

# Anatomical and Functional Connectivity of Cytoarchitectonic Areas within the Human Parietal Operculum

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In monkeys, the somatosensory cortex on the parietal operculum can be differentiated into several distinct cortical fields. Potential human homologues for these areas have already been defined by cytoarchitectonic mapping and functional imaging experiments. Differences between the two most widely studied areas [operculum parietale (OP) 1 and OP 4] within this region particularly pertain to their connection with either the perceptive parietal network or the frontal motor areas. In the present study, we investigated differences in anatomical connection patterns probed by probabilistic tractography on diffusion tensor imaging data. Functional connectivity was then mapped by coordinate-based meta-analysis of imaging studies. Comparison between these two aspects of connectivity showed a good congruency and hence converging evidence for an involvement of these areas in matching brain networks. There were, however, also several instances in which anatomical and functional connectivity diverged, underlining the independence of these measures and the need for multimodal characterization of brain connectivity. The connectivity analyses performed showed that the two largest areas within the human parietal operculum region display considerable differences in their connectivity to frontoparietal brain regions. In particular, relative to OP 1, area OP 4 is more closely integrated with areas responsible for basic sensorimotor processing and action control, while OP 1 is more closely connected to the parietal networks for higher order somatosensory processing. These results are largely congruent with data on nonhuman primates. Differences between anatomical and functional connectivity as well as between species, however, highlight the need for an integrative view on connectivity, including comparison and cross-validation of results from different approaches.

## Introduction

The primate secondary somatosensory cortex is located on the parietal operculum (Kaas and Collins, 2003). Investigations in many species have provided converging evidence that it can be subdivided into several areas, featuring separate somatotopic maps differing from each other in cytoarchitecture and myeloarchitecture, response properties, and connectivity (Burton et al., 1995; Huffman et al., 1999; Krubitzer and Kaas, 1990; Krubitzer et al., 1995). The area immediately ventral to the anterior parietal somatosensory cortex [areas 3a, 3b, and 1 on the postcentral gyrus (PCG)] is termed the “parietal ventral area” (PV). It is followed caudally by area S2, located on the posterior part of the

parietal operculum ventrally to the inferior parietal cortex (IPC). Together, PV and S2 are the most well characterized areas on the parietal operculum. While the term “SII region” is still widely prevalent in the functional neuroimaging literature, the lack of differentiation between the reference to the entire region and a particular area (now denoted S2 to clear up the confusion between SII region and “area SII”) may cause unnecessary confusion when comparing findings from different experiments (Eickhoff, 2006c; Burton et al., 2008a, 2008b). We hence opted to avoid this term in the current study in favor of the purely anatomical description “parietal operculum,” which comprises areas S2, PV, and the “ventral somatosensory area” (VS). The latter is located more medial than areas S2 and PV, shows poorer responsiveness to sensory stimuli, and crude somatotopic organization (Cusick et al., 1989; Krubitzer and Calford, 1992; Qi et al., 2002). More recently, it has been proposed that the latter region may actually consist of two separate rostral and caudal areas, VSr and VSc, respectively (Coq et al., 2004).

A homologous subdivision of the human parietal operculum was initially proposed based on a functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) study providing evidence that the human pari-

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etal operculum may contain several somatotopically organized areas (Disbrow et al., 2000). Subsequently, a postmortem investigation of the parietal operculum revealed the existence of four distinct cytoarchitectonic areas in this region (Eickhoff et al., 2006a, 2006d), which were termed OP (operculum parietale) 1–4. Based on topography and somatotopic organization (Eickhoff et al., 2006c, 2007), OP 4 corresponds to primate area PV, while more caudally OP 1 constitutes the putative human homologue of area S2, and OP 3 is the most likely candidate for macaque area VS. OP 2 is not a somatosensory cortical field but is the homologue of the vestibular region PIVC (parietoinsular vestibular cortex) in nonhuman primates (Eickhoff et al., 2006e).

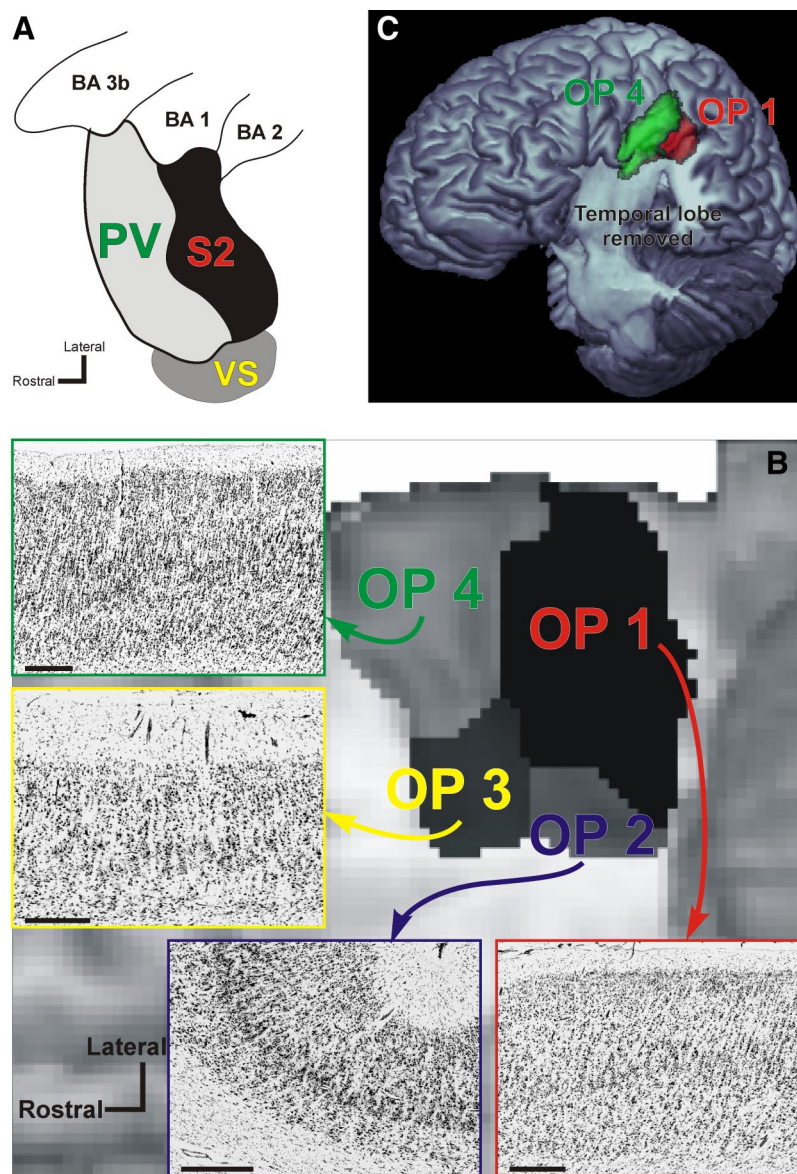
The functional roles of these human cortical regions are yet a matter of conjecture, as both S2 (OP 4) and PV (OP 1) are coactivated by a wide range of paradigms (Kell et al., 2005; Burton et al., 2008b; Jung et al., 2009). Tracer studies in nonhuman primates, however, have provided some evidence for differences in the connectivity pattern of these two areas (Qi et al., 2002; Disbrow et al., 2003; Kaas and Collins, 2003). Area S2 is regarded as a somatosensory “perceptive” area strongly interconnected with the inferior parietal cortex (Disbrow et al., 2003). In contrast, PV may sustain sensory-motor integration and, at least in new world monkeys such as marmosets, has denser connections with frontal motor and premotor cortices than S2 (Qi et al., 2002). Based on these observations, we here investigated the anatomical and functional connectivity of human areas OP 4 and OP 1.

## Materials and Methods

We investigated the frontoparietal connectivity of human areas OP 4 (S2) and OP 1 (PV) by using two independent approaches. Differences between OP 4 (S2) and OP 1 (PV) with respect to their anatomical connectivity to other frontoparietal regions were probed by probabilistic tractography on diffusion tensor imaging (DTI) data. Differences between OP 4 (S2) and OP 1 (PV) with respect to their functional connectivity with other frontoparietal regions were probed by coordinate-based meta-analysis of imaging studies.

