

# Hierarchical Bayesian Learning for Noise Estimation in Electromagnetic Brain Source Imaging

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joint work with Chang Cai, Yijing Gao, Sanjay Ghosh,  
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# Electromagnetic Brain Source Imaging (BSI)

**Electro-/Magnetoencephalography (E/MEG):** A non-invasive brain imaging technique with high temporal resolution (order of ms).

$$\mathbf{Y} = \mathbf{LX} + \mathbf{E}$$

$$\mathbf{Y} \in \mathbb{R}^{M \times T}$$

$$\mathbf{X} \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times T}$$

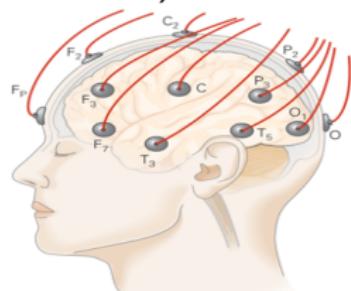
$$\mathbf{L} \in \mathbb{R}^{M \times N}$$

**Linear regression problem**

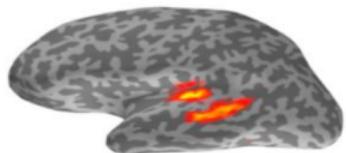
$M$ :#Sensors,  $T$ :#Samples,

$N$ :#Sources, ( $M \ll N$ )

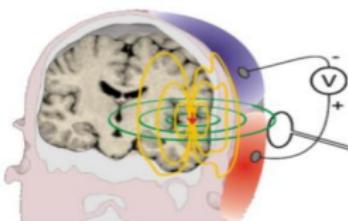
Lead Field Matrix (Known)



