

***Feedback-regulated mental imagery in BCI  
applications: using non-invasive EEG***

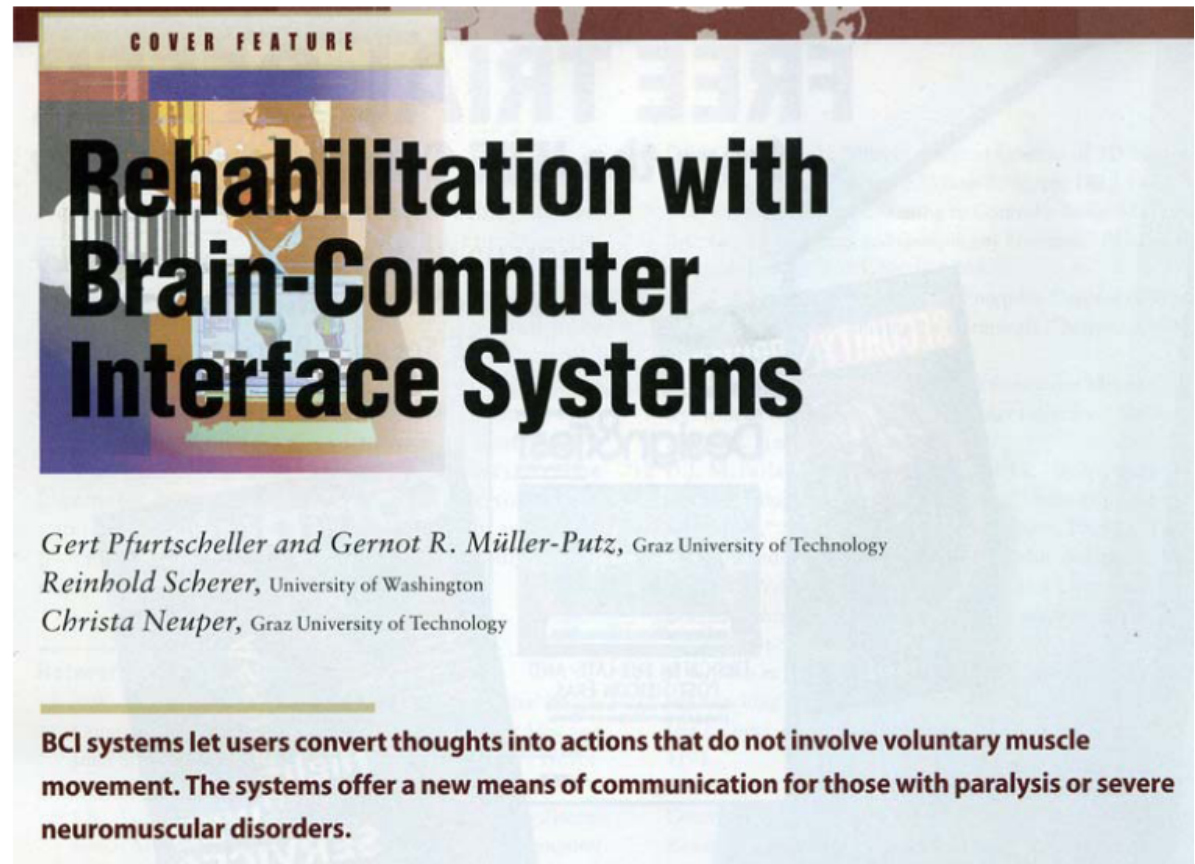
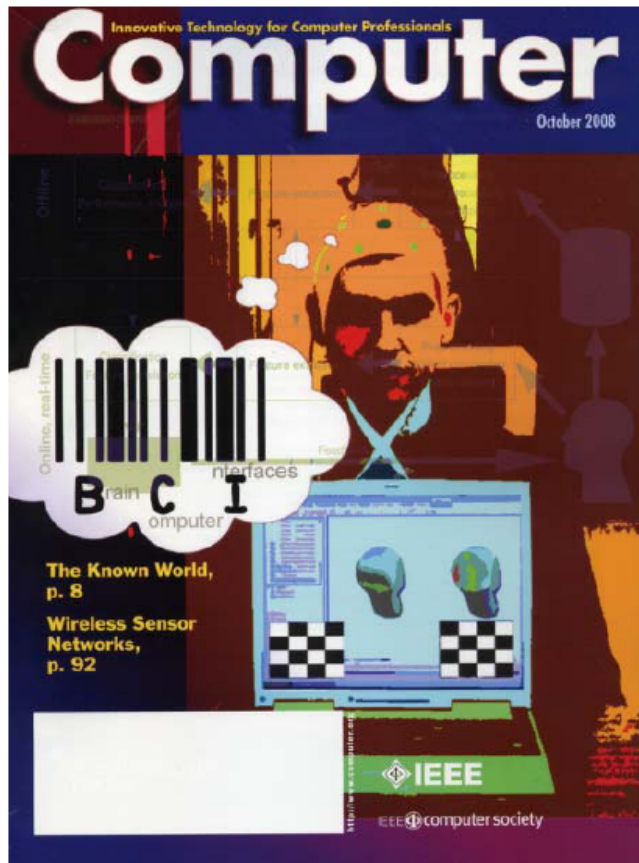
***and NIRS signals***

Christa Neuper

Institute of Psychology, Neuropsychology,  
University of Graz

Institute of Knowledge Discovery, BCI Lab,  
Graz University of Technology

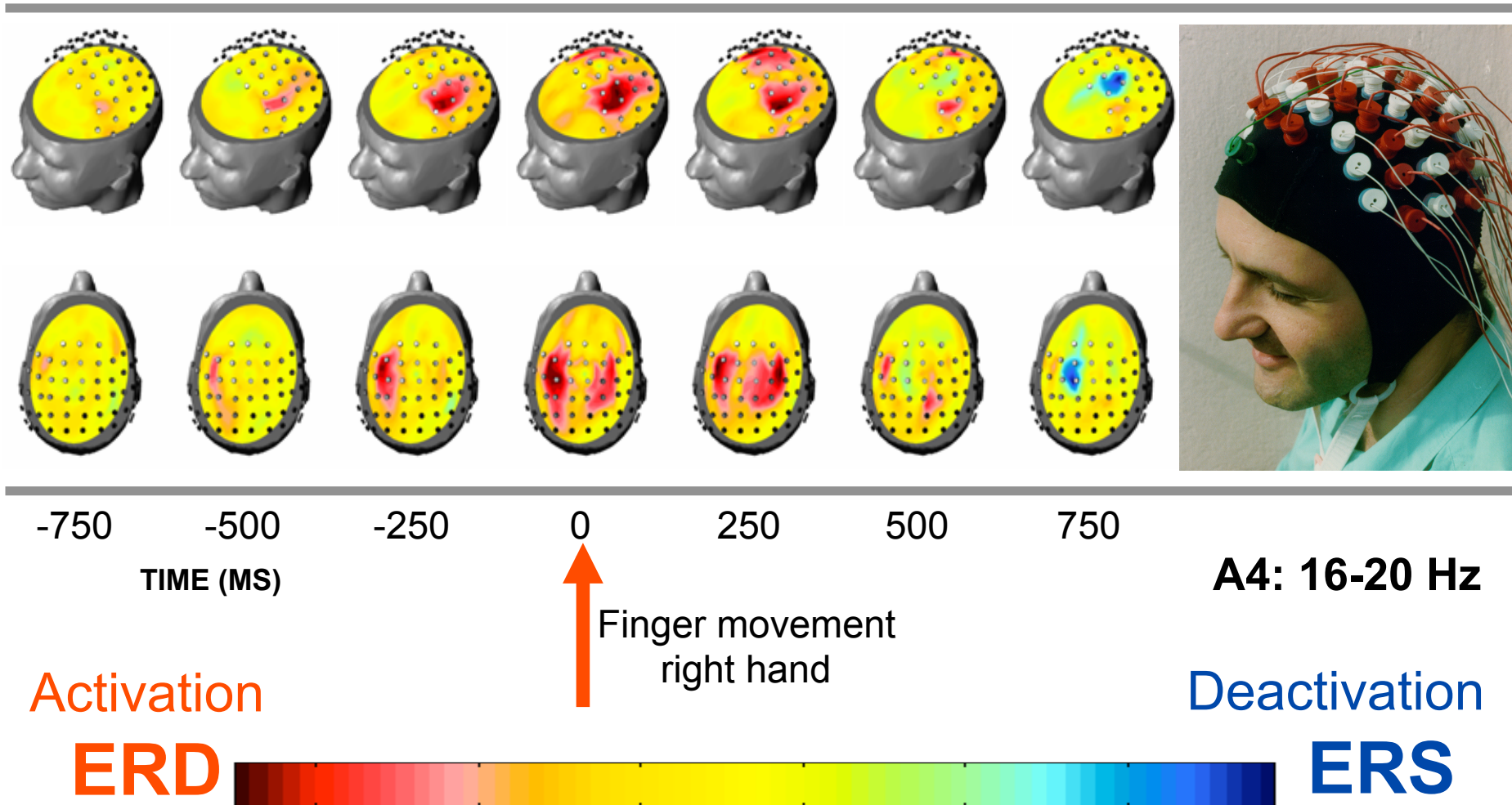
# Rehabilitation with BCI-Systems



In: Computer 41 (2008) 10, p. 58 - 65

# Voluntary Movement and ERD/ERS

*Pfurtscheller & Neuper, 1994*

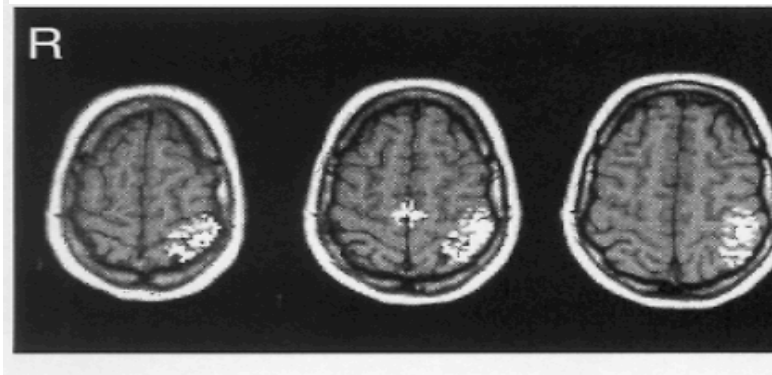




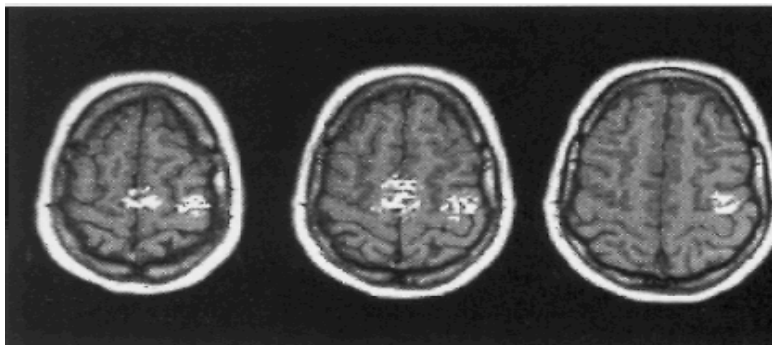
# Motor Imagery as Mental Strategy

Similar neural networks (brain areas) are activated during movement execution and movement imagination.

Activation during motor execution:



Activation during motor imagery:



**fMRI**

*Lotze et al. 1999*

Execution

2s



3s



4.5s



Imagination

2s



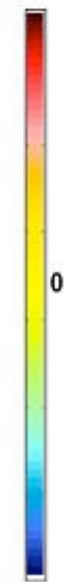
3s



4.5s



ERD



ERS

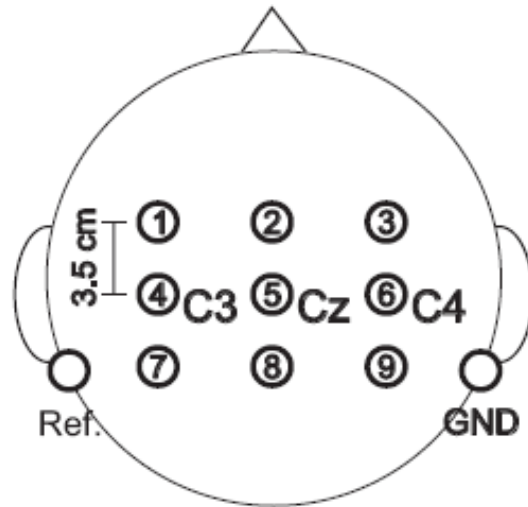
**EEG**

9-13 Hz

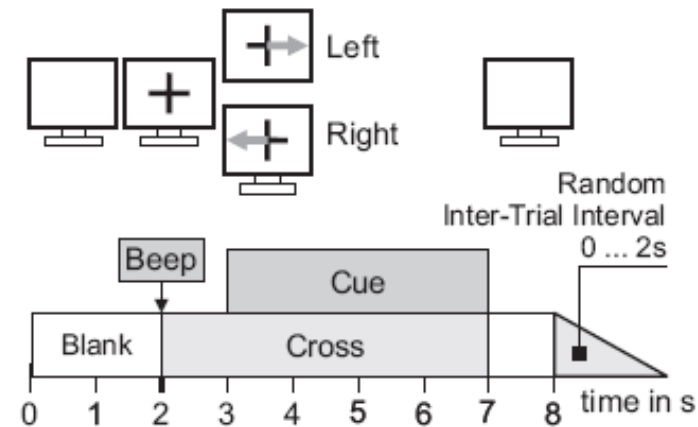
*Neuper et al., 1999*



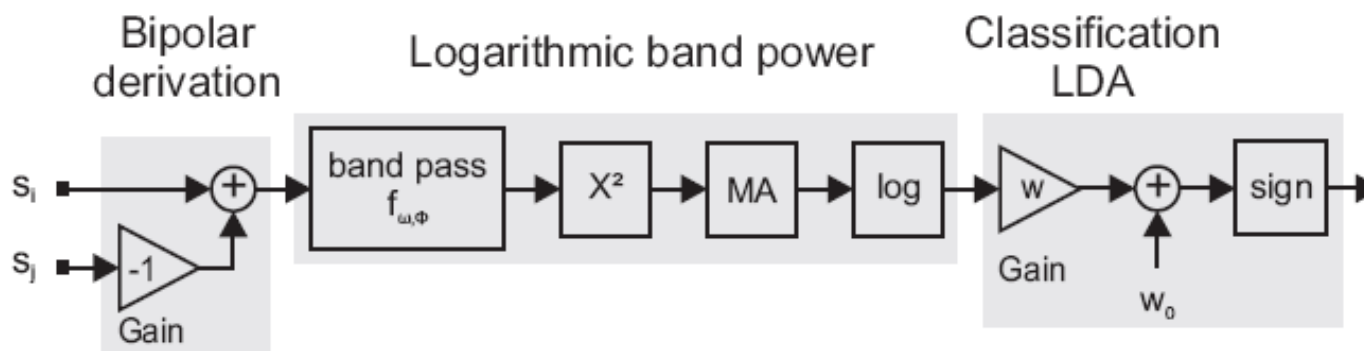
# Graz-BCI: ERD/S Classification



(a)



(b)



(c)

*Scherer et al., 2008*

# BCIs for People with Motor Disabilities

---

- **Motor restoration/ substitution**
  - by-pass spinal cord lesions with a BCI
  - e.g. neuroprostheses for grasping/reaching
- **Motor recovery**
  - induce plasticity by mental rehearsal of movements (motor imagery practice with feedback)
  - e.g. stroke-BCI; incl. orthosis for stroke rehabilitation
- **Use of NIRS signals for BCI feedback training**
  - implementation of NIRS-Online System
  - NIRS in combination with ERD/S

# Motor Restoration

## Patient T.S.:

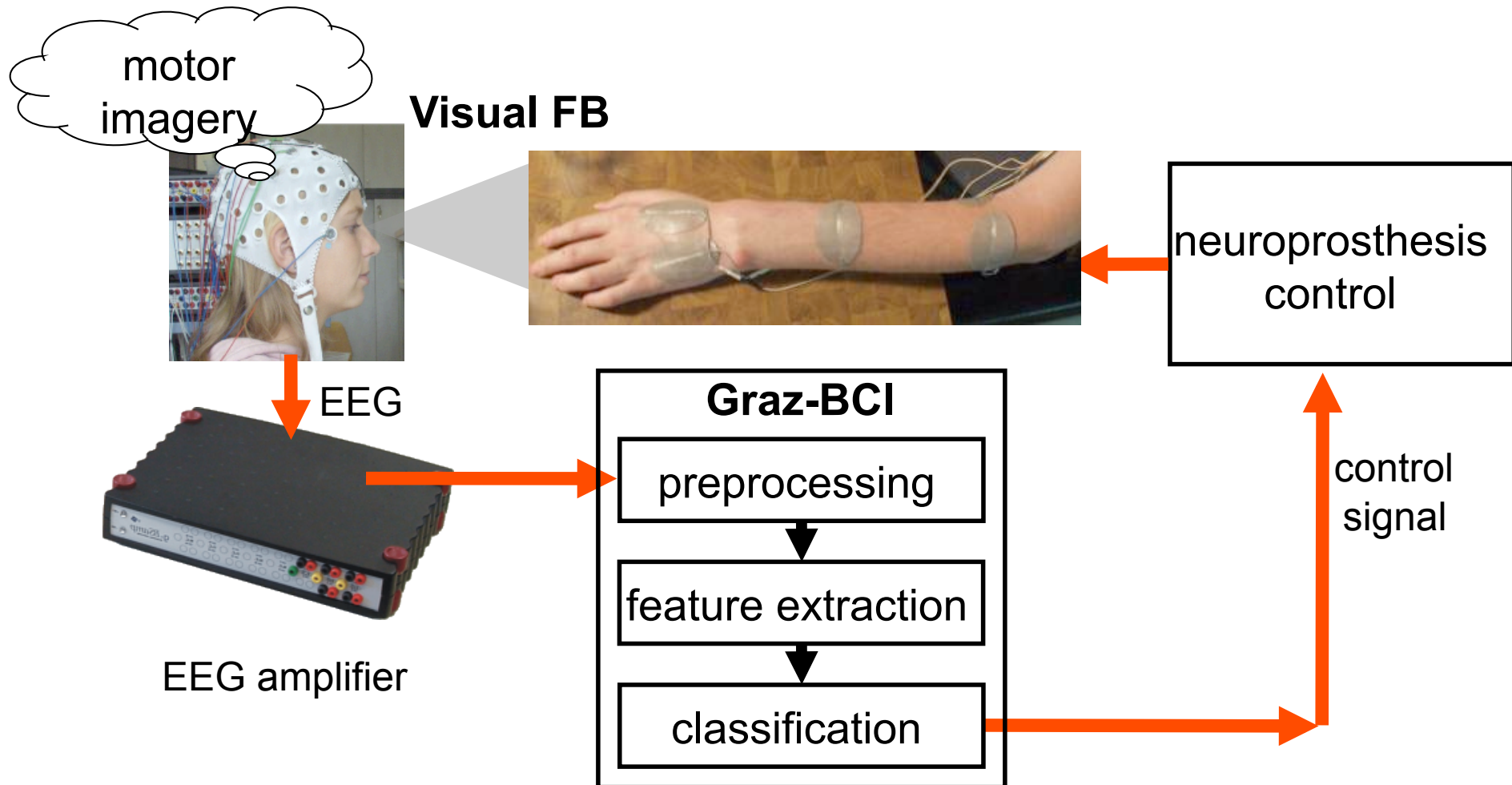
30 years,  
accident in 1998,  
tetraplegic of level  
C4/C5,  
residual muscle  
activity of left biceps



