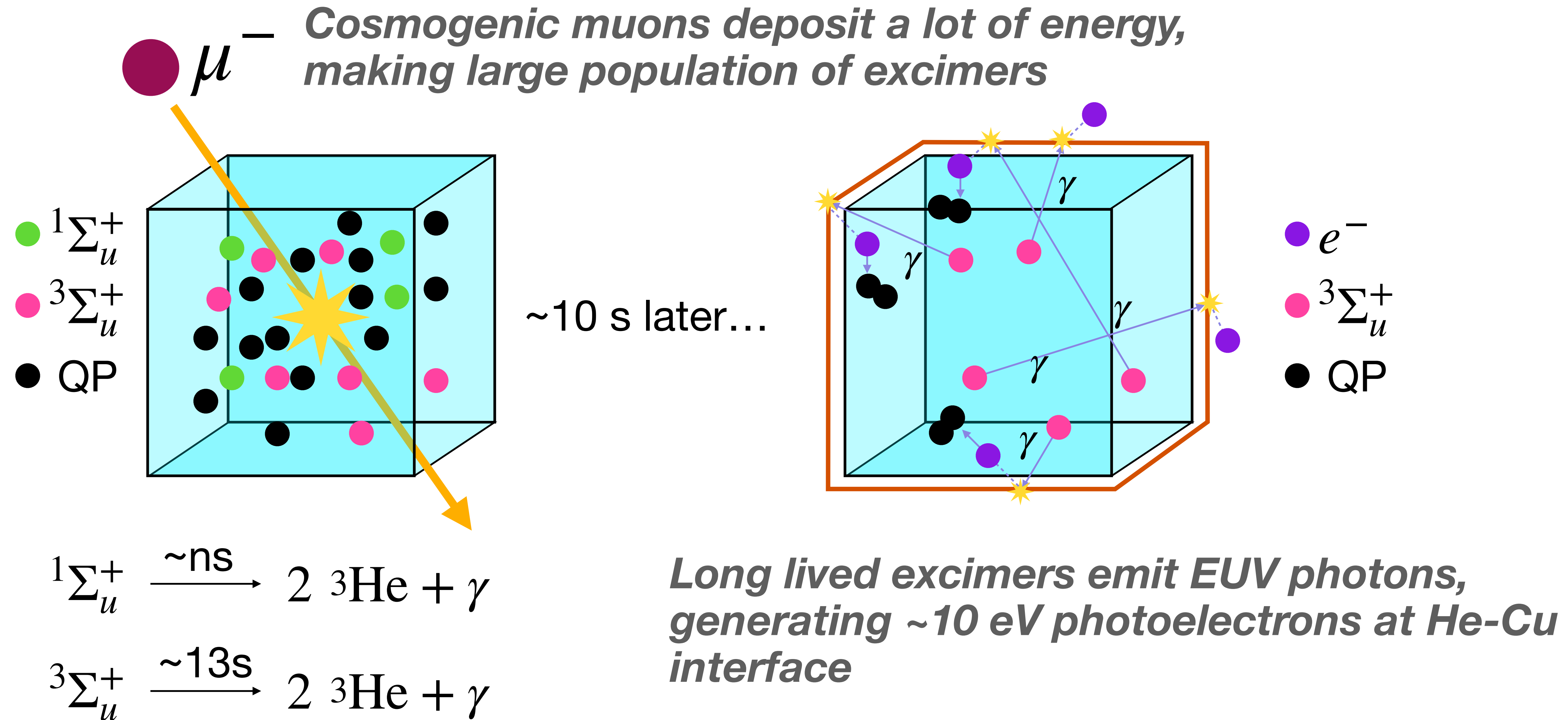




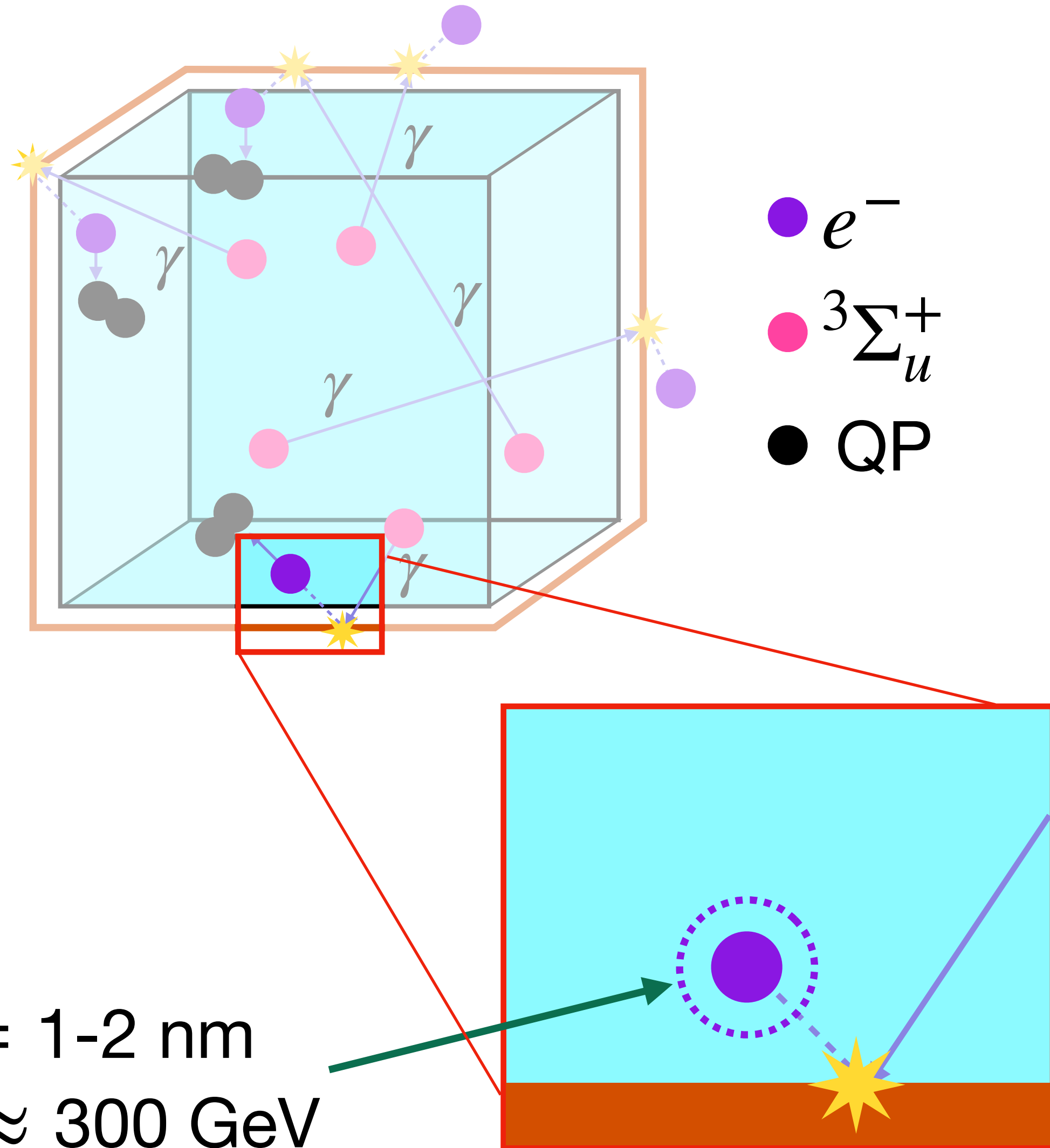
Understanding our Baseline: Noise Mitigation and Modelling

Joe McLaughlin
QUEST-DMC Collaboration Meeting
University of Liverpool
16 October, 2025

Cosmogenic Baseline Noise



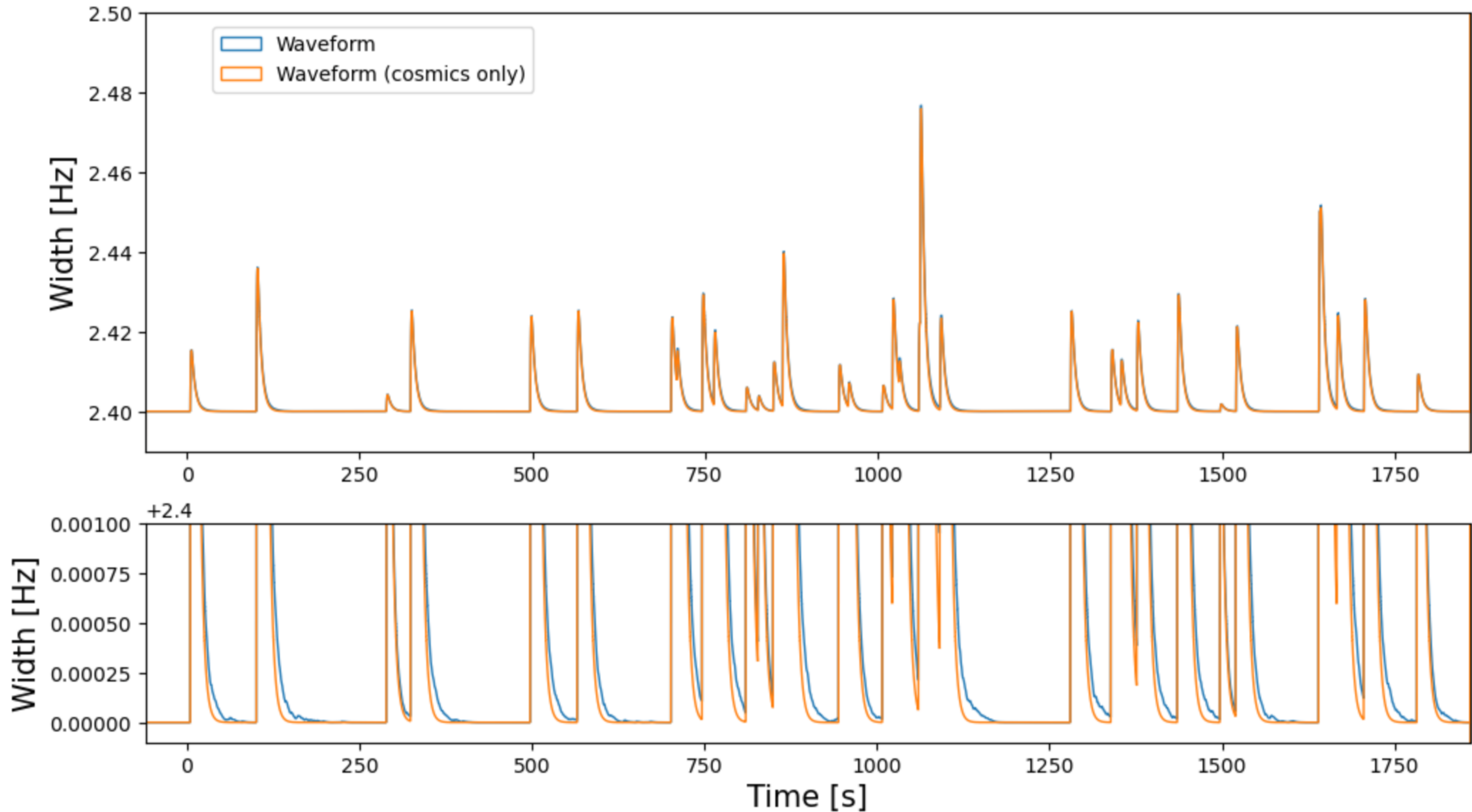
Cosmogenic Baseline Noise



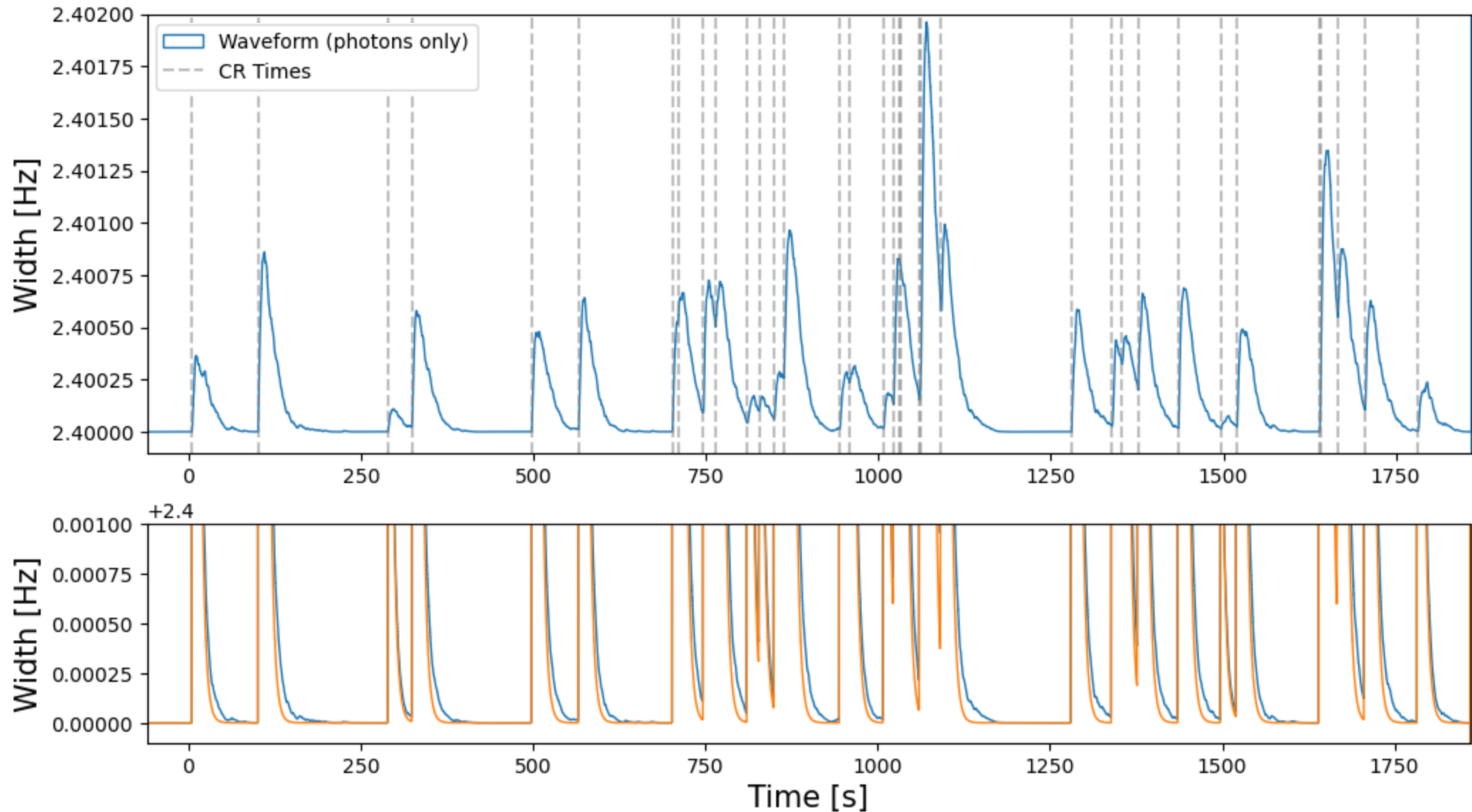
Electron Bubbles

- When electrons are injected into the superfluid ^3He , a “bubble” forms around it with an effective mass $\sim 300 \text{ GeV}$
- Cu photoelectric work function is 5 eV, He scintillation photon energy is 15 eV, photoelectrons therefore have $\sim 10 \text{ eV}$
- An electron bubble carrying 10 eV kinetic energy is moving at 2.4 km/s
- This is 4-5 orders of magnitude higher than the Landau critical velocity ($\mathcal{O}(\text{cm/s})$)
- Bubble energy dissipation should happen rapidly via quasiparticle generation

Cosmogenic Baseline Noise

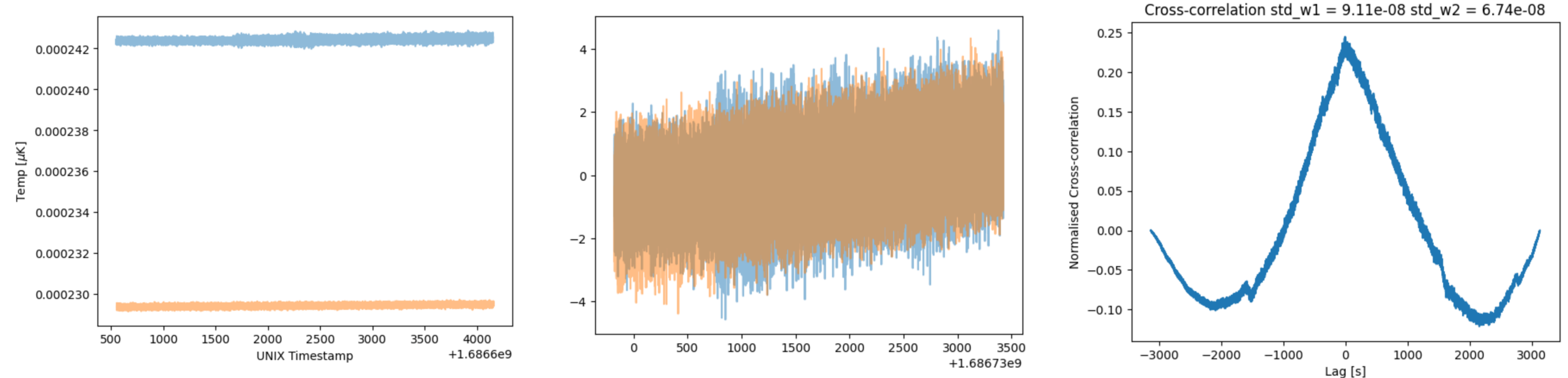


Cosmogenic Baseline Noise



Acoustic/Vibrational Noise

- Two bolometers in the same fridge will be subject to the same acoustic and vibrational environment
- If there is shared acoustic and vibrational noise, this will produce cross-correlation between channels



*Start with two bolometer
baseline signals*

Subtract their means

Compute

$$R(l) = \frac{1}{(N-1)\sigma_x\sigma_y} \sum_i^N x_i y_{i-l}$$

All plots here, courtesy of Rob Smith 😊

Principal Component Analysis

Intuitively:

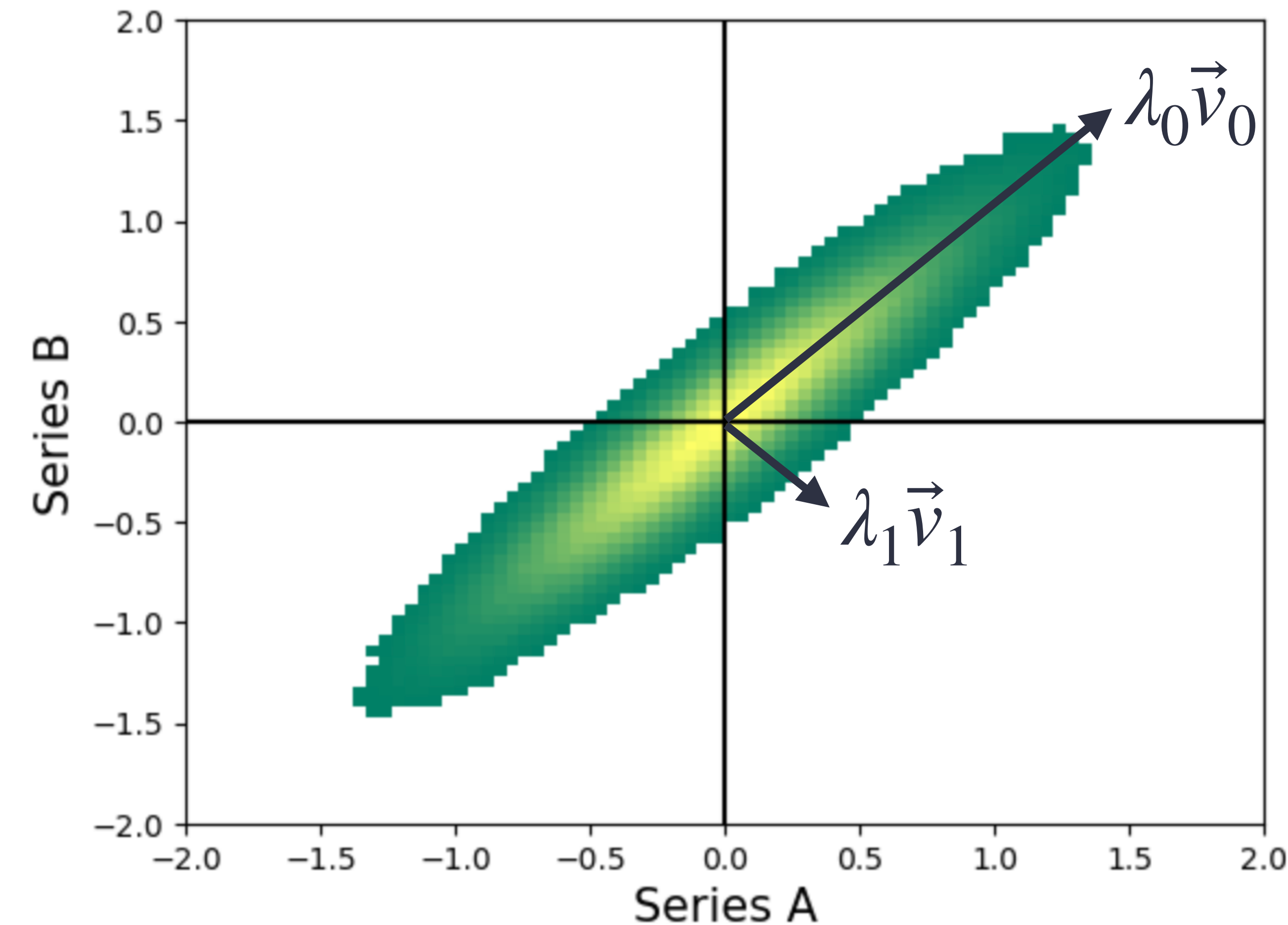
*Principal component analysis (PCA) finds the dominant patterns of variation in multivariate data. In our case, we might consider time-series data from two bolometers **A**, **B***

$$\begin{array}{l} A = [a_1, a_2, a_3, \dots, a_N] \\ B = [b_1, b_2, b_3, \dots, b_N] \end{array} \quad \longrightarrow \quad X = \begin{bmatrix} a_1 & a_2 & a_3 & \dots & a_N \\ b_1 & b_2 & b_3 & \dots & b_N \end{bmatrix}$$

