Large-Scale Motor Dynamics Associated with Reaching are Altered in Essential Tremor

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Abstract

Introduction: Essential Tremor (ET) is a common neurological disorder identified by involuntary rhythmic movements stemming from pathological synchronization within a network that overlaps significantly with the normal motor circuit. The efficacy of therapeutic brain stimulation for ET is impeded by a limited understanding of how tremor-related synchronization affects brain circuits and disrupts normal sensorimotor processing. This paper details the changes in brain-wide synchronization associated with ET and connects these to the oscillatory dynamics during voluntary movements. **Methods:** We used high-density electroencephalography (EEG, 11 controls, 12 patients), and for the first time in ET patients, optically pumped magnetoencephalography (OPM, 5 controls, 4 patients) to record brain activity during upper limb reaching. We localized and analysed brain sources that synchronize with pathological tremors, studying motor oscillations in these regions. Using a novel dimensionality reduction approach, we identified a set of simple, latent circuits with specific frequency characteristics and analysed their relationship to kinematics and tremor. **Results:** Despite slight reductions in velocity, ET patients demonstrated reaching movements with kinematics comparable to controls. Notably, key motor areas - including the supplementary motor area, lateral

prefrontal cortex, posterior parietal cortex, and motor cerebellum - were synchronized to tremor frequencies. Motor oscillations were significantly changed in patients with ET relative to controls, including a 15% increase in movement responsive desynchronization in the low beta (14-21 Hz) band which inversely correlated with tremor severity. Oscillations in the beta and theta bands were key predictors of patients` overall tremor levels. Latent state analysis in EEG and OPM data located these changes to fronto-parietal and premotor/prefrontal circuits. High tremor trials were associated with diminished post-movement beta rebound in frontoparietal and premotor circuits and an increase in sensorimotor gamma activity (30-60 Hz). Latent dynamics were predictive of changes in patients` movement velocity and hold stability, suggesting that increased movement related beta desynchronization may reflect a compensatory mechanism in the brain. **Conclusions:** This study demonstrates that ET leads to significant changes in the oscillatory dynamics within individual motor regions and broader networks. Specifically, we suggest that increased desynchronization of networks in ET enables successful execution of movement, by freeing neural resources otherwise entrained by pathological synchronization at tremor frequencies. Our findings, reproducible across both EEG and OPM recordings, underline how motor-related brain signals can predict subject level tremor severity and offer a new set of candidate biomarkers crucial for developing advanced closed-loop stimulation therapies for ET.

1 Introduction

Essential Tremor (ET) is a common neurological disorder characterized by involuntary rhythmic movements affecting the limbs, head, or trunk[1]. Over 50% of ET patients are unresponsive to pharmacological interventions[2]. Surgical lesioning of the thalamus can be effective, yet it is by necessity unilateral, irreversible, and in many cases, tremor may re-emerge[3]. For the most severely affected patients, deep brain stimulation (DBS) of the ventrolateral thalamus provides an adaptable and bilateral therapy. However, patients require permanent device insertion and over time, 70% of patients receiving continuous DBS lose benefit[4,5]. In some cases, this can be alleviated with regular reparameterization of the stimulator, but this is complex, time-consuming, and not always successful[6].

These challenges motivate the development of next generation neurostimulation for ET that aims to: (a) be minimally invasive compared to lesioning and (b) capable of providing closed-loop, on-demand stimulation matched to tremor episodes' severity. Non-invasive stimulation can provide an alternative to DBS but requires targets that are accessible without surgery. For instance, peripheral nerve stimulation[7–10] has been trialled with mixed success. These studies follow the rationale that tremor is modulated by afferent input to the thalamus[11]. Tonic peripheral stimulation may act as a reversible afferent block, or when delivered phase locked to tremor acceleration, can provide tremor suppression via phase cancellation of a central tremor oscillator[12]. Existing closed loop approaches for stimulation

in ET have explored using inertial and/or myographic tremor signals[13–16] but are limited to providing

reactive control and are subject to variabilities associated with changes in motor task, inertial loading,

and posture. Moreover, the use of peripheral signals to suppress tremors via closed-loop stimulation is

complicated by the inconsistent connection between central tremor origins and muscle activity[17,18]. A

more effective strategy might involve directly targeting the central tremor sources in the brain.

A wealth of neuroimaging work supports the existence of a distributed tremor circuit in the brain[19,20],

involving the thalamus, cerebellum, parietal, and motor cortex. This network has been established

through both hemodynamic correlates of tremor[21–24] and also electrophysiological signals measured

using electroencephalography (EEG)[25–27] and magnetoencephalography (MEG) [28].

Electrophysiological signals are particularly promising for closed-loop stimulation, as they rapidly

respond to—and can even predict—tremor fluctuations. To date, non-invasive brain stimulation has

targeted the primary motor cortex[29,30] or the cerebellum[15,31–33], with the latter demonstrating superior

clinical outcomes. Despite this, most approaches to stimulation remain open-loop and require high

stimulation energies that can be uncomfortable for the patient.

Instead of direct stimulation, components of the identified tremor circuit could enhance control of

stimulation in therapies such as DBS to the ventrolateral thalamus. Similar abnormal neural

oscillations play a role in other movement disorders (e.g., Parkinson's and Dystonia) where

therapeutic stimulation aims to normalize large-scale brain network dynamics[34,35]. The significant

overlap of the tremor circuit with volitional motor control networks[36,37] implies that common signals,

such as 14-30 Hz beta band oscillations, could predict tremor onsets. For example, movement

responsive beta band event related desynchronization (ERD)[38] has been used to trigger DBS in

tremor[39–41] at the onset of action or postural tremors, offering a method for anticipatory control.

However, it remains unclear how this aberrant synchronization at tremor frequencies affects the

physiological markers of motor processing. Most EEG studies have adopted a static approach,

focusing on tremor during unchanging postures, and thus ignored the dynamic changes in motor

control associated with ET, especially during active limb movements like reaching[42–44].

We hypothesised that the pathophysiology of ET disrupts the large-scale motor dynamics associated

with naturalistic movement, such as reaching. To investigate this, we utilize advances in whole-brain

neuroimaging to examine how circuits in the brain are comodulated by both pathological tremor and

the generation of voluntary movements. Utilizing high-density EEG and introducing optically pumped

MEG (OPM)[45] to ET studies for the first time, we localized oscillatory brain activity that both

synchronizes with tremors and reacts to movement. The advent of OPM has helped facilitate high

resolution brain recordings during naturalistic human movement[46,47] and enhanced detection of high-

frequency brain rhythms[48].

To aid interpretation of high-resolution neuroimaging recorded across multiple regions and
frequencies we use time frequency principal component analysis (tfPCA)[49]. This dimensionality
reduction method allows us to decompose time locked, movement responsive oscillations recorded
over the brain, into simplified components with associated *latent* dynamics. These low dimensional
dynamics summarise how the brain acts in concert during movement and tremor, tying regions and
frequency bands into ensemble circuits with correlated activities—akin to sections of an orchestra.
We evaluate whether these latent representations of whole brain recordings may provide candidate
signals for closed control. Latent space analyses have proven effective at prediction of behaviour from
brain signals at the single trial level[50,51] but deployment in whole-brain human neuroimaging is in its
nascency[52–54].

Using these tools, we localized large regions of the cortex and cerebellum that are synchronized to
pathological ET. In these same regions, we then examined classic movement responsive oscillations
for changes associated with ET pathophysiology. With the aim of establishing novel biomarkers for
future stimulation approaches in mind, we asked whether these same signals were predictive of tremor
severity at either the trial or subject level, and to what extent changes reflect adaptive dynamics to
compensate for pathological synchronization in ET.

Methods
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2.1 Recruitment and Details of Participants
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Ethical approvals were obtained from the respective committees of the Philipps-University Marburg,
University College London, and University College London Hospital. Consent was obtained
according to the Declaration of Helsinki. UK clinical ethics were approved by the Health Research
Authority (REC 20/WA/0124). EEG experiments were conducted with 16 patients (44 ±20 years of
age, 6 female) diagnosed with essential tremor (ET) and 15 controls (45 ±20 years of age, 6 female).
Diagnosis was made by a movement disorder specialist according to the clinical MDS-criteria[55]. OPM
was conducted with 4 ET patients (50 ±20 years of age, 1 female) and 5 healthy controls (50 ±13
years of age, 1 female). All patients displayed a mild to moderate upper limb tremor, scoring between
3 and 6 on unilateral "The Essential Tremor Rating Assessment Scale" (TETRAS, Elble, 2016). The
EEG cohort (Marburg) had a mean TETRAS performance score of 17.0 ±2.5 and the OPM cohort
(London) had scores of 19.5 ±3.8. A minority of the EEG cohort displayed mild head tremor (4/12
patients scoring 1, 1/12 scoring 2). Clinical details and relevant medication for the patients are given
in tables in appendix I and II.

