

How to write an abstract for a conference

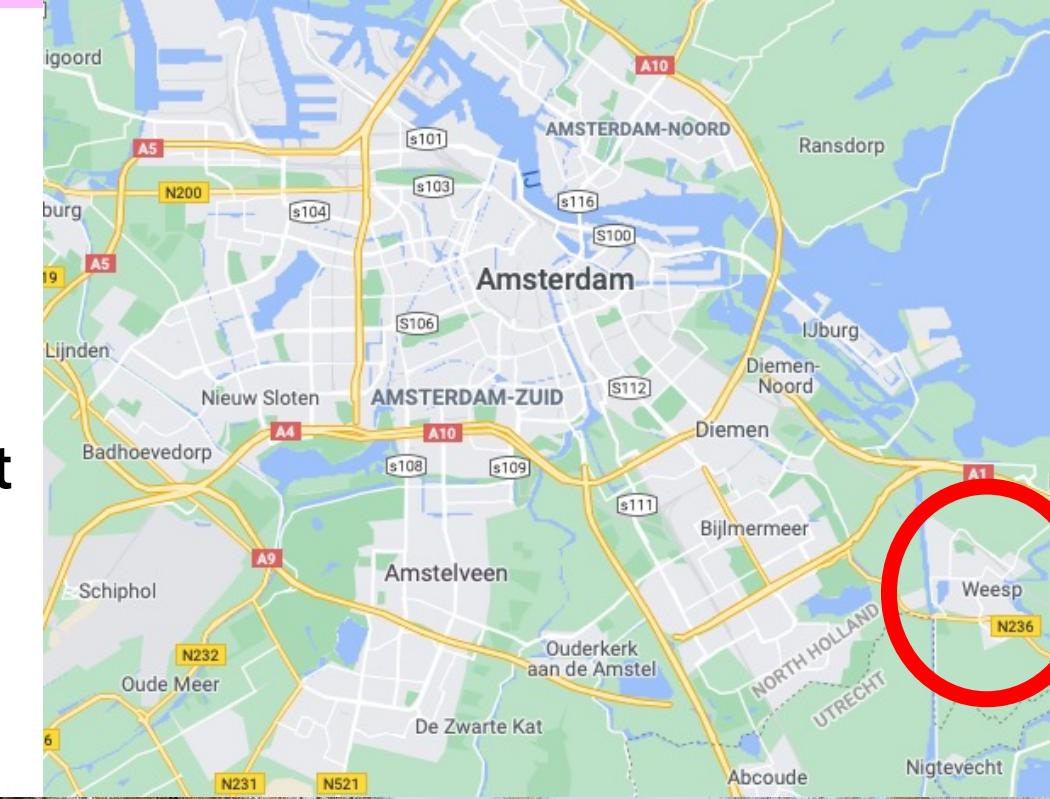
Colors of the Brain

July 5, 2022

Quirine van Engen

Who am I?

