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Intact action segmentation in Parkinson's disease: hypothesis testing using a novel computational approach

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19 **Abstract**

20 Action observation is known to trigger predictions of the ongoing course of action and
21 thus considered a hallmark example for predictive perception. A related task, which explicitly
22 taps into the ability to predict actions based on their internal representations, is action
23 segmentation; the task requires participants to demarcate where one action step is completed
24 and another one begins. It thus benefits from a temporally precise prediction of the current
25 action. Formation and exploitation of these temporal predictions of external events is now
26 closely associated with a network including the basal ganglia and prefrontal cortex.

27 Because decline of dopaminergic innervation leads to impaired function of the basal
28 ganglia and prefrontal cortex in Parkinson's disease (PD), we hypothesised that PD patients
29 would show increased temporal variability in the action segmentation task, especially under
30 medication withdrawal (hypothesis 1).

31 Another crucial aspect of action segmentation is its reliance on a semantic representation of
32 actions. There is no evidence to suggest that action representations are substantially altered,
33 or cannot be accessed, in non-demented PD patients. We therefore expected action
34 segmentation judgments to follow the same overall patterns in PD patients and healthy
35 controls (hypothesis 2), resulting in comparable segmentation profiles. Both hypotheses were
36 tested with a novel classification approach.

37 We present evidence for both hypotheses in the present study: classifier performance was
38 slightly decreased when it was tested for its ability to predict the identity of movies
39 segmented by PD patients, and a measure of normativity of response behaviour was
40 decreased when patients segmented movies under medication-withdrawal without access to
41 an episodic memory of the sequence. This pattern of results is consistent with hypothesis 1.
42 However, the classifier analysis also revealed that responses given by patients and controls
43 create very similar action-specific patterns, thus delivering evidence in favour hypothesis 2.

44 In terms of methodology, the use of classifiers in the present study allowed us to establish
45 similarity of behaviour across groups (hypothesis 2). The approach opens up a new avenue
46 that standard statistical methods often fail to provide and is discussed in terms of its
47 merits to measure hypothesised similarities across study populations.

48
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52 The authors declare no competing financial interests.
53

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57 **1 Introduction**

58

59 Parkinson's disease (PD) is a condition with well-defined neurological changes. It results
60 from a loss of dopaminergic cells in the substantia nigra (Bernheimer et al., 1973; Birkmayer
61 and Wuketich, 1976), which leads to decreased levels of this neurotransmitter in the basal
62 ganglia and the prefrontal cortex (PFC). PD is signified by prominent motor impairments
63 such as tremor, bradykinesia, and rigidity. These motor symptoms are often accompanied by
64 cognitive changes, including compromised ability to learn from feedback and limited use of
65 the predictability of external events (Flowers, 1978; Cameron et al., 2010; Cools et al., 2003;
66 Cools et al., 2001; Cools, 2006; Crawford et al., 1989; Frank, 2006; Zalla et al., 1998;
67 Shohamy et al., 2008). A related impairment in PD which has recently been linked to the
68 basal ganglia and the prefrontal cortex is the internally driven prediction of external events
69 (Schönberger, et al., 2013).

70 **1.1 (Temporal) Prediction in a basal ganglia network**

71 The proposal that the basal ganglia are involved in prediction of the content and temporal
72 onset of external events (referred to as sensory states in the original literature Bischoff-
73 Grethe, Crowley, and Arbib, 2003) is grounded in a combination of findings from patient
74 data with data from animal, imaging, and modelling research (Alm, 2004; Balleine,
75 Liljeholm, and Ostlund, 2009; Berns and Sejnowski, 1998; Bischoff-Grethe, Crowley, and
76 Arbib, 2003; Schönberger, et al., 2013). The research suggests that the basal ganglia and
77 prefrontal cortex, and particularly the supplementary motor area (SMA), work in concert in
78 learning, selecting, and timing predictions of external events (Lewis et al., 2004; Stocco,
79 Lebiere, & Anderson, 2010; Schiffer, Wasak, & Yeung, 2015; Schönberger, et al., 2013; see
80 Coull & Nobre, 2008 for a dissenting view). Because decline of dopaminergic innervation of
81 the basal ganglia and prefrontal cortex is a hallmark feature of PD, this research suggests that
82 PD patients should be compromised in the fast prediction of event sequences, particularly
83 under medication withdrawal. The present study tested this hypothesis explicitly,
84 implementing an action segmentation task.

85

86 **1.2 Action segmentation requires exploitation of semantic knowledge and benefits from** 87 **prediction of forthcoming events**

88 In the segmentation task participants observe an actor performing familiar activities and are
89 required to indicate their subjective judgment whether an action boundary has occurred, i.e.,

90 whether an action step has been completed and a new action step has been initiated. These
91 segmentation judgments, also referred to as boundary detection reports, are usually given in
92 the form of a button press (Zacks et al., 2001; Schubotz et al., 2012; Baldwin et al., 2008;
93 Newton and Engquist, 1976). Because actions are highly structured and action observation is
94 known to trigger online predictions of forthcoming action steps (Csibra, 2007; Colder, 2011;
95 Botvinick and Plaut, 2004; Kilner, Friston, and Frith, 2007; Kilner et al., 2004; Schiffer et al.,
96 2013; Stadler et al., 2011), reliable and fast performance in action-segmentation tasks
97 requires two core abilities:

98 First, action segmentation benefits from the ability to generate a temporally precise
99 prediction of the course of the current action, including the end of one action step and the
100 beginning of the next action step thereafter. Detection of stimuli is not only aided by
101 predictability of occurrence, but also additionally facilitated by predictability of stimulus
102 onset (Rohenkohl et al., 2012). Thus, predicting which action step is to follow, and at what
103 time this action step would naturally commence, aids boundary detection in the action
104 segmentation task.

105 Importantly, if the basal ganglia are involved in real-time prediction of sequential events
106 (Schiffer & Schubotz, 2011), we would expect increased variability in the timing of the
107 response around action boundaries (Baldwin et al., 2008; Newton and Engquist, 1976) in PD
108 patients. The action-segmentation paradigm thus provides a sensitive test for the hypothesis
109 that compromised dopaminergic innervation of the basal ganglia and prefrontal cortex leads
110 to increased temporal variability in response behaviour, particularly under medication
111 withdrawal (hypothesis 1), indicating impaired (temporal) prediction and delayed assessment
112 of forthcoming sensory states.

113 A second, profound aspect of action segmentation is that observers have to rely on an
114 internal representation of the single steps that together form specific actions (action
115 semantics) to detect the end of one action step and the beginning of another. Some authors
116 have argued that PD patients should be impaired in action segmentation (Zacks & Sargent,
117 2010). However, while learning and retrieval of action semantics has repeatedly been shown
118 to involve a fronto-parietal network extending to the temporal lobes (Decety et al., 1997;
119 Spunt, Falk, and Lieberman, 2010; Watson and Chatterjee, 2011; Hoffman, Jones, and Ralph,
120 2012; Schubotz et al., 2012; Schiffer et al., 2013), evidence for an involvement of the basal
121 ganglia is missing. We therefore propose that the ability to segment actions should be largely
122 intact in non-demented PD (hypothesis 2), resulting in comparable segmentation profiles.

124 **1.3 Assessing action segmentation components in a patient study**

125 We tested these hypotheses in a cohort of patients with idiopathic Parkinson's disease and a
126 group of age-matched controls. To assess whether changes in dopamine availability exert an
127 effect on the ability to segment actions per se and increase the temporal variability of
128 segmentation behaviour, PD patients underwent two experimental sessions, one with their
129 usual dopamine replacement therapy unchanged (ON) and one under withdrawal of their
130 dopamine replacement therapy (OFF). Healthy controls took part in two separate sessions
131 without medication. Their **virtual** medication status (pseudo ON and OFF status) was yoked
132 to the random order of ON and OFF tests in the matched PD patients. During each session,
133 participants segmented a different set of 6 multi-step action movies twice, allowing
134 comparison of segmentation reliability under different medication status.

135

136 **1.4 Classification approach to assess similarity**

137 Predictions of similarity, central to our second hypothesis, are statistically challenging,
138 because inference statistic measures aim at establishing differences between groups. Even if
139 these measures fail to establish a difference between groups or conditions, such null effects
140 cannot be taken as a proof of similarity (Cohen, 1994). Moreover, our hypotheses demand an
141 estimate of the exact *degree* of similarity between response patterns. We resolved this
142 paradox by developing a novel methodology, which implements a computational classifier.
143 To show that PD patients and healthy controls can rely on the same action models, we
144 transformed their response behaviour in the action-segmentation task into a temporal profile
145 of response probability, expressed as the function that represents the probability to make a
146 response for each moment in time. Bringing the data into this format allowed us to use these
147 temporal response profiles in a computational classifier (**Figure 1**; please refer to Methods
148 section 2.2 and 2.4.1 for further explanation).

