

To move or not to move – neural correlates in the Parkinsonian and healthy motor system

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"What is left over if I subtract the fact that **my arm goes up**
from the fact that **I raise my arm?**"

L. Wittgenstein (1953)



I **choose**
.....
prepare
imagine
quasi... to move.*



rest

pre

post



- optimal **neural prerequisites** for motor performance?
- neural pathology in **patients** with movement disorders
- therapy, **brain-computer interfaces**

I to move.*

spatio-temporal **dynamics** (variability)

Bak et al. (1988); Chialvo (2010); Kelso (1995); Kelso et al. (2013); Palva et al. (2013); Shew and Plenz (2012); Tognoli and Kelso (2009)...



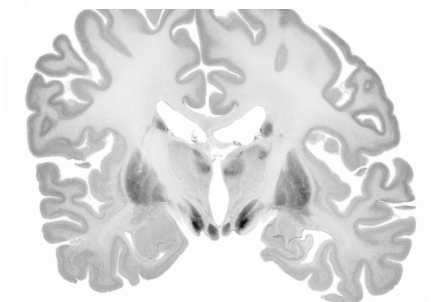
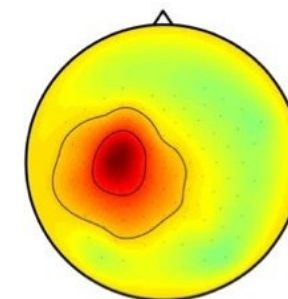
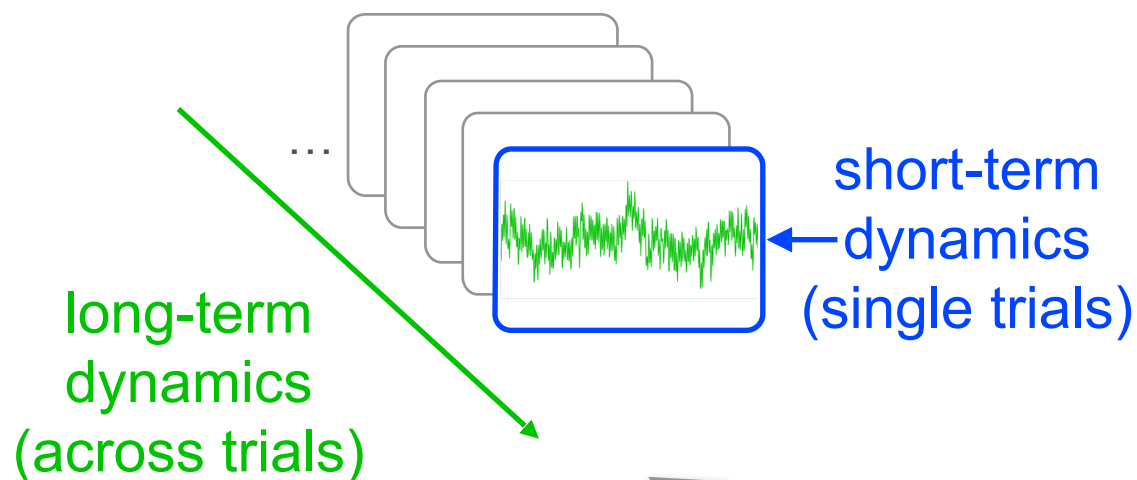
neural dynamics:
healthy and disease



temporal
dynamics

meta-stability

spatial
dynamics



movement-related neural dynamics

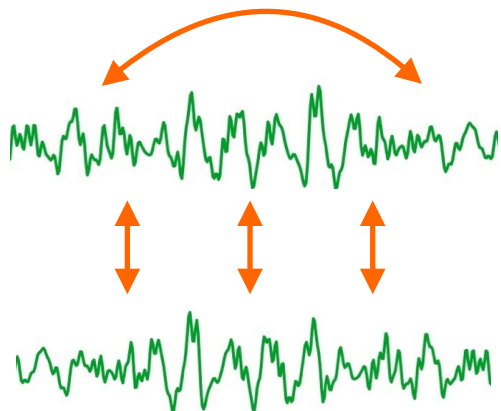
SIGNALS

- 1) in time (LRTC)
- 2) in space (connectivity)

prerequisites

PARADIGM

- 3) quasi-movements



- 1) time: **fractal** dynamics (LRTC) in neural oscillations from **Parkinsonian basal ganglia**
- 2) space: **connectivity** in **Parkinsonian basal ganglia** and the relation to **motor symptoms**
- 3) paradigm: **quasi-movements** (EEG, brain-computer interfacing)
Can you do a movement without doing it?



Parkinson's disease

- approx. 4 million worldwide
- approx. 1 million US

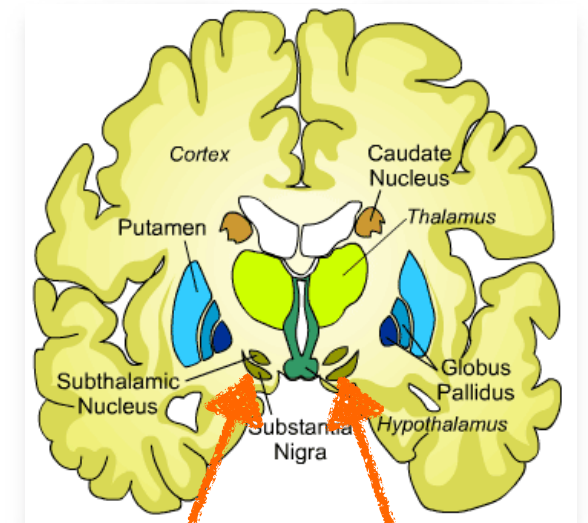
cardinal symptoms

- bradykinesia/akinesia
- rigor
- tremor

PD treatment

- dopaminergic medication
- deep brain stimulation

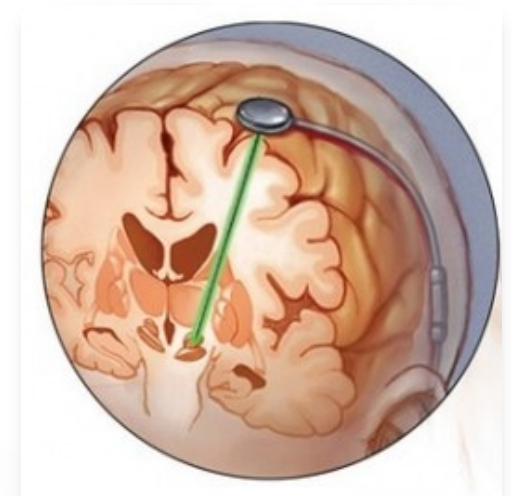
Benabid et al. (2009); Brown and Williams (2005);
DeLong and Wichmann (2007); Kremens
et al. (2014); Tanner et al. (2008)



degeneration of dopaminergic
neurons in basal ganglia (SN_{pc})



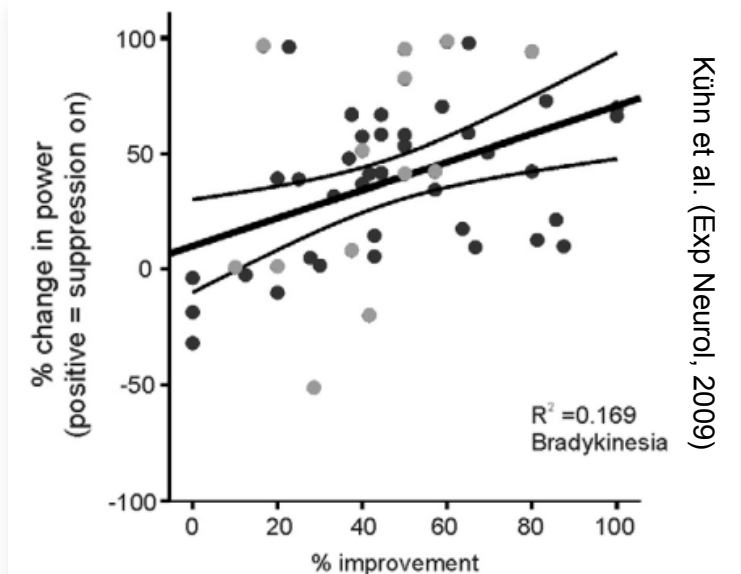
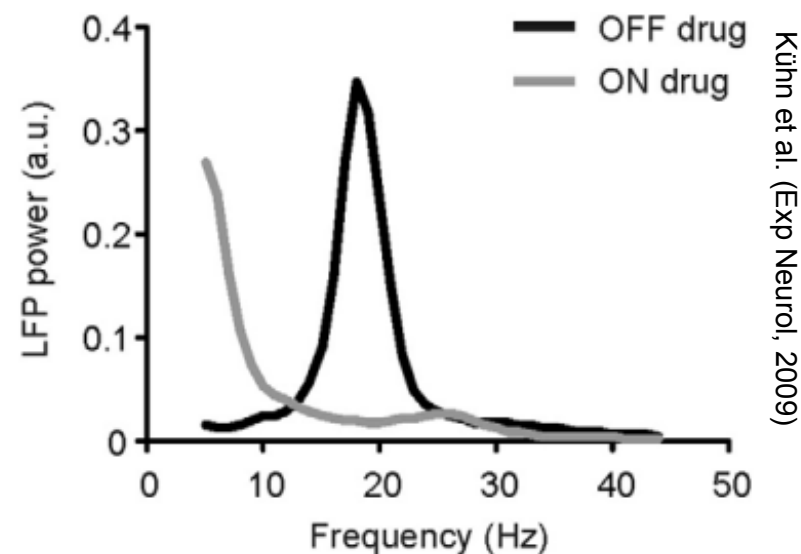
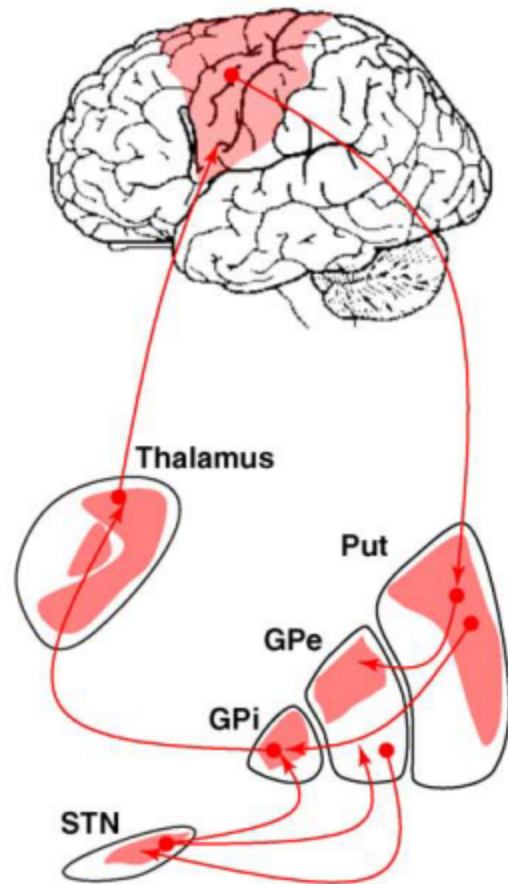
levodopa
(dopamine precursor)



