MRC Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

EEG/MEG 2:

Head and Forward Modelling

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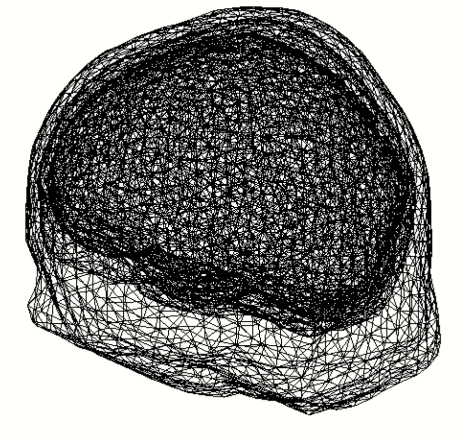
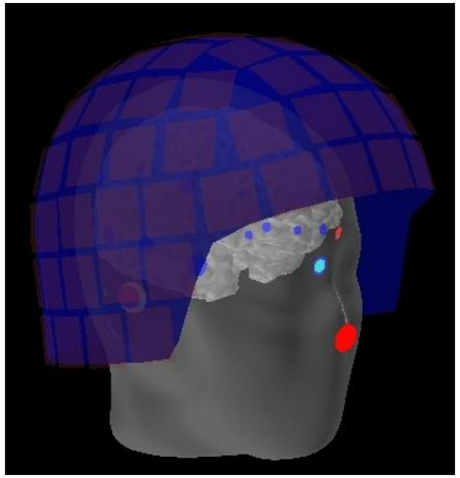
Ingredients for Source Estimation

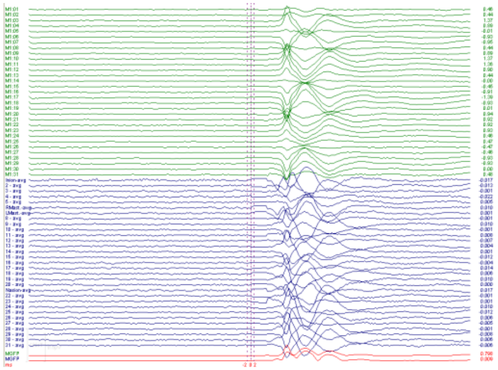
Volume Conductor/
Head Model



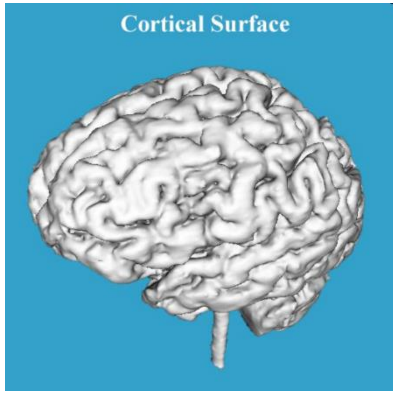
Coordinate
Transformation



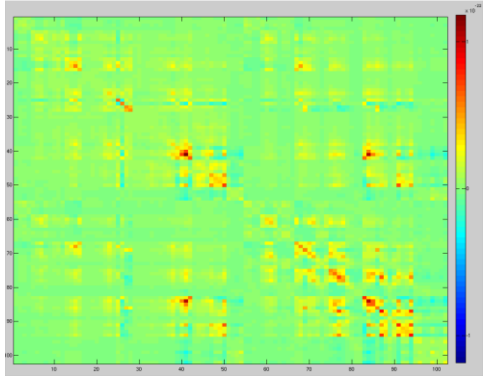
MEG data



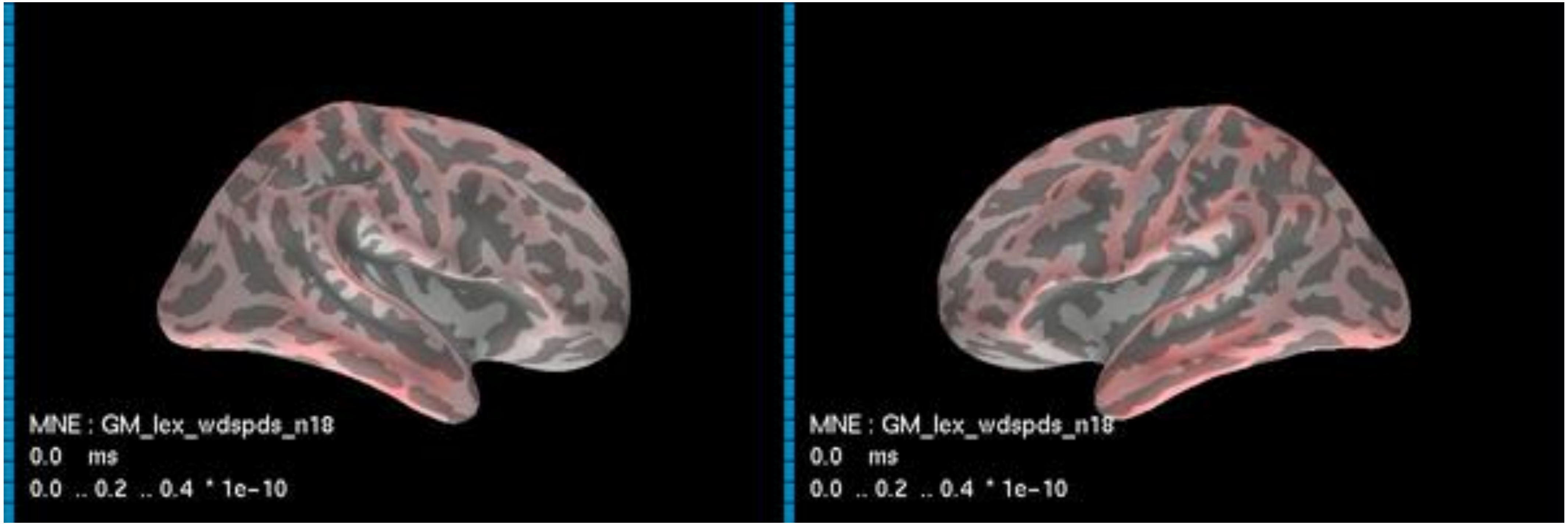
Source Space



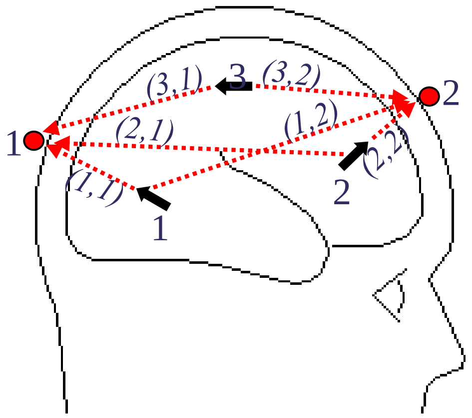
Noise/Covariance Matrix



Our Goal: Spatio-Temporal Brain Dynamics
"Brain Movies"



The EEG/MEG Forward Problem



data “leadfield” dipoles

$$\begin{array}{c} 1 \\ 2 \end{array} \begin{pmatrix} d_1 \\ d_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0.5 & 0 & 0.3 \\ 0 & 1 & -0.3 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} j_1 \\ j_2 \\ j_3 \end{pmatrix} \begin{array}{c} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{array}$$

?

inversion

dipoles inverse data

$$\begin{array}{c} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{array} \begin{pmatrix} j_1 \\ j_2 \\ j_3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1.5034 & 0.1241 \\ 0.2483 & 0.9379 \\ 0.8276 & -0.2069 \end{pmatrix} * \begin{pmatrix} d_1 \\ d_2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{array}{c} 1 \\ 2 \end{array}$$

$j_1 + j_2 = 1$

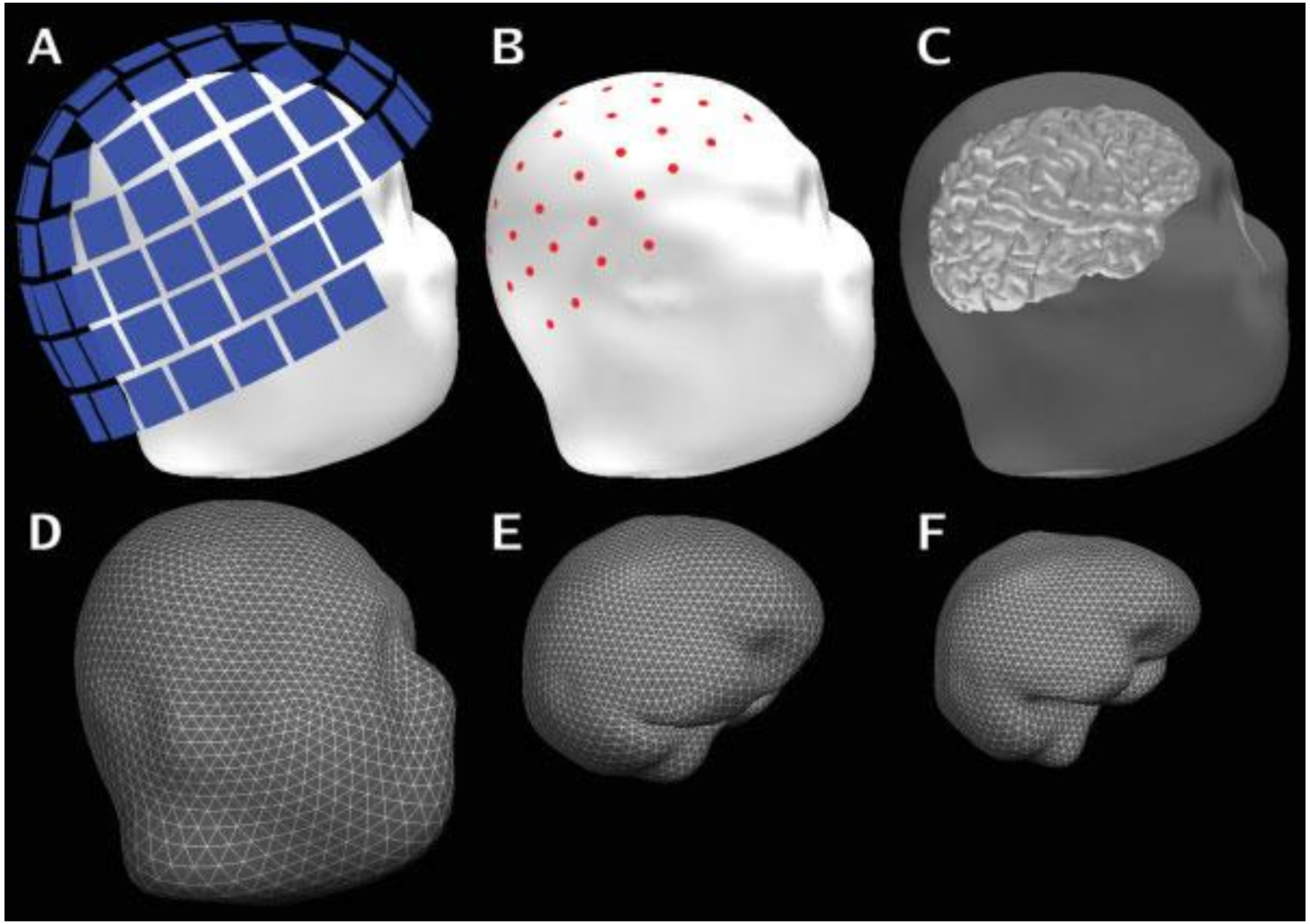
under-determined problem, no unique solution

d=Lj

d: data (n_sensors x 1) **L**: “leadfield” (n_sensors x n_dipoles), **j**: dipoles (n_dipoles x 1)

Usually n_dipoles >> n_sensors.

