

Beta Rebound as an Index of Temporal Integration of Somatosensory and Motor Signals

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Sensorimotor integration during movement:

During voluntary movement, the somatosensory system not only passively receives signals from the external world but also actively processes them via interactions with the motor system (Umeda et al., 2019).

The neurofunctional integration of somatosensory and motor signals may be derived from the brain electromagnetic oscillatory dynamics recorded from the scalp.

- ❖ Alfa (8-12 Hz)
- ❖ Beta (~13-30 Hz) neural activity.



Event-related spectral perturbations (ERSPs):

Two types of event-related spectral perturbations (ERSPs) are generally described during the execution of movements:

- ❖ reduction in both the Beta and Alpha frequency bands (event related desynchronization or ERD)
- ❖ Increase of Beta relative to baseline (event-related synchronization or ERS).

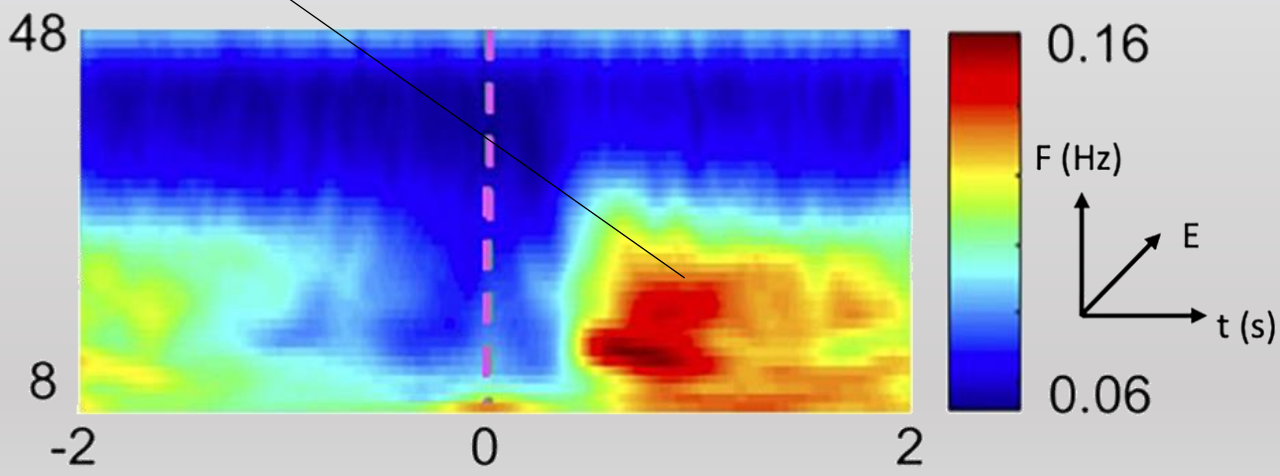
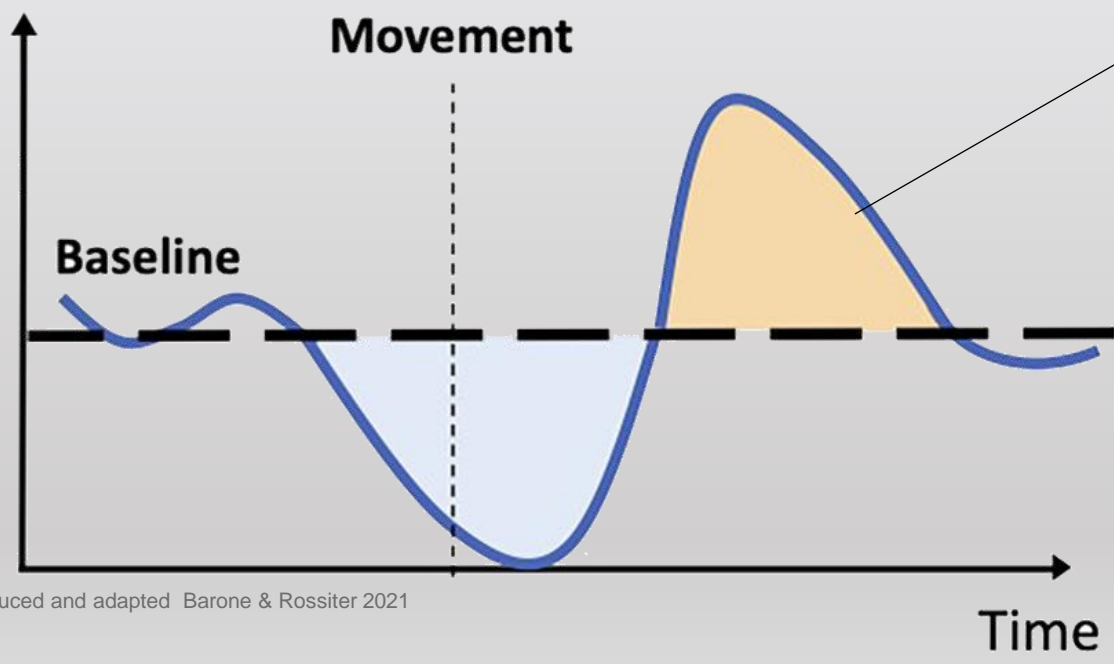
The ERD is observed immediately before movement onset and is sustained throughout the movement (movement related beta decrease or MRBD; Jasper and Penfield, 1949; Salmelin and Hari, 1994a; Pfurtscheller et al., 2003; Jurkiewicz et al., 2006).

Clear beta ERS follows movement cessation and exhibits a period of high amplitude, which can last for several seconds (post-movement beta rebound or PMBR; Jurkiewicz et al., 2006; Neuper et al., 2006).



Principal sources of Beta are sensorimotor cortex and basal ganglia.

Attività Beta



reproduced and adapted Barone & Rossiter 2021



Beta oscillation hypothesis

A role for beta as an active process, which interferes with the encoding of incoming information while promoting the existing state—i.e., “*status quo*”—of the system.

Specifically, the beta rebound might reflect a “*resetting*” of the sensorimotor system (Engel and Fries, 2010) with the functional role of updating the nervous system with the current state of the periphery

Beta power seem to be based on an “*inhibitory*” process, gating the transfer of information to or from SI and M1 (Sherman *et al.*, 2016; Shin *et al.*, 2017).

This inhibitory process is supported by the administration of benzodiazepines (enhancing GABA-A-mediated inhibition) that increases beta oscillations in the human sensorimotor cortex (Jensen *et al.*, 2005).