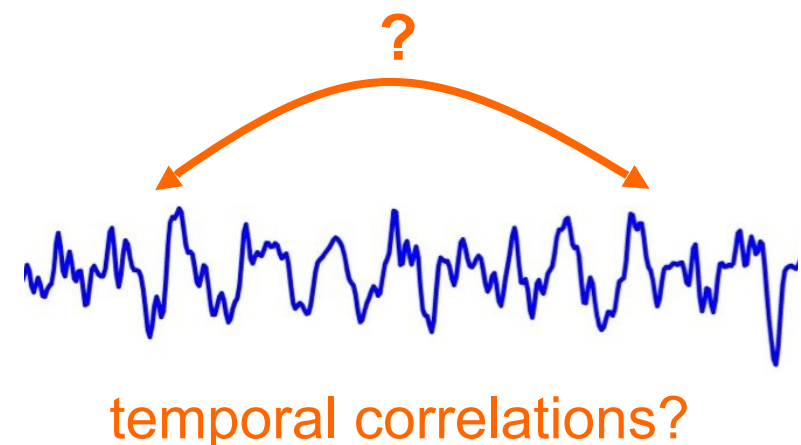
PD is associated with excessive neural synchronization
of beta oscillations (10–30 Hz)
in the basal ganglia (subthalamic nucleus, STN)

Brown and Williams (2005)

Krack et al. (Trends Neurosci, 2010)



- power does not contain temporal information (momentary fluctuations)
- not sensitive to segment permutation
- power is sensitive to non-neural factors (eg, impedance)



long-range temporal correlations in EEG

- **amplitude fluctuations** in spontaneous neural oscillations: slowly decaying **autocorrelations** (power-law; self-similarity, fractal) Linkenkaer-Hansen et al. (2001); Nikulin and Brismar (2004); Palva et al. (2013)
- indicate a complex system in a **meta-stable** state
Bak et al. (1987); Bressler and Tognoli (2006); Kello et al., (2010); Kelso (1995); Kelso et al. (2013); Poil et al. (2012); Shew et al. (2011)



- **memory** Beggs and Plenz (2004)
- **flexibility** and adaptation Chialvo (2010)
- excitation-inhibition **balance** Poil et al. (2012)

previous findings in human EEG (MEG, ECoG)

- temporal correlations up to **200 sec** in spontaneous α and β oscillations

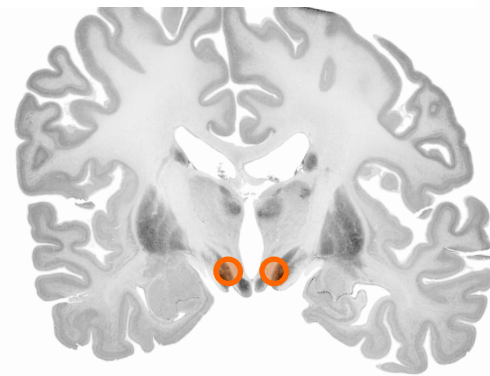
Linkenkaer-Hansen et al. (2001)

- decrease** of LRTC in **disease** (vs. healthy controls):

major depression Linkenkaer-Hansen et al. (2005)

Alzheimer disease Montez et al. (2009)

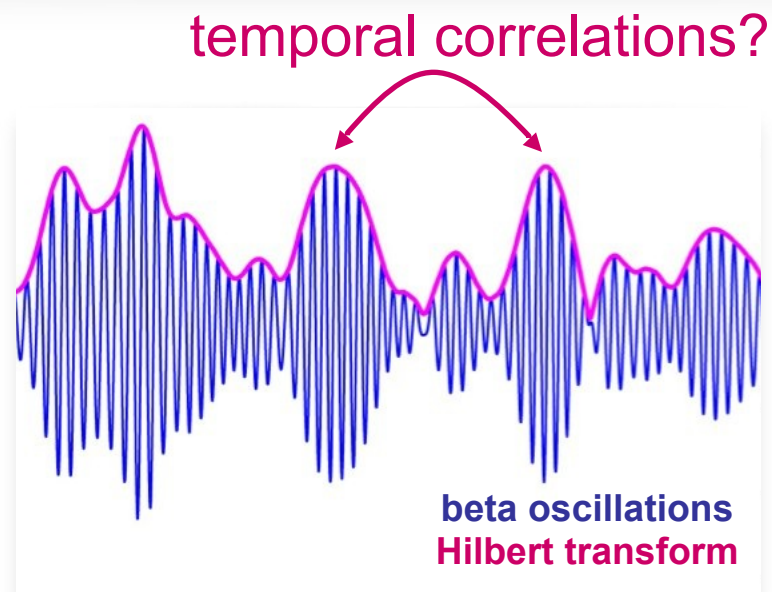
schizophrenia Nikulin et al. (2012)



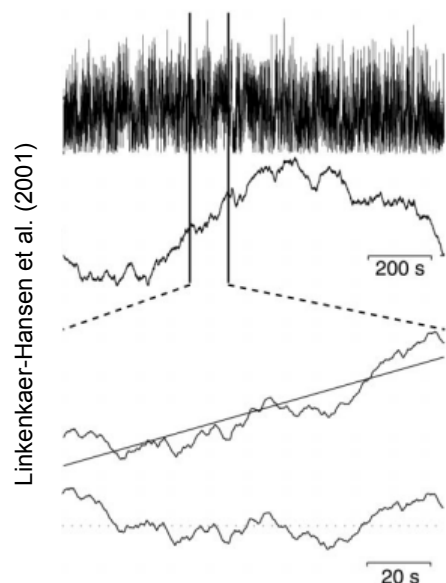
→ LRTC in **subcortical** regions?

→ modulation by **medication**?

1) extract amplitude envelope of neural oscillations (Hilbert transformation)

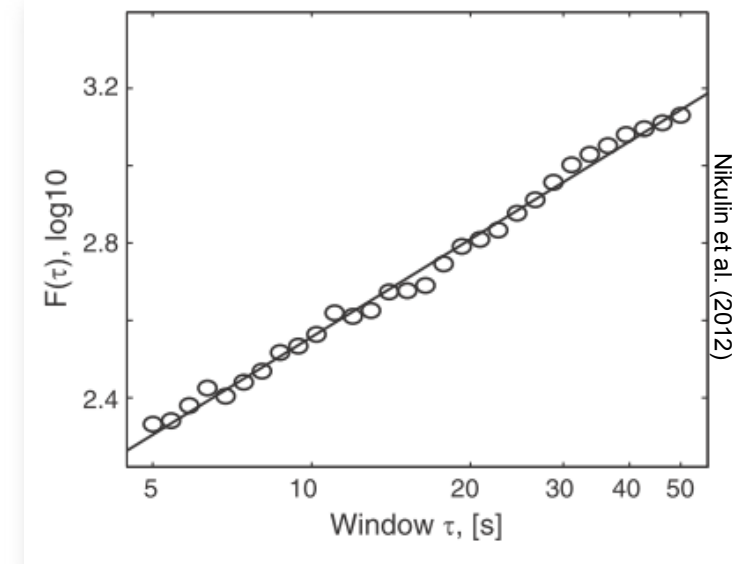


2) Detrended Fluctuation Analysis



- integrate
- windowing, detrending
- average SD
- repeat for different windows
present study: up to **50 sec**

3) Do the average amplitude fluctuations scale with the window size in form of a power-law?



4) scaling exponent (slope)

exponent = 0.5
→ uncorrelated (white noise)

$0.5 < \text{exponent} \leq 1$
→ long-range temporal correlations
("meta-stability")

Peng et al., Nature 1992; Kantelhardt et al., Physica A 2001;
Linkenkaer-Hansen et al., J Neurosci 2001; Nikulin and Brismar, Clin
Neurophysiol 2004; Kello et al., Trends Cogn Sci 2010

