

Recent Developments in Neuroinformatics and Computational Neuroscience

Polly Jones

Ural Federal University, Sverdlovsk Oblast, Russia, 620075.
jonespolly23@gmail.com

Correspondence should be addressed to Polly Jones : jonespolly23@gmail.com

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Abstract – In comparison to other natural systems, the temporal dynamics of the human brain's growth, structure, and function are notably intricate. The human brain is comprised of an estimated 86.1 to 8.0 billion neurons and a comparable non-neural glial cells number. Additionally, the brain contains neuronal systems with over 100 trillion connections. The modeling, analysis, and comprehension of these complex structures require the use of code and automation. Neuroinformatics methodologies are employed to manage, retrieve, and integrate the copious quantities of data produced through clinical documentation, scientific literature, and specialized databases. Conversely, computational neuroscience, which draws heavily upon the fields of biology, physics, mathematics, and computation, tackles these issues. Neuroinformatics is the interdisciplinary field that integrates computational neuroscience and neuroscientific experimentation. This paper functions as an introductory guide for individuals who lack familiarity with the domains of neuroinformatics and computational neuroscience, along with their consistent sophisticated software, resources, and tools.

Keywords – Computational Neuroscience, Neuroinformatics, Electroencephalography, Event-Related Potentials, Magneto Encephalography, Local-Field Potentials.

I. INTRODUCTION

The Neurosciences Research Program (NRP) was established by MIT in 1962 and is widely regarded as the origin of modern neuroscience [1]. Neurological disorders pertaining to the human brain constitute a total of 13% of all known diseases. The magnitude of its prevalence surpasses that of cardiovascular conditions, which account for only 5% of all illnesses. According to Misaki et al. [2], malignancies account for 10% of all diseases worldwide. Contemporary neuroscience scholars originate from diverse academic backgrounds, encompassing physiologists, experimental and theoretical physicists, computer scientists, mathematicians, molecular biologists, engineers, bioinformaticians, physicians, clinicians, philosophers, and psychologists.

Fahle's [3] composition reflects the diverse range of colors and varieties present in the area. According to the author, the nervous system has the ability to rapidly compute and process information. The accurate and robust mathematical framework is necessary for the computation of nervous system activities, which encompasses various functions and interconnections among distinct regions of the brain. Purely mathematical theories are not insufficient to accurately model the intricate processes and behaviors of neurological systems, nor can they provide explanations for their underlying origins. The computation of these entities necessitates the conceptualization of theoretical physical systems. According to BagheriMofidi, Pouladian, Jameie, and Abbaspour Tehrani-Fard [4], the computation of neuronal signals does not fall under the categories of analog or digital, but rather represents a distinct form of computation.

The nervous system comprises numerous subsystems, of which the cortex and brain-stem are merely two instances. It is possible to construct smaller systems by utilizing the subsystems. The emergence of computational neuroscience as a distinct discipline can be attributed to the aforementioned objectives [5]. The initial segment of the review delineates the current cutting-edge methodologies, software, and databases, and deliberates on the significance of computational

neuroscience in the evaluation of brain system configuration. The discipline of computational neuroscience generates copious amounts of intricate data. The crux of the matter pertains to the proper preservation of the data, precise retrieval of knowledge, and expeditious distribution of said information. The emergence of 'neuroinformatics' has facilitated the utilization of computers in collecting, organizing, and analyzing neurobiological data, thereby creating a new subfield of neuroscience. Neuroinformatics is a discipline that endeavors to enhance our comprehension of the organization and operation of the brain by establishing a consolidated database for neuroscience data, advanced techniques for data distribution and extraction, and methods for scrutinizing this data.

The following sections of the study have been outlined as follows: Section II presents a discussion of computational neuroscience. Section III reviews the brain network organization and sheds more light into computational neuroscience. In Section IV, a discussion of neuroinformatics is critically reviewed. Section V presents a review of the advancements in neuroinformatics, discussing languages for data exchange and storage, including the tools, software and methods. Section VI provides a conclusion to the research.

II. COMPUTATIONAL NEUROSCIENCE

Mandal, Banerjee, Tripathi, and Sharma [6] posited that the term Computational Neuroscience denotes the potential to formulate hypotheses regarding brain functionality by analyzing the information-processing characteristics of nervous system components. Scholars in [7] provide a contemporary definition of computational neuroscience as a theoretical inquiry into the brain's mechanisms and principles, which manage its organization, development, cognitive abilities, and information processing. Contemporary computational neuroscience can be characterized as an inquiry into the neural circuits and networks that underlie the brain's processing of various activities, in accordance with specific structural and functional features, utilizing computational power as a tool. According to Marino et al. [8], the human brain comprises a vast neuronal network consisting of approximately 86.1 billion neurons and a comparable number of non-neuronal glial cells. It is estimated that there exists a vast network of inhibitory and excitatory synapses, comprising approximately 100 trillion connections, including both above-threshold and sub-threshold synapses, among the neurons. Computational neuroscience has been primarily motivated by the investigation of how the brain processes and manipulates information through the utilization of chemical and electrical signals over the past four decades.