- ❖ Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (TMS)
(Chen et al.,1998; Aono et al., 2013; Takemi et al., 2013)
- ❖ passive movements (Cassim et al., 2001)
- ❖ Action observation /imagination
- ❖ somatosensory stimulations
(Neuper and Pfurtscheller, 2001; Cheyne et al., 2003; Gaetz and Cheyne, 2006).



Beta rebound as index

Electrical peripheral stimulation of afferent pathways (i.e., median nerve stimulation or MNS; Salmelin and Hari, 1994a; Salenius et al., 1997) is followed by a clear rebound in the Beta range

These observations suggest that somatosensory reafference may play a critical role in the generation of a beta rebound.

return-to-baseline stage (Müller et al., 2003)?

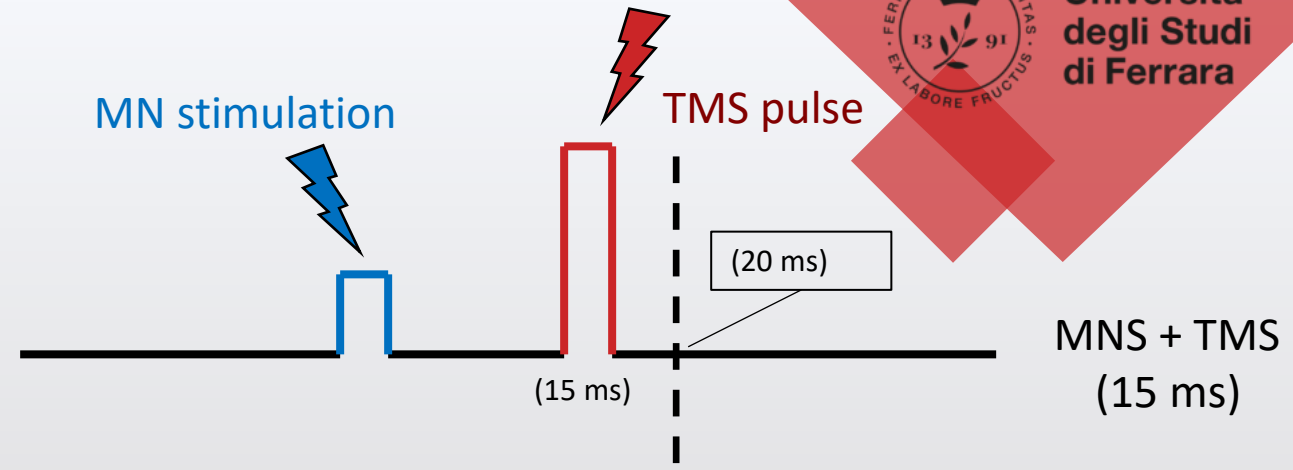
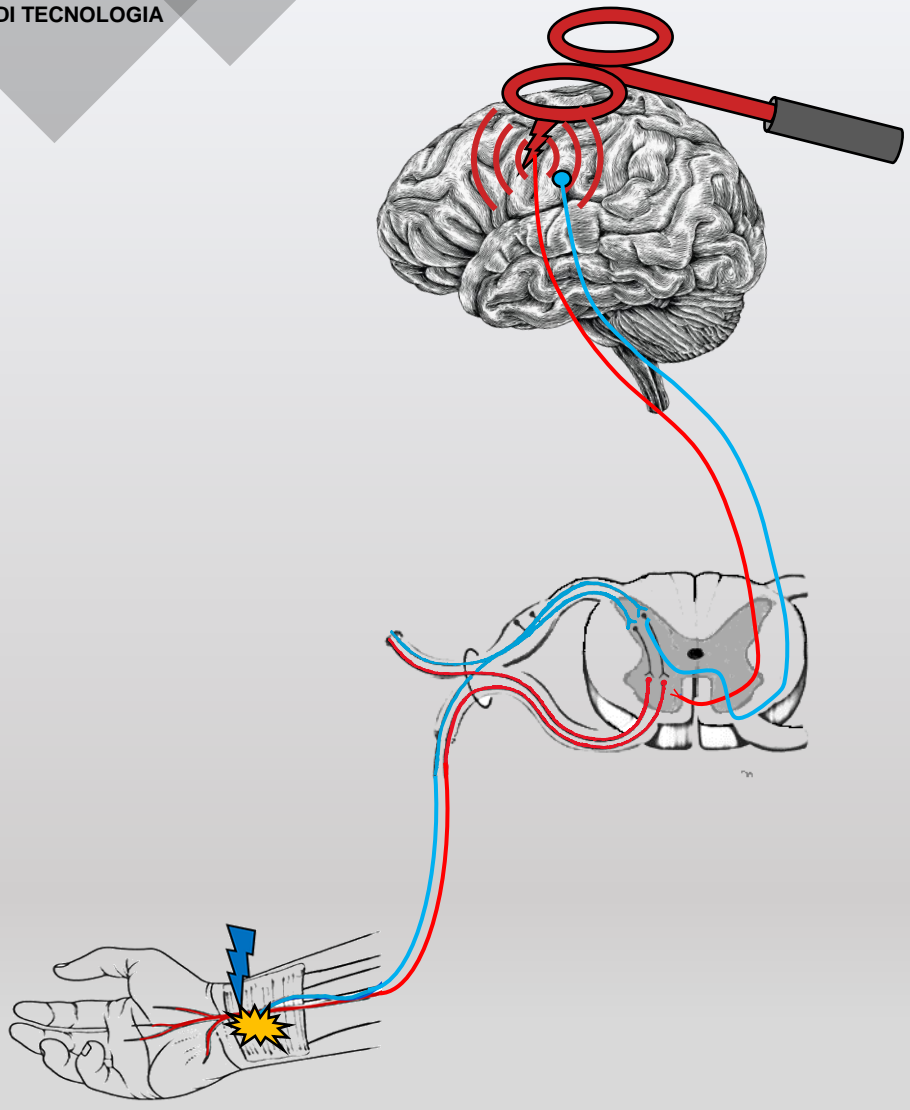
The first afferent volley requires about 20 ms to reach its cortical targets (Cohen and Starr, 1987; Allison et al., 1989)



