Time-frequency decomposition
Theory and Practice

EEGLAB Workshop XXI
Santa Margherita Ligure, Italy
Day 1
• Signals – EEG

• Goals
  – Describe dynamic characteristics of brain activity
  – Describe relation between different regions of brain

• Approaches
  – Time domain
  – Frequency domain
  – Time/Frequency
Different meanings traditionally given to different frequency bands

- **Beta 15-30 Hz**
  - Awake, normal alert consciousness

- **Alpha 9-14 Hz**
  - Relaxed, calm, meditation, creative visualisation

- **Theta 4-8 Hz**
  - Deep relaxation and meditation, problem solving

- **Delta 1-3 Hz**
  - Deep, dreamless sleep
MEEG spectrum

ERP | Beta | Gamma

MEG Power

Frequency (Hz)

0 10 20 30 40 50
Time varying frequency content
Time-varying frequency content
Power Spectrum does not describe temporal variation
Time-Frequency Analysis

Fourier (1807)

Schuster (1905)

Haar (1904)

Wigner (1936)

Gabor (1946)

F.C. (1948)

Cooley & Tukey (1965)

FFT

Daubechies (1988)

S. Makeig, 2005
Plan

• **Part 1: Frequency Analysis**
  – Power Spectrum
    • Approaches
      – FFT
      – Welch’s Method
    • Windowing

• **Part 2: Time-Frequency Analysis**
  – Short Time Fourier Transform
  – Wavelet Transform
  – ERSP

• **Part 3: Coherence Analysis**
  – Inter-Trial Coherence
  – Event-Related Coherence
Part 1: Frequency Analysis

• Goal: What frequencies are present in signal?

• What is power at each frequency?

• Principle: Fourier Analysis
Fourier Analysis

Time domain

Freq. decomp.  Sum of freq.

Frequency domain

Forward transform

\[ F(u) = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} f(x)e^{-2\pi iux} \, dx \]

Inverse transform

\[ f(x) = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} F(u)e^{2\pi iux} \, du \]

Figure, courtesy of Ravi Ramamoorthi & Wolberg

EEGLAB Workshop XXI, April 4-8, 2016, Italy – John Iversen – Time-Frequency
“Stationary” sinusoidal signals

Slide courtesy of Petros Xanthopoulos, Univ. of Florida
Simplest case of frequency analysis

By looking at the Power spectrum of the signal we can recognize three frequency Components (at 2, 10, 20Hz respectively).

Slide courtesy of Petros Xanthopoulous, Univ. of Florida
Power Spectrum. Approach 1: FFT

• Why not just take FFT of our signal of interest?

• Advantage – fine frequency resolution
  – $\Delta F = 1 / \text{signal duration (s)}$
  – E.g. 100s signal has 0.01 Hz resolution
  – But, do we really need this?

• Disadvantage – bias and variance
  – Solution: e.g. Welch’s method

• Disadvantage – no temporal resolution
  – Solution 1: Short-Time Fourier Transform
Amplitude and phase

- Power spectra describe the *amount* of a given frequency present

- NOT a complete description of a signal: We also must know the *phase* at each frequency

- FFT/STFT/Wavelet return an amplitude and phase at each time and frequency (represented as complex #).
- To find power, we compute the magnitude, which discards phase.
Phasor representation

- A complex number $x + yi$ can be expressed in terms of amplitude and phase: $ae^{i\theta}$

$$amplitude \times \exp(i \times phase)$$

$$amplitude = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2};\ phase = \tan(y/x);$$
Approach 2: Welch’s Method

Calculate power spectrum of short windows, average. Advantage: Smoother estimate of power spectrum.

Frequency resolution set by window length
  e.g. 1s window -> 1 Hz resolution

In practice: taper, don’t use rectangular window.
FFT of window 1

FFT of window 2

Average of squared amplitude

Power (dB)

Frequency (Hz)
Windowing

- When we pick a short segment of signal, we typically window it with a smooth function.

- Windowing in time = convolving (filtering) the spectrum with the Fourier transform of the window

- No window (=rectangular window) results in the most smearing of the spectrum

- There are many other windows optimized for different purposes: Hamming, Gaussian…
Windows and their Fourier transforms

- Narrowest main peak, but highest side-lobes. Most spectral 'smearing'.
- Wider main peak, and much lower side-lobes.
Close-up view

Frequency response of popular window functions

- No window
- Hamming
- Hann
- Four-term Blackman-Harris
- Seven-term Blackman-Harris

FFT frequency bin

dB
Part 2: Time-Frequency Analysis

• Short-Time Fourier Transform
  – Find power spectrum of short windows
  – “Spectrogram”

• Advantage: Can visualize time-varying frequency content

• Disadvantage: Fixed temporal resolution is not optimal
Time-Frequency Uncertainty

- You cannot have both arbitrarily good temporal and frequency resolution!
  \[ \sigma_t \ast \sigma_f \geq 1/2 \]

- If you want sharper temporal resolution, you will sacrifice frequency resolution, and vice versa.

- (Optimal: Confined Gaussian)

Consequence for STFT

Shorter Windows
poorer frequency resolution

Longer Windows
finer frequency resolution
Time-Frequency Tradeoff

Signal: 10, 25, 50, 100 Hz

Spectrogram with $T = 25$ ms

Spectrogram with $T = 125$ ms

Spectrogram with $T = 375$ ms

Spectrogram with $T = 1000$ ms
A better way: Wavelet transform

- Wavelet transform is a ‘multi-resolution’ time-frequency decomposition.