149 We trained a classifier to predict movie identity using the data from a subset of
150 participants as a training set and another subset of participants as a test set. The hypothesised
151 above-chance classification of movie-specific response profiles when testing data and training
152 data are taken from different groups strongly indicates behavioural similarity. This
153 behavioural similarity is evidence in favour of intact semantic representation of action
154 structure in PD. At the same time, the predicted differences in classification performance
155 between different (above-chance) cross-group classifications would show the predicted
156 differences in the temporal precision of segmentation behaviour in PD.

157

158 **2 Materials and Methods**

159

160 **2.1 Participants**

161 A total of 32 male participants took part in the experiments: 16 patients with idiopathic
162 Parkinson's Disease (PD) and 16 healthy controls, individually matched for age, handedness,
163 and education (please refer to **Table 1** for a summary of the information on the patient and
164 control population). Every invited PD patient was tested and no dataset was discarded. For
165 patients to be invited and included in the study they had to fulfil the following list of
166 inclusion criteria. Patients had to be diagnosed with idiopathic Parkinson's disease. They had
167 to be aged between 18 and 80, have given written informed consent, and weren't allowed to
168 take part in any other study on the same day. Lastly, testing in their medication OFF state was
169 conducted within their regular, scheduled assessment, during which they withdraw from their
170 individual medication to test for symptom severity and dopa-responsiveness. Thus, the
171 patients were not in their medication OFF as part of a clinical trial.

172 Exclusion criteria were: receiving deep-brain stimulation and suffering from further
173 neurological or life-expectancy limiting diseases. Inclusion/exclusion criteria for matched
174 controls were comparable, except for the presence of idiopathic Parkinson's disease, or any
175 other neurological or psychiatric condition, which were exclusion criteria for control
176 participants. There was also no relationship to a scheduled stay at the hospital for the control
177 group, as these participants did not receive or withdraw from any medication.

178 All participants had an introductory session one day before the first test session to
179 practise a short version of the main task and control tasks. This practice session did not
180 contain any of the videos that were later used in the real test sessions (ON or OFF). The
181 purpose of this pilot session was to ensure that all participants would understand the tasks,
182 even if their first test session took place under medication withdrawal. One matched control
183 had to be replaced by another equally well-matched control participant, as the first person did
184 not understand the instructions of various subtasks.

185 Average Unified Parkinson's Disease Rating Scale (UPDRS) scores for healthy controls
186 was 1.15, compared to 23.8 for PD patients (mean ON medication: 20.9, mean OFF
187 medication: 27.1). The difference in UPDRS scores between PD patients and controls was
188 highly significant in a one-sided t-tests ($T = 17.8$, $p < 10^{-18}$ $df = 31$), and so was the
189 difference between ON and OFF session for PD patients ($T = 6.1$, $p < 10^{-6}$, $df = 15$). The

190 average Parkinson Neuropsychometric Dementia Assessment (PANDA) scores were 25.4
191 and 26 for PD patients and healthy controls, respectively. Beck's Depression Inventory (BDI)
192 scores were 9.7 vs. 5.75 for PD patients and healthy controls, respectively. The differences in
193 PANDA and BDI scores were not statistically significant in one-tailed t-tests (PANDA: $T=$
194 0.5 , $p = 0.31$; BDI: $T = 0.8$, $p = 0.21$). No healthy control participant and no PD patient
195 scored lower than 14 points, indicating that that no participant fulfilled the cut-off for
196 dementia. All but one participant scored higher than 18 points, indicating age-appropriate
197 function (Kalbe et al., 2008). One PD patient scored 16 points, thus being in the range of
198 subtle cognitive impairment. The proceedings were approved by the local ethics committee of
199 the Medical Faculty of the University of Cologne and the work described was carried out in
200 accordance with The Code of Ethics of the World Medical Association (Declaration of
201 Helsinki) for experiments involving human subjects.

202

203 **2.2 Task**

204 **2.2.1 Action segmentation task:**

205 All participants took part in two experimental sessions. For the PD patients, one session took
206 place when they were on their individual, regular dopamine-replacement medication (ON
207 session), and another session after over-nightly medication withdrawal (OFF session). The
208 order of ON/OFF sessions was randomised across patients. An overview of medication
209 specifics is included in Table 4. For the healthy controls, whether a session was assigned ON
210 or OFF status was yoked to their matched patient's order of sessions. Note that healthy
211 controls did not receive any dopaminergic medication in any session. Therefore, these
212 sessions will henceforth be described as pseudo ON/pseudo OFF, to emphasize that no
213 medication was involved at any stage for the healthy volunteers.

214 Within each test session, the participant segmented 6 different short movies of naturalistic
215 action sequences 2 times each (please refer to Table 3 for a description of the movies). The
216 first and second segmentation instance within sessions included the same movies, but no
217 movie was repeated in the next session. The selection of the 6 movies for each of the first
218 session was pseudo-randomised and the second session contained the other 6 movies of the
219 set of 12. Pseudo-randomisation ensured that each of the 12 movies appeared in all possible
220 conditions across participants: first sessions ON medication, first sessions OFF medication,
221 second sessions ON medication and second sessions OFF medication. This setup allowed us
222 to measure reliability scores and movie specific segmentation independent of order and

223 medication effects (please refer to Schubotz et al., 2012 for a comparable design in a study
224 with young healthy volunteers).

225 Within the segmentation task, participants were instructed to indicate with a button press
226 whenever a new action step began. In more detail, participants were told to press a button
227 when they felt (emphasis on the subjectivity of the judgement) that one action step had
228 finished and a new action step was to begin (example judgments for the two segmentations
229 performed on the same movie., ie, within one session, are depicted by the blue lines and bars
230 in Figure 1). They were told that an action step might relate to what they would say if we
231 asked them to give an online record of the actions they saw to a bystander. Responses were
232 made with a standard QWERTZ keyboard, by pressing the space bar.

233 **2.2.2 Motor control task:**

234 Participants' motor behaviour was assessed in a separate task. In this part of the experiment,
235 subjects were presented with a stream of white and red squares on a grey-background monitor
236 at 1/5 Hz. Their task was to respond as quickly as possible to the red crosses, while ignoring
237 the white ones. Each colour appeared equally often in a randomised order. The task was run
238 for 60 trials, i.e., 30 target trials (red crosses). Crosses were presented in font size 30.
239 Responses were made with a standard QWERTZ keyboard, by pressing the space bar.

240 **2.2.3 Cognitive control tasks:**

241 To increase the interpretability of the classifier results we conducted a number of control
242 tasks which tested for differences between patients and healthy controls in: the ability to
243 retrieve semantically associated items, the ability to recognize a familiar action episode, and
244 in the ability to predict the on-going course of an action.

245 **Semantic association control task:** The ability to retrieve semantically associated
246 items was tested in a paradigm in which participants were presented with a pair of nouns,
247 e.g., "sugar","flour", and had to name a related item, e.g., "salt". Reaction times were
248 recorded over 10 trials per session, with a microphone that was sensitive to speech onset.
249 Participants had up to 6 seconds to initiate their response. The inter-trial interval was 1
250 second. Correctness of the 10 responses (i.e., whether the participants response was
251 semantically related to the word pair) was later rated by two independent observers. These
252 were blind to disease status and medication.

253 **Episodic recognition control task:** The ability to recognize a familiar action was
254 tested on another set of 10 everyday action movies (not appearing in the segmentation tasks),

255 which were presented at the beginning and end of each experimental session. These movies
256 contained short everyday actions, all performed while sitting at a table, such as preparing
257 muesli, stapling a stack of paper, wrapping up a parcel, etc. (please refer to Schiffer et al.,
258 2013 for pictures showing some of the actions). When participants saw the movies again at
259 the end of the test session, movies either appeared in the same version as before or in a
260 different version (please refer to Schiffer et al., 2012; 2013 for more details). Participants
261 had to press one of two response buttons (left arrow key and down arrow key on a standard
262 QWERTZ keyboard) to indicate whether the movie had been presented as before.
263 Participants had up to 6 seconds to initiate their response. The inter-trial interval was 1
264 second.

