

1 **Title Page:**

2 **Spatial and temporal pattern of structure-function coupling**  
3 **of human brain connectome with development**

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## 18 **Abstract**

19 Brain structural circuitry shapes a richly patterned functional synchronization, supporting for  
20 complex cognitive and behavioural abilities. However, how coupling of structural connectome (SC)  
21 and functional connectome (FC) develops and its relationships with cognitive functions and  
22 transcriptomic architecture remain unclear. We used multimodal magnetic resonance imaging data  
23 from 439 participants aged 5.7 to 21.9 years to predict functional connectivity by incorporating  
24 intracortical and extracortical structural connectivity, characterizing SC-FC coupling. Our findings  
25 revealed that SC-FC coupling was strongest in the visual and somatomotor networks, consistent  
26 with evolutionary expansion, myelin content, and functional principal gradient. As development  
27 progressed, SC-FC coupling exhibited heterogeneous alterations dominated by an increase in  
28 cortical regions, broadly distributed across the somatomotor, frontoparietal, dorsal attention, and  
29 default mode networks. Moreover, we discovered that SC-FC coupling significantly predicted  
30 individual variability in general intelligence, mainly influencing frontoparietal and default mode  
31 networks. Finally, our results demonstrated that the heterogeneous development of SC-FC coupling  
32 is positively associated with genes in oligodendrocyte-related pathways and negatively associated  
33 with astrocyte-related genes. This study offers insight into the maturational principles of SC-FC  
34 coupling in typical development.

35 **Keywords:** structure-function coupling, brain connectome, development, cognitive function, gene  
36 transcriptome

## 37 **Introduction**

38 In neural circuitry, long-range (extracortical) interconnections among local (intracortical)  
39 microcircuits shape and constrain the large-scale functional organization of neural activity across  
40 the cortex[1-5]. The coupling of structural connectome (SC) and functional connectome (FC) varies  
41 greatly across different cortical regions reflecting anatomical and functional hierarchies[1, 6-9] and  
42 is regulated in part by genes[6, 8], as well as its individual differences relates to cognitive function[8,  
43 9]. Despite its fundamental importance, our understanding of the changes in SC-FC coupling with  
44 development is currently limited. Specifically, the alterations in SC-FC coupling during  
45 development, its association with cognitive functions, and the underlying spatial transcriptomic  
46 mechanisms remain largely unknown.

47 Network modelling of the brain enables the characterization of complex information  
48 interactions at a system level and provides natural correspondences between structure and function  
49 in the cortex[7, 10]. Advances in diffusion MRI (dMRI) and tractography techniques have allowed  
50 the *in vivo* mapping of the white matter (WM) connectome (WMC), which depicts extracortical  
51 excitatory projections between regions[11]. The T1- to T2-weighted (T1w/T2w) ratio of MRI has  
52 been proposed as a means of quantifying microstructure profile covariance (MPC), which reflects a  
53 simplified recapitulation in cellular changes across intracortical laminar structure[6, 12-15]. Resting  
54 state functional MRI (rs-fMRI) can be used to derive the FC, which captures the synchronization of  
55 neural activity[16]. A variety of statistical[6, 8, 9], communication[1, 7], and biophysical[5, 17]  
56 models have been proposed to study the SC-FC coupling. The communication model is particularly  
57 useful because it not only depicts indirect information transmission but also takes into account  
58 biodynamic information within acceptable computational complexity[7, 18]. However, most studies  
59 have relied on WMC-derived extracortical communications as SC to predict FC, while ignoring the  
60 intracortical microcircuits, the MPC. In the present study, we propose that incorporating both  
61 intracortical and extracortical SC provides a more comprehensive perspective for characterizing the  
62 development of SC-FC coupling.

63 Previous studies in adults have revealed that the SC-FC coupling is strongest in sensory cortex  
64 regions and weakest in association cortex regions, following the general functional and  
65 cytoarchitectonic hierarchies of cortical organization[1]. This organization may occur due to

66 structural constraints, wherein cortical areas with lower myelination and weaker WM connectivity  
67 tend to have more dynamic and complex functional connectivity[1, 8]. Large-scale association  
68 networks emerged over evolution by breaking away from the rigid developmental programming  
69 found in lower order sensory systems[19], facilitating regional and individual specialization[20]. In  
70 terms of developmental changes in SC-FC coupling, a statistical model-based study[9] identified  
71 positive age-related changes in some regions, while fewer regions exhibited negative changes.  
72 Furthermore, there is evidence that SC-FC coupling is linked to cognitive functions in healthy  
73 children[21], adults[8, 22] and patients[23], suggesting that it may be a critical brain indicator that  
74 encodes individual cognitive differences. Nonetheless, a more comprehensive investigation is  
75 needed to understand the precise pattern of SC-FC coupling over development and its association  
76 with cognitive functions.

77 Cortical SC-FC coupling is highly heritable[8] and related to heritable connectivity profiles[6],  
78 suggesting that the development of coupling may be genetically regulated. The Allen Human Brain  
79 Atlas (AHBA)[24] is a valuable resource for identifying genes that co-vary with brain imaging  
80 phenotypes and for exploring potential functional pathways and cellular processes via enrichment  
81 analyses[25-27]. For instance, a myeloarchitectural study showed that enhanced myelin thickness  
82 in mid-to-deeper layers is specifically associated with the gene expression of oligodendrocytes[28].  
83 Another functional study found that the expression levels of genes involved in calcium ion-regulated  
84 exocytosis and synaptic transmission are associated with the development of a differentiation  
85 gradient[29]. However, the transcriptomic architecture underlying the development of SC-FC  
86 coupling remains largely unknown.

87 In this study, we analysed data obtained from the Lifespan Human Connectome Project  
88 Development (HCP-D)[30], which enrolled healthy participants ranging in age from 5.7 to 21.9  
89 years. Our main objective was to investigate the SC-FC coupling of brain connectome and  
90 characterize its developmental landscapes. Specifically, we aimed to determine whether the SC-FC  
91 coupling encodes individual differences in cognition during development. Finally, we explored the  
92 genetic and cellular mechanisms underlying the development of SC-FC coupling of brain  
93 connectome. To assess the reproducibility of our findings, sensitivity and replication analyses were  
94 performed with a different tractography algorithm and a split-half independent validation method.

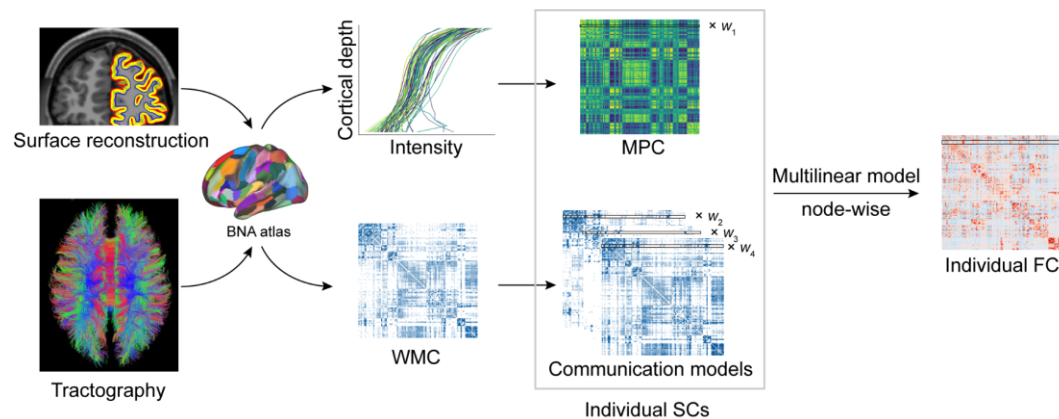
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## 96 **Results**

97 We selected 439 participants (5.7 – 21.9 years of age, 207 males) in the HCP-D dataset who met  
98 our inclusion criteria: available high-quality T1/T2, dMRI, and rs-fMRI data that met the quality  
99 control thresholds. For each participant, we generated multiple connectomes using 210 cortical  
100 regions from the Human Brainnetome Atlas (BNA)[31], which comprised MPC, WMC, and FC.  
101 Intracortical connectivity was represented by MPC. According to the WMC, twenty-seven weighted  
102 communication models[7] were calculated to characterize geometric, topological, or dynamic  
103 connectivity properties. Further details on these models can be found in Text S1. After analysis, we  
104 found that communicability[32], mean first passage times of random walkers[33], and flow graphs  
105 (timescales=1) provided the optimal combination of extracortical connectivity properties because  
106 of significantly predicting FC ( $p < 0.05$ , 1,000 spin test permutations, Table S1). We used these three  
107 models to represent the extracortical connectivity properties in subsequent discovery and  
108 reproducibility analyses (Figure S1).