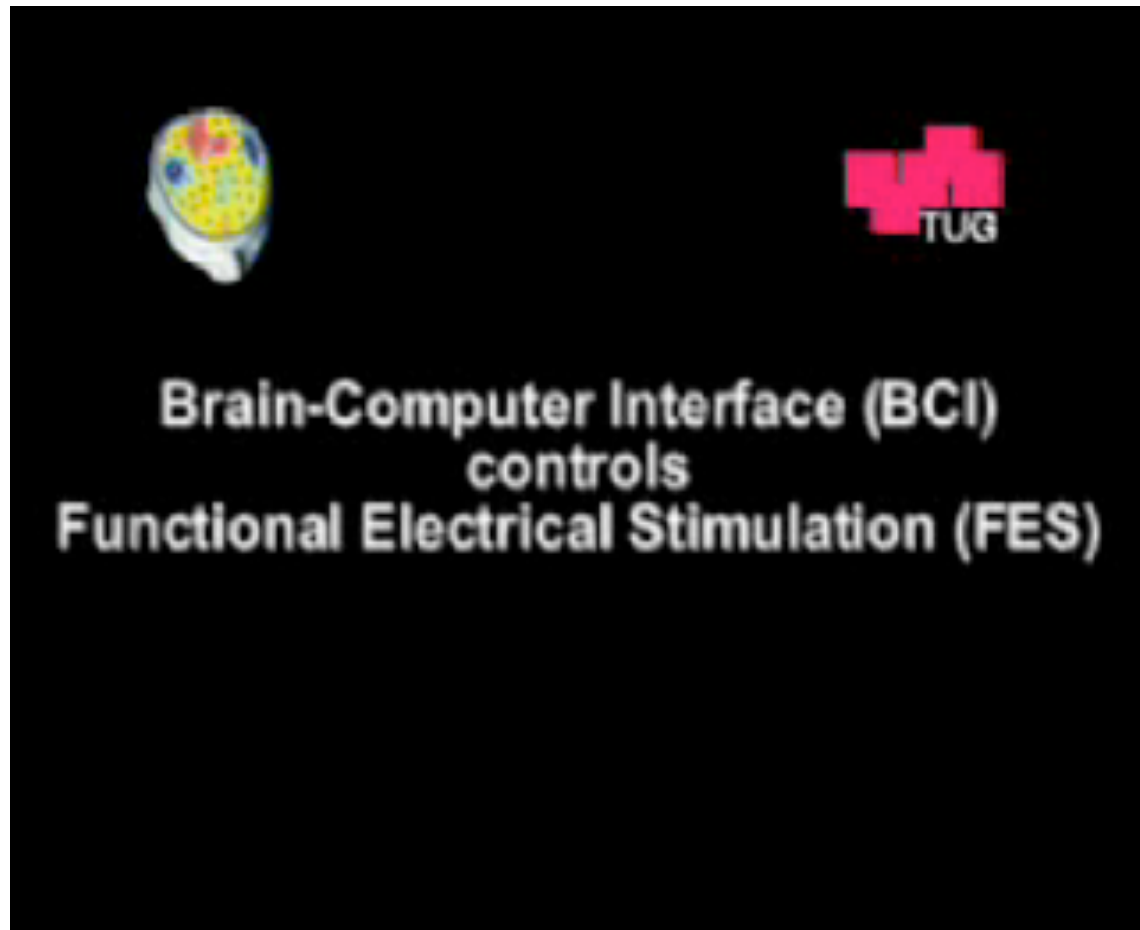
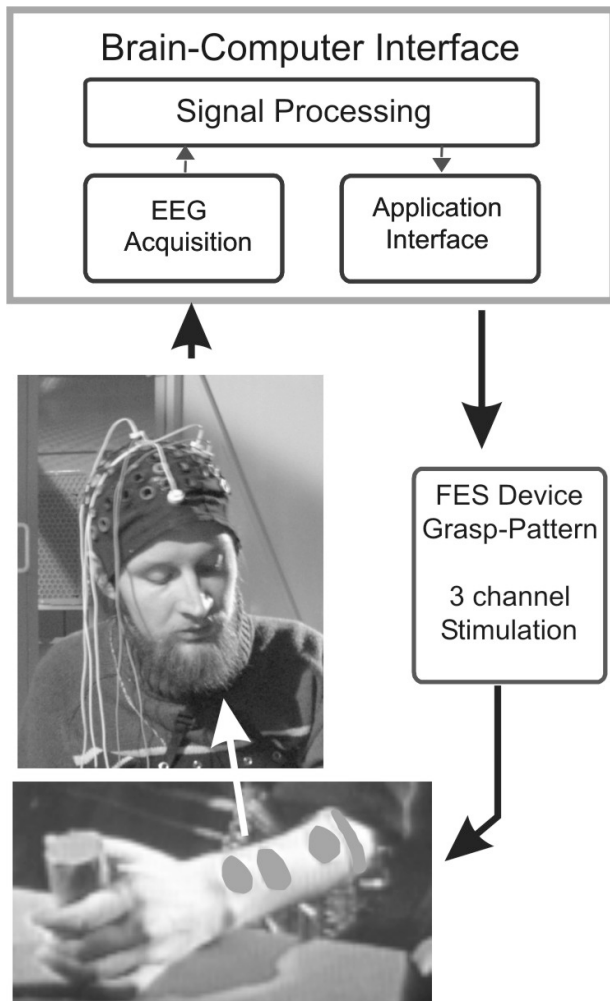
*Pfurtscheller et al., 2000*



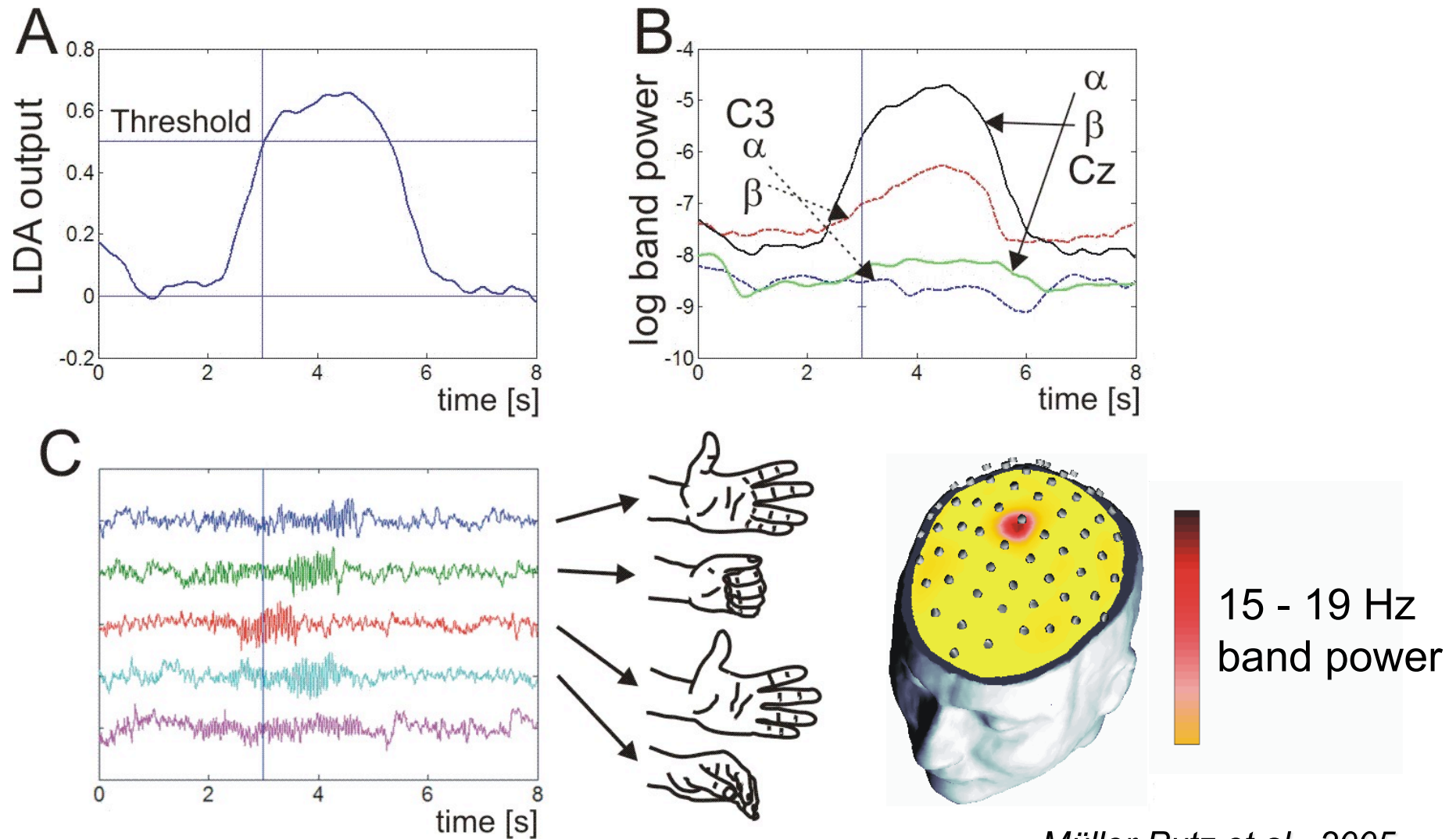
# BCI Control of Neuroprosthesis



# BCI Control of Neuroprosthesis



# Foot Motor Imagery in Tetraplegic Patient



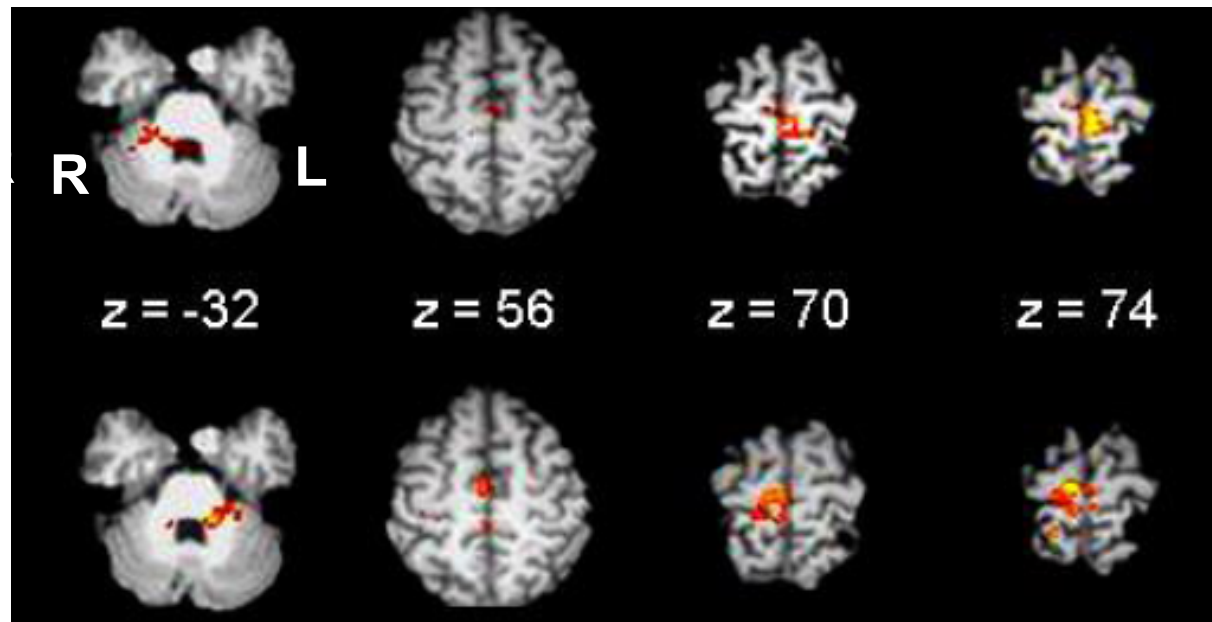
*Müller-Putz et al., 2005*



# Foot Motor Imagery in Tetraplegic Patient

Induced beta oscillations (15-19 Hz) close to the foot motor area are associated with a positive BOLD signal in fMRI.

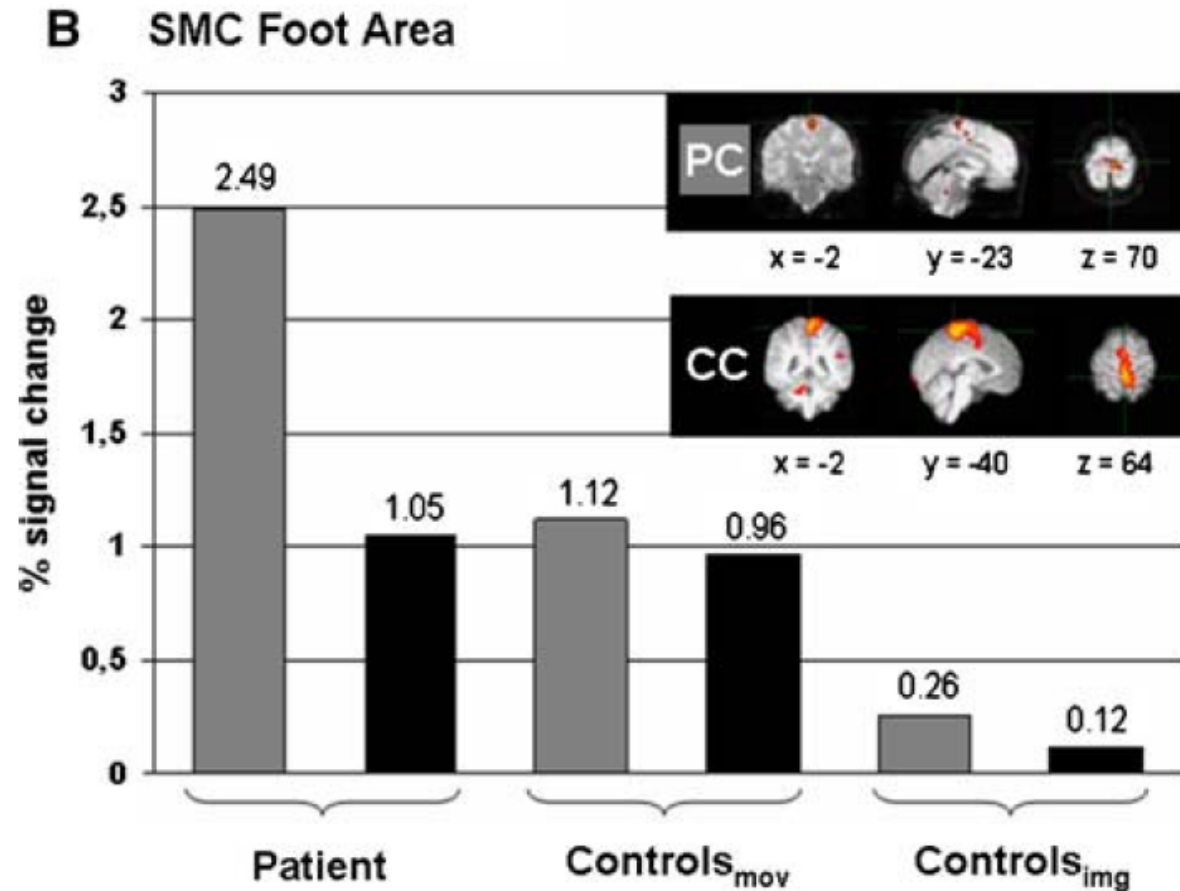
Right foot



Left foot

*Enzinger et al., 2008*

# Foot Motor Imagery in Tetraplegic Patient



BCI training (motor imagery) may assist in maintaining access to primary sensorimotor cortex despite complete deafferentiation.

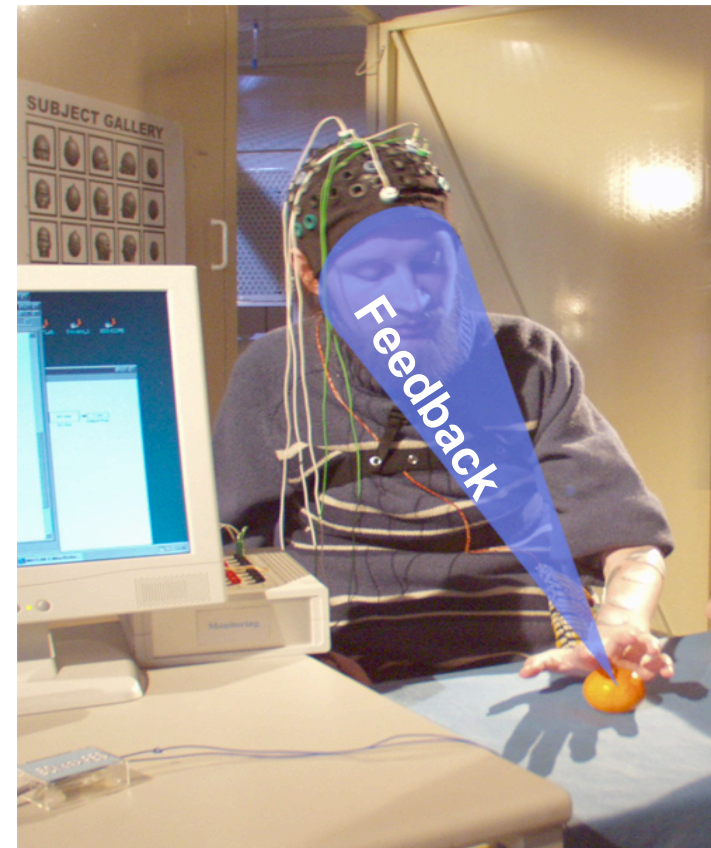
# Impact of Visual Feedback

The visual display of a moving object or moving body part may influence the brain patterns involved in BCI control.

