

Title:

Directionally modulated MEG activity

Short description:

The data set contains directionally modulated MEG activity that was recorded while subjects performed wrist movements in four different directions.

Detailed Description:

Brain activity during wrist movements was recorded with MEG at 625 Hz from two healthy, right-handed subjects. The subject sat relaxed in an MEG chair, the elbow rested on a pillow to prevent upper arm and shoulder movements, and the head was stabilized by small pillows. The task was to move a joystick from a center position toward one of four targets located radially at 90° intervals (four-class center-out paradigm) using exclusively the right hand and wrist. Movement amplitude was 4.5 cm. In each trial, the target was self-chosen by the subject. Targets were arranged in the form of a rhombus in the horizontal plane with corners pointing left, right, away from and toward the subject's body.

Visual trigger signals were presented on a screen to start a trial or to indicate possible time violations. A trial started with the joystick in the center position and the appearance of a gray circle. After a variable delay (1-2 s), the disappearance of the circle indicated the “go” signal (cued movements). Then, within 0.75 s the subject had to start the movement and reach the target. For a trial to be valid, the subject also had to rest at the target for at least 1 s. These time constraints allowed for temporal consistency across trials and the hold period at the target prevented interference of in- and outward movements. A red cross was presented continuously for fixation.

The trials were cut to contain data from 0.4 s before to 0.6 s after movement onset and the signals were band pass filtered (0.5 to 100 Hz) and resampled at 400 Hz, whereas in Waldert et al. (JNeurosci 28(4), 2008) we showed that especially the low-frequency activity (<8 Hz) contains information about movement direction. The data are composed of signals from ten MEG channels which were located above the motor areas. We will evaluate the competitor's submissions with respect to the percentage of correct classifications (decoding accuracy). Please note that classification using cross-validation on the provided training data does not necessarily yield the average decoding accuracy reported in our original study because of the reduced number of channels (approx. one quarter), inter-subject variability and the reduced number of trials in the training set due to separation of data into training and test set. The data are provided as mat-files (Matlab), detailed description is provided along with the files. Predicted class labels for the test sets must be submitted as a single mat-file containing two variables (vectors): PredictedLabelsS1 and PredictedLabelsS2, e.g. PredictedLabelsS1=[3 2 4 1 ...]. The name of this mat-file must identify the competitor.