

Bayesian Model Selection Maps for group studies using M/EEG data

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14 **Keywords: EEG, MEG, Bayes, PPMs, BMS, code:matlab, code:spm**

15 **Abstract**

16 Predictive coding postulates that we make (top-down) predictions about the world and that we
17 continuously compare incoming (bottom-up) sensory information with these predictions, in order to
18 update our models and perception so as to better reflect reality. That is, our so-called ‘Bayesian brains’
19 continuously create and update generative models of the world, inferring (hidden) causes from
20 (sensory) consequences. Neuroimaging datasets enable the detailed investigation of such modelling
21 and updating processes, and these datasets can themselves be analysed with Bayesian approaches.
22 These offer methodological advantages over classical statistics. Specifically, any number of models
23 can be compared, the models need not be nested, and the ‘null model’ can be accepted (rather than only
24 failing to be rejected as in frequentist inference). This methodological paper explains how to construct
25 posterior probability maps (PPMs) for Bayesian Model Selection (BMS) at the group level using
26 electroencephalography (EEG) or magnetoencephalography (MEG) data. The method has only
27 recently been used for EEG data, after originally being developed and applied in the context of
28 functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) analysis. Here, we describe how this method can be
29 adapted for EEG using the Statistical Parametric Mapping (SPM) software package for MATLAB. The
30 method enables the comparison of an arbitrary number of hypotheses (or explanations for observed
31 responses), at each and every voxel in the brain (source level) and/or in the scalp-time volume (scalp
32 level), both within participants and at the group level. The method is illustrated here using mismatch
33 negativity (MMN) data from a group of participants performing an audio-spatial oddball attention task.
34 All data and code are provided in keeping with the Open Science movement. In so doing, we hope to
35 enable others in the field of M/EEG to implement our methods so as to address their own questions of
36 interest.

37 **1 Introduction**

38 The statistical testing of hypotheses originated with Thomas Bayes (Neyman and Pearson, 1933),
39 whose famous eponymous theorem (Bayes and Price, 1763) can be written in terms of probability
40 densities as follows:

$$41 \quad p(\theta|y) = \frac{p(y|\theta)p(\theta)}{p(y)} \quad (\text{Eq. 1})$$

42 where θ denotes unobserved parameters, y denotes observed quantities, and $p(\theta|y)$ denotes the
43 probability p of the unknown parameters θ , given (“|”) the set of observed quantities y . More generally,
44 $p(\text{event}|\text{knowledge})$ denotes the probability of an event given existing knowledge. In other words,
45 Bayes conceptualises statistics as simply the plausibility of a hypothesis given the knowledge available
46 (Meinert, 2012).

47 Bayes’ theorem allows one to update one’s knowledge of the previously-estimated (or “prior”)
48 probability of causes, to a new estimate, the “posterior” probability of possible causes. This process
49 can be repeated indefinitely, with the prior being recursively updated to the new posterior each time.
50 This gives rise to multiple intuitive and useful data analysis methods, one of which is the explained in
51 detail in this paper.

52 Even when it first appeared, Bayes’ theorem was recognised as an expression of “common sense,” a
53 “foundation for all reasonings concerning past facts,” (Bayes and Price, 1763). Centuries later,
54 neuroscientific evidence suggests that Bayes theorem may not only explain our “common sense” and
55 internal reasoning processes, but may be common to all our senses: it can actually explain the way in
56 which we use our various senses to perceive the world. That is, Bayesian statistics can be used to
57 accurately model and predict the ways in which our own brains process information (Dayan et al.,
58 1995; Feldman and Friston 2010; Friston, 2012; Hohwy, 2013). This has given rise to the concepts of
59 predictive coding and the Bayesian brain. In this context, it is unsurprising that Bayesian approaches
60 to statistics have high face validity (Friston and Penny, 2003). This allows for intuitive descriptions of
61 probability and enables experimental results to be relatively easily understood and communicated both
62 within and between scientific communities, as well as to the general public (Dunson, 2001).

63 Despite the intuitiveness of Bayesian approaches, however, the mainstay of hypothesis-testing since
64 the twentieth century (Vallverdú, 2008) has instead been classical or frequentist statistics, which
65 conceptualises probability as a ‘long-run frequency’ of events, and which has dominated most
66 approaches to neuroimaging analysis to date (Penny et al., 2007). For example, creating statistical
67 parametric maps (SPMs), which is a popular method of analysing neuroimaging data, mainly involves
68 frequentist approaches (Friston and Penny, 2003).

69 In frequentist statistics, the null hypothesis (that there is no relationship between the causes and the
70 data) is compared with one alternative hypothesis; the null is then either rejected in favour of the
71 alternative hypothesis, or it fails to be rejected – it can never be directly “supported.” Rejection of the
72 null depends on the somewhat unintuitive p-value, which communicates how likely it is that the effect
73 (of at least the size seen in the experiment), would be seen in the absence of a true effect, if the
74 experiment were repeated many times. This is a more complex and counterintuitive way of
75 communicating results compared to Bayesian statistics (where the probability of the hypothesis in
76 question is what is being estimated and communicated).

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77 Also, unfortunately, multiple different models cannot be compared at once, and the null and the
78 alternative models need to be nested for frequentist statistical tests to be feasible (Rosa et al., 2010).
79 These features cause frequentist statistics to be less useful in certain contexts, compared to the
80 approaches enabled by Bayesian statistics.

81 In recent decades, Bayesian approaches are becoming increasingly recognised for their superior utility
82 for addressing certain questions and in specific data analysis situations, as explained below (Beal, 2003;
83 Rosa, et al., 2010; Penny and Ridgway, 2013). Importantly, with Bayesian approaches to data analysis,
84 any number of models can be compared, the models need not be nested, and the ‘null model’ can be
85 accepted (Rosa et al., 2010). The fact that Bayesian hypothesis-testing also allows researchers to
86 evaluate the likelihood of the null hypothesis is crucially important in light of the replication crisis in
87 psychology and neuroscience (Hartshorne, 2012; Larson and Carbine, 2017; Szucs et al., 2017).
88 Importantly, results supporting the null hypothesis are equally noteworthy or reportable as other results
89 within Bayesian statistics. The use of Bayesian statistics may also ameliorate some statistical power-
90 related problems documented in the literature (Dienes, 2016).

91 Even though Bayesian statistics has gained popularity in the context of ‘accepting the null’, its strength
92 lies beyond this, in the sense that it enables the relative quantification of any number of *alternative*
93 models (or hypotheses). In Bayesian Model Selection (BMS), models are compared based on the
94 probability of observing a particular dataset given each model’s parameters. The probability of
95 obtaining observed data, y , given model m , $p(y|m)$, is known as the model evidence. In BMS, an
96 approximation of the model evidence is calculated for multiple models; the model evidences are then
97 compared to determine which model returns the highest probability of generating the particular dataset
98 in question (Rosa et al., 2010).

99 A computationally efficient and relatively accurate (Penny et al., 2009) method of approximating the
100 model evidence is to use variational Bayes (VB). If each participant in the dataset is assumed to have
101 the same model explaining their data, then this is called a fixed effects (FFX) approach. If, on the other
102 hand, every participant is permitted to have their own (potentially different) model, this is called a
103 random effects (RFX) approach.

104 An elegant approach to succinctly communicating results is to use Posterior Probability maps (PPMs),
105 which provide a visual depiction of the spatial and/or temporal locations in which a particular model
106 is more probable than the alternatives considered, given the experimental data in question. The
107 development of PPMs is essentially the Bayesian alternative to the creation of SPMs (Friston and
108 Penny, 2003). PPMs may display the posterior probability of the models (the probability that a model
109 explains the data), or, alternatively, they may be displayed as Exceedance Probability Maps (EPMs),
110 which are maps of the probabilities that a model (say k) is *more* likely compared to all other (K) models
111 considered (Rosa et al., 2010). (EPMs will be identical to posterior probability maps in cases where
112 there are only two models being considered, as in this study.) EPMs are useful in that they allow us to
113 directly quantify which model is more probable than the other/s considered.

114 The data analysis method that forms the focus of this paper is Posterior Probability Mapping with an
115 RFX approach to VB. First introduced (Rosa et al., 2010) for functional magnetic resonance imaging
116 (fMRI), the method has recently been adapted for inference using electroencephalography (EEG) data
117 (Garrido et al., 2017). In their study, Garrido and colleagues (2017) used variational Bayes to
118 approximate the log of the model evidence for each voxel (in space and time) in every participant, in
119 order to construct PPMs at the group level. They did this in the context of comparing between two
120 computational models describing the relationship between attention and prediction in auditory

121 processing. While that paper focused on using this Bayesian methodology to address an important
122 neuroscientific question, the precise way in which Rosa and colleagues' (2010) methods were adapted
123 for use with EEG data have not been formally described to date – leading to the purpose of this paper.

124 Here, we describe in a tutorial-like manner how to build and compare PPMs for EEG and/or
125 magnetoencephalography (MEG) data (M/EEG), using an RFX approach to VB. This approach
126 provides useful ways of displaying the probabilities of different models at different times and brain
127 locations, given any set of neuroimaging data (as done in (Garrido et al., 2017)) using the Statistical
128 Parametric Mapping (SPM) software package for MATLAB. Furthermore, in keeping with the Open
129 Science movement, we provide the full EEG dataset (<https://figshare.com/s/1ef6dd4bbdd4059e3891>)
130 and the code (<https://github.com/ClareDiane/BMS4EEG>) to facilitate future use of the method. In so
131 doing, we hope that this paper and its associated scripts will enable others in the field of M/EEG to
132 implement our methods to address their own questions of interest.

