Early warning signals of critical transitions in mood

ingvande@iu.edu





Thanks to:



- Marieke Wichers
 Dep. of Psychiatry and Psychology, RU
 Groningen
- Angelique Cramer
 Dep. of Psychology, VU Amsterdam
- Denny Borsboom
 Dep. of Psychology, VU Amsterdam
- Ken Kendler
 Dep. of Psychiatry, Virginia
 Commonwealth University





Johan Bollen Center for complex networks and systems research, Indiana University



Marten Scheffer & Egbert van Nes
 Department of Environmental Sciences, Wageningen UR

Psychological Medicine (2011), **41**, 1143–1150. © Cambridge University Press 2010 doi:10.1017/S0033291710001844

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

What kinds of things are psychiatric disorders?

K. S. Kendler¹*, P. Zachar² and C. Craver³

Essential characteristics of mental disorders?
 Psychological, neurological, genetic..

Medical disease

Alex



Problems:

- Headaches
- Forgetfulness
- Foggy eyesight



Brain scan

Diagnosis:

Brain tumor

Treatment:

- Surgery
- Chemotherapy



Mental disorders as medical disease

Jenny



Problems:

- Problems sleeping
- Depressed mood
- Lack of interest



DSM symptom check

Diagnosis:

Major depression

Treatment:

- Therapy
- Antidepressants



- MD is not an empirically identifiable entity which can be treated directly (e.g. like Down syndrome or cancer)
- No lab test for MD (e.g. 3rd chromosome, tumor)

Medical disease model

Network Analysis: An Integrative Approach to the Structure of Psychopathology

Denny Borsboom and Angélique O.J. Cramer Department of Psychology, University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam 1018 XA, The Netherlands; email: D.Borsboom@uva.nl

Relation between Major Depression and its observable symptoms according to the medical disease model



Network approach

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Denny Borsboom and Angélique O.J. Cramer Department of Psychology, University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam 1018 XA, The Netherlands; email: D.Borsboom@uva.nl

Network of Major Depression and General Anxiety Syndrome symptoms based on correlations in the National Comorbidity Survey Replication data



Symptoms could correlate because they are causally linked, instead of symptoms of a single disease

Individual differences

The network view allows us to define individual differences in terms of connection strengths (and thus individual paths to disorder):



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K. S. Kendler¹*, P. Zachar² and C. Craver³

 Kendler et al. essentially propose to view mental disorders as attractors in a large complex dynamical system

Depression as a tipping point?



Indications of positive feedbacks



OPEN access Freely available online

PLOS ONE

A Network Approach to Psychopathology: New Insights into Clinical Longitudinal Data

Laura F. Bringmann¹*, Nathalie Vissers¹, Marieke Wichers², Nicole Geschwind³, Peter Kuppens¹, Frenk Peeters², Denny Borsboom⁴, Francis Tuerlinckx¹

Early warning signals illustrated with a model describing mood dynamics



Critical slowing down as early warning for the onset and termination of depression

Ingrid A. van de Leemput^{a.1,2}, Marieke Wichers^{b.1}, Angélique O. J. Cramer^c, Denny Borsboom^c, Francis Tuerlinckx^d, Peter Kuppens^{d.e}, Egbert H. van Nes³, Wolfgang Viechtbauer^b, Erik J. Giltay^f, Steven H. Aggen^g, Catherine Derom^{b.j}, Nele Jacobs^{b.j}, Kenneth S. Kendler^{g,k}, Han L. J. van der Maas^c, Michael C. Neale^g, Frenk Peeters^b, Evert Thiery^J, Peter Zachar^m, and Marten Scheffer^a

*Aquatic Ecology and Water Quality Management, Wageningen University, 6700 AA, Wageningen, The Netherlands, "Department of Psychiatry and Psychology, School for Mental Health and Neuroscience, Maastricht University, 5200 MD, Maastricht, The Netherlands, "Department of Psychology, Psychological Methods, University of Amsterdam, 1018 XA, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, "Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences, KU Leuven-University of Leuven, 3000 Leuven, Belgium; "Melbourne School of Psychological Sciences, University of Melbourne, Melbourne, VIC 3010, Australia; "Department of Benchistra, University and Leuven, Belgium;" Melbourne School of Psychological Sciences, University of Melbourne, VIC 3010, Australia; "Department of Benchistra, University Melbourne School of Psychological Sciences, University of Melbourne, VIC 3010, Australia;





Temporal data!! ESM: Experience Sampling Method

2 populations:

- General (without diagnosis depression) (n=535)
- Depressed (with diagnosis depression) (n=93)

'beep'	Emotion	Current state (1-7)
12:00	Content	
	Satisfied	
	Anxious	
	Sad	

6 consecutive days, 10 times a day (7:30 - 22:30)

Monitoring of follow-up course depressive symtoms

Results

General population closer to depression:

• Higher autocorrelation and variance of negative emotions

Depressed population closer to recovery:

• Higher autocorrelation and variance of positive emotions



Results

General population closer to depression:

- Higher autocorrelation and variance of negative emotions
- Higher correlation between emotions
- Depressed population closer to recovery:
 - Higher autocorrelation and variance of positive emotions
 - Higher correlation between emotions



Emotional Inertia



Emotional inertia "refers to the degree to which a person's current emotional state is predicted by their prior emotional state, reflecting how much it carries over from one moment to the next"

Increased emotional inertia predictive of onset of depressive disorder

Individual-level

Wichers et al. *under review*







variance mental states



Individual-level

Wichers et al. *under review*

Phase 1 (before experiment)



Phase 3 (anti-depr reduction)



Phase 2 (no anti-depr reduction)



Phase 4 (before shift)



Conclusions depression experiments

- Increased autocorrelation, variance, and correlation between emotions indicative for proximity 'transition' towards depression, and towards healthy state
- 1) Indication of positive feedbacks,
 2) abrupt shifts, and
 3) early warning signals suggest that depression and healthy state are alternative stable states..
- .. and transitions between them are critical transitions/ tipping points
- Our results strengthen the network view of mental disorders
- Circumvent full understanding, but still improve ability to anticipate clinically relevant mood shifts

Future issues ..

- What do the many roads to developing mental disorders look like?
- What sort of genetic/biological, psychological, and environmental factors govern individual differences in the strength of connections between symptoms?
- Replication of individual-level experiment (currently n=1)
- Causal links between symptoms? Convergent cross-mapping...
- How can the theory of early warning signals help in targeting and evaluating therapeutic interventions?

Mood tracking apps, rely on self-assessment





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iPhone Screenshot



Tracking mood in social media updates

- Twitter: "I was diagnosed bipolar" or "I was diagnosed depression"
- Sentiment analysis from short texts



Social tipping points.. early warning signals





Thank you



ingrid.vandeleemput@wur.nl

Network approach

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Network of Major Depression and General Anxiety Syndrome symptoms based on putative causal relations between symptoms



The model

$$\frac{dx_i}{dt} = (r_i + \epsilon_r)x_i + \sum_j^4 C_{i,j}x_jx_j + \mu,$$

$$C = \begin{pmatrix} -0.2 & 0.04 & -0.2 & -0.2 \\ 0.04 & -0.2 & -0.2 & -0.2 \\ -0.2 & -0.2 & -0.2 & 0.04 \\ -0.2 & -0.2 & 0.04 & -0.2 \end{pmatrix}$$

ESM: Experience Sampling Method

The four emotions were a-priori chosen to represent each quadrant of the affective space:





