



# Auditory Processing and Perception BMT 925, Course 2013

Theme 3: Evoked potentials, Stimulation procedures.

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EEG measures electrical potential at the scalp arising primarily from synchronous neuronal activity of pyramidal cells in the brain.



The 10-20 system is a method of electrode placement, which describes the location of scalp electrodes



The international 10-20 system seen from (A) left and (B) above the head. A=Ear lobe, C=central, Pg=nasopharyngeal, P=parietal, F=frontal, Fp=frontal polar, O=occipital.



# **Evoked Potentials**



## **Evoked potentials**

EPs are EEG measurements which are time locked to a stimulus event.

EPs are voltage changes recorded from the human scalp that are time-locked to a sensory, motor, or cognitive process and therefore provide an electrophysiological window on to brain function during cognition (Mangun & Hillyard, 1995)

EPs can be used to assess whether a brain is functioning normally and how it analyses information.



#### Advantages & Disadvantages of the EP Technique

- EP signal is directly related to neural activity and this electrical activity is conducted instantaneously to the scalp
- Therefore, EPs have an excellent temporal resolution
- The EP signal is derived from different sources in the brain and it is not possible to infer exactly where these sources are from the scalp
- Therefore, EPs have a poor spatial resolution
- The small size of the EPs compare to the other physiological events make it difficult to discern. Thus, <u>averaging techniques</u> are commonly used to remove unrelated events.



- Classification:
  - Latency: early, middle, late
  - Nature of stimulus: visual, acustic, somatosensory, ....









Left: Single sweeps (individual responses); Right (bottom): the averaged signal commonly used in the ABR analysis; Right (top): Single sweeps in matrix view.



# **Auditory Evoked Potentials**





 An auditory Evoked Potential (AER) or Auditory Evoked Response, is activity within the auditory system (ear, auditory nerve, or auditory regions of the brain) that is produce or stimulated ("evoked") by sounds ("auditory" or acoustic stimulus).

Hall J., Handbook of auditory evoked responses. Ally and Bacon, 1st ed., 1992.p.871.



## Early Auditory Evoked Potentials (AEP)

# Early AEPs comprise:

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- a) The electrocochleogram (ECohG), which reflects responses in the first 2.5ms from the cochlea & the auditory nerve.
- b) ABR, BERA or BAEP, first 12ms poststimulus & are recorded from the vertex.
  - Mainly used clinically to study the integrity of the auditory pathway.
  - Hearing impairments detection.
  - The presence may be a sign of recovery from coma.
  - Averages of 1000 ind. responses are used for diagnostics.



Figure 1–1. Examples of waveforms for major auditory evoked responses (AEBS). Latency and amplitude scales for each AEB are noted in the right portion of potential, put = microvolts; I, II, III, and V = waves, numbered sequentially. N and P are negative and positive voltage indicators, respectively.)





# Acquisition of ABRs, Stimuli



## **Experimental Setup**





### Click

# 3.1

short-duration signal signal having a duration of less than 200 ms

#### 3.2

click transient acoustic or vibratory signal whose frequency spectrum covers a broad frequency range, produced by applying a single rectangular electrical pulse to the terminals of the transducer



Temporal characteristics of an electric reference pulse





EN 60645-3:2007



## **Tone-Burst**

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#### 3.3 tone-burst

sinusoidal signal having a duration of less than 200 ms

#### 3.10

rise and fall times of a tone-burst time intervals between the 10 % and 90 % amplitude points of the rising portion and the 90 % and 10 % amplitude points on the falling portion of the envelope of the tone-burst

- . Tone burst: A brief (usually less than 1 s) tone stimulus with no specific duration characteristics (by norm<200ms).
- Tone pip: A brief tone stimulus sometimes defined as one complete cycle of the tone in rise, . plateau, and fall portions of the stimulus. A 1KHz tone pip would have rise, duration and fall times of 1 ms each.