### Anatomical connectivity analysis by probabilistic tractography

**Data acquisition.** Diffusion-weighted images were acquired in 17 healthy subjects (6 women and 11 men; mean  $\pm$  SD age, 26.18  $\pm$  4.81; range, 20–38) on a 1.5 T Siemens Sonata magnetic resonance scanner (maximum gradient strength of 40 mT/m). All subjects gave informed written consent into this study, which was approved by the Oxford Research Ethics Committee (Oxford, UK). Diffusion-weighted acquisitions were performed using echo planar im-



**Figure 1.** *A*, Organization of cortical areas in the lateral sulcus of nonhuman primates [adopted and summarized from Disbrow et al. (2003) and Krubitzer et al. (1995)]. It should be noted that inconsistent evidence for further somatosensory areas in this region has been discussed and that a subdivision of VS into two separate areas, VSr (rostral) and VSc (caudal), has been proposed (Coq et al., 2004). *B*, Anatomical organization of the human parietal operculum. Four distinct cytoarchitectonic areas (termed OP 1–4) have been delineated in this region using quantitative histological analysis. Following 3D reconstruction of the cytoarchitecturally analyzed postmortem brains and spatial normalization of these areas into the reference space of the MNI, probabilistic maps for the areas were computed and subsequently combined into an MPM. This anatomical MPM indicates the most likely area at each voxel of the reference space and is shown here in a ventral view on a surface rendering of the MNI single-subject template. The temporal lobes have been removed to obtain an unobstructed view onto the parietal operculum, where the different colors correspond to OP 1–4 as marked. Based on topography and somatotopic organization, OP 4 should correspond to primate area PV, OP 1 to area S2, and OP 3 to area VS. Finally, OP 2 is the homologue of the parietoinsular vestibular cortex in nonhuman primates. Bars in the histological images denote 1 mm. *C*, Three-dimensional surface rendering of the MNI single-subject template after removal of the temporal lobe. The position of areas OP 1 and OP 4 as defined by their MPM representation is indicated on this view in red and green, respectively. In contrast to panel *B*, which gives a view directly facing the parietal operculum, the tilted view used in this panel provides an overview on the extent of OP 1 and OP 4 on the free surface. Together with *B*, it can be seen that OP 4 encroaches the free surface of the subcentral gyrus while covering about two-thirds of the mediolateral width of the parietal operculum. Area OP 1, on the other hand, barely reaches the free surface but covers about three-fourths of the mediolateral width of the parietal operculum.

aging (voxel size: 2  $\times$  2  $\times$  2 mm, 60 isotropically distributed directions; *b* value: 1000 s/mm<sup>2</sup>). For each subject, three sets of diffusion-weighted data were obtained. Each set also contained five additional volumes with no diffusion weighting that were acquired distributed throughout the acquisition sequence.



**Table 1. Target regions used for the analysis of anatomical connectivity of areas OP1 and OP4**

Target region	Acronym	Cytoarchitectonic areas	References
<b>Frontal</b>			
Broca's region	Broca	Areas 44, 45	Amunts et al., 1999, 2004
Premotor cortex	PMC	Area 6	Geyer, 2003
Primary motor cortex	M1	Areas 4a, 4p	Geyer et al., 1996
<b>Parietal</b>			
Postcentral gyrus	PCG	Areas 3a, 3b, 1, 2	Geyer et al., 1999, 2000; Grefkes et al., 2001
Anterior intraparietal sulcus	alPS	Areas hIP1, hIP2, hIP3	Choi et al., 2006; Scheperjans et al., 2008a, 2008b
Anterior superior parietal cortex	aSPC	Areas 5Ci, 5L, 5M	Scheperjans et al., 2008a, 2008b
Posterior superior parietal cortex	pSPC	Areas 7A, 7M, 7P, 7PC	Scheperjans et al., 2008a, 2008b
Anterior inferior parietal cortex	alPC	Areas PFT, PF, PFm	Caspers et al., 2006, 2008
Posterior inferior parietal cortex	plPC	Areas PGa, PGp	Caspers et al., 2006, 2008
<b>Thalamus</b>			
Nuclei preferentially connecting to the somatosensory cortex	VPL/VPI	Ventroposterior lateral and inferior nuclei	Behrens et al., 2003a
Nuclei preferentially connecting to the premotor or primary motor cortex	VL/VA	Ventrolateral nuclei, ventral anterior nuclei	Behrens et al., 2003a

OP 1 and OP 4. However, many of the strongest differences in connections expected from the macaque monkey (e.g., those toward Broca's region and the inferior parietal lobule) might also distinguish these regions solely in terms of their physical distance from their respective seeds. To ensure that our results could not be caused by any potential bias in tractography toward nearby connections, we corrected probability counts by the length of the pathway. This approach upweighted longer connections (Tomassini et al., 2007) and thus penalized short ones to exclude the possibility that physical distance alone could account for our results.

To evaluate differences in frontoparietal connectivity patterns of OP 1 and OP 4, target regions (outlined in Table 1 and illustrated in the bottom panel of Fig. 2) were created from the histological data using the same approach as that described for OP 1/OP 4. These targets cover the entire parietal lobe as well as the frontal motor and premotor areas, including Broca's region.

For each subject, we drew 5000 samples from the connectivity distribution (starting from the seed voxels in OP 1/OP 4) and computed the mean probability of connection for each seed–target combination. These values were then normalized on an individual basis by dividing by the total connection probability of each seed and then rescaled by multiplying with the mean total connection probability across all seeds and targets. Finally, connection densities were divided by the size of the target volumes of interest (VOIs), computed on an individual subject basis, and again rescaled by the mean size of all targets. These steps adjusted our data for the size of the seed and target regions.

Statistical analysis on these connection probabilities was performed using MATLAB (MathWorks). Repeated-measures ANOVAs of connection probability values were used to test for influence of within-subject factors of “opercular seed” (OP 1, OP 4), “target” (cf. Table 1), and “hemisphere” (left, right), as well as the interactions thereof.

The main effect of the factor “opercular seed” assessed whether there was a statistically significant difference between OP 1 and OP 4 with respect to the mean connection strength to all targets. The main effect of the factor “target” tested whether the 12 target regions differed from each other with respect to their anatomical connectivity with the parietal operculum (mean connectivity to OP 1 and OP 4). Finally, the interaction between “opercular seed” and “target” tested for differences in the frontoparietal connectivity of OP 1 and OP 4, i.e., whether the distribution of connection strengths to individual targets was different between OP 1 and OP 4. In this context, it is important to consider that in a two-way ANOVA the individual tests are not conditioned on each other; that is, the significance of, e.g., a particular main effect does not depend on the significance or insignificance of the other main effect or the interaction.

