GraphVar: a brief tutorial for getting started



Hypothesis:

- 1. Chilli eating champs probably have more efficient brains... otherwise they could not deal with all the pain!
- 2. Probably orbito frontal gyrus and supplementary motor area contribute here... something like value representations and motor inhibition (... "don't spit out these delicious chillies")

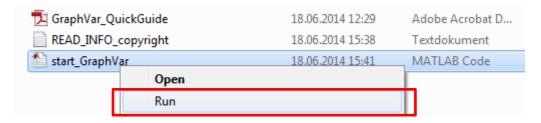




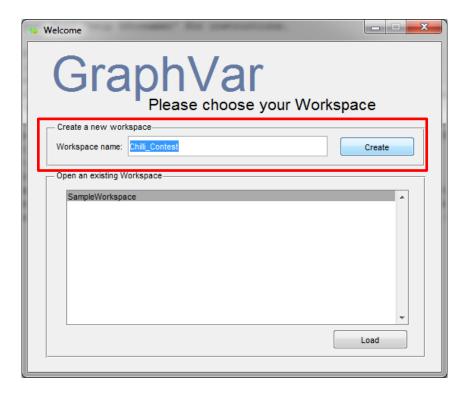
Hypothesis:

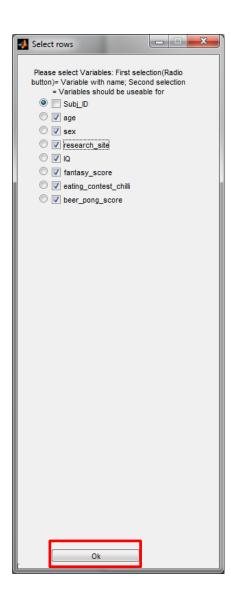
... a potential confound could be how much beer somebody had to drink before (i.e., cooling effect on the brain)

1. Use the right mouse to start GraphVar by clicking RUN on the "start_GraphVar" script in the main folder

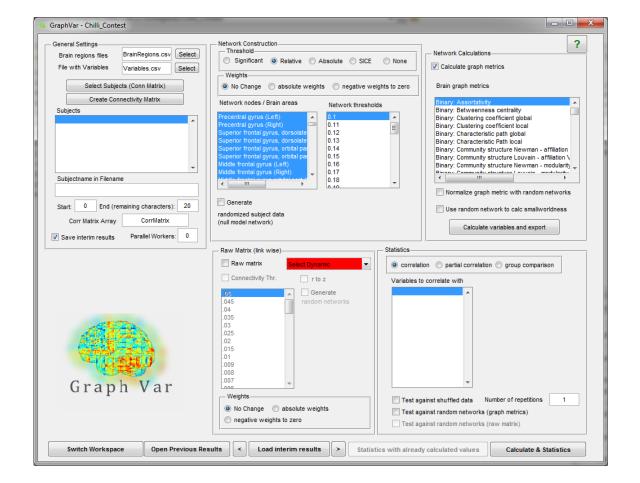


2. Create a new Workspace "Chilli_Contest"

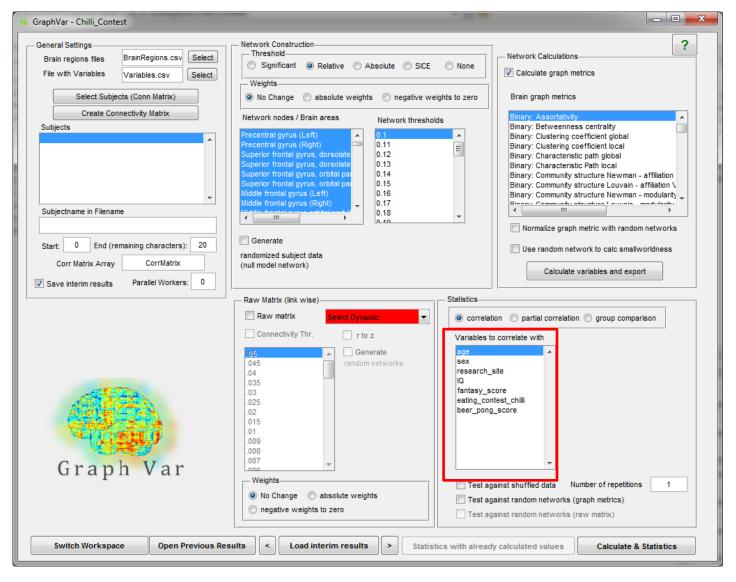




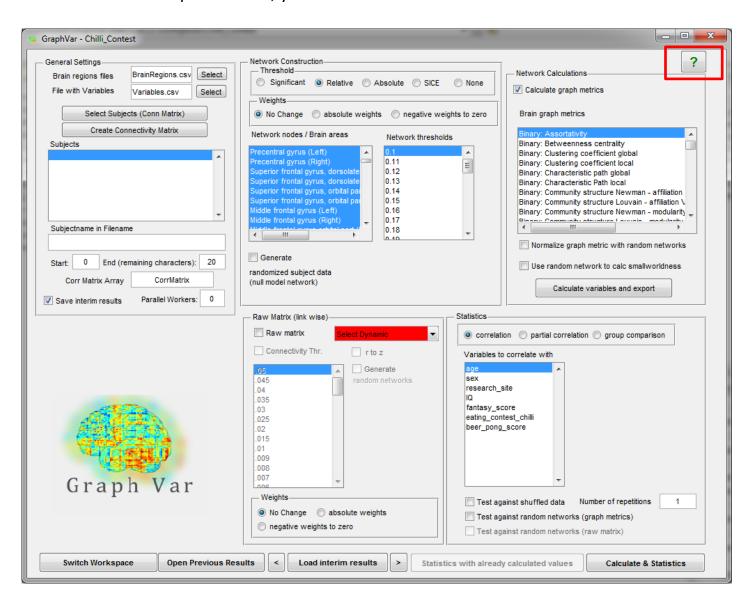
- The demo (default) data selection window appears (refer to the manual for how to change this)
- Research_site and sex are initially not selected as these variables are encoded as strings in the variable spread sheet ... you may select them if you want
- Hit the okay button



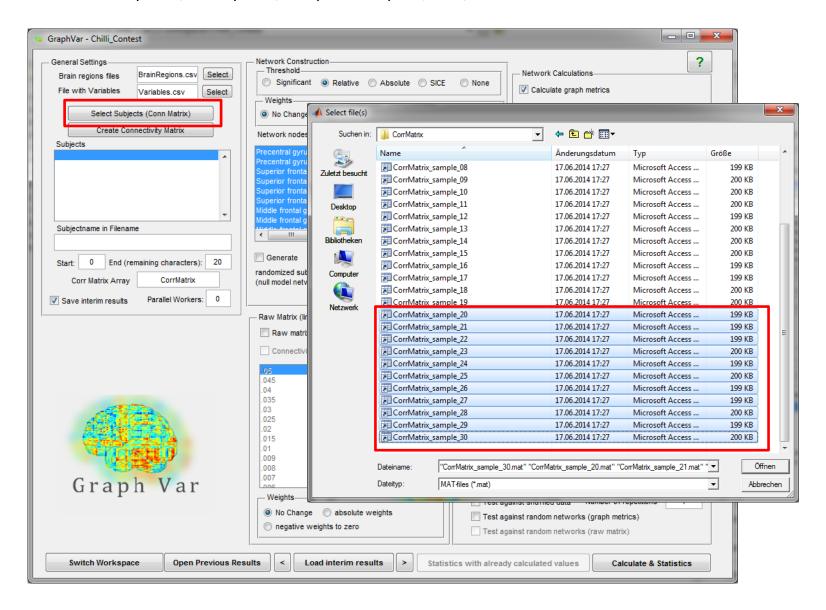
Selected variables will be loaded in the "statistics window"



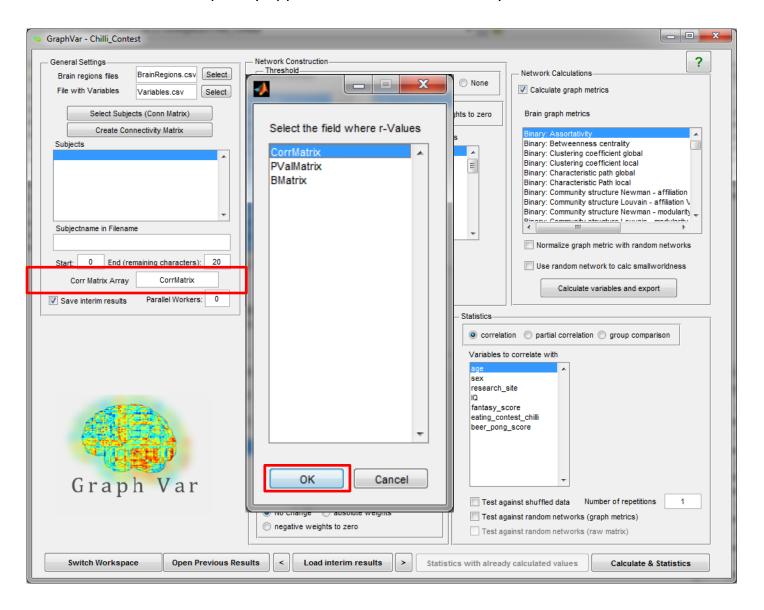
- FYI: there is also a help button in the top right!
- When help is enabled, you will have a mouse over info for each function of the GUI



