Sound Coding Strategies and Fitting for Cochlear Implants

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Slides and Materials available under: http://auditoryprostheticgroup.weebly.com/blog

Many Slides from Prof. Andreas Büchner and Tobias Rottmann





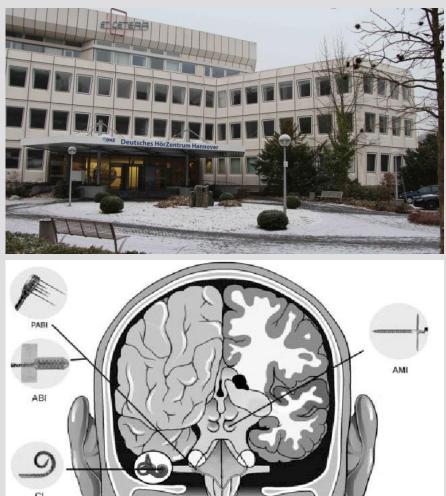
Goals

- 1) Introduction to DHZ-MHH
- 2) To present sound coding strategies in a technical way in a historical context.
- 3) Relating cochlear implant adaptation to coding strategies.
- 4) Example of a study on MHH in this context based on the FS4 strategy.



DHZ-MHH

- Department of Otolaryngology/
- German Hearing Center
 - 30 years of cochlear implant experience
 - World's largest cochlear implant program (10,000 Impl. 2019)
 - ~600 patients are implanted per year
 - Wide spectrum of hearing systems
 - Cochlear Implant, Middle Ear Implant, Hearing Aids
 - ABI (auditory brainstem implant), AMI (auditory midbrain implant)









Medizinische Hochschule Hannover





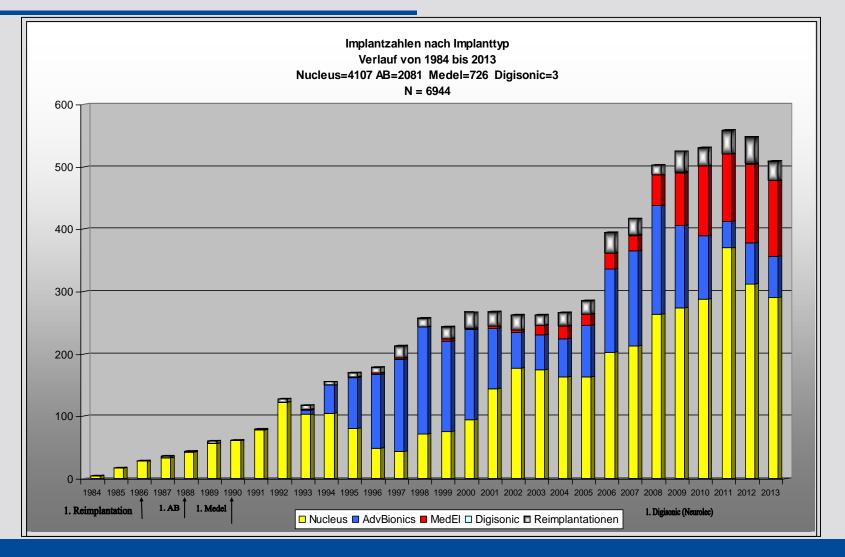






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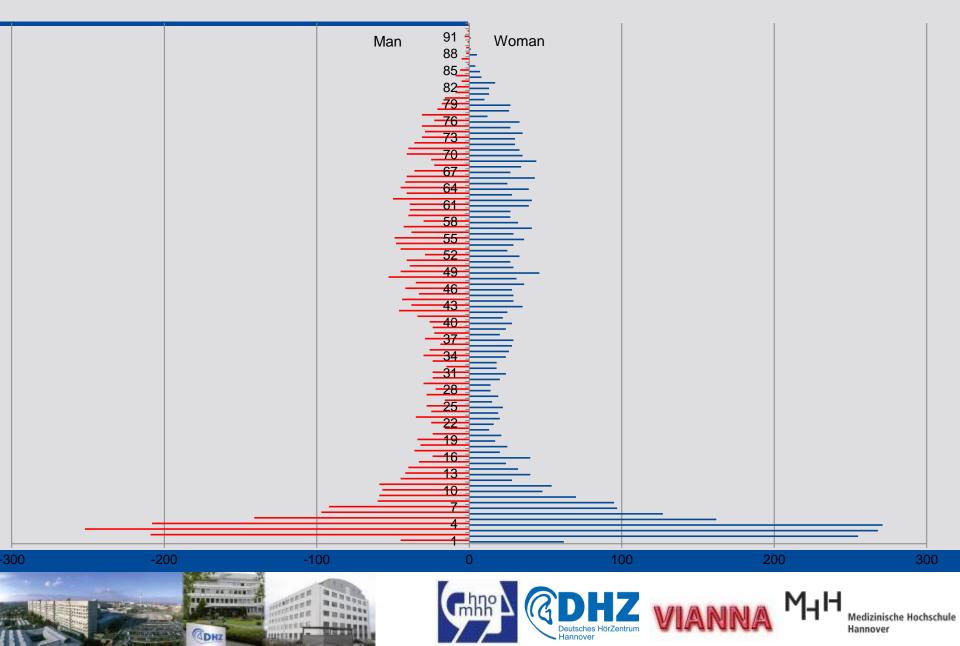
Number of CI implantations at MHH



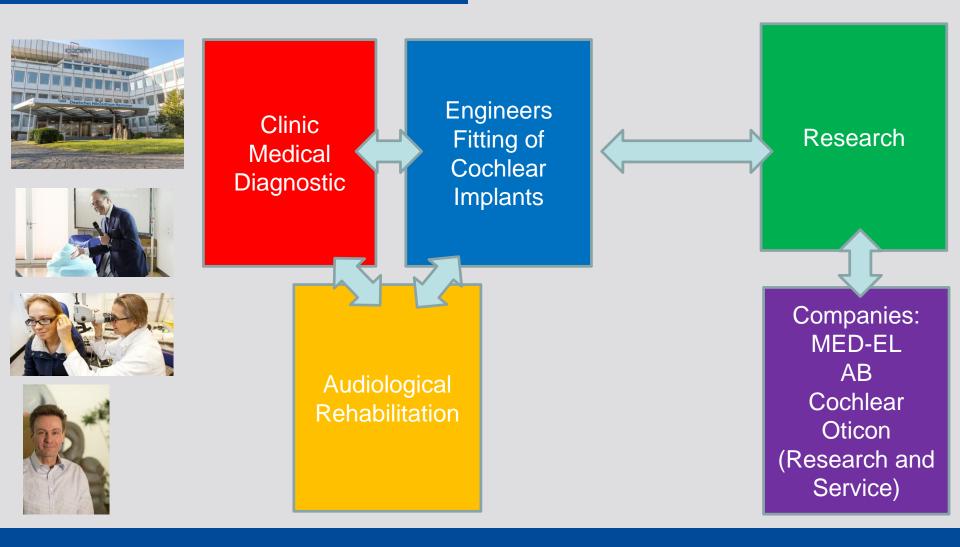




Age distribution at implantation



DHZ: German Hearing Center







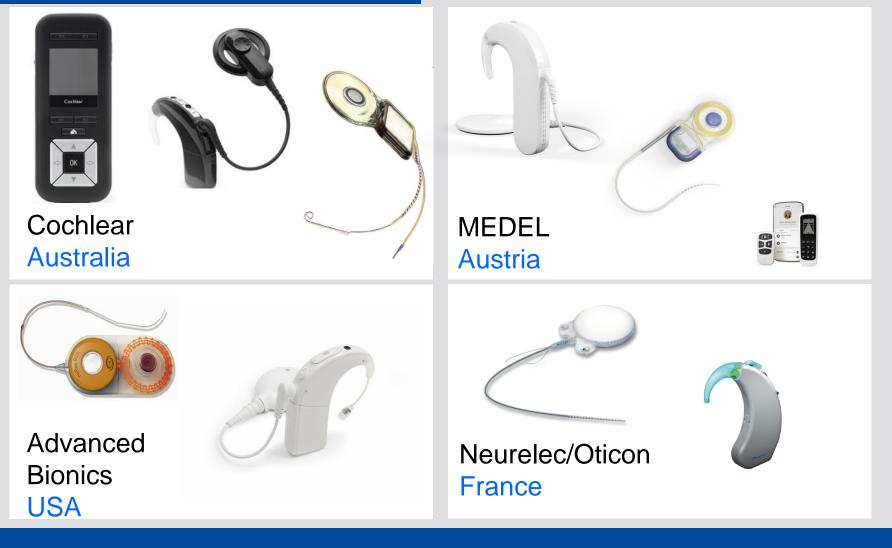


Contents

- 1. Introduction
- 2. Fundamentals of electrical stimulation
- 3. Historical overview of coding strategies
- 4. Current coding strategies
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CI manufacturers and models at MHH









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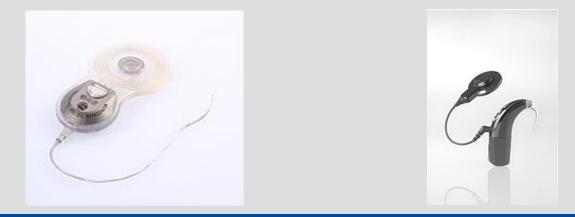
Other CI Manufacturers

Cochlear-Implant-System: IES (= "I Enjoy Sound")





Coclear Implant company from China: Nurotron







Speech tests

- Recognition of numbers test
- Freiburg: Monosyllabic test

			· /	· · /					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
lak	čir	jež	lan	bon	noj	tat	car	gož	niz
mah	paž	gad	kip	seč	sin	čer	rob	cev	del
vir	grm	piš	set	kad	mah	mož	kih	mir	laž
dlan	sla	beg	brc	srh	gon	ceh	sneg	voh	prag
prod	vid	svat	past	moč	dar	soj	vrat	trst	snov
tast	dom	park	zvon	dir	grah	film	žolč	disk	gumb
kljun	štor	molk	breg	cvet	most	kost	plen	vamp	tisk
sok	pest	stolp	dolg	bron	brat	svet	grom	trup	šport
grušč	noht	tun	smeh	gams	dvom	vrač	strah	vdih	vat
stvar	bran	hrast	trušč	vrag	plašč	strop	pad	zglob	blesk
lift	stran	stric	sad	pisk	kup	dan	zvrst	lord	strok
stih	log	post	vrisk	smrad	drozg	zdrob	blišč	pust	stan
gost	ključ	grič	slast	kal	strel	kramp	test	noč	dren
bog	vzrok	klop	punč	gnjat	glad	glas	vran	gnoj	urh
polh	rast	sod	vlak	tresk	vest	brst	drob	prah	dvor
bas	hrib	last	rep	vzor	slak	trg	mast	mag	kap
trn	svak	čoln	čast	slap	hči	nos	polk	krt	vrč
som	med	drn	nart	polž	polt	uk	nart	peč	OS
zid	dvig	zob	maj	vrt	prst	svet	ud	bor	*ptič
reč	tank	dih	srd	list	čar	*sklad	*jed	sad	*cent
ep	pas	vas	pih	drog	ton	*čin	*kri	*član	*shod
*cmok	les	meh	vod	fant	ris	*dol	*laks	*rast	*čaj
*ranč	srp	ar	tla	čut	led	*ring	*las	*dres	*spis
*prt	*čas	*črv	rep	duh	bar	*dah	*hrt	*takt	*gram
*grad	*gol	*rang	*krom	pot	up	*greh	*čip	*sen	*rov
*dež	*hec	*dur	*hod	as	*cvek	*par	*gos	*sir	*gred
*prav	*top	*smer	*rog	*lev	*stik	*šal	*sum	*šal	*hlad
*vic	*trud	*tlak	*rod	*miš	*srž	*plus	*god	*kvas	*tram
*pes			*žig	*vrh		*tip			

7 There was one replacement differing only by two letters nirh "Faster ego" and fles "flash"

 In Germany, the criteria to perform cochlear implantation is based on hearing loss greater than 65 dB HL around 500 Hz and a monosyllables test score below 60%.



Speech Tests

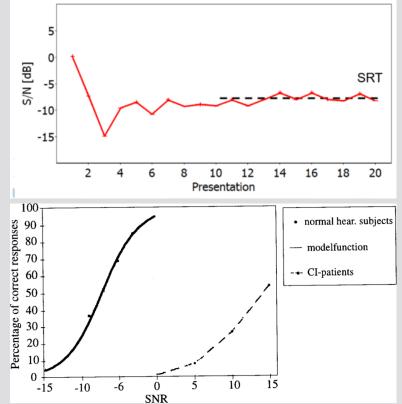
- Sentence test/Open set test: HSM
- 30 balanced lists of 20 words
- Administered without background noise at
- SNR = 0, 5, 10 dB
- A sentence is presented and the subject repeats it.
- The result is given in % of correct words.



