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OpenViBE: an open source BCI software suite

PART 2 – Designing BCIs with OpenViBE

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PART 2 – Designing BCI systems with OpenViBE

2.1 – The Motor Imagery Paradigm

Brain Computer Interface: how?

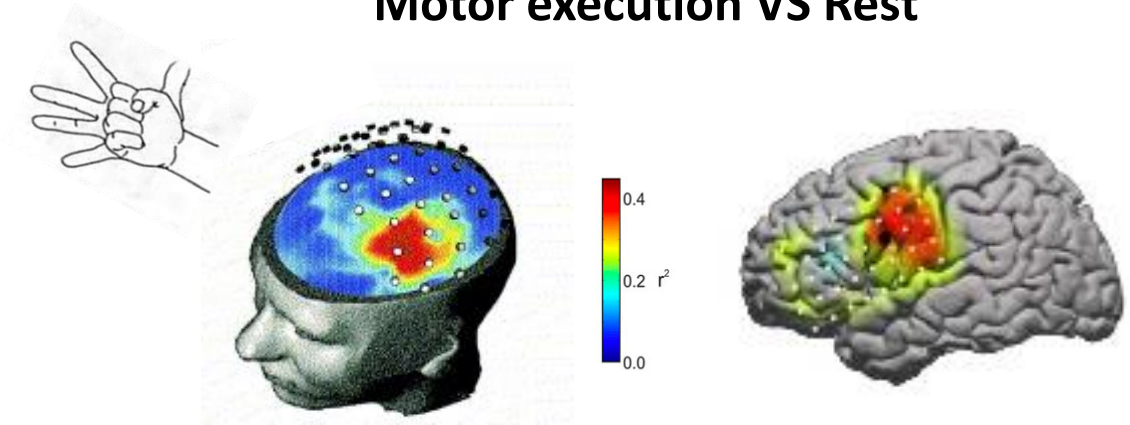
- **Underlying idea:**

Taking advantage of a **neurophysiological phenomenon** to establish a communication between the brain and the computer

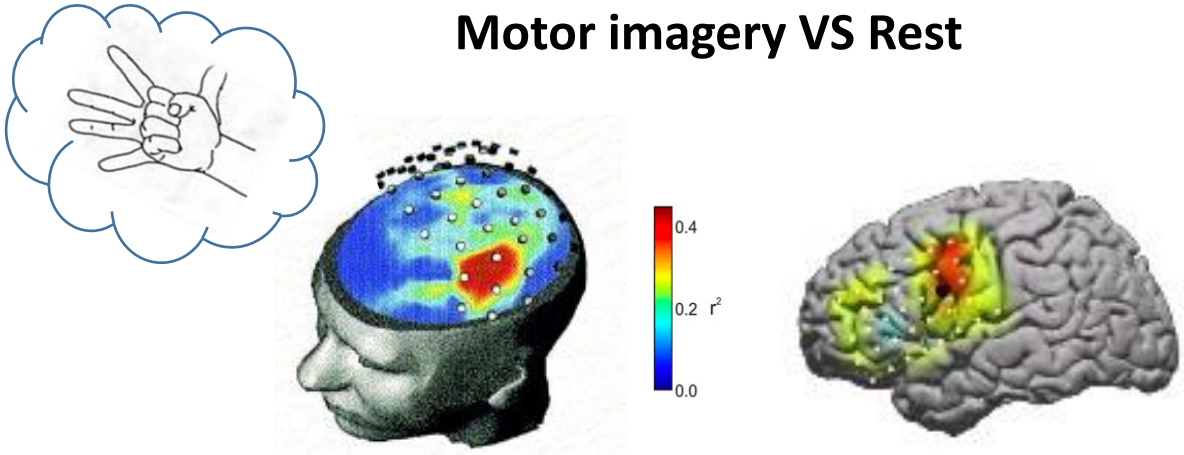
Illustration with **Motor imagery-based BCI**

Motor Imagery - Observations

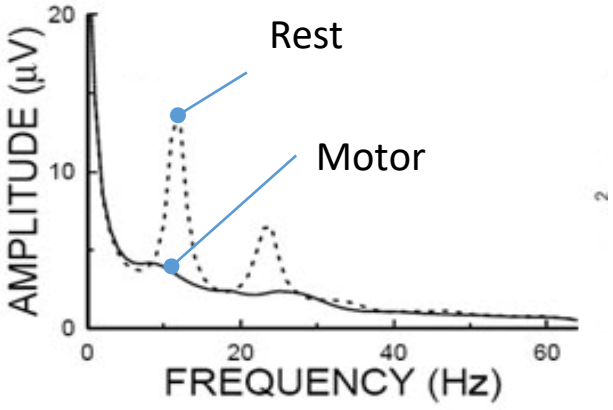
Motor execution VS Rest



Motor imagery VS Rest



Power decrease

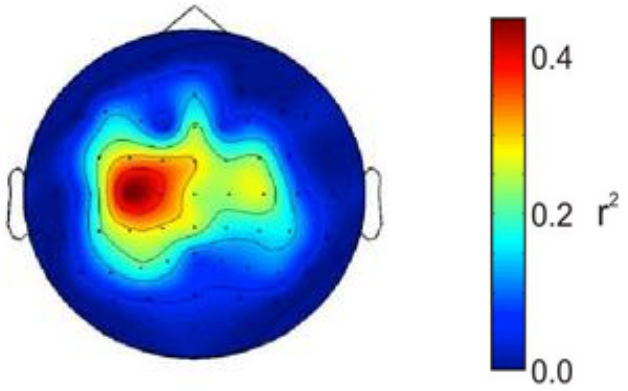


Desynchronization effect
(Pfurtscheller et al, 1999)

Motor Imagery – Mu-Beta Rhythm

- **Behavioral properties**
  - Movement / preparation for movement : Event-related desynchronization (ERD) (Pfurtscheller, G, Lopes da Silva, FH, 1999)
  - With relaxation/post-movement period : ERS

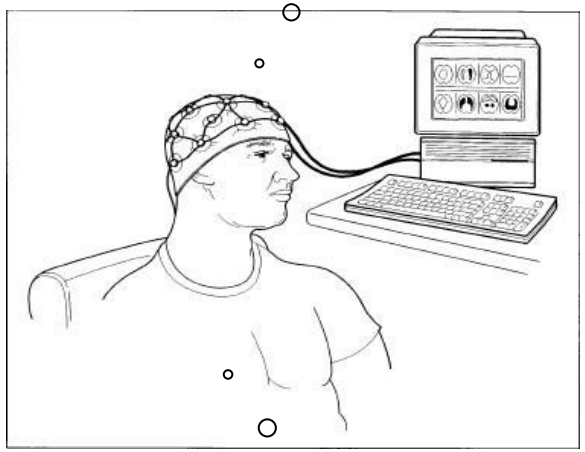
- **Why using it in BCI ?**
  - Mu/Beta activity modulation by motor-imagery, a way to communicate
  - Use of power spectra
  - To establish this communication :
    - Spatial selection
    - Frequency selection



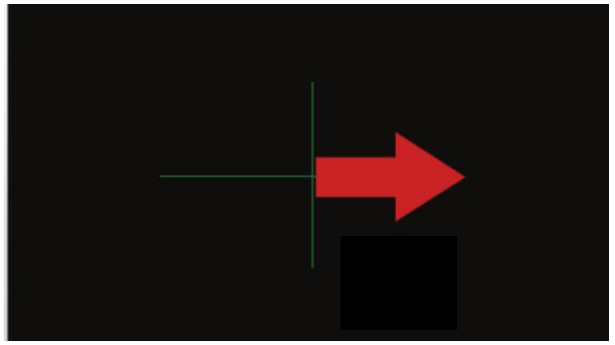
Illustrations from BCI2000 website

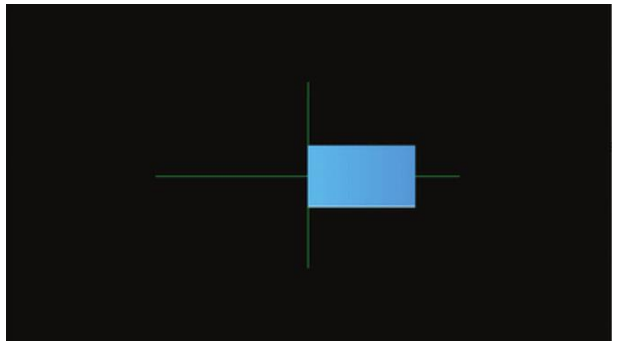
Motor Imagery – In Practice…

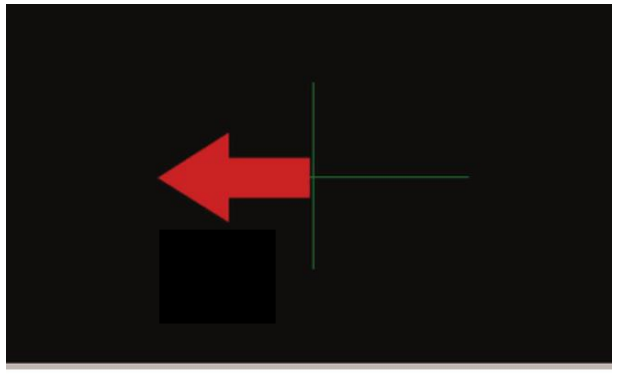
Right hand

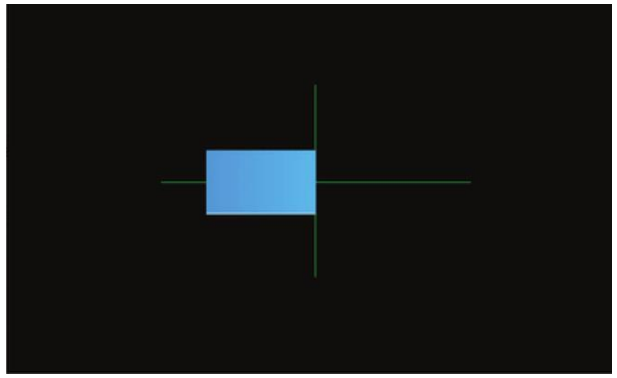


Left hand



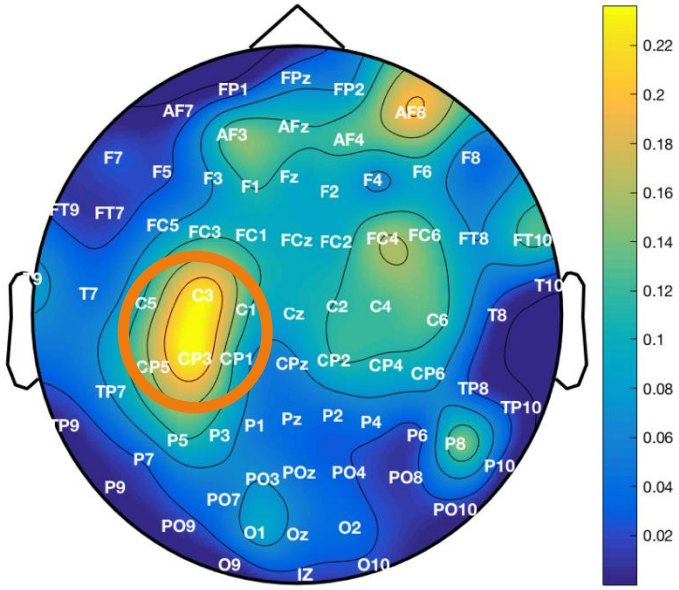




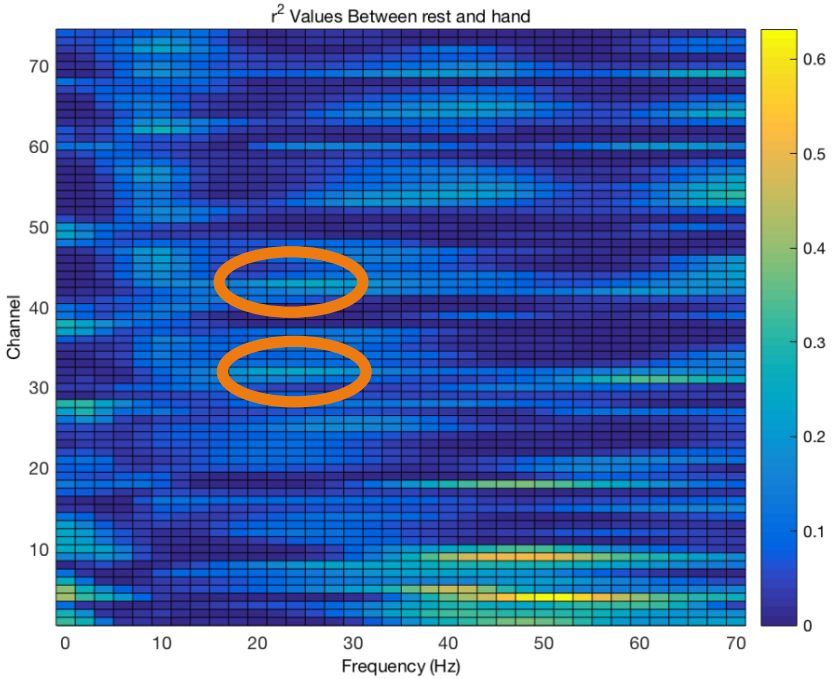


Motor Imagery – In Practice…

@ 10Hz

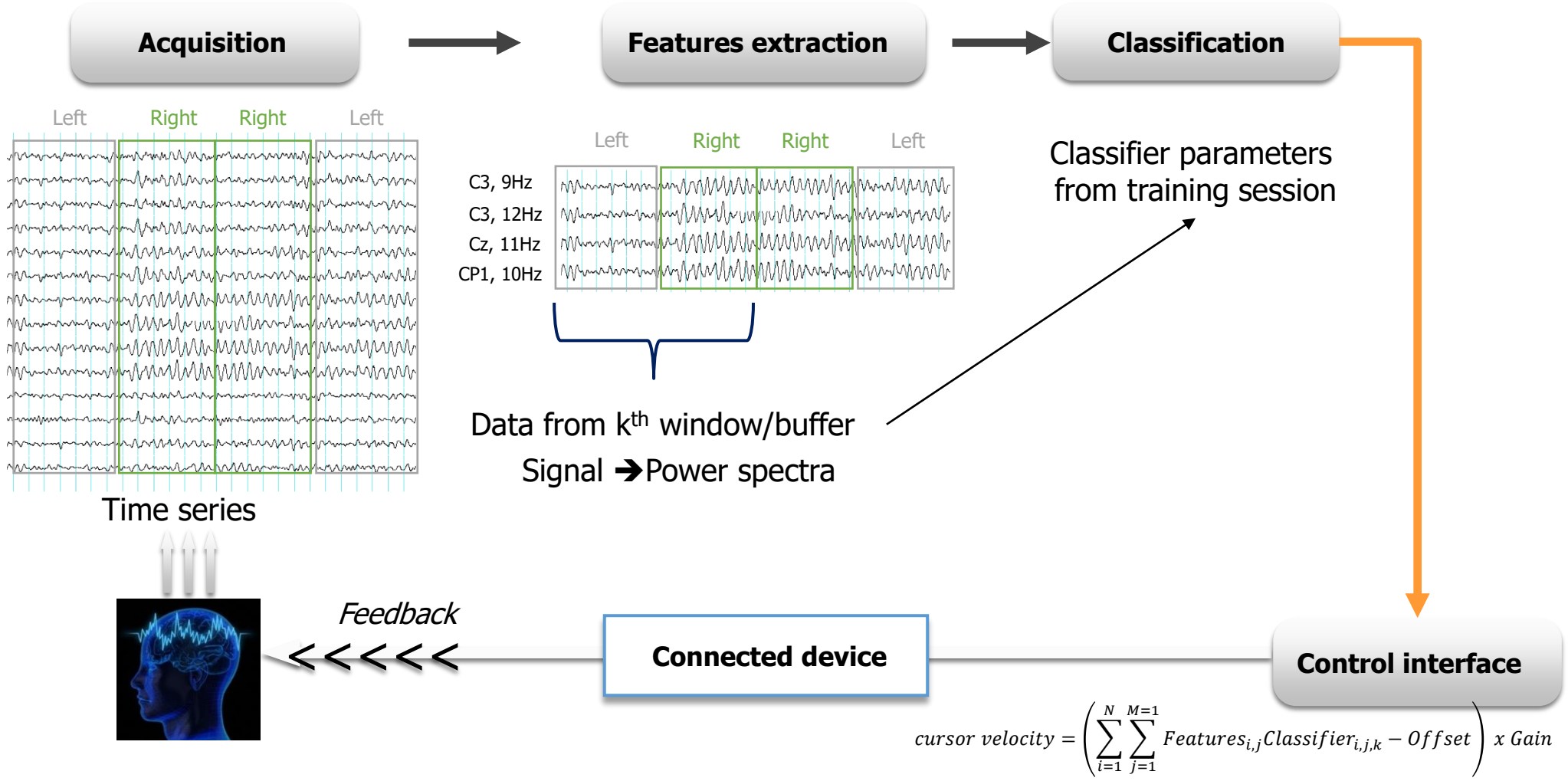


r^2



r^2

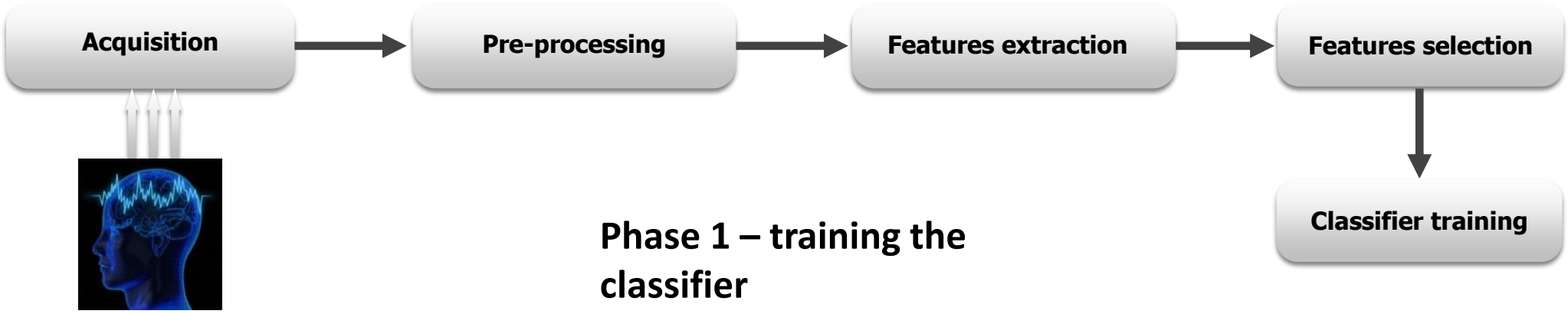
Motor Imagery – In Practice…



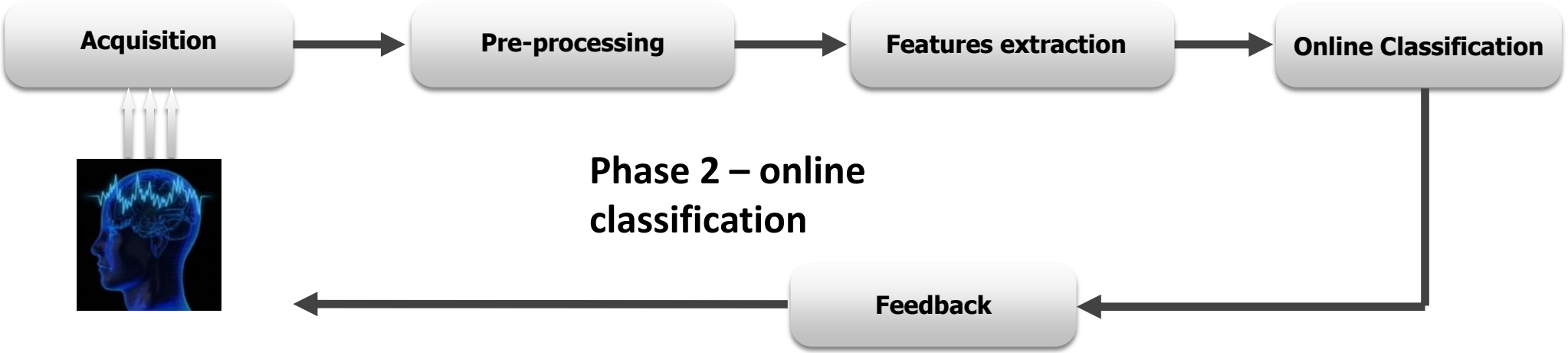
PART 2 – Designing BCI systems with OpenViBE