**‘Mirror neurons’** in area F5 (monkey) respond to observation of movement.

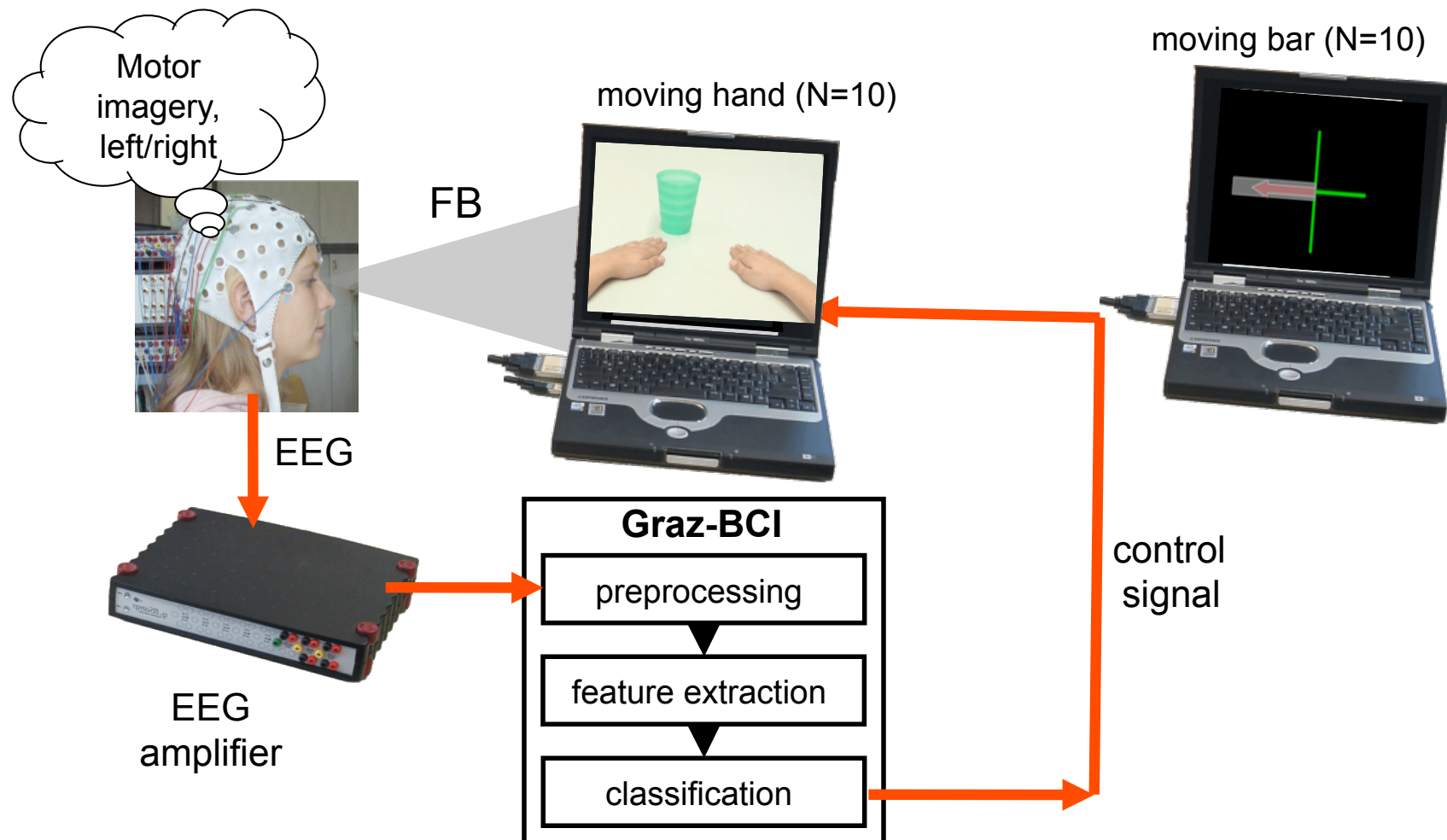
*“.. there is analogy at the cortical level between the mechanisms that mediate action observation and those involved in action execution.”*

*Rizzolatti et al., 2001*



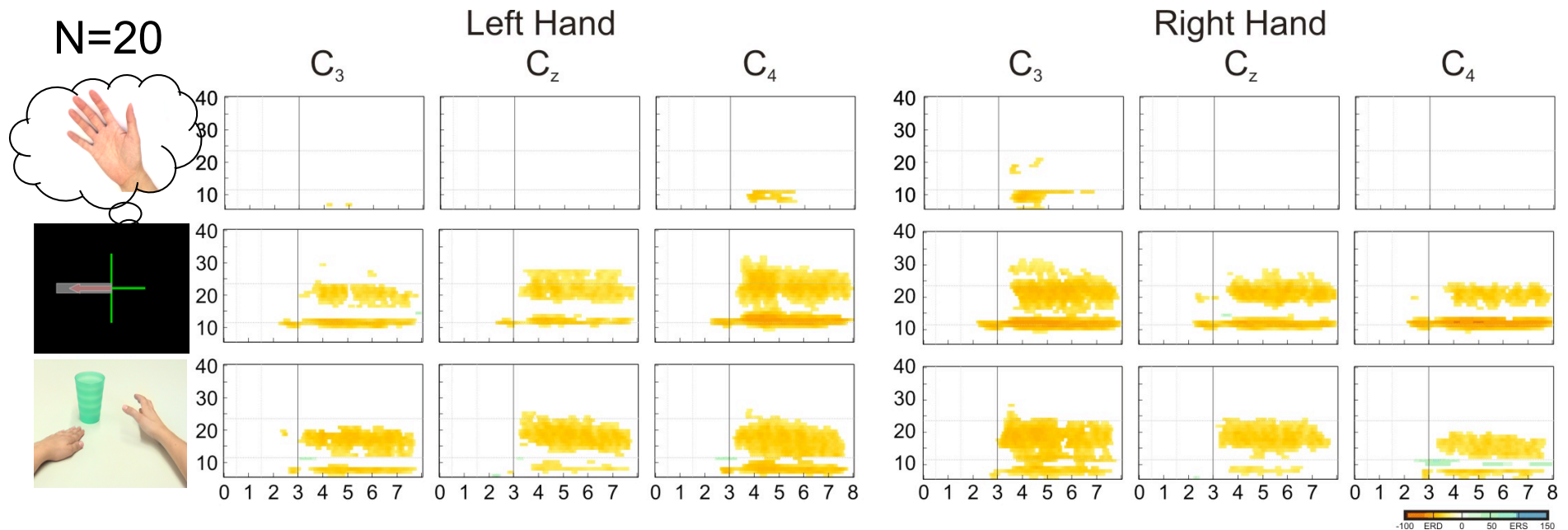


# BCI Feedback Study: Grasping Hand



N =20, 4 sessions

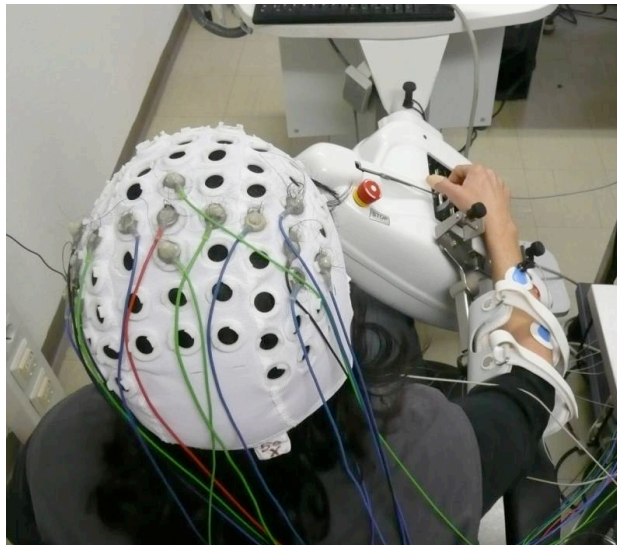
# BCI Feedback Study: Abstract vs. Realistic



Visual BCI feedback clearly modulates sensorimotor EEG rhythms (compared to motor imagery without feedback). The presentation form (abstract vs. realistic) does not influence the EEG patterns and performance in a BCI, at least in initial training sessions.

*Neuper et al., 2009*

# Motor Recovery



*Motor Imagery: A backdoor to the motor system after stroke?*

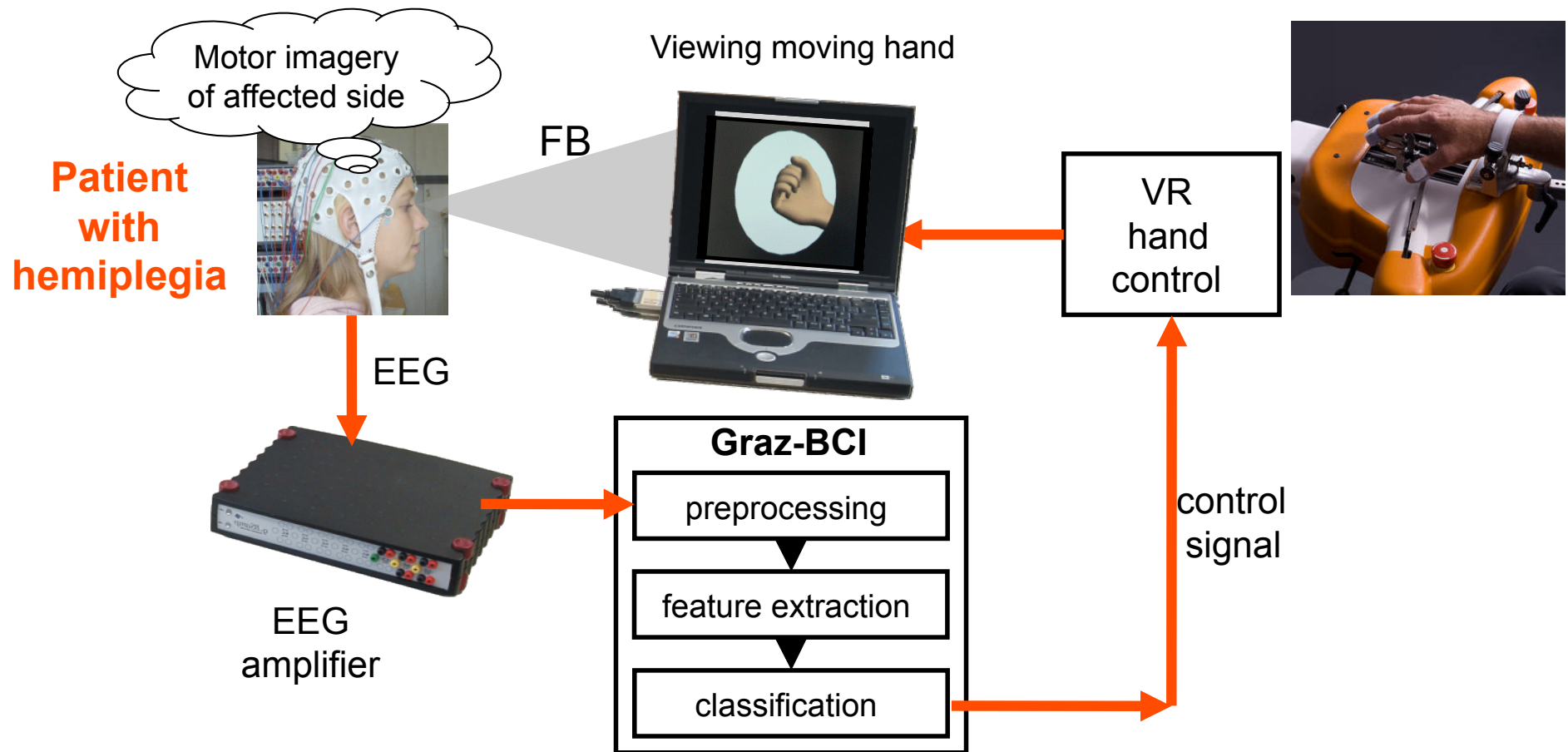
*Sharma et al., Stroke, 2006*

*The goal is to stimulate cortical reorganization and compensatory activation of non-lesioned brain regions through motor imagery involving the paralyzed limb.*



# BCI-based stroke therapy

Neurofeedback training utilizing motor imagery of the paralyzed limb; the output signal of the BCI is translated into the movement of a virtual body part/ robotic device.



# ERD/S Patterns in Stroke Patients

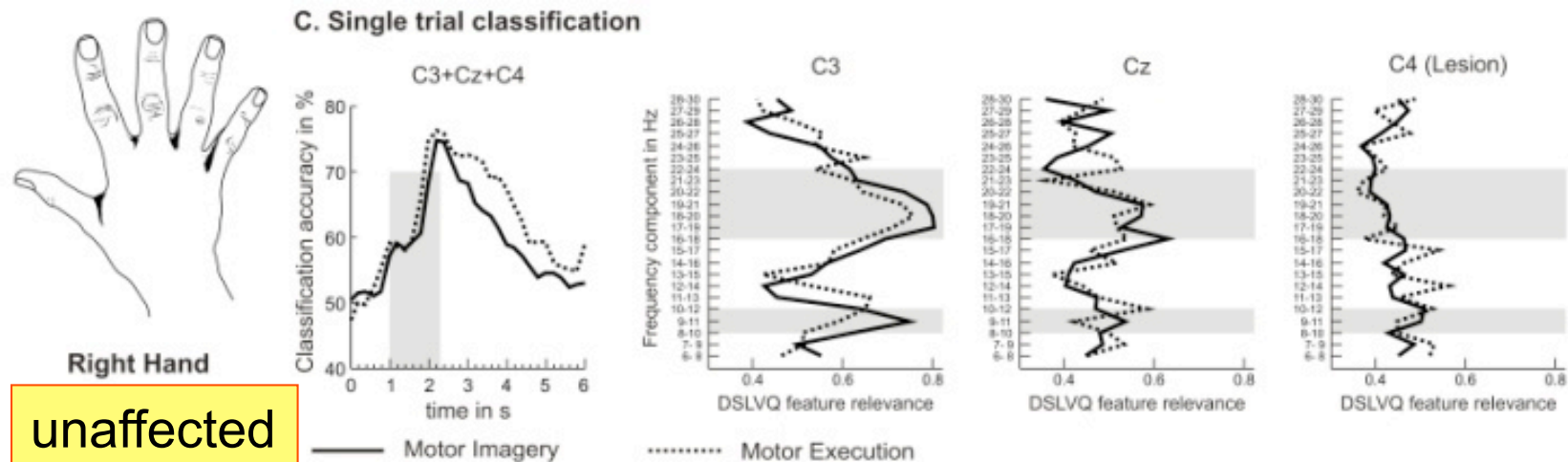
Sample of right-handed hemiparetic stroke patients,  
unilateral lesion (cortical/subcortical) in the right hemisphere

Id	Age	Gender	Months after stroke	Hemiparesis
s0	37	M	3	0 L
s1	57	F	23	0-1 L
s2	28	M	36	0-1 L
s3	66	M	2	3 L
s4	49	F	3	5 L
s5	41	M	28	4-5 L
s6	36	M	3	4-5 L, 5 R