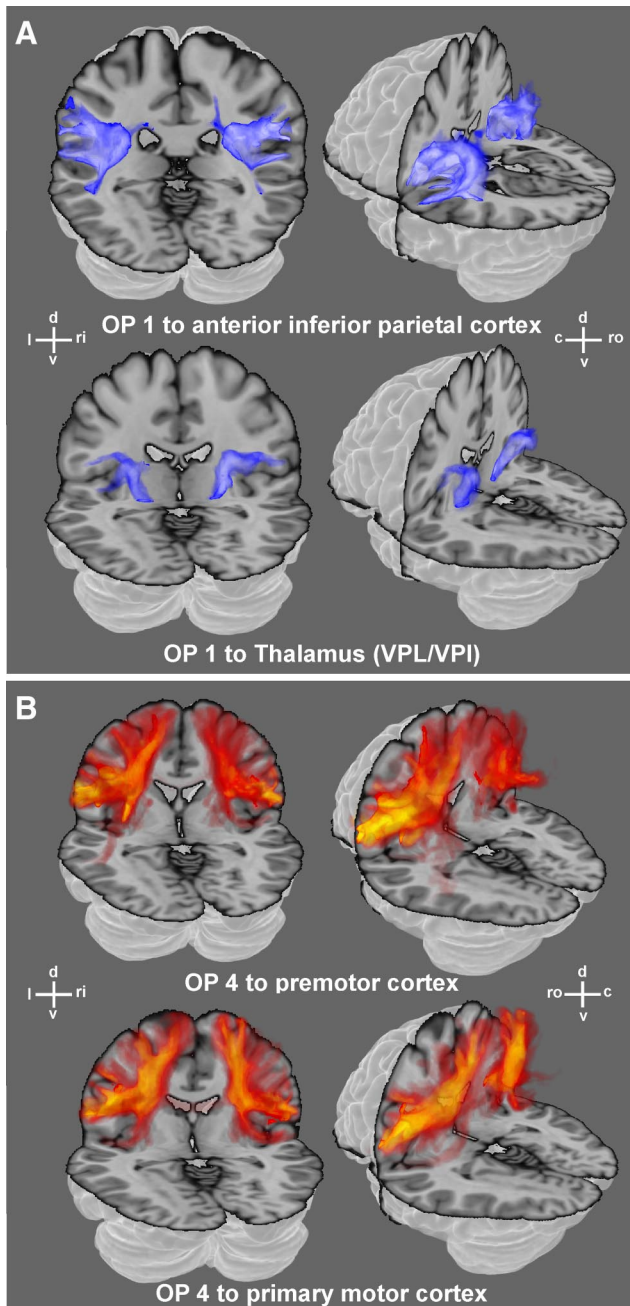
The level of significance was  $p < 0.05$ . If the effect of a factor or an interaction was significant, we used a subsequent pairwise multiple comparison procedure to isolate the levels of this factor that differed significantly from each other ( $p < 0.05$ , corrected for multiple comparisons using Tukey's method) (Tukey, 1994).

#### Functional connectivity analysis by meta-analysis

Functional connectivity analysis was performed by a meta-analysis of published functional imaging results. The concept behind mapping functional connectivity via meta-analysis originates from the notion that functional connectivity should represent the correlation of spatially removed neurophysiologic events, which implies that functionally connected regions should coactivate above chance in functional imaging studies.

This concept of meta-analytic connectivity modeling (MACM) was first used to investigate functional connectivity based on the frequency distributions of concurrent activation foci (Koski and Paus, 2000). Following the emergence of databases on functional neuroimaging results (Fox and Lancaster, 2002; Laird et al., 2009a), this approach was extended to provide voxelwise co-occurrence maps across the whole brain (Toro et al., 2008). The concept of MACM has then been integrated with the activation likelihood estimation (ALE) approach for quantitative meta-analysis (Turkeltaub et al., 2002) to yield functional connectivity maps of the human amygdala (Robinson et al., 2009). More recently, finally, the mapping of functional connectivity via coordinate-based meta-analysis has been validated by comparison to resting-state connectivity (Smith et al., 2009), showing very good concordance between both approaches.

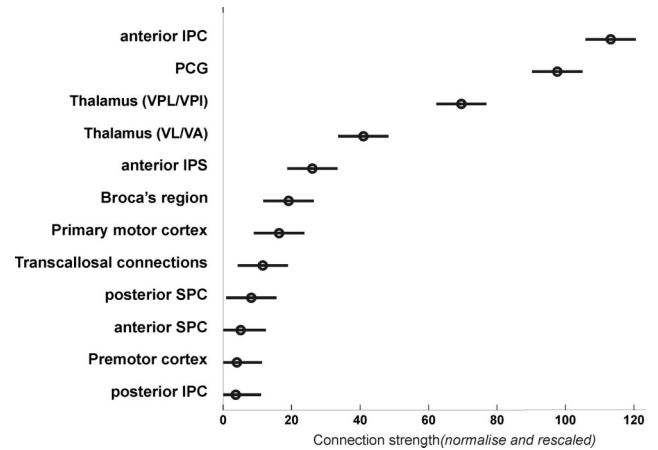
Here, MACM was performed using the BrainMap database ([www.brainmap.org](http://www.brainmap.org)), which contains a summary of the results for (at the time of analysis) ~6500 individual functional neuroimaging experiments. Given the high standardization of neuroimaging data reports and in particular the ubiquitous adherence to standard coordinate systems, the results reported in these studies can readily be compared to each other with respect to the location of significant activation. Using this broad pool of neuroimaging results, MACM can then be used to test for associations between activation probabilities of different areas. Importantly, this inference is performed independently of the applied paradigms or other experimental factors, but rather is solely based on the likelihood of observing activation in a target region [e.g., the premotor cortex (PMC)], given that activation is present within the seed area (e.g., OP 1 or OP 4). Results from such an analysis are therefore robust across many different experimental designs. Database-aided MACM that assesses the coactivation pattern of OP 1 and OP 4 as defined by their MPM representation across a large number of imaging studies should hence allow the delineation and comparison of their functional connectivity. However, functional connectivity per se only allows the delineation of interacting networks but not the causal influences therein. In practice, MACM was performed using the following approach. Studies causing activation within OP 1 or OP 4 were obtained through the BrainMap database. Criteria for retrieval were as follows: only fMRI and positron emission tomography studies in healthy subjects that reported functional mapping experiments containing a somatosensory or motor component were considered. Those investigating age, gender, disease, or drug effects were excluded. No further constraints (e.g., on acquisition and analysis details, experimental design, or stimulation procedures) were enforced. Hereby



**Figure 3.** Examples of white matter fiber pathways as obtained from probabilistic tractography for OP 1 (**A**) and OP 4 (**B**) reconstructed in 3D. The data shown here illustrate the tracts connecting OP 1 and OP 4, respectively, with exemplary target regions (cf. Table 1) and hence reveal the pathways taken by the fiber tracts connecting the seeds and targets. The absolute strength of these connections, in turn, are summarized in Figure 4. All examples are displayed on the transparent MNI single-subject template. (d, dorsal; v, ventral; l, left; ri, right; ro, rostral; c, caudal). The color scales ranging from dark to light blue and from red to yellow, respectively, denote the probability that the particular tract runs through a given voxel. Light blue or yellow indicates those locations in the white matter where the respective pathways are very likely to be found. Dark blue or red, on the other hand, indicate less likely positions of the connecting fibers.

we tried to avoid any bias in the data, but rather pool across as many different studies as possible.

Experiments that activate OP 1 or OP 4 were identified by comparing the foci reported for each of the ~1500 eligible experiments (functional mapping experiments available at the time of analysis that contained a somatosensory or motor component) in the BrainMap database to the cytoarchitectonic location of these cortical fields in the same reference space. The experiments used for the analysis of the functional connectiv-



**Figure 4.** Mean connection strength (across subjects) between human parietal operculum (OP 1 and OP 4) and 12 different target regions assessed in the current study. Quantitative tractography was based on the sample count obtained when performing probabilistic tractography from the seed regions (OP 1 or OP 4) to the different targets (cf. Table 1) after these were transformed into the individual diffusion spaces of each subject. The connection probabilities obtained by this probabilistic tractography were normalized by dividing by the total connection probability of each seed and rescaled by multiplying by the mean total probability across all seeds and targets. Finally, connection densities were divided by the size of the target VOIs, computed on an individual basis, and again rescaled by the mean size of all targets to provide normalized connection strengths. The circles indicate the mean connection strength of each target with the entire parietal operculum, i.e., areas OP 1 and OP 4. The bars denote the 95% confidence intervals on these connection strengths.

ity of OP 1 (S2) were defined by the fact that (following correction for coordinates reported according to the Talairach reference space) they featured at least one focus of activation within the volume of cortex histologically delineated as OP 1, but no activation within the histologically delineated volume of OP 4. Hereby, the experiments that activated OP 1 or OP 4 were objectively identified. That is, activation within our seed areas was assessed observer independently by comparing the coordinates reported for all studies within the BrainMap database to the anatomical location of cytoarchitectonically defined OP 1 and OP 4 within the same reference space, independent of how this activation was termed in the original publication. Hereby, we avoided any influence of the fact that various labels have been used for activation in the region, e.g., SII, parietal operculum, Brodmann's area (BA) 43, BA 40, parietal cortex, or subcentral gyrus. Studies activating exclusively one of these two areas (either OP 1 or OP 4) were defined by at least one reported focus in the MPM representation of this area and the absence of any reported activation focus in the respective other area or, to increase specificity, a four voxel border zone between OP 1 and OP 4.