2.2 – Technical Demo

Motor Imagery Protocol

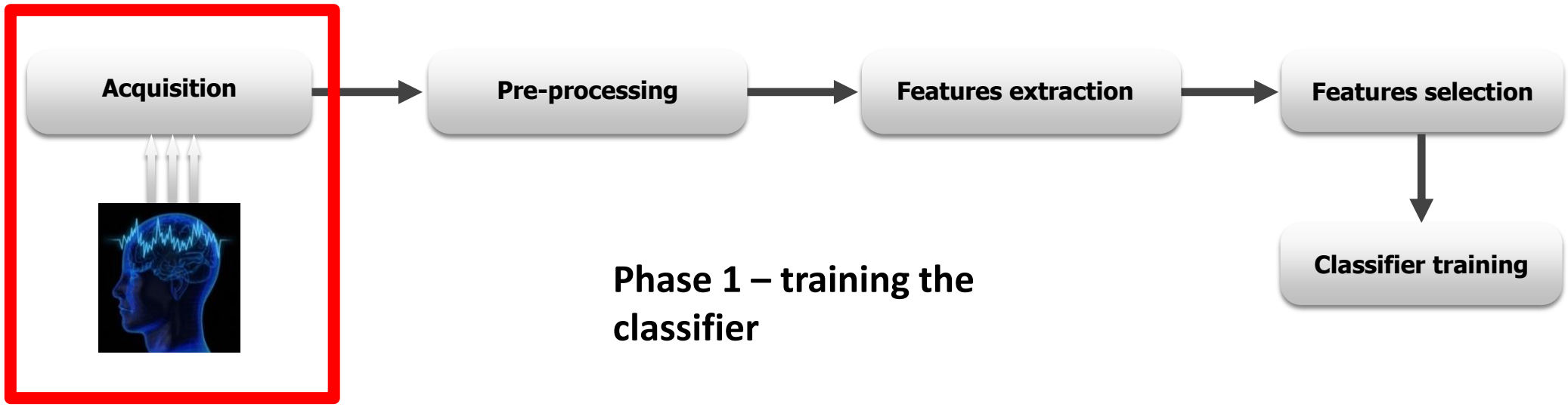


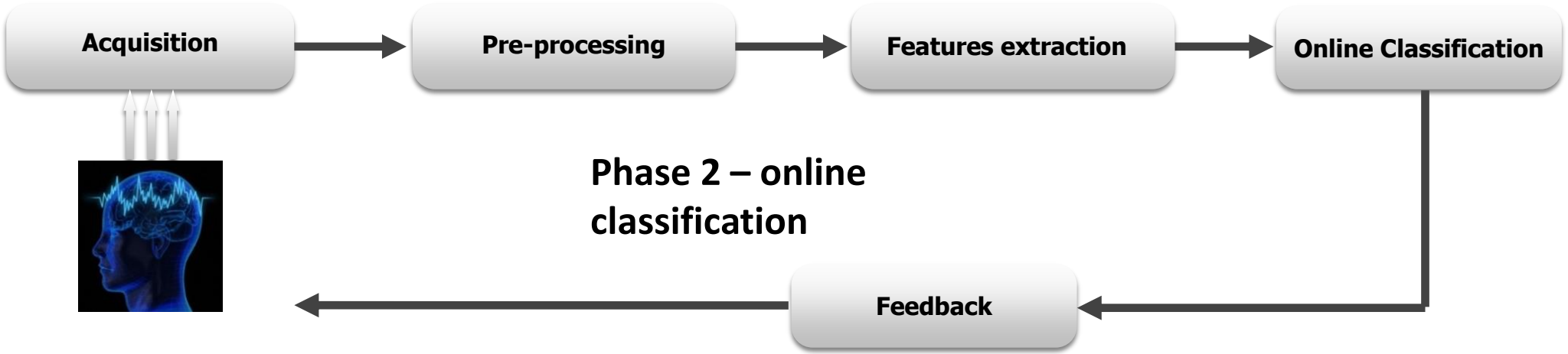
Phase 1 – training the classifier



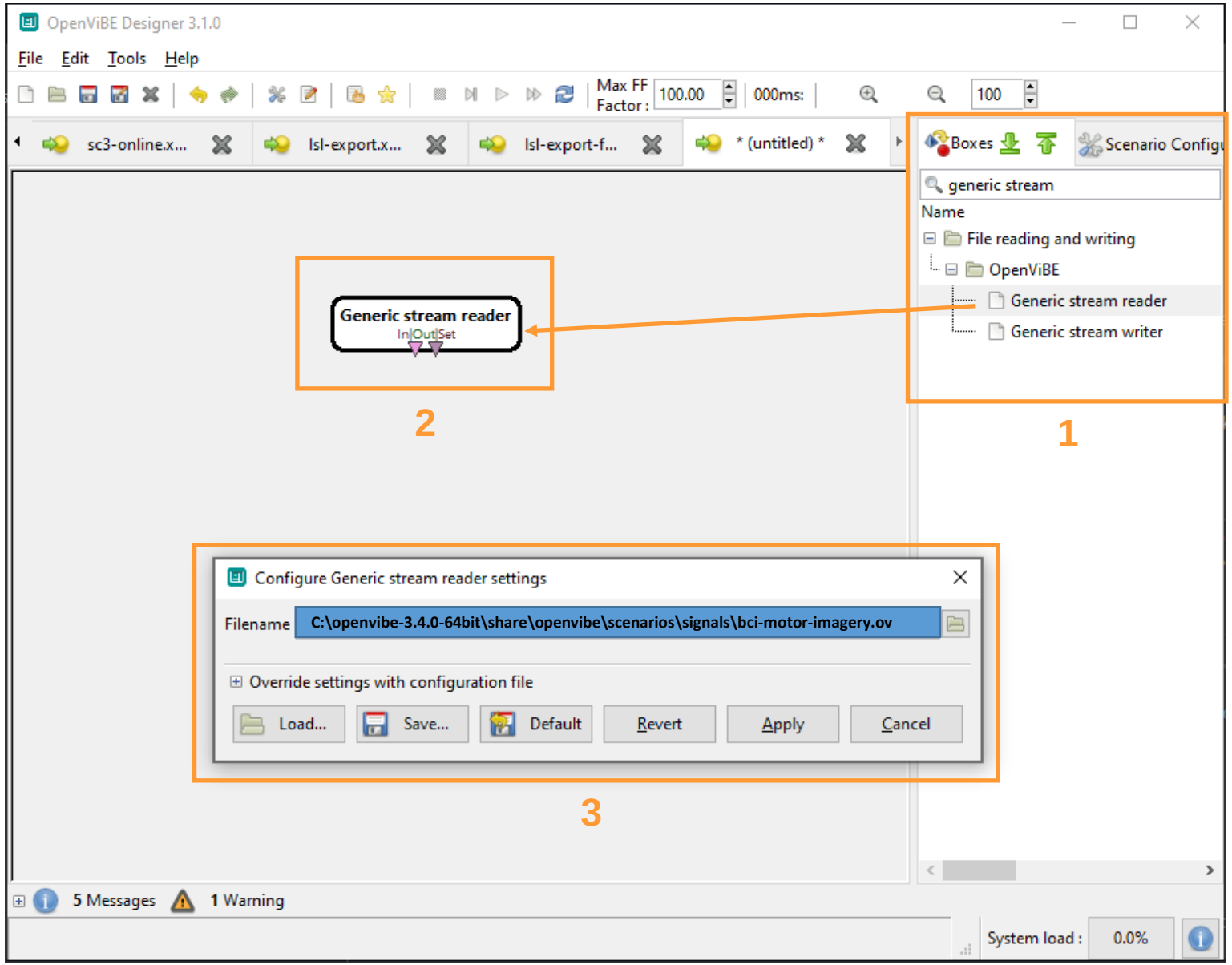
Phase 2 – online classification

Motor Imagery Protocol





Step 1 - Warmup! Simple I/O & Display

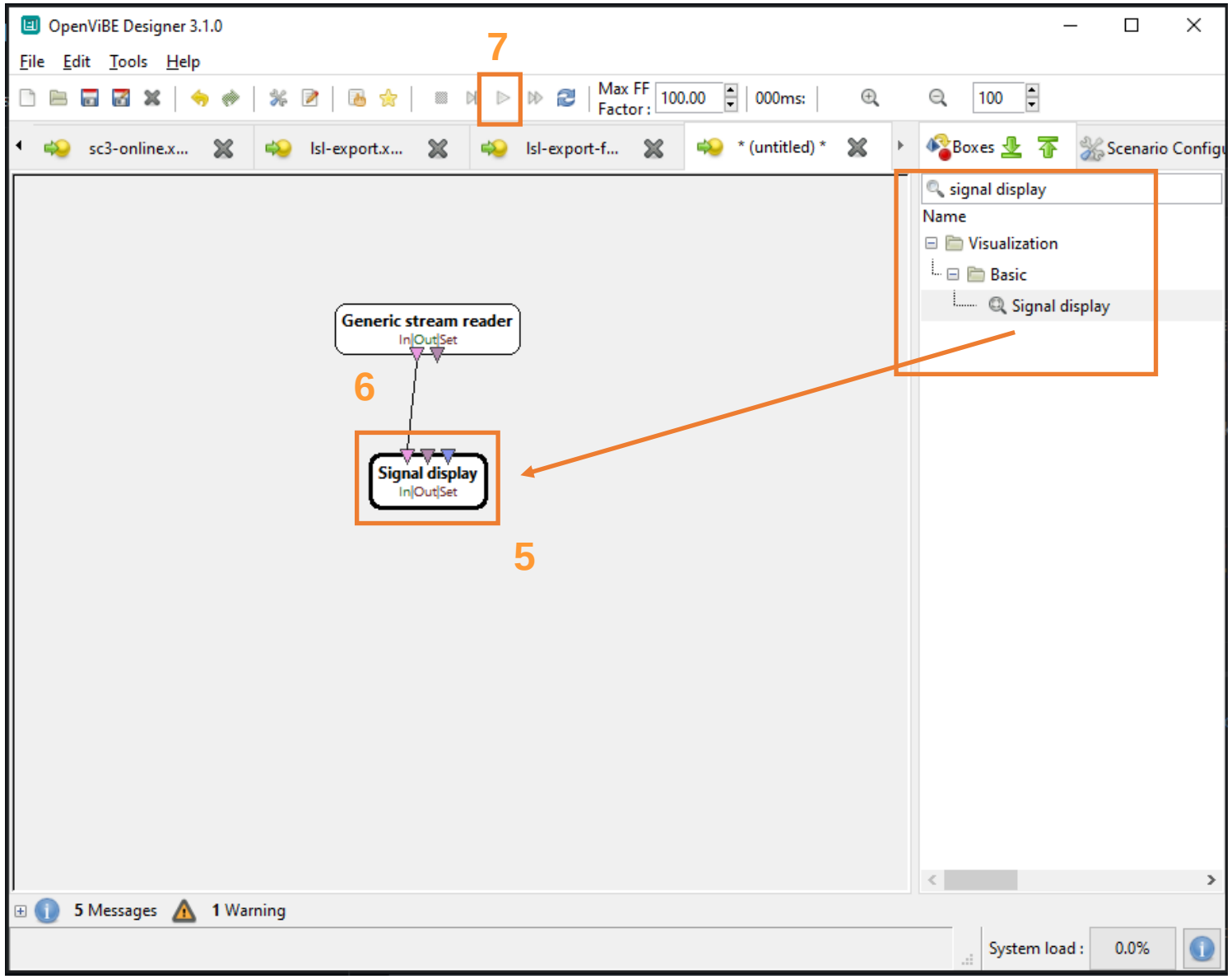


1. **Search** for "generic stream reader" in boxes list

2. **Drag & drop** to designer window

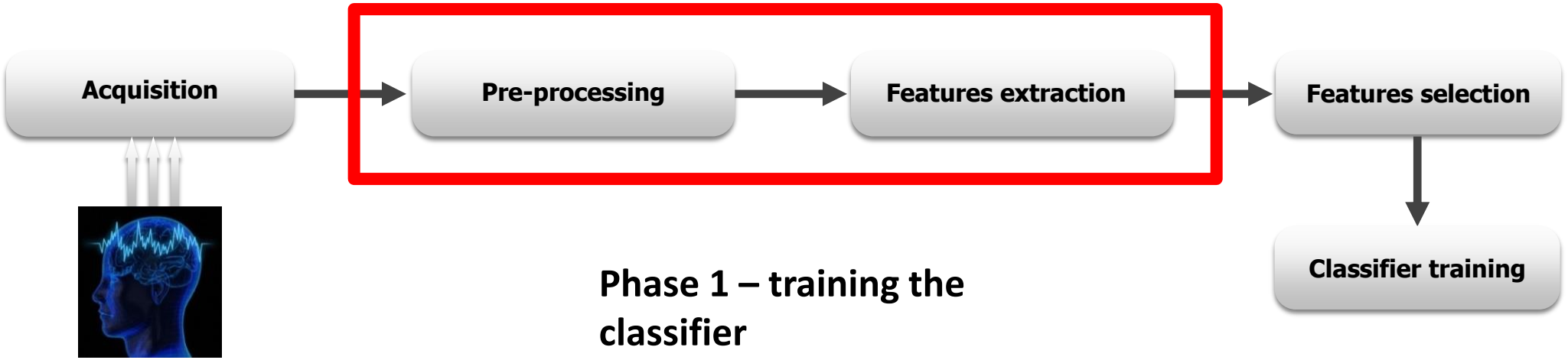
3. Set **filename** with browser `C:\openvibe-3.4.0-64bit\share\openvibe\scenarios\signals\bci-motor-imagery.ov`

Step 1 - Warmup! Simple I/O & Display

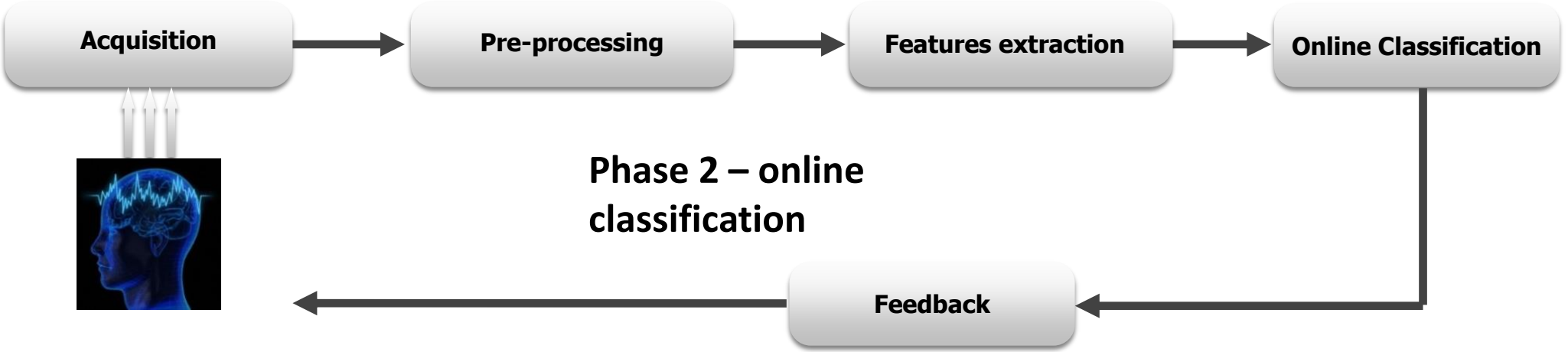


4. **Search** for "signal display" in boxes list
5. **Drag & drop** to designer window
6. **Drag & drop** connection between boxes, using the "signal" stream type
7. Press **Play**!

Motor Imagery Protocol



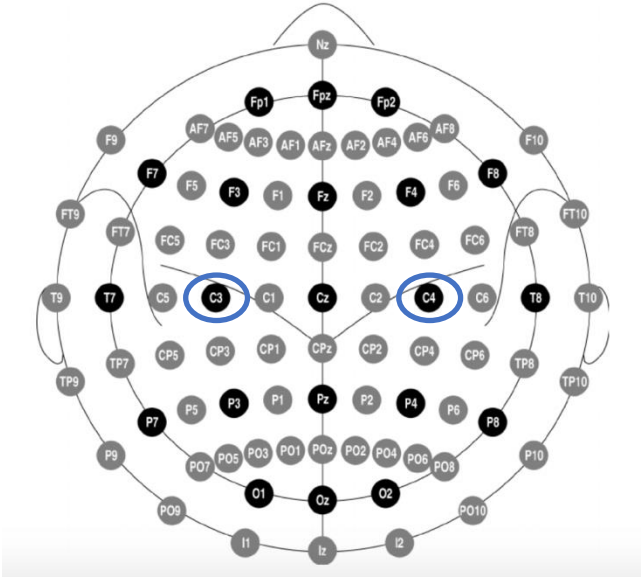
Phase 1 – training the classifier

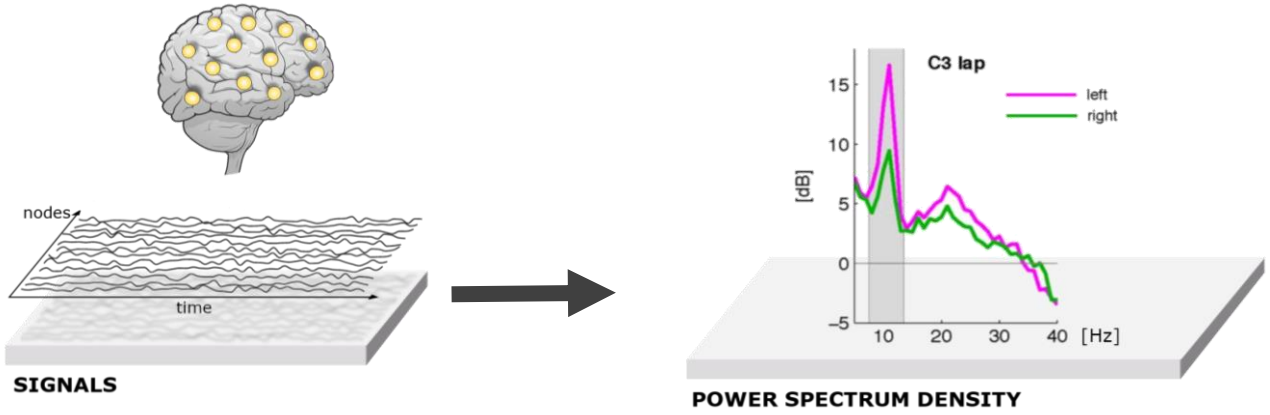


Phase 2 – online classification

Step 2 - DSP, Visualization

- **Features to extract (recap)**
  - Power Spectra
  - Sensorimotor Area
  - Mu/Alpha (8-12Hz) &/or Beta (14-29Hz)





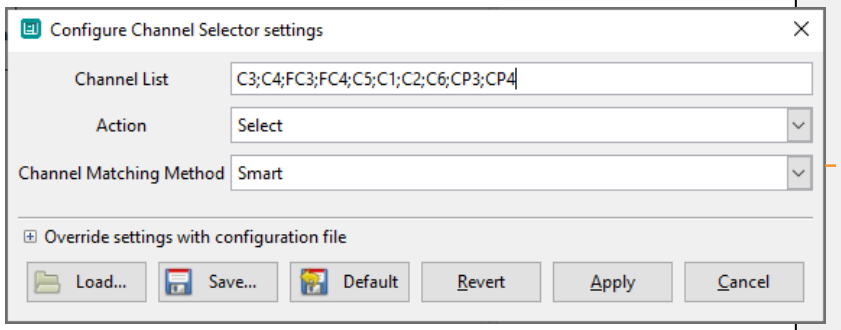
(Gonzalez-Astudillo et al, 2020)

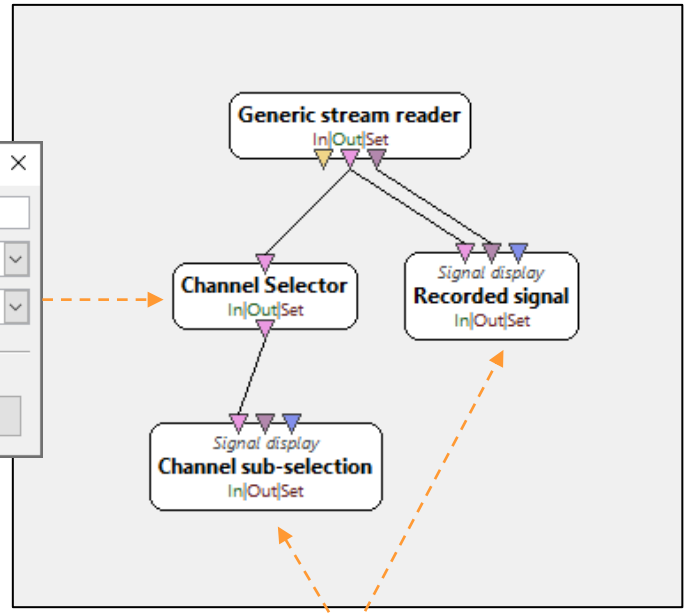
(Maeder et al., 2012)

Step 2 - DSP, Visualization

- **OpenViBE** can manage multiple signal streams in parallel
  - In our example, **1 channel = 1 EEG electrode**
  - We will load a pre-recorded signal file, that used 11 labeled electrodes and consider only a sub-set of those electrodes.

Step 2 - DSP, Visualization





Note:
Right click + Rename can be useful when designing a scenario…

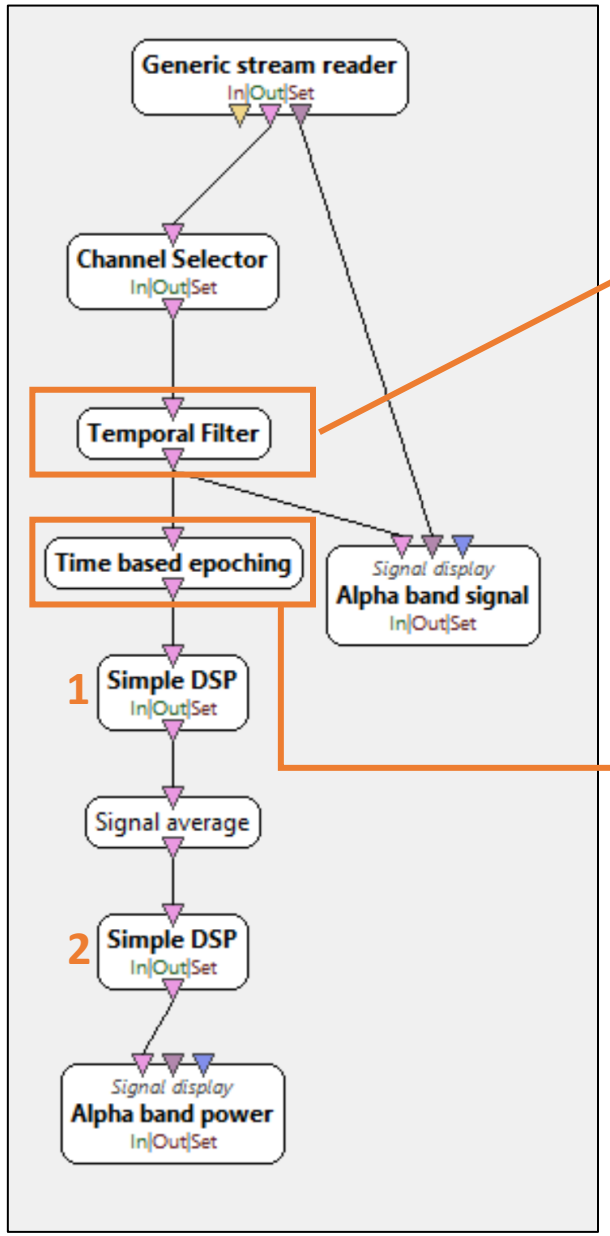
Display windows will use « renamed » label

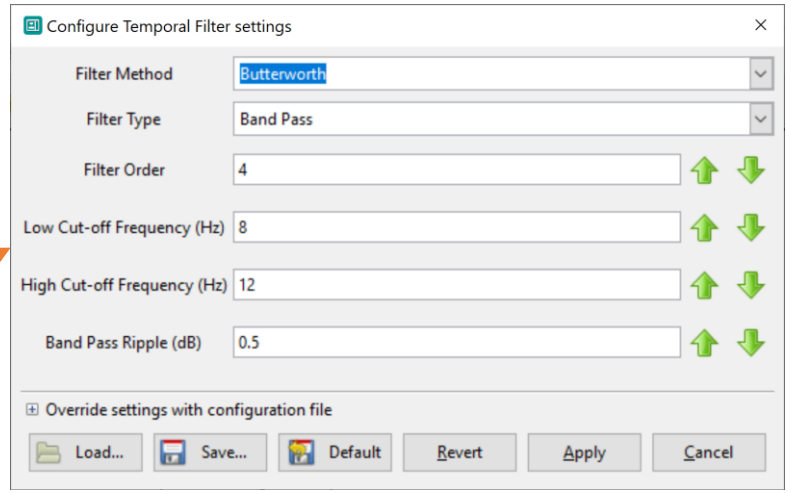
1. **Import a Generic Stream Reader Box,** set the filename to:
   `<install folder>\share\openvibe\scenarios\signals\bci-motor-imagery.ov`
2. **Import a Channel Selector Box,** link the boxes together
3. **Set the selection to:**
   C3;C4;FC3;FC4;C5;C1;C2;C6;CP3;CP4
4. Display the output

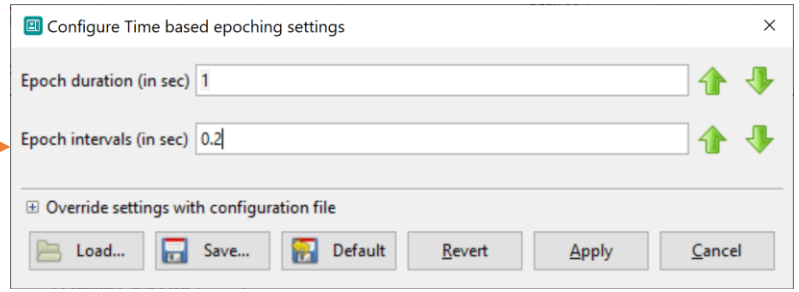
Step 2 - DSP, Visualization

- We now need to compute power spectra for the alpha & beta bands, for the selected electrodes

Step 2 - DSP, Visualization







1. **“Temporal Filter”**, set to [8;12]Hz
2. **“Time based epoching”**, of 1s, every 0.2s (overlapping windows of signal for power computation)
3. **DSP #1**

