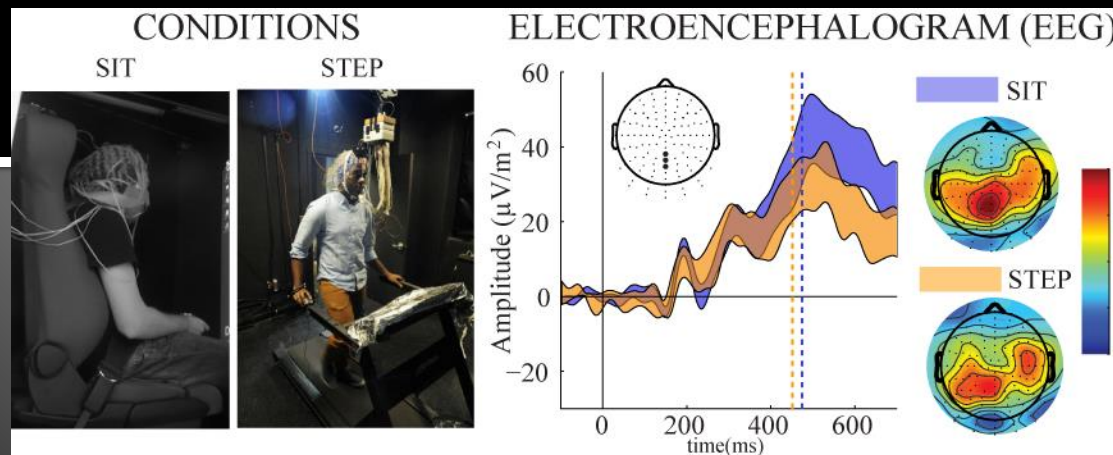


Virtual Reality and Neuroimaging to Investigate the Neuronal Process while Walking

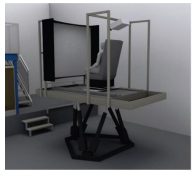
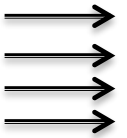
John S Butler

School of Mathematical Sciences
Technological University Dublin



My background

- Numerical Analysis (Trinity College Dublin, PhD work)
 - Robust Numerical methods of Prandtl Boundary Layer Problems
- Self-motion Perception (Max Planck Institute for Biological Cybernetics)
 - Walking
 - Driving
- Unisensory and Multisensory processing
 - Developmental Disorders (Albert Einstein College of Medicine)
 - Autism Spectrum Disorder, Niemann Pick Type C
 - Movement Disorders (Trinity Centre for Bioengineering)
 - Parkinson's Disease
 - Dystonia



Talk Overview

1. Introduction
2. Distance Perception
3. Feasibility of neural recordings while moving
4. Motor preparation in Parkinson's disease
5. Cognitive flexibility of visual load while walking

Talk Overview

1. Introduction

I. Virtual Reality

II. Sensory information

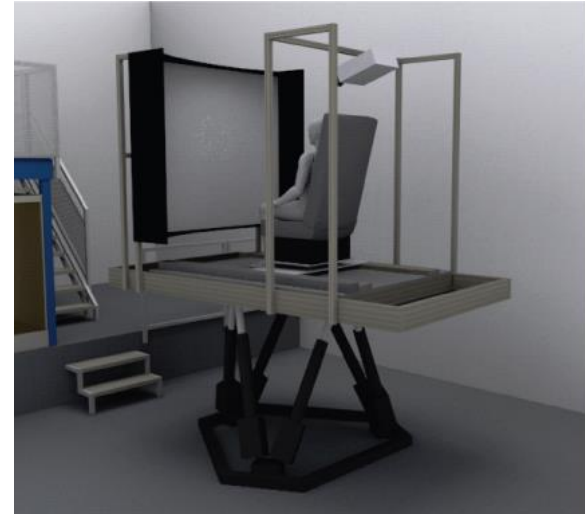
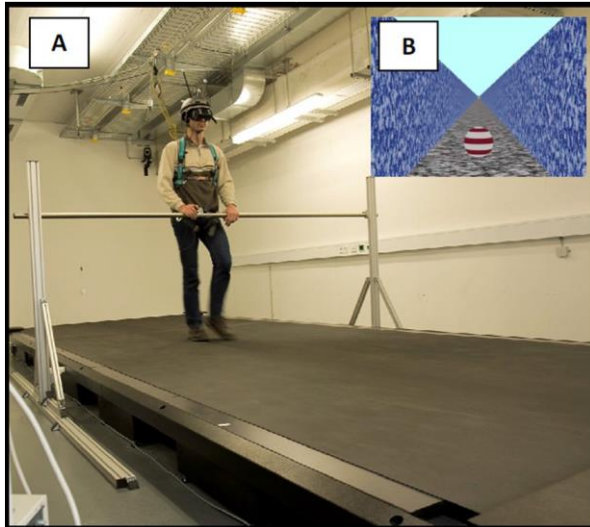
2. Distance Perception

3. Feasibility of neural recordings while moving

4. Motor preparation in Parkinson's disease

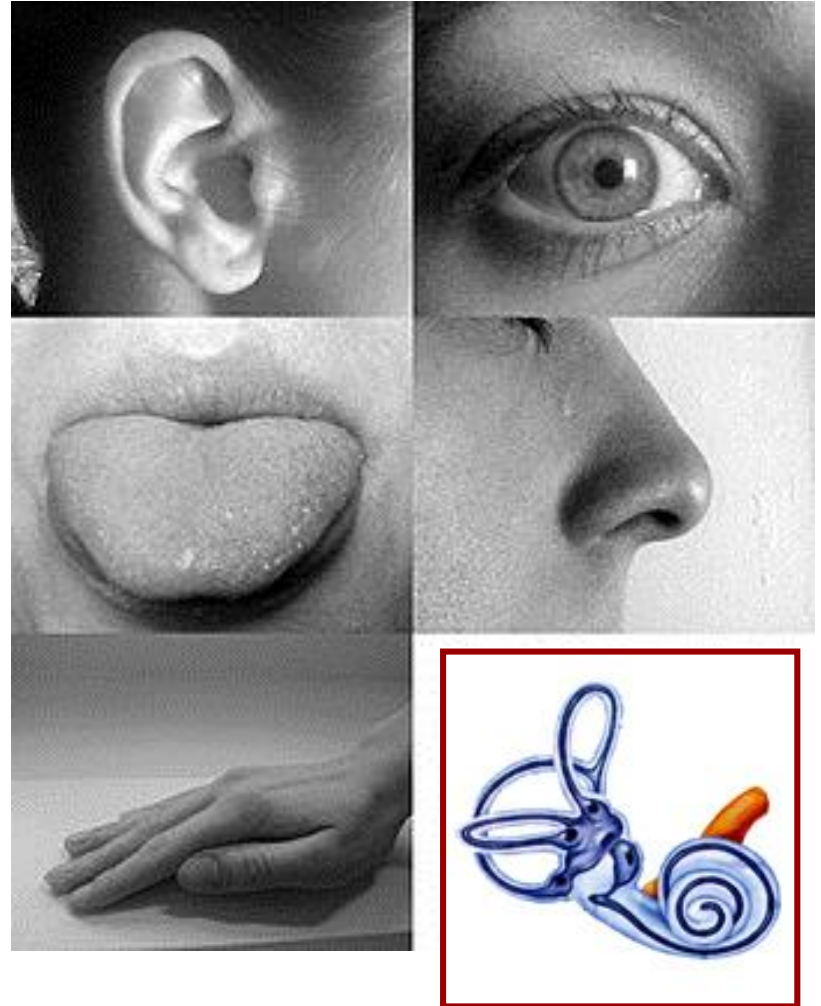
5. Cognitive flexibility of visual load while walking

Virtual Reality



Sensory information

- Hearing
- Sight
- Taste
- Smell
- Touch
- Vestibular
- Proprioception



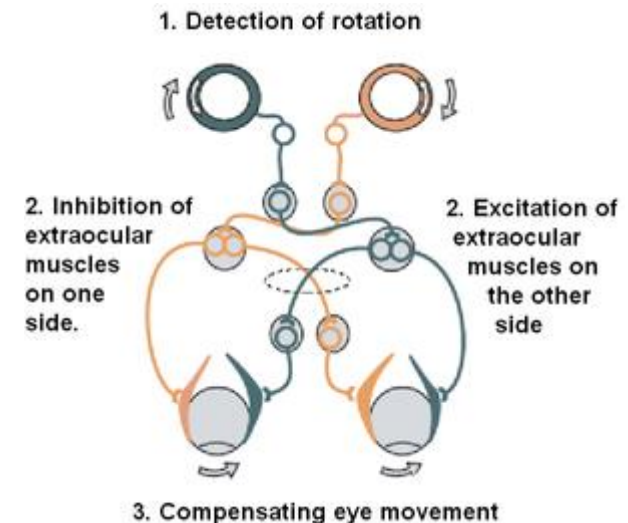
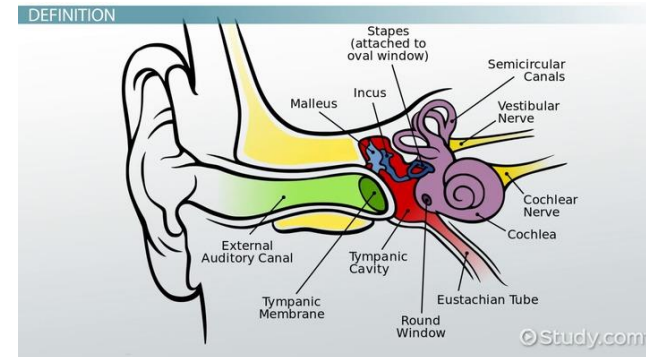
Self-motion

- Self-motion
 - Walking
 - Driving
- Cues for Self-motion
 - Visual
 - Vestibular
 - Proprioception
 - Etc.



Body motion Cues

- Vestibular
 - Eye movements
 - Heading
 - Acceleration
- Proprioception
 - Somatosensory
 - Joints



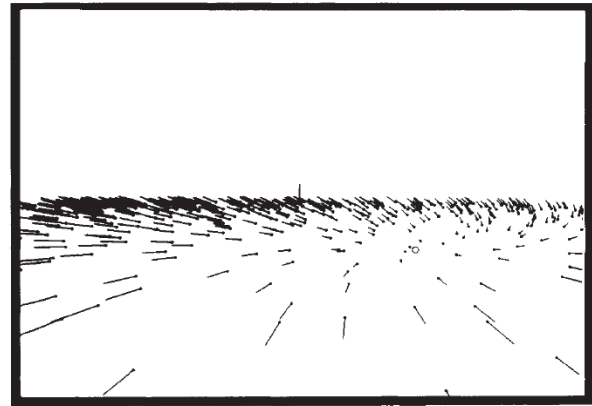
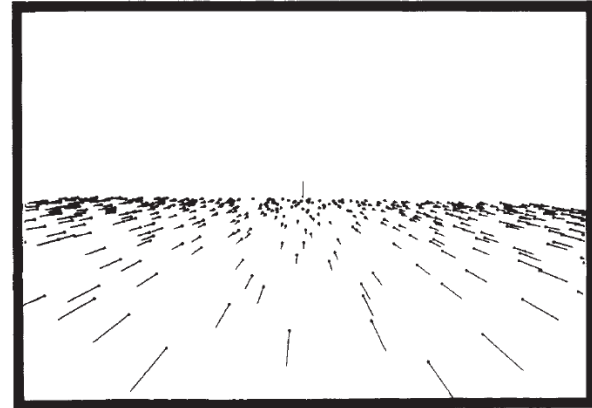
Optic flow

Behavioural

- Distance perception
- Heading

Neurophysiology

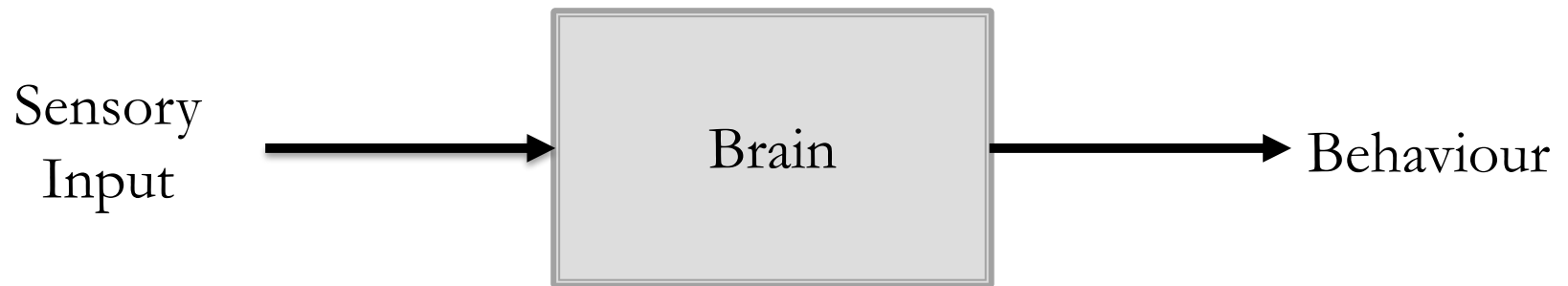
- Vection
 - hFMRI (MT+)
- Heading
 - MST



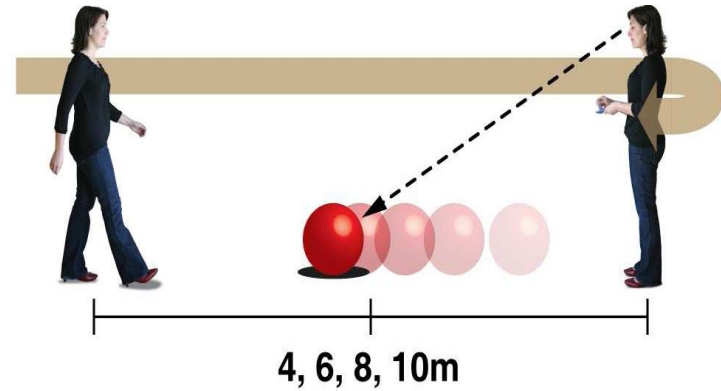
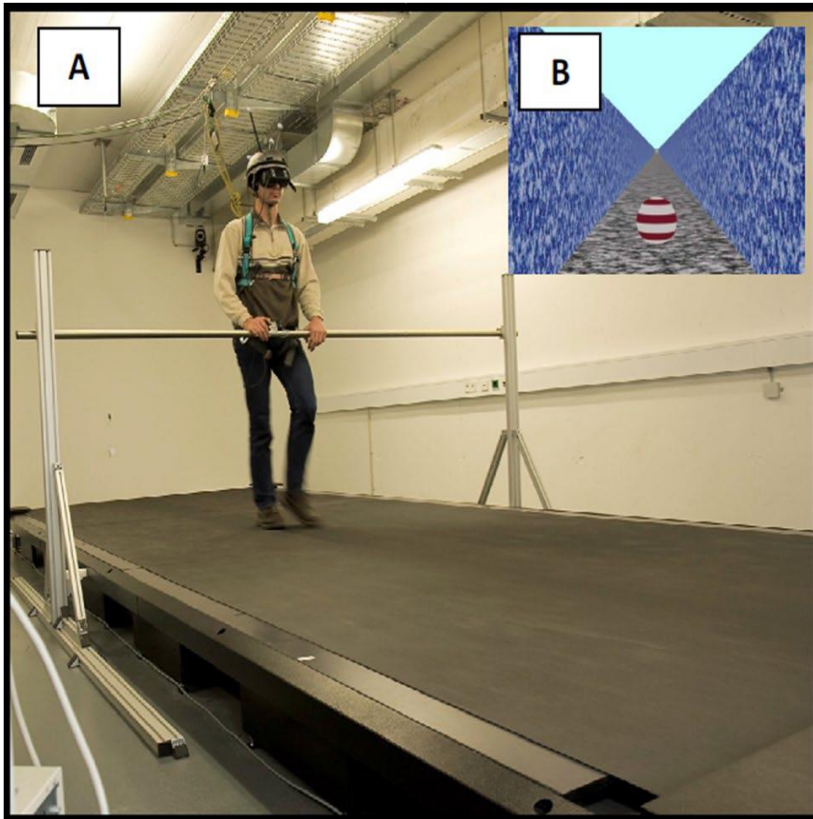
Talk Overview

1. Introduction
- 2. Distance Perception**
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How a Mathematician starts with the Brain



The Experiment



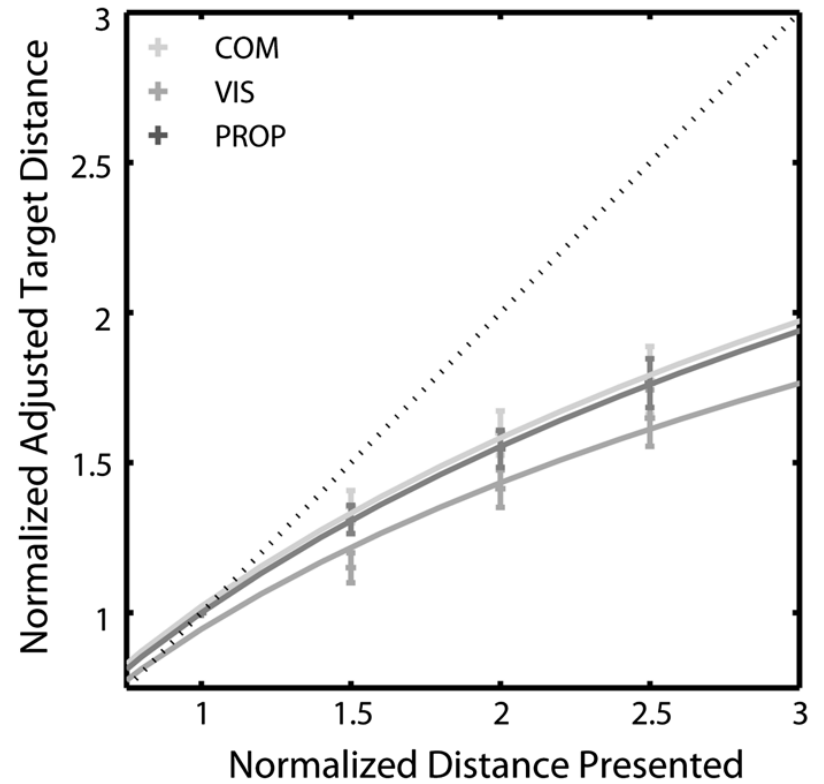
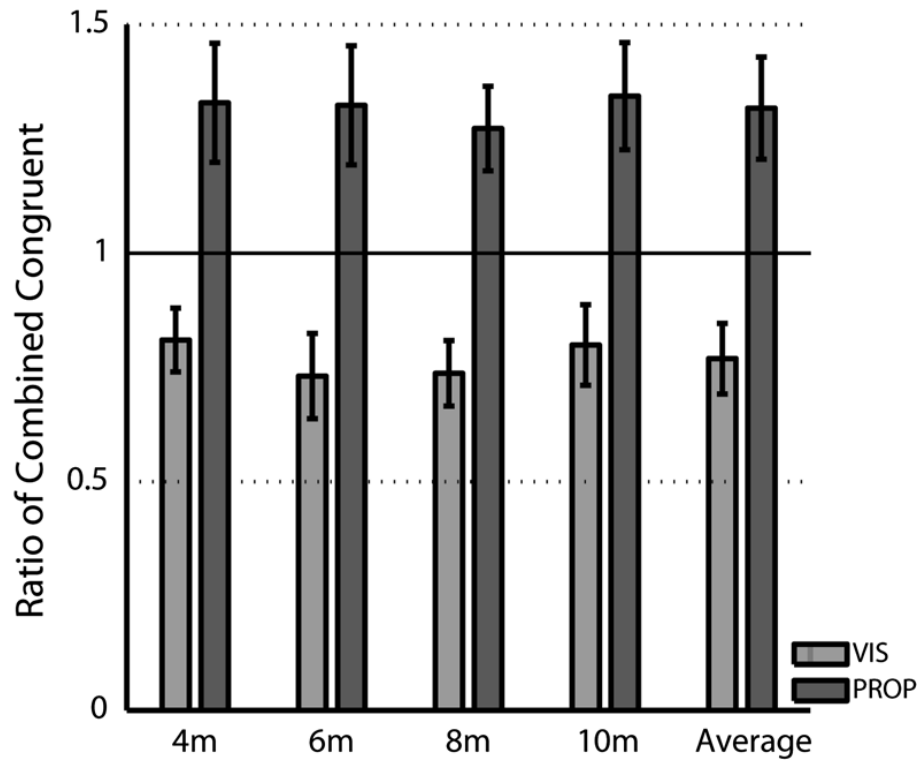
- Visual
- Proprioception (no-vision)
- Combined
- 4m, 6m, 8m, 10m

Study 1

- Change the speed of the proprioceptive
 - $\times 0.7$, $\times 1.4$
- Leaking Integrator
 - $\frac{dp}{dx} = -\alpha p + k$
 - α – leak rate
 - k -sensory gain
- 20 participants

Study 1

Exp 2: Congruent



Maximum Likelihood Estimation

$$COM = w_{VIS}VIS + w_{PROP}PROP$$

Observed

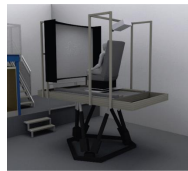
$$w_{VIS} + w_{PROP} = 1$$

$$w_{Vis} = \frac{\mu_{COM} - \mu_{PROP}}{\mu_{Vis} - \mu_{PROP}}$$

$$w_{PROP} = \frac{\mu_{COM} - \mu_{PROP}}{\mu_{Vis} - \mu_{PROP}}$$

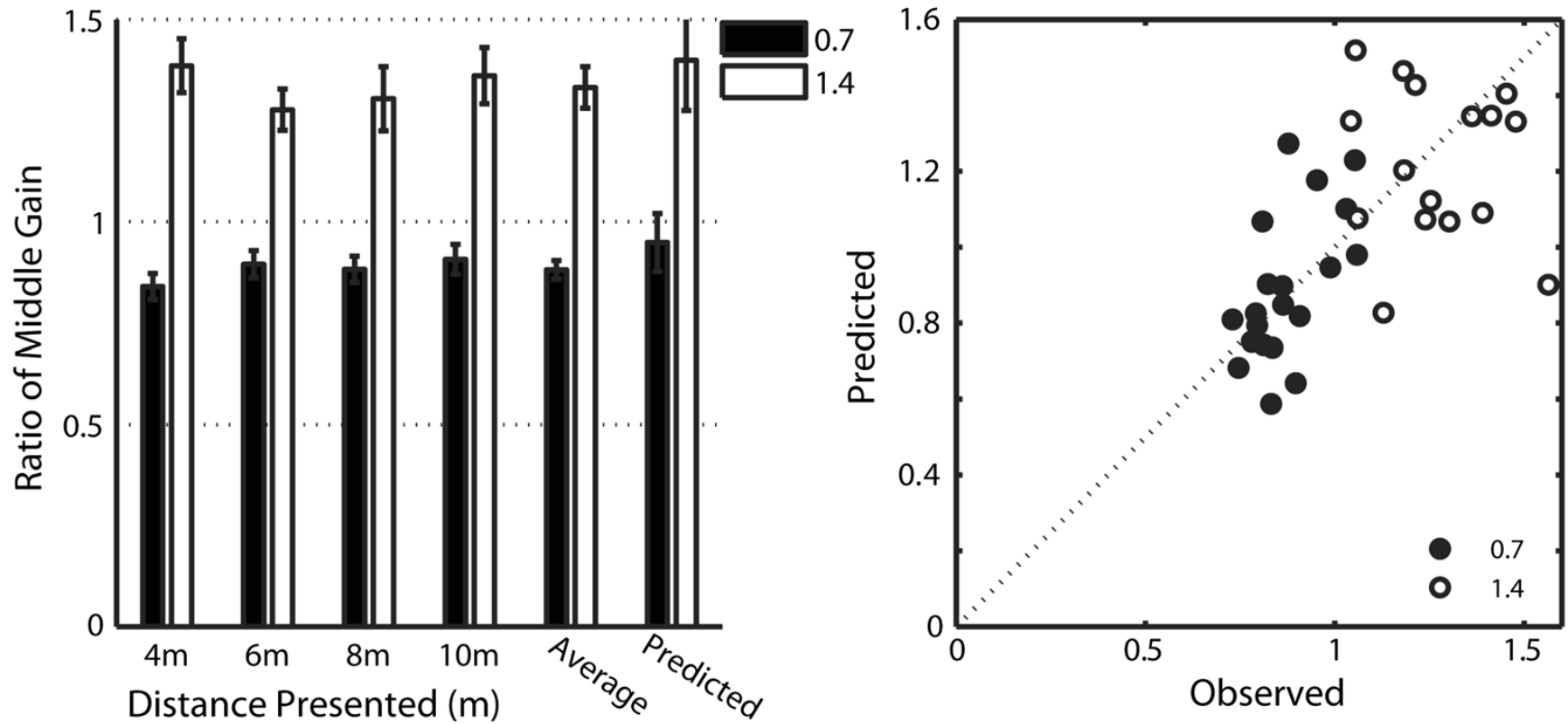
Predicted

$$\widehat{COM}^{Gain} = w_{VIS}VIS^{Gain} + w_{PROP}PROP$$



Study 1

Exp 2: Incongruent Proprioception Condition



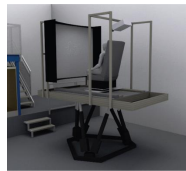
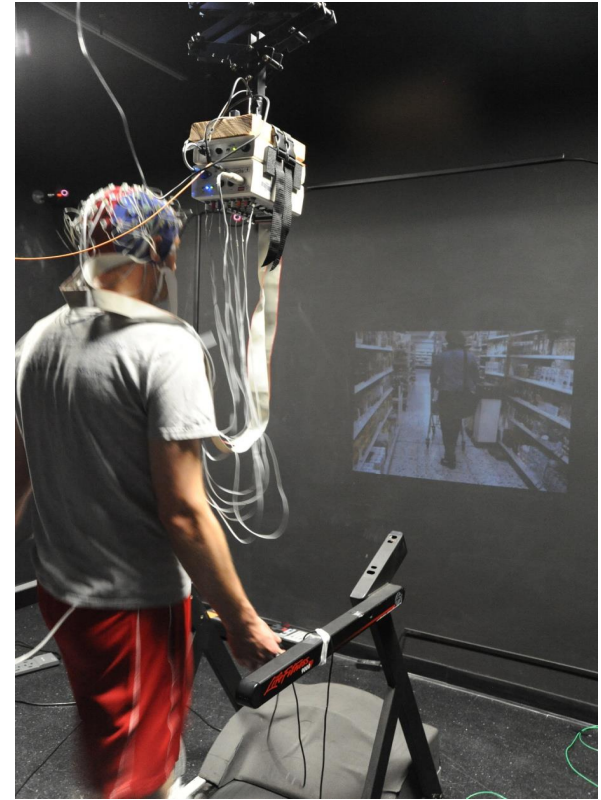
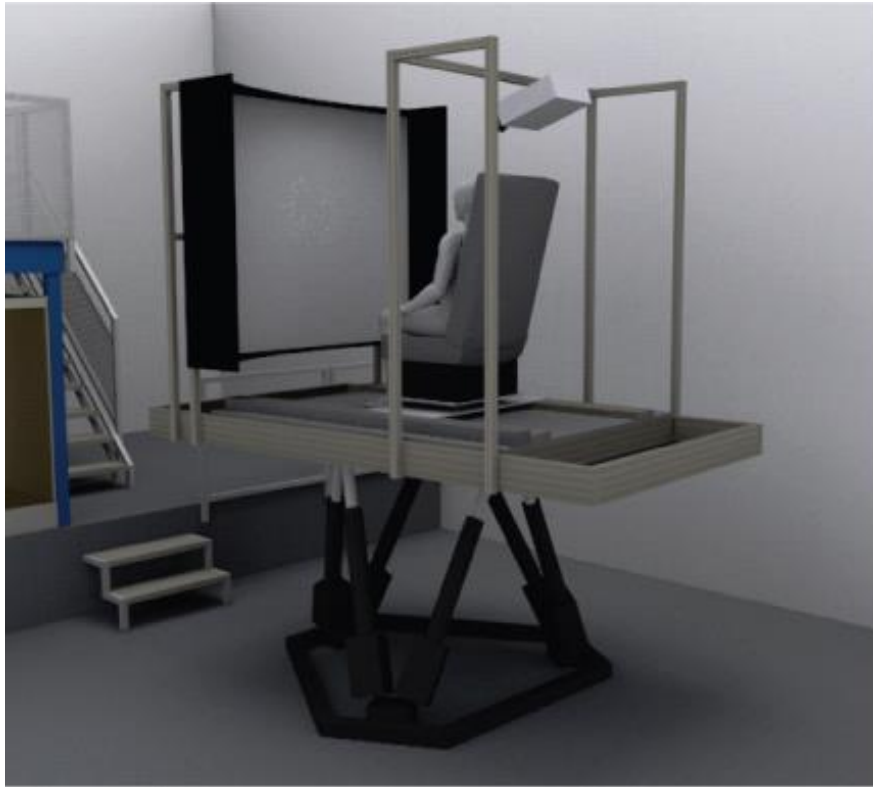
Summary I

- This study supports previous findings that indicate a dominant role for body-based cues over dynamic visual flow in the estimation of travelled distances.
- The combination of visual and body based cues for walking is partially predicted by a Maximum Likelihood Estimation model

Talk Overview

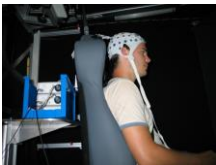
1. Introduction
2. Distance Perception
- 3. Feasibility of neural recordings while moving**
 - 1. Motion Platform**
 - 2. Walking**
4. Motor preparation in Parkinson's disease
5. Cognitive flexibility of visual load while walking

Virtual reality setups



Neuronal Correlates of Self-Motion

- Behavioural tasks
 - Open loop
 - Closed loop
- Imaging techniques
 - fMRI
 - MEG
 - TMS
 - Imaging in non-human primates



Benefits of using EEG

- Systems level snapshot
- Attention deployment
- Temporal resolution
- Light weight
- Real world environment
- Online feedback loop
- ...