133 **2 Theory**

134 In frequentist hypothesis testing, what is actually being tested is the null hypothesis (i.e. that there is
135 no relationship between the variables of interest; Friston, 2007b). If it is assumed that there is a linear
136 relationship between the causes and data, then the relationship between the causes (x) and data (y) can
137 be represented as below (Friston, 2007b):

$$138 \quad \mathbf{y} = \mathbf{x}\boldsymbol{\theta} + \boldsymbol{\varepsilon} \quad (\text{Eq. 2})$$

139 where y denotes data, x denotes causes and ε is an error term. The null hypothesis is that the relationship
140 between the causes and data does not exist, that is, $\boldsymbol{\theta} = 0$. The null hypothesis is compared to one
141 alternative hypothesis; the null is then either rejected in favour of the alternative hypothesis, or it fails
142 to be rejected – it can never be directly “supported.”

143 Using the frequentist framework, one cannot test multiple models at once (unlike what can be done
144 when using Bayesian approaches). (In this setting, a model corresponds to a particular mixture of
145 explanatory variables in the design matrix x .) Even if one only wishes to test one model against the
146 null, however, frequentist statistics still gives rise to problems unless the null and alternate models are
147 nested. When the variables in one model cannot be expressed as a linear combination of the variables
148 in another model, the two models are said to be non-nested (McAleer, 1995). Non-nested models
149 usually arise when model specifications are subject to differences in their auxiliary assumptions or in
150 their theoretical approaches, and can still be dealt with by making specific modifications to frequentist
151 approaches (McAleer, 1995; Horn, 1987). However, there are many situations where Bayesian
152 approaches are more appropriate for non-nested models than adapted frequentist inference (Rosa et al.,
153 2010). Indeed, Penny et al. (2007), showed that functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI)
154 haemodynamic basis sets are best compared using Bayesian approaches to non-nested models (Penny
155 et al., 2007).

156 Furthermore, Bayesian approaches to statistics have long been recognised for their relative advantages
157 outside of the realm of neuroimaging. In clinical trials, Bayesian experimental design techniques and
158 interim analyses have been found to improve trials' statistical power, cost-effectiveness and clinical
159 outcomes (e.g. Trippa et al., 2012; Connor et al., 2013), compared to when classical approaches are
160 used alone. Bayesian statistics are also especially useful in the worlds of computational physics
161 (Mohammad-Djafari, 2002) and biology (Needham et al., 2007), and in machine learning (Lappalainen
162 and Miskin, 2000).

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163 The aim of BMS is to adjudicate between models using each one's *model evidence*. Also written as
164 $p(y|m)$, the model evidence is defined as the probability (p) of obtaining observed data (denoted y)
165 given the model (denoted m). It is given by the following integral:

$$166 \quad p(y|m) = \int p(y|\theta, m)p(\theta|m)d\theta \quad (\text{Eq. 3})$$

167 This integral is usually intractable, so numerous methods have been developed to approximate it. As
168 Blei et al., (2017) succinctly summarise, there are two main ways to solve the problem of
169 approximating the integral above. One is to sample a Markov chain (Blei et al., 2017), and the other is
170 to use optimisation. The conversion of an integration problem into an optimisation problem is due to
171 Richard Feynman, who introduced variational free energy in the setting of path integral problems in
172 quantum electrodynamics (Feynman et al., 2010; Feynman and Brown, 1942). By inducing a bound on
173 the integral above – through an approximate posterior density (please see below) – one converts an
174 intractable integration problem into a relatively straightforward optimisation problem, that can be
175 solved using gradient descent.

176 Some of the specific approximation methods that have been used to date include Annealed Importance
177 Sampling (AIS; Neal, 1998; Penny and Sengupta, 2016), Bayesian Information Criterion (BIC)
178 measures (Rissanen, 1978; Penny, 2012), Akaike Information Criterion (AIC) measures (Akaike, 1980;
179 Penny, 2012), and finally, the variational Free Energy (F), which was first applied to the analysis of
180 functional neuroimaging time series by Penny, Kiebel and Friston (2003) and which is explained in
181 this paper (Rosa et al., 2010). These methods have varying degrees of accuracy and computational
182 complexity, and have been studied in detail elsewhere (Beal and Ghahramani, 2003; Penny et al., 2004;
183 Penny, 2012). The variational Free Energy provides a relatively high level of accuracy, without a great
184 computational cost (Rosa et al., 2010), and so it is unsurprising that it is widely used in neuroimaging
185 (Rosa et al., 2010). The Free Energy formula is (Penny et al., 2003):

$$186 \quad F = \int q(\theta|y) \log \frac{p(y, \theta)}{q(\theta|y)} d\theta \quad (\text{Eq. 4})$$

187 where $q(\theta|y)$ is an (initially) arbitrary distribution of the parameters θ given the data at each voxel y ,
188 $p(y, \theta)$ denotes the joint probability of the data and the parameters occurring, and $d\theta$ simply denotes
189 that the integral given by F is with respect to the model parameters θ .

190 The “variational” term in variational Free Energy, and in variational Bayes (VB), refers to the branch
191 of calculus (the calculus of variations) that deals with maximising or minimising functionals, or
192 integrals. The utility of variational calculus in neuroimaging analysis has been reviewed in numerous
193 other papers (Friston et al., 2008). In brief, the aim in variational Bayes is to maximise the functional
194 given by the equation above. The reason for doing this is that it provides information about the model
195 evidence. More specifically, the Free Energy relates to the log of the model evidence (or log-model
196 evidence) as described by the following equation, known as the fundamental equation of variational
197 Bayes (Penny et al., 2003):

$$198 \quad \log p(y|m) = F(m) + KL(q(\theta)||p(\theta|y, m)) \quad (\text{Eq. 5})$$

199 where $\log p(y|m)$ is the log-model evidence, F is the variational Free Energy, and $KL(q(\theta)||p(\theta|y, m))$ is
200 the Kullback-Leibler divergence, or relative information, with respect to the approximate distribution

201 $q(\theta)$ and the distribution that is diverging from it, namely the true distribution, $p(\theta|y,m)$, as further
202 described below.

203 The reason why Free Energy can be used as an approximation of the model evidence is better
204 understood in light of the meaning of the second term in the fundamental VB equation, the Kullback-
205 Leibler (KL) divergence (Penny et al., 2003). The equation for this is:

$$206 \quad KL = \int q(\theta|y) \log \frac{q(\theta|y)}{p(\theta|y)} d\theta \quad (\text{Eq. 6})$$

207 where all terms listed here have the same meanings as defined in earlier paragraphs. The KL divergence
208 is also known as KL information, and this is because it is a measure of the information “difference” or
209 divergence between two distributions. It can be derived by considering the so-called cross-entropy and
210 entropy of the two distributions respectively, as outlined below (Carter, 2011). The concept of “relative
211 entropy” is essentially “average information,” with “information” being defined as Shannon (1984)
212 originally introduced:

$$213 \quad I(p) = \log_b \left(\frac{1}{p} \right) = -\log_b(p) \quad (\text{Eq. 7})$$

214 where $I(p)$ is the information given by observation of an event of probability p , and $\log_b(\frac{1}{p})$ is the
215 logarithm (in base b) of the inverse of the probability of that event. The formula above is used to derive
216 the “average information,” also sometimes referred to a relative entropy, from a set of events. A related
217 concept is the “cross entropy” between two distributions (see Carter, 2011); and the difference between
218 the cross entropy and the entropy of the original/true distribution is equivalent to the KL divergence.
219 Being a measure of information, the KL divergence has the property that it is non-negative;
220 consequently, the lowest value it can take is zero.

221 The KL divergence between two distributions is zero only if the two distributions are equivalent. The
222 closer KL is to zero, the less dissimilar the two distributions are. Thus, minimising KL is equivalent to
223 maximising F, and F is said to provide a lower bound on the log-evidence. The aim of VB learning is
224 to maximise F so that the approximate posterior thereby becomes as close as possible to the true
225 posterior (Penny et al., 2007).

226 If (and only if) the KL divergence is zero, then F is equal to the log-model evidence. The free energy
227 thus provides a *lower bound* on the log-evidence of the model, which is why iteratively optimising it
228 allows us to proceed with BMS using F as an *approximation* of the log-model evidence (Penny et al.,
229 2007). As the KL divergence is minimised by an iterative process of optimisation, F becomes an
230 increasingly “tighter” lower bound on the desired (actual) log-model evidence; owing to this, BMS can
231 proceed using F as a “surrogate” for the log-model evidence (Rosa et al., 2010). The iterations continue
232 until improvements in F are very small (below some desired threshold). This method of estimating the
233 log-model evidence is implemented in the second script described in the Implementation section
234 (“BMS2_ModelSpec_VB.m”).

235 Although it has been summarised here, it is also worth noting that VB is further fleshed out in multiple
236 other research papers (Penny et al., 2003; Friston et al., 2007; Friston and Penny, 2007; Penny et al.,
237 2007) and tutorials (Lappalainen and Miskin, 2000). In *Statistical Parametric Mapping*, Friston
238 (2007a) provides the mathematical derivations for the fundamental equation of variational Bayes, and
239 his colleagues provide a full explanation of its application to BMS (Penny et al., 2007).

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240 The application of VB in the context of fMRI analysis has been described in detail elsewhere (Rosa et
241 al., 2010; Stephan et al., 2009; Penny et al., 2007). Penny and colleagues (2007) used Bayesian
242 spatiotemporal models of within-subject log-model evidence maps for fMRI data, in order to make
243 voxel-wise comparison of these maps and thereby to make inferences about regionally specific
244 effects. Rosa and colleagues (2010) developed their approach by combining the methods described by
245 Penny et al. (2007) with those of Stephan et al. (2009), who used an RFX approach to VB, as described
246 below.

