# Statistical Learning Methods for Neuroimaging Data Analysis with Applications

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https://www.med.unc.edu/big-s2





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Part I

Part II Imaging Processing Analysis Methods Part III Large scale Neuroimaging Related Studies Part IV

A Review of Neuroimaging Techniques

Population-based Statistical Analysis Methods



# **A Review of Neuroimaging Techniques**

### **Eight Popular Neuroimaging Techniques**



- Structural magnetic resonance imaging (sMRI)
- Diffusion weighted MRI (DWI)
- Functional MRI (fMRI)
- Positron emission tomography (PET)
- Computerized tomography (CT)
- Electroencephalography (EEG)
- Magnetoencephalography (MEG)
- Functional near-infrared spectroscopy (fNIRS)

Each image modality has its tracer, data dimension, extracted features, and main clinical and research applications.

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### CT, PET, MEG, EEG, and fNIRS



https://www.omegapds.com/ct-angiography-of-the-head-or-neck/

https://en.wikipedia.org/

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### sMRI, fMRI, and DWI



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### A Multi-model Approach







- Different models at different scales.
- Ladder of overlapping models.
- Must be testable against multiple phenomena.

#### The van Essen diagram

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# **Imaging Processing Analysis Methods**

### Four Common Themes (CT1)-(CT4)



https://dana.org/article/neuroanatomy-the-basics/ (CT2) Complex Spatiotemporal Structures

- spatial and temporal resolutions
- spatio-temporal smoothness
- spatiotemporal correlation

#### (CT3) Extremely High Dimensionality



# **(CT4)** Heterogeneity within Individual Subjects and across Centers/Studies



### Image Models

## Image=<sup>f</sup>(B(age, gene, race, disease, others), device, acquisition, noises)



### Image Processing Analysis Methods

#### **IPA: Deconvolution**

- Image Reconstruction Process
- Image Enhancement Process





#### **IPA: Structural Learning**

- Image Segmentation Process
- Image Registration Process



### **IPA: Deconvolution-IRP**

#### Image Reconstruction Process (IRP)



### **IPA: Deconvolution-IEP**

#### Image Enhancement Process (IEP)

- ✤ Denoising
- ✤ Super-resolution
- Bias-field correction
- ✤ Harmonization











### **IPA: Structural Learning-ISP**

**Image Segmentation Process (ISP)** 

- Quantification of brain development
- Localization of pathology
- Surgical planning
- Image-guided interventions
- Computer-aided detection and diagnosis
- Brain parcellation









Method	Dice_ET	Dice_WT	Dice_TC
Phase1	0.75245	0.89571	0.81561
Phase2 Model1	0.75983	0.90397	0.82489
Phase2 Model2	0.76091	0.90616	0.83622
Phase2 Model3	0.74669	0.90349	0.8278
Phase2 Model4	0.74187	0.90435	0.83211
Phase2 Model5	0.75779	0.90733	0.83824
Phase2 Model6	0.76091	0.90420	0.83713
Phase2 Model7	0.76814	0.90574	0.84704
Phase2 Model8	0.75440	0.90594	0.83826
Phase2 Model9	0.78582	0.90491	0.83689
XGBoost+	0.80536	0.91044	0.85057



### **IPA: Structural Learning-IRP**

Image Registration Process (IRP)

- Automated image segmentation
- Construction of brain atlas
- Localization of pathology
- Multimodal fusion
- Population analysis
- Quantification of brain development
- Shape analysis













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Fiber atlas

Fiber skeleton atlas

#### Brain Function-based Structural Connectome Atlas -



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#### Longitudinal Elastic Shape Data Analysis





#### Challenges

There is no publicly available, high-quality neuroimaging datasets with detailed annotation information that cover a large spectrum of segmentation tasks in neuroimaging research



# **Large-scale Neuroimaging related Studies**

### Large-scale Neuroimaging-related Studies







### **Alzheimer's Disease Neuroimaging Initiative**

The overall goal of ADNI is to validate potentially useful biomarkers for AD clinical treatment trials. ADNI is a multisite, prospective clinical study and actively supports the investigation and development of treatments that may slow or stop the progression of AD <u>https://adni.loni.usc.edu/study-design</u>. Researchers across 63 sites in the US and Canada have been tracking the progression of AD through clinical, imaging, genetic and biospecimen biomarkers, starting from normal aging, early mild cognitive impairment (LMCI) to dementia or AD.