- Intuition: Higher frequency signals have a faster time scale

- So, vary window length with frequency!
  - longer window at lower frequencies
  - shorter window at higher frequencies
Comparison of FFT & Wavelet

Scaled versions of one shape
Constant* number of cycles

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FFT

Wavelet
For each time window, analyze the signal using the wavelets for different frequencies.
Exercise

• Create a signal
  \[ t = 0:0.01:100; \]
  \[ x = \sin(2\pi 10 t); \text{plot}(t,x) \]

• Find FFT
  \[ F = \text{fft}(x); \]
  \[ F(1:3) \text{ complex} \]
  \[ \text{power} = F.*\text{conj}(F); \]
Spectrogram of one window of data

0 ms  10 ms  20 ms  30 ms  40 ms  50 ms  60 ms

5 Hz

10 Hz

20 Hz

30 Hz
Computing Spectrogram Power

Average of squared values
Definition: ERSP

- Event Related Spectral Perturbation
- Change in power in different frequency bands relative to a baseline. ERS, ERD
Try it out (faces_4.set)
Display ERS vs. ERSP

Event-related Spectrogram (ERS)

Event-Related Spectral Perturbation (ERSP)
Event-related Spectrogram (ERS)

Event-Related Spectral Perturbation (ERSP)

Baseline limits [min max] (msec) (0->pre-stim.)

10*log_10( \frac{SG(t,f)}{baseline(f)} )
Exercises

• Try different baseline methods
  – divisive
  – standard deviation (express spectral perturbations in #sd relative to baseline sd)

• Try different wavelet specifications
  – Default: 3 0.5
  • 3 cycles
  • What is the 0.5? Try 0. Try 1…
Wavelet Specification

Answer: The first #cycles controls the basic duration of the wavelet in cycles.
The second factor controls the degree of shortening of time windows as frequency increases
  0 = no shortening = FFT (duration remains constant with frequency)
  1 = pure wavelet (#cycles remains constant with frequency)
  0.5 = intermediate, a compromise that reduces HF time resolution to gain more
    frequency resolution
Part 3: Coherence Analysis

- Goal: How much do two signals resemble each other

- Coherence = complex version of correlation: how similar are power and phase at each frequency?

- Variant: phase coherence (phase locking, etc.) considers only phase similarity, ignoring power
  - Regular coherence is simply a power-weighted phase coherence
Coherence

\[ C(f,t) \propto \sum_{k=\text{trials}} F1_k(f,t) F2_k(f,t) \]

\[ a_1 e^{i\theta_1} a_2 e^{-i\theta_2} \propto e^{i(\theta_1 - \theta_2)} \]

Fourier time series \( F_{S1} \) and \( F_{S2} \)

Phase difference between \( S1 \) and \( S2 \),
Part 3a: Inter-Trial Coherence

• Goal: How much do different trials resemble each other?

• Phase coherence not between two processes, but between multiple trials of the same process

• Defined over a (generally) narrow frequency range
EEGLAB’s Inter-Trial Coherence is *phase ITC*

Phase ITC

\[
ITPC(f, t) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{k=1}^{n} \frac{F_k(f, t)}{|F_k(f, t)|}
\]

Normalized (no amplitude information)

same time, different trials

- **POWER** = mean(amplitude^2)
  - 0.44 or -8.3 dB
- **COHERENCE** = mean(phase vector)
  - Norm 0.33
ITC Example (3 trials)

Intertrial Coherence (ITC)

Single trials

ERP

Total power

ITC: .05

ITC: .80

Slide courtesy of Stefan Debener
**AVERAGE ERP**

![ERP-IMAGE PLOT](image)

**INTER-TRIAL COHERENCE (phase resetting)**

**NO AMPLITUDE INCREASE**

-9.433 dB

**P = 0.02**

**400 SIM. TRIALS...**

**INTER-TRIAL COHERENCE**

5 Hz

**P = 0.02**
Putting it all together

**Exercise**

All: Compute ERSP/ITC for a component of your choice

Compute ERP Image (with ERSP and ITC displayed*)

Use all of this information to explain the origin of the Evoked Response

Question: Which changes are significant? Use the options in ERP Image and ERSP dialogs to set significance threshold e.g. 0.01. Do the results survive?
Component ERP Image: Activation vs. Amplitude

- Component(s): 3
- Project to channel #: 10
- Smoothing: 10
- Downsampling: 1
- Time limits (ms): -800 to 1000

Sort/align trials by epoch event values:
- Epoch-sorting field
- Event type(s)
- Event time range
- Rescale: no
- Align: no
- Don’t sort by value
- Don’t plot values

Figure title:
- Plot scalp map
- Plot ERP
- Plot colorbar

ERP limits:

Color limits (see Help):

- Time-varying voltage
- Time-varying 10Hz Power

Graphs showing time-varying voltage and power with scalp maps and trials.
Part 3b: Event Related Coherence

• Goal: How similar is the event-related response of two signals
  – Typically between channels (problematic due to volume conduction)
  – or between ICs
TWO SIMULATED THETA PROCESSES
Try it!

Plot component cross-coherence -- pop_newcrossf()

First component number
Second component number
Epoch time range [min max] (msec)
Wavelet cycles (0->FFT, see >> help timef)
[set]->log. scale for frequencies (match STUDY)
[set]->Linear coher / [unset]->Phase coher
Bootstrap significance level (Ex: 0.01 -> 1%)
Optional timef() arguments (see Help)

Plot coherence amplitude

Plot coherence phase

Help
Cancel
Ok
Event-Related Coherence Exercise

• Examine event-related coherence between two ICs
  – Which pair did you pick, and why? What do you predict?
  – What did you learn?

• Explore other options:
  – Significance threshold
  – Figure out how to subtract a baseline
  – Phase vs. Linear Coherence