Assuming:
 $E[A] = E[B] = 0$

$$\frac{1}{N-1}XX^T = \begin{bmatrix} \sigma_A^2 & \text{cov}(A, B) \\ \text{cov}(A, B) & \sigma_B^2 \end{bmatrix} = C$$

Principal Component Analysis



Eigen-decomposition:

The covariance matrix C can be factored into matrices constructed by its eigenvectors $\vec{v}$ and eigenvalues λ

$$C = V \Lambda V^T$$

$$V = [\vec{v}_0, \vec{v}_1] \quad \Lambda = \text{diag}(\lambda_0, \lambda_1)$$

Transformation matrix that mixes time series data into projections upon covariance eigenvectors

Principal Component Analysis

$$V^T X = \begin{bmatrix} v_{00} & v_{10} \\ v_{01} & v_{11} \end{bmatrix}^T \begin{bmatrix} a_1 & a_2 & a_3 & \dots & a_N \\ b_1 & b_2 & b_3 & \dots & b_N \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} s_1 & s_2 & s_3 & \dots & s_N \\ t_1 & t_2 & t_3 & \dots & t_N \end{bmatrix} \left. \vphantom{\begin{bmatrix} v_{00} & v_{10} \\ v_{01} & v_{11} \end{bmatrix}^T} \right\} \begin{array}{l} \text{Defines new series } S \\ \text{and } T; \text{ i.e. principal} \\ \text{components of } X \end{array}$$

Quick example with:

$$A = \cos(t) \text{ \& } B = \cos(t)$$

$$X = \begin{bmatrix} \cos(t_1) & \cos(t_2) & \dots & \cos(t_N) \\ \cos(t_1) & \cos(t_2) & \dots & \cos(t_N) \end{bmatrix}$$

$$C = \frac{1}{2} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \Rightarrow \Lambda = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\therefore S = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (\cos(t) + \cos(t)) = \sqrt{2} \cos(t)$$

$$T = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (\cos(t) - \cos(t)) = 0$$

Principal Component Analysis

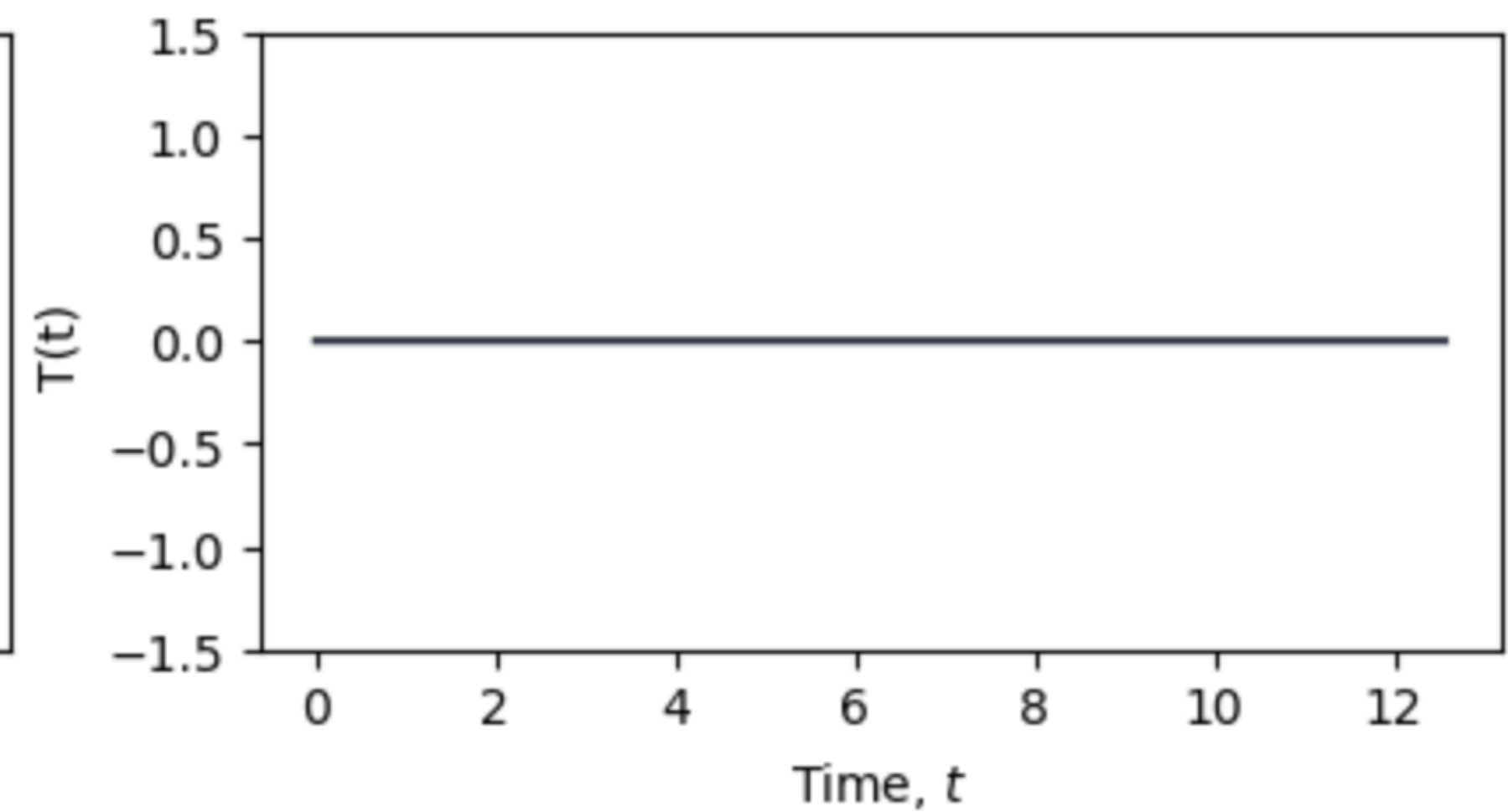
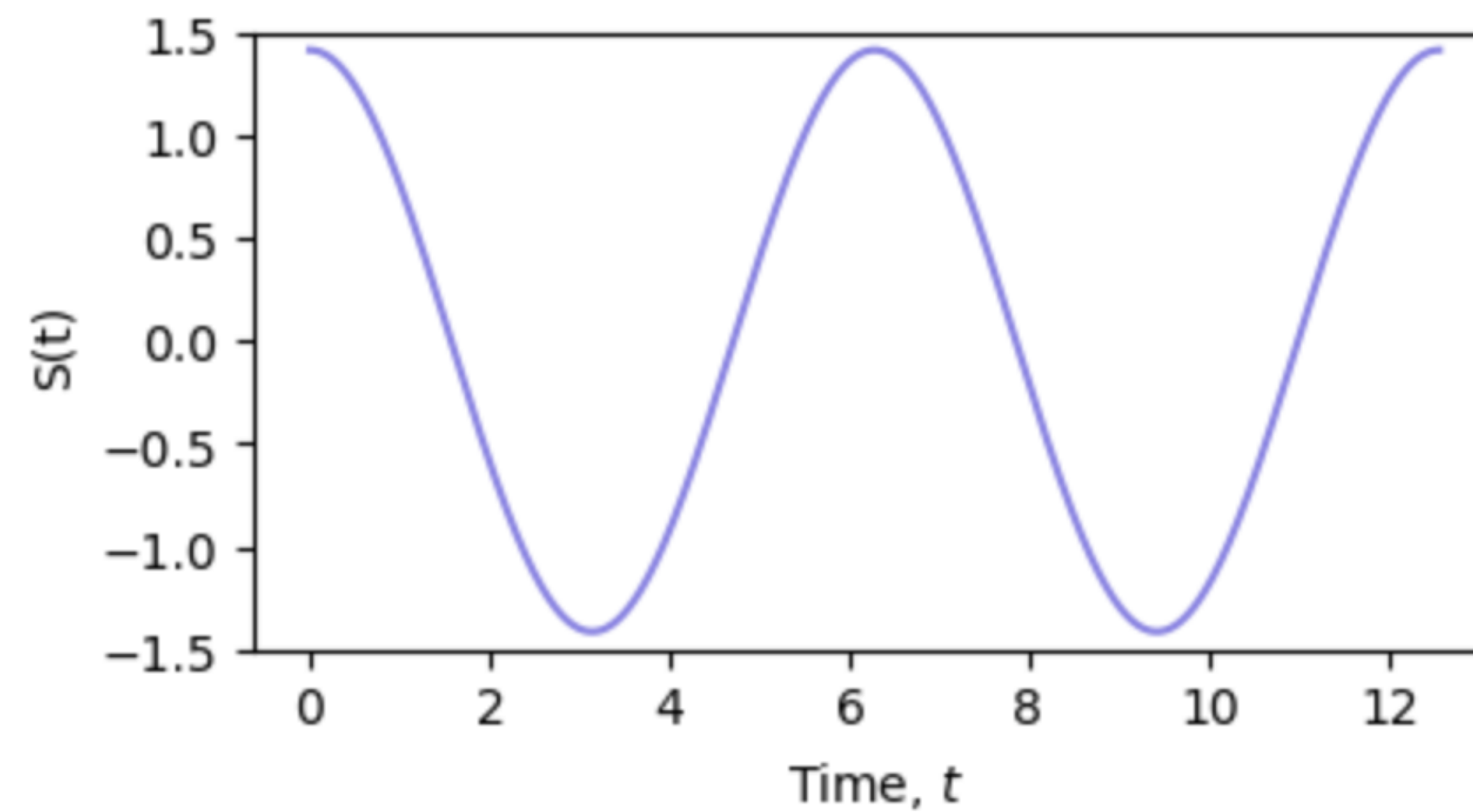
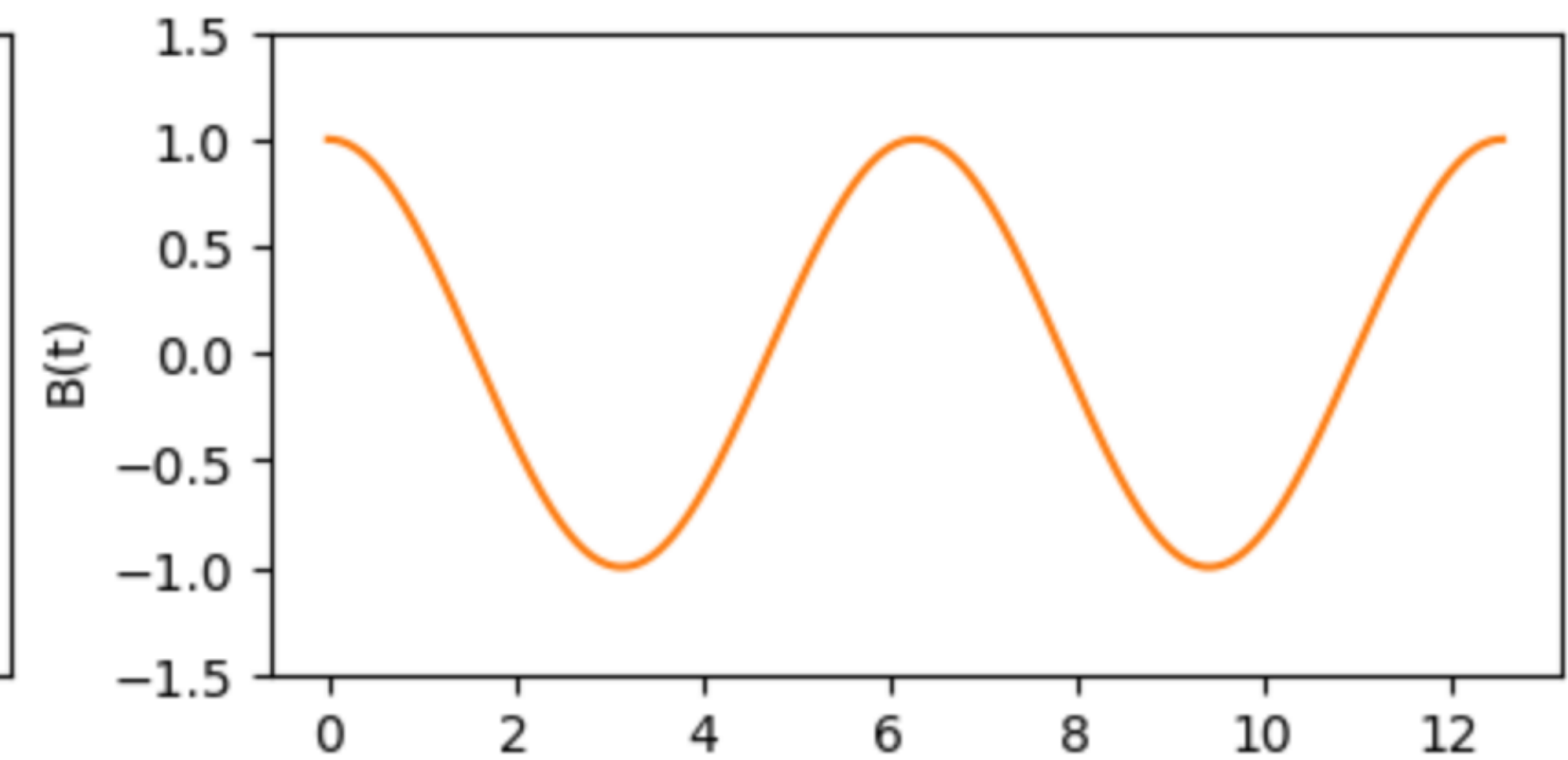
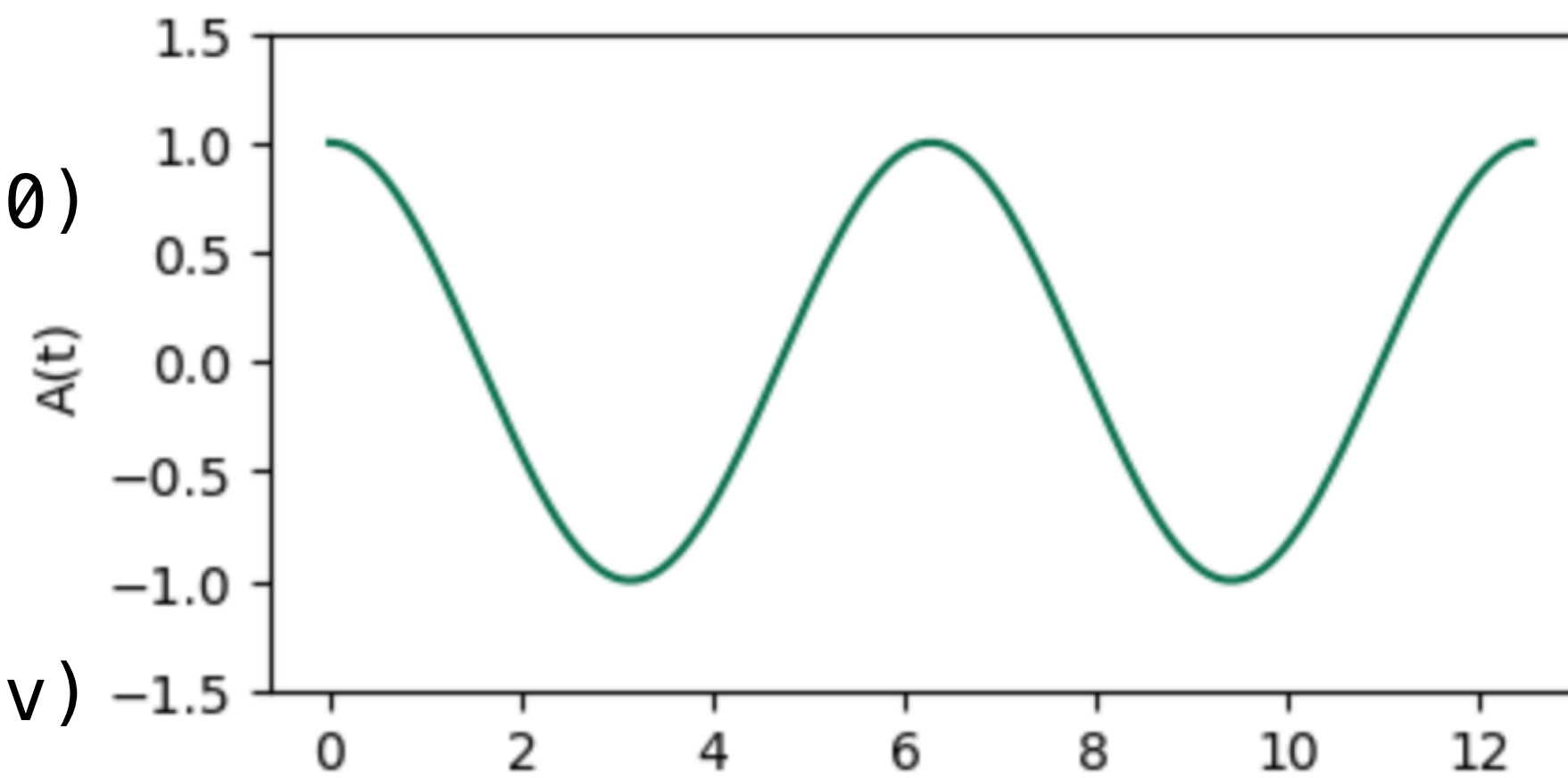
Et voila!

```
import numpy as np
```

```
t = np.linspace(0, 4.*np.pi, 100)  
A = np.cos(t)  
B = np.cos(t)
```

```
X = np.stack([A, B])  
cov = np.cov(X)  
Lambda, V = np.linalg.eigh(cov)
```

```
S, T = V.T @ X
```

