

**Neurofunctional components of simple calculation: A
magnetoencephalography study.**

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Keywords:	numerical cognition, calculation, magnetoencephalography

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9 We thank the editor and the reviewers, once again, for the consideration of our ms. Please find below
10 how we addressed the minor point raised by R3.
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15 *Reviewer: 3*
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17 *Comments to Author*

18 *The authors have substantially revised the manuscript from the prior version. They thoughtfully*
19 *addressed the questions raised by me, and the revisions suggested by other reviewers resulted in the*
20 *addition of technical methodological details that make the work more clear to evaluate and compare*
21 *to other experiments. The choices authors make during analysis pipelines for projects like these can*
22 *have huge effects on the reported outcomes of the data, so including these specifications is critical*
23 *for the field to understand why and how studies might differ.*
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26 *There is also one question, that was now seems obvious, which was missed during the prior stage of*
27 *review – were these participants right-handed? Handedness is a critical factor associated with*
28 *lateralized brain function in many cognitive areas of study (beyond language, which is usually where*
29 *it is raised as a factor). Even familial sinistrality (having a left-handed biological family member like*
30 *a parent or sibling) is known to affect lateralization of brain function. It is not typical to ask about*
31 *familial sinistrality during participate intake, and thus understandable if it's not been measured here,*
32 *but for future studies the authors may want to consider including a familial handedness screening*
33 *questionnaire if they aren't already. Please revise and clarify what is known about the handedness of*
34 *the participants.*
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39 As requested by R3, we have added the details regarding handedness to the Participant section.
40 For that, we have re-contacted the participants to query about their closest relatives' handedness
41 (father, mother, and any sibling) as for example in Casey and Brabeck (1989) or Li and collaborators
42 (2003).
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45 This is the added text:

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48 *“All except one participant were right-handed according to the Edinburgh Handedness Inventory*
49 *(Oldfield 1971; Bryden 1977). Two right-handed participants had one close relative who was left-*
50 *handed (sister and mother)”.*
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8 **Neurofunctional components of simple calculation:**
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10 **A magnetoencephalography study.**
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19 Semenza^{1,2*}
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30 *These authors share the senior authorship.
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ABSTRACT

Our ability to calculate implies more than the sole retrieval of the correct solution. Essential processes for simple calculation are related to the spreading of activation through arithmetic memory networks. There is behavioral and electrophysiological evidence for these mechanisms. Their brain location is however still uncertain. Here, we measured magnetoencephalographic (MEG) brain activity during the verification of simple multiplication problems. Following the operands, the solutions to verify could be pre-activated correct solutions, pre-activated table-related incorrect solutions, or unrelated incorrect solutions. Brain source estimation, based on these event-related fields, revealed three main brain networks involved in simple calculation: 1) bilateral inferior frontal areas mainly activated in response to correct, matching solutions; 2) a left-lateralized frontoparietal network activated in response to incorrect table-related solutions; and 3) a strikingly similar frontoparietal network in the opposite hemisphere activated in response to unrelated solutions. Directional functional connectivity analyses revealed a bidirectional causal loop between left parietal and frontal areas for table-related solutions, with frontal areas explaining the resolution of arithmetic competition behaviorally. Hence, this study isolated at least three neurofunctional networks orchestrated between hemispheres during calculation.

KEYWORDS: Numerical cognition; Calculation; Magnetoencephalography

INTRODUCTION

One-digit multiplication is one of the most common mathematical operations used in everyday life. Extensive research has shown the involvement of several brain areas (Arsalidou and Taylor 2011). Mapping of relevant areas has been attempted with different tasks (i.e., verification vs. production), different experimental manipulations (i.e., use of procedures vs. retrieval), or different analyses contrasts (i.e., contrast between arithmetic operations, brain responses to correct vs. incorrect problems, contrast between calculation and numerical comparison, etc.). This wide variety of approaches and paradigms, however, contributes, to various degrees, to the present state of uncertainty in accounting for the series of events underlying simple calculation processes.

Indeed, past findings in this domain seem to be in apparent contradiction with each other and/or with previous literature. An example is the finding that simple multiplication requires a higher activation in the right hemisphere, rather than in the left hemisphere (Arsalidou and Taylor 2011). In fact, left hemisphere predominance is expected on the basis of traditional neuropsychological and neuroimaging literature (Dehaene and Cohen 1997). What determines activation in the right rather than in the left? In a previous study (Salillas et al. 2012), using TMS, we showed a causal relationship between the temporary impairment in the right parietal lobe and a specific delay in single digit multiplication. It has also been shown that the permanent (Benavides-Varela et al. 2017) or temporary (Semenza et al. 2017) impairment of either the left or right hemisphere may lead to errors in simple multiplication. This would not be possible if the two hemispheres do the same thing – the healthy hemisphere would be able to complete the task alone. Besides, errors found with direct cortical electrostimulation are site-specific for different operations (Della Puppa et al. 2015; Semenza et al. 2017), thus they cannot be attributed to generic processing difficulties either. The only remaining possibility (Semenza and Benavides-Varela 2018) is that each hemisphere contributes individually at a specific point, with a specific role that cannot be fully compensated by the spared, contralateral hemisphere.

Thus, one-digit multiplication may require the orchestration of both hemispheres. In fact, the qualitative analysis of the errors committed upon transient disruption to the left or right parietal sites suggested which hemisphere does what (Semenza et al. 2017). We showed that, after inhibition of the parietal lobe during awake surgery, the type of errors differed depending on whether electrostimulation was applied to left or right parietal areas. Specifically, inhibition of right parietal sites, imbalancing processing in favor of the spared left hemisphere, mostly induced "retrieval errors". In these errors, the result belongs to the same table of one of the operands (e.g., $7 \times 3 = 28$ or $=14$). In contrast, inhibition of left parietal sites, imbalancing processing in favor of the right hemisphere, provoked "approximation" errors, whereby the result is close to the target (e.g., $7 \times 3 = 19$). This

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3 observation is consistent with the idea of a simultaneous action of two different systems (described
4 as independent in Dehaene and Cohen 1995). The first, located in the left hemisphere, based on
5 retrieving solutions from a devoted store, and the other, mainly located in the right hemisphere, based
6 on approximation. Although this idea is widely accepted, further studies emphasize the complexity
7 of simple multiplication, implying the independent role of different components and suggesting how
8 it may be sustained by a relatively extended network (see the meta-analysis of Arsalidou and Taylor,
9 2011, and, for a review, Menon, 2015), including occipito-temporal visual regions and parietal,
10 frontal, and prefrontal cortices (Arsalidou and Taylor 2011). A recent study further stressed the
11 plasticity of fronto-parietal networks through resting-state functional connectivity during arithmetic
12 learning (Zhao et al. 2019).

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21 The next step is to determine the sequence of activation of these areas. Time is a crucial factor
22 because different areas might dominate different processing steps in each calculation task at different
23 times. For example, retrieving the oral form of the result in a production task might require different
24 areas at different moments, than in a verification task, in which the answer is “yes” or “no.” However,
25 it is still unclear how, exactly, information processing is handled by such a distributed network
26 (Menon 2015). Furthermore, with regard to retrieval processes within multiplication, different
27 studies have suggested that the left angular gyrus may change its activity during an automated
28 multiplication task (Delazer et al. 2003; Ischebeck et al. 2007; Zamarian et al. 2009). Studies using
29 verification tasks (vs. number detection) have shown activation in the fusiform gyri, the superior and
30 inferior parietal lobes, and the left inferior frontal gyrus (BA 44) (Rickard et al. 2000).

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Almost all neuroimaging studies concerning calculation have used fMRI, which lacks
temporal resolution, merging different processes in one image. In contrast, magnetoencephalography
(MEG) and electroencephalography (EEG) can uncover how functions unfold over time with
millisecond precision. Unlike in EEG, the magnetic signal does not interact with biologic tissues.
Hence, the MEG brain signal is inherently more accurate and less subject to distortion. Moreover, the
MEG technique is sensitive to the intracellular, primary currents (Leahy et al. 1998; Baillet et al.
2001), which ultimately impacts the forward model, essential for source estimation. Finally, the co-
registration of sensors with the structural images of participants is easier in MEG with location error
reduction. In turn, EEG and MEG are not equivalent or opposed, but instead, complementary. Here,
processes are defined by magnetic event-related fields (ERFs), which can be functionally related to
previously reported electric event-related potentials (ERPs) literature. However, one can also
accurately estimate where in the brain those functions originated through ERF-based source
estimation.