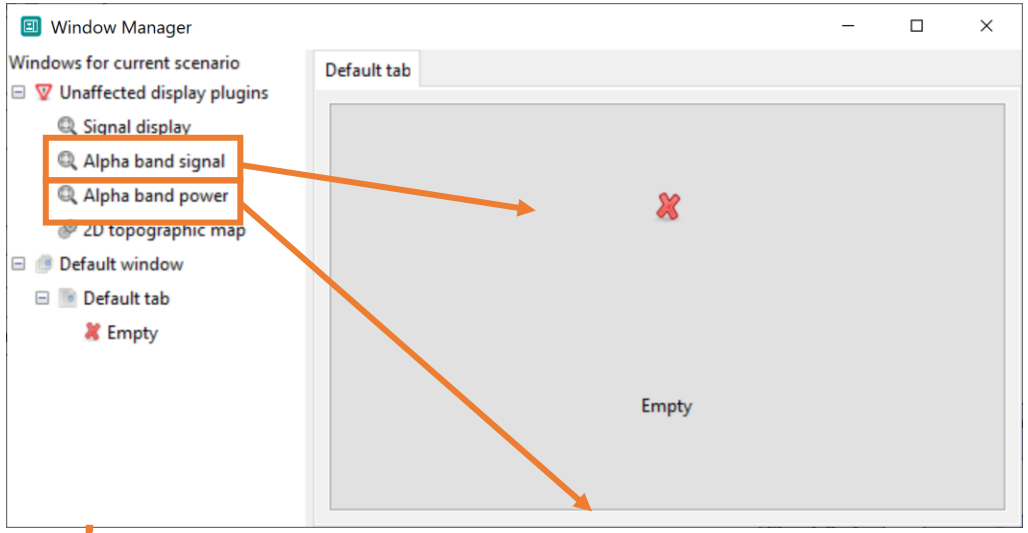
   formula `x*x`
4. **Average**

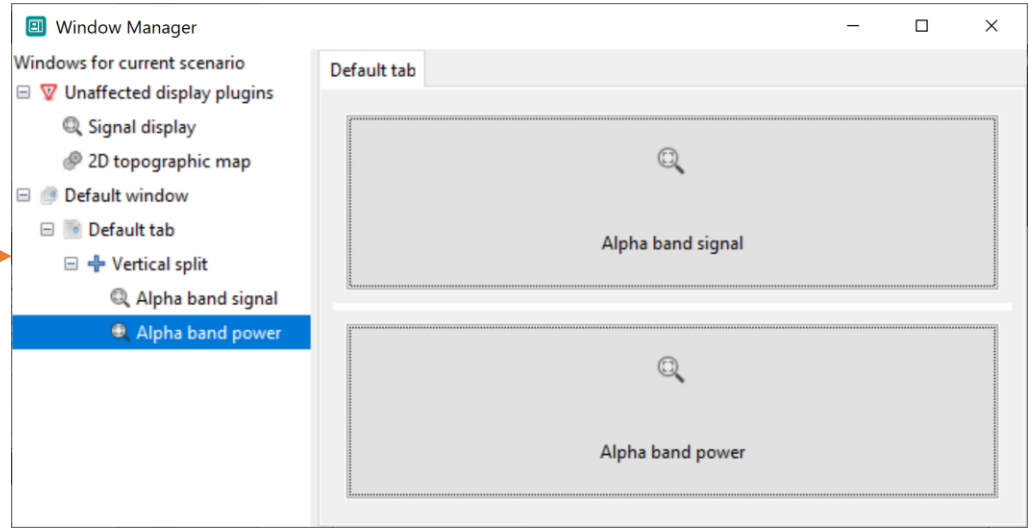
   (averaging x^2 across a window of 1s)
5. **DSP #2**

   formula `log10(1+x)`

   => `log10(1+avg(x²))`
6. Add Displays and rename them to “alpha band power” and “alpha band signal”

Step 2 - DSP, Visualization

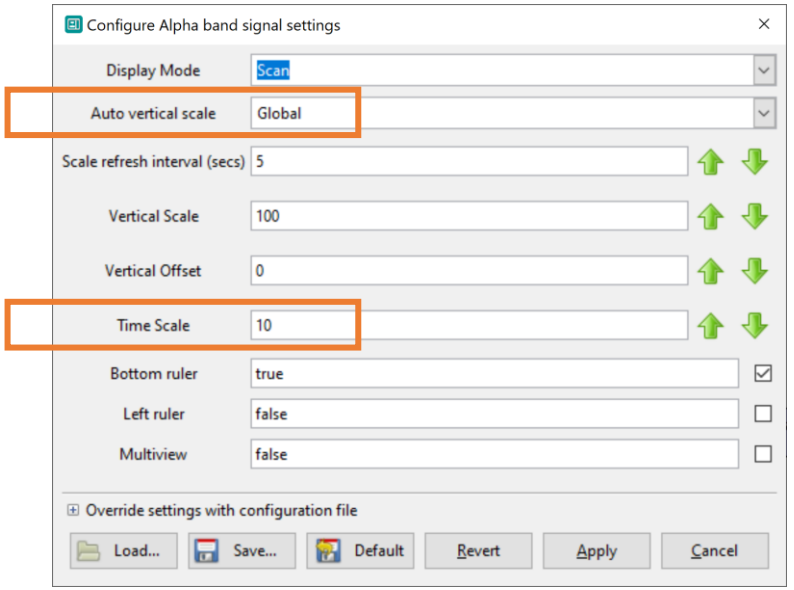




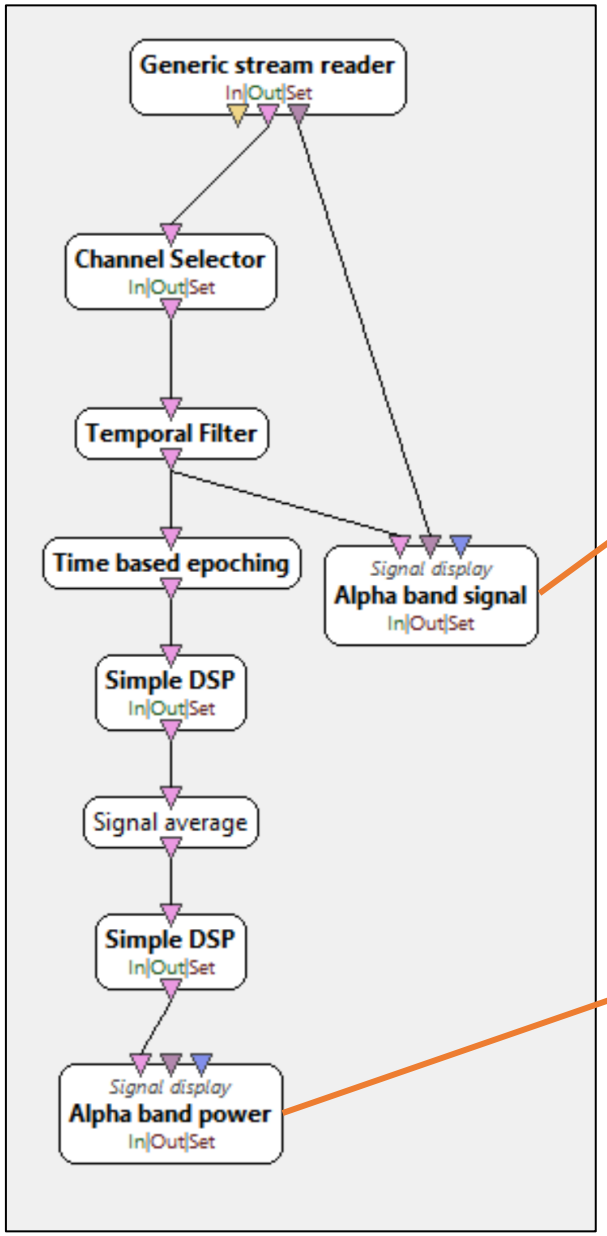
1. Use the “widget reordering tool” for ease of use!

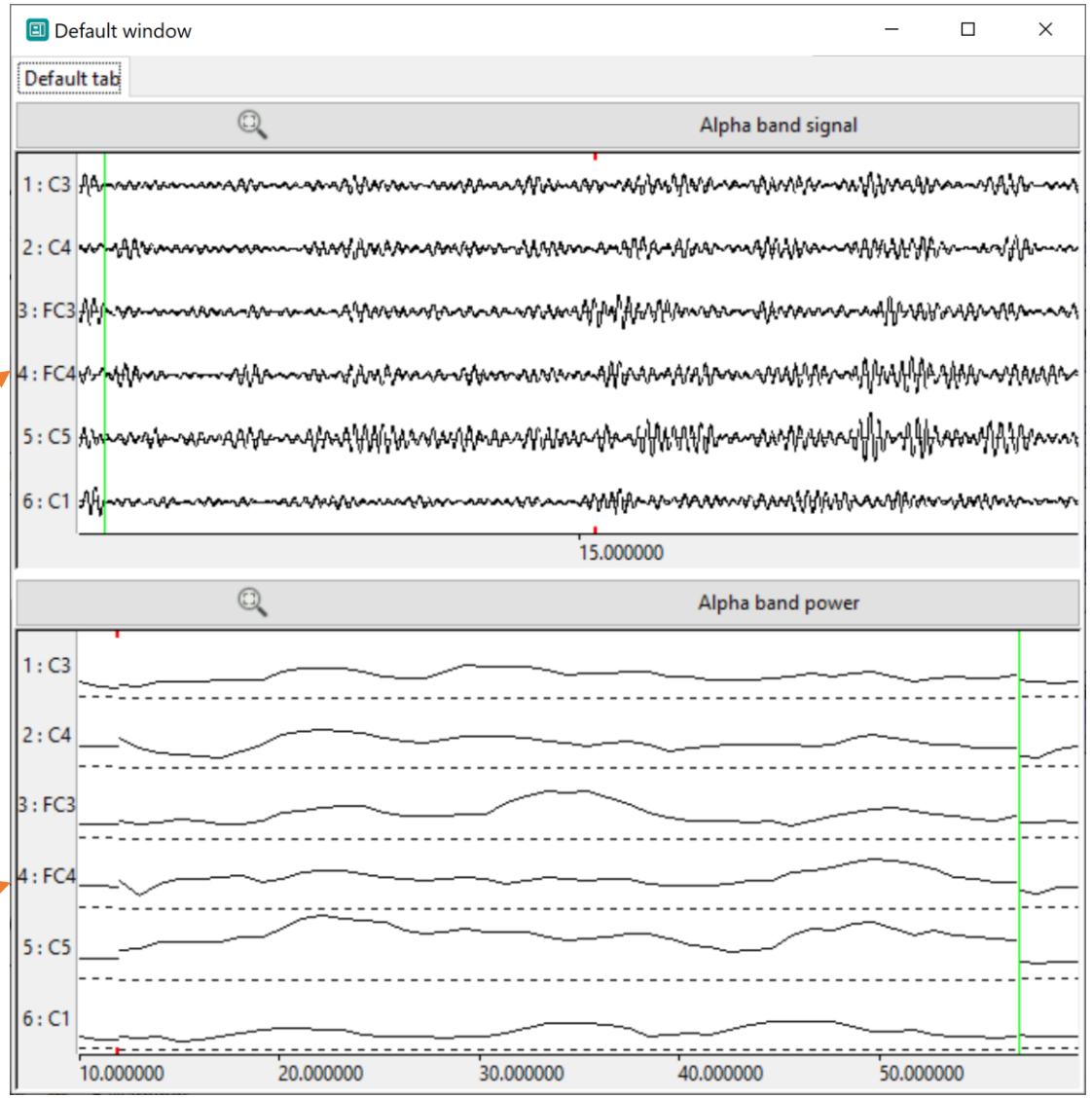
2. **Set time scales :** 10 (seconds) for alpha band signal display, 50 for alpha band power (since we have 5 times more data to display)

3. Set vertical scaling to “global”

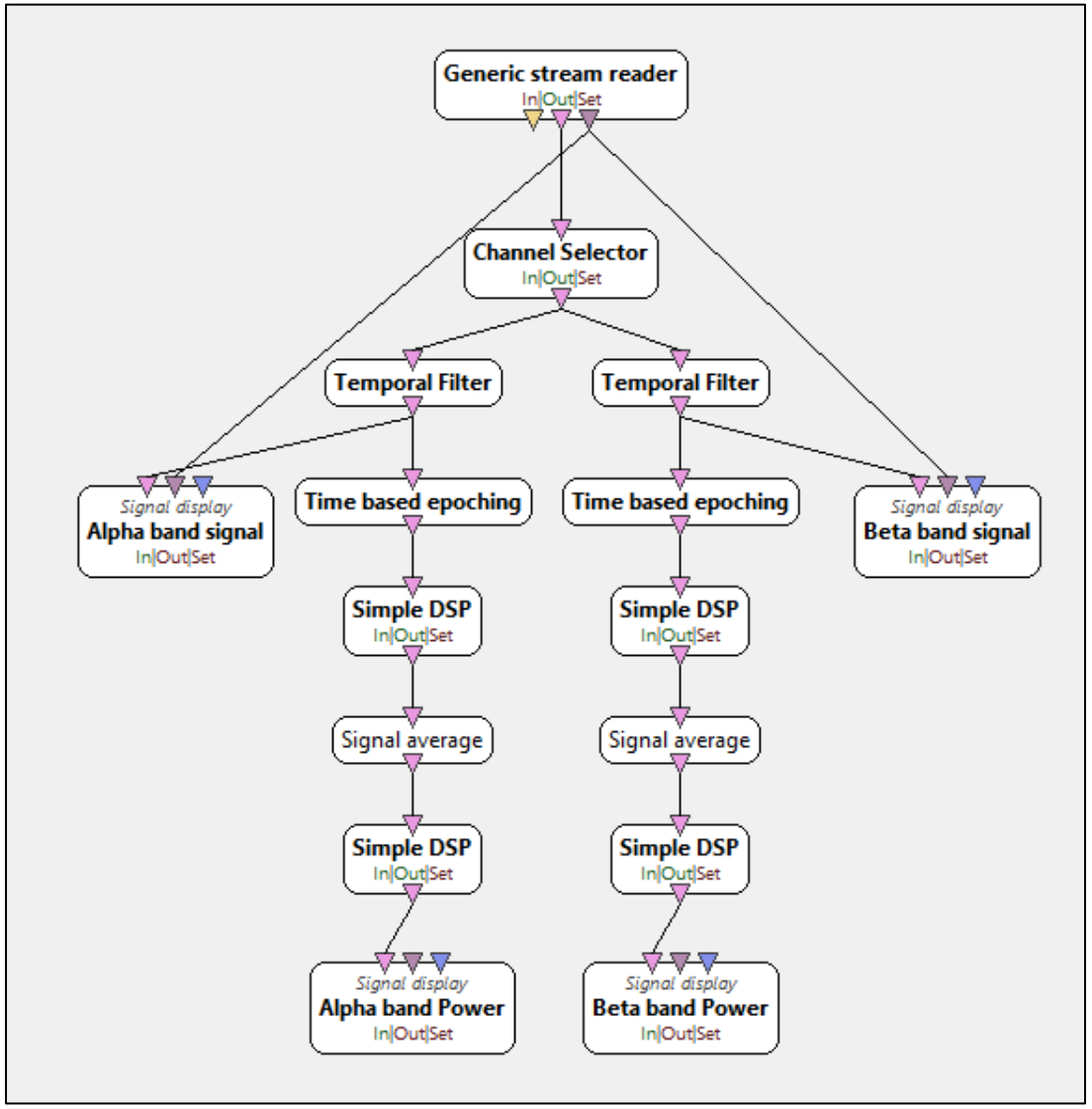


Step 2 - DSP, Visualization



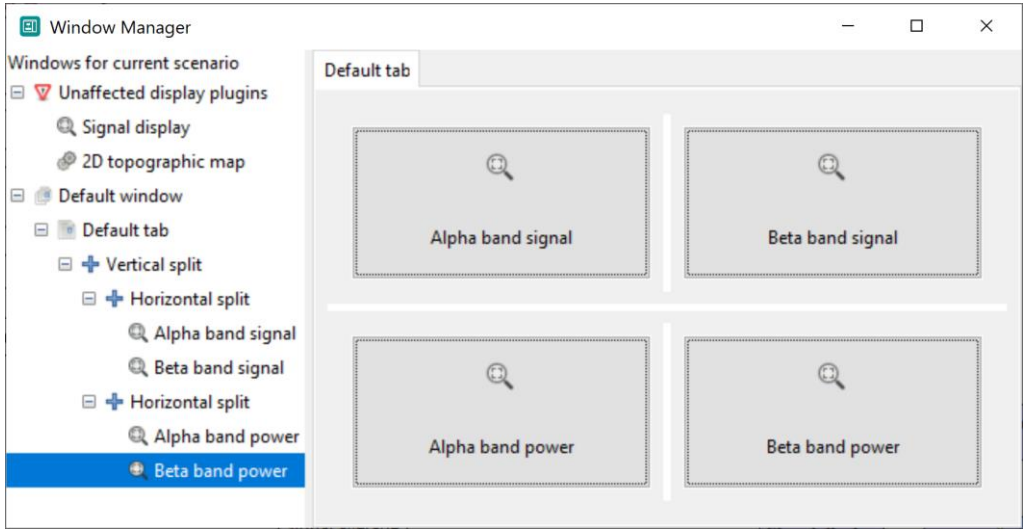


Step 2 - DSP, Visualization

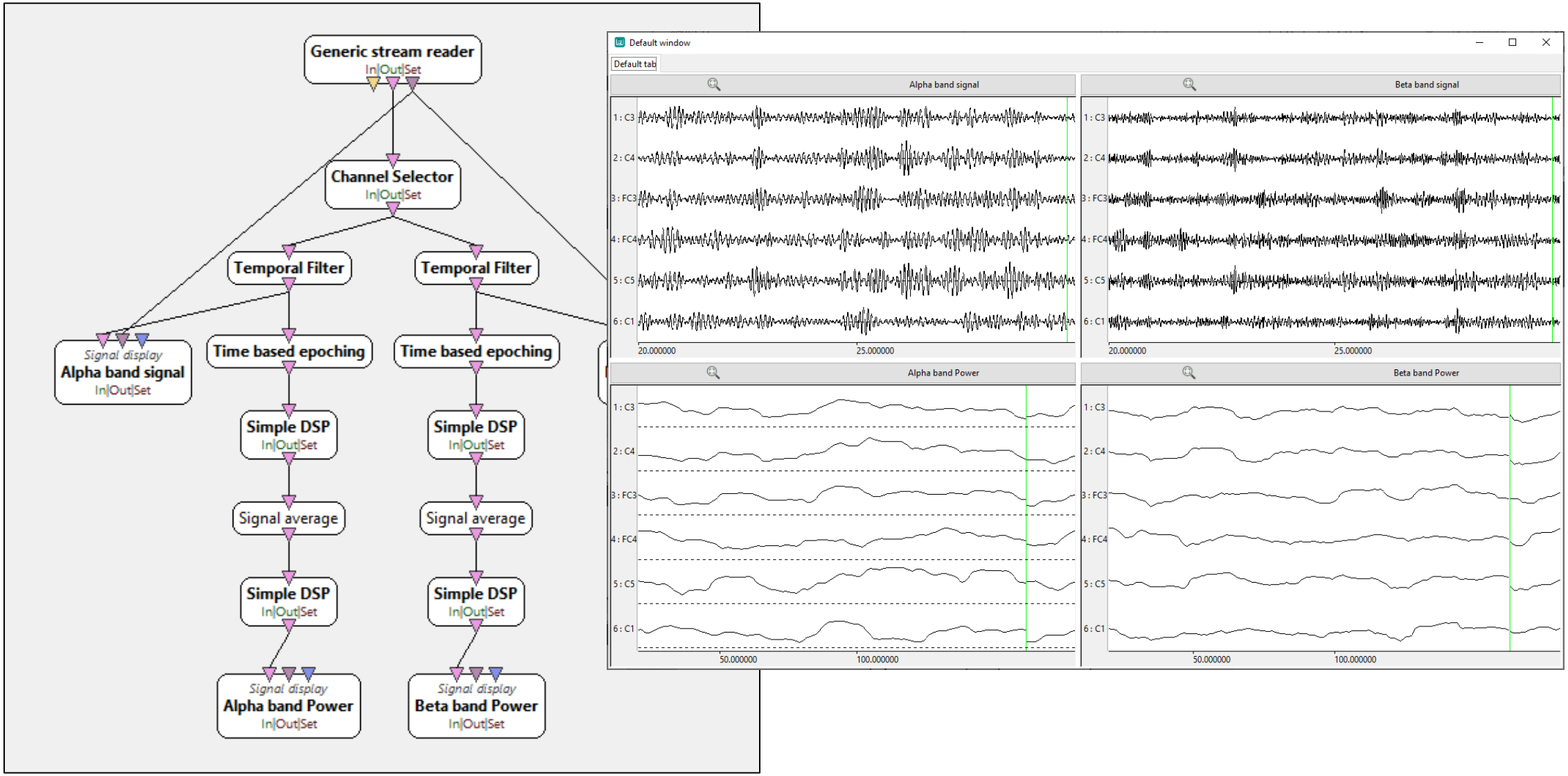


- **Repeat for Beta Band [12;29hz]**
- **Don't hesitate to copy/paste boxes...**

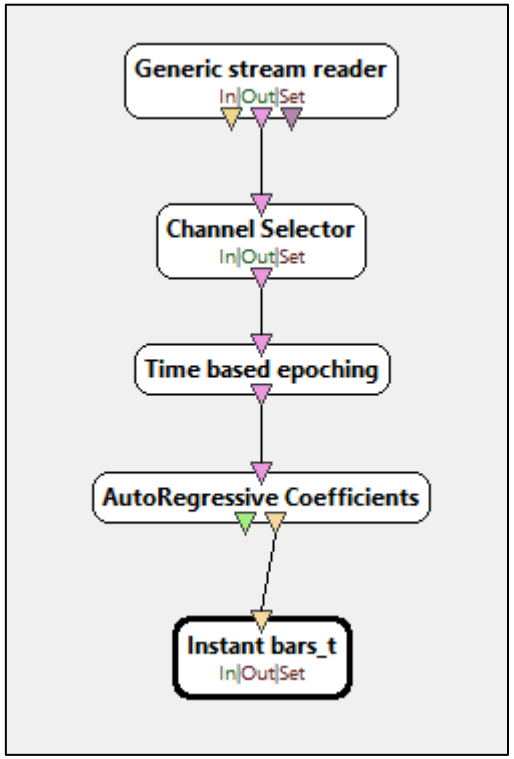
  ... but make sure you check/update their parameters



Step 2 - DSP, Visualization



Step 2 - DSP, Visualization



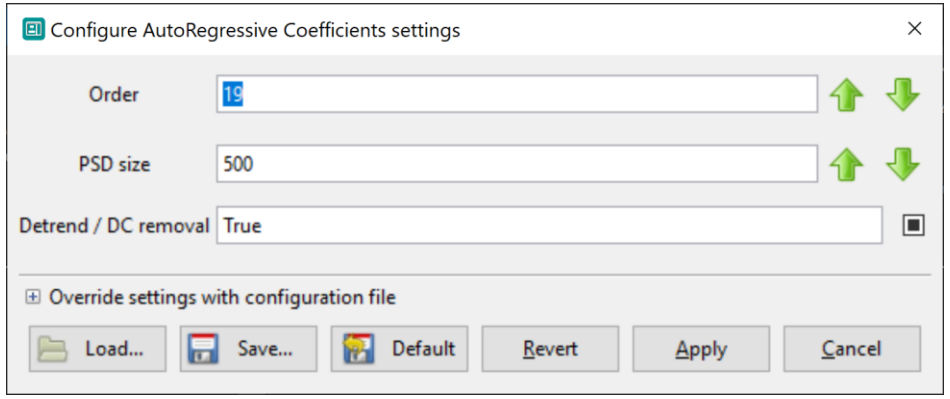
Alternative boxes for spectral estimation & visualization…

- **"Autoregressive Coefficients"**

  Estimates an AR model for the signal

  Output #1 = the AR coefficients

  Output #2 = the PSD of the signal, estimated as the FFT of the AR model.