Ingredients for a head model

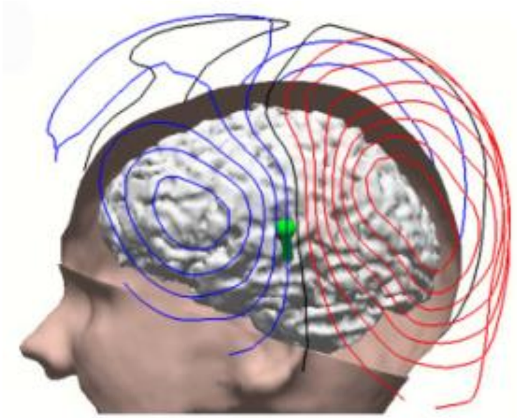


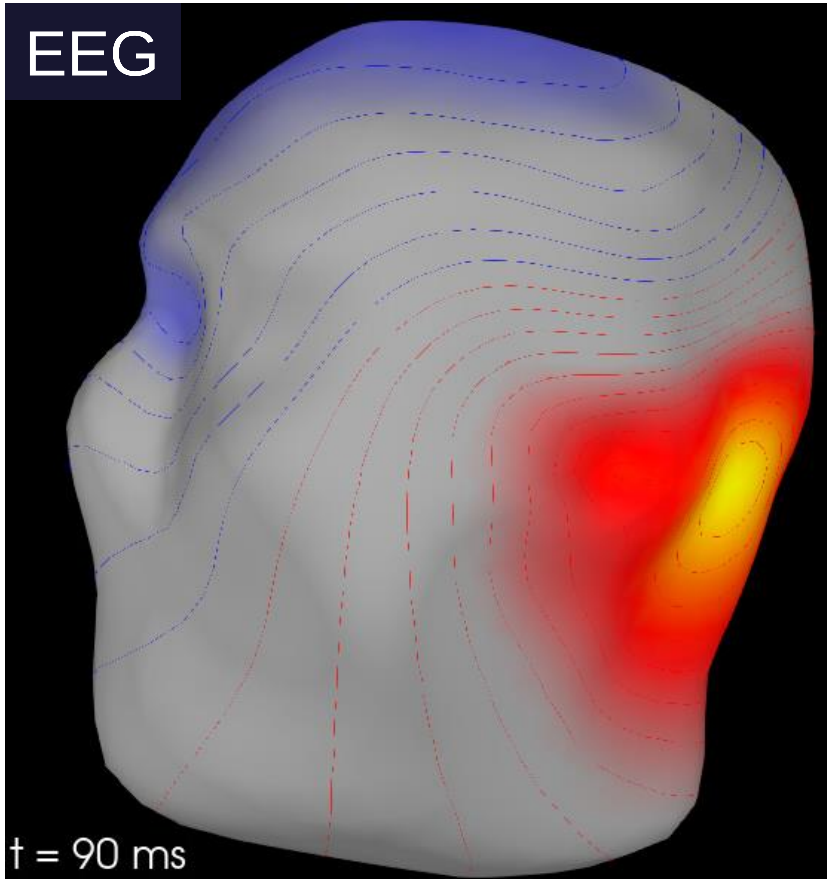
Goldenholz et al., HBM 2009
https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/18465745/

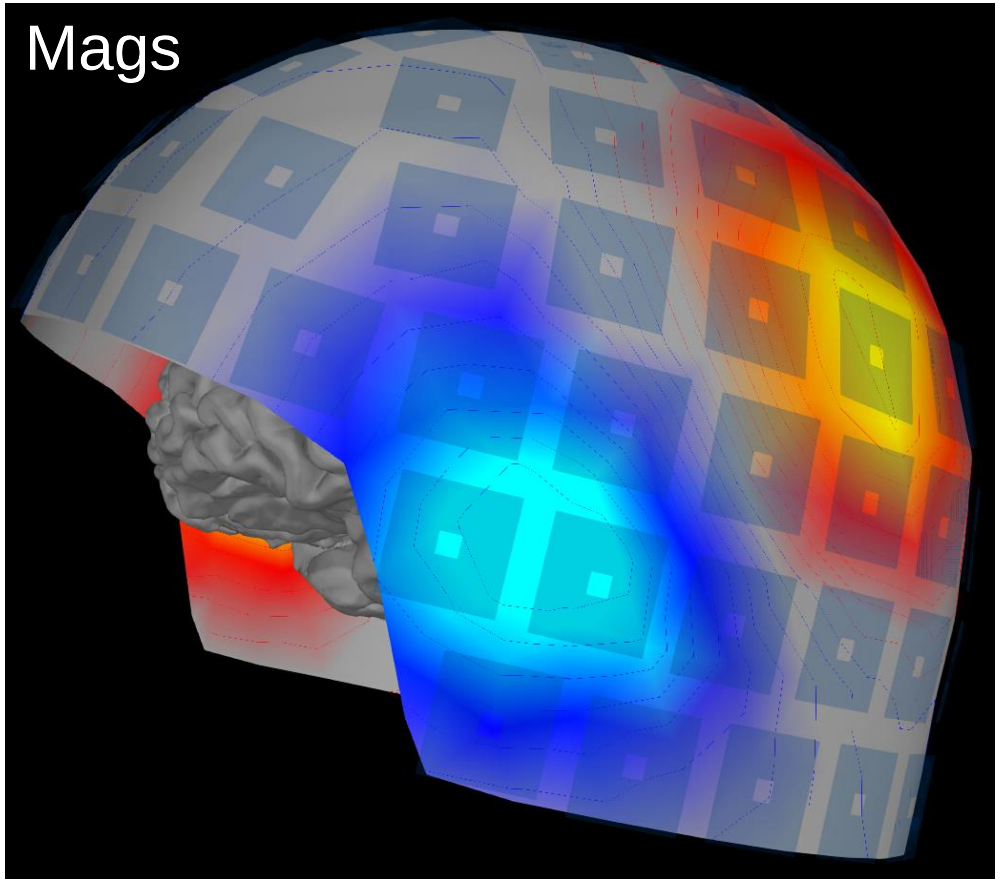
If you don't have individual MRIs: Standard head models and spherical approximations are available.