Given that OP 1 (S2) and OP 4 (PV) share a common border at which the face, hands, and feet are represented in either area, and acknowledging the fact that these two cortical fields are difficult to differentiate from each other functionally in nonhuman primates, the question evidently arises as to whether isolated activation in only one of these areas may be conceptually meaningful or most likely artificial. However, while S2 and PV tend to show concurrent activation in many experiments, there is already good evidence for differences in response properties between the various cortical fields on the parietal operculum of nonhuman primates (Robinson and Burton, 1980; Hsiao et al., 1993; Fitzgerald et al., 2004, 2006a, 2006b). Compared with electrophysiological experiments in monkeys, however, the range of tasks that may be assessed is considerably larger in human functional imaging experiments, including, in particular, experimental paradigms that investigate cognitive or affective influences on sensory-motor processing. It thus seems plausible that differences in response properties of opercular fields that have not yet been reported in monkeys may be unraveled in humans simply because the necessary paradigms are difficult to perform in animals. Moreover, differential response properties may manifest themselves as apparent shifts in somatotopic location in functional imaging data, in particular if differential

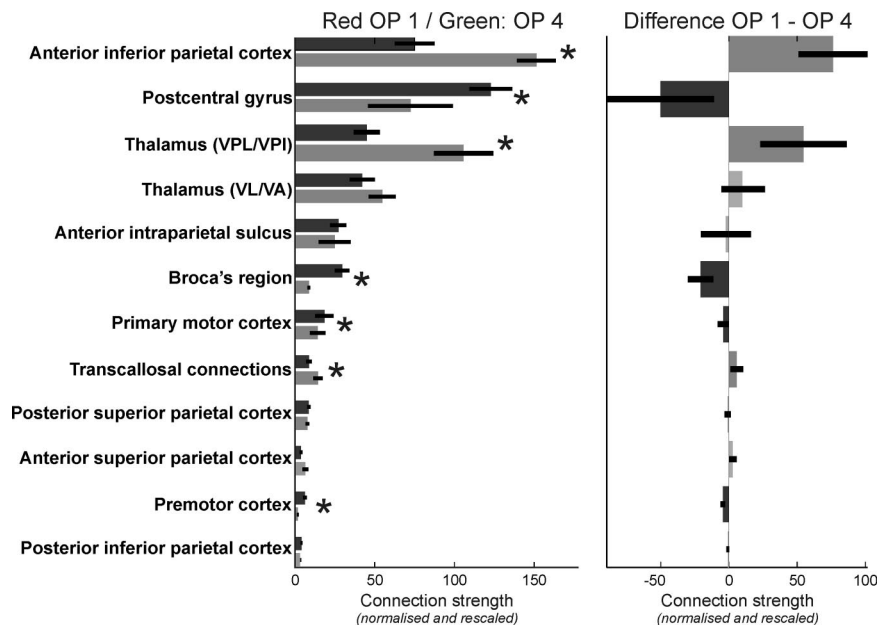
contrasts between two conditions are considered. In this case, homogenous activation of both cortical fields by one condition may offset, leaving only an isolated peak of activation well within the cortical field that was more responsive to the other condition. This phenomenon, to which neurophysiologic mechanisms at the neuronal level may also contribute, has been discussed in great detail in a recent study by Burton et al. (2008b). It is therefore very well conceivable that isolated activations within OP 1 or OP 4 are observed in human neuroimaging data despite their close proximity and the similarities in response characteristics.

It should be noted that the seeds representing OP 1 and OP 4, respectively, in the functional connectivity analysis were defined bilaterally. This approach was based on the observation that activation of the secondary somatosensory cortex is frequently bilateral, resulting in a much reduced and ultimately insufficient sample of studies reporting unilateral activation. These, however, would be required for a separate analysis of ipsilateral and contralateral connections.

**Meta-analysis algorithm.** For the coordinate-based meta-analysis of neuroimaging results, we used a revised version (Eickhoff et al., 2009b) of the ALE approach (Turkeltaub et al., 2002; Laird et al., 2005). The algorithm aims at identifying areas where the convergence of activations across different experiments is higher than expected under a spatially random association between them. The key idea behind ALE is to treat the reported foci not as single points but rather as centers for 3D Gaussian probability distributions. These distributions reflect the spatial uncertainty associated with each focus, i.e., each reported set of coordinates. The width of these uncertainty functions is determined by empirical estimates of the between-subject and between-template variances encountered in neuroimaging data (Eickhoff et al., 2009b). By weighting the former by the number of subjects on which the original experiment was based, this approach moreover accommodates the notion that larger sample sizes should provide more reliable approximations of a “true” effect and should therefore be modeled by tighter Gaussian distributions yielding more localizing power (Eickhoff et al., 2009b).

The probabilities of all foci reported in a given individual experiment were combined for each voxel, resulting in a modeled activation (MA) map. Taking the union of these MA maps across all experiments yielded an ALE score for each voxel describing the convergence of results at that particular location. To distinguish true convergence between studies from random convergence, i.e., noise, these ALE scores were subsequently compared with an empirical null distribution derived from a permutation procedure (Eickhoff et al., 2009b; Caspers et al., 2010). This null distribution reflects a random spatial association between experiments but regards the within-experiment distribution of foci as fixed. Hereby, a random effects inference is invoked, focusing inference on the above chance convergence between different experiments, not the clustering of foci within a particular experiment. Computationally, deriving this null hypothesis involved sampling a voxel at random from each of the MA maps and taking the union of these values in the same manner as that done for the (spatially contingent) voxels in the actual analysis. The true ALE scores were then tested against these ALE scores obtained under the null distribution, yielding a  $p$  value for each ALE score based on the proportion of equal or higher random values. The resulting nonparametric  $p$  values were then transformed into  $z$ -scores and thresholded at a cluster level-corrected threshold of  $p < 0.05$  (Worsley et al., 1996).

**Analysis of behavioral domain profiles.** Evidently, the question also arises as to what mental processes are supported by OP 1 (S2) and OP 4 (PV) and whether the functional roles of these two parietal opercular



**Figure 5.** The statistical analysis of the anatomical connectivity data revealed a significant interaction between “seed” and “target” ( $F = 7.83; p < 0.001$ ), indicating a difference in the patterns of frontoparietal connectivity between OP 1 and OP 4. Here, the anatomical connectivity of OP 1 and OP 4 to the different target regions is analyzed, resolving this “seed”  $\times$  “target” interaction. In the left panel, the normalized connection strengths to all targets are displayed for both areas. The dark gray bars indicate the anatomical connectivity of OP 1, the medium gray bars indicate that of OP 4, and the error bars denote the SE. The right panel shows the difference between OP 1 and OP 4 connectivity. Significant ( $p < 0.05$ , corrected) differences between these two seeds with respect to the anatomical connectivity to a particular target are indicated by gray scale bars (dark gray bars indicate a significantly higher connectivity of OP 1 to this target, and medium gray bars indicate a significantly higher connectivity of OP 4) and asterisks. Light gray bars denote targets for which no significant difference in the anatomical connectivity with OP 1 and OP 4, respectively, were found.

areas differ from each other. In BrainMap, metadata are included on the cognitive, perceptual, or motor process isolated by the statistical contrast. The domain of behavioral system is classified according to five main categories: cognition, action, perception, emotion, and interoception (a complete list of the behavioral domains (BDs) in BrainMap can be accessed at <http://brainmap.org/scribe/>; experiments on pharmacology were excluded a priori from all analyses). We analyzed the BD metadata associated with the experiments reporting activation in OP 1 and OP 4, respectively, to determine the frequency of domain “hits” relative to its distribution across the whole brain (i.e., the entire database). In contrast to the more constrained functional connectivity analysis outlined above, this analysis was performed on the entire BrainMap database (no filter for experiments holding somatosensory or motor components), and experiments could be counted toward both regions to assemble a fully functional characterization. For each anatomical region, a  $\chi^2$  test was performed to evaluate the regional distribution as compared with the overall database distribution (Laird et al., 2009b). If the region’s distribution was significantly different, a binomial test was performed to determine which individual domains were over- or under-represented. Differences between the BD profiles of OP 1 and OP 4 were then assessed using the same approach as that for testing against a single region’s profile against the database.