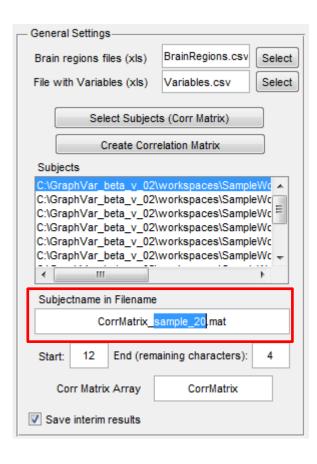
- Now, select the subjects (in general settings)
- Navigate to the "Sample Workspace" and select subject 20-30
- Path: ...GraphVar/workspaces/SampleWorkspace/data/CorrMatrix



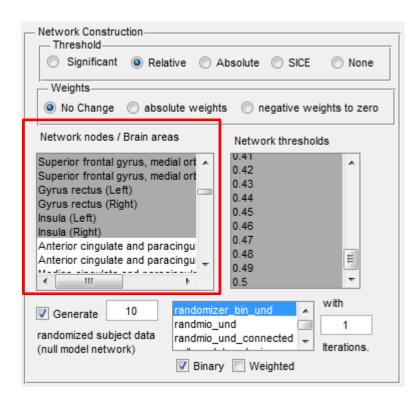
- A selection windows appears asking for the array in the CorrMatrix .mat file in which the correlations are saved (here this is CorrMatrix)
- The name will subsequently appear in the Corr Matrix Array box



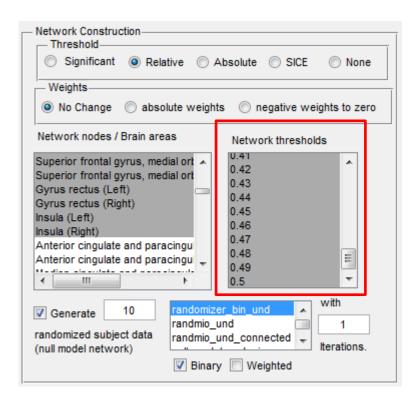
- Highlight the subject ID with the mouse to provide the reference between the CorrMatrices and the subject data in the variable spreadsheet (these should be identical)
- If you don't want to do statistics (only calculation of graph metrics and export) no spreadsheet is required



- Now, you'll have to specify a network in the network construction panel (by default AAL labels are loaded)
 the network nodes/brain areas refer to the "brain regions file" (see manual)
- For this tutorial we specify the "chilly-responsive-network": starting from Precentral gyrus (left) until Insula (right)
 - -> select the 30 consecutive nodes with your mouse or keyboard

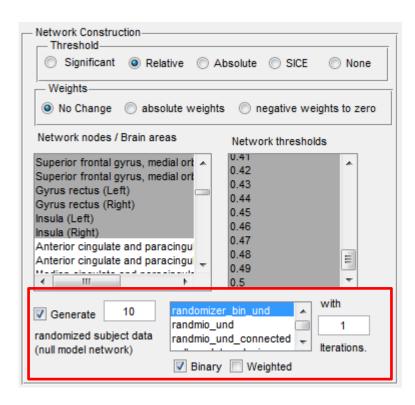


- Here, we want to construct different networks using relative thresholding (i.e., densities)
- Simply select all the thresholds in the box with "ctrl+A" (see manual for how to add more thresholds)



- It is always a good idea to do statistics by also using subject specific null-model networks (i.e., non-parametric testing)
- For this example we ONLY generate 10 binary random networks per subject per threshold using the "randomizer_bin_und" BCT function

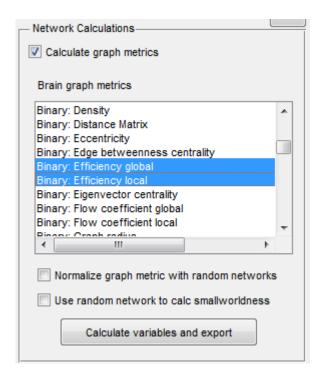
(normally you would use 100-1000 or even more ... but this will take a lot of time)



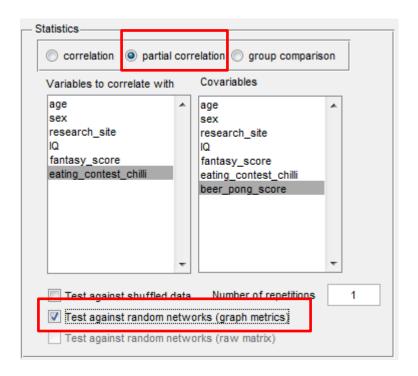
• As we have the hypothesis, that chilli eating champs probably have more efficient brains and that probably insula and orbito frontal cortex may contribute here, we select:

Binary: Efficiency global Binary: Efficiency local

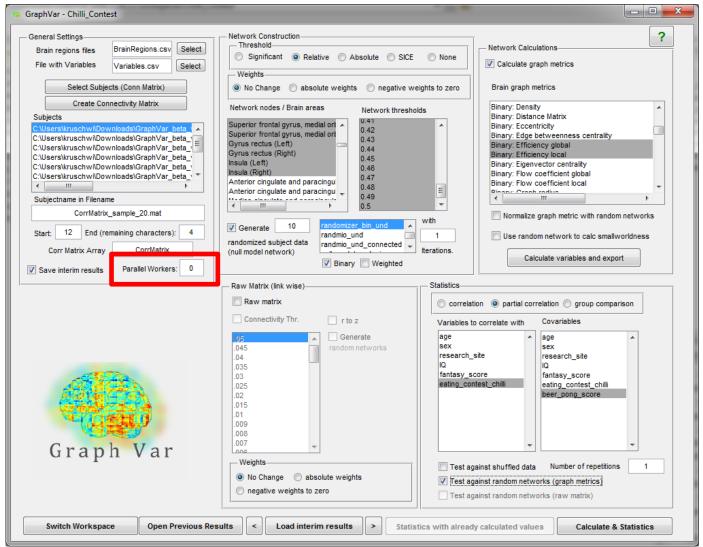
• FYI: you can also add custom functions (see appendix in the manual); also note that for some of the functions it would not make sense to do statistics on (e.g., modularity affiliation vector; get components)



- In the statistics panel select "partial correlation" and respectively "eating_contest_chilli" and "beer_pong_score"
- Also select to test against the random networks (graph metrics)
- Note: if you have specified a variable as string in the spreadsheet (e.g., sex), it is not possible to use it as covariate (here you would have to specify as 0 and 1 respectively)

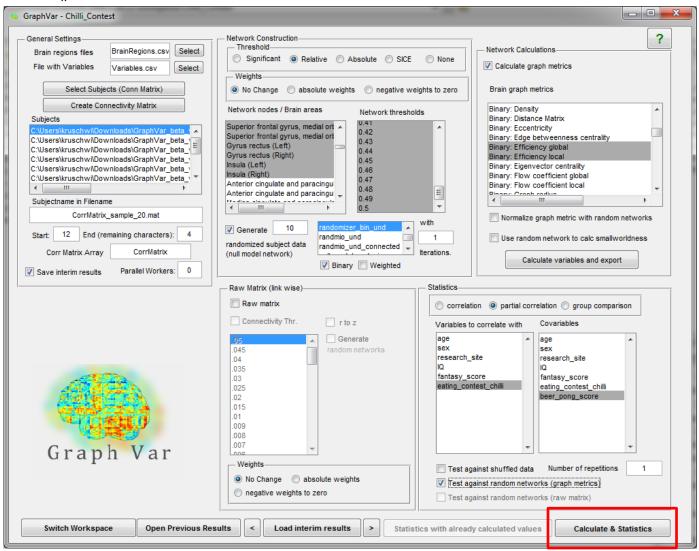


• If you have the parallel computing toolbox installed, you may want to use more workers (cores) to speed things up!