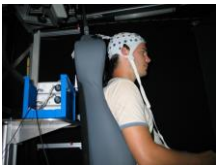
The cusp of a wave

HARDWARE

- Advances in motion platform design
- Advances in electrodes design

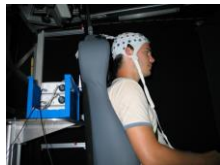
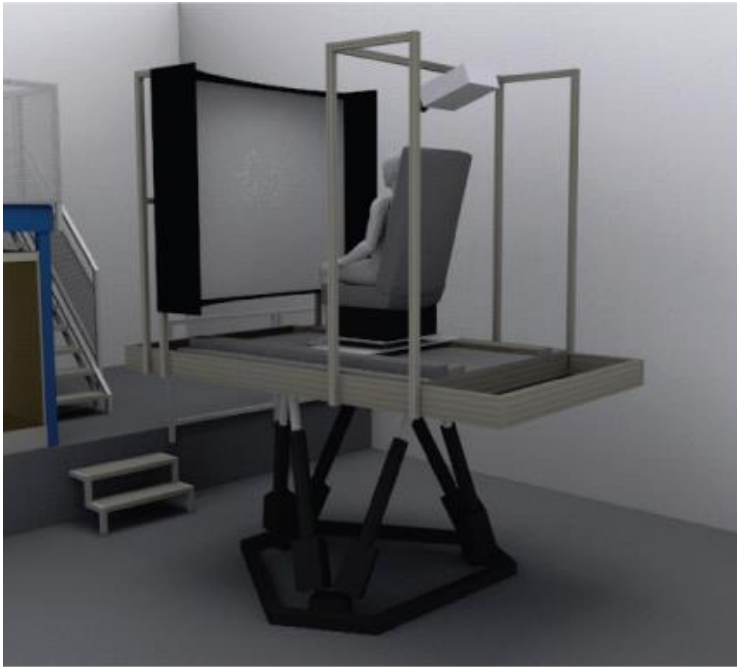
SOFTWARE

- Advanced analysis techniques
 - Independent Component Analysis
 - Source localisation techniques
 - Mobile Brain Imaging (MoBi – Scott Makeig)
- Individual data analysis
 - Bootstrapped Statistics

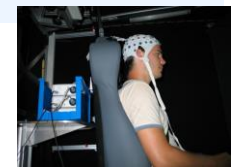
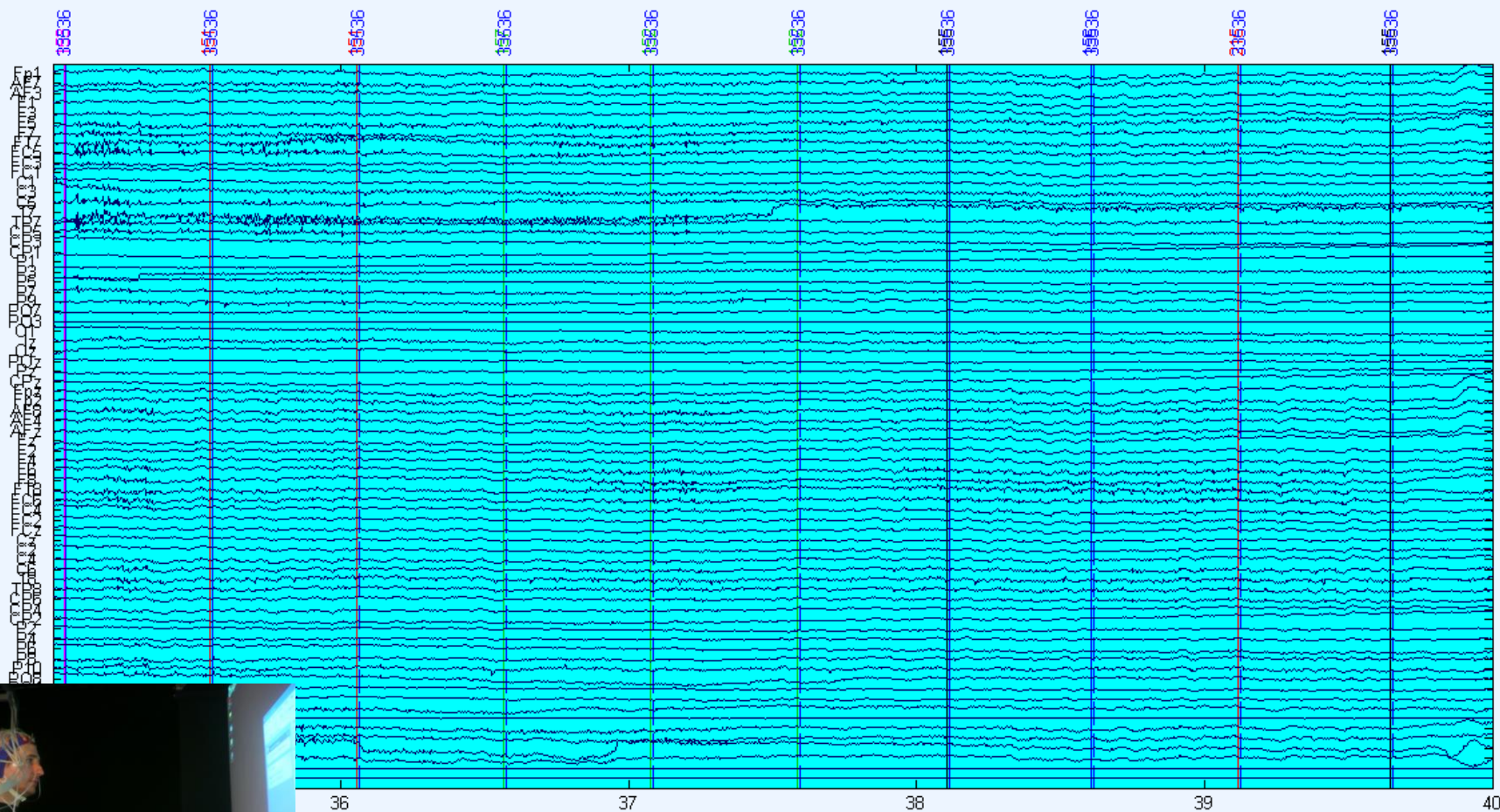


Stewart Platform

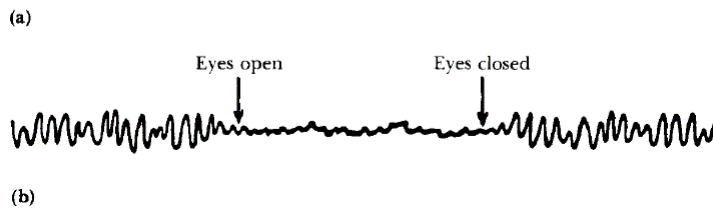
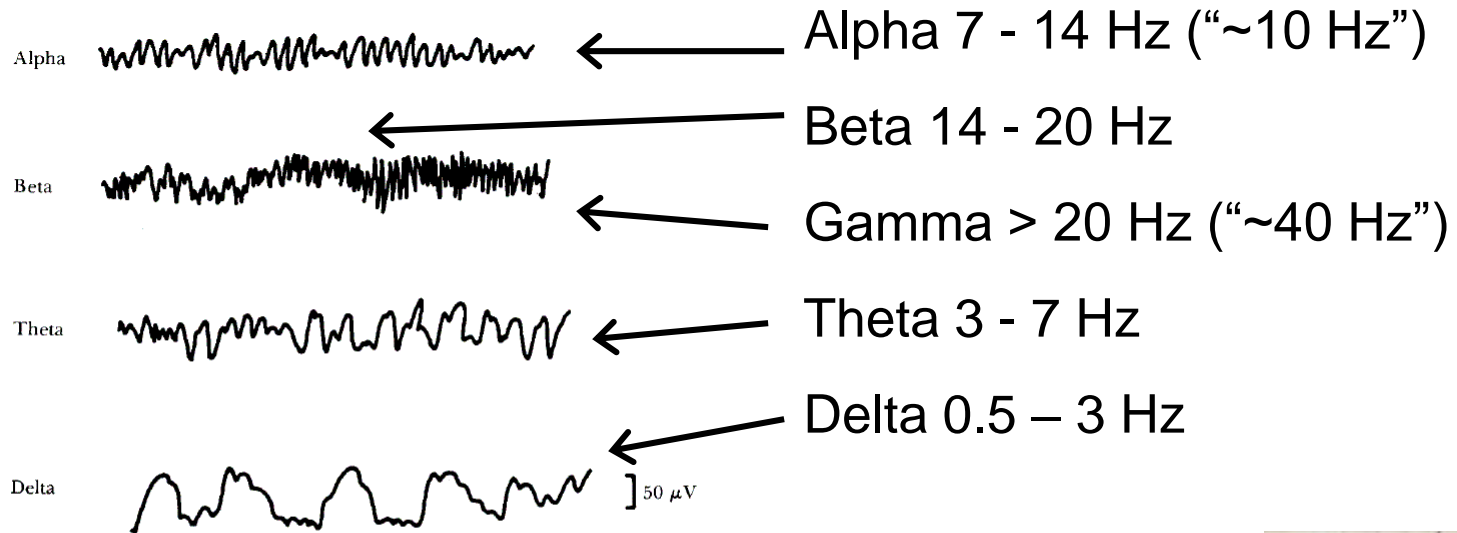
- 6 actuator legs
- 6 degrees of freedom



Electroencephalography (EEG)



Frequency decomposition



Hans Berger:

First Human EEG
recording in 1929

- Alpha waves
discovered



Feasibility of EEG on a Stewart platform

PARTICIPANT ARTIFACTS

- Eye movements
- Laughing
- Blinking
- Neck movement
- ...

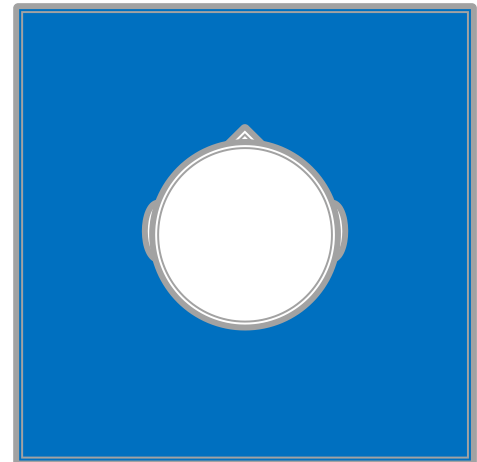
EXTERNAL ARTIFACTS

- Phones
- Screens
- Headphones
- Plugs
- ...



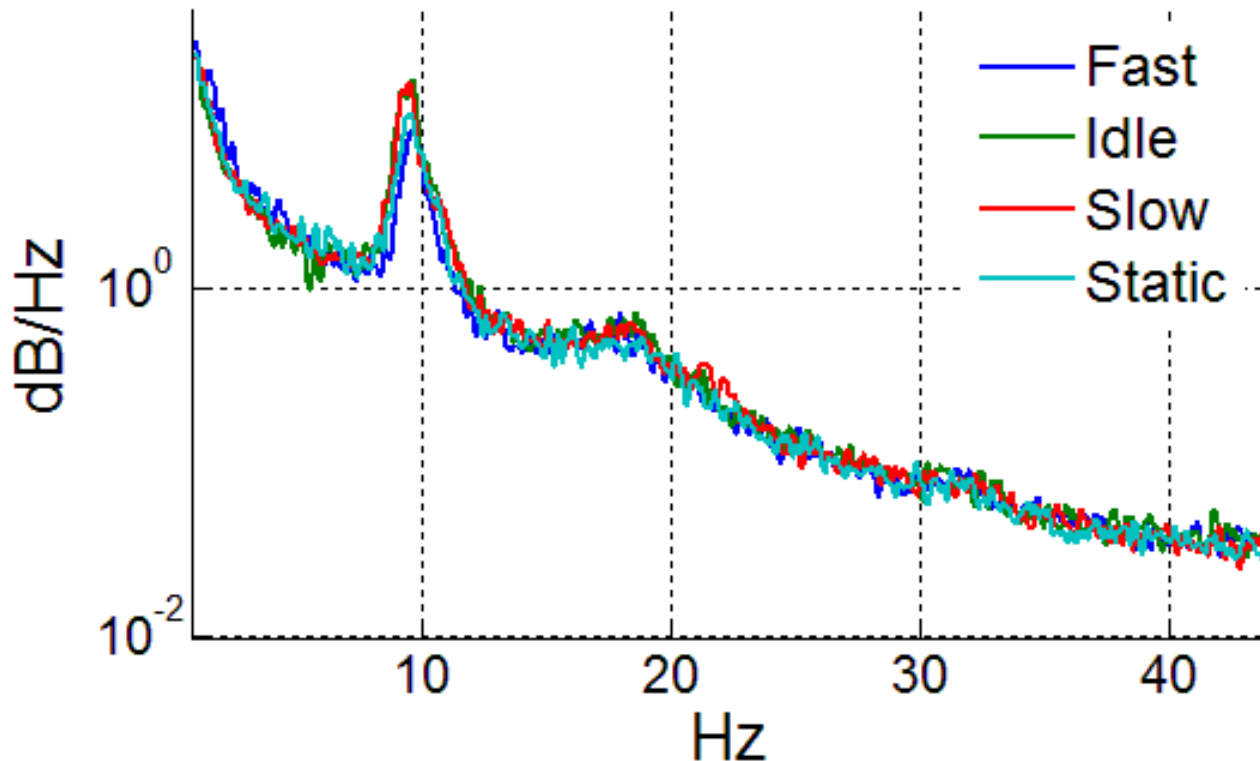
The Movement Paradigm

- Four levels of motion
 - Stationary
 - Idle
 - Slow 0.5 hertz at 0.25mG
 - Fast 0.5 hertz at 0.75mG

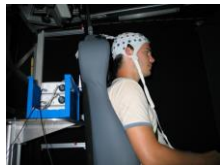
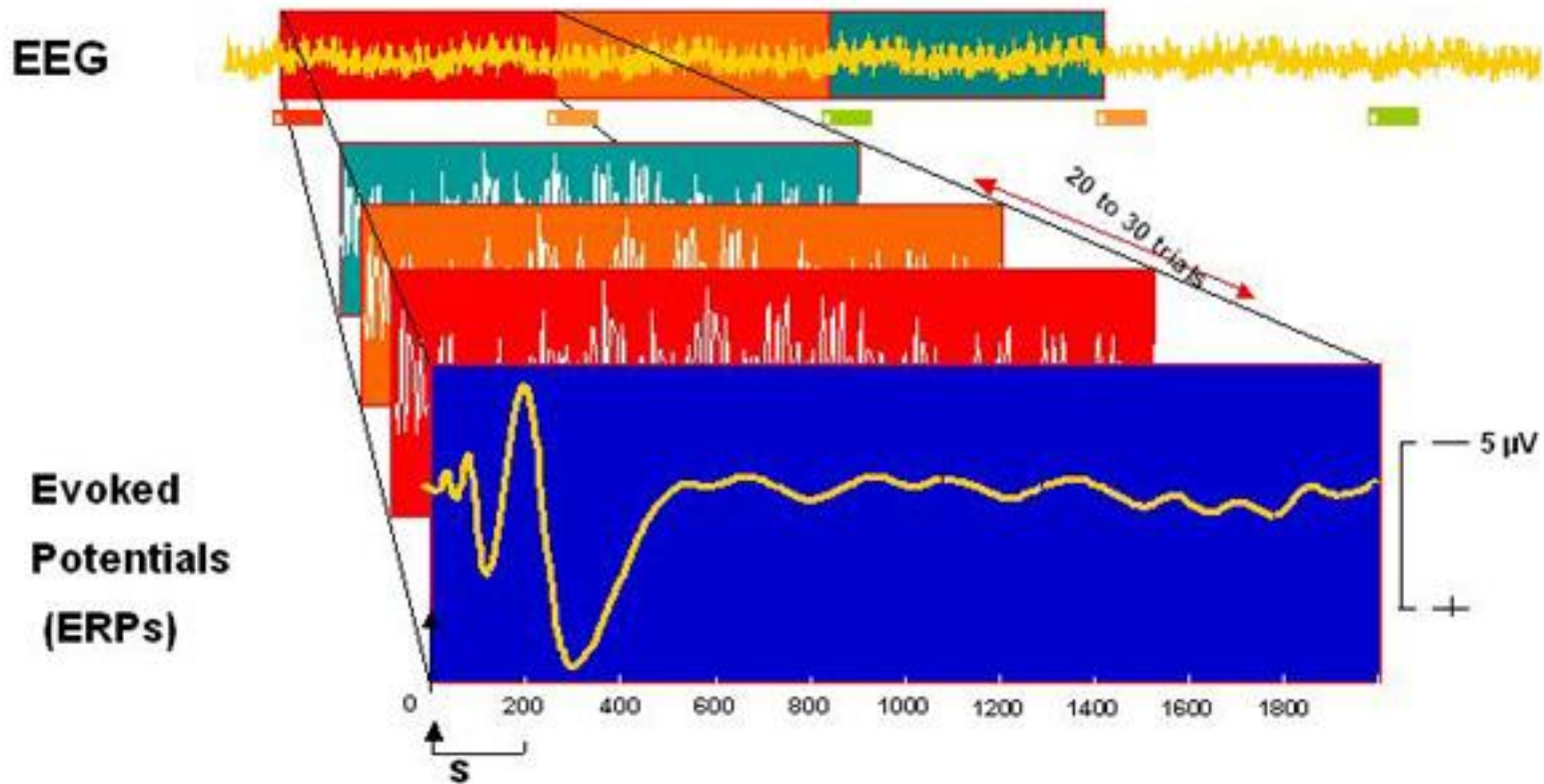


Results - Control Experiment

EEG can be conducted on a moving motion platform

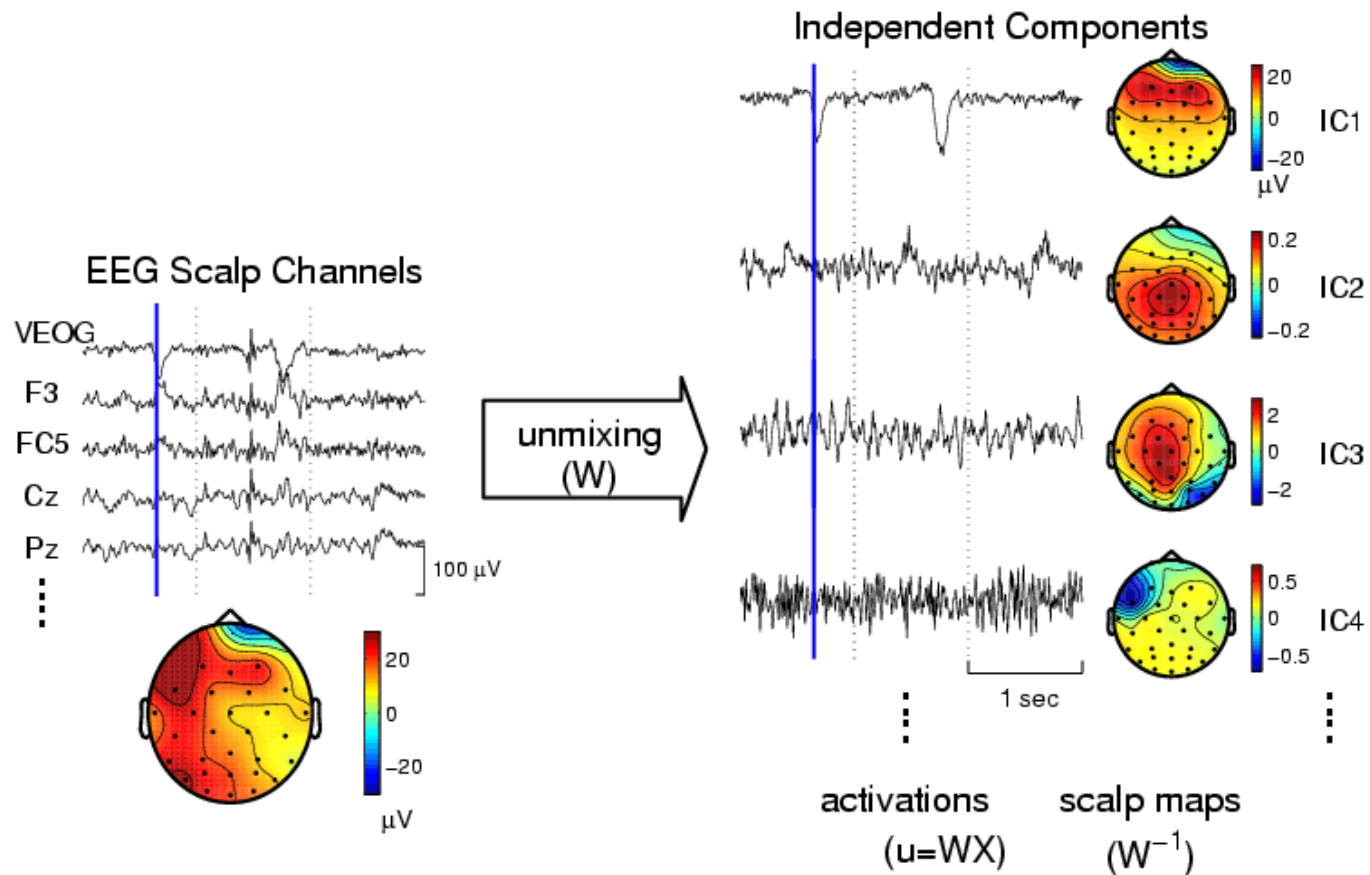


Event-Related Potential (ERPs)

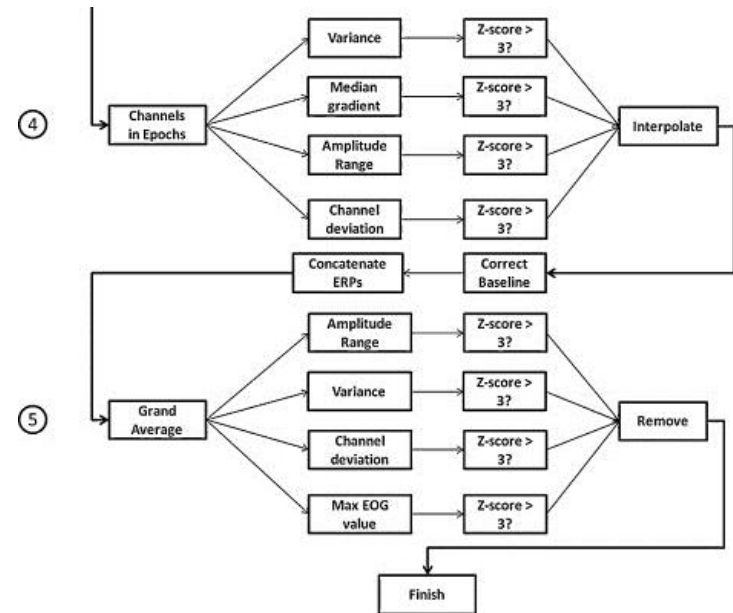
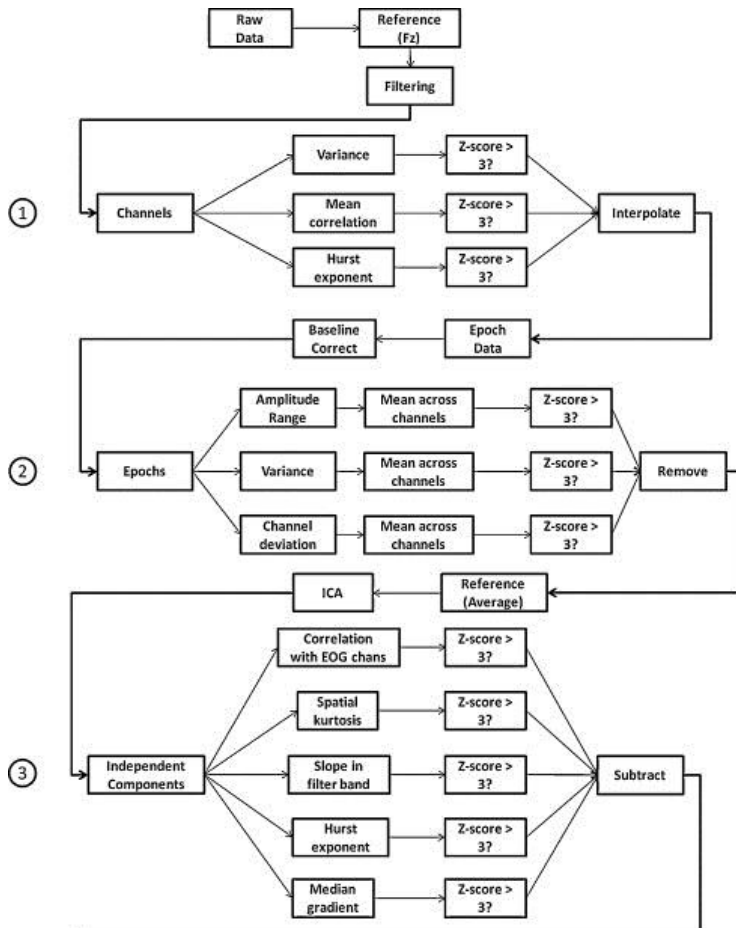


Independent Component Analysis

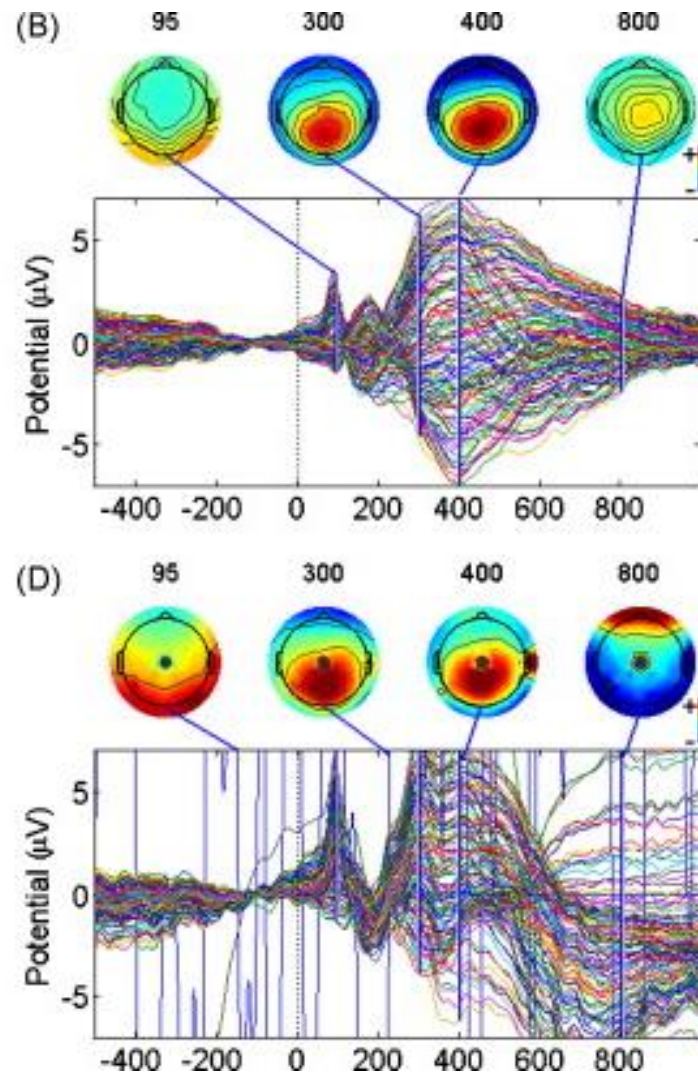
ICA decomposition



Fully Automated Statistical Thresholding for EEG artefact Rejection

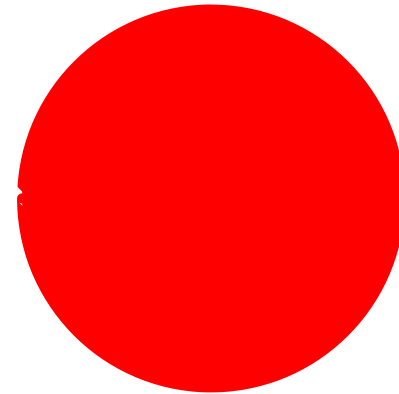
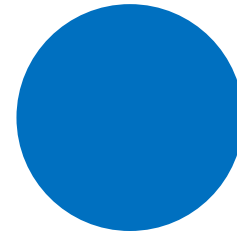


