

RELIABLE NEUROTECHNOLOGIES

Ilias Tachtsidis and The Reliability Group

The Challenge



For neurotechnologies to be used in the health care system, in research, for infants, toddlers and preschoolers, reliable data acquisition and analysis is key.

-Data analysis and Modelling [Statistical Frameworks]

-Standardisation [Hardware, Data Acquisition, Software]

Modality Specific Standardization Approaches

Cross-Modality Standardization Approaches

The Challenge



Identify Independent to Modality

-What are the specific common challenges that neurotechnologies have to overcome within this sensitive population to be reliable.

Identify Modality Dependent

-What we expect specific neuroimaging modalities to demonstrate to be reliable.

EEG, fNIRS/NIRS, fMRI/MRI, Challenges to Achieve Reliable Neuromonitoring/Neuroimaging

The EEG Group





Lorenzo Fabrizi (co-chair <u>EEG Reliability</u>): l.fabrizi@ucl.ac.uk

Associate Professor Department of Neuroscience, Physiology and Pharmacology University College London



Kim Whitehead (co-chair <u>EEG Reliability</u>): kimberley.whitehead@kcl.ac.uk Senior Lecturer, and Clinical Scientist in Neurophysiology Division of Applied Technologies for Clinical Care King's College London



Ross E Vanderwert Senior Lecturer School of Psychology Cardiff University



Tracy Warbrick Head of Education and Scientific Communication Brain Products GmbH Gilching, Germany



Helene Vitale PhD student Unit for Visually Impaired People Italian Institute of Technology, Italy

The EEG Group





- Lorenzo Fabrizi (co-chair <u>EEG Reliability</u>): l.fabrizi@ucl.ac.uk
- -Brain development in preterm infants
- -Interest in functional analysis of somatosensory and pain processing with EEG, NIRS and fMRI



Kim Whitehead (co-chair <u>EEG Reliability</u>): kimberley.whitehead@kcl.ac.uk -Clinical and research EEG in health and disease -Interest in EEG after acquired fetal and neonatal brain injury



Ross E Vanderwert

-How early experiences shape brain development and function -Interest in how motor systems facilitate social cognition



Tracy Warbrick -Industry perspective -Works with research scientists and clinicians to optimise EEG applications -Research background in multimodal brain imaging, with specific interest in simultaneous EEG-fMRI



Helene Vitale

-EEG in sighted and blind infants -Interest in sleep-wake cortical activity and the role of vision in it

The fNIRS/NIRS Group





Dr. Paola Pinti Birkbeck, University of London, UK Chair





Dr. Chiara Bulgarelli Birkbeck, University of London, UK Co-Chair



Prof. Lauren Emberson University of British Columbia, Canada



Dr. Alexander von Lühmann BIFOLD, TU Berlin, Germany



Dr. Sarah Lloyd-Fox University of Cambridge, UK

Dr. Frédéric Lange University College London, UK **Dr. Sobana Wijeakumar** University of Nottingham, UK



The fNIRS/NIRS Group





Dr. Paola Pinti algorithm development, data analytics, optimisation for non-conventional lab settings



Dr. Chiara Bulgarelli functional connectivity, optimisation for nonconventional lab settings



Prof. Lauren Emberson preterm babies and infants, data analytics and standardization





Dr. Alexander von Lühmann

hardware development, data analytics, machine learning, standardization





Dr. Sarah Lloyd-Fox optimisation for infants and low-income settings

Dr. Frédéric Lange hardware development, clinical application **Dr. Sobana Wijeakumar** data analytics and application in rural settings

The fMRI/MRI Group





Jennifer Cooke (King's, co-chair) Data Acquisition and Analysis Rare Genetic Syndromes Lifespan 18 months to 50 years

Emil Ljungberg(KCL) Quality Assurance in MRI MRI Phantoms, not people!





Jonathan O'Muircheartaigh (King's, co-chair) Data Acquisition and Analysis Epilepsy, Neurotypical brain development 0-16 years

Ciara Molloy (Trinity College Dublin) Data Acquisition and Analysis Rare Genetic Syndromes Lifespan 18 months to 50 years





Francesca Biondo UCL Image Analysis & Machine Learning Neurodevelopment in adversity 0-5 years, 10-16 years

What is Reliability



Reproducibility, resilience to external factors, quality maintenance, stability and failure tolerance. With respect to software additionally: data integrity and accuracy, and performance. In the context of science: reproducibility and power.

Reliability can mean two things, the simplest is that the technology works regularly with minimal support (lab tech, debugging software, etc). The second is that when I measure something from one participant, I'm measuring roughly the same thing in another.

Good test-retest, ability to acquire data reliably (hardware), ability for children infants to tolerate scanning.

Application should span across ANY definition of diversity and individual differences, comfortable for participants, less susceptible to breakdown and wear and tear, produce replicable details across projects.

Implementations of Reliability



We use the same task at the beginning of every testing session with a participant. Often this data isn't used or is used as a comparison condition (which I guess makes it useful for some aspects of reliability).

Visual inspection of data and results for outliers.

1. checking that resting EEG is appropriate for age (expert report); 2. checking that results are consistent across different population samples; 3. checking that results concur with existing literature; 4. comparing variance during task with variance at baseline.

The Need for Reliability-Standardisation

Network goals



- Create cross-modality groups and build an inclusive multidisciplinary community through meetings and strategicallytargeted working groups towards developing:
- (1) White paper [work started if you want to participate connect with the relevant reliability group]
- (2) Contribution to knowledge by identifying common solutions in resolving reliability issues [creation of database with important papers, documentation, processes via website].
- (3) Create a collaborative network to share and transfer knowledge and support [access to experts via website].



🖉 Can you help us? 🖉

Help the **Reliability team** to collect information about the reliability procedures you follow in your lab or company. Just answer a few questions by scanning the **QR code** below:



Thank you in advance for your help!

Prof. Ilias Tachtsidis & the Reliability Team