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Several studies using EEG have robustly evidenced ERP components that respond to the associativity inherent to fact retrieval (Niedeggen and Rösler 1999; Niedeggen et al. 1999; Domahs et al. 2007). These components, in turn, are modulated by long-term stored arithmetic memory networks. These networks become active even when the arithmetic task is not explicit, such as in numerical matching tasks (Galfano et al. 2004, 2009). Overall, these studies suggest that we automatically activate not only the correct solution but also solutions that are related to the operands (e.g., 9 after 2×3). These automatic activations and associative interference also occur between operations (i.e., 8 after $2 + 4$) (Lefevre et al. 1988; Megías and Macizo 2016). The incorrect, yet related solutions elicit N400-LPC components that differ in amplitude from other solutions that are not mnemonically associated with the operands (i.e., 7 after 2×4 or after $2 + 4$) (Niedeggen and Rösler 1999; Niedeggen et al. 1999). Given its robustness, the N400-LPC complex can be a marker when testing the strength and quality of arithmetic networks for each of the two languages in bilinguals (e.g., Salillas and Wicha 2012) or contrasting retrieval between adults and children (Prieto-Corona et al. 2010). The so-called arithmetic N400 is also sensitive to expectancies, based on arithmetic knowledge, and on the overall task-dependent probability of encountering an incorrect solution (Shaul and Neshet 2014). However, not all of these studies have manipulated the relatedness effect, which is crucial for the present investigation.

On the other hand, the time-course of brain sources responding to arithmetic fact retrieval has not yet been reported. Only one study recently measured the electromagnetic signal for arithmetic processes (Strauss and Dehaene 2019) in the study of sleep cognition. These data were restricted to scalp topographies of the elicited ERPs/ERF, that is, to the sensor level. Hence, a concurrent study describing magnetic activity at the sensor and brain source levels is lacking. Such a study would help enormously in filling the gap within the literature on arithmetic processing, which has accumulated information on where, but lacking concurrent data about when different calculation processes occur in the brain.

We measured MEG activity during the verification of solutions to simple multiplication problems (e.g., Is $7 \times 3 = 21$ correct?). In this context, we also addressed the question of brain lateralization. We relied on the observation of brain responses to correct solutions (e.g., $7 \times 3 = 21$), table-related incorrect solutions (e.g., $7 \times 3 = 28$), and table-unrelated incorrect solutions (e.g., $7 \times 3 = 19$). The ERFs time-locked to the presentation of the solution, which differ in the correct vs. incorrect solutions contrast, or in the incorrect related vs. unrelated contrast, is described. Then the brain sources associated with the significant ERFs were estimated. The use of MEG allowed for the identification of brain areas with more transient activations, which fMRI could be blind to. To fully understand the functional meaning of the resulting sources, we related them to reaction times and

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3 accuracy. Finally, to understand how the detected sources work jointly, we calculated the directional
4 functional connectivity between significant processes during simple calculation. When verifying
5 multiplication problems, the N400-LPC components are clearly modulated by the links between the
6 given solution and the operands sources for each solution condition.
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10 We contrasted our data with what is known from electrophysiological studies in a similar
11 paradigm (Niedeggen and Rösler 1999; Niedeggen et al. 1999). Specifically, ERP literature has
12 revealed that modulations of the N400-LPC complex amplitudes depend on the degree of pre-
13 activation, due to the preceding arithmetic context. This pre-activation is a consequence of the
14 spreading activation from the operands – correct solutions are primed before their presentation, in
15 contrast to incorrect solutions. Hence, correct and incorrect solutions differ in the amplitudes of the
16 elicited N400-LPC. Moreover, according to these studies, related incorrect solutions are also pre-
17 activated before they are presented, in contrast to unrelated incorrect solutions. These also exhibit
18 differing ERP complex amplitudes, meaning that the preceding context has also pre-activated the
19 incorrect, related solution. This interference or competition has to be solved before a response can be
20 given (Niedeggen et al. 1999; Galfano et al. 2003; Rusconi et al. 2006). Neuroimaging studies have
21 not yet considered these distinctions. Hence, despite being crucial parts of simple calculation, the
22 brain sources for these processes have not been described.
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32 Importantly, the analysis of errors conducted in Semenza et al. (2017) allows for the prediction
33 of a different relative lateralization pattern for related vs. unrelated solutions. Table-related solutions,
34 more than unrelated solutions, result from the action of a left-lateralized network, because the
35 interference is a consequence of arithmetic-stored knowledge, which is left-lateralized. Additionally,
36 the brain response to correct solutions will provide information about selection processes in
37 arithmetic. The contingent sequence of brain events for selection, for the resolution of arithmetic
38 competition, and for the processing of unexpected solutions, can be optimally described with MEG.
39 Most importantly, through the observation of the temporal dynamics of those areas, their
40 interrelations, and their link to behavior, we aim to refine our understanding of the functionality of
41 such brain networks.
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50 51 **METHODS**

52 53 54 **Participants**

55 After being informed about the study, sixteen volunteers (4 males; age range: 24-30 years old,
56 mean age: 26) signed the informed consent and participated in the study. All of the participants were
57 Caucasian Italian speakers. [All except one participant were right-handed according to the Edinburgh
58 Handedness Inventory \(Oldfield 1971; Bryden 1977\).](#) Two right-handed participants had one close
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3 relative who was left-handed (sister and mother). Participants had completed their graduate studies
4 or were Psychology students. Participants had no auditory, neurological, or psychiatric conditions or
5 history of drug abuse. None of the participants had studied for a specialized mathematics degree. The
6 study was approved by the pertinent Ethical Committee of the IRCCS San Camillo Hospital (Venice,
7 Italy) and was performed under the approved guidelines. All methods were in accordance with the
8 Declaration of Helsinki.
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14 15 **Stimuli**

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17 Forty-eight multiplication problems together with a solution were randomly repeated twice
18 for each of the two experimental blocks. Half of them implied a correct solution (i.e., $2 \times 3 = 6$; 96
19 items in total; hereafter *Correct Solutions*), and half implied an incorrect solution (96 items in total;
20 *Incorrect Solutions*). Half of the incorrect solutions were table-related with one of the operands (i.e.,
21 $2 \times 3 = 8$; 48 items in total; *Incorrect Related Solutions*), the other half were non-related to any of the
22 operands (i.e., $2 \times 3 = 7$; 48 items in total; *Incorrect Unrelated Solutions*). The product size did not
23 differ between correct and incorrect solutions ($t(1,23) = 1.44$; $p = 0.2$) or between related and unrelated
24 solutions ($t(1,11) = 0.08$; $p = 0.94$). The distance between correct and given solutions for related vs.
25 unrelated did not differ either ($t(1,11) = -0.07$; $p = 0.94$). Tie problems were not included. The
26 problem size effect was controlled for: the same operands were used for correct and incorrect
27 problems, and the same operands were used for related and unrelated problems. The experimental
28 conditions were determined by the selected solution.
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40 **Experimental procedure**

41 The experiment was implemented in Psychopy software (version 2.8.4, Peirce 2007). The
42 session began with the explanation of the task and several training items, until the participant
43 understood the procedure. After a 3 second initial fixation, the trials began. The sequence of each
44 trial was as follows: first operand (350 ms.), followed by a blank screen (250 ms.), after which the
45 second operand was shown (350 ms.), followed by a blank screen (150 ms.), and then the solution
46 appeared (350 ms.). The participant judged the correctness of the solution from the appearance of the
47 solution, during a maximum of 1400 ms., while the fixation point remained.
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53 During the first block, the participant responded with the right hand, using the index finger
54 when judging the solution as correct and the middle finger when judging the solution as incorrect. In
55 the second block, the left hand was used, with the same finger-response combination.
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Data Acquisition

Structural Data (MRI) Acquisition

A T1-weighted MRI image was available for 11 of the 16 participants. When a T1 was not available, an adult ICBM 152 template was used, as suggested in Gross et al. (2013). The template was individually warped according to digitized head-points. MRI images were acquired with a 3T Ingenia CX Philips scanner (Philips Medical Systems, Best, the Netherlands). A 3-dimensional sagittal T1-weighted-3D-TFE scan was acquired with the following parameters: repetition time [TR] = 8.3 ms, echo time [TE] = 4.1 ms, flip angle = 8, acquired matrix resolution [MR] = 288 Å~ 288, slice thickness [ST] = 0.87 mm.