Fully Automated Statistical Thresholding for EEG artefact Rejection



The Oddball Paradigm

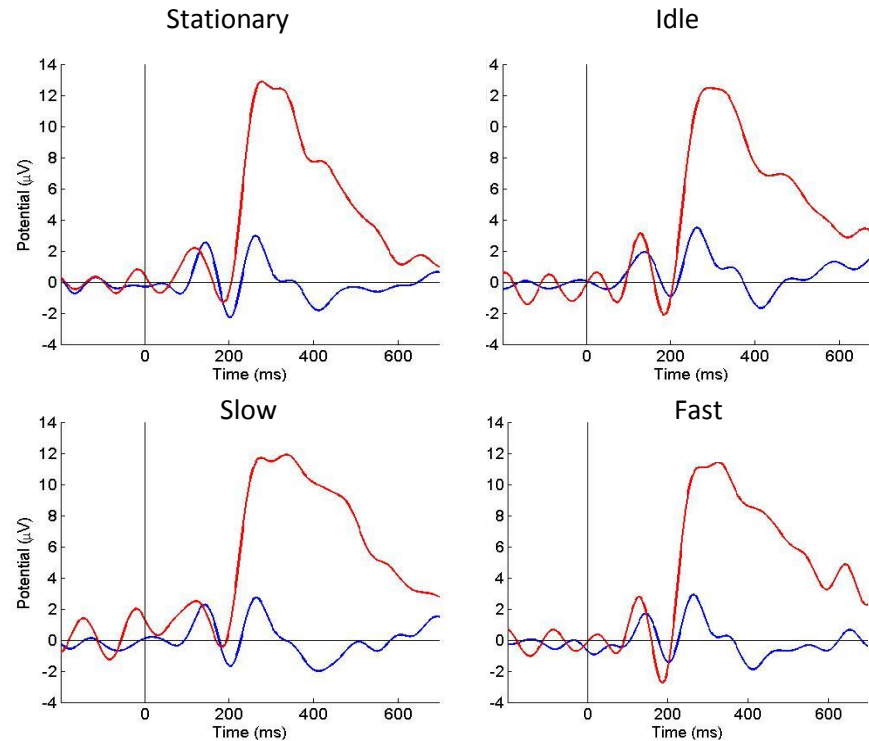
- Can we get an EEG signal while moving people?
- Visual P3 paradigm
 - 80% Standard
 - 20% Target
- Four levels of motion
 - Stationary
 - Idle
 - Slow 0.5 hertz at 0.25mG
 - Fast 0.5 hertz at 0.75mG



SSSTSSSSSTSSSSTSSST



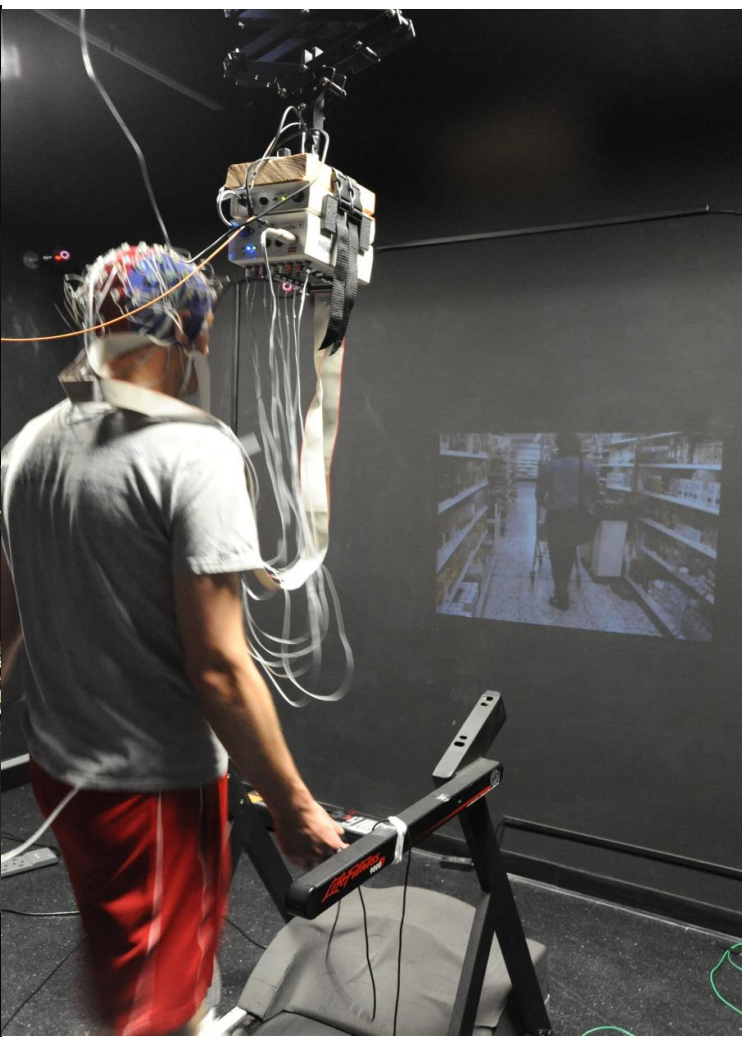
Results - Control Experiment



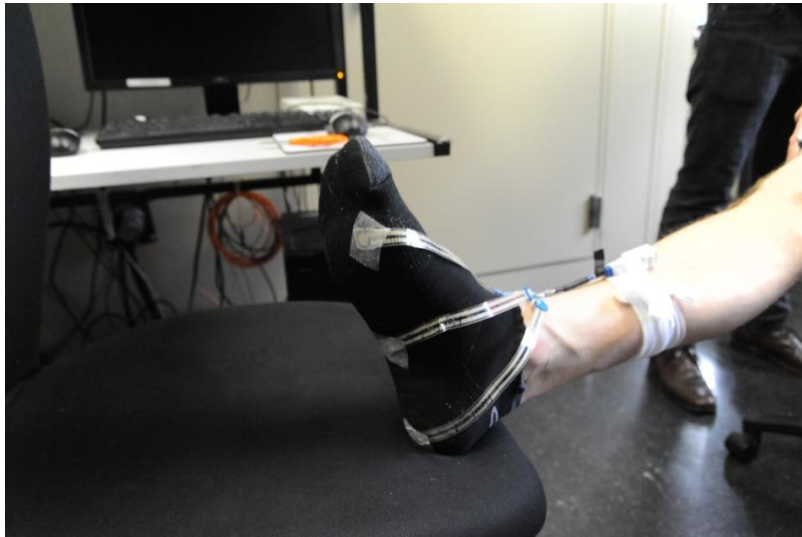
A difference was shown between the standard and target.



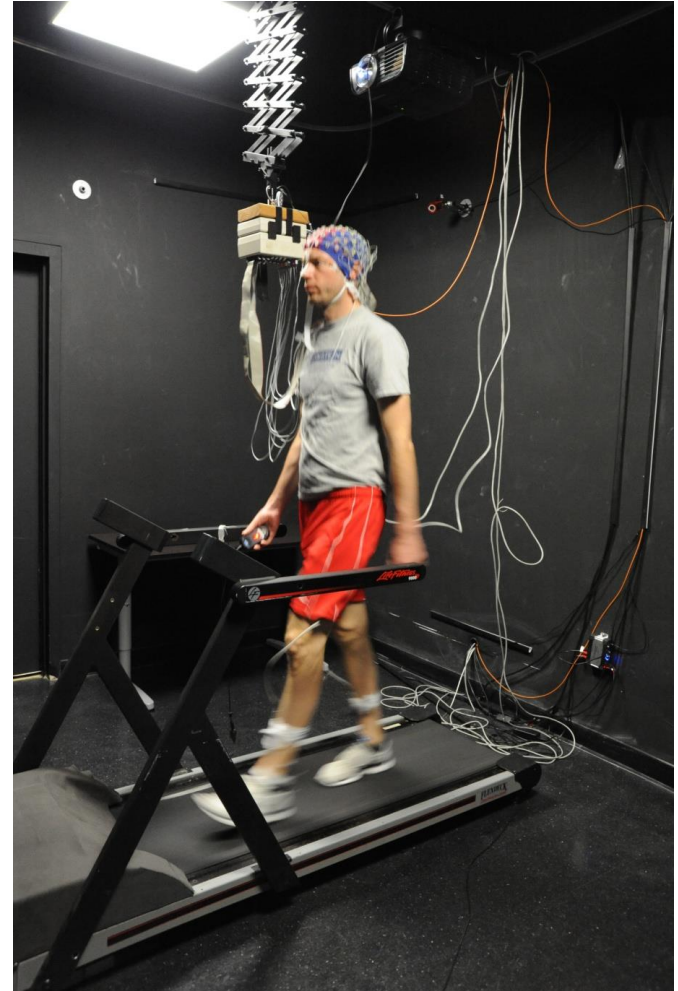
EEG while Walking



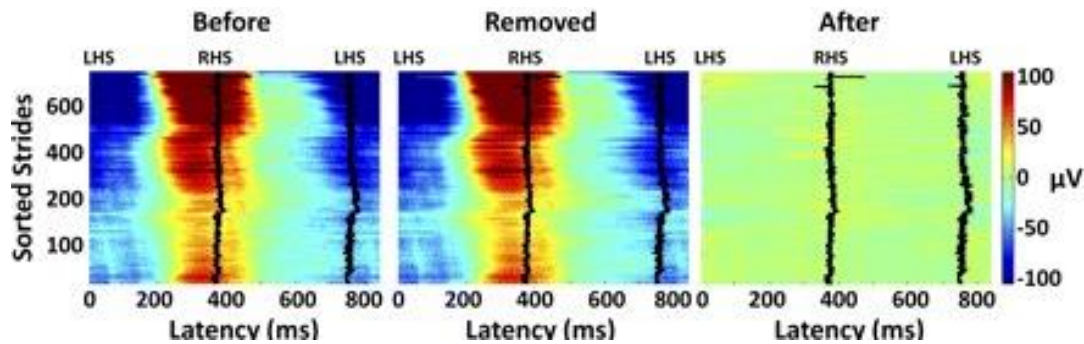
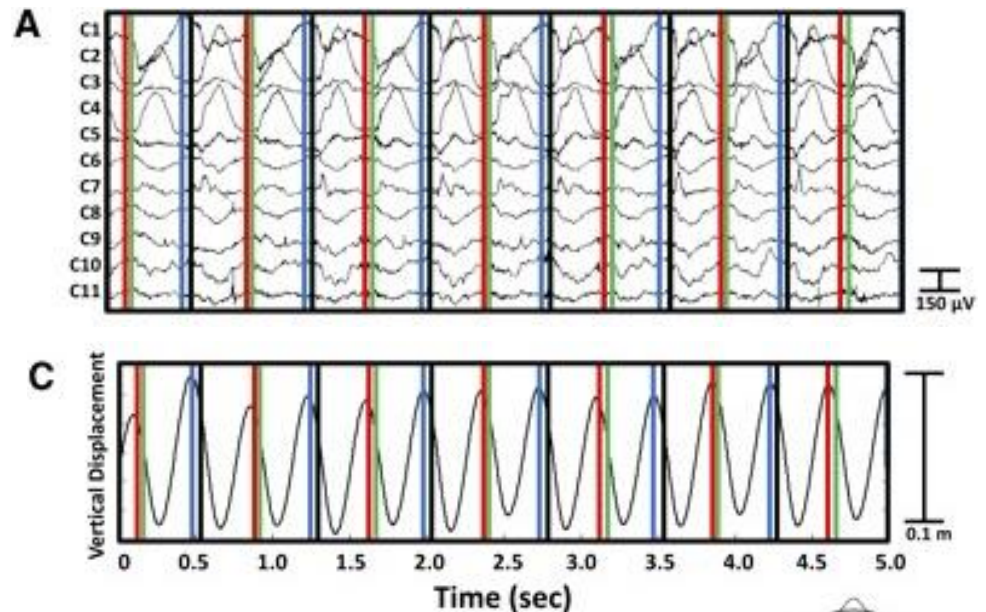
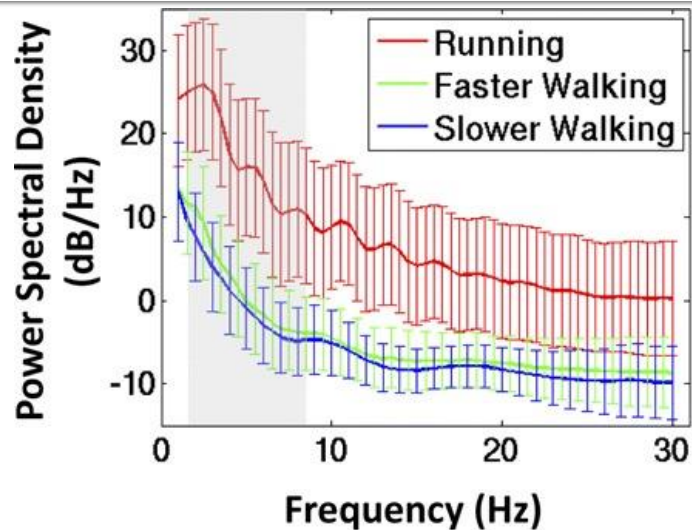
EEG while Walking



EEG while Walking



Signal Issues with Walking

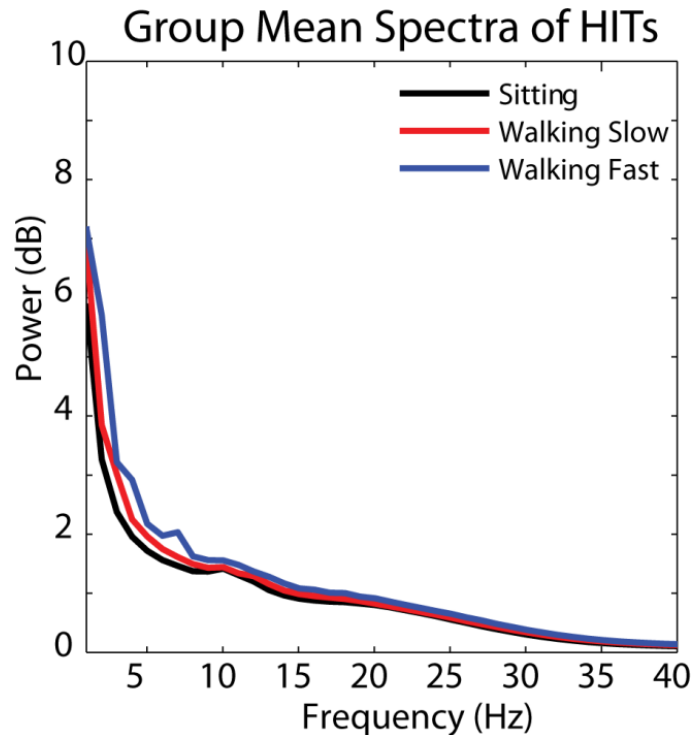


Response Inhibition Task

- Hit:
 - correct response in a *go* trial
- Correct Rejection:
 - successful withholding of a response in a *nogo* trial
- False Alarm:
 - Executing a response in a *nogo* trial



Feasible to acquire usable EEG data



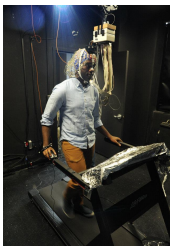
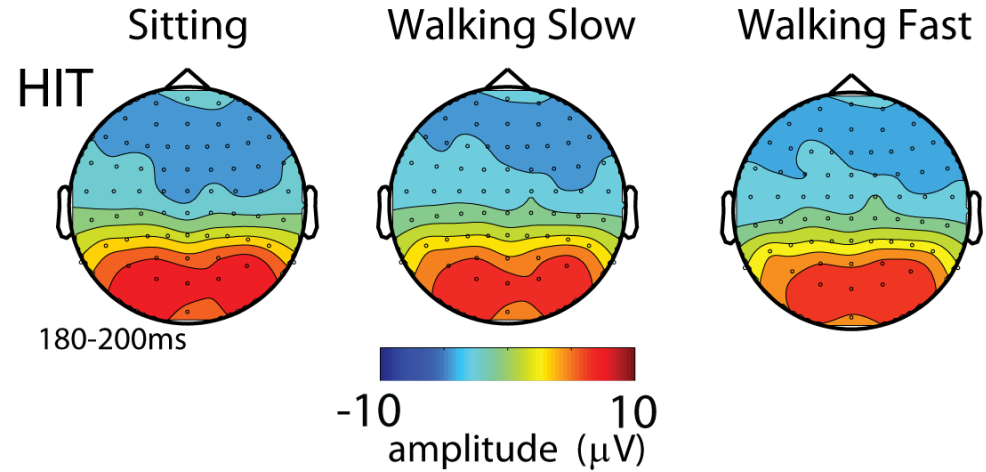
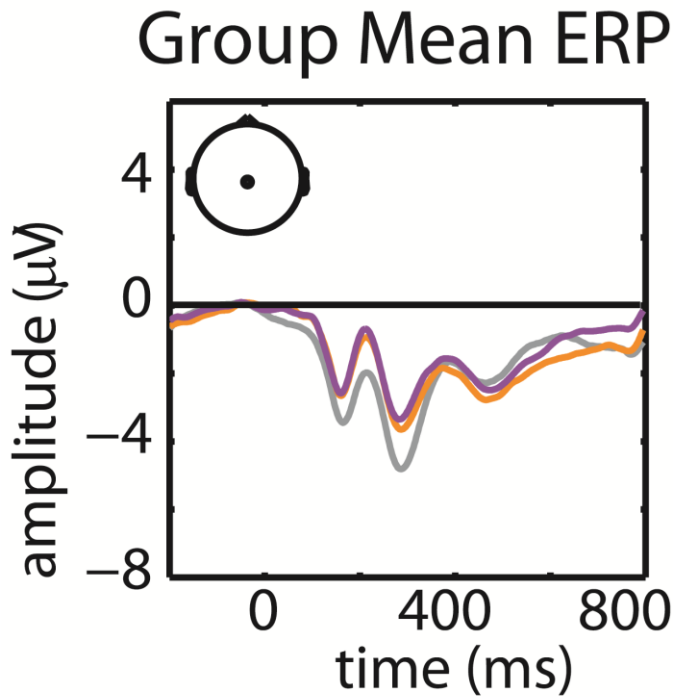
	Sitting	Walking Slow	Walking Fast
SNR Hit (dB)	54.8±2	53.6±1.6	49.9±2.2
SNR CR (dB)	35.3±2	34.0±2.5	32.6±2.2

Highly similar early evoked response and power spectrum point to the feasibility of acquiring EEG while walking



Feasible to acquire usable EEG data

HIT
— Sitting
— Walking Slow
— Walking Fast

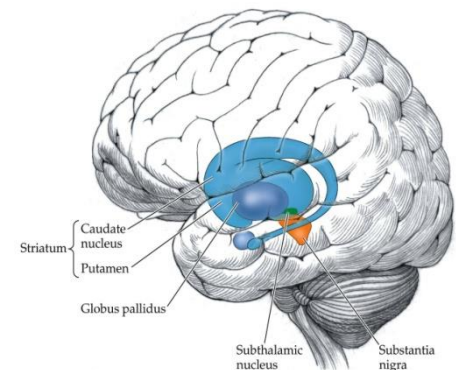


Talk Overview

1. Introduction
2. Distance Perception
3. Feasibility of neural recordings while moving
4. **Motor preparation in Parkinson's disease**
5. Cognitive flexibility of visual load while walking

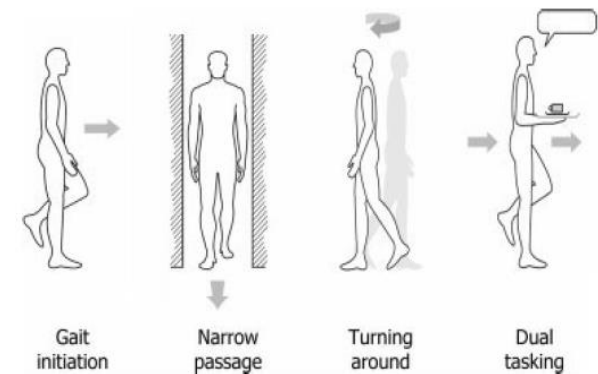
Parkinson's Disease

- Parkinson's disease (PD): neurodegenerative disorder characterised by loss of dopaminergic signalling in the basal ganglia
- Motor symptoms
 - Tremor
 - Bradykinesia
 - Rigidity
 - Postural disturbance
 - Freezing of gait
- Non-motor features: constipation, depression, anxiety, cognitive impairment, autonomic instability, hallucinations and impulse control disorders.
- Treatment: dopamine replacement or deep brain stimulation

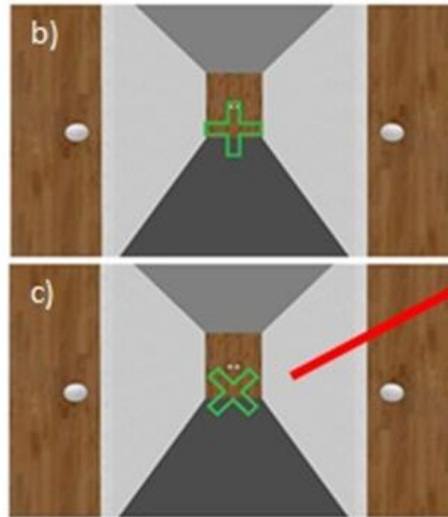
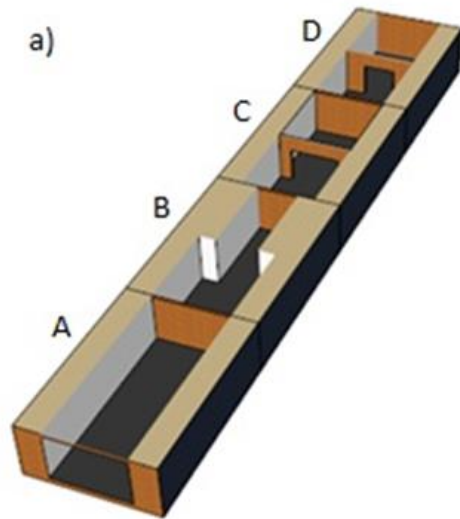


Freezing of Gait

- Intermittent gait disturbance - feet glued to floor
 - Most apparent in late-stage Parkinson's disease
- Affects up to 60% patients with Parkinson's disease
- Causes falls
- Poorly understood
 - No effective treatments
 - Difficult to study
 - Heterogeneous



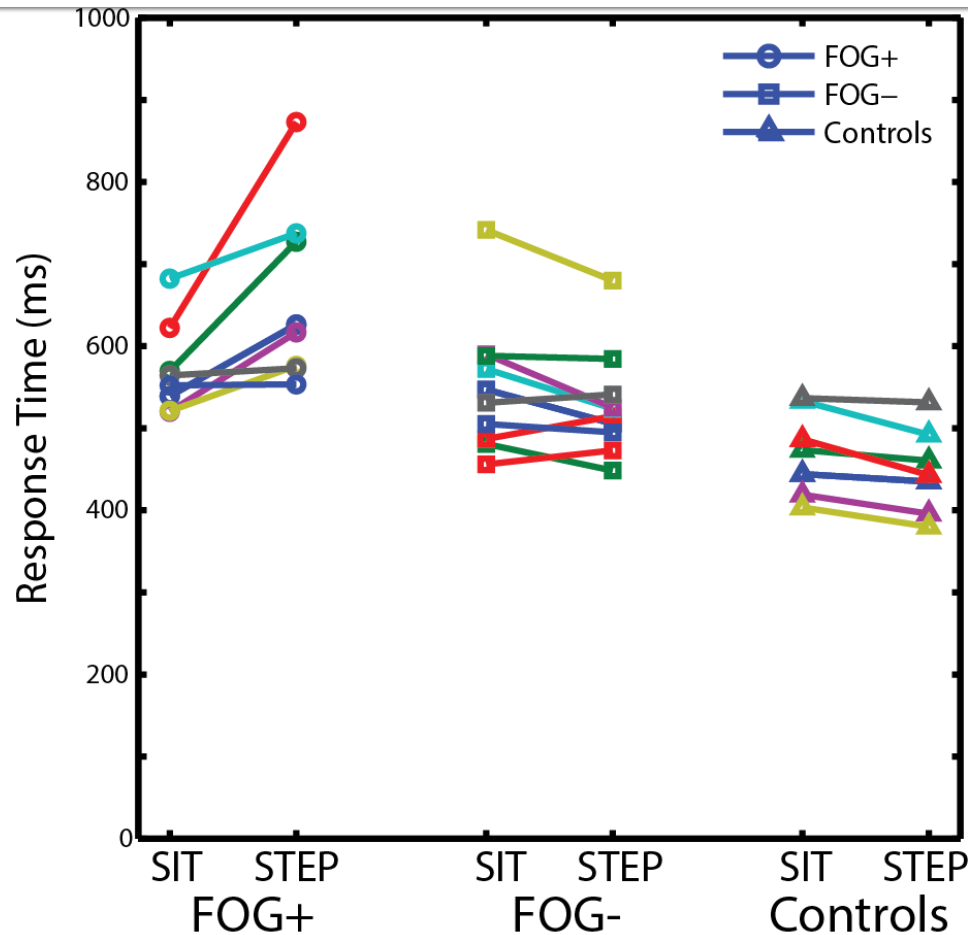
Dual Task



Oddball task while Stepping in Place

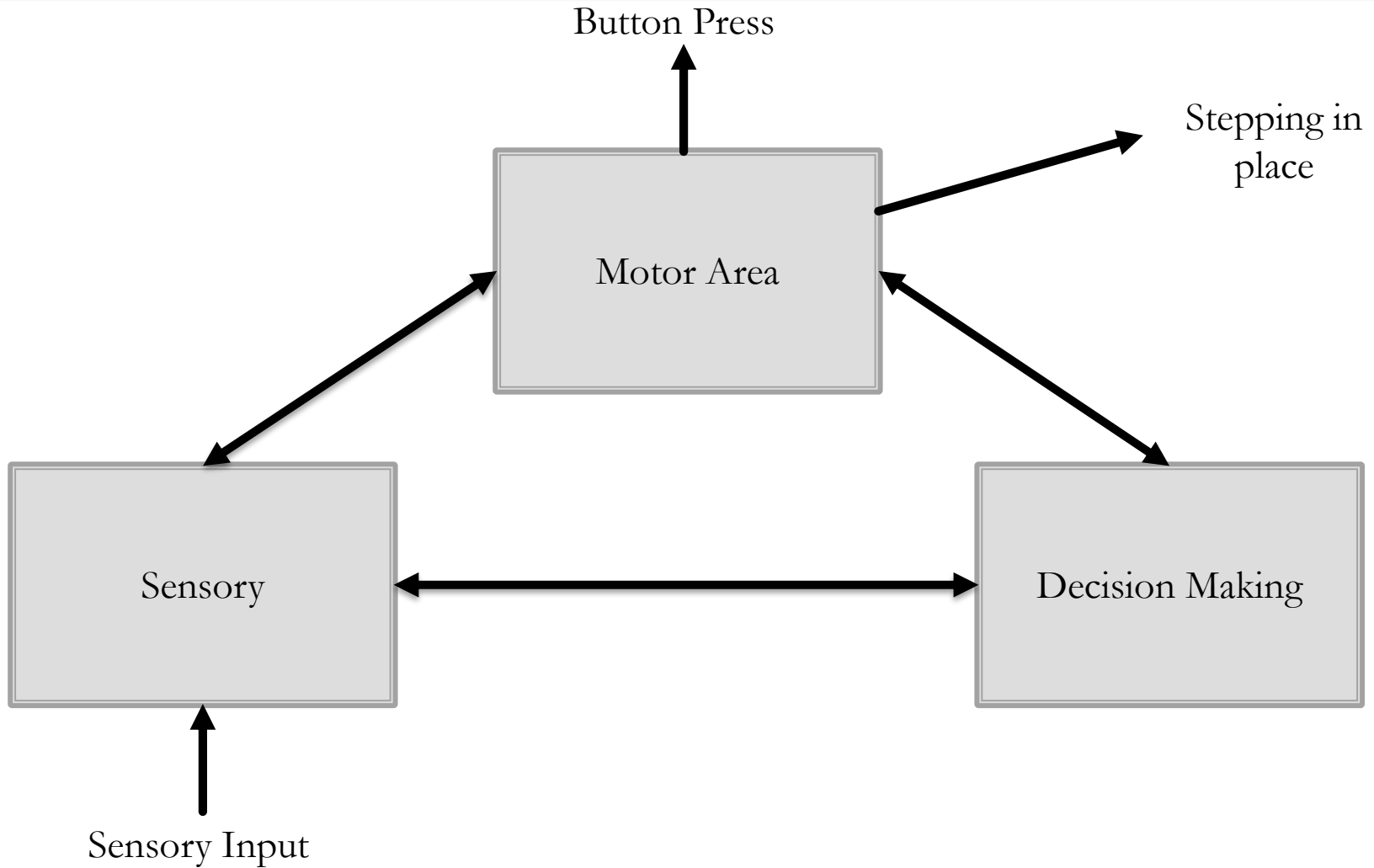
	FOG+	FOG-	Control	
N	8	10	7	■ Standard (80%)
Age (years)	65.7	62.5	25	■ Target (20%)
Gender (M:F)*	7:1	4:6	3:4	■ Button Response
H&Y stage	2.6	2.3		
Disease Duration (years)*	12.3 (8.36)	7.0 (3.6)		■ 1000ms epochs
UPDRS III	28.6	29.1		■ 128 channels
MOCA	24.0	26.1		
FAB*	14.9	17.3		

Behavioural



Significant interaction of Response Times for group (FOG+, FOG-, Controls) and condition (SIT, STEP)

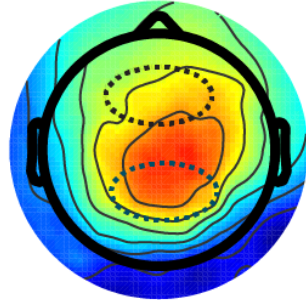
Sensory Motor Decision Making



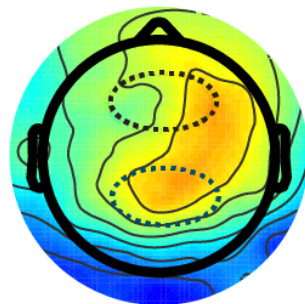
Laplacian (Second Order Spatial Derivative)

