

# Limits of BOLD and Beyond: Hemodynamics to Neuronal Currents

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Laboratory of Brain and Cognition, NIMH  
&  
Functional MRI Facility  
National Institutes of Health

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Jerzy Bodurka

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Wen-Ming Luh

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Adam Thomas

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August Tuan

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Carla Wettig

Kang-Xing Jin

## Program Assistant:

Kay Kuhns

## Scanning Technologists:

Karen Bove-Bettis

Paula Rowser



The people who did all the work...

Rasmus Birn    Ziad Saad    Patrick Bellgowan



Natalia Petridou

Jerzy Bodurka



# Hemodynamics

- quick overview
- linearity (steady state)
- linearity (dynamic)
- baseline signal
- latency
- width

# Neuronal Currents

- model
- approaches
  - current phantom*
  - cell cultures*
  - human studies*
- why there is hope

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# Alternating Left and Right Finger Tapping



~ 1992

Neuronal  
Activation



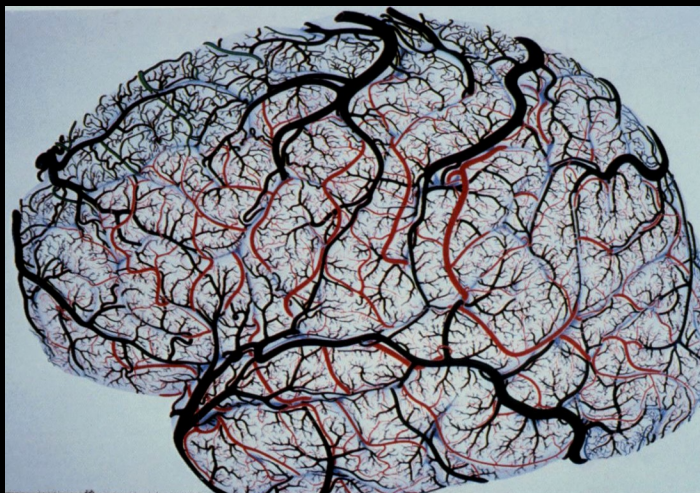
Measured  
Signal

Hemodynamics

?

?

?



Noise



$\Delta$  Neuronal Activity

Number of Neurons

Local Field Potential

Spiking Coherence

Spiking Rate

$\Delta$  Metabolism

Aerobic Metabolism

Anaerobic Metabolism

$\Delta$  Hemodynamics

Blood Volume

Deoxygenated Blood

Flow Velocity

Oxygenated Blood

Perfusion

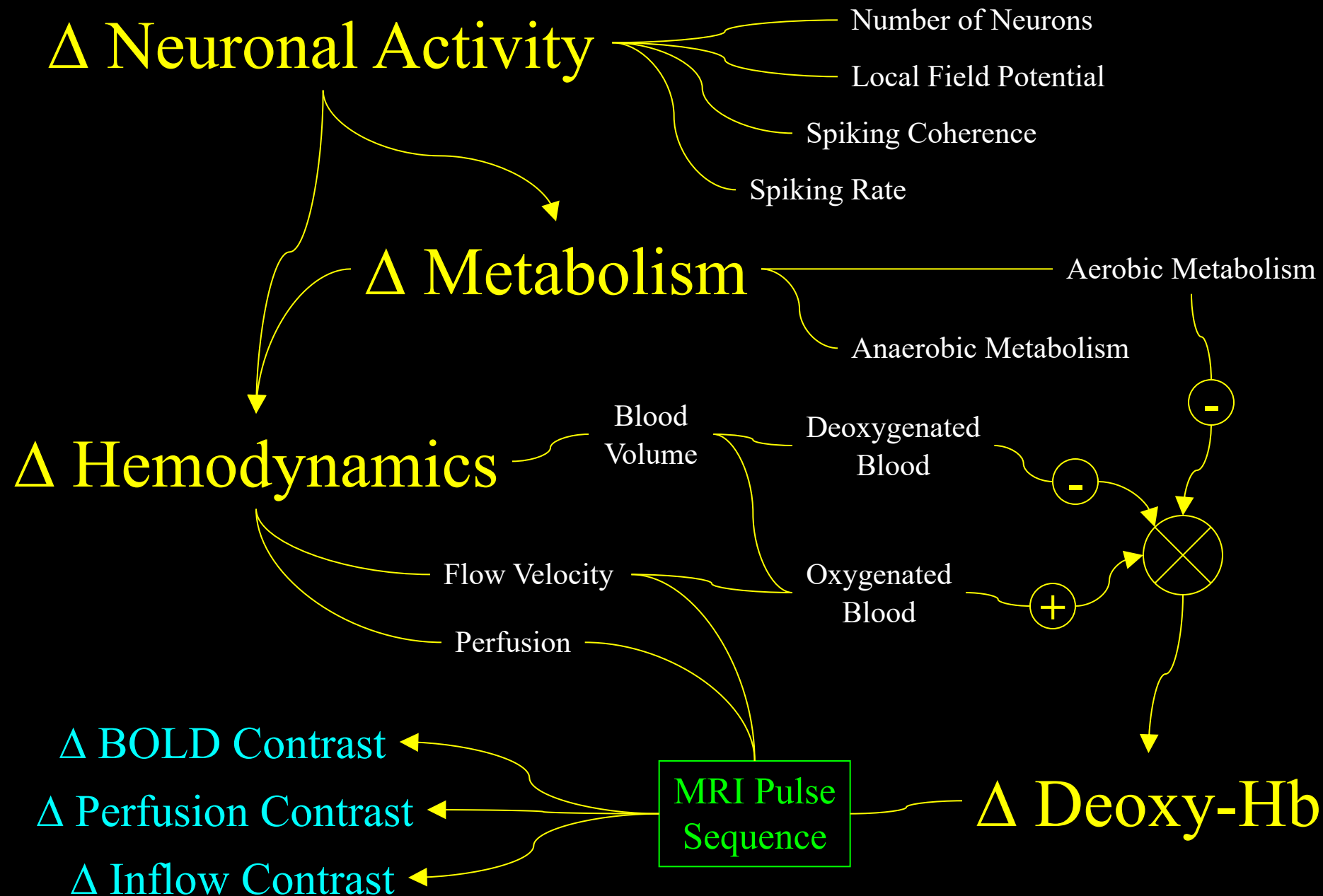
$\Delta$  BOLD Contrast

$\Delta$  Perfusion Contrast

$\Delta$  Inflow Contrast

MRI Pulse Sequence

$\Delta$  Deoxy-Hb





# BOLD Contrast: A Few Strategies for Better Interpretation

- Pulse sequence modulation
- Neuronal activation modulation
- Alternative measurement comparison

Arterial inflow  
(BOLD TR < 500 ms)

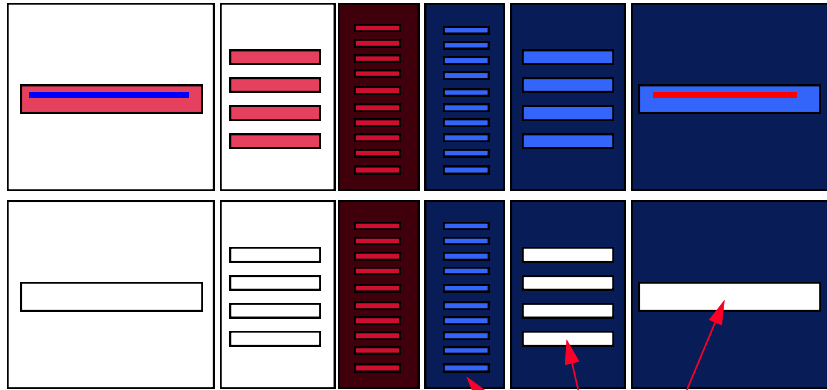
**Perfusion**

**BOLD**

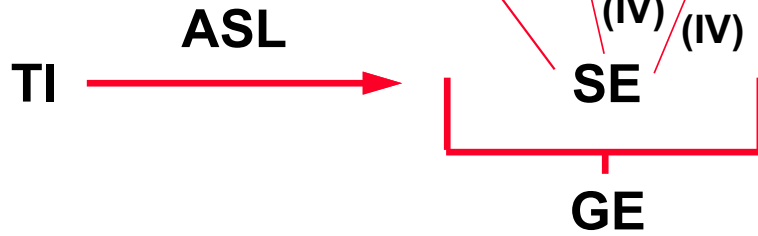
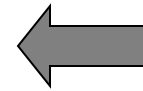
Venous inflow  
(for ASL, w/ no VN)

No  
Velocity  
Nulling

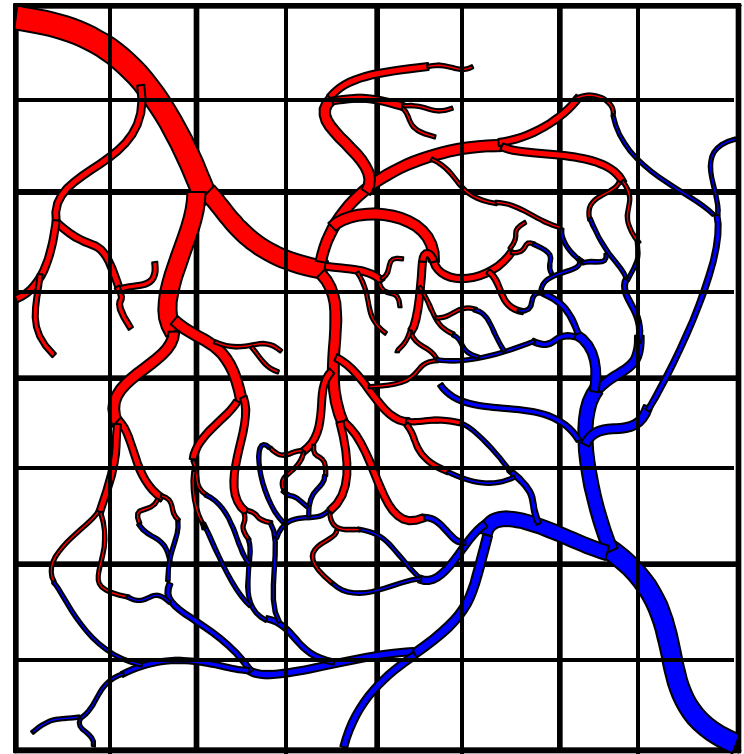
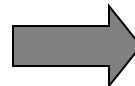
Velocity  
Nulling



Pulse Sequence  
Sensitivity



Spatial  
Heterogeneity



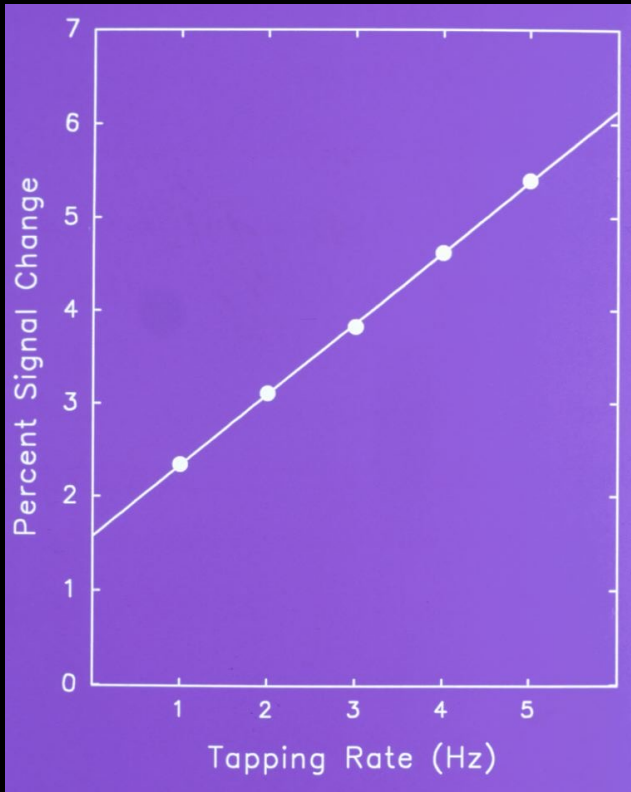
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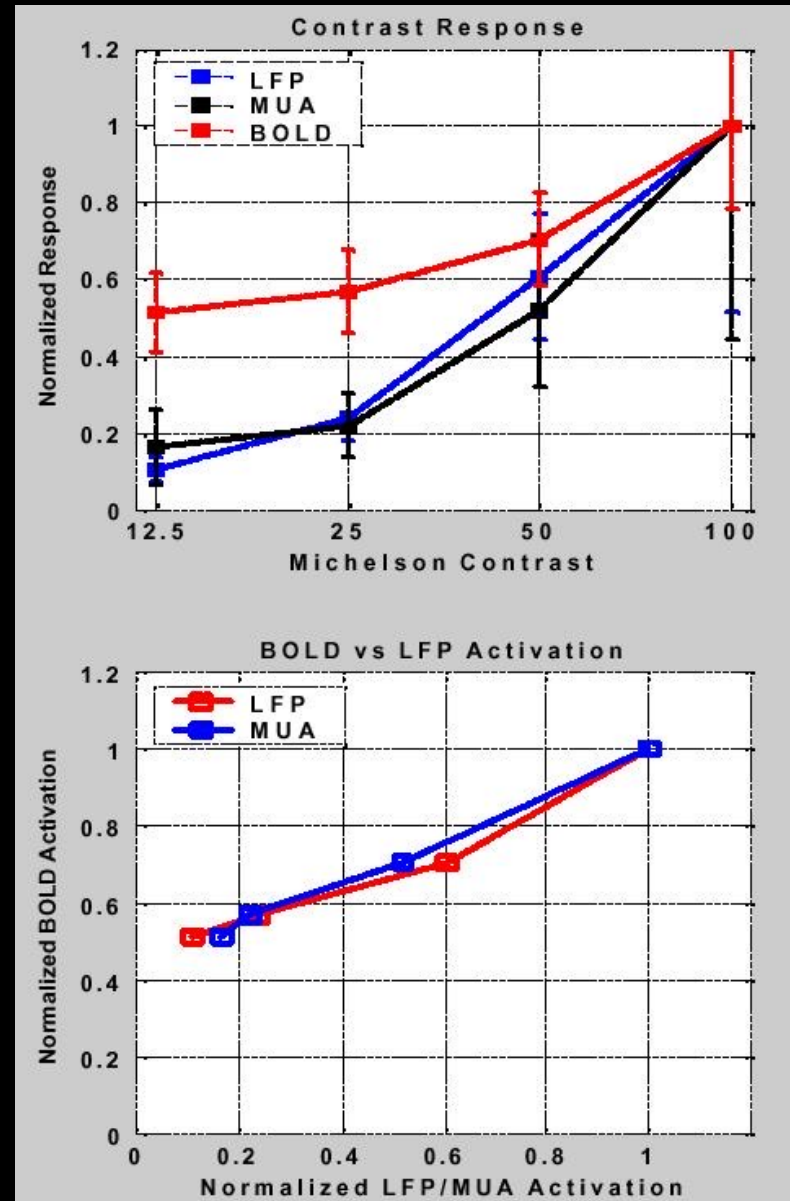
# Neuronal Currents

- model
- approaches
  - current phantom*
  - cell cultures*
  - human studies*
- why there is hope

Logothetis et al. (2001) "Neurophysiological investigation of the basis of the fMRI signal" *Nature*, 412, 150-157



S. M. Rao et al, (1996) "Relationship between finger movement rate and functional magnetic resonance signal change in human primary motor cortex." *J. Cereb. Blood Flow and Met.* 16, 1250-1254.

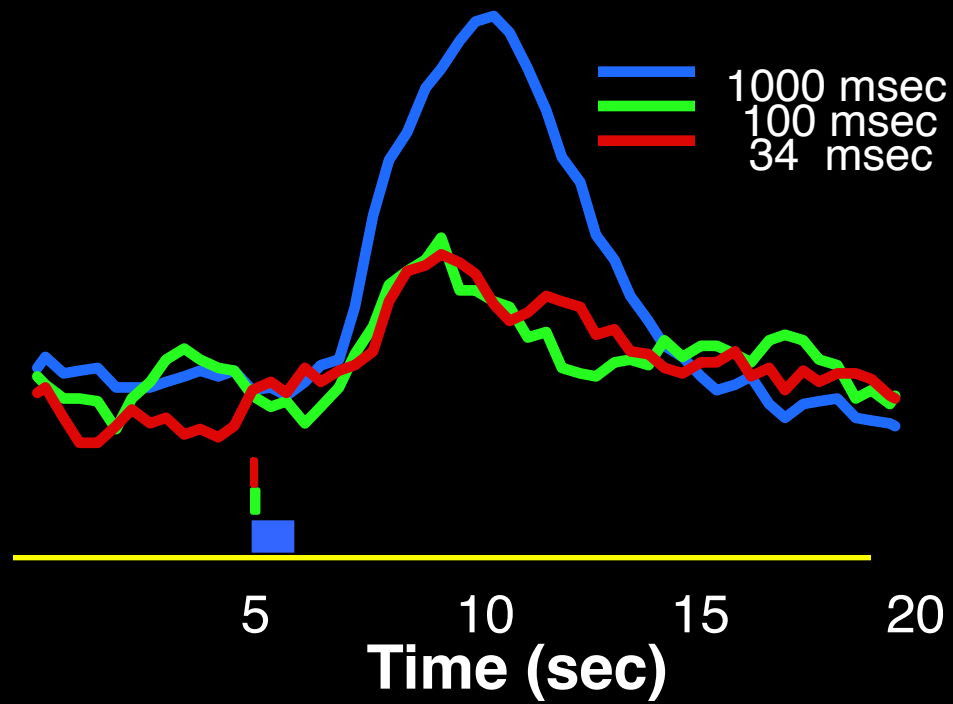


# Hemodynamics

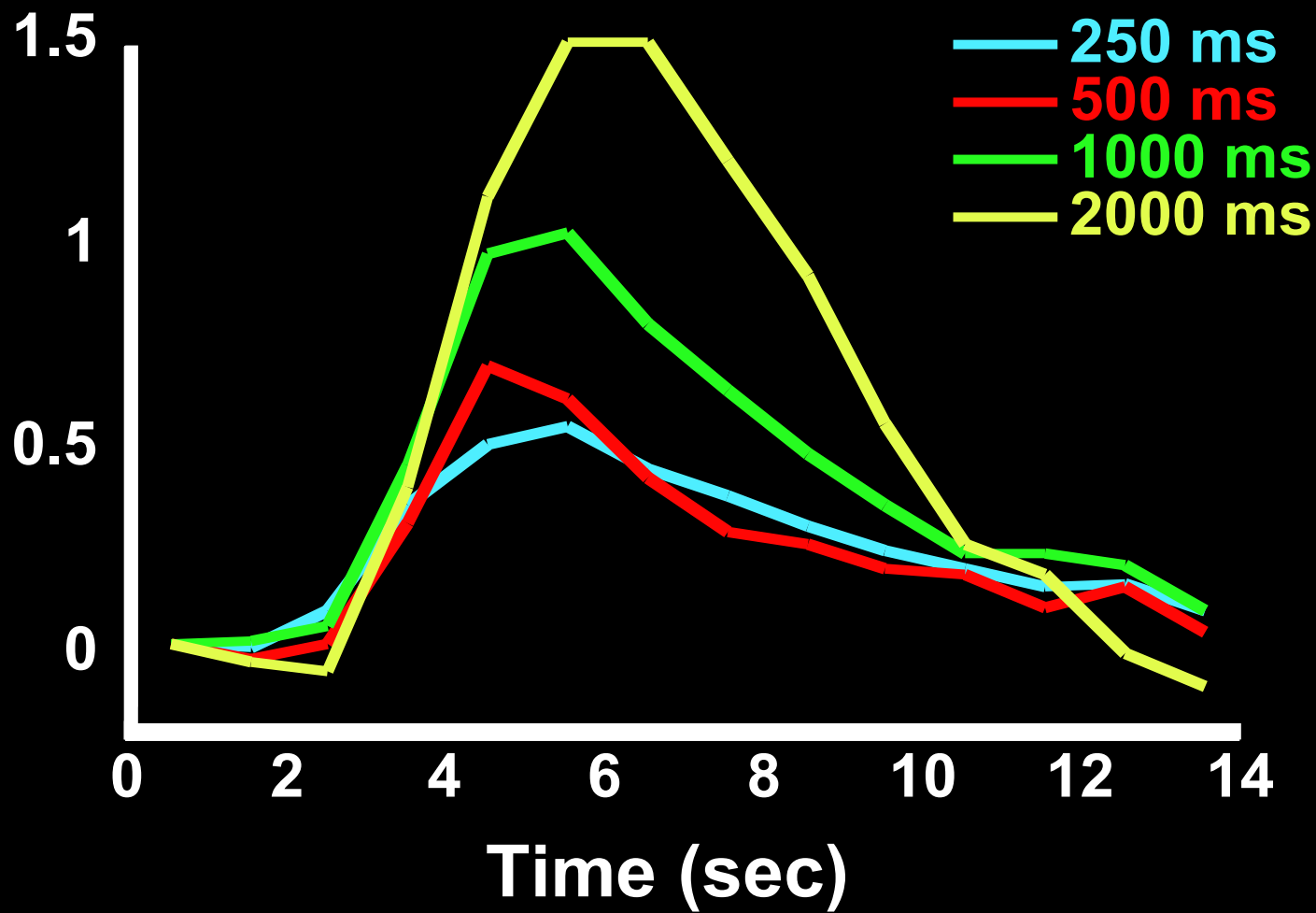
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# Neuronal Currents

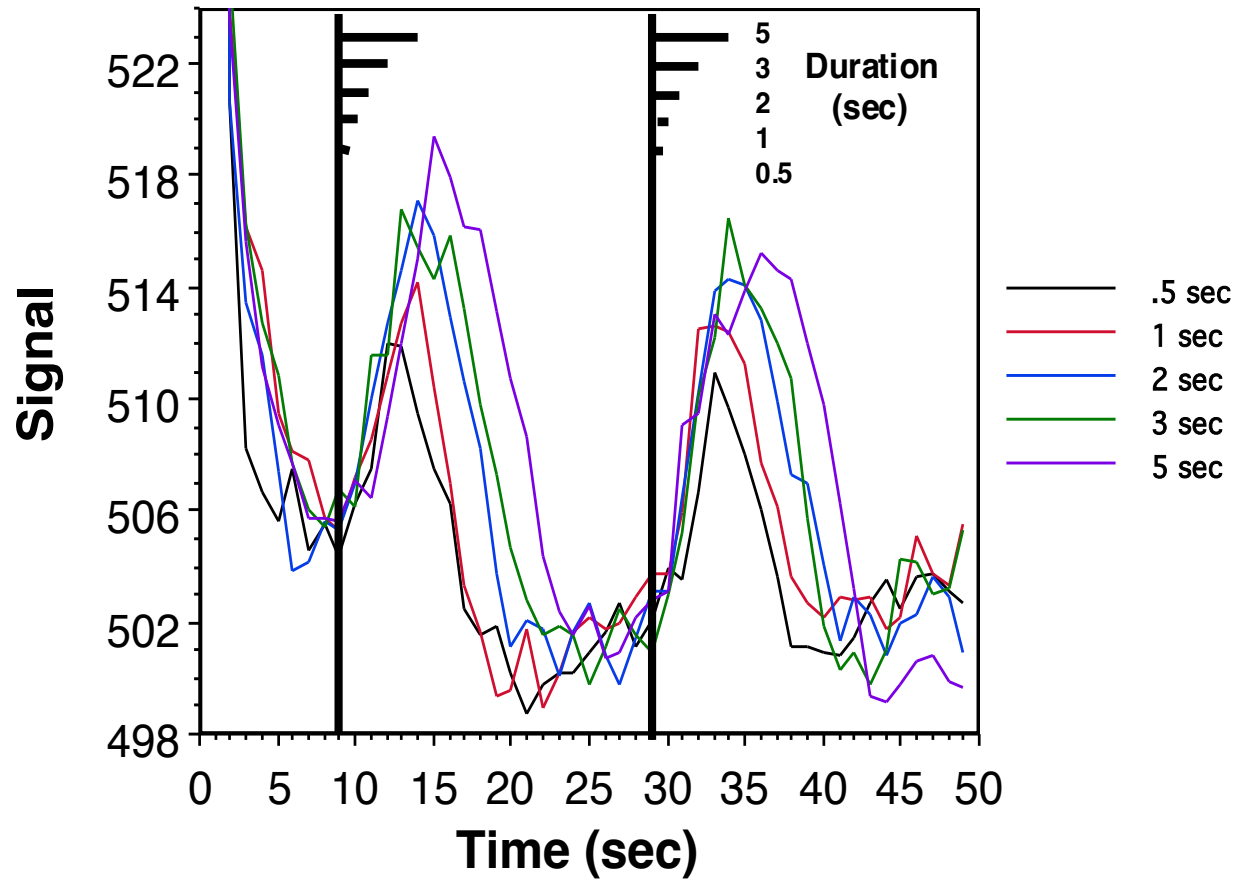
- model
- approaches
  - current phantom*
  - cell cultures*
  - human studies*
- why there is hope



R. L. Savoy, et al., Pushing the temporal resolution of fMRI: studies of very brief visual stimuli, onset variability and asynchrony, and stimulus-correlated changes in noise [oral], 3<sup>rd</sup> Proc. Soc. Magn. Reson., Nice, p. 450. (1995).