247 After the log-model evidence has been estimated as described above, given uniform priors over models,
248 one can then estimate posterior model probabilities by comparing model-evidences between models.
249 The ratio between model evidences, or Bayes factor (BF), can be used to estimate posterior model
250 probabilities. A BF greater than 20 is equivalent to a posterior model probability greater than 0.95
251 (Kass and Raftery, 1995), which is reminiscent of the typical p -value smaller than 0.05. The product
252 of Bayes factors over all subjects is called the Group Bayes Factor (GBF), and it gives the relative
253 probability that one model (relative to another) applies to the entire group of subjects. That is, it rests
254 on the assumption that the data were generated by the same model for all participants, and that data are
255 conditionally independent over subjects. This is known as fixed effects (FFX) inference, and it is not
256 as robust to outliers as random effects (RFX) inference, which does not assume that the data were
257 necessarily generated by the same model for each participant (Stephan et al., 2009).

258 Stephan et al. (2009) developed a novel VB approach for group level methods of Bayesian model
259 comparison that used random effects instead of fixed effects analysis at the group level. They did this
260 by treating models as random variables whose probabilities can be described by a Dirichlet distribution
261 (which is conjugate to the multinomial distribution) with parameters that are estimated using the log-
262 model evidences over all models and subjects (as described below). Once the optimal Dirichlet
263 parameters have been estimated, they can be used to calculate posterior probabilities or exceedance
264 probabilities of a given model for a randomly-selected participant. This is what is done in the third
265 script (“BMS3_PPMs.m”, described in the Implementation section below), and the underlying
266 mathematics is explained briefly below.

267 In the RFX approach introduced by Stephan et al. (2009), we assume that the probabilities of the
268 different models (or hypotheses) are described by the following Dirichlet distribution:

$$269 \quad p(r|\alpha) = Dir(r, \alpha) = \frac{1}{Z(\alpha)} \prod_k r_k^{\alpha_k - 1} \quad (Eq. 8)$$
$$270 \quad Z(\alpha) = \frac{\prod_k \Gamma(\alpha_k)}{\Gamma(\sum_k \alpha_k)}$$

271 where r represents the probabilities $r = [r_1, \dots, r_K]$ of K different models (or hypotheses), and $\alpha = [\alpha_1$
272 $, \dots, \alpha_K]$ are related to unobserved “occurrences” of models in the population. This distribution is part
273 of a hierarchical model: the next level depends on model probabilities, r , which are described by the
274 Dirichlet distribution.

275 In the next level of the hierarchical model, we assume that the probability that a particular model
276 generated the data of a particular subject, is given by a multinomial variable m_n whose probability
277 distribution is as follows:

278
$$p(m_n|r) = \prod_k r^{m_{nk}} \quad (\text{Eq. 9})$$

279 where m_n is the multinomial variable that describes the probability that model k generated the data of
280 subject n given the probabilities r .

281 Finally, in the lowest level of this hierarchical model, the probability of the data in the n th subject,
282 given model k , over all parameters (ϑ) of the selected model (i.e. the marginal likelihood of the data in
283 the n th subject, obtained by integrating over the parameters of the model) is given by:

284
$$p(y_n|m_{nk}) = \int p(y|\vartheta)p(\vartheta|m_{nk})d\vartheta \quad (\text{Eq. 10})$$

285 The goal is to invert this hierarchical model, that is, work backwards from data (y_n) find the parameters
286 of the Dirichlet distribution (which then allows the calculation of the expected posterior probability of
287 obtaining the k th model for any randomly selected subject, as shown below). This model inversion is
288 done using a VB approach in which the Dirichlet distribution is approximated with a conditional
289 density, $q(r) = \text{Dir}(r, \alpha)$. Stephan et al. (2009) show that the following algorithm yields the optimal
290 parameters of the conditional density $q(r) = \text{Dir}(r, \alpha)$:

291
$$\alpha = \alpha_0$$

292 Until convergence

293
$$u_{nk} = \exp\left(\ln p(y_n|m_{nk}) + \Psi(\alpha_k) - \Psi\left(\sum_k \alpha_k\right)\right) \quad (\text{Eq. 11})$$

294
$$\beta_k = \sum_n \frac{u_{nk}}{\sum_k u_{nk}}$$

295
$$\alpha = \alpha_0 + \beta$$

296 end

297 where α are “occurrences” of models in the population; α_0 is the Dirichlet prior, which, on the
298 assumption that no models have been “seen” *a priori*, is set as $\alpha_0 = [1, \dots, 1]$ so that all models are
299 equally probable to begin with; u_{nk} is the non-normalised belief that model k generated the data y_n for
300 subject n (for the derivation of this line, please see Stephan et al., 2009); Ψ is the digamma function
301 $\Psi(\alpha_k) = \frac{\delta \log \Gamma(\alpha_k)}{\delta \alpha_k}$; β_k is the expected number of subjects whose data are believed to be generated by
302 model k (so-called “data counts”); and the last line, $\alpha = \alpha_0 + \beta$ essentially obtains the parameters of
303 the Dirichlet distribution by starting with the Dirichlet prior α_0 and adding on “data counts” β (Stephan
304 et al., 2009).

305 Once the Dirichlet parameters have been optimised as per the algorithm above, this can be used for
306 model comparisons at the group level. One way of comparing models is to simply compare the
307 parameter estimates α . Another way is to calculate the multinomial parameters, $\langle r_k \rangle$, that encode the
308 posterior probability of model k being selected for a randomly chosen subject in the group:

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309
$$\langle r_k \rangle = \alpha_k / (\alpha_1 + \dots + \alpha_K) \quad (\text{Eq. 12})$$

310 where r_k is the probability of the model; the numerator of the fraction, α_k , is the “occurrence” of model
311 k ; and the denominator ($\alpha_1 + \dots + \alpha_K$) is the sum of all model “occurrences.” This was how the PPMs
312 were generated in the third script (“BMS3_PPMs.m”) below.

313 Another option for comparing models after the optimal Dirichlet parameters have been found, is to
314 calculate the exceedance probability for a given model, as follows:

315
$$\varphi_k = p \left(\prod_{j \neq k} r_k > r_j | y; \alpha \right) \quad (\text{Eq. 13})$$

316 where φ_k is the exceedance probability for model k , that is, the probability that it is more likely than
317 any of the other models considered; r_k is the probability of model k ; r_j is the probability of all other
318 models considered; y represents the data and α represents the Dirichlet parameters.

319 Having introduced this RFX approach to VB, Stephan and colleagues (2009) then used both simulated
320 and empirical data to demonstrate that when groups are heterogeneous, fixed effects analyses fail to
321 remain sufficiently robust. Crucially, they also showed that RFX is robust to outliers, which can
322 confound inference under FFX assumptions, when those assumptions are violated. Stephan et al. thus
323 concluded that although RFX is more conservative than FFX, it is still the best method for selecting
324 among competing neurocomputational models.

325 **3 Methods**

326 **3.1 Experimental design**

327 This experiment is a direct replication of that performed by Garrido et al. (2017), apart from the
328 omission of a ‘divided attention’ condition. As they describe in greater detail in their paper, Garrido et
329 al. (2017) utilised a novel audio-spatial attention task during which attention and prediction were
330 orthogonally manipulated; this was done to evaluate the effect of surprise and attention in auditory
331 processing (Garrido et al., 2017). The authors compared two models (shown in Figure 1) which may
332 explain the effect attention has on the neural responses elicited by predicted and unpredicted events.

333 [Figure 1 about here]

334 The original study supported the model in which attention boosts neural responses to both predicted
335 and unpredicted stimuli, called the Opposition Model (Garrido et al., 2017). Prediction attenuates
336 neural activity, while attention enhances this activity. Since these effects occur in opposite directions
337 or have opposing effects, the researchers named the model (describing these effects) the Opposition
338 Model. According to this model, attention improves the accuracy of predictions by precision weighting
339 prediction errors more heavily. Thus, in light of this model, attention and prediction work together (in
340 opposite directions) to improve our ability to make more accurate representations of the sensorium.

341 Our current study attempted to replicate the above-mentioned study with an independent dataset and
342 employing the Bayesian methods that resembled the original study as closely as possible. The only
343 difference was that the divided-attention condition was not administered because it was not required
344 for the implementation and description of the BMS steps. It is hoped that the detailed description of
345 our methods, adapted from those originally developed for fMRI by Rosa et al. (2010), prove to be
346 useful for other EEG and/or MEG researchers. Furthermore, a replication study such as this one has
347 the additional benefit of being responsive to the persisting replication crisis that continues to pose a
348 significant problem for neuroscience and psychology (Hartshorne, 2012; Larson and Carbine, 2017;
349 Szucs et al., 2017).

350 To this end we employed BMS to adjudicate between two competing hypotheses (see Figure 1),
351 namely:

352 (1) Attention increases (boosts) neural responses to both predicted and unpredicted stimuli. This is
353 formalised in the Methods section and is then called Model One – the Opposition Model.

354 (2) Attention boosts neural responses to predicted stimuli more than it boosts responses to unpredicted
355 stimuli. This causes predicted attended stimuli to generate the highest neural responses, followed by
356 attended unpredicted stimuli. This is formalised in the Methods section and is then called Model Two
357 – the Interaction Model.

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3.2 Participants

359 Twenty-one healthy adults (aged between 19-64 years, $M = 25.00$ years, $SD = 9.83$, nine females) were
360 recruited via the University of Queensland's Psychology Research Participation Scheme (SONA).
361 Exclusion criteria included any history of mental or neurological disease, any previous head injury
362 resulting in unconsciousness, or an age outside the prescribed range (18-65 years). All participants
363 gave both written and verbal informed consent to both the study and to having their de-identified data
364 made available in publicly distributed databases. Participants completed practice blocks of stimulus
365 presentation prior to undergoing the EEG recording, in order to enable them to withdraw if they found
366 the task unpleasant or excessively challenging. (No participants wished to withdraw.) Participants were
367 monetarily compensated for their time. This study was approved by the University of Queensland
368 Human Research Ethics Committee.

