

# Analysis of EDA data using Ledalab

Mathias Benedek

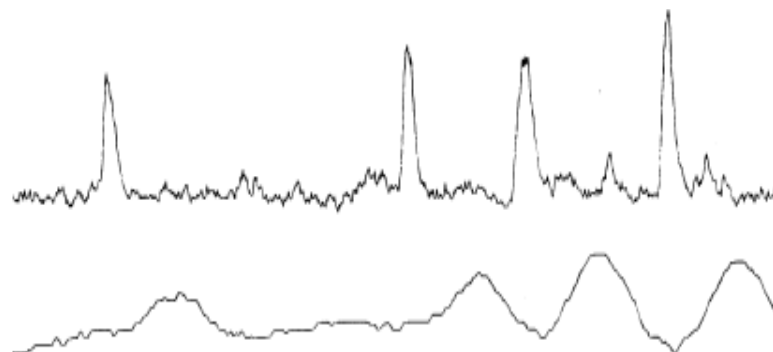
University of Graz, Austria



# Physiology of electrodermal activity (EDA)

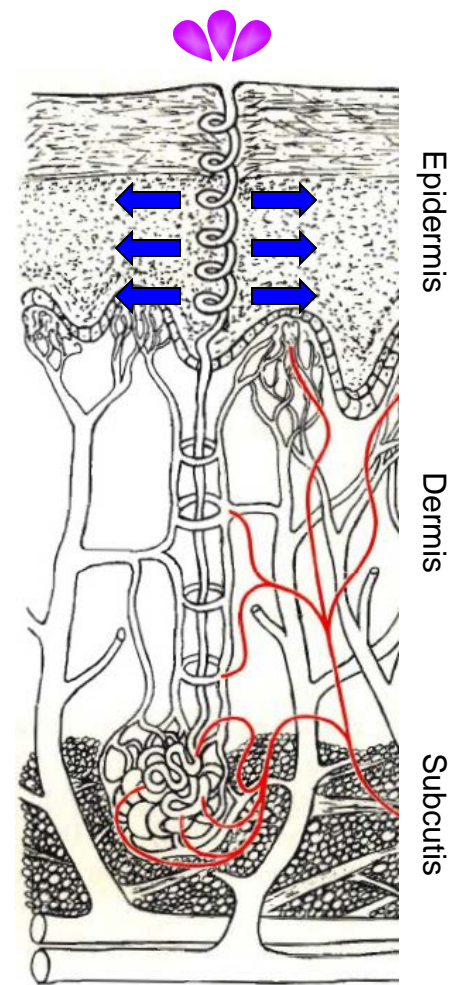
- Sweat glands controlled by sympathetic nervous system
- One axon innervates about 1.28 cm<sup>2</sup> of skin (Schmelz et al., 1998)
- Each gland innervated by multiple axons (Kennedy et al., 1984; Riedl et al., 1998)
- Sweat secretion causes change in SC
- Onset of SCR > 1s after stim (efference + neuroeffector time)  
(Kunimoto et al., 1991; Lim et al., 2003)
- Spike density → nr of activated glands → SCR amplitude  
(Freedman et al., 1994; Nishiyama et al., 2001; Bini et al., 1980; Lidberg and Wallin, 1981)

Sudomotor nerve activity (SNA)

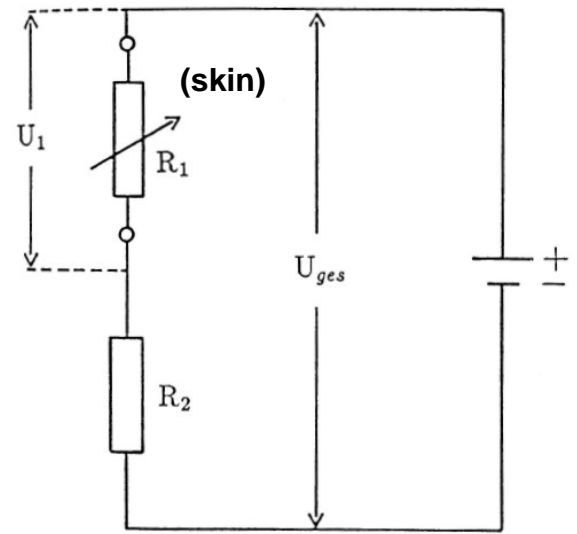


Skin conductance (SC)

(Macefield & Wallin, 1996)

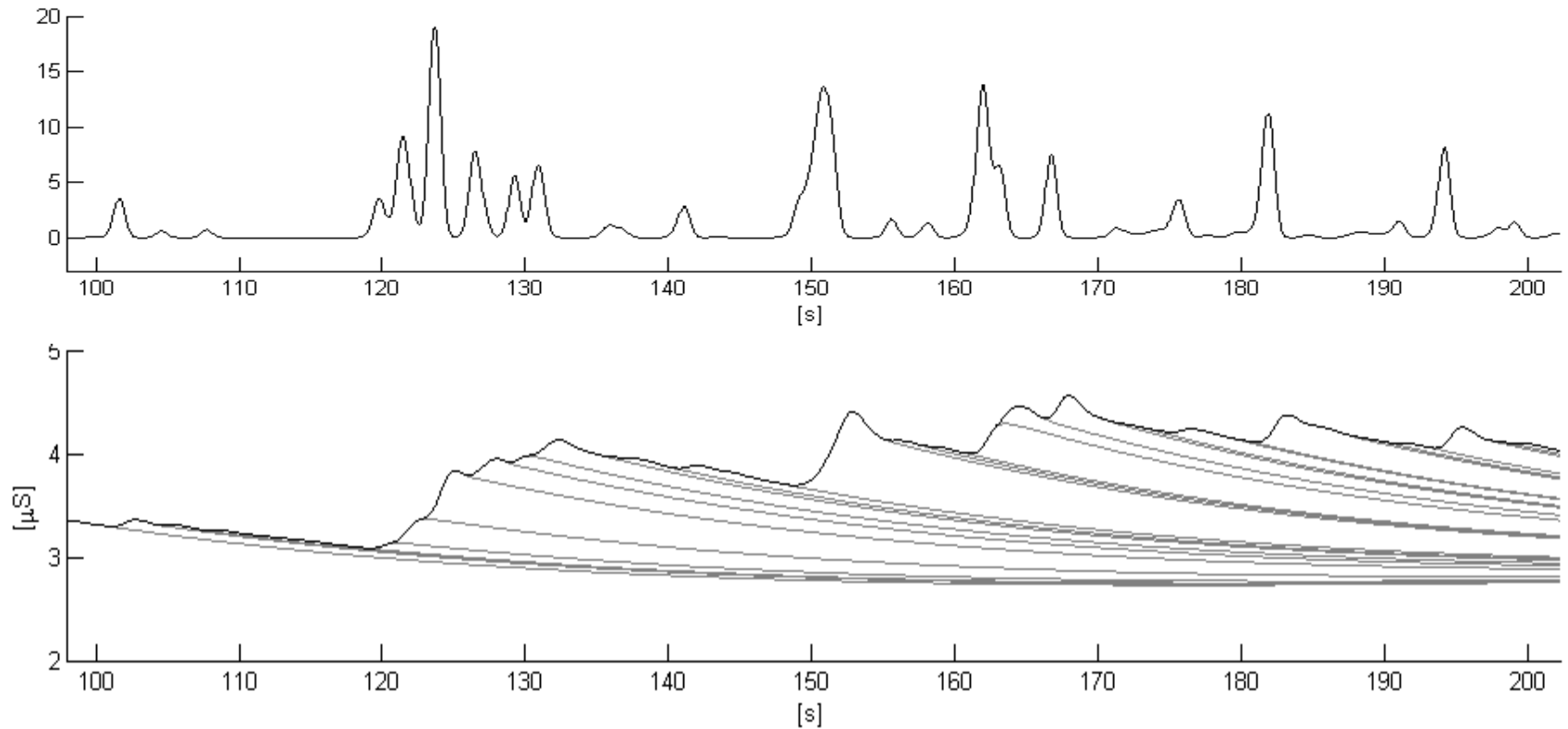


# Recording of EDA



constant current method

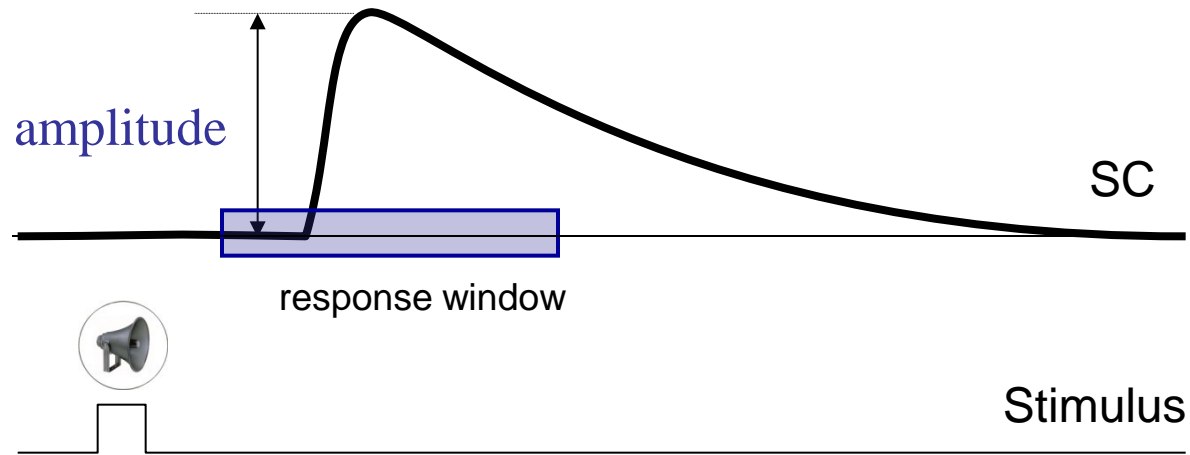
# The nature of skin conductance data



# Quantification of SCR amplitude

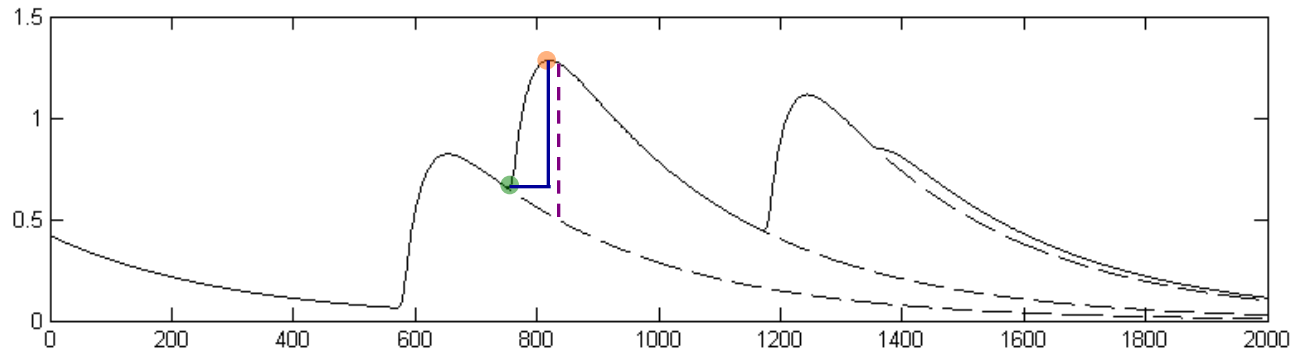
Standard methods and issues

# Quantification of SCR amplitude



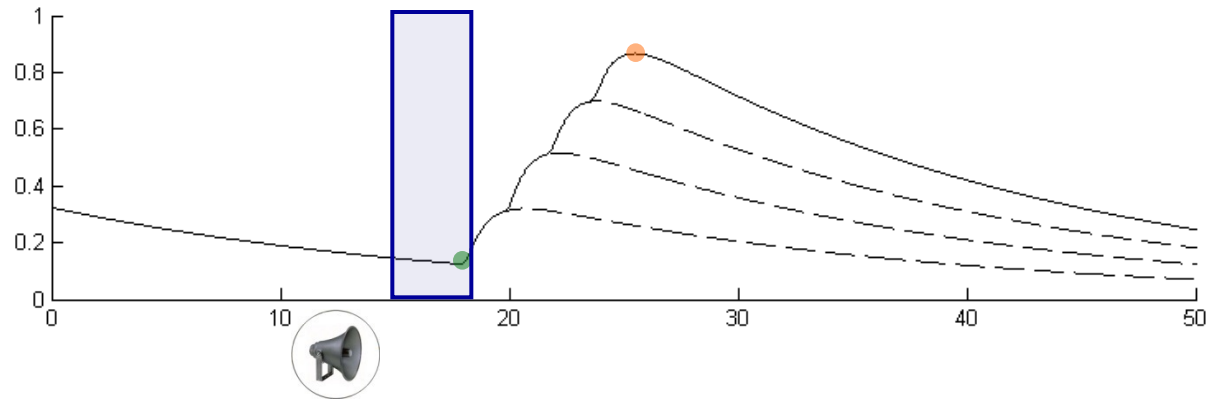
Standard min-max or through-to-peak method  
(from local minimum to local maximum)

# Quantification of SCR amplitude: common errors



- General underestimation of amplitude

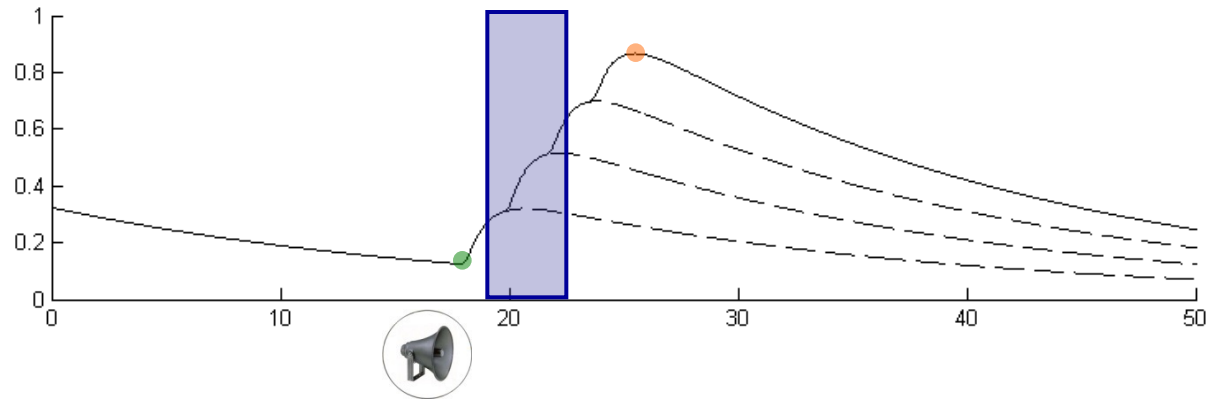
# Quantification of SCR amplitude: common errors



- General underestimation of amplitude
- Misattribution with respect to response window  
→ overestimation

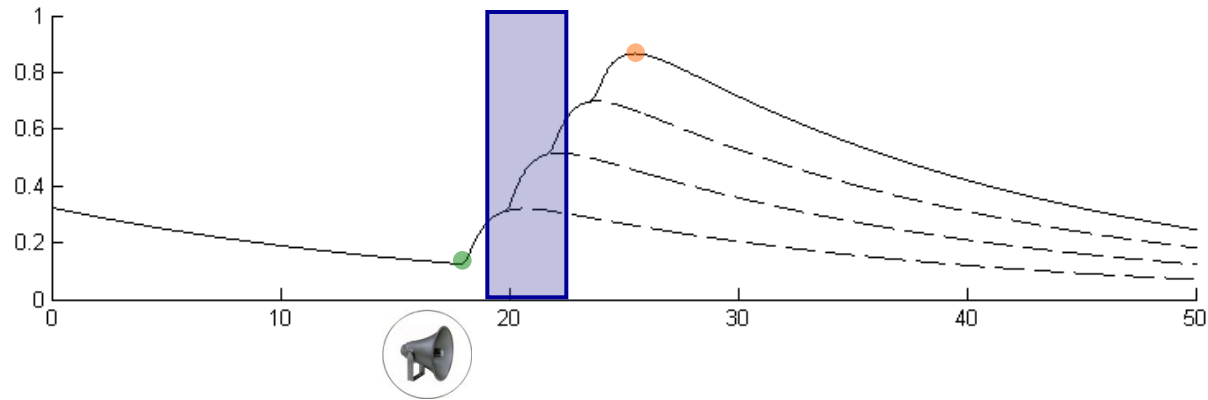


# Quantification of SCR amplitude: common errors



- General underestimation of amplitude
- Misattribution with respect to response window  
→ overestimation / underestimation