...up to 50 sec in subcortical rest recordings

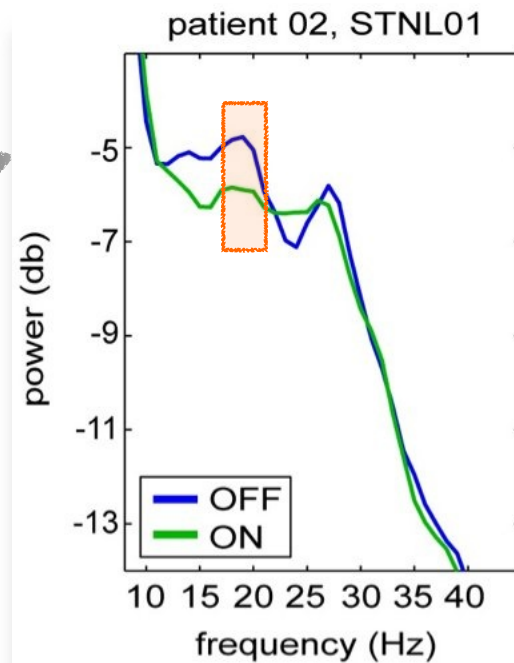
ON drug
OFF drug

2 exemplary patients

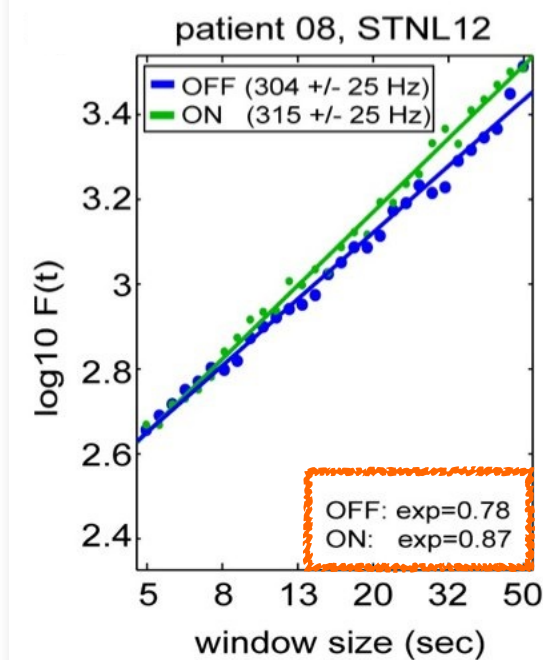
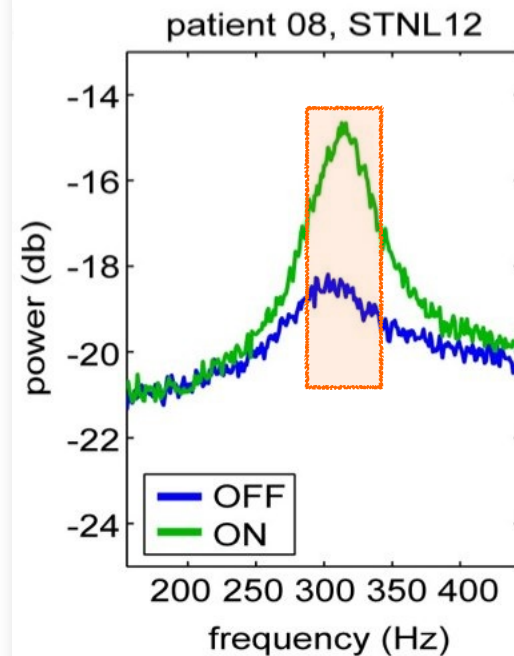
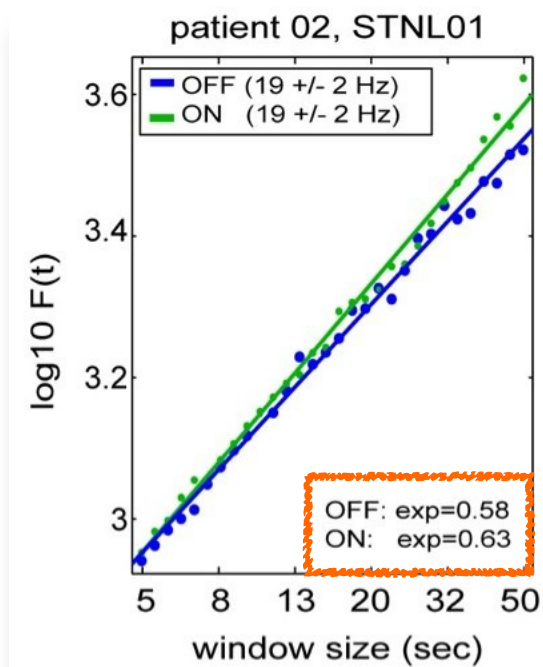
beta

high-frequency

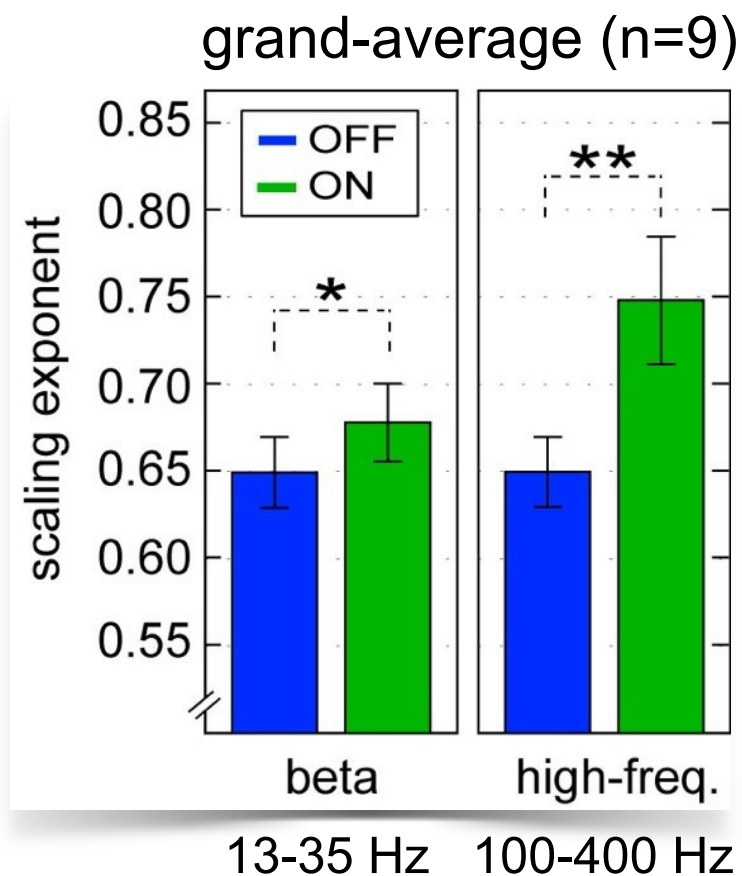
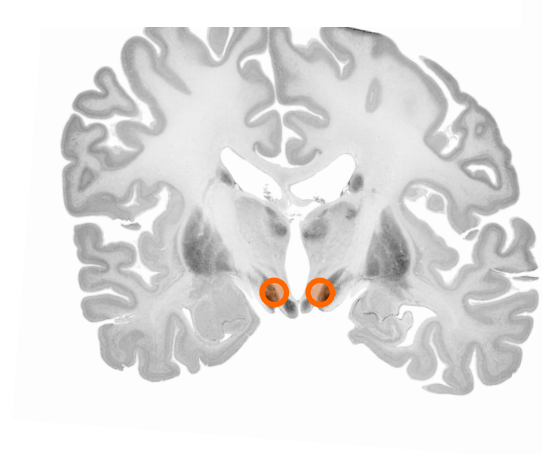
power



LRTC



LRTC up to 50 sec in subcortical rest recordings



- increased LRTC in levodopa ON
- increased memory, more efficient signal processing in basal ganglia
- different profile compared to spectral power
- variability of spectral power (impedance, stun effects...)

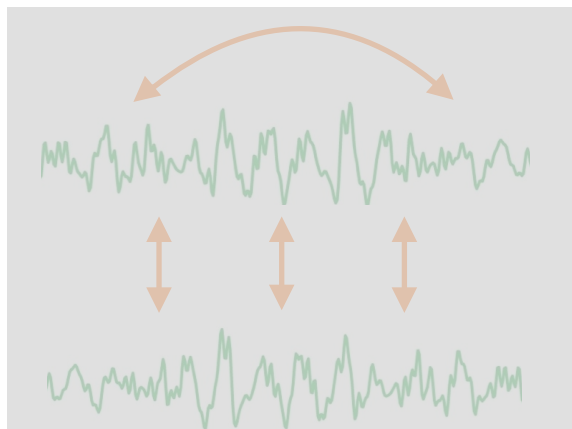
movement-related neural dynamics

SIGNALS

- 1) in time (LRTC)
- 2) in space (connectivity)

PARADIGM

- 3) quasi-movements

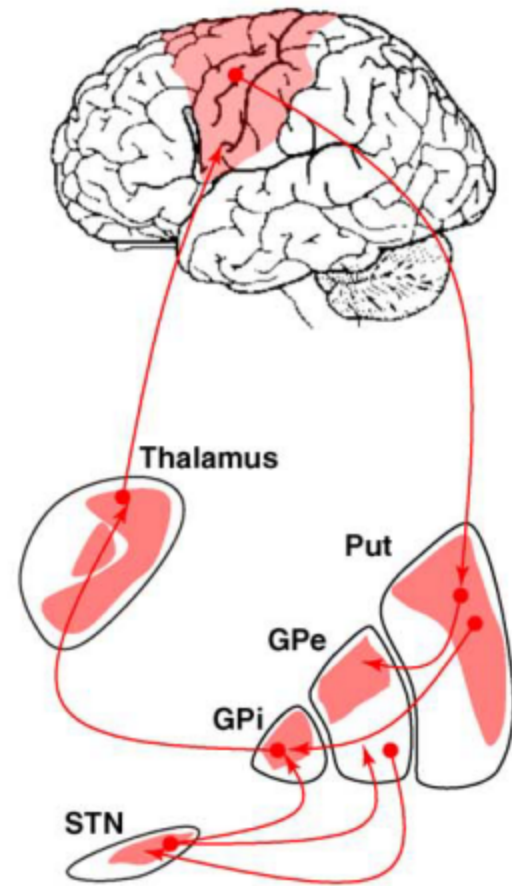


1) time: fractal dynamics (LRTC) in neural oscillations from Parkinsonian basal ganglia

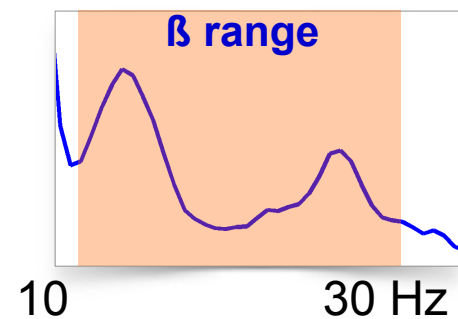
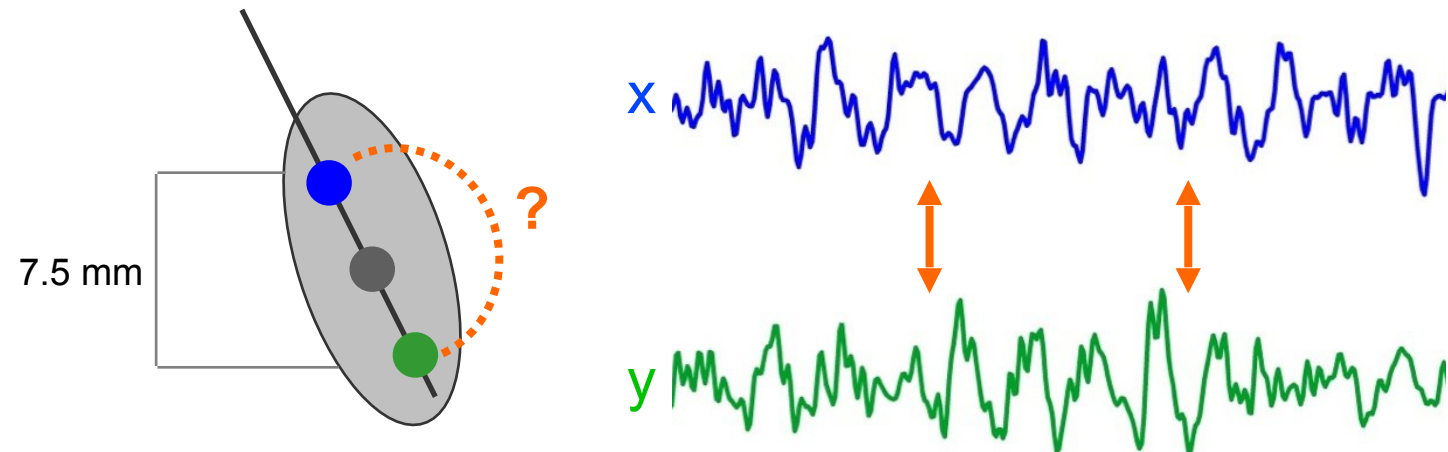
2) space: connectivity in Parkinsonian basal ganglia and the relation to motor symptoms

