

# Comparative and Combined MEG-EEG Source Modeling in Epilepsy Evaluations

John S. Ebersole, MD

The University of Chicago

# Collaborators

Susan Hawes-Ebersole

James Tao

Manfred Fuchs

Michael Scherg

Michael Wagner

# Background 1

Localization of the epileptogenic focus is the critical and rate-limiting step in an evaluation for epilepsy surgery.

A variety of non-invasive localization techniques are currently available – MRI, PET, SPECT, fMRI, MEG, EEG

# Background 2

Only EEG and MEG are:

Direct measures of epileptic pathophysiology

Performed in real time with msec resolution

Provide temporal sequencing of activity, e.g.  
propagation

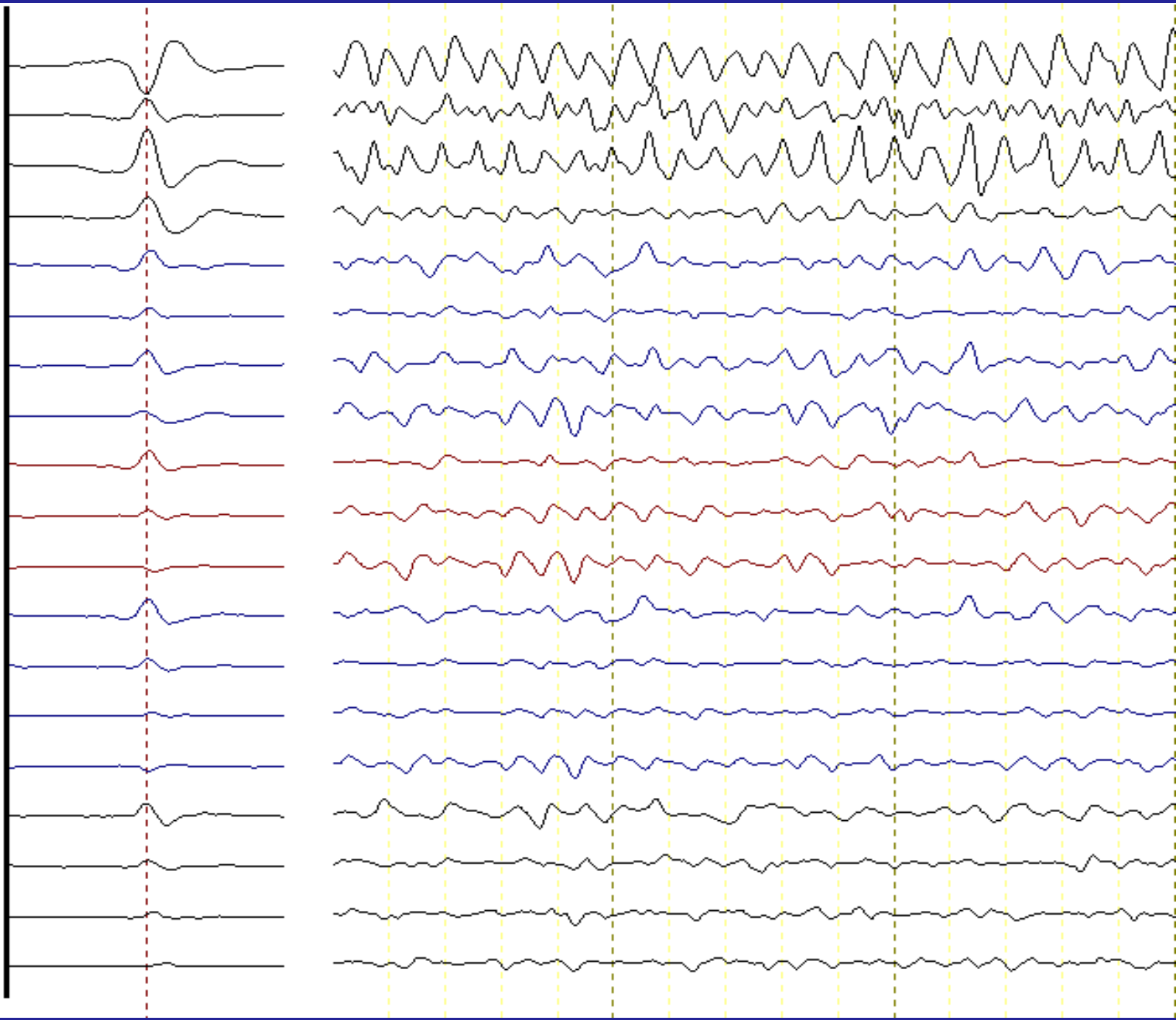
# EEG Background

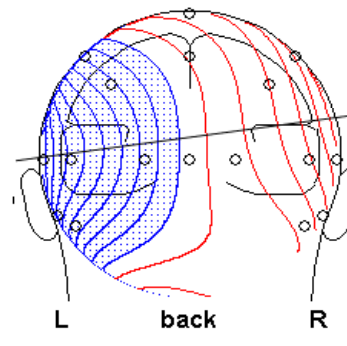
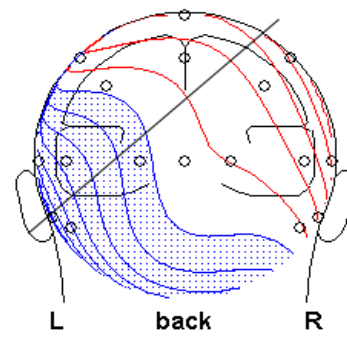
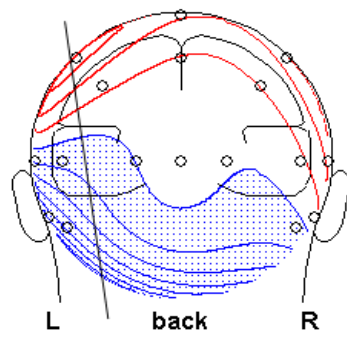
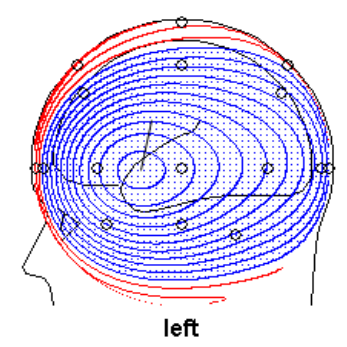
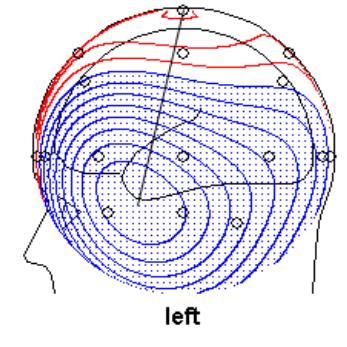
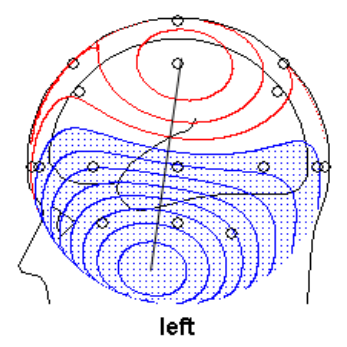
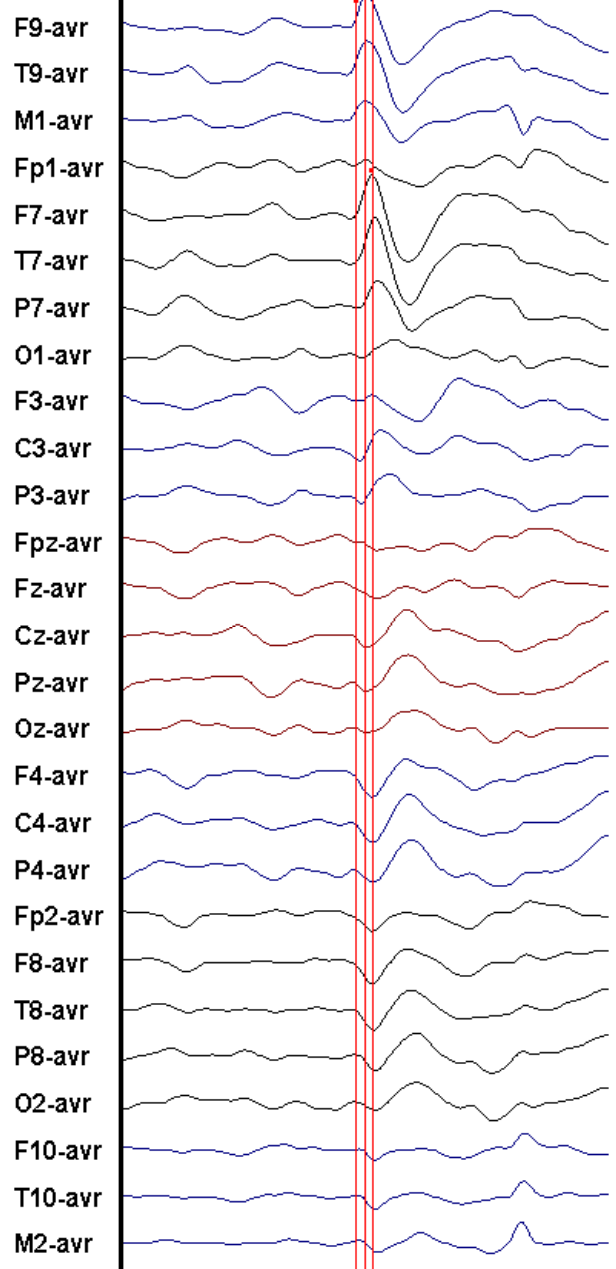
EEG has an 80 year history and carries substantial “baggage”

EEG evolved primarily as a pattern recognition technique; localization was secondary

Traditional localization based on simplistic assumptions and techniques

Fp1-F7  
F7-T7  
T7-P7  
P7-O1  
Fp1-F3  
F3-C3  
C3-P3  
P3-O1  
Fz-Cz  
Cz-Pz  
Pz-Oz  
Fp2-F4  
F4-C4  
C4-P4  
P4-O2  
Fp2-F8  
F8-T8  
T8-P8  
P8-O2





# MEG Background

MEG has evolved with little “baggage”

Pattern recognition was secondary,  
localization was primary

Localization from outset based on spatio-  
temporal analysis of magnetic fields  
using source models, such as dipoles

From outset head/brain anatomy  
incorporated for both head models and  
results display



“In order to model a spike/seizure source properly, you must understand the character of the source and the strengths/weaknesses of your model”

Fact: Spike/seizure sources are large and spatio-temporally complex

EEG/MEG source models have complementary strengths

# MEG/EEG Complements

Volume conductor effects - + MEG

Spatial sampling - + MEG

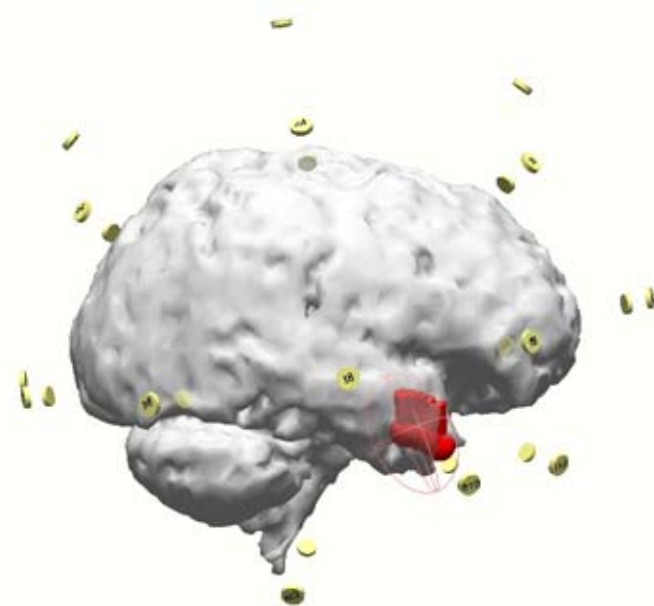
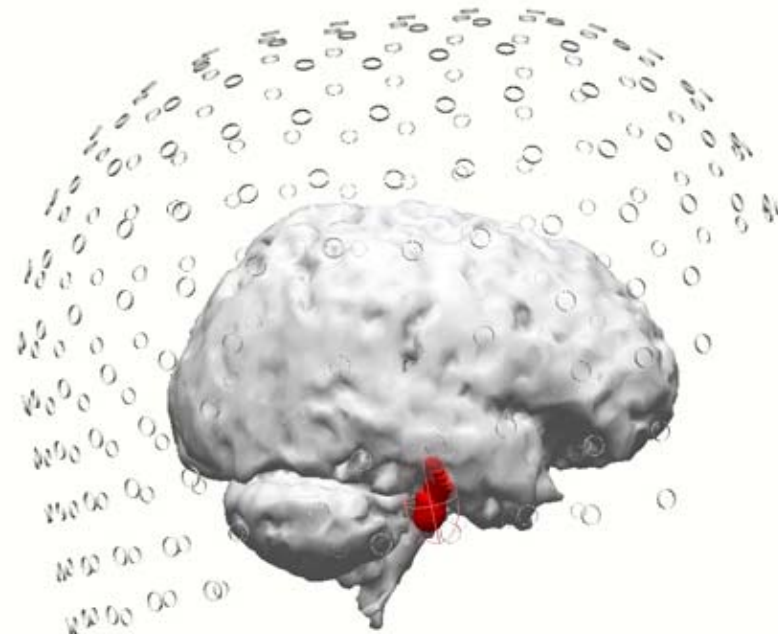
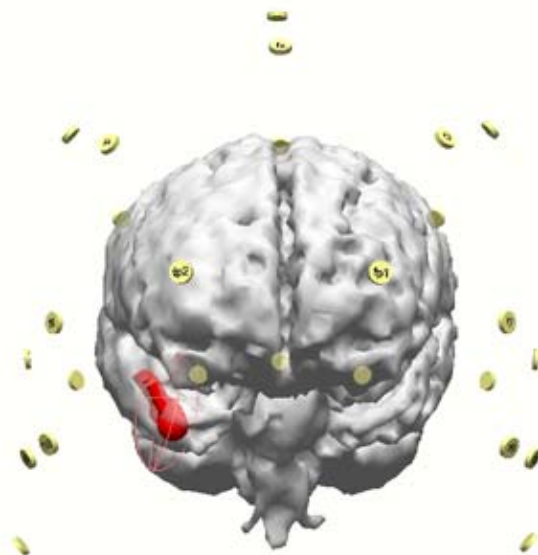
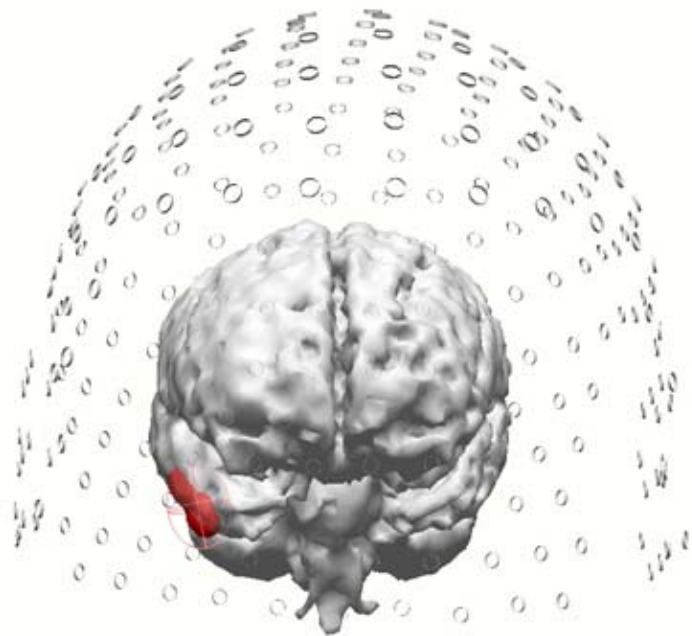
Temporal sampling - + EEG

Source area - + MEG

Radial sensitivity - + EEG

Tangential sensitivity - + MEG

Deep source sensitivity - + EEG



# EEG Sensitivity

EEG requires  $>10$  sq cm

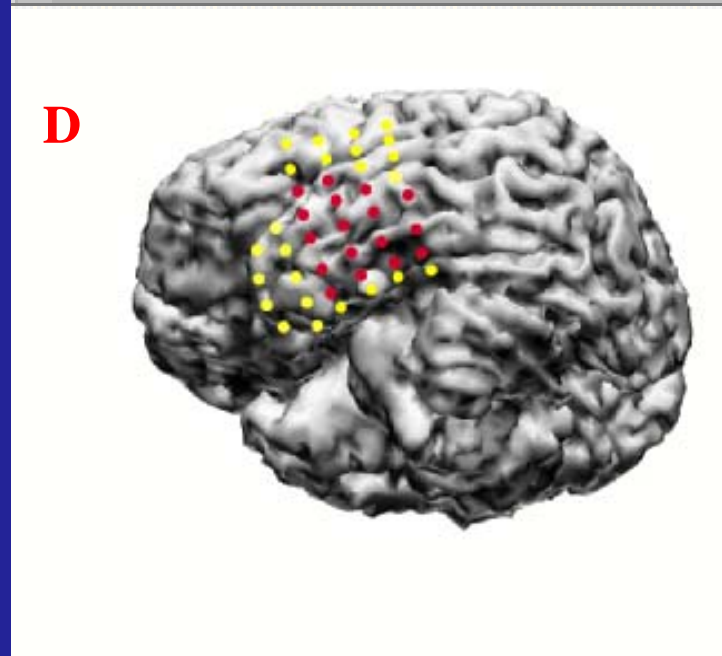
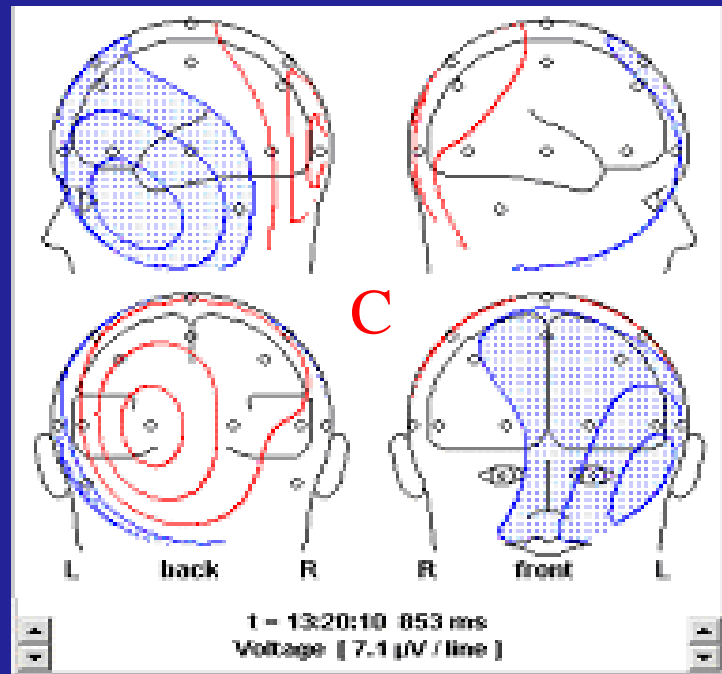
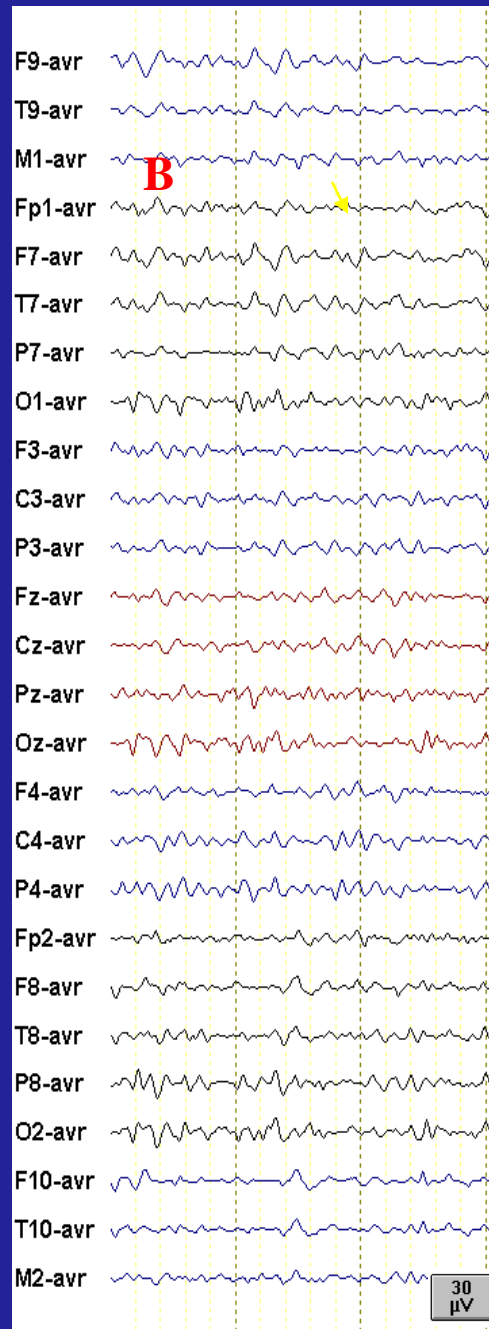
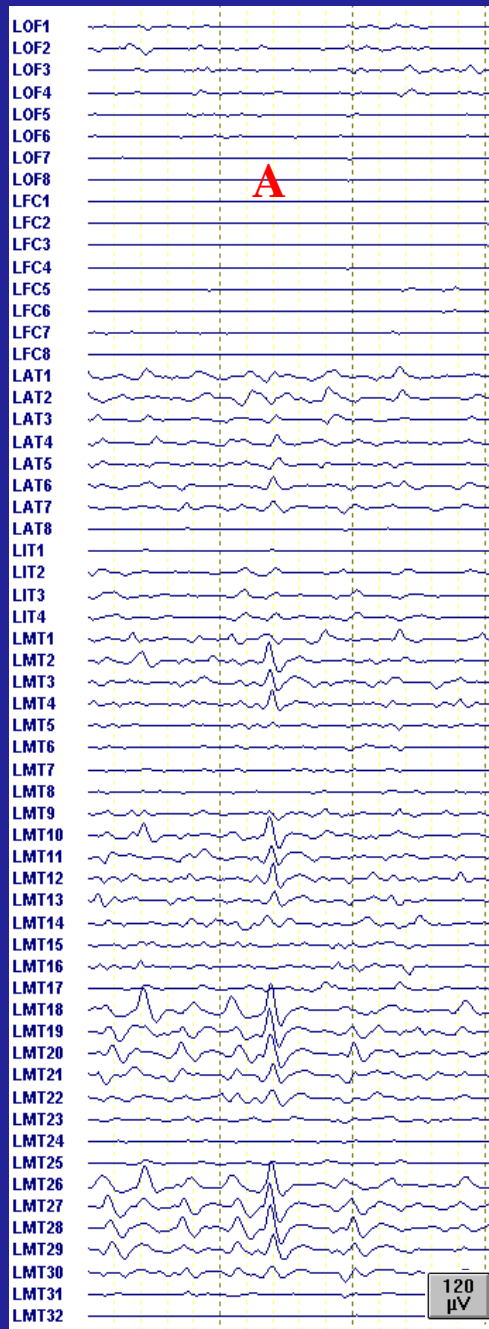
EEG visualizes gyral and fissural sources, but not sulcal sources

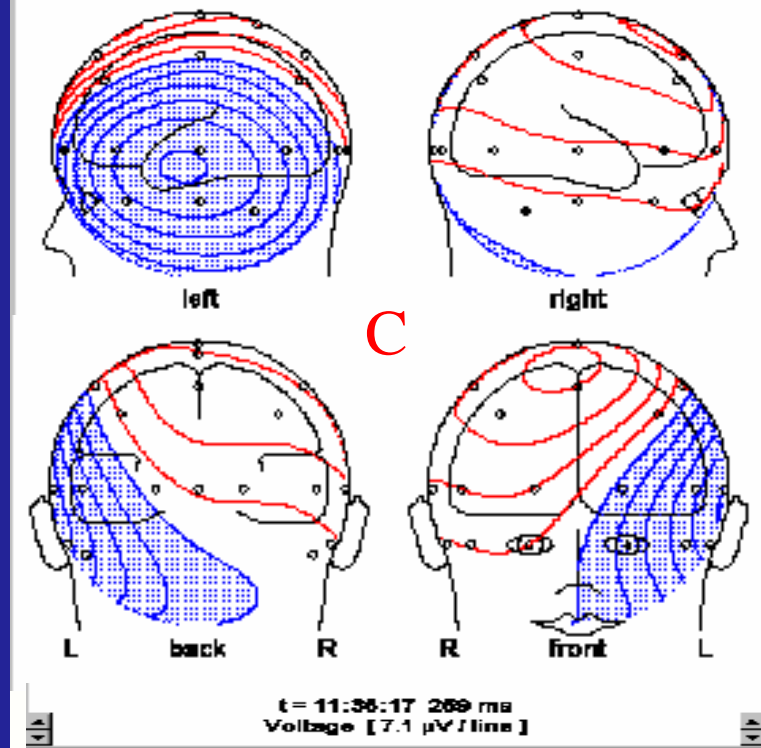
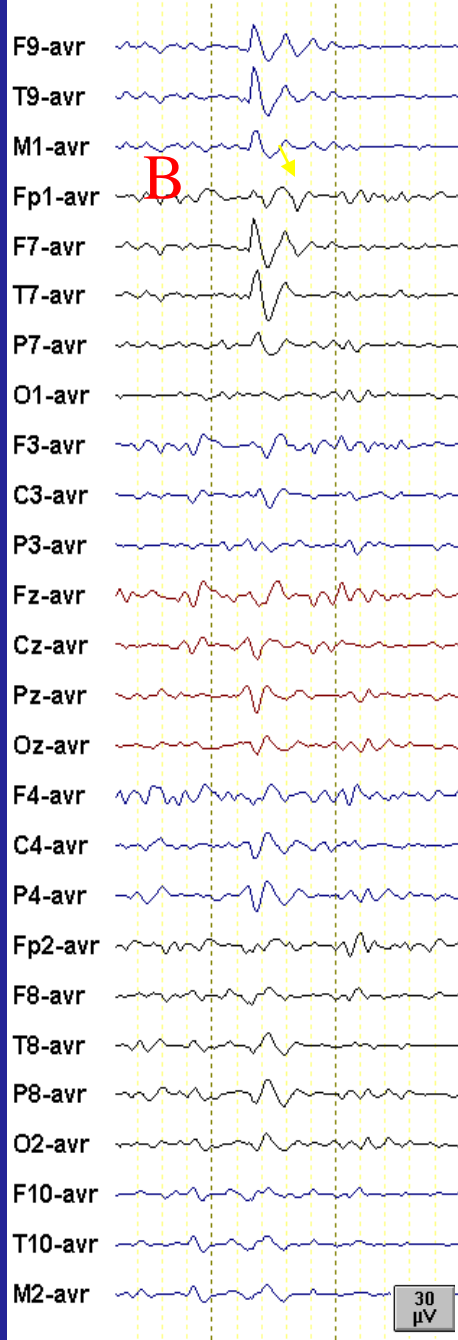
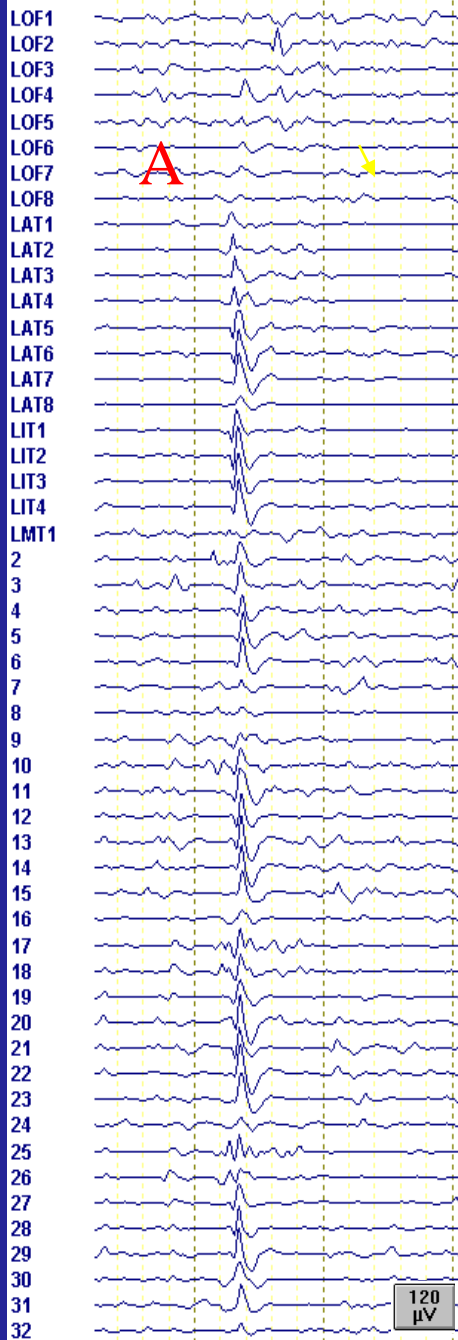
EEG source brain is lissencephalic

EEG dipoles are deep to source cortex

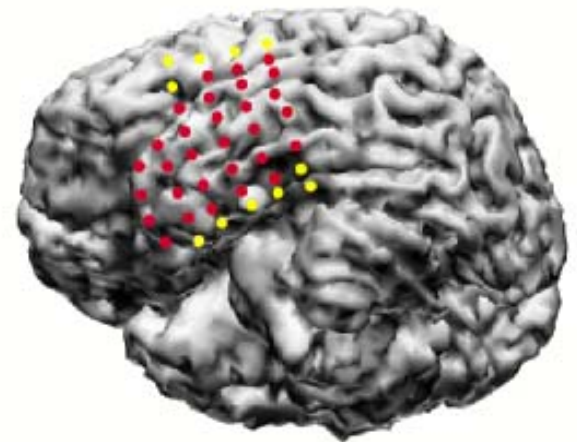
For large sources, EEG favors center of activity

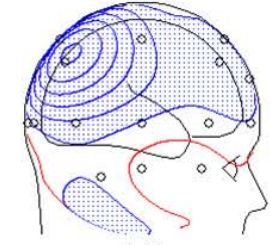
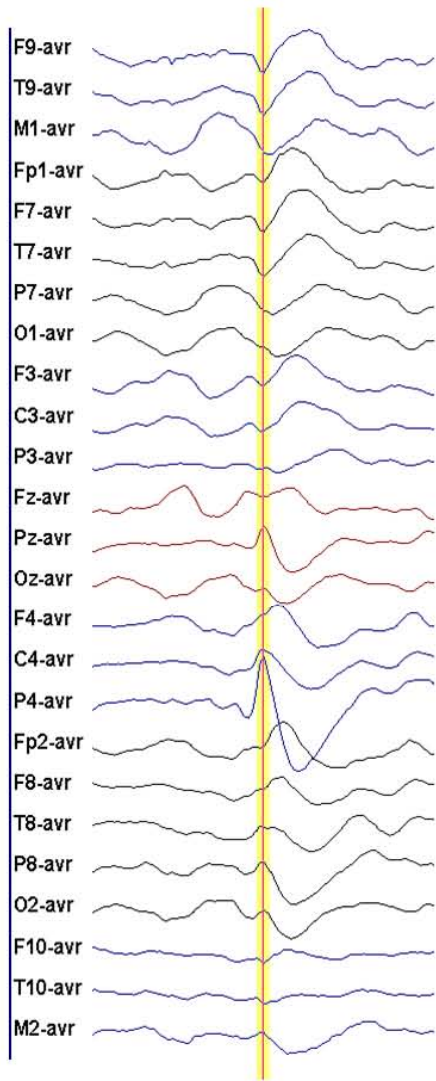
Sensitive to all source orientations, but radial more so than tangential



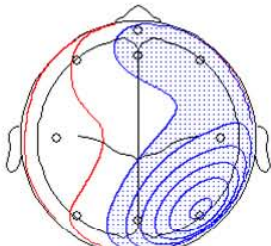


D

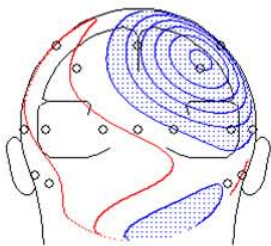




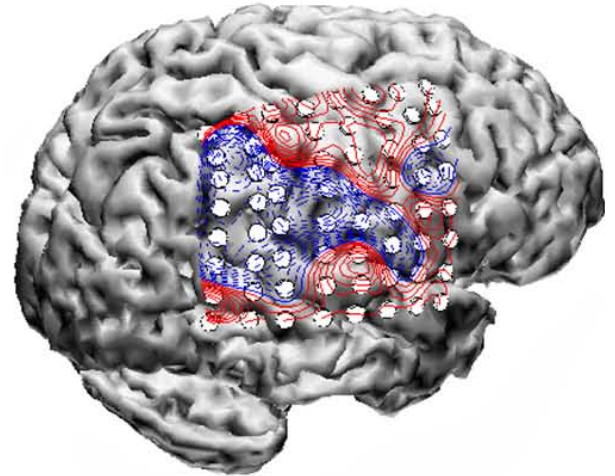
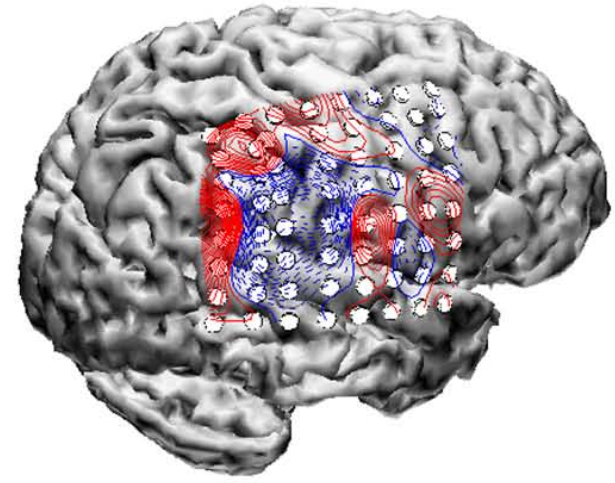
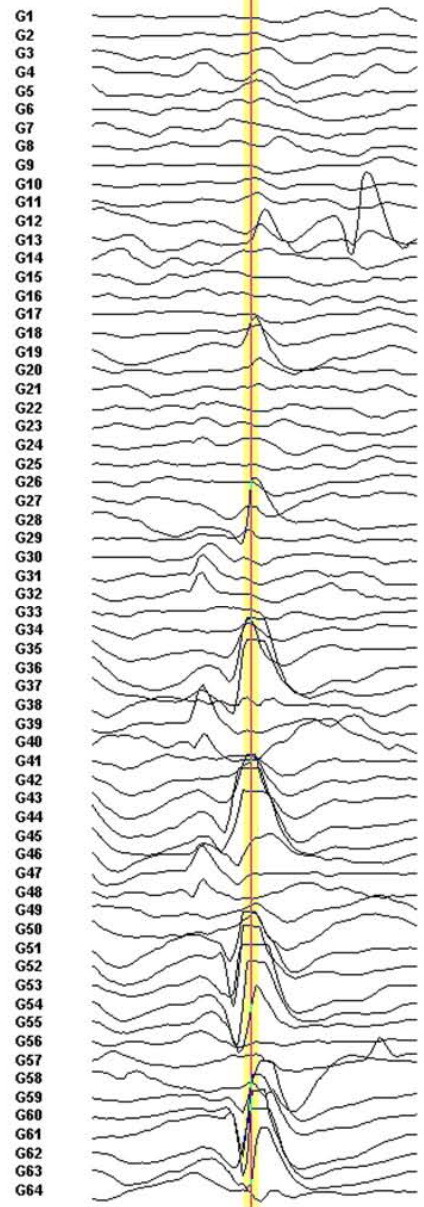
right

