A Tractography Objective for Extracting Brain Connectomes

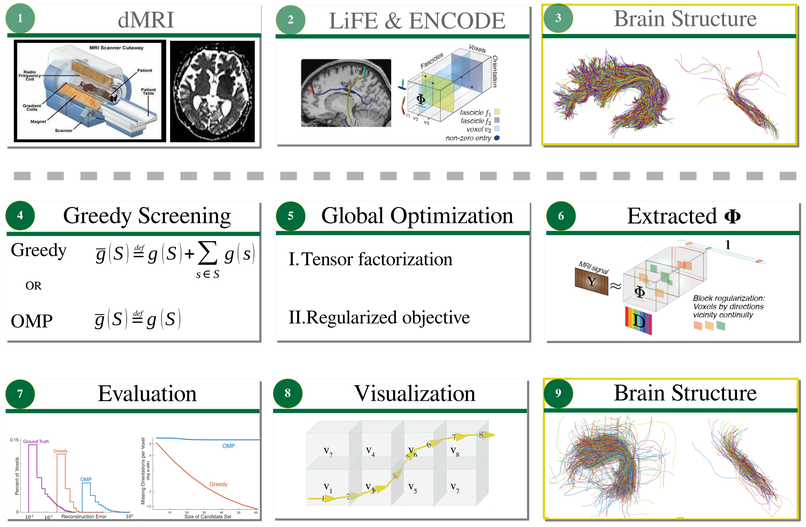
- Unconstrained objective to extract **Φ**
  - $\mathbf{\Phi} = \text{argmin}_{\mathbf{\Phi}} \|Y - \mathbf{\Phi} \times_1 D \times_3 1\|^2$, where $1 \in R^{Nf}$
- Regularizer – smooth, continuous, sparse
- Constrained objective to learn **Φ**
  - $\min_{\mathbf{\Phi}} \|Y - \mathbf{\Phi} \times_1 D \times_3 1\|^2 + \lambda R(\mathbf{\Phi})$,



Model formulation and block regularizer

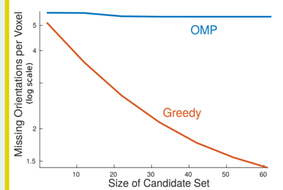
$$R(\mathbf{\Phi}) = \sum_{f \in F} \sum_{\mathcal{G}_V \in \mathbf{V}} \sum_{\mathcal{G}_A \in \mathcal{A}} \sqrt{\sum_{v \in \mathcal{G}_V} \left(\sum_{a \in \mathcal{G}_A} |\mathbf{\Phi}_{a,v,f}| \right)^2}$$

4. A Pipeline for Extracting Brain Connectomes

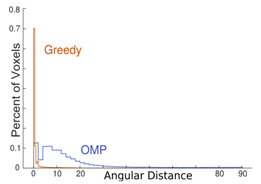


EMPIRICAL RESULTS

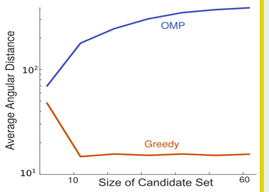
5. Reconstructing the Anatomical Structure of Tracts



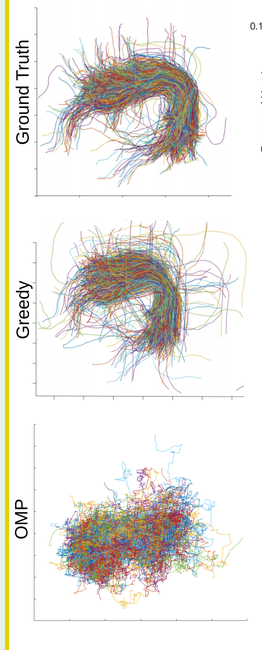
A. Screening: missing orientations vs. k

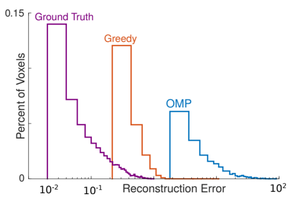


B. Screening: pdf of voxels' angular distance

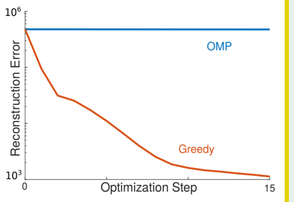


C. Screening: avg. angular distance by k



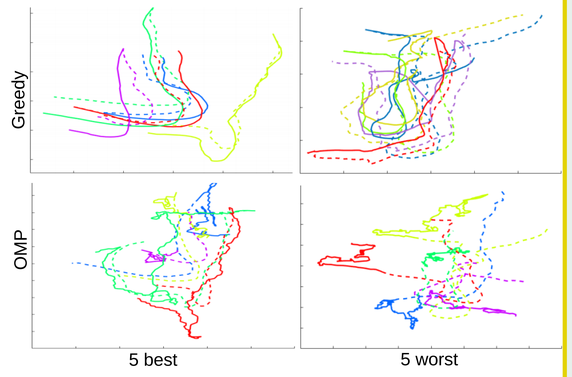


D. Screening: pdf of reconstruction error



E. Screening: reconstruction error improvement

F. Optimization: visualization of **Φ**



G. Optimization