

# Measuring the temporal coupling of slow oscillations, spindles, and hippocampal ripples in relation to procedural memory in humans



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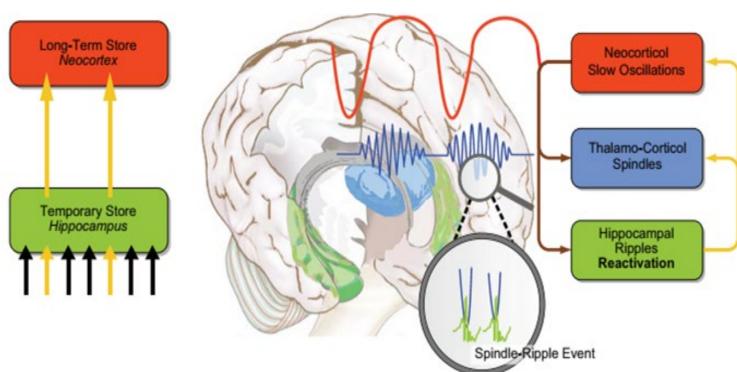
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# Motivation

- Sleep oscillations are crucial to memory and cognition
- Disrupted sleep oscillations are associated with cognitive deficits in various neurodevelopmental and neurodegenerative disorders, including schizophrenia, resulting in massive psychosocial and economic costs.
- No effective treatments for these cognitive deficits exist.

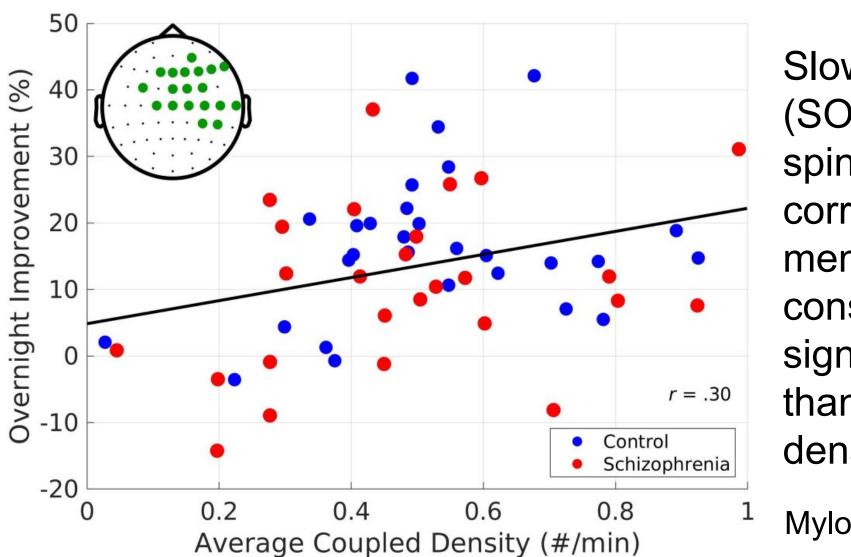
# Background

# Learning - Sleep Oscillations



Synchronization of cortical slow waves, thalamocortical spindles, and hippocampal ripples are implicated in memory consolidation

Born and Wilhelm, 2012



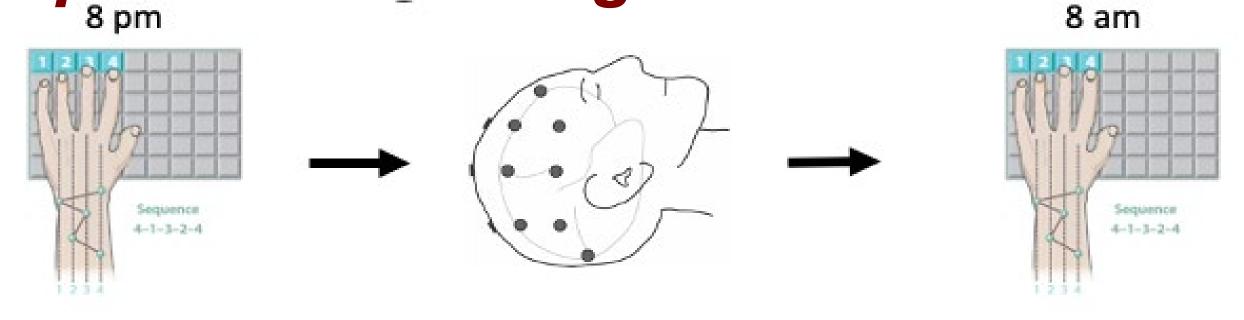
Slow oscillation (SO) coupled spindle density correlates with memory consolidation significantly better than spindle density alone