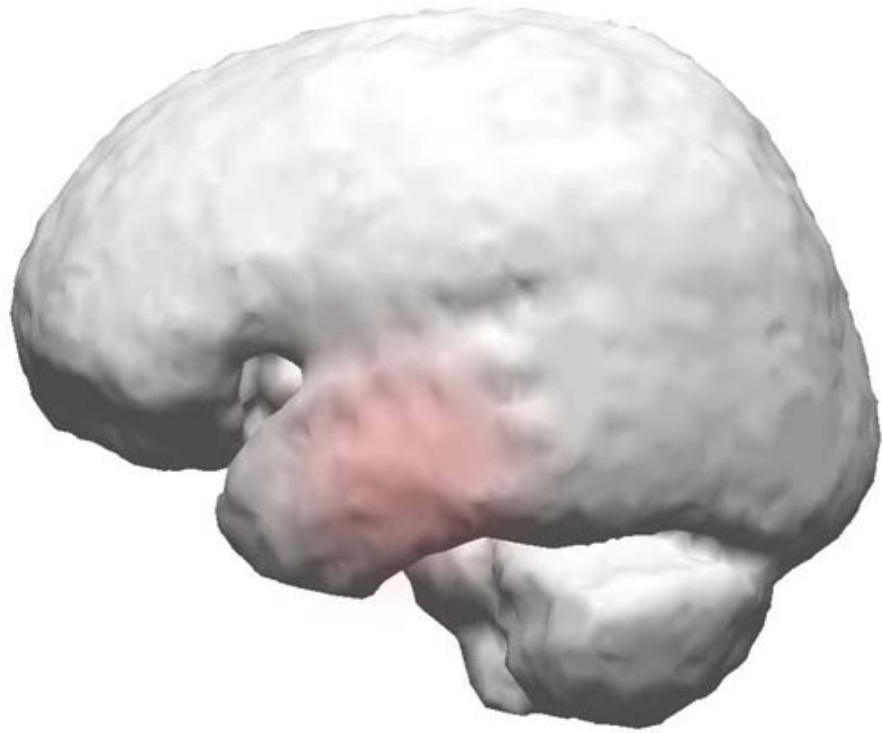


L top R

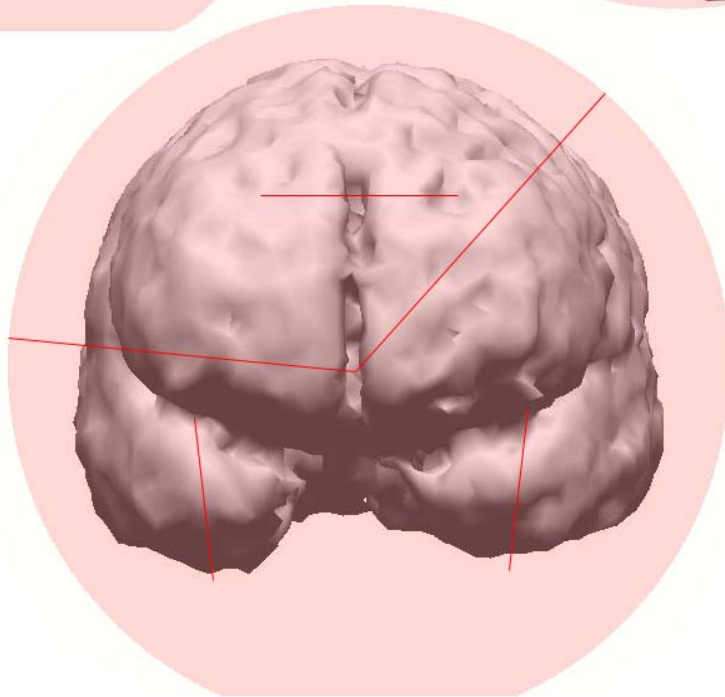
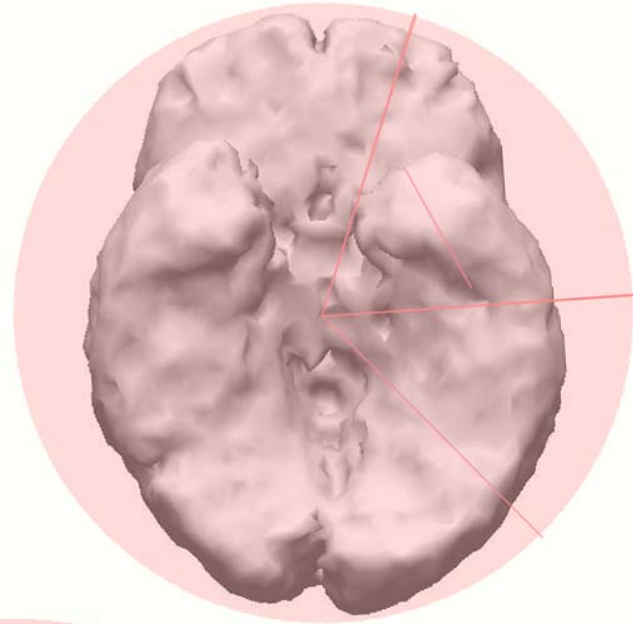
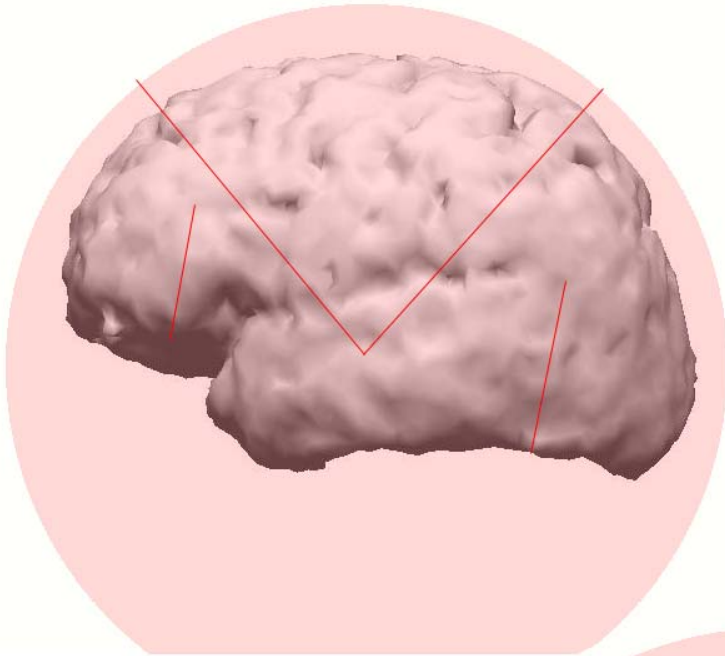


L back R









# MEG Sensitivity

MEG requires 4-6 sq cm

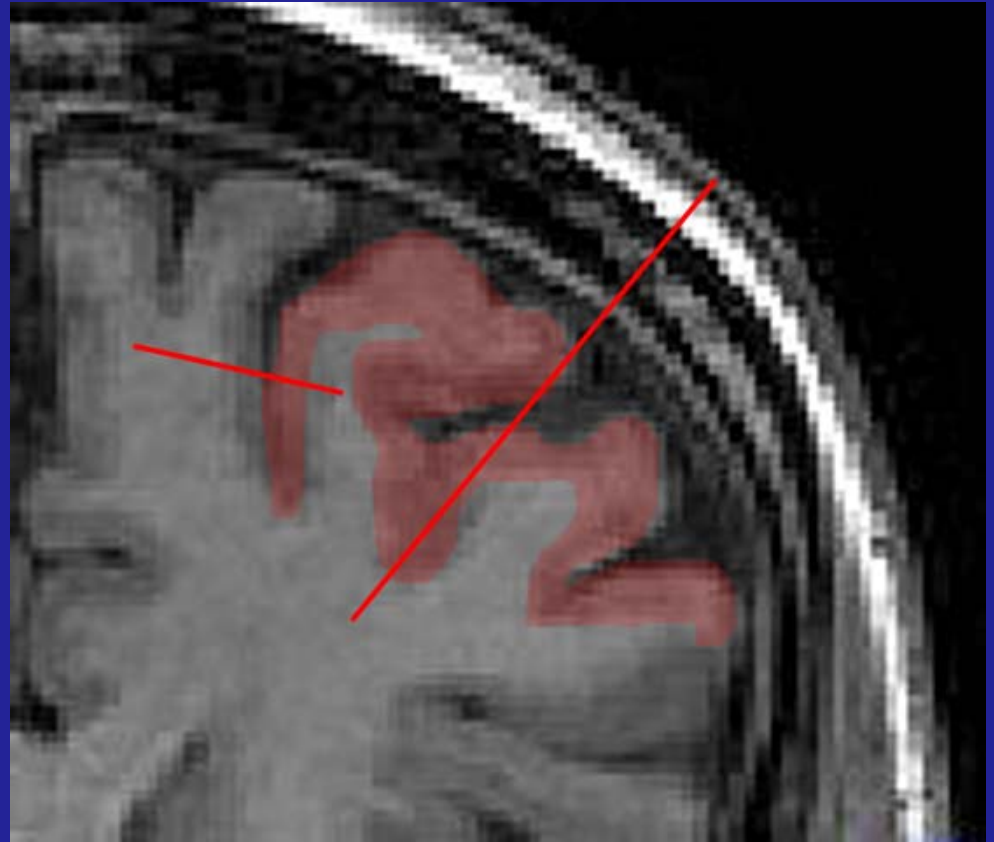
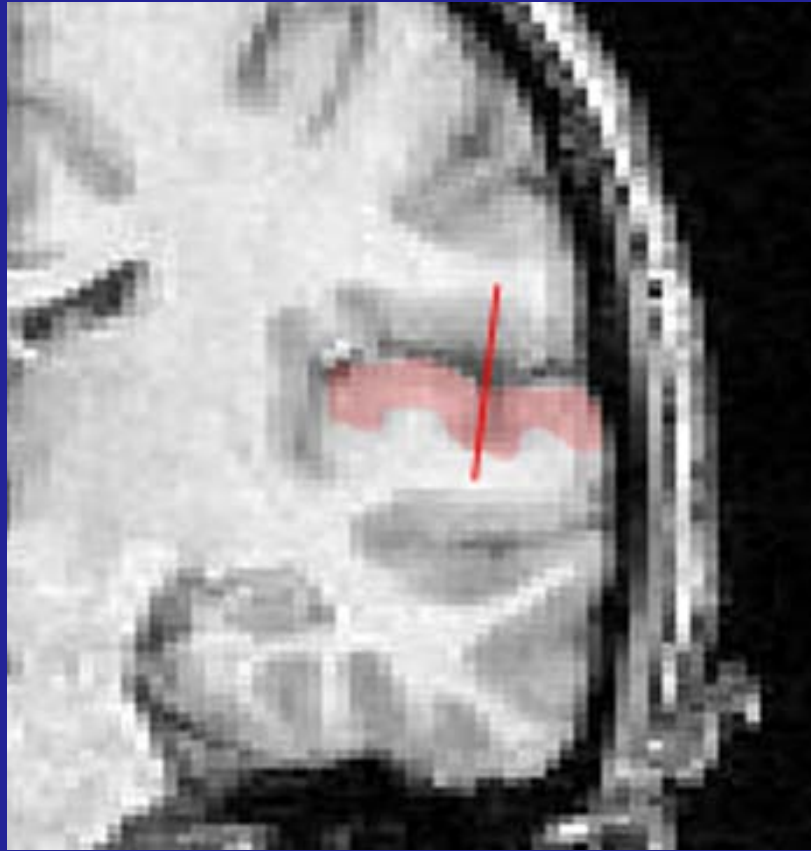
MEG visualizes large sulci, fissures, and tangential planes

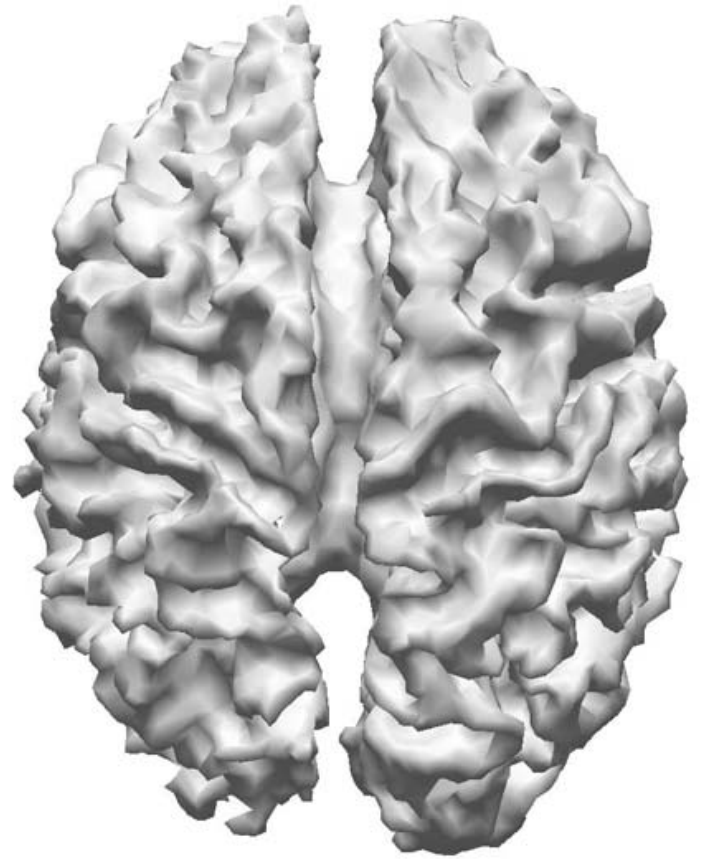
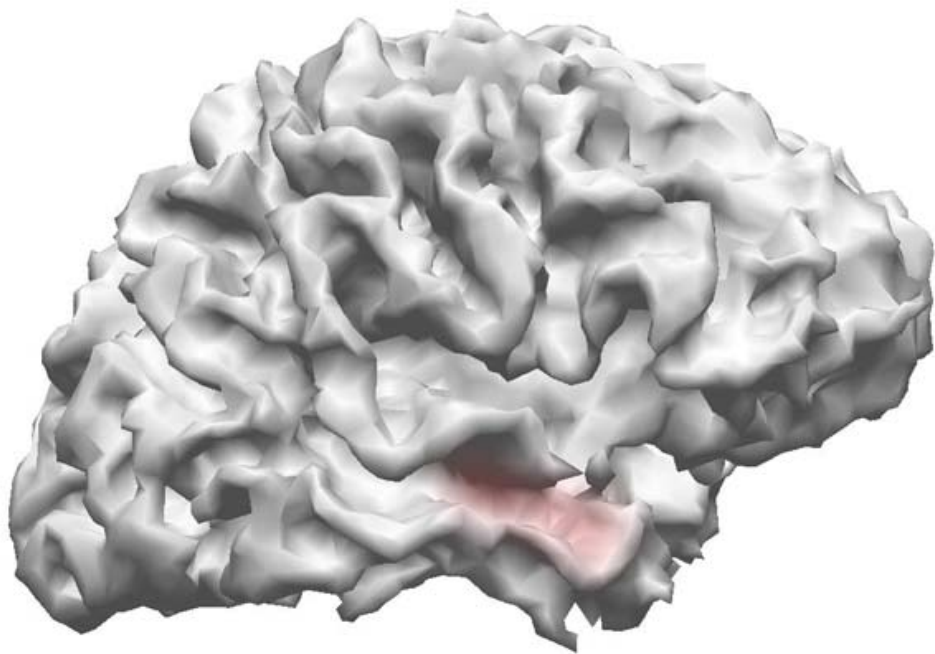
MEG source brain has eroded sulci

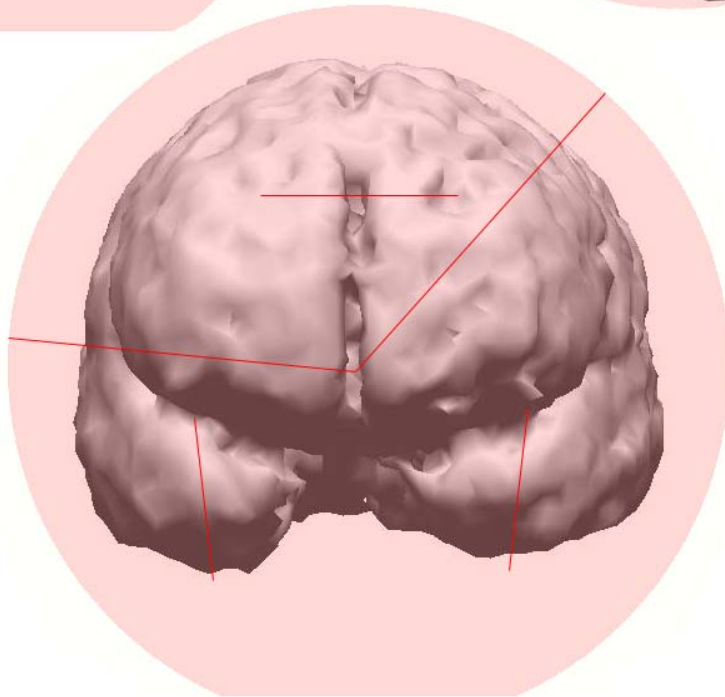
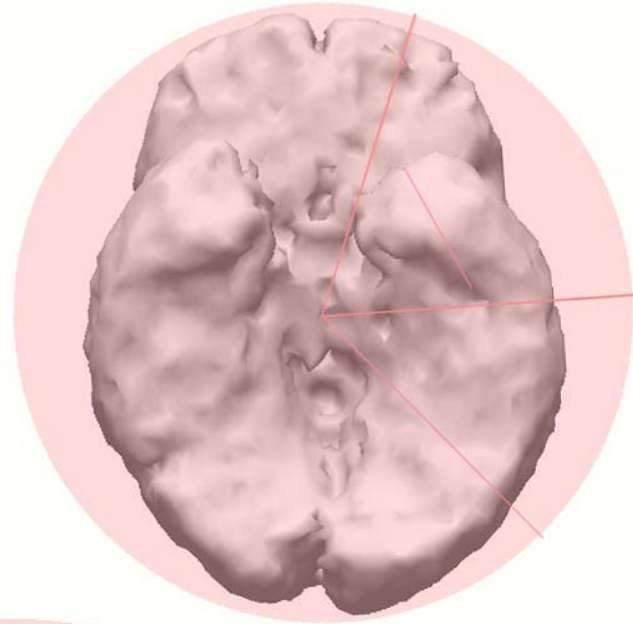
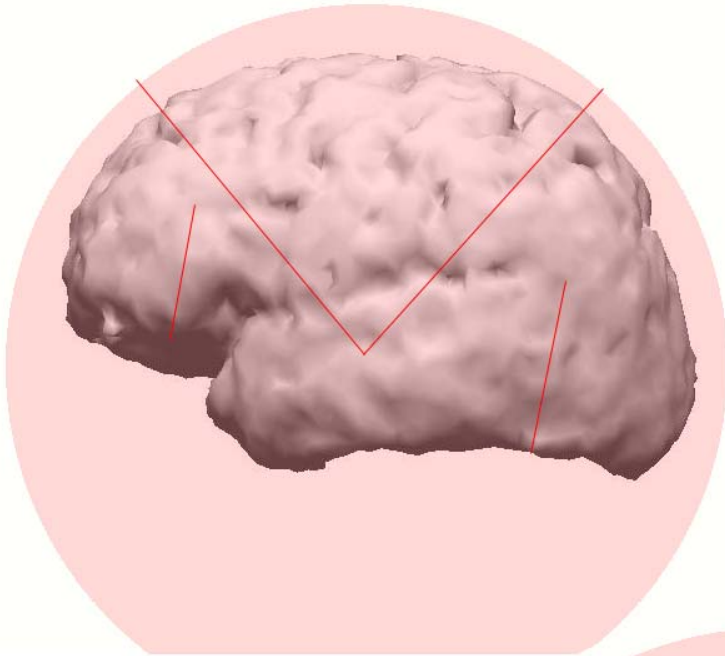
MEG dipoles more accurately reflect source depth

For large sources, MEG can favor an edge

Sensitive to a tangential source orientation







# Source Reconstruction

3D reconstruction of cortical sources of EEG requires a biophysical model

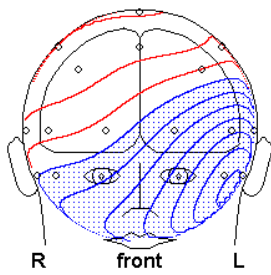
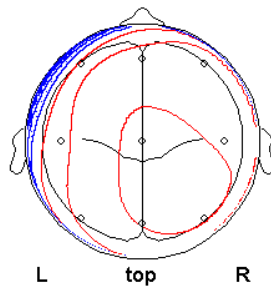
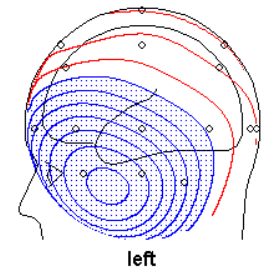
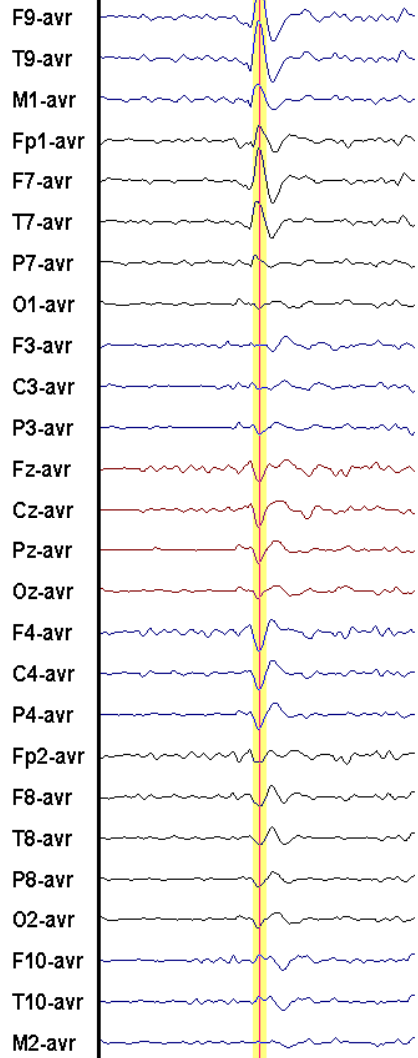
Multiple models:

Simple, point source – dipole

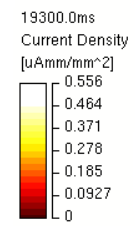
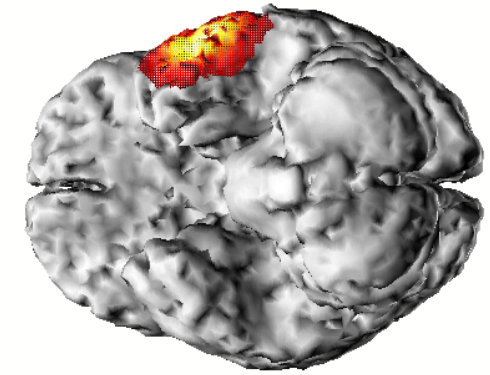
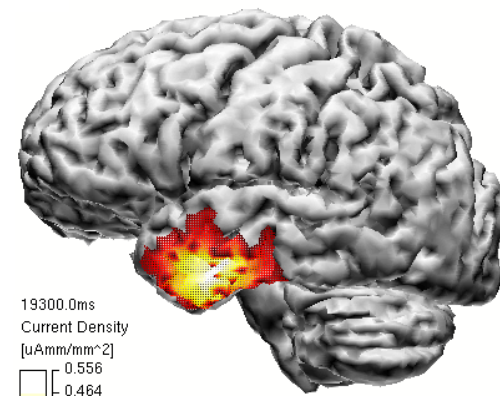
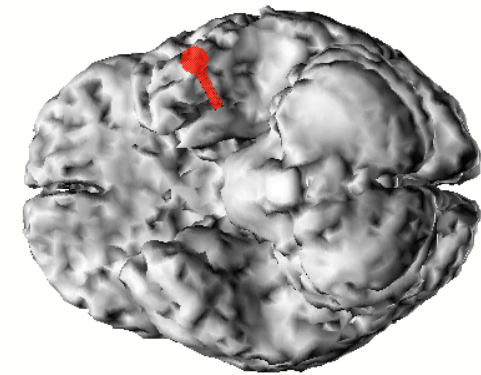
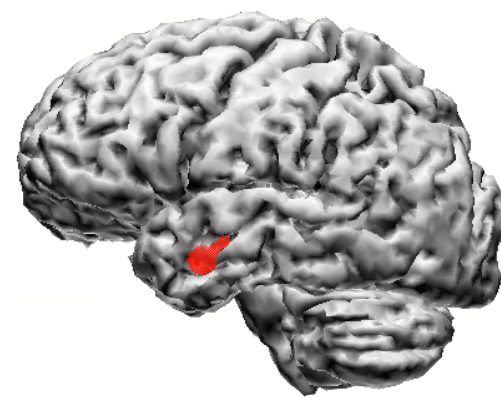
(unrealistic, easy to use and interpret)

Complex, extended source – current density

(pseudo-realistic, needs “thresholding”)



t = 00:00:00 0 ms  
Voltage [4.2  $\mu$ V / line]



# Models of Cerebral Sources

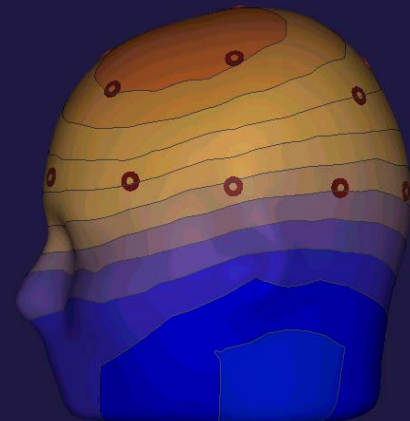
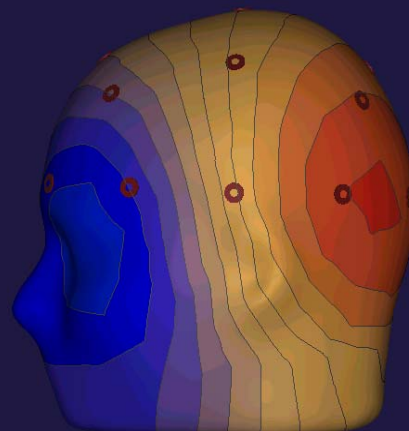
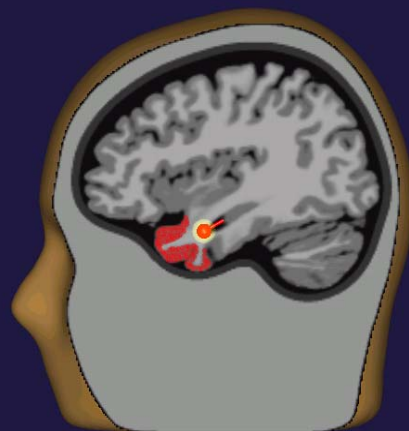
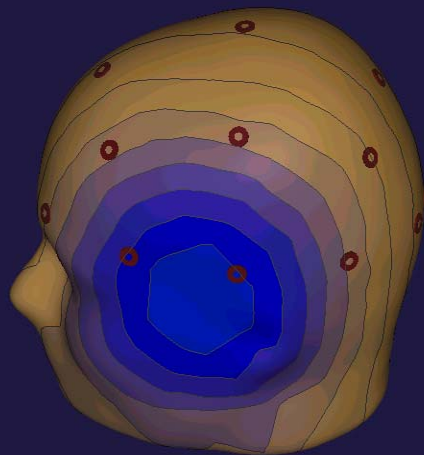
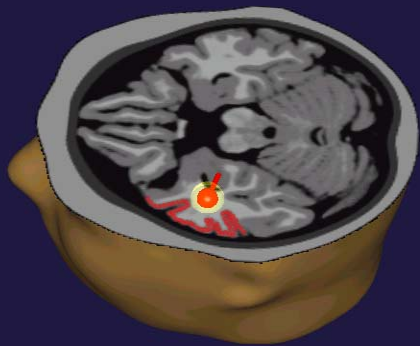
## *Equivalent Current Dipole*

(aka Single or Moving Dipole) - the voltage or magnetic field at one moment is modeled by the best fitting single dipole

Each subsequent field measurement is modeled by another single dipole

Most commonly employed source model in clinical EEG and MEG





# Dipole Interpretation Confidence

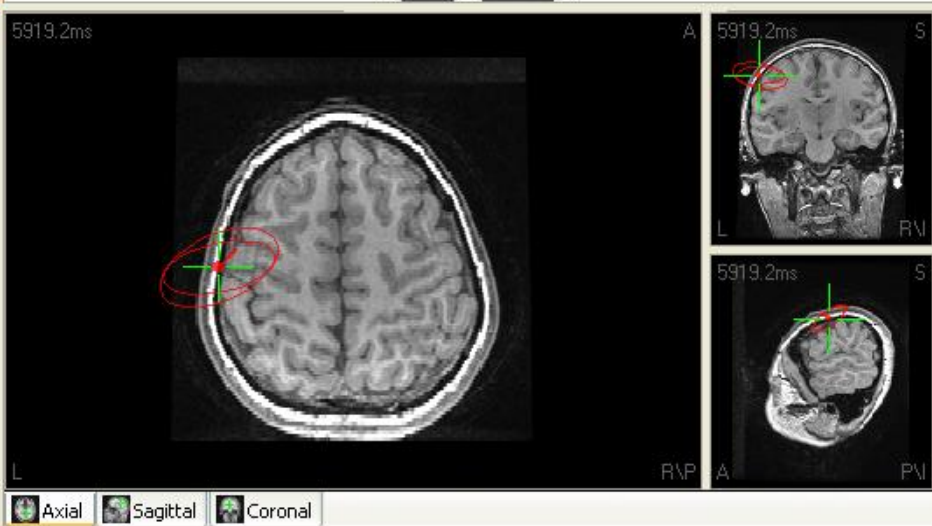
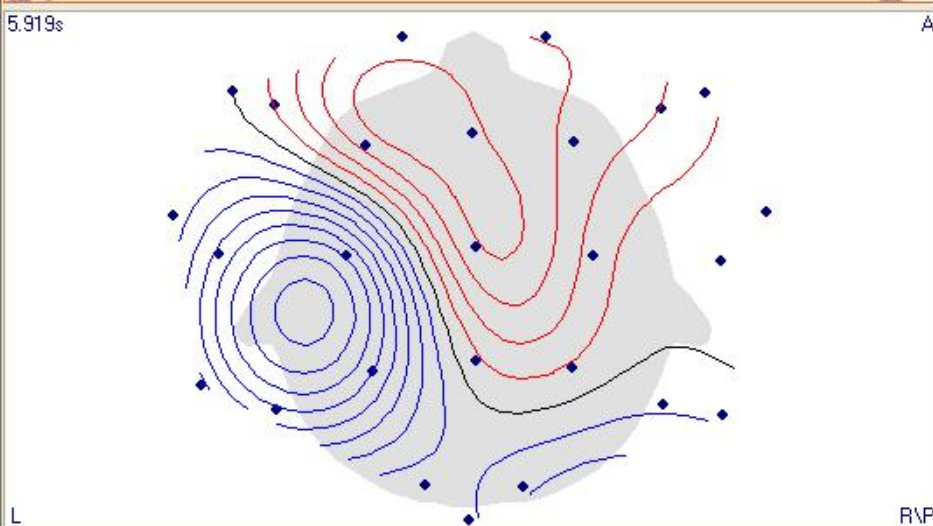
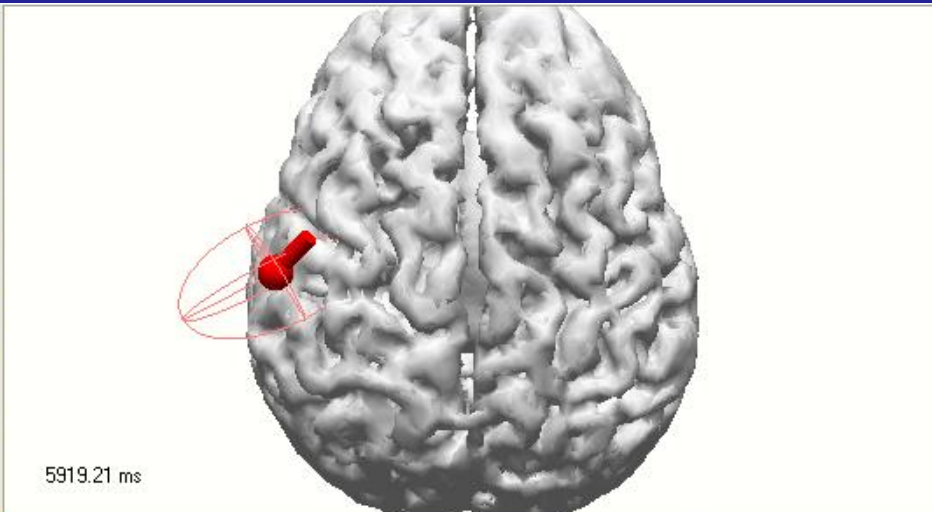
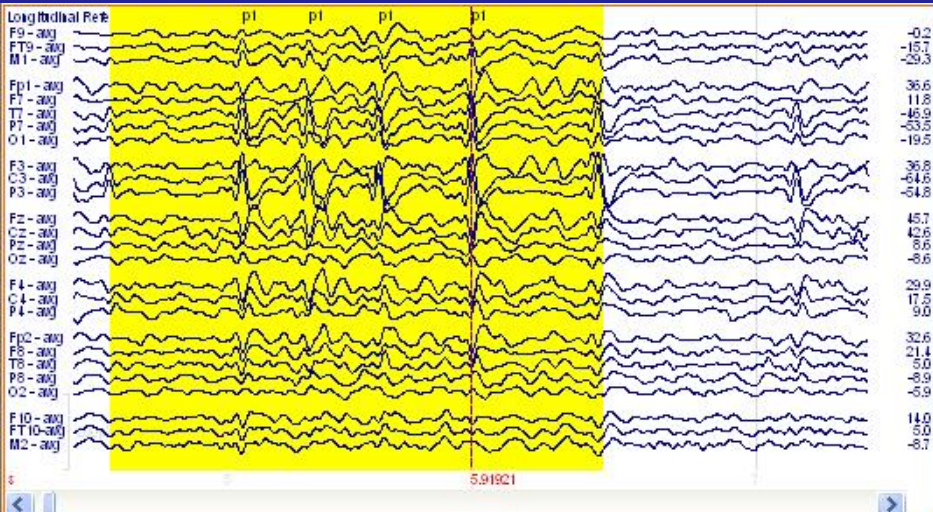
Goodness of Fit