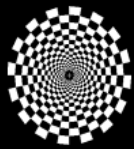


## Motor Cortex



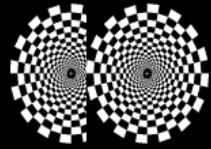
**Bandettini, et al., The functional dynamics of blood oxygenation level contrast in the motor cortex, 12'th Proc. Soc. Magn. Reson. Med., New York, p. 1382. (1993).**





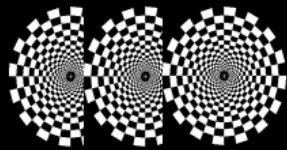
0 sec

20 sec



0 sec 2 sec

20 sec



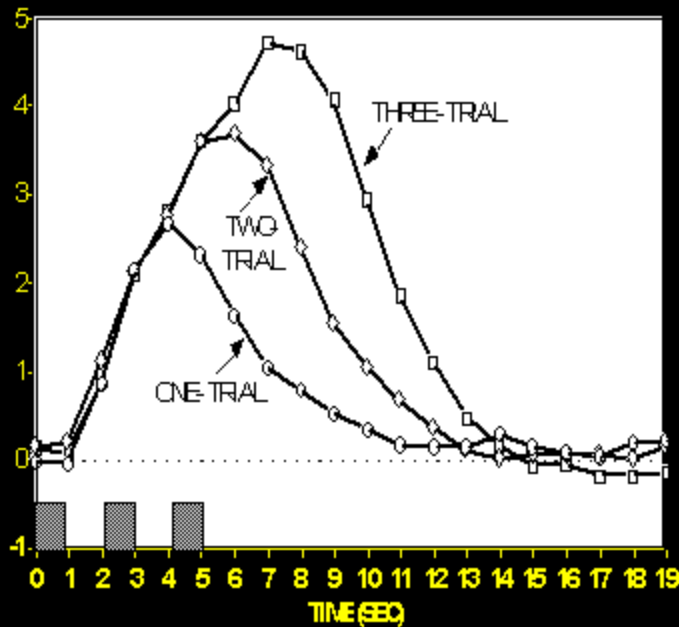
0 sec 2 sec 4 sec

20 sec

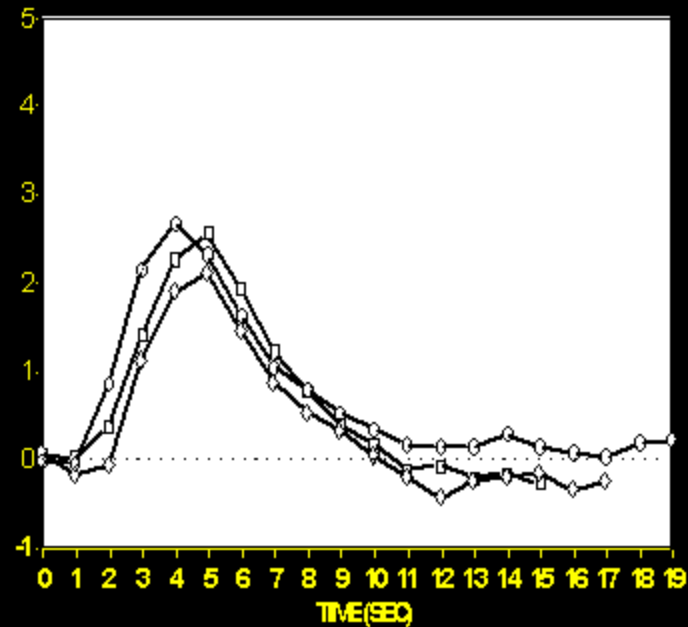
# Selective Averaging of Rapidly Presented Individual Trials Using fMRI

Anders M. Dale\* and Randy L. Buckner

## RAW DATA

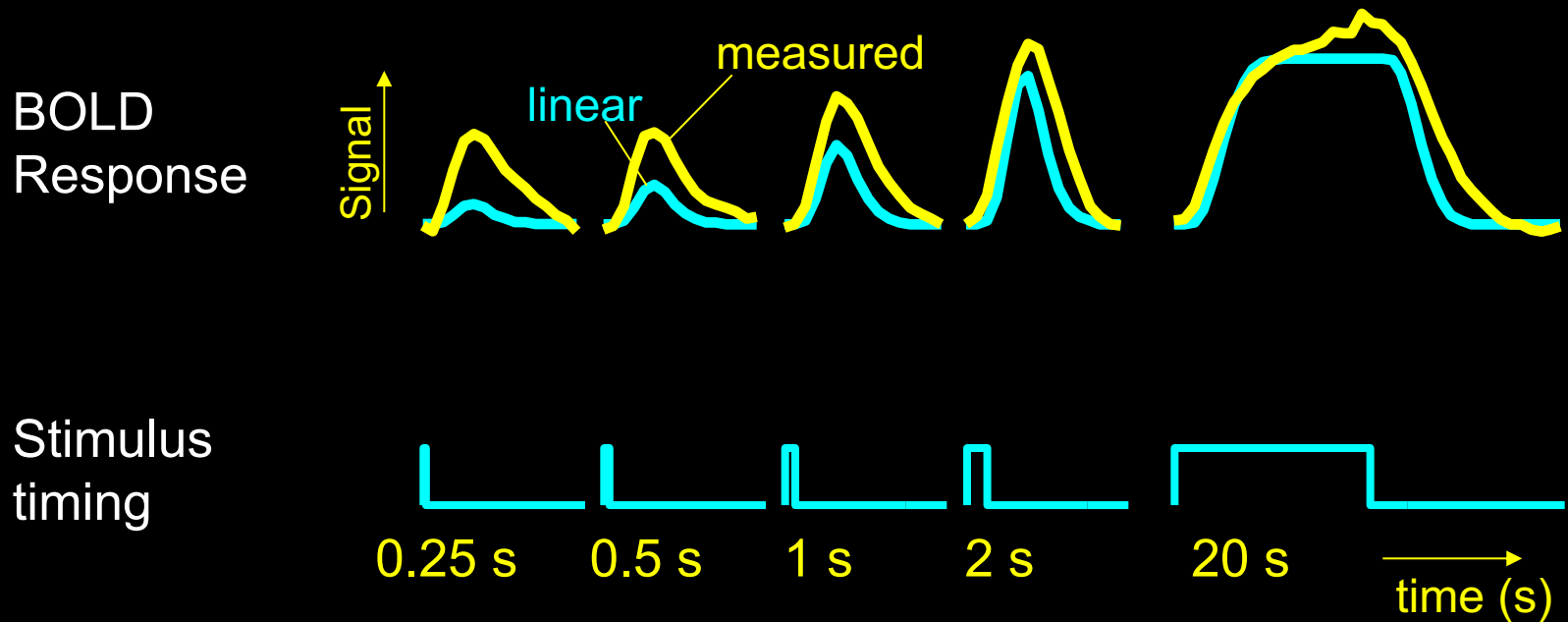


## ESTIMATED RESPONSES



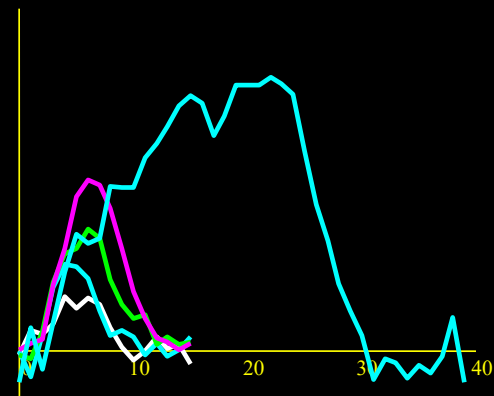
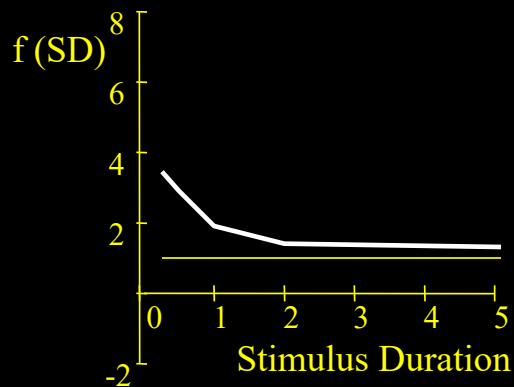
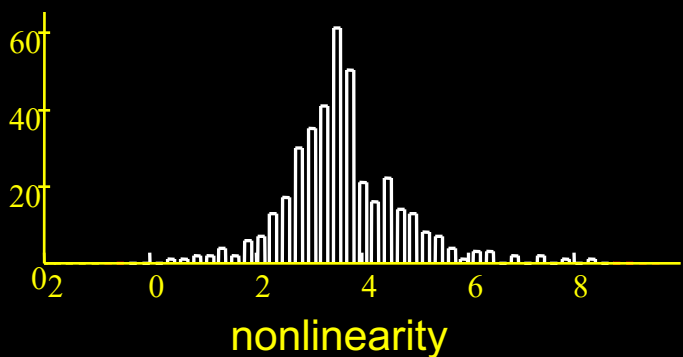
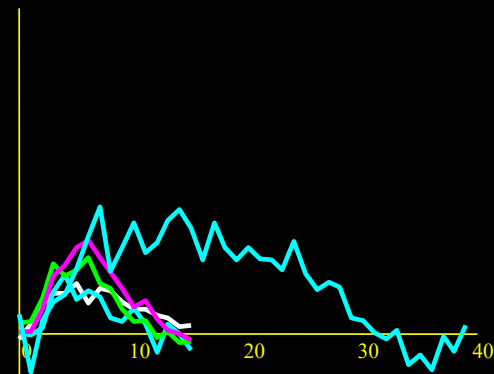
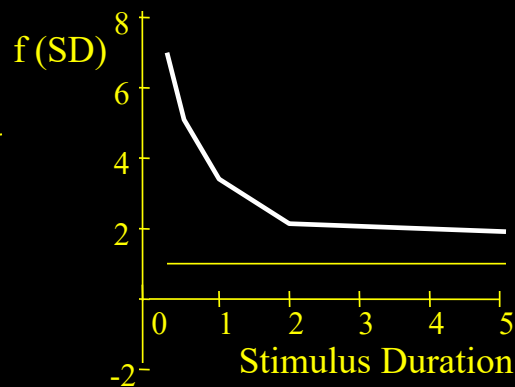
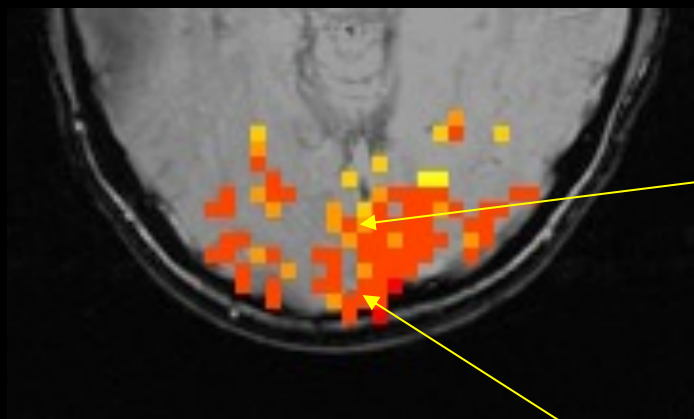
# Dynamic Nonlinearity Assessment

## Different stimulus “ON” periods



*Brief stimuli produce larger responses than expected*

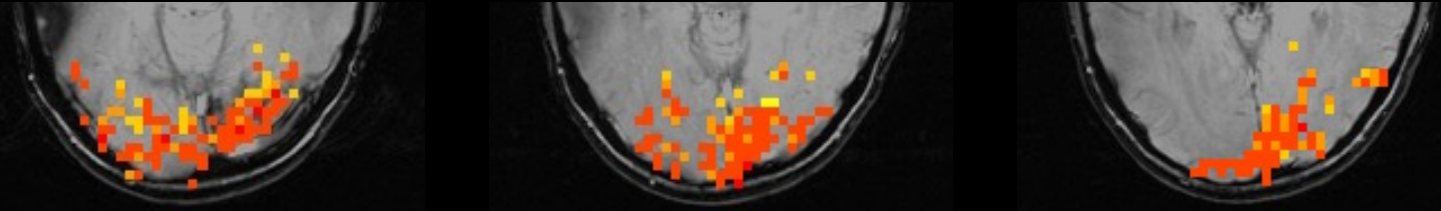
# Spatial Heterogeneity of BOLD Nonlinearity



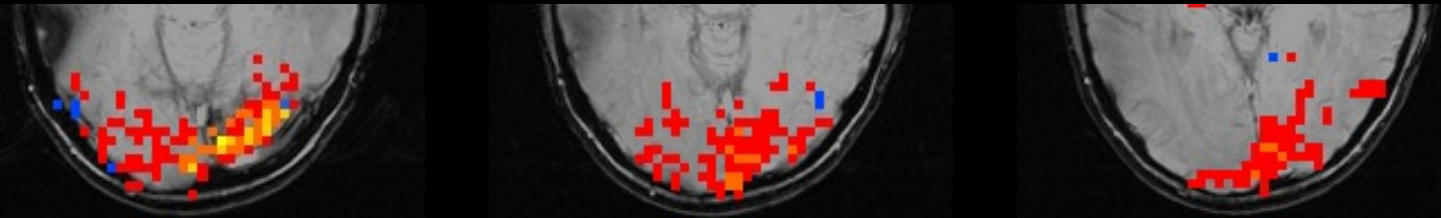
R. M. Birn, Z. Saad, P. A. Bandettini, (2001) "Spatial heterogeneity of the nonlinear dynamics in the fMRI BOLD response." *NeuroImage*, 14: 817-826.

# Results – visual task

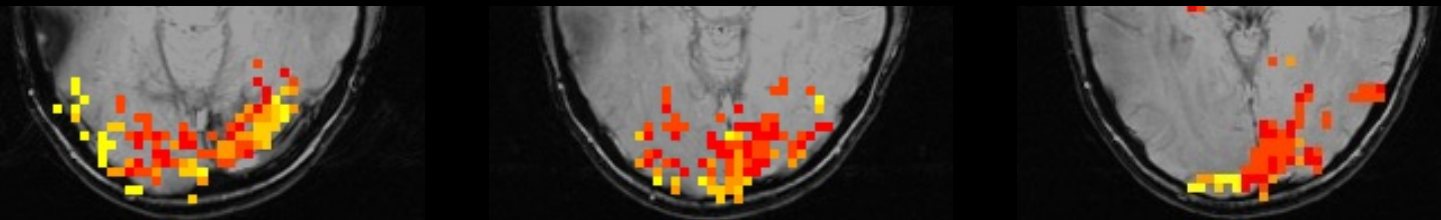
Nonlinearity



Magnitude

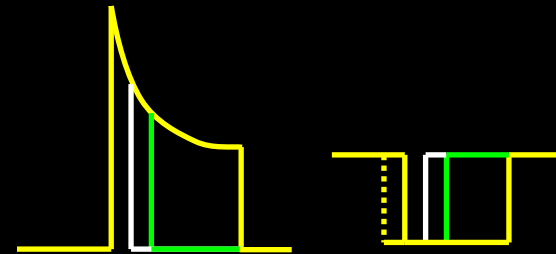
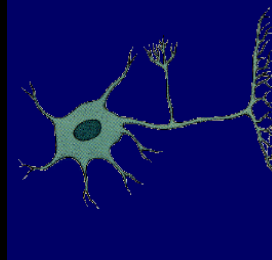


Latency



# Sources of this Nonlinearity

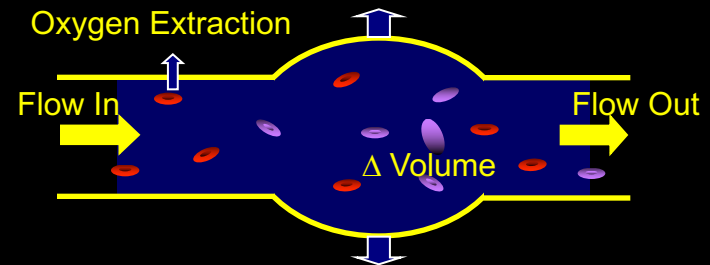
- Neuronal



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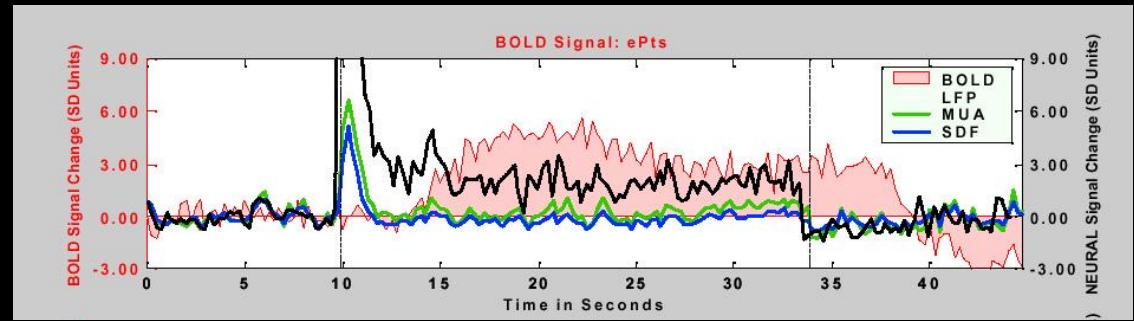
- Hemodynamic

- Oxygen extraction
- Blood volume dynamics

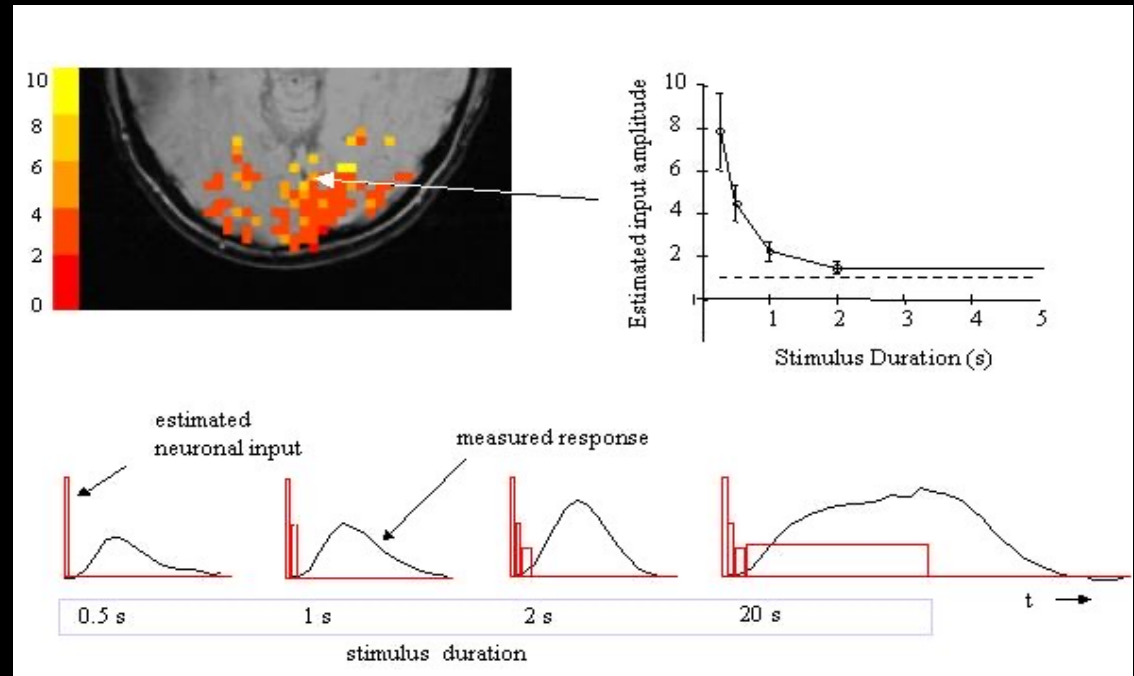


# BOLD Correlation with Neuronal Activity

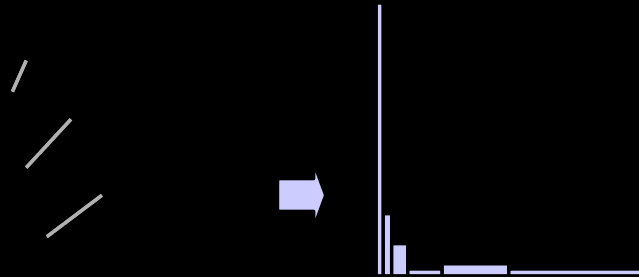
**Logothetis et al. (2001)**  
“Neurophysiological investigation  
of the basis of the fMRI signal”  
*Nature*, 412, 150-157.



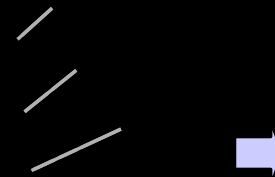
**P. A. Bandettini and L. G. Ungerleider, (2001)** “From neuron  
to BOLD: new connections.”  
*Nature Neuroscience*, 4: 864-866.



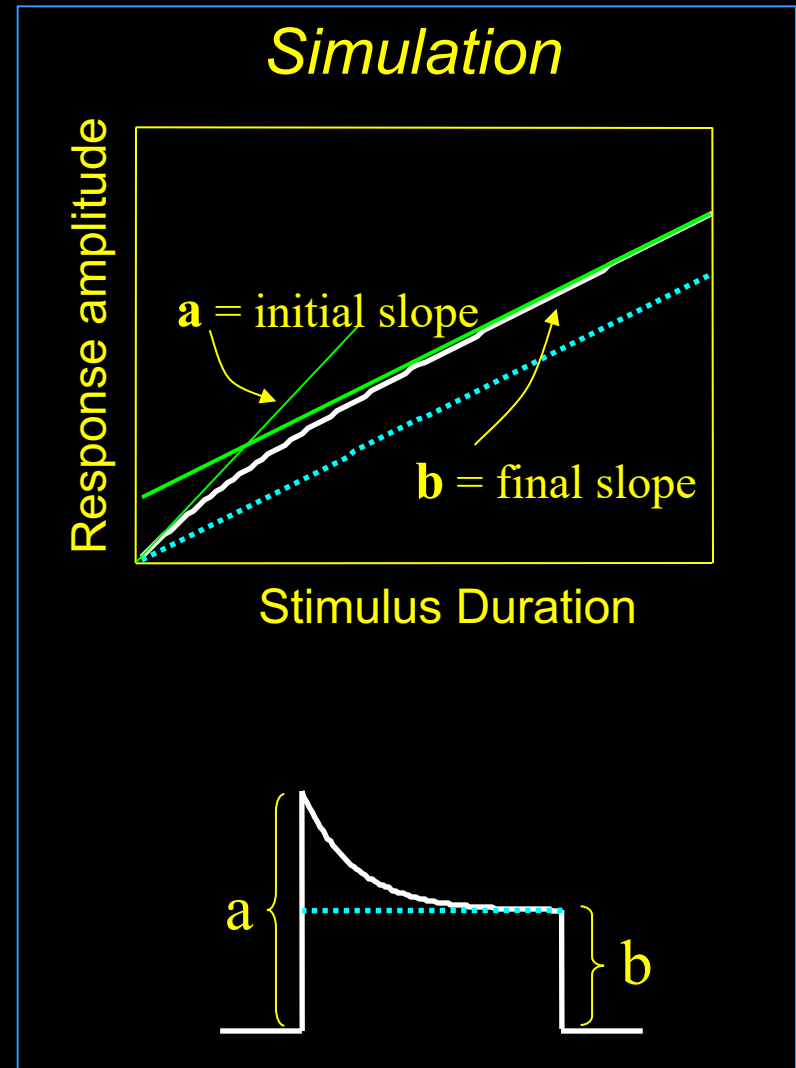
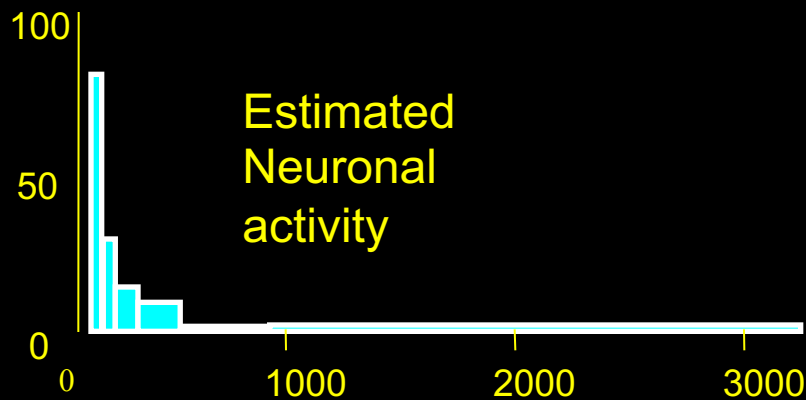
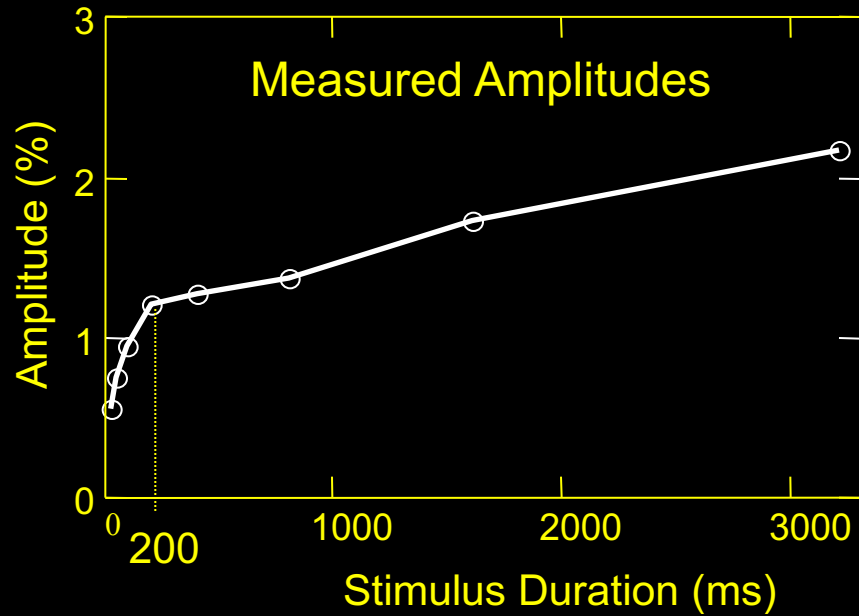
Stationary grating



