Comparative and Combined MEG-EEG Source Modeling in Epilepsy Evaluations

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### Collaborators

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> 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

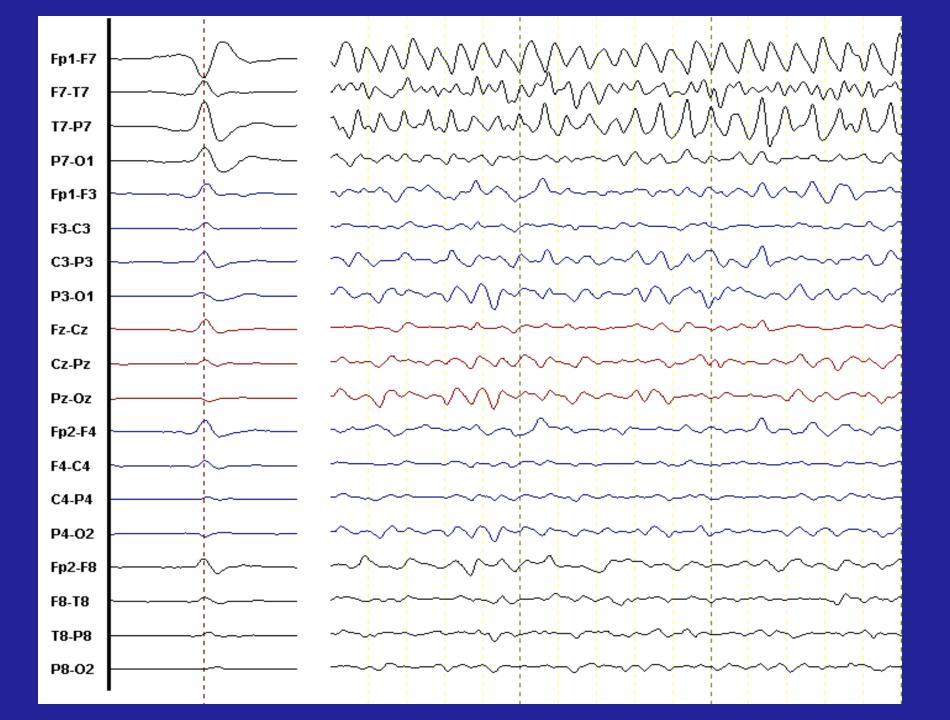
Only EEG and MEG are:
Direct measures of epileptic pathophysiology
Performed in real time with msec resolution
Provide temporal sequencing of activity, e.g. propagation

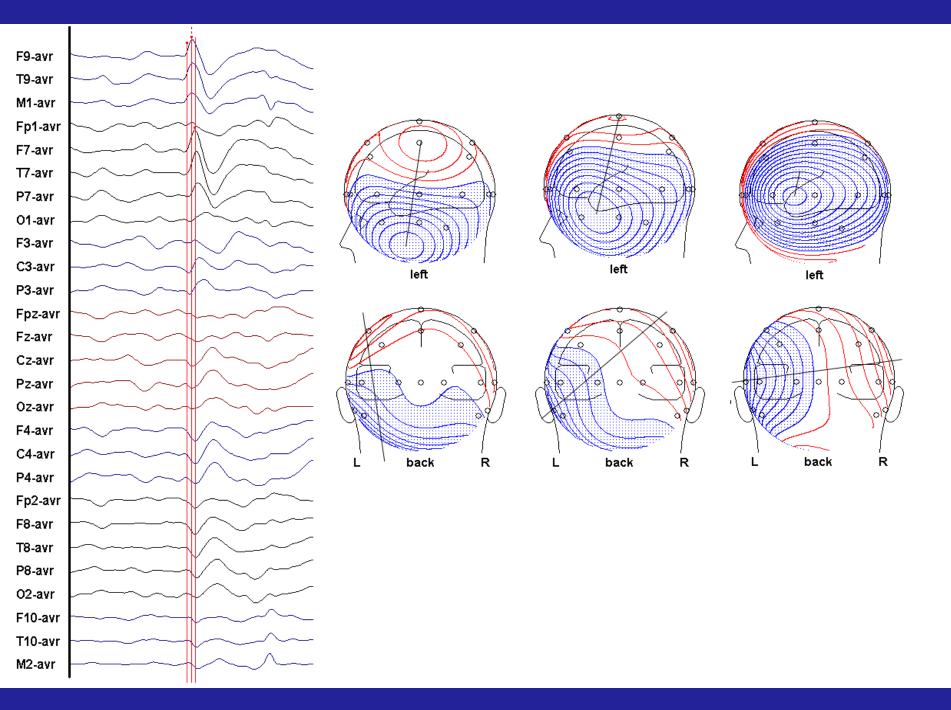
## **EEG** Background

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





# MEG Background

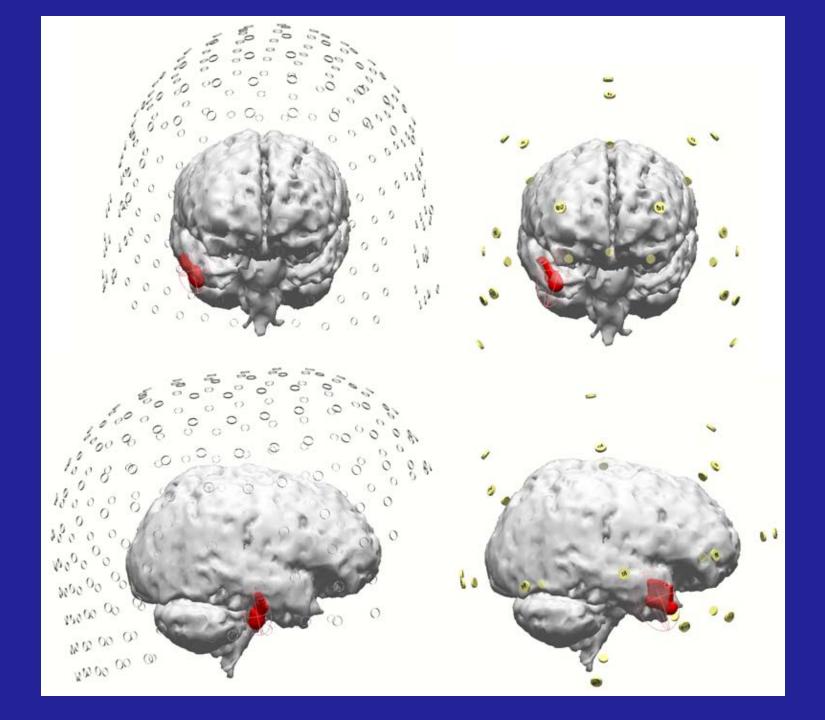
- MEG has evolved with little "baggage"
- Pattern recognition was secondary, localization was primary
- Localization from outset based on spatiotemporal analysis of magnetic fields using source models, such as dipoles
- From outset head/brain anatomy incorporated for both head models and results display/

"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

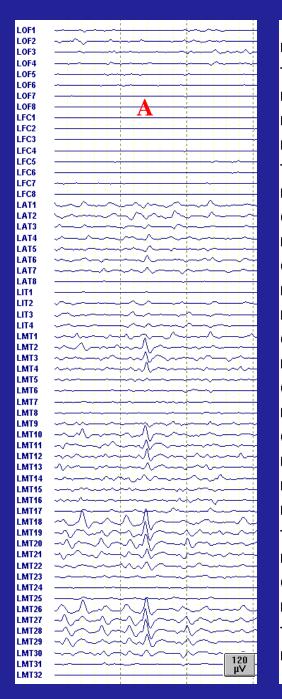
## MEG/EEG Complements

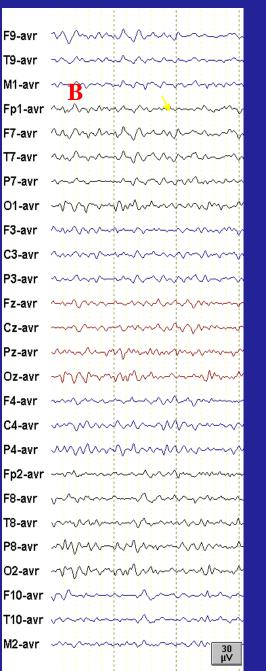
Volume conductor effects - + MEG Spatial sampling - + MEG Temporal sampling - + EEG Source area - + MEG Radial sensitivity - + EEG Tangential sensitivity - + MEG Deep source sensitivity - + EEG

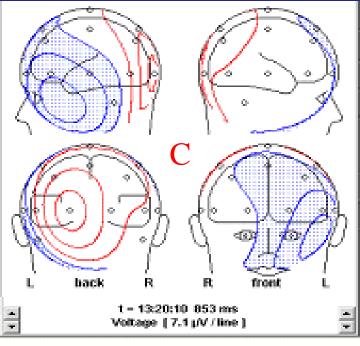


# **EEG Sensitivity**

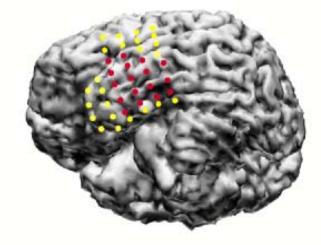
**EEG** requires >10 sq cm EEG visualizes gyral and fissural sources, but not sulcal sources **EEG** source brain is lissencephalic EEG dipoles are deep to source cortex For large sources, EEG favors center of activity Sensitive to all source orientations, but radial more so than tangential

