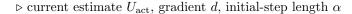
## Supporting information

## Algorithm 1 Conjugate gradient descent

1: initialize  $U, B_0$ 2: calculate gradient d and  $a \leftarrow \frac{1}{2}(d - d^*)$ 3: calculate step size  $\delta$ 4:  $U \leftarrow \exp(-\delta a)$ 5: while not converged do 6:  $a' \longleftarrow a$ 7: calculate gradient a $\beta \longleftarrow \tfrac{\langle a, a + a' \rangle}{\langle a', a' \rangle}$ 8:  $g \longleftarrow -a - \beta a'$ 9: calculate step size  $\delta$  of g10: 11:  $U \leftarrow \exp(\delta g)$ 12: Linesearch $(U, B_0)$ 

Algorithm 2 Line Search with Armijo step size rule

1: function LINESEARCH $(U_{act}, d, \alpha)$  $\begin{array}{l} U \longleftarrow exp(-\alpha d) \\ Q \longleftarrow UU \end{array}$ 2: 3: while  $\Gamma(U_{\text{act}}B_0) - \Gamma(QB_0) \ge \alpha \langle d, d \rangle$  do 4:  $U \longleftarrow Q$ 5: $Q \longleftarrow UU$ 6: 7:  $\alpha \longleftarrow 2\alpha$ while  $\Gamma(U_{\text{act}}B_0) - \Gamma(UB_0) \ge 0.5\alpha \langle d, d \rangle$  do 8:  $U \longleftarrow exp(-\alpha d)$ 9:  $\operatorname{\mathbf{return}}^{\alpha}_{U,\alpha} \overset{0.5\alpha}{\underbrace{\phantom{\ldots}}^{0.5\alpha}}$ 10:



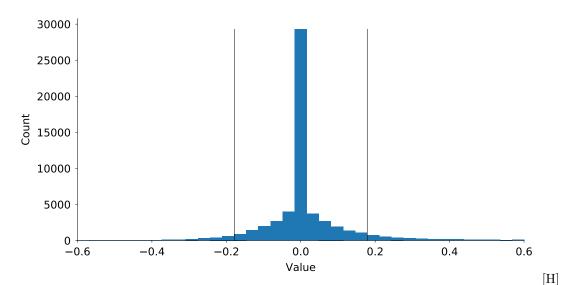


Figure A. Histogram of estimated connection strengths taken from the reconstructed networks of all seven subjects. The vertical lines show the thresholds for the excitatory and inhibitory connections, respectively. Only a part of the histogram is shown, the actual range of values is between -0.99 and 2.54.

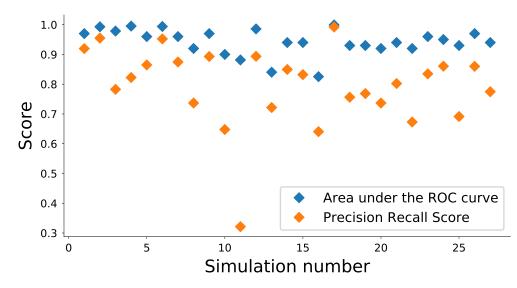


Figure B. Performance of our new inference method on the *NetSim* dataset published by [4]. Other methods have also been tested on these simulated data sets [1, 2, 3]. The x-axis represent the indices of simulated data sets, as in the original publication. The y-axis shows the AUC and PRS of our estimations. We estimated the connectivity for every individual subject and applied a threshold of 50%, the resulting networks were then averaged over all available subjects/trials. Although the networks considered in this paper cover a range of parameters, where we found that our method performs sub-optimally (the networks are generally too small), it still performs reasonably well on these synthetic data. We obtained average values for AUC and PRS of 0.94 and 0.79, respectively.

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