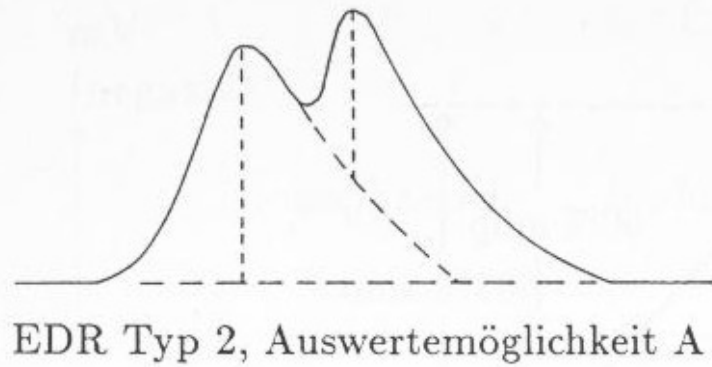
# Quantification of SCR amplitude: common errors



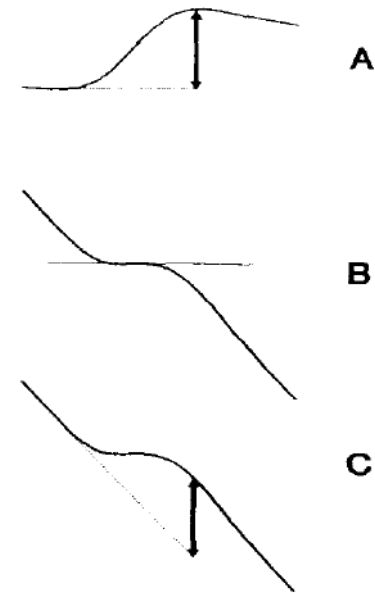
- General underestimation of amplitude
- Misattribution with respect to response window  
→ overestimation / underestimation
- Desideratum: Get true onset and amplitude of single responses

# Decomposition Approaches

# Decomposition Approaches – Linear Interpolation



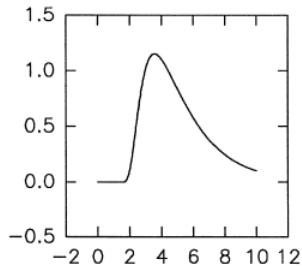
(Hagfors 1964, nach Boucsein, 1992)



(Barry, 1992)

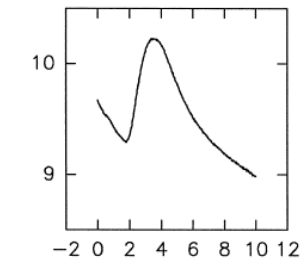
# Decomposition Approaches - Curve Fitting

- 10 sec data segment fitted by 4-8 parameter function (visual inspection!)
- SCR represented by sigmoid-exponential function

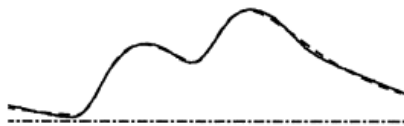
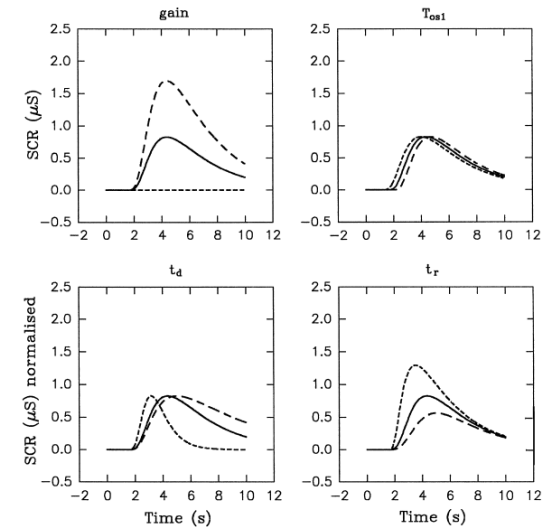


$$f_4 = g \cdot \frac{e^{-\frac{(t-T_{OS})}{t_d}}}{\left(1 + \left(\frac{t_r}{t-T_{OS}}\right)^2\right)^2}$$

$g$  .. gain/amplitude  
 $T_{OS}$  .. onset time  
 $t_r$  .. rise time  
 $t_d$  .. decay time



$$f_6 = a_0 \cdot e^{-\frac{t}{t_d}} + c + f_4(g, T_{OS})$$



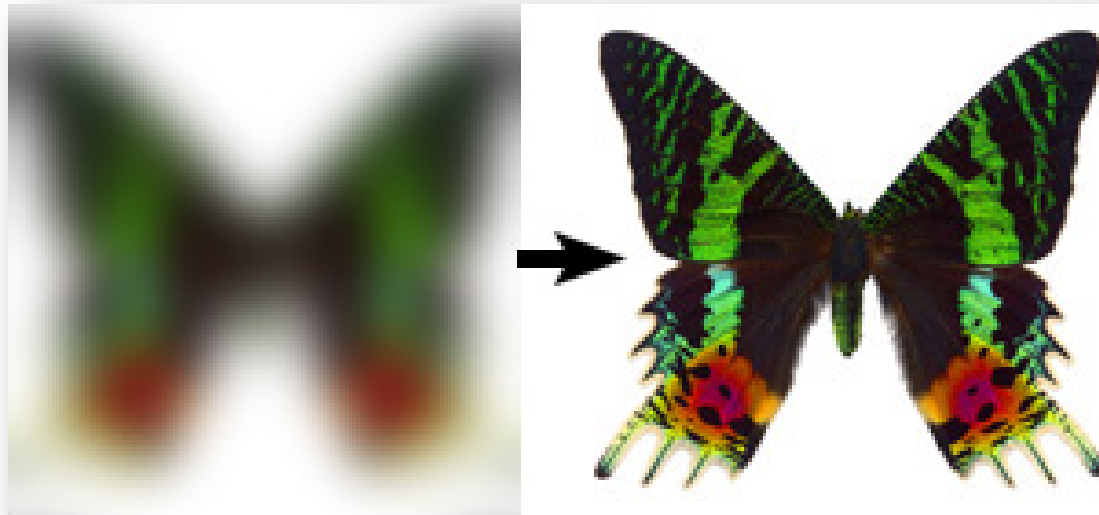
$$f_8 = a_0 \cdot e^{-\frac{t}{t_d}} + c + f_4(g_1, T_{OS1}) + f_4(g_2, T_{OS2})$$

## Results:

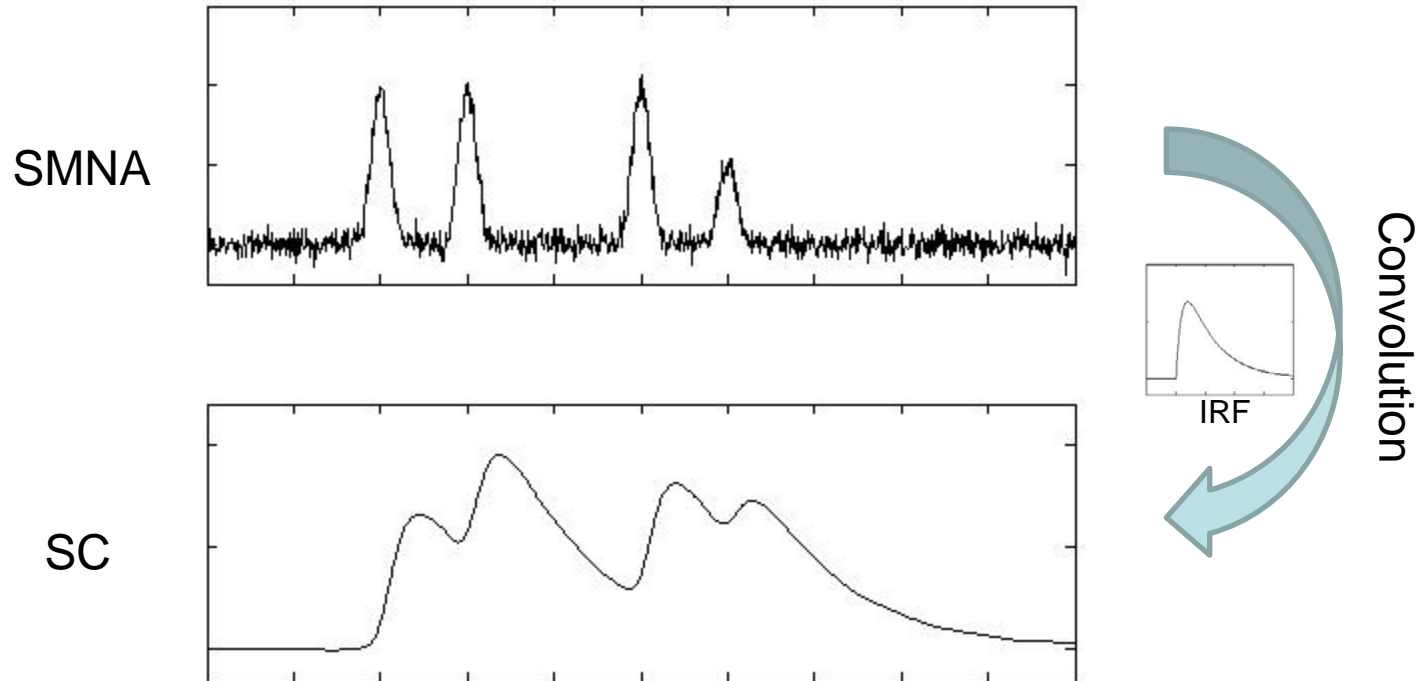
- Amplitude: +15%
- Onset: -140ms

(Lim et al., 1997, Int J Psychoph)

# Decomposition Approaches – Deconvolution analysis



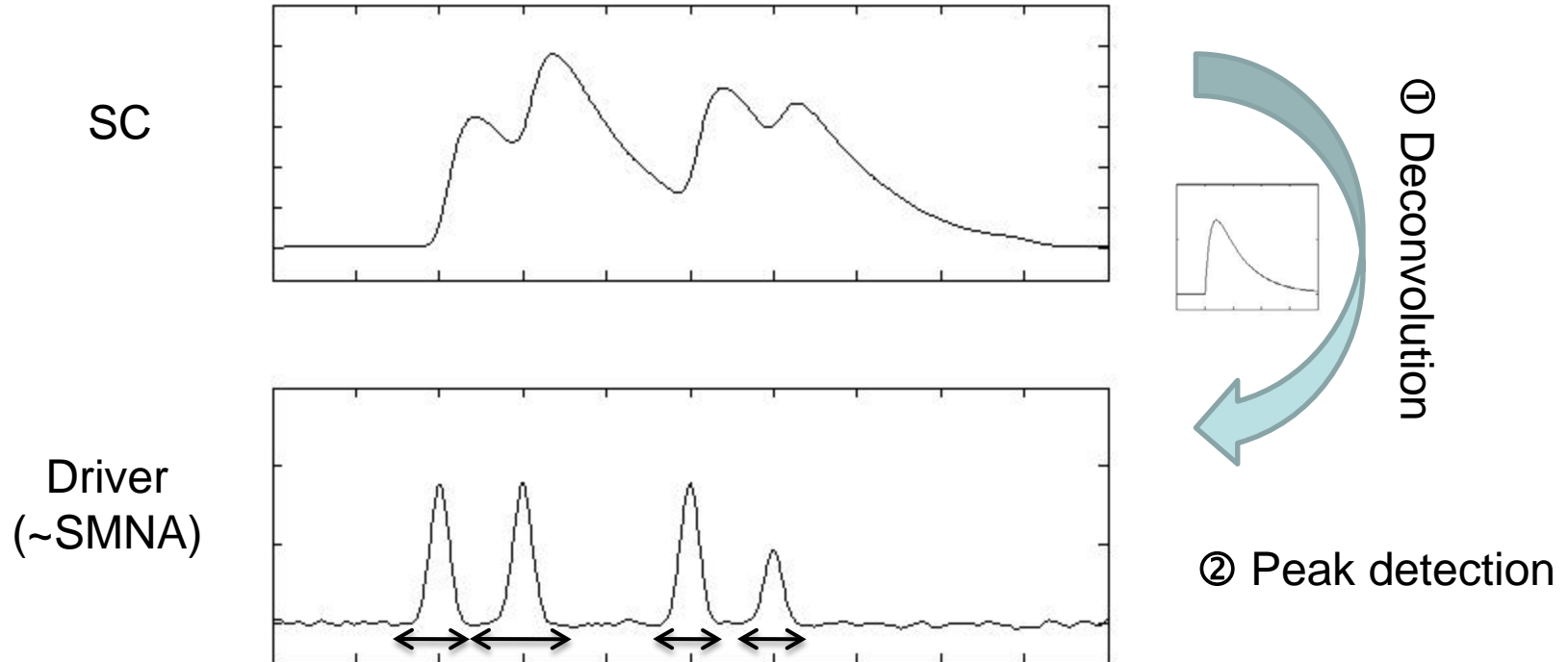
# Basic principles of deconvolution analysis