109 **Spatial pattern of cortical SC-FC coupling.** We used SCs (MPC and three WMC  
110 communication models) to predict FC per node based on a multilinear model[1] (Figure 1), and  
111 quantified the nodewise SC-FC coupling as an adjusted coefficient of determination  $r^2$ . We  
112 observed that the grouped SC-FC coupling varied across cortical regions (mean adjusted  $r^2 = 0.14$   
113  $\pm 0.08$ , adjusted  $r^2$  range = [0.03, 0.45], Figure 2A), and regions with significant coupling were  
114 located in the middle frontal gyrus, precentral gyrus, paracentral lobule, superior temporal gyrus,  
115 superior parietal lobule, postcentral gyrus, cingulate gyrus, and occipital lobe ( $p < 0.05$ , 1,000 spin  
116 test permutations, Figure 2B). Similar heterogeneous patterns of coupling were observed when  
117 categorizing cortical regions into seven functional subnetworks[34] (visual, somatomotor, dorsal  
118 attention, ventral attention, limbic, frontoparietal and default mode networks). In the visual,  
119 somatomotor, default mode and ventral attention networks, SC significantly predict FC variance  
120 ( $p < 0.05$ , 1,000 spin test permutations, Figure 2C). The visual and somatomotor networks had higher  
121 coupling values than the other networks ( $p < 0.05$ , Kruskal-Wallis ANOVA, Figure 2C). We further  
122 investigated the alignment between SC-FC coupling and three fundamental properties of brain  
123 organization: evolution expansion[35], myelin content[36], and functional principal gradient[37].

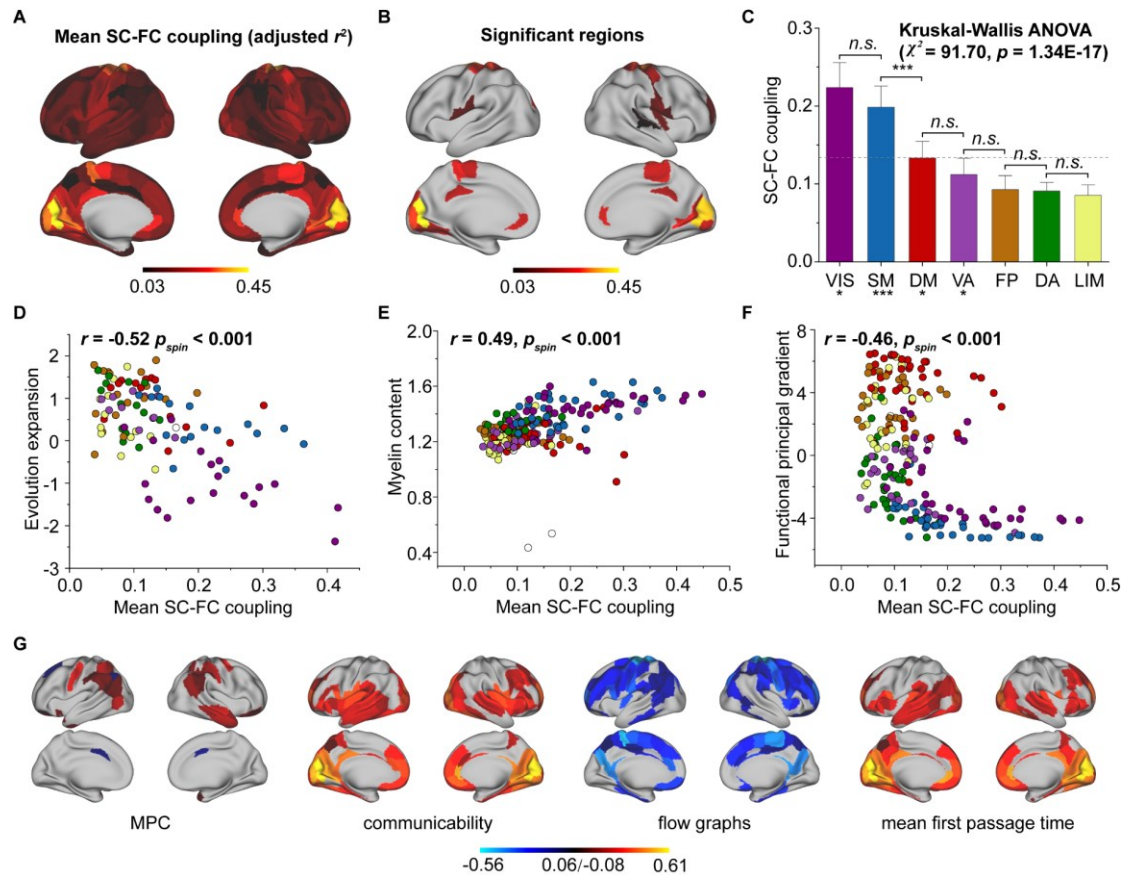
124 Our findings reveal a negative association between regional distribution of SC-FC coupling and  
125 evolution expansion (Spearman's  $r=-0.52$ ,  $p<0.001$ , 1,000 spin test permutations, Figure 2D), as  
126 well as with the functional principal gradient (Spearman's  $r=-0.46$ ,  $p<0.001$ , 1,000 spin test  
127 permutations, Figure 2F). Conversely, nodes exhibiting higher SC-FC coupling tended to exhibit  
128 higher myelin content (Spearman's  $r=0.49$ ,  $p<0.001$ , 1,000 spin test permutations, Figure 2E). In  
129 addition, the coupling pattern based on other models (using only MPC or only SCs to predict FC)  
130 and the comparison between the models were shown in Figure S2A-C.



131  
132 **Figure 1. SC-FC coupling framework.** The framework used to quantify nodal SC-FC coupling in  
133 the human brain. The MPC was used to map similarity networks of intracortical microstructure  
134 (voxel intensity sampled in different cortical depth) for each cortical node. The WMC represents  
135 the extracortical excitatory projection structure, and communication models were then constructed  
136 to represent the complex process of communication. A multilinear model was constructed to  
137 examine the association of individual nodewise SC (MPC and communication models) profiles with  
138 FC profiles.

139 Additionally, we applied Haufe's inversion transform[38] to yield predictor weights of various  
140 SCs, where higher or lower values indicate stronger positive or negative correlations with FC. Our  
141 results demonstrated that different SCs had preferential contributions to FC variance across cortical  
142 regions to explain FC variance ( $p<0.05$ , FDR corrected, Kruskal-Wallis ANOVA, Figure 2G).  
143 Specifically, in the MPC, regions with positive correlation were the orbital gyrus, precentral gyrus,  
144 right middle temporal gyrus and temporoparietal junction, while regions with negative correlations  
145 were the left superior frontal gyrus, inferior parietal lobule and bilateral cingulate gyrus. Regarding  
146 WMC communication models, the communicability and flow graphs tended to stronger higher

147 positive correlations in the visual, limbic and default mode networks, whereas the mean first passage  
 148 time had stronger negative correlations in the somatomotor, limbic and frontoparietal networks.