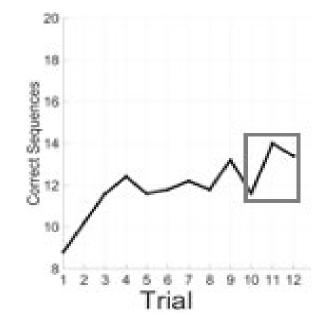
Mylonas et al. 2020

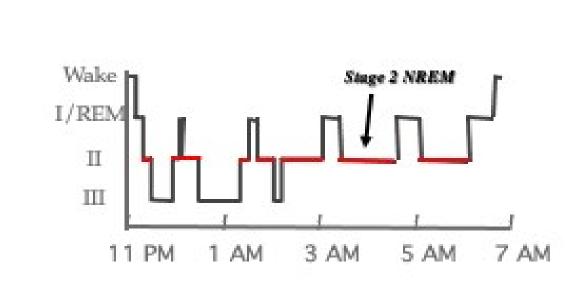
The role of hippocampal ripples in human memory consolidation is unclear as ripples are currently not detectable noninvasively. Here we have a rare opportunity to examine intracranial hippocampal recordings in epilepsy patients to investigate the coordination of these sleep oscillations and their effect on memory.

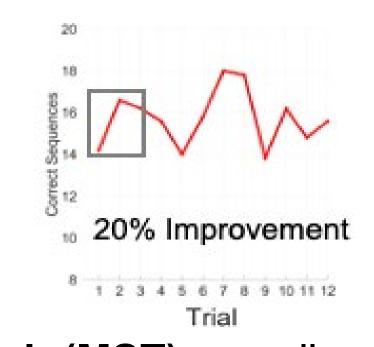
### Methods

# Experimental Design









Four patients performed the **motor sequence task (MST)**, a well-validated finger-tapping procedural memory test, before (left) and after (right) a night of sleep (middle) while undergoing scalp and intracranial EEG.