3) paradigm: quasi-movements (EEG, brain-computer interfacing)

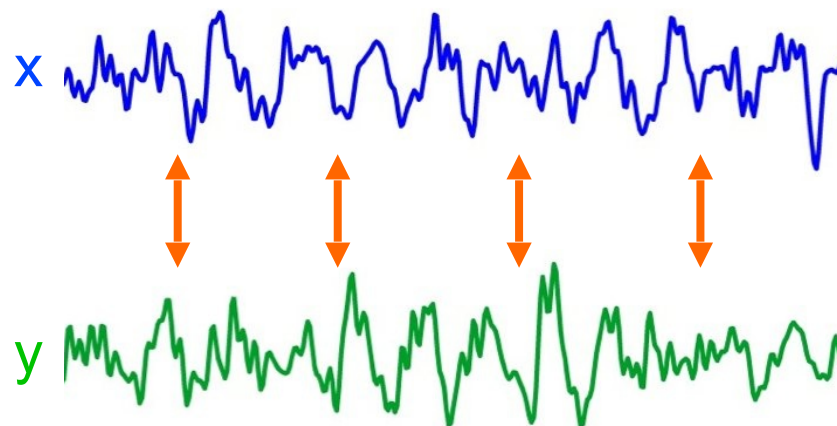
Krack et al. (Trends Neurosci, 2010)



subthalamic nucleus (STN): local field potentials



- presence of **genuine neural interactions** and **directionality** of information flow?
- **≠ volume conduction**
- differences between **medication** states?
- relation to clinical motor **scores**?



coherency

$$C_{ij}(f) \equiv \frac{S_{ij}(f)}{(S_{ii}(f)S_{jj}(f))^{1/2}}$$

cross-spectrum (FT) $S_{ij}(f) \equiv \langle x_i(f)x_j^*(f) \rangle$

cross-spectrum normalized

true interaction

volume conduction



functional connectivity*



*Friston (1994)

imaginary part of coherency (iCOH) Nolte et al. (2004)
 out of phase part $\neq$ volume conduction

effective connectivity*



phase-slope index (PSI) Nolte et al. (2008)
 (based on the imaginary part of coherency)

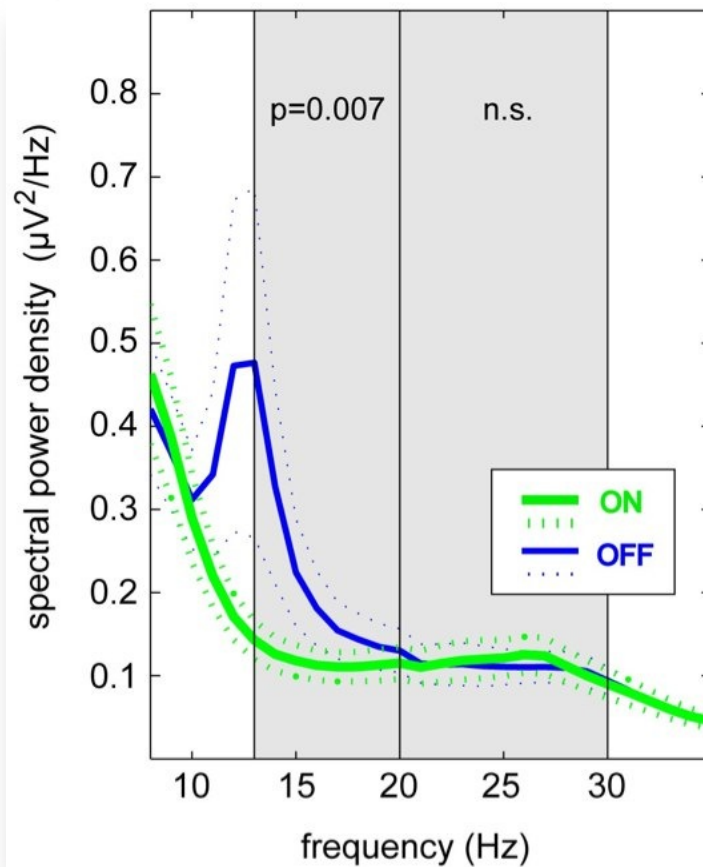
estimation of “detectability”

jackknife normalization Nolte et al. (2008)

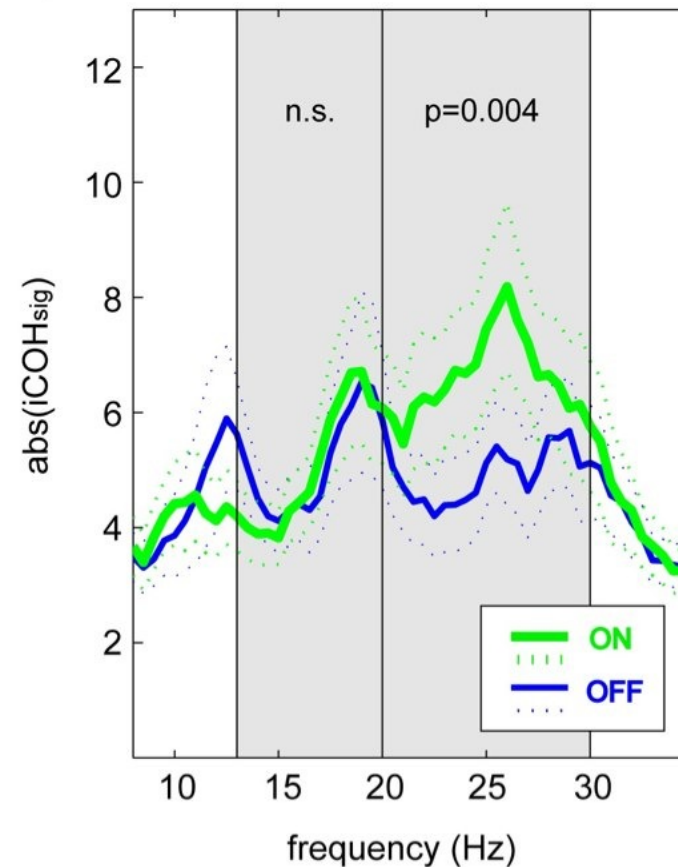
$$iCOH_d = |iCOH / \text{STD}(iCOH_jn)|$$

$$iCOH_d > 2.58 = p < 0.01$$

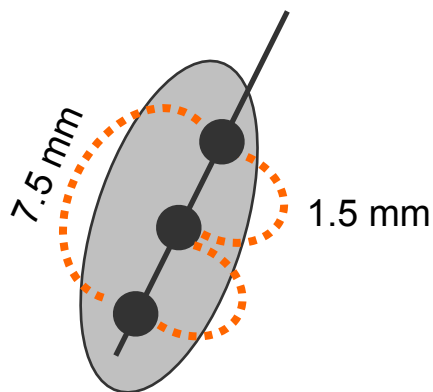
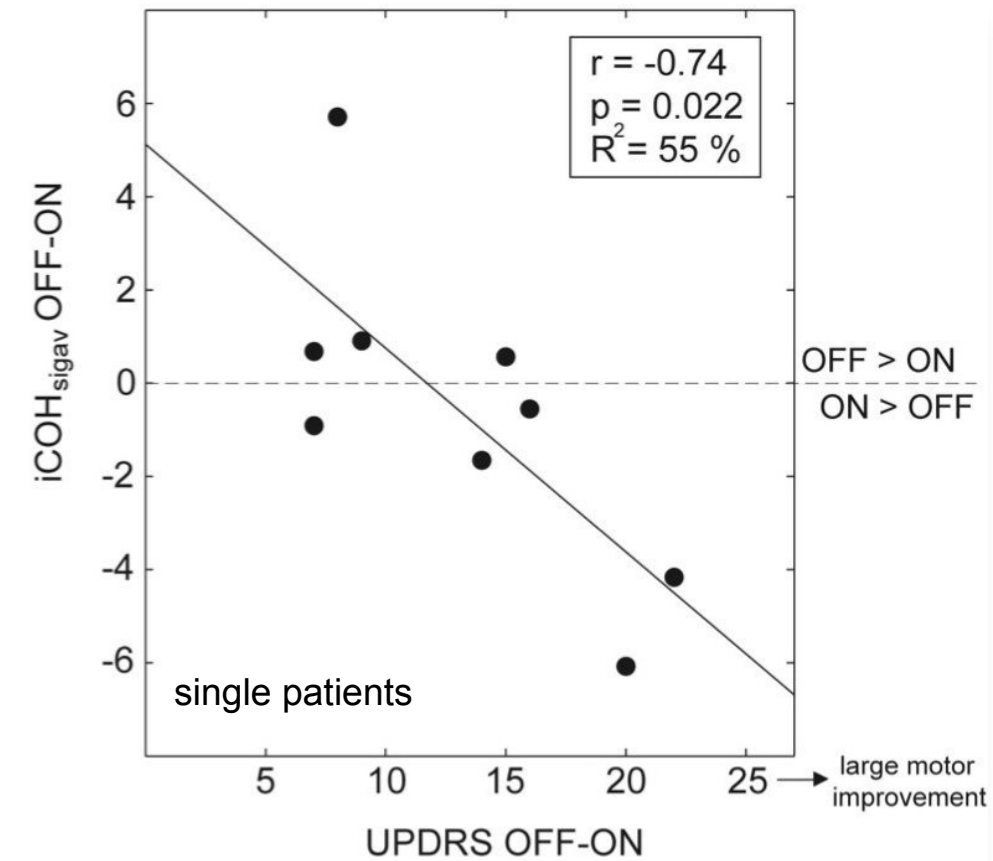
power



f. connectivity



f. connectivity (10-30 Hz)



- **increase** of functional/effective **connectivity** after **levodopa** administration
- increased fC relates to **motor improvement** (ON state)
- **preserved patterns** of information flow after levodopa administration

long-range temporal correlations (“fractals”) in basal ganglia

- further evidence for the **omnipresence** of LRTC
- novel **biomarker** for disease state in PD
- **medication** improves temporal stability (“**memory**”) of neural oscillations in PD

functional and effective connectivity in basal ganglia

- **genuine** neural interactions (time-lagged $\neq$ **volume conduction**)
- **increased** after medication in PD
- relation to **motor symptoms**

