

Social interaction and inter-individual neural
synchronization in the human prefrontal cortex.

Norihiro Sadato, MD, PhD

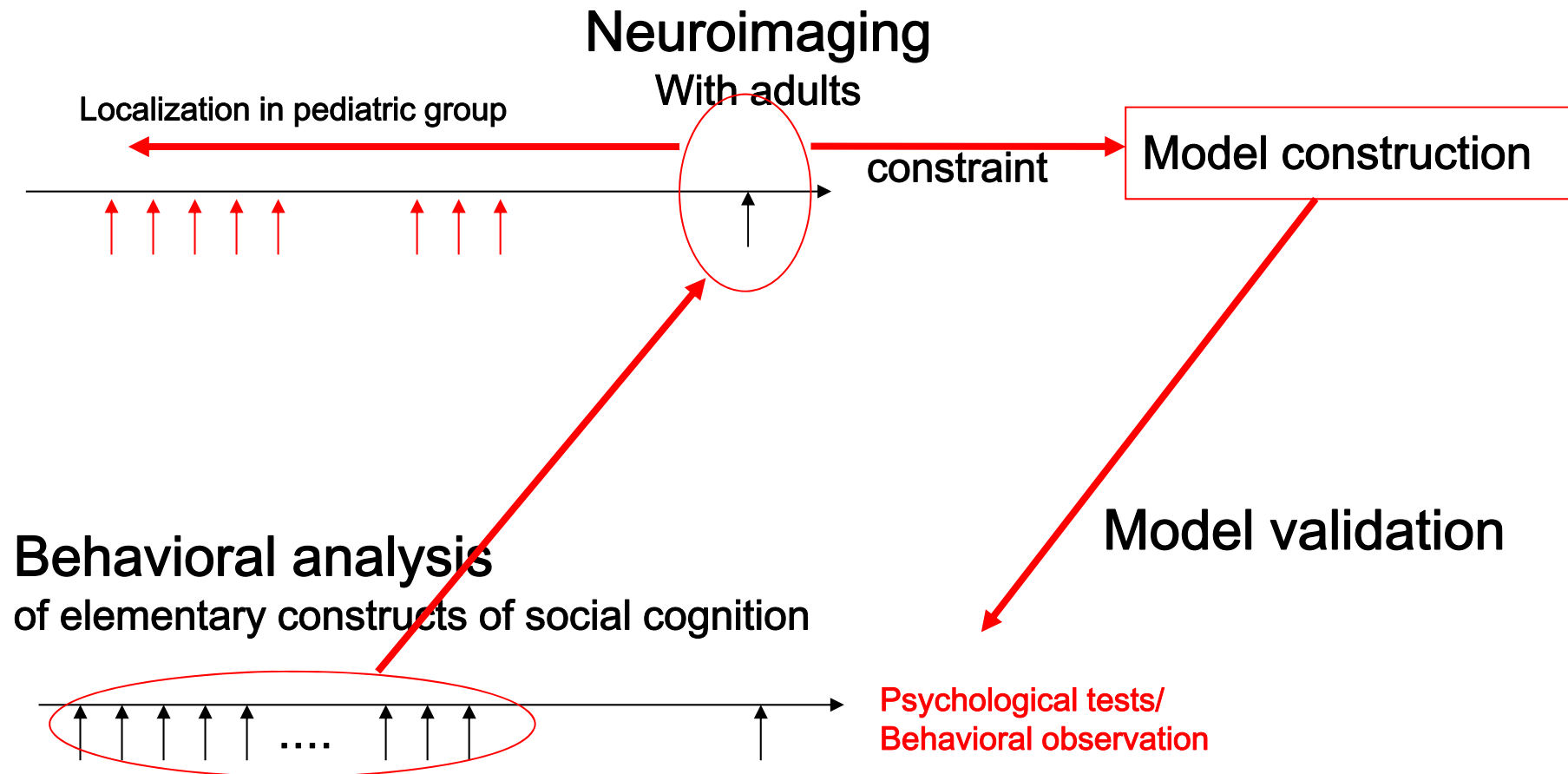
National Institute for Physiological Sciences
National Institute of Natural Sciences
Okazaki, Japan

The Third International Workshop on Linguistics of *BA*
13:25 – 14:25 (60 min)
March 26th, 2016
Meeting Room on the 3rd Floor of Building 8
Waseda University
Nishi-Waseda 1-6-1, Shinjuku-ku,
Tokyo 169-8050,
Japan

Key question

How do we become social beings?

Approaches to Social Cognitive Development with Neuroimaging technique



Development of social cognition

age	milestone behavior
0 m	neonatal imitation
4 m	social contingency
9 m	joint attention
1.5 y	self recognition
4.5 y	theory of mind
school	metaphor / sarcasm white lie moral empathy prosocial behavior



Definition

Social cognition

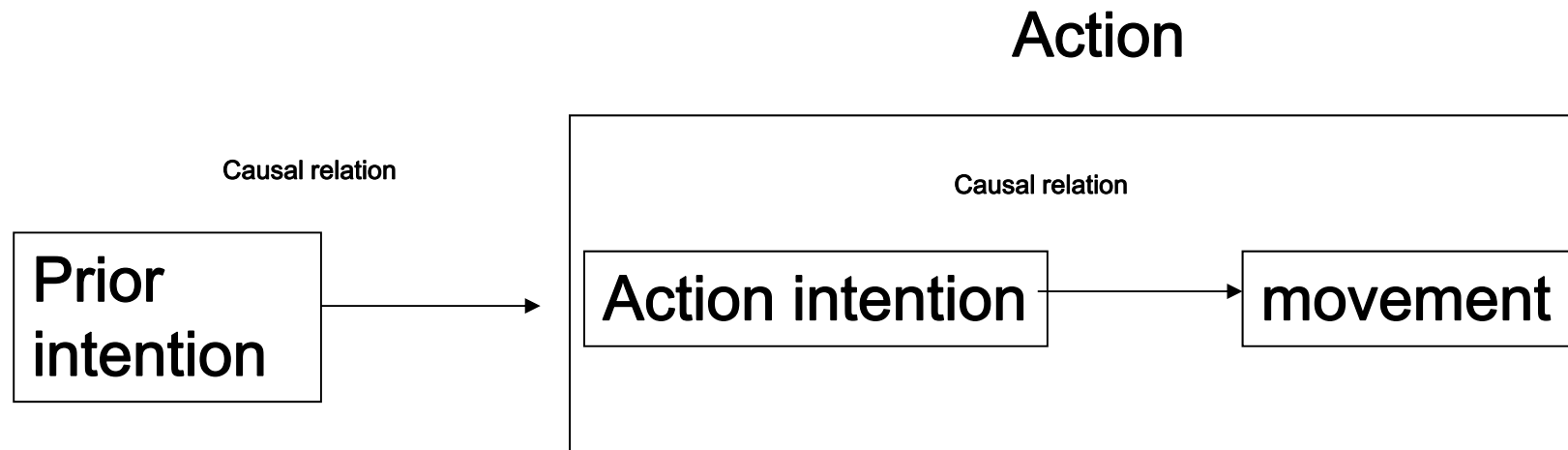
The processing of information which culminates in the accurate perception of the dispositions and **intentions** of other individual.

