

# A1-SamplingTimeSeries

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- COGS118C - Assignment 1

## 1 This notebook has [30 + 3 bonus] points in total

The number of points for each question is denoted by []. Make sure you've answered all the questions and that the point total add up.

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## 2 Lab 1 - Time Series, Sampling, and Epoched Analysis (ERPs)

In this lab, we will cover the first stages of signal processing: sampling data. This includes digitization and sampling theorem. We will generate and plot some signals.

Then, we'll perform our first kind of neural signal analysis: event-related potentials.

Key concepts: - visualizing time-series - digitization/quantization - sampling - (more) indexing arrays - epoching - event-related potentials (ERPs): noise and averaging

## 3 Analog signals

Real world signals are continuous in time and amplitude (up to quantum-level limits, anyway). These are referred to as “**analog**” signals (Google it). Soundwaves that we produce when we speak or when we play a violin, for example, are analog signals.

Equivalently, there are “analog devices” that produce, receive, and/or operate on analog signals. These often involve “analog” circuits.

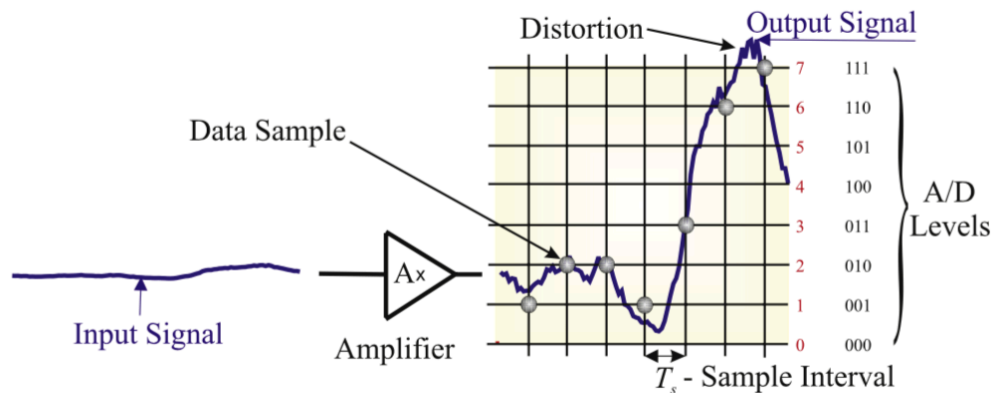
## 4 [1] Q1:

Give 3 examples of analog devices 1. Videocassette Recorders (VCR) 2. Record Players 3. Tape Players

## 5 Digital signals

People used to analyze signals using analog circuits. This is pretty hardcore, and requires extensive hands-on knowledge about circuitry. Once you want to analyze the signal on a “digital” computer, however, you have to “digitize” the signal. This requires an “**analog-to-digital converter**” or ADC for short.

Anyway, to digitize an analog signal, you have to discretely sample, both in value (voltage, brightness, etc) and in time. The former is usually called **digitization** or **quantization**, while **sampling** usually refers to the latter. It’s like drawing a grid over your continuous signals and interpolating its values only at where the grid crosses.



## 6 Let's get into it

Without further ado: let's load up some EEG signals and explore. But first, make the necessary python module imports.

```
In [1]: import numpy as np
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
from scipy import io # this submodule let's us load the signal we want
%matplotlib inline

In [2]: # scipy loads .mat file into a dictionary
# the details are not crucial, we just have to unpack them into python variables
EEG_data = io.loadmat('data/EEG_exp.mat', squeeze_me = True)

# print all the variables that exist in the dictionary
print(EEG_data.keys())

# this contains the EEG data
EEG = EEG_data['EEG']
# this contains the sampling rate, in Hz (or samples/second)
fs = EEG_data['fs']

# let's plot the signal
plt.figure(figsize=(15,3))
plt.plot(EEG)
```

```
# ALWAYS label your plot axes in this course (and ever)
```

```
plt.xlabel('Sample Number')
```

```
plt.ylabel('Voltage (uV)')
```

```
# now let's zoom in to see more detail
```

```
plt.figure(figsize=(15,3))
```

```
plt.plot(EEG, '.') # '.' means plot the data points as individual dots without linking
```