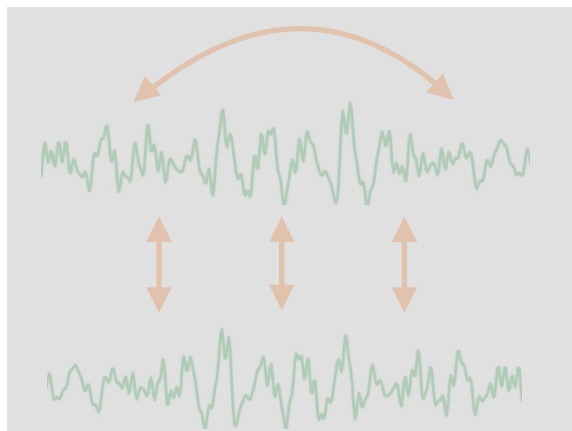
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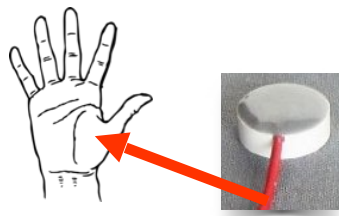


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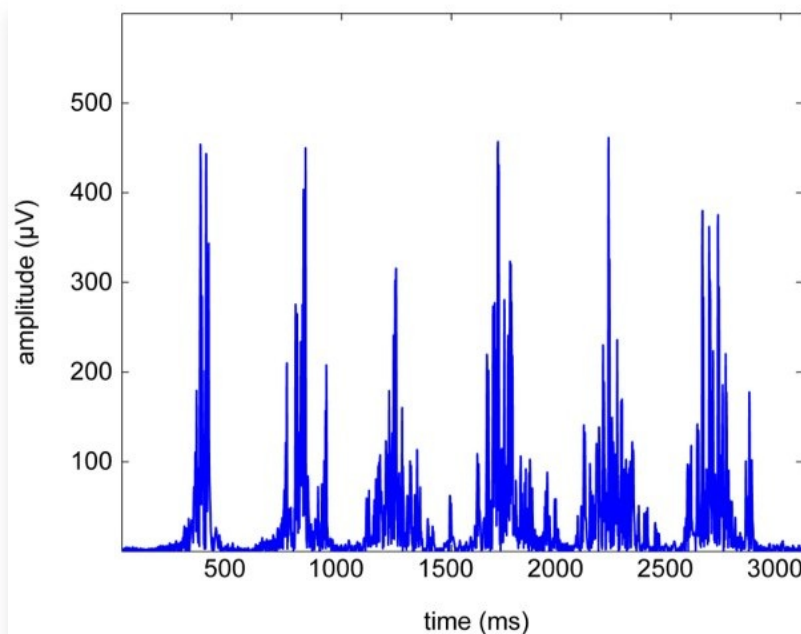
Can you do a movement...
...without doing it?



abductor pollicis
brevis

“Perform a weak movement with your thumb.
Now **minimize this movement** even further
and make it **as small as possible**.“

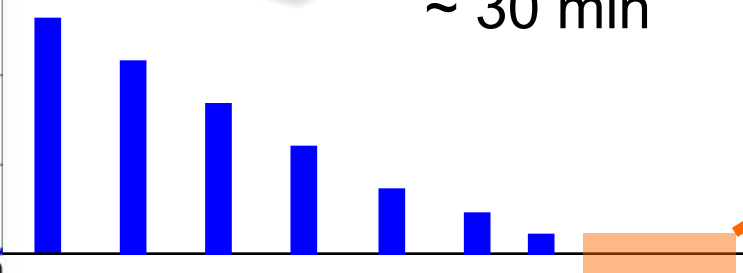
normal thumb movement



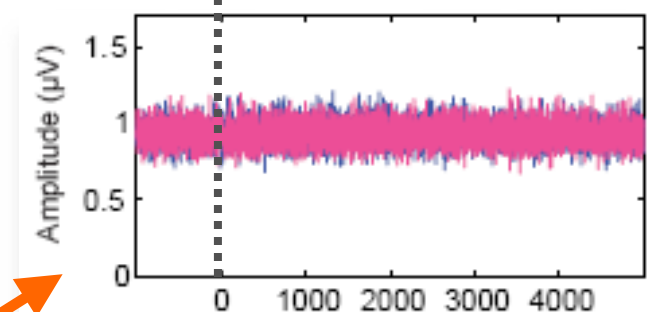
EMG neurofeedback



~ 30 min



rest *perform*



quasi-movements:

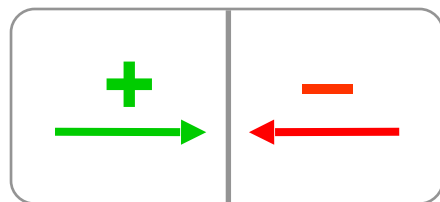
“volitional movements with zero muscle output”

undetectable by objective measures of muscle activity (e.g., EMG)

Hohlefeld et al. (NeuroReport, 2011); Hohlefeld et al. (Brain Res, 2011);
Hohlefeld (Free University, 2011); Nikulin*, Hohlefeld* et al. (Neuropsychologia, 2008)

movement performance:

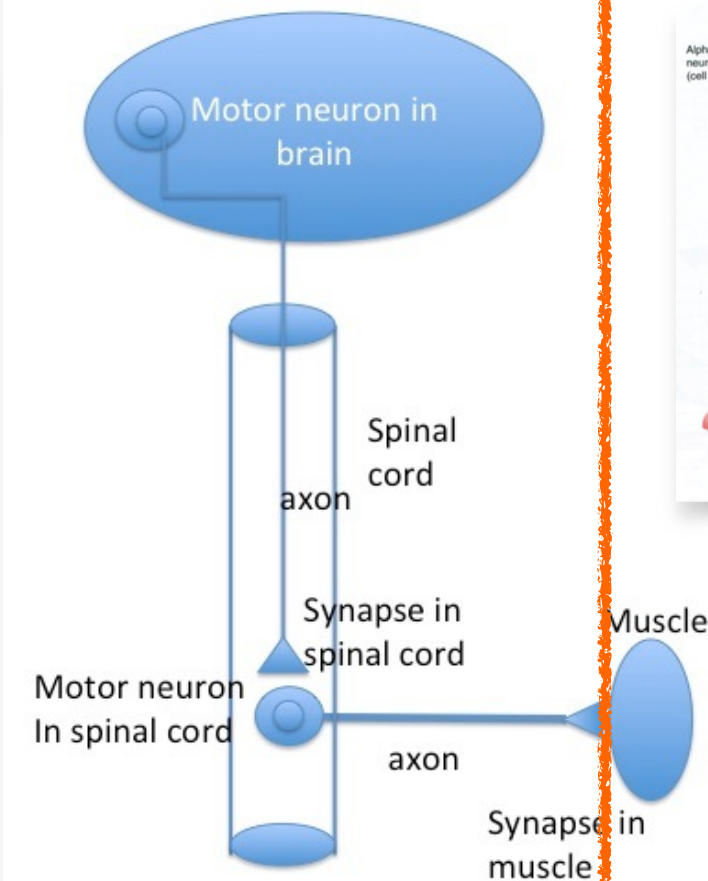
sequence of **neural activations**,
related to carrying out a **motor intention**,
culminating in muscle contraction



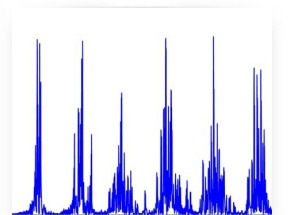
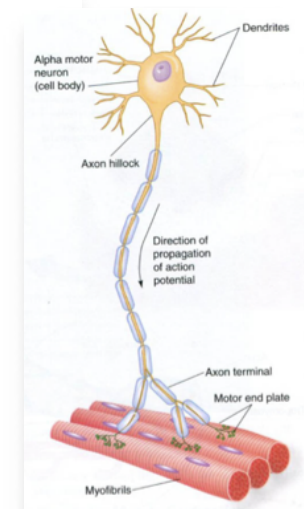
equilibrium
“meta-stable”

either/and:
gas too weak
break too strong

covert stages



overt movement



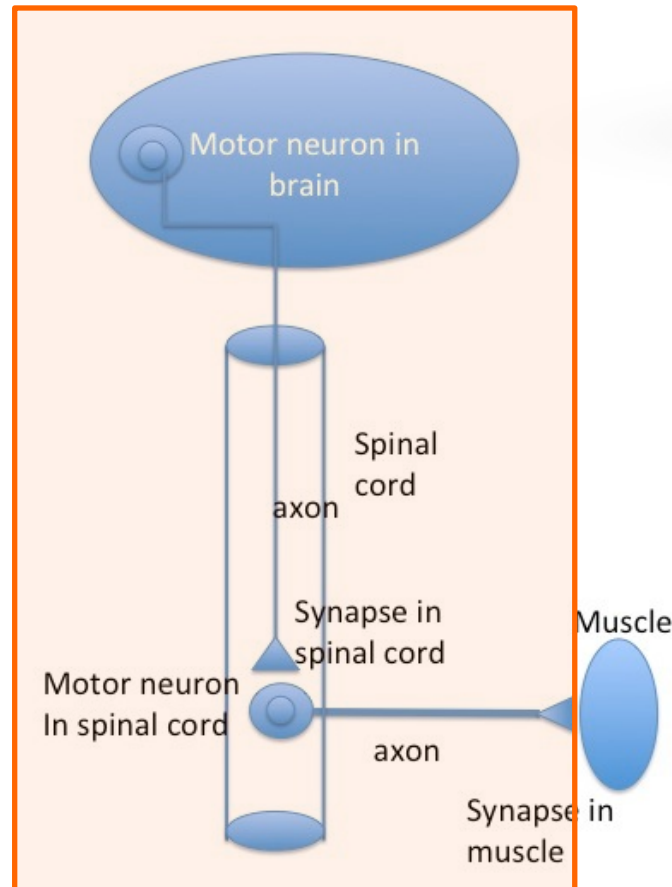
quasi-movements:

volitional movements with zero muscle output*

*as determined by objective measures

Hohlefeld et al., NeuroReport 2011; Hohlefeld et al., Brain Res 2011;
Hohlefeld FU 2011; Nikulin*, Hohlefeld* et al., Neuropsychologia 2008