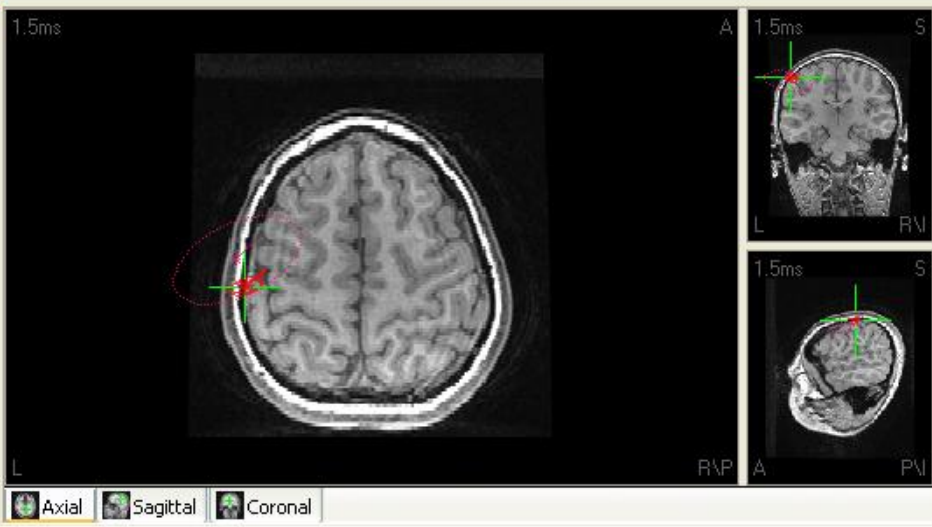
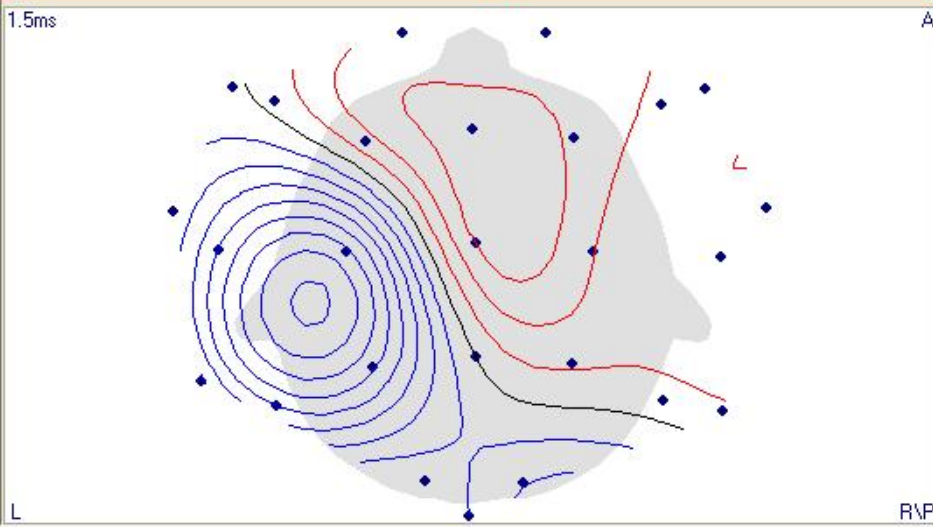
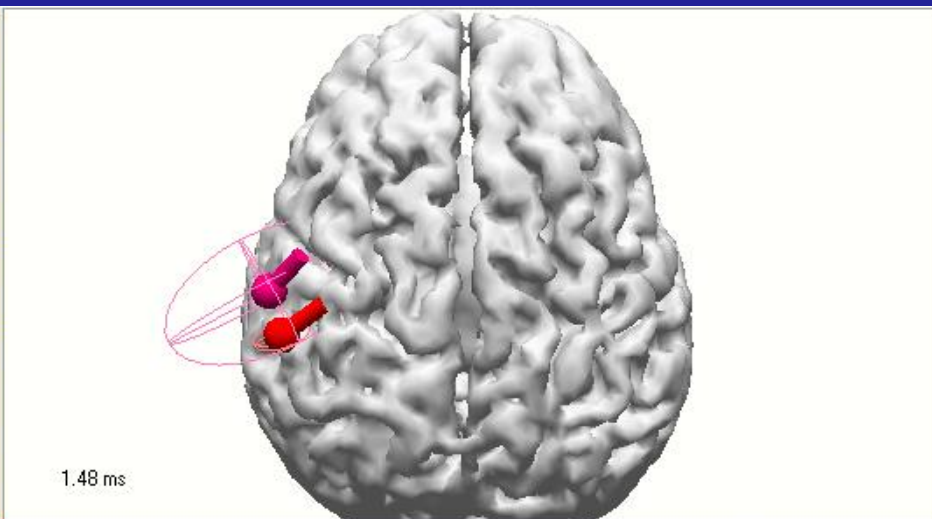
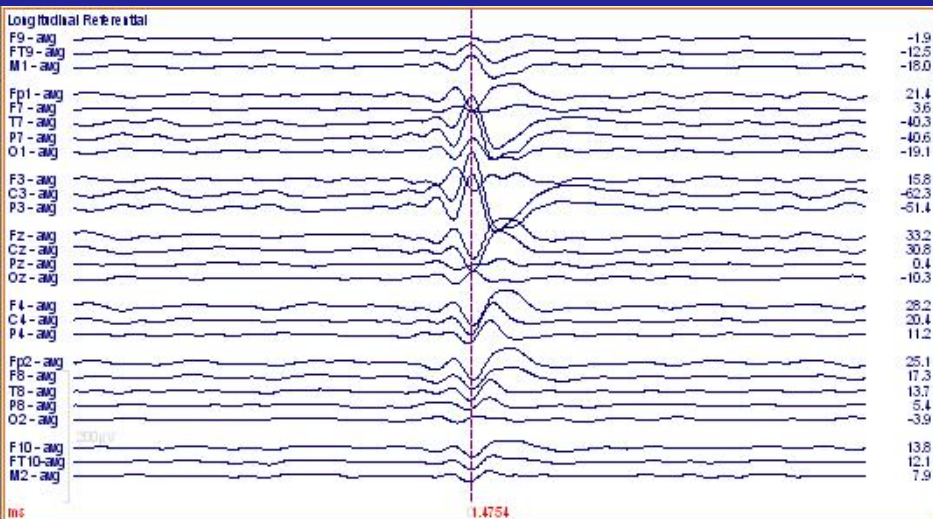
Confidence Volume

Dependent upon goodness of fit, S/N,  
and number of electrodes/sensors

Ongoing background EEG/MEG is noise

Signal averaging improves S/N





# MEG vs. EEG

MEG and EEG source modeling are based on similar electro-magnetic principles

Some still consider EEG modeling to be experimental, while MEG modeling is standard practice

Despite complementary strengths, there are few systematic studies comparing the two

# MEG vs. EEG

Most patients have both EEG spikes and MEG spikes

Their source models (dipoles) commonly differ by:

Orientation

Location

Timing, lead or lag

Confidence volume

# MEG vs. EEG Spike Dipole Models

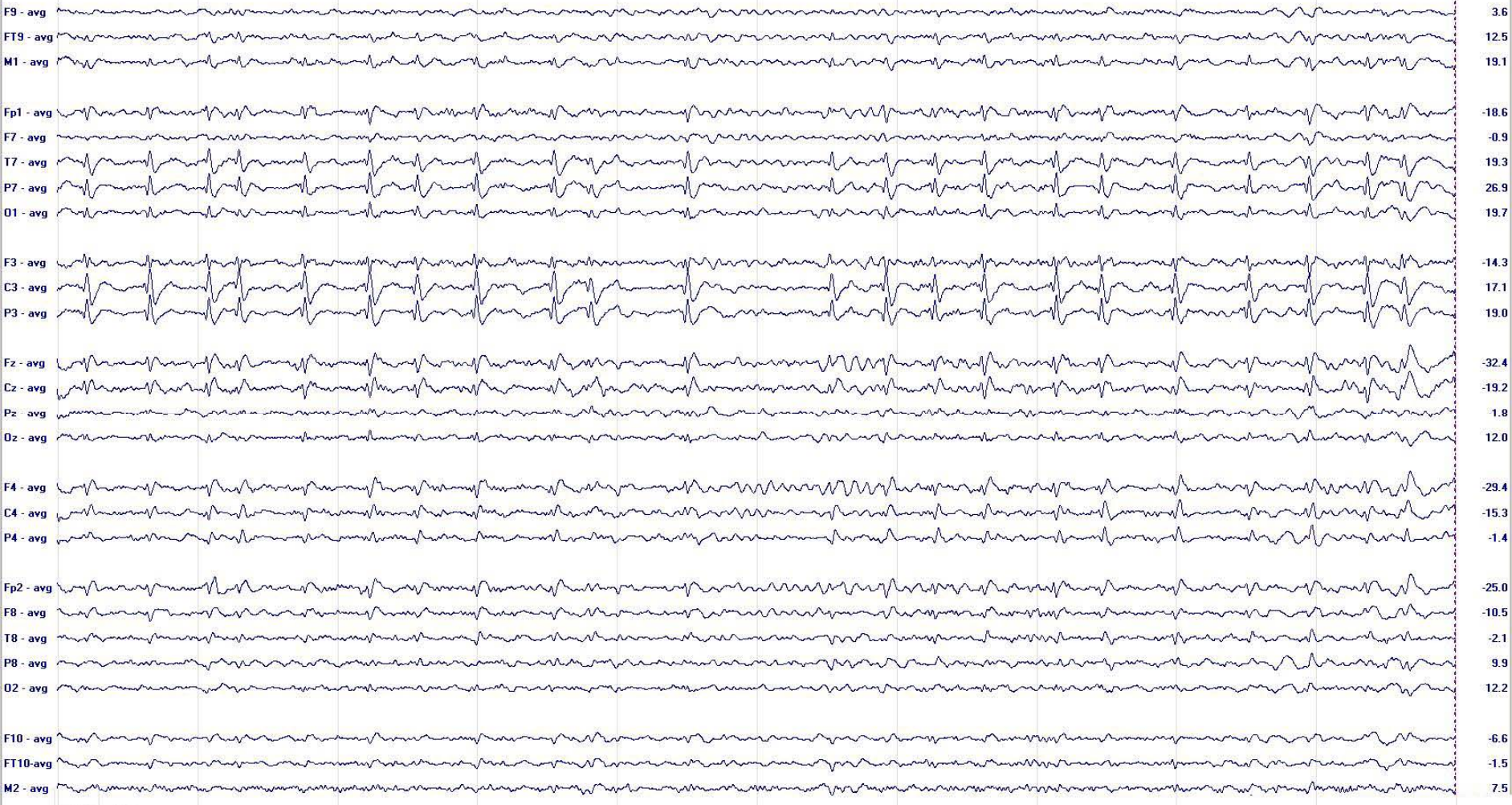
Orientation – usually differ, unless EEG is pure tangential

Location – can differ by mm to cm, EEG commonly anterior

Timing – either can lead or lag

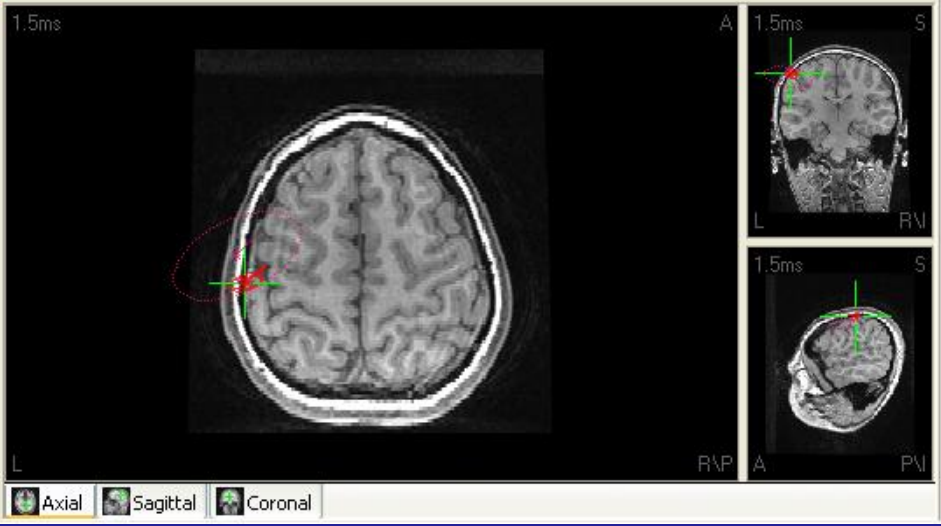
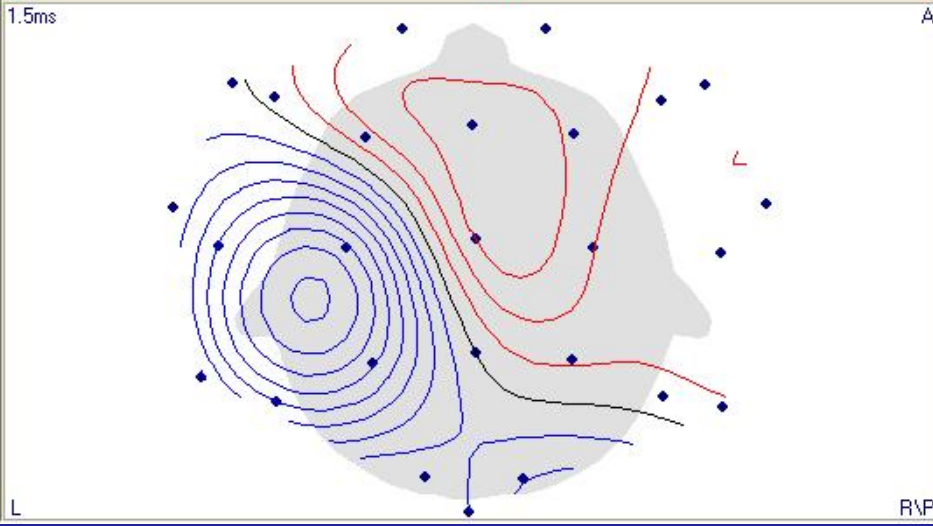
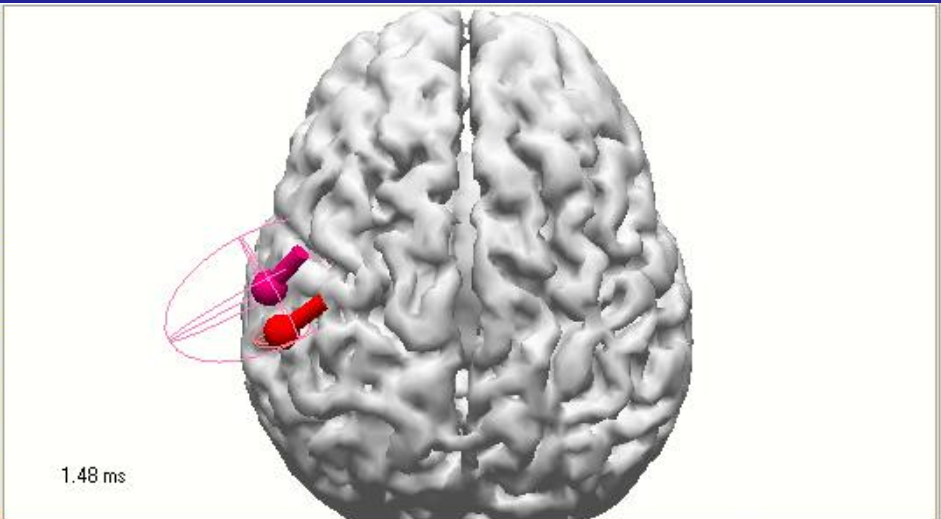
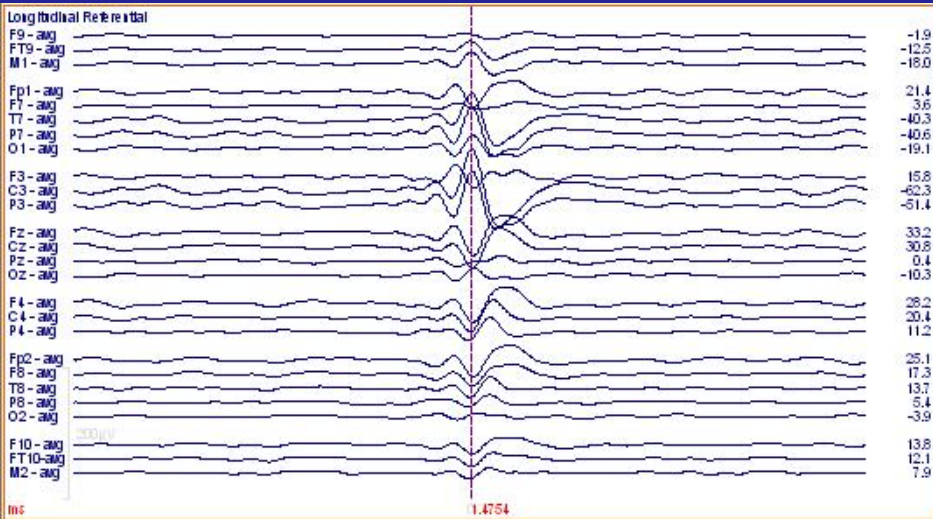
Confidence volume – MEG clusters tighter and volumes smaller

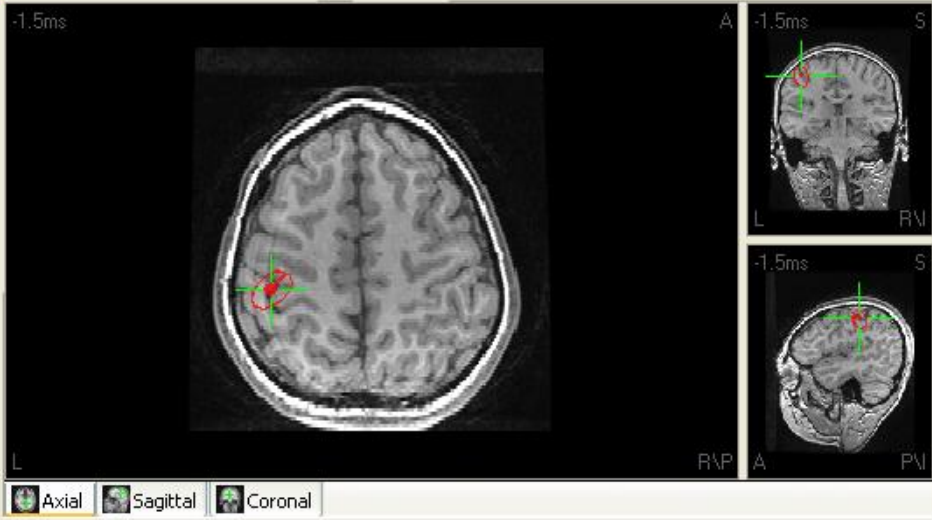
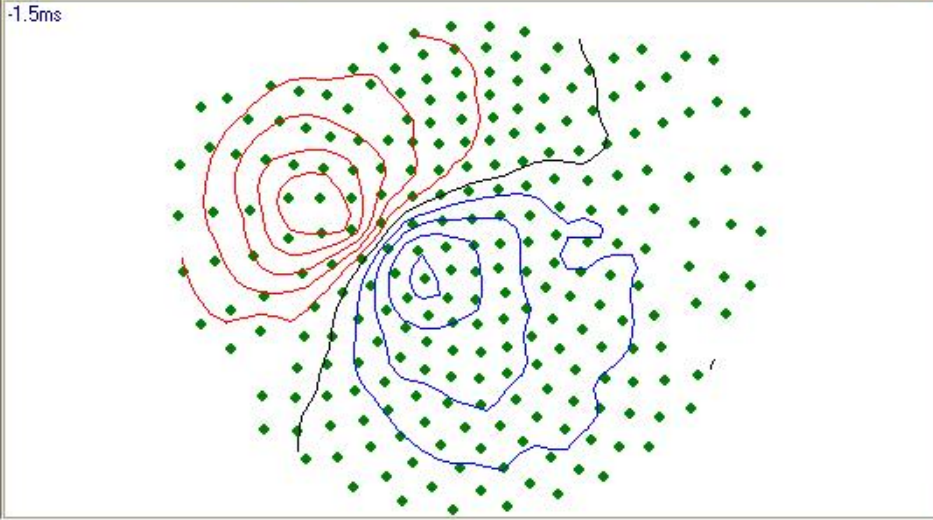
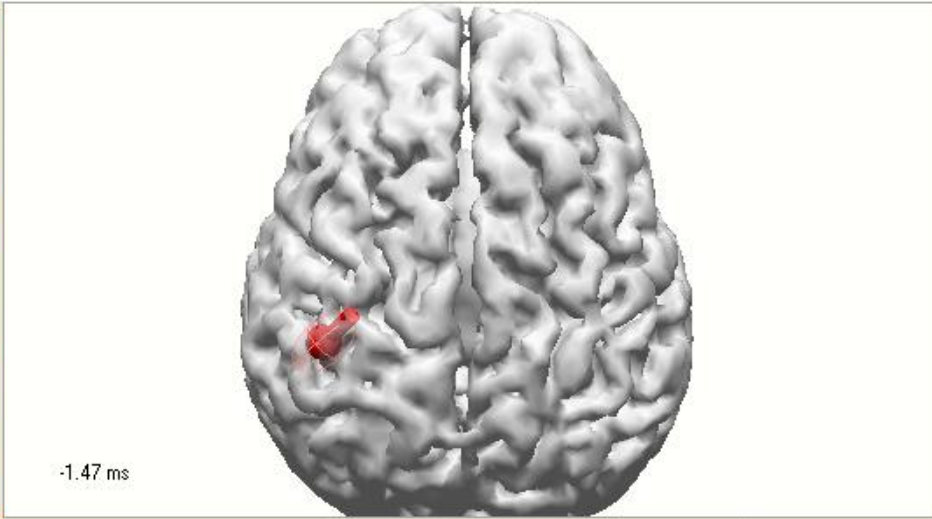
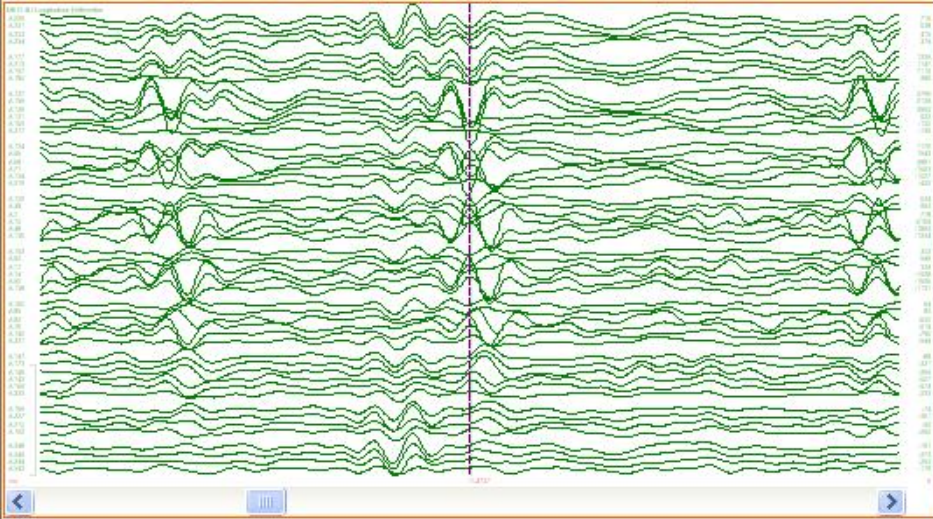
Longitudinal Referential

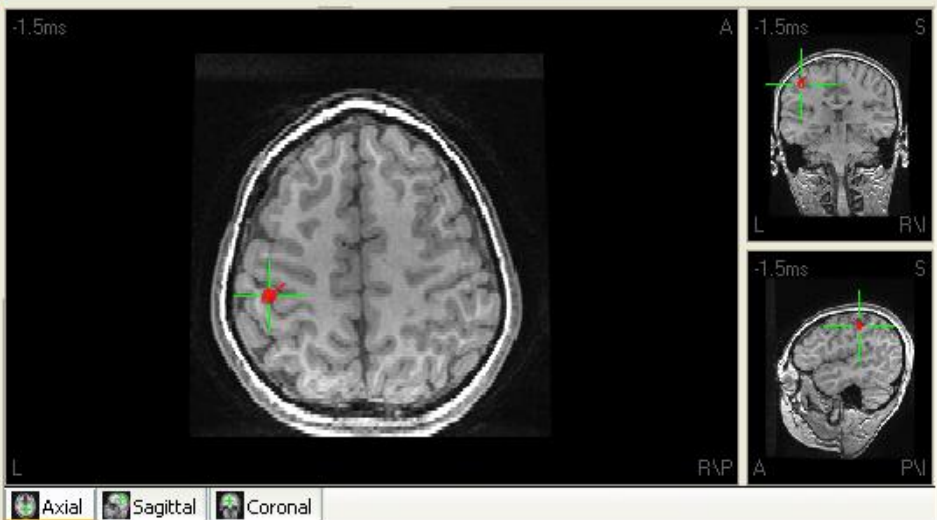
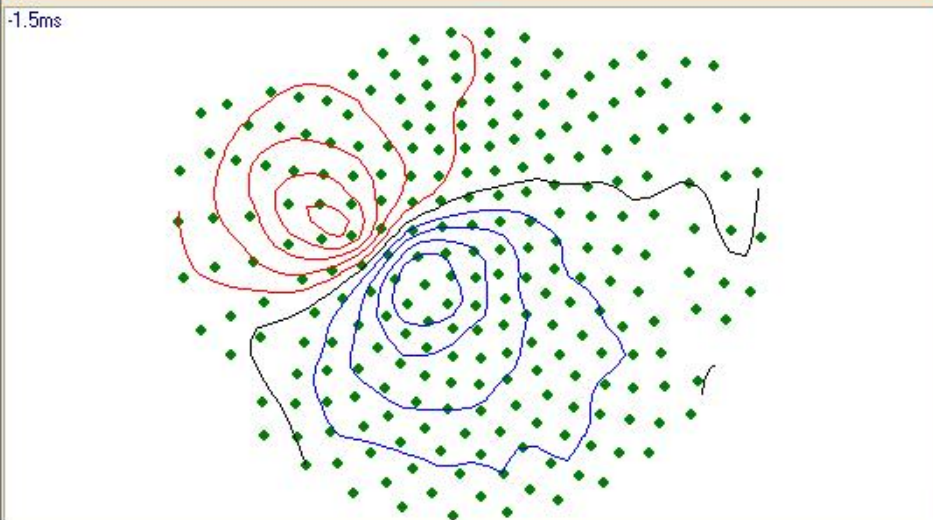
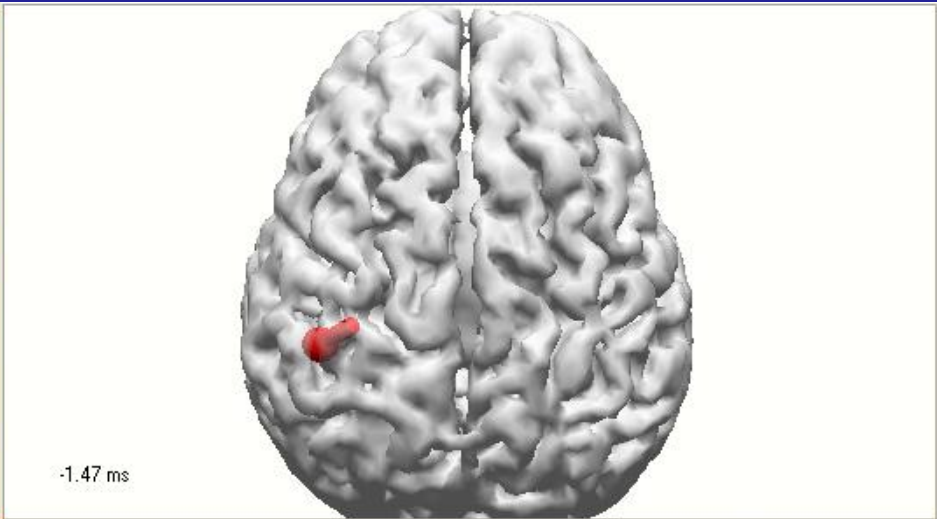
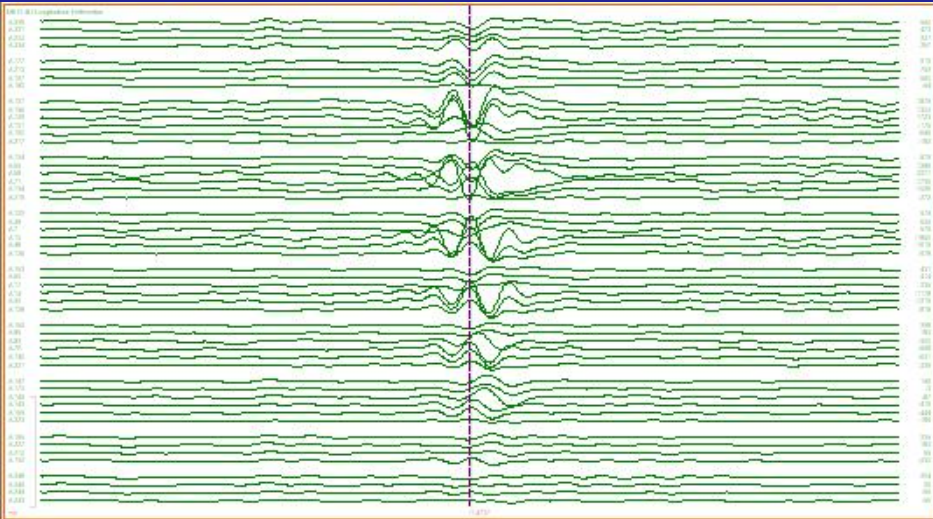


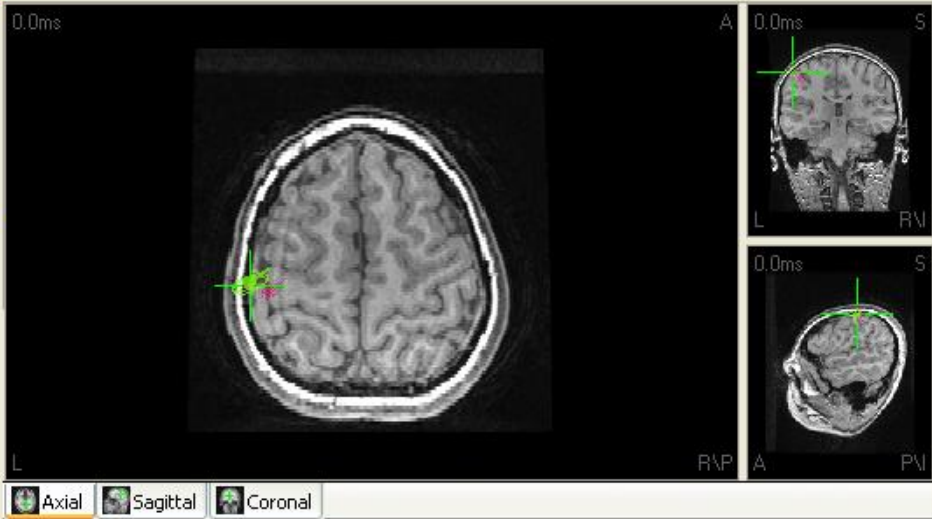
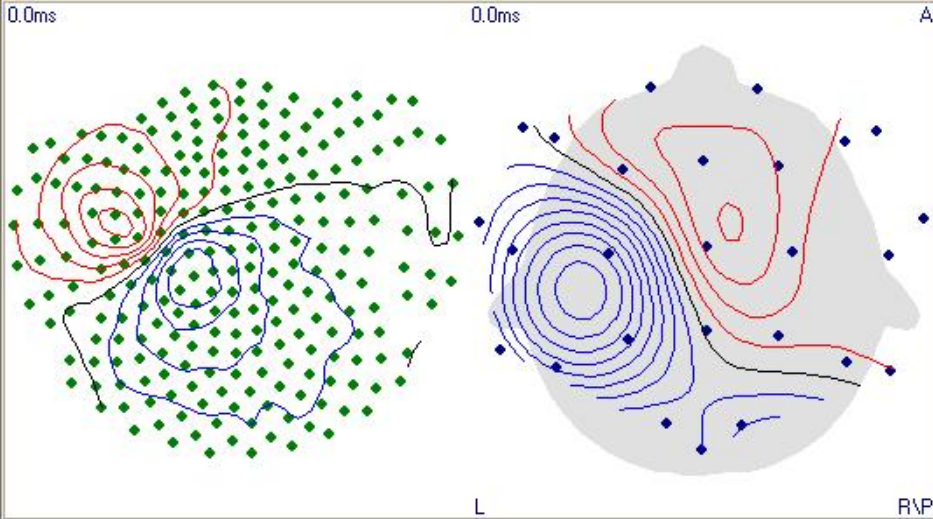
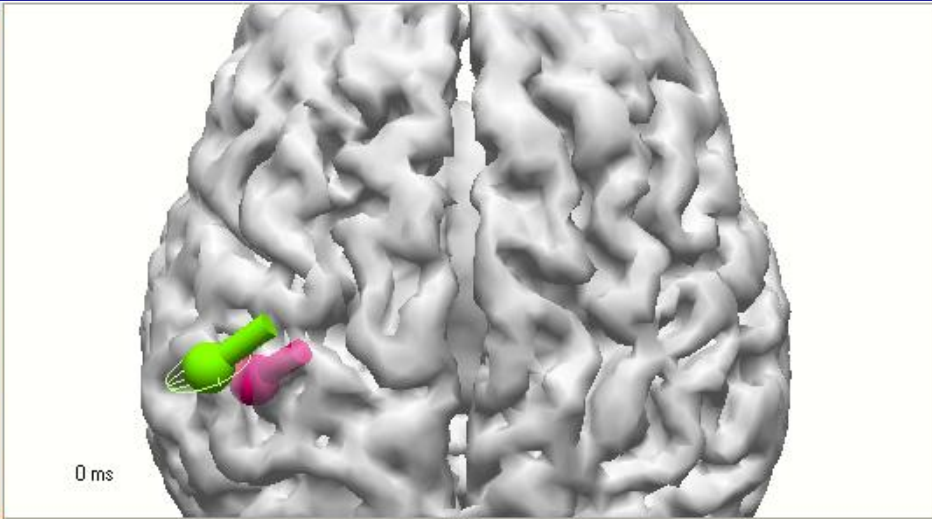
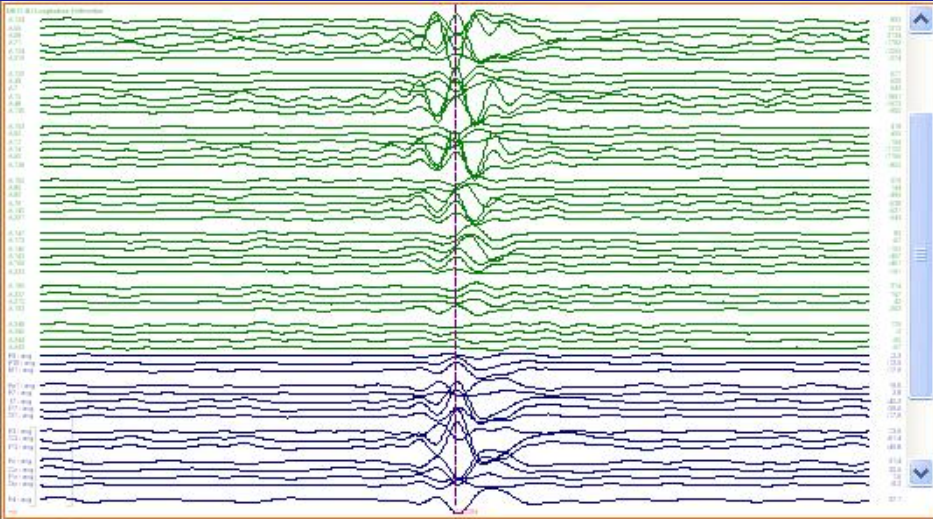
500ms 200µV