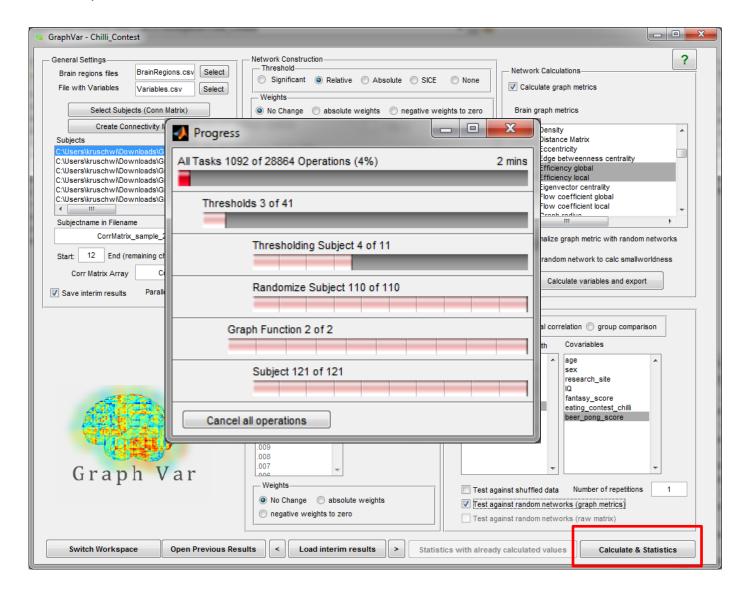


Parallel Computing (with toolbox)

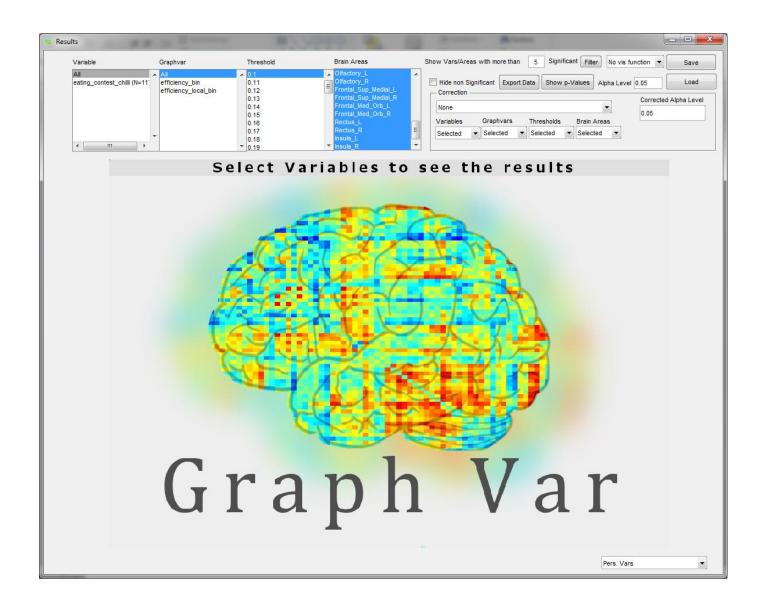
- You are ready to go and thus to test the hypothesis!
- Click on "Calculate & Statistics"



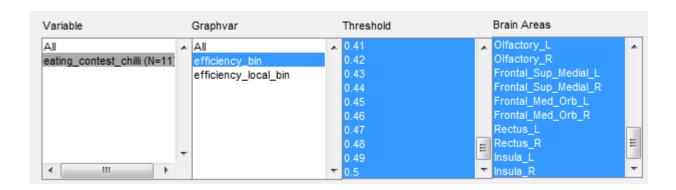
• This computation will take about 2-3 minutes ...



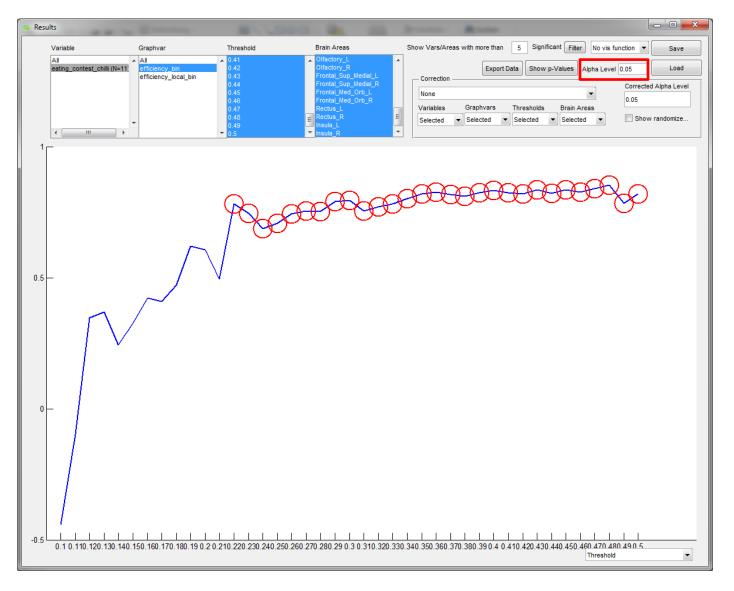
This is the results viewer.



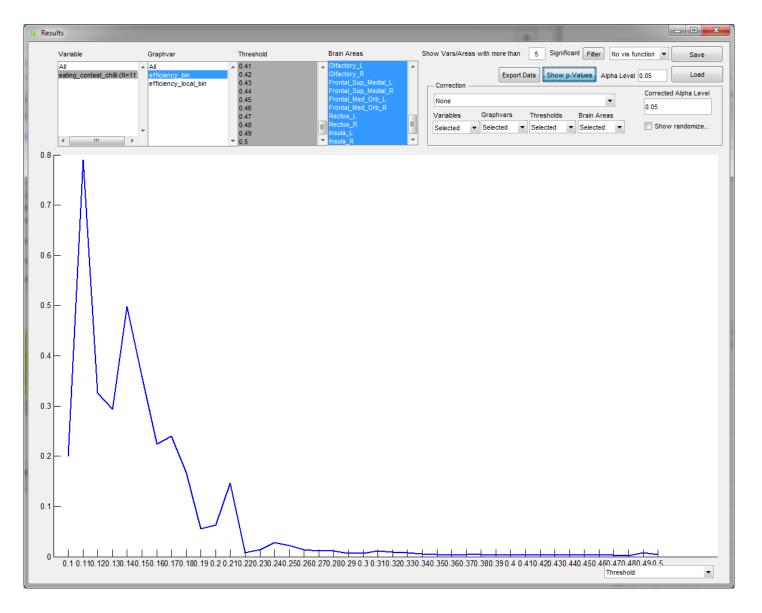
- To see the results for global efficiency across thresholds, select the chilli variable, "efficiency_bin", and all thresholds (ctrl+A)
- Selection of brain areas does not have an effect on global variables



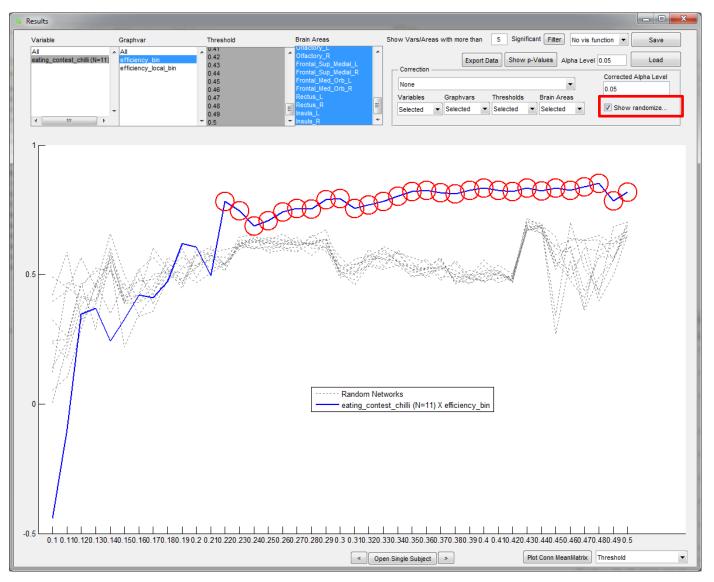
- Now, you should see the correlation of global efficiency and chilli eating contest scores
- The red dots indicate where the correlation is significant according to the desired alpha level (which you can change here)



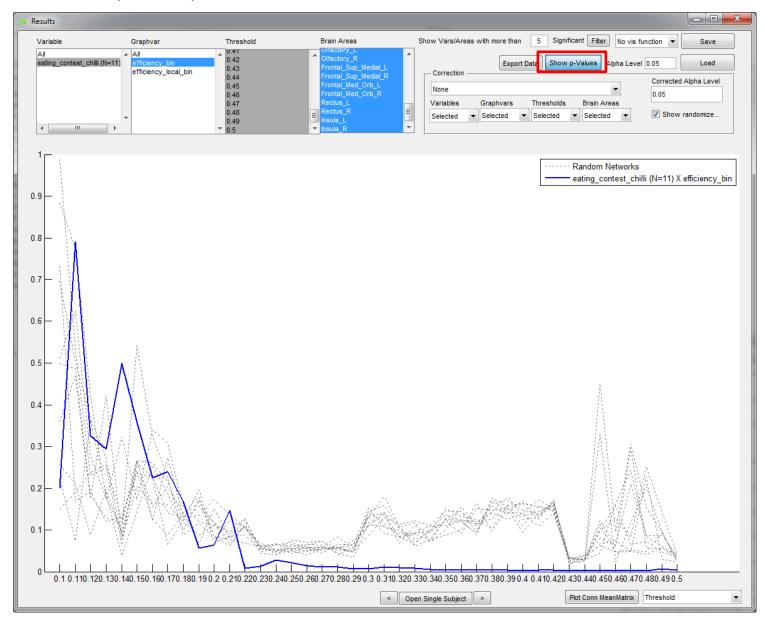
- To explore the p-values across thresholds select the "show p-Values" button
- By hitting the button again the correlation appears again



