

Ripples reflect a spectrum of synchronous spiking activity in human anterior temporal lobe

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Abstract

Direct brain recordings have provided important insights into how high frequency activity captured through intracranial EEG (iEEG) supports human memory retrieval. The extent to which such activity is comprised of transient fluctuations that reflect the dynamic coordination of underlying neurons, however, remains unclear. Here, we simultaneously record iEEG, local field potential (LFP), and single unit activity in the human temporal cortex. We demonstrate that fast oscillations within the previously identified 80-120 Hz ripple band contribute to 70-200 Hz high frequency activity in the human cortex. These ripple oscillations exhibit a spectrum of amplitudes and durations related to the amount of underlying neuronal spiking. Ripples in the macro-scale iEEG are related to the number and synchrony of ripples in the micro-scale LFP, which in turn are related to the synchrony of neuronal spiking. Our data suggest that neural activity in the human temporal lobe is organized into transient bouts of ripple oscillations that reflect underlying bursts of spiking activity.

1 Introduction

2 A fundamental premise in interpreting the various fluctuations and temporal dynamics observed in direct record-
3 ings from the human brain is that these signals must be related to the underlying synaptic currents and spiking
4 activity of individual neurons (Buzsaki et al., 2012; Parvizi & Kastner, 2018). Arguably the most robust link be-
5 tween intracranial EEG (iEEG) signals and neuronal activity has been that increases in high frequency activity are
6 associated with overall increases in underlying neuronal spiking (Burke et al., 2015; Manning et al., 2009). This
7 relation has shaped the insights we have gained regarding the neural substrates of human memory (Jacobs & Ka-
8 hana, 2010). Successful episodic memory formation, for example, is accompanied by increases in broadband activity
9 that progress from poster to anterior along the temporal cortex, which has consequently suggested that successful
10 memory involves increases in neuronal spiking in these regions (Burke et al., 2014; Greenberg et al., 2015; Long et
11 al., 2014).

12 The relation between widespread and prolonged increases in 70-200 Hz high frequency activity and successful
13 memory formation has largely rested upon averaging neural data over multiple similar trials or events. This approach,
14 however, obscures the moment to moment fluctuations that can arise as individuals try to encode or retrieve individual
15 memories. Individual trials often exhibit increases in oscillatory and broadband activity that can be quite transient,
16 as has been observed in recent studies of working memory (Jones, 2016; Lundqvist et al., 2016). Given the relation
17 between broadband power and neuronal spiking, these short bouts of broadband activity may reflect brief bursts of
18 population spiking activity. Bursts of spiking are in fact common in cortical recordings in animals and may represent
19 packets of information that are used as the building blocks for neural coding in the brain (Luczak et al., 2009, 2015).
20 The possibility that punctate events observed in the cortical iEEG signal may reflect underlying packets of spiking,
21 however, has not been well explored in the human brain.

22 A parallel and extensive line of research, however, has explicitly demonstrated the presence of bouts of fast
23 oscillations known as ripples that have been identified using smaller scale local field potential (LFP) recordings in
24 the rodent medial temporal lobe (MTL) in studies of spatial navigation (Colgin, 2016). These ripples are strongly
25 associated with underlying bursts of spiking activity (Buzsáki, 2015). Ripples have been implicated in memory
26 formation, consolidation, and retrieval (Buzsáki, 2015; Joo & Frank, 2018) and the bursts of spiking activity that
27 accompany ripples are often organized into specific temporal sequences that have been hypothesized to represent the
28 content of memory (Carr et al., 2011; Pfeiffer, 2020; Vaz et al., 2020). Recent reports have identified similar fast
29 oscillations in the human brain even at larger spatial scales, and have suggested that these may be analogous to
30 the ripples identified in rodents (Axmacher et al., 2008; Norman et al., 2019; Vaz et al., 2019; Zhang et al., 2018).
31 Moreover, fast oscillations that appear similar to MTL ripples can also be identified in the cortex both in animals
32 and in humans (Khodagholy et al., 2017; Vaz et al., 2019). Whether these cortical ripples should be considered the
33 same as ripples in the MTL is still a matter of debate, although recent evidence has demonstrated that such cortical
34 ripples observed in the human cortex are similarly accompanied by underlying bursts of spiking (Vaz et al., 2020).

35 One of the challenges in resolving the nature of these fast oscillations that are observed in the human cortex
36 and that appear similar to ripples observed in the MTL, however, is that ripple characteristics themselves can vary

37 significantly across brain areas, behavioral states, and arousal levels (Buzsáki, 2015). Ripples likely do not exist
38 as static entities, and behaviorally relevant changes in ripple characteristics have already been observed in humans
39 (Ngo et al., 2020). This ambiguity of ripple morphology, especially during the awake state, is reflected in the
40 variety of approaches used to identify ripples in both rodents and humans, in both the hippocampus and cortex
41 (Axmacher et al., 2008; Buzsáki, 2015; Jiang et al., 2020; Staresina et al., 2015; Vaz et al., 2019). The variability in
42 the amplitude and duration of ripples often makes it unclear whether any one event should be classified as a ripple,
43 how to systematically identify thresholds for detecting them, and how to distinguish these bursts of activity from
44 background activity.

45 Instead, the morphological features of ripples more likely exist on a continuum that reflects the activity and
46 interactions among underlying neurons. Ripples depend on the extent of oscillatory coupling between pyramidal
47 neurons and interneurons (Csicsvari et al., 1999; Stark et al., 2014), which can also change based on brain state and
48 can differ between species and across brain regions (Klausberger et al., 2003). Cortical ripples in rodents exist on a
49 spectrum of amplitudes that are highly correlated with underlying spiking activity (Khodagholy et al., 2017). Hence,
50 a more direct approach for determining whether ripple oscillations identified in human cortical iEEG recordings might
51 be functionally meaningful is to explicitly link the presence and characteristics of these observed cortical ripples with
52 underlying spiking activity.

53 Here we recorded macro-scale iEEG, micro-scale LFP, and single unit spiking activity in the human temporal
54 lobe in order to examine the relation between cortical ripples and underlying neuronal spiking. We find that a
55 major contributor to the changes in high frequency power observed with successful memory retrieval are temporally
56 punctate ripple events. These ripples exist on a spectrum of amplitudes and durations that are related to the
57 extent of underlying spiking activity. The amplitude of ripples in the larger scale iEEG is related to the extent
58 of synchronization across the underlying micro-scale LFP ripple oscillations, and neuronal spiking is locked to the
59 trough of each ripple at the micro-scale. Together, our data suggest that many of the changes in 70-200 Hz high
60 frequency power observed in direct recordings of the human brain during cognition may reflect ripple events.

61 Results

62 High Frequency Activity Reflects 80-120 Hz Ripples

63 We examined intracranial EEG (iEEG) recordings in twenty-one participants with intracranial electrodes placed
64 for seizure monitoring as they performed a verbal episodic memory task (Figure 1A; see Methods). In an example
65 electrode in the medial temporal lobe, we observed transient increases in high frequency activity (70-200 Hz; HFA)
66 in individual trials immediately before participants vocalize their response during the retrieval period (Figure 1C).
67 When averaging across all trials, the increases in HFA prior to vocalization appear sustained, consistent with previous
68 studies of episodic memory retrieval (Burke et al., 2014; Yaffe et al., 2014).

69 We hypothesized that the transient increases in HFA observed in individual trials may be related to narrowband
70 80-120 Hz ripples that have been previously associated with human memory retrieval (Vaz et al., 2019). We therefore
71 identified ripples in each iEEG electrode in each participant (ripple rate $.35 \pm .04$ Hz (mean \pm SEM) across electrodes
72 across all participants; Figure 1B; Figure 1–Supplement 1 to Figure 1–Supplement 5; see Methods). In the same
73 example electrode, the transient increases in HFA observed in each trial correspond to the detection of individual
74 ripples (Figure 1C). Across all trials, ripple rates demonstrate a clear increase that coincides with the sustained
75 increase in HFA. We examined whether the changes in HFA and ripple rate were similarly modulated by successful
76 memory retrieval in this exemplar electrode (Figure 1D). Both HFA and ripple rates increase prior to vocalization
77 during successful memory retrieval trials compared to trials in which the participant failed to successfully retrieve
78 the correct word.

79 Since ripple characteristics can vary significantly across brain regions, we examined whether the differences in
80 HFA and ripple rate between correct and incorrect retrieval trials exhibit a similar spatial pattern across the brain.
81 Across participants, HFA increases during the one second prior to vocalization are greater during correct memory
82 retrieval compared to incorrect memory retrieval in several anatomic regions (Figure 1E; see Methods). When
83 examining ripple rates, we also found significant increases during correct compared to incorrect trials in similar
84 anatomic regions during this same time period (Figure 1E; Figure 1–Supplement 6B). Across regions of interest
85 (ROIs) from the entire cortex, the participant average difference in HFA between correct and incorrect trials is
86 positively correlated with the difference in ripple rate ($r = .13$, $p = 6.1 \times 10^{-4}$; Figure 1F). Within two specific brain
87 regions, the medial temporal lobe and the anterior temporal lobe, this positive correlation between the participant
88 average difference in HFA between correct and incorrect trials and the average difference in the ripple rate is greater
89 than the average difference across the whole brain (medial temporal lobe, MTL: $r = .60$, $p = .00072$; anterior
90 temporal lobe, ATL: $r = .23$, $p = .026$; Figure 1G; Figure 1–Supplement 6C,D). Together, these data suggest that
91 the changes in HFA and ripple rate observed with successful memory retrieval obey a similar anatomic distribution.

92 We then examined this relation between HFA and 80-120 Hz ripples within retrieval trials in all individual
93 electrodes in all participants. In each electrode, we computed the Pearson correlation between the average HFA
94 and ripple rate across all retrieval trials, performed a Fisher’s z -transform to normalize the correlation coefficients

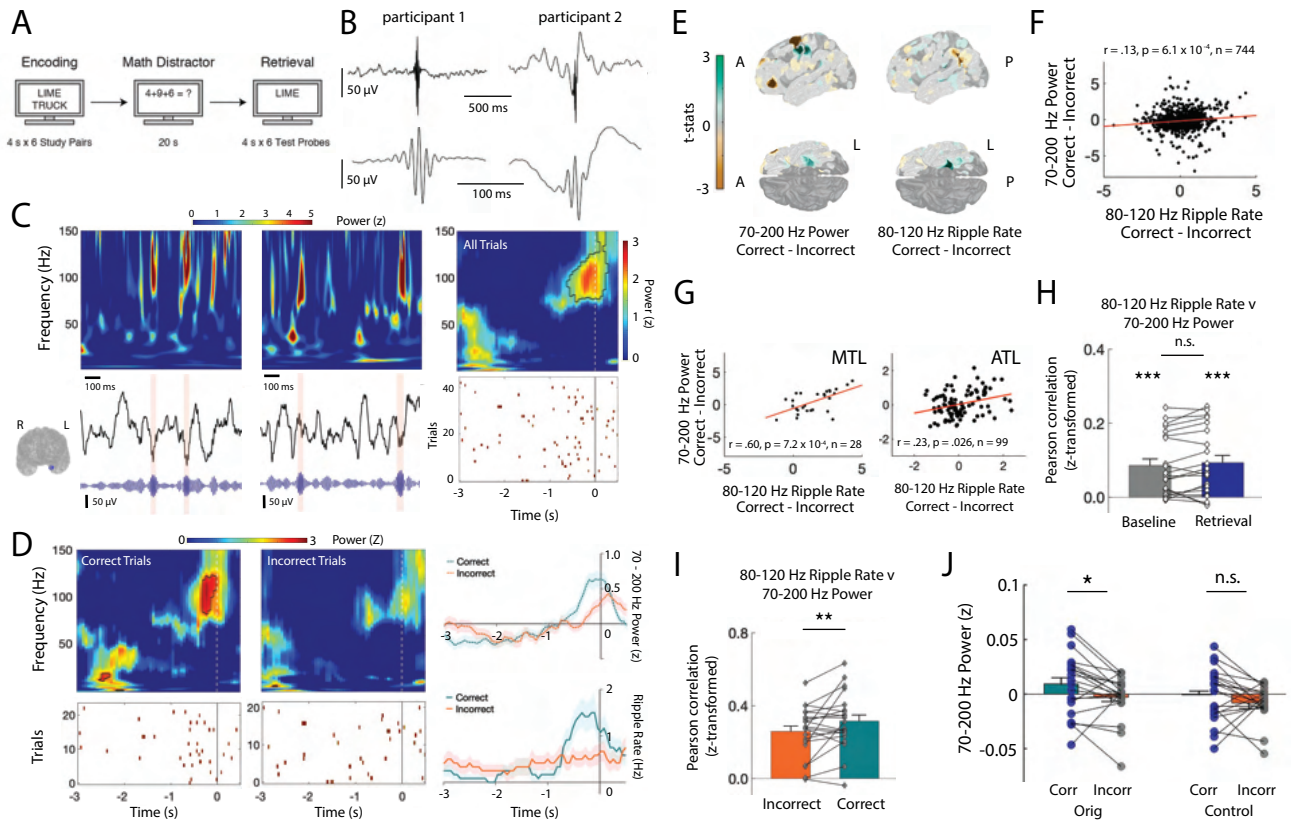


Figure 1. High Frequency Activity Reflects Ripples. (A) Paired-associates verbal episodic memory task. (B) Average iEEG signal locked to detected ripples in an anterior temporal lobe electrode in two participants. (C) Time-frequency power spectrograms for two clips of iEEG data from one electrode in medial temporal lobe (MTL) with corresponding iEEG voltage signal (black), 80-120 Hz band signal (blue), and detected ripple events (shaded). Location of the representative channel is shown. Trial-averaged power spectrogram of the single channel in medial temporal lobe during retrieval (top right) and corresponding spike raster of iEEG ripples across trials prior to vocalization (bottom right). Black contour indicates significant clusters (cluster-based permutation, $p < 0.01$). (D) Trial-averaged power spectrograms and corresponding ripple raster plots for correct and incorrect retrieval. Average 70 to 200 Hz power time series (top right) and average ripple rate time series (bottom right) for correct and incorrect retrieval. Black contour indicates significant clusters (cluster-based permutation, $p < 0.01$). (E) Cortical topographic plots of difference in 70-200 Hz power and 80-120 Hz ripple rate between correct and incorrect memory retrieval. Each data point reflects the across-participant t-statistic for a region of interest (ROI). (F) Pearson correlation between 70-200 Hz power and 80-120 Hz ripple rate across all ROIs. Each data point represents the average across participants for each ROI. Line represents the least-squares regression. (G) Pearson correlation between 70-200 Hz power and 80-120 Hz ripple rate across all ROIs in the medial temporal lobe (MTL) and anterior temporal lobe (ATL). Lines represent least-squares regression. (H) Fisher z-transformed Pearson correlation between 70-200 Hz power and 80-120 Hz ripple rate across all electrodes at baseline and during memory retrieval. Each participant is represented by a data point (***) $p < .001$). (I) Fisher z-transformed Pearson correlation between 70-200 Hz power and 80-120 Hz ripple rate across all electrodes during correct and incorrect memory retrieval (* $p < .05$). (J) Average 70-200 Hz power across all electrodes during correct compared to incorrect memory retrieval in true data (*Orig*) and after removal of the temporal indices of detected ripples (*Control*); (***) $p < .001$; * $p < .05$). Code and data is provided in Figure 1—source code 1 and Figure 1-source data 1.

95 across participants, and then computed an average across all electrodes in each participant. We similarly computed
96 this correlation across random three second epochs throughout the experimental session, which we designated as
97 baseline. In both cases, the distribution of correlations across participants was consistent and significantly greater
98 than zero (baseline $r = .085 \pm .018$; retrieval $r = .093 \pm .020$; $t(20) > 4.6$, $p < 1 \times 10^{-6}$, one-tailed t -test; Figure
99 1H). The relation between HFA and ripple rate was similar during memory retrieval and baseline (retrieval-baseline
100 $.0079 \pm .0016$, $t(20) = 1.44$, $p = 0.083$, paired t -test). However, the relation was stronger during correct retrieval
101 as compared to incorrect retrieval (correct $r = .316 \pm .0339$, incorrect $r = .259 \pm .0296$; $t(20) > 8.7$, $p < 2 \times 10^{-8}$;
102 correct-incorrect $.057 \pm .004$, $t(20) = 2.40$, $p = .013$, paired t -test; Figure 1I).

103 To explicitly examine the extent to which 80-120 Hz ripples contribute to 70-200 Hz power, we conducted a
104 control analysis by removing the time indices in which ripples were detected from the iEEG trace and recomputed
105 HFA power. While the distribution of 70-200 Hz power averaged across electrodes in each participant is significantly
106 greater during correct compared to incorrect memory retrieval (correct-incorrect $.0051 \pm .0049$, $t(20) = 2.39$, $p = .013$),
107 removing the 80-120 Hz ripples eliminates this difference (correct-incorrect: $.0075 \pm .0053$, $t(20) = 1.42$, $p = .086$;
108 Figure 1J; Figure 1-Supplement 6E). HFA power during correct retrieval is significantly reduced when removing the
109 80-120 Hz ripples (original correct-control correct: $.0096 \pm .0023$, $t(20) = 4.21$, $p = 2.2 \times 10^{-4}$). We also examined
110 the correlation across all ROIs between the participant average difference in ripple rate between correct and incorrect
111 trials and the difference in HFA after removal of the ripples and found that this relation is no longer significant
112 ($r = -.042$, $p = .270$; Figure 1-Supplement 6F,G). Finally, to confirm that much of the 70-200 Hz power is driven
113 by relatively band limited 80-120 Hz ripples, we repeated our analysis after detecting ripple events in a higher 120-
114 200 Hz frequency band. Across ROIs from the entire cortex, we did not find a significant correlation between the
115 participant average difference in HFA between correct and incorrect trials and the difference in 120-200 Hz ripple
116 rate (Figure 1-Supplement 6H).