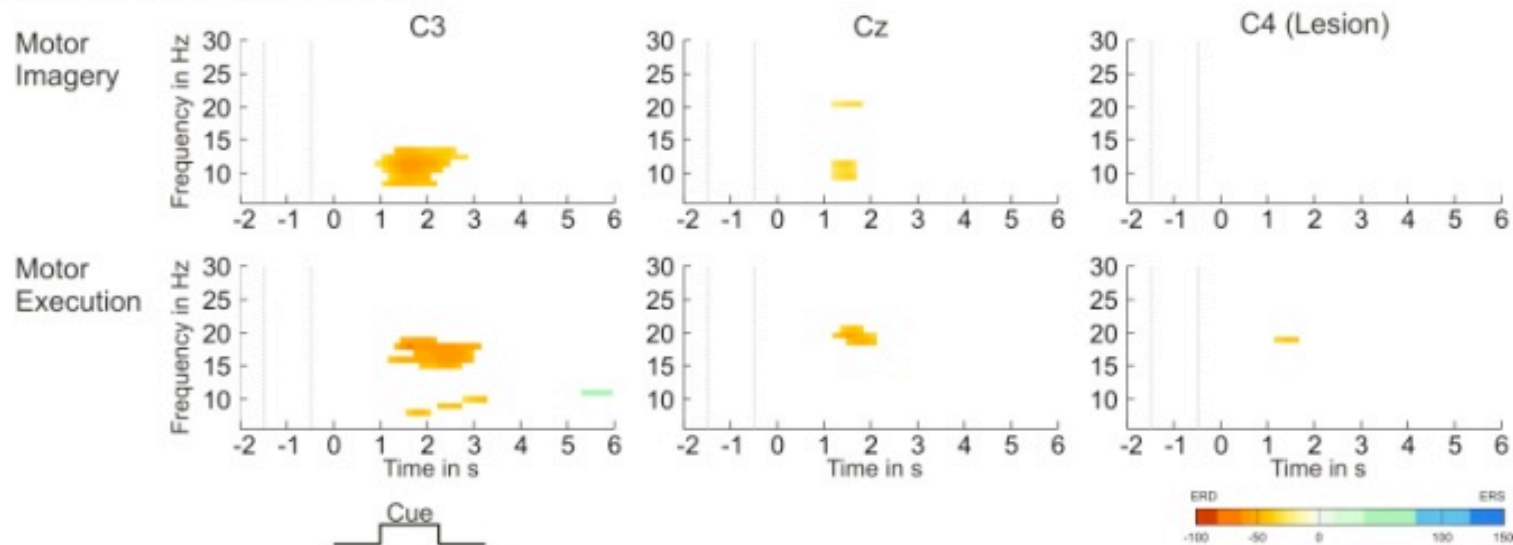
L = Left, R = Right

*Scherer et al., 2007*

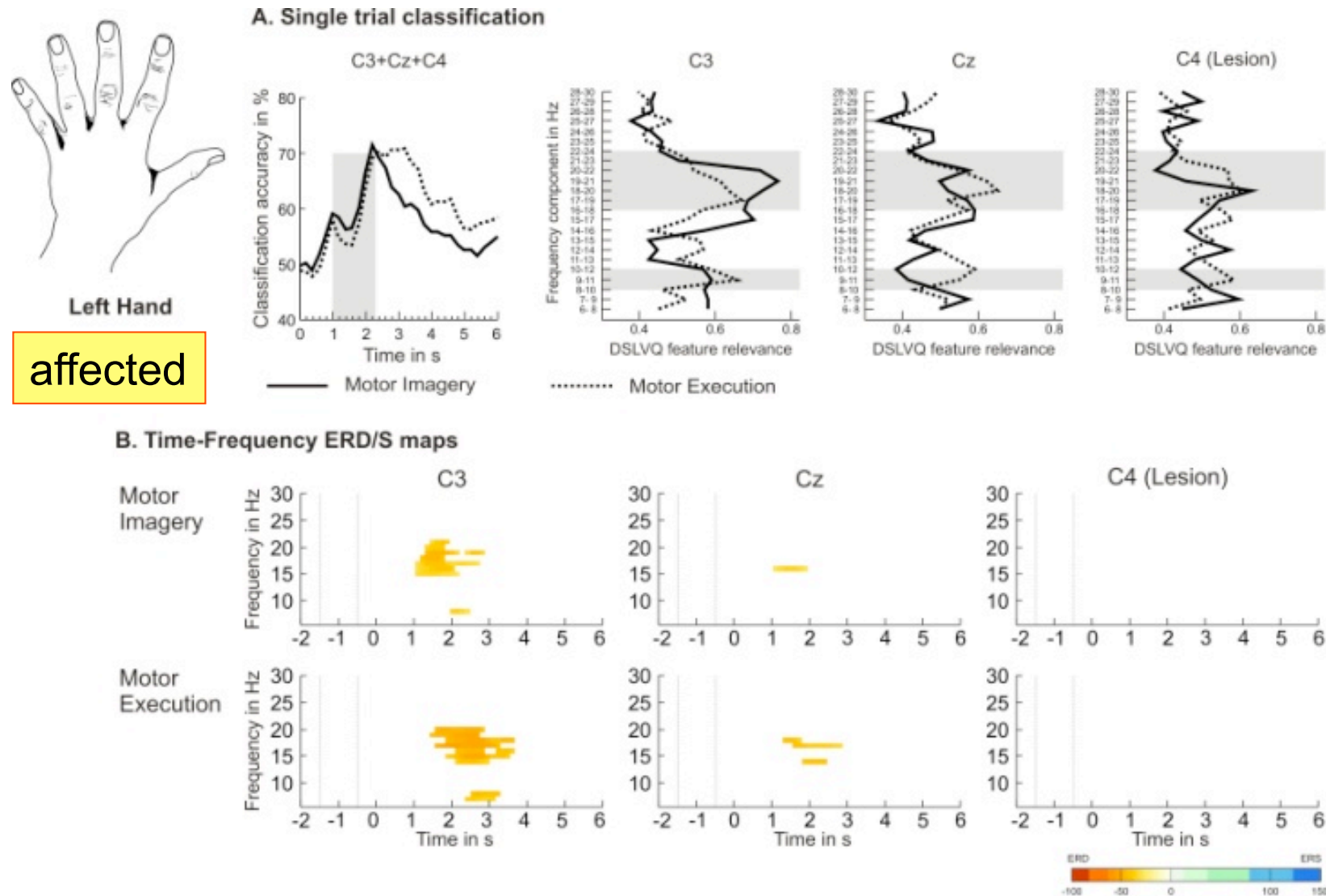
# ERD/S Patterns in Stroke Patients



## D. Time-Frequency ERD/S maps



# ERD/S Patterns in Stroke Patients





# ERD/S patterns during passive movement

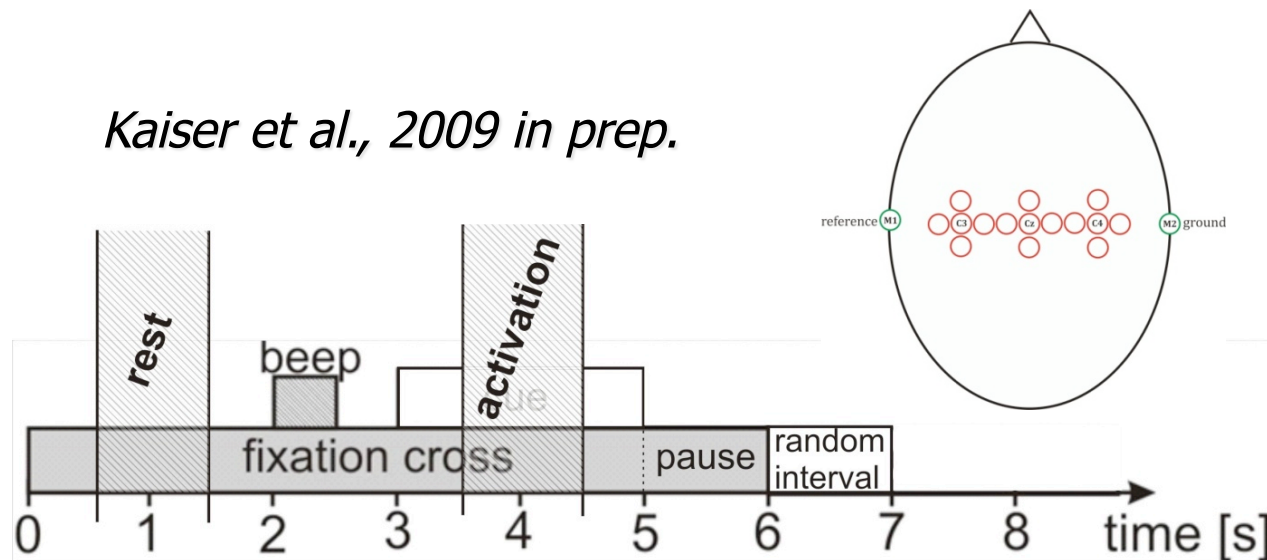
## Subjects

- 15 healthy volunteers, aged between 40 and 80 years

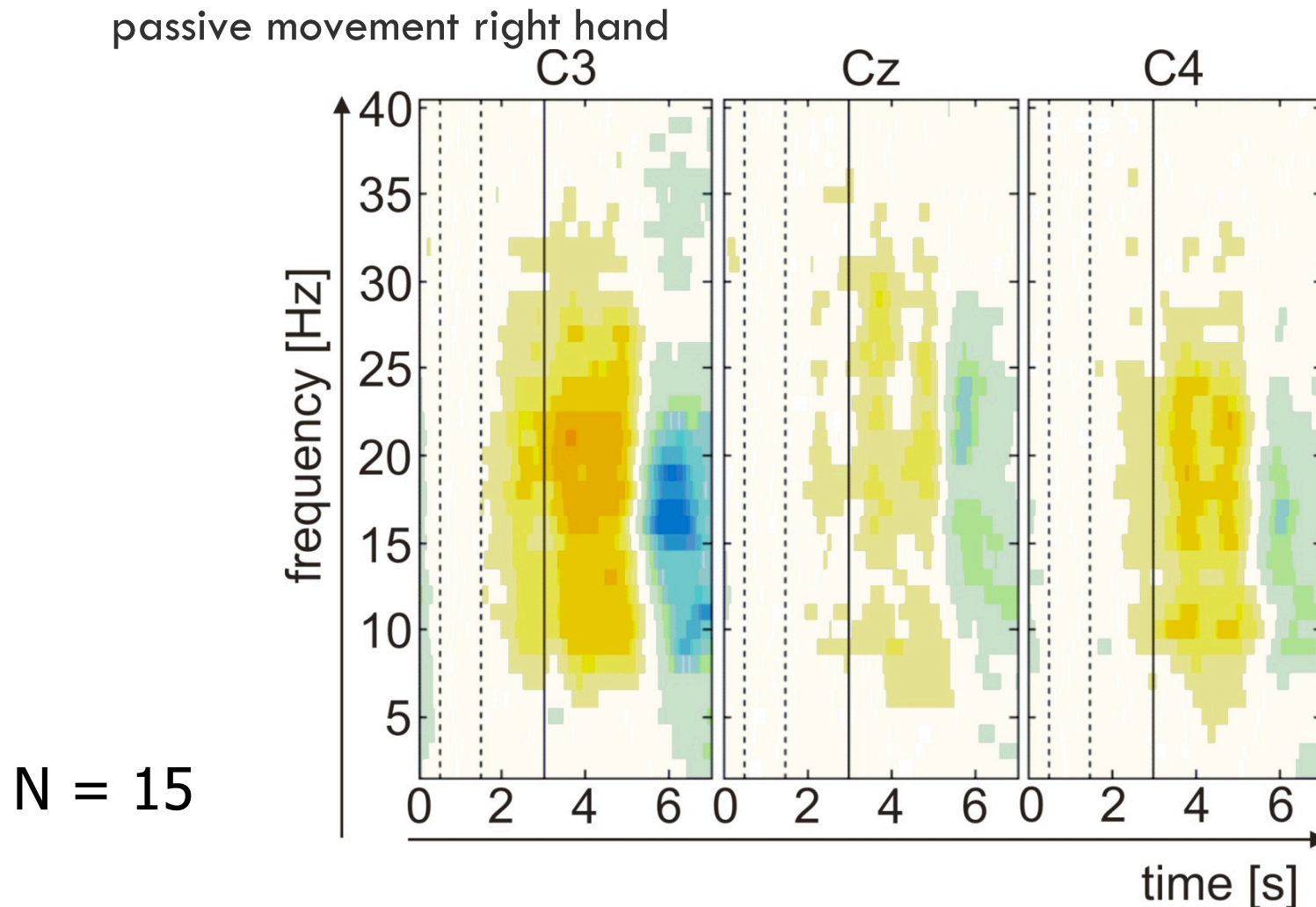
## Method

- passive movements , active movements, hand motor imagery
- Comparison of classification accuracies for detection of motor imagery

*Kaiser et al., 2009 in prep.*

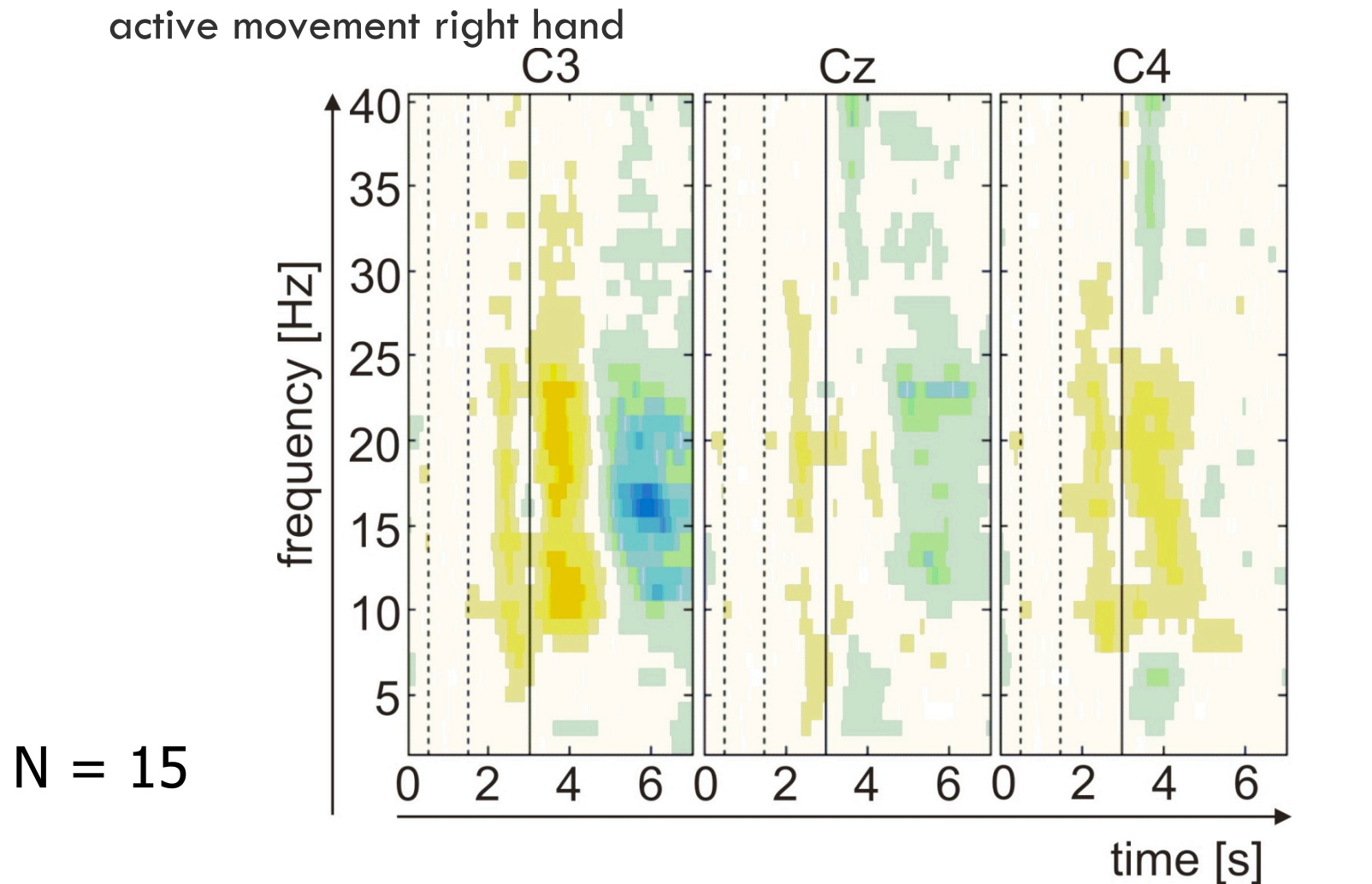


# ERD/S patterns during passive movement



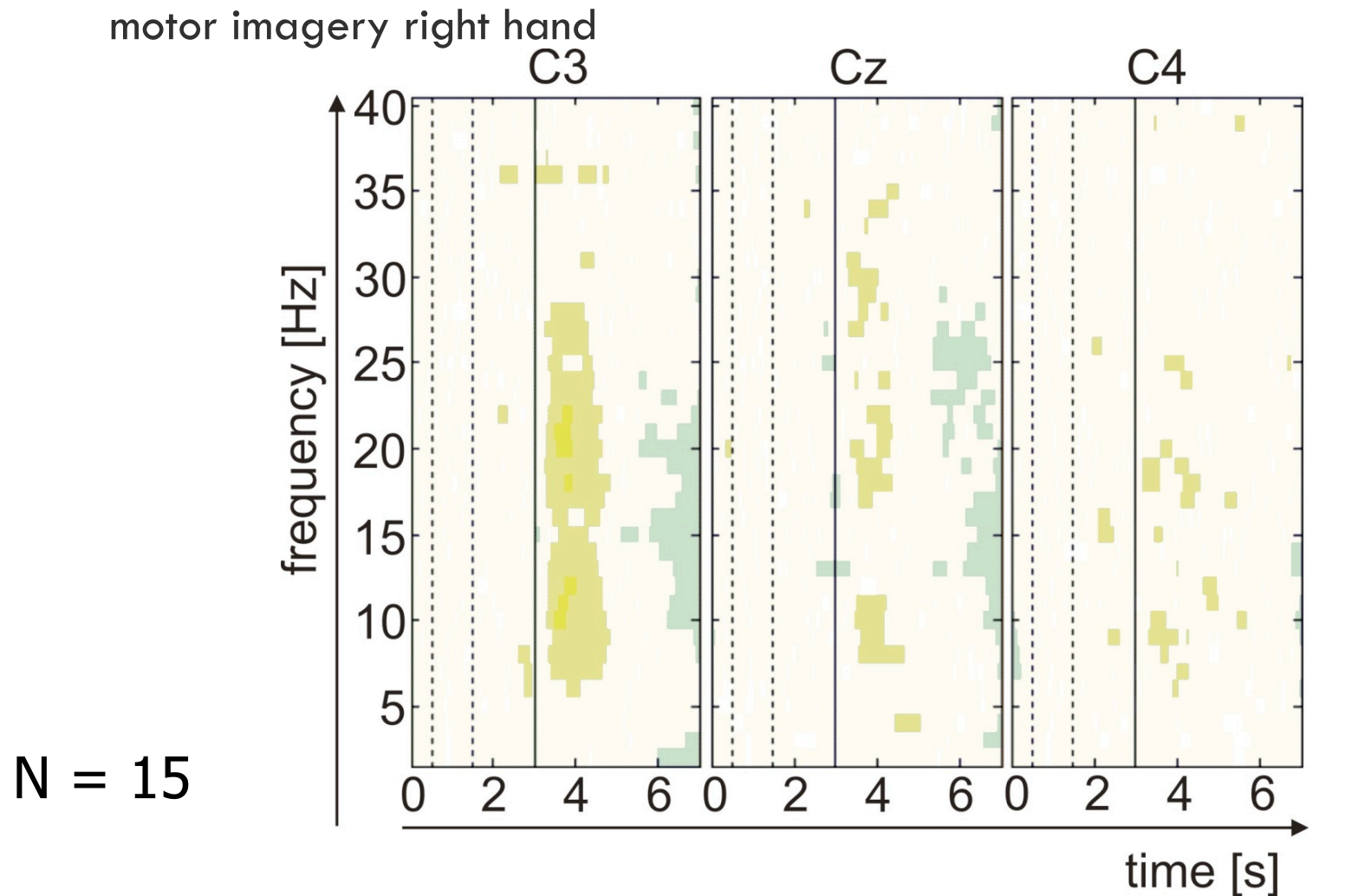
**Figure 6: grand average ERD/S map passive right hand movement**

# ERD/S patterns during passive movement



**Figure 7: grand average ERD/S map active right hand movement**

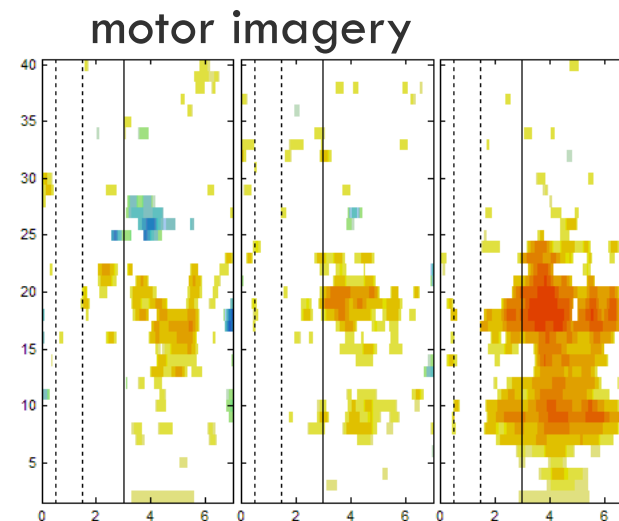
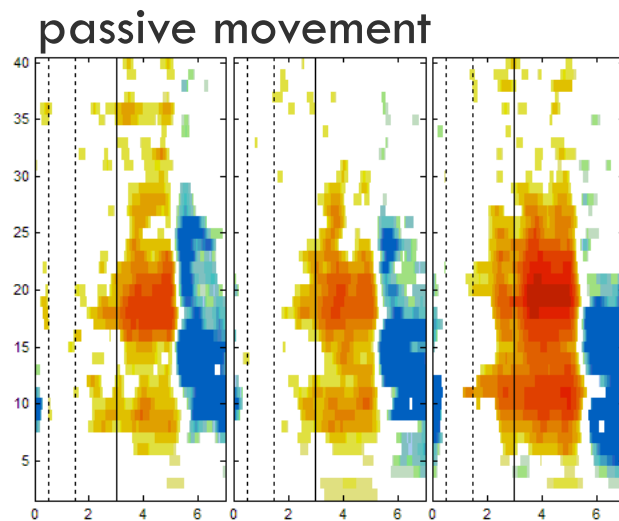
# ERD/S patterns during passive movement



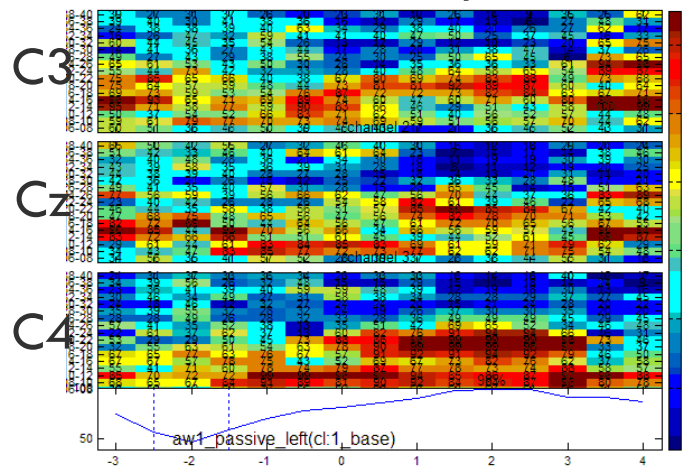
**Figure 8: grand average ERD/S map right hand motor imagery**



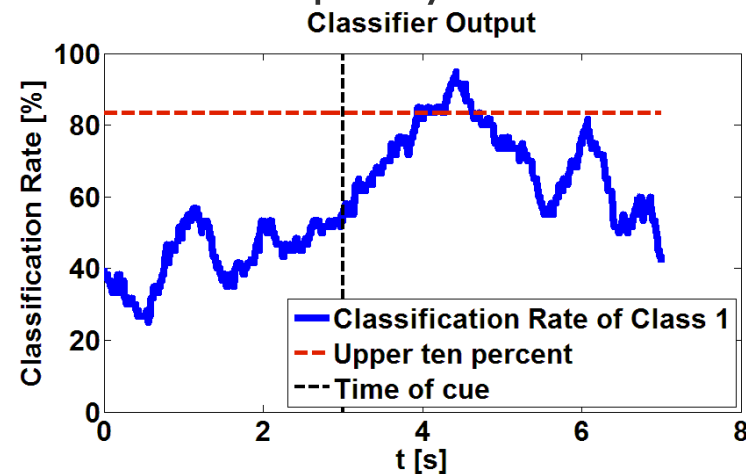
# ERD/S patterns during passive movement



