Phase-locking in Human Auditory Cortex to Spectrotemporal Modulations



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Outline

- Introduction & Background: MEG
- Auditory Steady State Response (SSR)
- Experiments: Design, Results & Implications
- Related Lab Activity

MEG — Magnetoencephalography

• Simultaneous Whole Head recordings 160 sensors (3 reference) • Exquisitely Sensitive ~ 100 fT (10^{-13} Tesla) $\sim 10^4$ neurons • Temporal Resolution $\sim 1 \text{ ms}$



MEG Magnetic Signal



MEG compared to EEG

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



Expensive Inverse problem worse? Better?

Complementary Techniques



EEG

Auditory MEG Responses



Auditory Responses Lateralize Strongly!









Time Course of MEG Responses





What are the MEG Events? What are the Stimulus Events?

An Alternative to Time: Frequency

- Use Stimuli localized in Frequency rather than time
- Examine Response at Same Frequency
- Well Established Method:

Frequency Response or Transfer Function

• Stimulus Modulated at Single Frequency:

Steady State Response (SSR)



Extremely Precise Phase-Locking: 0.01 Hz No trial-to-trial jitter

Whole Head Steady State Response





Data Reduction via Equivalent Dipoles

Raw Data







Two Dipole Fit





Left Dipole *Dipoles are Complex*

Right Dipole 32 Hz

Equivalent Dipole Transfer Function



The Dilemma of Complex Stimuli



The Dilemma of Complex Stimuli



SSR as Function of Bandwidth







Tone

1/3 Octave Noise

2 Octave Noise

32 Hz Modulation

Multiple Transfer Functions



Stimuli Revisited

- Multiple Bandwidths: 0 to 5 octaves
- Low Modulation Frequencies: 2 to 32 Hz

Natural Sounds (e.g. speech)

Intracranial Recordings from Human Auditory Cortex find peaks at 4-8 Hz in Liégeois-Chauvel et al. (2004).

• SSR vs. "Continuous Onsets"?

Evidence of significant (~30%) linearity to *envelope of speech* from Ahissar et al. (2001).



Averaged Transfer Functions



Still To Do

- More Subjects (beat down variability)
- Simultaneous Two-Dipole Fits
- Fit only to channels of Significant Response: e.g. F-test, Rayleigh test, phase-weighted tests
- Reduce Variance due to dipole depth Shallow Magnitude/Depth trade off
- Bootstrap confidence intervals within subjects

Next on "To Do" List



Related Project: Speech + ICA

Speech & Speech-like Stimuli









Auditory Independent Component Responses















Independent Component Analysis



Summary

- Whole Head SSR
 - -> Spatial Phase Coherence
 - -> Complex Dipole
- Dipole Generated Transfer Functions
 - -> Independent of Bandwidth
 - -> Low Pass (?)
 - -> Low Frequency Peak ?
- SSR Methodology Complementary to Time Based Methods (e.g. Speech with ICA)

Thank You

