

# **EEG and Event Related Potentials in Psychiatry**

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# Presentation Outline

- Classification of bioelectric signals
- Spontaneous/resting EEG (Intro)
- Event Related Potentials (ERP, Intro)
  - improving signal-to-noise ratio (artifact rejection)
  - improving signal-to-noise (averaging)
- 3-dimensional EEG/ERP tomography
- Illustration of types of ERP, with examples of psychiatric applications

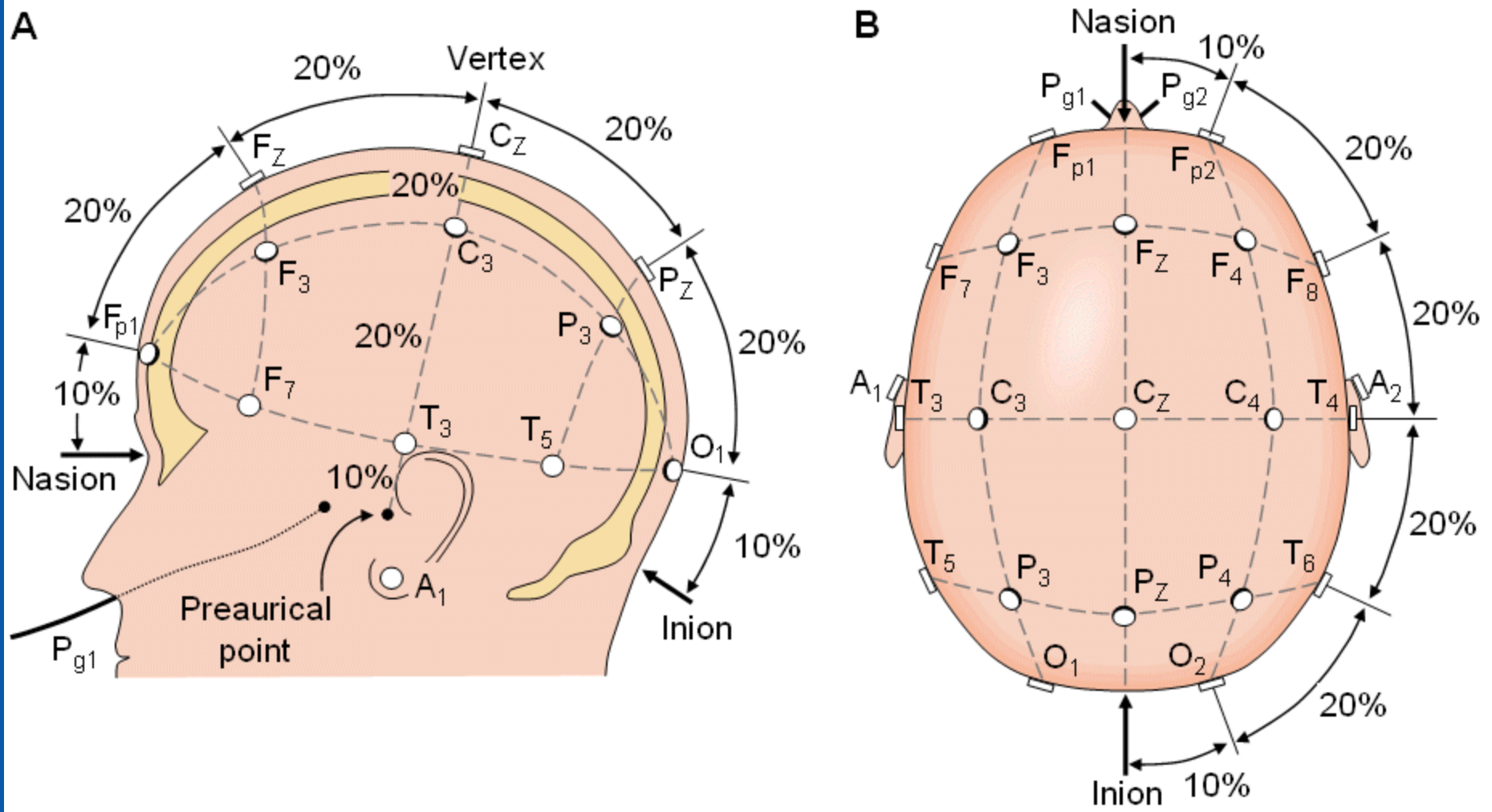
# Just a few facts about EEG „signals“

**Amplitude/voltage:** typically, in the range of MicroVolts ( $\mu\text{V}$ ):  $<1 - 100 \mu\text{V}$

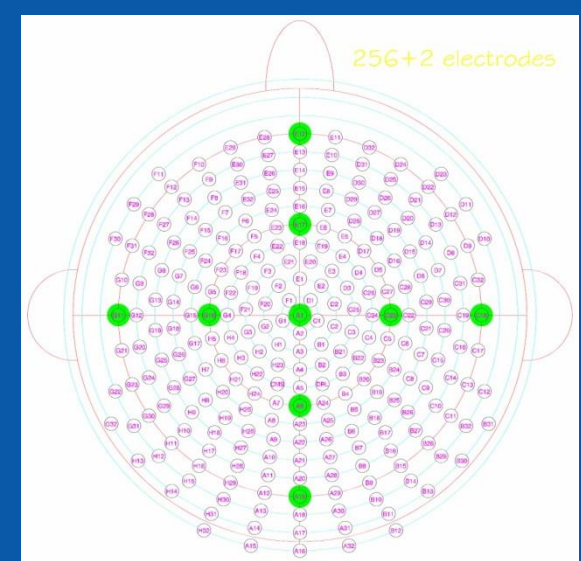
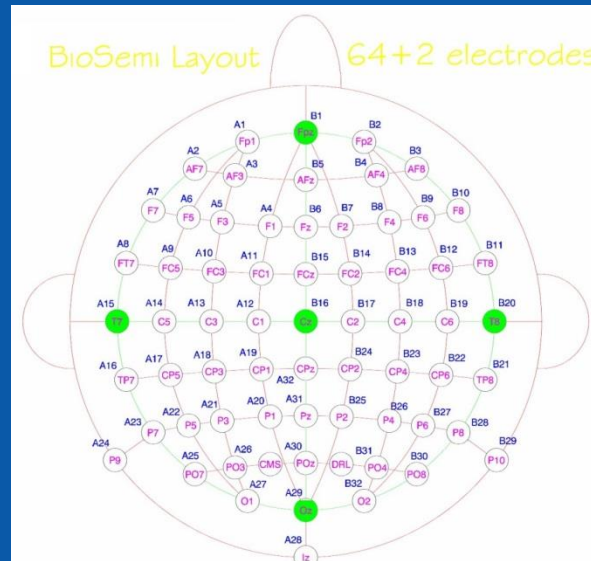
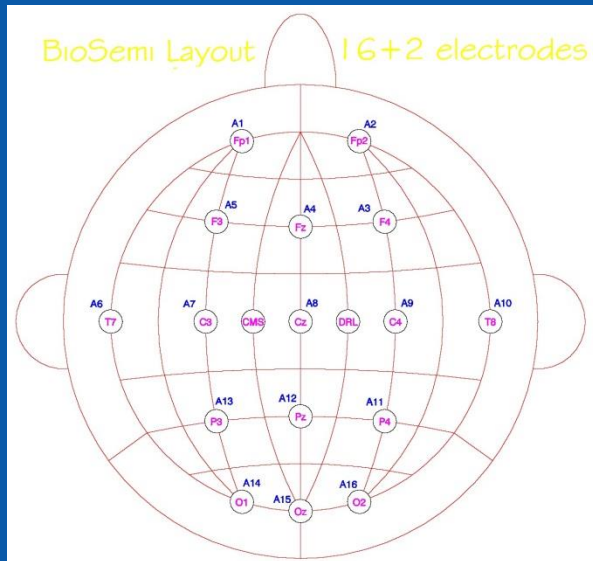
**Frequency:** typically, in the range of  $0.01 - 100 \text{ Hz}$

**Wave/form:** depends on brain area, physiological/  
psychological state, clinical condition

# EEG: The 10-20 System of Electrodes



# Electrode Arrays (from 16 to 256 sensors)



16 sensors



64 sensors



256 sensors

# Bioelectric Signals of the Brain

## 2 major groups

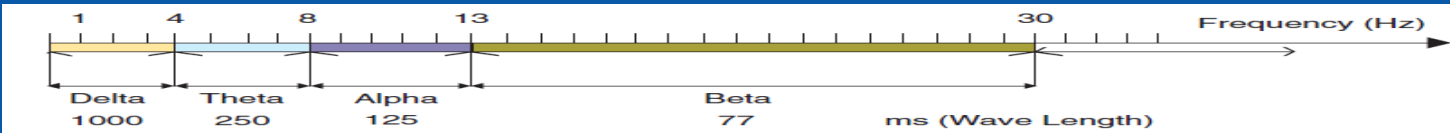
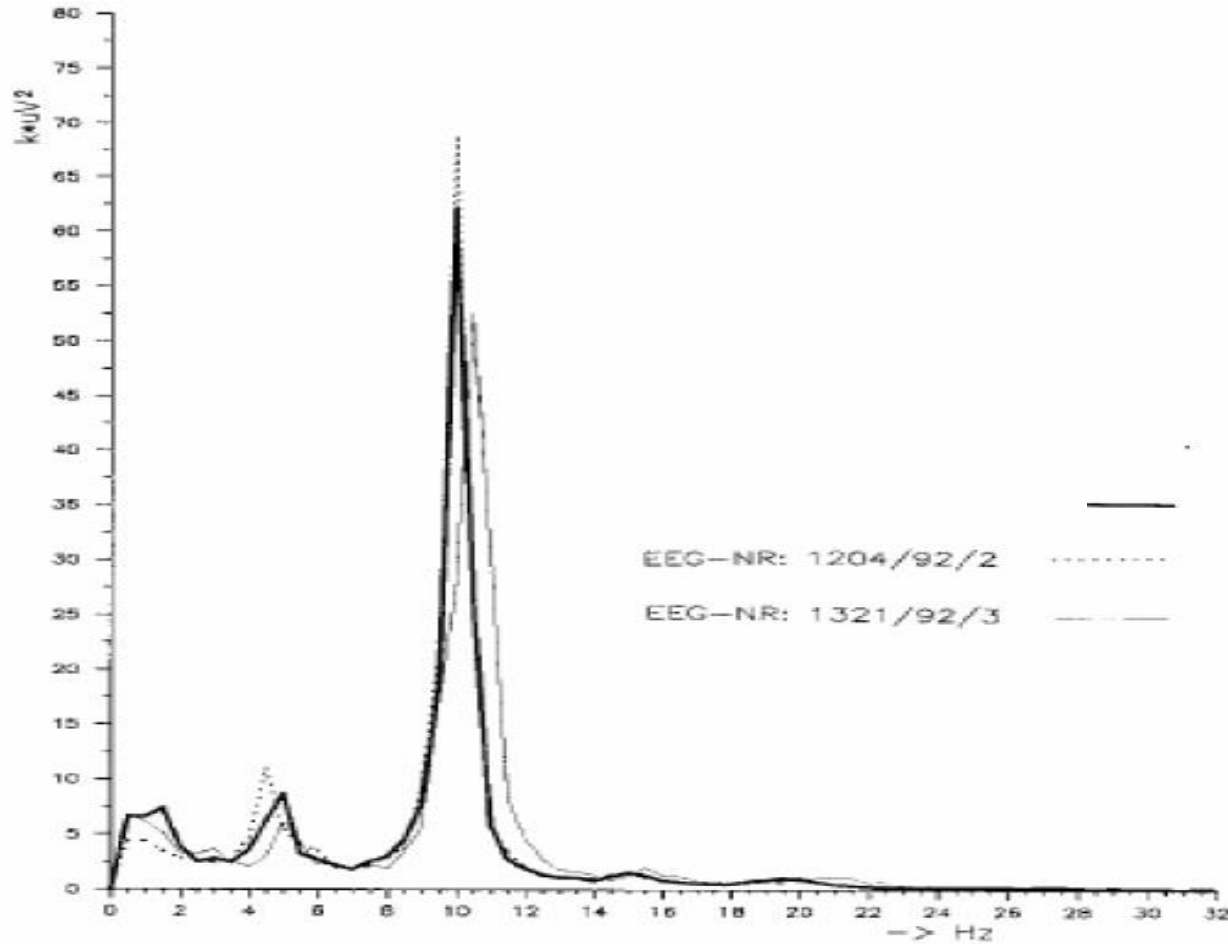
**Spontaneous EEG:** „spontaneous“ electrical activity of the billions of neurons of the brain. It is „always there“ in the brain, and in general in the clinical routine it is recorded from the scalp. The best way to picture it as a voltage fluctuation that changes as a function of time.

3 important measures can be used for its description:

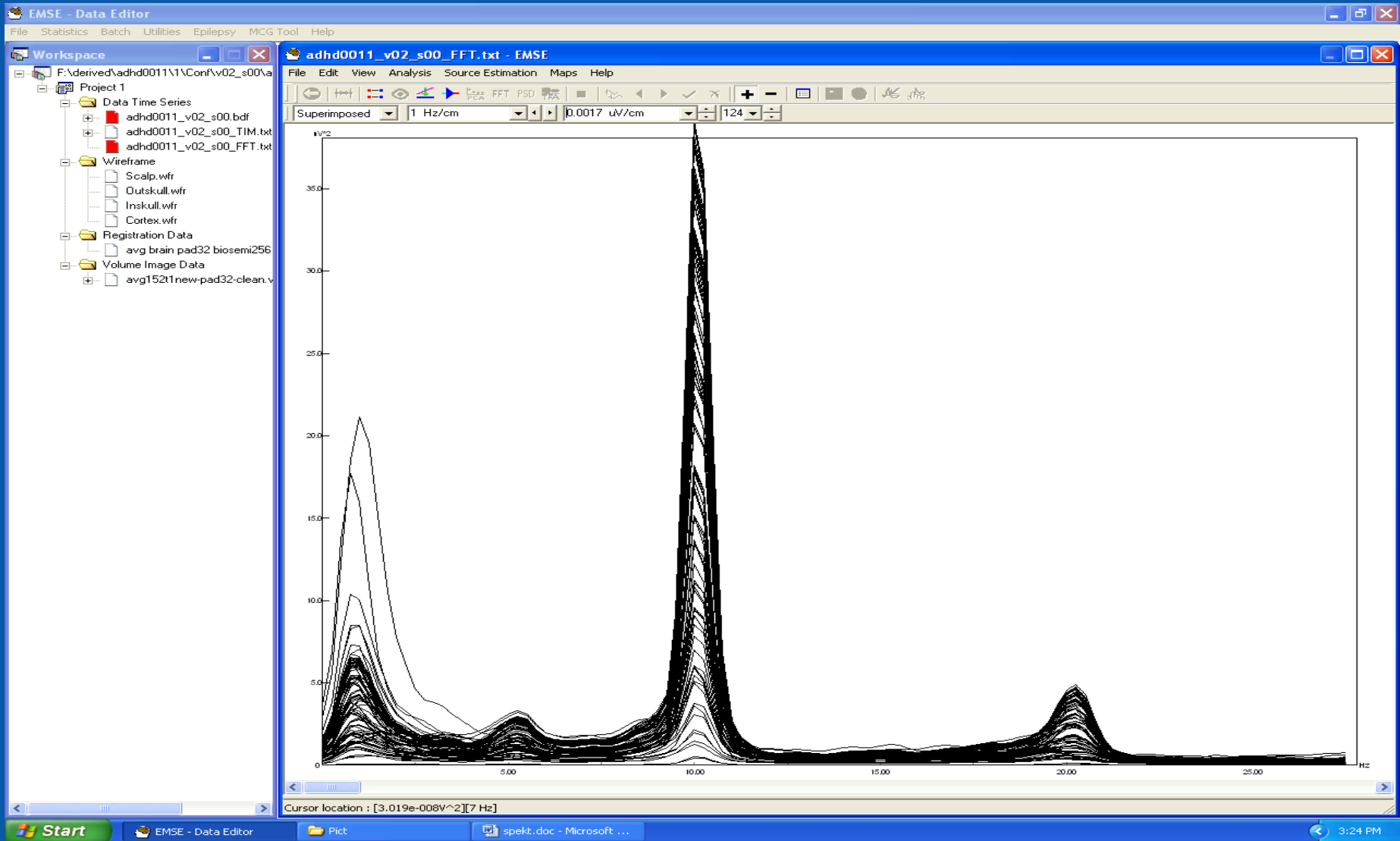
- its magnitude, i.e., amplitude (in microvolts,  $\mu\text{V}$ )
- frequency (Hz, vagy cycles/s),  
i.e., how many times the signal crosses the baseline
- waveform/shape (e.g., „sharp waves“)

