



available at www.sciencedirect.com



www.elsevier.com/locate/brainres

**BRAIN
RESEARCH**

R R

Attention shift in human verbal working memory: Priming contribution and dynamic brain activation

Zhihao Li^a, Min Bao^a, Xiangchuan Chen^a, Daren Zhang^{a,*}, Shihui Han^b, Sheng He^c, Xiaoping Hu^d

^aHefei National Laboratory for Physical Science at Microscale, and School of Life Science, University of Science and Technology of China, Hefei, Anhui 230026, PR China

^bDepartment of Psychology, Peking University, Beijing 100871, PR China

^cDepartment of Psychology, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455, USA

^dDepartment of Biomedical Engineering, Emory University and Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, GA 30322, USA

ARTICLE INFO

Article history:

Accepted 6 January 2006

Available online 9 March 2006

Keywords:

Attention shift
Working memory
Event-related potentials

ABSTRACT

Working memory (WM) is a central component of human cognition, and its dynamic brain activation has been extensively studied. However, the contribution of priming to WM is not well understood. In this study, we investigated the dynamic brain activation of WM during an attention shift task. The task required participants to maintain a verbal WM set and to shift attention to a new verbal WM set. The brain activation was measured using event-related potentials (ERPs) and functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI). The results showed that the ERP component (a 280–388 ms component) was significantly modulated by the attention shift. The fMRI results showed that the brain activation in the WM set was significantly modulated by the attention shift. The results suggest that priming contributes to WM and that the dynamic brain activation of WM is modulated by the attention shift.

© 2006 Elsevier B.V. All rights reserved.

1. Introduction

Attention shift is a fundamental cognitive process that allows individuals to respond to changes in their environment. It is a critical component of human cognition and is essential for survival. Attention shift is a dynamic process that involves the allocation of cognitive resources to different tasks or stimuli. The dynamic nature of attention shift is reflected in the fact that it is not a static process, but rather one that changes over time and across different contexts. The dynamic nature of attention shift is also reflected in the fact that it is not a simple process, but rather one that involves complex interactions between different cognitive systems. The dynamic nature of attention shift is also reflected in the fact that it is not a linear process, but rather one that is highly context-dependent. The dynamic nature of attention shift is also reflected in the fact that it is not a simple process, but rather one that involves complex interactions between different cognitive systems.

Attention shift is a dynamic process that involves the allocation of cognitive resources to different tasks or stimuli. The dynamic nature of attention shift is reflected in the fact that it is not a static process, but rather one that changes over time and across different contexts. The dynamic nature of attention shift is also reflected in the fact that it is not a simple process, but rather one that involves complex interactions between different cognitive systems. The dynamic nature of attention shift is also reflected in the fact that it is not a linear process, but rather one that is highly context-dependent. The dynamic nature of attention shift is also reflected in the fact that it is not a simple process, but rather one that involves complex interactions between different cognitive systems.

* Corresponding author. Fax: +86 551 3601443.

E-mail address: darenzhang@ustc.edu.cn (D. Zhang).