Contrast-reversing checkerboard



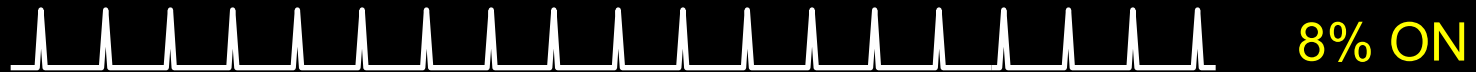
# Results – constant gratings





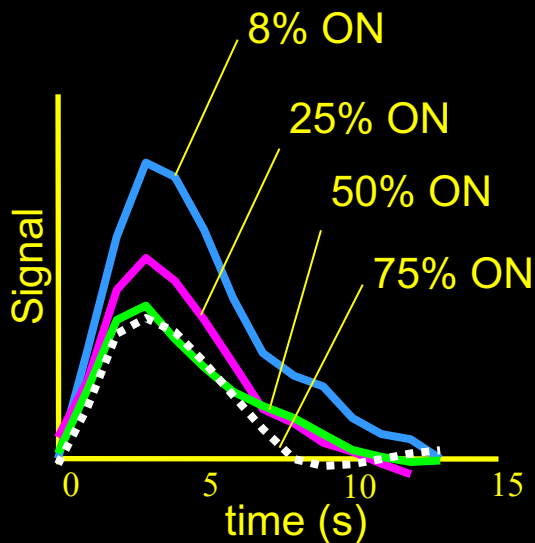
# Varying “ON” and “OFF” periods

- *Rapid event-related design with varying ISI*

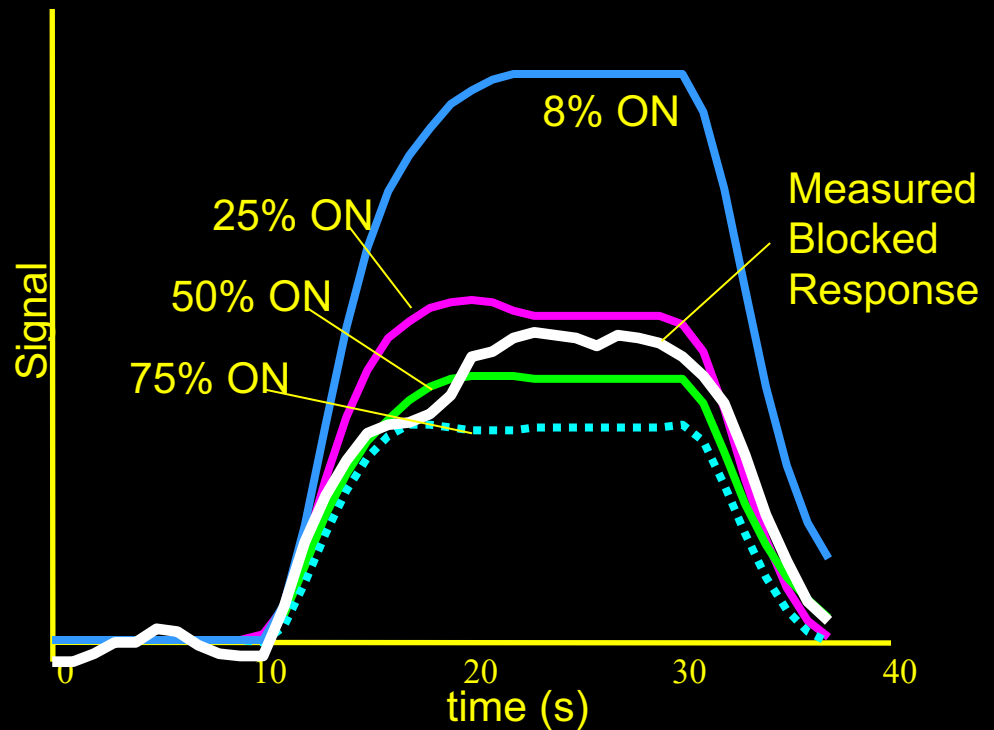


# Varying “ON” and “OFF” periods

*Estimated  
Impulse Response*



*Predicted Responses  
to 20 s stimulation*



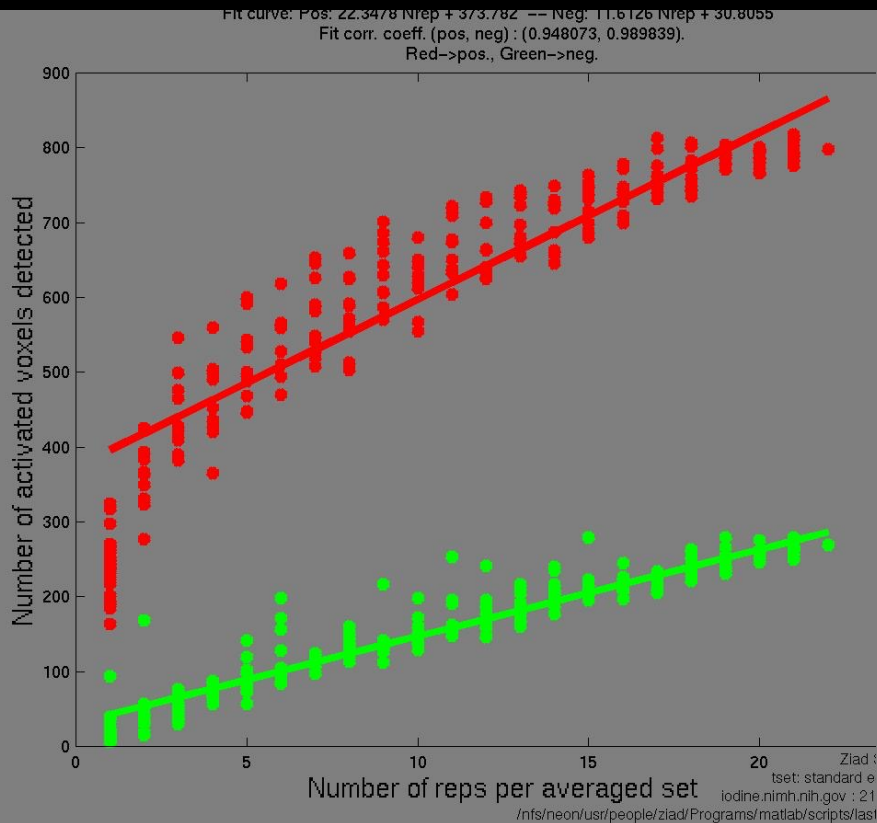
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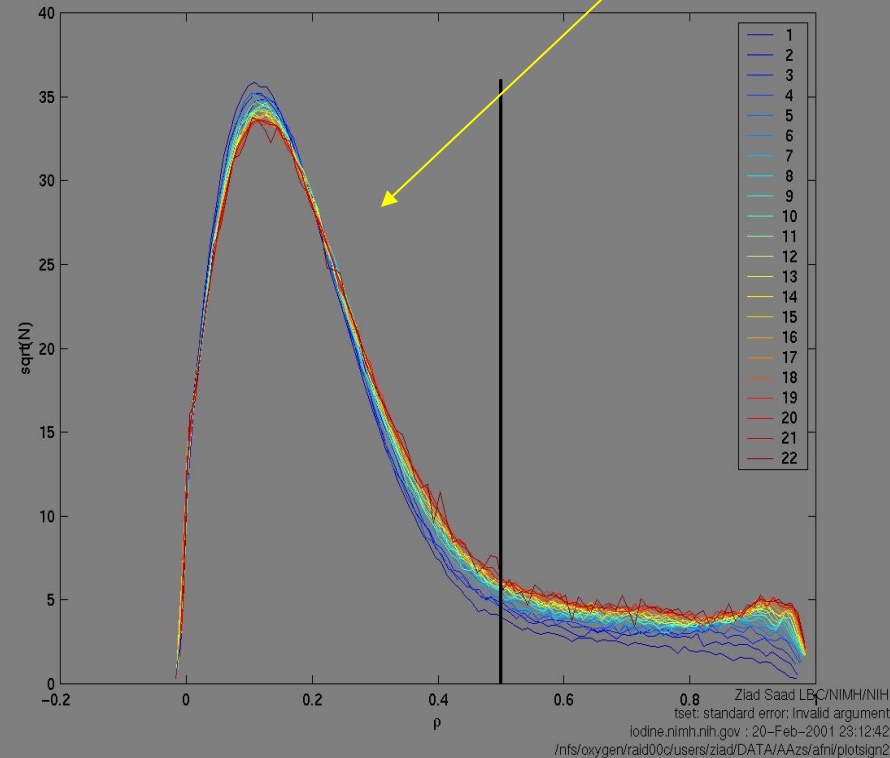
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  - cell cultures*
  - human studies*
- why there is hope

# Continuously Growing Activation Area



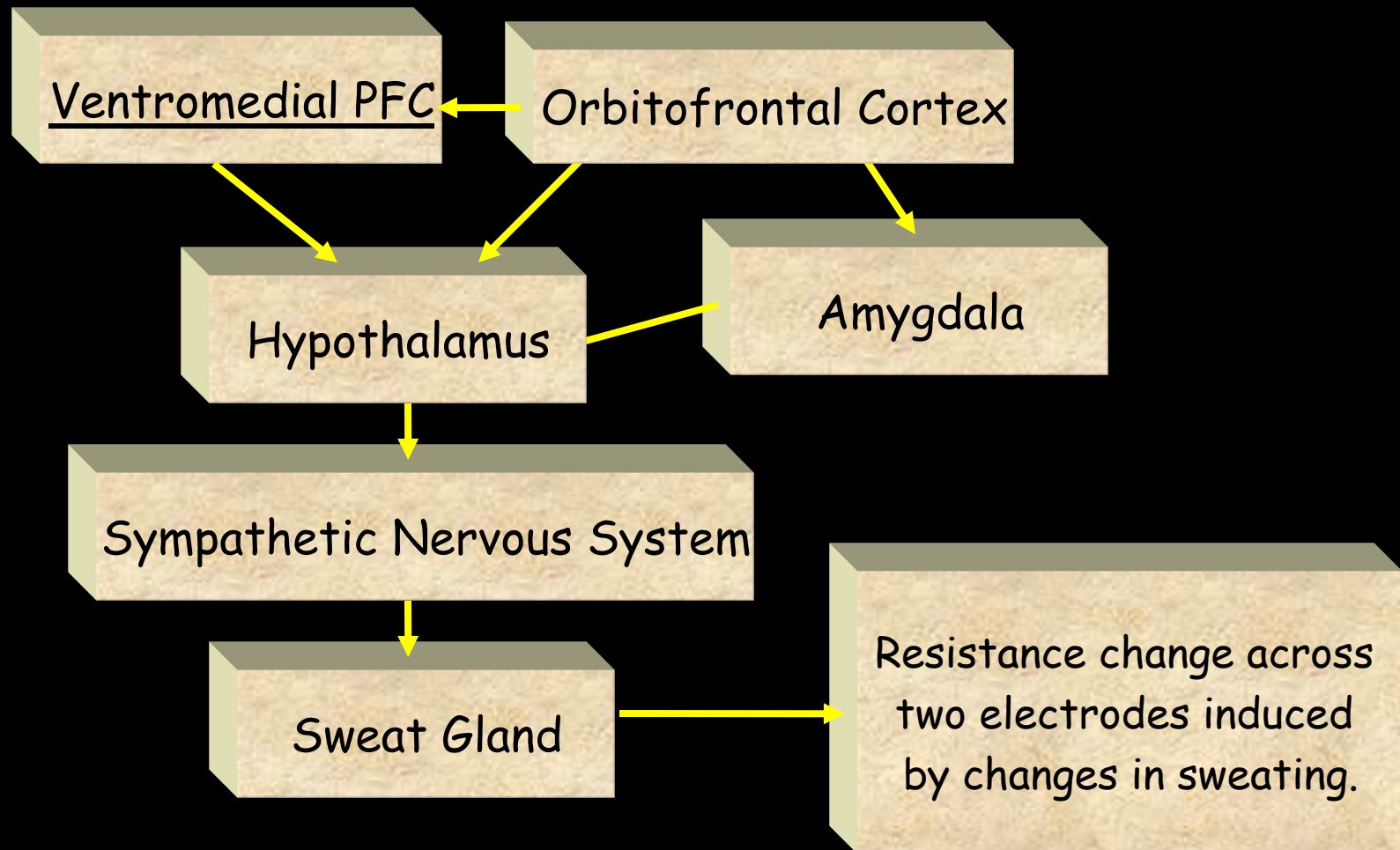
# CC Histogram

Inflection Point



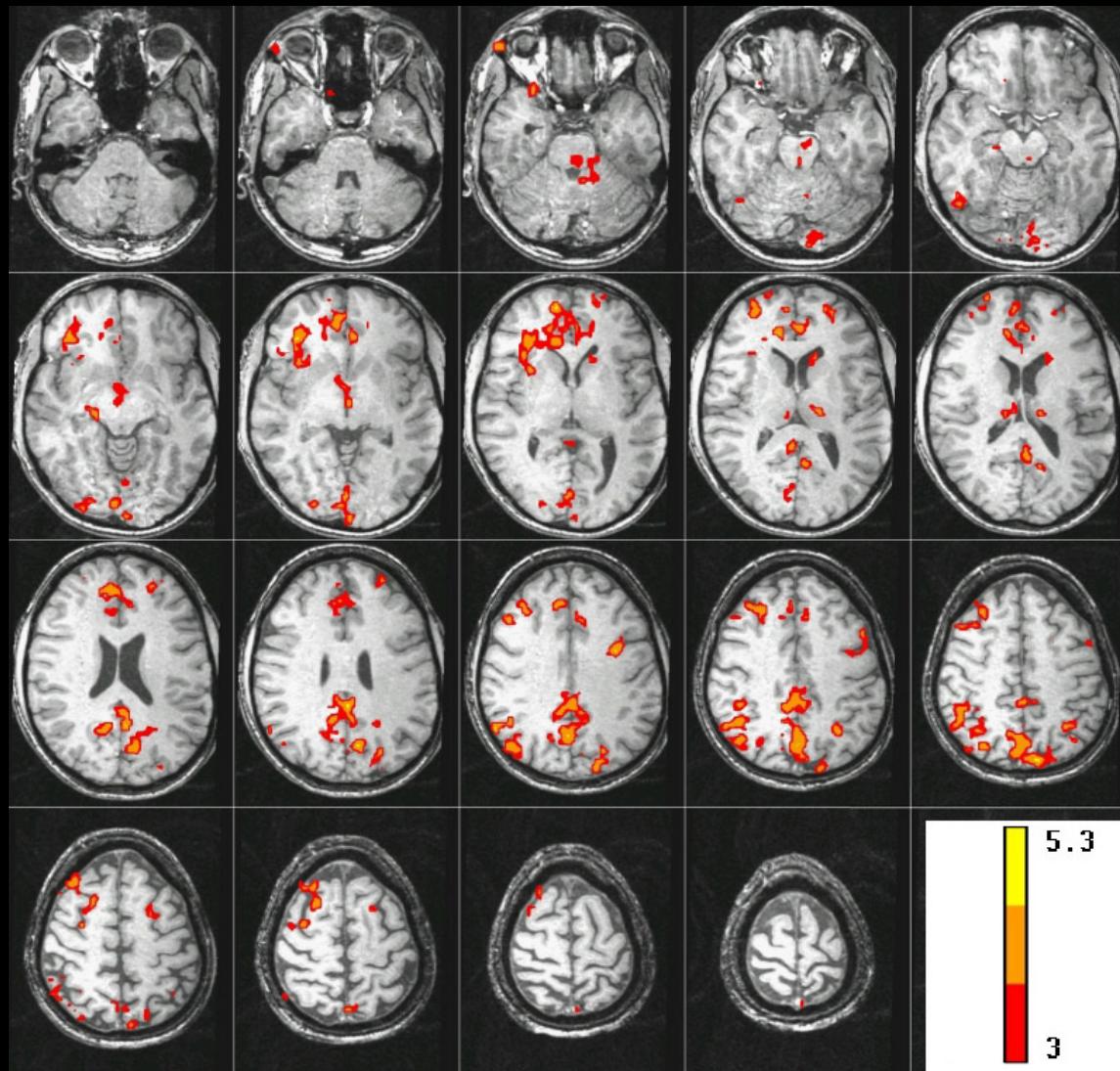
Ziad Saad, Z. S. Saad, K. M. Ropella, E. A. DeYoe, P. A. Bandettini,  
The spatial extent of the BOLD response. *NeuroImage*, (in press).

# The Skin Conductance Response (SCR)



J. C. Patterson II, L. G. Ungerleider, and P. A. Bandettini, Task - independent functional brain activity correlation with skin conductance changes: an fMRI study. *NeuroImage* 17:1787-1806, (2002).

# Brain activity correlated with SCR during “Rest”



J. C. Patterson II, L. G. Ungerleider, and P. A. Bandettini, Task - independent functional brain activity correlation with skin conductance changes: an fMRI study. *NeuroImage* 17:1787-1806, (2002).

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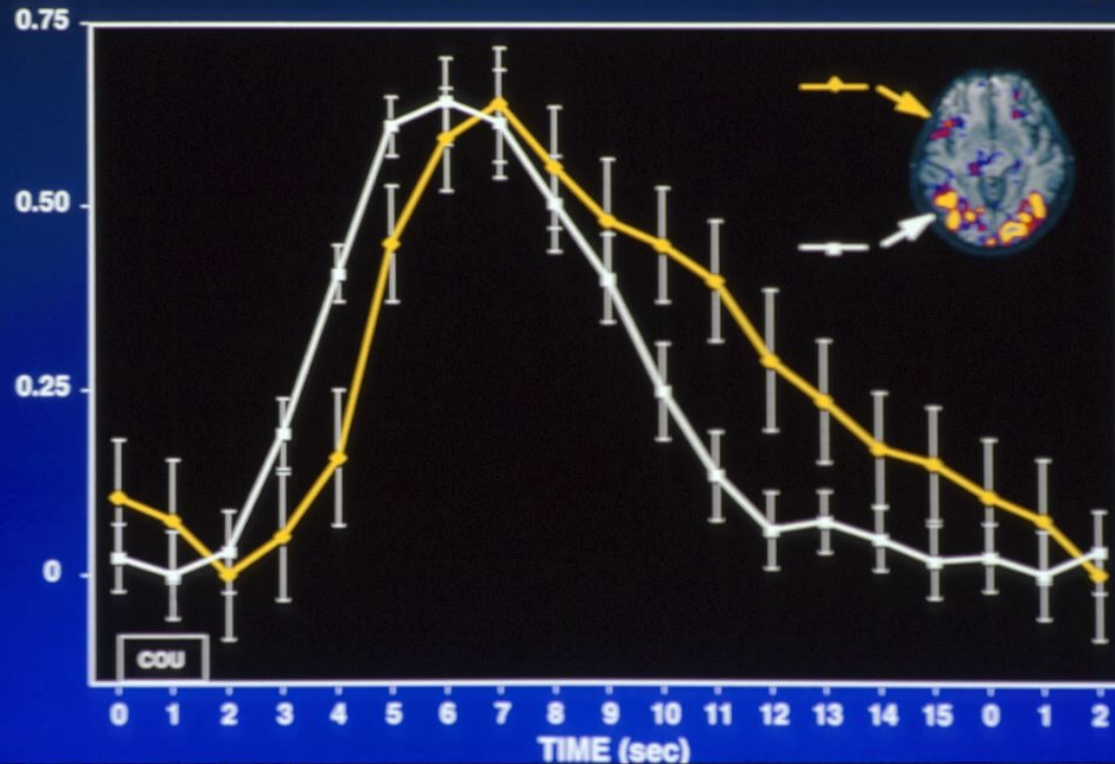


## Detection of cortical activation during averaged single trials of a cognitive task using functional magnetic resonance imaging

(neuroimaging/single trial/language/prefrontal)

RANDY L. BUCKNER<sup>†‡§¶</sup>, PETER A. BANDETTINI<sup>†‡</sup>, KATHLEEN M. O' CRAVEN<sup>†||</sup>, ROBERT L. SAVOY<sup>†||</sup>,  
STEVEN E. PETERSEN<sup>\*\*††</sup>, MARCUS E. RAICHEL<sup>§\*\*††</sup>, AND BRUCE R. ROSEN<sup>†‡</sup>

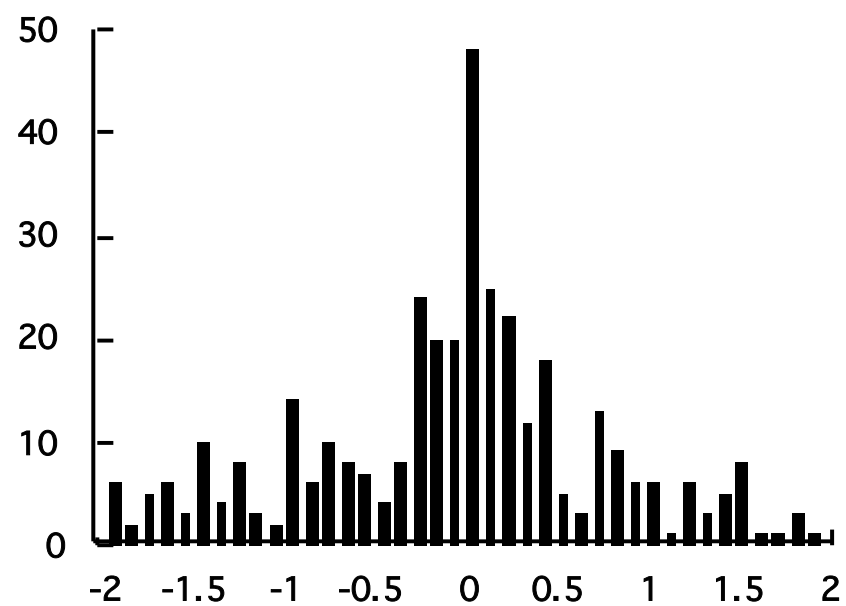
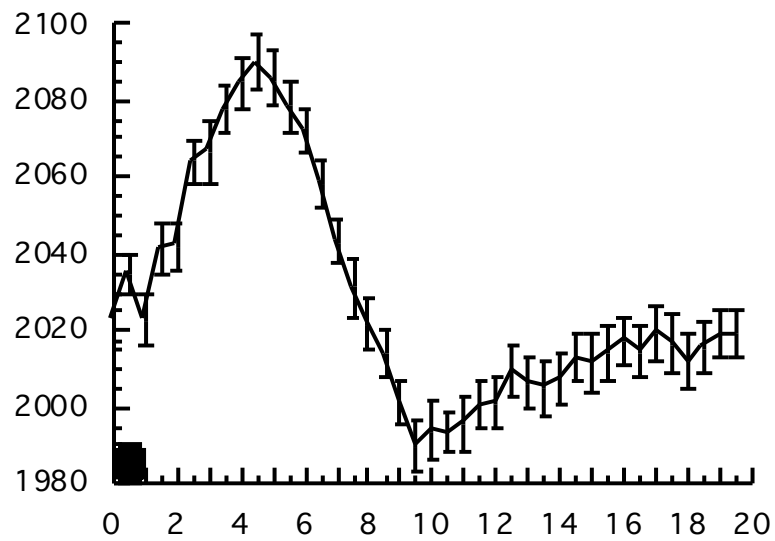
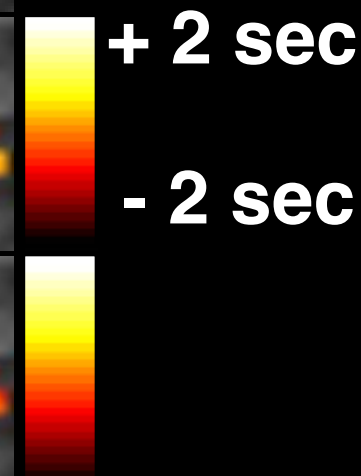
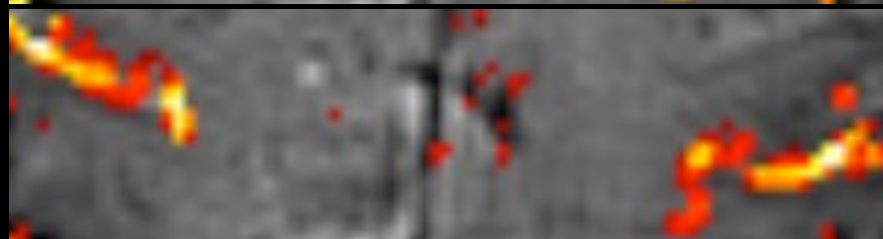
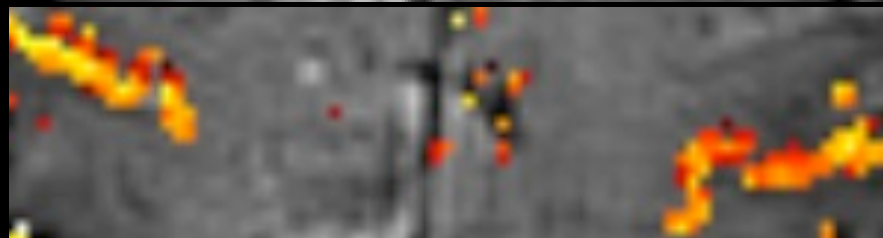
### Time Course Comparison Across Brain Regions





