## Neuroimaging of Speech and Language processes with MEG and fMRI



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## Integrated Imaging of the Brain

This image displays the fiber tracks, several functional areas, the vasculature and the underlying anatomy. On the right we can see the cortical spinal track (cyan) projecting from the left hand motor region (green).



Hardenbergh et. al "Integrated 3D Visualization of fMRI and DTI tractography" 2006 HBM, conference

## **Functional Imaging Techniques**

#### Electroencephalography EEG







Electroencephalography ECoG



Magnetoencephalography MEG

## Sources of MEG and EEG

- MEG signals primarily arise from intracellular current flow in pyramidal neurons Called - Primary Currents
- EEG signals primarily arise from extracellular current flows
   Called - Secondary Currents
- Secondary Currents cancel in MEG due to symmetry



#### Time Evolution of Language Processing



#### **Electrocorticography Localization**



Subdural electrodes placed on cortical surface. Typical 2D views of the brain diagram used to mark the electrode locations and hand written schematic results of the brain mapping tests.

## **Functional Imaging Techniques**



A technique for measuring blood oxygenation of specific tissue during a task.

Both techniques overlay Pixel activation onto an MRI scan

A technique for studying the metabolism of the brain, by using positron-emitting isotopes <sup>11</sup>C, <sup>13</sup>N, <sup>15</sup>O, and <sup>18</sup>F labeled molecules in solution and injected into a subject.



## Combined fMRI and PET

#### fMRI





#### Semantic-Letter categorization comparison task Yellow color is where fMRI and PET results overlap



## Spatial and Temporal Resolutions for Various Functional Imaging Modalities



## Localization of Language Areas



## Language Tasks

#### **Picture Naming**

**Verb Generation** 



Book

Identical tasks used during intracranial mapping ECoG.

## **Verb Generation**







fMRI localization of brain areas active during verb generation. SPM maps. A) Three-plane Glass Brain (Fixed effect analysis corrected p<.001) B) Axial overlay shown. Z-score scale shown in color bar.



MEG localization at 255 ms after onset of Visual word. This is the point at which the brain is generating the verb. MR-FOCUSS results scale in nanoAmp-Meters

Bowyer et al 2004

#### nanoAmp-meters

#### Wernicke's activation

## **Picture Naming**



fMRI localization of brain areas active during Picture Naming. SPM maps. A) Three-plane Glass Brain (Fixed effect analysis corrected p<.001) B) Axial overlay shown. Z-score scale shown.



MEG localization at 320 ms after onset of Visual picture. This is the point at which the brain is telling the mouth to say the word. MR-FOCUSS results scale in nanoAmp-Meters

Bowyer et al 2004

#### nanoAmp-meters

#### **Broca's activation**

## Tumor patient fMRI language localization



fMRI localization of Broca's area

Verb Generation

## Broca's area Picture naming







NanoAmp-Meters

## Wernicke's area Verb generation





NanoAmp-Meters

## Broca's areas



## Wernicke's area



## **DTI Imaging**



## Coherence

- Measures consistency of phase between cortical sites participating in a neuronal network within a narrow frequency band.
- A measure of connectivity between sources with stationary signal characteristics (the distribution of source amplitudes is identical for any time segment of data.)
- Neural networks have multiple harmonic activation modes (10 Hz mode, 20 Hz mode, 35 Hz mode)
- Cortical sites participate in multiple modes and networks
- Activity at each site is a mixture of independent signals
- Basis for advanced network evaluation techniques (Granger causality, narrow band filtering or Essential Mode Decomposition with Hilbert transforms, wavelets) these are applied to nonstationary data.
  - Determine the direction of network interactions
  - Quantify significance of network structures

# Extracting real-time neural networks from MEG data



Figure I. Extracting long-range neural connectivity from MEG data. (a) Simplified presentation of the basic idea. Curves depict time courses of activity in four brain areas (gray ellipses). If neuronal populations in these areas are functionally connected, one would expect to detect similar time courses of activation in the different areas (red segments), at least occasionally. Time shifts between similar stretches of activity could be interpreted as flow of information. In this example, one could argue that there is a drive from area A to B and a weaker drive further to area C. Delays between the repeated segments are exaggerated. (b) Neural network during slow movements of the right index finger. Here, EMG from the moving finger provided a meaningful, nonbrain reference signal. EMG–MEG coherence led to the contralateral motor cortex, which served as a reference area for identification of the network within the brain. Abbreviations: M1, primary motor cortex; PMC, premotor cortex. Reproduced, with permission, from Ref. [48].

#### Gross J, et al Proc Natl, Acad Sci. 2002

## Wernicke's in Epilepsy patient Coherence imaging











## Broca's in Epilepsy patient Coherence imaging











COHERENCE SCALE



## **DTI Imaging**



## **Aphasia Patients**





Analysis of the MEG recordings during the word matching task.

A) Early in reading process, bilateral parietal activation is evident (74 ms).B) By 247 ms latency, left frontal cortex is activated.



- A) During early stage of reading (78 ms), activation of right parietal and temporal regions is noted, but left parietal activation is restricted to superior parietal region.
- B) By 333 ms latency, left frontal activation is absent.

## Dyslexia



Dyslexic Subject displayed more highly coherent regions (red) in the occipital lobe than normal readers. Also the middle temporal gyrus (MTG) in the RIGHT hemisphere has more coherence than LEFT hemisphere. Normal Reading Subject displayed more highly coherent regions in the inferior frontal gyrus than subjects with dyslexia. Also the MTG in the LEFT hemisphere had more coherent activity than the RIGHT hemisphere.

## Summary

- Functional imaging techniques are a safe and non-invasive technique to image neural function of language processes.
- fMRI provides millimeter spatial resolution for language localization.
- MEG provides millimeter spatial resolution PLUS millisecond temporal resolution needed to understand language processing steps.

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