ERP (mV)

FOG-



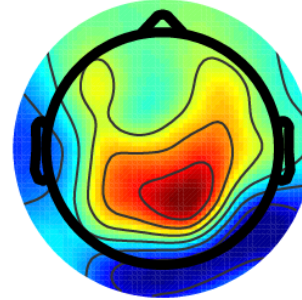
FOG+



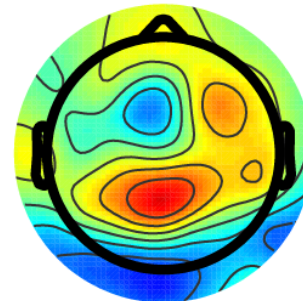
454-654ms

Laplacian (mV/m²)

FOG-



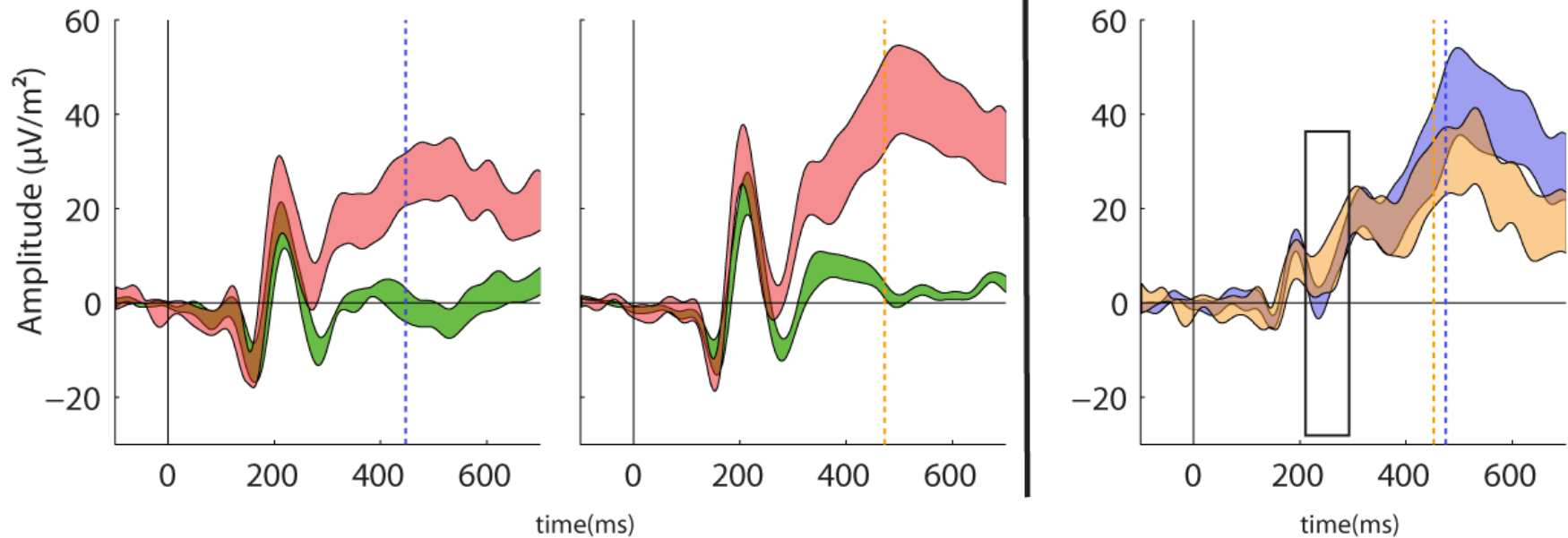
FOG+



454-654ms

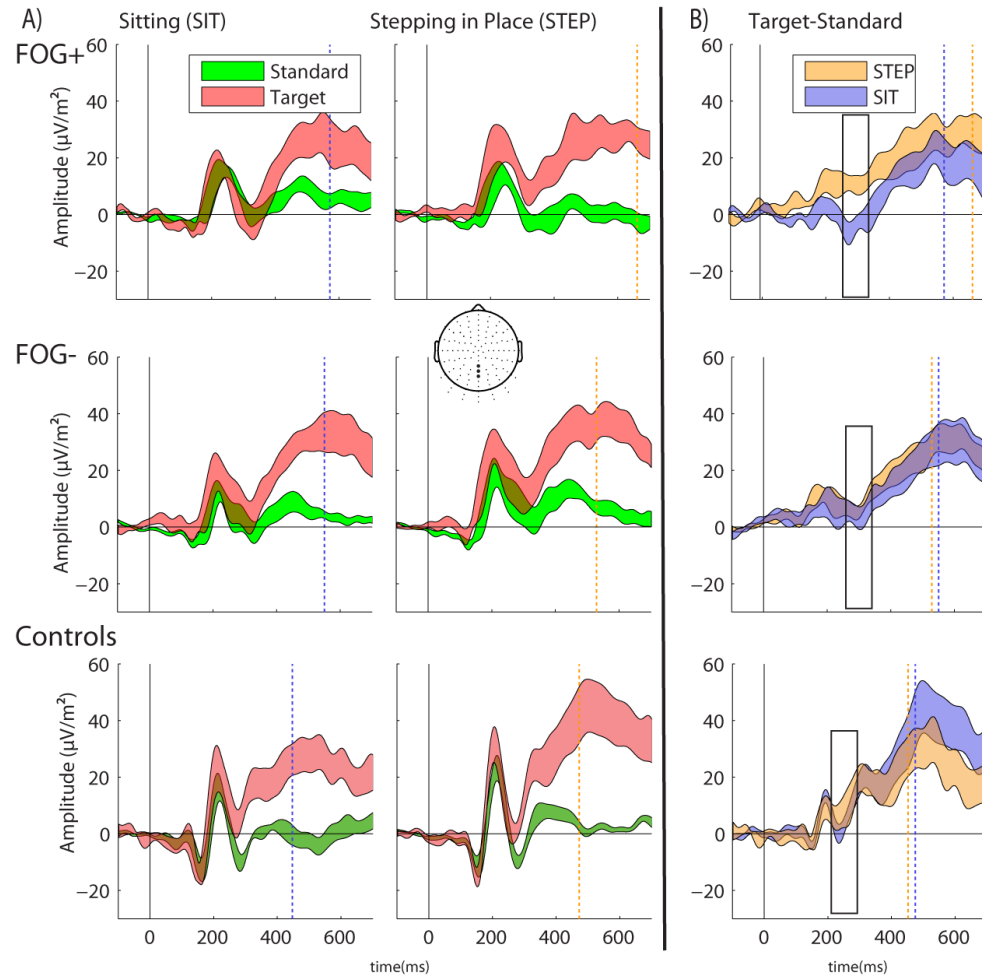
Standard vs Target

Controls



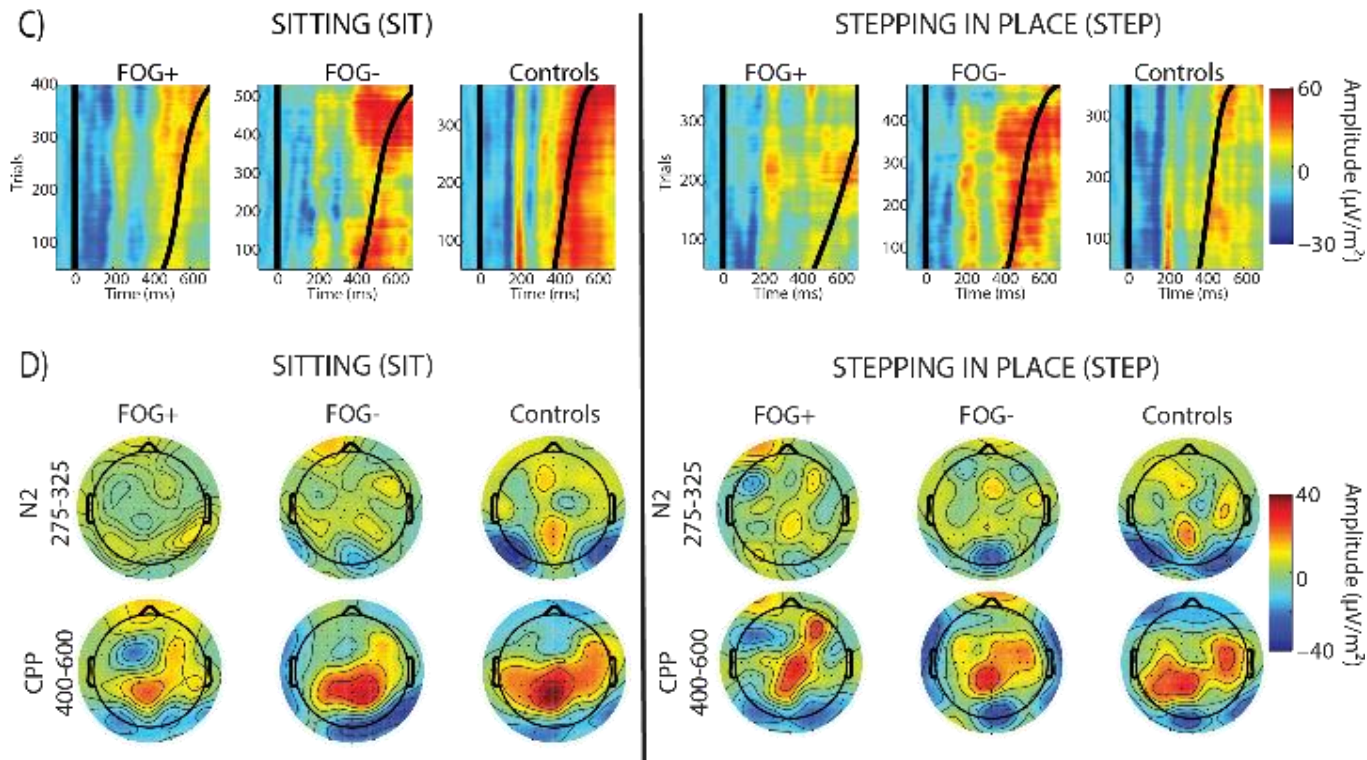
Relatively clean data for both sitting and stepping in place

Standard vs Target



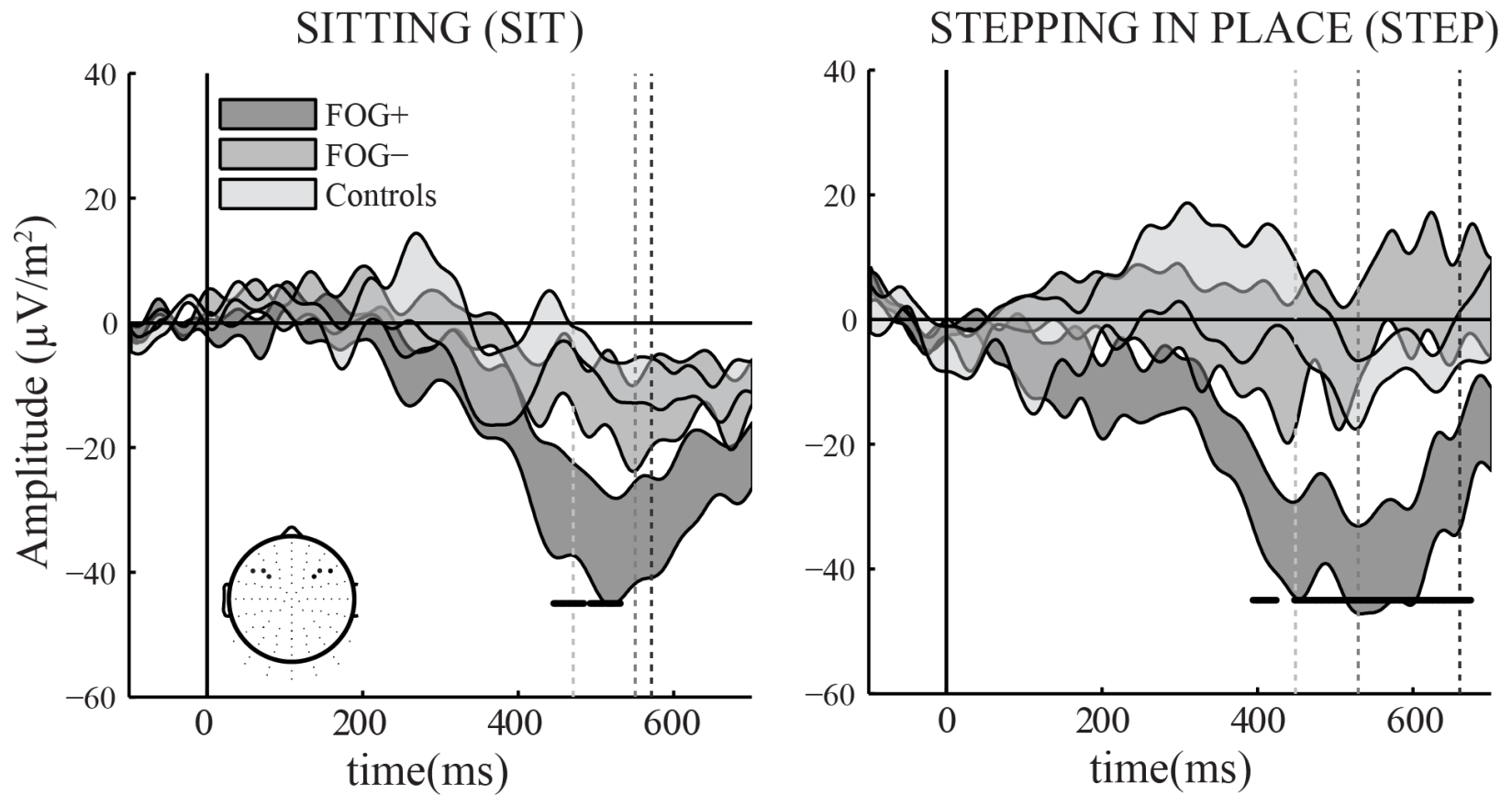
Relatively clean data for both sitting and stepping in place

Automatic (N2) and decision (CPP) response



Automatic response (N2) is absent in FOG+ while stepping in place

Readiness Potential



Earlier onset and larger motor response for the FOG+ group

Summary III

- With the added load of stepping in place FOG+ response times were slowed
- Absence of N2 suggests that early “automatic” resources are being re-allocated
- The larger and earlier onset of the LRP while walking illustrates the recruitment of resources to perform the task

Talk Overview

1. Introduction
2. Distance Perception
3. Feasibility of neural recordings while moving
4. Motor preparation in Parkinson's disease
5. **Cognitive flexibility of visual load while walking**

Visual Load

- Participants: 16 young adults (mean age = 26 years)
- Self-selected treadmill walking speed (average = 3.9 km/h)
- Experimental conditions
 - **Cognitive Load:**
 - Engage in task
 - Walking only (do not engage in task)
 - **Visual Load:**
 - Static star field
 - Optic flow no perturbations (NOP)
 - Optic flow mediolateral perturbations (MLP)

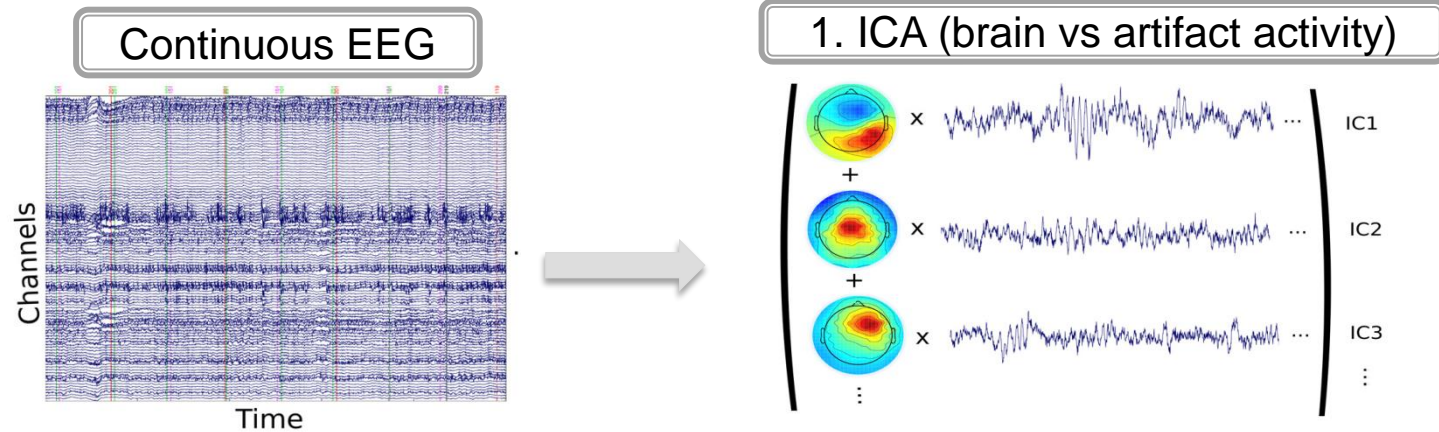
www.fraps.com

O

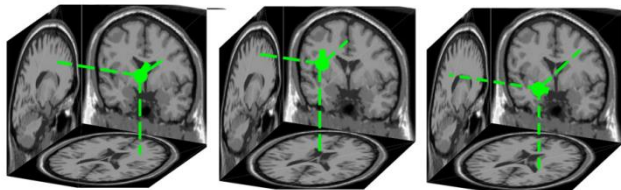
www.fraps.com

+

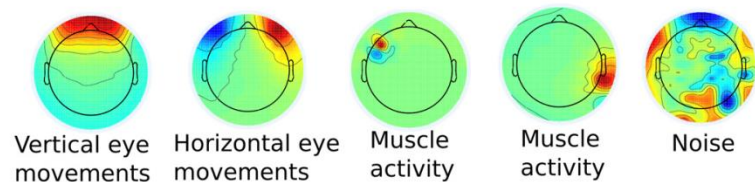
Methods: ICA and clustering analysis



2. Estimate IC equivalent current dipole locations

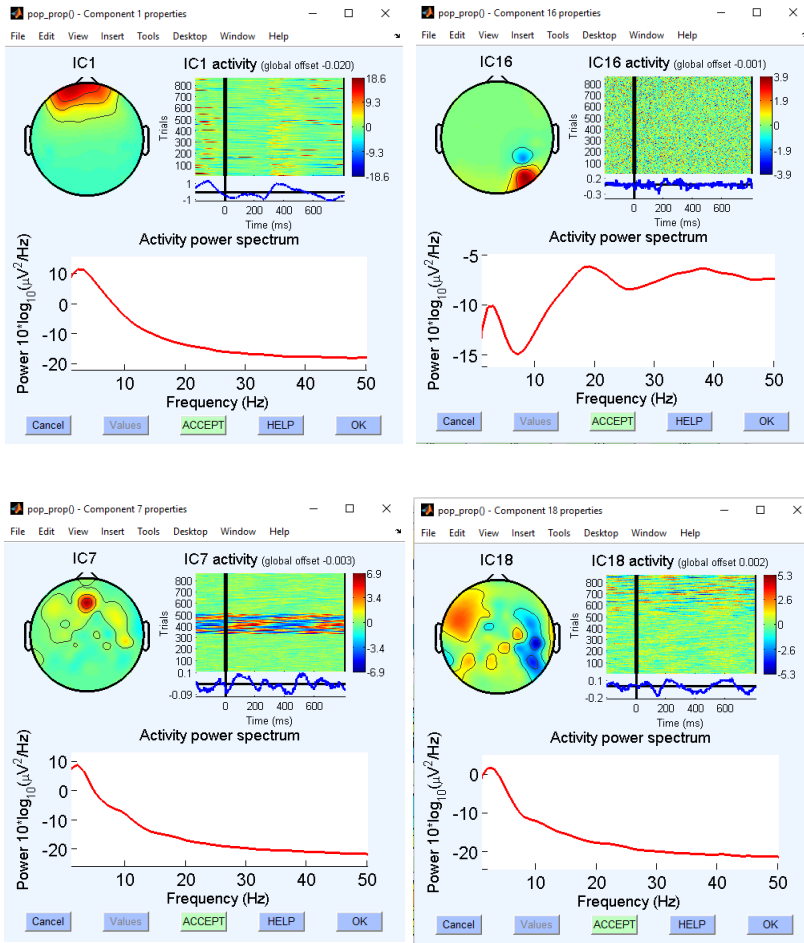


3. Identify & deselect non-brain artifact ICs

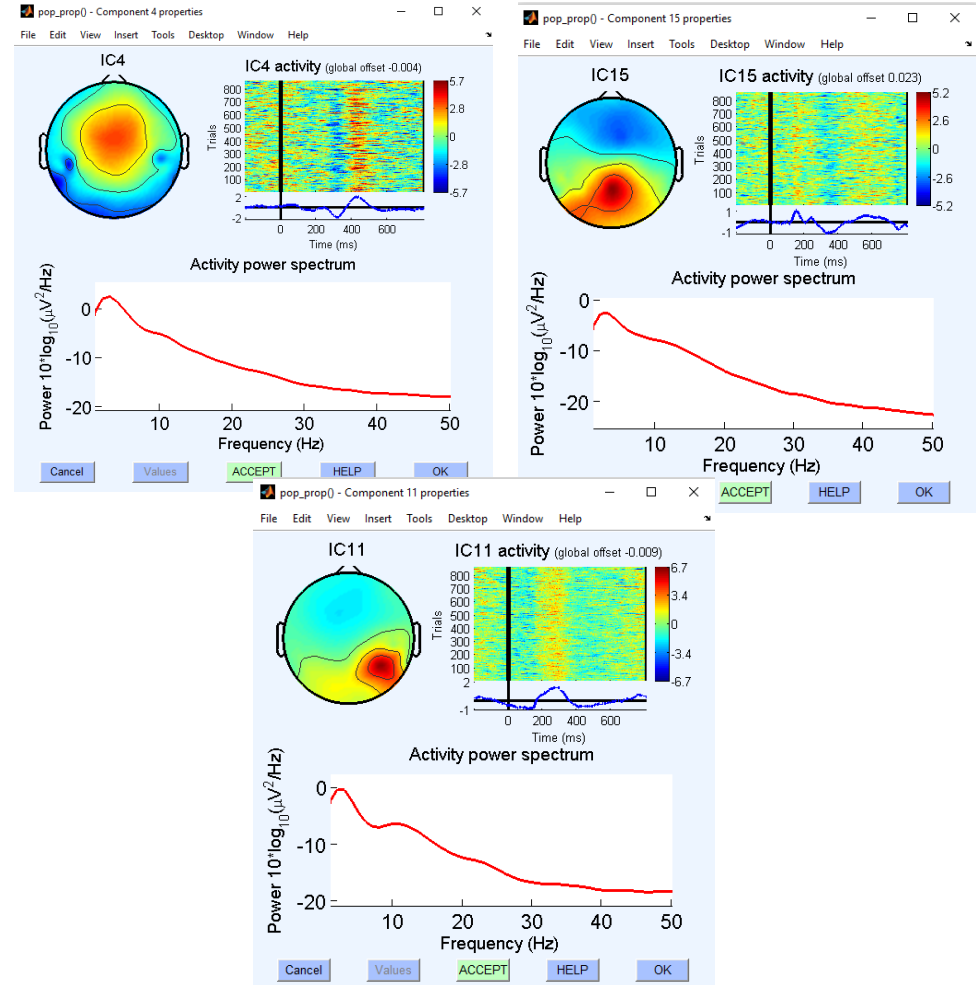


ICA artifact rejection

Artifactual Components

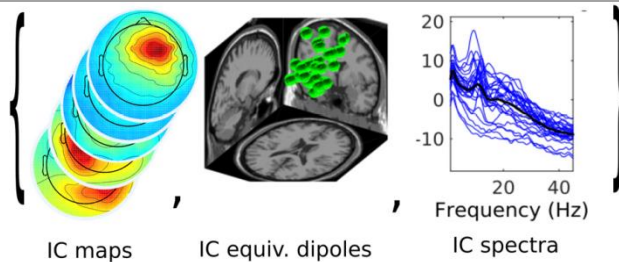


Brain Components

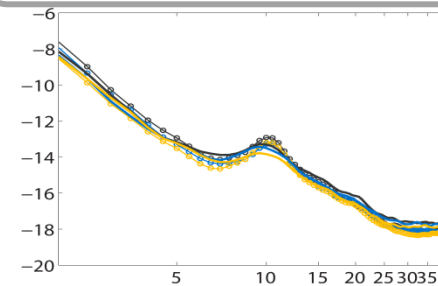


Methods: ICA and clustering analysis

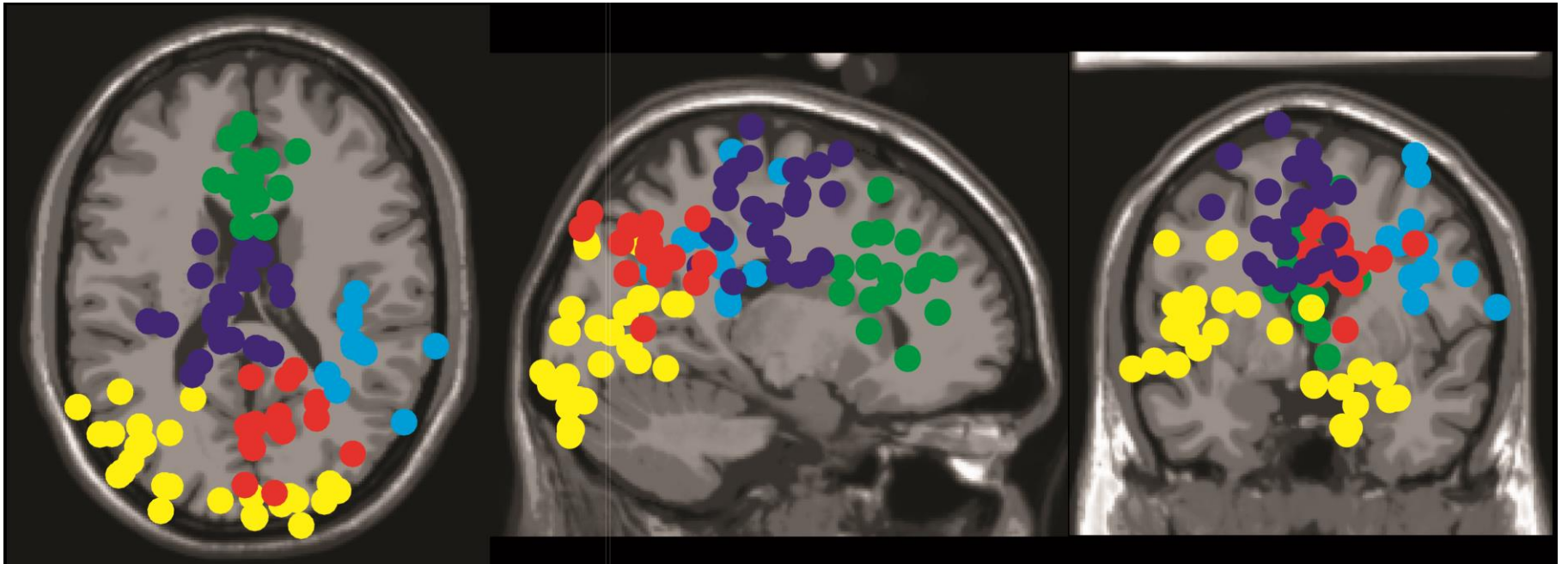
4. Cluster remaining brain ICs across subjects, based on:



5. Average IC periodograms across each cluster, for each condition



Cortical IC Clusters

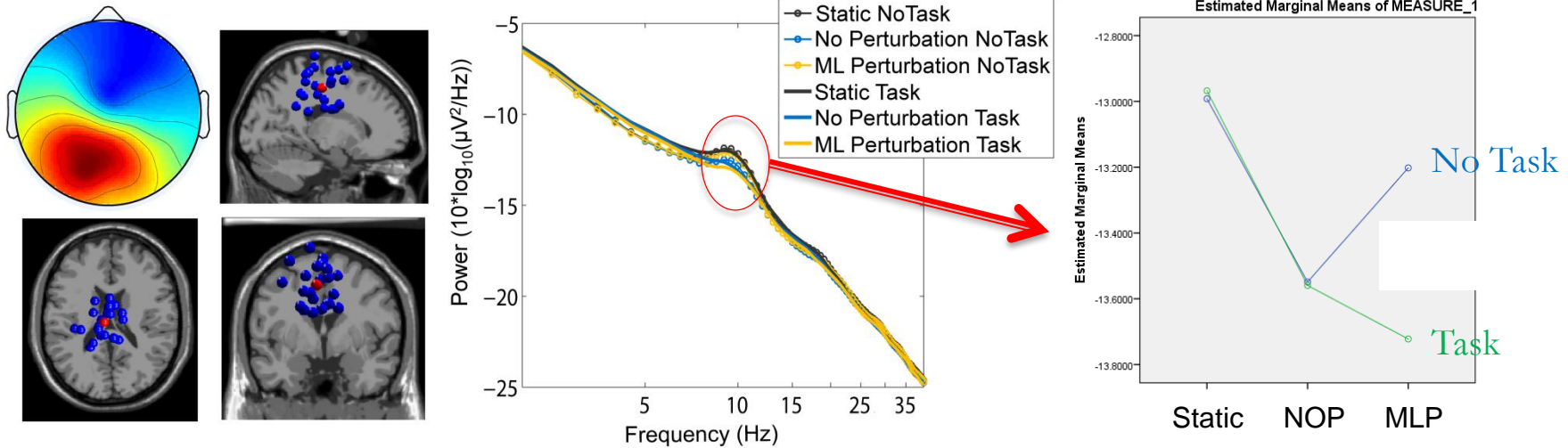


Hypotheses for Power Spectral Density

1. Power (amplitude) reduction or desynchronization, in 8-30Hz -> cortical excitability before and during movements
 - Hypothesis: decreased mu and beta power with increased sensory load (optic flow vs. static)
2. Visual processing leads to reduced alpha power over occipital regions
 - Hypothesis: Sensory load and cognitive load (processing letters vs. not processing letters) will lead to decreased power in the alpha (8-14Hz) band over occipital regions
3. Increased alpha power over parietal regions is linked to attentional mechanisms to suppress task-irrelevant information
 - Hypothesis: sensory load, particularly unreliable visual scene motion (ML perturbations) will drive alpha power over parietal cortex