265 **Action prediction/association control task:** Lastly, to test for participants' ability to
266 predict a likely on-going course of action, participants were presented with a third set of 10
267 movies, which ended abruptly after the completion of an action step. These movies were
268 again taken from the sample implemented in Schiffer et al. (2012; 2013), showing everyday
269 actions taking place at a table; there was no overlap between the movies used for any of the
270 control tasks within subjects. Participants were then instructed to name a probable next action
271 step. Voice responses were again recorded with a microphone that was sensitive to the time
272 point of speech onset. Participants had up to 6 seconds to initiate their response. The inter-
273 trial interval was 1 second. Please note that while prediction of likely next action steps would
274 help to decrease reaction times in this task, timing of these associated predictions is not as
275 crucial as in the action segmentation paradigm.

276
277 **2.3 Descriptive statistics**
278 In a first simple analysis, we used number of segmentations as an approximate measure to
279 estimate the reliability of segmentation responses. The number of segmentations for each
280 movie was correlated within each session for each participant to yield average correlation
281 scores across all six respective movies for each participant in each session (cmp. Schubotz et
282 al., 2012).

283
284 **2.3.1 Segmentation agreement**
285 In a next step, we assessed how normative segmentation judgments were (i.e., how much a
286 the segmentation profile of a movie derived from one person was in agreement with how
287 other participants segment the same movie). This variable needs to be as closely related to the
288 timing of segmentation judgments as possible, as this approach complements the classifier

289 analysis (section 2.4). To obtain a normativity score, we first established a symmetric time
290 window around each segmentation judgment ‘a’. We then counted how many other times
291 segmentation judgments were placed within this window around ‘a’ by the other participants.

292 To avoid any bias, we excluded the judgments by the participant in their second
293 segmentation instance of the same movie and the judgments by his matched control. We call
294 this the number of *segmentation agreements* for segmentation judgment ‘a’. This represents a
295 statistical random variable which measures how normative a given segmentation judgment
296 ‘a’ is. Therefore, we can use this random variable to estimate how much the segmentations
297 produced by a given group (e.g., PD patients OFF medication) agree with the general
298 population. A group including participants who segment a movie in a manner different from
299 the average population will get lower agreement scores. Conversely, a group with participants
300 that segment more normatively will get higher agreement scores (see Kurby, Asiala, and
301 Mills, 2014 for a closely related approach).

302 In addition to the inference-statistic measures and the normativity estimate, we also
303 employed a classifier approach to test whether PD patients rely on the same semantic
304 structure (i.e., are uncompromised in their ability) to segment actions. The classifier approach
305 extends the possibilities of classic inference statistics; while classic approaches test for the
306 difference between populations, classifiers can show that the data drawn from one sample can
307 predict the shape of the data of the corresponding sample - a strong argument in favour of
308 similarity.

309

310 **2.4 Within-and between-groups classification**

311 The power of a classifier analysis is its ability to predict the category of an item based on
312 information the classifier previously gathered about other items from all existing categories.
313 Harnessing this characteristic, we devised a classifier analysis to show that classification in
314 PD patients and healthy controls is so consistent that a classifier could predict which movie’s
315 data it was currently being presented with.

316 **2.4.1 Preprocessing**

317 Given a number of samples, of which each belongs to one of two possible classes, a classifier
318 attempts to learn the underlining *sample-class mapping* (Murphy, 2012). Samples are N-
319 dimensional vectors, while classes are labels with two possible values {class 1, class 2}. In
320 the present study, the task of the classifier was to assign the identity (“correct name”) to each

321 movie, based on the segmentation judgments. This means that the segmentation judgments
 322 served as N-dimensional *samples*, and the *classes* were the correct name of the movie.
 323 However, the segmentations do not have a constant number of dimensions, as each
 324 participant may make a different number of segmentation judgments in the same movie (i.e.,
 325 participants responded more or less often for each movie). To achieve the same vector length
 326 for each sample (i.e., each segmentation instance for each movie for every participant), we
 327 used a Fourier approach which, given a movie and a subject, obtained the probability of the
 328 subject placing a segmentation judgment at any time point for that movie, in essence a
 329 temporal profile of the typical response behaviour (this smooth probability function for the
 330 example movie is depicted in the red line in **Figure 1**). This probability function has a fixed
 331 number of dimensions (each time point is a dimension). In more detail: using formal
 332 nomenclature, the segmentation response of subject S, when watching movie M in trial T is
 333 $e_{SMT}(t)$, and can be described as a sequence of δ -dirac functions (δ functions are also

334 commonly referred to as stick functions):
$$e_{SMT} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \text{segmentation at time } t \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{pmatrix}$$

335

336 A smooth probability density function (i.e., $p_{SM}(t)$) is the natural result of representing a
 337 function of time with only the first few components of its Fourier transform (Diniz et al.,
 338 2010). This function estimates the probability of the subject pressing the segmentation button
 339 at time t for that given movie. The following four steps were implemented to derive this
 340 function: In a first step, we calculated the Fourier transform of $e_{SMT}(t)$:

341

342
$$E_{SMT}(f) = \sum_{t=1} \exp(-2\pi f t)$$

343 where f are the different Fourier components, evaluated at frequencies $1\Delta f, 2\Delta f, \dots$, with $\Delta f =$
 344 1000 divided by the total duration of the movie. In simple terms, Fourier transforms allow to
 345 generate a soft approximation of the signal described in the sets of δ functions. In the next
 346 step, we picked only the first 8 components of this transform to achieve a smooth
 347 representation. We chose 8 components because this provided time profiles that were smooth
 348 enough for the averages to converge. However, getting a few more or less components did

349 not change the results of the overall analysis. Only using either very few components (<4) or
 350 too many (>20), will hampered the classifier's performance - and it is then impaired in all
 351 conditions (for PD and controls), as the time profiles will change either too slowly with time
 352 (for < 4 all movies will render the same time profile) or too fast (for > 20 different
 353 segmentation profiles of the same movie will start to diverge). Third, for each subject and
 354 movie, we averaged these 8 components across trials:

$$355 \quad P_{SM}(f) = \sum_T E_{SMT}(f)$$

356 The fourth and last step was to apply the inverse Fourier transform to obtain the temporal
 357 profile of this signal:

$$358 \quad P_{SM}(t) = \sum_{f=1\Delta f, 2\Delta f, \dots}^{8\Delta f} \exp(2\pi ft)$$

359

360 As we eliminated the elements containing the high frequency components of the original δ
 361 functions, we obtained a smooth version of the segmentation times (this is a general property
 362 of the Fourier transform and of low-pass filters). Assuming that the probability of pressing
 363 the segmentation button changes slowly over time, this effectively created an estimation of
 364 this probability based on the $eSMT$ samples (please refer to **Figure 1** for the depiction of a
 365 smooth probability-density function achieved in this way).

366 **2.4.2 Classification**

367 For each movie M, we selected 30 equidistant time points, with a separation equal to $1/30$ of
 368 the total length of that movie as input dimensions for the classifier. The purpose of the
 369 classifier was then to test whether it could assign the movie class (identity) correctly based on
 370 the information from these 30 dimensions (**Figure 3**). In simple words, the question is
 371 whether the classifier can, for example, identify that it is presented with the temporal profile
 372 of segmentations (segmentation pattern) of the movie that shows an actor doing the dishes

373 based on its training with the temporal profile of button-press probabilities for all movies,
374 including the dishes movie.

375 This setup of movie-based classification allowed us to use the classifiers to measure
376 how consistent participants within each group segmented movies. To this end, we iteratively
377 selected one subject from the group and two movies, which served as the two classes that the
378 classifier had to identify. We trained the classifier on all subjects (excluding the selected one),
379 and measured whether it could correctly classify the probability-density function (temporal
380 profile of response-probability) of the selected participant as one of the two movies. We
381 repeated this leave-one-out training/testing procedure (also referred to as jack-knife
382 approach) for all possible pairs of movies and for all participants in the given set of subjects.
383 The obtained average number of correct classifications indicates how consistent the
384 segmentation of movies was within this group of subjects.

385 A modification of this classification procedure allowed us to test how consistent
386 segmentation is across two groups, A and B. To this end, we selected all the subjects of group
387 A except for one as the training sample in the classifier, and tested the classifier's ability to
388 predict movie identities for the matched subject of group B. This means, for example, that we
389 trained the classifier with the segmentations from PD patients 2-16 and tested its ability to
390 assign the correct label to segmentation patterns derived from the matched control of PD
391 patient 1. The latter approach was used to measure whether the segmentations performed by
392 PD patients (group A) were consistent with controls (group B).