MEG data acquisition

MEG recordings were acquired with a 275 gradiometer CTF-MEG system in a quiet magnetically shielded room with a CTF-MEG-system (MISL, Vancouver, Canada). Before entering the magnetically shielded room, participants underwent initial preparation. Three head coils were placed to monitor head position during MEG recording. Eight electrodes were placed to record VEOG (left and right), HEOG, and ECG (bipolar montage) to detect and correct blinks and heart beats in the magnetic signal. We then used Fast-Track Polhemus hardware connected to Brainstorm digitization software (<http://neuroimage.usc.edu/brainstorm>), to digitize between 60 and 70 head-points, delineating the shape of the head, nose, and eyebrows.

The participant remained seated during the experimental session. The head was stabilized within the MEG system helmet with two pieces of foam. Head position was continuously monitored during recording with the CTF Continuous Head Localization system (head movements never exceeded 5 mm). A screen located 40 cm from the participant's face received the images of the stimuli through a projector, such that stimuli approximally subtended a visual angle of 2.5°. Together with the events related to each condition that were sent to the MEG continuous signal, possible delays in the actual visual presentation of the stimuli were controlled through a photodiode. This photodiode was triggered by a white rectangle cooccurring with the solutions, and invisible to the participant. Behavioral and MEG data were analyzed attending to the timing of the photodiode codes. Continuous MEG signal was acquired using a whole head 275-channel system (CTF-MEG) and sampled at 1200 Hz. with an online anti-aliasing filter at 400 Hz. MEG data were initially recorded as a series of concatenated, one-second epochs merged as a single continuous file before data analysis, and then transformed to continuous signal for analyses. Third-order gradient correction was applied in real-

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3 time to increase the MEG detectors' sensitivity to weak signals and allow environmental noise
4 cancellation. This correction has been applied in previous studies focusing on similar ERF
5 components (e.g., Ghosh Hajra et al. 2018; Shin et al. 2019). The CTF system was located inside a
6 shielded room for enhanced noise reduction. The MEG recording sessions lasted approximately 9
7 minutes.
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13 **Data analysis procedure**

14 ***Behavioral analyses***

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17 Response times to the solution were averaged by condition and participant. A correct – related
18 – unrelated contrast would have considered averages on different number of trials, something
19 unavoidable in order to maintain a 1:1 ratio between correct and incorrect responses. Contrasting
20 averages based on the very different number of trials would especially affect MEG sensor/source
21 averages with incomparable signal-to-noise ratio. Thus, only for behavioral responses, we ran a one-
22 way ANOVA with three levels (correct – related – unrelated). In both behavioral and MEG analyses,
23 t-tests were performed on correct vs. incorrect problems and on related vs. unrelated. Only correct
24 responses were considered for MEG analyses.
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34 ***Sensor space analysis***

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36 Raw data was band-pass filtered (0.1-30 Hz). Blinks and cardiac artifact topographies were
37 identified through signal-space projection (SSP) and corrected. The SSP was applied in a time
38 window of +/-40 ms, with a frequency band between 13 and 40 Hz for cardiac artifacts, and a time
39 window of +/-200 ms., with a frequency band between 1.5 and 15 Hz for ocular artifacts. Simultaneous
40 artifacts of different kinds (i.e., cardiac and ocular) were removed before artifact correction. These
41 epochs were submitted to a trial rejection procedure based on visual inspection, and epochs that still
42 contained artifacts were discarded. After artifact rejection, an average of 78.25 trials for correct (SE:
43 3.74), 38.9 for incorrect related (SE: 1.9), and 41.4 for incorrect unrelated (SE: 1.6) solutions were
44 included in the final analysis (incorrect total: 80.3). The events of interest (correct, related and
45 unrelated solutions) were time-adjusted according to the photodiode trigger. The signal was then
46 segmented -100 ms. (baseline) and 1000 ms. after the time-corrected events, and averaged for each
47 condition, obtaining four averaged ERFs for each participant: correct – incorrect and related –
48 unrelated.
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58 The ERF analyses were focused on different clusters of sensors, allowing for the
59 homogenization of sensor location across participants. These clusters were determined by a visual
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3 inspection of the difference maps (sensors x time) for each of the two contrasts. This inspection was
4 constrained by the requirement that any effect was present in at least six adjacent sensors and that the
5 effect was sustained in time. In this way, three windows were delimited, which reflected similar
6 components in each contrast: an early component, a N400-like component, and a late positive
7 component (LPC).
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11 For the correct vs. incorrect contrast, effects in a **170 – 290 ms.** latency band were localized
12 in three main clusters: a left anterior temporal (**L-ATc**) cluster, a cluster involving left frontal, central
13 and parietal sensors (**L-CPc**) and a right cluster in central and parietal sensors (**R-CPc**). Effects at
14 the **300 – 500 ms.** latency band were localized in a left posterior temporal cluster (**L-PTc**), the left
15 anterior temporal cluster (**L-ATc**), a right anterior temporal cluster (**R-ATc**), and in a right occipito-
16 temporal cluster (**R-OTc**). Effects at the **700-800 ms.** latency band were localized again in the **L-**
17 **CPc** cluster.
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21 For the related vs. unrelated contrast, the effects were smaller and less distributed, yet they
22 occurred throughout three comparable latency bands. Effects at the **190-220 ms.** latency band were
23 localized in a right parieto-central cluster (**R-PCr**). Effects at the **250-450 ms.** latency band were
24 localized in a left fronto-central cluster (**L-FCr**). Finally, in the **700-800 ms.** latency band, the effects
25 were localized in a right fronto-central cluster (**R-FCr**).
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29 The averaged ERF clusters were entered into an ANOVA for each latency band, with cluster
30 and correctness or relatedness as factors. Bonferroni corrected two-sided t-tests were run for each
31 cluster after the ANOVA.
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34 *Source space*

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36 The cortical surface geometry from the structural MRI was obtained using Freesurfer software
37 (Fischl 2012) and reduced to a value close to 15,000 vertices (depending on the participant's anatomy)
38 to facilitate analyses. These cortical surfaces were aligned with the sensors attending to the digitized
39 head-points.
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42 The method used to estimate the dipoles distributed in the cortex was a depth-weighted
43 minimum norm estimate (M. Hämäläinen, software MNE). The dw-MNE inverse method was chosen
44 over adaptive spatial filters to optimize the detection of the expected contributions of different
45 synchronous sources. The function used involved depth-weighting, which corrects the MNE bias for
46 superficial sources (Lin et al. 2006; Hämäläinen 2010). Before calculating the dw-MNE solution for
47 each participant and condition average, a noise covariance matrix was obtained with respect to the
48 baseline based on those averages. An overlapping spheres method was used to estimate the forward
49 model. The dw-MNE solution was then calculated for each millisecond (-100 to 1000 ms.) on the
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3 cortical surface. The source maps were then normalized (Z-score minus baseline) and registered to a
4 standard anatomy (ICBM152). Normalized source maps were spatially smoothed (5 mm) and used
5 for group analyses. Statistical analyses were performed using SPM8 second level t-tests on the
6 averaged absolute value for each condition (congruent vs. incongruent and related vs unrelated) and
7 time band. The latency bands deduced from the ERFs were used as the time windows of interest for
8 the source analyses, restricting in this way, the possible 1000 source configurations.
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14 15 ***Functional Connectivity Analysis***