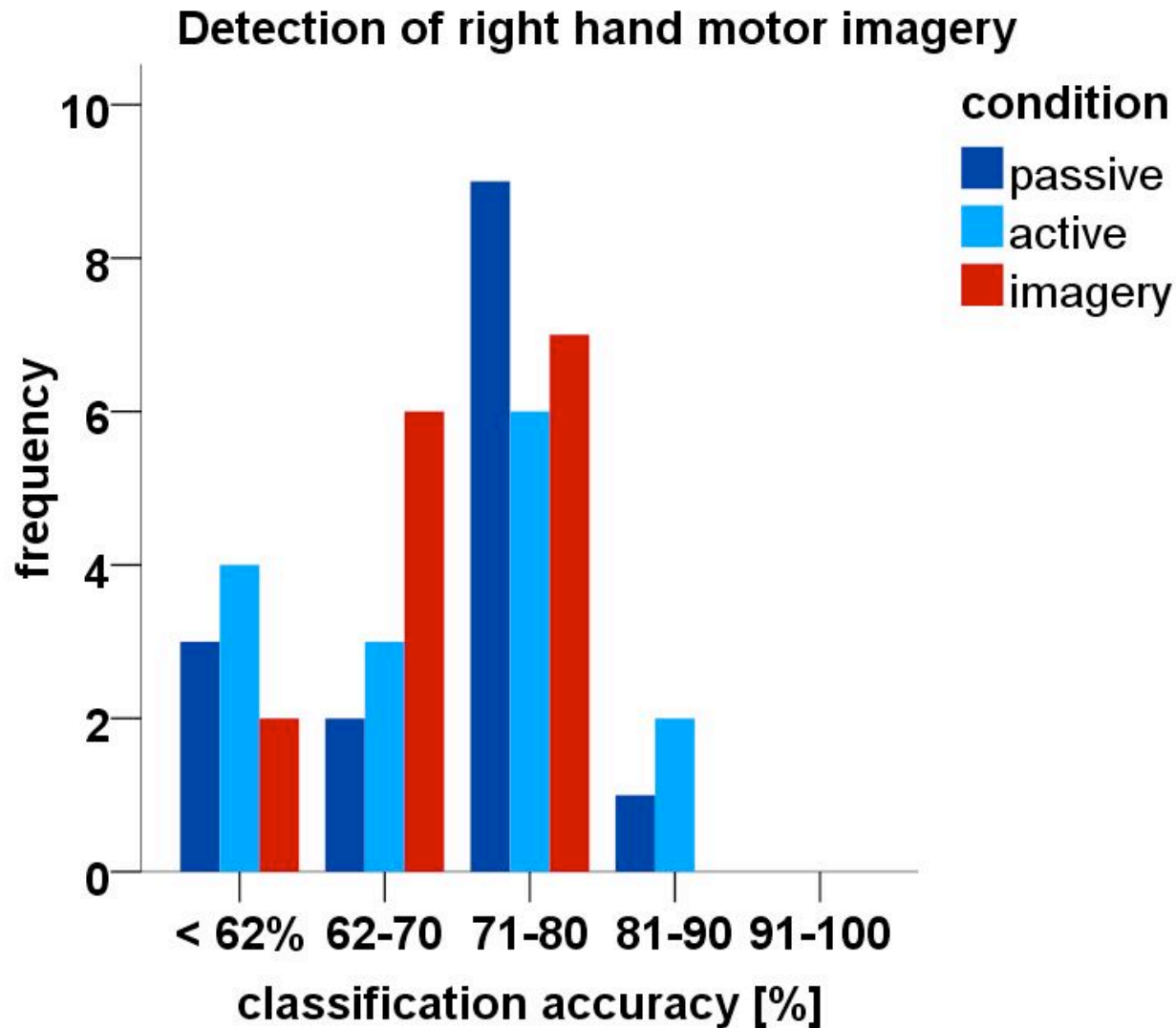
## ■ DSLVQ map



## selected frequency band: C4 18-22 Hz



# ERD/S patterns during passive movement



# Use of NIRS signals ?



## EEG-BCI

electrical potentials, EEG, ERP



## fMRI-BCI

BOLD signal



## MEG-BCI

magnetic fields

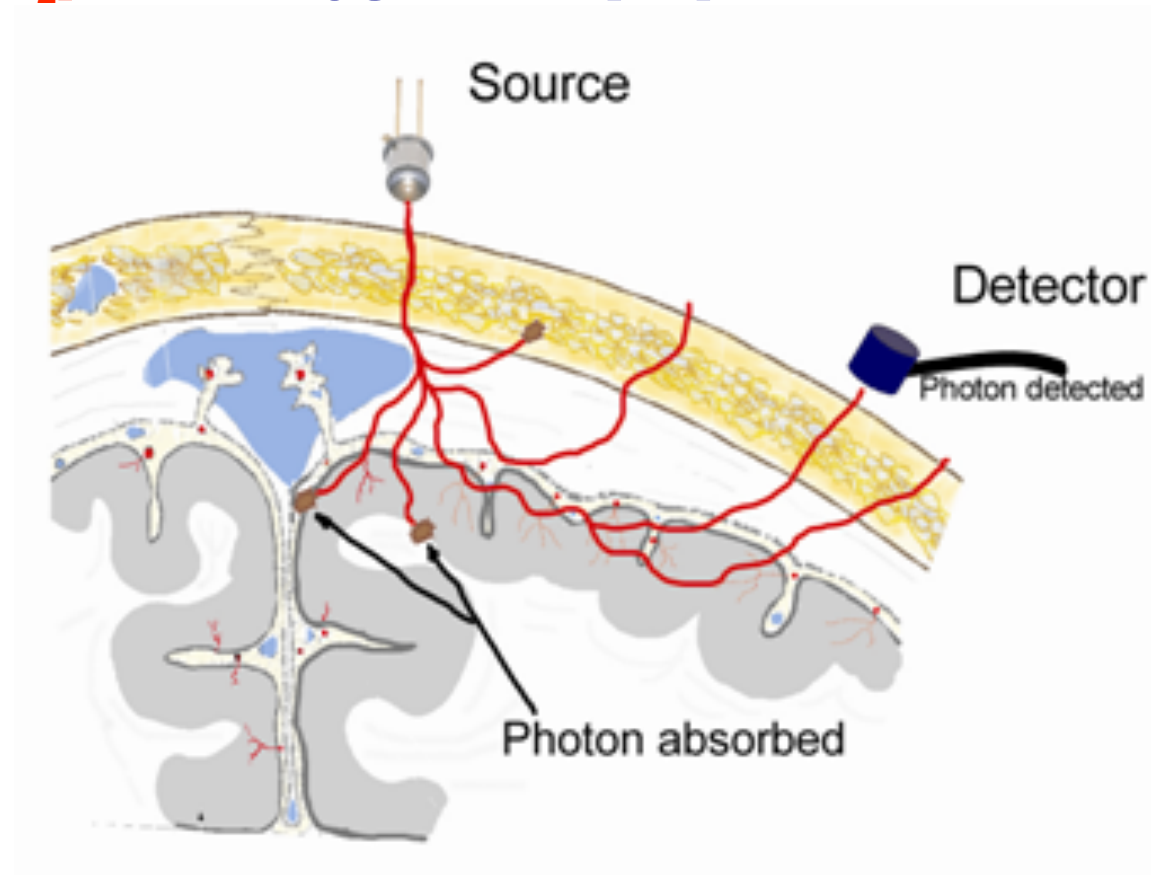
## Optical BCI (NIRS)

changes of  
(de)oxyhemoglobin



# Near-Infrared Spectroscopy (NIRS)

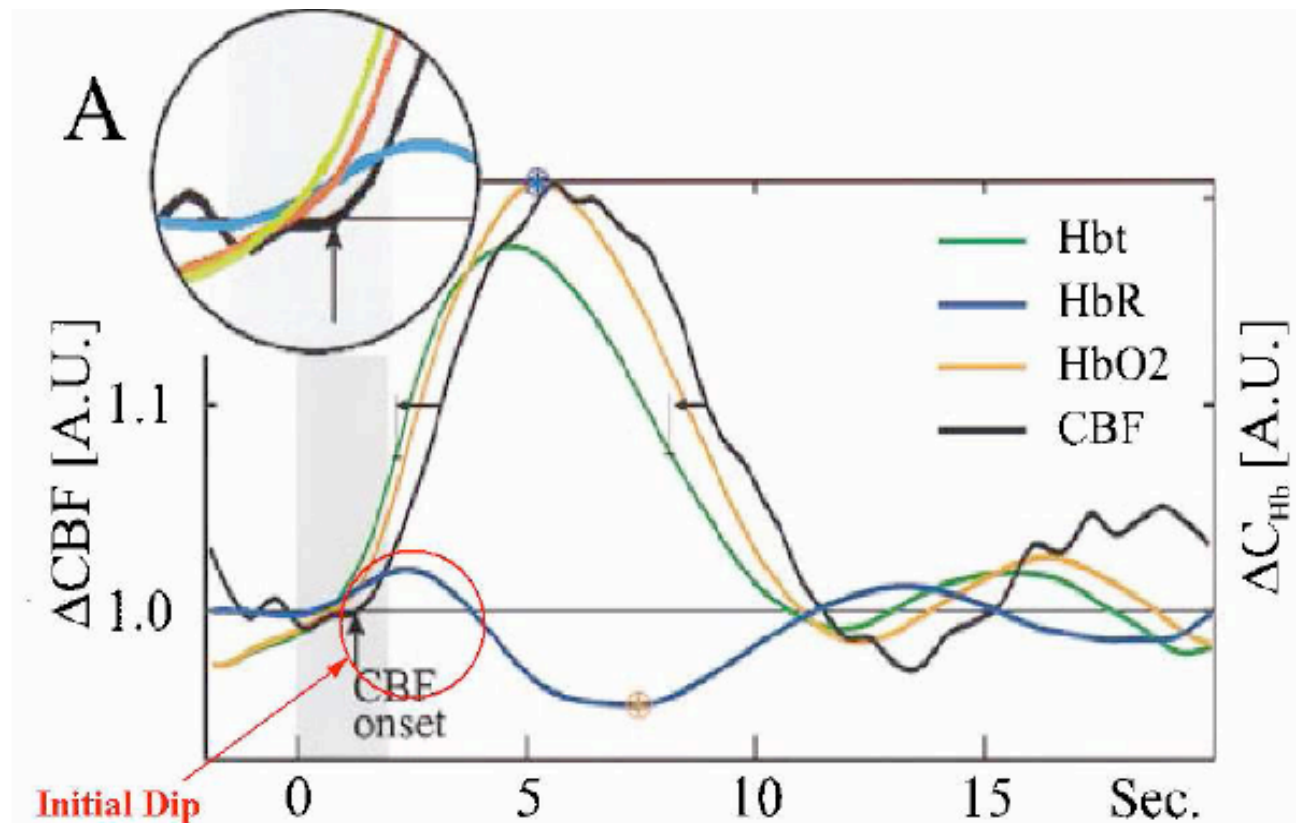
**Near-infrared spectroscopy (NIRS)** is a non-invasive optical technique, suitable to assess functional activity by measuring cortical **oxygenation [HbO<sub>2</sub>]** and **deoxygenation [Hb]**.





# Near-Infrared Spectroscopy (NIRS)

Typical time course of oxy- and deoxy-Hb



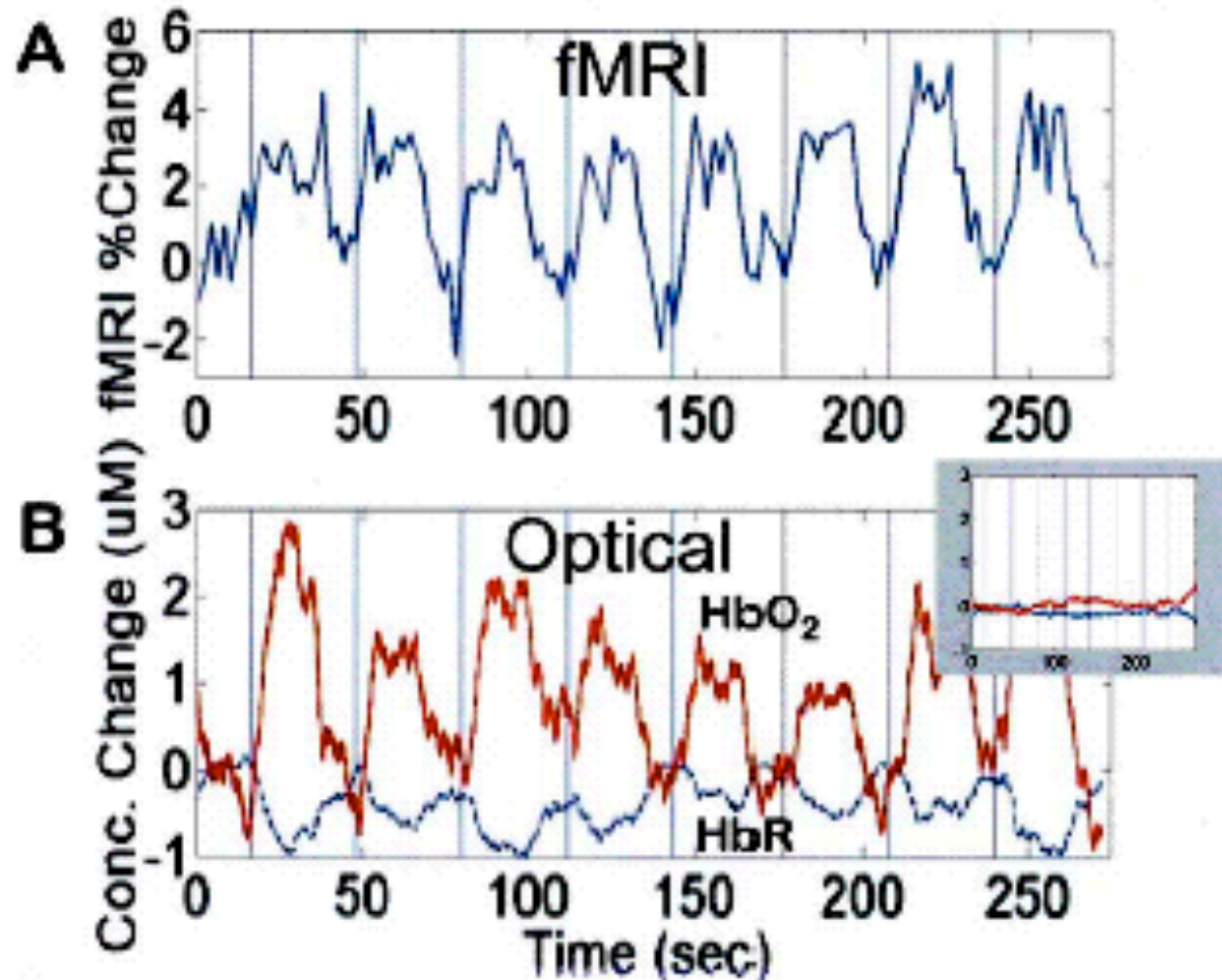
max. response after 5 – 9 s

*Malonek et al. 1997*

# Correlation between NIRS and fMRI Signals

**fMRI time course**  
for left primary motor  
cortex during right finger  
tapping vs. rest (16 s).

**Changes in [HbO<sub>2</sub>]  
and [HbR]**  
as determined from the  
source-detector pair  
closest to the fMRI  
activation.



*Strangman et al., 2002*

# NIRS Probe-Set



**Emitter**

11	1	11	2	12	3	12
4		5		6		7
13	8	13	9	14	10	14
11		12	C3	13	C1	14
15	15	15	16	16	17	16
18		19		20		21
17	22	17	23	18	24	18

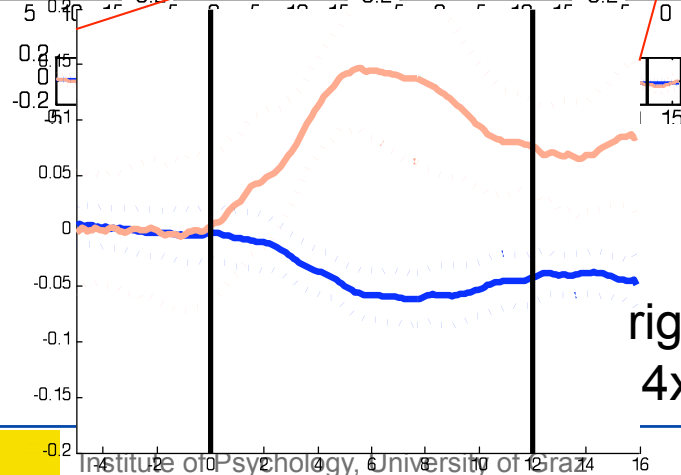
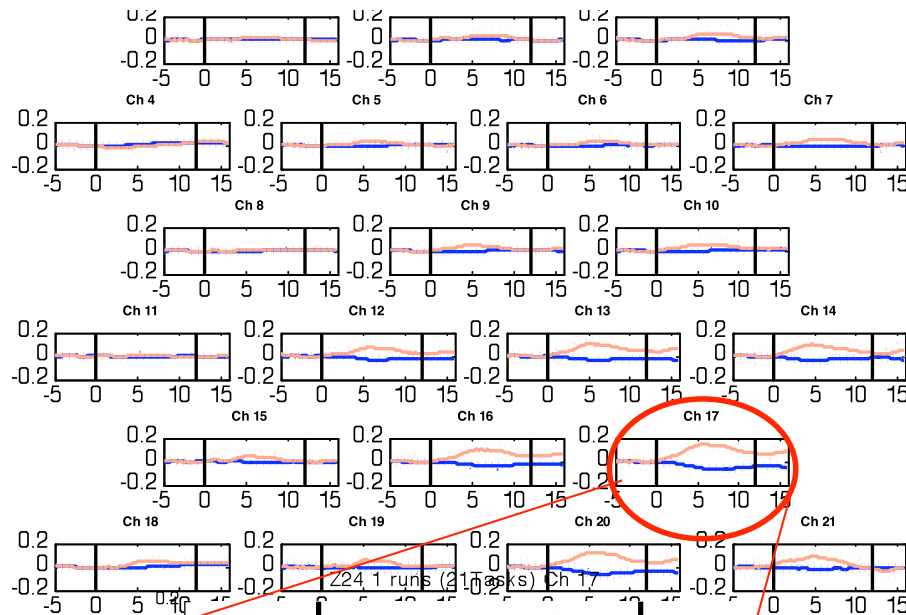
Cz

**Detector**

21	1	21	2	22	3	22
4		5		6		7
23	8	23	9	24	10	24
11	C2	12	C4	13		14
25	15	25	16	26	17	26
18		19		20		21
27	22	27	23	28	24	28

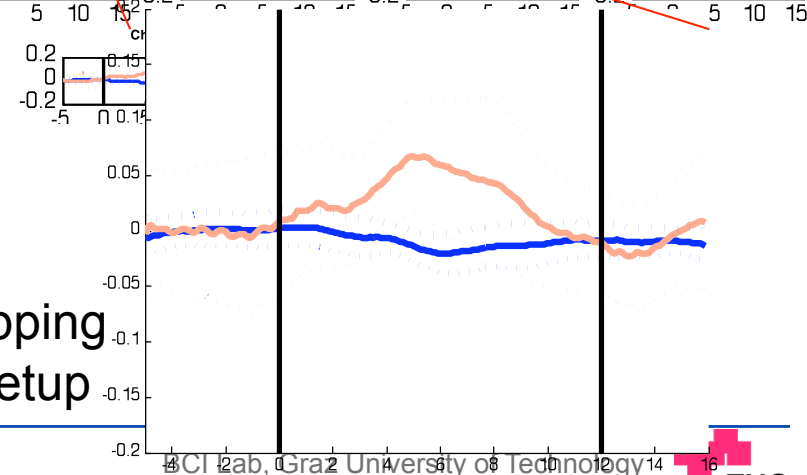
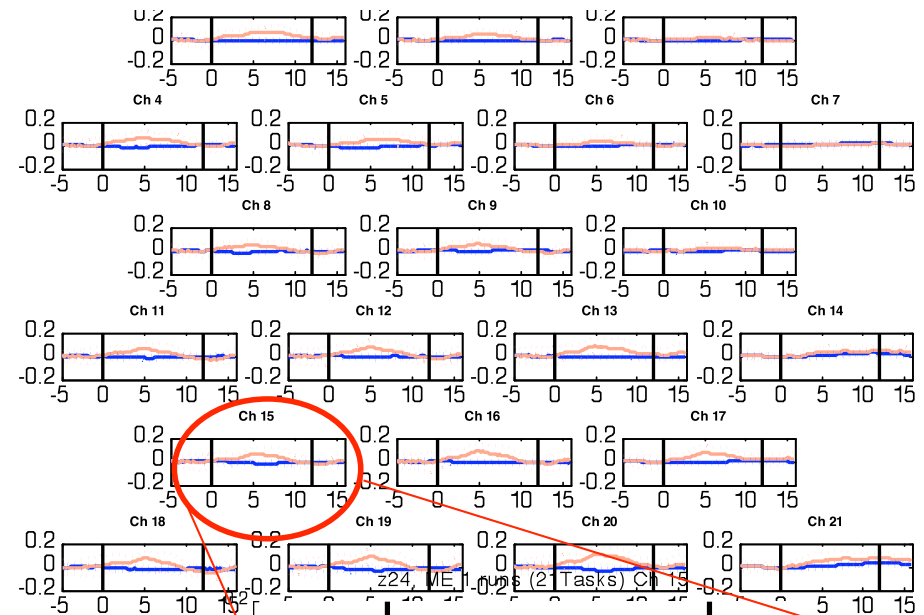
# Motor Execution