(Brothers, 1990)

→ implies **prediction of action**

Intention and Action

Searle (1983)



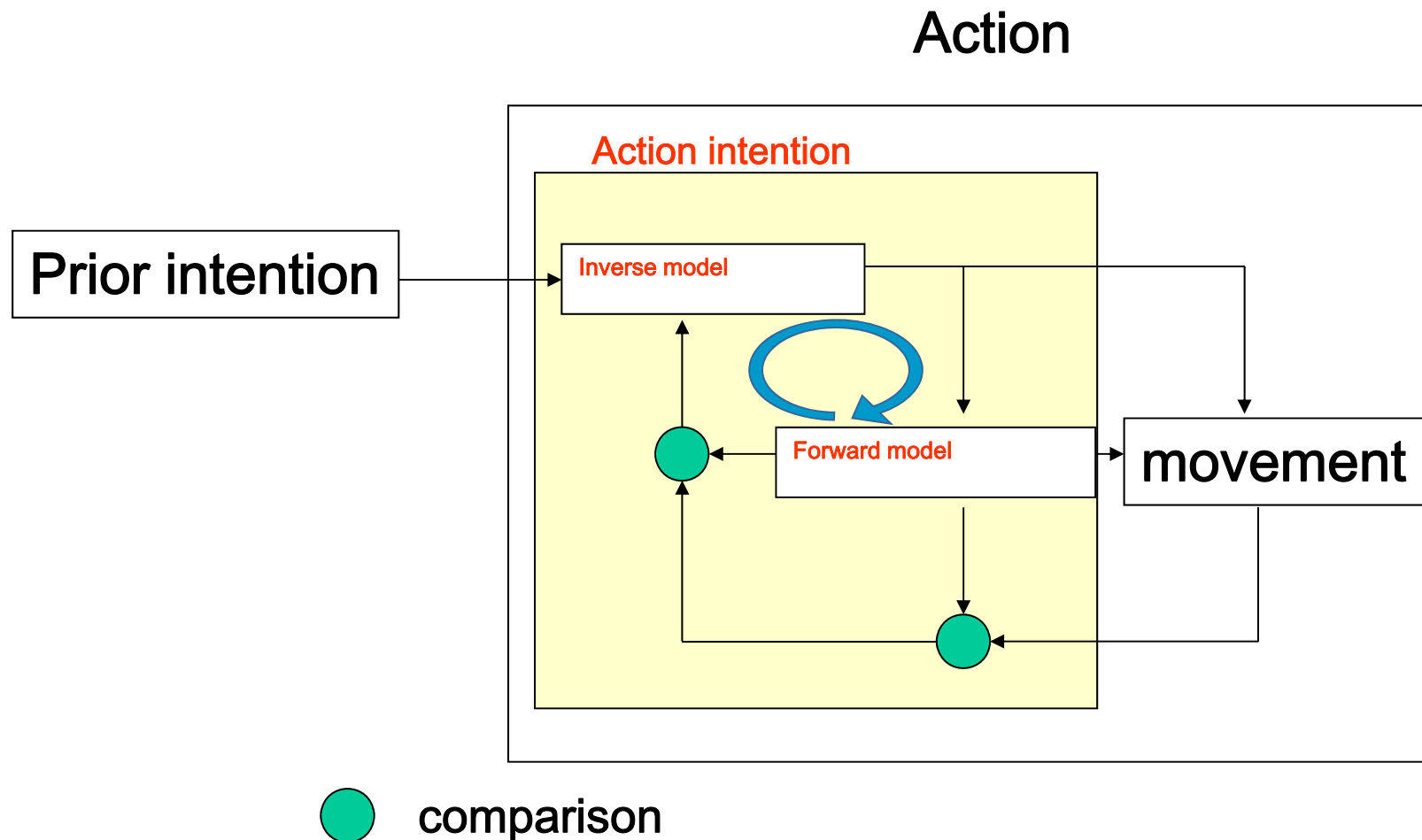
Intention and action

(Searle, 1983)

- “When I raise my arm, my arm goes up. And the problem arises: what is left over if I subtract the fact that my arm goes up from the fact that I raise my arm?”
(Wittgenstein 1953)
- = Action intention
- “trying”

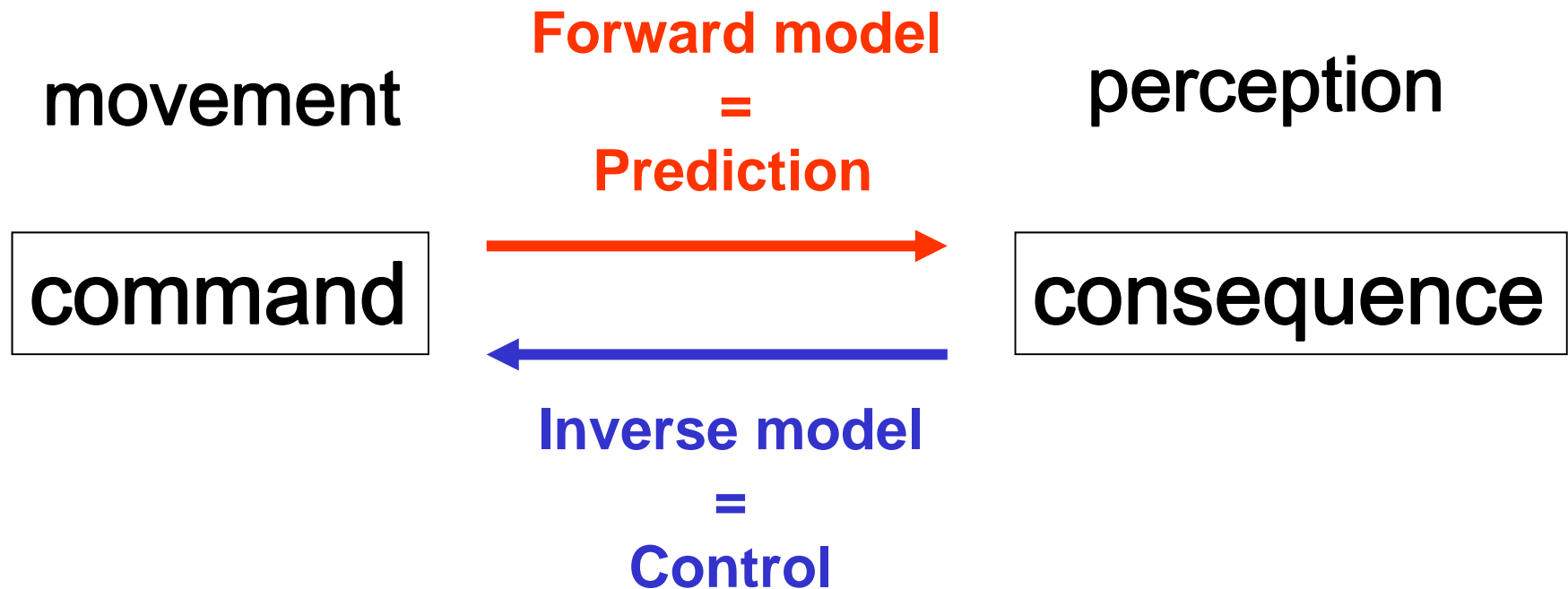
Intention and Action

Jeannerod (2006)



Model of motor control

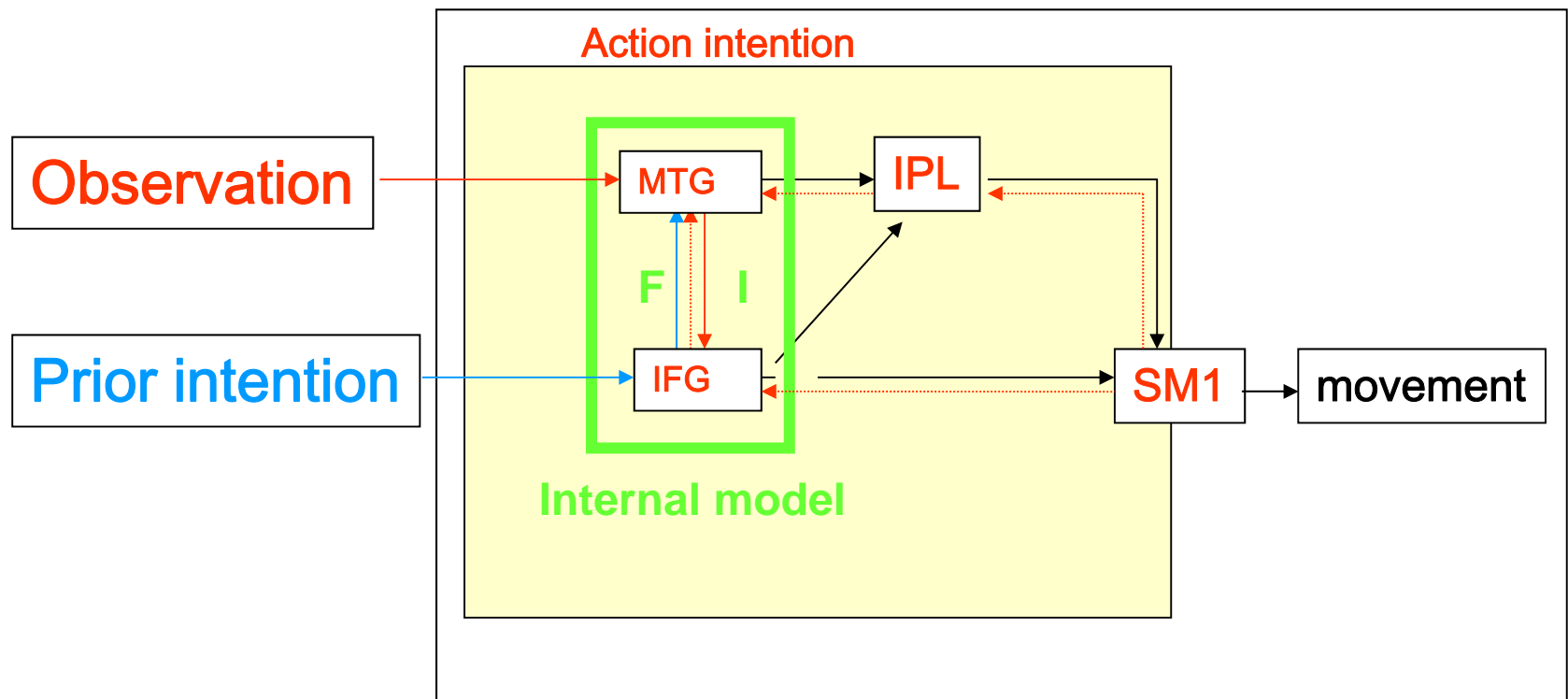
(Wolpert et al. 2003)