# 800

#### Motor Sequence Task (MST)

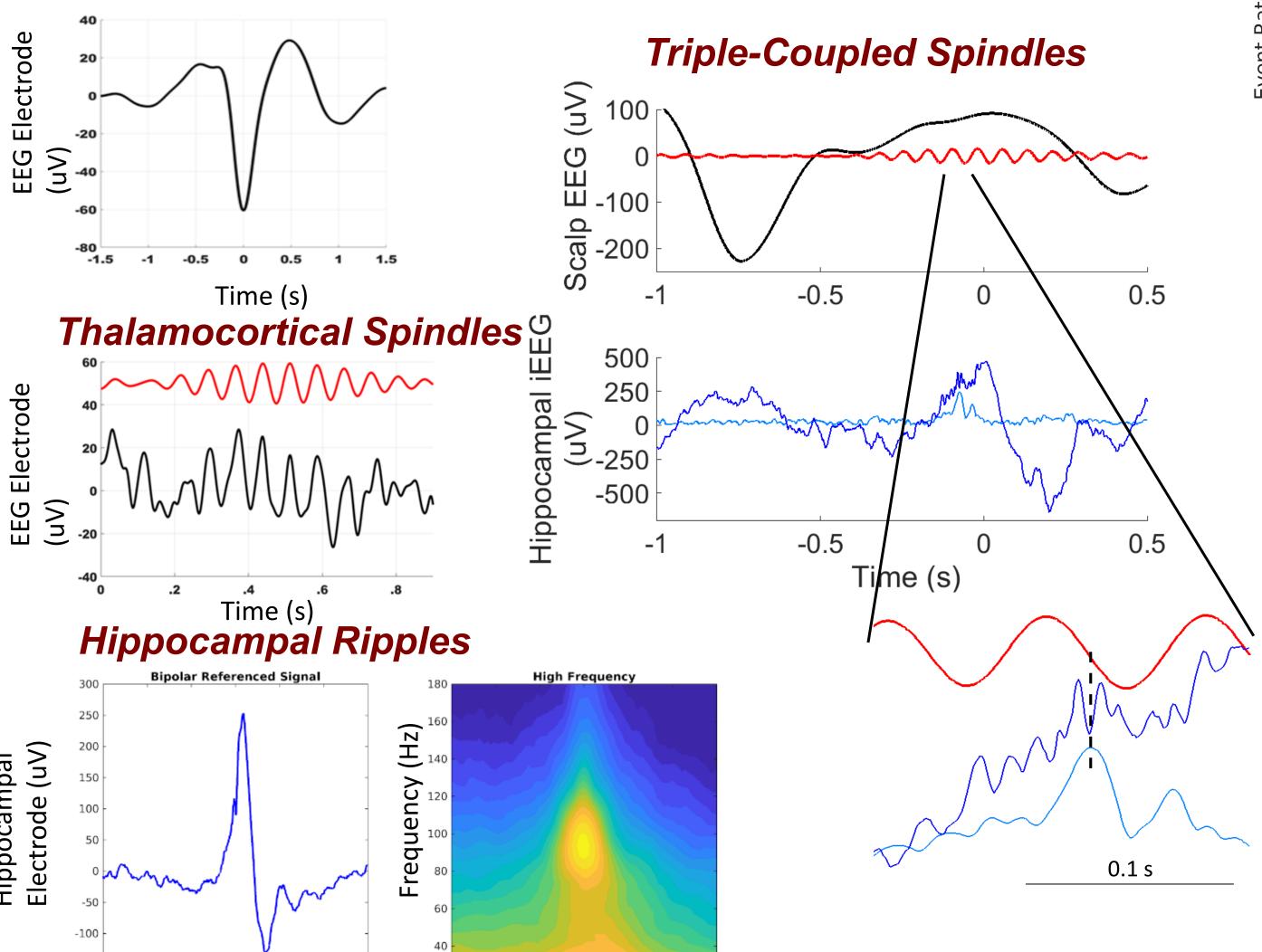
- Finger tapping task that shows sleep-dependent improvement
- 5 digit sequence (e.g., 4-1-3-2-4)
- Improvement: % change between training and testing

# Oscillation Detection

# Cortical Slow Oscillations

-0.5 0 0.5

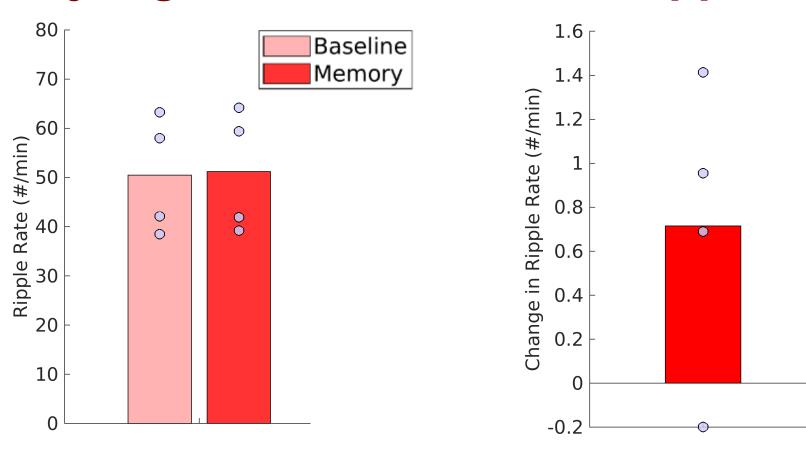
Time (s)



