

Neuromarketing & Entertainment: Film, TV & Music



# What do Friends and Breaking Bad have in common?





FRIENDS

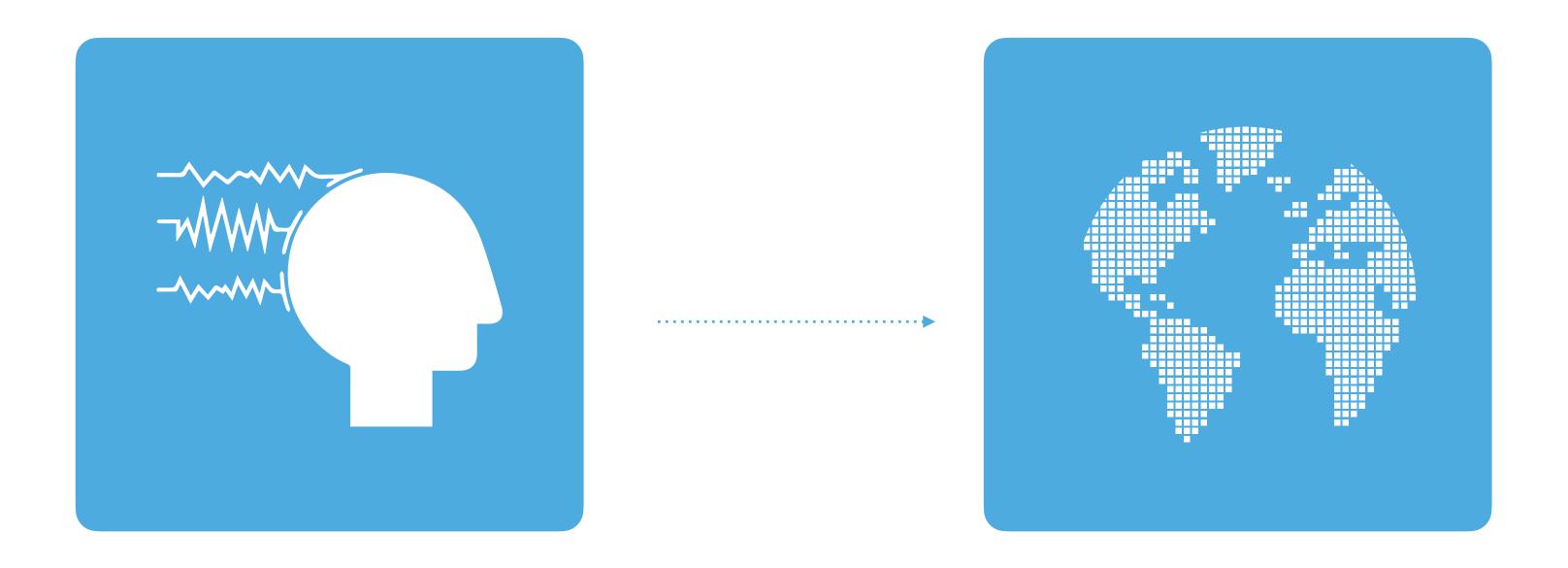
BREAKING BAD





### Neuroforecasting.

From brain data to market level outcomes



# The brain predicts what we buy



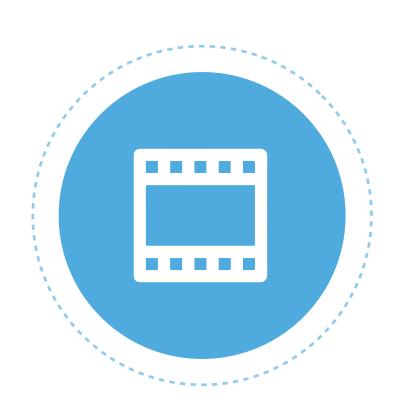
### The brain predicts what we buy





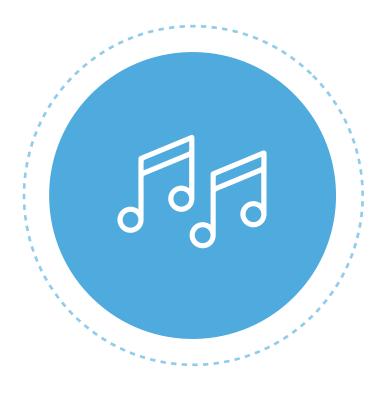
Webinar Neuromarketing & Entertainment

# Today's Topics



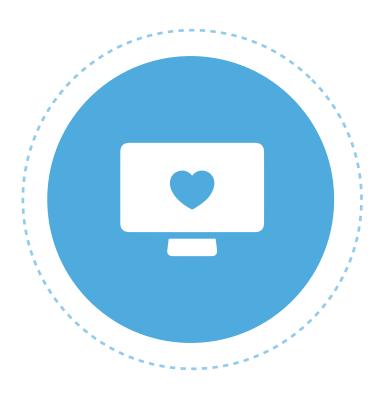
#### Brain & Film

How to predict box office success and do neural focus groups



**Brain & Music** 

Where's the neural signature of a hit?



Brain & TV / Streaming

Getting the brain hooked

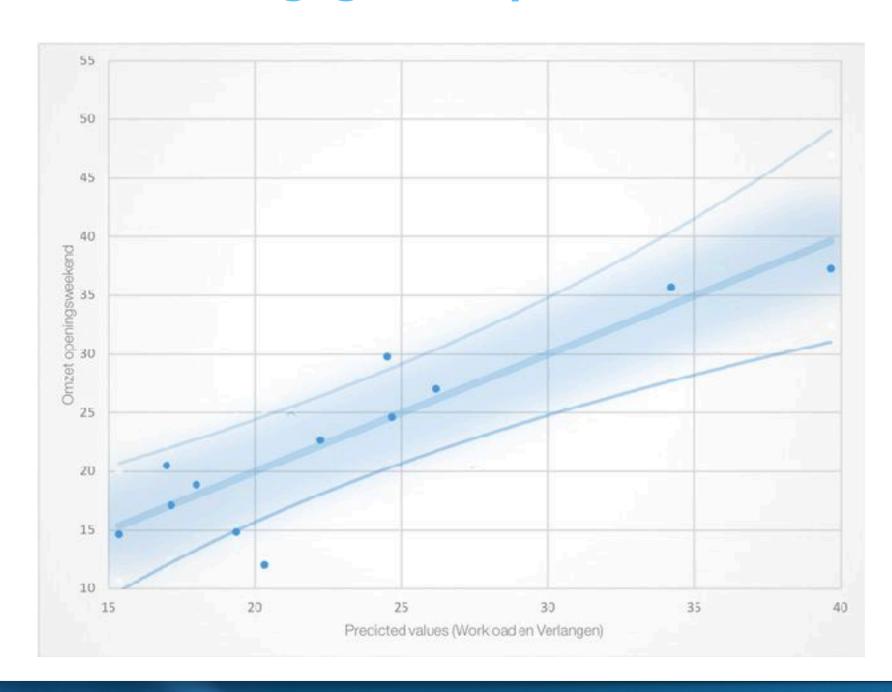


### How to predict future box office hits?



### How to predict future box office hits?

### **Engagement predicts ticket sales**



79.7%

Explained Variance

Metric: Synchronisity

Stated preferences do not correlate with ticket sales

Boksem & Smidts (2015) Christoforou et al., (2017) Barnett & Cerf (2017) Unravel (2019)