**Convolution:**  $Signal = Driver * IRF$  (impulse response function)

$$SC = SMNA * IRF$$

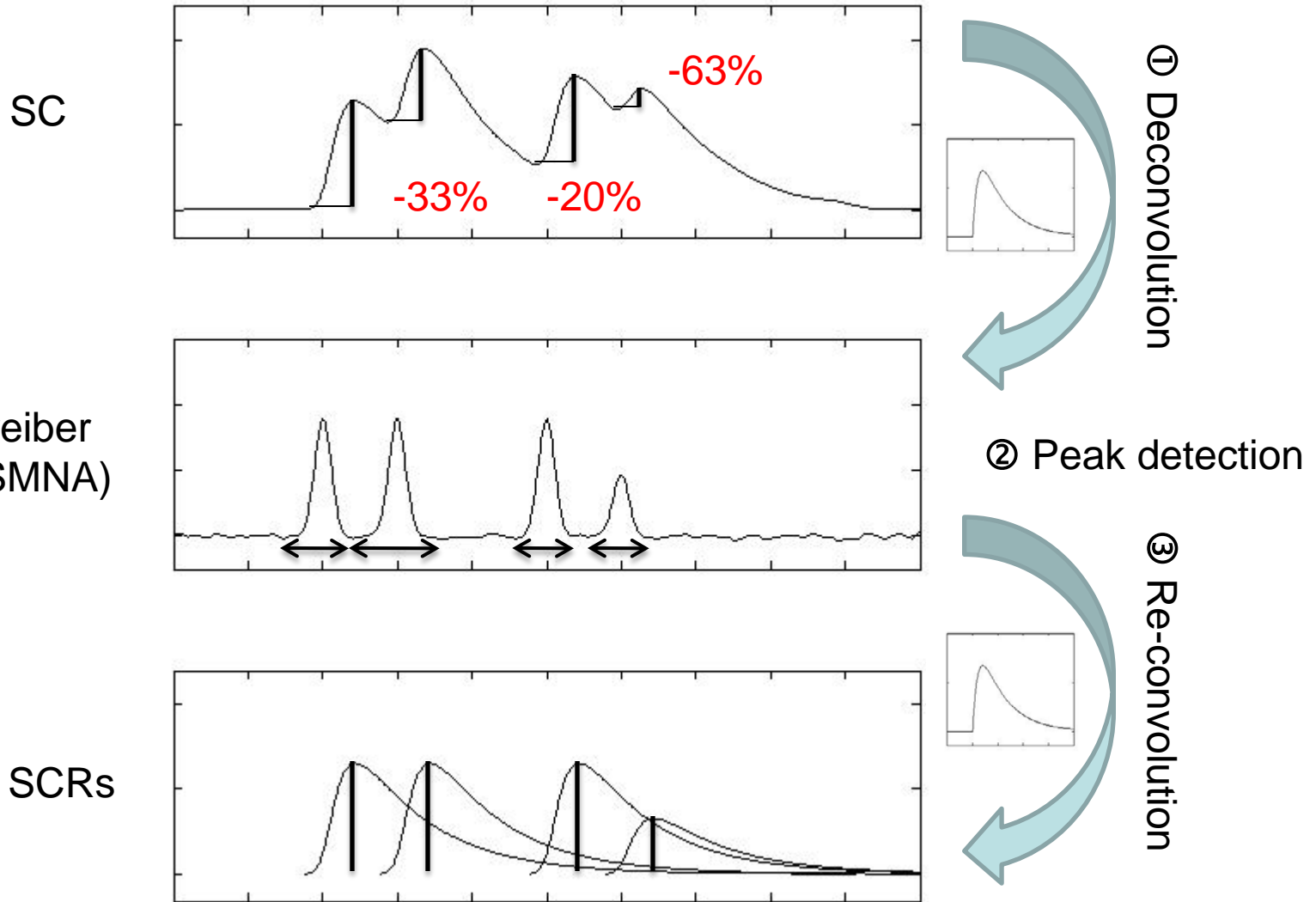
# Discrete Decomposition Analysis



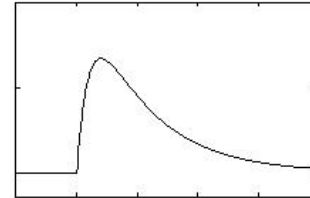
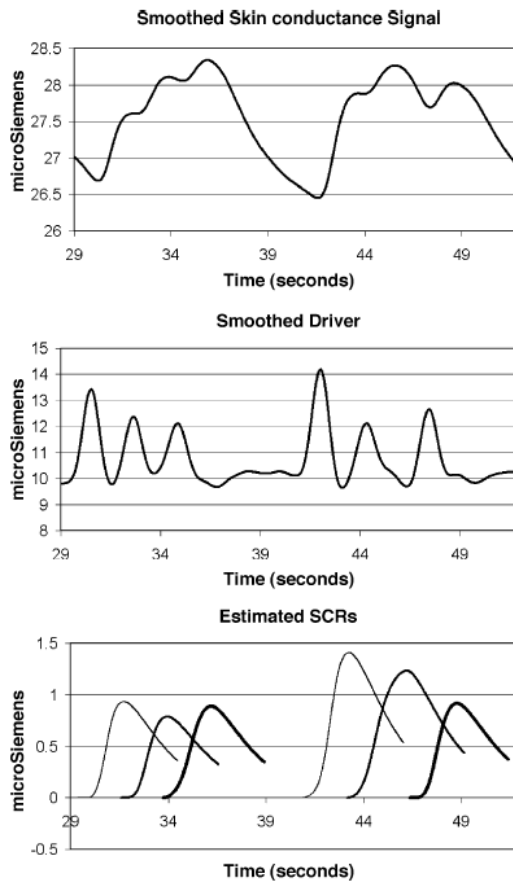
**Deconvolution:**  $SMNA = SC / IRF$



# Discrete Decomposition Analysis



# Decomposition Approaches - Deconvolution



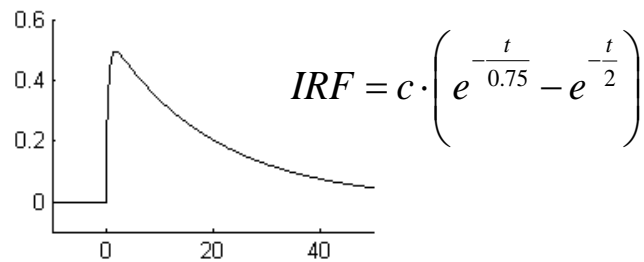
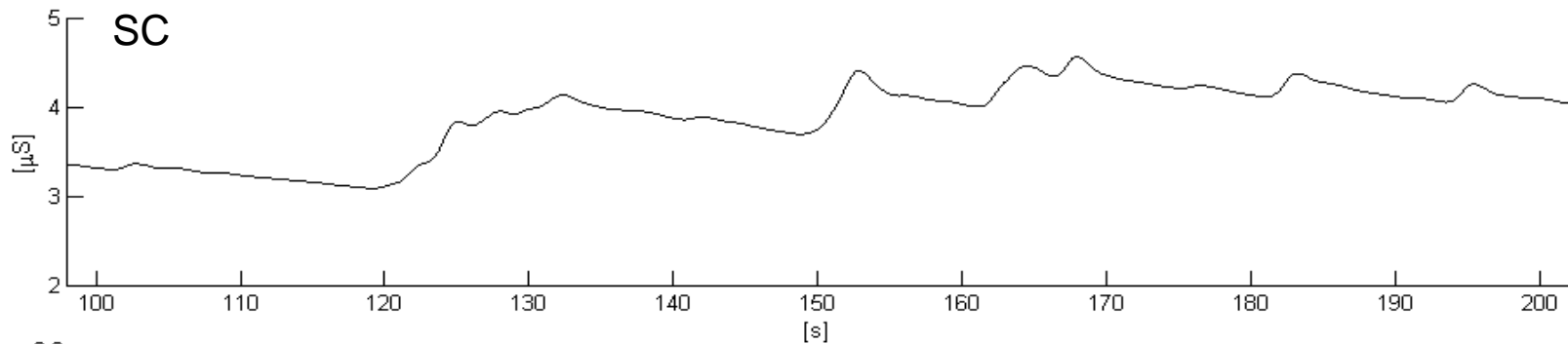
$$IRF = c \cdot \left( e^{-\frac{t}{0.75}} - e^{-\frac{t}{2}} \right)$$

## Results:

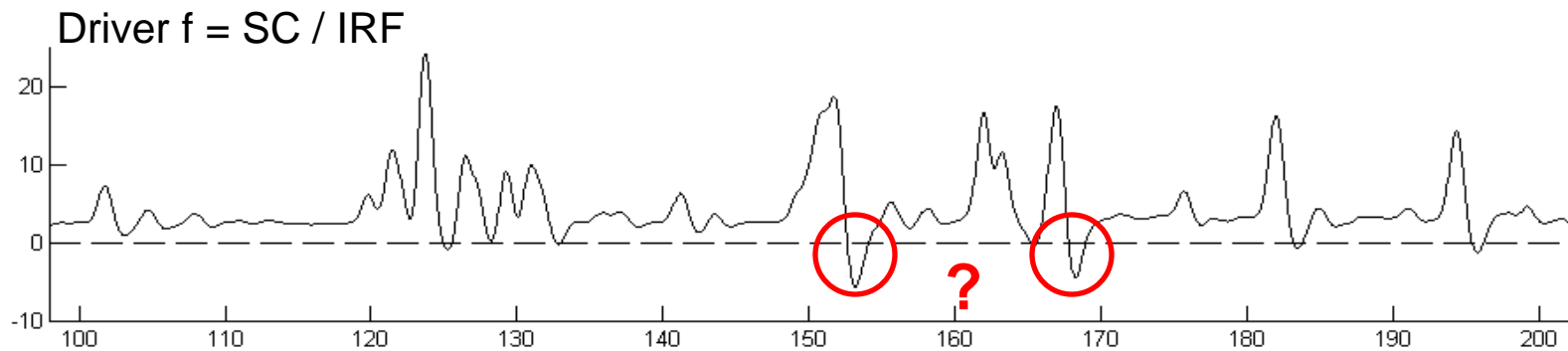
- Automatic analysis
- Simulation: Discrimination of SCRs with time-lag > 1.3s

(Alexander et al., 2005, J Neurosc Meth)

# Deconvolution (after Alexander et al., 2005)

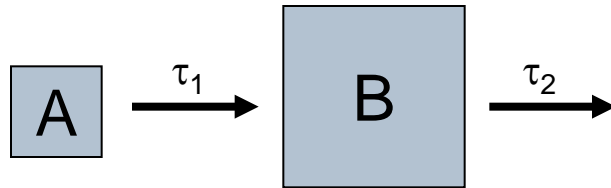


Rationale of SCR shape?



# Rationale of SCR shape

Two-compartment diffusion model

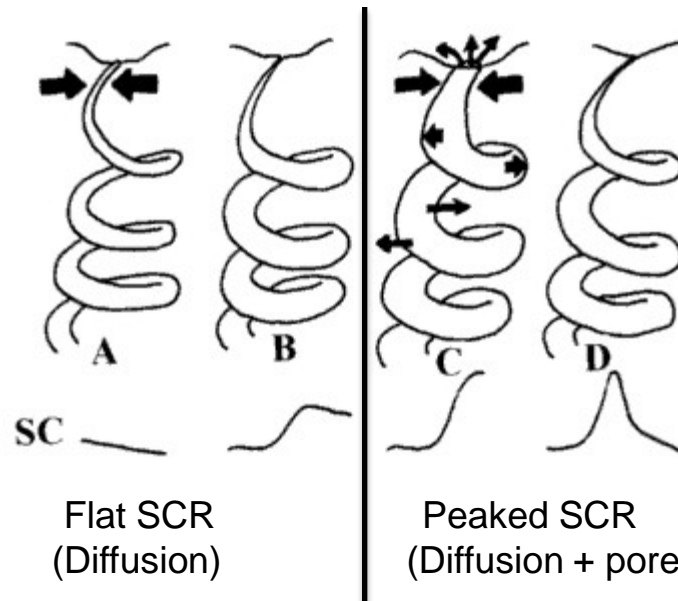
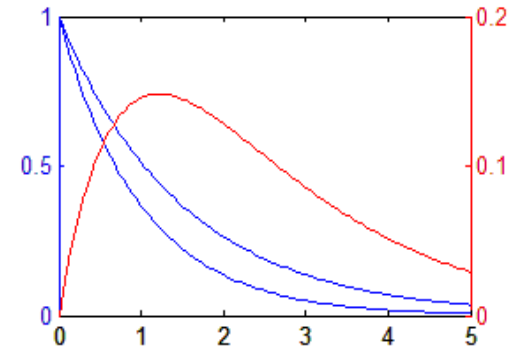


$$\dot{a} = -\frac{a}{\tau_1}$$

$$\dot{b} = -\frac{b}{\tau_2} + \frac{a}{\tau_1}$$

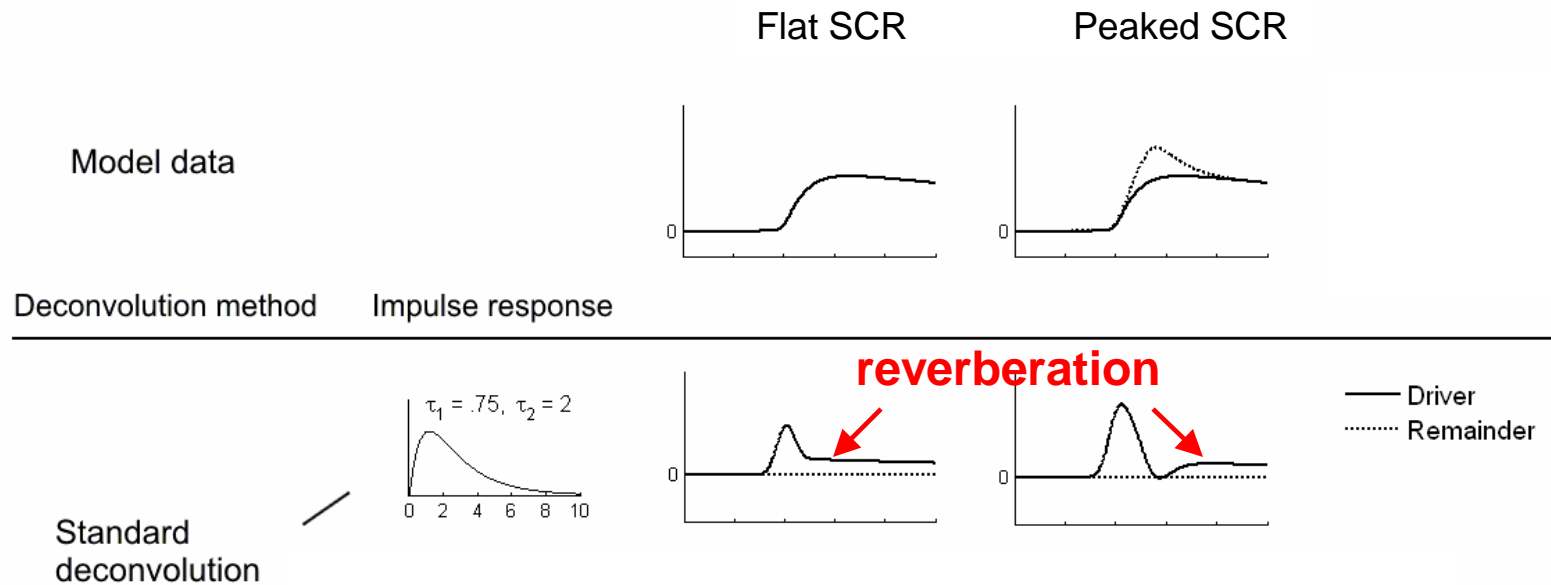
$$b = C \cdot \left( e^{-\frac{t}{\tau_1}} - e^{-\frac{t}{\tau_2}} \right)$$

Bateman function

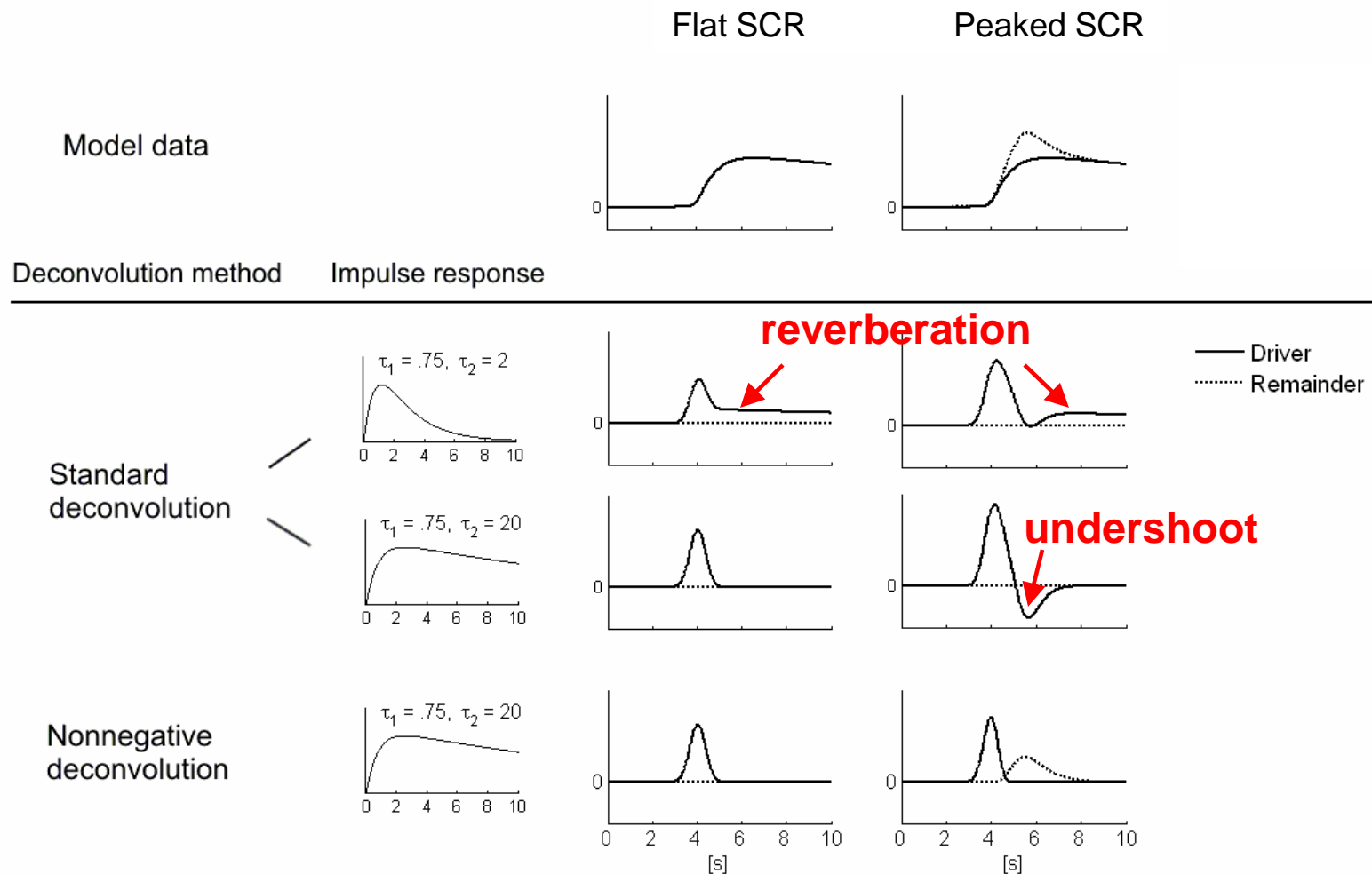


Poral valve model (Edelberg, 1993)