Speech Tests

- OLSA: Adaptive Matrix Test
- Speech Reception Threshold (SRT)

Soggetto	Verbo	Aggettivo Numerale	Complemento Oggetto	Aggettivo Qualificativo
Andrea	Cerca	due	bottiglie	azzurre
Anna	Compra	quattro	macchine	belle
Chiara	Dipinge	cinque	matite	bianche
Luca	Manda	sette	palle	grandi
Marco	Possiede	otto	pietre	nere
Maria	Prende	nove	porte	normali
Matteo	Regala	dieci	scatole	nuove
Sara	Trascina	venti	sedie	piccole
Simone	Vede	poche	tavole	rosse
Sofia	Vuole	molte	tazze	utili

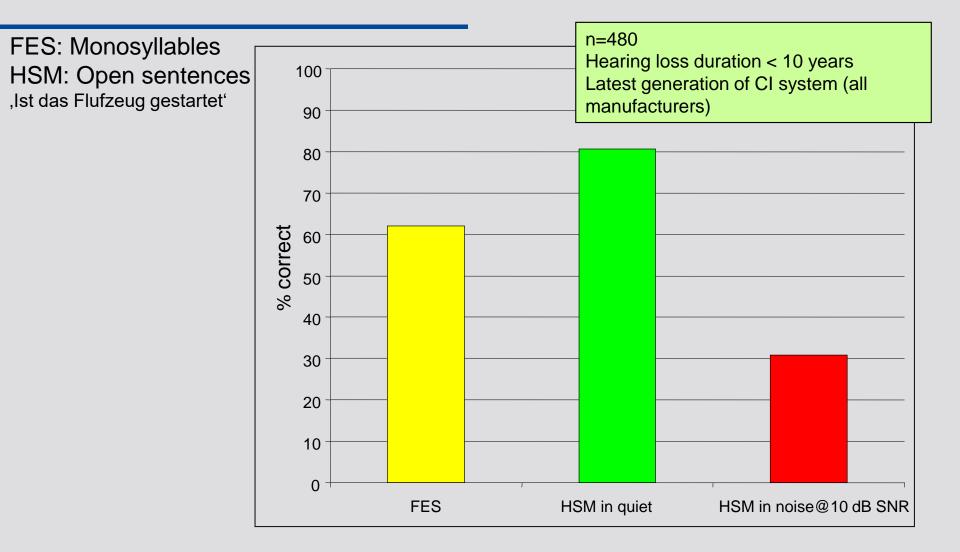








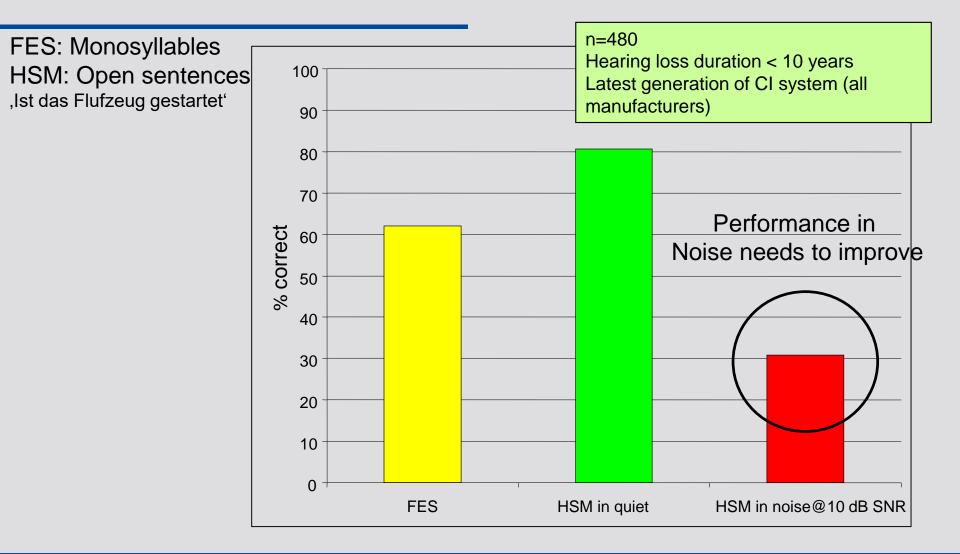
Hearing performance with cochlear implantation







Hearing performance with cochlear implantation





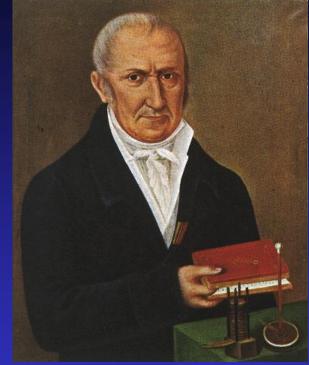




Alessandro Volta (1745 – 1824)

- Inventor of the voltaic pile, the first battery

- Volta was the first to stimulate the auditory system electrically, by connecting a battery of 30 or 40 'couples' (approximately 50V) to two metal rods that were inserted into his ears. When the circuits were completed, he received the sensation of "a boom within the head", followed by a sound similar to that of boiling of thick soup.



Alessandro Volta





Voltaic Pile (ca. 1800)



Wever und Bray 1930

Proof of cochlear microphonics

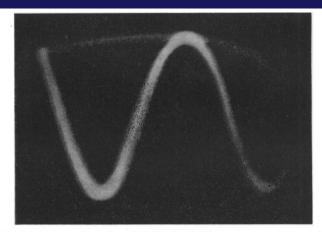
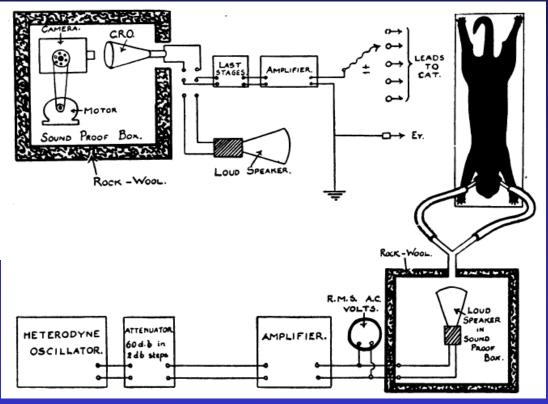


Fig. 2. Wave-form of the cochlear effect. Synchronized linear sweep used, plate exposed for one-fifth second, giving 200 superimposed waves. Frequency of stimulus, 1000 cycles. (Untouched photograph.)





Article in Popular Science, May 1936

Discovering Cochlear Microphonics



...words spoken into the animal's ear could be heared over the phone, proving that ears litterally are microphones, turning sound oscillations into electrical impulses ..."



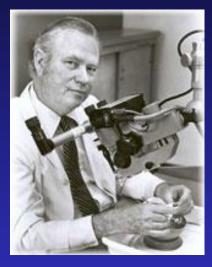
discovering curious facts about our brains and how they work. Already, these scien-tists have achieved such exciting feats as By Edwin Teale

For generations before, physiologists had known that tiny currents of electric ity accompany the functioning of many parts of the body. If you wink your eye, clench your jaws, take a deep breath—each

Popular Science, May 1936



Single Channel Cochlear-Implants The William House Implant, early 1970's (later: 3M Implant)



William House



Jack Urban (right)



3M single channel implant

The single channel House-Implant, which was used in hundreds of deaf patients in the 70's, gave benefit in terms of lip-reading support and allowed perception of environmental sounds.

It was the first commercially available system with a body-worn signal processor and transcutaneous signal transmission.

However, open speech understanding was hardly ever possible with this device.



Multi-channel Cochlear-Implants The Graham Clark Implant, 1978

Prof. Graham Clark (right)

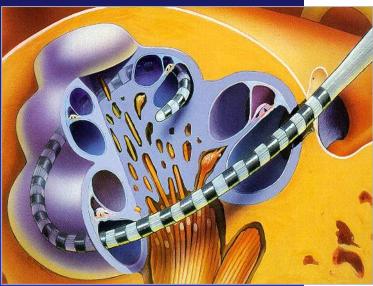


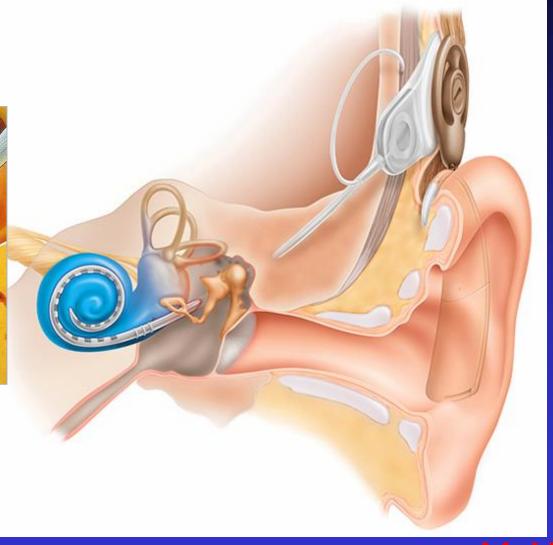
World's first multi channel implant





Multi-channel Cochlear Implant







Multi-channel Cochlear-Implants

implanted eletrode

HF

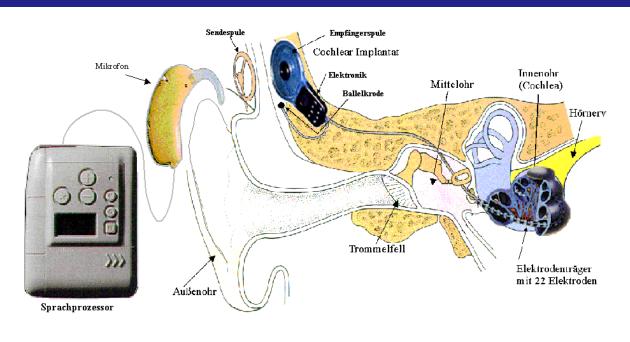
auditory nerve

LF



Why do we need speechcoding?

- Speech coding strategies control the digital processing of environmental and speech sounds.
- Different strategies emphasize different pitch, loudness and timing cues.



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Cochlear implant with a single electrode

William House (1923 – 2012), in 1970 (3M Implant)







William House

Jack Urban (right)