2.2 Delayed Reach-to-Target Task

To probe the interaction between tremor and voluntary motor control, participants performed a delayed reach to target task, making whole limb reaches to mimic naturalistic movement. The task (Figure 1A) required participants to adopt a 90-degree upper arm elevation against gravity with flexed elbow posture and then, from this position, make centre-out reaches and then hold their finger fixed to "pop" target balloons. The task sequence was: (a) 3 s eyes-open rest, (b) 3 s postural (as above) hold, (c) 2.5 ±1 s presentation of movement cues, given as arrows of varying length, (d) appearance of a GO cue to initiate a reach, to one of eight targets, (e) 1.5 s of sustained hold required to "pop" the balloon. A point was scored if the correct balloon was popped (as predicted from the dispersion of the arrows). A maximum of 4 s was given to make the reach and hold. In addition, 30 s of rest and postural hold (i.e., the posture described above) was recorded for each block. We recorded 6 sessions of 24 reaches (~12 minutes each), yielding an average of 144 reaches per participant.

The task followed a 2x2 design manipulating cue uncertainty and target size. Cue uncertainty was set to be low or high (LUC and HUC, respectively), by changing the dispersion of arrows (see appendix III for details) titrated to success rates of 85% and 15%, respectively. The size of the targets (i.e., the balloons) were either small or large (SML and LRG, respectively). For EEG recordings the task was presented on an LCD monitor (30 x 53 cm, 60 Hz, SML/LRG diameters: 1.4/3.6 cm) placed at arm's length from the participant. For OPM recordings, the task was presented via a projector to a screen (42 x 70 cm, 60 Hz, SML/LRG diameters: 2/5 cm).

2.3 High Density Electroencephalography

High-density EEG (HD-EEG) was recorded in a recording chamber using an elastic cap to mount active, gel-based electrodes (Brain Products GmBH, Gilching, Germany) in the standard 10-10 system with 128 electrodes and amplified using a Brain Products DC amp. Electrode gel was applied to maintain electrode impedance below 10 kΩ. All data were recorded with a 1 kHz low pass filter and digitized at 5 kHz. EEG recordings were made with a reference at FCz, which was re-referenced offline to the common average.

2.4 Optically Pumped Magnetometer Recordings

Optically pumped magnetoencephalography (OPM) was made using a combination of 2nd and 3rd generation QuSpin sensors (dual- and tri-axial sensors, respectively; QuSpin Inc., Louisville, Colorado, USA) mounted in rigid 3D-printed casts (Chalk Studios, London, UK) custom-built to each participant's scalp shape determined from structural magnetic resonance images (MRIs). In the absence of an MRI (1 control and 1 patient), the head shape was estimated using an infrared depth camera. Offsets of 1-3 mm were added to scanner casts to allow for anatomical error, tissue deformation, and hair.

OPM experiments were conducted in a magnetically shielded room (MSR; Magnetic Shields Ltd,

Staplehurst, UK). The inner layer of mu-metal lining the room was degaussed using a low-frequency

decaying sinusoid driven through cables within the walls before the start of the experiment. The OPM

sensors were then nulled using onboard nulling coils and calibrated. The OPM acquisition system

(National Instruments, Texas, USA) had a sampling frequency of 6 KHz and a 16-bit resolution. An

antialiasing 500 Hz low-pass filter (60th order FIR filter combined with a Kaiser window) was

applied before data were down-sampled offline to 2 kHz.

2.5 Kinematics and Accelerometery Recordings

Arm movement was captured with Optitrack Motive software (Planar Systems, Oregon, USA) and an

infrared camera (Optitrack Duo/Trio) tracking a reflective marker attached to the participant's hand.

Task triggers were sent to the EEG amplifier using a LabJack U3 DAC (LabJack Corp., Colorado,

USA). Acceleration was recorded via a triaxial sensor (EEG, Brainproducts GmBH; OPM;

ADXL335; Analog devices Inc., Wilmington, Massachusetts, USA) affixed to the affected limb. For

one EEG patient, accelerometery was not available, this participant is excluded from analyses

requiring estimates of tremor (EEG/Acc. coherence and trial-by-trial tremor analyses). Statistics of

movement kinematics were computed by averaging trials over each condition, removing outliers with

|Z-score| > 1.96, and then computing an ANOVA.

2.6 Time Locking of Movement Data

The onsets of each postural raise were found from thresholding the Z-normalized sum of the triaxial

accelerometers at Z = 3. Due to the large variability in reach movements, a semi-supervised method

was used. Three independent scorers manually marked the execution and hold times, provided a

quality score of 1-3 for movement traces (accelerometery and motion tracking) for each trial in a

random subset of the data (30%). For precise criteria, please see appendix IV. These manual labels

were then used to train a convolutional neural network (CNN) that we deployed on the full dataset.

The CNN performance and cross-validation procedures are given in Supplementary Information I.

2.7 Preprocessing, Artefact Removal, and Data Rejection

Data were analysed using custom scripts written in MATLAB (The Mathworks, Massachusetts, USA)

using the Fieldtrip[57] and SPM 12 toolboxes. Data were digitized and down sampled to 512 Hz. For

EEG, individual channels were visually inspected to remove those affected by gross movement

artefact, and then high and low pass filtered at 2 and 98 Hz using FIR windowed-sync filters. Line

noise was removed by fitting sine and cosine components to the line frequency and then subtracting

from the data. Eye blink, muscle, or cable artefacts were removed using independent component

analysis (ICA). Trials with remaining artefacts were rejected visually, using Z-score and kurtosis

measures. Finally, bad channels were replaced via local spline interpolation. OPM signals were

processed identically but used adaptive multipole model[58] for interference reduction following ICA.

No channel interpolation was performed for missing or removed OPM channels.

We removed whole participants in the cases where the task sequence was not well followed (e.g.,

reaching directly from rest), greater than 75% of reaches being rejected by the CNN, or EEG data

quality was poor (high prevalence of cable, movement or muscle artefact in the sensors). Finally,

correlation measures were checked for outliers, using three times the mean Cook's distance as a

threshold[59].

2.8 Source Space Analysis

Dynamic Imaging of Coherent Sources[60] (DICS) was used to map the distribution of power or

coherence across the cortical volume. Wideband (2-98 Hz) beamformer weights were used to project

sensor-level data to source-level virtual electrodes. We term coherence between inertial and M/EEG

signals corticokinematic coherence, following Bourguignon et al., (2011). To maximise sensitivity of

DICS to weakly synchronized sources, an auxiliary analysis used trials from the top 50% of coherence

for contralateral supplementary motor area (cSMA; the peak of the group averaged image), and then

regressed out the cSMA virtual channel signal, following Muthuraman et al., (2018). Brain

parcellations used the Automated Anatomical Labelling atlas 3 [62]. For full details concerning the

construction of forward models and sensor coregistration, please see appendix V.

Statistics in the source space were computed using either one-sample (DICS coherence in tremor

band), or two-sample (ET/Control contrasts, cue locked contrasts) t-statistics. DICS images were first

normalized to account for unequal sample size[11,63]. Statistical maps are presented as (a) t-statistics

thresholded at the critical level ($P < 0.05$, uncorrected); and (b) overlap maps of the top 90th percentile

of each subject.

2.9 Estimation of Tremor Magnitude

Tremor signals were estimated from the triaxial accelerometery (Supplementary Figure 2). Digitized

voltage traces were converted to units of acceleration (m/s^2) using the conversion factors supplied by

the manufacturer. We isolated the epochs of the task where tremor was expected – i.e., during the

postural hold, post-cue onset, and following termination of the reach. For each epoch, we computed

the principal component of the filtered triaxial accelerometer signal (4-12 Hz; bandpass FIR filter)[1].

The peak tremor frequency was then computed from the multitapered power spectrum (1.5 tapers/Hz)

of the first component. Tremor amplitude was estimated by taking the root mean square of the signal

filtered for a second time at the tremor peak ±3 Hz.