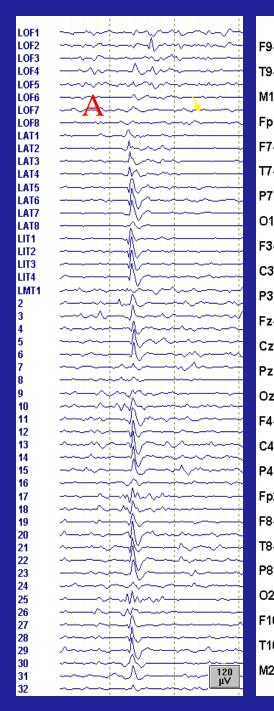


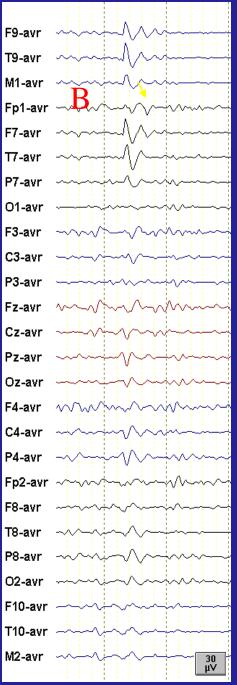


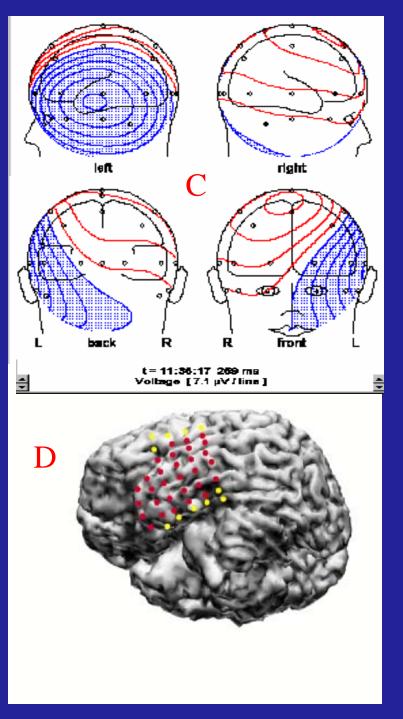


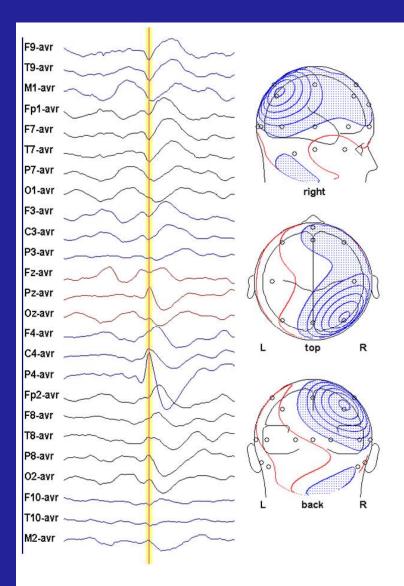
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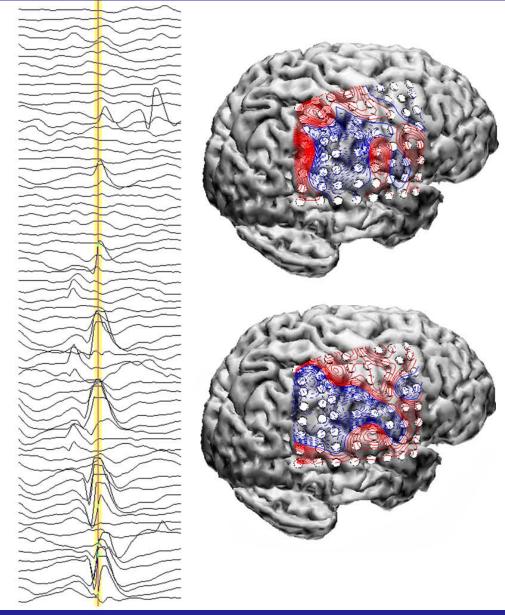


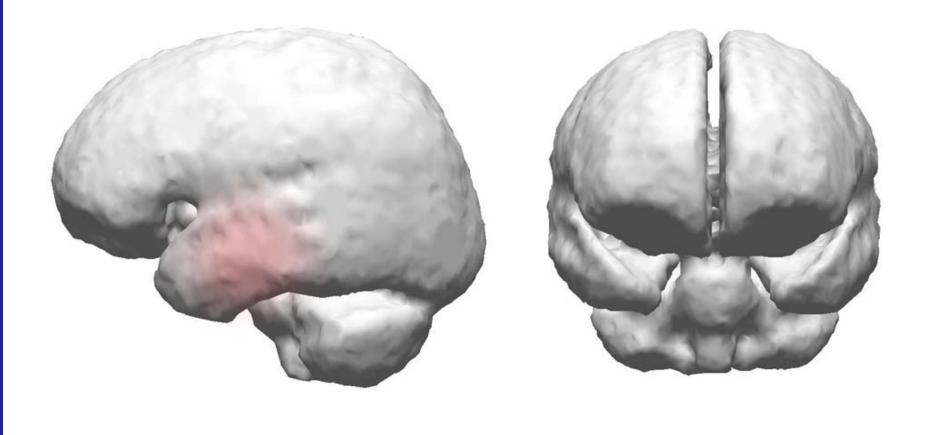


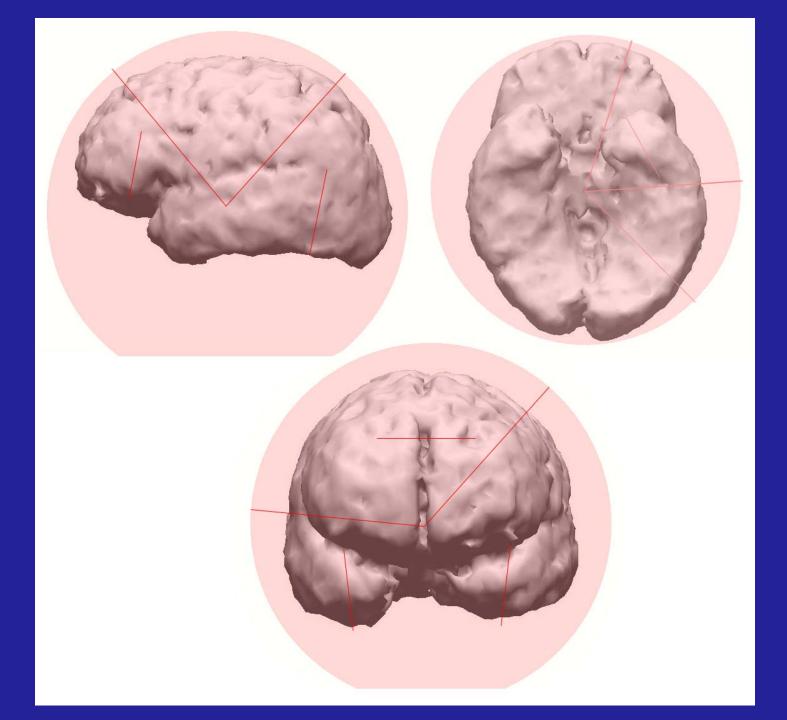




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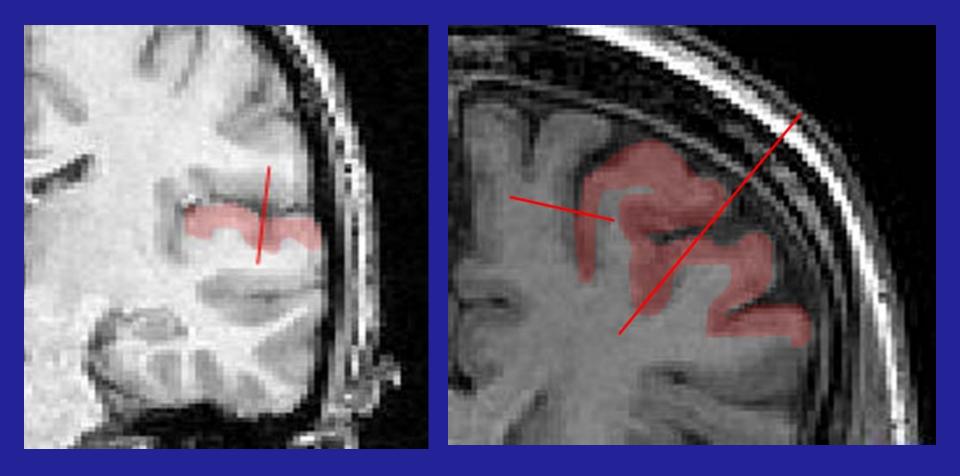


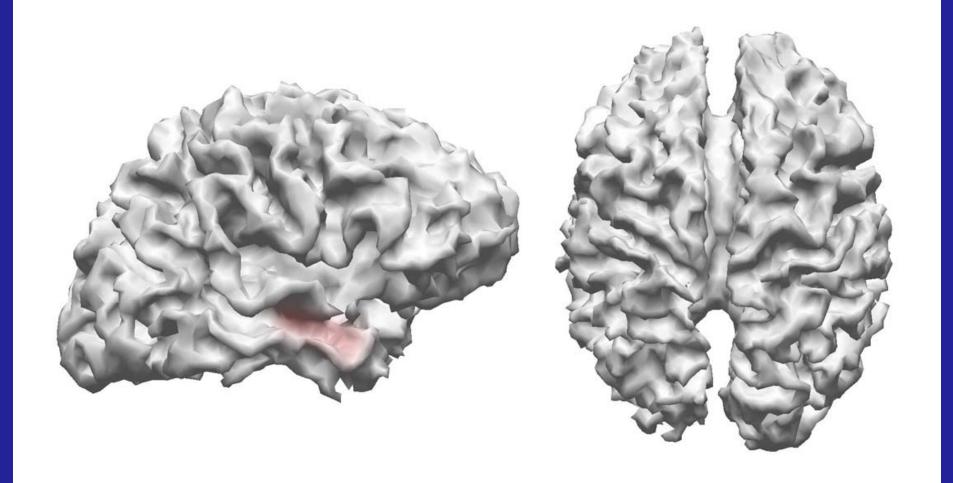


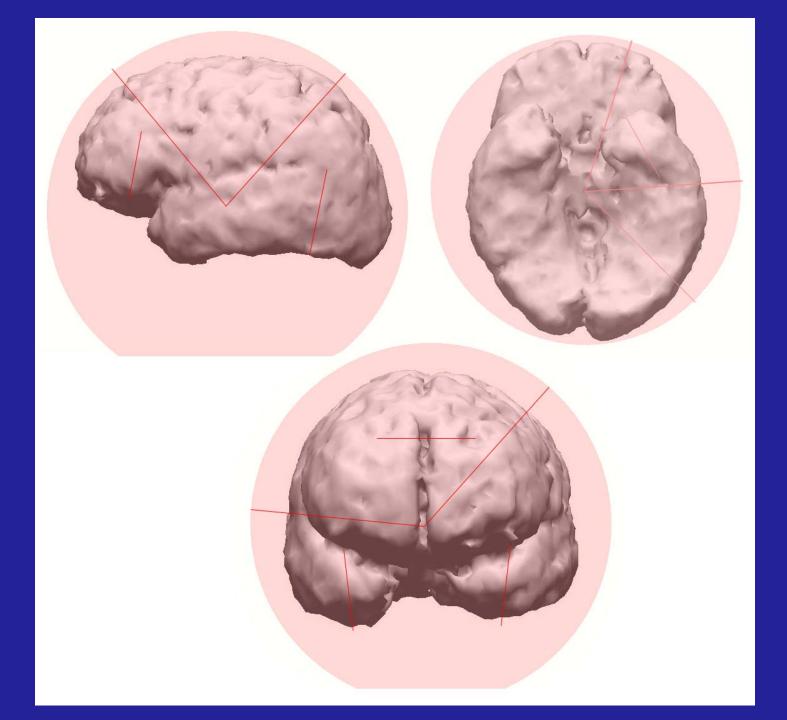


# MEG Sensitivity

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



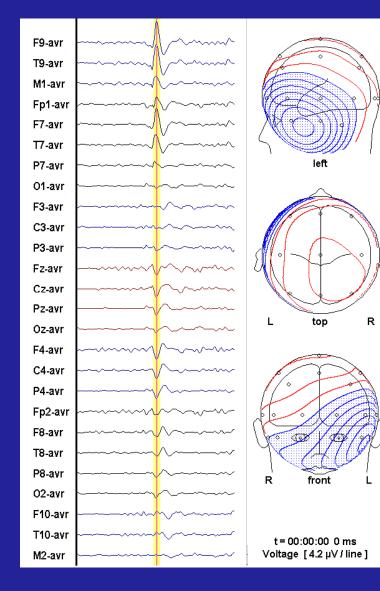


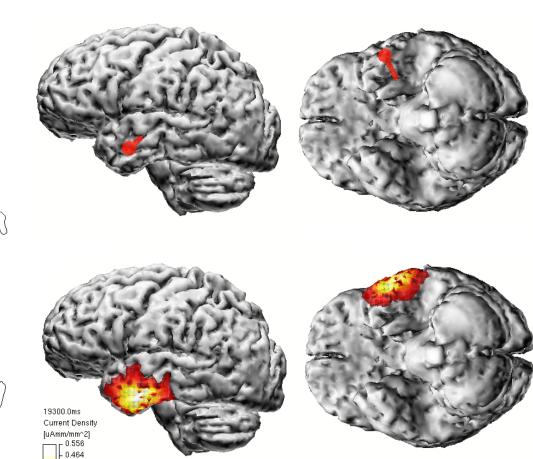


## Source Reconstruction

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")





