Forward and Inverse EEG Source Modeling

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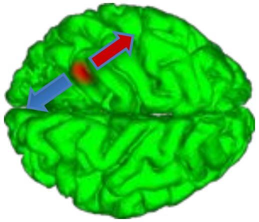
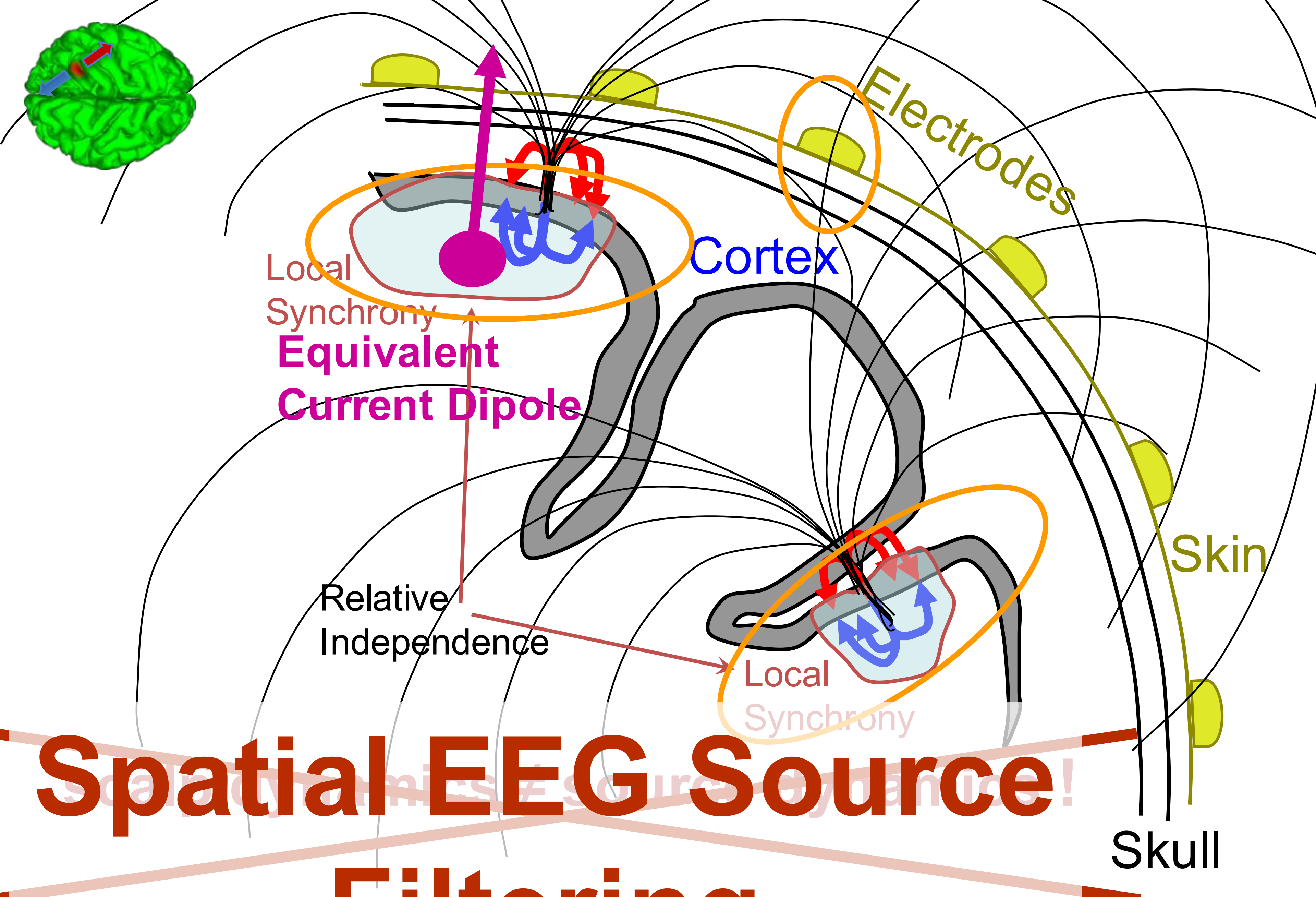
January, 2017



Motivation

- Why perform ICA?
- Why fit dipoles or distribution source models?
- Why measure EEG?!

- To obtain information about brain processes…
  - Time course of activities that produce the EEG signals
  - Locations of the activities that produce the EEG signals

