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Lab Report 2:
Analysis of an Electroencephalogram (EEG) Signal

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Experiment 2
Analysis of an Electroencephalogram (EEG) Signal

Objectives

- Analyze EEG signal characteristics and identify key waveforms.

- Understand standard electrode placement for EEG recording.

Theory

Electroencephalography (EEG) records brain electrical activity using scalp electrodes. Signals originate from synchronized cortical neurons and are grouped into delta, theta, alpha, beta, and gamma bands, each reflecting different brain states. Amplitudes typically range from 10 to 100 microvolts. Proper electrode placement is essential for reliable data. EEG aids in assessing brain function and diagnosing conditions like epilepsy and sleep disorders [1].
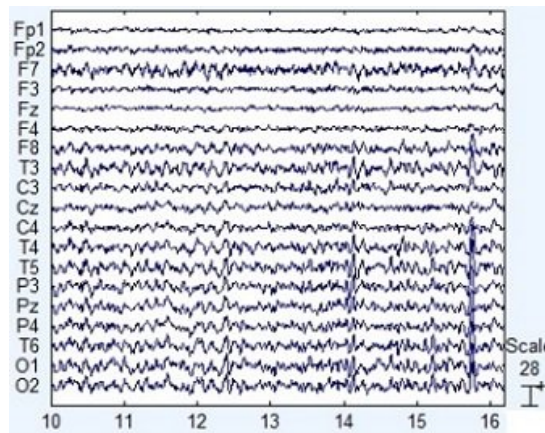

Figure 1: Sample EEG Signal[2]

EEG Electrode Placement

Basic EEG recording requires at least two electrodes: one active and one reference. For clinical assessments, 8 to 16 electrodes are typically used to ensure reliable data. The standard 10-20 system employs 21 electrodes placed at specific scalp locations. Advanced EEG setups may use up to 256 electrodes to achieve high spatial resolution.
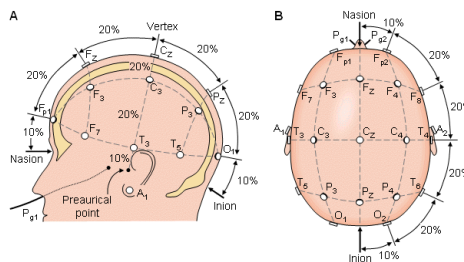

Figure 2: EEG 10-20 Electrode Placement[3]

EEG Signal Characteristic

EEG signals vary by individual and brain state but are classified into frequency bands linked to specific activities:

Band	Frequency (Hz)	Activity
Delta	0.5–4	Deep sleep
Theta	4–8	Drowsiness, meditation
Alpha	8–13	Relaxed, awake (eyes closed)
Beta	13–30	Alertness, concentration
Gamma	30–100	High-level cognition

Table 1: EEG Frequency Bands and Activities[1]

EEG Frequency Bands and Clinical Significance

EEG frequency bands reflect brain states: delta/theta (sleep, drowsiness), alpha (relaxation), beta (alertness), gamma (cognition). Abnormal patterns—such as excess slow waves or altered alpha/beta rhythms—may indicate disorders like epilepsy, sleep issues, or brain injury [1].

EEG in Diagnosis

EEG supports diagnosis of epilepsy, sleep disorders, encephalopathies, and brain death. It helps localize lesions, monitor anesthesia, and assess brain function [1].

EEG Signal Formation

EEG signals originate from synchronized postsynaptic potentials in cortical neurons, mainly pyramidal cells. Quality depends on electrode placement, tissue conductivity, and noise reduction.

Discussion

EEG signals were analyzed theoretically due to lack of lab equipment. The focus was on signal origin, electrode placement, and frequency bands. Practical data collection was not performed.

References

[1] S. Siuly, Y. Li, and Y. Zhang, "Eeg signal analysis and classification," *IEEE Trans Neural Syst Rehabilit Eng*, vol. 11, pp. 141–144, 2016.

[2] V. Saccà, M. Campolo, D. Mirarchi, A. Gambardella, P. Veltri, and F. Morabito, *On the Classification of EEG Signal by Using an SVM Based Algorithm.* Springer, 08 2018, pp. 271–278.

[3] R. Shriram, M. Sundhararajan, and N. Daimiwal, "Eeg based cognitive workload assessment for maximum efficiency," *IOSR Journal of Electronics and Communication Engineering (IOSR-JECE)*, 08 2012.