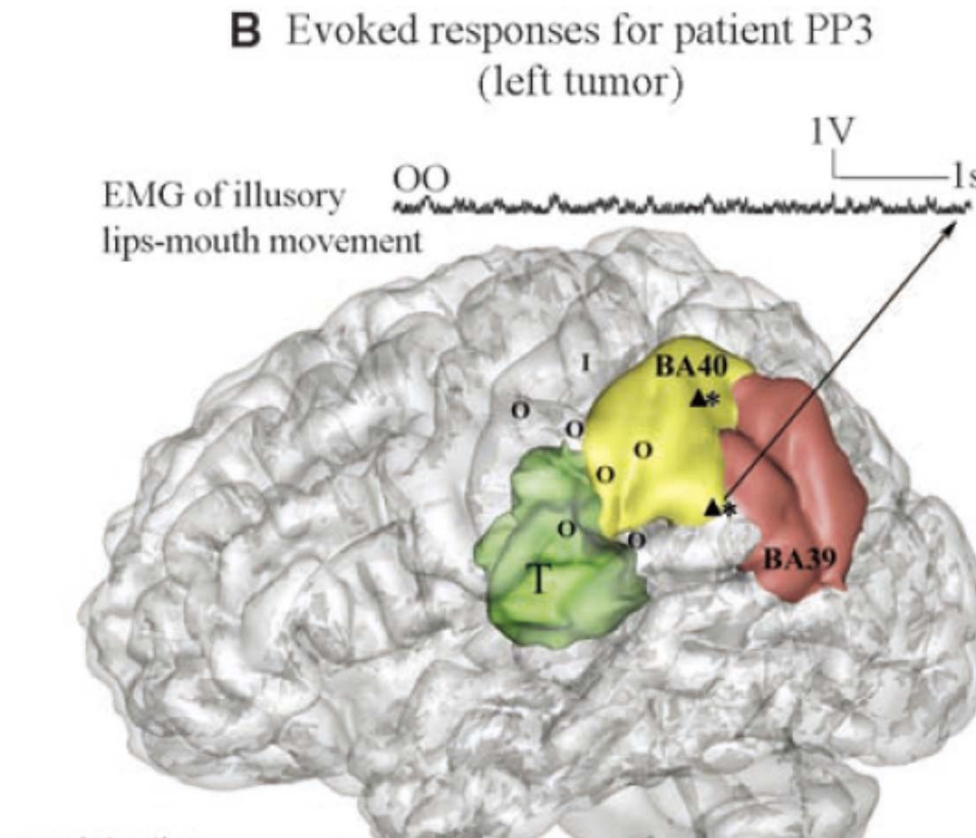
Observation and Action

Jeannerod (2006)

Action



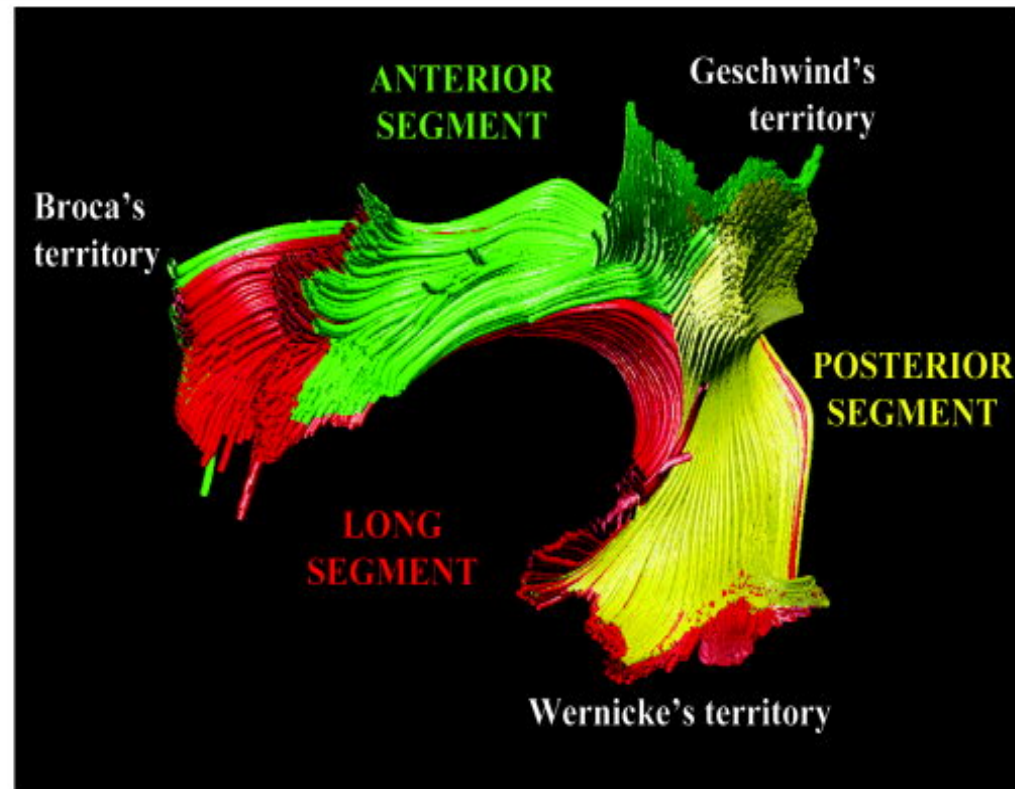
Electrical stimulation of the inferior parietal cortex provoked **intention to move**
= neural substrates of **action intention**



When stimulation intensity increased, motor intention was replaced by illusory movement awareness.

“The signal we are aware of when making a movement ... emerge from the predictions we make about the movement in advance of action”

In human brain, direct connection between MTG and IFG **does** exist



(Catani, et al. 2005)

DTI revealed direct route **between MTG and IFG**, **between MTG and IPL** (posterior segment) , and **between IPL and IFG** (anterior segment)

