

White Matter Network Architecture Guides Direct Electrical Stimulation Through Optimal State Transitions

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Abstract

Optimizing direct electrical stimulation for the treatment of neurological disease remains difficult due to an incomplete understanding of its physical propagation through brain tissue. Here, we use network control theory to predict how stimulation spreads through white matter to influence spatially distributed dynamics. We test the theory's predictions using a unique dataset comprised of diffusion weighted imaging and electrocorticography in epilepsy patients undergoing grid stimulation. We find statistically significant shared variance between the predicted activity state transitions and the observed activity state transitions. We then use an optimal control framework to posit testable hypotheses regarding which brain states and structural properties will efficiently improve memory encoding when stimulated. Our work quantifies the role that white matter architecture plays in guiding the dynamics of direct electrical stimulation, and offers empirical support for the utility of network control theory in explaining the brain's response to stimulation.

Introduction

Direct electrical stimulation has demonstrated clinical utility in detecting brain abnormalities during surgery (Li et al. (2011)) as well as in mitigating symptoms of epilepsy, essential tremor, and dystonia (Sironi (2011), Perlmutter & Mink (2006), Lozano & Lipsman (2013)). Apart from clinical diagnosis and treatment, direct electrical stimulation has also been used to isolate areas responsible for complex higher-order cognitive functions including language (Jones et al. (2011), Mani et al. (2008)), semantic memory (Shimotake et al. (2015)), and face perception (Parvizi et al. (2012)). An open and important question is whether such stimulation can be used to reliably enhance cognitive function, and if so, whether stimulation parameters (e.g., intensity and location) can be optimized and personalized based on individual brain anatomy and physiology. While some studies demonstrate enhancements in spatial learning (Lee et al. (2017)) and memory (Ezzyat et al. (2018), Laxton et al. (2010), Ezzyat et al. (2017), Kucewicz et al. (2018), Suthana et al. (2012)) following direct electrical stimulation, others show decrements (Jacobs et al. (2016), Kim, Schedlbauer, Rollo, Karunakaran, Ekstrom & Tandon (2018)) (for a review, see (Kim et al. (2016))). Such conflicting evidence is also present in the literature on other types of stimulation, including transcranial magnetic stimulation. Proposed explanations range from variations in stimulation intensity (Reichenbach et al. (2011)) to individual differences in brain connectivity (Downar et al. (2014)).

A key challenge in circumscribing the utility of stimulation for cognitive enhancement or clinical intervention is the fact that we do not have a fundamental understanding of how an arbitrary stimulation paradigm applied to one brain area alters distributed neural activity in neighboring and distant brain areas (Johnson et al. (2013), Laxton et al. (2010), Lozano & Lipsman (2013)). Models of stimulation propagation through brain tissue range in complexity and biophysical realism (McIntyre, Savasta, Walter & Vitek (2004)), from those that only model the region being targeted to those that use finite element models to expand predictions throughout different tissue types (Yousif & Liu (2009)), including both gray matter and white matter (Kim et al. (2011)). Even in the simpler simulations of the effects of stimulation on a local cell population, there are challenges in accounting for the orientation of cells, and the distance from the axon hillock, which can lead to strikingly different circuit behaviors (McIntyre, Savasta, Walter & Vitek (2004)). In the more expansive studies of the effects of stimulation across the brain, it has been noted empirically that minute differences in electrode location can generate substantial differences in which white matter pathways are directly activated (Lujan et al. (2013), Riva-Posse et al. (2014)), and that an individual’s white matter connectivity can predict the behavioral effects of stimulation (Horn et al. (2017), Ellmore et al. (2009)). These differences are particularly important in predicting response to therapy, given

recent observations that stimulation to white matter may be particularly efficacious in treating depression (Riva-Posse et al. (2013)) and epilepsy (Toprani & Durand (2013)). Despite these critical observations, a first-principles intuition regarding how the effects of stimulation might depend on the pattern of white matter connectivity present in a single human brain has remained elusive.

Network control theory provides a potentially powerful approach for modeling direct electrical stimulation in humans (Tang & Bassett (2017)). Building on recent advances in physics and engineering, network control theory characterizes a complex system as composed of nodes interconnected by edges (Newman (2010)), and then specifies a model of network dynamics to determine how external input affects the nodes’ time-varying activity (Liu et al. (2011)). Drawing on canonical results from linear systems and structural controllability (Kailath (1980)), this approach was originally developed in the context of technological, mechanical, and other man-made systems (Pasqualetti et al. (2014)), but has notable relevance for the study of natural processes from cell signaling (Cornelius et al. (2013)) to gene regulation (Zanudo et al. (2017)). In applying such a theory to the human brain, one first represents the brain as a network of nodes (brain regions) interconnected by structural edges (white matter tracts) (Bassett & Sporns (2017)), and then one posits a model of system dynamics that specifies how control input affects neural dynamics via propagation along the tracts (Gu et al. (2015)). Formal approaches built on this model address questions of where control points are positioned in the system (Gu et al. (2015), Tang et al. (2017), Muldoon et al. (2016), Wu-Yan et al. (2017)), as well as how to define spatiotemporal patterns of control input to move the system along a trajectory from an initial state to a desired final state (Gu et al. (2017), Betzel et al. (2016)). Intuitively, these approaches may be particularly useful in probing the effects of stimulation (Muldoon et al. (2016) and pharmacogenetic activation or inactivation (Grayson et al. (2016)) for the purposes of guiding transitions between cognitive states or treating abnormalities of brain network dynamics such as epilepsy (Ching et al. (2012), Ehrens et al. (2015), Taylor et al. (2015)), psychosis (Braun et al. (2018)), or bipolar disorder (Jeganathan et al. (2018)). However, this intuition has not yet been validated with direct electrical stimulation data.

Here, we posit a simple theory of brain network control, and we test its biological validity and utility in combined electrocorticography (ECoG) and diffusion weighted imaging (DWI) data from patients with medically refractory epilepsy undergoing evaluation for resective surgery. For each subject, we constructed a structural brain network where nodes represented regions of the Lausanne atlas (Cammoun et al. (2012)) and where edges represented quantitative anisotropy between these regions estimated from diffusion tractography (Yeh et al. (2013)) (**Fig. 1A**). Upon this network, we stipulated a noise-free, linear, continuous-time, and time-invariant model of network dynamics (Gu et al. (2015), Betzel et al. (2016)),

Tang et al. (2017), Gu et al. (2017), Kim, Soffer, Kahn, Vettel, Pasqualetti & Bassett (2018)), from which we built predictions about how regional activity would deviate from its initial state in the presence of exogenous control input to any given node. Using ECoG data acquired from the same individuals during an extensive direct electrical stimulation regimen (**Fig. 1B**), we test these theoretical predictions by representing (i) regional activity as an electrode’s power in a given frequency band, (ii) the pre-stimulation brain state as the power prior to stimulation, and (iii) the post-stimulation brain state as the power after stimulation (**Fig. 1C**). After quantifying the relative accuracy of our theoretical predictions, we next use the model to make more specific predictions about the control energy required to optimally guide the brain from a pre-stimulation state to a specific target state. Here, we select a target state associated with successful memory encoding, though the model could be applied to any desired target. We quantify successful encoding states using subject-level power-based biomarkers of good memory encoding extracted with a multivariate classifier from ECoG data collected during a verbal memory task (Ezzyat et al. (2017)). Finally, we investigate how certain topological (Kim, Soffer, Kahn, Vettel, Pasqualetti & Bassett (2018)) and spatial (Roberts et al. (2016)) properties of a subject’s network alter its response to direct electrical stimulation, and we ask whether that response is also modulated by control properties of the area being stimulated (Gu et al. (2015), Muldoon et al. (2016)). Essentially, our study posits and empirically tests a simple theory of brain network control, demonstrating its utility in predicting response to direct electrical stimulation.

Results

Our model assumes the time-invariant network dynamics

$$\dot{x}(t) = \mathbf{A}x(t) + \mathbf{B}u(t), \quad (1)$$

where the time-dependent state x is an $N \times 1$ vector ($N = 234$) whose i^{th} element gives the band-specific ECoG power in sensor i if i contained an electrode ($x_i = 1$ otherwise), \mathbf{A} is the $N \times N$ adjacency matrix estimated from DWI data, \mathbf{B} is an $N \times N$ matrix that selects the control set $\mathcal{K} = u_1, \dots, u_p$ where p is the number of regions that receive exogenous control input (in most cases, $p = 1$). In our data, the stimulation site was typically the temporal lobe or cingulate (see Figure S11 and Table S1 for further details regarding electrode location). The input is constant in time and given by $u(t) = \beta \times I \times \log(\omega) \times (\Delta t)$, where I is the empirical stimulation amplitude in amperes (range 0.5 - 3 mA), ω is the empirical stimulation frequency in hertz (range 10 - 200 Hz), and Δt is the number of simulated samples (here, 950) divided by the empirical stimulation duration (range 250 - 1000 ms) in seconds. Note that since our model is in arbitrary time units

with no clear mapping onto physical units of time (i.e. seconds) we incorporate the duration of stimulation into the energy term – following the intuition that longer stimulation sessions add more total energy – rather than incorporating it into the number of time units. The free parameter β scales the input to match the units of x . Biologically, β reflects the relationship between activity in a cell population and the current from an electrode, which in turn can be influenced by the orientation of the cells, the proximity of the cell body or axons to the electrode, and the quality of the electrode (McIntyre, Savasta, Kerkerian-Le Goff & Vitek (2004)) (see STAR Methods). Intuitively, this model formalizes the hypothesis that white matter tracts constrain how stimulation affects brain state and that those effects can be quantified using network control theory.