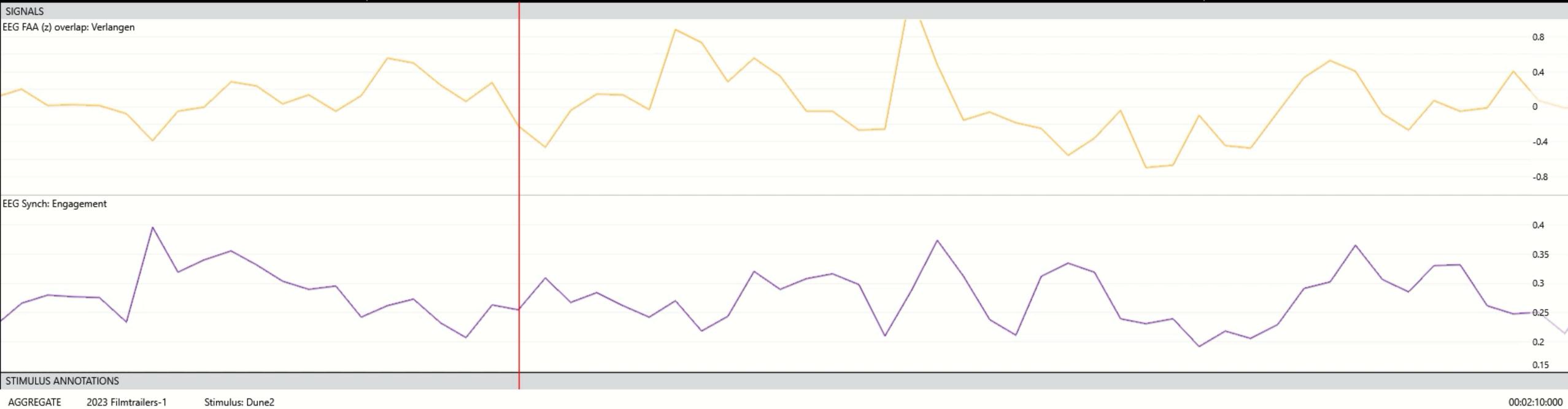
How to

Identify Sales Killers

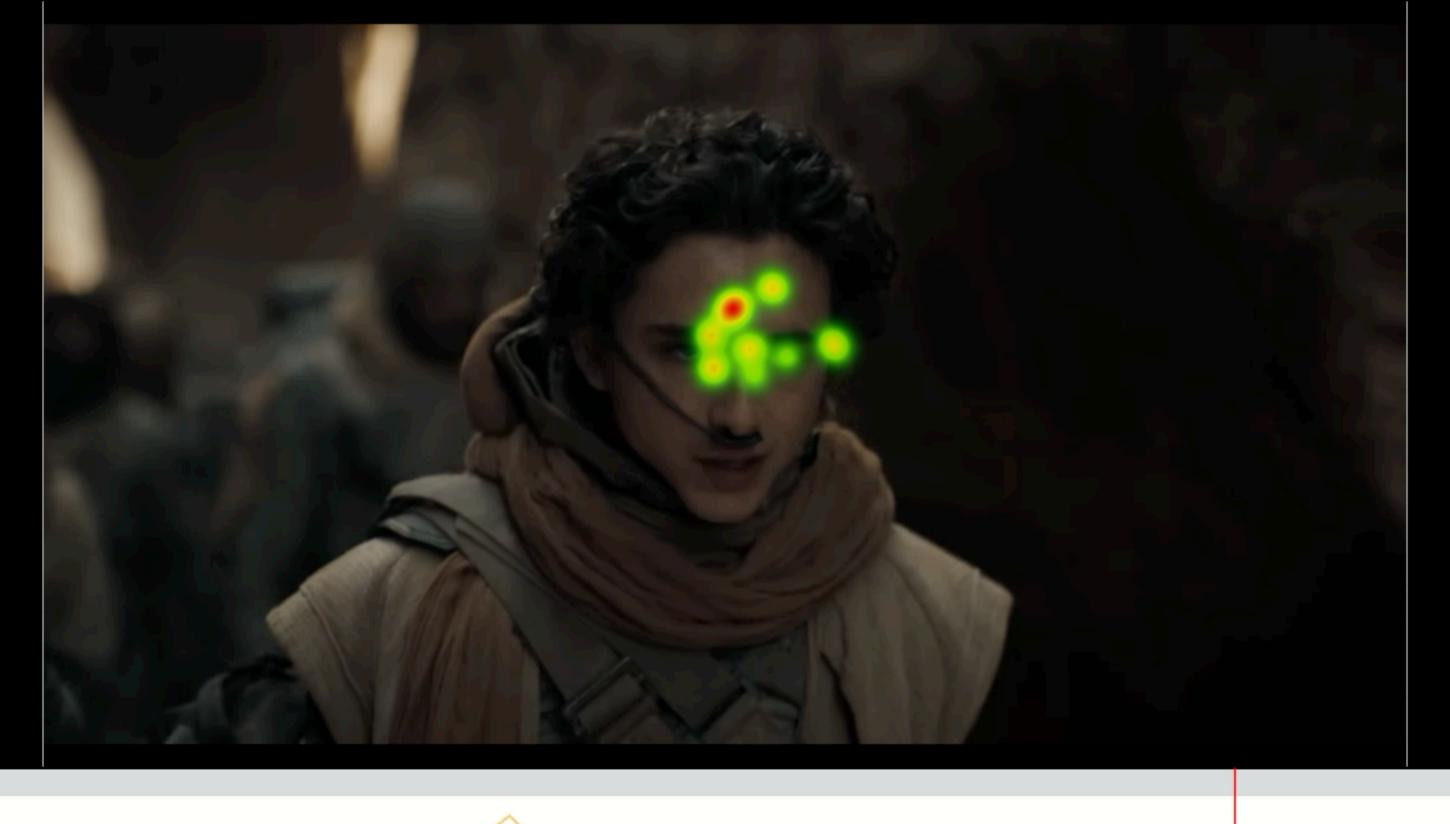
### What Makes a Good Movie Trailer?

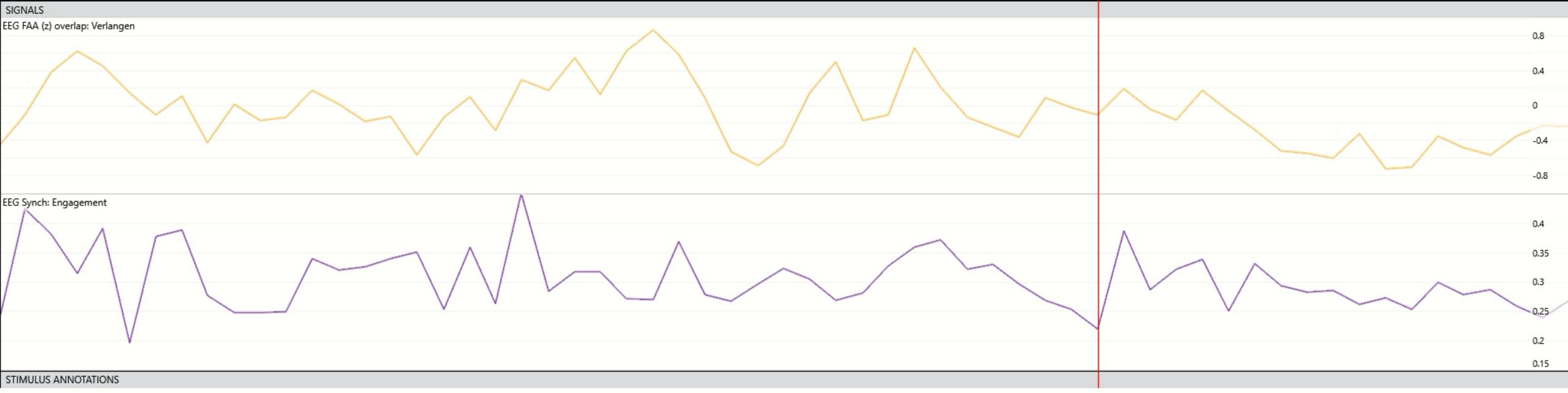
- Bad trailers have lower engagement rates overall
- ▶ Bad trailers especially have diminished attention after cuts, which can be caused by:
  - Chaotic gaze patterns
  - Cues associated with closure
- Good trailers use emotional contrast