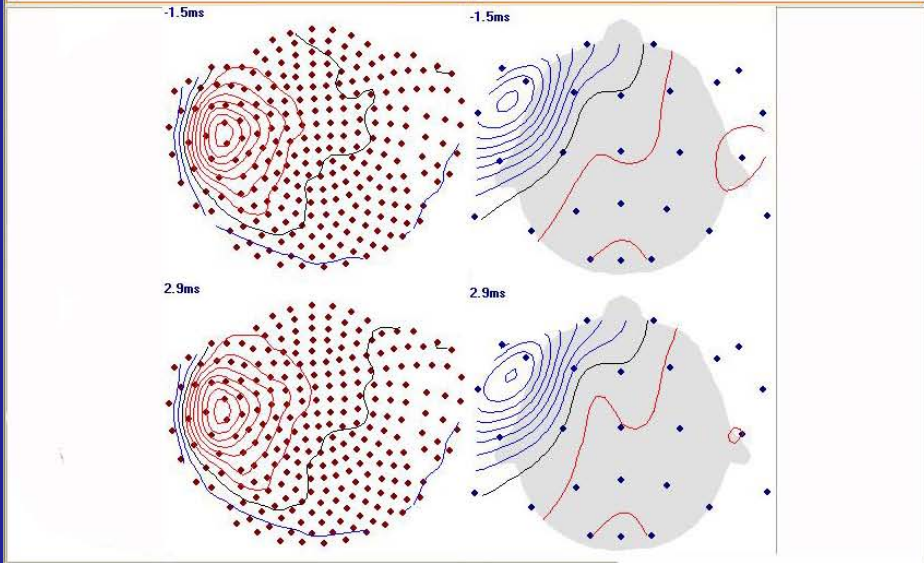
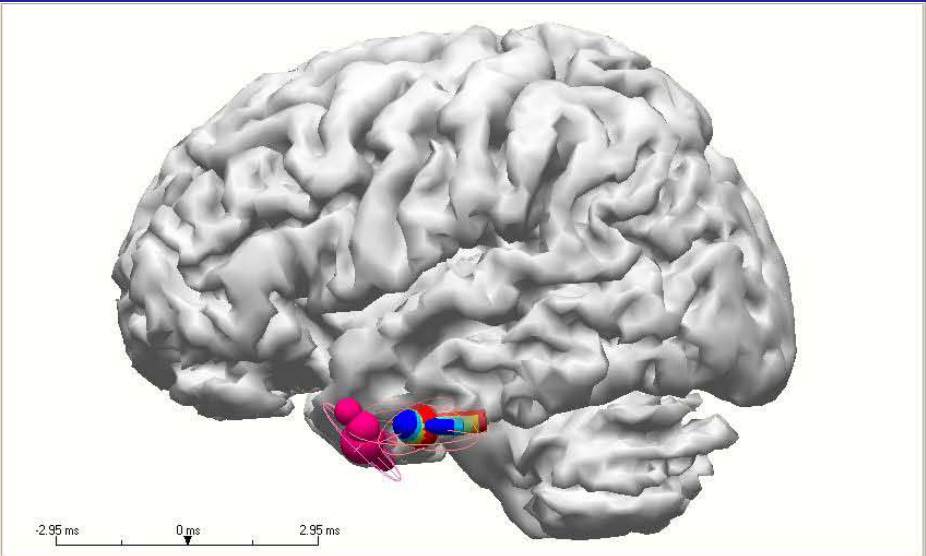
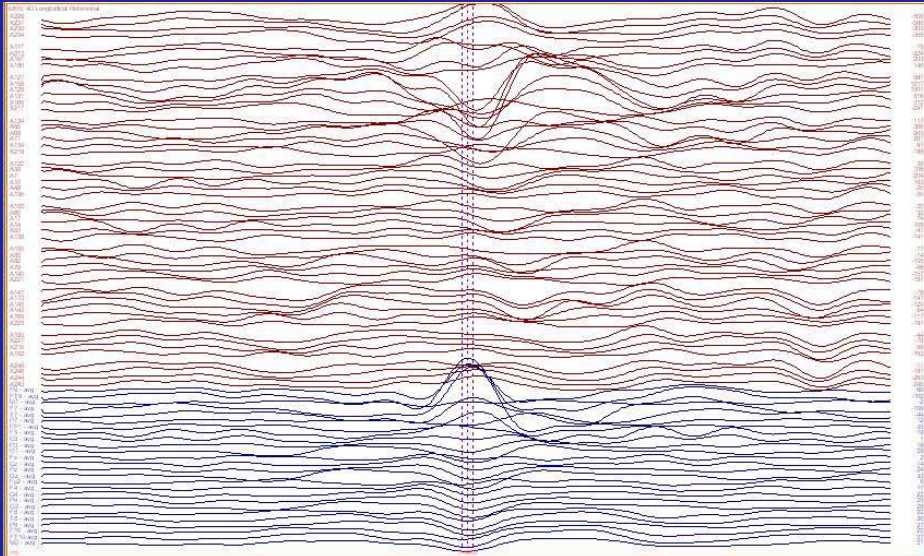


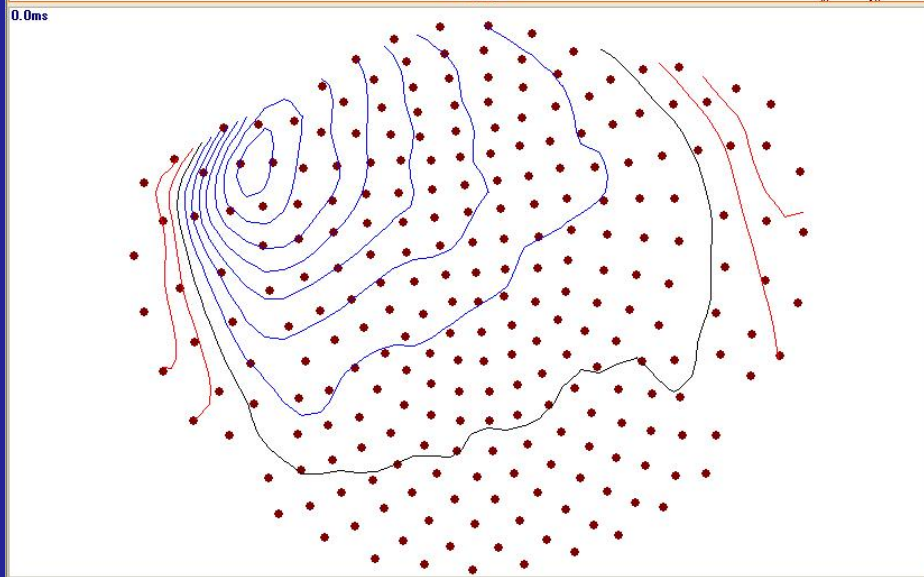
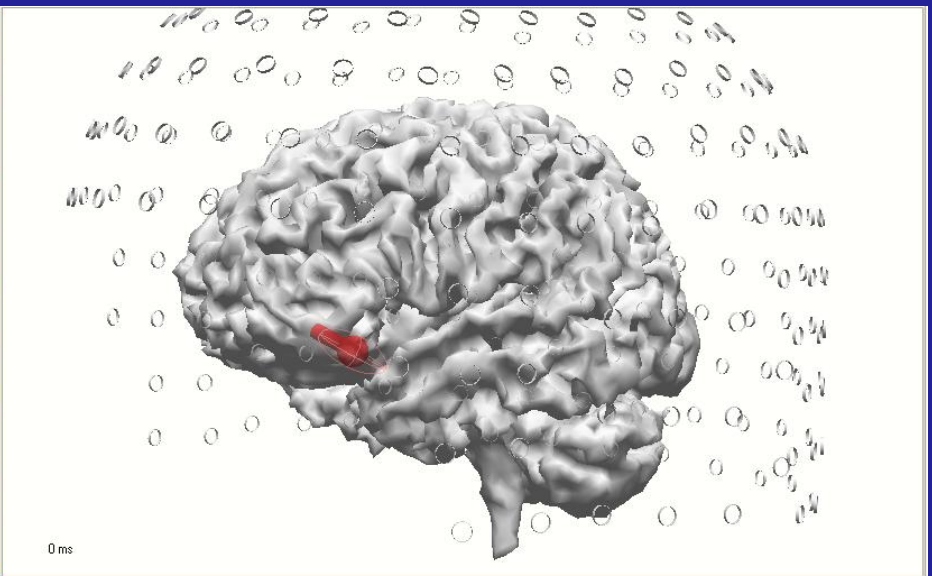
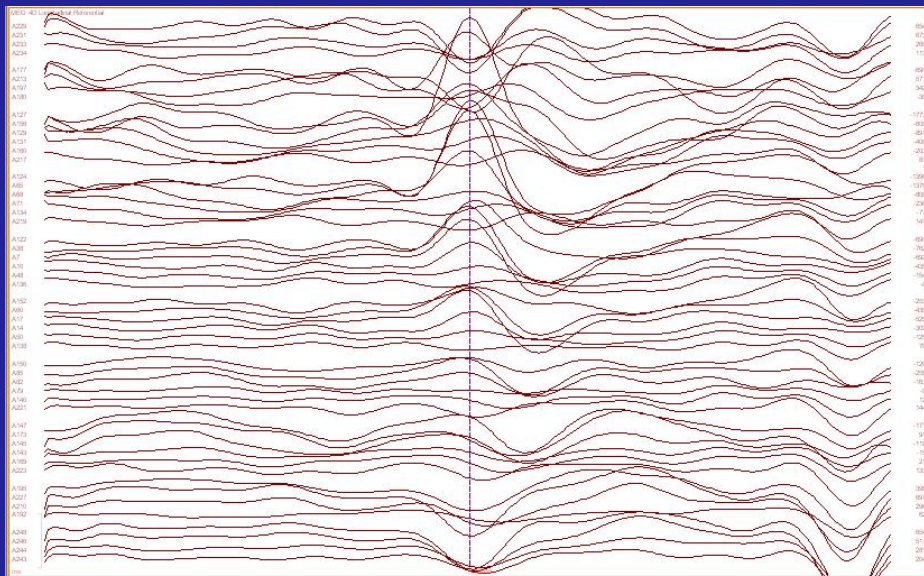


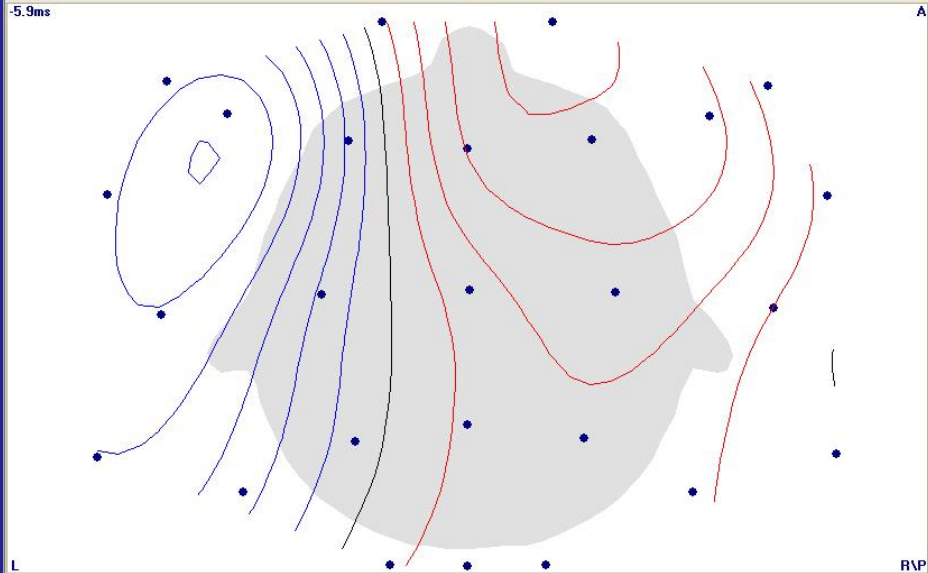
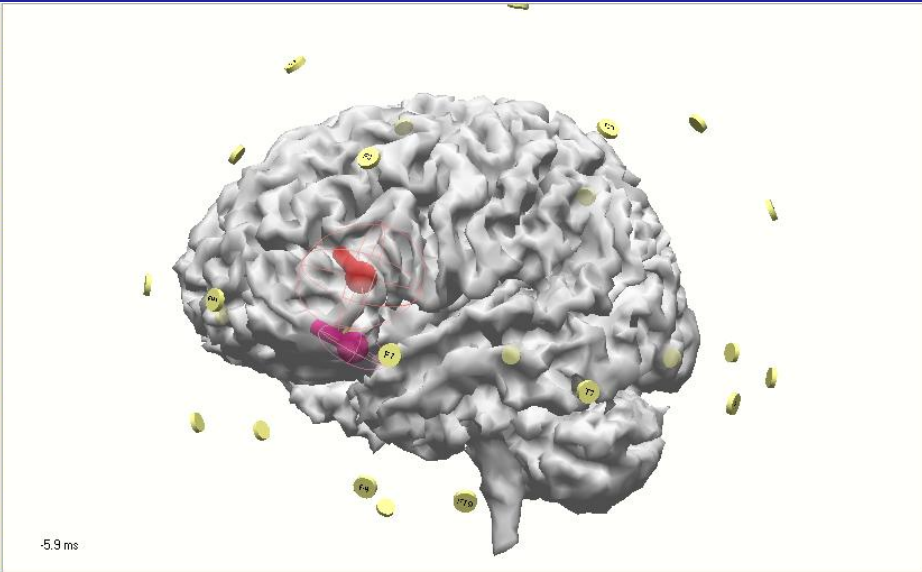
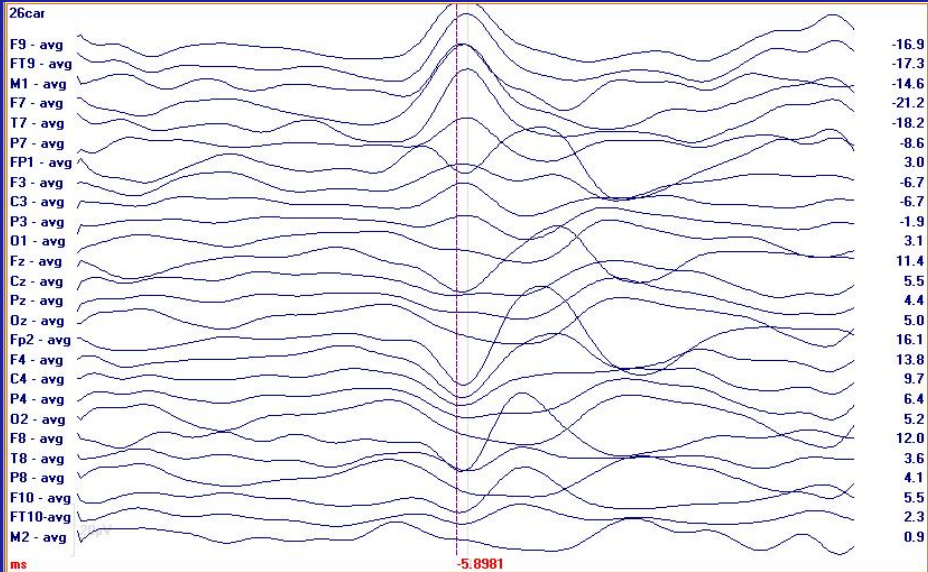


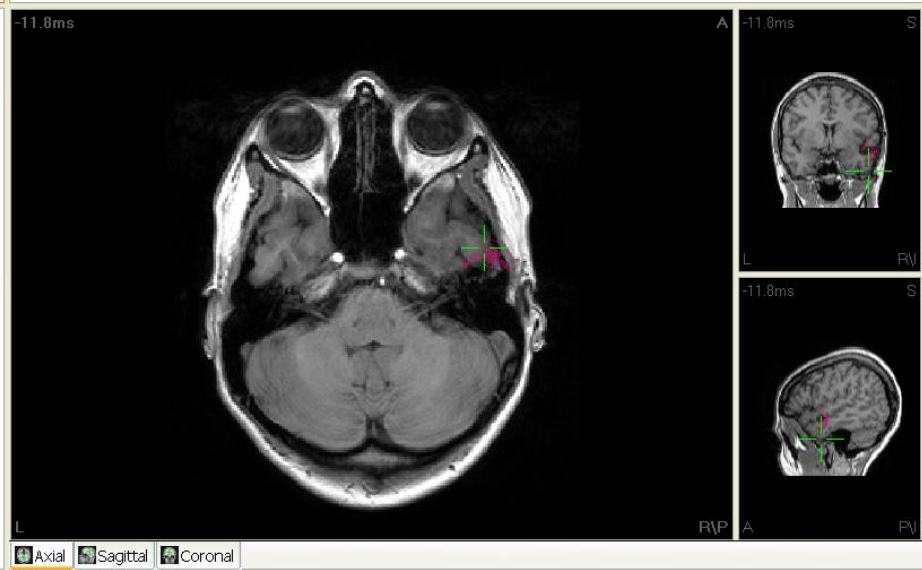
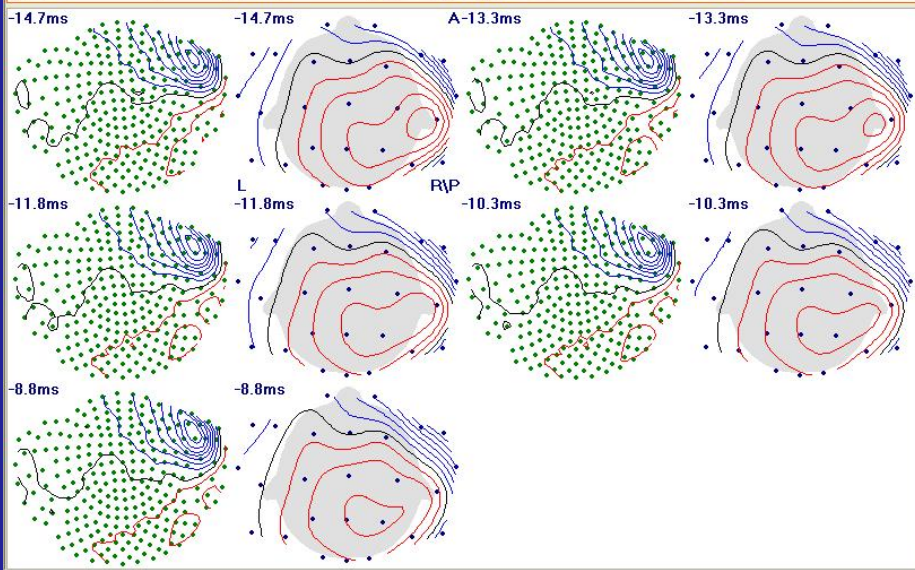
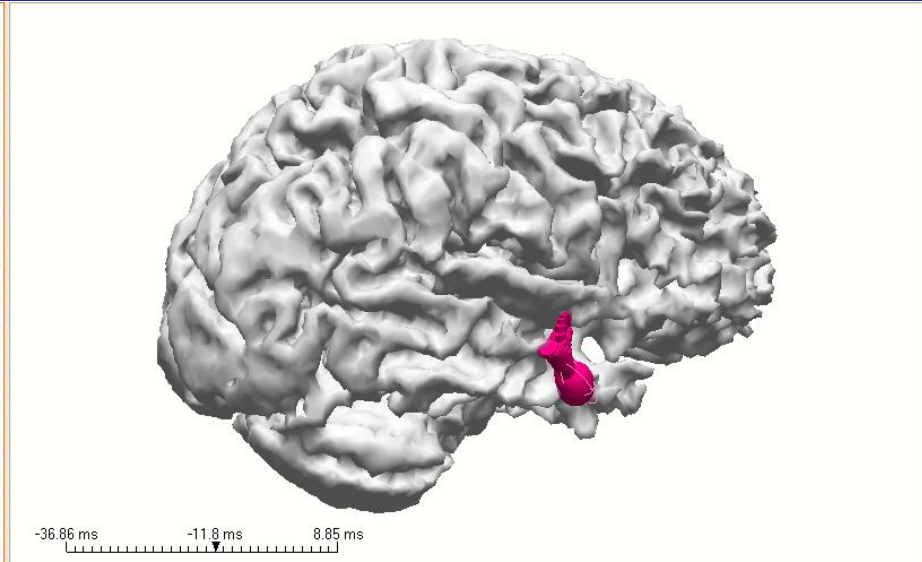
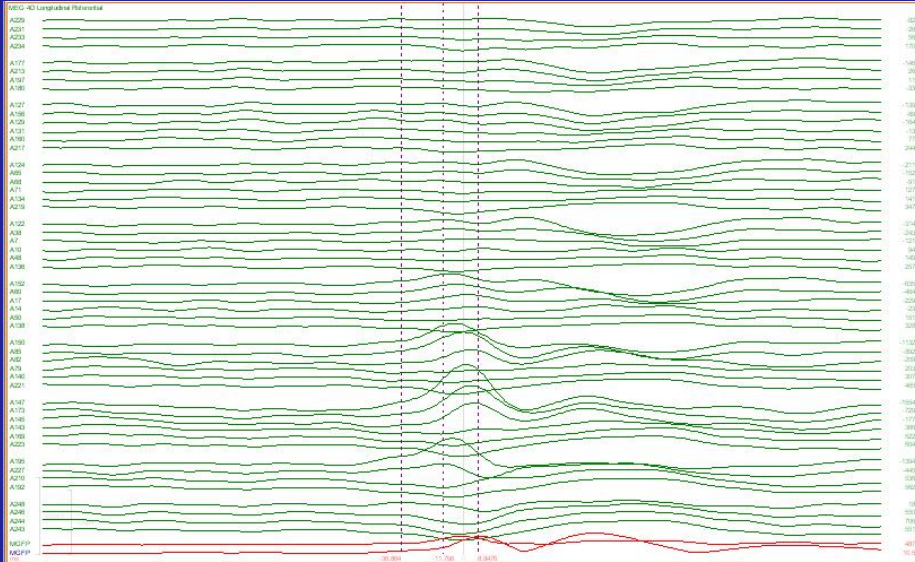




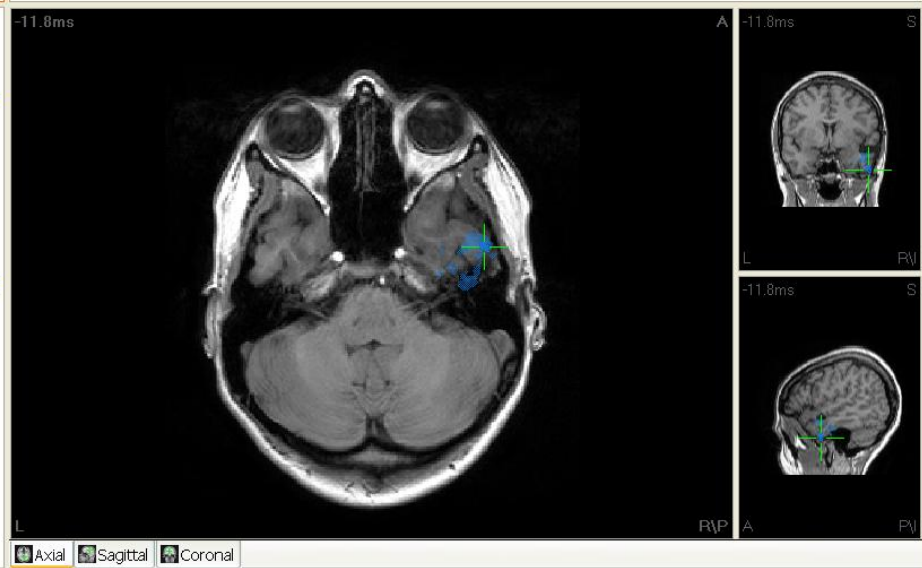
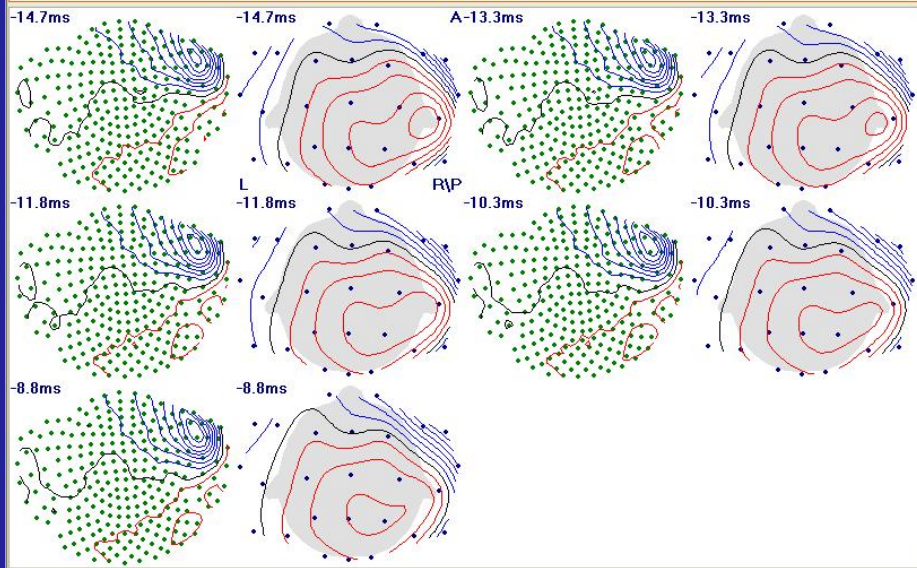
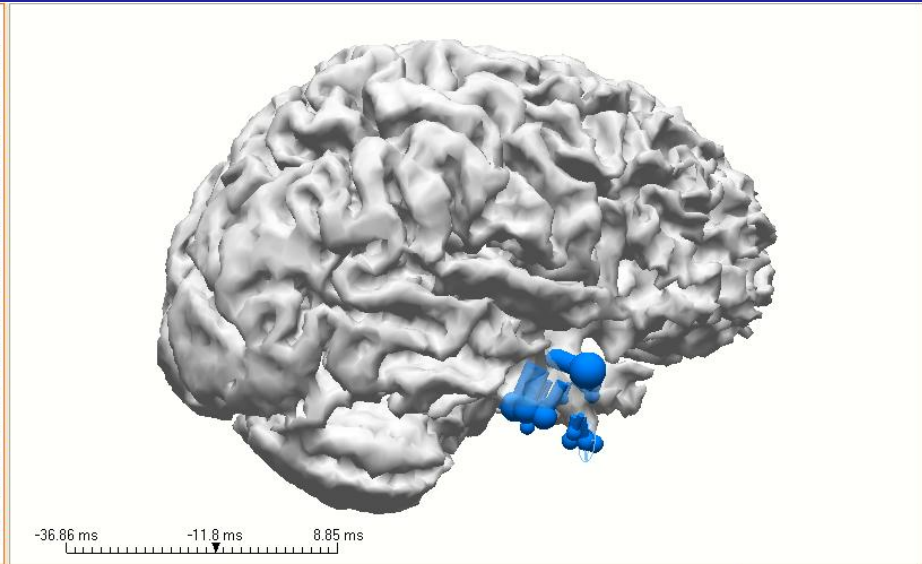
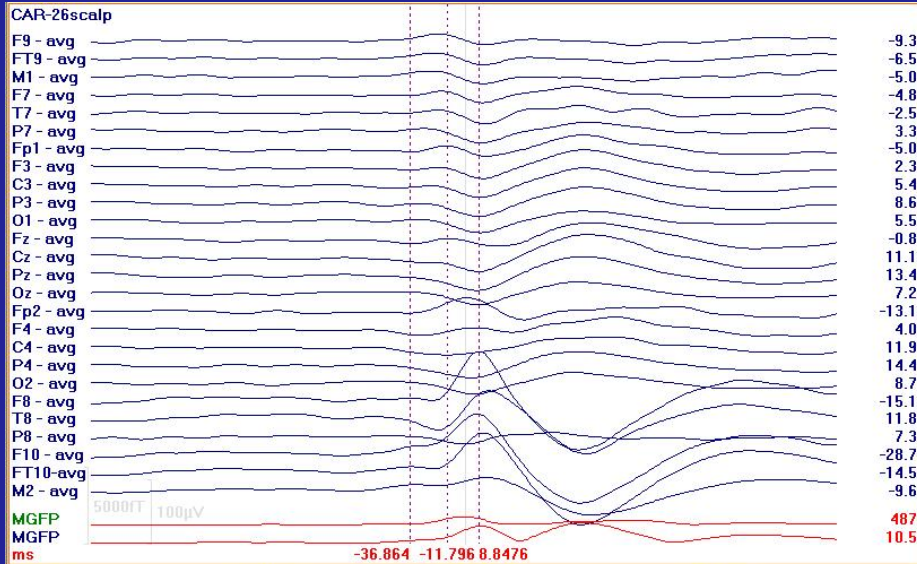








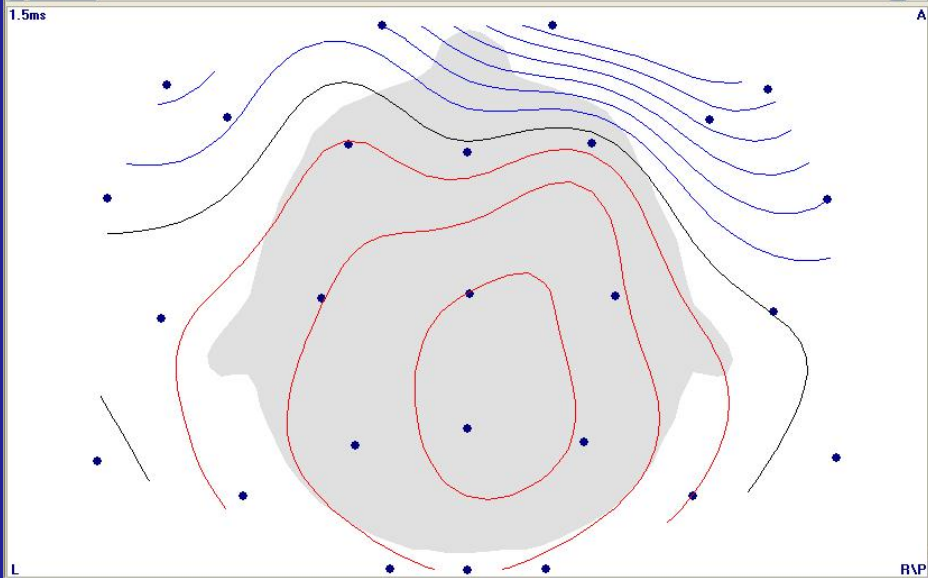
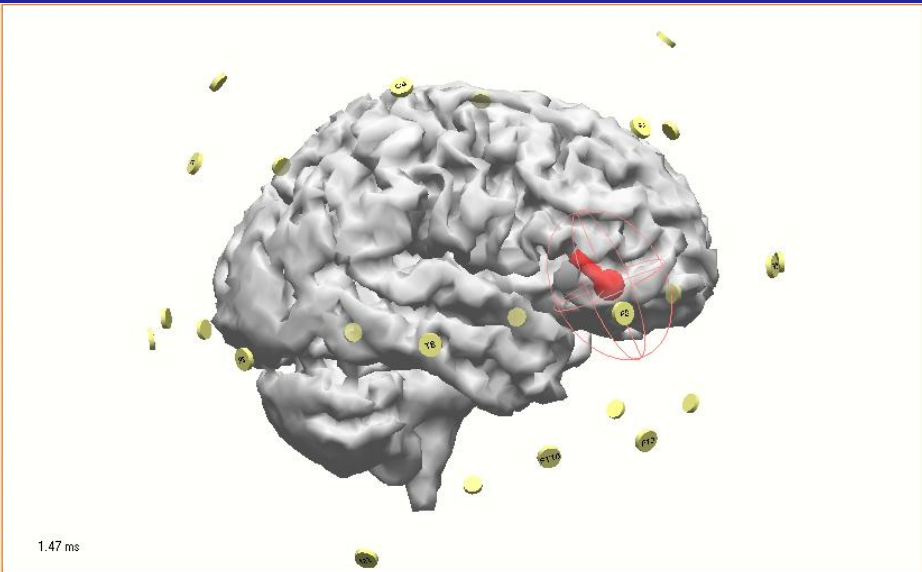
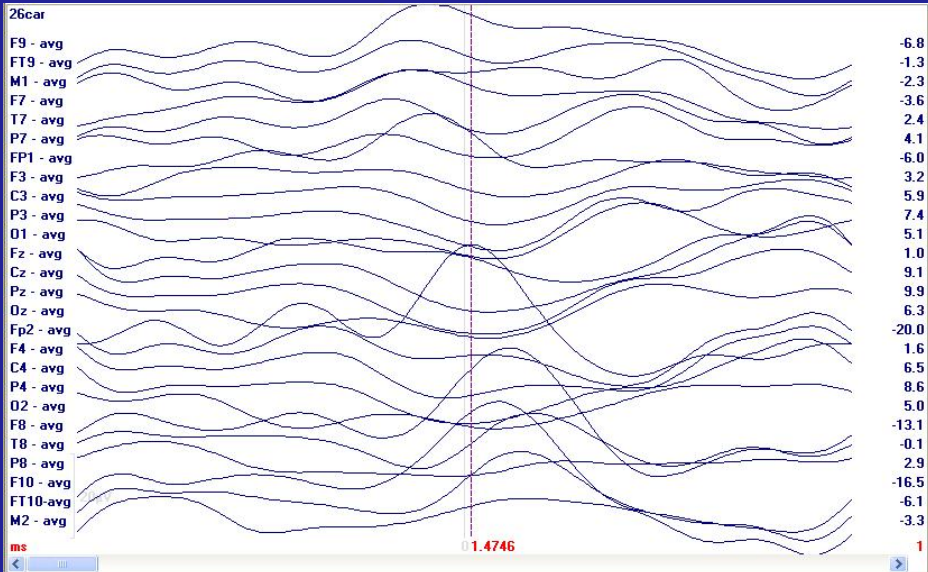


