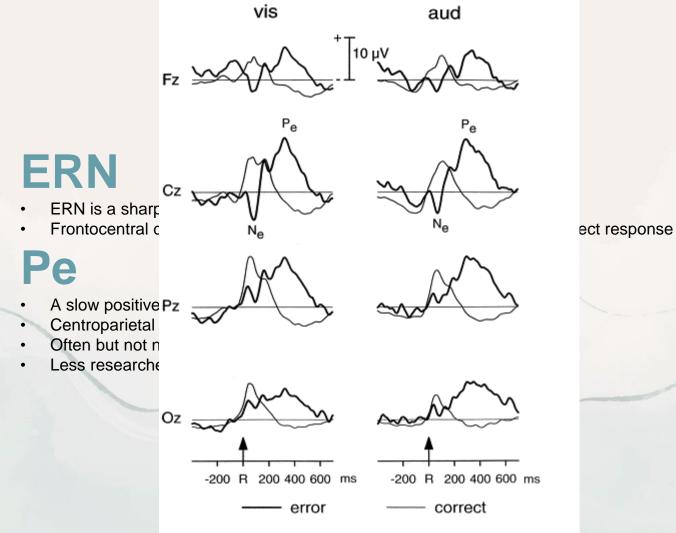
# EEG applications to the measurement of memory error reactivity

Giselle Mirfallah
Department of Psychology, University of British
Columbia
PSYC 488: Directed Studies

Dr. Noah Silverberg

## Two psychophysiological processes are thought to be associated with error processing:

- 1) Error negativity (Ne or ERN)
  - 2) Error positivity (Pe)



(Nieuwenhuis et al.,2001)

#### **ERN vs Pe**

Most authors agree that ERN and Pe are representing different aspects of error processing

- ❖ The early onset latency of Ne with respect to stimulus → internal errormonitoring system
- ❖ In contrast, the timing of Pe with respect to the stimulus → external errormonitoring system

Based on the timing -> make sense that they would be differently related to

subjective awareness

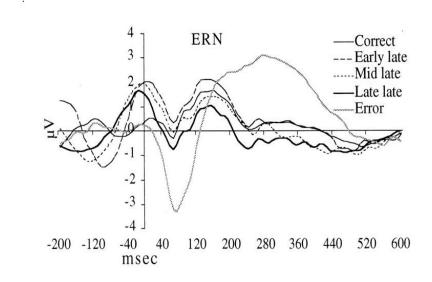
"The early error-related ERP component, the Ne, reflects a (perhaps unconscious) mismatch between response selection and execution whereas the slowwave (Pe) reflects the conscious evaluation of the error" (Falkenstein et al,1991)

Thus Ne is a manifestation of an error detection system that checks actual behaviour against an internal goal standard

The output of this error detection system is reflected by both the cognitive and emotional significance of a deviation from anticipated result (more on this later!)

#### **Evidence**

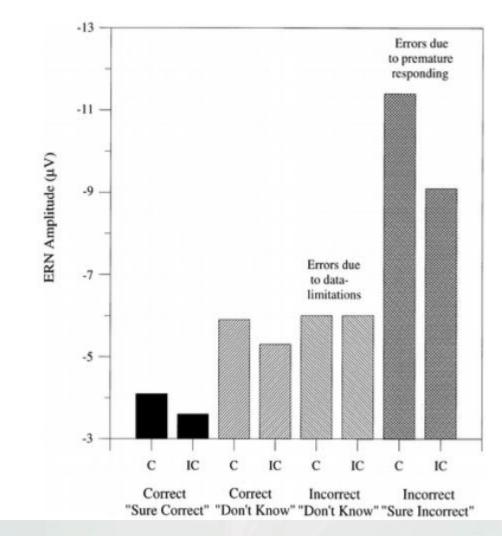
1) Positive relation between Ne amplitude and the degree of error (Luu et al., 2000)



The error-related negativity, shown at a channel ~3 cm rostral to Cz, can be observed in all types of responses, but its amplitude is largest for error responses. The time of response is marked by the *verticalline*.



- Thus, respor
- Emphase neces



al processing →
of the actual data

awareness of

formation

(Nieuwenhuis et al.,2001)