In the pursuit of a comprehensive understanding of the universe, there has been a longstanding quest to develop a unifying framework that can explain all physical phenomena. This endeavor is commonly referred to as the search for. The present study involves the utilization of simulations to analyze network and motion models. One approach to achieving a computational understanding of brain activity involves the development of models that capture the interconnections and dynamics of the brain. Connectivity models provide a comprehensive depiction of the interactions between various regions, as opposed to merely identifying the locations of activity. Different degrees of neural activity, ranging from small clusters of interacting neurons to the entire brain, can be observed and modeled. The correlation matrix of recorded response time series is used to approximate brain dynamics and characterize the pairwise practical connectivity between different brain areas. The research on resting-state systems [9] has evaluated the capacity of linear decomposition within the space-time matrix, such as the spatial independent element analysis, to capture contemporaneous correlations between places throughout time.

By applying thresholding actions on correlation matrix, the collection of parts could be transformed into undirected graph, which can then be analyzed using graph-theoretic methods. These investigations may reveal the presence of "hubs," which denote groups of nodes with strong interconnections, and "rich clubs," which refer to clusters of hubs that form distinct communities. A connectivity graph can be constructed regardless of whether anatomical or functional data is gathered. The anatomical and functional connectivity matrices are frequently utilized interchangeably to depict the mode of interaction among distinct regions owing to their resemblances. The incorporation of local dynamics, delays, indirect interactions, and noise is crucial in the modeling of the relationship between anatomical connection and functional connectivity. The utilization of brain-activity data is feasible for the evaluation of generative models of spontaneous dynamics. These models can encompass a wide range of phenomena, such as small-scale interactions between neurons or global spatiotemporal patterns that extend across the cortex and subcortex.

In **Fig 1 (a)** Data from 191 using two-photon calcium imaging of zebrafish larvae interacting with a simulated environment to reveal single-neuron action for a massive cells population. **(b)** Data from a human fMRI study conducted in 1999 shows a comprehensive map of semantically selective responses during tale listening. This demonstrates the potential of current methods for measuring brain activity as well as the difficulty of gleaning insights about brain processing from such data sets. Both investigations employed linear models (principal component analysis; see inset in a) to give an overarching perspective on the activity patterns and their representational value throughout complicated, time-continuous, realistic experience.

By way of contrast, effective connectivity investigations that are driven by hypotheses concentrate on delineating the connections between restricted collections of regions via the employment of generative frameworks, which define the dynamics. Dynamic Causal Modeling (DCM) can be utilized to address concerns regarding causal relationships, as an example. Many analyses focus on specific areas that exhibit alterations dependent on the task at hand. To deduce causal effects from time series data, research endeavors such as Granger causality and transfer entropy assess whether the inclusion of the prior activity of area X enhances the prediction of the current activity of region Y beyond what is

achievable solely based on Y's past activity. To conduct a precise analysis of connectivity, scholars must initially establish a set of potential graphical models, each of which presents a supposition regarding the causal connections among regions. Activation mapping is employed in cognitive psychology to map the boxes onto specific brain regions, whereas effective connectivity studies are utilized to map the arrows.

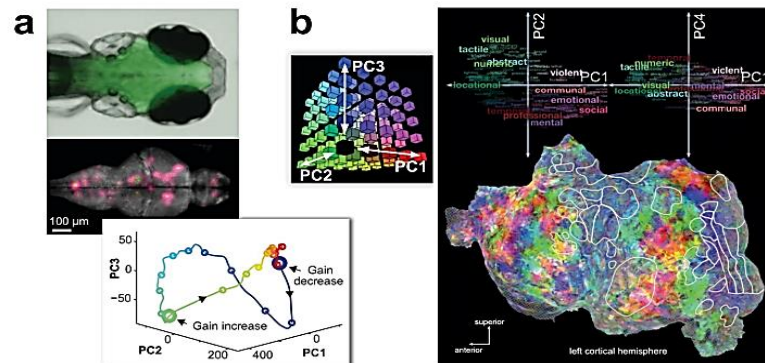


Fig 1. The data-driven studies providing understanding, despite the fact that modern imaging method reveal unparalleled detail regarding neural activity

The majority of scholarly inquiry in this particular domain has centered on delineating the specific contributions of distinct cerebral regions to the overall level of activity within a given locality. The aforementioned studies, akin to the conventional approach of brain cartography, are predicated on regional-average activation, which gauges interrelated fluctuations in overall regional activity as opposed to intercommunication among distinct brain regions. The investigation of the potential relationship between fine-grained pattern information across pairs of areas, such as area 67, is currently underway. Effective connectivity models of subsets of brain areas or dynamic models of the entire brain may be utilized to describe the interactions that generate brain dynamics at a higher level. The examination of dynamical states can reveal both intra- and inter-individual differences, such as those observed across states of consciousness. Similarly, inter- and intra-clinical differences can be explored to elucidate alterations associated with disorders. The efficacy of generic statistical frameworks like linear frameworks utilized in data-based brain mapping and activation is constrained in their capacity to produce data at the measurement level. However, investigations of effective connectivity and extensive brain dynamics surpass this limitation. Nonetheless, these methods do not capture the cognitive processes or the neural communication among neurons.

III. BRAIN NETWORK ORGANIZATION AND COMPUTATIONAL NEUROSCIENCE

The vast potential of computers in the field of neurology is noteworthy. The present discourse encompasses research endeavors that delve into the anatomical and functional framework of the neural networks in the brain, which is commonly referred to as 'brain network organization'. In the past half-century, considerable advancements have been achieved in the investigation of microscopic brain dynamics, specifically pertaining to the activities of individual neurons, synapses, and molecules. Electrophysiological approaches such as event-related potentials (ERPs), electroencephalography (EEG), local-field potentials (LFPs), and magneto encephalography (MEG) are commonly employed to capture macroscopic and mesoscopic brain dynamics. However, despite their routine use, several research inquiries remain unresolved.