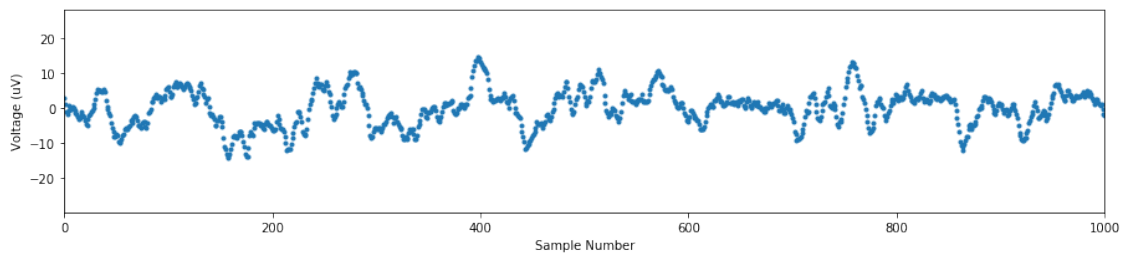
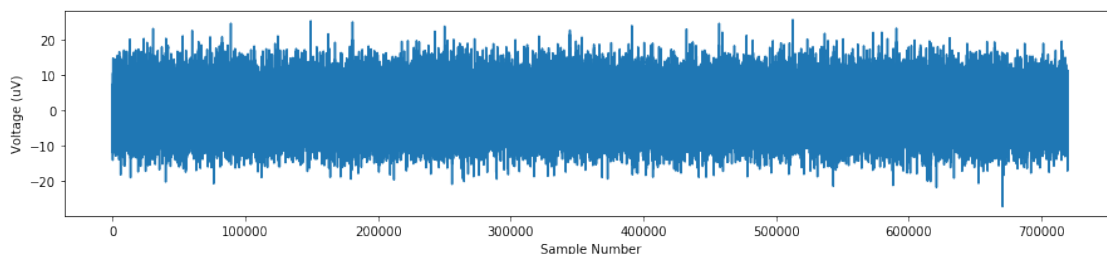
```
plt.xlim([0,1000]) # this limits the x-axis shown
```

```
plt.xlabel('Sample Number')
```

```
plt.ylabel('Voltage (uV)')
```

```
dict_keys(['__header__', '__version__', '__globals__', 'EEG', 'fs', 'trial_info'])
```

```
Out[2]: Text(0, 0.5, 'Voltage (uV)')
```



## 7 [3] Q2: Digitization

As you can see above, the signal we loaded is already a digitally sampled time series (a little over 70,000 samples), represented by discrete points in the second plot. To study the effect of quantization, let's simulate what would happen if we further quantized the signal, with a (prehistoric) 4-bit ADC.

[1] How many possible values can a 4-bit ADC represent? Remember, this means that the ADC has 4 binary 'bits' that it can use, thus giving you a total of how many levels? Compute this number in code and store that value in the variable `num_levels` below.

[1] Let's say our ADC has a total range between -32uV to 32uV. What is the voltage resolution of our ADC then? In other words, what is the finest voltage difference our ADC can distinguish between two samples? Compute this number in code and store that value in the variable `delta_v` below.

[1] Run the next two cells, they should produce a graph where the orange trace looks very quantized (kind of square). This is not good, because then we cannot distinguish small fluctuations in our signals, which, as we will see later in the course, are very important. **Re-run** the next two cells, but experiment with different values for `num_bits`. Just based on visual inspection of the plot, what is the minimum number of bits that you would want your ADC to have in this case, assuming the blue trace is a faithful representation of your signal? There's no one right answer, but justify your response.

ANSWER:

- In a 4-bit ADC, there are 16 possible values that it can represent.
- The voltage resolution of the ADC above should be 4.
- We would want to have at least 6 bits so that our plot does not look as quantized, or boxy.

```
In [3]: num_bits = 4
        min_v, max_v = -32,32

        num_levels = 16 # a 4-bit ADC can represent up to 16 possible values,
                        #but to reduce how quantized it looks i have to play with this value a

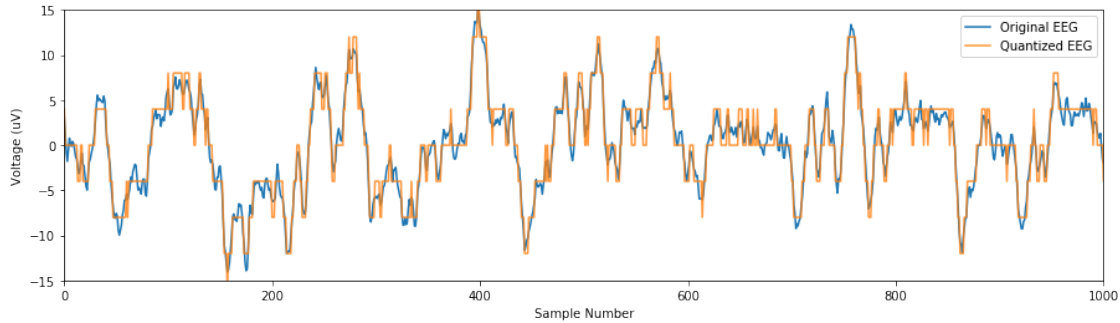
        delta_v = 4 # from the calculating the resolution it should be 4

In [4]: # create the quantization vector, these are the new possible values that your signal c
        ADC_levels = np.arange(min_v,max_v,delta_v)+delta_v/2

        # quantize the EEG signal with our crappy ADC with the function np.digitize
        # note that we have to scale the redigitized signal to its original units
        EEG_quant = np.digitize(EEG,bins=ADC_levels)*delta_v+min_v

        plt.figure(figsize=(15,4))
        plt.plot(EEG, label='Original EEG')
        plt.plot(EEG_quant, label='Quantized EEG', alpha=0.8)
        plt.xlim([0,1000]); plt.ylim([-15, 15]);
        plt.legend()
        plt.xlabel('Sample Number')
        plt.ylabel('Voltage (uV)')

Out[4]: Text(0, 0.5, 'Voltage (uV)')
```