Annals of Neurology

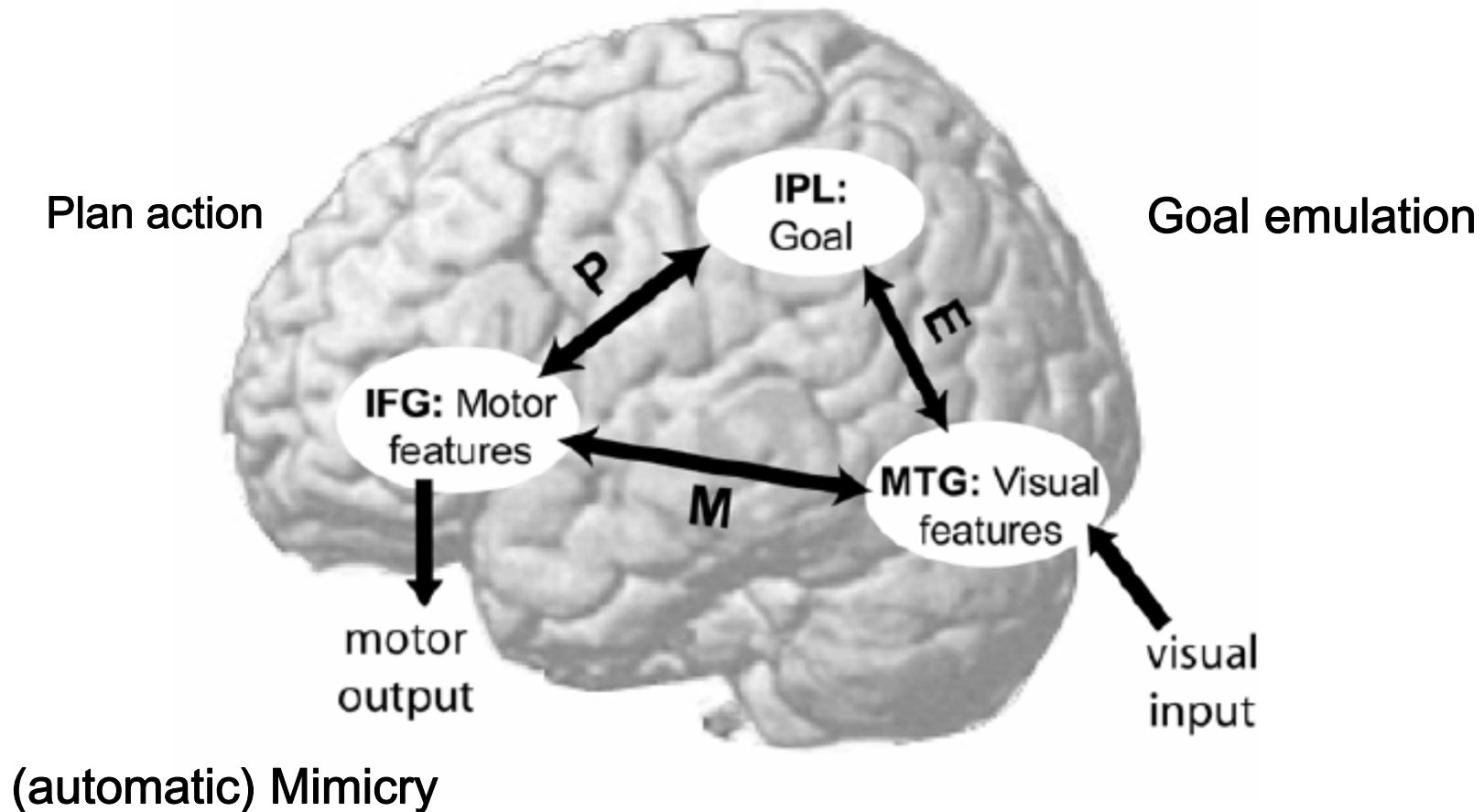
Volume 57, Issue 1, pages 8-16, 13 DEC 2004 DOI: 10.1002/ana.20319

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/ana.20319/full#fig3>

Dual pathway hypothesis of putative Mirror Neuron System

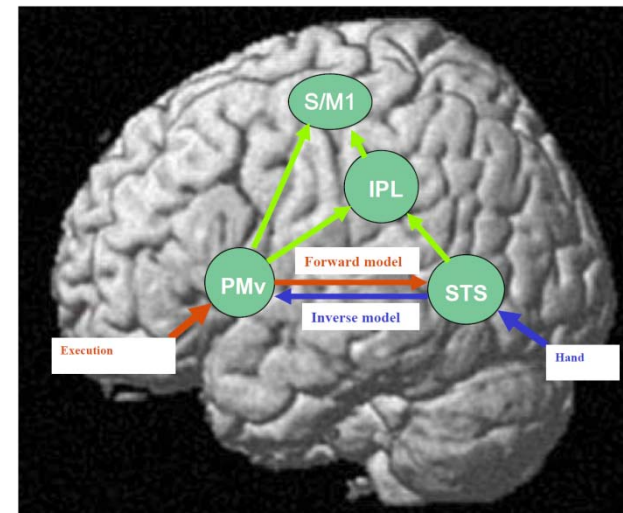
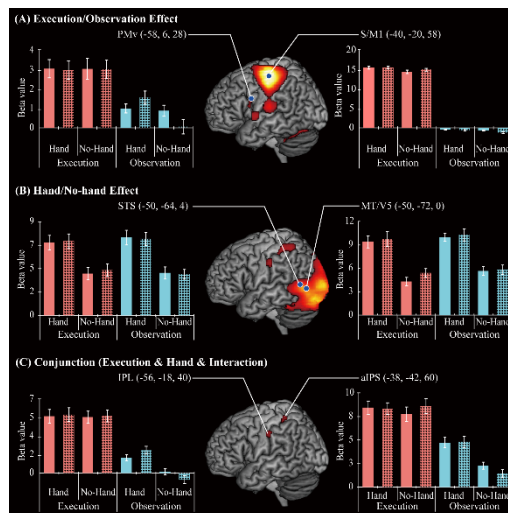
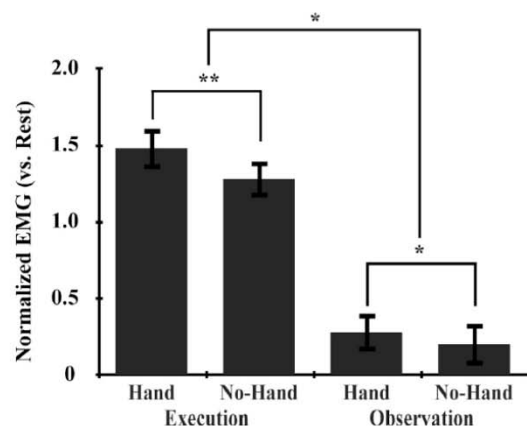
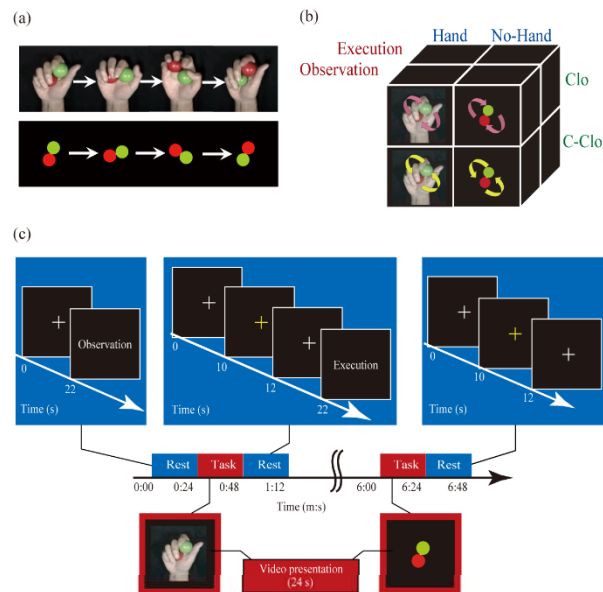
EP-M model (Hamilton, 2008)

EP (MTG-IPL-IFG) Understanding of goal directed action
M (MTG-IGF) Automatic mimicry of actions without goals

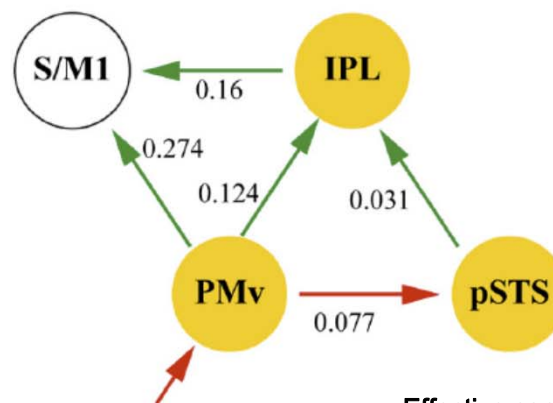


Neural Networks of automatic mimicry

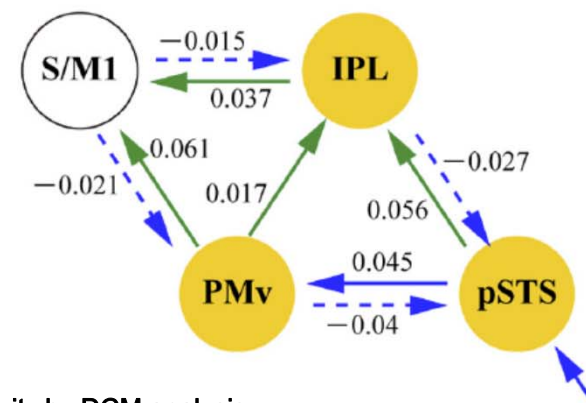
Constituting 2 x 2 (**Execution** x **Hand observation**) factorial design