**Latency**

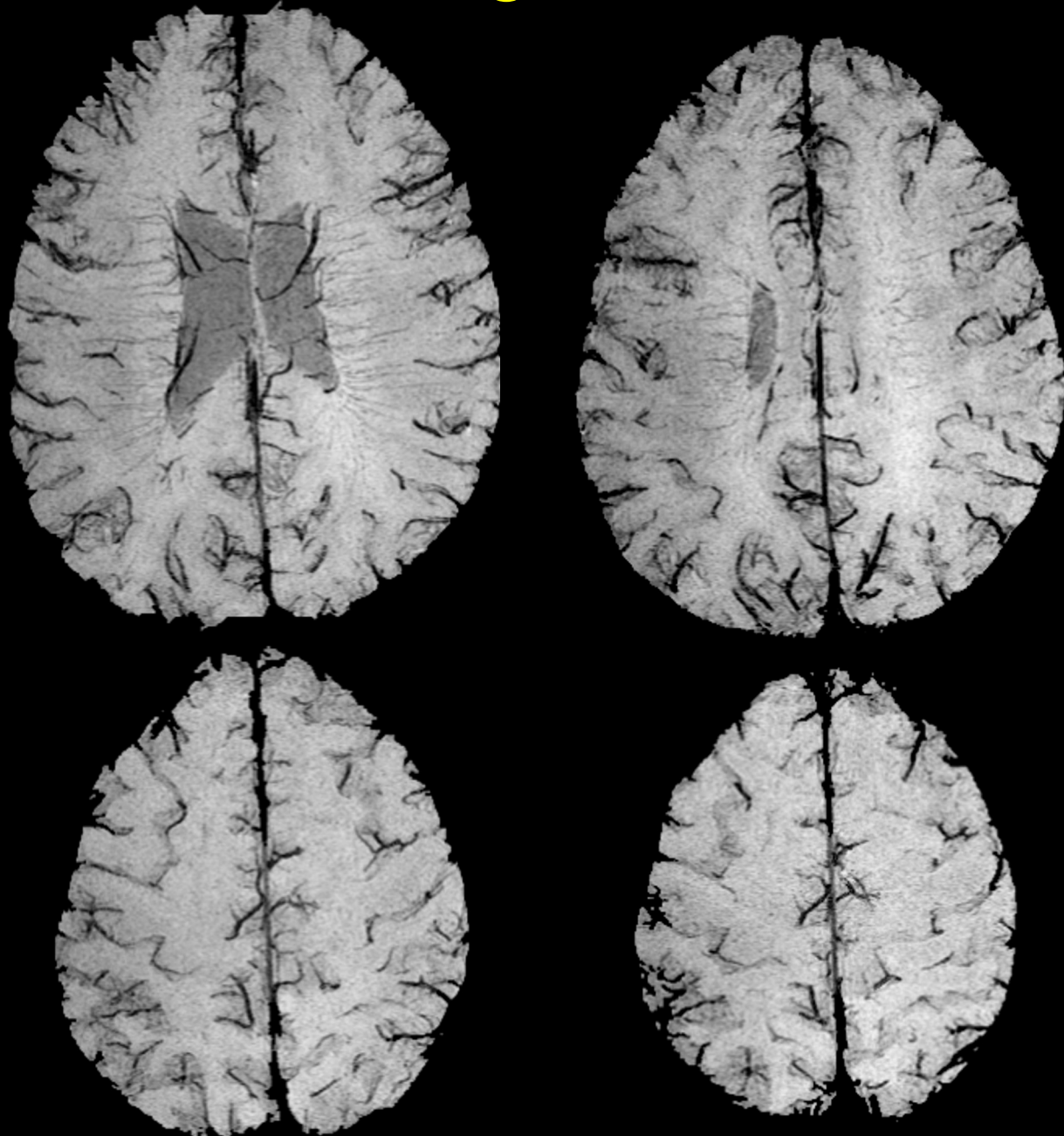
**Magnitude**

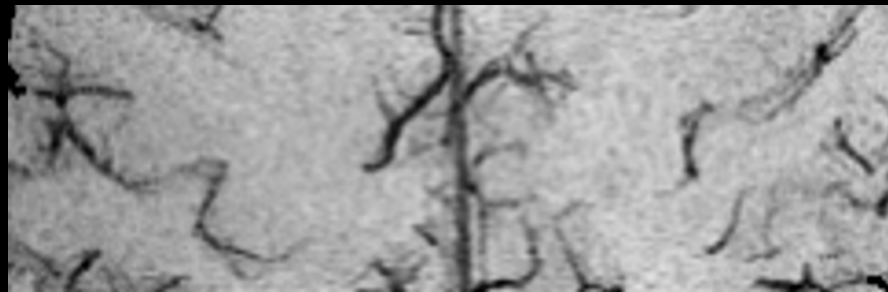
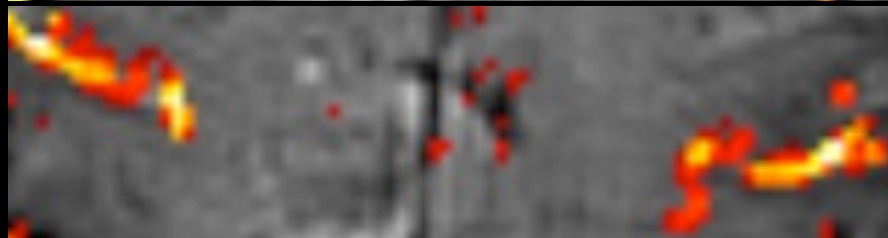
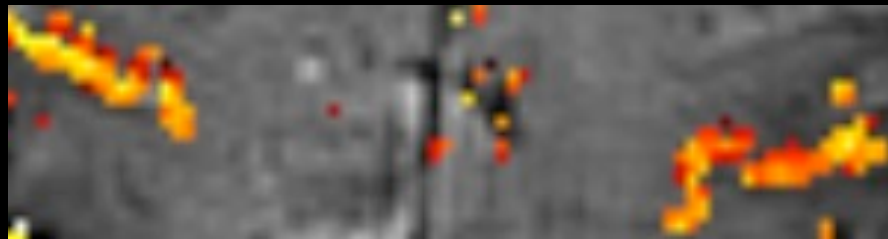
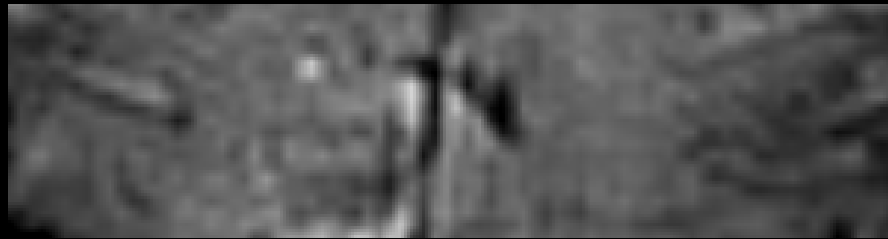


**Time (sec)**

**Delay (sec)**

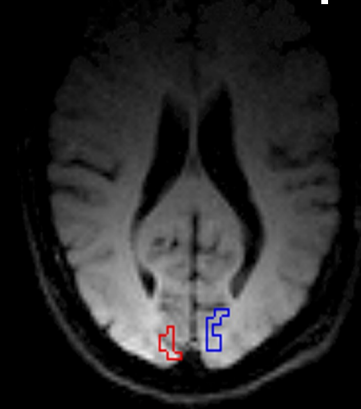
# Venograms (3T)



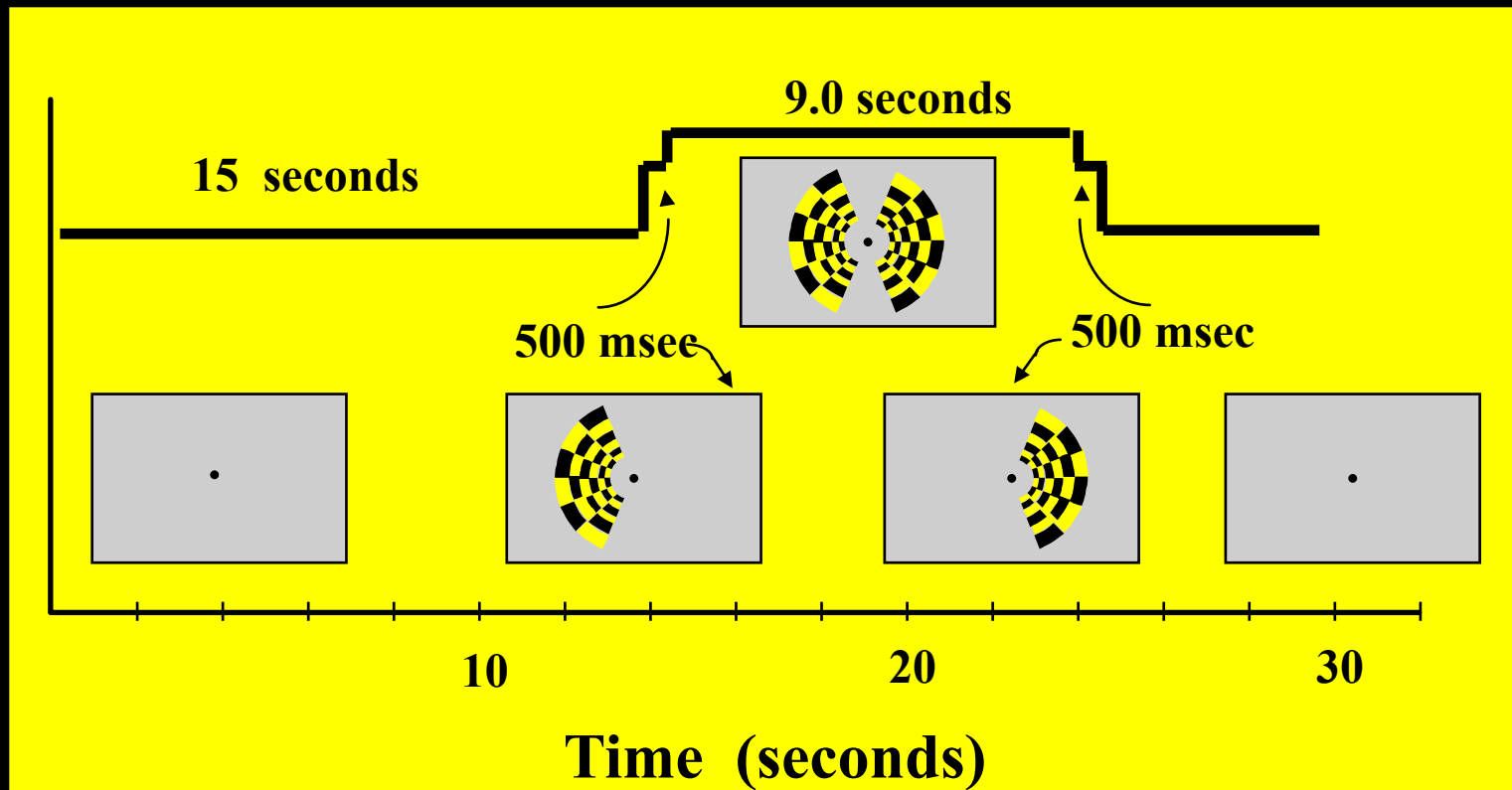


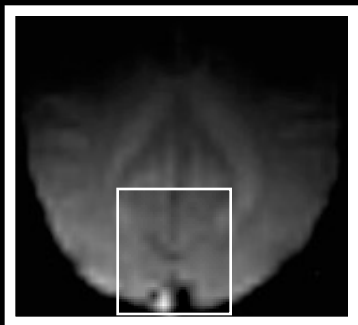
# Hemi-Field Experiment

**Left Hemisphere**



**Right Hemisphere**





500 ms



500 ms



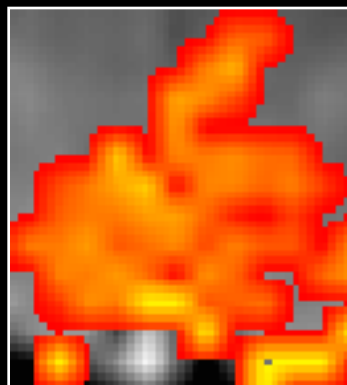
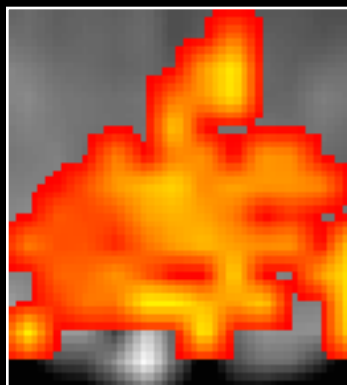
Right Hemifield

Left Hemifield

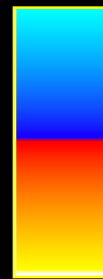
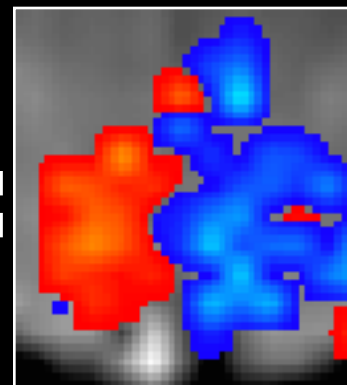
+ 2.5 s

0 s

- 2.5 s

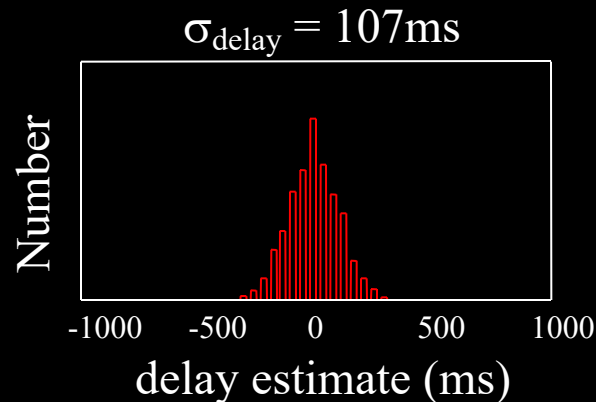
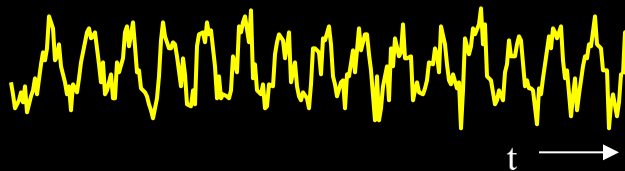


=

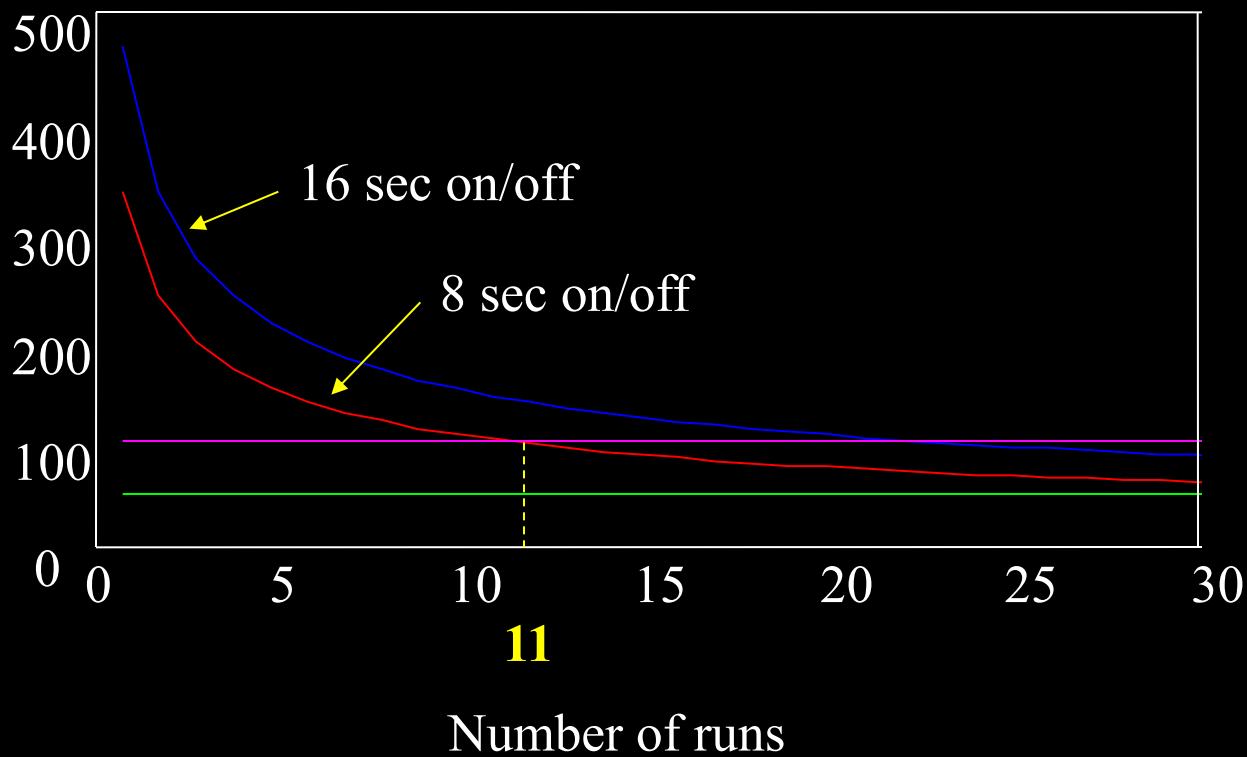


1 run:

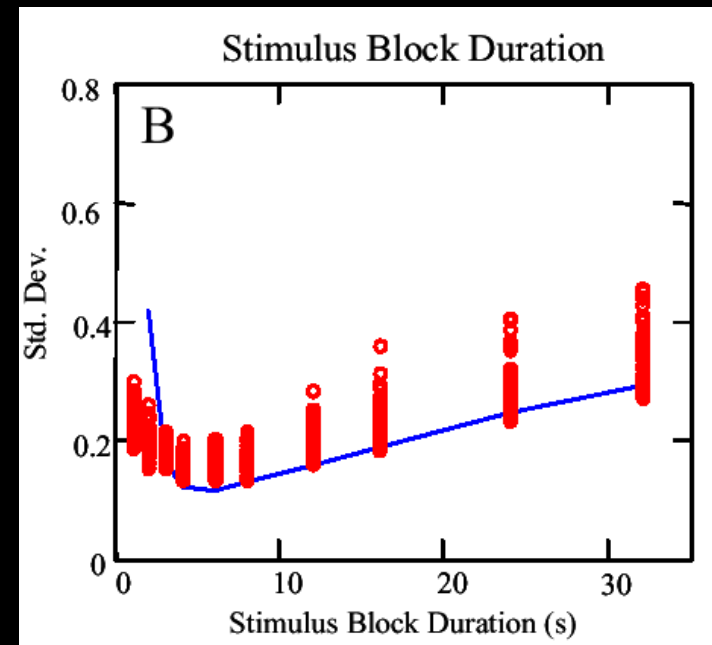
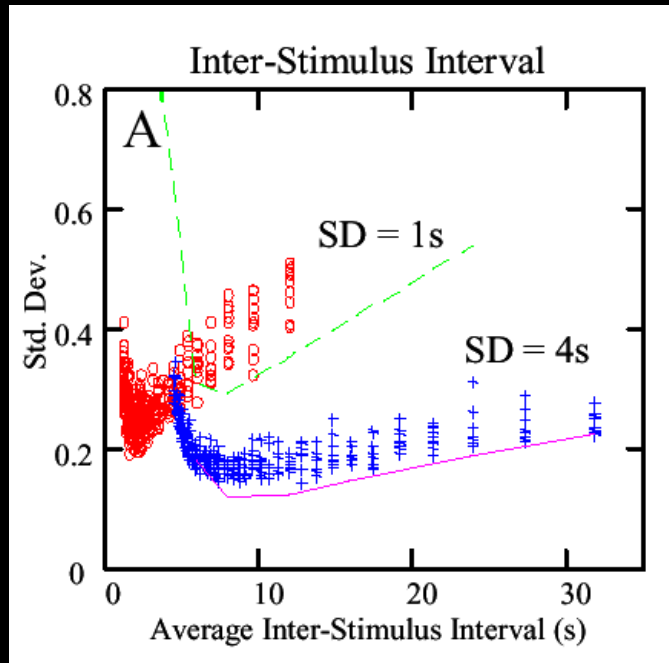
1% Noise  
4% BOLD  
256 time pts /run  
1 second TR



Smallest latency  
Variation Detectable  
(ms) ( $p < 0.001$ )



# Optimal Detection of Hemodynamic Latency



# Hemodynamics

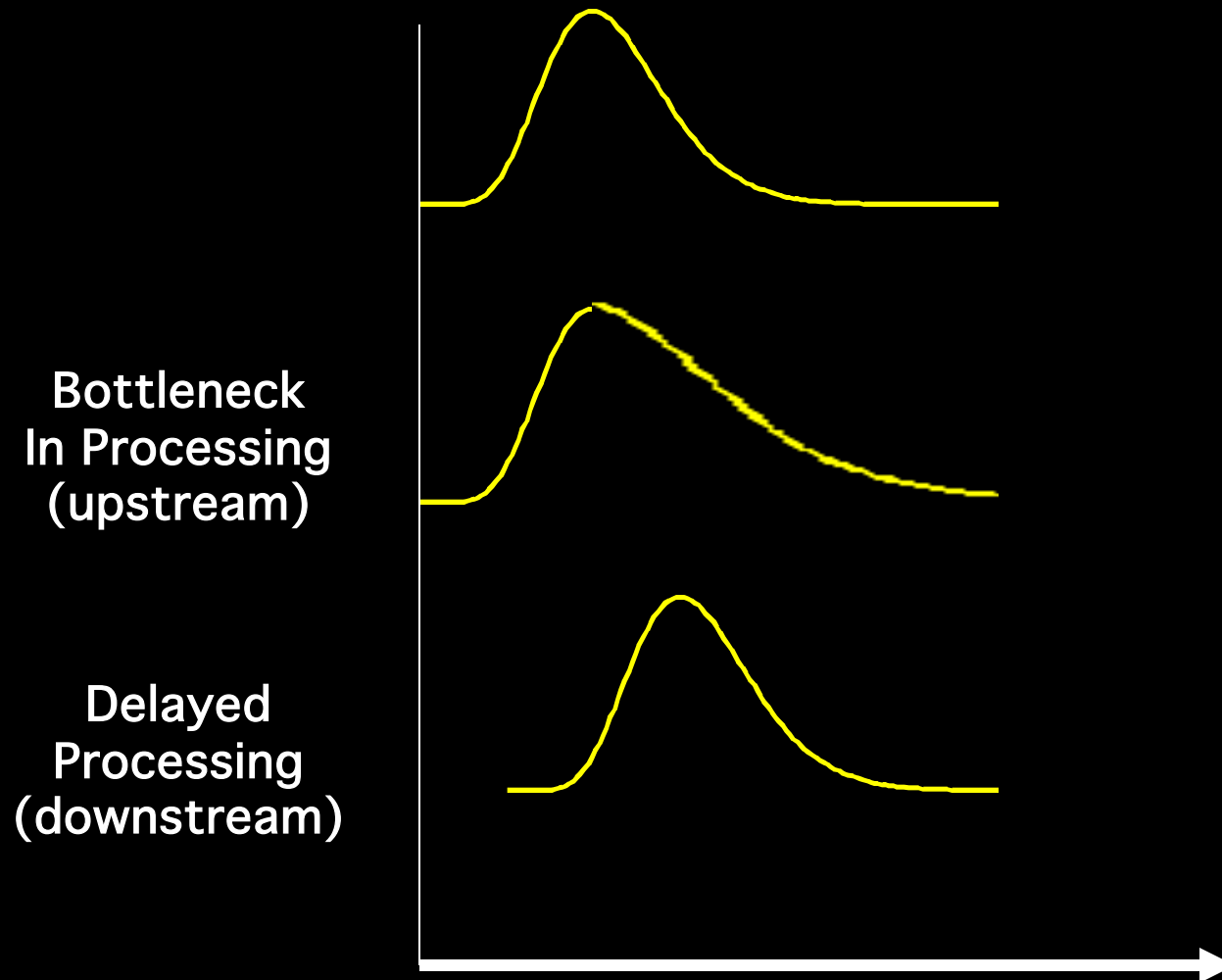
- quick overview
- linearity (steady state)
- linearity (dynamic)
- baseline signal
- latency
- width

# Neuronal Currents

- model
- approaches
  - current phantom*
  - cell cultures*
  - human studies*
- why there is hope



# Hemodynamic Response Modulation



*Our first attempt to apply this strategy..*

P.S.F. Bellgowan, Z. S. Saad, P. A. Bandettini, Understanding neural system dynamics through task modulation and measurement of BOLD amplitude, latency, and width. *Proc. Nat'l. Acad. Sci. USA (in press)*.