## Left hemisphere



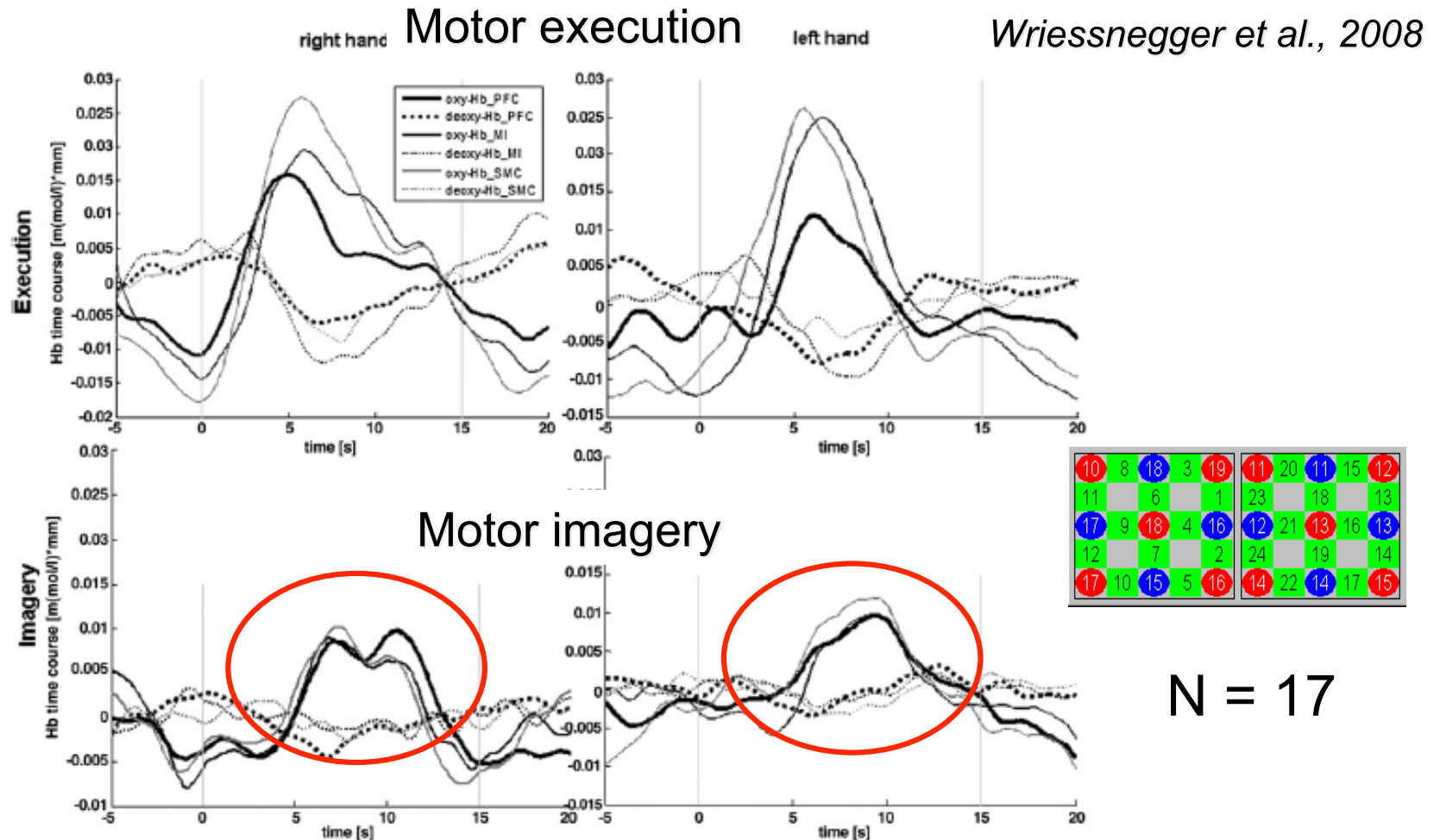
right finger tapping  
4x4 optode setup

## Right hemisphere





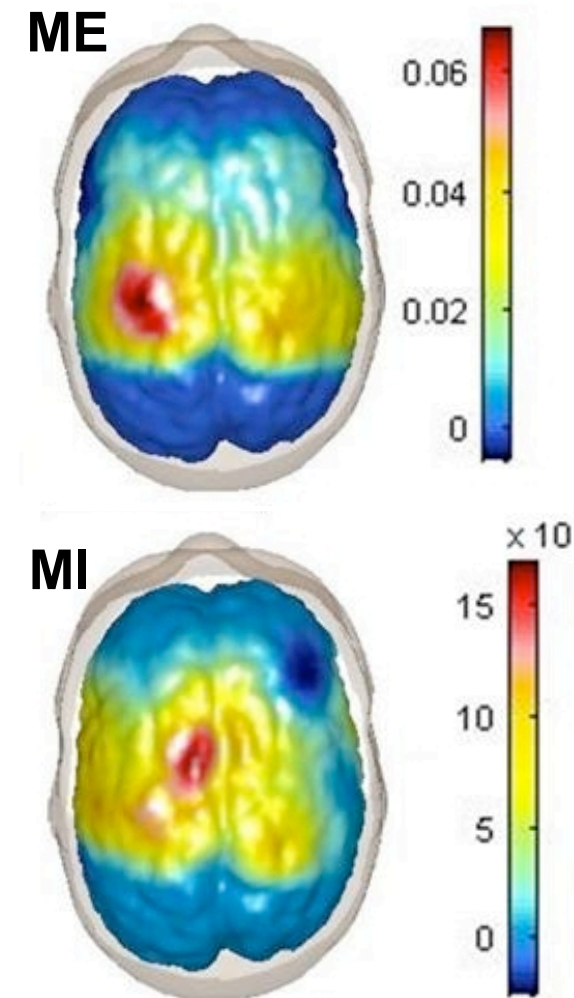
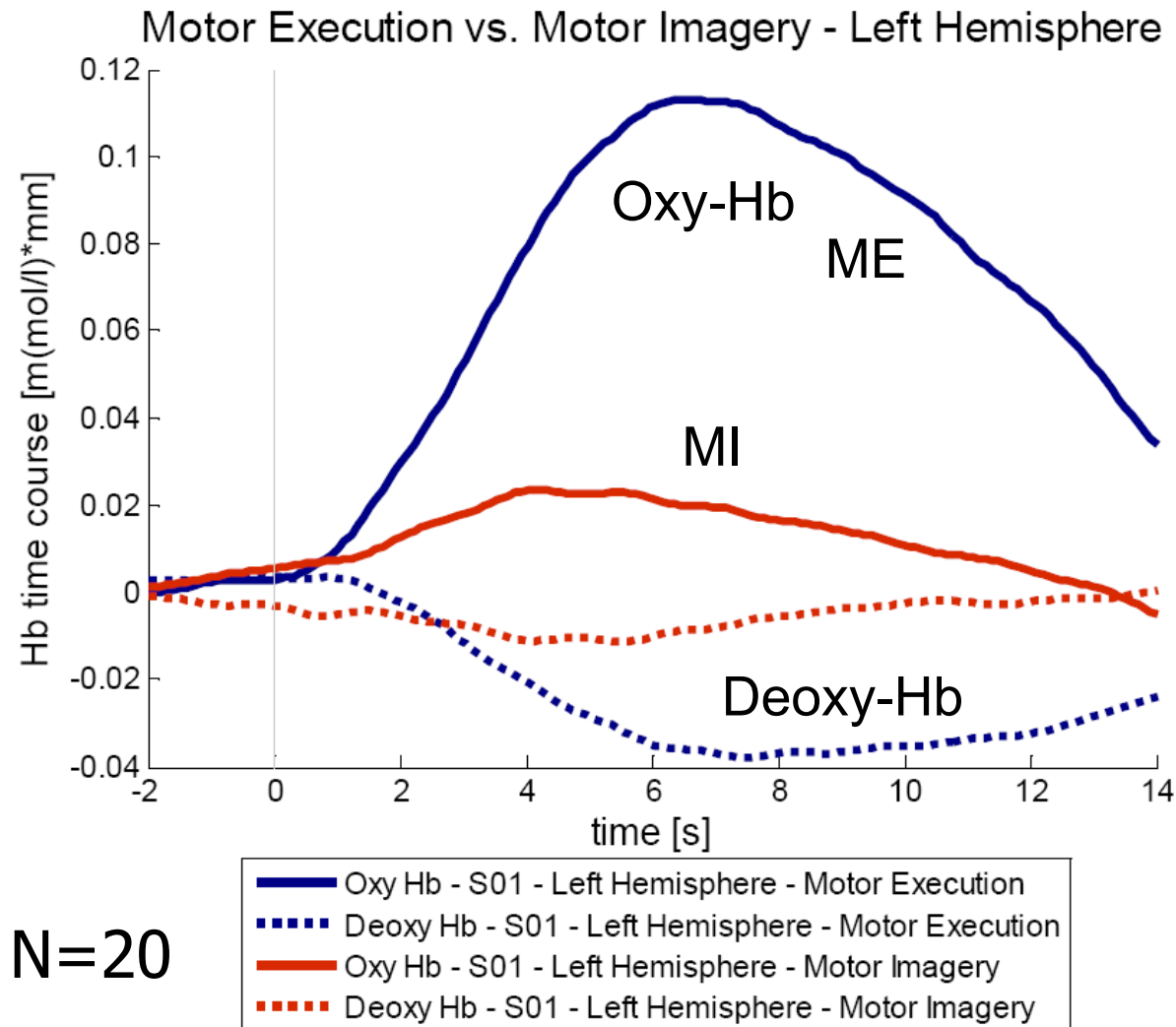
# Motor Execution (ME) vs. Motor Imagery (MI)



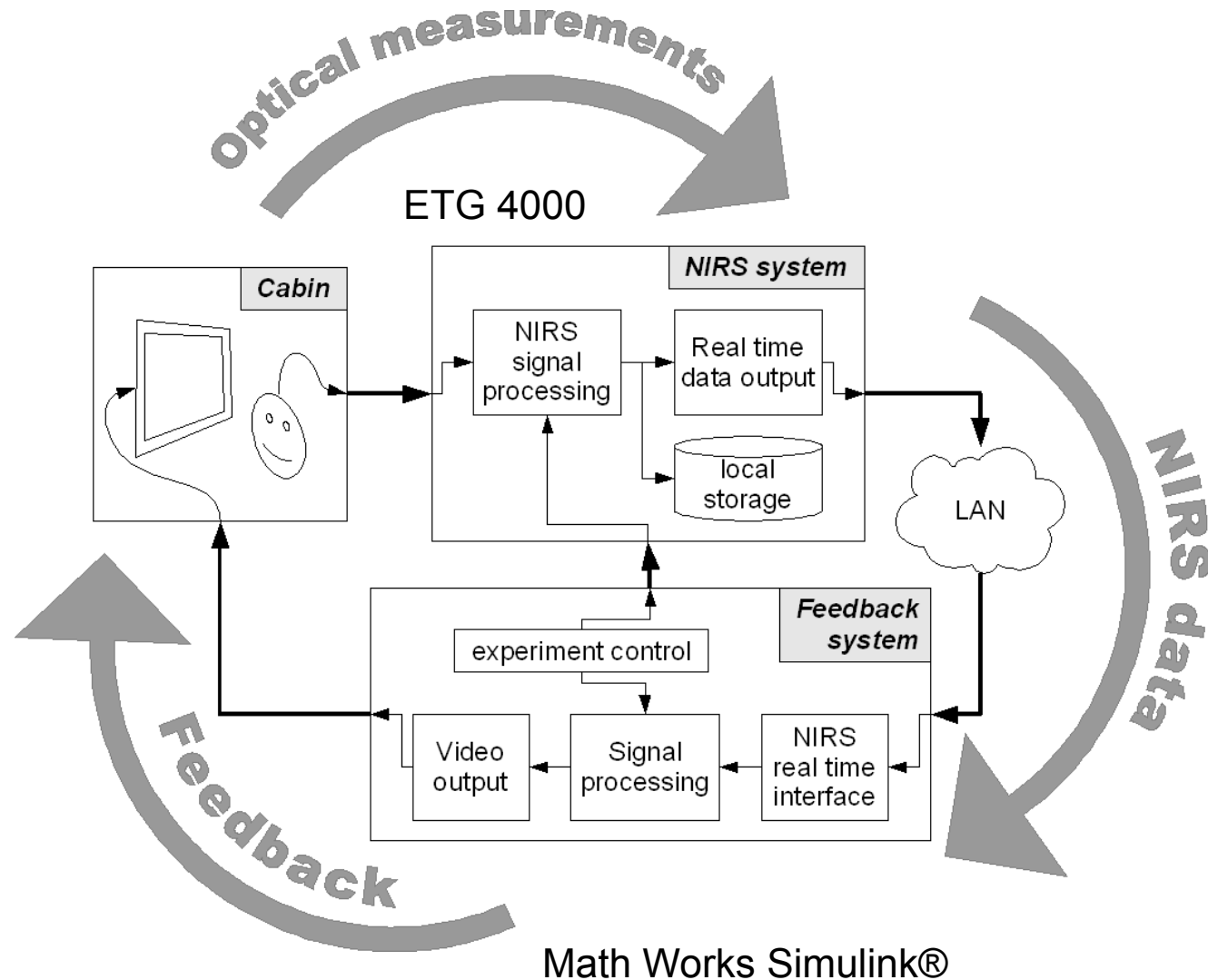
Increase of oxyhemoglobin, decrease of deoxyhemoglobin during execution **and** imagery of movements.



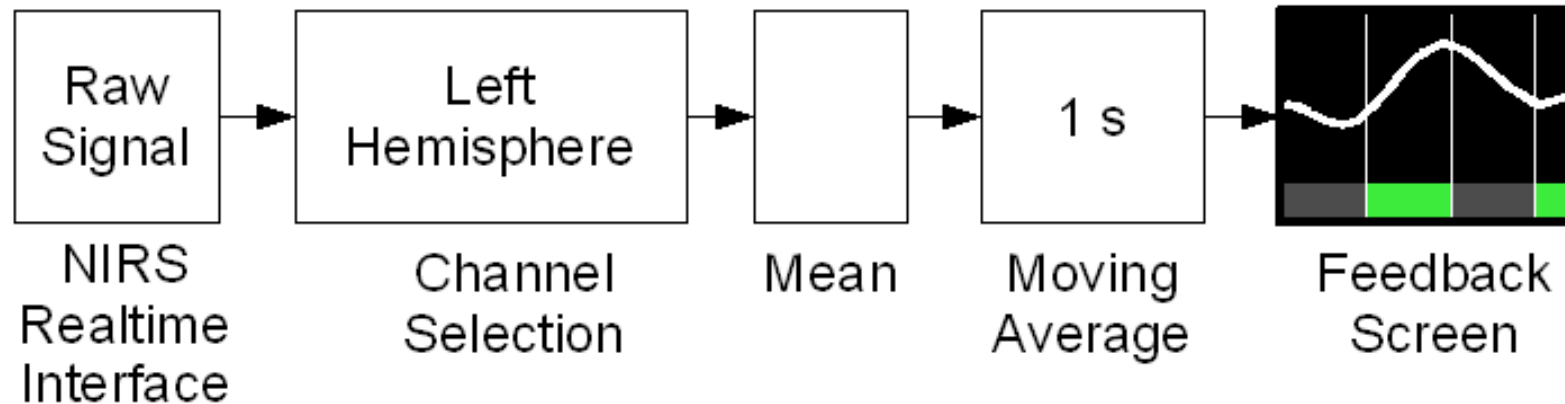
# Motor Execution (ME) vs. Motor Imagery (MI)



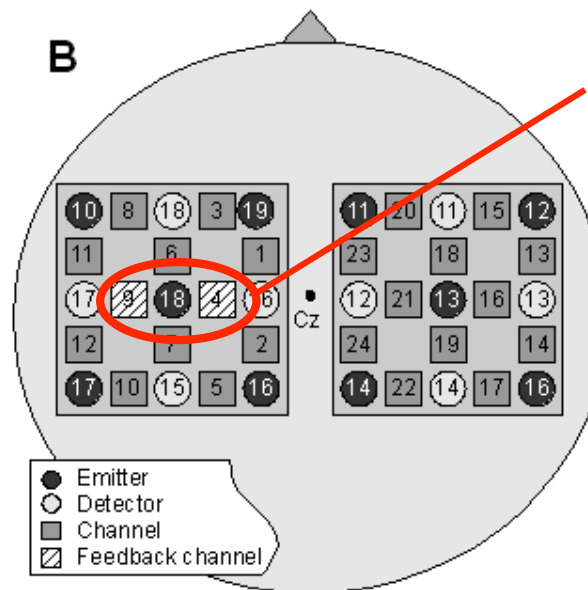
# NIRS Feedback-System



# NIRS Feedback: Oxy-Hb increase



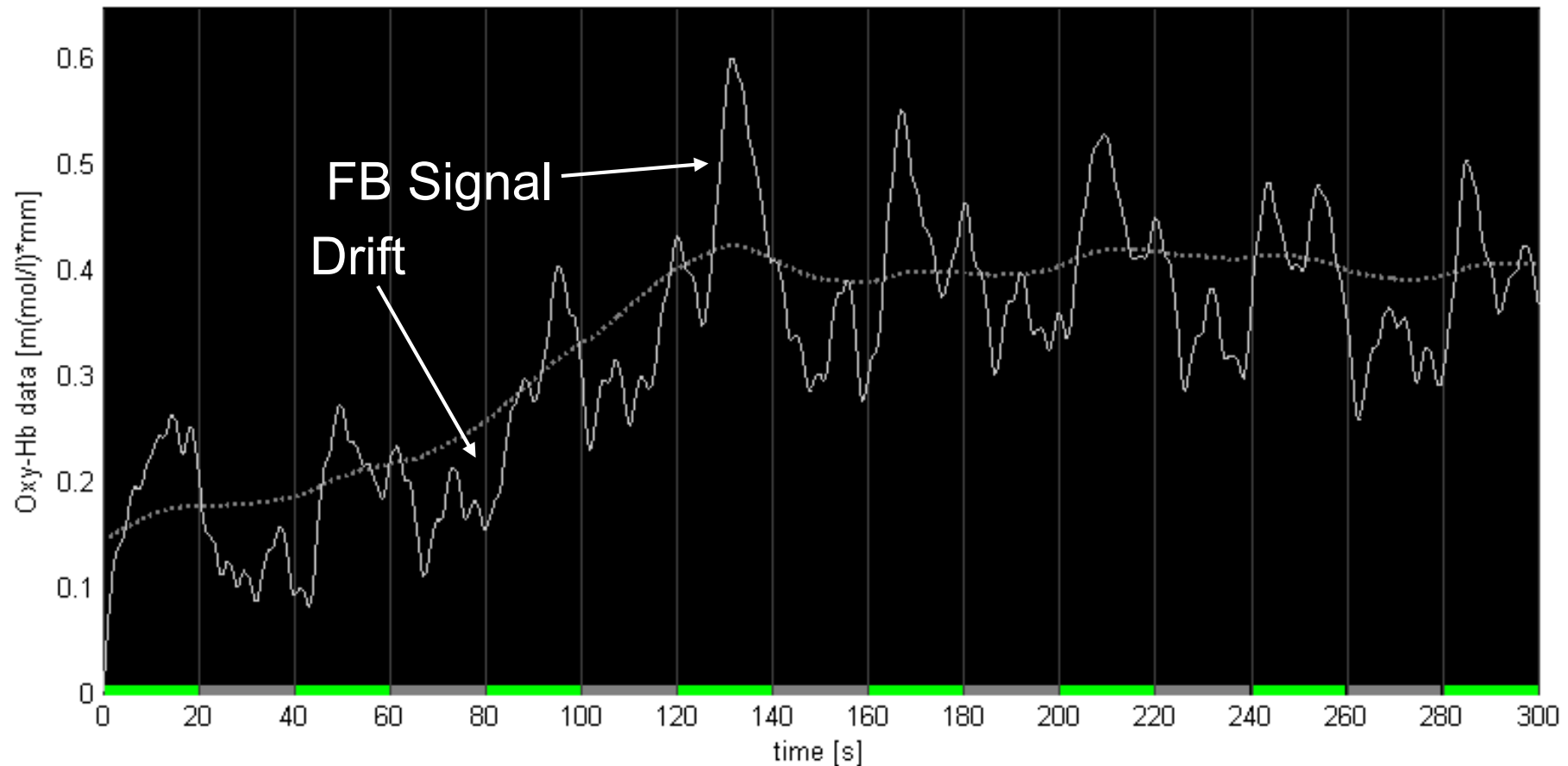
Motor imagery task  
with feedback  
(N= 8; 3 sessions)



