

**BIDS**  
BRAIN IMAGING DATA STRUCTURE

(for EEG)

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# What is BIDS?

- It's a data **structure** ; nothing to do with **format** per se
- It's about:
  - how you organize data in a folder
  - how you name files
  - how you document metadata
  - using community standards and dictionaries to do all the above
- It cares about imaging data but also behaviour/cognition

## CREDITS

# SCIENTIFIC DATA

## OPEN

### SUBJECT CATEGORIES

- » Data publication and  
archiving
- » Research data

## The brain imaging data structure, a format for organizing and describing outputs of neuroimaging experiments

Krzysztof J. Gorgolewski<sup>1</sup>, Tibor Auer<sup>2</sup>, Vince D. Calhoun<sup>3,4</sup>, R. Cameron Craddock<sup>5,6</sup>, Samir Das<sup>7</sup>, Eugene P. Duff<sup>8</sup>, Guillaume Flandin<sup>9</sup>, Satrajit S. Ghosh<sup>10,11</sup>, Tristan Glatard<sup>7,12</sup>, Yaroslav O. Halchenko<sup>13</sup>, Daniel A. Handwerker<sup>14</sup>, Michael Hanke<sup>15,16</sup>, David Keator<sup>17</sup>, Xiangrui Li<sup>18</sup>, Zachary Michael<sup>19</sup>, Camille Maumet<sup>20</sup>, B. Nolan Nichols<sup>21,22</sup>, Thomas E. Nichols<sup>20,23</sup>, John Pellman<sup>6</sup>, Jean-Baptiste Poline<sup>24</sup>, Ariel Rokem<sup>25</sup>, Gunnar Schaefer<sup>1,26</sup>, Vanessa Sochat<sup>27</sup>, William Triplett<sup>1</sup>, Jessica A. Turner<sup>3,28</sup>, Gaël Varoquaux<sup>29</sup> & Russell A. Poldrack<sup>1</sup>

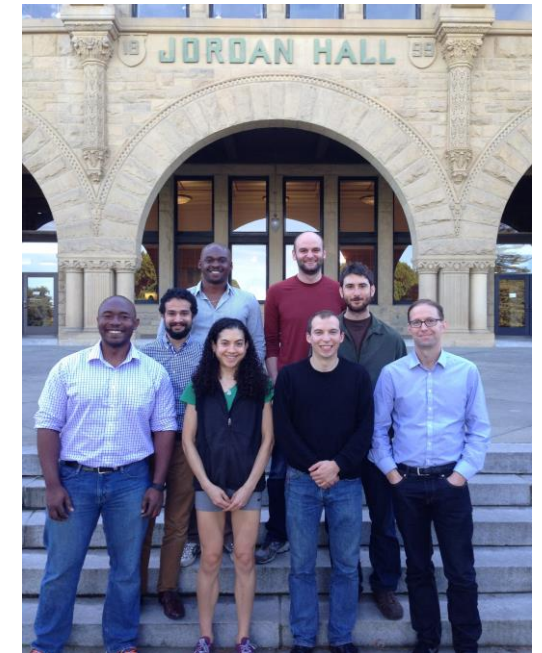
Received: 18 December 2015

Accepted: 19 May 2016

Published: 21 June 2016



Data Sharing Task Force



The Poldrack Lab @ Stanford

# Evolution of BIDS

1. Kickoff meeting at Stanford in Spring 2015
2. Meeting at OHBM 2015 (June)
3. Introduced to neuroinformatics community at INCF Congress 2015 (August)
4. First release candidate and public call for comments (September)
5. Version 1.0.0 published along the introductory paper

→ Initially covered structural MRI and fMRI, now all sort of MRI, PET, EEG, MEG, iEEG, extensions for animal, connectivity, imaging genomics ..



## Brain Imaging Data Structure v1.6.0

The BIDS Specification



[Introduction](#)

Common principles

Modality agnostic files

Modality specific files



Derivatives



Longitudinal and multi-site  
studies

BIDS Extension Proposals

Appendix



Changelog

The BIDS Starter Kit



## Datatype specific publications

### EEG

- Pernet, C. R., Appelhoff, S., Gorgolewski, K.J., Flandin, G., Phillips, C., Delorme, A., Oostenveld, R. (2019). **EEG-BIDS, an extension to the brain imaging data structure for electroencephalography**. Scientific data, 6 (103). [doi:10.1038/s41597-019-0104-8](https://doi.org/10.1038/s41597-019-0104-8)