- 0.371

- 0.278 - 0.185

- 0.0927

- 0

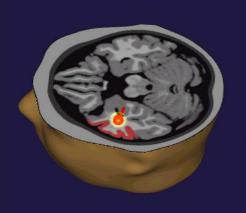
### Models of Cerebral Sources

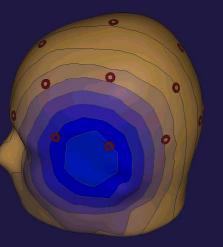
Equivalent Current Dipole

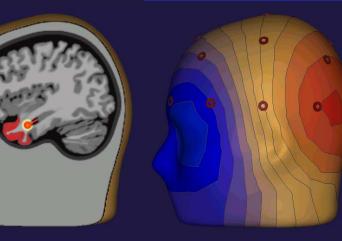
(aka Single or Moving Dipole) - the voltage or magnetic field at one moment is modeled by the best fitting single dipole

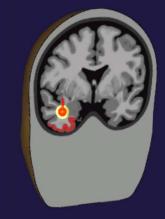
Each subsequent field measurement is modeled by another single dipole

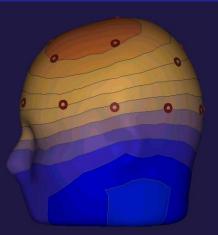
Most commonly employed source model in clinical EEG and MEG





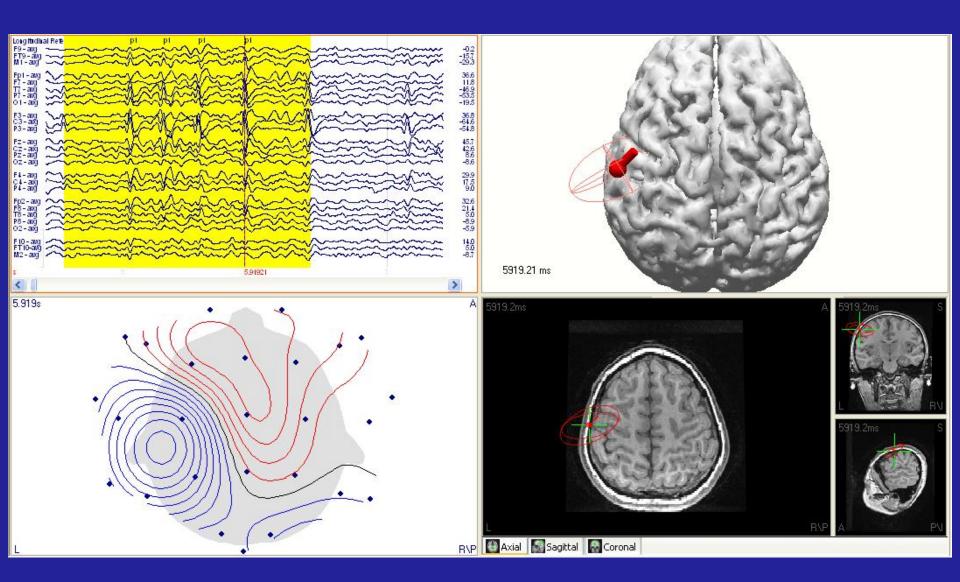


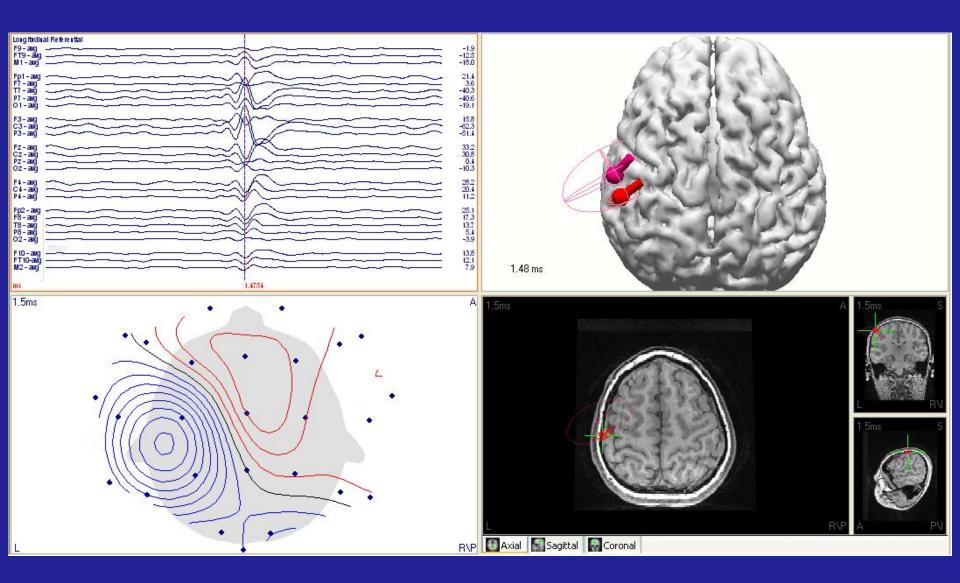




**Dipole Interpretation Confidence** 

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

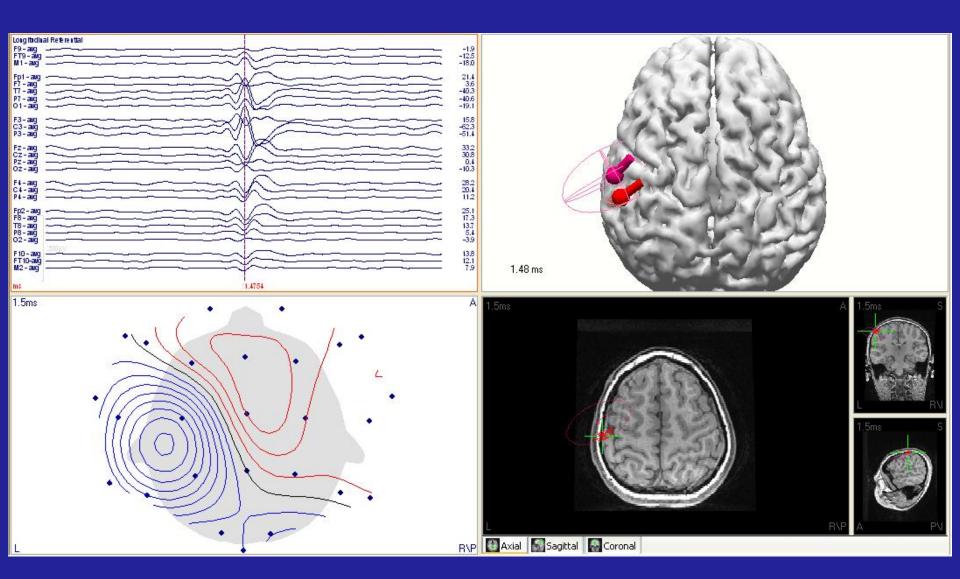
Orientation – usually differ, unless EEG is pure tangential

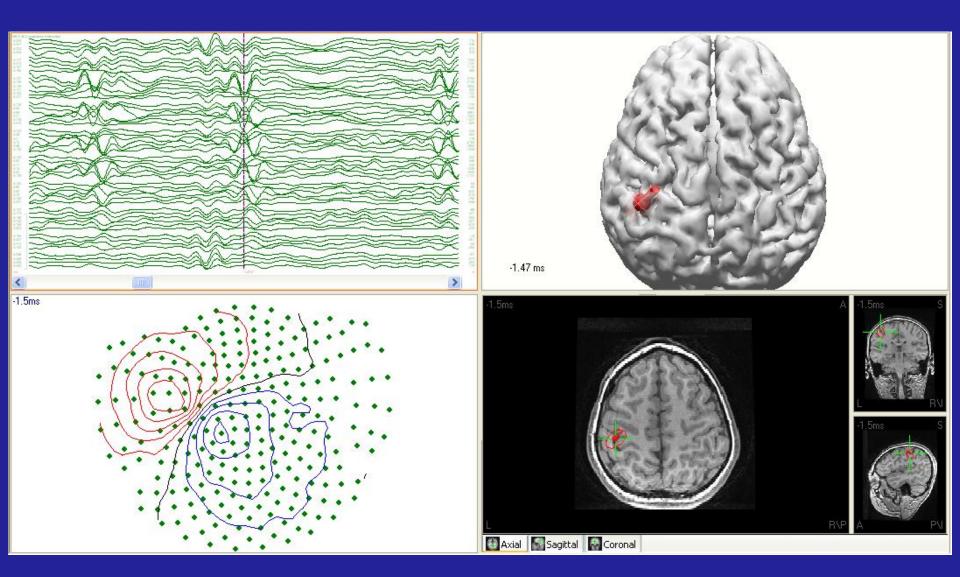
Location – can differ by mm to cm, EEG commonly anterior

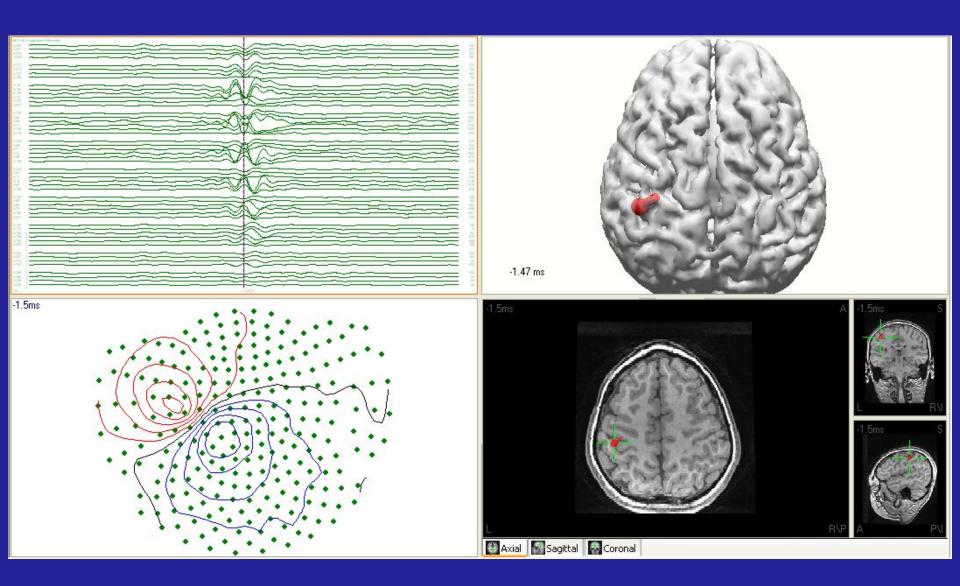
Timing – either can lead or lag

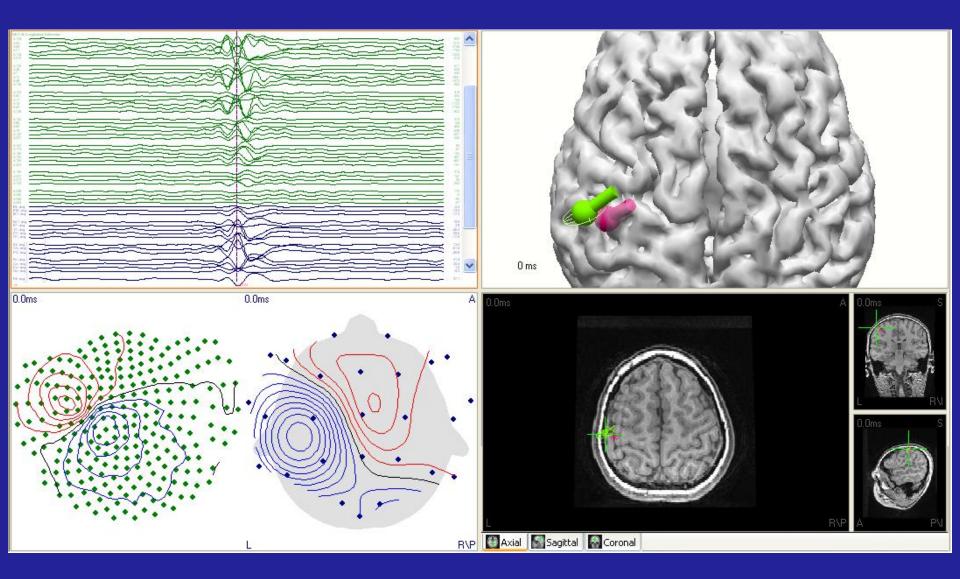
Confidence volume – MEG clusters tighter and volumes smaller