Predicting Post-Stimulation States by Open Loop Control

We begin by exercising the model to determine whether our theory accurately predicts changes in brain state induced by direct electrical stimulation. Specifically, we simulate Eq. 1 to predict how stimulation alone (independent of other ongoing intrinsic dynamics) will alter brain state, given the structural adjacency matrix \mathbf{A} and the initial state $x(0)$ comprised of the ECoG power at every node recorded pre-stimulation ($x_i = 1$ if node i is a region without electrodes, and the z -scored power otherwise; see Figure S3 for further details). For each stimulation event, we calculate the Pearson’s correlation coefficient between the empirically observed post-stimulation state of ROIs with electrode coverage (an electrode by frequency matrix) and the predicted post-stimulation state at every time point in the simulated trajectory $x(t)$. Furthermore, $x_i = 1$ if node i is a region without electrodes, and the z -scored power otherwise (including stimulating and non-stimulating electrodes). To measure the capacity of the model simulation to predict the post-stimulation state, we measure the maximum correlation achieved across the model simulation time of arbitrary units. Since there is no clear mapping of stimulated time steps onto physical units of time (i.e. seconds), we chose a number of time steps that was sufficient to allow correlation values to stabilize (Figure S1). In the supplement, we provide evidence that results are highly consistent across different time step sizes as long as this stability has been reached. Accordingly, we compute a maximum correlation value across simulated time points between the model prediction and the empirically observed post-stimulation state for each stimulation trial (mean = 0.036 standard deviation = 0.019; **Fig. 2A**). We observe that the mean of the maximum correlation values is significantly greater than zero (t -test $N = 16$, $t = 5.83$, $p = 3.31 \times 10^{-5}$). We note that this correlation represents the impact of stimulation alone on linear dynamics, and does not take into account any other incoming stimuli from the surrounding environment, any ongoing cognitive or metabolic processes, nonlinear dependencies, or inter-frequency interactions (Canolty & Knight (2010),

Buzsáki et al. (2012), Peterson & Voytek (2017)). Complementing this estimate, we were also interested in the time point (measured in arbitrary units) at which the trial reached its largest magnitude correlation (positive or negative) before decaying towards zero. In our model, the white matter networks define the dynamics of how brain states evolve in time. In addition to effecting the amount that each region changes its activity, the pattern of connections also effects the dynamics of brain states, and how quickly input to the system will dissipate. Intuitively, if more time points are required (and the peak time is large), energy needs longer to spread, and needs to spread across higher order connections compared to when the peak time is small. We observed that the time at which the peak magnitude occurred differed across trials, having a mean of $298a.u.$ with a standard deviation of $114a.u.$ (**Fig. 2B**).

To determine the influence of network geometry on our model predictions, we compared the empirical observations to those obtained by replacing **A** in the simulation with one of two null model networks, each designed to independently remove specific geometric features of the structural network (see Figure S5 for examples). First for each trial, we constructed a topological null: a randomly rewired network that preserved the edge distribution, number of nodes, and number of edges. Second, we constructed a spatial null: a randomly rewired network that additionally preserved the relationship between edge strength and Euclidean distance. Intuitively, if the observed correlations are due to unique features of human white matter tracts (and not the number edges and their strength, or patterns of connectivity that arise from the spatial embedding of the brain) then we would expect smaller correlations from the null models. Similarly, if the observed peak correlation times are due to the need for energy to spread to unique higher order connections in human white matter networks, we would expect earlier peak times in the null models. Using a repeated measures ANOVA, we find a significant main effect across null models ($F(2, 20) = 20.6$, $p = 1.37 \times 10^{-5}$), and the time at which the maximum correlation values occur ($F(2, 20) = 21.78$, $p = 9.50 \times 10^{-6}$). We then performed *post-hoc* analyses and found that the topological null produced significantly weaker maximum correlations between the empirically observed post-stimulation state and the simulated states (paired *t*-test: $N = 11$, $t = 4.82$, uncorrected $p = 7.04 \times 10^{-4}$), which also peaked significantly earlier in time than the true data ($N = 11$, $t = 6.68$, uncorrected $p = 5.47 \times 10^{-5}$). The spatial null model also produced significantly weaker maximum correlations between the empirically observed post-stimulation state and the predicted post-stimulation states (permutation test $N = 11$, $t = 4.27$, uncorrected $p = 1.65 \times 10^{-3}$), which also occurred significantly earlier in time than that observed in the true data ($N = 11$, $t = 2.83$, uncorrected $p = 0.018$). We observed consistent results in individual subjects (after correcting for multiple comparisons, and with medium to large effect sizes) (see Supplement), across all frequency bands (Figure S2), with different values of β (Figure S1), within individual subjects

(Figure S2) and when using a smaller resolution atlas (Figure S2) for whole brain parcellation. The only exception was that spatial null models did not peak significantly earlier than empirical models after Bonferroni correction for individual frequency bands (Figure S2). Considering individual variability in DWI estimates, we next asked whether our model would more accurately predict transitions with an individual’s own connectivity, compared to the connectivity of another subject in the same cohort. We did not find a significant difference (paired t -test $N = 11$, $t = -0.40$, $p = 0.70$), indicating that our model generalizes across the subjects in this cohort and does not either depend upon or capitalize upon individual differences in connectivity. Overall, these observations support the notion that structural connections facilitate a rich repertoire of system dynamics following cortical stimulation, and directly constrain the dynamic propagation of stimulation energy in the human brain in a manner consistent with a simple linear model of network dynamics.

Simulating State Transitions by Optimal Network Control

We next sought to use the model to better understand the principles constraining brain state transitions in the service of cognitive function, and their response to exogenous perturbations in the form of direct electrical stimulation. Building on the network dynamics stipulated in **Eq. 1**, we used an optimal control framework to calculate the optimal amount of external input \mathbf{u} to deliver to the control set K containing the stimulating electrode, driving the system from a specific pre-stimulation state towards a target post-stimulation state (**Fig. 1C**). Put differently, rather than predicting the brain state changes associated with empirical stimulation for input as we did with our open-loop control model, the optimal control model will analytically solve for the *optimal* input to get to a *specific* state. Because this model will necessarily reach the target state that is specified, the optimal control model is better suited to make theoretical predictions about where and when to stimulate rather than to predict state changes based on a certain stimulation paradigm. Here, the specific (or target) post-stimulation state was defined as a period with high probability of successfully encoding a memory, and was operationalized using a previously validated classifier constructed from ECoG data from the same subjects during the performance of a verbal memory task (Ezzyat et al. (2017)) (**Fig. 1A**). We use this target state as a simple, data-driven estimate of a single behaviorally relevant state for illustrative purposes rather than as an exhaustive account of successful memory processes. To determine the optimal input, we use a cost function that minimizes both the energy and the difference of the current state from the target state:

$$\min_u \int_0^T (x_T - x(t))' \mathbf{S} (x_T - x(t)) + \rho u(t)' u(t) dt, \quad (2)$$

where x_T is the target state, \mathbf{S} is a diagonal $N \times N$ matrix that selects a subset of states to constrain (here, \mathbf{S} is the identity and all diagonal entries are equal to 1), ρ is the importance of the input penalty relative to the state penalty, T is the time allotted for the simulation, and $(')$ indicates a matrix transposition (see Figure S3 and STAR Methods for details about parameter selection). Since the input $u(t)$ is being solved for rather than defined by the user, we do not differentiate between the different stimulation parameters used on different trials. Practically, we note that optimizing the cost function in Eq. 2 necessarily identifies simulated optimal control trajectories from the pre-stimulation state to a good memory state reasonably close to the target (final distance from target mean = 0.12 standard deviation = 0.06) with minimal error (range from 3.65×10^{-5} to 5.19×10^{-4}).

We begin by addressing the hypothesis that greater energy should be required to reach the target state when it is farther from the initial state. We operationalize this notion by defining distance in four different ways. First, we define distance as the Frobenius norm of the difference between initial and target states. We fit a linear mixed effects model to the integral of the input squared, or energy (here, \mathbf{Bu}) in every trial, treating the Frobenius norm distance between initial and final state as a fixed effect, and treating subject as a random effect. We find that the distance between initial and final state is positively related to the energy required for the transition ($\beta = 8.3 \times 10^{-3}$, $t(7547) = 18.11$, $p < 2 \times 10^{-16}$) (**Fig. 3A**). Although this result is fairly intuitive, it is also important to consider other measurements of distance that are more informed by biological intuitions about the energy landscape of the brain. For this purpose, we next define distance by the memory capacity in the initial state. It is important to keep in mind that this memory state is defined by a previously trained and validated classifier, and not by task performance during stimulation. We fit a linear mixed effects model to the integral of the input squared in every trial, treating the initial state's probability of successfully encoding a memory as a fixed effect, and treating subject as a random effect. We find that the initial state's probability of successfully encoding a memory is negatively related to the energy required for the transition ($\beta = -0.18$, $t(7547) = -14.4$, $p < 2 \times 10^{-16}$). We also find that the initial state's probability of successfully encoding a memory explains variance in the energy required for the transition independent of the Frobenius norm distance (linear mixed-effects model including both distance measures: initial probability $t(7547) = -7.09$, $p = 1.47 \times 10^{-12}$; Frobenius norm $t(7547) = 12.98$, $p < 2 \times 10^{-16}$) (**Fig. 3B**). These findings suggest that states that begin closer to the target require less energy to reach the target. Third, we define distance as the observed change in memory state resulting from stimulation. We fit a linear mixed effects model to the input squared in every trial, treating the change in memory state as a fixed effect, and treating subject as a random effect. We find that the change in memory state is positively related to the energy required for the transition ($\beta = 9.5 \times 10^{-2}$,

$t(7547) = 8.43, p < 2 \times 10^{-16}$) (**Fig. 3C**). These results were consistent across two alternate sets of optimal control parameters (Figure S4).