AGGREGATE 2023 Filmtrailers-1 Stimulus: Dune2

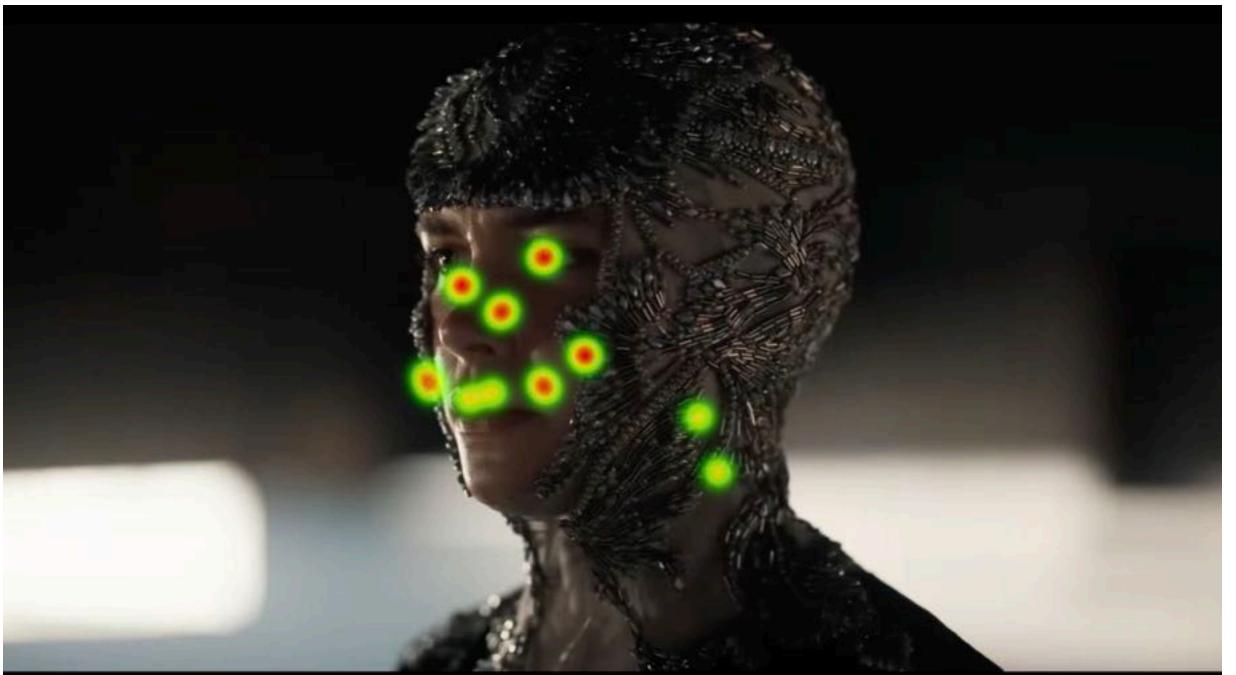




AGGREGATE 2023 Filmtrailers-1 Stimulus: Dune2

# Optimizing trailers





Brain is bored Brain is engaged

### Unravel at the Shopper Brain Conference



### **Shopper Brain Conference**

The science of selling to the consumer's mind. Learn how to:

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- · Improve your in-store and online communication
- Design sales-worthy consumer experiences

