University of



Pittsburgh

### Background

- Activity of neurons within a population fluctuate together over short time scales
- Little work has been done to assess shared fluctuations over the course of hours
- Previous work in our laboratory (Cowley et al., in preparation) identified slow fluctuations in V4 activity during decision-making tasks

### Methods

Visual orientation-change detection task and signal detection theory

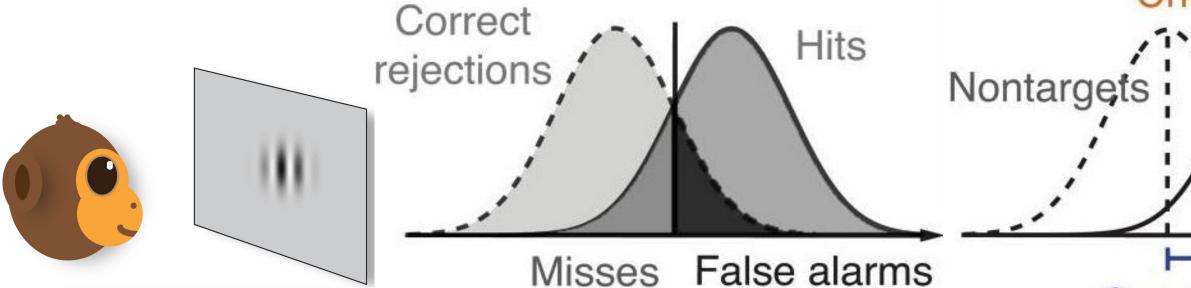
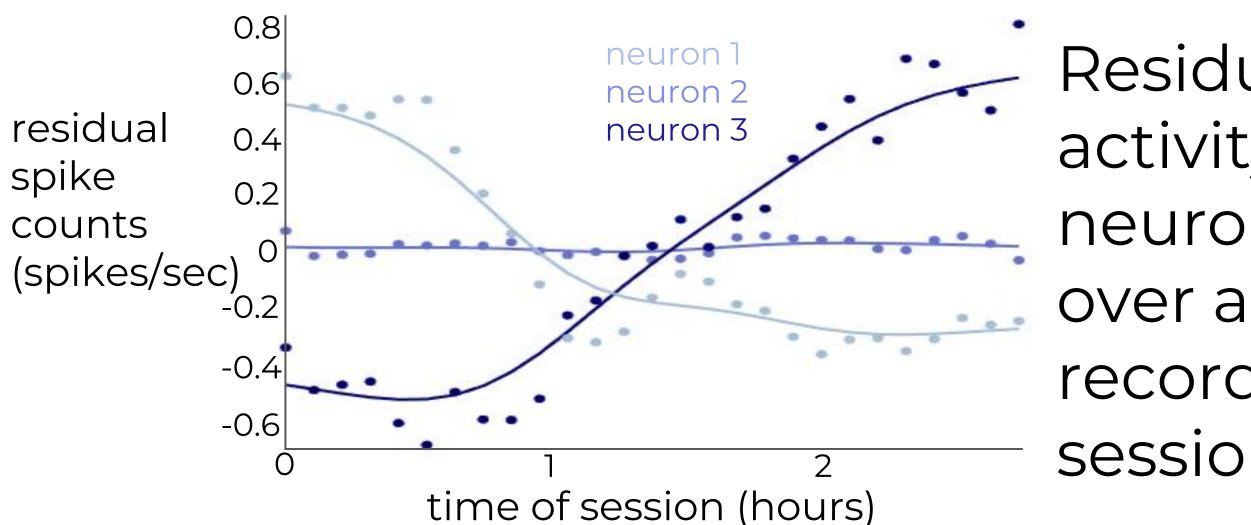
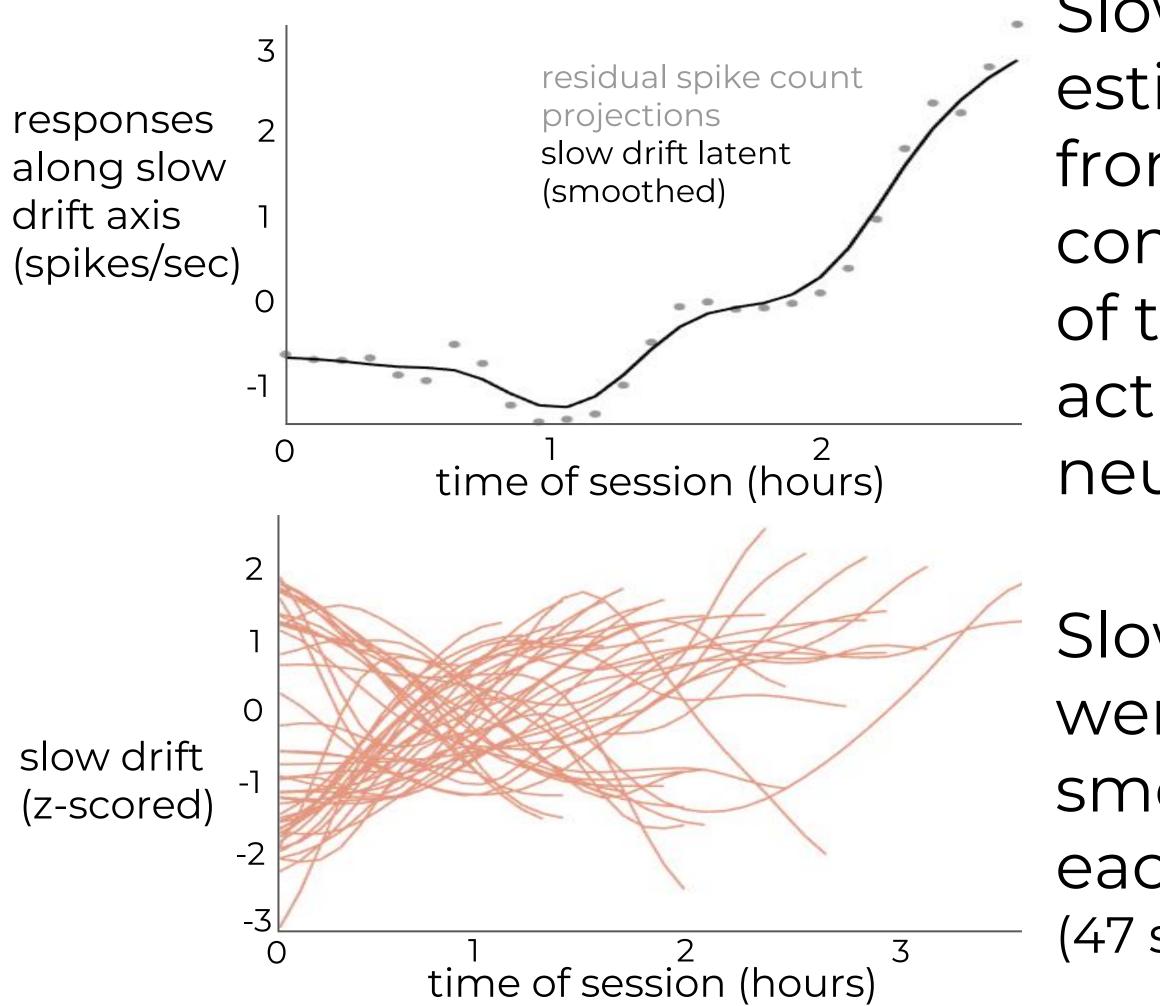