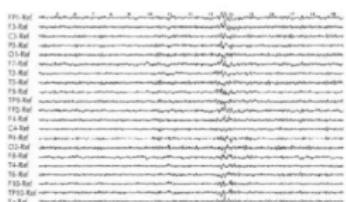
**X**



**L**



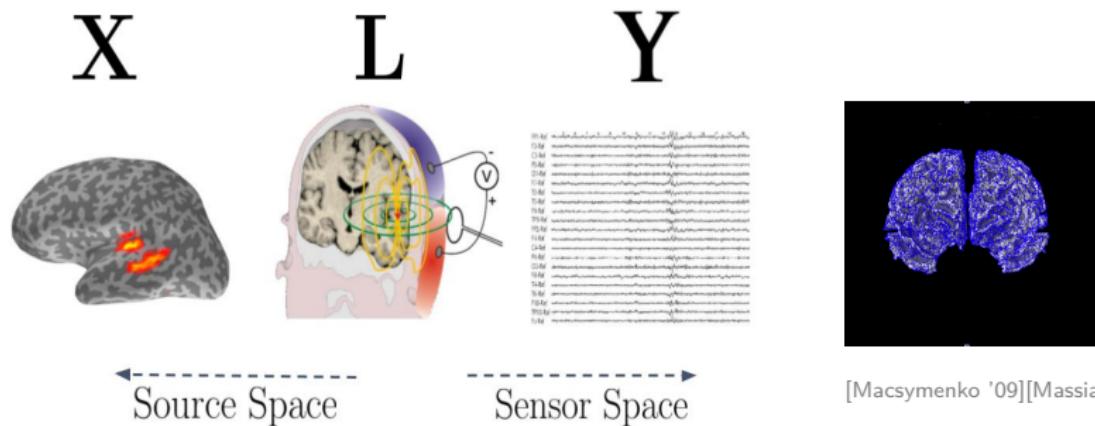
**Y**



← Source Space →

← Sensor Space →

# Electromagnetic Brain Source Imaging (BSI)



**III-posed** inverse problem: (#Sensors= 32 ~ 256 vs #Sources= 10<sup>3</sup> ~ 10<sup>4</sup>)

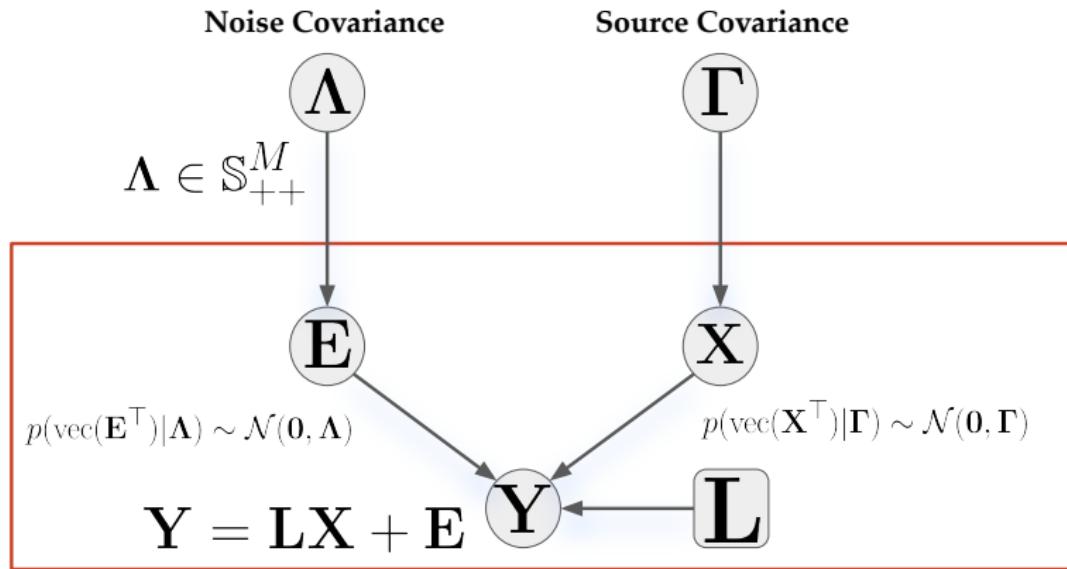
$$\mathbf{X}^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{\mathbf{X}} \underbrace{\|\mathbf{Y} - \mathbf{L}\mathbf{X}\|_F^2}_{\text{Likelihood: } p(\mathbf{Y}|\mathbf{X})} + \lambda \underbrace{\mathcal{R}(\mathbf{X})}_{\text{Prior: } p(\mathbf{X})}$$

- ① **Type-I MAP methods:**  $\ell_1$ ,  $\ell_2$ ,  $\ell_{1,2}$ -norms, sparsity in transformed domains (Gabor).  
 [Pascual-Marqui et al., '07][Haufe et al., '08, '11][Gramfort et al., '12, '13][Castaño-Candamil et al., '15]
- ② **Type-II ML approaches:** different sparse Bayesian learning (SBL) variants ignoring the temporal dynamics.  
 [Wipf et al., '09, '10, '11][Owen et al., '12][Cai et al., '17, '21]

# Hierarchical Bayesian Learning

Probabilistic graphical model:

- ▶ Model the current activity of the brain sources as **Gaussian scale mixtures**
- ▶  $\Lambda$ : Noise covariance with full structure



# Hierarchical Bayesian Inference and Type-II Loss

Posterior source distribution:  $p(\mathbf{X}|\mathbf{Y}, \boldsymbol{\Gamma}, \boldsymbol{\Lambda}) = \prod_{t=1}^T \mathcal{N}(\bar{\mathbf{x}}(t), \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{\mathbf{x}})$   
where

$$\begin{aligned}\bar{\mathbf{x}}(t) &= \boldsymbol{\Gamma} \mathbf{L}^\top (\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{\mathbf{y}})^{-1} \mathbf{y}(t) \\ \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{\mathbf{x}} &= \boldsymbol{\Gamma} - \boldsymbol{\Gamma} \mathbf{L}^\top (\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{\mathbf{y}})^{-1} \mathbf{L} \boldsymbol{\Gamma} \\ \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{\mathbf{y}} &= \boldsymbol{\Lambda} + \mathbf{L} \boldsymbol{\Gamma} \mathbf{L}^\top.\end{aligned}$$

$\boldsymbol{\Gamma}$ , and  $\boldsymbol{\Lambda}$  are learned by minimizing the negative log marginal likelihood (Type-II) loss,  $-\log p(\mathbf{Y}|\boldsymbol{\Gamma}, \boldsymbol{\Lambda})$ :