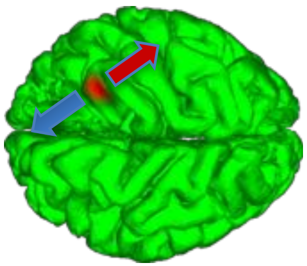


Spatial EEG Source Filtering

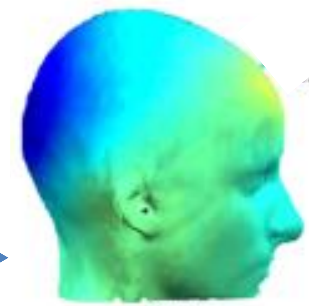
S. Makeig 2007

EEG source modeling

Source Space



Sensor Space



Forward head model

forward problem

electrical currents

volume conduction through body tissues

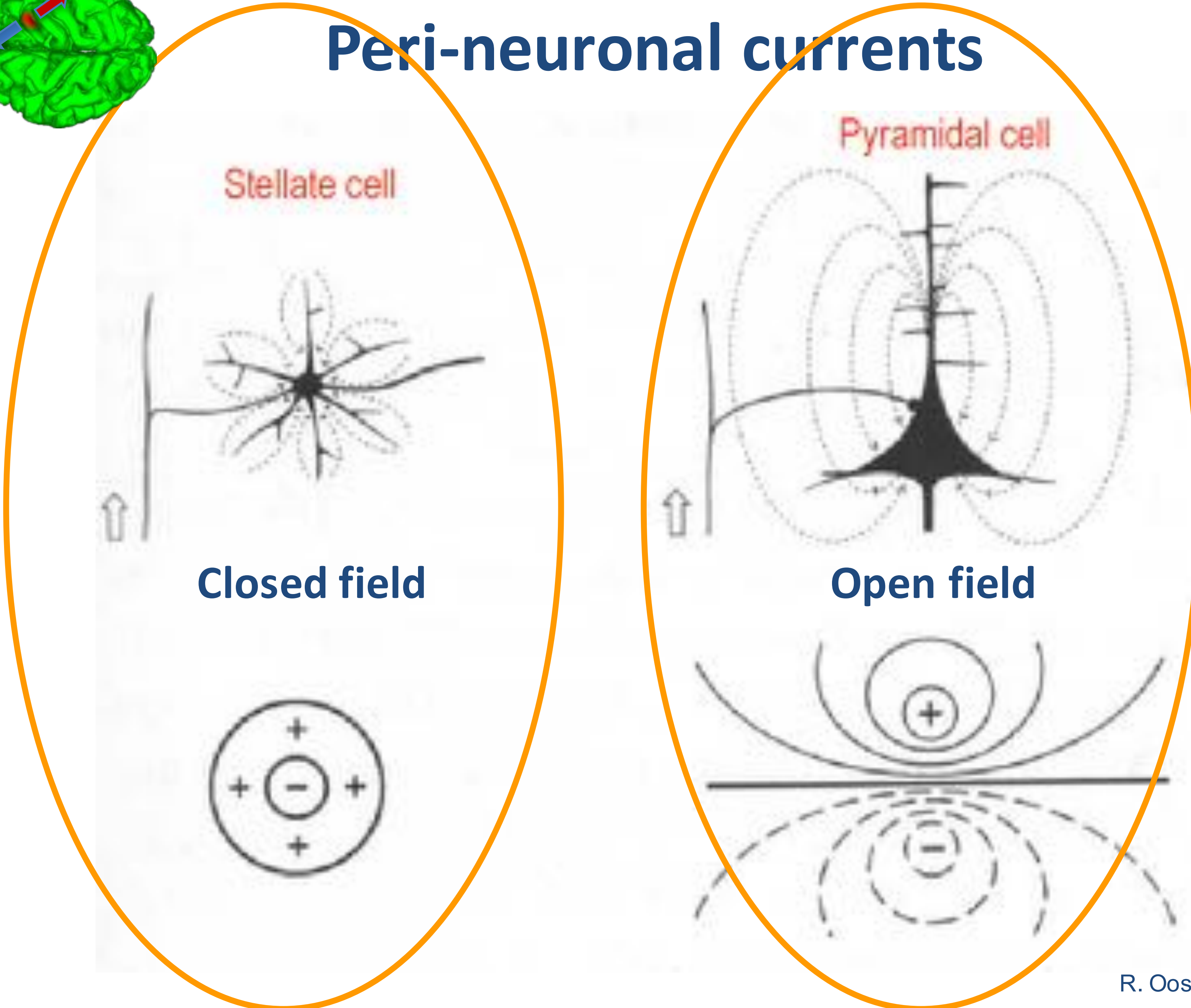
recorded potentials

inverse problem

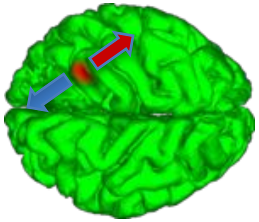
Inverse localization method

R. Oostenveld, & S. Makeig, 2016

Peri-neuronal currents



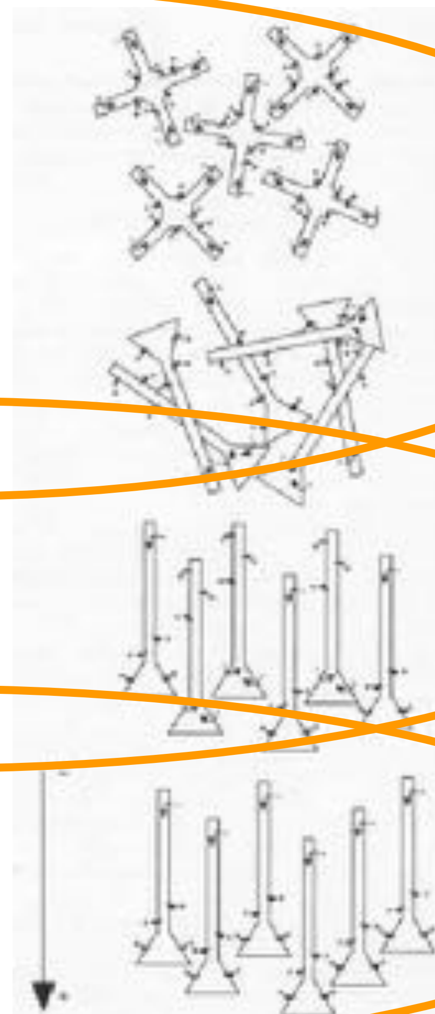
R. Oostenveld, 2007



Symmetry, orientation and activation

radially symmetric, i.e.
randomly-oriented

Closed field



asynchronously activated

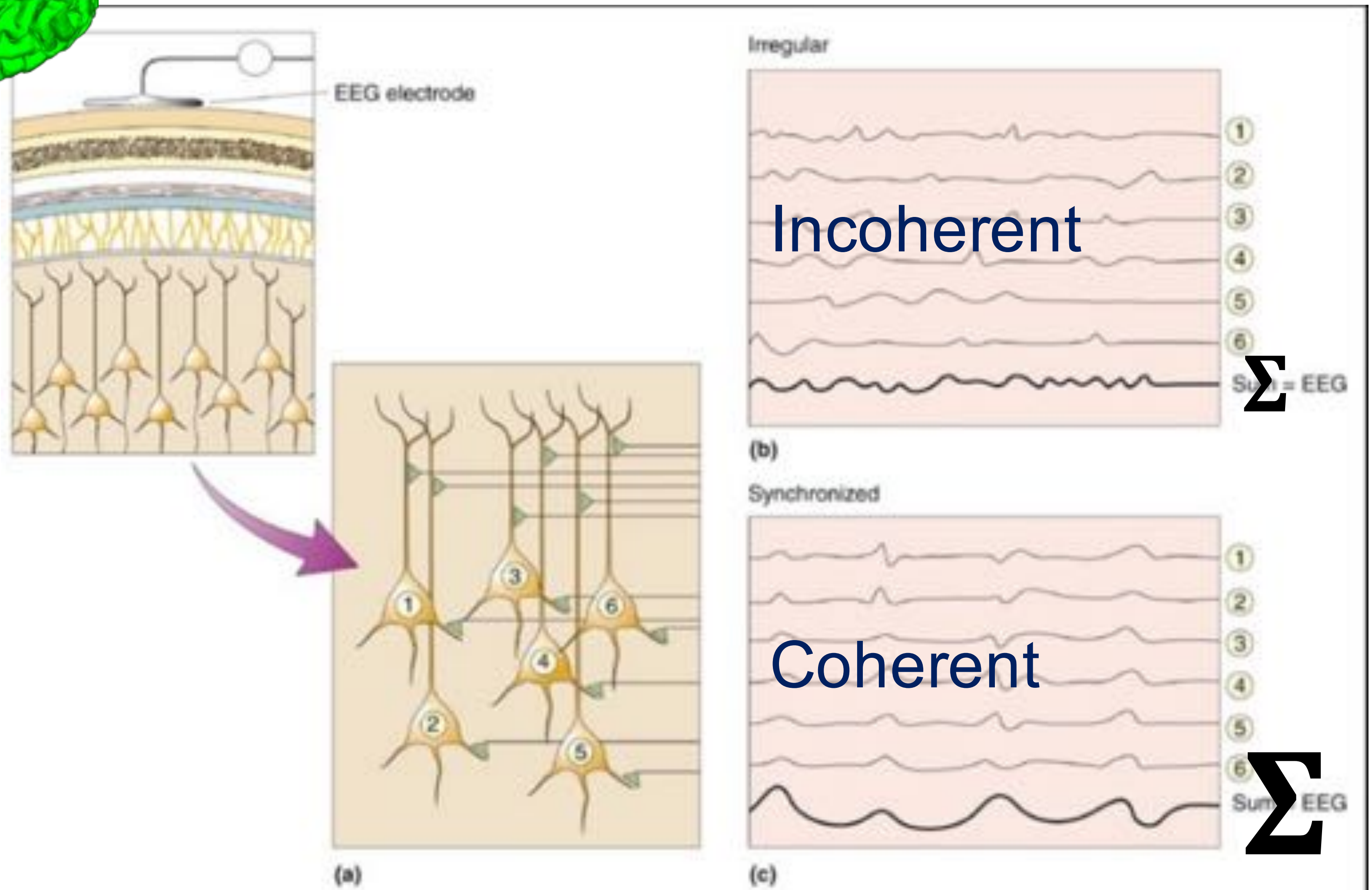
Phase cancellation

synchronously activated
parallel-oriented

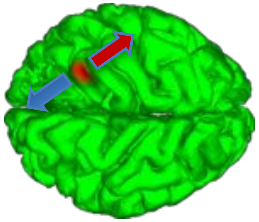
Open field

Awhen recorded at a distance, dipolar field components dominate

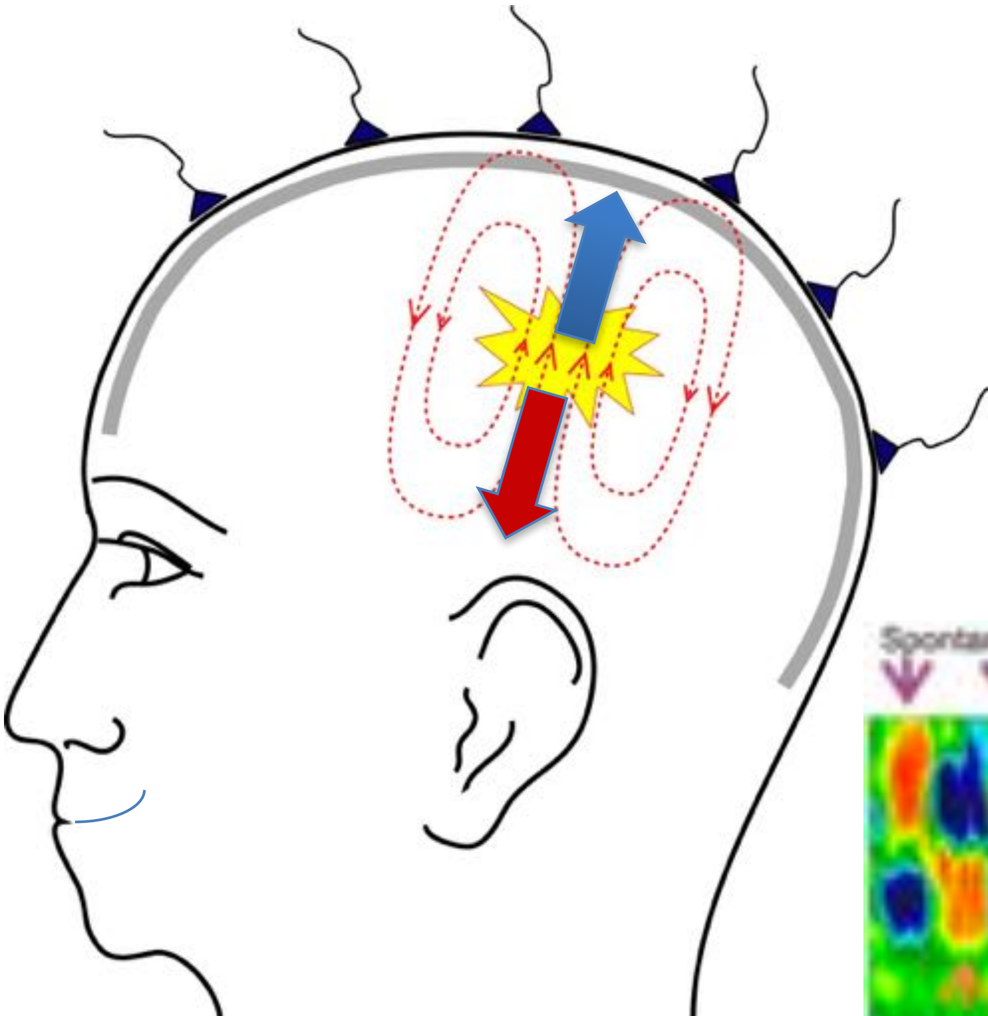
EEG Effective Sources

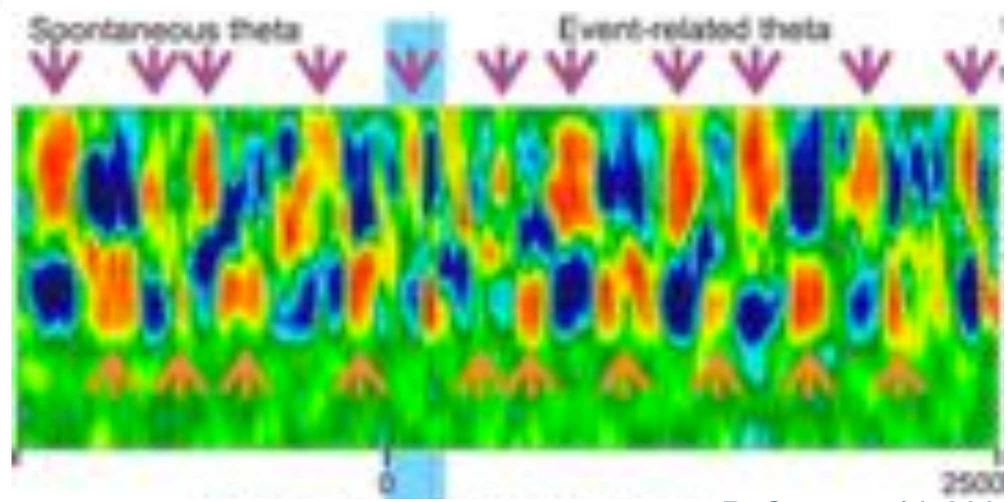


Many neurons need to sum their local field activities to be detectable at EEG electrodes. Synchronized neural activity produces large far field signals.