A Motor Execution



B Hand Observation

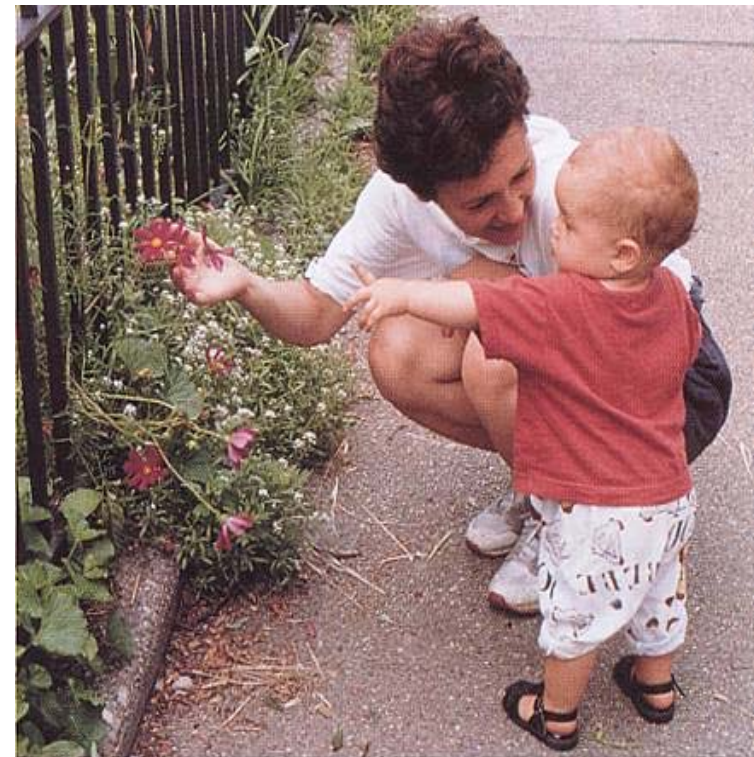


Effective connectivity by DCM analysis

Action representation implemented as the dynamic interaction of putative mirror neuron system and the primary sensori-motor cortex (Sasaki et al. 2012)

Development of social cognition

age	milestone behavior
0 m	neonatal imitation
4 m	social contingency
9 m	joint attention
1.5 y	self recognition
4.5 y	theory of mind
school	metaphor / sarcasm
	white lie
	moral
	empathy
	prosocial behavior



Joint attention

- To coordinate attention
- between interactive social partners
- with respect to objects
- to share an awareness of the objects



Joint attention

- Emerges around 6 to 12 months of age
- Through eye gaze
- Precursor of Theory of Mind
- Essential for language acquisition
- Lack of JA is an early sign of autism
- Eye-contact is prerequisite for JA



Eye-contact and JA play an important role for typical development of social behavior

Live interaction is critical for language acquisition

a Foreign-language exposure



Live exposure



Auditory or audiovisual exposure

b Phonetic perception test



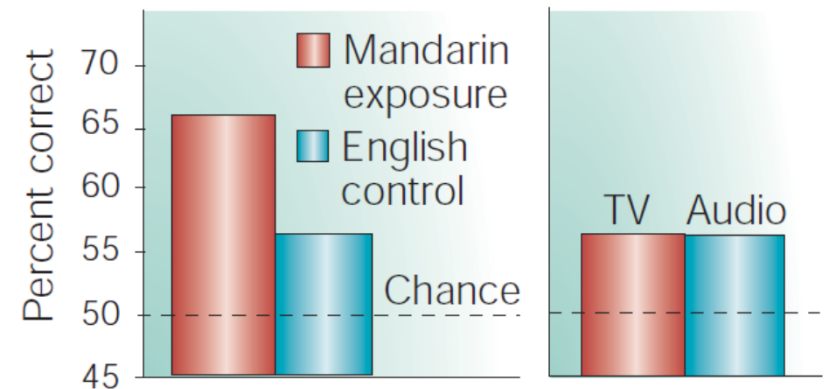
Head-turn procedure

Test stimuli: Mandarin Chinese phonetic contrast

c Phonetic learning

Effects of live foreign-language exposure

Effects of non-live foreign-language exposure



- 9 m.o. infants
- Exposure to Mandarin (L2)
- Learned from live exposure,
- Not from video exposure

Eye-contact

- **Sharing** psychological states
(Travvarthen, 1979)
 - intention (I am looking at you)
 - attention (I am paying attention to you)
 - emotion (proto-conversation)

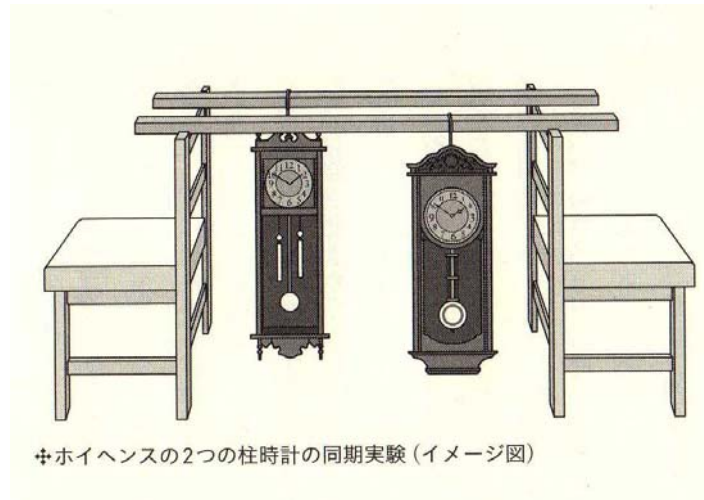
Making inter-subjectivity possible

How to depict the neural substrates of “sharing”

Synchronization as the result of interaction of multiple systems



C. Huygens (1629-1695)



非線形問題解決専門
池口研究室
NONLINEAR DYNAMICAL SYSTEM

メトロノーム同期 (2個, 大)
Synchronization of two metronomes (Large)

2010年10月11日, 池口研究室にて撮影
Filmed at Ikeguchi Laboratory, on October 11, 2010.

How to depict the neural substrates of “sharing”

- Perspect of **individual** brain function
(Llinas, 2001)
 - Input-output system
 - Driven by interaction with the external world
 - External factors determine the system operation
 - Similar inputs produce similar output
 - Regular task-related functional MRI
 - Operating-on-its-own system
 - Intrinsically driven
 - External factors modulate system operation
 - Studies of spontaneous activity for the evaluation of functional connectivity (inter-regional correlation)

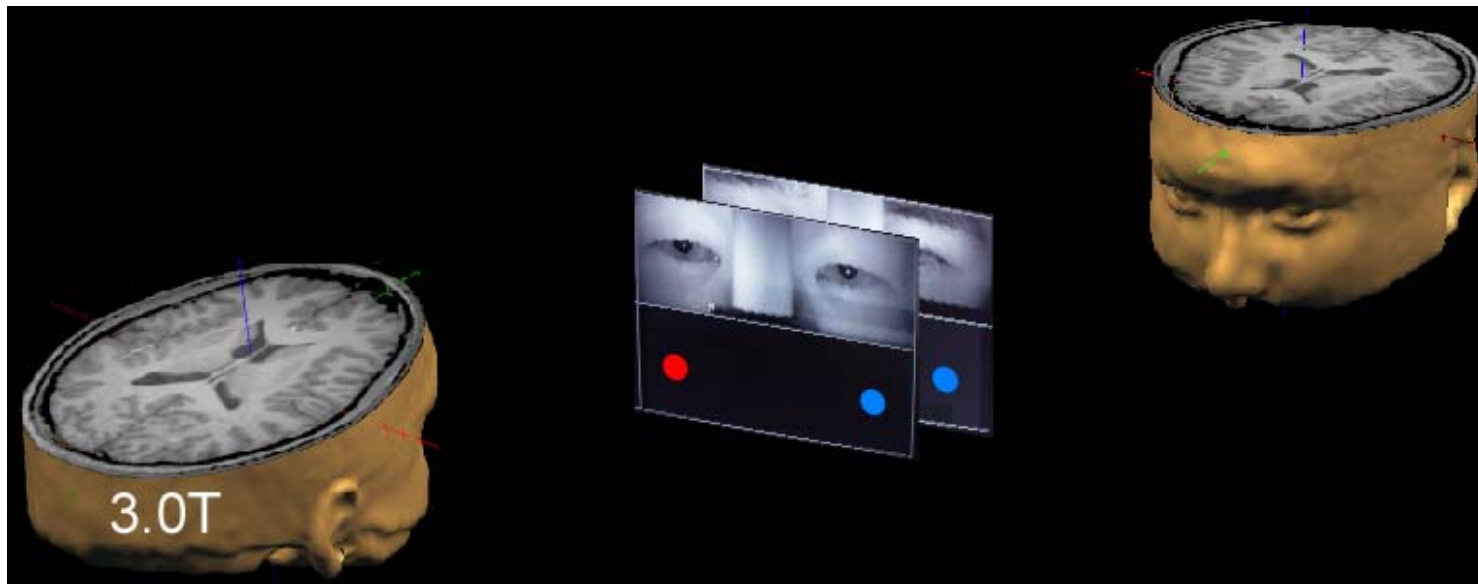
How to depict the neural substrates of “sharing”