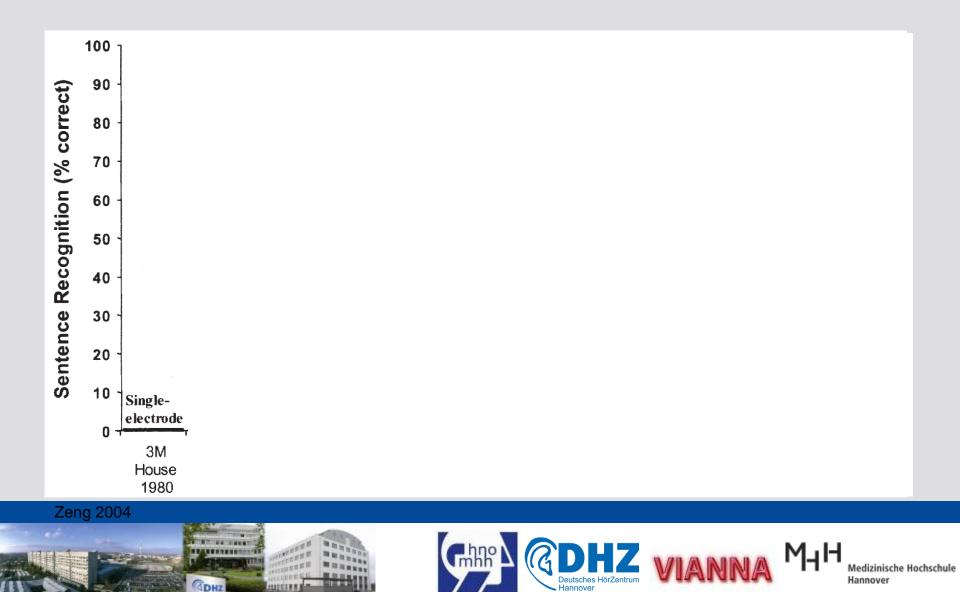
3M Single-Electrode Implant





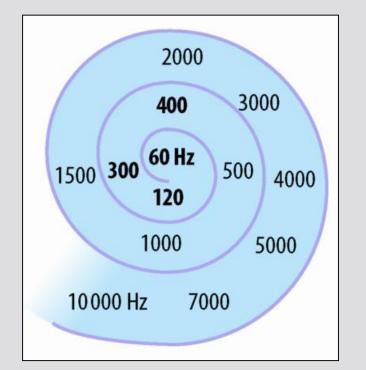


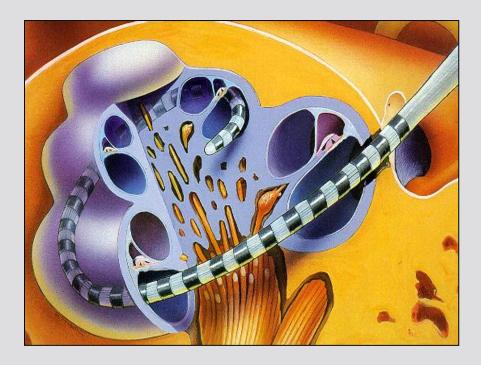
Speech Intelligibility



Hannover

Multichannel Cochlear Implant



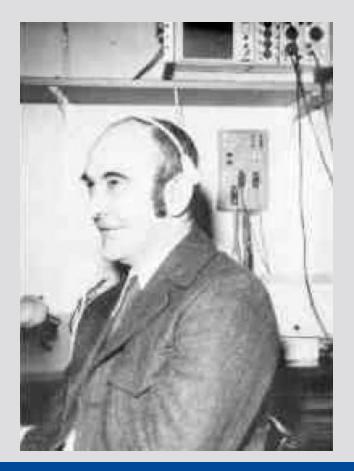


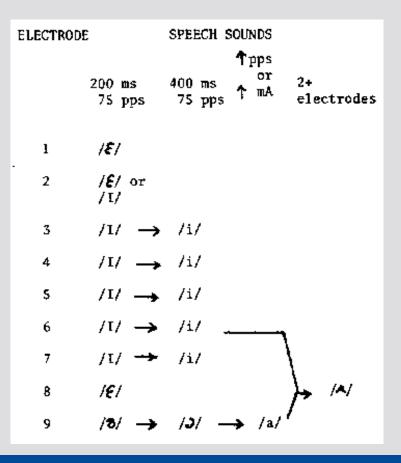




Multichannel Cochlear Implant

Clark Feature Extraction 1978









Multichannel Cochlear Implant

First speech processor for multichannel cochlear implant



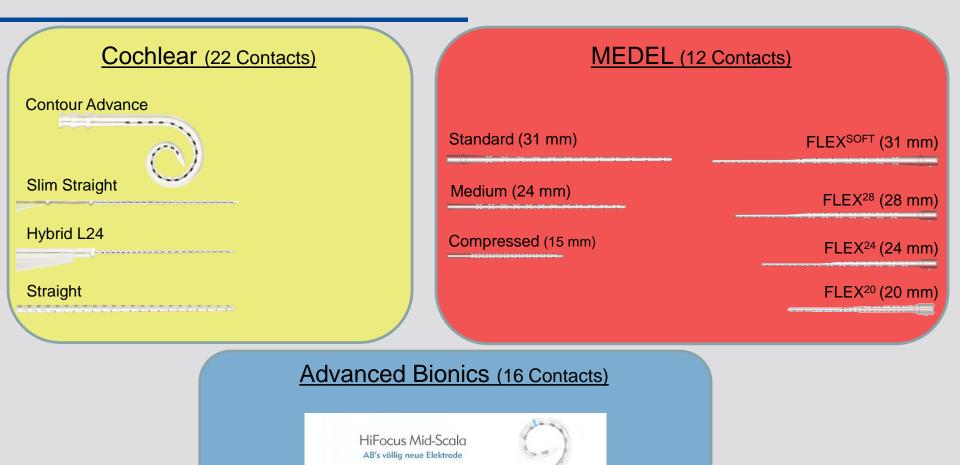








Electrode Arrays

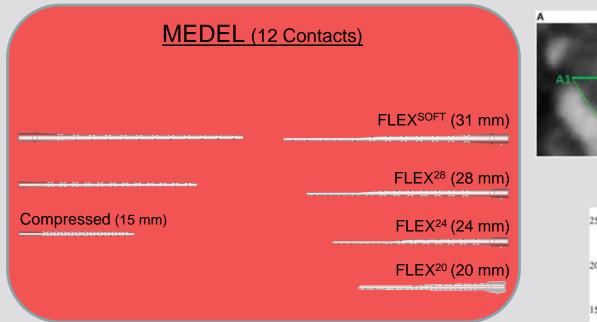




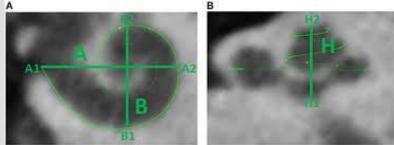




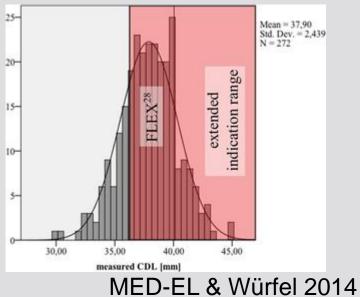
Cochlear length vs electrode array



Medical Image (CT) for each patient At MHH (Pre- y Post- operation)



Nogueira (2016), Frontiers





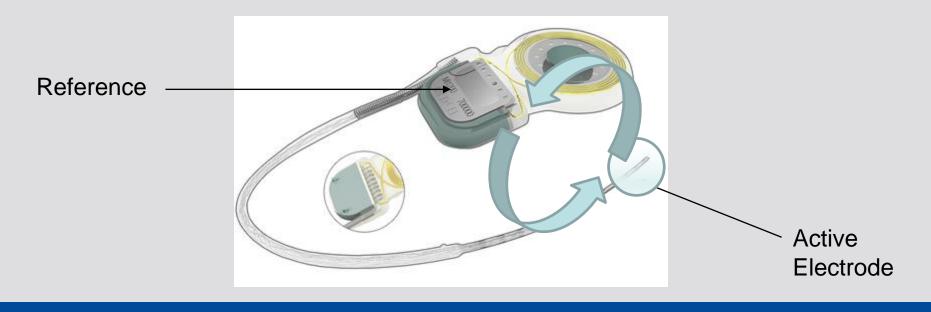




Stimulation Mode

Monopolar Stimulation

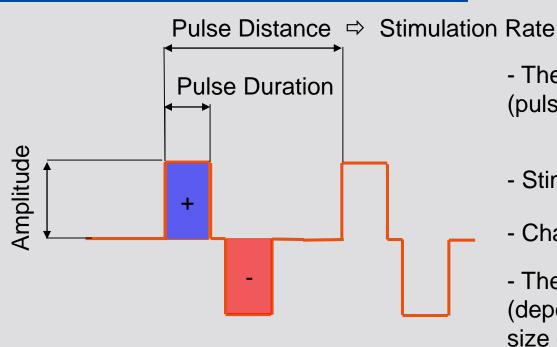
- An intracochlear electrode is connected to an extracochlear reference electrode such that current flows between the two electrodes.
- Simultaneous stimulation of multiple electrodes is undesirable because it causes interaction between the channels.







Stimulation with Biphasic Pulses



- The amount of load defines the loudness (pulse duration and amplitude).

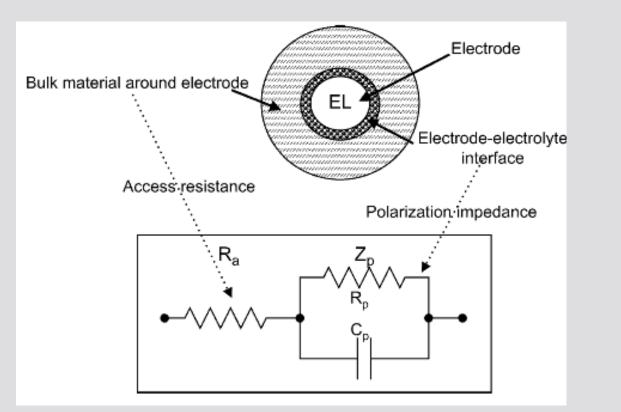
- Stimulation rate (Pulse rate)
- Charge balanced pulses

- The charge density must be limited (depends on the injected charge and the size of the electrodes).

This can cause an irreversible reaction around the electrodes, including changes in the pH level, detachment of parts of the electrode material and formation of protein-metal complexes.



Electrode-Impedance Interface



 $R = \rho \cdot \frac{l}{A}$ $\rho : \text{resistivity}$

4

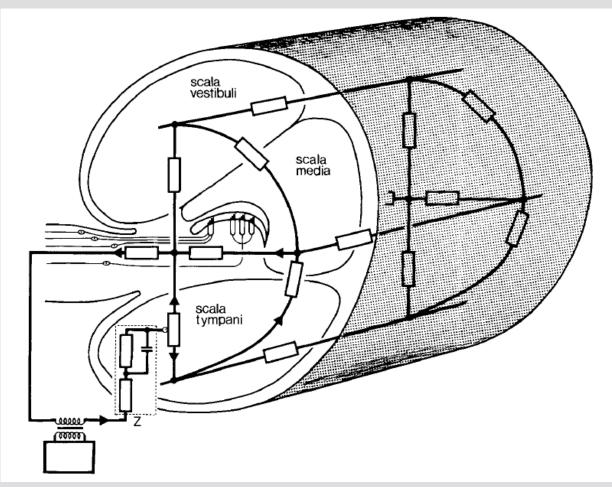
$$C = \varepsilon_0 \varepsilon_r \cdot \frac{A}{d}$$

 ε_r : Dielectric constant

 ε_0 : Electric field constant



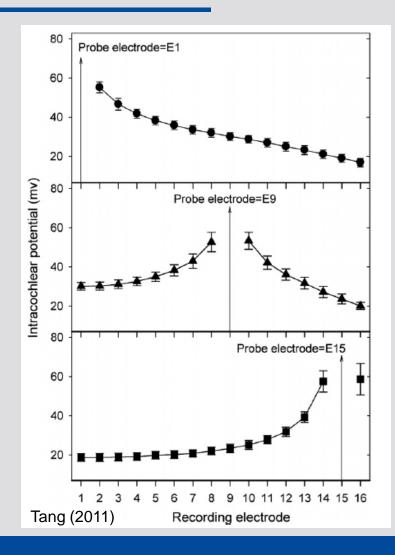
Current flow within the cochlea



Klinke & Hartmann (1979)



Current flow within the cochlea







Simulation of voltage distribution within the cochlea

Monopolar Stimulation: в A A1 210 Voltage [V] 440 350 μm μm ×10-3 430 μm μm 360 0.9 10 μm -2 0.8 6 77.4 0.7 μm 4 Electrode 0.6 77.4 μm 0.5 ×10-3 3 77.4 0.4 μm 2 0.3 77.4 0.2 μm 0.1 K. ×10-3 ▼ 0.11

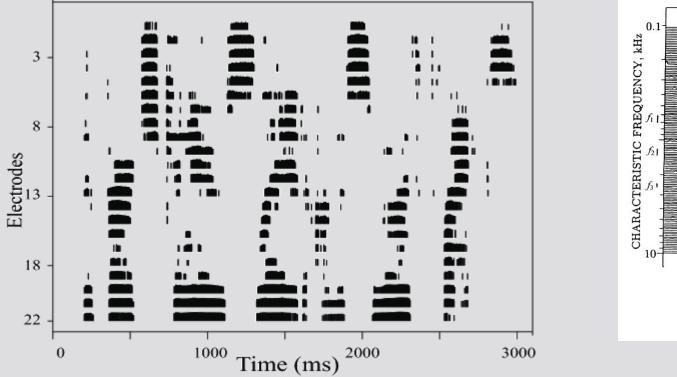
Nogueira (2016), Frontiers

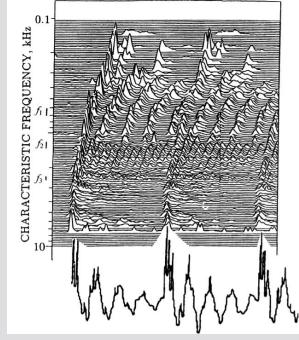


Electrodogram vs Neurogram

Electrodogram Cochlear Implant

Neurogram Normal Hearing







Acustic Stimulation vs. Electric Stimulation

	Normal Hearing	CI Hearing
Spontaneus activity	high	Non-existing
Synchronicity	reduced	high
Dynamic Range	120 dB	12 dB
Spatial Stimulation	narrow	wide
Frequency Resolution	3500 IHC	~10 channels
Temporal stimulation pattern	simultaneous	coded

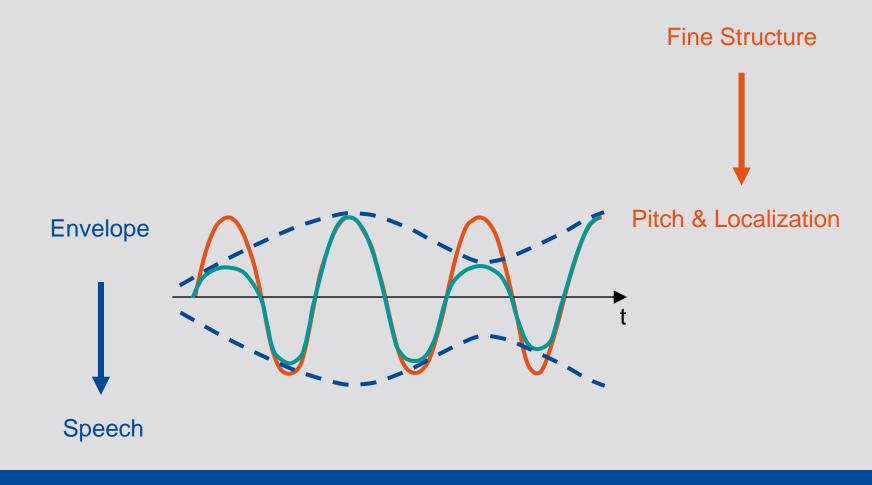
→ A new CI sound coding is needed





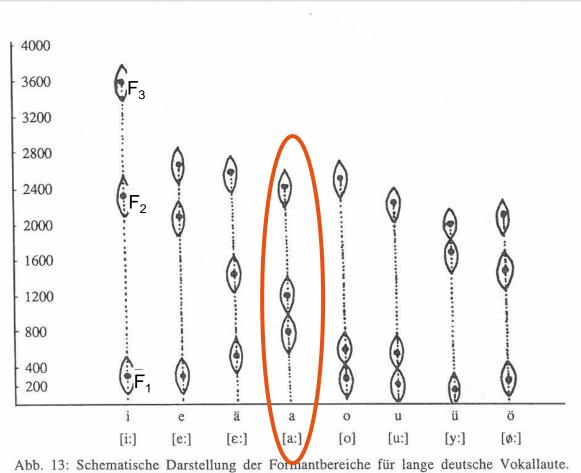
Hilbert 1912: Signal decomposition

In fast+slow oscilatory components





Phonetic Acoustics – Formants Vowels



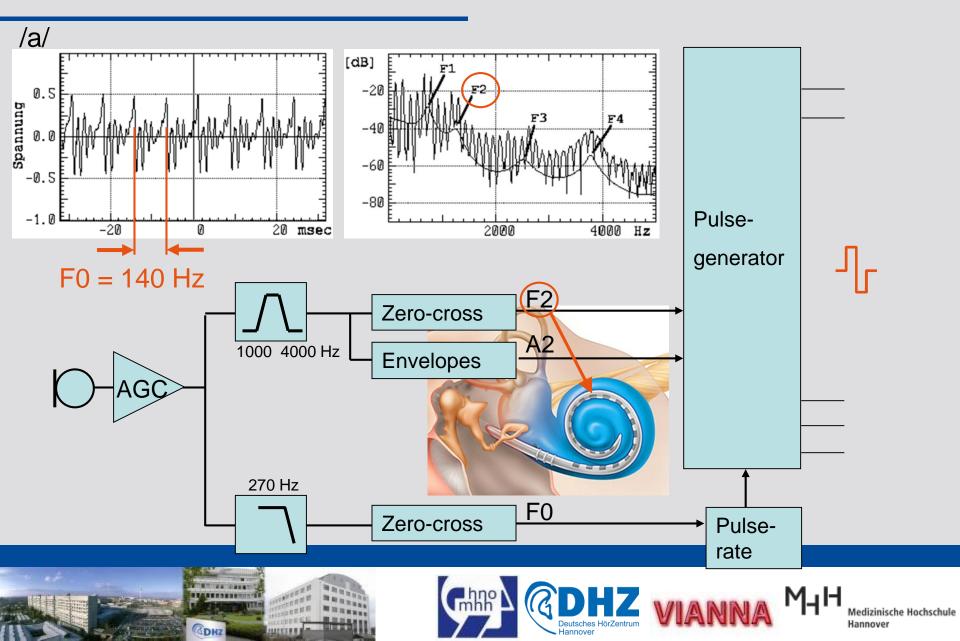
(Ermittelt von Dr. D. Stock, IPK, Universität Bonn).