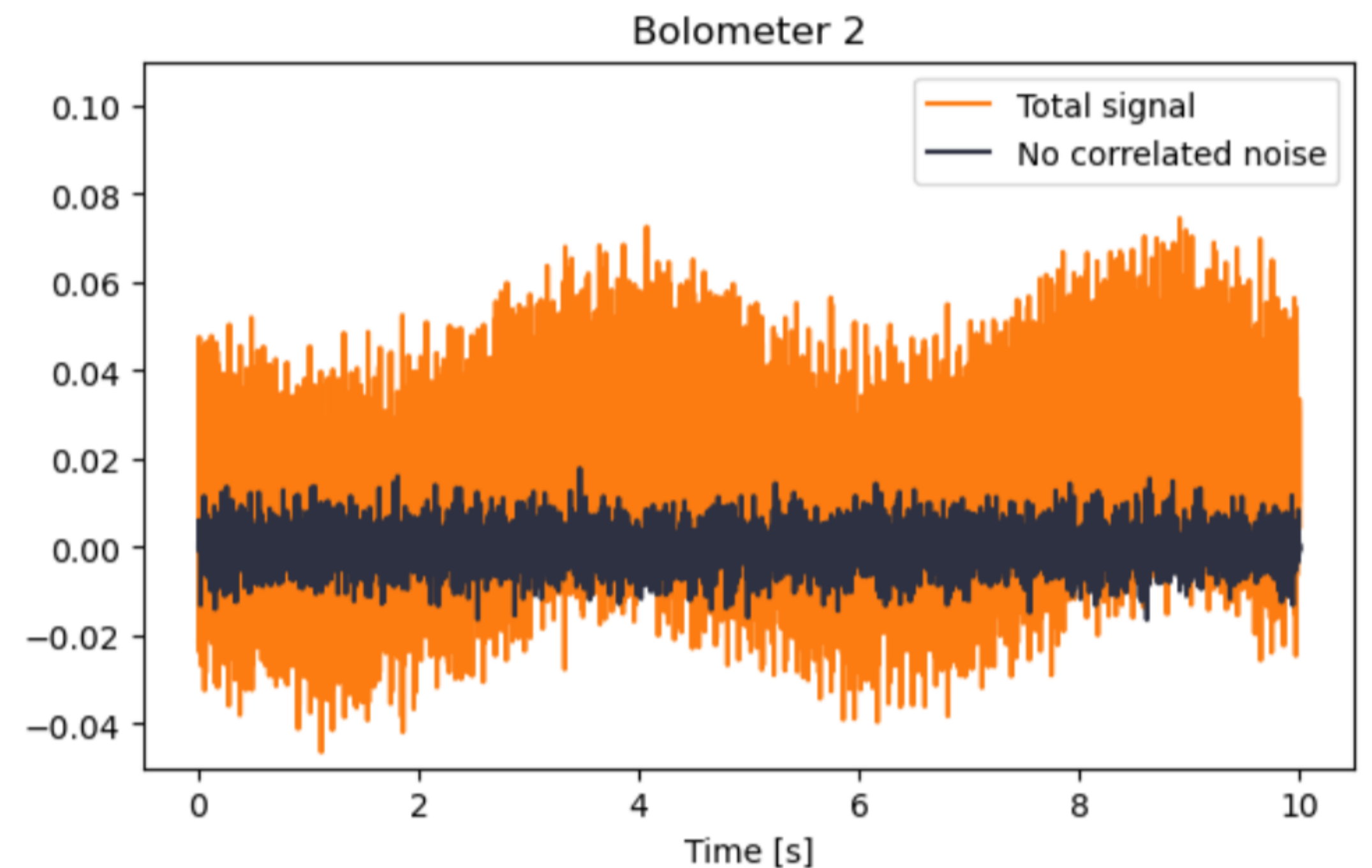
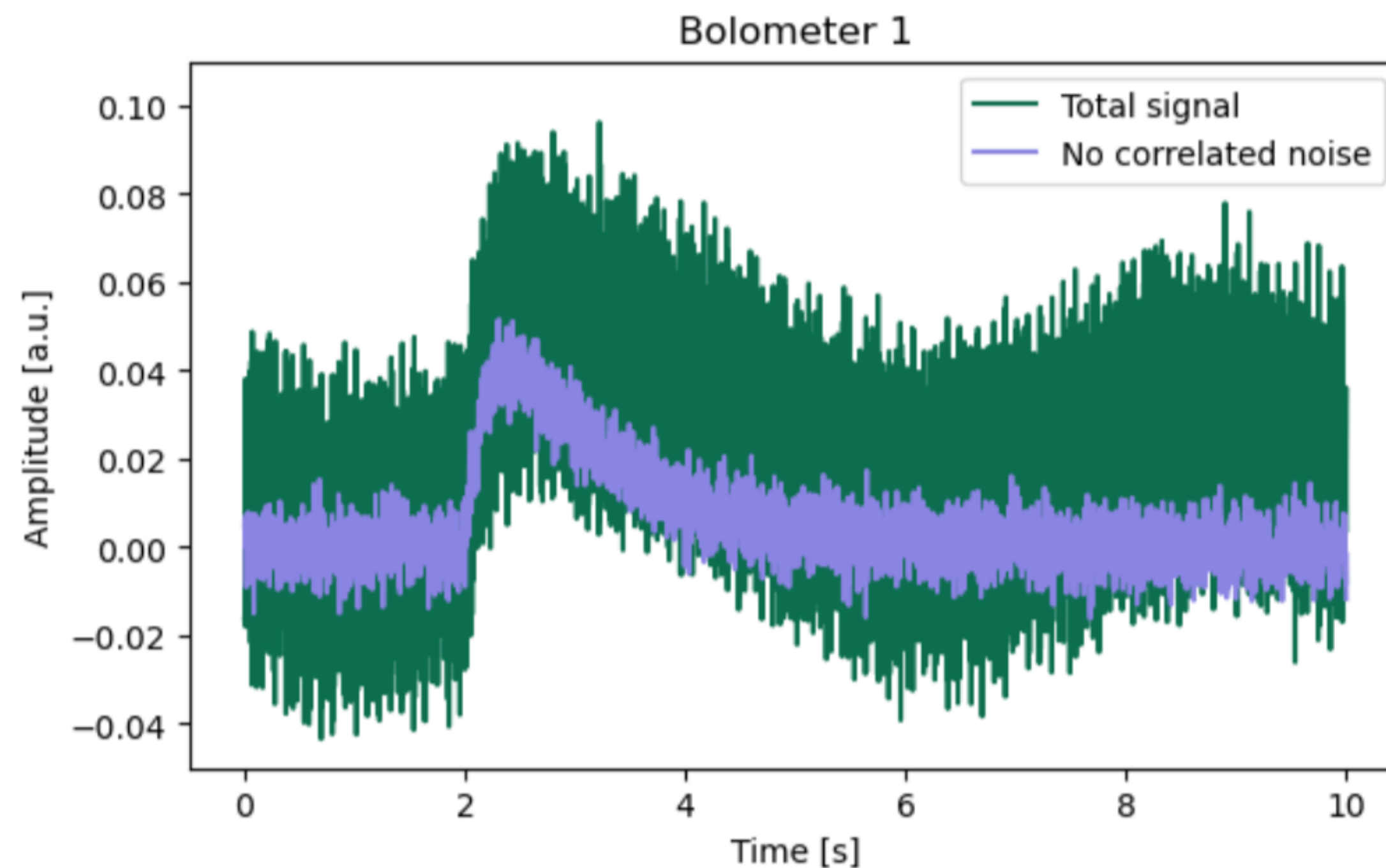


Principal Component Analysis

Now let's make something a little more realistic

Two bolometer time series over 10s with 3 components:

- I. Gaussian baseline fluctuations as a proxy for Johnson-Nyquist noise (independent in each channel)
- II. Sinusoidal acoustic/vibrational noise components at several frequencies (shared between channels)
- III. Small Winkelman pulse at 2s (only appearing in one channel)

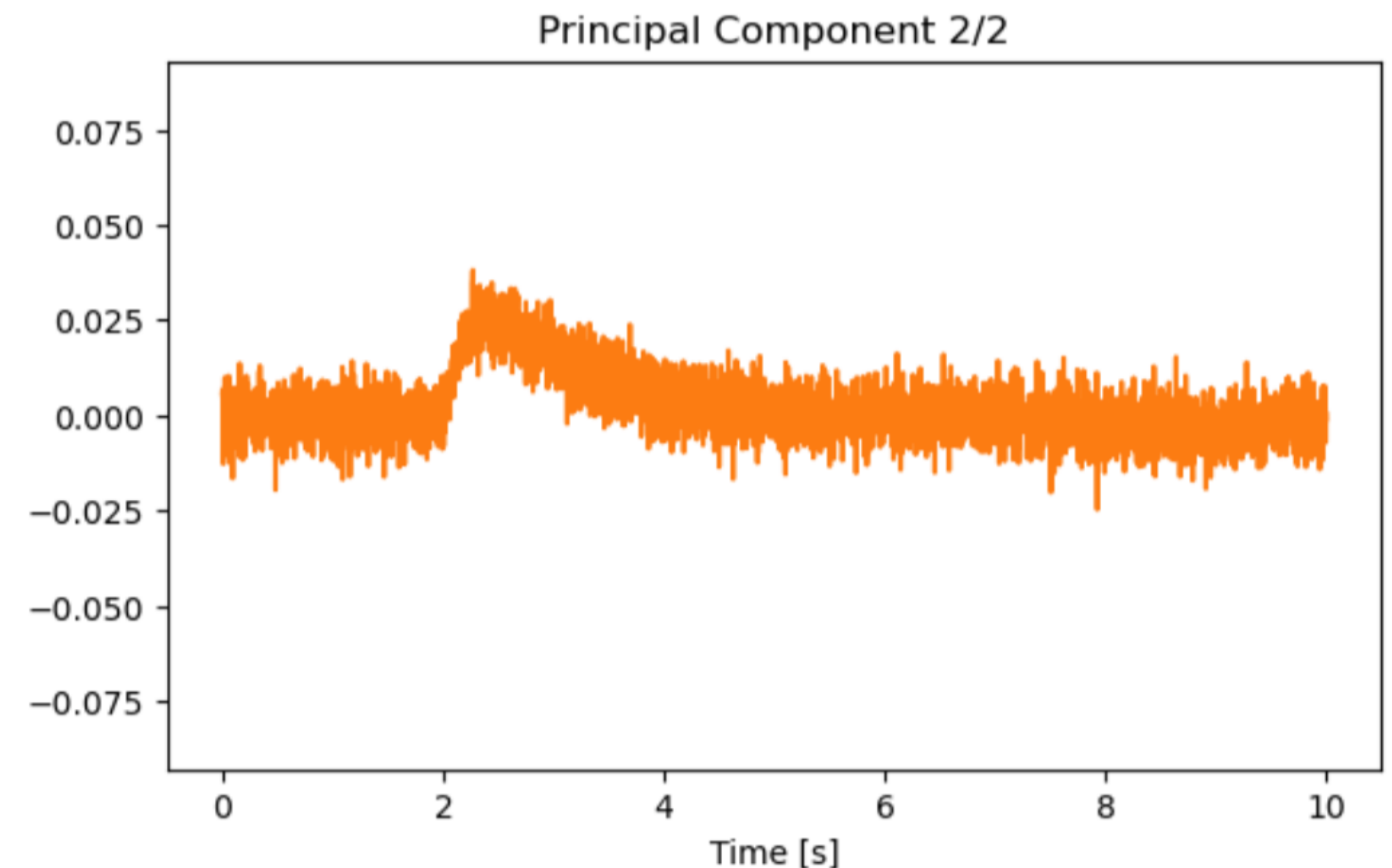
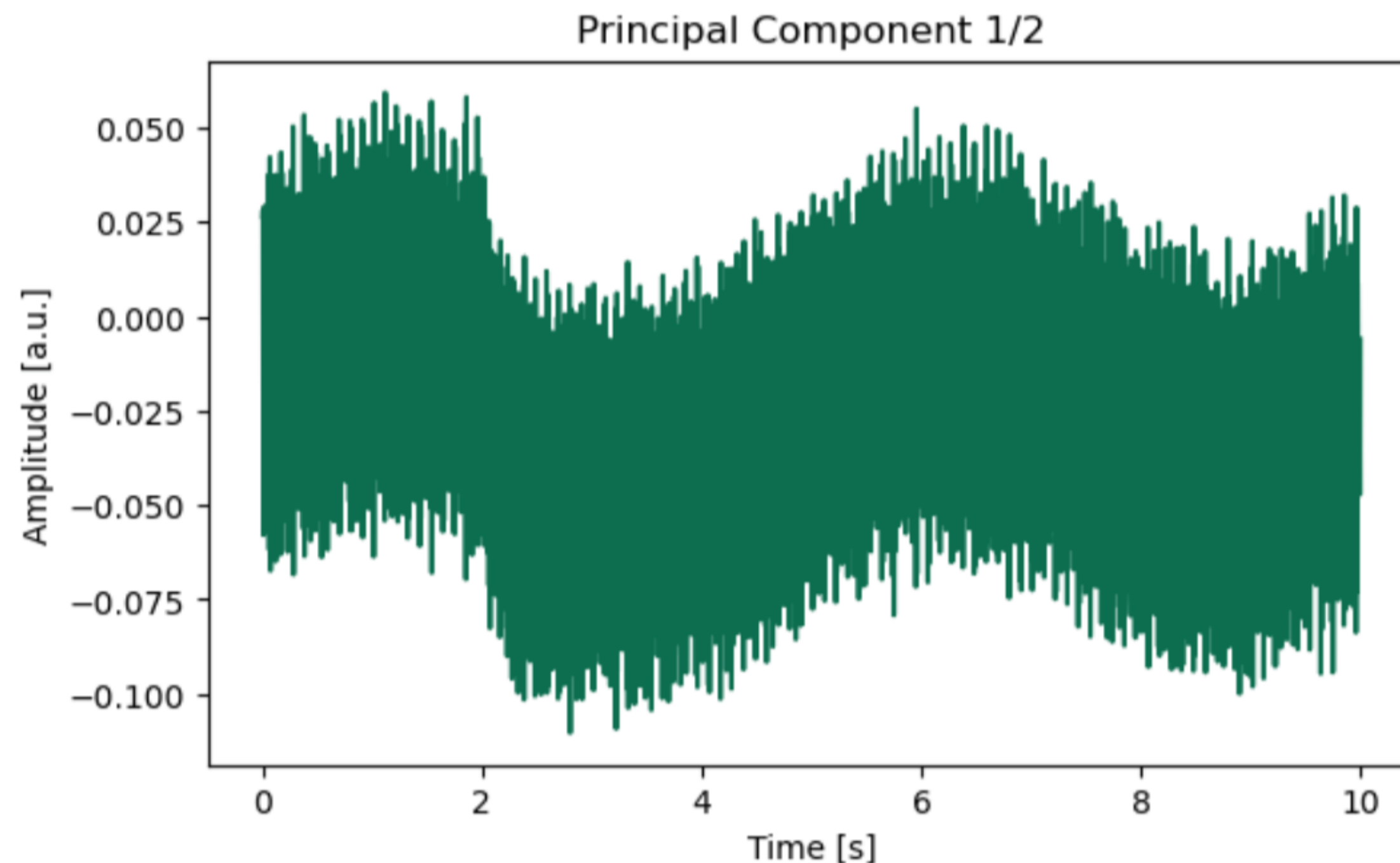


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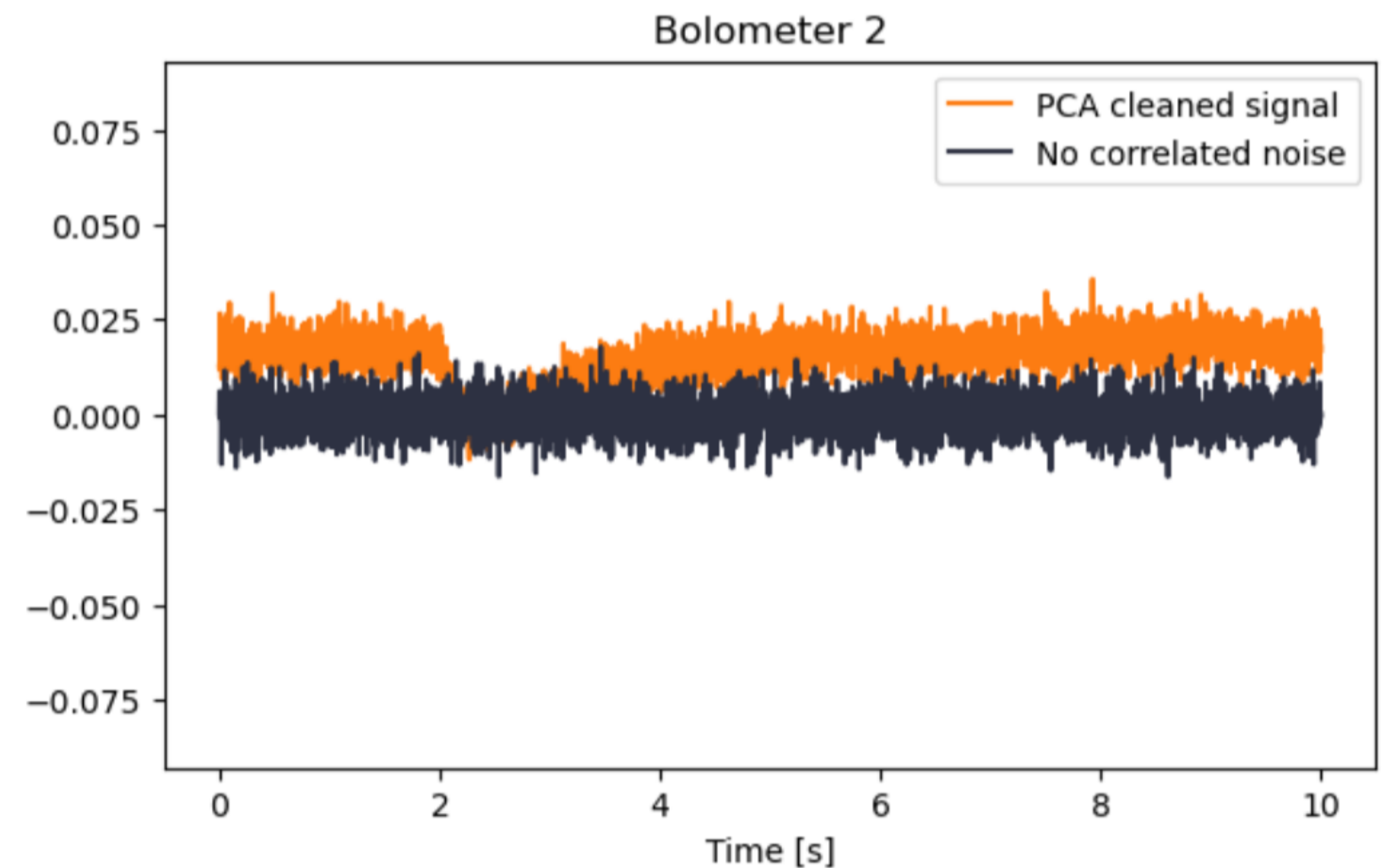
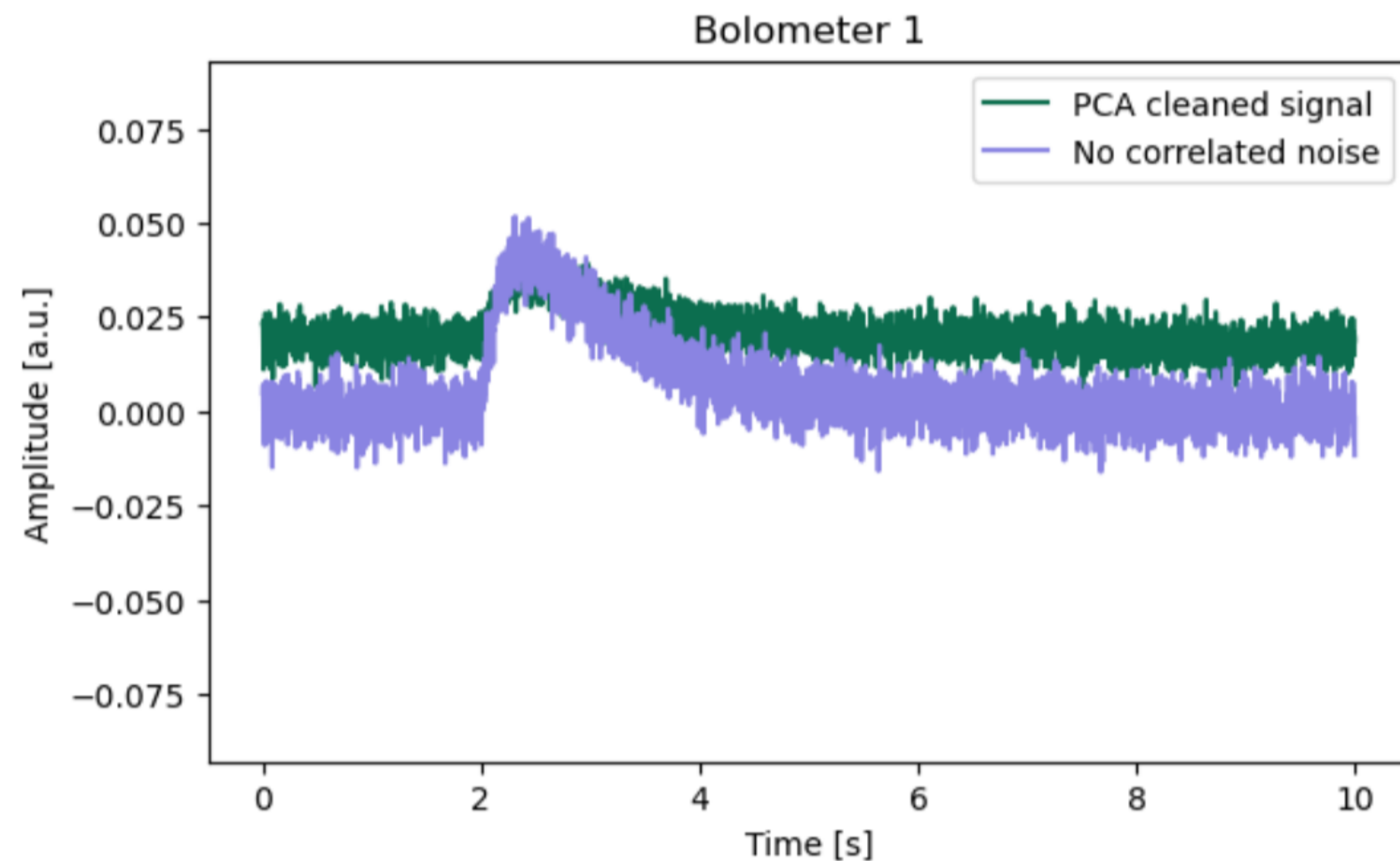