## 8 Sample Number vs. Time

Notice that in all the plots above, the x-axis is “sample number”, which simply corresponds to the position each value is in the array EEG. We want to create a corresponding time vector, which marks at what clock time each value is sampled at.

Sometimes your data will include a time vector. But for the sake of this exercise, you are asked to create the time vector based on the information/variables you have.

## 9 [6] Q3: Sampling in Time

[1] Given the sampling rate, what is the sampling **period**? In other words, how much time elapses between each consecutive sample? Compute this number as a function of `fs` and store it in the variable `dt` below.

[1] How long in total is this signal, in absolute time? Compute and store this in the variable `T_exp` below.

[1] Construct the corresponding time vector for the EEG data, assuming that the first sample came at  $t=0$  and evenly spaced samples at `dt`. Store that in the variable `t_EEG` below. Hint: check out the function `np.arange()`.

[2] Re-plot the signal as a line chart, but with the x-axis as time (using the time vector you created above), and zoom into the first 1 second of the data. **Take note to label your plots carefully, with units!**

[1] To simulate **downsampling** in time, plot every **10th** value of the EEG data by indexing the array (check Google/StackExchange for how to do this). Remember, this applies both to the time vector and your EEG data. **Make sure to label your data and display the legend as Q2 above.**

[BONUS: 1] Sometimes it's useful to downsample your signal in time to conserve memory. As we did above, by taking every 10th value in our data, we essentially reduce the data size 10-fold. However, this is **NOT** the entirely right way to downsample your data. What issue do we introduce when we simply do that? (Hint: the answer can be as short as one word, and Google is your friend here.)

ANSWER:

- When we use this method of downsampling we might unintentionally omit data that might be significant in detecting the response signal.

```

In [5]: # since we have the sampling frequency we simply need to take its inverse to obtain the
# sampling period in seconds
dt = 1/fs

# use the len() method to retrieve the total number of samples that are in the EEG vector
# so that we may calculate the total time (in seconds) a given sampling period is.
T_exp = (len(EEG)) * dt

# use the arange() method to create a time vector the same length as EEG
t_EEG = np.arange(0, T_exp, dt)

# using slicing to create vector of every 10th EEG value
every10_EEG = EEG[0::10]
t_every10_EEG = t_EEG[0::10]

# Plotting the signal and its downsampled version
plt.figure(figsize=(15,3))

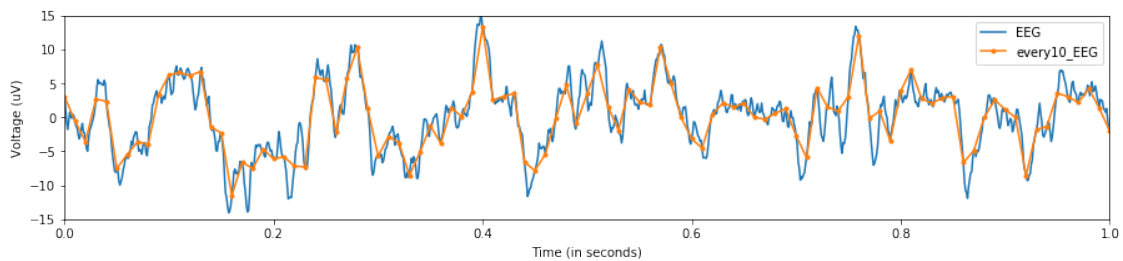
plt.plot(t_EEG, EEG, label='EEG')
plt.plot(t_every10_EEG, every10_EEG, '.-', label = 'every10_EEG')
plt.xlim([0,1]); plt.ylim([-15, 15]);
plt.legend()
plt.xlabel('Time (in seconds)')
plt.ylabel('Voltage (uV)')

```

```

Out[5]: Text(0, 0.5, 'Voltage (uV)')

```



```

In [6]: EEG

```

```

Out[6]: array([ 3.03549869,  1.16383956, -0.77044011, ..., -8.53612689,
                -8.02158504, -7.4645278 ])

```

## 10 Event-Related Analysis

The above data actually comes from an event-style EEG experiment. The participant is shown visual stimuli at regular intervals, aimed to trigger a reliable brain response for each type of stimuli

(cat vs. dog pics, for example). This is a very common type of study design in neuroscience (and psychology).