Jussen et al., 1994





F0F2 (Beginning of 1980's)



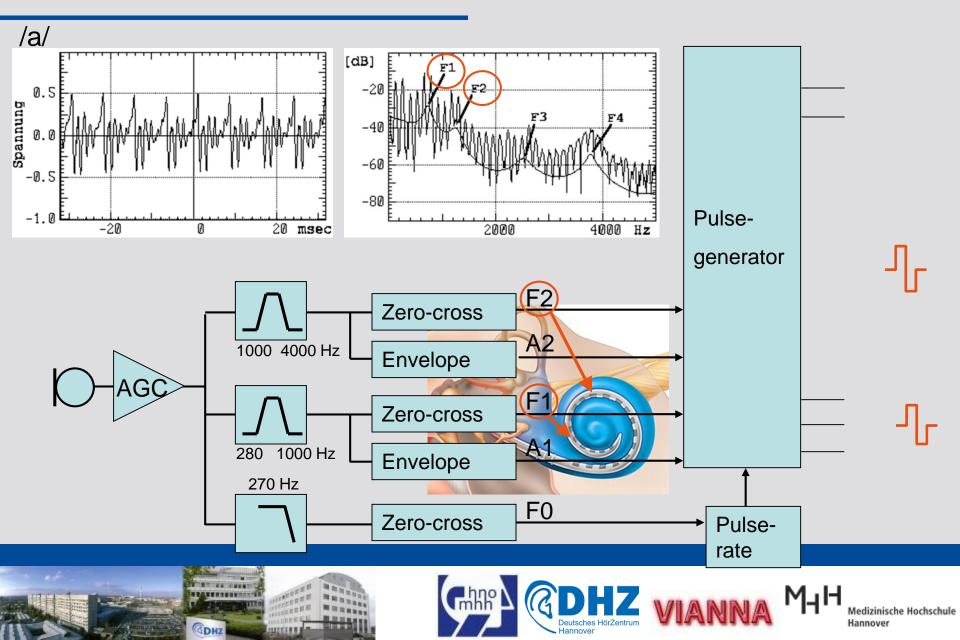
F0F2 (Beginning of the 1980's)

Characteristics of the F0F2 strategy:

- The fundamental frequency of the speaker (F0 < 280 Hz) is used as the stimulation rate.
- The second formant (between 800 and 4000 Hz) determines which electrode is stimulated.
- The stimulation current is proportional to the estimated amplitude for the second formant.
- Only one electrode is stimulated in each stimulation cycle.
- Clearly, this strategy was designed to encode speech signals.



F0F1F2 (1985)

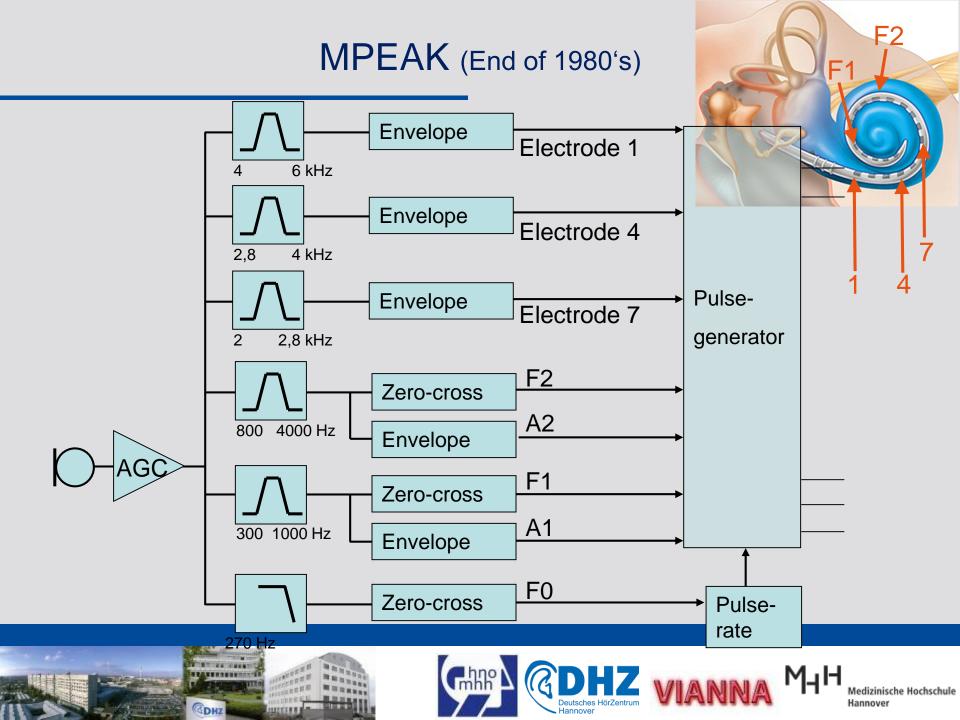


F0F1F2 (1985)

Characteristics of the F0F1F2 strategy:

- The fundamental frequency of the speaker (F0 < 280 Hz) is used as the stimulation rate.
- Electrodes 1 to 5 are used to transmit the 1st formant (between 280 and 1000 Hz).
- Electrodes 6 to 20 are used to transmit the 2nd formant (between 1000 and 4000 Hz).
- Two electrodes are stimulated in each stimulation cycle.
- The stimulation current is proportional to the 1st and 2nd formants.
- Clearly, this strategy was designed to encode speech signals.





Characteristics of the MPEAK (Multipeak-Strategy) sound coding strategiy:

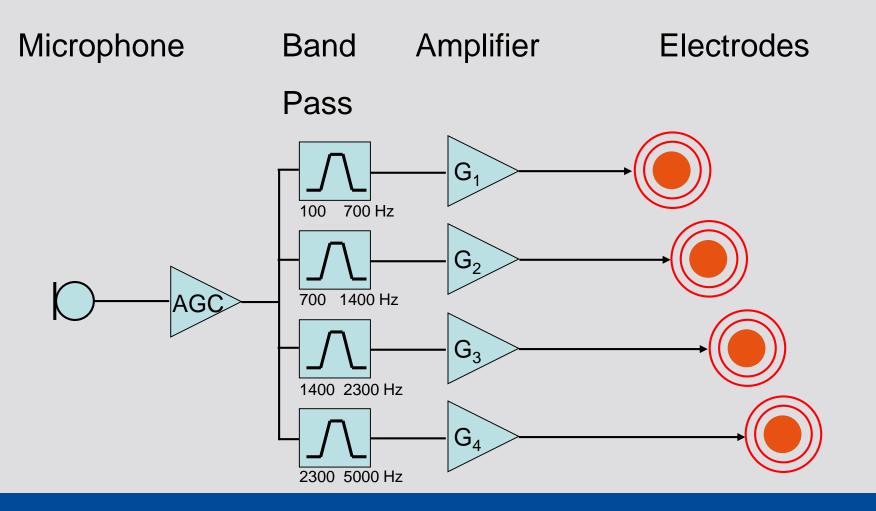
- The strategy is based on the F0F1F2 strategy (Allows vowel recognition).
- It introduces three high frequency filters:

Electrode stimulation	Frequency Region
7	2-2,8 kHz
4	2,8-4 kHz
1	4-4,7 kHz

- The problem of erroneous feature selection persists.



Compressed Analog (CA)







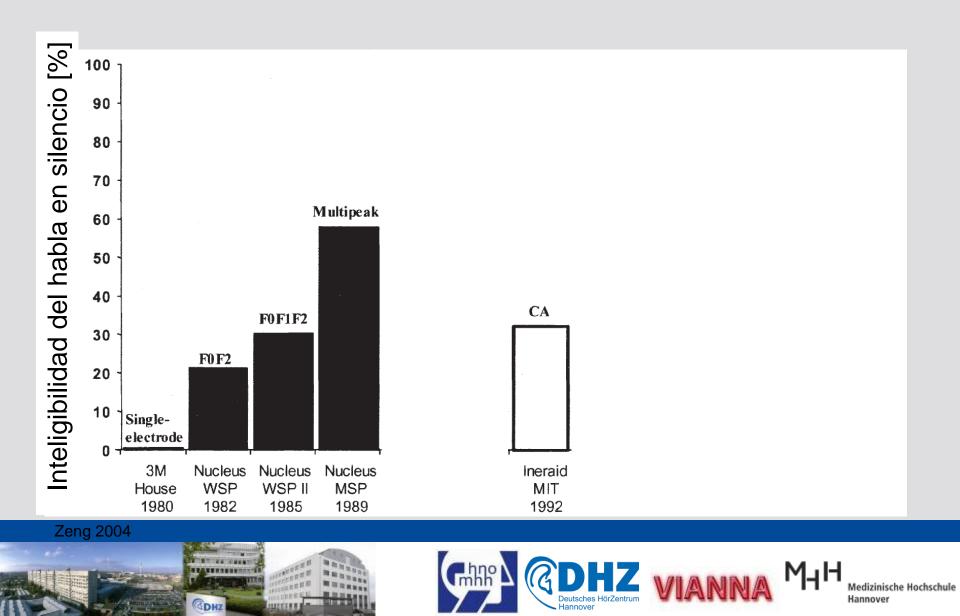
Compressed Analog (CA)

Characteristics of the CA-Strategy:

- Four bandpass filters between 300 and 5000 Hz
- Simultaneous stimulation of 4 intracochlear electrodes
- Monopolar stimulation (later upgraded to bipolar stimulation)
- Better performance than a single electrode system
- Better performance than F0F2 strategy
- Problem: Strong interaction between channels

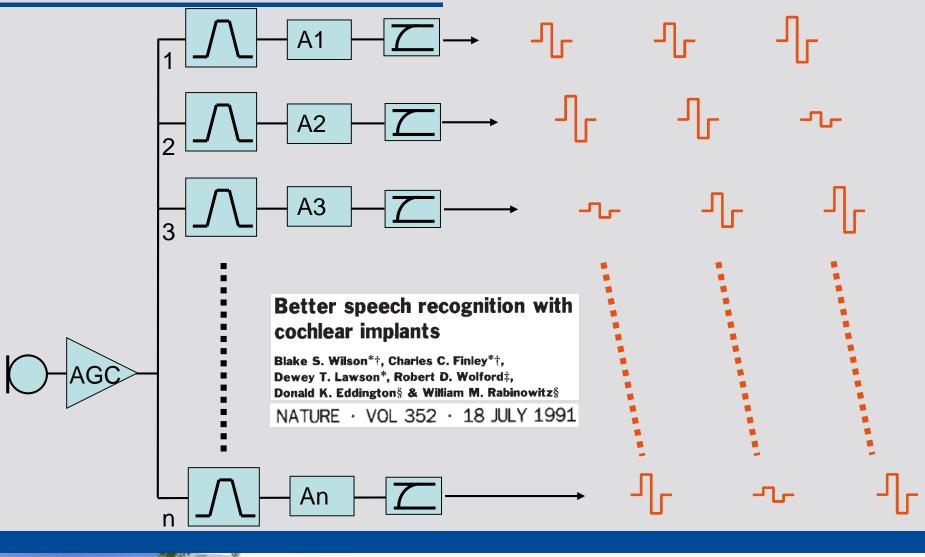


Speech Intelligibility



Continuous Interleaved Sampling

CIS (Beginning of 1990's)







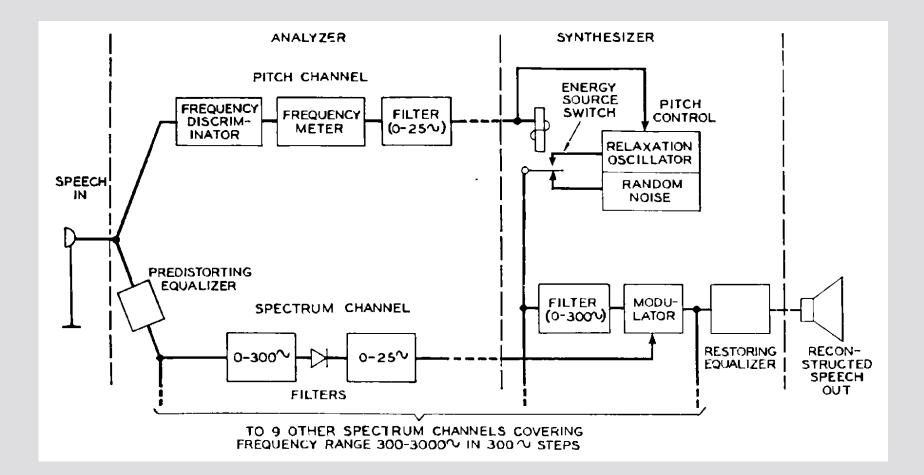


Medizinische Hochschul Hannover Characteristics of the CIS sound coding strategy:

- 8 bandpass filters from 250 to 5500 Hz
- 60 dB dynamic range => Compressed/mapped to patient-specific dynamic range
- Stimulation with square biphasic pulses with a 75 µs/phase duration
- Stimulation rate for each electrode is around 833 Hz
- It is based on a principle similar to the Dudley Vocoder (see next slide).