117 **Ripple Band Amplitudes Reflect a Spectrum of Underlying Local Spiking Activity**

118 In a subset of six participants, we had the opportunity to record micro-scale local field potentials (LFPs) and single
119 unit spiking activity from a micro-electrode array (MEA) implanted in the anterior lateral temporal lobe underneath
120 the iEEG electrodes (Figure 2A; Figure 2-Supplement 1; see Methods). In an example participant, ripples present
121 in a single iEEG recording electrode overlying the MEA clearly occur simultaneously with ripples in the LFP across
122 multiple micro-electrodes within the MEA (Figure 2B; Figure 2-Supplement 2). events are accompanied by increases
123 in spiking activity across multiple units, and therefore transient increases in the overall population spiking rate across
124 the MEA (Figure 2-Supplement 3 and Figure 2-Supplement 4).

125 The continuous time data of iEEG activity at the macro-scale and LFP and spiking activity at the micro-scale
126 suggest that 80-120 Hz ripples at both spatial scales are related to single unit spiking activity. To examine this
127 relation, we computed z -scored 80-120 Hz ripple band amplitude in both the overlaying iEEG electrode and the
128 average z -scored ripple band amplitude and spike rate in each of the MEA electrodes during 100 ms non-overlapping
129 windows over all retrieval trials (ripple rate 0.84 ± 0.43 Hz across micro-electrodes across all participants). Across

130 all time windows in this participant, the average spike rate across MEA electrodes is significantly correlated with
131 iEEG and LFP ripple band amplitude (spike rate v LFP amplitude $r = .61$, $p < 1 \times 10^{-18}$; spike rate v iEEG
132 amplitude $r = .12$; $p < 1 \times 10^{-18}$, Pearson correlation; Figure 2C). We found that the relation between spiking
133 activity and ripple band amplitude at both spatial scales is consistent and significant across participants (spike rate
134 v LFP amplitude, Fisher z -transform: $r = .751 \pm .188$; $t(5) = 4.00$, $p = .0051$, one-tailed t -test; spike rate v iEEG
135 amplitude: $r = .118 \pm .049$; $t(5) = 2.39$, $p = .031$; Figure 2D).

136 These data demonstrate that the continuous time measure of 80-120 Hz ripple band amplitude is related to
137 spiking activity. However, we were interested in understanding whether the amplitude and duration of ripples may
138 exist on a continuum reflecting underlying neuronal activity. We therefore relaxed our criteria for identifying ripple
139 events in order to detect ripples that are smaller and shorter duration, which are often assumed to be noise. (see
140 Methods). We found ripples at both the macro- and micro-scale with a range of amplitudes and durations (Figure 1–
141 Supplement 2). During every ripple detected in each LFP trace, we collected the average spike rate of units recorded
142 in the respective MEA electrode and computed the Pearson correlation between LFP ripple amplitude and spike rate
143 across all ripples. Across participants, LFP ripple amplitude is consistently and significantly correlated with spike
144 rate (Fisher z -transform, $r = .10 \pm .02$; $t(5) = 3.62$, $p = .008$ one-tailed t -test; Figure 2E; Figure 2–Supplement 5A).
145 Even when ripples have amplitudes or durations below previously used thresholds, spiking activity is present in the
146 microelectrode recording (Figure 2–Supplement 5B).

147 While we found a strong relation between spiking activity and ripple amplitude, this observation could be con-
148 founded by a correlation between ripple amplitude and duration (Figure 1–Supplement 2E). Larger amplitude ripples
149 are larger in duration and therefore may have more opportunity to co-occur with spikes by chance. To account for
150 this, we shuffled the time indices of the detected spike times and computed the correlation between LFP ripple am-
151 plitude and the spike rate. The true relation between LFP ripple band amplitude and the spike rate is significantly
152 greater than the shuffled distribution (true-shuffled $r = .096 \pm .020$; $t(5) = 3.312$, $p = .011$, paired one-tailed t -test;
153 Figure 2F).

154 In a similar manner, during every iEEG ripple we determined how many individual units spike as a proportion
155 of the total number of units identified in each experimental session (Figure 2–Supplement 5C). We measured the
156 proportion of units that are active since the iEEG reflects the aggregate activity of the underlying neural population.
157 We computed the Pearson correlation between the percentage of actively firing units and the iEEG ripple band
158 amplitude and duration across all detected iEEG ripples in every participant (Figure 2H; Figure 2–Supplement
159 5D). Across participants, this correlation is significant (Fisher z -transform, $r = .15 \pm .03$; $t(5) = 4.679$, $p = .003$,
160 one-tailed t -test). We performed the same shuffling procedure to account for ripple duration, and found that the
161 true correlations across participants are significantly larger than the shuffled data (true-shuffled $r = .069 \pm .027$;
162 $t(5) = 2.517$, $p = .027$, paired one-tailed t -test; Figure 2H). Together, these data demonstrate a strong relation
163 between underlying unit spiking activity and ripples observed at the micro- and macro-scale in the human temporal
164 cortex.

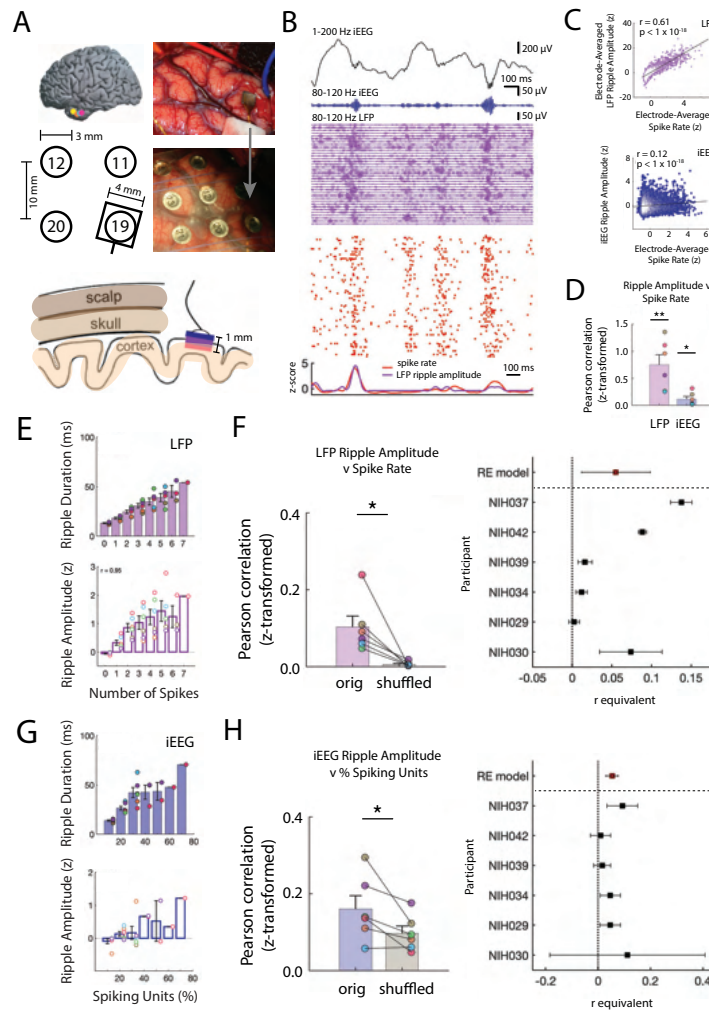


Figure 2. Ripple Amplitudes Reflect A Spectrum of Underlying Local Spiking activity. (A) Locations of the microelectrode arrays (MEA) in six participants (*top left*). Location of the MEA with respect to four nearby iEEG channels in one participant (*bottom left*). Intraoperative photo of implanted MEA in the ATL (*top right*) and after placement of an iEEG grid over the MEA (*bottom right, arrow*). Schematic of scalp, skull and cortex with respect to one iEEG channel on the cortical surface and one MEA that extends into cortex (*bottom, colors represent different spatial scales*). (B) Brief 1500 ms window of 1-200 Hz iEEG signal (black), 80-120 Hz band iEEG signal (blue), 80-120 Hz band LFP signals across all MEA electrodes (purple), and raster plot for sorted units (red). (C) Pearson correlation between average spike rate and average LFP ripple amplitude across all MEA electrodes in one participant (blue). Pearson correlation between average spike rate and iEEG ripple band amplitude for one nearby iEEG electrode in one participant (purple). Each data point represents a 100 ms non-overlapping window. (D) Fisher z -transformed Pearson correlation between continuous spike rate and LFP and iEEG ripple amplitude. Group level statistics are shown as mean \pm SEM across six participants. Each data point represents a participant ($** p < 0.01$, $* p < 0.05$). (E) Average duration and amplitude of ripples in the LFP signal related to the number of spikes during the ripple. Each data point represents a participant. (F) Fisher z -transformed Pearson correlation between spike rate and amplitude of coincident LFP ripple. Group level results are shown as mean \pm SEM across six participants. Each data point represents a participant. True data (*orig*) compared to correlations when shuffling the spike time indices (*shuffled*; $* p < 0.05$). Forest plot of the r equivalent effect size and 95% CI for each participant and random-effect (RE) mean estimate across all participants (*right*), demonstrating a significant effect size across participants. (G) Average duration and amplitude of ripples in the iEEG signal related to the number of spikes during the ripple. Each data point represents a participant. (H) Fisher z -transformed Pearson correlation between percentage of spiking units and amplitude of coincident iEEG ripple. Group level results are reported as mean \pm SEM across participants. True data (*orig*) compared to correlations when shuffling the spike time indices (*shuffled*; $* p < 0.05$). Forest plot of the r equivalent effect size and 95% CI for each participant and random-effect (RE) mean estimate across all participants (*right*), demonstrating a significant effect size across participants. Code and data is provided in Figure 2—source code 1 and Figure 2-source data 1.

165 Macro-Scale Ripples Reflect Number and Alignment of Micro-Scale Ripples

166 Our data suggest that ripples observed at both spatial scales may be related to one another. We hypothesized that
167 the amplitude of the ripple observed in the iEEG signal in a region is related to both the total number of LFP ripples
168 and the extent to which the LFP ripples observed across the underlying MEA electrodes in the same local region are
169 aligned (Figure 3A).

170 We first examined the relation between the amplitude of the iEEG ripple and the number of LFP ripples simulta-
171 neously present in the MEA electrodes. In every participant, we detected ripples in each of the four iEEG electrodes
172 closest to the MEA. For every detected ripple, we computed the mean 80-120 Hz ripple band amplitude across the
173 iEEG electrodes and the number of LFP ripples simultaneously observed across the MEA (Figure 3–Supplement 1A).
174 In each participant, the iEEG ripple amplitude is positively correlated with the percent of MEA electrodes exhibiting
175 LFP ripples across all detected iEEG ripples (% MEA electrodes with ripples, Fisher z -transform; $r = .11 \pm .02$;
176 $t(5) = 3.947$, $p = .005$; Figure 3B; Figure 3–Supplement 1B,C). We accounted for the possibility that the longer
177 durations observed in higher amplitude iEEG ripples may result in a larger number of detected LFP ripples by using
178 a similar shuffling procedure. In this case, during each shuffle we performed a random circular shift of the time
179 indices of the detected LFP ripples. After accounting for these longer durations, we still found that the true relation
180 between iEEG ripple amplitude and the number of simultaneously detected LFP ripples is significantly greater than
181 the shuffled distribution (true-shuffled $r = .05 \pm .02$; $t(5) = 2.543$, $p = .026$, paired one-tailed t -test; Figure 3B).

182 We then examined the relation between the amplitude of the iEEG ripple and the extent to which the LFP
183 ripples in the underlying MEA are synchronized. For every detected iEEG ripple, we extracted the LFP 80-120
184 ripple band instantaneous phase for all 96 MEA electrodes and computed the maximum pairwise phase consistency
185 (PPC) over all time points within the duration of that iEEG ripple (Figure 3C,D; see Methods). Across participants,
186 the PPC is significantly correlated with the maximum amplitude of the observed iEEG ripples (Fisher z -transform;
187 $r = 1.06 \pm .43$; $t(5) = 2.34$, $p = .033$, one-tail t -test; Figure 3E-F; Figure 3–Supplement 1D). In addition, the
188 correlations across participants are significantly greater than those that would be observed by chance (true-shuffled
189 $r = .03 \pm .01$; $t(5) = 2.28$, $p = .036$, paired one-tail t -test; Figure 3E; see Methods). We repeated this analysis using
190 only microelectrodes with detected ripples and found that, across participants, the PPC is still significantly correlated
191 with the maximum amplitude of the observed iEEG ripples (Fisher z -transform; $r = .066 \pm .02$; $t(5) = 3.71$, $p = .014$,
192 one-tail t -test). These data together suggest that the iEEG ripple reflects both the aggregate sum and alignment of
193 the underlying LFP ripples.

194 To further examine the relation between ripples detected in the LFP signal and ripples detected in the iEEG ex-
195 plicitly, we measured the coincidence of ripples detected at the two spatial scales by computing the cross-correlogram
196 of ripples detected in the LFP and iEEG traces. We found that ripples are coincident above chance for all detection
197 parameters tested (Figure 3–Supplement 2; see Methods). Moreover, the extent to which ripples are coincident
198 between electrodes at the two spatial scales is significantly related to the distance between them (all participants:
199 $r = -.572$, $p = .0035$; across each participant, $n = 6$: $r = -.595 \pm 0.271$, mean \pm SEM, $t(5) = -2.40$, $p = .0615$;
200 Figure 3G; Figure 3–Supplement 3).

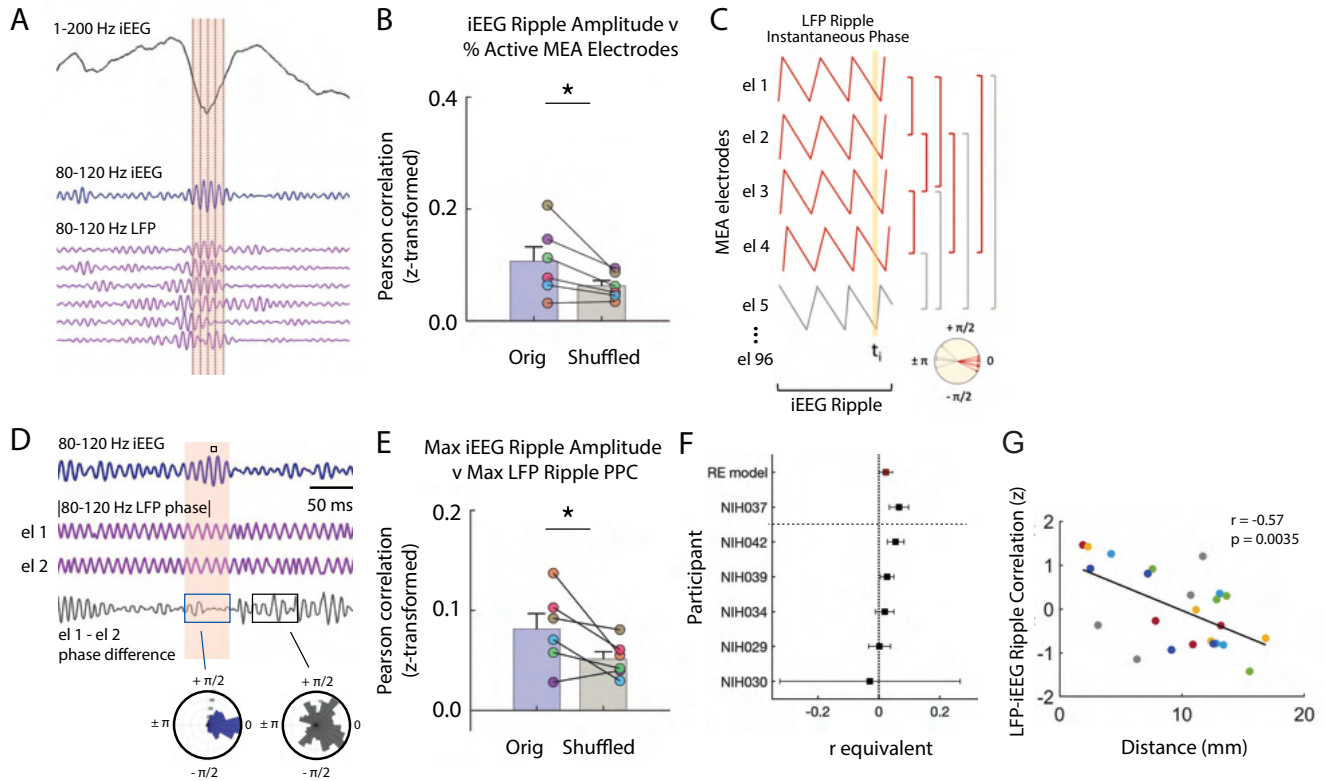


Figure 3. Macro-Scale Ripple Amplitude Reflects Number and Alignment of Micro-Scale Ripples.

(A) Brief window around one iEEG ripple showing unfiltered iEEG signal (black), ripple band iEEG signal (blue) and ripple LFPs for one nearby iEEG channel and six microelectrode array (MEA) electrodes with coincident LFP ripples. (B) Fisher z -transformed Pearson correlations for percentage of MEA electrodes containing LFP ripples and amplitude of coincident iEEG ripple. Group level results reported as mean \pm SEM persists when duration of the iEEG ripple is accounted for by shuffling ($*p < 0.05$). Each data point represents a participant. (C) Schematic of calculation of pairwise phase differences across all microelectrodes to compute pairwise phase consistency. (D) Brief window around one iEEG ripple showing ripple band iEEG signal (blue), instantaneous phase of a pair of MEA electrodes (purple; out of many pairs, not shown) and instantaneous phase difference of the ch 1 and ch 2 pair (black). Maximum of iEEG ripple indicated with small black square in the shaded window above the ripple band iEEG signal. Polar histogram of all pairwise phase differences during a detected iEEG ripple is centered around 0 (blue). Polar histogram all pairwise phase differences outside of a iEEG ripple is more uniform (black). (E) Fisher z -transformed Pearson correlations between maximum pairwise phase consistency across all MEA electrode pairs and maximum amplitude of iEEG ripples. Group level results, reported as mean \pm SEM, persists when duration of the iEEG ripple is accounted for by shuffling ($*p < 0.05$). Each data point represents a participant. (F) Forest plot of the r equivalent effect size and 95% CI for each participant and random-effect (RE) mean estimate demonstrate a significant effect across all participants. (G) Relation between distance between MEA and iEEG electrode and LFP-iEEG ripple synchrony. Each data point represents the relation between a MEA and iEEG electrode in the MTL or ATL, and each color represents a different patient. Code and data is provided in Figure 3—source code 1 and Figure 3—source data 1.