Figure 1–**Structure of Delayed Reach-to-Target Task and Behavioural Analysis. (A)** Illustration of the sequence and timings of the reaching task. Each block began with 30 s of postural hold and eyes open rest. The reaching task consisted of *rest* (3 s), *posture* (3 s), onset of directional *cue* (2.5 ±1 s), reach *execution* (max. 4 s), and sustained *hold* (1.5 s). The task followed a 2x2 design: high versus low uncertainty (HUC vs LUC), and large versus small targets (LRG vs SML). **(B)** An example set of trajectories from a single subject for the centre-out reaches, colour coded by the target. **(C)** The group averaged velocity profiles of the reaches, plot in normalized time from reach onset (0%) to hold onset (100%). **(D-E)** Boxplots summarising the between-subject statistics of task kinematics. Each point gives the deviation from the subject's mean value. Data is shown for EEG experiment controls (red) and ET patients (blue), with colour matched bars indicating significant post-hoc t-tests. Black bars indicate significant t-test when comparing ET and controls.

2.10 Tremor Prediction with Convolutional Neural Networks

We used a Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) to predict tremor severity from M/EEG time
frequency images. Images were smoothed with a Gaussian kernel (full width half maximum: 1.17 Hz
x 0.24 s). The CNN comprised of two layers, each including batch normalization, rectified linear unit
activation functions, and dropout to prevent overfitting. We used an 80:20 training to testing split.
Accuracy is reported as R^2, estimating the variance explained by the predicted features of the test data.
The average accuracy of five independently trained replicates of the network are reported. Feature
importance was computed using the Gradient-weighted Class Activation Mapping (Grad-CAM)
algorithm.

Tremor prediction was performed in two ways – (1) between-subjects prediction of averaged severity;
and (2) within-subjects prediction of trial-by-trial variation in tremor. At the group level, the tremor
was left unnormalized, such that total variance in the between subject's tremor severity remained. At
the single subject level, tremor was Z-score normalized, such that each subject's average tremor
amplitude was removed.

2.11 Identifying Latent Spectro-Spatial Components with Time-Frequency Principal Component Analysis

We identified large-scale brain circuits associated with voluntary movement control and tremor using time-frequency Principal Components Analysis (tfPCA)[49]. tfPCA projects high dimensional time frequency data computed at voxels across the brain (time x frequency x space x repetitions) to a low dimensional "latent" description of dynamics (component x time). Voxels included regions of interest (ROIs) in the ipsi- and contra- lateral dorsal prefrontal cortex, primary and supplementary motor areas, posterior parietal cortex, and cerebellum lobule VI. All ROIs were identified from the DICS source localizations detailed in the results. tfPCA was applied to the group level data and then weights used to back-project data to the single trial level. For details of the implementation of tfPCA, and the back-projection, please see Appendix VI. To test changes associated with kinematics or tremor, we applied cluster-based permutation testing to data split by the 1st and 4th quartile of each subject, using $P = 0.1$ as a cluster forming threshold. Latent dynamics are compared across subjects or modalities using Pearson's R, as a measure of correlation.

3 Results

3.1 Behavioural Analyses of the Delayed Reach-to-Target Task

All participants performed the reaching task outlined in Figure 1A. 4/31 EEG participants were excluded as they did not follow the task sequence, and 4 additional EEG participants were removed due to large muscle/movement artefact (as determined by criteria outlined in methods). This left a total of 23 subjects for analysis (11 healthy controls, 12 ET patients). Nine participants were recorded with OPMs (5 controls, 4 ET patients) with none excluded.

Task performance and kinematics were similar between ET and control subjects and exhibited similar reaction times and pathlengths. ET patients reached with a slower average velocity (ANOVA (84), F-statistic = 4.76, P < 0.05) attributable to faster deceleration at the end of the reach (Figure 1C, region bordered by dashed line). Task related modulations were clearest after subtracting subject averages to eliminate between-subject variance. As expected, small target sizes resulted in slower reaction times in both the control and ET cohorts (Figure 1D; ANOVA (82), F-statistic = 37.7, P < 0.001). Both high cue uncertainty and small targets were accompanied by slower reach velocities (Figure 1E; Uncertainty: ANOVA (84), F-statistic = 14.1 P < 0.001; Size: ANOVA (84), F-statistic = 7.39, P < 0.01). Only control subjects showed changes in reach path length in response to target size (Figure 1F; t-test (20), t-statistic = 3.66, P < 0.01), suggesting

Figure 2 – Source maps of OPM/EEG data coherence with the 4-12 Hz peripheral tremor signal (A-F) estimated using a dynamic imaging of coherent sources (DICS) beamformer from postural hold data and movement related beta (14-30 Hz) power changes (G-H). Subjects' anatomy was flipped such that all slices were contralateral to the dominant hand prior to performing statistics. **(A and B)** EEG and OPM image of the overlap of the top 90th percentiles subject level coherence at source level. The slice location corresponds to the peak of the ET group average peak at the contralateral supplementary motor area (cSMA). **(C and D)** T-contrast of EEG and OPM DICS images comparing coherence in tremor band between Control and ET. Maps were thresholded at the critical T-value (P < 0.05, uncorrected). Positive T-statistics indicate Control > ET. **(E and F)** Same as (C and D) but for overlaps computed from the auxiliary DICS analysis, performed after regressing out the cSMA virtual channel. **(G and H)** Grand averaged EEG and OPM source power images across both controls and ET patients. Contrasts show unthresholded statistical comparisons with baseline period for each stage of the reaching task.

trajectories were adapted for small targets. These results show that high cue uncertainty and high
target precision modulate all subjects' reaching kinematics, with ET patients making a slower
movement

overall and showing more variation in velocity in response to changes in motor demand, relative to
controls. We return to this in Section 3.7 where we analyse the low dimensional network dynamics
that can explain these factors.

3.2   Analysis of Upper Limb Tremor

Upper-limb tremor amplitude was estimated from accelerometery (Supplementary Figure 2). ET
patients on average exhibited a 0.85 ± 0.98 m/s^2 increase in tremor amplitude from rest to postural
raise (paired t-test (10); t-statistic = 4.69; P < 0.001) at an average frequency of 5.8 ± 1.6 Hz. In 4/12
patients, a small (> 0.1 m/s^2) rest tremor was also present. In control subjects, the postural raise
induced physiological tremor, but to a smaller extent of ~0.19 ± 0.04 m/s^2 (paired t-test (10); t-statistic
= 7.06; P < 0.001). For reference, acceleration thresholds for visual detection of tremor by a subject or
an observer are ~0.07m/s^2 [64]. Postural tremor amplitude positively correlated with clinical scoring
(TETRAS performance subscale; Spearman's (12); R = 0.75; P = 0.010). There was no significant
effect of cue uncertainty or target size on the tremor amplitude as evaluated at either motor
preparation or at the hold period (Supplementary Figure 3).

3.3   Cortical Sources are Synchronized to Peripheral Tremor Rhythms

Sources in the brain that were synchronized to peripheral tremor were localized with a DICS
beamformer. 75% of ET patients exhibited a peak in coherence (4-12 Hz, magnitude > 90th percentile
of whole brain) over the cSMA (Figure 2A and B, EEG and OPM, respectively). cSMA EEG to
accelerometer tremor coherence significantly increased in ET patients compared to controls (Figure
2C; peak t-statistic (10) = 2.24) and OPM recordings (Figure 2D; peak t-statistic (3) = 3.50). A subset
of patients also exhibited coherence with tremor in the contralateral dorsolateral prefrontal cortex
(dlPFC; 5/12 EEG patients, 2/4 OPM patients) that was significantly increased in ET relative to
controls in the EEG data (Figure 2C). 3/4 of OPM patients exhibited a second tremor source in the
contralateral posterior parietal cortex (cPPC) that was significantly increased in ET relative to controls
(Figures 2D).

Due to the high coherence found in the cSMA, we performed an auxiliary DICS analysis that
maximised sensitivity to weaker sources by regressing out the cSMA signal and focusing on the top
50% of coherent trials. This revealed a tremor coherent source that spanned ipsilateral and
contralateral lobule VI of the Cerebellum present in 8/11 EEG patients (Figure 2E), and significantly
increased in ET patients versus controls (peak t-statistic (21) = 2.43). A third peak was found in
dlPFC that was present in 4/4 patients studied with OPM (Figure 2F) and was comparable to that

found in the EEG patients in Figure 2C. There was limited overlap between sources – subjects tended

to exclusively have peaks in the Cerebellum VI, cPPC, or dlPFC. When ET patients were split by

these regions, no statistically significant differences were found with respect to kinematics (reaction

time, average

Figure 3 – **Analysis comparing movement-induced beta event related desynchronization (ERD) in the contralateral supplementary motor area (cSMA) between Essential Tremor (ET) patients and Control recordings in EEG.** **(A)** Time courses of low beta power (14-21 Hz) in the cSMA, scaled as the percentage change relative to at rest (0%), shown across the postural hold, reach planning, execution, and the hold period (columns left to right). Data is shown as the group average ±SEM, for controls (red) or ET patients (blue). Bars indicate significant decrease between controls and ETs, determined by one-sided cluster permutation statistics ($P < 0.05$). **(B)** Same as (A), but for OPM data. **(C)** Scatter plots of log scaled tremor amplitude versus the percentage change in beta power. Blue bold lines indicate the presence of a significant Pearson correlation for ET data point and associated regression line. The circled point indicates the outlier removed from regression. **(D)** Plots of the Grad-CAM feature importance maps of the group averaged time-frequency data from cSMA when using a convolutional neural network to predict tremor. Inset text gives the accuracy of the prediction in terms of R^2. This analysis was performed also for the high beta band and alternative brain regions

(Supplementary Figure 7 and Supplementary Figure 8).

velocity, or path length; ANOVA (11); P > 0.05) although the cerebellar group tended to have more

severe tremor, but this did not pass significance (two-sample t-test (8), t-statistic = 1.27; P > 0.05).