393

394 **3 Results**

395

396 **3.1 Descriptive statistics**

397 In the segmentation task, PD patients segmented each action movie on average 10.4 times in
398 their medication ON status and 9.8 times in their OFF status. Healthy controls segmented the
399 same movies on average 12.2 times in the pseudo ON and 12.9 times in the pseudo OFF
400 status. The time interval between two segmentation judgments was on average 9.5 seconds in
401 ON status and every 10.5 seconds in OFF status. For the healthy controls, segmentation
402 interval was on average 9.6 seconds in pseudo ON and 11.4 seconds in pseudo OFF. We
403 analysed the number of segmentations for each group (PD/CONTROL) in each medication
404 status (ON/OFF) using a repeated-measures ANOVA with between-subject factor GROUP
405 and within-subject factor MEDICATION STATUS and found no significant main effect or

406 interaction (all $F_{(1,30)} < 1$). These results indicate no strong differences in segmentation
407 behaviour, i.e., PD patients did not segment significantly less often than controls, irrespective
408 of medication status.

409 A correlation analysis was conducted on the number of responses for each movie and
410 for each of the two instances of the segmentation task in each session, per participant. This
411 yielded an average within-session segmentation-judgment reliability of $r = .86$ ($p = 0.045$) for
412 PD patients ON medication, $r = .87$ ($p = 0.039$) OFF medication, $r = .74$ ($p = 0.19$) for healthy
413 controls in pseudo ON, and $r = .88$ ($p = 0.031$) for healthy controls in pseudo OFF. We
414 conducted a repeated-measures ANOVA on within-session correlation with the between-
415 subject factor GROUP and within-subject factor MEDICATION STATUS and found no
416 significant main effect or interaction (all $F_{(1,30)} < 1$). All correlation coefficients were Fisher
417 z-transformed for group statistics.

418

419 **3.1.1 Cognitive control tasks:**

420 We analysed participants' reaction times and accuracy - measured as percent of correct
421 responses - in 6 different repeated-measures ANOVAS (**Figure 4**). Each ANOVA contained
422 the data from the patient population and their matched control (between-subject factor
423 GROUP) under both medication conditions (within-subject factor MEDICATION STATUS).
424 In the **Semantic association control task**, we found no significant main effect (all $F_{(1,30)} < 1$)
425 of GROUP or MEDICATION STATUS and no significant interaction for accuracy rates.
426 Reaction-time data likewise yielded no significant main effect (all $F_{(1,30)} < 1$) and no
427 significant interaction.

428 We found no indication of a difference in accuracy in the **Episodic recognition control**
429 **task**, with no significant main effects (all $F_{(1,30)} < 1$) and only a trend-level interaction of
430 GROUP and MEDICATION STATUS ($F_{(1,30)} = 3.199$, $p = 0.08$). In the reaction-time data,
431 we also found no significant main effect (GROUP $F_{(1,30)} = 1.3$, $p = 0.26$, MEDICATION
432 STATUS $F_{(1,30)} < 1$). There was no significant interaction ($F_{(1,30)} < 1$).

433 Finally, the **Action prediction/association control task** yielded a marginally
434 significant effect of GROUP in the accuracy data ($F_{(1,30)} = 3.84$, $p = 0.059$), but no main effect
435 of MEDICATION STATUS and no interaction (both $F_{(1,30)} < 1$). In the reaction time data, we
436 found no main effect (all $F_{(1,30)} < 1$) and no significant interaction ($F_{(1,30)} = 2.73$, $p = 0.1$). In
437 sum, the results from the control tasks did not show a specific impairment in any group under
438 any condition for functions which have to be considered necessary abilities for the action-
439 segmentation task: the ability to retrieve associations in general and in relation to actions, and

440 the ability to learn about new action episodes. The latter may be necessary to engage in a
441 compensatory strategy, as we will discuss later on.

442 The number of trials in all control tasks was very limited to reduce the time spent
443 under medication withdrawal. This means that the test may have had not enough power to
444 detect an impairment of function on the single-subject level. However, taken together with
445 the results of the PANDA tests, which showed that no participant suffered from dementia
446 (including associative learning and working memory abilities), and given that all participants
447 performed extremely well (mean accuracy higher than 80% in all tasks), there is no
448 compelling reason to assume that PD patients were impaired in action recognition, semantic
449 retrieval, or episodic memory. These results permit no inferences on whether action
450 recognition, semantic retrieval, or episodic memory *can* be impaired in PD. But they suggest
451 that in the present population differences in behaviour established in the analysis of
452 segmentation agreement and the classifier analysis were not driven by substantial
453 impairments in these functions.

454

455

456 **3.1.2 Segmentation agreement**

457 The above reported analyses of segmentation frequency per movie and within-session
458 correlation coefficients for segmentation frequency show that PD patients display consistency
459 in their segmentation behaviour across ON and OFF status. At the same time, it is evident
460 that the number of segmentations does not convey any information about segmentation
461 location. In contrast, the following analysis and the classifier approach both used measures
462 that were sensitive to the exact time-point of segmentation responses.

463 We used a time-window approach to measure within-group segmentation agreement.
464 Given a segmentation judgment 'a', this approach measures how often other subjects also
465 placed a segmentation judgment within a given time window around 'a'. This delivers a
466 measure of normativity: when, for a given movie, a participant segments close to the time
467 when many other subjects also make a segmentation judgment, the participant's segmentation
468 is in agreement with the population (see Methods and Figure 2 for details, and Kurby, Asiala,
469 and Mills, 2014 for a closely related approach).

470 The histograms in Figure 5 show the segmentation agreement for PD patients and
471 healthy controls in ON and OFF sessions, divided for the first and second segmentation
472 instance for each movie. Interestingly, when PD patients were tested in their first session OFF
473 medication, they showed significantly less agreement than control participants who

474 segmented a movie for the first time (Kolmogorov-Smirnov; p-value = 0.0061; ks-stat 0.073).
475 In Figure 5 (lower left), this is evident because many segmentation judgments made by PD
476 patients OFF medication in their first segmentation instance agree only with 10-30
477 segmentation judgments placed by other participants (i.e., only 10-30 other subjects placed a
478 segmentation within the time window). However, there was no difference between groups'
479 segmentation agreement the second time they segmented the movie. Tested ON medication,
480 PD patients did not differ from healthy controls in their segmentation agreement scores for
481 both the first and second segmentation (regardless the width of the time-window). The results
482 shown in Figure 5 are based on a time window of 1.5 seconds half-width. This result holds
483 for all window widths between 1 and 2.3 seconds. No statistically significant performance
484 decrement for PD patients in any medication or segmentation-instance condition with wider
485 windows was observed.

486

487 **3.2 Classifier analysis**

488 We used a classifier analysis to assess how consistent segmentation patterns were within and
489 across our four groups (PD patients ON vs. OFF medication, healthy controls in pseudo ON
490 vs. OFF session). These classifications produced 16 averages as shown in **Figure 6**. Averages
491 were calculated across all the possible leave-one-out splits of the data for the training-group-
492 A/testing-group-B classification. All of these classification performances were higher than
493 80% and t-tests showed that all of them were significantly different from chance at $p < 10^{-14}$
494 (**Table 3**). This allows the first inference that the commonalities in segmentation patterns far
495 outweighed the differences, as the classifier would otherwise have performed at chance level
496 (it would have "guessed" movie identity).

497 To test for any possible effect of training group, testing group, or medication status, we
498 ran a 4-way ANOVA with the factors: (i) TRAINING GROUP (PD/CONTROL), (ii)
499 TESTING GROUP (PD/CONTROL), (iii) MEDICATION STATUS TRAINING GROUP
500 (ON/OFF), and (iv) MEDICATION STATUS TESTING GROUP (ON/OFF).

501 The first classifier did not include measures of motor impairment and classified solely on
502 the dimensions derived from the smooth probability-density function for segmentation
503 behaviour. This analysis yielded a significant main effect of TRAINING GROUP ($F_{(1,15)} =$
504 6.99 ; $p = 0.009$, a marginally significant main effect of TESTING GROUP ($F_{(1,15)} = 3.4$, $p =$
505 0.066 , but no further main effect and no significant interaction. In a second classifier, we
506 included standard deviation in reaction time in the motor control tasks as an additional
507 dimension, to account for higher motor variability under dopamine-replacement withdrawal.

508 This step is necessary to link potential between-group differences to cognitive changes. This
509 classifier showed again a main effect of TESTING GROUP ($F_{(1,15)}= 12.39$, $p = 0.001$), but no
510 other main effect (all $F < 1$, except main effect of training group at $F_{(1,15)}= 1.15$, $p = 0.28$), and
511 no significant interaction (all $F < 1$, except interaction of testing group by training group at
512 $F_{(2,14)} = 1.44$, $p = 0.23$).