2004-now

### The Human Connectome Project and Beyond

The primary goals of HCP include

- building a ``network map" that will shed light on the anatomical and functional connectivity within the healthy human brain,
- promoting the understanding of inter-individual variability of brain circuits to behavior,
- facilitating research into brain disorders, such as autism, AD, and schizophrenia, and
- making all data freely available to the scientific community.

#### The Heavily Connected Brain

Peter Stern, "Connection, connection...", Science, Nov. 1 2013: Vol. 342 no. 6158 P.577

- The NIH Human Connectome Project
  - The Harvard/MGH-UCLA project
  - The WU-Minn Project
- The EU's 7<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme for Research
  - Consortium Of Neuroimagers for the Non-Invasive Exploration of Brain Connectivity and Tracts

- Healthy Adult Connectome
- Lifespan Connectome Data
  - **Connectomes related to Human Dis**



#### **Adolescent Brain Cognitive Development**

The ABCD study is the largest prospective longitudinal study of brain development and child health in the United States, which has recruited approximately 11,880 children aged 9-10 years old from 21 research sites and is following them for 10 years into early adulthood.

Its initial goal was to examine risk and resiliency factors associated with the development of substance use, and then expanded far beyond, into identifying the underlying biospecimens, neural alterations, and environmental factors, and their contributions to the development of behavior, brain function, and other mental and physical outcomes throughout adolescence.



2015-now

### The UK Biobank Study

UK Biobank has collected and continues to collect extensive environmental, lifestyle, and genetic data on half a million participants.



UK Biobank is a large-scale biomedical database and research resource, containing in-depth genetic and health information from half a million UK participants. The database is regularly augmented with additional data and is globally accessible to approved researchers undertaking vital research into the most common and life-threatening diseases. It is a major contributor to the advancement of modern medicine and treatment and has enabled several scientific discoveries that improve human health.



#### 2006-now



•Imaging: Brain, heart and full body MR imaging, plus full body DEXA scan of the bones and joints and an ultrasound of the carotid arteries. The goal is to image 100,000 participants, and to invite participants back for a repeat scan some years later.

•<u>Genetics</u>: Genotyping, whole exome sequencing & whole genome sequencing for all participants.

•<u>Health linkages</u>: Linkage to a wide range of electronic health-related records, including death, cancer, hospital admissions and primary care records.

•Biomarkers: Data on more than 30 key biochemistry markers from all participants, taken from samples collected at recruitment and the first repeat assessment.

•<u>Activity monitor</u>: Physical activity data over a 7-day period collected via a wrist-worn activity monitor for 100,000 participants plus a seasonal follow-up on a subset.

•<u>Online questionnaires</u>: Data on a range of exposures and health outcomes that are difficult to assess via routine health records, including diet, food preferences, work history, pain, cognitive function, digestive health and mental health.

•**Repeat baseline assessments:** A full baseline assessment is undertaken during the imaging assessment of 100,000 participants.

•<u>Samples</u>: Blood & urine was collected from all participants, and saliva for 100,000.

#### ENIGMA

The major goals of ENIGMA include

- pushing forward the field of imaging genetics,
- ensuring promising and reproducible findings,
- sharing data, ideas, methods, algorithms and other information, and
- training new investigators.



https://enigma.ini.usc.edu/

2009-now



The Enhancing NeuroImaging Genetics through Meta-Analysis (ENIGMA) Consortium is a global alliance of over 1,400 scientists across 43 countries in the fields of imaging genomics, neurology, and psychiatry, studying a range of large-scale human brain studies that integrate data based on sMRI, DWI, fMRI, genetic data and many patient populations from over 70 institutions worldwide