16 We used the Granger causal connectivity analysis toolbox (<http://www.anilseth.com>)
17 implemented in MATLAB (Mathworks) (Seth 2010; Barnett and Seth 2014). The time-series of the
18 16 participants for each condition (related or unrelated) and region of interest (parietal and frontal
19 source clusters obtained in the SPM contrasts) were entered in the analyses, after a resampling to 300
20 Hz. Source time-series did not violate the assumption of covariance stationarity. Multivariate
21 autoregressive (MVAR) models were used to determine if the time series of a region (R1) “Granger
22 caused” the time series of a region (R2) in the time domain. That is, if R1 predicts R2 better than R1
23 predicts itself (Granger F value significantly different from zero). The model order for the MVAR
24 model was determined according to the Bayesian Information Criterion (BIC) with an optimal order
25 of 2. Granger F-values with an associated FDR corrected alpha value lower than 0.05 were considered
26 significantly different from zero.
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37 **RESULTS**

38 39 40 41 ***Behavioral***

42 The average accuracy across participants was 0.95 (maximum 0.99; minimum 0.85). For
43 accuracy, the ANOVA contrasting correct (0.94; SE: 0.009), related (0.93; SE: 0.018), and unrelated
44 solutions (0.96; SE: 0.008), did not show a main effect ($F(2,30) = 2.46, p=0.100$). However, unrelated
45 solutions tended to be responded to with higher accuracy than correct solutions ($t(1,15) = 2.04,$
46 $p=0.059$). The pattern of effects was stronger for the RTs, with a main effect of type of solution (F
47 ($2,30) = 36.13; p<0.001$; correct: 528.6; SE: 23.32; related: 603.1; SE: 26.06; unrelated: 579.3; SE:
48 23.76). As expected, there were slower reaction times for the related solutions than for the unrelated
49 solutions ($t(1,15) = 3.36; p=0.004$), and they were also slower than for correct solutions ($t(1,15)=$
50 $8.7; p<0.001$). Unrelated solutions were slower than correct solutions, as well ($t(1,15) = 4.68;$
51 $p<0.001$). In turn, incorrect solutions were generally slower than correct solutions ($t(1,15) = 6.87;$
52 $p<0.001$).
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p<0.001). These results indicate that participants showed the expected interference from table-related solutions, needing more time to judge those solutions as incorrect.

Sensor space

The contrast of correct and incorrect solutions yielded significant effects in a first early ERF window, between **170-290 ms.**, distributed in three clusters (see **Figure 1**): left anterior-temporal (L-ATc): $t(1,15) = 3.39$, $p = 0.004$; left centro-parietal (L-CPc): $t(1,15) = -5.87$, $p < 0.001$; R-CPc: $t = 3.52$, $p = 0.003$; and cluster x correctness interaction: $F(5,75) = 7.48$, $p < 0.001$. Four different clusters showed significant differences in the following N400-like component, between **300-500 ms.** In the left hemisphere, the L-ATc and a left posterior temporal cluster (L-PTc) $t(1,15) = 3.102$, $p = 0.007$ and $t(1,15) = -3.84$, $p = 0.002$, respectively. In the right hemisphere, two clusters showed significant effects: right anterior temporal (R-ATc): $t = -4.03$, $p = 0.001$ and right occipito-temporal sensors (R-OTc): $t = 3.52$, $p = 0.003$ (cluster x correctness interaction: $F(5,75) = 11.38$, $p < 0.001$). One cluster showed significant differences in the final, LPC component, between **700-800 ms.**, the L-CPc: $t = -4.08$, $p < 0.001$.

The contrast between related and unrelated solutions yielded smaller and less distributed effects than the previous contrast (see **Figure 2**). Significant differences were found in three clusters over time: a right parieto-central cluster (R-PCr), during the early window, between **120-220 ms.** ($t(1,15) = 2.86$, $p = 0.012$, cluster x relatedness interaction: $F(2,30) = 4.67$, $p = 0.017$), a left frontocentral cluster (L-FCr) during the N400-like component, between **250-450 ms.** ($t(1,15) = 2.86$, $p = 0.012$, cluster x relatedness interaction: $F(2,30) = 4.45$, $p = 0.02$), and a right frontocentral cluster (R-FCr) during the LPC component, between **700-800 ms.** ($t(1,15) = 3.35$, $p = 0.004$; cluster x relatedness interaction: $F(2,30) = 5.22$, $p = 0.01$). The timing of interest was determined at the sensor level. Estimated sources based on these ERFs were analyzed for the latency bands shown as relevant for each contrast.

Source space

Correctness effect and the inferior frontal gyrus (IFG). The t-tests performed for each window revealed significant activations for the correct > incorrect comparison (**Table 1, Figure 3A**). The incorrect > correct comparison did not yield any significant effects at $p < 0.005$. During the first **170-290 ms.**, a large activation cluster in the left IFG was shown, including Brodmann areas (BAs) 44, 45, 47, and the inferior part of BA 46. Additionally, the anterior part of the left superior frontal gyrus (SFG) also showed greater activation for correct solutions. This SFG effect corresponded to the upper part of BA 8 and BA 9. In comparison with these left frontal activations (4843 voxels in total), a smaller, yet significant, activation (136 voxels) appeared in the right SFG (BA 10). During the second

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3 window of analyses, between **300-500 ms.**, activations remained in the left IFG (BA 44, BA 45, BA
4 47) and extended to the left temporal pole (superior temporal gyrus (STG), BA 38). Significant
5 activations also involved the left insula in its anterior part. In the final window of analyses, between
6 **700-800 ms.**, stronger activations to correct solutions were bilaterally distributed, involving the right
7 IFG and right STG (temporal pole), as well as the left middle temporal gyrus (MTG) and the upper
8 part of the left supramarginal gyrus (SMG), colliding with the postcentral gyrus.
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Relatedness effect: interhemispheric opposed activations for related and unrelated incorrect solutions. As predicted, related more than unrelated solutions activated a group of left hemisphere areas involving the dorsolateral prefrontal cortex (DLPFC, BA 46), orbitofrontal cortex (OFC, BA 10), and left occipitotemporal areas (BA 19, BA 37, fusiform gyrus) during the initial **120-220 ms.** During the **250-450 ms.** window, related more than unrelated solutions extensively activated the left inferior parietal lobule (IPL) including the angular gyrus (ANG, BA 39) and the SMG (BA 40). Occipito-temporal activations continued during this window (BA 19). Only an activation in the right supplemental motor area (BA 6) was shown in the right hemisphere. In the final temporal window of analysis, **700-800 ms.**, activation of the left SMG (BA 40) continued, yet more dorsally. The left DLPFC and the OFC reactivated in this final window for related solutions (BA 10, BA 46) (see **Table 2, Figure 3B**).

Remarkably, unrelated more than related solutions (**Table 2, Figure 3B**) activated a set of right hemisphere areas that closely resembled the aforementioned left hemisphere network, but contralaterally. During the initial **120-220 ms.**, the right DLPFC and OFC (BA10, BA46) showed the most extensive cluster. During the **250-450 ms.** window, a right hemisphere network arose, involving the right superior DLPFC (BA 8 and BA 9). Following in clusters size, the right ANG and the left SMG showed significant activations (BA 39 and BA 40). The contralateral right SMA (BA 6) showed activation, similar to the network described for the related solutions, but again, with mirrored lateralization. Finally, the right middle temporal gyrus showed an effect for unrelated solutions. The right ANG and SMG remained activated during the last window, **700-800 ms.**

In summary, the relative activations for incorrect related solutions and incorrect unrelated solutions follow mirror functional networks, in contrary hemispheres and with slightly different temporal transitions and duration of activations. However, related solutions, more than unrelated solutions, involve a left lateralized network including the left DLPFC-OFC, the left IPL, and the right SMA. Unrelated solutions, more than related solutions, involve right lateralized network comprised of the right DLPFC-OFC, the right IPL, and the left SMA. In terms of the timing of activation, the

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3 sequence for related solutions is: left DLPFC-OFC → left IPL → left DLPFC-OFC and for unrelated
4 solutions: right DLPFC-OFC → right IPL - DLPFC - OFC → right IPL.
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10 ***Correlations between sources and behavior.***