**Even Related Potentials:** changes in the EEG signals in relation to specific events such as internal or external stimuli, events, or movement

# EEG Spectral Composition and Frequency Bands



# EEG frequency/power distribution – power spectrum over many channels



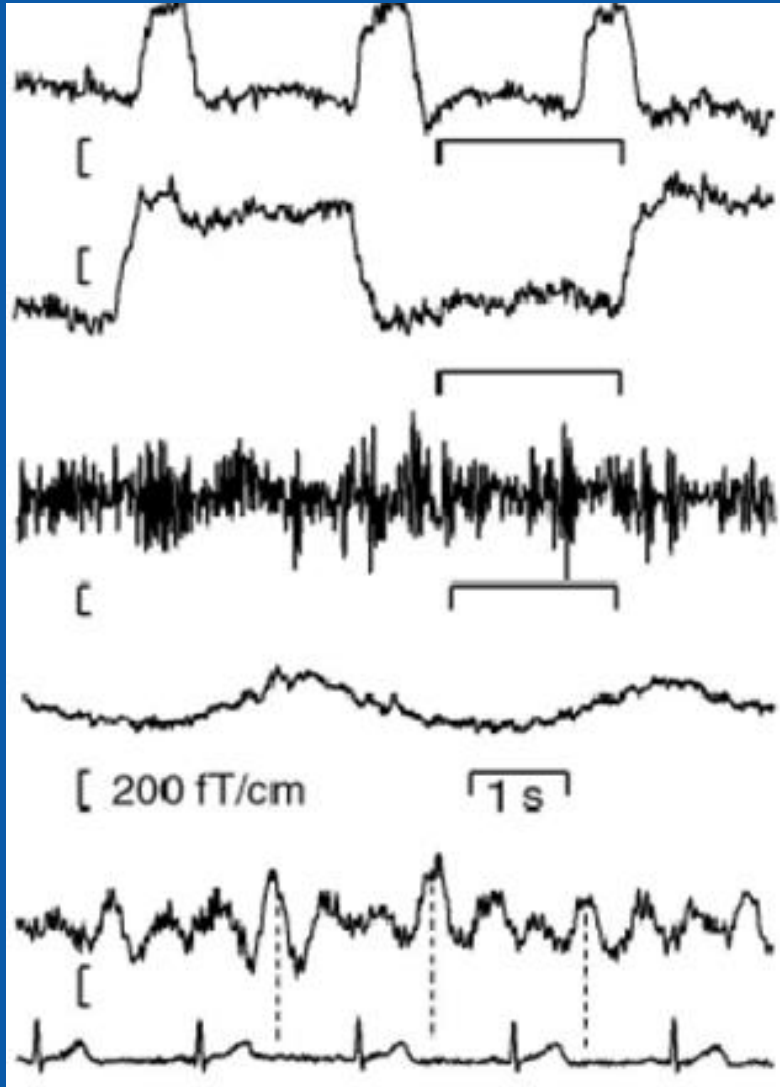


# Event Related Potentials

- If a stimulus is presented to a person – e.g., a flash of light or tone burst – then the spontaneous ongoing EEG activity changes: a series of transient waves occurs. **This series of waves is called ERP.**
- The number of peaks and troughs in the ERP waveform is a function of the complexity of the stimuli. In case of simple stimuli this means only 3-4 waves. In case of complex psychological stimuli (e.g., name of the person) 5-8 waves are generated.
- **One basic problem: the amplitude of the ERP „waves“ is much smaller than the background EEG. Therefore, the Signal-to-Noise Ratio (SNR) needs to be improved.**

# Signal-to-Noise Ratio – where is the noise coming from? Artifacts

!!!50 Hz/60 HZ!!!



blinking

eye movements

muscles

respiration

ballisto-kardiogram

EKG

EEG!!!

# Improving the Signal-to Noise Ratio

## Time-locked Averaging

A SUMMATION TECHNIQUE FOR THE DETECTION OF SMALL  
EVOKED POTENTIALS

G. D. DAWSON, M.B., M.Sc.

Neurological Research Unit, Medical Research Council, The National Hospital,  
Queen Square, London

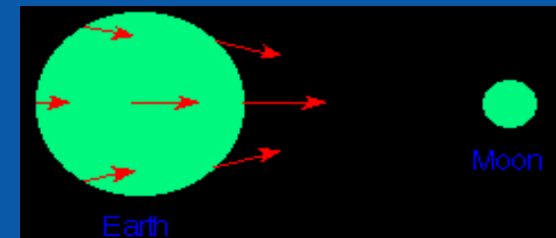
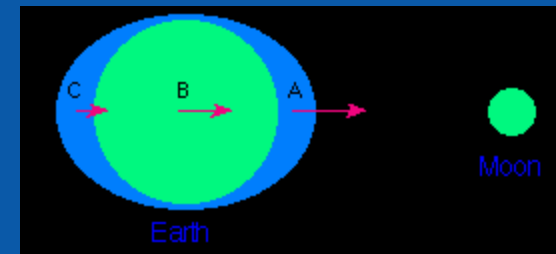
(Received for publication: July 10, 1953)

Averaging has long been applied to the detection of systematic fluctuations amongst larger irregular ones. For example Laplace, in the eighteenth century, predicted that by averaging enough data it should be possible to demonstrate a lunar tide in the atmospheric pressure. The achievement of this in the tropics by Lefroy is described by Sabine (1847) but even the averaging of 180,000 hourly observations by Airy (1878) failed to detect the tide in higher latitudes where the

Oceans: low & high tides

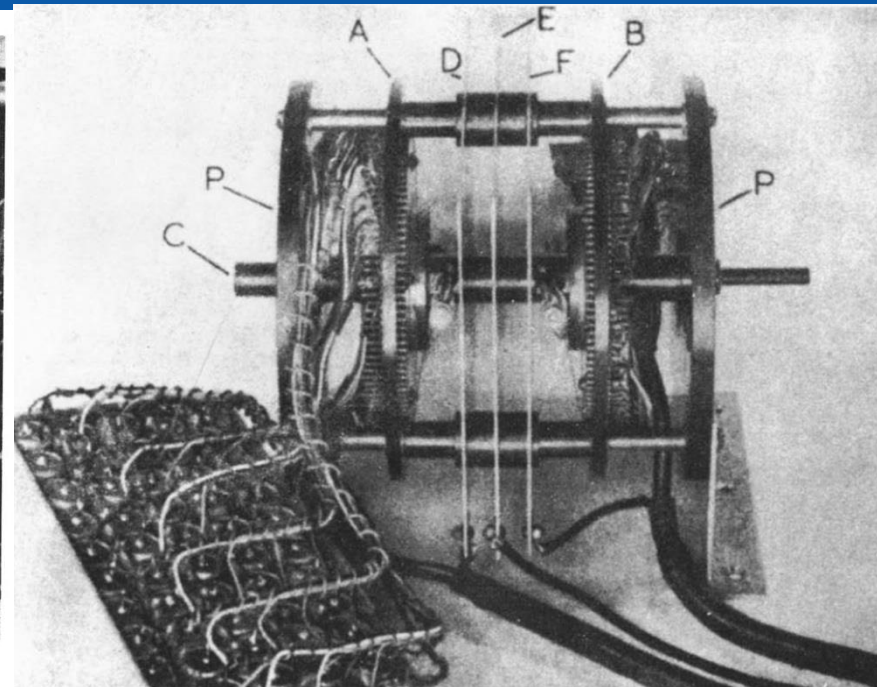
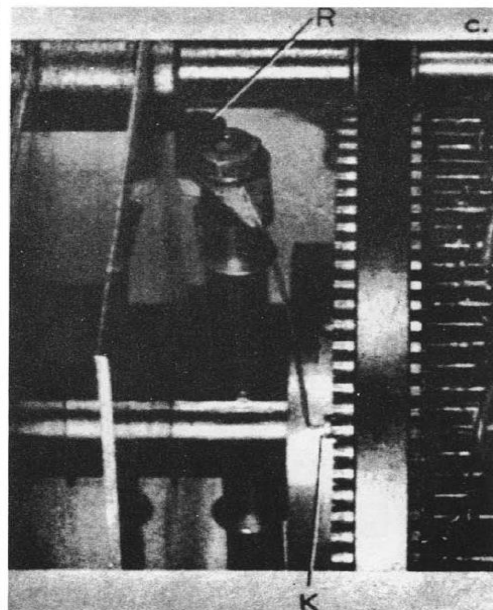
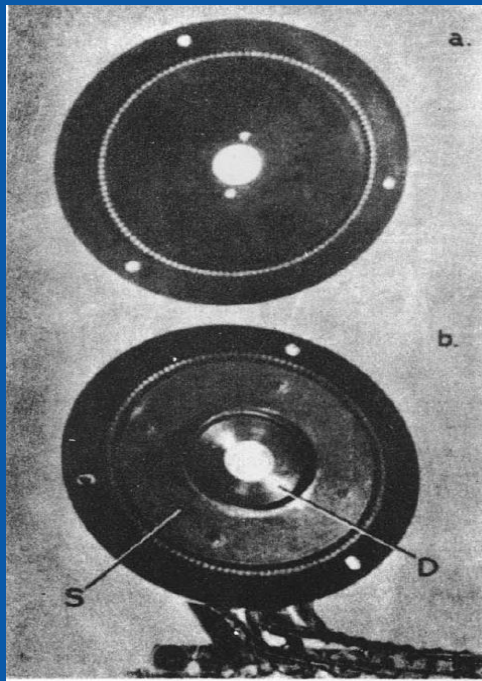
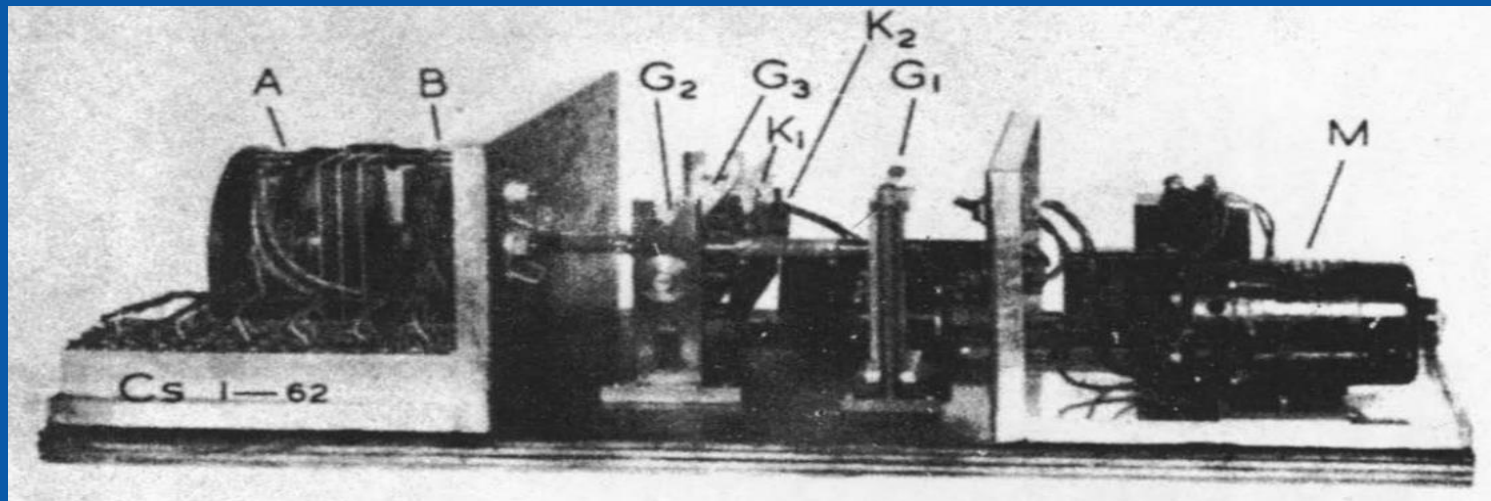
Earth

Moon



Laplace's prediction:  
low & high tides are  
present in the  
atmosphere – averaging  
can make them  
detectable

# Dawson's signal-averager



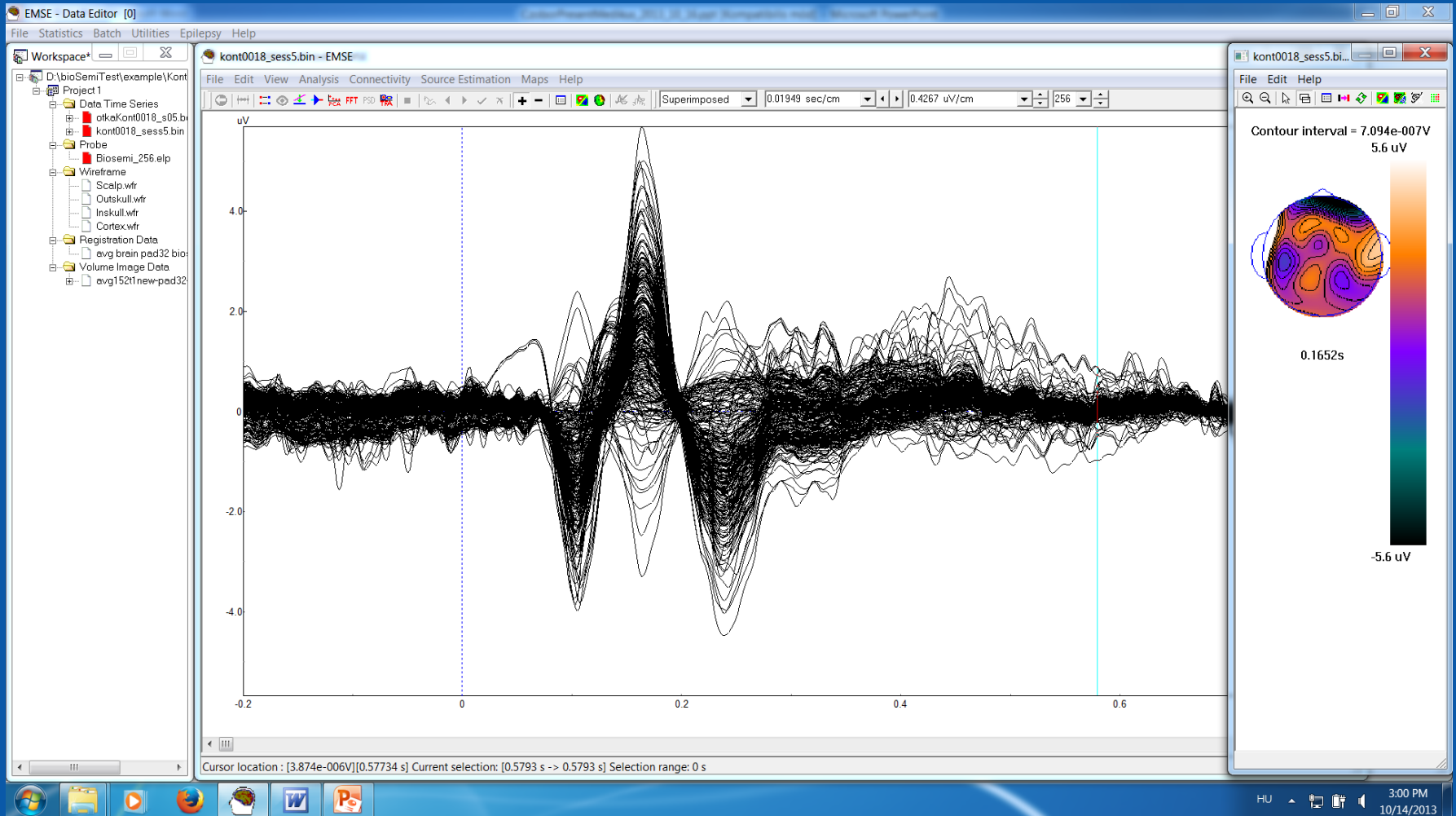
## Signal-to-Noise Ratio

### How does it improve with the number of repetitions?

- The noise decreases with the square root of the number repetitions.
- Example: with 16 stimuli the noise decreases to 1/4th, the signal to noise ratio quadruples, if the signal does not change in the meantime (e.g., habituation).
- Concrete ERP example: the ERP amplitude is 20  $\mu\text{V}$ , background EEG is 50  $\mu\text{V}$ , then with 100 stimuli the EEG is still present at 5  $\mu\text{V}$  (the SNR becomes 4:1, while it showed a 10-fold increase..).