PSD: frontal (SMA & ACC) Clusters

Supplementary motor area (14 S, 23 ICs)



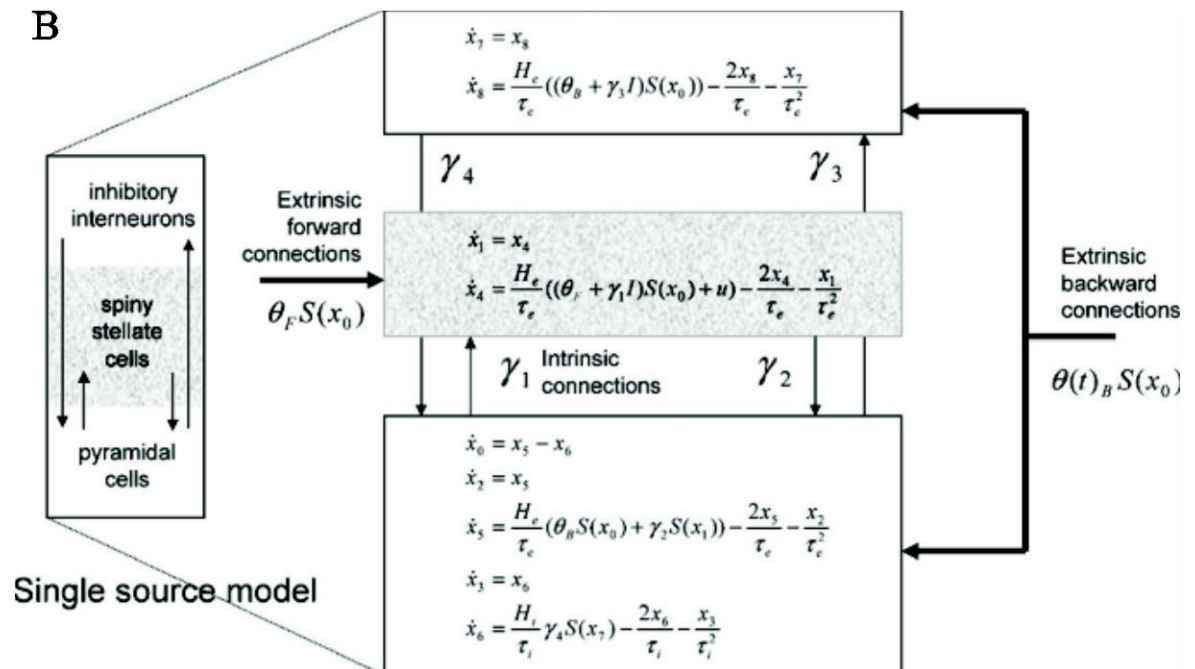
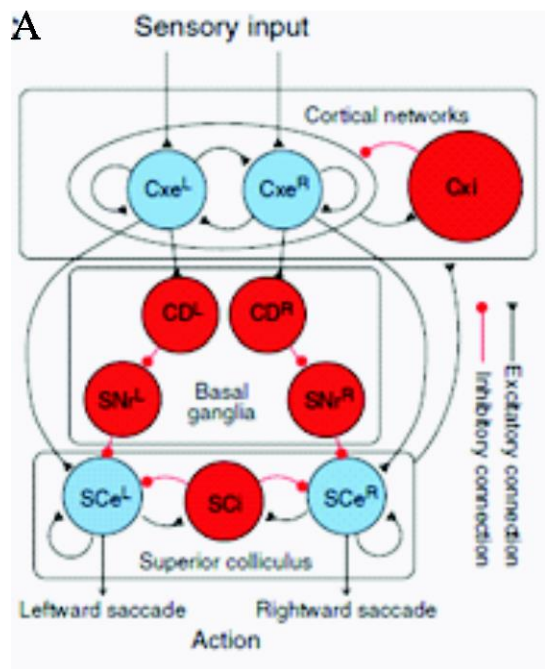
Summary IV

- One of the first studies that has attempted to understand cortical underpinnings of gait control under conflicting sensory demands
- ICA and clustering approach helped define a distributed network of sources responsive to sensory and cognitive load
- Optic flow induced changes in gait & posture may be used as a tool to assess cortical underpinnings of dynamic stability

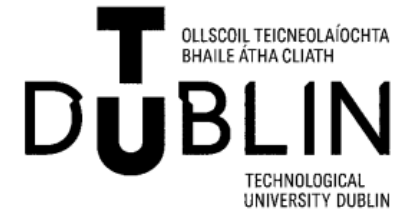
Conclusion

- Simple models can explain and predict self-motion
- EEG can be collected during active and passive motion
- Meaningful results that further our understanding of self-motion

Future Directions



Thank you



Albert Einstein College of Medicine

Adam Snyder

Brenda Malcolm

Pierofilipo DeSanctis

John Foxe



Albert Einstein College of Medicine
OF YESHIVA UNIVERSITY

Trinity College Dublin

Hugh Nolan

Robert Whelan

Richard Reilly



Max Planck Institute for Biological Cybernetics

Jennifer Campos

Heinrich Bülthoff



The Mater Misericordiae University Hospital

Conor Fearon

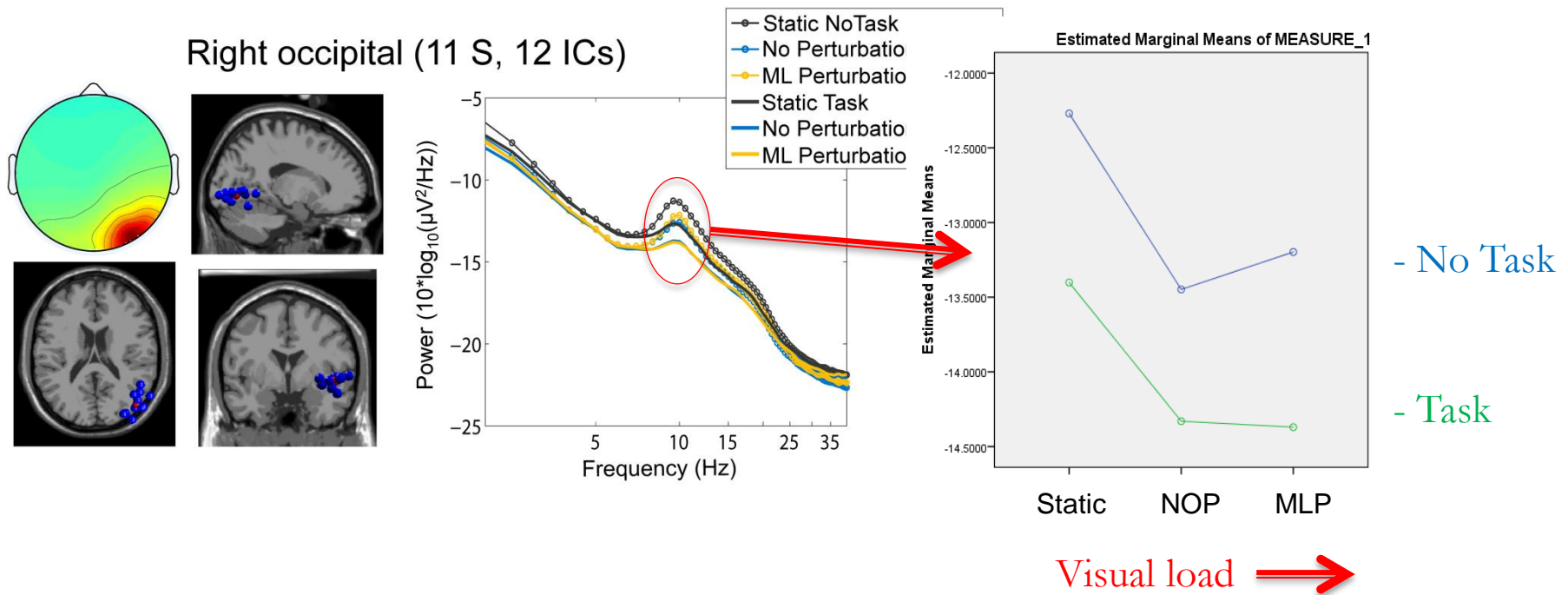
Timothy Lynch

MPI FOR BIOLOGICAL CYBERNETICS

Any questions

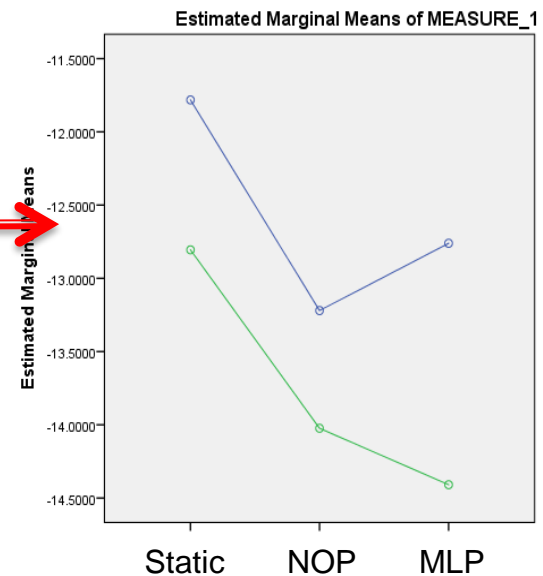
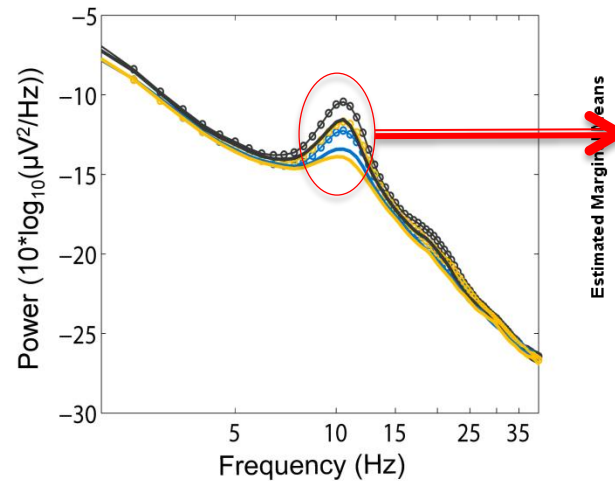
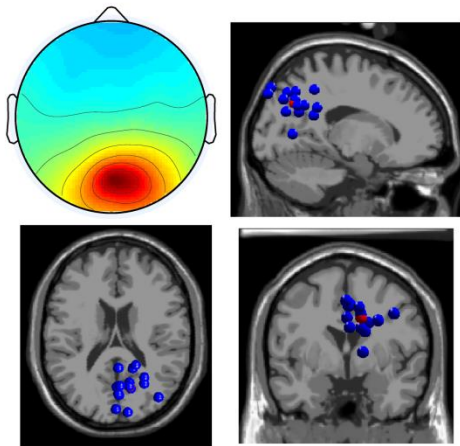


PSD: Occipital alpha



PSD: Right parietal alpha

Parietal lobe, precuneus (11 S, 15 ICs)



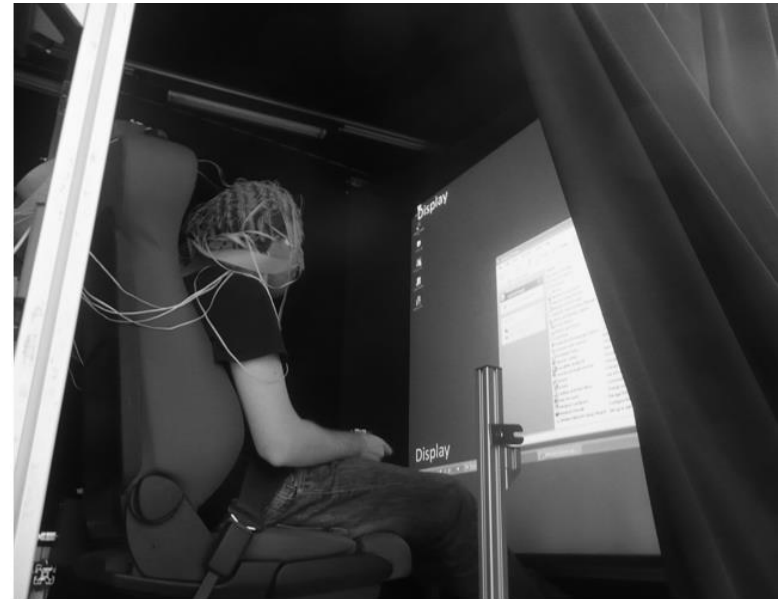
- No Task

- Task

Visual load →

Vestibular Oddball

- Vestibular Conditions
 - Diagonal Left Target
 - Diagonal Right Target
- Vestibular P3 paradigm
 - 80% Standard (320 sweeps)
 - 20% Target (80 sweeps)
- 15 participants
- 128 scalp channels



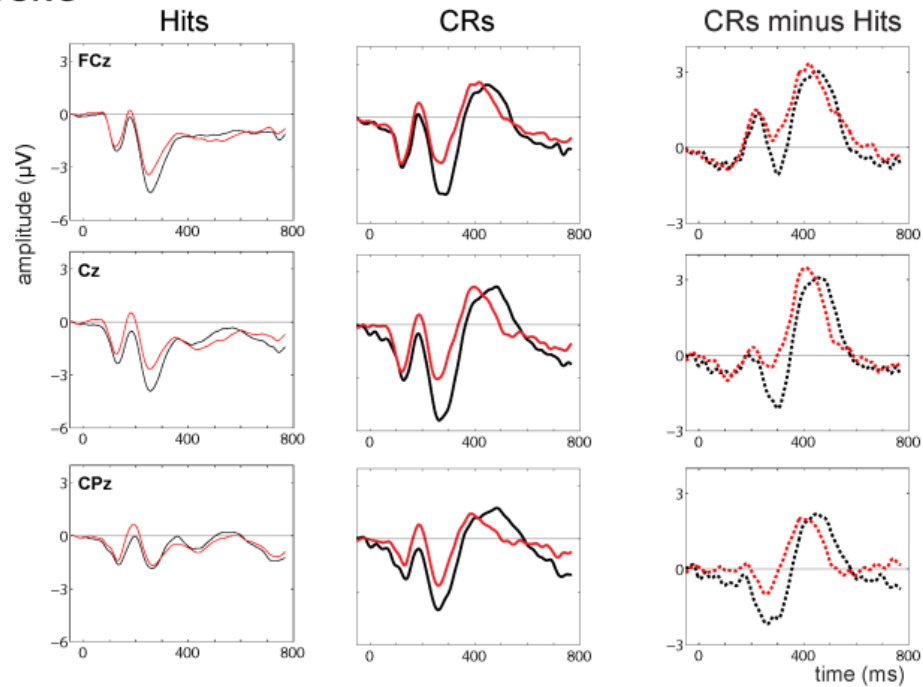
The aging brain shows less flexible reallocation of cognitive resources during dual-task walking: a mobile brain/body imaging (MoBI) study

Age	Young	Old
Range	21.8-36.1	57.7-71.0
Mean	27.2	63.9
SD	4.6	4.0
	N=18	N=18



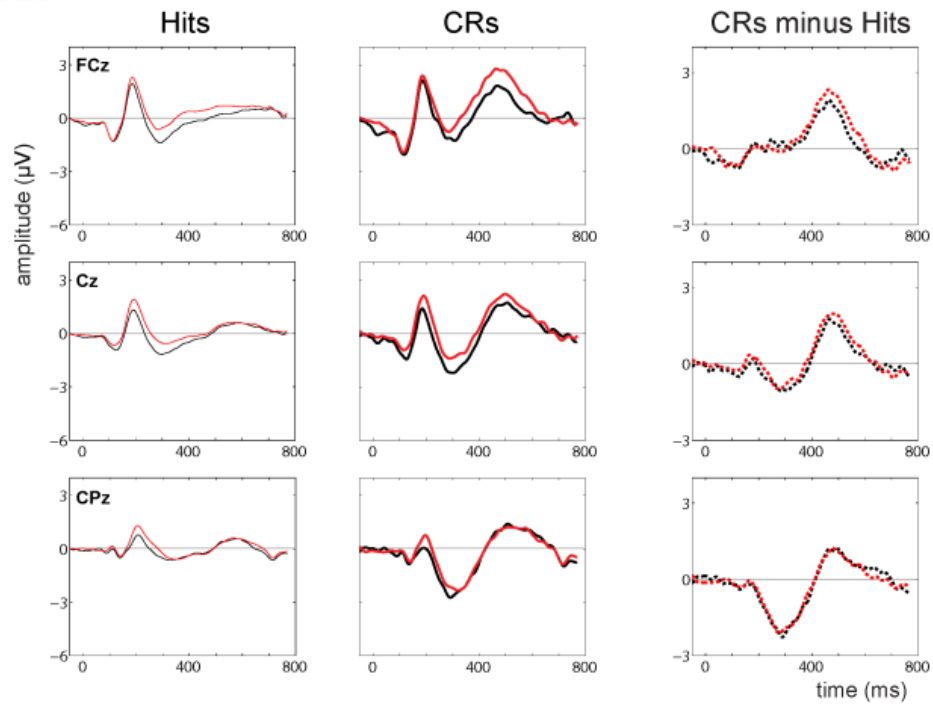
ERP - Young

YOUNG



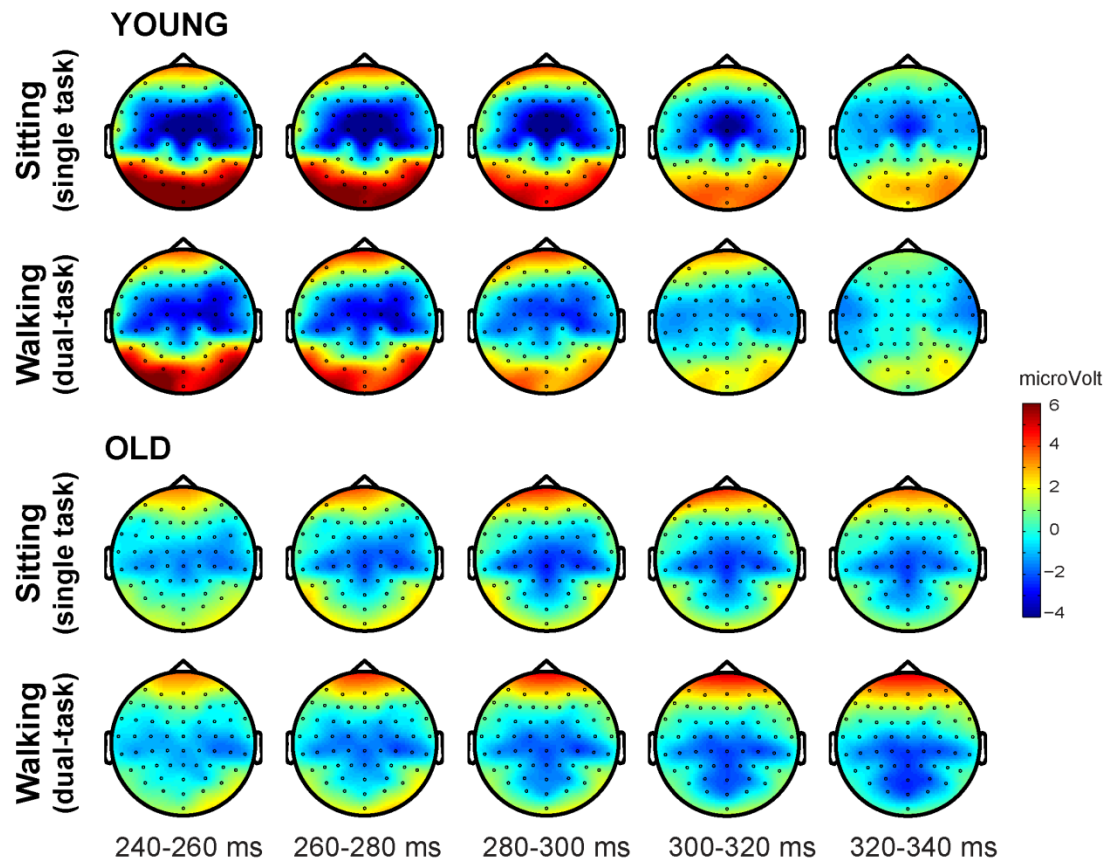
ERP - Old

OLD



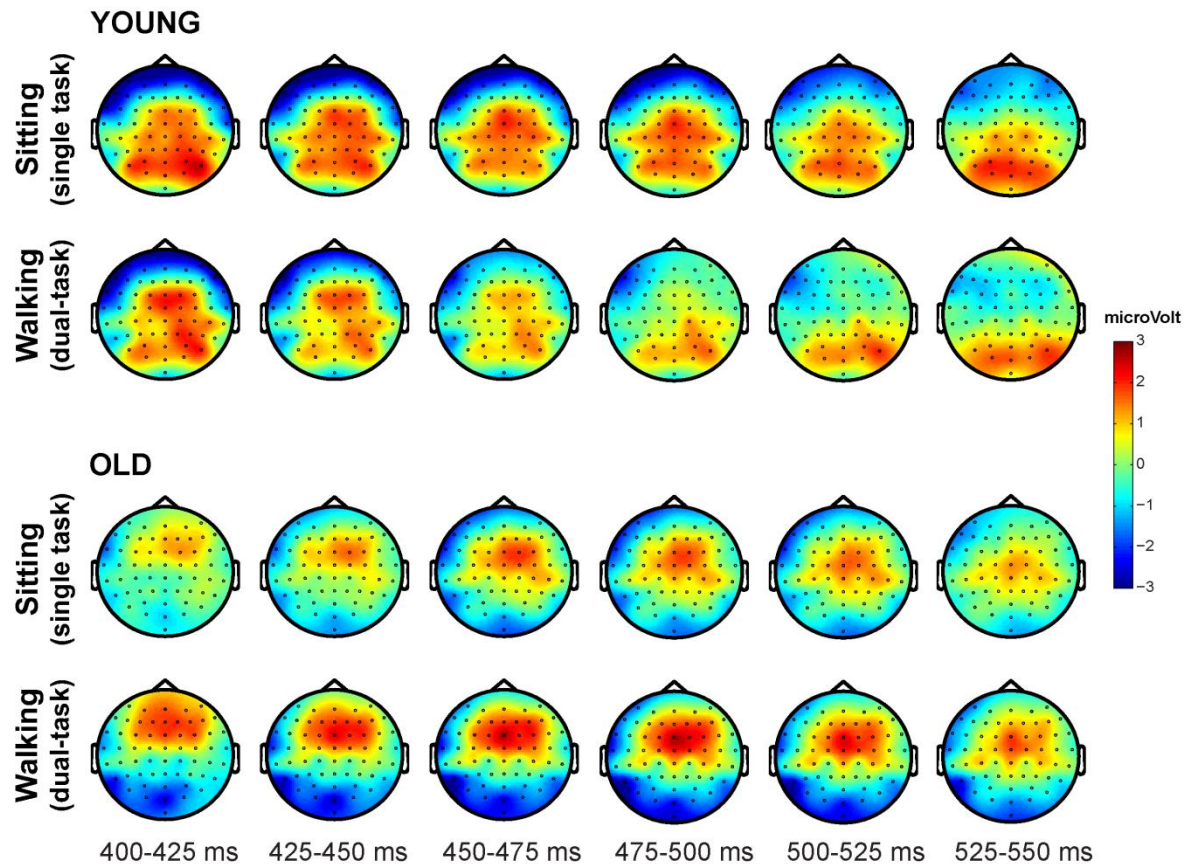
N2 topographical distribution

N2 Scalp Topography for Correct Rejection Trials

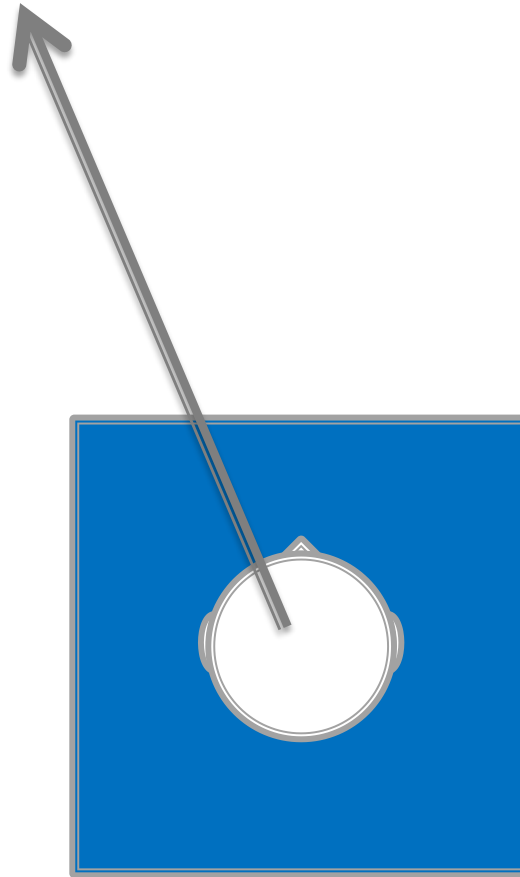


P3 topographical distribution

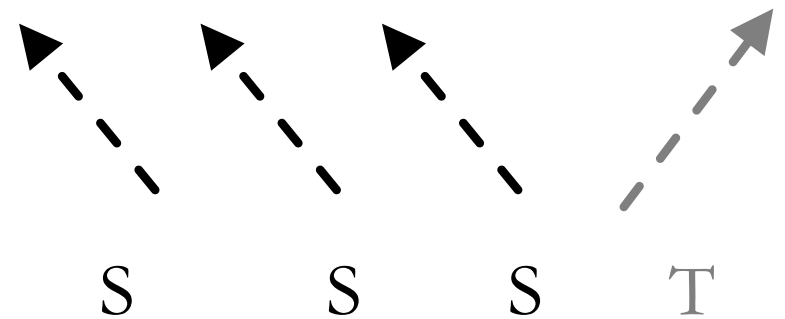
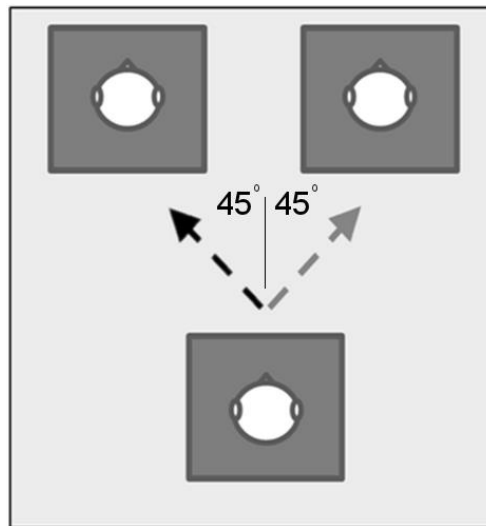
P3 Scalp Topography for Correct Rejection Trials