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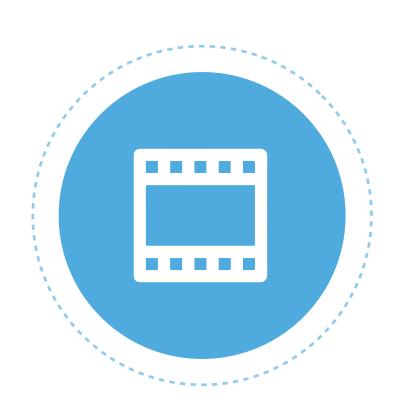
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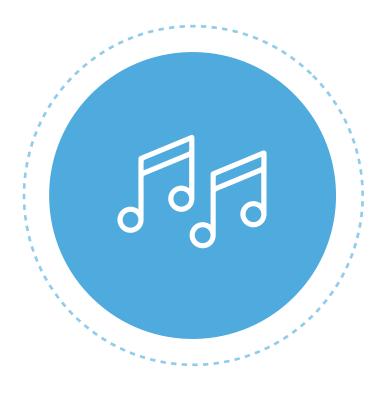
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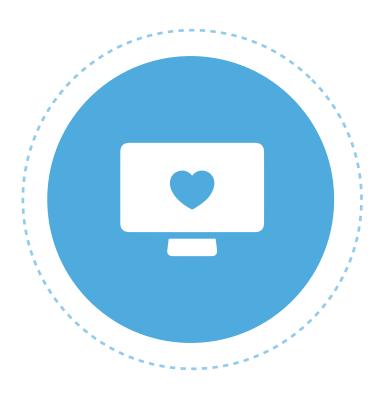
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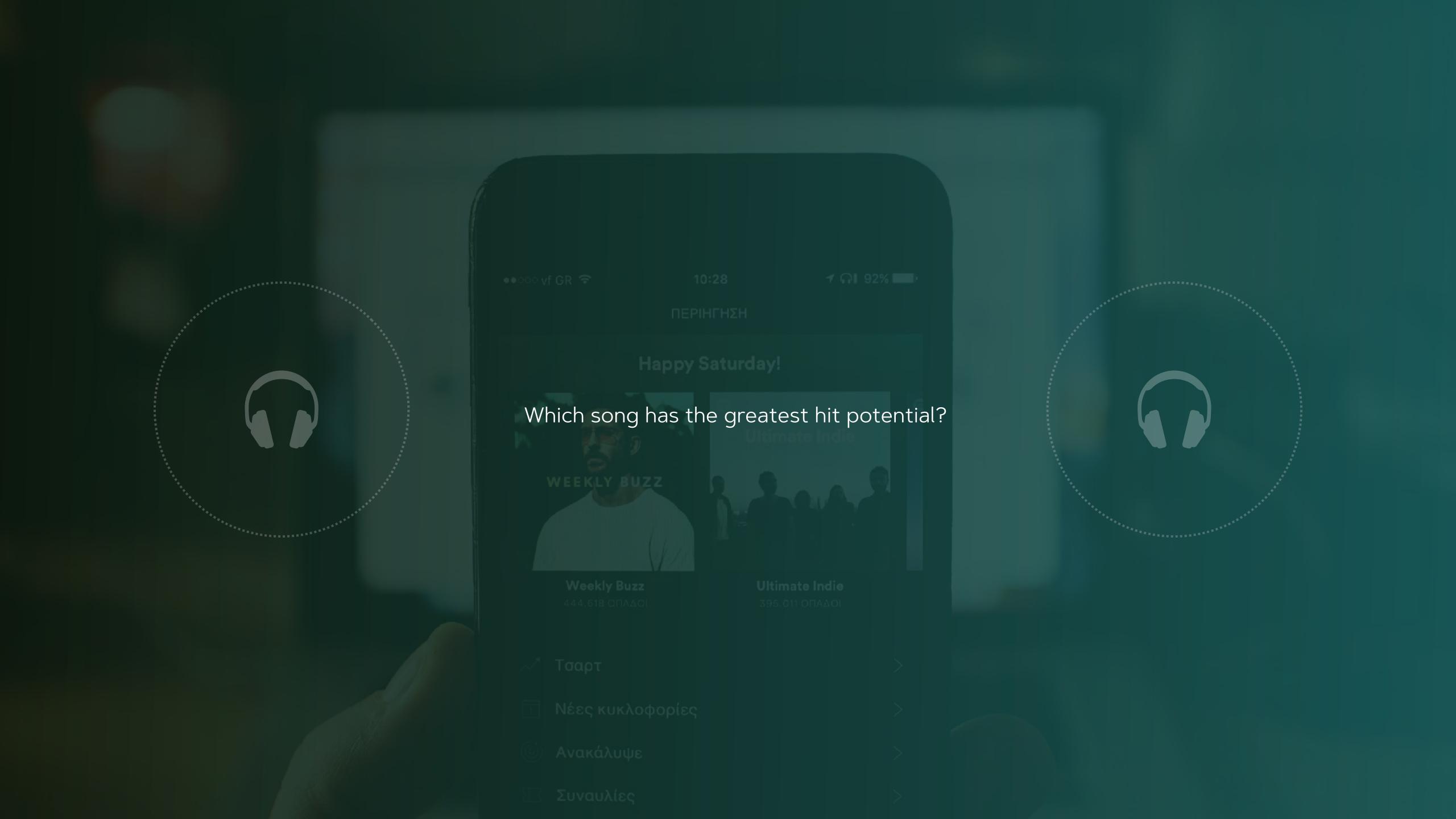
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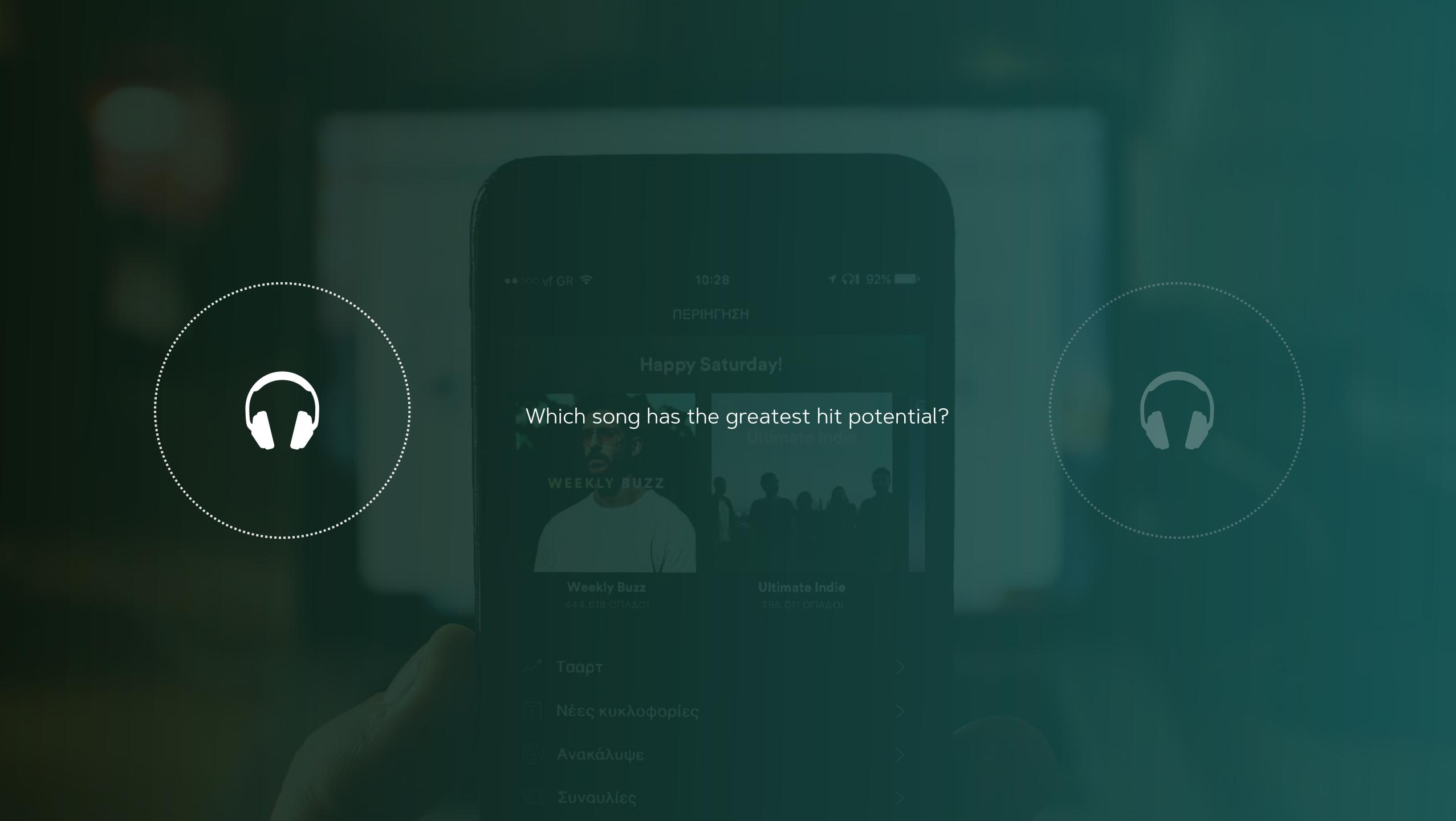