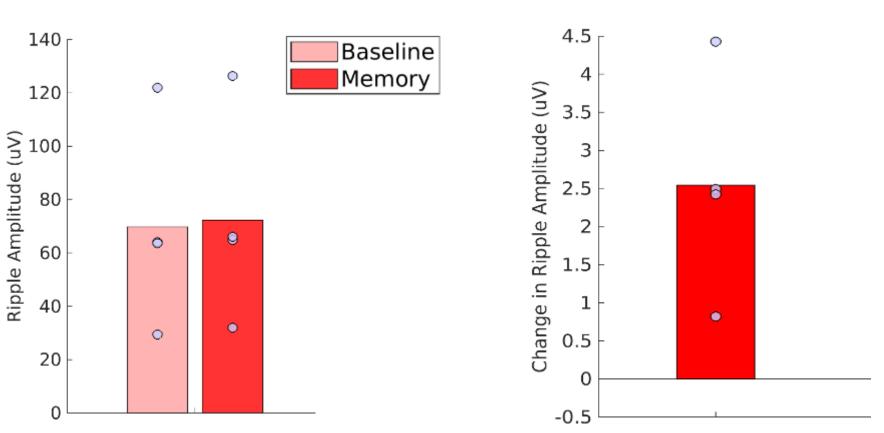
Time (s)

#### Results

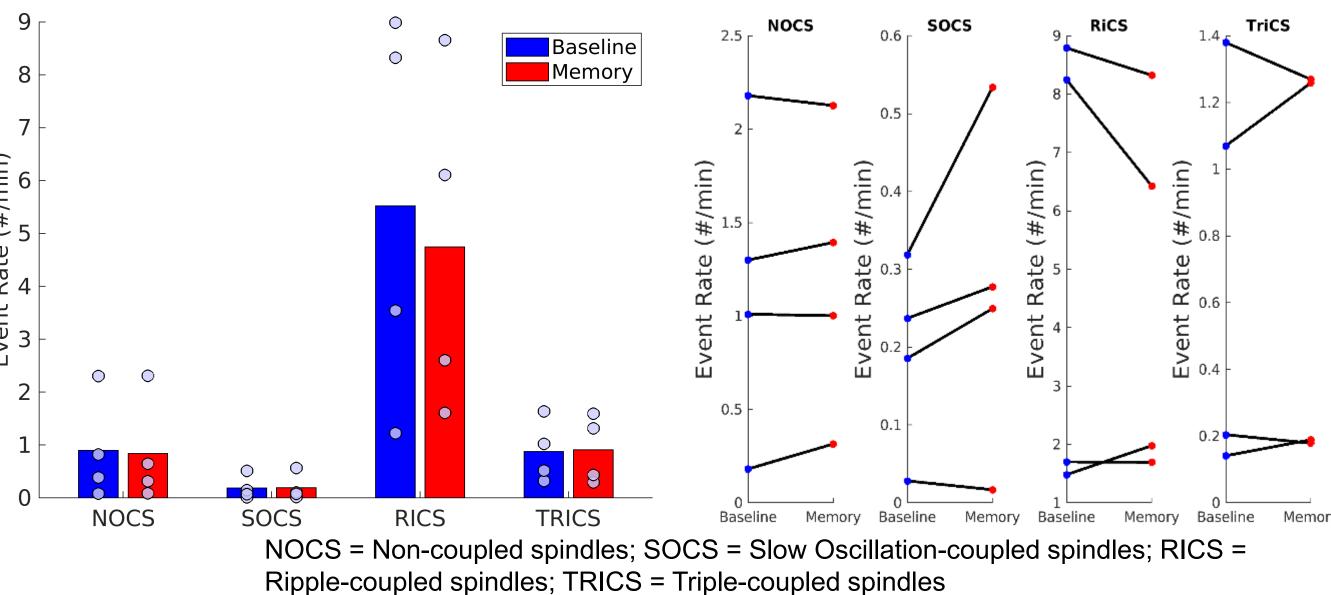
#### Memory night shows increased ripple density



#### Memory night shows increased ripple amplitude



#### Variable changes in coupling with task performance



## Discussion

- Our preliminary analysis showed increased ripple (*i*) density and (*ii*) amplitude, in the memory night compared to baseline in the four patients with completed ripple analysis.
- This implies that **increased ripple density**, along with spindles and slow oscillations, **may play a role in sleep-dependent memory consolidation in humans**, consistent with findings in rodents.
- As we collect more data, we seek to determine how ripples are coordinated with spindles and slow oscillations and whether triple-coupled oscillations better correlate with sleep-dependent memory consolidation in humans compared to non-coupled sleep spindles.

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