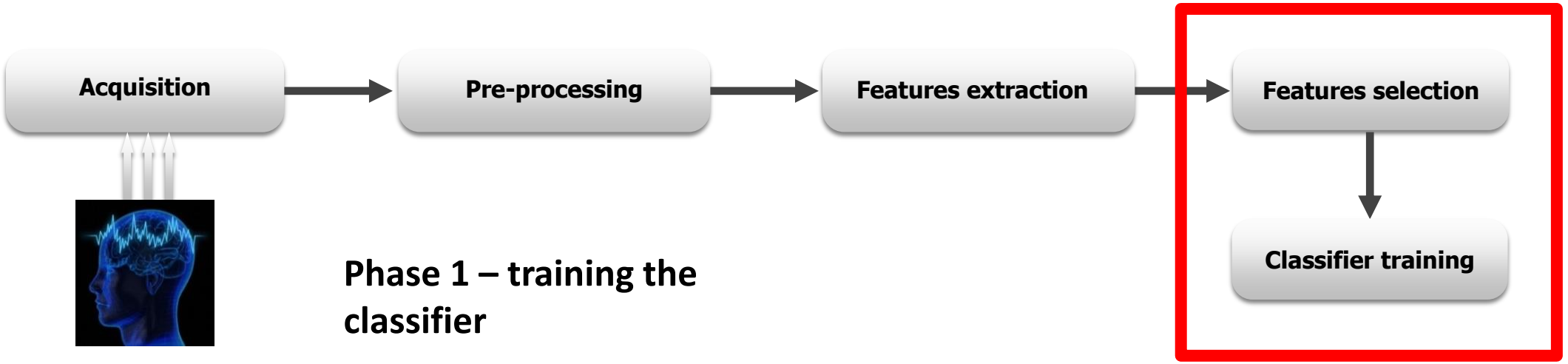


- **"Instant Bars"**

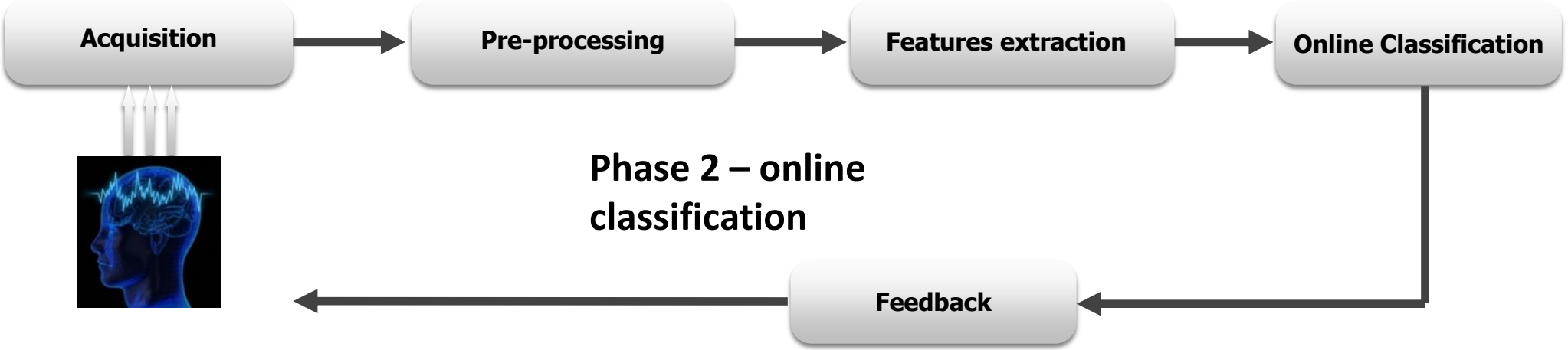
  Allows for quickly visualizing spectra / vectors / etc…

  ⚠ a bit bulky to setup

Motor Imagery Protocol



Phase 1 – training the classifier



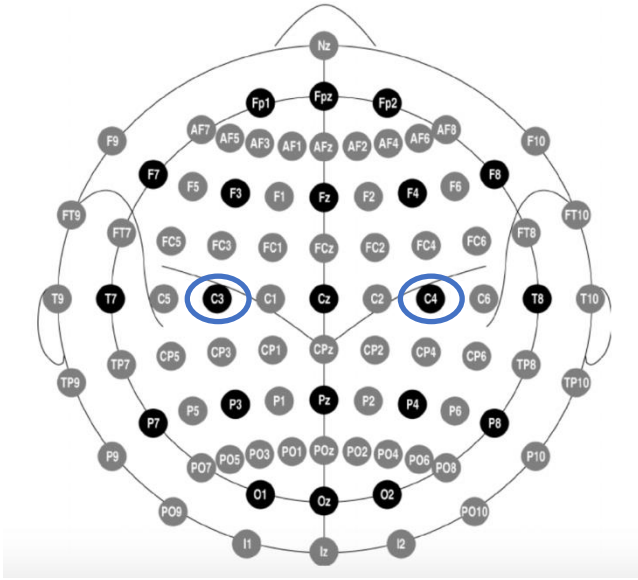
Phase 2 – online classification

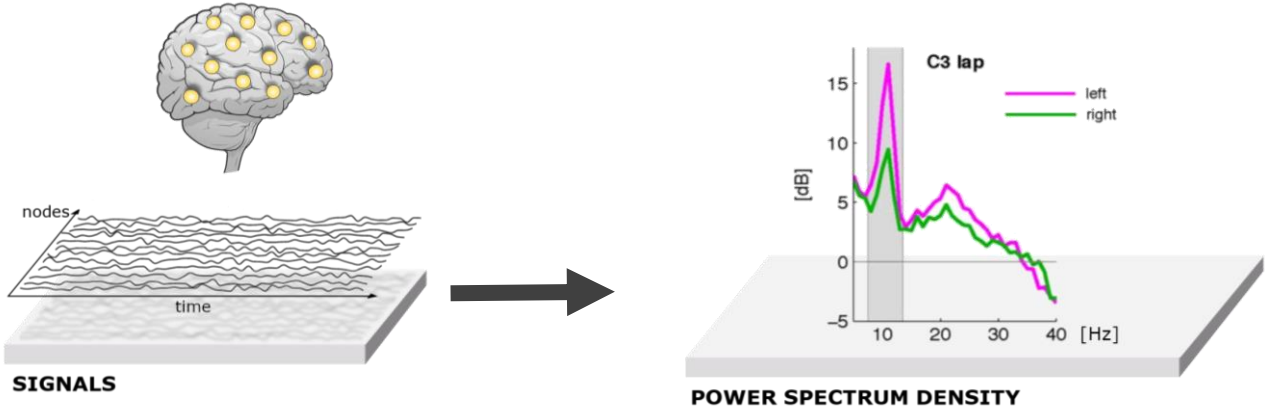
Step 3 - Training the classifier

- **Goal reminder:**

We want to train a classification algorithm…

- …to distinguish between mental states (MI /REST) …
- … using EEG signals from the sensorimotor areas …
- … more precisely instantaneous spectral power…
- … in bands alpha and/or beta





(Gonzalez-Astudillo et al, 2020)

(Maeder et al., 2012)

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- **In OpenViBE:**

Step 3 - Training the classifier

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- **In OpenViBE:**

- Feature Aggregator
- Classifier Trainer

Step 3 - Training the classifier

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- **In OpenViBE:**
  - Stimulation Based Epoching
  - Feature Aggregator
  - Classifier Trainer

Step 3 - Training the classifier

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- **In OpenViBE:**
  - Stimulation Based Epoching
  - Channel Selector
  - Feature Aggregator
  - Classifier Trainer

Step 3 - Training the classifier

- **Goal reminder:**

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- **In OpenViBE:**

  - Stimulation Based Epoching
  - Channel Selector
  - Time Based Epoching
  - AutoRegressive Coefficients
  - Feature Aggregator
  - Classifier Trainer

Step 3 - Training the classifier

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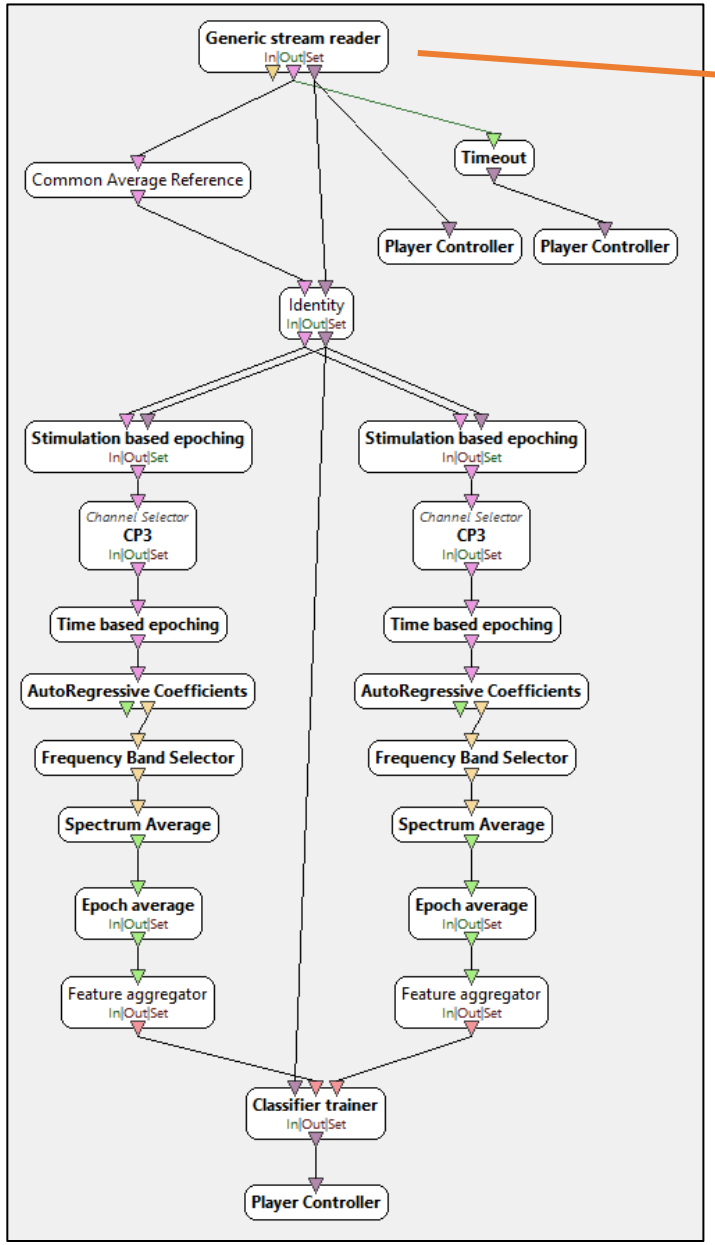
  - … more precisely instantaneous spectral power…
  - … in bands alpha and/or beta

- **In OpenViBE:**
  - Stimulation Based Epoching
  - Channel Selector
  - Time Based Epoching
  - AutoRegressive Coefficients
  - Frequency Band Selector
  - Feature Aggregator
  - Classifier Trainer

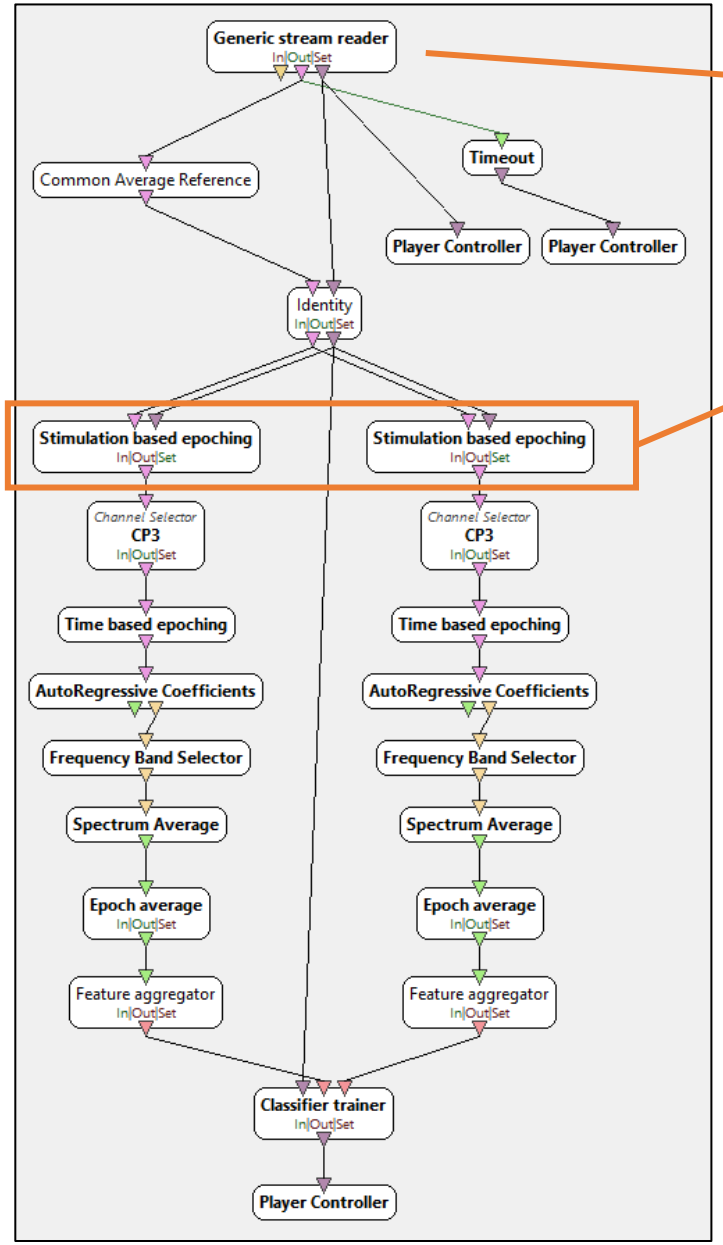
  … + a few other boxes

Step 3 - Training the classifier



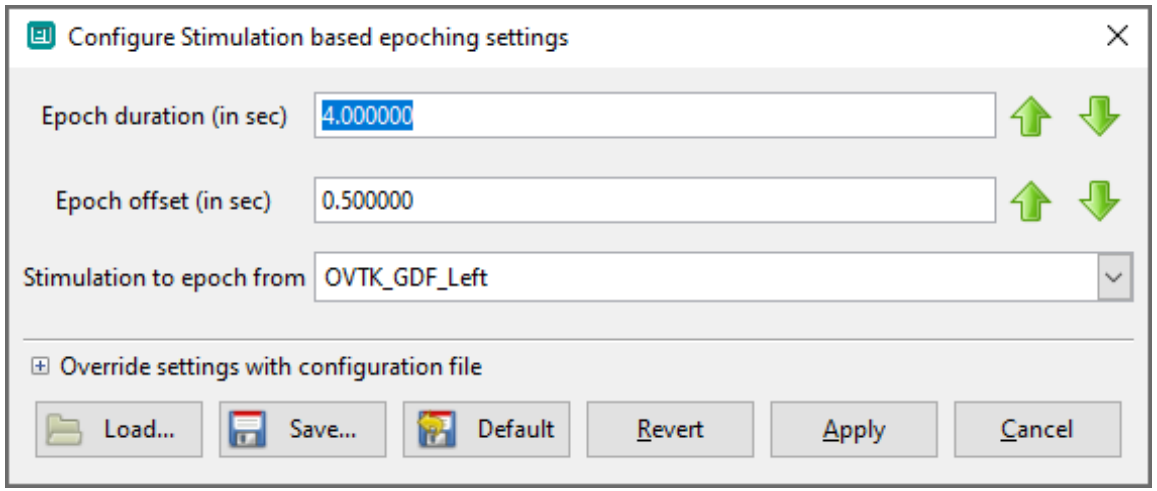
Load a signal file…

Step 3 - Training the classifier

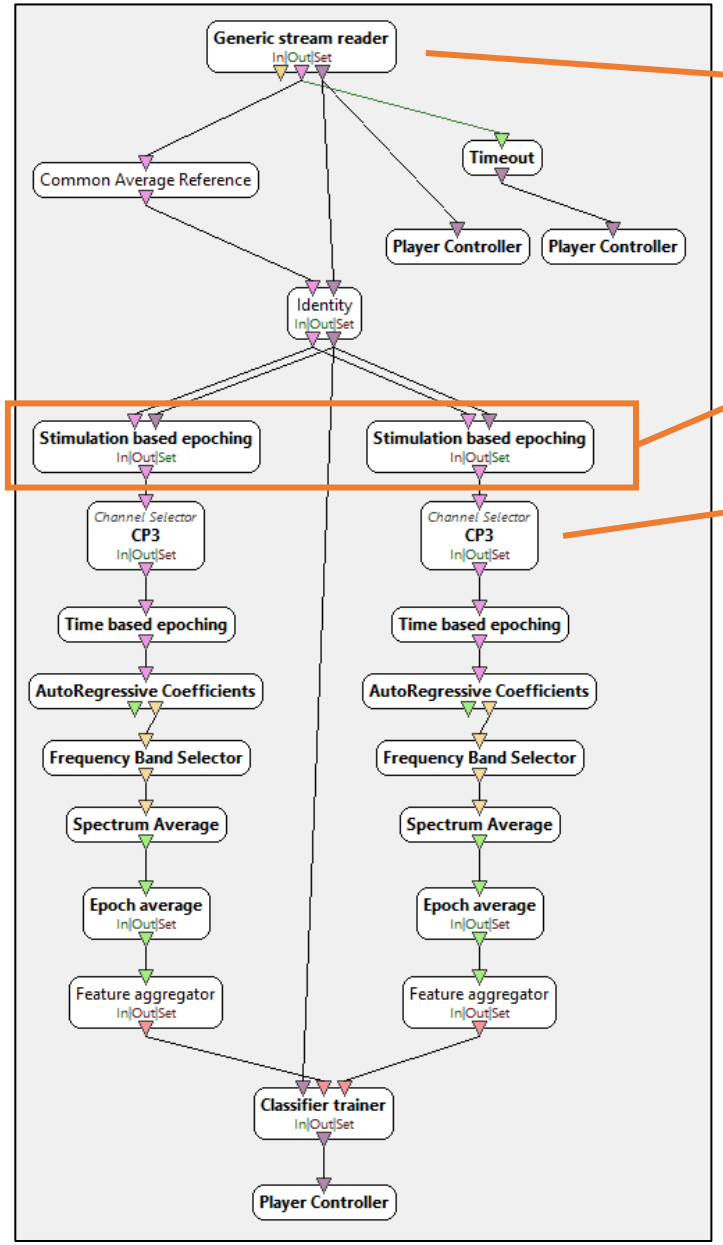


Load a signal file…

- **… distinguish** between mental states (MI /REST)…



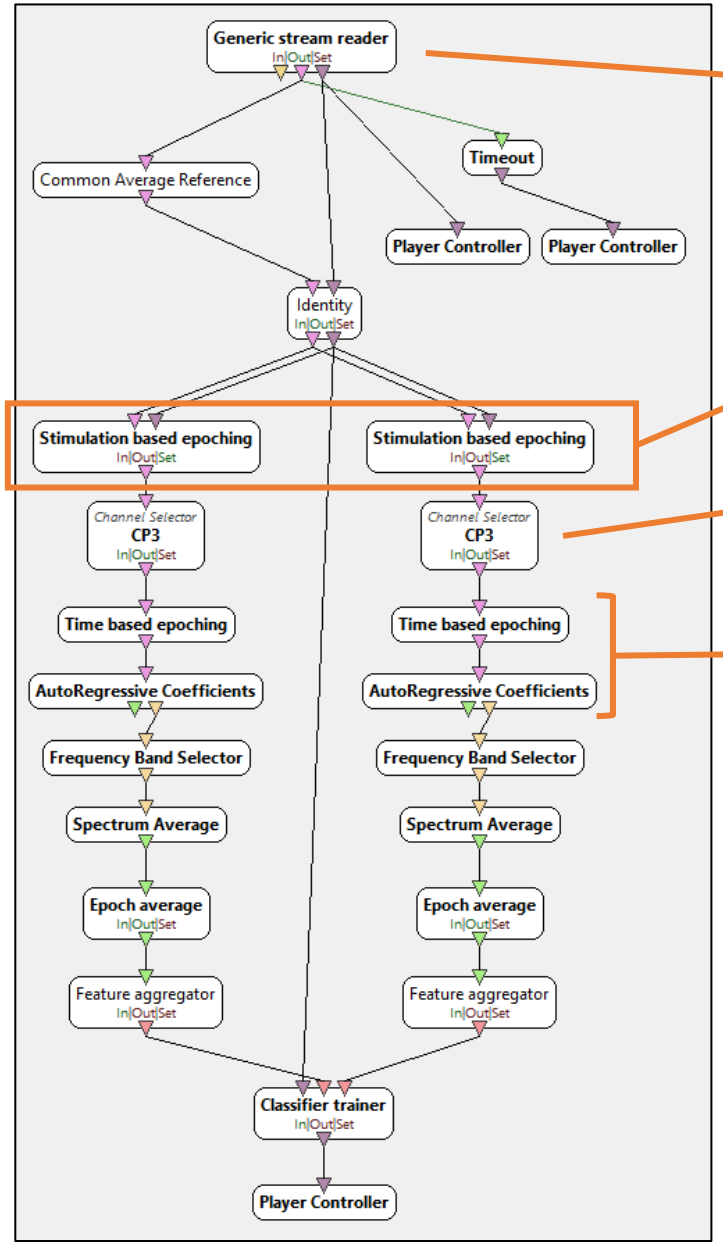
Step 3 - Training the classifier



Load a signal file…

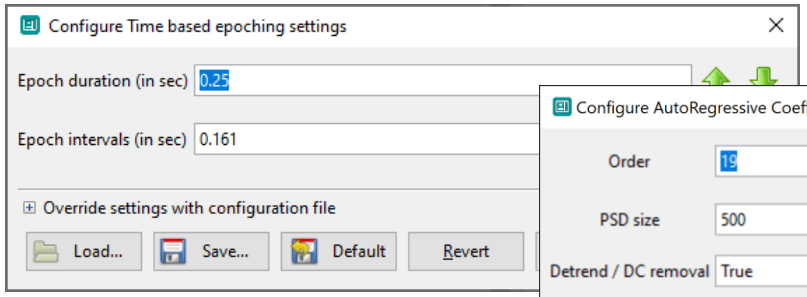
- … **distinguish** between mental states (MI /REST)…
- … using EEG signals **from the sensorimotor areas**…

