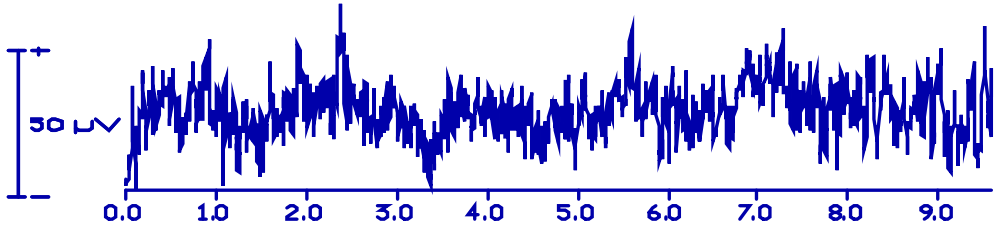
The Event-Related Potential (*aka* the ERP)

Overview

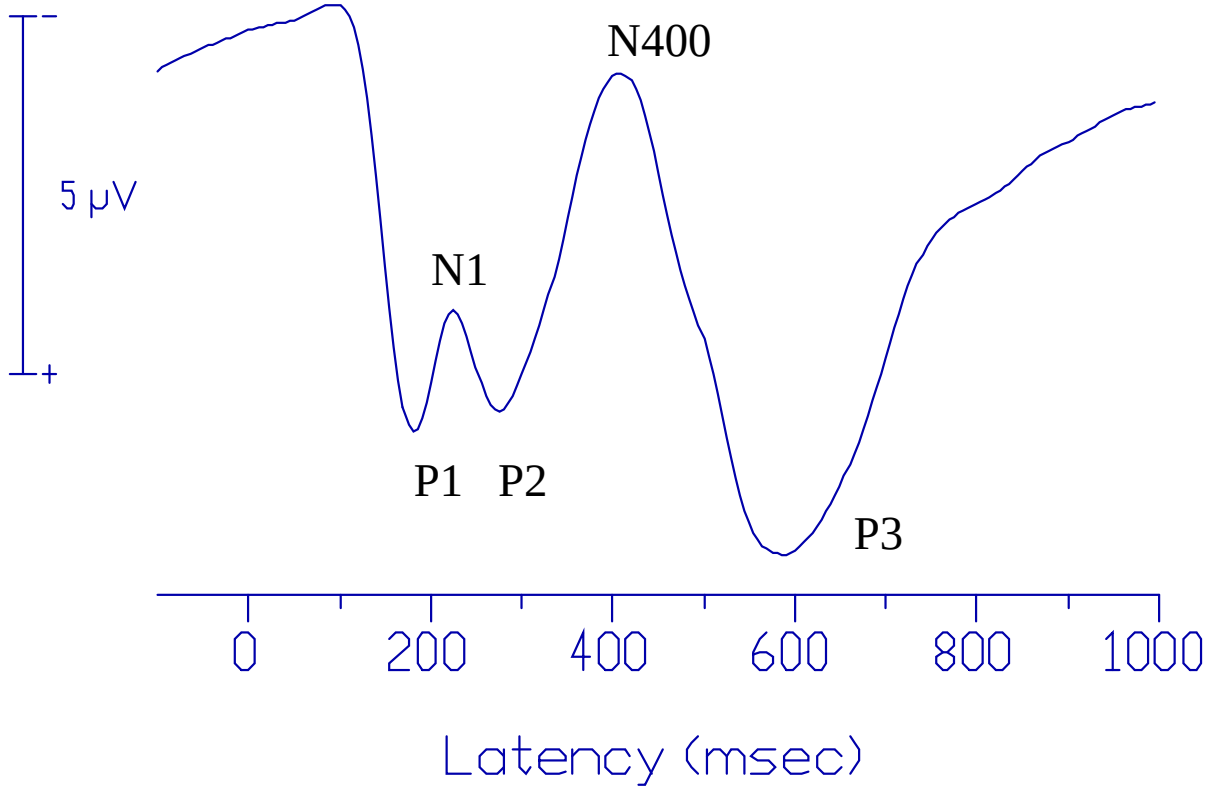
Event-related potentials are patterned voltage changes embedded in the ongoing EEG that reflect a process in response to a particular event: e.g., a visual or auditory stimulus, a response, an internal event

Ongoing EEG



Stimuli

Visual Event-related Potential (ERP)



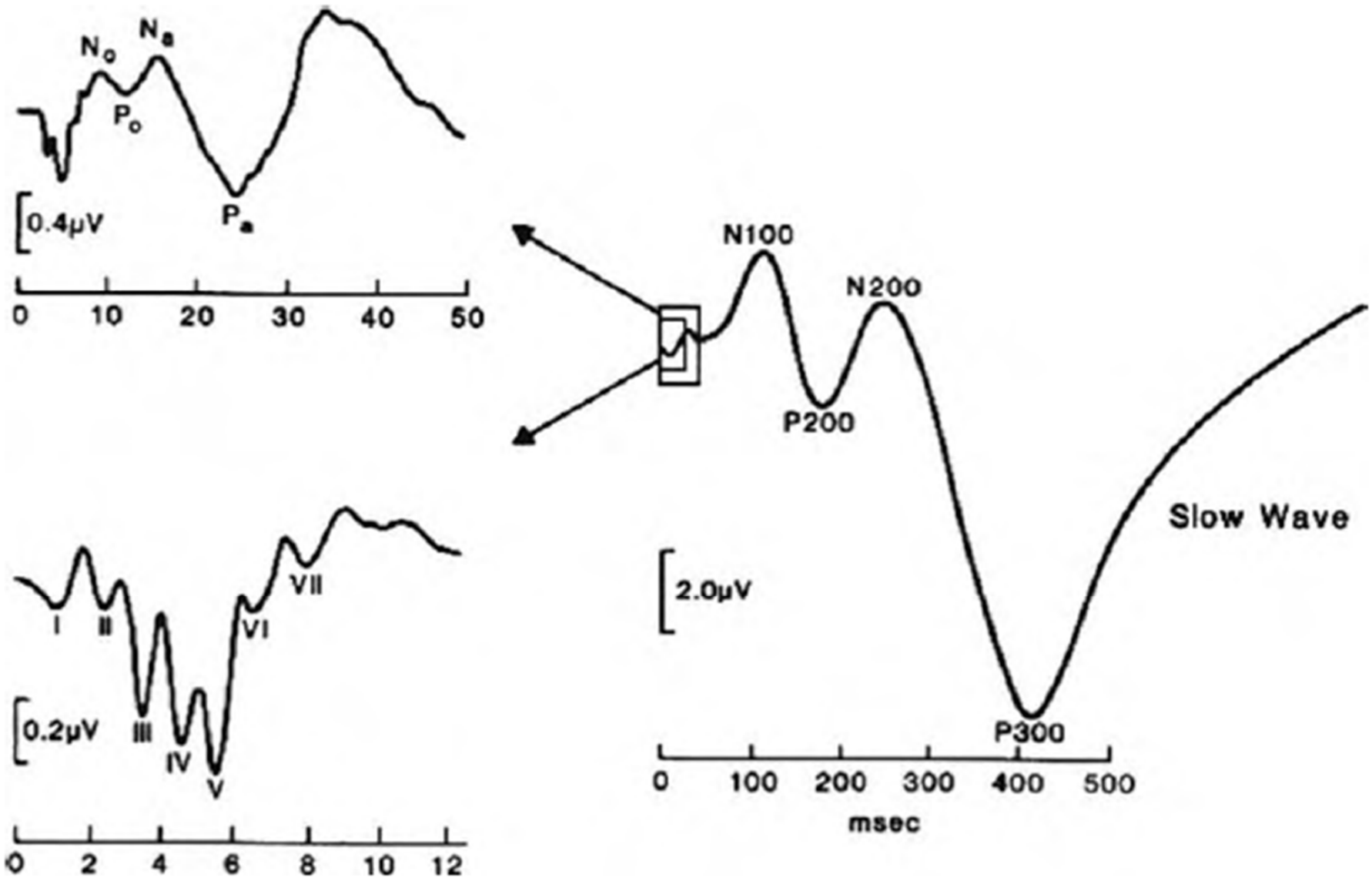
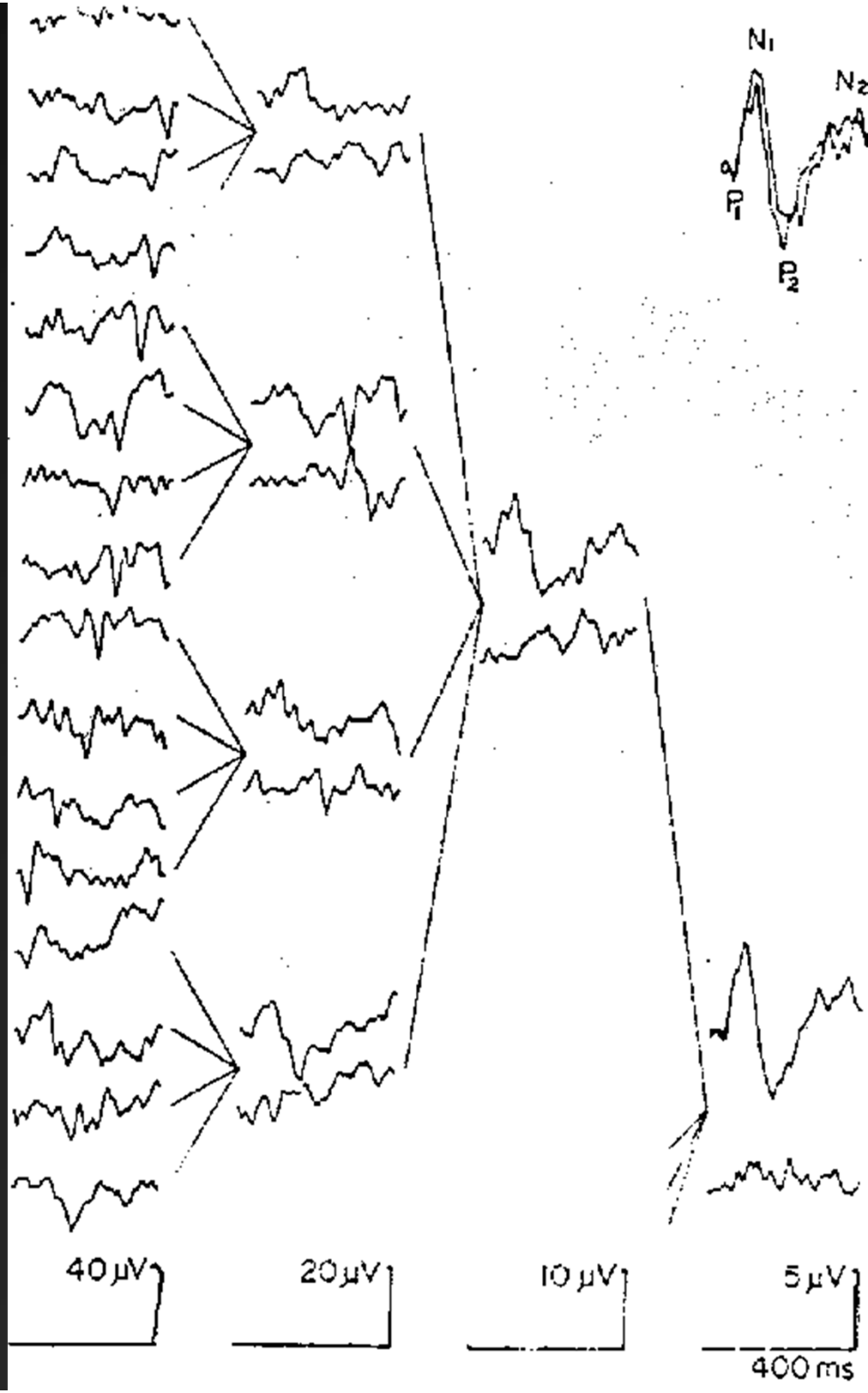


Figure 4.2. A schematic representation of ERP components elicited by auditory, infrequent target stimuli. The three panels represent three different voltage × time functions: the left bottom panel shows the very early sensory components (with a latency of less than 10 ms); the left top panel shows the middle latency sensory components (with a latency of between 10 and 50 ms); and the right panel shows late components (latency exceeding 50 ms). Note the different voltage and time scales used in the three panels, as well as the different nomenclatures used to label the peaks (components). (Adapted with permission of the author from Donchin, 1979, with kind permission of Springer Science and Business media.)

Time-locked activity and extraction by averaging



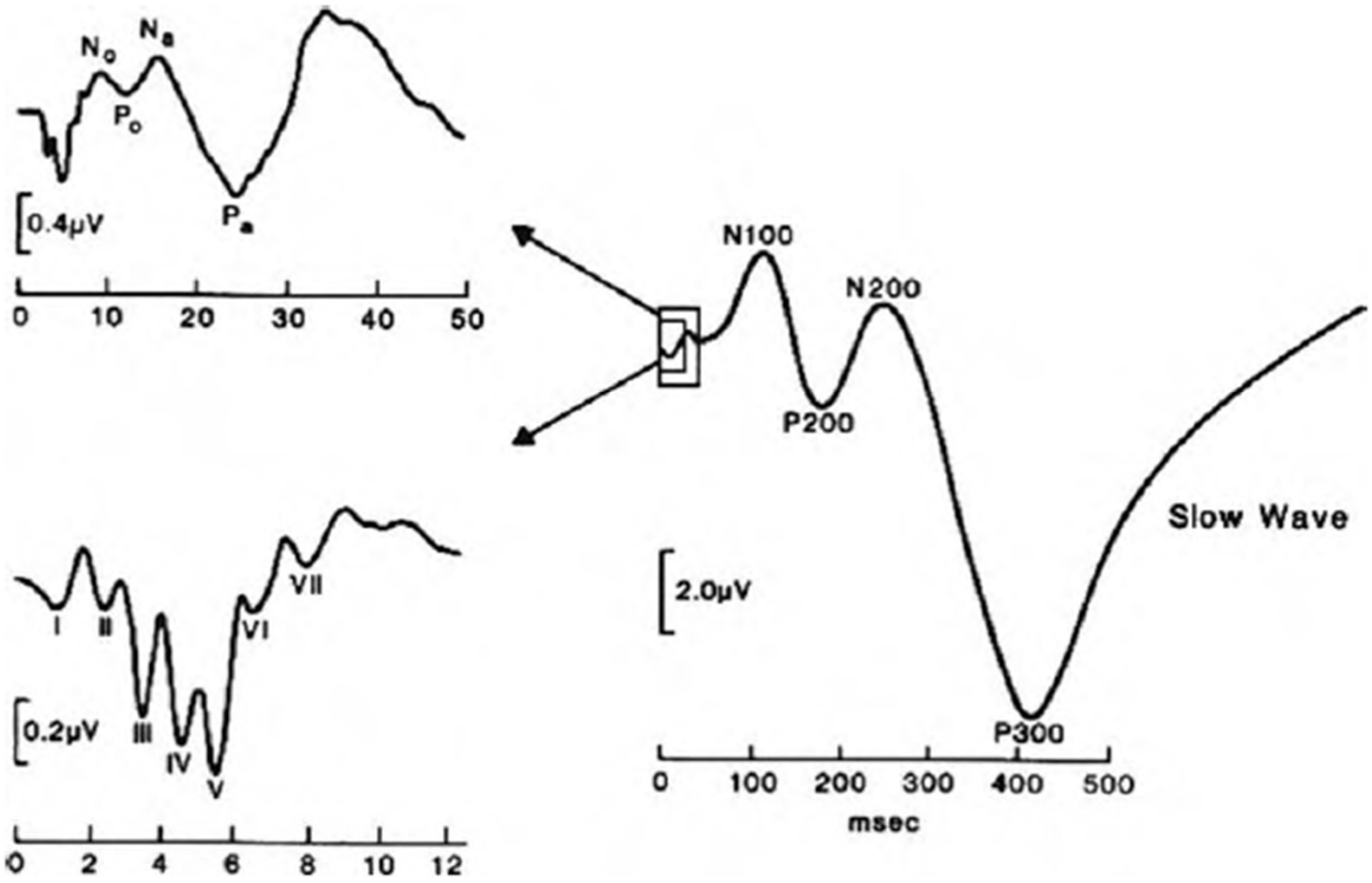
The Classic View:
Time-locked activity and extraction by signal averaging

- Ongoing activity reflects "**noise**"
- Activity that reflects processing of a given stimulus "**signal**"
- The signal-related activity can be extracted because it is **time-locked** to the presentation of the stimulus
- Signal Averaging is most common method of extracting the signal
  - Sample EEG for ~1 second after each stimulus presentation & average together across like stimuli
  - Time-locked signal emerges; noise averages to zero
  - Signal to noise ratio increases as a function of the **square root** of the number of trials in the average

What does the ERP reflect?

- May reflect sensory, motor, **and/or** cognitive events in the brain
- Reflect the synchronous and phase-locked activities of large neuronal populations engaged in information processing

Component is a "bump" or "trough"



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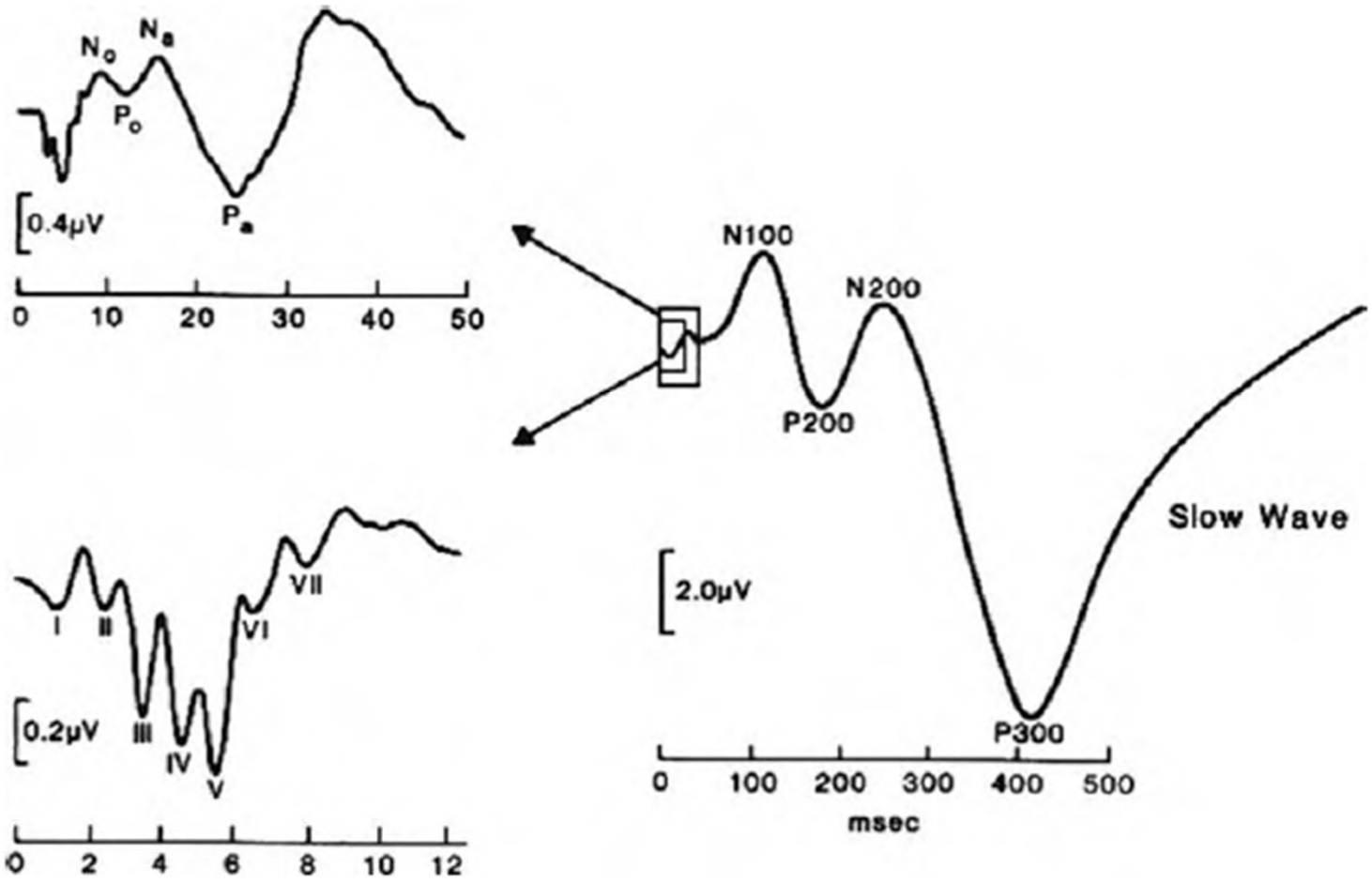
Making Meaning from the bumps

Pores o'er the Cranial map with learned eyes,
Each rising hill and bumpy knoll decries
Here secret fires, and there deep mines of sense
His touch detects beneath each prominence.