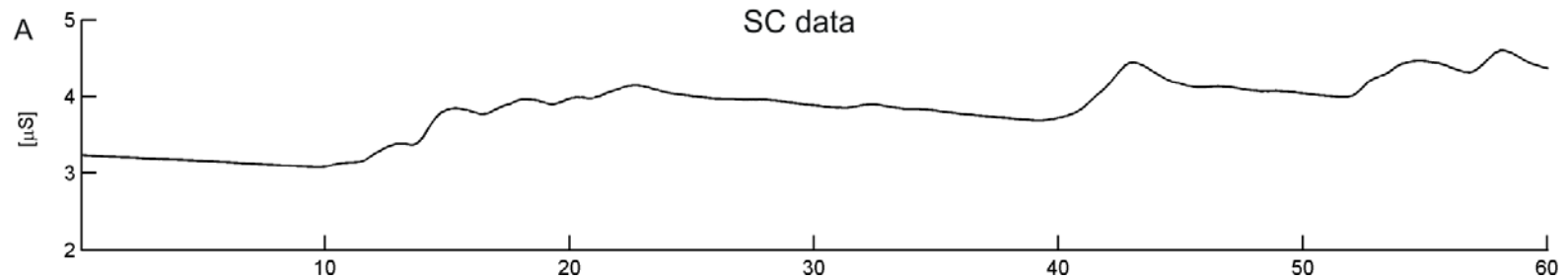
# Deconvolution: Effect of differences in SCR shape



# Rationale of Nonnegative Deconvolution

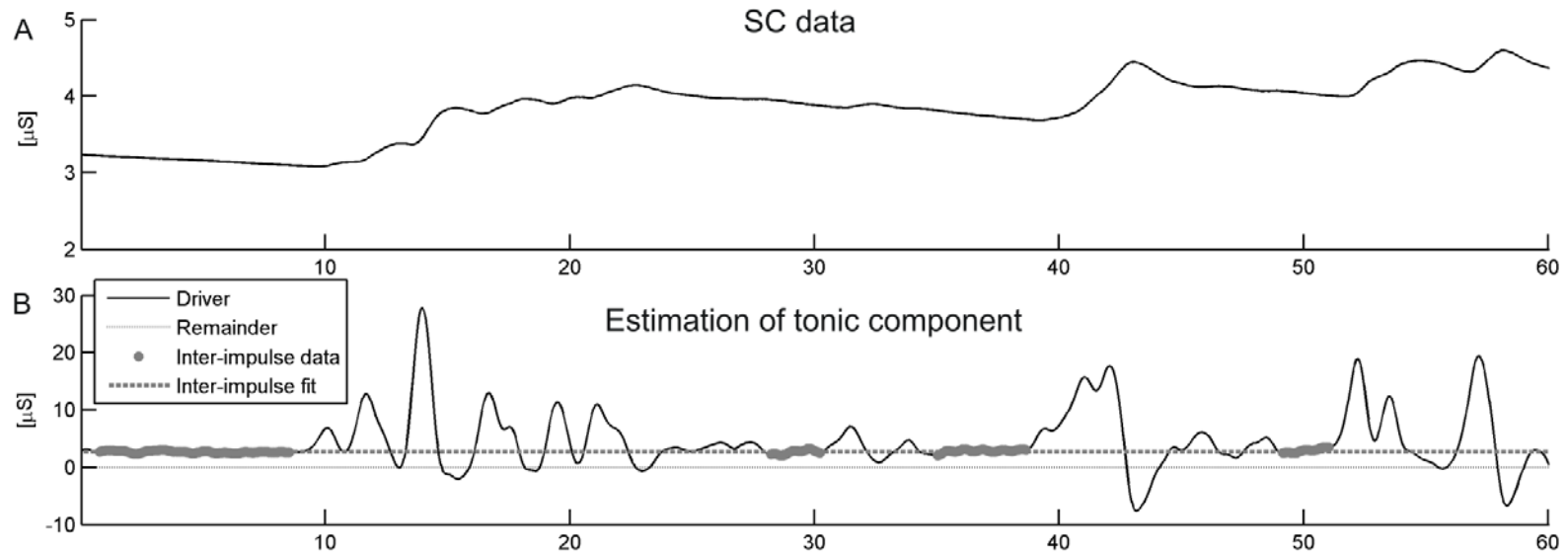


# Discrete Decomposition Analysis (Nonnegative Deconvolution)



(Benedek & Kaernbach, 2010, Psychophysiology)

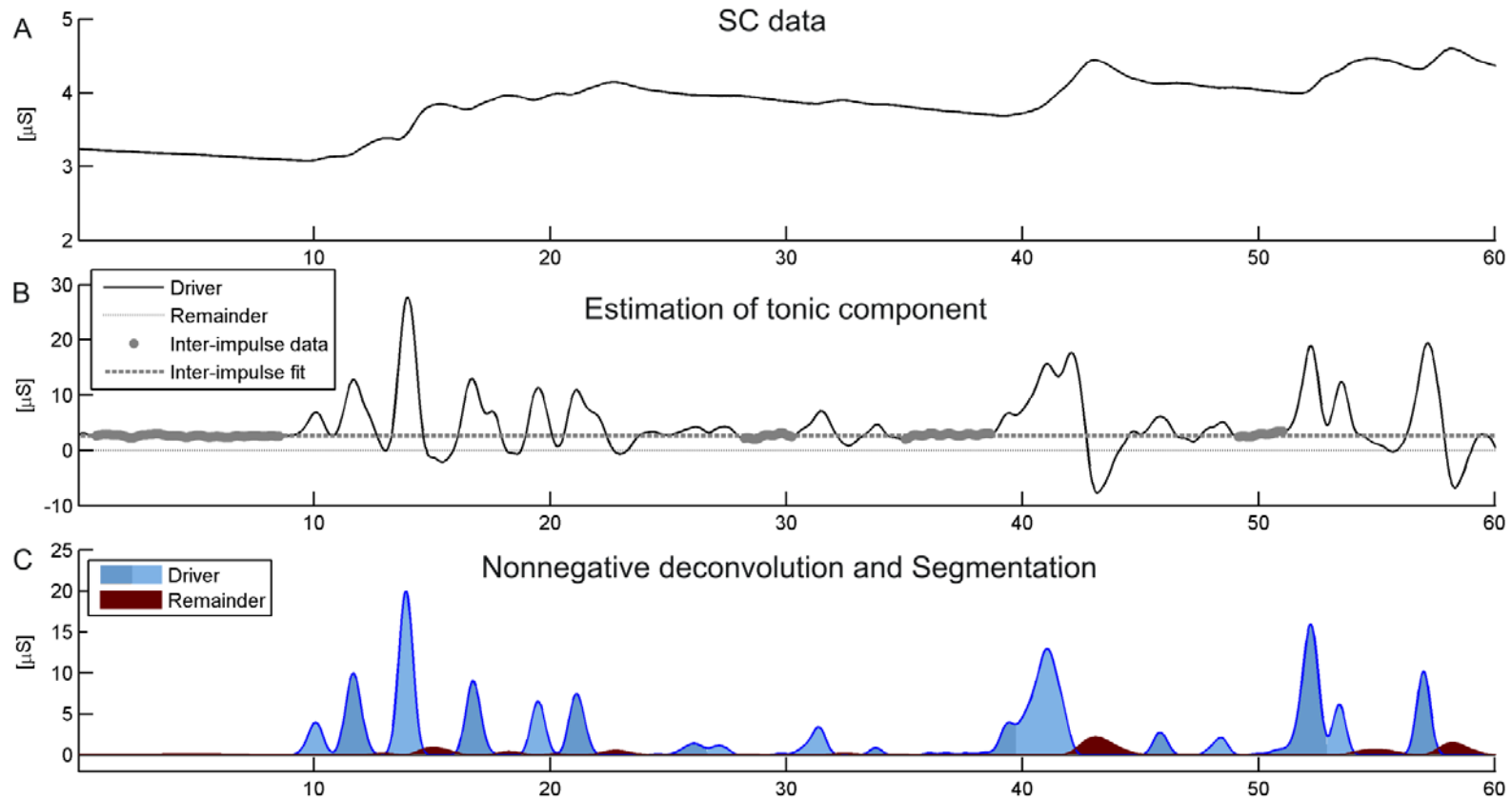
# Discrete Decomposition Analysis (Nonnegative Deconvolution)



(Benedek & Kaernbach, 2010, Psychophysiology)

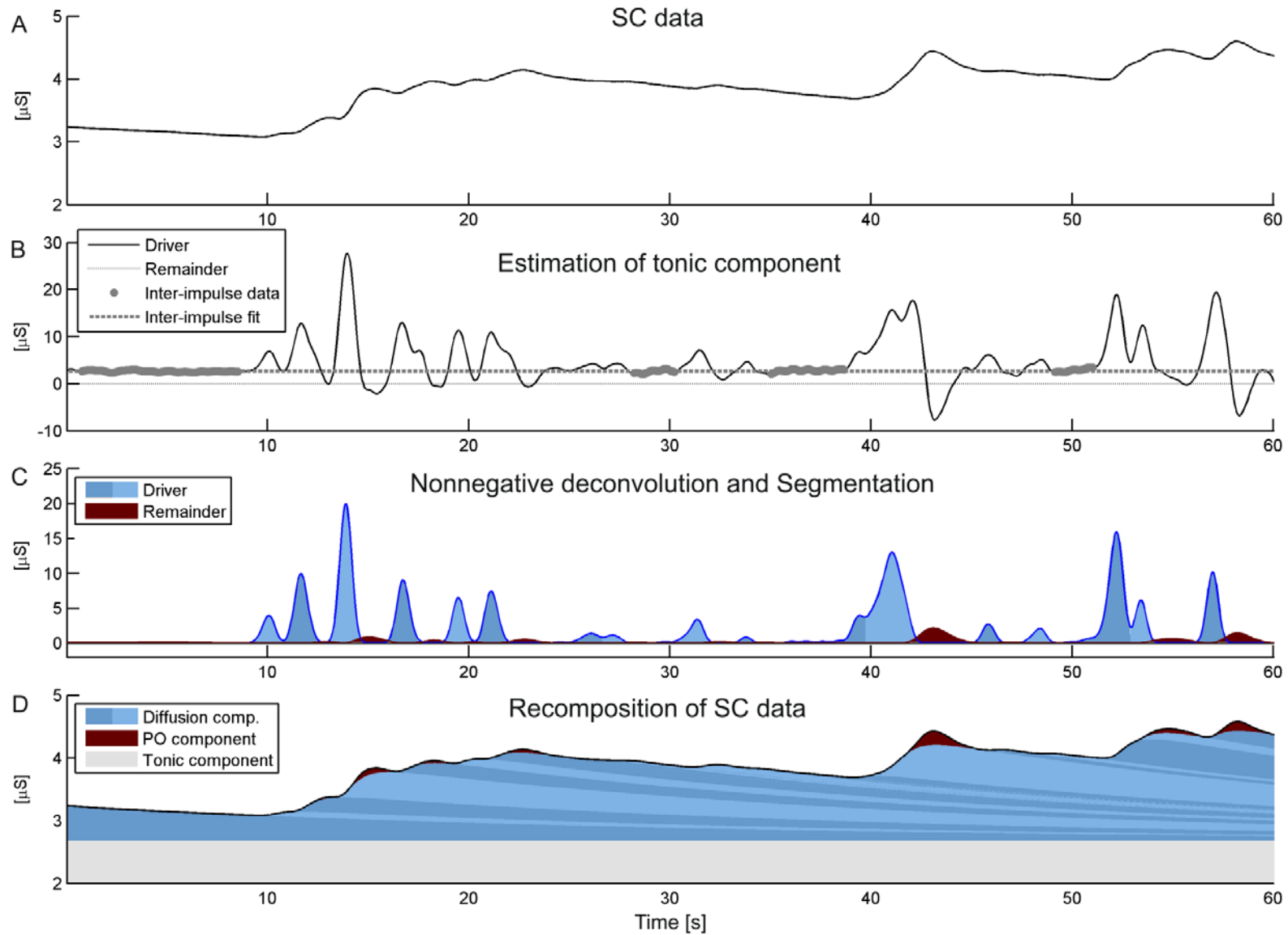


# Discrete Decomposition Analysis (Nonnegative Deconvolution)



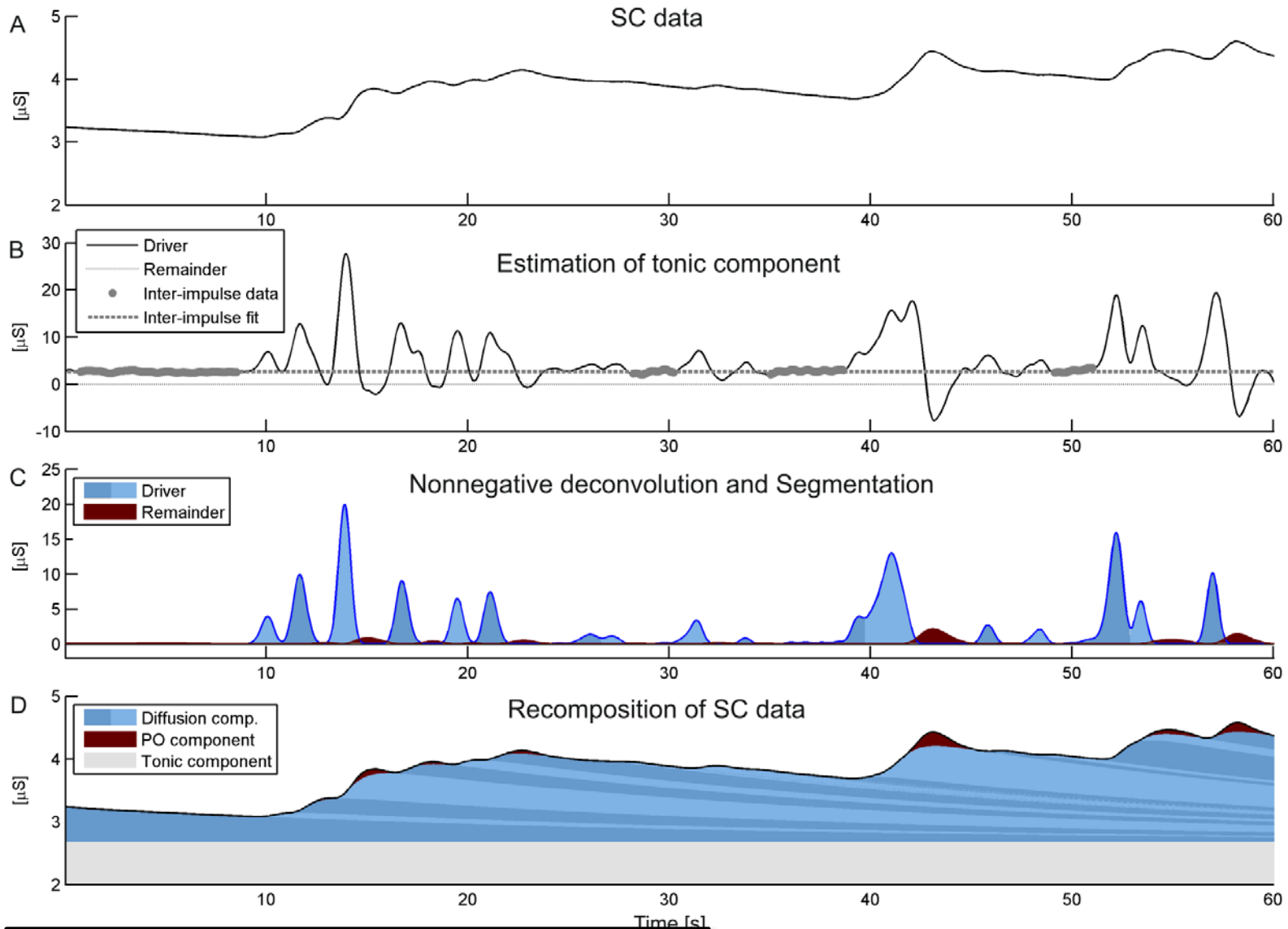
(Benedek & Kaernbach, 2010, Psychophysiology)