Key

- Level 1
- Time 2
- 3 Rise time
- Duration 4
- 5 Fall time



## Stimulus related terminology

80 µ.s

Click Stimulus

ISI

- **Polarity**: The initial direction of the pressure wavefront in the stimulus waveform, measured at the face of the transducer.
- Condensation: A stimulus polarity that initially causes the pressure wavefront of a transducer to move toward the eardrum.
- **Rarefaction**: A stimulus polarity that initially causes the pressure wavefront of a transducer to move away from the eardrum.
- Alternating: The polarity of the stimulus pressure wavefront is alternated on sucessive trials (between rarefaction and condensation).
- **Repetition rate**: The number of stimuli per unit time.
- Interstimulus Interval: time interval between 2 successive stimuli.
- Rise/Fall time: the time interval for a waveform to go from zero amplitude to maximum amplitude (rise time) or from maximum to zero (fall time).

Hall III J. W. Handbook of Auditory Evoked Potentials.Ally and Bacon.1st. ed. 1992.



## Stimuli- Chirps

- It was commonly believed that ABRs were elicited by the onset or offset of a stimulus, hence clicks were preferred because of its abrupt onset and wide spectral content.
- Recently [dau et. al., 2000] showed that ABRs are enhanced by an appropriate temporal organization of the stimulus (rising chirps) related to the properties of the basilar membrane (BM).
- In [Wegner, et. al. 2002] was reported that all chirps tested, evoked a larger wave V than the ones evoked by clicks, specially for low stimulation levels.





The equation for the BM group delay:  $\tau_{BM}(f) = k(f+a)^{-d}$  k = 4.78, a = 165.4 Hz d = 1.1the inverse function of was calculated:  $\tau_{BM}^{-1}(f) = f_a(t')$ where  $t' \rightarrow t_0 - t$  and  $t_o = \tau_{\rm BM}$  (100 Hz), Instantenous Phase: 10  $\phi(i,t) = 2\pi \int_0^t f_a(t) dt$ 8 6 Amplitude function: time (ms) 4  $A(i,t) = \sqrt{\frac{df_a(t)}{dt}}$ 2 Mechanical model of de Boe Chirp equation: 0 2K 4K 6K 8K 10K 0  $S(i, t) = A(i, t) \sin(\phi(i, t) - \phi_o),$ frequency (Hz)

T. Dau, O. Wegner, V. Mellert, and B. Kollmeier, "Auditory brainstem responses (ABR) with optimized chirp signals compensating basilarmembrane dispersion," J. Acoustical Soc. Am., vol. 107, pp. 1530–1540, 2000. E. de Boer, "Auditory physics. physical principles in hearing theory I," Phys. Rep., vol. 62, pp. 87–174, 1980.





# Clicks



# Chirps



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#### MATERIALS

- Two different types of Ag/AgCI • electrodes were used:
  - Active: Easycap GmbH, GermanyPassive: Schwarzer, Germany
- Position of electrodes:
  - Right mastoid
  - Forehead
  - Vertex
- Impedances maintained  $<5k\Omega$
- EEG signals: .
  - Biosignal Amplifier (g.Tec) Fs: 19.2k Hz
  - filtered: Bandpass 0.1-1.5 kHz.



## **Study 1: Materials & Experiments**

#### EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURE

- Duration:
  - approx. 1.5 hr.
  - Healthy Subjects : \_
    - inside acoustically insulated room, instructed to relaxed and sleep.
  - ABRs:
    - Active electrodes were attached
    - ABRs were obtained using:
      - clicks for 40, 30 and 20 dB pe SPL •
        - chirps at the same intensity levels and same order.
        - spontaneous activity (no stimulation condition) •
    - the Passive electrodes were placed and the same stimulation procedure was applied as for the active electrodes.
    - 2000 sweeps, i.e., individual responses, for each conditions, free from artifacts were recorded (>15  $\mu V).$



## **Results Study 1: ABRs**

## 20 Subjects (24.45±3.8 years, 13f/7m)

#### demonstration purpose:

-White and gray lines are averages of 1000. -Colormap each line is the average of 75 sweeps

Intensity (dB HL)	Interval (ms)		
Click 40	[5, 11]		
Click 30	[5,11]		
Click 20	[5,11]		
Chirp 40	[10.84, 17.84]		
Chirp 30	[12.21, 19.21]		
Chirp 20	[13.81, 20.81]		





-moving average of the mean of ABR GFPS for m=1 -significance test



- We introduced for the first time Gabor frame operators (GFO) as analysis tool for ABRs.
- GFPS provides a fast and reliable discrimination of the spontaneous activity from stimulations above the hearing threshold with a minimum number of sweeps as compared to conventional schemes in which thousands of sweeps are averaged.
- More clinically oriented studies should include hearing impaired patients and newborns as the key group for objective therapies.