513 Lastly, we repeated this second approach, using the standard deviation sigma from an
514 ex-gaussian fit to the reaction-time data from the motor **control** task. Sigma in an ex-gaussian
515 model of reaction-time data captures the amount of variance in the data. This analysis
516 (**Figure 6**) likewise yielded a significant main effect of TESTING GROUP, ($F_{(1,15)} = 7.84$, p
517 $= 0.001$), but no other significant main effect or interaction.

518 **4 Discussion**

519
520 The present study investigated whether PD patients would display behavioural impairments
521 in an action segmentation task, which requires the exploitation of structured semantic action
522 representations and the generation and evaluation of predictions of forthcoming events. We
523 expected that PD patients would show some temporal variability around segmentation points
524 (1), but that the temporal pattern emerging from these segmentation points would be nearly
525 indistinguishable between PD patients and healthy controls (2). We found evidence for both
526 hypotheses in the present study. When participants were asked to segment action movies at
527 meaningful boundaries, classifiers trained on the temporal pattern of segmentation responses
528 were able to classify movie identity far above chance, for both training (PD or healthy
529 controls) and testing groups (PD or healthy controls), under either medication status
530 (ON/OFF). This core finding strongly suggests that PD patients have access to and exploit the
531 same action knowledge as healthy controls in action segmentation.

532 As predicted by our first hypothesis (temporal variability), classifier performance was
533 slightly decreased (while still far above chance) when it was tested for its ability to predict
534 the identity of movies segmented by PD patients. This subtle change in performance
535 indicated that PD patients' data contained more variability at segmentation points, thereby
536 becoming marginally less predictable in classification. Importantly, this finding stands when
537 motor variability, assessed in a separate motor control task, is accounted for by the classifier.
538 Thus, this finding suggests that the difference between the two groups is caused by cognitive
539 changes rather than a consequence of altered motor behaviour in PD. Notably and against
540 expectations, this small deviation was not limited to a specific medication session.

541 Indeed, we found that segmentation in PD patients reached lower agreement scores
542 only during the first of two segmentation instances in the OFF state. This lack of agreement
543 with the average segmentation, or non-normativity, was not, however, present during the
544 second segmentation instance in the OFF state, or any segmentation instance in the ON state.
545 This striking pattern of a one-time-exposure training effect supports the idea that patients can
546 use episodic memory for the content of the action sequence to compensate. Because we find
547 this compensation in dopaminergic OFF state, it is likely to rely on a brain network that does
548 not critically depend on dopaminergic innervation.

549 **4.1 PD patients exploit the same action knowledge as healthy controls when** 550 **segmenting action movies**

551 Action segmentation relies on semantic action knowledge (Zacks et al., 2006; Kurby, Asiala,
552 and Mills, 2014; Bailey et al., 2013). Learning and retrieving this action knowledge is
553 associated with a network including the lateral prefrontal cortex and temporo-parietal areas
554 (Binder et al., 2009; Buxbaum et al., 2007; Buxbaum, Kyle, and Menon, 2005). Recently,
555 there has also been evidence for a hippocampal involvement (Schubotz et al., 2012), a region
556 classically associated with episodic memory.

557 The putative role of the hippocampus is of particular interest since it is well established
558 that although PD patients have difficulties to learn from (positive) feedback and compensate
559 strategically for this impairment via explicit learning of stimulus-outcome contingencies
560 (Shohamy et al., 2008). Learning response-outcome contingencies from feedback integration
561 is assumed to rely on the basal ganglia and to involve the dopaminergic midbrain, while the
562 suggested compensatory strategies are mediated by the hippocampus (Dagher et al., 2001;
563 Shohamy et al., 2008;).

564 Clearly, attributing all compensatory function in PD to a hippocampal network is not
565 warranted. This is not least because the hippocampus receives dense dopaminergic projection
566 and the degree to which a potential decrease in innervation in PD could alter hippocampal
567 function remains unclear. (Jay, 2003 for review) Further, it has been shown that hippocampal
568 volume can be decreased in PD, especially in elderly patients and patients suffering from
569 dementia (Brück et al., 2004; Camicioli et al., 2004; Churchyard & Lees, 1997 - please note
570 that the PD patients in the present study did not suffer from dementia or memory problems).
571 These findings suggest that hippocampal function may be impaired in PD, which could
572 potentially have implications for the availability of hippocampal compensation mechanisms.

573 In contrast, the possibility that a hippocampal learning and memory mechanism may
574 indeed be involved in compensation in this specific task is suggested by the episodic nature
575 of the decrease in non-normativity: normativity scores in patients in the OFF status made a
576 full recovery as soon as they had segmented the same movie one single time before. Lastly,
577 the proposal that episodic memory can aid action segmentation and that this process is
578 associated with the hippocampus receives some support from a study which showed non-
579 normative segmentation behaviour in participants with decreased medial temporal lobe
580 volume (Bailey et al., 2013). Thus, whether decrease in non-normative behaviour is in fact
581 hippocampally mediated remains an open and exciting research question. An empirical study
582 using classifiers to achieve a double dissociation between PD patients and patient groups with
583 dementia would be highly desirable.

584 In light of the present results and our previous fMRI data (Schubotz et al., 2012), we
585 propose that action segmentation based on action semantics and episodic memory relies on a
586 network including prefrontal cortex (Grafman, 2003; Schubotz et al., 2012), cortical areas
587 involved in action representation (Decety et al., 1997; Spunt, Falk, and Lieberman, 2010;
588 Watson and Chatterjee, 2011; Hoffman, Jones, and Ralph, 2012), and the hippocampal
589 formation (Schubotz et al., 2012 cf. Bailey et al., 2013). Intact dopaminergic innervation of
590 the basal ganglia (and prefrontal cortex) does not appear essential for action segmentation,
591 but is important for the precise timing of the responses, particularly when no episodic
592 memory for the sequence can be accessed. These results complement a series of studies
593 which has shown that PD patients are impaired in motor imagery (Poliakoff, 2013), i.e., when
594 they have to internally initiate action representations - a process similar to the initiation of
595 predictions of external (action) events. However, PD patients are not impaired in action
596 observation (Poliakoff, 2013), as shown for example by the finding that the observation of
597 another agent's actions affects performance of a motor tasks in PD patients just as it does in
598 healthy controls (Albert, Peiris, Cohen, Miall, & Praamstra, 2010).

599 **4.2 Prediction errors and sequential prediction**

600 The proposed role of the basal ganglia in the generation, selection and timing of forward
601 models of probable forthcoming events (Redgrave, Prescott, and Gurney, 1999; Bischoff-
602 Grethe, Crowley, and Arbib, 2003) led us to hypothesise an increased variability at a fine
603 timescale in the segmentation behaviour of PD patients. This hypothesis was supported by
604 the classifier analysis.

605 However, an alternative account of basal ganglia involvement in action segmentation
606 would also lead to the prediction of increased variability: The Event Segmentation Theory
607 (EST, Zacks and Swallow, 2007; Kurby and Zacks, 2008; Zacks and Sargent, 2010) proposes
608 basal ganglia involvement in signalling prediction errors when unlikely but salient events
609 occur. According to EST, the end of events is signified by prediction errors ('ES prediction
610 errors', hereafter). The underlying theory is that internal forward models of one event become
611 imprecise when the new event begins, which leads to ES prediction errors. EST therefore
612 argues that compromised basal ganglia function leads to disorganised segmentation
613 behaviour (Zacks and Sargent, 2010), as a lack of dopaminergic error signalling prevents the
614 inference that an event boundary has been passed.

615 In contrast, we would argue that naturalistic events such as actions are usually
616 probabilistically structured (Csibra, 2007; Colder, 2011; Botvinick and Plaut, 2004; Kilner,
617 Friston, and Frith, 2007; Kilner et al., 2004), i.e., that the occurrence of one event makes
618 certain events more probable, while other events are rendered less likely. Accordingly,
619 probable upcoming actions do not constitute a violation of predictions. Moreover, most
620 events are associated with (and thus expected to have) a set approximate duration. Hence, in
621 naturally timed and canonical action sequences such as our action movies, expectations
622 remain usually unviolated.