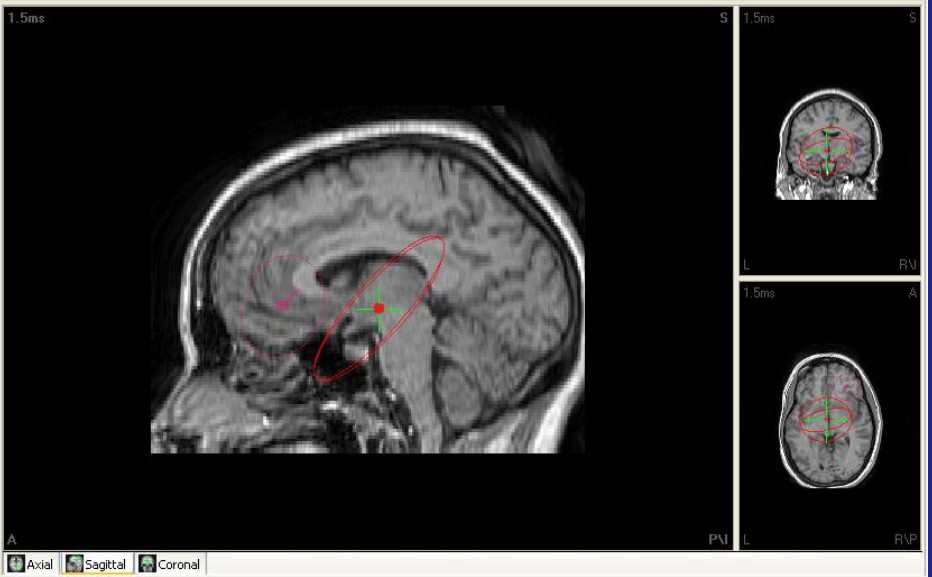
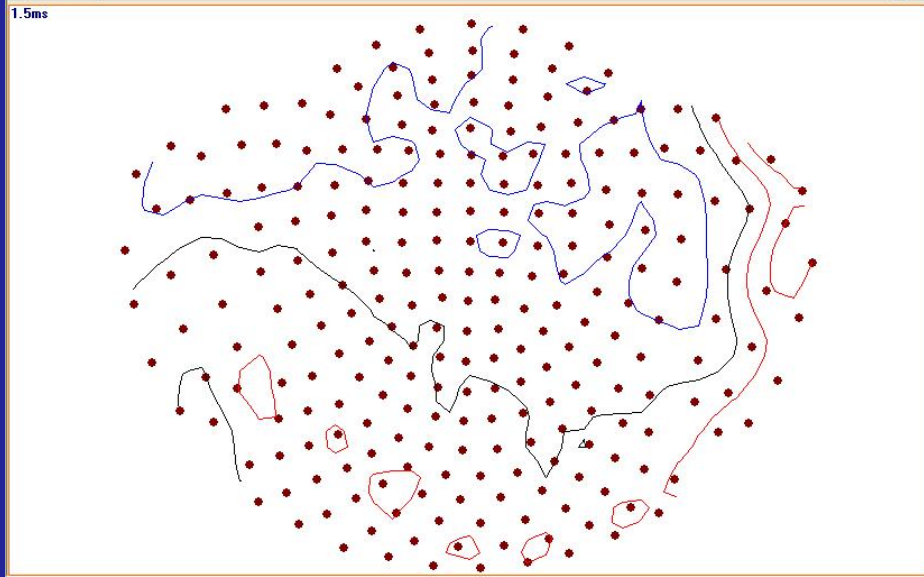
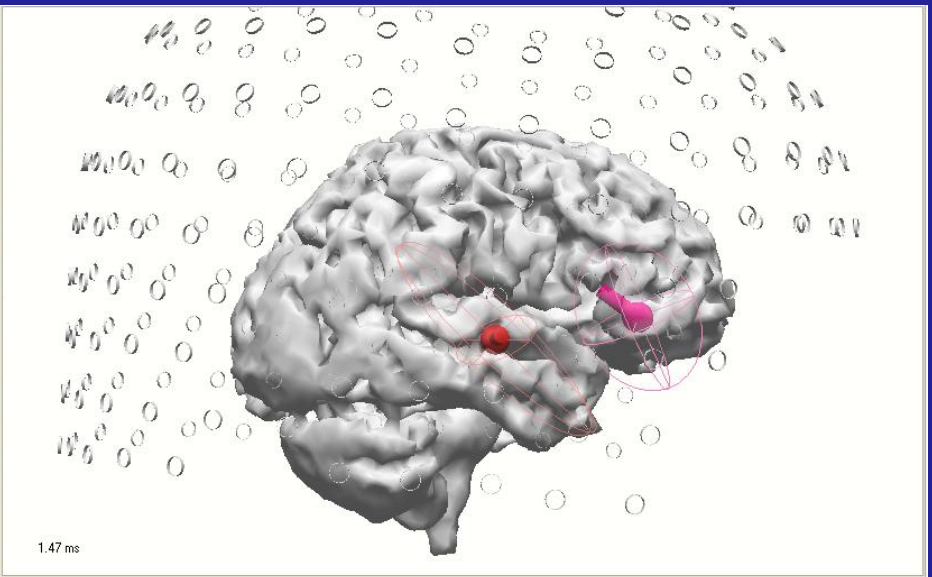
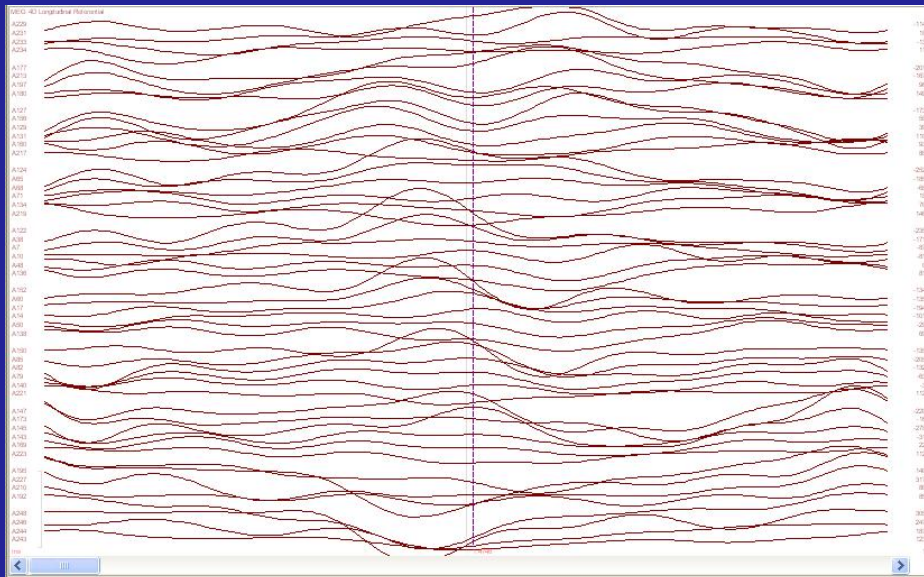


# MEG vs. EEG

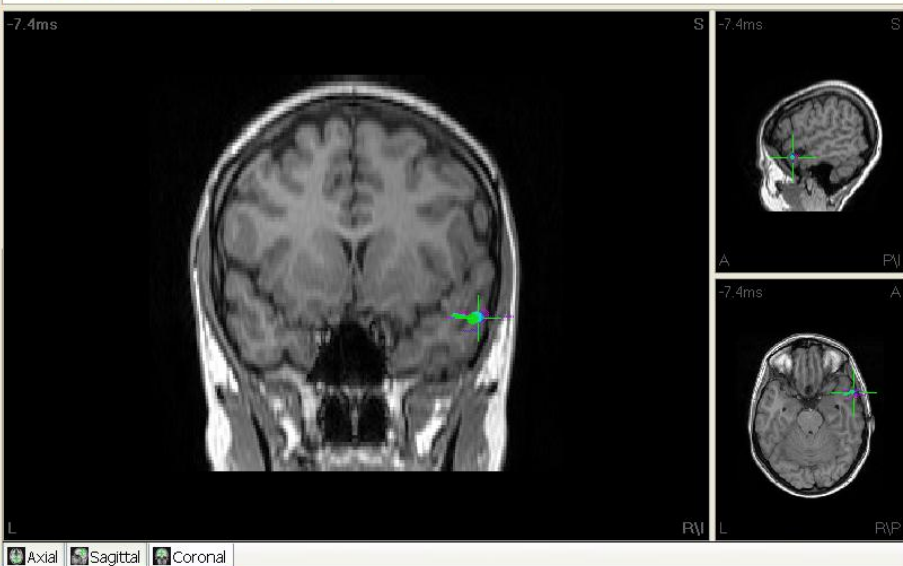
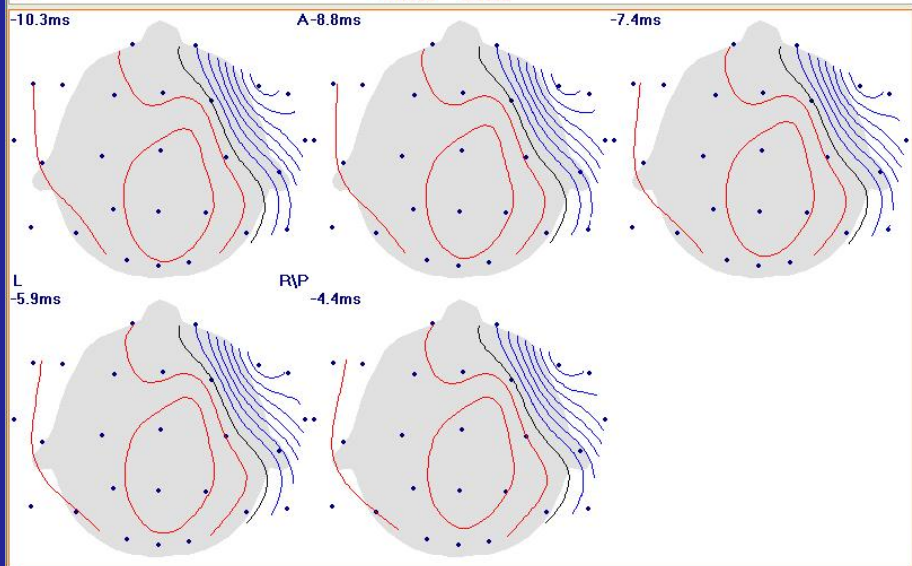
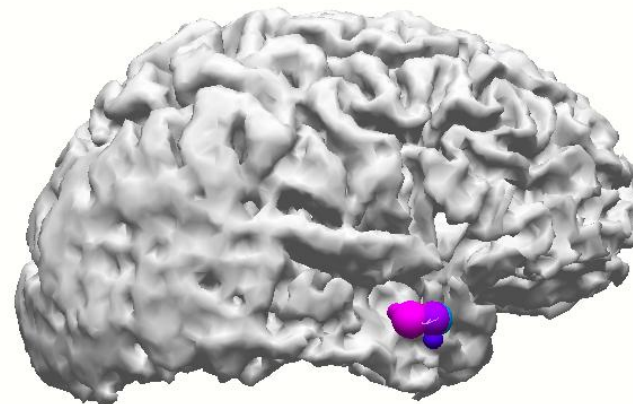
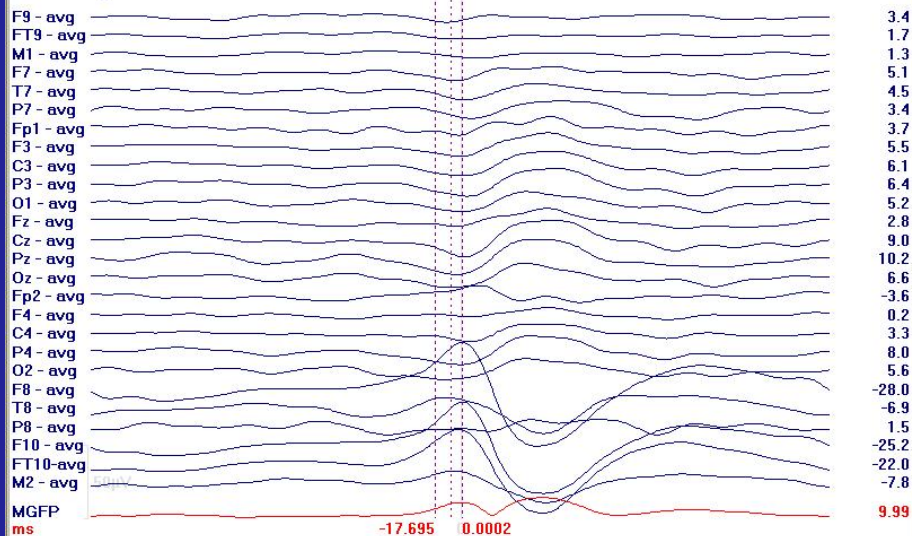
Some patients (10-15%) have EEG spikes,  
but no accompanying MEG spikes

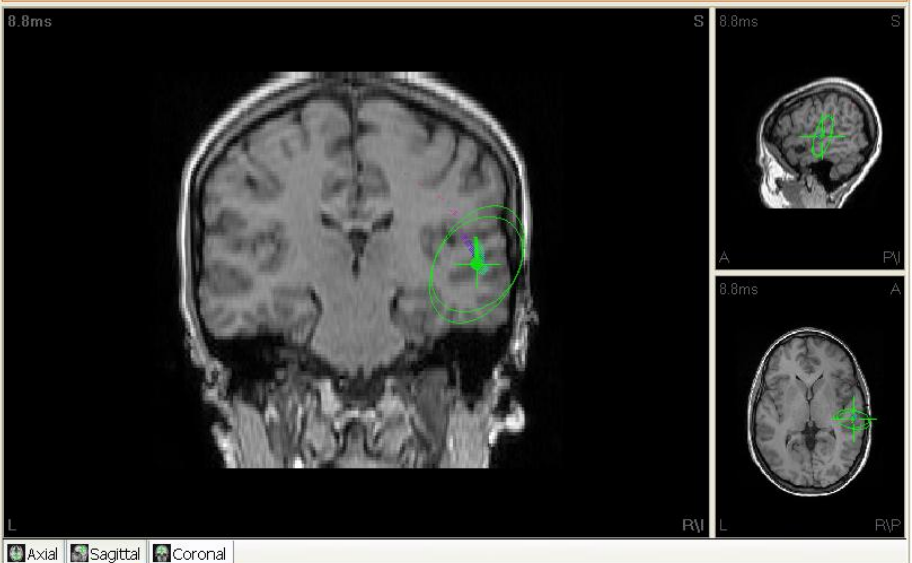
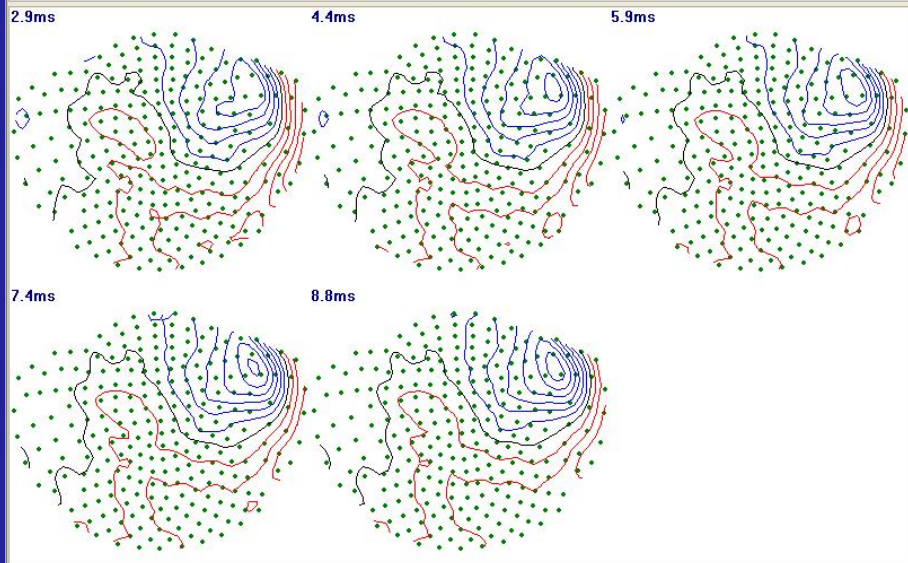
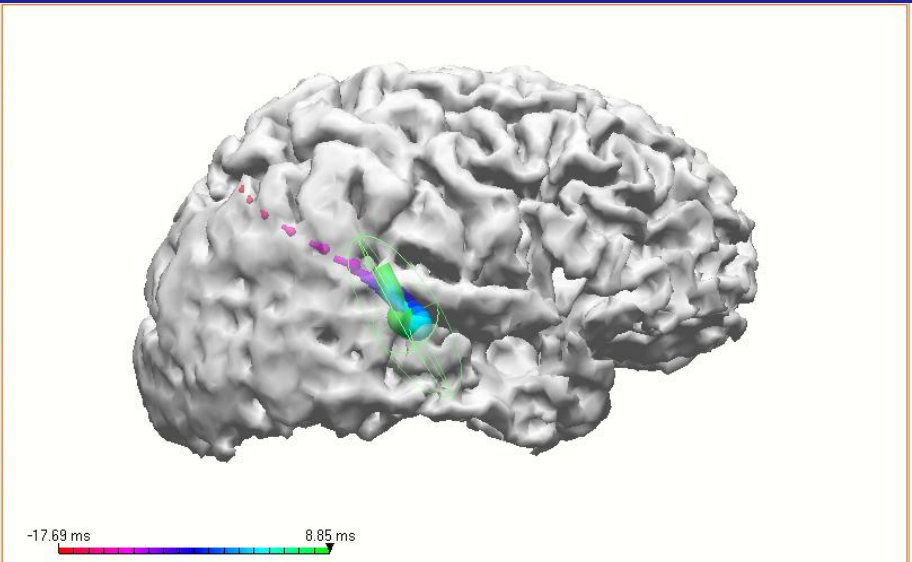
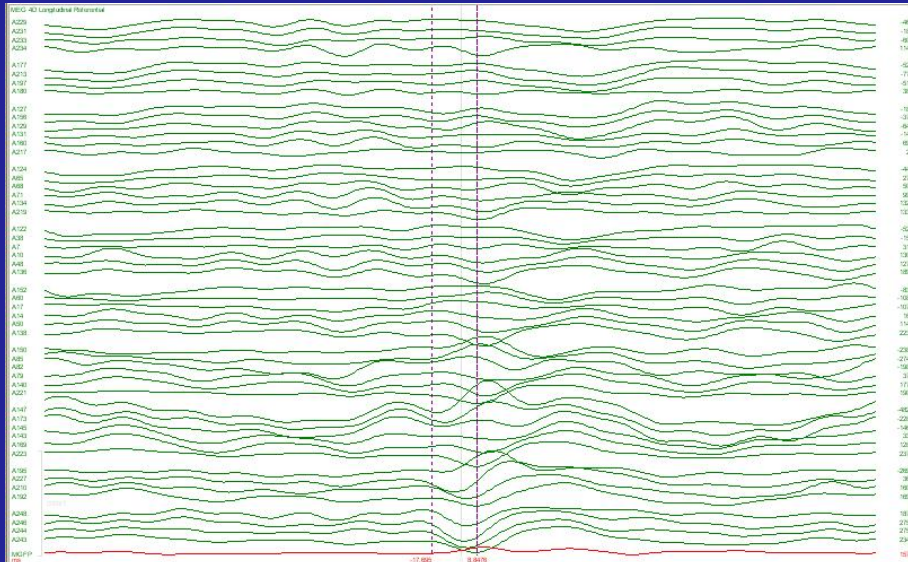
Usually these EEG spikes are purely radial, but  
not always





CAR-26scalp



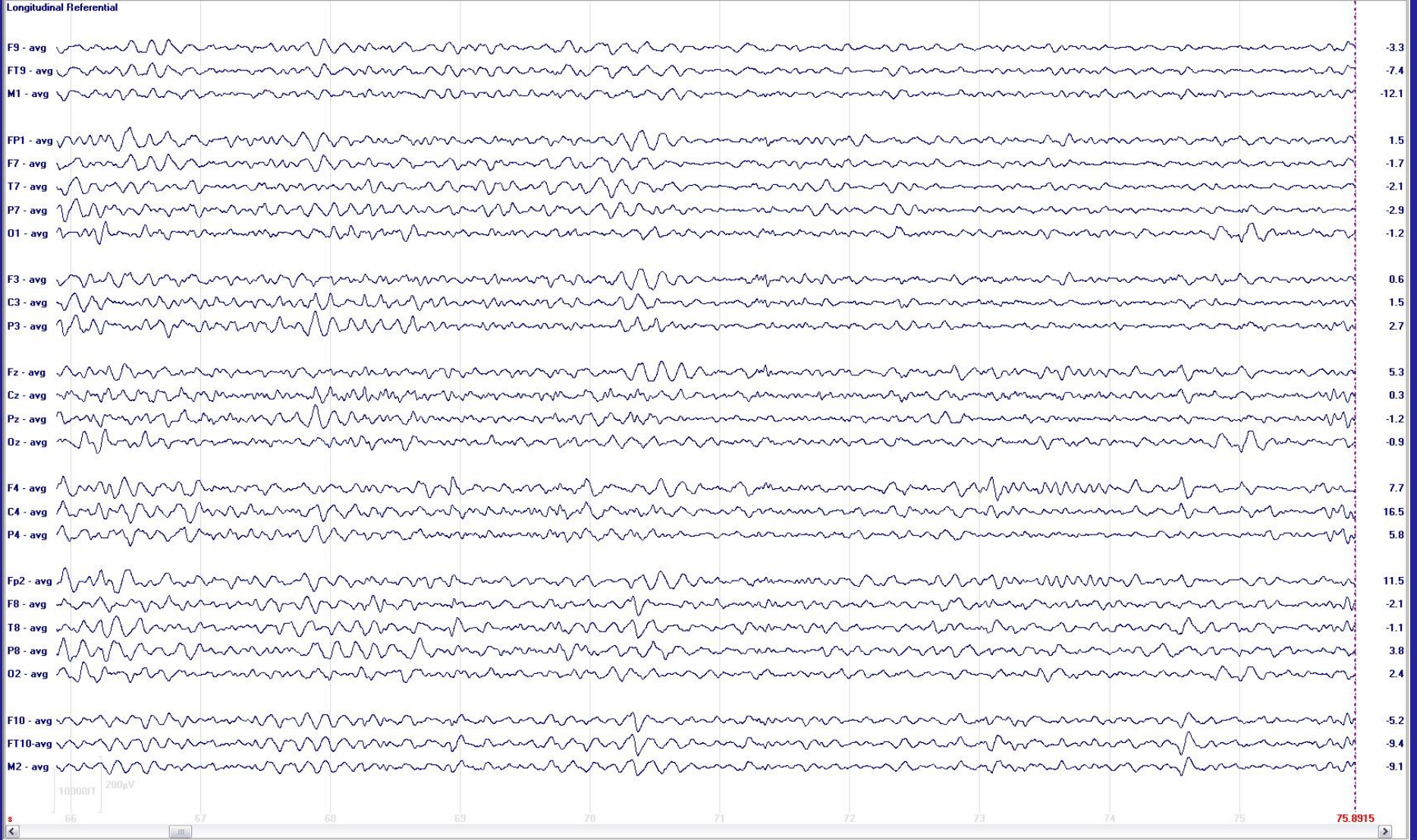


# MEG vs. EEG

A few patients (<10%) have MEG spikes,  
but no accompanying EEG spikes

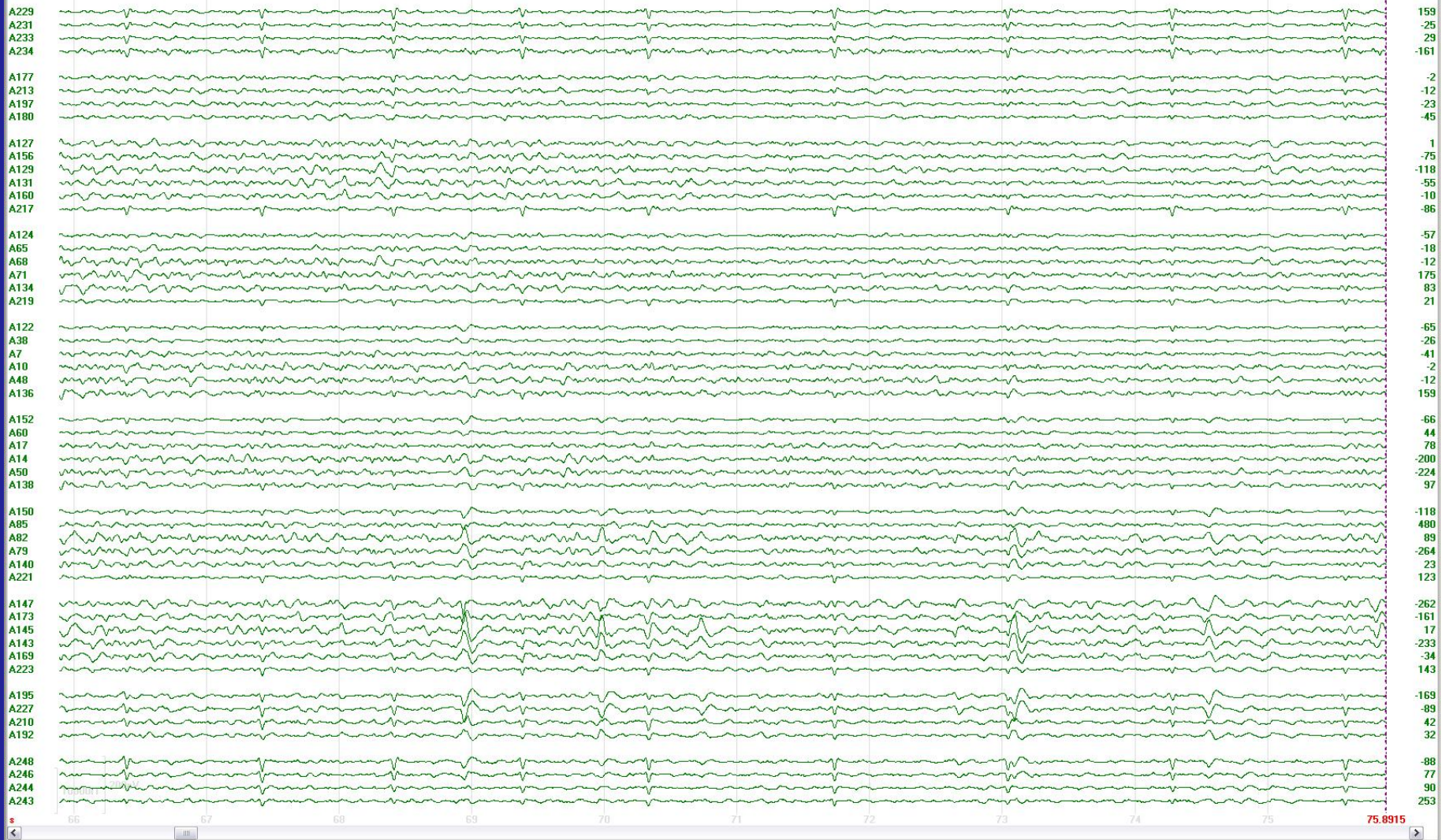
Some appear to be “benign variants”

Mid-posterior, superior, vertical temporal  
dipoles, in particular, may be benign

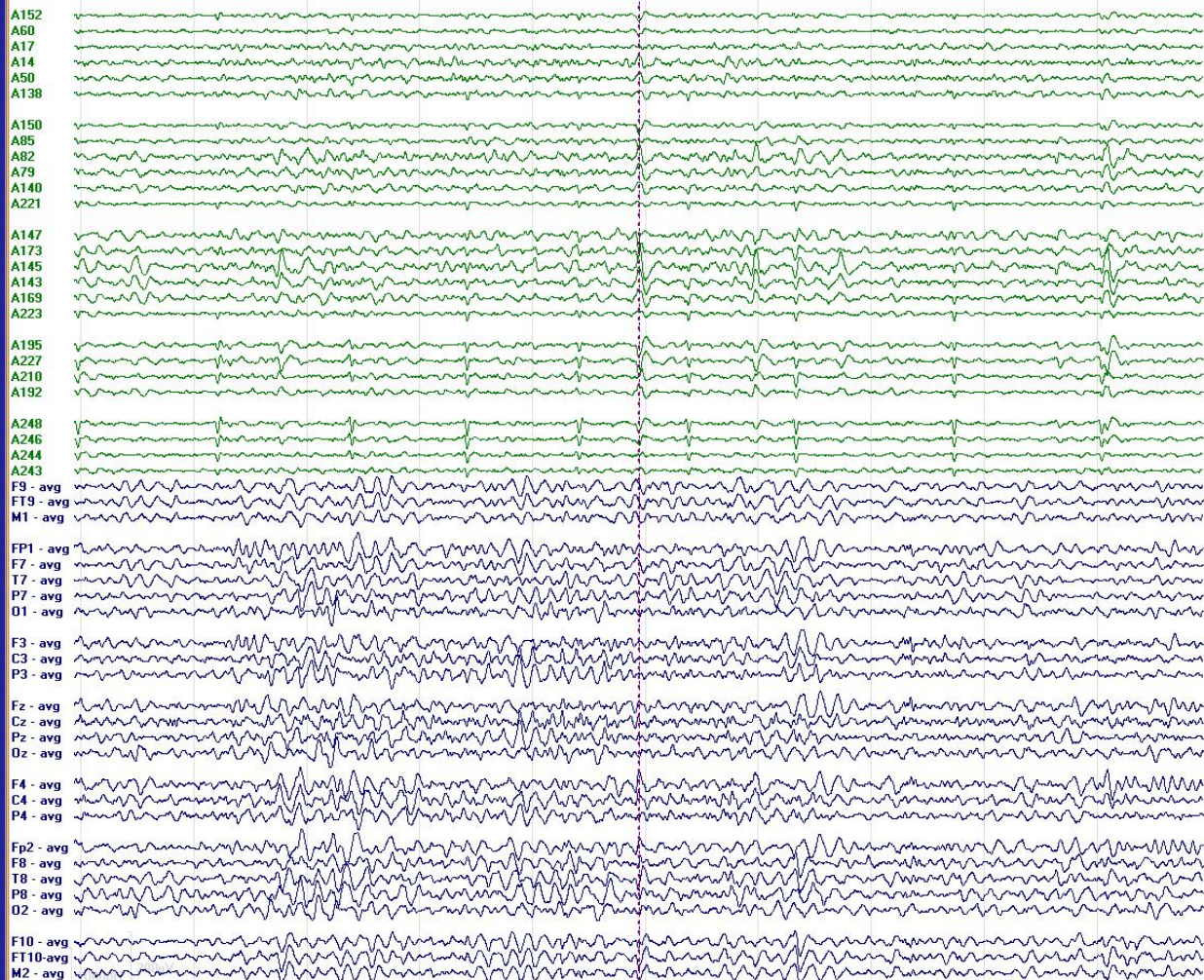




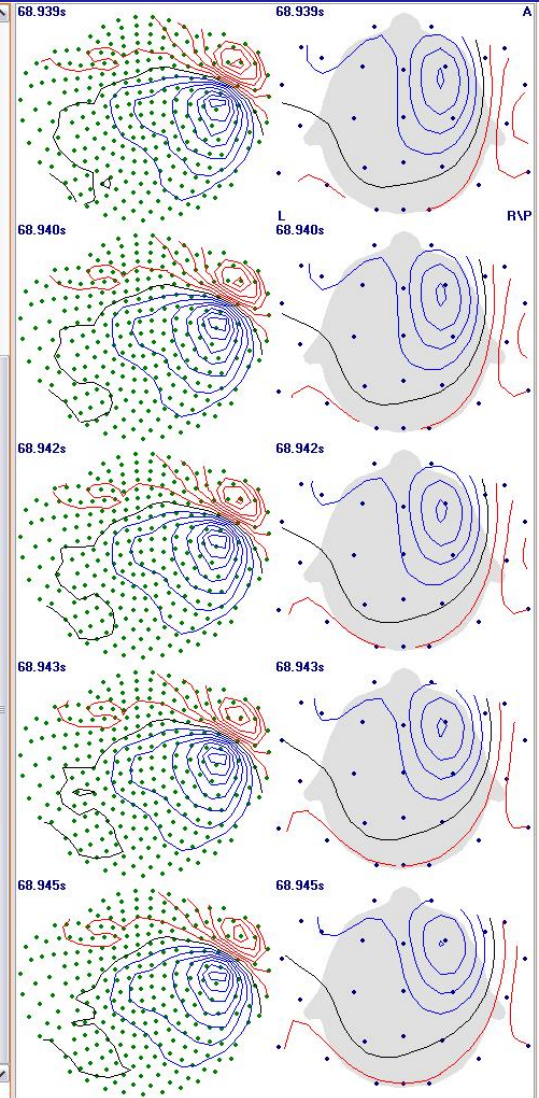
MEG 4D Longitudinal Referential

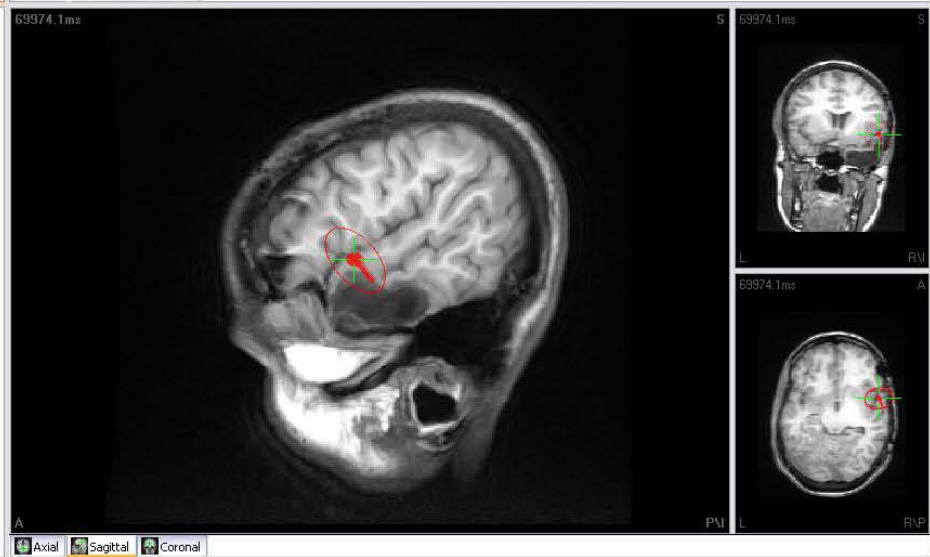
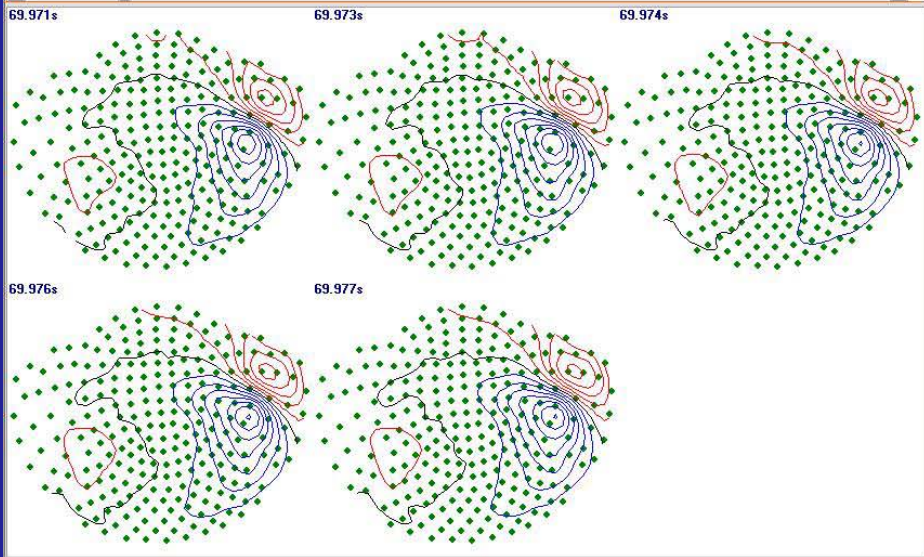
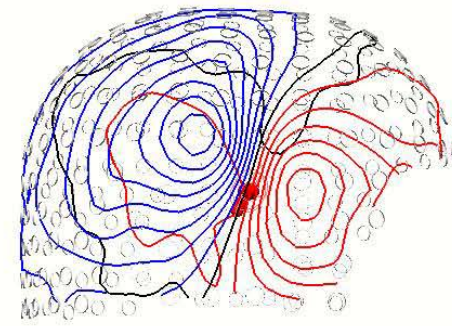
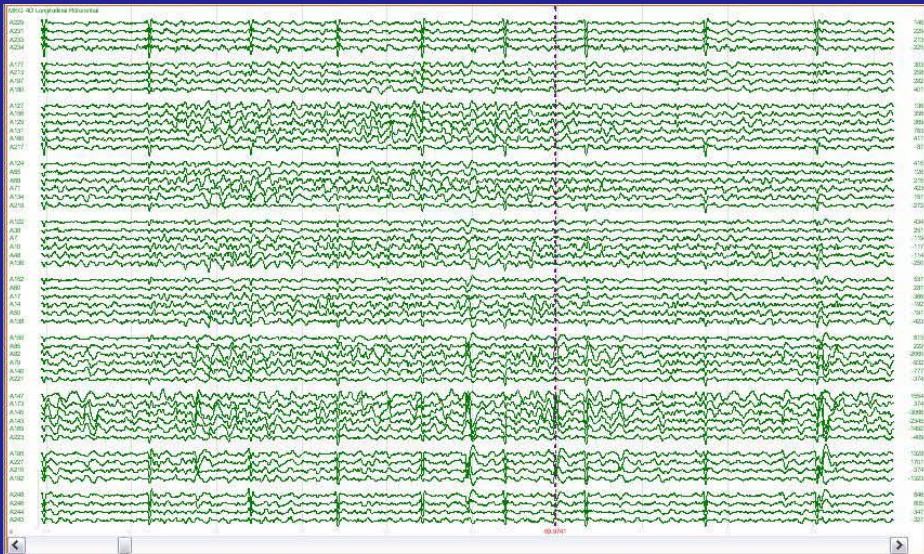