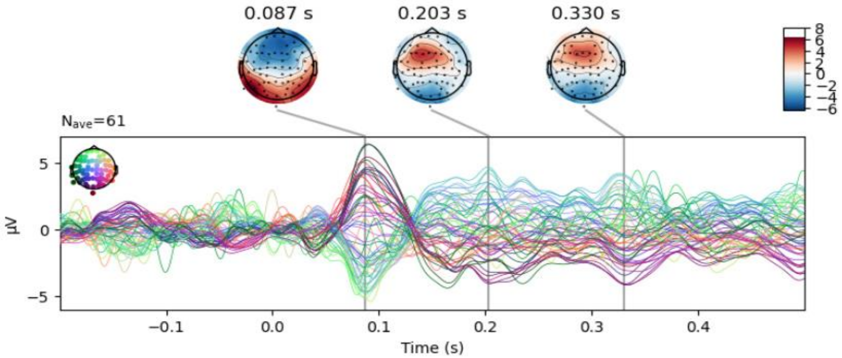
Example: Auditorily Evoked Activity

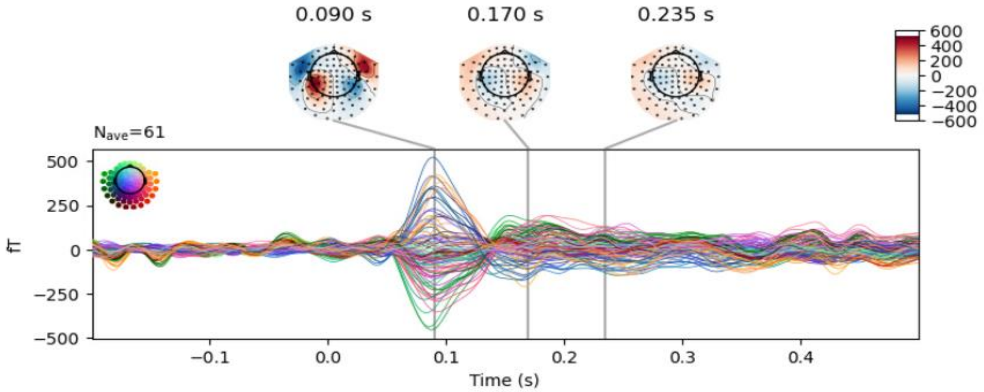
Tone to right ear





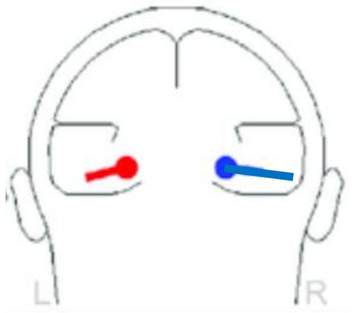


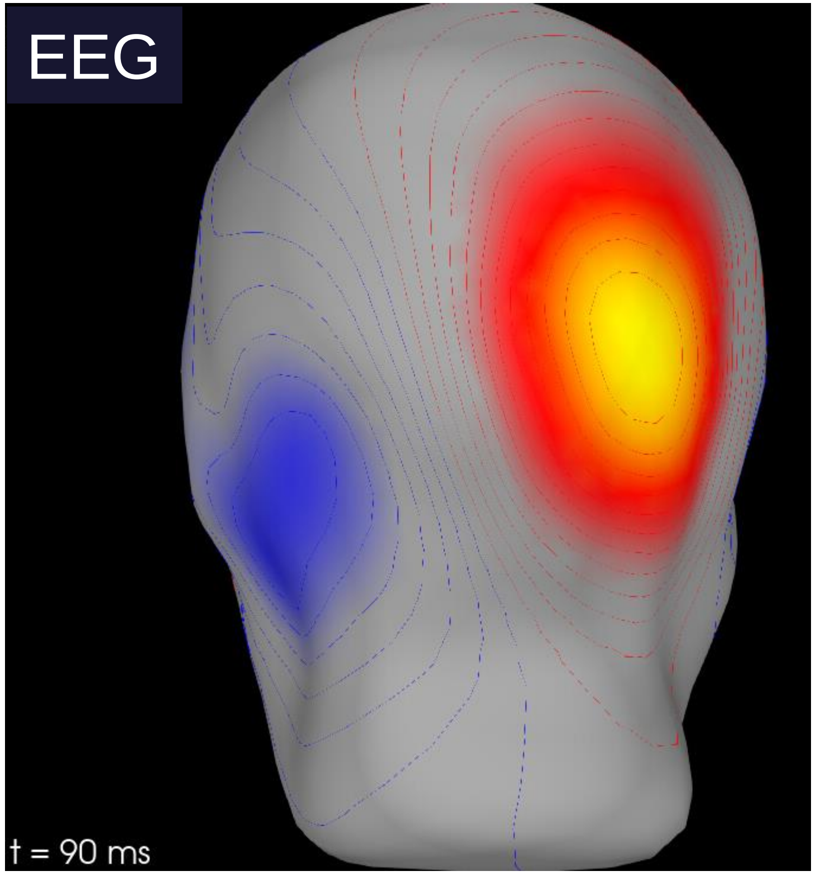


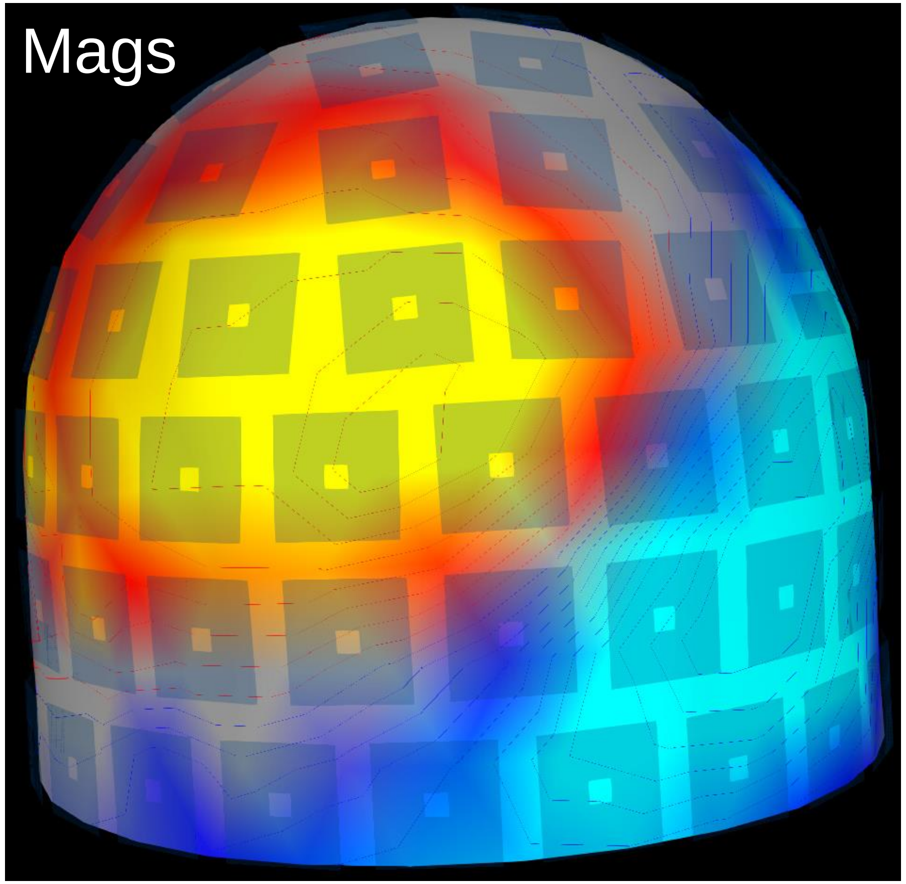


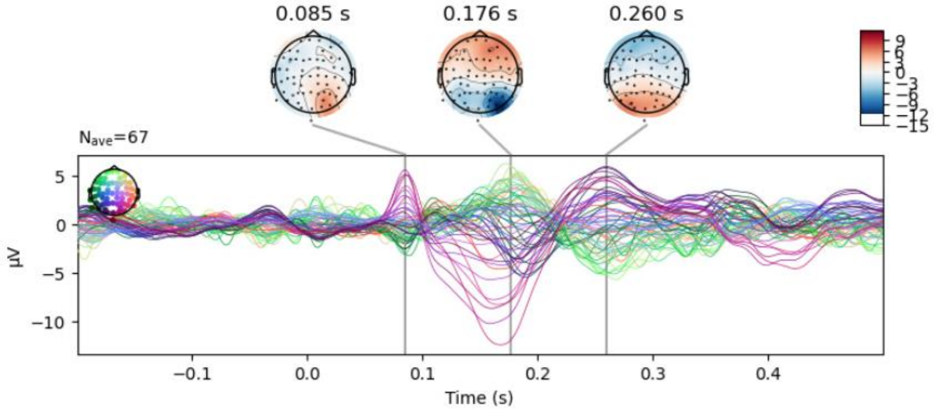
Example: Visually Evoked Activity ~100 ms