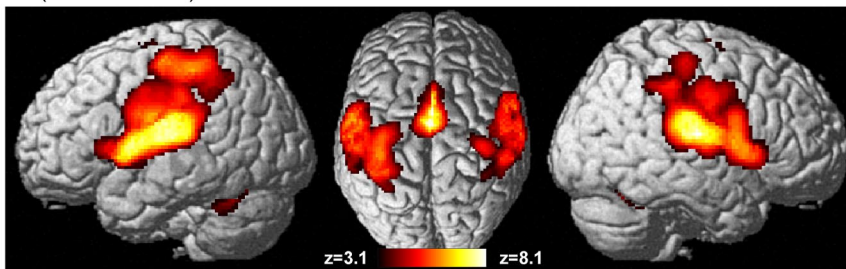
## Results

### Anatomical connectivity

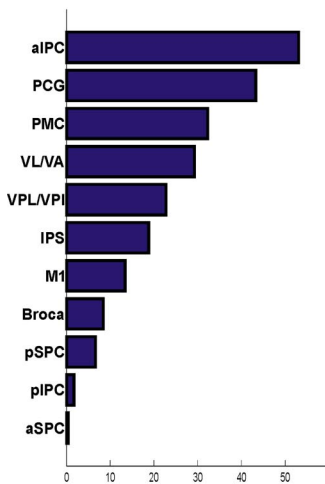
#### Identification of white matter connections between histologically defined areas

Examples of the white matter tracts connecting the investigated areas of the parietal operculum to other regions of the frontal and parietal cortex are shown as group averages of the obtained tractography results (after normalization of the delineated tracts) in Figure 3. For each of the investigated areas, fiber tracts have been chosen that were significantly more connected to the respective area as compared with the other area (see below).

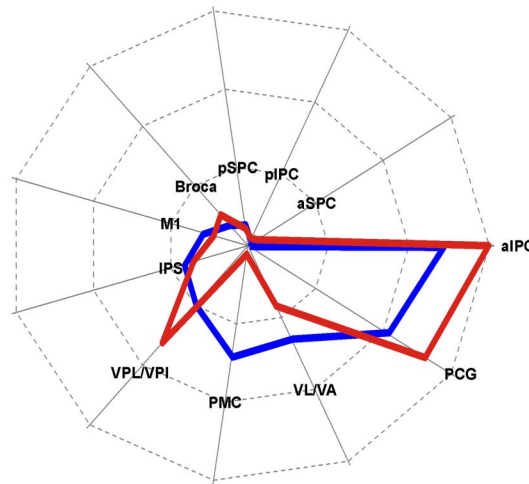
### A Co-activations of the human parietal operculum (OP1 or OP4)



### B functional connectivity



### C functional vs. structural connectivity



**Figure 6.** *A*, Functional connectivity of the human parietal operculum as delineated by the significant ( $p < 0.05$ , corrected) coactivation pattern obtained in a meta-analysis of 245 neuroimaging studies activating either OP 1 or OP 4. The color denotes the significance of the respective results. That is, while the presence of color indicates voxels that are significantly coactivated with the seed region, the particular color indicates the strength of this effect ( $z$ -score of the statistical analysis). *B*, Strength of functional connectivity between the human parietal operculum and the different anatomically defined targets assessed in this study (compare Fig. 4) as defined by the volume fraction of the targets' MPM representations that were significantly coactivated with OP 1 or OP 4. The labels in this graph confirm to the acronyms summarized for reference in Table 1. *C*, Comparison of the functional and anatomical connectivity of the human parietal operculum, i.e., OP 1 and OP 4 combined. The data used for this diagram correspond to the results shown in Figures 4 and 6*B*. However, to allow a direct comparison, the connection strengths displayed in Figures 4 and 6*B* were rescaled to unit total connectivity, accounting for the different scaling of the data obtained from the analysis of functional and anatomical connectivity. Again, labels in this graph confirm to the acronyms explained in Table 1.

It can be noted that all fiber tracts obtained through probabilistic tractography passed through the white matter following the respective major fiber pathways and showed little variance in their course to the respective targets. OP 1 showed significantly stronger connections to anterior IPC and ventral posterior lateral nucleus/ventral posterior inferior nucleus (VPL/VPI), whereas OP 4 was significantly more strongly connected to the premotor and primary motor cortex. Most notably, although these targets neighbored each other very closely, the respective connections could be separated by means of probabilistic tractography.

#### Statistical analysis of connection strengths by repeated-measures ANOVA

Assessing the normalized connection probabilities by means of repeated-measures ANOVA revealed a significant main effect of the factor “target” ( $F = 41.77$ ;  $p < 0.001$ ), indicating that the 12 assessed target regions differed from each other with respect to their anatomical connectivity with the parietal operculum (Fig. 4). Moreover, we found a significant interaction between “opercular seed” and “target” ( $F = 7.66$ ;  $p < 0.001$ ), reflecting differences in the frontoparietal connectivity of OP 1 and OP 4. There was, however, no significant main effect of “opercular seed,” revealing that the mean

connection strength of the connections to all targets does not differ significantly between OP 1 and OP 4. That is, although there is no difference between OP 1 and OP 4 with respect to the mean connection strength to all targets (absence of a significant main effect of “opercular seed”), the distribution of connection strengths to individual targets was different between OP 1 and OP 4 (significant interaction between “opercular seed” and “target”). Importantly, there was also no significant interaction with “hemisphere” ( $F = 0.79$ ;  $p = 0.65$ ), indicating the absence of a hemispheric asymmetry in anatomical connectivity.

#### Anatomical connectivity of the parietal operculum (main effect across OP 1/OP 4)

To resolve the significant main effect of “target,” indicating that the different targets vary in their mean connection strength to OP 1 and OP 4, a direct comparison between the different targets ( $p < 0.05$ , corrected by Tukey's method) was performed. This analysis compared the different levels of the factor “target” (i.e., the different target regions) with each other to assess which pairs differ in their mean value (i.e., connection strength of the particular area averaged across both seeds, OP 1 and OP 4). Statistical testing revealed (Fig. 4) that anterior IPC was significantly stronger connected to OP 1 and OP 4 than any other target. The differences in connectivity with OP 1/OP 4 between the PCG and all other regions showing a lower connection density were also significant. There was no significant difference in connectivity with OP 1/OP 4 between VPL/VPI and ventral lateral nucleus/ventral anterior nucleus (VL/VA).

The connection probability from OP 1/OP 4 toward VPL/VPI was significantly different from that toward all other areas showing a lower connectivity (Fig. 4). The same was true for VL/VA, with the exception of the connectivity to the anterior IPS. The latter area showed significantly higher connection densities than posterior IPC, premotor cortex, and both superior parietal regions. Finally, connectivity of OP 1 and OP 4 to Broca's area was significantly higher than that to the posterior IPC and the premotor cortex, respectively.

#### Differences in frontoparietal connectivity between OP 1 and OP 4

Follow-up comparison on the strengths of the anatomical connectivity toward the different targets between OP 1 and OP 4 revealed that the “seed  $\times$  target” interaction observed in the ANOVA was based on the following significant differences (Fig. 5). The two regions that were most closely connected to OP 1 and OP 4, the anterior IPC and the PCG, showed a different preference with respect to their connection. While the anterior IPC features significantly higher connection probabilities with OP 1 as compared with OP 4, the PCG is significantly more densely connected to area OP 4 than to OP 1. Besides the stronger connectivity to the anterior IPC, area OP 1 also showed significantly

higher probabilities for anatomical connections with VPL/VPI and a significantly higher number of transcallosal connections as compared with OP 4. In contrast, area OP 4 showed significantly higher probabilities for connections with Broca's region, the primary motor cortex, and the premotor cortex than area OP 1. Finally, there was no significant difference between both seed areas with respect to their connectivity to the superior parietal cortex, the anterior IPS, the posterior IPC, and VL/VA.

In summary, OP 4 was significantly more densely connected to frontal as well as primary sensory-motor areas, while OP 1 featured higher probabilities for parietal, thalamic, and interhemispheric connections.