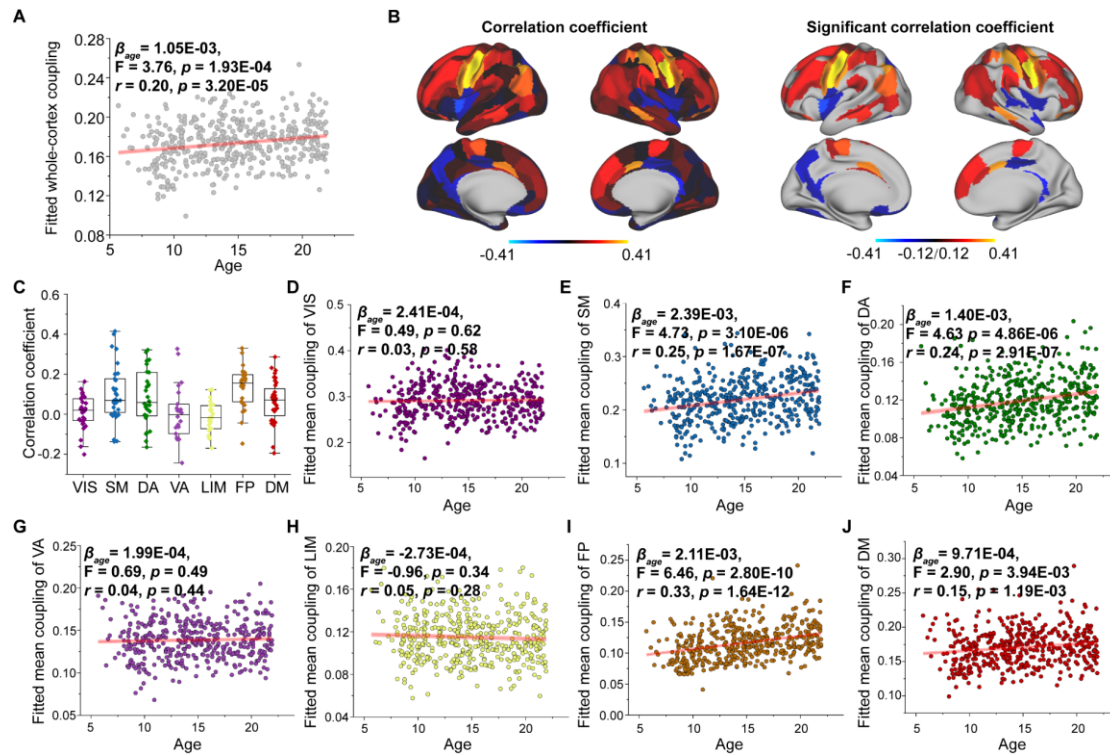


149  
 150 **Figure 2. Cortical SC-FC coupling in young individuals.** (A) Spatial pattern of SC-FC coupling.  
 151 (B) Spatial patterns with significant predictions ( $p < 0.05$ , spin test). (C) SC-FC coupling  
 152 comparisons among functional networks. The error bars represent 95% confidence intervals. (D-F)  
 153 SC-FC coupling aligns with evolution expansion, myelin content and functional principal gradient.  
 154 (G) Preferential contributions of cortical regions across different structural connections. Note: \*\*\*:  
 155  $p < 0.001$ ; \*\*:  $p < 0.01$ ; \*:  $p < 0.05$ ; *n.s.*:  $p > 0.05$ . VIS, visual network; SM, somatomotor network; DA,  
 156 dorsal attention network; VA, ventral attention network; LIM, limbic network; FP, frontoparietal  
 157 network; DM, default mode network.

158 **Age-related changes in SC-FC coupling with development.** To track changes in SC-FC  
 159 coupling during development, we used a general linear model to assess the effect of age on nodal  
 160 SC-FC coupling, while controlling for sex, intracranial volume, and in-scanner head motion. Our  
 161 results revealed that the whole-cortex average coupling increased during development ( $\beta_{age} = 1.05E-$   
 162  $03$ ,  $F = 3.76$ ,  $p = 1.93E-04$ ,  $r = 0.20$ ,  $p = 3.20E-05$ , Figure 3A). Regionally, the SC-FC coupling of most

163 cortical regions increased with age ( $p < 0.05$ , FDR corrected, Figure 3B), particularly that in the  
164 frontal lobe, middle temporal gyrus, inferior temporal gyrus, parietal lobe, cingulate gyrus and  
165 lateral occipital cortex. Conversely, cortical regions with significantly decreased SC-FC coupling  
166 ( $p < 0.05$ , FDR corrected, Figure 3B) were located in left orbital gyrus, left precentral gyrus, right  
167 superior and inferior temporal gyrus, left fusiform gyrus, left superior parietal lobule, left postcentral  
168 gyrus, insular gyrus, and cingulate gyrus. Age correlation coefficients distributed within functional  
169 subnetworks were shown in Figure 3C. Regarding mean SC-FC coupling within functional  
170 subnetworks, the somatomotor ( $\beta_{age} = 2.39E-03$ ,  $F = 4.73$ ,  $p = 3.10E-06$ ,  $r = 0.25$ ,  $p = 1.67E-07$ , Figure  
171 3E), dorsal attention ( $\beta_{age} = 1.40E-03$ ,  $F = 4.63$ ,  $p = 4.86E-06$ ,  $r = 0.24$ ,  $p = 2.91E-07$ , Figure 3F),  
172 frontoparietal ( $\beta_{age} = 2.11E-03$ ,  $F = 6.46$ ,  $p = 2.80E-10$ ,  $r = 0.33$ ,  $p = 1.64E-12$ , Figure 3I) and default  
173 mode ( $\beta_{age} = 9.71E-04$ ,  $F = 2.90$ ,  $p = 3.94E-03$ ,  $r = 0.15$ ,  $p = 1.19E-03$ , Figure 3J) networks significantly  
174 increased with age and exhibited greater increase. No significant correlations were found between  
175 developmental changes in SC-FC coupling and the fundamental properties of cortical organization.  
176 Additionally, weights of different SCs varied with age, showing that MPC weight was positively  
177 correlated with age and that the weights of WMC communication models were stable (Figure S3-  
178 S6). The age-related patterns of SC-FC coupling based other coupling models were shown in Figure  
179 S2D-F.  
180



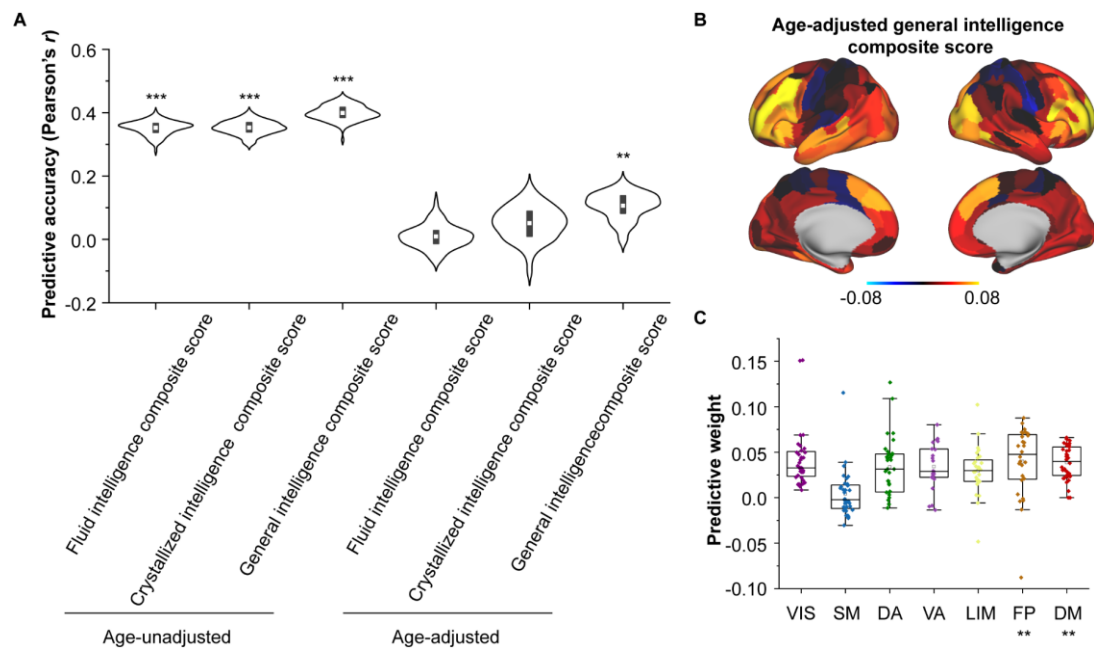


181

182 **Figure 3. Aged-related changes in SC-FC coupling.** (A) Increases in whole-brain coupling with  
 183 age. (B) Correlation of age with SC-FC coupling across all regions and significant regions ( $p < 0.05$ ,  
 184 FDR corrected). (C) Comparisons of age-related changes in SC-FC coupling among functional  
 185 networks. The boxes show the median and interquartile range (IQR; 25–75%), and the whiskers  
 186 depict  $1.5 \times$  IQR from the first or third quartile. (D–J) Correlation of age with SC-FC coupling across  
 187 the VIS, SM, DA, VA, LIM, FP and DM. VIS, visual network; SM, somatomotor network; DA,  
 188 dorsal attention network; VA, ventral attention network; LIM, limbic network; FP, frontoparietal  
 189 network; DM, default mode network.