3.3 Task description

370 Participants wore earphones with inner-ear buds (Etymotic, ER3) and were asked to follow instructions
371 on a computer screen. Participants were asked to pay attention to the sound stream in either the left or
372 the right ear (ignoring the sounds that were being played in the other ear). Gaussian white noise was
373 played to both ears and an oddball sequence was played to one of the ears. During a given block,
374 participants were tasked with listening carefully for gaps in the white noise on the side to which they
375 had been asked to attend. They were asked to press a "1" on the numbered keyboard when they heard
376 a single gap (lasting 90 ms) in the white noise, and a "2" when they heard a double gap (two 90 ms
377 gaps separated by 30 ms of white noise). They were asked to ignore any tones played on both the
378 attended and the opposite ear. This task is described in further detail, including pictorial
379 representations, in Garrido et al., (2017).

380
381 Participants listened to eight different blocks, each 190 seconds in duration. Each block contained a
382 total of 30 targets (15 single gaps and 15 double gaps, randomly distributed across the block, but never
383 occurring within 2.5 seconds of each other and never occurring at the same time as a tone). Throughout
384 each block there were also 50-ms-long pure tones being played in one of the ears, with a 450 ms inter-
385 stimulus interval. In each block there were two tones: the standard tone (either 500 Hz or 550 Hz
386 counterbalanced between blocks) that occurred 85% of the time, and the deviant (either 550 Hz or 500
387 Hz, the opposite of the standard tone and counterbalanced across blocks) that occurred 15% of the
388 time. All sound files were created using MATLAB (RRID:SCR_001622; The MathWorks, Inc.;
389 <http://www.mathworks.com>) with sound recordings done using Audacity ® (Audacity: Free Audio
390 Editor and Recorder, RRID:SCR_007198) as previously described by Garrido et al., (2017). The order
391 was counterbalanced such that no two participants received the same order of blocks.

392
393 Prior to and during the practice block/s, the volume of sound delivery was adjusted until the participant
394 stated that they were able to hear the white noise well enough to complete the task. For each participant,
395 an accuracy level was calculated, consisting of the percentage of white noise gaps that were correctly
396 identified (as single or double) and responded to promptly (i.e. within two seconds of the gap/s). This
397 was calculated separately for the practice block, which was repeated if a participant did not achieve at
398 least 50% accuracy. Once participants achieved above 50% accuracy, they were invited to participate
399 in the rest of the experiment. At the end of the experiment each participant's accuracy was again
400 calculated to ensure their accuracy level remained at least 50% (otherwise they were excluded from
401 the study). This was to ensure that participants were attending to the task as instructed.
402

403 **3.4 EEG data acquisition**

404 Using a standardised nylon head cap fitted tightly and comfortably over the scalp, 64 silver/silver
405 chloride (Ag/AgCl) scalp electrodes were placed according to the international 10-10 system for
406 electrode placement. As is usual for this system, electrodes were placed above and below the left eye
407 and just lateral to the outer canthi of both left and right eyes, to generate the vertical electrooculogram
408 (VEOG) and horizontal electrooculogram (HEOG) recordings respectively. Continuous EEG data were
409 recorded using a Biosemi Active Two system at a sampling rate of 1024 Hz. The onset of targets,
410 standards and deviants were recorded with unique trigger codes at the time of delivery to the
411 participant. Within each block, the target triggers were used for accuracy calculations, while the
412 standard and deviant triggers were kept as the time points around which to epoch the data at a later
413 stage.

414 **3.5 EEG preprocessing**

415 Following the collection of the raw EEG data, preprocessing was completed using Statistical
416 Parametric Mapping (SPM) software (SPM12, RRID:SCR_007037; Wellcome Trust Centre for
417 Neuroimaging, London; <http://www.fil.ion.ucl.ac.uk/spm/>). EEG data preprocessing included
418 referencing data to the common average of all electrodes; downsampling to 200 Hz; bandpass filtering
419 (between 0.5 to 40 Hz); eyeblink correction to remove trials marked with eyeblink artefacts (measured
420 with the VEOG and HEOG channels); epoching using a peri-stimulus window of -100 to 400 ms;
421 artefact rejection (with 100 uV cut-off); low-pass filtering (40 Hz; to remove any high frequency noise
422 from the robust averaging step) and baseline correction (-100 to 0 ms window).

423 *Source Reconstruction*

424 For source BMS, SPM12 software was used to obtain source estimates on the cortex by reconstructing
425 the scalp activity using a single-shell head model. The forward model was then inverted with multiple
426 sparse priors (MSP) assumptions for the variance components (Friston et al., 2008) under group
427 constraints (Litvak and Friston, 2008). The entire time window of 0 to 400 ms was used to infer the
428 most likely cortical regions that generated the data observed during this time. Images for each
429 participant and each condition were obtained from the source reconstructions and were smoothed at
430 full width at half maximum (FWHM) 12 x 12 x 12 mm. This source reconstruction step is available as
431 an online script (named “BMS1_Source_ImCreate.m” and available at
432 <https://github.com/ClareDiane/BMS4EEG>).

433 **3.6 Bayesian Model Selection Maps: Implementation for M/EEG**

434 For all data analysis steps (Table 1), we used SPM12 software package for MATLAB. We wrote in-
435 house MATLAB scripts, integrated with SPM12 and now available online
436 (<https://github.com/ClareDiane/BMS4EEG>). The online scripts are divided into three BMS scripts. In
437 the first script (BMS1_ST_ImCreate.m for spatiotemporal BMS and BMS1_Source_ImCreate.m for
438 source BMS), we call the preprocessed EEG data and then create images for every trial, for every
439 condition, and for every participant. The second script (BMS2_ModelSpec_VB.m) specifies the
440 hypotheses and implements variational Bayes (as described in the Theory section). The last script
441 (BMS3_PPMs.m) then creates Posterior Probability Maps.

442 In the model specification and VB script (BMS2_ModelSpec_VB.m), we changed individual
443 participants’ data file structures in order to match the format that SPM typically requires to read fMRI
444 data. This is done by first loading the relevant file path and then changing the file structure. Once these

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445 newly-structured files had been saved, we next specified the models to be compared: this was done by
446 assigning covariate weights to describe both models (please see the instructions contained within
447 BMS2_ModelSpec_VB.m on Github). The Opposition Model was assigned weights of [1, 2, 2, and 3]
448 for the unattended predicted, attended predicted and unattended unpredicted, and attended unpredicted,
449 respectively. The Interaction Model was assigned weights of [1, 4, 2, and 3] for the same conditions.

450 These covariate weights essentially describe the assumed relationship between the different conditions
451 according to a given model. For example, using [1, 2, 2, and 3] as employed in the Opposition Model,
452 means that according to the Opposition Model, the unattended predicted condition (the first condition
453 with an assigned weight of 1) evokes the smallest activity, whereas the attended unpredicted (the fourth
454 condition with a weight of 3) has the greater activity, and both attended predicted and unattended
455 unpredicted (second and third conditions with an equal weight of 2) are in between the former two
456 conditions and indistinguishable in magnitude from each other.

457 We then created log-evidence images, representing the log-model evidences, for both models
458 (separately), for every participant (individually) at every voxel. In the case of spatiotemporal (scalp-
459 level) BMS, each voxel was representative of a specific spatiotemporal location within the peristimulus
460 time window (0 to 400 ms) and topologically across the scalp, such that the first two dimensions of the
461 voxel refer to the space across the scalp and the third dimension is time (as shown in Figure 2).
462 Conversely, in the source BMS (which began with the source reconstruction steps described above),
463 each voxel was representative of an inferred location in three-dimensional source space. Once log
464 evidence images had been created, these were smoothed with a 1 mm half-width Gaussian kernel.

465 In summary, one can create posterior probability maps or log evidence maps in sensor or source space.
466 In sensor space, this involves creating a two-dimensional image over the scalp surface and equipping
467 the space with a peristimulus time dimension. This creates posterior probability maps over the scalp
468 surface and peristimulus time, enabling one to identify regionally and temporally specific effects due
469 to a particular model, relative to other contrasts. Alternatively, one can create three-dimensional
470 posterior probability maps in source space, following source reconstruction.

471 The core SPM script that allows VB to be used on fMRI data is named `spm_spm_vb.m` and is found
472 in the SPM12 package, downloadable from the SPM site. This core script was edited in order to adapt
473 the VB method for EEG, as follows. Changes were made such that different data structures could be
474 read in the same way that fMRI data would usually be read. Furthermore, high-pass filtering steps were
475 removed as these only apply to low-frequency drifts associated with fMRI data. The specific changes
476 made between the original script and the altered one to be used for spatiotemporal BMS are accessible
477 online (goo.gl/ZVhPT7). For the source BMS steps, the same changes were left in place as outlined
478 above, and in addition, the required minimum cluster size was changed from 16 voxels to 0 voxels to
479 allow for visualisation of all clusters of any size. The specific differences between the original and
480 source BMS versions of the `spm_spm_vb` script are accessible online (goo.gl/WXAo67).

481 In the final step (`BMS3_PPMs.m`), the SPM Batch Editor was used to apply a random effects approach
482 to the group model evidence data in a voxel-wise manner, thus translating the log-evidence images
483 from the previous step into Posterior Probability Maps (similar to how Penny et al. (2007) and Rosa et
484 al., (2010) have produced PPMs previously for fMRI data). The maps, displayed in the Figures 2, 3
485 and 4, were generated by selecting threshold probabilities of 75% for the spatiotemporal maps (Figure
486 2) and 50% for the source maps (Figures 3 and 4). This threshold can be adjusted by the user. EPMs
487 can also be displayed by selecting the relevant setting in the final script (please see the instructions on
488 Github).

489 [Table 1 about here]

490

491 **4 Results**

492 The raw dataset for this study can be found on Figshare (EEG_Auditory_Oddball_Raw_Data
493 repository, <https://figshare.com/s/1ef6dd4bbdd4059e3891>).

494 The preprocessed dataset for this study can also be found on Figshare
495 (EEG_Auditory_Oddball_Preprocessed_Data repository,
496 <https://figshare.com/s/c6e1f9120763c43e6031>).