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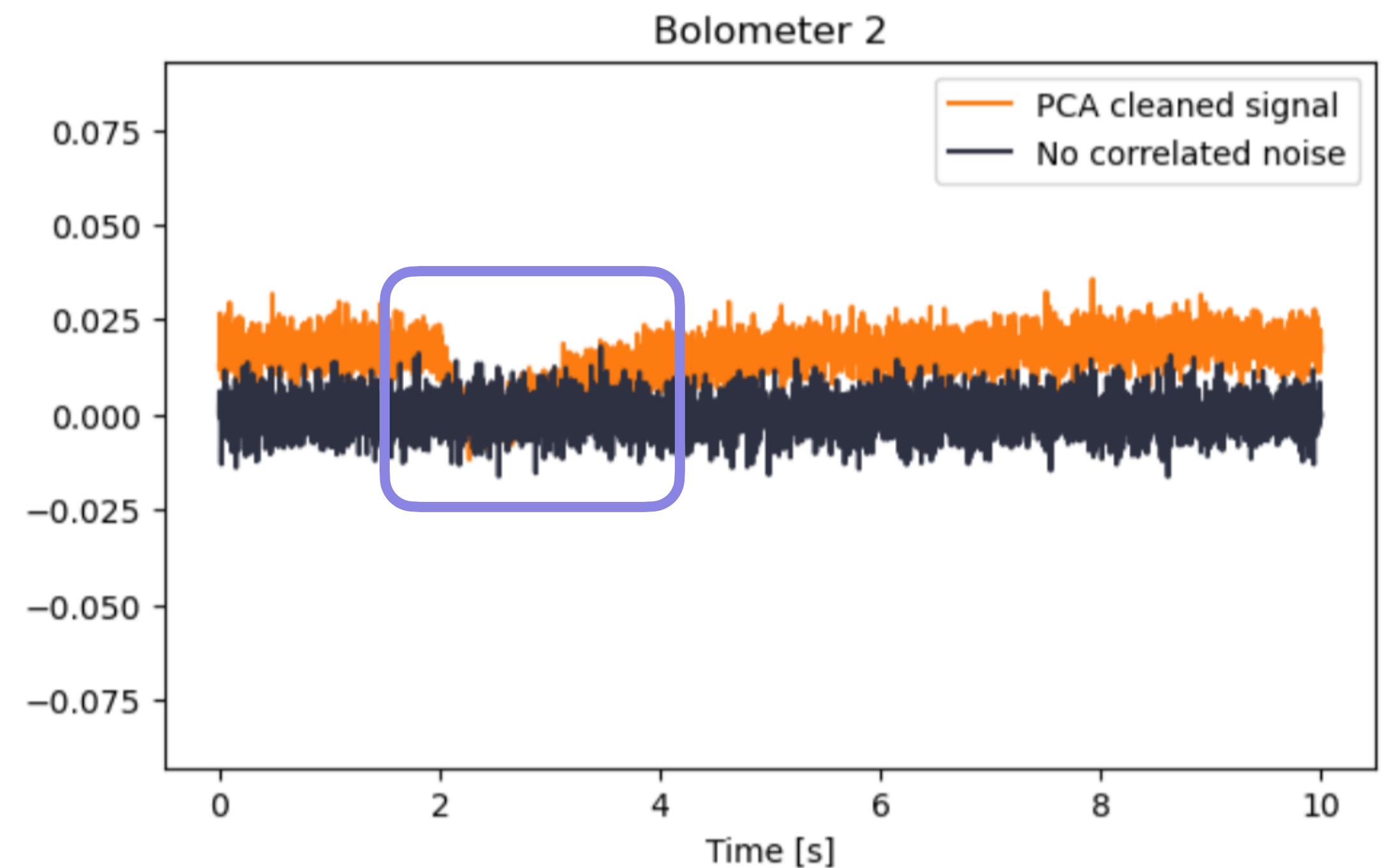
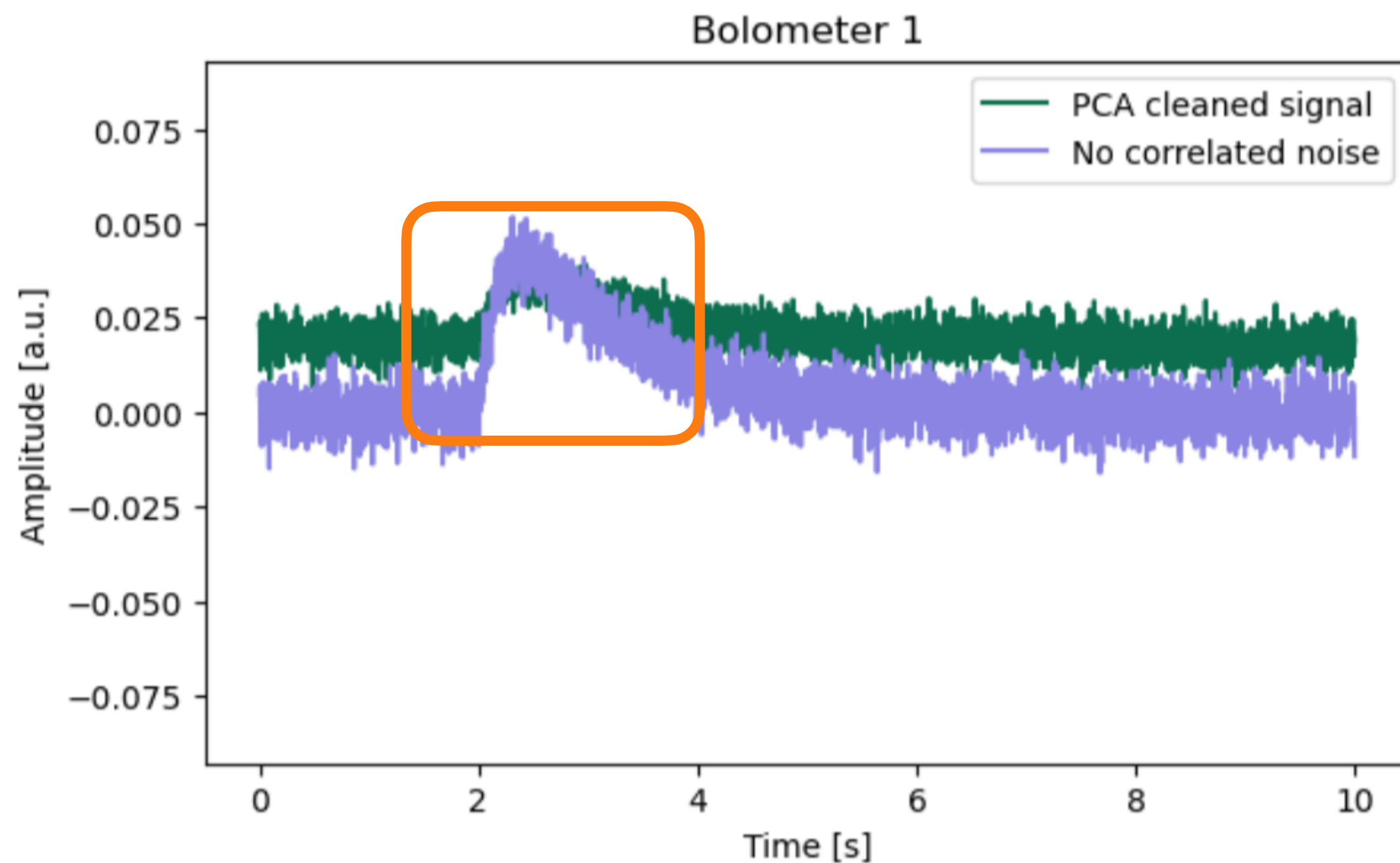
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Principal Component Analysis

Why does this happen?

- Essentially because the Winkelman pulse happens to rise and fall on somewhat similar timescales as one or more of the acoustic noise sinusoid modes
- Some of that correlation ends up being attributed to the acoustic noise and is removed from both bolometer signals when we filter it out

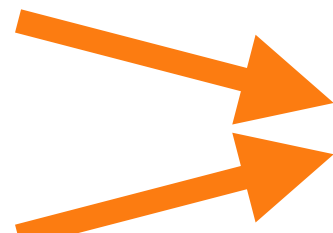


Independent Component Analysis

Intuitively:

Independent component analysis (ICA) is similar to PCA, but with an additional condition that components must be statistically independent (i.e. not just uncorrelated). Start by proposing that observed data $\mathbf{X}$ is the sum of physical sources $\mathbf{S}$ with some mixing $\mathbf{M}$

$$\mathbf{X} = \begin{bmatrix} a_1 & a_2 & a_3 & \dots & a_N \\ b_1 & b_2 & b_3 & \dots & b_N \end{bmatrix} = \mathbf{M} \mathbf{S}$$

Where $\mathbf{S} = \begin{bmatrix} \eta_1 & \eta_2 & \eta_3 & \dots & \eta_N \\ \zeta_1 & \zeta_2 & \zeta_3 & \dots & \zeta_N \end{bmatrix}$  ***Pure, independent physics signals***

Independent Component Analysis

As with PCA:

Assuming:

$$E[\eta] = E[\zeta] = 0$$

$$SS^{\top} = I$$

$$\frac{1}{N-1}XX^{\top} = C = \frac{1}{N-1}MM^{\top} = V\Lambda V^{\top}$$

Independent Component Analysis

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$$\frac{1}{N-1}XX^T = C = \frac{1}{N-1}MM^T = V\Lambda V^T$$

But now we go further:

Because C is symmetric and positive definite, we can write

$$C = (V\Lambda^{1/2}V^T)(V\Lambda^{1/2}V^T)^T \longrightarrow \text{So } M = V\Lambda^{1/2}V^T?$$

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More generally:

For any orthogonal matrix Q

$$C = (V\Lambda^{1/2}Q)(V\Lambda^{1/2}Q)^T = V\Lambda V^T \Rightarrow \therefore M = V\Lambda^{1/2}Q$$

Independent Component Analysis

The goal with ICA:

$$X = MS$$

$$= (V\Lambda^{1/2}Q) S$$

$$\therefore S = (Q^T \Lambda^{-1/2} V^T) X$$

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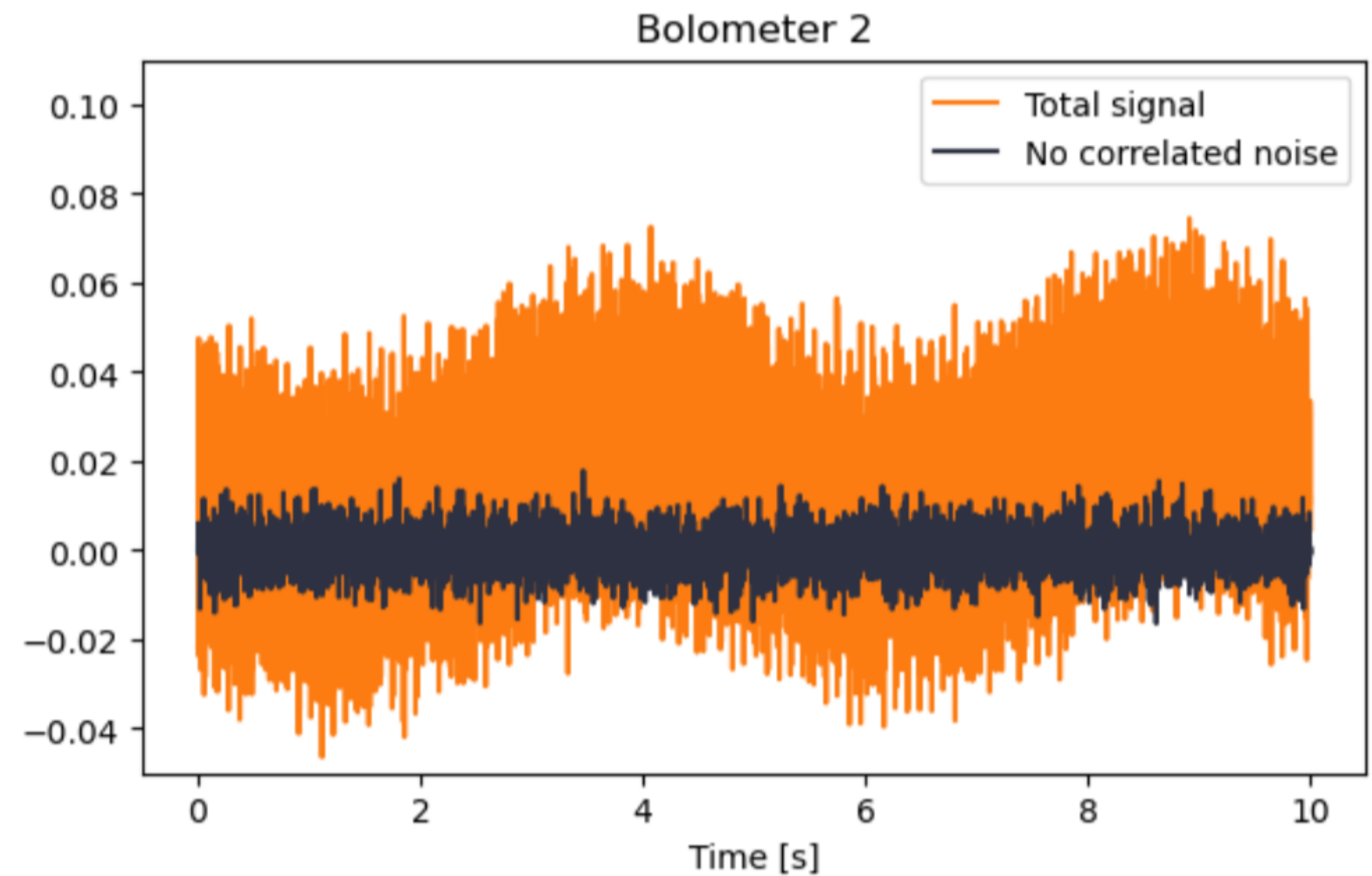
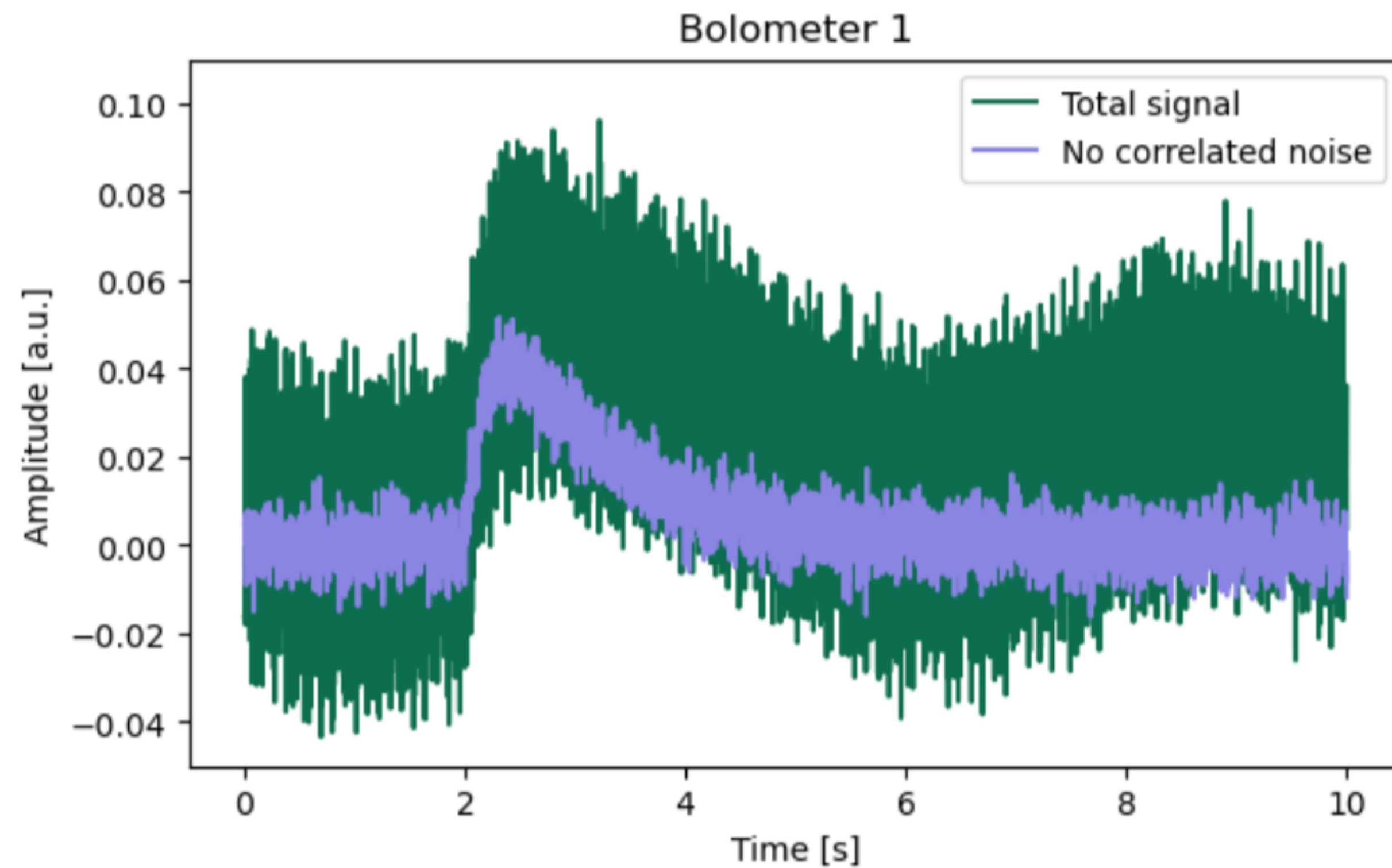
What does this mean?

In PCA, we rotate into a data-space where variance is maximised (i.e. minimising off-diagonal elements of the covariance matrix), resulting in principal components that are *uncorrelated* but not necessarily *independent*. To achieve the latter, we need to maximise higher-order central moments alongside variance.



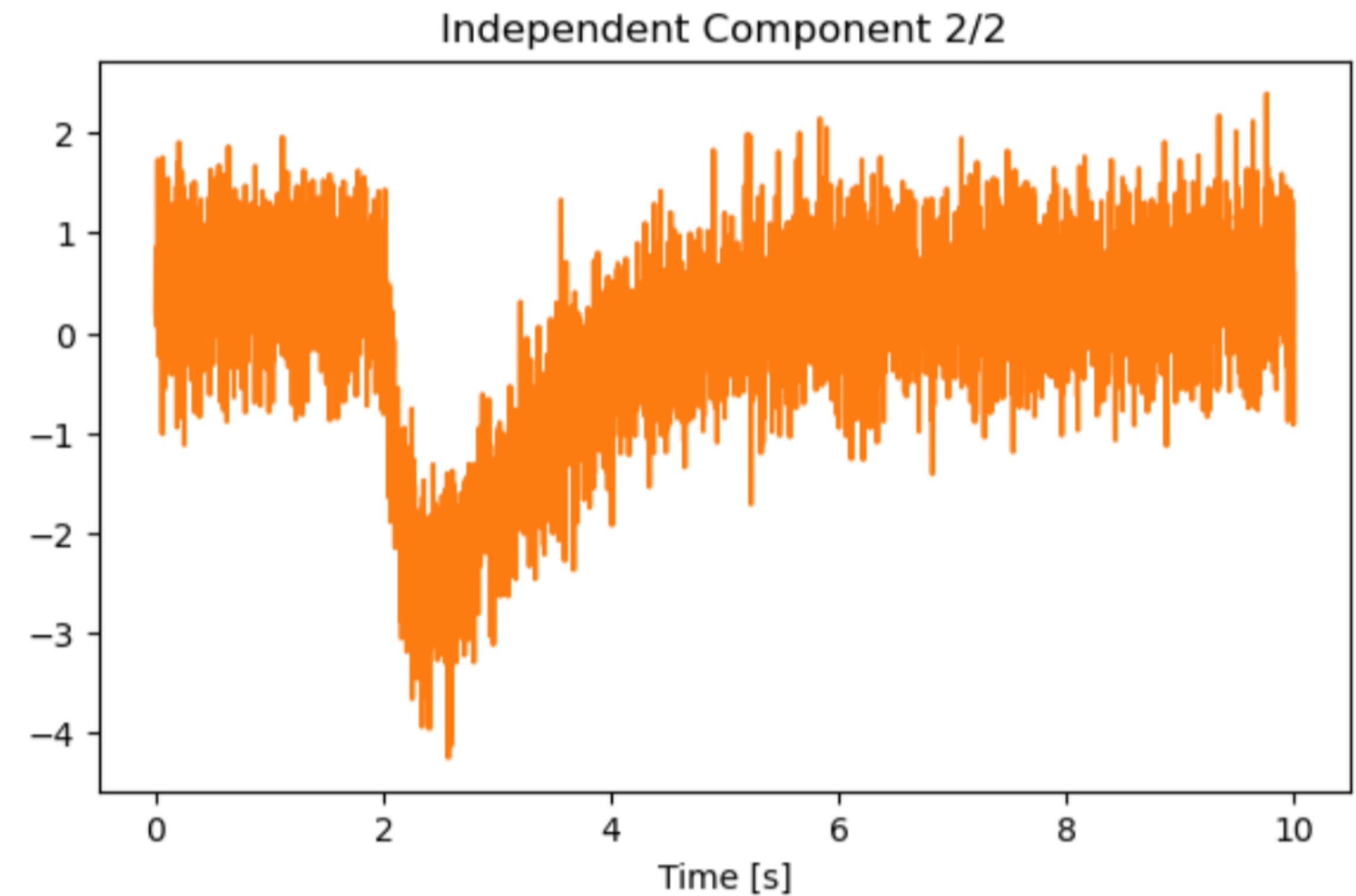
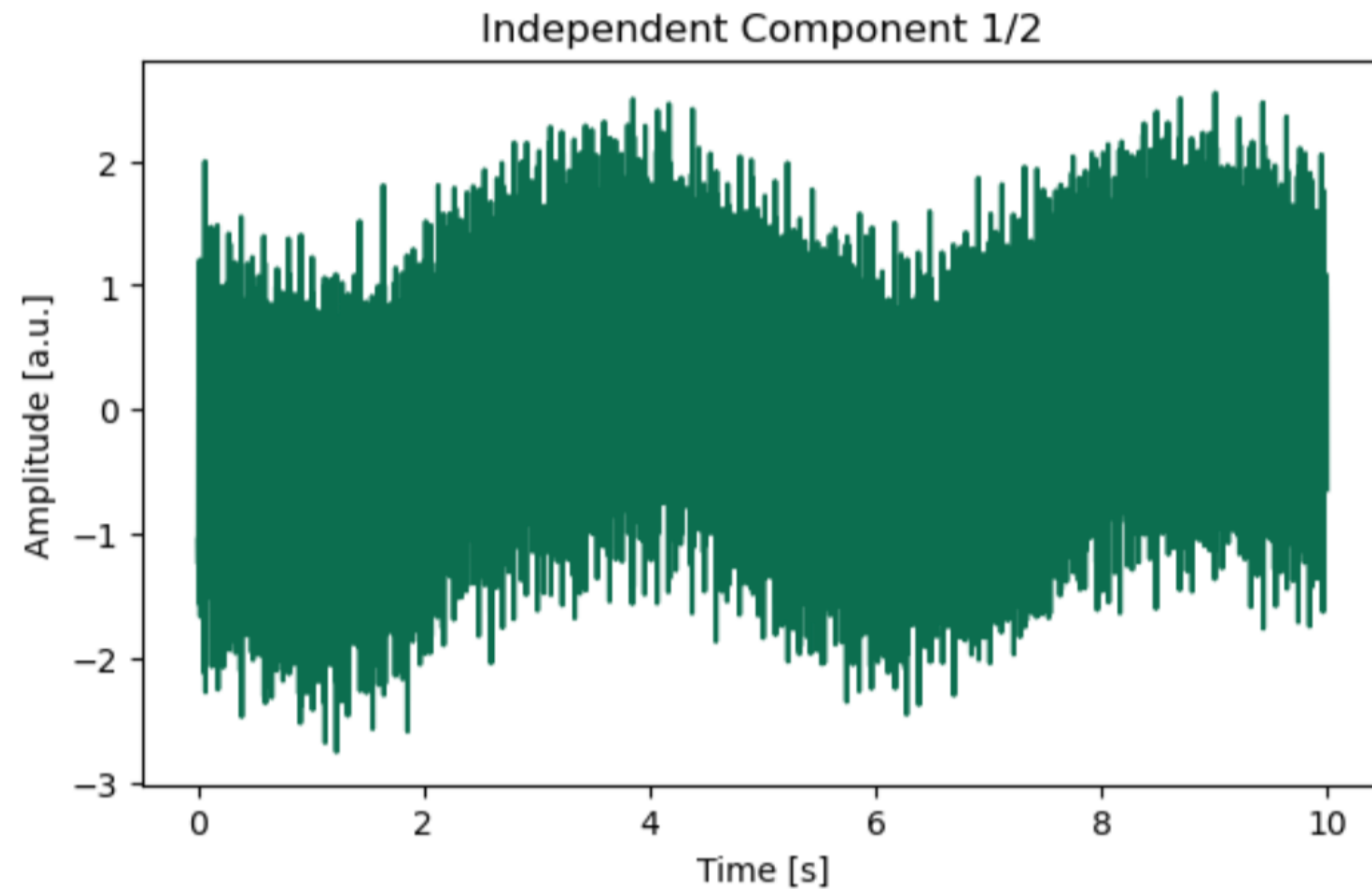
Independent Component Analysis