# Event Related Potential – Butterfly Plot

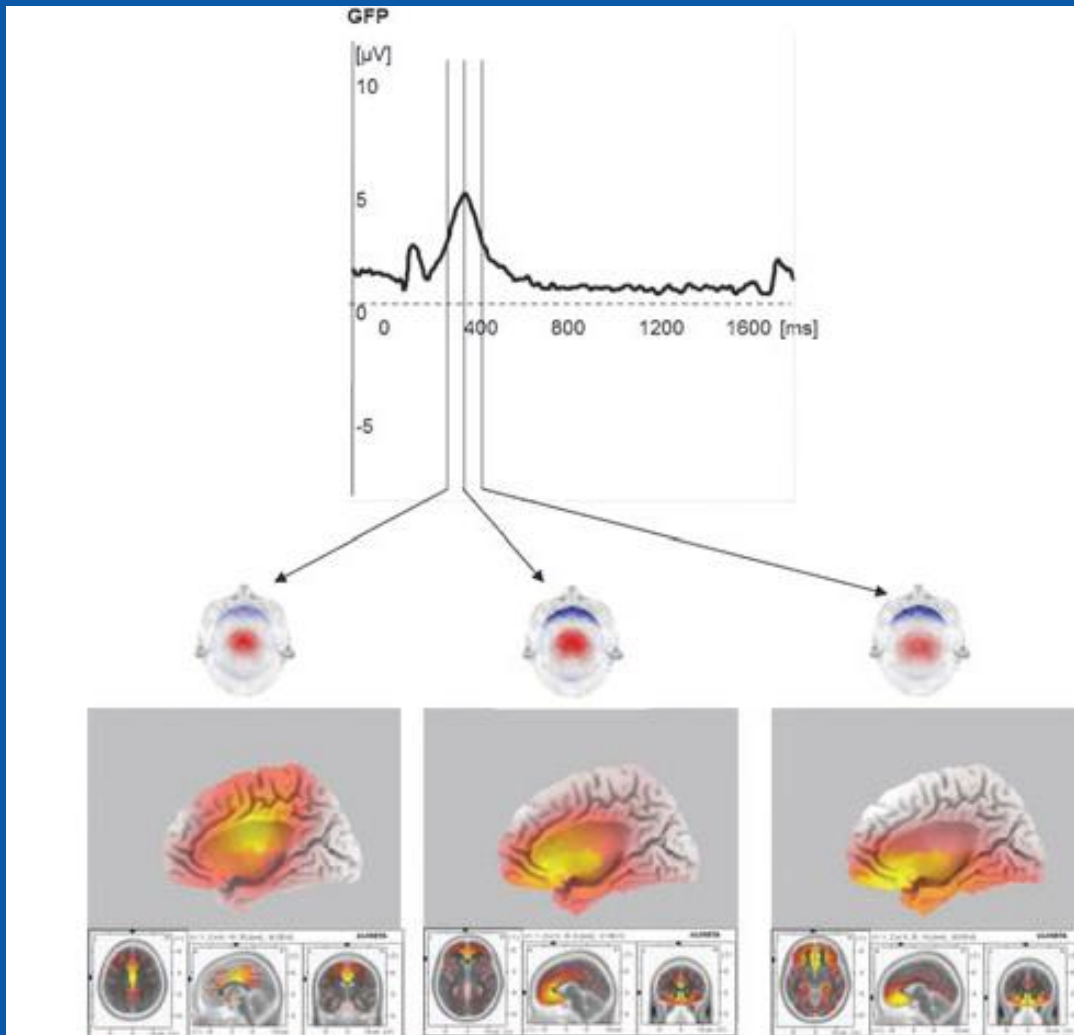


# How can we investigate the ERPs?

waveform

topography

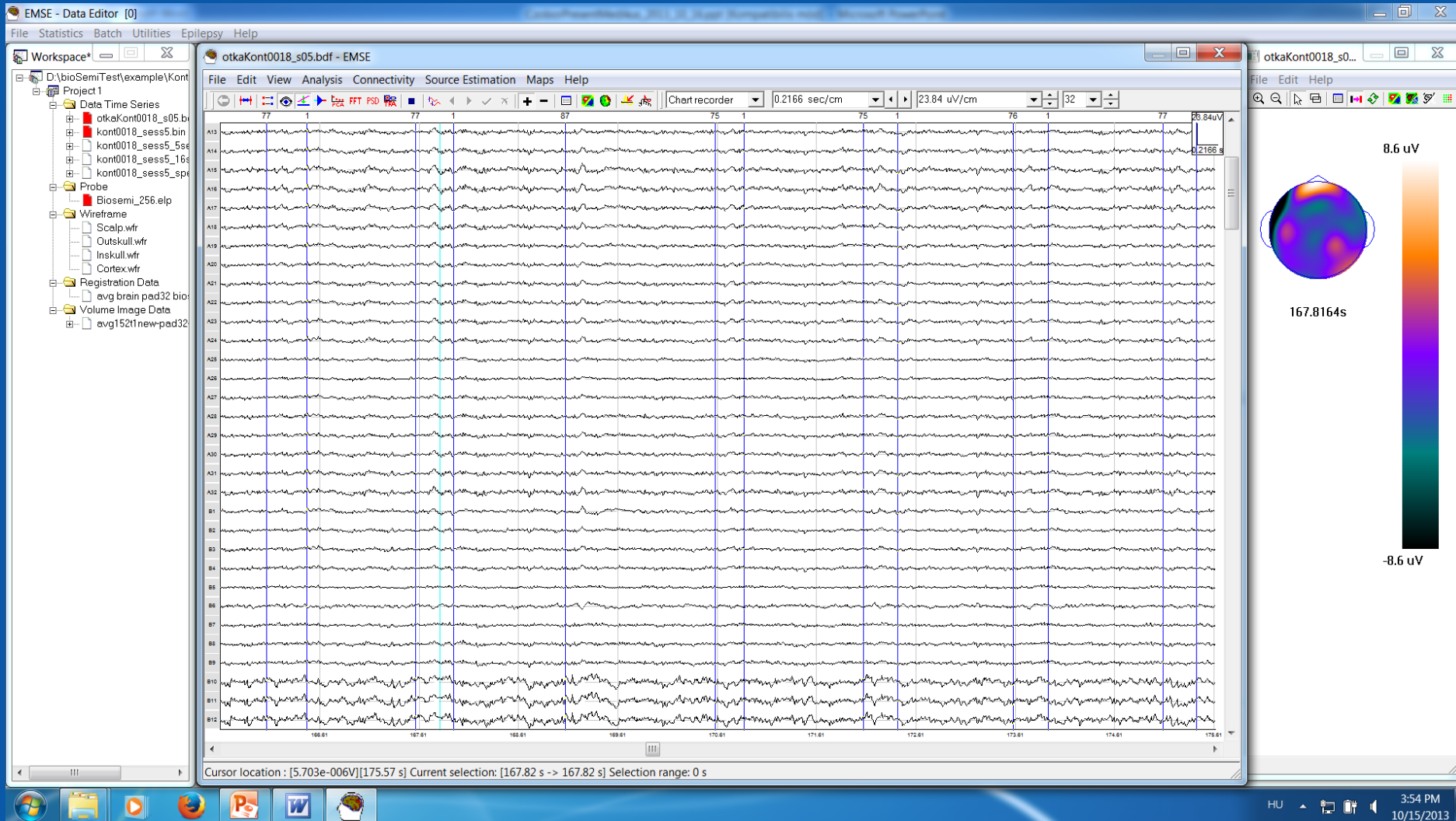
Source-localizations  
(LORETA)