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12 **Correct vs. incorrect contrast.** Averaged source activations were extracted for each
13 significant source cluster, condition, and participant. A series of correlation analyses were performed
14 on the difference in source activation between correct and incorrect solutions at significant source
15 clusters and behavioral measures. For all of the sites, the coordinates for the maxima were enlarged
16 to regions of interest (ROIs) of 10 mm² of extension. The difference in source activation, for each
17 window of analysis was correlated with the behavioral difference between correct and incorrect
18 solutions, and with overall accuracy and RT.
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24 Two effects were found in this analysis, both related to the right hemisphere. Overall accuracy
25 correlated with the correctness effect ($r=0.58$; $p=0.019$) in the right IFG (MNI: 53, 12, -3) during the
26 final latency band (700 to 800 ms). This suggests that the more accurate a participant was, the greater
27 was the involvement of the right IFG. Secondly, overall RTs negatively correlated with the other right
28 fronto-temporal cluster (MNI: 17, 10, -21) during the second latency band, meaning that faster
29 participants showed larger activations in this brain location ($r=-0.55$; $p=0.029$). The speed of
30 responses was additionally correlated with activations in this brain location for correct responses,
31 during the same time window ($r=-0.54$, $p=0.03$). Accuracy also correlated with single activations for
32 correct ($r=0.58$; $p=0.018$) or incorrect solutions ($r=0.498$; $p=0.05$) at this location.
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41 **Related vs. unrelated contrasts.** For each significant source cluster and participant, the
42 difference between source activations for related minus unrelated (left hemisphere) or unrelated
43 minus related (right hemisphere) were computed. Correlations were performed with the difference in
44 accuracy and with the difference in reaction times (related minus unrelated).
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48 For the left hemisphere sites, the source difference (related minus unrelated) correlated with
49 accuracy for related solutions in all of the frontal sites [left frontal DLPFC-OFC (MNI: -48, 49, -3)):
50 $r=0.49$, $p=0.05$ and left frontal (MNI: -39, 41, 11): $r=0.51$, $p=0.04$]. The merged ROI of these two
51 sites showed the same effect ($r=0.54$; $p=0.03$). These positive correlations suggest that the greater
52 activation found in the DLPFC-OFC for related solutions than for unrelated solutions, the better the
53 participant was at disregarding the related solution as incorrect. Thus, these left frontal areas might
54 solve the competition among table candidates.
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Functional Connectivity analyses.

We then analyzed how the nodes within the contralateral networks corresponding to related or unrelated solutions were functionally connected. That is, the nodes composing the two networks can be similar, albeit contralateral. However, how are their functional dynamics similar or different?

The two main parietal source clusters and the two main frontal source clusters in each network (**Table 2**) were explored as per Granger causal connectivity (**Tables 3 and 4** and **Figure 4**) in the time domain, during the whole interval, 120 to 800 ms. Connectivity was computed on the direct source time for related or unrelated solutions. In the left hemisphere, a bidirectional causality loop was revealed between the DLPFC (first latency band) and the ANG (second latency band). Then, DLPFC (second latency band) had a weaker link towards the SMG (third latency band). Hence, the most remarkable pattern was a strong bidirectional interdependence between the DLPFC/OFC and IPL.

For unrelated solutions, parietal nodes mostly Granger caused the activity of both frontal sites. The SFL/DLPFC (second latency band) and the SMG/ANG (third latency band) were bidirectionally connected, albeit with less strength than in the loop in the related condition, the strongest link here was a unidirectional link from SMG/ANG to the DLPFC. Therefore, what is most remarkable for the unrelated condition, is the relevance of the IPL Granger causing activity in the two frontal sites, more strongly in the DLPFC/OFC.

DISCUSSION

The current study addressed the neurofunctional networks behind calculation, through the analysis of brain magnetic activity during a verification task. Our manipulation of correctness and relatedness allowed us to observe three central processing states explicitly, and to uncover their neural correlates and dynamics over time. For correct solutions, the participants find a perfect match and no interference. In table-related incorrect solutions, a process of interference must occur and has to be resolved. In table unrelated incorrect solutions, pre-inhibition from the operands and a faster disregard of this solution occurs, with no table-related competition.

Consistent with previous literature (Ashcraft 1992; Campbell 1995; Niedeggen and Rösler 1999; Niedeggen et al. 1999), at the behavioral level the fastest responses were found in matching correct solutions. Responses on incorrect related solutions were slower than on unrelated solutions, reflecting the presence of interference and competition. Thus, our findings replicated the effects observed in similar designs. What are the neurofunctional bases of these effects?

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Significant differences in the ERFs for correct vs. incorrect items appeared as soon as 170 ms. after the presentation of the solution, in bilateral parieto-central and left temporal sensors. This early component was followed by a M400-like effect (but see Dickson and Federmeier 2017) between 300 and 500 ms. in bilateral sensors. Finally, a late positive component (LPC) was shown, localized in a left parieto-central cluster. Hence, over time, differences between incorrect and correct solutions were localized, at the sensor level, in both hemispheres. ERFs varied in terms of the polarity of components due to reversed field directions. However, their succession matched, as expected, with those found by other studies using ERPs for the N400-LPC complex (Niedeggen and Rösler 1999; Niedeggen et al. 1999; Salillas and Wicha 2012). The early effects have been interpreted as reflecting estimation mainly in comparison tasks (Dehaene 1996; Temple and Posner 1998; Libertus et al. 2007), where the distance between two numerosities is computed. Therefore, estimation processes might be implied during verification. The arithmetic N400 and the LPC have been interpreted, respectively, reflecting automatic activation spread from the operands, and a more controlled plausibility checking (Johnson 1986; Donchin and Coles 1988). These components, to some extent, respond to similar mechanisms to those found in priming language tasks (Kutas and Hillyard 1989; Friederici 1995).

The ERFs to related and unrelated solutions differed in a similar succession of components, albeit in a more reduced number of sensors and in different clusters. The early component started at 120 ms. and was localized in a right parieto-central cluster and occipital sensors. Estimation processes then differed between related and unrelated solutions, even when the distance between the given solution and the retrieved solution was equivalent. A left fronto-central cluster then showed an M400-like effect, with a larger amplitude for unrelated solutions. Finally, the LPC appeared localized in a right fronto-central cluster, with a larger amplitude for unrelated solutions. The amplitude of the M400 varies as a function of the associative distance between retrieved and given solutions. Related solutions carry more interference, due to associative links with the operands. The LPC, however, was larger for unrelated solutions. Again, this should be interpreted as a reflection of the plausibility judgment on the presented solution, which differs between related and unrelated solutions.

All of these effects have been previously studied using other online measures. Crucially, MEG allowed us to map activations over time. Three clearly functionally and anatomically differing networks emerged in the source analysis.

The IFG and selection processes during verification. A perfect match of correct solutions to the precedent arithmetic context, as compared to mismatching solutions, elicited large activations in the left IFG, across the first two temporal windows. This suggests that spreading activation from the operands has occurred, and that, for correct solutions, the final selection among candidates might