### iEEG

- Holdgraf, C., Appelhoff, S., Bickel, S., Bouchard, K., D'Ambrosio, S., David, O., Devinsky, O., Dichter, B., Flinker, A., Foster, B. L., Gorgolewski, K. J., Groen, I., Groppe, D., Gunduz, A., Hamilton, L., Honey, C. J., Jas, M., Knight, R., Lauchaux, J.-P., Lau, J. C., Lee-Messer, C., Lundstrom, B. N., Miller, K. J., Ojemann, J. G., Oostenveld, R., Petridou, N., Piantoni, G., Pigorini, A., Pouratian, N., Ramsey, N. F., Stolk, A., Swann, N. C., Tadel, F., Voytek, B., Wandell, B. A., Winawer, J., Whitaker, K., Zehl, L., Hermes, D. (2019). **iEEG-BIDS, extending the Brain Imaging Data Structure specification to human intracranial electrophysiology**. Scientific data, 6 (102). [doi:10.1038/s41597-019-0105-7](https://doi.org/10.1038/s41597-019-0105-7)

### MEG

- Niso Galan, J.G., Gorgolewski, K.J., Bock, E., Brooks, T.L., Flandin, G., Gramfort, A., Henson, R.N., Jas, M., Litvak, V., Moreau, J., Oostenveld, R., Schoffelen, J.-M., Tadel, F., Wexler, J., Baillet, S. (2018). **MEG-BIDS, the brain imaging data structure extended to magnetoencephalography**. Scientific Data, 5 (180110). [doi:10.1038/sdata.2018.110](https://doi.org/10.1038/sdata.2018.110)

## Table of contents

Motivation

Extensions

Citing BIDS

[Original publication](#)

Datatype specific publications

EEG

iEEG

MEG

PET

Genetics

Research Resource Identifier  
(RRID)

The BIDS goal is to make  
more data accessible to more  
researchers

# Making more data accessible

- for yourself in 6 months time

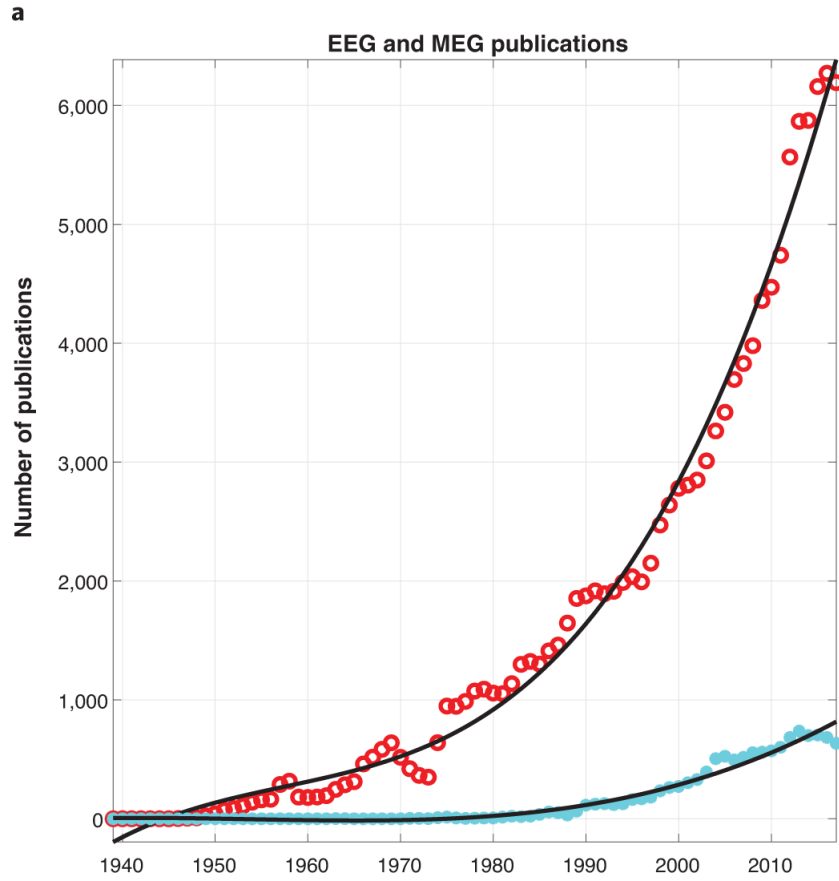
- to people in the lab

(new students, collaborators, governance)