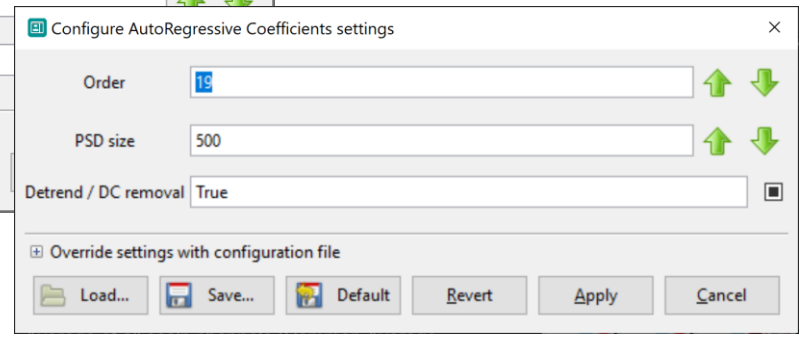
Step 3 - Training the classifier



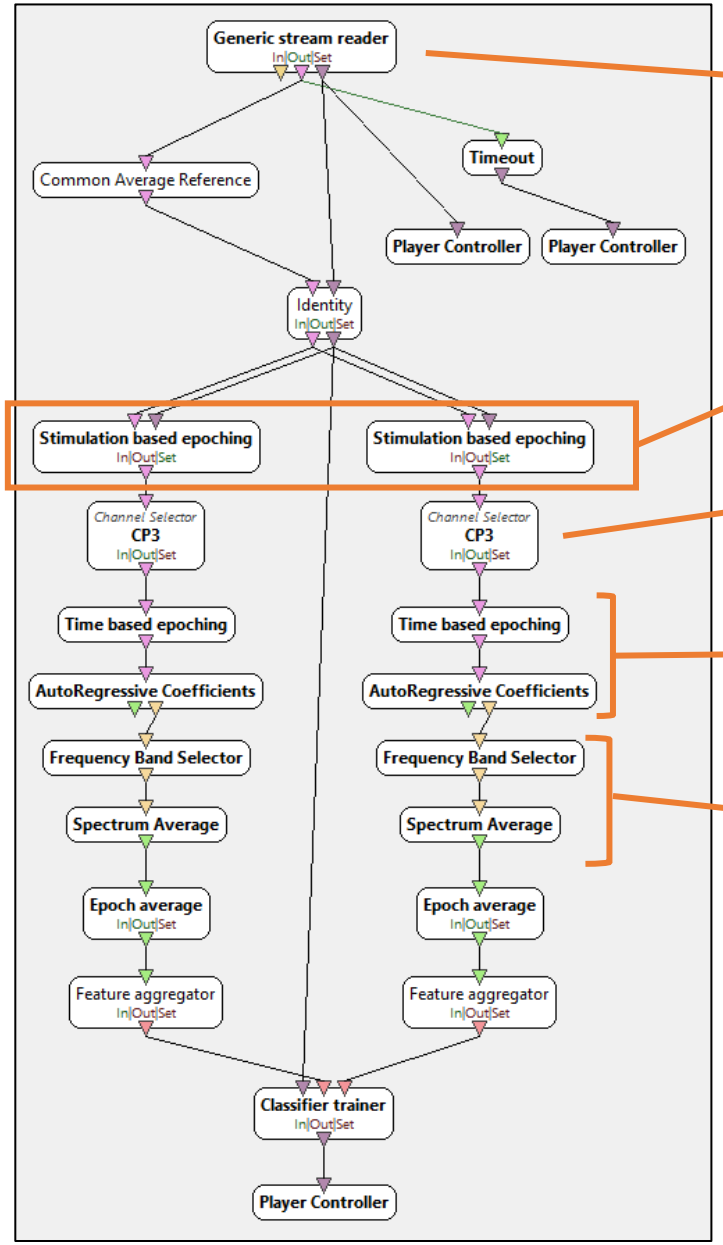
Load a signal file…

- … **distinguish** between mental states (MI /REST)…
- … using EEG signals **from the sensorimotor areas**…
- … more precisely **instantaneous spectral power**…



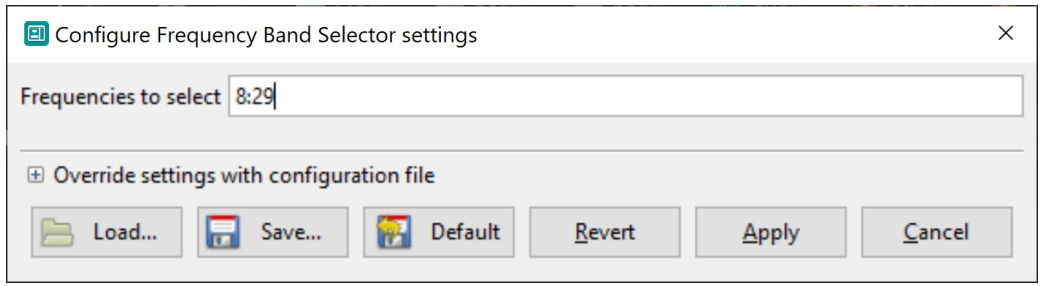


Step 3 - Training the classifier



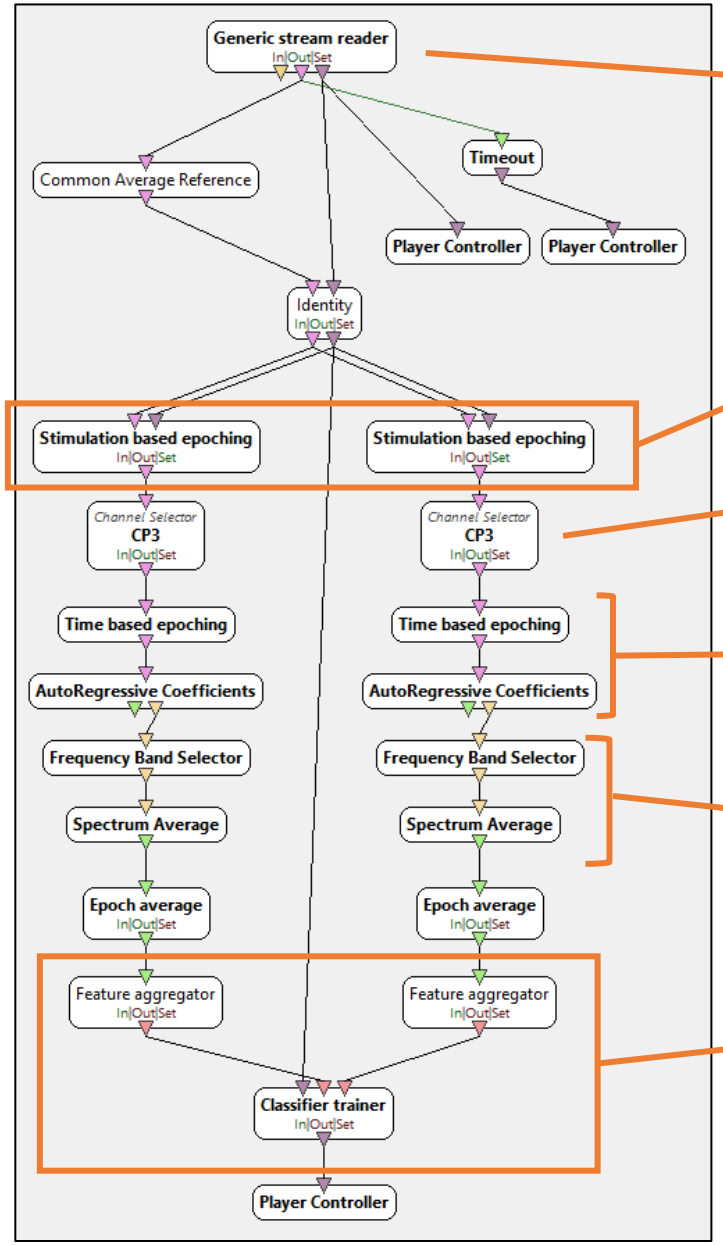
Load a signal file…

- … **distinguish** between mental states (MI /REST)…
- … using EEG signals **from the sensorimotor areas**…
- … more precisely **instantaneous spectral power**…
- … in **bands alpha and/or beta**



(+ average across the freq. band)

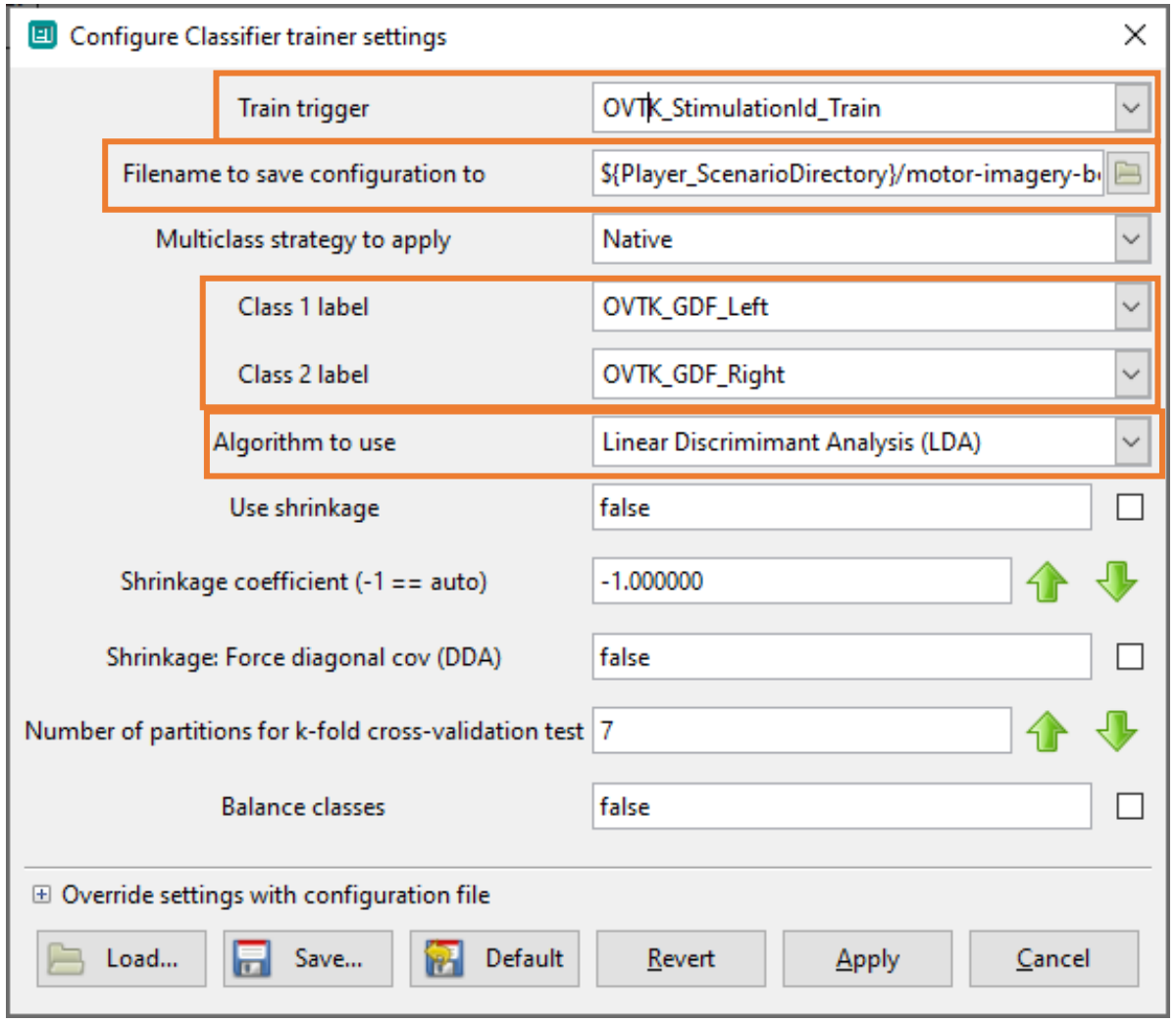
Step 3 - Training the classifier



Load a signal file…

- … **distinguish** between mental states (MI /REST)…
- … using EEG signals **from the sensorimotor areas…**
- … more precisely **instantaneous spectral power…**
- … in **bands alpha and/or beta**
- … to **train the classification algo**

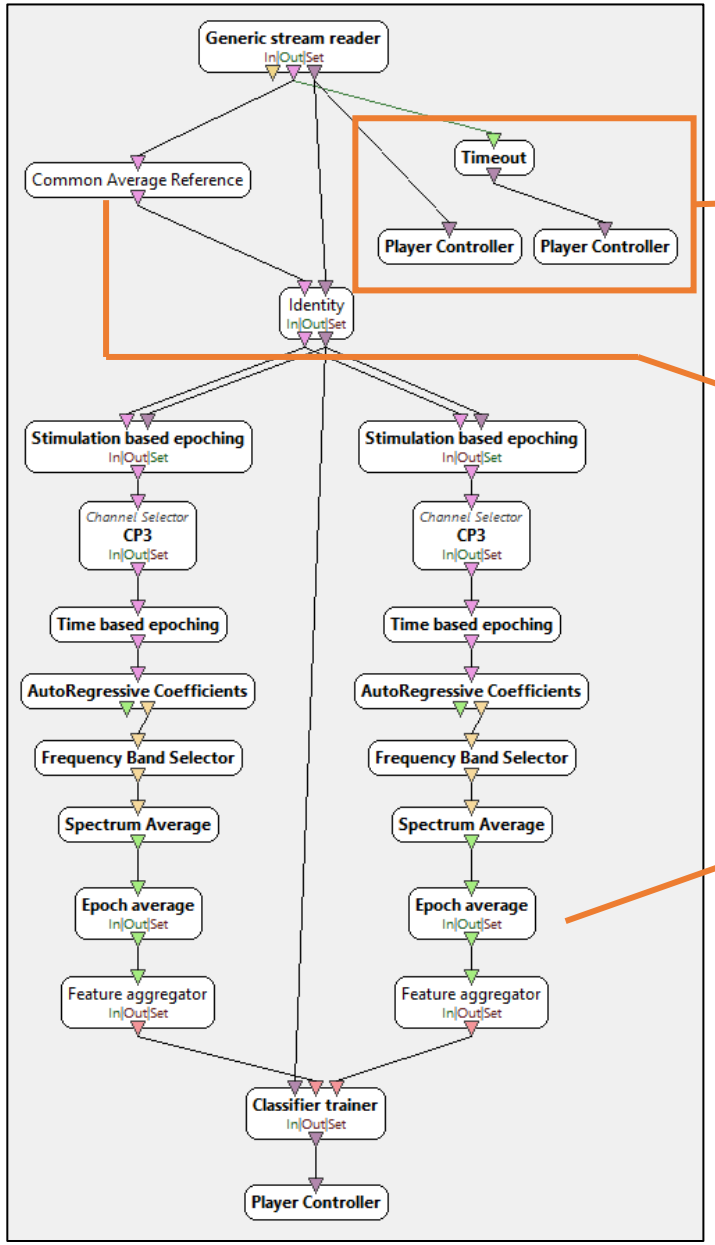
Step 3 - Training the classifier



- **"Train Trigger"**:

  Set in the acquisition LUA script (see Annex) to a specific stimulation code, triggered at the end of the experiment
- Set the **path/filename** for the training "weights" (results)
- Check that the **classifier classes** are correctly labeled
- Select a **classification algo.** (LDA, SVM…) and set its parameters

Step 3 - Training the classifier



Other (useful!) boxes

- **Player Controller** / Timeout:

  Control the flow of the experiment

- **Common Avg Reference**

  Make sure the avg. of all channels' signals is zero

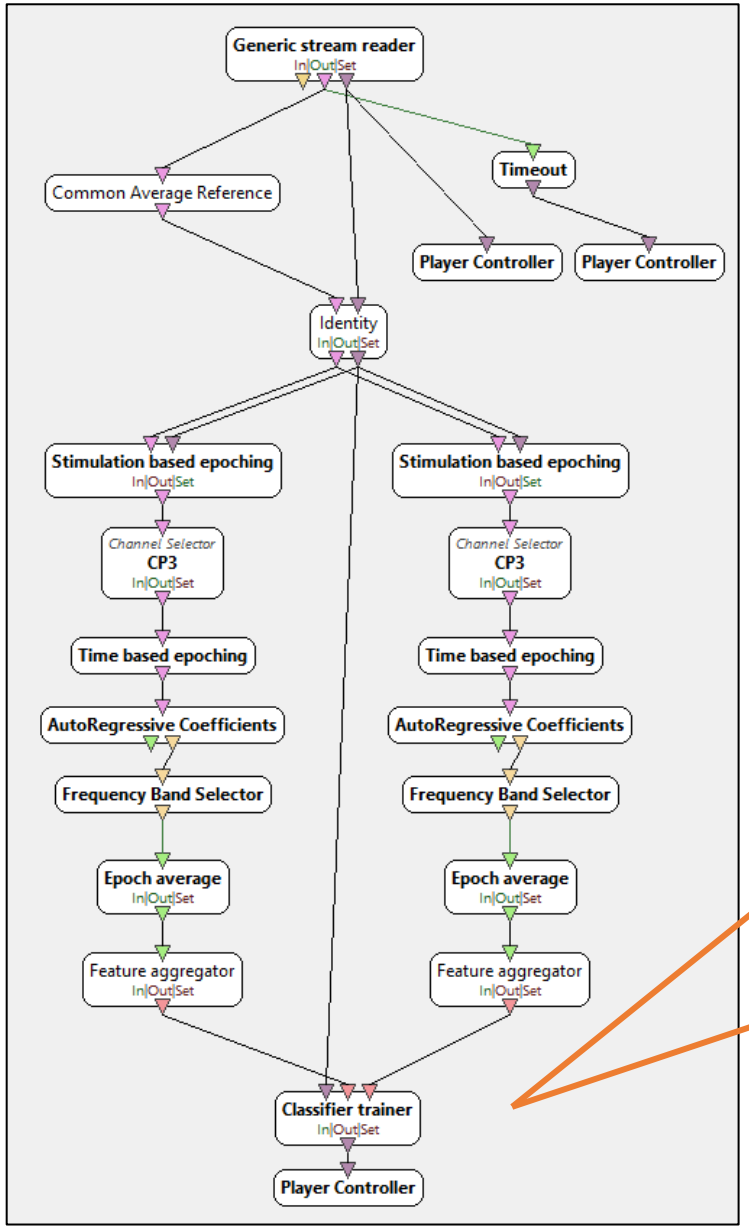
- **Epoch Average**

  Average "Feature Vectors" used for classification across a full "Epoch" (here, the duration of a MI trial)

- **Identity**

  Simply propagates signals & stims. Useful for readability

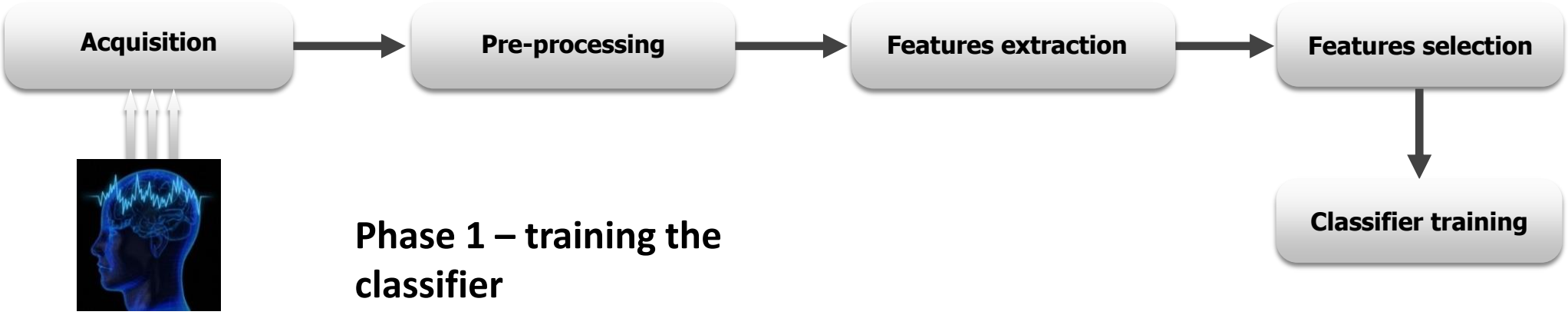
Step 3 - Training the classifier

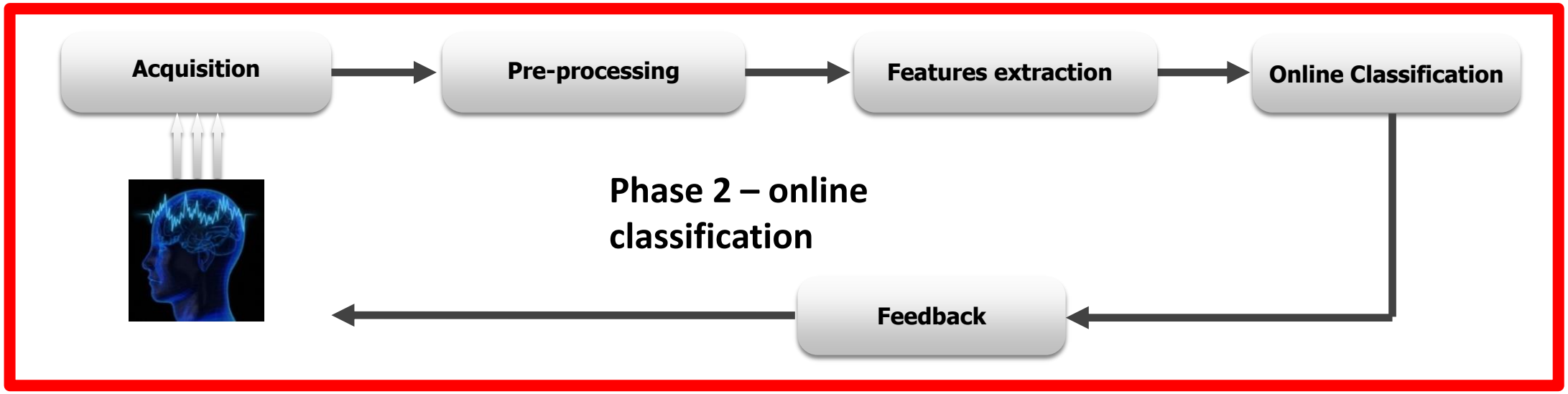



```
Cross-validation test accuracy is 90.000000% (sigma = 20.000000%)
  Cls vs cls      1     2
  Target  1:  100.0   0.0 %, 10 examples
  Target  2:   20.0  80.0 %, 10 examples
Training set accuracy is 100.000000% (optimistic)
  Cls vs cls      1     2
  Target  1:  100.0   0.0 %, 10 examples
  Target  2:    0.0 100.0 %, 10 examples
```

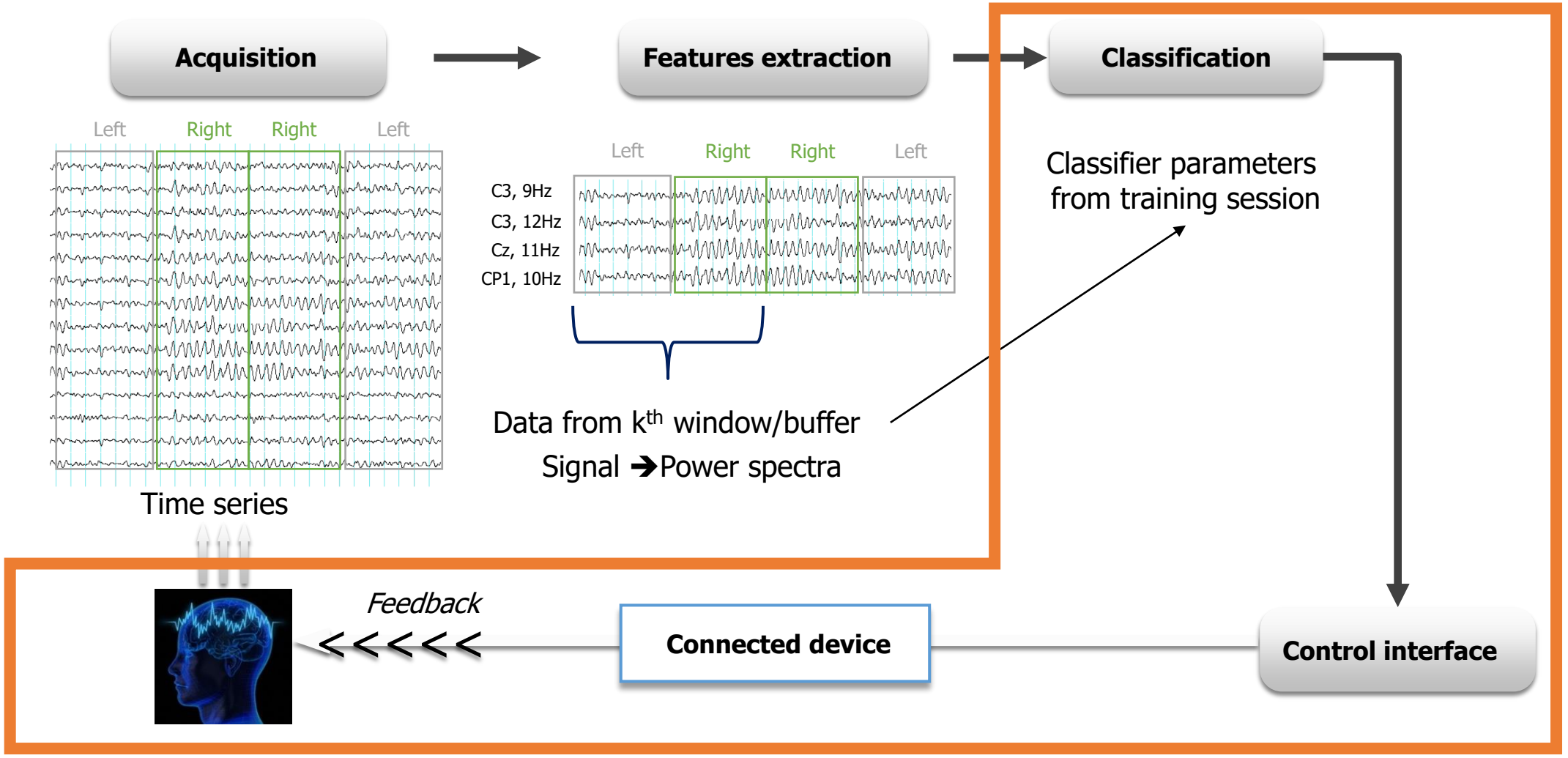
Filename to save configuration to: output_weights.xml