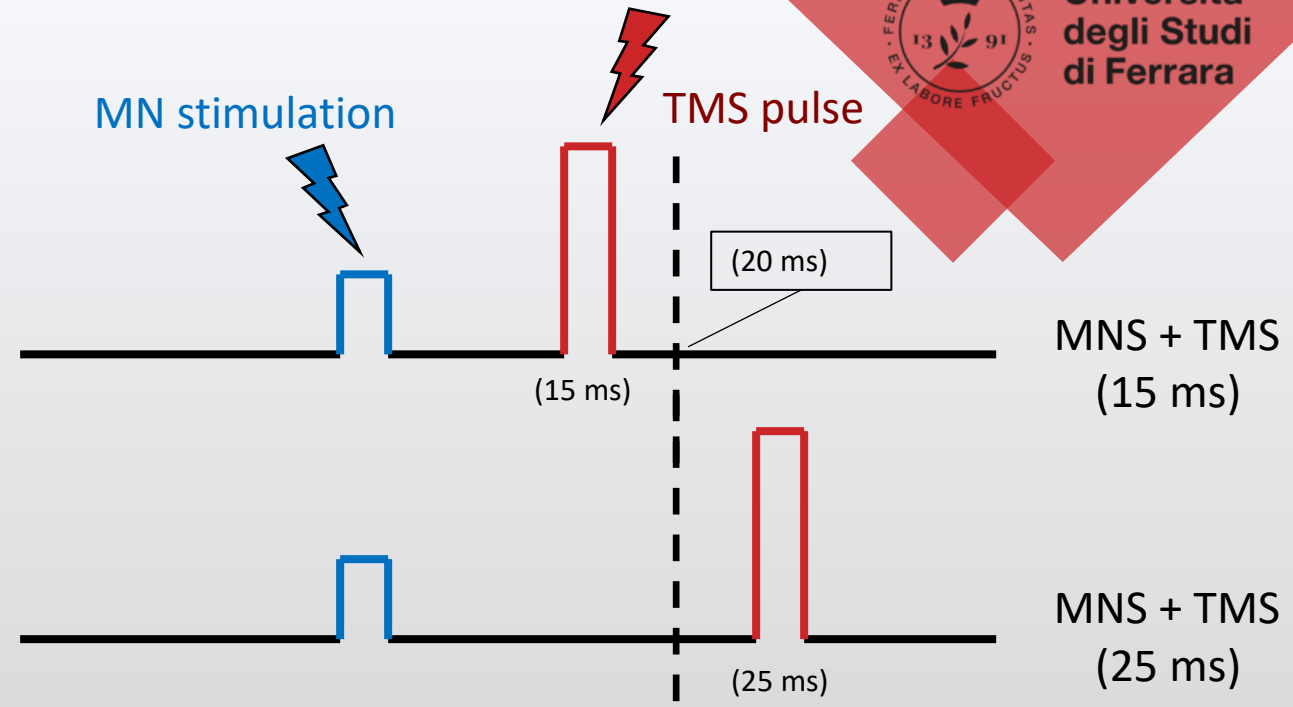
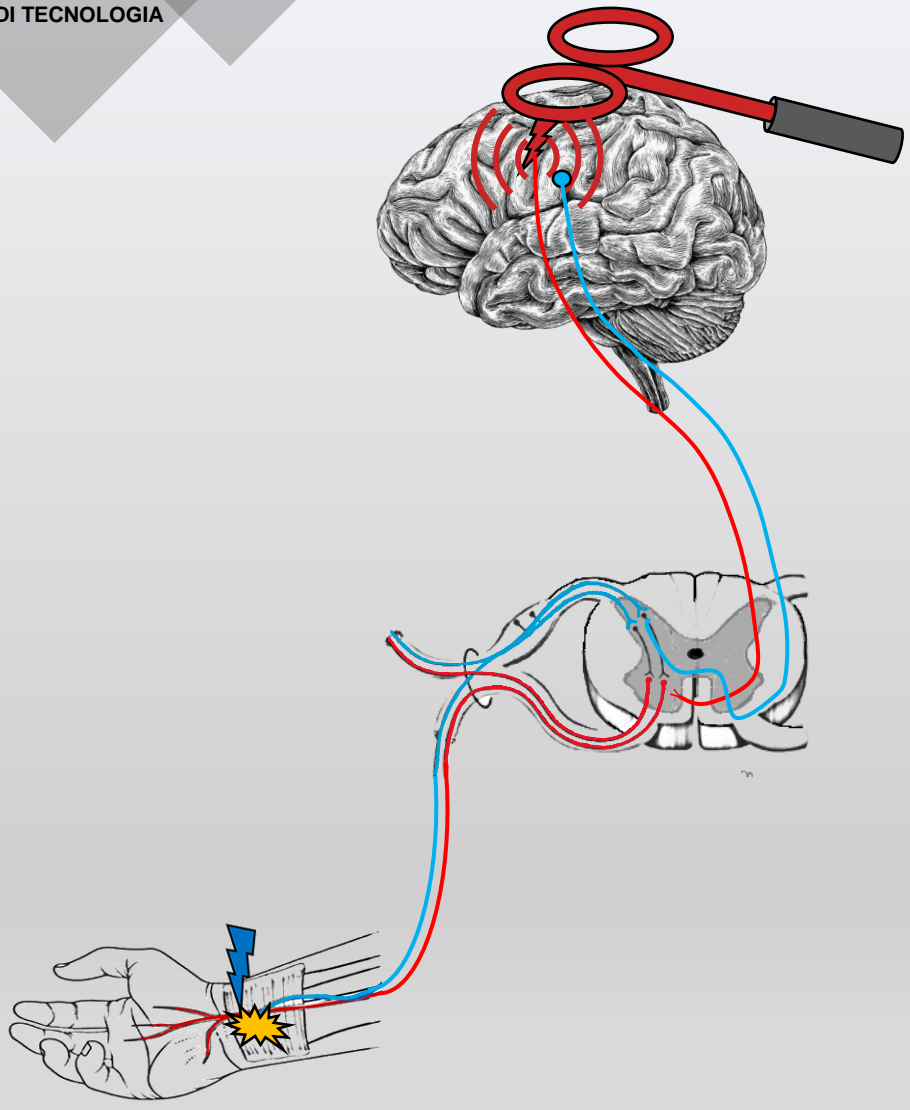
We used the Beta rebound to investigate the timing of the somatosensory integration.



