Decoding the neural representations of conscious and unconscious perception

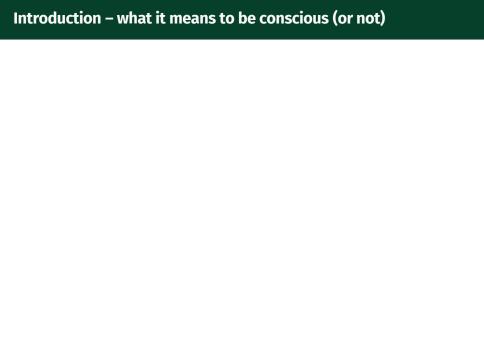
Pablo Rodríguez-San Esteban, Ana B. Chica, José A. González-López

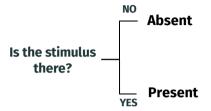
Department of Experimental Psychology – Brain, Mind, and Behavior Research Center (CIMCYC), University of Granada (UGR), Granada, Spain

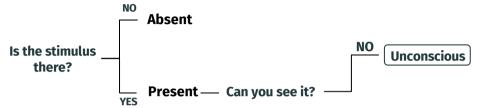
April 4th, 2025

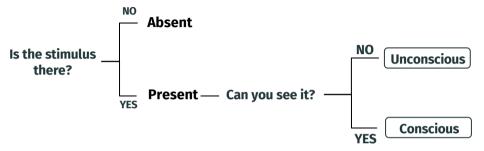


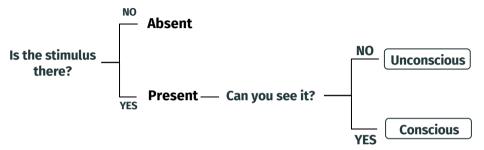
Introduction





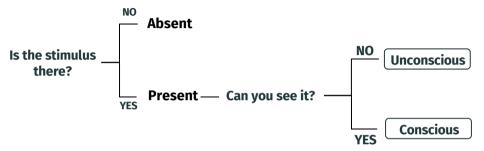






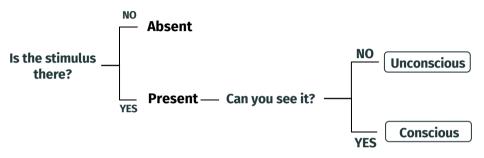
Study aims

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- 2. Compare classification performance for voltage vs TF power

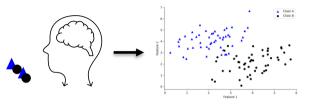


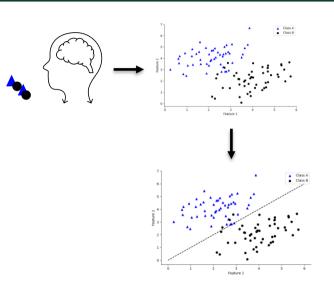
Study aims

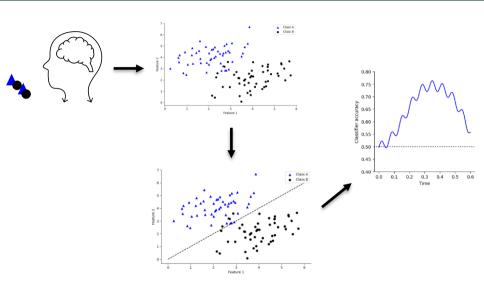
- 1. Explore if task-relevant features can be decoded from the EEG signal
- 2. Compare classification performance for voltage vs TF power
- 3. Create a pipeline to run these analyses in real time







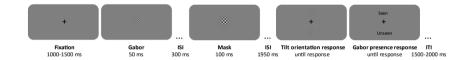


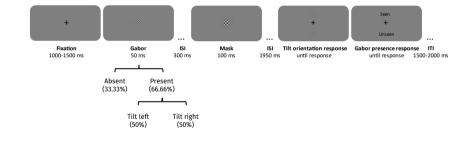


Methods

n = 30







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- 1. **Titration**: Manipulating Gabor contrast to reach ~50% of seen stimuli
- 2. **Localizer**: Gabor is always presented with a supra-threshold contrast (5 blocks)
- 3. **Experimental**: Gabor presented with the contrast selected during titration (10 blocks)