## Population-based Statistical Analysis Methods

## Four Common Themes (CT5)-(CT8)

#### (CT5) Sampling Bias

- undercoverage
- observer bias,
- voluntary response bias
- survivorship bias
- recall bias
- exclusion bias

#### (CT7) Complex Data Objects





#### (CT6) Complex Missing Data Patterns

- missing by design
- faulty scanning
- ✤ attrition in longitudinal studies
- ✤ mis-entry
- ✤ non-responses in surveys

# **(CT8)** Complicated Causal Pathways in Brain-related Disorders



# Population-based Statistical Analysis (PSA)

- Study Design
- Statistical Parametric Mapping
- Object Oriented Data (OOD) Analysis
- Imputation Methods
- Data Integration Methods





- Dimension Reduction Methods
- > Image Genetics
- Causality Research
- > Predictive Analysis
- > Knowledge-based Methods

### **Study Design**

- Case control study
- Cross-sectional study
- Cohort study
- Experimental study
- Descriptive Study: case reports, case series, Descriptive surveys.
- The UKB is a large, population-based cohort study, and many cross-sectional analyses have been conducted based on baseline data from UKB.
- The UKB is well known for its "healthy volunteer" selection bias, and may not be a true representation of the general population.
- Neuroimaging biomarkers are usually secondary outcome.

### **Statistical Parametric Mapping**

#### **Univariate Statistics**



More complex modelsMultiple comparisons

### **Statistical Parametric Mapping**

- From voxel-wise models to functional models
- Multiscale-adaptive estimation and inference procedures
- > Wild-bootstrap methods to correct for multiple comparisons

Image=I(B(age, gene, race, disease, others), device, acquisition, noises)



#### **OOD** analyses

Parametric, Semiparametric and Nonparametric Models for OOD analyses





- Feature Methods: Use some feature extraction functions to project random objects to Euclidean-valued variables.
- Extrinsic Methods: Ignore the fact that manifold-valued data are in a nonlinear space and then directly apply classical multivariate regression.
- Intrinsic Methods: few parametric models for manifold-valued data.



Dryden, I.L., Koloydenko, A. and Zhou, D. (2008).

#### **Geodesic Link Function**



Fletcher (2013) Maxwell et al. (2014)

$$g(x_i, q) = q_0 + x_i q_1 = q_0 + \overline{x} q_1 + (x_i - \overline{x}) q_1$$

$$f(x_i) = Exp(p_1, (x_i - \overline{x})v_1)$$

$$f(x_i) = Exp(p_1, \textcircled{a}(x_{ik} - \overline{x}_k)v_k)$$

k



**Riemannian logarithm maps** 

$$\mathcal{C}_D = \operatorname{Log}_D(Y) \widehat{|} B(0, \Gamma) \widehat{|} T_D M$$

radius of injectivity



**Cornea, E.**, <u>*Zhu, H.T.*</u>, Kim, P. and Ibrahim, J. G. Intrinsic regression model for data in Riemannian symmetric space. *JRSS, Series B*, 79, 463-482, 2017.

#### Imaging Genetics of Brain Disorders

#### Most major brain disorders (like AD) are heritable complex traits/diseases

Together 50%-70% of AD risk 75%-90% of ADHD risk 60%-85% of Schizophrenia risk ~80% of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) risk



Complex traits/diseases (many genes, environmental factors, complex functional mechanism)

Genetic signals are non-spare and weak: Need large sample size to detect weak signals



Many genes contribute to the risk of AD (polygenic genetic architecture) (small but nonzero contribution)

-log 10(P)

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### IG: Reproducibility and Heritability



### Brain- Heart Imaging Genetics Knowledge Portal

#### Brain Imaging Genetics Knowledge Portal (BIG-KP)

Genetics Discoveries in Human Brain by Big Data Integration





**Brain Imaging Genetics Knowledge Portal** 

#### Heart Imaging Genetics Knowledge Portal

(<u>BIG-KP</u>) Aim to build the best knowledge database of neuroimaging genetics