Let's try ICA on the same test setup as PCA



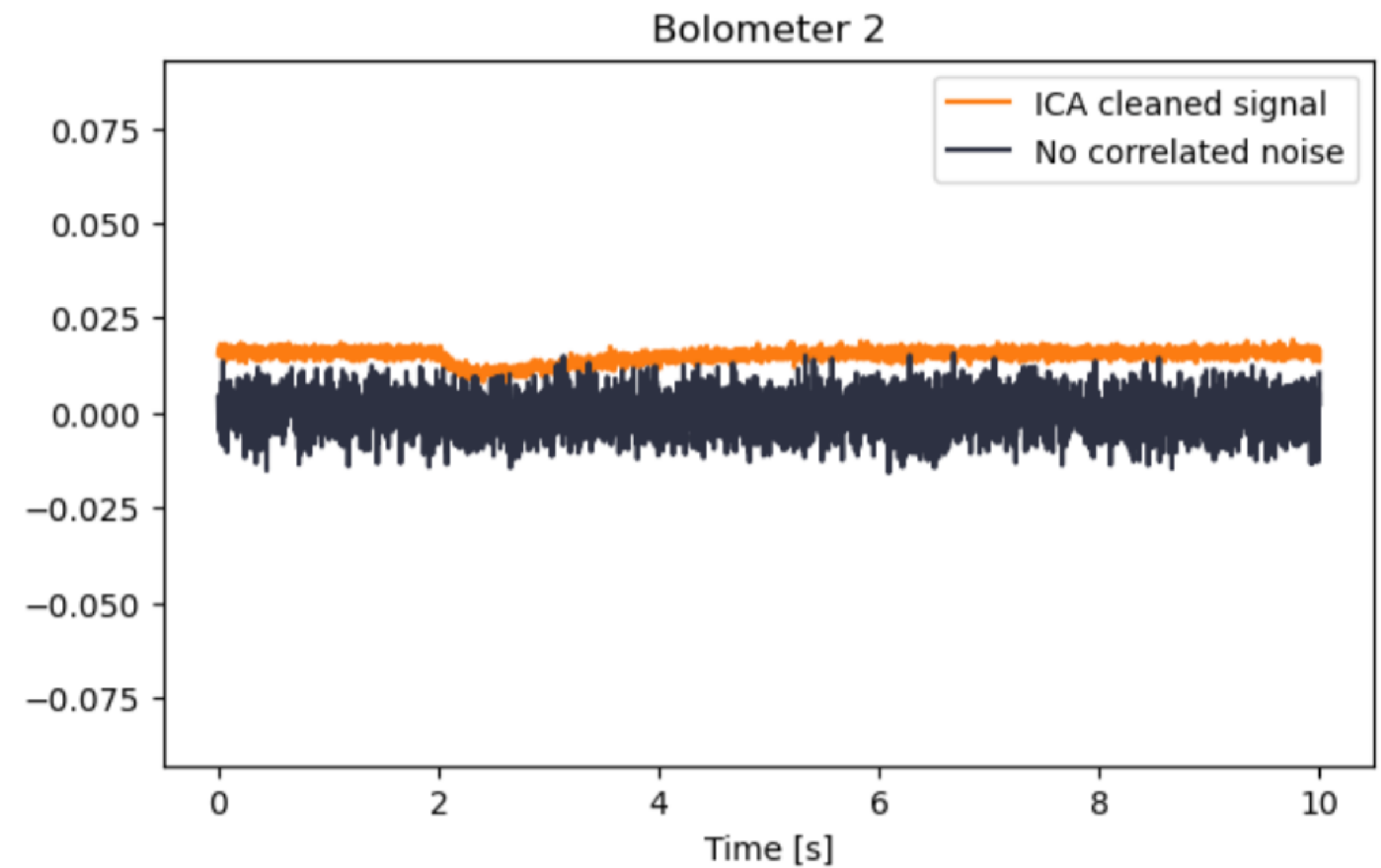
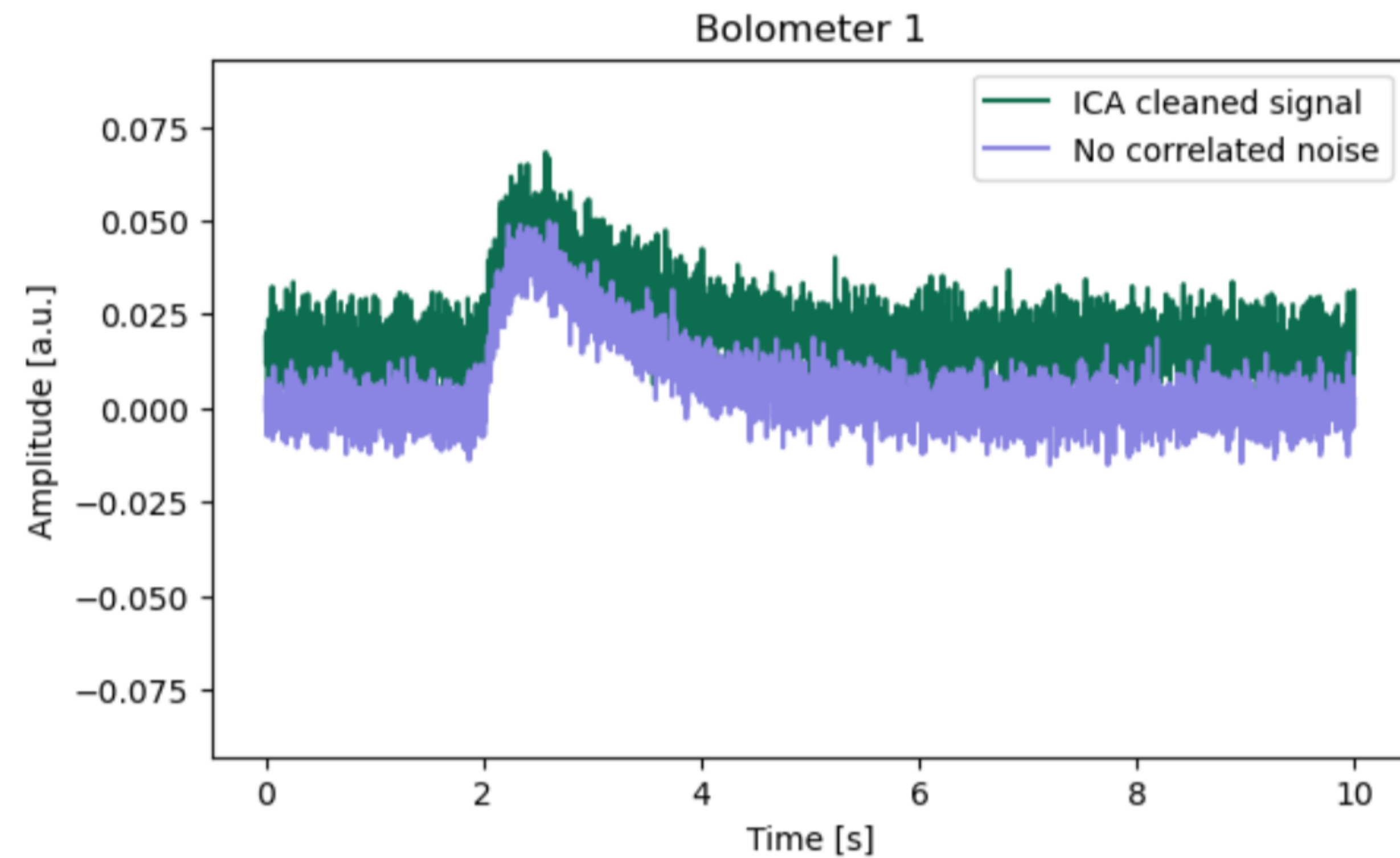
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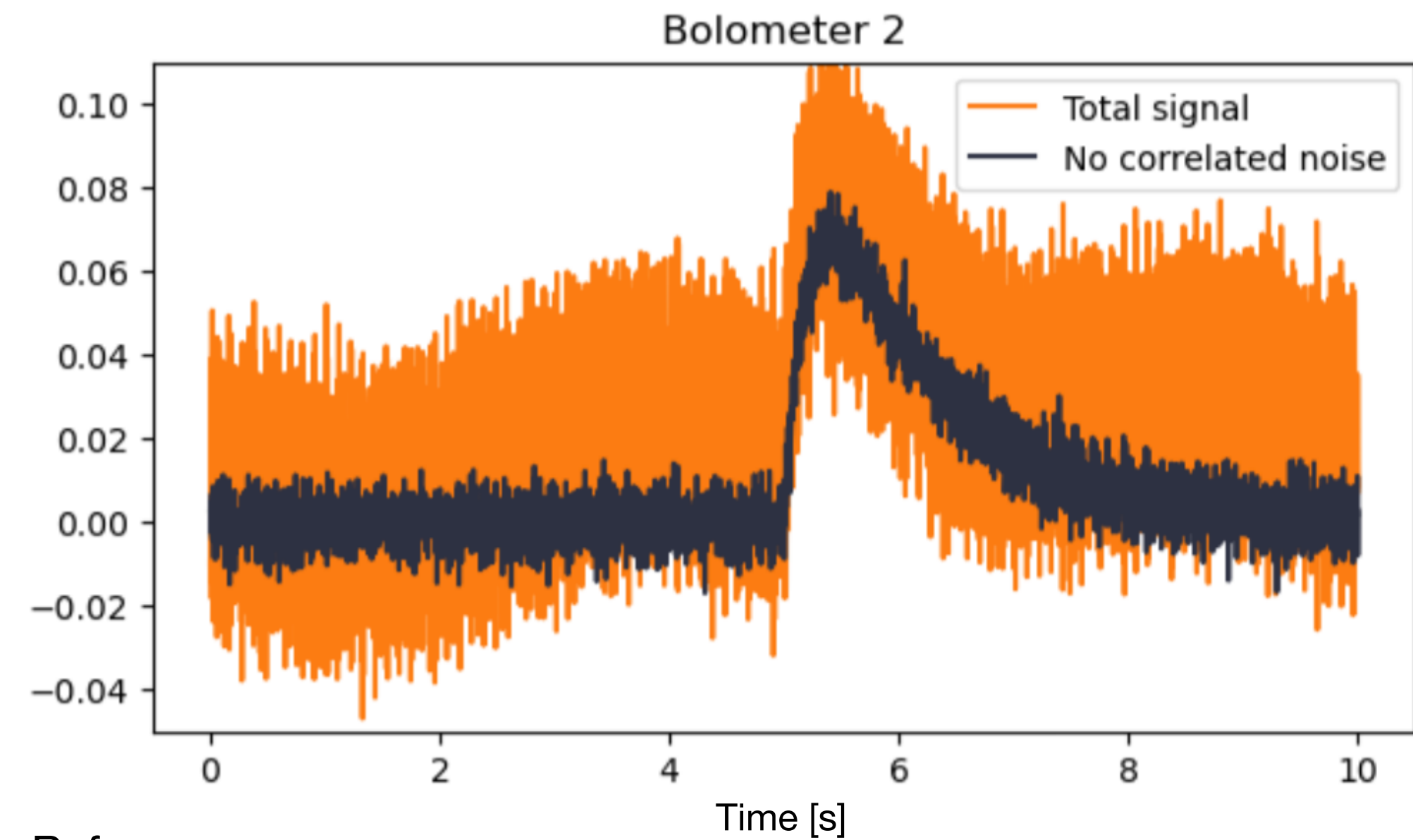
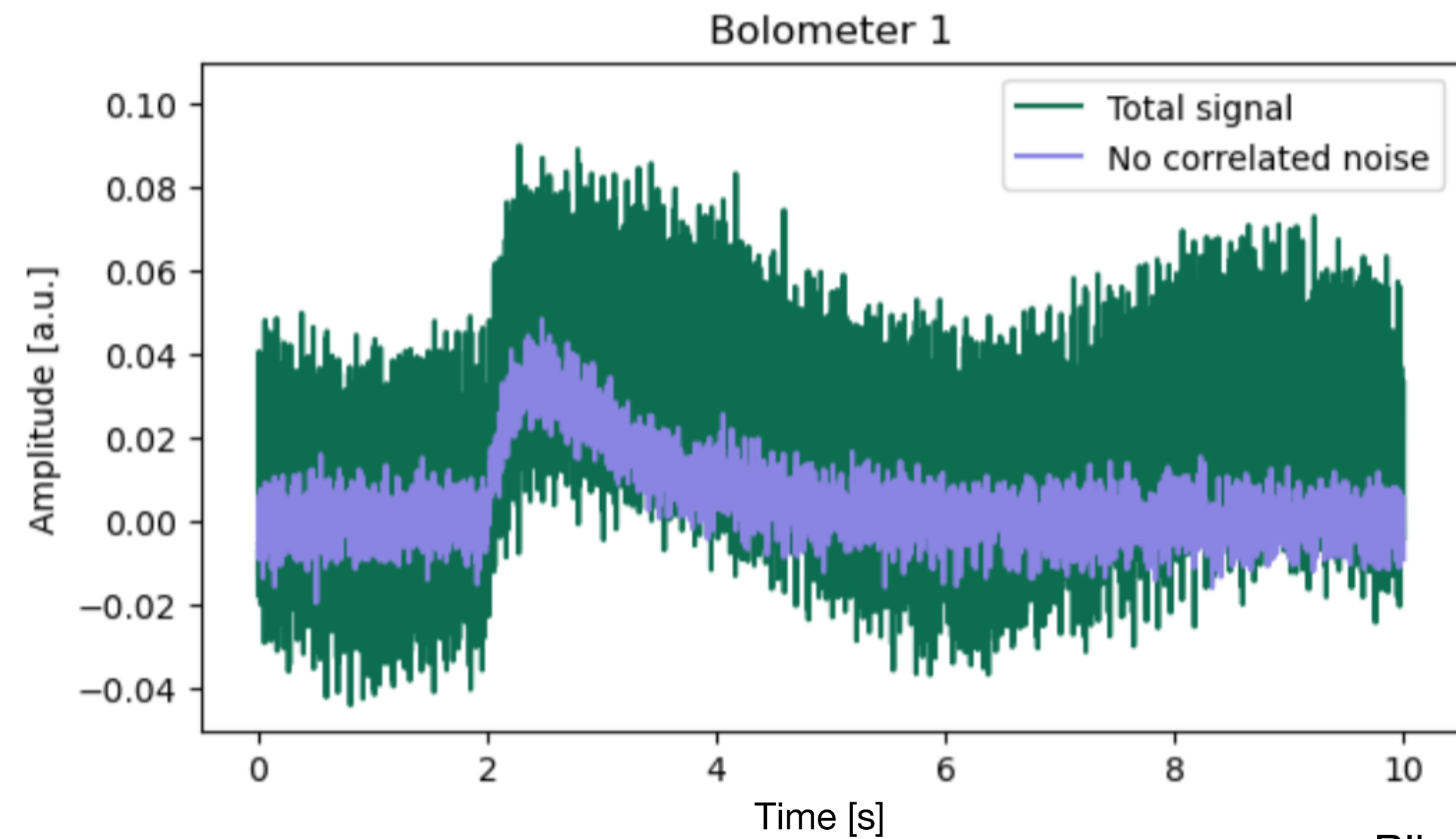


Independent Component Analysis

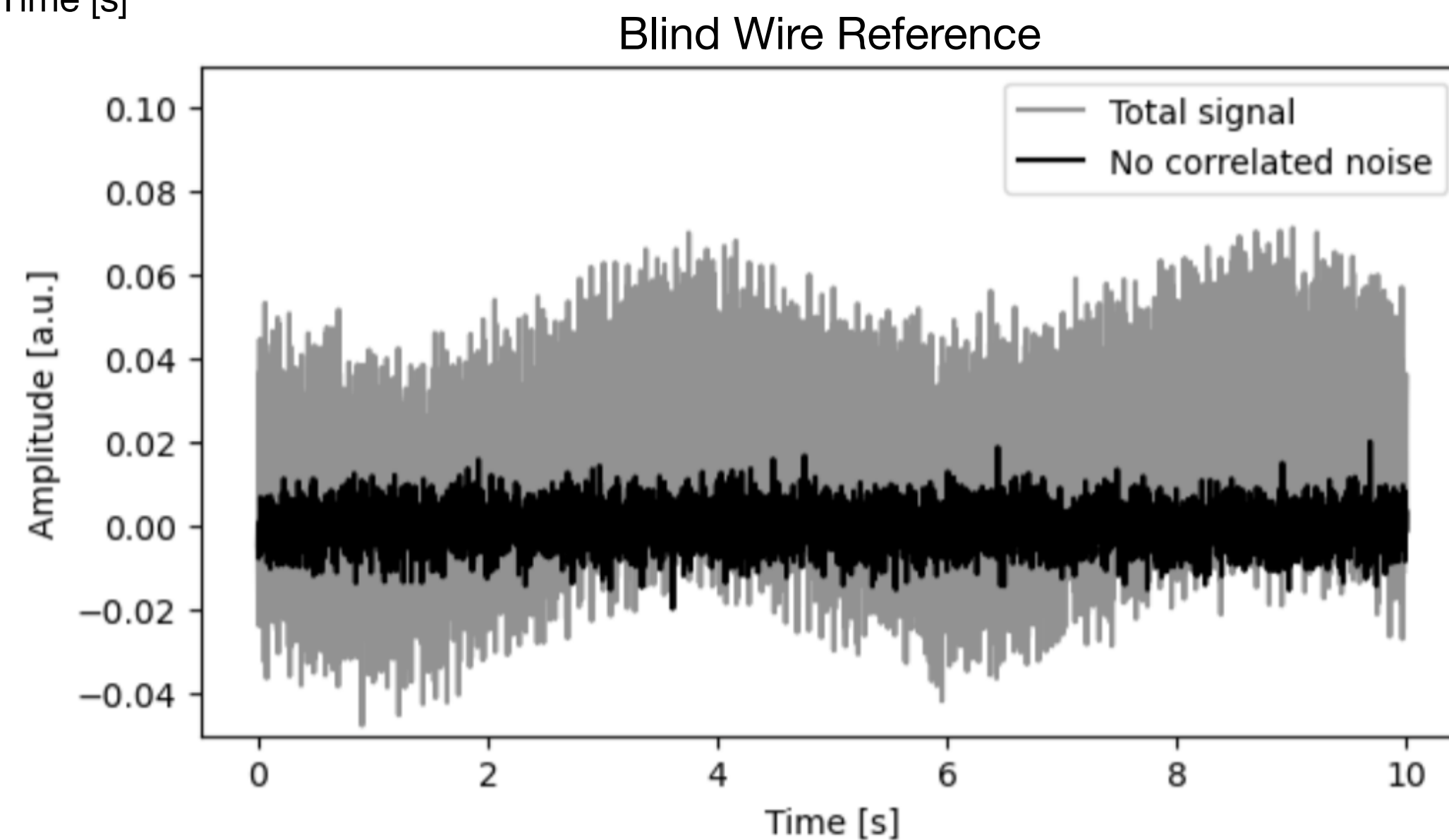
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Independent Component Analysis