Nomenclature & Quantifying

- Most commonly label peaks and troughs by polarity (P or N) and latency at active recording site
- Quantifying
  - Amplitude
  - Latency
  - Area
  - “String” measure
  - Fancy stuff to be discussed in “advanced” topics

Component is a "bump" or "trough"



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Early Components

- Waves I-VI represent evoked activity in auditory pathways and nuclei of the brainstem
- Early components <60-100 msec
  - occur in **obligatory** fashion
  - are called **Exogenous** = determined "outside" organism
- Even subtle deviations in appearance may be indicative of pathology

Later ERP components

- Highly sensitive to changes in
  - State of organism
  - Meaning of stimulus (NOT physical characteristics)
  - Information processing demands of task
- Therefore termed **Endogenous =** determined “within" organism

Not all components fit neatly into exogenous or endogenous categories

- Both Obligatory but modulated by psychological factors
- “Mesogenous”

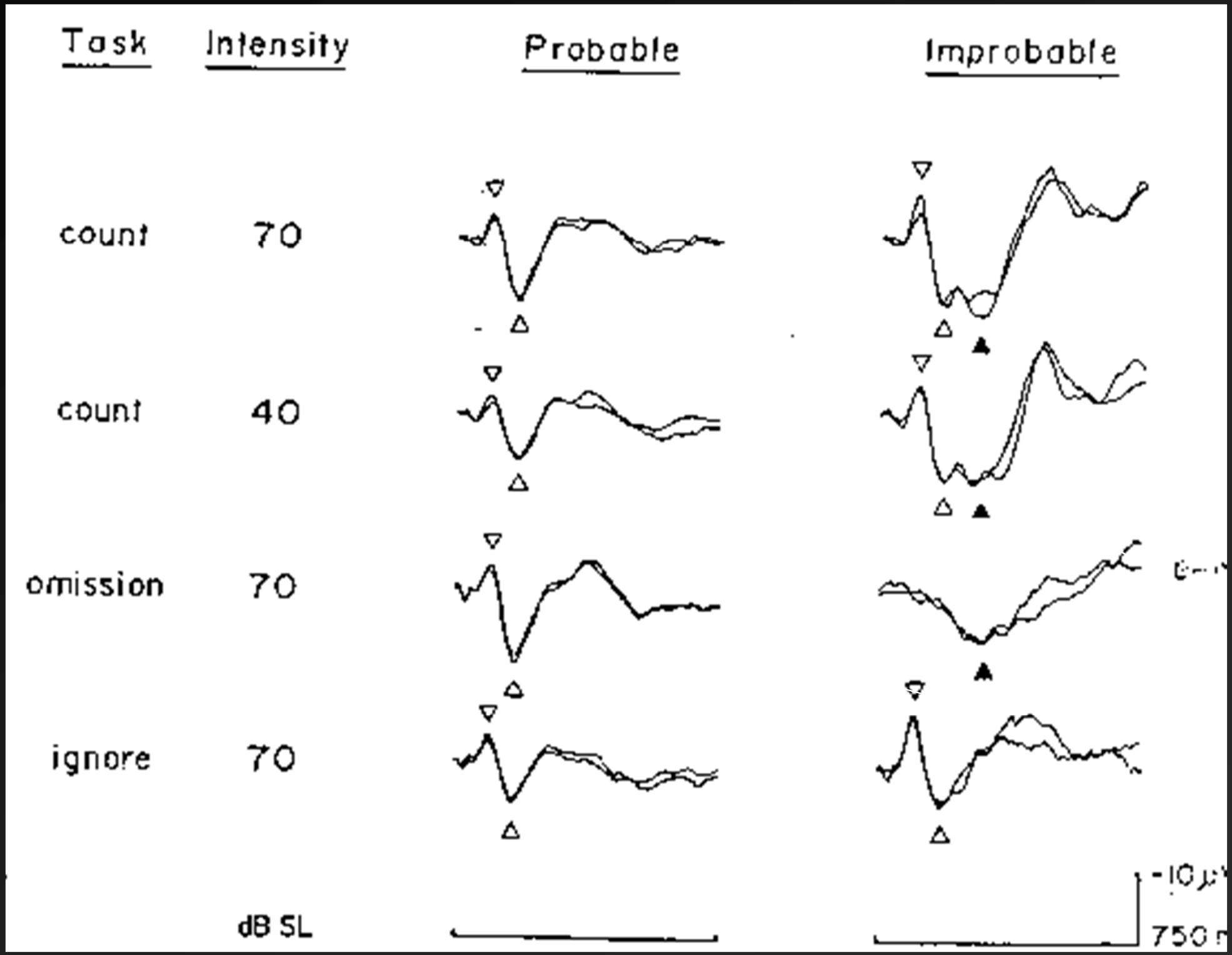
Defining Components: *aka* how do I know one when I see one?

- By positive and negative peaks at various latencies and scalp locations
- By functional associations, covarying across subjects, conditions, or scalp locations in response to experimental manipulations
- By neuronal structures that plausibly give rise to them

After Fabiani, Gratton, Federmeier, 2007

Evoked Vs Emitted ERP's

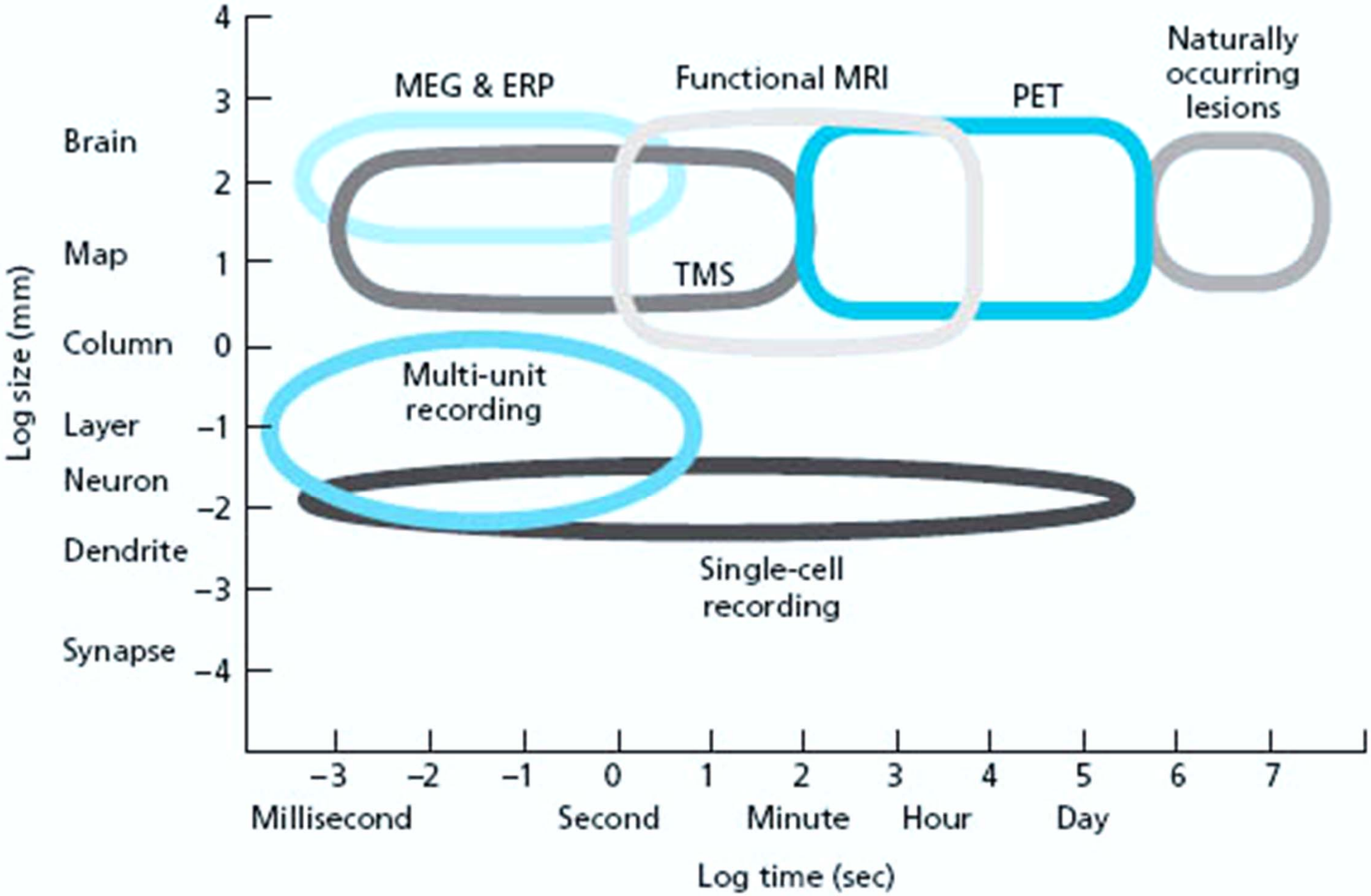
- Evoked are most commonly studied: occur in response to a physical stimulus
- Emitted potentials occur in absence of a physical stimulus (e.g., omission of item in sequence)
- Evoked can have both exogenous and endogenous components; emitted usually have only endogenous

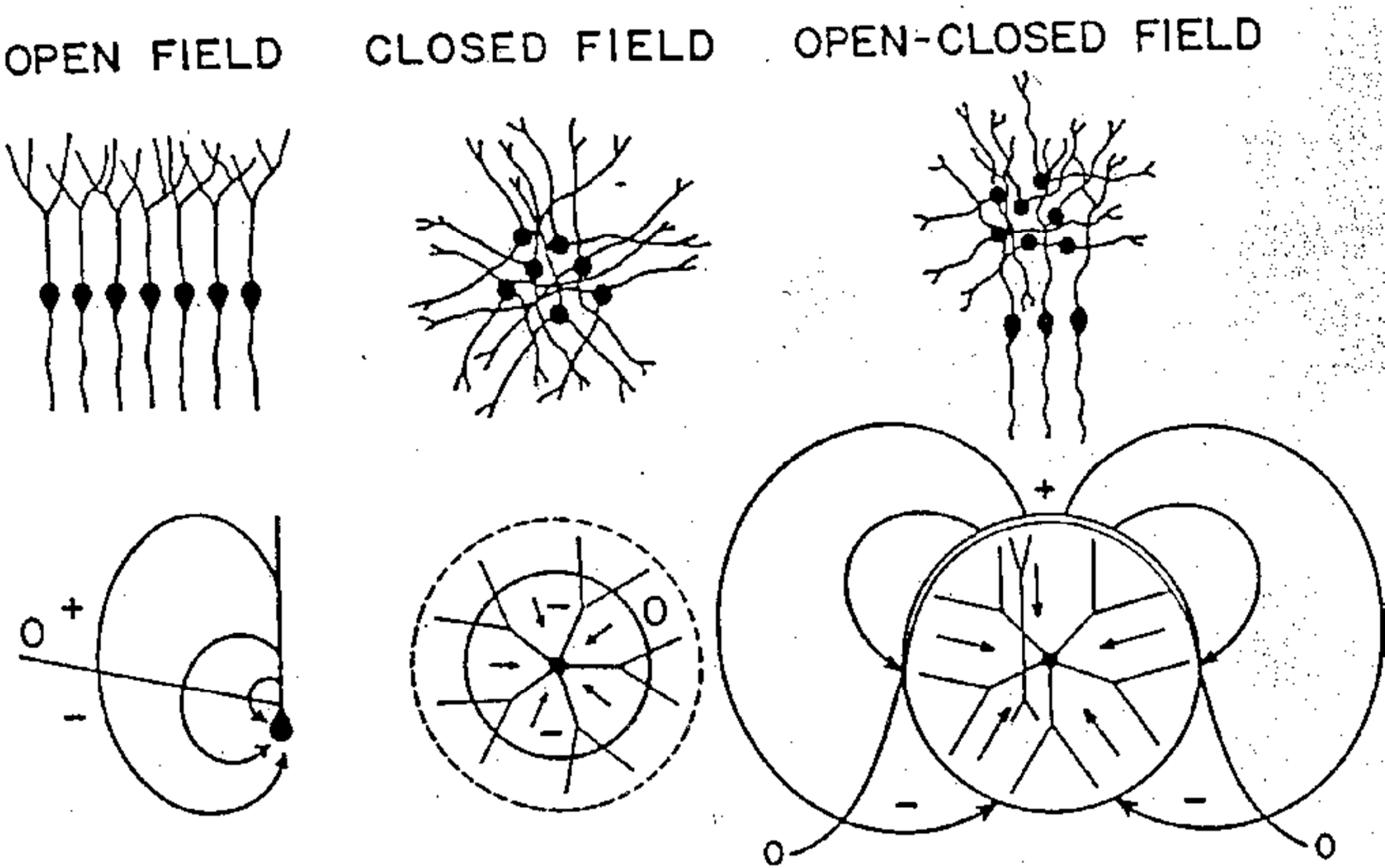

Task
Intensity
Probable
Improbable
count
70
count
40
omission
70
ignore
70
dB SL
-10 µ
750 m

Comparison to other "windows on the brain"

- Very precise temporal resolution
- Spatial localization is more difficult
  - At the surface, activity of many functional synaptic units recorded
  - ERP's generated only by groups of cells that are synchronously activated in a geometrically organized manner
  - Synchronous activation may occur in one or more than one location
  - Monopolar recording technique most often used
  - Yet localization is not impossible in conjunction with other techniques

Next…


Log size (mm)
4
3
2
1
0
−1
−2
−3
−4
Brain
Map
Column
Layer
Neuron
Dendrite
Synapse
MEG & ERP
Functional MRI
PET
Naturally occurring lesions
TMS
Multi-unit recording
Single-cell recording
−3
−2
−1
0
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
Millisecond
Second
Minute
Hour
Day
Log time (sec)



After Lorente de Nó, 1947

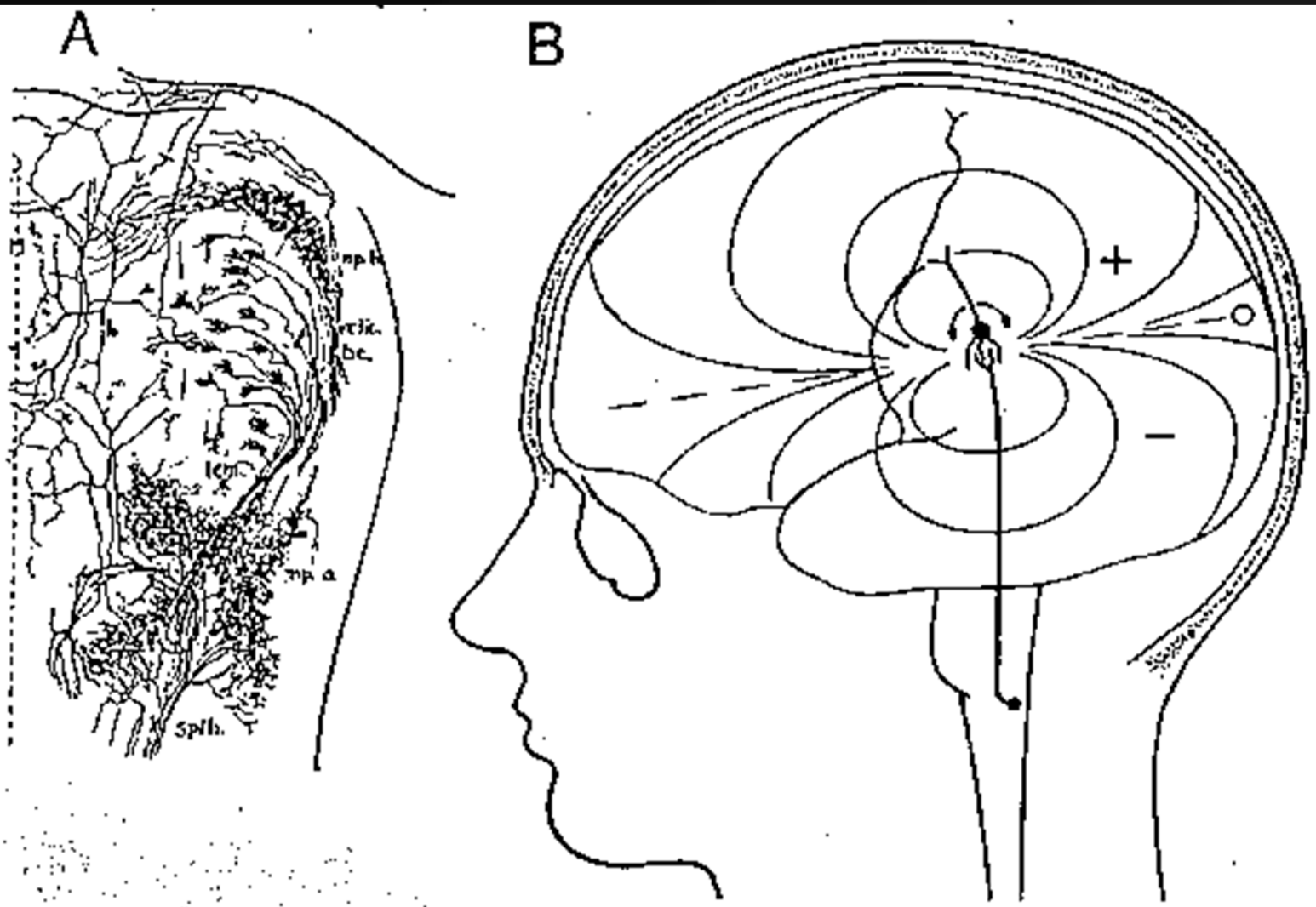


Figure 1-11. Anatomy and electrogenesis of ventroposterior (VP) thalamus. A. Horizontal section showing bushy arborizations of lemniscal (lem) afferents terminating on dendrites of VP relay neurons (g). (From "Patterns of Organization in Specific and Nonspecific Thalamic Fields" by M. E. Scheibel and A. B. Scheibel. In D. P. Purpura and M. D. Yahr [Eds.], *The Thalamus*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1966. Reprinted by permission.) B. Postulated potential field produced by depolarization of VP relay neurons. For clarity, the most intense parts of the field are omitted.

Caveat Emptor

- DO NOT interpret scalp distribution of ERP's as reflect cortical specialization
- Also, DO NOT interpret area of maximum amplitude to suggest that generator lies underneath

Correlate Vs substrate (AGAIN)

- Late ERP components should not be taken to indicate the existence of a neurological substrate of cognitive processing
- Rather should be considered a correlate
- Constructs in search of validation; Process of validation:
  - Determine antecedent conditions under which the ERP component appears and also magnitude and latency of ERP component
  - Develop hypotheses concerning functional significance of the "subroutine" underlying the ERP component
  - Predict consequences of subroutine--validate empirically

Basic Signal Processing

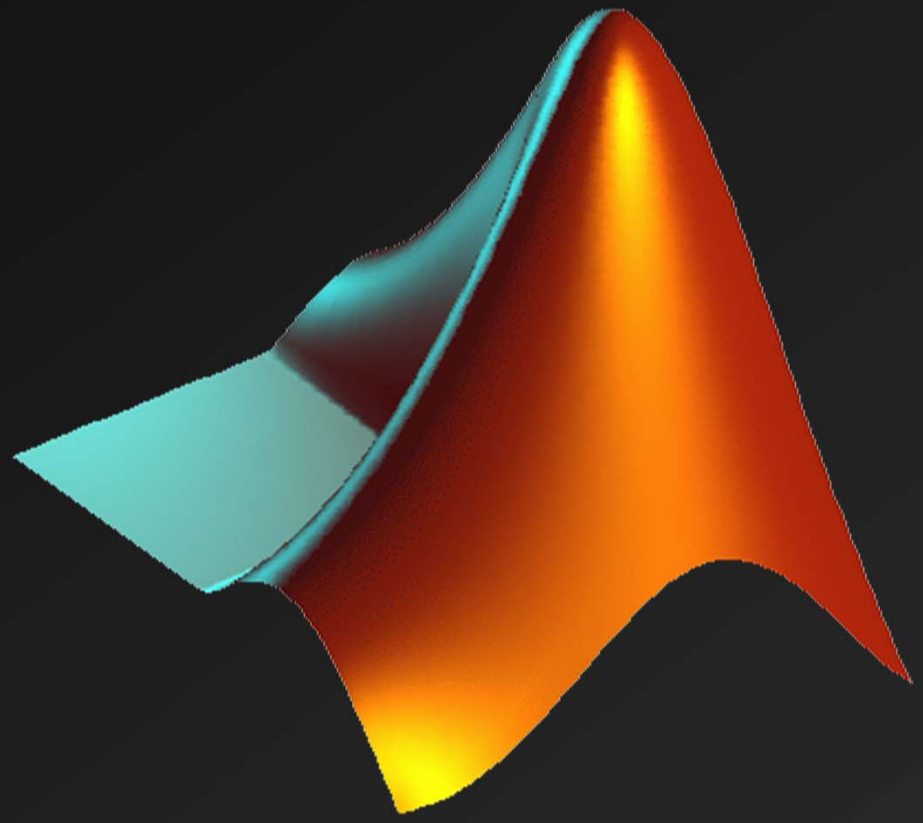
Paradigms and acquisition

- Precise temporal control over stimulus presentation necessary
  - Requires discrete stimuli or responses
- Individual stimuli are presented numerous times; ERP's generally do not habituate, unlike peripheral measures
- Concurrent with each stimulus, a signal/pulse must be sent to the A/D converter to indicate time of stimulus onset
- A/D converter and sampling
  - sampling either as pulse received, or it may be continuously monitored
  - several pre-onset samples (to provide a baseline for comparison);
  - **epoch** length
- Epochs for like stimuli averaged together to create ERP for that set of stimuli

Assumptions of Averaging methods

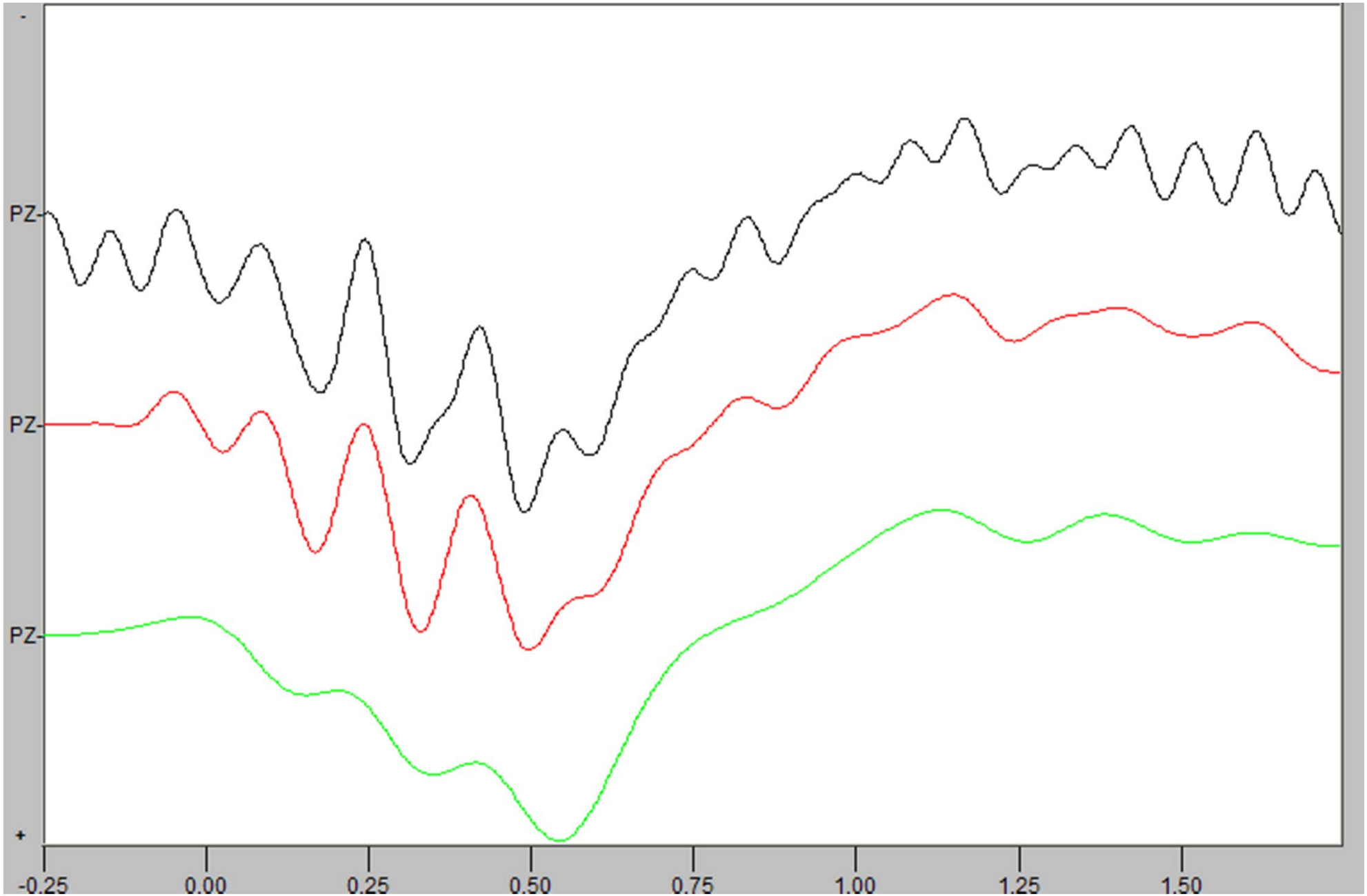
- Signal and noise (in each epoch) sum linearly together to produce the recorded waveform for each epoch (not some peculiar interaction)
- The evoked signal waveshape attributable **solely** to the stimulus is the same for each presentation
- The noise contributions can be considered to constitute statistically independent samples of a random process