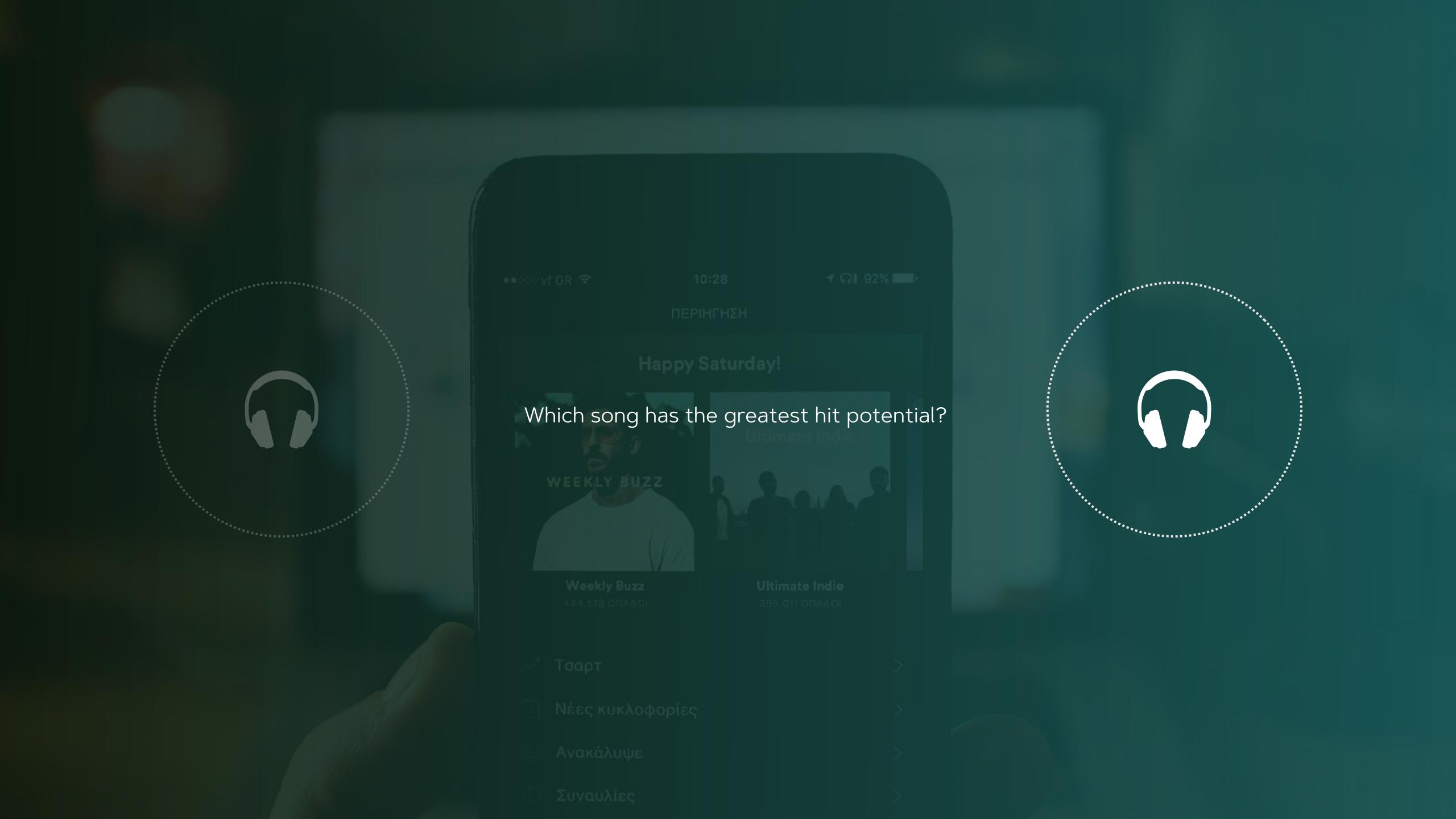
Brain & TV / Streaming

Getting the brain hooked









### Predicting upcoming hits



Published by researchers from Unravel, Tilburg University and Utrecht University



ORIGINAL RESEARCH published: 27 July 2021 doi: 10.3389/fosyg.2021.672980



### A Sound Prediction: EEG-Based Neural Synchrony Predicts Online Music Streams

Nikki Leeuwis<sup>1,2</sup>, Daniela Pistone<sup>3</sup>, Niels Flick<sup>1</sup> and Tom van Bommel <sup>1\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Unravel Research, Utrecht, Netherlands, <sup>2</sup>Tilburg University, Tilburg, Netherlands, <sup>3</sup>Applied Cognitive Psychology, Utrecht, University, Utrecht, Netherlands

Neuroforecasting predicts population-wide choices based on neural data of individuals and can be used, for example, in neuromarketing to estimate campaign successes. To deliver true value, the brain activity metrics should deliver predictive value above and beyond traditional stated preferences. Evidence from movie trailer research has proposed neural synchrony, which compares the similarity of brain responses across participants and has shown to be a promising tool in neuroforecasting for movie popularity. The music industry might also benefit from these increasingly accurate success predictors, but only one study has been forecasting music popularity, using functional magnetic resonance imaging measures. Current research validates the strength of neural synchrony as a predictive measure for popularity of music, making use of electroencephalogram to capture moment-to-moment neural similarity between respondents while they listen to music. Neural synchrony is demonstrated to be a significant predictor for public appreciation on Spotify 3 weeks and 10 months after the release of the albums, especially when combined with the release of a single. On an individual level, other brain measures were shown to relate to individual subjective likeability ratings, including Frontal Alpha Asymmetry and engagement when combined with the factors artist and single release. Our results show the predictive value of brain activity measures outperforms stated preferences. Especially, neural synchrony carries high predictive value for the popularity on Spotify, providing the music industry with an essential asset for efficient decision making and investments, in addition to other practical implications that include neuromarketing and advertising industries.

Keywords: electroencephalogram, neuromarketing, neuroforecasting, music, neural synchrony, popularity prediction, inter-subject correlation, EEG

#### INTRODUCTION

The application of neuroscience methods to marketing could provide marketeers with new information that is not accessible by conventional marketing research methods (Ariely and Berns, 2010). This line of thought is also called neuromarketing or consumer neuroscience and has expanded tremendously since its discovery (Plassmann et al., 2012; Alvino et al., 2020). Consumers are often unwilling or unable to correctly express their preferences explicitly.

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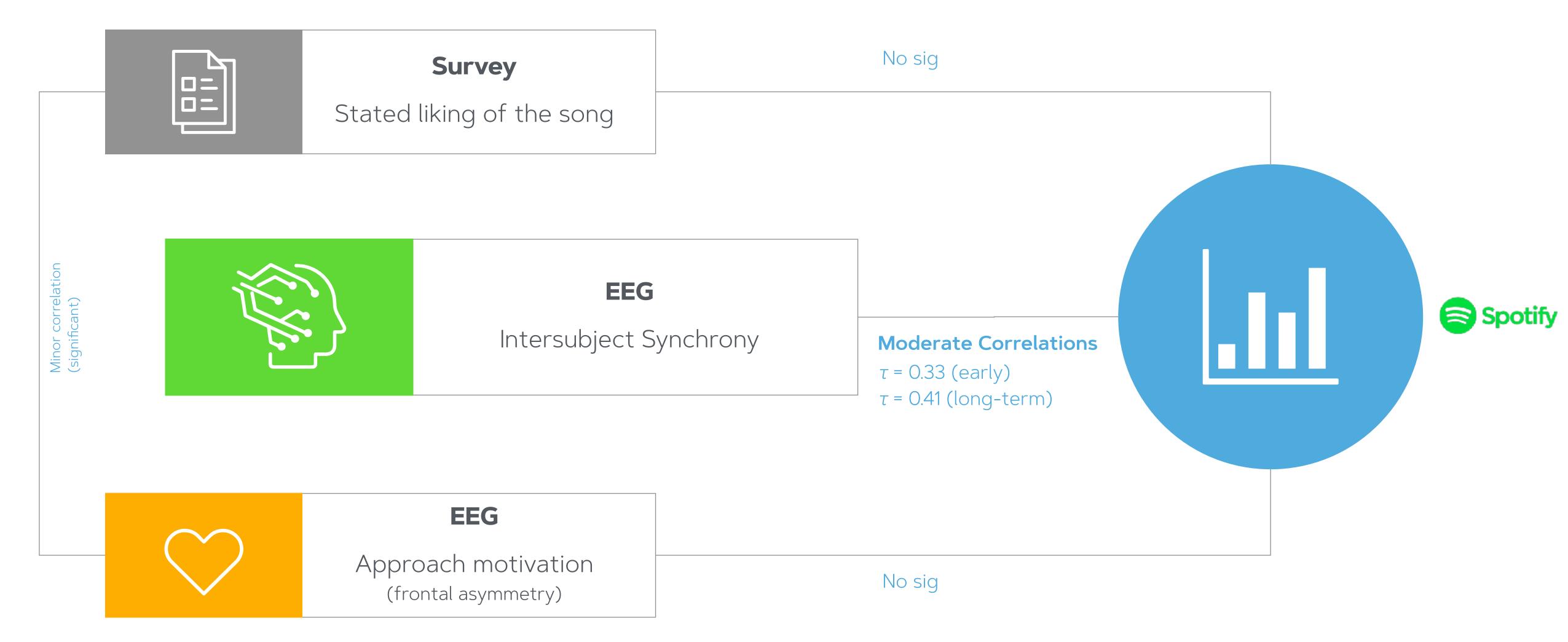
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### It's not about liking a song