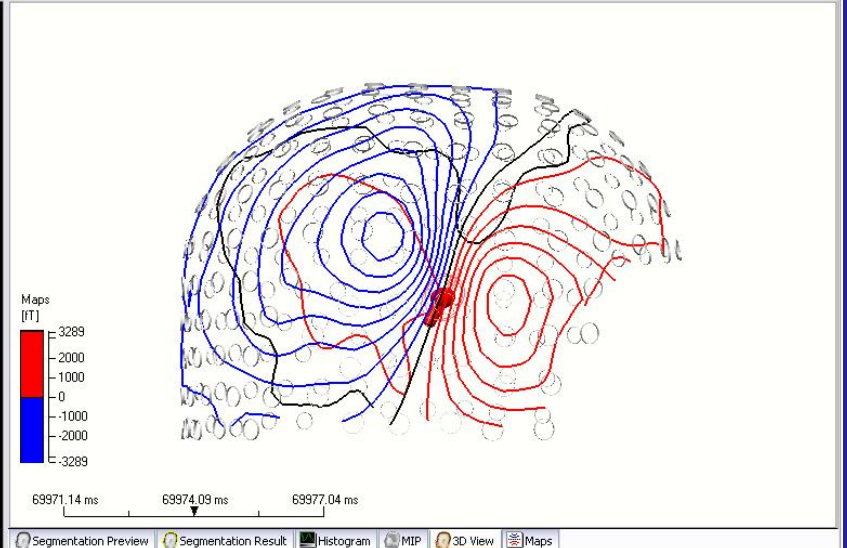
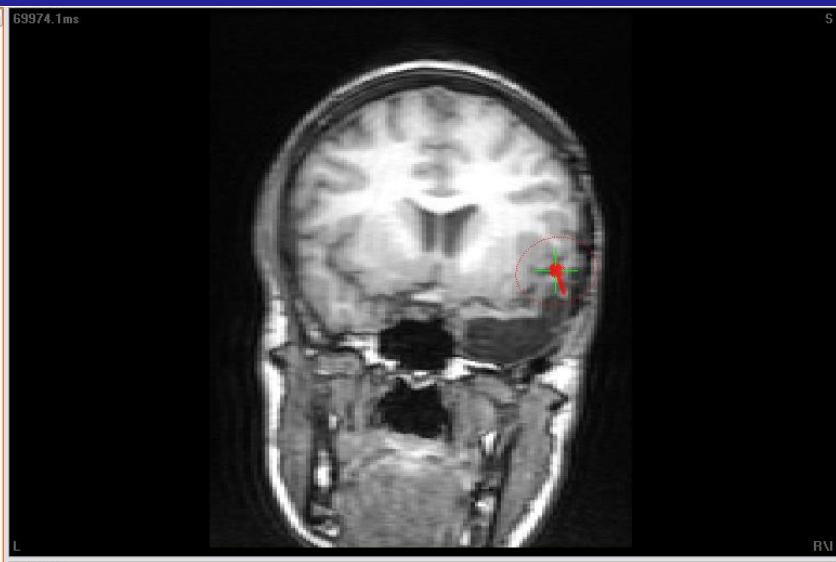
MEG 4D Longitudinal Referential

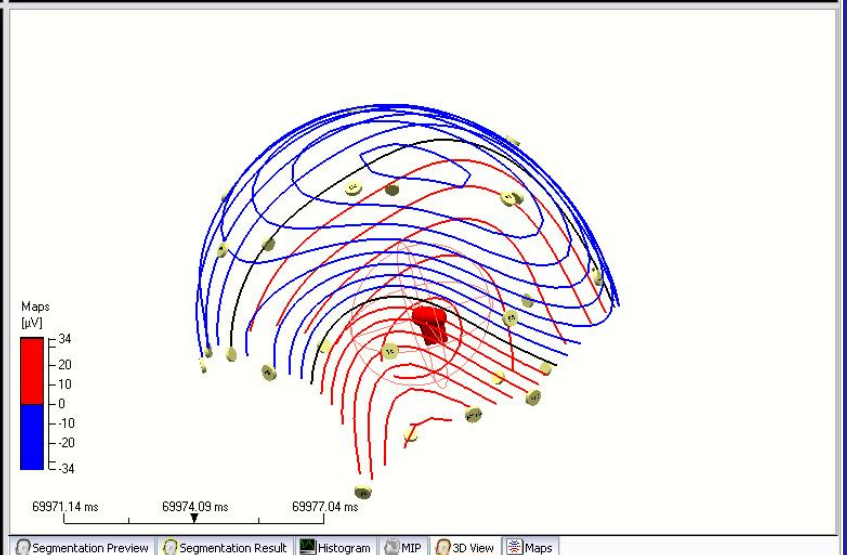
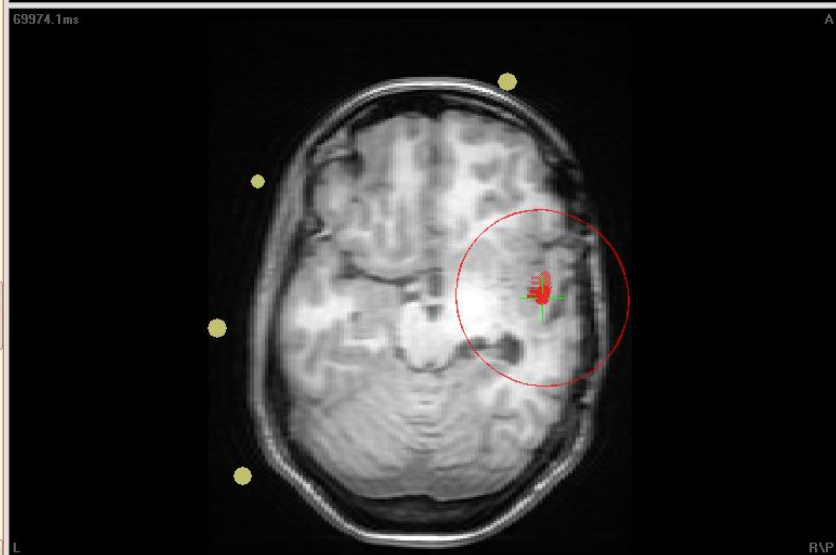
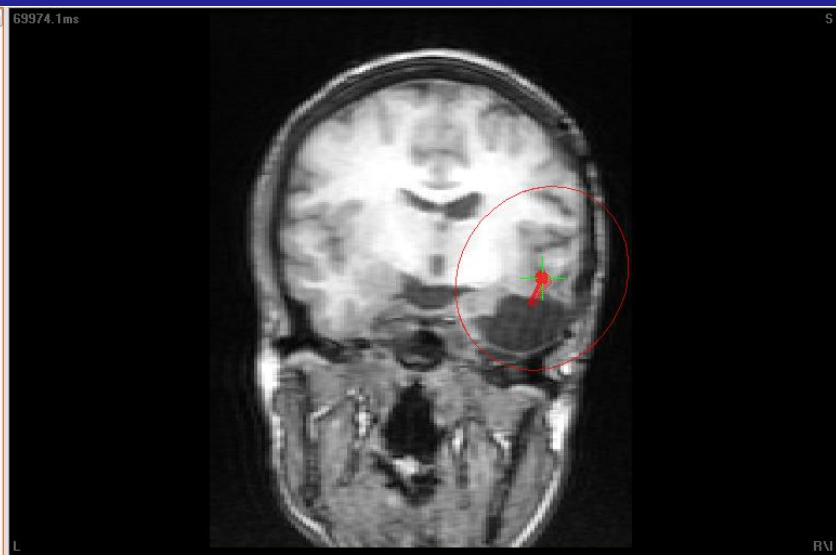
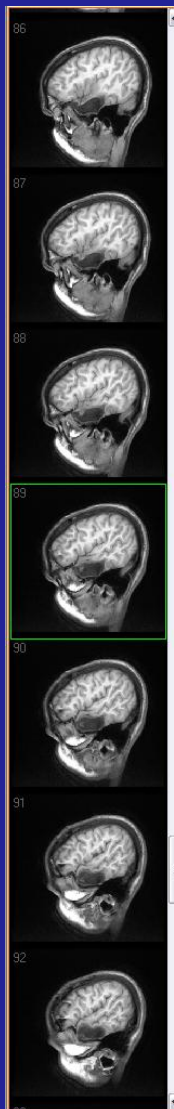


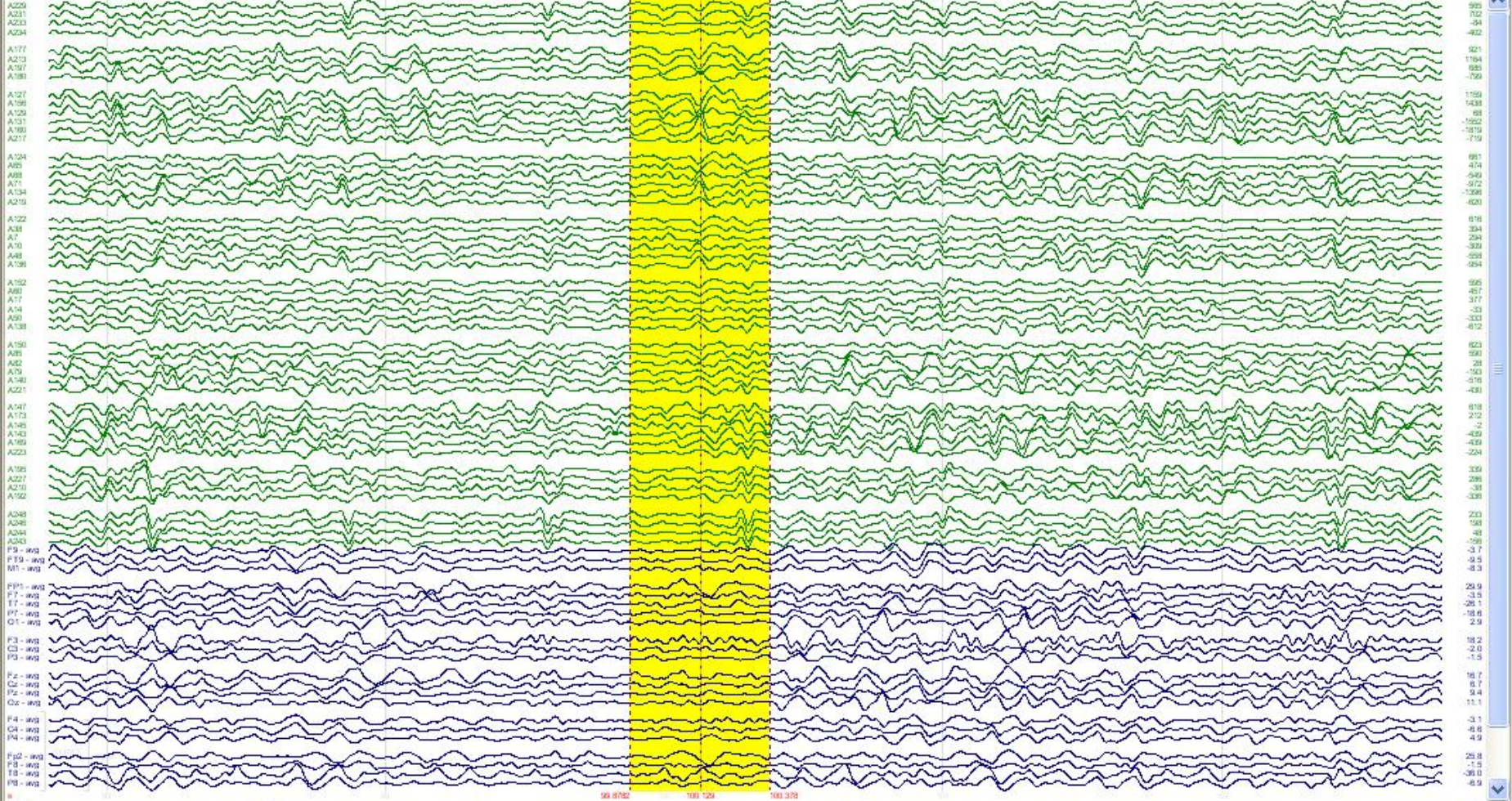
s 64 65 66 67 68 68.9419 70 71 72 73



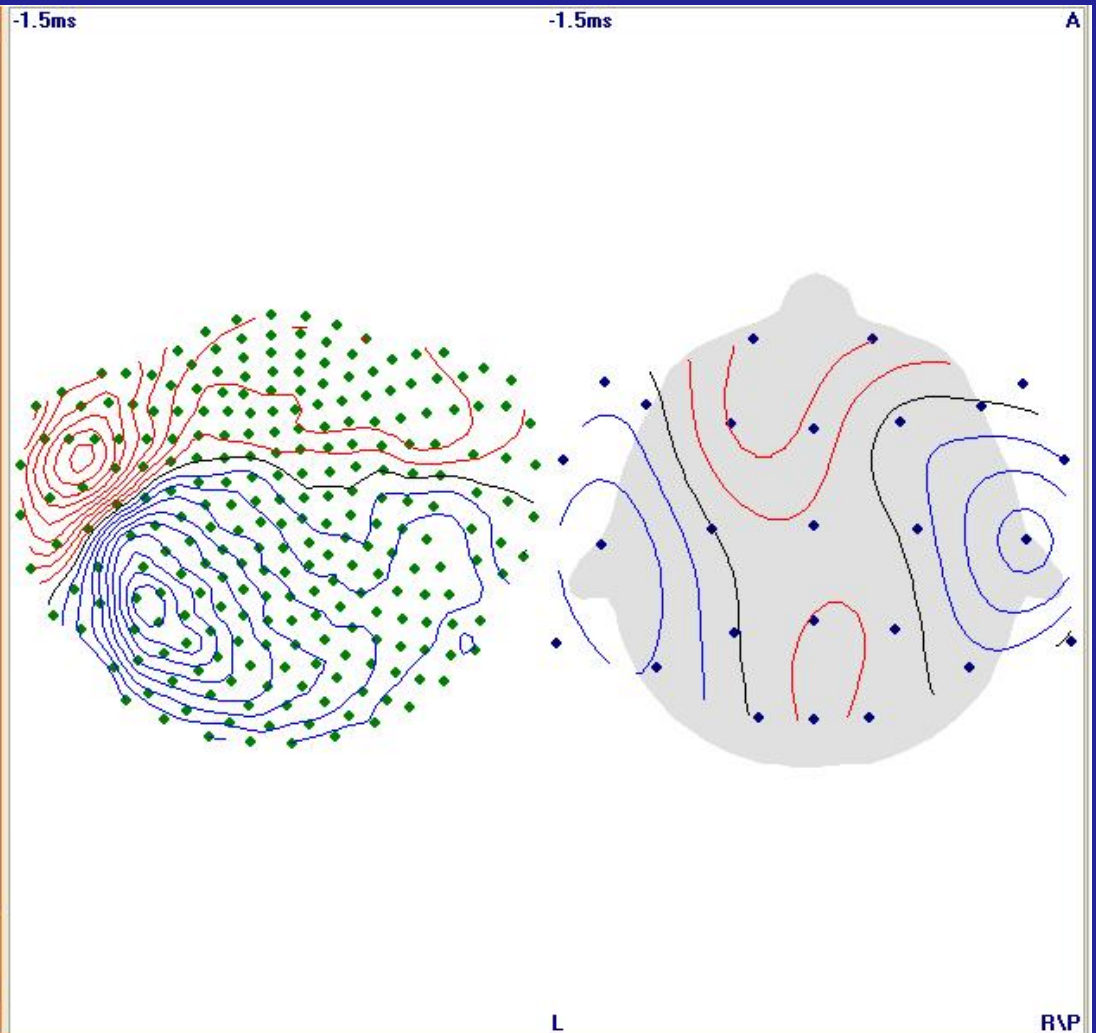
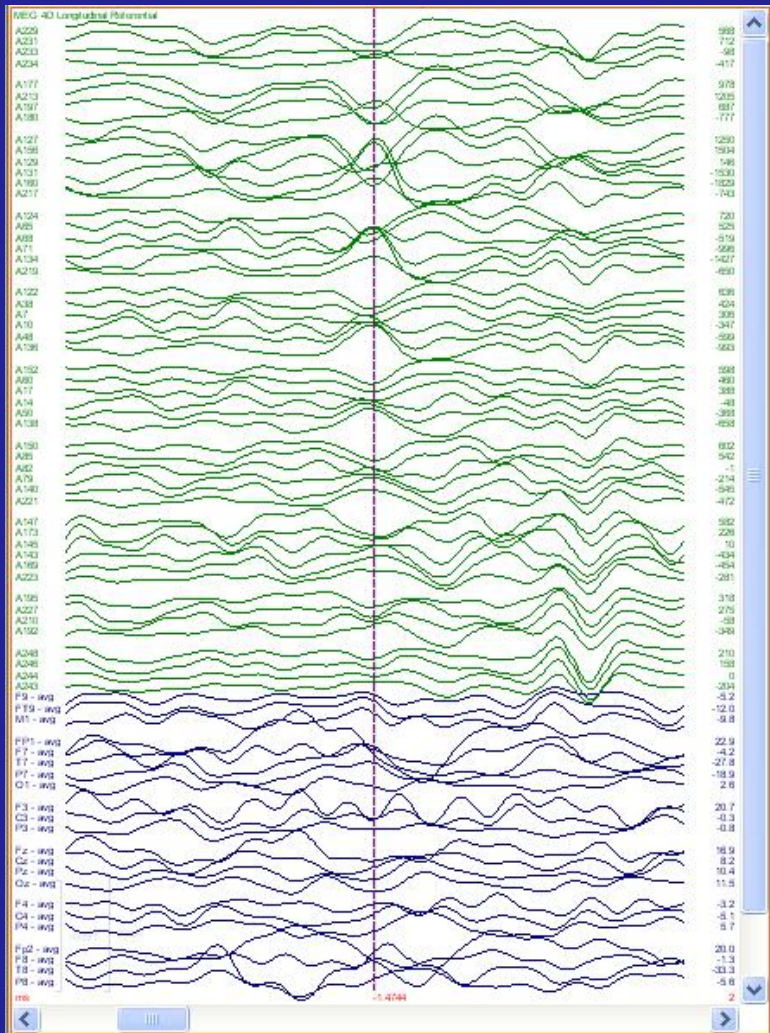


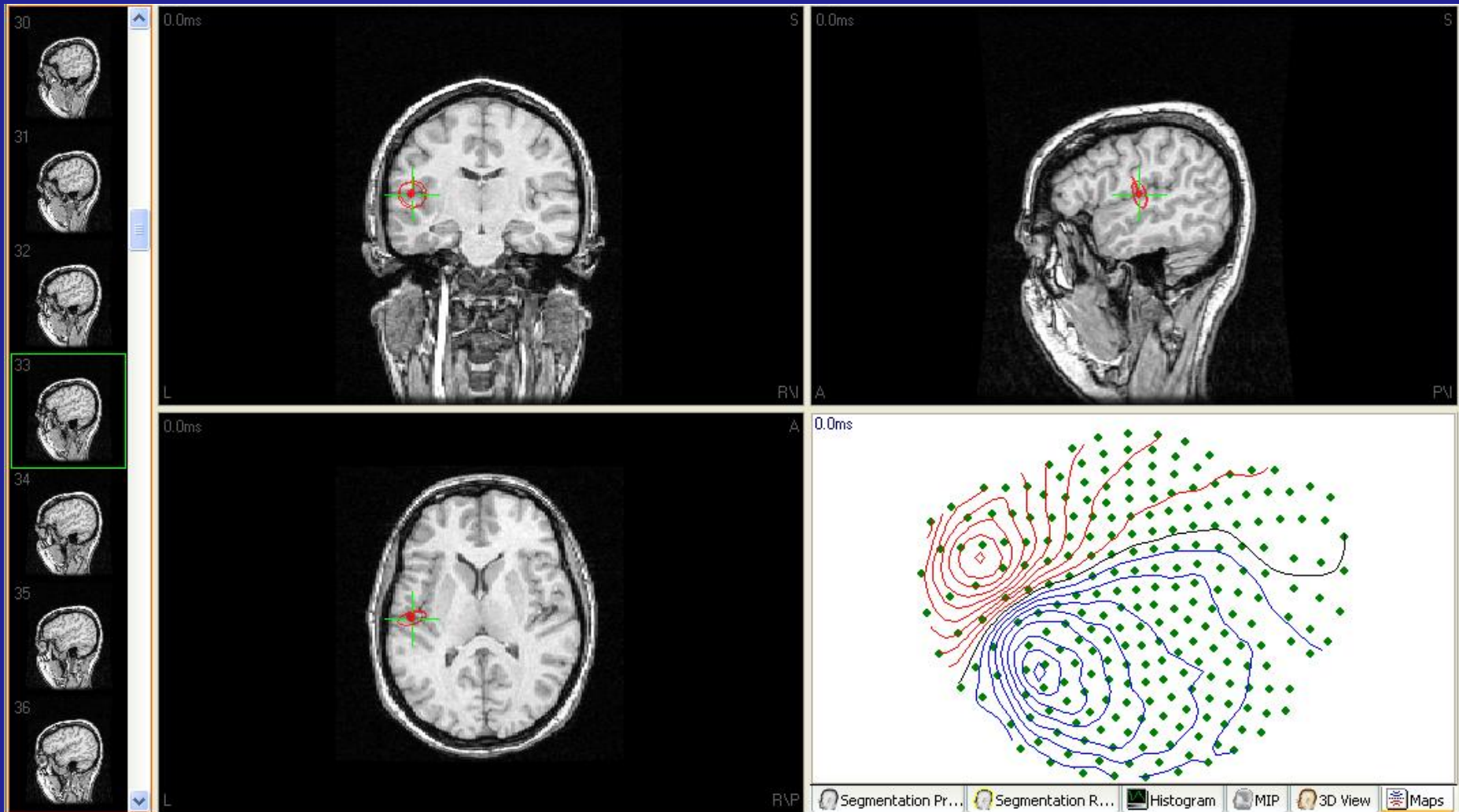




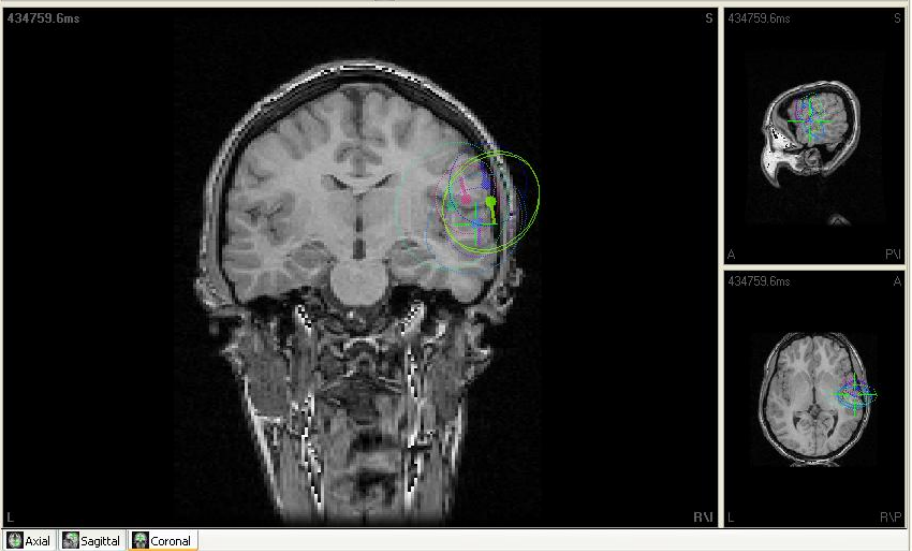
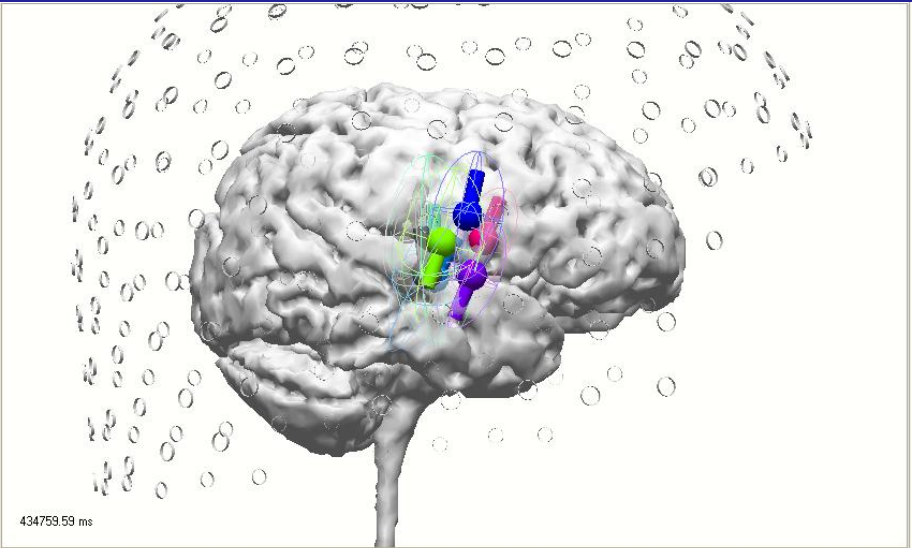
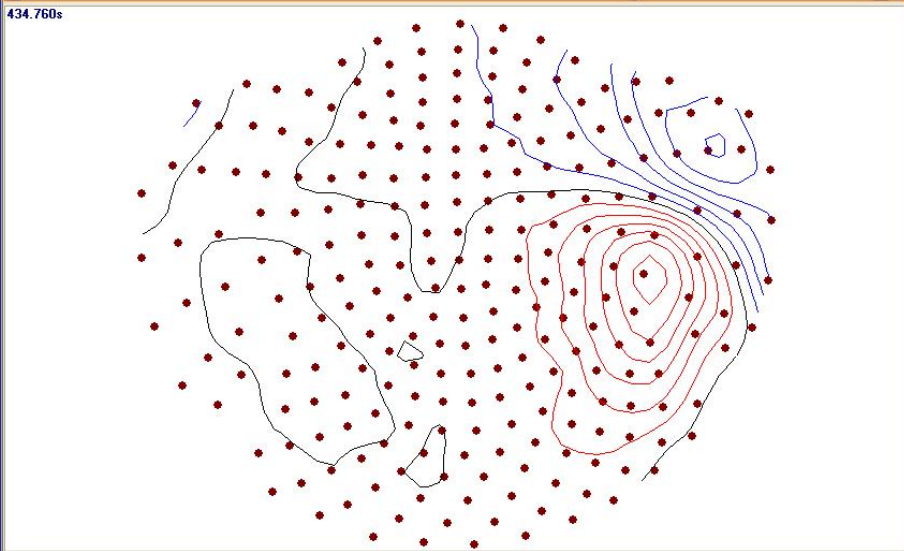
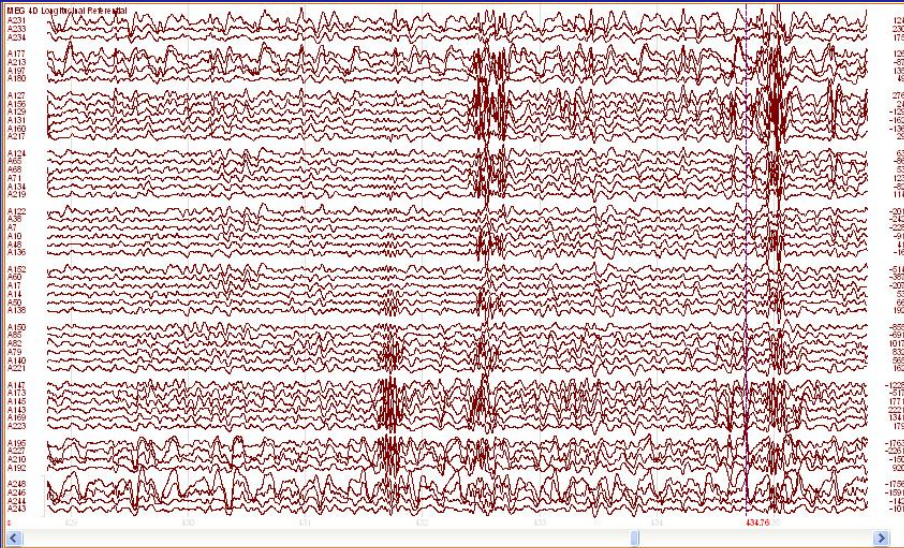


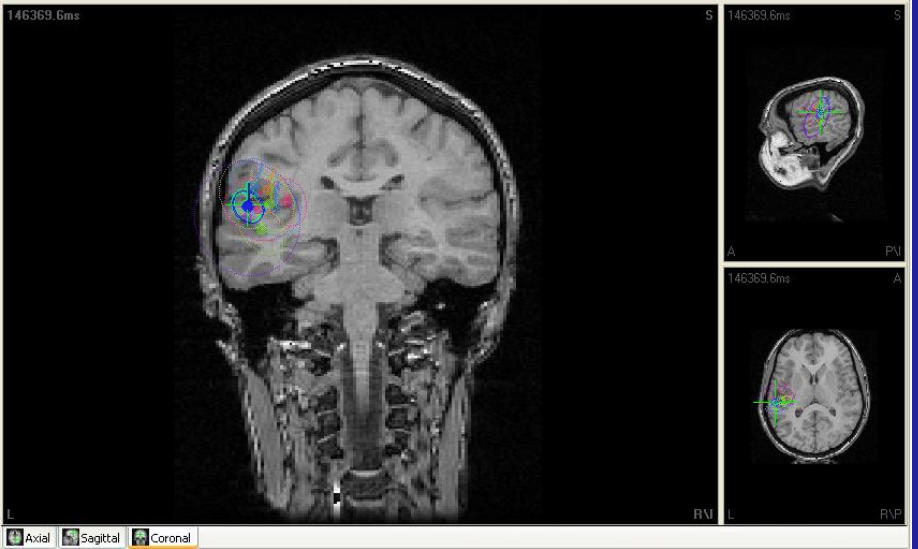
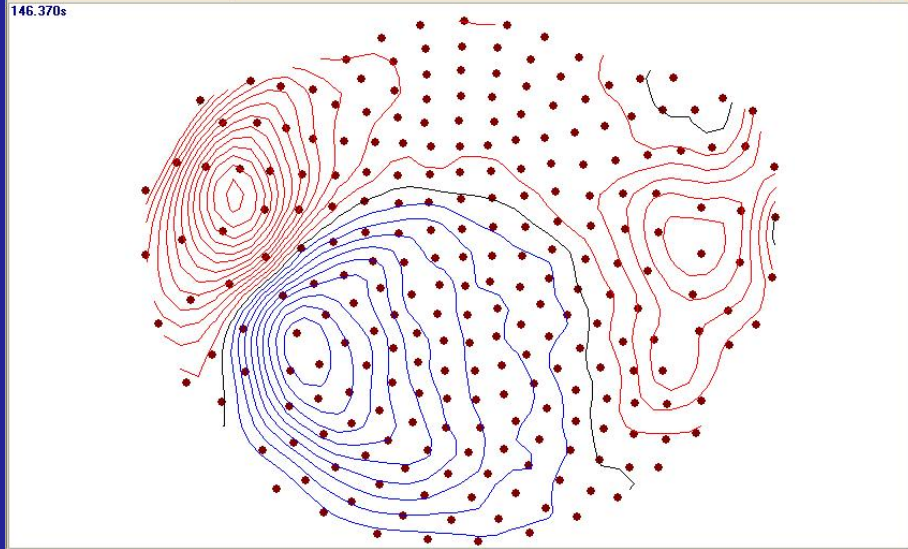
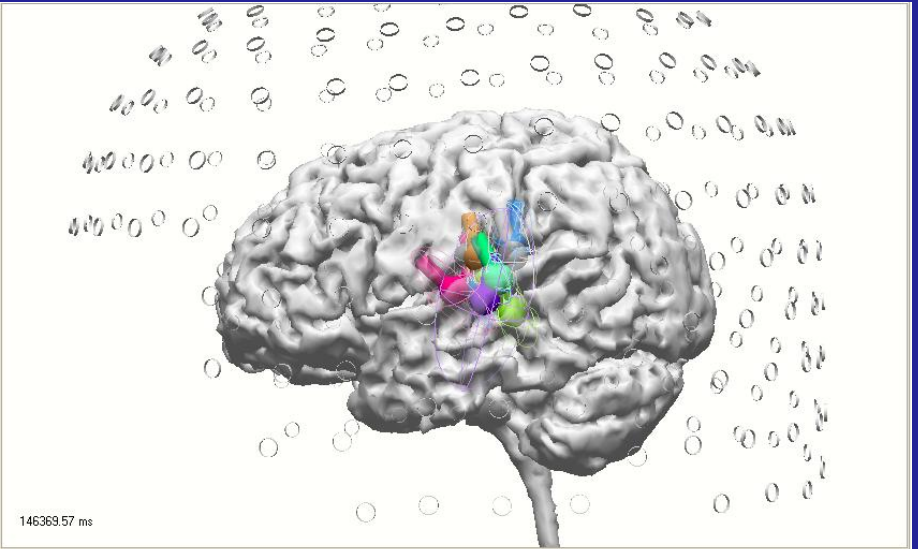
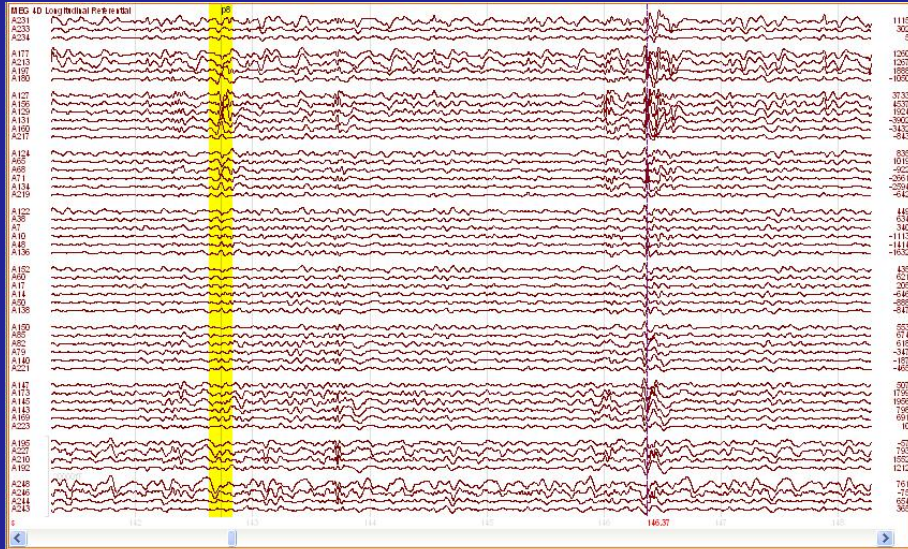
100 8752 100 129 100 319