190 **SC-FC coupling predicts individual differences in cognitive functions.** As we found that  
 191 SC-FC coupling can encode brain maturation, we next evaluated the implications of coupling for  
 192 individual cognition using Elastic-Net algorithm[11]. After controlling for sex, intracranial volume  
 193 and in-scanner head motion, we found the SC-FC coupling significantly predicted individual  
 194 differences in fluid intelligence, crystal intelligence and general intelligence (Pearson's  $r = 0.3 \sim 0.4$ ,  
 195  $p < 0.001$ , FDR corrected, Figure 4A). Furthermore, even after controlling for age, SC-FC coupling  
 196 remained a significant predictor of general intelligence better than at chance (Pearson's  $r = 0.11 \pm$   
 197  $0.04$ ,  $p = 0.01$ , FDR corrected, Figure 4A). For fluid intelligence and crystal intelligence, the  
 198 predictive performances of SC-FC coupling were not better than at chance (Figure 4A). The

199 predictive performances for other cognitive subscores are shown in Figure S7. To identify the  
200 regions with the greatest contributions to individual differences in age-adjusted general intelligence,  
201 we utilized Haufe's inversion transform[38] to extract predictor weights across various regions. Our  
202 analysis revealed that SC-FC coupling within the prefrontal lobe, temporal lobe and lateral occipital  
203 lobe was the most predictive of individual differences in general intelligence (Figure 4B). In  
204 addition, we found that the weights of frontoparietal and default mode networks significantly  
205 contributed to the prediction of the general intelligence ( $p < 0.01$ , 1,000 spin test permutations, Figure  
206 4C).  
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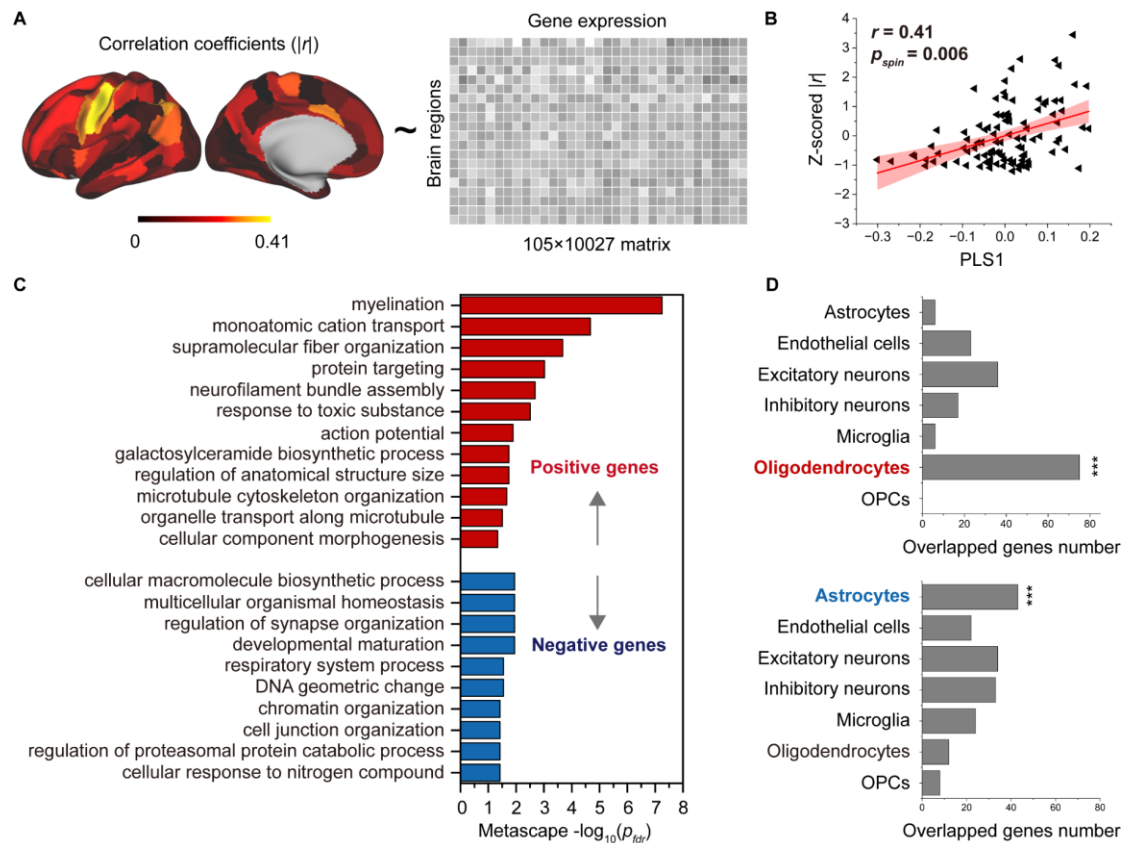


208  
209 **Figure 4. Encoding individual differences in intelligence using regional SC-FC coupling.** (A)  
210 Predictive accuracy of fluid, crystallized, and general intelligence composite scores. (B) Regional  
211 distribution of predictive weight. (C) Predictive contribution of functional networks. The boxes  
212 show the median and interquartile range (IQR; 25–75%), and the whiskers depict the 1.5× IQR from  
213 the first or third quartile.

214 **Transcriptomic and cellular architectures of SC-FC coupling development.** We employed  
215 partial least square (PLS) analysis[39] to establish a link between the spatial pattern of SC-FC  
216 coupling development and gene transcriptomic profiles (Figure 5A) obtained from the AHBA using  
217 a recommended pipeline[40]. The gene expression score of the first PLS component (PLS1)

218 explained the most spatial variance, at 22.26%. After correcting for spatial autocorrelation[41], we  
219 found a positive correlation (Pearson's  $r=0.41$ ,  $p=0.006$ , 10,000 spin test permutations, Figure 5B)  
220 between the PLS1 score of genes and the spatial pattern of SC-FC coupling development. In addition,  
221 we identified potential transcriptomic architectures using a Gene Ontology (GO) enrichment  
222 analysis of biological processes and pathway[42], analysing the significant positive and negative  
223 genes in PLS1. The positive weight genes (364 genes) were prominently enriched for “myelination”,  
224 “monoatomic cation transport”, “supramolecular fiber organization”, etc ( $p<0.05$ , FDR corrected,  
225 Figure 5C). The negative correlation genes (456 genes) were relatively weakly enriched in “cellular  
226 macromolecule biosynthetic process” and other pathways ( $p<0.05$ , FDR corrected, Figure 5C).

227 To further investigate cell-specific expression patterns associated with SC-FC coupling  
228 development, the selected genes in the AHBA were agglomerated into seven canonical cell  
229 classes[43-48]: astrocytes, endothelial cells, excitatory neurons, inhibitory neurons, microglia,  
230 oligodendrocytes and oligodendrocyte precursors (OPCs). Our findings showed that the genes with  
231 positive weights were significantly expressed in oligodendrocytes (75 genes,  $p<0.001$ , permutation  
232 test, Figure 5D). The genes with negative weights were expressed in astrocytes (43 genes,  $p<0.001$ ,  
233 permutation test, Figure 5D). Additionally, genes enriched in positive pathways were intensively  
234 overexpressed in oligodendrocytes, while genes enriched in three negative pathways were expressed  
235 in astrocytes, inhibitory neurons and microglia ( $p<0.05$ , permutation test, Figure S8).



236

237 **Figure 5. Association between developmental changes in SC-FC coupling and gene**  
 238 **transcriptional profiles.** (A) The map of developmental changes (absolute value of correlation  
 239 coefficients) in SC-FC coupling across 105 left brain regions (left panel), and the normalized gene  
 240 transcriptional profiles containing 10,027 genes in 105 left brain regions (right panel). (B) The  
 241 correlation between developmental changes in SC-FC coupling and the first PLS component from  
 242 the PLS regression analysis. (C) Enriched terms of significant genes. (D) Cell type-specific  
 243 expression of significant genes. Note,  $p_{spin}$ : spin test;  $p_{fdr}$ : FDR corrected.

244 **Reproducibility analyses. Different parcellation templates.** To evaluate the robustness of our  
 245 findings to different parcellation templates, using the multimodal parcellation from the Human  
 246 Connectome Project (HCPMMP)[49], we repeated the analyses of the cortical patterns of SC-FC  
 247 coupling, correlation of age with SC-FC coupling, and gene weights. We observed a similar  
 248 distribution in SC-FC coupling in which visual and somatomotor networks had higher coupling  
 249 values than other networks (Figure S9A). The SC-FC coupling of most cortical regions increased  
 250 with age (Figure S9B), and the significant regions were similar to those in the main findings (Figure  
 251 S9C,  $p < 0.05$ , FDR corrected). The gene weights of HCPMMP was consistent with that of BNA ( $r$

252 = 0.25,  $p < 0.001$ ).