- Perspect of **paired** brain function
(Llinas, 2001)
 - Input-output system
 - Driven by interaction with the external world
 - External factors determine the system operation
 - Similar inputs produce similar output
 - Regular task-related functional MRI: difficult to depict **pair specific findings (because tasks are common)**
 - Operating-on-its-own system
 - Intrinsically driven
 - External factors modulate system operation
 - Studies of spontaneous activity for the evaluation of functional connectivity (inter-**subject** correlation)

Our approach to the neural substrates of joint attention & eye contact

- **Joint attention**
 - Eye-cue based input-output system
- **Eye contact**
 - Synchronization of two “Operating-on-its-own” system
 - Sharing psychological states
 - Inter-subjective synchronization of the residual time series after model-out of the task-related activity

Hyperscanning fMRI during joint attention task



Using Dual fMRI system (prototype: 3.0T – 1.5T @Fukui Med School)²⁵

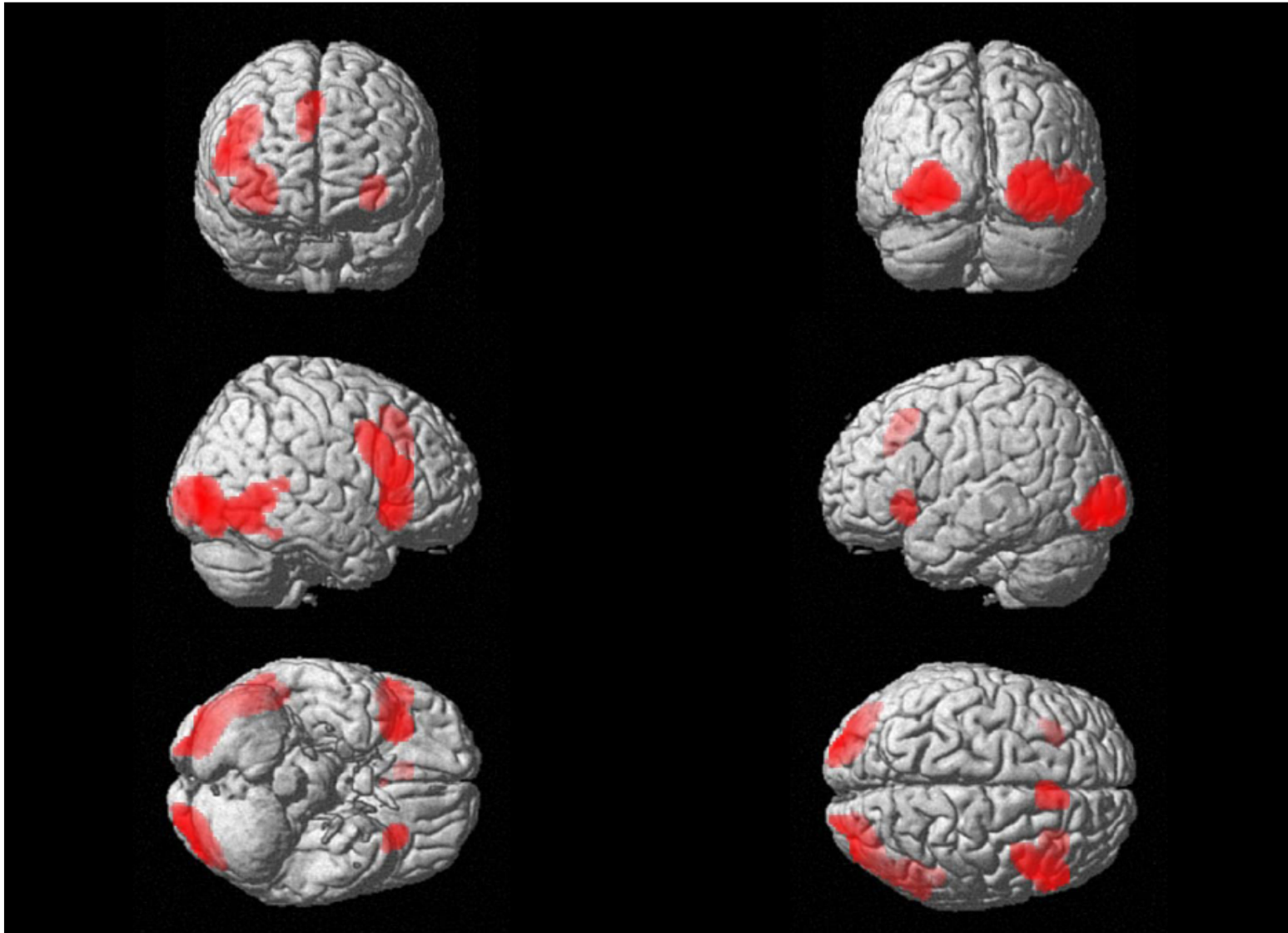
How to obtain *state-related* activities

$$Y = \hat{\beta}_1 x_1 + \hat{\beta}_2 x_2 + \hat{\varepsilon}$$

residuals

The residual time series after model-out of the task-related

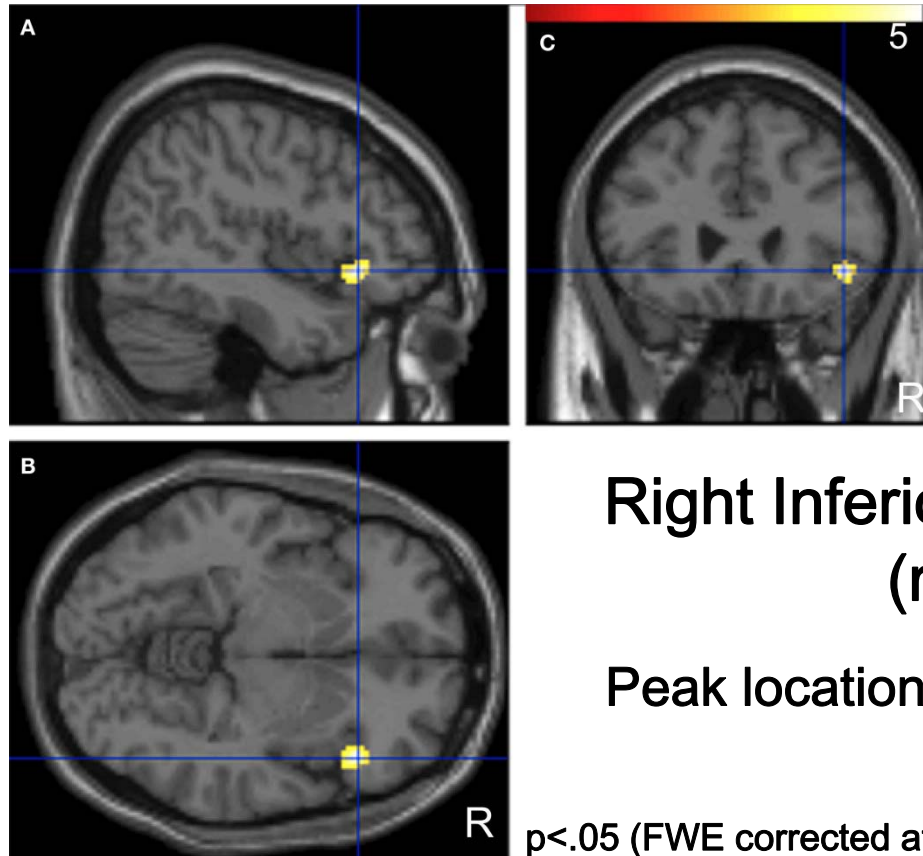
Eye Cue effect (Eye – Object)



$P < 0.05$ FWE corrected

Inter-subject correlation in the rIFG

High correlation in pair (Pair – NonPair)



Right Inferior frontal gyrus
(rIFG)

Peak location (46,26,-6)

$p < .05$ (FWE corrected at cluster level)

Questions

- What does the synchronization represent?
- Could the synchronization be learned?
- What is the role of the right IFG?