2 FB channels  
„Raw“ signal of Oxy-Hb

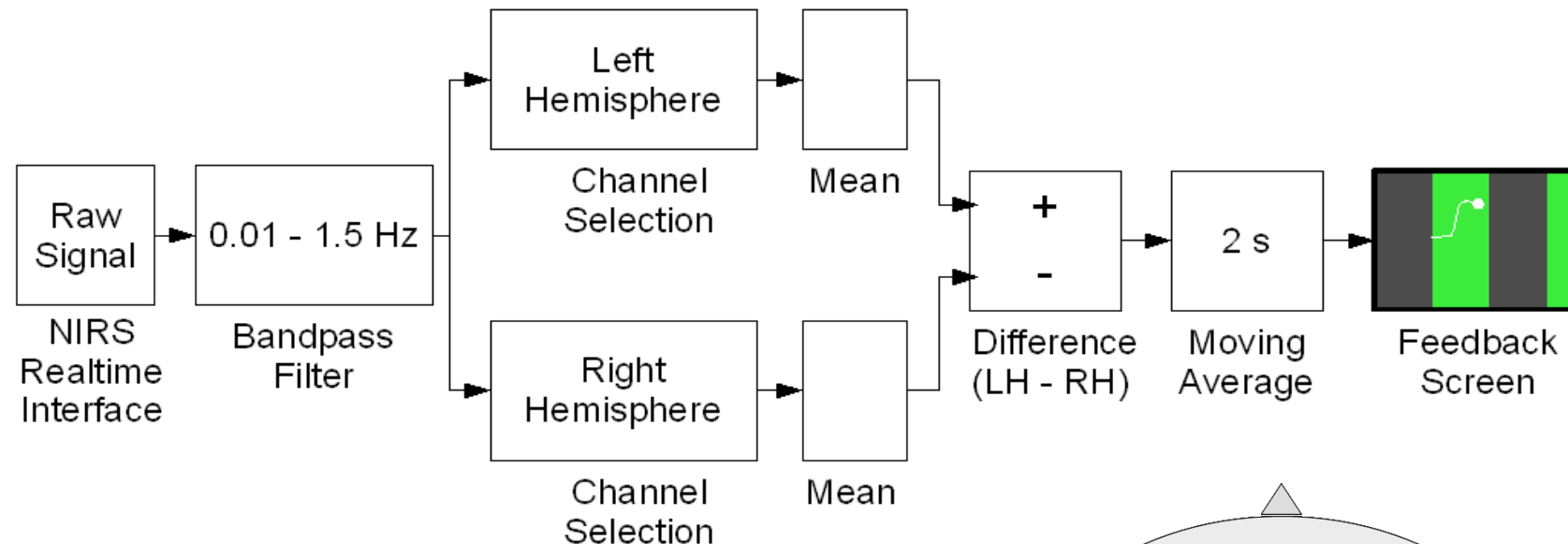
*Kurzmann et al., 2008*

# NIRS Feedback: Oxy-Hb increase



Significant increase in Oxy-Hb in activation periods

# NIRS Feedback: Oxy-Hb Left-right Asymmetry

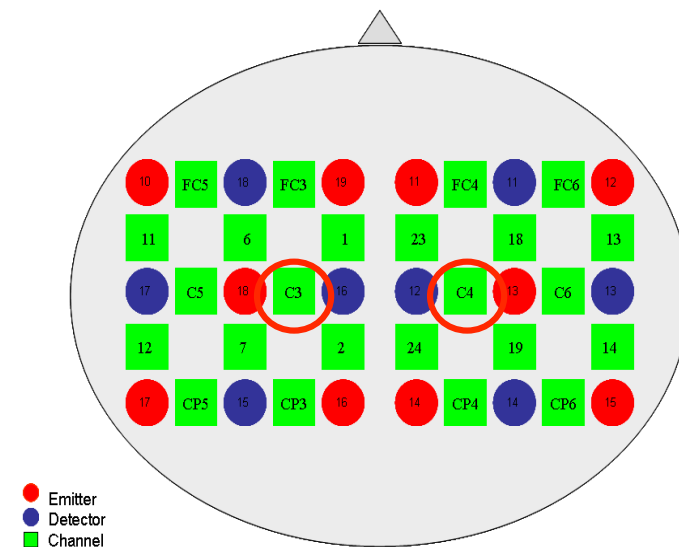


N=18, 10 sessions

2 Groups:

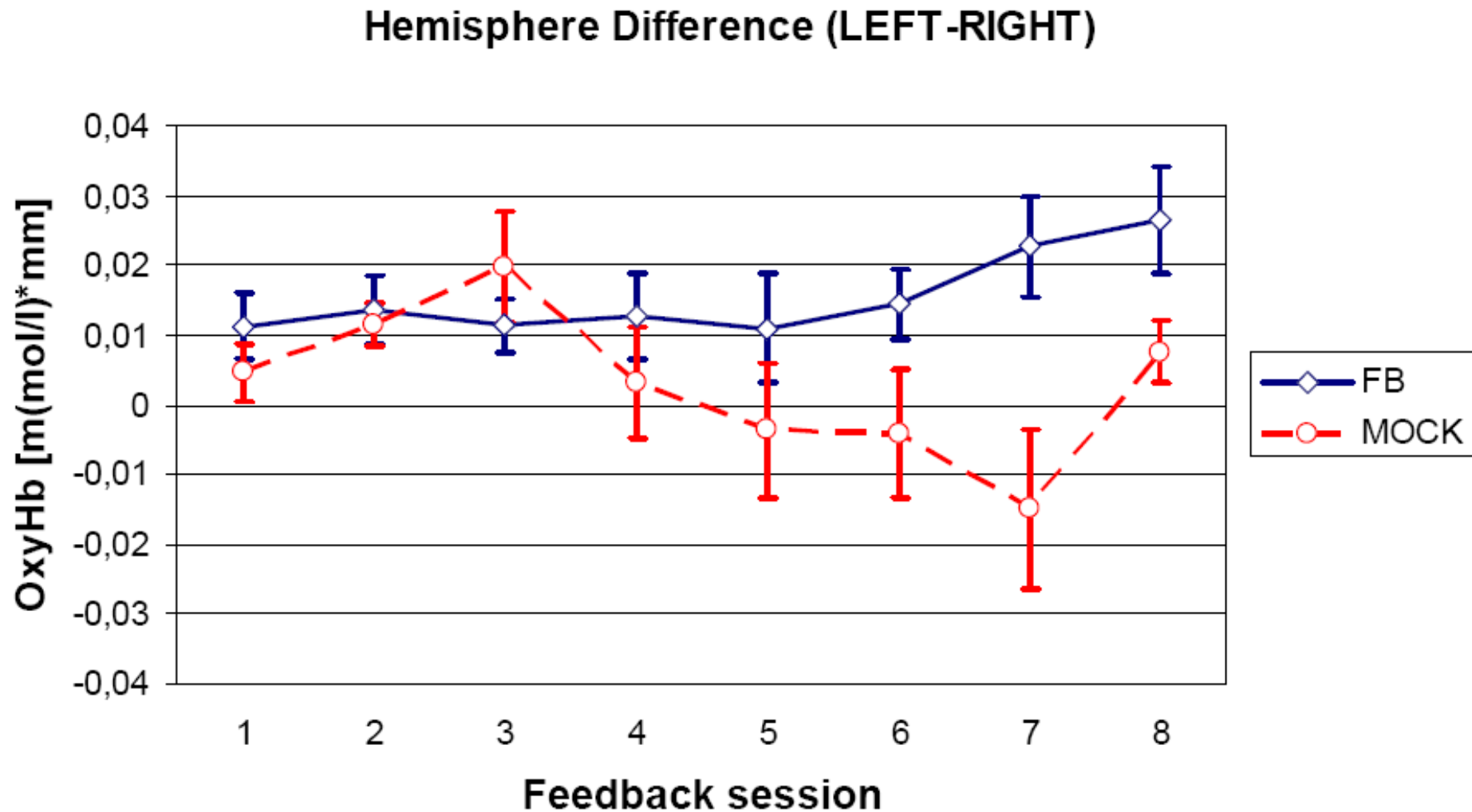
Contingent Feedback (N=9)

Mock Feedback (N=9)

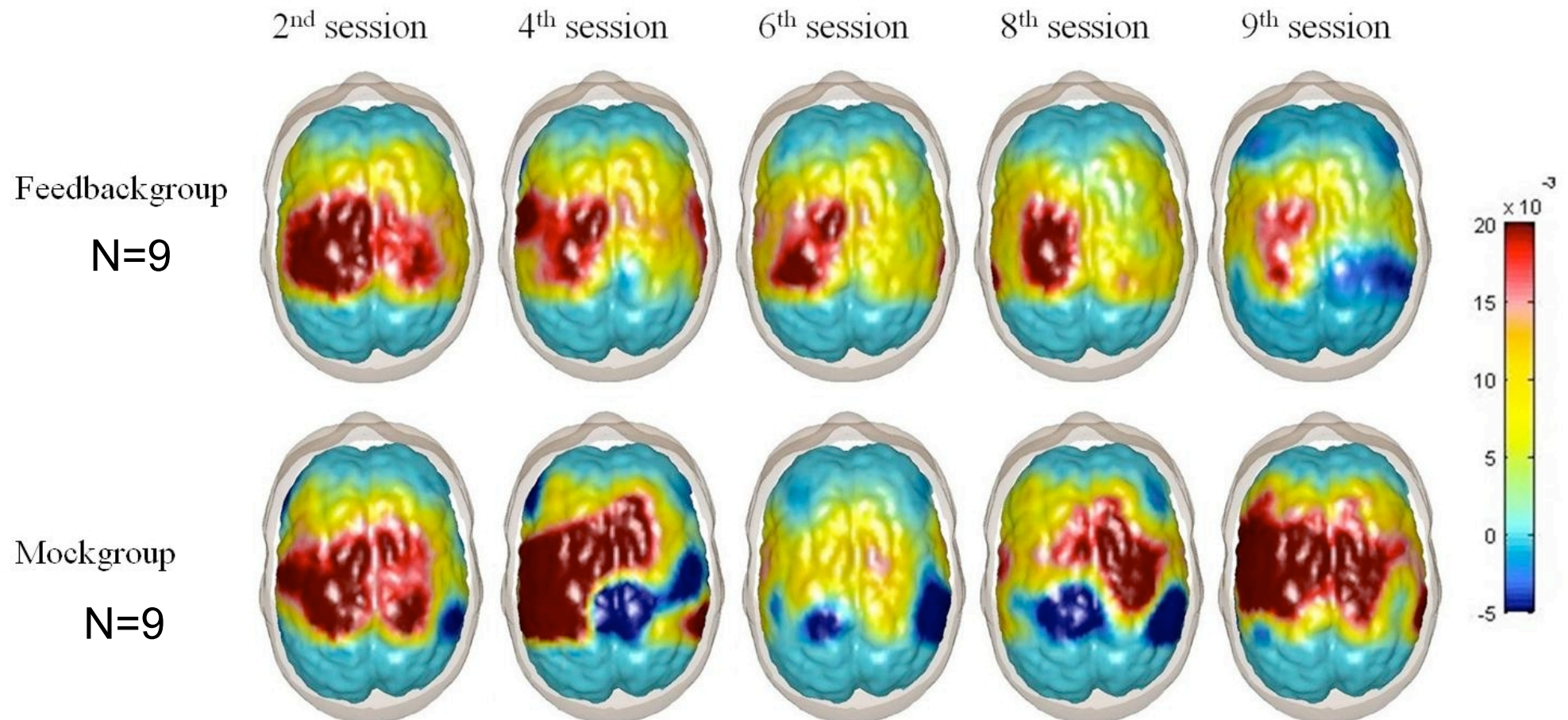




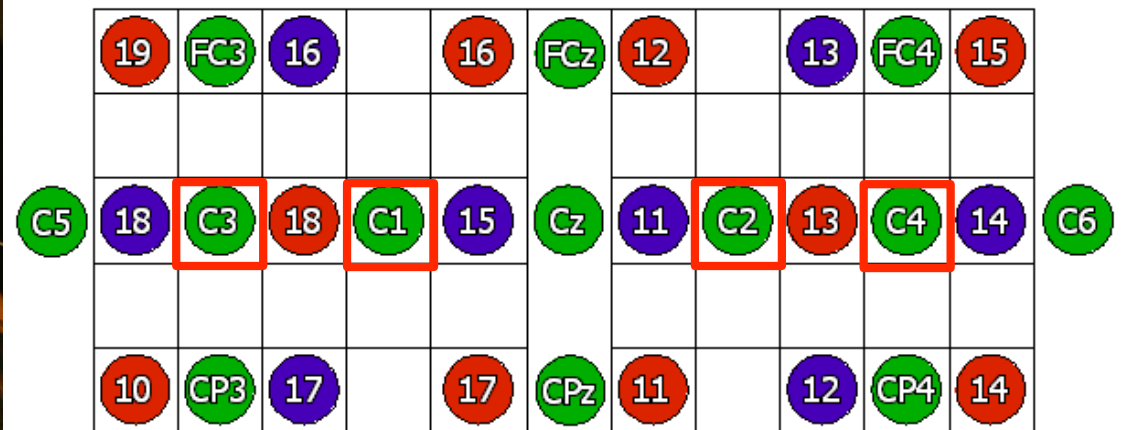
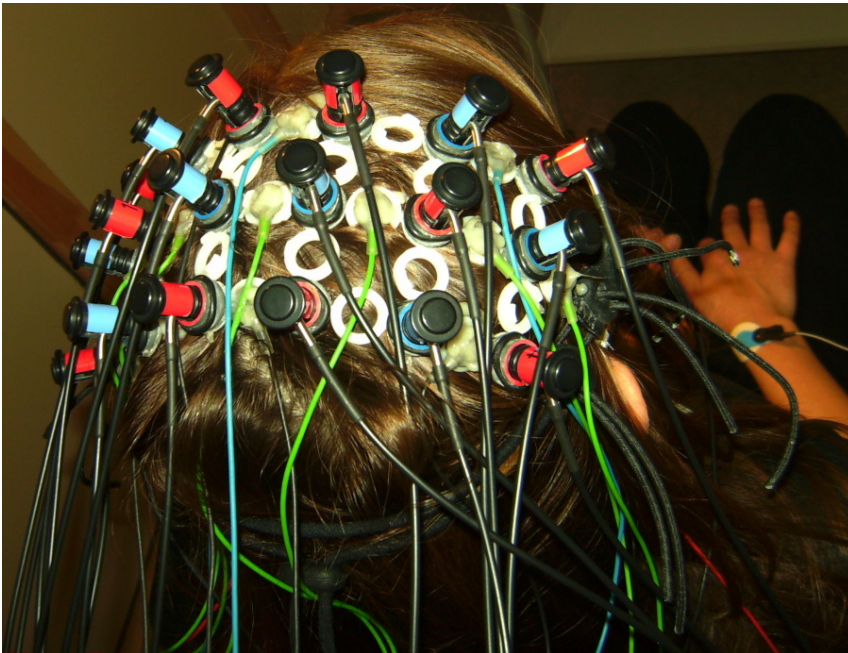
# NIRS Feedback: Oxy-Hb Left-right Asymmetry






# NIRS Feedback: Oxy-Hb Left-right Asymmetry

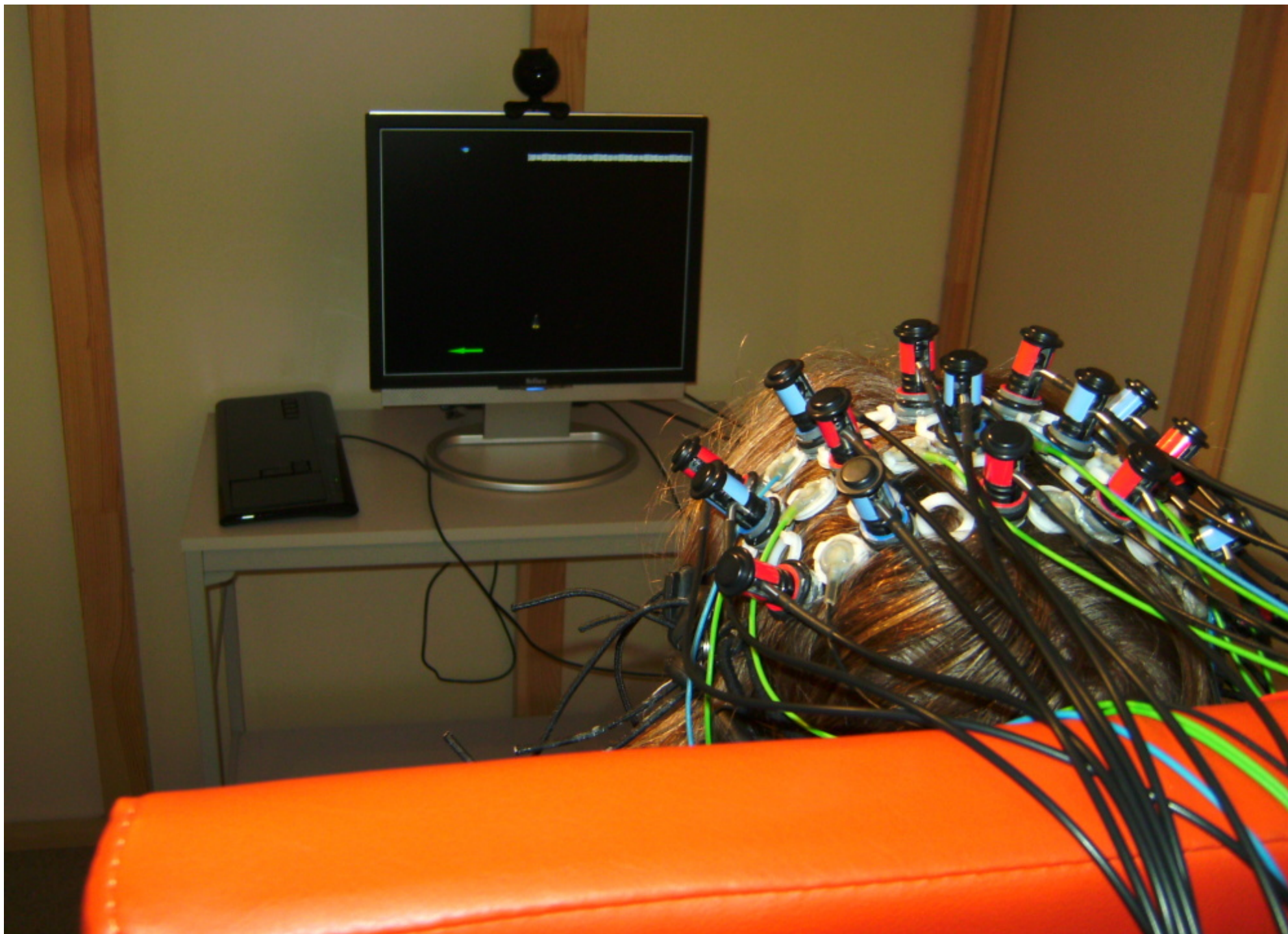


# Combined EEG/NIRS recording



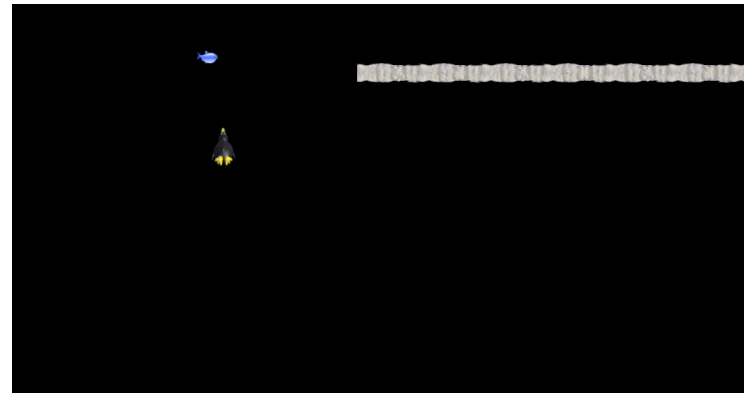
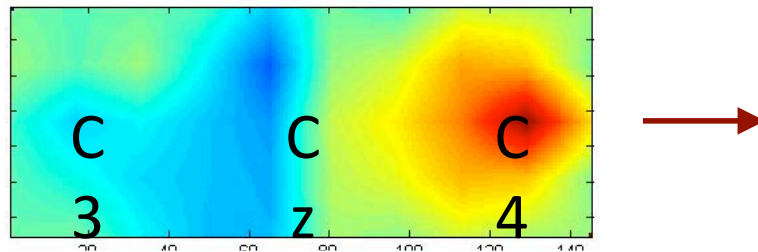
-  NIRS optodes: Detector
-  NIRS optodes: Emitter
-  EEG electrodes