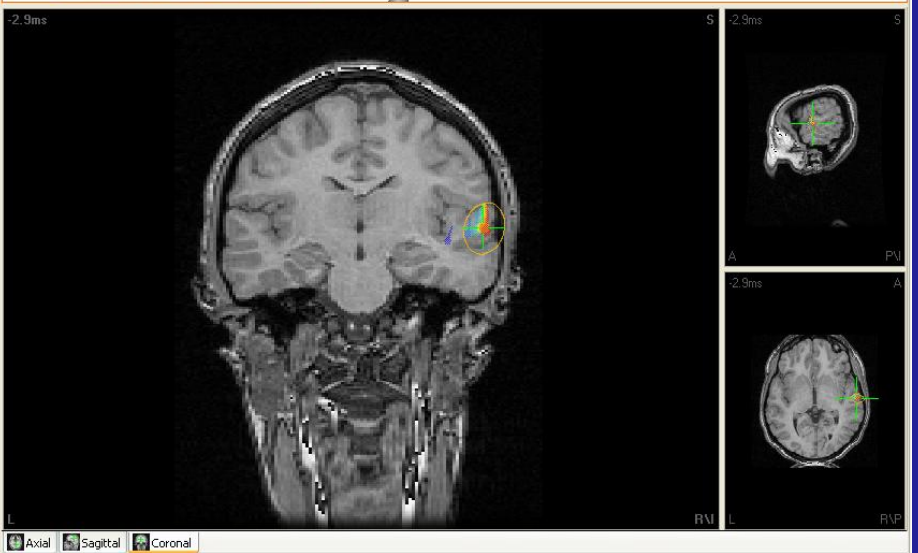
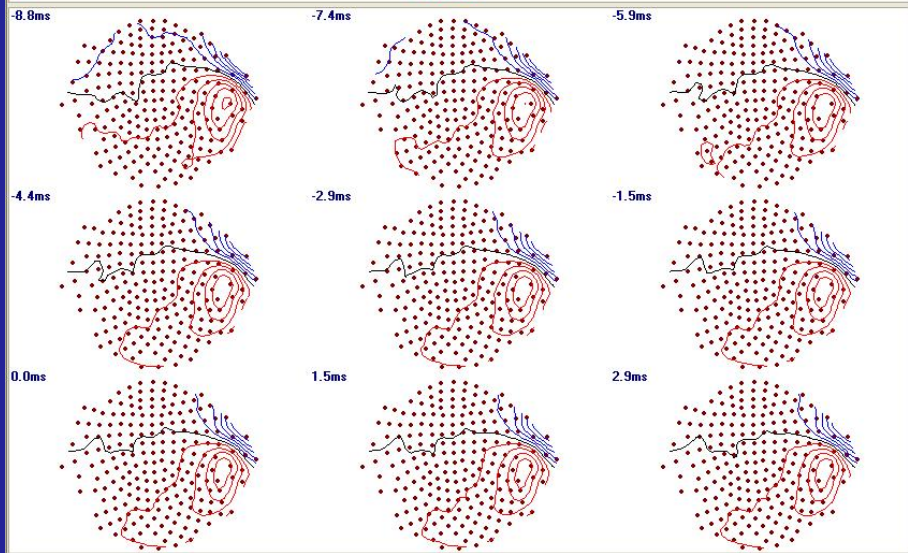
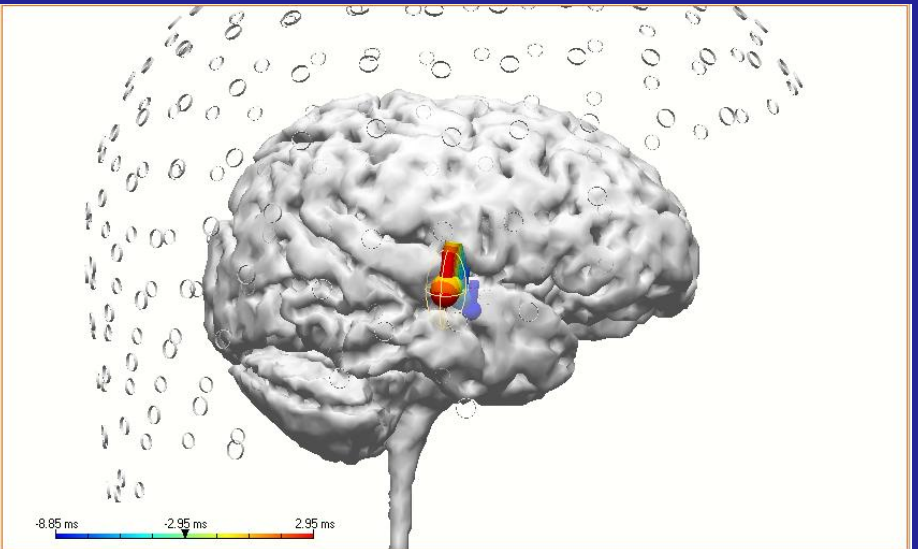
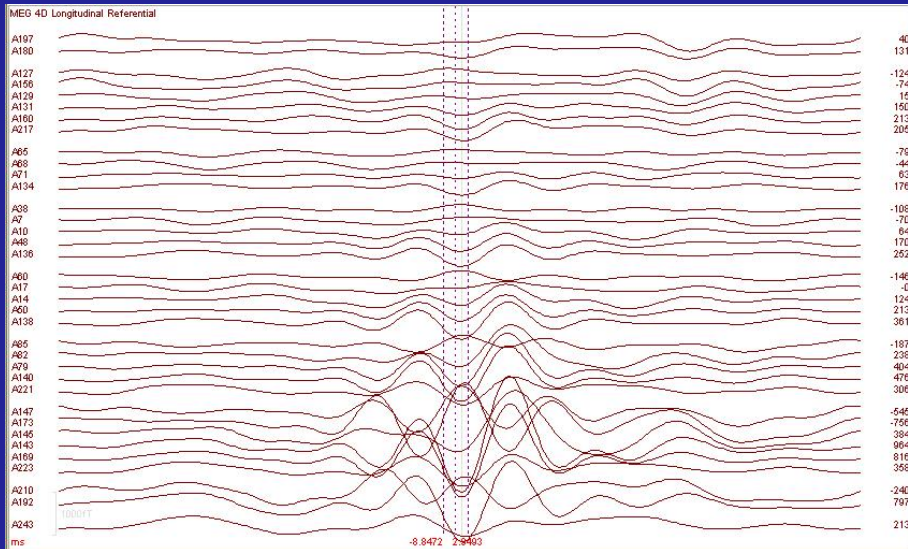




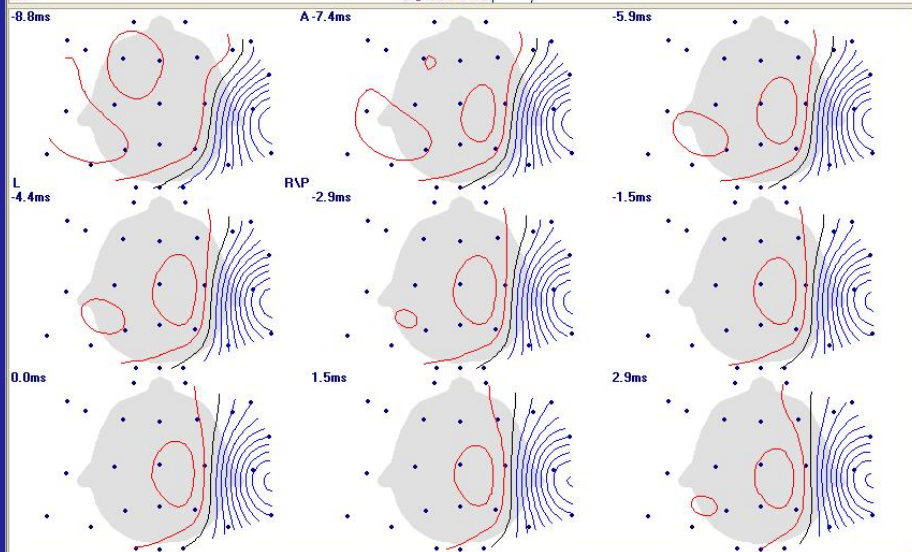
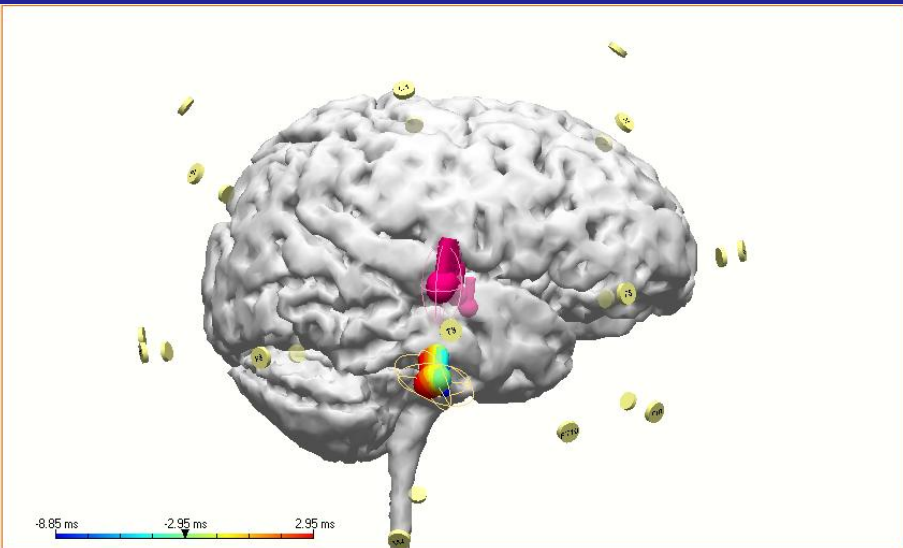
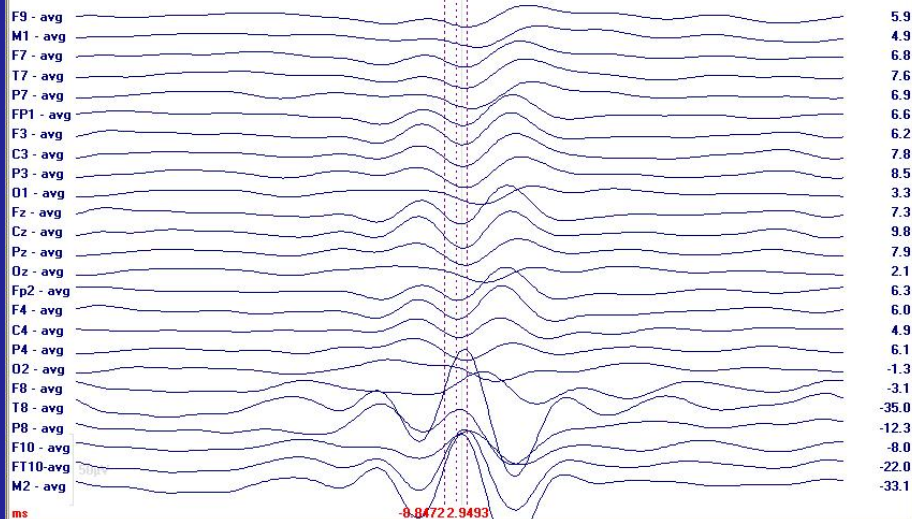








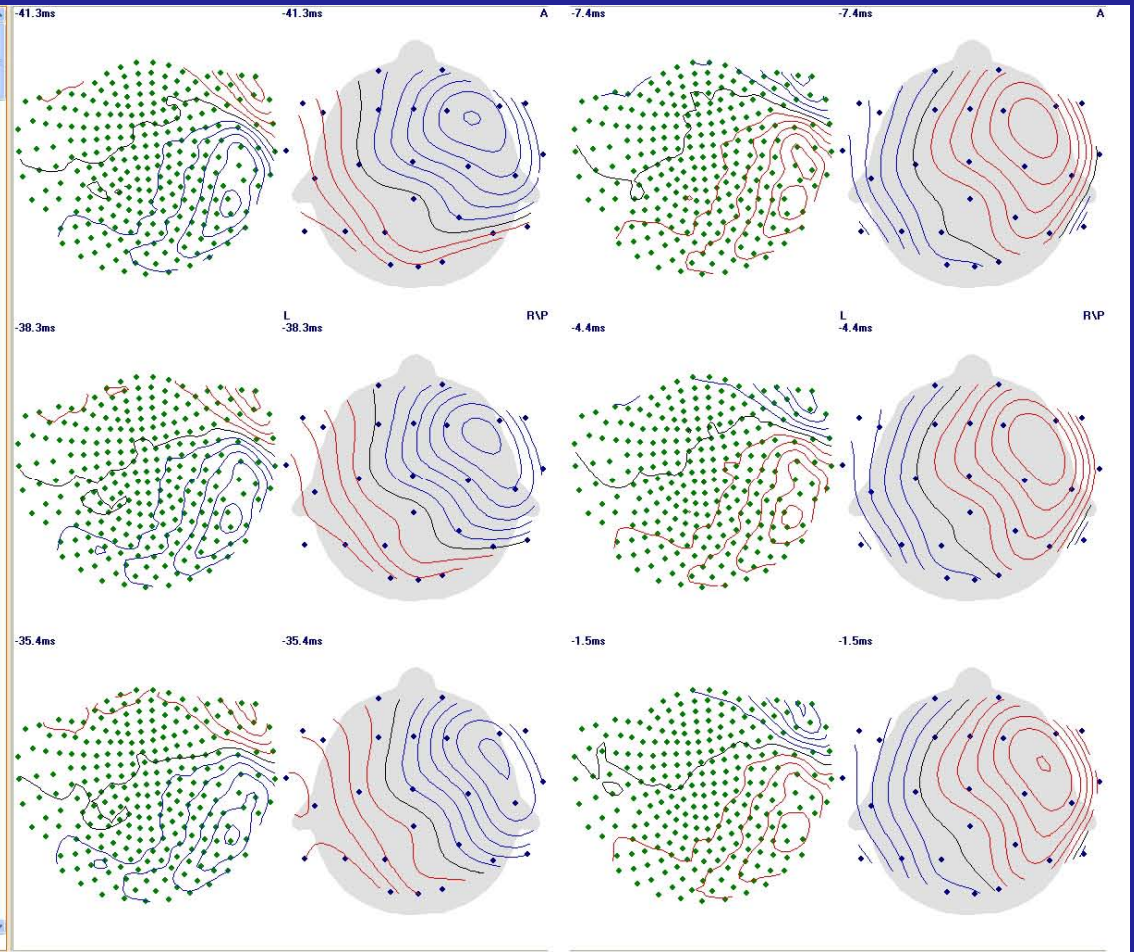
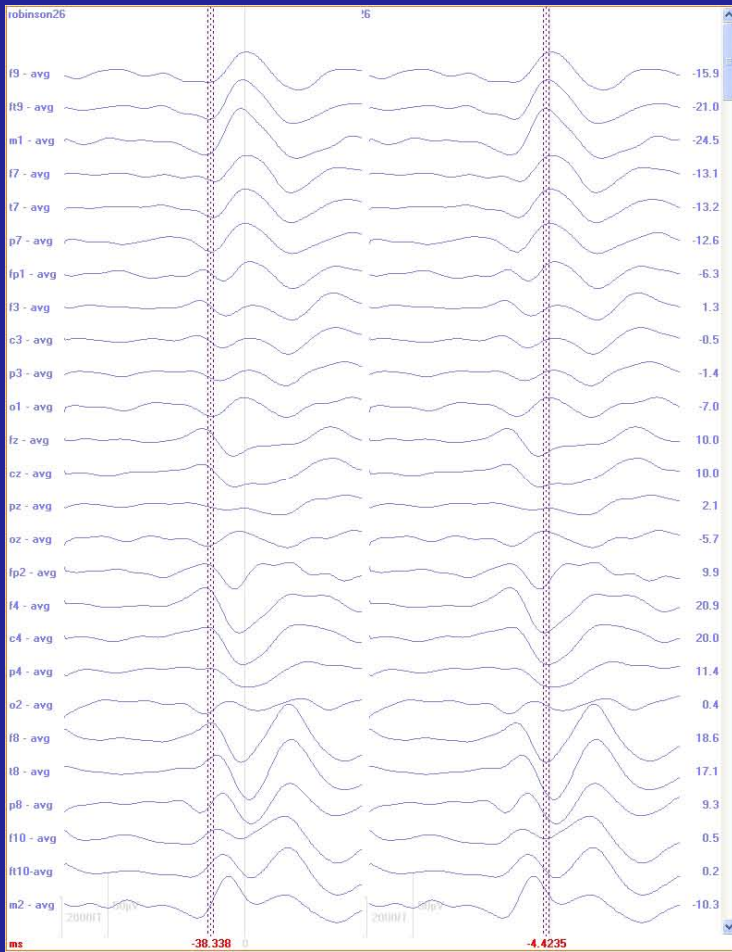
kuhnymeg26



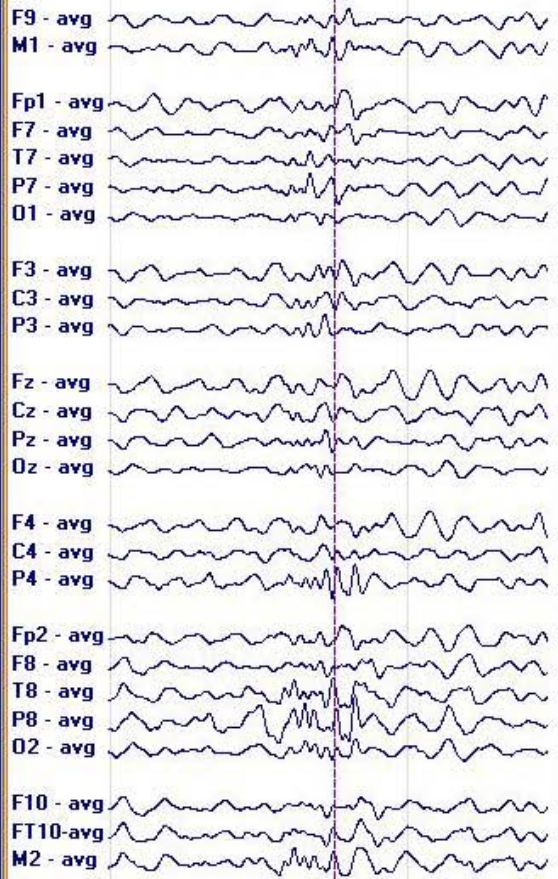
# MEG vs. EEG

MEG resolves the ambiguity of laterality vs. bilaterality better than EEG

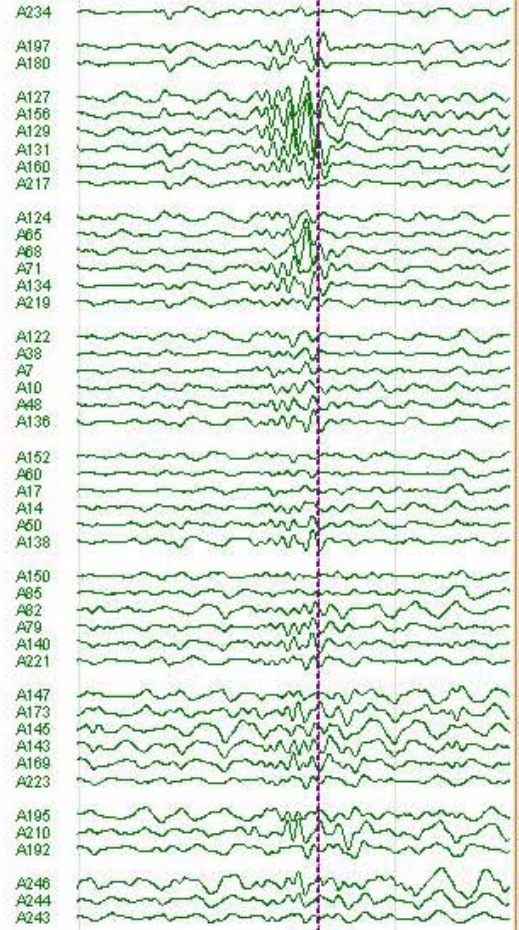
EEG more influenced by far field activity and breach effects



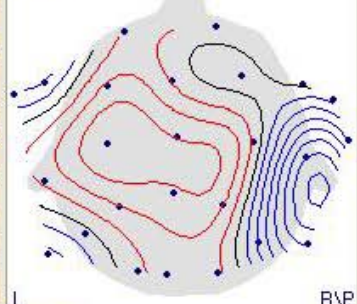
Longitudinal Referential



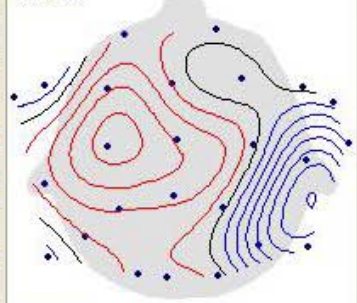
MEG 4D



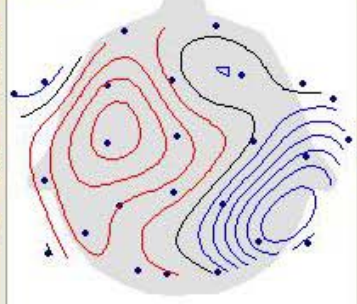
496.753s



L  
496.755s

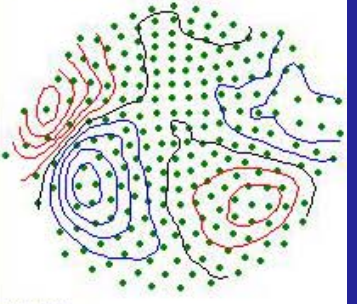


496.756s



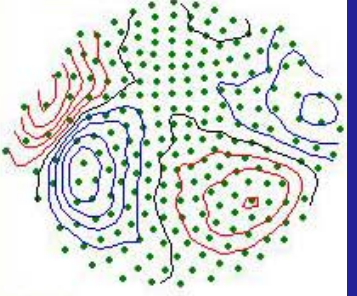
A

496.753s

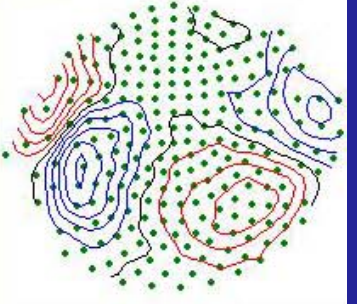


R/P

496.755s



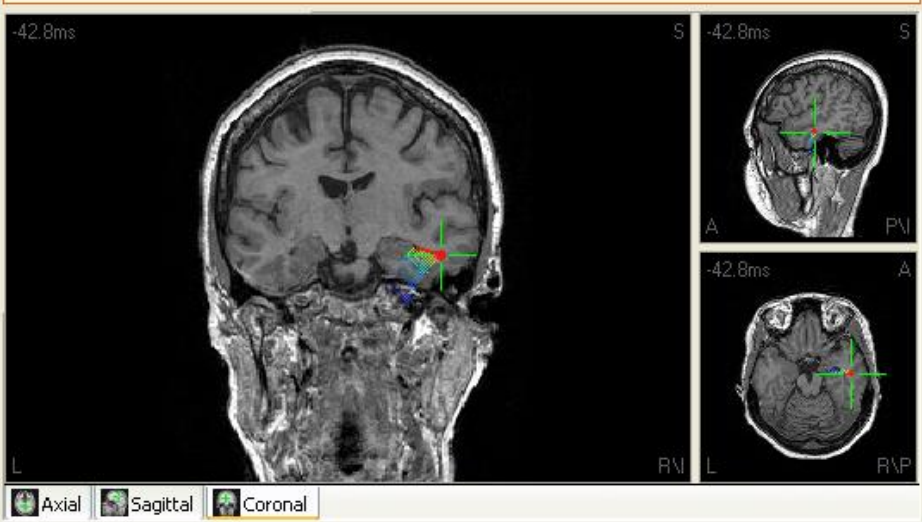
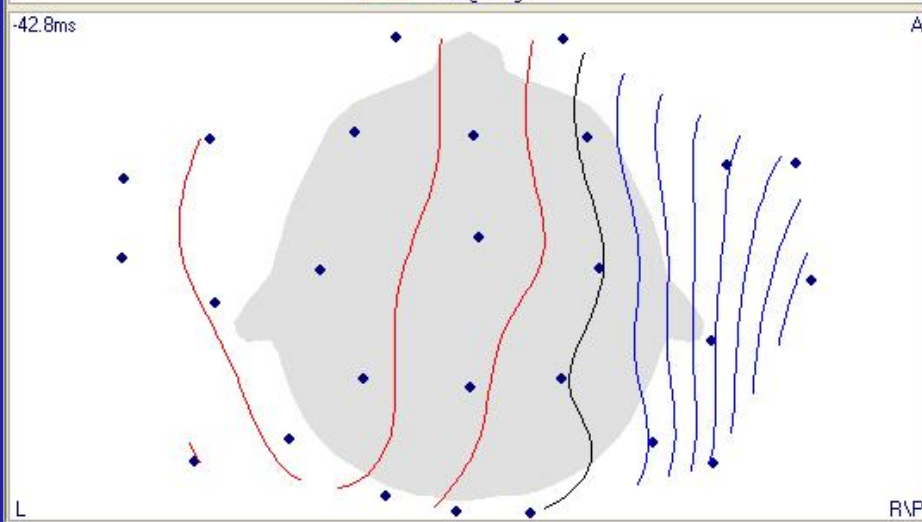
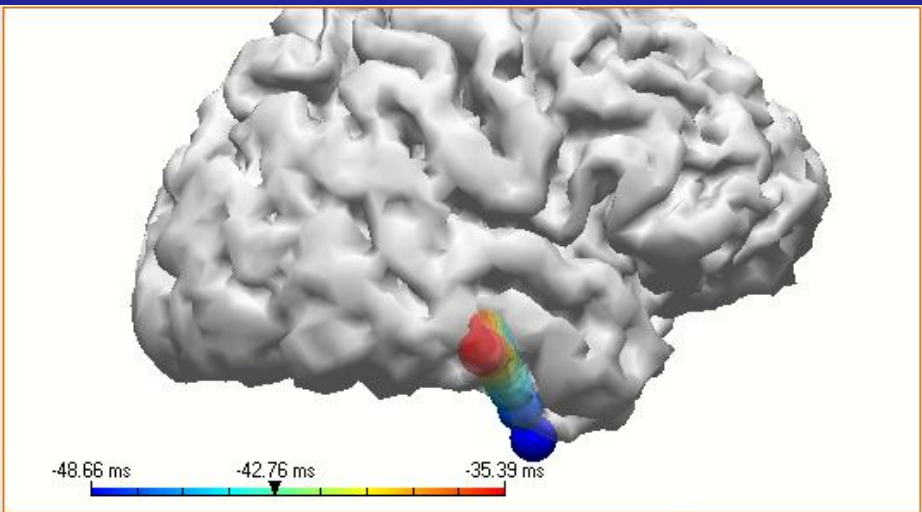
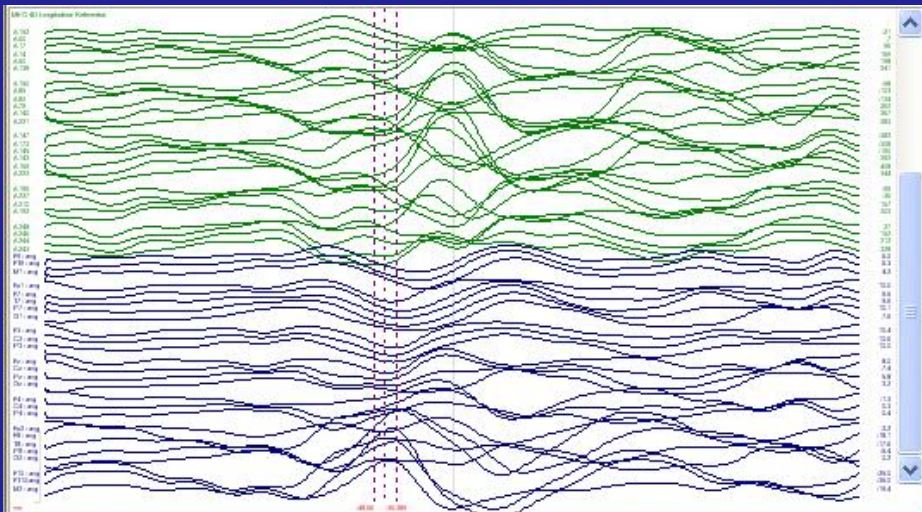
496.756s

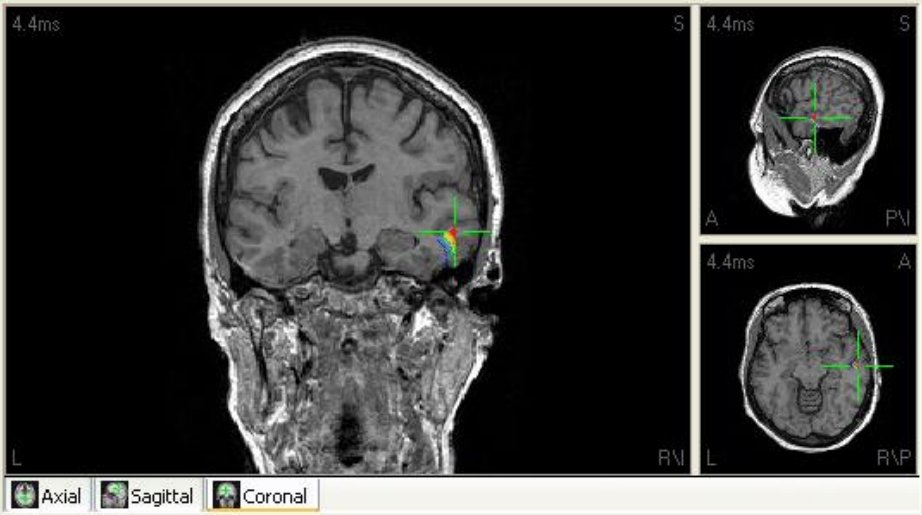
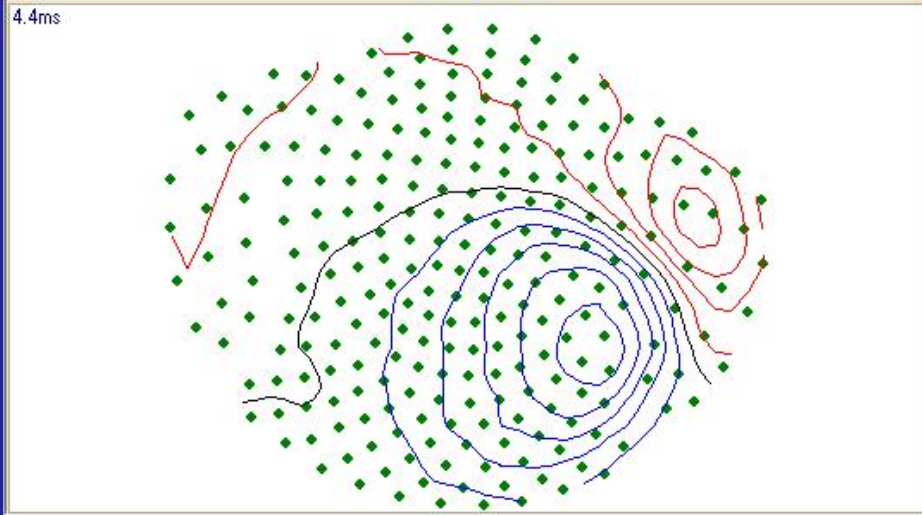
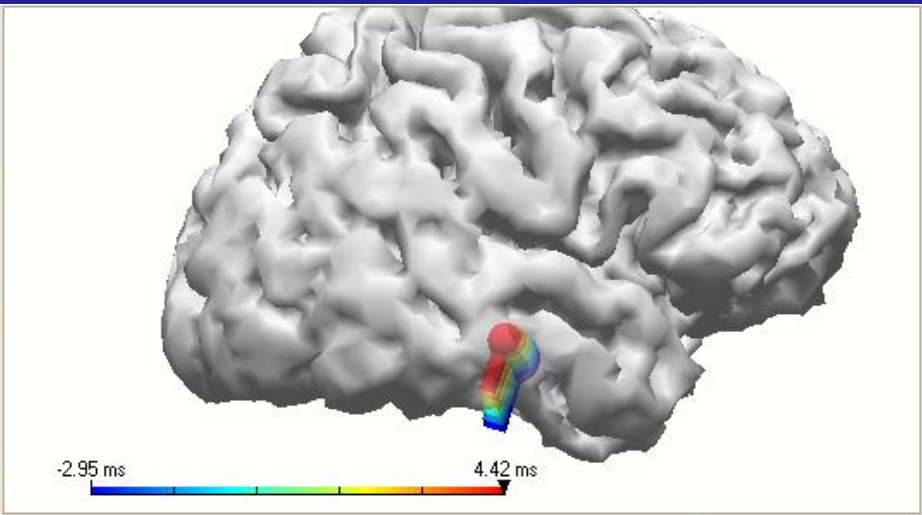
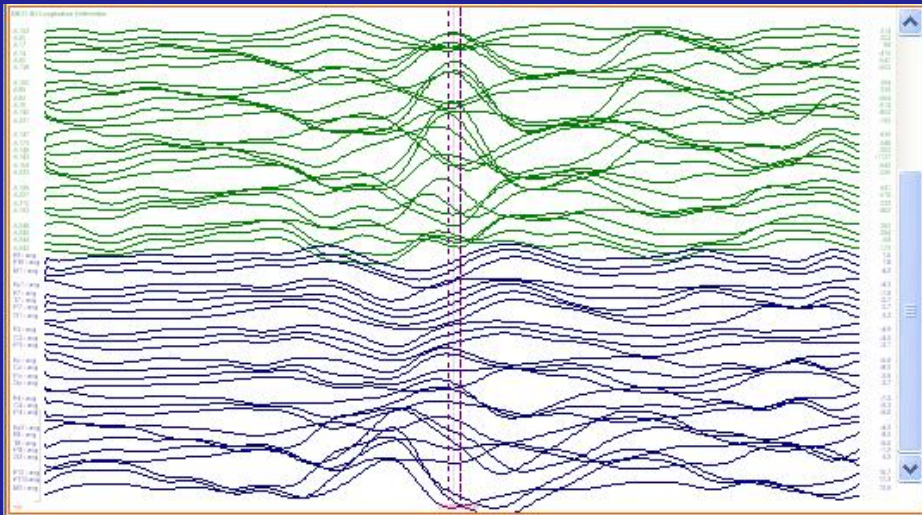