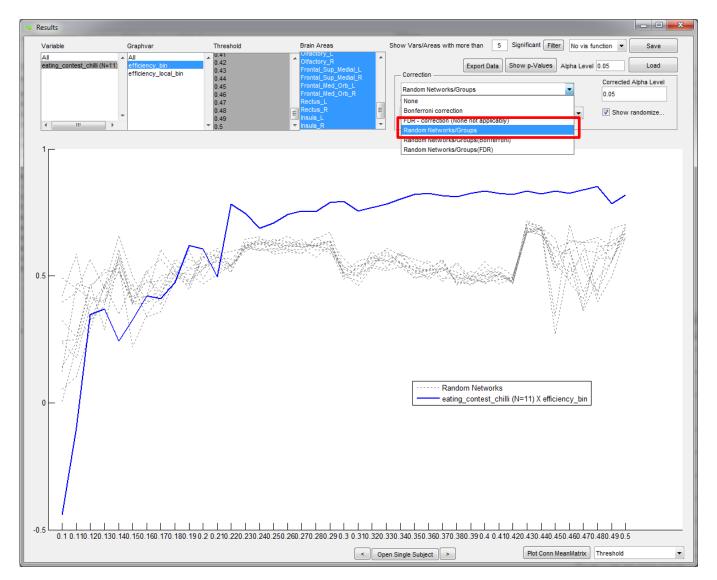
- To plot the correlation of chilli scores and global efficiency derived from the random data (null-model distribution), click in "show randomize…"
- You can drag and drop the legend box



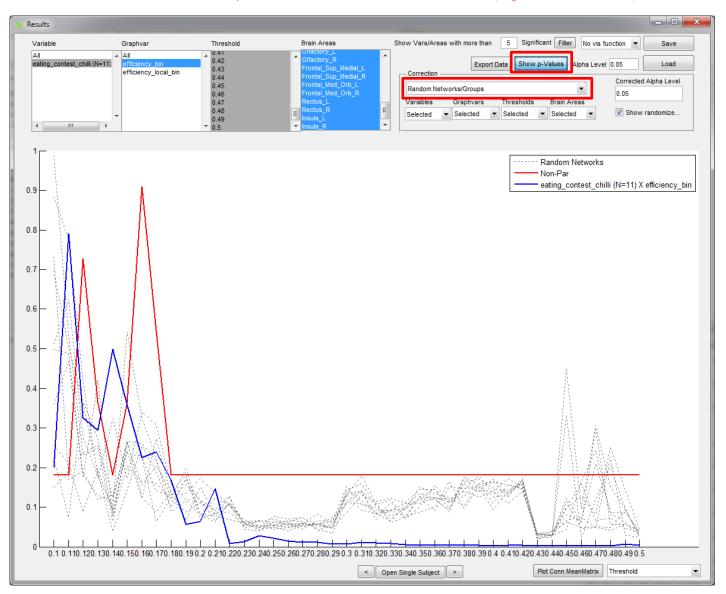
• You can also explore the p-value null-model distribution



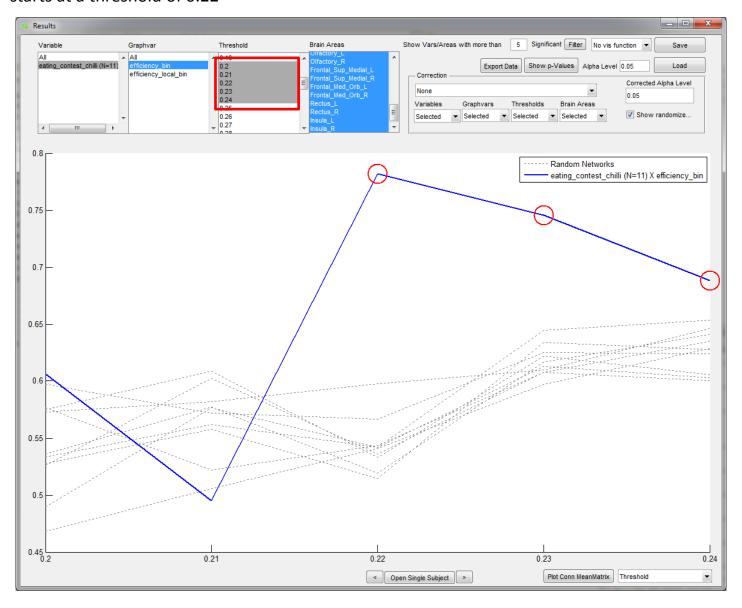
- Now, lets see if something is significant when using the non-parametric correlation testing (i.e., testing against null-models)
- NO Nothing is significant -> Why? Let's explore the non-parametric p-values!



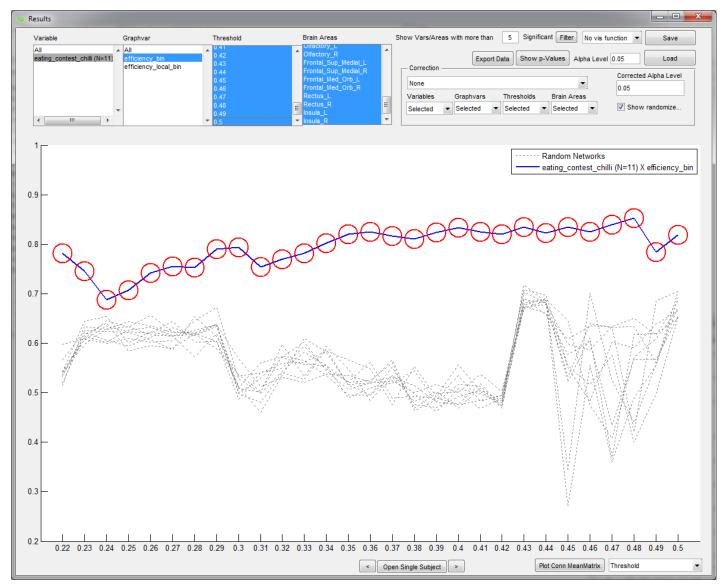
- Nothing is significant at p< 0.05, as we only generated 10 random networks per subject -> thus, the non-parametric p-value can naturally never be 0.05
- Please refer to the manual for an explanation of all the correction methods (e.g., Bonferroni, FDR) and how to apply those!



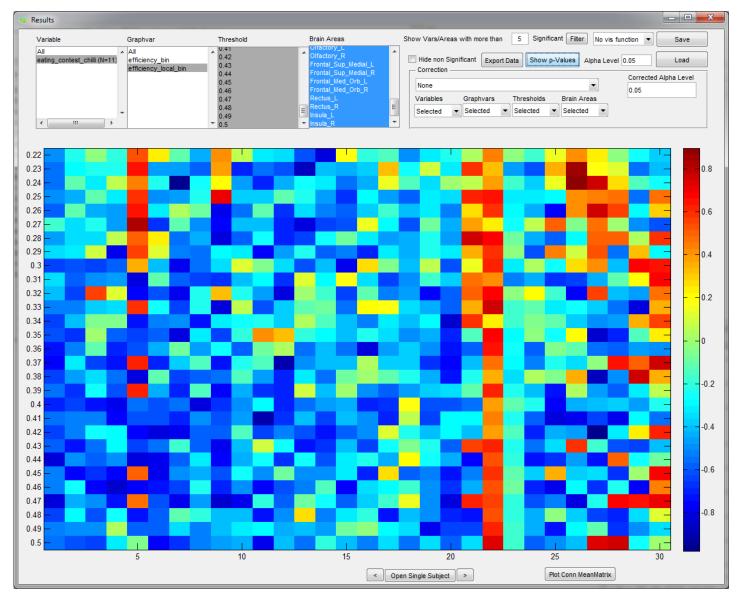
• By scaling down the thresholds, we notice that the association of global efficiency and chilli eating scores starts at a threshold of 0.22