Different temporal integrations



Different temporal integrations

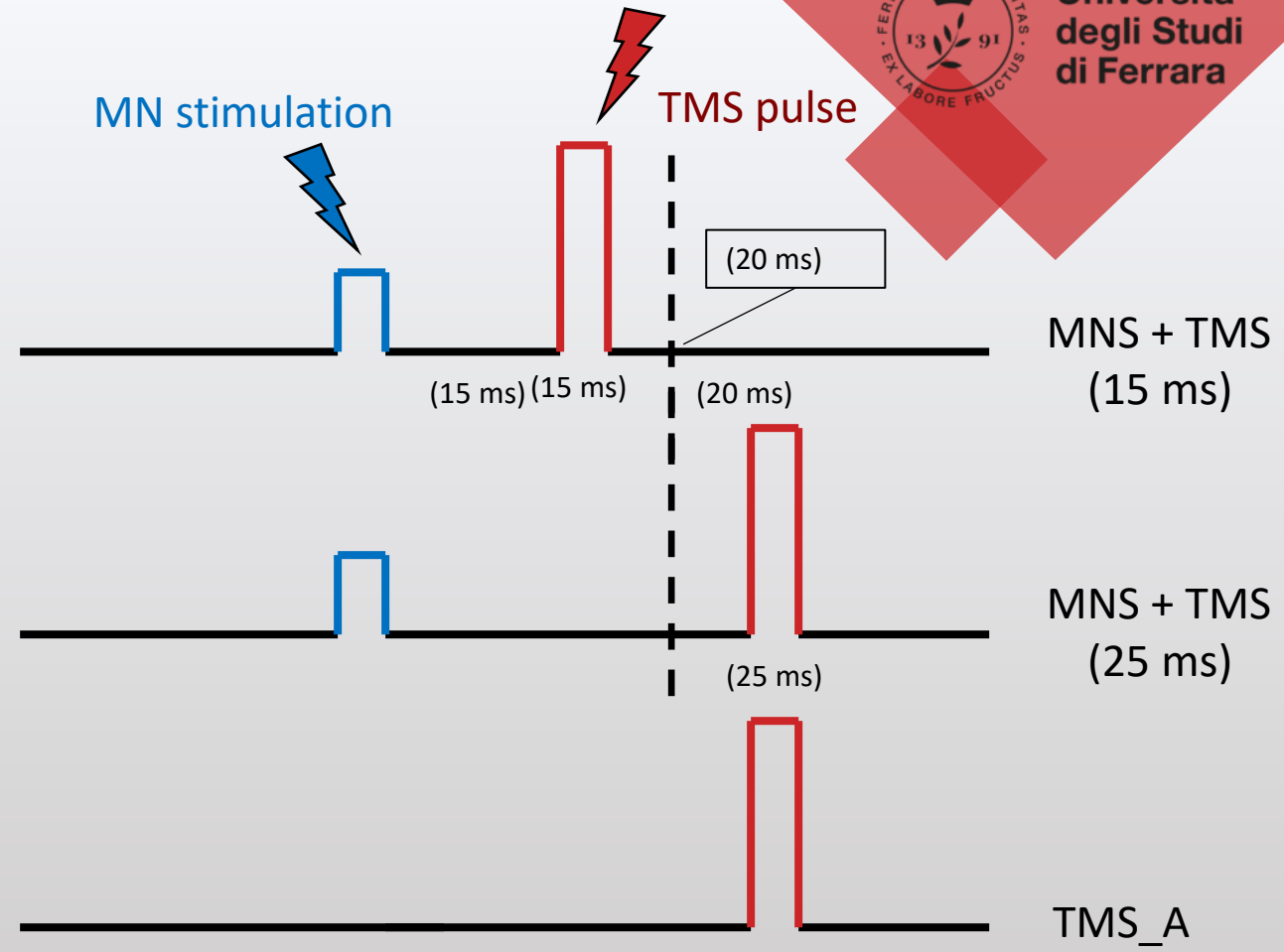
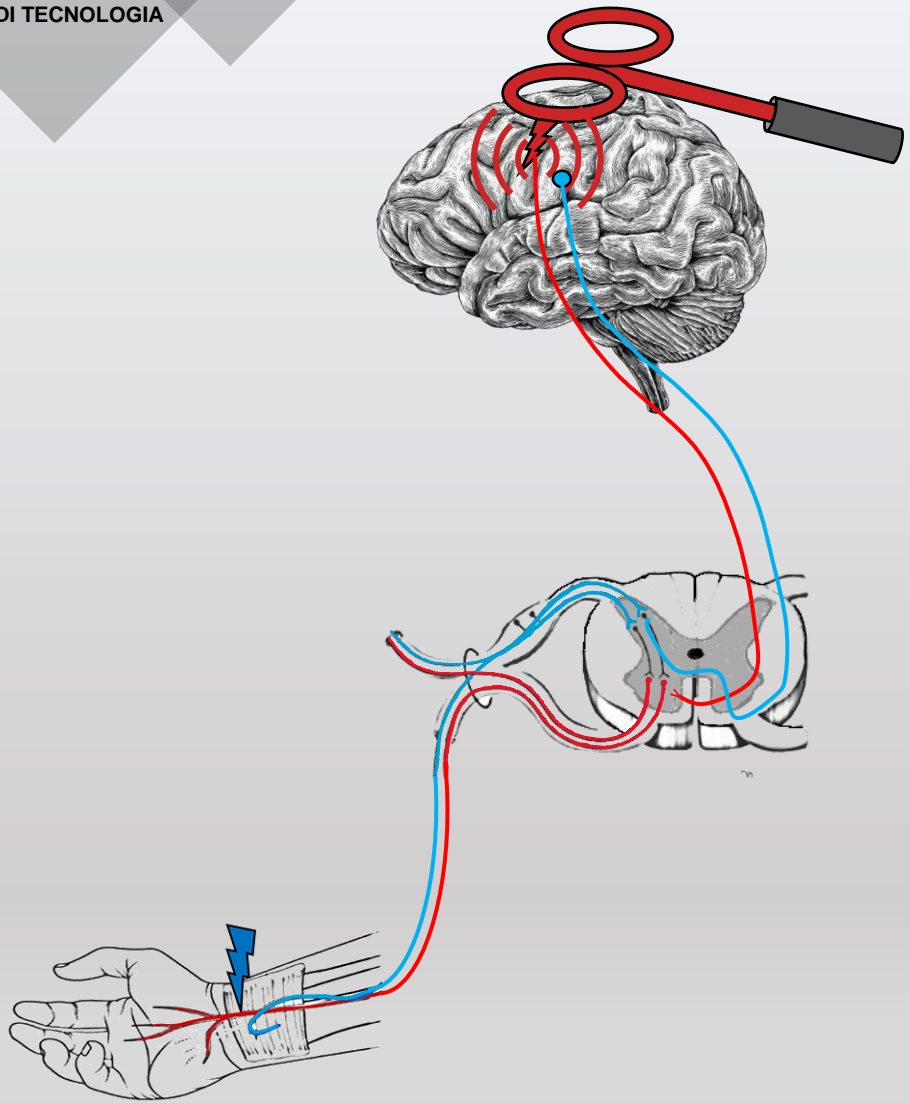