These results show that the cSMA, cPPC, dlPFC and Cerebellum VI can become synchronized to

tremor and are consistent with previous reports[25,26,28]. Importantly, these brain areas overlap with

those involved in upper limb reaching[37,65]. This is confirmed by our analyses of time locked, motor

induced activity that localized movement related beta synchronization[38] to the SMA in both OPM and

EEG data and in control and tremor subjects (Figure 2G and H). In the following sections, we will

investigate how pathological synchronization at tremor frequencies impacts neurophysiological

signals associated with healthy motor processing.

3.4 Essential Tremor Patients Exhibit Deeper Movement Responsive Beta Desynchronization During Reaching

To investigate whether ET pathophysiology impacts physiological signals associated with motor

processing, we focused on the activity in the cSMA, as this brain area is both synchronized to tremor

frequencies and motor responsive (Section 3.3). Relative to controls, ET patients show a 15% increase

(relative to at rest) in beta ERD in cSMA (Figure 3A) during reach execution and the post-movement

hold period (one-sided t-test, permutation statistic (21), both P < 0.05). This effect was frequency and

region specific, with no difference found for the upper beta band (21-30 Hz), nor in the cPPC, dlPFC,

or ipsilateral Cerebellum VI (Supplementary Figure 7). ET patients studied with OPM also exhibited

greater movement-related low beta frequency ERD to controls (Figure 3B), although this did not

reach statistical significance, likely due to the smaller sample size. These results agree with previous

work finding increased motor related beta ERD in electrocorticography recorded in patients with

ET[66,67]. The degree of cSMA beta desynchronization during reach execution and the post-movement

hold period were both negatively correlated with tremor severity in EEG recorded from ET patients

(Figure 3C; reaching: R^2 = 0.54, P < 0.05 and hold: R^2 = 0.85, P < 0.01; 1 outlier removed on Cook's

distance).

Finally, to predict patients' average tremor severity we applied a CNN to wide band (2-98 Hz) time-

frequency spectrograms. A maximum tremor prediction accuracy of 25% (in terms of R^2) at the group

level was achieved when using data taken from the cPPC (Appendix VII, table 1). Both cPPC and

cSMA, were the most informative regions for the prediction of tremor severity. The Grad-CAM

feature importances (Figure 3D) found power within the lower beta band at posture, theta (4-8 Hz) at

planning stage, and higher beta band at the hold as being most predictive of tremor severity. OPM

data yielded an average 5% improvement in tremor prediction compared to EEG (Appendix VIII,

table 1).

These findings suggest that increased neural desynchrony in ET may form a compensatory
mechanism to allow movement in patients, an idea we will return to in the

Figure 4 – Identification of large-scale, movement responsive brain circuits using time-frequency principal component analysis (tfPCA) applied to group averaged data (both ET and controls) derived from source-space projected EEG virtual electrodes. (A) Time-frequency spectrograms were computed for each region of interest (ROI) in the network, incorporating the dorsal prefrontal cortex, primary and supplementary motor areas, posterior parietal cortex, and cerebellum VI. tfPCA was applied to the group averaged EEG data, with spectrograms concatenated for each motor epoch. Prior to tfPCA, data was log scaled, and Z-normalized per subject. Visualization of the coefficients of each PCA component 1-4 (red, blue, green, and purple, respectively) in both the (B) frequency domain, and (C) spatial domain. (D) Back projection of empirical data allows for visualisation of the time-frequency dynamics of each component (averaged in space), across the four different epochs of the reaching task (corresponding to the rows). (E) Explained variance of the data by the four components. (F) Reconstruction of the original time-frequency data using the four components.

351   discussion. In section 3.8, we also analyse how these beta band signals relate to kinematics and
352   tremor.

3.5 Time-Frequency Principal Component Analysis Identifies Known Motor Circuits

355   We now broaden our analysis to include signals across the wider brain and examined to what extent
356   changes to activity in the cSMA represent wider changes across whole brain networks found in ET

357   and controls. We used tfPCA to reduce time-frequency descriptions of M/EEG source activity

358   distributed

Figure 5 – Visualization of motor responsive, latent circuit dynamics and a comparison between controls and patients with ET recorded with EEG. Components were computed using tfPCA applied to the group averaged EEG data (Figure 4). These coefficients were then used to project data to trial-level latent dynamics that could be used to explore differences between controls and ET patients. **(A)** The latent dynamics exhibited during the postural hold for each component (columns) are plot for ET (blue) and controls (red) separately. Bars and associated P-values indicate the outcome of cluster permutation statistics between the two experimental groups. **(B-D)** Same as (A) but for cue presentation, reach execution, and the sustained hold. **(E-H)** Plots of the 2D latent trajectories (components 1 and 4, only) indicate highly correlated dynamics between controls and ETs with quantitative differences in the weighting of the components such as increased engagement of the prefrontal beta network in ET subjects (4th component, apparent in plot G). An equivalent analysis was performed for OPM recordings (Supplementary Figure 9).

across the brain into ensembles (c.f., components) characterized by distinct spatial and oscillatory

characteristics.

Application of tfPCA to the group averaged EEG data (all ET and control subjects) identified four

components that explain 97% of the total variance (Figure 4A and B) and accurately reconstructed the

original data (Figure 4E). These components can be visualized in the original time-frequency space

via back-projection (Figure 4D) or represented via their latent time dynamics (Figure 5). Component

(1) is a fronto-parietal-sensorimotor network active in the lower beta band (14-21 Hz) and

desynchronises in preparation of movement (64% of total variance); Component (2) covering primary

motor/somatosensory cortex that exhibits movement locked high frequency gamma activity (> 30 Hz;

17% of the total variance); Component (3) is a premotor/dorsolateral prefrontal network active at

mu/beta band (8-16 Hz) that desynchronises at the onset of movement (10% of total variance); and

Component (4) is a premotor/dorsolateral prefrontal network active across the beta band (14-30 Hz)

that desynchronizes at movement onset (6% of the total variance).

3.6 Essential Tremor Patients Exhibit Differences in Large-Scale Circuit Dynamics

Using the tfPCA loadings computed at the group level we reconstructed the trial-level latent dynamics

for each subject (Figure 5A) and examined differences between cohorts. The trajectories of latent

dynamics were correlated between the controls and ET subjects (Figure 5E), with average between

subject Pearson's correlation coefficients of R = 0.91 and R = 0.84 for EEG and OPM, respectively

(Appendix IX, table 1). Latent dynamics were also highly preserved between EEG and OPM

modalities (Supplementary Figure 9), with an average correlation coefficient of R = 0.73 (Appendix

IX, table 2). ET participants exhibited a larger weighting of frontal-parietal low beta component (1st

component) during reach execution (EEG patients only, Figure 5C; permutation t-statistic (74), P <

0.001). Both OPM and EEG data exhibited wide-band beta (14-30 Hz) ERD in the dorsolateral

prefrontal beta network (4th component) that was increased during reach execution in ET relative to

controls (Figure 5C; EEG permutation t-statistic (74), P = 0.004), followed by a stronger rebound

during the post-movement hold period (Figure 5D; EEG permutation t-statistic (74), P = 0.004).

When using the M/EEG trial-projected time-frequency images from each component to predict tremor

(Appendix VII and VIII; Tables 3 and 4), no increase in the CNN's accuracy was seen over that of the

simpler region-specific analyses (Section 3.4). The 1st frontoparietal component was most predictive

of tremor (average of R^2 = 0.12), and postural raise being the most informative epoch (average R^2 of

0.135). Within the subject, trial-by-trial prediction was not improved beyond the single region

analyses (overall average R^2 = 0.013). The limited increase in tremor prediction from ensemble

activity suggests that the information about tremor in the cSMA is sufficient to explain that across the

whole network. This analysis of latent dynamics shows that the changes in cSMA found in ET

patients (Section 3.4) is just one contributor to a wider network of motor regions altered by ET

pathophysiology.