In this case, we will need to know when a stimulus was presented, and what type of stimulus it was. This information is stored in the variable `trial_info`, where the **first column has the stimulus onset time (in seconds), and the second column has the type of stimulus shown (1,2, or 3)**. These are often extra streams of data sent through the “trigger channel” by the stimulus-presenting computer directly to the recording equipment, in order to synchronize with the EEG data.

```
In [7]: trial_info = EEG_data['trial_info']
```

```
# print the first 10 events  
print(trial_info[:10,:])
```

```
[[ 1.      3.   ]  
 [ 3.375  3.   ]  
 [ 5.87   1.   ]  
 [ 8.183  2.   ]  
 [10.419  1.   ]  
 [12.588  1.   ]  
 [14.87   2.   ]  
 [17.086  2.   ]  
 [19.164  3.   ]  
 [21.237  2.   ]]
```

---

## 11 Process for Analyzing Event-Related Data

These types of experiments follow a pretty standard analysis process. 1. Import and pre-process your data (already done; we’ll skip the pre-processing for now) 2. Given the stimulus presentation timestamps (first column of `trial_info` above), find the corresponding indices in your EEG data by matching to the `t_EEG` time vector. 3. Cut out an **epoch** (window of data) around the stimulus presentation time, which usually includes: - pre-stimulus baseline (~0.5 seconds before stimulus presentation) - stimulus presentation ( $t = 0$ ) - stimulus-driven response (or event-related response, 0-1 second after stimulus presentation) 4. Baseline subtraction: subtract each epoch by its mean pre-stimulus value to account for any slow drifts over time. 5. Group epochs based on stimulus type, and average epochs of the same type. 6. Plot the average response (s).

## 12 [4] Q4: Step 2 - Find Matching Timestamps in EEG Data

Given the event times in `trial_info`, which we will assume to be the stimulus onset time for this experiment, we have to find the corresponding timestamp in the EEG data. Note that the timestamps may not always match exactly, as they could have different sampling rates. In those cases, you will have to settle for finding the **closest** timestamps. Currently, however, life was made easy for us by virtue of the fact that the EEG data (and timestamps) and the stimulus event timestamps are synchronously sampled at 1000Hz.

In this case, we can directly convert the event timestamp into an integer index, since we know the sampling frequency and starting time.

[1] If the EEG timestamp starts at  $t=0$ , which is indexed by  $i=0$ , and is sampled at  $fs=1000$ , at which index will the EEG timestamp be equal to **3.050 seconds**? Compute and store this in the variable `trial_index` below. Note that to index an array, the number has to be an integer, which I've converted for you. (You will notice that the value is a *LITTLE* off. That's a precision issue and we can ignore that for now.)

[3] Following this logic, write a function that will find the corresponding index in the EEG data/timestamp for every event timestamp. Return that as an array of integers (`my_arr.astype(int)` will convert an array to all integers). You may use a for loop, list comprehension, or a simple (one-line) array calculation for this. Confirm that the timestamps match what you expect by printing the first 10 events (I've done this for you).

```
In [8]: trial_index = 3.050 / dt
        print(t_EEG[np.array(trial_index).astype(int)]) # access the value at the corresponding index
3.049
```

```
In [9]: def compute_EEG_indices(event_timestamps, fs):
        # calculates sampling period to convert the timestamps
        dt = 1 / fs
        # creates an array of integers of corresponding indices from given timestamps
        event_indices = np.array(event_timestamps / dt).astype(int)
        return event_indices

        # call your function to compute the corresponding indices
        EEG_indices = compute_EEG_indices(trial_info[:10,0], fs)

        # print your solution and the actual event times to compare, they should be identical
        print(t_EEG[EEG_indices[:10]])
        print(trial_info[:10,0])

[ 1.    3.375  5.87   8.183 10.419 12.587 14.869 17.085 19.164 21.236]
[ 1.    3.375  5.87   8.183 10.419 12.588 14.87  17.086 19.164 21.237]
```

## 13 [6] Q5: Step 3 - Grabbing Epochs

Now that we have the corresponding indices in the EEG data, we know exactly where the **onset** of each stimulus is. The next thing we have to do is to grab a chunk of data surrounding the onset time, which we define to be  $t=0$  for every trial. That means you will want to grab a little bit of data before and after that time.