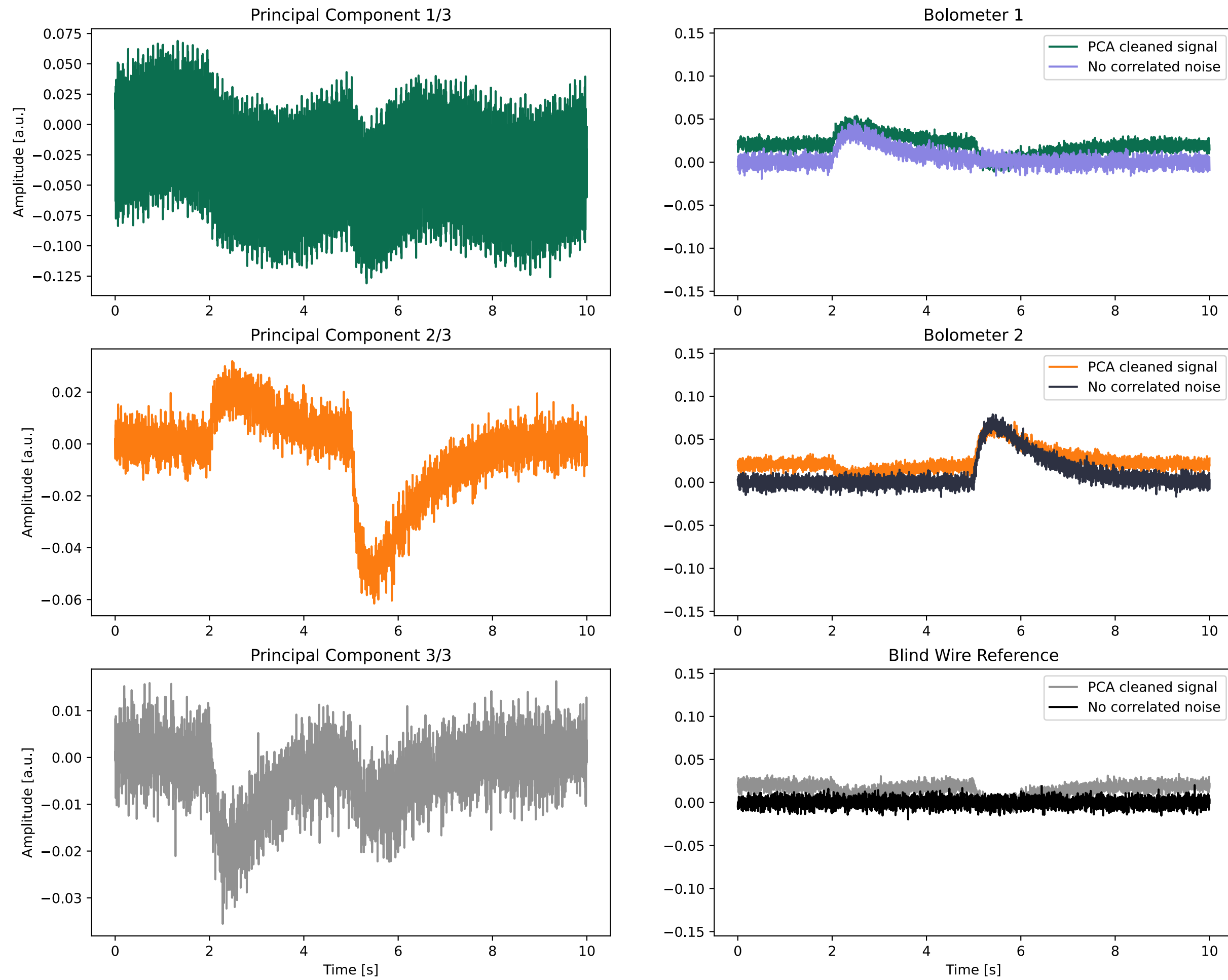


*Now let's try adding
a 3rd signal*

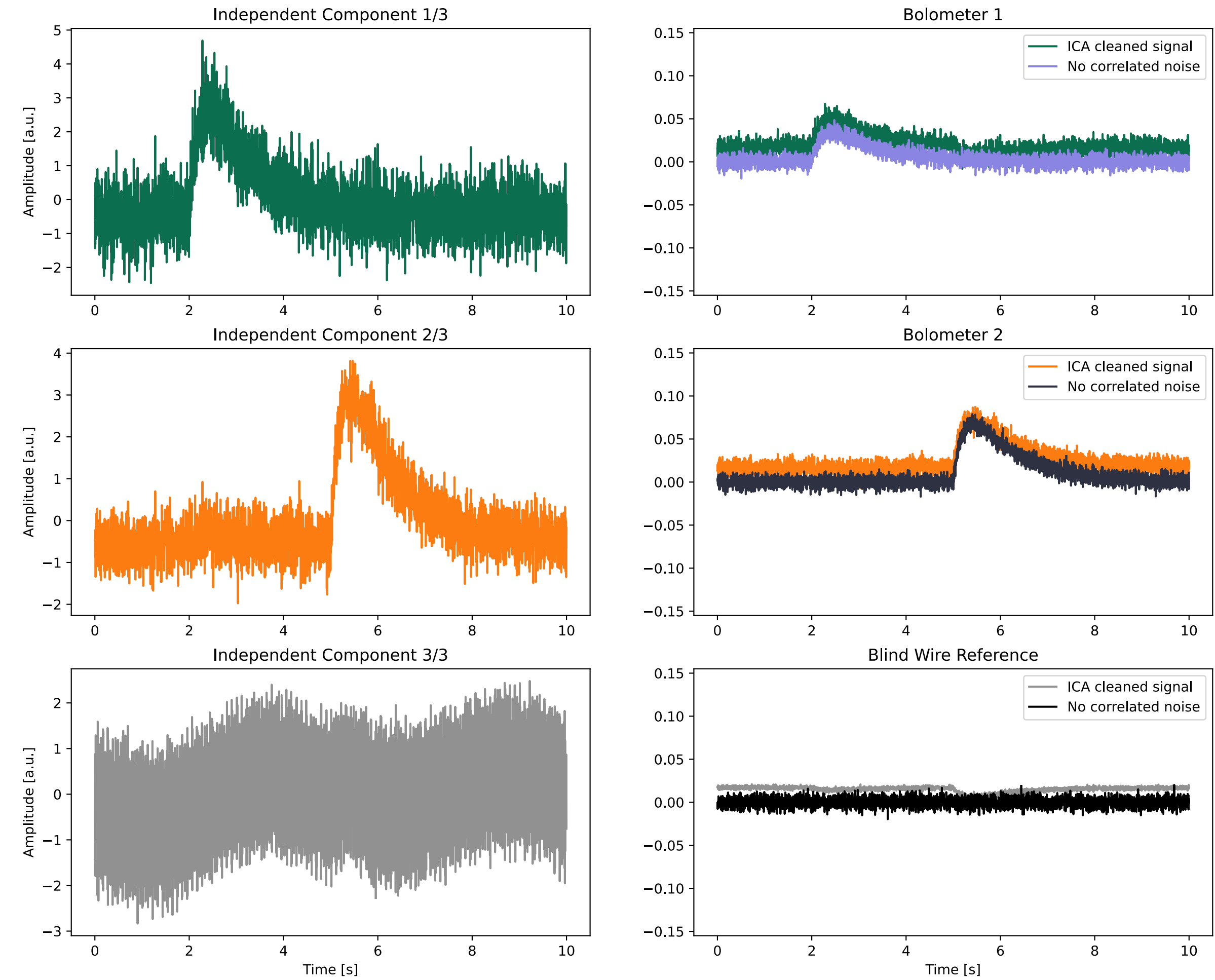


Independent Component Analysis

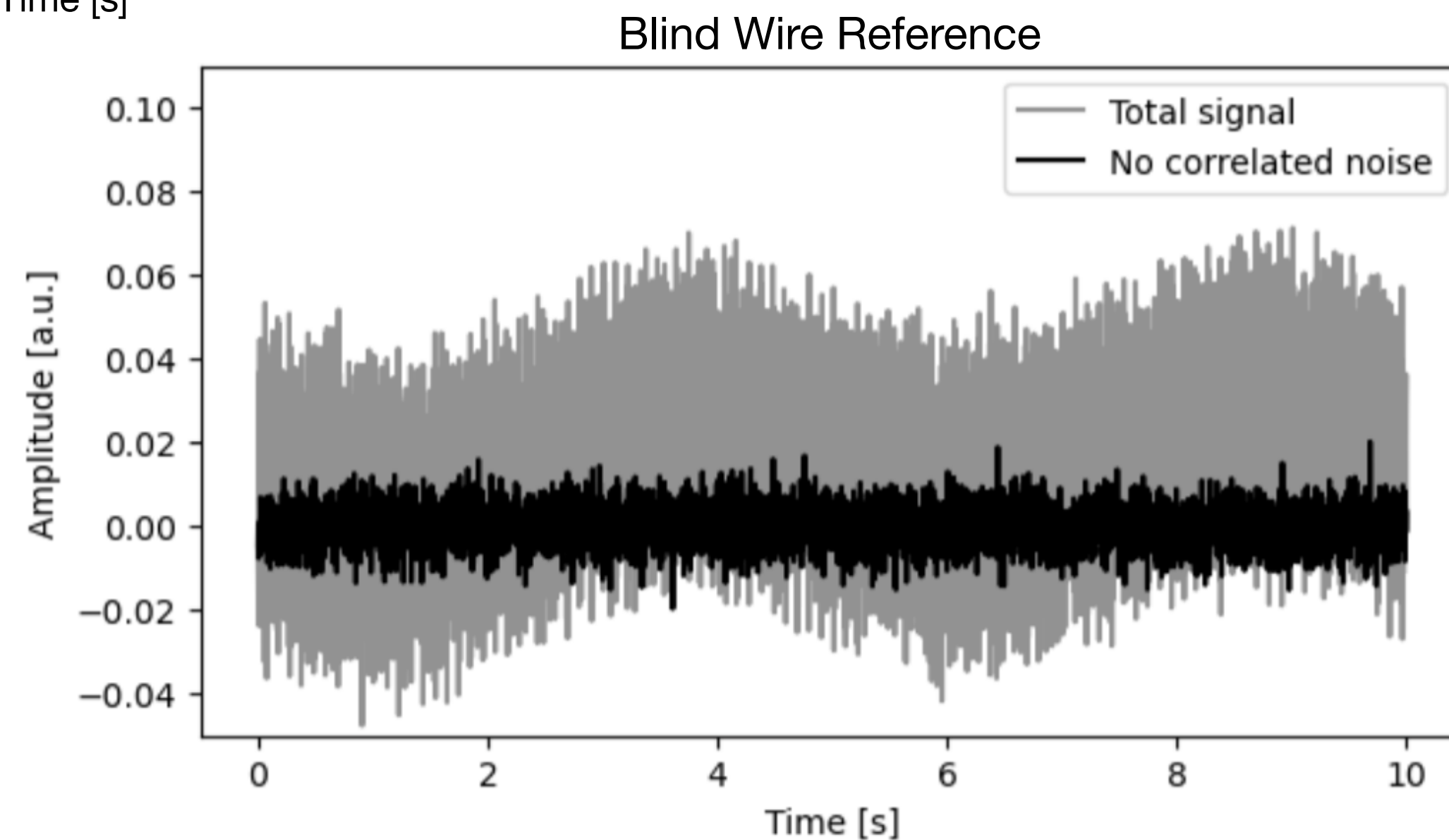
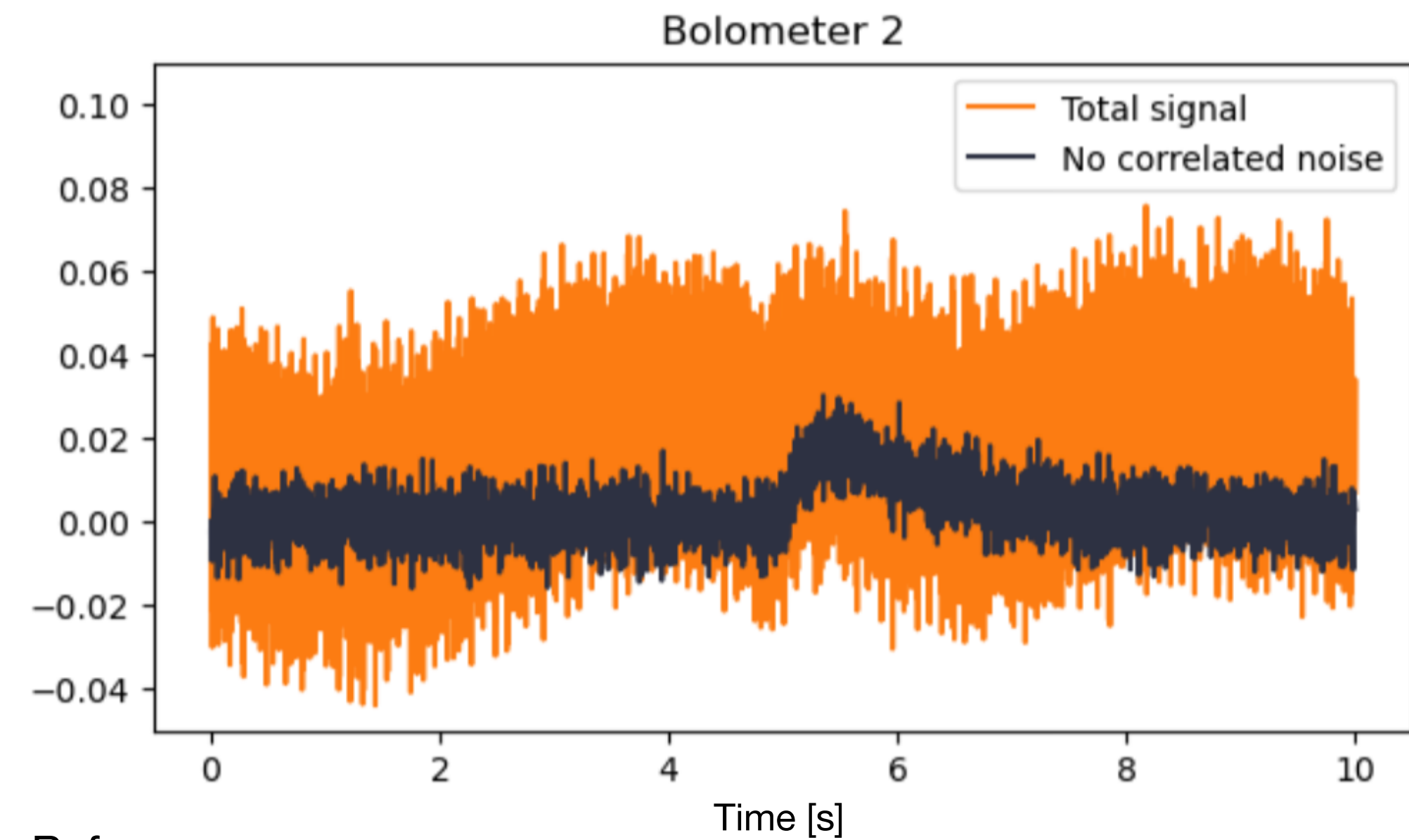
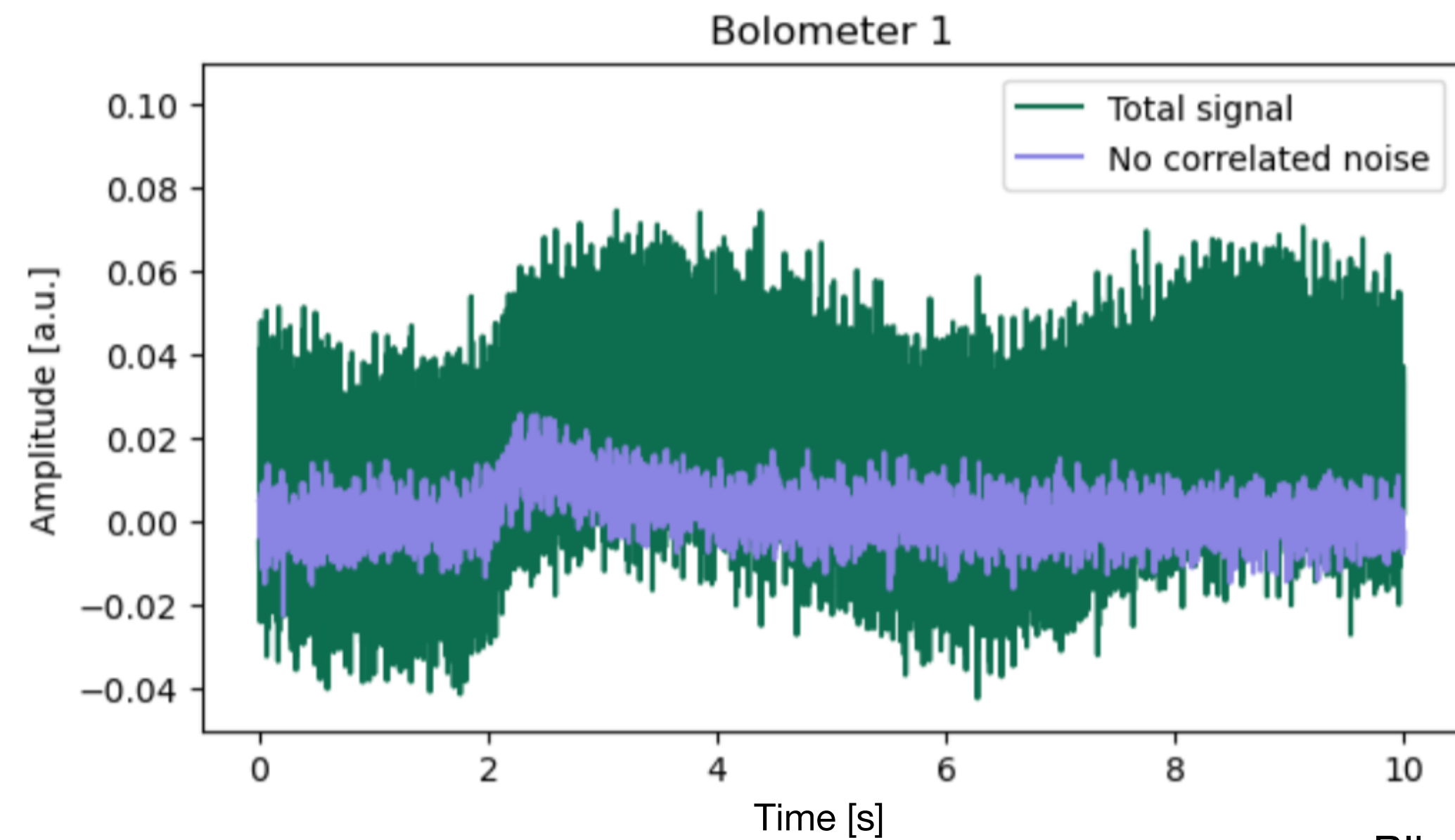
With PCA