- to other researchers

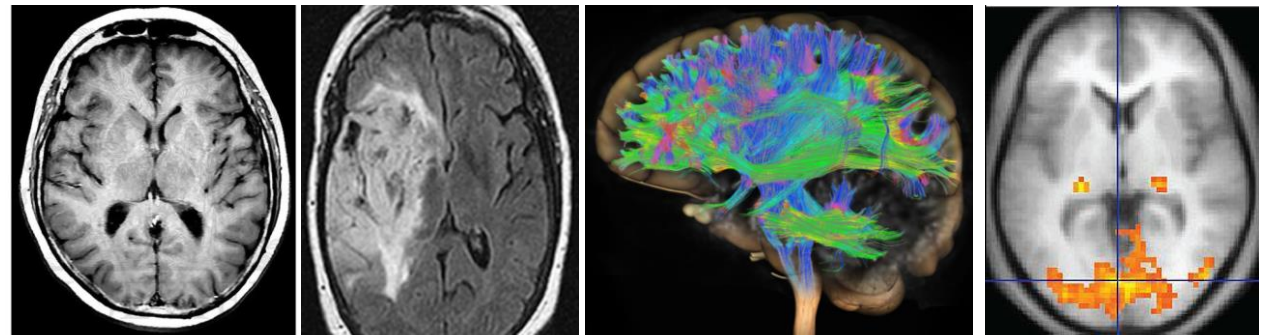
(data sharing)

# Getting lost in your data



[COBIDAS MEEG – figure 1](#)

- **Multitude of techniques** (MEG, EEG, PET, MRI, NIRS, TMS, etc ...) and applications.
- Despite similarities in experimental designs and data types **each researcher tends to organize and describe their data in their own way.**





# BIDS principles

# Principles

## **1. Adoption is crucial**

= got to fit peoples' needs = driven by user cases

## **2. Don't reinvent the wheel**

= use already in use file formats = minimize work for users

## **3. 80/20 rule**

= 80% of the work is already done by you collecting data, just need 20% to get it to BIDS

# BIDS data structure basics

# A BIDS folder (any/all modality)

Name	Date modified	Type
stimuli	21/03/2018 21:58	File folder
sub-002	24/03/2018 08:56	File folder
sub-003	24/03/2018 08:56	File folder
sub-004	24/03/2018 08:56	File folder
sub-005	24/03/2018 08:56	File folder
sub-006	24/03/2018 08:56	File folder
sub-007	24/03/2018 08:56	File folder
sub-008	24/03/2018 08:56	File folder
sub-009	24/03/2018 08:56	File folder
sub-010	24/03/2018 08:56	File folder
sub-011	24/03/2018 08:56	File folder
sub-012	24/03/2018 08:56	File folder
sub-013	24/03/2018 08:56	File folder
sub-014	24/03/2018 08:56	File folder
sub-015	24/03/2018 08:56	File folder
sub-016	24/03/2018 08:56	File folder
sub-017	24/03/2018 08:56	File folder
sub-018	24/03/2018 08:56	File folder
sub-019	24/03/2018 08:56	File folder
dataset_description.json	15/03/2018 11:30	JSON File
participants.tsv	19/03/2018 20:21	TSV File
README.txt	15/03/2018 11:33	TXT File

- **source** (optional)
- **stimuli** (optional)
- **derivatives** (optional)
- **sub-XXX**

**Anyone can now find his/her way around data !**

# Metadata as text files (tsv, json) with standard dictionary

Name	Date modified	Type
stimuli	21/03/2018 21:58	File folder
sub-002	24/03/2018 08:56	File folder
sub-003	24/03/2018 08:56	File folder
sub-004	24/03/2018 08:56	File folder
sub-005	24/03/2018 08:56	File folder
sub-006	24/03/2018 08:56	File folder
sub-007	24/03/2018 08:56	File folder
sub-008	24/03/2018 08:56	File folder
sub-009	24/03/2018 08:56	File folder
sub-010	24/03/2018 08:56	File folder
sub-011	24/03/2018 08:56	File folder
sub-012	24/03/2018 08:56	File folder
sub-013	24/03/2018 08:56	File folder
sub-014	24/03/2018 08:56	File folder
sub-015	24/03/2018 08:56	File folder
sub-016	24/03/2018 08:56	File folder
sub-017	24/03/2018 08:56	File folder
sub-018	24/03/2018 08:56	File folder
sub-019	24/03/2018 08:56	File folder
dataset_description.json	15/03/2018 11:30	JSON File
participants.tsv	19/03/2018 20:21	TSV File
README.txt	15/03/2018 11:33	TXT File

```
{  
  "Name": "",  
  "BIDSVersion": "",  
  "License": "",  
  "Authors": "",  
  "Acknowledgements": "",  
  "HowToAcknowledge": " ",  
  "Funding": "",  
  "ReferencesAndLinks": "",  
  "SourceDatasetsURLs": ""  
}
```