# Discrete Decomposition Analysis (Nonnegative Deconvolution)



(Benedek & Kaernbach, 2010, Psychophysiology)

# Discrete Decomposition Analysis (Nonnegative Deconvolution)



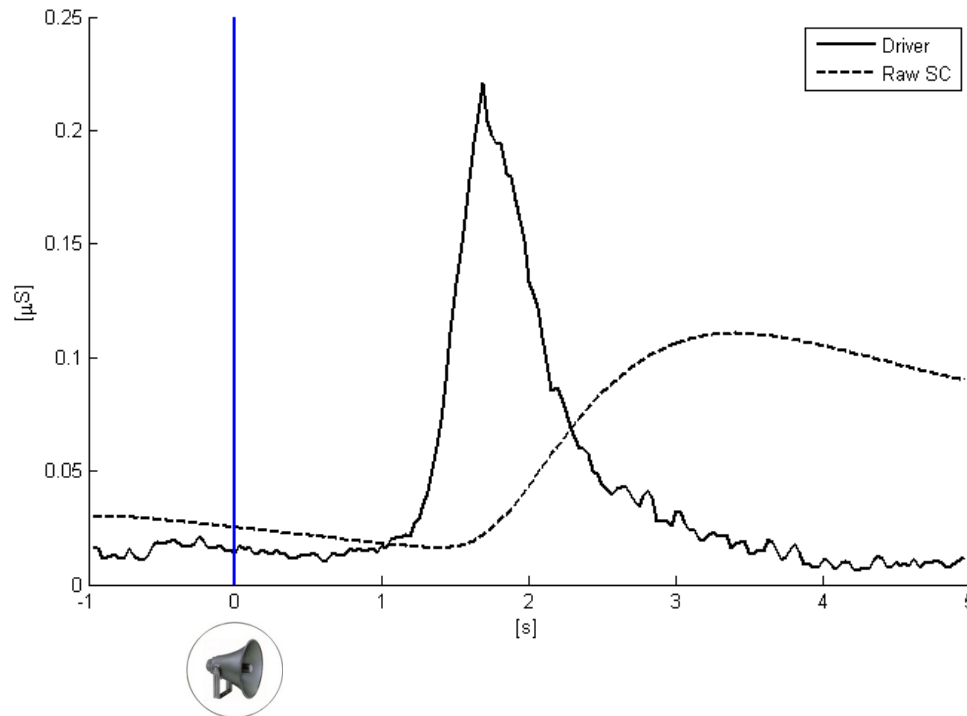
**E Optimization of  $\tau$ :  $RMSE \cdot n_{response} \cdot indist \rightarrow 0$**

(Benedek & Kaernbach, 2010, Psychophysiology)

# General effect of deconvolution

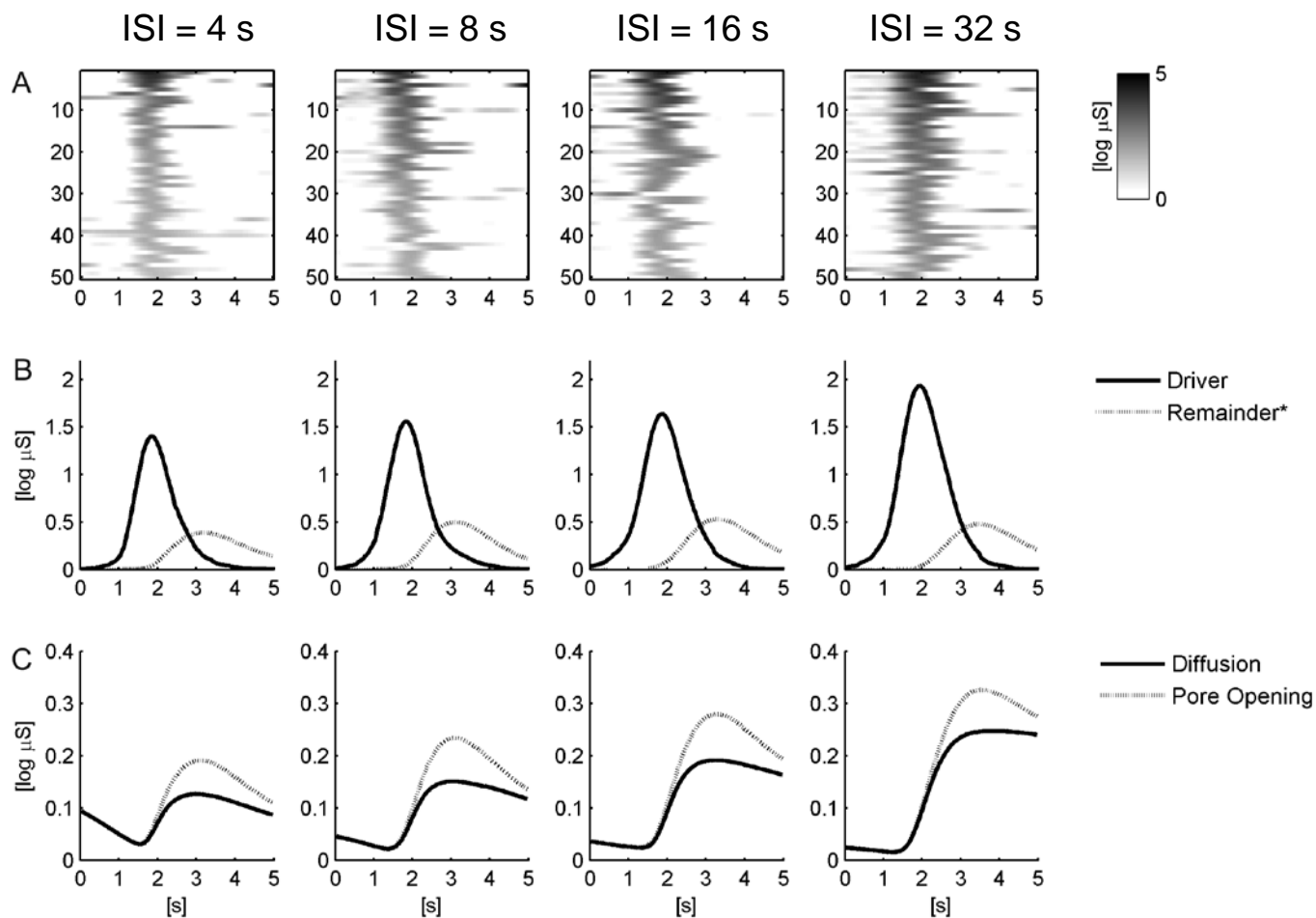
## Experiment

- N = 48
- Noise bursts (95 dB, 120ms)
- ISI = 4, 8, 16, 32 sec



- Duration of driver impulse more constrained
- Onset of driver impulse more precisely defined

# Event-related response by ISI



## Results:

Amplitude: + 17%

Onset: -340ms

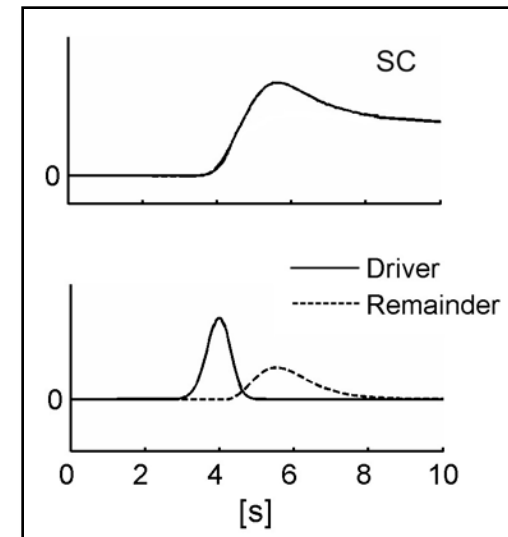
# Discrete Decomposition Analysis (Nonnegative Deconvolution)

## Features:

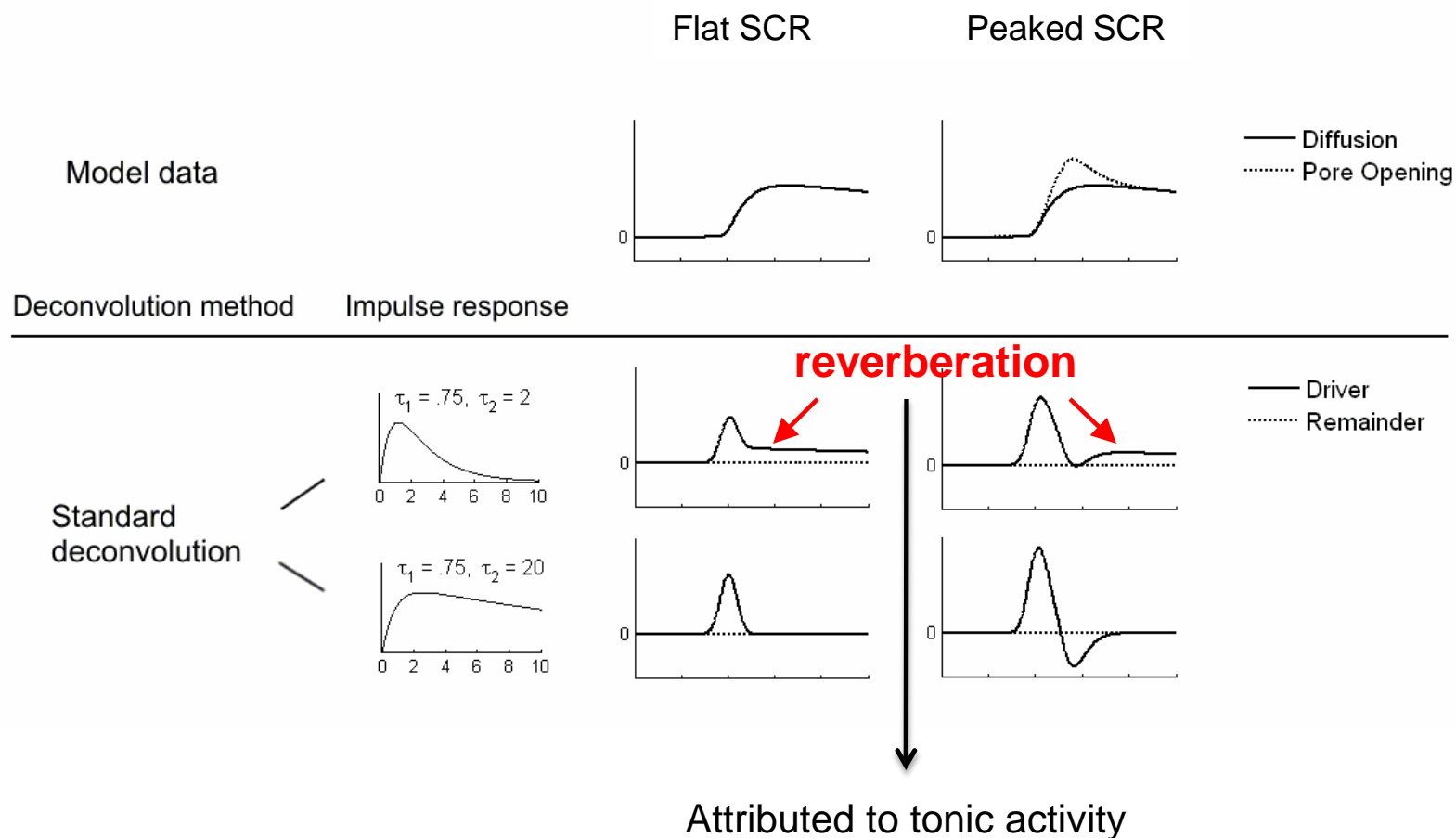
- Physiological rationale of SCR shape
- Estimation of tonic component
- Estimation of inter-individual SCR shape ( $\tau$ )
- Full component-model of raw SC data
- Unbiased estimation of SCR-magnitude
- Facilitates study of physiological model of SCR

## Challenges:

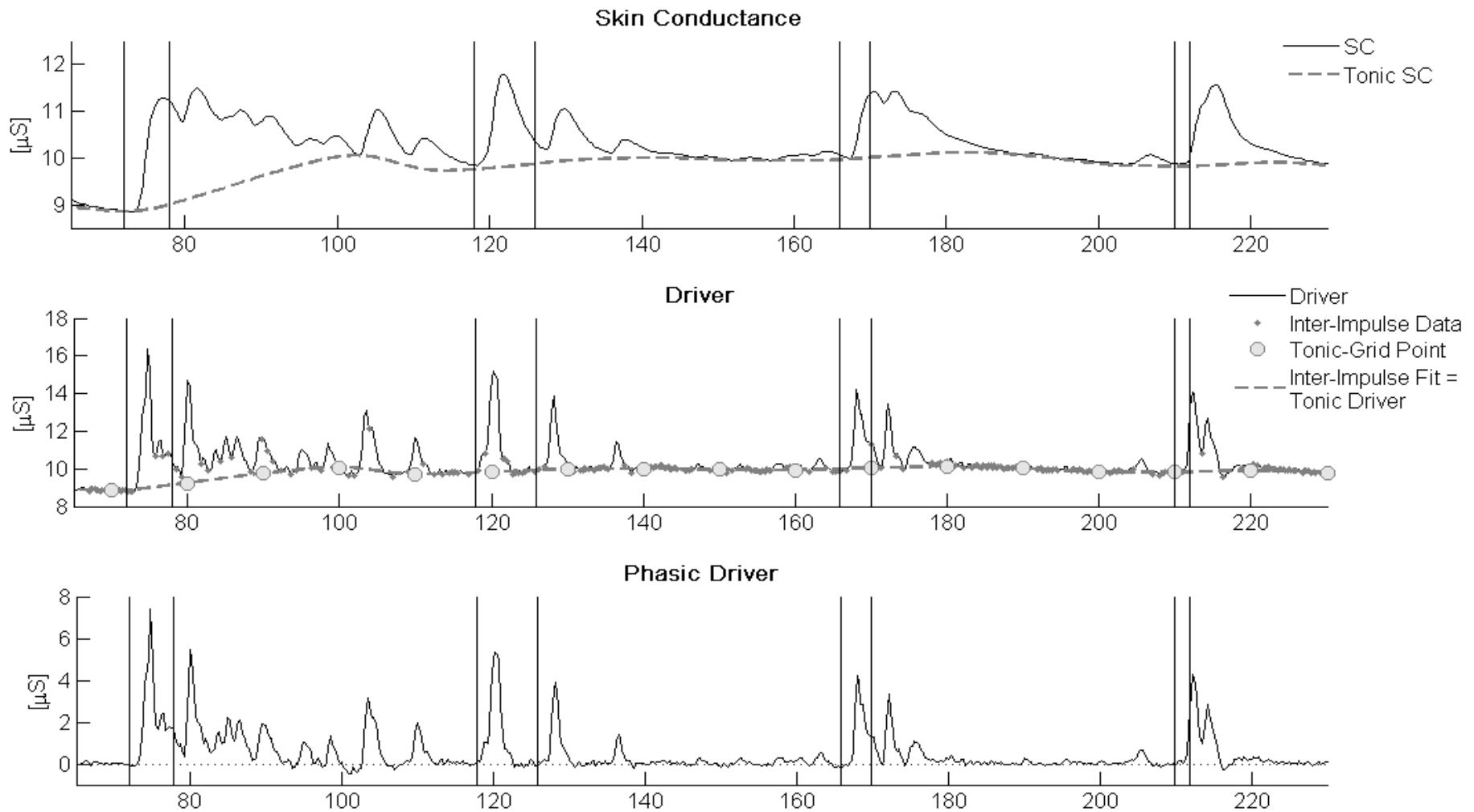
- Sensitive to data quality (e.g., artifacts)
- Time consuming procedure
- Driver may not fully reflect SNA



