# 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)


## BCl as a Potential Assistive Technology

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- Communication


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- Other...


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- blood-sugar- and fatigue-dependent changes


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- data set sizes are small to start with
- more frequent session-to-session transfer problems


## Measurement systems for BCl



Implanted microelectrode
array (Cyberkinetics, Inc)

Figure from Hochberg et al. Nature, July 2006.

## Measurement systems for BCl



Department of Epileptology, University of Bonn, 2004


Electrocorticography (ECoG)

Measurement systems for BCl


Electroencephalography (EEG)

## Measurement systems for BCl



Near Infra-Red Spectrophotometry (NIRS)

## Measurement systems for BCl



Magnetoencephalography (MEG)

Functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging (fMRI)


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$$
\begin{array}{cccccc}
\mathbf{A} & \mathbf{B} & \mathbf{C} & \mathbf{D} & \mathbf{E} & \mathbf{F} \\
\mathrm{G} & \mathrm{H} & \mathrm{I} & \mathrm{~J} & \mathrm{~K} & \mathrm{~L} \\
\mathrm{M} & \mathrm{~N} & 0 & \mathrm{P} & \mathrm{Q} & \mathrm{R} \\
\mathrm{~S} & \mathrm{~T} & \mathrm{U} & \mathrm{~V} & \mathrm{~N} & \mathrm{X} \\
\mathrm{Y} & \mathrm{Z} & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\
5 & 6 & 7 & 8 & 9 & \mathrm{SpC}
\end{array}
$$



## Induction

| A | B | C | D | E | $\mathbf{F}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| G | H | I | J | K | $\mathbf{L}$ |
| M | N | $\bigcirc$ | P | Q | $\mathbf{R}$ |
| S | I | U | V | K | $\mathbf{X}$ |
| Y | Z | 1 | 2 | 3 | $\mathbf{4}$ |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | $\mathbf{s p c}$ |



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| A | $\mathbf{B}$ | C | D | E | F |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| G | $\mathbf{H}$ | I | J | K | I |
| M | $\mathbf{N}$ | $\bigcirc$ | P | Q | R |
| S | $\mathbf{T}$ | U | V | W | X |
| Y | $\mathbf{Z}$ | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
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| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
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| $\mathbf{M}$ | N | $O$ | P | Q | R |
| $\mathbf{S}$ | $\mathbf{T}$ | $\mathbf{U}$ | $\mathbf{V}$ | $\mathbf{W}$ | $\mathbf{X}$ |
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- BUT: for users with motor-neuron disease, will the motor system continue functioning well enough long-term? $\rightsquigarrow$ incentive to explore non-motor mental tasks.


## Event-Related Potentials

## SINGLE-STIMULUS



## Event-Related Potentials

figures from Polich (2007)
Clinical Neurophysiology

## ODDBALL



## Event-Related Potentials

## THREE-STIMULUS



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## Event-Related Potentials



## 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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- 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.


## Source Separation



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## Cheap supervised rotation with CSP



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Engineering: complex features, simple algorithm.
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## VS

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

$$
\mathrm{S}=\mathrm{WX}
$$

then classifying the resulting bandpower features diag ( $\mathrm{SS}^{\top}$ ) 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...

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Note:

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


## Deeper learning $\rightsquigarrow$ more "hands-free" operation



## Deeper still?

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

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

## Low-rank Classification

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


M

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## Example Sparsification Results

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