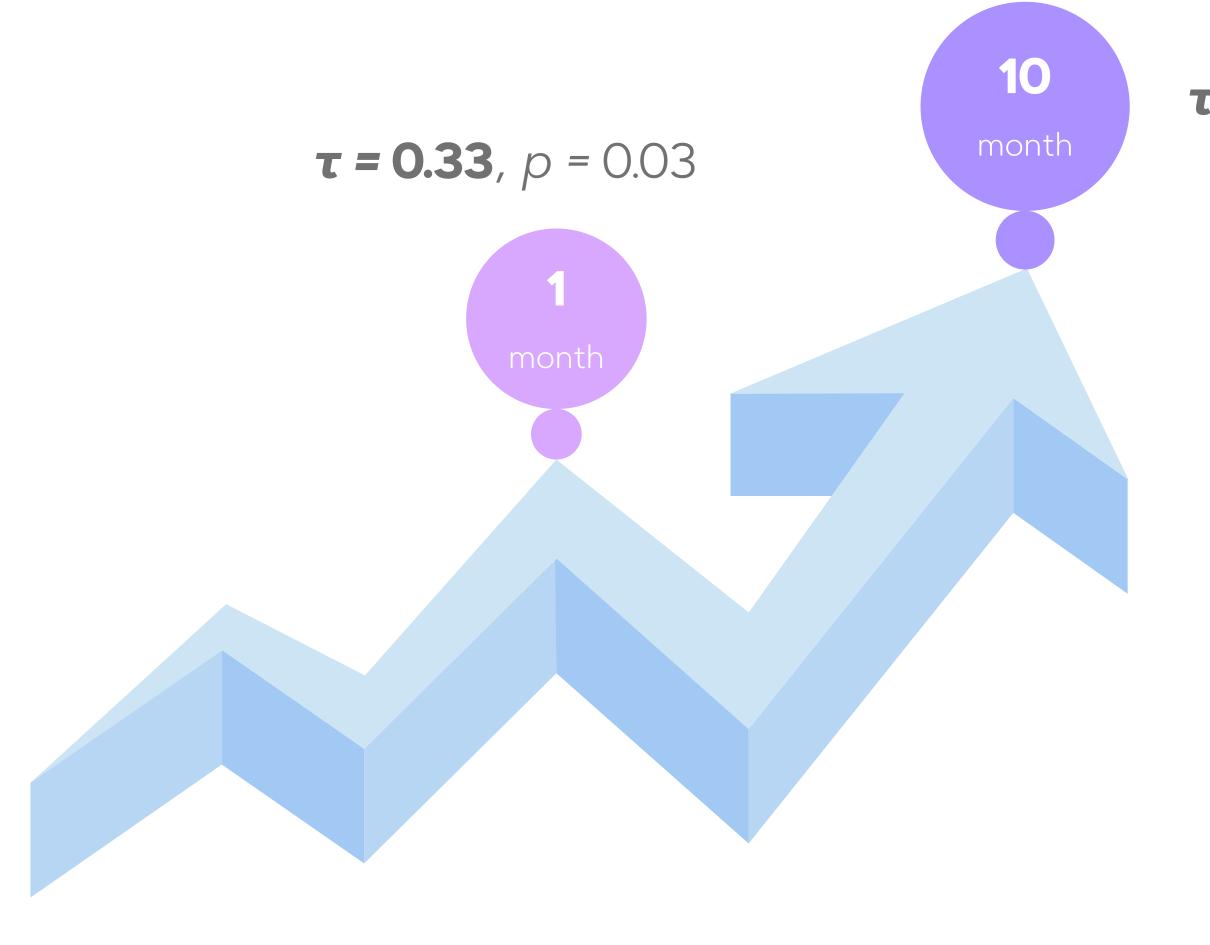
### Liking≠Succes





### Predicting upcoming hits

Correlation with Spotify plays

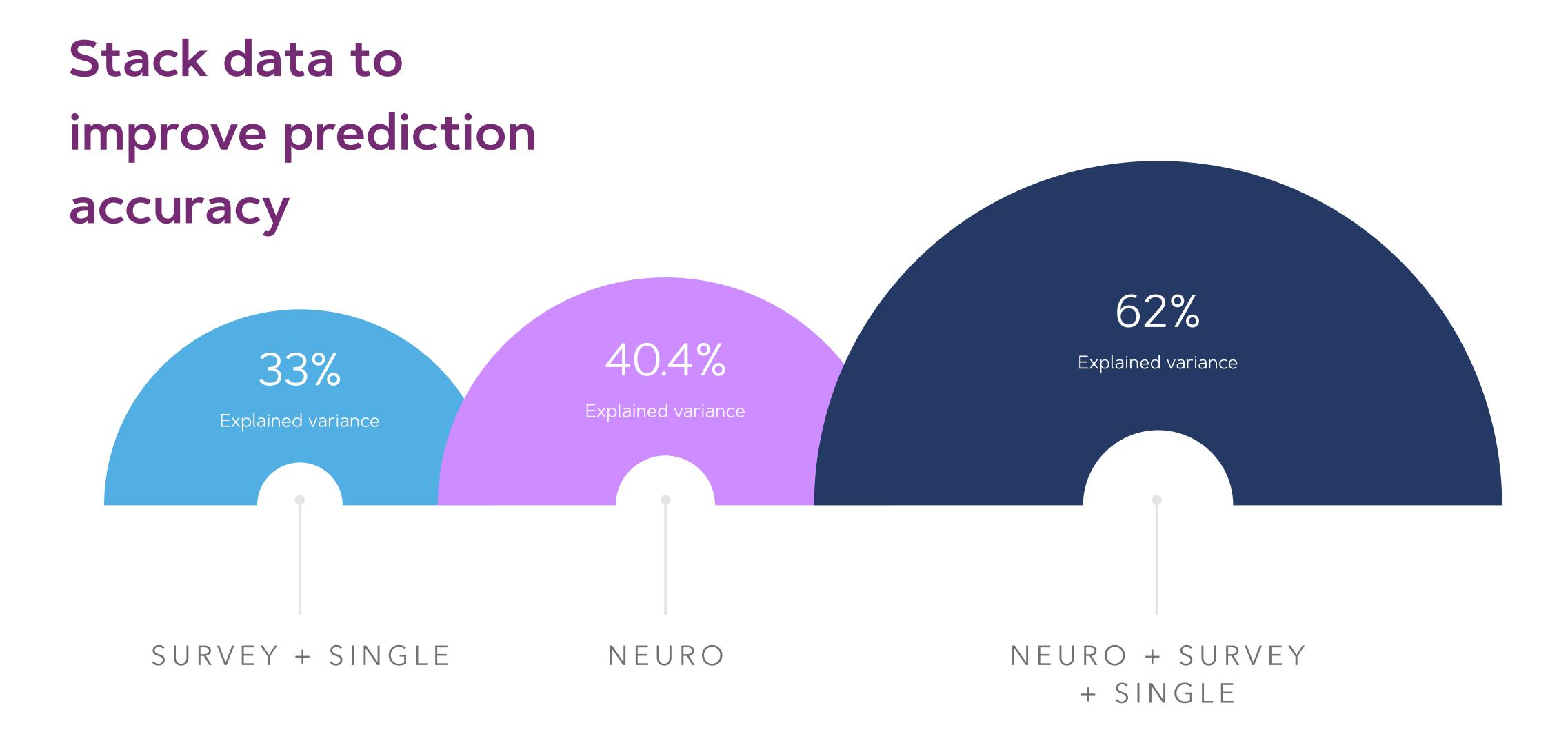


 $\tau = 0.41, p = 0.006$ 

Correlation
holds on short
and long term



### Predicting upcoming hits

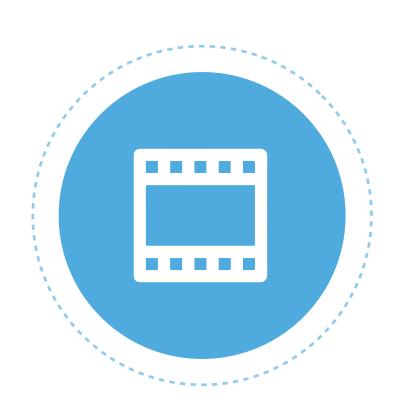






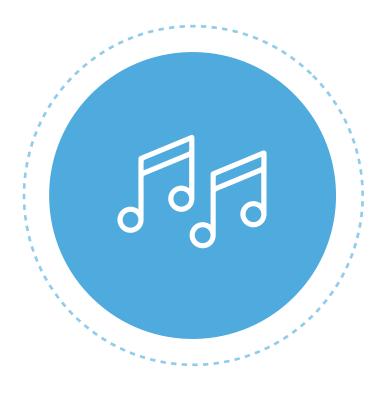
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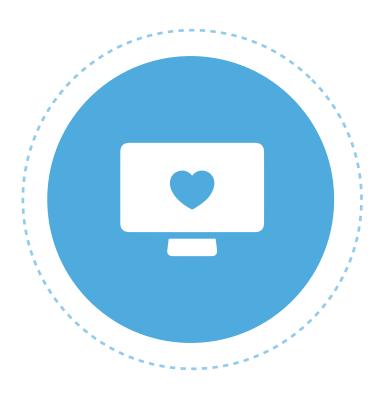
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# PILOT REACTION

"Not very entertaining, clever, or original"