201 Spiking Activity is Phase-Locked to Ripples

202 Given that synchronization of LFP ripples was associated with increased ripple amplitudes, we also hypothesized
203 that spike timing during ripples would be phase locked (Quyen et al., 2008). In individual participants, we often
204 observed that unit firing preferentially occurs at the trough of the corresponding LFP ripples (Figure 4A). When
205 the LFP ripples are aligned, spiking activity also appears to preferentially occur at the trough of the overlying iEEG
206 ripple. In all participants, spikes from all units are locked to the trough of the 80-120 Hz ripple band in the LFP
207 signal ($p < 10^{-4}$, Rayleigh test across all units in each participant; $p = 4.8 \times 10^{-4}$, Rayleigh test across six complex
208 means, one from each participant; Figure 4B). We did not observe such phase consistency when examining the extent
209 to which spiking activity is locked to the phase of 80-120 Hz ripple band activity in the macro-scale iEEG signal
210 ($p = .12$, Rayleigh test across all units and across participants; Figure 4B).

211 When we visualized the spike triggered average of the LFP signal in individual participants, we often observed
212 that spiking activity also appeared locked to negative deflections in the LFP (Figure 4C). These negative deflections
213 contain spectral power within low frequencies. We therefore also examined the distribution of 2-10 Hz low frequency
214 phases present in the LFP signal around each spike and found significant locking to the trough in all participants
215 ($p < 10^{-4}$, Rayleigh test; $p = 5.4 \times 10^{-4}$, Rayleigh test across six complex means, one from each participant; Figure
216 4D). Spikes from all units appear locked around the trough of the 2-10 Hz low frequency iEEG signal when pooled,
217 which reflects the negative deflection in the iEEG signal, but when examined separately for each participant, the
218 apparent spike locking to the 2-10 Hz iEEG signal is not consistently at the same phase across participants ($p < 10^{-4}$,
219 Rayleigh test across all units in each participant; $p = .70$, Rayleigh test across six complex means, one from each
220 participant; Figure 4D).

221 To examine the relation between spiking activity and individual frequencies within the LFP signal, we computed
222 PPC across all spikes within each MEA electrode for each frequency between 2 Hz and 400 Hz (see Methods) (Vinck
223 et al., 2010). Across participants, spiking activity is significantly locked to specific high frequency bands in the LFP
224 (peak 86.9 Hz, $p < 0.05$, permutation test; see Methods Figure 4E). We confirmed that spiking activity is locked
225 to this high frequency band across participants by also computing the phase-locking value (Figure 4–Supplement
226 1A). This observed locking between spikes and this high frequency band in the LFP signal was robust to different
227 detection thresholds (Figure 4–Supplement 2). Spikes also appear locked to a low frequency band, but this likely
228 represents the sharp negative deflections observed in the iEEG and LFP traces that accompany burst of spiking
229 activity. Spikes are significantly more locked to high frequencies when they arise during ripples as compared to
230 between ripples ($p < 0.05$, permutation test; Figure 4F, Figure 4–Supplement 1B).

231 We next examined the relation between the extent to which spiking activity locks to the 80-120 Hz frequency
232 within each ripple and the amplitude of the ripple. Across participants, mean spike-LFP PPC within the 80-120
233 Hz ripple band is significantly correlated with 80-120 Hz ripple amplitude across all MEA electrodes (Fisher z -
234 transform, $r = .084 \pm .026$, $t(5) = 3.27$, $p = .011$; Figure 4G). To account for any possible effects of ripple duration on
235 the calculation of PPC, we compared this true distribution to a chance distribution and found that across participants
236 LFP ripple amplitude exhibits a significantly stronger correlation with spike locking to the 80-120 Hz band in the true

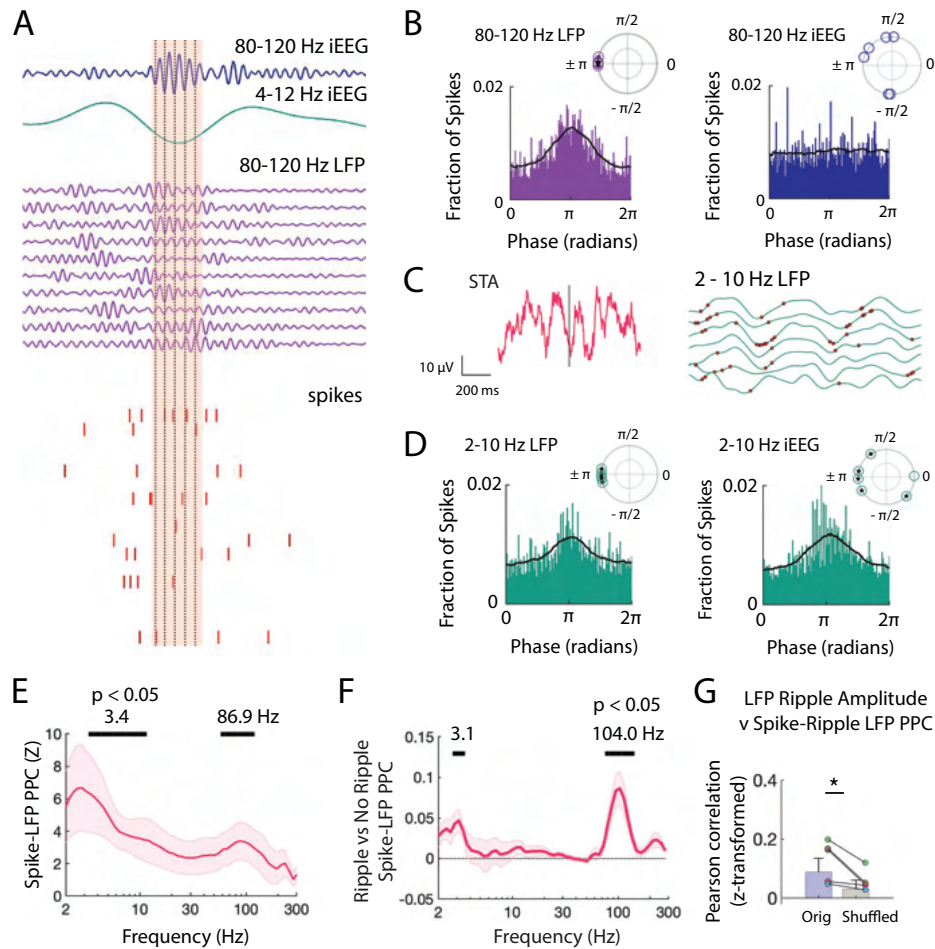


Figure 4. Spiking Activity is Phase-Locked to Ripples and Low Frequencies. (A) Brief window around one iEEG ripple and underlying LFP ripple and spiking activity. Dashed black lines indicate trough of iEEG ripple cycles compared to concurrent LFP ripple cycles and spiking. (B) Distribution of phases of LFP ripple (left) and iEEG ripple (right) across spike times for all units. (*inset*) Complex mean of the distribution of phases for each participant is depicted in a polar plot. Circles filled with a star if the distribution within a participant shows significant phase-locking (Rayleigh test, $p < 0.001$). Black line shows the average of six distributions across participants. (C) Spike triggered average (STA) for spikes detected within LFP ripples, in pink. Brief 500 ms window of 2-10 Hz filtered LFP (green) across MEA electrodes with neuronal activity. Red dots mark spikes occurring preferentially at trough of local LFP. (D) Distribution of phases of LFP low frequency (left) and iEEG low frequency (right) signals across spike times for all units. (*inset*) Complex mean of the distribution of phases for each participant is depicted in a polar plot. Circles filled with a star if the distribution within a participant shows significant phase-locking (Rayleigh test, $p < 0.001$). Black line shows the average of six distributions across participants. (E) Mean \pm SEM spike-LFP PPC across participants for all spikes to LFP for every frequency between 2 and 300 Hz. Peak frequencies of significant clusters are shown. (F) Mean \pm SEM difference in spike-LFP PPC between spikes that co-occur with LFP ripples and spikes that do not across participants. Peak frequencies of significant clusters are shown. (G) Fisher z -transformed Pearson correlations between spike-LFP ripple PPC and LFP ripple amplitude. Each data point represents a participant. True data (*orig*) compared to correlations when shuffling the spike time indices (*shuffled*; $*p < 0.05$). Code and data is provided in Figure 4—source code 1 and Figure 4-source data 1.

237 data as compared to the chance distribution ($t(5) = 2.64, p = .023$; see Methods). Together with our data examining
238 the relation between spiking activity and ripple amplitude, these data suggest that the amplitude of ripples in the
239 LFP signal may reflect both the sum and alignment of underlying spiking.

240 Finally, given the observed relation between spiking activity and ripples, we then examined whether ripples
241 themselves also exhibit a phase preference. As with the individual spikes, we considered each LFP ripple as an event
242 and visualized the ripple-triggered average of the iEEG and LFP signal (Figure 4-Supplement 1C). Ripples appear to
243 exhibit a clear relation with negative deflections in the iEEG and LFP trace. We therefore examined the distribution
244 of 2-10 Hz low frequency phases present in the LFP signal during each LFP ripple and found significant locking to
245 the trough in all participants ($p < 10^{-4}$, Rayleigh test across all ripples in each participant; $p = .0099$, Rayleigh test
246 across complex means, one from each participant; Figure 4-Supplement 1E). Micro-scale ripples are also locked to
247 the 2-10 Hz low frequency band in the iEEG signal within individual participants but at variable phases ($p < 10^{-4}$,
248 Rayleigh test across all ripples in each participant; $p = .72$, Rayleigh test across six complex means, one from each
249 participant).

250 Discussion

251 Despite significant advances over the past several decades, how to accurately interpret the various fluctuations
252 and dynamics observed through direct recordings of the human brain has remained challenging. With simultaneous
253 recordings of the same brain region using iEEG electrodes and MEA electrodes, we examine how high frequency
254 activity captured through direct macroscale recordings in humans that are typically collected with iEEG reflect
255 LFP and local spiking activity at the micro-scale, which are less commonly measured and more difficult to measure
256 in humans. Our results demonstrate that many of the changes in 70-200 Hz high frequency activity captured
257 through iEEG reflect transient 80-120 Hz oscillations. These short bouts of neuronal activity exist on a continuum
258 of amplitudes and durations, and reflect underlying bursts of neuronal spiking.

259 We consider the possibility that these brief neuronal events are ripple oscillations that may be contributing to
260 human cognition. One of the challenges, however, in examining the role of ripple oscillations in cognition, especially in
261 the human brain, has been determining whether any particular event does or does not qualify as a ripple. Many of the
262 criteria used for defining ripples in human recordings have been drawn from the more developed literature examining
263 ripple oscillations in the rodent MTL (Buzsáki, 2015; Joo & Frank, 2018). Researchers interested in studying ripples,
264 whether in the cortex or in the MTL, often choose fixed parameters based on these previous studies. However, fixed
265 criteria may not accommodate the reality that ripples are dynamic entities with morphologies that can vary based on
266 brain region or behavior (Buzsáki, 2015; Ngo et al., 2020). Moreover, it is not clear how these parameters that have
267 been well established in rodents translate across different species, as ripples in human brain recordings for example
268 have only been relatively recently described (Axmacher et al., 2008; Jiang et al., 2020; Norman et al., 2021, 2019;
269 Staresina et al., 2015; Vaz et al., 2019).

270 Our data demonstrate that cortical ripples captured through human brain recordings exist on a continuum of
271 amplitudes and durations. Our results do not prescribe a fixed set of criteria for identifying ripples, but instead
272 highlight the point that strictly adhering to predefined criteria for what constitutes a ripple may run the risk of
273 overlooking functionally meaningful events. Indeed, we explicitly explore this point here by using more liberal
274 thresholds for ripple detection. By recording neural activity across spatial scales, we find that even ripples with
275 smaller amplitudes or shorter durations are associated with bursts of spiking activity. The amplitude and duration
276 of each ripple in the micro-scale LFP signal is related to the amount of neuronal spiking activity and the extent
277 to which such spiking is synchronous. In turn, the amplitude and duration of each ripple in the macro-scale iEEG
278 recording is related to the number and synchrony of ripples at the micro-scale. These results are consistent with
279 previous studies of ripples conducted through both in vivo and slice recordings of rodent MTL structures which have
280 suggested that ripples reflect the synchronous interactions and overall activity of underlying neurons (Csicsvari et al.,
281 1999; Khodagholy et al., 2017; Nitzan et al., 2020; Stark et al., 2014). Although the durations of ripples we observe
282 in our human recordings are shorter than those observed in the rodent MTL, this could be related to differences in
283 the neural architecture, and therefore differences in the latencies of activation among individual neurons, between
284 species or between brain regions.

285 The discovery that such transient bouts of narrow band oscillatory activity may be functionally relevant, both in

286 the human MTL but also in the human cortex, has raised the possibility that these events are similar to MTL ripples
287 that have been extensively described in rodents (Axmacher et al., 2008; Buzsáki, 2015; Jiang et al., 2020; Norman et
288 al., 2021; Staresina et al., 2015; Vaz et al., 2019). Whether ripples are specific to the MTL or whether they are a more
289 general feature of neural processing is still a matter of debate. Our data demonstrate similar events in the human
290 cortex, fast oscillations within a narrow 80-120 Hz band of activity that we identify using multiple complementary
291 analyses. We excluded the possibility that these events are related to epilepsy and interictal epileptiform discharges,
292 and we find that these events are associated with ripples in the MTL. Importantly, these events are related to bursts
293 of underlying spiking activity. We consequently label them as ripples given their similarity and relation with MTL
294 ripples. Regardless of their exact label, however, these events appear to reflect transient bouts of spiking activity
295 that are related to information processing in the brain.

296 Our work is also consistent with several prior studies demonstrating a strong association between gamma power,
297 70-200 Hz high frequency power, and spiking activity (Berens et al., 2008; Burke et al., 2014; Manning et al., 2009;
298 Panagiotaropoulos et al., 2012). We similarly find a strong relation between spiking activity and ripples, which in our
299 analyses occupy a narrow band of frequencies between 80-120 Hz. It is possible that these phenomena are related,
300 and that the previously described gamma band or broadband activity simply includes this narrow ripple band. We
301 find that this narrow band activity accounts for many of the changes observed in the broadband power, and, of note,
302 the cortical spiking activity in our data is locked to this narrow band.

303 By examining both iEEG and LFP recordings in the human brain for the presence of ripples, our data therefore
304 support the hypothesis that many of the dynamics observed in 70-200 Hz high frequency activity captured from the
305 human brain are driven by well-defined and brief bouts of neural oscillatory activity that reflect bursts of synchronized
306 spiking. A common approach for investigating the neural correlates of human cognition has been to average neural
307 activity over multiple trials and over broad frequency ranges (Burke et al., 2014, 2015; Greenberg et al., 2015; Long et
308 al., 2014; Wittig et al., 2018). This approach has guided our understanding of human episodic memory formation, for
309 example, but fails to account for the possibility that the neural mechanisms of memory may be more punctate (Jones,
310 2016; Lundqvist et al., 2016). The relation between band limited 80-120 Hz ripples and 70-200 Hz high frequency
311 activity that we observe in our data suggests that many of the interpretations regarding the neural substrates of
312 human memory may be better served by considering these transient events. It is important to recognize, however,
313 that this relation is not absolute and appears less robust outside of the MTL and ATL. Even within these brain
314 regions, this relation is clearer only during correct compared to incorrect memory retrieval. Hence, while 80-120 Hz
315 ripples may underlie many of the phenomena observed through 70-200 Hz high frequency activity, there are likely
316 other neural mechanisms that contribute to the dynamics observed in the iEEG signal.

317 The possibility that information is neurally encoded through bursts of activity has been relatively under-explored
318 in human brain recordings. Recent evidence captured through animal recordings related to both memory and
319 perception, however, supports this possibility (Luczak et al., 2009, 2015; Lundqvist et al., 2016). These advances
320 are partly due to the more sophisticated tools that are available for in vivo recordings of large populations of
321 spiking neurons in animals. By recording spiking activity from a population of neurons in the human temporal

322 cortex through microelectrode arrays, we find direct evidence that 80-120 Hz ripples that we observe in our data are
323 accompanied by bursts of neuronal spiking. Hence, our data demonstrate that neural activity in the human temporal
324 cortex may be temporally organized into bursts of spiking. Our data focus on these bursts of spiking activity as
325 participants form and retrieve memories since the information contained within these bursts has been linked with
326 memory retrieval (Pfeiffer, 2020; Vaz et al., 2020). However, our data cannot address whether the relation between
327 ripples and underlying bursts of synchronized spiking is unique to just the temporal lobe or just to memory. Ripples
328 have been most studied in the MTL in both animals and humans, but appear to jointly occur in brain regions that
329 either process or receive the same information (Khodagholy et al., 2017; Lisman & Jensen, 2013; Swanson et al.,
330 2020; Vaz et al., 2019). It is possible that this relation between ripples and spiking activity is unique to brain regions
331 that communicate directly with the MTL or that are directly involved in memory. Our results, however, raise the
332 possibility that such bursts of spiking may be a general feature of neural coding in the human brain.

333 Given previous evidence demonstrating that spiking activity within ripples appears locked to the trough of each
334 cycle, it is not surprising that we observe similar locking in our data (Nitzan et al., 2020; Quyen et al., 2008). We find
335 more consistent locking of spiking activity to higher frequencies in the micro- compared to macro-scale. This may be
336 because synchronous spiking can occur within local neuronal ensembles while varying across ensembles. However, we
337 also find that spikes, and consequently ripples themselves, appear to coincide with large deflections in the iEEG and
338 LFP trace that appear to have spectral power within a low frequency band. Such locking of both spiking activity
339 and ripples to the trough of these deflections can account for several phenomena that have been previously described
340 in human brain recordings. For example, phase amplitude coupling between low frequency oscillations and high
341 frequency activity is ubiquitous in human recordings and has been linked to behavior (Canolty et al., 2006; He et
342 al., 2010; Vaz et al., 2017). If many of the increases in 70-200 Hz high frequency activity are related to ripples,
343 then phase amplitude coupling may emerge simply because ripples, and therefore spiking activity, coincide with large
344 deflections, or sharp waves, in human brain recordings that reflect periods of concentrated synaptic inputs (Buzsáki,
345 2015).