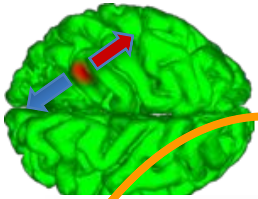


EEG volume conduction of dipolar field patterns ➔ effective sources

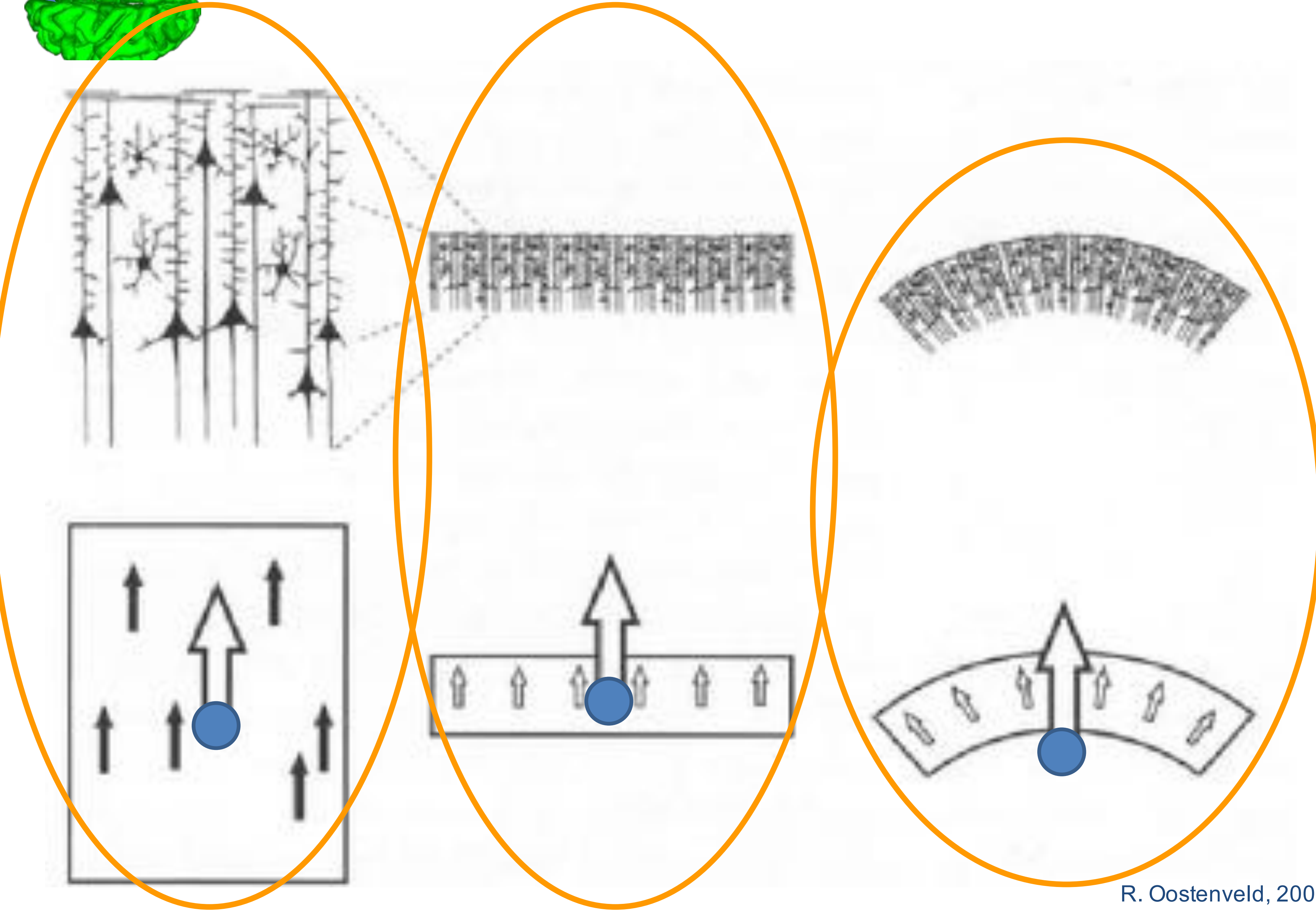




R. Oostenveld, 2007

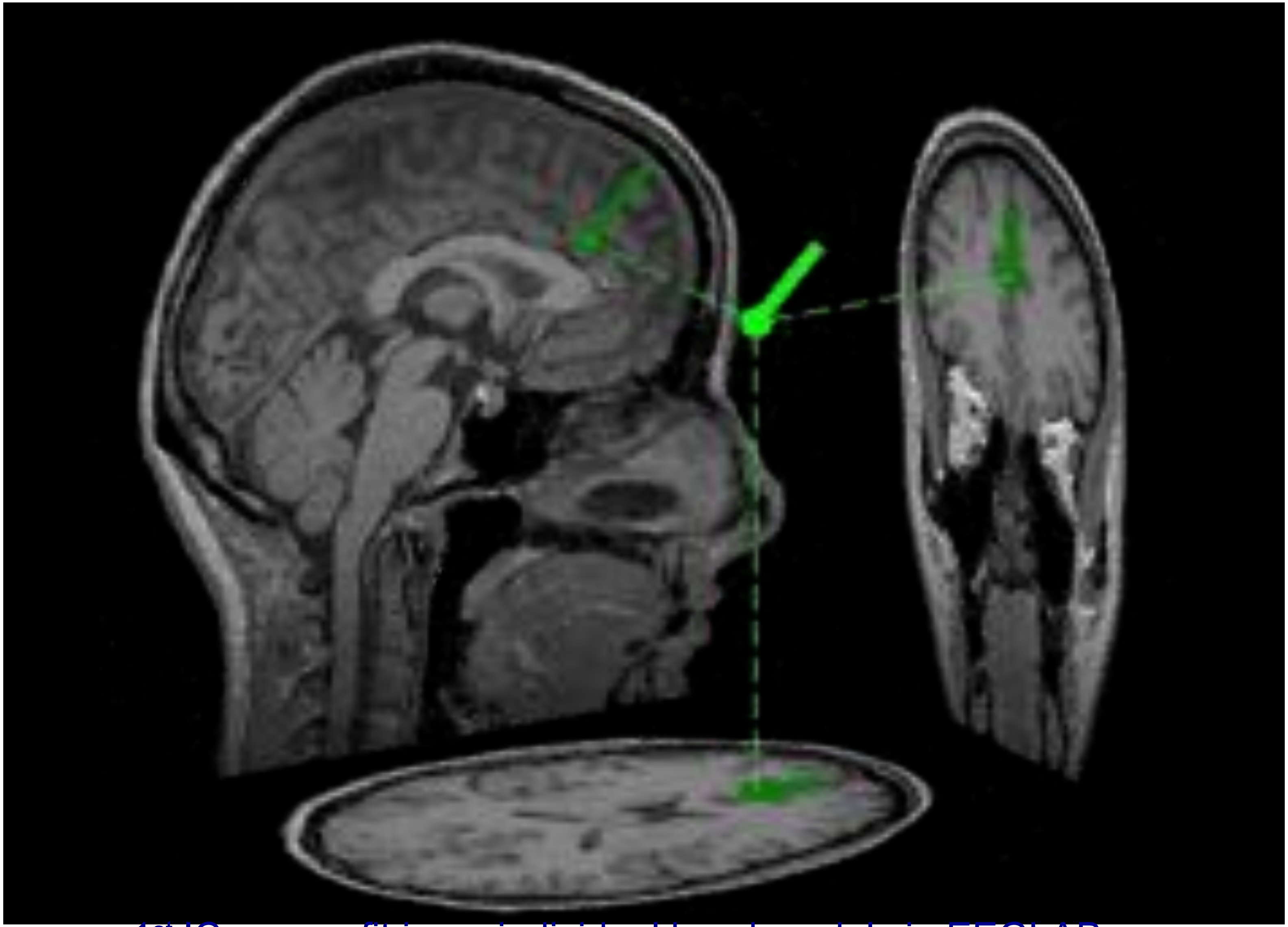


The *equivalent* current dipole



R. Oostenveld, 2007

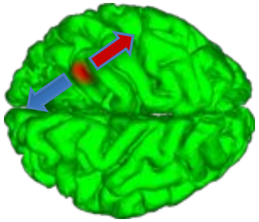
Equivalent current dipole modeling

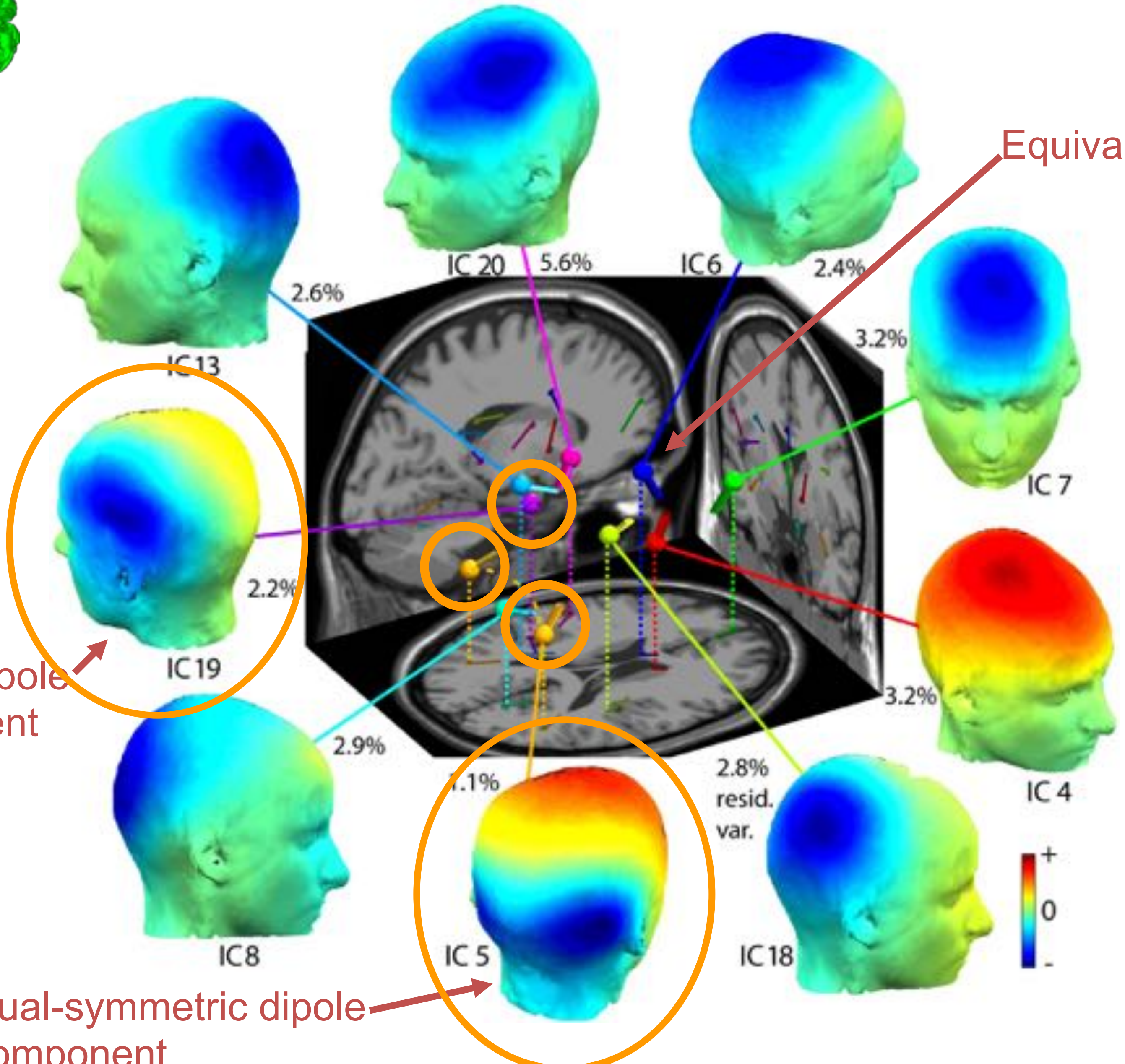


1st IC source fit in an individual head model via EEGLAB

A. Delorme, ~2007

Independent cortical components



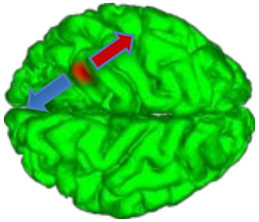


Equivalent dipoles

Single dipole component

Dual-symmetric dipole component

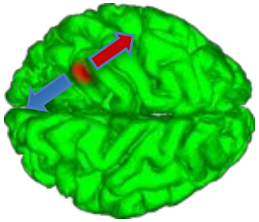
Julie Onton & S. Makeig (2006)



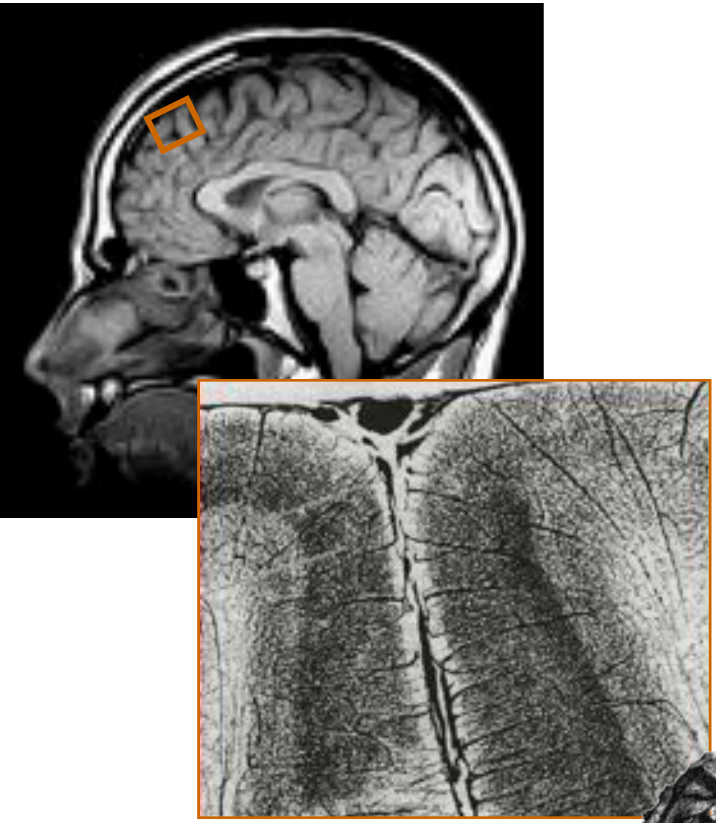
Equivalent current dipole modeling

- **Physical/mathematical motivation**
  - Any current distribution can be written as a multipole expansion
  - First term: monopole (must be 0)
  - Second term: dipole
  - Higher order terms: quadrupole, octopole, …