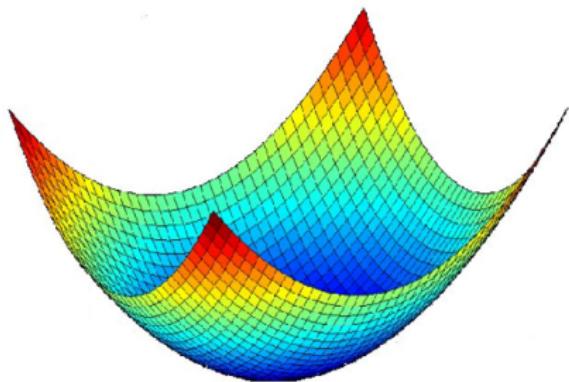
$$\text{Type - II Loss : } \mathcal{L}^{II}(\boldsymbol{\Gamma}, \boldsymbol{\Lambda}) = \log |\boldsymbol{\Lambda} + \mathbf{L} \boldsymbol{\Gamma} \mathbf{L}^\top| + \frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^T \mathbf{y}(t)^\top (\boldsymbol{\Lambda} + \mathbf{L} \boldsymbol{\Gamma} \mathbf{L}^\top)^{-1} \mathbf{y}(t).$$

# Challenges

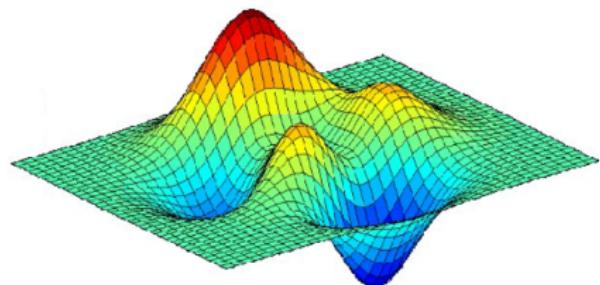
$$\text{Type - II Loss : } \mathcal{L}^{\text{II}}(\boldsymbol{\Gamma}, \boldsymbol{\Lambda}) = \log |\boldsymbol{\Lambda} + \mathbf{L}\boldsymbol{\Gamma}\mathbf{L}^\top| + \frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^T \mathbf{y}(t)^\top (\boldsymbol{\Lambda} + \mathbf{L}\boldsymbol{\Gamma}\mathbf{L}^\top)^{-1} \mathbf{y}(t).$$

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- ① Non-convex Type-II ML loss function: Non-trivial to solve.



convex function

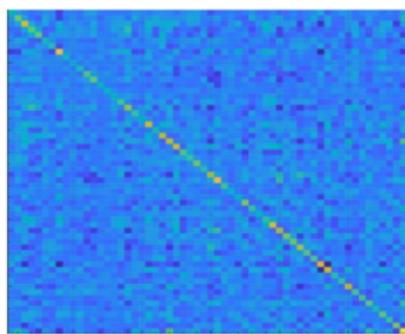


non-convex function

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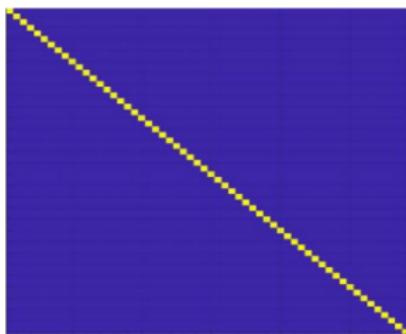
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- ① Non-convex Type-II ML loss function: Non-trivial to solve.
- ② Most contributions in the literature are limited to the estimation of only a **diagonal** noise covariance: Limiting assumption in practice.



Full structure

$\boldsymbol{\Lambda}$



Diagonal

# Challenges

$$\text{Type - II Loss : } \mathcal{L}^{\text{II}}(\boldsymbol{\Gamma}, \boldsymbol{\Lambda}) = \log|\boldsymbol{\Lambda} + \mathbf{L}\boldsymbol{\Gamma}\mathbf{L}^\top| + \frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^T \mathbf{y}(t)^\top (\boldsymbol{\Lambda} + \mathbf{L}\boldsymbol{\Gamma}\mathbf{L}^\top)^{-1} \mathbf{y}(t).$$

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**Our contribution:** Joint estimation of Gaussian regression parameter distributions and Gaussian noise distributions with **full covariance structure** by solving the **non-convex** Type-II loss.