 64-channels cap, 2 channels used for EOG recording







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- Standard preprocessing, with a focus on automatic steps
- Epochs locked to Gabor onset
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 - Linear SVC, 10-fold stratified cross-validation
 - Conditions: Target presence (Present/Absent), Awareness (Seen/Unseen). Gabor tilt (Left/Right)



Results

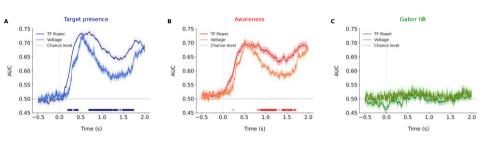
Results – Temporal decoding

Direct comparison of AUC for voltage vs TF power

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Direct comparison of AUC for voltage vs TF power

• Significant differences (q < .001)

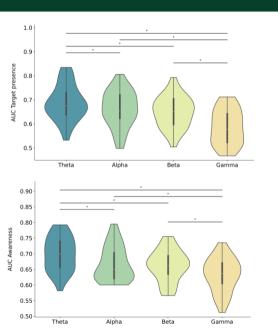


- Fitting the model with TF power improves classification performance in Target presence and Awareness
 - No significant differences for Gabor tilt

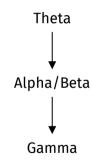
Results – Comparing frequency bands

In which frequency bands are decoding scores higher?

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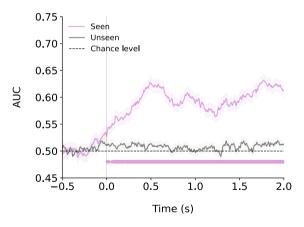


Results – Cross-block analyses

Cross-decoding: trains on the localizer blocks, tests on the experimental trials (for seen and unseen trials)

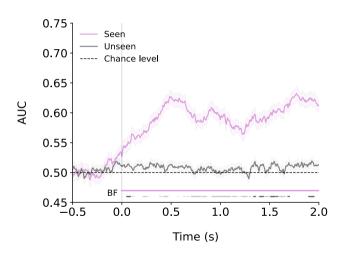
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- No significant decoding in unseen trials, but...

Results – Cross-block analyses



- Bayesian tests show some significant time points, in an early (~100ms) and a late window (~1300ms)
- These were post-hoc analyses, so interpret with care!

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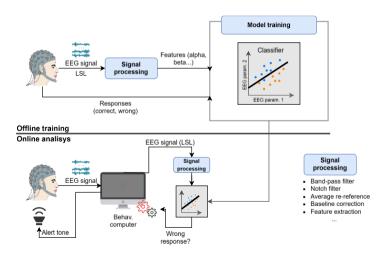
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 - · Early perceptual processing
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 - Early perceptual processing
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- Want to know more? Read the paper in Scientific Reports!

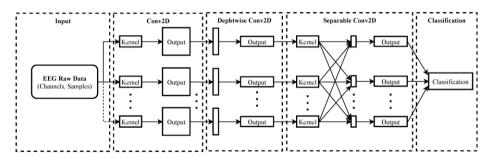




Build a closed-loop system that can improve conscious perception through neurofeedback.



DL models (EEGNet) instead of linear classifiers: more accurate, requires a lot (A LOT) of data for training. But...

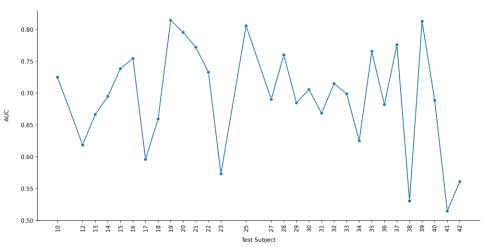


Generalization to other participants

Training with group data \rightarrow Pre-trained model \rightarrow Evaluating new subjects

Generalization to other participants



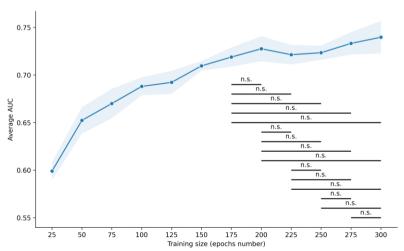


Cross-sessions training

Training with 1st session \rightarrow Pre-trained model \rightarrow Evaluating on 2nd session

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Thanks!







Attention and Consciousness Research Group