3.7 Whole Brain Latent Networks Can Explain Within-Subject Variation in Tremor and Kinematics

Finally, we explored whether the latent motor networks revealed by tfPCA could explain trial-by-trial

variations in tremor severity (Figure 6). We used regression with a mixed GLM (Methods Section

2.11) as well statistical comparisons of data split between *low* and *high* trials of each kinematic (1st

and 4th quartiles, respectively). High tremor severity during the hold period was associated with

increased weighting of both the frontal-parietal low beta component (1st component; two-sided, paired

t-statistic;

Figure 6 – Analysis of association between motor responsive latent circuit dynamics and movement kinematics over the task in the EEG subjects. Latent states were projected to the single trial level, using coefficients computed from group averaged time frequency EEG data. Differences in kinematic parameter are shown for both controls and ET patients, tremor parameters solely for ET patients. Trials were split into the 1st quartile (light colours) or 4th quartile (dark colours) and then compared at the group level using a cluster permutation test (indicated by thick lines). **(A)** Plots of the latent dynamics over the postural raise split by the tremor band power during each hold period (blue lines), the mean velocity during the postural raise/reach (green lines), and the stability of the hold period (red lines). Data is shown for the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th PCA components (in respective columns). **(B-C)** Same as (A) but for movement execution phase and the hold phase, respectively. **(D-F)** 2D plots of the latent trajectories split by the kinematic features. Only components 1 and 2 are shown.

permutation t-statistic (11), P < 0.01) and premotor gamma component (2nd component; permutation t-

statistic (11), P < 0.05). The 2nd component (high frequency 30-60 Hz oscillations over pre-motor

regions) was consistently the most predictive of tremor severity across patients, with 40% of patients

exhibiting significant within-subject correlations between this component's weighting and tremor

amplitude.

In terms of reach kinematics, faster movement velocity in all subjects was associated with reduced
frontoparietal beta power rebound (figure 6B; light green bars; 1st component; permutation t-statistic
(22), P < 0.01). Increased hold stability (i.e., reduced variance of movement) at the hold periods was
associated with slower rebound in both the frontoparietal beta network (1st component; light red bars;
permutation t-statistic (21), P < 0.001) and the frontal beta network (4th component; light red bars;
permutation t-statistic (21), P < 0.01). There was a high degree of overlap between time windows
predictive of kinematics and tremor severity that may complicate their usage as control signals for
closed loop neuromodulation. However, these results may help explain the findings of differences in
latent dynamics between ET and controls (Section 3.7) and suggest that disturbance of frontal-parietal
networks in ET may relate to differences in reaching kinematics seen in this task (Section 3.1).

4   Discussion

4.1   Summary of Results

The results here demonstrate that the pathophysiological changes in ET involve alterations of
dynamics associated with large scale motor circuits during reaching. Patients can execute reaching
movements with a similar degree of accuracy, but slower average velocity compared to controls
(Figure 1). Regions such as cSMA, cPPC, dlPFC and Cereb. VI synchronize to inertial measures of
tremor, but also show time locked beta oscillations in response to movement (Figure 2). The cSMA
was synchronized to tremor in over 75% patients measured with EEG or OPM. Notably, we found
that ET patients exhibited a 15% increase in movement responsive low beta ERD in cSMA during
reaching, with a degree that inversely correlates with tremor severity (Figure 3). Changes in motor
responsive theta and beta band oscillations could predict the average tremor magnitude of patients up
to 25% variance explained. An analysis of whole brain activity using tfPCA revealed dynamics of
four distinct oscillatory motor circuits that were well preserved across controls, patients and recording
modalities (Figure 4). These analyses showed that changes in the cSMA were just part of a wider set
of changes to frontoparietal and prefrontal circuits that were associated with ET (Figure 5). Latent
dynamics of frontoparietal and premotor ensembles were able to predict trial level variability in
tremor, albeit at a coarsely grained level. These features however were not well separated from those
also predicting movement kinematics (Figure 6) - an important consideration if using these signals for
control.

4.2   Informing Novel Strategies for Neurostimulation in Essential Tremor

This work builds upon previous reports that regions of the SMA, PPC, and Cerebellum are
synchronized to peripheral tremor[25–27]. These regions relate to VL thalamic activity, which projects

extensively to these areas, is highly correlated with peripheral tremor signals[11,68,69], and is the primary

target for DBS therapy in ET. Our analysis of source localized coherence from M/EEG neuroimaging

strengthens evidence for a cerebro-cerebellar tremor network in ET. Regions such as the cerebellum

or PPC may provide candidate sites for interruption of the tremor network with stimulation, as has

recently been shown[15,33]. However, the overlap in representation of both tremor and kinematics in

regions such as the

Figure 7 – Hypothetical mechanism that underlies compensatory motor related beta event related desynchronization (ERD) in patients with Essential Tremor. When the motor system is preparing to move (first column), populations of cortical neurons (here sketched as six individual units) are entrained to large scale brain rhythms such as the sensorimotor beta rhythm (shown in red), but also to tremor rhythms (blue). These can either be low amplitude 4-12 Hz oscillations at physiological tremor (i.e., in healthy participants, top row), or high amplitude pathological tremors associated with ET (bottom row). During movement (middle column), motor cortical neurons are known to exhibit firing rate changes (assumed here to be asynchronous; shown in green) that encode movement parameters. At the same time, ERD of the beta rhythm relinquishes units to participate in motor encoding. This is then followed by a post movement rebound of beta (final column). In ET (bottom row), the pathologically high amplitude tremor rhythm involves the entrainment of a higher fraction of cortical neurons reducing the effective information encoding capacity of the available pool of neurons. To compensate, during movement, there is an increased ERD of sensorimotor beta rhythms that frees up the neuronal "real estate" required to effectively encode movement.

primary or supplementary motor cortices, shows that whilst targeted stimulation has the potential to

disrupt tremor[29,70], it may also impact the normal execution of movements[71].

Practically, cortical sensing could be used to control DBS, as has been done for Parkinson's disease[72],

delivering thalamic stimulation proportional to expected tremor levels and considering motor context

to provide state-dependent neuromodulation of ET[73,74]. Oscillatory signals associated with movement

have been used previously for closed loop control of stimulation[40,41,75]. However, our results show that

the inverse correlation of movement locked beta ERD with tremor amplitude may impede the

detection of this signal in patients with the most severe tremors.

Going beyond the single region, we have shown ensemble activity in both fronto-parietal and

premotor circuits can predict tremor severity (Figure 6) when split into low and high amplitude. Our

results support the potential for multisite sensing in closed-loop neuromodulation [76,77], and specifically

the ability for dimensionality reduction apporaches such as tfPCA, to improve decoding of motor

states [51,78]. Future application of supervised methods for dimensionality reduction are likely to

improve this further by focusing latent dynamics on context relevant signals[79,80]. Using these

simplified, low dimensional representations to predict tremor severity, could enable proportional

controllers for DBS, as has proven effective in DBS for Parkinson's disease[82].

4.3 Functional Significance of Altered Motor Responsive Oscillations in ET

Movement responsive neural oscillations in the healthy brain[38,83,84] reflect important steps of

sensorimotor processing[85]. Our finding of increased beta ERD in essential tremor (ET) suggests that

tremor engages mechanisms similar to intentional movement, and may reflect compensatory activity

to mitigate the effects of tremor. Interpretations of sensorimotor beta as an idling signal[86] suggest that

increased beta ERD reflects the freeing up of cortical neurons to encode useful parameters of

movement[87], and compensate for extraneous entrainment at the tremor rhythm (illustrated in Figure

7). Notably, the differences in beta ERD observed in ET were most apparent during the goal directed

reach and not during the more stereotyped postural raise, suggesting increased complexity of the

reaching movement demands greater mobilization of motor cortical resources, a finding in agreement

with recent work showing that beta ERD scales with movement effort[88].

