Machine-Learning for Brain-Computer Interfaces



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BCI as a Potential Assistive Technology

• Complete paralysis (e.g. late-stage Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis)

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Communication

- Complete paralysis (e.g. late-stage Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis)
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- Disconnection of motor pathways (e.g. subcortical stroke, amputation)

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• Rehabilitation of movement

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• Other...

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• interruptions

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- interruptions
- fatigue, pain, drugs

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blood-sugar- and fatigue-dependent changes

 "good-day-bad-day" syndrome: any exploration of induction parameters requires an alternating or mixed design, halving the amount of data in any one experimental condition on any one day

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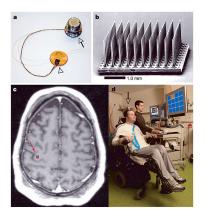
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- more frequent session-to-session transfer problems

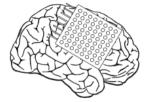


Implanted microelectrode array (Cyberkinetics, Inc)

Figure from Hochberg et al. Nature, July 2006.

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Department of Epileptology, University of Bonn, 2004

Electrocorticography (ECoG)



Electroencephalography (EEG)

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Near Infra-Red Spectrophotometry (NIRS)

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Magnetoencephalography (MEG)

Functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging (fMRI)

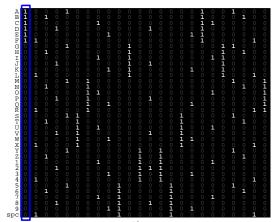


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• Attention (overt and/or covert) to one of a number of stimuli

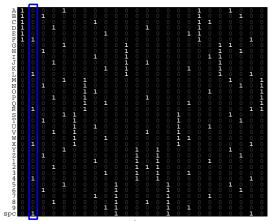
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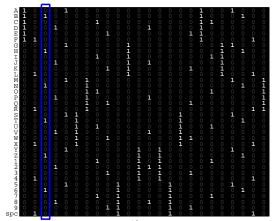
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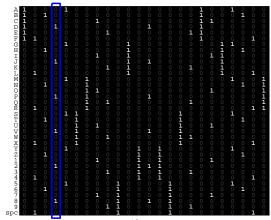
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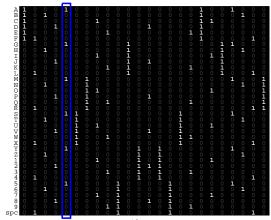
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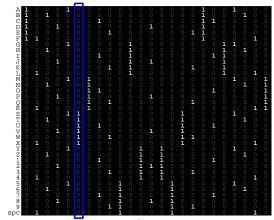
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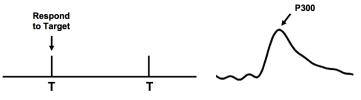
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→ incentive to explore non-motor mental tasks.

Event-Related Potentials

figures from Polich (2007) Clinical Neurophysiology

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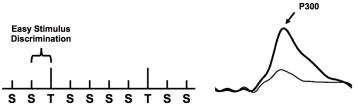
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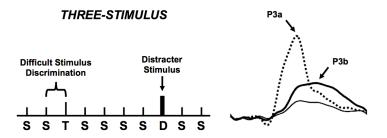
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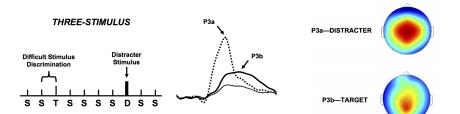


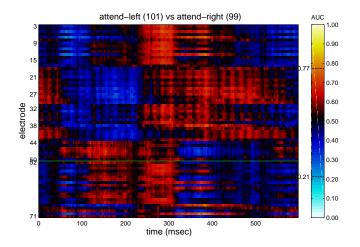
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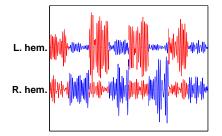


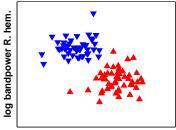


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Bandpower

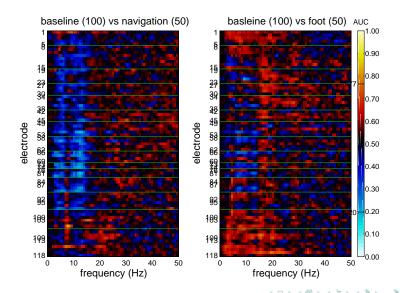
Event-Related Desynchronization in motor imagery: classify imagined left hand movement vs. imagined right hand movement based on power in (say) 10 Hz-band of estimated pre-motor cortex sources in the left and right hemispheres.