Taken together, this set of results serves as a basic validation that transitions between nearby brain states will generally require less energy than transitions between distant states. This finding holds whether distance is defined in terms of the difference in Frobenius norm between matrices of regional power, or in terms of the estimated probability to support the cognitive process of memory encoding. In specificity analyses, we also determined whether these relationships were expected in appropriate random network null models. We observed that the relationships were significantly attenuated in theoretical predictions from Eq. 1 where \mathbf{A} is either the topological null network ($N = 7547, p = 6.1 \times 10^{-4}$) or the spatial null network ($N = 7547, p = 0.0017$) (Figure S4). Interestingly, we also found that the largest differences between the empirical relationships and those expected in the null networks were observed in the context of biological measures of distance (e.g., initial probability and change in probability), with only modest differences seen in the statistical measure of distance (the Frobenius norm).

As a fourth and final test of the biological relevance of these findings, we considered sham trials, where no stimulation was delivered, as compared to stimulation trials. Intuitively, we expect that the state that the brain reaches after stimulation is farther away from the initial state than the state that the brain reaches naturally at the conclusion of a sham trial. We first examine this expectation in the context of the Frobenius norm distance discussed above. We observed that 2 out of the 3 experimental sessions that included sham stimulation displayed significantly larger distances (measured by the Frobenius norm) between pre-and post-stimulation states for stimulation conditions than for sham conditions (permutation test, $N > 192, p < 6.8 \times 10^{-3}$ for all subjects). We next tested whether more energy would be required to simulate the transition from the initial pre-stimulation state to the post-stimulation state, than from the initial pre-sham state to the post-sham state. We found consistently greater energy for stimulation trials compared to sham trials in all datasets (paired t -test, $N = 3, p = 0.01$; **Fig. 3D**). We further confirmed this finding with a non-parametric permutation test assessing differences in the distribution of energy values across trials for sham conditions and the distribution of energy values across trials for stimulation conditions (permutation test, $N > 192, p < 2 \times 10^{-16}$ for all subjects). These observations support the notion that transitions between nearby brain states occur without stimulation (sham) and require little predicted energy, whereas transitions between distant brain states occur with stimulation and require greater predicted energy.

The Role of Network Topology in Stimulation-Based Control

While it is natural to posit that the distance between brain states is an important constraint on the ease of a state transition, there are other important principles that are also likely to play a critical role. Paramount among them is the architecture of the network available for the transmission of control signals. We therefore now turn to the question of which features of the network predict the amount of energy required for each transition from the pre-stimulation state to a good memory state. To address this question, we considered the empirical networks as well as the topological and spatial null model networks discussed earlier. We find that the optimal control input energy required for these state transitions differs across network types (one-way repeated measures ANOVA $F(2, 20) = 14.75$, $p = 1.06 \times 10^{-4}$). In *post-hoc* testing, we found that the optimal control energy was significantly different between the empirical network and the topological null network (paired *t*-test: $N = 11$, $t = 3.64$, $p = 4.6 \times 10^{-3}$) (**Fig. 4A**), but not between the empirical network and the spatial null network ($N = 11$, $t = -1.80$, $p = 0.10$). This observation suggests that the spatial embedding that characterizes both the real network and the spatial null network may increase the difficulty of control. In supplemental analyses, we test two additional spatially embedded null models that further preserve degree distribution and strength sequence, and we find similar average energies to the empirical and spatial null models discussed here (see Supplement). We hypothesized that the difference in optimal control energy could be mechanistically explained by the determinant ratio, a recently proposed metric quantifying the trade-off between connection strength (facilitating control) and connection homogeneity (hampering control) (Kim, Soffer, Kahn, Vettel, Pasqualetti & Bassett (2018)). Intuitively, a network with a high determinant ratio will have weak, homogenous connections between the control nodes and nodes being controlled. We found that across all networks the determinant ratio explains a significant amount of variance in energy after accounting for network type (linear mixed effects model with network type and determinant ratio as fixed effects: $\chi^2(2, N = 33) = 13.3$, $p = 2.65 \times 10^{-5}$) (**Fig. 4B**). These results support the notion that spatial embedding could impose energy barriers by compromising the trade-off between the strength and homogeneity of connections emanating from the stimulating electrode (see Figure S5 for extensions to other spatially embedded null models).

Characteristics of Efficient Regional Controllers

Thus far, we have seen that the distance of the state transition and the architecture of the network available for the transmission of control signals both impact the energy required. However, neither of these factors address the potential importance of anatomical characteristics specific to the region being stimulated.

Such regional effects are salient in the one subject (S8 - 3 stimulation sessions across 7 unique electrodes) in our patient sample who had multiple empirical stimulation sites spanning the same number of ROIs. Since both sites span the same number of ROIs, we know that any differences in energy cannot be due to differences in the control set used in the stimulation. In this patient, we found that transitions from the observed initial state to a good memory state required significantly greater energy when stimulation was delivered to electrodes in the middle temporal region than when stimulation was delivered to the inferior temporal region (permutation test, $N = 555$, $p < 2 \times 10^{-16}$) (**Fig. 5A**). We hypothesized that this sensitivity to anatomical location could be mechanistically explained by regional persistent and transient modal controllability, which quantify the degree to which specific eigenmodes of the network’s dynamics can be influenced by input applied to that region (Figure S6). Energetic input to nodes with high persistent controllability will result in large perturbations to slowly decaying modes of the system, while energetic input to nodes with high transient controllability will result in large perturbations to quickly decaying modes of the system.

To test our hypothesis, we simulated optimal trajectories from the initial state to a good memory state while only allowing energy to be injected into a single electrode-containing region (irrespective of whether or not empirical stimulation was applied there). We then compared the energy predicted from these simulations to the regional controllability. We found a significant relationship between persistent (but not transient) modal controllability of the region being stimulated and the input energy of the state transition (linear mixed effects model accounting for subject: persistent controllability $\chi^2(1, 374) = 3.89$, $p = 0.049$, transient controllability $\chi^2(1, 374) = 1.69$, $p = 0.19$) (**Fig. 5B**). We note that the strength of the region being stimulated was not a significant predictor of energy (linear mixed effects model $\chi^2(1, 374) = 3.5$, $p = 0.061$), though there is only a small difference between the predictive power of strength, and persistent controllability. Additionally, in the one subject that had two empirical stimulation locations, we observed that the middle temporal stimulation site with larger energy requirements had smaller persistent controllability (0.058) than the inferior temporal site with smaller energy (0.072). Given this modest effect for broad-band state transitions, we next asked whether the influence of regional controllability varied based on the specific frequency band being controlled. Notably, we found that both transient and persistent controllability showed strong relationships to energy in the α band (linear mixed effects model: persistent controllability $\chi^2(1, 374) = 13.8$, $p = 2.00 \times 10^{-4}$, transient controllability $\chi^2(1, 374) = 11.4$, $p = 7.5 \times 10^{-4}$; Bonferroni corrected for multiple comparisons across frequency bands) (**Fig. 5C**). Persistent controllability alone also showed a statistically significant relationship for the high gamma band (linear mixed effects model: persistent controllability $\chi^2(1, 374) = 12.2$, $p = 4.67 \times 10^{-4}$) (Figure S6). These

findings suggest that the local white matter architecture of stimulated regions can support the selective control of slowly damping dynamics.

Effective Prediction of Energy Requirements

In the previous section, we presented a series of analyses with the goal of elucidating what aspects of brain state and white matter connectivity affect the energy requirements predicted by our model, in an effort to better understand the network wide effects of direct electrical stimulation. Here, we conclude by synthesizing these results into a single model to predict the energy requirements of a stimulation paradigm, given the persistent controllability of the region to be stimulated, the determinant ratio of the network to be controlled, and the probability of encoding a memory at the time of stimulation (Fig6A). We fit a random forest model to predict energy given these inputs from our data, and we compared the performance of this model to the performance of a distribution of 1000 models in which the association between energy values and predictors was permuted uniformly at random. We found that our model had an out-of-bag mean squared error of 9.28×10^{-3} , substantially lower than the null distribution (mean = 9.62×10^{-3} and standard deviation = 2.97×10^{-5}). We also found that our model explained 93.2% of the variance in the predicted energy of the state transition. Random forest models also produce a measure of variable importance, which represents the degree to which including these variables tends to reduce the prediction error. We found that the determinant ratio was the most important (increased node purity = 627), followed by the persistent controllability (320), followed by the initial probability of encoding a memory (23.0). Broadly, these results suggest that the energy requirements for a specific state transition can be accurately predicted given simple features of the connectome and the current brain state.

Discussion

While direct electrical stimulation has great therapeutic potential, its optimization and personalization remains challenging, in part due to a lack of understanding of how focal stimulation impacts the state of both neighboring and distant regions. Here we use network control theory to test the hypothesis that the effect of direct electrical stimulation on brain dynamics is constrained by an individual’s white matter connectivity. By stipulating a simplified noise-free, linear, continuous-time, and time-invariant model of neural dynamics, we demonstrate that time-varying changes in the pattern of ECoG power across brain regions is better predicted by an individual’s true white matter connectivity than either topological or spatial network null models. We build on this observation by positing a model for exact brain state

transitions in which the energy required for the state transition is minimized, as is the length of the trajectory through the available state space. We use this model to make theoretical predictions about how white matter architecture and brain states make stimulation to these specific states easier. We demonstrate that transitions between more distant states are predicted to require greater energy than transitions between nearby states; these results are particularly salient when distance is defined based on differences in the probability with which a cross-regional pattern of ECoG power supports memory encoding. In addition to the distance between initial and target states, we also find that regional and global characteristics of the network topology predict the energy required for the state transition: networks with smaller determinant ratios (stronger, less homogeneous connections), and stimulation regions with higher persistent controllability, tend to demand less energy. Finally, we demonstrate that these two topological features in combination with the initial brain state explain 93% of the variance in required energy across subjects. Overall, our study supports the notion that control theoretic models of brain network dynamics provide biologically grounded, individualized hypotheses of response to direct electrical stimulation by accounting for how white matter connections constrain state transitions.