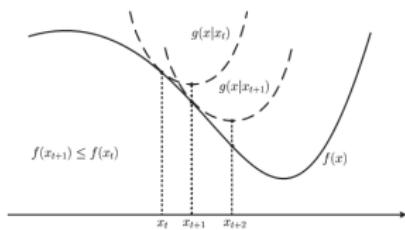
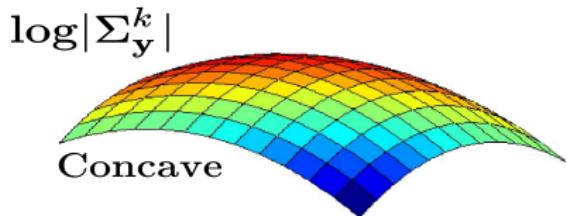
# Convex Majorizing Functions

## Theorem

Optimizing  $\mathcal{L}^{\text{II}}(\boldsymbol{\Gamma}, \boldsymbol{\Lambda})$  with respect to  $\boldsymbol{\Lambda}$  is equivalent to optimizing the following majorizing function:

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{noise}}^{\text{conv}}(\boldsymbol{\Gamma}^k, \boldsymbol{\Lambda}) = \text{tr} \left( (\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{\mathbf{y}}^k)^{-1} \boldsymbol{\Lambda} \right) + \text{tr}(\mathbf{M}_N^k \boldsymbol{\Lambda}^{-1}),$$

where  $\mathbf{M}_N^k := \frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^T (\mathbf{y}(t) - \mathbf{L}\bar{\mathbf{x}}^k(t))(\mathbf{y}(t) - \mathbf{L}\bar{\mathbf{x}}^k(t))^{\top}$  and  $\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{\mathbf{y}}^k = \boldsymbol{\Lambda}^k + \mathbf{L}\boldsymbol{\Gamma}^k\mathbf{L}^{\top}$ .



[Sun et al., '17][Razzaviyan et al., '13]

$$\mathcal{L}^{\text{II}}(\boldsymbol{\Gamma}, \boldsymbol{\Lambda}) = \log|\boldsymbol{\Lambda} + \mathbf{L}\boldsymbol{\Gamma}\mathbf{L}^{\top}| + \frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^T \mathbf{y}(t)^{\top} (\boldsymbol{\Lambda} + \mathbf{L}\boldsymbol{\Gamma}\mathbf{L}^{\top})^{-1} \mathbf{y}(t)$$

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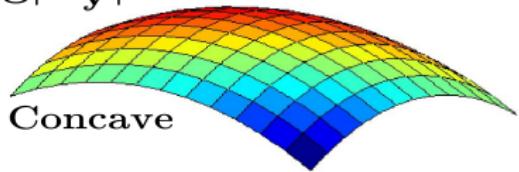
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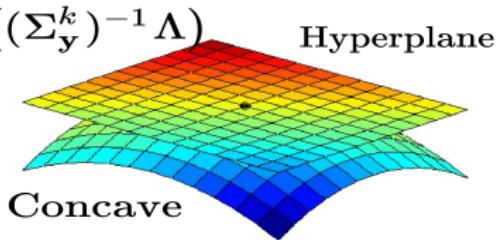
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$\log|\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{\mathbf{y}}^k|$



$\text{tr}\left((\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{\mathbf{y}}^k)^{-1} \boldsymbol{\Lambda}\right)$



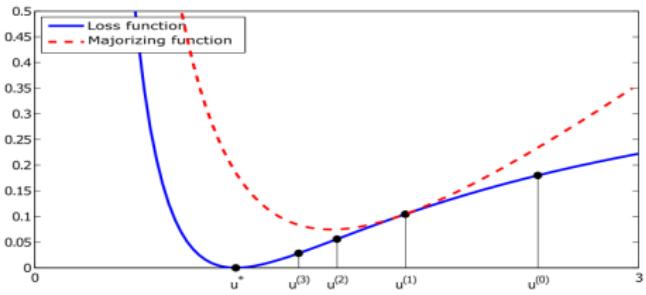
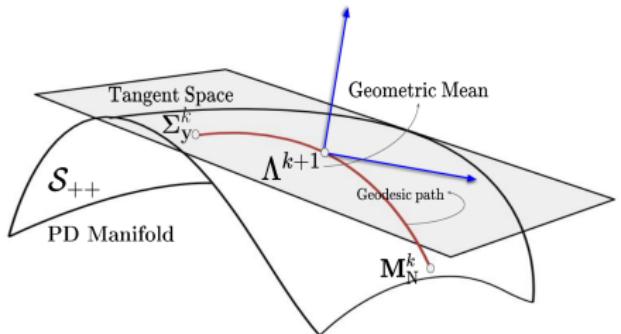
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## Theorem (Geometric mean)