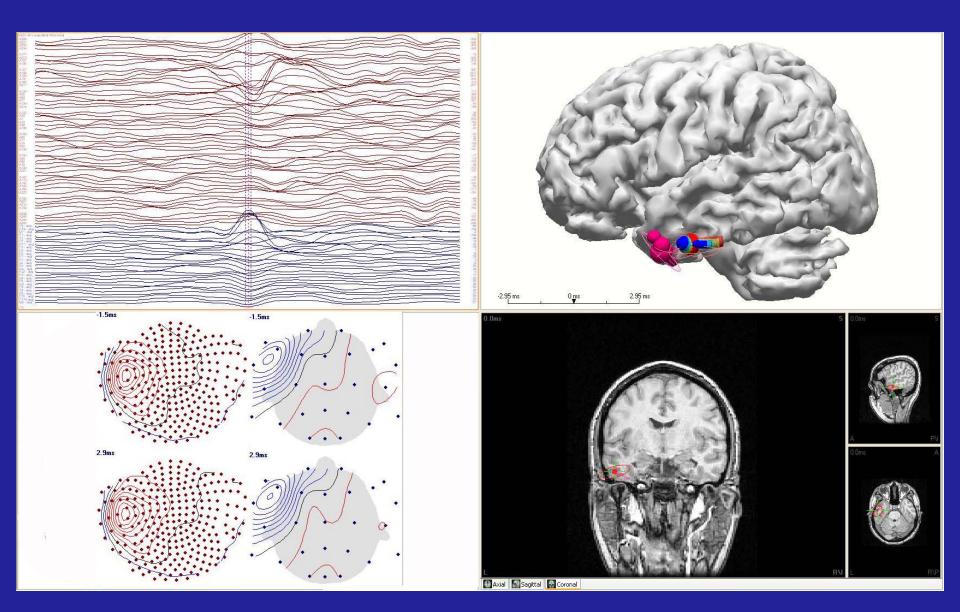
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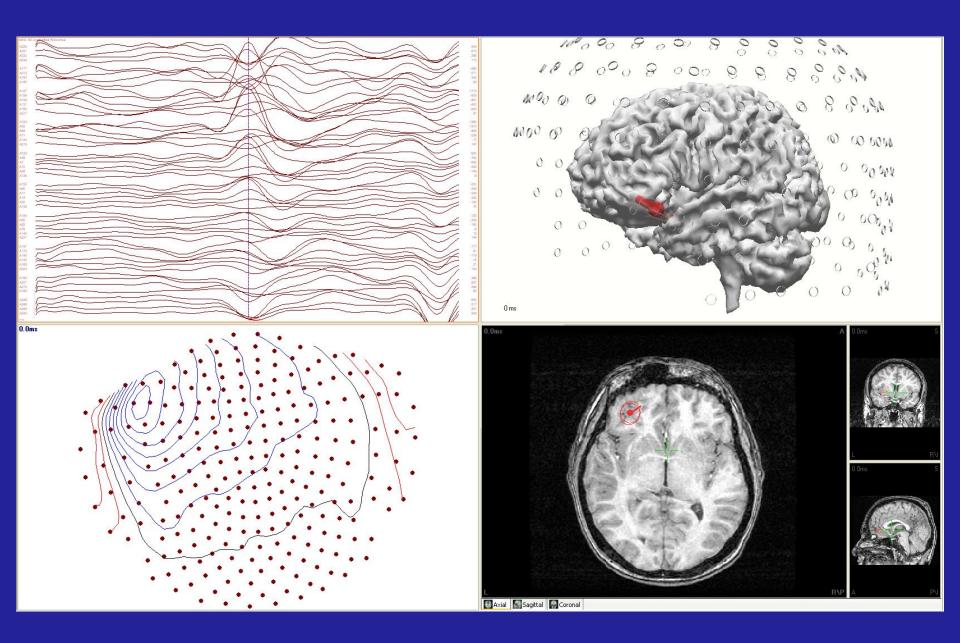