[3] Write a function that will, given an array of data, the sampling rate `fs`, and an `index`, grab a window of data surrounding that index, defined by `len_pre` and `len_post` in **seconds**. Note that `len_pre` should be negative to reflect that it's before the stimulus onset time. I've started this function for you below. Again, there are multiple ways to accomplish this, but the simplest solution can accomplish this in a single line.



[1] Use this function to grab an epoch for the **10th trial** (remember that's stored in EEG\_indices already), with a pre-stimulus window of 0.5 seconds and a post-stimulus window of 1 second.

[1] Create a time vector t\_epoch that corresponds to the timestamps for that epoch, relative to the stimulus onset time as zero. In other words, this time vector should start at len\_pre and end at len\_post, and has the same sampling frequency.

[1] Plot the epoch of data you grabbed. Note that the x-axis should be time. **Label your axes!**

```
In [10]: def grab_epoch(data, index, fs, len_pre, len_post):
    dt = 1 / fs
    len_pre = int(len_pre / dt) + index
    len_post = int(len_post / dt) + index
    epoch = data[len_pre:len_post]
    return epoch

# this line of code was used to identify what the index of the 10th trial was
# print(EEG_indices[9])
# i found that the index was 21236

len_pre = -0.5 #second
len_post = 1 #second

# fill out the parameters of the function using the information we have
epoch = grab_epoch(EEG, EEG_indices[9], fs, len_pre, len_post)
print(epoch[:5])

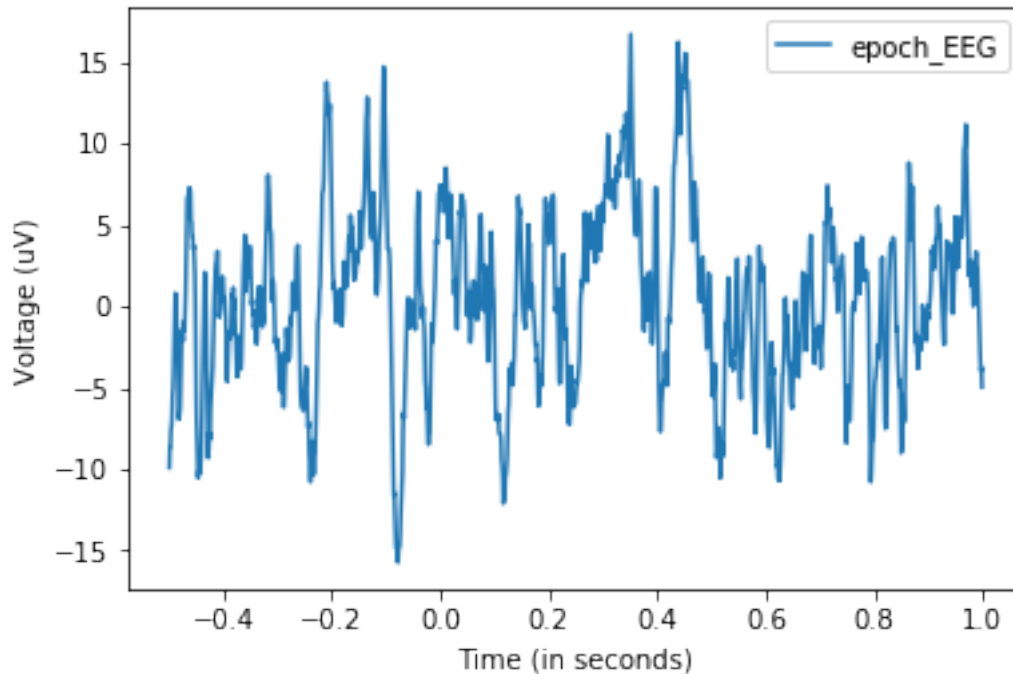
# creating a time vector that is the same length as the epoch
t_epoch = np.arange(len_pre, len_post, .001)

# plotting
plt.figure(figsize=(6,4))
plt.plot(t_epoch, epoch, label='epoch_EEG')
plt.legend()
plt.xlabel('Time (in seconds)')
plt.ylabel('Voltage (uV)')

# _FILL_IN_YOUR_CODE_HERE

[-9.91690818 -8.62576252 -8.63914269 -7.59542043 -7.38226366]
```

```
Out[10]: Text(0, 0.5, 'Voltage (uV)')
```



## 14 [4] Q6: Step 4 - Grab All & Baseline Correct (Bonus)

[2] If you grab an epoch for every trial and store that in a 2D numpy matrix, what should the dimensions of that matrix be, i.e., how many rows and how many columns? What do those numbers correspond to? Hint: you should organize your data such that there are more columns than rows in this particular case.

