# Dynamic Causal Modelling for evoked responses

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# **Overview**

- 1 DCM: introduction
- 2 Neural ensembles dynamics
- 3 Bayesian inference
- 4 Conclusion

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# **DCM:** introduction

## structural, functional and effective connectivity



- structural connectivity
   = presence of axonal connections
- *functional* connectivity
   = statistical dependencies between regional time series
- effective connectivity
  - = causal (directed) influences between neuronal populations

# **DCM:** introduction

### connections are recruited in a *context-dependent* fashion

• meta-analysis on single-word reading (Turkeltaub, 2002)



		Paper	Task	n	Within-Plane Res. (mm)	Between-Plane Res. (mm)	Filter (mm)	Critical Threshold	Foci
٠	1	Petersen et al, 1988	read vs silent read	17	18	1. E	1.1	p<.03	8
	2	Howard et al, 1992	read vs. falsefont aloud ("crime")	12	8	8.5	20	p<.001	2
	38	Price et al, 1994	read vs aloud faise font feature det (1000ms)	6	8	8.5	20	p≤ .001	3
	36		read vs aloud faise font feature det (150ms)						11
	4	Bookheimer et al, 1995	read vs. random line drawing viewing	16	6.5		6 <sup>3</sup> x10	p<.001	33
	5	Price et al, 1995a	read vs. rest (1000ms)	6	6	8.5	20	p< .001	20
	5	Price et al, 1995b	read vs rest (40 wps)	6	8	8.5	16	p<.001	12
	7a	Herbster et al, 1997	read irregular vs. aloud letter string ("hiya")	10			16	p<.001	5
	7b		read regular vs. aloud letter string ("hiya")						3
	8	Rumsey et al, 1997	read vs. fix (low freq. irregular)	14	6.5	5.5	20212	p< .001 & >8 voxels	14
	9	Jernigan et al, 1998	read (normal and degraded) vs fix	8	8.5	4.0	16	car. p<.06 (Z or extent)	8
	108	Flez et al, 1999	read vs fix (high freq consistent)	11	17			p<.0006	10
	106	)	read vs fix (high freq inconsistent)						9
	100	1	read vs fix (low line; consistent)						9
	100	1	read vs fix (low freq inconsistent)						11
0	11	Hagoort et al, 1999	read vs slient read (German)	11	9	9	18	p< .05 & >40 voxels	17
									172

# Introduction

DCM for evoked responses: auditory mismatch negativity





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## systems of neural populations



from micro- to meso-scale: mean-field treatment



 $x_i$ : post-synaptic potential of  $j^{\text{th}}$  neuron within its ensemble

$$\frac{1}{N-1}\sum_{j'\neq j}H(x_{j'}-\theta) \xrightarrow{N\to\infty} \int H(x-\theta)p(x)dx$$
$$= \int_{\theta}^{\infty}p(x)dx \approx S(\mu) \qquad \text{mean firing rate}$$





mean membrane depolarization (mV)

# Neural ensembles dynamics synaptic dynamics



intrinsic connections within the cortical column



from meso- to macro-scale: neural fields





local wave propagation equation:

$$\left( \frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2} + 2\kappa \frac{\partial}{\partial t} + \kappa^2 - \frac{3}{2}c^2 \nabla^2 \right) \mu^{(i)} \left( \mathbf{r}, t \right) \approx c\kappa \varsigma^{(i)} \left( \mathbf{r}, t \right)$$
$$\varsigma^{(i)} = \sum_{i'} \gamma_{ii'} S \left( \mu^{(i')} \right)$$



extrinsic connections between brain regions



## systems of neural populations



main DCM evolution parameters:

- action potential firing threshold + ensemble PSP spread
- synaptic time constants + axonal propagation delays
- effective coupling strengths + modulatory effects

the observation mapping



main DCM observation parameters:

- sources location/orientation (ECD) or spatial profile (distributed responses)
- relative contribution of cortical layers to measured signal

# Neural ensembles dynamics a note on causality





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# **Bayesian inference**

forward and inverse problems



# Bayesian inference deriving the likelihood function

- Model of data with unknown parameters:

$$y = \tilde{g}(\vartheta)$$
 e.g., GLM:  $\tilde{g}(\vartheta) = X\vartheta$ 

- But data is noisy:  $y = \tilde{g}(\vartheta) + \varepsilon$ 

- Assume noise/residuals is 'small':



 $\rightarrow$  Distribution of data, given fixed parameters:

$$p(y|\vartheta) \propto \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2}(y-\tilde{g}(\vartheta))^2\right)$$



# Bayesian inference likelihood and priors



likelihood

 $p(y|\theta,m)$ 

prior

 $p(\vartheta|m)$ 

posterior

 $p(\mathcal{G}|y,m) = \frac{p(y|\mathcal{G},m)p(\mathcal{G}|m)}{p(y|m)}$ 



# **Bayesian inference**

zooming in the VB algorithm



# Frequentist versus Bayesian inference testing point hypotheses

• define the null and the alternative hypothesis in terms of priors, e.g.:



• Savage-Dickey ratios (nested models, i.i.d. priors):

$$p(y|H_0) = p(y|H_1) \frac{p(\theta = 0|y, H_1)}{p(\theta = 0|H_1)}$$

# **Bayesian inference**

model comparison for group studies



fixed effect

assume all subjects correspond to the same model

random effect

assume different subjects might correspond to different models

# Bayesian inference key DCM parameters



- $(\theta_{21}, \theta_{32}, \theta_{13})$  state-state coupling
  - $\theta_3^u$  input-state coupling
  - $\theta_{13}^{\mu}$  input-dependent modulatory effect





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# Conclusion

back to the auditory mismatch negativity



t ~ 200 ms

# Conclusion DCM for EEG/MEG: variants



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# **Bayesian inference**

the variational Bayesian approach

$$\ln p(y|m) = \left\langle \ln p(\vartheta, y|m) \right\rangle_{q} + S(q) + D_{KL}(q(\vartheta); p(\vartheta|y,m))$$

free energy : functional of q

approximate (marginal) posterior distributions:

 $\left\{q\left(artheta_{1}
ight),q\left(artheta_{2}
ight)
ight\}$ 



# **Bayesian** inference model comparison

Principle of parsimony : « plurality should not be assumed without necessity »



Model evidence:

$$p(y|m) = \int p(y|\vartheta,m) p(\vartheta|m) d\vartheta$$

"Occam's razor" :