623 The understanding that transitions between actions steps are probabilistic or even near-
624 deterministic in character relates to concept of action hierarchies (Botvinick, Niv, and Barto,
625 2009; Schwartz, 2006; Grafman, 2003; but see Botvinick and Plaut, 2004). An overarching
626 action goal like, e.g., tidying the kitchen, is composed of a series of action components, each
627 with its own goals such as, e.g., clearing away the dishes and tidying the shelves. Again, each
628 of these actions may comprise different subgoals, such as opening the dishwasher, getting a
629 plate out, opening the cupboard, putting the plate into the cupboard, etc... It has not been
630 spelled out yet at which level of this hierarchy dopaminergic ES prediction errors are to be
631 expected. However, experiments that did vary the hierarchical level on which participants had
632 to segment did not report basal ganglia activity for either coarse (high level) or fine grained
633 (low level) segmentation (Zacks et al., 2001).

634 In the present study, we could establish that PD patients, both ON and OFF
635 medication, show segmentation judgments that are highly similar to controls' judgments and
636 thus seem to rely on the same structured action knowledge. This finding is difficult to
637 reconcile with the proposal that event segmentation has to rely on dopaminergic ES
638 prediction errors. Moreover, while PD patients OFF medication segmented less normatively

639 if a movie was completely unknown to them, this deviation was not present for the second
640 segmentation instance; this finding speaks against the idea that action segmentation has to
641 rely on intact dopaminergic innervation. Accordingly, we propose that the basal ganglia play
642 a role in the fast generation of timed predictions for probable next sensory states and their
643 evaluation based on the present sensory input.

644 This account suggests that the probabilistic structure of actions results in the presence
645 of a number of weighted forward models for probable next action steps in the basal ganglia
646 circuits (see Frank, 2006; Frank and Claus, 2006; Frank, Scheres, and Sherman, 2007 for a
647 computational model of weighted forward models in the basal ganglia for goal-directed
648 behaviour). Because the weighing of these probabilities and their generation is dependent on
649 dopaminergic input, PD patients would be compromised in fast decisions on whether a
650 present sensory input (according to the next action step) is in line with, or deviant from,
651 specific forward models.

652 **4.3 The anatomic specificity of patient data**

653 Ascribing function to a specific brain area based on data from participants with neurological
654 changes has some limitations; one of many is that the multitude of changes associated with a
655 different neurological conditions make it difficult to ascertain which affected structure is
656 causally relevant for the specific impaired function. Parkinson's disease is associated with
657 changes not only to the basal ganglia, but also to the prefrontal cortex and hippocampus
658 (Brück et al., 2003; Camicioli et al., 2003; Churchyard & Lees, 1997; Emre, 2003; Scatton et
659 al., 1982). While models of basal ganglia and premotor function drove our hypothesis, our
660 results can obviously not discern the changes to which structure underlie the established
661 changes in behaviour. In fact, internally driven prediction of external events and timing of
662 predictions may well rely on interplay of basal ganglia, thalamus and prefrontal/premotor
663 cortex (Lewis et al, 2004; Schönberger, 2013).

664 **4.4 Showing similarity and highlighting differences: the use of classifiers in patient** 665 **studies**

666 Every study that tests for the ability of patients to perform a task just as well as healthy
667 participants suffers from a conundrum: It is statistically unsound to test for the validity of the
668 null-hypothesis (Cohen, 1994). The present study circumvents this problem by taking a new
669 approach in implementing a classifier analysis. The idea of this classifier analysis is that if the
670 algorithm learns classification from patient data and this classification is then successfully

671 applied to the data from healthy controls (or vice versa), similarities between the groups has
672 to be considerably high. In fact, in our case it shows that each action movie has a distinct
673 temporal profile of segmentation judgments that makes it different from all other movies.
674 These profiles of the same movie produced by different people were very similar, regardless
675 whether they reflect the behaviour of healthy controls, medicated PD patients, or PD patients
676 off their dopaminergic medication. In the present study, these findings are supported by the
677 correlation analyses that indicate high reliability. The correlation analyses' findings, as well
678 as the segmentation agreement estimation, fall short of the classifier in that they cannot
679 deliver evidence whether what patients do reliably is, in colloquial terms, the same thing
680 healthy controls do reliably. The classifier yields just this distinction.

681 We believe these very positive results mark classifiers as a valuable tool to investigate
682 hypotheses that propose that patients are not compromised in a given ability. This type of
683 analysis is particularly appropriate for paradigms that provide rich data, for example,
684 behavioural paradigms which assess reaction times, error rates, and subjective judgments
685 (e.g., confidence judgments) for each task, or - perhaps more obviously - studies combining
686 behavioural data and neural recordings. We included classic statistical approaches in the
687 present paper to show that the classical and the novel approach yield similar results. Since the
688 classifier approach is a positive test for the presence of an effect (classification), we suggest
689 that it surpasses the argumentative power of non-significant findings inherent to many
690 inference statistic approaches.

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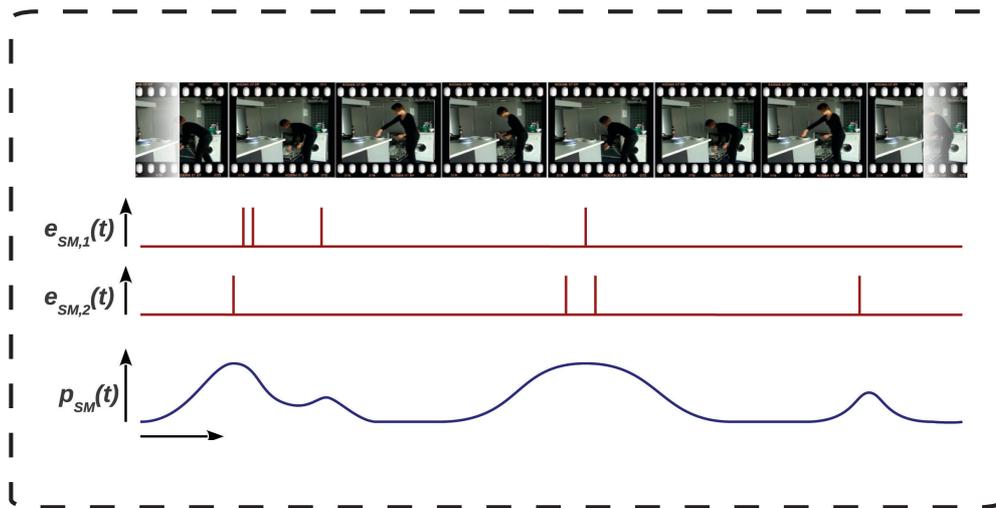
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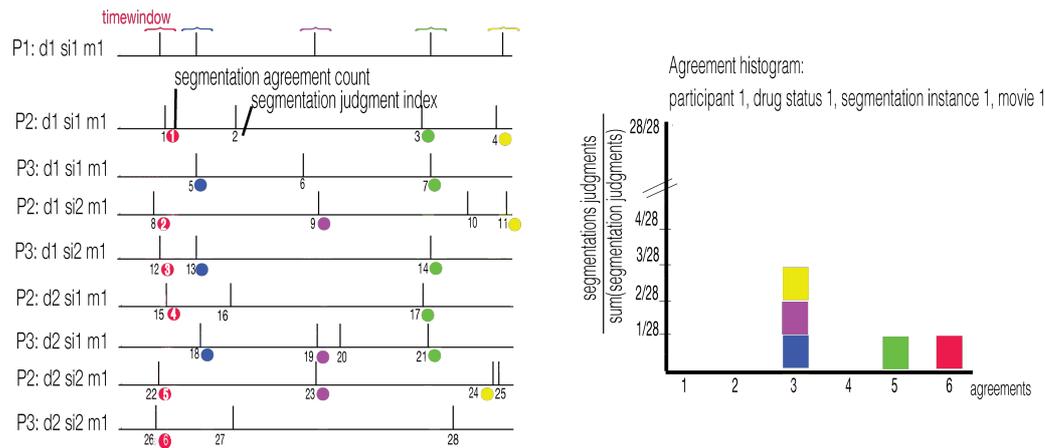
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Figure 1: Probability of segmentation judgments