#### It's just a beginning

Publications (2018+) Heart-brain connections: Phenotypic and genetic insights from magnetic resonance images. Science 380, abn6598 (2023). LINK. Science Science Genetic influences on the shape of brain ventricular and subcortical structures (2022). medRxiv, 22270601 LINK Common variants contribute to intrinsic human brain function networks (2022). Nature Genetics. **Nature Genetics**. MAAAS MAAAS Genetic influences on the intrinsic and extrinsic functional organizations of the cerebral cortex (2021). medRxiv, 21261187. LINK Common genetic variation influencing human white matter microstructure (2021). Science, <u>372-6548</u>. LINK Transcriptome-wide association analysis of brain structures yields insights into pleiotropy with complex neuropsychiatric traits (2021). Nature Communications, 842872. LINK Genome-wide association analysis of 19,629 individuals identifies variants influencing regional brain volumes and refines their genetic co-architecture with nature genetics cognitive and mental health traits (2019). Nature Genetics, 51(11), 1637-1644. LINK Large-scale GWAS reveals genetic architecture of brain white matter microstructure and genetic overlap traits (n= 17,706) (2019).

Molecular Psychiatry, in press. LINK

Heritability of regional brain volumes in large-scale neuroimaging and genetic studies (2018). Cerebral Cortex, 29(7), 2904–2914. LINK

Hundreds of associated genetic variants for 2100+ neuroimaging traits across three modalities: (grey matter volume, white matter microstructure, resting-state functional We make our research results publicly available by building the following respires. We make our research results publicly available by building the following respires. Task fMRI, shape, heart ) If you are interested in other summary-level data from our analyses of have any questions or comments, feel free to contact Bingxin Zhao (bingxin@purdue.edu) or Hongtu Zhu (htzhu@email.unc.edu).

#### **1. Imaging Genetics Online Server**

We build a GWAS browser using the **PheWeb tool** to explore GWAS results for massive functional, structural, and diffusion neuroimaging traits. Currently, we support GWAS results of 2104 traits trained in the UKB British cohort (n~34,000), including

- 1. 635 ENIGMA-DTI parameters of brain white matter (diffusion MRI)
- 2. 376 ANTS regional brain volumes (structural MRI)
- 3. 191 ICA-based functional MRI traits (rs-fMRI(ICA))
- <u>A 200 parcellation-based functional MRL(task/rs-fMRI(Glasser260))</u>

#### Genetics discovery in human brain by big data integration

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### **Alzheimer's Disease Neuroimaging Initiative**

Behavioral deficits



For a heterogeneous, clinically defined disorder, the endophenotype is 'closer to the underlying biology,'

- Increasing the power of genetic search
- Being informative about disorder risk.
- Providing mechanistic connections linking genetic variation to behavioral measures.



## **Model Setup**

**Outcome generating model** 

$$Y_i = \sum_{l=1}^{s} x_{il} \beta_l + \langle \mathbf{Z}_i, \mathbf{B} \rangle + \epsilon_i$$

**Exposure generating model** 

$$Z_i = \sum_{l=1}^{s} x_{il} * C_l + E_i$$

**B** is the main parameter of interest, representing the association between the 2D imaging exposure  $Z_i$  and the behavioral outcome  $Y_i$ ,  $\beta_l$  represents the association between the I-th observed covariate  $x_{il}$  and the behavioral outcome  $Y_i$ , and  $\epsilon_i$  and  $E_i$  are random errors that may be correlated. The symbol "\*" denotes element-wise multiplication.

Ye, Wang, Kong, and Zhu (2022). Mapping the Genetic-Imaging-Clinical Pathway with Applications to Alzheimer's Disease. JASA, in press.