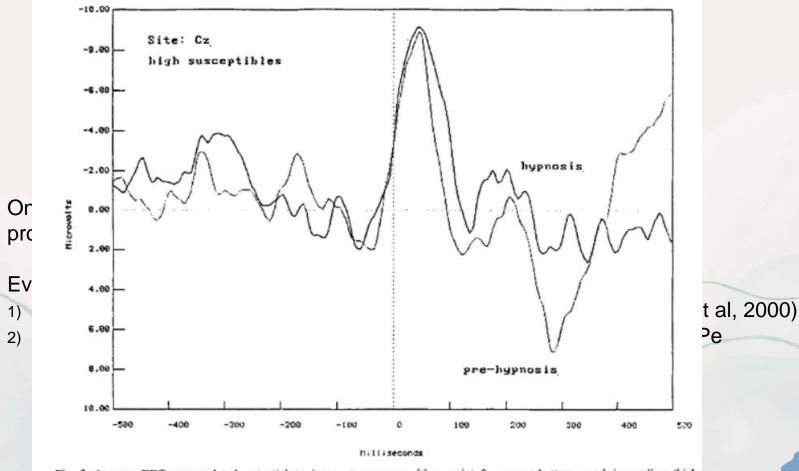
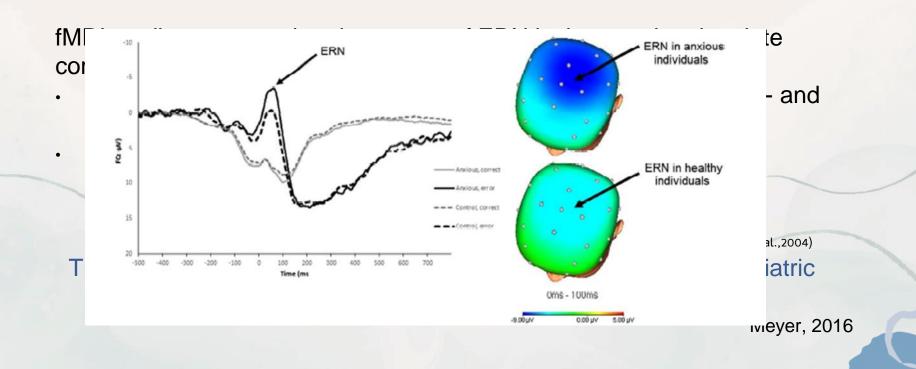


Fig. 3. Average EEG event-related potential to incorrect responses (time point 0 - mouse button press) in medium/high susceptibles during pre-hypnotic baseline and hypnosis.

(Nieuwenhuis et al.,2001)



#### ERN as a psychiatric biomarker



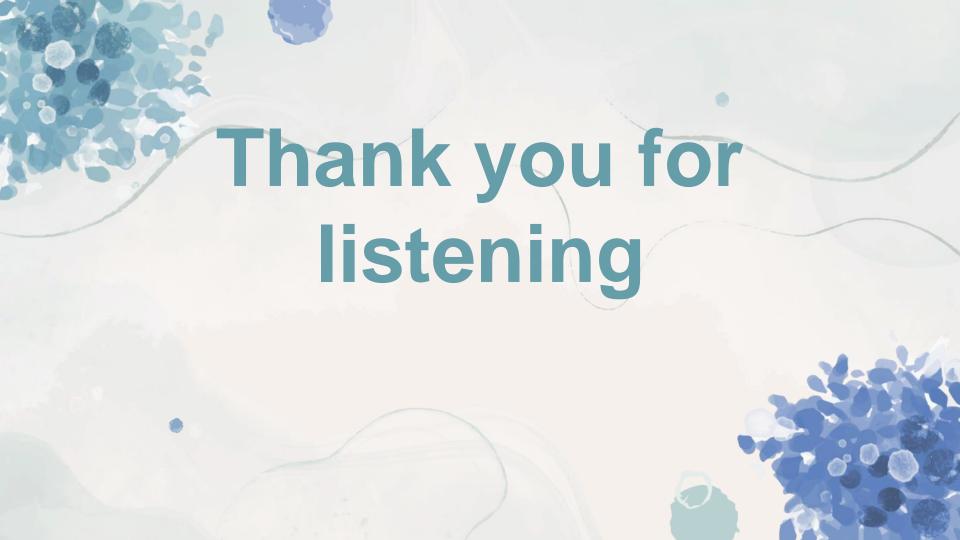


#### **Functional Cognitive Disorder after Concussion**

We hypothesize that participants with heightened concern over their memory ability will show heightened ERN in response to errors in their memory recollection.

 Multiple studies have demonstrated that such impairments are not detectable three months post-concussion

Higher amplitude of ERN but no noticeable difference in Pe



### References

Hajcak, G., McDonald, N., & Simons, R. F. (2004). Error-related psychophysiology and negative affect. Brain and cognition, 56(2), 189-197.

Luu, P., Flaisch, T., & Tucker, D. M. (2000). Medial frontal cortex in action monitoring. *Journal of neuroscience*, 20(1), 464-469.

Luck, S. J. (2014). An introduction to the event-related potential technique. MIT press.

Meyer, A. (2016). Developing psychiatric lated potentials in studies of perception and attention. Attention, Perception, & Psychophysics, 72(8), 2031-2046.

Nieuwenhuis, S., Ridderinkhof, K. R., Blom, J., Band, G. P., & Kok, A. (2001). Error-related brain potentials are differentially related to awareness of response errors: evidence from an antisaccade task. Psychophysiology, 38(5), 752-760.

Olejniczak, P. (2006). Neurophysiologic basis of EEG. Journal of clinical neurophysiology, 23(3), 186-189.

Scheffers, M. K., & Coles, M. G. (2000). Performance monitoring in a confusing world: error-related brain activity, judgments of response accuracy, and types of errors. Journal of Experimental Psychology: Human Perception and Performance, 26(1), 141.

Vidal, F., Hasbroucq, T., Grapperon, J., & Bonnet, M. (2000). Is the 'error negativity' specific to errors?. Biological psychology, 51(2-3), 109-128.

Woodman, G. F. (2010). A brief introduction to the use of event-reFalkenstein, M., Hohnsbein, J., Hoormann, J., & Blanke, L. (1991). Effects of crossmodal divided attention on late ERP components. II. Error processing in choice reaction tasks. Electroencephalography and clinical neurophysiology, 78(6), 447-455.