A Role for Network Control Theory in Modern Neuroscience

Developing theories, models, and methods for the control of neural systems is not a new goal in neuroscience. Whether in support of basic science (e.g., seminal experiments from Hodgkin and Huxley) or in support of clinical therapies (e.g., technological development in brain-machine interfaces or deep brain stimulation), efforts to control neural activity have produced a plethora of experimental tools with varying levels of complexity (Schiff (2011)). Building on these empirical advances, the development of a theory for control of distributed circuits is a logical next step. Network control theory is one particularly promising option. In assimilating brain state and connectivity in a mathematical model (Schiff (2011)), network control theory offers a first-principles approach to modeling neural dynamics, predicting its response to perturbations, and optimizing those perturbations to produce a desired outcome. In cellular neuroscience, network control theory has offered predictions of the functional role of individual neurons in *C. elegans*, and those predictions have been validated by perturbative experiments (Yan et al. (2017)). While the theory has also offered predictions in humans (Gu et al. (2015), Muldoon et al. (2016), Ching et al. (2012), Taylor et al. (2015), Jeganathan et al. (2018)), these predictions have not been validated in accompanying perturbative experiments. Here we address this gap by examining the utility of network control theory in predicting empirically recorded brain states, and by validating the fundamental assumption that state transitions are constrained by an individual’s white matter connectivity. The work provides theoretical

support for emerging empirical observations that structural connectivity can predict the behavioral effects of stimulation (Horn et al. (2017), Ellmore et al. (2009)), thus constituting an important first step in establishing the promise and utility of control theoretic models of brain stimulation.

The Principle of Optimal Control in Brain State Transitions

By positing a model for optimal brain state transitions, we relate expected energy expenditures to a simple, validated estimate of memory encoding, directly relating the theory to a desired behavioral feature. This portion of the investigation was made possible by an important modeling advance addressing the challenge of simulating a trajectory whose control is dominated by a single node: the stimulating electrode. This type of control is an intuitive way to model stimulation, where one wishes to capture changes resulting from a single input source. However, prior work has demonstrated that while the brain is theoretically controllable from a single point, the amount of energy required can be so large as to make the control strategy impractical (Gu et al. (2015)). Here we extend prior models of optimal control (Betz et al. (2016), Gu et al. (2017)) by relaxing the input matrix \mathbf{B} such that it allows large input to stimulated regions, but also allows small, randomly generated amounts of input at other nodes in the network. Practically, this approach greatly lowers the error of the calculation and also produces narrowly distributed trajectories for the same inputs (see STAR Methods).

Topological Influencers of Control

Beyond the distance of the state transition, we found that both local and global features of the network topology were important predictors of control energy. In line with previous work investigating controllability radii (Menara et al. (2018)), energy requirements were lower for randomly rewired networks. Both empirical and topological graphs share the common feature of modularity (Chen et al. (2013)), which is destroyed in random topological null models (Roberts et al. (2016)). Prior theoretical work has demonstrated that modularity is one way in which to decrease the energy of control by decreasing the determinant ratio, a quantification of the relationship between the strength and heterogeneity of direct connections from the controlling node to others (Kim, Soffer, Kahn, Vettel, Pasqualetti & Bassett (2018)). Here we confirmed that the determinant ratio accurately predicted the required energy, while leaving a small amount of variance unexplained. We expected that this unexplained variance could be somewhat accounted for by features of the local network topology surrounding the stimulated node (Tang et al. (2017)). Consistent with our expectation, we found that persistent controllability was the only significant predictor of energy across all frequency bands, indicating a specific role of slow modes in these state transitions. The effect

was particularly salient in two bands with consistent (yet different) activity patterns in memory encoding – the α -band and the high γ -band (Fell et al. (2011), Buzsáki & Moser (2013)). Future avenues for research could include a comprehensive investigation of whether and why different regional topologies facilitate the control of frequency bands with distinct characteristic changes.

Clinical Implications

Our study represents a first step towards developing a control theoretic model to answer two pressing questions in optimizing direct electrical stimulation to meet clinical needs: (i) what changes in the brain after a specified stimulation event, and (ii) which regions are most effective to stimulate. Network control is by no means the only candidate model for answering these questions (McIntyre, Savasta, Walter & Vitek (2004), Yousif & Liu (2009), Kim et al. (2011)). Nevertheless, it is a particularly promising model in that it can account for global changes to focal events, is generalizable across any initial and target brain state, and is specific to each individual and their white matter architecture. Unsurprisingly, the linear model of dynamics only captures a small amount of variance observed after stimulation, but stands to benefit from an expansion of the model to non-linear models of dynamics, to time-varying changes in connectivity, and to field spread of stimulation. Importantly, we also show that the optimal control energy for a given transition captures intuitions about the energy landscape of the brain despite being based on simplified linear dynamics. This metric was then used to identify features of white matter architecture that could facilitate control. Investigation into whether metrics could be incorporated into existing multimodal predictions of stimulation outcome is a logical next step in developing a tool for clinical selection of stimulation regions. Finally, an evaluation of long-term efficacy of specific stimulation paradigms informed by principles of network control is warranted, and would benefit from work in non-human animal models where precise measurements of plasticity are accessible.

Methodological Considerations

Primary Data

As with any model of complex biological systems, our results must be interpreted in the context of the underlying data. First, we note that DWI data provides an incomplete picture of white matter organization, and even state-of-the-art tractography algorithms can identify spurious connections (Thomas et al. (2014)). As higher resolution imaging, reconstruction, and tractography methods emerge, it will be important to replicate the results we report here. Second, while ECoG data provides high temporal resolution, it is

collected from patients with epilepsy and results might not generalize to a healthy population (Parvizi & Kastner (2017)). However, it is worth noting that recent work has shown that tissue damage resulting from recurrent seizures can be minimal (Rossini et al. (2017)), and most electrodes are not placed in epileptic tissue (Parvizi & Kastner (2017)). Nevertheless, this population can display atypical physiological signatures of memory (Glowinski (1973)), as well as atypical white matter connectivity (Gross et al. (2006)). It will be important in future to extend this work to non-invasive techniques accessible to healthy individuals.

Modeling Assumptions

Our results must also be interpreted in light of model assumptions. First, we consider a relaxed input matrix to ensure that state transitions are primarily influenced by the set of stimulating electrodes and to a lesser extent non-stimulating electrodes. This choice is not a true representation of single point control, but instead reflects the fact that the system is constantly modulated by endogenous sources (Gu et al. (2017), Betzel et al. (2016)). Second, our model uses a time-invariant connectivity matrix. While DWI data is relatively stable over short time-scales, repeated stimulation can result in dynamic changes in plasticity that are not captured here (Malenka & Bear (2004)).

Lastly, we note that our model assumes linear network dynamics. While the brain is not a linear system, such simplified approximations can predict features of fMRI data (Honey et al. (2007)), predict the control response of nonlinear systems of coupled oscillators (Feldt Muldoon et al. (2013)), and more generally provide enhanced interpretability over nonlinear models (Kim & Bassett (n.d.)). Nevertheless, considering control in nonlinear models of neural dynamics will constitute an important next step for two reasons. First, nonlinear models of brain dynamics can capture a richer repertoire of brain states that is more consistent with the repertoire observed in neural data (Jirsa et al. (2014), Jirsa & Haken (1996), Breakspear et al. (2003), Messe et al. (2015, 2014), Hansen et al. (2015)). Second, nonlinear approaches offer distinct types of control strategies. Specifically, linear control is frequently used to examine the transition between an initial state and a final state. Yet, some hypotheses about neural function might benefit from nonlinear control approaches – such as feedback vertex set control (Zanudo et al. (2017), Cornelius et al. (2013)) – that allow one to examine the transition from one manifold of activity to another (Slotine & Li (1991), Sontag (2013)). Such attractor-based control seems intuitively appropriate for the study of complex behaviors that are not well-characterized by a single pattern of activity, but rather by a different trajectory through many states. Despite some progress, nonlinear approaches still lag far behind linear control approaches in their applicability and capability, and thus further theoretical work is needed

(Slotine & Li (1991), Sontag (2013)).

Defining Brain States

In our model, a brain state represents the z -scored power across electrodes in eight logarithmically spaced frequency bands from 1 to 200 Hz. This choice was guided by (i) the goal of maintaining consistency with the brain states on which the memory classifier was trained, and (ii) the fact that power spectra are well-documented behavioral analogs for memory (Ezzyat et al. (2017), Fell et al. (2011), Buzsáki & Moser (2013)). Yet, since many power calculations require convolution with a sine wave, power is insensitive to non-sinusoidal and phase-dependent features of the signal (Schalk et al. (2017), Cole et al. (2017), Vinck et al. (2011)). It would be interesting in future to explore transitions in other state spaces, such as instantaneous voltage (Schalk et al. (2017)). Lastly, it is important to note that our algorithm controls each frequency band independently, although incorporating inter-frequency coupling (Peterson & Voytek (2017), Bonnefond et al. (2017), Canolty & Knight (2010)) could be an interesting direction for future work. These considerations involving brain state also affect the interpretation of our target state as a good memory state. While our selection of target state does not exhaustively sample patterns of brain activity in which successful encoding can occur, and only makes claims about a narrow range of all memory processes (encoding specifically), for the purposes of exploring the utility of network control theory in modeling direct stimulation this classifier provides an important, if relatively narrow, behavioral link.