  - **In far-field recordings, the dipolar term dominates.**
- For convenience + accuracy, therefore
  - **Dipoles** can be used as building blocks in distributed EEG effective source models

R. Oostenveld, & S. Makeig, 2016

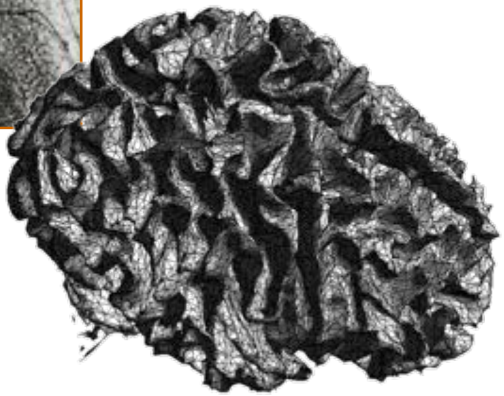


The linear forward problem



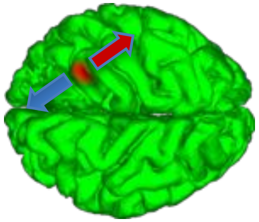
$$X = LS$$

where ***L*** is the lead field matrix giving Potential vector contributions ***X*** to each scalp electrode for all possible source contributions ***S*** (source space)



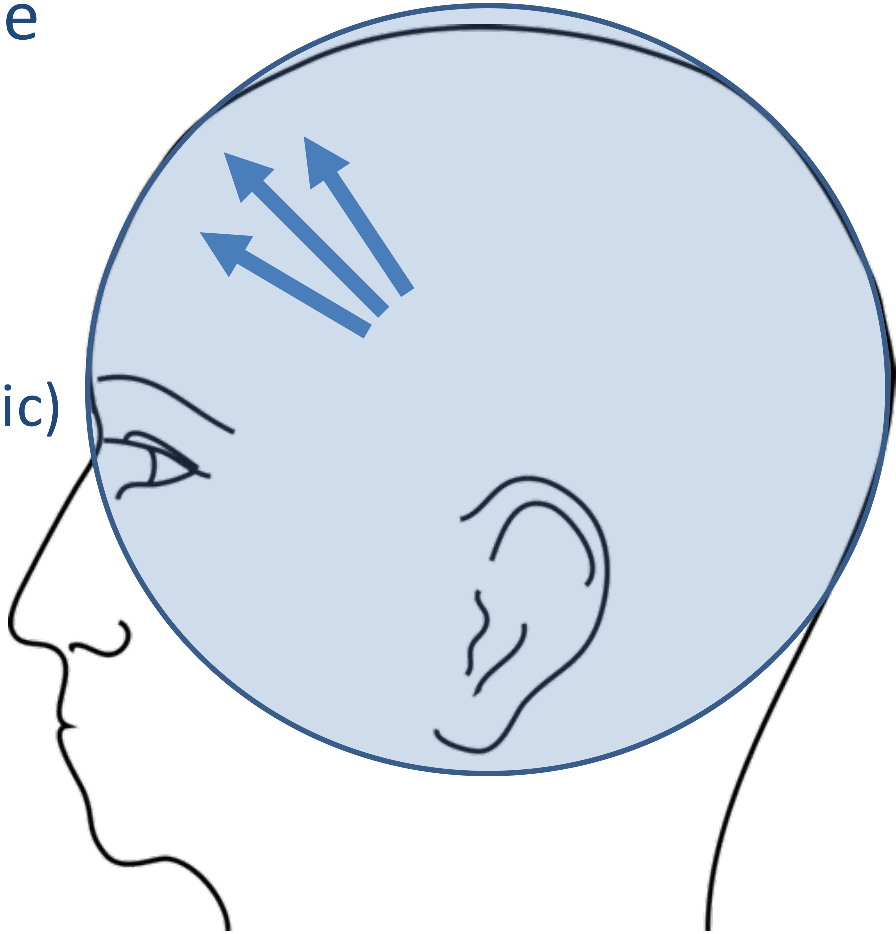
Daunizeau, 2009

Anatomical constraint:
Sources are in the cortex & perpendicular to it.



Forward Head Models

- Electrical properties of tissue
  - Conductivity
  - Anisotropy
- Geometrical description
  - Spherical model? (less realistic)
  - Realistically shaped model

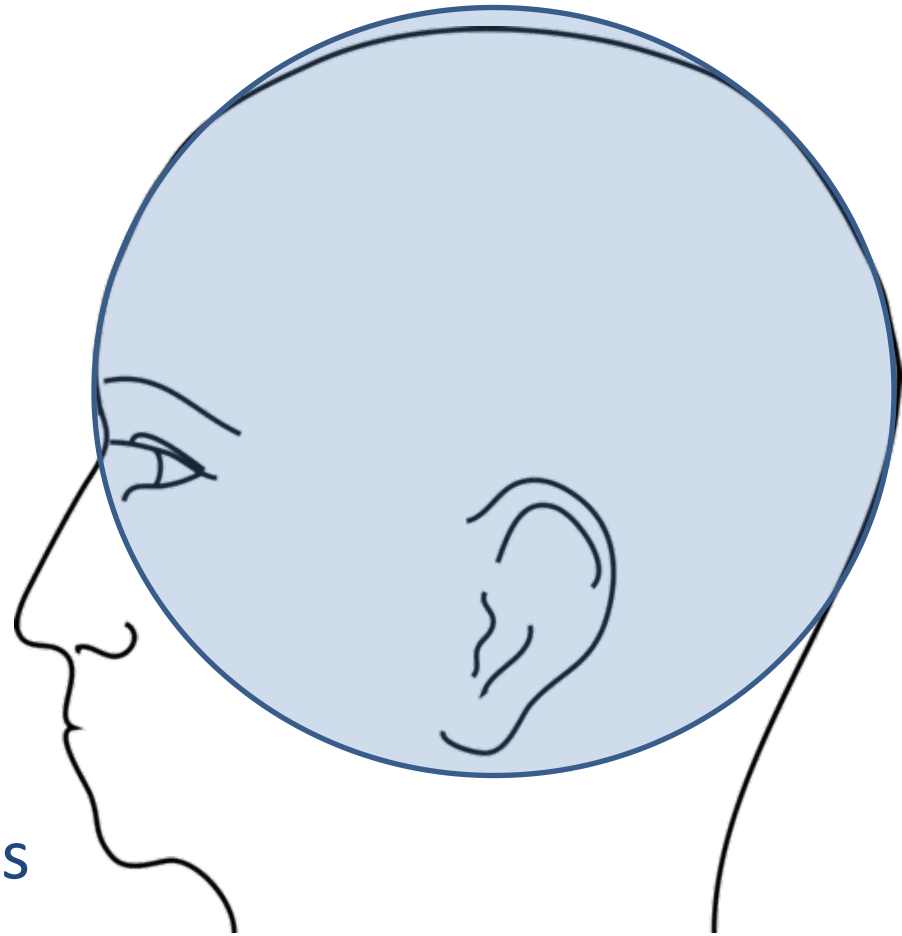


→ A **forward model** describes how the currents flow from all possible points of origin