MNS + TMS
(15 ms)

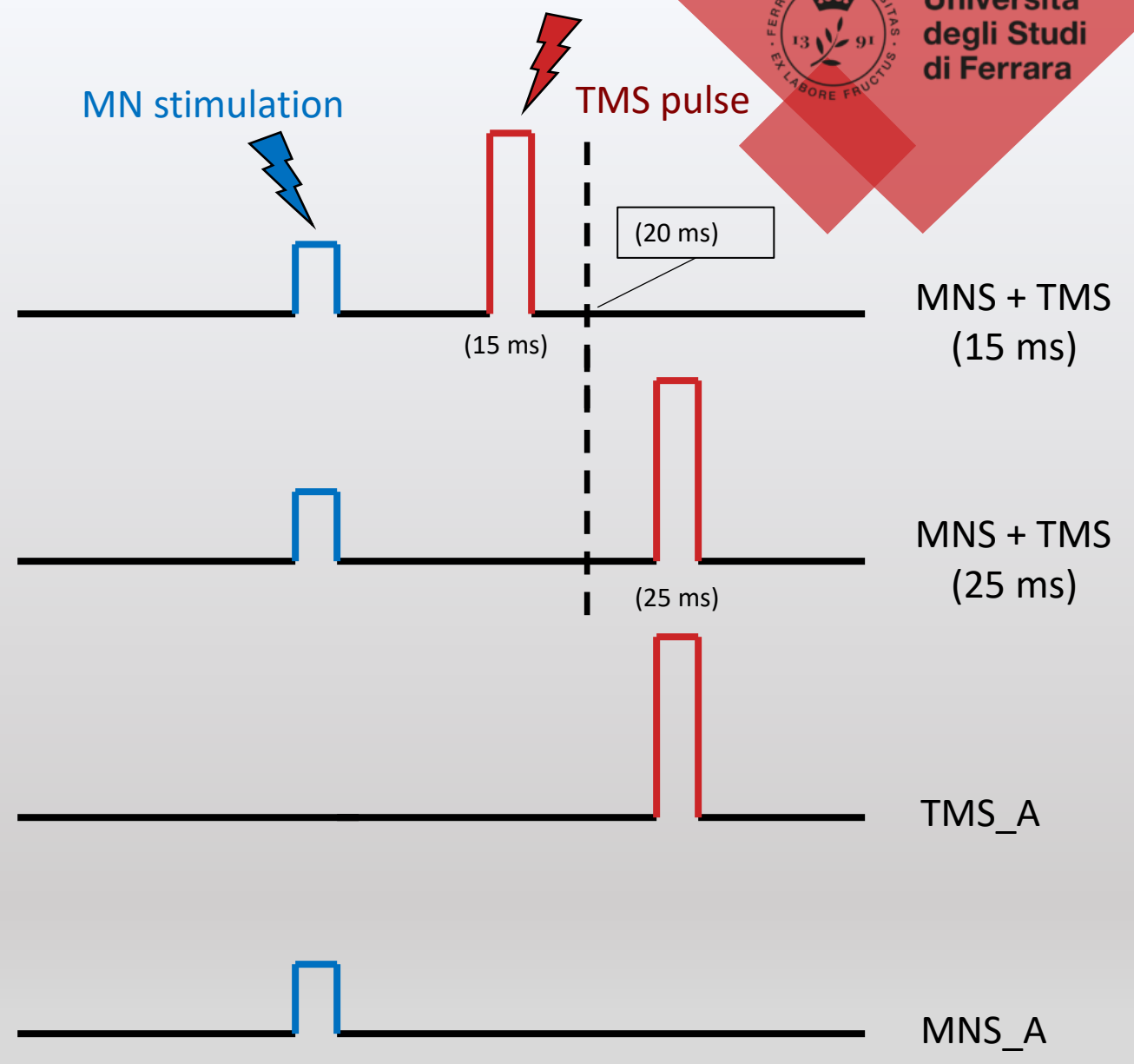
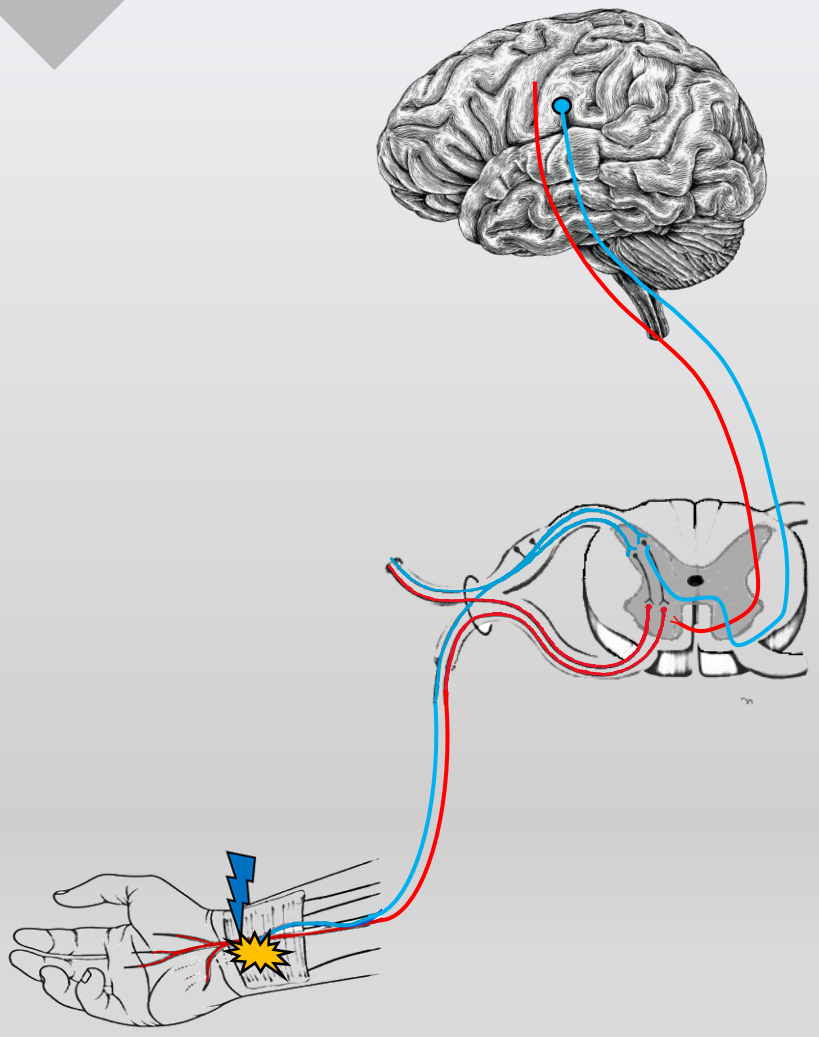
MNS + TMS
(25 ms)



