Signal Processing of Auditory Responses from Magnetoencephalography (MEG)

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Outline

- Introduction to MEG
- Auditory MEG Signals
- Independent Component Analysis (ICA)
- Ripple Stimuli & ICA with EEG
- Spectral/Frequency Methods

Functional Imaging



MEG Magnetic Signal



Magnetic Field Strengths



Magnetic Flux Detectors

Superconductivity → Magnetic flux quantization → Josephson Effect → SQUID = Superconducting Quantum Interference Device





Magnetically Shielded Room



MEG (vs. EEG)

Temporal resolution high as EEG
Fast, easy set-up
Magnetic fields are not attenuated, unlike electric fields
Higher spatial resolution

Expensive Inverse problem worse(?)

Complementary Techniques





EEG

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Sensor Layout



Butterfly Plot

Overlay of all channels above right temporal lobe



Response peak at 98 ms after onset of an auditory stimulus

Contour Plot

Distribution of magnetic field at peak response



Magnetic Source Imaging

MEG + MRI

Dipole fit at response peak, 98ms after onset of stimulus



Axial View







L R

Coronal View

Isofield Contour Map

M100 Latency

M100 Peak Latency decreases with increasing frequency



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Beyond Averaging

We should be able to do better than mean and variance of responses to multiple presentations of one stimulus

Jitter across responses cancel so we lose variance of latencies

Coherence across channels ignored

Blind Source Separation (BSS)? ICA...

Independent Component Analysis

Independent Component Analysis (ICA)

- (1) unmixes the separate sources' activity, and
- (2) reduces the information overlap between components
- Model:

Instantaneous Linear Mixing

X(t) = A*S(t)A*W = P*D*I

P: Permutation Matrix D: Diagonal Scaling Matrix I: Identity Matrix



• Method:

Estimate weights so to maximize output entropy H(y) => minimize mutual information I(y)

• Goal:

Learned weights approximate inverse of mixing matrix

MEG Waveform & ICA

Independent Component Analysis



Independent Component Analysis



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Systems Theory and Speech

• Speech

Broadband, Dynamic Spectrotemporally rich Algorithmically complex

- Systems Theory Complex objects can be expressed as sum of simpler objects
- Dynamic Ripples Broadband, Dynamic Spectrotemporally rich Algorithmically *Simple*



Single Moving Ripple



Miniature EEG

 Thin-film micro-electrode array, developed by Anthony Owens and Shihab Shamma recording Evoked Potentials (EPs).

□ 24 gold electrodes $(40x40\mu m^2)$ sandwiched between two layers of biocompatible polyimide.

Rests directly on cortex surface

Flexible enough to conform to the shape of the cortex

 Simultaneous recording, independent of the state of the animal and the level of anesthesia.



Cortical Surface EEG Before ICA



ICA & Cortical Surface EEG









ICA Reveals Cortical Traveling Wave



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Power Spectral Density Follows Ripple Speed



- Power Spectral Density Peaks (of response) correspond to stimulus Ripple velocity
- Left-Right Processing Asymmetry (MEG required)

Asymmetric Sampling in Time (AST)

a. Physiologicallateralization



Total Power Spectra: Hemispheric Asymmetry



- Enhanced Processing in Left Hemisphere for higher frequencies (above ~ 30 Hz).
- Left-Right Processing Asymmetry (MEG required)

Conclusions

- High Temporal Resolution
- Especially Suitable for Human Auditory Cortex
- Potentially Poor Signal to Noise Ratio (Neural Variability) BUT...
 - Independent Component Analysis: Artifact Rejection & Signal Enhancement
 - ✔ Spectral and Spectro-Temporal Methods
 - ✓ Systems Theory informs choice of stimuli
 - Spatial Distribution of Signal Separates across hemispheres

✓ Other methods still, e.g. phase correlational methods