**Your data are identifiable and citable**

# Metadata as text files (tsv, json) with standard dictionary

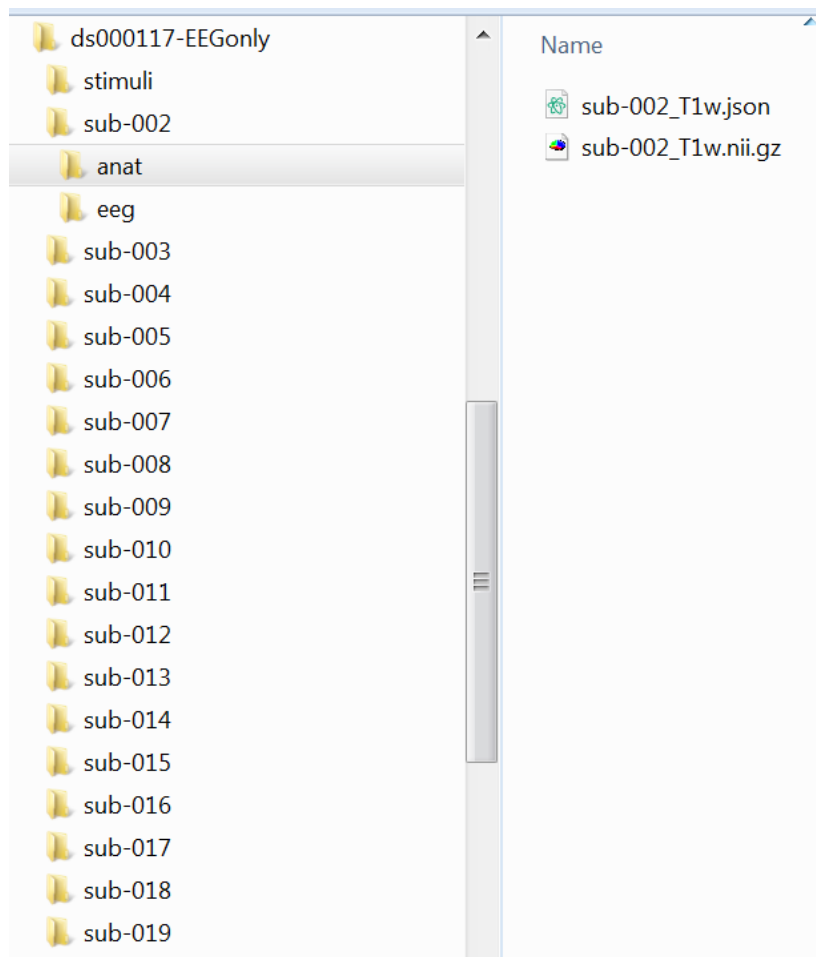
Name	Date modified	Type
stimuli	21/03/2018 21:58	File folder
sub-002	24/03/2018 08:56	File folder
sub-003	24/03/2018 08:56	File folder
sub-004	24/03/2018 08:56	File folder
sub-005	24/03/2018 08:56	File folder
sub-006	24/03/2018 08:56	File folder
sub-007	24/03/2018 08:56	File folder
sub-008	24/03/2018 08:56	File folder
sub-009	24/03/2018 08:56	File folder
sub-010	24/03/2018 08:56	File folder
sub-011	24/03/2018 08:56	File folder
sub-012	24/03/2018 08:56	File folder
sub-013	24/03/2018 08:56	File folder
sub-014	24/03/2018 08:56	File folder
sub-015	24/03/2018 08:56	File folder
sub-016	24/03/2018 08:56	File folder
sub-017	24/03/2018 08:56	File folder
sub-018	24/03/2018 08:56	File folder
sub-019	24/03/2018 08:56	File folder
dataset_description.json	15/03/2018 11:30	JSON File
participants.tsv	19/03/2018 20:21	TSV File
README.txt	15/03/2018 11:33	TXT File

```
participant_id  age  sex
sub-002        34   M
sub-003        12   F
sub-004        33   F
```