covert



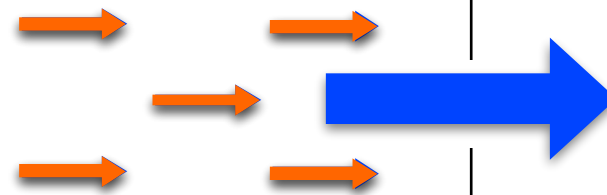
sensory threshold

afferent



motor threshold

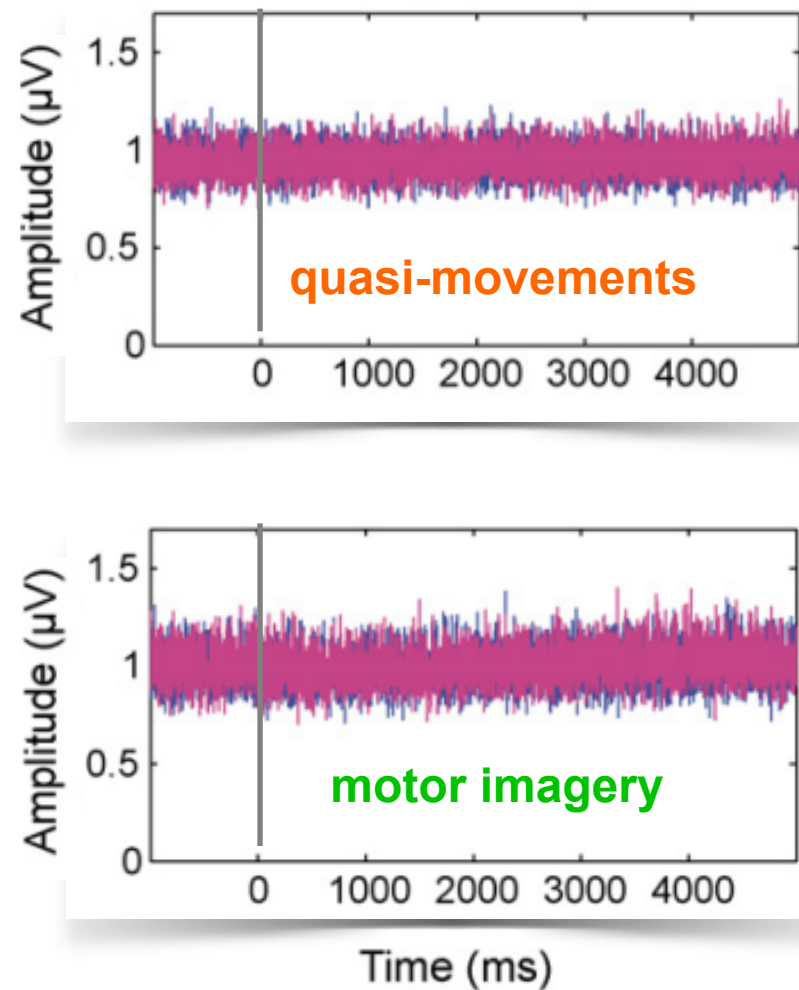
efferent



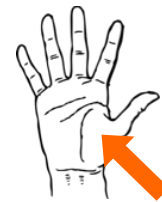
quasi-movements...a fine-grained motor skill



averaged EMG (single subject)

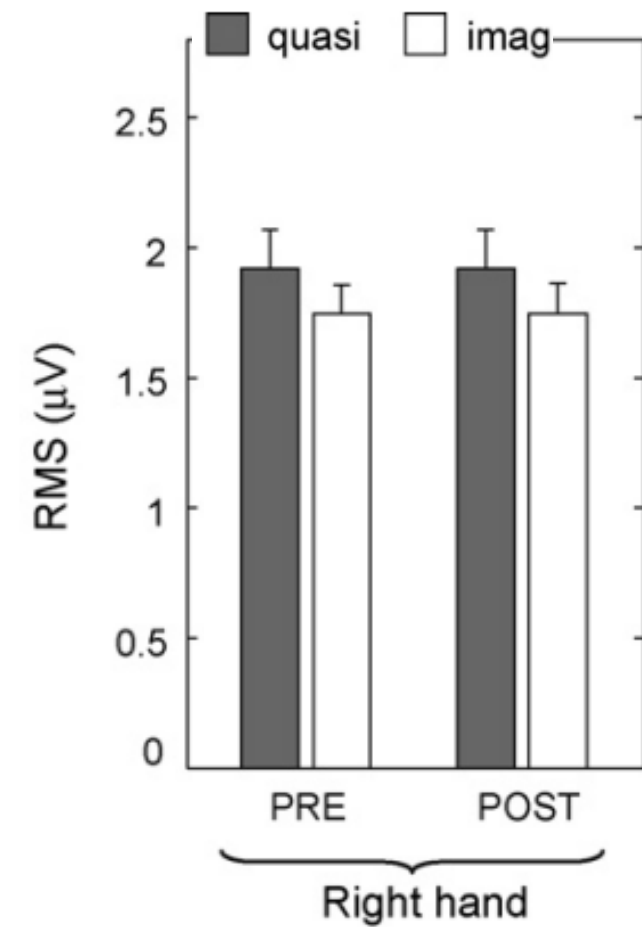


right APB



similar results
for left APB

grand-average EMG

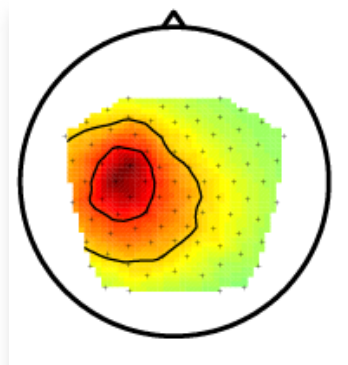


- no significant differences between pre- and post-stimulus EMG
- no differences between QM and imagery (based on EMG activity)

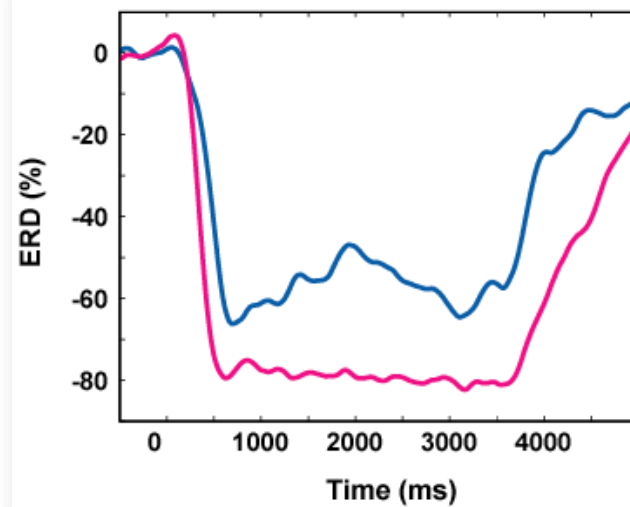
spatial topography of neural activation and event-related desynchronization (8–13 Hz)



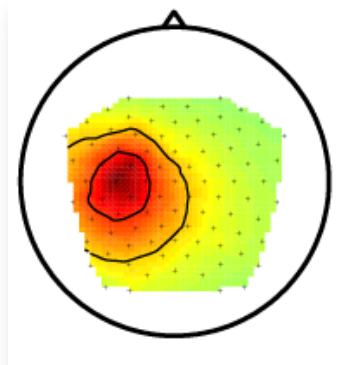
overt movement



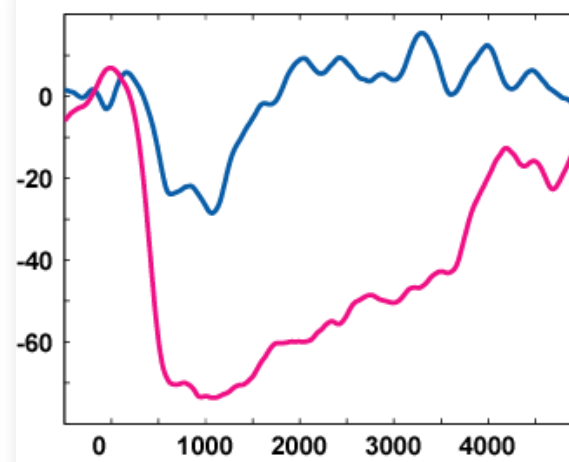
C3



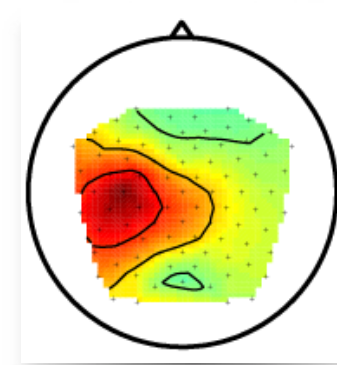
quasi-movements



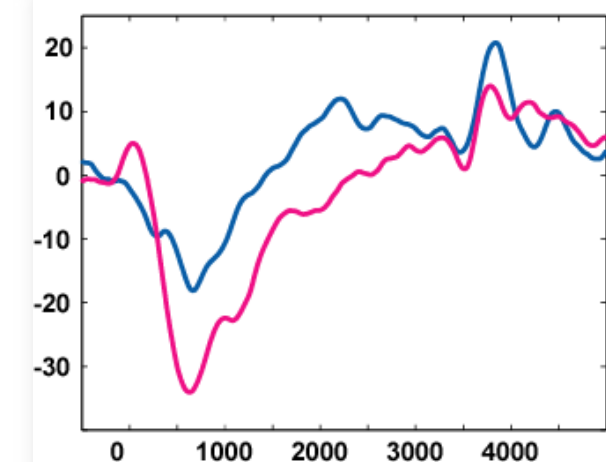
C3



motor imagery

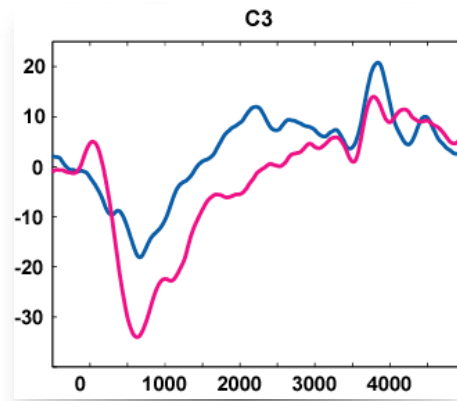
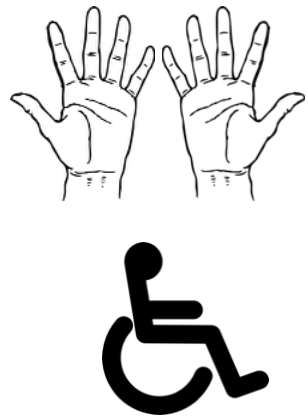