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#### True Confounders, Precision, Instrumental and Irrelevant Variables

**Outcome generating model** 

**Exposure generating model** 

True Confounders Precision Variables Instrumental Variables Irrelevant Variables

$$Y_{i} = \sum_{l=1}^{s} x_{il} \beta_{l} + \langle \mathbf{Z}_{i}, \mathbf{B} \rangle + \epsilon_{i}$$
$$\mathbf{Z}_{i} = \sum_{l=1}^{s} x_{il} * \mathbf{C}_{l} + \mathbf{E}_{i}$$
$$\mathcal{C} = \{l \in \mathcal{A} \mid \beta_{l} \neq 0 \text{ and } \mathbf{C}_{l} \neq 0\},$$
$$\mathcal{P} = \{l \in \mathcal{A} \mid \beta_{l} \neq 0 \text{ and } \mathbf{C}_{l} = 0\},$$
$$\mathcal{I} = \{l \in \mathcal{A} \mid \beta_{l} = 0 \text{ and } \mathbf{C}_{l} \neq 0\},$$
$$\mathcal{S} = \{l \in \mathcal{A} \mid \beta_{l} = 0 \text{ and } \mathbf{C}_{l} = 0\}.$$

Aim (to correctly estimate *B*): retain all covariates from  $\mathcal{M}_1 = \mathcal{C} \cup \mathcal{P} = \{l \in \mathcal{A} \mid \beta_l \neq 0\}$ , while excluding covariates from  $I \cup S = \{l \in \mathcal{A} \mid \beta_l = 0\}$ .

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## **Marginal Screening**

Fit:

 $Y_i = x_{il}\beta_l + \epsilon_i$ 

**Obtain:** 

Obtain:

 $\hat{\beta}_l^M = n^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^n x_{il} Y_i$ 

Problem!!! (plugging exposure model into outcome model)

Outcome generating model  $Y_i = \sum_{l=1}^{s} x_{il} \beta_l + \langle Z_i, B \rangle + \epsilon_i$ Exposure generating model  $Z_i = \sum_{l=1}^{s} x_{il} * C_l + E_i$ 

$$Y_{i} = \sum_{l=1}^{s} x_{il} (\beta_{l} + \langle C_{l}, B \rangle) + \langle E_{i}, B \rangle + \epsilon$$

Miss a portion of confounders when  $\beta_l$  and  $\langle C_l, B \rangle$  are of similar magnitude but opposite sign.

## Joint Screening (proposed)

Marginal screening:

$$\mathbf{Z}_{i} = \sum_{l=1}^{s} X_{il} * \mathbf{C}_{l} + \mathbf{E}_{i}$$

Obtain (Kong, An, Zhang and Zhu, 2020):

$$\widehat{\boldsymbol{C}}_{l}^{M} = n^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^{n} x_{il} * \boldsymbol{Z}_{i} \in \mathbb{R}^{p \times q}$$

$$\begin{split} \widehat{\mathcal{M}}_{1}^{*} &= \left\{ 1 \leq I \leq s : \left| \widehat{\beta_{l}^{M}} \right| \geq \gamma_{1,n} \right\} \\ \widehat{\mathcal{M}}_{2} &= \left\{ 1 \leq I \leq s : \parallel \widehat{\boldsymbol{C}}_{l}^{M} \parallel_{op} \geq \gamma_{2,n} \right\} \end{split}$$





**Select submodel:**  $\widehat{\mathcal{M}} = \widehat{\mathcal{M}}_1^* \cup \widehat{\mathcal{M}}_2$ . (Union)

Alternative choices (both worse):  $\widehat{\mathcal{M}}_1^*$  (outcome) or  $\widehat{\mathcal{M}}_1^* \cap \widehat{\mathcal{M}}_2$ (Outcome).

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## **Estimation (proposed)**

#### Minimize:

$$\frac{1}{2}\sum_{i=1}^{n} \left(Y_{i} - \langle \boldsymbol{Z}_{i}, \boldsymbol{B} \rangle - \sum_{l \in \widehat{\mathcal{M}}} X_{il}\beta_{l}\right)^{2} + \lambda_{1,n}\sum_{l \in \widehat{\mathcal{M}}} |\beta_{l}| + \lambda_{2,n} \|\boldsymbol{B}\|_{*}$$

where  $\| B \|_* = \sum_k \sigma_k(B)$ .

L1 penalty, exclude instrumental and irrelevant variables.