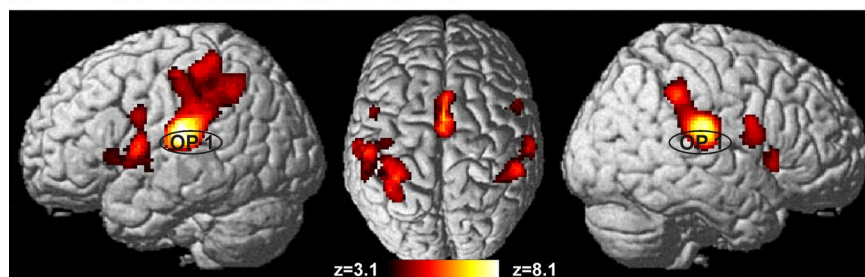
#### Functional connectivity

Searching the BrainMap database, we found 245 functional neuroimaging experiments activating either OP 1 or OP 4. Of these, 80 experiments exclusively activated OP 1 (but featured no focus in OP 4 or the border zone), and another 61 reported activation only in OP 4.

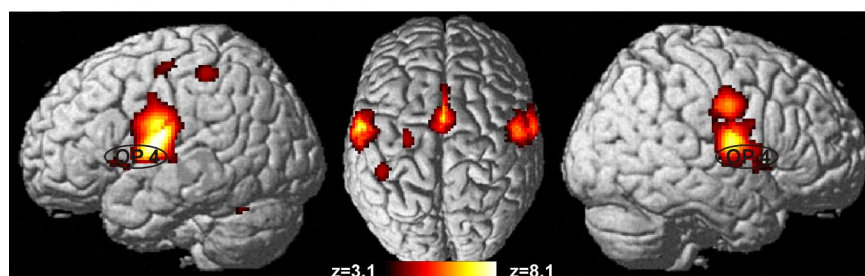
#### Functional connectivity of the parietal operculum (main effect across OP 1/OP 4)

The functional connectivity of the human parietal operculum was revealed by significant coactivations in all those studies that activated either of the two areas as shown in Figure 6A. As expected, coactivations and hence functional connectivity to OP 1 and OP 4 were found in a widely distributed frontoparietal network. Comparison of significant coactivation with the same target VOIs as those used for the DTI analysis (Table 1) yielded the following results (Fig. 6B). Functional connectivity was most prevalent in anterior IPC (53.1% of the voxels in this target VOI showing significant functional connectivity), followed by the PCG (43.3% of this target VOI showing significant functional connectivity), the premotor cortex (32.3%), and VL/VA (29.4%). The VPL/VPI (22.5%), the anterior IPS (18.8%), and the primary motor cortex (13.4%) showed intermediate functional connectivity, while Broca's region (8.4%) and in particular posterior superior parietal cortex (SPC) (6.6%), posterior IPC (1.7%), and anterior SPC (0.4%) showed little coactivation with our seed regions (OP 1/OP 4). Comparing this distribution of functional connectivity with the respective anatomical connectivity strengths, both similarities and differences become evident. (Fig. 6C). In particular, it can be noted that the regions featuring the strongest anatomical connections (anterior IPC, PCG) with the seed region on the parietal operculum defined by cytoarchitectonic areas OP 1 and OP 4 also show the highest functional connectivity. In contrast, both anatomical and functional connectivity with regions like anterior and posterior SPC and posterior IPC are congruently low. Notable exceptions, however, can be found with respect to the connectivity of OP 1 and OP 4 with the premotor cortex and

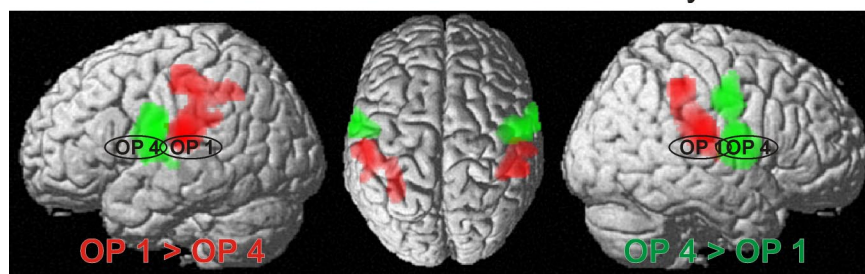
### A Co-activations of OP 1



### B Co-activations of OP 4



### C Differences in functional connectivity



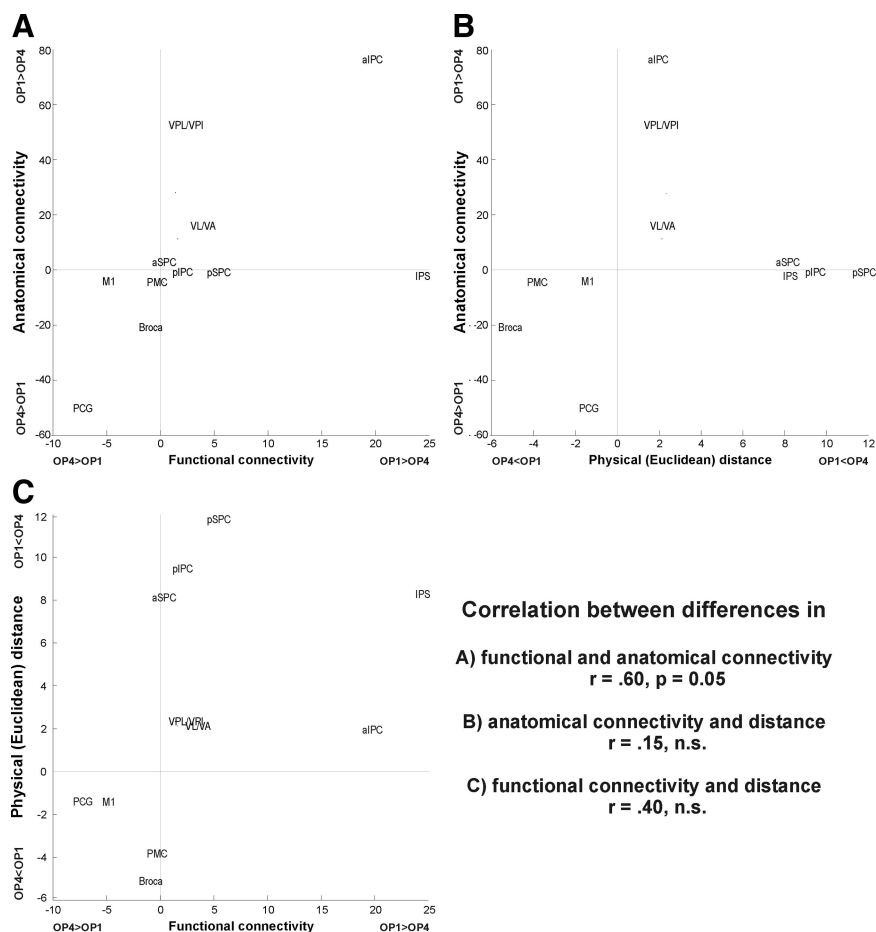
**Figure 7.** *A*, Functional connectivity of area OP 1 as delineated by the significant coactivation pattern obtained in a meta-analysis of the 80 studies activating only this area. As in Figure 6, the color scale ranging from deep red to white-yellow indicates the strength of the effects ( $z$ -score of the statistical analysis; all indicated voxels were significantly coactivated at  $p < 0.05$ , cluster level corrected). *B*, Functional connectivity of area OP 4 as delineated by the significant coactivation pattern obtained in a meta-analysis of the 61 studies activating only this area. Again, the color scale indicates the statistical effect size. *C*, Regions showing significant difference in functional connectivity between areas OP 1 and OP 4. Red indicates those voxels that were significantly more often coactivated with OP 1 as compared with OP 4; voxels shown in green denote those regions that showed significantly higher probabilities of coactivating with OP 4 than with OP 1. All data shown at  $p < 0.05$ , corrected.

VL/VA. Here, functional connectivity is much stronger as compared with the density of anatomical connections.