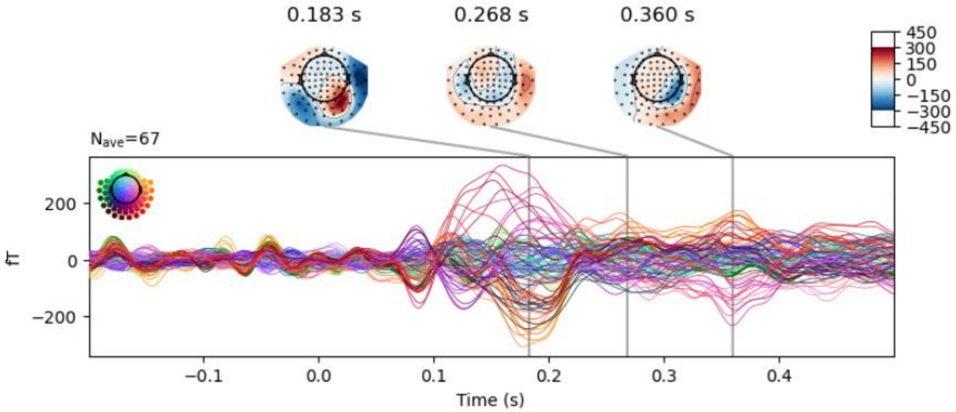
Checkerboard to left visual field









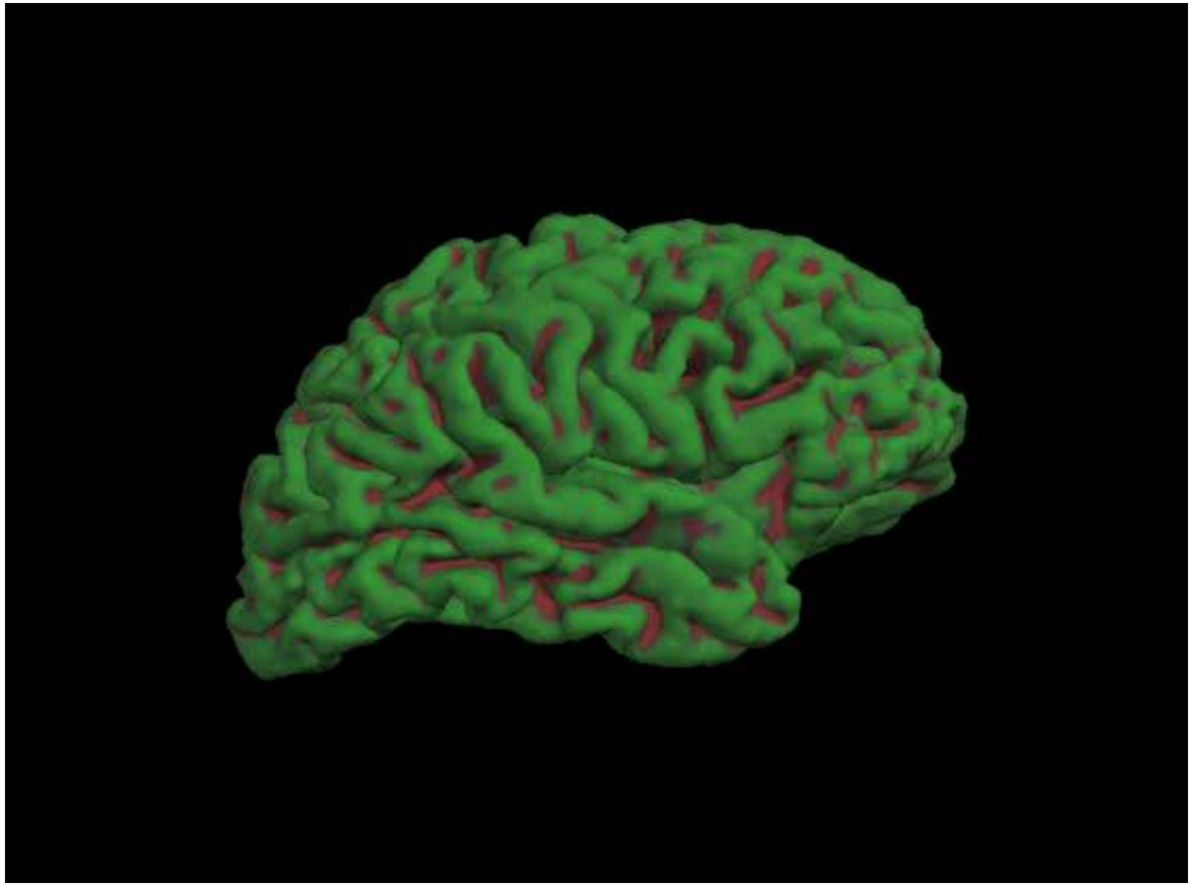


The Forward Problem and Head Modelling

Source Spaces

Source Space

Where active sources may be located, e.g. grey matter, 3D volume



http://www.cogsci.ucsd.edu/~sereno/movies.html

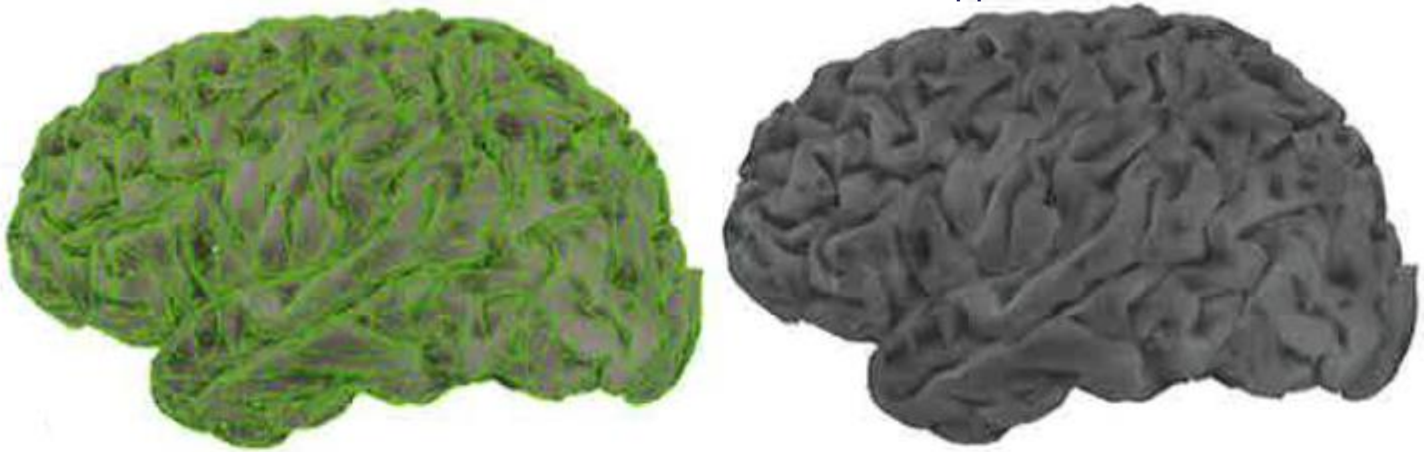
Sometimes "standard head models" are used, when no individual MRIs available.

SPM uses the same "canonical mesh" as source space for every subjects, but adjusts it individually.

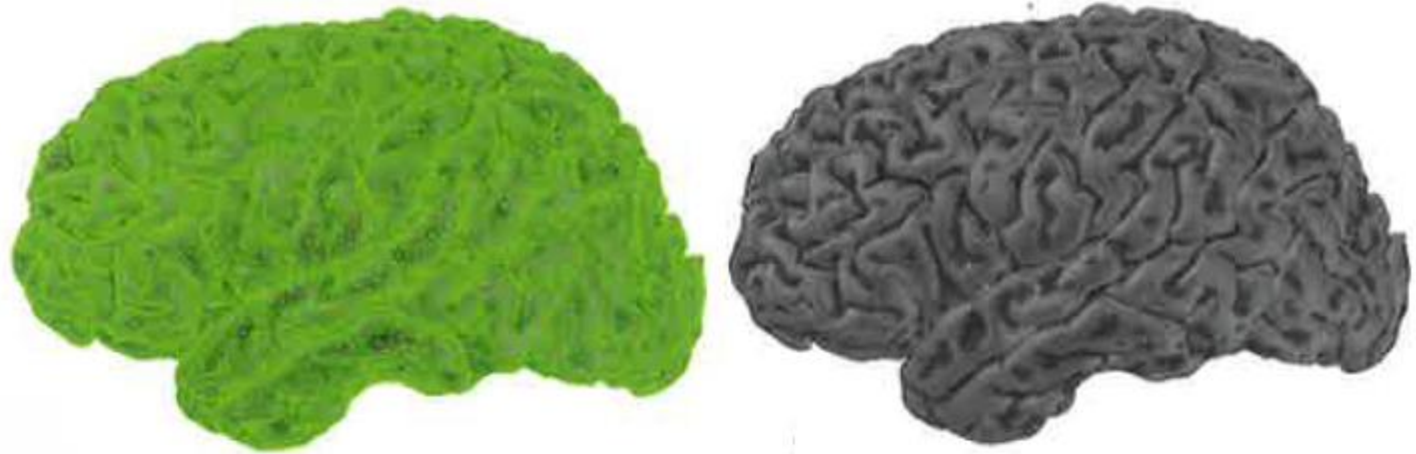
Spatial Sampling of Cortical Surfaces

10.034 vertices, 20.026 triangles of 10 mm^2 surface area

Sufficient for most EEG/MEG applications



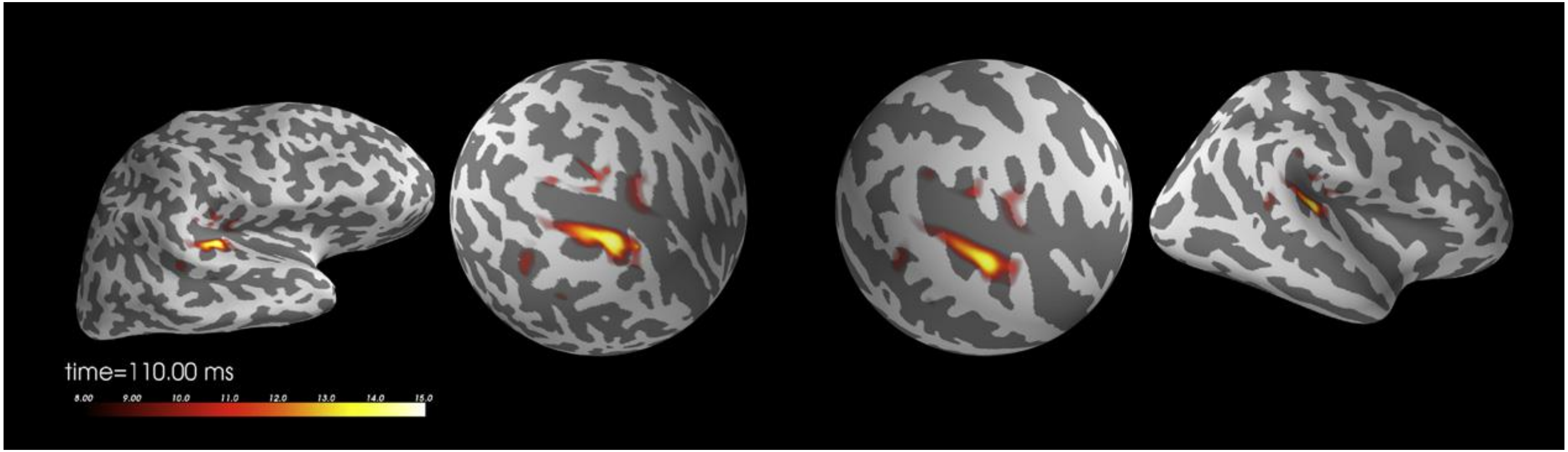
79.124 vertices, 158.456 triangles of 1.3 mm^2 surface area



Baillet, chap. 5 in “MEG”, OUP 2010, Hansen/Kringelbach/Salmelin (edts.)

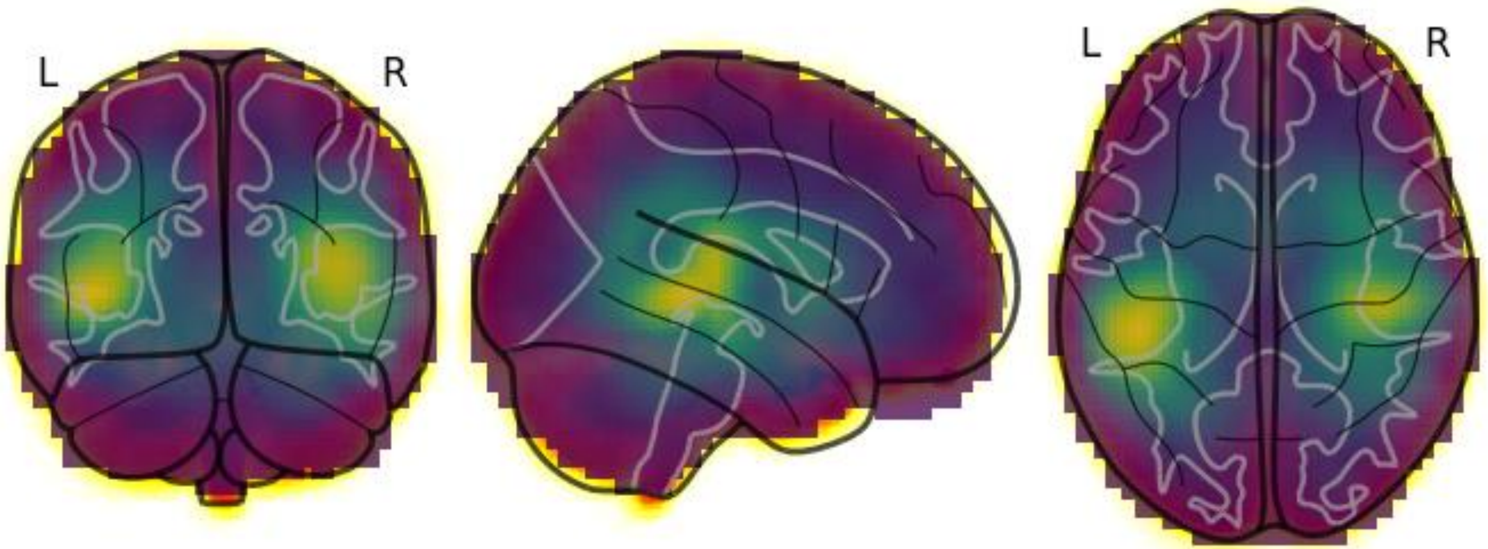
Normalising (Morphing) Cortical Surfaces