FRIENDS

### PILOT REACTION

Multiple major networks (including HBO) rejected the show



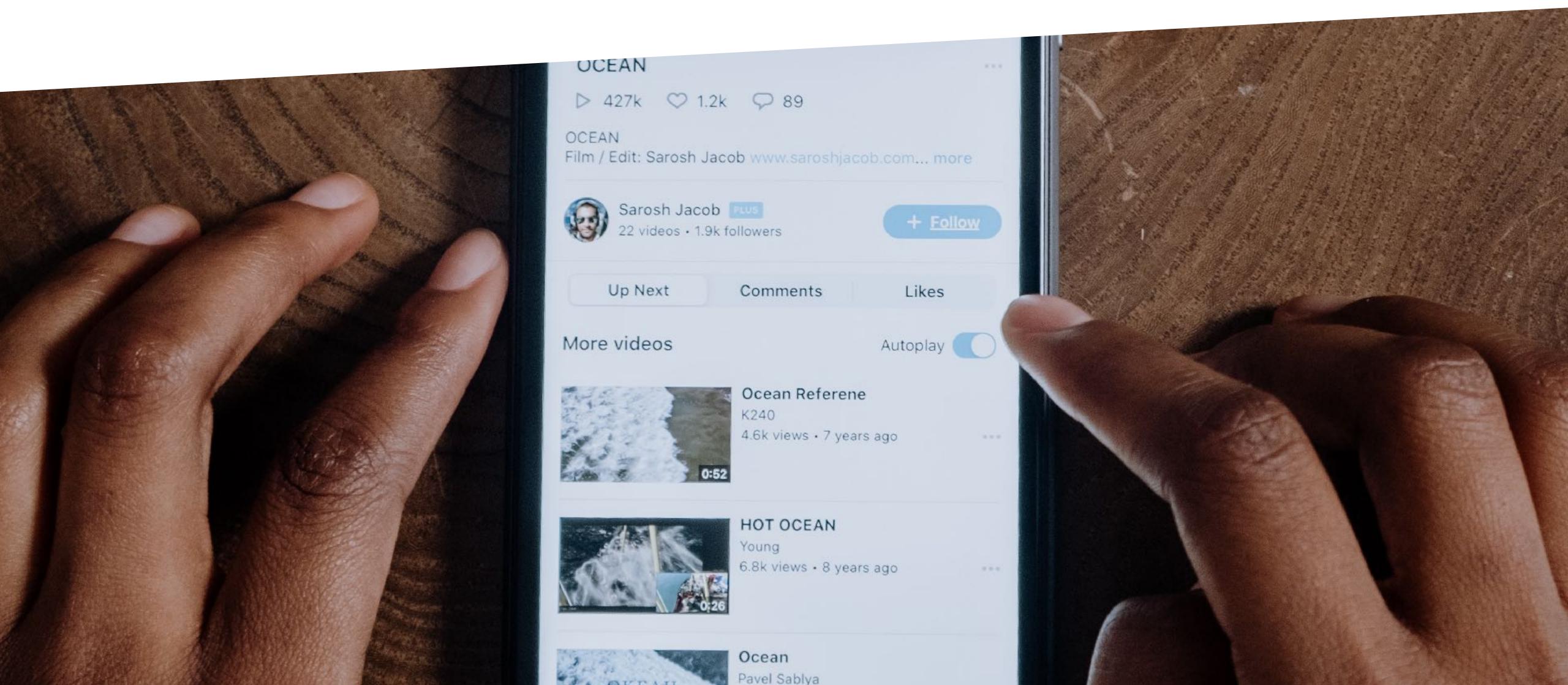
BREAKING BAD



# How to

Measure if the brain is hooked

### The brain predicts (Online) Engagement



### The brain predicts views

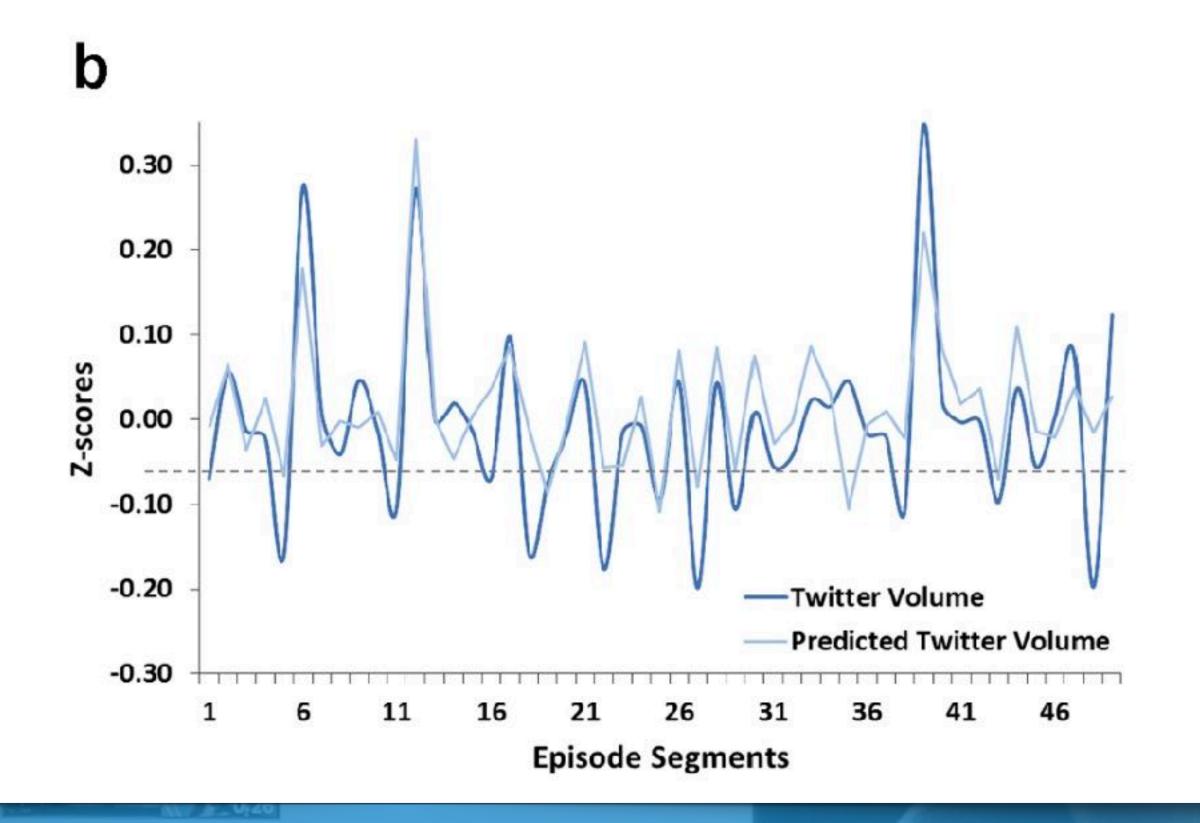


### The brain predicts TV content highlights

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### **EEG & TV Show Popularity**

- ✓ 331 participants
- ✓ 9 TV Shows
- ✓ EEG predicts which scenes viewers talk about



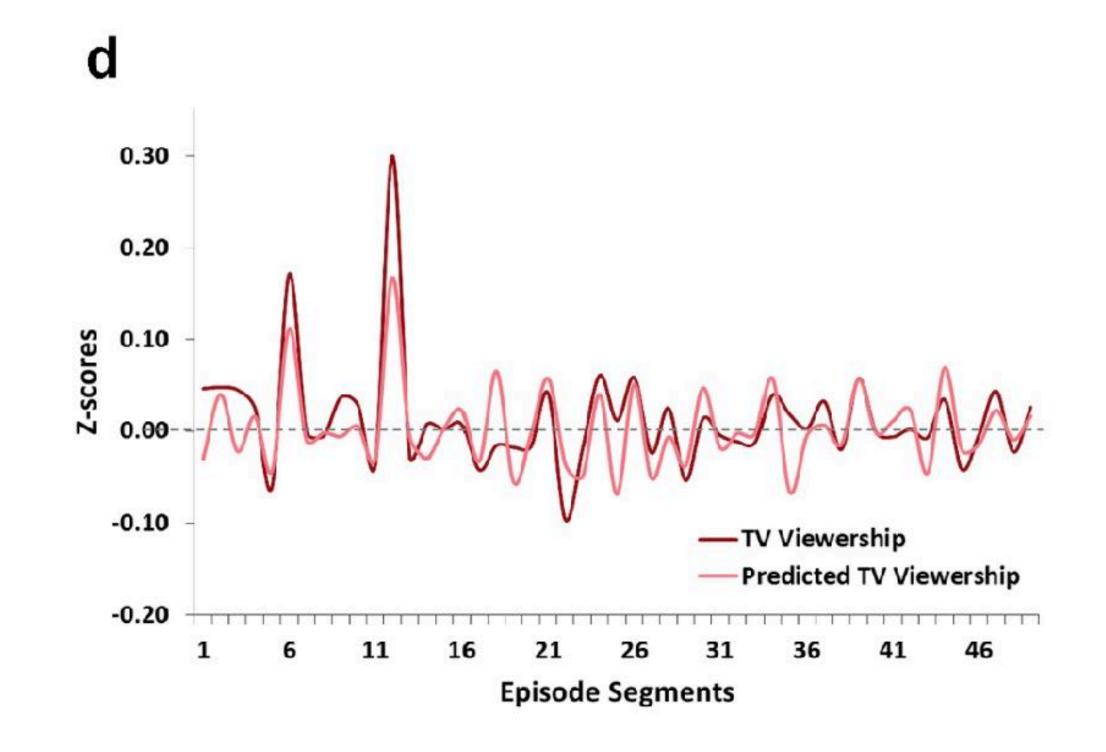
Ocean

### The brain predicts TV content highlights

OCEAN

### **EEG & TV Show Popularity**

✓ EEG activity predicts TV viewership