$\mathcal{L}_{\text{noise}}^{\text{conv}}(\boldsymbol{\Gamma}^k, \boldsymbol{\Lambda})$  is geodesically convex with respect to the PD manifold, and its optimal solution with respect to  $\boldsymbol{\Lambda}$  can be attained according to the following update rule:

$$\boldsymbol{\Lambda}^{k+1} \leftarrow (\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_y^k)^{\frac{1}{2}} \left( (\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_y^k)^{-1/2} \mathbf{M}_N^k (\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_y^k)^{-1/2} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} (\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_y^k)^{\frac{1}{2}}.$$

which leads to a majorization-minimization (MM) algorithm with convergence guarantees  $\rightsquigarrow$  **Full-structural noise (FUN) learning algorithm**.

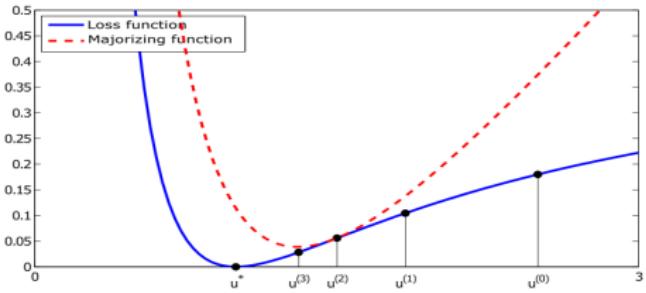
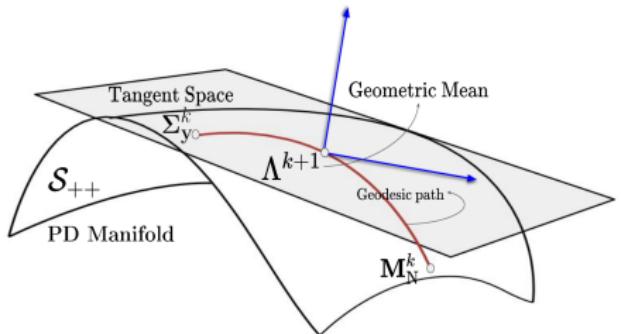


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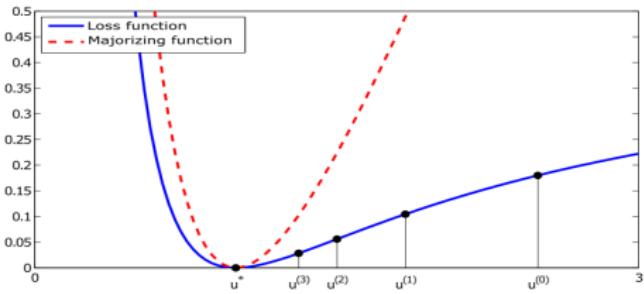
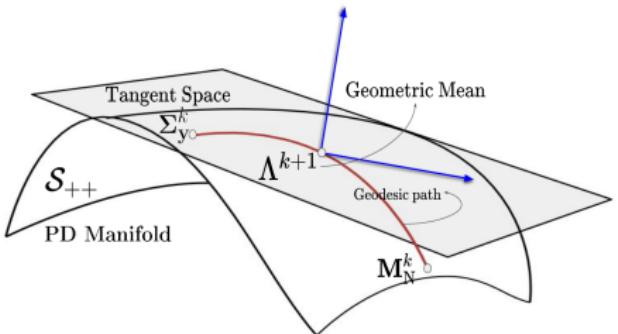