ANSWER: If the 2D numpy matrix is arranged in a way where there are more columns than rows, then if we grab an epoch for every trial the number of rows should correspond to the number of trials and the number of columns should correspond to the number of samples of the epoch in the respective trial.

[2] Write a function that grabs **all** epochs (every trial) and store that in a 2D numpy matrix. There are a few ways to do this, but they will likely all use `grab_epoch()` somehow. Confirm that it has the same shape that you expect from above. Hint: you can append your epochs indefinitely to a python list using `list.append()`, and use `np.array()` to automatically convert that into a 2D matrix.

[BONUS: 2] Baseline all your epochs by subtracting the pre-stimulus epoch mean (-0.5 to 0 seconds) of each epoch from itself.

```
In [11]: def get_all_epochs(data, indices, fs, len_pre, len_post):
```

```
    # get all epochs
    epoch_list = []

    for j in range(len(indices)):
```

```

        epoch = grab_epoch(data, indices[j], fs, len_pre, len_post)
        epoch_list.append(epoch)
    all_epochs = np.array(epoch_list)
    # baselining (if you want, it can also be a separate function)

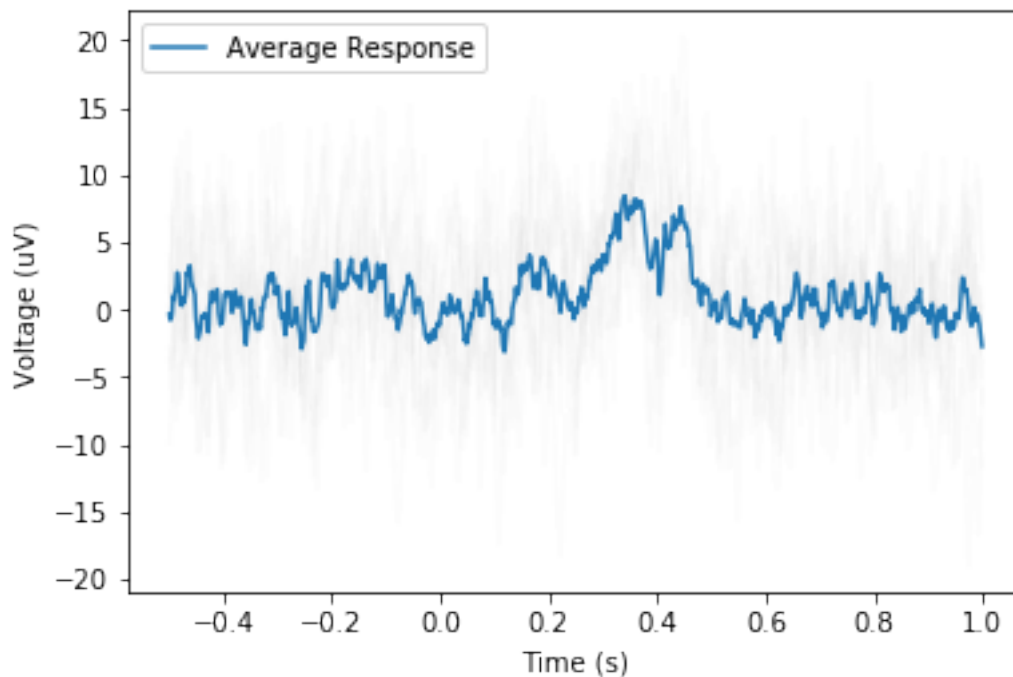
    return all_epochs

In [12]: epoched_EEG = get_all_epochs(EEG, EEG_indices, fs, len_pre, len_post)
        print(epoched_EEG.shape)

        # plot all the epochs and average
        plt.plot(t_epoch, epoched_EEG.T, '-k', alpha=0.01)
        plt.plot(t_epoch, np.mean(epoched_EEG,axis=0), label='Average Response')
        plt.xlabel('Time (s)')
        plt.ylabel('Voltage (uV)')
        plt.legend()
        print (EEG_indices)

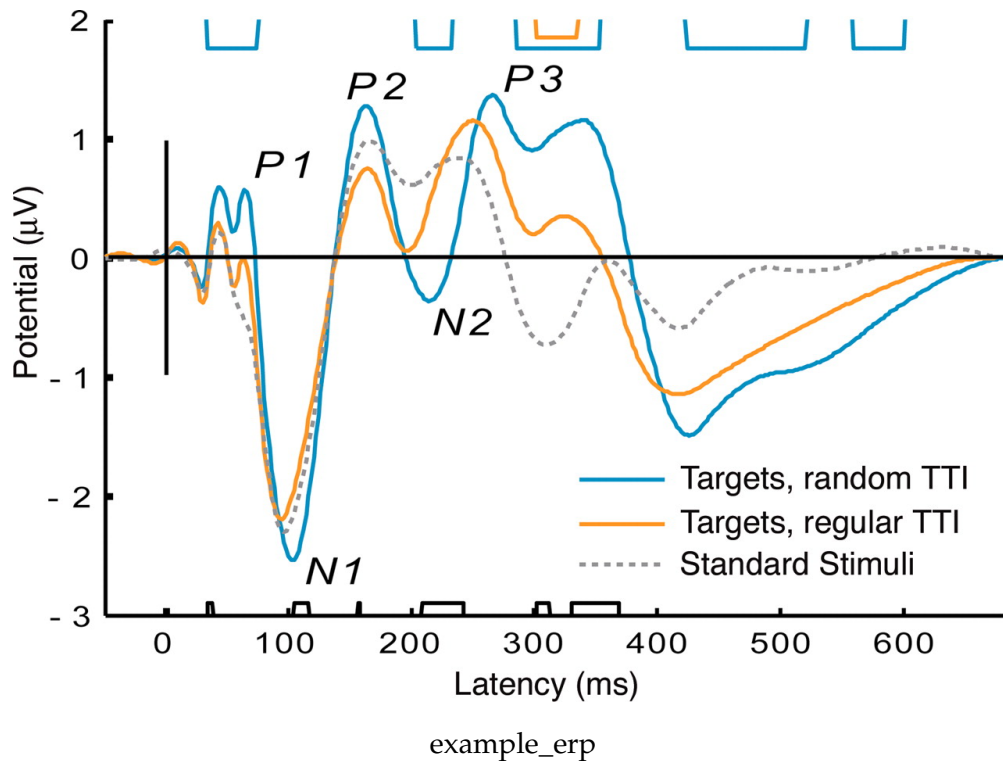
(10, 1500)
[ 1000  3375  5870  8183 10419 12587 14869 17085 19164 21236]