#### Differences in frontoparietal functional connectivity between OP 1 and OP 4

To assess the functional connectivity of OP 1 and OP 4, separate meta-analyses were performed including only those studies that specifically activated the respective area. The resulting coactivation maps (Fig. 7A,B) show patterns of functional connectivity that, albeit sharing some similarities, are distinctly different from each other. In particular, it can be noted, that OP 1 activations are primarily associated with activity of the anterior IPC, extending into the IPS. Regions coactivating with OP 4, on the other hand, were found anterior to those and consisted of the inferior frontal and pericentral somatosensory and motor cortices. Concurrent coactivation, finally, was in particular found bilaterally in the thalamus (with a focus on VL/VA known to project also strongly to the premotor and primary motor cortices), in the region of the supplementary motor cortex on the mesial wall of the frontal lobe and inferior frontal gyri on both hemispheres.





**Figure 8.** *A*, Comparison of the differences between OP 1 and OP 4 in terms of their anatomical (as assessed by probabilistic tractography) and functional (as assessed by meta-analysis of neuroimaging data) connectivity to the assessed frontoparietal targets. Each target is represented by a data point indicated by the position of its acronym on a two-dimensional coordinate grid. The *x*-coordinate of this point indicates the difference in functional connectivity (quantified by coactivated volume fraction) between this target and OP 1 on one hand and OP 4 on the other. Precisely, the *x*-value of target acronym's position is equivalent to the strength of functional connectivity between this target and OP 1 minus the strength of functional connectivity between this target and OP 4. The *y*-coordinate indicates the difference in anatomical connectivity (quantified by normalized connection strength). That is, the *y*-value of target acronym's position is equivalent to the strength of anatomical connectivity from OP 1 and this target minus the strength of anatomical connectivity from OP 4 and this target. It may be argued that one or both of these measures may be confounded by the physical distance between seed and target. Hence, differences in anatomical and functional connectivity were also plotted against the difference between OP 1 and OP 4 in their physical distance (quantified by the mean Euclidean distance across seed voxels to the nearest target voxel) to the respective target. *B* and *C*, The comparison between anatomical connectivity and physical (Euclidean) distance is shown in *B*, and the comparison between functional connectivity and physical distance is shown in *C*. It can be seen that differences between OP 1 and OP 4 in terms of functional and anatomical connectivity are significantly correlated to each other but not to physical distances to the targets.

To identify differences in functional connectivity between OP 1 and OP 4, we then contrasted the two functional connectivity maps (Laird et al., 2005), hereby delineating those voxels that showed significantly ( $p < 0.05$  corrected) higher probability of coactivation with OP 1 and OP 4, respectively (Fig. 7C). Significant differences were found in the parietal operculum, which is a trivial finding as the two cohorts of experiments being compared were defined by the presence of activations in OP 1 and OP 4, respectively. However, we also found several other regions showing significant differences in functional connectivity with OP 1 and OP 4, respectively. In particular, activation in OP 1 was significantly stronger associated with coactivations in anterior IPC, where 45.5% of all voxels showing significantly higher functional connectivity with OP 1 were located. Moreover, 35.2% of the significantly different voxels were localized in anterior IPS, and 18.5% were allocated to the PCG. Regions show-

ing significantly higher functional connectivity with OP 4, in turn, were the PCG (where 68.8% of the voxels showing significantly higher connectivity to OP 4 were located), primary motor cortex (18.9%), and premotor cortex (10.3%).

### Comparison between anatomical and functional connectivity

These differences in functional connectivity of OP 1 and OP 4 to other frontoparietal areas relate well to the above-mentioned differences in anatomical connectivity between these two areas (Fig. 8). It can be noted that those target regions that have a stronger anatomical connectivity to OP 1 as compared with OP 4, e.g., the anterior IPC or the thalamus, also tend to have a higher functional connectivity with that region. In contrast, regions like M1 or Broca's area, which are more closely connected to OP 4 than to OP 1, also feature more frequent coactivations with OP 4. Finally, those regions that show little difference in anatomical connectivity coactivate at about the same amount with both areas. Consequently, there is a significant ( $p = 0.05, r = 0.60$ ) correlation between both measures of connectivity.

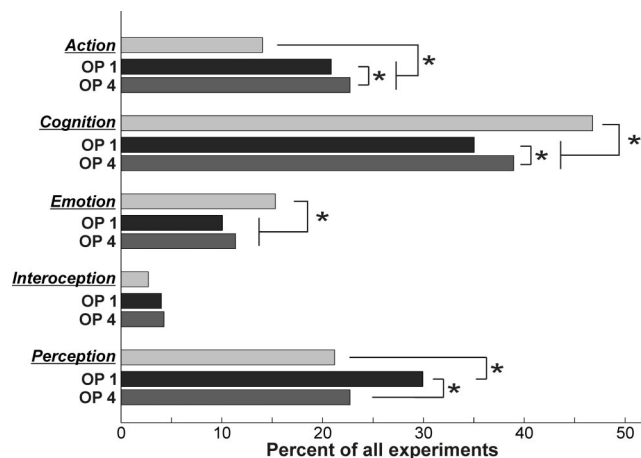
Besides these congruencies, however, there also exist few notable exceptions. For example, whereas there is little difference in anatomical connectivity to IPS between OP 1 and OP 4, OP 1 features a considerably stronger functional connectivity to this region. Likewise, whereas VPL/VPI are anatomically much more strongly connected to OP 1 as compared with OP 4, the corresponding difference in functional connectivity is considerably smaller.

To exclude a potential influence of the distance between different areas, we assessed how these differences in anatomical and functional connectivity relate to differences in the proximity, i.e., physical distance, between OP 1 and OP 4, respectively, and the different targets. As shown

in Figure 8, differences in physical distance are not correlated to differences in anatomical or functional connectivity.

### Analysis of behavioral domain profiles

Assessing the BD meta-data associated with all experiments in the BrainMap database that featured at least one focus of activation in OP 1 and OP 4, respectively, indicated that the BD profiles of both cortical fields were significantly different from the overall distribution in the BrainMap database (Fig. 9). In particular, "action" was significantly over-represented in both parietal opercular regions. That is, a higher proportion of experiments that feature activation in OP 1/OP 4 relate to action as expected from the overall proportion of "action" experiments in the BrainMap database. "Emotion" and "cognition," in contrast, were under-represented in both assessed cortical fields, whereas there was no



**Figure 9.** Behavioral domain profiles for all those experiments that feature at least one activation in OP 1 and OP 4, respectively. BrainMap counts (light gray histograms) represent the proportion of experiments in BrainMap that relate to the particular BD category. Dark gray and medium gray histograms represent the proportion of experiments featuring an activation in OP 1 and OP 4, respectively, that belong to the particular BD. All histograms were significantly different from each other with respect to overall shape. Asterisks denote significant ( $p < 0.05$ ) differences in the individual comparisons.

significant difference between OP 1 or OP 4 and the entire database with respect to experiments relating to interoception. Finally, only in OP 1, but not in OP 4, the “perception” BD was significantly over-represented.

There was also a significant difference in the BD profiles of experiments featuring activation in OP 1 and OP 4, respectively. This effect related to a higher proportion of “action” and “cognition” experiments found among those that activate OP 4. Among those experiments that activate OP 1, however, the proportion of those related to “perception” and in particular “somesthesia” was significantly higher than in OP 4.

## Discussion

In the present study, anatomical and functional connectivity of human parietal opercular areas OP 1 and OP 4 were investigated by probabilistic tractography and coordinate-based meta-analysis. Anatomical and functional connectivity of these two areas, considered together, was closest with the anterior IPC, PCG, and the thalamus. Particularly the PMC, however, showed stronger functional than anatomical connectivity to the parietal operculum. Probabilistic tractography and coactivation mapping revealed largely congruent differences (across methods) between OP 1 and OP 4 connectivity. OP 1 is closer connected to anterior IPC, the IPS, VPL/VPI, and the opposite hemisphere. OP 4, in turn, has closer anatomical and functional connections to the PCG and M1 as well as premotor and inferior frontal cortices.