346 It is also possible that some of the locking we observe between low frequency power and spiking, bursts of
347 spiking, and therefore ripples, also reflects locking to true low frequency oscillations. If so, then this could also
348 suggest a possible mechanism by which bursts of spiking activity may be conveyed from one brain region to another.
349 Oscillations observed in the iEEG have been hypothesized to facilitate communication between brain regions and
350 modulate the excitability or timing of neuronal spiking (Chapeton et al., 2019; Fries, 2015). Indeed, low frequency
351 coherence may be related to successful memory formation (Fell et al., 2011; Lega et al., 2011; Shirvalkar et al., 2010).
352 In this framework, these oscillations could open gates of communication, allowing the brain to convey a volley of
353 neuronal spiking from one region to another. Recent evidence has also suggested that higher frequency oscillations
354 that are synchronous across brain regions may also facilitate communication, although the evidence for this still
355 remains unclear (Bosman et al., 2012; Buzsáki, 2015; Fries, 2015; Ray & Maunsell, 2015). Our data has implications
356 for interpreting such higher frequency coherence, as two brain regions that each exhibit bursts of spiking activity,
357 either conveyed from one to the other directly or driven by a third region, can each generate high frequency ripple

358 oscillations. If the underlying neuronal interactions in each brain region are similar, the ripples may appear coherent
359 and at the same high frequency. Conversely, if the underlying architecture of each region is different, then any
360 resulting higher frequency oscillations may differ in morphology and frequency, and the ripples may therefore appear
361 not to be coherent even though they may be related.

362 Together, our data offer insights into the dynamic fluctuations observed in direct recordings from the human
363 brain and suggest that neural activity may be organized into 80-120 Hz ripple events that reflect underlying bursts
364 of neuronal spiking. Our data argue against using fixed criteria to identify these ripples, and instead demonstrate
365 that these ripples exist on a continuum of activity.

366 **Materials and Methods**

367 **Participants**

368 Twenty-one participants with drug resistant epilepsy underwent a surgical procedure in which platinum recording
369 contacts were implanted on the cortical surface as well as within the brain parenchyma. In each case, the clinical
370 team determined the placement of the contacts to localize epileptogenic regions. In all the participants investigated
371 here, the clinical region of investigation was the temporal lobes.

372 For research purposes, in six of these participants (4 female; 34.8 ± 4.7 years old) we placed one or two 96-channel
373 microelectrode arrays (MEA; 4 x 4 mm, Cereplex I; Blackrock Microsystems, Inc., Salt Lake City, UT) in the
374 anterior temporal lobe (ATL) in addition to the subdural contacts. We implanted MEAs only in participants with a
375 presurgical evaluation indicating clear seizure localization in the temporal lobe and the implant site in the ATL was
376 chosen to fall within the expected resection area. Each MEA was placed in an area of cortex that appeared normal
377 both on the pre-operative MRI and on visual inspection. Across participants, MEAs were implanted 14.6 ± 3.7 mm
378 away from the closest subdural electrode with any ictal or interictal activity identified by the clinical team. Four
379 out of the six participants received a surgical resection which includes the tissue where the MEAs were implanted.
380 One participant had evidence of focal cortical seizure activity and received a localized resection posterior to the
381 MEA site. One participant did not have a sufficient number of seizures during the monitoring period to justify a
382 subsequent resection. Neither participant experienced a change in seizure type or frequency following the procedure,
383 or experienced any noted change in cognitive function. The data captured from these MEA's in these participants
384 were included in a previous study (Vaz et al., 2020).

385 Data were collected at the Clinical Center at the National Institutes of Health (NIH; Bethesda, MD). The Insti-
386 tutional Review Board (IRB) approved the research protocol (11-N-0051), and informed consent was obtained from
387 the participants and their guardians. All analyses were performed using custom built Matlab code (Natick, MA).
388 Data are reported as mean \pm SEM unless otherwise specified.

390 **Paired-Associates Memory Task**

391 Each participant performed a paired associates verbal memory task (Jang et al., 2017; Vaz et al., 2020; Yaffe et al.,
392 2014). Previous studies have demonstrated that correct memory retrieval in this task is associated with increases
393 in high frequency activity (Jang et al., 2017; Vaz et al., 2020; Yaffe et al., 2014). Here, we replicate these previous
394 findings using a subset of participants that were included in these previous studies ($n = 14$) as well as additional
395 new participants ($n = 7$). During the study period, participants were sequentially shown a list of word pairs and
396 instructed to remember the novel associations between each pair of words (encoding). Later during testing, they
397 were cued with one word from each pair selected at random and were instructed to say the associated word into a
398 microphone (retrieval).

399 A single experimental session for each participant consisted of 25 lists, where each list contained six pairs of
400 common nouns shown on the center of a laptop screen. The number of pairs in a list was kept constant for each
401 participant. Words were chosen at random and without replacement from a pool of high-frequency nouns and were
402 presented sequentially and appearing in capital letters at the center of the screen. We separated the study and test of
403 each word pair by a minimum lag of two study or test items. During the study period, each word pair was preceded
404 by an orientation stimulus ('+') that appeared on the screen for 250-300 ms followed by a blank interstimulus interval
405 (ISI) between 500-750 ms. Word pairs were then presented stacked in the center of the screen for 4000 ms followed
406 by a blank ISI of 1000 ms. Following the presentation of the list of word pairs, participants completed an arithmetic
407 distractor task of the form $A + B + C = ?$ for 20 seconds.

408 During the test period, one word was randomly chosen from each of the presented pairs and presented in random
409 order, and the participant was asked to recall the other word from the pair by vocalizing a response. Each cue
410 word was preceded by an orientation stimulus (a row of question marks) that appeared on the screen for 4000 ms
411 followed by a blank ISI of 1000 ms. Participants could vocalize their response any time during the recall period after
412 cue presentation. We manually designated each recorded response as correct, intrusion, or pass. A response was
413 designated as pass when no vocalization was made, when the participants made an unintelligible vocalization like
414 'umm', or when the participant vocalized the word 'pass'. During pass trials where no vocalization was present, we
415 assigned a response time by randomly drawing from the distribution of correct response time during that experimen-
416 tal session. We did not include such pass trials where no vocalization was present in our analysis of incorrect trials.
417 We defined all intrusion and other pass trials as incorrect trials. A single experimental session contained 150 total
418 word pairs. Each participant completed between 1-3 sessions (2.2 ± 0.3 per participant). Participants studied $93 \pm$
419 8 word pairs, and successfully recalled $30.1 \pm 4.1\%$ of words. While patients were presented with 150 words pairs in
420 each experimental session, the number of word pairs they actually studied was reduced if they did not complete the
421 session due to interruptions or participant fatigue.

422

423 **Intracranial EEG (iEEG) Recordings**

424 We collected intracranial EEG (iEEG) data from a total of 1660 subdural and depth recording contacts (79 ± 4 per
425 participant; Figure 1–Supplement 6). Subdural contacts were arranged in both grid and strip configurations with
426 an inter-contact spacing of 10 mm. We captured iEEG signals sampled at 1000 Hz. For clinical visual inspection of
427 the recording, signals were referenced to a common contact placed subcutaneously, on the scalp, or on the mastoid
428 process. The recorded raw iEEG signals used for analyses were referenced to the system hardware reference, which
429 was set by the recording amplifier (Nihon Kohden, Irvine CA) as the average of two intracranial electrode channels.
430 We used the Chronux toolbox to apply a local detrending procedure to remove slow fluctuations ($\lesssim 2$ Hz) from
431 the time series of each electrode and a regression-based approach to remove line noise at 60Hz and 120Hz (Mitra
432 & Bokil, 2009). We did not see a noticeable peak at the 180 Hz harmonic when we surveyed the power spectral
433 density of several electrodes for noise and therefore did not remove line noise at that harmonic to avoid introducing

434 artifacts. We implemented additional thresholds to remove movement artifacts and pathological activity related to
435 the patient’s epilepsy.

436 We quantified spectral power and phase in the iEEG signals by convolving the voltage time series with 200 lin-
437 early spaced complex valued Morlet wavelets between 2 and 200 Hz (wavelet number 6). We extracted data from
438 all retrieval periods, beginning four seconds preceding vocalization to one second following vocalization and included
439 a 1000 ms buffer on both sides of the clipped data. We squared and log-transformed the continuous-time wavelet
440 transform to generate a continuous measure of instantaneous power for each frequency. To account for changes in
441 power across experimental sessions, we z -scored power values separately for each frequency and for each session using
442 the mean and standard deviation of all respective values for that session. When examining the average changes
443 in high frequency activity (70-200 Hz) during memory retrieval across trials, we temporally smoothed the z -scored
444 spectrogram for each iEEG channel using a sliding 600 ms window (90% overlap) as a point of comparison with
445 previous studies of human memory retrieval (Greenberg et al., 2015).

447 **Anatomic Localization**

448 We localized electrodes in each participant by identifying high-intensity voxels in a post-operative CT image, which
449 was co-registered to a pre-operative T1-weighted MRI. Electrode locations were adjusted to account for routine post-
450 operative parenchymal shift by applying a standardized algorithm combining intraoperative photography, electrode
451 spatial arrangement, and dural and pial surface reconstructions (Trotta et al., 2017). Pial surfaces were reconstructed
452 using FreeSurfer (<http://surfer.nmr.mgh.harvard.edu>) (Fischl, 2012) and were resampled and standardized using the
453 AFNI SUMA package (Cox, 1996). The resulting surfaces each contained 198812 vertices per hemisphere, with
454 vertices indexed in a standardized fashion, such that for any vertex i , the i th vertex is located in an anatomically
455 analogous location across participants. We identified the location of each MEA on each participant’s surface recon-
456 struction. We co-registered the individual participant reconstructions with a standard template brain, and visualized
457 the locations of each participant’s MEA on the template brain.

458 We aggregated vertices from the surface reconstruction into a standard set of surface-based regions of interest
459 (ROIs) as previously described (Figure 1–Supplement 6) (Trotta et al., 2017). Briefly, we sampled 2400 equally-
460 spaced vertices per hemisphere to use as ROI centers. ROI centers were uniformly distributed across the surface
461 at an average geodesic distance of approximately 5 mm. We assigned all vertices within a 10 mm geodesic radius
462 of an ROI center to that ROI, which achieves a coverage of 99.9% coverage or greater of the pial surface in each
463 participant (Trotta et al., 2017). Because ROIs overlap, vertices may be assigned to multiple ROIs. On average,
464 there were 669.44 ± 74.30 vertices per ROI and each vertex mapped to 8.08 ± 0.90 ROIs. We modeled each electrode
465 as a cylinder with radius 1.5 mm, found the pial vertices closest to it, and then assigned each electrode to the same
466 ROIs as its nearest pial vertices. Due to the overlap between ROIs, each electrode is assigned to multiple ROIs and
467 each ROI may contain more than one electrode. For analyses within ROIs across participants, we only included ROIs
468 that contained electrodes from at least five participants.

470 **iEEG Artifact Removal**

471 We implemented several measures to provide the most conservative sampling of non-pathological signals possible.
 472 We implemented a previously reported automated trial and electrode rejection procedure based on excessive kurtosis
 473 or variance of iEEG signals to exclude high frequency activity associated with epileptiform activity (Jang et al., 2017;
 474 Vaz et al., 2019; Wittig et al., 2018). We calculated and sorted the mean iEEG voltage across all trials, and divided
 475 the distribution into quartiles. We identified trial outliers by setting a threshold, $Q3 + w * (Q3 - Q1)$, where $Q1$ and $Q3$
 476 are the mean voltage boundaries of the first and third quartiles, respectively. We empirically determined the weight
 477 w to be 2.3. We excluded all trials with mean voltage that exceeded this threshold. The average percent removed
 478 across all sessions in each participant due to either system-level noise or transient epileptiform activity was $5.17 \pm$
 479 0.86% of all electrodes and $2.89 \pm 0.34\%$ of all trials.

480 In addition, system level line noise, eye-blink artifacts, sharp transients, and inter-ictal epileptic discharges (IEDs)
 481 can confound the interpretation of our results. We therefore implemented a previously reported automated event-
 482 level artifact rejection (Staresina et al., 2015; Vaz et al., 2019). We calculated a z-score for every iEEG time point
 483 based on the gradient (first derivative) and amplitude after applying a 250 Hz high pass filter (for identification of
 484 IEDs). All time points within 100 ms of any time point that exceeded a z-score of 5 with either gradient or high
 485 frequency amplitude were marked as artifactual. We visually inspected the resulting iEEG traces and found that the
 486 automated procedure reliably removed IEDs and other artifacts. In total, following exclusion of electrodes because of
 487 artifact, we retained 1577 electrodes (75 ± 4 per participant) for analysis. We approximated a reference-free montage
 488 within each participant by subtracting the common average reference of all retained electrodes from the voltage trace
 489 of each individual electrode for that participant.

490 **Microelectrode Recordings**

491 In six participants, we additionally captured spiking activity and micro-scale local field potentials (LFP) from the
 492 MEAs implanted in the anterior temporal lobe. Microelectrodes were arranged in a 10x10 grid with each electrode
 493 spaced $400 \mu\text{m}$ apart and extending 1.5 mm into the cortical surface (1.0 mm for one participant). Post-operative
 494 paraffin blocks of the resected tissue demonstrated that the electrodes extended approximately halfway into the 3
 495 mm-thick gray matter. We digitally recorded microelectrode signals at 30 kHz using the Cereplex I and a Cerebus
 496 acquisition system (Blackrock Microsystems), with 16-bit precision and a range of ± 8 mV.

497 To extract unit spiking activity, we re-referenced each electrode’s signal offline by subtracting the mean signal
 498 of all the electrodes in the MEA, and then used a second order Butterworth filter to bandpass the signal between
 499 0.3 to 3 kHz. Using a spike-sorting software package (Plexon Offline Sorter, Dallas, TX, USA), we identified spike
 500 waveforms by manually setting a negative or positive voltage threshold depending on the direction of putative action
 501 potentials. The voltage threshold was set to include noise signals used in calculating unit isolation quality (see below).
 502 Waveforms (duration, 1.067 ms; 32 samples per waveform) that crossed the voltage threshold were stored for spike

503 sorting. Spike clusters were manually identified by viewing the first two principal components, and the difference in
504 peak-to-trough voltage (voltage versus time) of the waveforms. We manually drew a boundary around clusters of
505 waveforms that were differentiable from noise throughout the experimental session. In this manner, we identified a
506 total of 989 putative single units across all sessions (average of 72 ± 21 units per participant). The average spike
507 rate across all units was 2.82 ± 0.01 Hz. In addition to the spiking data, we also used a 500 Hz low pass filter to
508 extract the LFP signals from each microelectrode, down-sampled to 1000 Hz, and then performed a similar line noise
509 removal and channel selection procedure to that used for the iEEG channels to exclude artifacts related to epilep-
510 tiform activity or other system level noise. Across the six participants, after pre-processing we retained recordings
511 from 78 ± 27 MEA electrodes for further analysis.

512

513 **Single-unit Recording Quality Measures**

514 Due to variability in the signal quality across recordings and the subjective nature of spike sorting, we quantified
515 the quality of each unit by calculating an isolation score and signal to noise ratio (SNR) (Joshua et al., 2007). The
516 isolation score quantifies the distance between the spike and noise clusters in a 32-dimensional space, where each
517 dimension corresponds to a sample in the spike waveform. The spike cluster consisted of all waveforms that were
518 classified as belonging to that unit, and the noise cluster consisted of all waveforms that crossed the threshold that
519 were not classified as belonging to any unit. The isolation score is normalized to be between 0 and 1, and serves
520 as a measure to compare the isolation quality of all units across all experimental sessions and participants. Across
521 participants, the mean isolation score for all units was 0.93 ± 0.1 .

522 In addition to isolation quality, we computed the SNR for each unit:

$$SNR = \frac{V_{peak} - V_{trough}}{Noise * C}$$

523 where V_{peak} and V_{trough} are the maximum and minimum voltage values of the mean waveform, and C is a scaling
524 factor (set as 5). To obtain $Noise$, we subtracted the mean waveform from each individual waveform for each
525 identified unit, concatenated these waveform residuals, and then computed the standard deviation of this long
526 vector. Therefore, the noise term quantifies the within-unit variability in waveform shape. Across participants, the
527 mean SNR for all units was 1.71 ± 0.12 .

528 We estimated the instantaneous spike rate for each unit by convolving the spike rasters with a Gaussian kernel
529 ($\sigma = 25$ ms). We used the mean and standard deviation of the spike rate over an entire experimental session to
530 generate a z -scored spike rate for each unit.

531

532 **Ripple Detection**

533 We detected ripples in both the iEEG and LFP signals as previously reported (Vaz et al., 2019). We first bandpass
534 filtered the voltage time series in the ripple band (80-120 Hz) using a second order Butterworth filter, and then
535 applied a Hilbert transform to extract the instantaneous amplitude and phase within that band. We selected events
536 where the Hilbert envelope exceeded 2 standard deviations above the mean amplitude of the filtered traces. We
537 only retained events that were at least 25 ms in duration and had a maximum amplitude greater than 3 standard
538 deviations as ripples for analysis. We did not specify an upper limit for ripple duration. We joined adjacent ripples
539 that were separated by less than 15 ms. We identified every ripple that satisfied these criteria in every electrode
540 contact, and assigned each such identified ripple a start time index and an end time index when the ripple crosses
541 the detection threshold. The difference between them defined the duration of each ripple.

542 To assess the overlap between detected ripples and inter-ictal epileptic discharge (IED) artifacts, we computed
543 the joint probability of iEEG and LFP ripples and the identified IEDs for each participant. We found that IEDs
544 overlapped with $0.79 \pm 0.11\%$ of iEEG ripples and with $1.38 \pm 0.11\%$ of LFP ripples across the six participants
545 with MEAs (Figure 1–Supplement 5A-B). We excluded all IEDs and high frequency oscillations associated with
546 IEDs (ripple on spike waveforms, pathologic ripples) and any detected ripple that overlapped with an IED from our
547 analyses. The remaining ripples that we retained for our analyses therefore occurred without an associated IED and
548 are more likely to be physiologic.