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3 be solved in a frontal control hub (IFG) (Chiou et al. 2018). Similarly to the language domain
4 (Thompson-Schill et al. 1997, 1998), when the degree of selection effort is experimentally
5 manipulated, its resolution relies on the IFG. This effect extended to pars orbitalis and the left
6 temporal pole, which is also frequently found for semantic networks (Jackson et al. 2016; Chiou et
7 al. 2018). The role of the left IFG has been emphasized before in arithmetic verification tasks. De
8 Visscher and collaborators (De Visscher et al. 2018) showed how its activation was related to higher
9 proactive interference and linked to individual differences in arithmetic fluency. The left IFG might
10 thus handle selection processes towards a correct matching item.
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17 There is an additional component detected in our data, highly related to final behavior – the
18 role of the right IFG at later stages of processing. The interpretation of this component comes from
19 its relation to behavior. These activations correlated with speed and accuracy – the more accurate a
20 participant was, the greater was the involvement of the right fronto-insular cortex, both for correct
21 and incorrect items. Moreover, the faster the participant, especially with correct responses, the greater
22 the involvement of the right IFG. The right IFG has been related to attentional control response to
23 relevant stimuli, including inhibition needed for correct responses (Hampshire et al. 2010; Houdé et
24 al. 2010; Raccach et al. 2018). In our study, the resolution of competition occurred in the left IFG in a
25 fast, and possibly, automatic manner, and the right frontal areas might supplement the left IFG in the
26 acknowledgment of implausibility of the solutions, speeding up the response.
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36 **A left frontoparietal network for the resolution of interference.** The most interesting
37 findings were seen in the contrast between related and unrelated solutions. Initial processes triggered
38 by the presentation of (pre-activated) high interfering related solutions relied first on the left DLPFC-
39 OFC and the left occipitotemporal cortex. They were followed by the left IPL, with a final reactivation
40 of the left DLPFC-OFC. Thus related, more than unrelated, solutions activate a network residing in
41 the left hemisphere.
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46 The sequence of events might be the following: spreading activation to related and correct
47 solutions would begin with the presentation of the operands. When related solutions are encountered,
48 they would be already partly activated, and this activation would have to be overcome. This pre-
49 activation explains the involvement of the left DLPFC-OFC and the left IPL, the store for arithmetic
50 facts, as has been previously shown (Dehaene et al. 2003; Delazer et al. 2003; Ischebeck et al. 2007).
51 The resolution of the competition needs the frontal areas. As the correlations with behavior suggest,
52 the greater the use of left DLPFC-OFC, the more accurate the participant is in overcoming the
53 arithmetic competition and correctly disregarding pre-activated incorrect solutions. The involvement
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3 of the DLPFC in arithmetic processes has also been previously reported (Menon 2015). Here, its time
4 course and functional relevance are clarified, and an interplay with the ipsilateral IPL is highlighted.

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6 Interestingly, functional connectivity analyses show that brain activations for related solutions
7 responded to a strong bidirectional loop between left IPL and left DLPFC-OFC. In turn, the DLPFC-
8 OFC would solve the competition among candidates sustained by the IPL. Through this loop,
9 arithmetic competition would be resolved dynamically. This explains why the activations of DLPFC-
10 OFC relates to successful arithmetic behavior – without the involvement of the DLPFC, and an
11 isolated action of the left IPL, the competition likely could not be resolved.
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19 **A right frontoparietal network for mismatching solutions.** The previously discussed
20 system differs from the network responsive for disregarding unrelated solutions, which would be
21 sustained by the right hemisphere. In some respect, it resembles the one located in the left hemisphere
22 for related solutions. In contrast, unrelated solutions do not match an organized set of stored table-
23 related solutions. They are unexpected given the preceding arithmetic context. A different system
24 must process them. Interhemispheric differences for the DLPFC are a question of debate, however,
25 and the role of a right frontoparietal network has been previously linked to unexpected events
26 (Shulman et al. 2009). Indeed, a predominance of the left visual field – right brain hemisphere for
27 incorrect unrelated items has been recently suggested (Dickson and Federmeier 2017). Functional
28 connectivity data showed that in contrast to the left-lateralized network, the brain dynamics of the
29 right frontoparietal system are dominated by right parietal areas.
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39 A final comment must concern the fact that the majority of participants were female. A few
40 neuroimaging studies (Keller and Menon 2009; Pletzer 2016) have shown that, despite an overall
41 overlap, there are also differences in the brain bases for simple and complex multiplication, which
42 contrast with similar behavior between genders. This mismatch between behavior and brain
43 signatures has been attributed to more efficient use of cognitive resources by females. In our data, if
44 gender differences had fundamentally affected the present simple calculation task (Pletzer 2016), then
45 the prevalent role of the IPL should not have appeared, yet, it might have extended further with more
46 male participants. Moreover, neuroimaging data contrasting gender, focusing on the relatedness effect,
47 is lacking. Thus restricting analysis to this specific contrast might have neutralized a possible impact
48 of gender, given the specificity of the measured process. On the other hand, a detailed evaluation of
49 gender differences for math (Gallagher and Kaufman 2005) shows that despite the fact that many
50 studies have addressed its effects in math performance, they are attributed to a complex interplay of
51 factors (ethnicity, socialization, math anxiety, etc.) and not to actual math system differences between
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3 genders. Indeed, individual differences in ability and achievement within gender are probably much
4 larger than the differences between the genders.
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8 **CONCLUSIONS**

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10 The study sheds light on the neural bases of simple multiplication, targeting the spread of
11 activation within arithmetic memory networks. Three brain mechanisms that likely act together in
12 spontaneous, simple calculation were detected. The left hemisphere handles arithmetic competition
13 between automatically activated table-related and correct responses, based on the interaction between
14 the left DLPFC-OFC and IPL. Through a mirror network and a pivotal role of the right IPL, the right
15 hemisphere serves the processing of unexpected solutions. Which concurs with our awake surgery
16 data (Semenza et al. 2017), showing differential involvement of the two hemispheres in calculation.
17 We also showed the overall importance of the left IFG in selection processes and of the right IFG on
18 executive processes facilitating the ultimate response. The study further clarifies the neural dynamics
19 of these networks, uncovering a left-lateralized frontoparietal loop, crucial for a process inherent to a
20 simple calculation, namely, the resolution of interference.
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41 **Author Contributions** – Conception and design of the work: E.S. and C.S.; Acquisition of data: E.S.,
42 G.A., S.Z., S.T., F.P.; Analysis of data: E.S.; Interpretation of data: E.S. and C.S.; Drafted the work:
43 E.S. and C.S. Revision of the draft: E.S., C.S., G.A.
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48 **Data Availability** - The datasets generated or analyzed during the current study are available from
49 the corresponding author on reasonable request.
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Cluster size	p value (peak)	MNI coordinates			Brain area	BA	
		x	y	z			
170-290	2049	0.000	-45	20	4	IFG/STG/Insular/Tri/Operc	BA46/BA47/BA44
	252	0.000	-9	53	48	SFG	BA8/BA9
	122	0.000	-17	52	34	SFG	BA8/BA9
	107	0.000	-66	-8	34	precentral	BA4/BA6
	136	0.000	8	73	2	MedFG/SFG	BA10
300-500	280	0.000	-50	19	15	Temporal Pole /IFG Orbital	BA38/BA47
	199	0.000	-58	11	34	IFG/Operc/Insula	BA45/BA44
	632	0.000	-46	21	8	IFG/Precentral	BA44, BA13/BA45
700-800	1261	0.000	-53	-19	60	IPL (SMG)/postcentral/precentral	BA40/BA2/BA6
	966	0.000	-65	-10	-7	MTG	BA21
	4045	0.000	53	12	-3	IFG/ Insula/ STG /Operc/Temp pole/Tri/Orb	BA13/BA38/BA45/BA44/BA9
	1708	0.000	17	10	-21	IFG/Orb/Parahippocampal G/Insula	BA25/BA47/BA34,

IFG: Inferior Frontal Gyrus; Tri: Pars triangularis; Operc: Pars Opercularis; Orb: Pars Orbitalis; SFG: Superior Frontal Gyrus; MedFG: Medial FG; IPL: Inferior Parietal Lobule; SMG: Supramarginal Gyrus; MTG: Middle Temporal Gyrus; STG: Superior Temporal Gyrus