**Subjects info are shared at the root – easy to figure populations, age, and other basic demographics**

**Human and machine readable!**

# A BIDS folder (any/all modality)



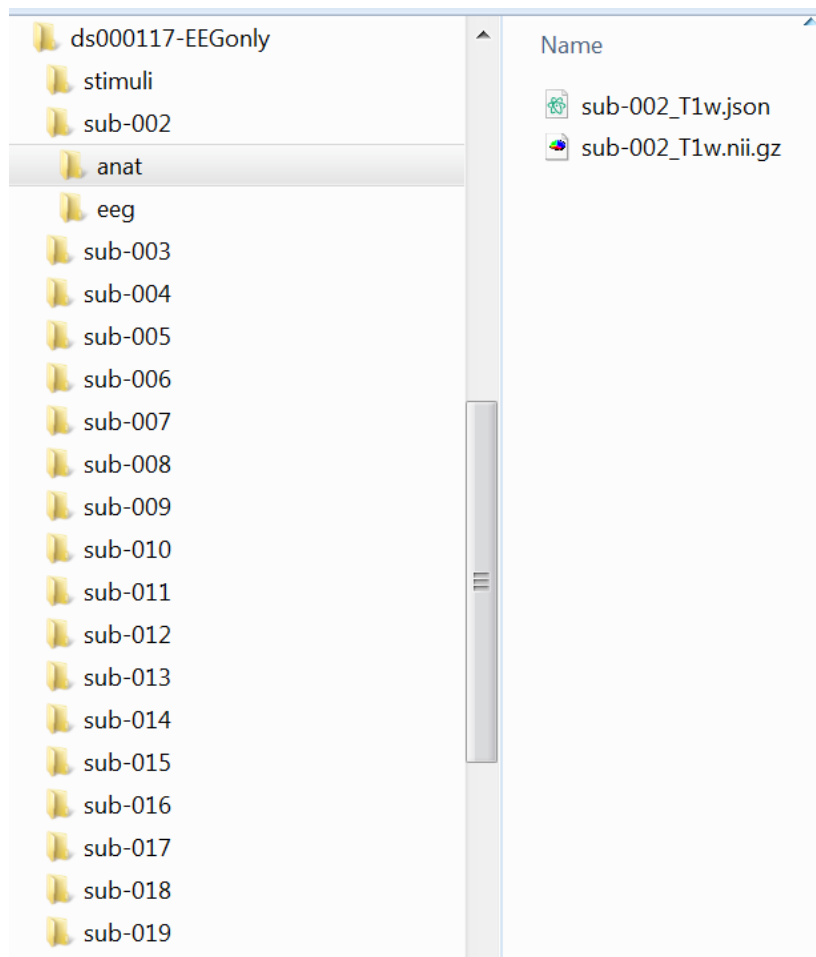
**Name redundancy – harder to make mistakes ; files comes with metadata (json)**

Inside folder sub-002

→ anat folder  
sub-002\_T1w.nii.gz

→ eeg folder  
????

# A BIDS folder (any/all modality)



**Name redundancy – harder to make mistakes ; files comes with metadata (json)**

Inside folder sub-002

→ anat folder

sub-002\_T1w.nii.gz

→ eeg folder

sub-002\_something\_eeg.set



# BIDS for EEG

[www.nature.com/scientificdata](http://www.nature.com/scientificdata)

## SCIENTIFIC DATA

OPEN  
COMMENT

### EEG-BIDS, an extension to the brain imaging data structure for electroencephalography

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Cyril R. Pernet<sup>1</sup>, Stefan Appelhoff<sup>2</sup>, Krzysztof J. Gorgolewski<sup>3</sup>, Guillaume Flandin<sup>4</sup>,  
Christophe Phillips<sup>5</sup>, Arnaud Delorme<sup>6,7</sup> & Robert Oostenveld<sup>8,9</sup>

The Brain Imaging Data Structure (BIDS) project is a rapidly evolving effort in the human brain imaging research community to create standards allowing researchers to readily organize and share study data within and between laboratories. Here we present an extension to BIDS for electroencephalography (EEG) data, EEG-BIDS, along with tools and references to a series of public EEG datasets organized using this new standard.

# EEG File formats (known and supported)

Name	Date modified	Type
stimuli	21/03/2018 21:58	File folder
sub-002	24/03/2018 08:56	File folder
sub-003	24/03/2018 08:56	File folder
sub-004	24/03/2018 08:56	File folder
sub-005	24/03/2018 08:56	File folder
sub-006	24/03/2018 08:56	File folder
sub-007	24/03/2018 08:56	File folder
sub-008	24/03/2018 08:56	File folder
sub-009	24/03/2018 08:56	File folder
sub-010	24/03/2018 08:56	File folder
sub-011	24/03/2018 08:56	File folder
sub-012	24/03/2018 08:56	File folder
sub-013	24/03/2018 08:56	File folder
sub-014	24/03/2018 08:56	File folder
sub-015	24/03/2018 08:56	File folder
sub-016	24/03/2018 08:56	File folder
sub-017	24/03/2018 08:56	File folder
sub-018	24/03/2018 08:56	File folder
sub-019	24/03/2018 08:56	File folder
dataset_description.json	15/03/2018 11:30	JSON File
participants.tsv	19/03/2018 20:21	TSV File
README.txt	15/03/2018 11:33	TXT File
task-facerecognition_channels.tsv	19/03/2018 20:54	TSV File
task-facerecognition_eeg.json	19/03/2018 20:42	JSON File