Recent findings also suggest that sensorimotor beta synchronization reflects sensory processing [89–92],

such as when attenuating highly uncertain sensations[93]. In ET, it is likely that cerebellar deficits may

introduce susceptibility to sensorimotor noise[94,95] that may drive a compensatory suppression of

sensory information following movement, observable as an enhanced post-movement beta rebound in

our data (Figure 5D). The intrusion of tremor into the reaching movement (i.e., dysmetria) may also

explain the slowed beta rebound that we observed post movement. This accords with findings that

online control of movement is impaired in ET [96], and that therapeutic effects from thalamic DBS may

arise from a "functional deafferentation" to attenuate sensory gain[97]. In the reaching task here, we

observed a decrease in average movement velocity in ET patients, again suggesting an increased

reliance on internal motor models. Our observations of effects across large-scale networks raise the

question of whether DBS for ET can restore altered movement processing and associated signals, as

has been investigated in Parkinson's disease[98]. Previous modelling work has shown that patterning of

stimulation can be tuned to achieve specific network states[73], suggesting the potential for adaptive

stimulation to steer compensatory motor activity in ET.

4.4 Application of Optically Pumped Magnetometry in Essential Tremor

The data presented here provides proof of principle for the deployment of non-cryogenic MEG

enabled by OPM arrays to the study of naturalistic movement and movement disorders. Our results

were validated by those signatures found with HD-EEG, with additional sensitivity to higher

frequency, gamma rhythms[48] during reaching movement (Supplementary Figure 6) and small

increases in tremor prediction with OPM (Section 3.4). Our analyses did not find clear evidence for

cerebellar activations in OPM[99], although this could be explained by differences in the

pathophysiology of the two cohorts, as well as suboptimal sensor cabling for detection in these

recordings. We did however find that effect sizes of source localized power changes during parts of

the task containing whole limb movements were markedly higher than for EEG (Appendix X),

indicating more robust single subject estimates in OPM data. Finally, recent developments in

corticospinal imaging with OPM[100,101] may allow for future studies to investigate the role of spinal

afferents in the genesis of Essential Tremor.

4.5 Limitations

Identification of tremor synchronized sources depends upon coherence, a linear measure of oscillatory

coupling. Due to this, analyses such as DICS used here, may be blind to remaining elements of the

tremor circuit by ignoring nonlinear activity such as phase-amplitude coupling, known to be altered in

ET[66]. This work has investigated whole limb naturalistic movements and faces the well-recognised

challenges of motion-related artefacts arising from either contamination by myographic artefact and

cable noise. Measurement of tremor during large movements is challenging, due to shifts in the tremor

axis and gravity artefacts, which could be reduced through the usage of gyroscope estimates in future

studies. It should be noted that there was no explicit forward model of the cerebellum, inclusion of

which is likely to significantly improve cerebellar localization[102]

4.6 Conclusions

This study reveals that large-scale oscillatory networks required for whole limb movement control are significantly disrupted by ET pathophysiology. MEEG analysis shows ET patients exhibit heightened movement-related beta ERD, particularly in the cSMA, compared to controls. We propose this desynchronization compensates for neural resources otherwise entrained at tremor frequencies, to enable normal motor control. Novel dimensionality reduction analysis supports this further, pinpointing disruptions in a distributed tremor network involving the SMA, PPC, dlPFC, and Cerebellum VI, regions all involved in volitional motor control. Disturbances in fronto-parietal and premotor processing during reaching movements predict tremor severity and overlap with kinematic encoding, indicating a relationship between these processes. These findings enhance our understanding of ET pathophysiology's impact on motor control signals and identify targets for developing future non-invasive, context-responsive neuromodulation approaches.

5 Data Availability

Upon publication, the anonymised source reconstructed data and the code required to reproduce the analyses in this report will be shared to a publicly available repository on Zenodo with version control.

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8 Competing Interests

T.S. provides paid consultancy for Jazz Pharmaceuticals. The remaining authors have no competing interests to declare. The European Commission support for the production of this publication does not constitute an endorsement of the contents which reflects the views only of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

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837   10 Supplementary Figures

838   10.1 Supplementary Figure 1 – Convolutional Neural Network for
839   Movement Detection

Supplementary Figure 1 – **Validation of convolutional neural network model for time locking of reaching movement.** Plots indicate results examining performance of a CNN based classifier/regression for reach quality (A-C); reach onset (exec.; D-F) and termination (hold; G-I). Training data was provided by manual labelling of data from three separate assessors on ~30% of the data. **(A)** Confusion matrix of recording quality class: (1) is optimal, (2) sub-optimal, (3) is rejected. See Appendix II for criteria. **(B)** Receiver operating characteristics for reach quality classifier, with each of the three data quality labels. **(C)** Scattergram of predicted vs test data. **(D)** Same as (C) but for prediction of reach onsets. **(E)** Example plot of three predicted (bold) vs manually marked (dashed) reach onsets. **(F)** Histogram of the model error (|predicted-manual|, ms). **(G-I)** Same as D-F, but for reach holds.

842   ## 10.2 Supplementary Figure 2 – Analysis of Essential Tremor
843   Properties

Supplementary Figure 2 – **Analysis of tremor dynamics during steady state recordings at rest and posture.** Violin plots indicate the distribution of tremor amplitudes over either the control (blue) or ET (red) cohorts, with lines linking individuals between rest and posture. Statistics indicate outcomes of paired t-tests. **(A)** Illustration of processing pipeline to compute the tremor amplitude. **(B)** Control subjects show a small increase in physiological tremor from rest to posture. **(C)** As expected from diagnosis, ET subjects show a significant increase in tremor at posture. **(D)** The average tremor peak frequency was around 6 Hz, increasing slightly during posture trials. Bounds give the SEM across ET patients. **(E)** Measures of tremor amplitude at posture positively correlate with clinical TETRAS assessment of tremor severity. A regression line is shown alongside, Spearman's correlation coefficient.

846   ## 10.3 Supplementary Figure 3 –Effects of Experimental Conditions on

847   Tremor

Supplementary Information 3 – **Analysis of modulation of tremor magnitude by task conditions.** Tremor magnitude was estimated as in Figure 2A. We divided trials by the 2x2 conditions modulating either target size (SML or LRG) and the uncertainty of directional cues (HUC or LUC). (1st Column) The violin plots here show the distribution of tremor power across the conditions. Each point represents the mean of an individual subject. (2nd Column) The distributions of tremor magnitude normalized by the subject level mean and standard deviation. (3rd Column) A plot of the subject level T-statistics comparing each of the experimental conditions. No significant differences between conditions were found.

850   ## 10.4 Supplementary Figure 4 - Source level distribution of movement

851   responsive beta power

Supplementary Figure 4 – **Source level distribution of 14-30 Hz beta power.** Beta power was localized using a DICS beamformer. Differences in power relative to transitions during the reaching task were computed. Source images were normalized at a subject level before averaging. **(A)** Data for healthy controls recorded with OPMs; **(B)** healthy controls recorded with high density EEG; **(C)** Essential Tremor patients recorded with OPMs; **(C)** Essential Tremor patients recorded with high density EEG.

853   ## 10.5 Supplementary Figure 5 - Spectrograms for Virtual Electrodes in

854   ## Control Subjects

Supplementary Figure 5 - **Time-frequency spectrograms of time locked activity in either the cSMA or cPPC, in both OPM and EEG data in control subjects.** Panels show the group level t-statistics of time-frequency spectrograms constructed from virtual channels, compared to baseline. Bold outlines indicate thresholding on the critical T (P < 0.05; uncorrected). Dashed lines overlaid indicate the group averaged movement trace. **(A)** Spectrograms of OPM derived cSMA activity for time locked activity at onset of postural hold (1st column); onset of directional cues (2nd column); onset of reach (3rd column); and establishment of the hold period (4th column). **(B)** Same as (A), but for cPPC activity. **(C-D)** Same as A-B, but for EEG data.

855   ## 10.6 Supplementary Figure 6 - Spectrograms for Virtual Electrodes in

856   ##   Essential Tremor Subjects

Supplementary Figure 6 – **Time-frequency spectrograms of time locked activity in either the cSMA or cPPC, in both OPM and EEG data in ET patients.** Panels show the group level t-statistics of time-frequency spectrograms constructed from virtual channels, compared to baseline. Bold outlines indicate thresholding on the critical T (P < 0.05; uncorrected). Dashed lines overlaid indicate the group averaged movement trace. **(A)** Spectrograms of OPM derived cSMA activity for time locked activity at onset of postural hold (1st column); onset of directional cues (2nd column); onset of reach (3rd column); and establishment of the hold period (4th column). **(B)** Same as (A), but for cPPC activity. **(C-D)** Same as A-B, but for EEG data.