figure from Luo and Maunsell, Neuron, 2015

Microelectrode arrays were implanted in V4 of two monkeys.



Principal Component Analysis (PCA) was performed on the residual activity (binned in 30 minutes). The residual activity was projected onto the top principal component, defined to be the *slow drift axis*, to estimate the slow drift.



# Indexing slow changes in neuronal and behavioral variability with EEG Rachel Schibler<sup>1</sup>, Richard Johnston<sup>1,2</sup>, and Matthew Smith<sup>1,2</sup> <sup>1</sup>Center for the Neural Basis of Cognition, <sup>2</sup>Department of Ophthalmology, University of Pittsburgh

Criterion (c)  $\Delta$ Targets Internal signal Sensitivity (d')

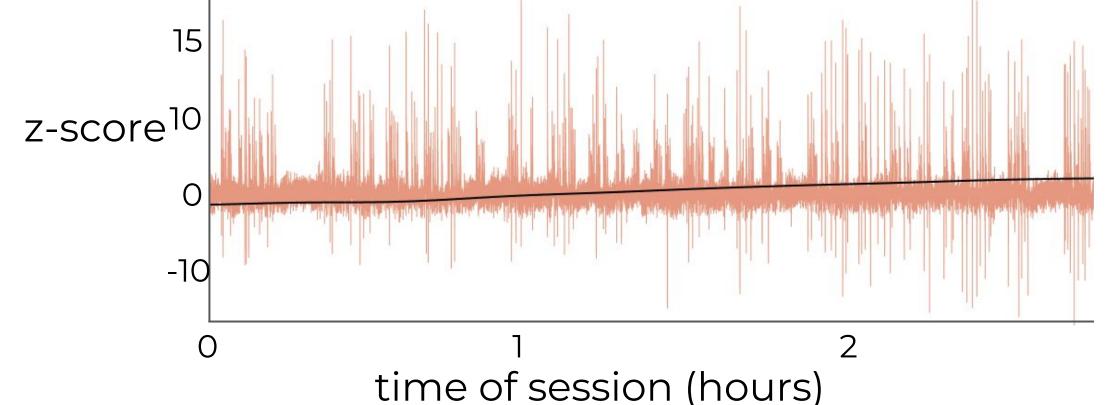
Residual activity of neurons drift recording session

Slow drift is estimated from a linear combination of the residual activity of all neurons

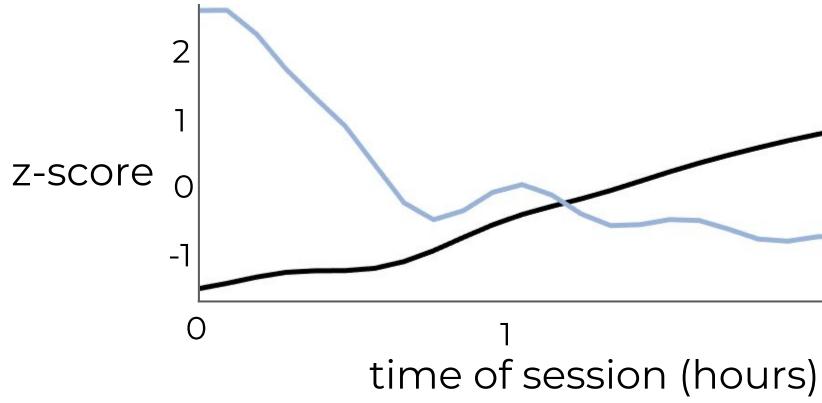
Slow drifts were kernel smoothed for each session (47 sessions total)

## Can slow drift be accessed with a non-invasive device?

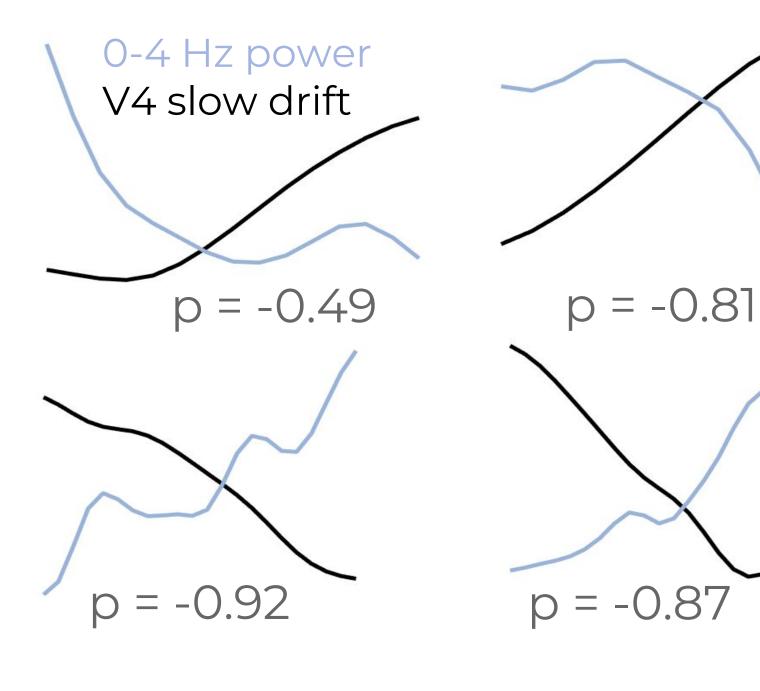
Electroencephalogram (EEG) was recorded over each session from 8 locations on the scalp.