The Vocoder from Bell Labs (H. Dudley, 1939)





Vocoder with 10 chanels (H. Dudley 1939)









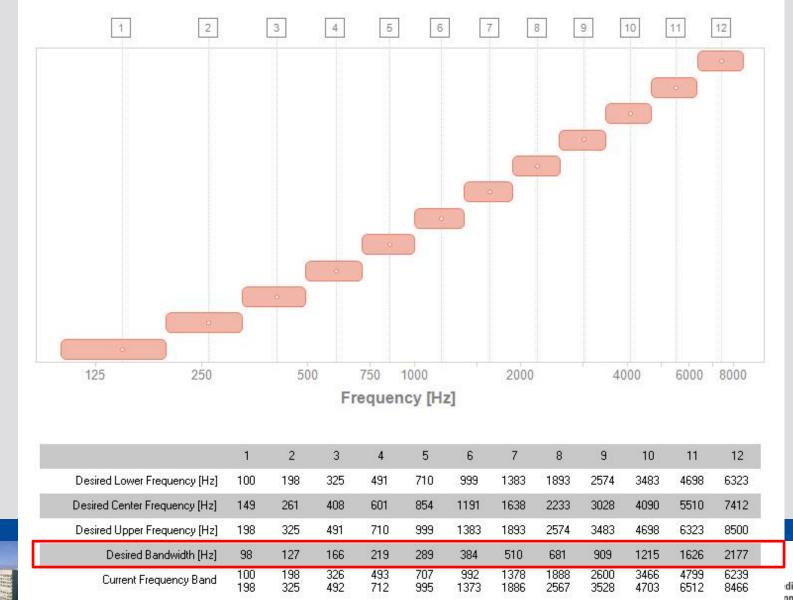
Example with fundamental frequency





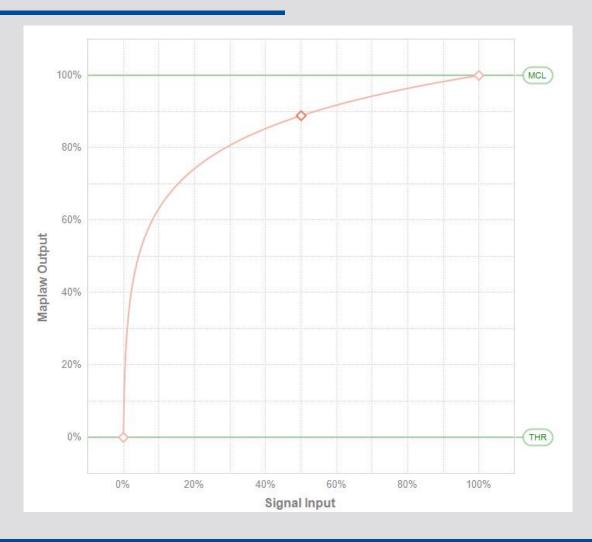
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Frequency Bands used by the MED-EL devices



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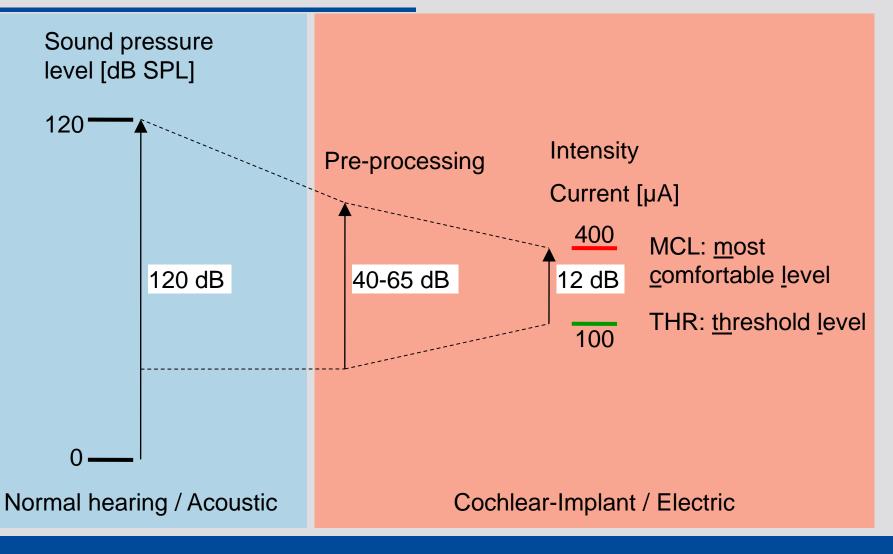
Example of compression used in the MED-EL devices







Input Signal Pre-Processing

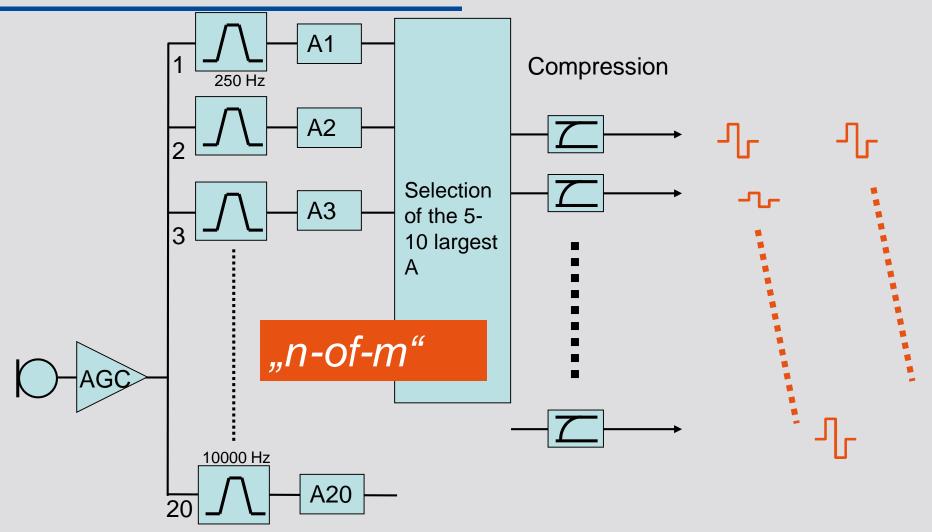






Spectral Peak

SPEAK (Begining of 1990's)

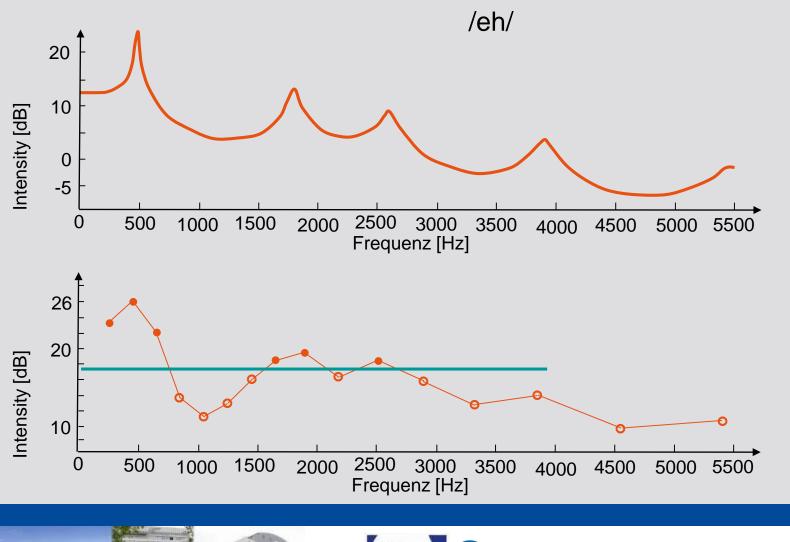






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Maxima Selection







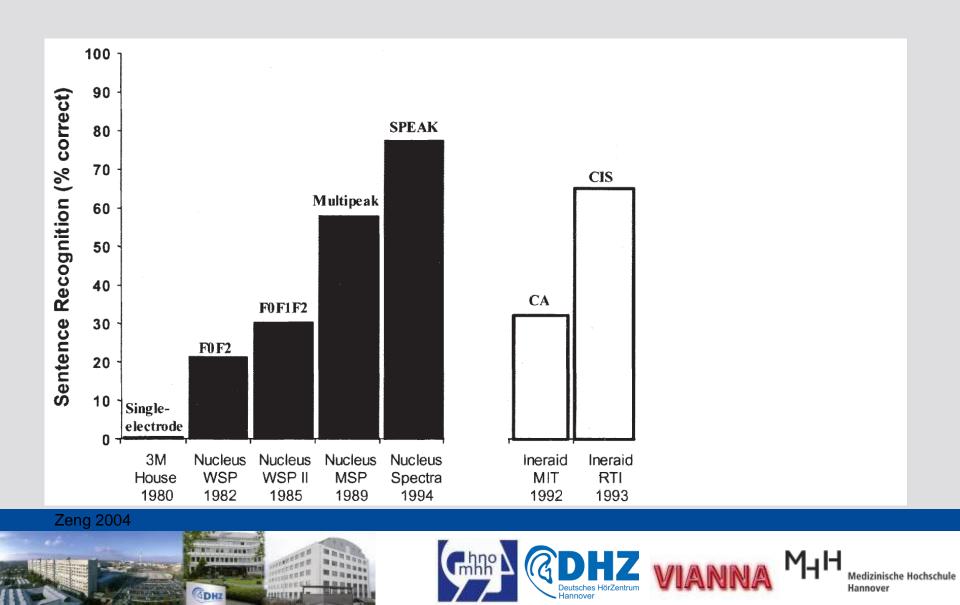
Medizinische Hochschule

Characteristics of the Speak sound coding strategy:

- Larger range of frequencies (250 until 10000 Hz)
- 20 channels
- Only 5-10 channels with largest energy (maxima) are selected for stimulation.
 - The amount of information requires time which causes a reduction in the stimulation rate.
- Stimulation rates up to 250 Hz (limited by Mini-22 implant technology)

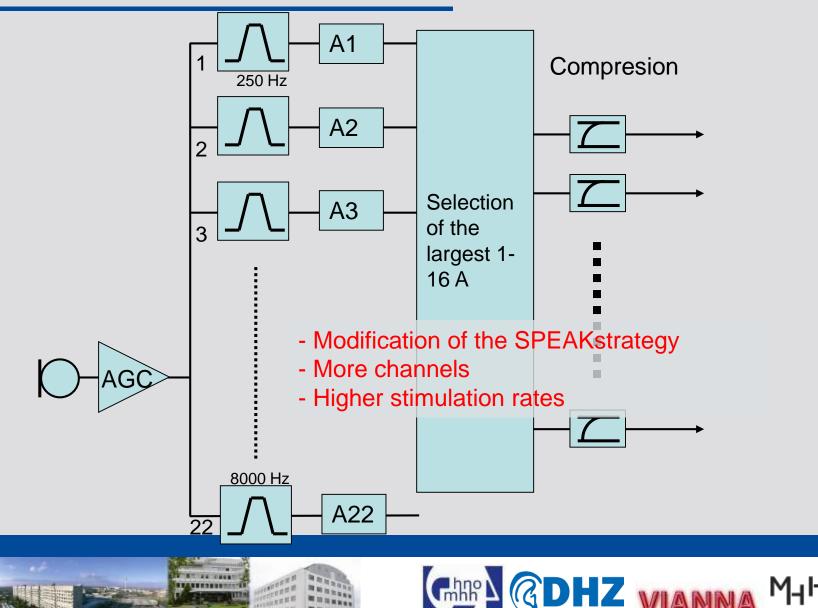


Speech Intelligibility



Advanced Combination Encoder

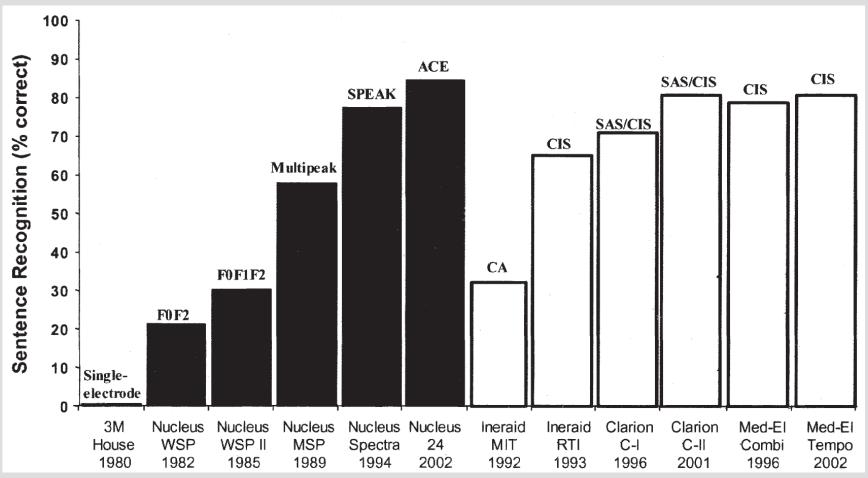
ACE (Middle of the 1990's)