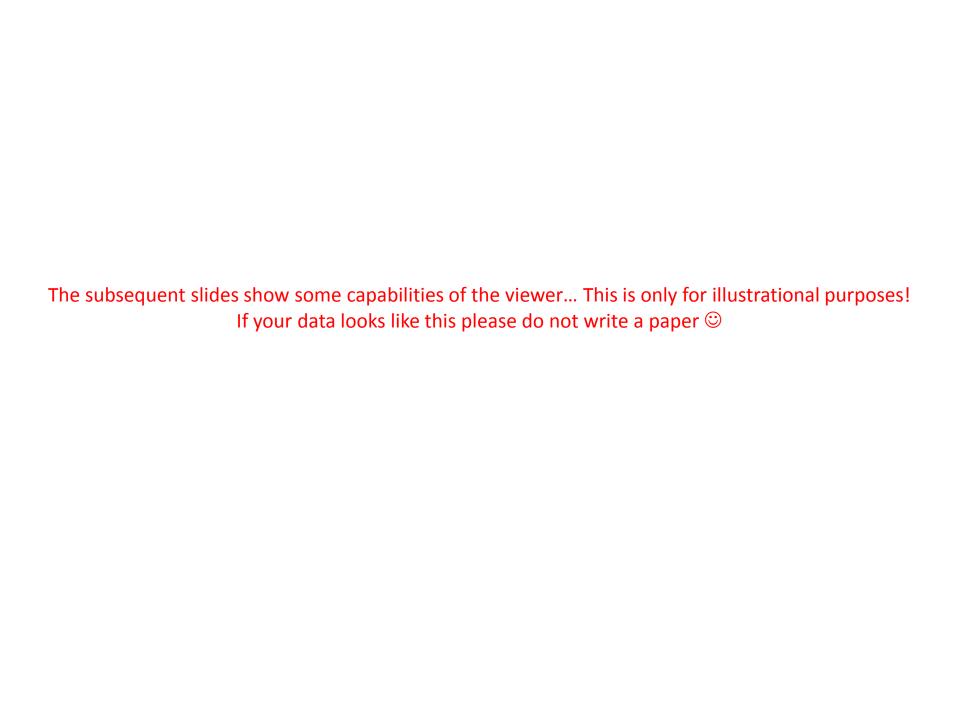


- Driven by this beautiful association of global efficiency and chilli eating scores, we now decide to explore the local efficiencies of all the regions in our chilli-responsive-network across the threshold range 0.22-0.5
- Specify the threshold range and select the Graphvar "efficiency_local_bin"

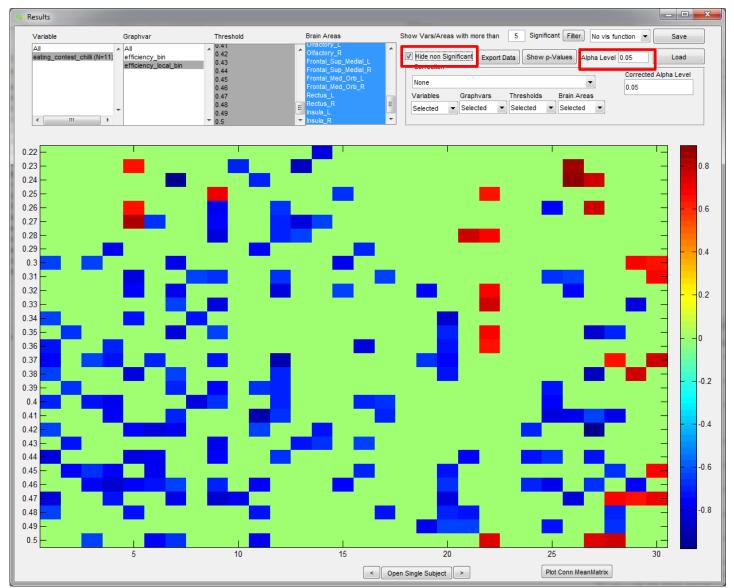


- Here you see the association of local efficiency of each of the 30 regions in the network to the chilli score
- Notice the mouse over box telling you the area, threshold, correlation, and p-value

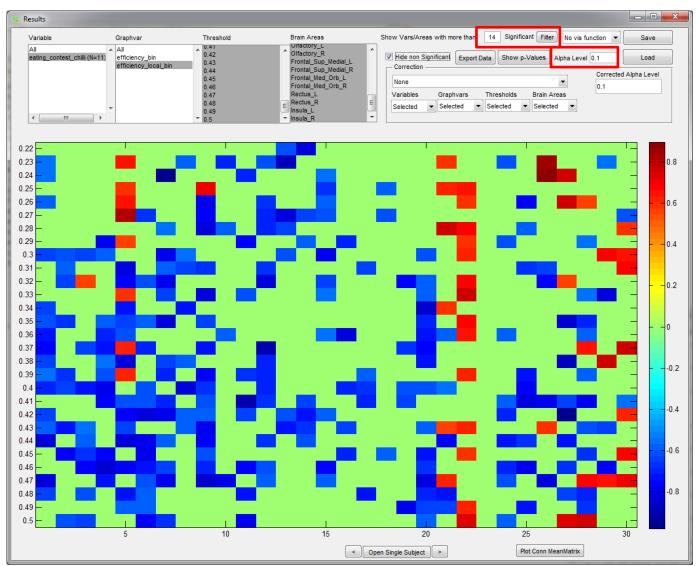




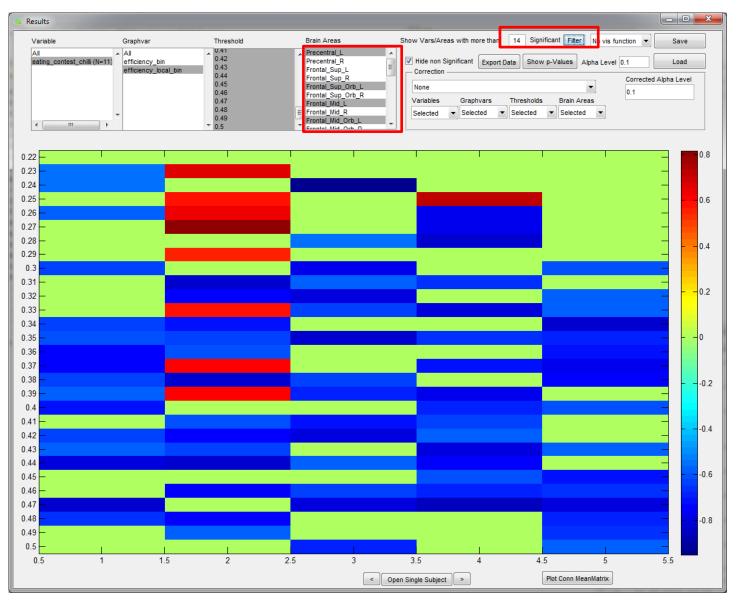
- FYI: it is possible to hide all non-significant associations
- In this example the associations DO NOT look meaningful (as associations on single thresholds should not be interpreted)
- For exemplary purposes let's put the alpha level to 0.1 (and let's pretend that it is 0.05)



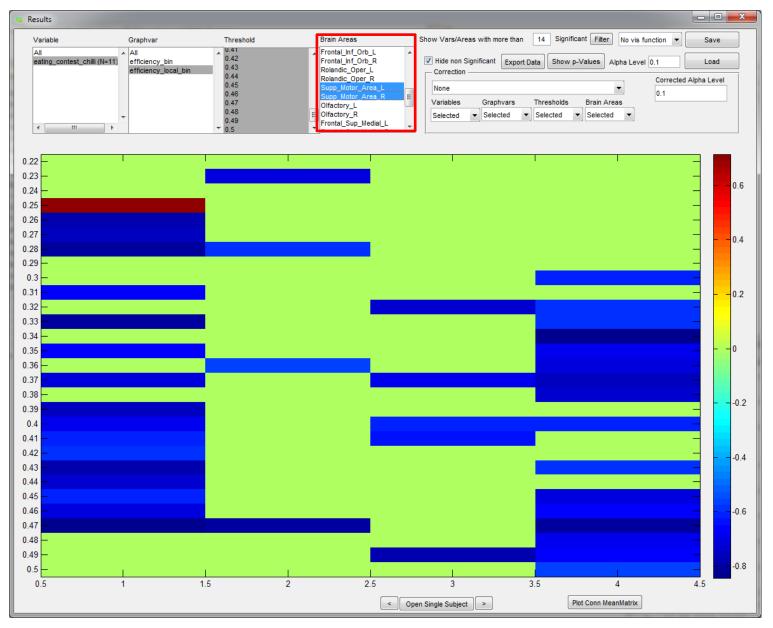
- This look a little bit better now ©
- If we a-priori determined that only significant associations on minimally 15 thresholds would be meaningful, we can use the build in filter function and set the number on 14 (i.e., thr > 14)