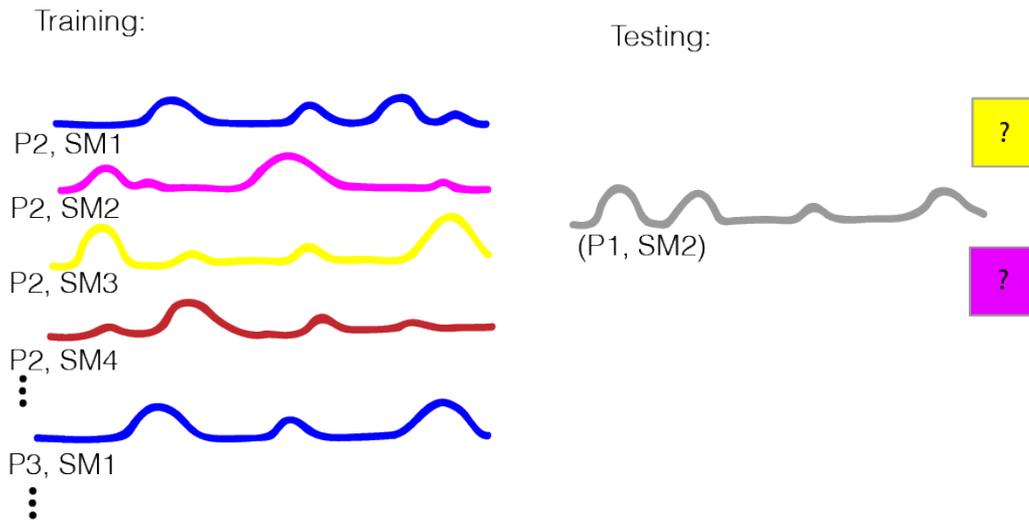
Top row: Frames from an example movie showing an actor clearing out the dishwasher;
2nd & 3rd upper rows: each participant segmented each movie twice ($e_{SM,1}$ and $e_{SM,2}$). The red bars correspond to individual segmentation judgments expressed as delta functions, taken from one participant. Each bar represents one segmentation judgment. These delta functions were combined and transformed into temporal patterns representing the probability of a segmentation judgment at each moment in time (probability-density functions), displayed in blue. The classifier analysis used these probability-density functions to predict movie identity.

Figure 2: Schematic representation of segmentation agreement analysis.



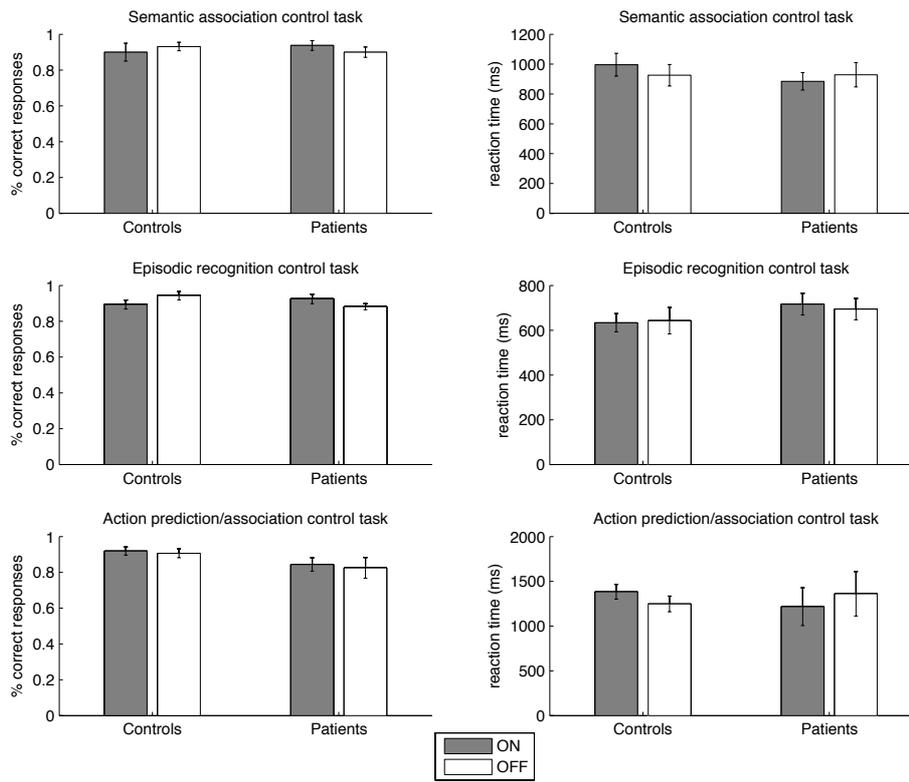
Segmentation agreement scores were calculated for each participant (e.g., P1), under each medication status (here referred to as 'd', or 'drug status', to avoid confusion), for each segmentation instance (e.g., first segmentation, s1) for each movie (e.g., m1). For each segmentation judgment in the respective segmentation instance (left panel, P1: d1 s1 m1), we counted how many other segmentation judgments across the entire group (all participants except the current one and his matched control, in each medication condition, in each segmentation instance, for the *same* movie) would fall into the same time window (e.g., 6 for the first judgments, marked in pink, 3 for the second judgment, marked in purple). For explanation-purposes only, this example assumes a group of 4 participants, instead of the actual 32. This number is then normalised by the overall number of segmentations in the group. This process delivers a histogram of segmentation agreements for each participant in each medication condition, in each segmentation instance, for each movie (displayed on the right). The histogram shows that in this example, one of the segmentation judgments was agreed on in 6 instances (pink) and 3 different segmentation judgments were agreed on 3 times, respectively (purple, magenta, yellow). The combination of these histograms is indicative of the segmentation agreement scores for a subpopulation (e.g., PD patients, ON medication, in their first segmentation instance) with the overall group.

Figure 3: Classification on temporal segmentation patterns



The classifier was trained on a representation of the temporal pattern of responses, i.e., the probability-density functions, capturing the probability of a segmentation judgment over time (see Figure 1), for each movie (SM1, SM2, etc., here limited to 4 movies for presentation purposes only), taken from all participants (P2, P3, etc.) except the one that it was later tested on (P1) and his matched control. In the testing phase, the classifier was iteratively presented with the data from the left-out participant and had to assign one of two possible labels (e.g., doing-the-dishes movie vs sweeping-the-floor movie, here represented as purple and yellow). In the case of across-group classification, the classifier would be presented with the data from the matched control of the left-out participant.

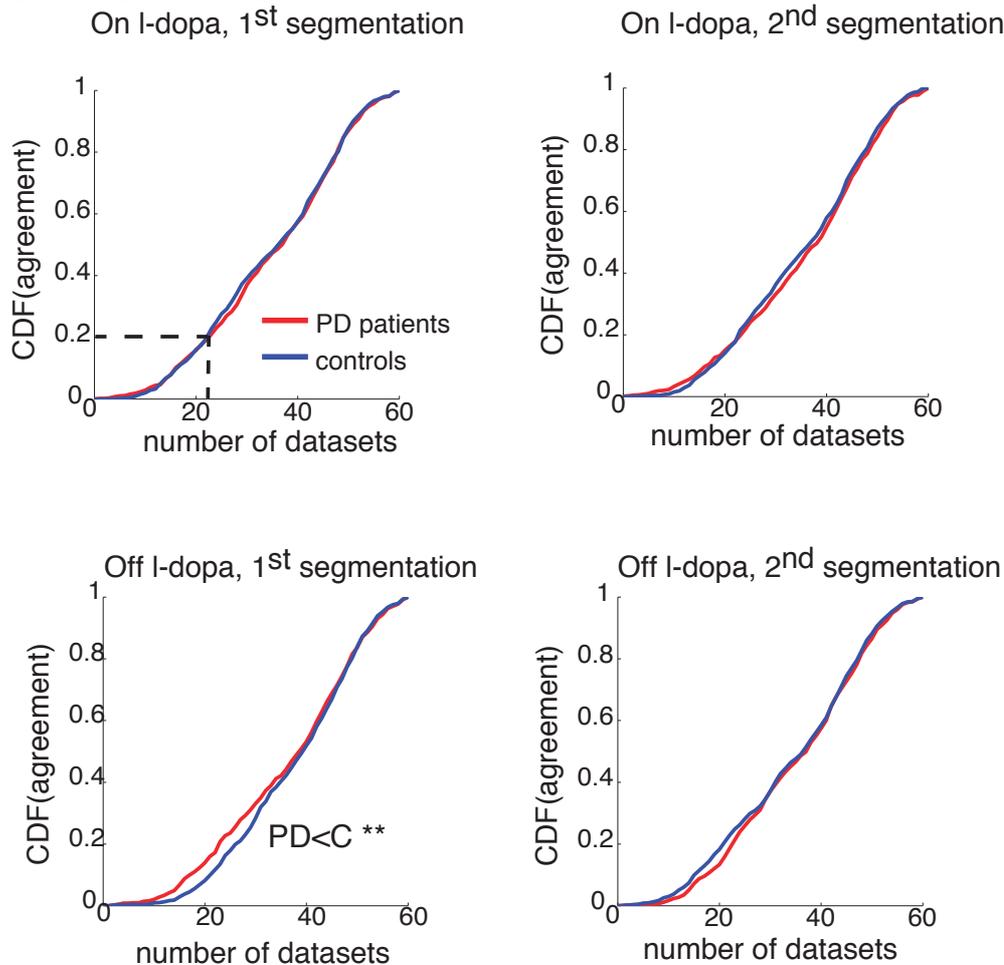
Figure 4: Patients' and controls' performance in the three control tasks.



