### MOTIVATION

The ABR (Auditory Brainstem Response) is widely used as a tool to assess the integrity of the first stages of the auditory system, clinically and in human and animal research. The measured signal is tiny relative to noise, and requires averaging over many trials. Furthermore, responses from different auditory processing sites are overlapped and are distinguishable only by their latency. Multichannel recording and analysis may overcome these limits.

### METHODS

#### Stimuli:
- Clicks, alternating polarities, 2000 repeats, 70 dB nH, Sennheiser HD250 headphones, 11-25/s, ICI designed to avoid 1/50Hz (line noise), 1/10 Hz (alpha).

#### Analysis:
- DSS (Denoising Source Separation) finds the optimal linear combination of sensor or electrode waveforms, specific to some criterion (Särelä & Valpola 2005; also known as Common Spatial Patterns, CSP, Koles et al 1990). Here, the criterion to be optimized is repeatability over trials (de Cheveigné & Simon 2007).

#### Matlab Code:

```matlab
% Matlab code for DSS

% (1) Calculate C0 = covariance of raw data,
% (2) Calculate C1 = covariance of trial-averaged data,
% (3) Derive DSS matrix, apply to data,
% (4) Select "best" component(s).

% Preprocessing:
% (1) Remove mean over initial 300ms to avoid HP filter glitch,
% (2) HP filter, 50 Hz cutoff,
% (3) Cut into epochs,
% (4) Subtract stimulus artifact,
% (5) Remove outlier trials based on eccentricity from mean,
% (6) Remove mean.

% Electrode sensitivity analysis:
% (1) Normalized cross-correlation with best DSS,
% (2) Leave-one-out, measure best score.
```

### RESULTS

#### Human:
- Standard ABR vs multichannel:
  - DSS 1
  - DSS 2
  - DSS 3

#### Mouse:
- ABR measured with 120-channel magnetometer (Adachi et al 2010)
  - 2 electrodes parallel to each other on midline, 1 over bulla ipsilateral to speaker, click, 1000 rep, 50 dB:
  - 80 dB:
  - 2 electrodes parallel to each other on midline, 2 electrodes over bulla ipsilateral to speaker, click, 1000 rep, 55 dB:
  - 45 dB:

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### CONCLUSIONS

Multichannel ABR can:
- Improve signal-to-noise ratio and reduce recording time,
- Potentially help separate responses from different sources in the brainstem.