Motor Imagery Protocol - Phase 2





Motor Imagery Protocol - Phase 2



Step 3 - Online classification

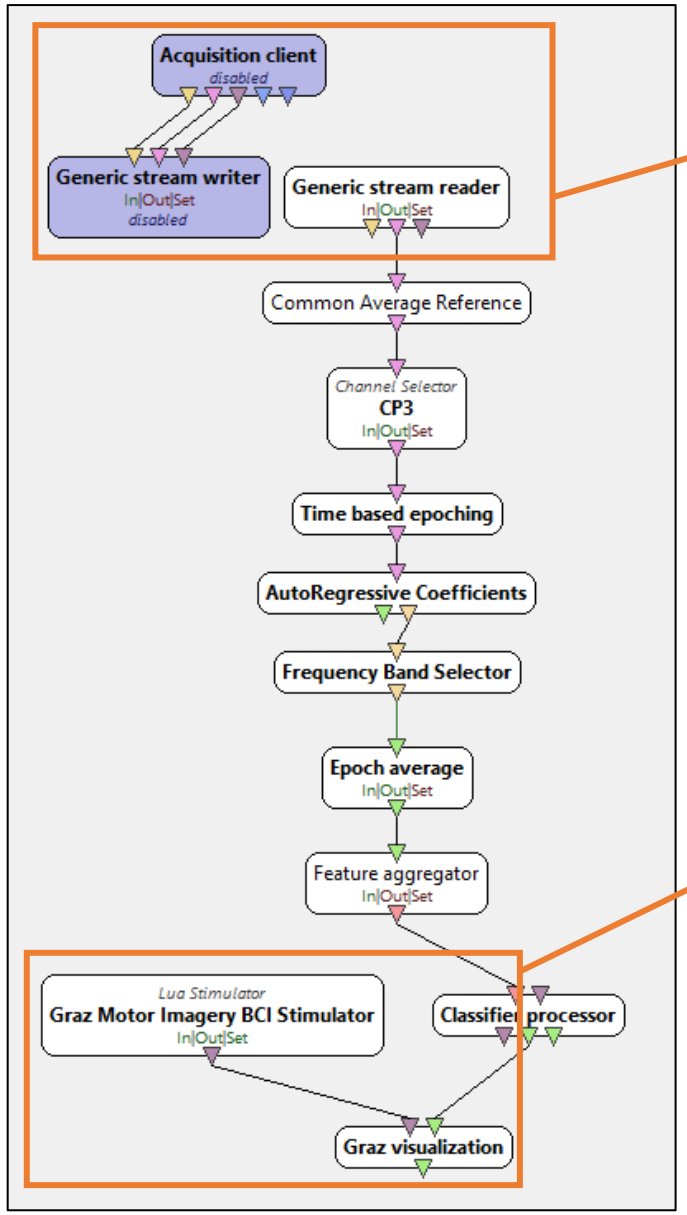
- **Goals:**

From EEG data acquired in **real-time**, while providing **MI tasks** to the subject…

- We want to **classify their mental states** (also in real-time!)
- **… using the classifier previously trained.**

➔ We will reuse most of the building blocks set up so far

Step 3 - Online classification



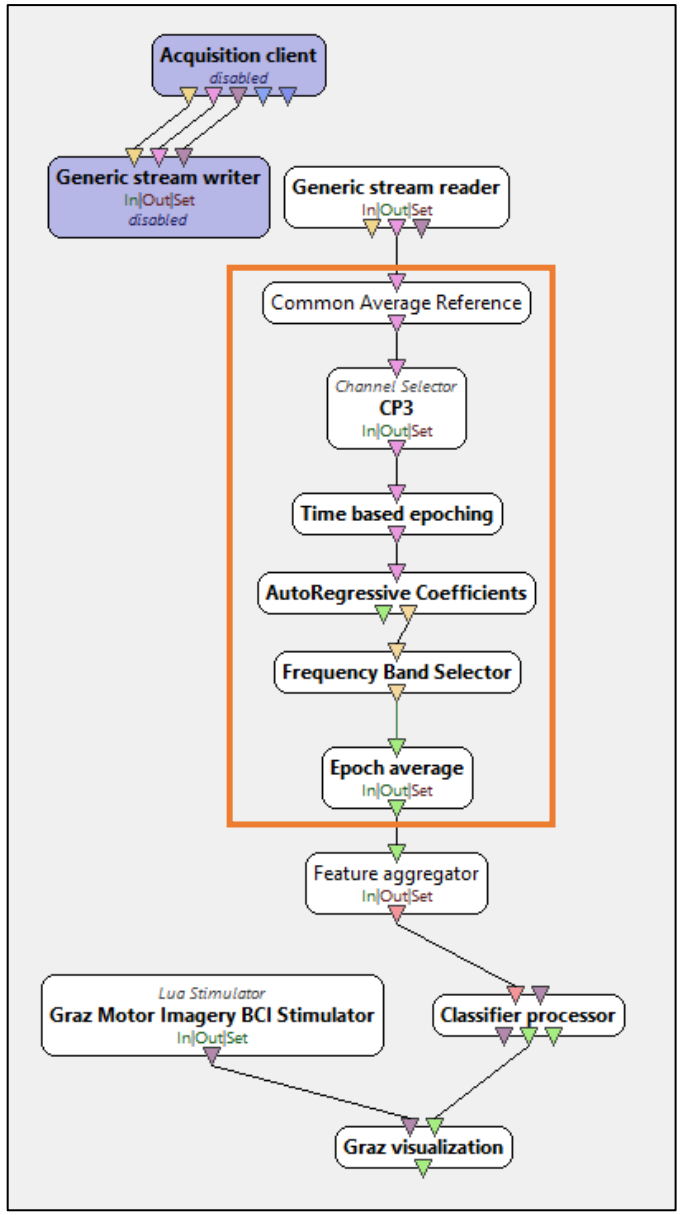
Using a pre-recorded signal file

In a real BCI experiment, we should of course use the **Acquisition Client** (and record the incoming signals for future replays and studies).

Today, we're running an online demonstration without EEG hardware, so we shall use a pre-recorded signal file…

The subject would receive instructions synchronized with stimulations set up in the **LUA stimulator Box**. Let's set this up exactly as for a real-life experiment.

Step 3 - Online classification

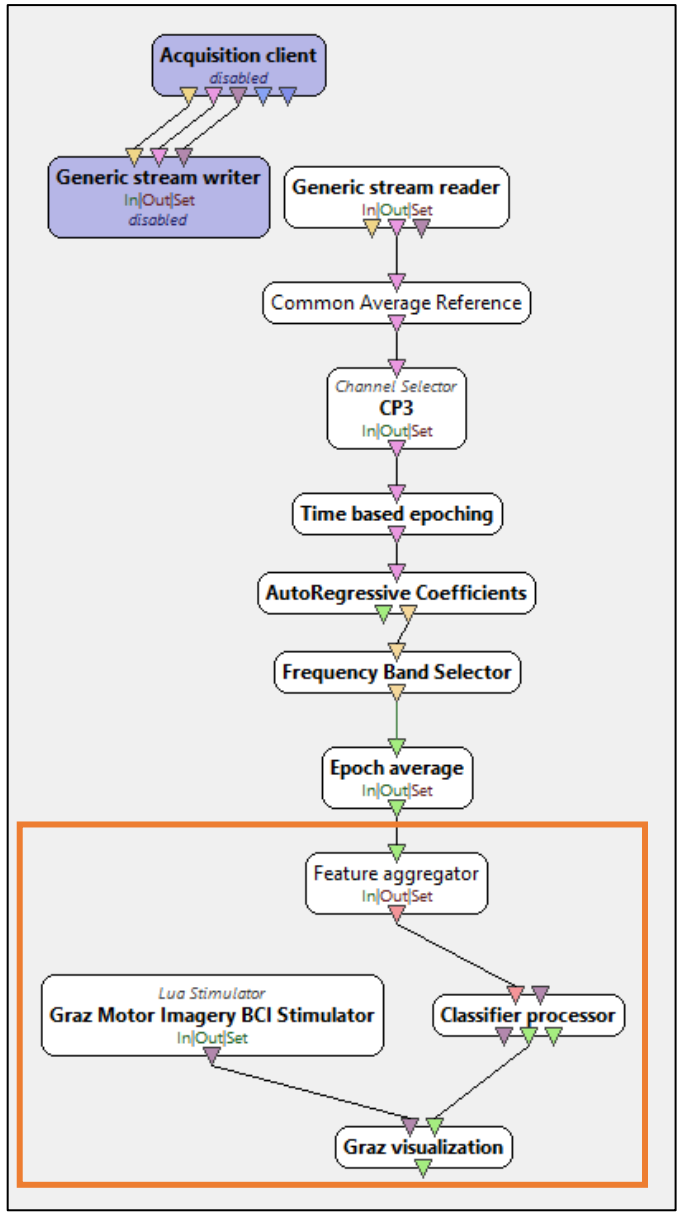


Signal Processing / Feature extraction

We want the classifier to receive the same type of data used for training.

Here, we shall use the same features previously used for training the classifier.

Step 3 - Online classification



Use the “**Classifier Processor**” box, loading the “**weights**” file generated in the training phase

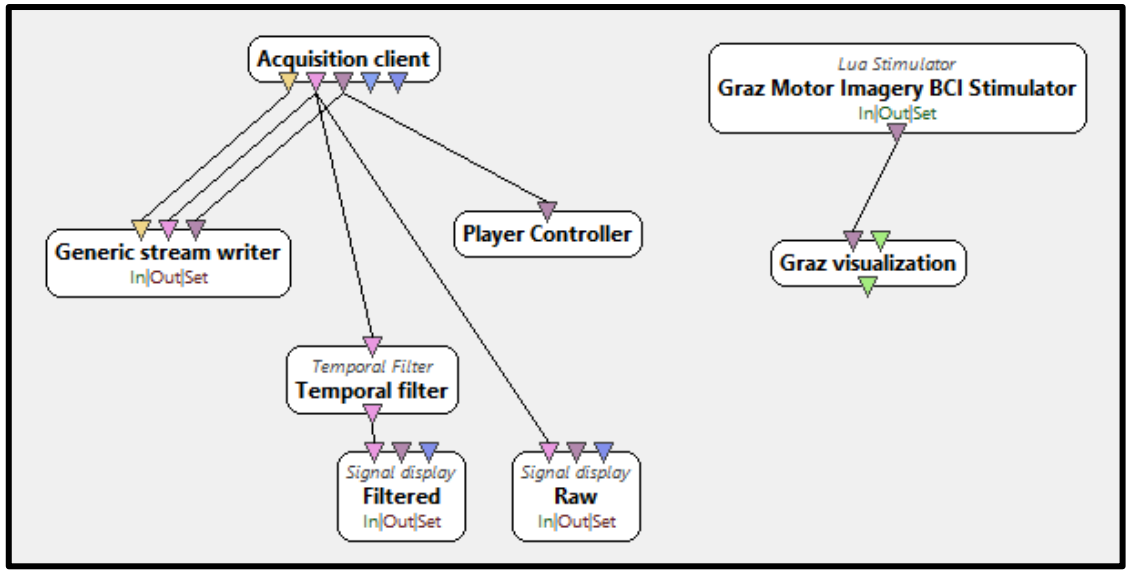
Use the same **LUA script** & **Graz Visualization** boxes as for the **Acquisition phase** to generate stimulations & “tasks”, and display instructions for the subject.

The “**streamed matrix**” stream from **Classifier processor** to **Graz Visualization** corresponds to the “classification **accuracy**”

ACQUISITION SERVER/CLIENT

PROTOCOL MANAGEMENT / STIMULATIONS

Acquisition - Protocol mgmt. & Stimulations



- **Scenario:**

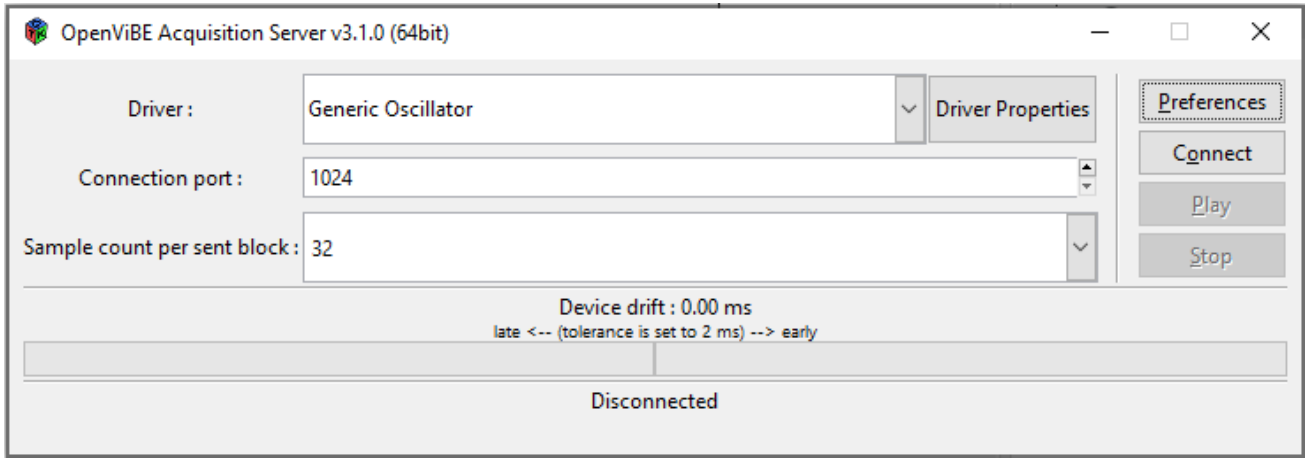
  in the workshop github:

  `sc1-monitor-acq.xml`

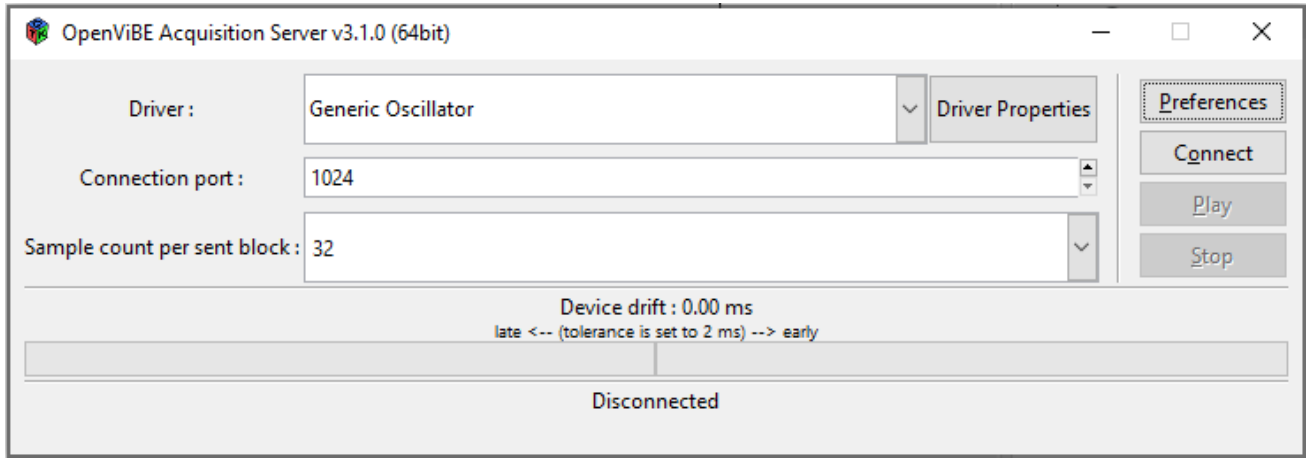
- **OpenViBE Acquisition server:**

  in the install folder:

  `openvibe-acquisition-server.cmd`



Acquisition - Protocol mgmt. & Stimulations



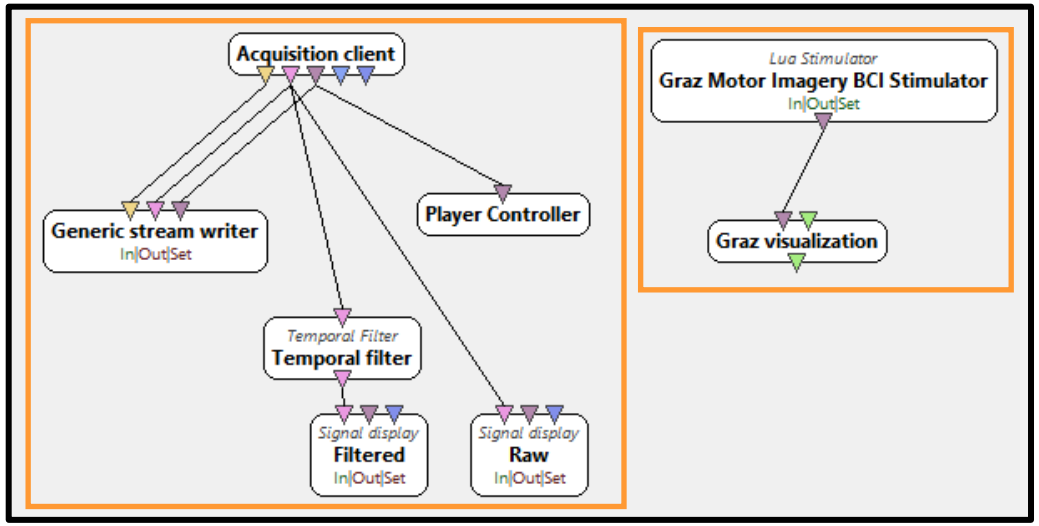
1. **In the "Driver" list, select "Generic Oscillator"**

   In this list, you'll find all the drivers for OpenViBE's supported EEG hardware

2. **Click "Connect"**

3. **Click "Play"**

Acquisition - Protocol mgmt. & Stimulations

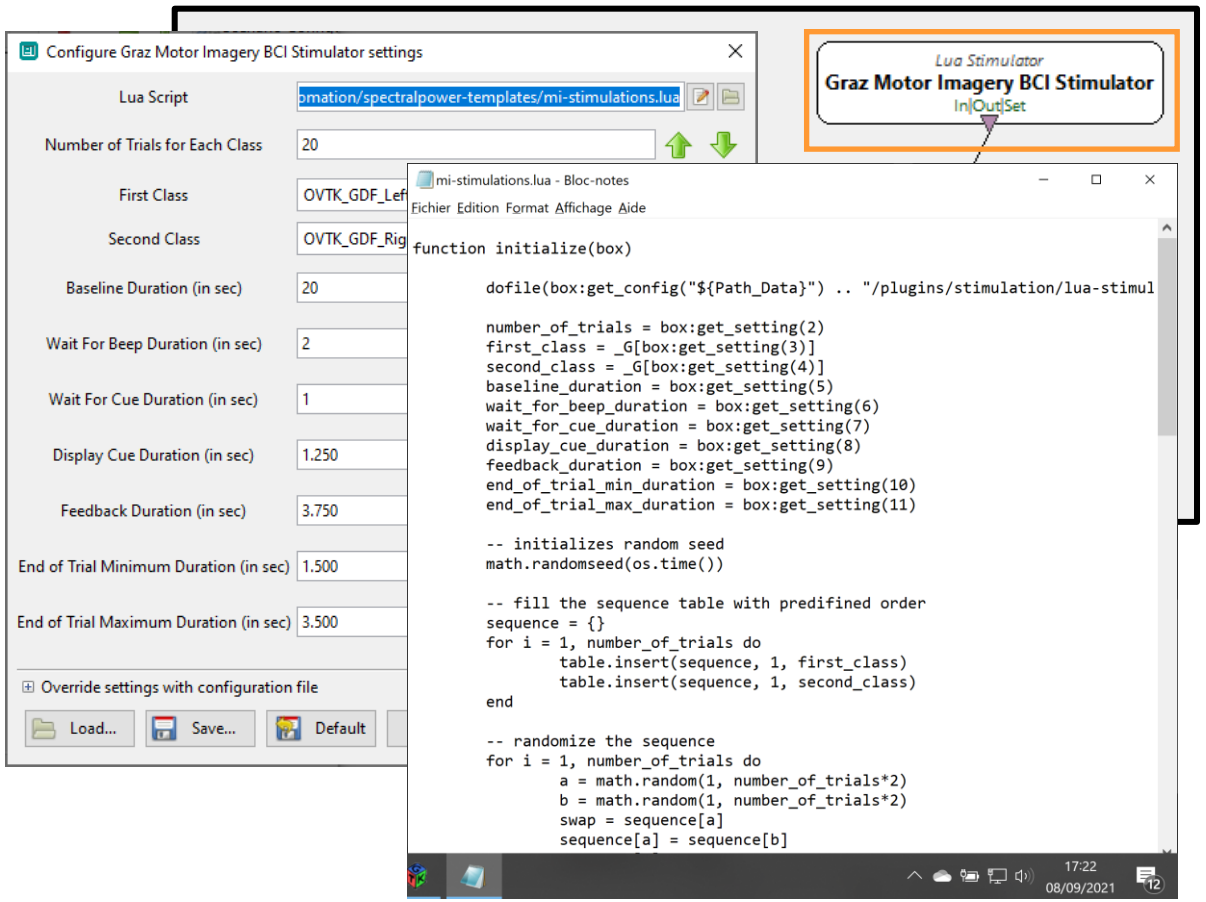


EEG data acquisition

Stimulation generation

& display

Acquisition - Protocol mgmt. & Stimulations

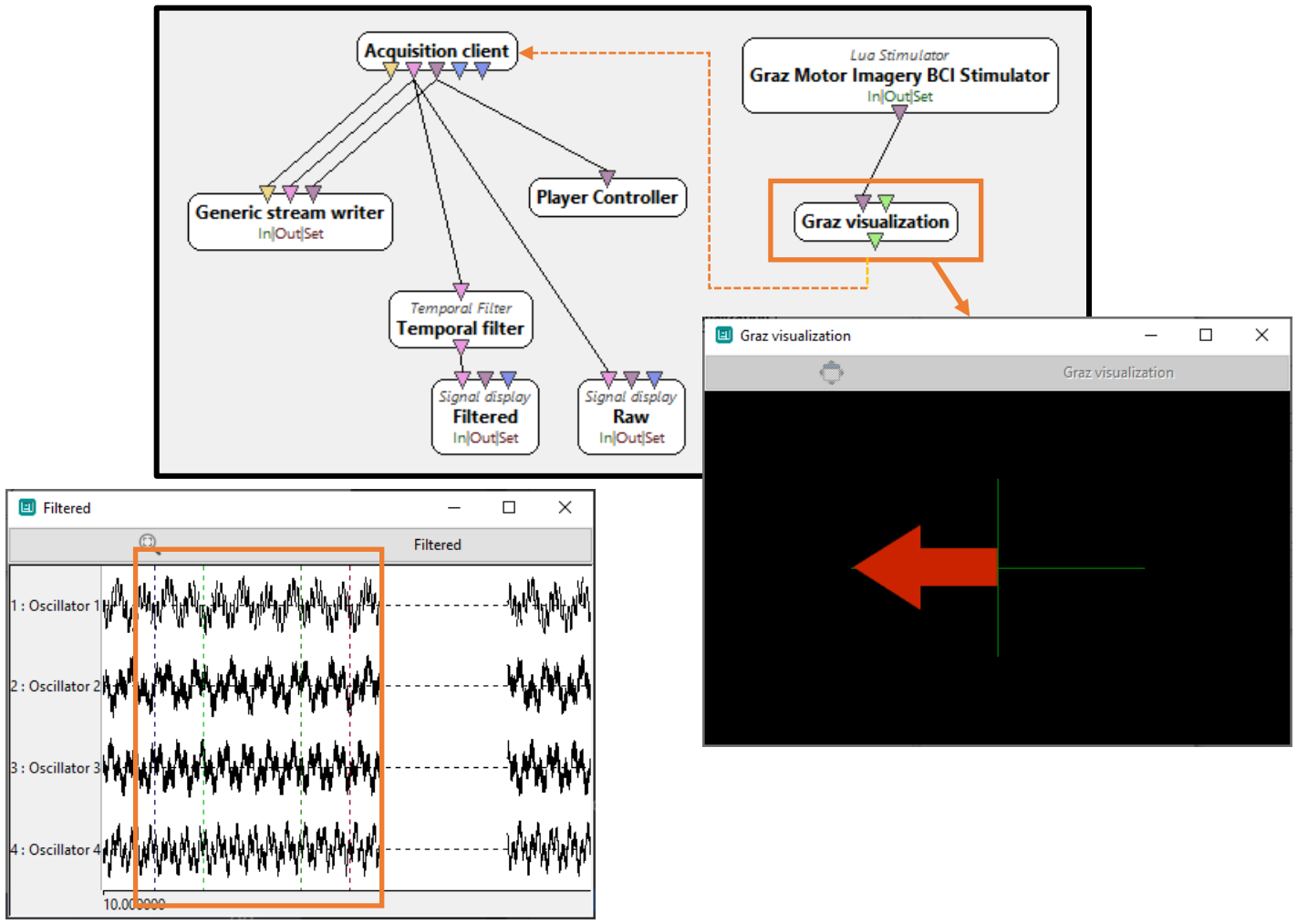


- **LUA Stimulator Box**
  (LUA = scripting language)