253 Different tractography strategies. To evaluate the sensitivity of our results to tractography  
254 strategies, we reconstructed fibres using deterministic tractography with a ball-and-stick model and  
255 generated a fibre number-weighted network for each participant. This same pipeline was employed  
256 for subsequent SC-FC coupling, prediction, and gene analyses. These two tractography strategies  
257 yielded similar findings, as indicated by significant correlations in the mean SC-FC coupling  
258 ( $r=0.85$ ,  $p<0.001$ , spin test, Figure S10A), the correlation of between age and SC-FC coupling  
259 ( $r=0.79$ ,  $p<0.001$ , spin test, Figure S10B), predictive weights on the general intelligence ( $r=0.85$ ,  
260  $p<0.001$ , spin test, Figure S10C), and gene weights ( $r=0.80$ ,  $p<0.001$ , Figure S10D).

261 Split-half validation. To assess the reproducibility of our findings, we performed a split-half  
262 independent validation using the whole dataset (WD). Specifically, we randomly partitioned WD  
263 into two independent subsets (S1 and S2), and this process was repeated 1,000 times to mitigate any  
264 potential bias due to data partitioning. We then quantified SC-FC coupling, correlation between age  
265 and SC-FC coupling, and gene weights in S1 and S2 using the same procedures. Remarkably, we  
266 observed high levels of agreement among the datasets (S1, S2, and the WD) as demonstrated in  
267 Figure S11.

268

## 269 **Discussion**

270 In the present study, we characterized alterations of SC-FC coupling of brain connectome during  
271 development by combining intracortical and extracortical SC to predict FC based on the HCP-D  
272 dataset. We observed that SC-FC coupling was stronger in the visual and somatomotor networks  
273 than in other networks, and followed fundamental properties of cortical organization. With  
274 development, SC-FC coupling exhibited heterogeneous changes in cortical regions, with significant  
275 increases in the somatomotor, frontoparietal, dorsal attention and default mode networks.  
276 Furthermore, we found that SC-FC coupling can predict individual differences in general  
277 intelligence, mainly with the frontoparietal and default mode networks contributing higher weights.  
278 Finally, we demonstrated that the spatial heterogeneity of changes in SC-FC coupling with age was  
279 associated with transcriptomic architectures, with genes with positive weights enriched in  
280 oligodendrocyte-related pathways and genes with negative weights expressed in astrocytes.

281 Together, these findings characterized the spatial and temporal pattern of SC-FC coupling of brain  
282 connectome during development and the heterogeneity in the development of SC-FC coupling is  
283 associated with individual differences in intelligence and transcriptomic architecture.

284 Intracortical microcircuits are interconnected through extracortical WM connections, which  
285 give rise to richly patterned functional networks[1, 3]. Despite extensive research on this topic, the  
286 relationship between SC and FC remains unclear. Although many studies have attempted to directly  
287 correlate FC with the WMC, this correspondence is far from perfect due to the presence of  
288 polysynaptic (indirect) structural connections and circuit-level modulation of neural signals[2, 9, 16,  
289 50]. Biological models can realistically generate these complex structural interconnections, but they  
290 have significant temporal and spatial complexity when solving for model parameters[51-54].  
291 Communication models using the WMC integrate the advantages of different communication  
292 strategies and are easy to construct[18]. As there are numerous communication models, we  
293 identified an optimal combination consisting of three decentralized communication models based  
294 on predictive significance: communicability, mean first passage times of random walkers and flow  
295 graphs. We excluded a centralized model (shortest paths), which was not biologically plausible since  
296 it requires global knowledge of the shortest path structure[7, 55, 56]. In our study, we excluded the  
297 Euclidean distance and geodesic distance because spatial autocorrelation is inhibited. This study  
298 provides a complementary perspective (in addition to the role of WMC in shaping FC) that  
299 emphasizes the importance of intrinsic properties within intracortical circuit in shaping the large-  
300 scale functional organization of the human cortex. MPC can link intracortical circuits variance at  
301 specific cortical depths from a graph-theoretical perspective, enabling reflection of intracortical  
302 microcircuit differentiation at molecular, cellular, and laminar levels[6, 12-15]. Coupling models  
303 that incorporate these microarchitectural properties yield more accurate predictions of FC from  
304 SC[3, 57].

305 SC-FC coupling may reflect anatomical and functional hierarchies. SC-FC coupling in  
306 association areas, which have lower structural connectivity, was lower than that in sensory areas.  
307 This configuration effectively releases the association cortex from strong structural constraints  
308 imposed by early activity cascades, promoting higher cognitive functions that transcend simple  
309 sensori-motor exchanges[19]. A macroscale functional principal gradient[37, 58] in the human brain

310 has been shown to align with anatomical hierarchies. Our study revealed a similar pattern, where  
311 SC-FC coupling was positively associated with evolutionary expansion and myelin content, and  
312 negatively associated with functional principal gradient during development. These findings are  
313 consistent with previous studies on WMC-FC coupling[9] and MPC-FC coupling[6]. Notably, we  
314 also found that the coupling pattern differed from that in adults, as illustrated by the moderate  
315 coupling of the sensorimotor network in the adult population[8]. SC-FC coupling is dynamic and  
316 changes throughout the lifespan[7], particularly during adolescence[6, 9], suggesting that perfect  
317 SC-FC coupling may require sufficient structural descriptors. Moreover, our results suggested that  
318 regional preferential contributions across different SCs lead to variations in the underlying  
319 communication process. Interestingly, the two extremes of regions in terms of MPC correlations  
320 corresponded to the two anchor points of the gradient[28]. The preferential regions in WM  
321 communication models were consistent with the adult results[7].

322 In addition, we observed developmental changes in SC-FC coupling dominated by a positive  
323 increase in cortical regions[9], broadly distributed across somatomotor, frontoparietal, dorsal  
324 attention, and default mode networks[9]. In a lifespan study, the global SC-FC coupling alterations  
325 with age were driven by reduced coupling in the sensorimotor network[7]. This finding is consistent  
326 across age ranges, indicating that sensorimotor coupling changes appear throughout development  
327 and ageing. Furthermore, we investigated the relationships of coupling alterations with evolutionary  
328 expansion and functional principal gradient but found no significant correlations, in contrast to a  
329 previous study[9]. These discrepancies likely arise from differences in coupling methods. We also  
330 found the SC-FC coupling with age across regions within subnetworks has more variability than the  
331 differences between networks, suggesting that the coupling with age is more likely region-  
332 dependent than network-dependent.

333 The neural circuits in the human brain support a wide repertoire of human behaviour[59]. Our  
334 study demonstrates that the degree of SC-FC coupling in cortical regions can significantly predict  
335 cognitive scores across various domains, suggesting that it serves as a sensitive indicator of brain  
336 maturity. Moreover, even after controlling for age effects, SC-FC coupling significantly predicted  
337 general intelligence, suggesting that it can partly explain individual differences in intelligence, as  
338 shown in previous studies[8]. In another study[9], positive correlations between executive function

339 and SC-FC coupling were mainly observed in the rostro-lateral frontal and medial occipital regions,  
340 whereas negative associations were found in only the right primary motor cortex. While SC-FC  
341 coupling was not found to predict age-adjusted executive function in our study, we observed that  
342 the frontoparietal network and the default mode network specifically contributed higher positive  
343 prediction weights for general intelligence, whereas the somatomotor network had negative  
344 prediction weights[8]. The maturation of the frontoparietal network and default mode network  
345 continues into early adulthood, providing an extended window for the activity-dependent  
346 reconstruction of distributed neural circuits in the cross-modal association cortex[19]. As we  
347 observed increasing coupling in these networks, this may have contributed to the improvements in  
348 general intelligence, highlighting the flexible and integrated role of these networks.

