Introduction

An epileptic seizure is a period of symptoms due to abnormally excessive or synchronous neuronal activity in the brain. This can cause different effects like uncontrolled shaking movements involving much of the body, parts of the body or subtle momentary loss of awareness. In order to understand this issue, it is important to understand how neurons work and interact with each other to conserve what we call consciousness represented as brain activity and brainwaves.

Neural oscillations are rhythmic or repetitive patterns of neural activity in the central nervous system which can be driven by mechanisms within individual neurons or by interactions. Since 1824 neural oscillations have been observed, fifty years later intrinsic oscillatory behaviour was encountered in vertebrate neurons, but the purpose of these is yet to be fully understood.

In order to understand better brain activity this paper tries to dig deeper using new technology like deep learning to try to understand what humans are incapable of doing. First of all, it will be needed an inside view on how the brain works to have a hint on how to extract or intercept information from the neurons to process externally in a computer as well as a view on how deep learning algorithm’s function and get results from data, because it’s the best way to process and get the most out of it. Afterwards an insight of previous papers is given to set a view point on how research has been made up until this point. A well-known database (CHB-MIT) is introduced of encephalograms collected from 23 subject with interactable seizures that has been used in previous research.

Once everything is acknowledged objectives of this paper are settled for further research on this issue. First of all, data planning and different treatment procedures are important to see how algorithms behave giving better or worse results, as well as which algorithm architectures are better to process EEG data. Finally, once all the research is done the classifier is to be expected to classify moments where seizures occur on the patients in a given moment.

Context

To further understand how brain activity works we first need to study a single neuron and its purpose. A neuron is an electrically excitable cell that has the function to communicate with other cells. It does it by nearly touching other cells called synapsis, transmits the message through its axon and delivers the message by synapsis to another cell. Neurons are typically classified into types based on their function:

* Sensory neurons: Which respond to stimuli of the sensory organs and send the signals to the spinal cord or brain.
* Motor neurons: Its axons originate in the brain and spinal cord and innervate the muscles to produce muscle movements.
* Projection fiber: Are neurons found in the central nervous system and only establish synapses with other neurons, these consist of efferent and afferent fibers uniting the cortex with the lower parts of the brain and with the spinal cord.
* Interneuron: Is a neuron of the central nervous system, usually small and with a short axon, that interconnects with other neurons, but never with sensory receptors or muscle fibres, allowing it to perform more complex functions.

Neurons transmit electrical waves originating from a transient change of permeability in the plasma membrane. Their propagation is due to the existence of a potential difference that arises due to different concentrations of ions on either side of the membrane, as described by the Nernst potential, between the inner and outer part of the cell (typically -70 mV). For the transmission of nervous impulses to other neurons, these do it by synapse, being a structure to pass electrical or chemical signals to another neuron or effector cell, there are two types of synapses:

* Chemical synapse: Electrical activity in the presynaptic neuron is converted into the release of a neurotransmitter that binds to the receptors located in the plasma membrane of the postsynaptic cell.
* Electrical synapse: Is one in which transmission between the first neuron and the second is not by the secretion of a neurotransmitter, but by the passage of ions from one cell to another through gap junctions, small channels formed by the coupling of protein complexes, based on connexins, in closely adherent cells.

These electrochemical processes when large numbers of neurons show synchronized activity, electric fields that they generate can be large enough to be detected outside the skull, and so using electroencephalography (EEG) or magnetoencephalography (MEG) brain activity can be recorded.

Now that we know where brain activity originates from, we can further study how the brain structures. The brain is the organ serving as centre of nervous system in al vertebrate and most invertebrate animals

Related Work

A lot of research has been made of the brain to further understand it’s capabilities using deep learning algorithms. Below are different projects attempting to interpret and process EEG data in order to define a baseline of what has been done so far. All papers specified afterwards use the same dataset

Mental Workload Detection based on EEG Analysis

In this paper a study of mental workload is done in order to work more efficiently, healthier and to avoid accidents since workload compromises both performance and awareness. The use of EEG signals has a high correlation with specific cognitive and mental states such as workload, proposing a binary neural network to classify EEG features across different mental workloads.

Mental workload is defined as “the cognitive and psychological effort to conclude a task”, observing that depending if workload is too heavy or too light this can affect human performance. Also, since workload involves neuro-physiologic, and perceptual processes it is affected by individual capabilities, motivation to preform, physical and emotional state which it’s multifaceted nature of workload prevents it of studying directly but it is feasible to infer this from a number of quantifiable variables.

There are two main categories to measure workload:

* Subjective measures: Being the most used to asses mental workload, the NASA Task Load Index (TLX) a prominent way to gain insight on perceived workload from the subject based on a weighted average of six sub-variables: mental demand, physical demand, temporal demand, performance, effort and frustration. Widely used in aviation to assess mental workload of the pilot but it is highly subjective
* Physiological measures: Providing a more reliable data by measuring physiological dynamic changes which cannot be controlled consciously, so that is why it’s more reliable. Readings such as electrocardiogram (ECG), electromyograph, electroencephalogram (EEG), photoplethysmography, respiration rate sensors, electro-dermal activity (EDA), oxygen density in the blood in the brain, and eye movement trackers... The combination of inputs reports better accuracy than the analysis if each one independently.

In this paper the approach is to investigate the ability of 1D-CNN models to recognize

two types of mental workload from EEG signals and generalize the model to an unseen

population in the training set.

EEG SIGNAL DIMENSIONALITY REDUCTION AND CLASSIFICATION USING TENSOR

DECOMPOSITION AND DEEP CONVOLUTIONAL NEURAL NETWORKS

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Neuron>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Projection_fiber>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Interneuron>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Motor_neuron>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sensory_neuron>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Synapse>