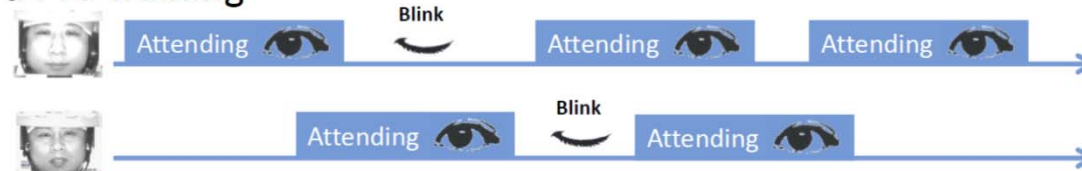
Blink

- Blink of the speaker and listener are entrained at the pause of the conversation (Nakano and Kitazawa, 2010)
- → Synchronization of blink may represent the shared attention

Hypothesis

- Joint attention synchronizes the attentional window
- Joint attention task enhances shared attention through Hebbian learning
- Right IFG is where Hebbian learning occurs

a Pre-training



b training (JA task)



c Post-training



Serial hyperscanning fMRI (mutual gaze –JA mutual gaze) To evaluate the inter-subject connectivity *per se*

Day 1

Live mutual gaze

JA tasks

Day 2

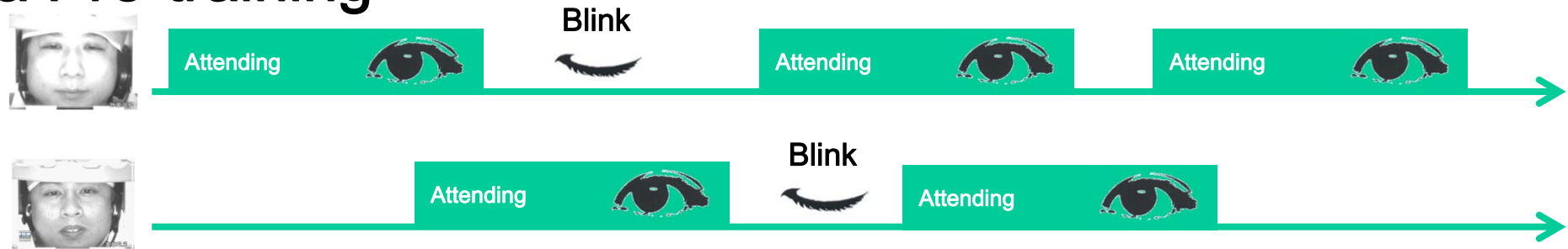
Live mutual gaze
+
Control condition (video)

Using Hyperscanning fMRI system (3T-3T) @ Okazaki

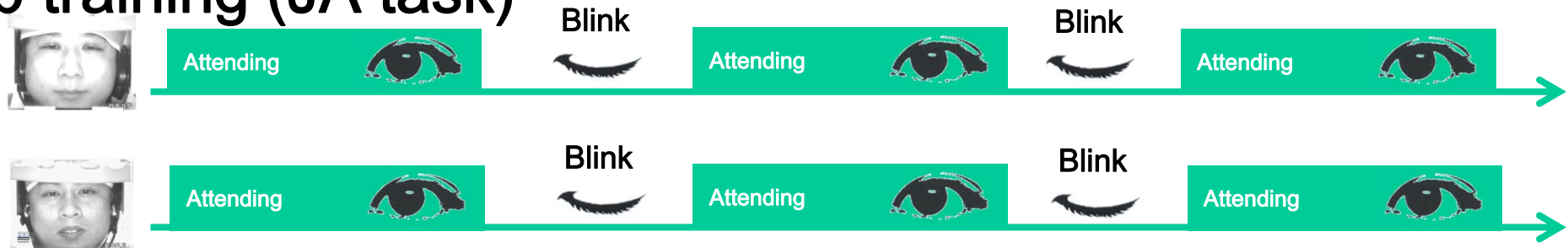


Expectation

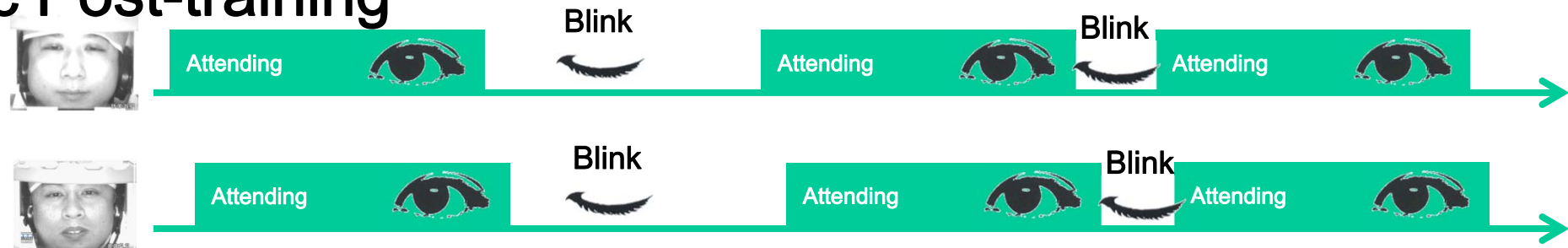
a Pre-training



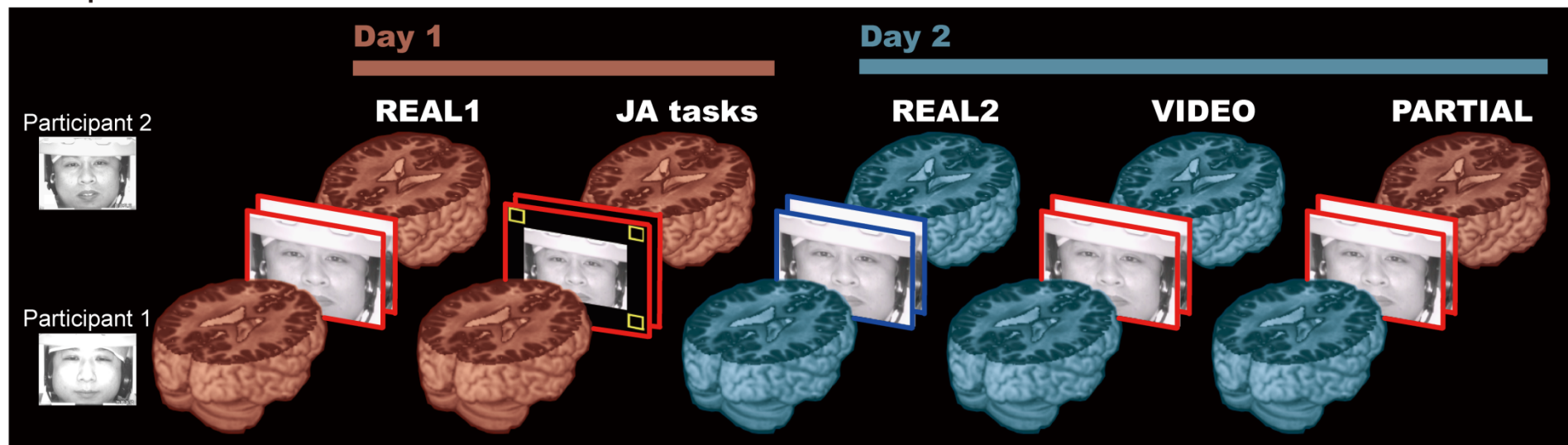
b training (JA task)