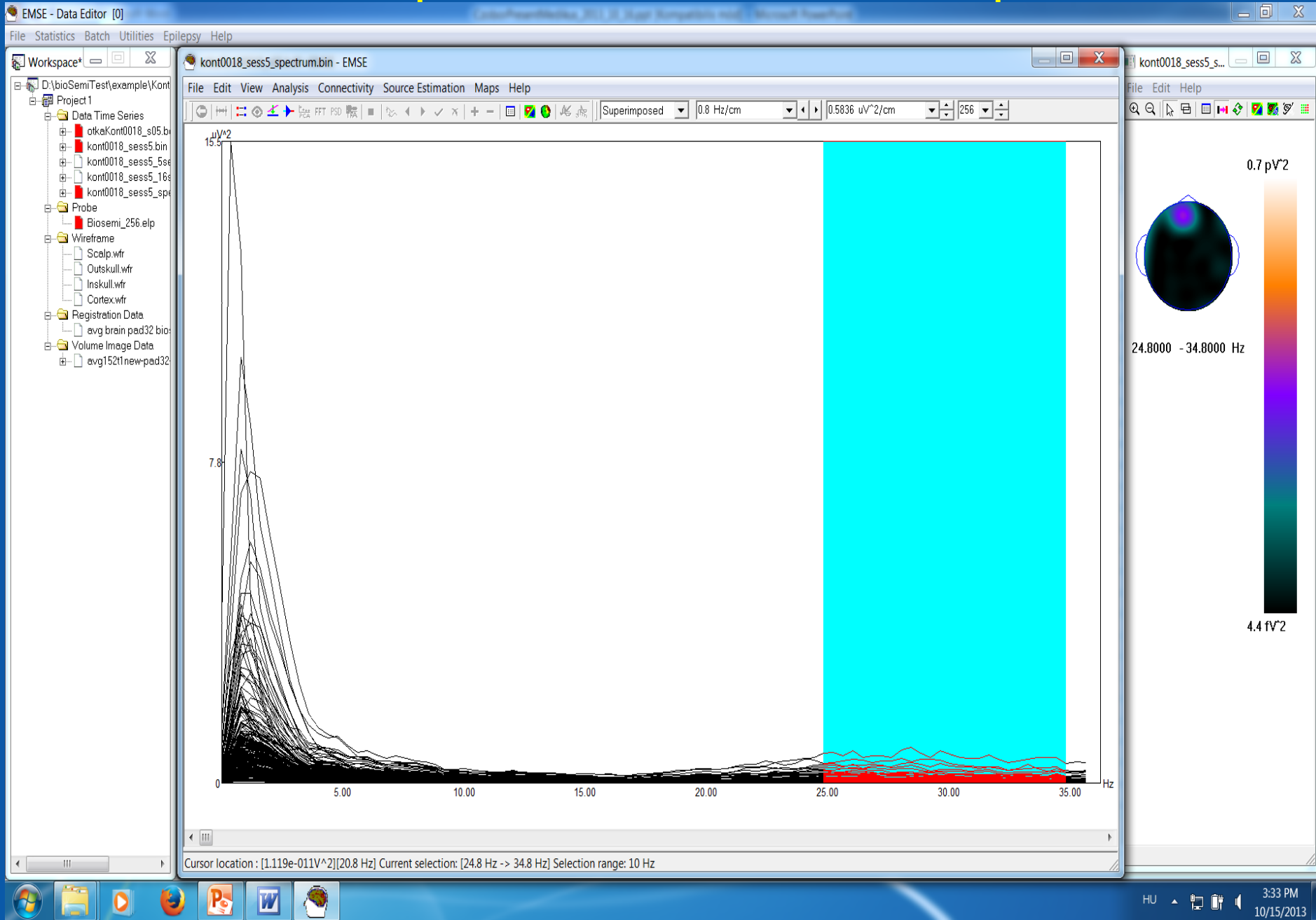
NoGo P300 potentials from CPT OX tasks



# EEG Voltage and Its Map

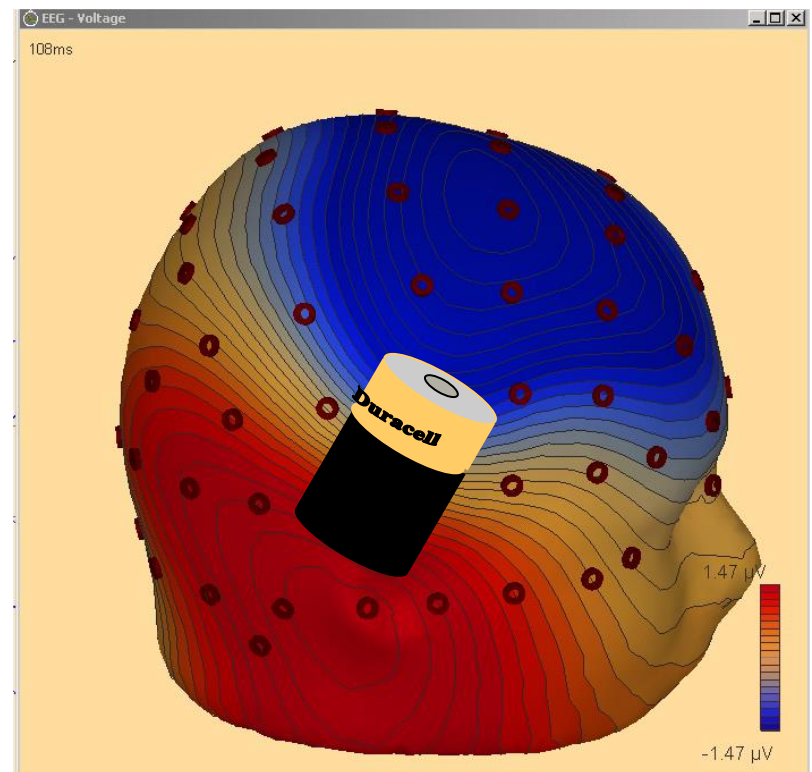


# EEG Spectral Power and Its Map



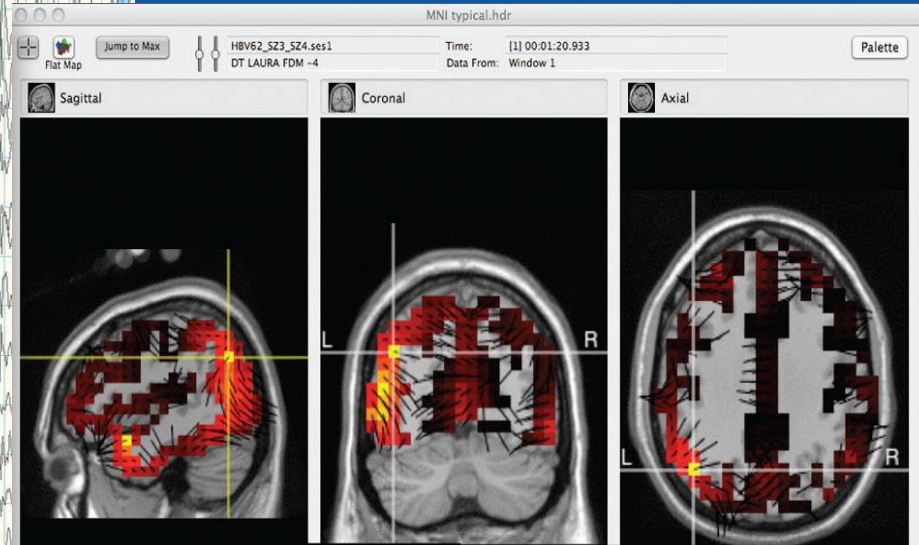
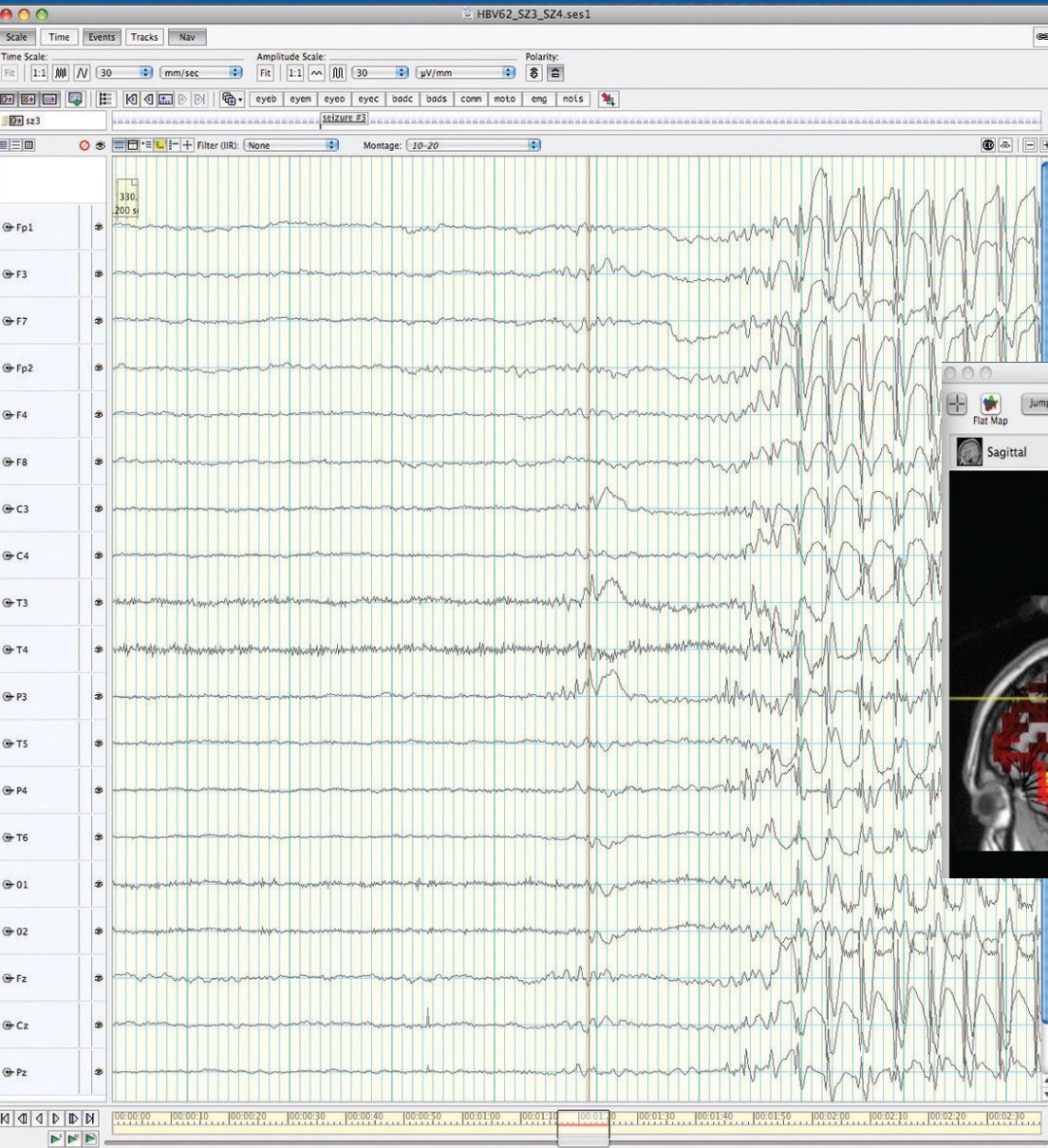
# Source localization imaging

- Question:  
For a given scalp potential distribution where is the generator of the surface-recorded EEG located?



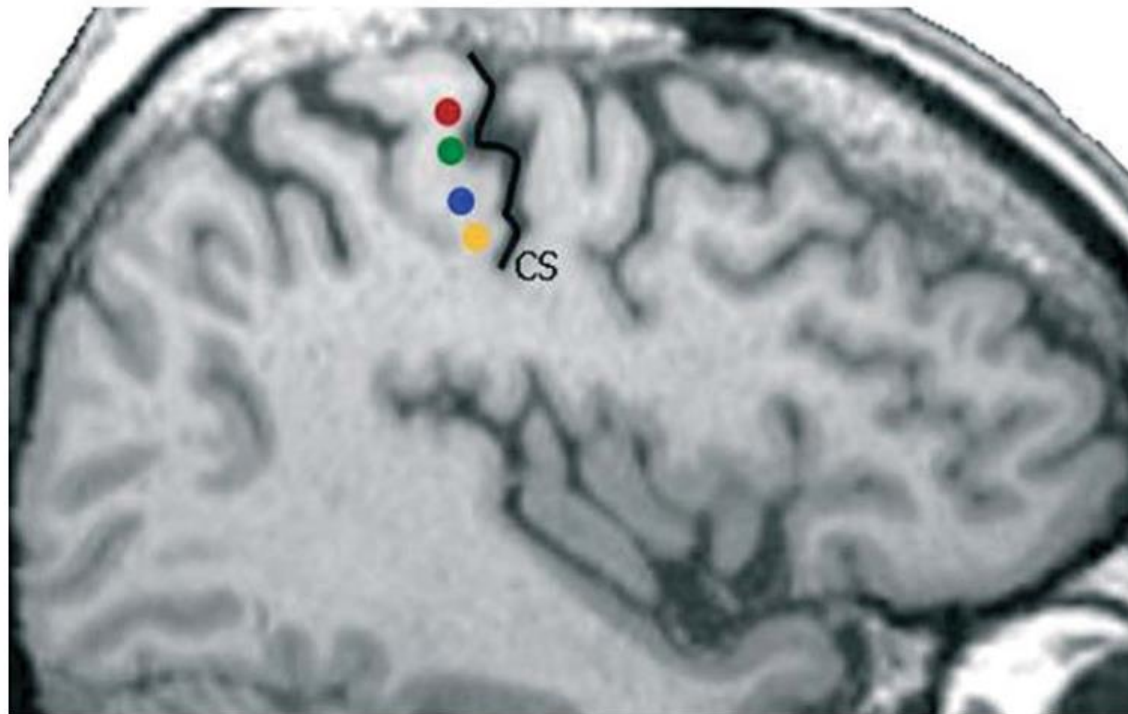
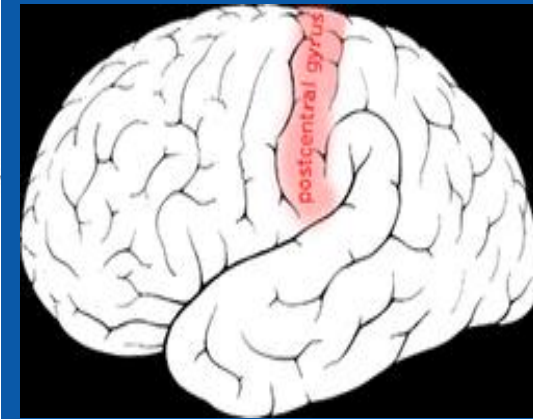
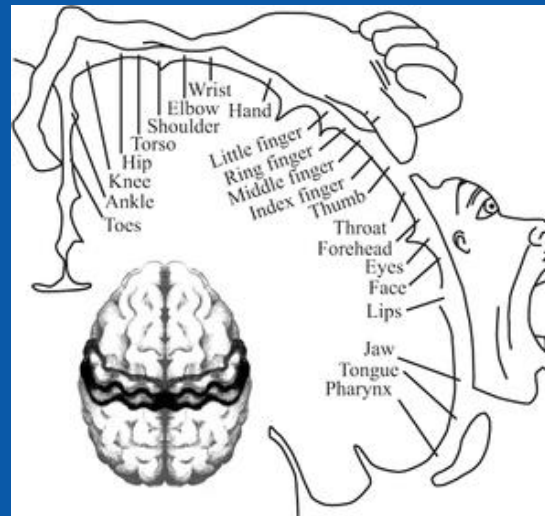


# Non-invasive 256 channel dense electrode array vs. intracranial EEG



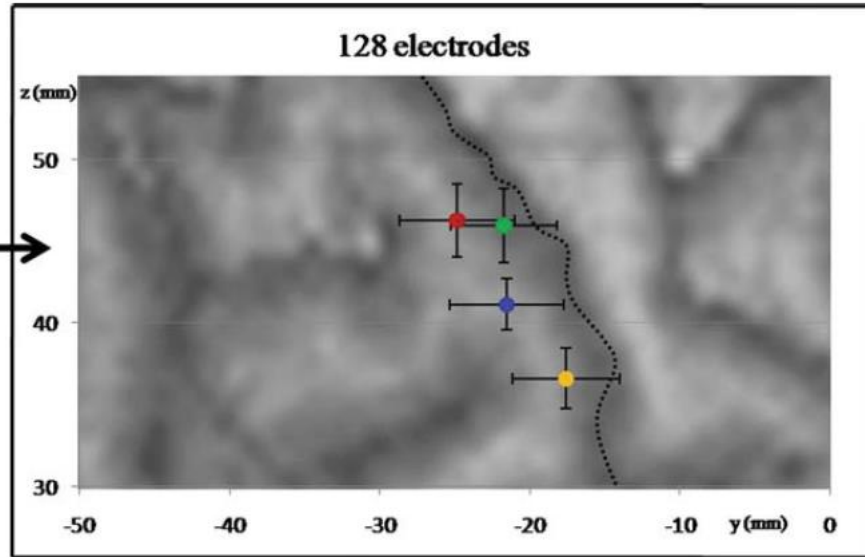
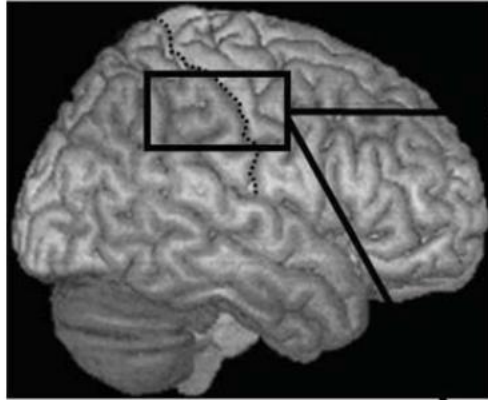
**Holmes MD et al.: Comparing Noninvasive Dense Array and Intracranial Electroencephalography for Localization of seizures. Neurosurgery 66:354-362, 2010**

# High resolution EEG tomography of the brain representation of the human hand

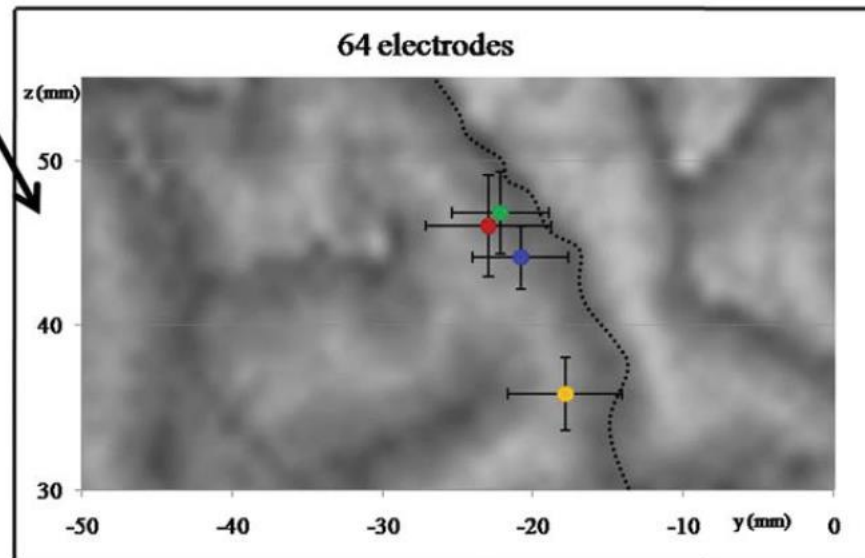


Houzé B. et al: Cortical Representation of the Human Hand Assessed by Two Levels of High-Resolution EEG Recordings *Human Brain Mapping* 32:1894–1904 (2011)

# High resolution EEG tomography of the representation of the human hand in the brain



- 5th digit
- Ulnar nerve
- Radial nerve
- 1st digit



**Greater  
resolution:  
128-sensors**

**Lower  
resolution:  
64-sensors**

# Exogenous & endogenous ERP components

- The earliest components from the primary sensory brain areas – they are called „**exogeneous**“ ERPs, since they represent sensory information.
- Often they are called (**Stimulus-**) **Evoked Potentials** (EPs). Earlier EP was used as an umbrella term for all time-locked EEG events, but after the description of endogenous and motor potentials, Herbert Vaughn introduced the more general ERP term.
- „**Endogenous**“ ERPs: late components of the ERP, which represent psychological responses to external stimuli.



# An Endogenous ERP – the P300

P300: a positive amplitude component which is generated for rare and „meaningful“ stimuli (<40% probability)

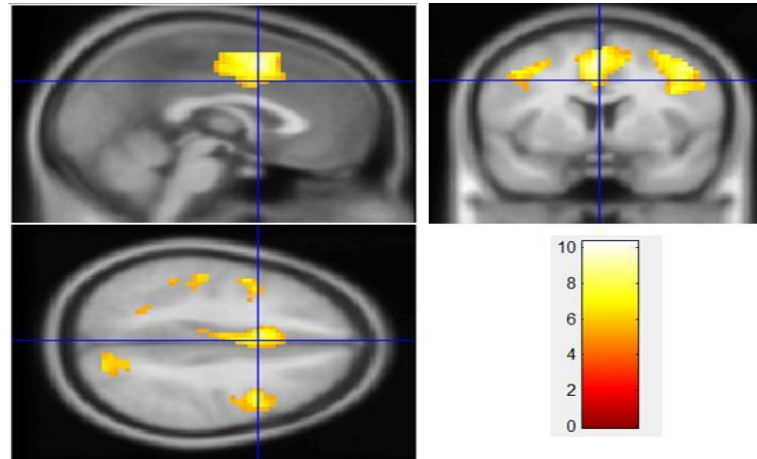
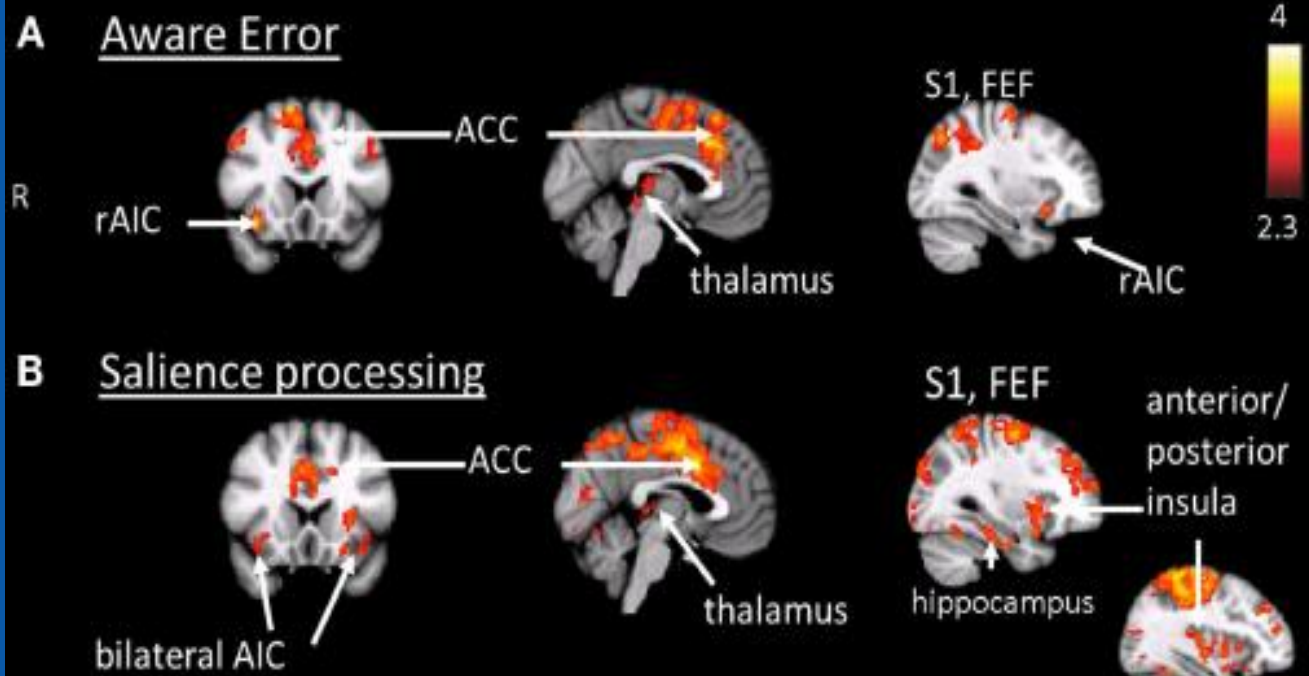
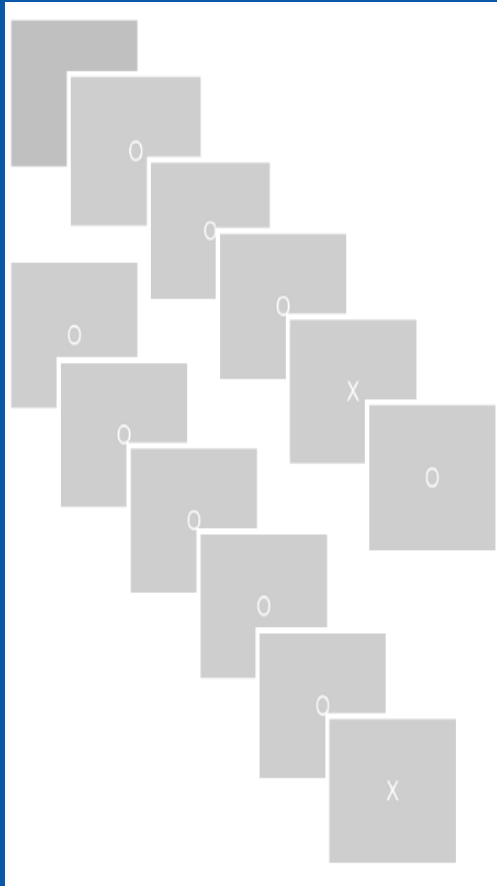
P300 was described by Sutton et al. in 1965: high and low pitch tones were presented in random order at 8:2 ratio, subjects were told to count the stimuli. The rare tones were followed by P300 (regardless whether the low or high tone served for rare). **ODDBALL PARADIGM.**