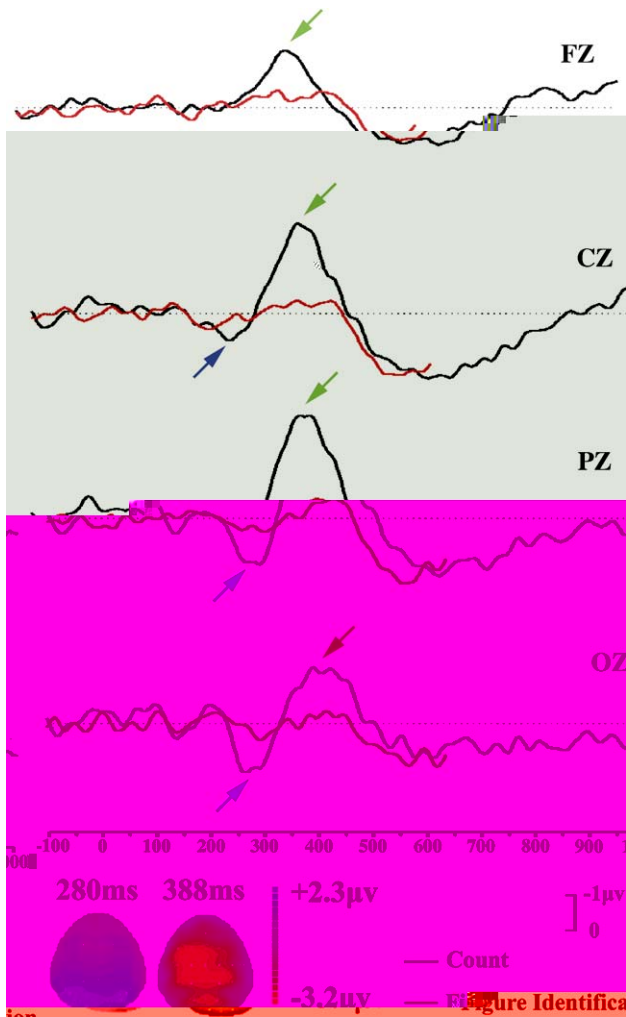


Fig. 3 – The midline (FZ, CZ, PZ and OZ) difference wave generated by a “switch – no - switch” subtraction in both the “tri-count” (black line) and the “figure identification” (red line) task. The data shown here were from the 12 subjects who performed both tasks. The blue and green arrows respectively marked the two peaks (280 ms and 388 ms) on the counting difference wave. The potential scalp topographies of these two peaks are shown at the bottom of the graph.

F. ... a ... a RT ... a ... a
 a ... a ... a .S J ... a ... a
 - a ... a a a a a a a
 .H ... a ... a a a a a a
 (... a 1/5) ... a ... a “NS” – “S” RT
 a ... a .I ... ERP a a, ... a “NS” – “S”
 a ... a “ ... ” a a a a 500
 a ... a (280 , 388) ... “NS” – “S”
 a ... a “ - ” a .C ... a a a
 a ERP ... a ... a
 a ... a ... a
 I ... a ... , ... a
 a ... a ...

a ... aT
 a .F a , ... a a a
 a a ... a
 , a a .G ... a .(2003) a
 a ... a , a
 /
 a ... a
 B ... a a ... a a
 a (...),G ... a .(2003)
 a ERP ... a a a (...
 a a ...) a a . 288 a
 .T a ... a a a
 a ... a a a a .I
 a , a a ... a a
 “S” – “NS” ERP ... a a ... a (280
) ... a a ... a
 a .A
 a ERP ... a a
 - ... a
 I a ... a , a a
 a - a a a a
 , a - - a .O
 a
 - a a
 a ... a .H
 a , J
 a ... a a a
 .E
 a a a a
 a
 .A ... a
 a a (Ma ... a .,2002;R ... a .,2004), 288
 ERP ... a ... a
 G ... a . (2003)
 H , G ... a ... a ERP
 a - a a ... a a - a a
 .O
 .T ... a ... a a “S”
 “NS” a “S” a ... 500 “
 a ” a
 O a a a “NS” ... a a a
 a ... a (...) a
 a ... a , a
 a ... a .T
 , ... a ... a
 a a .T ... a a
 - ... a a a (...
 a ... a , a a , a , a),
 a a ... / a a
 a ... a .I a ... a
 a a a a
 a a a (... , a a a) a
 .T a ... a a
 “CHANGE” ... “CHANGE TO WHAT”
 aH , ... a
 a a ... “CHANGE TO
 WHAT” aB a ... a