Demo of Averaging

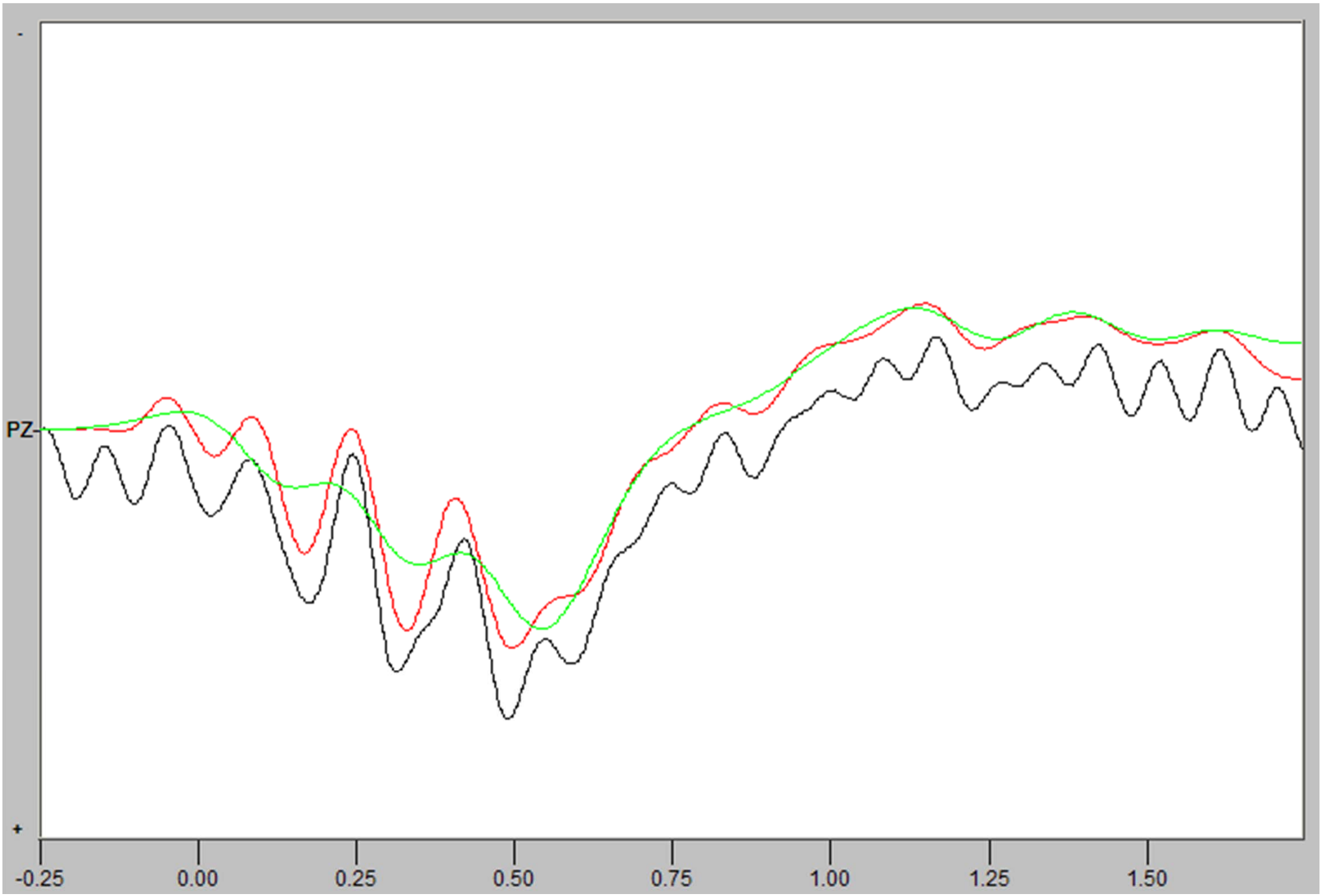


Filtering and its influence on the ERP

- Despite many trials and averaging, some noise may remain in the averaged waveform
- If you are only interested in later & slower components, then a low-pass filter may be of interest



Same ERP filtered with 12.5 (black), 8 (red) , and 5 (lime) Hz Low Pass FIR Filter

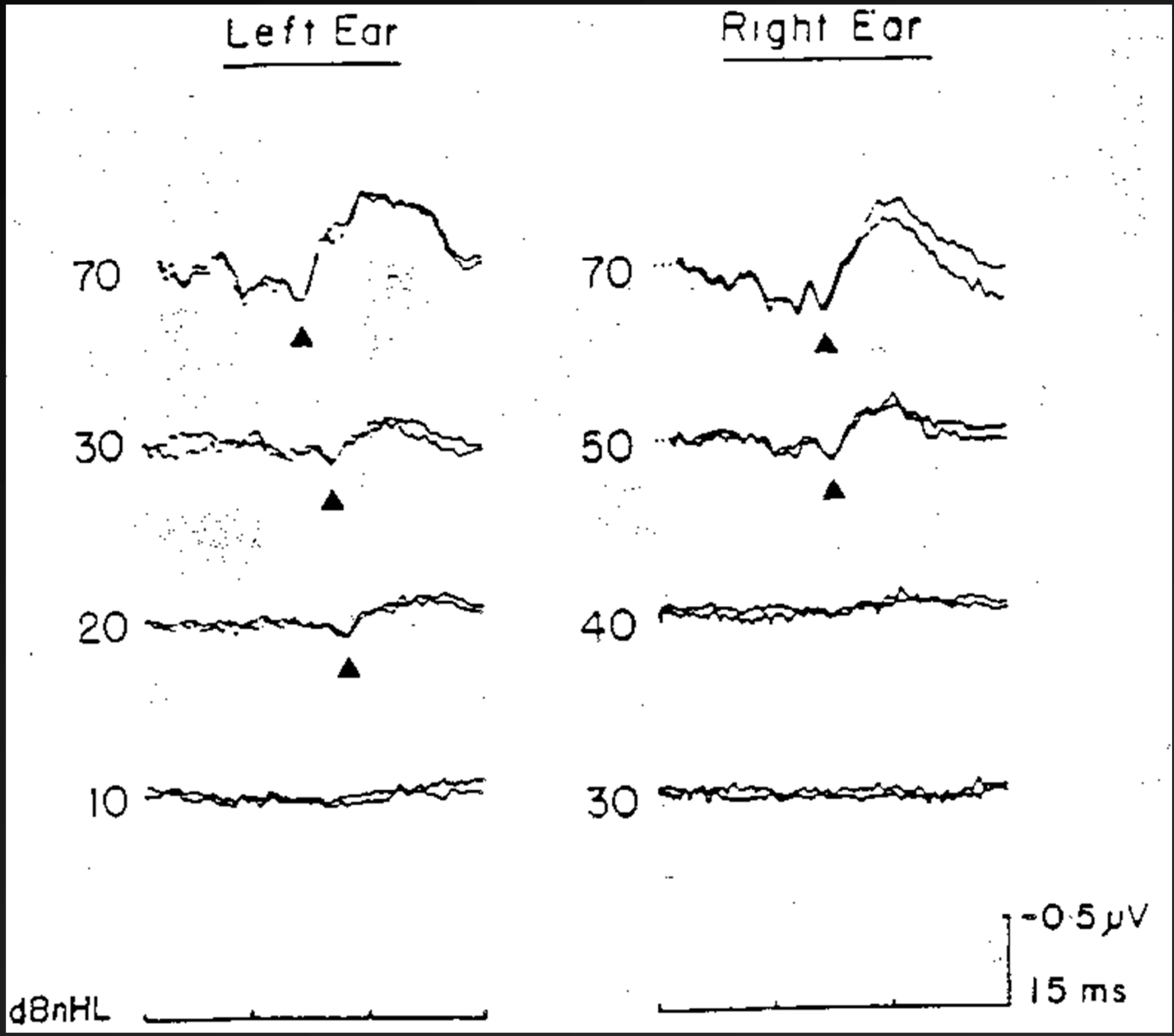


Same ERPs overlaid; note amplitude attenuation in P3 amplitude with stricter filters

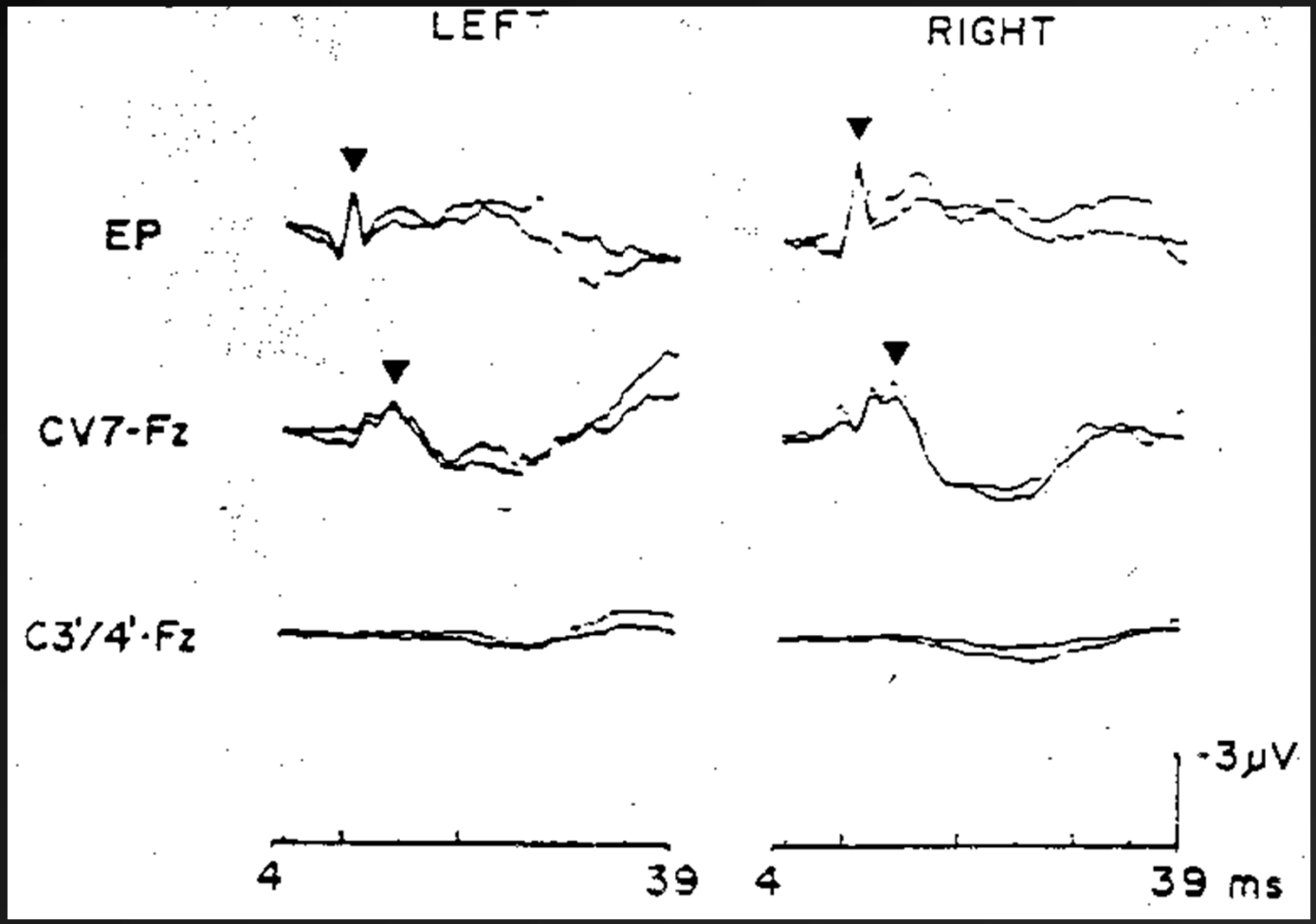
Let’s ERP!

Applications of Early Components

- Neurological evaluation of sensory function; e.g. evaluation of hearing in infants
  - Tones of various dB intensities presented and V wave in auditory brainstem ERP examined
  - **Figure 10**; 4000 individual trials per average


Left Ear
Right Ear
70
30
20
10
70
50
40
30
dBnHL
0.5 μV
15 ms

Prediction of recovery from coma



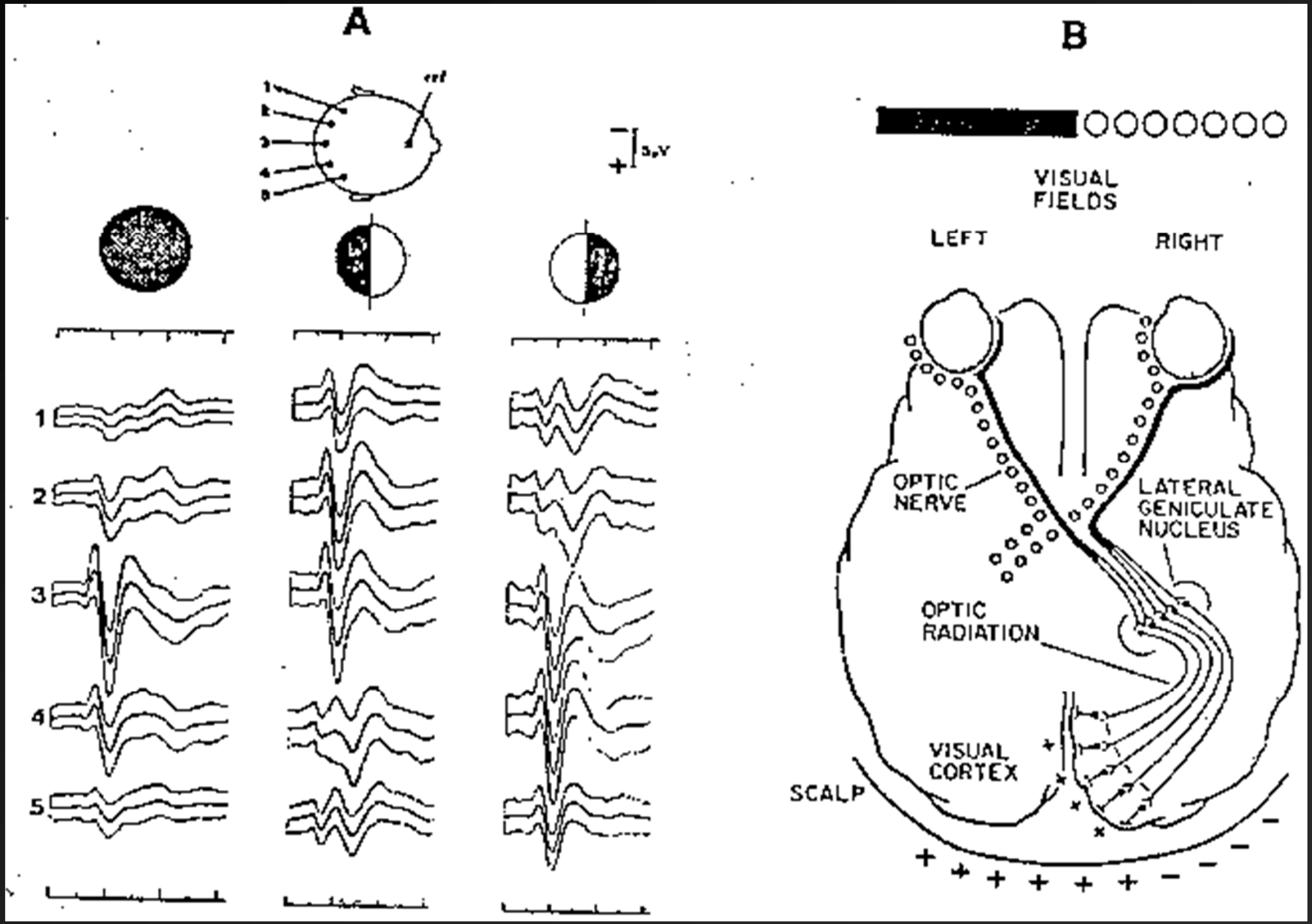
- Somatorsensory evoked potentials were recorded from a patient who was still comatose 1 week after severe closed head injury.
- Responses evoked by electrical stimulation of left and right median nerves
- Normal tracing seen at Erb's point, and from the next over vertebra prominens, but not over C3' of C4'.
- Absense of any cortical response a bad prognostic sign. Patient continued in a chronic vegetative state 1 year after accident

Inter-Hemispheric Transfer Time (IHTT)

- Hypothesized that interhemispheric transfer of information may be abnormal in various disorders (e.g., dyslexia)
- Reaction Time measures contain too much variability not related to Transfer Time
- ERP early components appear promising as a measure of time required to transfer information between hemispheres

IHTT Study (Saron)

- Checkerboards subtending < 1 degree of visual angle presented 2.9 degrees from center
- ERP's recorded at O1 and O2
- Problem of lateralization and Paradoxical results possible; parafoveal regions on banks of calcarine fissure
- P100 wave latency examined; earlier latency in occiput contralateral to presentation
  - Measured by peak picking procedure
  - Also by cross-lagged correlation technique
  - Both methods suggest ~15 millisecond IHTT; found to be in expected direction predicted by anatomy for over 90% of subjects
  - Reaction time data from same task showed no reliable differences


A
B
VISUAL FIELDS
LEFT
RIGHT
OPTIC NERVE
LATERAL GENICULATE NUCLEUS
OPTIC RADIATION
VISUAL CORTEX
SCALP
1
2
3
4
5

P1, N1, and Attention

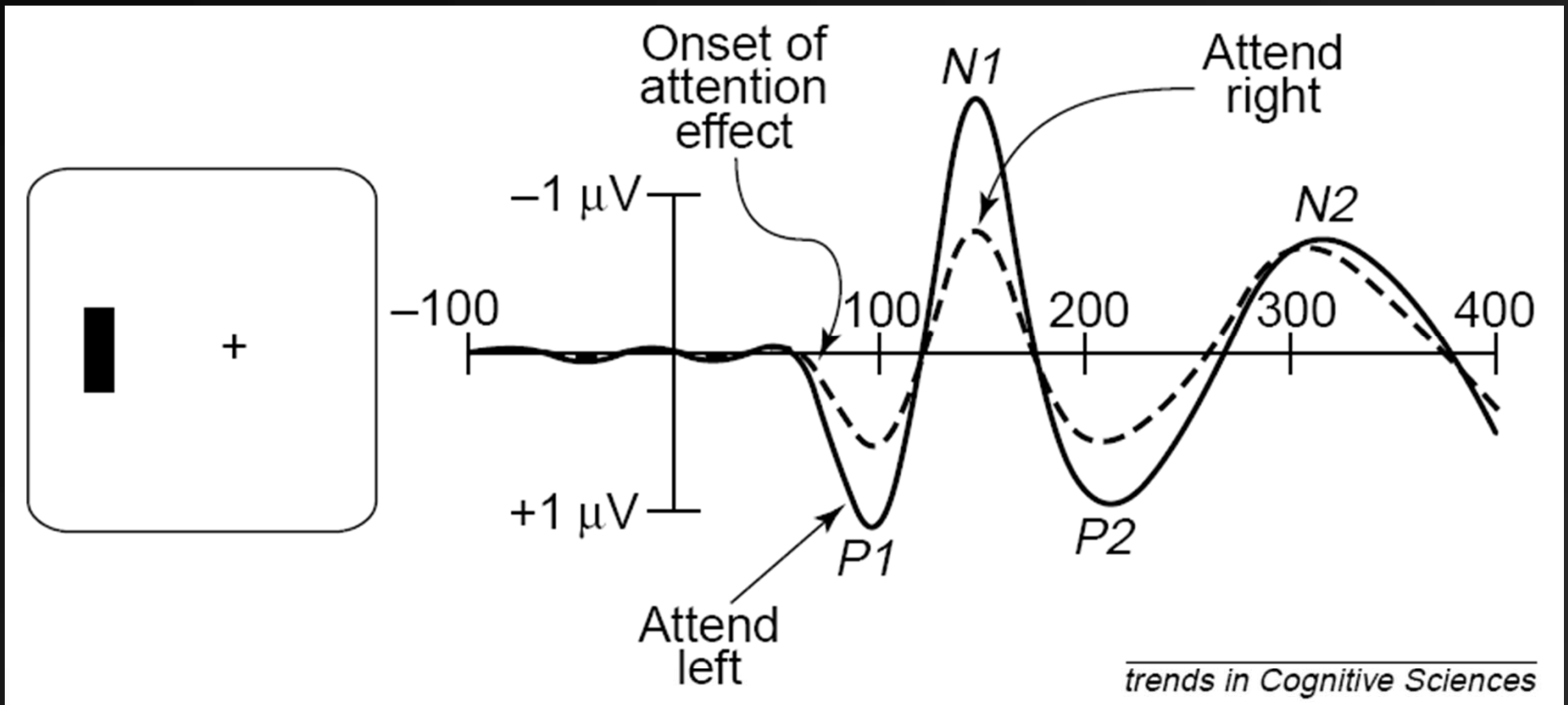


Fig. 1. Paradigm for using ERPs to study attention. Stimulus display (left) and idealized results (right). Subjects fixate a central cross and attend either to the left or right visual field. Stimuli are then presented to the left and right visual fields in a rapid sequence. In this example, the ERP elicited by a left visual field stimulus contains larger P1 and N1 components when the stimulus is attended ('Attend left') than when it is ignored ('Attend right').