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## **Study 2: Chirps Generation**

Chirp number	Bandwidth (Hz)	Fc (Hz)	Interval (Hz)	Fc' (Hz)	Interval' (Hz)	duration (ms)
1	$Range/2^5 \equiv 309$	250	[95, 405]	302	[108, 490]	6.1946
2	$Range/2^4 \equiv 619$	750	[441, 1059]	813	[495, 1135]	2.0185
3	$Range/2^3 \equiv 1238$	2000	[1381, 2619]	1915	[1230, 2600]	0.87806
4	$Range/2^2 \equiv 2475$	4000	[2763, 5238]	6725	[2950, 10500]	0.5091
5	$Range/2^1 \equiv 4950$	8000	[5525, 10475]	_	_	_
Broadband	$Range/2^0 \equiv 9900$	5050	[100, 10000]	5050	[100, 10000]	10.12

- Frequency range: (range=0.1-10kHz)
- Sampling frequency of: 44.1kHz
- Polarity:
- Bipolar
  Repetition rate: 20 Hz
- Calibration: peak equivalent signal level. (pe-SPL)

(IEC 60645-3 2007, ISO 389-6: 2007)





## Study 2: Materials & Experiments

#### MATERIALS

- Ag/AgCl electrodes (Scwarzer, Germany):
  - Right mastoid
  - Forehead
  - Vertex
- Impedances maintained <5kΩ</li>
- · EEG signals:
  - Biosignal Amplifier (g.Tec) Fs: 19.2k Hz
  - filtered: Bandpass 0.1-1.5 kHz.



#### EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURE

- Duration:
- approx. 2 hr.
- Healthy Subjects :
  - inside acoustically insulated room, instructed to relaxed and sleep.
  - ABRs:

.

- Broadband chirp and the Band-limited chirps, for the intensiy level of 50, 40 and 30 dB peSPL.
- 3000 sweeps, i.e., individual responses, for each conditions, free from artifacts were recorded (>15  $\mu V$ ).



# **Results Study 2: ABRs**

demonstration purpose:

10 Subjects:

- 25.1±2.96 years
- 4 female / 6 male
- Normal Hearing

Thresholds (>15 dB HL) each line represents the average of 1500 sweeps.





**Wavelet Phase Synchronization Stability** 

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# Time-Scale Phase Synchronization complex wavelet transform

$$\mathcal{W}_{\psi} : L^{2}(\mathbb{R}) \longrightarrow L^{2}(\mathbb{R}^{2}, \frac{\mathrm{d}a\mathrm{d}b}{a^{2}})$$

$$(\mathcal{W}_{\psi}x)(a, b) = \langle x, \psi_{a, b} \rangle_{L^{2}}$$
set of *M* ABRs
$$\mathcal{W} = \{ x \in L^{2}(\mathbb{R}) : x = 1$$

 $\mathcal{X} = \{x_m \in L^2(\mathbb{R}) : m = 1, \dots, M\}$ 

## we define wavelet phase synchronization stability (WPSS)

by  $\Gamma_{a,b}(\mathcal{X}) := \frac{1}{M} \left| \sum_{m=1}^{M} e^{\imath \arg((\mathcal{W}_{\psi} x_m)(a,b))} \right|$ 





## **Conclusions & Future work**

- A series of notched–noise embedded frequency specific chirps was developed, which allowed the acquisition of frequency specific ABRs, with an identifiable wave V for the different intensity levels.
- The WPSS of frequency specific chirp-evoked ABRs reflected the presence of the wave V for all stimulation intensities and was in line with previous findings.
- Future work:

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- evaluation the notched noise embedded chirps with patients with different types of hearing loss, and make a comparison against the currently used but slower methods.
- further analysis can be done to make a faster recognition of frequency specific chirps evoked ABRs.
- The model used to calculate the series of chirps is considered as first order approximation of the basilar membrane behavior. Further improvements related to the stimuli (making them intensity specific) can be done.
- It can be further investigated which level of masking gives better results for low, medium and high frequency specific chirp stimulations.