349 Classic twin studies have reported that the heritability of coupling differs among cortical  
350 regions, with higher heritability in the visual network than in other cortical networks[8]. An inverse  
351 correlation between the pattern of SC-FC coupling and heritable connectivity profiles has been  
352 reported[6]. This led us to hypothesize that the development of SC-FC coupling may be influenced  
353 by the expression patterns of the genetic transcriptome across various cell types with different spatial  
354 distributions. Our findings suggest that the spatial development of SC-FC coupling is associated  
355 with underlying transcriptome structure. Specifically, genes positively associated with the  
356 development of SC-FC coupling were enriched in oligodendrocyte-related pathways.  
357 Oligodendrocytes, specialized glial cells in the central nervous system, play a crucial role in  
358 myelination by producing myelin sheaths that enable saltatory conduction and provide metabolic  
359 support to axons[60]. Defects in myelination have been linked to developmental disorders[61]. This  
360 seems to indicate that significant alterations in SC-FC coupling during development may reflect  
361 neural plasticity, such as activity-dependent myelination of axons connecting functionally coupled  
362 regions[62, 63]. Conversely, we found that genes negatively correlated with SC-FC coupling were  
363 enriched in two specific gene pathways within astrocytes, inhibitory neurons and microglia. Both  
364 astrocytes and microglia have been implicated in synaptic pruning, a critical developmental process  
365 for the formation of fully functional neuronal circuits that eliminates weak and inappropriate  
366 synapses[64-66]. Importantly, the precise establishment of synapses is crucial for establishing the  
367 intercellular connectivity patterns of GABAergic neurons[67]. These findings suggest that the subtle



368 alterations observed in SC-FC coupling are closely associated with the refinement of mature neural  
369 circuits.

370 Several methodological issues must be addressed. First, we implemented a conservative quality  
371 control procedure to address head motion, which unavoidably resulted in the loss of some valuable  
372 data. Given the confounding influence of head motion in fMRI studies, especially those involving  
373 developing populations, we applied censoring of high-motion frames and included motion as a  
374 covariate in the GLM analysis and cognitive prediction to minimize its effects[7, 59, 68, 69]. Second,  
375 Second, although we observed SC-FC coupling across development by integrating intra- and  
376 extracortical SC to predict FC, it is worth noting that combining deep learning models[2],  
377 biophysical models[5, 17], or dynamic coupling[3, 13] perspectives may provide complementary  
378 insights. Third, the appropriateness of structurally defined regions for the functional analysis is also  
379 a topic of important debate. Fourth, we focused solely on cortico-cortical pathways, excluding  
380 subcortical nuclei from analysis. This decision stemmed from the difficulty of reconstructing the  
381 surface of subcortical regions[70] and characterizing their connections using MPC technique, as  
382 well as the challenge of accurately resolving the connections of small structures within subcortical  
383 regions using whole-brain diffusion imaging and tractography techniques[71, 72]. In addition, the  
384 reconstruction of short connections between hemispheres is a notable challenge. Fifth, it is important  
385 to acknowledge that changes in gene expression levels during development may introduce bias in  
386 the results. Finally, validation of sensitivity across independent datasets is a crucial step in ensuring  
387 the reliability of our results. To address this, we employed an alternative split-half validation strategy  
388 and the results supported the reliability of the current findings. However, future verification of  
389 current findings on independent datasets are still needed.

390

## 391 **Conclusions**

392 Overall, this study sheds light on the development of SC-FC coupling in the brain and its  
393 relationship to cognitive function and gene expression patterns. The results improve our  
394 understanding of the fundamental principles of brain development and provide a basis for future  
395 research in this area. Further investigations are needed to fully explore the clinical implications of  
396 SC-FC coupling for a range of developmental disorders.

397

## 398 **Materials and Methods**

399 **Participants.** We selected 439 participants (207 males, mean age =  $14.8 \pm 4.2$  years, age range =  
400 [5.7, 21.9]) from the HCP-D Release 2.0 data ([https://www.humanconnectome.org/study/hcp-](https://www.humanconnectome.org/study/hcp-lifespan-development)  
401 [lifespan-development](https://www.humanconnectome.org/study/hcp-lifespan-development)) after conducting rigorous checks for data completeness and quality control.  
402 The HCP-D dataset comprised 652 healthy participants who underwent multimodal MRI scans and  
403 cognitive assessments, and the detailed inclusion and exclusion criteria for this cohort have been  
404 described in[30]. All participants or their parents (for participants under the age of 18 years)  
405 provided written informed consent and assent. The study was approved by the Institutional Review  
406 Board of Washington University in St. Louis.

407 **Cognitive scores.** We included 11 cognitive scores which were assessed with the National Institutes  
408 of Health (NIH) Toolbox Cognition Battery ([https://www.healthmeasures.net/exploremeasurement-](https://www.healthmeasures.net/exploremeasurement-systems/nih-toolbox)  
409 [systems/nih-toolbox](https://www.healthmeasures.net/exploremeasurement-systems/nih-toolbox)), including episodic memory, executive function/cognitive flexibility,  
410 executive function/inhibition, language/reading decoding, processing speed, language/vocabulary  
411 comprehension, working memory, fluid intelligence composite score, crystal intelligence composite  
412 score, early child intelligence composite score and total intelligence composite score. Distributions  
413 of these cognitive scores and their relationship with age are illustrated in Figure S12.

414 **Imaging acquisition.** The MRI data were obtained with a Siemens 3T Prisma with a 32-channel  
415 phased array head coil, and detailed imaging parameters are available in[73]. High-resolution T1w  
416 images were acquired using a 3D multiecho MPRAGE sequence (0.8 mm isotropic voxels,  
417 repetition time (TR)/inversion time (TI) = 2500/1000 ms, echo time (TE) = 1.8/3.6/5.4/7.2 ms, flip  
418 angle =  $8^\circ$ , up to 30 reacquired TRs). The structural T2w images were collected with a variable-flip-  
419 angle turbo-spin-echo 3D SPACE sequence (0.8 mm isotropic voxels, TR/TE = 3200/564 ms, up to  
420 25 reacquired TRs). The dMRI scans included four consecutive runs with a 2D  $4 \times$  multiband spin-  
421 echo echo-planar imaging (EPI) sequence (1.5 mm isotropic voxels, 185 diffusion directions with  $b$   
422 = 1500/3000  $\text{s/mm}^2$  and 28  $b = 0$   $\text{s/mm}^2$  volumes, TR = 3.23 s, flip angle =  $78^\circ$ ). The rs-fMR images  
423 were acquired using a 2D  $8 \times$  multiband gradient-recalled echo EPI sequence (2.0 mm isotropic  
424 voxels, TR/TE = 800/37 ms, flip angle =  $52^\circ$ ). Each rs-fMRI scan duration was 26 minutes (four  
425 runs of 6.5 minutes) for participants over 8 years old and 21 minutes (six runs of 3.5 minutes) for

426 participants who were 5~7 years old.

427 **Imaging preprocessing.** All structural, diffusion and functional images underwent minimal  
428 preprocessing[70]. We specifically processed dMRI data referring to the publicly available code  
429 from <https://github.com/Washington-University/HCPpipelines> since the HCP-D has not released  
430 preprocessed dMRI results. Briefly, structural T1w and T2w images went through gradient  
431 distortion correction, alignment, bias field correction, registration to Montreal Neurological Institute  
432 (MNI) space, white matter and pial surface reconstruction, segment structures, and surface  
433 registration and downsampling to 32k\_fs\_LR mesh. A T1w/T2w ratio image, which indicates  
434 intracortical myelin, was produced for each participant[36]. The BNA[31] was projected on native  
435 space according to the official scripts (<http://www.brainnetome.org/resource/>) and the native BNA  
436 was checked by visual inspection. Regarding fMRI data, the preprocessing pipeline included spatial  
437 distortion correction, motion correction, EPI distortion correction, registration to MNI space,  
438 intensity normalization, mapping volume time series to 32k\_fs\_LR mesh, and smoothing using a 2  
439 mm average surface vertex. Following our previous methodological evaluation study[11], the dMRI  
440 procedures consisted of intensity normalization of the mean b0 image, correction of EPI distortion  
441 and eddy current, motion correction, gradient nonlinearity correction, and linear registration to T1w  
442 space.

443 **Network computation.** *Microstructure profile covariance (MPC)*. The MPC can capture  
444 cytoarchitectural similarity between cortical areas[12]. We first reconstructed 14 cortical surfaces  
445 from the white matter to the pial surface using a robust equivolumetric model[12, 74]. Then, the  
446 T1w/T2w ratio image was used to sample intracortical myelin intensities at these surfaces. We  
447 averaged the intensity profiles of vertices over 210 cortical regions according to the BNA[31].  
448 Finally, we computed pairwise partial correlations between regional intensity profiles, while  
449 controlling for the average intensity profile. After removing negative correlations, we used Fisher's  
450 r-to-z-transformation to generate an individual MPC.