Nuclear penalty, low-rank estimation of B.

Estimated effect size of imaging exposure z,

$$\hat{\mu}(z) = \langle z, \hat{B} \rangle$$

 $\mathcal{C} = \{l \in \mathcal{A} \mid \beta_l \neq 0 \text{ and } \mathbf{C}_l \neq 0\},\$  $\mathcal{P} = \{l \in \mathcal{A} \mid \beta_l \neq 0 \text{ and } \mathbf{C}_l = 0\},\$  $\mathcal{I} = \{l \in \mathcal{A} \mid \beta_l = 0 \text{ and } \mathbf{C}_l \neq 0\},\$  $\mathcal{S} = \{l \in \mathcal{A} \mid \beta_l = 0 \text{ and } \mathbf{C}_l \neq 0\},\$ 

neartkp.org

### **Predictive Analysis**



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Gene expression-informed gene-level PRS + GWAS PRS has higher prediction accuracy

Construct gene-level PRS (polygenic risk scores) by leveraging gene expression reference panels (e.g., GTEx) in TWAS

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### Brain Imaging Genetics Paradigm

Neuroimaging: an important component to help understand the complex biological pathways of brain disorders



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#### Challenges

- The complexity of those large-scale neuroimaging-related data sets is too high for most research teams in both academia and industry.
- It is very difficulty to appropriately process data across different domains with high quality, while controlling for potential bias introduced during the preprocessing stage.
- It remains uncertain as to how to appropriately integrate data across different domains obtained from different studies and cohorts with possible different study designs for unbiased data integration.
- It remains unclear how to appropriately and efficiently analyze neuroimaging related data sets with multiple Vs (e.g., Volume, Velocity, Variety and Veracity), while ensuring algorithmic fairness.

#### Statistical Learning Methods for NDA

#### Statistical Learning Methods for Neuroimaging Data Analysis with Applications

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#### Abstract

Keywords

The aim of this paper is to provide a comprehensive review of statistical challenges in neuroimaging data analysis from neuroimaging techniques to largescale neuroimaging studies to statistical learning methods. We briefly review eight popular neuroimaging techniques and their potential applications in neuroscience research and clinical translation. We delineate the four common themes of neuroimaging data and review major image processing analysis methods for processing neuroimaging data at the individual level. We briefly review four large-scale neuroimaging related studies and a consortium on imaging genomics and discuss four common themes of neuroimaging data analysis at the population level. We review nine major population-based statistical analysis methods and their associated statistical challenges and present recent progress in statistical methodology to address these challenges.

causal pathway, heterogeneity, image processing analysis, neuroimaging

techniques, population-based statistical analysis, study design

#### 神经影像数据相关统计学习方法的综述(1)

青牛帮 2023-03-20 23:47

以下文章来源于狗熊会, 作者张疏影 孟祥宇

狗熊会 狗熊会,统计学第二课堂! 传播统计学知识,培养统计学人才,推动统...

作者:张疏影,孟祥宇 排版:青牛帮

#### ——《神经影像数据相关统计学习方法的综述》系列文章介绍

本系列推文本系列推文是基于综述文章 Zhu, H., Li, T., & Zhao, B. (2022). Statistical learning methods for neuroimaging data analysis with applications, https://arxiv.org/abs/2210.09217。该文章将在2023年发表在 Annual Review of Biomedical Data Science,它详细地介绍了复杂神经影 像数据分析的一些问题、挑战、及统计学习方法,其中大部分内容源于对 该综述文章的翻译。在此特别感谢原文的第一作者朱宏图教授对本译稿提 出的宝贵修改意见。

如果您对该方向的研究感兴趣,欢迎收看朱宏图教授专题课程《神经影像数据分析 的统计学习方法》。

朱宏图教授《神经影像数据分析的统计学习方法》长达8小时免费公开课

(Zhu, Li & Zhao, 2023)

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**Brain Imaging Genetics Knowledge Portal (BIG-KP)** 

Genetics Discoveries in Human Brain by Big Data Integration

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