With ICA



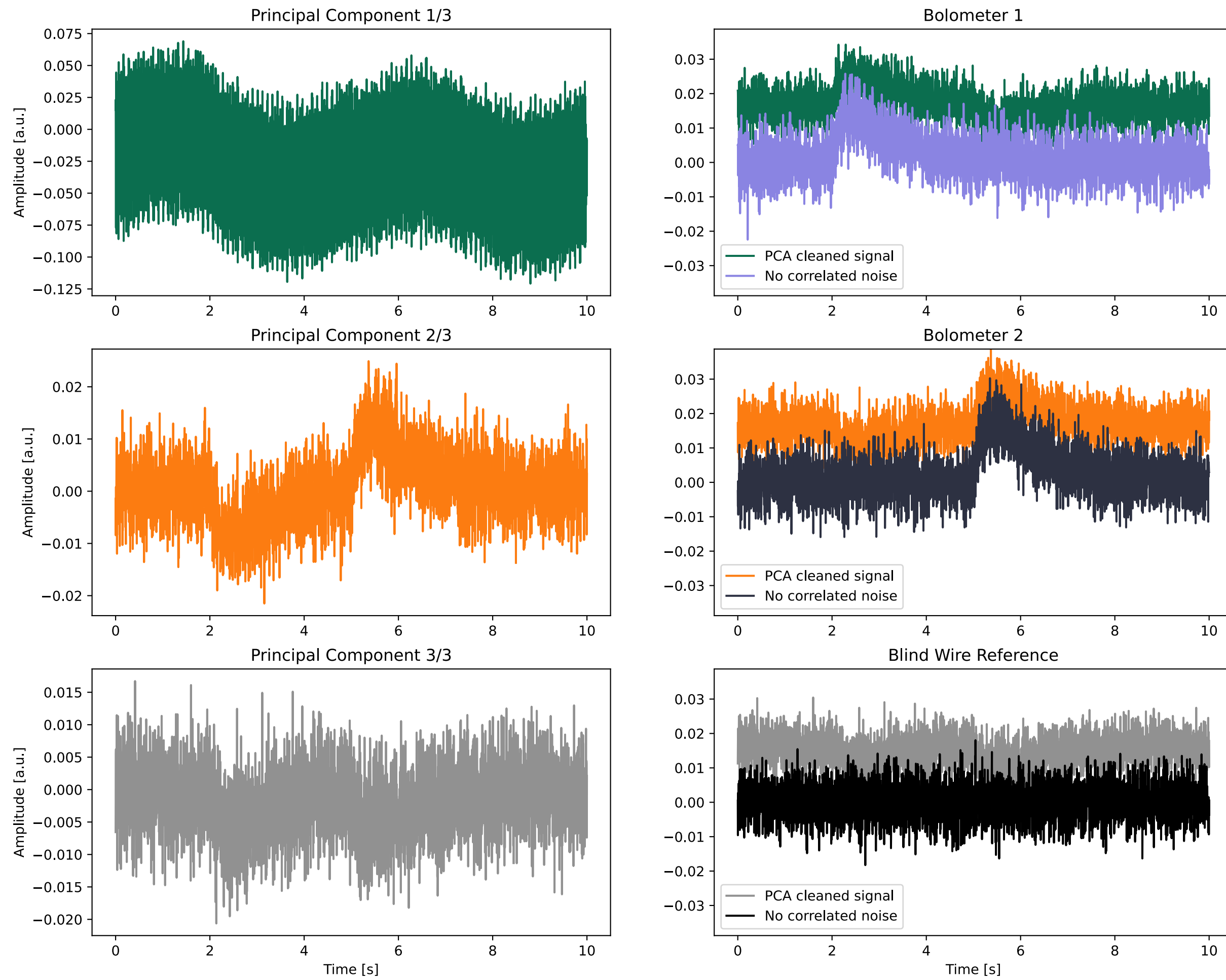
Independent Component Analysis



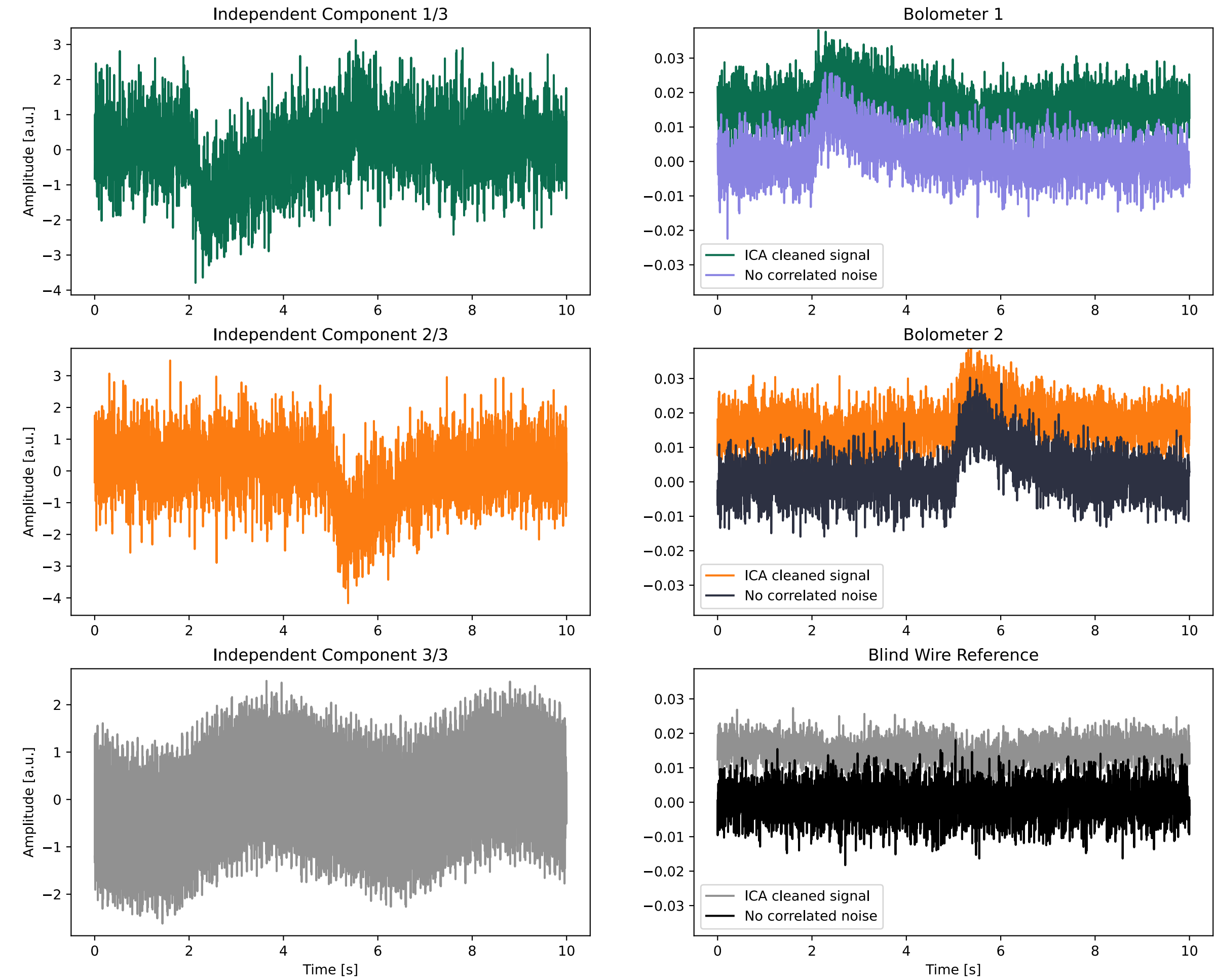
Now let's try smaller signals

Independent Component Analysis

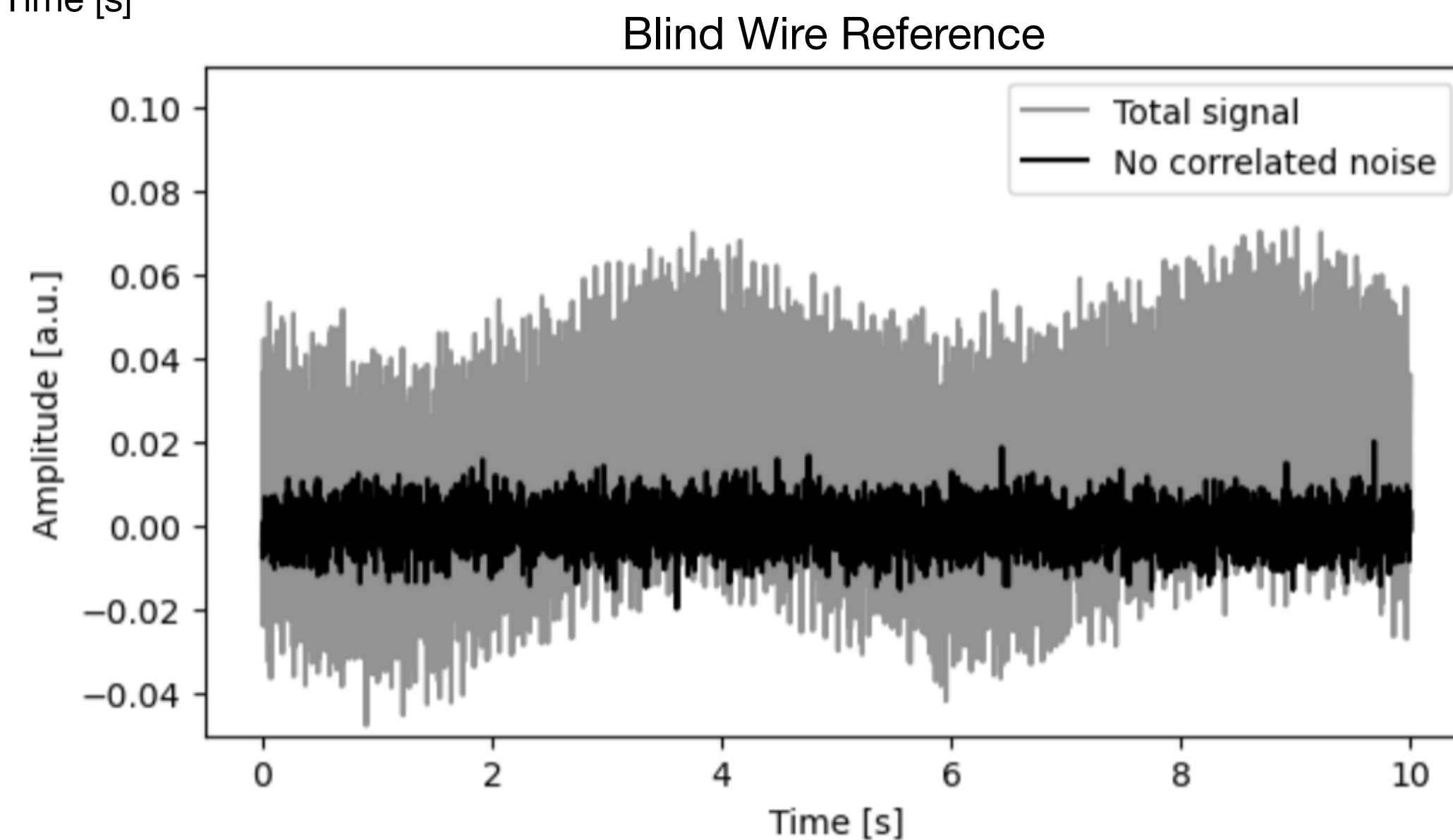
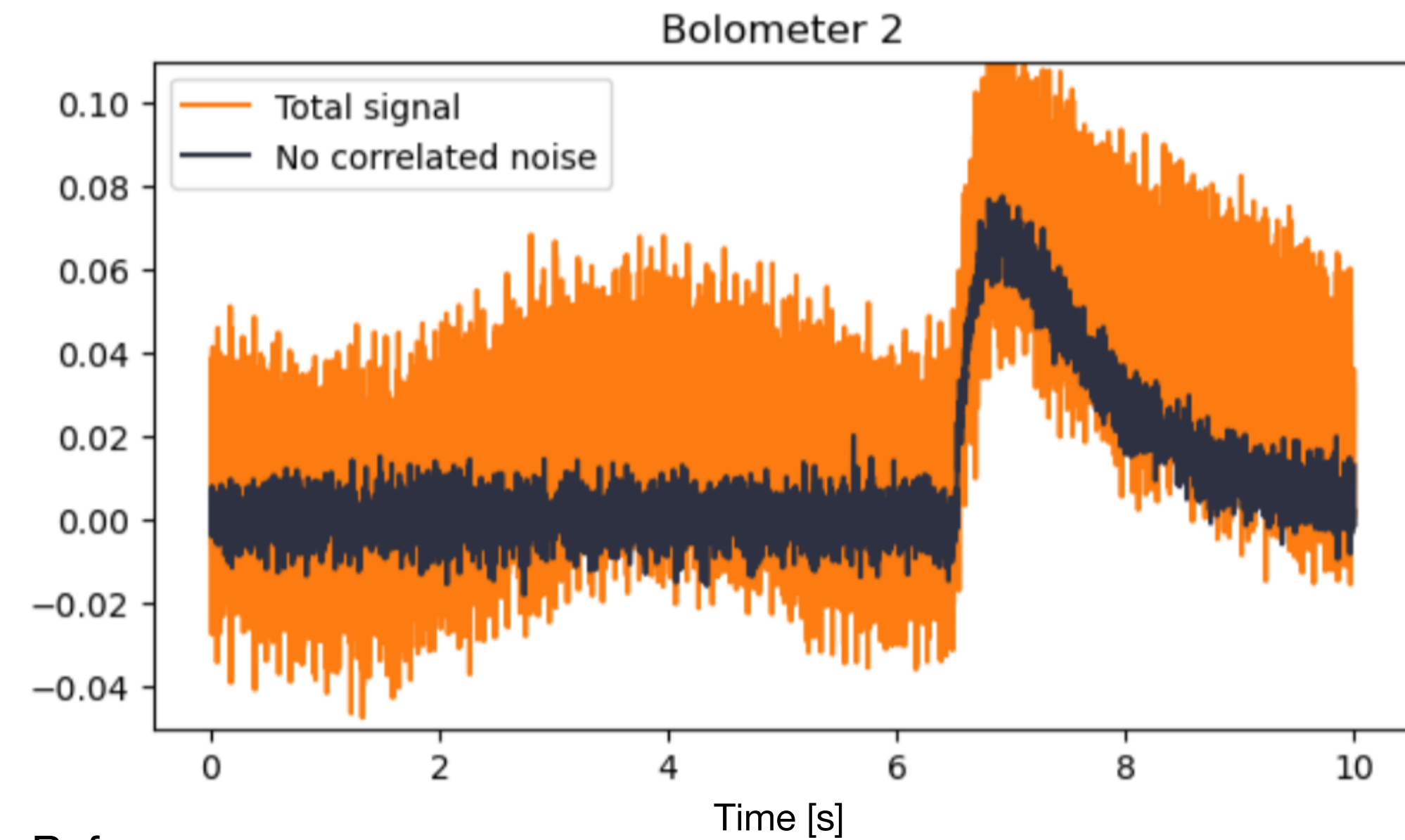
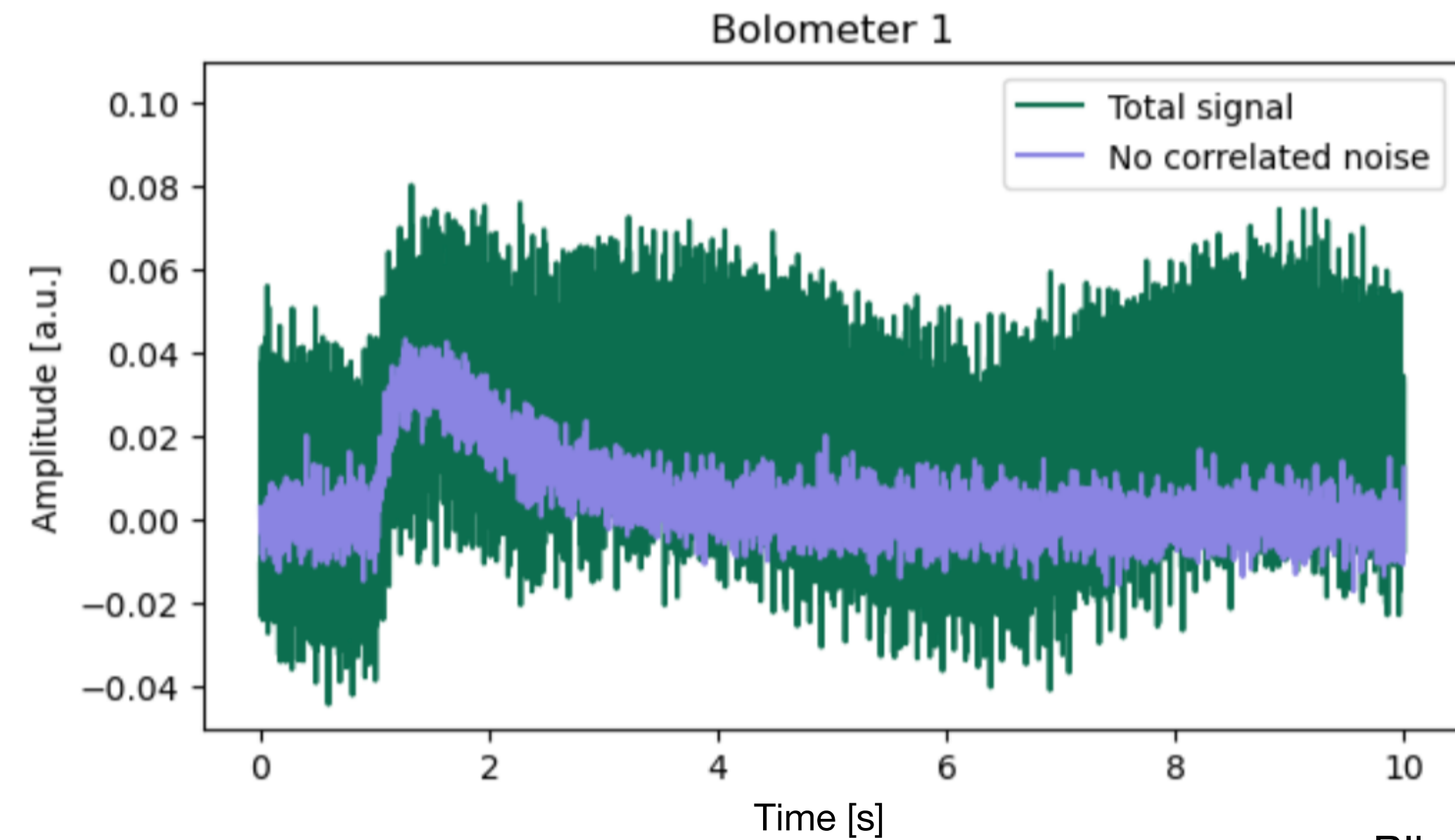
With PCA