Conclusions and Future Directions

Our study begins to explore the role of white matter connectivity in guiding direct electrical stimulation, with the goal of driving brain dynamics towards states with a high probability of memory encoding. We demonstrate that our model of targeted direct electrical stimulation tracks well with biological intuitions, and is influenced by both regional and global topological properties of underlying white matter connectivity. Overall, we show that our control theoretic model is a promising method that has potential to inform hypotheses about the outcome of direct electrical stimulation.

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Author Contributions

DSB, ANK, and JS designed analyses; JS analyzed data; FP, TM, and JS wrote code; AEK constructed DTI matrices; AK preprocessed data; FP and TM developed control framework; JS wrote the manuscript; DSB revised the manuscript; DSB acquired financial support for the study; JMS, SRD, RG, JT, BL, KAD, TL assisted with data collection and stimulation monitoring.

Declarations of Interest

The authors declare no competing interests.

Figure 1: **Schematic of Methods.** (A) Depiction of network construction and definition of brain state. (Left) We segment subjects’ diffusion weighted imaging data into $N = 234$ regions of interest using a Lausanne atlas (Cammoun et al. (2012)). We treat each region as a node in a whole-brain network, irrespective of whether the region contains an electrode. Edges between nodes represent mean quantitative anisotropy (Yeh et al. (2013)) along the streamlines connecting them. (Right, Top) Practically, we summarize the network in an $N \times N$ adjacency matrix. (Right, Bottom) A brain state is defined as the $N \times 1$ vector comprising activity across the N regions. Any element of the vector corresponding to a region with an electrode is defined as the band-limited power of ECoG activity measured by that electrode. Each brain state is also associated with an estimated probability of being in a good memory state, using a previously validated machine learning classifier approach (Ezzyat et al. (2017)). (B) A schematic of a single stimulation trial. First, ECoG data is collected for 500 ms. Then, stimulation is applied to a given electrode for a (250 - 1000ms). Finally, ECoG data is again collected after the stimulation. (C) A schematic of the open loop and optimal control paradigms. In the open loop design, energy $u(t)$ is applied *in silico* at the stimulation site to the initial, pre-stimulation brain state $x(0)$. The system will travel to some other state $x(T)$ as stipulated by our model of neural dynamics, and we will measure the similarity between that predicted state and the empirically observed post-stimulation state. In the optimal control design, the initial brain state $x(0)$ has some position in space that evolves over time towards a predefined target state $x(T)$. At every time point, we calculate the optimal energy ($u(t)$) required at the stimulating electrode to propel the system to the target state.

Figure 2: **Post-Stimulation Brain State Depends on White Matter Network Architecture.** (A) Box plots depicting the average maximum correlation between the empirically observed post-stimulation state and the predicted post-stimulation state at every time point in the simulated trajectory $x(t)$ for $N = 11$ subjects. Box plots indicate the median (solid horizontal black line) and quartiles of the data. Each data point represents a single subject, averaged over all trials (with different stimulation parameters). (B) Box plots depicting the average time to reach the peak magnitude (positive or negative) correlation between the empirically observed post-stimulation state and the theoretically predicted post-stimulation state at every time point in the simulated trajectory $x(t)$. Time is measured in arbitrary units (a.u.). Color indicates theoretical predictions from Eq.1 where \mathbf{A} is (i) the empirical network (purple) estimated from the diffusion imaging data, (ii) the topological null network (dark charcoal), and (iii) the spatial null network (light charcoal). See also Figures S1 and S2

Figure 3: Longer-Distance Trajectories Require More Stimulation Energy. (A) The normalized energy required to transition between the initial state and the post-stimulation state, as a function of the Frobenius norm between the initial state and the post-stimulation state. The black solid line represents the best linear fit (with grey representing standard error), and is provided simply as a guide to the eye. Normalization is also performed to enhance visual clarity. (B) The energy required to transition to a good memory state, as a function of the initial probability of being in a good memory state. (C) The energy required to transition to a good memory state as a function of the empirical change in memory state resulting from stimulation. (D) In $N = 3$ experimental sessions that included both sham and stimulation trials, we calculated the energy required to reach the post-stimulation state or the post-sham state, rather than a target good memory state. Here we show the difference in energy required for sham state transitions in comparison to stimulation state transitions. Error bars indicate standard error of the mean across trials. Across all four panels, different shades of blue indicate different experimental sessions and subjects ($N = 16$). See also Figure S4

Figure 4: Topological and Spatial Constraints on the Energy Required for Stimulation-Based Control. (A) Average input energy required for each transition from the pre-stimulation state to a good memory state, as theoretically predicted from Eq. 1 where \mathbf{A} is (i) the empirical network (purple) estimated from the diffusion imaging data, (ii) the topological null network (dark charcoal), and (iii) the spatial null network (light charcoal) for $N = 11$ subjects. (B) The relationship between the determinant ratio and the energy required for the transition from the pre-stimulation state to a good memory state. Note: The color scheme is identical to that used in panel (A). See also Figure S5.

Figure 5: Role of Local Topology Around the Region Being Stimulated. (A) Transitions from the observed initial state to a good memory state required significantly greater energy when affected by the middle temporal sensors than when affected by the inferior temporal sensors. Every color is a subject ($N = 11$), and every dot is a different simulated stimulation site ($N = 234$). (B) Relationship between persistent (*top*) or transient (*bottom*) controllability of the stimulated region and the energy predicted from optimal transitions from the initial state to a good memory state. We only allow energy to be injected into a single electrode-containing region, and we consider a broadband state matrix. (C) As in panel (B) but when considering the α band state vector only. See also Figure S6.

Figure 6: **Network Topology and Brain State Predict Energy Requirements.** (A) Schematic of the three topology and state features included in the random forest model that we built to predict energy requirements. Network level effects (tan) are captured by the determinant ratio, regional effects (brown) are captured by persistent controllability, and state-dependent effects (red) are captured by the initial memory state. (B) Comparison of the out-of-bag mean squared error for a model where each subject's ($N = 11$) determinant ratio, persistent controllability, and initial memory state are used to predict their required energy. We compared the performance of this model to the performance of a distribution of $N = 1000$ models in which the association between energy values and predictors was permuted uniformly at random.

STAR Methods

Lead Contact and Materials Availability

Raw data can be obtained upon request from http://memory.psych.upenn.edu/Request_RAM_Public_Data_access. This study did not generate any new data outside of the RAM project. Original code used in this project can be found at github.com/jastiso/NetworkControl. Further information and requests for resources should be directed to and will be fulfilled by the Lead Contact, Danielle Bassett (dsb@upenn.edu).

Experimental Model and Subject Details

Subject Details

Electrocorticography and diffusion weighted imaging data were collected on eleven subjects (age 32 ± 10 years, 63.6% male and 36.4% female) as part of a multi-center project designed to assess the effects of electrical stimulation on memory-related brain function. Data were collected at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital and the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. The research protocol was approved by the institutional review board (IRB approval number 820553) at each hospital and informed consent was obtained from each participant.

Electrocorticography – ECoG

Electrophysiological data were collected from electrodes implanted subdurally on the cortical surface as well as deep within the brain parenchyma. In each case, the clinical team determined the placement of the electrodes to best localize epileptogenic regions. Subdural contacts were arranged in both strip and grid configurations with an inter-contact spacing of 10 mm. Depth electrodes had 8-12 contacts per electrode, with 3.5 mm spacing.

Electrodes were anatomically localized using separate processing pipelines for surface and depth electrodes. To localize depth electrodes we first labeled hippocampal subfields and medial temporal lobe cortices in a pre-implant, 2 mm thick, coronal T2-weighted MRI using the automatic segmentation of hippocampal subfields (ASHS) multi-atlas segmentation method (Yushkevich et al. (2015)). We additionally used whole brain segmentation to localize depth electrodes not in medial temporal lobe cortices. We next co-registered a post-implant CT with the pre-implant MRI using Advanced Normalization Tools (ANTs) (Avants et al. (2008)). Electrodes visible in the CT were then localized within subregions of the medial temporal lobe by a pair of neuroradiologists with expertise in medial temporal lobe anatomy. The neu-

roradiologists performed quality checks on the output of the ASHS/ANTs pipeline. To localize subdural electrodes, we first extracted the cortical surface from a pre-implant, volumetric, T1-weighted MRI using Freesurfer (Fischl et al. (2004)). We next co-registered and localized subdural electrodes to cortical regions using an energy minimization algorithm. For patient imaging in which automatic localization failed, the neuroradiologists performed manual localization of the electrodes.

Intracranial data were recorded using one of the following clinical electroencephalogram (EEG) systems (depending on the site of data collection): Nihon Kohden EEG-1200, Natus XLTek EMU 128, or Grass Aura-LTM64. Depending on the amplifier and the preference of the clinical team, the signals were sampled at either 500 Hz, 1000 Hz or 1600 Hz and were referenced to a common contact placed either intracranially, on the scalp, or on the mastoid process. Intracranial electrophysiological data were filtered to attenuate line noise (5 Hz band-stop fourth order Butterworth, centered on 60 Hz). To eliminate potentially confounding large-scale artifacts and noise on the reference channel, we re-referenced the data using a bipolar montage. To do so, we identified all pairs of immediately adjacent contacts on every depth electrode, strip electrode, and grid electrode, and we took the difference between the signals recorded in each pair. The resulting bipolar timeseries was treated as a virtual electrode and used in all subsequent analysis. We performed spectral decomposition of the signal into 8 logarithmically spaced frequencies from 3 to 180 Hz. Power was estimated with a Morlet wavelet, in which the envelope of the wavelet was defined with a Gaussian kernel that allowed for 5 oscillations of the frequency of interest (one of 8, from 3-180 Hz). This kernel was then convolved with 500 ms epochs of ECoG data before and after stimulation to obtain estimates of power. The resulting time-frequency data were then log-transformed, and z -scored within session and within frequency band across events.