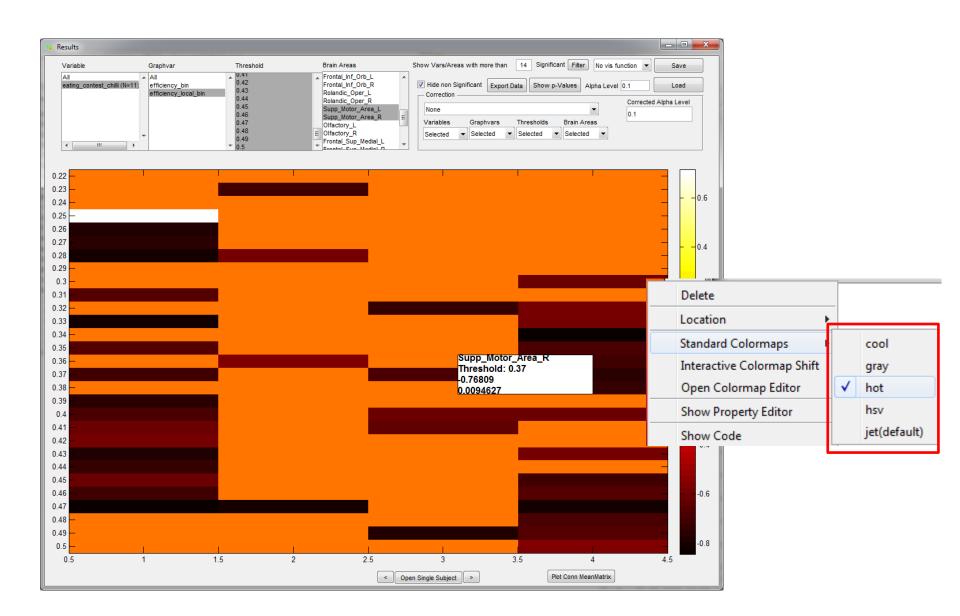
- Subsequently, the viewer will only show the areas with the specified criteria
- Note that these regions are highlighted in the "Brain Areas" field.
- All subsequent actions will only apply to these regions (e.g. filtering)
- If you want the full network again you will have to select all nodes (ctrl+A)



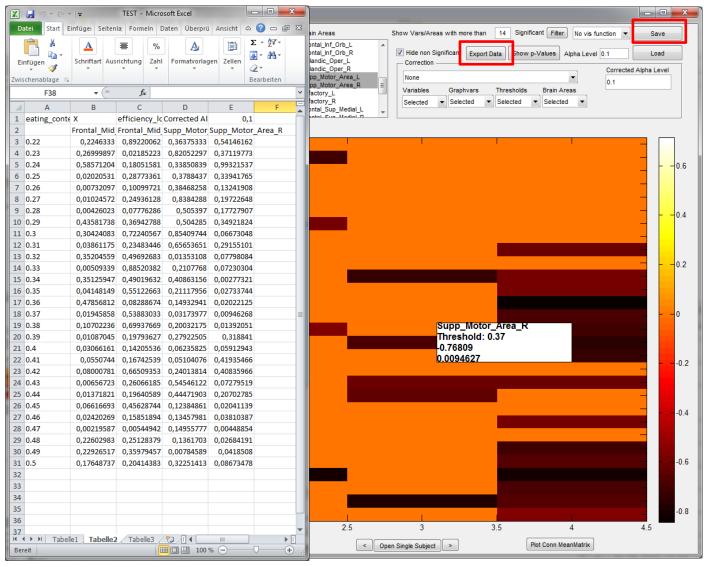
- If you have an a-prioir hypothesis on specific structures you can also simply select those in the "Brain Areas" field
- We thought that orbito frontal gyrus and suppl motor area may play a role ...



- You can also change the properties of the colour map (right mouse click on the colour map)
- Also use the colour map editor to set the range of correlations in the clolour bar (e.g., -1 to 1)



- We think that these results are meaningful (NOT) and decide to save and to export these to a csv file (which we open with excel later on)
- Only things that are visible in the results window will be exported (here Frontal_Mid _Orb L/R and Suppl_Motor_Area L/R across thresholds 0.22-0.5)
- Everything we have computed (global efficiency and local efficiency across thresholds) may be saved

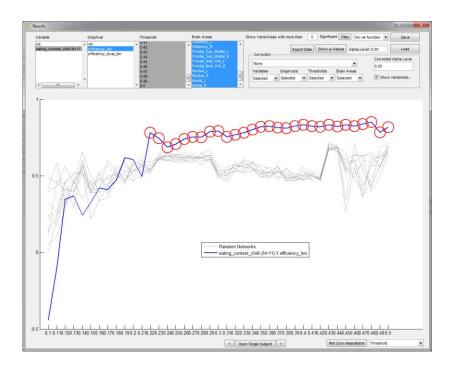


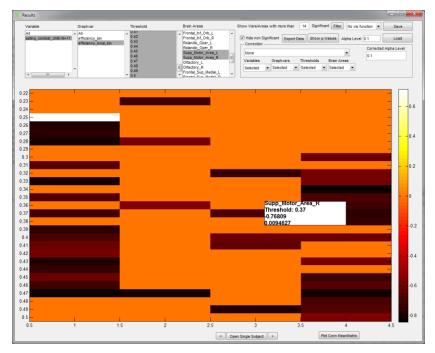
Interpretation



Hypothesis – confirmed!

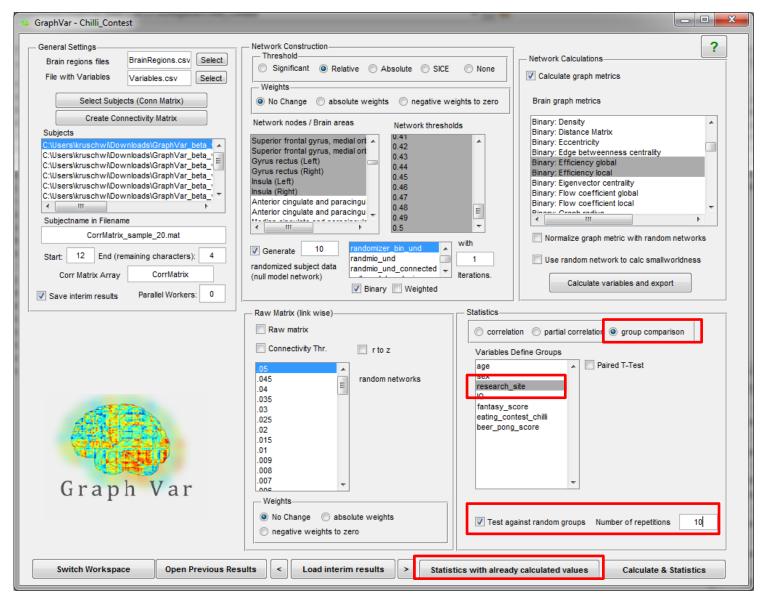
- 1. YES Chilli eating champs probably have more efficient brains... otherwise they could not deal with all the pain!
- 2. YES orbito frontal gyrus and supplementary motor area contribute here...with a negative correlation of local efficiency to chilli eating ... much less spicy information transfer here!



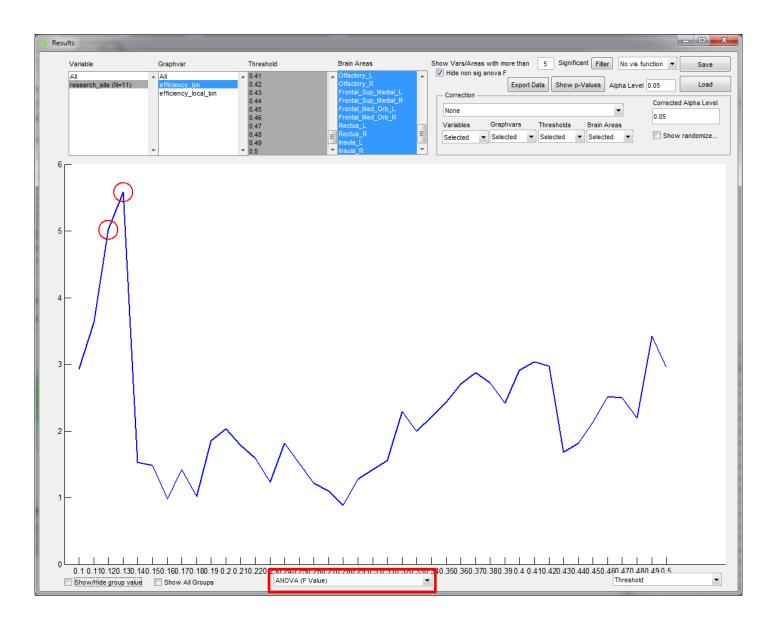


Subsequent slides contain some more examples as group comparison or NBS

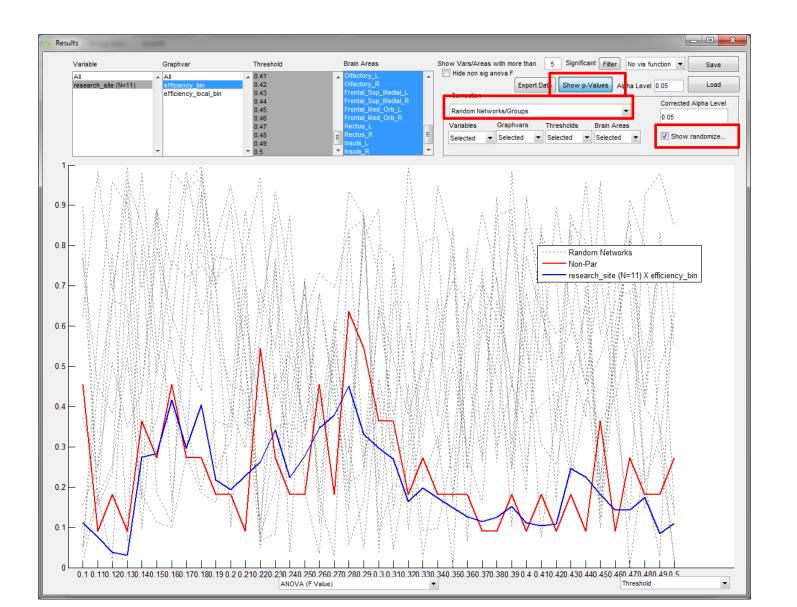
- Now, we can also go back and decide to to a group comparison (ANOVA) on the previously calculated efficiencies
- Select group comparison with "research site" and "test against random groups with 10 repetitions"
- Finally hit "Statistics with already calculated values"