Morphing from individual to standard brain

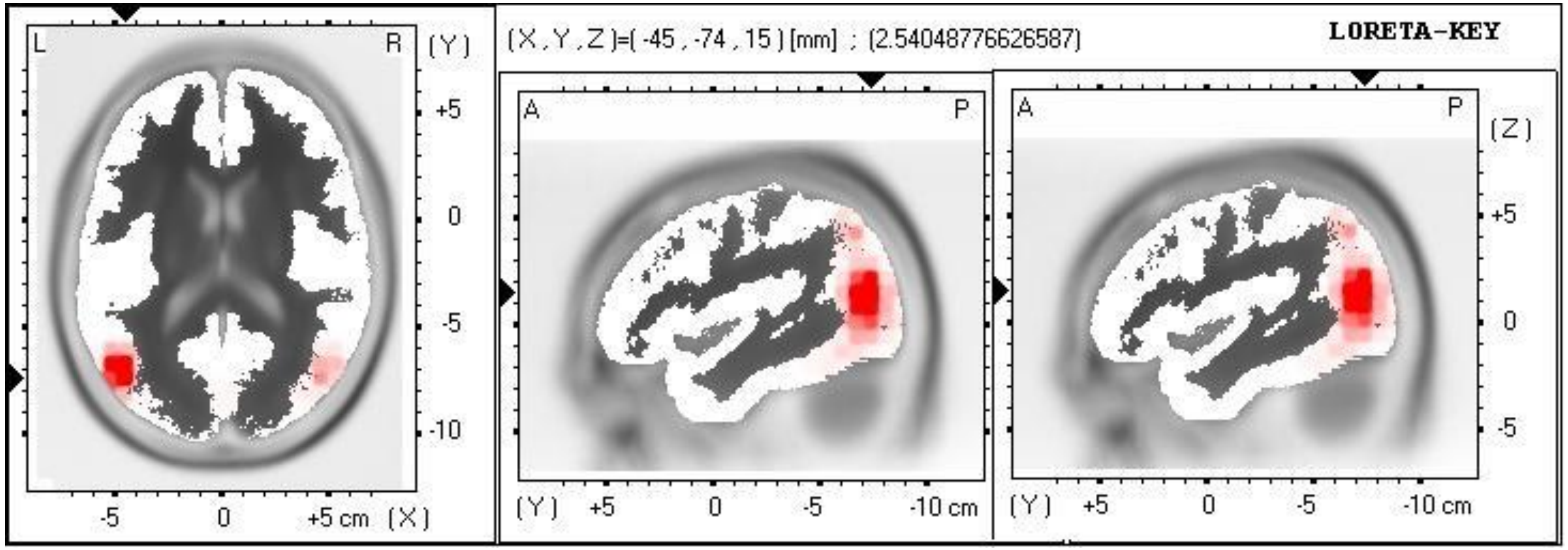


Gramfort et al., NI 2014

Volumetric Source Spaces Are Possible



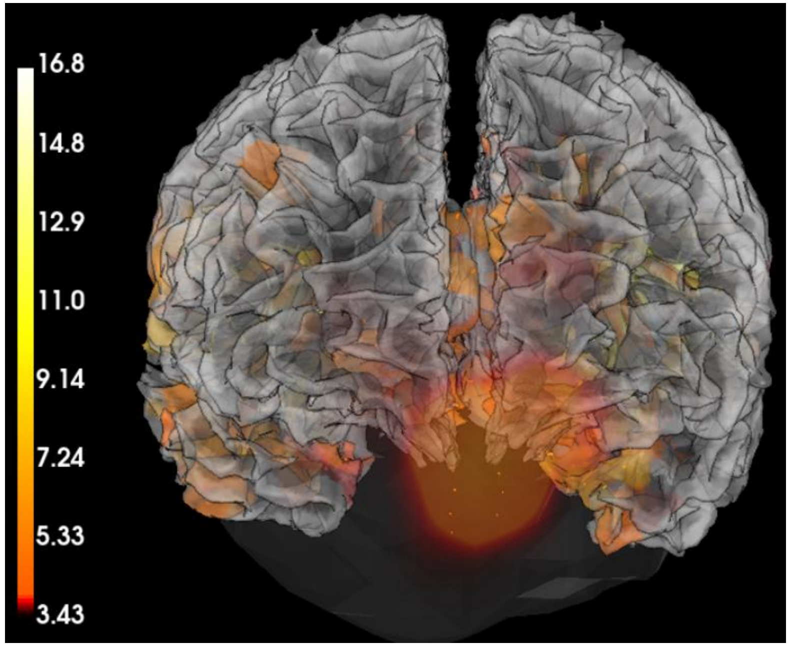
https://mne.tools/dev/auto_examples/inverse/morph_volume_stc.html



Pascqual-Marqui, PTRS-A 2011

Mixed Source Spaces

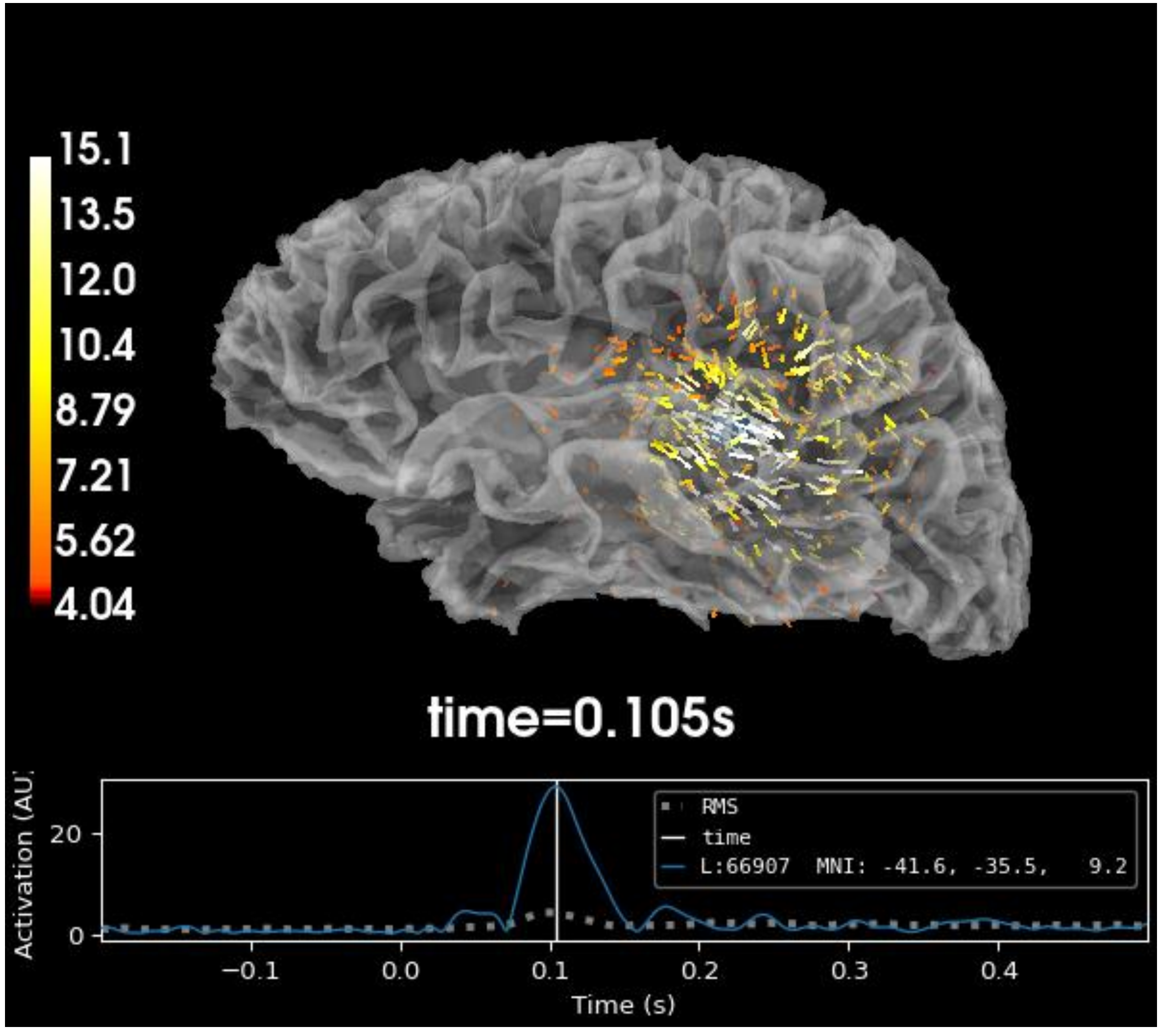
Cortical and Sub-Cortical Sources



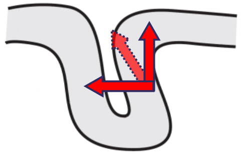
https://mne.tools/dev/auto_examples/inverse/mixed_source_space_inverse.html

Source Orientations

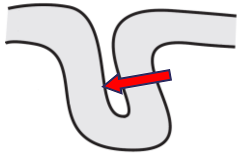
Current sources have a direction and/or orientation.



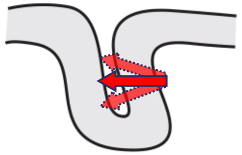
Constraints on source orientation:



“Free”



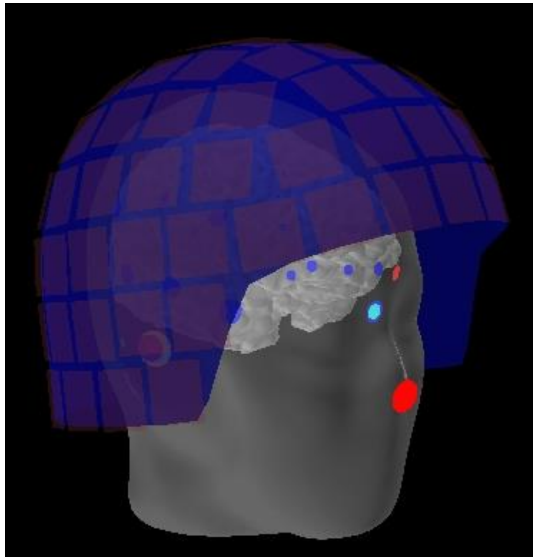
“Fixed”



