# A PREDICTIVE CODING PERSPECTIVE ON OSCILLATORY TRAVELING WAVES

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# PREDICTIVE CODING IN SHORT



Mumford 1992, Rao & Ballard 1999, Friston 2009, Huand & Rao 2011, Spratling 2017...

- Higher regions generate predictions to explain sensory input.
- **Prediction-errors** update predictions over time.
- The brain fully represents the incoming sensory information.

## THE SIMPLEST PC MODEL



200ms

SIMPLE MODEL RESULTS



## A MULTI-LAYER PC MODEL



# MULTI-LAYER MODEL RESULTS



- y<sub>i</sub> have an oscillatory
  behavior (no need to
  compute the IRFs);
- Oscillations are TRAVELLING WAVE,

propagating **FORWARD** or **BACKWARD** depending on the cognitive state of the system.

## A MORE PLAUSIBLE MODEL



WAVES IN REAL DATA



## QUANTIFYING WAVES DIRECTION



# TRAVELING WAVES AND VISUAL PERCEPTION



# Turning the Stimulus On and Off Changes the Direction of $\alpha$ Traveling Waves

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eNeuro



**Zhaoyang Pang** 

Pang Z., Alamia A, VanRullen R (2020)

## ALPHA WAVES AND VISUAL PERCEPTION



#### WAVES AND PREDICTIVE CODING



## WAVES AND PREDICTIVE CODING





R. Carhart-Harris C. Timmermann

# *N*,*N*-Dimethyltryptamine (DMT)

"[..] psychedelics work to relax the precision of high-level priors or beliefs, thereby liberating bottom-up information flow, particularly via intrinsic sources such as the limbic system."

Carhart-Harris and Friston (2019)



Alamia A., Timmermann C., Nutt DJ., VanRullen R., Carhart-Harris R. (2020)

## WAVES AND PSYCHEDELICS



R. Carhart-Harris C. Timmermann



# *N*,*N*-Dimethyltryptamine (DMT)



Alamia A., Timmermann C., Nutt DJ., VanRullen R., Carhart-Harris R. (2020)

### • PSYCHEDELICS MODULATE WAVES •



Despite participants had closed eyes, DMT alters cortical activity, as during visual stimulation.



D. Gordillo M. Herzog



# Hypothesis: alteration in the priors? (Friston et al 2014, 2016, Fogelson 2014, Sterzer 2018, Tarasi et al. 2022, ...)

Opposite to DMT's study predictions, should we observe a decrease in FW waves and increase in BW waves?

Alamia\*, Gordillo\*,..., Herzog (2024)

WAVES IN SCHIZOPHRENIA

WAVES IN SCHIZOPHRENIA



N = 121 (patients); N = 75 (control)



# Vernier visual task.



N = 121 (patients); N = 75 (control)



Find a way to test directly this fascinating hypothesis that TW reflect
 Predictive Coding processes (with modeling & experiments).



# EXPERIMENTAL DESIGN: STATISTICAL LEARNING

Participants performed 15 blocks of 70 shapes each. The target changes every 18 shapes.





#### Martina Pasqualetti

# Measured variables:

- Behavioral (RT and Scores)
- Pupil size
- EEG (TW)

Pasqualetti & Alamia (in preparation)

# MANIPULATING PROBABILITIES





26

# MANIPULATING PROBABILITIES



Hypothesis I:
 Increase in BW waves with predictability.



Entropy (non Predictability)

# MANIPULATING PROBABILITIES





H = 0.8570

5

5 47.5 47.5

47.5

Δ

 $\diamond$ 

47.5 47.5

47.5 47.5

5

47.5

5



H = 1.0977

	·	$\odot$	Δ	$\diamond$
•	×	33	33	33
$\odot$	33	×	33	33
A	33	33	×	33
$\Diamond$	33	33	33	×

• *Hypothesis II*:

Increase in FW waves with the rare transition (i.e., the Prediction Error).





# **LEARNERS vs NON-LEARNERS**

We split participants based on how much they use the regularities. *Learning index (LI)* : RT(rare) – RT(expected)





Behavioral results (N=30). Participants learn explicitly the regularities.



BW waves increase before stimuls onset, FW waves after stimulus onset.



*Hyp I* : Sequence predictability doesn't modulate BW or FW waves (BF<0.3).





*Hyp II* : difference between rare and expected in FW waves.



## TW AND THE CANNONBALL



Α

Nassar, Matthew R., Rasmus Bruckner, and Michael J. Frank. "Statistical context dictates the relationship between feedbackrelated EEG signals and learning." elife 8 (2019): e46975.



Matthew Nassar

Do TW reflect changes in the model? (i.e., changepoint vs oddball).

## TW AND THE CANNONBALL



TW AND THE CANNONBALL











Considering oscillations as Travelling Waves help us understanding their role in different cognitive functions.

- Forward waves relate to visual stimulation.
- Backward waves reflect inhibition and attentional modulation.
- Both modulated by psychedelics drugs (DMT), and in Schizophrenia patients.
- Ongoing work to test their link with Predictive Coding.
- Ongoing work investigating travelling waves and Binocular Rivarly, Working Memory and computational mechanisms.

# THANKS!!







Z.Pang



M.Herzog



**R.Cart-Harris** 





L.MarieLouise



**I.Schwenk** 





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2017-2024

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**QUANTIFYING WAVES DIRECTION** 





Forward and backward waves related to visual stimulation.



Do waves correlate with pharmacological drugs (CPZ equivalent)? NOPE

# Do waves correlate with positive symptoms? **NOPE**

Do waves correlate with negative symptoms? NOPE



 Mean field model showing FW and BW waves in a PC framework.

- Pulvinar modulates
  TWs, biasing FW and
  BW competition in favor of FW waves.
- Waves drive gammaband coherence and causality (mean field + spiking network).

## PUPIL IN THE STATISTICAL LEARNING



[60 20] [47.5 5] [80 10] [90 5]

# **PUPIL DIAMETER**

Pupil size dilates following surprising events (Alamia et. all, 2019)











— Shape — Shape — FW Less

> - FW More - BW Less

> - BW More







TW AND THE CANNONBALL

Alpha Power (1D-FFT)





**SPECTRA OF TW** 





# WAVES' SPECTRAL PROFILE





## CORRELATING WAVES WITH POWER

Pearson		FW		BW	
r (BF <sub>10</sub> )		CONTRA	IPSI	CONTRA	IPSI
OCC.	CONTRA	-0.297	-0.350	0.720	0.698
		(0.549)	(0.697)	(28.519)	(19.503)
	IPSI	-0.305	-0.342	0.786	0.746
		(0.566)	(0.669)	(116.990)	(47.512)
FRONT.	CONTRA	-0.222	-0.252	0.772	0.712
		(0.422)	(0.465)	(84.225)	(24.645)
	IPSI	-0.327	-0.354	0.747	0.705
		(0.625)	(0.710)	(48.448)	(21.841)

**RESULTS – EVENT ANALYSIS I** 



# TW AND THE CANNONBALL

Summary:

- Alpha-band FW waves seem to increase during model update
- FW and BW TW correlate with *model update* and *prediction-error, but interpretation may not be in line with our hypothesis.*

To explore:

- Confirm results with another method to compute waves (e.g., phase plane fitting);
- Replicate in other datasets with similar tasks:
  - Do TW encode the 'variability' of the model? (the spread of the cannonball target area).
  - □ What if in the same block we have OD and CP?