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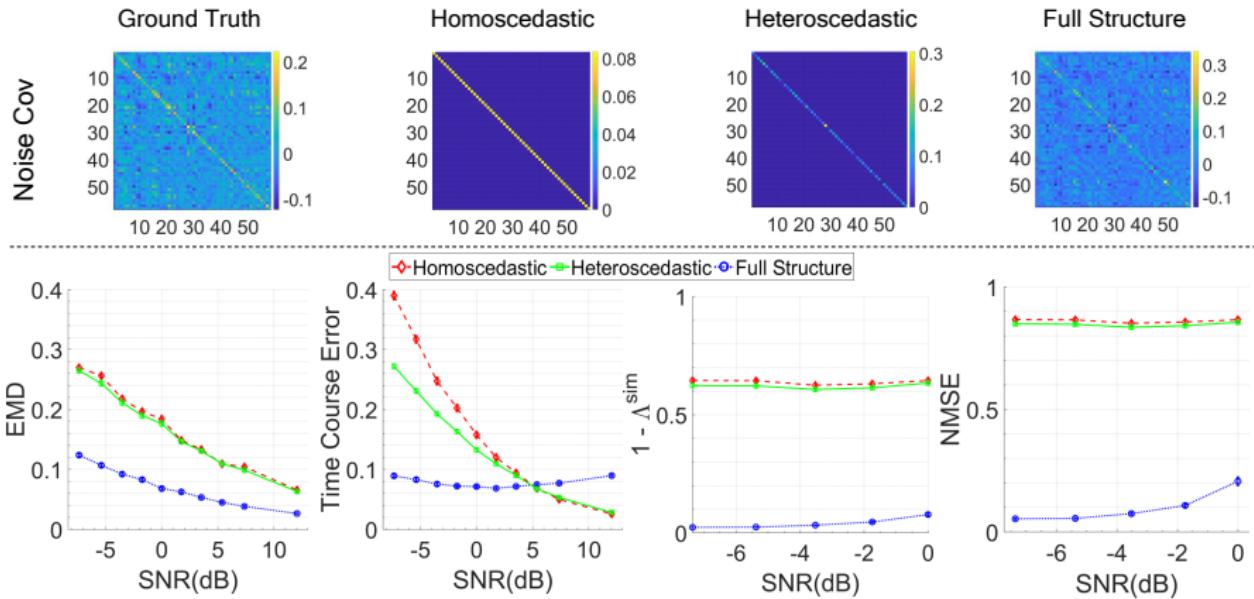
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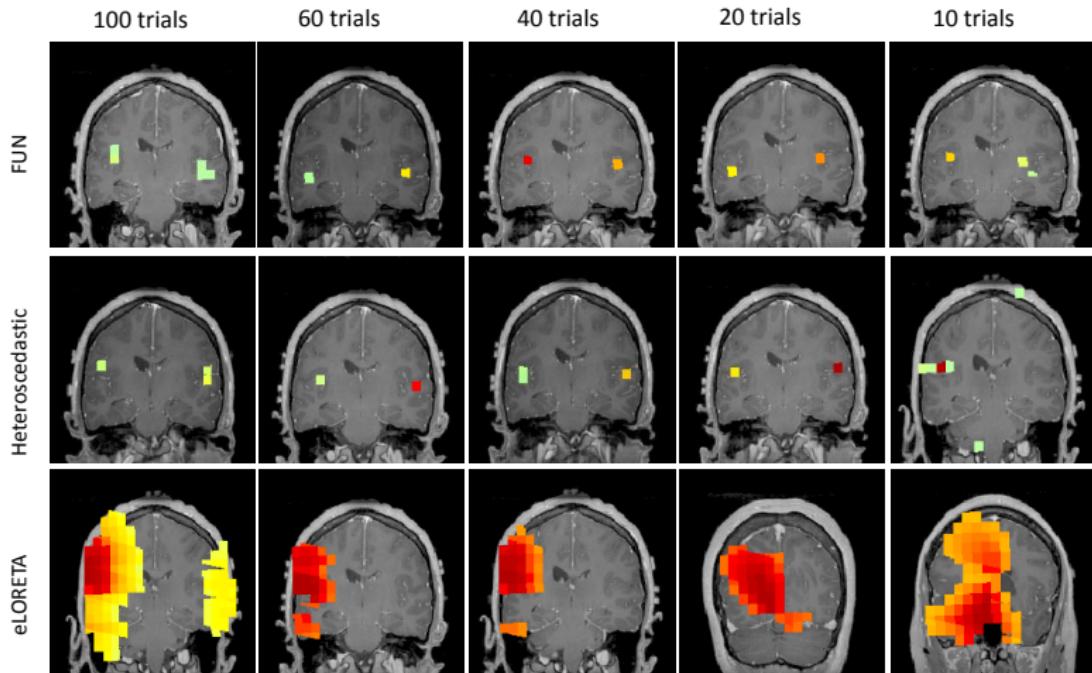
# Numerical Results

**Conclusion I:** FUN learning consistently outperforms its homoscedastic and heteroscedastic counterparts according to all evaluation metrics.



# Real Data Analysis of Auditory Evoked Fields (AEF)

**Conclusion II:** FUN learning can provide accurate reconstruction at the expected locations of the auditory cortex **even under extreme SNR conditions** - superior to benchmarks.



# Thank you For yoUr attentioN!



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