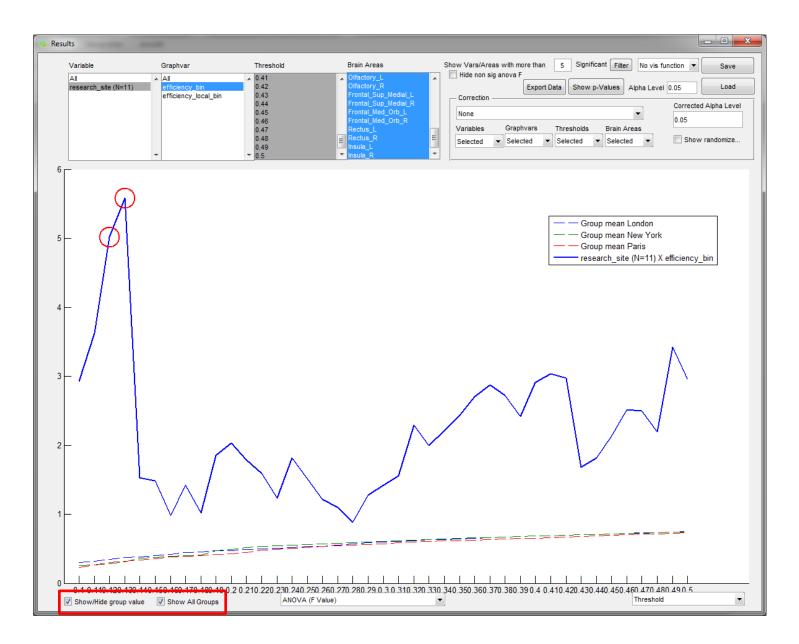
- You see the distribution of ANOVA F values across thresholds for the group differences on global efficiency
- Red dots again indicate significance



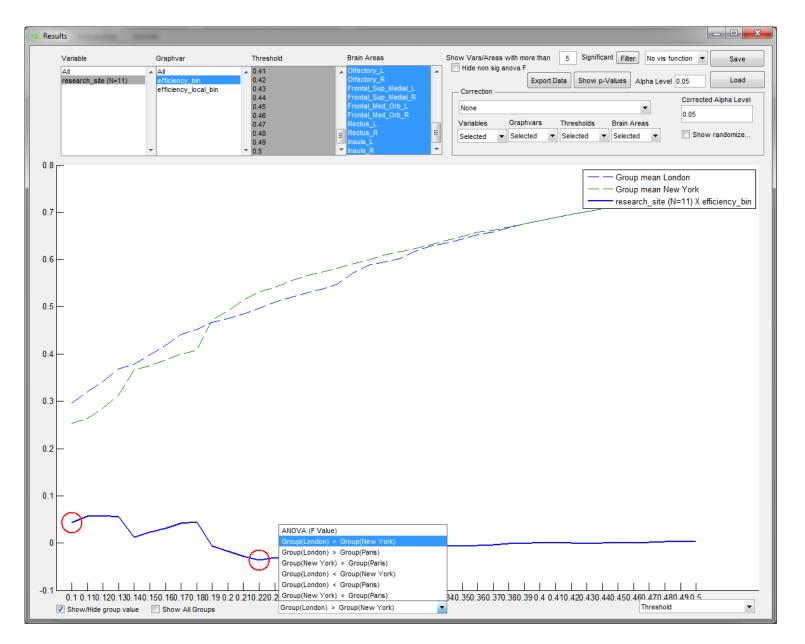
Plot the paramteric and non-parametric p-values ...



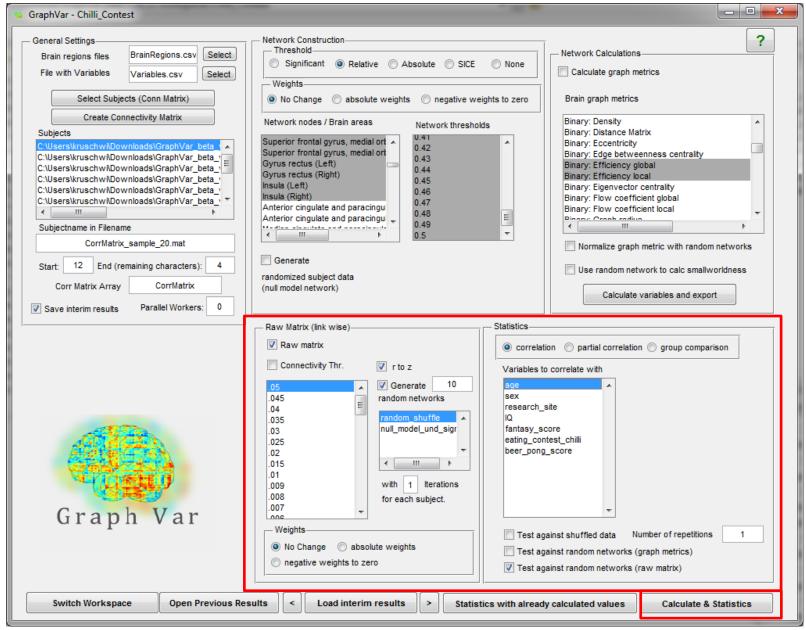
Exlplore how the groups contribute to this effect by selecting "Show/Hide group value" and "Show All Groups"



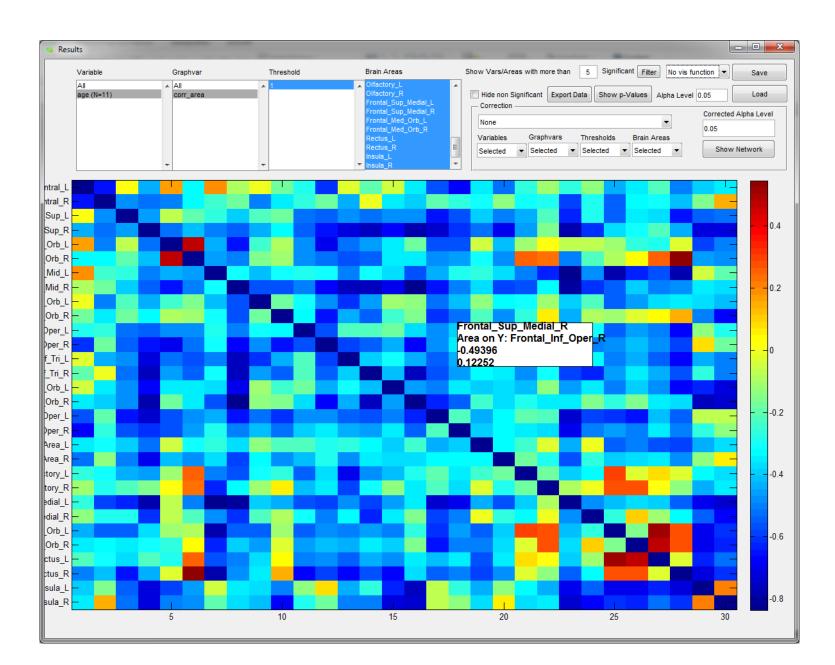
- Perform post-hoc t-tests by switching through the group contrasts
- The blue line shows the group difference for the specific contrast