ds000117-EEGonly		
code		
stimuli		
sub-002		
anat		
eeg		
sub-003		
sub-004		
sub-005		
sub-006		
sub-007		
sub-008		
sub-002_task-facerecognition_electrodes.json	19/03/2018 14:22	JSON File
sub-002_task-facerecognition_electrodes.tsv	19/03/2018 21:06	TSV File
sub-002_task-facerecognition_fid.json	19/03/2018 14:22	JSON File
sub-002_task-facerecognition_run-1_eeg.fdt	21/03/2018 21:48	FDT File
sub-002_task-facerecognition_run-1_eeg.set	21/03/2018 21:48	SET File
sub-002_task-facerecognition_run-1_events.tsv	15/03/2018 20:31	TSV File
sub-002_task-facerecognition_run-2_eeg.fdt	21/03/2018 21:48	FDT File
sub-002_task-facerecognition_run-2_eeg.set	21/03/2018 21:48	SET File
sub-002_task-facerecognition_run-2_events.tsv	15/03/2018 20:31	TSV File
sub-002_task-facerecognition_run-3_eeg.fdt	21/03/2018 21:48	FDT File
sub-002_task-facerecognition_run-3_eeg.set	21/03/2018 21:48	SET File
sub-002_task-facerecognition_run-3_events.tsv	15/03/2018 20:31	TSV File