Electrophysiological recordings of cerebral activity offer valuable insights into the synchronized dynamic mechanisms of both local neuronal networks comprising thousands of neurons and global brain regions consisting of millions of neurons. Functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) has been found to exhibit robust associations with cortical local field potentials when evaluating blood flow signals. The coherence of brain dynamics may be associated with various forms of synchrony, including fixed or mobile synchrony, as well as oscillatory synchrony. The functional connectivity between the dynamics of the brain at distinct spatial scales remains an unresolved topic. Establishing a correlation between the observed local or distant brain areas through the utilization of ERPs, EEG, LFPs, fMRI, and MEG, and the individual neurons dynamics examined through intracellular recordings is a challenging task. Due to the aforementioned rationale, we shall provide a succinct overview of brain dynamics at the microscopic level, subsequently redirecting our focus towards brain dynamics at the macroscopic and mesoscopic levels.

Microscopic brain dynamics: Single neurons and synapses

The structural and dynamic complexity of mammalian brains necessitates the need for multi-modal and multi-scale investigations. A fundamental aim in the field of neuroscience is to infer the fundamental architecture of the brain based on the behavior of neural networks and their optimal operational parameters.

Distinctive configurations of structure and activity are observed in neuronal networks across various regions of the brain, as reported by Al-Shabi [10]. According to Bezanilla [11], the distribution of different channels of ions and their

conductance level of density over the membrane are more significant than the specific morphological features of an individual neuron. At the neuronal level, a multiple-to-single relation exists between dynamics and structure, as evidenced by previous studies by Cortés, Pak, and Özkan [12]. This is due to the fact that comparable neuronal dynamics could arise from distinct integration of ionic conductances, which are decentralized via the neuronal system.

Neural circuits demonstrate the characteristic of neural plasticity. The efficient coordination of brain networks is contributed by synaptic coupling conductance plasticity and intrinsic neuronal ionic conductance plasticity, as suggested in [13]. Additional types of activity-based plasticity manifest in neural systems, including activity-dependent synaptic plasticity. This type of plasticity transforms the potencies of pre-existing synapses oriented on the temporal correlation between post- and pre-synaptic neuronal firing occurrences, as described by Zhao, Ji, Zhang, Pei, Zhang, and Yuan [14]. The literature suggests that synaptic strength can be modulated, dendritic spine density can be modified, new synapses can be generated, and pre-existing synapses can be eliminated. Modifications in the architecture of neural networks are instigated by homeostatic regulatory mechanisms. The establishment of intricate dynamics is likely facilitated by the interrelation of various types of neurons within a mesoscopic network. The aforementioned phenomenon could be considered a ubiquitous characteristic of biological systems. This is likely due to the robust correlation between structure and dynamics at this particular tier.

Neuroimaging modalities such as electroencephalography (EEG), diffusion-weighted magnetic resonance imaging (dMRI), functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI), and magnetoencephalography (MEG) are able of issuing system-based measurements of neural activations and macroscopic structural connectivity in the brain. Diffusion MRI is utilized to monitor the movement of fluid along nerve cells. Tractography techniques utilize the fractional anisotropy of the diffusion procedure to restructure the trajectory of axonal forecasts. Nevertheless, the structural connections estimated by dMRI are impartial. Electrophysiological signals of neuronal ensembles can be captured through electroencephalography (EEG), while magnetoencephalography (MEG) can detect magnetic fields produced by intracellular currents. MEG and EEG signals are capable of recording neuronal fluctuations within the 30 Hz to 80 Hz gamma frequency dimension with a high degree of clarity. Nonetheless, the spatial coverage of recording channels is often restricted to a few hundred, thereby imposing a significant limitation. The signals known as blood-oxygen-level-dependent (BOLD) are indicative of hemodynamic responses to brain activations, albeit with a delay. These signals are commonly utilized in fMRI to evaluate the neuronal activity. Notwithstanding the 25 Hz low-frequency convolution of brain oscillations, hemodynamic responses are captured by fMRI at a comparatively higher spatial resolution, integrating thousands of recordings voxels.

The considerable magnitude of the human brain poses a formidable obstacle in the creation of a connectome, or anatomical connection matrix, at the dimensions of individual neurons. The cortex of the brain is estimated to contain approximately 10 billion neurons and 100 trillion connections. Alterations occurring at a single synaptic level do not manifest as discernible ramifications at the level of the entire system. Furthermore, Liss and Roeper [15] assert that both the individual neurons and their connections exhibit a high degree of flexibility. The intricate and diverse composition of neurons and synapses necessitates that microscopic investigations serve as fundamental constituents of brain network architecture.

Mesoscopic/macroscopic brain dynamics: Elementary processing units and networks among brain regions

Mapping brain regions and neuronal populations is a challenging task in neuroscience. The process of dividing the human brain into distinct regions, known as parcellation, does not adhere to a singular universal standard. According to prior research conducted by Ma et al. [16], the distribution of neurons in the human cerebral cortex is spread across a significant number of distinct regions and areas, numbering at least 100. The criteria for parcellation may require variation across distinct regions of the brain system such as the brain stem and cerebellum against the thalamus and cortex. Therefore, the optimal formation of a human neural matrix can be achieved through the establishment of a brain network structure that connects physically distinct brain regions and interregional pathways.