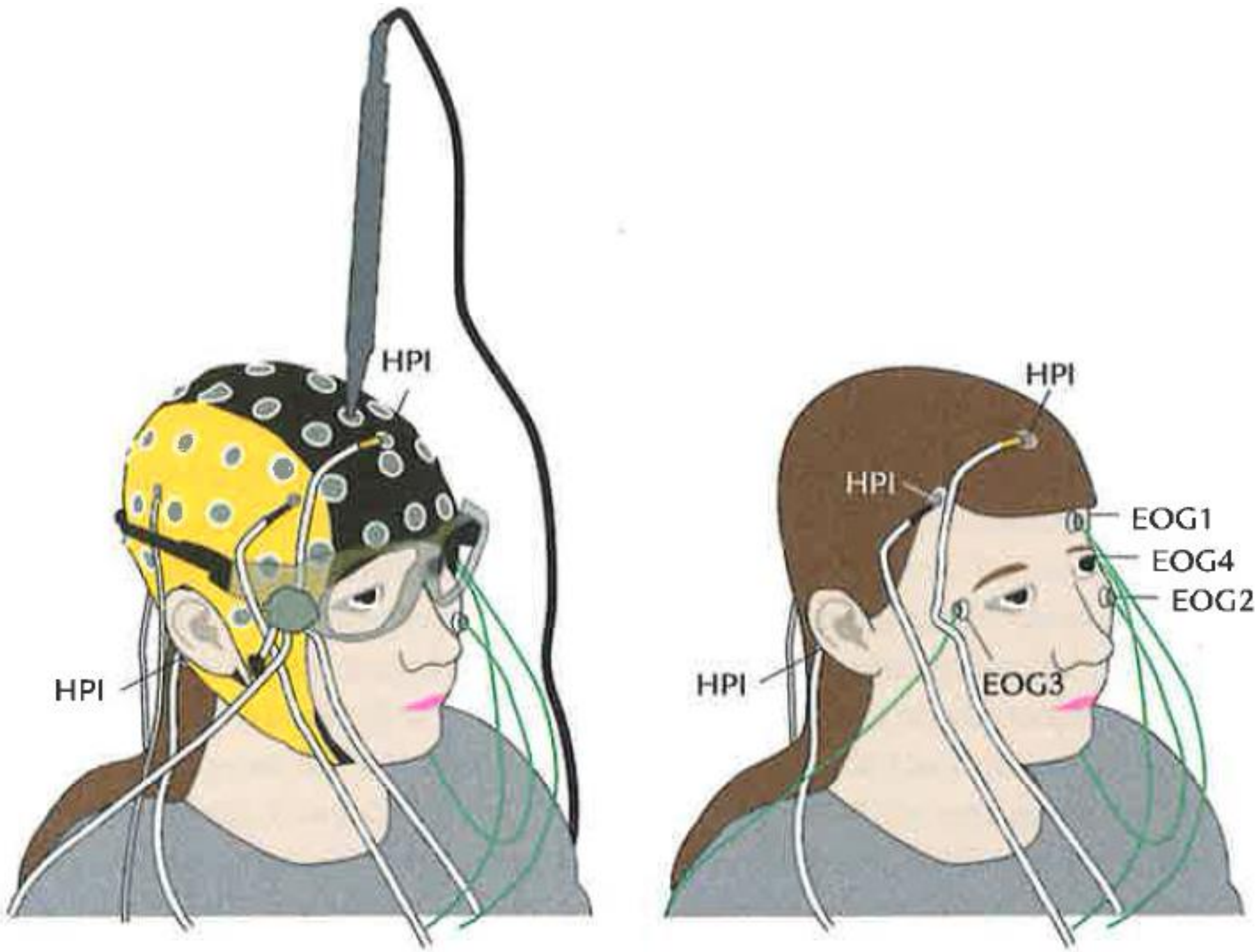
“Loose”

Coregistration of EEG/MEG and MRI Spaces

Coordinate
Transformation



Coregistration of EEG/MEG and MRI Spaces



MNE-Python tutorial: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ALV5qqMHLlQ

Hari & Puce, “MEG-EEG Primer”, OUP 2017

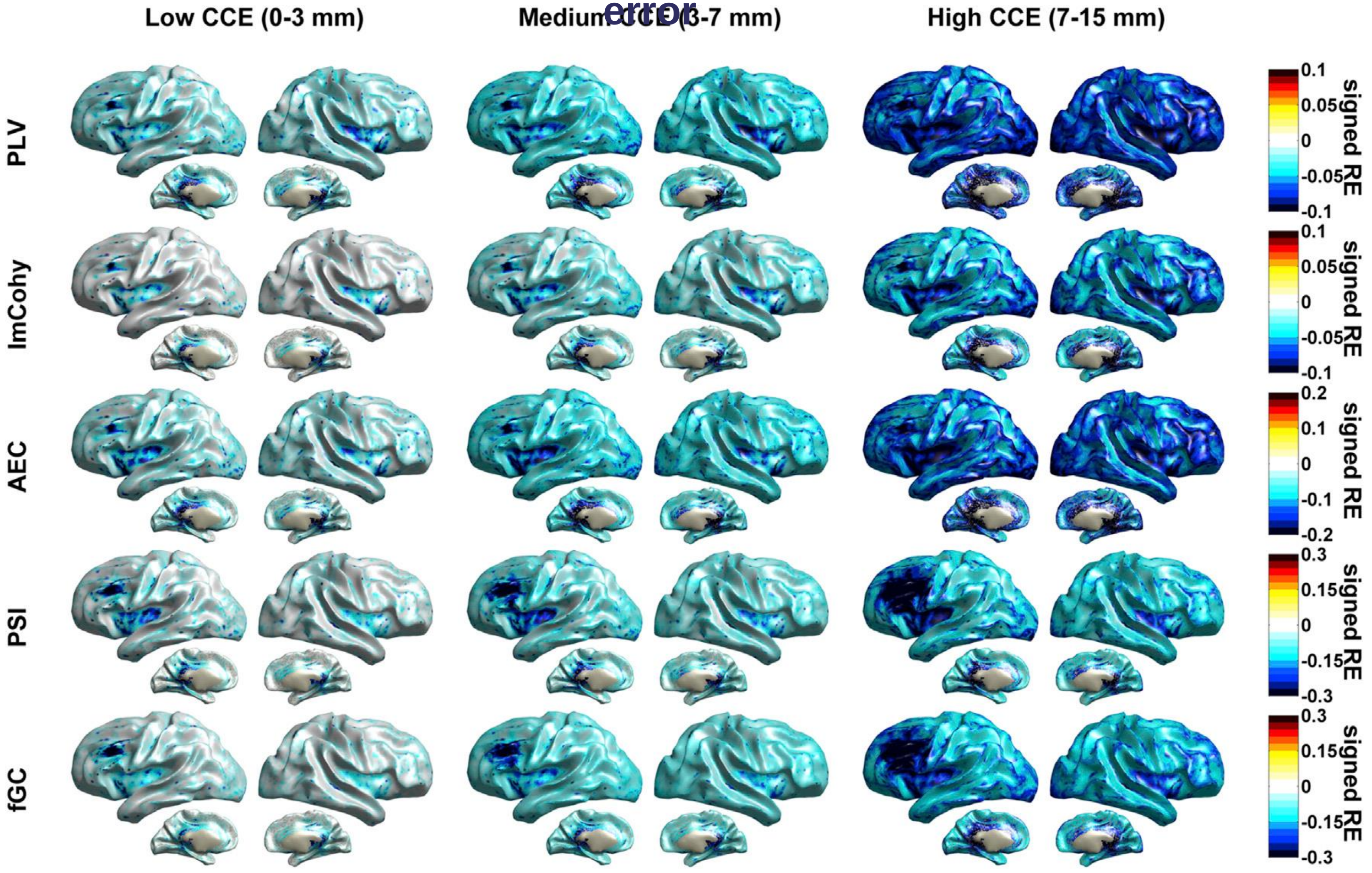
Accurate Coregistration Is Important

Coregistration errors affect the forward model, and therefore everything that follows.

For example, connectivity analysis:

3 levels of coregistration error

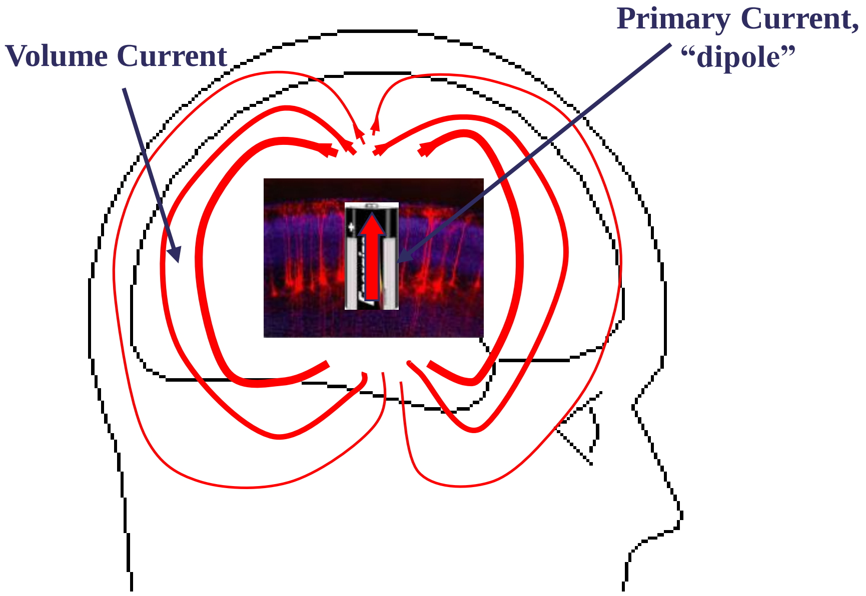
Functional Connectivity Metrics



Chella et al., NI 2019, https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1053811919303477

Head Models

Boundary Element Model (BEM)



Electric potential

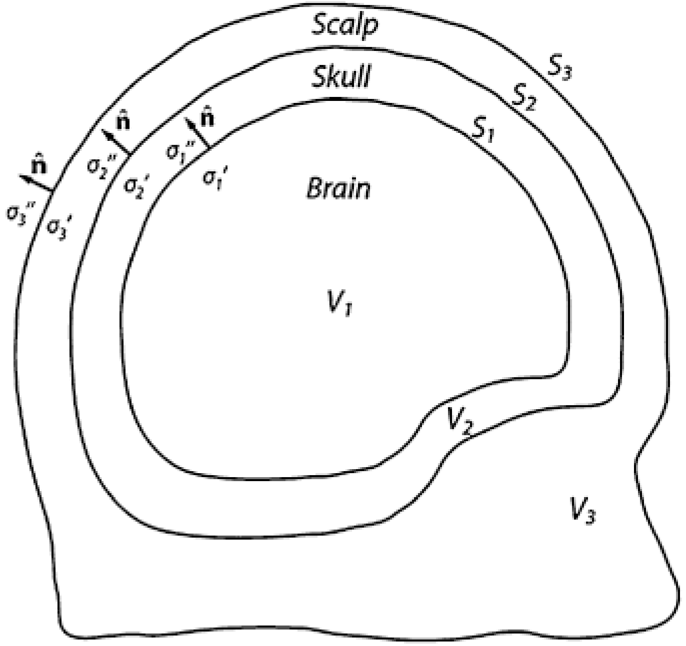
$$\sigma(\mathbf{r})\,V(\mathbf{r}) = \frac{1}{4\pi}\sum_j \left(\sigma'_j - \sigma''_j\right)\int_{S_j} dS'_j\,\mathbf{n}(\mathbf{r}')\cdot\frac{\mathbf{r}'-\mathbf{r}}{|\mathbf{r}'-\mathbf{r}|^3}V(\mathbf{r}')$$

$$+\frac{1}{4\pi}\int_V d^3r'\,\mathbf{J}^{\mathbf{P}}(\mathbf{r}')\cdot\frac{\mathbf{r}-\mathbf{r}'}{|\mathbf{r}'-\mathbf{r}|^3}.$$

Magnetic Field

$$\mathbf{B}^{\mathbf{P}}(\mathbf{r}) = \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi}\int_V \mathbf{J}^{\mathbf{P}}(\mathbf{r}')\times\nabla'\frac{1}{|\mathbf{r}-\mathbf{r}'|}d^3r',$$

$$\mathbf{B}^{R}(\mathbf{r}) = -\frac{\mu_0}{4\pi}\sum_i \sigma_i\int_{V_i}\nabla' V(\mathbf{r}')\times\nabla'\frac{1}{|\mathbf{r}-\mathbf{r}'|}d^3r',$$



Heller & Volegov, in Magnetoencephalography by Supek & Aine (edts), Springer 2019

- Volume currents depend on conductivity distribution within the whole head volume.
- EEG measurements on the scalp are the result of volume currents, and are strongly affected by head geometry.
- MEG measurements are the sum of magnetic fields from primary and volume currents, but the magnetic fields of currents close to the source are much stronger than at larger distances.