549 To examine the relation between ripple amplitude and spiking activity, as well as to examine the relation between
550 ripples across spatial scales, we used the Hilbert phase and amplitude of the 80-120 Hz ripple band signal extracted
551 from both the iEEG and LFP signals. The amplitude of individual ripples was measured by taking the maximum
552 Hilbert amplitude of detected 80-120 Hz ripple events. To assess for a spectrum of ripple amplitudes and durations,
553 we relaxed the detection thresholds to include all events during which the Hilbert amplitude of the LFP signal
554 exceeded only one standard deviation above the mean amplitude of the filtered traces. We designated all such events
555 with a minimum duration of 10 ms and with a maximum amplitude at least two standard deviations above the mean
556 as putative ripples for these analyses.

557 To account for the possibility that ripples with higher amplitudes and therefore longer durations may be associ-
558 ated with more spiking activity by chance, we compared the true correlation between ripple amplitude and spiking
559 activity to the correlations we would observe by chance. In each of 1000 permutations, we performed a random
560 circular shift of the spike indices in each trial and computed the correlation between LFP ripple amplitude and spike
561 rate across units and MEA electrodes. We compared the true correlation to the mean of the distribution of 1000
562 shuffled correlations in each participant. We determined that 1000 permutations was sufficient by initially examin-
563 ing the mean correlation as a function of the number of permutations in a single participant, and found that the
564 mean value for the correlation observed by chance converged after only 500 permutations. We performed a similar
565 permutation procedure when examining the relation between iEEG ripple amplitude and the proportion of active
566 units, and between iEEG ripple amplitude and the number of underlying LFP ripples.

567

568 Pairwise Phase Consistency

569 To examine the extent to which individual events such as spikes or ripples are aligned to consistent phases in the LFP
570 or iEEG oscillations, we computed the pairwise phase consistency (PPC) (Vinck et al., 2010). Briefly, for each spike
571 or ripple, we extracted the instantaneous phase of the LFP or iEEG signal either of individual frequencies or within
572 low (2-10 Hz) or ripple band (80-120 Hz) frequency bands. For individual frequencies, we used the instantaneous
573 phase extracted by convolving the LFP or iEEG time series with complex valued Morlet wavelets (wavelet number
574 6) for 60 frequencies logarithmically spaced between 2 and 400 Hz. To extract the instantaneous phase of the two
575 frequency bands, 2-10 Hz and 80-120 Hz, we filtered the LFP and iEEG signal into each frequency band and then
576 extracted the instantaneous phase from the complex time series generated by the Hilbert transform of the filtered
577 time series. Across multiple spikes or ripples, we therefore generate a distribution of phases. To calculate the PPC,
578 we computed the average angular distance, or vector dot product, for all pairs of phases in each distribution. We
579 defined the preferred phase for each distribution as the phase angle of the complex mean of the distributions of
580 these phases. In addition to PPC, we also assessed phase consistency by testing whether each distribution of phases
581 significantly deviated from a uniform distribution using a Rayleigh test of uniformity.

582 We used PPC to examine the extent to which 80-120 Hz ripple band phases are aligned across all microelectrodes
583 in each MEA during each ripple detected in the larger scale iEEG signal. In this case, during every time point
584 within each iEEG ripple, we collected a distribution of 80-120 Hz ripple band phases from all 96 microelectrodes,
585 and computed the PPC on that distribution. We assigned the maximum PPC computed over the duration of each
586 iEEG ripple as the microelectrode 80-120 Hz PPC for that iEEG ripple. In each participant, we then computed
587 the correlation between iEEG ripple amplitude and 80-120 Hz PPC in the underlying LFP across all iEEG ripples
588 identified from all retrieval trials. We compared these true correlations to chance using a shuffling procedure. In each
589 of 100 permutations, we circularly shifted the time series of LFP phase by a random amount within each detected
590 iEEG ripple and then computed the correlation between iEEG ripple amplitude and LFP PPC. We calculated the
591 average correlation across permutations in each participant as the chance level. We performed an identical procedure
592 when examining the extent to which the alignment of spiking activity to the 80-120 Hz ripple band signal in the LFP
593 is correlated with the 80-120 Hz ripple band amplitude.

594 To examine the extent to which spiking activity is locked to individual frequencies in the LFP and iEEG signal,
595 we computed PPC using the instantaneous phases of each spike from each unit. In each participant, we computed
596 the average spike PPC across all units in each trial, and then computed the average across trials to generate a spike
597 PPC value for each participant. In order to compare PPC values across participants, we converted the raw PPC to a
598 z-score in each participant by using the mean and standard deviation of a null distribution of 100 spike PPC values
599 generated by randomly shuffling the trial labels associated with the spike indices.

600 We then assessed whether the distribution of spike PPC values is significant across participants using a non-
601 parametric cluster-based procedure. For each frequency, we compared the distribution of z-scored spike PPC values
602 to zero using a *t*-test, thus generating a true *t*-statistic and *p*-value for each frequency. We then randomly permuted the
603 participant-specific values by randomly reversing the sign of z-scored PPC within each participant and recomputing

604 the average value of the distribution of permuted PPC values across participants. For n participants, this results in
605 an empiric distribution of 2^n possible values that are all equally probable under the null hypothesis. We generated an
606 empiric distribution from 1000 permutations for each frequency and calculated t -statistics for each of the permuted
607 frequencies.

608 To correct for multiple comparisons across frequencies, we identified clusters of adjacent frequencies that exhibited
609 a significant difference between the average PPC across participants and zero (where in each frequency cluster,
610 $p < 0.05$). For each cluster of significant frequencies identified in the true and permuted cases, we defined a cluster
611 statistic as the sum of the t -statistics within that frequency cluster. We retained the maximum cluster statistic
612 during each of the 1000 permutations to create a distribution of maximum cluster statistics. We assigned p -values
613 to each identified cluster of the true data by comparing its cluster statistic to the distribution of maximum cluster
614 statistics from the permuted cases. We determined clusters to be significant and corrected for multiple frequency
615 comparisons if their p -value calculated in this manner was less than 0.05.

616 We also compared spike PPC between two sets of conditions - PPC for spikes that occurred during an identified
617 LFP ripple as compared to PPC for spikes that occurred outside an LFP ripple, and PPC for spikes that occurred
618 during correct versus incorrect memory retrieval. We only included units for this analysis that exhibited a minimum
619 of 10 spikes in each condition during an experimental session. In addition, because each condition tends to have a low
620 total number of spikes in each trial, we computed PPC in these analyses by aggregating spiking events across trials
621 rather than initially computing PPC within individual trials. Because we are making a direct comparison between
622 PPC values within individual participants, we used the raw PPC rather than the z -scored value for these tests. In
623 all cases, we computed the average PPC across all units separately for each condition in each participant. We then
624 compared the average PPC between conditions by using a similar permutation procedure that corrects for multiple
625 comparisons described above. In this case, in each permutation we randomly switched the label for each condition
626 in each participant. To ensure that lower spike counts in one condition would not bias our results, we identified
627 which condition had the lower total number of spikes, and randomly subsampled the spikes from the other condition.
628 We performed this subsampling 200 times, computed PPC for each iteration, and assigned the average of the PPC
629 from the 200 iterations of subsampling to the condition with the larger number of spikes. We repeated all of these
630 analyses when examining the extent to which ripples are locked to individual frequencies, and to compare the extent
631 of locking between conditions.

632

633 **Pairwise Phase Consistency of Spiking**

634 In order to obtain a measure of phase locking that does not depend on number of observations, we look at pairs of
635 phases. Phases that are consistently clustered around a mean phase have a small angular distance to each other.
636 The absolute angular distance is expressed as

$$d_f(\varphi_f, \omega_f) = |\varphi_f - \omega_f| \bmod \pi, (Eq.1)$$

637 where φ represents the phase of spike to a frequency bin and ω represents the phase of another spike from the
638 same neuron to the same frequency bin. For each neuron, we can compute this for all frequency bins.

639 We compute the average pairwise circular distance (APCD), or the absolute angular distance between relative
640 phases, which can be expressed as:

$$\hat{D} = \frac{2}{N(N-1)} \sum_{j=1}^{N-1} \sum_{k=j+1}^N d(\theta_j, \theta_k), (Eq.2)$$

641 The pairwise phase consistency (PPC) is equivalent to the population statistic of the APCD, which is equivalent
642 to the population statistic of the square of the phase-locking value.

643 We compute the sample estimate of the PPC by evaluating:

$$\hat{\gamma} = \frac{2}{N(N-1)} \sum_{j=1}^{N-1} \sum_{k=j+1}^N f(\theta_j, \theta_k), (Eq.3)$$

644 where $f(\varphi, \omega) = \cos(\varphi)\cos(\omega) + \sin(\varphi)\sin(\omega)$ and N represents the number of spikes.

645 To efficiently compute the PPC of spikes to one frequency bin of the local field potential, we express each spike
646 phase as a unit vector and evaluate the dot product for all pairs of unit vectors. We compute the spike-LFP PPC
647 from the resulting symmetric matrix by removing the values along the diagonal and then taking the mean.

648 **Pairwise Phase Consistency of Ripple Oscillations**

649 To measure the phase consistency of ripple oscillations across MEA electrodes, we compute the absolute angular
650 distance using Eq. 3 where θ_j represent the phase of the ripple band signal for one MEA electrode, θ_k represents the
651 phase of ripple band signal for a different MEA electrode for one time point, and N represents the number of MEA
652 electrodes. Each time point within a iEEG ripple was treated as an observation for the MEA electrode. In other
653 words, for a 50 ms long iEEG ripple, we evaluate the dot product for the pairs of ripple phases across all pairs of
654 MEA electrodes. To efficiently compute the PPC of ripple oscillations across MEA electrode pairs, we express each
655 ripple oscillation phase as a unit vector and compute the mean dot product for all pairs of unit vectors in a similar
656 manner as spike-LFP PPC.

657 **MTL-ATL Ripple Cross-Correlation**

658 To measure the extent to which ripples in the anterior temporal lobe (ATL) are coupled with ripples in the medial
659 temporal lobe (MTL), we identified the time index of peak ripple power for each rippled detected in both regions.
660 We then generated cross-correlograms between MTL and ATL ripples (Vaz et al., 2019). For each electrode in the
661 MTL, we computed a cross-correlogram with each electrode in the ATL. We then pooled these cross-correlograms
662 across trials for each electrode pair in each participant. This generates a cross-correlogram for each pair of electrodes
663 that we can compare between conditions and to a chance distribution (see below). To generate a single cross-
664 correlogram representing the relation between the ATL and the MTL in each participant, we computed the average

665 cross-correlogram across all electrode pairs.

666 For every pair of electrodes, we calculated a shift predictor for the cross-correlogram that characterizes the cross-
667 correlation that would be expected by chance given the presentation of a stimulus (Brody, 1999; Morris et al., 2004;
668 Steinmetz et al., 2000; Vaz et al., 2019). This chance distribution was generated by cross-correlating the time indices
669 relative to the presentation of the stimulus for each ripple in an ATL electrode during an individual trial with the
670 time indices of each ripple in an MTL electrode in every other trial. For n trials, we create $n - 1$ cross-correlations,
671 which are then averaged to create a chance cross-correlogram (the shift predictor) for that trial. This procedure was
672 repeated for all trials, and the average across all trials represents the average shift predictor for that trial condition.
673 We aggregated these chance cross-correlograms (shift predictors) across all electrode pairs that involve each region
674 of interest to generate a shift predictor for each region.

675 The ratio between the true cross-correlogram and the shift predictor reflects the extent to which two signals
676 are synchronized greater than would be expected by chance given the presentation of a stimulus. We calculated a
677 normalized synchronization metric by finding the sum of the true cross-correlation values in a ± 50 ms window and
678 then dividing by the corresponding area of the chance distribution. In this manner, our metric directly quantifies
679 how much more synchronized the true case is relative to chance, which would result in a value of 1. To test the effect
680 of a range of detection parameters on the correlation, we detected ripples using duration thresholds ranging from 10
681 to 40 ms, increasing in increments of 10 ms, and max amplitude thresholds ranging from 2 to 4 SD, increasing in
682 increments of 1 SD. We used the same detection threshold for LFP and iEEG ripple detection. We used this metric
683 to compare synchronization between detection parameters.

684 **LFP-iEEG Ripple Cross-Correlation**

685 To measure the coincidence of LFP and iEEG ripples, we identified the time index of peak ripple power for each
686 rippled detected in each microelectrode (LFP ripple) and iEEG electrode (iEEG ripple). We then generated cross-
687 correlograms between LFP and iEEG ripples. For each participant, we included four iEEG electrodes nearest to
688 the MEA. To generate a single cross-correlogram representing the relation between the LFP and iEEG ripples in
689 each participant, we computed the average across all electrode pairs. For every pair, we calculated chance cross-
690 correlograms by randomly shifting in time each trial of the ripples detected in the microelectrode. We computed
691 the average across trials for each electrode pair. We calculated a normalized synchronization metric by finding the
692 average true cross-correlation values in a ± 50 ms window and then dividing by the corresponding area of the chance
693 distribution. The ratio between the true and chance cross-correlograms quantifies how much more synchronous the
694 LFP and iEEG ripples are relative to chance, with a value of 1 indicating a measurement equal to chance.

695 **Population Spiking Auto-Correlation**

696 To measure the extent to which units spike together in bursts within detected iEEG ripples, we summed the spiking
697 across all units and computed the auto-correlogram of the population spiking within each detected iEEG ripple. We
698 detected ripples using a duration threshold of 10 ms and an amplitude threshold of 1 SD with a maximum of at least

699 2 SD in four iEEG electrodes nearest to the MEA. To compare this auto-correlogram within ripples to spiking outside
700 of ripples, we generated random duration matched windows between ripples and computed the chance population
701 spiking auto-correlograms. We calculated a burst metric by finding the average of the true auto-correlogram in a \pm
702 25 ms window centered around zero and then dividing by the corresponding area of the chance correlogram.

703 **Hartigan’s Test for Bimodal Distribution**

704 To assess whether distributions of population spike rate, LFP ripple power and iEEG ripple power are bimodal, we
705 used Hartigan’s dip test. We postulated that these distributions would be bimodal if there were indeed transient
706 bursts of activity and periods of little activity in between. The dip test computes the maximum difference between
707 the empirical distribution function and the unimodal distribution function that minimizes that maximum difference
708 (Hartigan & Hartigan, 1985). To compute the dip statistic, we generated a probability density function (PDF) of
709 samples aggregated across all four second trials in 200 bins over the range of the data. We computed a true dip
710 statistic for spike rate and for LFP ripple power for each microelectrode and for iEEG ripple power for each iEEG
711 channel. We generated a chance distribution of dip statistics for unimodal distributions to quantify the significance
712 of the true dip statistic. For this procedure, we randomly generated 10000 uniform PDFs and z-scored the true dip
713 statistic using the mean and standard deviation of the chance distribution. The average z-scored dip statistic across
714 all microelectrodes was used for the spike rate and LFP ripple power for each participant. The average z-scored
715 dip statistic across four iEEG channels in the anterior temporal lobe and iEEG channels in the medial temporal
716 lobe were used to compute the z-scored dip statistic for each participant. This analysis was performed on the six
717 participants with a MEA.

718 **Multiple Oscillations Detection Algorithm Detection of Narrowband Oscillations**

719 We used an independent and previously validated method for detecting transient episodes of narrowband oscillations
720 to assess whether ripples detected using duration and amplitude thresholds in the 80-120 Hz frequency range capture
721 similar events detected using other approaches. For this procedure, we used the continuous-time wavelet transform
722 (wavelet number 6) to compute the mean power spectrum over the trial, which is then used to generate a background
723 1/f fit. We generated a 1/f fit to the 70-200 Hz range of the power spectrum for each trial and identify narrowband
724 oscillations that exceed it. The signal is then bandpass filtered within the identified narrowband frequency ranges and
725 a Hilbert transform is used to compute the instantaneous power and phase. The instantaneous frequency is estimated
726 using a frequency sliding estimation method previously described (Cohen, 2014). Periods in which the power is below
727 the 1/f fit is removed. Given we perform this for each trial, we identify a unique narrowband oscillation for each trial
728 for each iEEG electrode. For each participant, we aggregate the oscillations across trials across iEEG electrodes to
729 generate a distribution of center frequencies of narrowband oscillations and a distribution of durations of the periods
730 when the oscillations exceeds 1/f background signal.

731 **Meta analysis**

732 Given the variability in number of ripples and other characteristics across participants, we quantified within and
733 across participant variability and computed an estimate of the total true correlations. We assessed whether random
734 variation accounts for the observed correlations by performing a meta-analysis where we used restricted maximum-
735 likelihood estimation to fit a random effects model (Viechtbauer, 2010). For each participant, we computed the true
736 correlation and z-scored it using a distribution of correlation values for shuffled data to generate the r equivalent, a
737 measure of effect size. We computed the sampling variance for each participant from the number of samples (Rosen-
738 thal & Rubin, 2003). These measures were used to fit the random effects model.

739

740 **Data and code availability**

741 Data and accompanying custom written Matlab code are available for download at:

742 <https://neuroscience.nih.gov/ninds/zaghloul/downloads.html>.

743 Except where otherwise noted, computational analyses were performed using custom written MatLab (MathWorks,
744 Natick MA) scripts.

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887 **Figure 1-source code 1. Matlab code of ripple events in the iEEG signal.**

888 **Figure 1-source data 1. Ripples detected during memory retrieval.** iEEG recordings were collected in mul-
889 tiple brain areas including medial temporal lobe as participants retrieved a studied word during a paired-associates
890 verbal memory task.

891

892 **Figure 2-source code 1. Matlab code of correlations between continuous spiking, LFP and iEEG.**

893 **Figure 2-source data 1. Continuous spiking, LFP and iEEG.** Moving average spiking activity, LFP and
894 iEEG in 100 ms epochs without overlap in ATL during memory retrieval.

895

896 **Figure 3-source code 1. Matlab code of pairwise phase consistency between LFP ripple signal and**
897 **iEEG ripple amplitude.**

898 **Figure 3-source data 1. LFP and iEEG ripples.** Concurrent LFP and nearby iEEG recordings in ATL during
899 memory retrieval.

900

901 **Figure 4-source code 1. Matlab code of pairwise phase consistency between spiking and LFP.**

902 **Figure 4-source data 1. Spike-LFP phase locking.** Phases of spikes to LFP in ATL during successful and
903 unsuccessful memory retrieval.