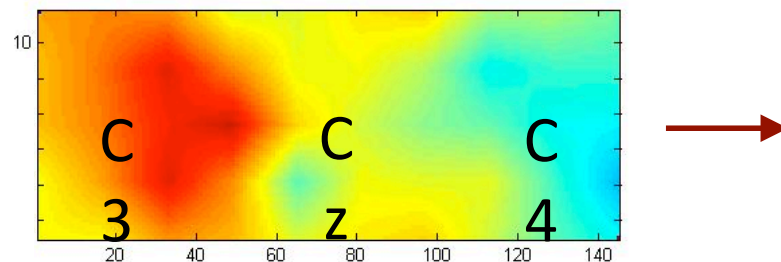


# Feedback

- Motor imagery – Left hand



- Motor imagery – Right hand



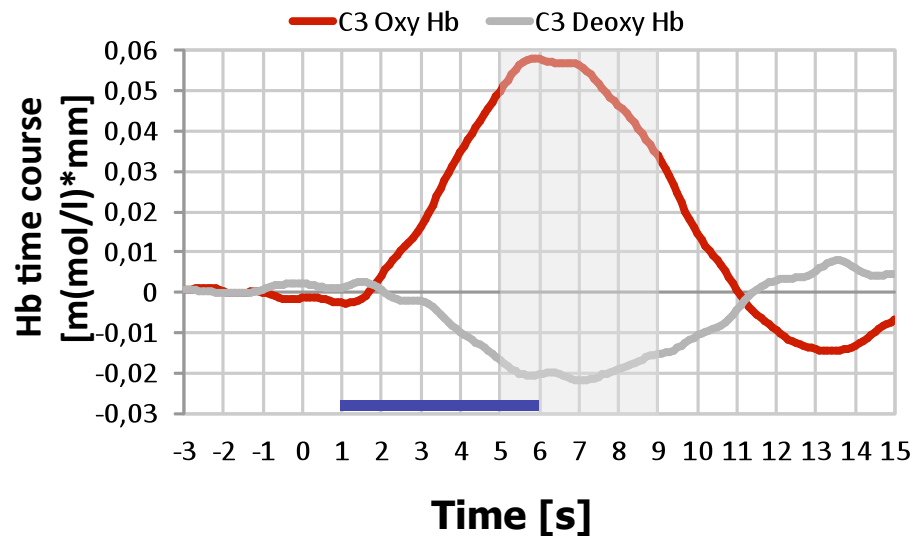
Luria finger opposition task



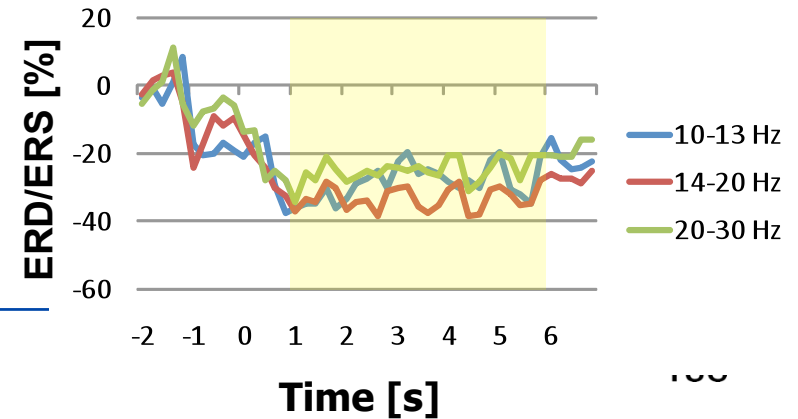
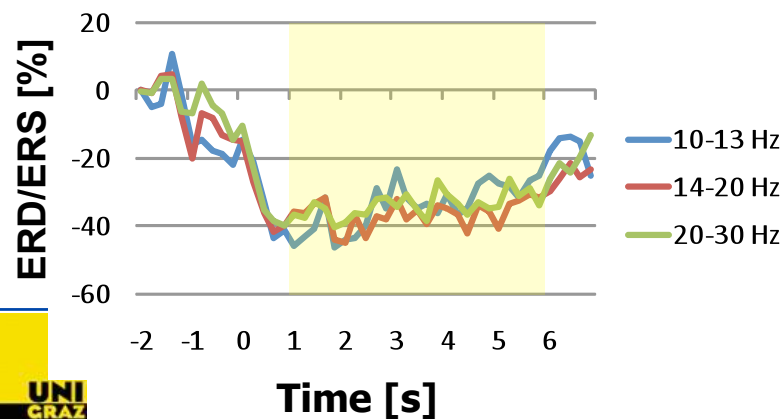
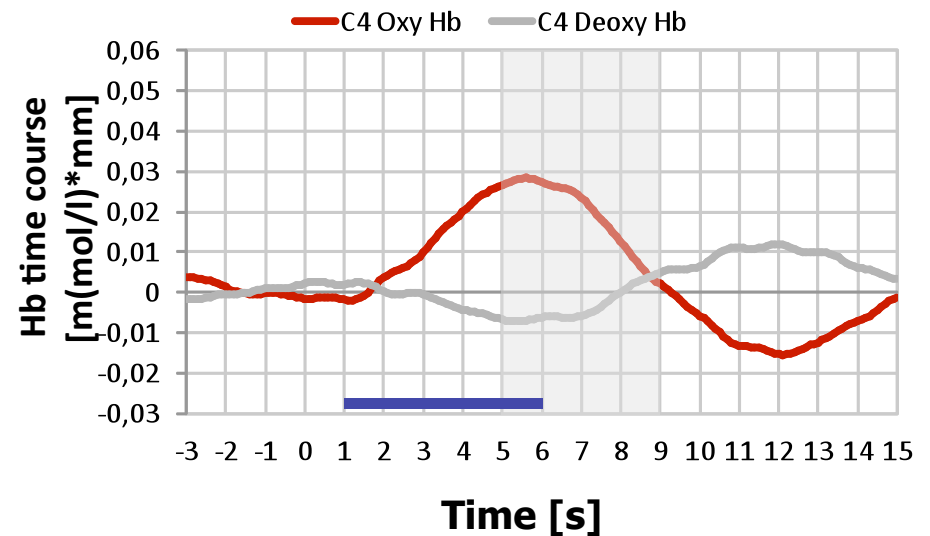
# Motor Imagery - Session 1

## ■ Time course: Motor imagery – Right hand

**C3**



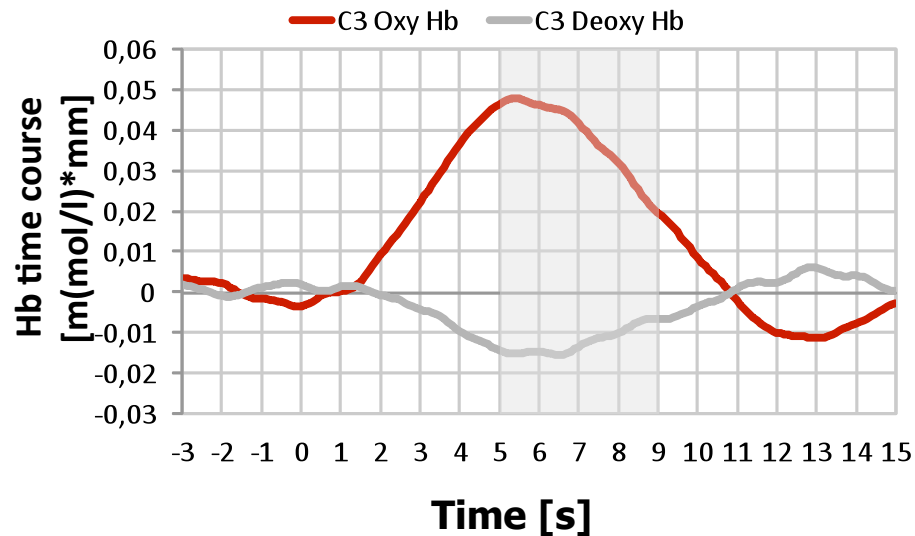
**C4**



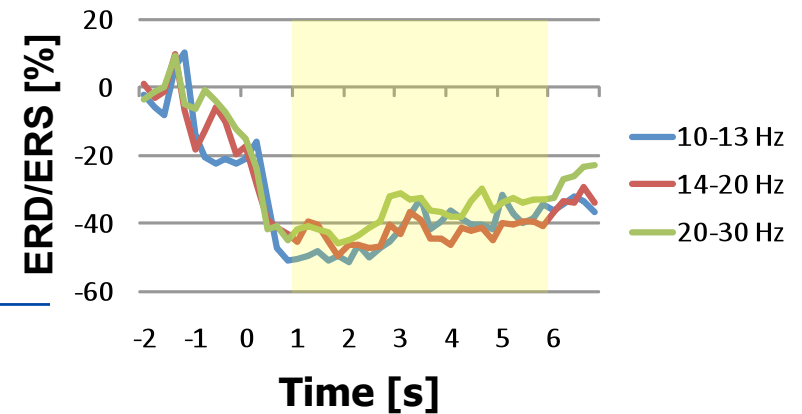
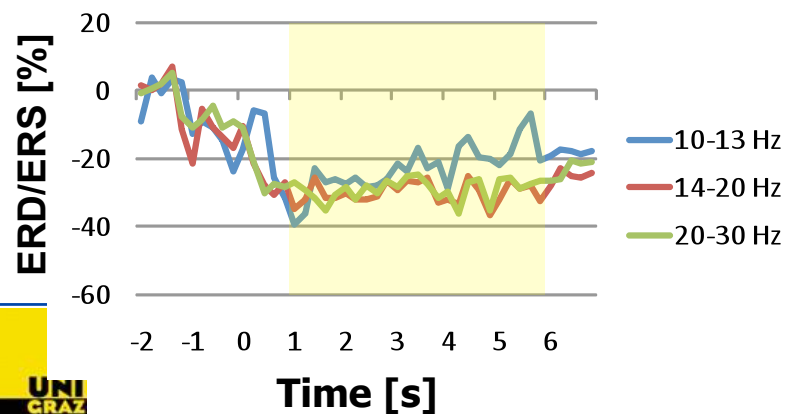
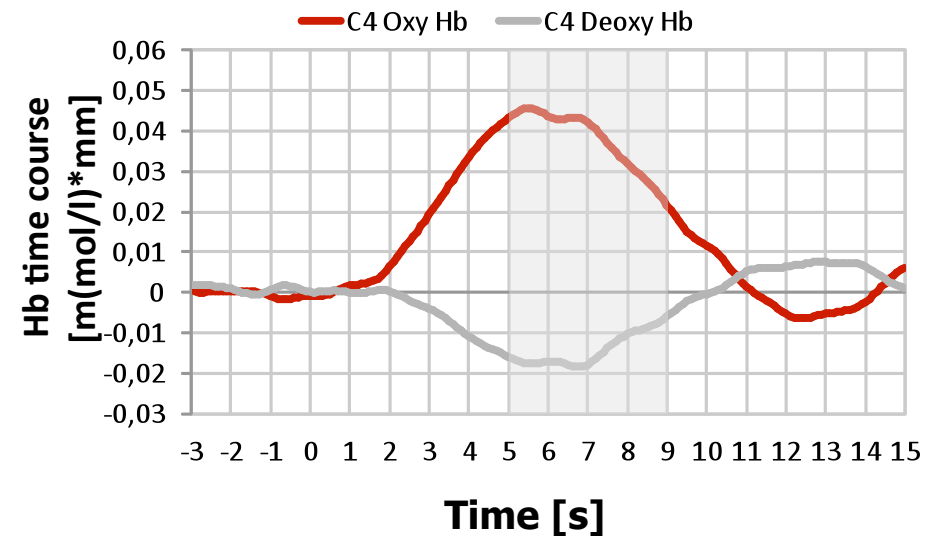
# Motor Imagery - Session 1

## ■ Time course: Motor imagery – Left hand

**C3**



**C4**



# Session 1

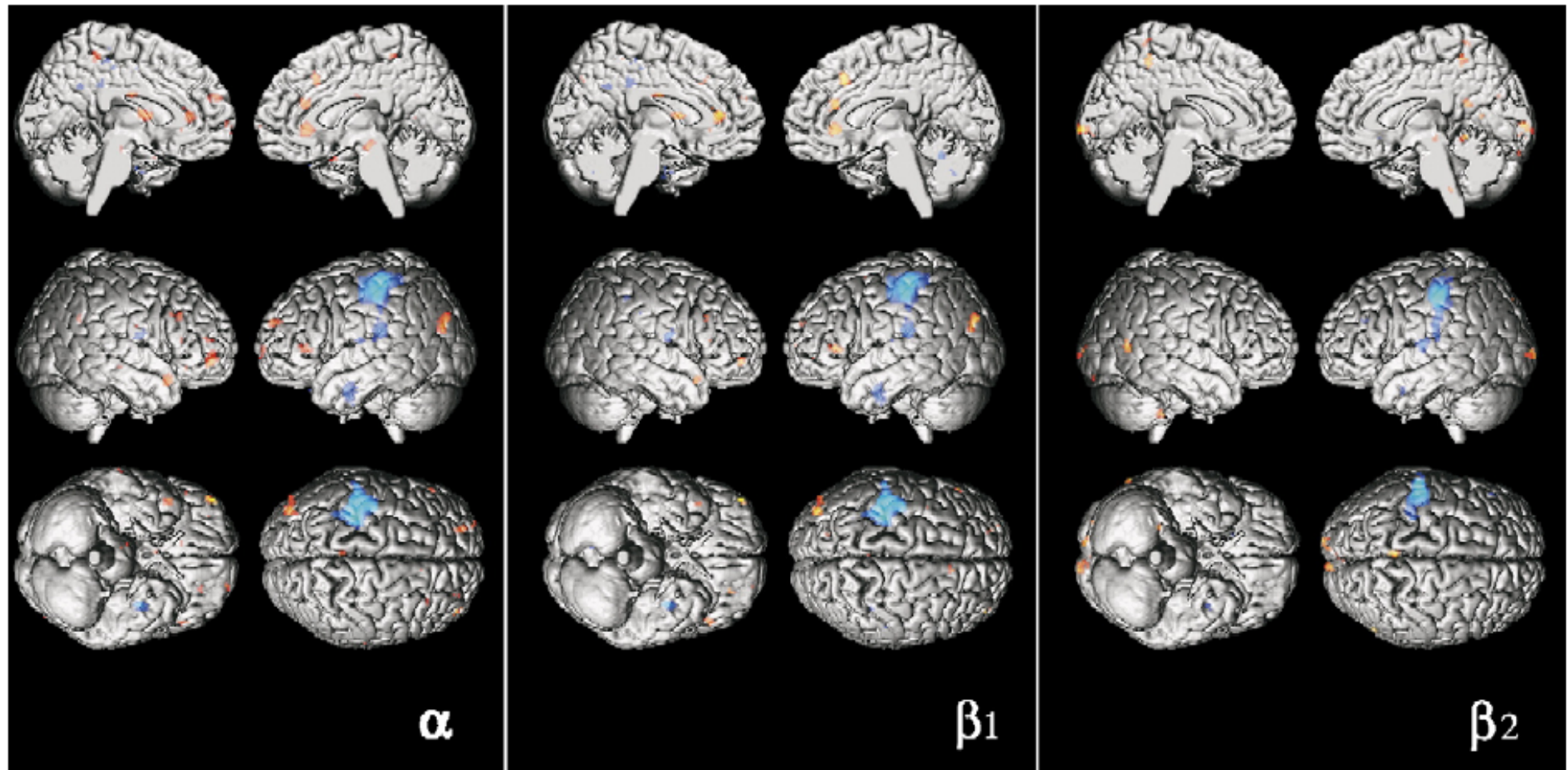
## ■ Correlation:

Oxy Hb (mean sec 5-9) x ERD/ERS 14-20 Hz (mean sec 1-6)

			ERD/ERS 14-20 Hz			
			Motor imagery – Left hand		Motor imagery – Right hand	
			C3	C4	C3	C4
Oxy Hb	Motor imagery – Left hand	C3	-.541	-.448	-.637*	-.579*
		C4	-.378	-.305	-.479	-.481
	Motor imagery – Right hand	C3	-.679*	-.685*	-.638*	-.638*
		C4	-.507	-.481	-.474	-.499

# rCBF/PET & Sensorimotor Rhythms

*N. Oishi et al. / NeuroImage 36 (2007) 1301–1312*



# Take home message...

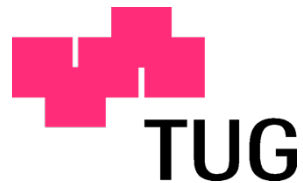
---

- The feasibility of noninvasive BCI-controlled devices has been proved in the past couple of years. However, longterm effects of BCI use, such as the impact of feedback on brain activity, are still widely unknown.
- Motor imagery and ERD/S-BCIs may lead to new training methodologies in neurorehabilitation, in particular after a stroke.
- Newly developed NIRS-BCIs show promise for learned regulation of brain activity and enhancement of neural plasticity.



# Graz-BCI Research Team

G. Pfurtscheller  
G. R. Müller-Putz  
G. Bauernfeind  
A. Kreilinger



C. Brunner  
R. Scherer  
T. Solis Escalante

**FES:**

R. Rupp



**Biomedical  
Engineering**

**Neuro-  
Psychology**

**BCI**

**Computer  
Science**

C. Neuper  
S. Wriessnegger  
V. Kaiser  
P. Linortner  
L. Friedrich  
J. Kurzmann



Home page: [bci.tugraz.at](http://bci.tugraz.at)  
BCI platform: [BCI-info.org](http://BCI-info.org)



Institute of Psychology, University of Graz

BCI Lab, Graz University of Technology



# Acknowledgements

---

Financial support was provided by:

- AUVA (Allgemeine Unfallversicherungsanstalt)
- Lorenz Böhler Gesellschaft
- NeuroCenter Styria, Zukunftsfonds Land Steiermark
- **EU FP7 Project TOBI (ICT-2007-224632)**