# Use of Task Timing Modulation to Extract Processing Streams

**Stimuli** – Six-letter English words and pronounceable non-words.

Each word or non-word was rotated either 0, 60, or 120 degrees

**Task** – Lexical Decision (word / non-word).

**Dependent Measures** – Percent Correct and Reaction Time.

**Hypotheses :**

**1) Stimulus rotation of 120 degrees will result in:**

a) Longer Reaction Times

b) Stimulus rotation demands a change in perceptual perspective prior to linguistic processing, resulting in a delayed IRF onset in areas involved in Lexical and Pre-Lexical processing.

**2) Lexical discrimination will result in :**

a) Longer Reaction Times for non-words due to increased Pre-Lexical processing demands.

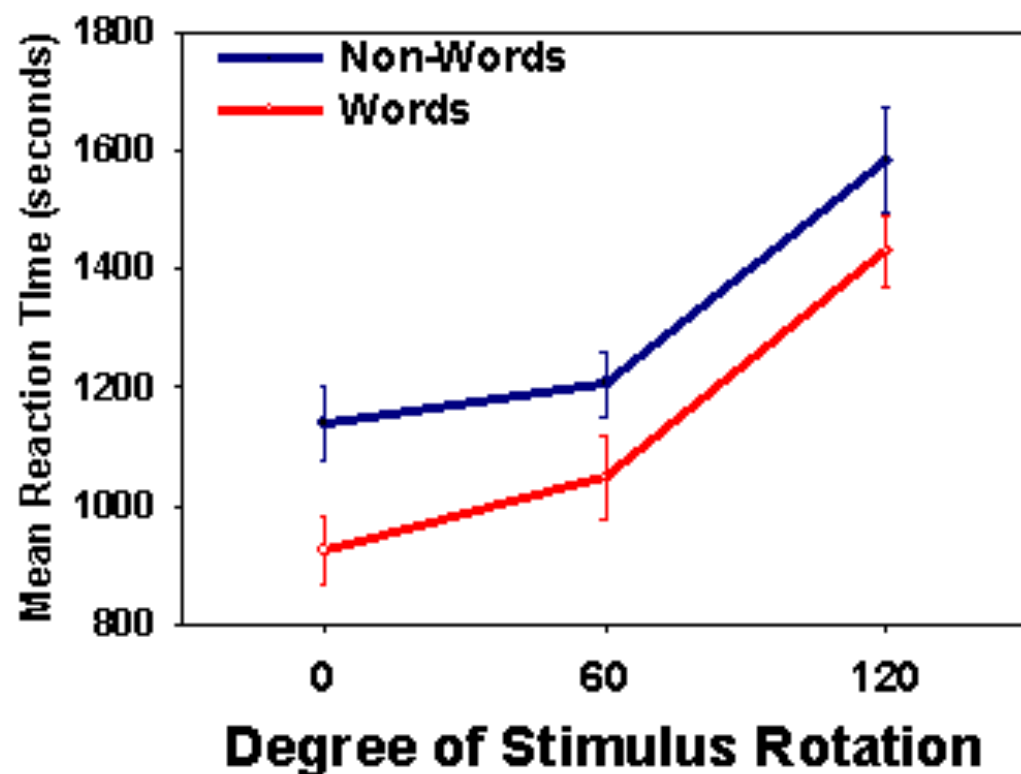
b) Wider IRF in Inferior Frontal cortex for non-words

c) Delayed IRF onset in Left Middle Frontal Cortex

# Lexical Delay

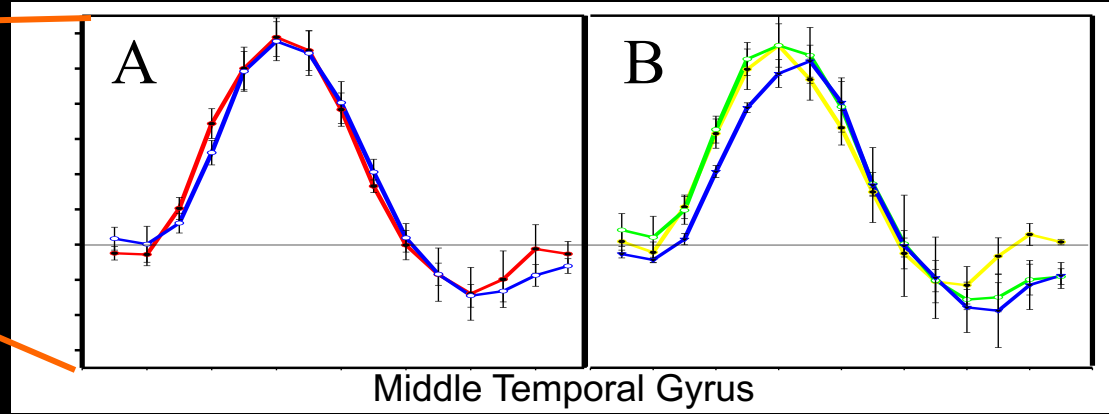
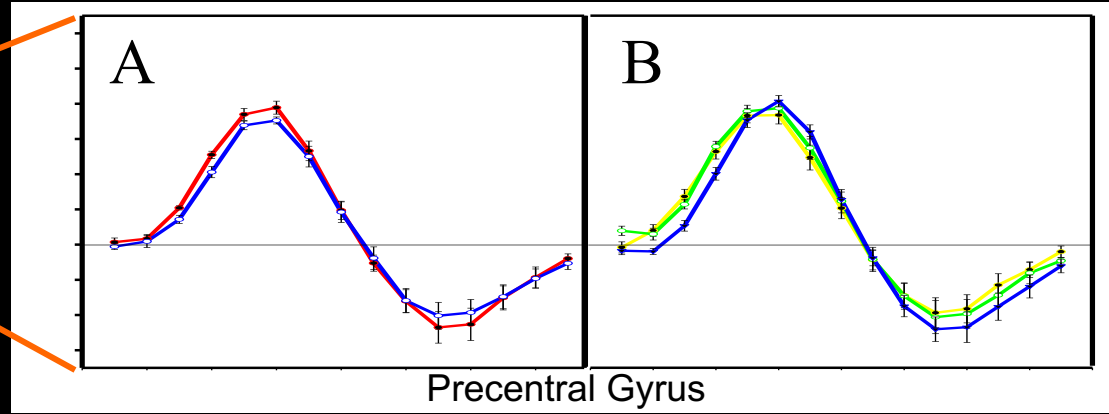
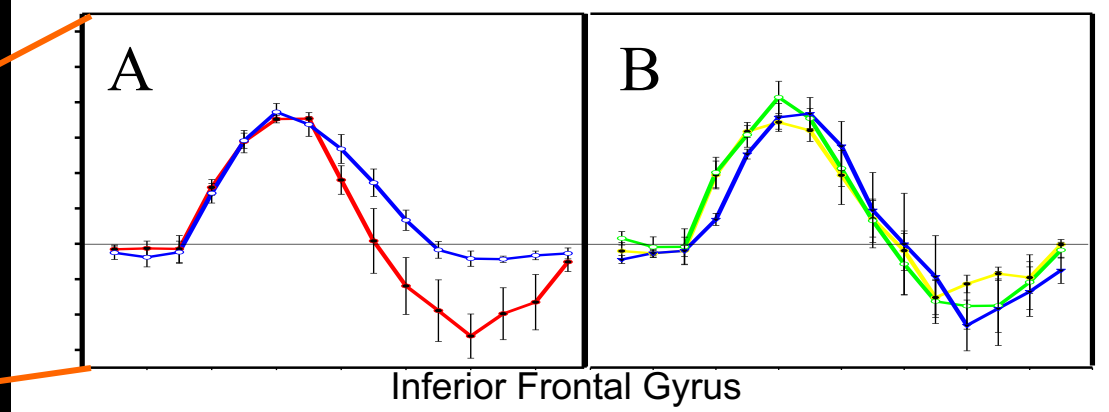
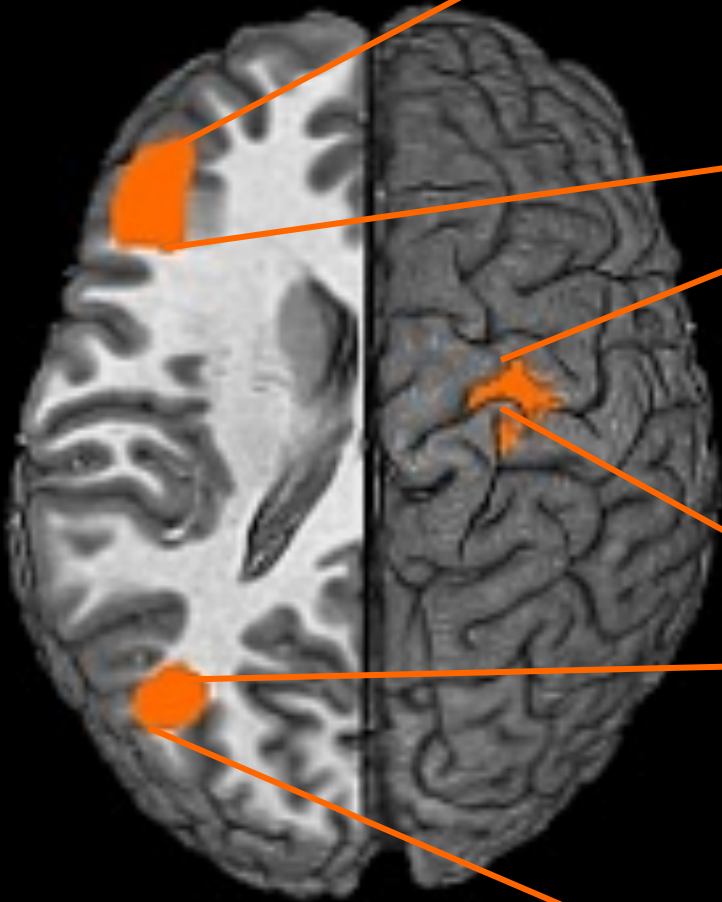
		Words	Non-Words	Mean Reaction Time
Rotational Delay	0°	smudge	dierts	823 ms
	60°	frolic	cuhlos	891 ms
	120°	slouch	gedmus	1446 ms
Mean Reaction Time		986 ms	1219 ms	

Response Times for each Stimulus Type

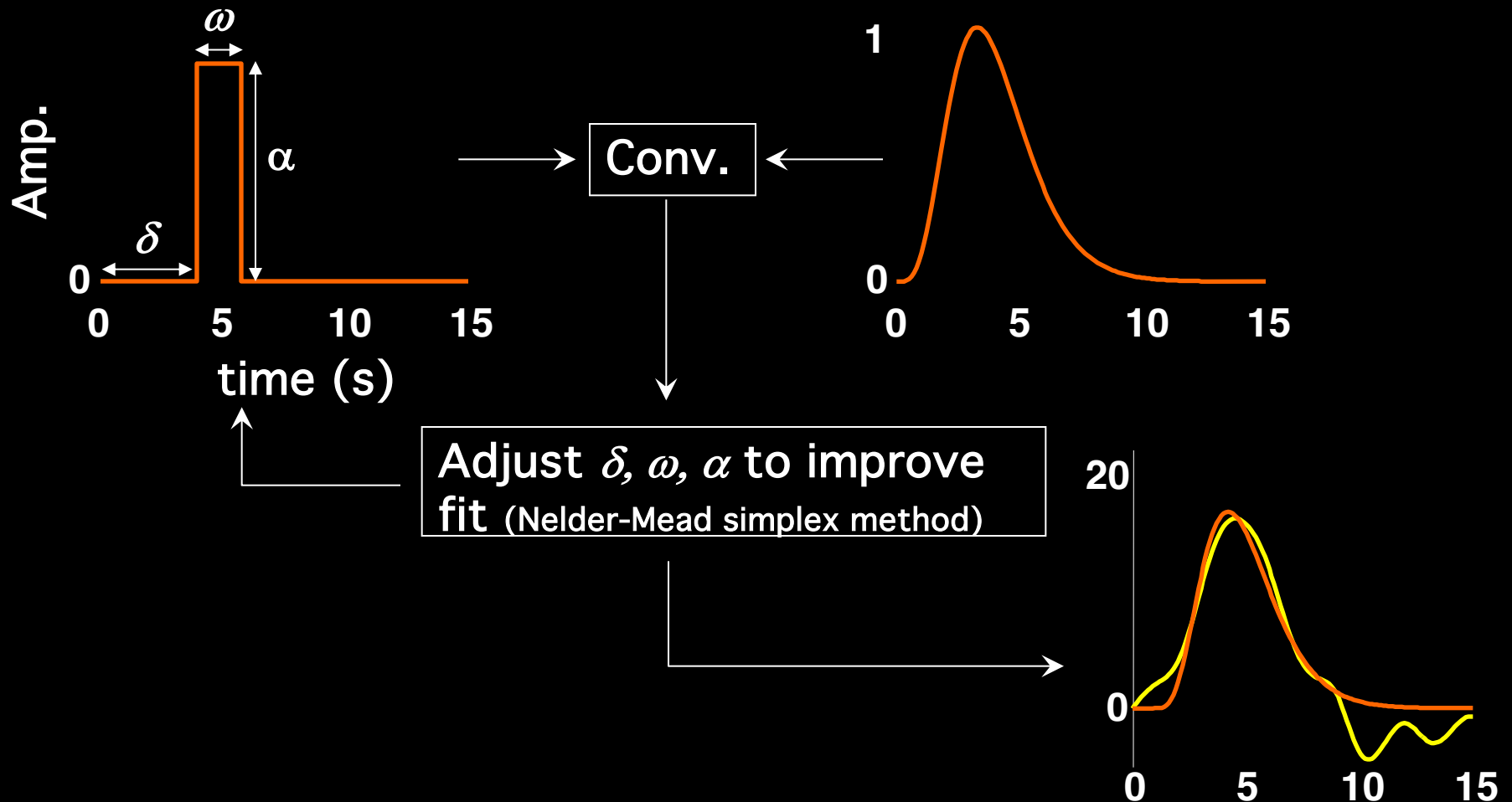


**Word vs. Non-word**    **0°, 60°, 120° Rotation**

**Regions of Interest**

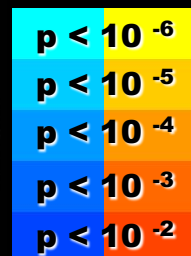
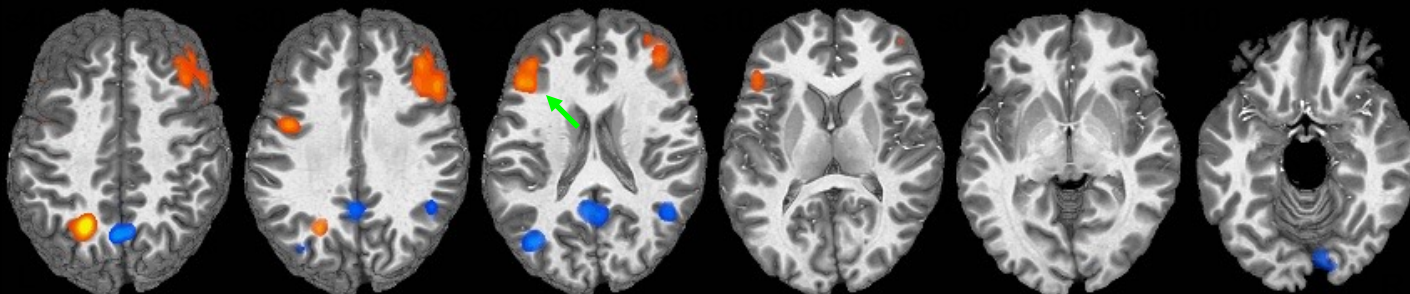


# Estimation of Delay, Width & Amplitude

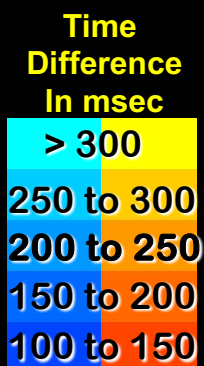
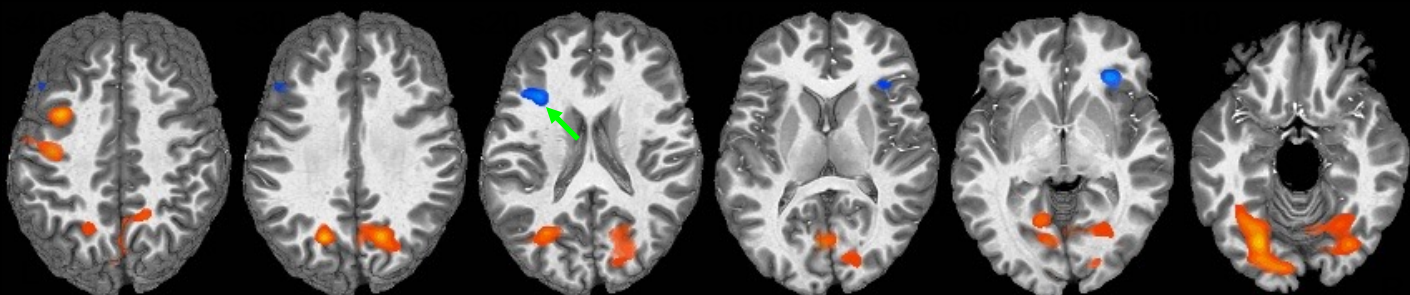


# Lexical effect maps

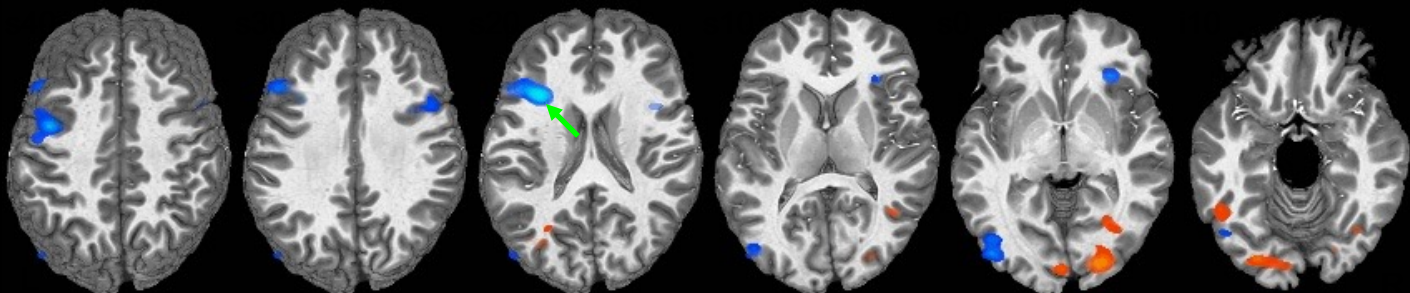
Magnitude



Delay



Width

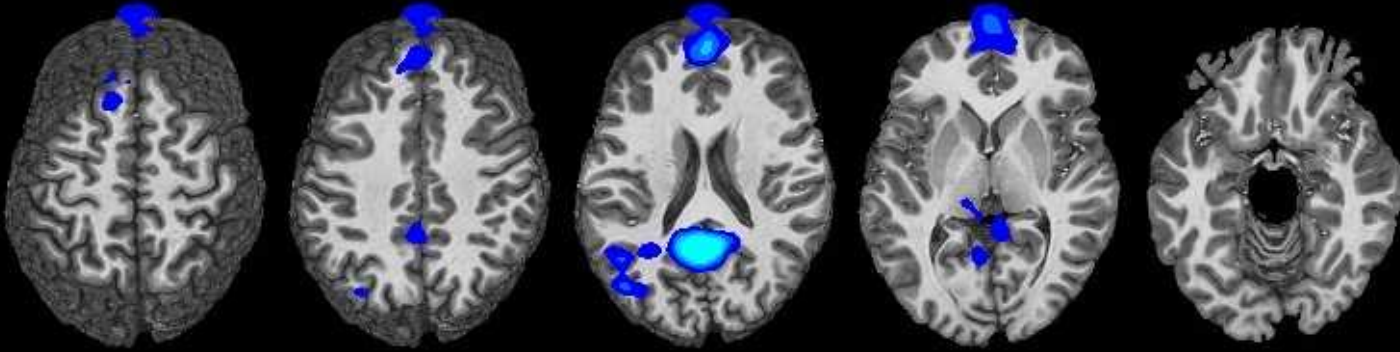


Warm colors are areas where Words > Non-words. Cool colors (blues) are areas Where Non-words > words. The Left hemisphere is toward the left margin. The green arrows highlight the inferior frontal gyrus.