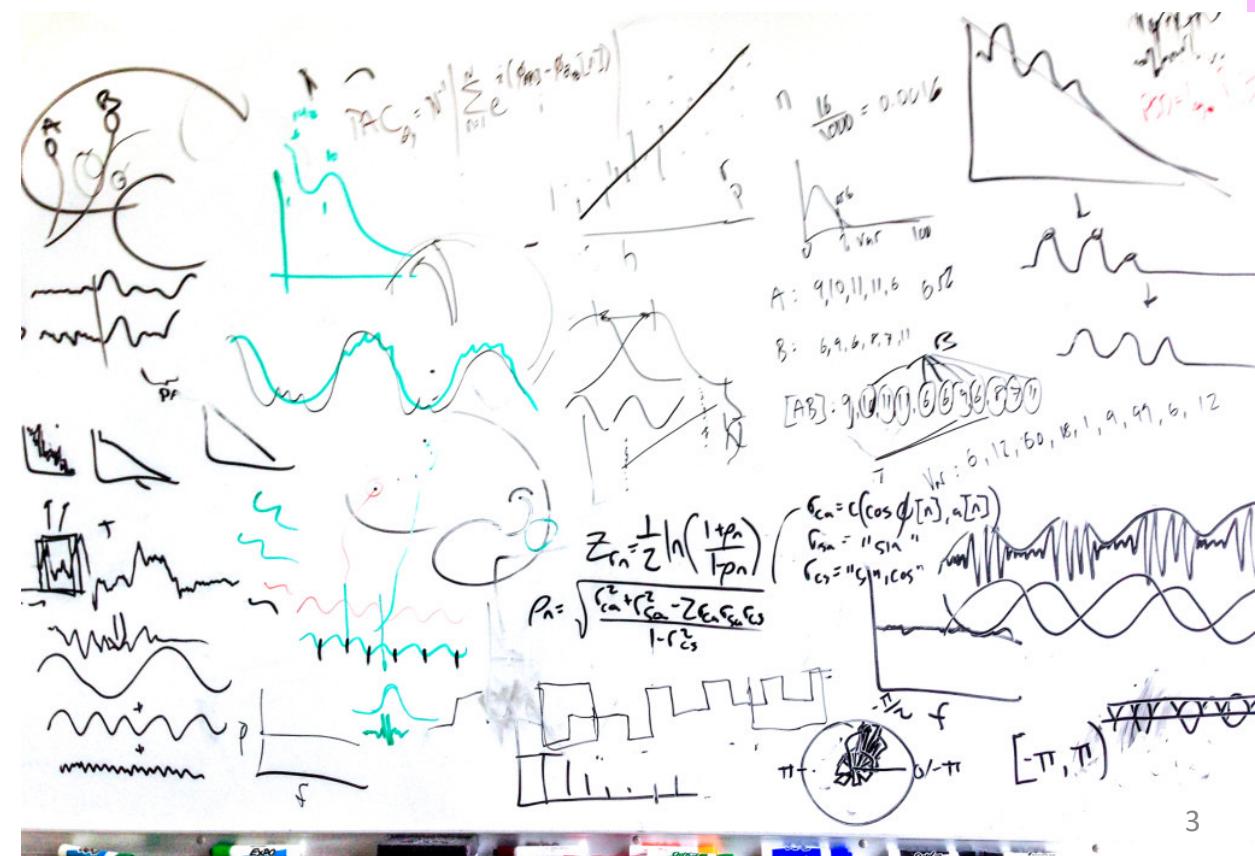
- Quirine van Engen
- Almost 3rd year Cognitive Science PhD student
- From Weesp (basically Amsterdam)
- Bachelor Psychobiology at University of Amsterdam
 - Neuroscience
 - Psychology
 - Computational cognitive neuroscience
- Master Brain and Cognitive sciences at University of Amsterdam
 - Cognitive
 - Computational
- Teaching assistant at UvA



Who am I?

- **Voytek lab**
 - PI: Brad Voytek
- **Research**
 - EEG – oscillations
 - Cognition - Working Memory

VOYTEKlab
UC San Diego



Who am I?

- Cats
 - Gir
 - Bagheera van Draq
 - Turnip the Barbarian
- Riding bicycles



Disclaimer for Summer Research Conference

- <https://ugresearch.ucsd.edu/conferences/src/index.html>
- Have not uploaded details yet for abstract submission
 - So, any information given here might be subject to change
 - Do get started on your abstract already!
 - “You can edit a mediocre draft, you cannot edit a blank page”
- Deadline: Friday, July 15

What do we already know about abstracts?

- Form of scientific communication
- Short summary of research or proposal
 - Usually between 200-250 words
- Consists of:
 - Introduction – background, question, hypothesis
 - Method – very brief, no details
 - Results – most important ones
 - Conclusions & implication of results

Memory-related hippocampal activation in the sleeping toddler

Janani Prabhakar^{a,1}, Elliott G. Johnson^a, Christine Wu Nordahl^{b,c}, and Simona Ghetti^{a,d,1}

Nonhuman research has implicated developmental processes within the hippocampus in the emergence and early development of episodic memory, but methodological challenges have hindered assessments of this possibility in humans. Here, we delivered a previously learned song and a novel song to 2-year-old toddlers during natural nocturnal sleep and, using functional magnetic resonance imaging, found that hippocampal activation was stronger for the learned song compared with the novel song. This was true regardless of whether the song was presented intact or backwards. Toddlers who remembered where and in the presence of which toy character they heard the song exhibited stronger hippocampal activation for the song. The results establish that hippocampal activation in toddlers reflects past experiences, persists despite some alteration of the stimulus, and is associated with behavior. This research sheds light on early hippocampal and memory functioning and offers an approach to interrogate the neural substrates of early memory.

The first sentence typically introduces the topic; it also implies the question underlying this research study.

The next sentence details the data, research, and analytic methods used in this new study.