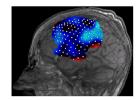
log bandpower L. hem.

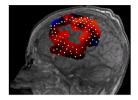
Bandpower



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Bandpower





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- Small number of data exemplars

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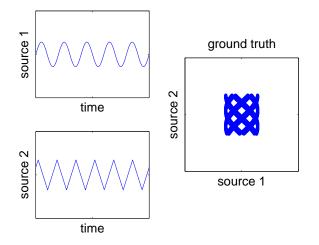
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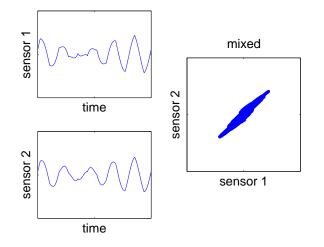
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 - This is a good thing—we only need to worry about a low-dimensional *subspace*.
 - This is a bad thing—can lead to trying to optimize very "stiff" systems.



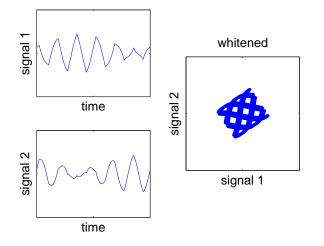
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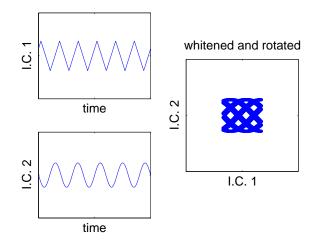
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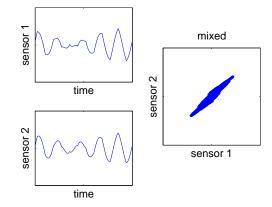


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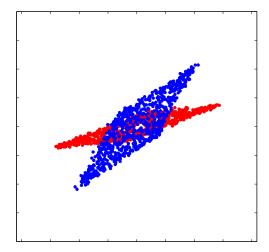
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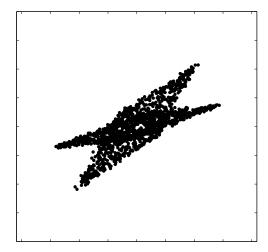
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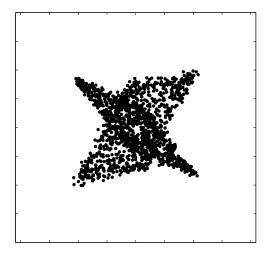
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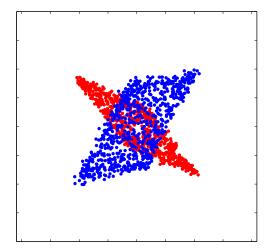


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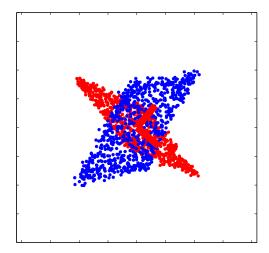


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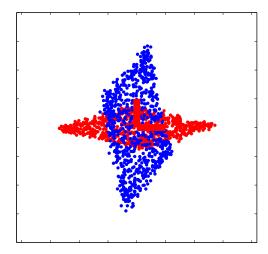
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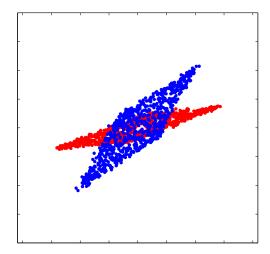
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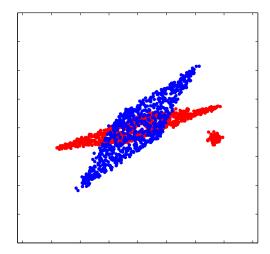
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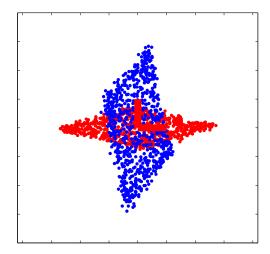
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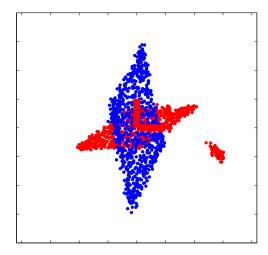
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From Collobert & Weston's NIPS 2009 tutorial:

Engineering: complex features, simple algorithm.

vs

Machine-Learning: simple input, implicitly learn the features.