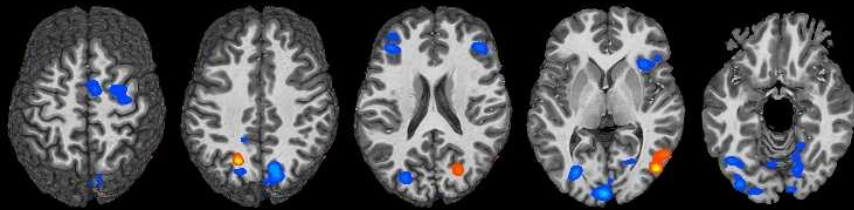
# Rotational effect maps

Magnitude

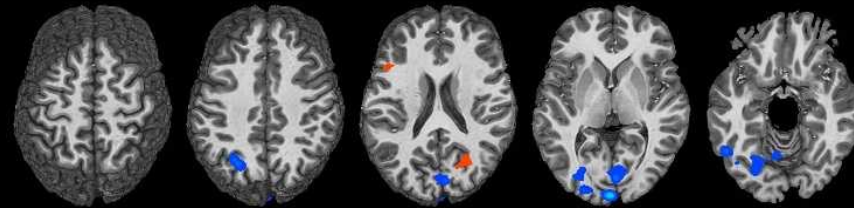


Non-rotated vs. 120° rotated

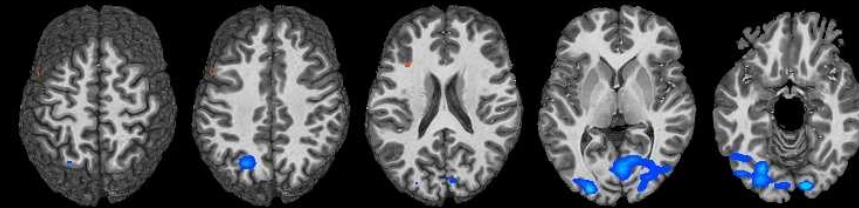
Non-rotated vs. 60° rotated



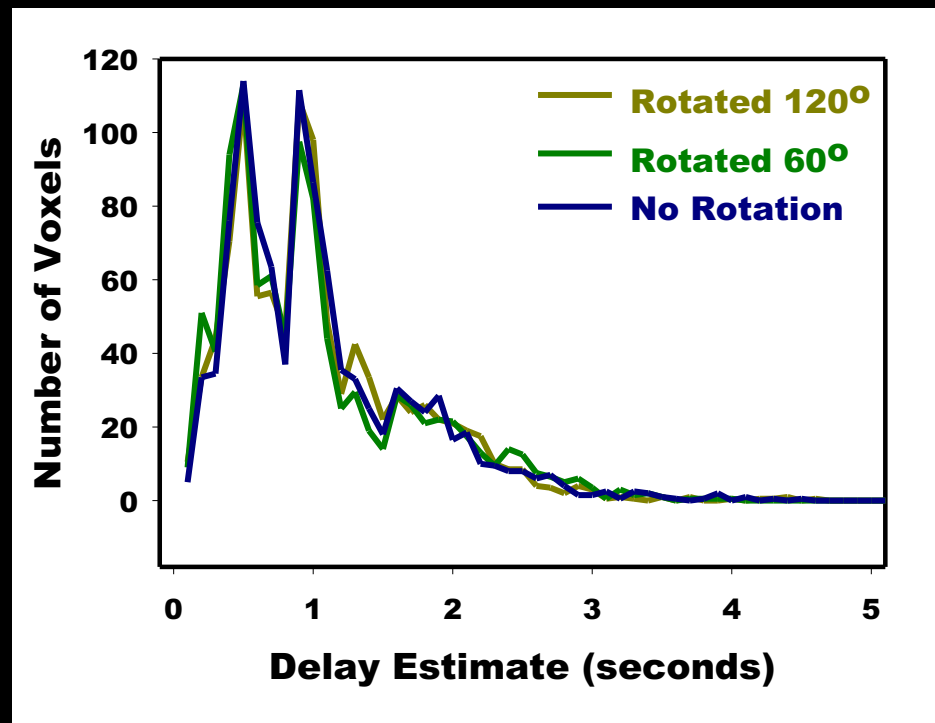
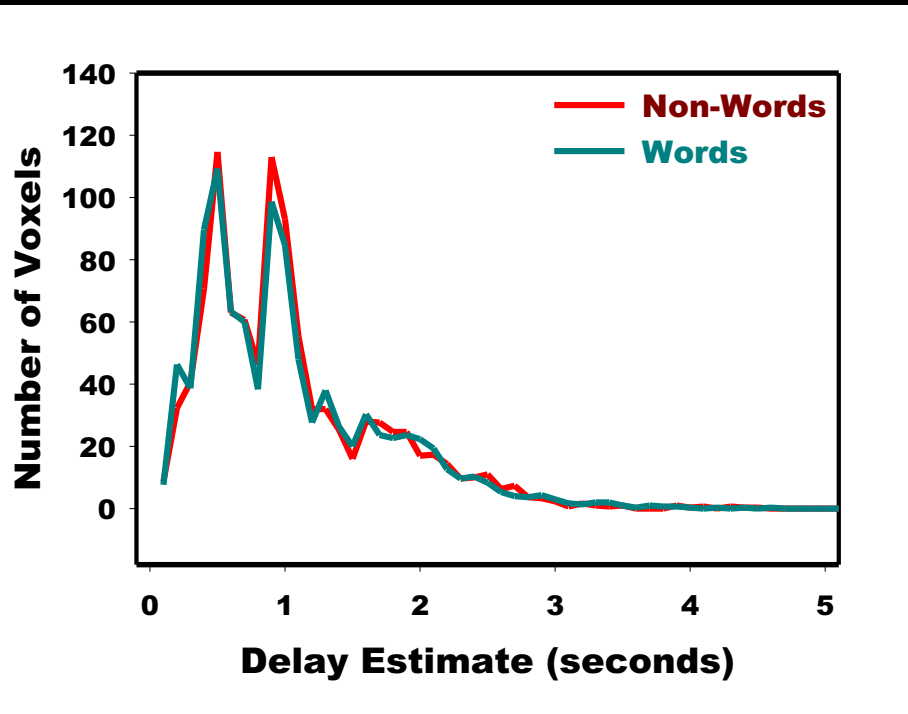
Delay



Width

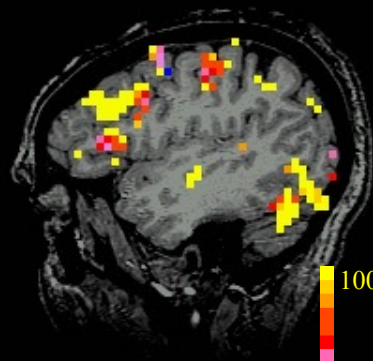


## Distribution of Delay Estimates for Subject BP

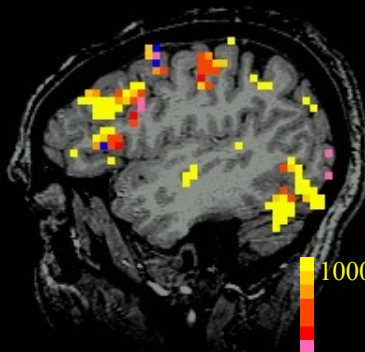


# Delay Maps

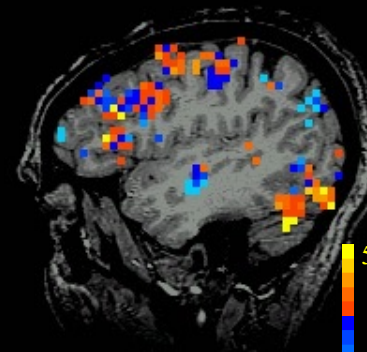
# Delay Difference Map



minus



=

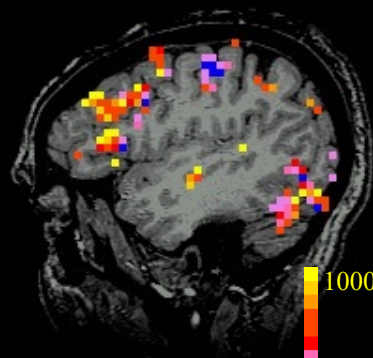


**Not Rotated**

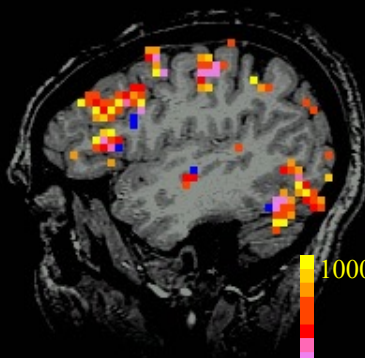
**Rotated 120°**

# Width Maps

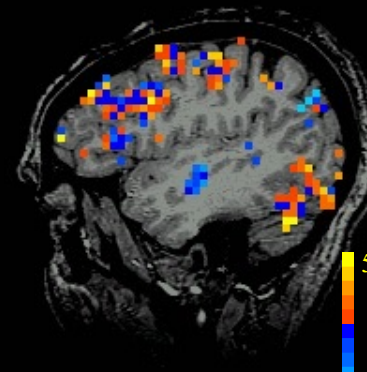
# Width Difference Map



minus



=



# Hemodynamics

- quick overview
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# Neuronal Currents

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- approaches
  - current phantom*
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- why there is hope

**Toward direct mapping of neuronal activity:  
MRI detection of ultra weak and transient  
magnetic field changes.**

**Jerzy Bodurka**

**Natalia Petridou**

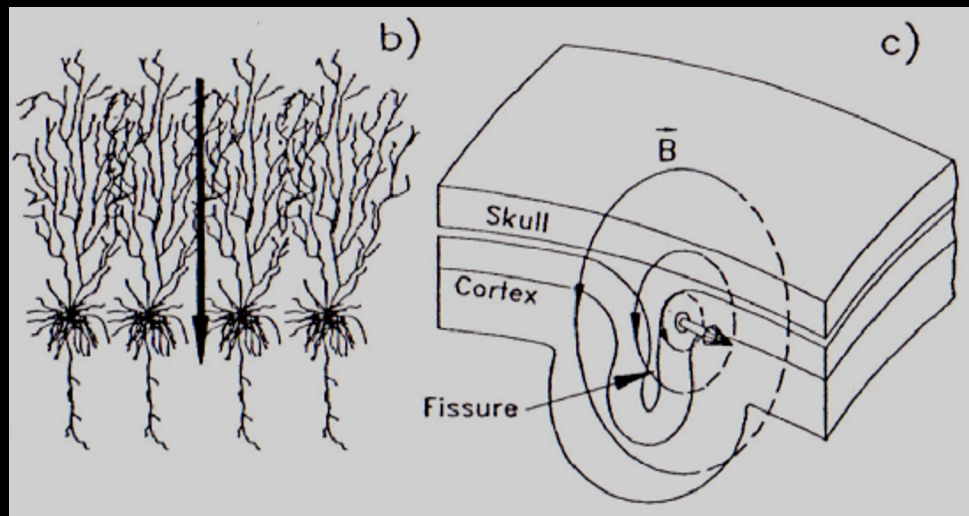
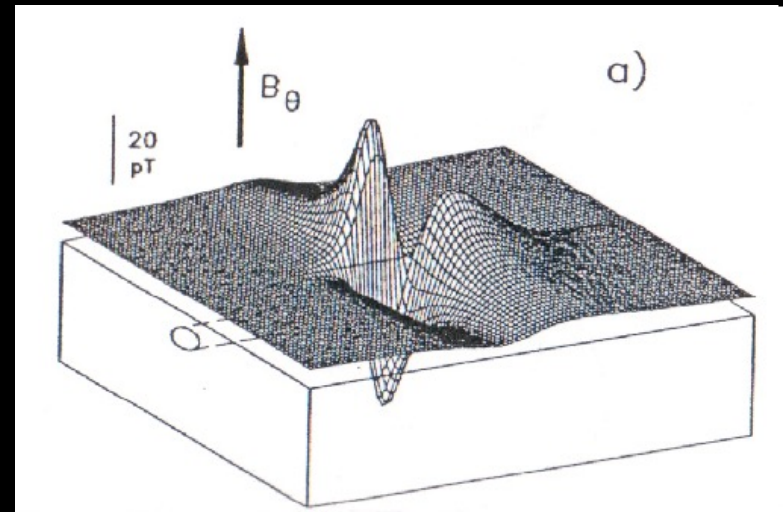
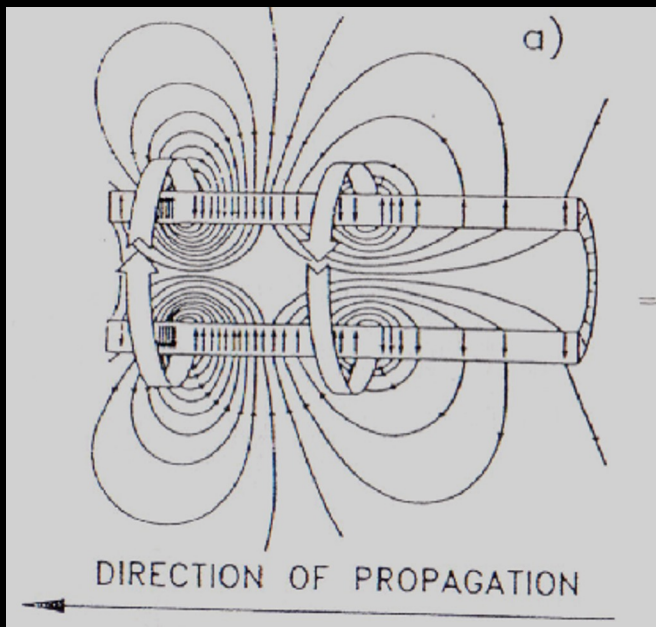
**Peter A. Bandettini**

# Introduction

- Neuronal activity is directly associated with ionic currents.
- These bio-currents induce **spatially distributed and transient** magnetic flux density ( $B_c$ ) changes and magnetic field gradients ( $dB_c/dr$ ).
- In the context of MRI, these currents therefore alter **the magnetic phase** ( $\Delta\phi$ ) of surrounding water protons.

# Introduction

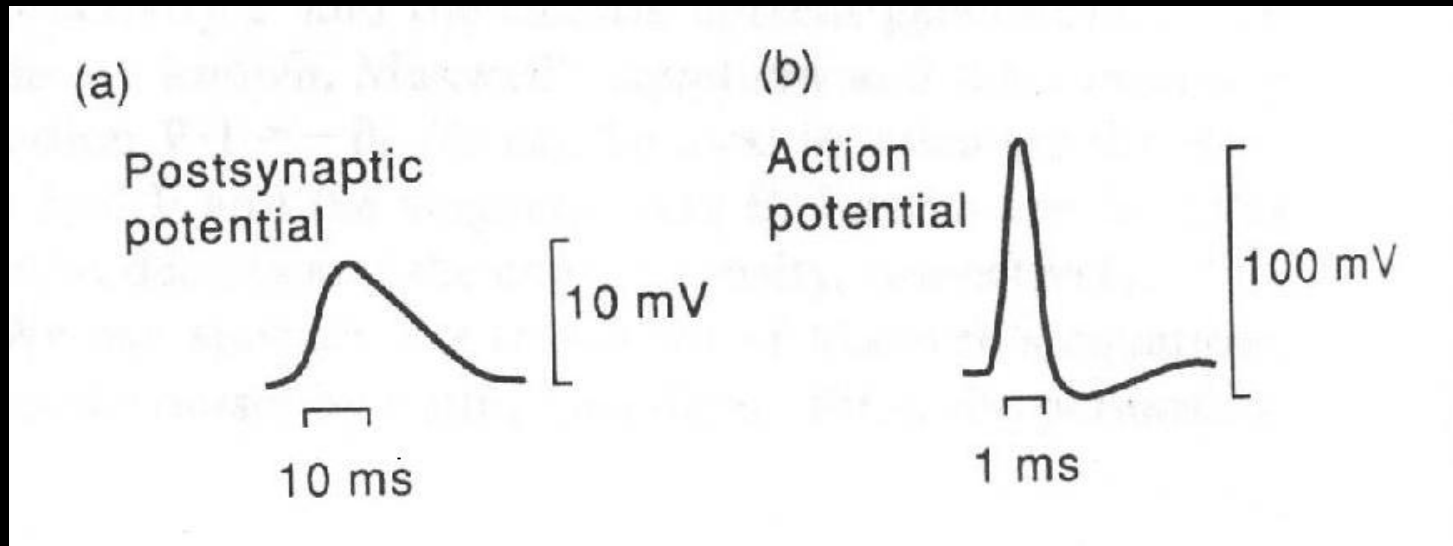
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J.P. Wikswo Jr et al. *J Clin Neurophys* 8(2): 170-188, 1991



Synchronous activity among large neuronal populations produce **small transient** magnetic field changes which are typically detected on the scalp with Magnetoencephalography (MEG).



Schematic representation of (a) a postsynaptic potential and (b) an action potential as a function of time.

The post synaptic potential lasts for 10ms or more, allowing integration of individual fields to create

MEG detectable > **100 fT field on surface of skull**

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# Derivation of B field generated in an MRI

## voxel by a current dipole

Single dendritic tree having a diameter  $d$ , and length  $L$  behaves like a conductor with conductivity  $\sigma$ . Resistance is  $R=V/I$ , where  $R=4L/(\pi d^2 \sigma)$ . From Biot-Savart:

$$\mathbf{B} = \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi} \frac{\mathbf{Q}}{r^2} = \frac{\mu_0}{16} \frac{d^2 \sigma V}{r^2}$$

by substituting  $d = 4\mu\text{m}$ ,  $\sigma \approx 0.25 \Omega^{-1} \text{m}^{-1}$ ,  $V = 10\text{mV}$  and

$r = 4\text{cm}$  ( measurement distance when using MEG) the resulting value is:  **$B \approx 0.002 \text{ fT}$**

Because  **$B_{\text{MEG}} = 100 \text{ fT}$**  (or more) is measured by MEG on the scalp, a large number of neurons, ( $0.002 \text{ fT} \times 50,000 = 100 \text{ fT}$ ), must coherently act to generate such field. These bundles of neurons produce, within a typical voxel,  $1 \text{ mm} \times 1 \text{ mm} \times 1 \text{ mm}$ , a field of order:

$$B_{\text{MRI}} = B_{\text{MEG}} \left( \frac{r_{\text{MEG}}}{r_{\text{MRI}}} \right)^2 = B_{\text{MEG}} \left( \frac{4 \text{ cm}}{0.1 \text{ cm}} \right)^2 = 1600 B_{\text{MEG}}$$

$$\mathbf{B}_{\text{MRI}} \approx 0.2 \text{ nT}$$

**Can MRI Detect transient  $B_0$  changes  
On the order of 0.2 nT?**

# Introduction

- Neuronal activity is directly associated with ionic currents.
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- In the context of MRI, these currents therefore alter **the magnetic phase** ( $\Delta\phi$ ) of surrounding water protons.

Frequency shift associated with 0.2 nT field shift = 0.01 Hz.  
At TE = 30 ms,  $\Delta\phi = 0.09$  deg.

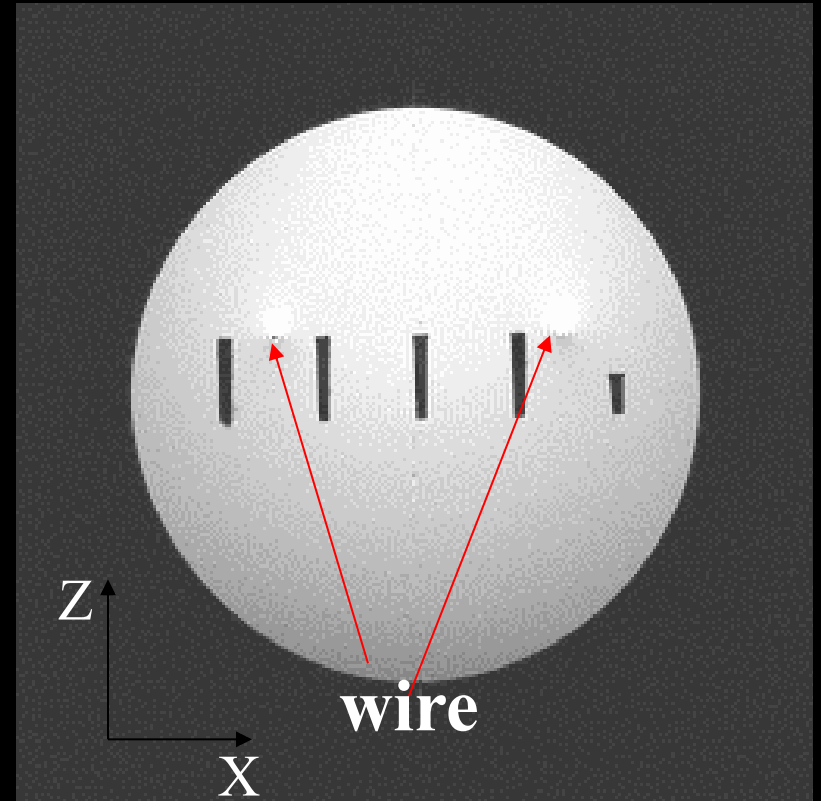
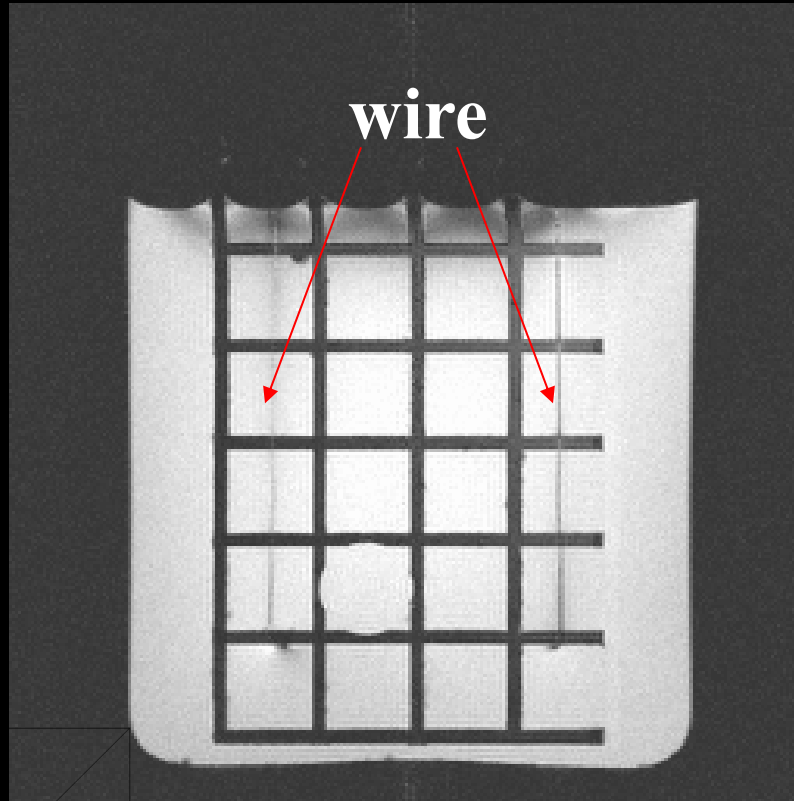
# Hemodynamics

- quick overview
- linearity (steady state)
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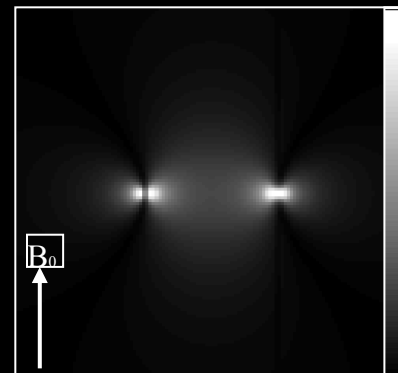
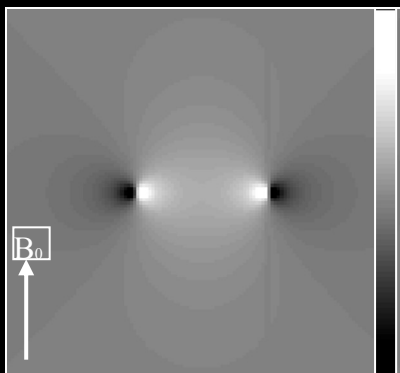
# Neuronal Currents

- model
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# Current Phantom Experiment



## Simulation

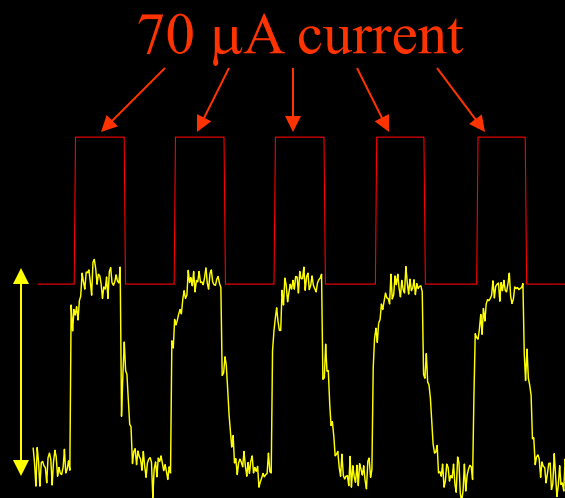


$$\Delta\phi \cong 20^\circ$$

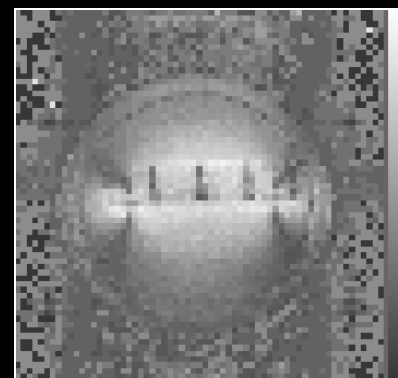
## Measurement



Correlation image

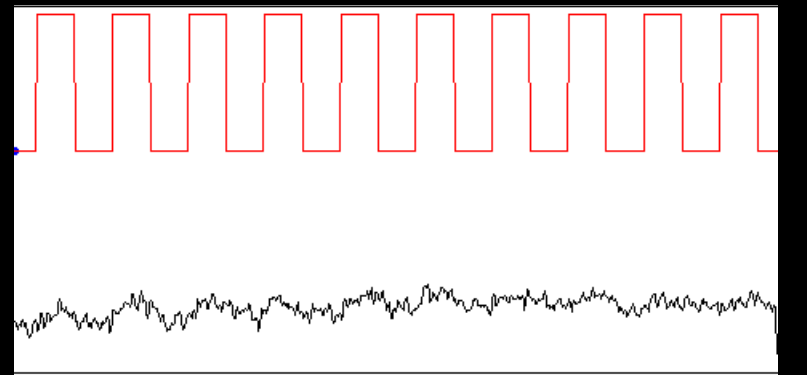
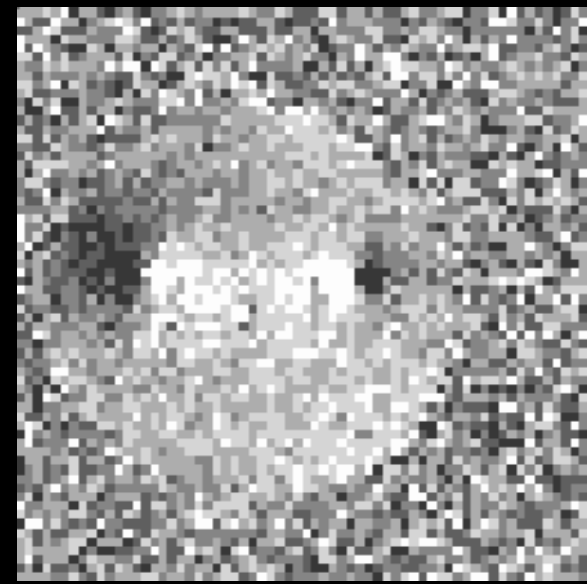


Single shot GE EPI



Spectral image





100 s time (s)

Single shot GE EPI,  
 TR=54ms, TE=27ms,  
 FOV=12cm, 64x64

$$\Delta B = \Delta\phi / (\gamma TE)$$

*SD of phase noise was  $\sigma_\phi = 0.016$  rad*

$$\Delta B_\phi = 2.2 \text{ nT}$$

*Sensitivity:*

$$\Delta B = (1.7 \pm 0.3) \text{ nT}$$

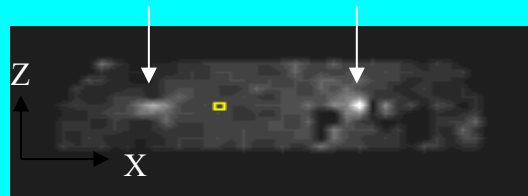
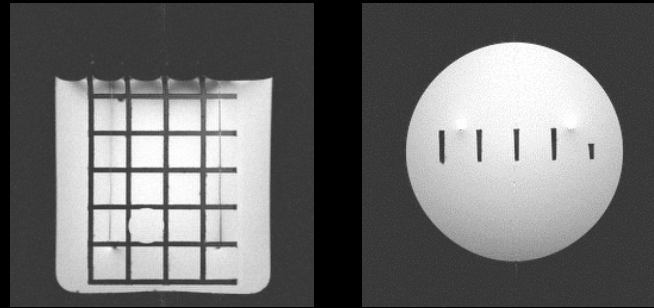
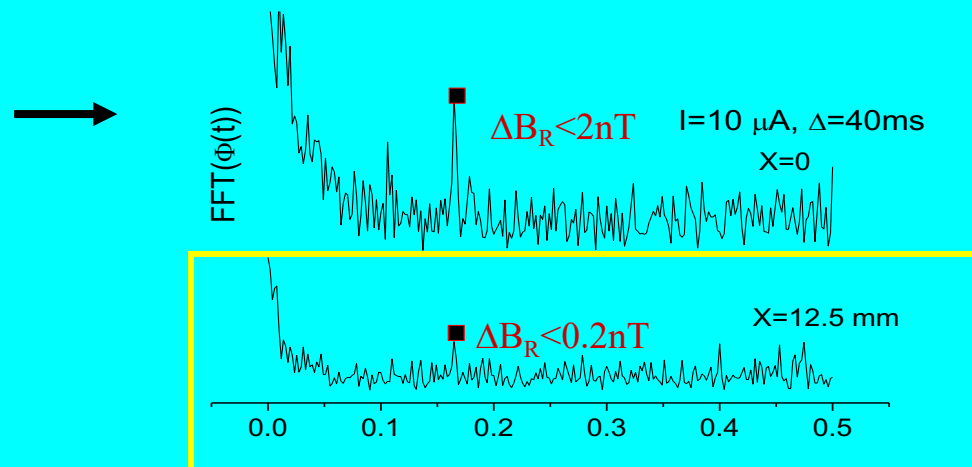


Figure 1



J. Bodurka, P. A. Bandettini. Toward direct mapping of neuronal activity: MRI detection of ultra weak transient magnetic field changes, *Magn. Reson. Med.* 47: 1052-1058, (2002).