Diffusion Weighted Imaging – DWI

Diffusion imaging data were acquired from either the Hospital for the University of Pennsylvania (HUP), or Jefferson University Hospital. At HUP, all scans were acquired on a 3T Siemens TIM Trio scanner with a 32-channel phased-array head coil. Each data acquisition session included both a DWI scan as well as a high-resolution T1-weighted anatomical scan. The structural scan was conducted with an echo planar diffusion weighted technique acquired with iPAT using an acceleration factor of 2. The diffusion scan had a b value of 2000 s/mm^2 and $TE/TR = 117/4180 \text{ ms}$. The slice number was 92. Field of view read was 210 mm and slice thickness was 1.5 mm. Acquisition time per DWI scan was 8:26 min. The anatomical scan was a high-resolution 3D T1-weighted sagittal whole-brain image using an MPRAGE sequence. It was acquired with $TR = 2400 \text{ ms}$; $TE = 2.21 \text{ ms}$; flip angle = 8 degrees; 208 slices; 0.8 mm thickness.

At Jefferson University Hospital, all scans were acquired on a 3T Philips Acheiva scanner. Each data acquisition session included both a DWI scan as well as a high-resolution T1-weighted anatomical scan. The diffusion scan was 61-directional with a b value of 3000 s/mm² and TE/TR = 7517/98 ms, in addition to 1 b0 images. Matrix size was 96 × 96 with a slice number of 52. Field of view was 230 × 130 × 230 mm² and slice thickness was 2.5 mm. Acquisition time per DWI scan was just over 9 min. The anatomical scan was a high-resolution 3D T1-weighted sagittal whole-brain image using an MPRAGE sequence. It was collected in sagittal orientation with in-plane resolution of 256 × 256 and 1 mm slice thickness (isotropic voxels of 1 mm³, 170 slices, TR = 650 ms, TE = 3.2 ms, Field of view 256 mm, flip angle 8 degrees, SENSE factor = 1, duration = 5 min).

Diffusion volumes were skull-stripped using FSL’s BET, v5.0.10. Volumes were subsequently corrected for eddy currents and motion using FSL’s EDDY tool, v5.0.10 (Andersson & Sotiropoulos (2016)). Anatomical scans were processed with FreeSurfer v6.0.0. Surface reconstructions were used to generate subject-specific parcellations based on the Lausanne atlas from the Connectome Mapper Toolbox (Daducci et al. (2012)). Each parcel was then individually warped into the subject’s native diffusion space. Using DSI-Studio, orientation density functions (ODFs) within each voxel were reconstructed from the corrected scans using GQI (Yeh et al. (2013)). We then used the reconstructed ODFs to perform a whole-brain deterministic tractography using the derived QA values in DSI-Studio (Yeh et al. (2013)). We generated 1,000,000 streamlines per subject, with a maximum turning angle of 35 degrees and a maximum length of 500 mm (Cieslak & Grafton (2014)). We hold the number of streamlines between participants constant (Griffa et al. (2013)).

Method Details

Stimulation Protocol

During each stimulation trial, we delivered stimulation using charge-balanced, biphasic, rectangular pulses with a pulse width of 300 μ s. We cycled over the following parameters in consecutive trials: pulse frequency (10–200 Hz), pulse amplitude (0.5–3.0 mA), stimulation duration (0–1 sec), and inter-stimulation interval (2.75–3.25 sec). These stimulation parameter ranges were chosen to be well below the accepted safety limits for charge density, and ECoG was continuously monitored for after-discharges by a trained neurologist. Some subjects ($N = 8$) only received stimulation to one set of regions, while other received stimulation to multiple sets of regions ($N = 3$) (Supplemental Table S1) Each subjects stimulating electrodes are shown in Figure S7. Most electrodes were in the temporal lobe, with some in the cingulate and frontal lobe.

Memory State Classification and Good Memory State Definition

Prior to collecting the data used in this study, each subject had a memory classifier trained based on their performance during a verbal memory task. The input data that we used was the spectral power averaged across the time dimension for each word encoding epoch (0-1600ms relative to word onset). Each subject’s personalized classifier was then used to return a likelihood of being in a good memory state for each pre- and post-stimulation recording. For more information about the classifier and the task design, see (Ezzyat et al. (2017)). A good memory state was defined for each subject using this classifier output. The target state was defined as the average of the top 5% of states with the largest probabilities (returned from the classifier) associated with them. The threshold of 5% was chosen as the smallest threshold that reliably included sufficient trials in the average (minimum number of trials was 192). The probabilities associated with these final target states ranged from 0.61 to 0.74.

The Mathematical Model - Open Loop Control

We use network control theory to model the effect of stimulation on brain dynamics because it accounts for systems level properties of brain states alongside external input. The theory requires us to stipulate a model of brain dynamics as well as a formulation of the network connecting brain areas whose time-varying state in response to stimulation we wish to understand. As described in the main manuscript, we use a linear time invariant model:

$$\dot{x}(t) = \mathbf{A}x(t) + \mathbf{B}u(t), \quad (3)$$

where $x(t)$ is a $N \times 1$ vector that represents the brain state at a given time, and N is the number of regions ($N = 234$). More specifically $x(t)$ is the z -scored power at time t in m regions containing electrodes. The $N-m$ regions without electrodes are assigned an initial and target state equal to 1. In the network adjacency matrix \mathbf{A} , each ij^{th} element gives the quantitative anisotropy between region i and region j . Note that we scale \mathbf{A} by dividing it by its largest eigenvector and then we subtract the identity matrix; these choices assure that \mathbf{A} is stable.

The $N \times 1$ input vector $u(t)$ represents the input required to control the system. Lastly, \mathbf{B} is the $N \times N$ input matrix whose diagonal entries select the regions that will receive input, and this set of selected regions is referred to as the control set κ . Here \mathbf{B} will be selected to assure that the input energy is concentrated at the stimulating electrode; to increase the computational tractability of the control calculation, \mathbf{B} will also be selected to include additional control points. Specifically, if i represents the index of the stimulating electrode, then $\mathbf{B}(i, i) = 1$. If j is the index of a region containing a different electrode, then $\mathbf{B}(j, j) = 0$.

Lastly, if k is the index of a region that does not contain an electrode, then $\mathbf{B}(k, k) = \alpha$, where α is randomly drawn from a normal distribution with mean 5×10^{-4} and standard deviation 5×10^{-5} . The distribution was chosen specifically to give a narrow range of values with a relative standard deviation of 10%, and a mean that was small enough to allow stimulation control to dominate the dynamics, but large enough to improve the computational tractability of the problem.

The Mathematical Model - Optimal Control

Our longterm goal is to use the model described above to predict optimal parameters for stimulation. To take an initial step towards that goal, we seek to estimate the optimal energy required to reach a state that is beneficial for cognition, and we therefore define the following optimization problem:

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{\mathbf{u}} \int_0^T (\mathbf{x}_T - \mathbf{x}(t))' \mathbf{S}(\mathbf{x}_T - \mathbf{x}(t)) + \rho \mathbf{u}_\kappa(t)' \mathbf{u}_\kappa dt, \\ \text{s.t. } \dot{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}(t) + \mathbf{B}\mathbf{u}(t), \quad \mathbf{x}(0) = \mathbf{x}_0, \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{x}(T) = \mathbf{x}_T, \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

where \mathbf{x}_T is the target state, T is the control horizon, a free parameter that defines the finite amount of time given to reach the target state, and ρ is a free parameter that weights the input constraint. We also define \mathbf{S} to be equal to the identity matrix, in order to constrain all nodes to physiological activity values. The input matrix \mathbf{B} was defined to allow input that was dominated by the stimulation ROI. More specifically, rather than being characterized by binary state values, regions without electrodes were given a value of approximately 5×10^{-5} at their corresponding diagonal entry in \mathbf{B} . This additional input ensured that the calculation of optimal energy was computationally tractable (which is not the case for input applied to a very small control set). With these definitions, two constraints emerge from our optimization problem. First, $(\mathbf{x}_T - \mathbf{x}(t))' \mathbf{S}(\mathbf{x}_T - \mathbf{x}(t))$ constrains the trajectories of a subset of nodes by preventing the system from traveling too far from the target state. Second, $\rho \mathbf{u}_\kappa(t)' \mathbf{u}_\kappa$ constrains the amount of input used to reach the target state, a requirement for biological systems, which are limited by metabolic demands and tissue sensitivities.