Conversely, the corticothalamic matrix lacks functionally significant partitions or distinct subcircuits within individual brain regions on a macroscopic level. Hence, comprehending the operational dynamics and cognitive capabilities of the human brain necessitates an investigation beyond the macroscopic level of its network organization. This underscores the significance of mesoscopic brain network architecture, which pertains to the examination of the configurations of interconnections among distinct neural circuits. This text presents a discussion of various studies that investigate the structural organization of brain networks at the macro and meso scales. The application of graph modeling, which is commonly utilized in the analysis of complex real-world systems, can also be employed to reveal both the anatomical and functional dimensions of the brain. Determining the appropriate inclusions for a structural network can prove to be a challenging task. Various imaging and recording techniques have been devised by researchers to address such issues, as documented in studies by Carrero-Pazos, Vilas-Estévez, and Vázquez-Martínez [17]. The configuration of anatomical network interconnections among various brain regions enables us to formulate hypotheses regarding the potential interactions that could occur among these regions. The small world topology of cortical networks may result in a limited number of long-range interactions despite the presence of numerous viable short-range contacts.

Dragomir and Omurtag [18] have posited that the brain's functional networks exhibit coordinated integration and segregation that are influenced by different factors such as anatomical nodes, divergence, convergence, and route length. Frequently, these networks exhibit a decentralized structure, a small-world topology, a low average path length, and

a high degree of clustering. According to the authors, there exists a suboptimal balance between the efficacy of network operations and the expenses incurred in wiring. The task of forecasting the functional system connection of a brain oriented on its conforming anatomical connectivity poses a challenging endeavor. The foundation for such predictions is frequently established on analytical measures and network communications, as noted by Parent, Paré, Smith, and Steriade [19] have previously conducted research on the brains of cats and monkeys, respectively. This type of research holds significant value in elucidating the true interconnectivity between different regions of the brain. Numerous investigations have examined the correlations between a robust functional network of the brain and factors such as age, gender, memory, education, surroundings, stress, and other related variables. The phenomenon of distinct structural and functional characteristics of each hemisphere of the brain contributes to a heightened level of intricacy in various scenarios, as evidenced by research conducted by Lu and X. Bai [20]. The optimization of functional motifs while minimizing structural motifs is a prevalent trend observed in brain networks.

As per the definition posited by Wang, Sang, and Ma [21], a functional system refers to a sequence of interconnections among cerebral regions that collaborate to execute a specific task. The connectivity matrix and topology of all-encompassing functional networks experience modifications during the developmental process of individuals, as they progress through different stages of life and gain additional knowledge. The functional networks of various regions of the brain perform specific functions in collaboration with each other. Activities that involve both the motor and sensory regions have been found to enhance perceptuomotor processing when there is synchronization between the prefrontal and posterior parietal control areas. The text elucidates the manner in which discrete brain regions can engage in intercommunication owing to idiosyncratic sensory inputs. The definition of functional nodes in the brain is currently lacking in clarity.

Contemporary neuroimaging methodologies enable the detection of cerebral functional nodes through assessments of augmented metabolism in PET (Positron Emission Tomography), synchronized oscillatory activity in LFP (local field potential) recordings, blood perfusion in fMRI, and fNIRS (Functional Near Infrared Spectroscopy). Various medical conditions such as Alzheimer's disease, Type 2 diabetes, ADHD (attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder), autism, Parkinson's disease, and bipolar disorder have been observed to induce alterations in the functional network of a brain that is otherwise functioning normally. The California Medi-Cal Type 2 Diabetes Study Group [22] reported that individuals diagnosed with type 2 diabetes exhibit delayed information processing due to alterations or interruptions in the white matter region.

According to Liao et al. [23], there is an increased level of unpredictability in the topology of gray matter in individuals with Alzheimer's disease who exhibit more pronounced cognitive impairment. Individuals diagnosed with bipolar disorder are recognized to exhibit deficient inter-hemispheric communication, while maintaining typical intra-hemispheric communication. Videtta, Squarcina, Rossetti, Brambilla, Delvecchio, and Bellani [24] have identified low white matter integrity in the corpus callosum among individuals with bipolar disorder. The probability of lesions occurring at hub nodes of brain networks has been found to be significantly higher in different brain disorders, such as schizophrenia and Alzheimer's disease. The application of graph theory has been observed in the examination of diverse stages of neurological disorders, including but not limited to autism, Alzheimer's disease, and epilepsy. Analyses have been conducted to compare the different stages of these diseases, in addition to referencing standard graphs obtained from individuals without the illnesses.

The findings indicate that there is a positive connection between the advancement of the illness and the increase in both the local clustering index and average pathlength. Anomalies in brain circuitry have been associated with various neurological disorders such as autism, Parkinson's disease, epilepsy, disorders of consciousness, and schizophrenia. Tansey [25] has considered various factors such as changes in neuronal and synapse gains, anomalous oscillations, imbalances in excitation and inhibition, and modifications in patterns in both resting-state networks and large-scale brain dynamics. The aforementioned connections serve as the foundation for the extensive-scale graph-theoretic examination of brain networks.