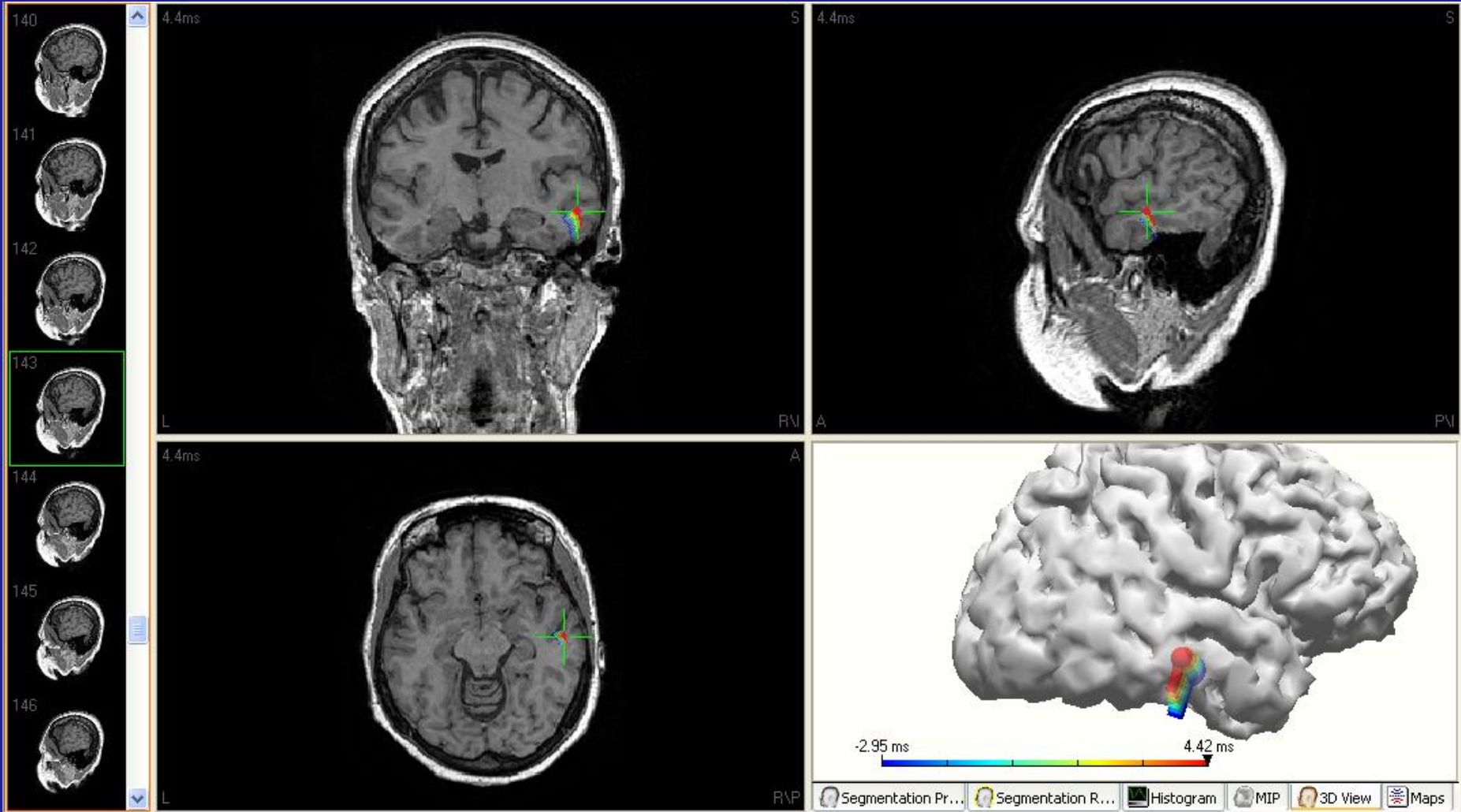
# MEG vs EEG

Because MEG can lag, as well as lead, EEG,  
both are needed to define propagation fully









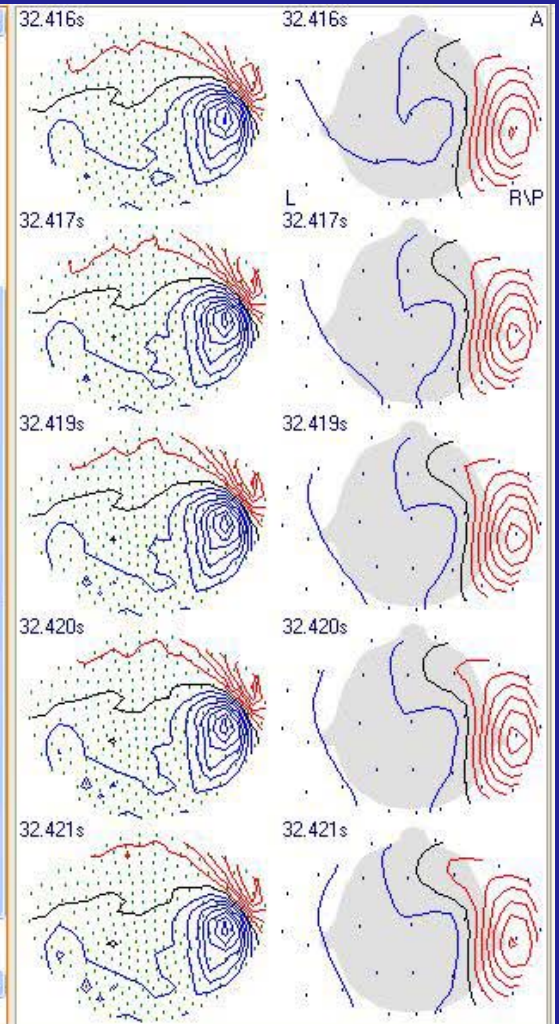
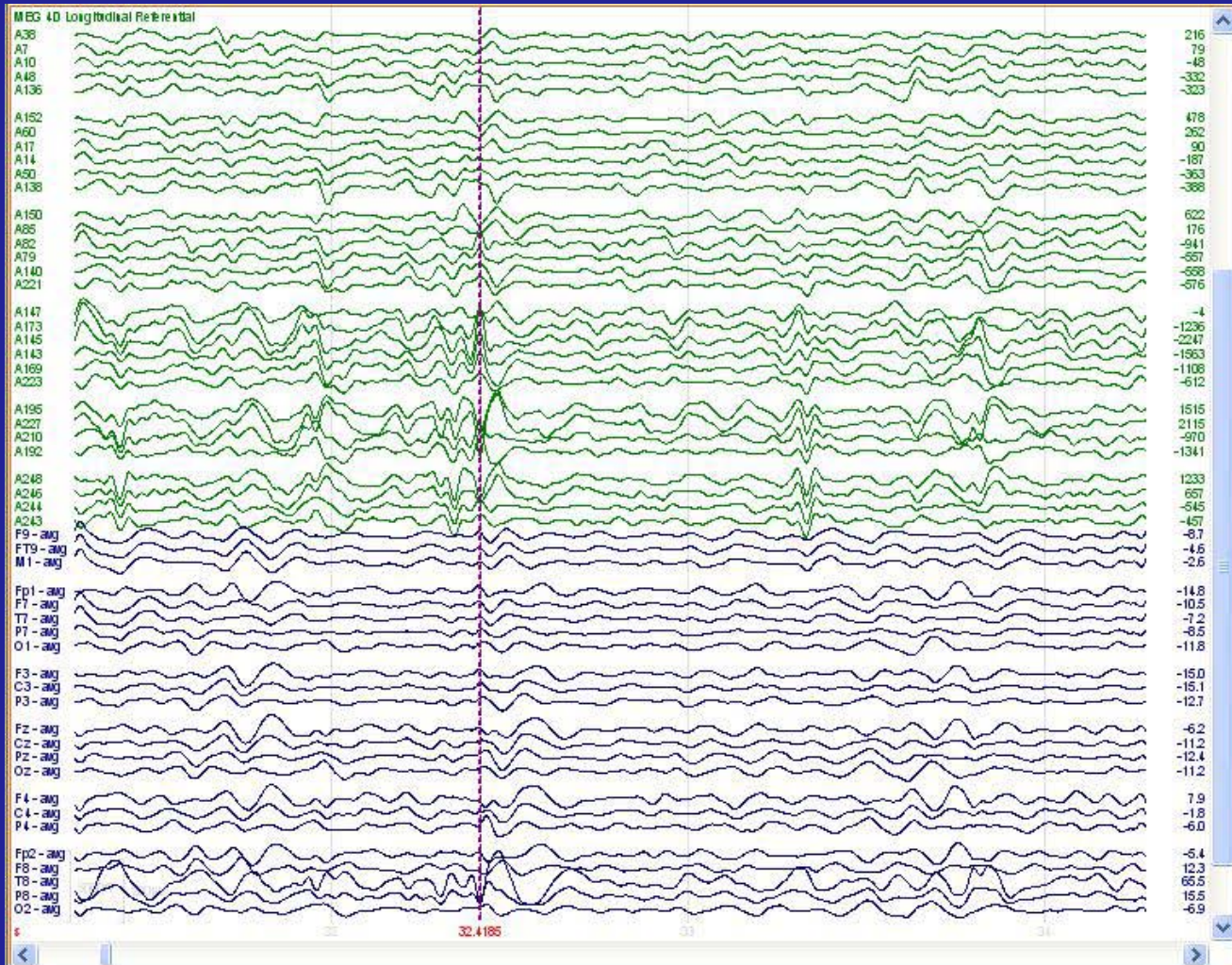
# EEG/MEG Dipole Interpretation

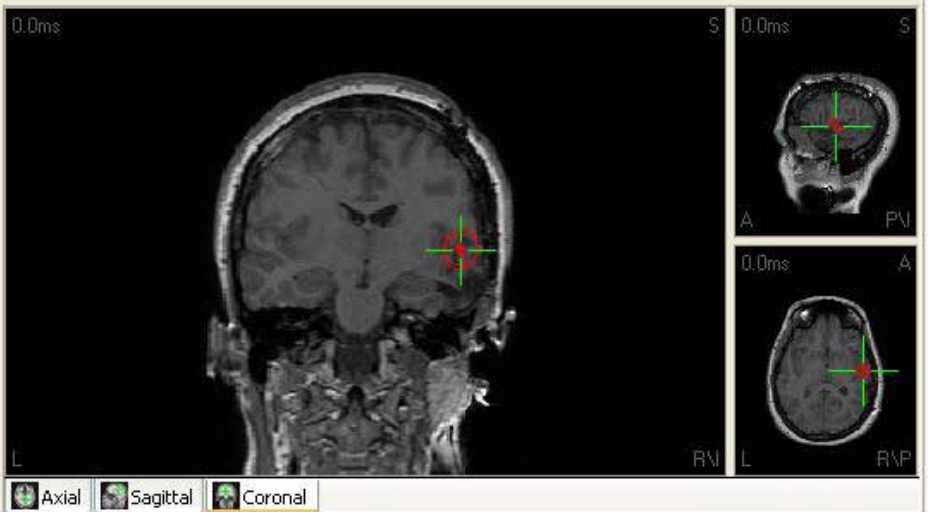
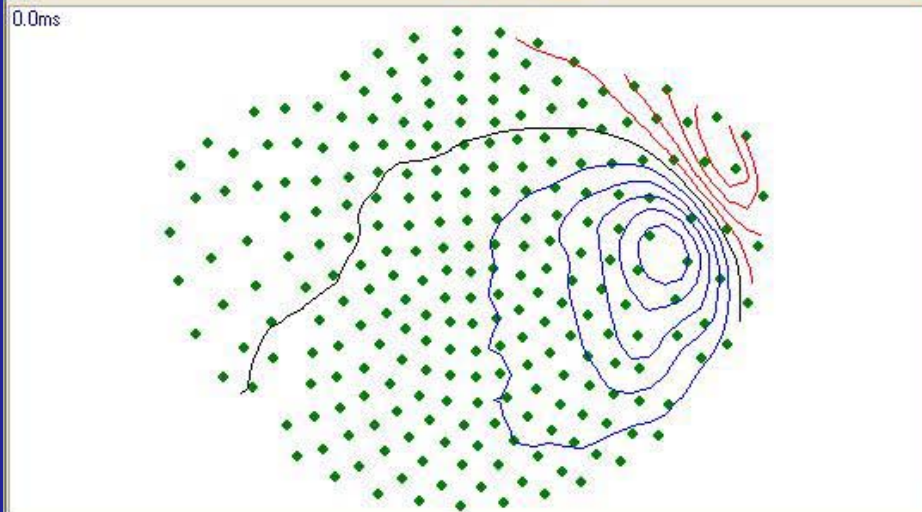
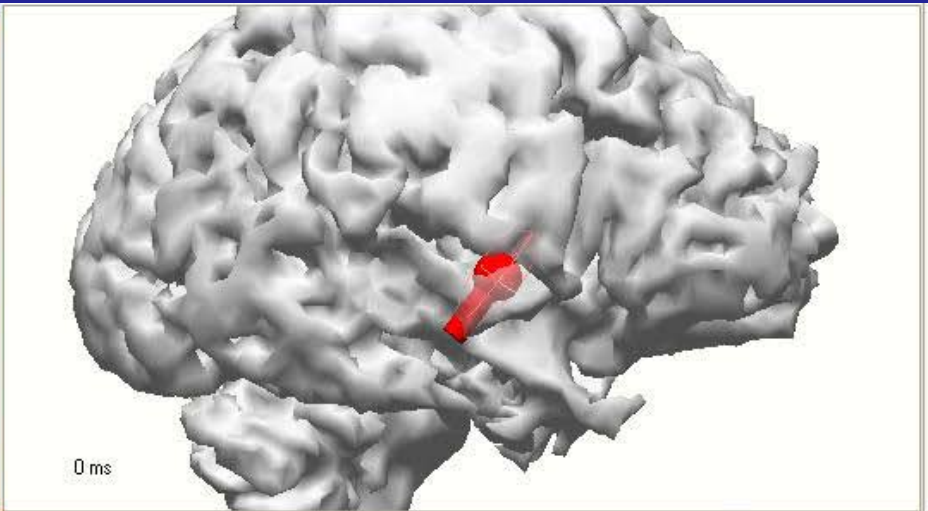
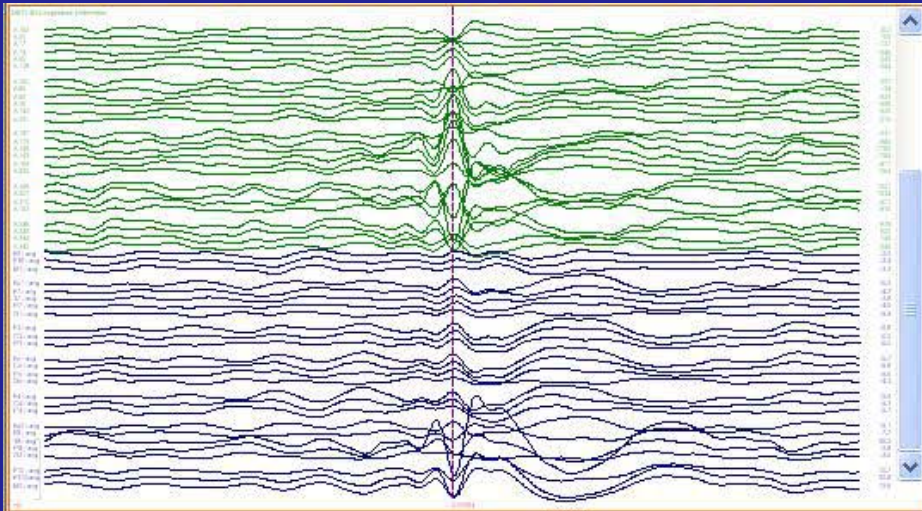
EEG dipole localization is sub-lobar

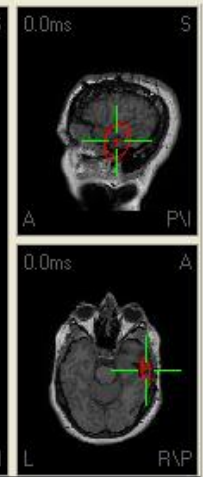
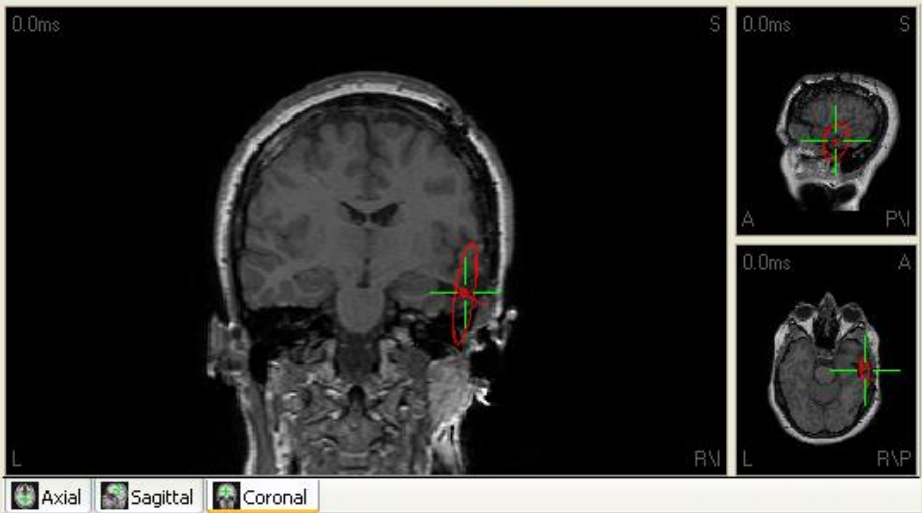
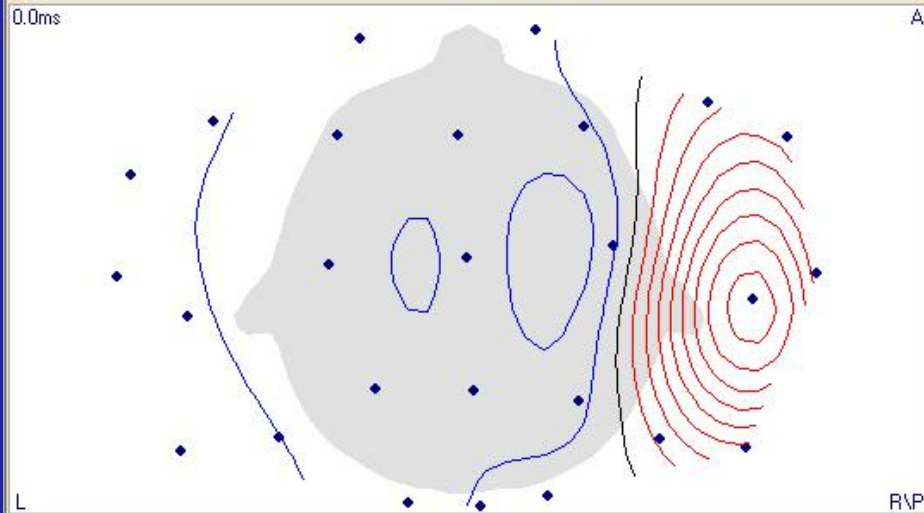
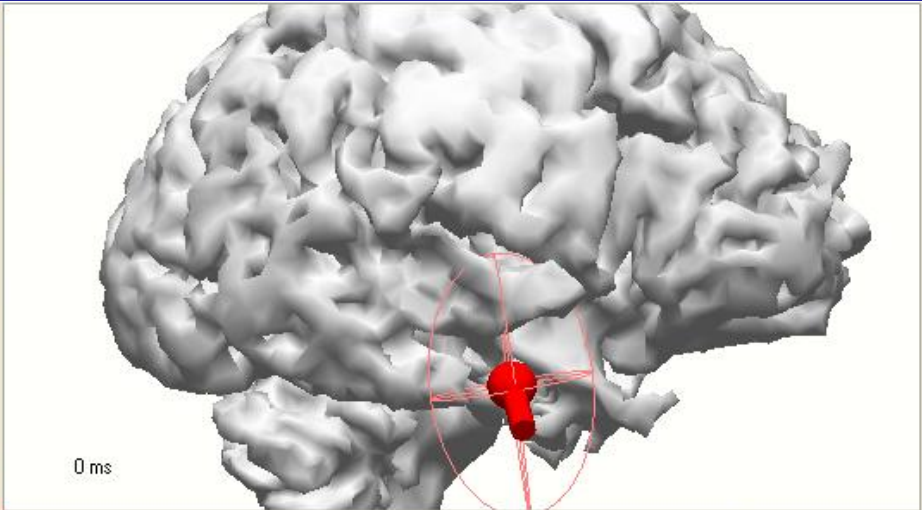
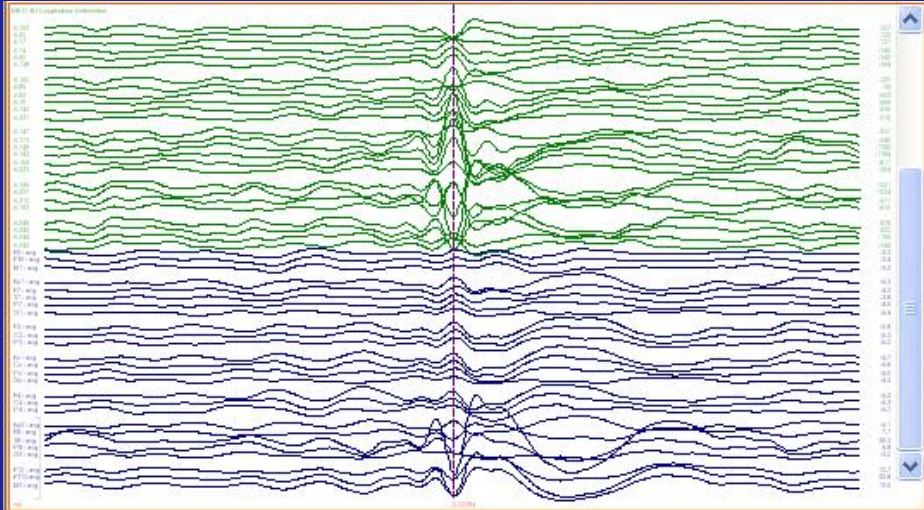
EEG dipole orientation identifies cortical patch within that region and represents all orientational components

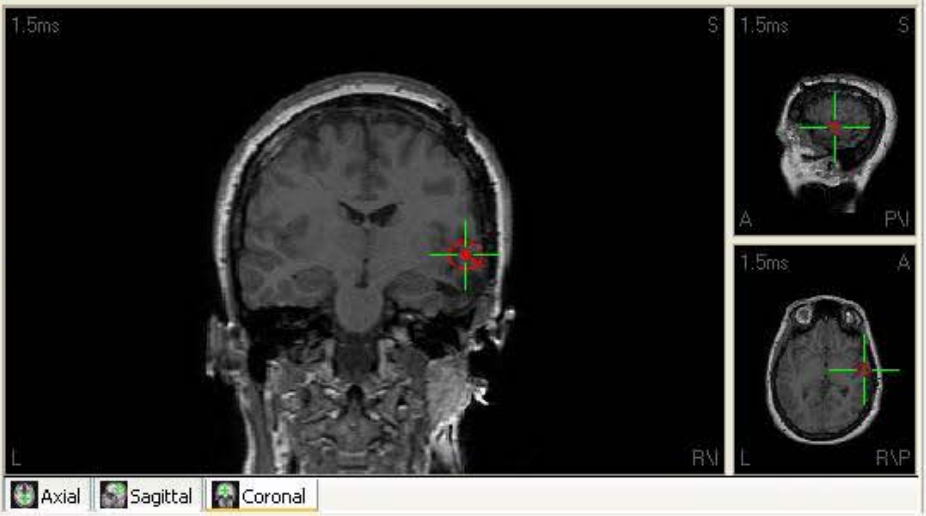
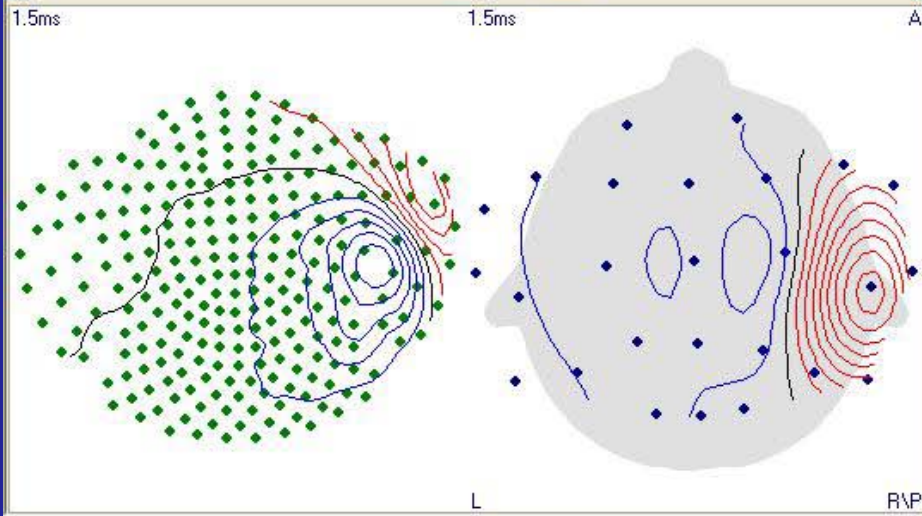
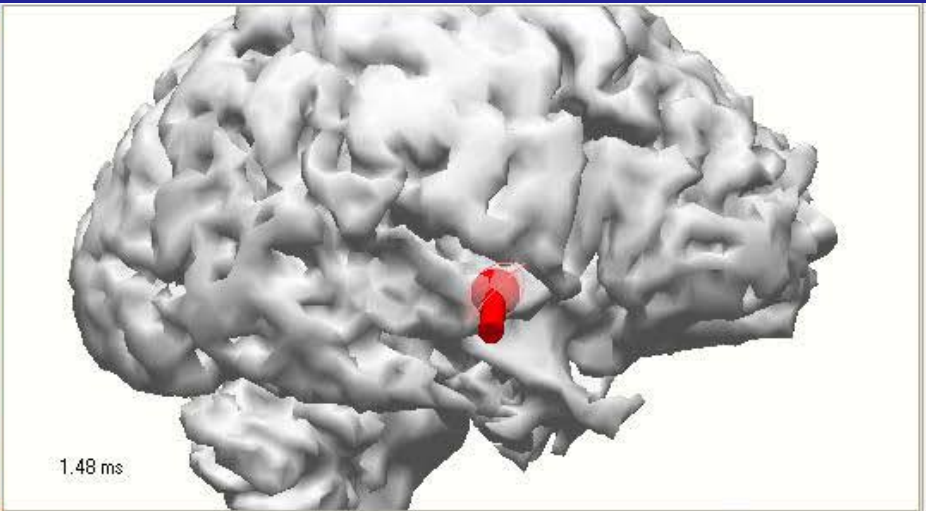
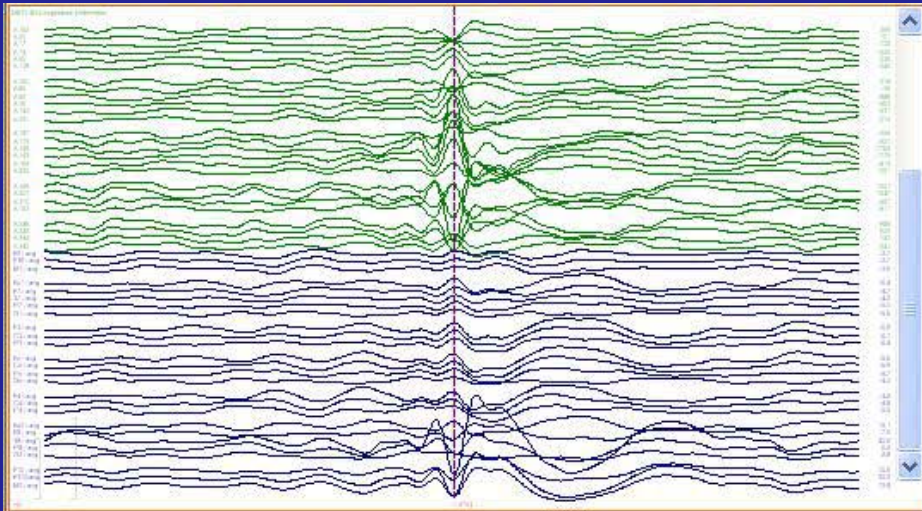
MEG dipole localization can be nearly gyrus/sulcus specific

MEG dipole orientation is restricted to the tangential component

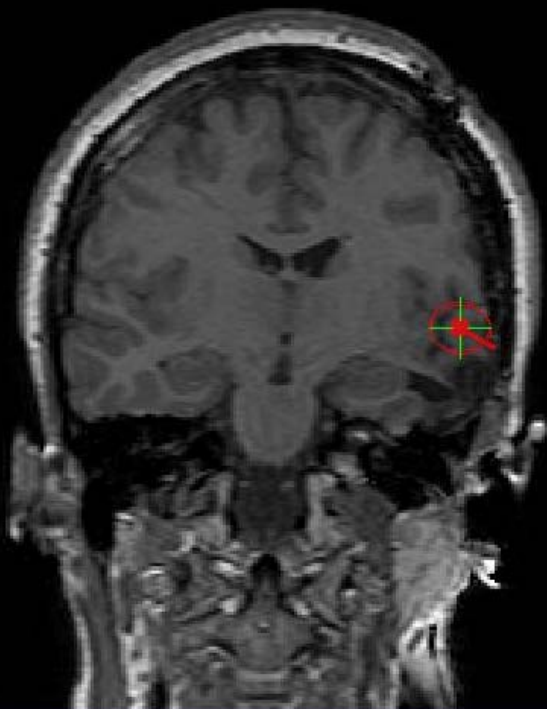
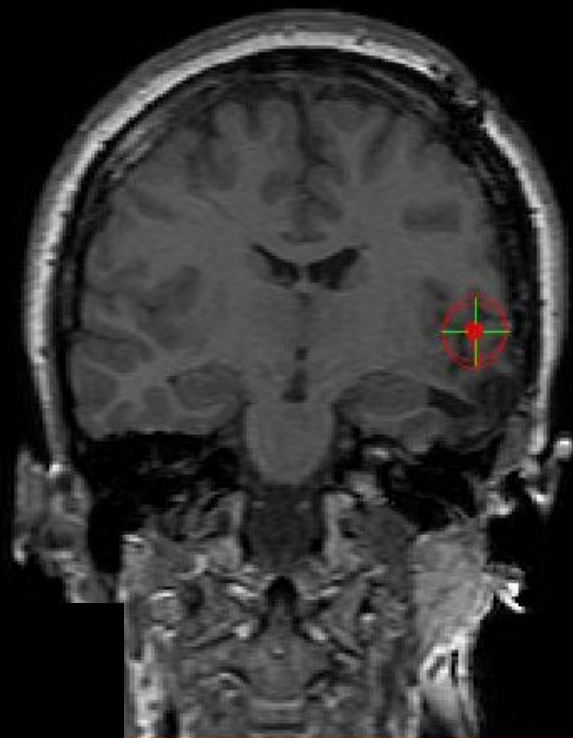
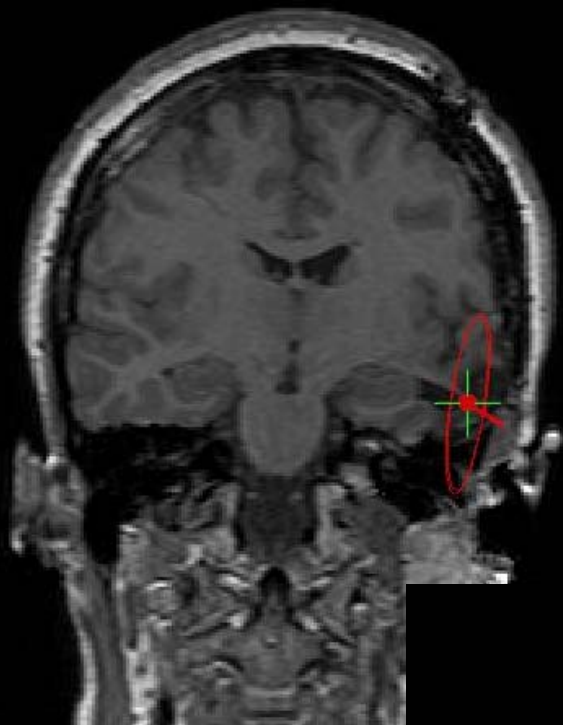


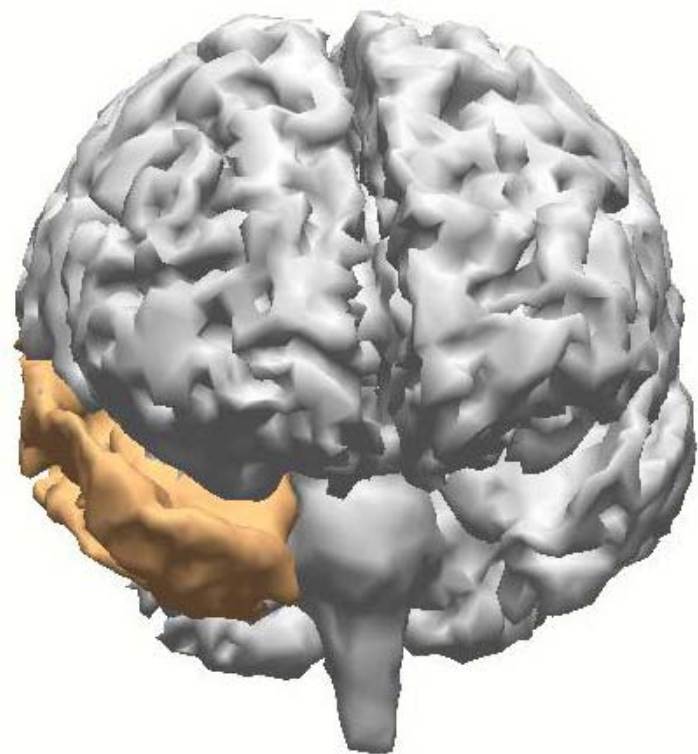








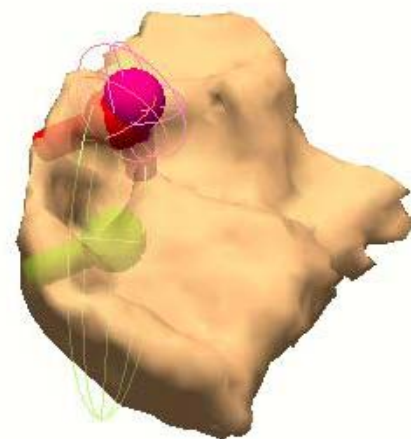




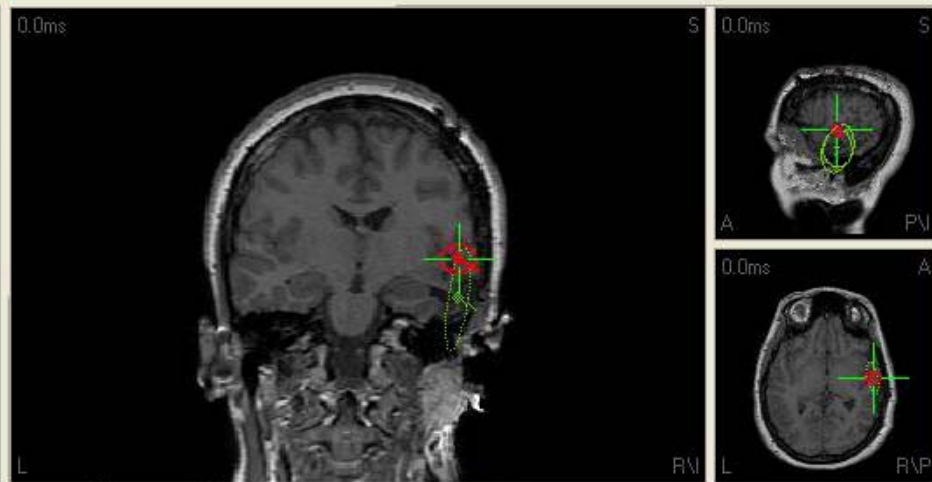
L

RVP

Axial  Sagittal  Coronal



0 ms



0.0ms

S

0.0ms

S

A

PVI

0.0ms

A

L

RVI

RVP

# Bottom Line Comparison

MEG sees a window of brain activity with more sensitivity and clarity than EEG

Localization of that activity with source models is more accurate than with EEG

EEG sees a more complete picture of brain activity but less clearly than MEG

Localization with EEG source models is less precise, but orientation information is more complete than MEG

# Conclusions

MEG and EEG strengths are complementary!

Source modeling of both MEG and EEG improves the characterization of spike and seizure sources and subsequent propagation

Clinical epilepsy evaluations should whenever possible include source models of both data