451 *White matter connectome (WMC)*. Following our previous methodological evaluation  
452 study[11], the ball-and-stick model estimated from the bedpostx command-line in the FDT toolbox  
453 of FSL (<https://fsl.fmrib.ox.ac.uk/fsl/fslwiki/FDT>) was used to estimate fibre orientations (three  
454 fibres modelled per voxel)[75-78]. The BNA atlas was applied to individual volume space by

455 inverse transformation derived from preprocessed steps. Next, probabilistic tractography  
456 (probtrackx)[77, 79] was implemented in the FDT toolbox to estimate the probability of connectivity  
457 between two regions by sampling 5,000 fibres for each voxel within each region, correcting for  
458 distance, dividing by the total fibres number in source region, and calculating the average  
459 bidirectional probability[11]. Notably, the connections in subcortical areas were removed. A  
460 consistency-based thresholding approach (weight of the coefficient of variation at the 75th  
461 percentile) was used to remove spurious connections, and retain consistently reconstructed  
462 connections across subjects[9, 80]. Finally, twenty-seven communication models[7] were  
463 subsequently derived from the weighted probabilistic network, including shortest path length  
464 ( $\gamma$  values = {0.12, 0.25, 0.5, 1, 2, 4}), communicability[32], cosine similarity, search  
465 information (weight-to-cost transformations = {0.12, 0.25, 0.5, 1, 2, 4})[81], path transitivity  
466 (weight-to-cost transformations = {0.12, 0.25, 0.5, 1, 2, 4})[55], matching index[82], greedy  
467 navigation[83], mean first passage times of random walkers[33], and flow graphs (timescales = {1,  
468 2.5, 5, 10})[84]; for more details see Text S1.

469 *Functional network (FC).* To further clean the functional signal, we performed frame censoring,  
470 regressed out nuisance variables (including white matter, cerebrospinal fluid, global signal, and 12  
471 motion parameters), and executed temporal bandpass filtering (0.01~0.1 Hz). Specifically, we  
472 identified censored frames with motion greater than 0.15 mm[7] based on the  
473 Movement\_RelativeRMS.txt file. We flagged one frame before and two frames after each censored  
474 frame, along with any uncensored segments of fewer than five contiguous frames, as censored  
475 frames as well[69]. We discarded fMRI runs with more than half of the frames flagged as censored  
476 frames, and excluded participants with fewer than 300 frames (less than 4 minutes). The nuisance  
477 variables were removed from time series based on general linear model. We averaged the time series  
478 of vertices into 210 cortical regions according to the BNA[31]. We then computed pairwise  
479 Pearson's correlations between regional time series, and applied Fisher's r-to-z-transformation to the  
480 resulting correlations to generate individual FC.

481 **Quality control.** The exclusion of participants in the whole multimodal data processing pipeline  
482 was depicted in Figure S13. In the context of fMRI data, we computed Pearson's correlation  
483 between motion and age, as well as between the number of remaining frames and age, for the

484 included participants aged 5 to 22 years and 8 to 22 years, respectively. These correlations were  
485 presented in Figure S14.

486 **SC-FC coupling.** A multilinear model[1] was constructed to examine the relationship of individual  
487 nodewise SC profiles and FC profiles. For a given node, the predictive variable was nodal SC  $\mathbf{S} =$   
488  $\{\mathbf{s}_1, \mathbf{s}_2, \dots, \mathbf{s}_i, \dots, \mathbf{s}_n\}$ ,  $\mathbf{s}_i \in \mathbb{R}^m$  where  $\mathbf{s}_i$  is the  $i$ th SC profiles,  $n$  is the number of SC profiles,  
489 and  $m$  is the node number. The nodal functional profile  $\mathbf{f}$  is the dependent variable.

$$\mathbf{f} = b_0 + b_1\mathbf{s}_1 + b_2\mathbf{s}_2 + \dots + b_i\mathbf{s}_i + \dots + b_n\mathbf{s}_n \quad (1)$$

490 where the intercept  $b_0$  and regression coefficients  $b_i$  are estimated model parameters. For each  
491 participant, goodness of fit per node represents the nodal coupling between SC and FC, quantified  
492 as the adjusted coefficient of determination[7]

$$R_{adjusted}^2 = 1 - \frac{(1 - R^2)(N_c - 1)}{N_c - N_p - 1} \quad (2)$$

493 where  $R^2$  is the unadjusted coefficient of determination,  $N_c$  is the number of connection ( $N_c =$   
494 245 for BNA), and  $N_p$  is the number of predictors.

495 In the present study, WMC communication models that represented diverse geometric,  
496 topological, or dynamic factors, were used to explain nodal FC variation. Notably, too many  
497 predictors will result in overfitting and blindly increase the explained variance. And covariance  
498 structure among the predictors may lead to unreliable predictor weights. Thus, we applied Haufe's  
499 inversion transform[38] to address these issues and identified reliable communication mechanisms.  
500 Specifically, we used all twenty-seven communication models to predict FC at the node level for  
501 each participant. We applied Haufe's inversion transform[38] to obtain predictor weights for each  
502 model, with higher or lower values indicating stronger positive or negative correlations with FC.  
503 Next, we generated 1,000 FC permutations through a spin test[85] for each nodal prediction in each  
504 subject and obtained random distributions of model weights. These weights were averaged over the  
505 group and were investigated the enrichment of the highest weights per region to assess whether the  
506 number of highest weights across communication models was significantly larger than that in a  
507 random discovery.

508 The significant communication models were used to represent WMC communication  
509 properties and to predict functional profiles in conjunction with MPC as structural profiles  
510 (predictors). To test the significance of the resulting adjusted  $R^2$  values and system-specific of

511 coupling, we generated a null predictive model using a spin test[85] with 1,000 spatially-constrained  
512 repetitions. We also used Kruskal-Wallis nonparametric one-way analysis of variance (Kruskal-  
513 Wallis ANOVA) to compare coupling differences between systems. To investigate the contributions  
514 of various structural predictors, we applied Kruskal-Wallis ANOVA to test the predictive weights  
515 derived by Haufe's inversion transform, identifying optimal predictors across regions. We corrected  
516 for multiple comparisons using FDR correction. Additionally, we used a general linear model to  
517 explore age-related developmental patterns of SC-FC coupling, while controlling for sex,  
518 intracranial volume, and in-scanner head motion. Similarly, the system-specific significance of  
519 coupling alteration was calculated based on the 1,000 repetitions of the spin test. In addition, we  
520 have constructed the models using only MPC or SCs to predict FC, respectively. Spearman's  
521 correlation was used to assess the consistency between spatial patterns based on different models.

522 We examined the associations of SC-FC coupling and its developmental pattern with evolution  
523 expansion[35], myelin content[36], and functional principal gradient[37]. Spearman's correlation  
524 analyses were used to quantify the strength of correlations, with significance corrected for spatial  
525 autocorrelation with 1,000 repetitions of the spin test.

526 **Prediction of cognitive function.** Based on our predictive evaluation work[11], the Elastic-Net  
527 algorithm was applied to predict cognitive performance using nodal SC-FC coupling, which tends  
528 to yield robust prediction performance across various dimensions of cognitive tasks. The objective  
529 function is as follows:

$$L(\mathbf{Y}, f(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{w})) = \sum_{i=0}^n (y_i - f(\mathbf{x}_i))^2 + \alpha \sum_{j=1}^m (\beta |w_j| + \frac{1}{2} (1 - \beta) \|w_j\|^2) \quad (3)$$

530 where  $\mathbf{x} = \{\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2, \dots, \mathbf{x}_n\}$  represents an observation set (e.g., SC-FC coupling) with a sample size  
531 of  $n$ , and  $\mathbf{y} = \{y_1, y_2, \dots, y_n\}$  is a label set (e.g., cognitive measure). The model solves the fitting  
532 coefficient  $\mathbf{w} = (w_1, w_2, \dots, w_m)$  under the minimization objective function  $L(\mathbf{Y}, f(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{w}))$ . The  
533 L1 regularization term  $|\cdot|$  and L2 regularization term  $\|\cdot\|^2$  constraint the fitting coefficient to  
534 ensure model generalization ability.  $\alpha$  represents regularization strength, controlling the  
535 compression loss scale, and  $\beta$  denotes a trade-off parameter between the L1 and L2 terms.