Studies on human brain networks, using graph theory analysis, have revealed the existence of small-world network characteristics. The characterization of subnetwork topology can be accomplished through the utilization of various graph theoretic matrices. The investigation conducted by Medaglia [26] revealed that cognitive processes have minimal impact on the systemic changes inherited by functional networks, as evidenced by the analysis of connection patterns during both resting and task-specific states. As previously noted, a number of models have been created to identify the specific manners in which functional networks are impacted by mental and neurological disorders. Nonetheless, a significant amount of work is still required before comprehending the organization of neural networks in the human brain. The significance of investigating brain networks lies in the desire of researchers to gain further insights into the functioning of the brain in both normal and abnormal states.

Existing software databases, and tools

Various techniques and tools can be employed to examine data and neuroimaging findings in the realm of computational neuroscience. NITRC is the entity accountable for the maintenance of NeuroInformatics tools and resources. Several of them will be examined in **Table 1**. This section is dedicated to the various categories of data that are gathered, as well as pertinent particulars and their corresponding origins.

Table 1. NeuroInformatics tools and resources	
FSL	This suite of tools is available for the purpose of analyzing open source data obtained from EEG, MRI, and fMRI.
SPM	This covers the sequences and analysis of brain imaging data obtained through fMRI, EEG, MEG, SPECT, and PET techniques.
BrainVoyagerQX	The tool has the capability to analyze and interpret magnetoencephalography (MEG), magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), and electroencephalography (EEG) data. The software possesses functionalities for conducting statistical analyses, numerical computations, and processing of images. A HASP license is required, and it is easily obtainable.
Turbo BrainVoyager	The software has been specifically developed to perform real-time processing of fMRI data. The utilization of a HASP license is required (which can be easily obtained).
MRICron	This refers to a collection of tools utilized for the analysis of magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scans. Additionally, it possesses a multitude of pre-installed statistical functions that are available at no cost.
itk-SNAP	The software is utilized for the purpose of segmenting medical images in three dimensions. The software has the capability to extract information from MRI and CT scanners that are openly accessible.
EEGLAB	The aforementioned is an open-source software platform designed for the purpose of analyzing electrophysiological signals. The interactive MATLAB toolbox can be utilized to view, clean, and analyze EEG, ECoG (ElectroCorticoGra-phy), and MEG data.
Chronux	This software has a MATLAB library implementation option. It prepares, investigates, and analyzes neural data, including point process and continuous data.
FreeSurfer	This open-source software application utilizes magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) data to reconstruct the surface of the brain, which is subsequently superimposed with functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) data.
BrainNet Viewer	The tool is a data visualization platform that can be utilized for constructing functional and structural networks by employing filtered or processed data.
eConnectome	This software is a MATLAB-based application that is utilized for the purpose of visualizing functional connections within the human brain. The system manages electroencephalography (EEG), magnetoencephalography (MEG), and electrocorticography (ECoG) data that are available to the public.
MNE	The technologies encompass pre-processing and data conditioning. The software application has been developed using the C programming language and is compatible with the Linux operating system. The study employs MEG and EEG data that are publicly available and do not require any cost for access.
CONN	The MATLAB toolbox, which is open source, is capable of executing computations, presenting data, and conducting analyses on functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) scans.
BSMac	The software is a freely available toolkit designed for the analysis and visualization of functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) data. It has been developed on the MATLAB platform.
Bioelectromagnetism MATLAB Toolbox	This facilitates the visualization and measurement of Event-Related Potentials (ERPs). The compatibility of the data with publicly accessible EEG and MRI data has been established.
The Virtual Brain	With this tool, the simulation of brain behavior can be achieved through the manipulation of the interconnectivity between brain regions and other network characteristics that are publicly accessible.

The field of computational neuroscience has given rise to a novel subfield called neuroinformatics, which is dedicated to the management of the copious amounts of data generated and employed within this domain. The subsequent sections will provide an overview of the foundational knowledge pertaining to the field of neuroinformatics, encompassing the programming languages, tools, data, simulation platforms, and software utilized by the society, as well as innovative methodologies and pertinent literature.

IV. NEUROINFORMATICS

The domain of neuroinformatics is concerned with the creation of computer models and analytical tools that facilitate the sharing, analysis, and integration of experimental data, with the ultimate goal of advancing hypotheses regarding the functioning of the nervous system. Neuroinformatics is an interdisciplinary field that employs computer models, metadata, ontologies, original experimental data, and analytical tools to investigate the brain and nervous system. The primary dataset encompasses investigations and experimental conditions related to genetic, molecular, structural, and cellular,

networks, systems, and behavioral levels, encompassing all species and preparations, including both normal and disordered forms.

The field of neuroinformatics emerged as an interdisciplinary domain of research in the late 1980s, integrating advancements in neuroscience and information science. In order to comprehend the intricate architecture and functioning of the nervous system, it is imperative to coordinate across diverse fields of study, integrate research at various levels, and amalgamate different technological techniques ranging from molecules to behavior. The objective of neuroinformatics is to establish a uniform framework for computational data that facilitates and promotes such an undertaking. In order to advance our understanding of the brain, it is imperative to develop and utilize efficient digital instruments for the purpose of organizing, depicting, altering, scrutinizing, and amalgamating digital neuroscience data. Addressing this matter is crucial for gaining improved comprehension and management of neurological conditions. It may be overly ambitious to endeavor to establish a historical framework for the swiftly evolving field of neuroinformatics at present.