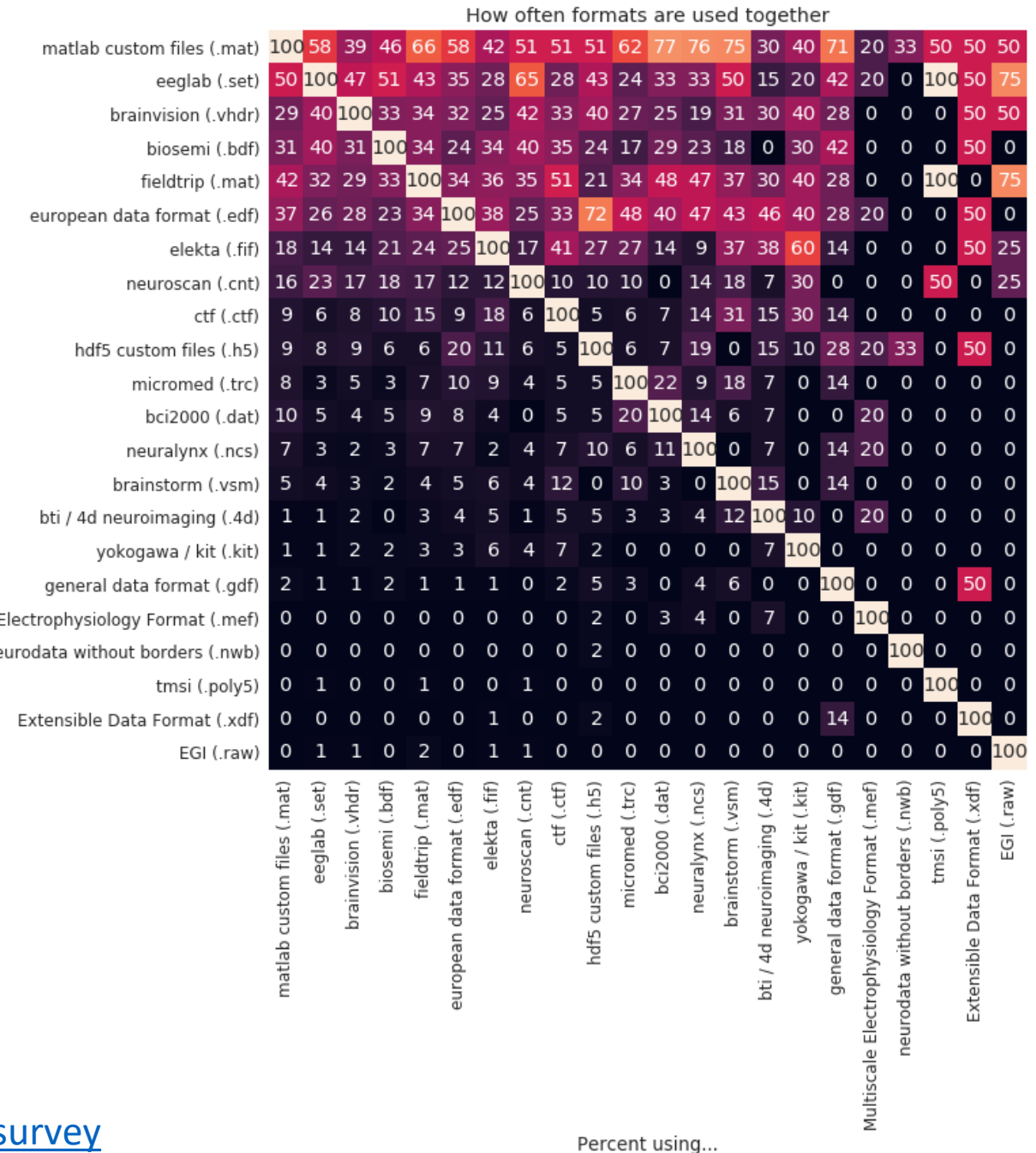
**Anyone can read the data**

- **official: edf & vhdr/eeg**
  - **unofficial: set/fdt, bdf**
- (all supported by open-source software)**

# (i) EEG File formats

- (i) wide usage in the community
- (ii) open access documentation, open source implementation for both reading and writing in at least two programming languages and widely supported in multiple software packages (both open source and commercial)
- (iii) high numerical precision (16 and 32 bits respectively).

That also use...



# Some (M/iE/E)EG specifics metadata

Name	task-facerecognition_channels.tsv	Type
	File folder	
1	name unit type description	File folder
2	EEG001 uV EEG	File folder
3	EEG002 uV EEG	File folder
4	EEG003 uV EEG	File folder
5	EEG004 uV EEG	File folder
6	EEG005 uV EEG	File folder
7	EEG006 uV EEG	File folder
8	EEG007 uV EEG	File folder
9	EEG008 uV EEG	File folder
10	EEG009 uV EEG	File folder
	File folder	
sub-017	24/03/2018 08:56	File folder
sub-018	24/03/2018 08:56	File folder
sub-019	24/03/2018 08:56	File folder
dataset_description.json	15/03/2018 11:30	JSON File
participants.tsv	19/03/2018 20:21	TSV File
README.txt	15/03/2018 11:33	TXT File
task-facerecognition_channels.tsv	19/03/2018 20:54	TSV File
task-facerecognition_eeg.json	19/03/2018 20:42	JSON File

ds000117-EEGonly		
code		
stimuli		
sub-002		
anat		
eeg		
sub-003		
sub-004		
sub-005		
sub-006		
sub-007		
sub-008		
sub-002_task-facerecognition_electrodes.json	19/03/2018 14:22	JSON File
sub-002_task-facerecognition_electrodes.tsv	19/03/2018 21:06	TSV File
sub-002_task-facerecognition_fid.json	19/03/2018 14:22	JSON File
sub-002_task-facerecognition_run-1_eeg.fdt	21/03/2018 21:48	FDT File
sub-002_task-facerecognition_run-1_eeg.set	21/03/2018 21:48	SET File
sub-002_task-facerecognition_run-1_events.tsv	15/03/2018 20:31	TSV File
sub-002_task-facerecognition_run-2_eeg.fdt	21/03/2018 21:48	FDT File
sub-002_task-facerecognition_run-2_eeg.set	21/03/2018 21:48	SET File
sub-002_task-facerecognition_run-2_events.tsv	15/03/2018 20:31	TSV File
sub-002_task-facerecognition_run-3_eeg.fdt	21/03/2018 21:48	FDT File
sub-002_task-facerecognition_run-3_eeg.set	21/03/2018 21:48	SET File
sub-002_task-facerecognition_run-3_events.tsv	15/03/2018 20:31	TSV File

# Some (M/iE/E)EG specifics metadata

The image displays a file explorer window and a code editor. The file explorer shows a directory structure with files like `task-facerecognition_channels.tsv`, `sub-002_task-facerecognition_electrodes.json`, and `sub-002_task-facerecognition_electrodes.tsv`. The code editor shows the content of `sub-002_task-facerecognition_electrodes.json`, which is a JSON file containing EEG metadata.

**File Explorer View:**

Name	Type
task-facerecognition_channels.tsv	File folder
sub-002_task-facerecognition_electrodes.json	JSON File
sub-002_task-facerecognition_electrodes.tsv	TSV File
sub-002_task-facerecognition_fid.json	JSON File
sub-002_task-facerecognition_run-1_eeg.fdt	FDT File
sub-002_task-facerecognition_run-1_eeg.set	SET File
sub-002_task-facerecognition_run-1_events.tsv	TSV File
sub-002_task-facerecognition_run-2_eeg.fdt	FDT File

**Code Editor View (sub-002\_task-facerecognition\_electrodes.json):**

```
{
  "EEGCoordinateSystem": "T1w",
  "EEGCoordinateUnits": "mm",
  "AnatomicalMRICoordinateSystem": "T1w",
  "AnatomicalMRICoordinateUnits": "mm",
  "LandmarkCoordinates": "{\\\"LPA\\\": [-0.070999 -2.6537e-08 -",
  "LandmarkCoordinateSystem": "T1w",
  "LandmarkCoordinateUnits": "mm"
}
```



# Some (M/iE/E)EG specifics metadata

The image displays a file explorer on the left, a terminal window in the center, and another file explorer on the right. The terminal window shows the contents of the file 'sub-002\_task-facerecognition\_run-1\_events.tsv'. The file explorer on the right shows a list of files, with 'sub-002\_task-facerecognition\_run-1\_events.tsv' circled in red.