The stimuli were simple „clicks“ - the latency of P300 was cca. 250-300 msec. Complex stimuli may result in latencies in the range of 400-800 msec. P300 latency indicates stimulus complexity and processing time.

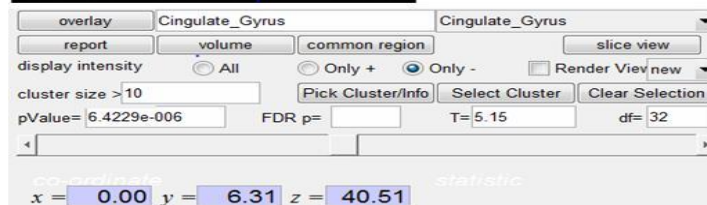
# Endogeneous ERPs – P300

- The scalp distribution of P300 helps its identification: typically it is maximal at the Pz electrode.
- The amplitude of P300 is proportional with how rare and „meaningful“ the stimulus is.
- A stimulus can be made meaningful by linking it to a task (e.g., counting). Other stimuli are meaningful in and of themselves, e.g., infos relating to ourselves, names, birth dates, phone numbers, or details pertaining to a crime..).

# Oddball task, error, error awareness

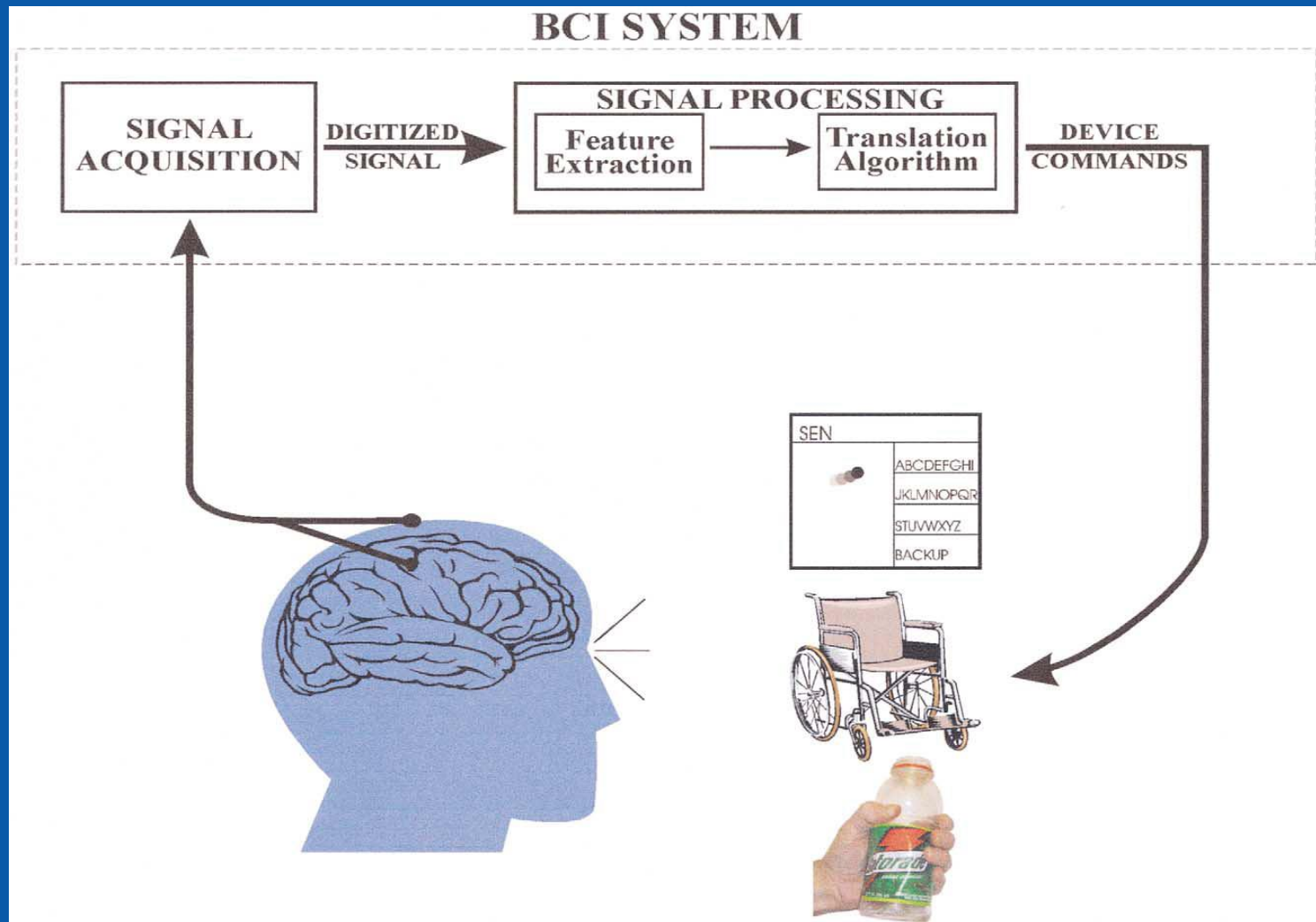


Areas in yellow and brown indicate statistically significant activation corrected for multiple comparisons (FWE rate = 0.05, nominal level of significance in terms of p-value = 0.000006423). The horizontal bar indicates the T-value scale for the BOLD activation (threshold T-value=5.15). Activation at the cross-hair indicates the BOLD signal at the Cingulate Gyrus. Spatial coordinates at the bottom of the figure are shown according to the Montreal Neurological Institute's system.

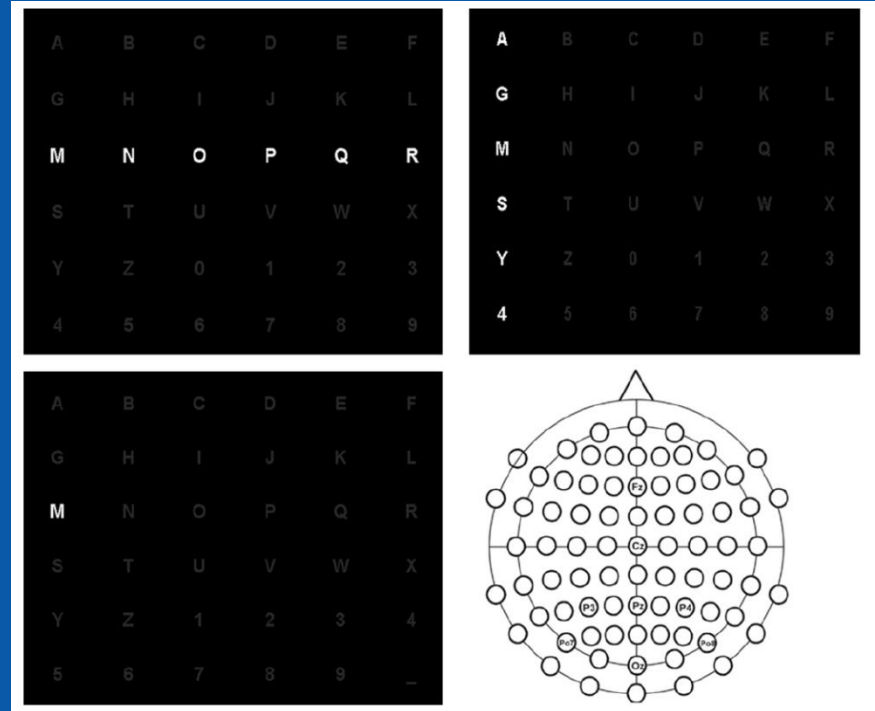
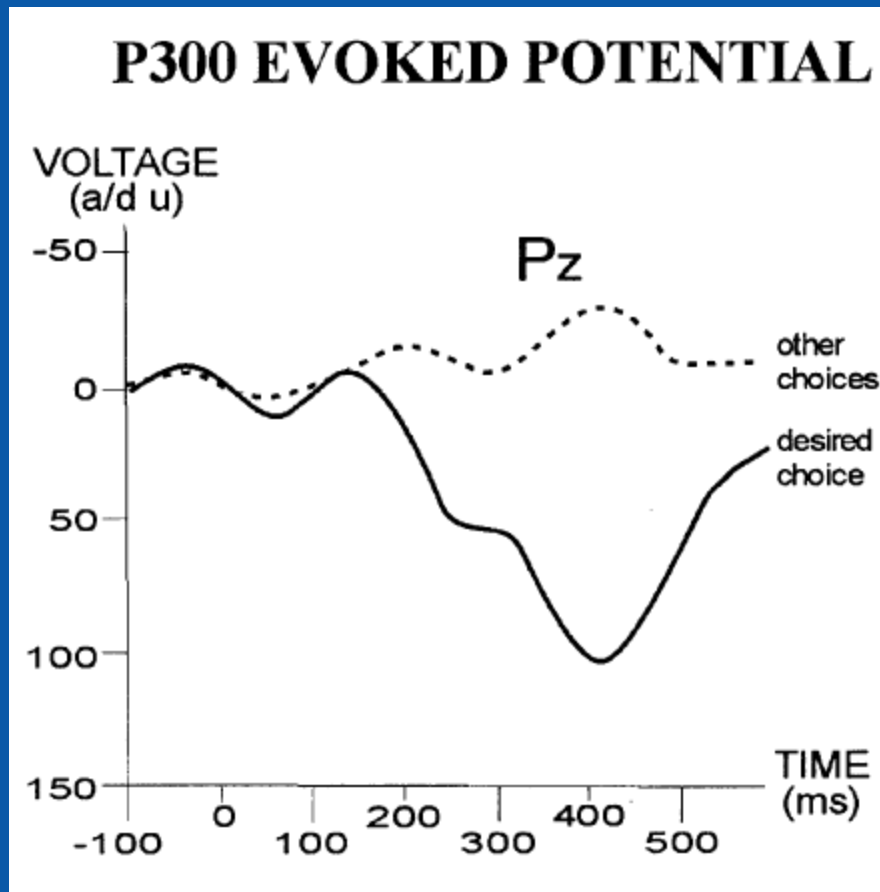


Harsay HA et. al: Error awareness and salience processing in the oddball task: shared neural mechanisms. *Frontiers in Human Neuroscience*. 27 August 2012.

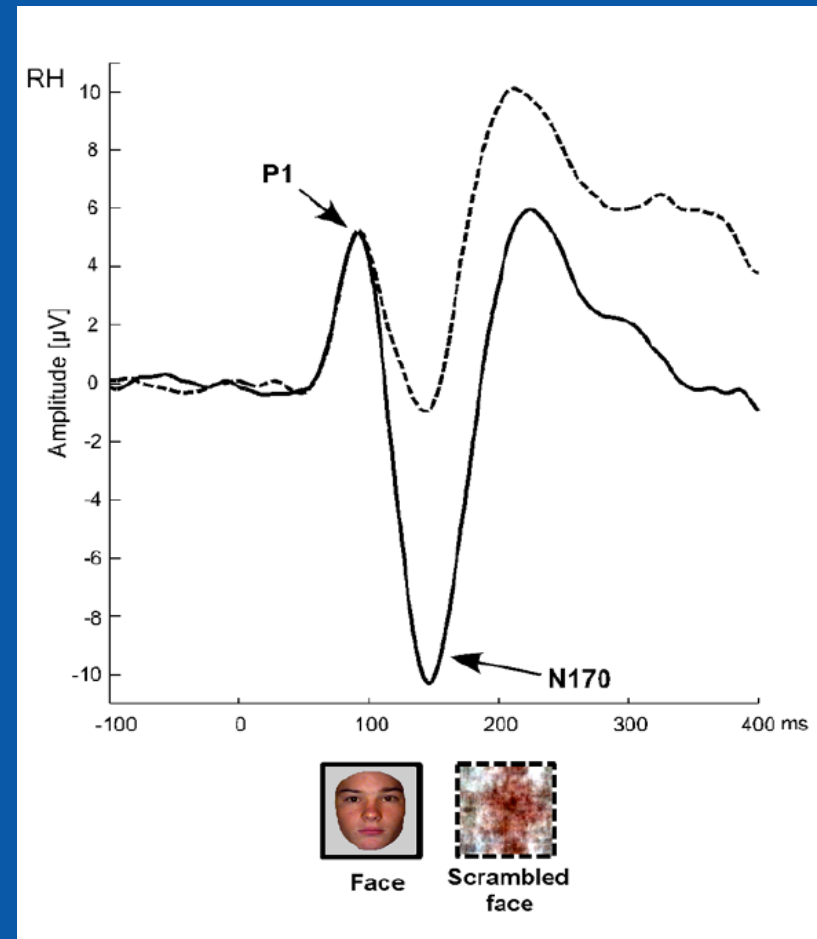
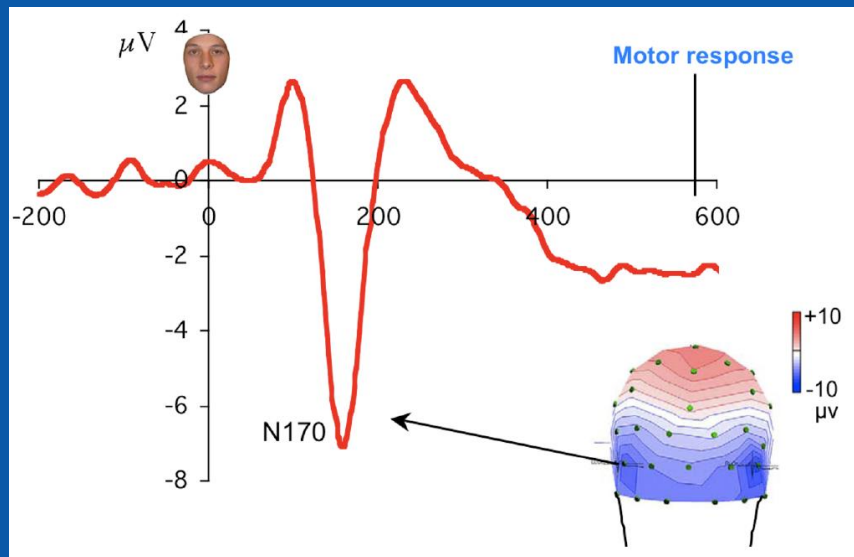
# P300 – the central player of the Brain Computer Interface (BCI) systems