536 We employed a nested fivefold cross validation (CV) framework comprising an external CV  
537 and an internal CV[11]. In the external CV, observations were randomly partitioned into five folds,

538 with four of them included in the training set used to develop the model and the remaining fold used  
539 as a testing set to assess the predictive accuracy of the model. This process was repeated 100 times,  
540 and the final model performance was evaluated by averaging the predictive accuracy across the 100  
541 models. In the internal CV, the hyperparameter spaces were first defined as  $\alpha \in \{x|x = 2^n, n \in$   
542  $\mathbf{Z}, n \in [-10,5]\}$  and  $\beta \in \{x|x = 0.1n, n \in \mathbf{Z}, n \in [0,10]\}$ . Then, the training set was further  
543 divided into five folds. Four folds composed the internal training set, which was used to generate  
544 models by successively applying  $16 \times 11$  hyperparametric combinations, and the remaining fold was  
545 defined as the validation set and used to find the optimal combination. Subsequently, we retrained  
546 the model on the training set using the optimal hyperparametric combination and assessed its  
547 predictive performance on the testing set by performing Pearson's correlation analyses of the  
548 relationship between the predicted and labelled values.

549 Prior to applying the nested fivefold cross-validation framework to each behaviour measure,  
550 we regressed out covariates including sex, intracranial volume, and in-scanner head motion from  
551 the behaviour measure[59, 69]. Specifically, we estimated the regression coefficients of the  
552 covariates using the training set and applied them to the testing set. This regression procedure was  
553 repeated for each fold. Additionally, we conducted control analyses using age-adjusted behavioral  
554 measures to investigate the effect of age on the predictive performance of SC-FC coupling.

555 To evaluate whether our model performed better than at chance on each behaviour measure,  
556 we performed 1,000 permutation tests by randomly shuffling the behaviour measure across  
557 participants, generating a null model of predicted performance using the same procedures. We then  
558 used the corrected resampled *t* test to determine statistical significance[86, 87]. We corrected for  
559 multiple comparisons using FDR correction. For model interpretability, we applied Haufe's  
560 inversion transform[38] to obtain predicted weights for various brain regions. The significance of  
561 the weights for each system was assessed by comparing them to those generated by a spin test[85]  
562 with 1,000 repetitions.

563 **Association between alterations of SC-FC coupling and gene expression.** We preprocessed  
564 the anatomic and genomic information of the Allen Human Brain Atlas (AHBA) dataset following  
565 a recommended pipeline[40]. Specifically, we used FreeSurfer  
566 (<https://surfer.nmr.mgh.harvard.edu/fswiki/>) to generate preprocessed structural data for each donor

567 and projected the BNA template onto native fsaverage space using official scripts  
568 (<http://www.brainnetome.org/resource/>). Finally, we produced an averaged gene expression profile  
569 for 10,027 genes covering 105 left cortical regions. Restricting analyses to the left hemisphere will  
570 minimize variability across regions (and hemispheres) in terms of the number of samples  
571 available[40].

572 PLS analysis[39] was performed to mine the linear association between the spatial  
573 development pattern of SC-FC coupling and gene expression profiles. We used absolute values of  
574 the correlation between age and SC-FC coupling in 105 left cortical regions as predicted variables  
575 and the gene expression profiles of the corresponding regions as predictor variables. Pearson's  
576 correlation coefficient was calculated to determine the association between the PLS score and the  
577 absolute correlation value between age and SC-FC coupling. To correct for spatial autocorrelation,  
578 we compared the empirically observed value to spatially constrained null models generated by  
579 10,000 spin permutations[85]. We then transformed the gene weight on PLS1 into a z score by  
580 dividing the standard deviation of the corresponding weights estimated from bootstrapping, and  
581 ranked all genes accordingly. We identified significant genes at a threshold of  $p < 0.05$  and classified  
582 them as having positive or negative gene weights. To understand the functional significance of these  
583 genes, we performed gene functional enrichment analysis (GO analysis of biological processes and  
584 pathways) using Metascape[42]. We focused on the selected genes with positive or negative weights  
585 and retained enrichment pathways with an FDR-corrected  $< 0.05$ .

586 To investigate the cell type-specific expression of the selected genes, we assigned them to 58  
587 cell types derived from five studies[43-47] focusing on single-cell research using the human  
588 postnatal cortex. To avoid potential bias in cell-type assignment, we grouped these cell types into  
589 seven canonical classes: astrocytes, endothelial cells, excitatory neurons, inhibitory neurons,  
590 microglia, oligodendrocytes, and OPCs[48, 88]. We generated a null model by performing 10,000  
591 random resamplings of genes within each cell type. We then tested the significance of our results  
592 against this null model. Additionally, we subjected the genes associated with each enriched term to  
593 the same analysis to explore the specificity of the cell type.

594 **Reproducibility analyses.** To evaluate the robustness of our findings under different parcellation  
595 templates, we computed MPC, SCs (WMC, communicability[32], mean first passage times of



596 random walkers[33], and flow graphs (timescales=1)) and FC using the multimodal parcellation  
597 from the Human Connectome Project (HCPMMP)[49]. We used the multilinear model to examine  
598 the association of individual nodewise SC profiles and FC profiles. Then, a general linear model  
599 was used to explore age-related developmental patterns of SC-FC coupling, while controlling for  
600 sex, intracranial volume, and in-scanner head motion. We corrected for multiple comparisons using  
601 FDR correlation. Finally, we produced an averaged gene expression profile for 10,027 genes  
602 covering 176 left cortical regions based on HCPMMP and obtained the gene weights by PLS  
603 analysis. We performed Pearson's correlation analyses to assess the consistency of gene weights  
604 between HCPMMP and BNA.

605 To evaluate the sensitivity of our results to deterministic tractography, we used the Camino  
606 toolbox (<http://camino.cs.ucl.ac.uk/>) to reconstruct fibres with a ball-and-stick model estimated  
607 from bedpostx results[78] and to generate a fibre number-weighted network using the BNA atlas.  
608 We then calculated the communication properties of the WMC including communicability, mean  
609 first passage times of random walkers, and flow graphs (timescales=1). The same pipeline was used  
610 for subsequent SC-FC coupling, prediction, and gene analysis. To assess the consistency of our  
611 results between deterministic tractography and probabilistic tractography, we performed Pearson's  
612 correlation analyses with significance corrected for spatial autocorrelation through 1,000 repetitions  
613 of the spin test.

614 To evaluate the generalizability of our findings, we adopted a split-half cross-validation  
615 strategy by randomly partitioning the whole dataset (WD) into two independent subsets (S1 and S2).  
616 This process was repeated 1,000 times to minimize bias due to data partitioning. Based on MPC,  
617 three communication properties of the WMC, and FC, we then used the same procedures to quantify  
618 SC-FC coupling, the correlation between age and SC-FC coupling and gene weights in both S1 and  
619 S2. Finally, we assessed the consistency of results by calculating Pearson's correlation coefficients  
620 of the relationships between S1 and WD, S2 and WD, and S1 and S2.

621

## 622 **Data and Code availability**

623 The HCP-D 2.0 release data that support the findings of this study are publicly available at  
624 <https://www.humanconnectome.org/study/hcp-lifespan-development>. R4.1.2 software  
625 (<https://www.r-project.org/>) was used to construct the general linear model. MATLAB scripts used  
626 for preprocessing of the AHBA dataset can be found at  
627 <https://github.com/BMHLab/AHBAProcessing>. Python scripts used to perform PLS regression can  
628 be found at [https://scikit-](https://scikit-learn.org/stable/modules/generated/sklearn.cross_decomposition.PLSRegression.html#sklearn.cross_decomposition.PLSRegression)  
629 [learn.org/stable/modules/generated/sklearn.cross\\_decomposition.PLSRegression.html#sklearn.cro](https://scikit-learn.org/stable/modules/generated/sklearn.cross_decomposition.PLSRegression.html#sklearn.cross_decomposition.PLSRegression)  
630 [ss\\_decomposition.PLSRegression](https://scikit-learn.org/stable/modules/generated/sklearn.cross_decomposition.PLSRegression.html#sklearn.cross_decomposition.PLSRegression). The minimal preprocessing pipelines can be accessed at  
631 <https://github.com/Washington-University/HCPpipelines>. The code relevant to this study can be  
632 accessed through the following GitHub repository: [https://github.com/FelixFengCN/SC-FC-](https://github.com/FelixFengCN/SC-FC-coupling-development)  
633 [coupling-development](https://github.com/FelixFengCN/SC-FC-coupling-development).

634

635 **Credit Authorship Contribution Statement**

636 G.F. performed acquisition and analysis of data, contributed new analytic tools, drafted and revised  
637 the paper. Y.W., W.H., H.C. and J.C. performed acquisition and analysis of data. N.S. contributed  
638 to the design of the work, performed analysis of data, and revised the paper.

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650 There are no conflicts of interest including any financial, personal, or other relationships with people

651 or organizations for any of the authors related to the work described in the article.

652

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