

Source Analysis on Simultaneously Measured Magnetoencephalography and Electroencephalography Signals of the Brain in Tremors and Epileptic Disorders

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Declaration

This thesis is an account of research undertaken between July 2012 and July 2015 at the Department of Digital Signal Processing and System Theory, Institute of Electrical and Information Technology, Faculty of Engineering, University of Kiel, Kiel, Germany.

Except where acknowledged in the customary manner, the material presented in this thesis is, to the best of my knowledge, original and has not been submitted in whole or part for a degree in any university. This work was prepared to be in compliance with the rules set by the German Research Foundation (Deutsche Forschungs Gemeinschaft, DFG).

Kidist Gebremariam Mideksa
Kiel, July 2015

*In memory of my father, Gebremariam Mideksa (rest in peace),
my inspiration and my role model.*

Acknowledgments

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Abstract

EEG and MEG are two non-invasive imaging modalities for recording brain activity. There is an increasing evidence that both modalities measure the same sources but from different angles due to their sensitivity and field patterns. Thus, simultaneous recording of the brain activity using both modalities helps in gaining additional information so as to get more insights into the neuronal mechanisms underlying the cognitive processes which is sometimes impossible to do using single-modality recordings. A variety of methods have been developed for analyzing these measurements, one of which is the source-analysis consisting of solving the so-called forward and inverse problems. The concept of different forward and inverse modeling methods helps to interpret the scalp topography. It states that, given the physiological sources, that is, electrical currents inside the brain, we can calculate the electromagnetic potentials and fields using standard electrodynamics, termed as solving the forward problem; if we proceed in the opposite direction, we can infer where the underlying physiological sources are located by estimating the current distribution from the measured electromagnetic potentials and fields, termed as solving the inverse problem.

Source-analysis has been shown to be a very useful tool in clinical environments to diagnose neurological disorders, like different forms of epilepsy and tremors by detecting the part of the abnormal brain tissue responsible for creating abnormal signals that should be removed in order to eliminate seizures or by indicating the optimal location where deep brain stimulation (DBS) electrodes would be best positioned to suppress the symptoms of Parkinson's disease. It is often useful to record brain signals in response to normal tasks such as viewing items or patterns on the screen, or feeling a sensation in arms or legs, so that the parts of the brain that help us in perceiving the environment normally can be identified and compared with any part of the brain that is not functioning normally.

In this dissertation, the main aim is in validating the location of the sources responsible for performing standard clinical paradigms using different source-analysis approaches having the a-priori information about the location of the sources. In this context, different methodological hypotheses will be addressed: influence of realistic or spherical head models (forward solutions) on the results of the inverse solutions, comparison of the available source-analysis approaches (dipole vs current density reconstruction (CDR) vs beamforming), and modality comparison in detecting superficial and/or deep sources in the brain.

Zusammenfassung

EEG und MEG sind zwei nicht-invasive Bildgebungsmodalitäten, mit denen man Gehirnaktivität messen kann. Aus diesem Grund ist es hilfreich, beide Modalitäten zu verwenden, um zusätzliche Informationen zu gewinnen, die mehr Einblicke in die neuronalen Mechanismen geben, die kognitiven Prozessen zugrunde liegen. Dies ist manchmal nicht möglich, wenn nur eine einzige Modalität zum Einsatz kommt. Eine Vielzahl von Methoden wurde entwickelt, um diese Idee zu analysieren. Eine Methode ist die Quellenlokalisation, die darin besteht, das sogenannte Vorwärtsproblem und das inverse Problem zu lösen. Das Konzept von verschiedenen vorwärtsgerichteten und inversen Modellierungsmethoden hilft, die Skulptophographie zu interpretieren. Es besagt, dass bei gegebenen physiologischen Quellen, das heißt elektrischen Strömen im Gehirn, mit Hilfe von üblicher Elektrodynamik die elektromagnetischen Potentiale und Felder berechnet werden können. Dies wird als die Lösung des vorwärtsgerichteten Problems bezeichnet. Wenn wir in die entgegengesetzte Richtung fortfahren, können wir die Orte der zugrunde liegenden physiologischen Quellen bestimmen, indem wir die Stromverteilung von den gemessenen elektromagnetischen Potentialen und Felder ableiten.

Im klinischen Einsatz hat die Quellenanalyse gezeigt, dass sie ein sehr nützliches Verfahren ist, um neurologische Erkrankungen, wie zum Beispiel verschiedene Formen von Epilepsie und Tremor, zu diagnostizieren. Krankhafte Gehirnareale, die auffällige Signale produzieren, können erkannt werden. Diese können entfernt werden, um Anfälle zu unterdrücken, oder man kann eine optimale Positionierung von tiefen Hirnstimulations-(DBS-)Elektroden angeben, um so die Symptome der Parkinson-Krankheit zu unterdrücken. Es ist häufig sinnvoll, Gehirnsignale als Reaktion auf normale Aufgaben, wie zum Beispiel das Betrachten von Objekten oder Mustern auf einem Computerbildschirm oder das Empfinden von Sinneseindrücken an den Armen oder Beinen, aufzunehmen, um so die Bereiche des Gehirns zu identifizieren, die uns helfen, die Umwelt normal wahrzunehmen. Diese können mit den Bereichen des Gehirns verglichen werden, die nicht normal funktionieren.

Das Hauptziel dieser Dissertation ist es, die Lage der Quellen, die für die Ausführung von typischen klinischen Paradigmen verantwortlich sind, zu validieren, indem unterschiedliche Quellenlokalisationsmethoden unter Verwendung von A-priori-Wissen über die Lokalisation der Quellen zum Einsatz kommen. In diesem Zusammenhang werden unterschiedliche methodische Hypothesen betrachtet: Der Einfluss von realistischen und

kugelförmigen Kopfmodellen (Vorwärtslösung) auf die Ergebnisse der vorwärtsgerichteten Lösung, ein Vergleich von verfügbaren Quellenlokalisationsansätzen (auf der Basis von Dipolannahmen, von Stromdichte-Rekonstruktion (current-density reconstruction, CDR) und von sogenanntem Beamforming) und der Vergleich von Modalitäten, um oberflächliche und/oder tiefe Quellen im Gehirn zu finden.

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