Vestibular Oddball



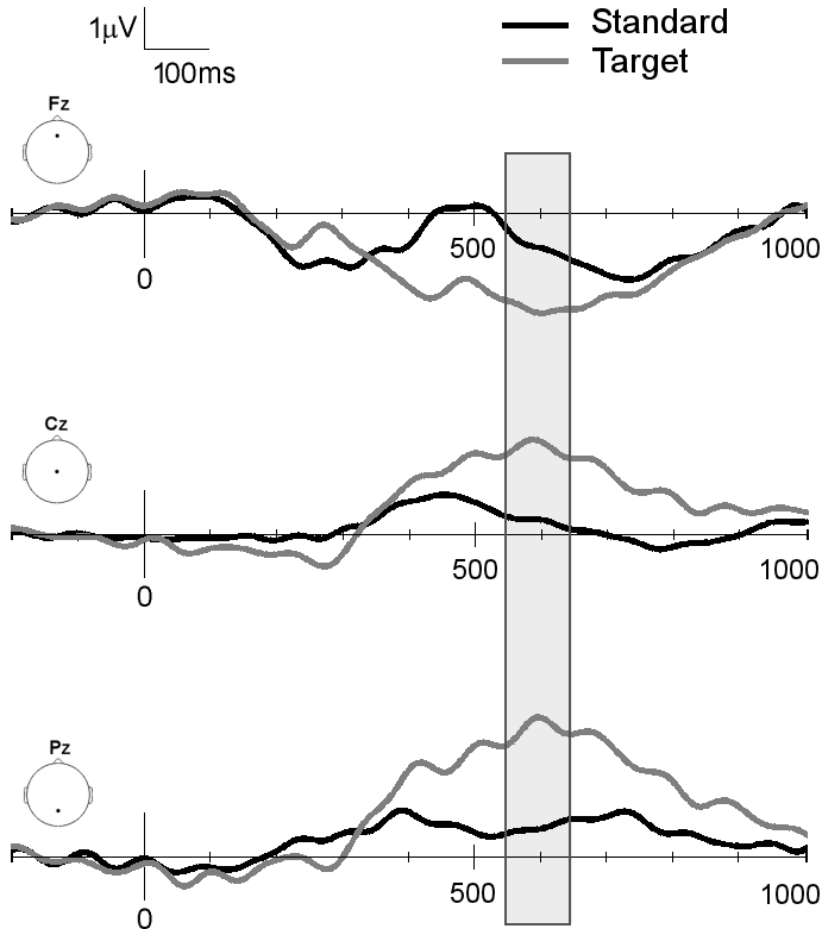
Procedure



A neuronal marker for vestibular change detection



Results- Vestibular P3

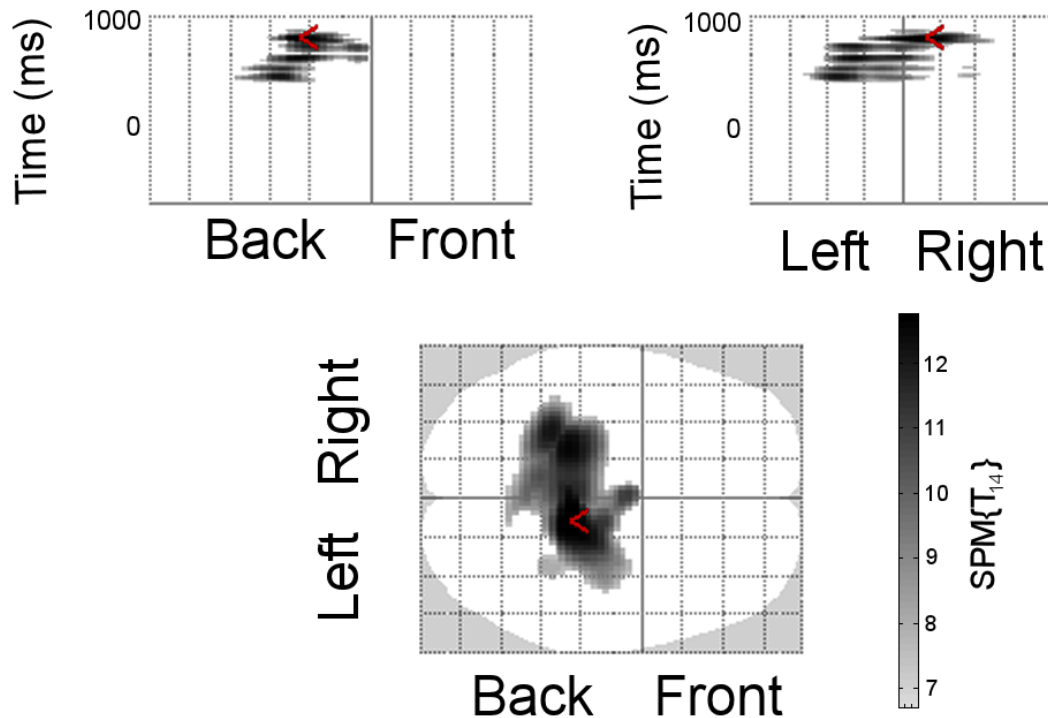


- Statistical difference between the standard and target



P3 distribution

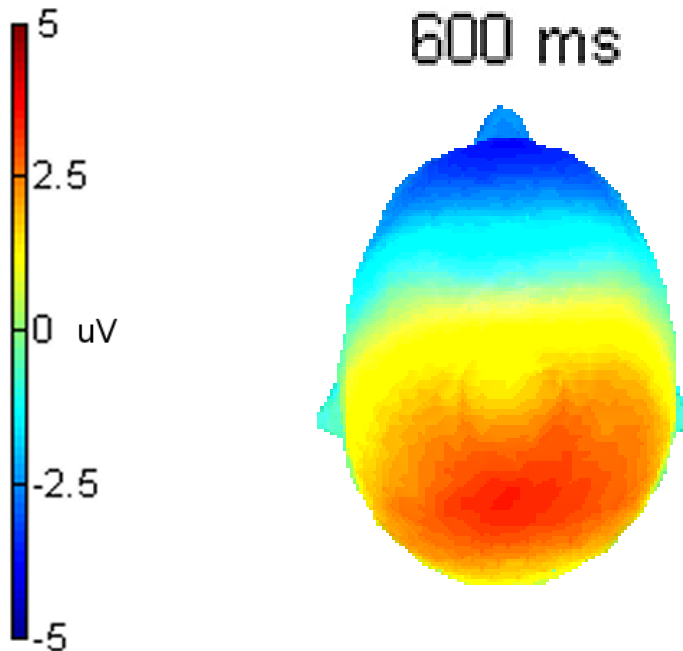
Target vs Standard



Target topographic scalp distribution is similar to the typical P3 distribution for other sensory modalities



Scalp Distribution



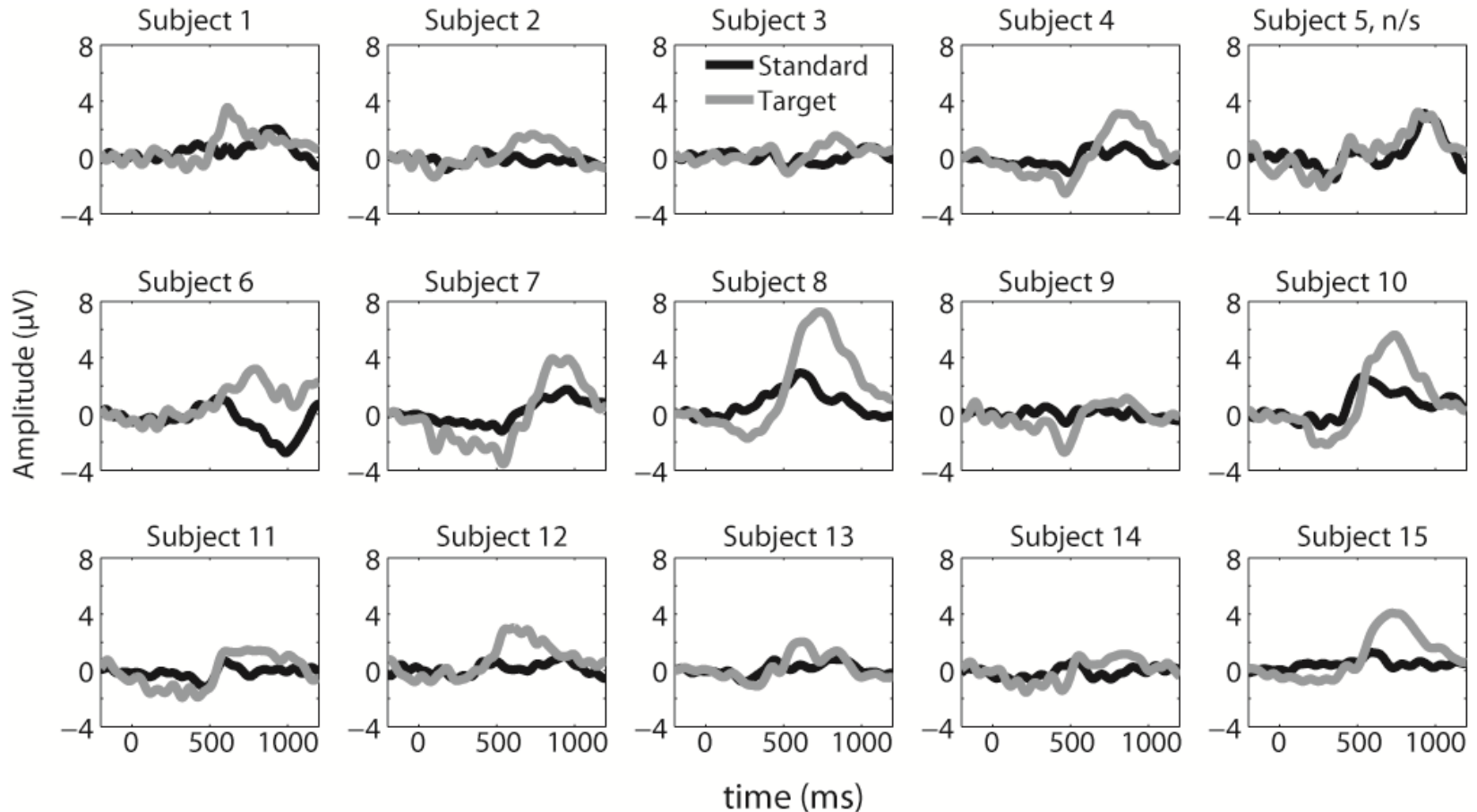
- Target topographic scalp distribution is similar to the typical P3 distribution for other sensory modalities



Individual Participant Analysis

BOOTSTRAP

Individual Participant data



14 of 15 participants exhibited a P3



Summary II



- This is the first time vestibular heading change detection has been shown to elicit a P3 component.



Response Inhibition Task

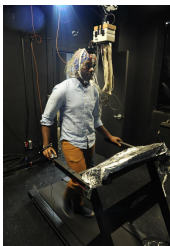


■ Task

- Go/Nogo Response Inhibition Task
- NoGo: repetition of the same picture
- Stimulus presentation rate 1/per sec
- Go/Nogo = 80/20%

■ Conditions

- Sitting
- Walking Slow (2.4 km/h)
- Walking Fast (5 km/h)



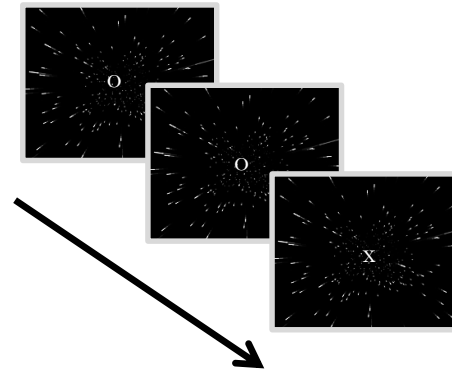
Methods

Participants

- Young Adults (n=16) mean age = 25.6 years
- Average walking speed: 3.9 km/hr (range: 3.2 – 4.5)

6 Experimental Conditions

- Task Load (2) x Optic Flow (3)
- 3 blocks of each condition
- Task:
 - Go/No-Go probability = 80%/20%
 - Letter presentation = 400ms
 - Random SOA : 600-800ms
- Optic Flow
 - static (control condition?)
 - steady/no perturbation
 - mediolateral perturbations

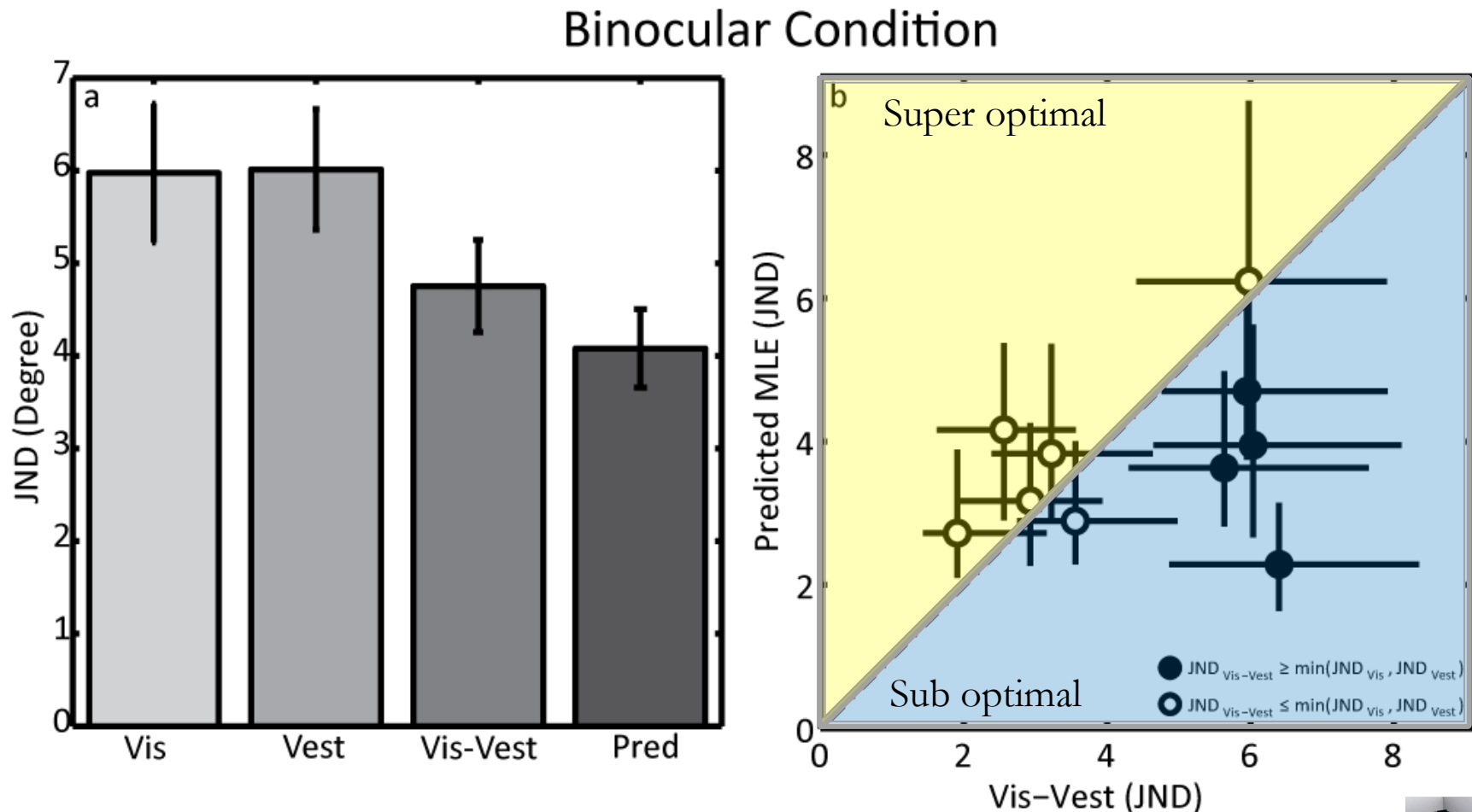


Cognitive Load	Sensory Load: Optic Flow Perturbation (relative to walking speed/direction)		
	Static/No-Task	Congruent/No-Task	Incongruent/No-Task
Static-Task	Congruent/Task	Incongruent/Task	

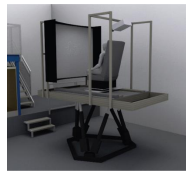
Summary IV

- Younger adults adjust gait and cognitive control when presented with a dual task situation
- Healthy older adults show a lack of flexibility, both in terms of adjusting physical behavior and in reconfiguring cognitive control mechanisms at the neural level.

Binocular Condition

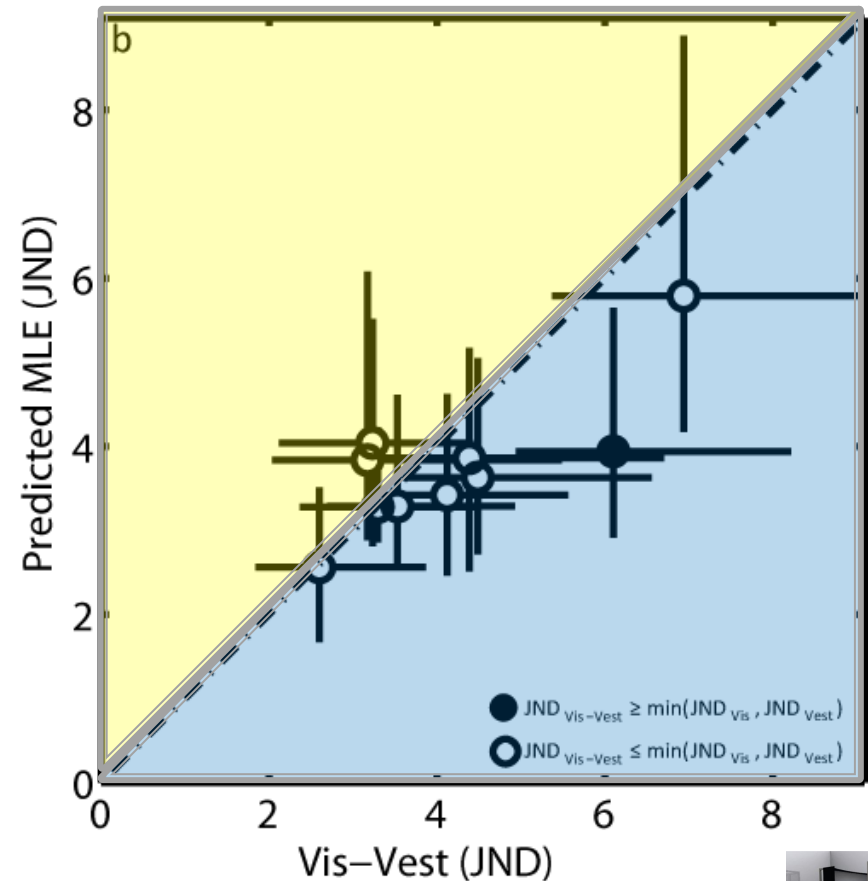
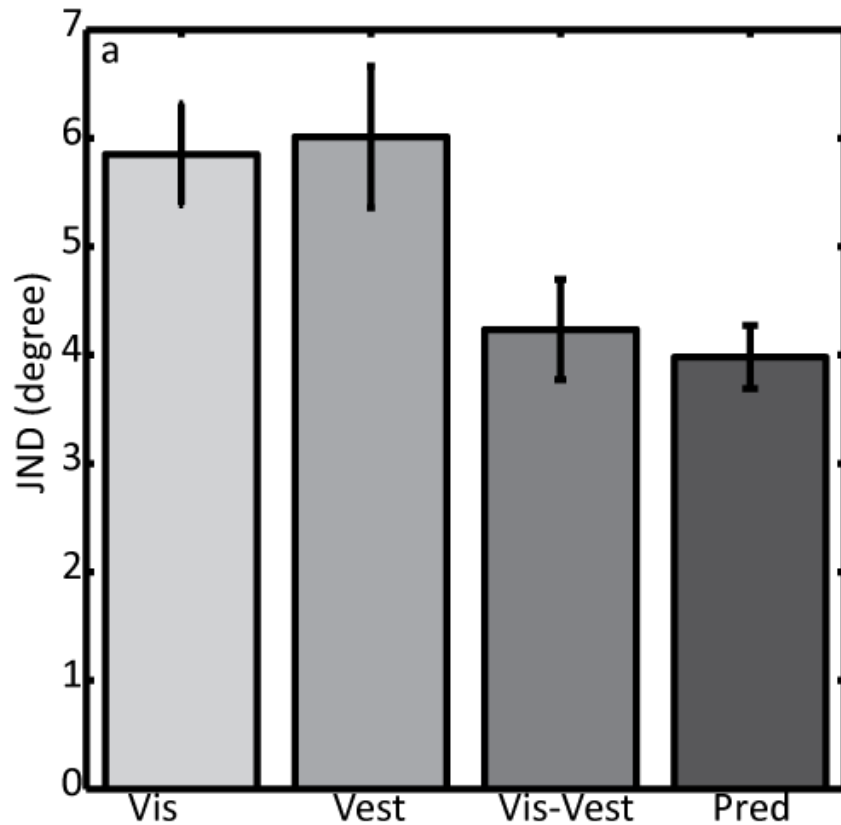


6 of the 10 exhibit optimal combination of sense

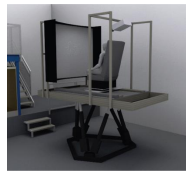


Stereoscopic Condition

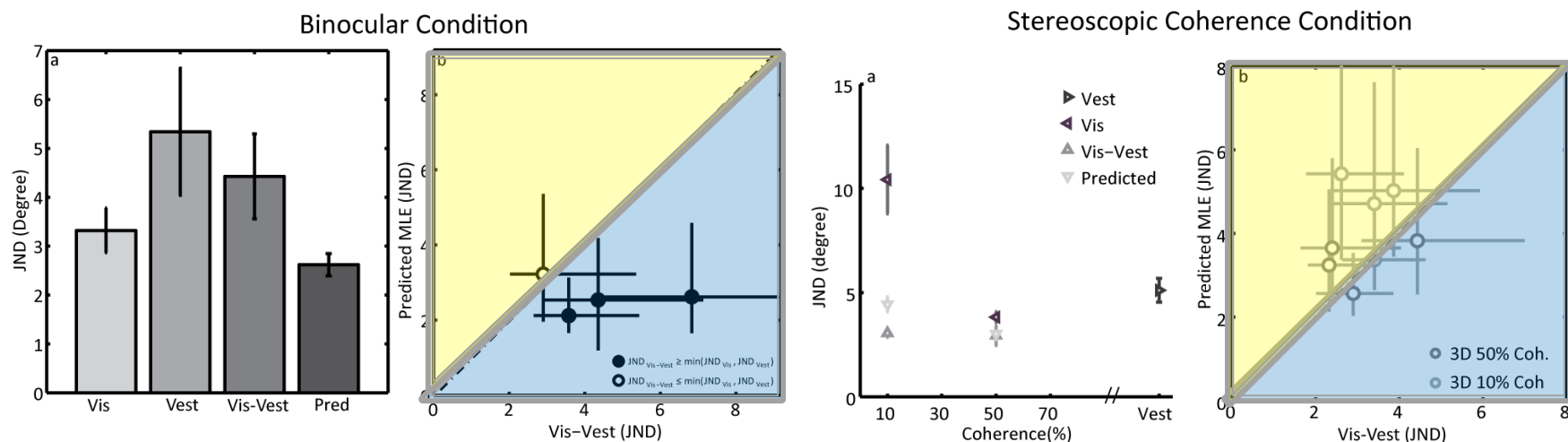
Stereoscopic Condition



9 of the 10 exhibit optimal combination of sense



Reproducible nature of result

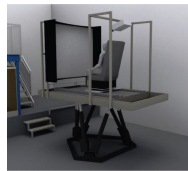


A subset of the original participants were re-run and exhibited identical results



Summary

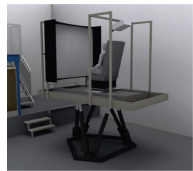
- The presence/absence of stereoscopic visual information can impact the extent to which visual and vestibular cues are integrated during heading perception.
- This was reproducible within participants



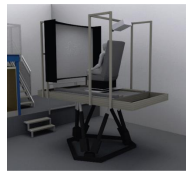
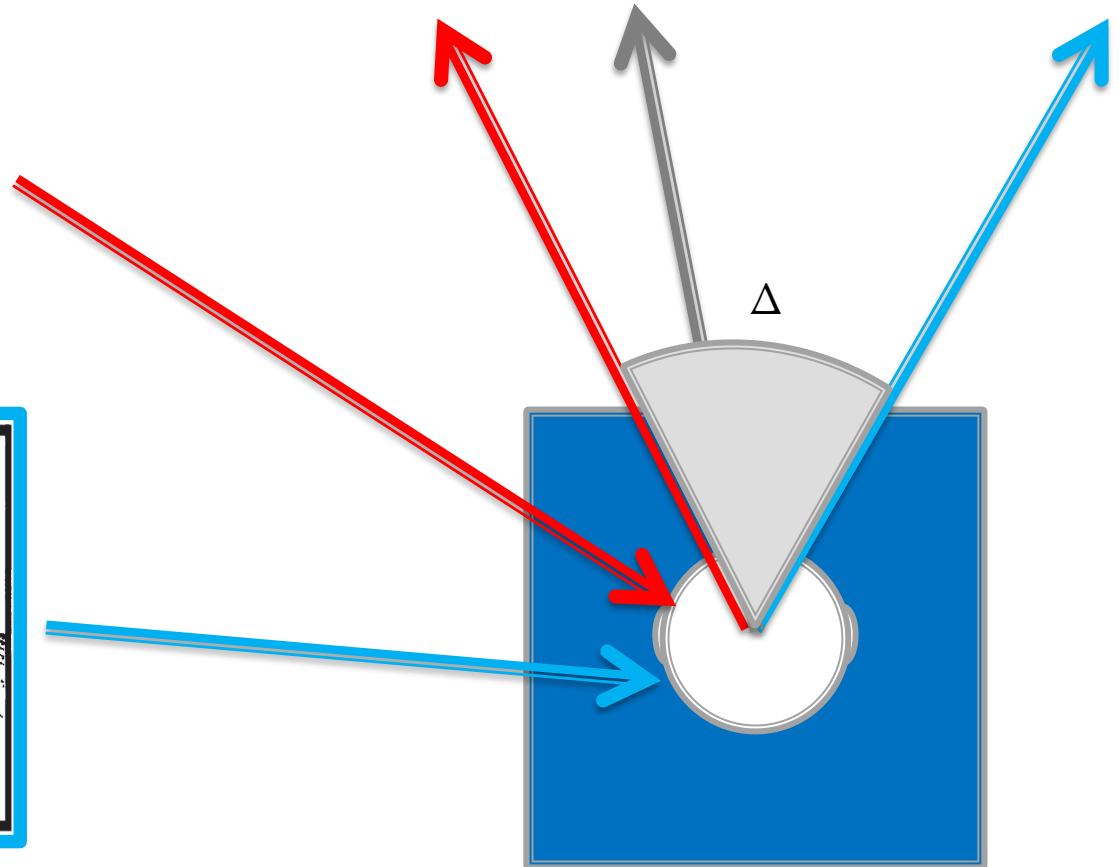
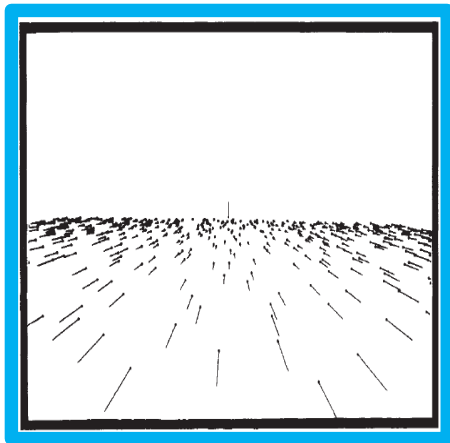
Talk Overview

- Passive Heading detection
 1. The role of Stereo cues
 2. Conflict of information
 3. Neural correlates of heading detection change

- Active tasks
 4. Walking
 5. Neural recordings while walking

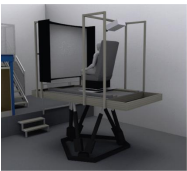


Visual-Vestibular Integration for Heading (conflict)



Why introduce a conflict?