# P300 –the central player of the Brain Computer Interface (BCI) systems– typewriter

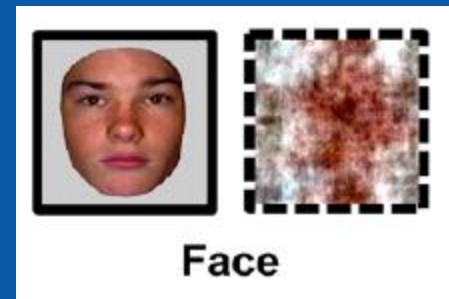
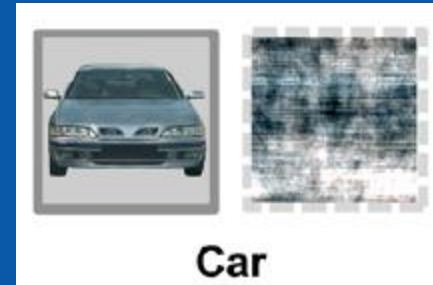
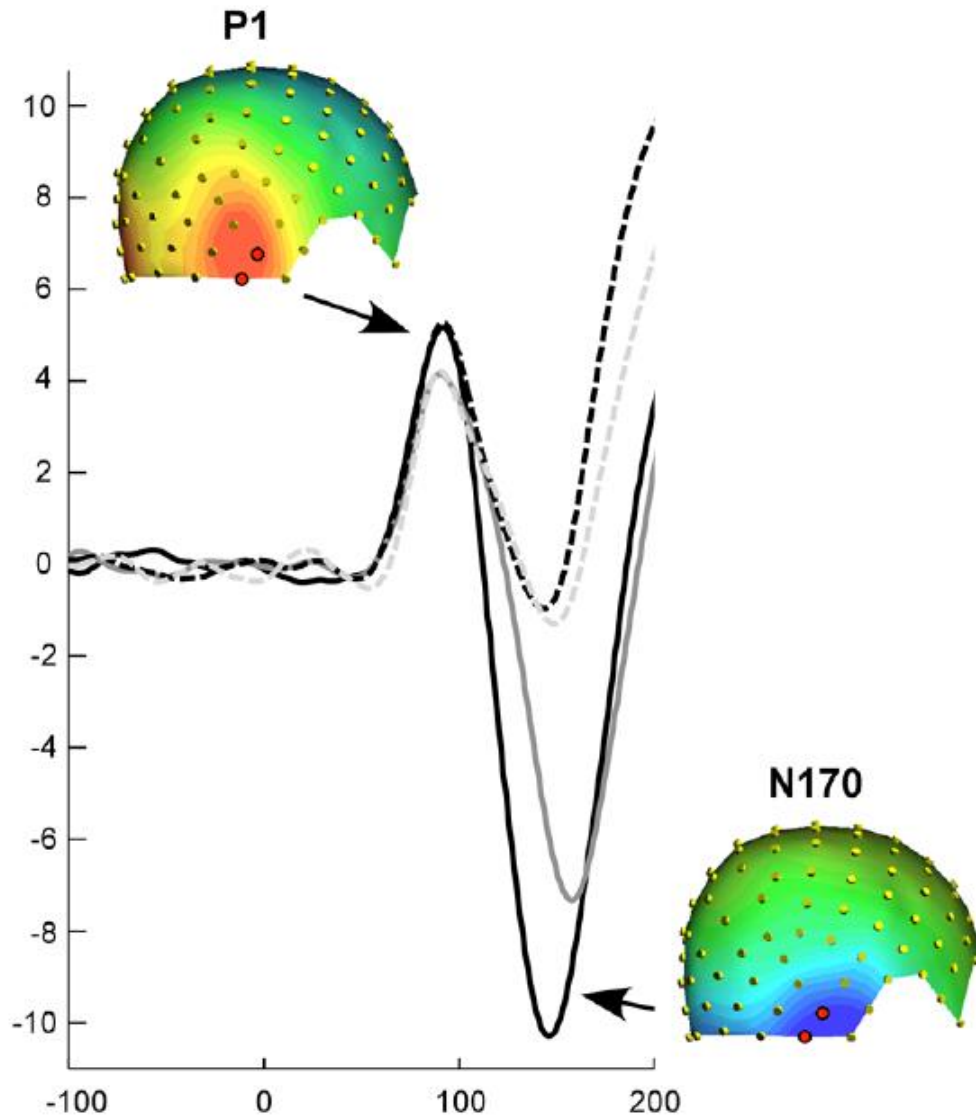


# Face recognition specific N170 component



Rossion, B. & Jacques, C. (2011). **The N170 :** understanding the time-course of face perception in the human brain. To appear in *The Oxford Handbook of ERP Components (2011)*, Edited by S. Luck and E. Kappenman. Oxford University Press.

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# Other cognitive ERP component: N400

N400: ERP response to semantic incongruence.

The 3 stimulus words below (parts of a sentence) are presented one-by-one at 1 sec intervals.

Today  
I ate  
**my breakfast.**

The above stimuli do NOT elicit an N400 since words are congruent and not don not have surprise value.

The next 3 words, however, do elicit:

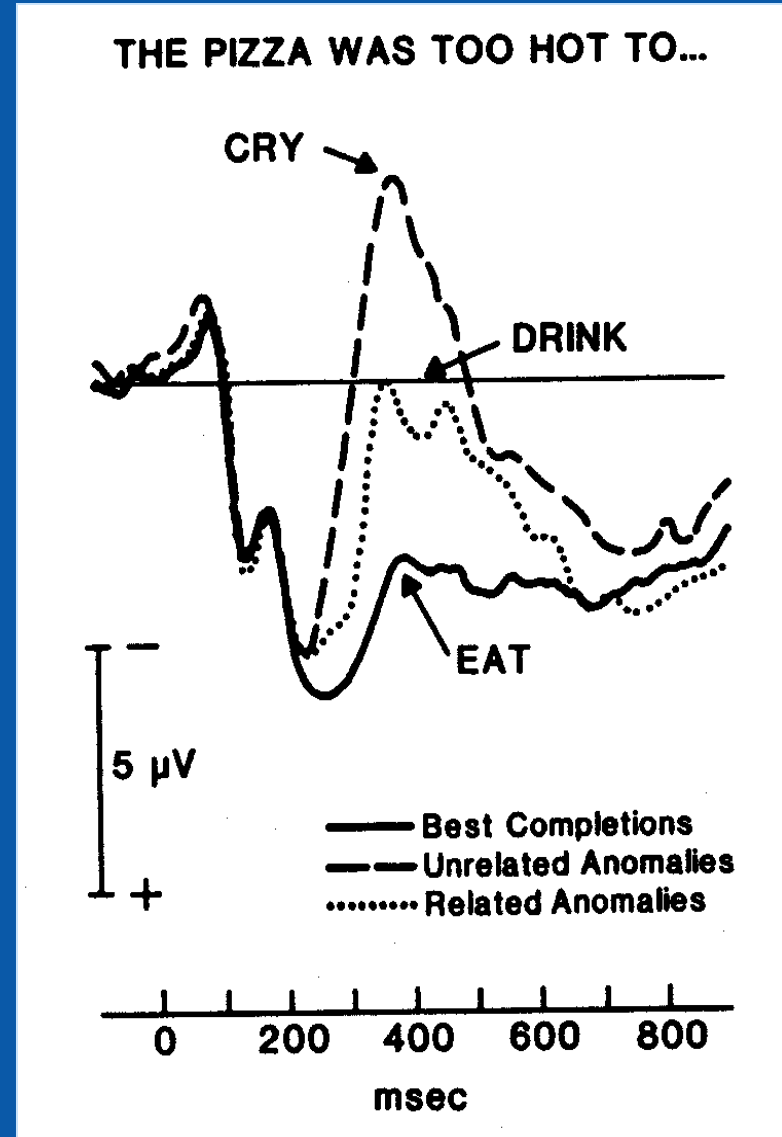
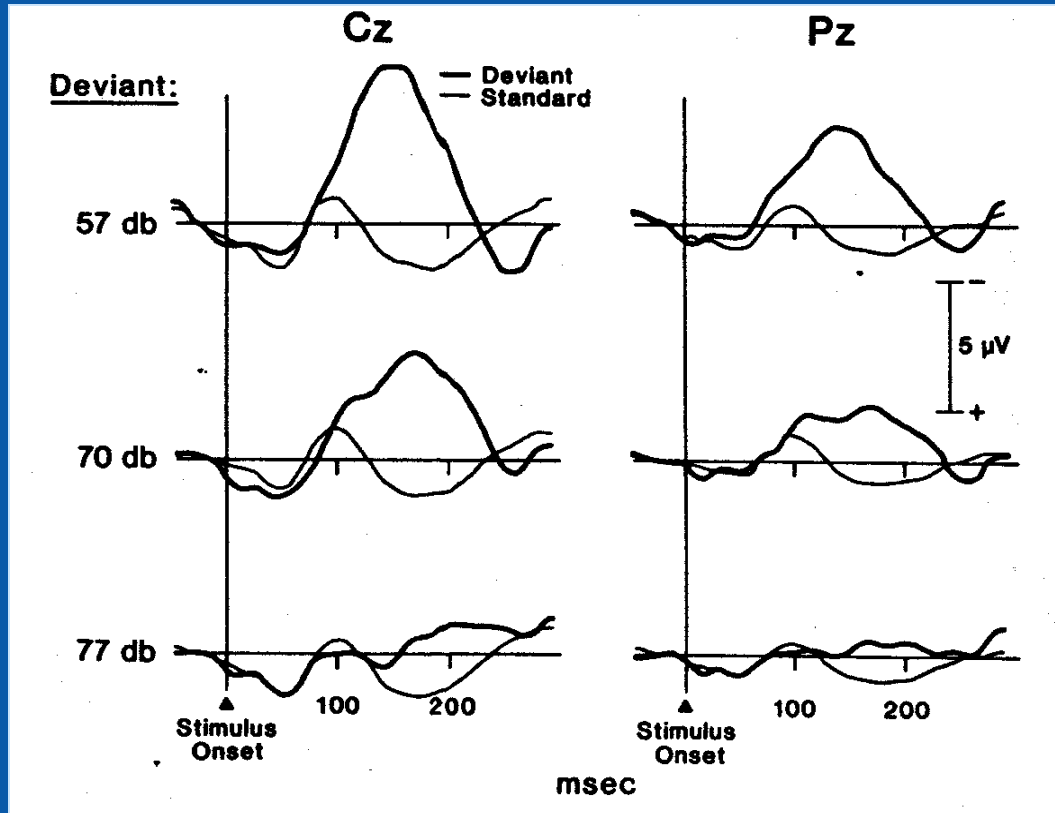
Today  
I ate  
**my shoes.**



# N400

N400, semantic incongruence

MMN = MisMatch Negativity



# Language-specific ERP components

**N400**: marker of semantic incongruence    **P600**: marker of syntactic incongr.

Sentence examples:

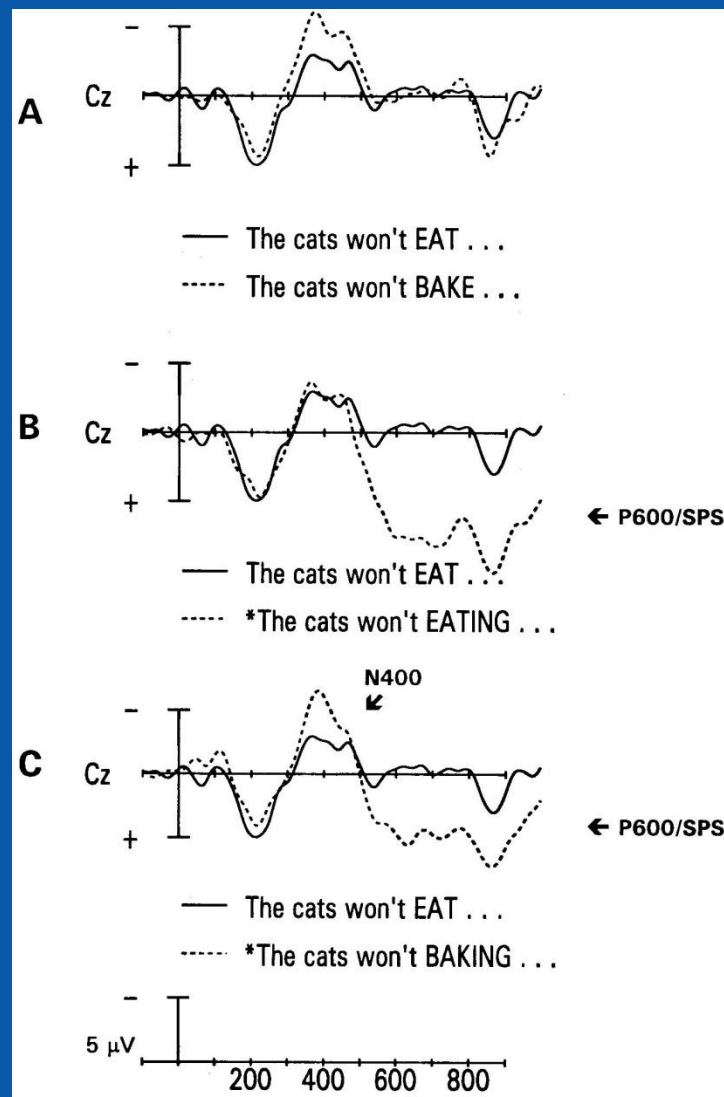
**Correct (Baseline)**: The cats won't eat the food Mary gives them.

**A/ Semantic mismatch**: The cats won't bake the food Mary gives them.

**B/ Syntactic mismatch**: The cats won't eating the food Mary gives them.

**C/ Semantic and syntactic mismatch**: The cats won't baking the food Mary gives them.

Baars B. J. et al.: Cognition, Brain and Consciousness, 2007, Elsevier



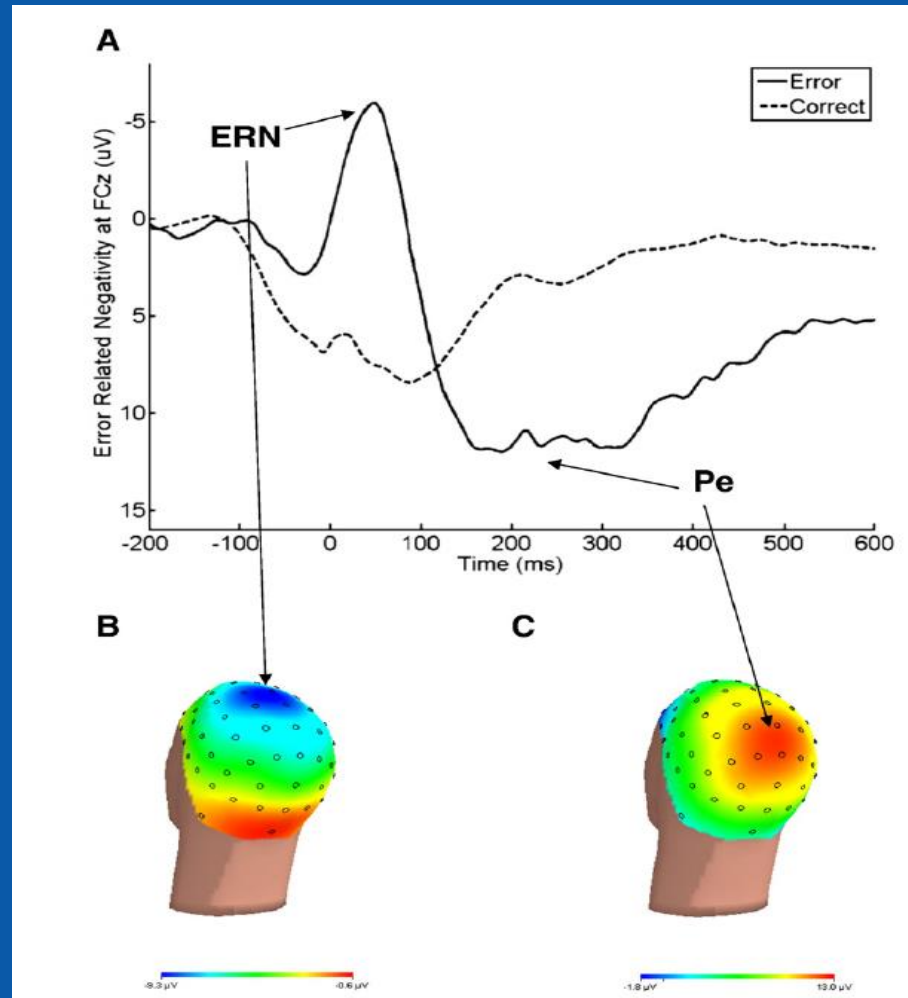
# Motor ERP components:

They appear in those motor areas that initiate and execute movements. They reflect the synchronized and summed synaptic activity of pyramidal neurons.