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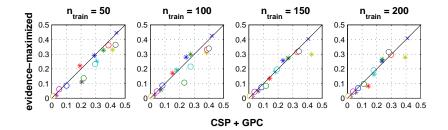
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Machine-Learning: simple input, implicitly learn the features. Idea: instead of performing CSP's least-square criterion to estimate discriminative sources

$$S = WX$$

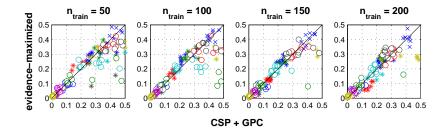
then classifying the resulting bandpower features diag (SS^{\top}) according to some *other* loss function, let's treat W as the hyperparameters of (e.g.) a Gaussian Process classifier and optimize them according to the marginal-likelihood...

Slightly deeper learning?

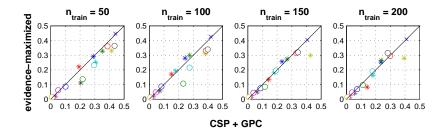


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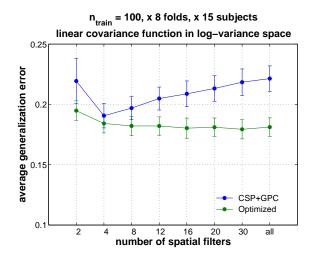


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Note:

- large individual variation
- particular benefits for smaller, noisier datasets.

Deeper learning ~> more "hands-free" operation



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Deeper still?

Automatic combination of/selection between first- and second-order features

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• Christoforou et al. (2008) JMLR

Automatic combination of/selection between first- and second-order features

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Convex optimization of spatial filters, with automatic selection/weighting between frequency bands

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Pre-processing can still make a difference to performance (e.g. equalizing variance across frequency bands to compensate for 1/f; spatial pre-whitening in both first- and second-order cases).

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Pre-processing the data can be seen as equivalent to changing the regularization environment. What is the "ideal" regularization strategy? $\Rightarrow \quad \Rightarrow \quad \circ \circ \circ \circ$

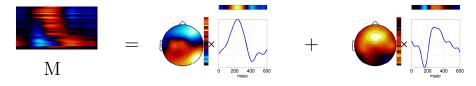
In linear ERP classification: classifier finds weights ${\rm M}$ for classifying space- $\times\text{-time}$ "image" segments:

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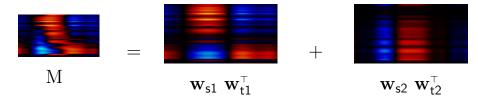
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 L_Σ regularization: regularize by putting an L-1 penalty on the singular values of $\mathrm{M}.$

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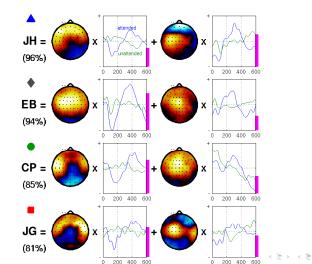
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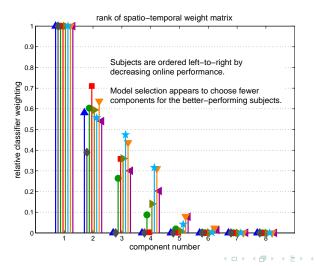
Example Sparsification Results

A BCI based on auditory stimuli (Hill et al., NIPS 2004 & BBCI Workshop 2009):



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Moving towards "deeper" learning strategies

- improve performance on small/noisy datasets
- make systems run more "hands-free"

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Finding ways of *encoding* information in more user- and brain-friendly ways (e.g. see Hill et al., last NIPS).