**File Explorer (Left):**

- stimuli
- sub-002
- sub-003
- sub-004
- sub-005
- sub-006
- sub-007
- sub-008
- sub-009
- sub-010
- sub-011
- sub-012
- sub-013
- sub-014
- sub-015
- sub-016
- sub-017
- sub-018
- sub-019
- dataset\_description.json
- participants.tsv
- README.txt
- task-facerecognition\_channels.tsv
- task-facerecognition\_eeg.json

**Terminal Window (Center):**

```
sub-002_task-facerecognition_run-1_events.tsv
1  onset trial_type eventcode
2  26624 unfamiliar_new 13
3  27667 response 0
4  29968 unfamiliar_second_early 14
5  30680 response 0
6  33386 unfamiliar_new 13
7  36694 unfamiliar_new 13
8  40205 famous_new 5
9  41041 response 0
10 43530 unfamiliar_new 13
11 47076 famous_new 5
12 47897 response 0
13 50641 scrambled_new 17
14 54041 unfamiliar_second_late 15
15 57624 famous_new 5
16 58404 response 0
17 61097 unfamiliar_second_late 15
18 64680 unfamiliar_new 13
19 65488 response 0
20 68098 unfamiliar_second_early 14
```

**File Explorer (Right):**

File Name	Timestamp	File Type
sub-002_task-facerecognition_electrodes.json	19/03/2018 14:22	JSON File
sub-002_task-facerecognition_electrodes.tsv	19/03/2018 21:06	TSV File
sub-002_task-facerecognition_fid.json	19/03/2018 14:22	JSON File
sub-002_task-facerecognition_run-1_eeg.fdt	21/03/2018 21:48	FDT File
sub-002_task-facerecognition_run-1_eeg.set	21/03/2018 21:48	SET File
sub-002_task-facerecognition_run-1_events.tsv	15/03/2018 20:31	TSV File
sub-002_task-facerecognition_run-2_eeg.fdt	21/03/2018 21:48	FDT File
sub-002_task-facerecognition_run-2_eeg.set	21/03/2018 21:48	SET File
sub-002_task-facerecognition_run-2_events.tsv	15/03/2018 20:31	TSV File
sub-002_task-facerecognition_run-3_eeg.fdt	21/03/2018 21:48	FDT File
sub-002_task-facerecognition_run-3_eeg.set	21/03/2018 21:48	SET File
sub-002_task-facerecognition_run-3_events.tsv	15/03/2018 20:31	TSV File

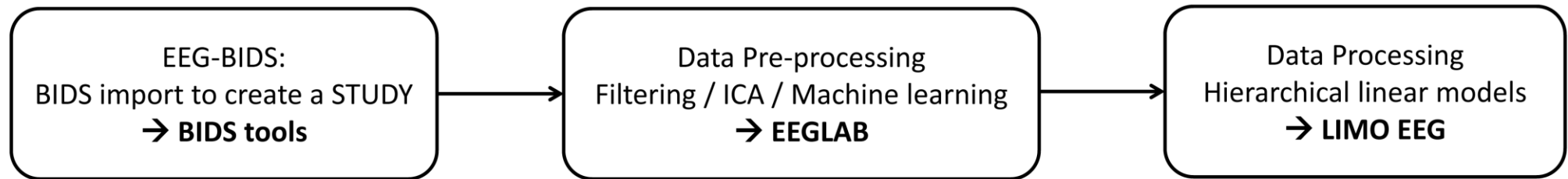
**Yes, this info is often present on a channel**

- as triggers, no metadata/name
- also easier to figure out as user (i.e. yourself in 6 months) what those event codes are

What other benefits?

# Benefits

- Use each other data / well documented / ready to analyse
- You can have **pipelines!**



- Workflow: the sequence of computational steps through which a piece of work passes from initiation to completion.
- Pipeline: set of data processing elements connected in series, where the output of one element is the input of the next one – pipelines implement workflows.



# EEGLAB-LIMO pipeline

Fully reproducible code from import BIDS to figures