# Error-related negativity and positivity

ERN/ERP (error-related negativity/positivity). They are generated when we make a mistake, and we have not (necessarily) realized it.

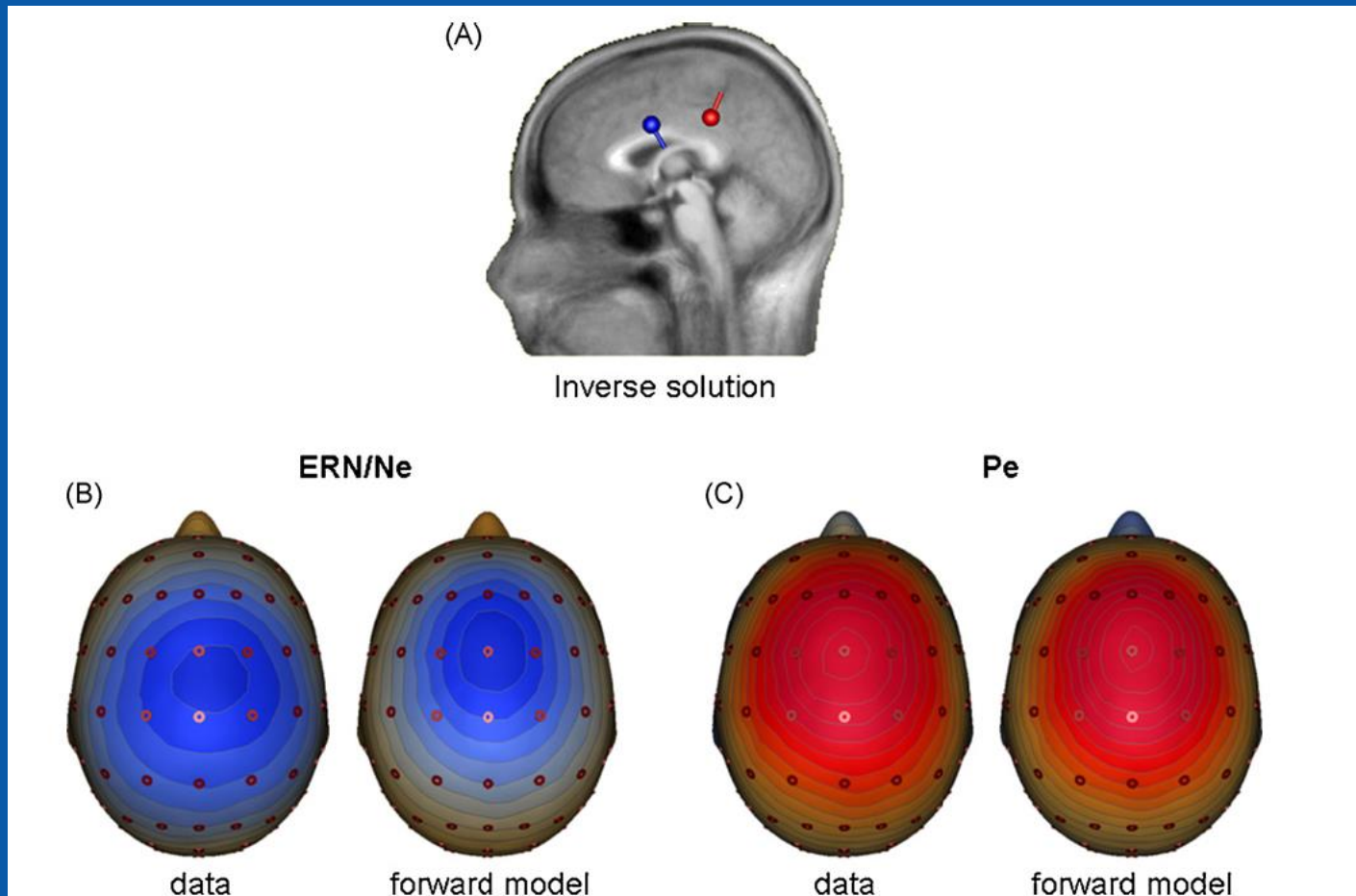
Here the averaging is locked to response, and NOT to the stimuli



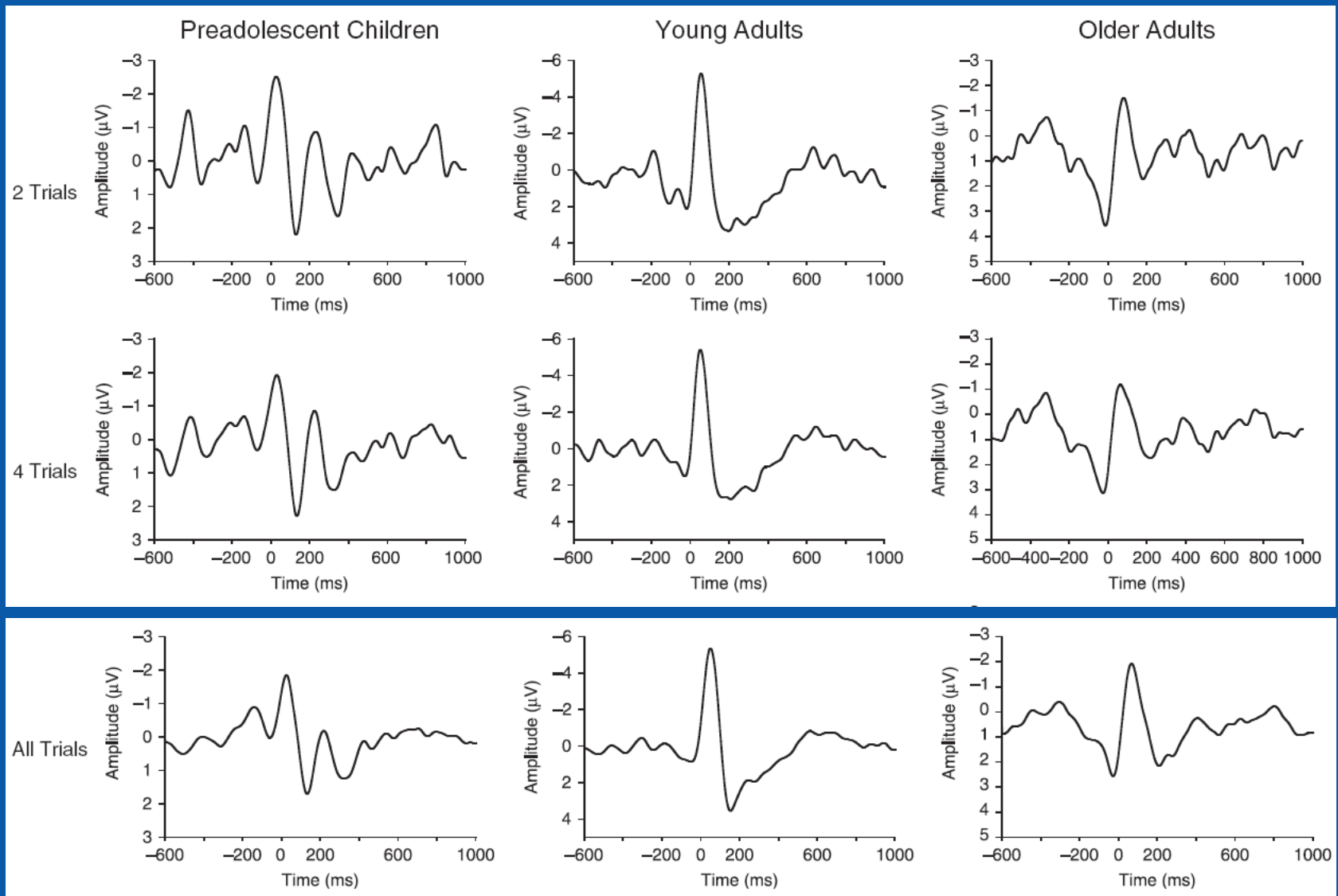
Source: DM. Olvet G Hajcak (2008) The error-related negativity (ERN) and psychopathology: Toward an endophenotype. *Clinical Psychology Review* 28 (2008) 1343–1354

# Brain sources of error-negativity and positivity

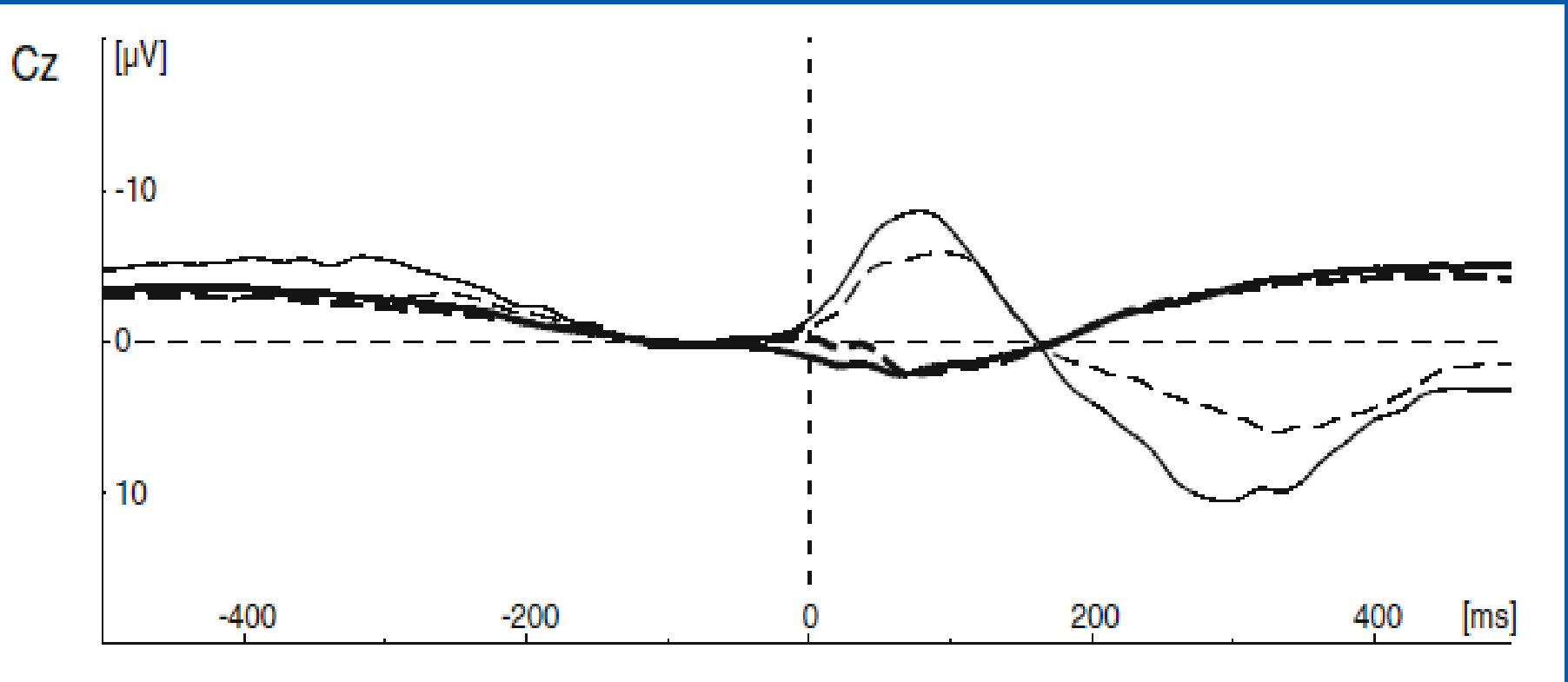
ERN/ERP (error-related negativity/positivity). They are generated when we make a mistake, and we have not (necessarily) realized it.



# ERN: How many stimulus repetitions?



# Error processing (potentials)



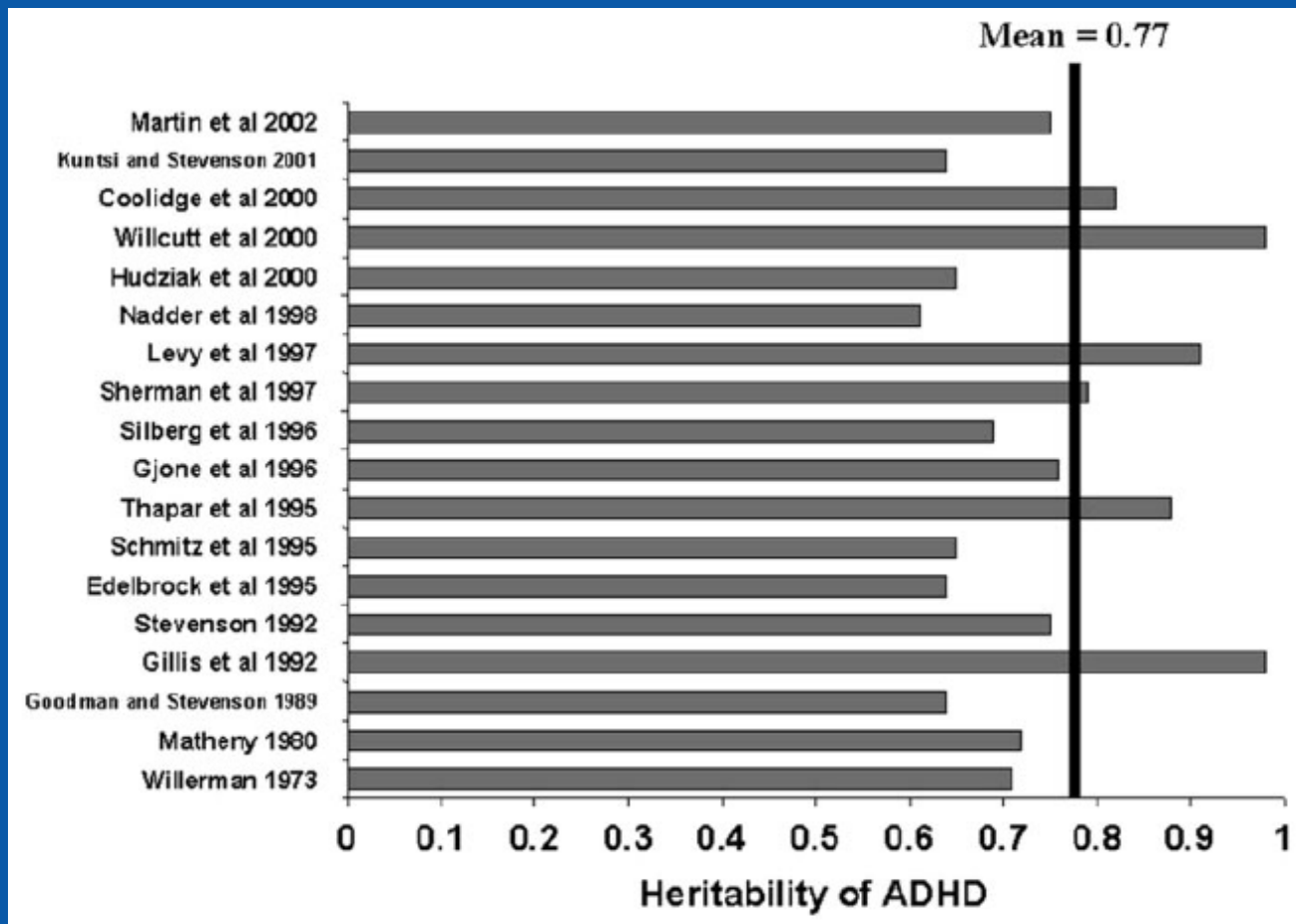
**Dotted line: ADHD**  
**Solid line: Healthy**  
**Controls**

**Error**  
**negativity**

**Error**  
**positivity**

J. R. Wiersema & J. J. van der Meere, H. Roeyers: ERP correlates of error monitoring in adult ADHD. *J Neural Transm* (2009) 116:371–379.