# Auditory Evoked Potentials (AEP)

Middle AER – 12-50ms post stimulus

- Clinical applications are "very limited" - the location of their sources is still controversial.
- Suggest to give information of the auditory pathway above the level of the brainstem.
- Elements are named by polarity: Na, Pa, Nb, Pb.
- Most commonly type are MLR at high ISI : ASSRs



Figure 1-8. An example of auditory middle latency response (AMLR) waveforms recorded in numerous classic studies by Goldstein and colleagues (Goldstein & Rodman, 1967). Labels for major AMLR compo-nents, introduced by Goldstein, are shown. The smoothed waveform appearance is due to restricted filter settings. *Note*. From "Early Components of Averaged Evoked Responses to Rapidly Repeated Auditory Stimuli" by R. Goldstein and L.B. Rodman, 1967, *Journal of Speech and Harting Research*, *10*, pp. 697–705. Reprinted by permission.

Hall J., Handbook of auditory evoked responses. Ally and Bacon, 1st ed., 1992.p.25.



Applications:

• Frequency specific estimation of auditory sensitivity in adults and old children.

Limitations:

- Not easily measurable in Newborns: the MLR components overlap with the early evoked components, which has a longer developmental timetable.
- Affected by sleep or sedation and other drugs.- Measure of Adecuate Anesthesia.



#### Middle Auditory Evoked Potentials : ASSRs

Auditory Steady-State Responses (ASSRs)

1. are periodic electrical responses of the brain to auditory stimuli presented at a rate fast enough to cause an overlap of sucessive responses.

2. oscillations with a constant amplitude and phase at the frequency of a periodic stimulus. The most prominent responses are obtained at 40Hz.

#### The 40 Hz auditory potential (Galambos et al, 1981)

- sequences of clicks, amplitude modulated tones or tone pulses at a frequency close to 40 Hz
- signal averaging in the time and the frequency domain
- latencies:
  - around 8 to 80ms,
  - increase with decreasing intensity
- amplitudes:
  - increase with an increasing stimulus intensity
  - maximal amplitudes with a 40Hz modulation rate





# **ASSRs**

# **Application in the Audiometry**

#### clinical advantages

- objective method for the prediction of the behavioral threshold (> 1 kHz)
- simultaneous presentation of multiple stimuli → analysis in the frequency domain
- complementation to ABRs and OAEs
- also, possible to test several carrier frequencies simultanously





# **Materials & Methods**

# Stimulation

- sinus tones: 500 Hz, 1000 Hz, 2000 Hz, 3000 Hz, 4000 Hz, 5000 Hz
- stimulus rate: 40 Hz
- duration: 10 ms
  - linear rise and fall time: 4 ms
  - plateau: 2 ms
- intensity level: 60 dB SPL
- · stimulation: right ear







# **Materials & Methods**

#### Acquisition parameters and set-up

- bandpass filter: 10 to 100 Hz
- sampling frequency: 19200 Hz
- artefacts  $> 50 \ \mu V$  were rejected
- · offset was removed

#### electrodes:

- right mastoid, vertex, forehead
- impedances: <  $5k\Omega$





# **ASSRs Results**

# Averaging in the time domain

 averaging of 3500 sweeps





# **ASSRs Results**

### Comparison of the different carrier frequencies

#### amplitudes

decrease with increasing frequencies

- 500 Hz: 0.5 μV
- 1000 Hz: 0.4 µV
- 2000 Hz: 0.33 µV
- 3000 Hz: 0.35 μV
- 4000 Hz: 0.14 µV
- 5000 Hz: 0.15 µV
- latencies

decrease with increasing frequencies

- 500 Hz: 8.17 ms
- 1000 Hz: 6.8 ms
- 2000 Hz: 5.8 ms
- 3000 Hz: 5.9 ms
- 4000 Hz: 5.1 ms
- 5000 Hz: 5.57 ms





## 3. Results

### Averaging in the frequency domain

- clear peak at 37.5 Hz for all carrier tones
   → modulation rate of 40 Hz
- 2<sup>nd</sup> harmonic at ~75 Hz and a subharmonic at ~20 Hz
- decreasing amplitudes with increasing frequencies
- distances between the amplitudes in the frequency domain are in the same range as the amplitudes in the time domain





- Used chirps to evoke ASSRs and compensate for the traveling wave delay.
- ASSRs collected in healthy subjects using clicks and different types of chirps.
- The chirps gave a shorter detection time and higher SNR than clicks.
- The chirps are more efficient than clicks for recording middle auditory evoked potentials in healthy subjects.