Different temporal integrations



Different temporal integrations



Time-frequency plots

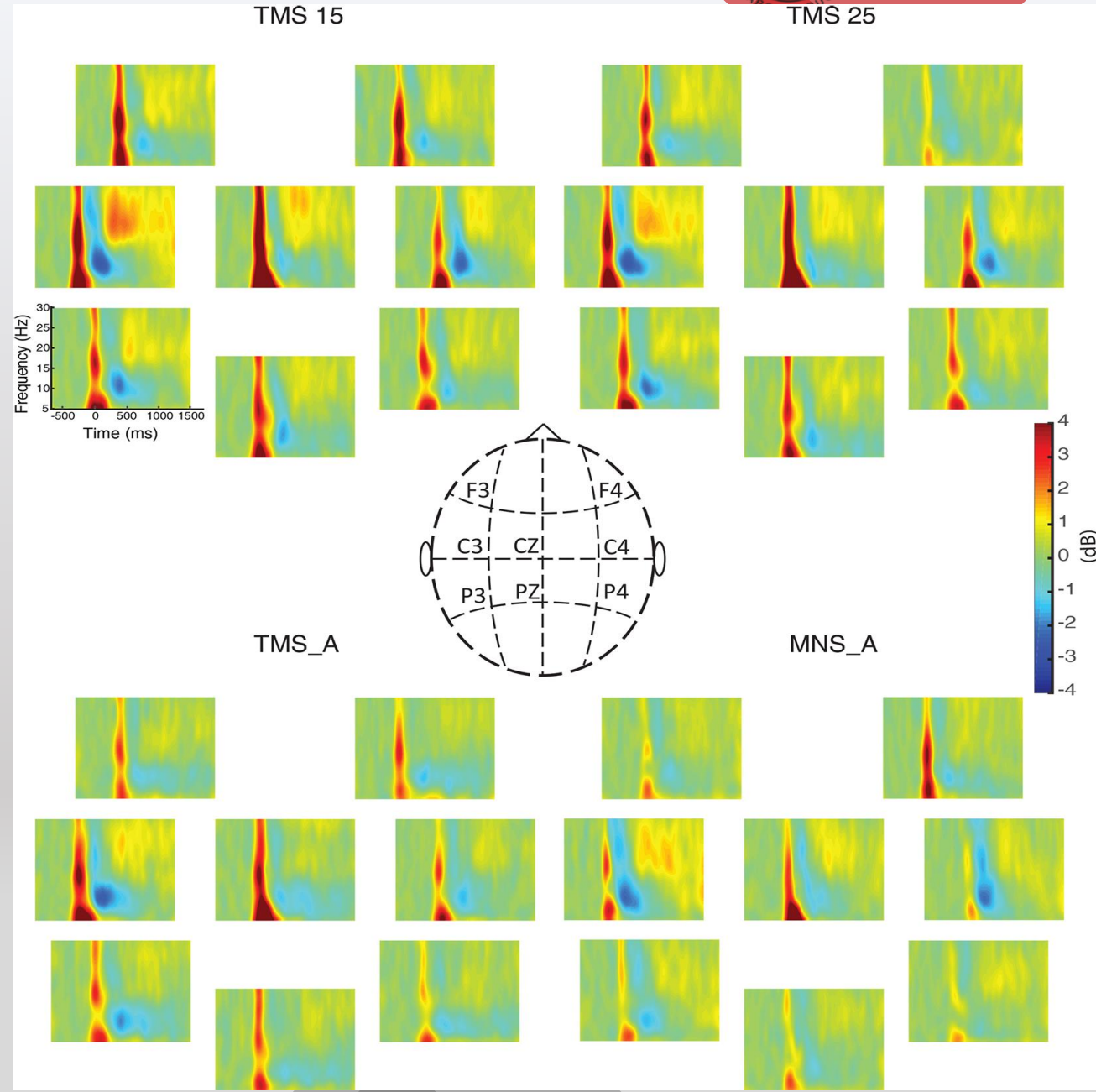
10 subjects
100 trials in each condition

TMS:(MEPs) in right *opponens pollicis*
(OP)