497 **4.1 Scalp - Spatiotemporal**

498 Figure 2 shows scalp (spatiotemporal) PPMs of the two competing models over space and time. These
499 maps display all posterior probabilities exceeding 75% over space and time for both models. As can
500 be seen in the figure, spatiotemporal BMS results revealed that Model One (the Opposition Model)
501 was by and large the superior model. The Opposition Model had model probabilities exceeding 75%
502 across the majority of later time points (with most significant clusters between 225-360 ms), and over
503 most frontocentral and bilateral channel locations, as shown in **(A)**. On the other hand, as shown in
504 **(B)**, the Interaction Model did have over 75% model probability centrally between 175-185 ms, which
505 is within the mismatch negativity (MMN) time window. These findings replicate those of Garrido et
506 al., (2017), and strongly support the implications discussed in great depth in that paper.

507 [Figure 2 about here]

508 **4.2 Source**

509 As shown in Figures 3, 4 and 5, source BMS results also favoured the Opposition Model, with higher
510 model probability over the left supramarginal gyrus (with 91% model probability over a relatively large
511 cluster, $K_E = 6115$), the right superior temporal gyrus (with 87% model probability over a cluster with
512 $K_E = 5749$) as well as over parts of the left inferior parietal lobe, right inferior parietal lobe and left
513 postcentral gyrus. Having said this, the Interaction Model also had two large clusters, albeit with lower
514 model probabilities compared to the Opposition Model's highest-probability clusters: specifically, the
515 Interaction Model had a cluster of size $K_E = 6346$ over the left inferior parietal lobe and a cluster of
516 size $K_E = 5353$ over the right inferior parietal lobe (with 74% model probability in both places).

517 [Figure 3 about here]

518 [Figure 4 about here]

519 [Figure 5 about here]

520 Figures 3 and 4 show that different brain regions are likely to perform different computations best
521 described by the Opposition and Interaction Models, respectively. Furthermore, Figure 5 compares the
522 magnitude of the calculated posterior probabilities, at the locations of the highest probability cluster
523 for both models. The possible functional reasons for the different anatomical locations that emerge for
524 the two different models may be an interesting subject for future study, but fall outside the scope of
525 this methods paper. In any case, the usefulness of this probability mapping approach illustrated in
526 Figures 2, 3 and 4, lies in the ability of pinpointing where and when given computations are likely to
527 be performed in the brain.

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528 **5 Discussion**

529 This paper shows how to use RFX Bayesian model selection mapping methods for M/EEG data
530 analysis. This method was originally developed for fMRI by Rosa and colleagues (2010), and provides
531 a way of displaying the probabilities of different cognitive models at different timepoints and brain
532 locations, given a neuroimaging dataset. We aimed to provide an in-depth explanation, written in a
533 didactical manner, of the BMS and posterior probability mapping steps that were successfully used by
534 Garrido et al. (2017) in their recent EEG paper.

535 Being a Bayesian approach to hypothesis-testing, the method described here provides multiple
536 advantages over frequentist inference methods. The first of these advantages is that VB allows for
537 comparisons between non-nested models. Consequently, it is especially useful in the context of model-
538 based neuroimaging (Montague et al., 2004; O'Doherty et al., 2007; Rosa et al., 2010; Garrido et al.,
539 2017). Another advantage is that the probability of the null hypothesis itself can be assessed (instead
540 of simply being, or failing to be, rejected). A final advantage is that, although only two models were
541 compared here, the same method can also be applied to any arbitrary number of models. For example,
542 the analyses described here could proceed slightly differently, based on the same data but introducing
543 another (or multiple other) model/s against which to compare the Opposition and Interaction Models.
544 Potentially, any number of theoretically motivated models could be considered. Considering all of
545 these advantages, the method described here should prove useful in a wide variety of M/EEG
546 experiments.

547 In summary, we have shown here how to adapt Bayesian Model Selection maps, originally developed
548 for fMRI data by Rosa and colleagues (2010), to M/EEG data analysis. It is hoped that the reporting of
549 analytical methods such as these, as well as the availability of all the code and dataset, will not only
550 contribute to the Open Science movement, but may also encourage other researchers to adopt this novel
551 M/EEG data analysis method in a way that is useful for addressing their own neuroscience questions.
552 We postulate that the use of this Bayesian model mapping of M/EEG data to adjudicate between
553 competing computational models in the brain, both at the scalp and source level, will be a significant
554 advancement in the field of M/EEG neuroimaging and may provide new insights in cognitive
555 neuroscience.

556 **6 Conflict of Interest**

557 The authors declare that the research was conducted in the absence of any commercial or financial
558 relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest.

559 **7 Author Contributions**

560 MG designed the study and the analysis methods. ER wrote the code. CH and RR collected and
561 analysed the data, and organised the data and code for sharing. CH wrote the first draft of the
562 manuscript. ER, RR and MG edited the manuscript.

563 **8 Funding**

564 This work was funded by the Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for Integrative Brain
565 Function (ARC Centre Grant CE140100007) and a University of Queensland Fellowship
566 (2016000071) to MG. RR and CH were both supported by Research Training Program scholarships
567 awarded by The University of Queensland.

568 **9 Acknowledgments**

569 The authors thank the participants for their time. The authors are grateful to Maria Rosa for helpful
570 advice regarding source BMS steps, and to the two anonymous reviewers, whose helpful comments
571 and suggestions led to significant improvements in the paper. The authors also thank Jessica McFadyen
572 for help with preprocessing, Ilvana Dzafic for help with EEG data acquisition, and Jeremy Taylor for
573 sharing tools for visualising spatiotemporal images (shown in panels **(B)** and **(D)** in Figure 2).

574

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BMS Maps for group studies with M/EEG data

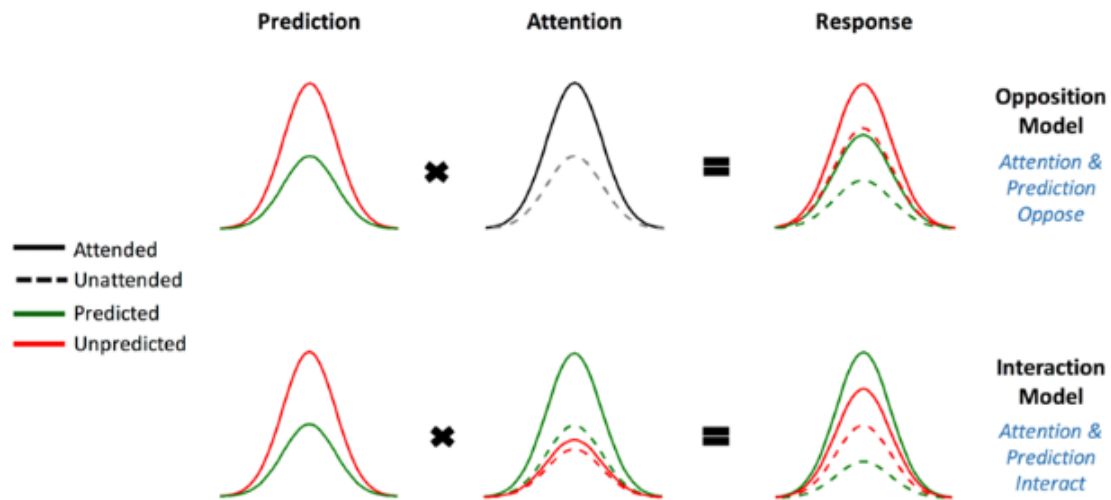
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752 11 Supplementary Material