C3



— right hand
— left hand

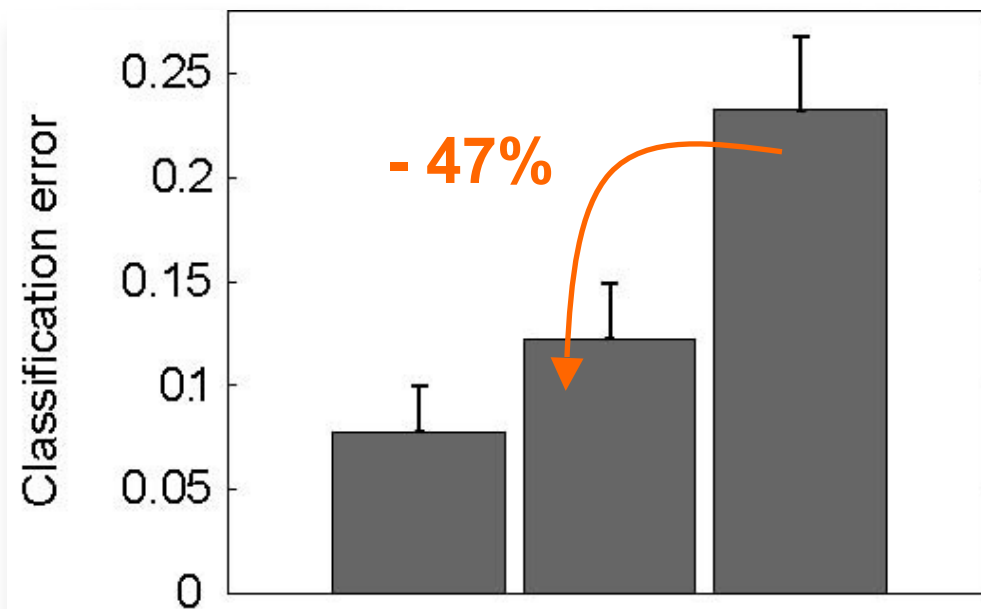
ERD in contralateral hemisphere:
movement > **quasi** > imagery



brain-computer interface (BCI)

- **discriminate** brain states related to **motor cognition**, e.g., **imagine** left vs. right hand movement
- for **patients** (paralysis, amputation, coma...)
- algorithms/mental strategies tested in **healthy** subjects
- **illiteracy problem!**

EEG classification error



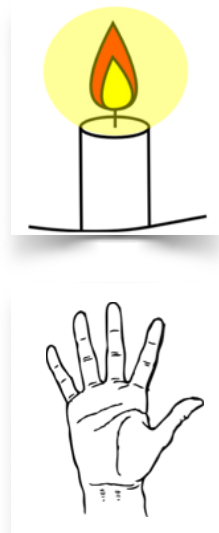
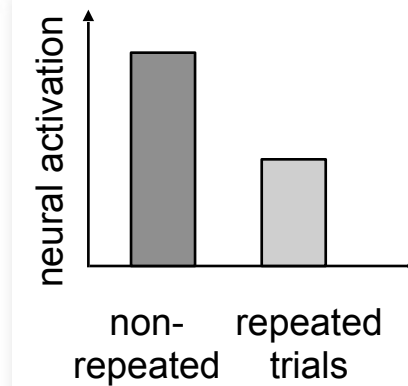
move **quasi** **imagery**

Nikulin*, Hohlefeld* et al. (2008)

quasi-movements

- increased classification accuracy **~ 47%** (up to **86 %**) compared to standard imagery
- not related to occasional EMG responses
- effective for BCI (illiterate problem)
- healthy subjects ⇔ patients

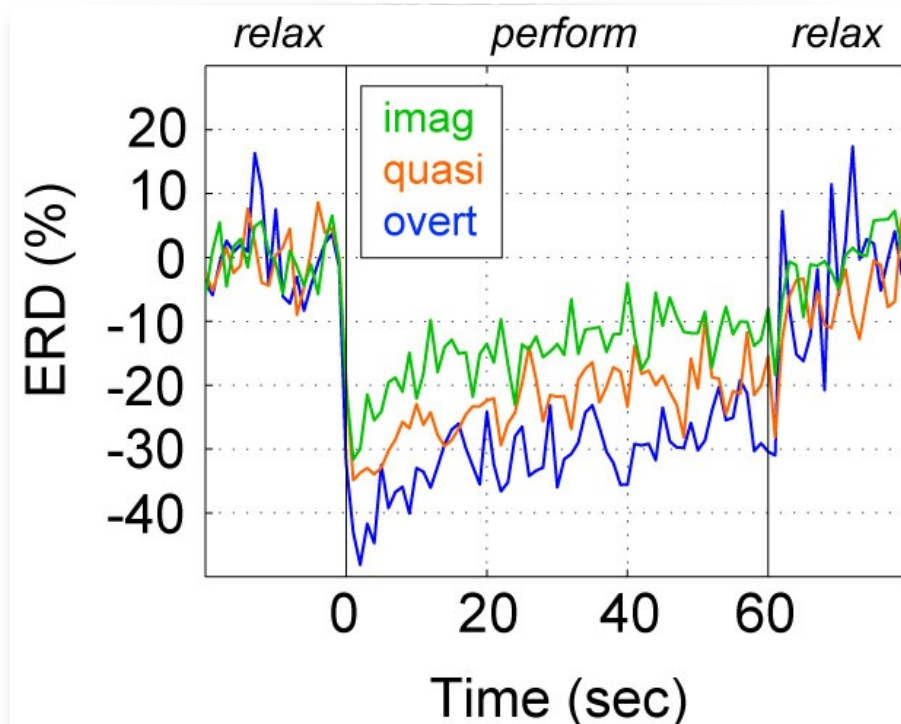
repetition suppression



repetition suppression (RS) is found with...

- **afferent**: stimulation Grill-Spector et al. (2001)
- **efferent**: movement Wu et al. (2008)
- open question: **internally (central)** triggered RS?

Laplacian ERD, C3 contra,
grand-average (n=13), 9–12 Hz



RS in **covert** movements (EEG)

- motor RS primarily due to **central activation**
- **quasi-movements**: α -ERD ~10 sec longer sustained than motor imagery

- long-range temporal correlations (“fractals”) in basal ganglia
- functional/effective connectivity in/between basal ganglia

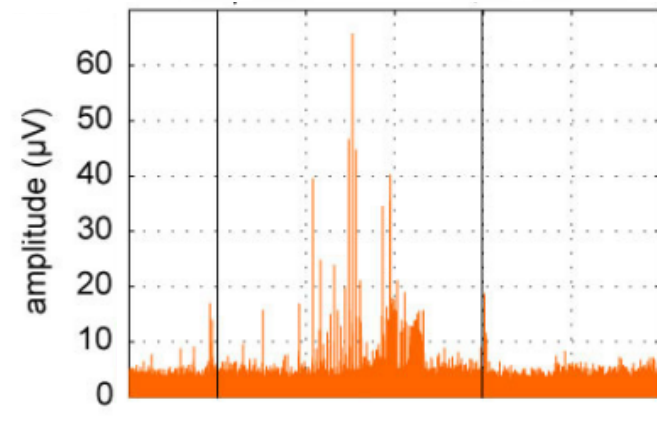
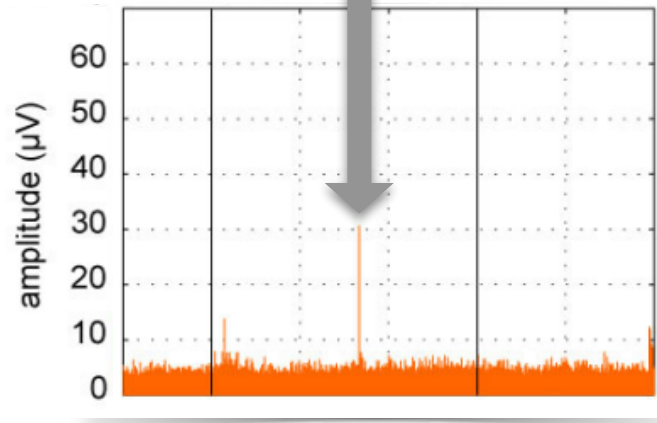
covert vs. overt movement stages

- muscle **contraction** is just the **end stage**
- brain activity during covert stages: **intention** matters!
- different intentions: brings the motor system **closer** to **motor threshold**

EEG correlates of quasi-movements

- **quasi-movements**: **volitional** movements with **zero motor output**
 - ... subjective **reports**: “I am doing a movement” , “I feel the movement”
 - ... **silent EMG** in the majority of trials (comparable to motor imagery)
 - ... **strong EEG activity** over sensorimotor cortices
- effectiveness for **BCI**
- overcome the **mixture** challenge of efferent vs. reafferent signals
- covert stages: **internal repetition suppression**

~1% maximum
voluntary contraction



EMG detection rate
during quasi-movements:
~20 %

Nikulin*, Hohlefeld*
et al. (2008)

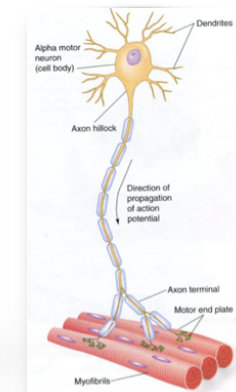
more
training?

occasional mini “motor slips”
during quasi-movements:

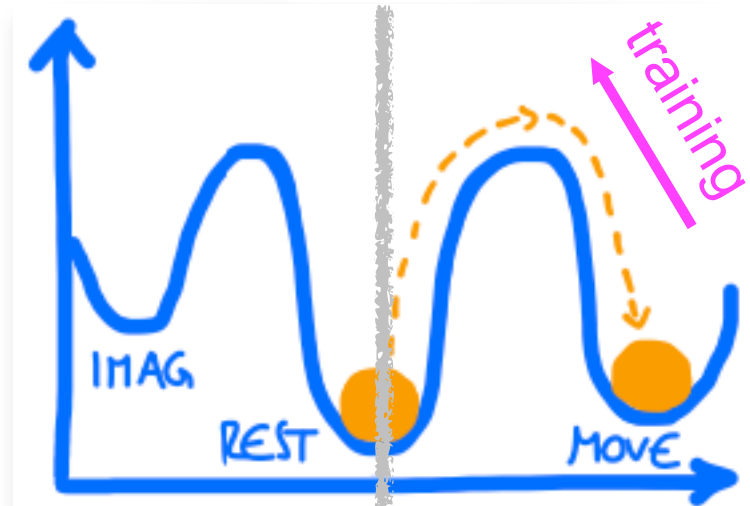
a window into “phase transitions” in the motor system
between rest and movement?

quantum of action — 1 motor unit
subquantum — quasi-movements

Prof. G. Curio (personal communication, 2014)