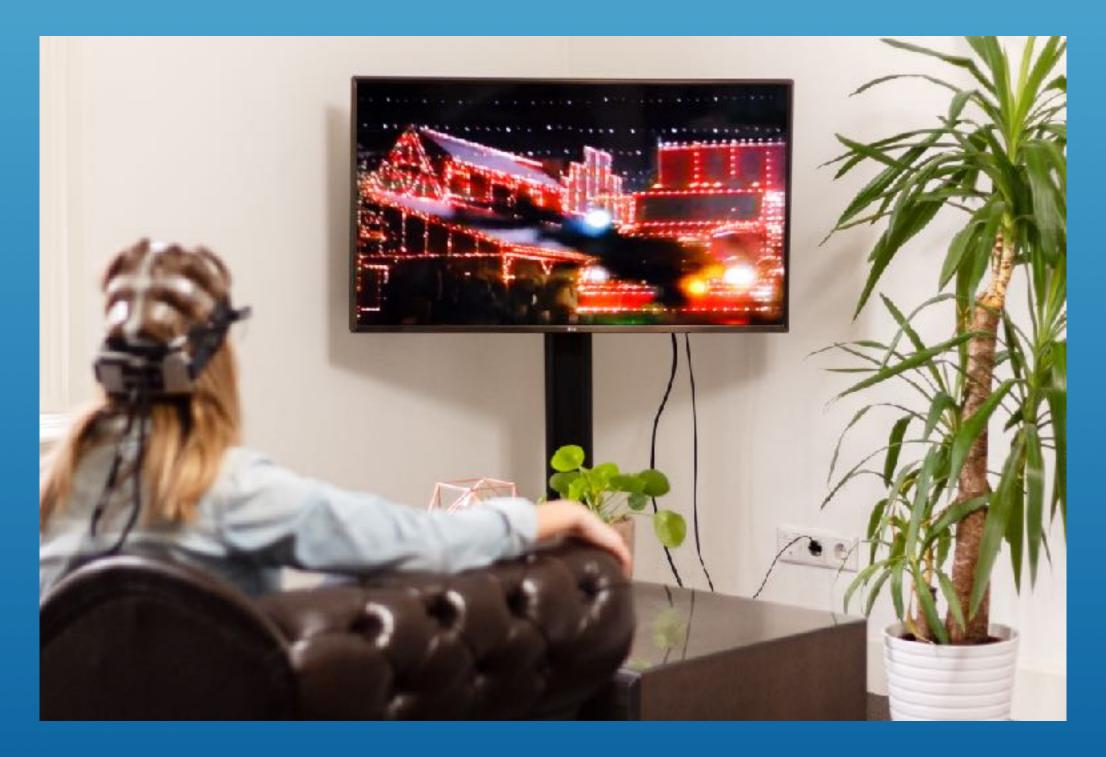


Ocean

### From Focus Group to Neural Focus Group



Stated preferences



- Real emotion
- Real attention

### Take-Aways: Neuromarketing & Entertainment

- ✓ **Music.** Neuro predicts music hits and provides a data-driven method to allocate marketing resources
- ✓ **Movies.** Not only does neuro help to forecast box office hits and flops, is also helps identify attention killers and allows to optimize trailers accordingly.
- ✓ **TV & Streaming.** Neuro unearths potential weak moments where people might tune out physically and mentally. More broadly, neural focus groups help to identify top programming during the pilot phase.