Table 2 RELATED > UNRELATED (corrected p<0.001 is highlighted; minimum cluster size: 20 voxels)							
	Cluster size	p value (peak)	MNI coordinates			Brain area	BA
			x	y	z		
120-220	380	<0.001	-48	49	-3	MFG/Tri/Orb DLPFC - frontopolar	BA10, BA46.
	406	<0.001	-52	-77	0	Occipito-Temporal	BA37, BA19
	39	0.001	-48	22	40	MFG	BA8, BA9
250-450	1055	<0.001	-65	-56	24	SMG/STG	BA40
			-63	-58	36	ANG/SMG	BA40/39
			-55	-64	26	STG	BA39
	142	0.002	-53	-76	0	Occipito-temporal	BA19
	107	0.002	-29	-91	24	Superior Occipital	BA19
	48	0.002	-51	-80	-9	MOG	BA19
	33	0.003	12	-8	77	SFG/SMA	BA6
700-800	78	<0.001	-39	41	11	MFG_IFG (DLPFC - frontopolar)	BA10, BA46
	23	0.001	-58	-41	48	SMG	BA40
UNRELATED > RELATED (corrected p<0.001; minimum cluster size: 20 voxels)							
	Cluster size	p value (peak)	MNI coordinates			Brain area	BA
			x	y	z		
120-220	341	<0.001	41	48	6	IFG/MFG (DLPFC/OFC)	BA10/BA46
250-450	687	<0.001	4	60	40	SFG	BA8
		<0.001	15	52	43		
		<0.001	4	47	35		
	122	<0.001	49	-59	50	ANG/SMG	BA39/BA40/BA39
	123	0.001	41	41	36	MFG	BA9
	60	0.001	68	-39	-16	ITG/MTG	BA21/BA20
	23	0.004	-18	33	61	SFG/SMA	BA6
700-800	146	<0.001	49	-63	54	ANG	BA39
	147	0.002	58	-14	35	PC/SMG	BA2/BA40

MFG: Middle Frontal Gyrus; DLPFC: Dorsolateral Prefrontal Cortex; Tri: Pars Triangularis; Orb: Pars Orbitalis; MOG: Middle Occipital Gyrus; SMG: Supramarginal Gyrus; STG: Superior Temporal Gyrus; ANG: Angular Gyrus; STG: Superior Temporal Gyrus; SFG: Superior Frontal Gyrus; SMA: Supplementary Motor Area; SMA; IFG: Inferior Frontal Gyrus; OFC: Orbito-Frontal Cortex; ITG: Inferior Temporal Gyrus; MTG: Middle Temporal Gyrus; PC: Precentral Gyrus.

Table 3 – Granger causality F values for the Related condition. FDR
 corrected $p < 0.05$ are highlighted. In dark grey: $F > 0.005$ ((w#): first to third time
 window, where the region was detected at the source level – as in Table 2)

	DLPFC/OFC (w1)		0.0004	0.0081	0.0015
FRONTAL	DLPFC/OFC (w3)	0.0002		0.0004	0.0029
	SMG/ANG (w2)	0.0098	0.0014		0.0009
PARIETAL	SMG (w3)	0.0042	0.006	0.0029	
	TO: FROM:	DLPFC/OFC (w1)	DLPFC/OFC (w3)	SMG/ANG (w2)	SMG (w3)
		FRONTAL		PARIETAL	

Table 4 – Granger causality F values for the Unrelated condition. FDR corrected $p < 0.05$ are highlighted. In dark grey: $F > 0.005$

	IFG/DLPFC (w1)		0.0003	0.0091	0.0076
FRONTAL	SFG (w2)	0.001		0.0043	0.0065
	SMG/ANG (w2)	0.0028	0.0033		0.0134
PARIETAL	SMG/ANG (w3)	0.0001	0.0077	0.0163	
	TO: FROM:	IFG/DLPFC (w1)	SFG (w2)	SMG/ANG (w2)	SMG/ANG (w3)
		FRONTAL	PARIETAL		

For Peer Review

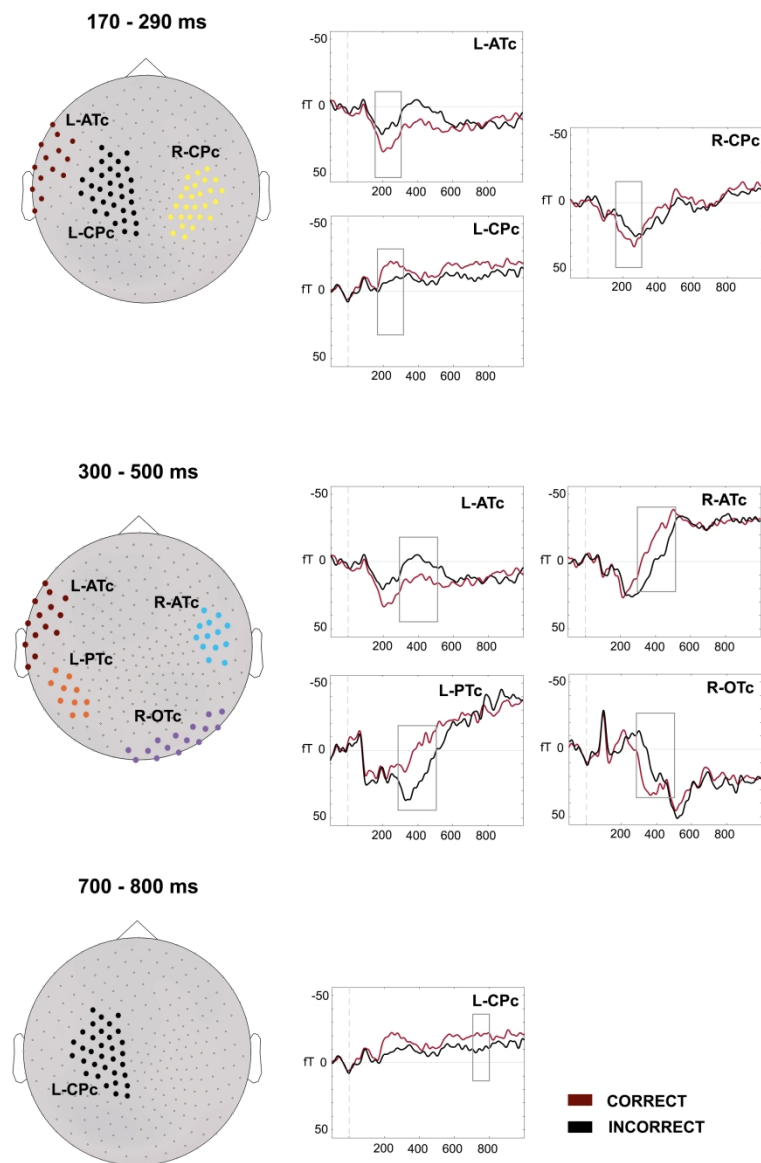
FIGURE CAPTIONS

Figure 1 – Results at the sensor space (ERFs) for the correct – incorrect contrast. The ERFs for the correct and incorrect solutions are depicted for the different sensor clusters (left). Clusters are differentiated by different colors. During the first latency band (170 - 290 ms.) effects for correctness were shown in the left antero-temporal (cluster L-ATc) cluster, in a cluster involving frontal, central, and parietal sensors (L-CPc) and in a right cluster involving centro parietal sensors (R-CPc). During the second latency band (300 – 500 ms.), correctness effects again appeared in the L-ATc cluster, in a left parietotemporal cluster (L-PTc) and in two right clusters: anterotemporal (R-ATc) and occipitotemporal (R-OTc). During the last latency band (700 – 800 ms.), the L-CPc cluster again showed effects of correctness. Sources were estimated on those latency bands.

Figure 2 – Results at the sensor space (ERFs) for the related – unrelated contrast. The ERFs for the related and unrelated incorrect solutions are depicted for the different sensor clusters (left). Clusters are again differentiated by different colors. Relatedness effects appeared on right parieto-central sensors (cluster R-PCr) in the first latency band, in left fronto-central sensors (L-FCr) during the second latency band (250 - 450 ms.) and in a right fronto-central cluster (R-FCr) during the last latency band (700 - 800 ms.). Sources were estimated on those latency bands.

Figure 3 – Results at the source space. (a) correct – incorrect contrast (source amplitudes that were larger for correct than for incorrect solutions). (b) related – unrelated contrast. Source amplitudes that were larger for the related solutions are on the left (a left lateralized network) and source amplitudes that were larger for the unrelated solutions are on the right (a right lateralized network). SFG: Superior Frontal Gyrus; IFG: Inferior Frontal Gyrus; SMG: Supramarginal Gyrus; PCG: Precentral Gyrus; MTG: Middle Temporal Gyrus; STG: Superior Temporal Gyrus; DLPFC: Dorsolateral Prefrontal Cortex; OFC: Orbitofrontal Cortex; ANG: Angular Gyrus; OT: Occipito-Temporal.