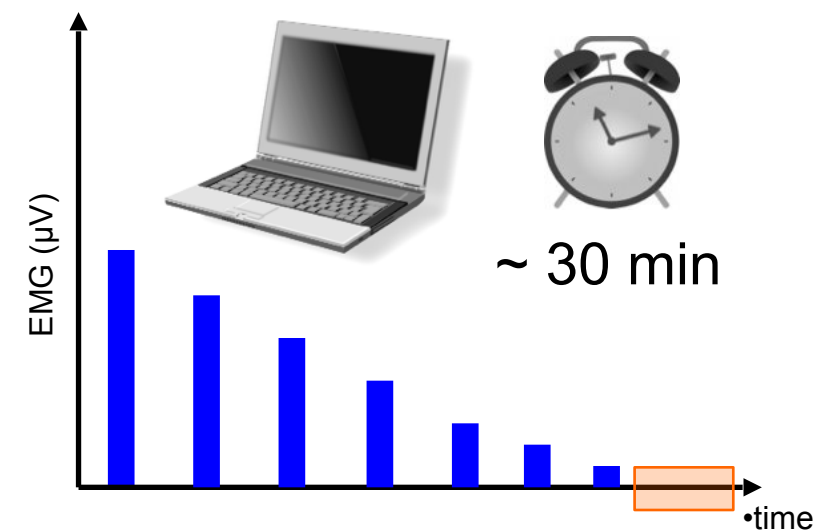
before training



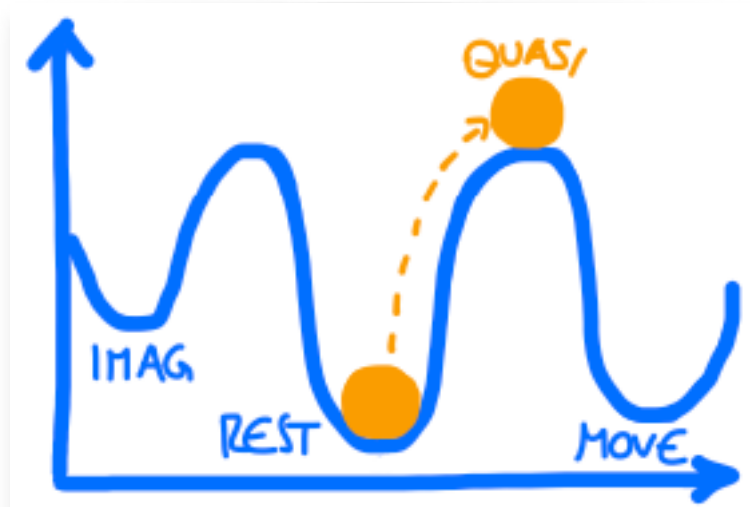
movement **simulation** | movement **intention**



EMG neurofeedback



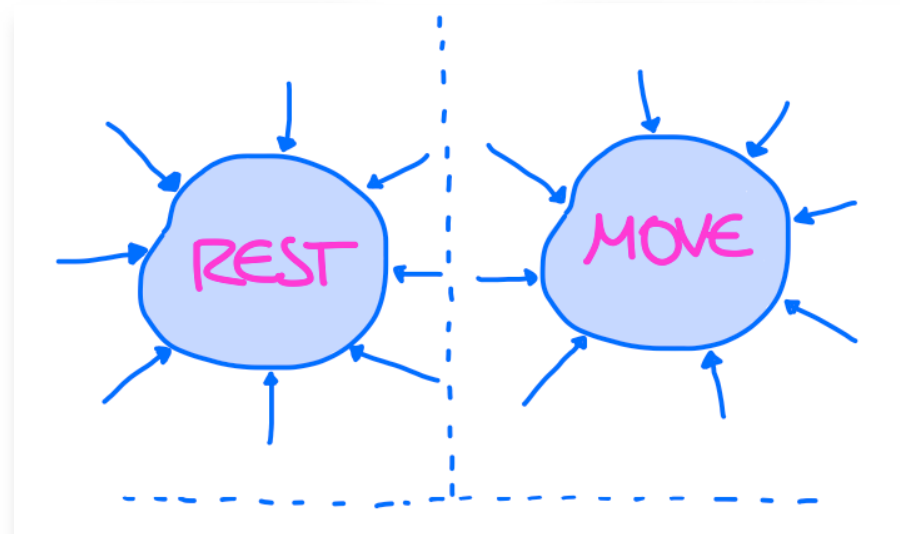
training



after training



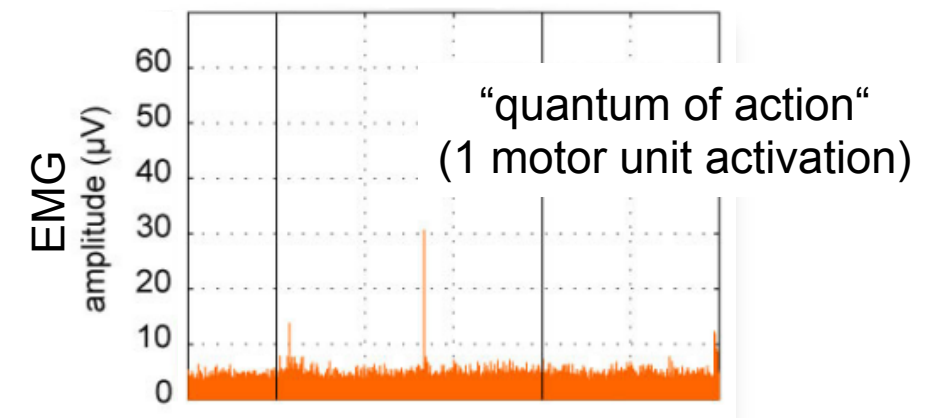
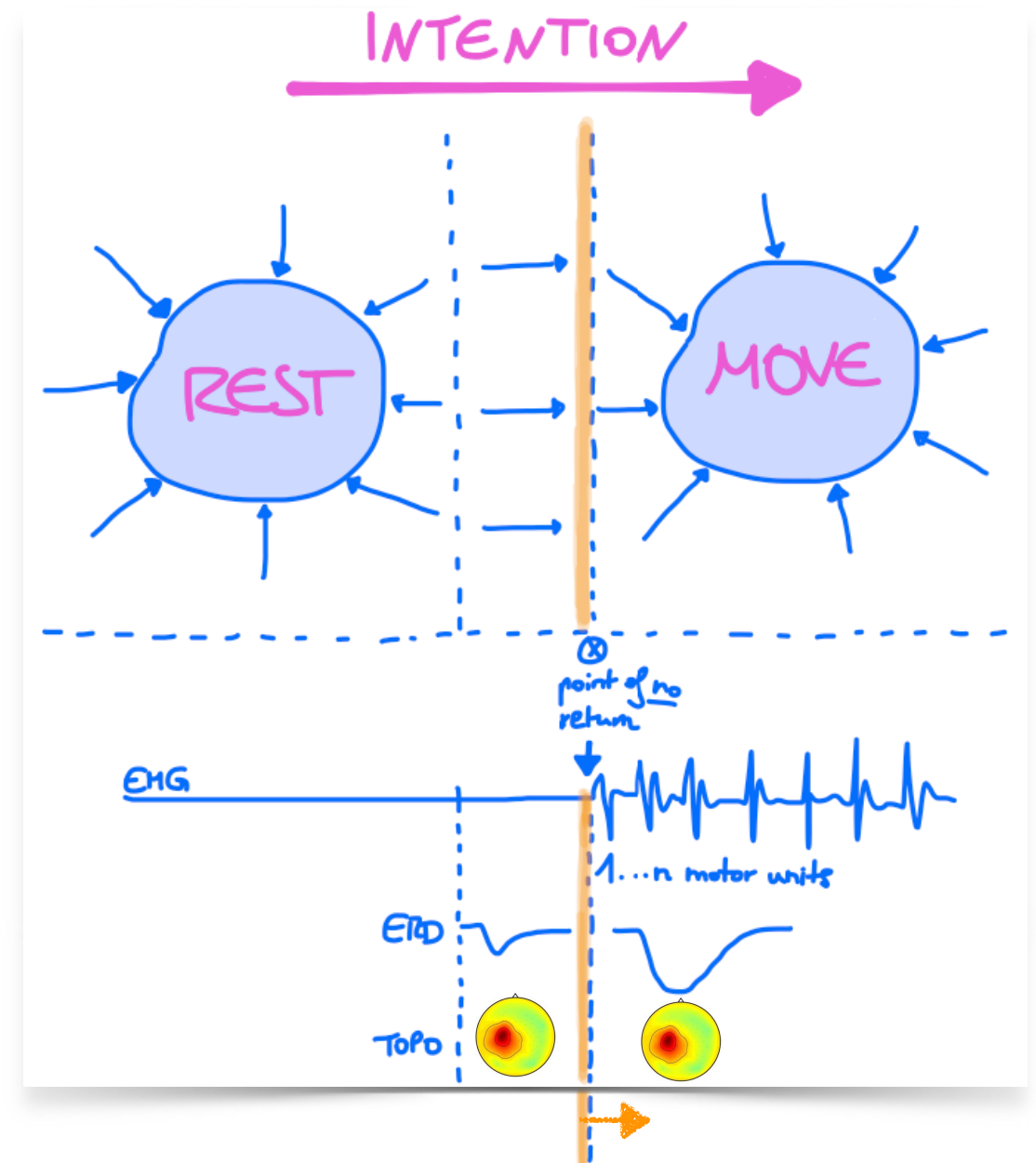
attractor landscapes in the motor system



spontaneous fluctuations

- neural noise
- attention, drowsiness, motivation...

might determine occurrence of motor slips
...“transition” rest—movement?



methods (Parkinson patients)

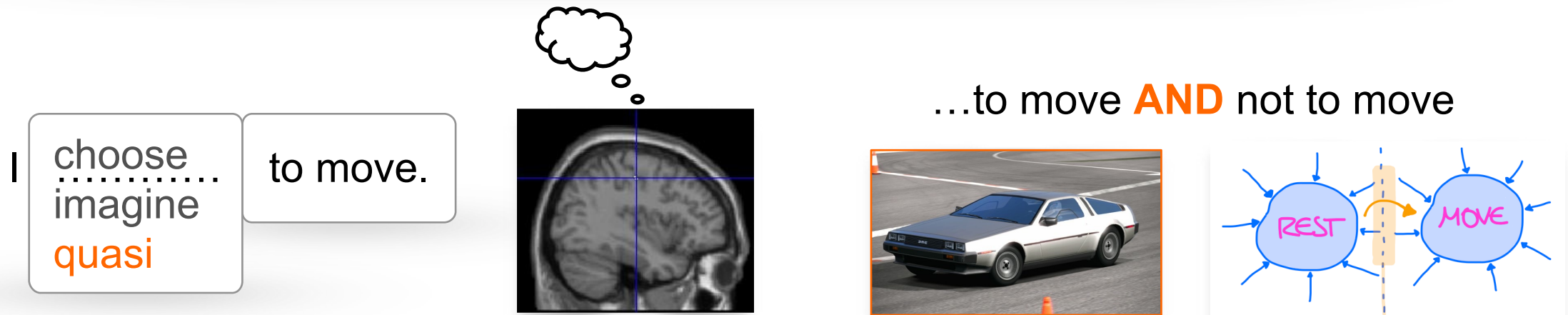
- long-range temporal correlations
- connectivity ($\neq$ volume conduction)

paradigm

- quasi-movements:
“subquantum” of action

applications (QM)

- brain-computer interface
- intention
- repetition suppression
- movement dynamics
 (“phase transitions”)



"What is left over if I subtract the fact that ~~my arm goes up~~
from the fact that I raise my arm?"

L. Wittgenstein (1953)



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