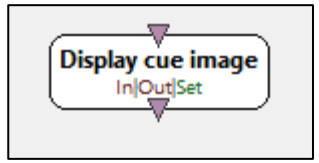
- **Experiment example:**
  Different stimulation/event codes at different times.
  Useful for signal segmentation (“epoching”)

- **Stimulation label examples:**
  - Experiment Start/Stop
  - Trial Start/Stop
  - LEFT / RIGHT
  - Button pressed
  - etc

Acquisition - Protocol mgmt. & Stimulations

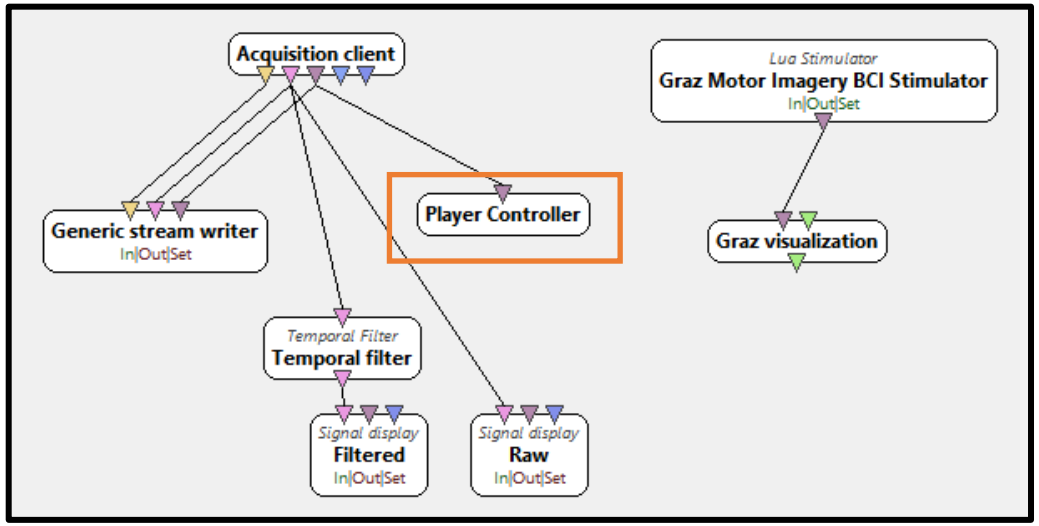


- **"Graz Visualization"** (specific for "Graz Protocol", based on Box "Display Cue Image")



- Displays specified image upon receiving specified stimulation code
- Transmits the **stimulation code & time** to the Acquisition Server
- **The stimulations are received by the ACQ Client, synchronized with the signal**

Acquisition - Protocol mgmt. & Stimulations

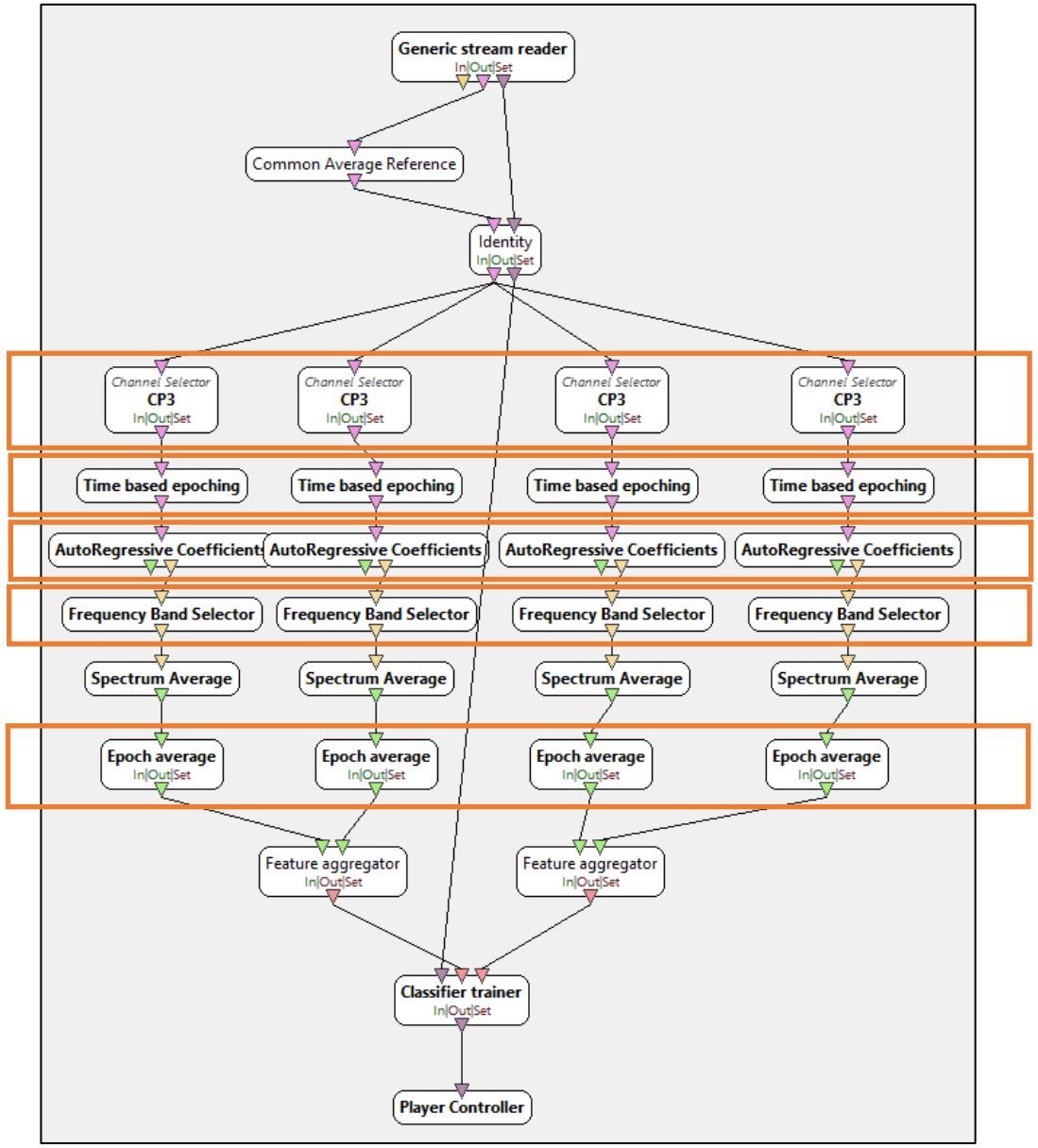


- **"Player Controller":** Orchestrates the experiment course, by applying an action upon receiving a stimulation

GOING FURTHER…

SHARED PARAMETERS, METABOXES

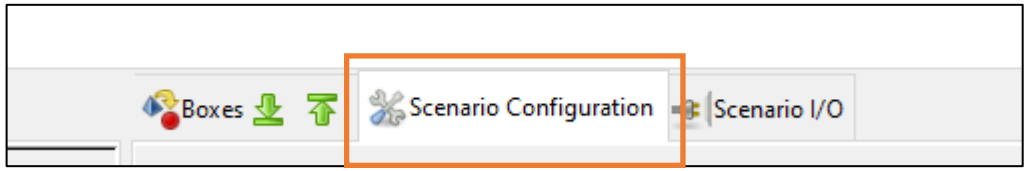
Shared parameters / “Scenario configuration”

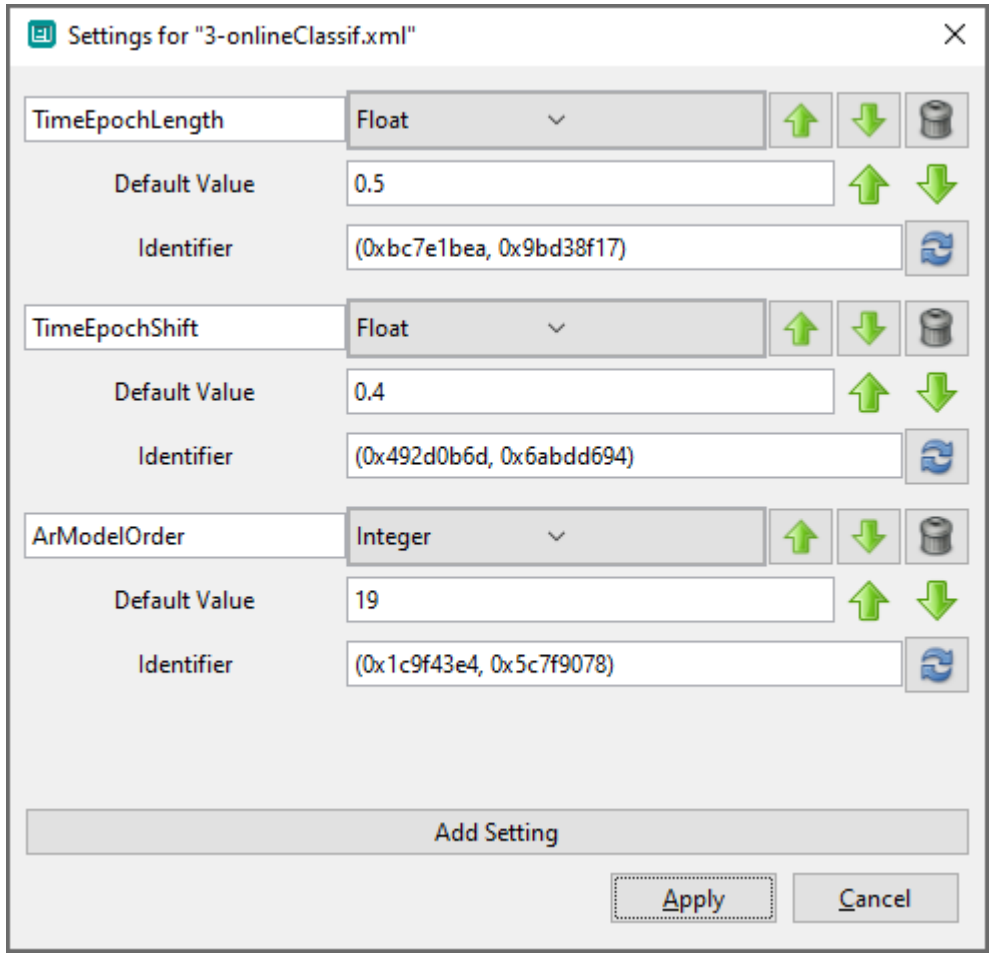


When using more complex scenarios, with parameters shared by multiple boxes…

- … using **shared parameters** can ease manipulations and avoid making mistakes!

Shared parameters / “Scenario configuration”

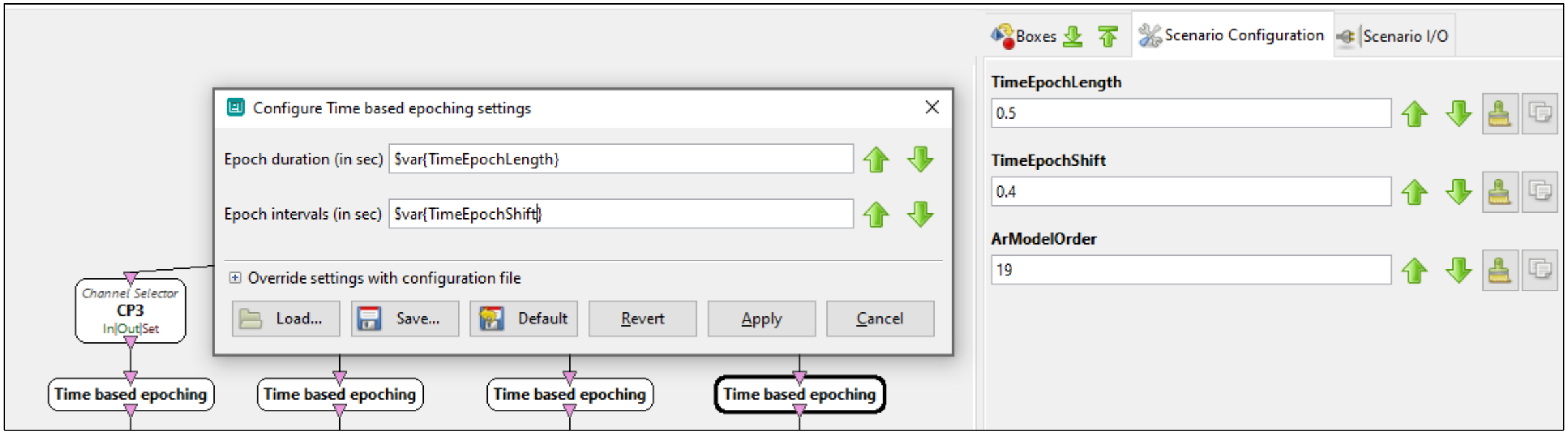




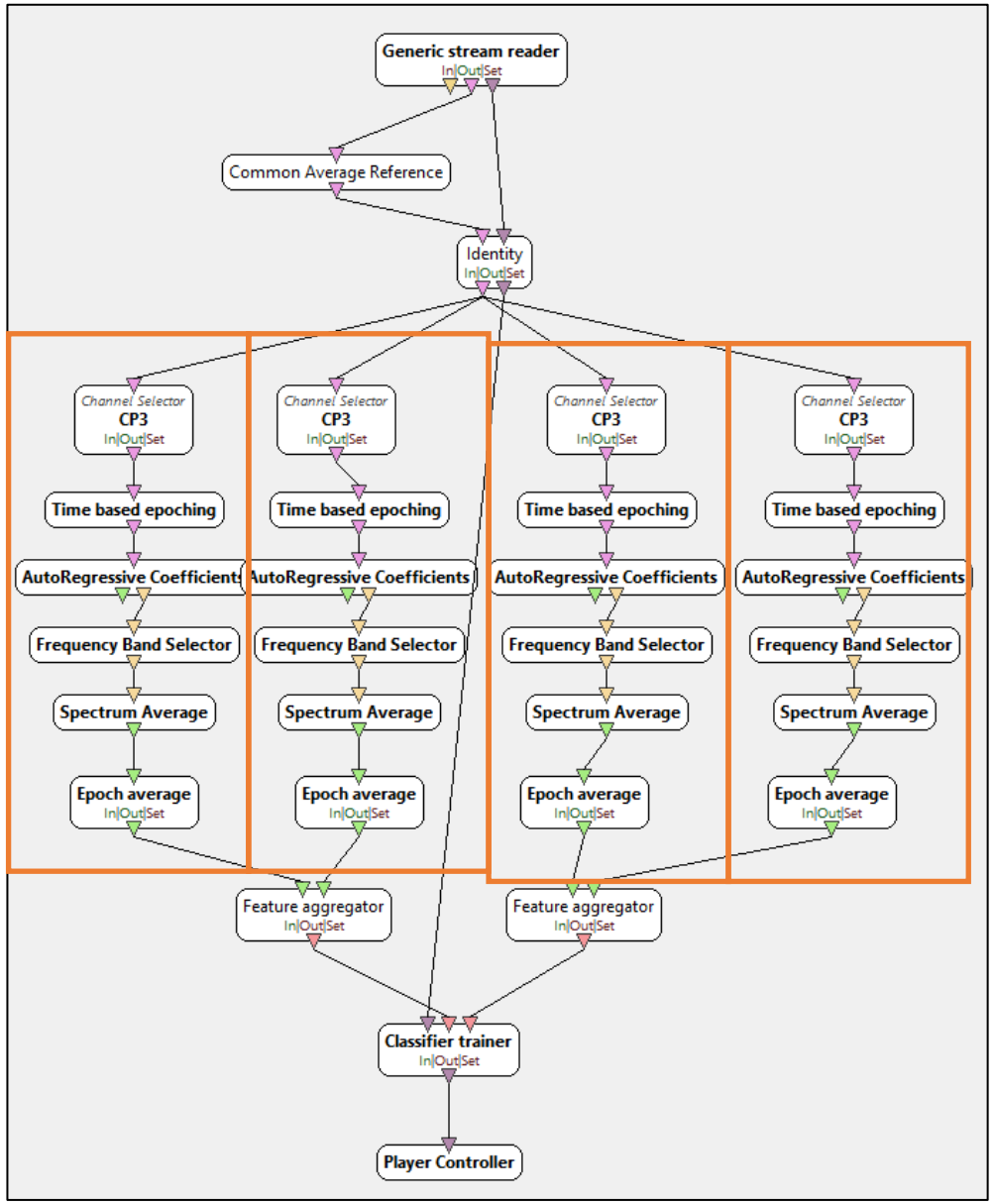
When using more complex scenarios, with parameters shared by multiple boxes…

- … using **shared parameters** can ease manipulations and avoid making mistakes!
- **Set up shared parameters** in the “Scenario configuration” tab, next to “Boxes” in the right-part of the Designer GUI.
- Add/edit your parameters by clicking on “**Configure settings**”

Shared parameters / “Scenario configuration”

