

The NatMEG Lab Manual

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Acquisition

Acquisition is the main program you need for running the MEG-recording.

Before measurement

Open: Menu -> Neuromag -> Acquisition

1. Load project
2. Load settings
3. Add participant (as Patient)
4. Load digitisation

During measurement

Use acquisition to handle the recording

1. Press **GO!** to start recording buffer

! Don't forget to check channels

2. Check **cHPI** to record continuous head position
3. Check **Record raw** to record raw file(s)
4. Check **Average** to record average evoked file(s)

After measurement

1. Save data files

! If Average box was checked, the first file to save will be the average file, then the raw file

! Make sure to have a structured way of naming the files

Issues

How to restart Acquisition?

Problem: Channels are not appearing when running Acquisition. Acquisition is

giving errors about “lost connection” or “cannot connect to channels”.

Solution: In order do the following, if your problem keeps appearing then proceed to the next step; otherwise do not proceed:

1. Check that the correct setting is loaded (File -> Load Settings). See if the missing channels are still missing.
 2. Close and re-open Acquisition Programs (remember to save preparations if you have already begun).
 3. Restart Acquisition Programs. You find this option under the Neuromag top menu, “Maintenance”. (Menu -> Neruomag -> Maintenance -> Restart Acquisition). A terminal will pop up—type y to confirm. The restart might take a couple of minutes. Once the restart has completed, you need to restart Acquisition and also launch the Tuner and reload the current tunings you are using.
 4. If none of the above works, you will need to do a “hard reset”. Close any open instances of Acquisition. You then need to go into the machine room (through Daniel’s office). Open the right door on the cabinet in the middle of the room. Look for a sticker pointing to a reset button. Press that button. Watch all lights flash red and then go all green (look for any red lights; there should be none).
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Audio mixer

See picture below for an overview of how to control the sound mixer. The mixer should as default always be on. If it is switched off, use the on/off switch on the backside of the mixer to switch it back on.



- A. Select input. Sound from Stimulus Computer (A) and/or Audiofile (B)
- B. Select the MSR backpanel loudspeakers as output and adjust the volume.
- C. Select the sound tubes as output.
- D. Select the Control Room speakers (the small speakers next to the mixer) as output.
- E. Talkback. Hold down either button to use the mixer to speak to the participant inside the MSR. - Left button: speak though sound tubes. - Right button: speak though the backpanel speakers.
- F. Microphone for talkback.
- G. Volume adjustment

Before measurement

1. Make sure speakers in the control room are turned on.

! There are separate speakers for the stimuli audio and the talkback microphone. The left ones are for stimuli audio and the right ones are for talkback.

2. Make sure audio mixer is on and that you have the right configuration (MSR

speakers or sound tubes)

! If using the sound tubes be careful not to have too loud talkback volume

3. Check volume with participant

During measurement

Remember to press the correct talkback button when communicating the the participant (MSR speakers or sound tubes)

After measurement

1. Turn off speakers. *Do not* turn off audio mixer.
2. If using sound tubes make sure to throw away eartips and wipe tubes with alcohol

Issues

There is no sound to the MSR

Problem: sound from the Stimulation Computer, Audiofile, or talkback does not appear inside the MSR

Solution: Do the following - Check that the sound on the Stimulation Computer is on and at full volume. - Make sure that the correct input is selected (A in the figure above). - Make sure that the correct output is selected (B or C in the figure above). - For sound tubes: check that the sound tube amplifier is switched on. The sound tube amplifier is located in the Stimulus Cabinet. Switch it on if it is switched off. **WARNING**: do not switch it on a participant has the sound tubes in their ears. - For backpanel speakers: check that the backpanel speaker amplifiers are switched on. The amplifiers are located on the top shelf of the MSR Cabinet. Switch on the amplifiers (the two small boxes; they should be blinking rapidly) and the input/output board if any are switched off.

There is no sound from the MSR/I cannot hear the participant

Problem: there is no sound from the MSR, and I cannot hear if the participant is saying anything

! Your participant should, at all times, be able to speak to you. As the first thing, after you have positioned the participant in the scanner and left the MSR, you must test that the participant can hear you and you can hear them.

Solution: Do the following - Make sure that the MSR monitor (the big loudspeaker on top of the Stimulation Cabinet) is switched on. The on/off switch is on the backside of the MSR monitor. The light in the logo on the front of the monitor will be on when the monitor is turned on. - Make sure that you are using the correct talkback option; i.e. using the sound tube talkback when using the sound tubes. - Make sure that the sound mixer is turned on. The sound also goes through the video mixer; make sure that the video mixer is also turned on. Buttons on the video mixer have a red light when they are turned on. There is a small on/off switch on the back of the video mixer to turn it back on if it has been turned off.