According to Bjaalie, Grillner, and Usui [27], neuroinformatics is a progressively advanced implementation of databases and tools to diverse neuroscience data across various spatial scales. Accurate modeling and simulation require the representation of the human brain at various levels and resolutions through the incorporation of features pertaining to its neuronal and non-neuronal cells. Neuronal features encompass a variety of characteristics, including morphology, subcellular and molecular structure, and physiology. It is imperative to accord equal significance to the attributes of non-neuronal cells, namely astrocytes, oligodendrocytes, and microglia. Moreover, a comprehensive brain model should incorporate synaptic behavior. Every synapse represents a molecular mechanism at a sub-micron scale. Incorporation of glial activity and synaptic activity, which are regulated by various substances such as peptides, neurotransmitters, and hormones, is imperative in constructing a comprehensive model of neural modulation, in addition to neuronal modulations.

Park, Jeon, and Baek [28] posit that the functional and structural variations in individual brains, which are influenced by factors such as environmental circumstances, maturity, developmental stage, and health, individual individualistic factors such as experience and gender, and phylogenetic differences such as homology, contribute to increased complexity. The enormity and diversity of the data make it difficult to conceive that an individual brain, a solitary supercomputer, or even a solitary group of neuroscientists from a single nation could independently address this challenge. The utilization of neuroinformatics in neuroscience and clinical research has been on the rise, with the aim of advancing scientific investigation and enhancing patient care.

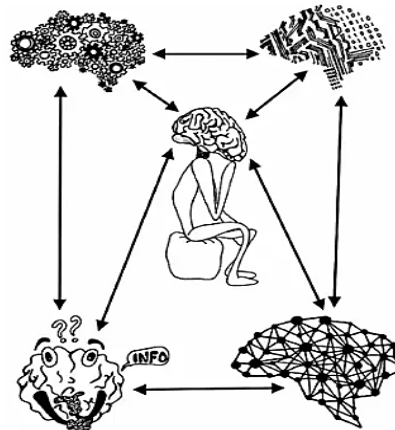


Fig 2. The field of neuroscience, which encompasses the investigation of the internal mechanisms of the human mind, as well as its related subfields like computational neuroscience and neuroinformatics, emerged as a result of this thought process.

Fig 2 visually illustrates the interrelatedness of this domain with computational neuroscience and neuro-science. Comprehending the healthy and pathological conditions of the nervous system and their potential therapeutic implications requires the utilization of specialized databases and tools. The field of neuroinformatics facilitates the management of data pertaining to the brain and nervous system. The field of neuroscience is currently engaged in the development of computational models and analytical methods, which facilitate the sharing of data, evaluation of big data, and knowledge integration. Scholtens, Pijnenburg, de Lange, Huitinga, van den Heuvel, and Netherlands Brain Bank [29] argue that it offers a cohesive framework for studying the structural aspects of the human brain in neuroscience research. In reference to the International Neuroinformatics Coordinating Facility (INCF) [30], a vital challenge in the field of neuroscience pertains to the substantial volume of data that is amassed from multiple sources. The absence of contemporary resources, infrastructure, standards, guidelines, culture, and community can impede the effective integration of these components.

Neuroinformatics is a discipline that endeavors to enhance our comprehension of the human brain and nervous system through the methodical gathering, annotation, incorporation into atlases and models, and simulations of pertinent data. Neurological disorders impact a vast number of people globally. The field of neuroscience is currently experiencing a dearth of new funding due to the significant financial, technical, and safety-related challenges associated with conducting research in this domain. In the scientific domain, information is typically characterized by a high degree of precision. One of the major obstacles is the establishment of a universal standard for comprehensive multi-scale data. An urgent

requirement exists for a super data infrastructure to effectively manage data of such magnitude. The range and intricacy of brain disorders are considerable. The comprehensive investigation of potential etiologies of a cerebral ailment, encompassing genetic, imaging, and clinical profiles (inclusive of blood factors and proteins), is a time and resource-intensive undertaking. Anticipating the future outcomes of patients is a crucial requirement of the current decade. Neuroinformatics is a discipline that aims to facilitate the collaboration, dissemination, and integration of data among neuroscientists with the ultimate goal of expediting humanity's comprehension of the brain.

V. ADVANCEMENTS IN NEUROINFORMATICS

The neuroinformatics community has presented various innovative techniques, accompanied by the programming languages, tools, data, and simulation platforms, and software employed in their research.

Languages for data exchange and storage

NeuroML, BrainML, and PyNN are frequently employed for the purpose of transferring neuroscience data. A brief overview of those topics will be provided in this section. Furthermore, owing to its simulator-agnostic nature, PyNN facilitates the comparison of models across various simulators. BrainML, which utilizes the XML metaformat, is a widely recognized standard within the neuroscience discipline. Barré-Sinoussi and Montagutelli [31] present a diverse range of styles to depict different biological entities such as animal models, brains, and neurons. The BrainMetaL metalanguage constitutes the fundamental basis upon which BrainML is built. The utilization of lexicons is structured in a hierarchical manner to depict specific attributes. The primary objective of NeuroML is to establish a standardized language, based on XML that can be utilized for the purpose of modeling the nervous system. The present investigation establishes a criterion for the delineation of neural cellular subtypes and network architectures. This linguistic framework is applicable for the purpose of characterizing neural models within any simulation platform. This facilitates the creation of neuron and network models that are driven by data and exhibit a high degree of biological specificity.

