

Evaluating high-resolution frequency spectral estimation approaches to real-time frequency modulation neurofeedback

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Motivation

1. Cognitive performance may be mediated by modulation of an oscillation's peak amplitude frequency at sub-Hz scales (Samaha, Bauer, Cimaroli, Postle, 2015)
2. Neurofeedback could target peak amplitude frequency modulation to enhance cognitive performance
3. Sub-Hz frequency spectrum estimation methods must therefore detect these frequency changes at real-time speed

Question

Which of these methods has the highest frequency resolution using the least data and runtime?

Two Peak Discrimination

Discriminate two peaks at 10.54 and 10.56 Hz

One Peak Detection with 1/f Noise

Detect single peak at 10.55 Hz embedded in noise with SNR = 1/6

One Peak Detection with 1/f Noise, filtered

Same as above, 2nd order Butterworth IIR filter 10 -11 Hz passband

Conclusions

- MUSIC and eSPRIT
 - Perform exceptionally without noise, but fail even when filtered under 1/f noise, likely due to white noise assumption
 - Using the derivative of the signal could reshape the 1/f noise to white, while keeping the oscillatory components, but must be tested
 - eSPRIT gets worse with more data under noise, unless filtered
- Spectral envelope and Welch
 - Good candidates for further exploration
 - Achieve minimum error across parameter spaces in filtered noise scenario, with minimal data length
 - Perhaps selecting the optimal parameters in practice would work

References

- Samaha, J., Bauer, P., Cimaroli, S., & Postle, B. R. (2015). Top-down control of the phase of alpha-band oscillations as a mechanism for temporal prediction. *PNAS*, 112(27), 8439-8444.
- Stoica, P., & Moses, R. L. (2005). *Spectral analysis of signals*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Prentice Hall.