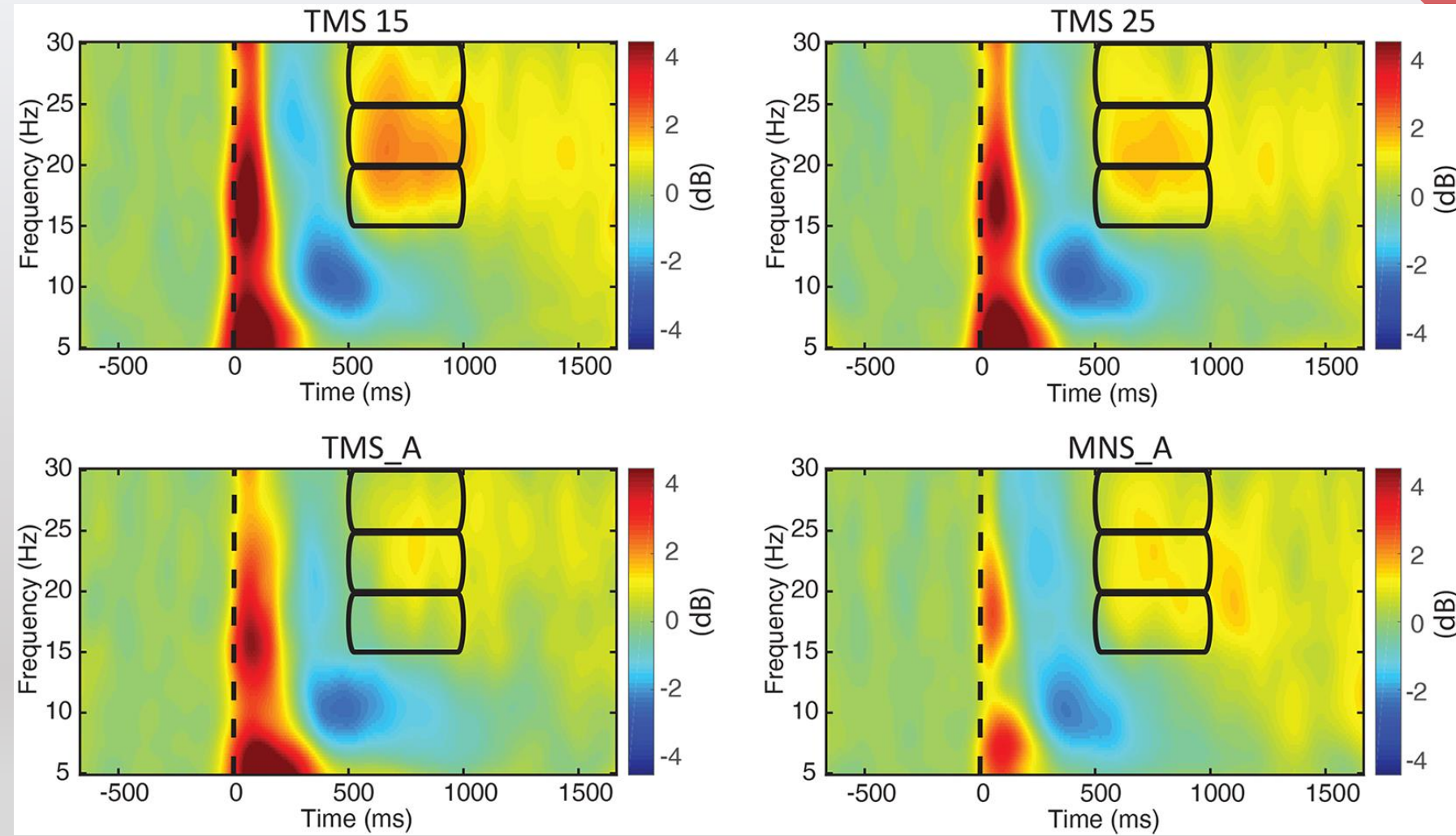
EEG: 8 channels
(sensorimotor area)

Increase of Beta power:

- 500 – 1000 ms
- central electrodes
- hemisphere contralateral for MNS



Event related spectral perturbation C3:



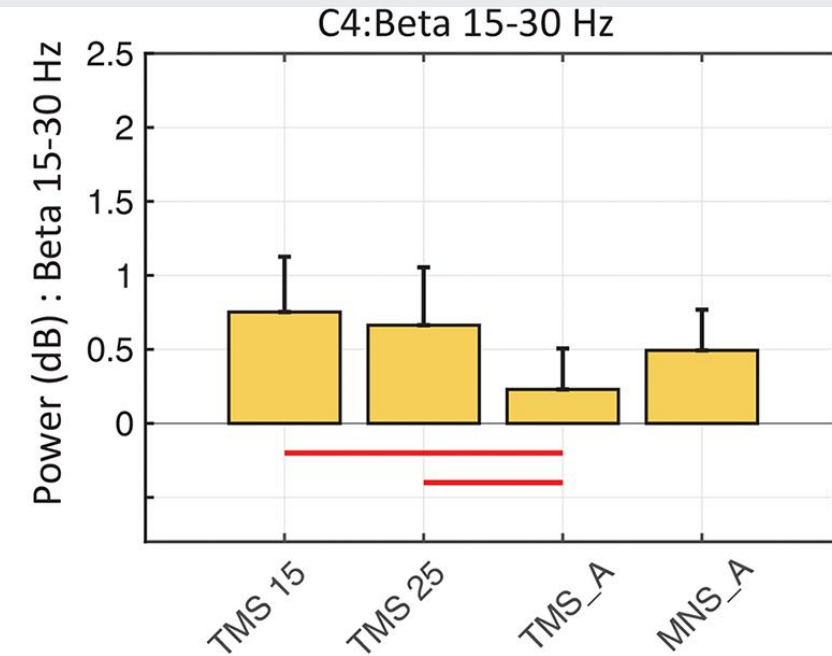
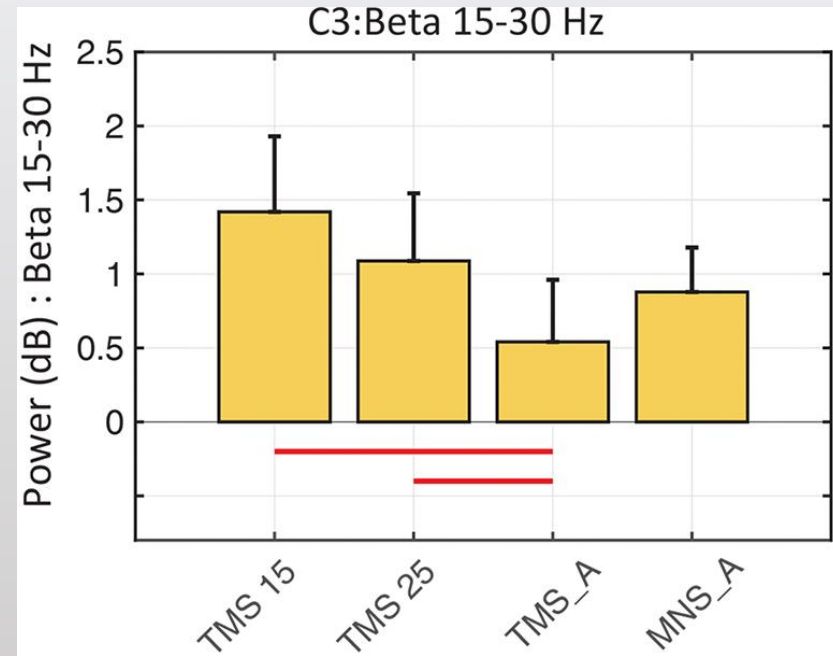
Beta rebound (15-30 Hz) in C3 e C4

C3:

TMS15 > TMS_A ($p < 0.01$)
TMS25 > TMS_A ($p = 0.03$)

C4:

TMS15 > TMS_A ($p = 0.02$)
TMS25 > TMS_A ($p < 0.01$)



Results C3 C4 in different beta sub-bands.