```



## 15 [6] Q7: Step 5 & 6 - Group Based on Trial Type

In the plot above, I simply averaged over all the epochs to produce the average response (blue). However, as you will recall, there are several different types of trials (second column in



trial\_info). We should group epochs of the same trial type, and average over those.

[5] You have full flexibility for this part, with the only requirement being to produce a plot with 3 average responses corresponding to the 3 different trial types. Remember to label your plot axes and include a legend for which trace corresponds to which stimulus type. You will be evaluated on 3 things: whether you have successfully separated the epochs into their respective groupings, how well your code is commented to explain what you're doing, and whether your plot is correct and labeled.

Since I have not given you a template for making a function, it may be useful to plan out what you want to do beforehand by writing pseudo code (i.e., plain English). Decide what strategy you will take (loops vs. list comprehension vs. others), and whether you want to separate the averaging and the plotting. You already know all the concepts required to tackle this problem (indexing, averaging, plotting), the challenge is putting them together.

[1] Briefly describe your results, e.g., what's similar and what's different between the conditions? Which stimulus produced the largest response.

ANSWER : Response 1 produced the smallest response at P3, where as Response 3 had produced the largest response. It also appears that Response 1, however, had the largest drop at N2, and Response 3 had the smallest drop at N2.

---

Your plot should look something like:

```
In [13]: # initialize the empty lists first so that it does not get lost in the more complex c
response1_list = []
response2_list = []
response3_list = []
```

```

# this for loop is used to separate the different trials into their respective responses
for i in range(len(trial_info)):
    # if response 1 append to list 1
    if trial_info[i,1] == 1:
        response1_list.append(trial_info[i])
    if trial_info[i,1] == 2:
        response2_list.append(trial_info[i])
    if trial_info[i,1] == 3:
        response3_list.append(trial_info[i])

# the following 4 print lines were used to check if the values matched, if the trials
# print(trial_info[:20])
# print(response1_list[:5])
# print(response2_list[:5])
# print(response3_list[:5])

# reassign the lists to newly instantiated np arrays constructed from the separated lists
response1_list = np.array(response1_list)
response2_list = np.array(response2_list)
response3_list = np.array(response3_list)

# calculates the corresponding indices and stores them to the respective array
response1_indices = compute_EEG_indices(response1_list[:,0], fs)
response2_indices = compute_EEG_indices(response2_list[:,0], fs)
response3_indices = compute_EEG_indices(response3_list[:,0], fs)