Legend:

Performance in all control tasks across groups. There were no main effects of group or medication status in any of the tasks.

Figure 5: Segmentation agreement across sessions and medication status for PD patients and controls

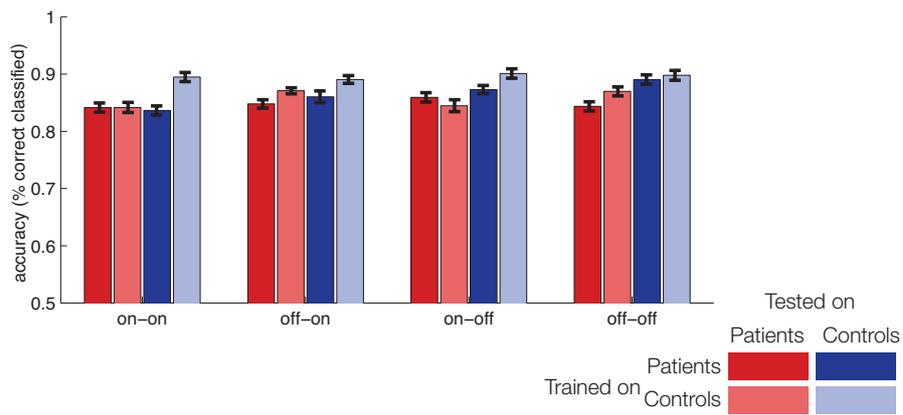


Legend:

Segmentation agreements, for each participant group (PD – red line/controls – blue line), in each medication status (ON/OFF), for each segmentation instance (first/second). The cumulative distributive function is a random variable, displaying the *area under the curve* calculated from the combined agreement histograms for each group. Considering for example agreement scores in the first segmentation instance ON medication (upper left panel), a probability of agreement of 0.2 is the case in ~23 datasets or less (see dotted lines) both for PD patients and for healthy controls (the red and blue lines are aligned).

A Kolmogorov-Smirnov showed that the only significant difference was a comparatively lower segmentation agreement for PD patients in the first instance OFF medication (lower left panel), compared to healthy controls in this condition. This deficit is absent during the second segmentation instance in the same session (lower right panel). Additional tests show that this difference is the only statistically significant difference with window sizes varying between 1 and 2.3 seconds. For larger window sizes, all significant differences disappear.

Figure 6: Classifier performance for within and between group classification ON and OFF medication



Legend:

Classifier performance for all tested combinations of training and testing group under all medication conditions. Classification performance for classifiers trained on patients displayed in dark colours, classifier performance for classifiers trained on controls are displayed in lighter colours. Performance of classifiers tested on patients displayed in red and performance of classifiers tested in controls displayed in blue. Medication status in training or testing is indicated by location on the x-axis. on-on: training and testing on medication; off-on: training off, testing on; on-off: training on, testing off; off-off : training and testing off medication. The y-axis starts at 50%, i.e., chance level; error bars show the standard error of the mean. Classifiers tested on controls' data achieve a slightly higher performance (main effect of TESTING GROUP).

Table 1: Descriptive data of patients and healthy controls

	PD: mean - min - max (<i>STD</i>)	Controls: mean - min - max (<i>STD</i>)
Age (yrs)	61 - 45 - 73 (7.4)	61.4 - 51 - 74 (5.1)
Edinburgh score	70.3 - 33 - 100 (17.3)	73.8 - 50 - 100 (2.8)
UPDRS - ON	20.9 - 9 - 31 (6.6)	1.25 - 0 - 4 (1.3)
UPDRS - OFF	27.12 - 13 - 37 (6.9)	1.1 - 0 - 4 (1.1)
BDI	9.7 - 0 - 19 (6.1)	5.8 - 0 - 17 (4.1)
PANDA	25.4 - 16 - 30 (2.8)	26.1 - 21 - 30 (2.4)
Disease duration (yrs)	7 - 2 - 12 (3.1)	
Hoehn & Yahr - ON	2.4 - 2 - 3 (0.10)	
Hoehn & Yahr - OFF	2.6 - 2 - 3 (0.09)	

Table 2: Condition specific t-values in the comparison of classification performance against chance level (50%).

CON: control group, PD: patients

Training-testing group	Training-testing medication	p-value	T-value, all df =15
PD-PD	ON-ON	6*10 ⁻¹⁶	36
PD-PD	ON-OFF	1*10 ⁻¹⁷	46
PD-PD	OFF-ON	1*10 ⁻¹⁶	40.3
PD-PD	OFF-OFF	3*10 ⁻¹⁶	37.8
CON-PD	ON-ON	8*10 ⁻¹⁴	25.7
CON-PD	ON-OFF	1*10 ⁻¹⁶	39.6
CON-PD	OFF-ON	3*10 ⁻¹⁷	44.4
CON-PD	OFF-OFF	5*10 ⁻¹⁹	57.7
PD-CON	ON-ON	1*10 ⁻¹⁵	33.7
PD-CON	ON-OFF	3*10 ⁻¹⁸	50.9
PD-CON	OFF-ON	4*10 ⁻¹⁵	31.3
PD-CON	OFF-OFF	4*10 ⁻¹⁹	58.8
CON-CON	ON-ON	6*10 ⁻¹⁶	36
CON-CON	ON-OFF	6*10 ⁻¹⁹	57.1
CON-CON	OFF-ON	4*10 ⁻¹⁷	43.3
CON-CON	OFF-OFF	2*10 ⁻¹⁸	52.4

Table 3: Description of the movies in the segmentation tasks

Movie content	Length
Actor irons shirts, folds onto table.	110 s
Actor finds sugar spilled on floor, takes broom, sweeps floor.	55 s
Actor takes clothes off the line, folds them away.	143 s
Actor clears out the dishwasher and sorts dishes into cupboards.	69 s
Actor gets dressed (coat, boots and scarf), leaves room.	43 s
Actor finds lamp not working, changes light bulb.	53 s
Actor pours milk into cup, spills coffee, gets cloth, wipes table.	44 s
Actor takes a photograph of flowers on a table.	62 s
Actor takes hand pump off bike, starts pumping air into tyre.	76 s
Actor washes and cuts tomatoes, places both into bowl.	143 s
Actor sticks poster to to wall using sellotape.	50 s
Actor cleans dishes by hand.	119 s

Table 4: Overview of individual medication. Dopamine agonists were discontinued up to 36 h (Piribedil: 36 h, Ropinirole/Pramipexole 25 h) and replaced by L-Dopa until complete cessation 14 h before testing.

Patient	Medication
P1	Pramipexole 2,1 mg, L-Dopa 850mg, Selegiline 5mg, Benserazide 75mg, Carbidopa 137,5mg, Entacapone 1000mg
P2	Amantadine 150mg, L-Dopa 600mg, Piribedil 50mg, Entacapone 1000mg, Carbidopa 100mg, Benserazide 25mg
P3	Piribedil 100mg, L-Dopa 300mg, Carbidopa 75mg
P4	Rotigotine 4mg, Rasagiline 1mg
P5	Piribedil 400mg, L-Dopa 400mg, Carbidopa 100mg
P6	L-Dopa 300mg, Carbidopa 75mg, Pramipexole 3,15mg
P7	Pramipexole 2,1mg, Selegiline 5mg
P8	Pramipexole 2,1 mg, Rasagiline 1mg
P9	Pramipexole 2,1mg, Rasagiline 1mg
P10	Pramipexole 2,36, Rasagiline 1mg
P11	Ropinirole 12mg, Rasagiline 1mg
P12	Pramipexole 2,62, L-Dopa 700mg, Benserazide 25mg, Amantadine 300mg, Tolcapone 300mg, Carbidopa 150mg
P13	Amantadine 200mg, L-Dopa 200mg, Benserazide 50mg, Selegiline 10mg
P14	Pramipexole 3,15, Rasagiline 1mg, 225 L-Dopa, Carbidopa 56,25mg, Entacapone 600mg
P15	Ropinirole 2mg, Rasagiline 1mg, Amantadine 200mg
P16	Amantadin 200mg, Rasagiline 1mg, L-Dopa 218,75 mg, Benserazide 43,75mg