







characteristics of a more "critical" state as you age



## What is Brain Criticality?

- Marks the transition between ordered and disordered states
- At criticality: Optimal processing, information storage, computational power, etc.
- Optimizes coupling between neuronal networks
- Optimal state is neither fully synchronized nor fully segregated
  - Transient changes in phase and amplitude allow flexibility







- Excessive net excitation
- Branching parameter grater than 1
  - Neurons activate  $2 \rightarrow 4 \rightarrow 16$

- Neuronal networks exhibit scale-free spatial and long-range temporal correlations of activity
  - Phase and amplitude coupling of oscillations
  - Response to external stimuli is maximized
  - Increase in perceptual switching

- Excessive net inhibition

Supercritical

- Branching parameter less than 1

**Subcritical** 

Critical



## Long-Range Temporal Correlation

- Temporal autocorrelations of the power in oscillatory bands persisting over different time windows
- Reflects a balance between stability and flexibility in neuronal assemblies
- Emerges in neuronal networks with balanced excitatory and inhibitory forces
- Maximal when E/I is in balance



## **Detrended Fluctuation Analysis (DFA)**





Rigoli, et. al. Nature Research. 2020.



- Increasing oscillation amplitude with increasing structural E/I (e)
- DFA exponents show an inverse u-shaped relationship with structural E/I (g)

Functional E/I is highly correlated with structural E/I





Similar LRTC (quantified by DFA) can be produced by two networks with different sE/I. In the blue area, increasing LRTC correspond to increasing amplitude of oscillations, in the orange area decreasing LRTC correspond to increasing amplitude of oscillations.

Correlation between amplitude and DFA = functional E/I balance

Higher correlation  $\rightarrow$  balanced E/I



## Criticality in Neurodevelopment



Strong increase in LRTC up to ~ 25 years, then stabilized



Smit et. al. Journal of Neuroscience. 2011.

Long-range temporal correlations of activity occur when the neuronal network is near the critical point

DFA is an index of long-range temporal correlations and serves as an indirect measure of functional E/I balance



0.5

0.45

0.4

0.35

0.3

0.25

0.2

0.15

0.1

0.05

0







age

DFAbeta

Critical brain state means having flexibility to flip between brain states and integrate activity across distant cortical regions



Eyes closed resting state activity exhibits characteristics of a more "critical" state as you age

DFA

Oscillation Amplitude Structural E/I Functional E/I

Subcritical Excessive Inhibition Supercritical Excessive Excitation