#### ASSRs evoked by chirps



Elberling C., et. al. Auditory Steady-state Responses to chirp stimuli based on cochlear traveling wave delay.J. Acoust. Soc. Am., 122:5, 2007



# Auditory Evoked Potentials (AEP)

Late AER - 50ms-1s

- Consists of main peaks Named by latency – P50, N100, P150, & N200,P300 Or by polarity (P1, N1, P2, N2, P3), MMN-(100-250ms), N400, P600,
- Cortical origin & have a max. amplitude at the vertex locations.



Figure 1-11. Auditory late response (ALR) waveform, as reported in one of the earliest papers on the topic by Hallowell Davis and colleagues (Davis, Mast, Yoshie, & Zerlin, 1966), shows positive voltage peaks plotted downward. The typical ALR waveform is illustrated in the top portion of the figure. Stimulus conditions are also indicated in this portion. *Nate*. From 'The Slow Response of the Human Cortex to Auditory Stimuli: Recovery Process' by H. Davis, T. Mast, N. Yoshie, and S. Zerlin, 1966, *Llextrencephalography and Clinical Neurophysiology, 21*, pp. 105–113. Reprinted by permission.

Hall J., Handbook of auditory evoked responses. Ally and Bacon, 1st ed., 1992.p.32.



- Exogenous EP Elicited by the physical characteristics of the external stimulus, such as intensity, duration, frequency
- Endogenous ERP Elicited by internal brain processes and respond to the significance of the stimulus. It can be used to study cognitive processes.



**P1** Component

- · Not easily identified
- ~50ms (auditory stimulus), ~100ms (visual stimulus)
- Functionally neurophysiological indicator of preferential attention to sensory inputs & reflection of the general level of arousal





- Distribution is symmetrical over the two hemispheres
- Peak amplitude & latency appear to decrease with age to the point where the peak disappears (Coch, Groissi, Coffey-Corina, Holcomb, & Nevilee, 2002)



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# **N1 Component**

- Assumed to reflect selective attention to basic stimulus characteristics, initial selection for later pattern recognition, and intentional discrimination processing (Vogel & Luck, 2000)
- Amplitude is enhanced by increased attention to the stimuli (Hillyard et al., 1973, etc) & by increasing the ISI (Hari, Kaila, Katila, Tuomisto, & Varpula, 1982)
- Latency & amplitude of the peak depend on the stimulus modality – auditory stimuli elicit a larger N1 with shorter latency than visual stimuli (Hugdahl, 1995)





- Has been identified in many different cognitive tasks, including selective attention (Hackley, Woldorff, & Hilyyard, 1990, etc), stimulus change (Naatanen, 1990), feature detection processes (Luck & Hillyard, 1994), and short-term memory (Golob & Starr, 2000;Starr & Barrett, 1987)
- Often occurs together with N1 (N1-P2 complex)



# Tinnitus: Decompensation Correlates and Multiscale Modeling

it just sounds like that



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Fig. 2. The difference of the synchronization stability for a subject (a = 40 as example) for 3 different tones.







D. J. Strauss, W. Delb, R. D'Amelio, and P. Falkai. Adaptive Resonance and Attention in the Tinnitus Decompensation: Neural Correlates in Auditory Evoked Potentials, IEEE Trans. on Biomed. Eng.





- MMN is a negative deflection that has a typical latency of 100ms to 250ms (Naatanen, Gaillard, & Mantysalo (1978))
- Elicited by oddball paradigm
- MMN paradigms typically do not require attention to the stimuli – development research & sleep studies



# MMN (Mismatch Negativity)

- May also depend on number of trials too many deviants trials may allow a participant to habituate to the particular stimulus
- McGee et al. (2001) complex and simple stimuli – as number of exposure increased, the size of the MMN response decreased in a nonlinear fashion
- The exact time for habituation varied as a function of the complexity of the stimuli



Other important components

- P300 Component: present in auditory and visual tasks. Interpretation is diverse, some view it as an indication of memory updating, whereas others believe that it reflects a combination of processes that vary by task and situation.
- N400 Component: occurs aprox. 400 msec after stimulus. Associated with visual and auditory sentence comprehension tasks.
- P600 Component: associated memory processes and to language.