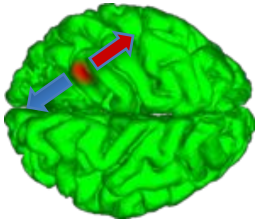
Forward Head Models

- Advantages of the **spherical** model
  - mathematically accurate
  - reasonably accurate
  - computationally fast
  - easy to use

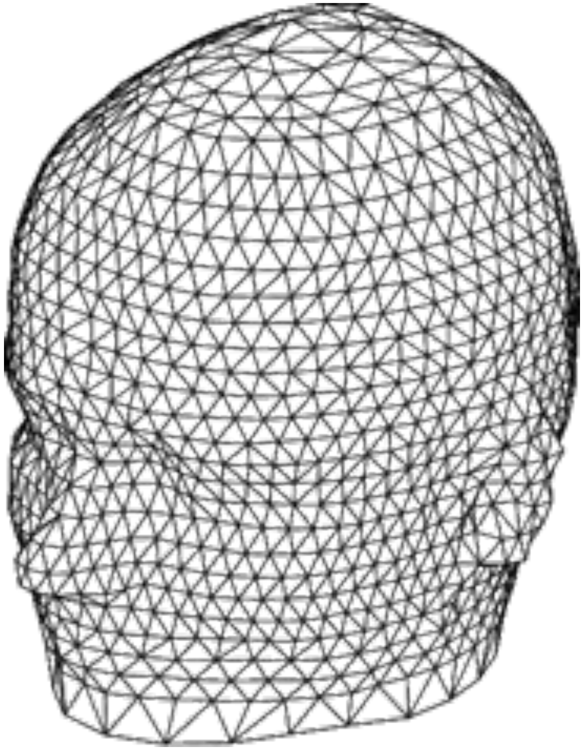
- Disadvantages of the **spherical** model
  - inaccurate in some regions
  - difficult to align to head



R. Oostenveld, & S. Makeig, 2016



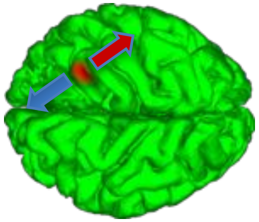
Forward Head Models



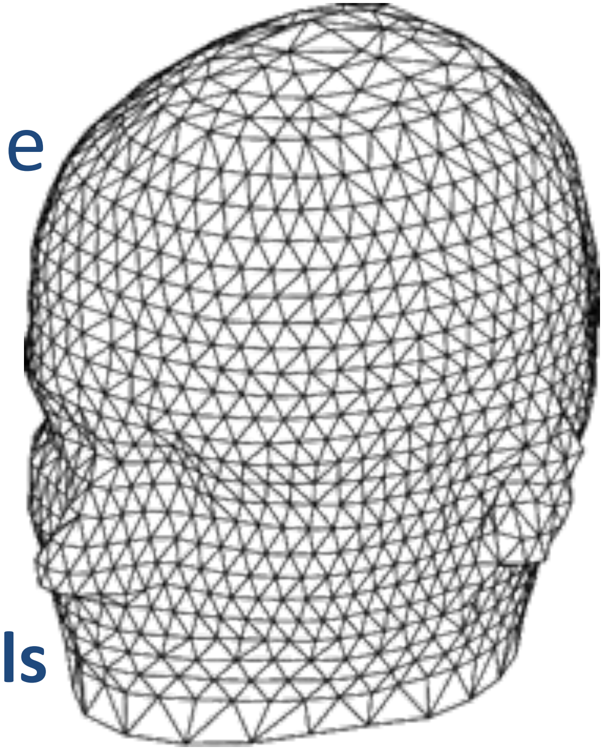
- Advantages of a **realistic** head model
  - accurate solution for EEG
- Disadvantages of a **realistic** model
  - more work
  - computationally slower
  - numerically instable?
  - Difficult for inter-individual comparisons

→ **The pragmatic (easy, cheap) solution is to use a standard (mean) realistic head model (MNI)**.

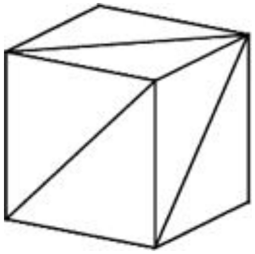
R. Oostenveld, & S. Makeig, 2016



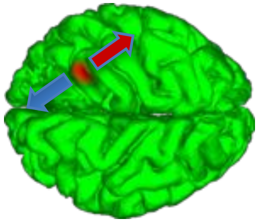
Forward Head Models



- Computational methods for volume conduction problem that allow realistic geometries
  - **Boundary Element Method (BEM) models**
  - **Finite Element Method (FEM) models**
- Geometrical description
  - **Triangles** (2-D) → BEM
  - **Tetrahedra** (3-D) → FEM



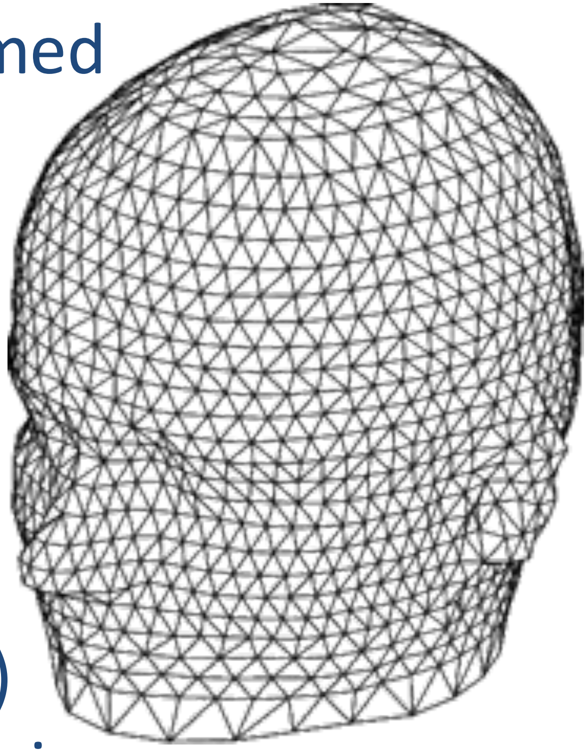
R. Oostenveld, & S. Makeig, 2016



Forward Head Models: BEM

- **Boundary Element Method (BEM)** models
  - description of head geometry by tissue compartments
  - Tissue in each compartment is assumed
    - homogenous
    - isotropic

  Important tissue types
    - Scalp
    - Skull
    - CSF
    - Brain (grey matter / white matter)
  - Use triangulated surfaces as boundaries
  - Each surface should be closed (no holes)



R. Oostenveld, & S. Makeig, 2016

Forward Head Models: BEM

- **Boundary Elem**
  - descripti ue compar
  - Tissue
    - hom
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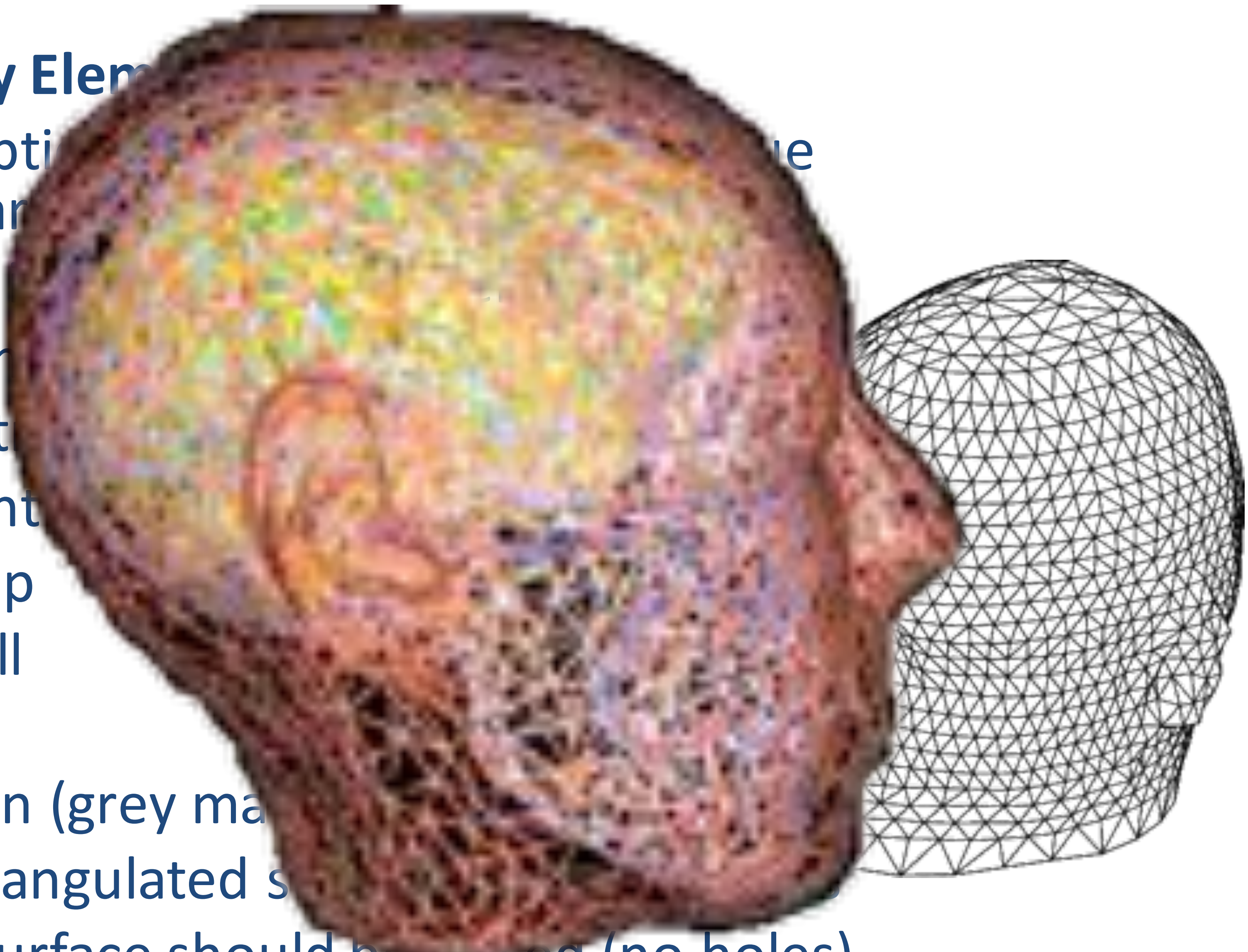
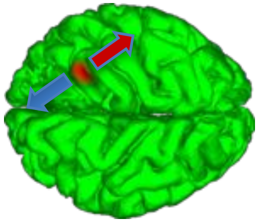


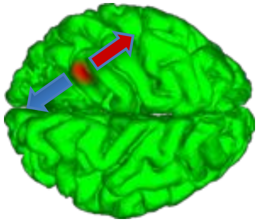
R. Oostenveld, & S. Makeig, 2016



Forward head models: Modeling the skull

- **Potential differences between electrodes** measures summed current flowing through scalp
  - However, only a tiny fraction of *brain source currents* pass through the skull
  - Therefore a forward head model should describe *brain, skull,* and *scalp tissues* as accurately as possible.