## Conclusions of phantom studies:

While many unknowns about neuronal-induced current magnitudes and spatial scales remain, the combination of a SE EPI sequence with precisely synchronized stimulation protocol optimizes the ability to detect small and transient magnetic field changes.

Transient or periodic flux density changes as small as 200 pT can be detected using MRI.

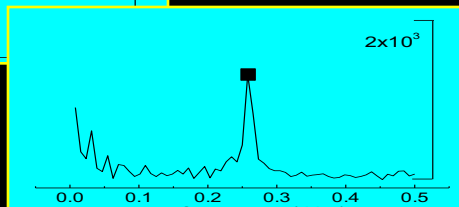
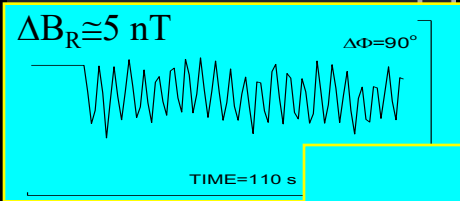
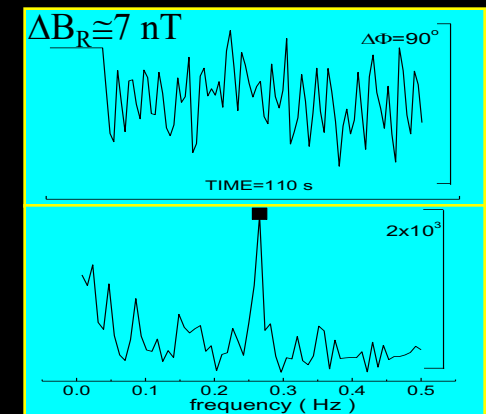
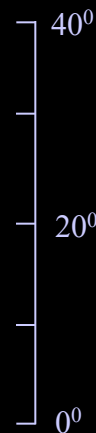
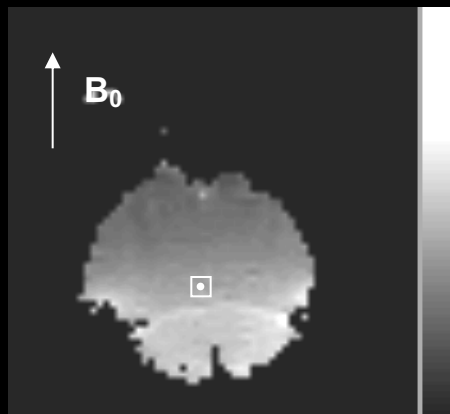
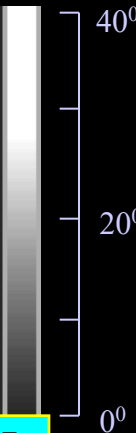
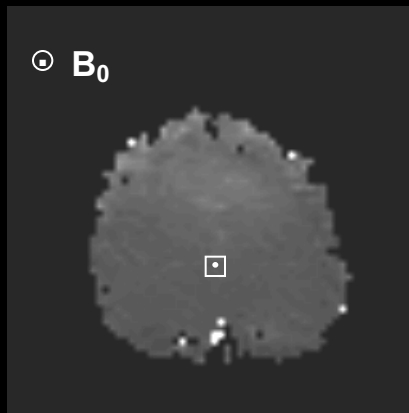
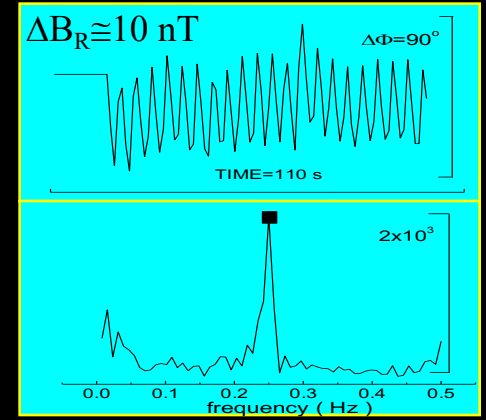
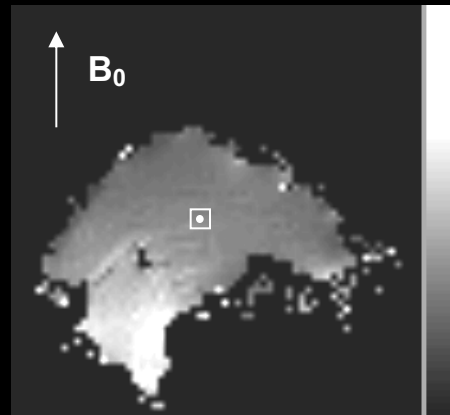
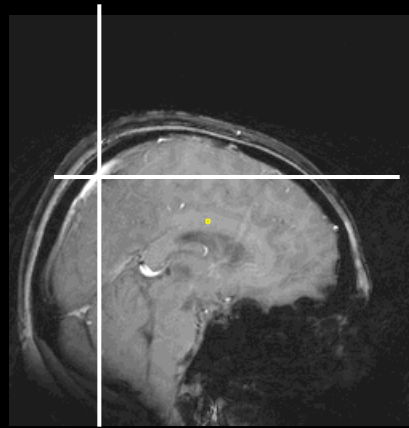
# Optimization of Phase Detection

1. Increase image S/N
2. Reduce Temporal Phase Noise
3. Selectively tune sequence to frequency of NMR phase change

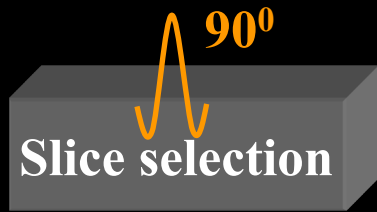
# Sources of Phase Noise

- Respiration (chest wall movement)
- cardiac pulsation
- eye movement
- system instabilities (including eddy currents)

# Experiment (human respiration)



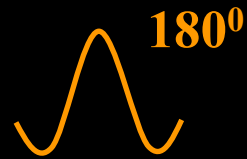
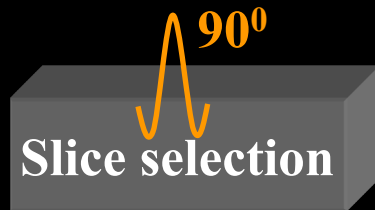
**GE**



**Spatial encoding**



**SE**



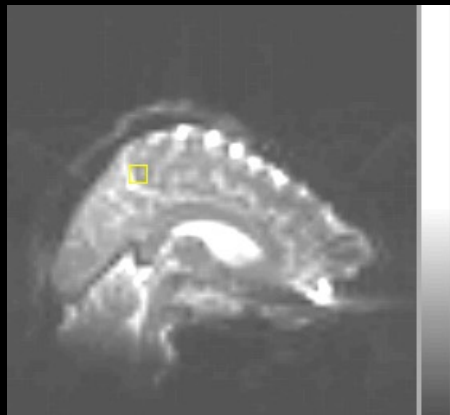
**Spatial encoding**



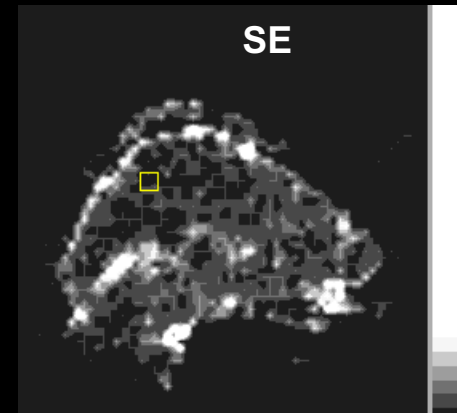
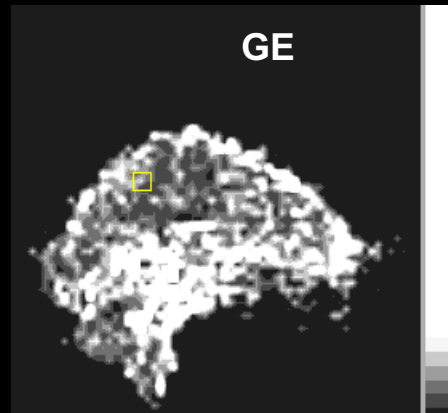
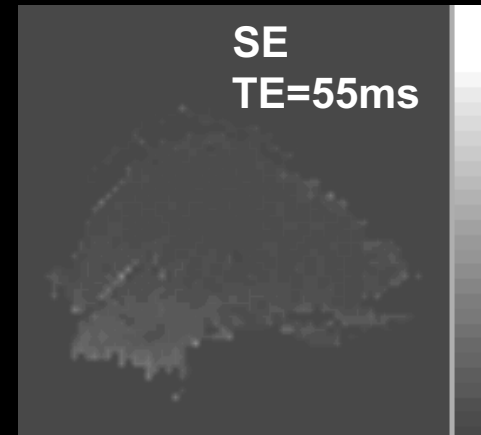
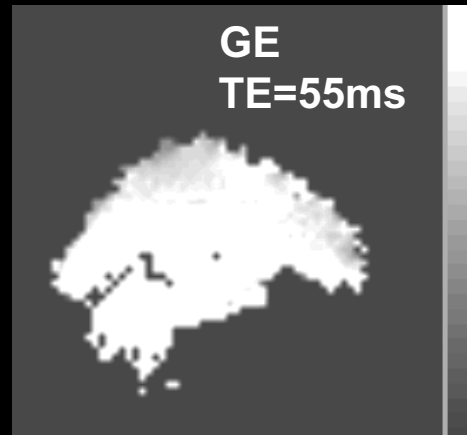
# Experiment (human respiration)

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## Spectral images

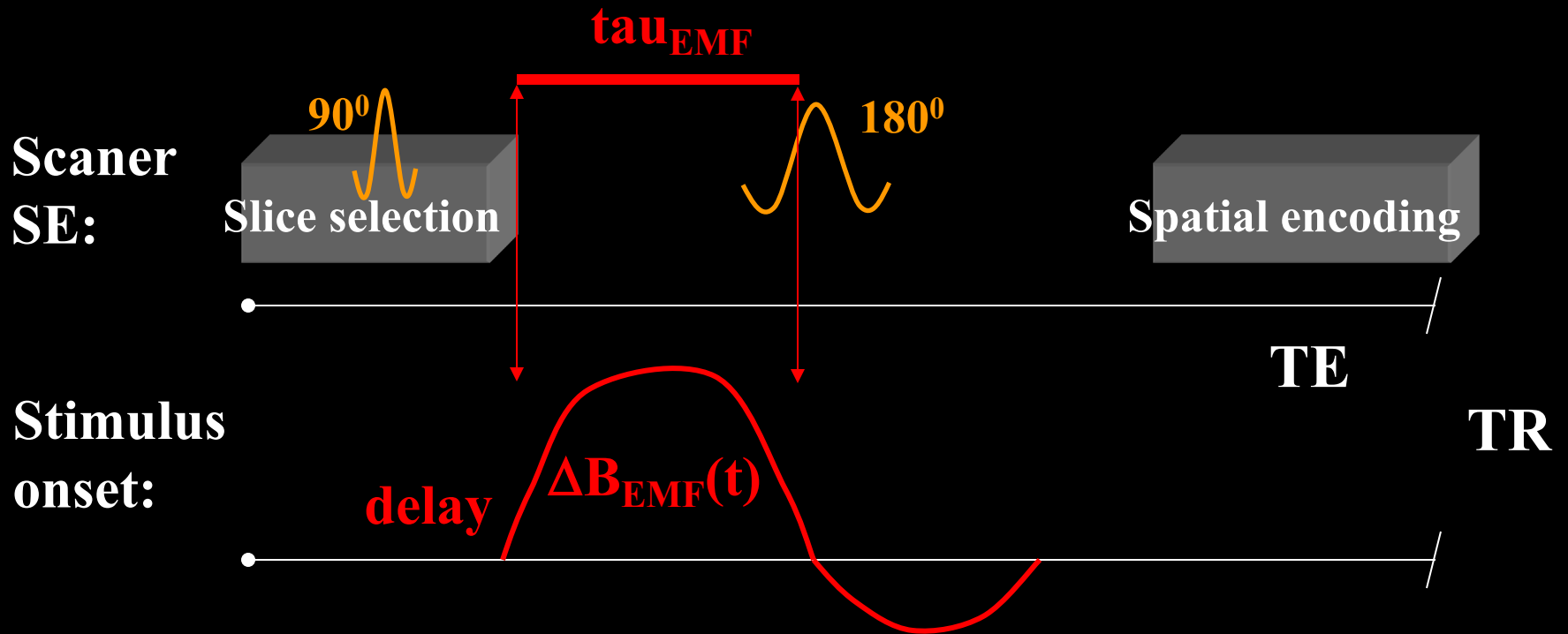


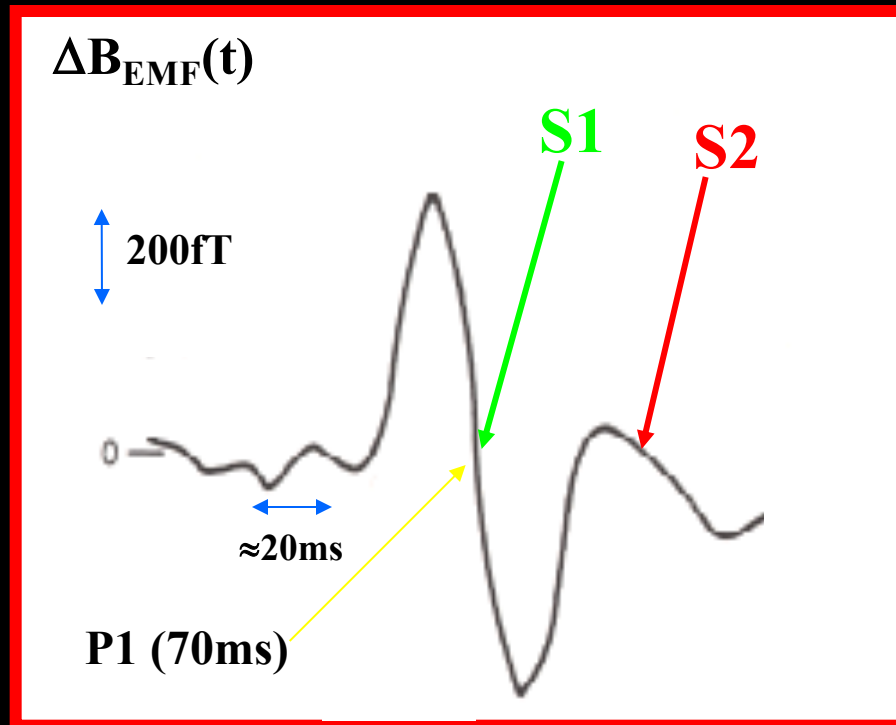
**TR = 1.0 sec**





# Spin-echo sequence advantages:





**S1:** Optimal temporal position for 180 pulse;  
net phase shift induce by EMF > 0

**S1:** For this 180 pulse temporal position net  
phase shift induce by EMF is close to zero

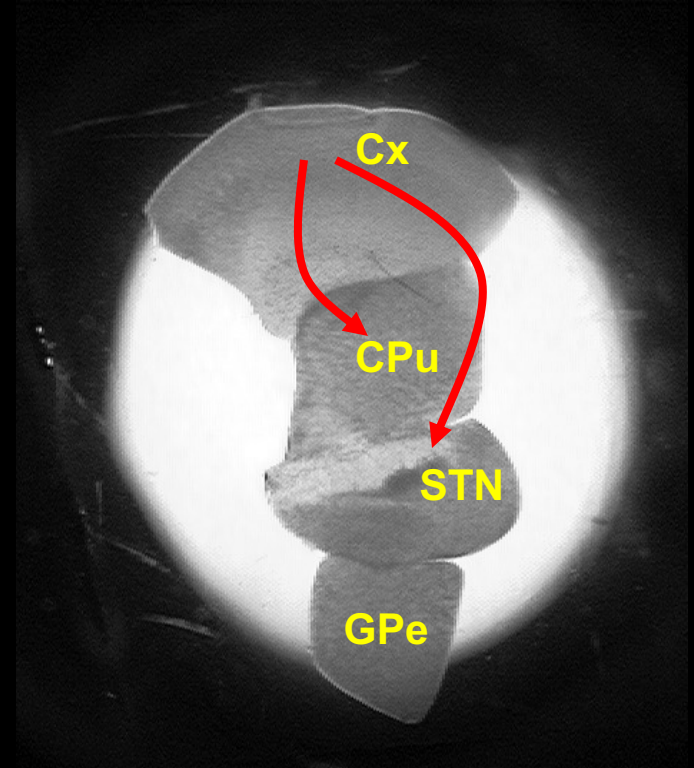
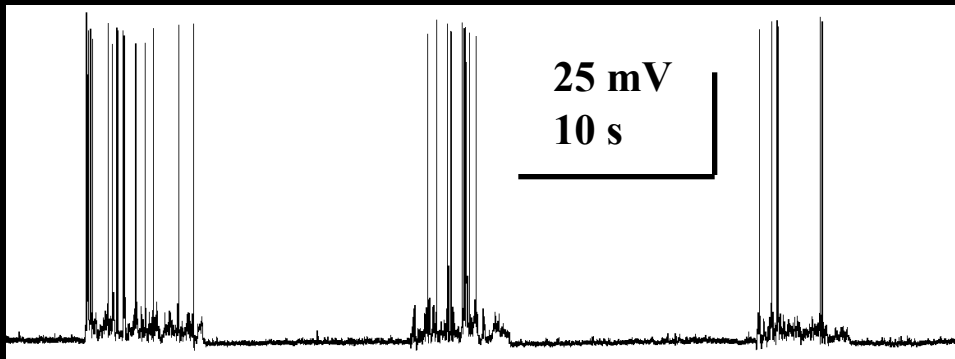
# detection of neuronal currents in vitro

---

## physiological model

### *Tissue Cultures*

- Coronal sections of newborn-rat brains (in-plane:  $0.3-1\text{mm}^2$  thickness:  $\sim 60\mu\text{m}$ )



# detection of neuronal currents in vitro

---

## methods

### *Setup*

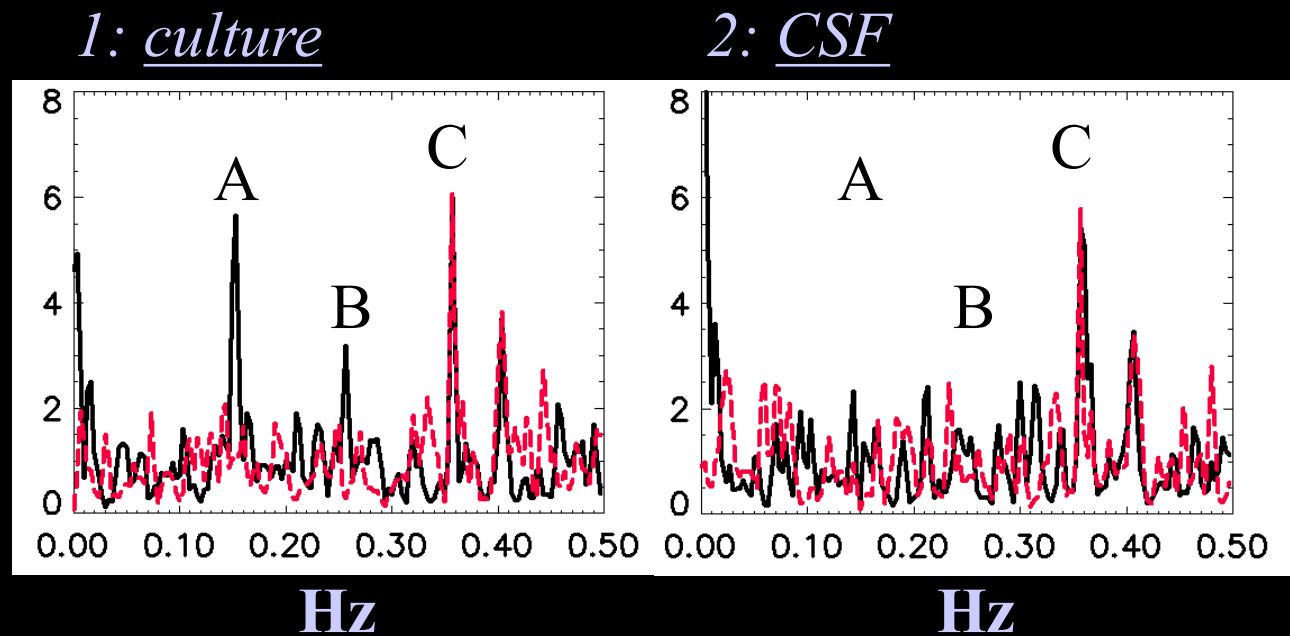
- 10cm diameter CSF-filled glass container
- 3T GE scanner (Milwaukee, WI)
- 10” surface coil (Nova Medical Inc)

### *Imaging*

- FSE structural images (256x256)
- SE EPI single shot, TE: 60ms, TR:1s, flip angle: 90<sup>0</sup>,  
FOV: 18cm, 64x64, 4 slices (3mm). Images: 1200 (20 min)
  - Active: 10 min activity
  - Inactive: 10 min after TTX administration

# detection of neuronal currents in vitro

## results



Active state: black line, Inactive state: red line

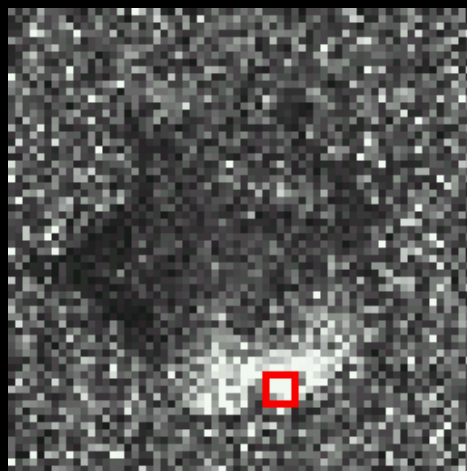
A: activity, on-off frequency (appx. 7 sec)

B: activity

C: scanner noise (cooling-pump)