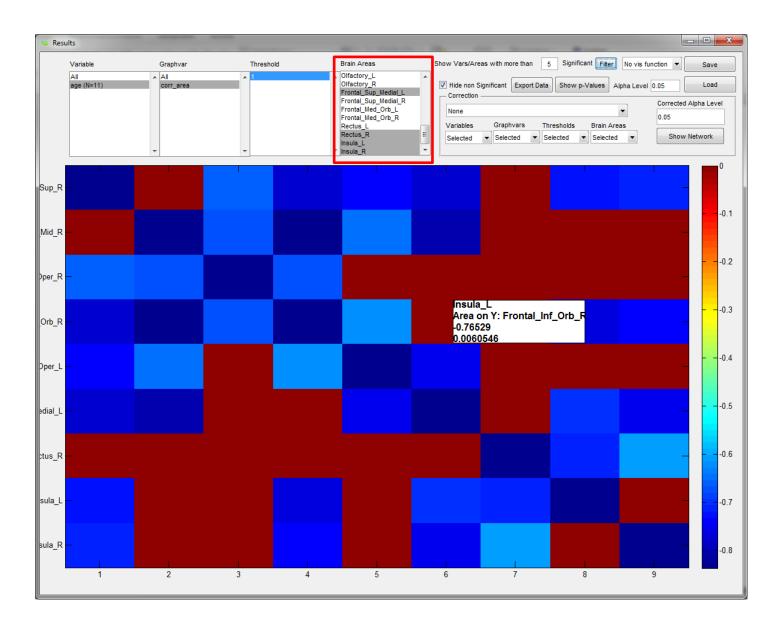
- Finally, lets try some correlations on the raw correlation matrices!
- Deselect all other buttons and only use the following setting:



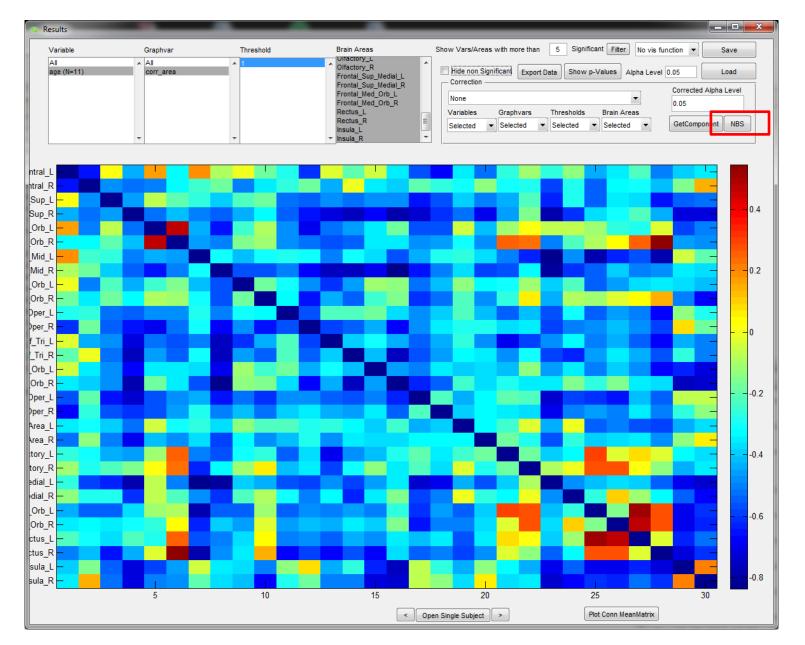
• This is the correlation of age and the raw connectivities between the nodes in the 30x30 matrix



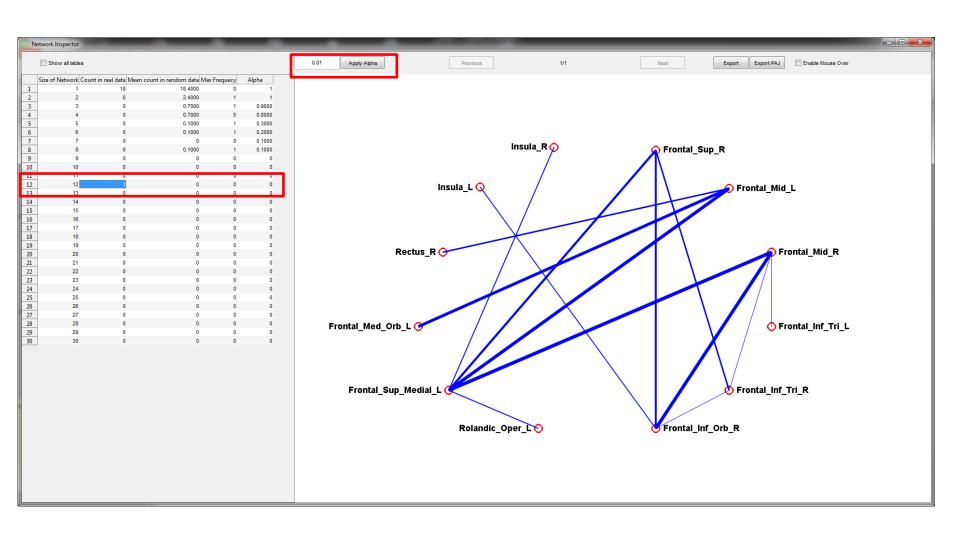
If you are interested in a specific subset of connections you can select the nodes in the "Brain Areas" window (the proper way would be to select these structures already in the "Network Construction" panel in the set up viewer!)



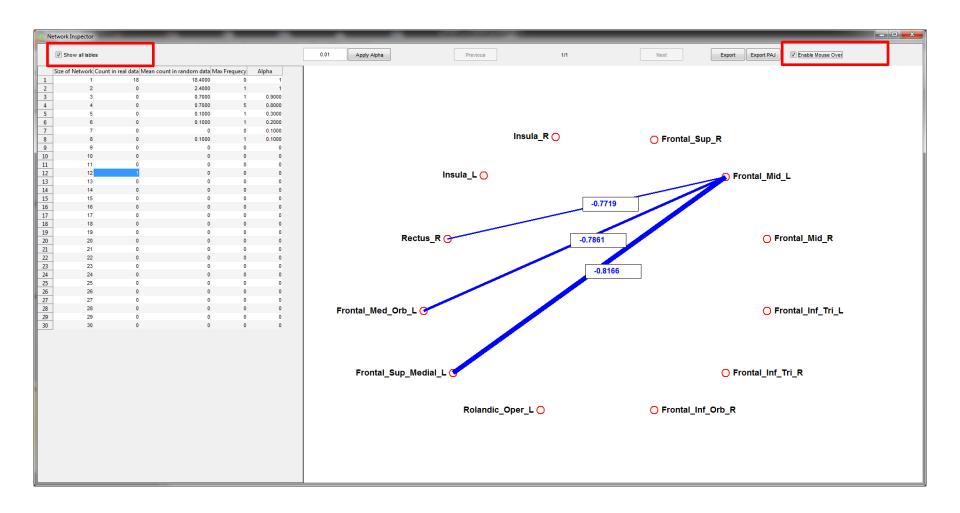
- Let's do network based statistics to identify a graph component that relates to age
- Hit the "NBS" button



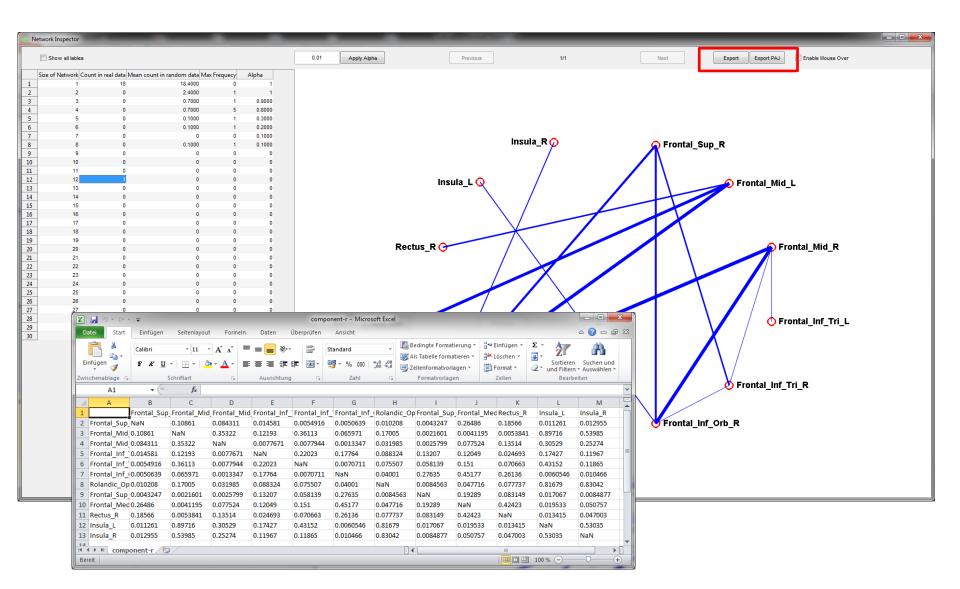
- Set the initial link threshold to 0.01
- And observe a significant graph component comprised of 12 nodes
- Please refer to the Manual for how to interpret and to use the Network Inspector



Also use the "show all labels" and "Enable Mouse Over" to explore this component



 You can export the graph component in matrix format (.csv) but also in Pajeck (PAJ) format for other visualization purposes



- You can also directly open the graph component in BrainNetViewer (Xia et al.) if this nice viewer is installed
- INFO: BrainNetViewer mus be added to the MATLAB path with subfolders