R. Oostenveld, & S. Makeig, 2016

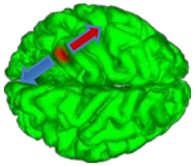


Forward head models: Modeling the skull

- **Problems with skull modeling**
  - Poorly visible in the anatomic MRI (T2) image
  - Thickness varies regionally
  - Conductivity is not homogeneous
  - Complex geometry at front and base of skull

→ **Skull conductivity** variable & unknown

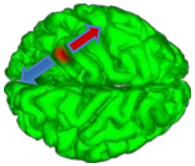
R. Oostenveld, & S. Makeig, 2016

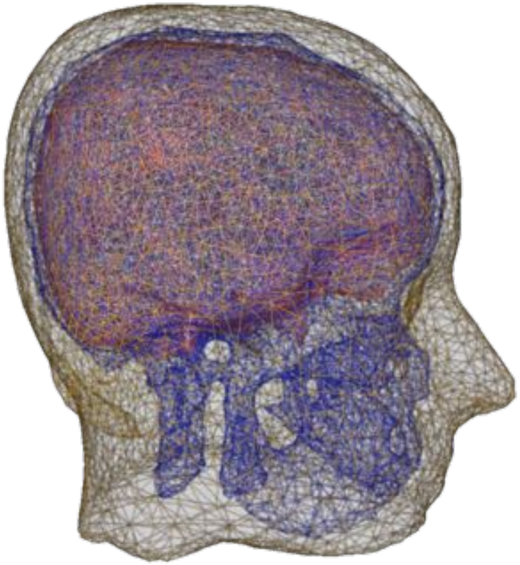


Volume conductor: FEM

To make a Finite Element Method (FEM) head model:

- **Tesselate the 3-D volume into solid tetrahedra**
  - Contains a large number of 3-D elements
  - Each tetrahedron can have its own conductivity
  - Each tetrahedron can have its own *anisotropy* (direction-dependent conductivity differences)
- **FEM is the more complete numerical method** (> BEM)
  - But is computationally expensive
  - Note: Accurate conductivities are not known, particularly for skull (and scalp?).

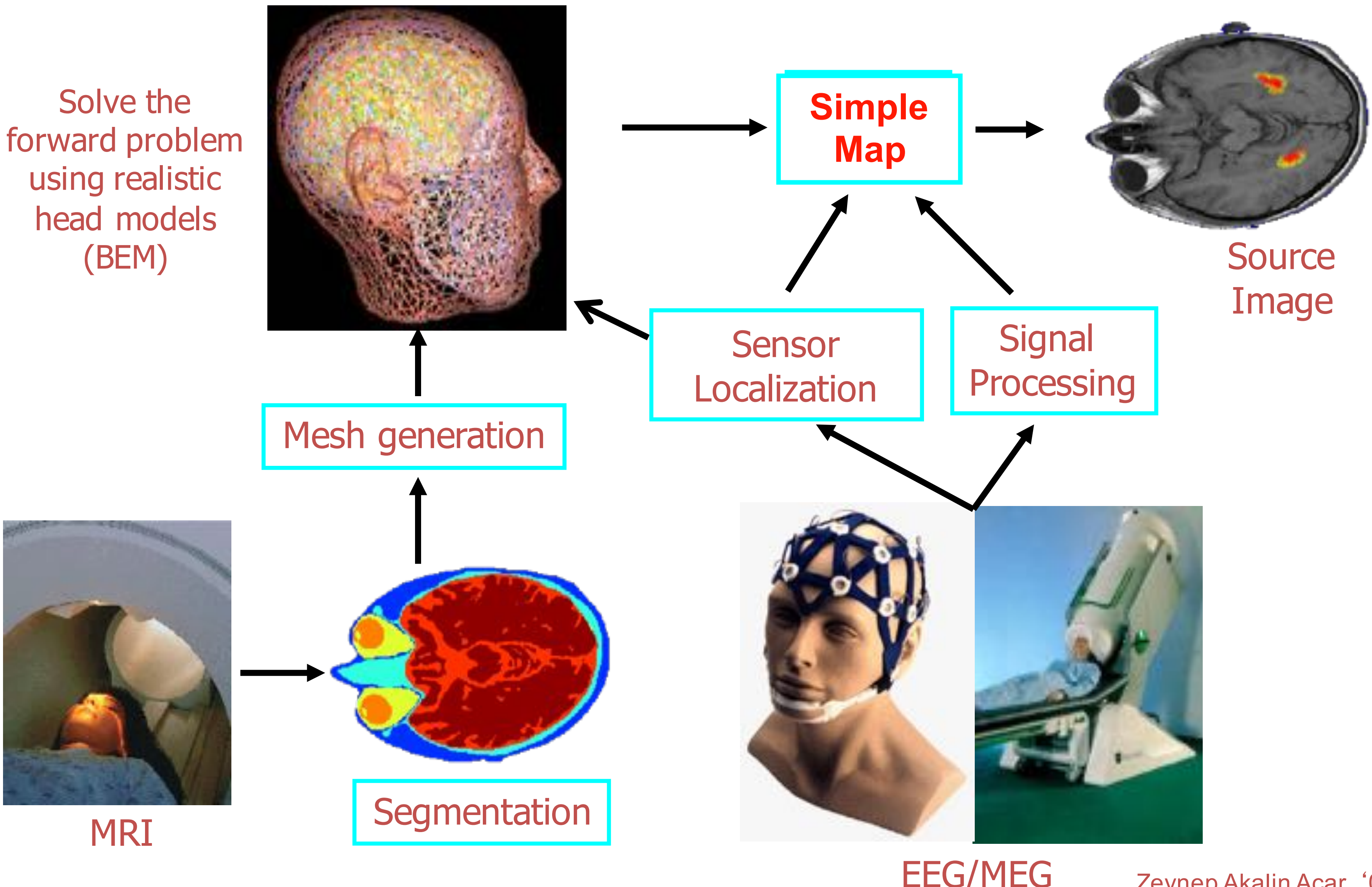




Head Modeling Errors

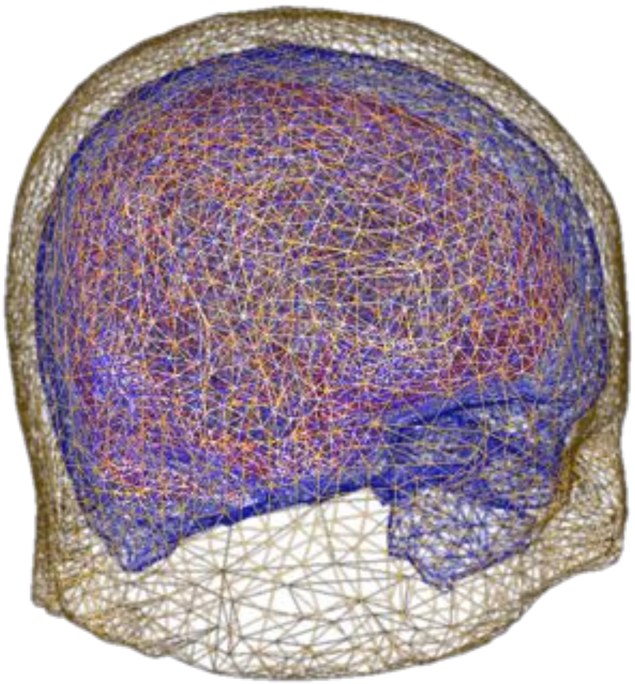
Electrode & MRI Co-registration errors
HeaD Geometry Errors
EXCLUSION of white matter
Two Few electrodes
Poor distribution of electrodes
→ mis-estimation of skull conductivity

Electromagnetic source localization using realistic head models (Dipfit, NFT)