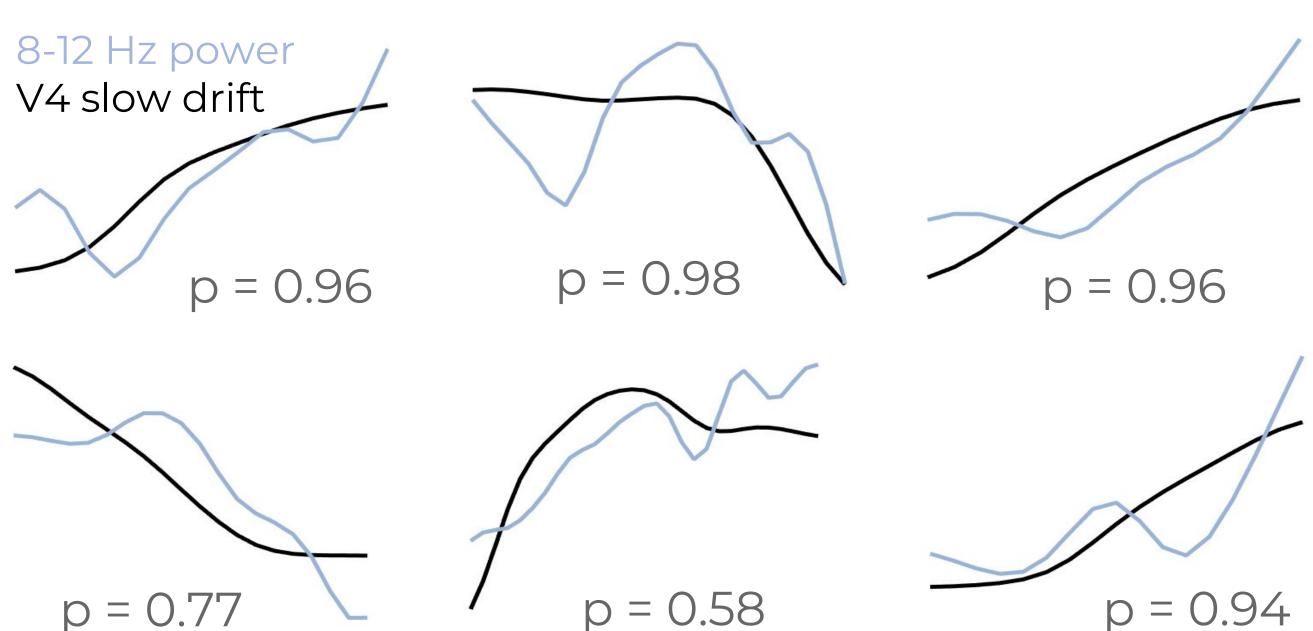
A Fast Fourier transform was applied to the EEG to determine power in multiple frequency bands over time.



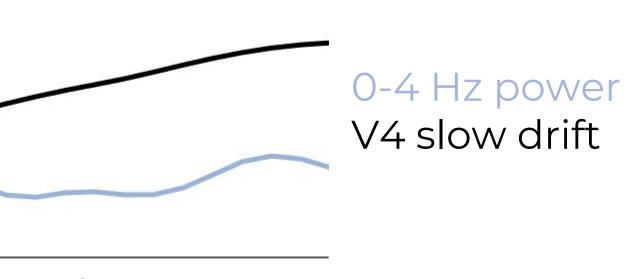
### Example sessions of V4 slow drift and power in delta frequency band over time