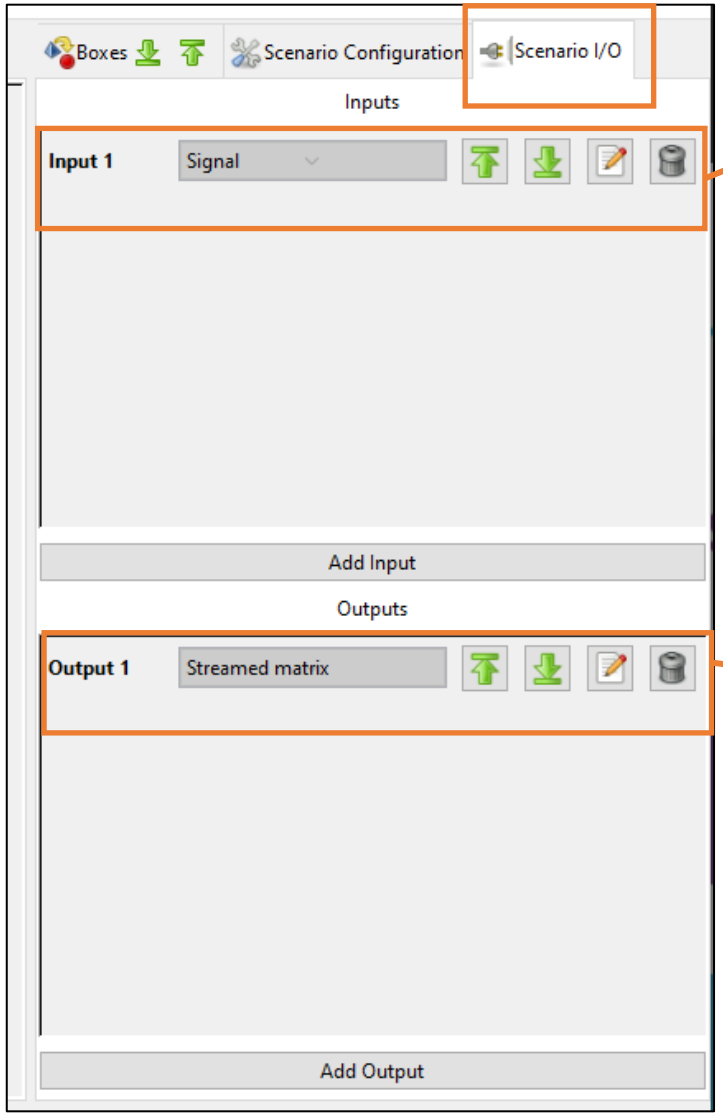


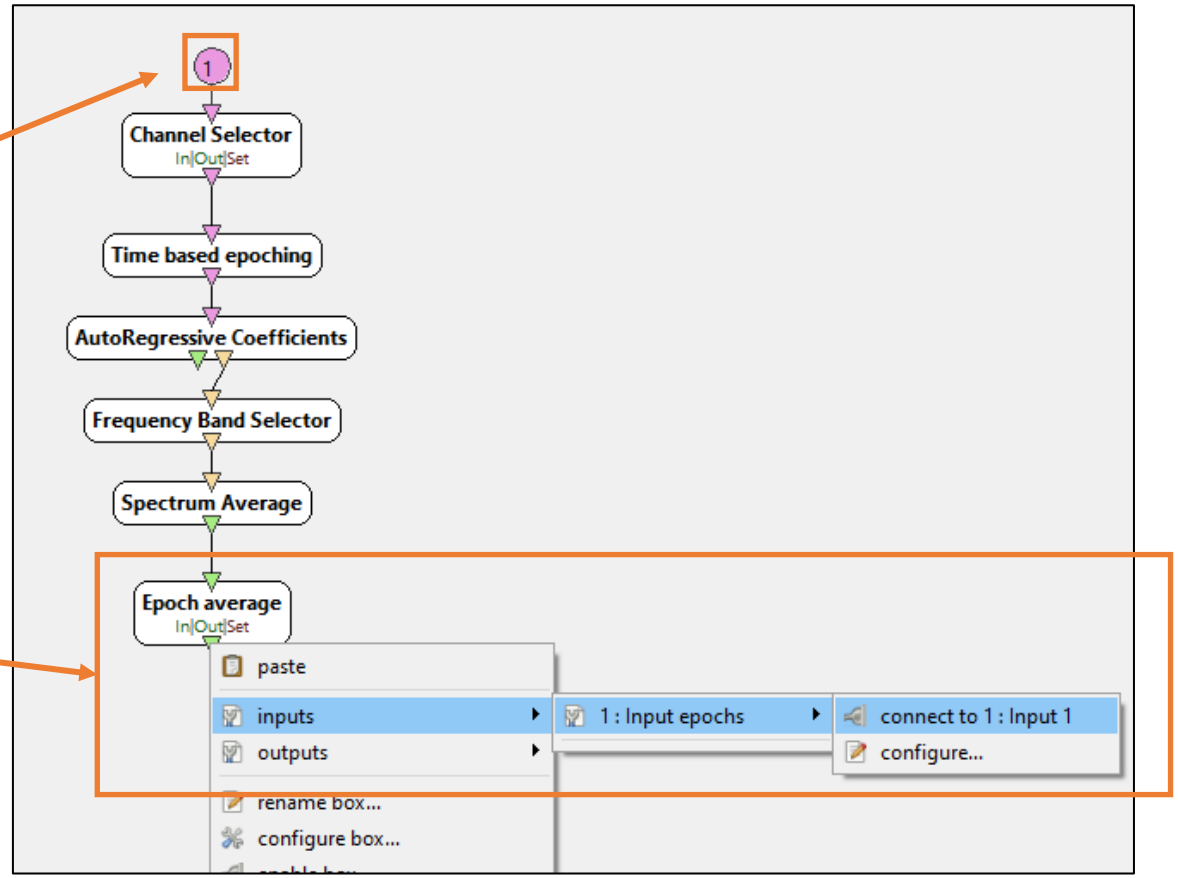
Metaboxes



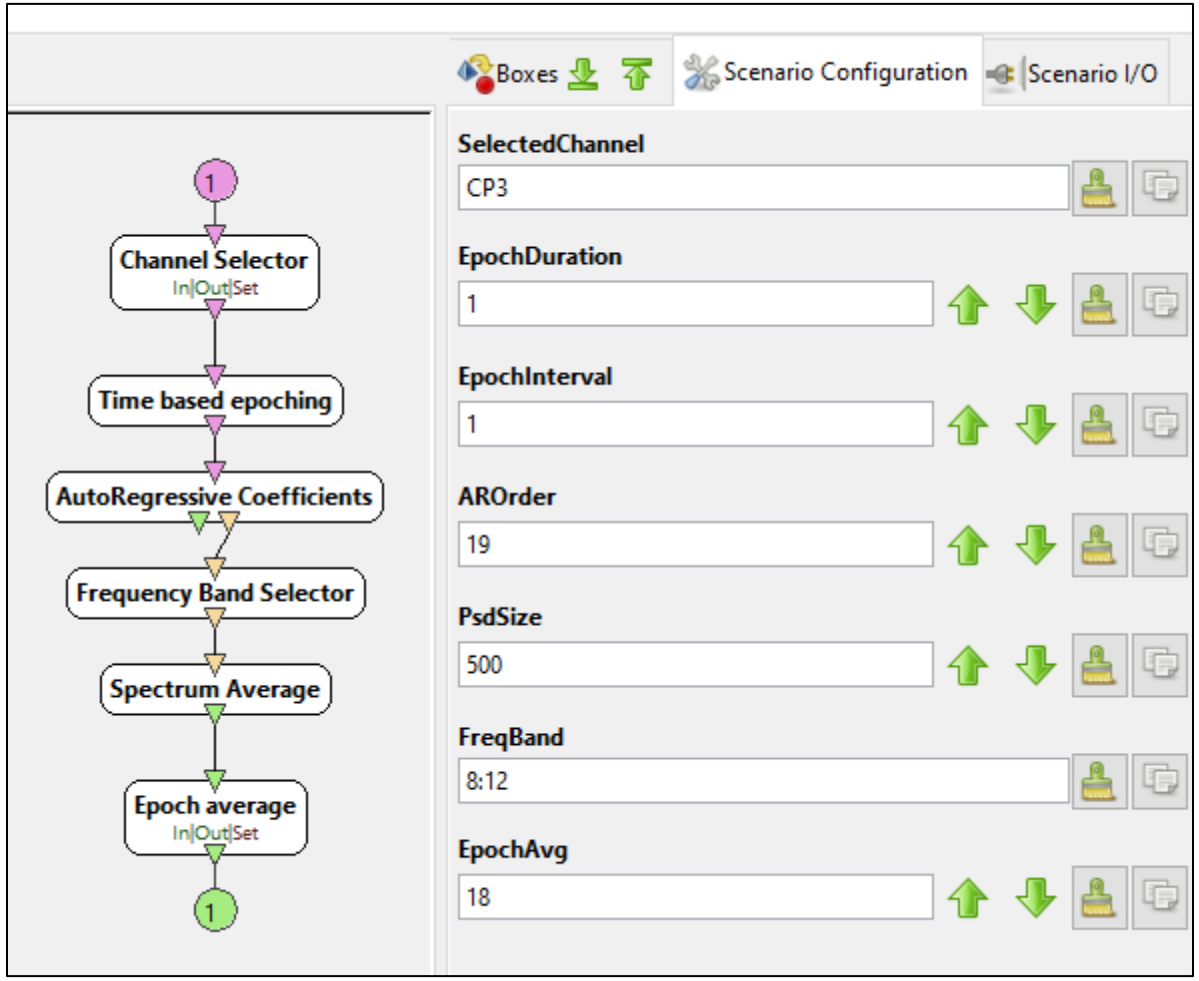
- **“Metaboxes”** can be useful to replace recurring/repeating processing chains.
- Use them in conjunction with scenario configurations to simplify your scenarios

Metaboxes


Boxes
Scenario Configuration
Scenario I/O
Inputs
Input 1
Signal
Add Input
Outputs
Output 1
Streamed matrix
Add Output


1
Channel Selector
In|Out|Set
Time based epoching
AutoRegressive Coefficients
Frequency Band Selector
Spectrum Average
Epoch average
In|Out|Set
paste
inputs
outputs
rename box...
configure box...
1 : Input epochs
connect to 1 : Input 1
configure...

Metaboxes


Boxes
Scenario Configuration
Scenario I/O
1
Channel Selector
In|Out|Set
Time based epoching
AutoRegressive Coefficients
Frequency Band Selector
Spectrum Average
Epoch average
In|Out|Set
1
SelectedChannel
CP3
EpochDuration
1
EpochInterval
1
AROrder
19
PsdSize
500
FreqBand
8:12
EpochAvg
18

Metaboxes

- **Saving your metaboxes:**

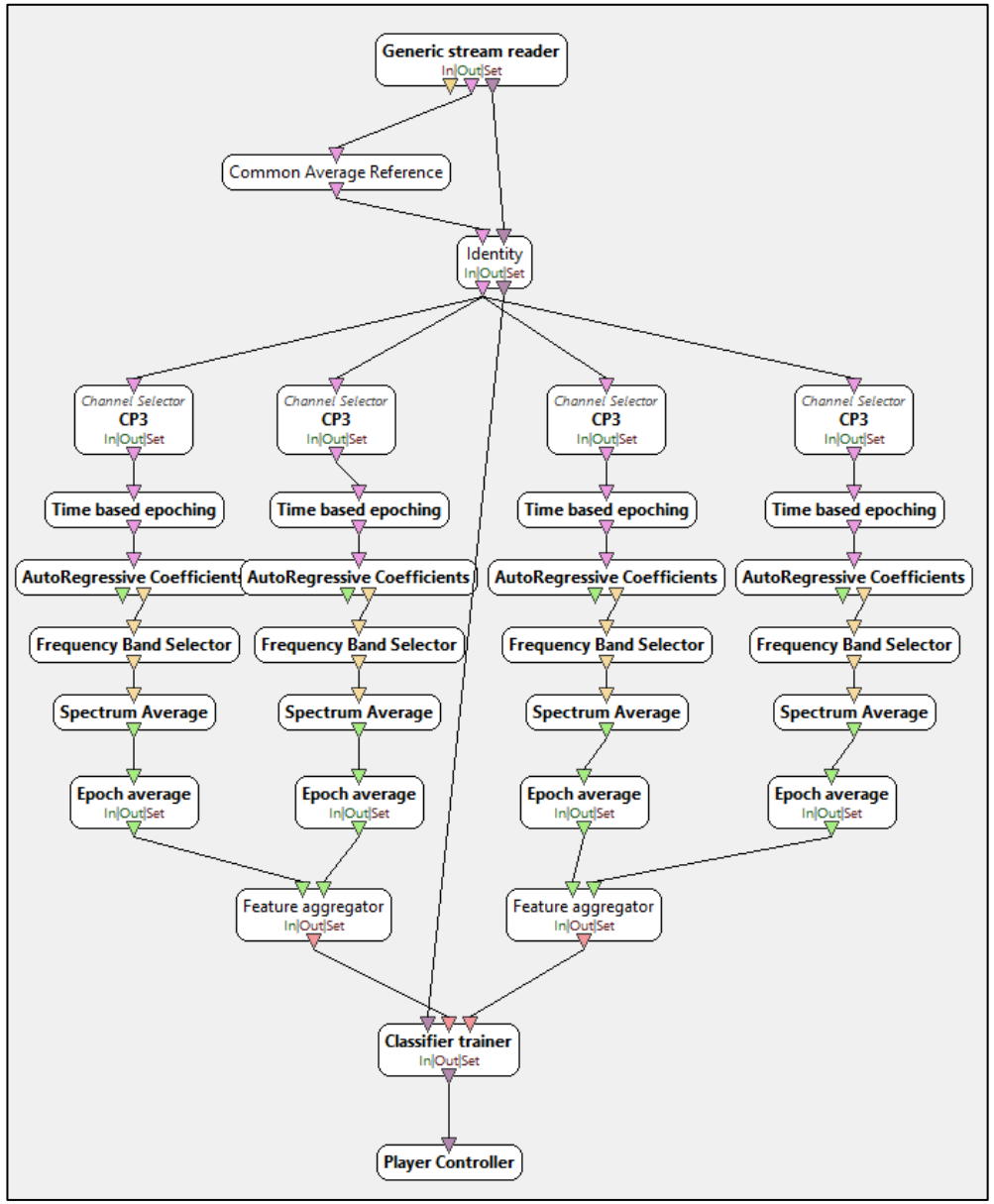
```
<install folder>\share\openvibe\metaboxes\
```

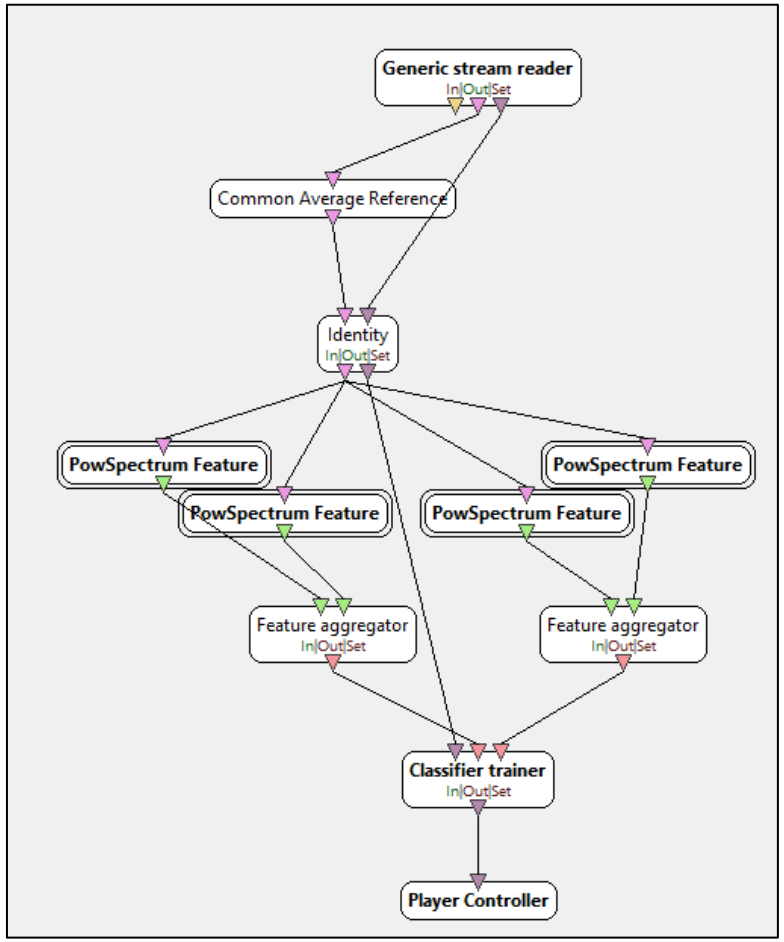
… they will appear in the “Metabox” folder the Box Browser next time you start the Designer.

- **Full tutorial:**

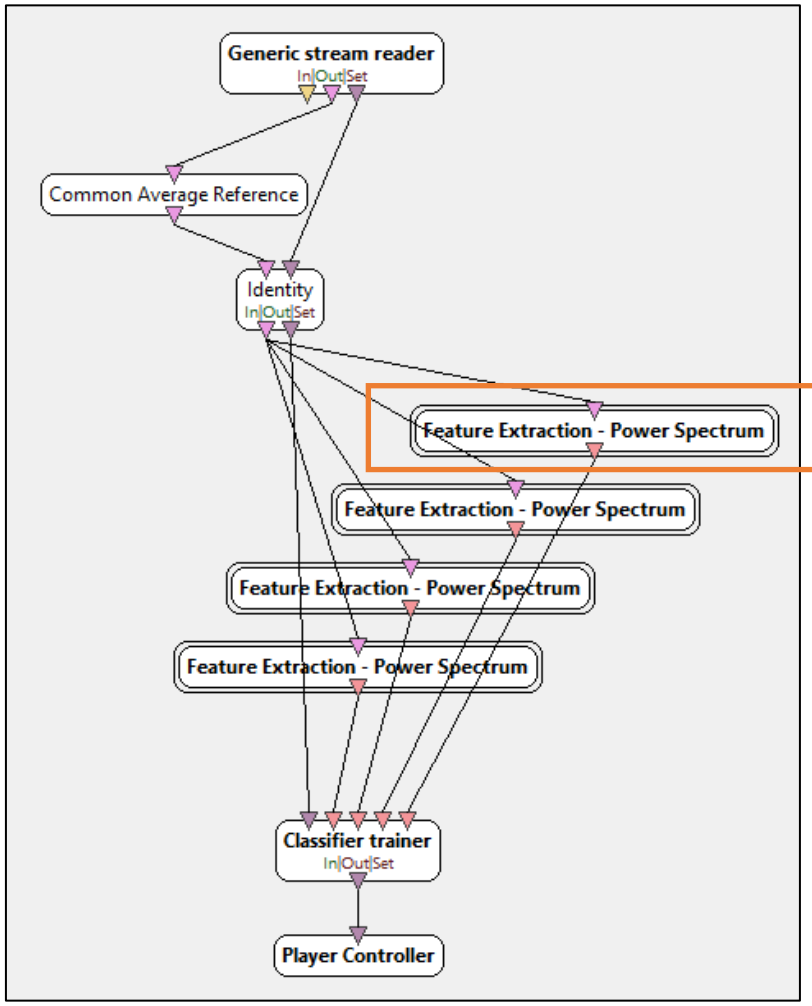
  http://openvibe.inria.fr/designer-tutorial-5-metaboxes/

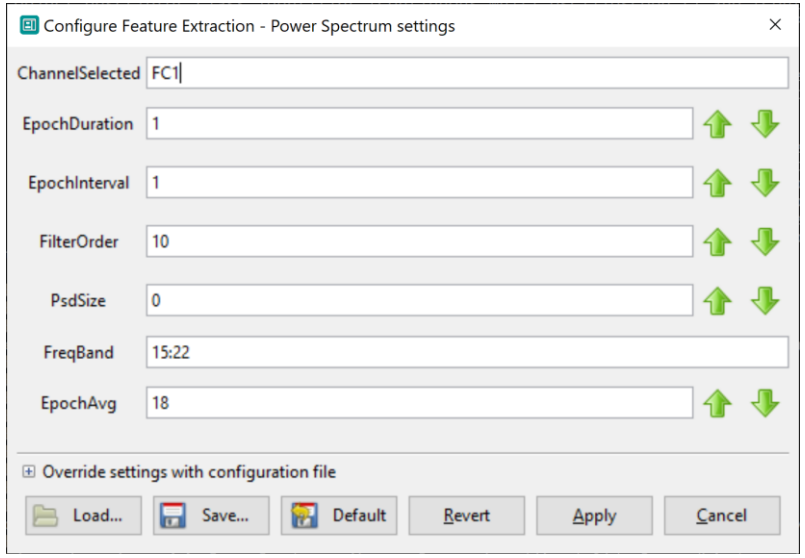
Metaboxes


Generic stream reader
In|Out|Set
Common Average Reference
Identity
In|Out|Set
Channel Selector
CP3
In|Out|Set
Time based epoching
AutoRegressive Coefficients
Frequency Band Selector
Spectrum Average
Epoch average
In|Out|Set
Feature aggregator
In|Out|Set
Classifier trainer
In|Out|Set
Player Controller

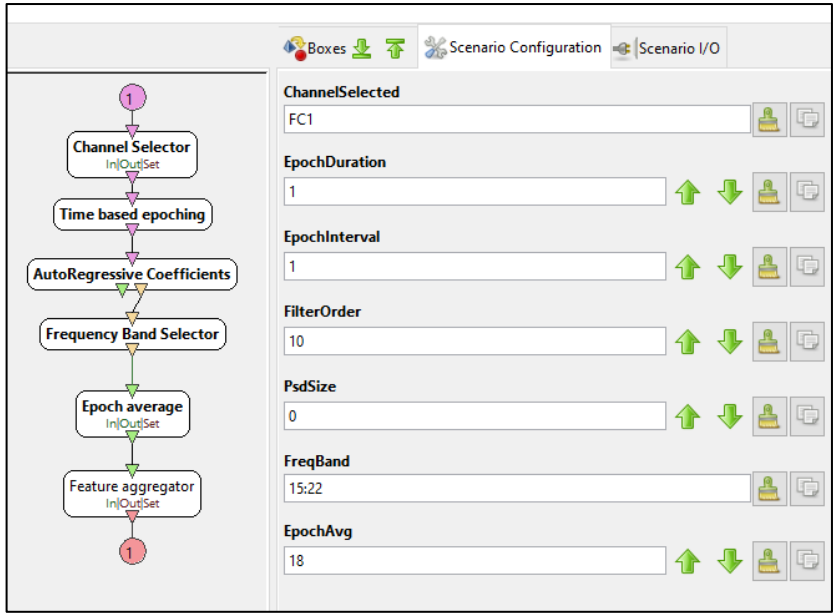

Generic stream reader
In|Out|Set
Common Average Reference
Identity
In|Out|Set
PowSpectrum Feature
Feature aggregator
In|Out|Set
Classifier trainer
In|Out|Set
Player Controller

Metaboxes



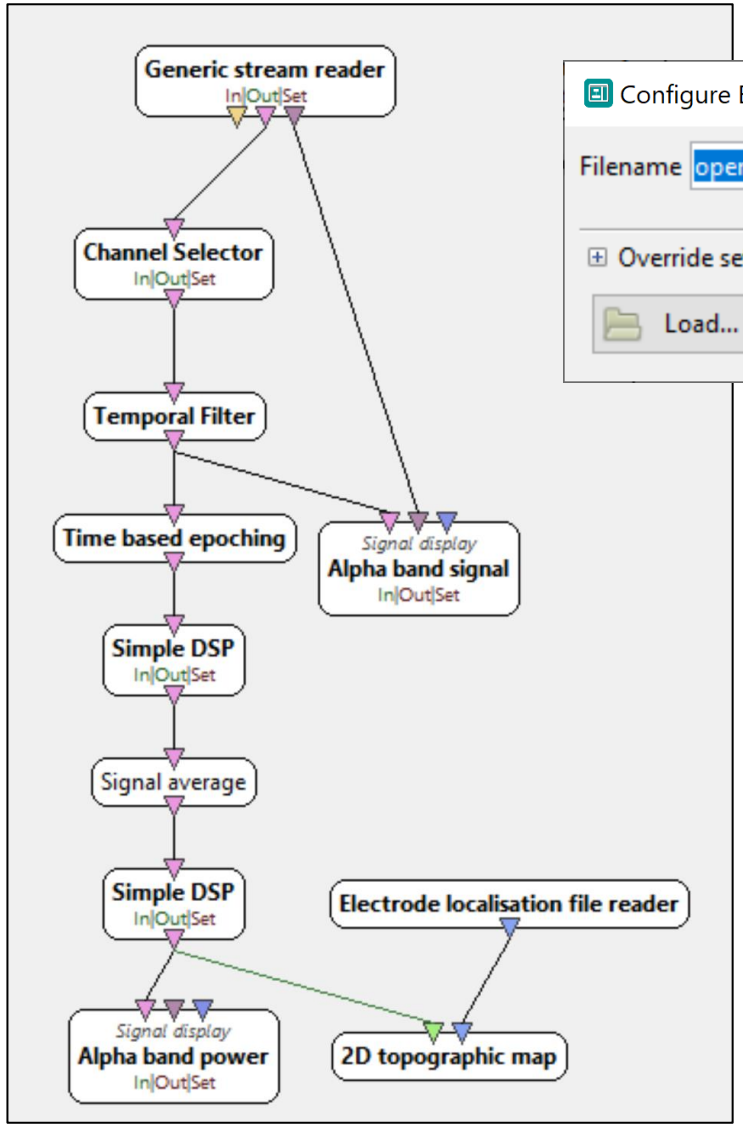


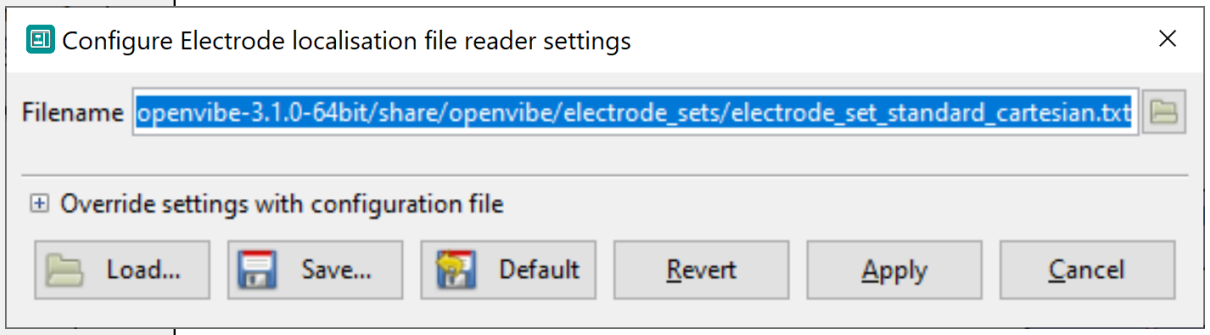
The **metabox's parameters** are the ones set in the "scenario configuration" of the metabox scenario



TOPOGRAPHY VISUALIZATION

Acquisition - Protocol mgmt. & Stimulations





- Add “**Electrode localization file reader” box**, using file:

```
<install folder>\share\openvibe\
electrode_sets\electrode_set_standard_cartesian.txt
```

- Add “**2D Topographic map**”
- **Connect boxes, play the scenario**

Acquisition - Protocol mgmt. & Stimulations