With ICA



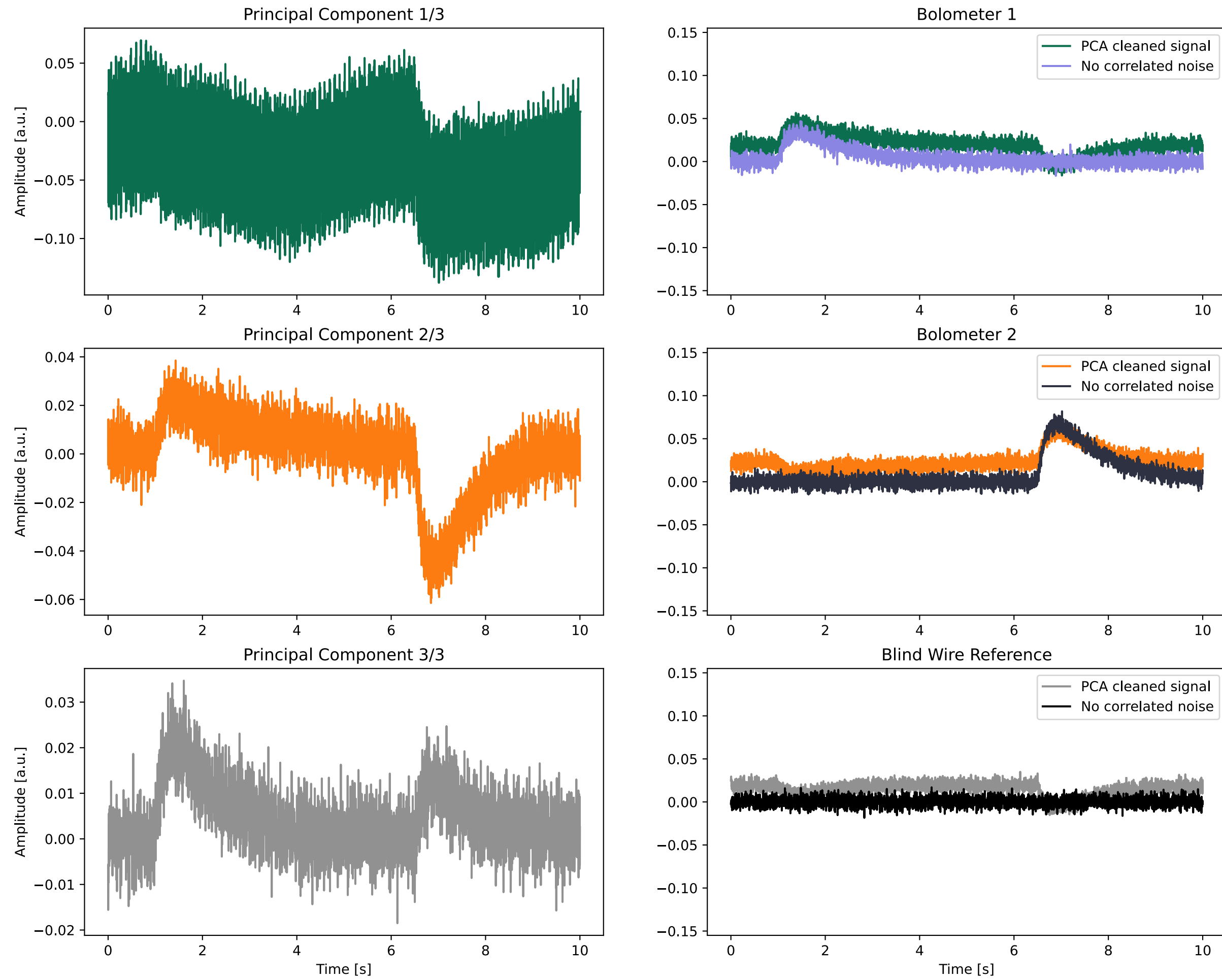
Independent Component Analysis



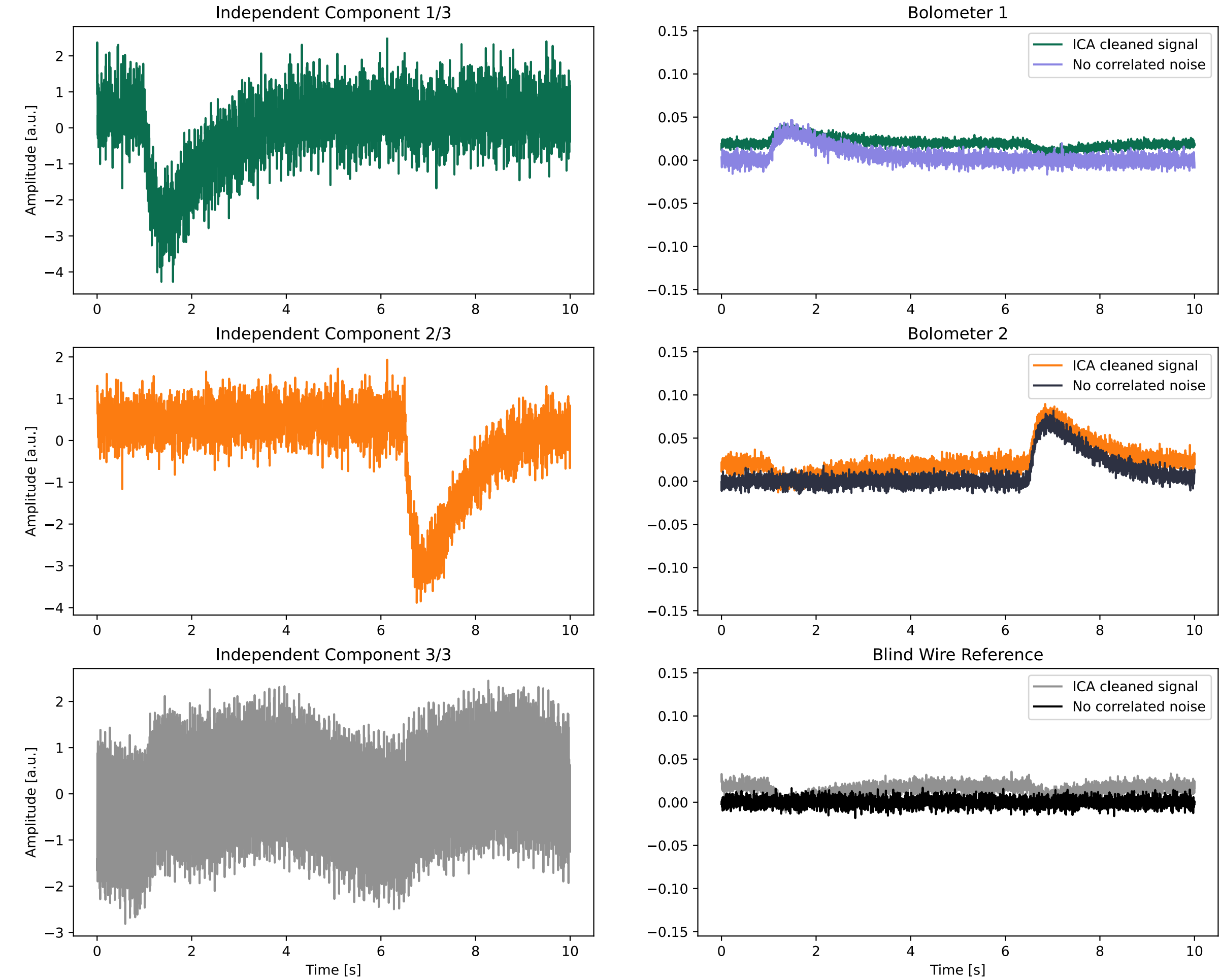
Now let's moving the signals

Independent Component Analysis

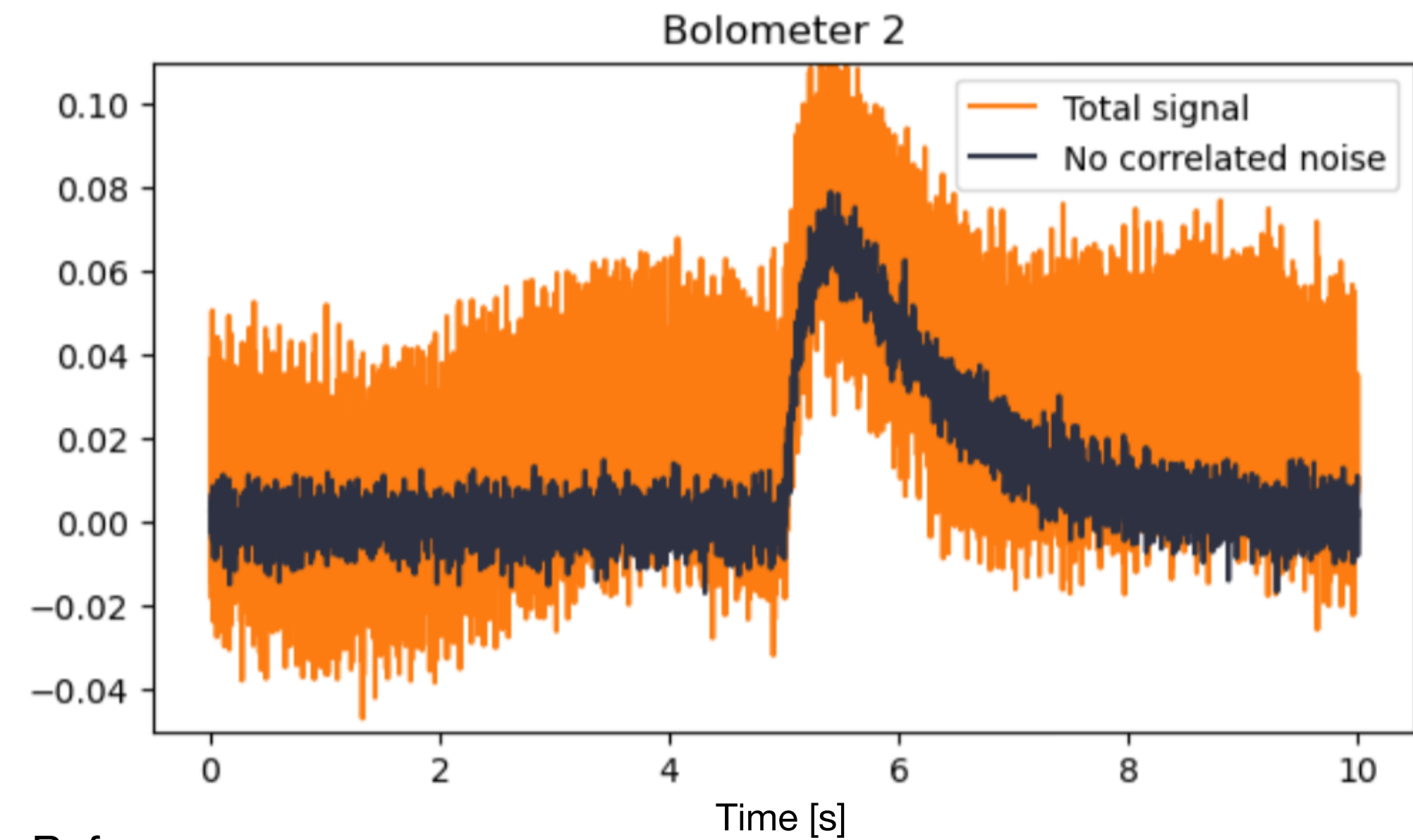
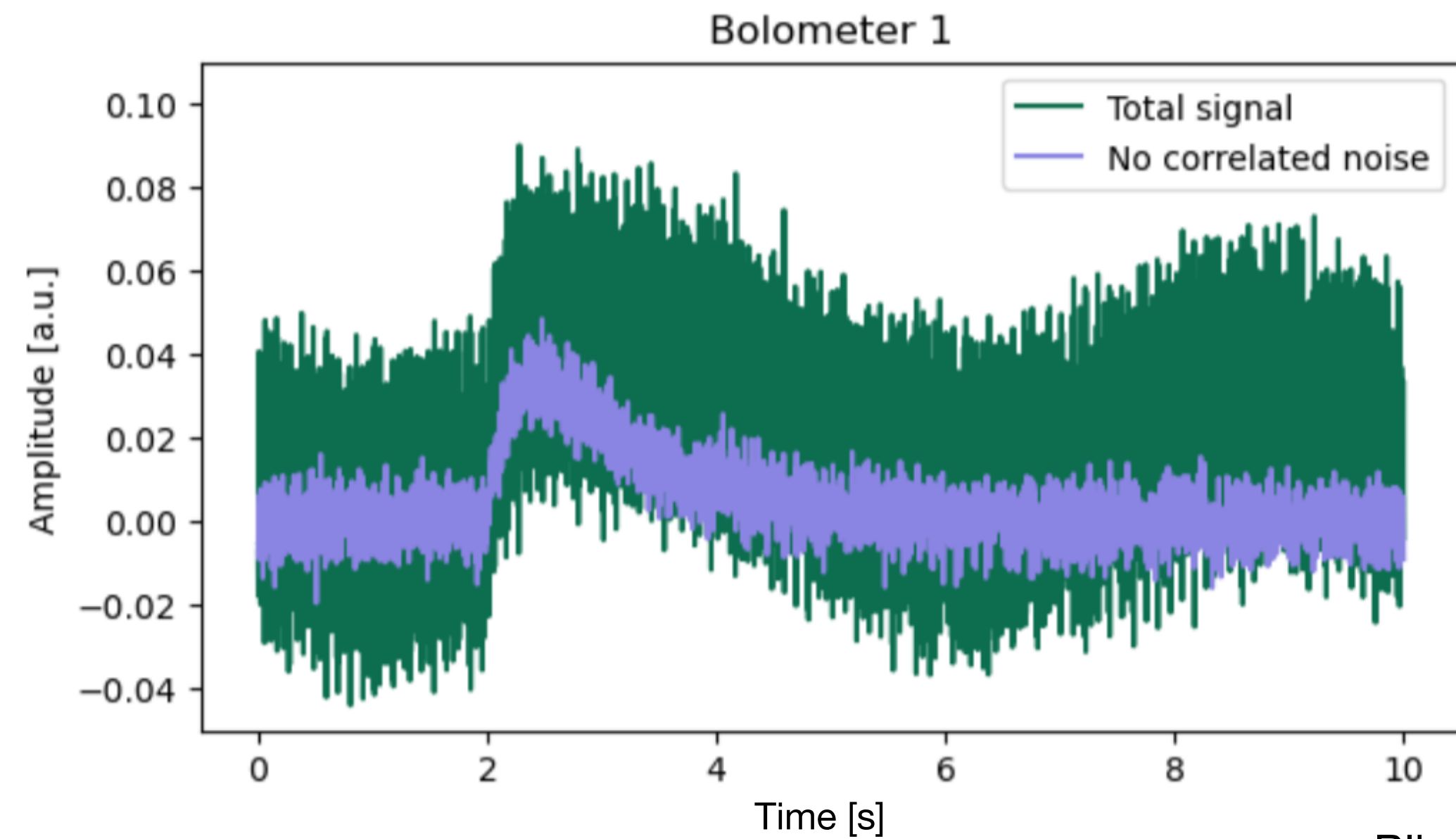
With PCA



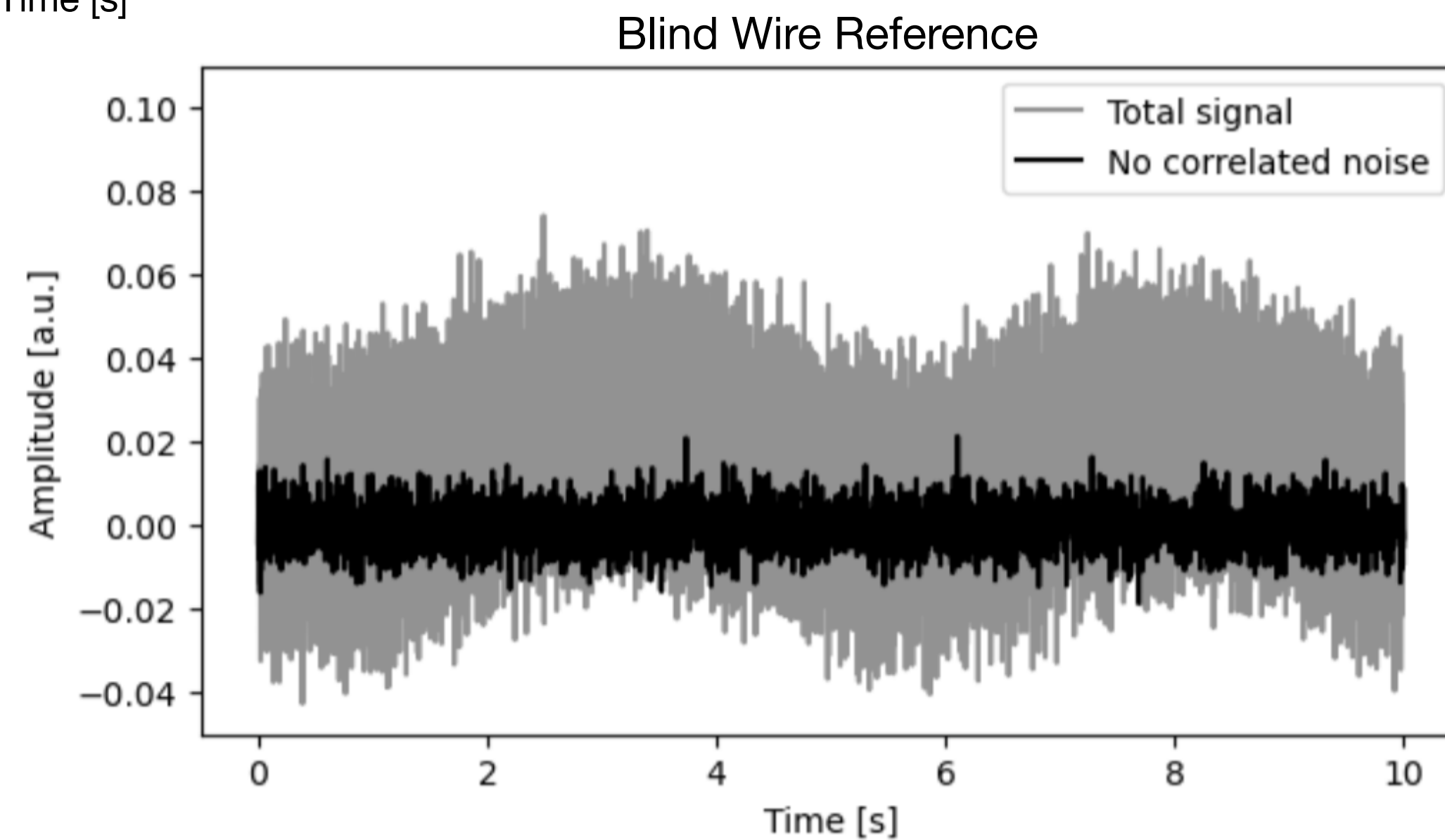
With ICA



Independent Component Analysis

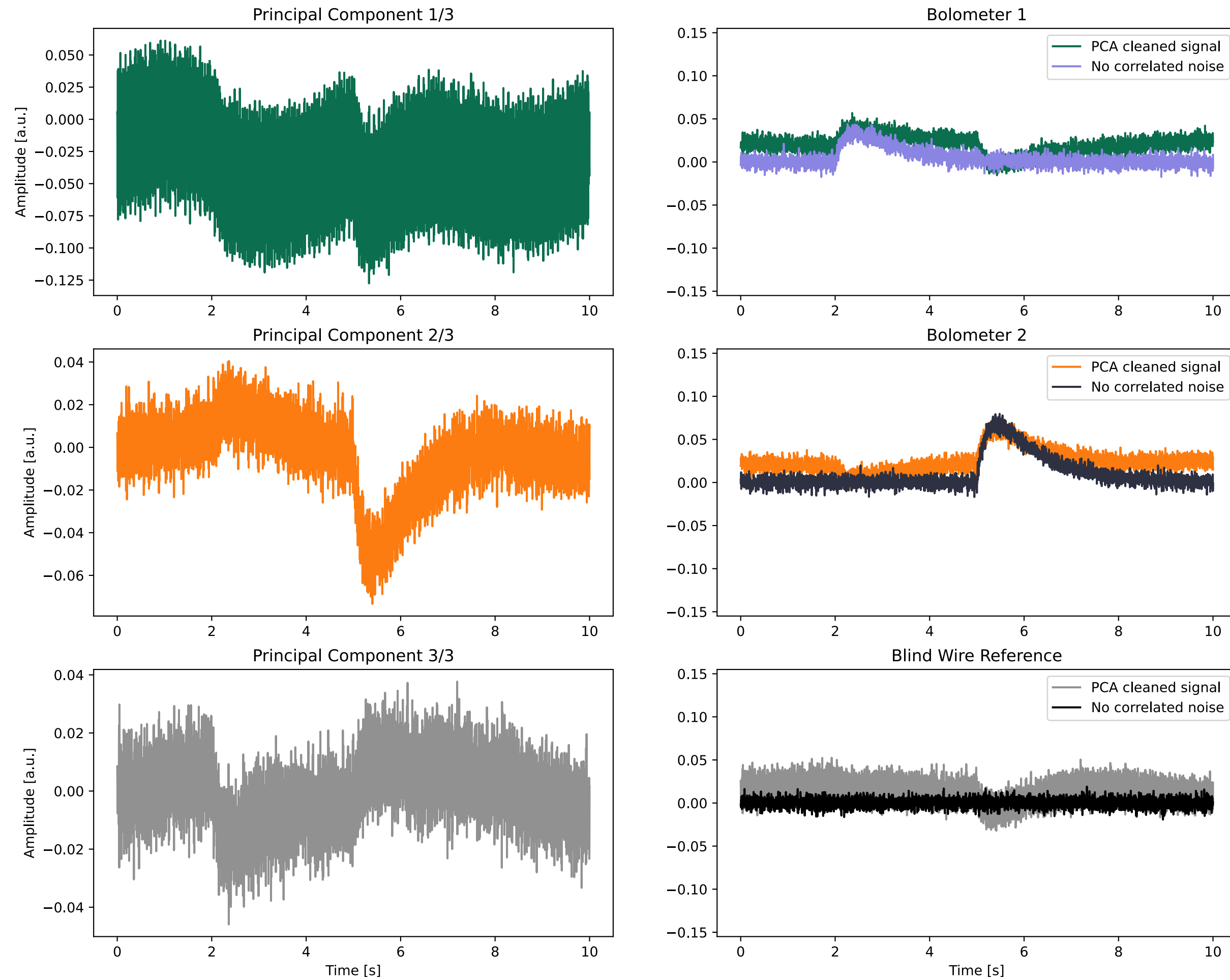


Now let's phase shift the reference signal

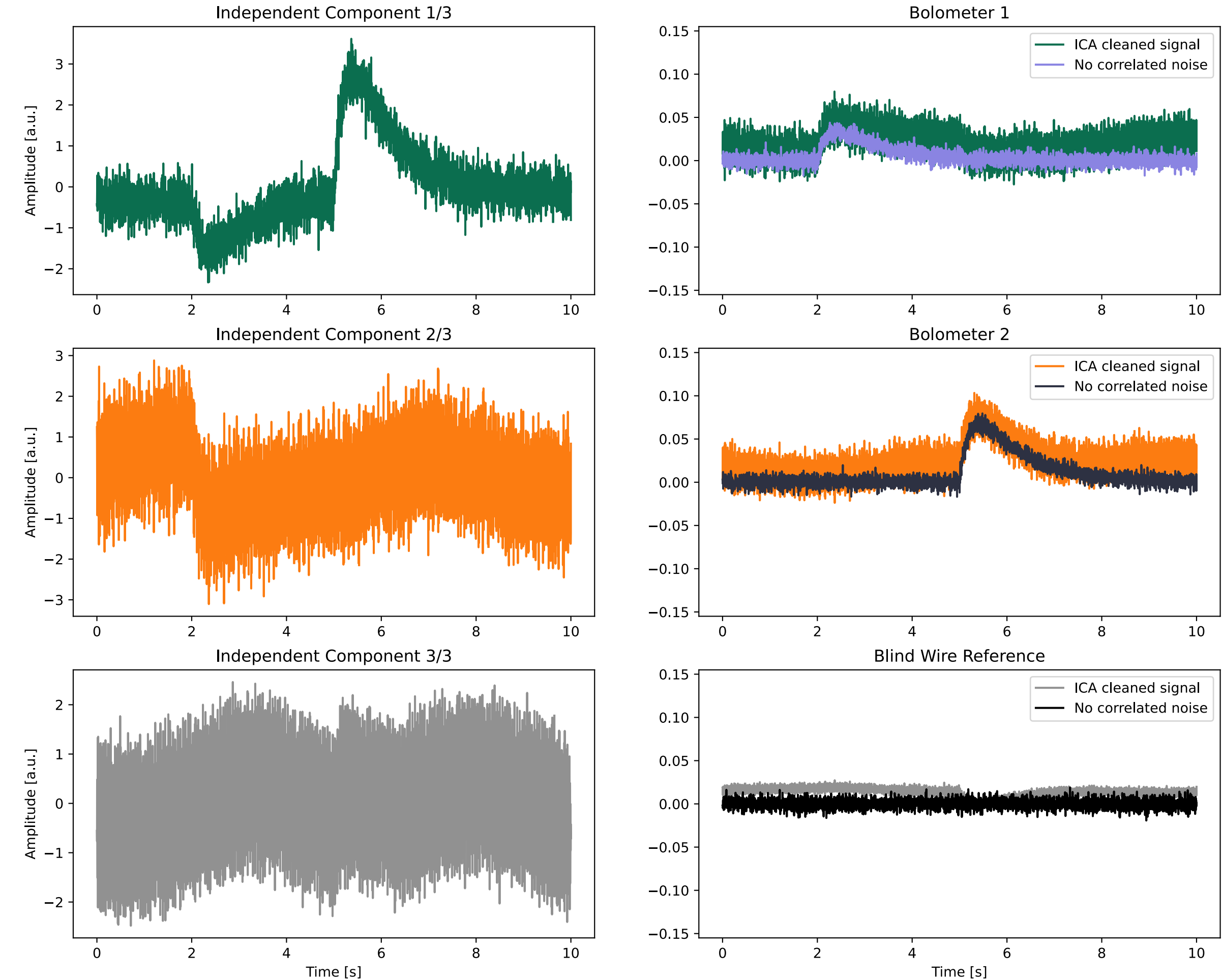


Independent Component Analysis

With PCA



With ICA



Summary

- Scintillation photons can produce photoelectrons inside the bolometer leading to many small heating events
- Acoustic/vibrational noise can be picked up in multiple wires in the same dilution fridge: can we subtract this out? Yes!
 - Caveat 1: using ICA may not be perfect at isolating correlated noise, so we'd have to add data quality cuts
 - Caveat 2: we have to make sure signals are in phase with each other, which can be done using Rob's work
- Extending ICA to Spectral Matching ICA (SMICA) also provides us an opportunity to cleanly measure acoustic/vibrational noise in-situ