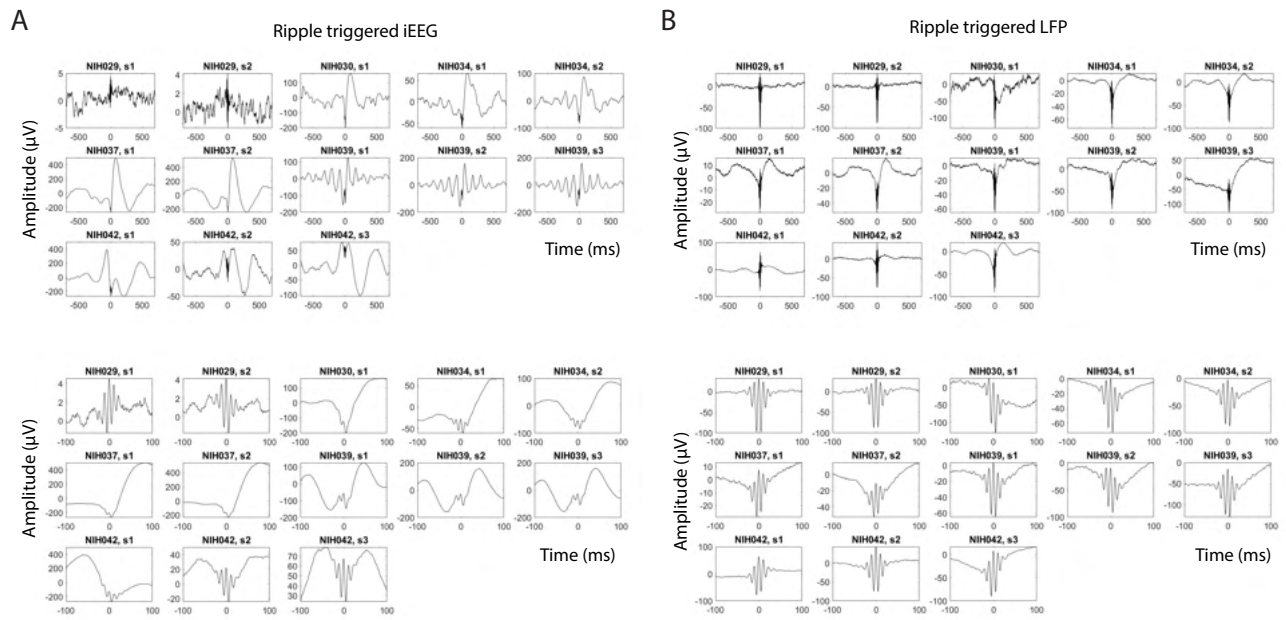


Figure 1-Supplement 1. Ripple-Triggered Average iEEG and LFP Signals. (A) Average intracranial EEG (iEEG) signal locked to each ripple detected in the anterior temporal lobe iEEG electrodes in each session across six participants. (B) Average local field potential (LFP) signal captured using microelectrode recordings locked to each LFP ripple detected using MEAs in the anterior temporal lobe in each session across six participants.

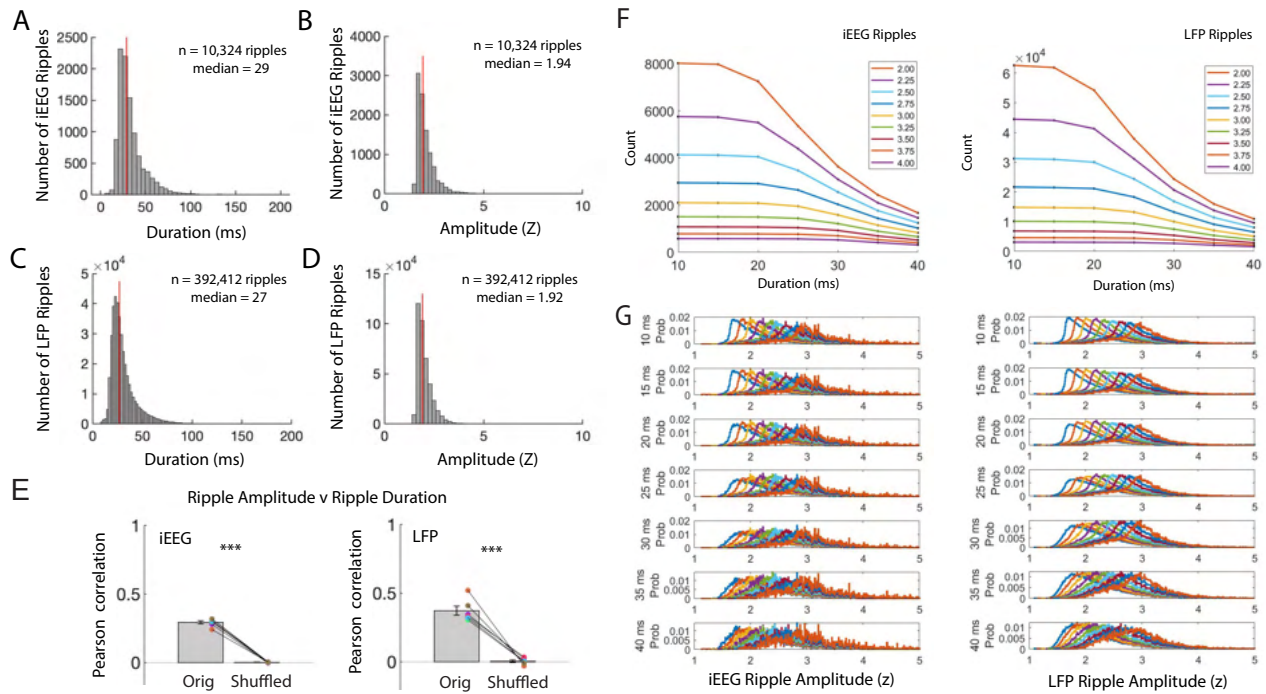


Figure 1-Supplement 2. iEEG and LFP Ripple Characteristics with Different Detection Thresholds. (A) Distribution of iEEG ripple durations from all electrodes in all participants. (B) Distribution of iEEG ripple amplitudes from all electrodes in all participants. (C) Distribution of LFP ripple durations from all electrodes in all participants. (D) Distribution of LFP ripple amplitudes from all electrodes in all participants. (E) Pearson correlation between amplitude and duration of iEEG ripples (left) and LFP ripples (right) compared to Pearson correlations after random circular shifts of ripple indices by trial. The true relation between ripple band amplitude and duration is significantly greater than the shuffled distribution (true $r = .372 \pm .033$; true-shuffled $t(5) = 9.07$, $p = 1.4 \times 10^{-4}$, paired one-tailed t-test). (F) Total count of iEEG ripple events (left) and LFP ripple events (right) detected using different amplitude and duration thresholds. (G) iEEG ripple amplitude (left) and LFP ripple amplitude (right) distributions of all events detected using different amplitude and duration thresholds.

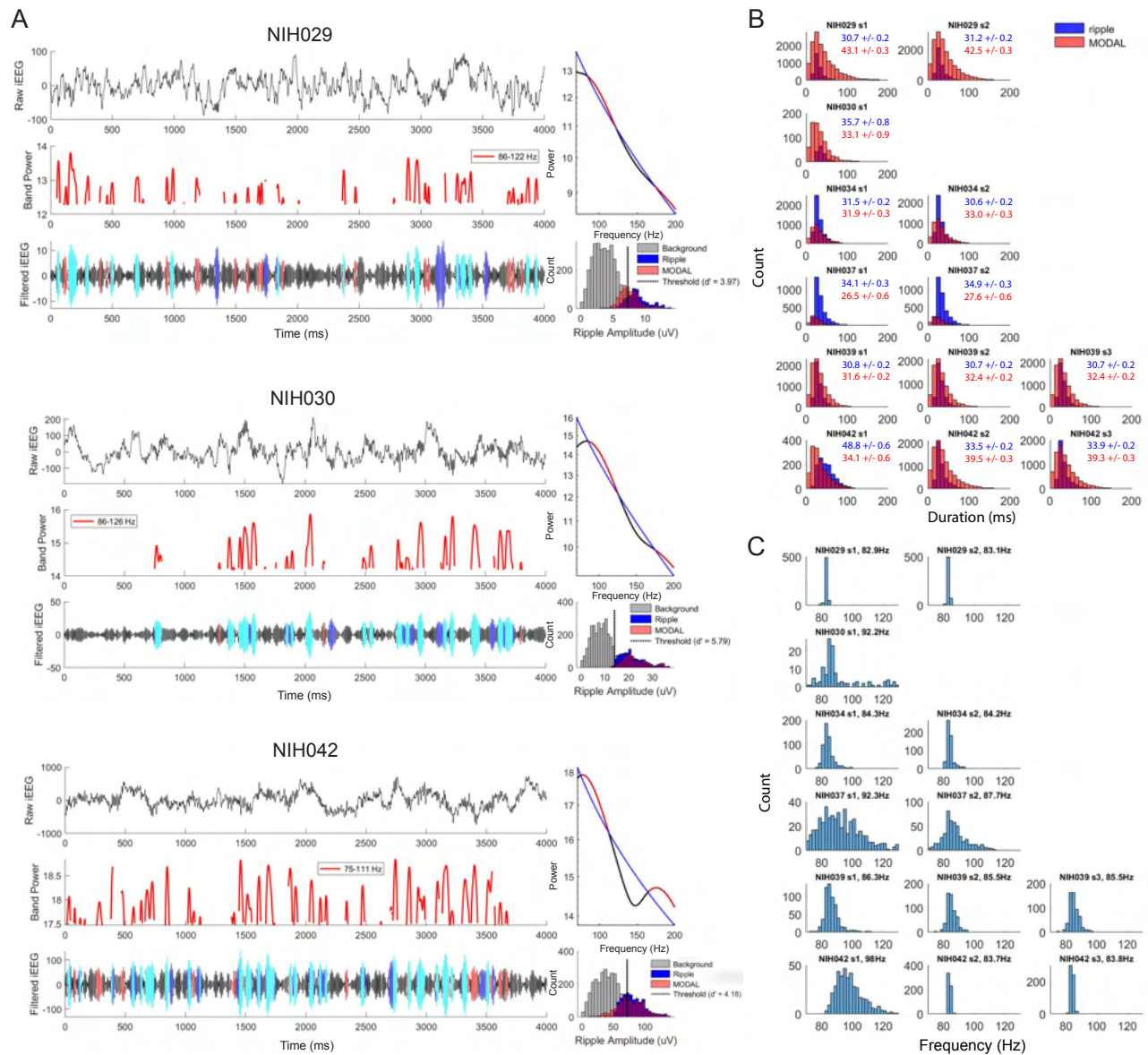


Figure 1-Supplement 3. Multiple Oscillations Detection Algorithm Detected Narrowband Oscillations.

To complement our ripple detection method, we used the Multiple Oscillations Detection Algorithm, or MODAL, to detect narrowband oscillations (Watrous et al., 2018). This method identifies transient periods in which narrow band oscillations exceed the background noise. **(A)** Example trials for three participants, each showing raw iEEG signal (top left) of one electrode in anterior temporal lobe, envelope of MODAL detected narrowband oscillations (middle left), and ripple band iEEG signal (bottom left) with periods of ripple events detected by ripple threshold (dark blue), MODAL detected events (red), and overlapping ripple and MODAL events (cyan). MODAL events are characterized by periods in which narrow band oscillations exceed $1/f$ noise. A power spectral density of the trial from 70-200 Hz (black), $1/f$ fit (blue), and frequencies exceeding $1/f$ (red) is shown on the top right. The ripple amplitude distribution composed of all samples in the trial (grey), amplitudes within detected ripples (blue), and amplitudes within MODAL detected events (red). The dotted line in the distribution is the amplitude threshold that maximizes d' when considering the hit rate and false alarm rate of detected ripples when compared to the MODAL detected events. **(B)** Distribution of duration of iEEG ripples (blue) and MODAL events (red) detected across all iEEG electrodes, showing similar range in duration of events. Individual subplots are labeled with participant ID and session number; text shows mean \pm SEM duration of ripples (blue) and MODAL events (red) for each participant. The mean duration of the events detected by the MODAL method was 33.5 ± 3.0 ms across participants, compared to a duration of 32.8 ± 6.3 ms for the ripples that we detected using our standard approach **(C)** Distribution of center frequency of MODAL narrow band oscillations across all trials for ATL iEEG electrodes in each session in the six participants with MEAs. The mean center frequency of the identified events was 87.3 ± 3.5 Hz

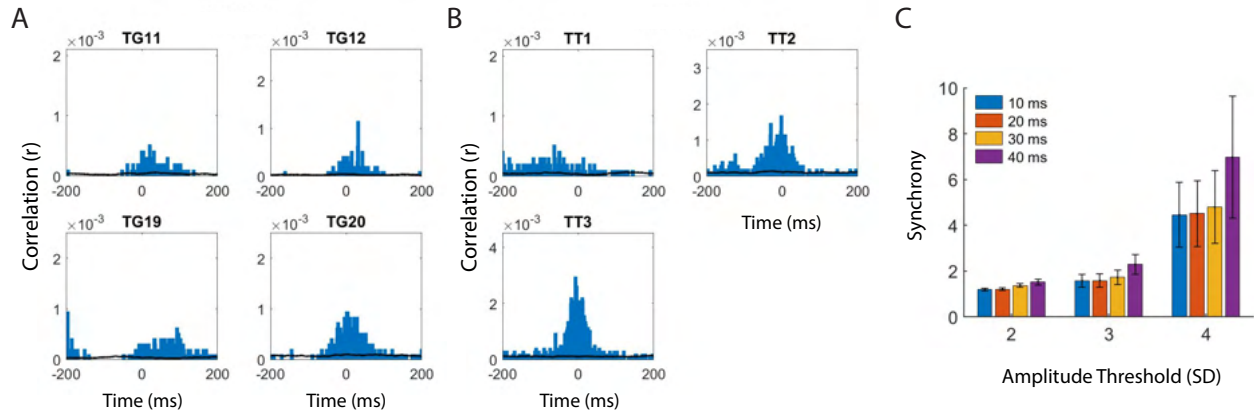


Figure 1-Supplement 4. MTL-ATL Cross-Correlograms with Different Detection Thresholds. To assess whether the ripples we detect in the cortex are associated with ripples observed in the MTL, we measured the coupling of ripples between MTL and ATL by computing the cross-correlogram for events detected across these regions. **(A)** Mean ripple cross-correlograms for one participant for each channel in anterior temporal lobe (ATL; electrodes labeled as temporal grid, TG) to all channels in medial temporal lobe (MTL). **(B)** Average ripple cross-correlograms for one participant for each channel in MTL (electrodes labeled as temporal tip, TT) to all channels in ATL. **(C)** Synchronization metric average across all channel pairs for each participant. We computed the average synchronization across participants using ripple detection amplitude thresholds ranging from 2 to 4 SD and duration thresholds ranging from 10 to 40 ms. Ripples are coincident across these regions above chance for all detection parameters tested, as indicated by a synchronization metric above one.

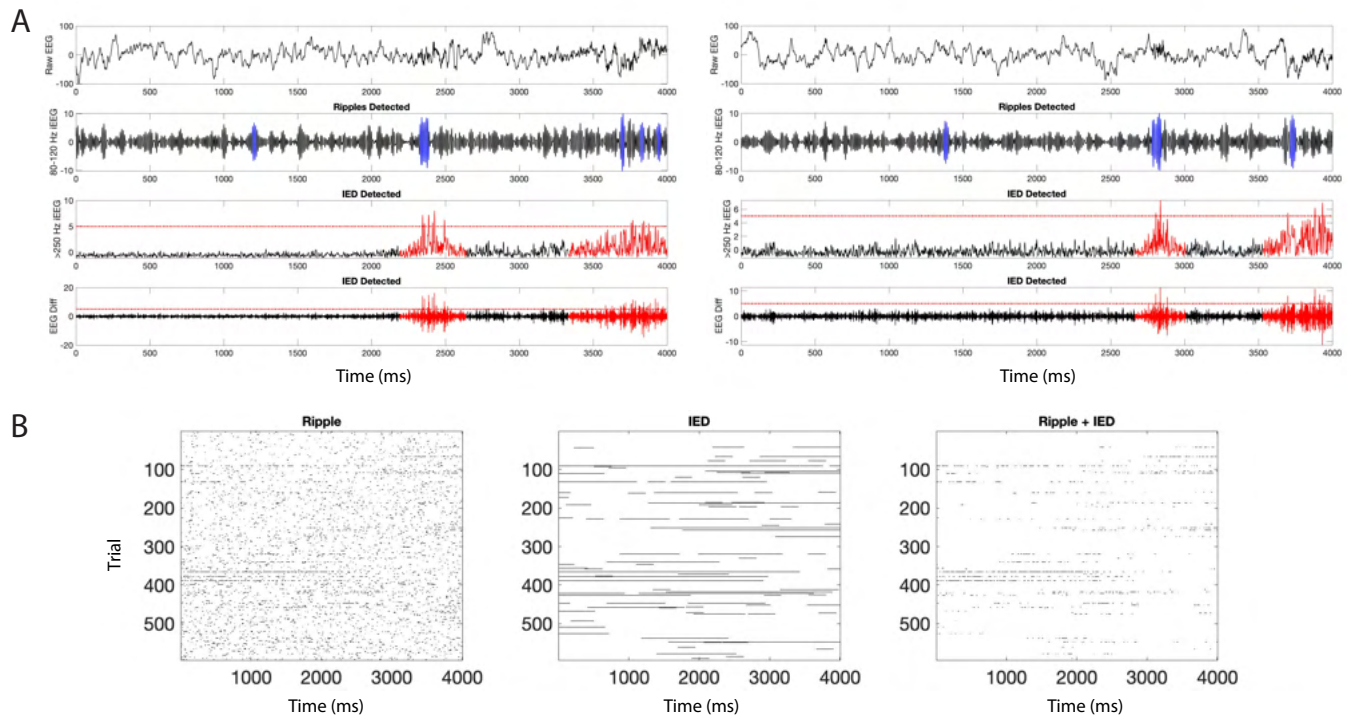


Figure 1-Supplement 5. Interictal Epileptiform Discharge Detection and Overlap with Ripples. To confirm that the detected ripples are not an artifact of interictal epileptiform discharges (IEDs), we separately detected IEDs (see Methods) and computed the overlap between detected ripples and detected IEDs. **(A)** From top to bottom, two example trials of raw iEEG, 80-120 Hz filtered iEEG with detected ripples shown in blue, ζ 250 Hz filtered iEEG with detected IED windows in red, and first derivative of iEEG with detected IEDs in red. Horizontal red lines represent a threshold of 5 SD above the mean. The periods indicated as an IED represent a 500 ms window around time points when the threshold is crossed. **(B)** Example ripple raster before removal of ripples that overlap with IEDs (left), raster of IED events (middle), and overlap between ripples and IED (right). IEDs overlapped with 0.79 ± 0.11 % of iEEG ripples and with 1.38 ± 0.11 % of LFP ripples across participants.