- By introducing a conflict we can see if there is a breakdown of the combination of sense
- We can calculate the weights given to each cue



The logic of conflicts

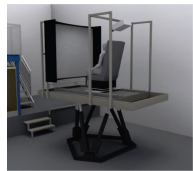
Equally weighted



Verbal weighted more



Vision weighted more



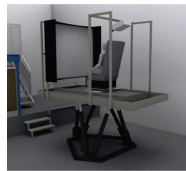
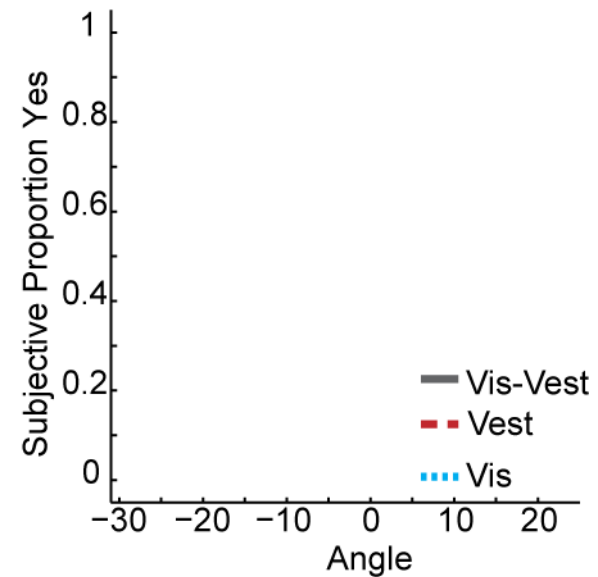
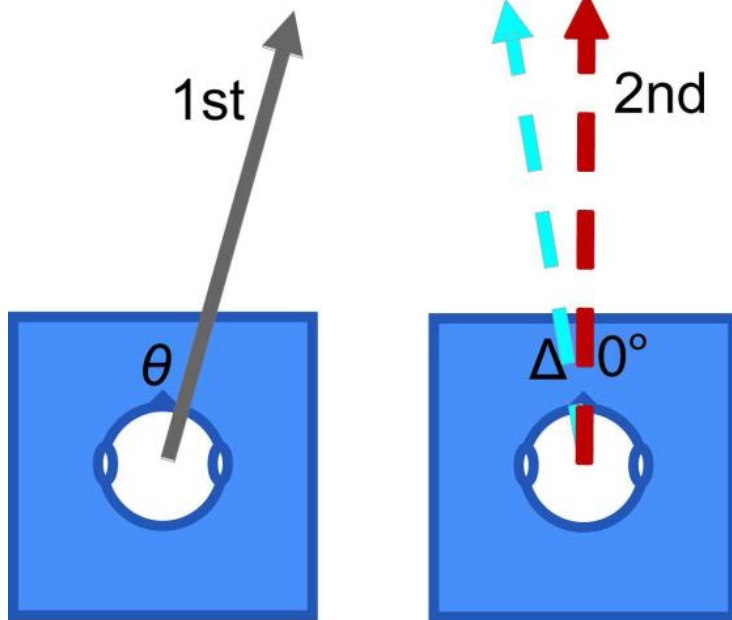
Individual participant analysis

■ Vis-Vest

■ Vestibular

■ Visual

Incongruent



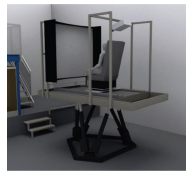
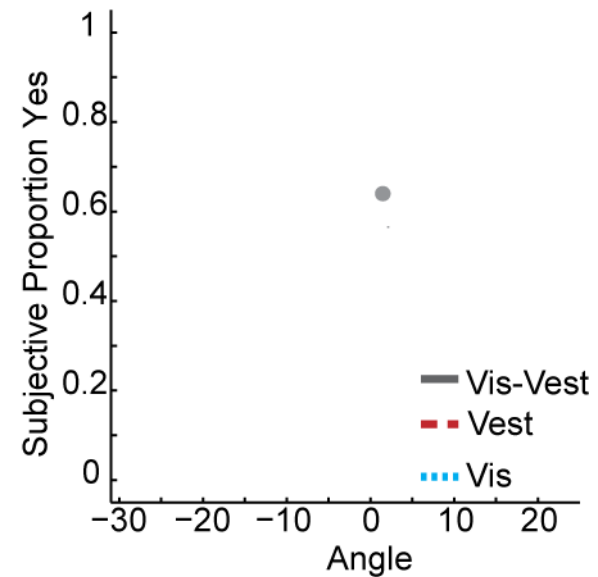
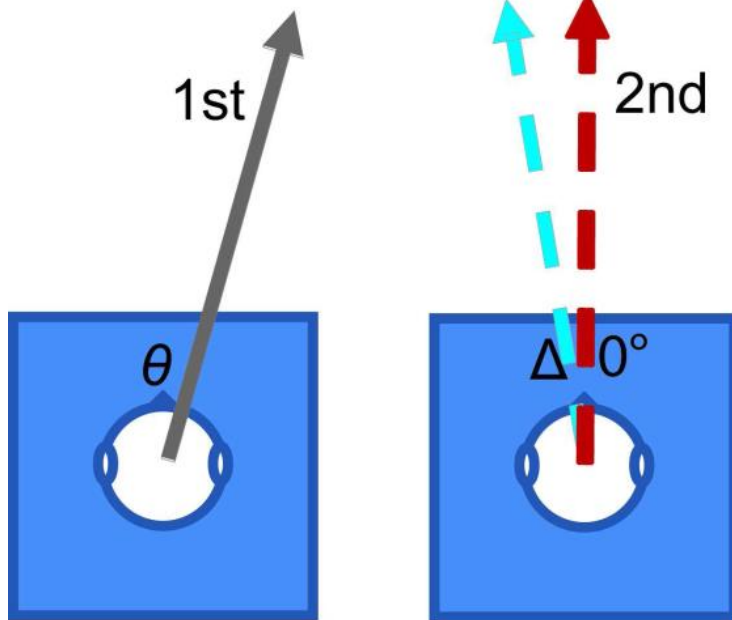
Individual participant analysis

■ Vis-Vest

■ Vestibular

■ Visual

Incongruent



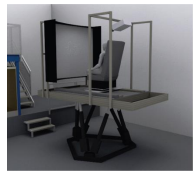
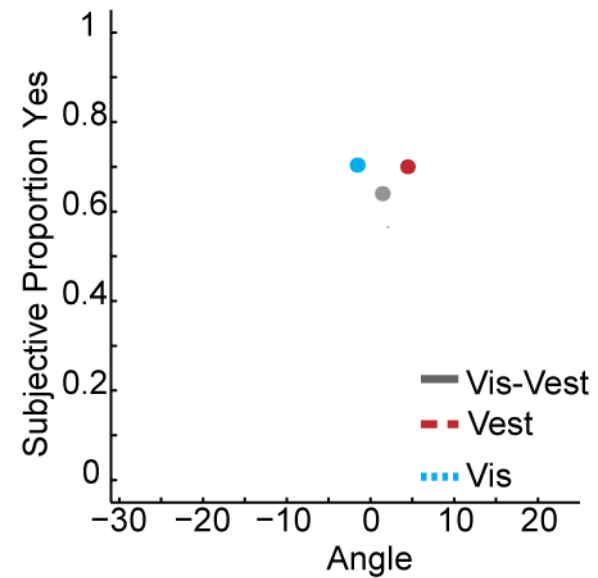
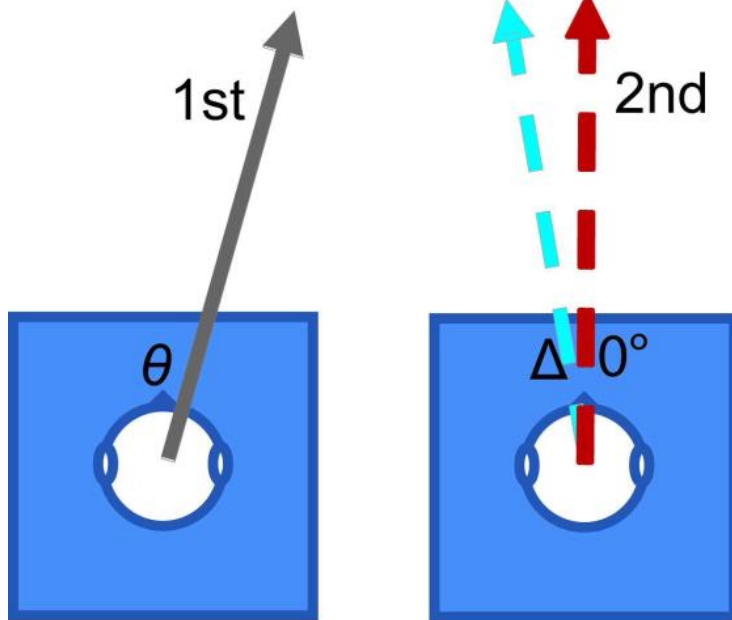
Individual participant analysis

■ Vis-Vest

■ Vestibular

■ Visual

Incongruent

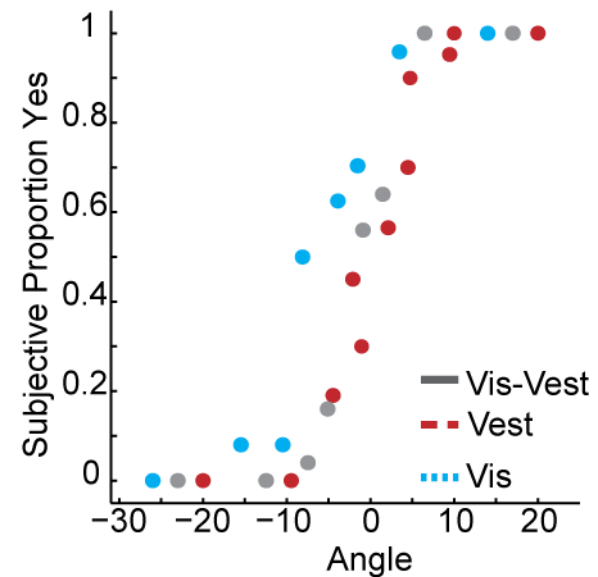
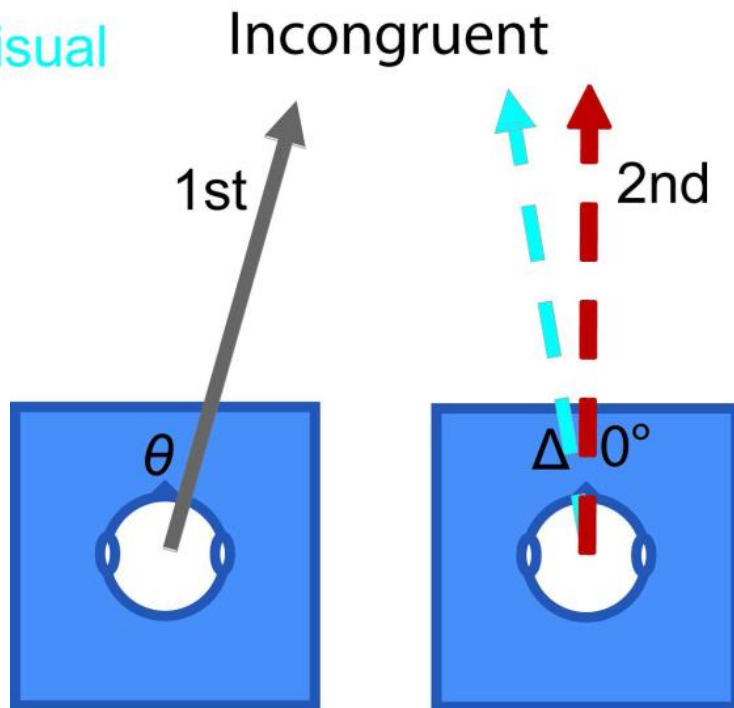


Individual participant analysis

■ Vis-Vest

■ Vestibular

■ Visual



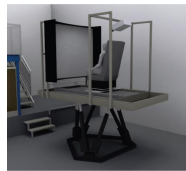
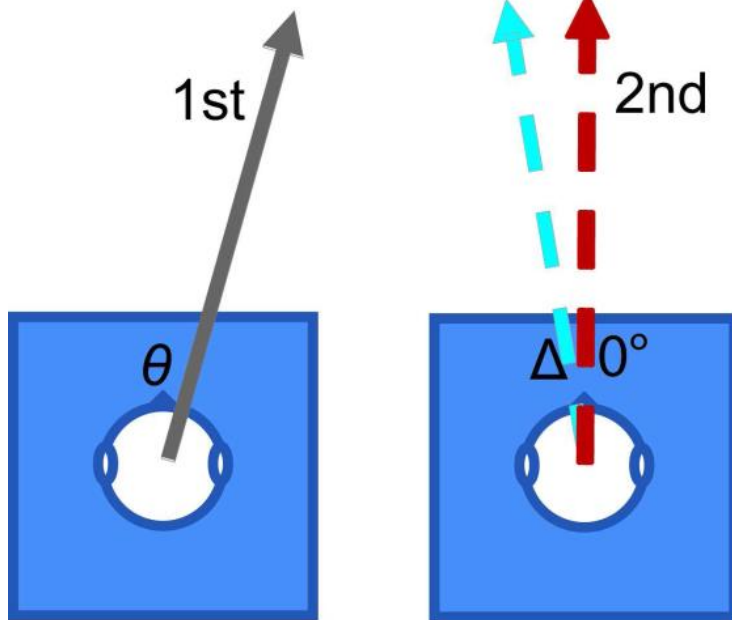
Individual participant analysis

■ Vis-Vest

■ Vestibular

■ Visual

Incongruent



Maximum Likelihood Estimation

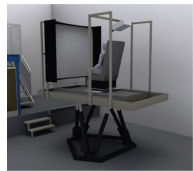
$$\hat{S}_{Vis-Vest} = w_{Vis} \hat{S}_{Vis} + w_{Vest} \hat{S}_{Vest}$$

Observed

$$w_{Vis} = \frac{PSE_{Vis-Vest} - PSE_{Vest}}{PSE_{Vis} - PSE_{Vest}} \quad w = \frac{1/\sigma_{Vis}^2}{\frac{1}{\sigma_{Vis}^2} + \frac{1}{\sigma_{Body}^2}}$$

Predicted

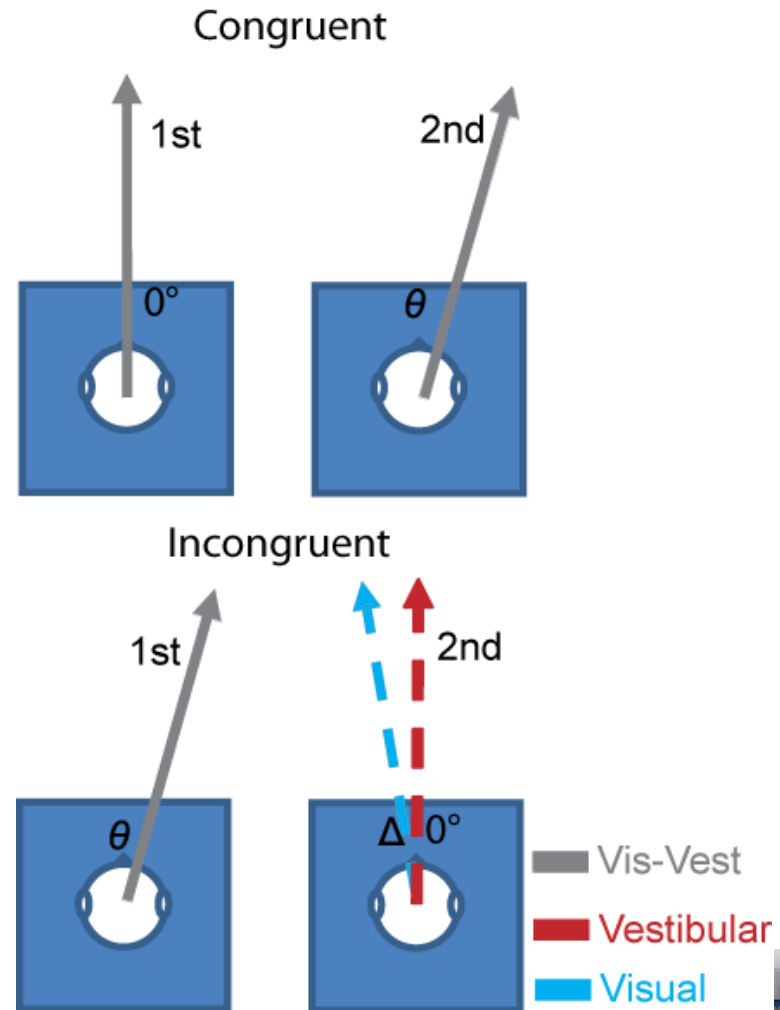
$$\hat{w}_{Vis} = \frac{1/JND_{Vis}^2}{1/JND_{Vis}^2 + 1/JND_{Vest}^2}$$



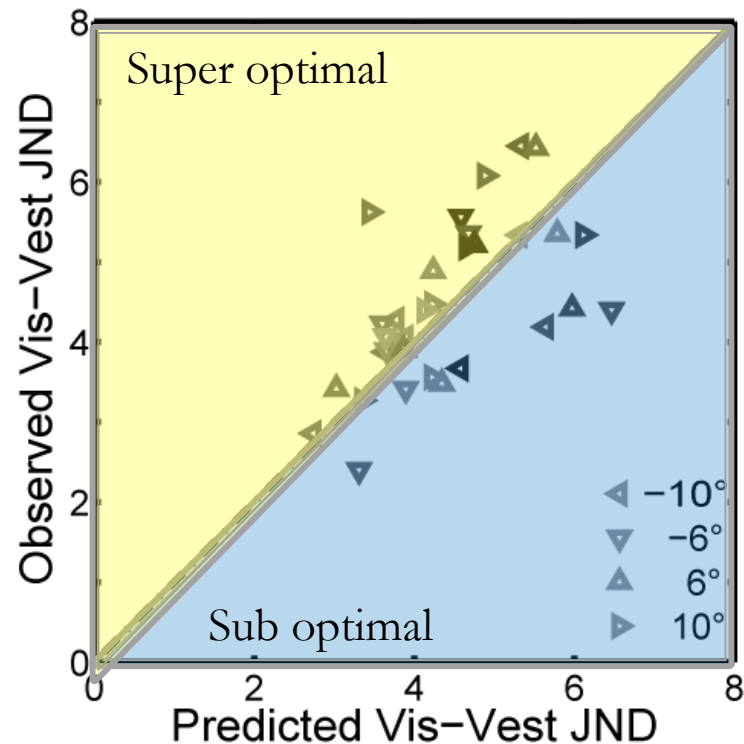
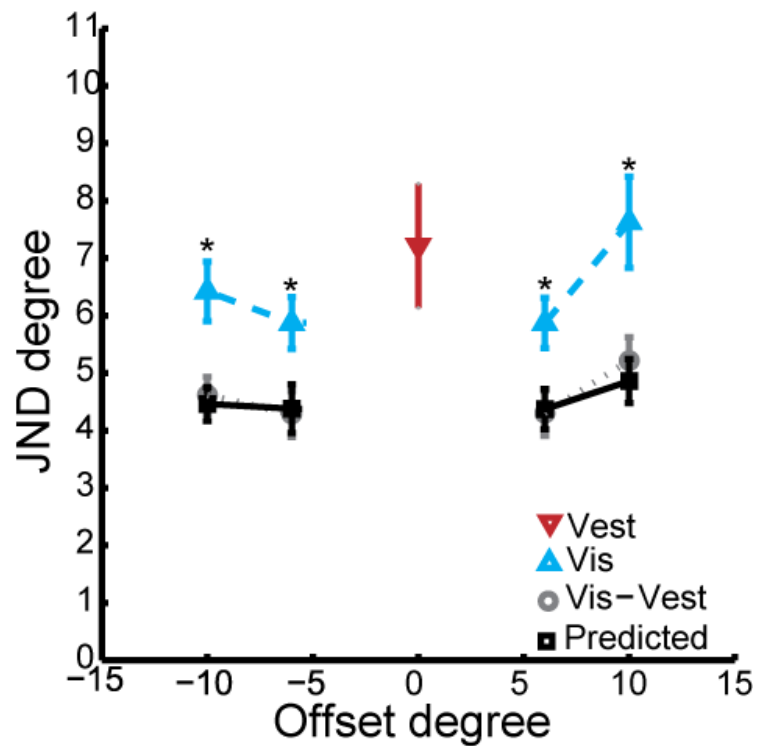
Spatial Conflict

■ Conditions

- 1 Vestibular alone
 - One Standard
 - $\Theta=0^\circ$
- 4 Visual alone
 - Four standards
 - $\Theta=\pm 6^\circ, \pm 10^\circ$
- 4 Visual-vestibular
 - One Standard
 - $\Theta=0^\circ$
 - Four Offset
 - $\Delta=\pm 6^\circ, \pm 10^\circ$



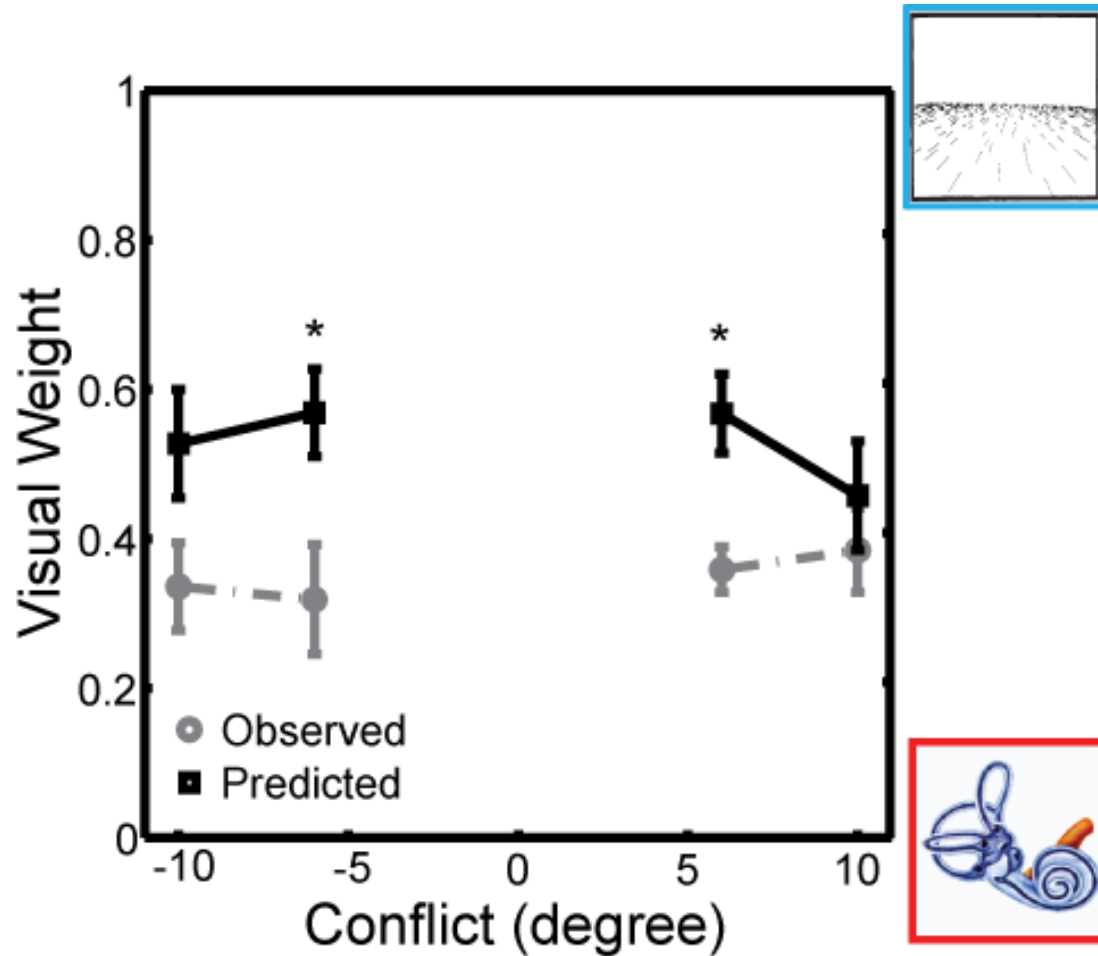
Optimal reduction in variance



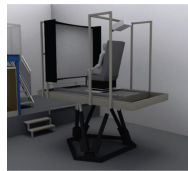
The combination of visual and vestibular cues observe an optimal rule of integration



Weights



The weights are biased towards the vestibular cue



Introduction of a Prior

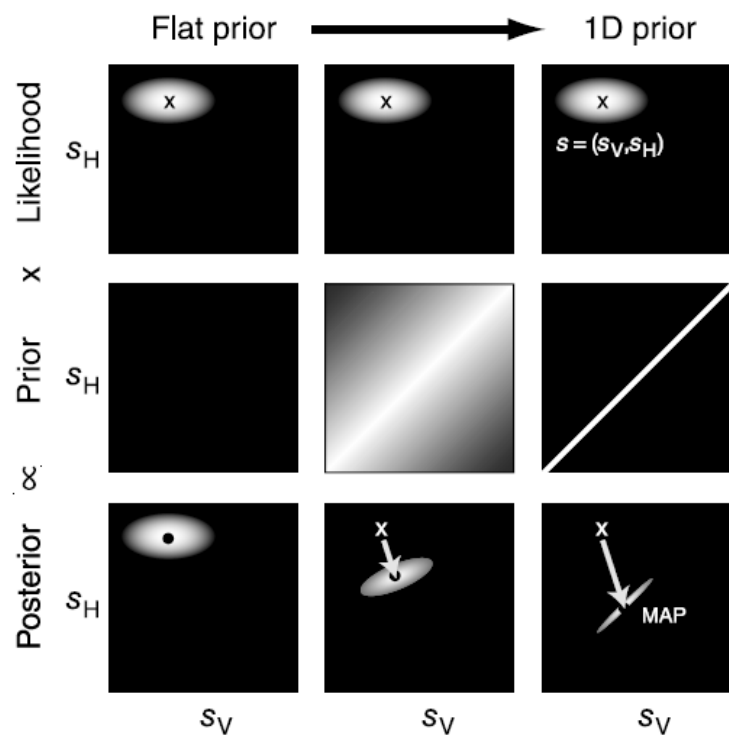
$$\hat{S}_{Vis-Vest} = w_{Vis} \hat{S}_{Vis} + w_{Vest} \hat{S}_{Vest} + w_{Prior} \hat{S}_{Prior}$$

Journal of Vision (2007) 7(5):7, 1-14

Ernst

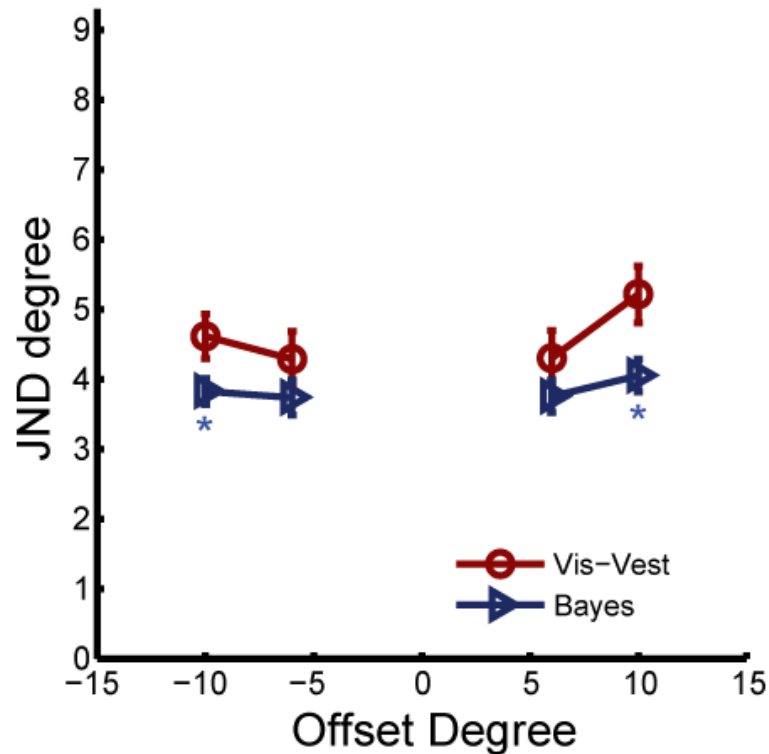
$$JND_{Vis-Vest}^2 = \frac{1}{1/JND_{Vis}^2 + 1/JND_{Vest}^2 + 1/JND_{Prior}^2}$$

$$w_{Vis} = \frac{1/JND_{Vis}^2}{1/JND_{Vis}^2 + 1/JND_{Vest}^2 + 1/JND_{Prior}^2}$$

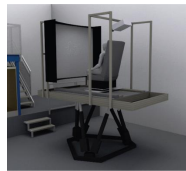
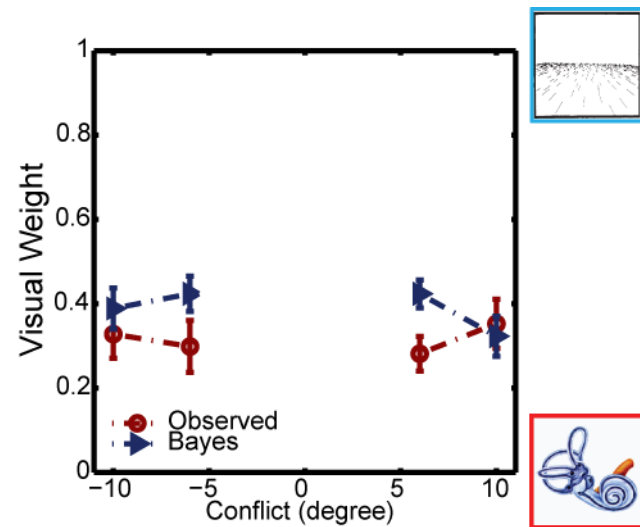


Bayesian Model

ACCURACY

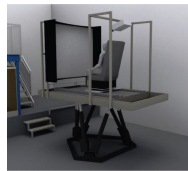


WEIGHTS

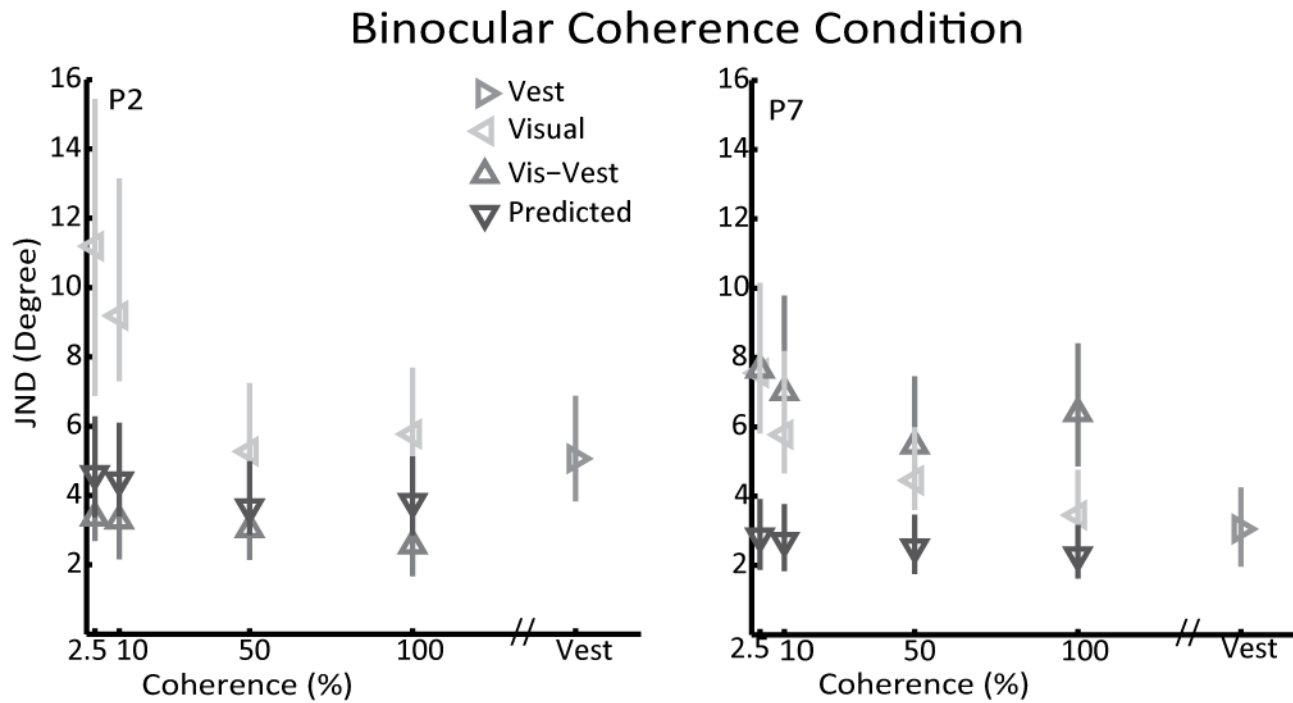
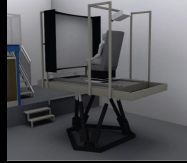


Summary results

- Participants exhibited a statistically optimal reduction of variance under combined cue conditions.
- Performances in the unimodal conditions did not predict the weights in the combined cue conditions.
- Therefore, we conclude that visual and vestibular cue combination is not predicted solely by the reliability of each individual cue but rather, there is a prior which leads to a higher weighting of vestibular information in this task.