Check channels

After tuning and before each measurement you should check the channels.

Before measurement

1. Click *GO!* in the Acquisition control window
2. Browse through channels to see if everything looks alright
3. If everything looks good you are ready to start recording, if not see below

During measurement

If door is opened or between condition when recording has been stopped redo the steps above

After measurement

No action required

Issues

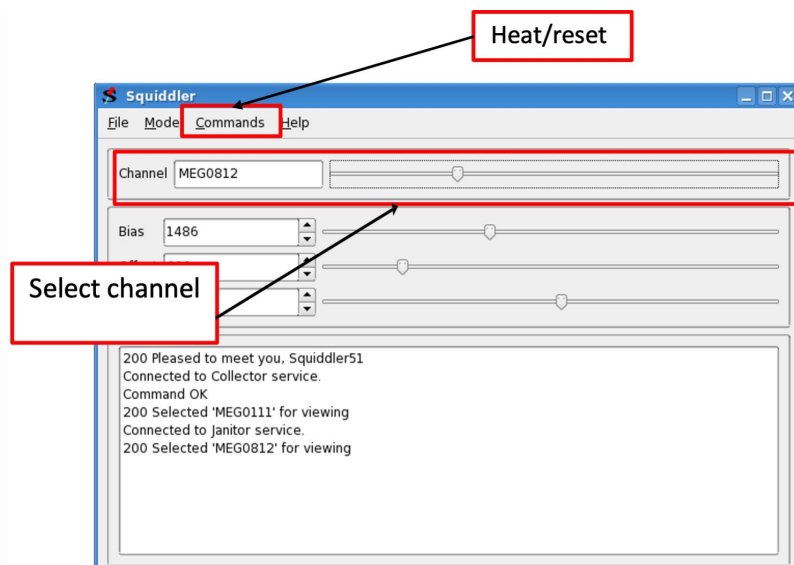
Fixing bad channels before recording

Problem: Jumpy or noisy channels

Solution: Use Squiddler to heat bad channels

Open: Menu -> Neuromag -> Squiddler

In Squiddler:



1. Select channel with slider
 2. Open Commands, click Heat Channel. Wait until the channels settle then inspect if the channel looks fine. Inspect if other channels have been affected by the heating.
 3. Repeat 1-2 for all bad channels.
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Eye-tracker

Equipment required

- The screen
- Eye-tracker

Before measurement

1. Put screen in correct position (see [Screen and projector](#))
2. Start eye-tracker software by pressing the letter *t* on the keyboard, then press enter

! If you do not see a terminal on the eye-tracking PC when you turn on the screen - Check that the screen setting of the Stimulation PC is not set in dual screen mode and that the correct input channel is selected - Check that the eye-tracking computer is turned on. The computer is found at the bottom of the stimulation cabinet

! To start eye-tracker in simulation mode type *t -x* and press enter

3. Make sure you have the right configuration for your needs
4. Adjust eye-tracker by moving the arm or by tilting the screen a bit.

During measurement

1. Monitor eye-positions

! As participants tend to sink down a bit during recordings eye-tracking may be lost if not chair is raised properly

! If using the table, make sure pads or participant's hands are not blocking the eye-tracker

2. Check calibration

After measurement

1. Turn off eye-tracking software
2. Remove eye-tracker and put back in box

Issues

The eye-tracking program is beeping and blinking

The eye-tracker has been disconnected from the cables in the MSR. Reconnect the eye-tracker or close the eye-tracking program.

File naming

Plan in advance how you want to name your files. You may have different conditions or times of measurement. Plan also for how you want to name the files if you have to stop recordings.

! Acquisition does not allow special characters or spaces in the filename

Issues

Fixing wrong filenames of recordings

Problem: One or more recording is saved with a wrong filename

Solution: rename filenames

1. Open a terminal: go to the data folder (replace with the text that applies your project; do not write the < > signs): /neuro/data/sinhue//NatMEG_/
2. Rename the file: mv <old_filename.fif> <new_filename.fif>. Press enter.

! Be aware that if a file with the new filename already exists, it will be overwritten with no option to recover the lost data. Rename any overlapping named file first.