857   # 10.7 Supplementary Figure 7– Alternative Comparisons of Movement

858   # Responsive Beta Activity

Supplementary Figure 7 – **Movement related beta desynchronization** in (A) Upper beta (21-30 Hz) band in the contralateral SMA; and lower beta band (14-21 Hz) in the: (B) contralateral posterior parietal cortex, (C) frontal superior medial cortex, (D) and ipsilateral cerebellum VI. (E) Comparison of absolute power in terms of the ratio of peak (14-21 Hz) to tail (30-48 Hz) SNR.

860   ## 10.8 Supplementary Figure 8 – Comparison of Movement Related

861   ## Beta Dynamics in Patients vs Controls in OPM Data

Supplementary Figure 8 – **Analysis comparing movement-induced beta desynchronization in the contralateral supplementary motor area (cSMA) between Essential Tremor (ET) patients and Control recordings in OPM. (A)** Time courses of low beta power (14-21 Hz) in the cSMA, scales as the percentage change relative to at rest (0%), shown across the postural hold, reach planning, execution, and the hold period (1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th columns, respectively). Data is shown as the group average ±SEM, for either control (red) or ET patients (blue). Bars indicate significant differences between controls and ETs, determined by cluster permutation statistics (P < 0.05). **(B)** Same as (A), but for ipsilateral SMA.

863   ## 10.9 Supplementary Figure 9 – Comparison Of Whole Brain, Motor

864   Responsive Latent Networks Between Controls and ET Patients

865   Using OPM Data

Supplementary Figure 9 –**Visualization of whole brain, motor responsive, latent dynamics and a comparison between controls and patients with ET recorded with OPM.** Components were computed using tfPCA applied to the group averaged EEG data (Figure 5). These coefficients were then used to project data to trial-level latent dynamics that could be used to explore differences between controls and ET patients. **(A)** The latent dynamics exhibited during the postural hold for each component (columns) are plot for ET (blue) and controls (red) separately. Bars and associated P-values indicate the outcome of cluster permutation statistics between the two experimental groups. **(B-D)** Same as (A) but for cue presentation, reach execution, and the sustained hold. **(E-H)** Plots of the 2D latent trajectories (components 1 and 4, only) indicate highly correlated dynamics between controls and ETs with quantitative differences in the weighting of the components such as increased engagement of the prefrontal beta network in ET subjects (4th component, apparent in plot G).

867 # 11 Appendices

868 ## 11.1 Appendix I – Clinical Table: EEG Patients

Subject	Age	Gender	TETRAS Performance	TETRAS Upper Limb Tremor (R/L)	TETRAS Head Tremor	Medication
1	53	M	12.5	3.5/3	0	Gabapentin 600 mg; Primidone 500mg; Amitriptyline
2	73	M	15.5	3/4	1	Primidone 150mg; Propranolol 40mg; L-Thyrpx 100mg; Ramipril 2.5 mg
3	68	M	23	4/6	0	Propranolol 40mg
4	59	M	38	6.5/8	1	Propranolol 80mg; Amlodipine 5mg; Insulin Glargine + Lispro; Clopidogrel 75mg; Simva 20mg; Ramipril 10mg
5	19	F	7.5	1/3.5	0	None
6	19	M	11	3/3	0	None
7	58	F	15.5	3/4	1	Propranolol 10mg; Escitalopram 15mg
8	24	F	9	3.5/3	0	None
9	21	F	17	3.5/7	0	Propranolol 10mg
10	61	M	27.5	7/6	2	Propranolol 40mg; Liskantin 250mg
11	42	M	14	4.5/4.5	0	None
12	64	F	13	3/3.5	1	Propranolol 20mg

869 ## 11.2 Appendix II – Clinical Table: OPM Patients

Subject	Age	Gender	TETRAS Performance	TETRAS Upper Limb Tremor	TETRAS Head	Medication

				(R/L)	Tremor	
1	67	F	19	5/4	0	None
2	44	F	25	7/7	0	None
3	66	M	17	6/6	0	Amlopidine, Pravastatin, NiC for tremor
4	25	F	17	3/6		Primidone 25 mg

11.3 Appendix III – Algorithm to Manipulate Cue Uncertainty

Let D be the set of cardinal directions, where $D = \{N, NE, E, SE, S, SW, W, NW\}$. A direction d is selected from D, where $d \in D$. We generate a set of N random phases (expressed in radians):

$$\theta_n = \bar{\theta} + \sigma \epsilon_n, \qquad n = 1, 2, \dots, N$$

where $\bar{\theta}$ and σ represent the chosen angle and dispersion (uncertainty) of the movement cues, and ϵ_n is a random variable sampled from a standard normal distribution, $\epsilon_n \sim N(0,1)$. The direction of each arrow is then wrapped around the unit circle: $\phi_n = \arg(e^{i\theta_n})$. Finally the arrow directions are then taken by computing the normalized histogram for bins with edges corresponding to the cardinal directions, to yield a scalar for each arrow. We used $\sigma = 0.98$ for low uncertainty trials, and $\sigma = 1.64$ for high uncertainty trials, yielding 85% and 15% average success rates in piloting with healthy controls.

11.4 Appendix IV – Criteria for Reach Quality Marking

Grade 1 – Optimal Reach

- A stable baseline is present prior to movement, with little oscillation or prepotent movement.
- The reach may be initiated before the movement cue (i.e., t < 0) if baseline is stable.
- The reach itself is smooth, with a clear stereotyped trajectory.
- The hold period is stable and lasts greater than 2 seconds, with no clear drifts or repositioning of the hand.

Grade 2 – Suboptimal Reach

- A baseline period is apparent, although some slow drifts in posture, or small prepotent movements are present.
- The reach may be initiated before the movement cue (i.e., t < 0) if the baseline is stable.
- The reach is jerky, or non-smooth containing mid-reach corrections and changes in velocity.
- The hold period is apparent and last for a duration >= 2 seconds. The hold period may contain slow drifts, or small corrective movements.

Grade 3 – Rejected Reach

- The reach is extremely slow (> 4 seconds).
- The reach is extremely jerky/non-smooth.
- There is no clear baseline periods lasting > 2 seconds.

899   • There is no clear hold period lasting > 2 seconds.

11.5 Appendix V – Details of Source Estimation Techniques

Source inversion of sensor-level data involves constructing forward models to simulate the
propagation of neural activity from the source to the sensor. For EEG data, we used a template
boundary element model with sensor locations set according to the 10-10 system. For OPM data,
sensor positions were derived from custom head cast models aligned to the subject's structural MRIs.
For the two subjects lacking MRIs, sensors were transformed to a template space using an iterative
closest point algorithm to match the 3D scanned scalp to the template model. OPM head models used
the single shell method[103]. To facilitate group-level statistical comparisons, a nonlinear warping was
applied to align the anatomical scans.

Subject level common filters were computed from data concatenated across the multiple epochs of the
experiment. Covariance matrices were computed in two frequency bands: tremor (peak postural
tremor frequency ±1.5 Hz) and wide band beta (14-30 Hz). Each covariance matrix was truncated by
its effective rank[104]. A covariance regularization of 1% was used.

11.6 Appendix VI – Implementation of Time Frequency Principle Component Analysis

tfPCA was applied to the group-averaged data with spectrograms concatenated for each motor epoch
(time x four epochs). To avoid low frequency bias due to 1/f structure of EEG/OPM, spectra were log
scaled. Spectrograms were also Z-normalized per subject to remove differences in SNR. We then
constructed an $n \times p$ matrix X ([n: concatenated time] x [p: channel x frequency]) to which we applied
PCA to yield coefficients V (p x number of components) for each spatio-spectral component, and
latent scores Z (component x time). PCA coefficients were rotated using the Varimax algorithm to aid
interpretability. We then projected components from the single trial level data D_t (to compare
experimental conditions and perform regressions) by computing $Z_t = VD_t$. We also reconstructed
components in the time frequency domain by multiplying trial-level data with the projection matrix P
$= VV^T$, which we used for CNN tremor prediction analyses. In this way, the coefficients derived from
the group averaged EEG data were used to project both EEG and OPM data to single trial level
components.