The complex branching systems of axonal projections and dendritic trees can now be comprehensively characterized, including their biophysical properties. This facilitates the depiction of network architecture at both macroscopic and microscopic levels, in addition to incorporating electrical synapses, short-term synaptic plasticity, calcium- and voltage-gated ion networks, and synapses of a chemical nature. PyNN is a programming language that enables the development of neural network models without requiring a simulator. The PyNN application programming interface (API) facilitates the process of creating models at various levels of a neural network, including population, layer, column, and link. The models of neuron, synapse, and plasticity are commonly included. Python code inscribed with the PyNN API may be executed by any simulator that is compatible with it. The software tools that are encompassed in this category are NEURON, NEST, and PCSIM. PyNN enhances the reliability of modeling research by verifying the results of multiple simulators, as evidenced by studies conducted by Zhang, Zhai, and Li, [32].

Data

This article will explore the various resources utilized by neuroinformaticians. According to Nielsen [33], the Brede Database contains 586 experiments and 186 papers focused on neuroimaging. The Human Connectome Project, as proposed by Gao, Liu, Xu, Peng, and Wang [34], aims to identify variations among different age groups (ranging from 4-6 to 65-75 years old) by analyzing imaging data. The project seeks to detect disparities that exist across the lifespan. The Brainetome initiative, as proposed by Jiang [35], centers on the identification, characterization, and manifestation of brain networks, as well as their genetic underpinnings. The compilation of Talairach coordinates for functional neuroimaging data is performed by Lee, Chen, and Hasson [36] based on information extracted from relevant academic literature. The Brede Toolbox is a software package based on MATLAB that can be utilized in tandem with the database. Elementary ontologies pertaining to cerebral regions, academic publications, individuals, and visuals facilitate the systematic arrangement of information derived from individual articles into one or more research investigations.

The Human Connectome Project (HCP) is a research initiative that investigates the connectivity, function, and individual variability of the human brain. The primary objective of the study is to create a comprehensive network diagram that illustrates the functional and structural connections of both healthy and impaired brains. Various imaging modalities, such as magnetoencephalography (MEG), electroencephalography (EEG), and a hybrid of MEG and functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI), are at our disposal. Multimodal imaging data is currently being collected and disseminated among various age groups (4-6, 8-9, 14-15, 25-35, 45-55, 65-75) in a pilot study aimed at comprehending age-related alterations and facilitating comparisons across scanner platforms. Zhao, Chen, Mani Adhikari, Hong, Kochunov, and Chen [37] investigate the hierarchical organization of the human brain through the lens of genetics and neural circuitry. The purpose of this research is to ascertain the brain networks, analyze their dynamics and characteristics, demonstrate their functions and dysfunctions as networks, explore their genetic foundations, and simulate and model them.

Tools/software and methods

A diverse range of programs and applications are available for selection by neuroinformatics researchers such as Gómez-Tapia, Bozic, and Longo [38]. NeuroConstruct is a software tool utilized for the generation of three-dimensional neural networks that adhere to biological plausibility. Incorporating dendritic morphologies and precise conductances of cell

membranes facilitates the inclusion of models. The program is based on the Java programming language. Several neural simulation frameworks are capable of supporting the script files that they offer. The Neu-roML specifications, namely ChannelML, MorphML, and NetworkML, have been implemented as per the work of Gleeson et al. [39]. The neuroConstruct software platform facilitates the construction, observation, and evaluation of three-dimensional neural networks featuring numerous compartments. The construction, display, and evaluation of network models in 3D space can be achieved through the utilization of an intuitive graphical user interface, which enables the simulation of brain activity. The utilization of NeuroLucida for the purpose of reconstructing neurons from microscope images is a prevalent practice. The mapping and analysis of dendrites, axons, nodes, synapses, and spines, as well as the dissemination of cells in a definite region, can be conducted.

According to Lancaster, Eberly, Alyassin, Downs 3rd, and Fox [40], the instrument is capable of measuring volume, distance from anatomical boundaries, and proximity to other objects. Py3DN employs proprietary in-house methodologies to assess three-dimensional data acquired through NeuroLucida. The mathematical representation, visualization, and analysis of neuronal topology is feasible. The software is implemented using the Python programming language and leverages the open-source Blender software to produce stereoscopic visualizations of data pre- and post-processing. According to the authors, Py3DN enables the importation of NeuroLucida reconstruction data, provides users with accessible Python, and data structures facilitates morphometric investigation, and enables the creation of 3D graphical illustrations of the findings. Amira is a robust 3D software package that enables visualization and manipulation of data obtained from various imaging modalities such as magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), computed tomography (CT), and microscopy, among others.

The primary focus of investigation lies in the volumetric information produced in the domains of biology, microscopy and medicine. As per the assertions made in [41], Amira endeavors to offer state-of-the-art algorithms, an interactive milieu, and support for multiple platforms, all while maintaining user-friendliness. X Windows Phase Plane plus Auto (XPP-AUT) is a software tool that enables the solution of a variety of mathematical equations, including differential, difference, delay, stochastic, and functional equations, including boundary value calculations. The package encompasses the source code for the extensively employed AUTO bifurcation software. The original purpose of its creation was to conduct a comprehensive numerical analysis of the impact of various parameters on the outcomes. This approach has been utilized by the discipline of computational and theoretical neuroscience. The open-source software has the capability to process a maximum of 590 differential equations.