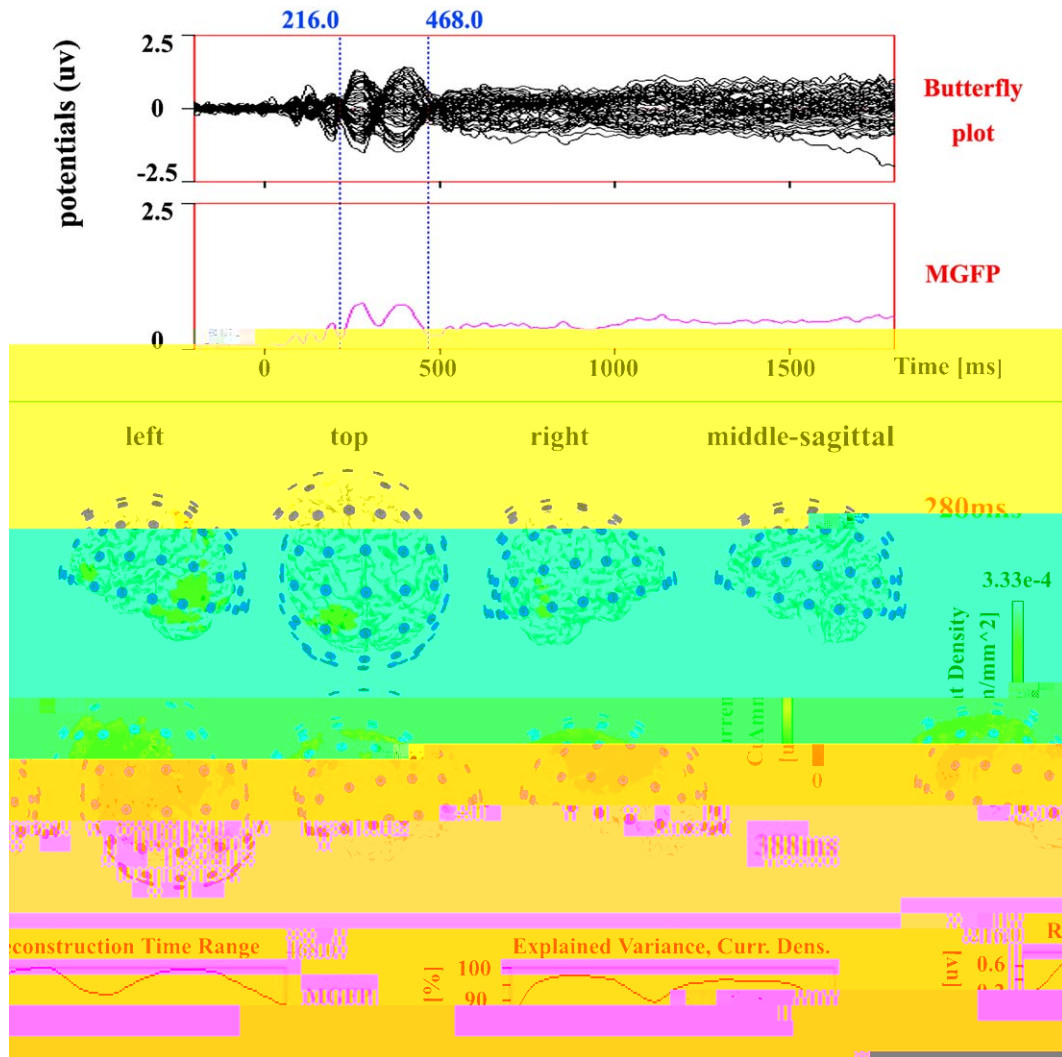


Fig. 4 - The “current-density” source analysis of the attention switching ERP activity. The upper part of the graph is the butterfly plot and the corresponding Mean Global Field Power (MGFP) of the “switch – no-switch” difference wave (average of 24 subjects). The two broken, blue lines indicate the time window used in the source reconstruction. From the left, top, right and middle-sagittal view, the middle part of the graph shows the result of the source analysis at 280 ms (upper row) and 388 ms (lower row). The blue points around the brain mark the positions of the EEG electrodes. The curves of the reconstruction time range and the explained variance are shown at the bottom of the graph.

... a ... a ... (... , a ... (Ga a a a ., 2000; K ... a ., 2003; S ... a ., 2003), ... a ... a ... B ... a ...), ... a ... a ... (Z a a ., 2003) a ... MRI ... (L a ., 2004) a ... a ... a ... I ... ERP ... a 280- a ... a ... a ... “ - ” ... “ a ” ... a , ... a ERP a ... a - ... a .T ... a ERP ... a - ... a - a a a , ... a a ... , a ... a ...)a ... MRI ... (L a ., 2004) a a ... a ... “ -a - ” a “ -a - ”. O ... a BOLD (...)a a ... a a ... a a a ... a a ... a ... A a ... a a ... a a a ... (Ba ... , 1997) ... a ... a ...

a a a (CE), a a
a a a CE.A a
a a a a a
a CE (DE a., 1995), -a a
a a a a a a a
a a a
a a CE - a a a (R
a., 2000). E a a a