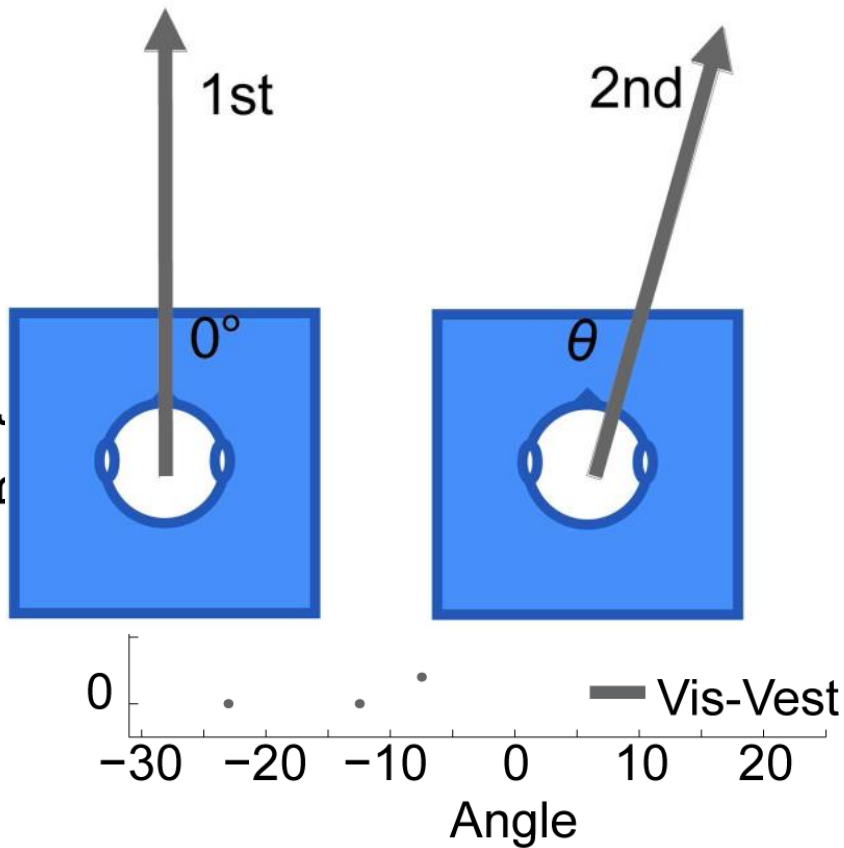


Reproducible nature of result

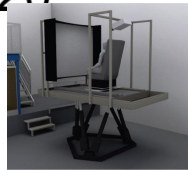
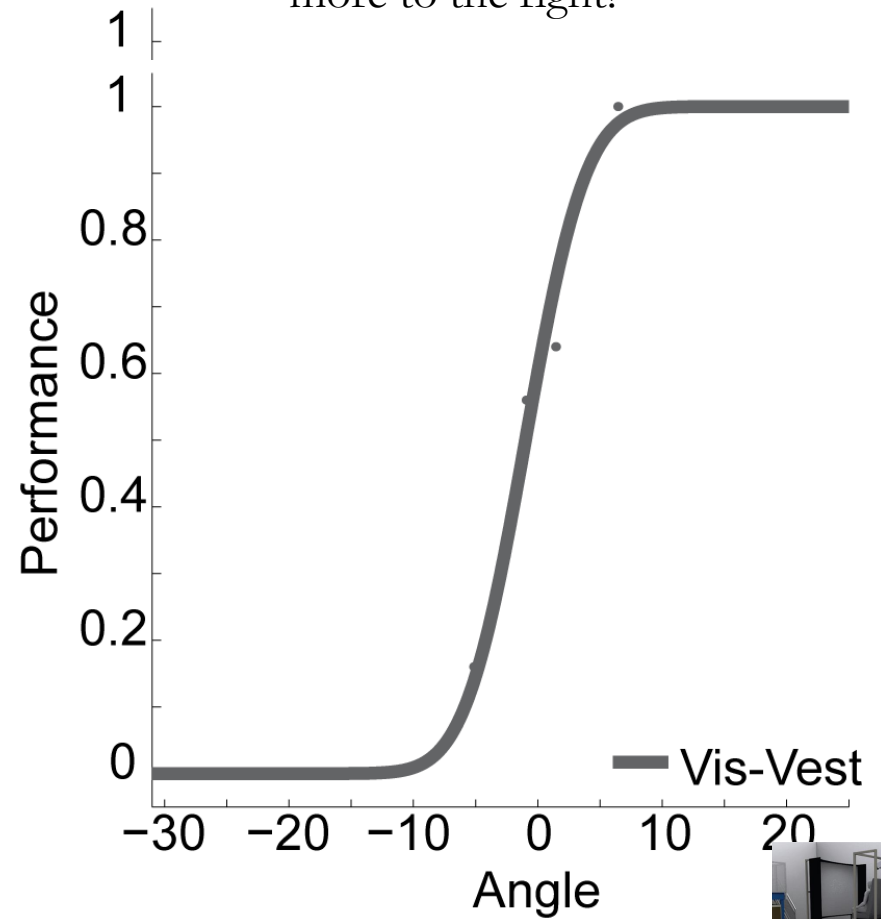


Reliability

Congruent

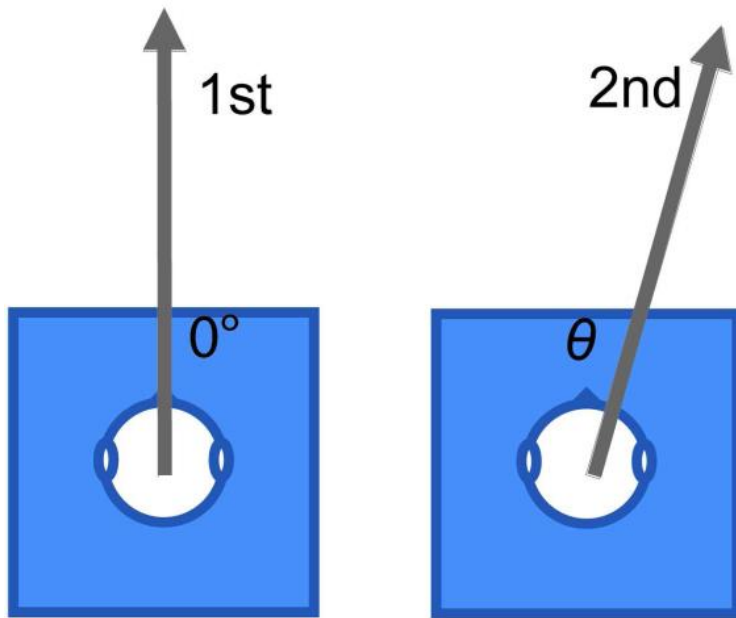


Was the second movement more to the right?



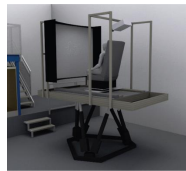
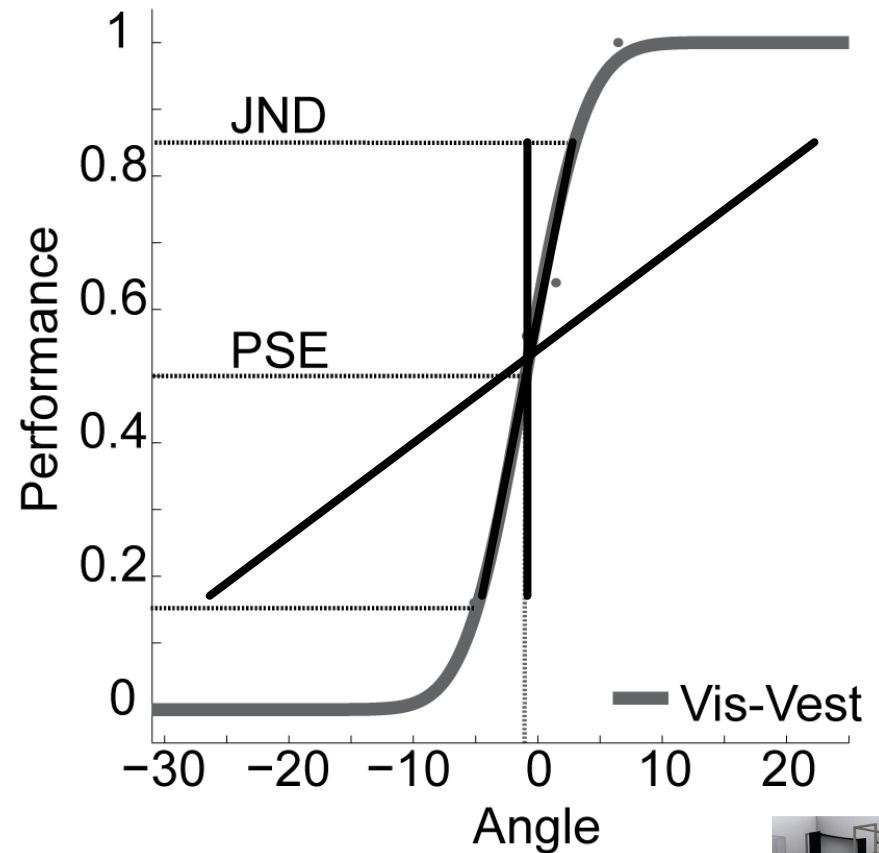
Reliability

Congruent



Just Noticeable Difference (JND)

Was the second movement more to the right?



Information Conflict

■ Conditions

■ Visual

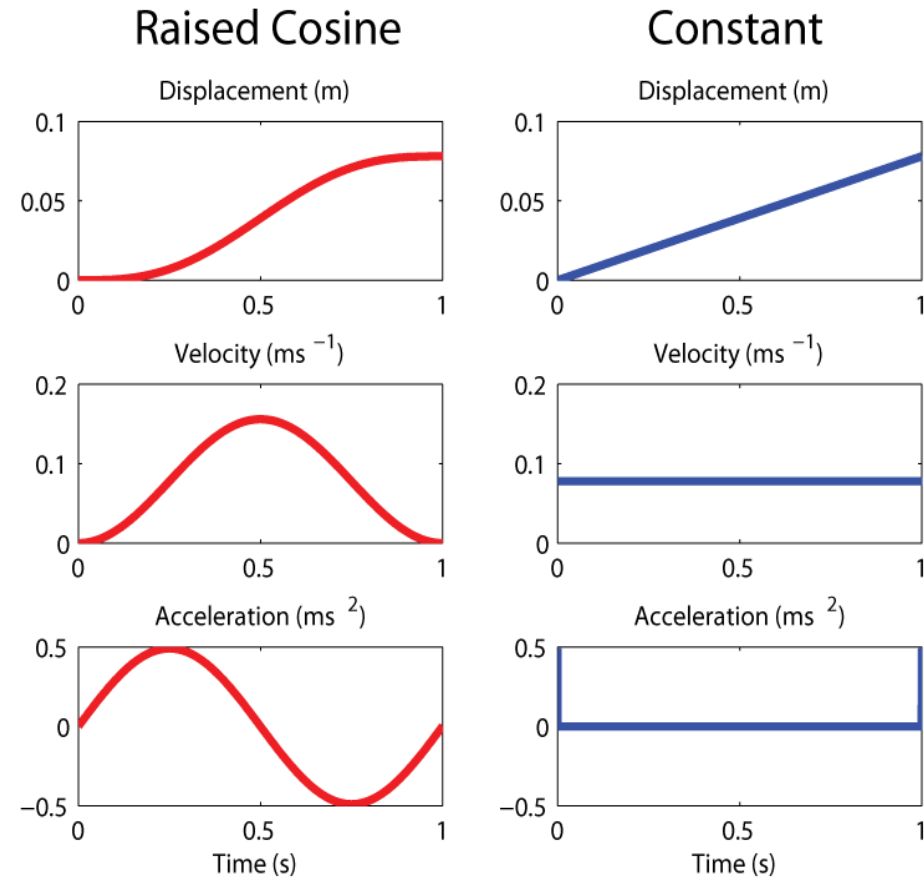
- Raised cosine
- Constant velocity

■ Vestibular

- Raised cosine

■ Visual-vestibular

- Raised cosine velocity
- Constant velocity (conflict)

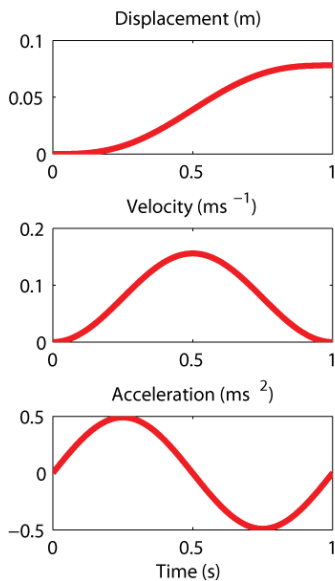


Visual motion Profile and heading estimation

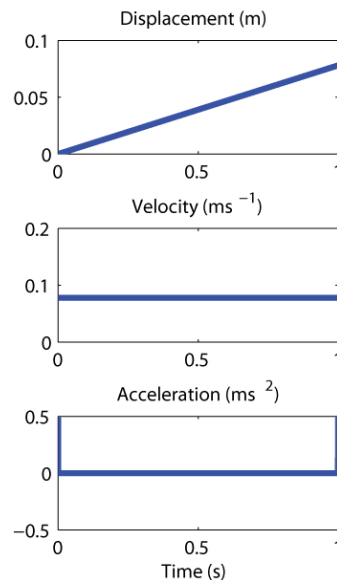
Objective

To investigate if the velocity and acceleration play a role in visual heading discrimination

Raised Cosine



Constant



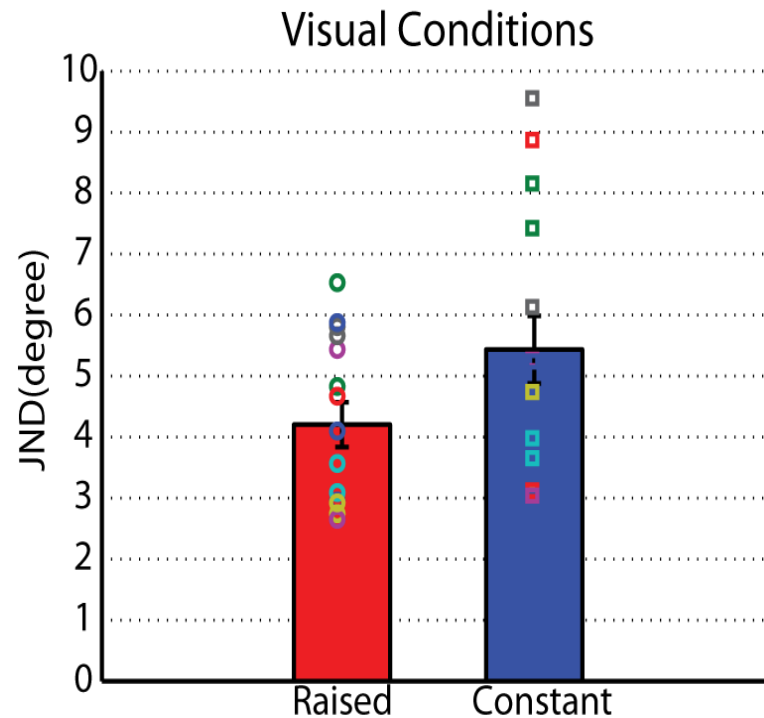
PREDICTION 1

The constant velocity profile will give more reliable results as it is highly predictable

PREDICTION 2

The more “natural” raised cosine profile is more reliable as we are more commonly exposed to it

Results



The raised cosine profile gives more reliable estimates of visual heading

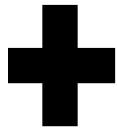
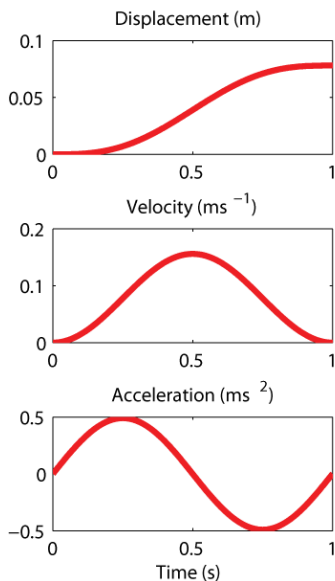
Predictions for the discrepant condition

Objective

To investigate the combination of visual and vestibular information under different visual motion profile conditions

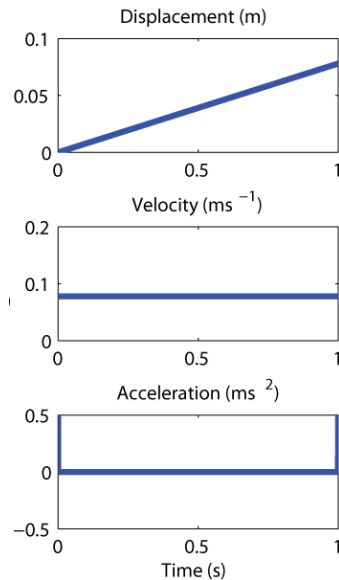
Vestibular

Raised Cosine



Visual

Constant



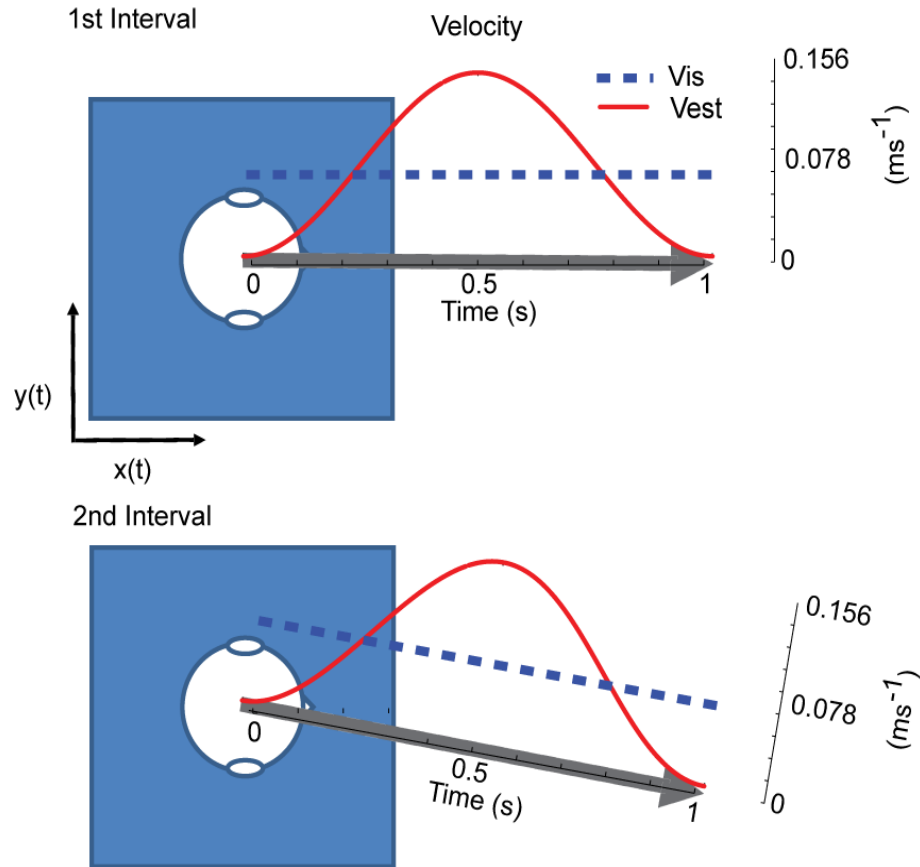
PREDICTION 1

The visual and vestibular information do not combine in an optimal fashion

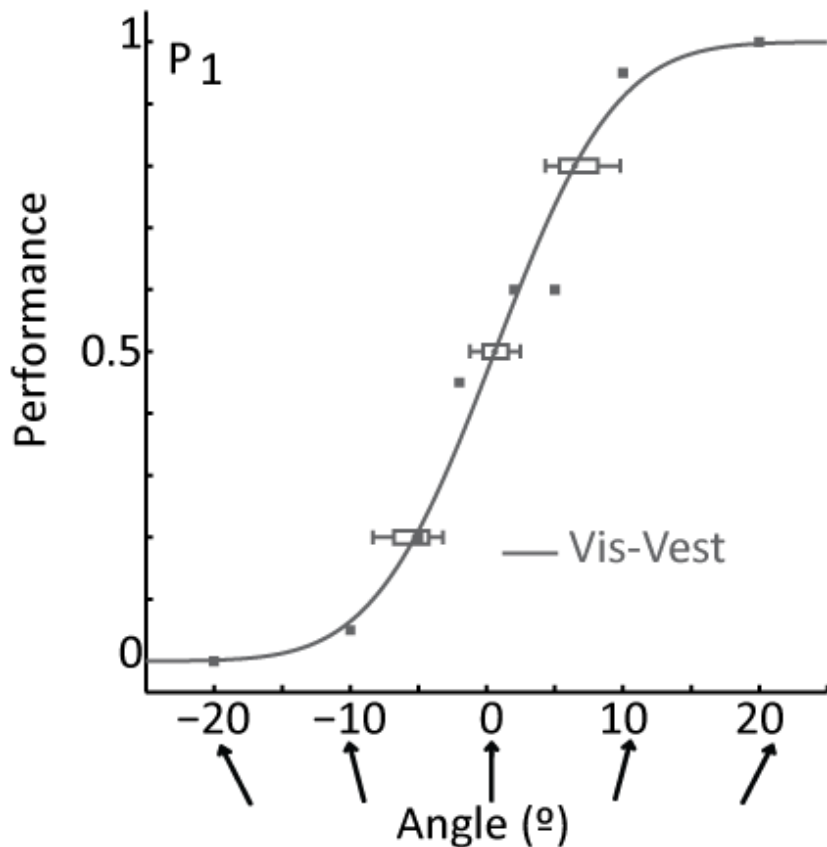
PREDICTION 2

Combination of senses is not dependent on the motion profile

Effect of visual motion profile on heading discrimination



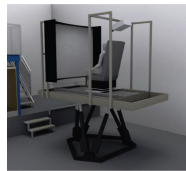
Combination of Senses



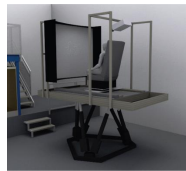
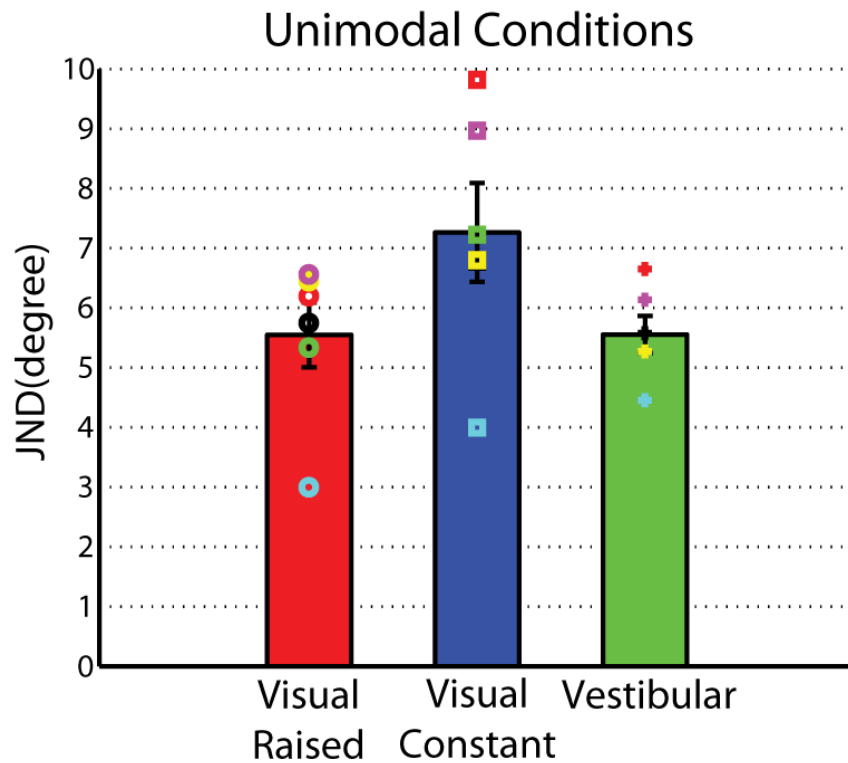
Predicted

$$JND_{Vis-Vest} \leq \min(JND_{Vis}, JND_{Vest})$$

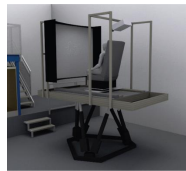
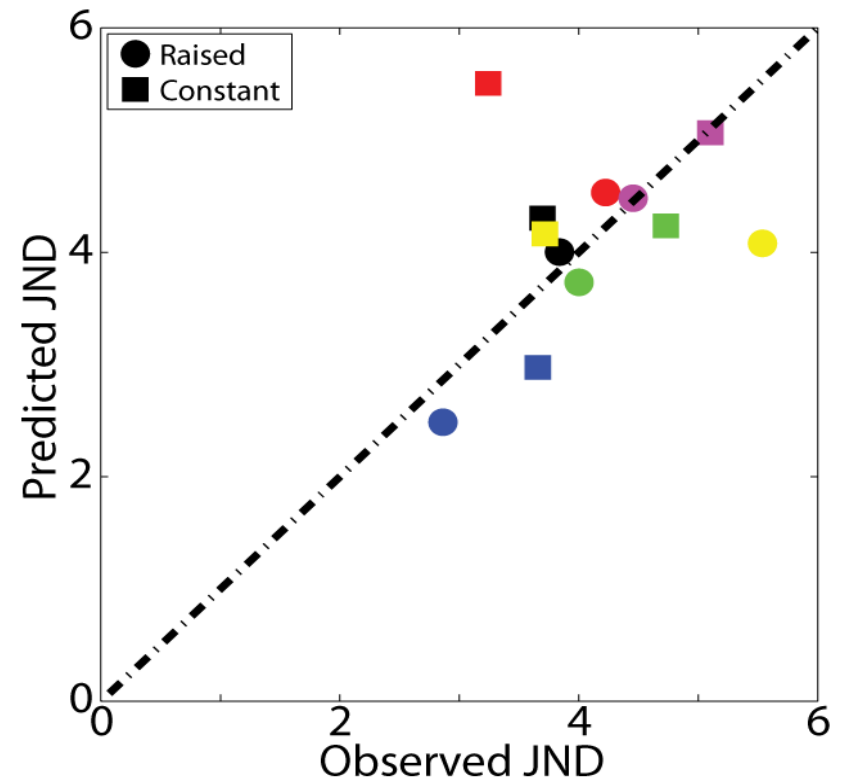
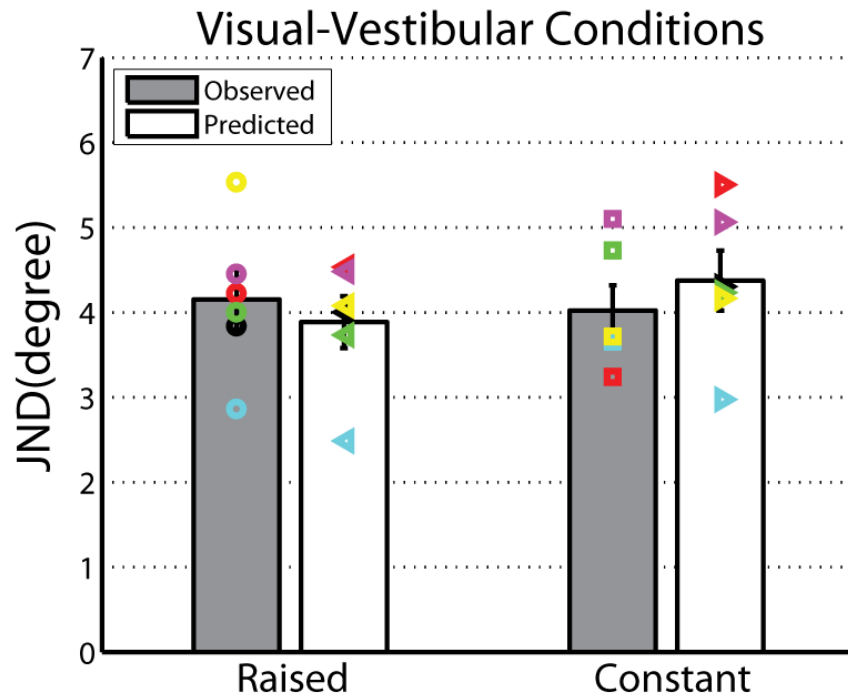
$$JND_{Vis-Vest} = \sqrt{\frac{JND_{Vis}^2 JND_{Vest}^2}{JND_{Vis}^2 + JND_{Vest}^2}}$$



Unimodal results



Multisensory Results



Conclusion

- Visual motion is not just a snap shot but an accumulation of information
 - The more natural profile yielded the more accurate heading discrimination
- Visual and Vestibular cues combine in an optimal fashion even when there is an information conflict

Visual-Vestibular Integration for Heading