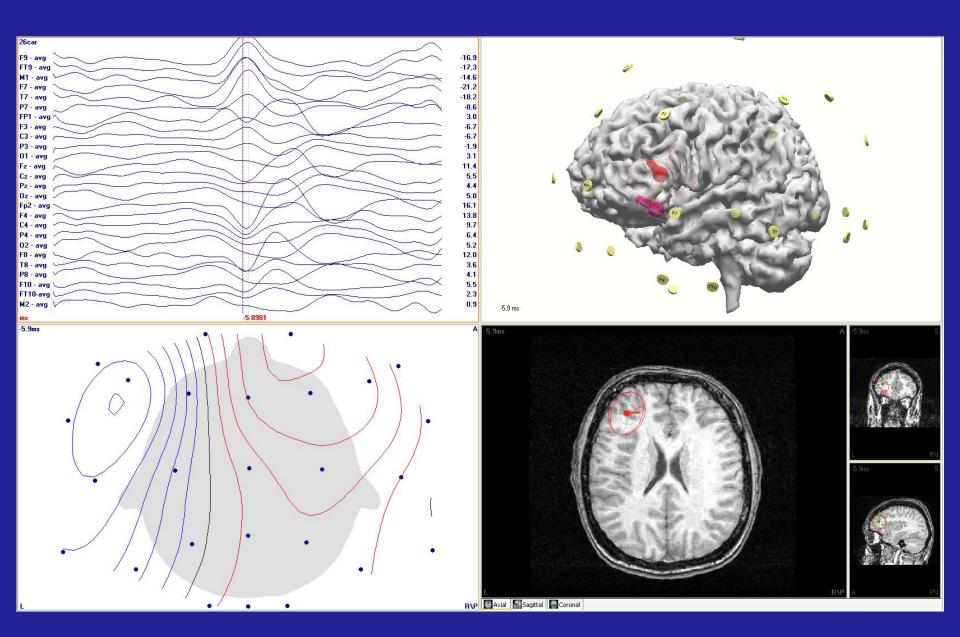


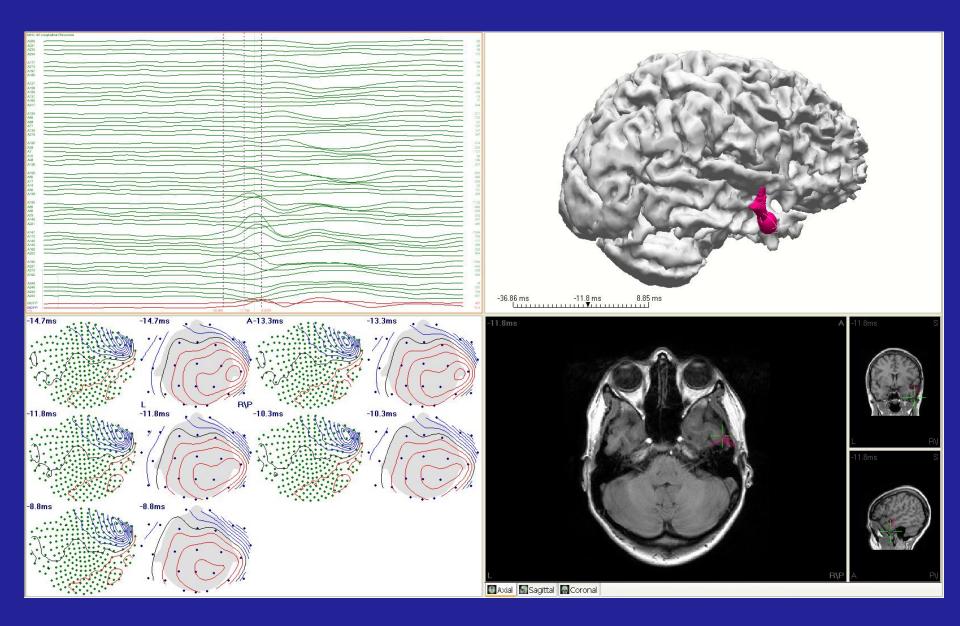


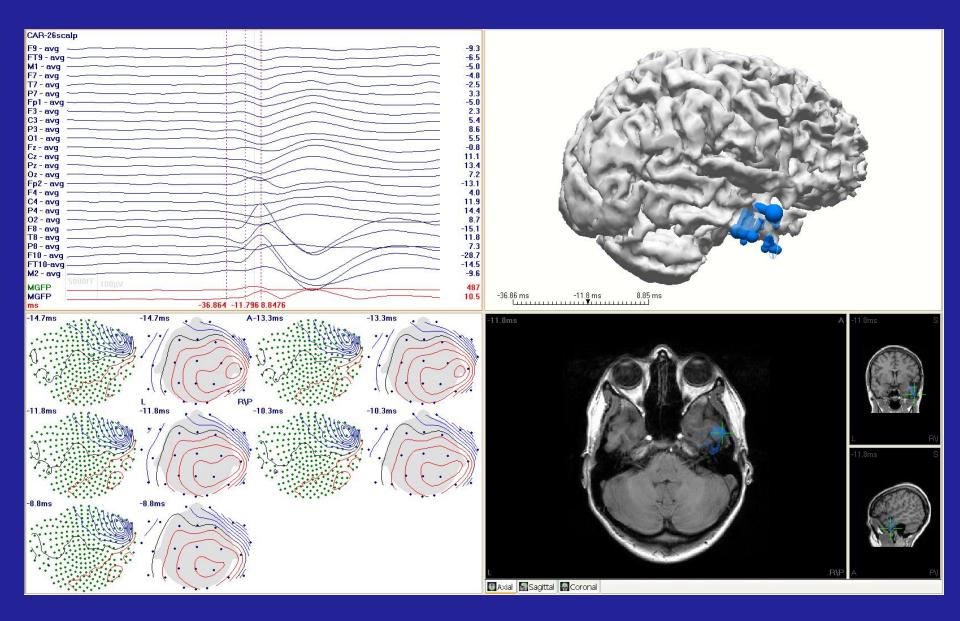








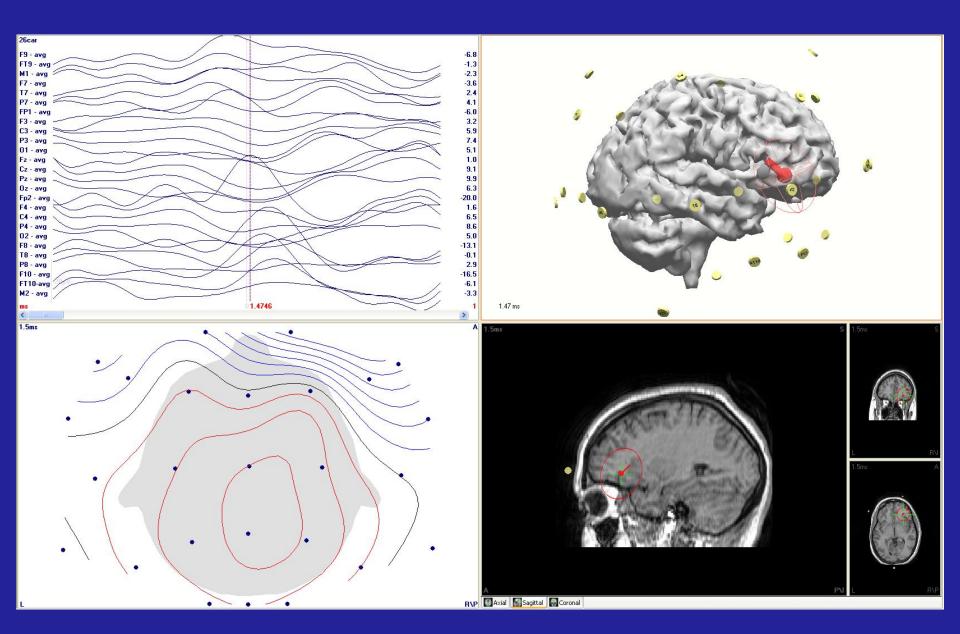


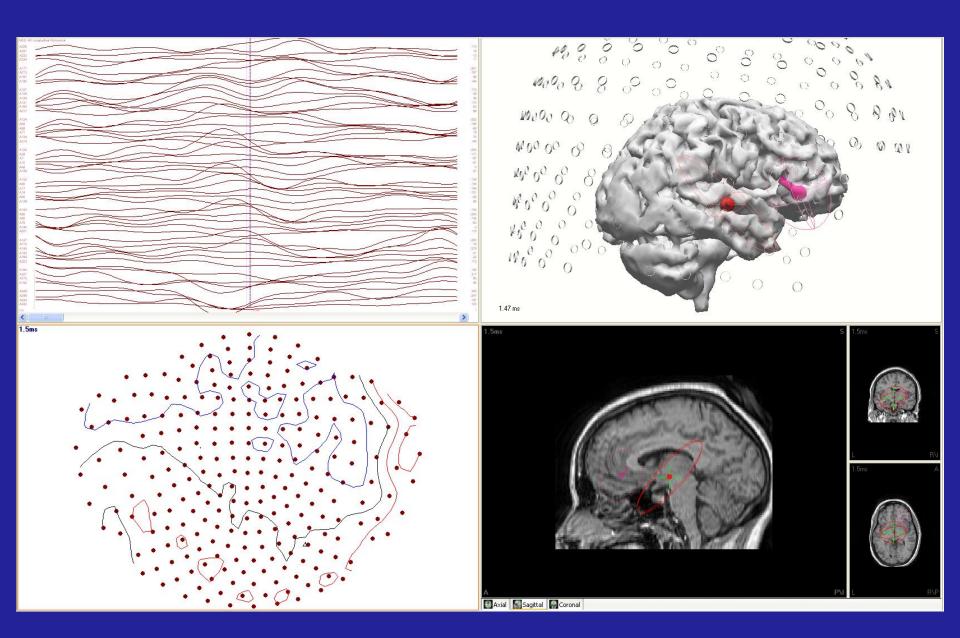


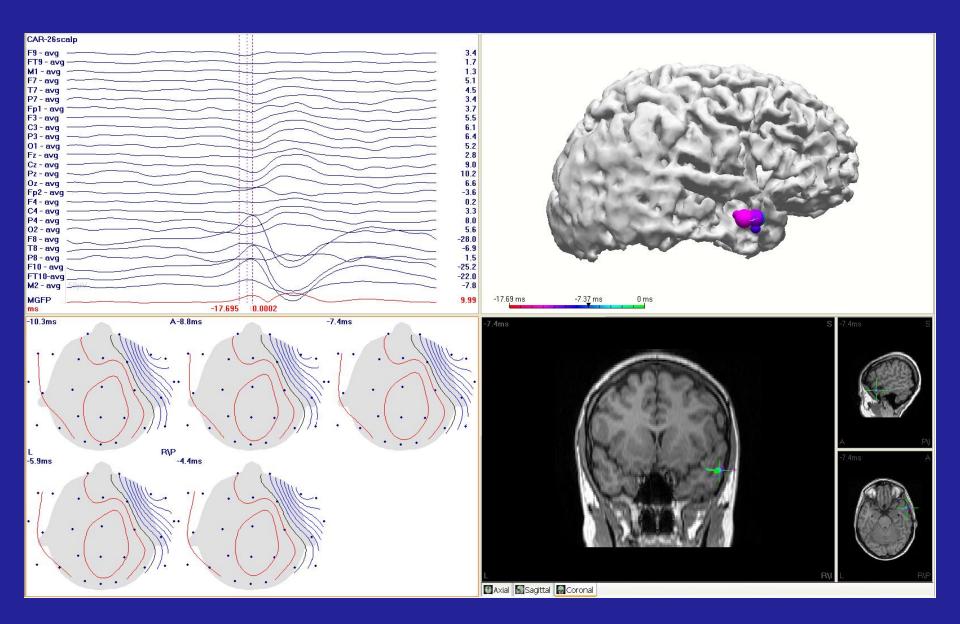
## MEG vs. EEG

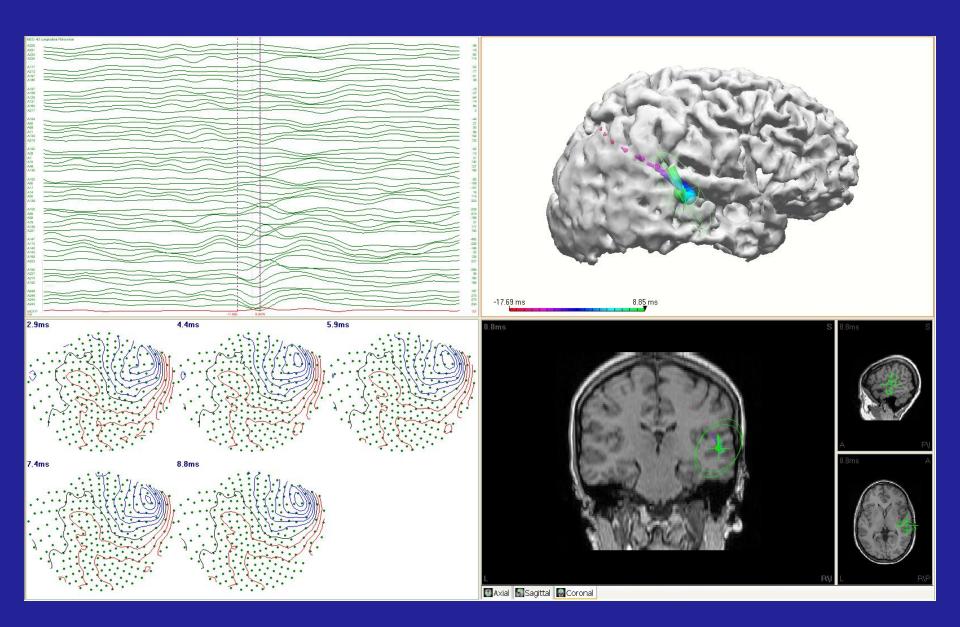
Some patients (10-15%) have EEG spikes, but no accompanying MEG spikes

Usually these EEG spikes are purely radial, but not always











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

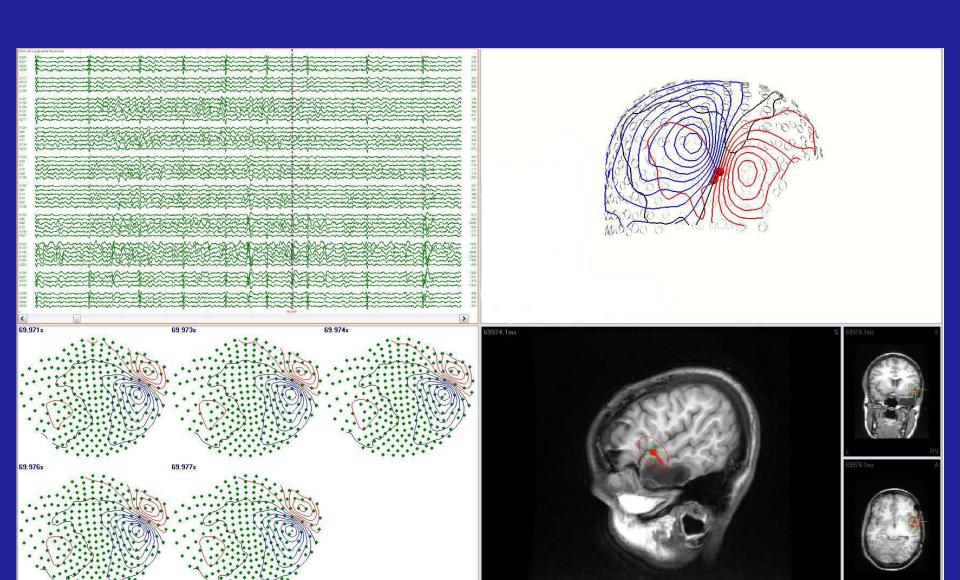
Some appear to be "benign variants"