# Rationale of Continuous Decomposition Analysis



# Continuous Decomposition Analysis (Phasic Driver Extraction)

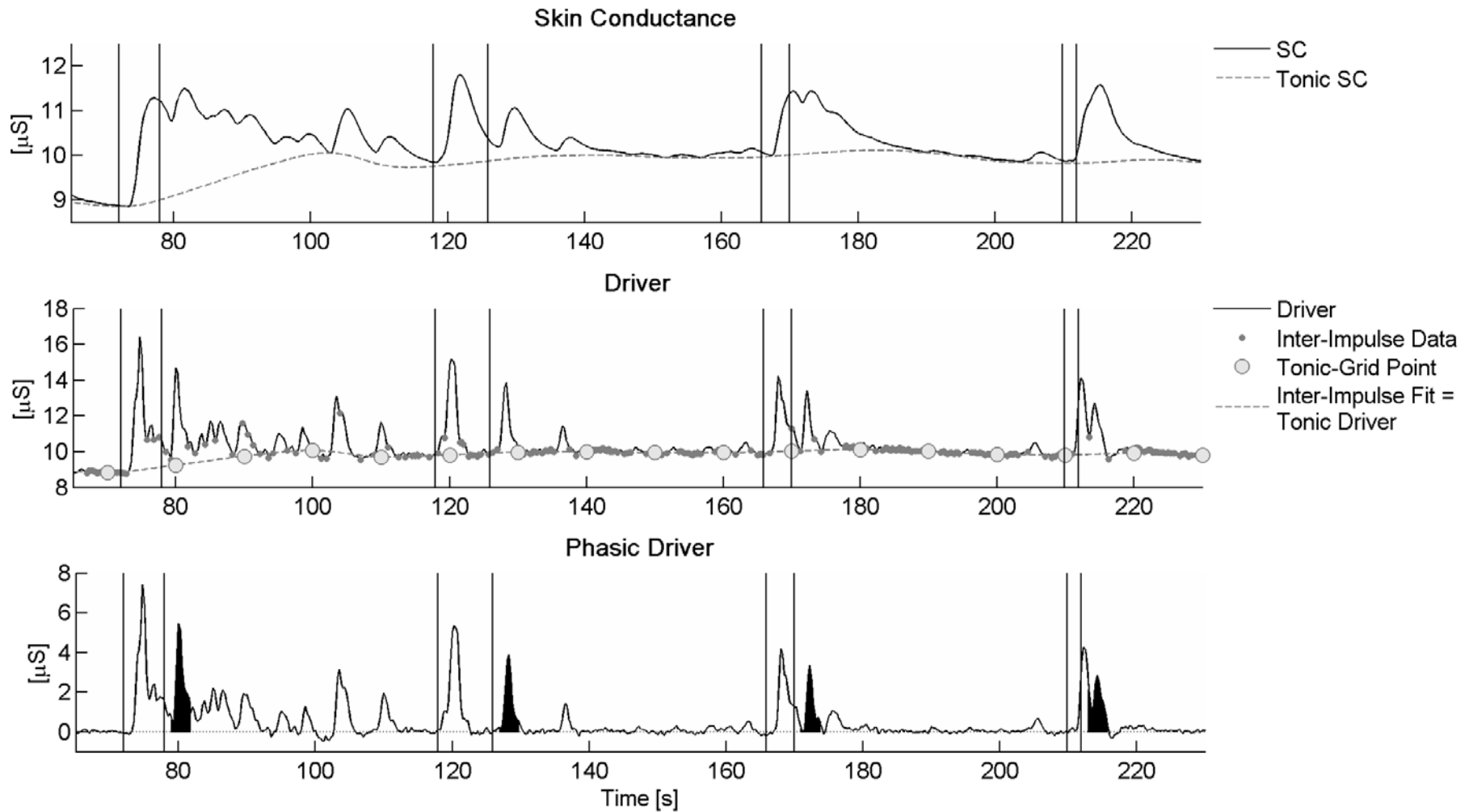


Optimization of  $\tau$ :  $indist + neg \rightarrow 0$

(Benedek & Kaernbach, 2010, J Neurosc Methods)



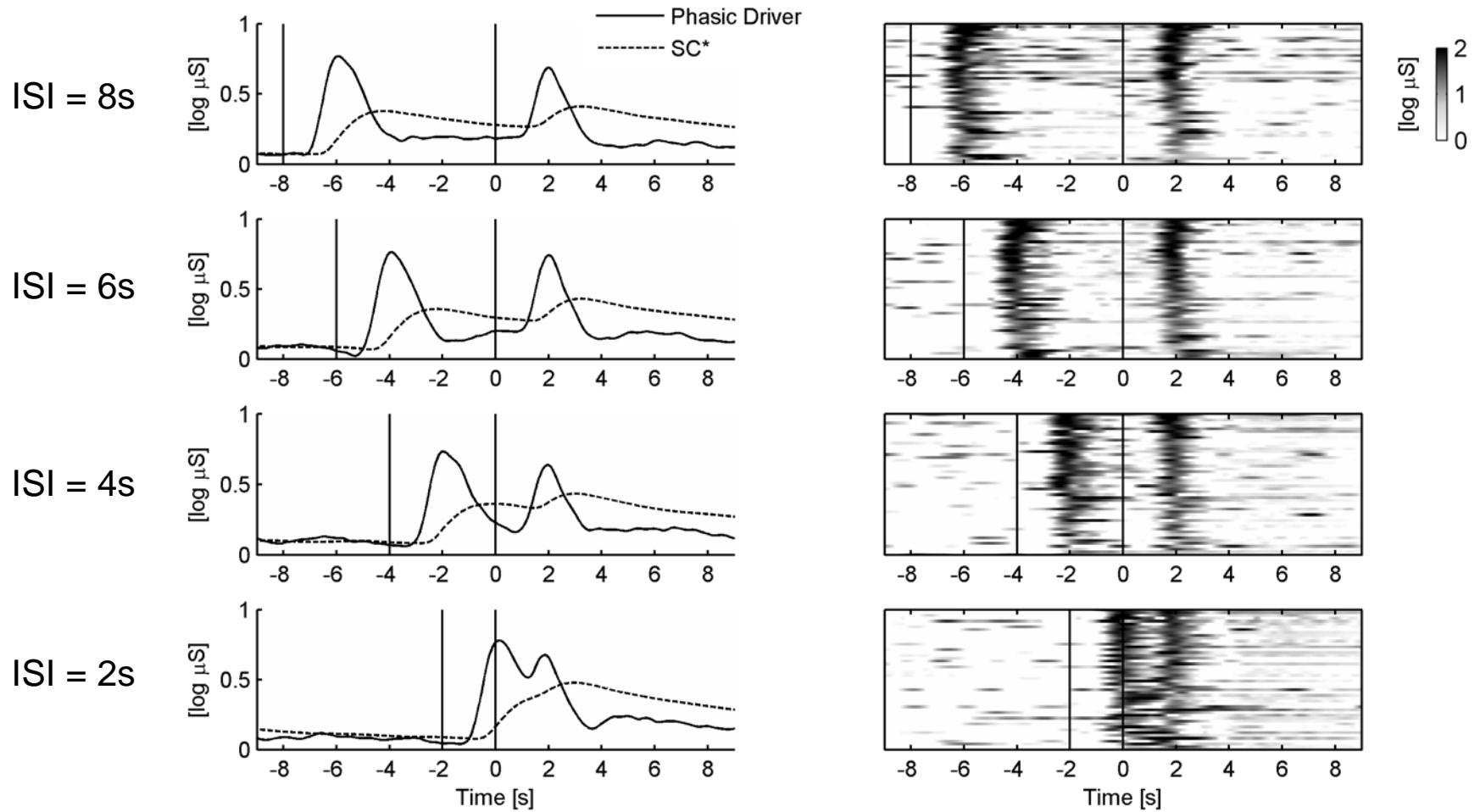
# Continuous Decomposition Analysis (Phasic Driver Extraction)



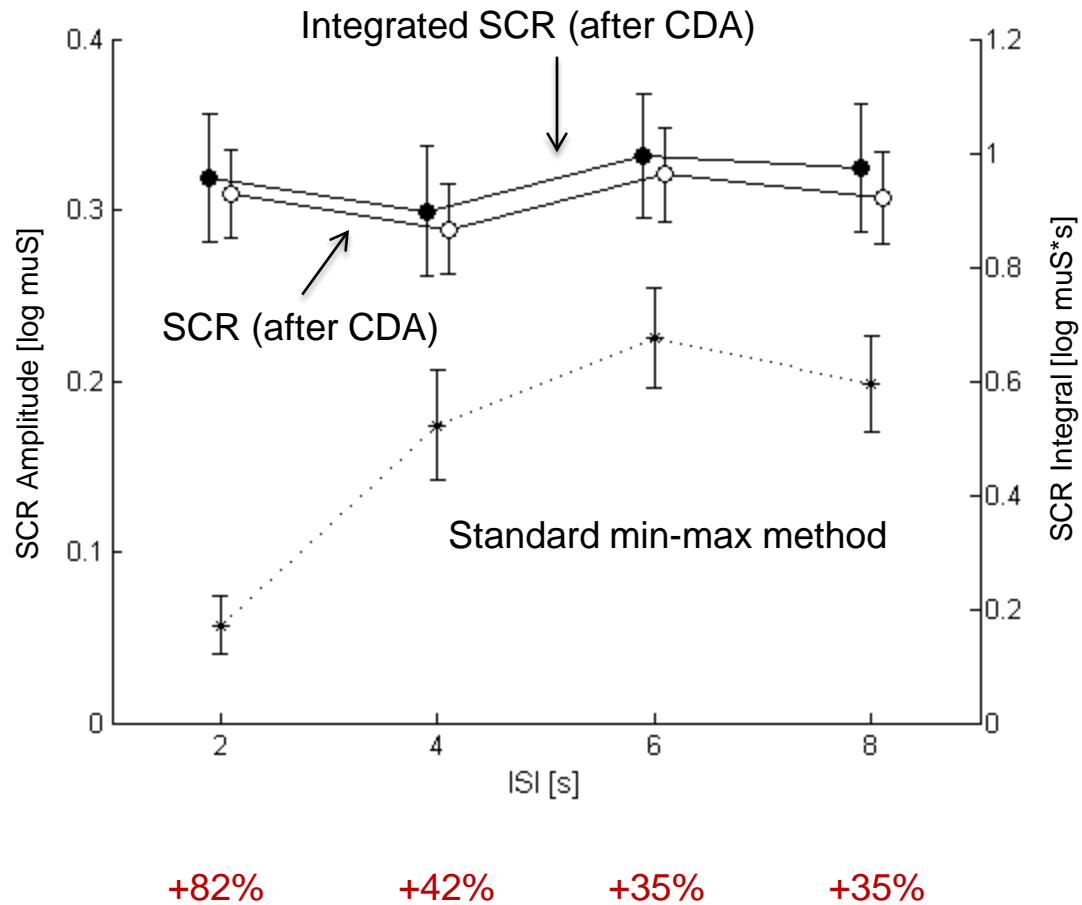
Integrated SCR (ISCR): Time integral of phasic driver over response window

(Benedek & Kaernbach, 2010, J Neurosc Methods)