From Luck et al, *TICS*, 2000

More than Spatial Directed Attention

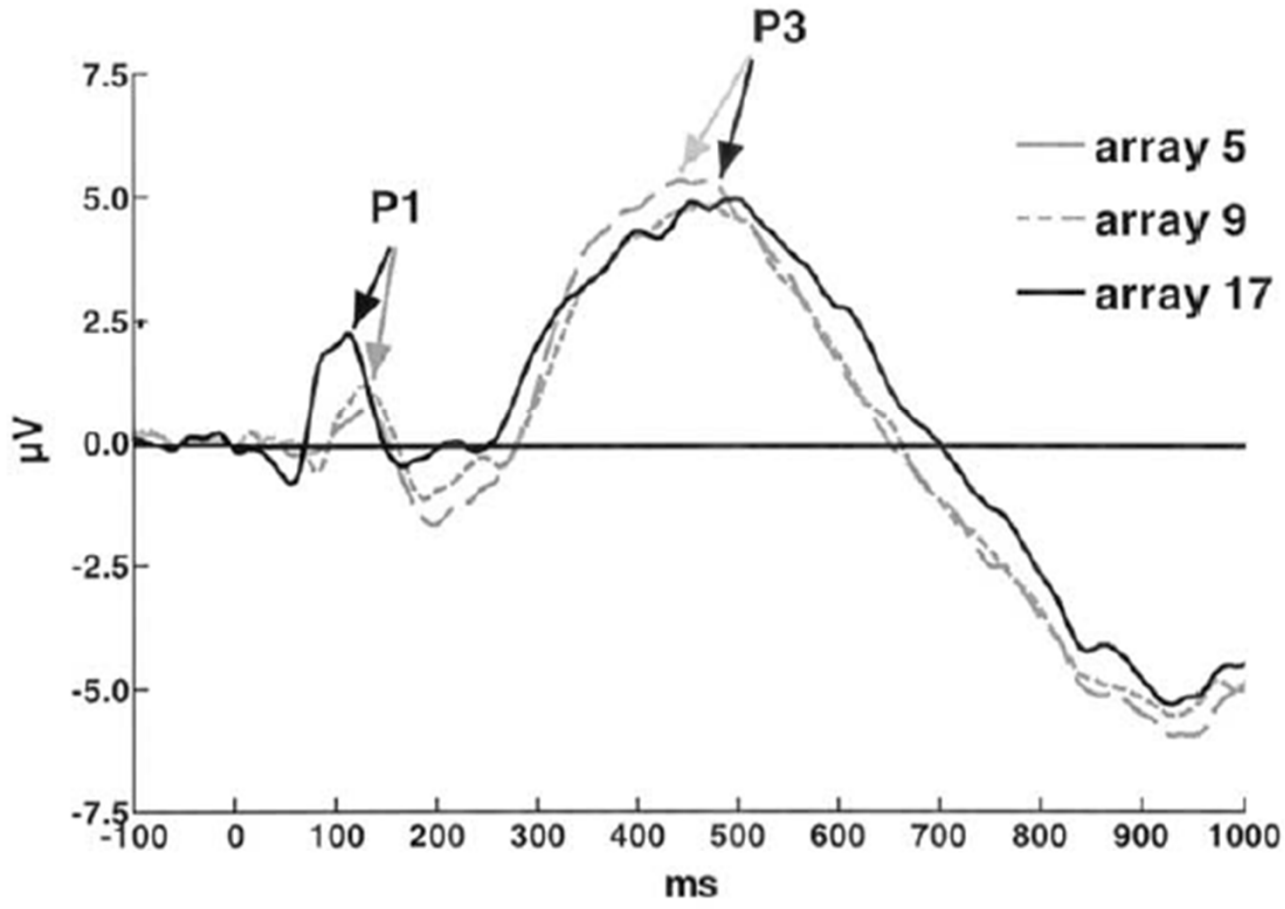


Fig. 2. Grand averaged visual ERPs at Pz electrode for the 3 array sizes, showing the shorter latencies, larger P1s for array size 17, but longer latency P3 (dark arrows) than for array sizes 5 and 9 (grey arrows). These are averaged across colour, orientation and conjunction conditions, as this ERP effect was seen regardless of whether it was a single feature or conjunction trial.

Increases stimulus complexity results in more rapid early processing

Note:
Amplitude of P1
Latency of P1
Latency of N1

Taylor
Clinical Neurophys
2002

More than Spatial Directed Attention

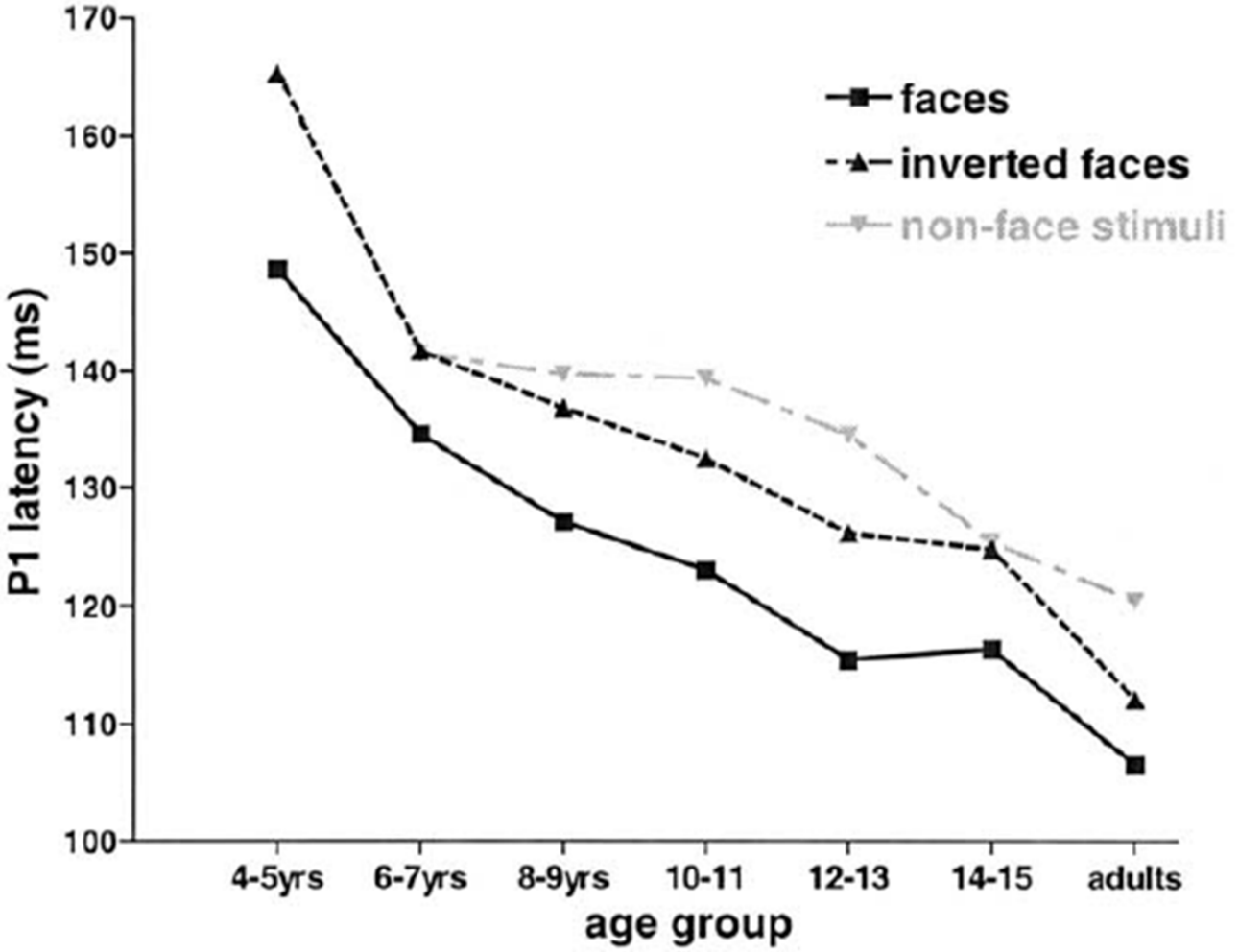
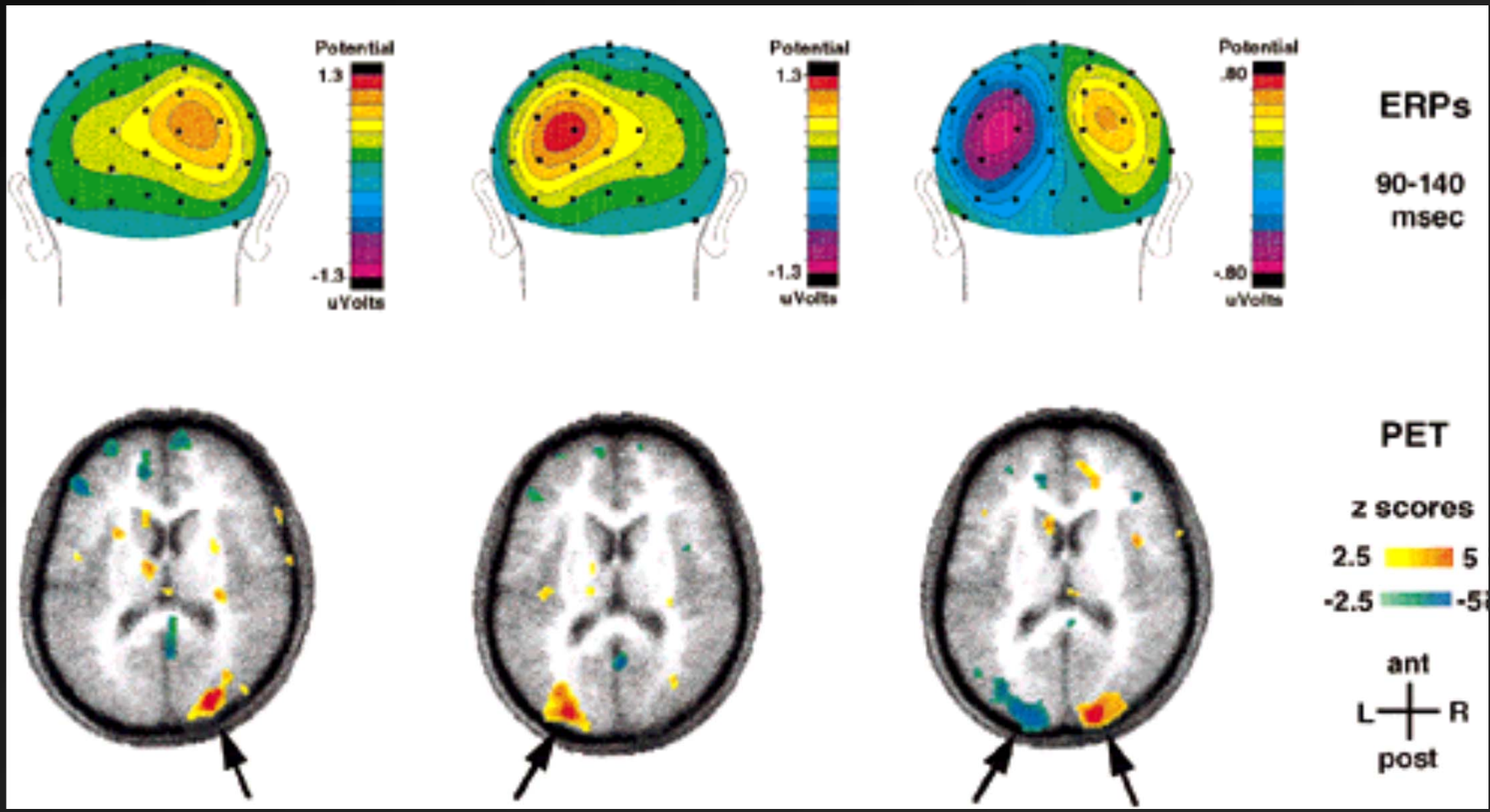


Fig. 3. Mean P1 latencies across 7 age groups, showing the consistently shorter latencies to faces compared to inverted faces and control stimuli (phase-scrambled faces and flowers). There were 15 children in each of the 6 age groups and 38 adults (adapted from Taylor et al., 2001c).

Taylor
Clinical Neurophys
2002

"These combined PET/ERP data therefore provide strong evidence that sustained visual spatial attention results in a preset, top-down biasing of the early sensory input channels in a retinotopically organized way"



Woldorff et al., *Human Brain Mapping*, 1997

Prelude to Advance Topic: Source Localization

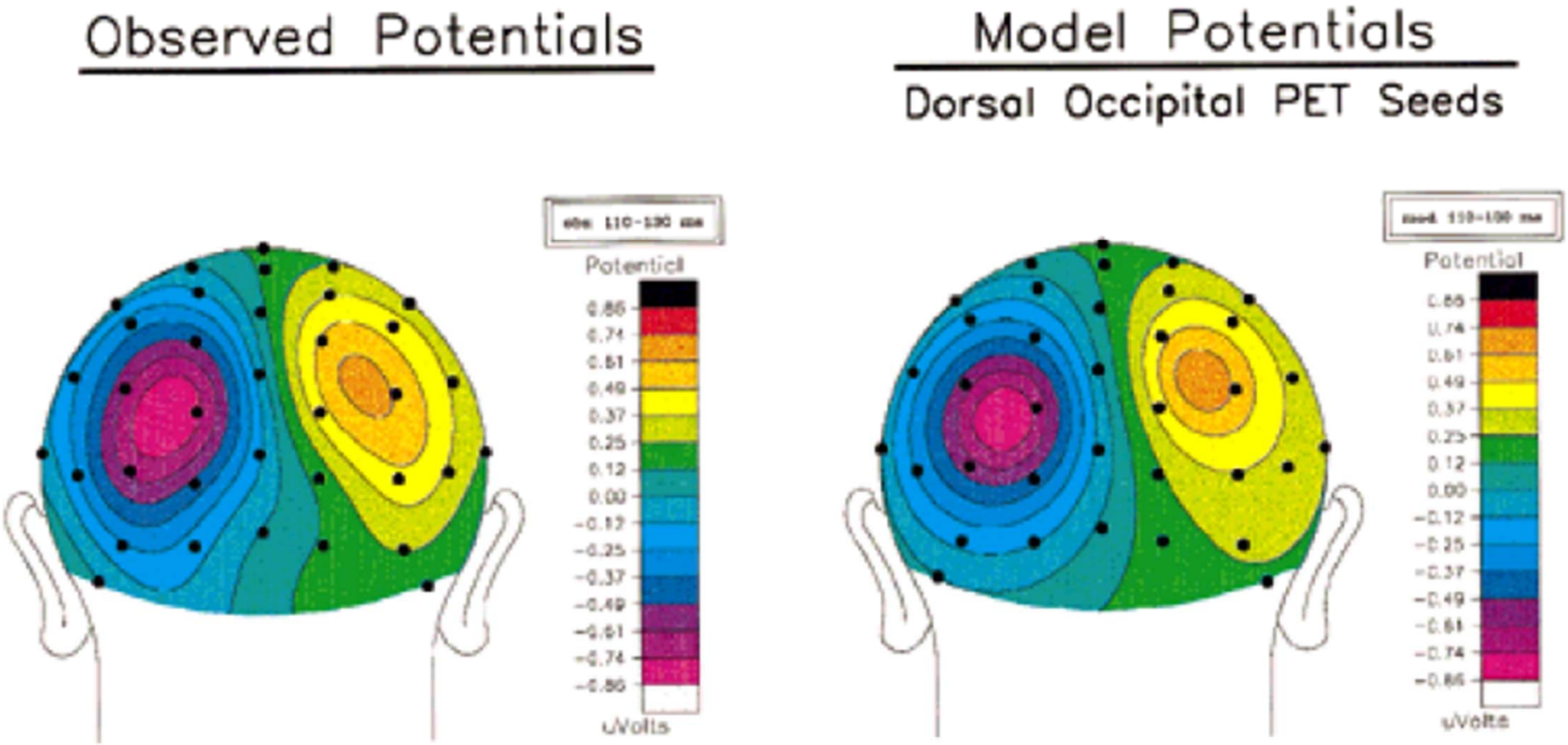
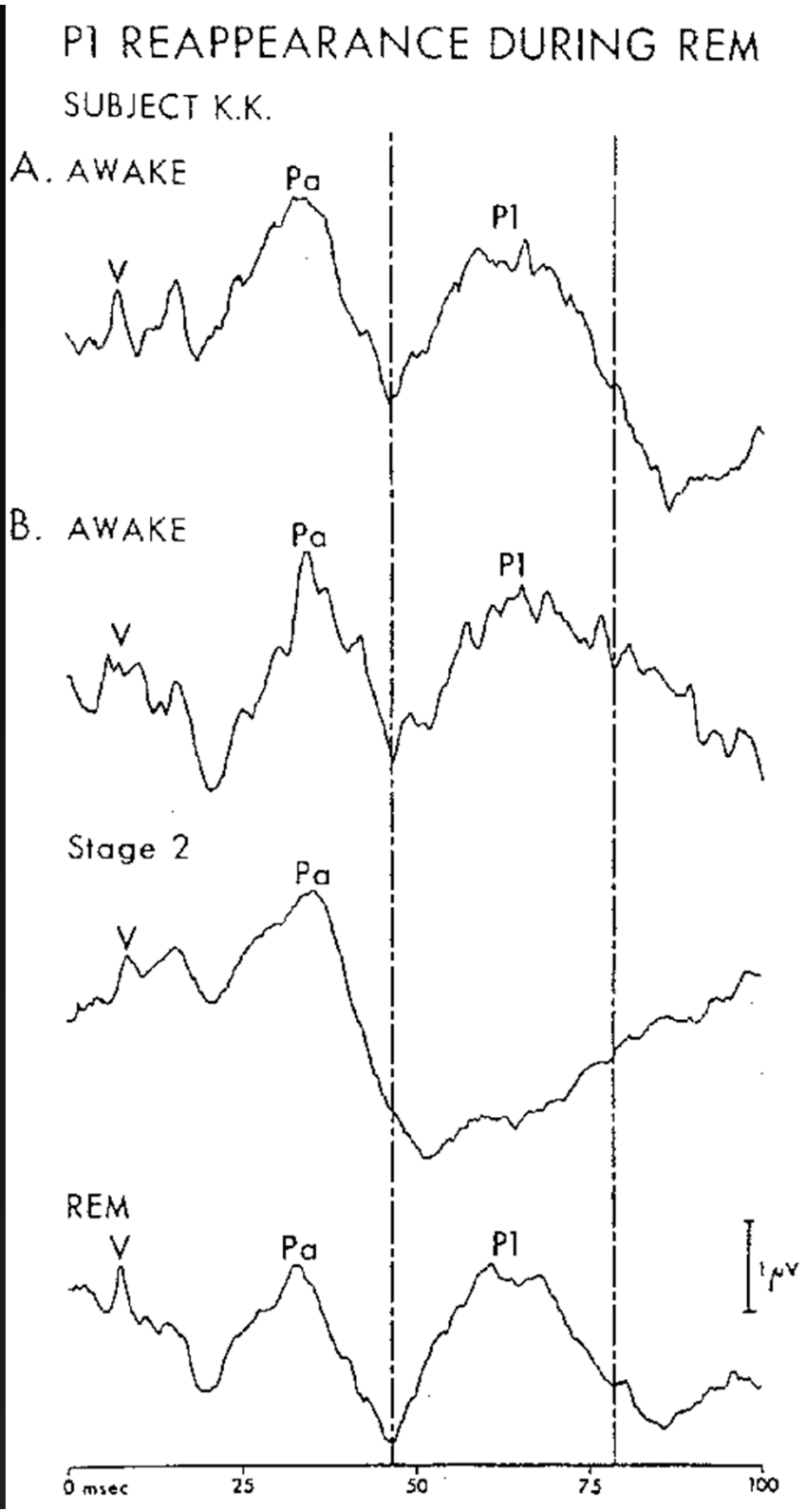


Figure 3.

Left: Observed potential distributions in the attend-left-minus-attend-right difference waves at the peak of the P1 attention effect (110–130 msec). **Right:** Corresponding model potential distributions seeded by the dorsal occipital PET foci, which provided an excellent fit to the P1 effect (residual variance 2%).