COHZ

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Speech Intelligibility



Zeng, Trends In Amplification 2004:8:1-34



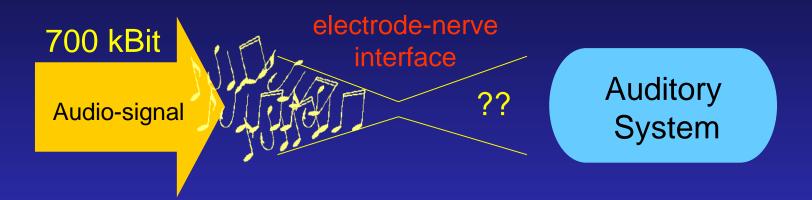
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The problem of low bandwidth in cochlear implants

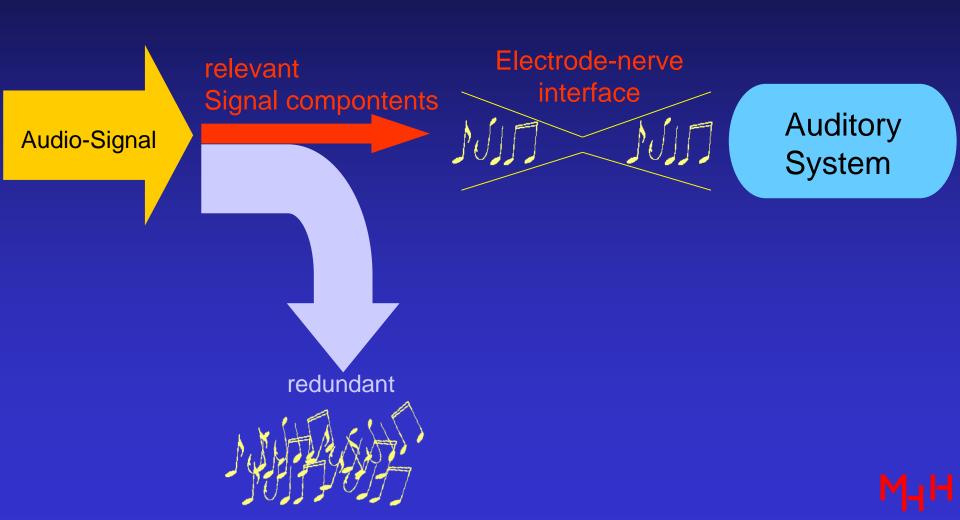


Cochlear Implant System : 10 - 60 kbit/s





One possible solution: hearing related data reduction





Motivation for designing a psychoacoustic model-based speechcoding strategy

Psychoacoustic models have been successfully used in the HiFi domain without compromising sound quality.



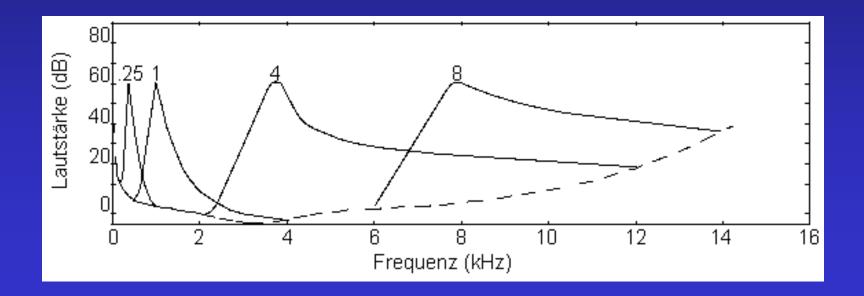




Psychoacoustics I

(simultaneous masking effect)

During an acoustic excitation the threshold of perception is lifted depending on the spectrum of the signal. All signal components below this threshold are imperceptible. *The simultaneous masking is the strongest masking effect.*



Next step: Next step: Speechcoding based on psychoacoustic model

- achieve higher compression rates compared to ACE
 further increase of stimulation rate
- more realistic selection of the electrodes due to more intelligent algorithms
 should lead to better sound quality
- MP3000 was released as a commercial strategy



What else? Provide more spectral resolution.

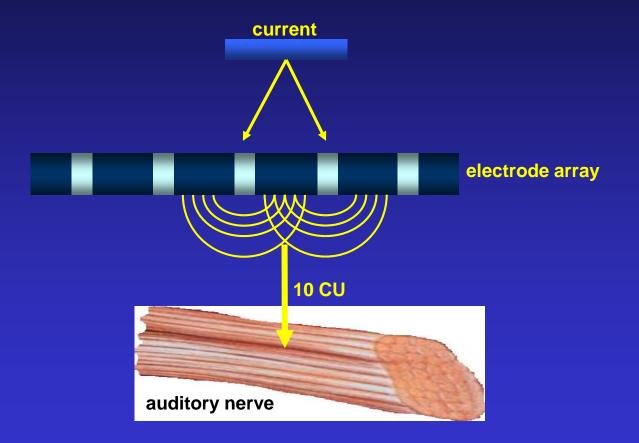
- 30.000 haircells vs. 16 electrode contacts
 - improved sound quality
 - better speech in noise discrimination
 - better music perception

With the current steering technique it is possible to generate virtual channels between two physical electrode contacts