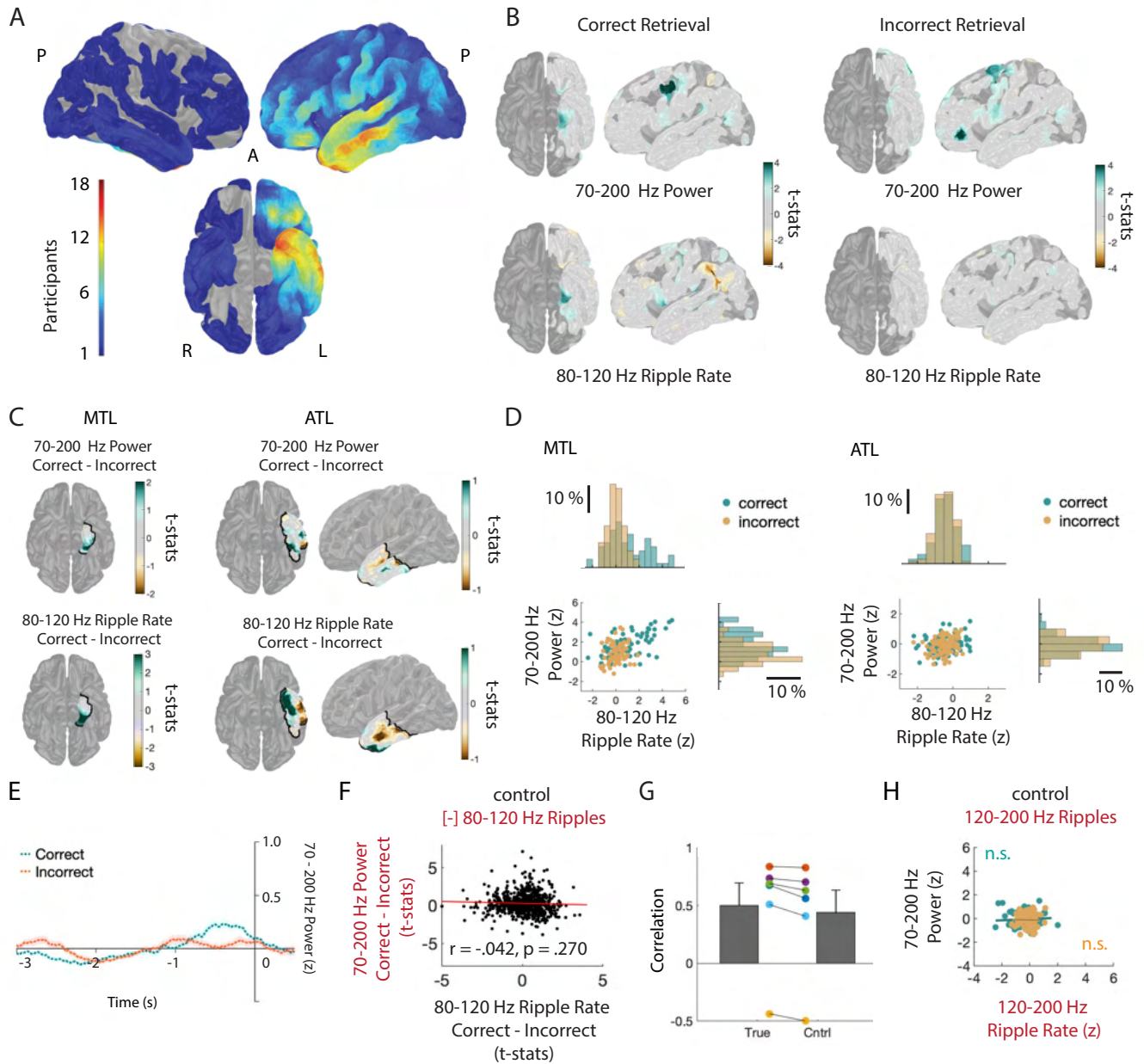


Figure 1-Supplement 6. High Frequency Activity Reflects Ripples. (A) Surface-based regions of interest (ROIs) showing electrode coverage across 21 participants. (B) ROI plots of across-participant t-statistic for 70-200 Hz power and 80-120 Hz ripple rate for correct (left) and incorrect (right) retrieval. (C) Across-participant t-statistic ROI plots from (B) for medial temporal lobe (MTL) and anterior temporal lobe (ATL) ROIs. (D) Relation between 70-200 Hz power and 80-120 Hz ripple rate for across-participant t-statistic ROIs in MTL and ATL for correct and incorrect memory retrieval. Each data point represents the average across participants for each ROI in the two brain regions. (E) 70-200 Hz power spectra after removal of temporal indices of ripples for correct and incorrect retrieval for representative iEEG electrode in MTL shown in Figure 1C. (F) Correlation between difference in 70-200 Hz power between correct and incorrect memory retrieval after removal of temporal indices of ripples with the difference in 80-120 Hz ripple rate between conditions. Each data point represents the average across participants for each ROI. (G) The true correlation between the difference in 70-200 Hz power and the difference in 80-120 Hz ripple rate is significantly greater than the correlation when ripples are removed ($t(5) = 3.89, p = 0.0115$). We also compared the two correlations as dependent groups and found a significant difference in correlation ($r(true) - r(control) = 0.172, 95\% \text{ CI} = [0.06910, 0.2764], z = 3.2677, p = 0.0011$). We accounted for potential interaction effects using the correlation between 70-200 Hz and 70-200 Hz with ripple removed ($r = -0.031$). (H) Correlation between 70-200 Hz Power and 120-200 Hz ripple rate separately for correct and incorrect memory retrieval. Each point represents the across-participant average in each ROI.

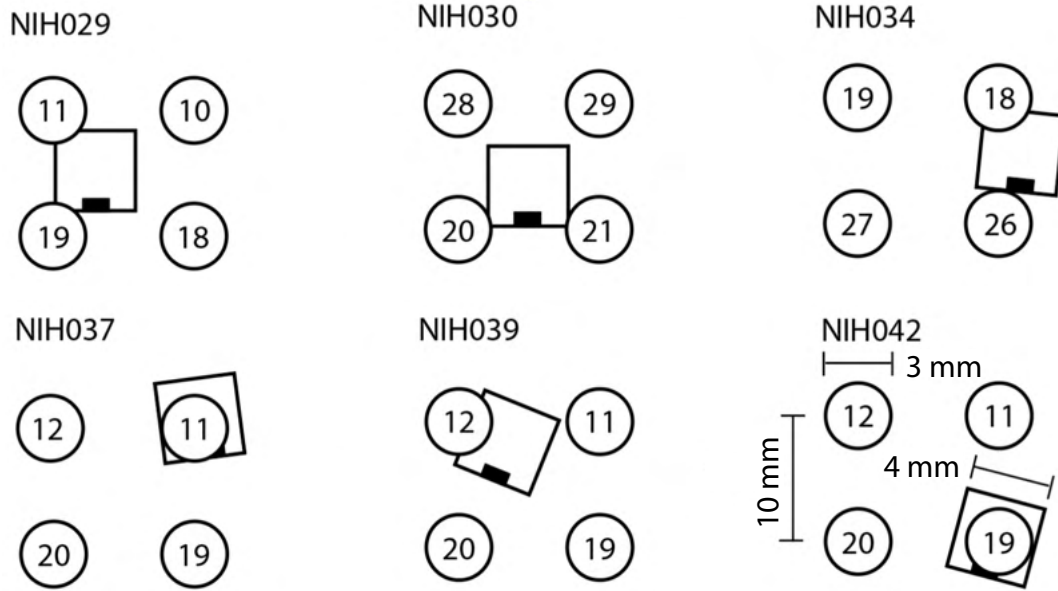


Figure 2-Supplement 1. MEA Position with Respect to iEEG Channels. Position of MEA with respect to nearby iEEG channels in each participant.

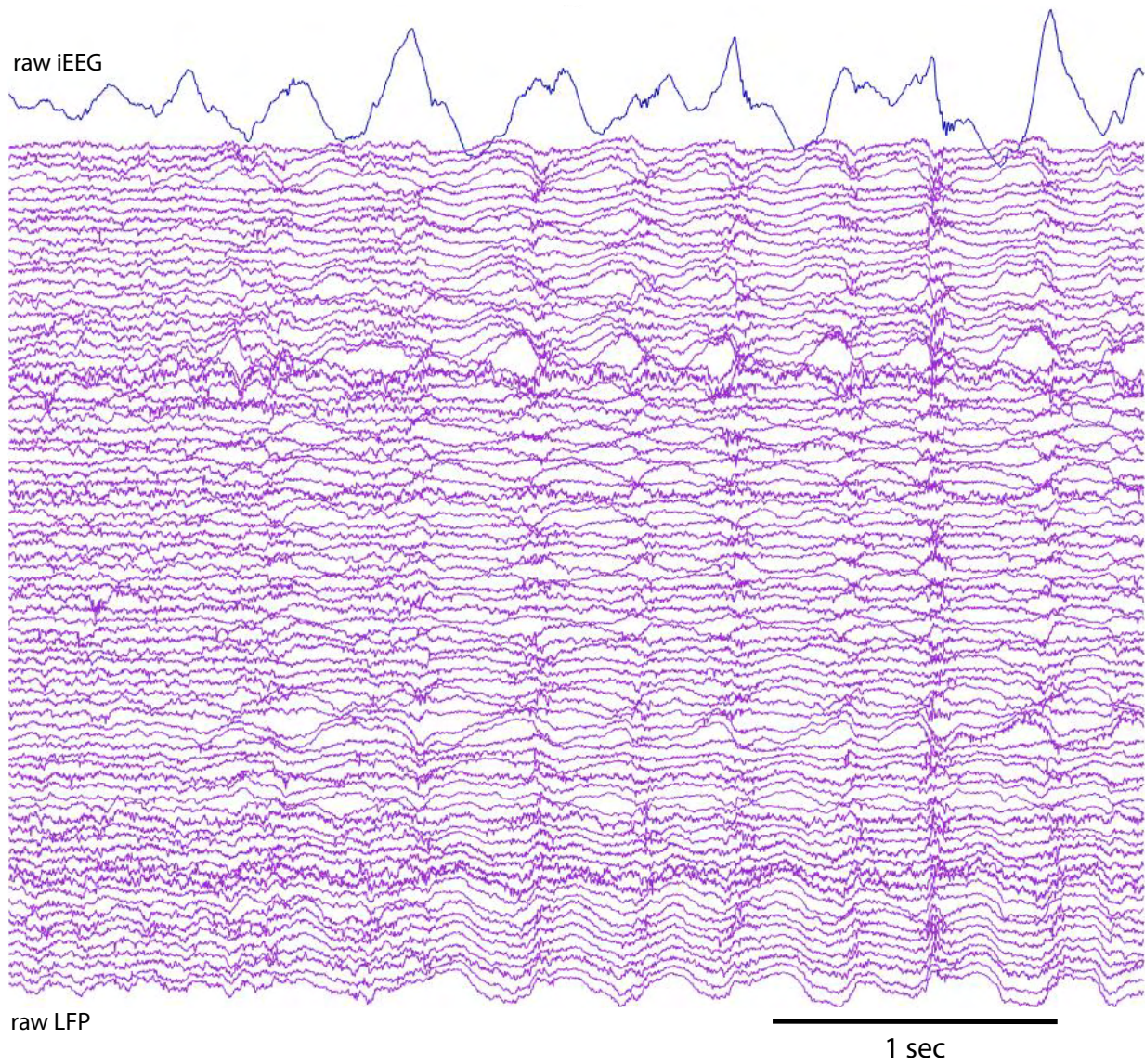


Figure 2-Supplement 2. Raw iEEG and LFP Trace. Example raw iEEG in an anterior temporal lobe electrode and simultaneous LFP traces for one representative trial.

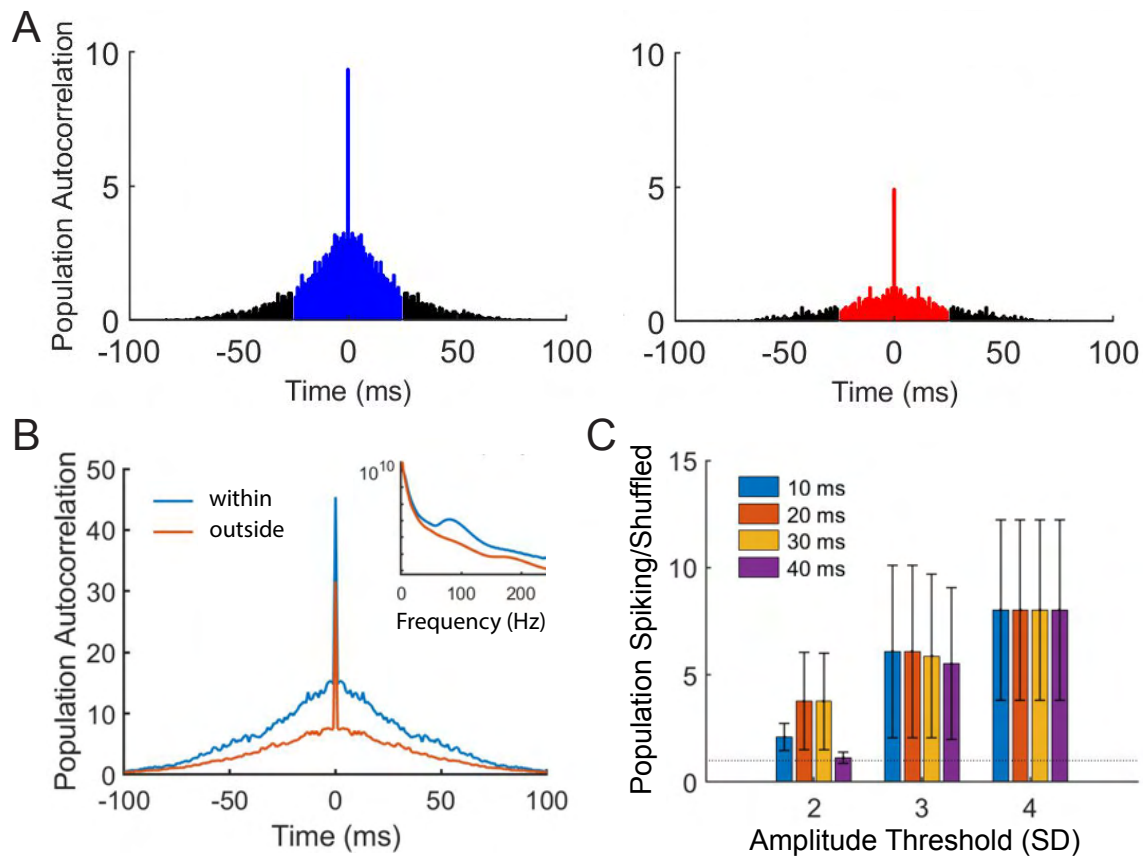


Figure 2-Supplement 3. Spiking Auto-Correlograms Within and Outside Ripples. To confirm that ripples correspond to underlying bursts of spiking activity, we computed the population spiking auto-correlogram within and outside of each detected ripple event. **(A)** Population spiking auto-correlogram within and outside detected iEEG ripples in one representative participant. Shaded ± 25 ms values of the correlogram was used to compute the extent to which spiking activity bursts within ripples compared to outside of ripples (see Methods). **(B)** Mean spiking auto-correlogram across participants within and outside ripples. Inset plot shows power spectral density for windows within and outside ripple events that were used to compute population spiking auto-correlogram in one representative participant. **(C)** Ratio of spike auto-correlograms within compared to outside of ripples when using different ripple duration and amplitude detection thresholds. Data represent mean \pm SEM across participants for different detection thresholds.