11.7 Appendix VII- CNN Decoding Performance- with EEG Data

928   **Table 1 -** Between-Subject CNN Decoding of Tremor Severity using EEG Virtual Channels

Between-Subject CNN Decoding of Tremor Severity using EEG Virtual Channels- (R^2, mean averaged over 5 runs)						
Virtual Channel	**Posture**	**Grad-CAM Feat**	**Cue**	**Grad-CAM Feat**	**Hold**	**Grad-CAM Feat**	Average
cSMA	0.174	low beta	0.156	tremor	0.088	tremor/high beta	*0.139*
cPPC	0.250	low beta	0.170	tremor/high beta	0.024	tremor	*0.148*
dlPFC	0.092	low beta	0.156	low beta	0.067	gamma	*0.105*
iCer V6	0.132	tremor	0.039	tremor	0.061	tremor	*0.077*
Average	*0.162*		*0.130*		*0.060*		***0.117***

930   **Table 2 -** Within-Subject CNN Decoding of Tremor Severity using EEG Virtual Channels

Within-Subject CNN Decoding of Tremor Severity using EEG Virtual Channels- (R^2, mean averaged over 5 runs)-						
Virtual Channel	**Posture**	**Grad-CAM Feat**	**Cue**	**Grad-CAM Feat**	**Hold**	**Grad-CAM Feat**	**Average**
cSMA	0.006		0.002		0.009		*0.006*
cPPC	0.002		0.009		0.025		*0.012*
dlPFC	0.002		0.002		0.009		*0.004*
iCer V6	0.003		0.006		0.017		*0.009*
Average	*0.003*		*0.005*		*0.015*		***0.008***

932   **Table 3 -** Between-Subject CNN Decoding of Tremor Severity using Principal Components

Between-Subject CNN Decoding of Tremor Severity Using EEG Principal Components- (R^2, mean averaged over 5 runs)						
Comp.	**Posture**		**Cue**		**Hold**	Average
Comp. 1	0.254		0.028		0.078	*0.120*
Comp. 2	0.061		0.114		0.048	*0.075*
Comp. 3	0.157		0.100		0.011	*0.088*
Comp. 4	0.067		0.042		0.111	*0.073*
Average	*0.135*		*0.070*		*0.062*	***0.089***

934   **Table 4 -** Within-Subject CNN Decoding of Tremor Severity using EEG Principal Components

Within-Subject CNN Decoding of Tremor Severity Using EEG Principal Components- (R^2, mean averaged over 5 runs)						
Comp.	**Posture**		**Cue**		**Hold**	Average
Comp. 1	0.003		0.004		0.027	*0.011*
Comp. 2	0.003		0.010		0.029	*0.014*
Comp. 3	0.002		0.006		0.027	*0.012*
Comp. 4	0.003		0.007		0.032	*0.014*
Average	*0.003*		*0.007*		*0.029*	***0.013***

11.8 Appendix VIII- CNN Decoding Performance- with OPM Data

937   **Table 1 -** Between-Subject CNN Decoding of Tremor Severity using OPM Virtual Channels

Between-Subject CNN Decoding of Tremor Severity using OPM Virtual Channels- (R, mean averaged over 5 runs)							
Virtual Channel	**Posture**	**Grad-CAM Feat**	**Cue**	**Grad-CAM Feat**	**Hold**	**Grad-CAM Feat**	*Average*
cSMA	-0.064		-0.058		0.062		*-0.020*
cPPC	0.096		0.194		0.638		*0.309*
dlPFC	0.267		0.116		0.085		*0.156*
iCer V6	0.412		0.104		0.347		*0.288*
Average	*0.178*		*0.089*		*0.283*		***0.183***

940   **Table 2 -** Within-Subject CNN Decoding of Tremor Severity using OPM Virtual Channels

Within-Subject CNN Decoding of Tremor Severity using OPM Virtual Channels- (R^2, mean averaged over 5 runs)-							
Virtual Channel	**Posture**	**Grad-CAM Feat**	**Cue**	**Grad-CAM Feat**	**Hold**	**Grad-CAM Feat**	*Average*
cSMA	0.005		0.010		0.022		*0.012*
cPPC	0.013		0.012		0.010		*0.011*
dlPFC	0.004		0.003		0.053		*0.020*
iCer V6	0.008		0.010		0.115		*0.044*
Average	*0.008*		*0.009*		*0.050*		***0.022***

942   **Table 3 -** Between-Subject CNN Decoding of Tremor Severity using OPM Principal Components

Between-Subject CNN Decoding of Tremor Severity Using OPM Principal Components- (R^2, mean averaged over 5 runs)						
Comp.	**Posture**		**Cue**		**Hold**	Average
Comp. 1	0.043		0.003		0.012	*0.020*
Comp. 2	0.020		0.057		0.048	*0.042*
Comp. 3	0.052		0.037		0.052	*0.047*
Comp. 4	0.027		0.001		0.115	*0.048*
Average	*0.036*		*0.024*		*0.057*	***0.039***

944   **Table 4 -** Within-Subject CNN Decoding of Tremor Severity using OPM Principal Components

Within-Subject CNN Decoding of Tremor Severity Using OPM Principal Components- (R^2, mean averaged over 5 runs)						
Comp.	**Posture**		**Cue**		**Hold**	Average
Comp. 1	0.008		0.008		0.004	*0.006*
Comp. 2	0.010		0.009		0.035	*0.018*
Comp. 3	0.003		0.009		0.026	*0.013*
Comp. 4	0.001		0.016		0.007	*0.008*
Average	*0.006*		*0.010*		*0.018*	***0.011***

11.9 Appendix IX – Analysis of Reproducibility of Latent Dynamics

947   **Table 1 –** Analysis of Correlation Between Latent Dynamics in Controls and ET Recordings

	EEG				
	Comp 1	**Comp 2**	**Comp 3**	**Comp 4**	*Average*
Posture	0.96	0.98	0.98	0.94	*0.96*
Cue	0.91	0.95	0.68	0.86	*0.85*
Reach	0.90	0.98	0.91	0.95	*0.94*
Hold	0.88	0.90	0.88	0.98	*0.91*
Average	*0.91*	*0.95*	*0.86*	*0.93*	***0.91***

OPM					
	Comp 1	**Comp 2**	**Comp 3**	**Comp 4**	*Average*
Posture	0.90	0.90	0.83	0.88	*0.88*
Cue	0.96	0.68	0.42	0.97	*0.76*
Reach	0.84	0.85	0.89	0.94	*0.88*
Hold	0.87	0.90	0.76	0.85	*0.85*
Average	*0.89*	*0.83*	*0.73*	*0.91*	**0.84**

949   **Table 2 –** Analysis of Correlation Between Latent Dynamics in OPM and EEG

Analysis of Correlation Between Latent Dynamics in OPM and EEG (Pearson's Correlation Coefficient R)					
	Component 1	**Component 2**	**Component 3**	**Component 4**	*Average*
Posture	0.93	0.72	0.65	0.93	*0.81*
Cue	0.94	0.62	0.47	0.99	*0.76*
Reach	0.97	-0.03	0.46	0.94	*0.59*
Hold	0.93	0.56	0.65	0.87	*0.75*
Average	*0.94*	*0.47*	*0.56*	*0.93*	**0.73**

11.10   Appendix X– Comparison of Source Localized Power in OPM and EEG Data

Source localization of task related power changes was compared between EEG and OPM data. We examined the consistency of source estimates in terms of the intertrial correlation coefficients per subject. This was estimated by taking the average of the pairwise Pearson correlations between volumetric estimates obtained with the beamformer for each trial. We also examined the spatial properties of the beamformer images using the sharpness ratio. Briefly, 3D Fourier transforms of each trial level source image was computed. The ratio of power at high and low frequencies then indexes the "sharpness" of the image. We set the threshold between high and low frequency at 40% of the maximum frequency. We also examined effect sizes obtained, comparing the average and range of t-statistics measured when contrasting with a baseline (see main text). Significant differences between OPM and EEG images were compared using t-statistics. The results are shown below.

963 No significant differences were found between OPM and EEG for intertrial correlations. EEG images
964 were significantly sharper, but only for epochs involving movement preparation, and cue onsets. OPM
965 effect sizes were however bigger, particularly at periods involving large reaching movements during
966 execution and hold.

967 ## 11.11   Appendix XI– Details of 3rd Party Toolboxes

Toolbox Name	Author	Year	Source/Reference
boundedline-pkg	Kelly Kearney	2015	https://github.com/kakearney/boundedline-pkg
brewermap	Stephen Cobeldick	2014	https://github.com/DrosteEffect/BrewerMap
Fieldtrip	Donders Institute, Radbound University	2020	https://www.fieldtriptoolbox.org/
linspecer	Jonathan C. Lansey	2015	https://github.com/davidkun/linspecer
Matlab Toolbox for Dimensionality Reduction (v0.8.1b)	Laurens van der Maaten	2013	https://lvdmaaten.github.io/drtoolbox/

splitvec	Bruno Luong	2009	
			https://uk.mathworks.com/matlabcentral/fileexchange/24255-splitvec
SPM 12	Wellcome Centre for Human Neuroimaging, University College London	2020	https://www.fil.ion.ucl.ac.uk/spm/