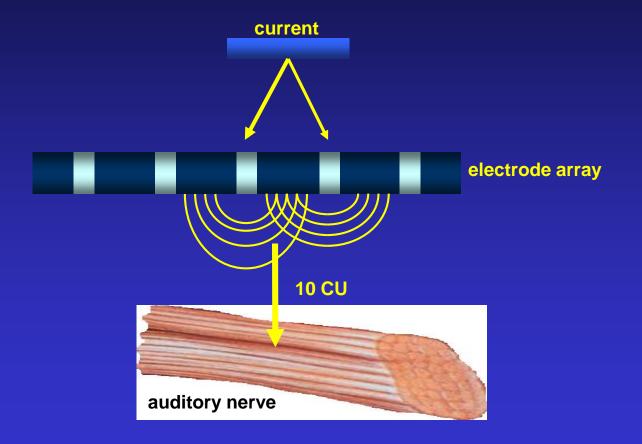


The benefit of current steering



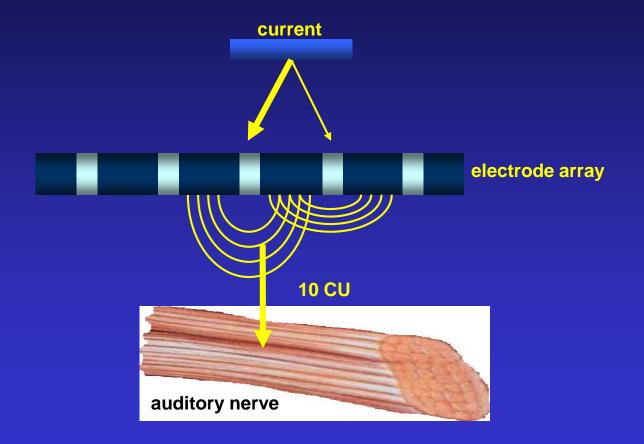
MHH





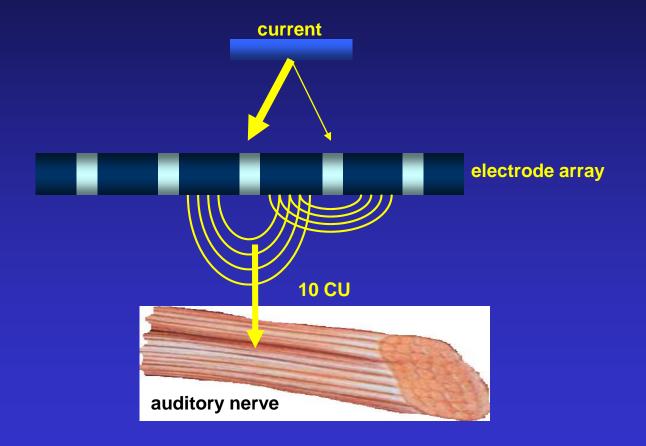






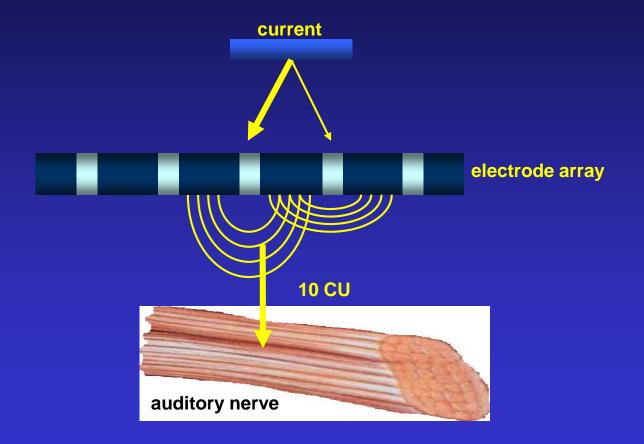






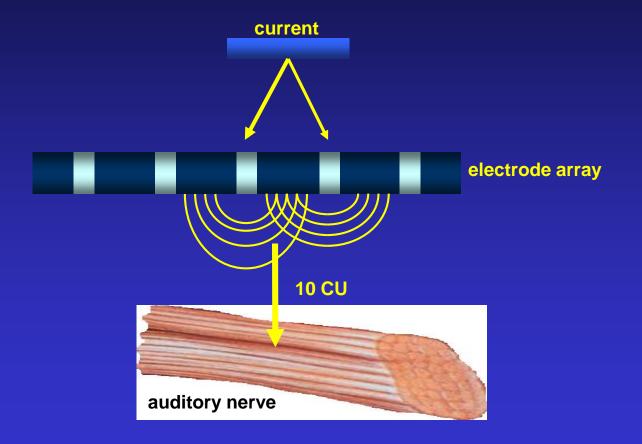






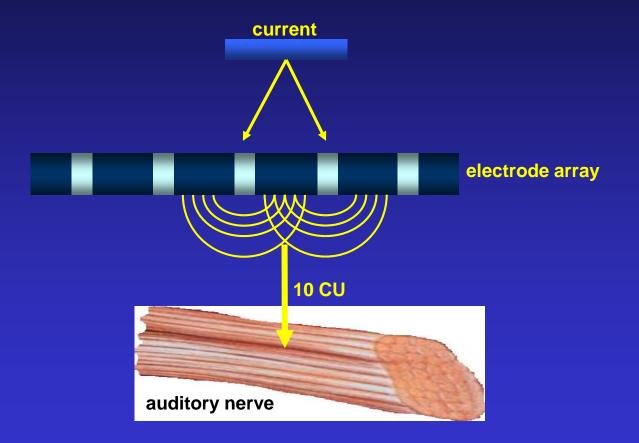






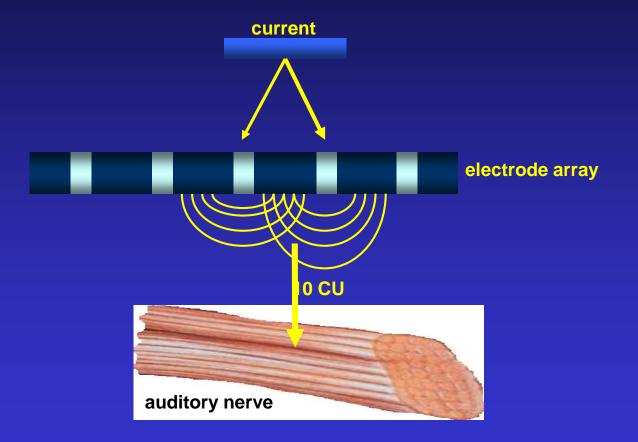






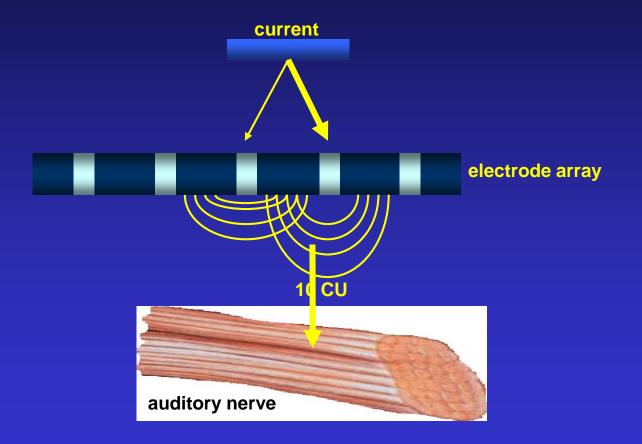
MHH





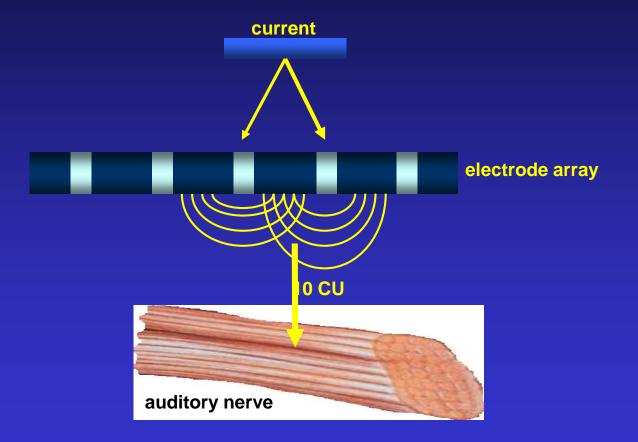






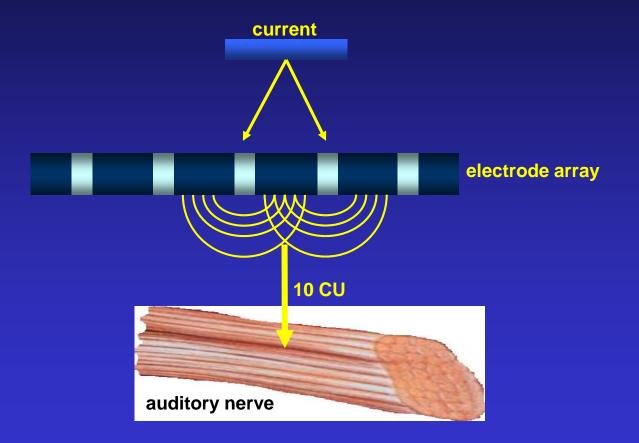






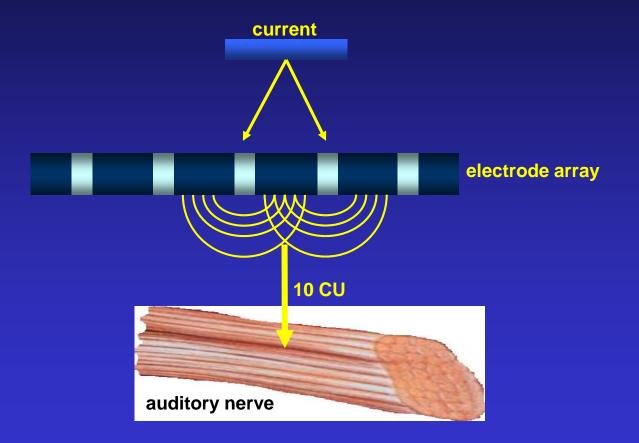






MHH

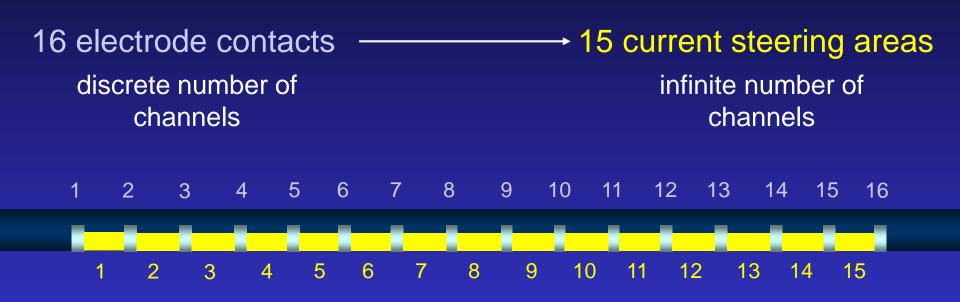




MHH



"Current Steering"



Current can be continuously steered between the electrode contacts.

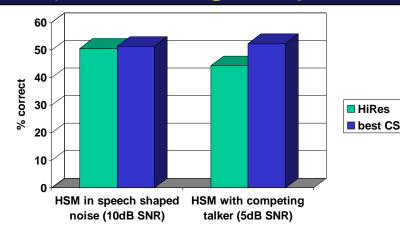




Speech Perception in HiRes vs. Current Steering

(neclecting subjects with ceiling or floor effect)

*







Intermediate Summary

- The current steering technique seems to have potential to improve speech perception subjectively as well as objectively.
- The majority of all subjects preferred HiRes120 over the HiRes and report:
 - Easier listening
 - More natural environmental sounds
 - Differentiation of voices.
- To evaluate the benefit of the current steering strategies very sensitive test material is required:
 - Demanding with respect to frequency resolution
 - Avoid ceiling and floor effects for all study subjects

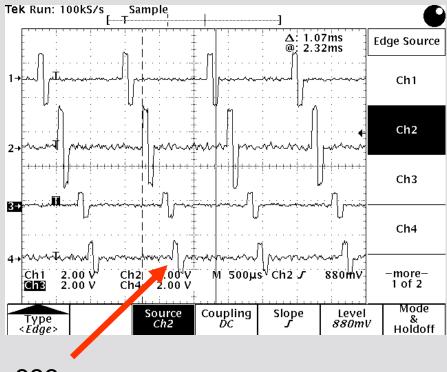


Output of the Implant circuit



Detector box of the MEDEL system

Image of an Oscilloscope captured with an 8-channel strategy



833 pps

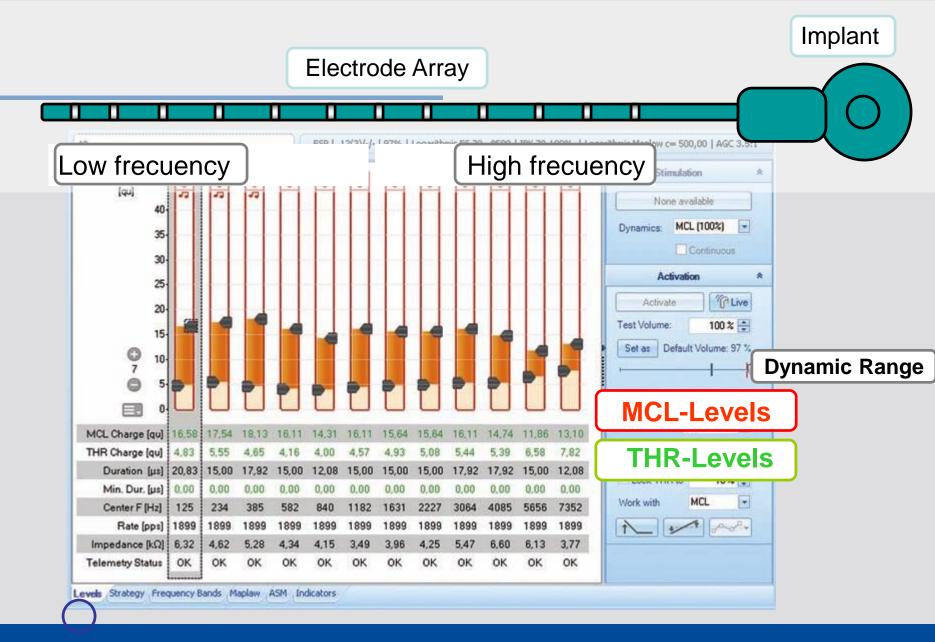


Medizinische Hochschule Hannover How is the implant configured in the clinical routine?

Basic Parameters:

- **Comfortable (MCL) Level:** Maximum current value that is perceived as comfortable.
- **Threshold (THR) Level:** The minimum current level that can be perceived.
- **Dynamic Range**: Difference between MCL and THL level.









Contents

- 1. Introduction
- 2. Fundamentals of electrical stimulation
- 3. Historical Overview of Coding Strategies
- 4. Current Coding Strategies (MHH Study)
- 5. Summary



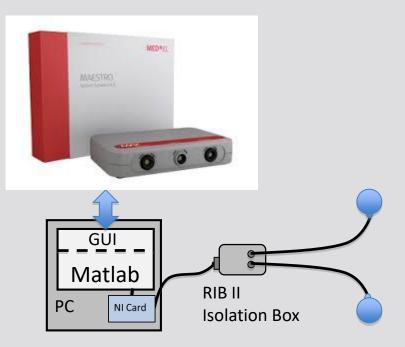
CI Research Interface

• MEDEL

Research Interface Box (RIB)



- Streaming of pre-defined sequences
- Possibility to use trigger
- Possibility to use bilateral stimulation







Frequency Analysis in the Cochlea

Basic Principle: 2000 3000 400 60 Hz 300 500 1500 4000 120 1000 5000 10000 Hz 7000

Periodicity Principle:

Eingangssignal (Sinuston):										
Neuronale Antworten:										
Neuron a										
Neuron b										
Neuron	and a straight and a									
Neuron d										
Neuron e										
Summierte Antwort										

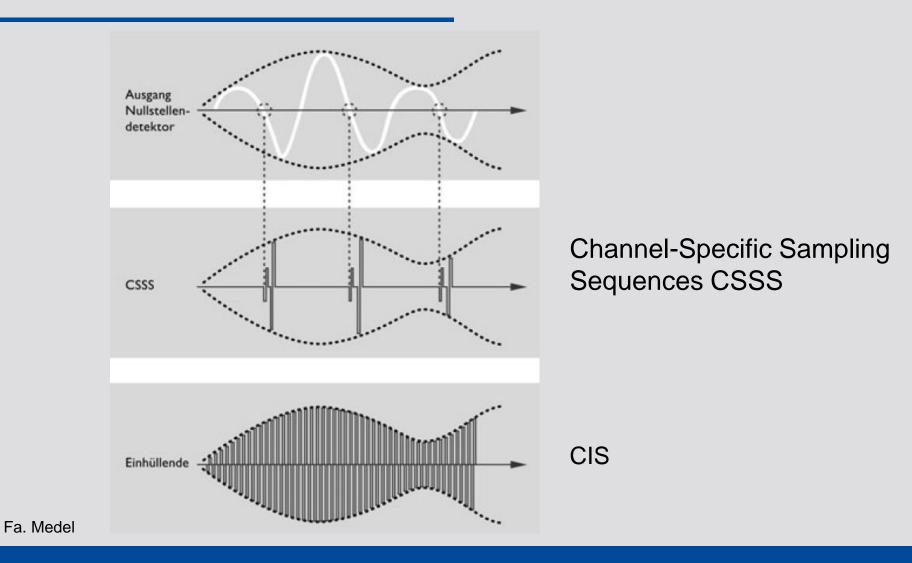
Boenninghaus, Lenarz: Hals-Nasen-Ohren-Heilkunde (2007)

Hellbrück, Ellermeier: Hören (2004)



Fine Structure Processing

FSP

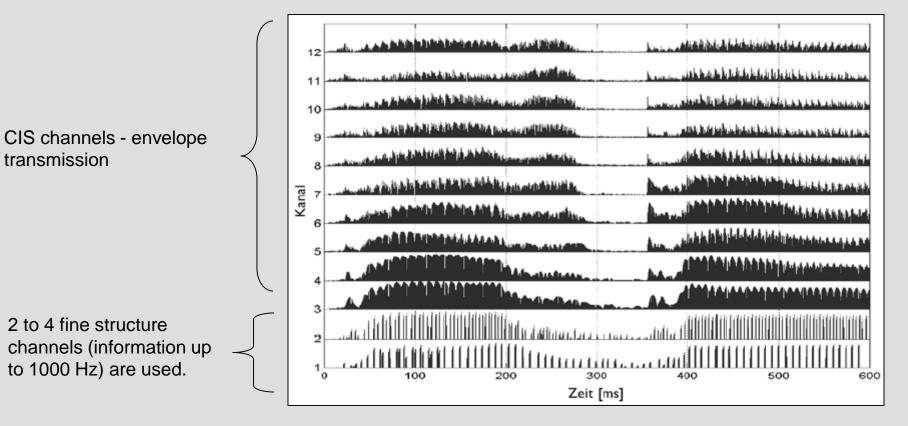






MEDEL Estrategia de codificación Fine structure-Strategy (FSP)

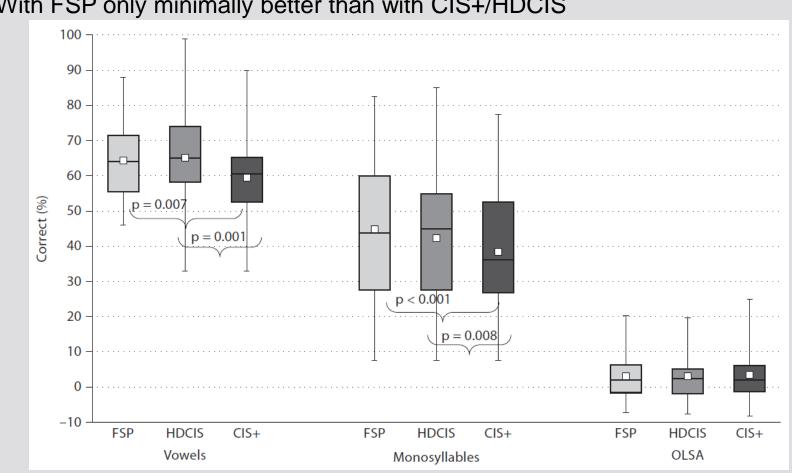
Stimulation Pattern (Electrodogram) :



Fa. Medel



Results: Speech Intelligibility



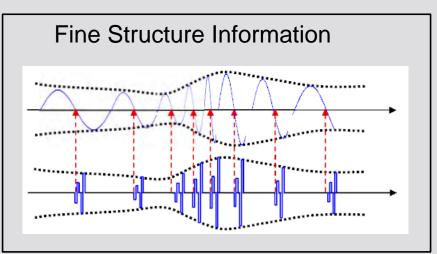
With FSP only minimally better than with CIS+/HDCIS