To compute an optimal \mathbf{u}^* that induces a transition from the initial state $\mathbf{Sx}(0)$ to the target state $\mathbf{Sx}(T)$, we define the Hamiltonian as

$$H(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}_\kappa, t) = \mathbf{x}' \mathbf{S} \mathbf{x} + \rho \mathbf{u}_\kappa' \mathbf{u} + \mathbf{p}(\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{B}\mathbf{u}_\kappa). \quad (5)$$

According to the Pontryagin minimization principle, if \mathbf{u}_κ^* is a solution with the optimal trajectory \mathbf{x}^* ,

then there exists a \mathbf{p}^* such that

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial H}{\partial \mathbf{x}} &= -2\mathbf{S}(\mathbf{x}_T - \mathbf{x}^*) + \mathbf{A}'\mathbf{p}^* = -\dot{\mathbf{p}}^*, \\ \frac{\partial H}{\partial \mathbf{p}} &= \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}^* + \mathbf{B}\mathbf{u}_\kappa, \\ \frac{\partial H}{\partial \mathbf{u}_\kappa} &= 2\rho\mathbf{u}_\kappa^* + \mathbf{B}'\mathbf{p}^* = 0.\end{aligned}$$

From Eqs. (4)-(6), we can derive that

$$\mathbf{u}_\kappa^* = -\frac{1}{2\rho}\mathbf{B}'\mathbf{p}^*, \quad (6)$$

$$\dot{\mathbf{x}}^* = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}^* - \frac{1}{2\rho}\mathbf{B}\mathbf{B}'\mathbf{p}^*, \quad (7)$$

such that the only unknown is now \mathbf{p}^* . Next, we can rewrite Eqs. (4) and (8) as

$$\begin{bmatrix} \dot{\mathbf{x}}^* \\ \dot{\mathbf{p}}^* \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{A} & \frac{1}{2\rho}\mathbf{B}\mathbf{B}' \\ -2\mathbf{S} & -\mathbf{A}' \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{x}^* \\ \mathbf{p}^* \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 2\mathbf{S} \end{bmatrix} \mathbf{x}_T. \quad (8)$$

Let us define

$$\begin{aligned}\tilde{\mathbf{A}} &= \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{A} & \frac{1}{2\rho}\mathbf{B}\mathbf{B}' \\ -2\mathbf{S} & -\mathbf{A}' \end{bmatrix}, \\ \tilde{\mathbf{x}} &= \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{x}^* \\ \mathbf{p}^* \end{bmatrix}, \\ \tilde{\mathbf{b}} &= \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 2\mathbf{S} \end{bmatrix} \mathbf{x}_T,\end{aligned}$$

so that Eq. (9) can be rewritten as

$$\dot{\tilde{\mathbf{x}}} = \tilde{\mathbf{A}}\tilde{\mathbf{x}} + \tilde{\mathbf{b}}, \quad (9)$$

which can be solved as

$$\tilde{\mathbf{x}}(t) = e^{\tilde{\mathbf{A}}t}\tilde{\mathbf{x}}(0) + \tilde{\mathbf{A}}^{-1}(e^{\tilde{\mathbf{A}}t}\mathbf{x}(0) - \mathbf{I})\tilde{\mathbf{b}}. \quad (10)$$

Let

$$\mathbf{c} = \tilde{\mathbf{A}}^{-1}(e^{\tilde{\mathbf{A}}t}\tilde{\mathbf{x}}(0) - \mathbf{I})\tilde{\mathbf{b}}, \quad (11)$$

and

$$e^{\tilde{\mathbf{A}}T} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{E}_{11} & \mathbf{E}_{12} \\ \mathbf{E}_{21} & \mathbf{E}_{22} \end{bmatrix}. \quad (12)$$

Then, by fixing $t = T$, we can rewrite Eq. (10) as

$$\begin{bmatrix} \dot{\mathbf{x}}^*(T) \\ \dot{\mathbf{p}}^*(T) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{E}_{11} & \mathbf{E}_{12} \\ \mathbf{E}_{21} & \mathbf{E}_{22} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \dot{\mathbf{x}}^*(0) \\ \dot{\mathbf{p}}^*(0) \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{c}_1 \\ \mathbf{c}_2 \end{bmatrix}. \quad (13)$$

From this expression we can obtain

$$\mathbf{x}^*(T) = \mathbf{E}_{11}\mathbf{x}^*(0) + \mathbf{E}_{12}\mathbf{p}^*(0) + \mathbf{c}_1. \quad (14)$$

Moreover, if we let $\bar{\mathbf{S}} = \mathbf{I} - \mathbf{S}$, then as a known result in optimal control theory (Bryson (1996)), $\bar{\mathbf{S}}\mathbf{p}^*(T) = 0$. Therefore,

$$\bar{\mathbf{S}}\mathbf{p}^*(T) = \bar{\mathbf{S}}\mathbf{E}_{21}\mathbf{x}^*(0) + \bar{\mathbf{S}}\mathbf{E}_{22}\mathbf{p}^* + \bar{\mathbf{S}}\mathbf{c}_2 = 0. \quad (15)$$

We can now solve for $\mathbf{p}^*(0)$ as follows:

$$\mathbf{p}^*(0) = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{S}\mathbf{E}_{12} \\ \bar{\mathbf{S}}\mathbf{E}_{22} \end{bmatrix}^+ \left(- \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{S}\mathbf{E}_{11} \\ \bar{\mathbf{S}}\mathbf{E}_{21} \end{bmatrix} \mathbf{x}^*(0) - \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{S}\mathbf{c}_1 \\ \bar{\mathbf{S}}\mathbf{c}_2 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{S}\mathbf{x}(T) \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \right), \quad (16)$$

where \cdot^+ indicates the Moore-Penrose pseudoinverse of a matrix. Now that we have obtained $\mathbf{p}^*(0)$, we can use it and \mathbf{x}^* (or $\mathbf{x}(0)$) to solve for $\tilde{\mathbf{x}}$ via forward integration. To solve for \mathbf{u}^*_κ , we simply take \mathbf{p}^* from our solution for $\tilde{\mathbf{x}}$ and solve Eq. (7).

Parameter Selection

Our optimal control framework has three free parameters: γ , the scaling of the matrix \mathbf{A} , ρ , the relative importance of the input constraint over the distance constraint, and T , the control horizon, or amount of time given for the system to converge. Intuitively, γ , which is only applied after the matrix has been scaled to be stable, controls the time scale of the dynamics of the system: large values down-weight the smaller eigenmodes, causing them to damp out more quickly. Very large values of this parameter tend to increase the computational complexity of estimating the matrix exponentials. Lower values of the parameter ρ corresponds to relaxing the constraint on minimal energy, leading to larger energies but lower error values. The final parameter T determines how quickly the system is required to converge. Small values of T will make the system difficult to control, and likely lead to larger error and energy. Moderately large values of T will give the system more time to converge, and will typically lower the error. However, very large values of T will also increase the difficulty of calculating the matrix exponentials, and will lead to high error values.

Because we lack strong, biologically motivated hypotheses to help us in choosing values for these parameters, we explored a range of values for all three parameters, and found the set that produced the smallest error in the optimal control calculation. We chose this approach rather than the alternative

of fitting the model to resting state data for two reasons. First, solving optimal control problems can easily become computationally intractable for large matrices with sparse control sets, both of which are features of our model. This inherent difficulty decreases our confidence in fitting the model to resting state data, and increases the expected uncertainty in parameter estimates derived therefrom. Second, since we are explicitly modeling exogenous control and our parameters relate directly to that exogenous input, we expect that the parameters that best fit resting state data would be very different from those that best fit stimulation data. For each parameter, we first calculated the error of the simulations for parameter values that were logarithmically spaced between 0.001 and 100. We then selected a subspace of those parameter values that produced small error values. From this subspace, we calculated the z -score of each error value, and we identified the region in the three-dimensional space in which the z -score was less than or equal to -1 . We then took the average coordinate in this space across subjects, and the 3 parameter values specified by this coordinate became our parameter set of interest for all main analyses presented in our study. This process is illustrated in Figure S3. Specifically, the parameters selected were $\gamma = 4$, $T = 0.7$, and $\rho = 0.3$. For the purposes of reliability and reproducibility, here in the supplement we also report several results for key analyses when using two different sets of parameters that also produced low error. The two additional sets used were $\gamma = 7$, $T = 0.4$, and $\rho = 0.1$, and $\gamma = 3$, $T = 0.9$, and $\rho = 0.5$.

Quantification and Statistical Analysis

Post-Stimulation State Correlations - Open Loop Control

We simulated stimulation to a given region in the Lausanne atlas from the observed pre-stimulation state ($x(i)$ is the z -scored power if i is a region with an electrode, $x(i) = 1$ otherwise). We then calculated the two-dimensional Pearson’s correlation coefficient between the empirically observed post-stimulation state and the predicted post-stimulation state at time points $t = 5$ to $t = T$ in the simulated trajectory $x(t)$. The time points $t < 5$ were excluded to prevent the initial state, or the trajectory very near to it, from being considered as the peak. We calculated two statistics of interest: the maximum correlation reached and the time at which the largest magnitude (positive or negative) correlation occurred.

Metrics for Energy and Simulation Error - Optimal Control

We calculated trajectories for each of 8 logarithmically spaced frequency bands spanning 1 to 200 Hz, and then we combined them into a single state matrix for most analyses reported in the main manuscript. Then we calculated distances between the initial and final states using only the m - p regions that had variable

states.

Energy: To quantify differences in trajectories, and the ease of controlling the system, we calculated a single measure of energy for every trajectory. We used a measure of total energy that incorporates the weights of \mathbf{B} in addition to the energy \mathbf{u} :

$$E_{\kappa, \mathbf{x}_0 \mathbf{x}_T} = \int_0^T \|\mathbf{B}_\kappa \mathbf{u}_{\mathbf{x}_0 \mathbf{x}_T}\|_2^2 dt. \quad (17)$$

Our decision to define \mathbf{B} as a weighted, rather than binary matrix made the problem of optimal control much more tractable, but also necessitated the incorporation of \mathbf{B} into the calculation of energy for a more representative estimate. Trajectories were simulated for each frequency band, and these trajectories were combined into a single state matrix for all analyses, unless otherwise specified (e.g., as in Figure 5C and in some figures in the Supplementary Materials). More specifically, comparisons of brain state were calculated as the two-dimensional Pearson’s correlation coefficient between simulated region-by-frequency matrices and empirical region-by-frequency matrices (Figure 2). Only regions with electrodes were included in correlations, as they were the only regions with initial state measurements. Energy in all optimal control analyses was calculated in each band independently, and then summarized in a region-by-frequency matrix at each time point (Figure 3 - 6). A single measure of energy for a trial was calculated by integrating the Frobenius norm of the energy matrix over time.

Numerical Error: Because optimal control is a computationally difficult problem, we also calculate the numerical error associated with each computation. The numerical error is calculated as

$$n_{\text{err}} = \left\| \left(\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{SE}_{12} \\ \bar{\mathbf{SE}}_{22} \end{bmatrix} \mathbf{p}^* \right) + \left(\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{SE}_{11} \\ \bar{\mathbf{SE}}_{21} \end{bmatrix} \mathbf{x}^*(0) + \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{Sc}_1 \\ \bar{\mathbf{Sc}}_2 \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{Sx}(T) \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \right) \right\|. \quad (18)$$

Network Statistics

To probe the role of graph architecture in the energy required for optimal control trajectories, we calculated the determinant ratio, which is defined as the ratio of the strength to the homogeneity of the connections between the first degree driver (anything with a non-zero entry in \mathbf{B}) and the non-driver (anything with a zero entry in \mathbf{B}) (Kim, Soffer, Kahn, Vettel, Pasqualetti & Bassett (2018)). This metric was derived assuming that a system has a greater number of driver nodes than non-driver nodes, and that the initial and final states are distributed around zero. Quantitatively, the trade-off between strength and homogeneity is embodied in the ratio between the determinant of the Gram matrix of all driver to non-driver connections, and the determinant of that same matrix with each non-driver node removed iteratively. The gram matrix here is the inner product of the vectors giving connections from driver nodes to and non-driver nodes.

More specifically, if C is the Gram matrix of all driver to non-driver connections, and C_k is the matrix of all connections from driver nodes to all but the k^{th} non-driver node, the determinant ratio is defined by $N^{-1} \sum_{k=1}^N \frac{\det(C_k)}{\det(C)}$. Since the calculation of the determinant of large matrices can be computationally challenging, we use the equivalent estimate of the trace of the inverse of the Gram matrix, $\text{Trace}(C^{-1})$, to calculate the average determinant ratio (see Kim et. al. for a full derivation) (Kim, Soffer, Kahn, Vettel, Pasqualetti & Bassett (2018)).

To understand the expected differences in stimulation-induced dynamics based on which region is actually being stimulated, we calculated two network control statistics: the *persistent modal controllability* and the *transient modal controllability*. Intuitively, the persistent (transient) controllability is high in nodes where the addition of energy will result in large perturbations to the slow (fast) modes of the system (Gu et al. (2015)). Typically, modal controllability is computed from the eigenvector matrix $V = [v_{ij}]$ of the adjacency matrix \mathbf{A} . The j^{th} mode of the system is poorly controllable from node i if the entry for v_{ij} is small. Modal controllability is then calculated as $\phi_i = \sum_{j=1}^N (1 - \lambda_j^2(A)) v_{ij}^2$. We adapt this discrete-time estimate to continuous-time by defining modal controllability to be $\phi_i = \sum_{j=1}^N (1 - (e^{\lambda_j(A)\delta t})^2) v_{ij}^2$. Here, δt is the time step of the trajectory and $e^{\lambda_j(A)\delta t}$ is the conversion from continuous to discrete eigenvalues of the system. Persistent (transient) modal controllability are computed in the same way, but using only the 10% largest (smallest) eigenvalues of the system. We chose 10% as a strict (allowing few modes to be considered) cutoff, that also showed a large amount of variance across nodes for both metrics (Figure S6).

Here we complement the regional metric analysis reported in the main manuscript by also testing two additional metrics: average controllability and communicability. Intuitively, average controllability is proportional to the average input energy needed for a certain set of nodes to drive the system to all possible target states (though this was only proven mathematically using a full control set). This metric is interpreted as a node's ability to push the network to many easy-to-reach states (Gu et al. (2015)). Average controllability is proportional to the $\text{Trace}(\mathbf{W}_\kappa^{-1})$, where \mathbf{W}_κ^{-1} , the inverse of the controllability Gramian, is defined as $\mathbf{W}_\kappa = \sum_{\tau=1}^{\infty} \mathbf{A}^\tau \mathbf{B}_\kappa \mathbf{B}_\kappa^T \mathbf{A}^\tau$. Here, \mathbf{B}_κ identifies a specific control set κ . Following prior work, we calculate average controllability as $\text{Trace}(\mathbf{W}_\kappa)$, because the inverse is often poorly conditioned (Gu et al. (2015)).

Intuitively, communicability is a measure of how well a node communicates with every other node in the network. It is similar to network efficiency (Latora & Marchiori (2001)), but considers all paths and walks between two nodes, rather than only the shortest paths. This feature is useful because, biologically, non-shortest paths (such as thalamocortical loops) can be important in many computations (Crofts & Higham (2009)). The metric is weighted such that shorter paths carry more weight. Specifically, we

calculated weighted communicability as $\mathbf{G} = e^{D^{-1/2}AD^{-1/2}}$ and the average communicability for each node as $g_i = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{j=1}^N \mathbf{G}_{i,j}$. Here N is the number of nodes in the network, and D is the diagonal weighted degree matrix where $D_{i,i} = d_i$. We have chosen a measure of communicability where longer paths are weighted by a factor of $1/k!$ because it is a standard measure in the field, and because it can be justified by arguments from statistical mechanics (Crofts & Higham (2009)); however other weighting schemes could also be used.

Null Models

We compared the empirically observed values – of the maximum correlation reached and the time at which the largest magnitude correlation occurred – to those expected under two null models: (i) a topological null model that preserved only the number of edges and their total strength, and (ii) a spatially embedded null model that also preserved the relationship between edge strength and edge distance. Instantiations of the topological null model were generated using the Brain Connectivity Toolbox (Rubinov & Sporns (2010)). The rewiring algorithm begins by randomly choosing two pairs of edges ($i \rightarrow j$ and $k \rightarrow l$) and continues by swapping their origin and termination points ($i \rightarrow k$ and $j \rightarrow l$). Here, we performed 2×10^4 bidirectional edge swaps per network. Instantiations of the spatially embedded model were generated using code from (Roberts et al. (2016)). The rewiring algorithm begins by calculating the Euclidean distance between the average coordinates of all regions in the Lausanne atlas, and continues by removing the effect of distance on the mean and variance of the edge weights, randomly rewiring, and then adding the effect of distance back to the newly rewired graph. For both topological and spatial null model analyses, a new random graph was generated for every trial (minimum number of trials was 192). Null models were created from the stabilized rather than raw versions of the structural matrices, and – in the optimal control analyses – were also scaled by a parameter γ to reduce the error of the calculation.

To further explore the role of spatial embedding in optimal control efficiency, we tested two additional null models: (i) a spatially embedded null model that also preserves the degree distribution, and (ii) a spatially embedded null model that further preserves the strength sequence. Exemplar spatially embedded null model graphs were generated using code from (Roberts et al. (2016)). Similarly to the spatially embedded null model described above, all calculations for the additional spatially embedded null model graphs begin with a calculation of the Euclidean distance between the average coordinates of all regions in the Lausanne atlas. Next, we remove the effect of distance on the mean and variance of the edge weights. Pairs of edges are then swapped uniformly at random, and the effects of distance are added back in to the matrix. While these measures of Euclidean distance ignore the curvilinear character of white matter tracts, the true fiber length and the Euclidean distance are highly correlated (Roberts et al. (2016)).

In the strength distribution preserving null model, both the row and column sums are then iteratively updated to converge to the empirical strength distribution. The strength sequence preserving null model graph was defined similarly, but with a convergence to the strength sequence rather than to the strength distribution. The strength distance relationships were then added back into the graph. More details about these processes can be found in (Roberts et al. (2016)). For these analyses, a new exemplar null model graph was generated for every trial (minimum number of trials was 192). Null models were created from stable matrices, scaled by the parameter γ . Examples of null models used in the main text and supplement are shown in Figure S5. Note that with the exception of the randomly rewired null model, other models look qualitatively similar to empirical connectivity matrices.

Random Forest Models

Random forest models are constructed by averaging predictions over a large number of decision trees (here: 500), where each branch in the tree splits one of the predictors into two groups, the means of which are used as a predicted value for observations in each branch (Liaw & Wiener (2002)). Splits are selected to reduce prediction error. Random forest models rely on bootstrapping data for each split, and a random selection of the variable to split on to avoid overfitting the data. Out-of-bag mean squared error is calculated as the prediction error of the samples that were not included in bootstrapped selection for each tree, and therefore are samples that the model has not been trained on (Liaw & Wiener (2002)). For our last analysis, we built a random forest model that included one global predictor, one regional predictor, and one state predictor. To test the efficacy of this model, we also simulated 1000 null models, where each subject’s true energy on every trial was predicted using predictors from a different subject. All three predictors came from the same, different subject. One of these predictors (the initial probability) changed on a trial-by-trial basis, while the others did not. Since subjects have a different number of trials, a bootstrapped sample of probabilities equal to the size of the true subject’s energy was taken from each randomly matched subject to generate the random probability predictors. Models were implemented in R with the randomForest package (<https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/randomForest/randomForest.pdf>) (Liaw & Wiener (2002)). Five-hundred trees were used with $mtry = 1$ for each model.

Data and Software Availability

Code for simulations and select metrics is available at <https://github.com/jastiso/NetworkControl>. Data will be made available upon request.

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