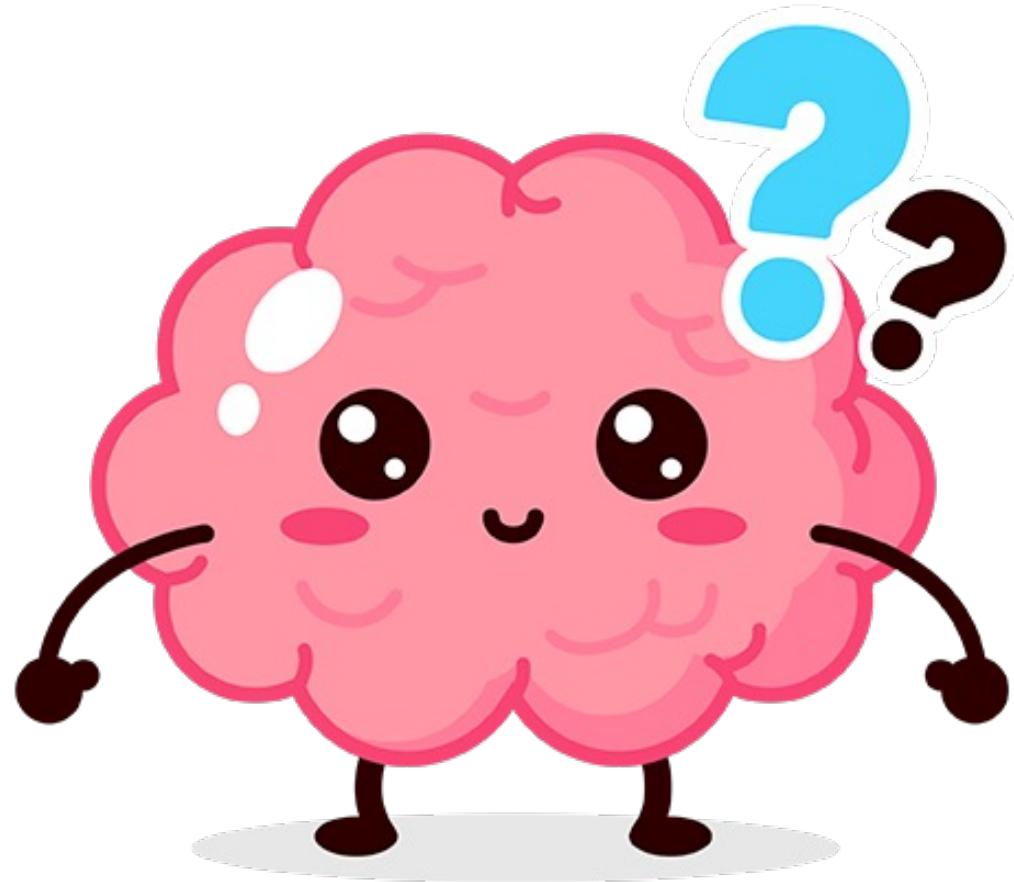
The major findings from the study.

The implications and significance of this study.

But what if you don't have results yet?

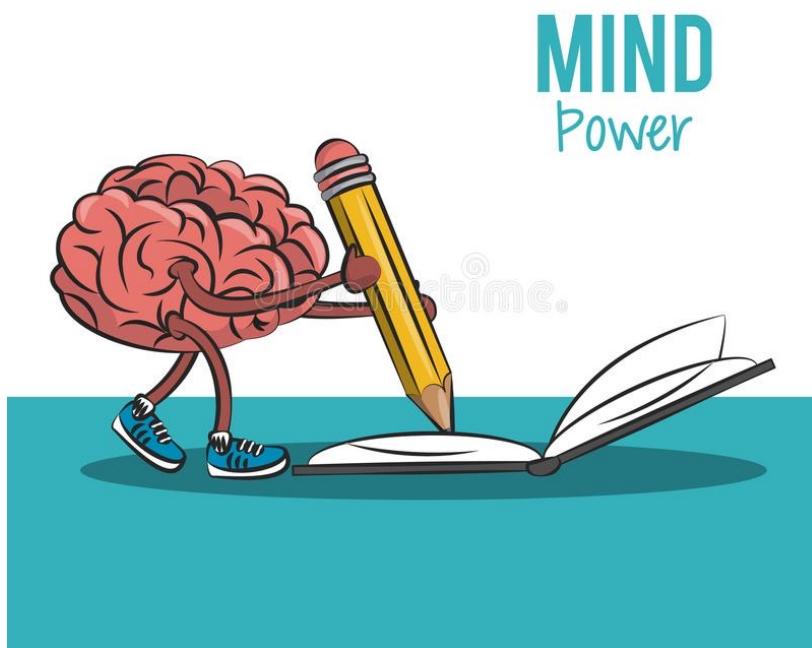
- Results → preliminary results or expected results
 - Ask your lab mentor for specific help with this
- Implications → expected implications
- Not really a conclusion possible
- Instead, highlight why your research is important in the last sentence

Questions?



Let's start writing!

- Ask for help!
- Help each other!
- Peer-to-peer feedback (if there's time left)



Keywords