A diverse range of methodologies are employed by neuroscientists to investigate the brain and its functions. Electrophysiological and microscopy techniques are considered crucial methodologies for investigating cellular and circuit-level phenomena. A plethora of techniques can be employed to achieve greater cellular and subcellular accuracy in the measurement of metabolic processes, biochemical reactions, and gene expression. These methods have the potential to generate a vast amount of data, reaching the scale of terabytes or beyond, from a single experiment or photograph. Data is collected from in vivo model systems, encompassing both healthy and diseased human subjects as well as laboratory animals. A multitude of investigations are carried out employing both in-vivo, involving living organisms, and in-vitro, involving artificial conditions, methodologies. Measurements are conducted across a diverse range of spatial and temporal dimensions, encompassing everything from organelles and membranes to higher brain levels, and spanning timeframes ranging from milliseconds to weeks or even months.

Scholars who investigate the evolutionary history of the brain delve significantly deeper into the past. The complexity of the nervous system has hindered the amalgamation of data to construct an all-inclusive comprehension of the system, resulting in the unfortunate segregation of various subfields within neuroscience in recent years. In order to gain a deeper comprehension of neurological systems and their impact on human behavior, scholars are focusing their investigations on the interrelationships among diverse levels and dimensions of brain structure. The current focus in the field is to establish a connection between the molecular, circuit/network-level and cellular phenomena, as well as cognitive behavior and processes, through the use of advanced multiscale techniques. These techniques have their origins in the fields of physics and chemistry.

In forthcoming times, it will be feasible to integrate incongruous data sources and obtain a more detailed knowledge of brain function and kinetics through the utilization of enhanced federated datasets and in silico frameworks that span multiple scales. It is advisable to include the details of the stimulus (e.g. pharmacological compound or electrical impulse) and perturbations (i.e. system's normal state deviation) that trigger a specific response in the raw data storage. In the event that human participants are exposed to a visual medium while their MEG or EEG signals are being tracked, it is a simple task to retain data pertaining to the stimulus. The introduction of a pharmaceutical agent to an in vitro cell culture results in a noticeable increase in complexity. The temporal administration of the chemical can be accurately ascertained; however, its dispersion within the cellular culture can only be statistically computed. The mission of neuroinformatics involves a crucial aspect of standardizing the presentation of metadata for quantitative data.

Two critical challenges currently facing neuroinformatics society integrate the creation of consistent ontology from the neuroscience vocabulary and the adoption of optimal approaches for presenting measurement data and metadata. Metadata refers to information pertaining to data, encompassing particulars regarding the location and methodology of its acquisition. Metadata can also serve the purpose of identifying the specific stimulus or pharmaceutical agent that caused a particular reaction. Facilitating public access to data and metadata for research collaborators or the scientific community at

large is a challenging task. The mere act of presenting unprocessed data does not necessarily entail its utilization by any party. It is imperative for researchers to meticulously record their measuring methodology, hardware specifications, and experimental configuration in databases to facilitate the reproducibility of their results by other scholars. The incorporation of diverse clinical and epidemiological data with the foundations from critical neuroscience study remains a prevailing issue in the domain of neuroinformatics.

Different formats of data, also identified as data frameworks, have been established to facilitate the presentations and automatic distribution of metadata. At present, it is observed that none of the prevailing formats are universally appropriate for all forms of neuroscience information. Moreover, endeavors to create a uniform method for presenting information, let alone establishing shared criteria, are still under development as of the present time. The efficient storage and retrieval of information from databases necessitates the development of novel formats of data and metadata frameworks that will allow for reuse and flexible transfer of data.

VI. CONCLUSION

The objective of this article, inclusive of its comprehensive compilation of research resources, is to provide an overview of the developmental trajectory of neuroscience as it has evolved into a formidable technological entity. The comprehension of the human brain's functionality poses a persistent challenge for neuroscientists. The task at hand is challenging due to the vast number of connections, approximately 100 trillion, which exist between the billions of cells within the brain. Disregarding the overarching perspective, certain scholars posit that our understanding of the enigmatic workings of the human brain is in its nascent stages. The VAST method has been employed in the assessment of the composition of three cylinder-shaped mouse brain matter fragments, with each fragment measuring approximately the dimension of salt grains. The Volumetric Annotation and Segmentation Tool (VAST) is a software application designed to perform space-filling segmentation and annotation tasks, with the added capability of automatically assigning names to neural structures. The entities of dendrites, glia, mitochondria, neurons, and vascular endothelium have been assigned distinct color codes.

Scholars conducted a study wherein they collated a catalogue of 1,700 synapses that were accompanied by annotations. The results of the study have refuted the 'the Peters' principle, which posits that the proximity of neurons can serve as a reliable predictor of neural connectivity. Consequently, the fundamental basis on which estimations of neural connections were established has undergone a change. This represents a singular facet of the field of neuroscience that employs state-of-the-art imaging apparatus and operates at a microscopic level. A further investigation was conducted to assess the cognitive processing of abstract knowledge in primates, including both humans and monkeys. As per the postulated theory, primates possess the ability to visually perceive a pattern, albeit lacking comprehension of its underlying nature, and consequently, do not engage in any subsequent pursuit of the same. However, humans have gone further in their collective analysis. According to the findings of this article, the processing of abstract information was found to be exclusive to the inferior frontal gyrus region of the cortex in human brains. Upon encountering such precise discoveries, it is inevitable to feel a sense of admiration towards them. There remain numerous intriguing facets within the field of neuroscience that remain to be elucidated or refuted through employment of state-of-the-art technological advancements. The field of computational neuroscience is frequently utilized in such circumstances.

Data Availability

No data was used to support this study.

Conflicts of Interests

The author(s) declare(s) that they have no conflicts of interest.

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Competing Interests

There are no competing interests.

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