Figure 4 – Results of the Granger Causality connectivity analysis. Only those connections whose Granger Causality values (F) were > 0.005 are depicted. The size of the nodes corresponds to the extension of each cluster and is averaged in its coordinates on those cluster involving several adjacent points. Left: left hemisphere analysis for the related solutions. Right: right hemisphere analysis for the unrelated solutions.



45 Figure 1 – Results at the sensor space (ERFs) for the correct – incorrect contrast. The ERFs for the correct
46 and incorrect solutions are depicted for the different sensor clusters (left). Clusters are differentiated by
47 different colors. During the first latency band (170 - 290 ms.) effects for correctness were shown in the left
48 antero-temporal (cluster L-ATc) cluster, in a cluster involving frontal, central, and parietal sensors (L-CPc)
49 and in a right cluster involving centro parietal sensors (R-CPc). During the second latency band (300 – 500
50 ms.), correctness effects again appeared in the L-ATc cluster, in a left parietotemporal cluster (L-PTc) and in
51 two right clusters: anterotemporal (R-ATc) and occipitotemporal (R-OTc). During the last latency band (700
52 – 800 ms.), the L-CPC cluster again showed effects of correctness. Sources were estimated on those latency
53 bands.

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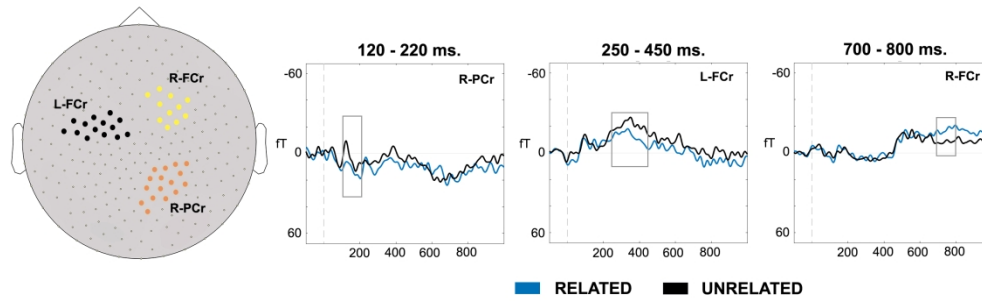
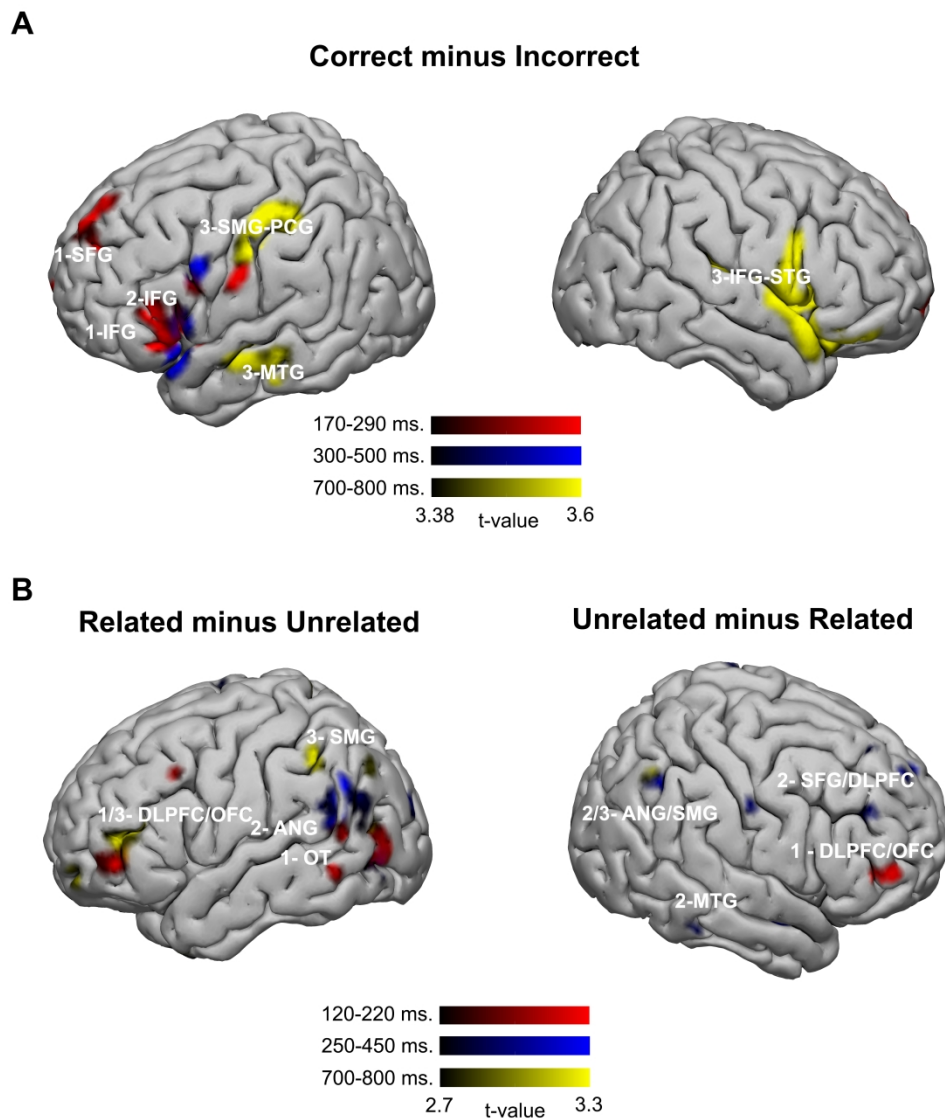
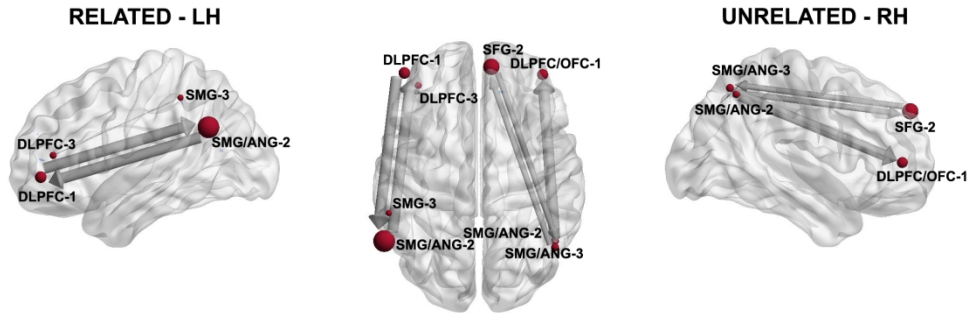


Figure 2 – Results at the sensor space (ERFs) for the related – unrelated contrast. The ERFs for the related and unrelated incorrect solutions are depicted for the different sensor clusters (left). Clusters are again differentiated by different colors. Relatedness effects appeared on right parieto-central sensors (cluster R-PCr) in the first latency band, in left fronto-central sensors (L-FCr) during the second latency band (250 - 450 ms.) and in a right fronto-central cluster (R-FCr) during the last latency band (700 - 800 ms.). Sources were estimated on those latency bands.



REVISED Figure 3 – Results at the source space. (a) correct – incorrect contrast (source amplitudes that were larger for correct than for incorrect solutions). (b) related – unrelated contrast. Source amplitudes that were larger for the related solutions are on the left (a left lateralized network) and source amplitudes that were larger for the unrelated solutions are on the right (a right lateralized network). SFG: Superior Frontal Gyrus; IFG: Inferior Frontal Gyrus; SMG: Supramarginal Gyrus; PCG: Precentral Gyrus; MTG: Middle Temporal Gyrus; STG: Superior Temporal Gyrus; DLPFC: Dorsolateral Prefrontal Cortex; OFC: Orbitofrontal Cortex; ANG: Angular Gyrus; OT: Occipito-Temporal.

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REVISED Figure 4 – Results of the Granger Causality connectivity analysis. Only those connections whose Granger Causality values (F) were > 0.005 are depicted. The size of the nodes corresponds to the extension of each cluster and is averaged in its coordinates on those cluster involving several adjacent points. Left: left hemisphere analysis for the related solutions. Right: right hemisphere analysis for the unrelated solutions.

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