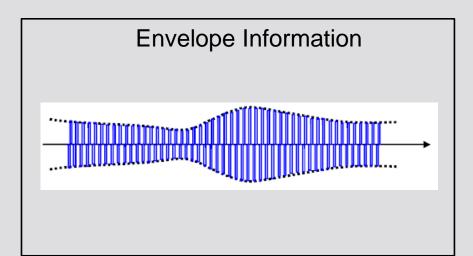
Müller et al., 2012



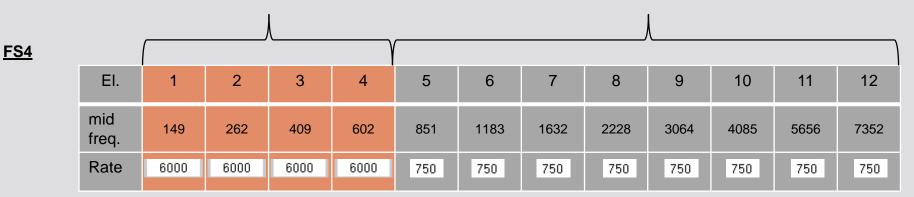
New Generation: FS4

MEDEL principles for coding fine structure:





Hannover







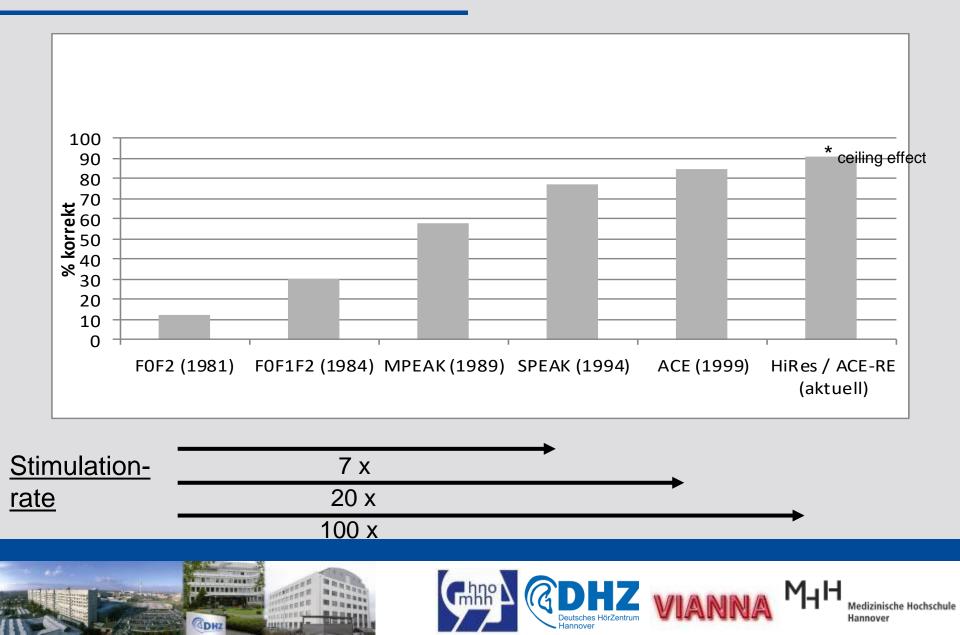
New generation: FS4

EI.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
m. Freq.	149	262	409	602	851	1183	1632	2228	3064	4085	5656	7352	
Rate	1635	1635	1635	1635	1635	1635	1635	1635	1635	1635	1635	1635	FSP
Rate	6000	6000	6000	6000	750	750	750	750	750	750	750	750	FS4 LR
Rate	10042	10042	10042	10042	1255	1255	1255	1255	1255	1255	1255	1255	FS4 HR

• MHH study comparing FS4 LR (low rate) and FS4 HR (high rate).

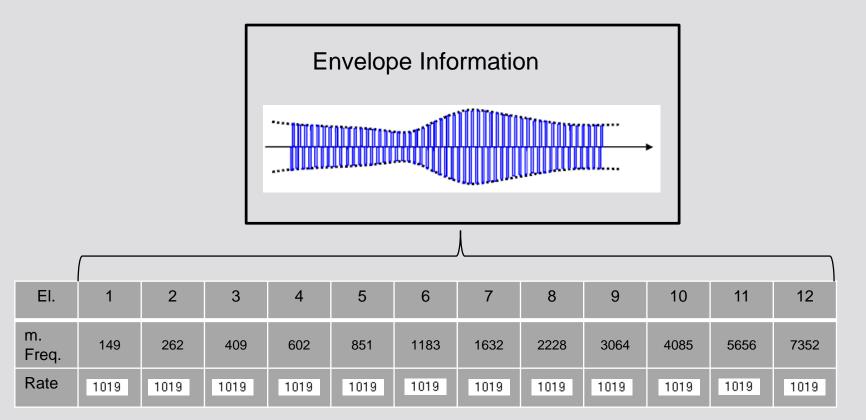


Effect Stimulation Rate



Effect Stimulation Rate

Coding strategies that mostly encode envelope information (e.g. HDCIS):



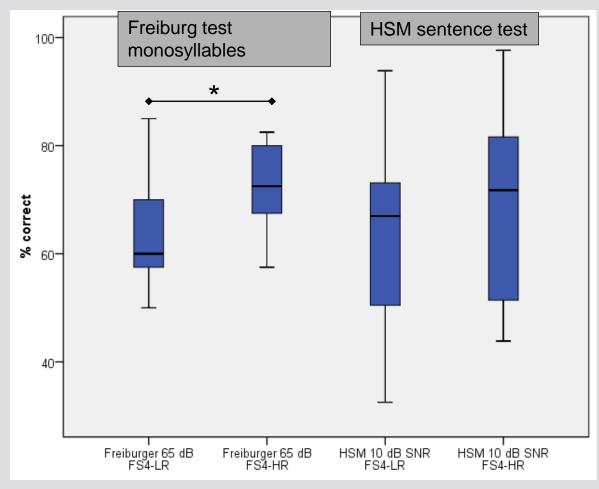




Medizinische Hochschule Hannover

Resultados: Inteligibilidad del habla

Tras 3 meses de uso continuado (n=9):

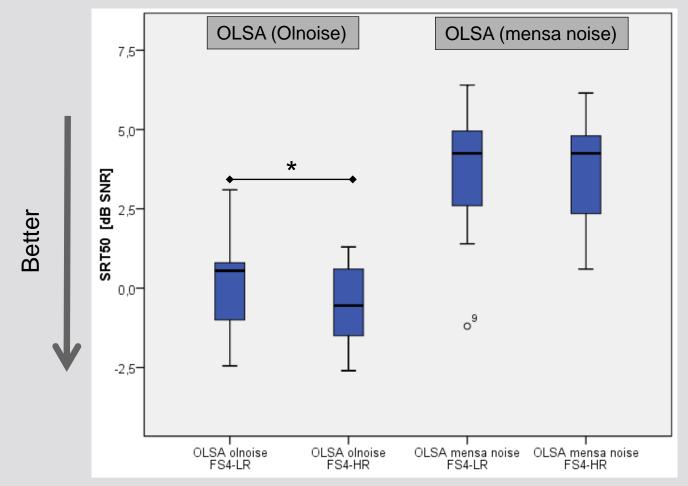






Results: Speech Intelligibility

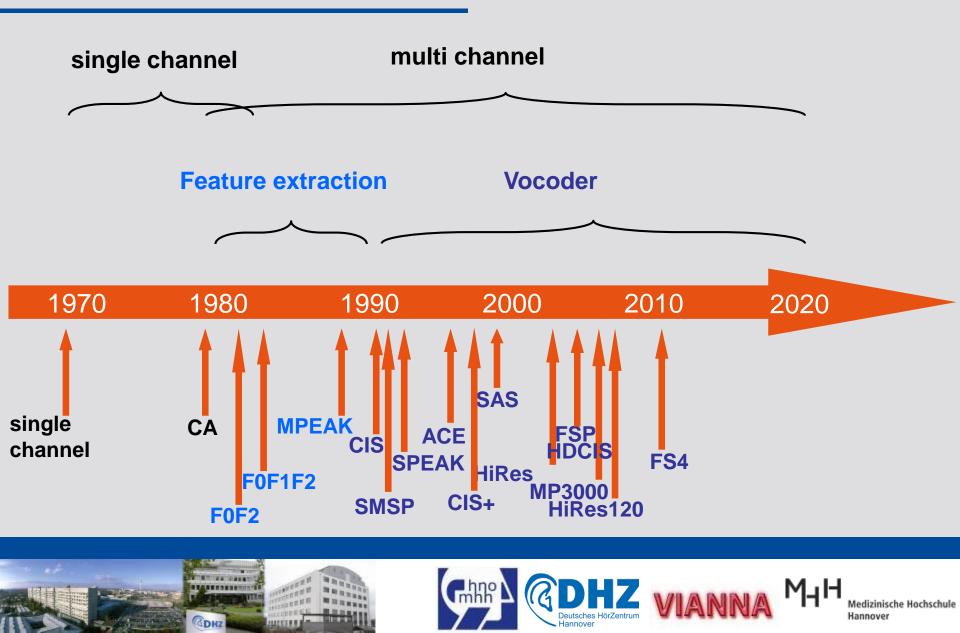
After 3 months of continuous use (n=9):



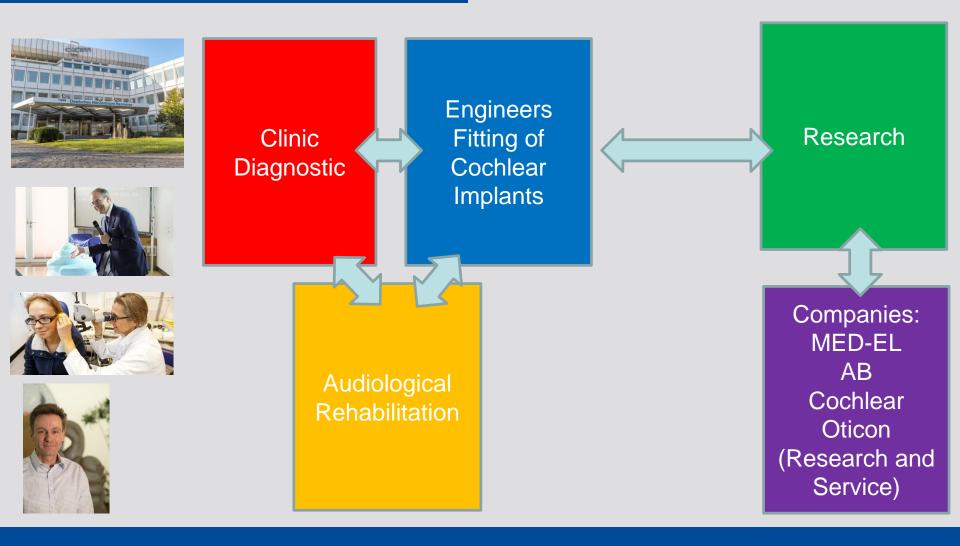




Summary



DHZ: German Hearing Center









Medizinische Hochschule Hannover

Molte grazie!





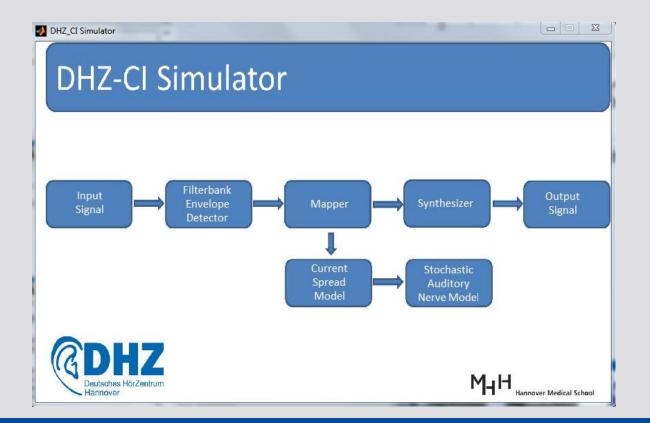






<u>VoC</u>oder

DEMO: DeHoCI Simulator





Tecnología: Personalización

Caracterización

de la interfaz

Eléctrico

Acústica

Objetivo: Optimizar individualmente la inteligibilidad de la música y el habla para usuarios de IC

> Estado del Arte: Procesado del Sonido (Reducción de Ruido)

> > ASSESSMENT

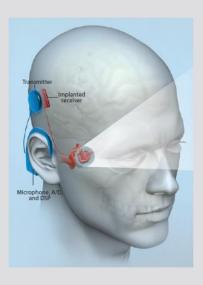
DHZ

Individualización de los parámetros (Reducción de Ruido)

Respuestas

Subjetivas Medias

Psicoacústicas



APG, http://auditoryprostheticgroup.weebly.com







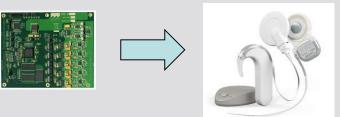
Ejemplo: F0/F2 y "ACE"



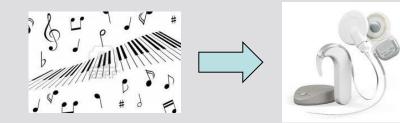


Auditory Prosthetic Group (APG)

- Objetivos del APG
 - Mejorar la inteligibilidad del habla en ruido así como la percepción musical para usuarios de imlante coclear
- <u>Cómo</u>? Dos posibilidades
 - Tecnología: Modificar el Procesador del implante coclear (IC)



- Art: Crear contenidos específicamente para usuarios de IC





APG, http://auditoryprostheticgroup.weebly.com