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

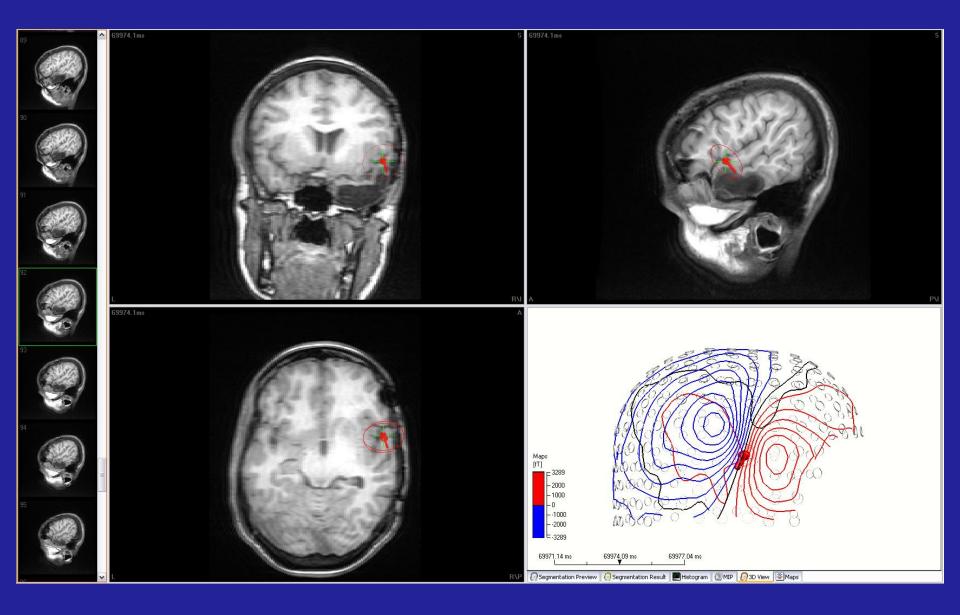
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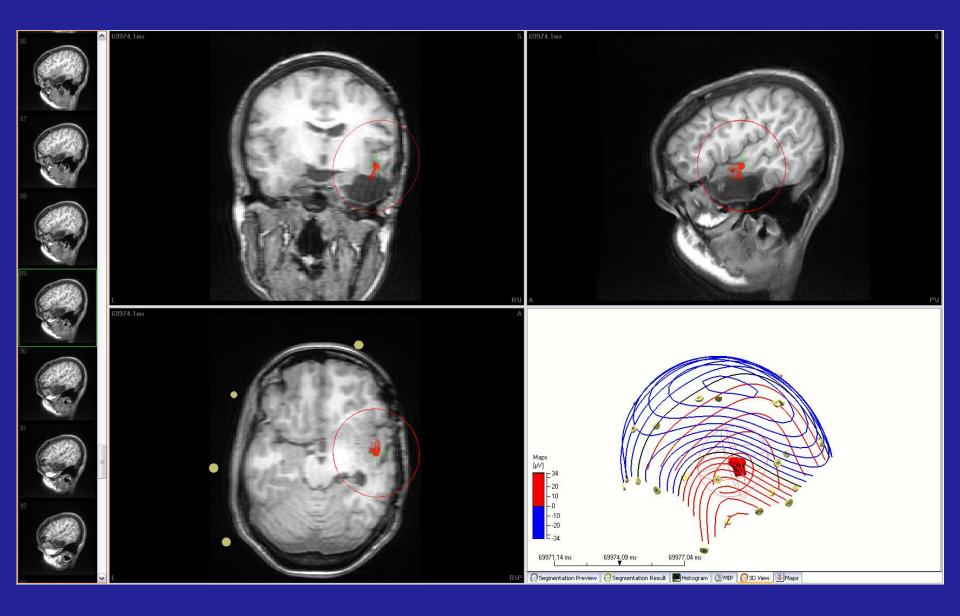
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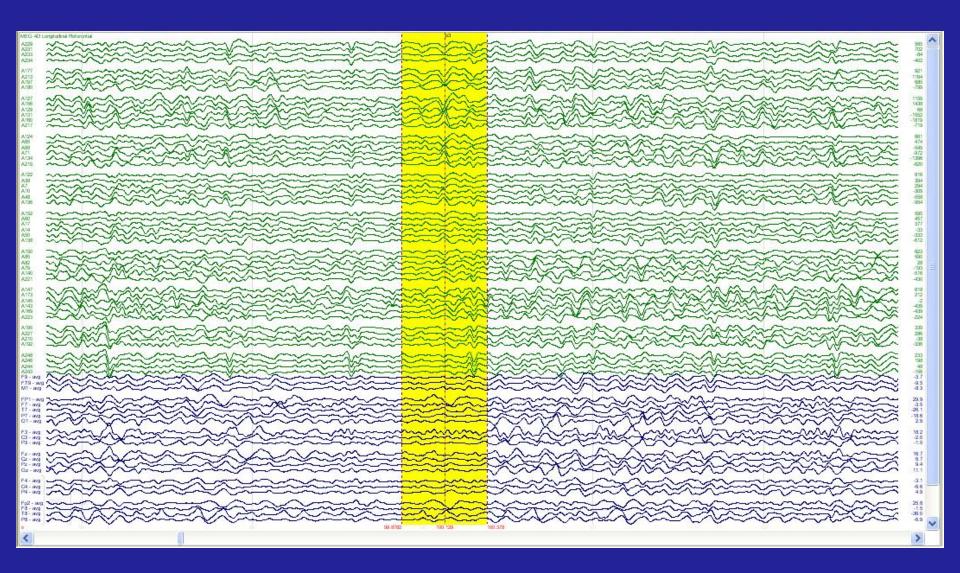
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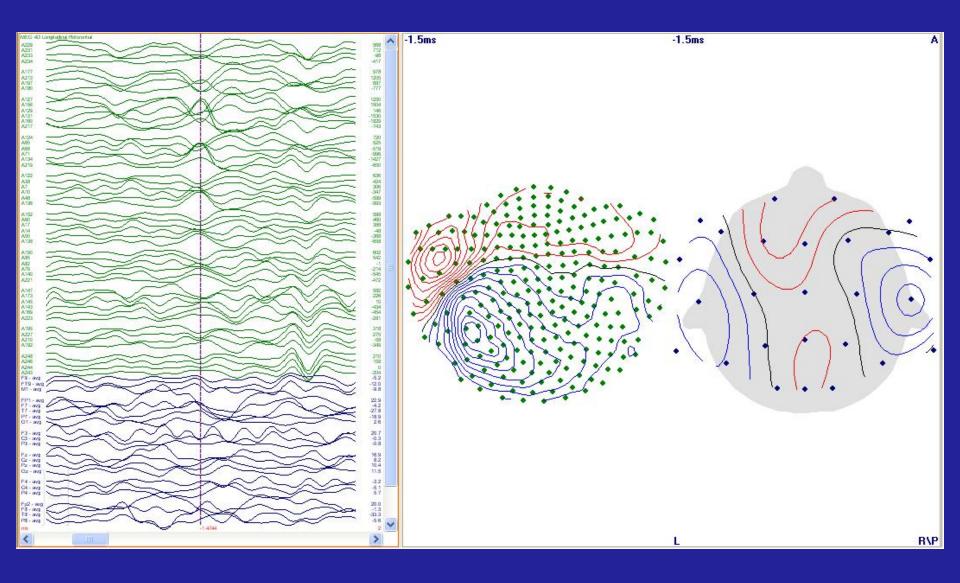