753 Please see the Supplementary Material attached.

754 **12 Figures**

755 **Figure 1**



756

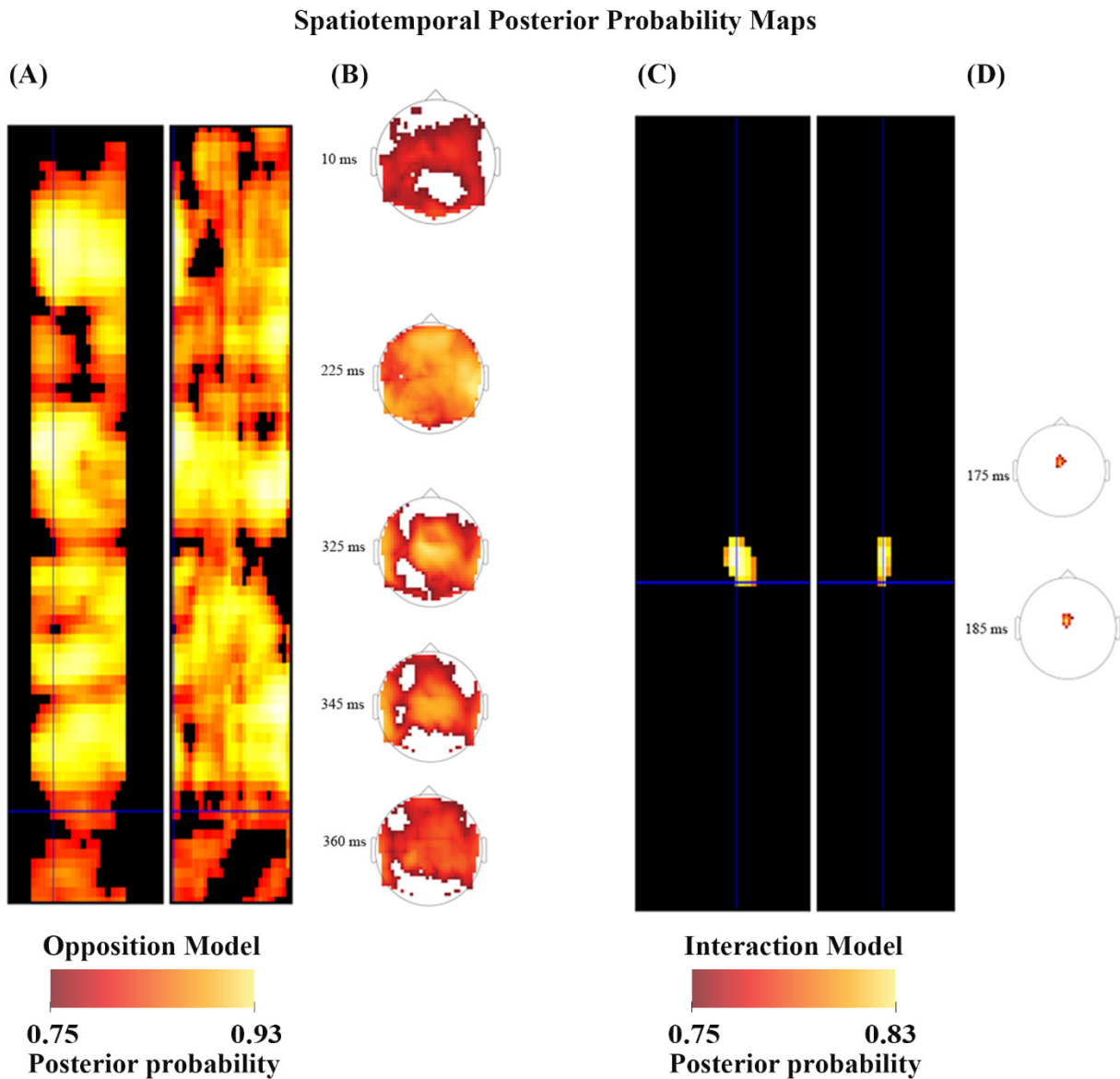
757

758 **Figure 1:** The two competing models that were evaluated using BMS. Reprinted with permission from
759 Garrido et al. (2017) DOI: 10.1093/cercor/bhx087. Figure Published by Oxford University Press. All
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761 [article/doi/10.1093/cercor/bhx087/3571164?searchresult=1](https://academic.oup.com/cercor/advance-article/doi/10.1093/cercor/bhx087/3571164?searchresult=1). This figure is not covered by the Open-
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763

BMS Maps for group studies with M/EEG data

764 **Figure 2**

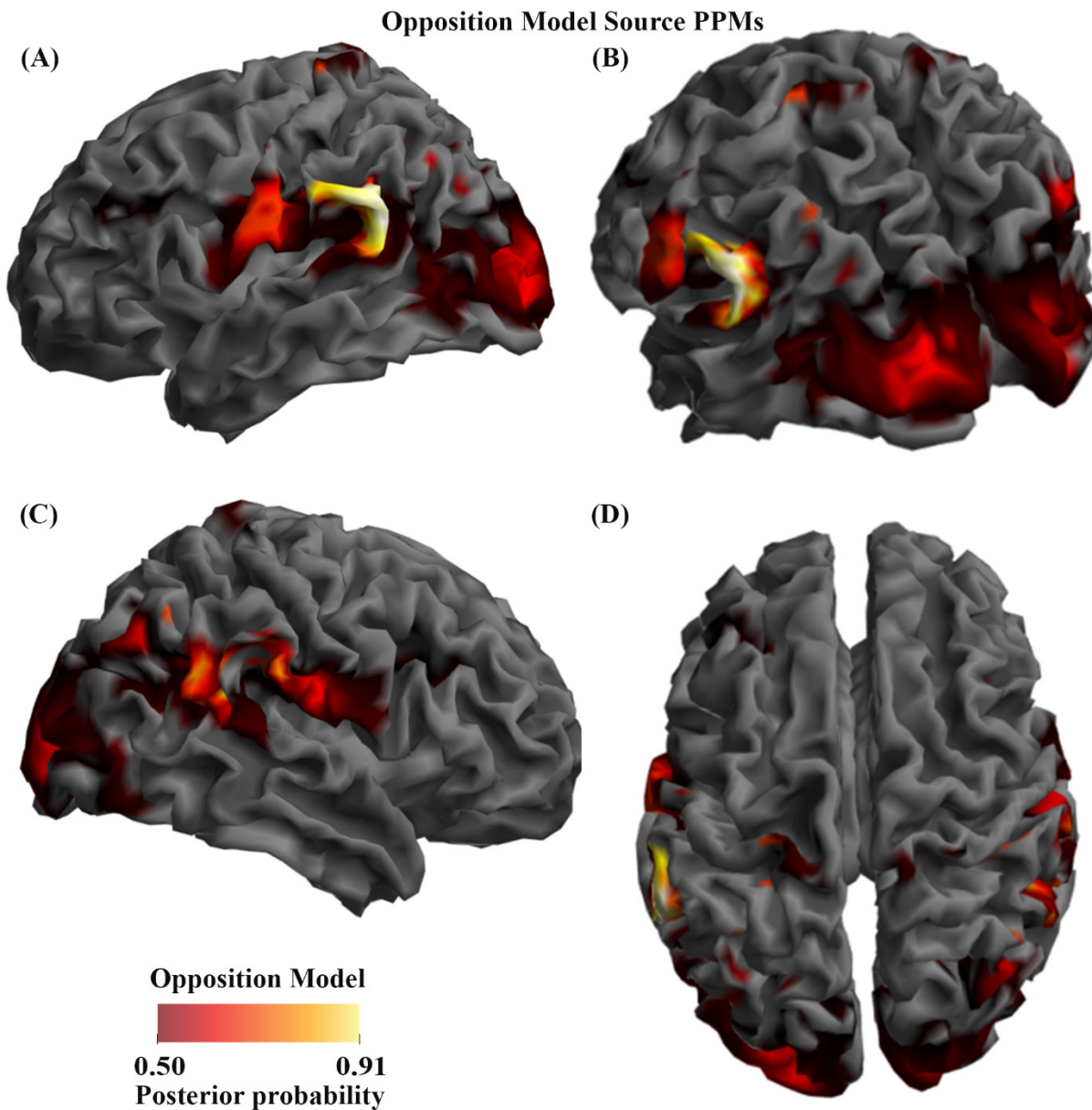


765

766 [Panels from left to right: A, B, C and D]

767 **Figure 2:** Scalp Posterior Probability Maps of the two competing models over space and time. (The
768 scalp images include the participant's nose, pointing upwards, and ears, visible as if viewed from
769 above.) These maps display all posterior probabilities exceeding 75% over space and time for both
770 models. The left sides of both panels (A) and (C) both depict the temporal information, showing the
771 model probabilities at each point in time from 0 ms (when the tone was played, at the top of the
772 diagrams) to 400 ms after the stimulus presentation (at the bottom of the diagram), across the surface
773 of the scalp (which traverses the width of the panels). The right sides (B) and (D) show the spatial
774 locations of the probability clusters which exceeded the threshold of 75% probability.

775 **Figure 3**



776

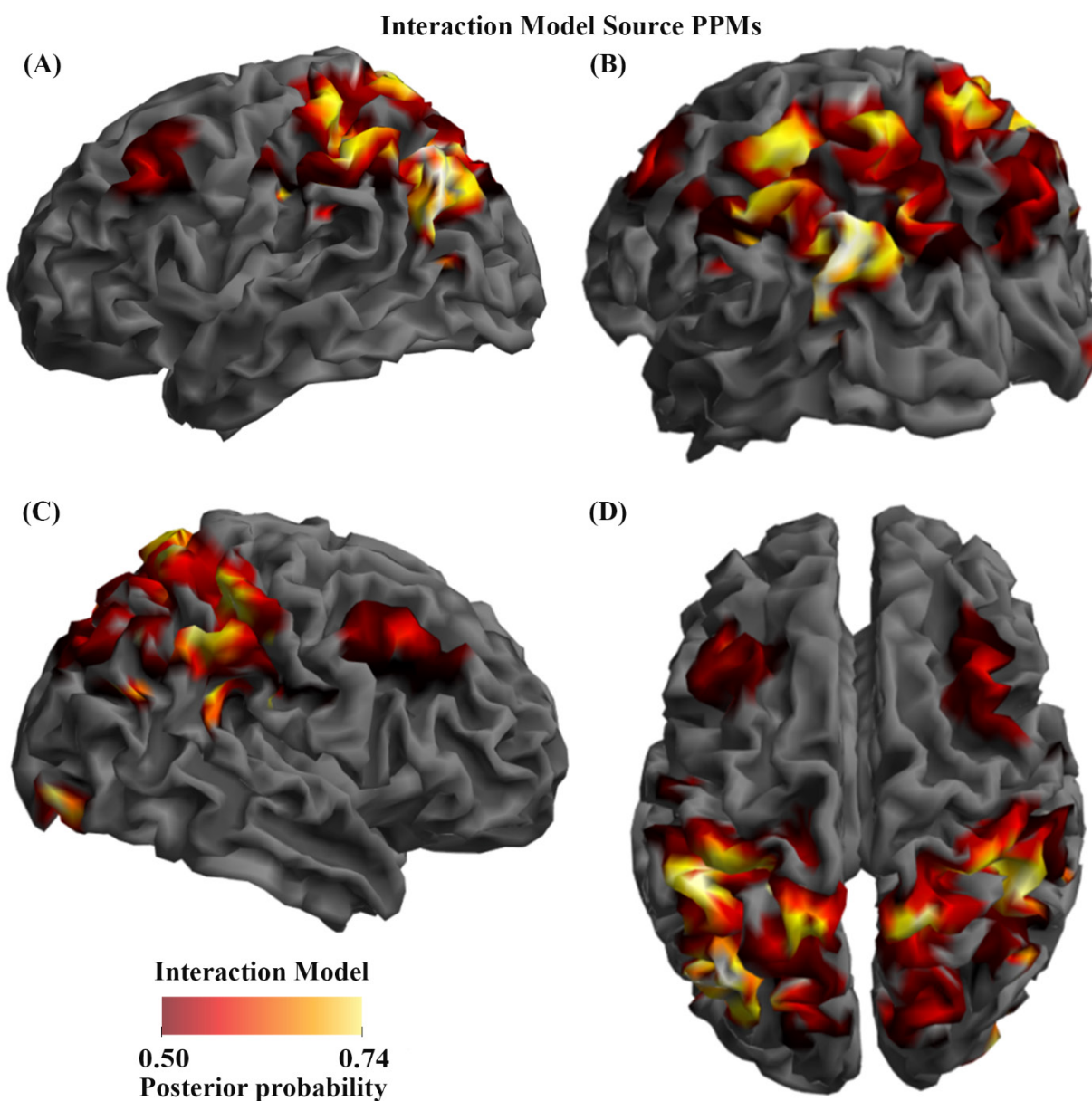
777 [Panels from left to right and then top to bottom: A, B, C and D]

778 **Figure 3:** Source Posterior Probability Map for the Opposition Model (that is, reconstructed images
779 representing the model inference at the group level for this model), thresholded at >50% posterior
780 probability. (A): view from the left side. (B): view from the left side, from the posterior (back) end.
781 (C): view from the right side. (D): view from above.