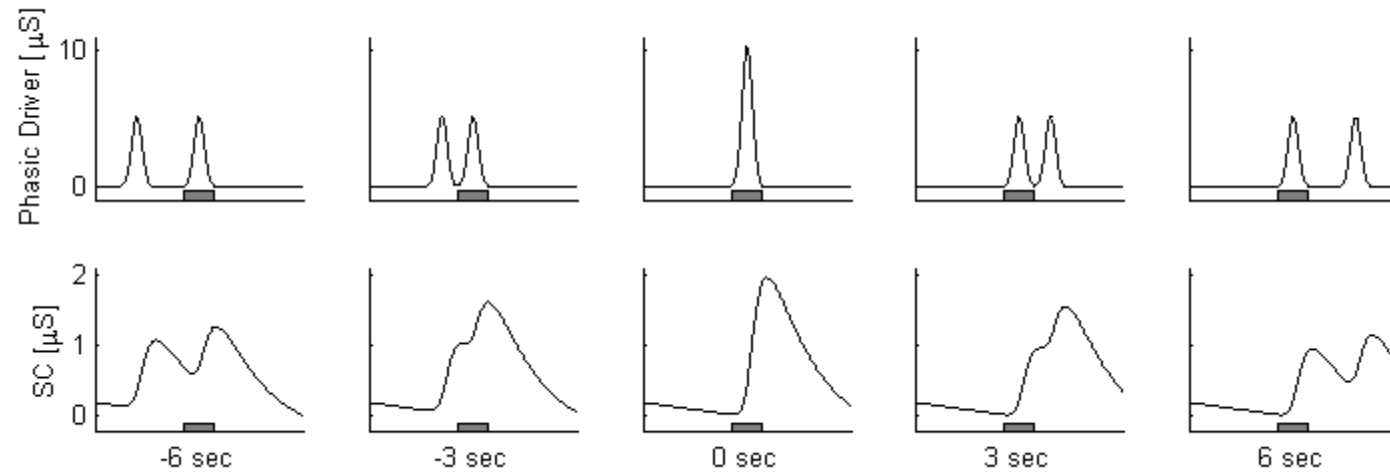
# Event-related response by ISI



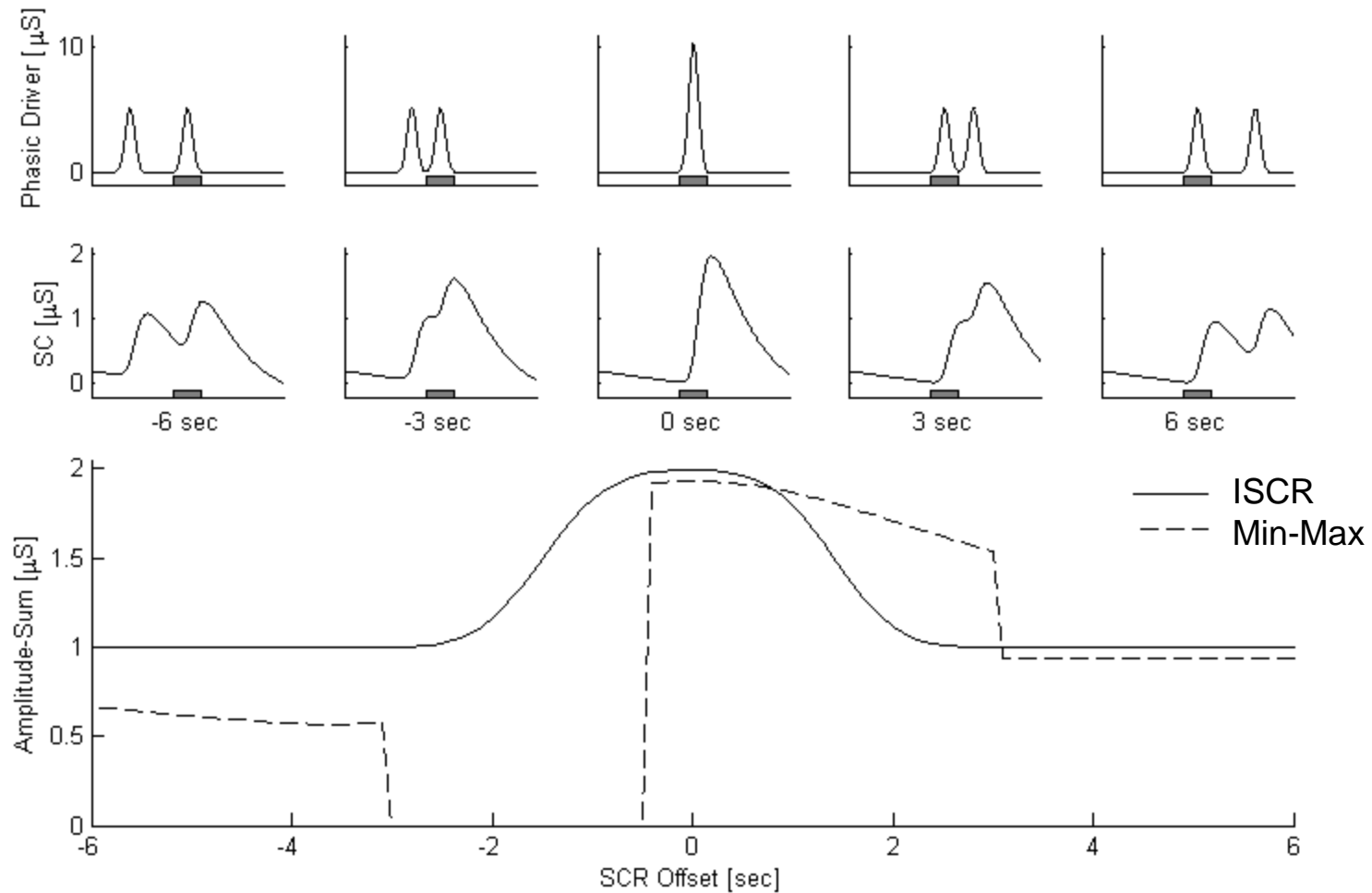
# SCR amplitude by method



# Simulation: Effect of SCR offset on amplitude



# Simulation: Effect of SCR offset on amplitude



# Continuous Decomposition Analysis

## Features:

- Physiological rationale of SCR shape
- Estimation of tonic component
- Estimation of inter-individual SCR shape ( $\tau$ )
- Full component-model of raw SC data  
→ Separation of continuous tonic and phasic data
- Unbiased estimation of SCR-magnitude  
+ Consideration of continuous response information
- (Facilitates study of physiological model of SCR)

## Challenges:

- Sensitive to data quality (e.g., artifacts) → Robust
- Time consuming procedure → Fast and efficient
- Driver may not fully reflect SMNA → Driver may reflect SMNA
- Avoids quantization effect

# Documentation and References

## On **Continuous Decomposition Analysis (CDA) method** and/or **Avoiding biases of classic peak detection methods:**

- Benedek, M. & Kaernbach, C. (2010). A continuous measure of phasic electrodermal activity. *Journal of Neuroscience Methods*, 190, 80-91. [\[link\]](#)

## On **Discrete Deconvolution Analysis (DDA) method** and/or **the Consideration of the individual physiological shape of the SCR :**

- Benedek, M. & Kaernbach, C. (2010). Decomposition of skin conductance data by means of nonnegative deconvolution. *Psychophysiology*, 47, 647-658. [\[link\]](#)

*Psychophysiology*, 49 (2012), 1017–1034. Wiley Periodicals, Inc. Printed in the USA.  
Copyright © 2012 Society for Psychophysiological Research  
DOI: 10.1111/j.1469-8986.2012.01384.x

### COMMITTEE REPORT

## Publication recommendations for electrodermal measurements

SOCIETY FOR PSYCHOPHYSIOLOGICAL RESEARCH AD HOC COMMITTEE ON ELECTRODERMAL MEASURES: WOLFRAM BOUCSEIN,<sup>a</sup> DON C. FOWLES,<sup>b</sup> SVERRE GRIMNES,<sup>c,d</sup> GERSHON BEN-SHAKHAR,<sup>e</sup> WALTON T. ROTH,<sup>f</sup> MICHAEL E. DAWSON,<sup>g</sup> AND DIANE L. FILION<sup>h</sup>

<sup>a</sup>University of Wuppertal, Wuppertal, Germany

<sup>b</sup>University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa, USA

<sup>c</sup>University of Oslo, Oslo, Norway

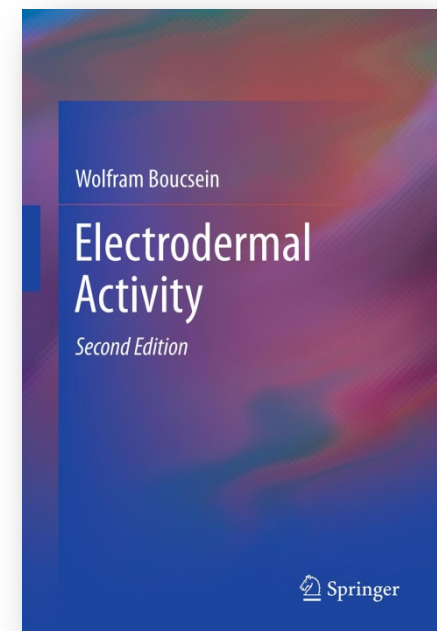
<sup>d</sup>Department of Clinical and Biomedical Engineering, Rikshospitalet, Oslo University Hospital HF, Oslo, Norway

<sup>e</sup>The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Jerusalem, Israel

<sup>f</sup>VA Palo Alto Health Care System, Palo Alto, California, USA

<sup>g</sup>University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California, USA

<sup>h</sup>University of Missouri–Kansas City, Kansas City, Missouri, USA




# Using Ledalab for EDA analysis



# Ledalab

- Open Software (Matlab is required)
- Download at website: [www.ledalab.de](http://www.ledalab.de)
  - Software updates
  - Online documentation



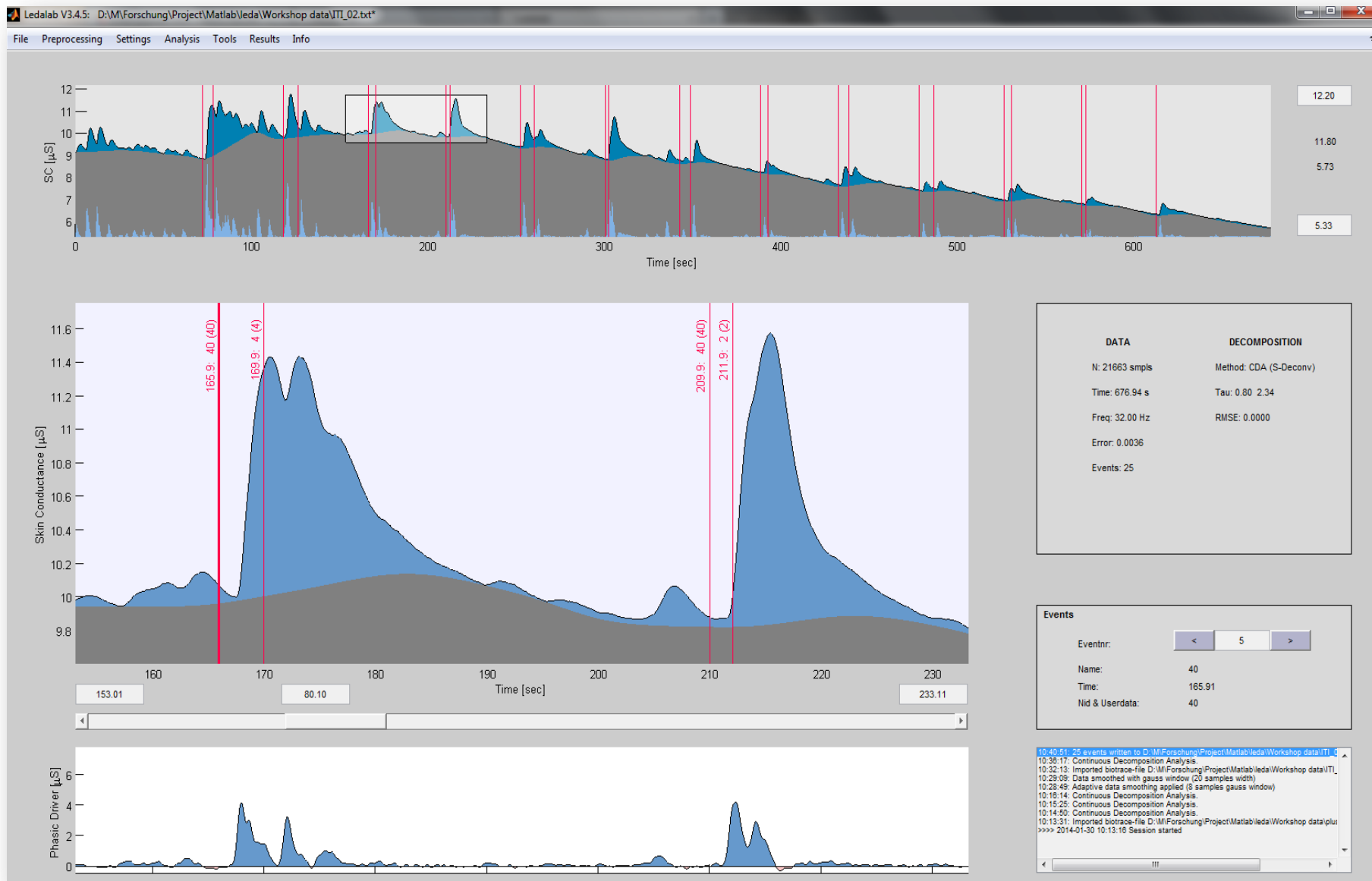
INTRODUCTION - SOFTWARE - DOCUMENTATION - FORUM/LIST - LINKS - CONTACT

## INTRODUCTION

Ledalab ..

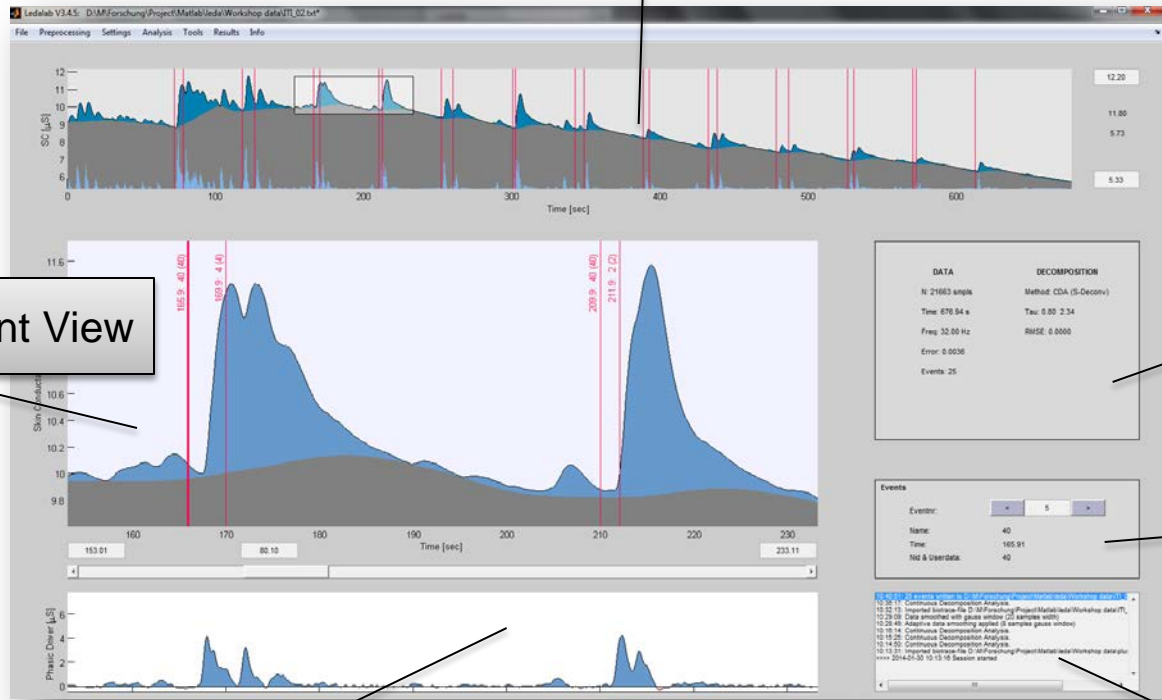
- is a Matlab-based software for the analysis of skin conductance data (SC; i.e., EDA, GSR).
- can import various file formats (including BioPac, Biotrace, CassyLab, PortiLab, PsychLab, VarioPort, VisionAnalyzer, VitaPort) and provides many preprocessing functions.
- performs event-related analysis relative to events/marker and returns various parameters of phasic and tonic activity.
- can be used via an interactive GUI or in an efficient batch-mode via the Matlab command window.
- currently provides two EDA analysis methods:
  - (1) The Continuous Decomposition Analysis (CDA) performs a decomposition of SC data into continuous signals of phasic and tonic activity. This method takes advantage from retrieving the signal characteristics of the underlying sudomotor nerve activity (SNA). It is beneficial for all analyses aiming at unbiased scores of phasic and tonic activity.
  - (2) The Discrete Decomposition Analysis (DDA) performs a decomposition of SC data into distinct phasic components and a tonic component by means of Nonnegative Deconvolution. This method is especially advantageous for the study of the SCR shape.
- has been used at more than 60 universities and research facilities (including Aachen, Atlanta, Austin, Bangalore, Beijing, Berlin, Bern, Bielefeld, Budapest, Buenos Aires, Coimbra, Cornell, Delft, Dresden,