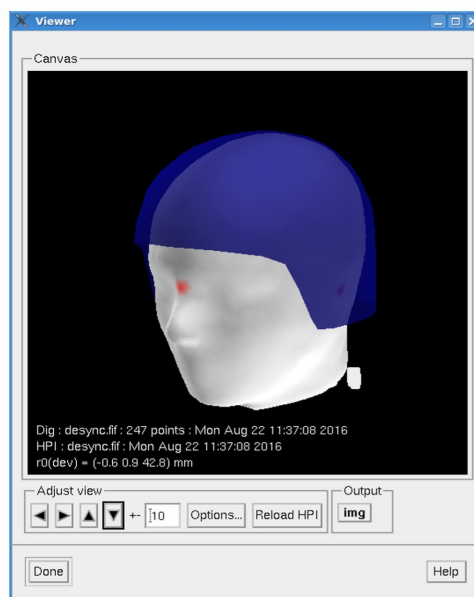
HPI

Before measurement

1. Check so that the correct HPI preparation is loaded
2. Remember to check *cHPI* in the Acquisition window

To monitor head position, open a terminal and type:

```
| /data/MNE/mne_visualize_hpi
```



The head position is read from the latest HPI fit. Click "Reload HPI" to update the view.

! Be aware that the head position tool does not show the actual participants head. The head is a template head and should only be used as an approximation of the participant's real head position in the MEG helmet.

During measurement

1. After each time you've stopped a measurement you need to check the *cHPI* box again

You can rotate the head in the head position tool using the buttons on the GUI or by using the mouse wheel. You can change what is displayed (helmet,

transparency, HPI on/off, head point fits, etc.) by pressing “Options...”.

To view the head position from a previous file (e.g. for comparison) open a new terminal window and type:

```
/data/MNE/mne_visualize_hpi_file
```

The is the filename of the file you want to read including the full path

After measurement

Close head position tool

Issues

Acquisition does not ask about measuring HPI

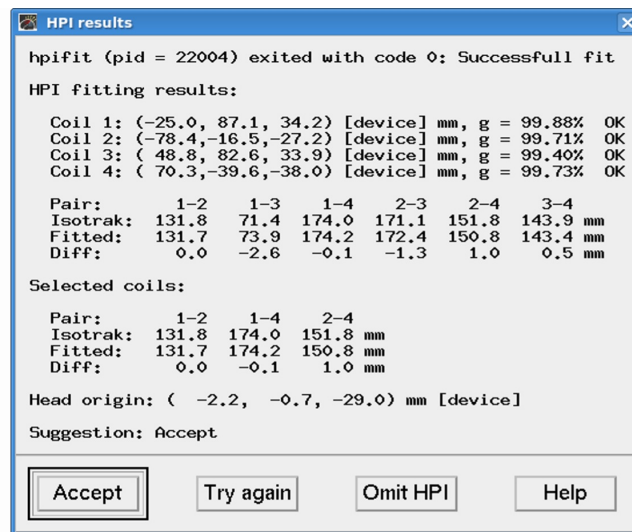
Acquisition will automatically ask if you want to do/redid HPI fit every time you click START or RESTART. If you pressed Skip but want to do the HPI fit anyway, you need to restart the recording.

Problem: If Acquisition does not ask about measuring HPI, it might be because it has not registered the HPI digitization. You can check if HPI is digitized in the Acquisition main window. It will either specify the time the HPI was digitized or say “HPI: not digitized!”

Solution: load the correct preparation with the digitized HPI coil locations

! Note that every time you click start in Acquisition, it saves a new preparation, so make sure that you note the time you saved the preparation with the digitized HPI on the digitization PC.

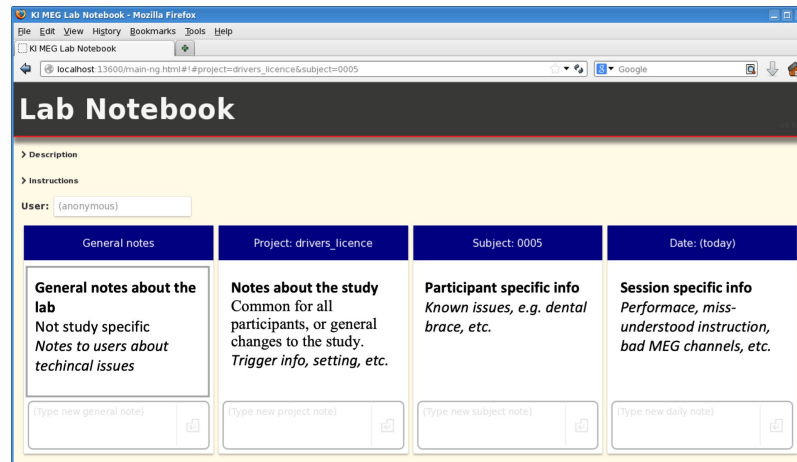
HPI errors



Problem: Errors with HPI. It gives an error message or Suggestion is redo HPI.