P1 and Sleep

Note P1 disappears in Stage 2 sleep, but reemerges in REM sleep

Construct Validity of P300 (P3, P3b)

- First observed by Sutton, Braren, Zubin, & John (1965)
- P300 Amplitude; Johnson's model is

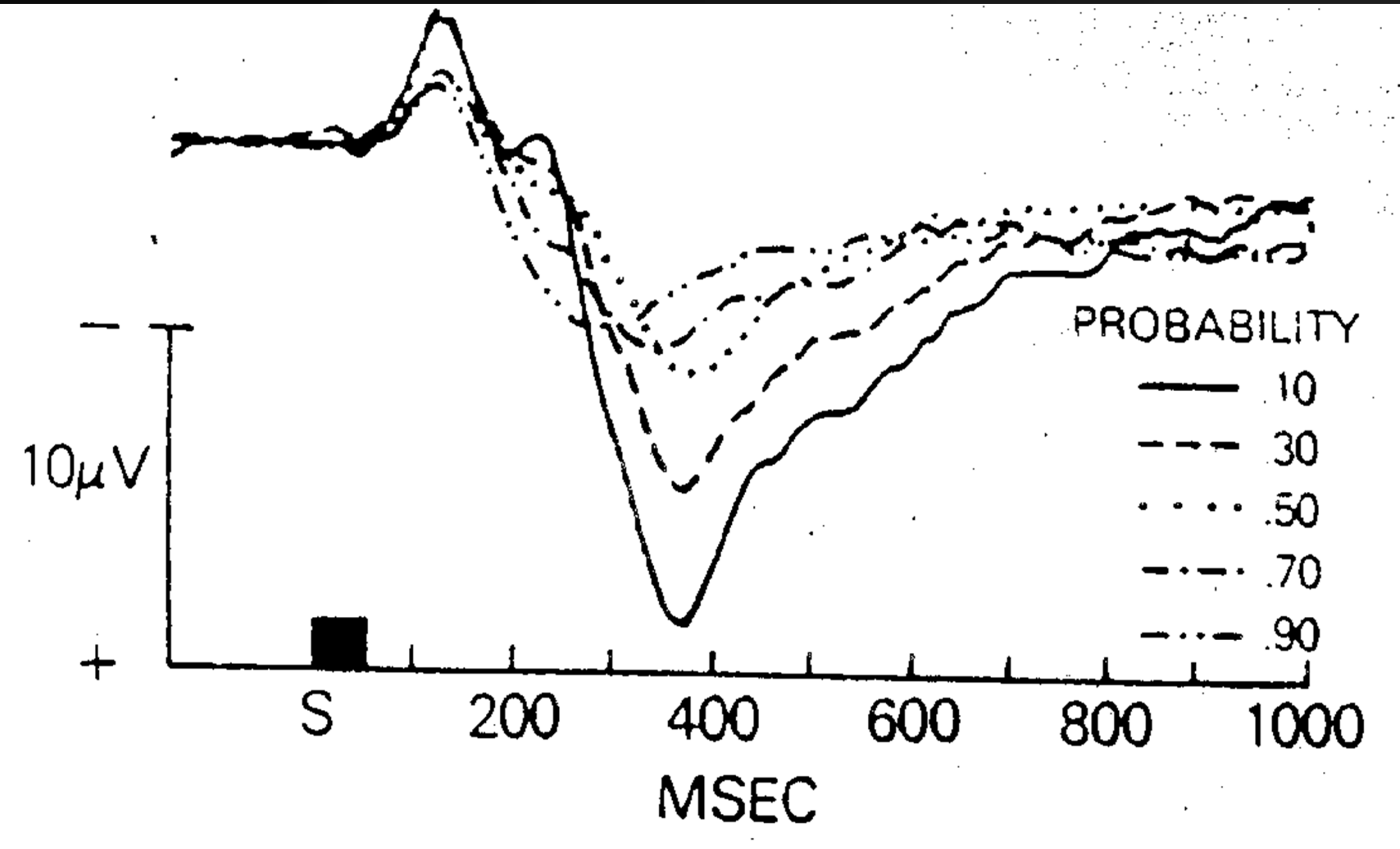
$$\text{P300 Amplitude} = f[T \times (1/P + M)]$$

where

  - P = probability of occurrence,
  - M = Stimulus meaning, &
  - T = amount of information transmitted

Aspects of the Model

- Rarity
  - The P300 is observed in variants of the "oddball paradigm"
  - The rare stimulus almost invariantly elicits a P300: largest at parietal, then central, and then frontal sites
  - **Subjective probability**
- Stimulus meaning
  - Actually composed of three dimensions
    - task complexity
    - stimulus complexity
    - stimulus value
- Information Transmission (proportion 0 to 1; more shortly)


PROBABILITY
10
30
50
70
90
10μV
−
+
S
200
400
600
800
1000
MSEC

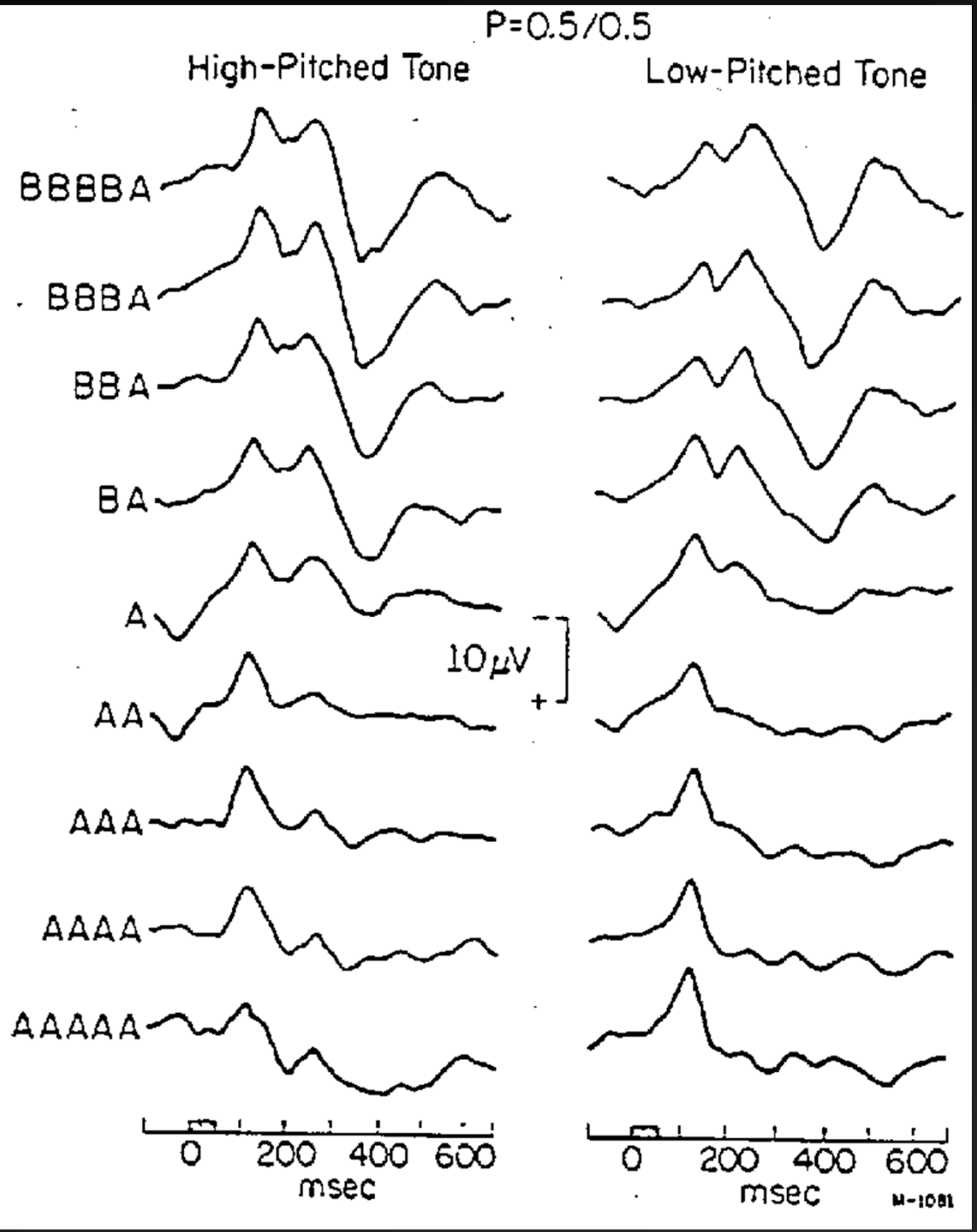


Figure 12-1. The ERPs in each column were elicited by the same physical tone; high-pitched tones were used for the left column and low-pitched tones for the right column. Both were presented in a Bernoulli series in which the probability of the two stimuli were equal. In the middle of each column (labeled "A") is the ERP elicited by all the presentations of the stimulus. The curve labeled "AA" was obtained by averaging together all the tones of one frequency that were preceded on the previous trial by tones of the same frequency. On the other hand, the curves labeled "BA" were elicited by stimuli preceded on the previous trial by the tones of different frequency. Similar sorting operations were applied to all other curves in this figure. It can be seen that the same physical tone elicited quite different ERPs, depending on the events that occurred on the preceding trials. Whenever a tone terminated a series of tones from the other category, a large P300 was elicited, and its magnitude was a function of the length of the stimulus series. (From "Effect of Stimulus Sequence on the Waveform of the Cortical Event-Related Potential," by K. C. Squires, C. D. Wickens, N. K. Squires, and E. Donchin. *Science*, 1976, 193, 1142–1146. Copyright 1976 by the AAAS.

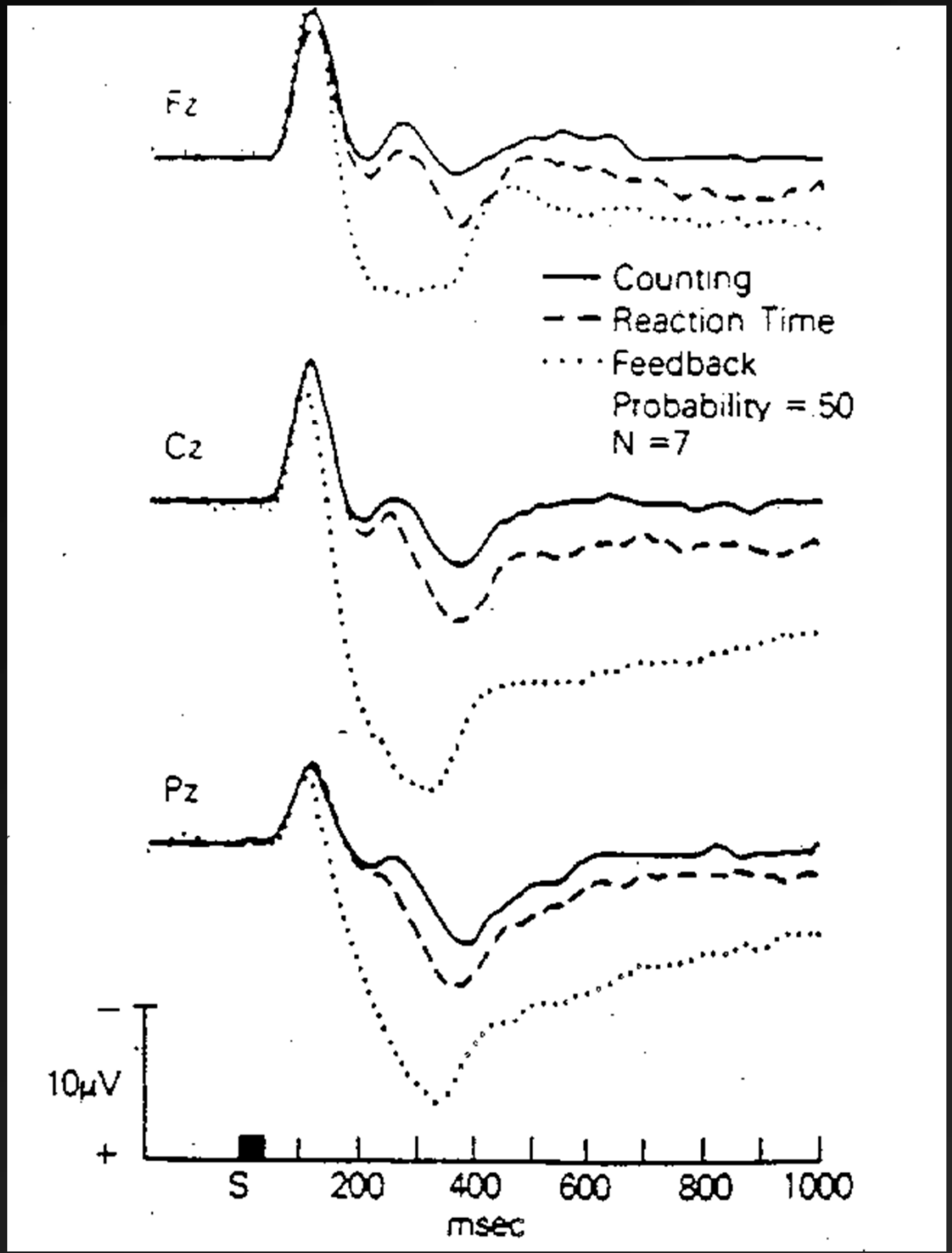
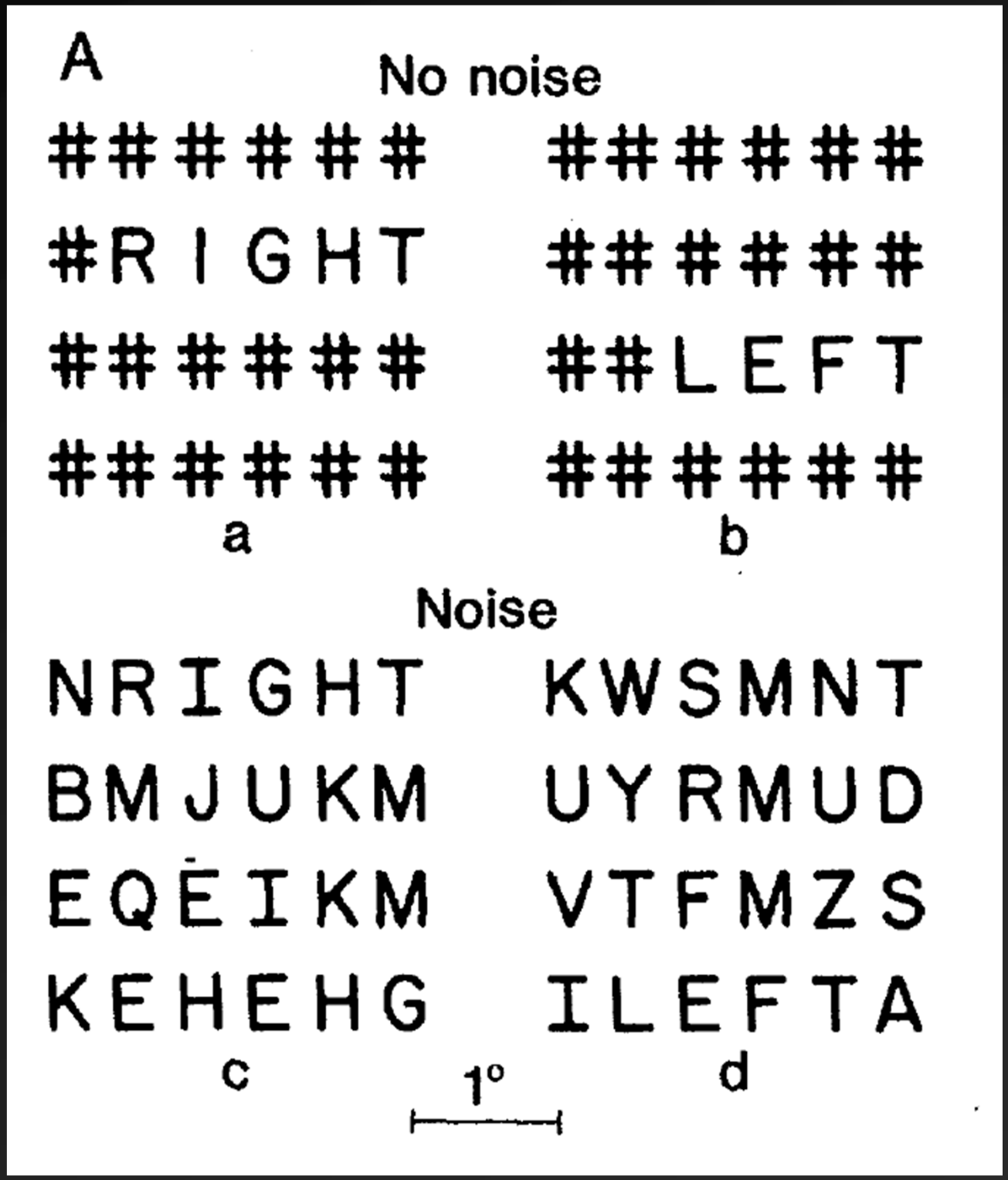
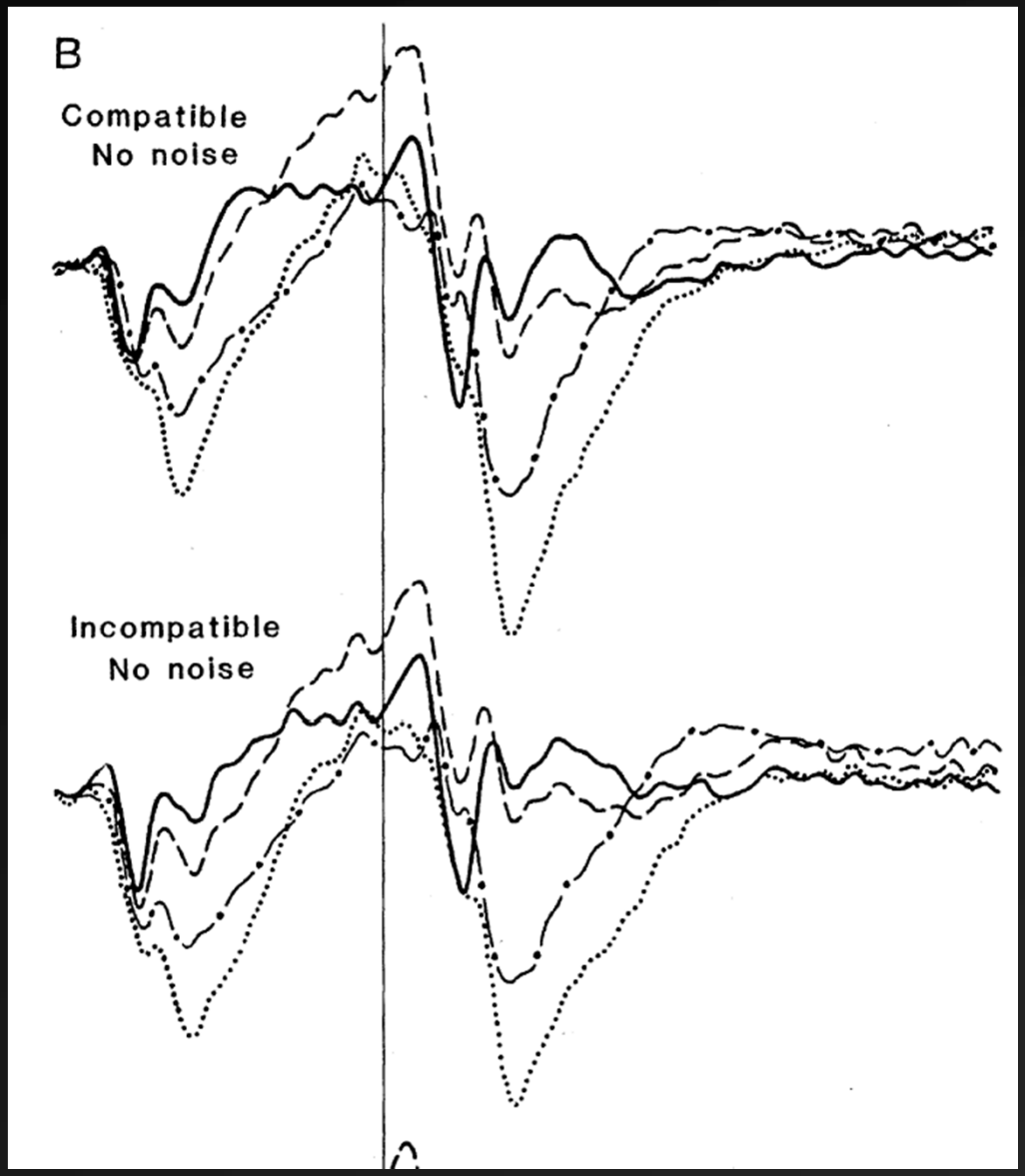


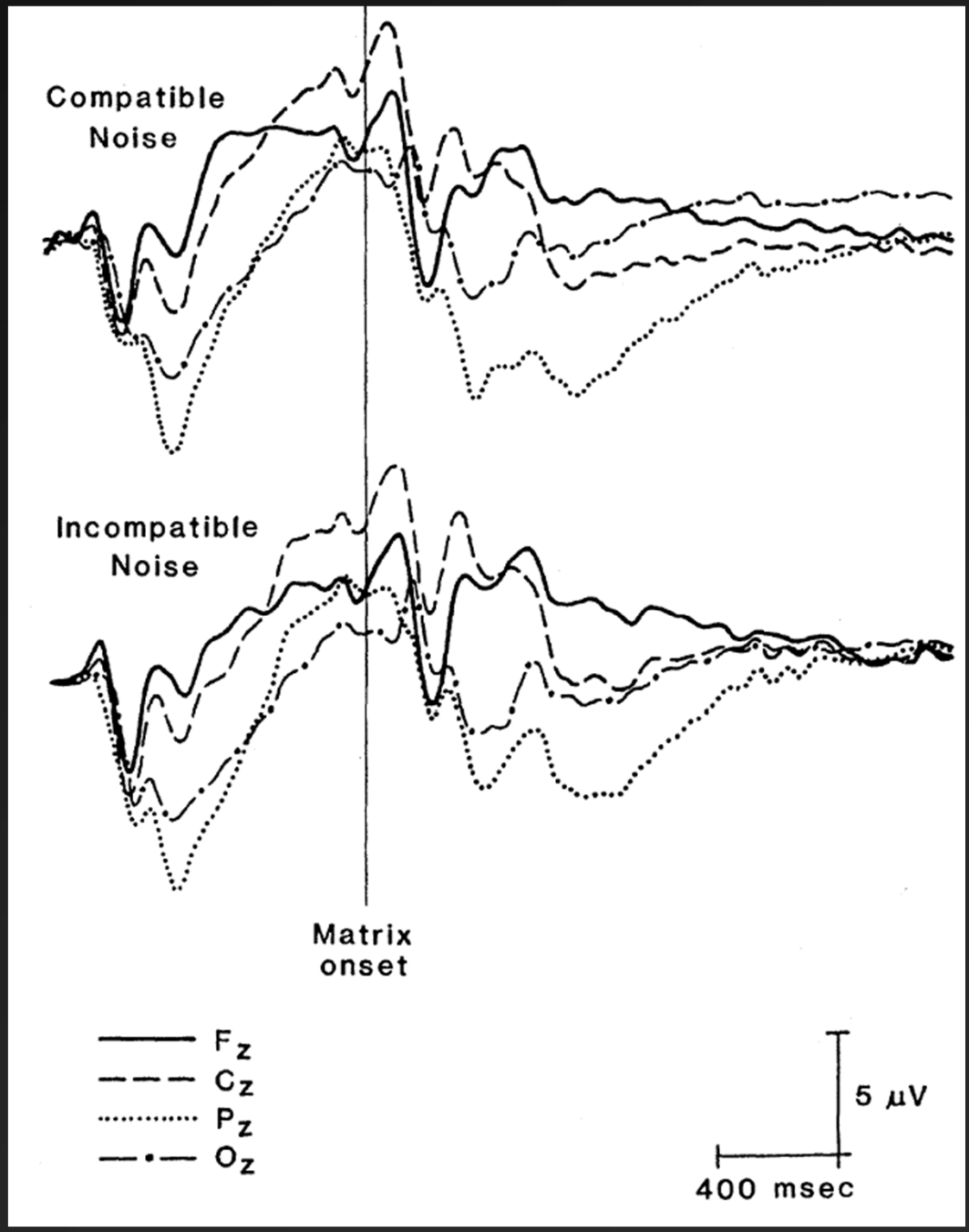
Figure 2. Grand-mean waveforms (N = 7) from F_z, C_z, and P_z from three different tasks. The ERPs elicited in an oddball paradigm run under two different task conditions, Counting (solid line) and Reaction Time (dashed line), are superimposed on the ERP elicited when the same stimulus signified correct performance in a feedback paradigm (dotted line). The waveforms were all elicited by a 1000 Hz, 50dB SL tone ($p = .50$).