# Preliminary Human Studies

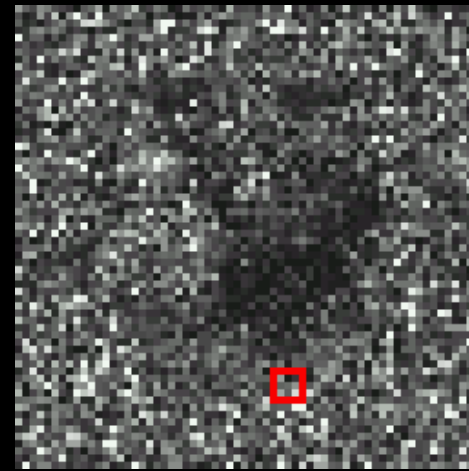
Closed



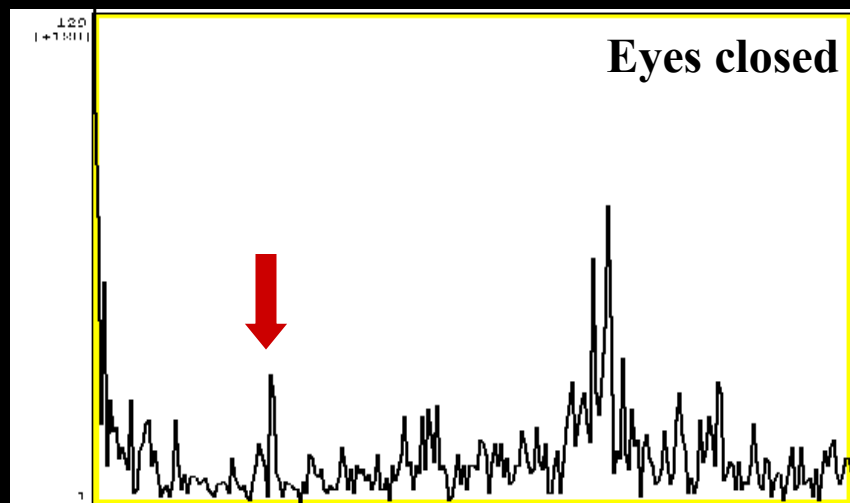
Phase  $\nu=0.12\text{Hz}$



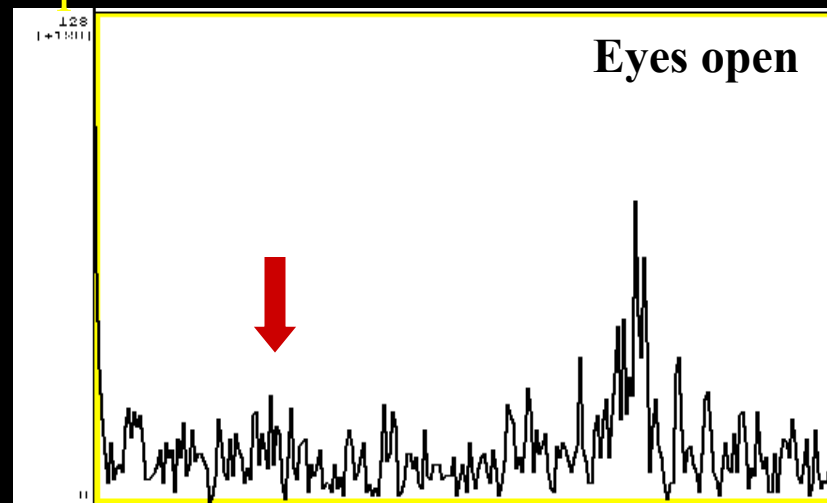
Open



Power spectra

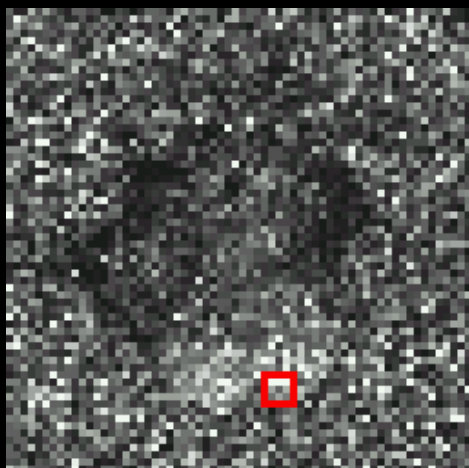


0.5 Hz

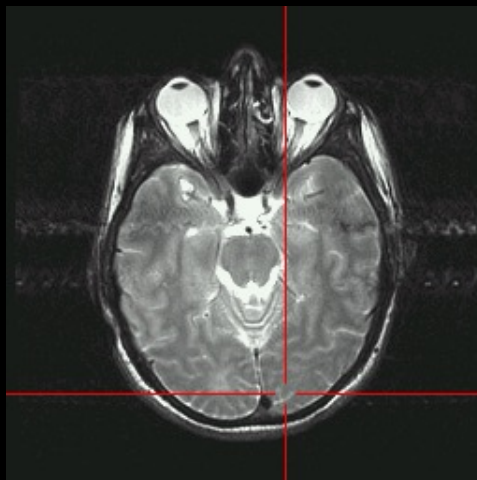


0.5 Hz

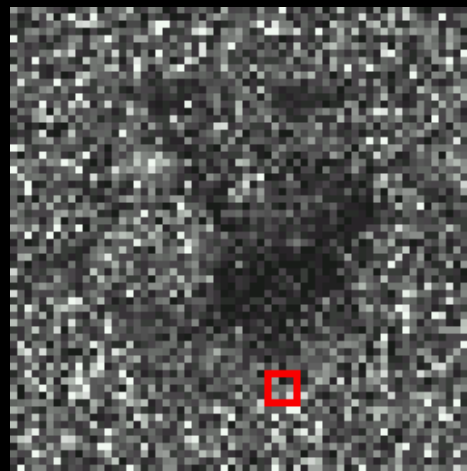
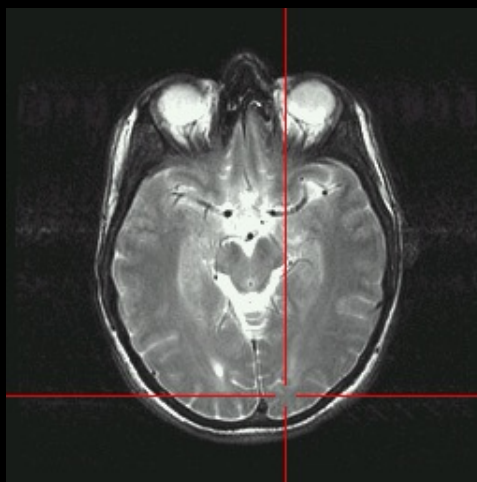
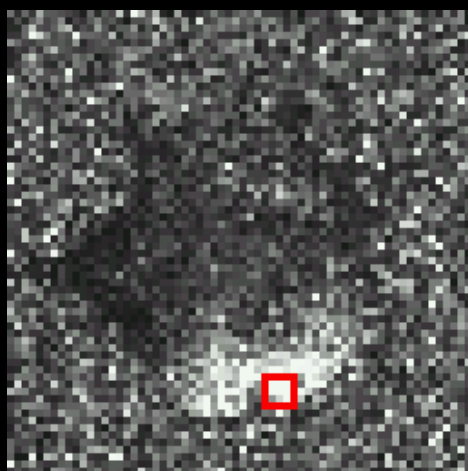
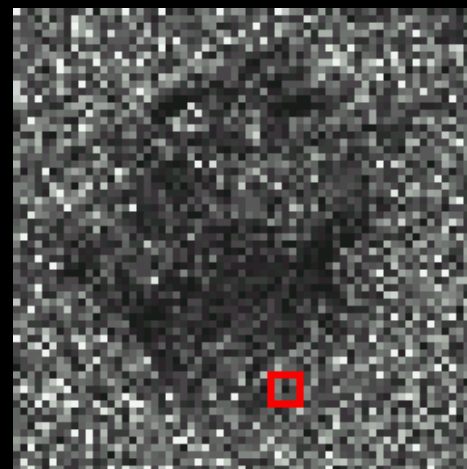
Closed



Phase  $\nu=0.12\text{Hz}$

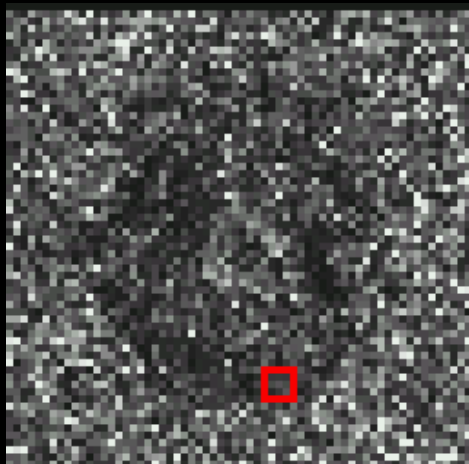


Open

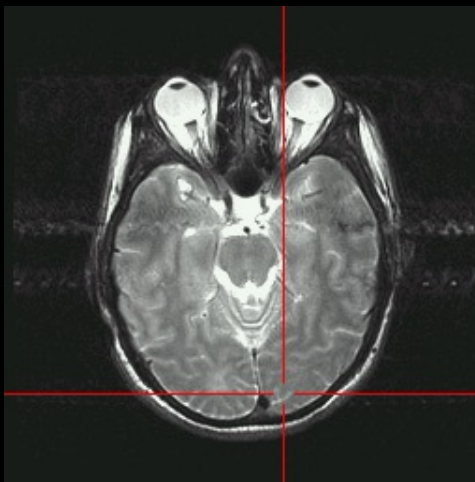




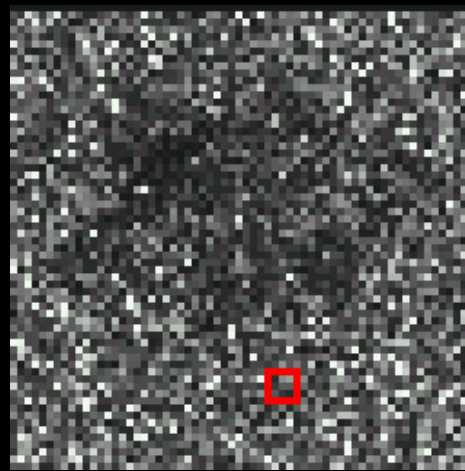
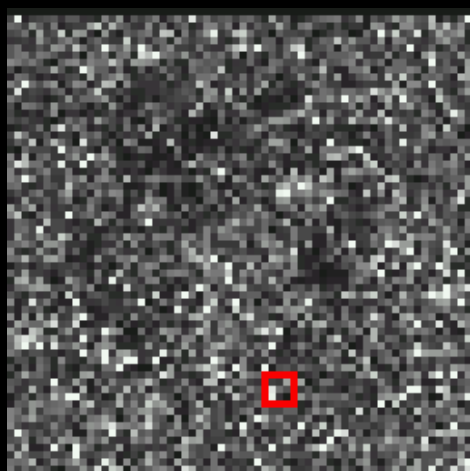
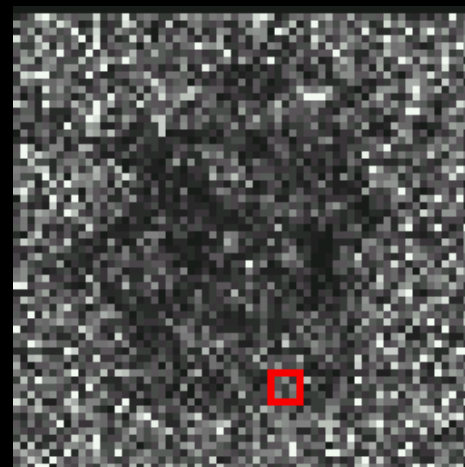
Closed



Magnitude  $v=0.12\text{Hz}$



Open

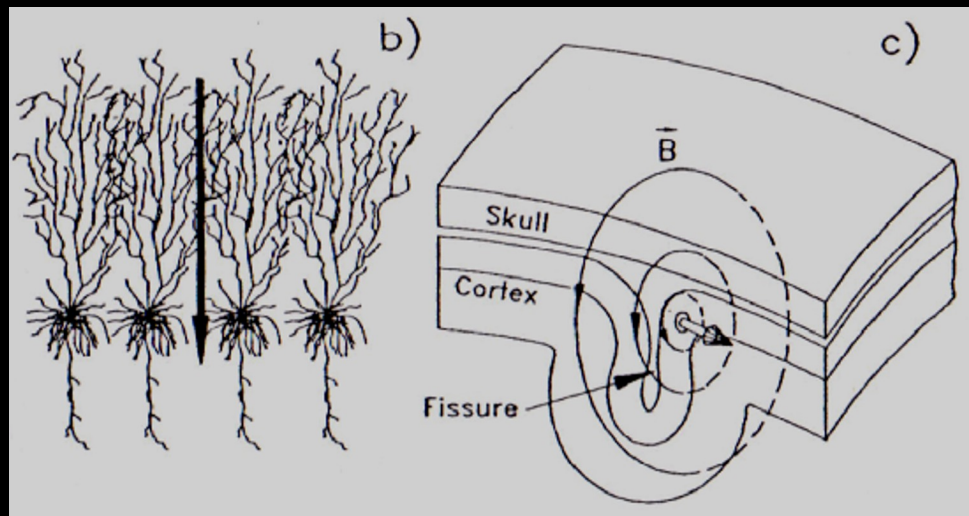
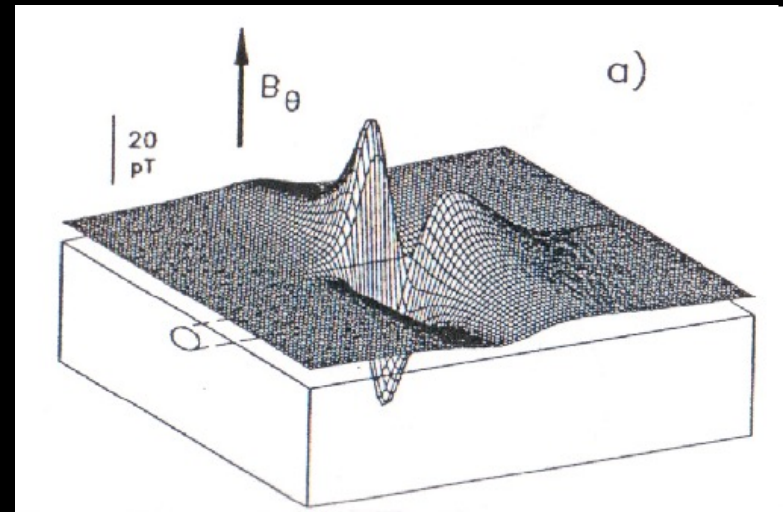
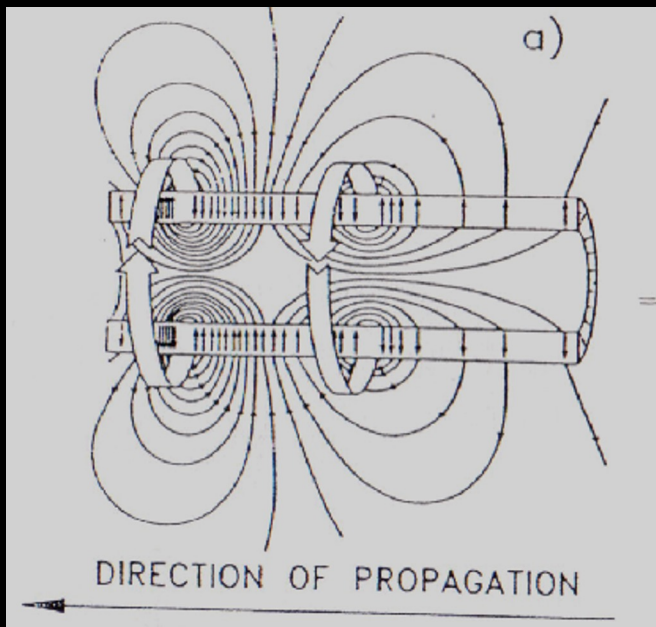


# Hemodynamics

- quick overview
- linearity (steady state)
- linearity (dynamic)
- baseline signal
- latency
- width

# Neuronal Currents

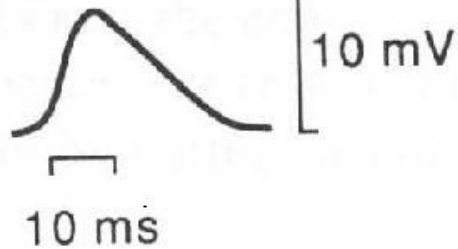
- model
- approaches
  - current phantom*
  - cell cultures*
  - human studies*
- why there is hope



**J.P. Wikswo Jr et al. *J Clin Neurophys* 8(2): 170-188, 1991**

(a)

Postsynaptic potential



(b)

Action potential

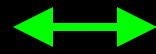


Schematic representation of (a) a postsynaptic potential and (b) an action potential as a function of time.

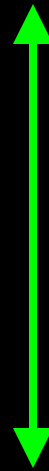
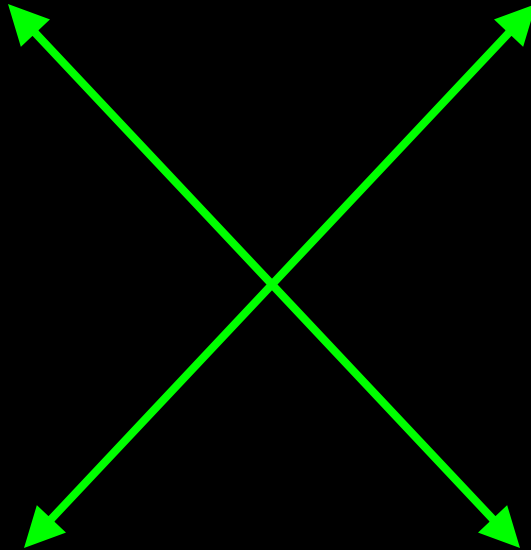
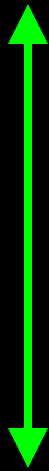
The post synaptic potential lasts for 10ms or more, allowing integration of individual fields to create

MEG detectable > 100 fT field on surface of skull

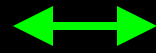
**Technology**



**Methodology**



**Interpretation**



**Applications**

**Technology**

**Methodology**

**Engineers**

**Statisticians**

**Physicists**

**Mathematicians**

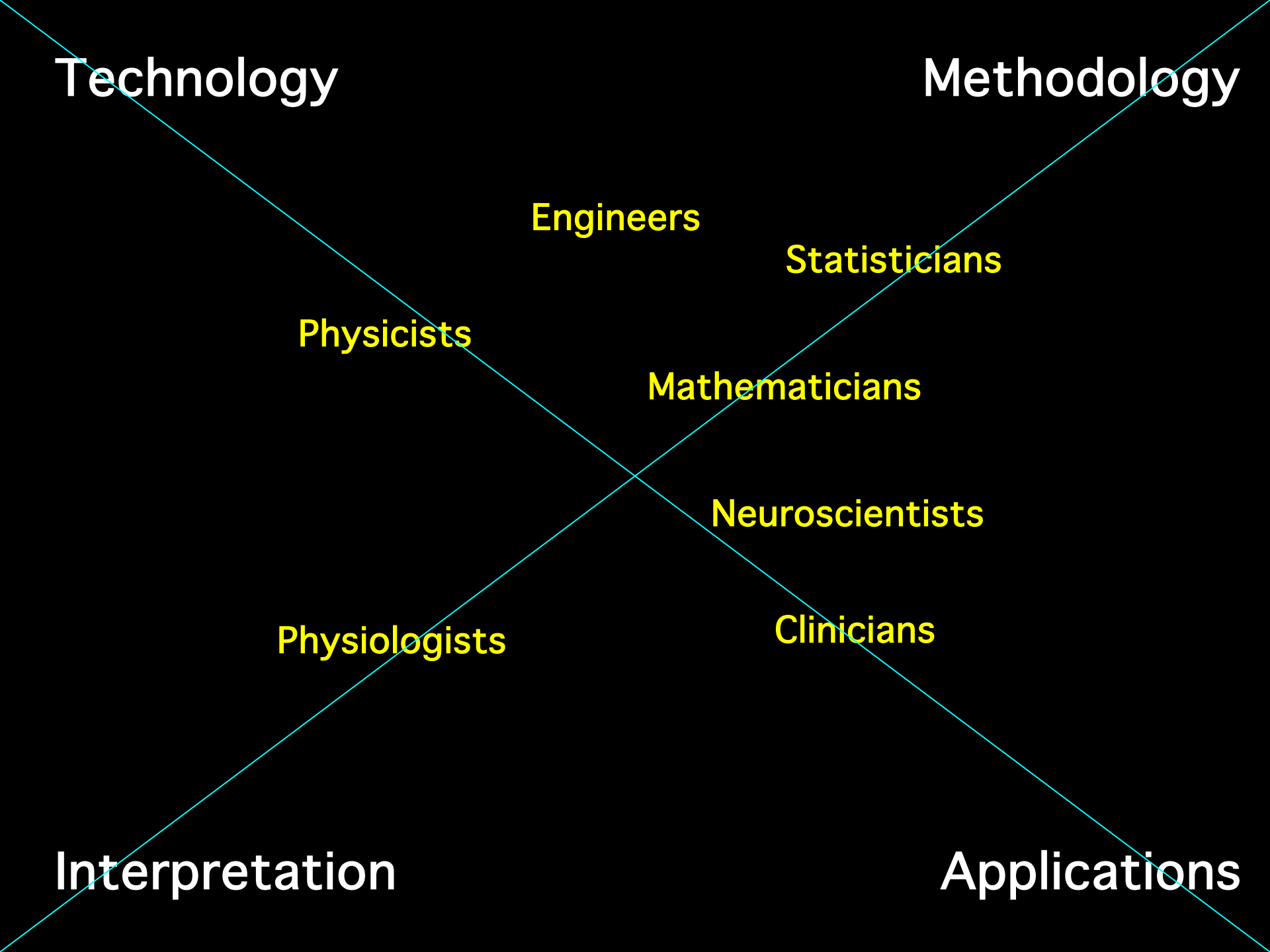
**Neuroscientists**

**Physiologists**

**Clinicians**

**Interpretation**

**Applications**



# Technology

MRI  
EPI  
Local Human Head Gradient Coils  
BOLD  
ASL  
Spiral EPI  
Multi-shot fMRI  
1.5T,3T, 4T  
EPI on Clin. Syst.  
Nav. pulses  
Quant. ASL  
Dynamic IV volume  
Simultaneous ASL and BOLD  
Diff. tensor  
Real time fMRI  
Mg<sup>+</sup>  
Venography  
Z-shim  
Baseline Susceptibility  
7T  
>8 channels  
SENSE  
Current Imaging?

# Methodology

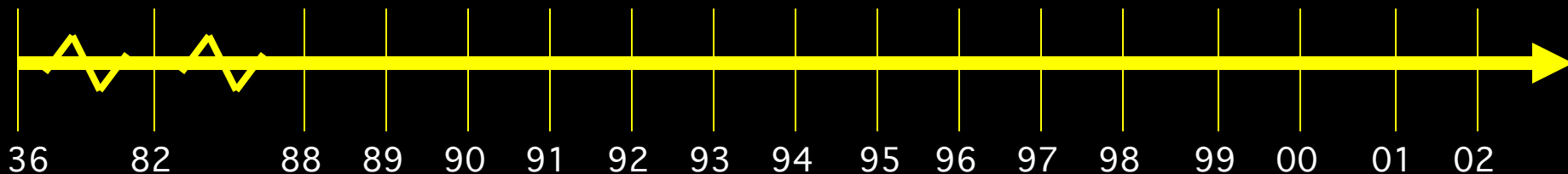
Baseline Volume  
IVIM  
Correlation Analysis  
Parametric Design  
Surface Mapping  
Phase Mapping  
Linear Regression  
Event-related  
Motion Correction  
CO<sub>2</sub> Calibration  
Mixed ER and Blocked  
Multi-Modal Mapping  
ICA  
Free-behavior Designs  
Mental Chronometry  
Deconvolution  
Fuzzy Clustering  
Multi-variate Mapping

# Interpretation

Blood T2  
Hemoglobin  
BOLD models  
B<sub>0</sub> dep.  
TE dep  
SE vs. GE  
NIRS Correlation  
Veins  
PET correlation  
IV vs EV  
Pre-undershoot  
Resolution Dep.  
Post-undershoot  
CO<sub>2</sub> effect  
Inflow  
ASL vs. BOLD  
PSF of BOLD  
Extended Stim.  
Linearity  
Fluctuations  
Balloon Model  
Linearity mapping  
Metab. Correlation  
Optical Im. Correlation  
Electrophys. correlation

# Applications

Complex motor  
Language  
Imagery  
Memory  
Emotion  
Motor learning  
Children  
Tumor vasc.  
Drug effects  
BOLD -V1, M1, A1  
Presurgical  
Attention  
Ocular Dominance  
Volume - Stroke  
V1, V2..mapping  
Priming/Learning  
Clinical Populations  
 $\Delta$  Volume-V1  
Plasticity  
Face recognition  
Performance prediction



# FIM Unit & FMRI Core Facility

## Director:

Peter Bandettini

## Staff Scientists:

Sean Marrett

Jerzy Bodurka

Frank Ye

Wen-Ming Luh

## Computer Specialist:

Adam Thomas

## Post Docs:

Rasmus Birn

Hauke Heekeren

David Knight

Patrick Bellgowan

Ziad Saad

## Graduate Student:

Natalia Petridou

## Post-Back. IRTA Students:

Elisa Kapler

August Tuan

Dan Kelley

## Visiting Fellows:

Sergio Casciaro

Marta Maieron

Guosheng Ding

## Clinical Fellow:

James Patterson

## Psychologist:

Julie Frost

## Summer Students:

Hannah Chang

Courtney Kemps

Douglass Ruff

Carla Wettig

Kang-Xing Jin

## Program Assistant:

Kay Kuhns

## Scanning Technologists:

Karen Bove-Bettis

Paula Rowser