➢ Thus, MEG signals are less affected by head geometry (e.g. skull and scalp). We usually only use one compartment (inner skull) for MEG (unless in combination with EEG).

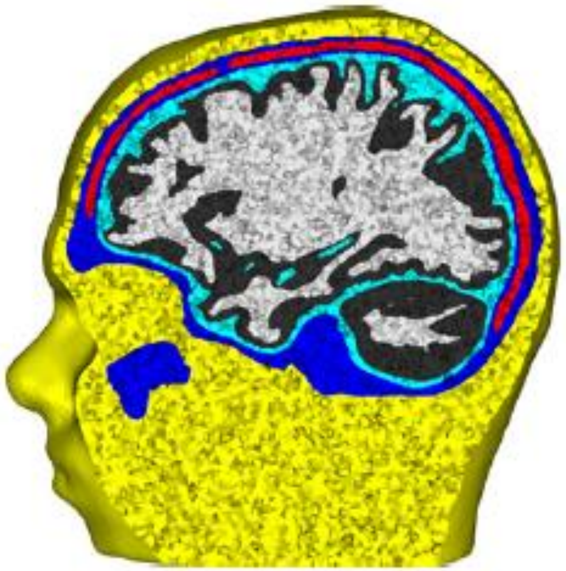
Finite Element Models (FEMs)

The use of 3-layer (brain, skull, scalp) BEM models based on individual MRI images is state-of-the-art for EEG/MEG source estimation.

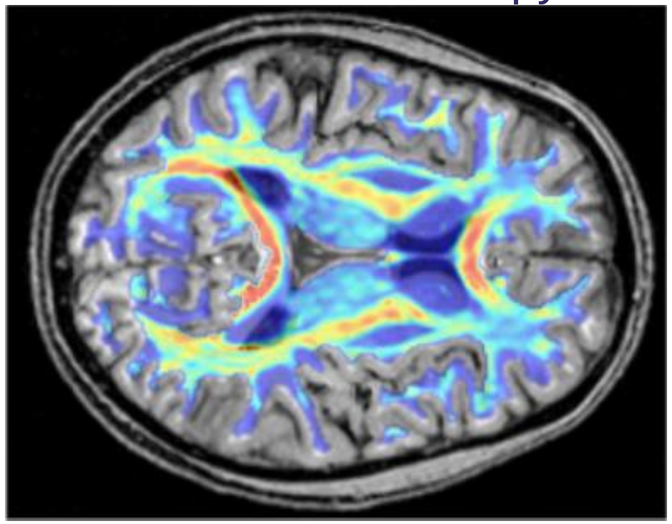
For MEG-only, single shell BEMs and local/corrected sphere models can provide reasonable approximations.

But heads are more complex:

White Matter
Gray Matter
CSF
Skull
Compacta
Skull
Spongiosa
Skin



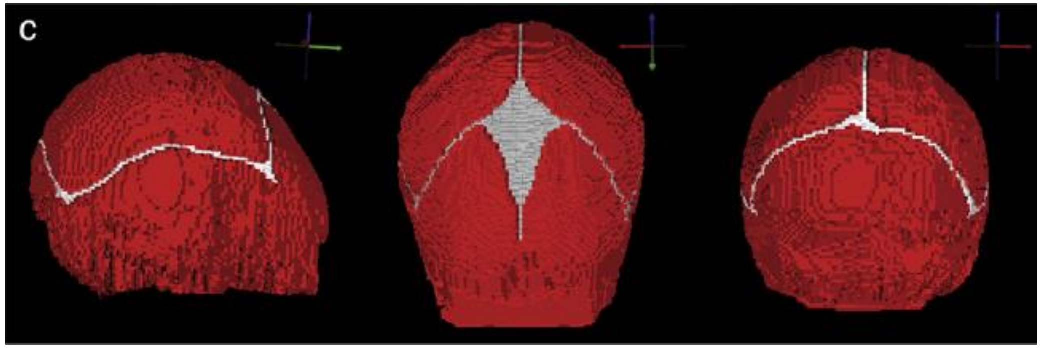
Fractional Anisotropy



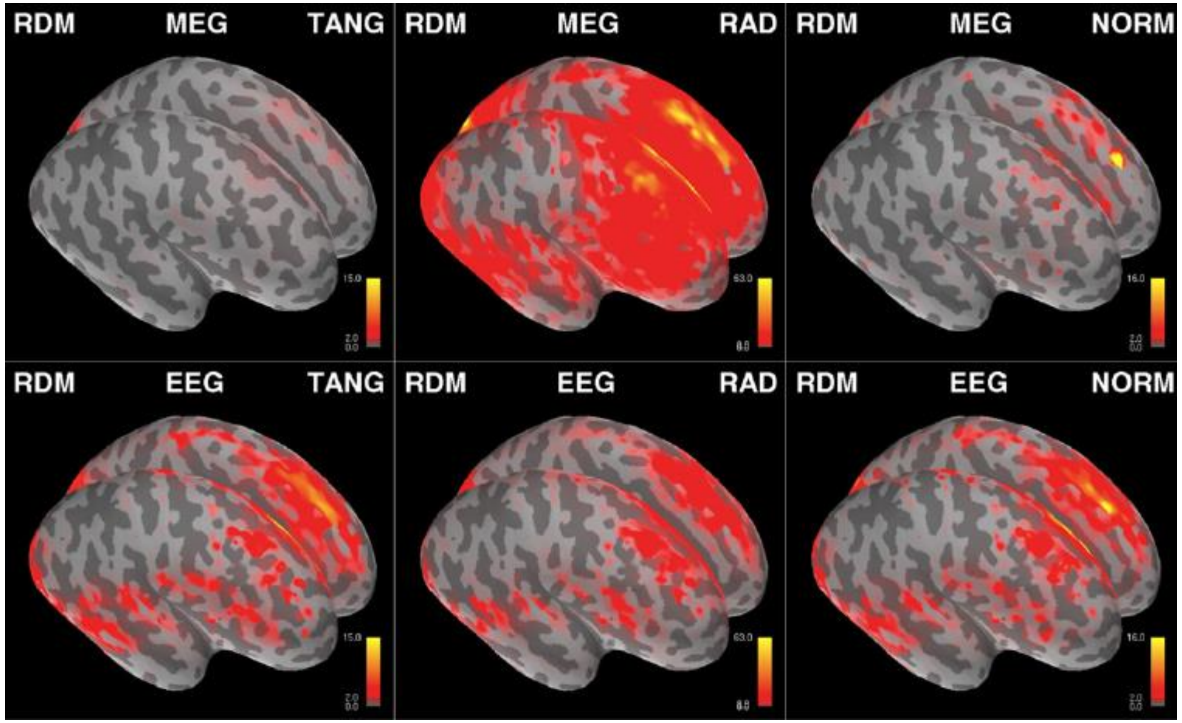
Vorwerk et al., NI 2014

It is not obvious how to translate this into more accurate estimate for conductivity distributions.

Infant Skulls – Fontanelles and Sutures



Relative error between models with and without fontanelles/sutures



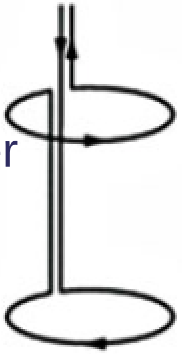
Lew et al., NI 2013

Different Sensors and their Sensitivities (Leadfields)

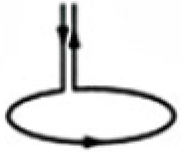
Leadfields are “sensitivity profiles” of individual sensors.

Each sensor is maximally sensitive to sources oriented along the arrows, and insensitive to sources perpendicular to the arrows.