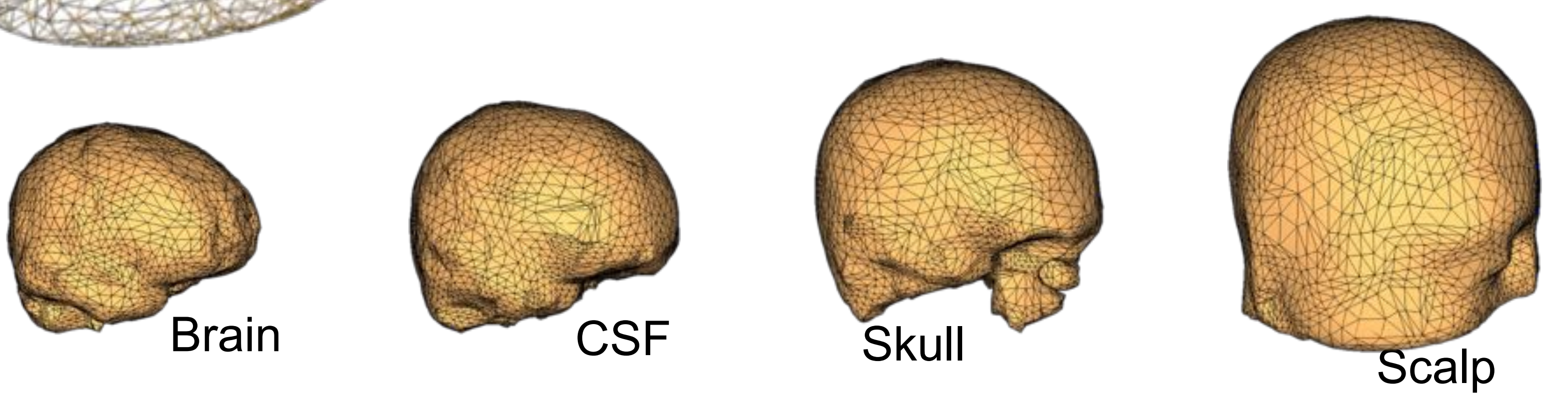
Zeynep Akalin Acar, ‘06

The MNI Head Model

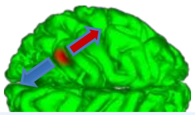


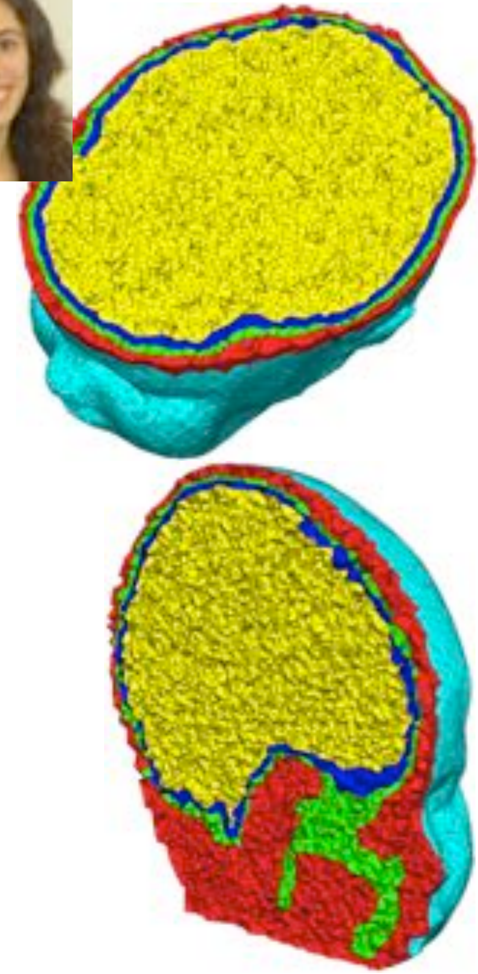
- 4-layer
  - 16856 nodes
  - 33696 elements

- 3-layer
  - 12730 nodes
  - 25448 elements



NFT

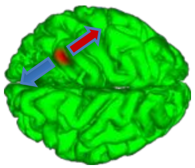




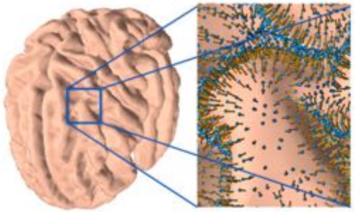
BEM models

FEM models

Akalin Acar & Makeig, 2010

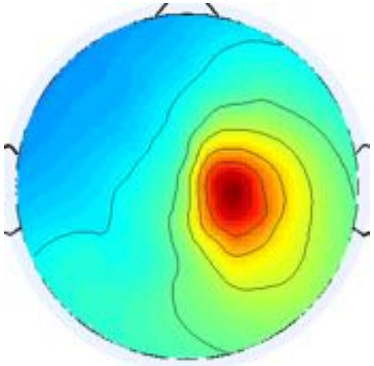


NIST

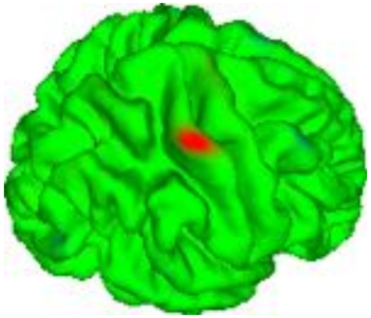


Source space

Scalp map

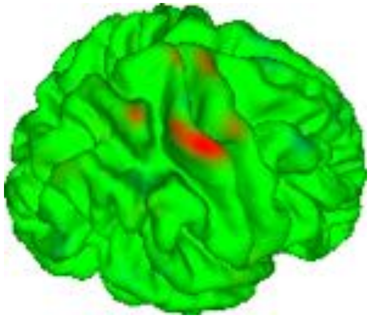


SCS

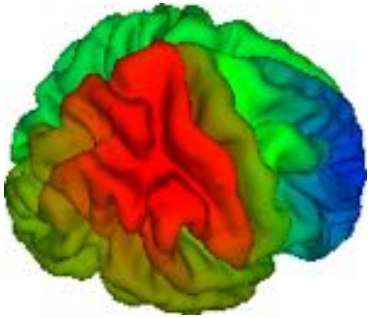


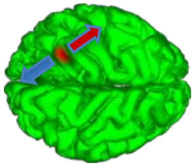
Cheng Cao, 2012

Patch-based SBL



sLORETA





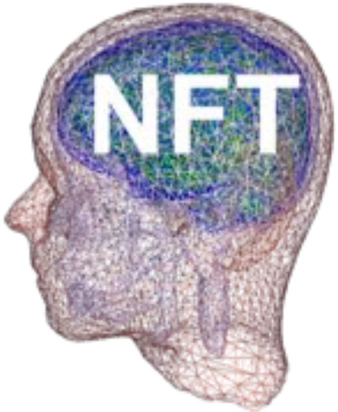
Head Model Generation Summary

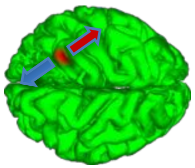
- **Subject-specific Head Model (NFT)**
  - From whole head T1 weighted MR of the subject
  - 4-layer realistic BEM model

- **MNI Template Head model (DIPFIT)**
  - From the MNI head
  - 3-layer and 4-layer template BEM model

- **Warped MNI Template Head Model (NFT)**
  - Warp MNI template to EEG sensors

- **Spherical Head model (no longer in use)**
  - 3-layer concentric spheres
  - Fitted to EEG sensor locations
  - Not accurate

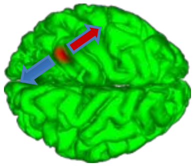




Inverse source localization

- **Single and multiple dipole models**
  - Minimize error between the model and the measured potential/field
- **Distributed dipole models**
  - Seek perfect fit to the measured potential or field
  - Must minimize **some additional source constraint**
    - LORETA assumes a smooth source current distribution
    - Minimum Norm (L2), min. total cortical $|current|^2$
    - Minimum Current (L1) min. total cortical |current|
    - Note: L2/L1 need some weighting scheme to keep source models from being too broad & superficial.

R. Oostenveld, & S. Makeig, 2016



Inverse methods

Spatial filtering approaches

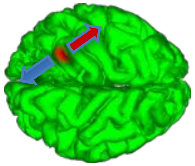
- **Scan whole brain** with single dipole and compute the filter output at every location (using sensor covariance)
  - MUSIC
  - *Beamforming* (e.g. LCMV, SAM, DICS)

- **Perform ICA decomposition** (higher-order statistics) on the continuous data.
  - ICA gives the projections of the sources to the scalp surface → **'simple' maps**!

→ICA solves 'the first half' of the inverse problem 'What?'

→ICA gives 'simple' source maps, helping to locate 'Where?

R. Oostenveld, & S. Makeig, 2016



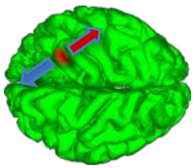
Single or multiple dipole models

- Manipulate source parameters to **minimize error** between measured and model data
  - The **position** of each source
  - The **orientation** of each source
  - The **strength (magnitude)** of each source

- **Dipole orientation** and **strength** together correspond to the "**dipole moment**," estimated linearly
- **Dipole position** is estimated non-linearly by

  source parameter estimation

R. Oostenveld, & S. Makeig, 2016



DIPFIT: Dipole fitting 1. Grid search

1. Coarse fit step

- Define a grid with possible dipole locations
- Compute optimal dipole moment at each location
- Compute value of goal-function (fit to given map)
- Plot value of goal-function on the grid → find best fit.
- Number of evaluations:
  - single dipole, 1 cm grid: ~4,000
  - single dipole, ½ cm grid: ~32,000
  - BUT two dipoles, 1 cm grid: ~16,000,000

R. Oostenveld, & S. Makeig, 2016

DIPFIT: Dipole fitting 2. Nonlinear search

2. Fine fit step

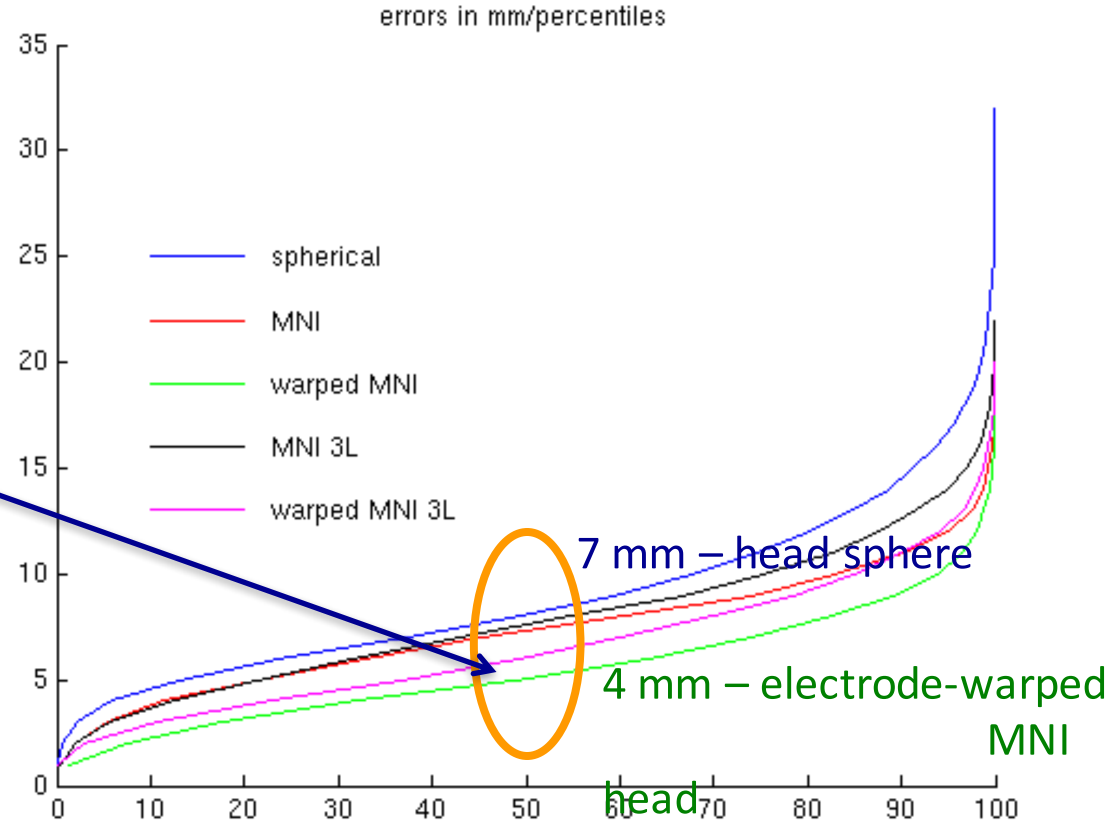
Start with the initial guess from coarse fitting