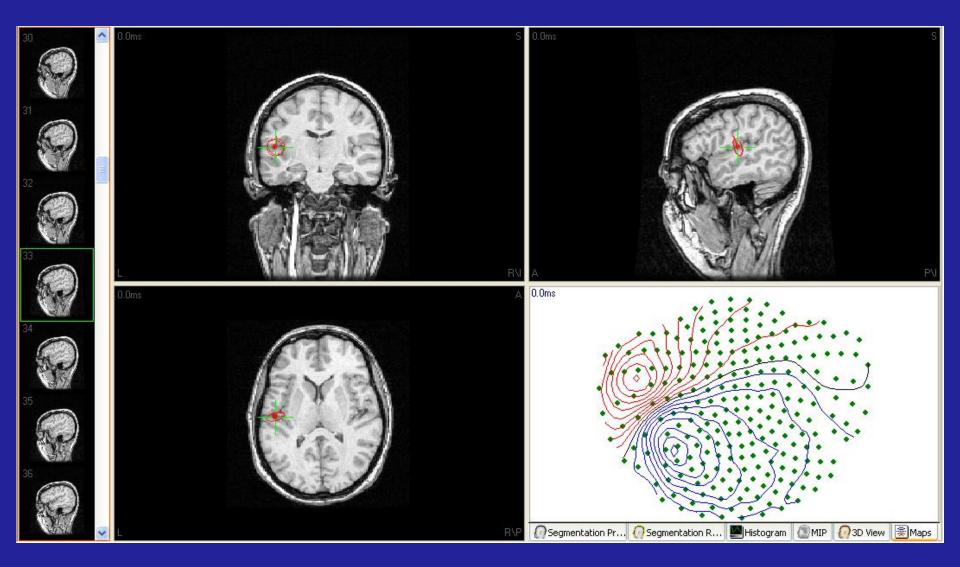
Axial Sagittal Coronal

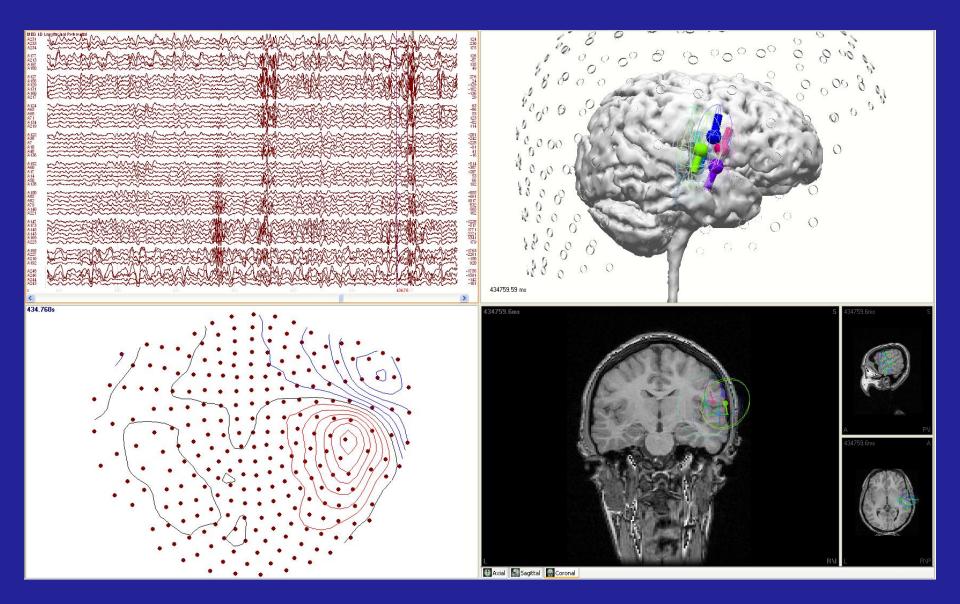


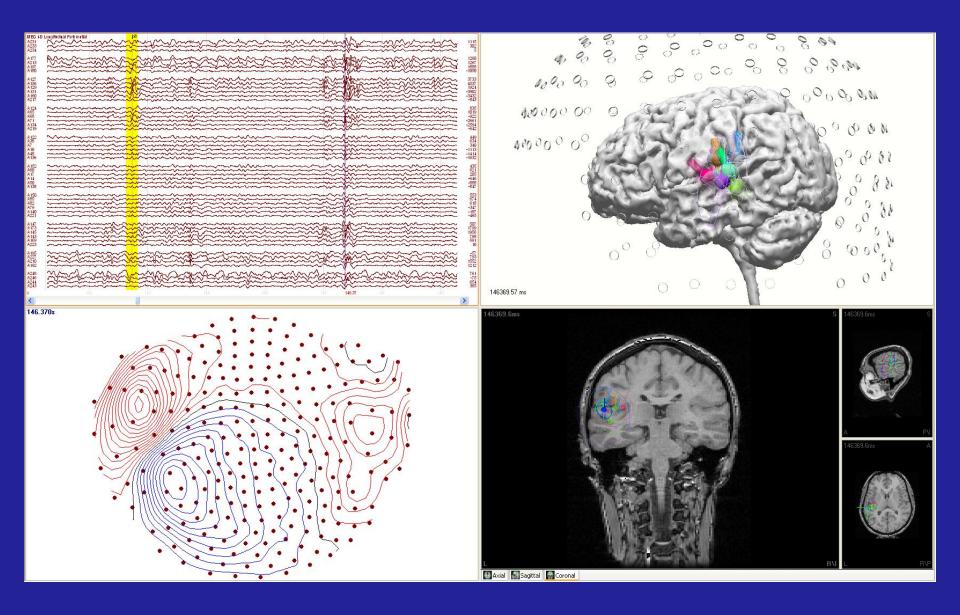


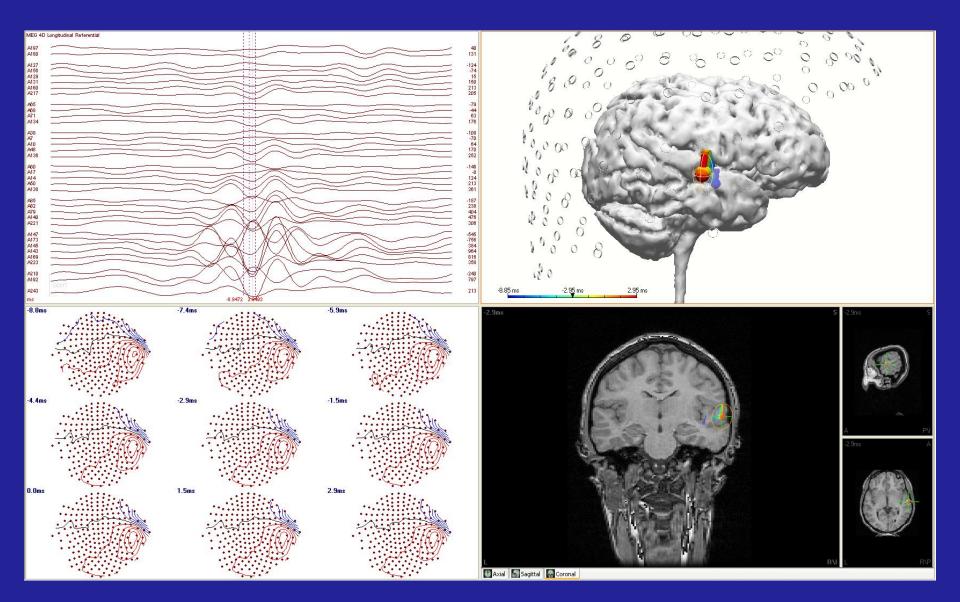


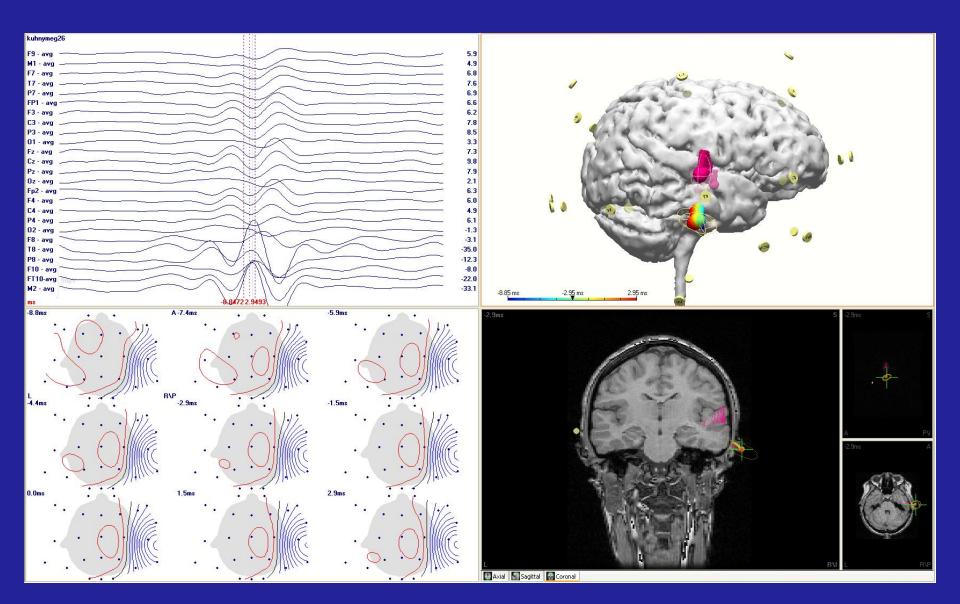








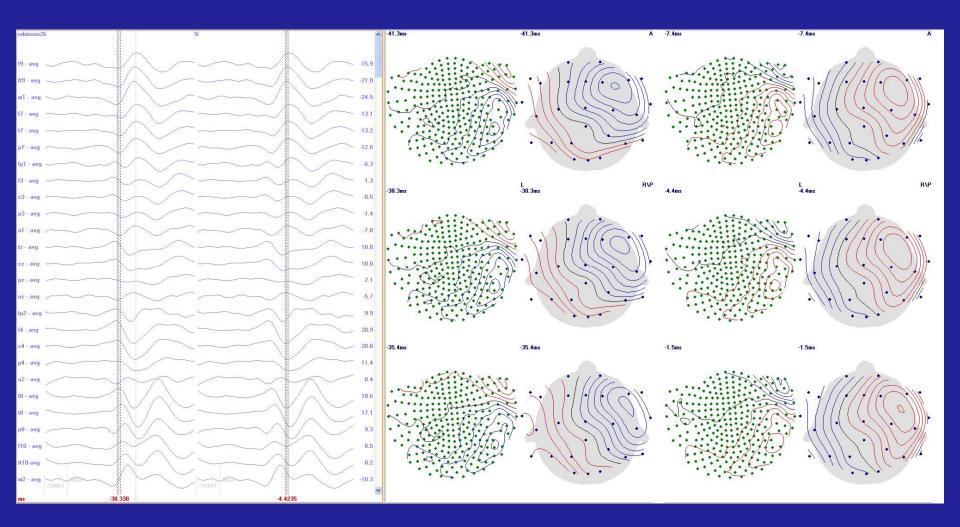


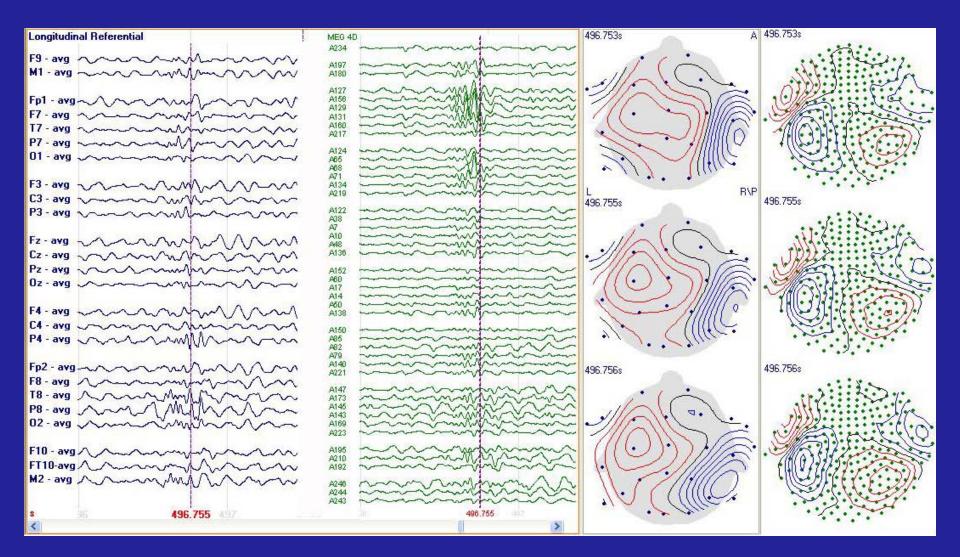


## MEG vs. EEG

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

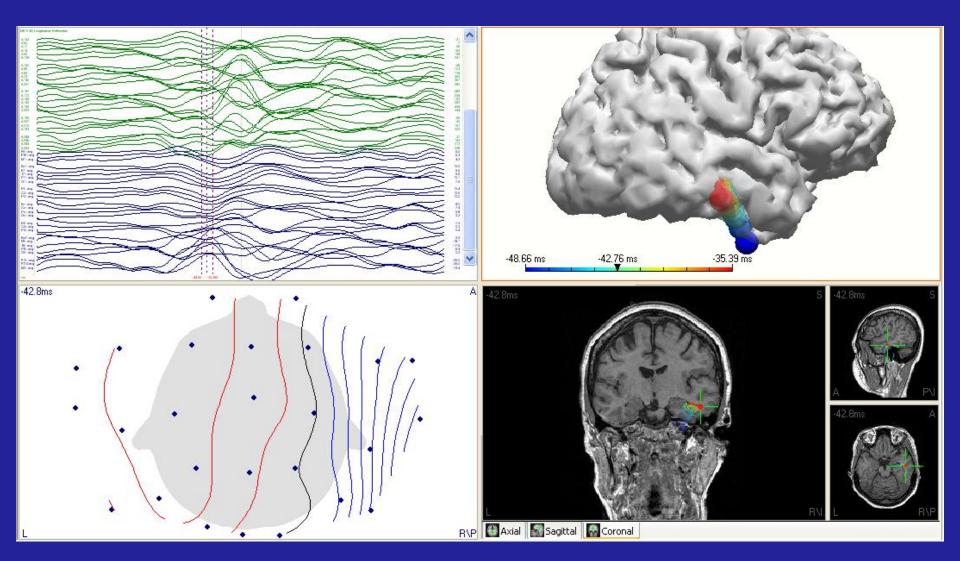
#### EEG more influenced by far field activity and breach effects