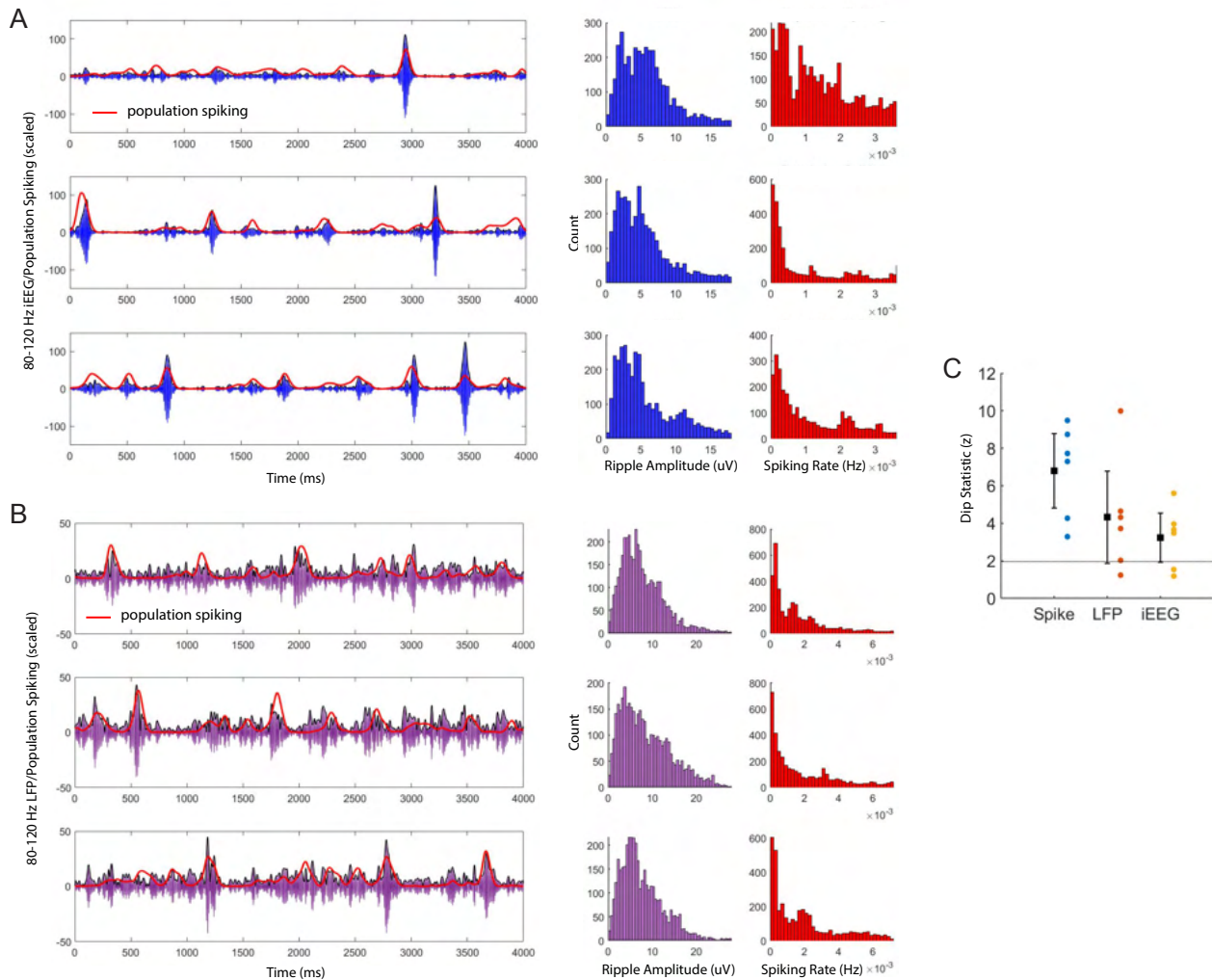


Figure 2-Supplement 4. Ripple Power and Spike Rate Distributions. We examined whether the distribution of ripple band power in the iEEG and LFP signals, and the distribution of spiking activity, exhibit evidence of bimodality (see Methods). **(A)** Representative trials of 80-120 Hz band iEEG signal (blue) in anterior temporal lobe electrodes and concurrent population spiking (red), showing macro-scale ripple amplitude increases are coincident with bursts of spiking. Distribution of ripple amplitude (blue) and population spiking (red) for each representative trial. **(B)** Representative trials of ripple LFP signal (purple) for a MEA channel and concurrent spiking (red) of units recorded in the channel, showing micro-scale ripple amplitude increases are coincident with bursts of spiking. Distribution of ripple amplitude (purple) and local spiking (red) for each representative trial. **(C)** Dip statistics (z-score) characterizing bimodality of population spiking, LFP ripple amplitude, and iEEG ripple amplitude averaged over channels for each participant, represented by different colors. The dip test for the bimodality of population spiking is significant in and across all participants ($6.802 \pm 1.013 z$). The test for the bimodality of iEEG and LFP ripple amplitude is significant across participants, and significant within individual participants in at least four of the six participants with MEAs (LFP: $4.323 \pm 1.257 z$; iEEG: $3.236 \pm 0.669 z$).

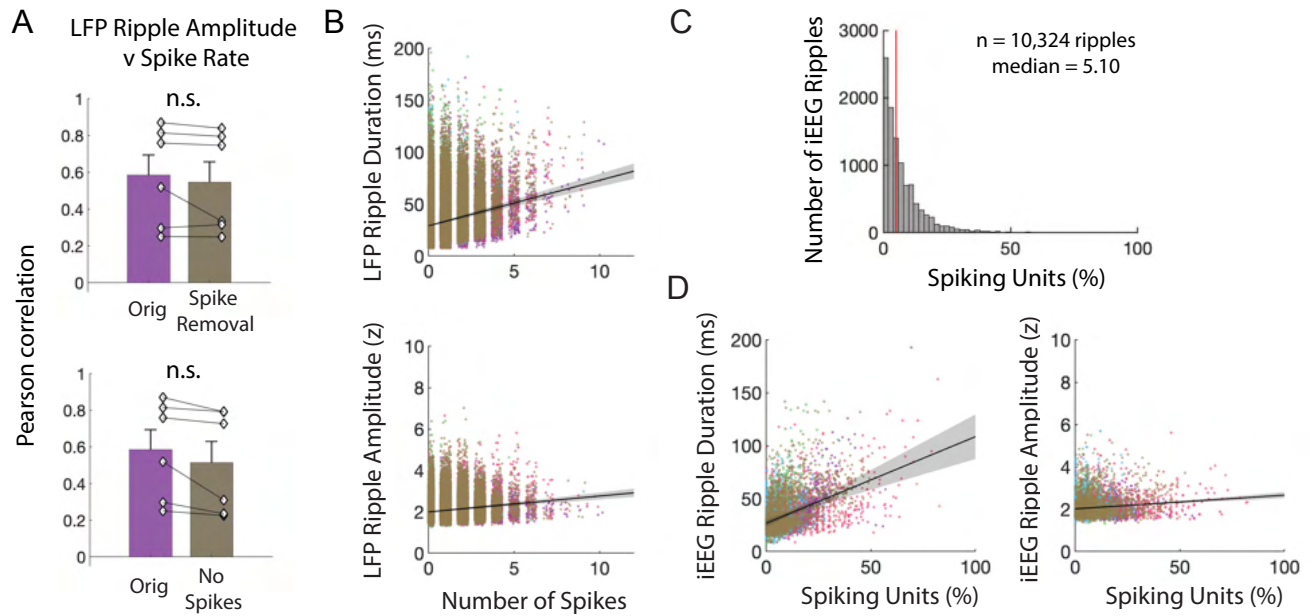


Figure 2-Supplement 5. Ripples Reflect Underlying Neuronal Spiking. (A) Pearson correlation between spike rate and continuous measures of the average LFP ripple amplitude over all micro-electrodes. Group level statistics are shown as mean \pm SEM across six participants. Given the concern that spikes in the signal may generate spectral artifacts in the ripple band, we performed two control analyses to confirm that the significant correlation between LFP ripple amplitude and spike rate was not due to bandpass filtering over spikes. In the first, we removed spikes from the LFP data and in the second we restricted our analysis only to MEA electrodes that exhibited no spiking. We compared the true correlation between spike rate and LFP ripple amplitude with the correlations observed after spike removal and interpolation (top) and channels without spiking (bottom; paired t-test, $t(5) = 1.29$, $p = .254$; orig, $t(5) = 5.32$, $p = .003$; spike removal, $t(5) = 4.78$, $p = .005$). (B) Relation between number of spikes and LFP ripple duration (top) and amplitude (bottom) for all ripples in all participants. Each color represents a participant ($n = 6$). (C) Distribution of percentage of spiking units that co-occur with iEEG ripples across all ripples in all participants. (D) Relation between percentage of spiking units and iEEG ripple duration (left plot) and amplitude (right plot) for all ripples in all participants. Each data point represents a ripple and each color represents a participant ($n = 6$).

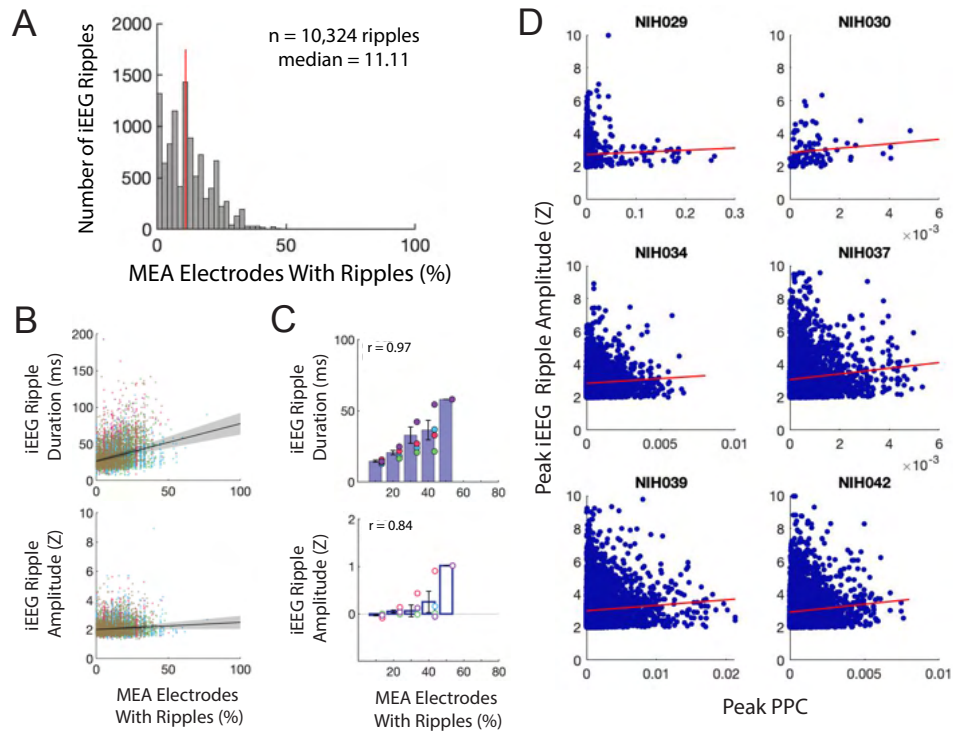


Figure 3-Supplement 1. Macro-Scale Ripple Amplitude Reflects Number and Alignment of Micro-Scale Ripples. (A) Distribution of percentage of MEA electrodes containing LFP ripples that co-occur with iEEG ripples across all iEEG ripples in all participants. (B) Relation between percentage of MEA electrodes with LFP ripples and iEEG ripple duration (top) and amplitude (bottom) for all iEEG ripples in all participants. Each color represents a different participant ($n = 6$). (C) Relation between percentage of MEA electrodes containing LFP ripples and iEEG ripple duration (top) and amplitude (bottom). Each data point represents an average amplitude for each percentage and each color represents a participant ($n = 6$). (D) Relation between peak pairwise phase consistency (PPC) and peak iEEG ripple amplitude for each participant. Each data point represents a LFP ripple in each participant.

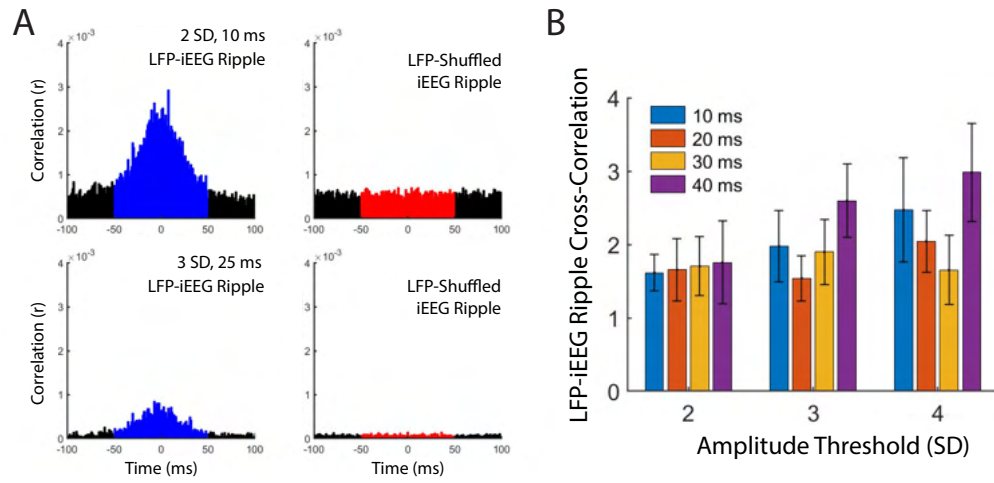


Figure 3-Supplement 2. LFP-iEEG Ripple Cross-Correlations for Different Detection Thresholds. (A) Example LFP-iEEG ripple cross-correlogram of true and shuffled events for one participant using a 2 SD amplitude and 10 ms duration ripple detect threshold (top) and a 3 SD amplitude and 25 ms duration threshold (bottom). (B) LFP-iEEG ripple synchrony using ripple detection thresholds with amplitudes ranging from 2-4 SD and durations ranging from 10-40 ms.

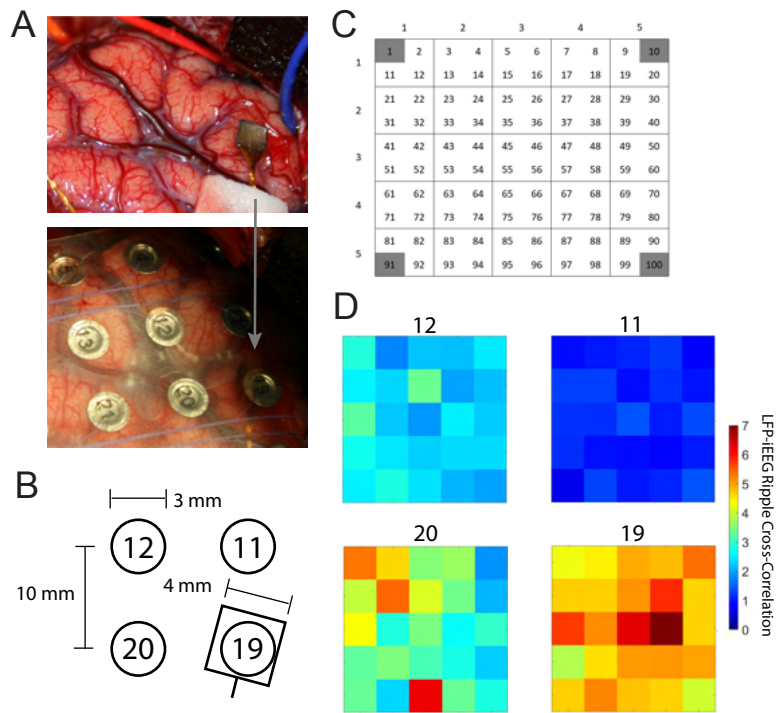


Figure 3-Supplement 3. LFP-iEEG Ripple Cross-Correlations With Respect to Distance. (A) Intraoperative photo of implanted MEA in the ATL (top) and after placement of an iEEG grid over the MEA (bottom). (B) Location of the MEA with respect to four nearby iEEG channels. (C) Subgroups of micro-electrodes in one MEA for assessment of LFP-iEEG cross-correlograms across the MEA. (D) LFP-iEEG ripple synchronization, defined as the ratio of the true cross-correlogram over a chance correlogram (see Methods), between each subgroup of micro-electrodes in the MEA and four nearby iEEG electrodes.

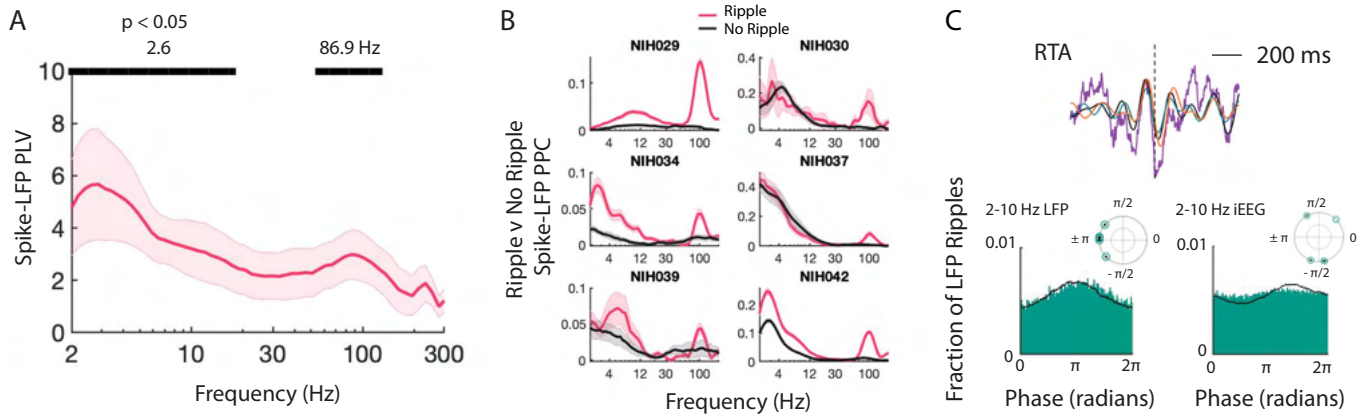


Figure 4-Supplement 1. Spiking Activity is Phase-Locked to Ripples and Low Frequencies. (A) Spike-LFP phase-locking value (PLV) for each frequency shown as mean \pm SEM across participants. PLV confirms that spiking activity is locked to low and high frequency activity across participants (peak at 2.6 Hz and 86.9 Hz, $p < .05$, permutation test). (B) Spike-LFP pairwise phase consistency (PPC) for spikes that occur with LFP ripples and for spikes that do not occur with LFP ripples for each participant, shown as mean \pm SEM across MEA electrodes. (C) LFP ripple-triggered average (RTA) for LFP ripples that co-occur with iEEG ripples, in purple, with the bandpass filtered signal, in black, for one representative participant. Also shown is the bandpass filtered RTA during correct memory retrieval (green) and incorrect trials (orange). Distribution of phases of LFP low frequency (lower left histogram) and iEEG low frequency (lower right histogram) signals across LFP ripple times for all MEA electrodes. Complex mean of the distribution of phases for each participant is depicted in a polar plot with circles filled with a star if the distribution shows significant phase-locking (Rayleigh test, $p < 0.001$). Black line shows the average of six distributions across participants.

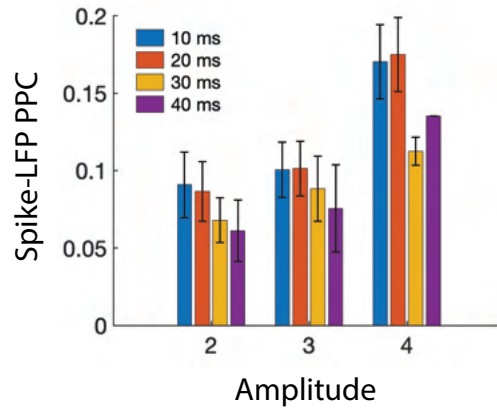


Figure 4-Supplement 2. Spike-LFP PPC for different ripple detection thresholds. Each bar shows the mean +/- SEM spike-LFP PPC across participants.