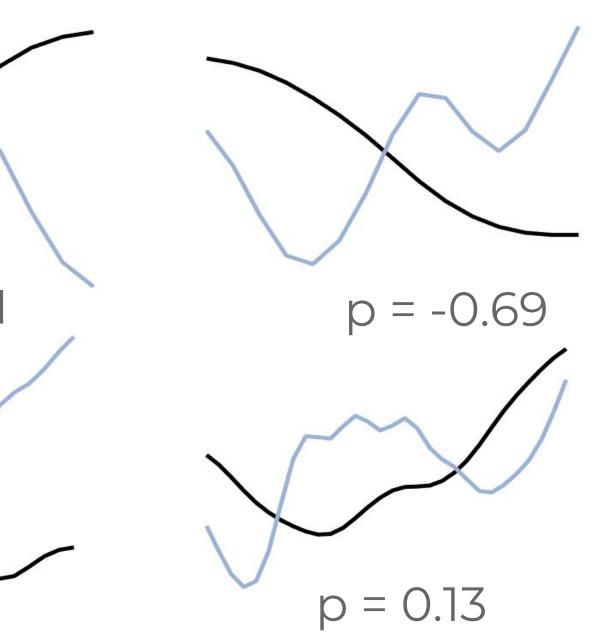


Example sessions of V4 slow drift and power in alpha frequency band over time



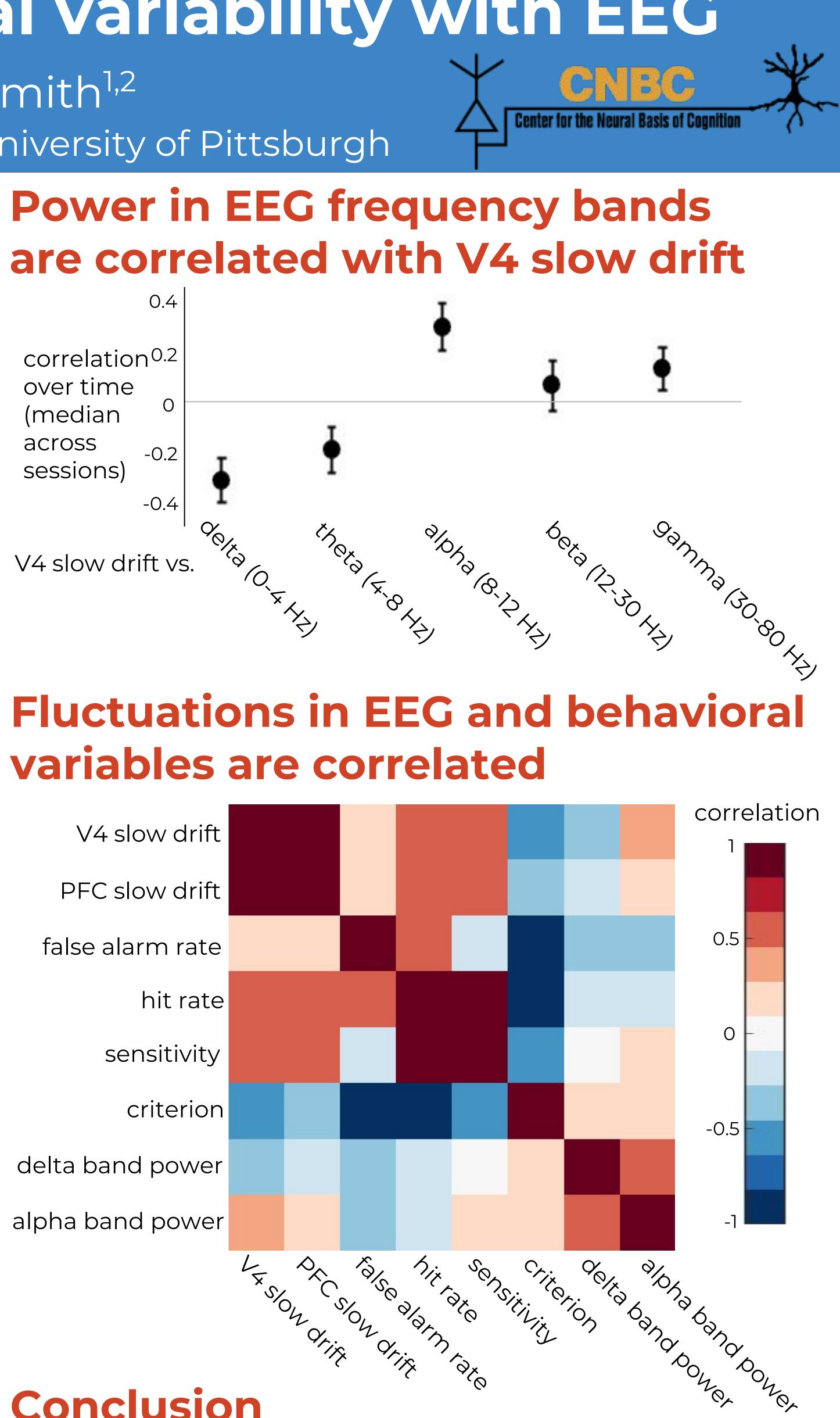
EEG voltage V4 slow drift





correlation<sup>0.2</sup> over time (median across -0.2 sessions)

V4 slow drift vs.



V4 slow drift

PFC slow drift

false alarm rate

hit rate

sensitivity

criterion

delta band power

alpha band power

## Conclusion

Slow drift may be a global signal associated

with arousal

- Non-invasive, inexpensive

## Acknowledgements

I would like to thank the researchers in the Smith lab, especially Richard Johnston and Matt Smith for their mentorship throughout the entire project. I would also like to thank the Center for the Neural Basis of Cognition.

• V4 and PFC slow drifts are highly correlated • Correlated with EEG frequency powers • Covaries with criterion shifts EEG can access the slow drift signal • Means to measure on humans