P3 Latency

- An index of processing time, independent of response requirements
  - RT measures confounds the two
  - McCarthy & Donchin (1981) experiment:
    - The words "RIGHT" or "LEFT" embedded in a matrix of letters of X's
    - Compatible condition: respond with hand indicated in matrix; Incompatible condition: respond with opposite hand (e.g., LEFT signals right hand response);
    - Results:
      - P300 latency delayed when discriminability more difficult
      - Response compatibility had no effect on P300 latency
      - **Note amplitude reduction as function of noise--information transmission)**


A
No noise
#####
#RIGHT
#####
#####
a
#####
#####
##LEFT
#####
b
Noise
NRIGHT
BMJUKM
EQĖIKM
KEHEHG
c
KWSMNT
UYRMUD
VTFMZS
ILEFTA
d
1°


B
Compatible
No noise
Incompatible
No noise


Compatible
Noise
Incompatible
Noise
Matrix
onset
Fz
Cz
Pz
Oz
5 μV
400 msec

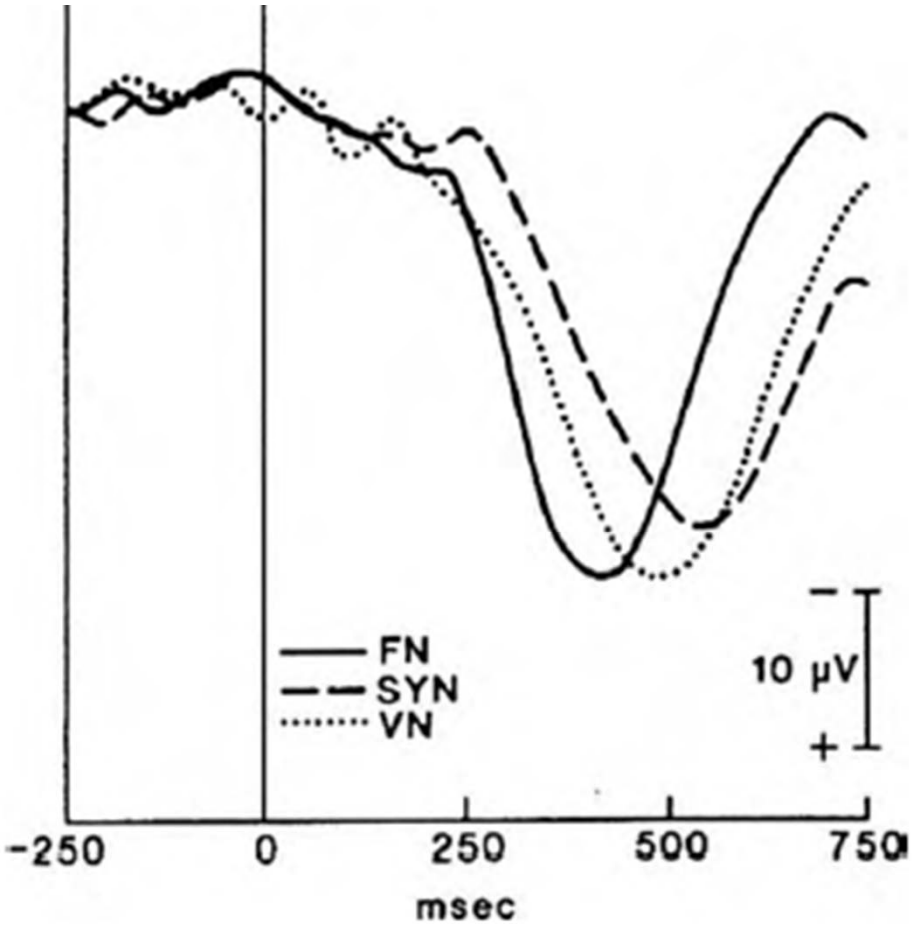


Figure 4.10. ERP waveforms at Pz averaged across subjects for three different semantic categorization tasks. The solid line indicates ERPs obtained during a task in which the subjects had to distinguish between the word DAVID and the word NANCY (the FN condition). The dotted line indicates ERPs obtained during a task in which the subjects had to decide whether a word presented was a male or a female name (the VN condition). The dashed line indicates ERPs obtained during a task in which the subjects had to decide whether a word was or was not a synonym of the word PROD (SYN condition). These three tasks were considered to involve progressively more difficult discriminations. Note the latency of P300 peak is progressively longer as the discrimination is made more difficult. (Copyright 1977, AAAS. Adapted with permission of the author and publisher from Kutas, McCarthy, & Donchin, 1977.)

Not only difficulty in physical discrimination, but difficulty in cognitive categorization

Construct Validity?

- What, then, does the P300 mean in very general terms?
  - A stimulus (or class of stimuli) is "important"; denotes information that is necessary or useful to the task
  - Stimulus is meaningful, important, noticeable
  - Evaluated within context of working memory? (cf. Donchin & Coles, 1988; Verlager 1988; Polich, 2007; Verlager, 2008)
- The P3a (Squires, Squires, and Hillyard, 1975): P3-like component with a frontal maximum and occurs to improbable stimuli in the "to-be-ignored" class of stimuli; a novelty response.
  - More next lecture

How Many P3s?

- The Classic P3/P300
  - Parietal Central Maximum
  - Largest when stimuli rare and task-relevant
- The P3a (Squires et al., 1975) or Novelty P3 (Courchesne et al., 1975)
  - More anterior scalp distribution
  - Slightly earlier latency
  - Responsive to rare, unexpected, unattended stimuli

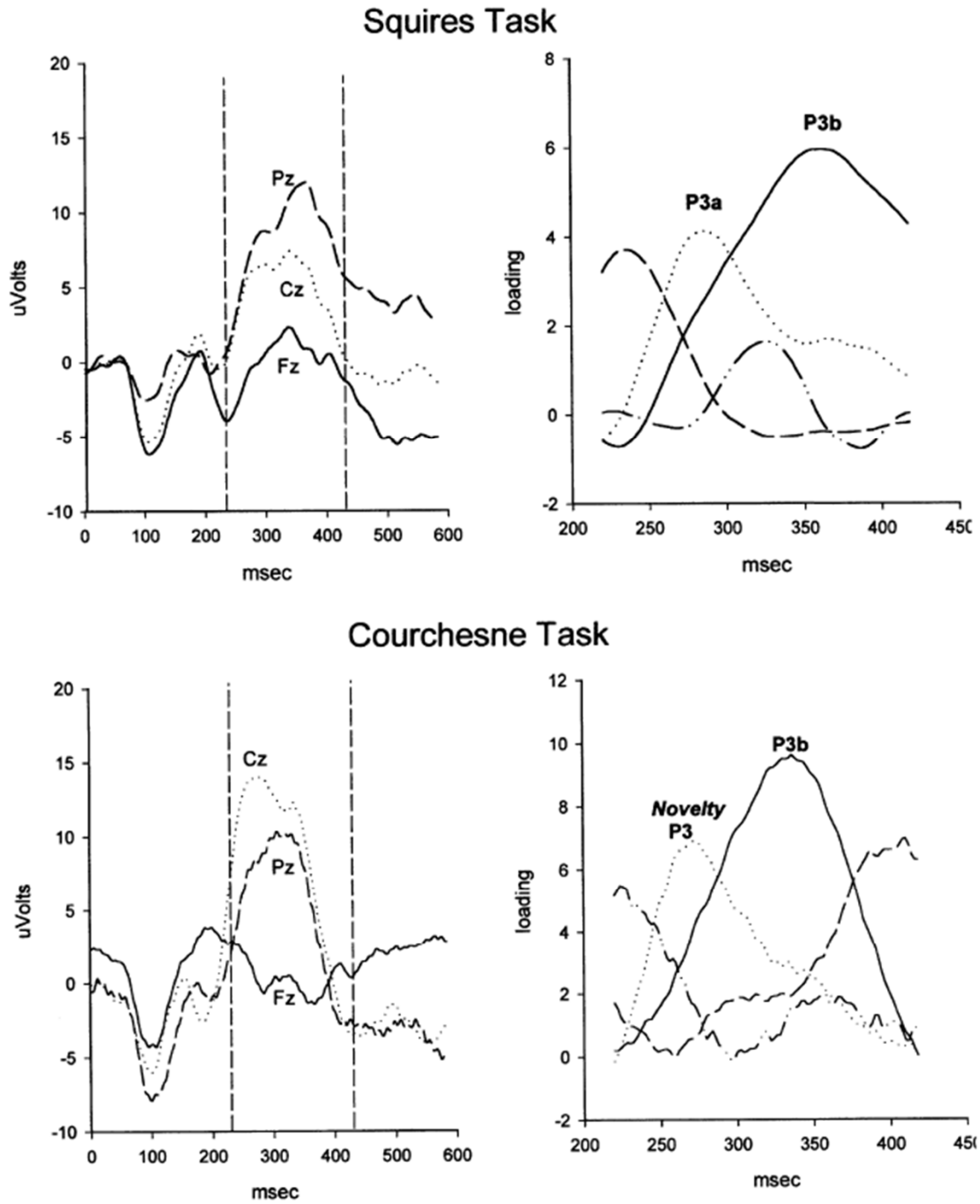


Fig. 1. ERP waveforms (left) and PCA basis waves (right) obtained from infrequent targets during the Squires (top) task and infrequent nontargets/novels during the Courchesne (bottom) task. PCA was conducted during the 220–420 ms epoch following stimulus onset and four factors were extracted from each data set.

Simons et. al, 2001

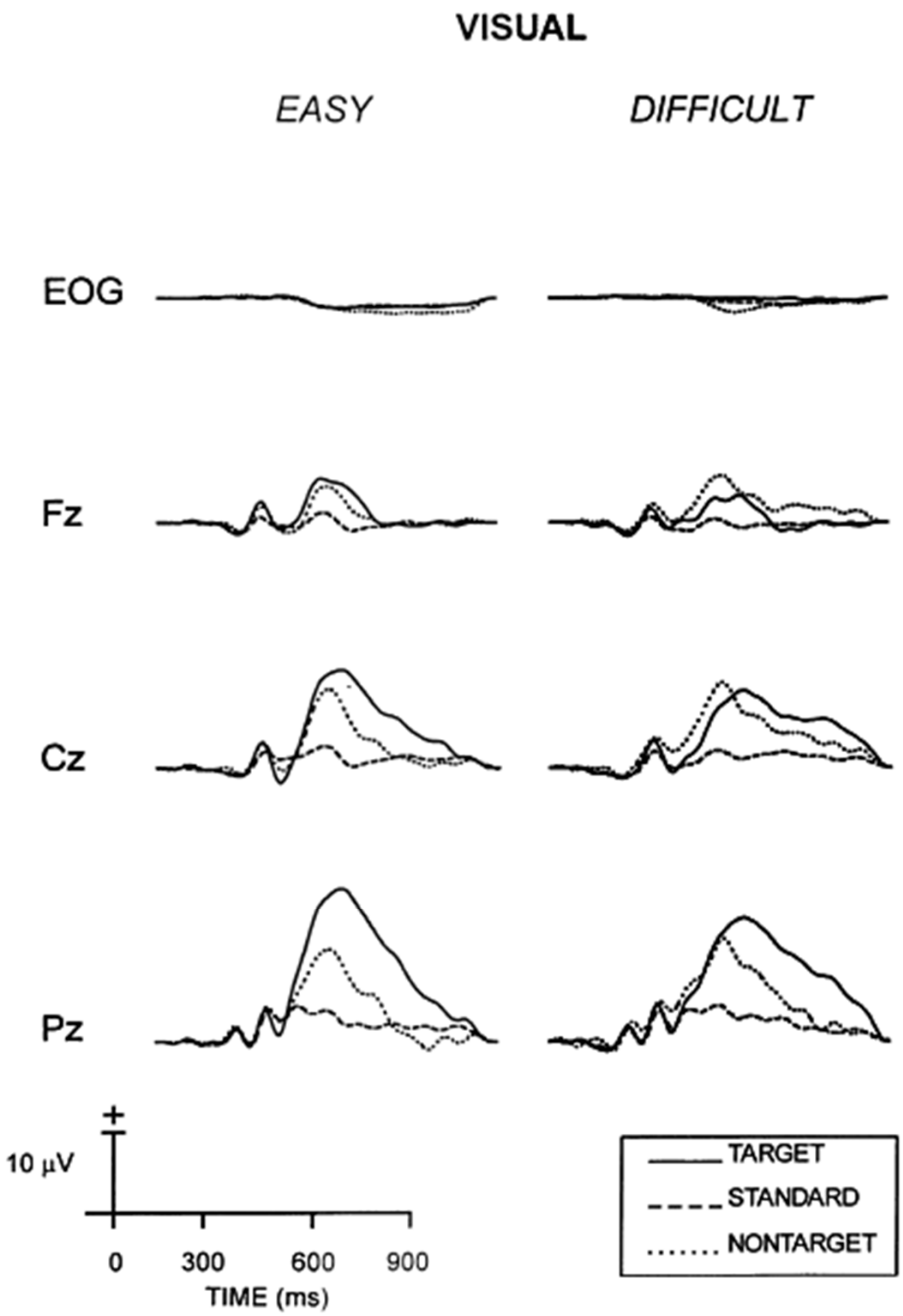
- Squires Task was tones (two tones)
- Courchesne task was digitized speech (“me” “you” and collection of naturally occurring sounds
- In all cases subjects merely counted Tones

P3a – Can you see it?

- Some inconsistencies in finding P3a following the initial Squires, Squires and Hilyard 1975 report
- Comerchero & Polich (1998) may have resolved the enigma
  - P3a highly dependent on foreground discrimination

Table 1
Stimulus type (probability) for each task condition and modality (auditory = frequency and intensity, visual = area and shape-color)

Modality	Auditory		Visual	
Nontarget distinctiveness	Low	High	Low	High
Target (0.10)	2000 Hz	2000 Hz	12.57 cm^2	12.57 cm^2
	75 dB	75 dB	● Blue	● Blue
Standard (0.80)	1940 Hz	1940 Hz	10.18 cm^2	10.18 cm^2
	75 dB	75 dB	● Blue	● Blue
Nontarget (0.10)	500 Hz	4000 Hz	12.57 cm^2	12.57 cm^2
	75 dB	90 dB	■ Blue	■ Fuchsia



Note: Nontarget peak amplitude was earlier and larger at the frontal electrodes than those from the target stimuli, but especially when foreground discrimination is difficult

Comerchero & Polich (1998), *Clinical Neurophysiology*

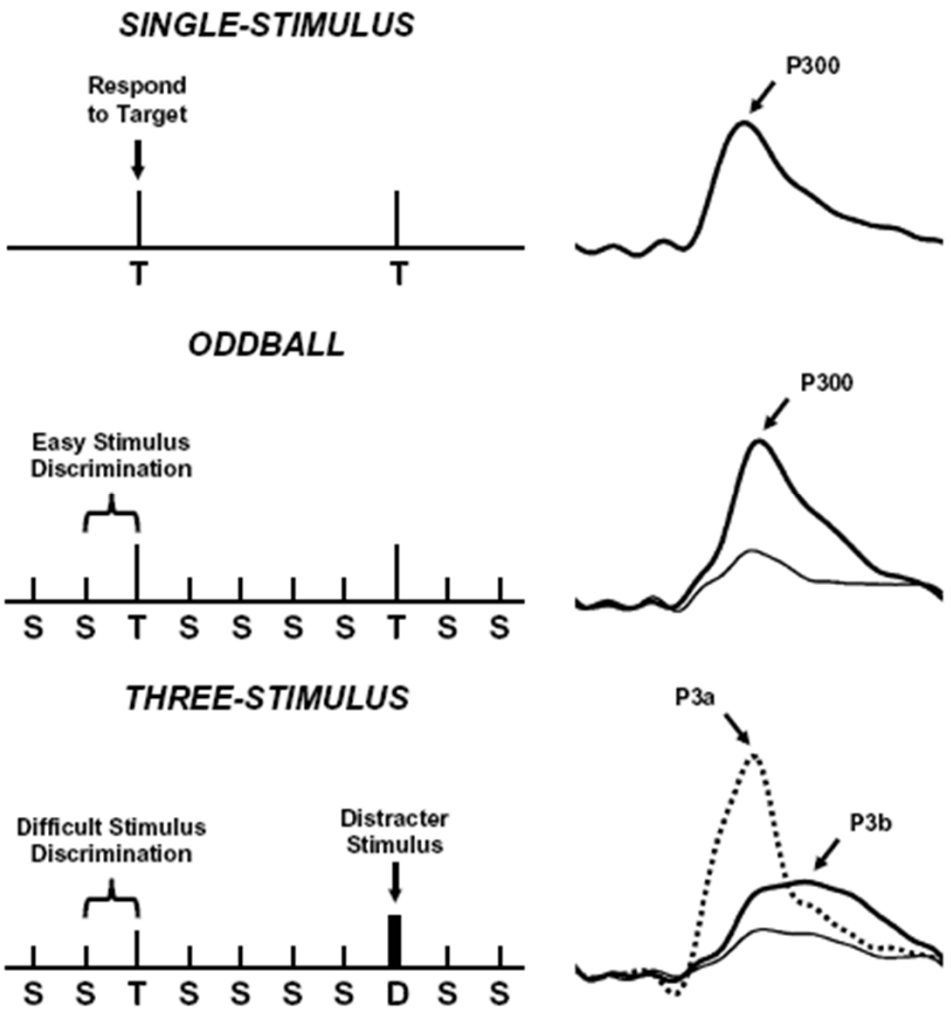


Fig. 1. Schematic illustration of the single-stimulus (top), oddball (middle), and three-stimulus (bottom) paradigms, with the elicited ERPs from the stimuli of each task at the right (Polich and Criado, 2006). The single-stimulus task presents an infrequent target (T) in the absence of any other stimuli. The oddball task presents two different stimuli in a random sequence, with one occurring less frequently than the other (target = T, standard = S). The three-stimulus task is similar to the oddball with a compelling distracter (D) stimulus that occurs infrequently. In each task, the subject is instructed to respond only to the target and otherwise to refrain from responding. The distracter elicits a P3a, and target elicits a P3b (P300). Reprinted with permission of the authors and from Elsevier (Copyright 2006).

Polich, *Clin Neurophys*, 2007

Synopsis

"…the manipulation of target-standard stimulus discriminability produced a stimulus environment in which the infrequently occurring nontarget engaged focal attention in a manner similar to that observed previously for 'novel' stimuli.

However, all stimuli in the present study were employed because of their 'typical' characteristics, so that the results imply that an anterior P3a component can be produced without using 'novel' stimuli per se.

If stimulus context is defined primarily by a difficult targetrstandard discrimination, attentional redirection to the nontarget would occur because of the frontal lobe activation that generates P3a."