782

BMS Maps for group studies with M/EEG data

783 **Figure 4**



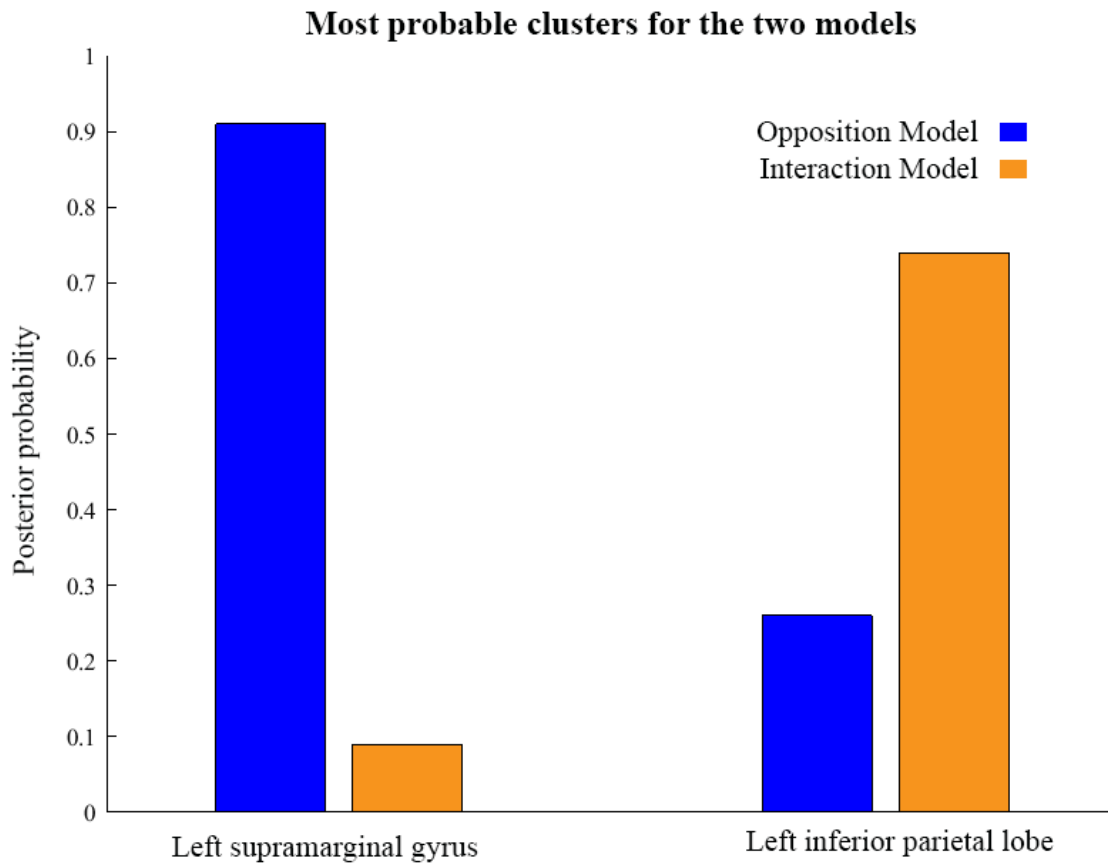
784

785 [Panels from left to right and then top to bottom: A, B, C and D]

786 **Figure 4:** Source Posterior Probability Map for the Interaction Model (that is, reconstructed images
787 representing the model inference at the group level for this model), thresholded at >50% posterior
788 probability. (A): view from the left side. (B): view from the left side, from the posterior (back) end.
789 (C): view from the right side. (D): view from above.

790

791 **Figure 5**



792

793 **Figure 5:** Comparison of the posterior probabilities for the two models at the location of the highest-
794 probability cluster of the Opposition Model (left) and the location of the highest-probability cluster of
795 the Interaction Model (right). The left supramarginal gyrus cluster, which was the highest probability
796 cluster for the Opposition Model (left), was located at Montreal Neurological Institute (MNI)
797 coordinates (62, -42, 30), while the left inferior parietal lobe cluster, which was the highest probability
798 cluster for the Interaction Model, was located at MNI coordinates (-54, -32, 46).

BMS Maps for group studies with M/EEG data

799 13 Table

Table 1: Step-by-step summary of method	
Task:	Suggested steps:
Saving the correct spm_spm_vb.m files	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Find and open the spm12 folder on your computer. 2. Find the spm_spm_vb.m script in that folder, and rename this to spm_spm_vb_fmRI.m. Then add the spm_spm_vb_ST.m and spm_spm_vb_source.m scripts (saved in the associated Github repository) to your spm12 folder. 3. Before undertaking either the spatiotemporal BMS or source BMS steps, rename the currently-relevant script from the above step to spm_spm_vb.m. Once you have finished the BMS steps, rename the script back to its original name, to re-identify it as being for either the spatiotemporal ('spm_spm_vb_ST.m') or source BMS ('spm_spm_vb_source.m'). In this way, you will keep track of which spm_spm_vb.m script to use for whichever BMS steps you are about to do.
Creating spatiotemporal ("scalp") PPMs:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. BMS script 1: Change the file paths to reflect the location of ERP data. 2. Run BMS script 1: BMS1_ST_ImCreate.m. 3. Ensure the correct spm_spm_vb.m file is saved in SPM12 folder. 4. Run BMS script 2: BMS2_ModelSpec_VB.m. 5. Run BMS script 3: BMS3_PPMs.m. Threshold is set to 0.75 and adjustable.
Creating source PPMs:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. BMS script 1: Change the file paths to reflect location of source reconstructed images. 2. Run BMS script 1: BMS1_Source_ImCreate.m. 3. Ensure the correct spm_spm_vb.m file is saved in SPM12 folder. 4. Run BMS script 2: BMS2_ModelSpec_VB.m. 5. Replace NaNs with zeros in the LogEv.nii files: BMS2b_Source_NaNtoZeros.m. 6. Run BMS script 3: BMS3_PPMs.m. Adjust probability threshold as desired.