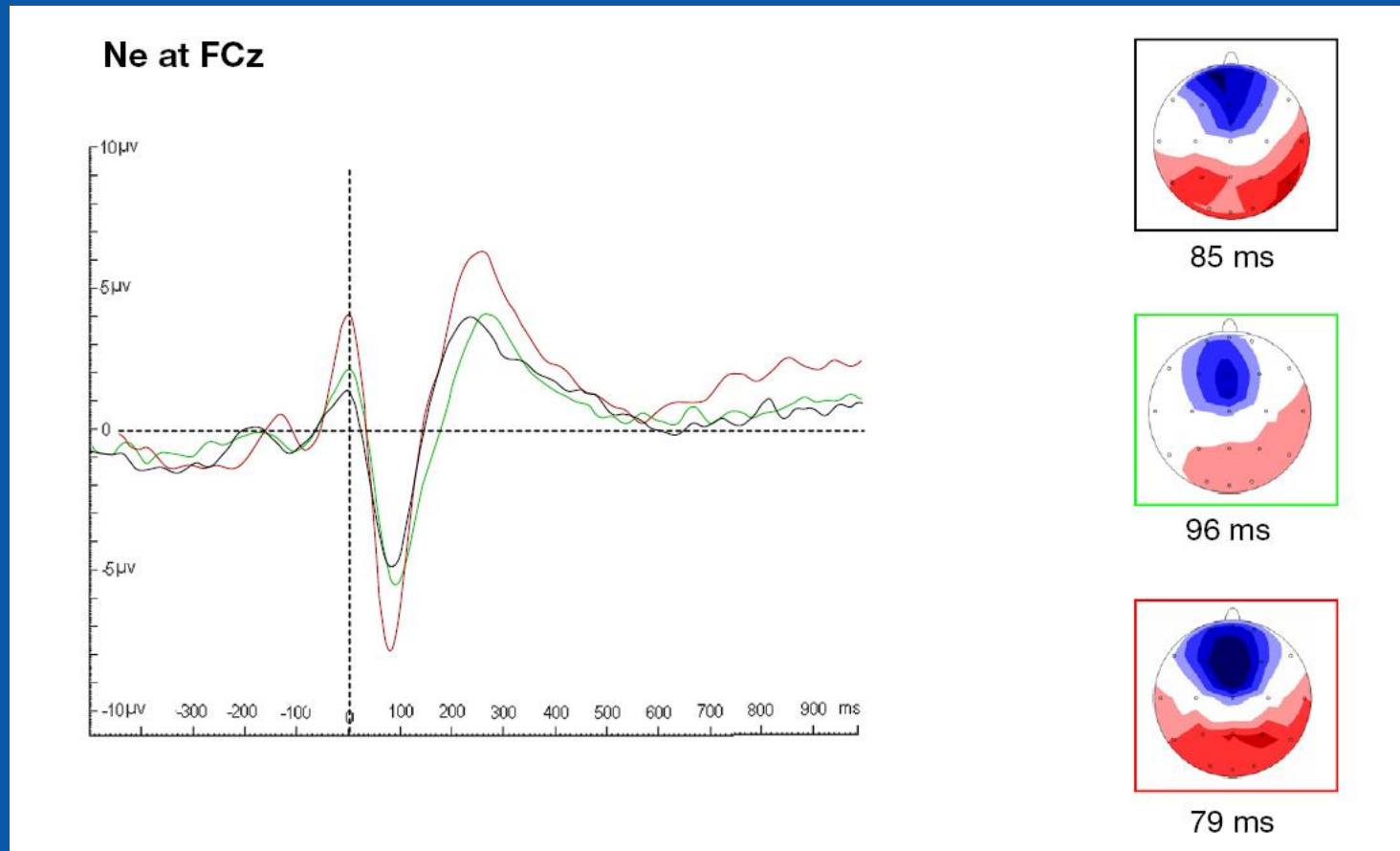
# Heritability of ADHD



Heritability of attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder. Adapted from Faraone et al.



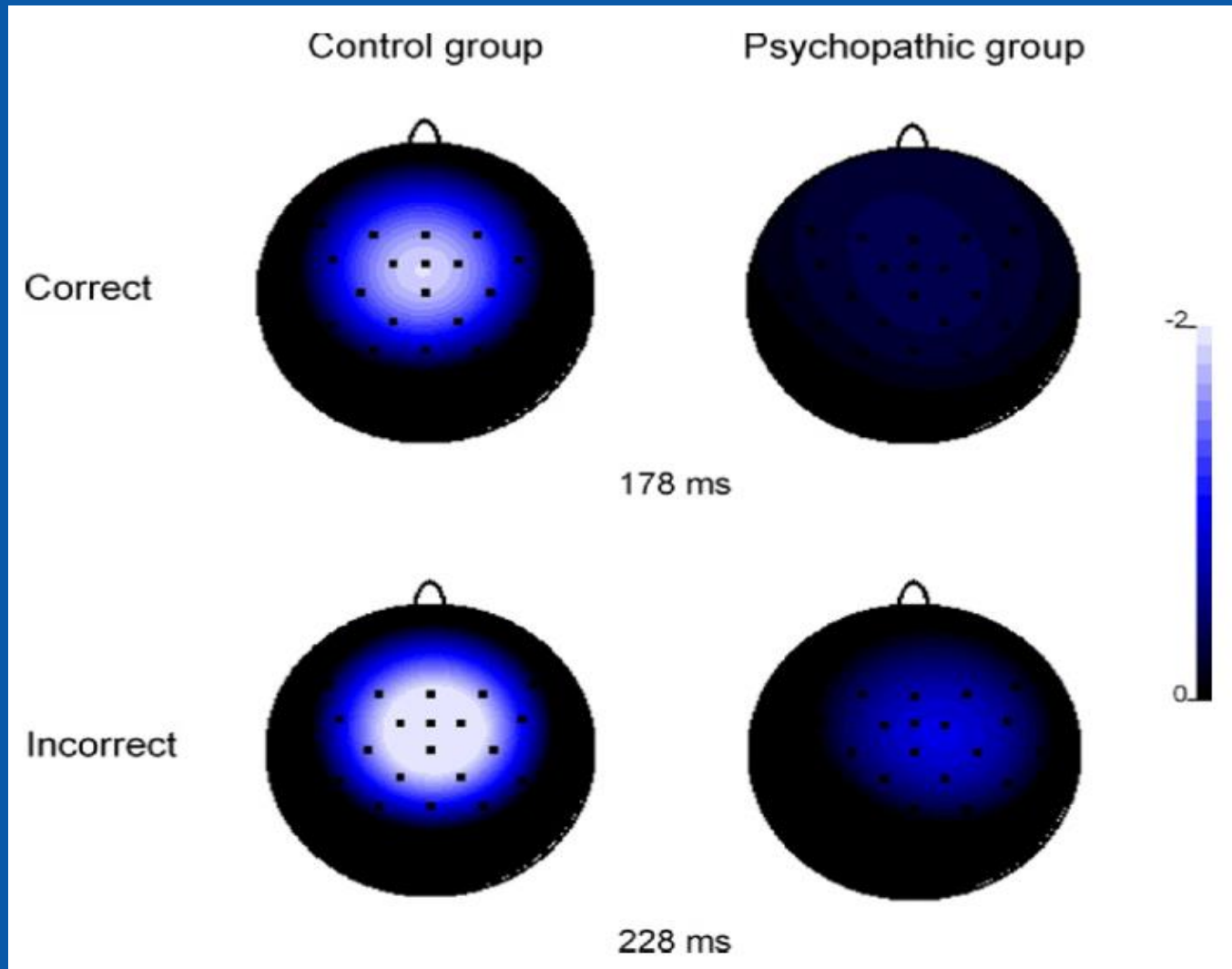
# Error-related potential in a conflict task (arrow flanker task) in adult ADHD patients, parents and controls



Response-locked ERN averaging at FCz electrode at latency for maximal amplitude for control subjects (red=controls, green=parents, black=ADHD)

# Psychopathy: monitoring errors of self and others

Pe topographies, reduced ampl. when observing others' actions




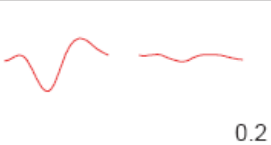
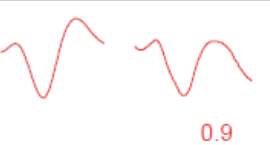
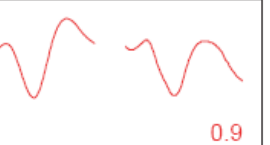

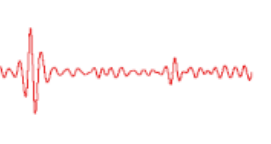


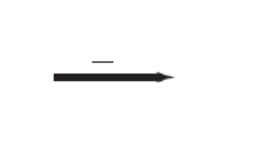







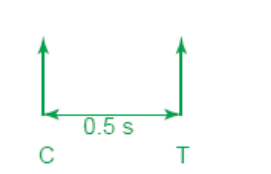

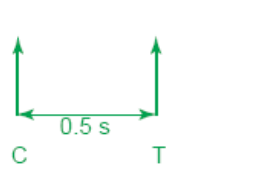
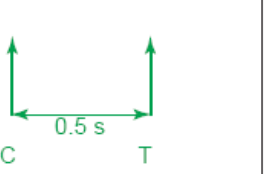
Erikson arrow  
flanker  
task

<< < <<  
<< > <<

**Self error: no diff.**

**Others' action:  
major reduction in  
Pe**

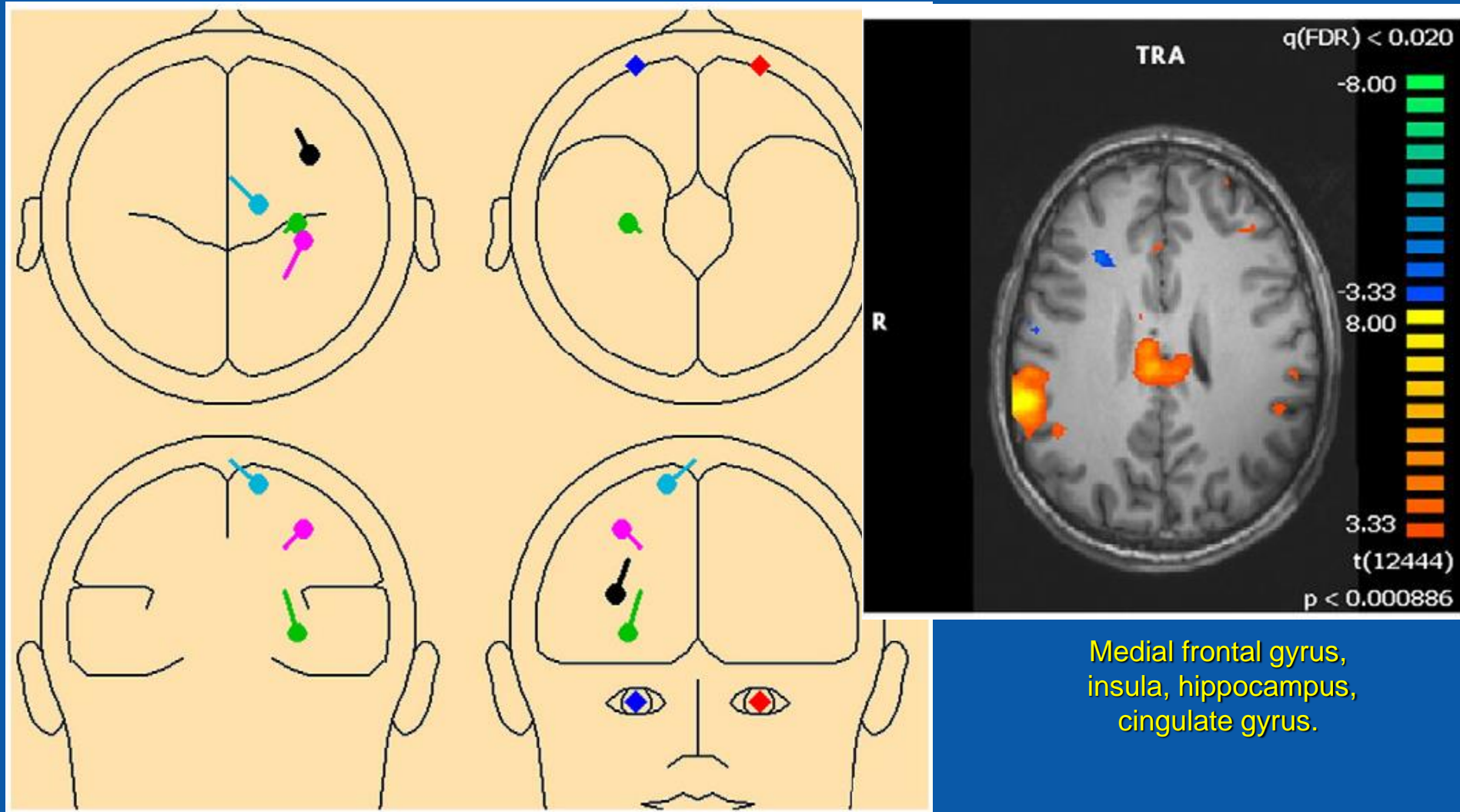
# Impairment of sensorimotor gating in patients with schizophrenia

	(i) Physiological gating	(ii) Gating with impaired sensory processing	(iii) Gating in schizophrenia	(iv) Pharmacologically disrupted gating
AEPs				
<b>Gating: T:C ratio</b>	0.2	0.2	0.9	0.9
Neuronal circuitry process such as event-related neuronal synchrony or oscillations contributing to AEPs				
Gating process activated by conditioning stimulus that interacts with neuronal activity underlying test stimulus-evoked AEPs				
Auditory sensory processing leading to a series of AEPs				
Auditory stimuli: C = conditioning T = test Interstimulus interval (ISI) (0.5–2.0 s) is a crucial factor for gating; longer ISIs do not elicit gating				

direct & indirect dopamine receptor agonists (amphetamine, apomorphine and cocaine) and NMDA receptor antagonists (PCP, ketamine)

novel, potentially antipsychotic compounds can be tested in different gating deficit models

# Sensorimotor Gating (P50)



Medial frontal gyrus (blue), the insula (black), the hippocampus (green), and the postcentral gyrus (SI) (pink).

Medial frontal gyrus,  
insula, hippocampus,  
cingulate gyrus.

***Source localization of sensory gating: A combined EEG and fMRI study in healthy volunteers. NeuroImage 54 (2011) 2711–2718***

# ERPs as Biomarkers

See Luck et al. (2011, Biological Psychiatry)

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- ERPs are tightly tied to neurotransmission
  - MMN may reflect current flow through NMDA receptors
  - A change in ERPs reflects a change in PSPs (not mediated through hemodynamic response)
- Rodent/primate models available for some components
  - Potentially useful as an assay in drug discovery
- Easily tolerated by patients
- Some paradigms have excellent stability, reliability
- Relatively inexpensive, feasible for large-N studies
- May be able to predict which patients will respond to a given treatment
- Potential roadblocks
  - Individual differences, lack of quality assurance standards

# Comparison of Techniques

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	Microelectrode Measures	Hemodynamic Measures	Electromagnetic Measures
Invasiveness	Poor	Good (PET) Excellent (fMRI)	Excellent
Spatial Resolution	Excellent	Good	Undefined/Poor (ERPs) Undefined/Better (ERMFs)
Temporal Resolution	Excellent	Poor	Excellent
Cost	Fairly Expensive	Expensive (PET) Expensive (fMRI)	Inexpensive (ERPs) Expensive (ERMFs)