### Comparison to connectivity in nonhuman primates

Macaque areas S2 and PV have dense reciprocal connections to the PCG (particularly areas 3b and 1) and inferior parietal area 7b (Disbrow et al., 2003), while marmosets feature a similar yet less specific pattern of connectivity (Krubitzer and Kaas, 1990; Qi et al., 2002). We here confirm the close connectivity of S2 (OP 1) and PV (OP 4) to the PCG and the inferior parietal cortex in humans. The dissociation reported here between S2 (connected to inferior parietal cortex) and PV (connected to the PCG) has not been found in any other primate species.

Area OP 4 (PV) featured significantly higher connectivity to the PMC and Broca’s region than OP 1. Our data hence match

observations of axonal connectivity between PMC and PV but not S2 in macaques (Disbrow et al., 2003). In marmosets, PMC connectivity of area S2 was reported but weaker than that of area PV (Stepniewska et al., 2006). While Disbrow et al. (2003) found no evidence for M1 connectivity of S2 or PV in macaques, an earlier study reported strong connectivity of a seed region comprising both areas with PMC and M1 (Cipolloni and Pandya, 1999). In marmosets, connections between M1 and PV (but not S2) have also been demonstrated (Qi et al., 2002). The human data fit this somewhat inconsistent picture by showing significantly stronger connectivity of OP 4 (PV) to all frontal targets, although the dissociation between anatomical and functional connectivity to the PMC and open questions about homologies warrant further investigation.

In macaques (Friedman and Murray, 1986; Disbrow et al., 2002, 2003) and marmosets (Krubitzer and Kaas, 1990; Qi et al., 2002), S2 and PV receive their main thalamic input from the ventroposterior inferior nucleus (VPI), while PV was reported to receive input from nuclei associated with the motor system (e.g., VL). Within the limits of resolution achievable by *in vivo* imaging methods, the current analysis confirms these findings in humans.

### Criteria for cortical areas

A sensory cortical area should be defined by the following criteria (Kaas, 1983; Orban et al., 2004): (1) a distinct histology, as shown for S2/PV in marmosets (Krubitzer and Kaas, 1990) and macaques (Krubitzer et al., 1995), as well as for OP 1 (S2)/OP 4 (PV) in humans (Eickhoff et al., 2006c); (2) a distinct pattern of connectivity, as demonstrated for S2/PV in marmosets (Krubitzer and Kaas, 1990; Qi et al., 2002) and macaques (Burton et al., 1995; Disbrow et al., 2002, 2003) and reported here for OP 1/OP 4 in humans; (3) the presence of a somatotopic map, as demonstrated for S2 (OP 1)/PV (OP 4) in marmosets (Krubitzer and Kaas, 1990; Qi et al., 2002), macaques (Krubitzer et al., 1995; Disbrow et al., 2003), and humans (Eickhoff et al., 2007); (4) distinct functional properties. Up to now, data on the functional differentiation between S2 (OP 1) and PV (OP 4) are limited but growing in nonhuman primates (Fitzgerald et al., 2004, 2006b) and man (Burton et al., 2008a, 2008b) as discussed below.

### Potential functional roles for OP 1/S2 and OP 4/PV

OP 4 is densely connected to the PCG and the frontal cortex and may consequently play a role in sensory-motor integration processes, such as incorporating sensory feedback into motor actions (Rizzolatti and Wolpert, 2005; Halsband and Lange, 2006). Knowledge of performed movements is also crucial in tactile object recognition and manipulation. Both roles have previously been ascribed to the parietal operculum (Inoue et al., 2002; Wasaka et al., 2005). Based on the current results, we suggest that they may be sustained particularly by OP 4. This interpretation is supported by studies showing that activity in OP 4 but not OP 1 is modulated by increased attention during tactile object discrimination (Young et al., 2004), and that activation to active discrimination tasks activated a more anterior focus than a passive somatosensory control task (Ledberg et al., 1995). In a series of studies, Fitzgerald and colleagues described several functionally distinct fields on the parietal operculum of macaque monkeys (Fitzgerald et al., 2004, 2006a, 2006b). They noted that neurons in fields proposed to match PV may relate to motor functions, as these showed responses similar to the hand manipulation neurons in the superior parietal cortex (Kalaska et al., 1983). Moreover, processing of proprioceptive input and integration of information across multiple digits favored the hypothesis that PV

may extract structural components of actively touched objects, which could then spatially guide further manipulation (Burton et al., 1997, 1999).

In contrast, strong connectivity of OP 1 with anterior parietal cortex, VPL/VPI, and the contralateral hemisphere may predispose it to perform more integrative aspects of somatosensory processing. Hence, OP 1 may represent the anatomical substrate of the various more complex functions reported to involve the parietal operculum, such as tactile working memory, stimulus discrimination (particularly frequency), and perceptual learning (Romo et al., 2002; Torquati et al., 2002; Pleger et al., 2003; Burton et al., 2008a, 2008b). Matching this view, neurons showing attention and stimulus discrimination have been described in the posterior parietal operculum (area S2) of macaque monkeys (Robinson and Burton, 1980; Hsiao et al., 1993). It is not yet precisely known how these functions (attention and stimulus discrimination) are implemented neuronally. Evidence from single-cell recordings, however, suggests that differences between parietal opercular fields with respect to modulations of synchrony, receptive field layout, and neuronal tuning may underlie their functional differentiation (Steinmetz et al., 2000; Fitzgerald et al., 2006a). Finally, OP 1 may also hold an important role in bimanual processing. In an fMRI/MEG study, Disbrow et al. (2001) demonstrated that S2/PV receives bilateral input, but extensive contralateral processing occurs before interhemispheric transfer. We propose that particularly the later ipsilateral component might be attributed to OP 1, given the higher amount of transcallosal connections in this area. This would match the observation that unilateral stimulation activation on the anterior parietal operculum (presumably OP 4) is followed by ipsilateral posterior activation (presumably OP 1) with a latency of ~30 ms (Mima et al., 1997).

Assessing the behavioral domain profiles of experiments featuring activation in OP 1 (S2) and OP 4 (PV), respectively, were well in accordance with the differentiation suggested by the differences in anatomical and functional connectivity, as well as the hypothesis from nonhuman primate data. This analysis of functional processes isolated by the statistical contrasts that activated the two parietal opercular areas confirmed that OP 1 (S2) was indeed more likely activated by somatosensory perceptive tasks, whereas OP 4 was more associated with action, i.e., motor-related experiments.

### Discrepancies between connectivity measures

Despite the close congruency between anatomical and functional connectivity (Figs. 6C, 8), several divergences were noted. These discrepancies may have resulted from various sources of measurement error and noise in the data that may differ systematically or unsystematically between both approaches. Examples for such methodological issues would be discrepancies in the effective spatial resolution of the data, differences in assessed sample, influences of the choices about the used models for diffusion tractography or functional connectivity analyses (as various methods exist for either approach), differences in potential confounds affecting the two very different approaches, or potentially dissimilar characteristics of unsystematic noise.

However, it should be noted that there are also major conceptual differences between functional and anatomical connectivity, as these assess different properties of brain networks. That is, there are several theoretical reasons, discussed below, why these two approaches may not provide completely congruent results even if there is no systematic or unsystematic error due to methodological or technical issues.

Coactivation of two regions may not be mediated by direct anatomical connections but via additional structures, e.g., relaying information from VL/VA or the premotor cortex to OP 4. Relay processes, however, could also be transmitted through cascades of several intermediates or via cortical-subcortical loops (Grefkes et al., 2008b; Eickhoff et al., 2009a).

A third area could induce correlated activation in regions not anatomically connected. That is, functional connectivity may be driven by an external source inducing concurrent activity in both areas, e.g., stimulus-driven activity in early sensory areas that is forwarded to parietal opercular areas for perceptual analysis and, in parallel, to premotor cortex for response preparation.

A very weak anatomical connection between two regions may still hold a high functional significance (Friston, 2002; Grefkes et al., 2008a), e.g., if one area's activity depends on a "go-signal" from another region. Functional connectivity is hence strongly influenced not only by the strength of an anatomical connection but also by the information conveyed through it.

None of these mechanisms inducing functional coupling would be reflected in anatomical connectivity measured by DTI. A deeper understanding of brain connectivity and the ensuing networks should thus rely on a combination of different but complementary approaches.

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