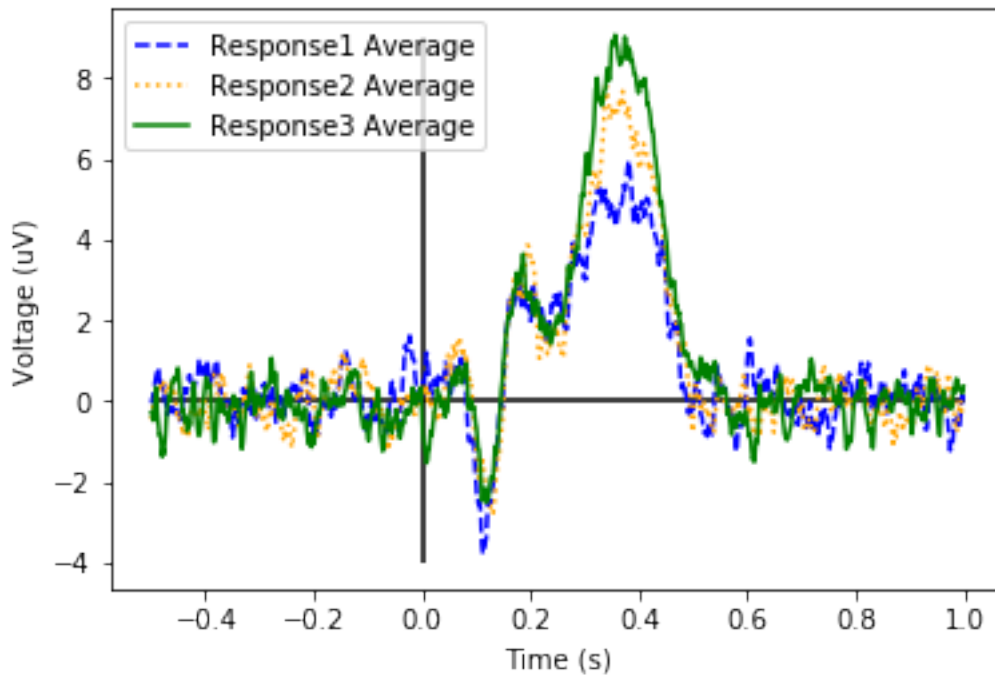
# finds the appropriate epochs of the indicated indices in each respective list
response1_epochs = get_all_epochs(EEG, response1_indices, fs, len_pre, len_post)
response2_epochs = get_all_epochs(EEG, response2_indices, fs, len_pre, len_post)
response3_epochs = get_all_epochs(EEG, response3_indices, fs, len_pre, len_post)

# plot all the epochs and average

# plot response1
plt.plot(t_epoch, np.mean(response1_epochs,axis=0), label='Response1 Average', linestyle='solid', color='red')
# plot response2
plt.plot(t_epoch, np.mean(response2_epochs,axis=0), label='Response2 Average', linestyle='solid', color='red')
# plot response3
plt.plot(t_epoch, np.mean(response3_epochs,axis=0), label='Response3 Average', color='red')
plt.hlines(0, xmin = len_pre, xmax = len_post, color = 'black')
plt.vlines(0, ymin = -4, ymax = 9, color = 'black')
plt.xlabel('Time (s)')
plt.ylabel('Voltage (uV)')
plt.legend()

```

Out[13]: <matplotlib.legend.Legend at 0x1980b6e55f8>



## 16 That's All!

There! You just performed your first neural data analysis. This type of stimulus-locked experiment design and analysis is very common in neuroscience, especially human and animal electrophysiology. Here at UCSD, Profs. Marta Kutas, Seana Coulson, and Sarah Creel all deploy these types of human EEG experiments to probe various aspects of the neural correlates of cognition. You will also see how it's applied in the paper we will discuss this week, and other commercial applications.

## 17 End Survey

Please take a few minutes to fill out the following as it will help us to improve the following assignments & lectures.

## 18 Content:

What was one thing you learned from this lab & associated lectures?

ANSWER: One thing that I learned from this lab is that data can be “spliced” into sections of signal that we might want to analyze individually, these sections are called epochs.

What was one thing that you still found confusing after the lab, and need clarification?

ANSWER: One thing that I am still slightly confused about is what you mean when you want us to “baseline” our epochs and why it is significant.

## 19 Style:

What was one thing you enjoyed about the formatting of this assignment (e.g., clarity, structure, guidance, etc.)?

Answer: I thoroughly enjoyed this assignment. I’ll be honest I was confused at first when it came to questions 6 and 7, but that’s a given. I especially liked the “free form” coding at Q7, instead of giving us a framework to fill out, I felt really interactive with the material.

---

What was one thing that you thought could use improvements on?

Answer: Honestly this assignment was very thorough and clear. But if I were to comment on anything, maybe provide additional external resources/packages that you think might be helpful in implementing code? Some people might be more familiar Pandas DataFrames, or SciPy, etc.

## 20 Thank you!

In [ ]: