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Characteristic Traits of Mild cognitive impairment in Parkinson's disease

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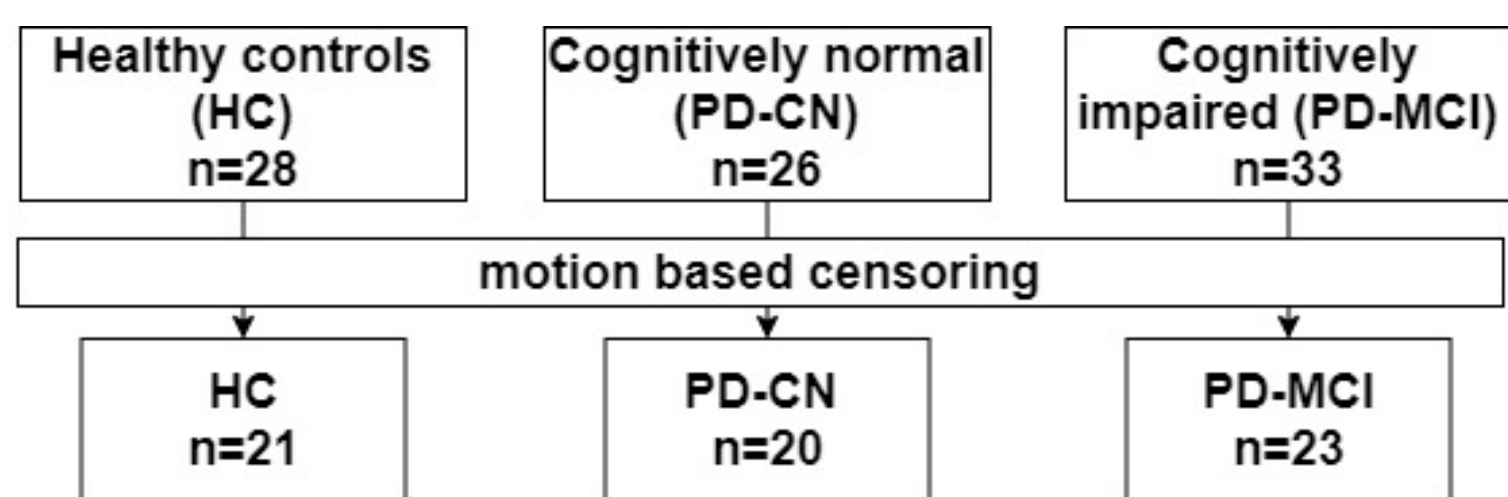


Background

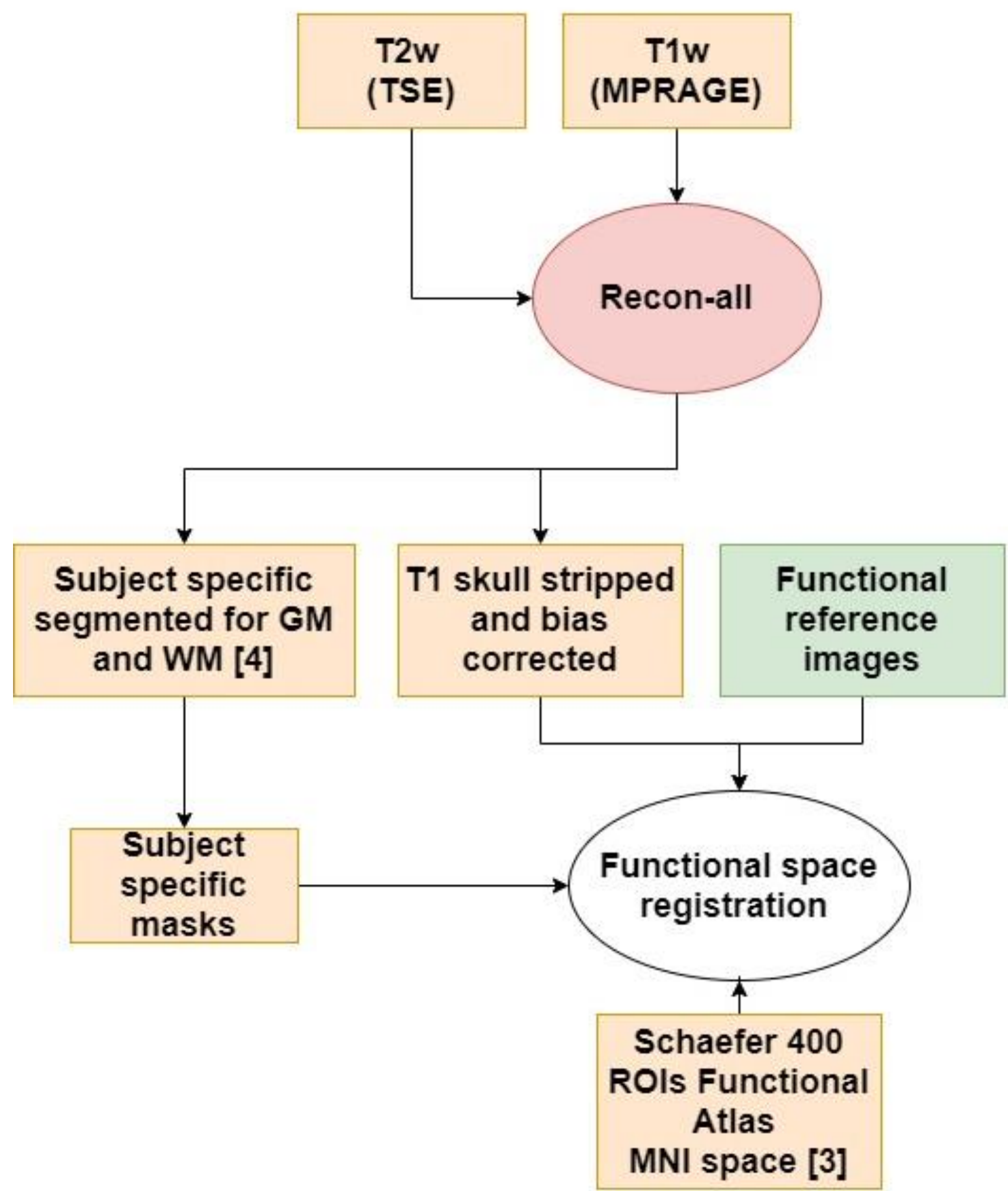
- Mild cognitive impairment (MCI), frequent in Parkinson Disease (PD), is a well-known risk factor for dementia.
- Functional connectivity resting state networks (RSNs), such as the default mode, dorsal attention, executive control and sensorimotor networks, have been reported to correlated with cognitive deficits in PD. Inter-network connectivity is crucial as well [1,2].
- This study investigates how whole-brain functional networks are affected by MCI in PD using a Connectome ICA (connICA) analysis with resting state functional MRI (RS-fMRI).

Dataset

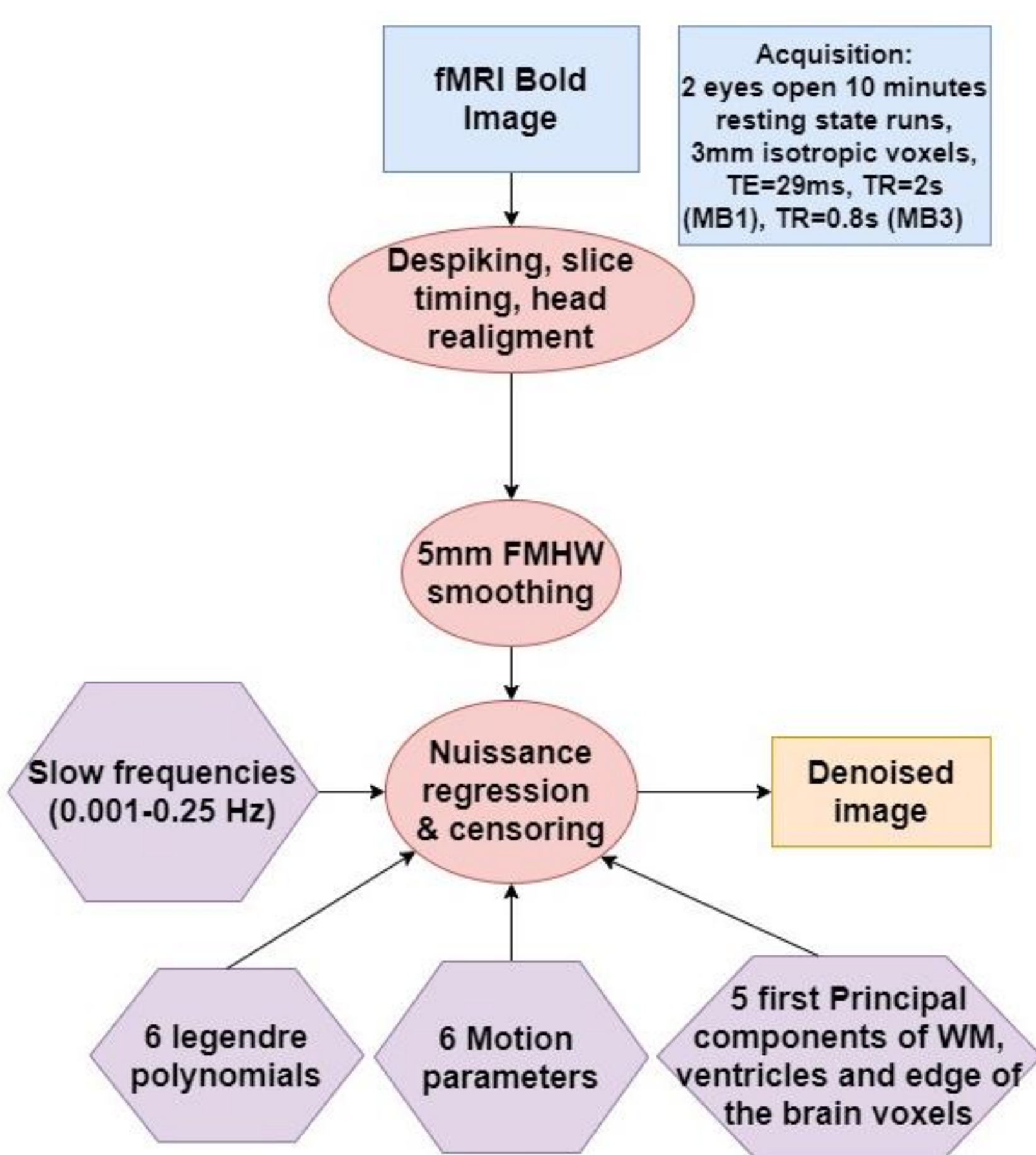
- PD-MCI diagnosed according to Movement Disorders Society Guidelines (Level II).
- Patients examined under anti-parkinsonian medication.



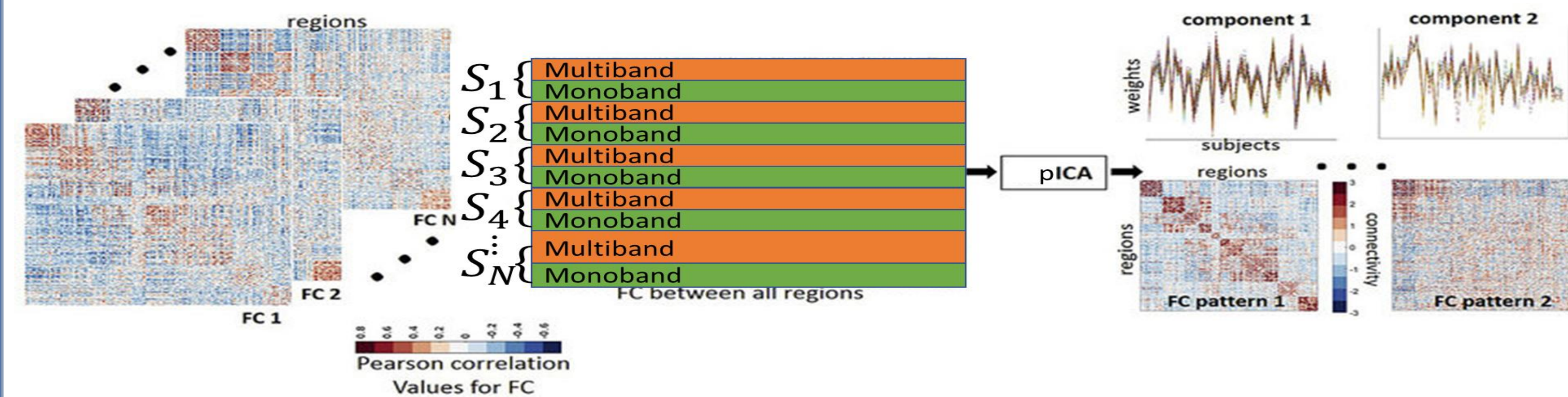
Anatomical Preprocessing



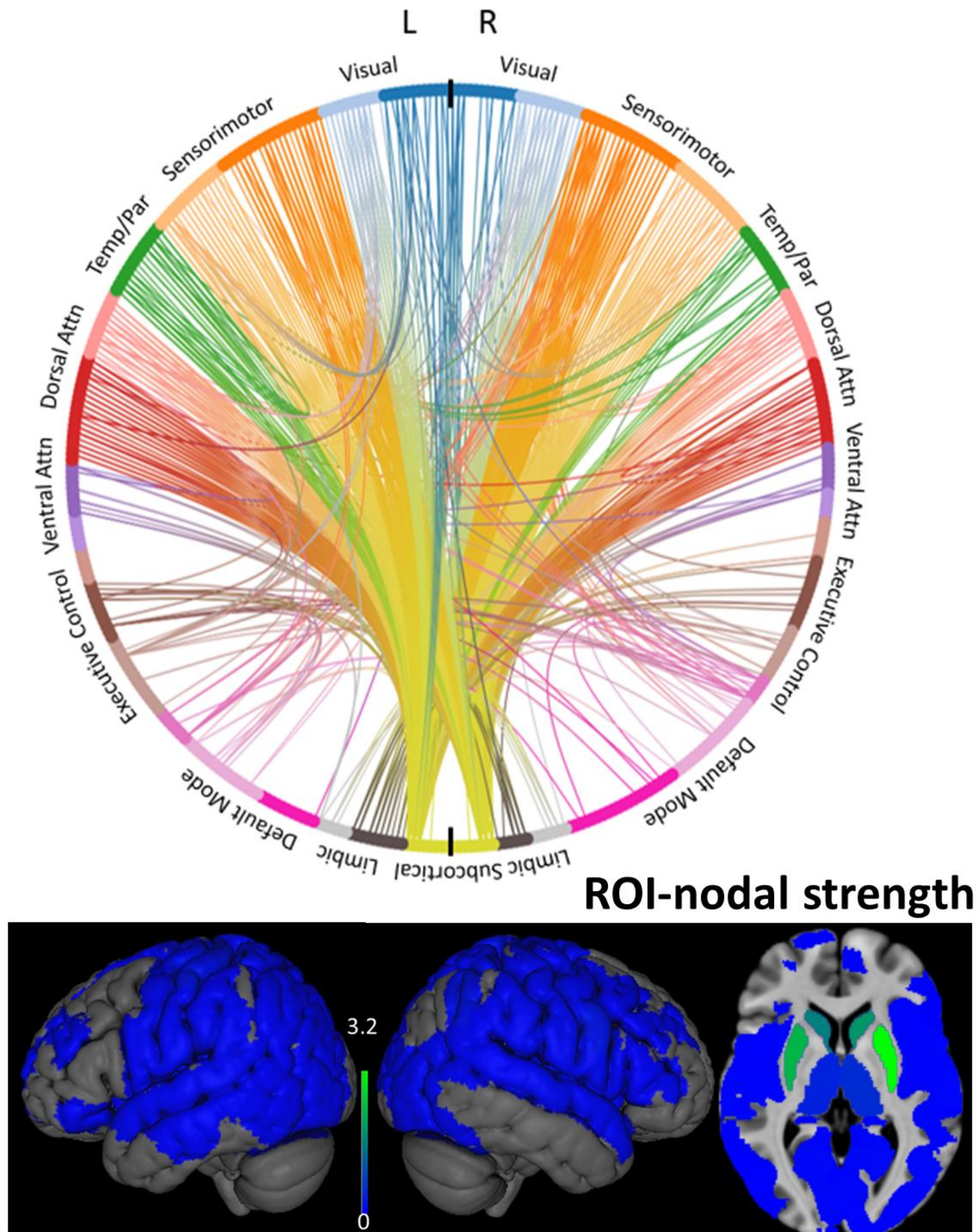
Functional Preprocessing



Functional connectivity identifiability and ConnICA Analysis [6, 7]

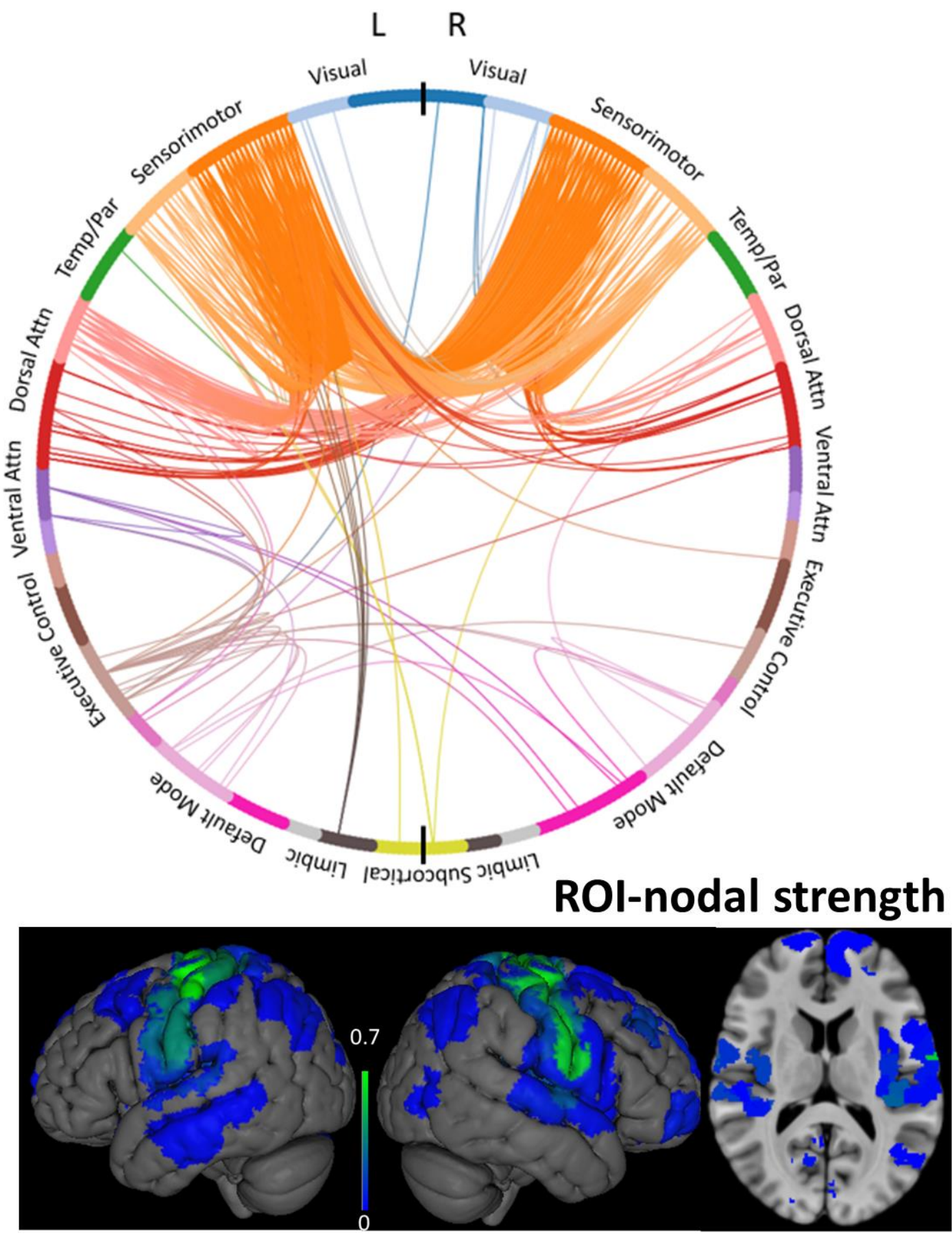


FC-Trait 5: Subcortical-cortical connectivity



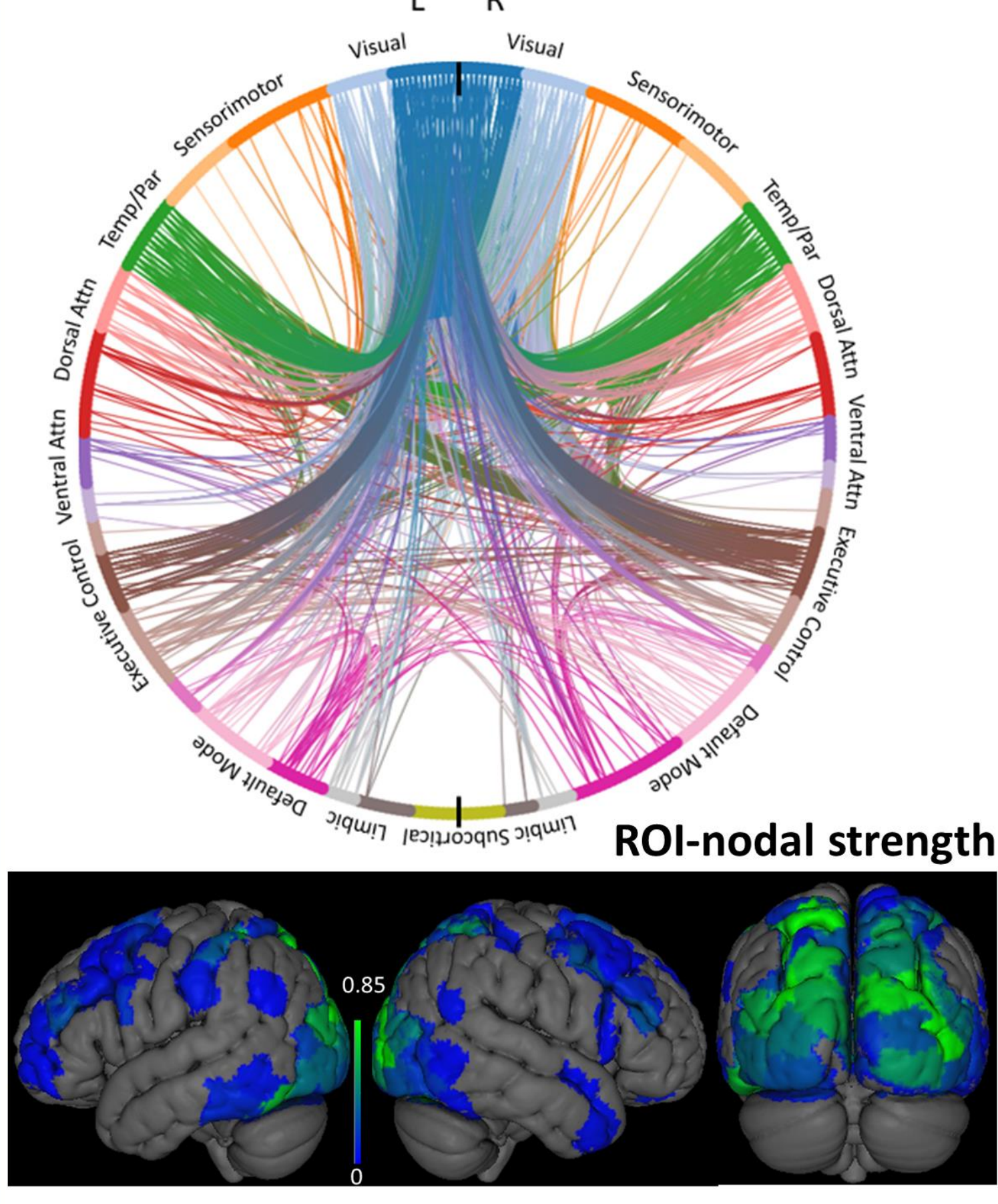
- Differentiates HC from PD groups.
- Hubs in putamen, caudate and thalamus.
- Mainly associated with attentional neuropsychological tests implying attentional deficits at the beginning of PD.

FC-Trait 9: Sensorimotor and Attention Networks



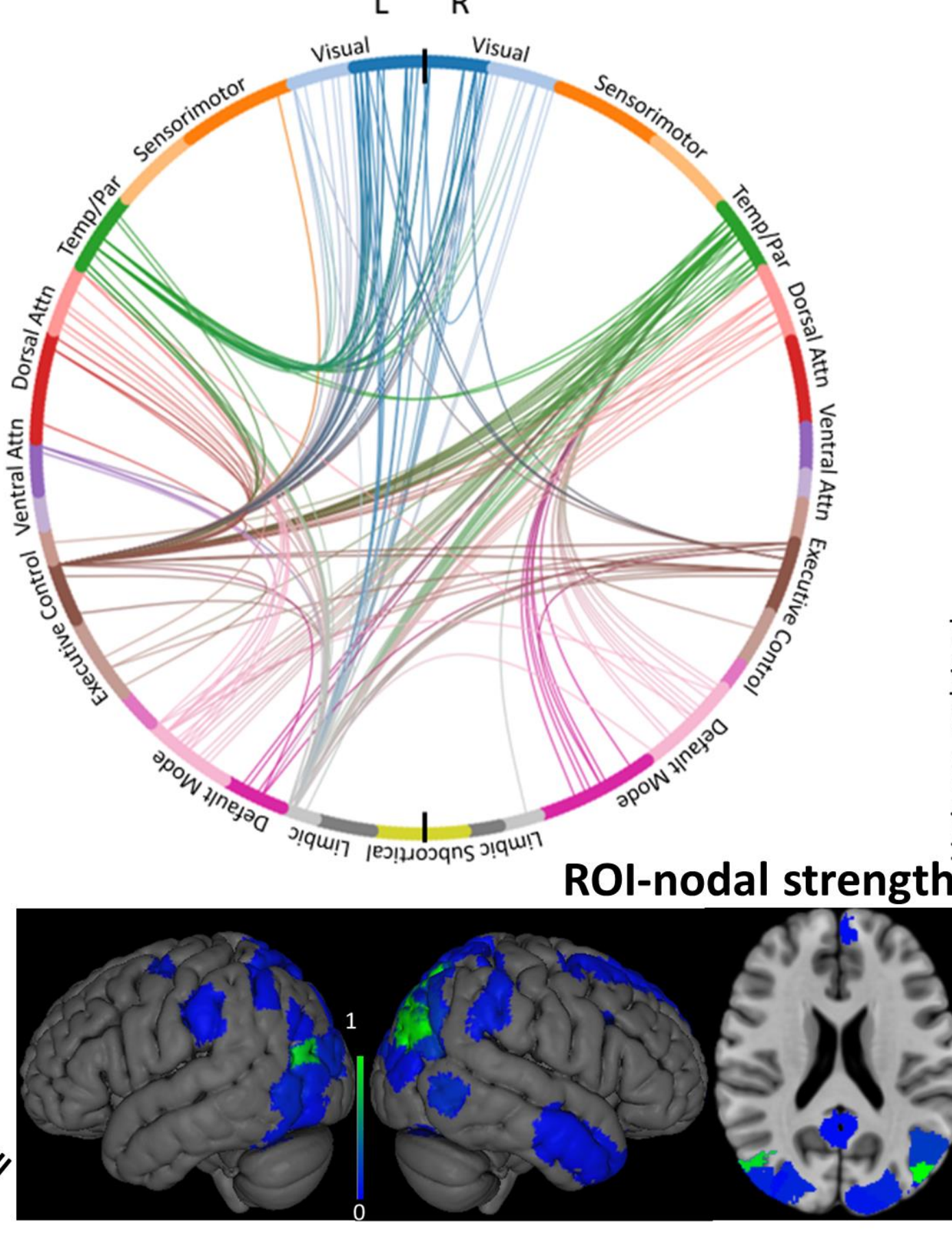
- Differentiates PD-MCI from HC and PD-CN
- Inter-intra-hemispheric connections between motor and somatosensory cortices and dorsal and ventral attention networks.
- Attention and memory behavioral test are significantly linked suggesting a motor disfunction in the PD-MCI.

FC-Trait 13: Visual-frontoparietal connections



- Differentiates HC from PD groups.
- Visual-parietal and visual-executive control connections.
- Associated to UPDRS-III which suggest a connection to motor symptoms.

FC-Trait 34: Angular gyrus temporal and attention



- Differentiates all three groups from each other.
- Angular gyrus with temporal, parietal and visual connections.
- No behavioral links.

Linear mixed effects model on FC traits weights

Trait	5	9	13	34
Anova F-value	9.563	15.51	7.738	8.169
Anova Pvalue	0.00916	6.62E-05	0.04498	0.03066
HC vs PDCN	0.000561	0.307563	0.000975	0.046402
HC vs PD-MCI	0.000937	6.12E-07	0.000967	0.009107
PDCN vs PD-MCI	0.405277	6.89E-06	0.98814	1.83E-05

Conclusions

- Pronounced subcortico-cortical and visuo-cortical FC changes related to attentional and motor skills differentiated PD patients from healthy controls.
- Functional connections between attentional and sensorimotor regions are key for PD-MCI development, and are associated with deficits in attention and memory abilities.

References

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