C3 low beta power (15-20 Hz)

TMS15 ($p = 0.02$)

TMS25 ($p = 0.01$)

>

TMS A

MNS A ($p = 0.02$)

C3 middle beta band (20-25 Hz)

TMS15

>

TMS25 ($p = 0.04$)

TMS A ($p < 0.01$)

C4 middle beta band (20-25 Hz)

TMS15

>

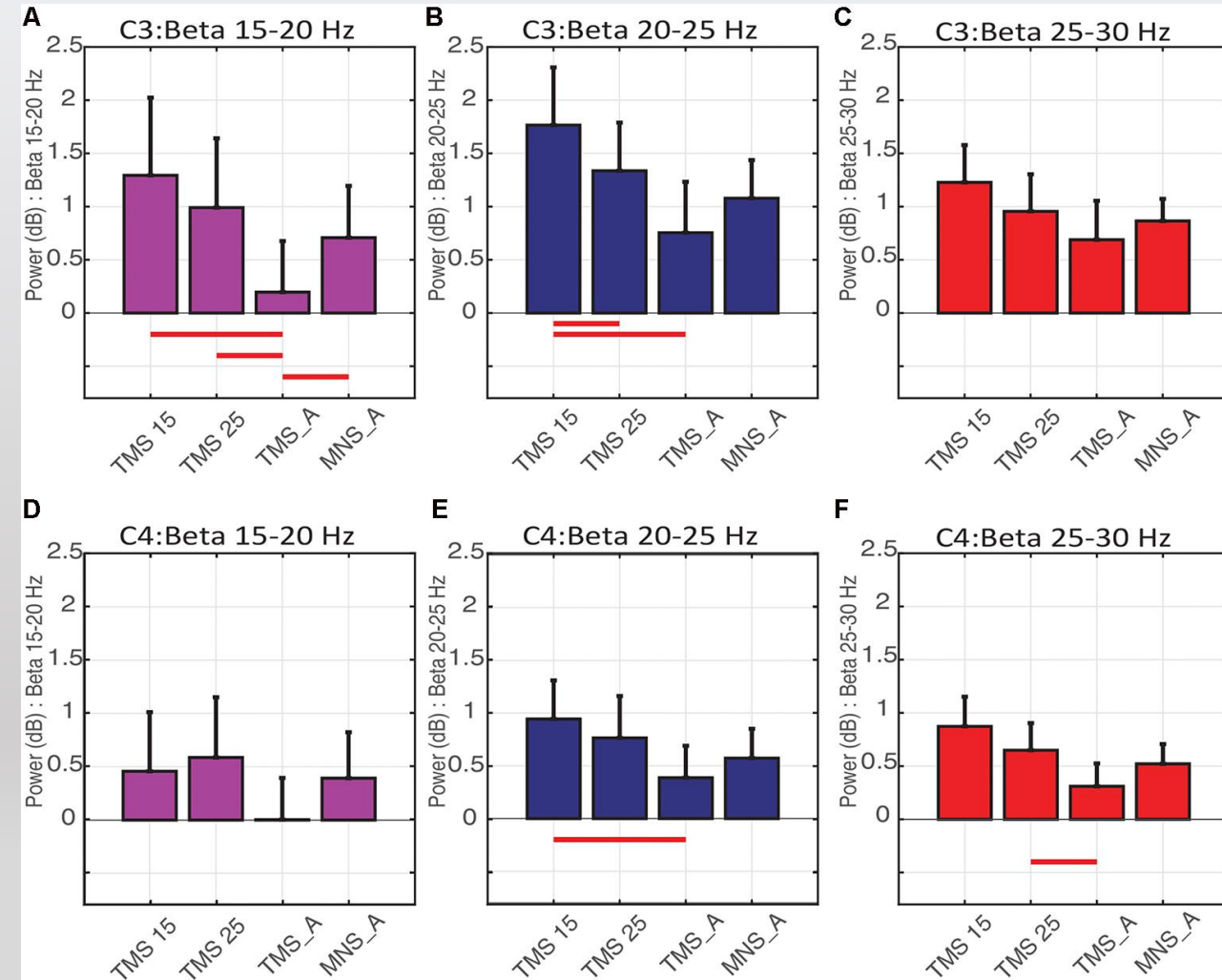
TMS A ($p = 0.3$)

C4 high beta band (25-30 Hz)

TMS25

>

TMS A ($p = 0.04$)



Left Hemisphere:

β rebound:
decreased in TMS_A in 15-20 Hz:
Index of integration process of peripheral signal.

Modulation in delay between MNS + TMS in 20-25 Hz:
TMS15 > TMS25

it is possible to observe “*state-dependency*” effects such that processing of the afferent volley is modulated by the preconditioning of the motor cortex.

Right Hemisphere :

MNS + TMS in 20-25 Hz: aumento in TMS15
MNS + TMS in 25-30 Hz: aumento in TMS25
multiple mechanisms of integration of sensory and motor signals may be at play, in parallel, in the beta band.

Motor and somatosensory areas communicate *via* spatiotemporally coordinated activities spanning multiple bands, respectively indexing the effect of efference on afferent signal processing (middle beta, contralateral to MNS) and the effect of efference on efferent signal generation (high beta, ipsilateral to MNS).



Conclusion/ take home message:

Beta has become more broadly implicated in endogenous top-down processing and sensorimotor integration(Barone & Rossiter., 2021).

somatosensory and motor neural circuitries participate in a single functional system in the service of motor control.

temporal integration of afferent and efferent signals plays a key role in the genesis of the beta rebound and that these signals may be carried in parallel by different beta sub-bands.

Multiple mechanisms of integration of sensory and motor signals, in parallel, in the beta band.



Thank you!



Luciano Fadiga



Alessandro d' Ausilio



Andrea Casarotto



Elisa Dolfini



Pauline Hilt

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Short-latency afferent inhibition