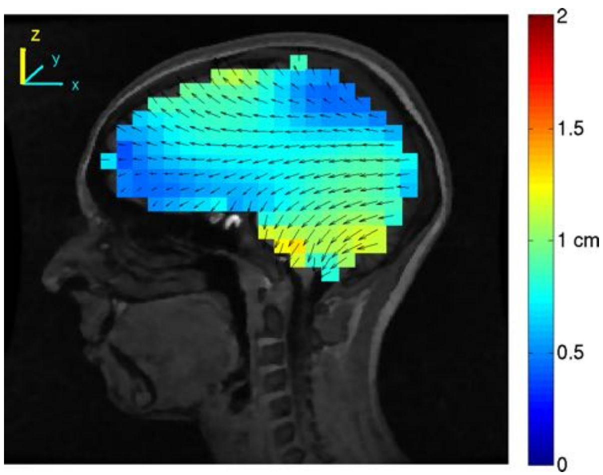
- Evaluate the local derivative of the goal (fit) function
- Then "walk down hill" to the most optimal solution

Number of iterative steps required = ~100

Effect of Template Head Model Choice On Estimated Dipole Locations

By Simulation: The median geometric error in dipole localization using the MNI template head model warped to measured electrode positions is only 4 mm.

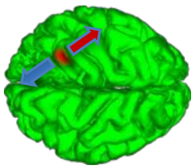




BUT Additional dipole error contributors:

- Electrode co-registration error
- ICA numerical error (not enough data?)
- Source model geometry error
- Conductance value error (skull)

Z. Akalin Acar & S Makeig, 2013



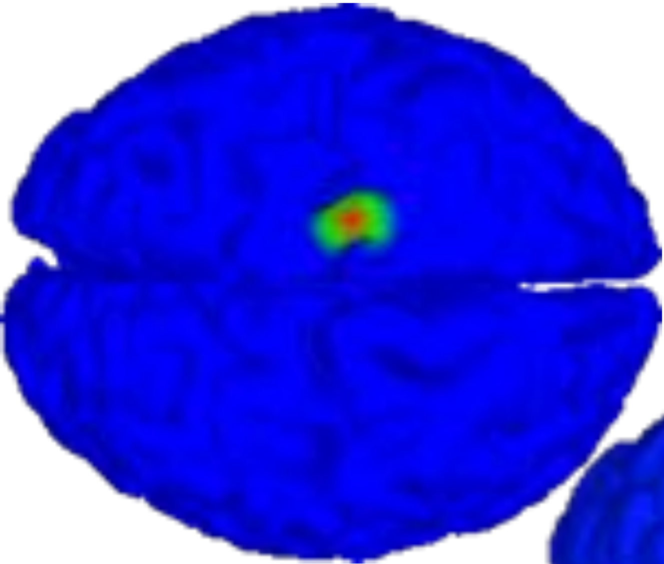
Distributed source models

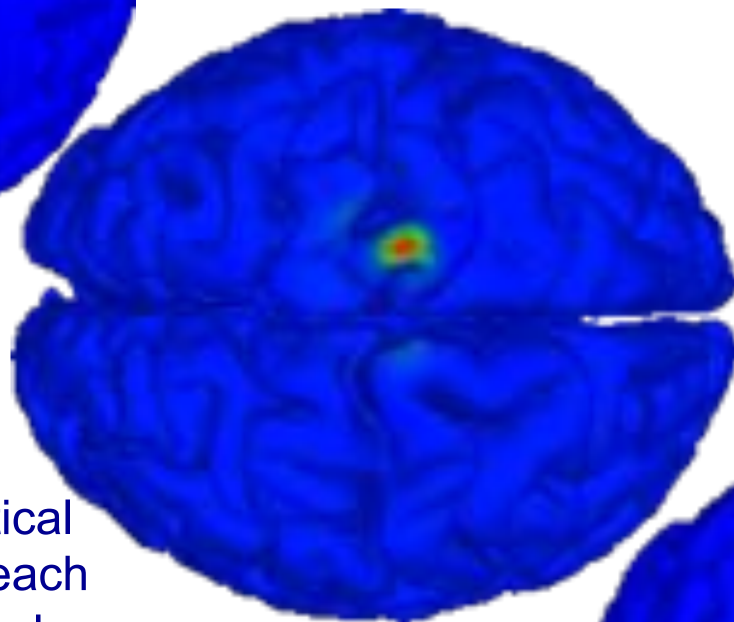
- The position of the source is not estimated as a whole
- Instead, On a pre-defined *source space* grid (3-D volume or cortical 2-D sheet)
  - Dipole strength is estimated *at each grid element*
  - In principle, a linear problem, easy to solve, BUT…
    - More “unknowns” (parameters) than “knowns” (channels, measurements), so …
    - An infinite number of solutions can explain the data perfectly (not necessarily physiologically plausible!)
  - **Therefore**, additional source constraints are required …

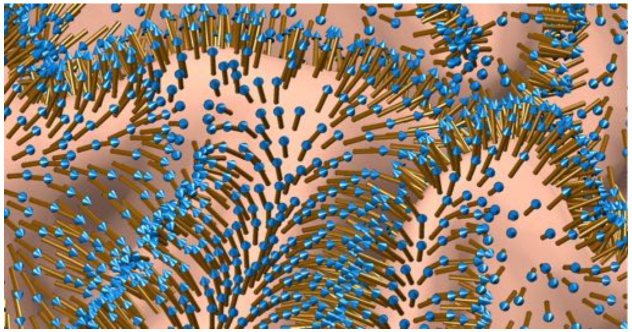
R. Oostenveld, & S. Makeig, 2016

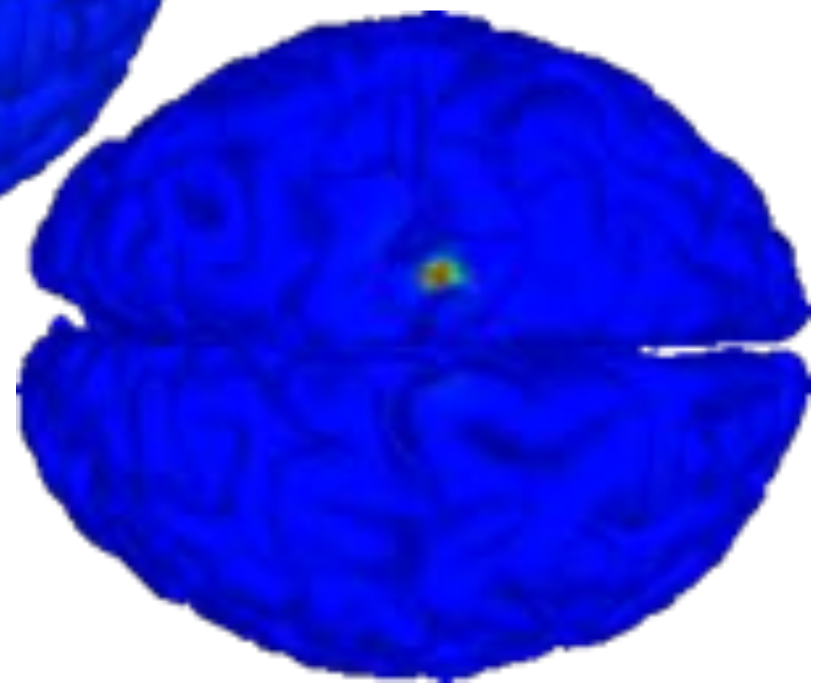
High-Resolution Distributed Source Localization

using a multiscale patch basis



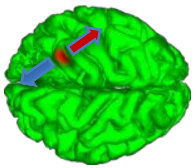






0. Build a high-res. cortical surface mesh; give each voxel an oriented dipole.
1. Compute a ‘dictionary’ of Gaussian patches conforming to the cortical surface centered at each cortical mesh voxel.
2. Use a ‘sparsifying’ approach to find the sum of the *fewest* of these patches that together produce the given source scalp or grid map.

Zeynep Akalin Acar,, S. Makeig, G. Worrell, ’09-’16



Summary

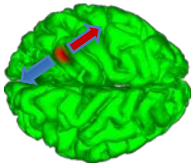
- An electromagnetic **forward head model** is required to interpret the sources of scalp maps
- Interpretation of scalp maps in terms of brain source distributions is "**inverse** source estimation"

→ Mathematical techniques are available to aid in interpreting scalp maps as arising from particular brain sources

→ These require an **inverse source model**, i.e. assumptions about the possible locations and nature of the sources (i.e., what attributes make them ***physiologically plausible***).

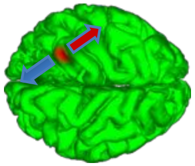
→ Then search for the ***most plausible*** source model.

R. Oostenveld, & S. Makeig, 2016



Summary

- **Inverse modeling**
  - Model assumption for volume conductor
  - Model assumption for source (I.e. dipole)
  - Additional assumptions on source
- **Single point-like sources**
- **Multiple point-like sources**
- **Distributed sources**
  - Different mathematical solutions
    - Dipole fitting (linear and nonlinear)
    - Linear estimation (regularized)



Summary

- **If we have MRI of the subject**
  - Subject specific head model
  - Distributed source localization
- **If we don’t have the MRI**
  - Warped 4-layer MNI model (NFT)
  - Dipole source localization
- **Skull conductivity estimation** is as important as the head model used (SCALE)
- White matter modeling does not have a huge effect on source localization.

Acknowledgments

Swartz Center for Computational Neuroscience

- **Robert Oostenveld** (Donders Institute, Nijmegen)
- **Zeynep Akalin Acar** (SCCN, UCSD)
- **Arnaud Delorme** (SCCN)