# EDA Analysis Software: Ledalab



# Graphical user interface (GUI)

Data Overview



Data/Fit Statistics

Data Segment View

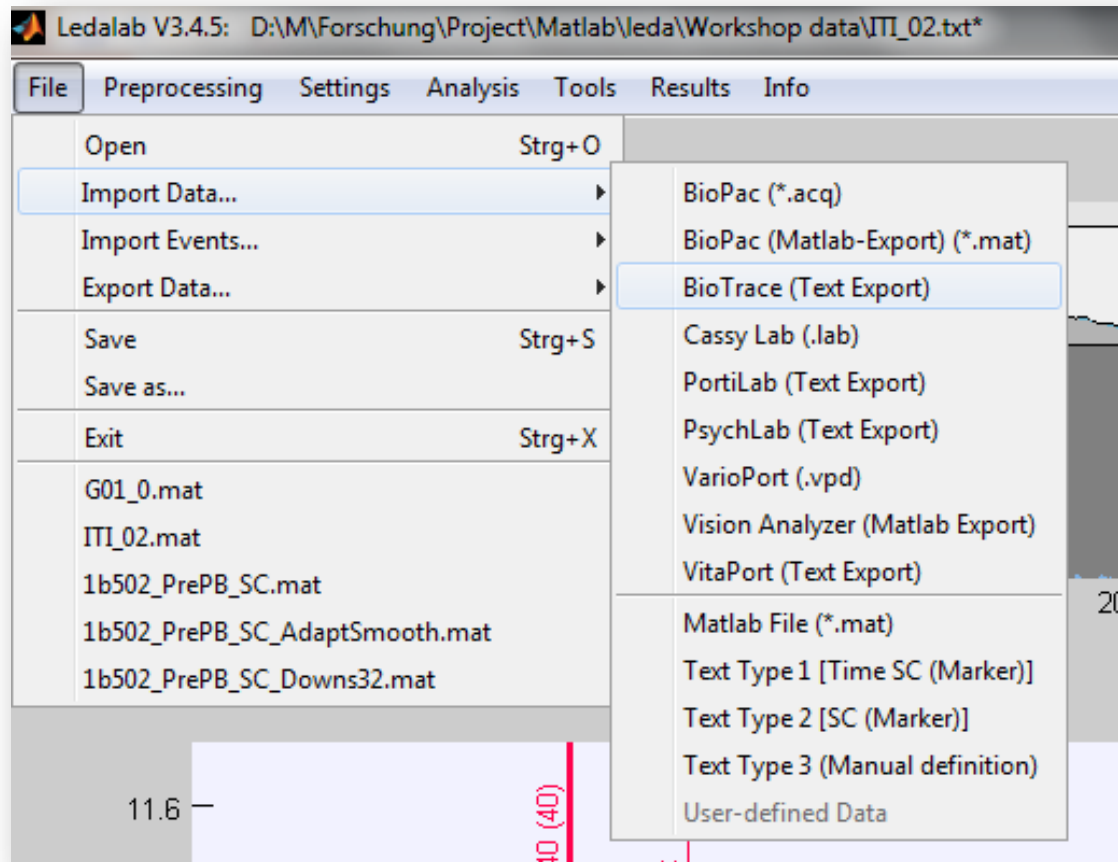
Event Info

Driver View

Session log

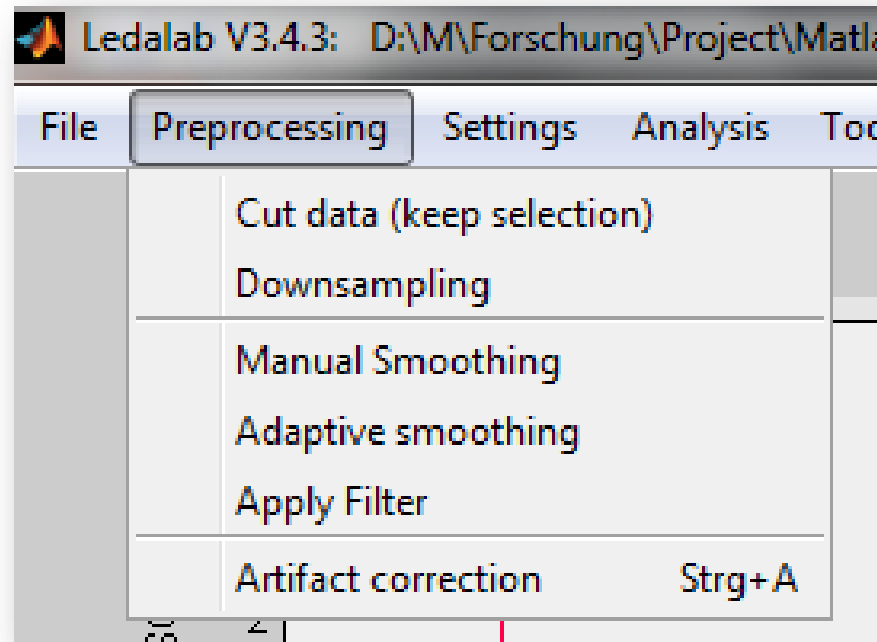
# Data Import

Ledalab supports the import of various data formats (see screenshot).



# Preprocessing functions

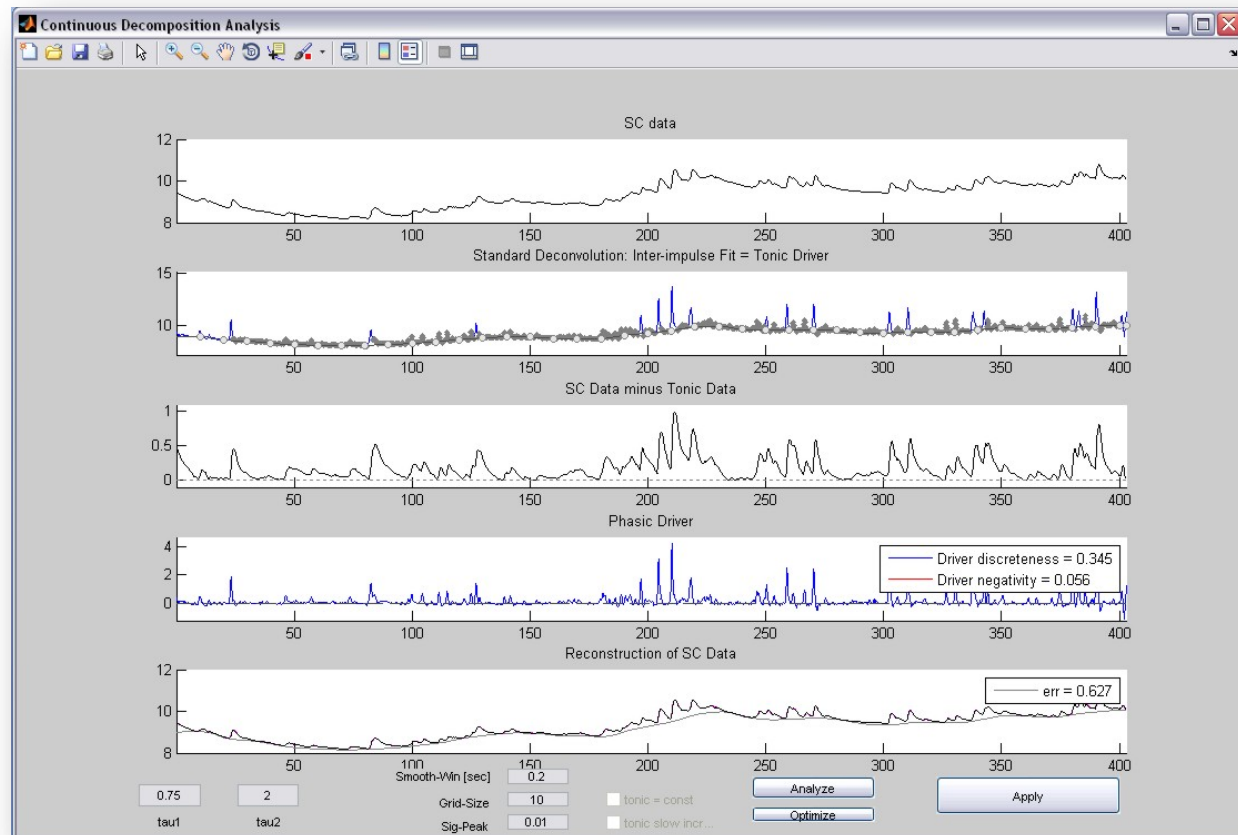
Ledalab can be used for data preprocessing including cutting, downsampling, smoothing and artifact correction.



# Analysis

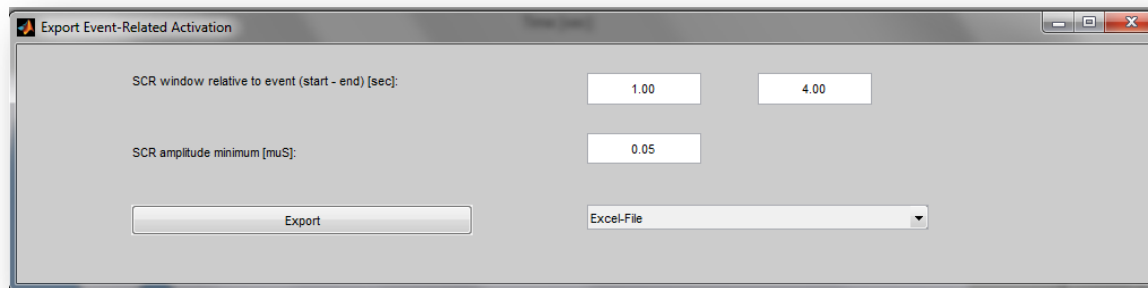
- Methods:
  - Continuous Decomposition Analysis (recommended)
  - Discrete Decomposition Analysis (Nonnegative Deconvolution)
  - Min-max analysis (trough-to-peak): always included

- Steps:
  - Run analysis
  - Optimize analysis
  - Apply to data



# Results Export

- Export event-related activation to Excel, Text, or Matlab file
- Many parameters of phasic and tonic activity (see online documentation)
- Additionally, you can save a list of detected SCRs



	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
1	Event.Nr	Event.NID	Event.Name	CDA.nSCR	CDA.Latency	CDA.AmpSur	CDA.SCR [mu	CDA.ISCR [m	CDA.Tonic [n	TTP.nSCR	TTP.Latency	TTP.AmpSun	Global.Mean	Global.MaxDeflection [muS]	
2	1	40	40	2	1,96875	2,26055825	4,78365526	14,3509658	8,87134346	1	1,09375	2,43218966	9,70570103	2,192	
3	2	6	6	3	1,9375	1,54782657	3,08160458	9,24481373	8,94547752	1	1,71875	0,73850732	11,1500515	0,744	
4	3	40	40	1	2,03125	1,92769854	4,05411157	12,1623347	9,50071467	0		0	10,8609691	1,885	
5	4	8	8	2	2	1,10829658	2,30122665	6,90367996	9,56859947	1	1,5	0,88077371	10,6203196	0,882	
6	5	40	40	3	1,9375	1,51575672	3,12254105	9,36762316	9,90697815	1	1,5	1,43171832	10,6008351	1,362	
7	6	4	4	1	2,0625	0,65561007	1,31329089	3,93987267	9,90414345	1	1,90625	0,25978327	11,3316289	0,263	
8	7	40	40	1	2,15625	1,31319598	3,13263561	9,39790684	9,80841218	1	1,375	1,69976442	10,4420309	1,335	
9	8	2	2	1	2,09375	0,64604663	1,35570432	4,06711295	9,8025814	0		0	11,3358557	0,742	
10	9	40	40	1	1,96875	1,14867999	2,29203518	6,87610555	9,28853441	1	1,1875	1,07693163	9,97553608	1,079	
11	10	8	8	1	2,03125	0,5187511	0,98023017	2,94069052	9,26552051	1	1,65625	0,33674132	10,0179381	0,338	
12	11	40	40	2	2,09375	2,15988871	3,70534434	11,116033	8,78265404	1	1,125	1,9204384	9,4421134	1,487	
13	12	2	2	1	2,03125	0,7844172	1,76229338	5,28688014	8,77417991	0		0	10,4496598	0,972	
14	13	40	40	1	2,40625	0,25911277	0,49789999	1,49369998	8,61134059	1	1,8125	0,19614261	8,83040206	0,197	
15	14	6	6	1	2,34375	1,03895703	2,04301844	6,12905533	8,59005273	1	1,53125	0,97918108	9,16015464	0,981	
16	15	40	40	1	2,25	0,5817176	1,19414358	3,58243073	8,18418926	1	1,65625	0,53804267	8,46364948	0,539	
17	16	4	4	1	2	0,15850101	0,25815110	1,07145255	8,12512227	0		0	8,55421050	0,022	

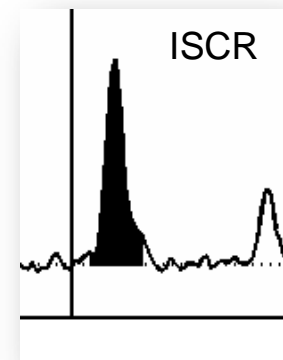
# What EDA scores to use?

Ledalab computes classic and novel scores of phasic and tonic EDA.

EDA scores based on decomposition methods are claimed to be more sensitive (Benedek & Kaernbach, 2010a,b).

They include (for Continuous Decomposition Analysis) e.g.:

- **AmpSum** = Sum of amplitudes of all reconvolved SCR with onset in response window (cf. ITTP in Benedek & Kaernbach, 2010b)
- **ISCR** = Integrated phasic driver activity within response window (thought to correspond to total average sudomotor nerve activity SMNA; Benedek & Kaernbach, 2012b)
- **SCR** = Average phasic driver activity within response window (equals ISCR divided by size of response window; units are  $\mu\text{S}$ )
- .. and more



But classic EDA measures such as min-max/through-to-peak amplitudes are always provided additionally if you wish to fall back on them (they do not rely decomposition methods, but on simple peak detection).



# Command line batch-analysis

- Run *Ledalab* directly from Matlab command window
- Analyze all files in folder
- Use Ledalab functions related to import, preprocessing, analysis, and results export

Command Window

```
fx >> Ledalab('D:\M\Forschung\Project\Matlab\leda\Workshop data', 'open', 'biotrace', 'downsample',2, 'analyze','CDA', 'optimize',2, 'export_era',[1 4 .01 1])
```

Command Window

```
11:34:56: Starting Ledalab batch for D:\M\Forschung\Project\Matlab\leda\Workshop data\ (10 file/s)
```

```
11:34:56: Batch-Analyzing ITI_01.txt
```

```
Optimized parameter: 1.99 5.61 Error: 0.734 (Initial parameter: 1.00 3.75 Error: 1.467)
Optimized parameter: 2.04 5.40 Error: 0.731 (Initial parameter: 1.00 2.00 Error: 2.750)
Final optimized parameter: 2.04 5.40 Error: 0.731
```

```
11:35:08: Batch-Analyzing ITI_02.txt
```

```
Optimized parameter: 0.96 2.17 Error: 0.681 (Initial parameter: 1.00 3.75 Error: 0.980)
Optimized parameter: 1.42 1.70 Error: 0.668 (Initial parameter: 1.00 2.00 Error: 0.826)
Final optimized parameter: 1.42 1.70 Error: 0.668
```

```
11:35:16: Batch-Analyzing ITI_03.txt
```

```
Optimized parameter: 0.52 0.73 Error: 0.404 (Initial parameter: 1.00 3.75 Error: 8.832)
Optimized parameter: 0.40 0.88 Error: 0.410 (Initial parameter: 1.00 2.00 Error: 4.030)
Final optimized parameter: 0.52 0.73 Error: 0.404
```

```
11:35:23: Batch-Analyzing ITI_04.txt
```

# Aggregate and save results across files

This is done with the separate script EDA\_Results.m (located in Ledalab main directory)

Steps:

1. Analyze all your EDA data with Ledalab (e.g. using Continuous Decomposition Analysis – CDA)
2. Export event-related activation results (to \*\_era.mat files)  
(steps 1 and 2 can be done with the command line batch analysis)
3. Edit script EDA\_Results.m
  - a) Indicate directory where exported result files (\*\_era.mat) are located
  - b) Indicate whether to use event-IDs or event-names for identifying events (default = event-IDs)
  - c) Select, add, or modify EDA scores to be saved
4. Run script EDA\_Results.m (in Matlab command window) to save averaged event-related scores of all experiment subjects to one Excel-file for further statistical analysis

# Direct access to all (raw and analyzed) data

All data can be accessed via the Matlab command window. This could be used for further processing with own scripts.

```
Command Window
>> global leda2
>> leda2.data

ans =

    events: [1x1 struct]
  conductance: [1x1 struct]
         time: [1x1 struct]
              N: 21663
  samplingrate: 32

>> leda2.data.events.event(1)

ans =

    time: 71.9375
    nid: 40
   name: '40'
 userdata: []

fx >> |
```

```
>> leda2.analysis

ans =

    tau: [0.8018 2.3359]
 smoothwin: 0.2000
 tonicGridSize: 10
   driver: [1x21663 double]
 tonicDriver: [1x21663 double]
 remainder: [1x21663 double]
   kernel: [1x569 double]
 phasicData: [1x21663 double]
  tonicData: [1x21663 double]
 phasicDriverRaw: [1x21663 double]
    error: [1x1 struct]
 opt_history: [1x1 struct]
    method: 'sdeco'
 impulseOnset: [1x538 double]
 impulsePeakTime: [1x538 double]
  impulseAmp: [1x538 double]
    onset: [1x538 double]
    amp: [1x538 double]
 peakTime: [1x538 double]
```