Comerchero & Polich 1998, p. 47

ERPs and Memory

- Sensitive to both Recognition
  - Likely episodic recollection
- Sensitive to Encoding

Repetition Priming Effects

- Robust effect that repeated items produce an enhanced late positivity across a broad latency range
- Magnitude of effect related to strength of memory trace

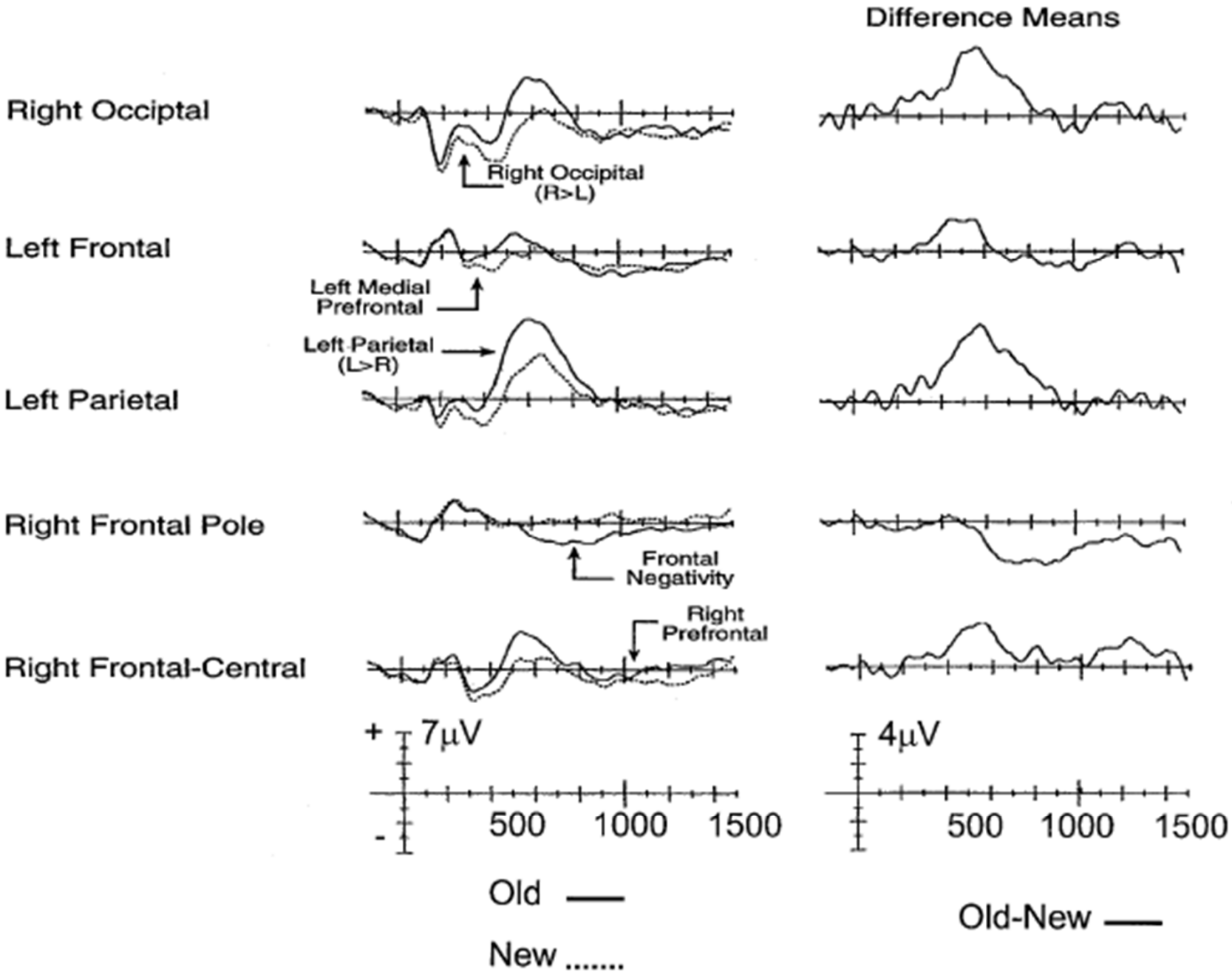
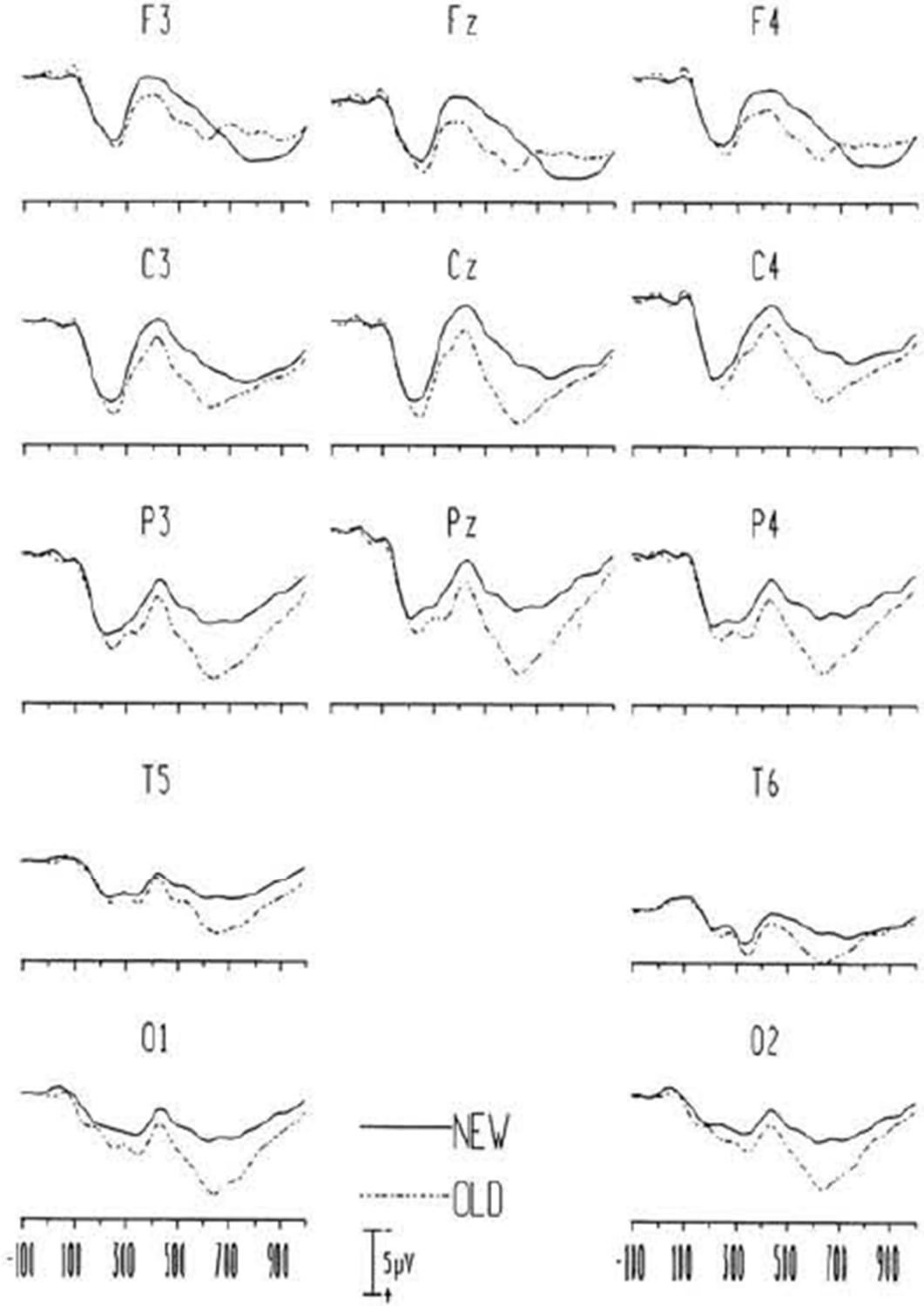
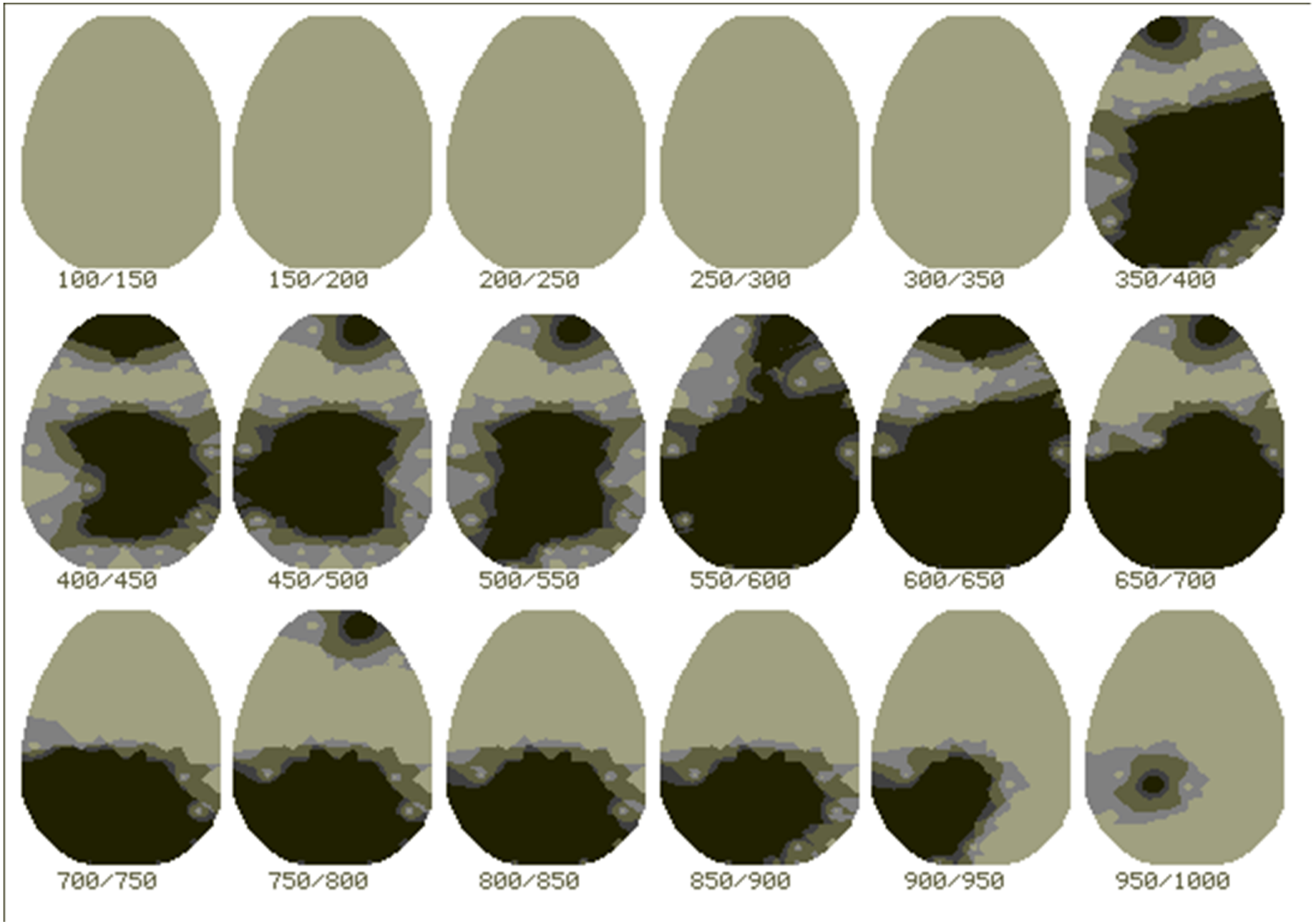


Fig. 4. Grand mean ERP waveforms elicited by correctly recognized old and correctly rejected new items from Johnson et al. (1998a). The left column depicts the old and new waveforms at the electrode site and hemiscalp where that subcomponent was largest. Repoduced from Johnson et al. (1998a) with permission of the publisher.

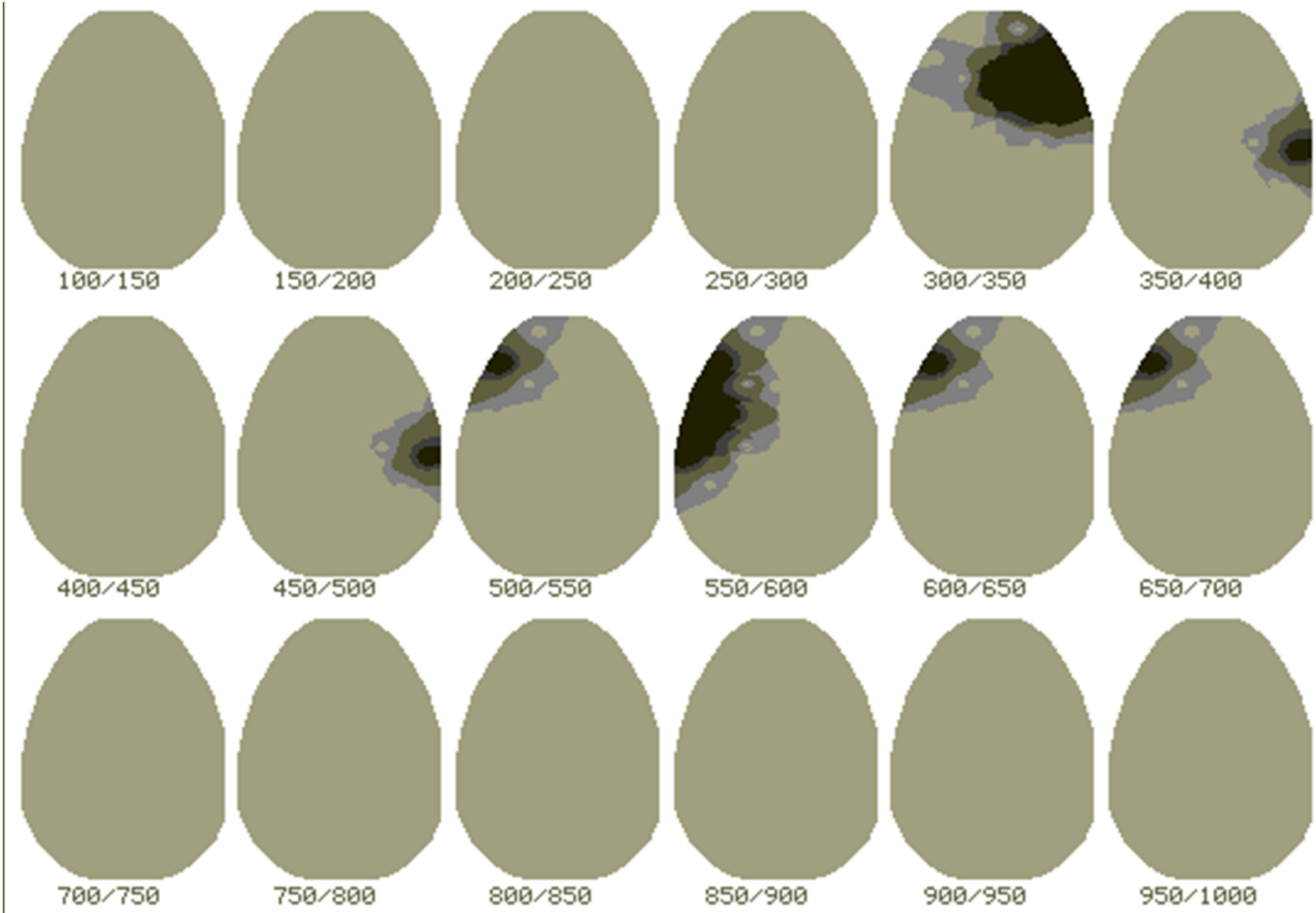
Repetition Priming

- Are there repetition effects that do not depend on the subjective awareness of the subject?
  - Can use Mask Priming to examine (Schnyer, Allen, Forster, 1997)

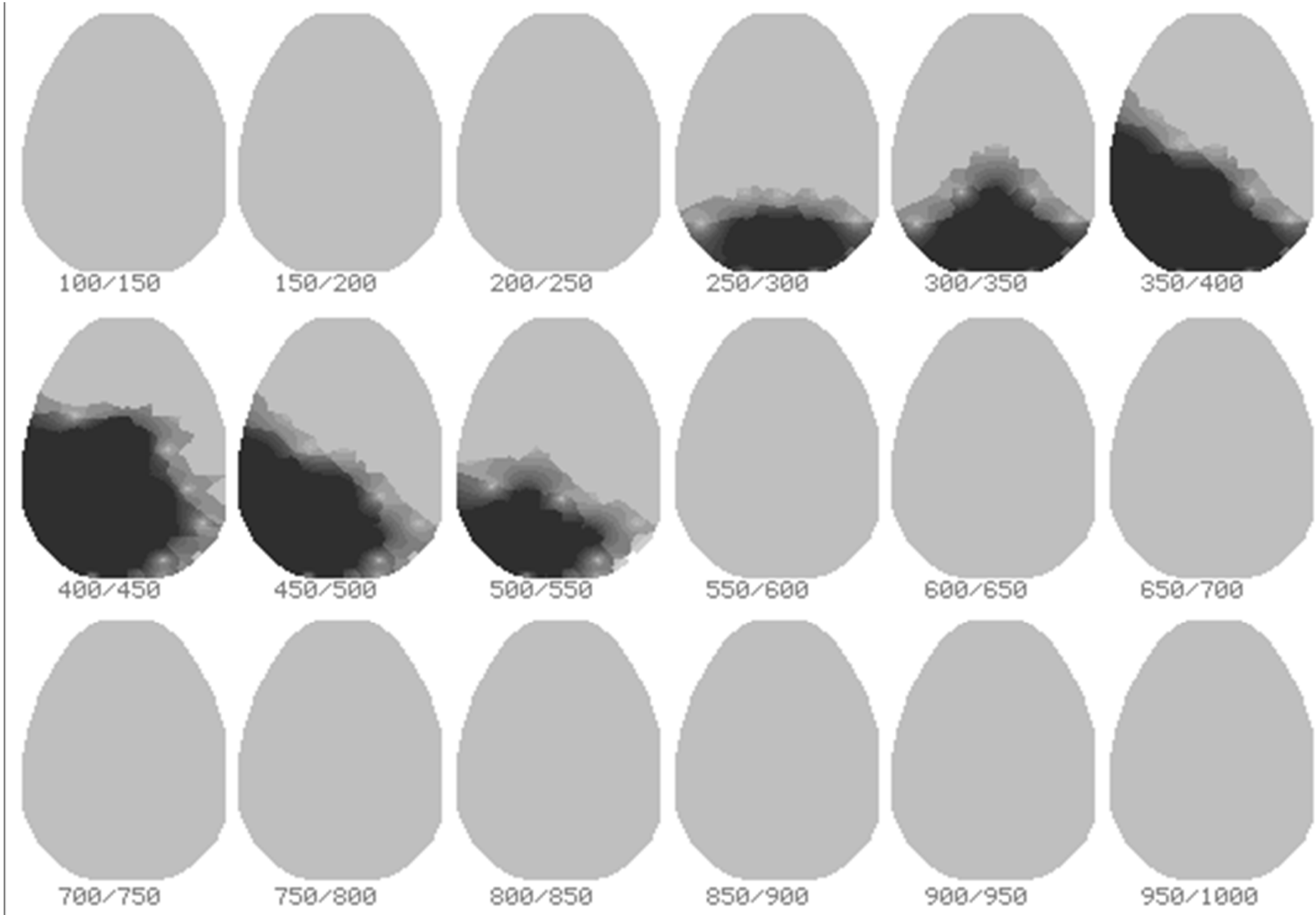

F3
Fz
F4
C3
Cz
C4
P3
Pz
P4
T5
T6
O1
O2
NEW
OLD
5μV
-100
100
300
500
700
900



Standard Repetition Effect for Words Seen Unmasked in Previous Blocks
Task is to make OLD-NEW decision



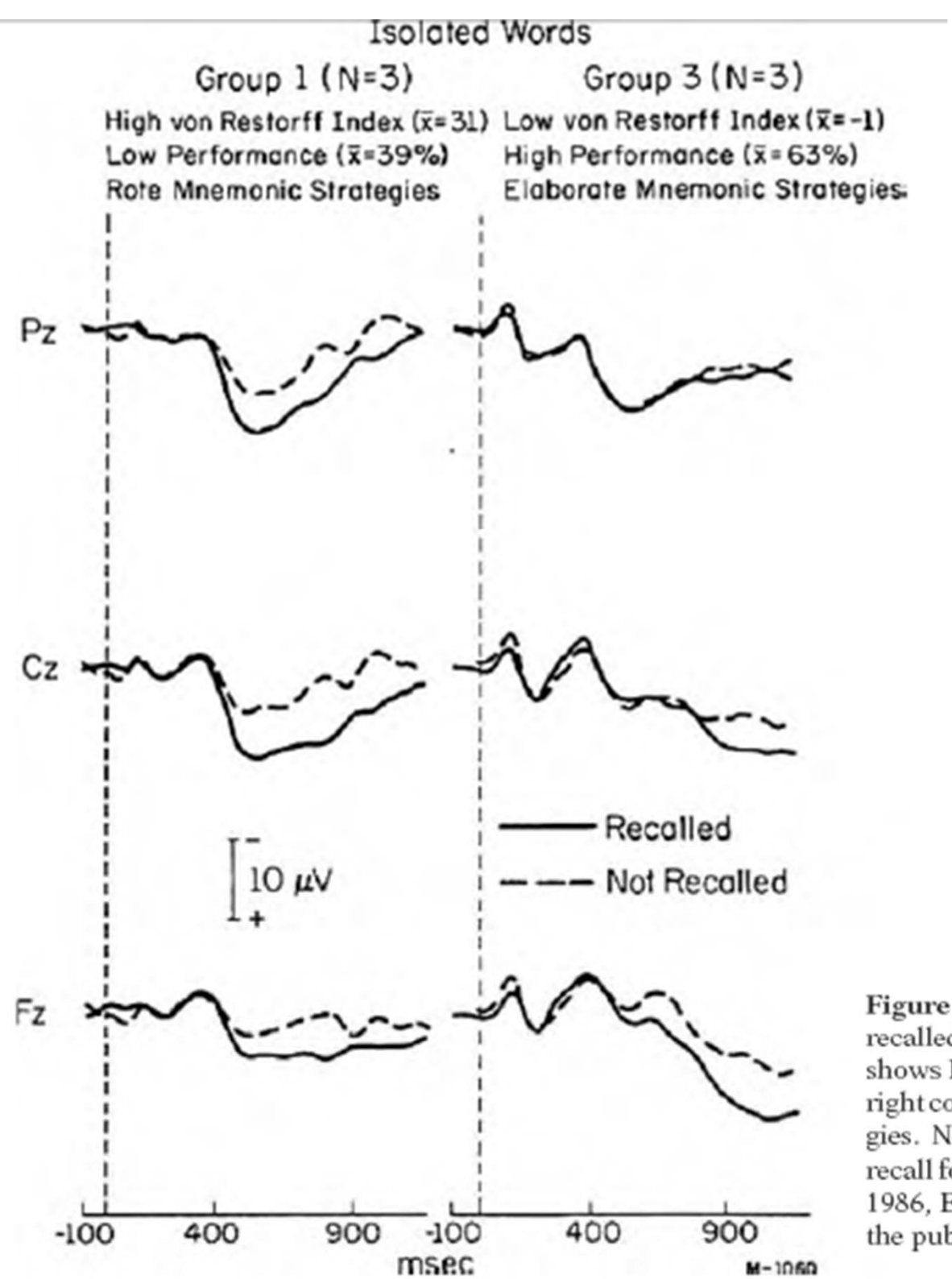
Standard Repetition Effect for Words Seen Unmasked in Previous Blocks
But Task is to make WORD-NONWORD decision



Masked Repetition Priming Effect for Words Presented only a Trial Previously

Memory Encoding

- Words subsequently remembered show enhanced positivity at encoding
- Strategy interacts, however



Note prototypic DM effect on left, but not on right for those that used elaborative strategies. Note enhancement over frontal lead for these latter subjects.

Figure 4.12. ERPs elicited by "isolated" words that were later recalled (solid line) or not-recalled (dashed line). The left column shows ERPs for subjects who used rote mnemonic strategies; the right column shows ERPs for subjects who used elaborative strategies. Note that the amplitude of P300 is related to subsequent recall for the rote memorizers, but not for elaborators. (Copyright 1986, Elsevier Science Publishers. Reprinted with permission of the publisher from Fabiani, Karis, & Donchin, 1986b.)