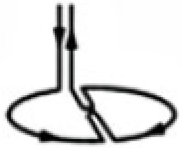
Axial Gradiometer



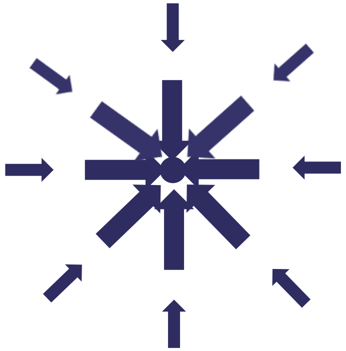
Magnetometer



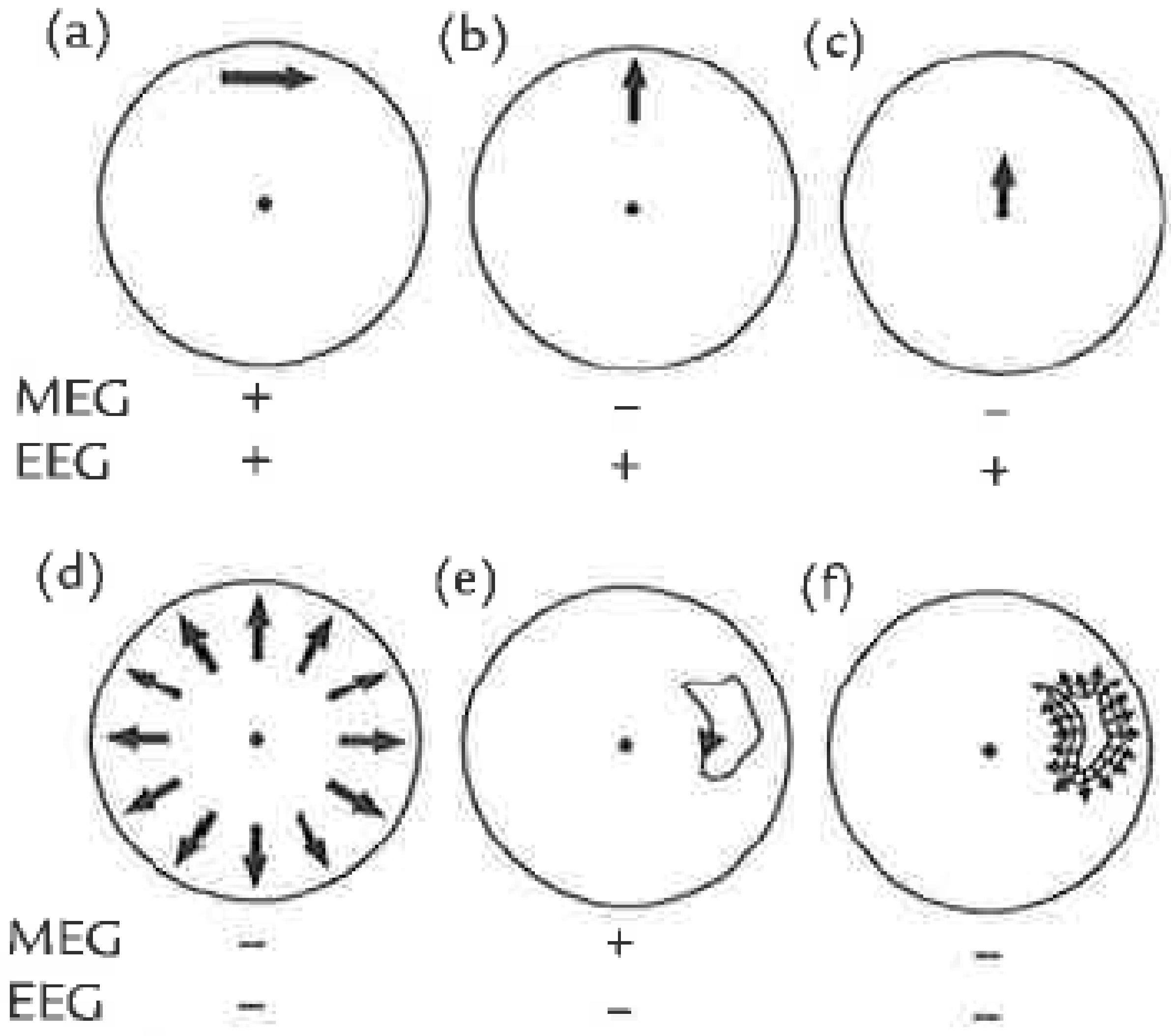
Planar Gradiometer(s)



EEG Electrode



EEG and MEG Are Differentially Sensitive To Radial and Tangential Sources



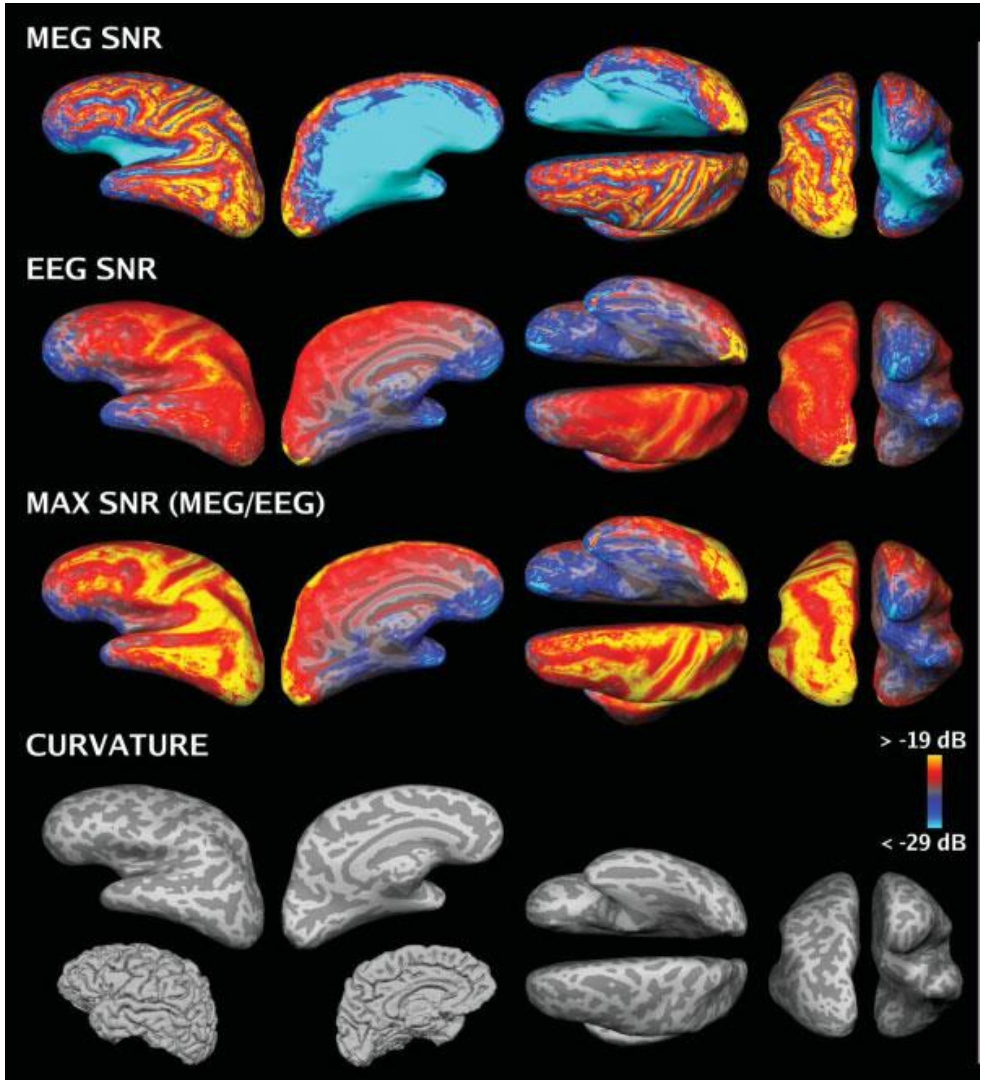
MEG is relatively insensitive to radial currents, and therefore also to deep currents.

Some complex source distributions may not produce EEG or MEG signals.

MEG-EEG Primer, Hari & Puce, OUP 2017

Sensitivity Maps

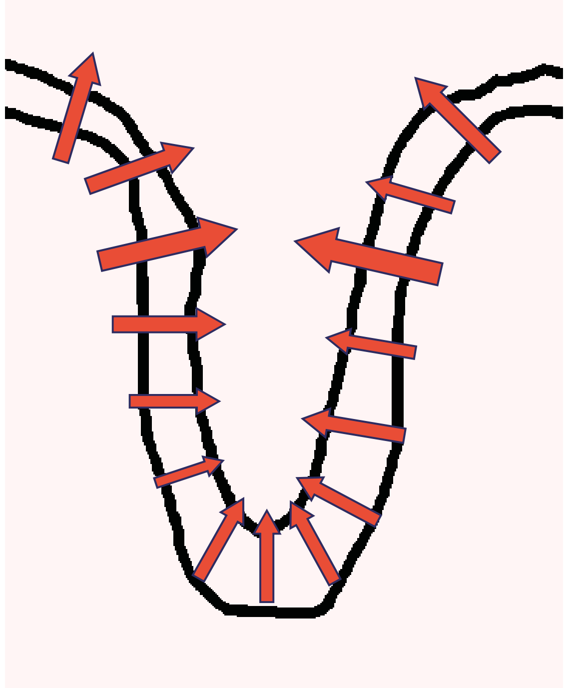
Sensor type, coverage and distance to sources strongly affect sensitivity and spatial resolution

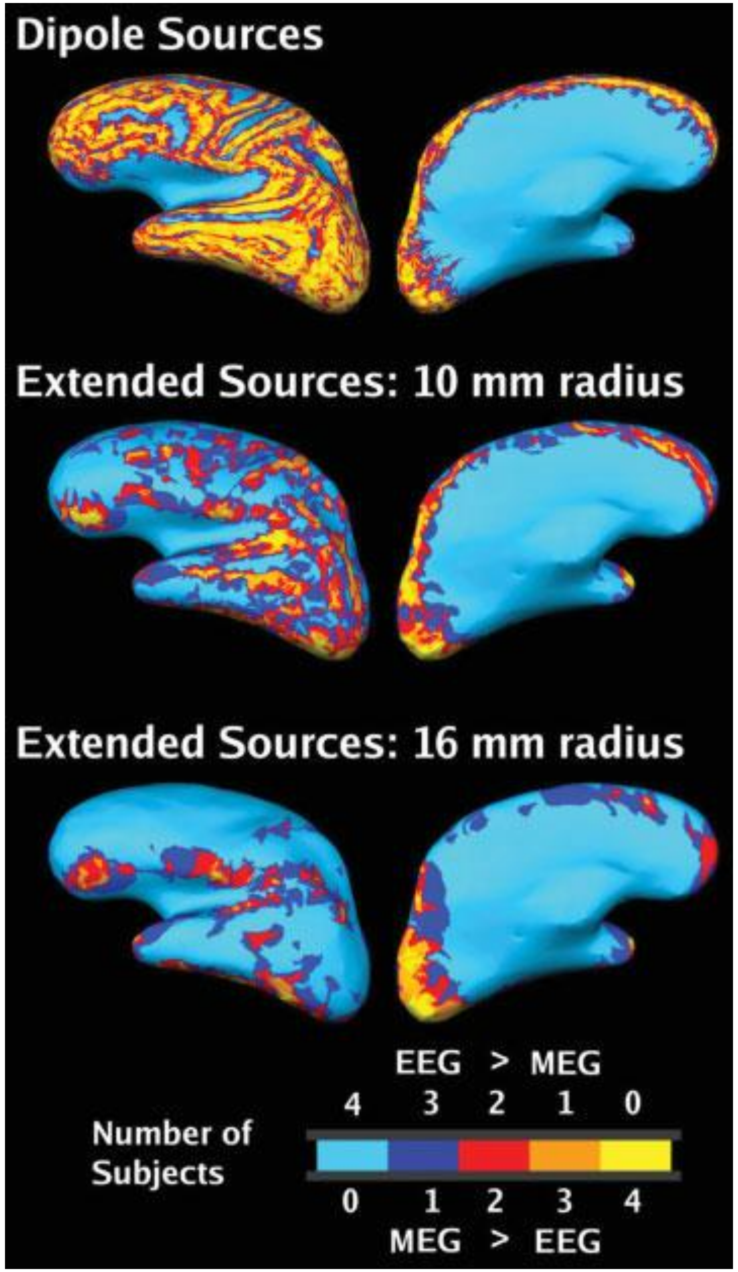


Goldenholz et al., HBM 2009
https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/18465745/

MEG Is Less Sensitive To Spatially Extended Sources Than EEG

Distributed source around sulcus





Goldenholz et al., HBM 2009
https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/18465745/

Thank you