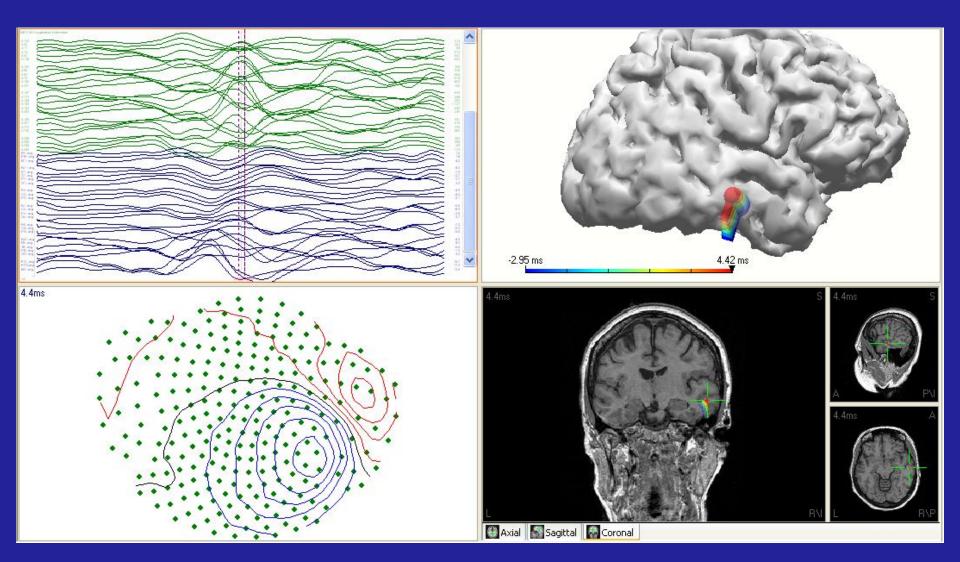


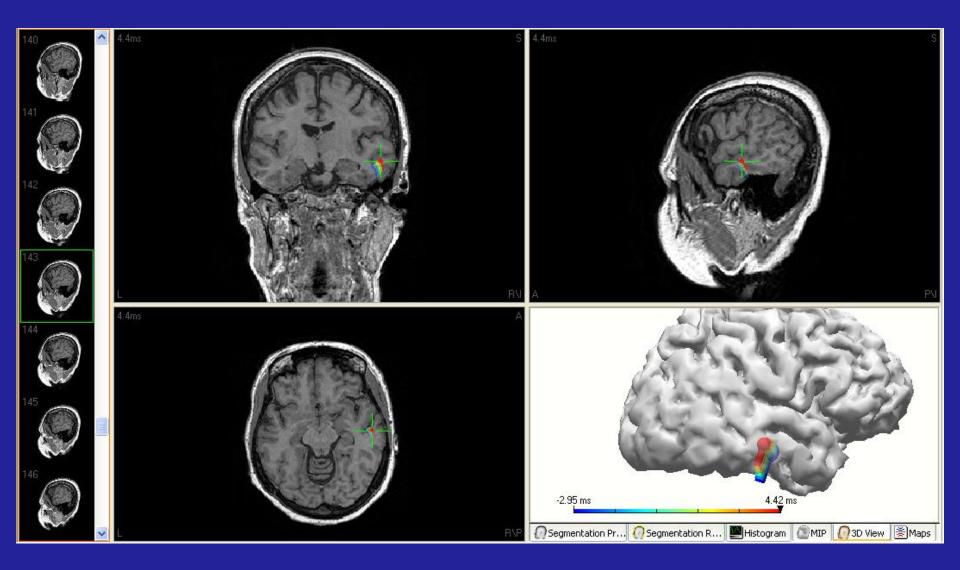


# MEG vs EEG

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



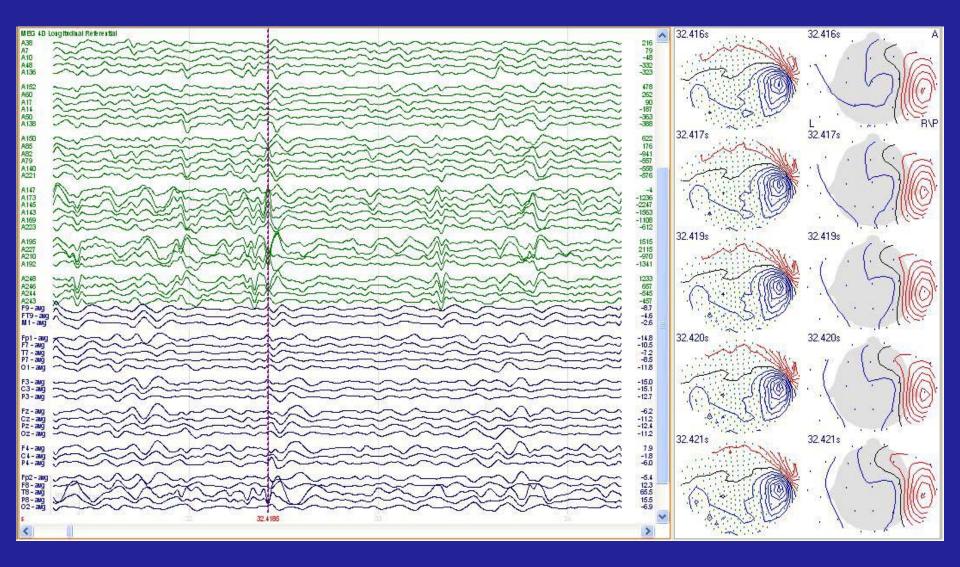


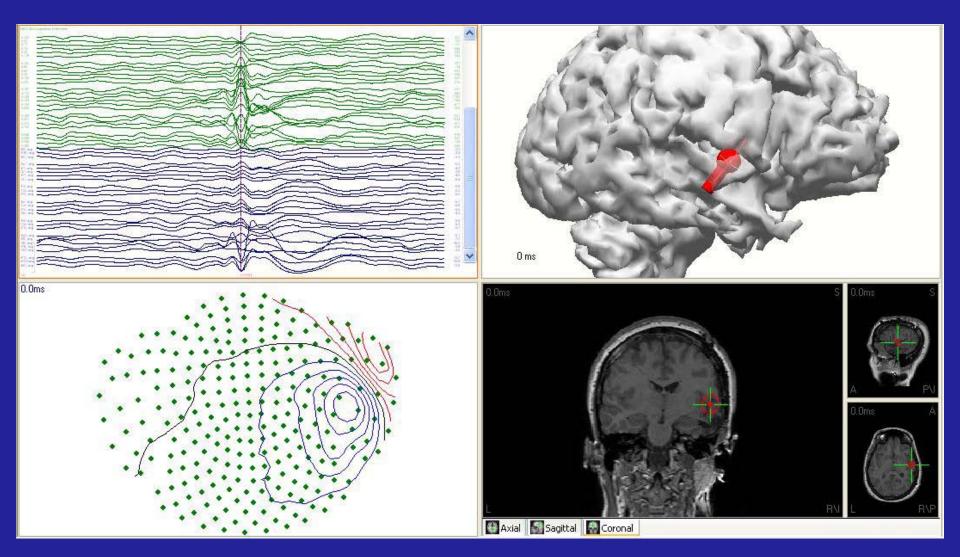


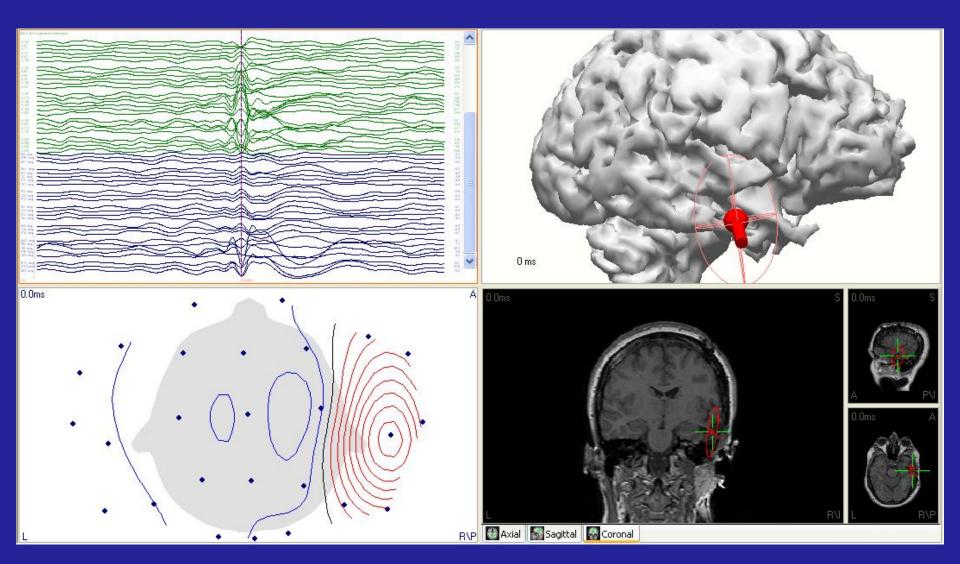
# **EEG/MEG Dipole Interpretation**

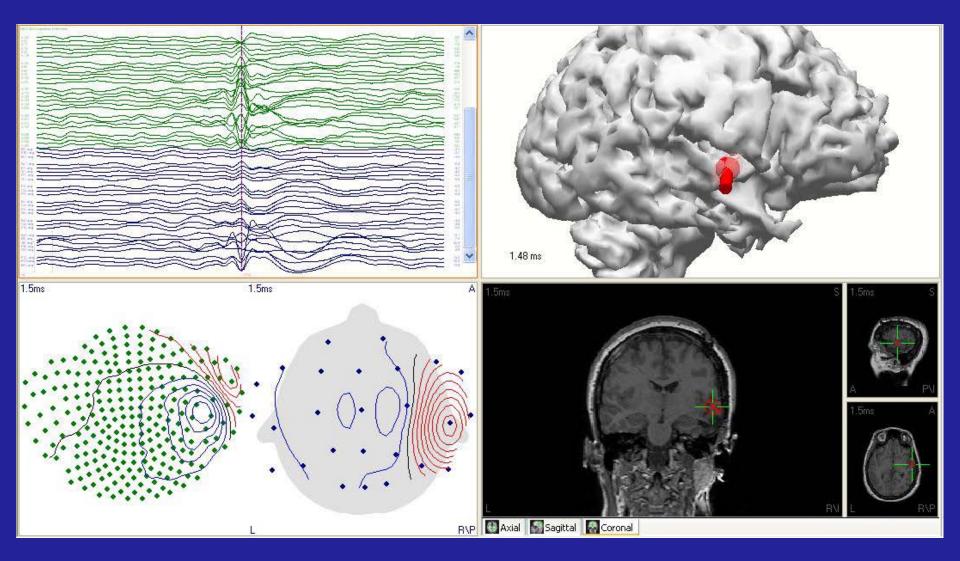
EEG dipole localization is sub-lobar

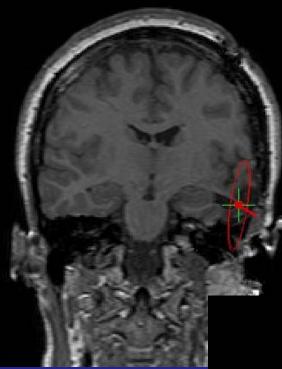
- EEG dipole orientation identifies cortical patch within that region and represents all orientational components
- MEG dipole localization can be nearly gyrus/sulcus specific
- MEG dipole orientation is restricted to the tangential component

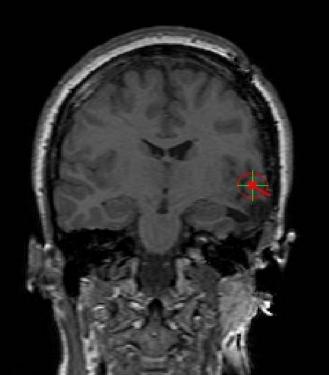


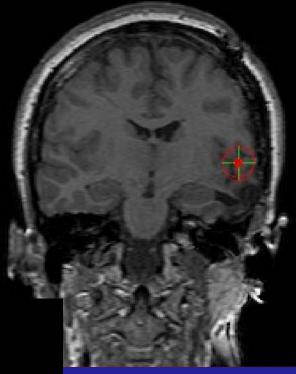


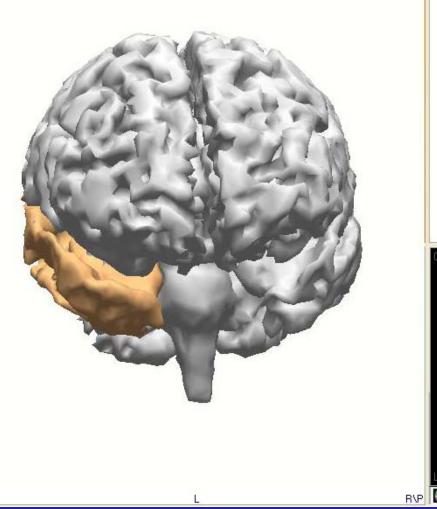


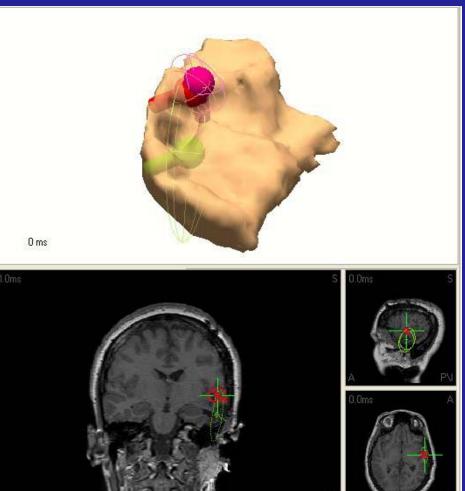












R\P Axial Sagittal Coronal

# **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



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