Prediction



Attention



\otimes

$=$

Response



**Opposition
Model**

*Attention &
Prediction
Oppose*

— Attended
- - - Unattended
— Predicted
— Unpredicted



\otimes

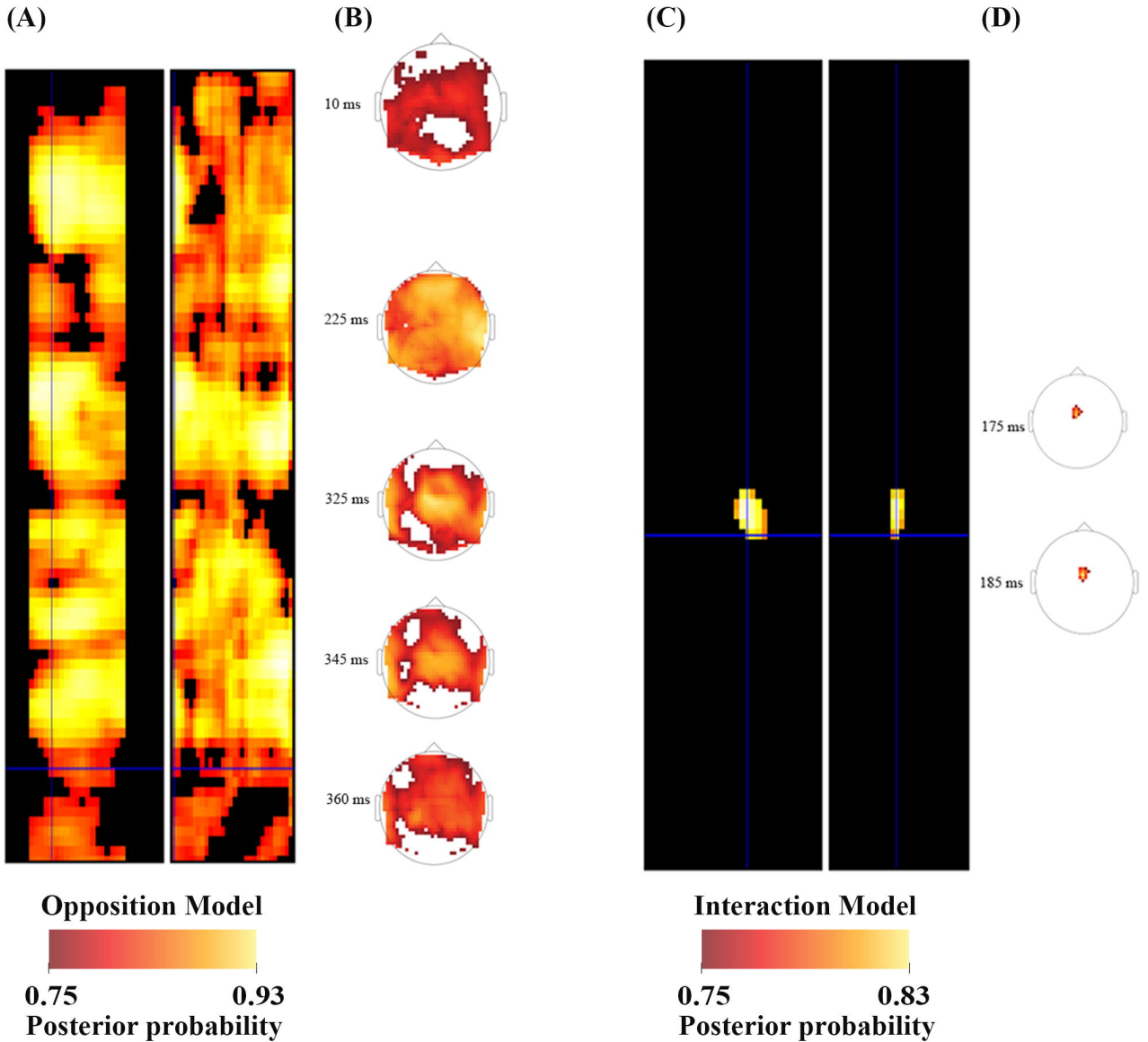
$=$



**Interaction
Model**

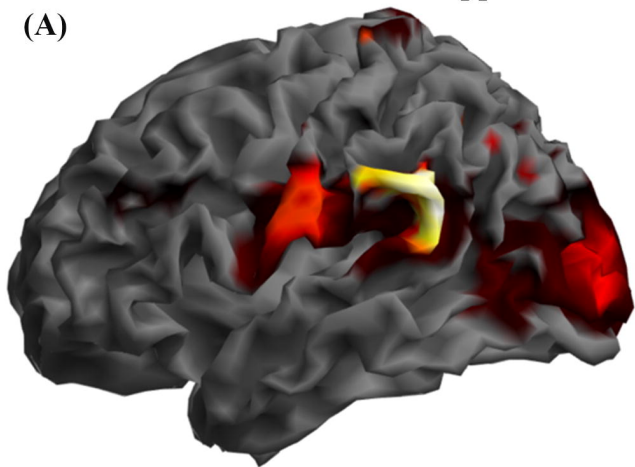
*Attention &
Prediction
Interact*

Spatiotemporal Posterior Probability Maps

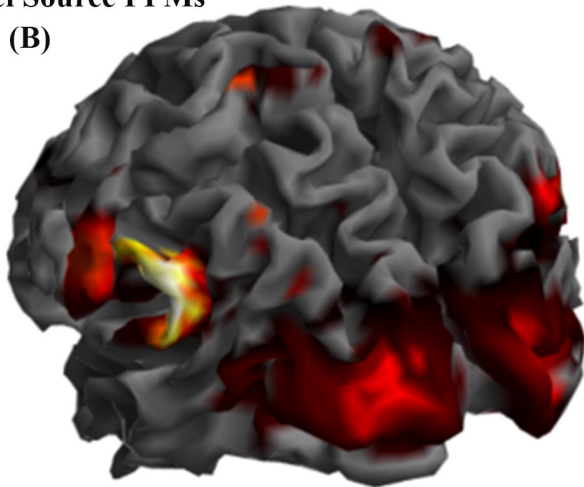


Opposition Model Source PPMs

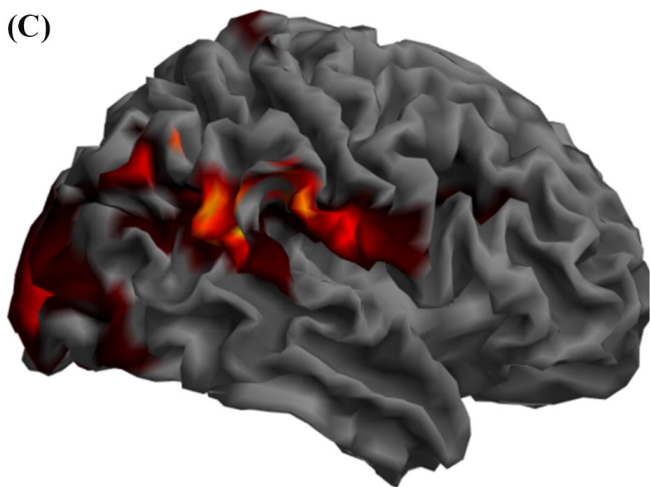
(A)



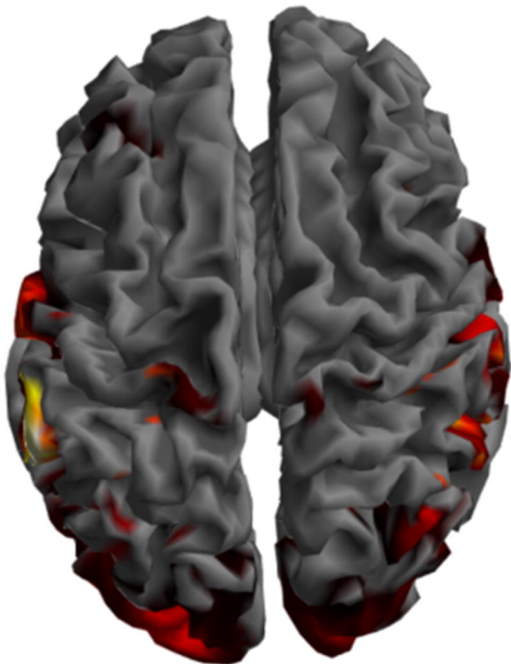
(B)



(C)



(D)



Opposition Model



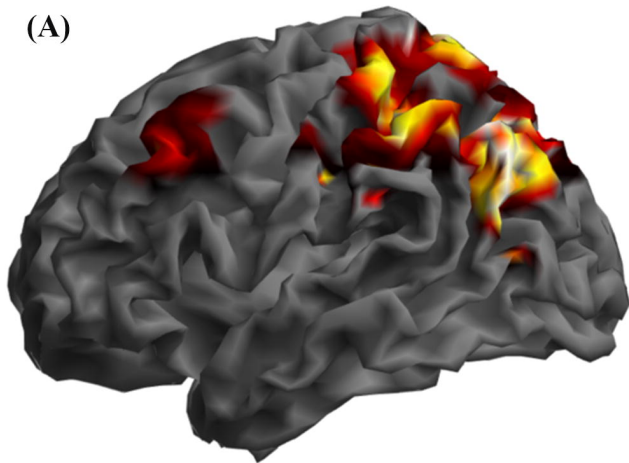
0.50

0.91

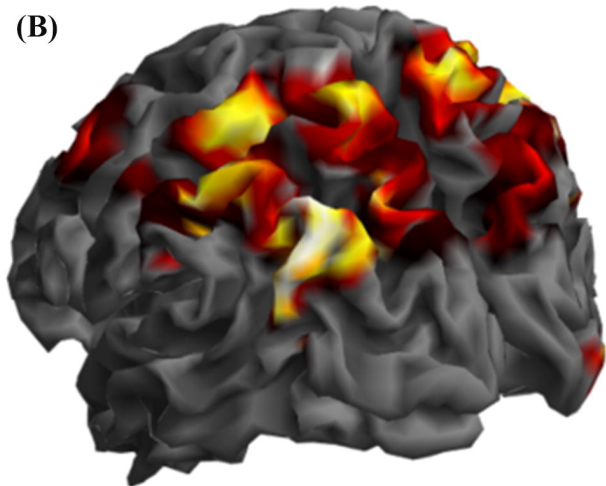
Posterior probability

Interaction Model Source PPMs

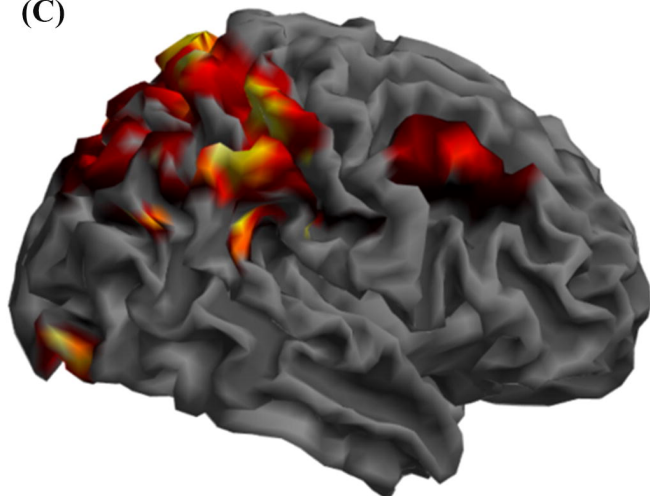
(A)



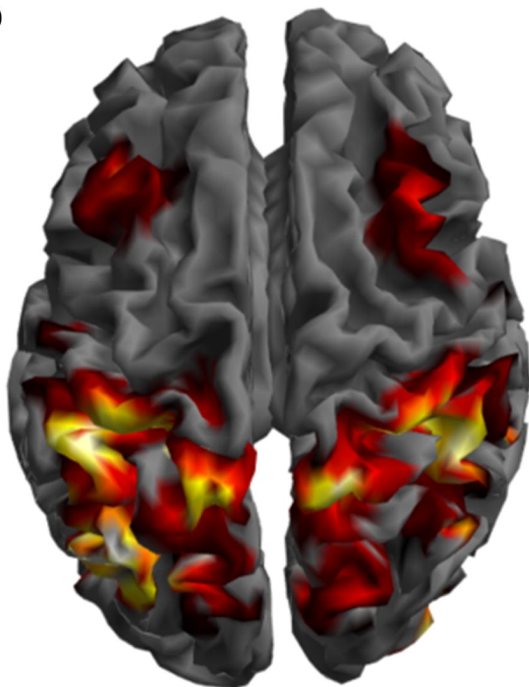
(B)



(C)



(D)



Interaction Model



0.50

0.74

Posterior probability

Most probable clusters for the two models