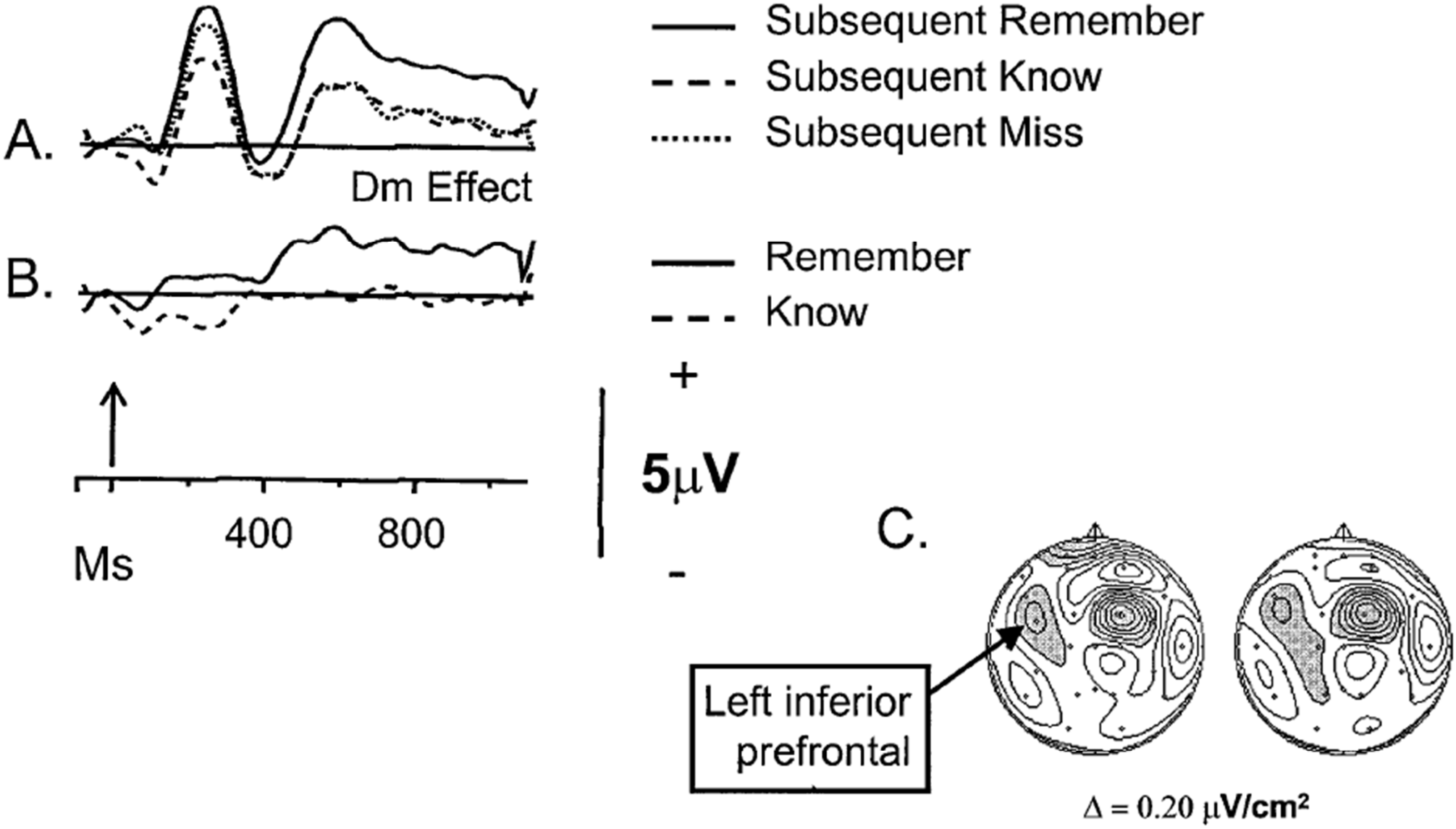


Fig. 3. **A:** Grand mean ERPs elicited by study items that were subsequently associated with remember or know judgments (hits) or were unrecognized (misses) during the subsequent recognition test. **B:** Grand mean difference waveforms computed by subtracting the ERPs to study items subsequently missed from those that were subsequently associated with either a remember or know judgment (Modified from Friedman and Trott, 2000). **C:** CSD maps for 2 intervals (500–800; 810–1,100 ms) measured in the Dm waveform associated with a subsequent Remember judgment. Data in A and B recorded at a left inferior prefrontal scalp site.

Indirect Assessments of Recognition

- Can the ERP detect recognition, independent of subjects' overt responses?
- Two applications
  - Clinical Malingering
  - Forensic Assessment

ERP Memory Assessment Procedures

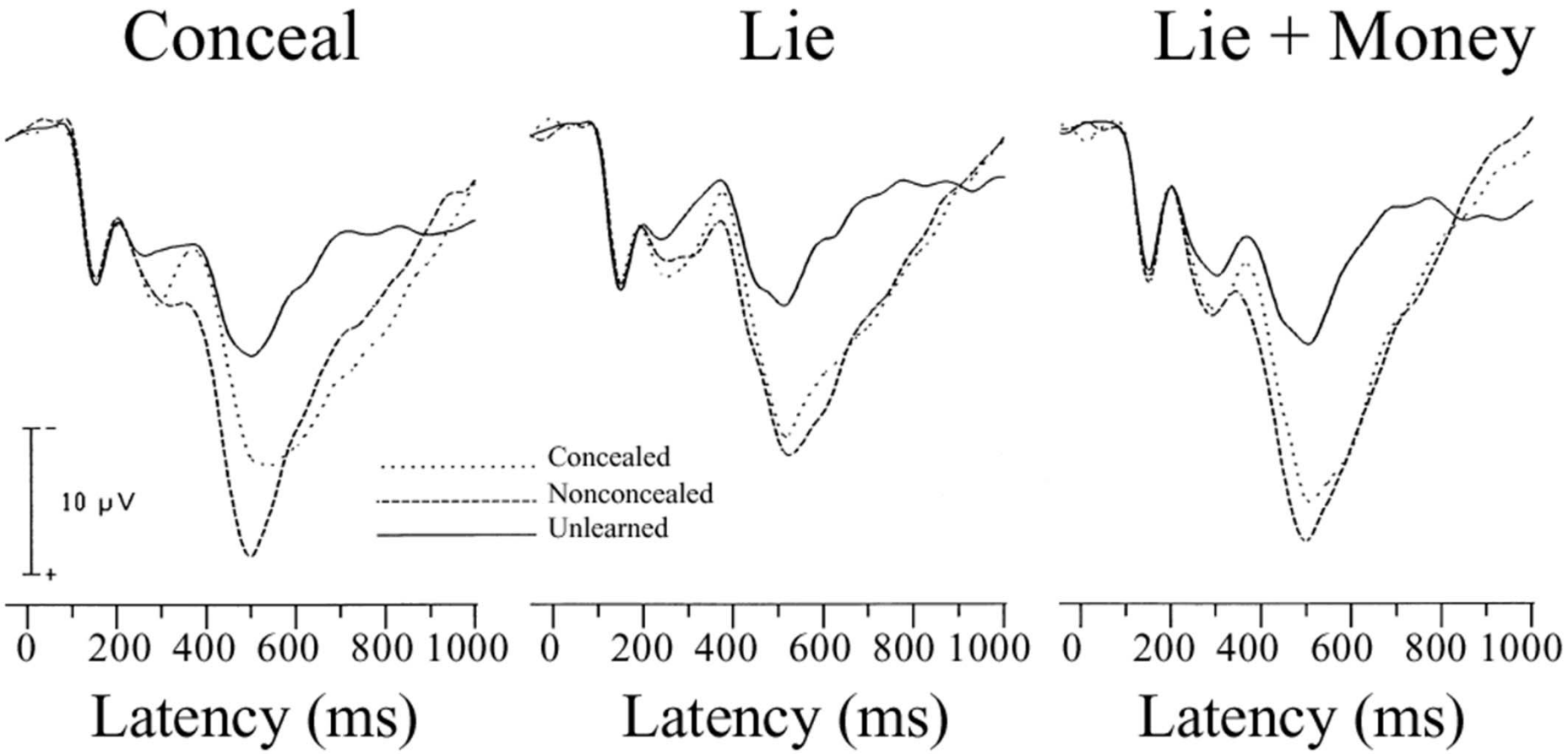
- Learn a list of words
- Learn a second list of words
- Task: Concealed (1st list) and Nonconcealed (2nd list) words appear infrequently

Item Type	Probability	Response	P3 Amplitude
Nonconcealed	1/7	"Yes"	Large
Concealed	1/7	"No"	Large if Recognized Small if not Recognized
Unlearned	5/7	"No"	Small

- Similar to procedures by Rosenfeld et al, Farwell & Donchin

Motivational Variations

Conceal	Lie	Lie + $$
➢"YES" for words *JUST* learned, "NO" for all others	➢"YES" for words learned	➢"YES" for words learned
➢*Try to hide the fact that you learned the first list of words I taught you*	➢*Lie about words from the first list I taught you*	➢*Lie about words from the first list I taught you*
		➢*$5.00 incentive*



After Allen & Iacono, 1997

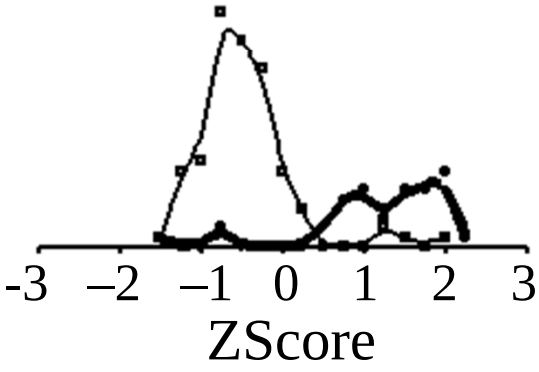
The Challenge

To provide statistically supported decisions for each and every subject, despite considerable individual variability in ERP morphology

P3 Amplitude

Sensitivity = .925

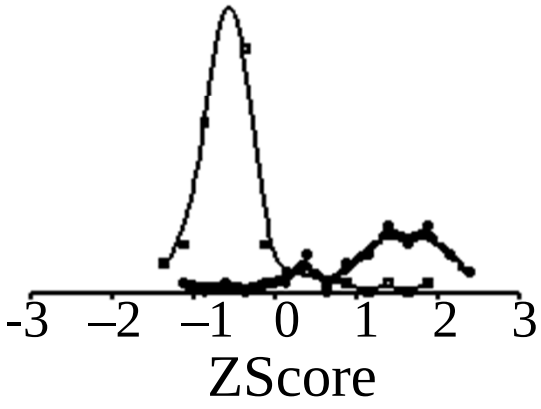
Specificity = .920



Raw ERP H^2

Sensitivity = .950

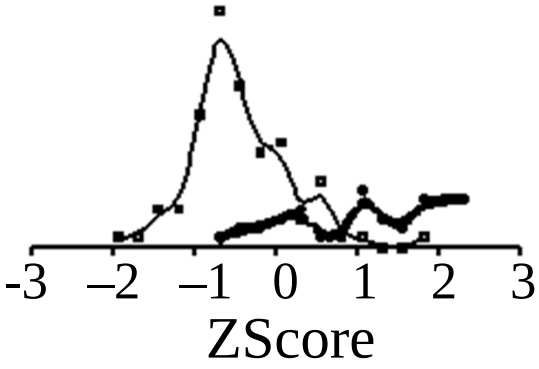
Specificity = .920



1st Derivative H^2

Sensitivity = .875

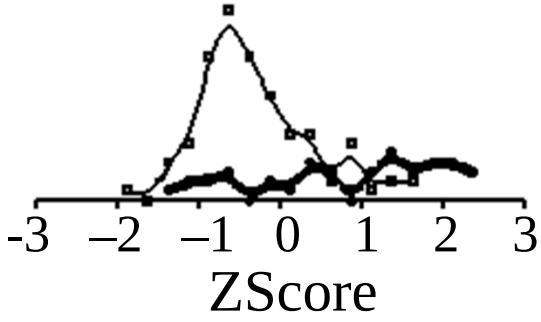
Specificity = .810



2nd Derivative H^2

Sensitivity = .750

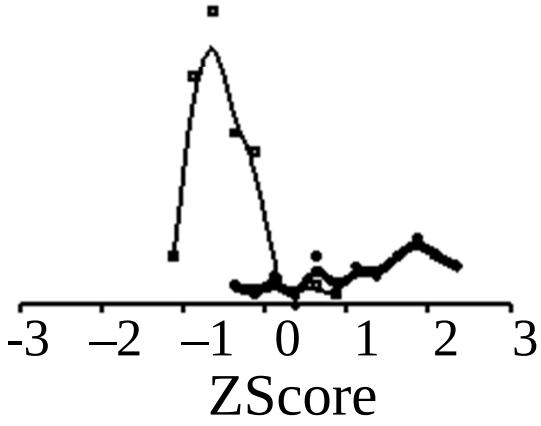
Specificity = .740



Deviation H^2

Sensitivity = .925

Specificity = .920



Bayesian Combination of ERP Indicators: Probability that an ERP was elicited by Learned Items

	List						
	Learned		Unlearned				
Subject	NonConceal	Conceal	U1	U2	U3	U4	U5
#01	1.0	0.999	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.001
#02	1.0	1.0	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
#03	1.0	0.999	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.002	0.000
#04	1.0	1.0	0.000	0.001	0.002	0.000	0.000
#05	1.0	0.971	0.002	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
#06	1.0	0.999	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
#07	0.983	1.0	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
...							
#18	0.996	0.983	**0.874**	0.001	0.000	0.000	0.000
#19	**0.009**	**0.214**	**0.971**	0.000	0.002	0.189	**0.983**
#20	1.0	0.999	0.002	0.000	0.009	0.000	0.214

Note: Only trials in which subjects did not acknowledge concealed items included

Classification Accuracy based on ERPs

	Learned (true pos)	Unlearned (true neg)
Conceal	0.95	0.96
Lie	0.93	0.94
Lie + $$	0.95	0.98
Combined	0.94	0.96

Allen, Iacono, & Danielson, *Psychophysiology*, 1992

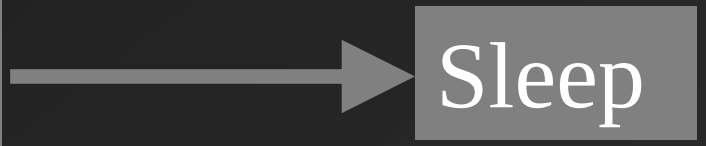
The Claim

- Brain Fingerprinting can determine "scientifically whether a suspect has details of a crime stored in his brain"
- Thus these ERP-procedures should be able to identify memories in laboratory studies
- Two tests of the robustness of this procedure:
  - False recollections
  - Virtual Reality Mock Crime

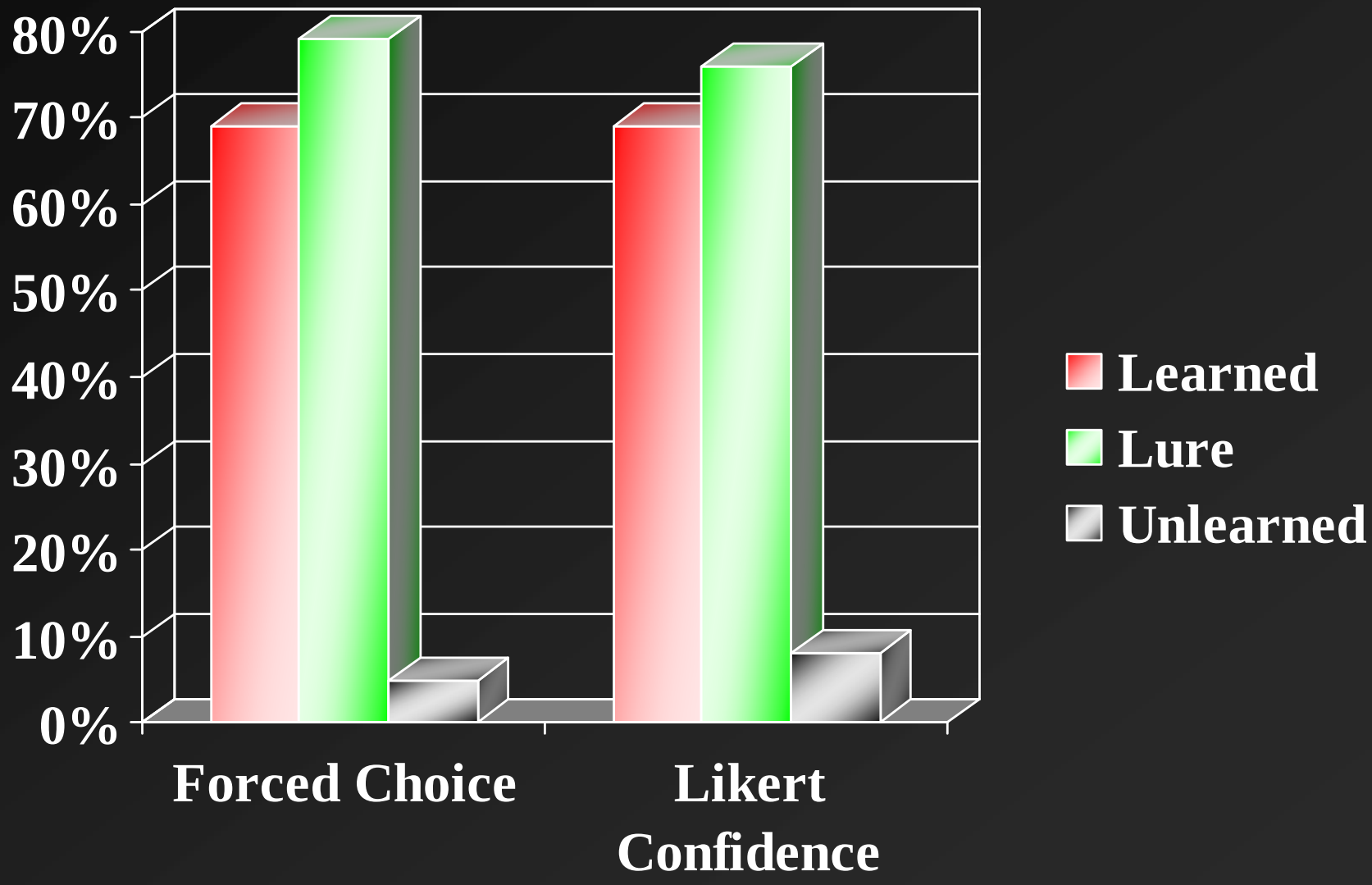
A Laboratory Paradigm for False Recollections: DRM

- Subjects presented with 15 words highly associated with an omitted critical item

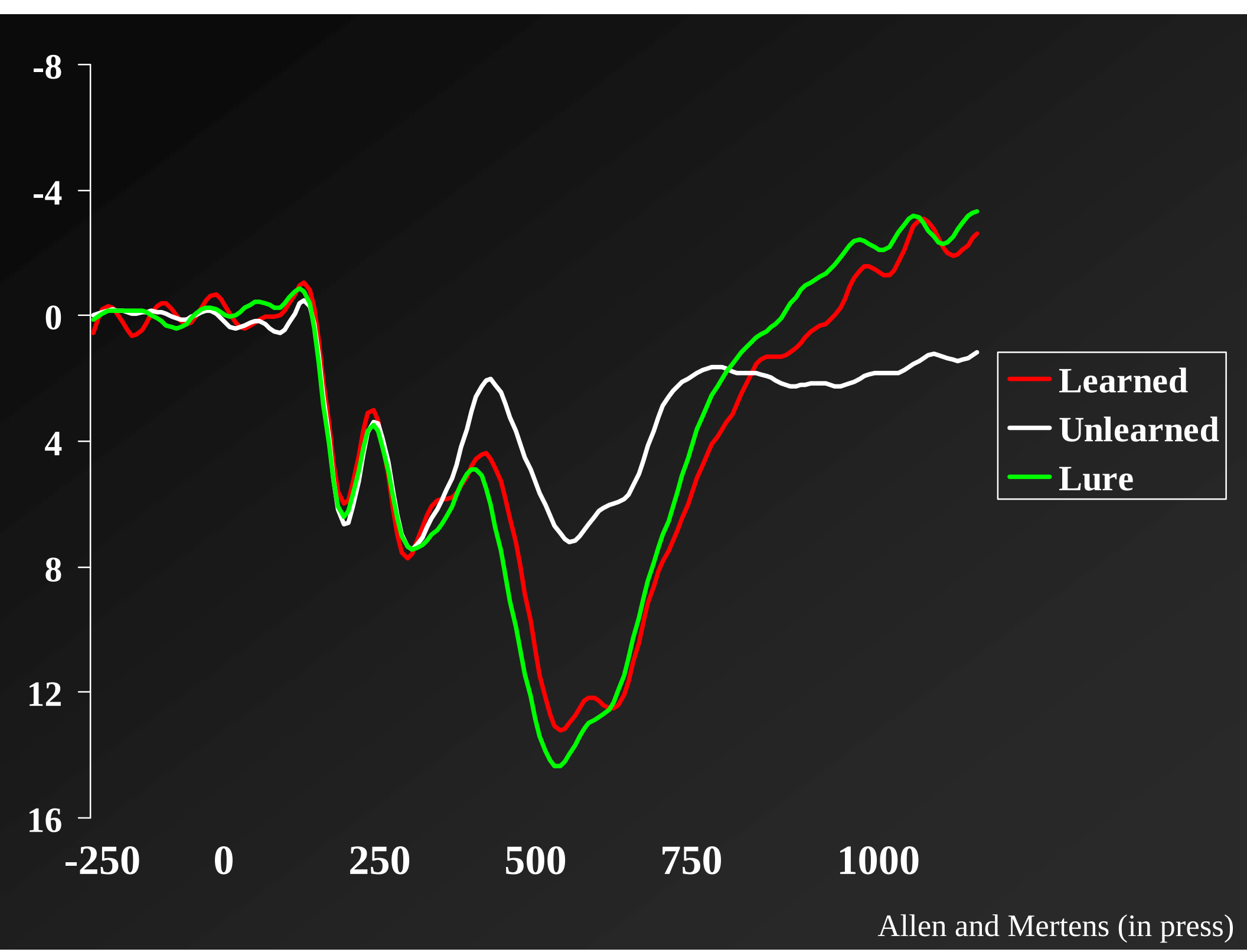
Bed, rest, awake, tired, dream, wake, snooze, blanket, doze, slumber, snore, nap, peace, yawn, drowsy



Reported Rates of Recogntion



Allen and Mertens (in press)


-8
-4
0
4
8
12
16
-250
0
250
500
750
1000
Learned
Unlearned
Lure
Allen and Mertens (in press)

The Box Score Blues

	Test Verdict
Ground Truth	Recognized
Actually Learned	56%
Critical Lure	72%
Unlearned	4%

- Highlights the need to have memorable items in the test
- Suggests limited utility in substantiating disputed memories; e.g., claims regarding recovered memories
- Still has low false positive rate when person denies knowledge

Current and Future Directions

- Develop realistic laboratory models for mock crime investigations

Virtual Reality Mock Crime

- Subjects received email detailing their “Mission”
- Sneak into graduate student office to break in to virtual apartment
- Apprehended and interrogated using ERP-based procedure
- Some subjects given details about utilizing countermeasures
- Innocent subjects tour the same virtual apartment, but with different objects and details.

Results of Mock Crime Brainwave Procedure

Group	N	Verdict	
		Guilty	Innocent
Guilty	15	47%	53%
Guilty (countermeasure)	45	17%	83%
Innocent	15	6%	94%

Note: Using Bootstrapping approach, Guilty detection drops to 27%, but innocent subjects classified correctly in 100% of cases. Allows indeterminate outcomes