Solution: 1. Make sure the correct preparation is loaded with the digitized HPI coil locations. 2. Check that the HPI cable is connected to the panel at the side of the scanner. 3. Click "Try again" to see if the fit has improved. 4. Make sure that all HPI coils on the participant's head is inside the helmet. If possible, reposition the participant, so at least three HPI coils are inside the helmet. Click "Try again" to see if the fit has improved. If not, proceed to step six. 5. Check for loose coils that might have come off. Do not try to re-attach them; go to step six. 6. Redo HPI/isotrak fit: Get the participant out of the scanner to the preparation area. Then reposition/re-attach HPI coils and redo the digitization.

Lab notebook



The Lab notebook helps you to note important things for your project. You can add project specific details in the Project column, subject specific details in the Subject column or measurement specific details in the Date column. The Lab notebook is saved as json-files and txt-files in your project folder.

Before measurement

1. Start a notebook server if one is not already running (in the Terminal)
2. Start Lab notebook
3. Choose Project, Subjects and Date (automatically today's date)

During measurement

1. Note everything of interest for the experiment, preferably in the Date column
2. One thing to note may be subject's sleepiness during the measurement according to the Karolinska sleepiness scale (KSS) which should be on the desk or on the Stimulus computer's Desktop.

After measurement

Make sure all notes have been added and close the Lab notebook

Issues

Lab Notebook does not start

Problem: If you cannot open Lab Notebook and get an error message saying Firefox is already running. Solution: Open a new terminal and type:

```
| pkill -f firefox
```

This shuts down all Firefox processes. Then open the notebook server and the notebook from the desktop.

Monitors

Dual monitors

You can use dual monitors on the Stimulation PC if you want to run Presentation separate from the screen shown to the participant in the MSR, for example, if you are going to show a video to the participant instead of the Presentation screen.

1. On the Stimulation PC, right-click on the Windows desktop and select Screen Settings.
2. Change the so that the screens are extended. Confirm changes.
3. On the second screen (the one connected to the eye tracker), switch input to DVI.

Presentation will still as a default run on the first monitor. Change the monitor by changing your Presentation project settings. Under the menu “Monitors” you change the driver from “Standard Driver” to the one with a number.

After measurement

Remember to switch the screens back to the standard setting when you are done.

Screen and projector

Equipment required

- The screen

Before measurement

1. Drag the mirror into the right position
2. Place monitor in front of the mirror at the markings on the floor
3. Turn on projector by pressing on time at the remote control

! If participant is seated in the chair, be careful not to blind the participant with the light from the projector

During measurement

Just remember that the participant can see what you see on the screen.

After measurement

1. Move the screen away from the chair
 2. Turn off the projector by pressing twice on the remote
-

Tuning

Tuning is not always needed, but recommend at least for the first measure of the day.

Before measurement

1. Open Acquisition
2. Click the menu Tools -> Tuner. The tuning tool will appear.
3. Click file -> load tuning. A message will pop up asking if you want to read the default state tuning. Click ok.

! Optionally, you can click “measure noise” before loading the tuning and again after loading the tuning to see the noise level.

The average noise level should be around 2.6-2.7.

During measurement

No action required

After measurement

No action required

Issues

The average noise level is too high (> 3) after loading the default tuning

Solution: Do the following: 1. Check that there are no objects in the MSR that could be causing disturbances, e.g. non-tested metallic stimulus equipment, left items, etc. Remove those items 2. Run new tuning: click “measure noise” and when it has measured the noise level, click “Tune”. The tuning procedure will iterate through tuning parameters and try to minimize the noise in the system. Each iteration takes about 20 seconds. Click “stop tuning” when the average noise level is below 2.7.

! The tuning procedure takes up to 15 min. Make sure that you have enough time to run the tuning procedure and always check the tuning well in advance before your participant arrives.

! If channels are missing, you might have to restart Acquisition (see this [Acquisition section](#)) before continuing with the tuning or call for assistance.