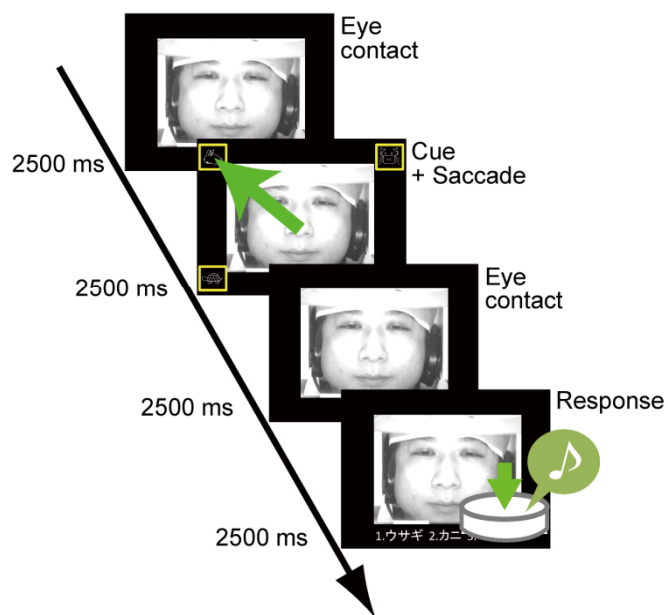
c Post-training



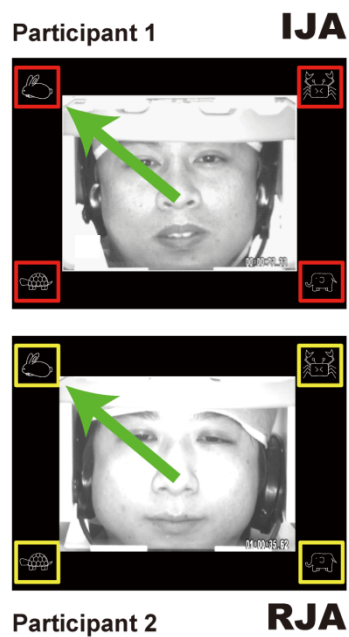
A Experiment conditions



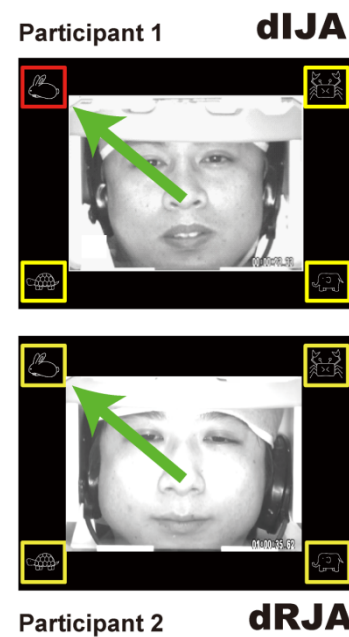
B Time course of JA tasks



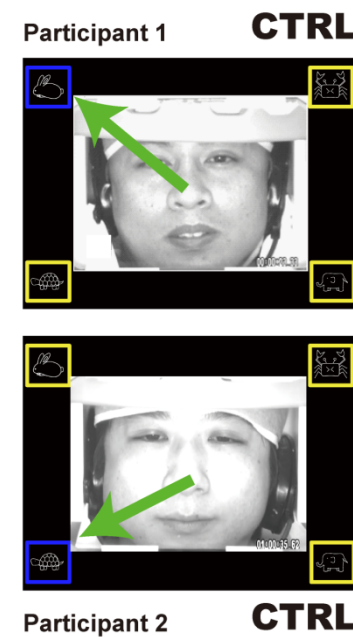
C IJA/RJA runs



D dIJA/dRJA runs

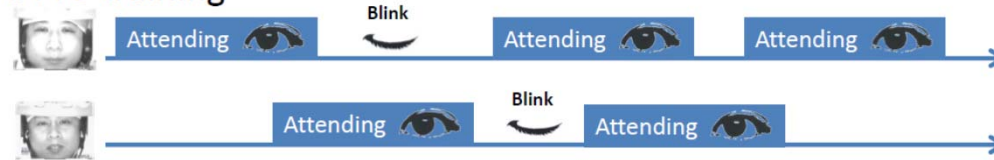


E CTRL run



Enhanced blink synchronization during JA Persisted at post-training mutual gaze

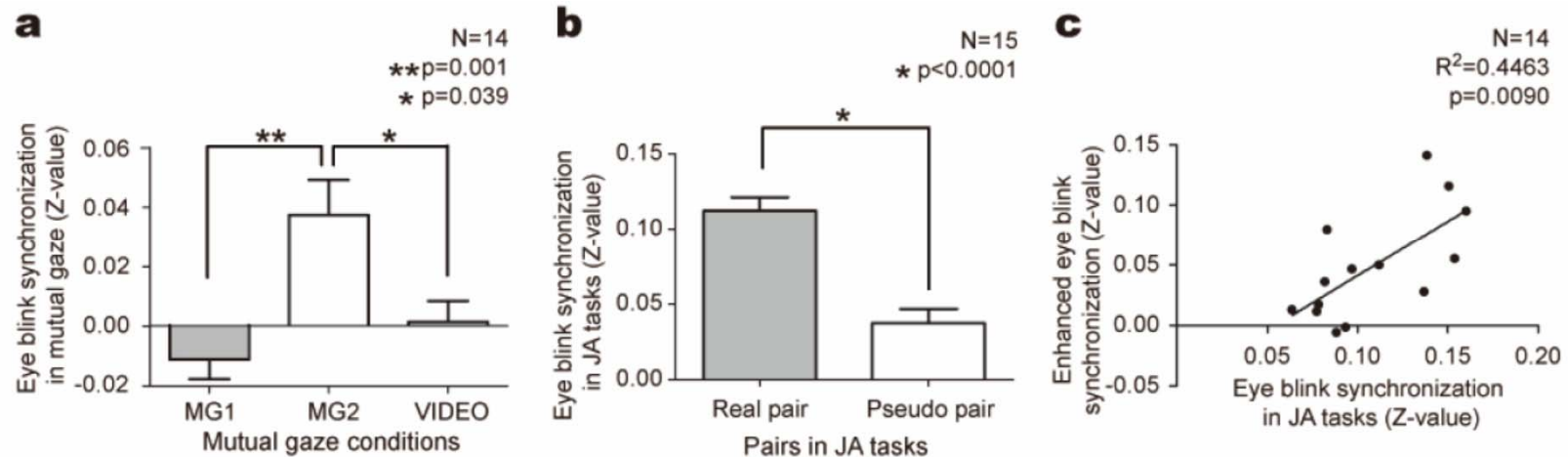
a Pre-training



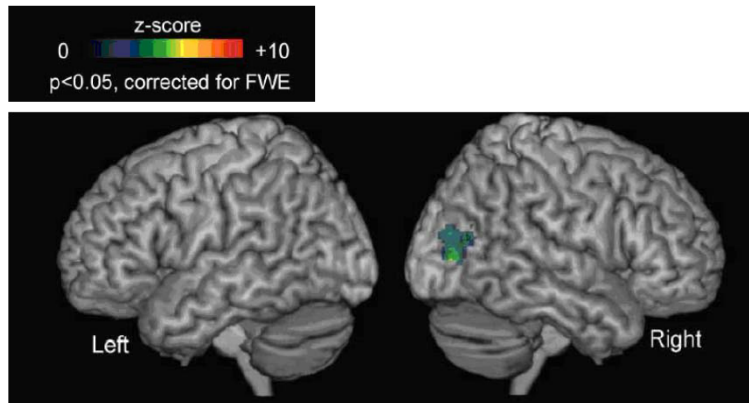
b training (JA task)



c Post-training



Real mutual gaze condition day 1 (REAL1)

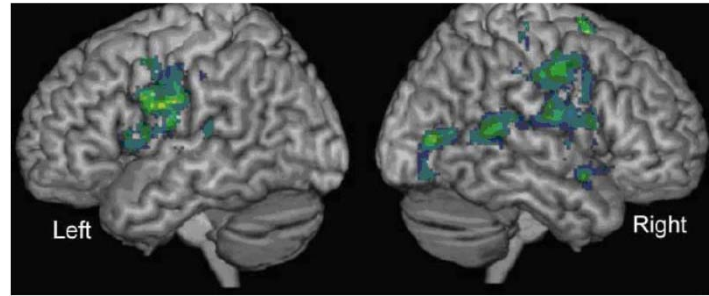
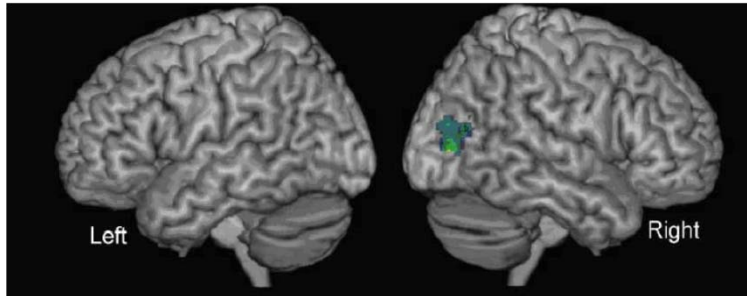


Synchronization confined to the right MTG



Real mutual gaze condition day 2 (REAL2)

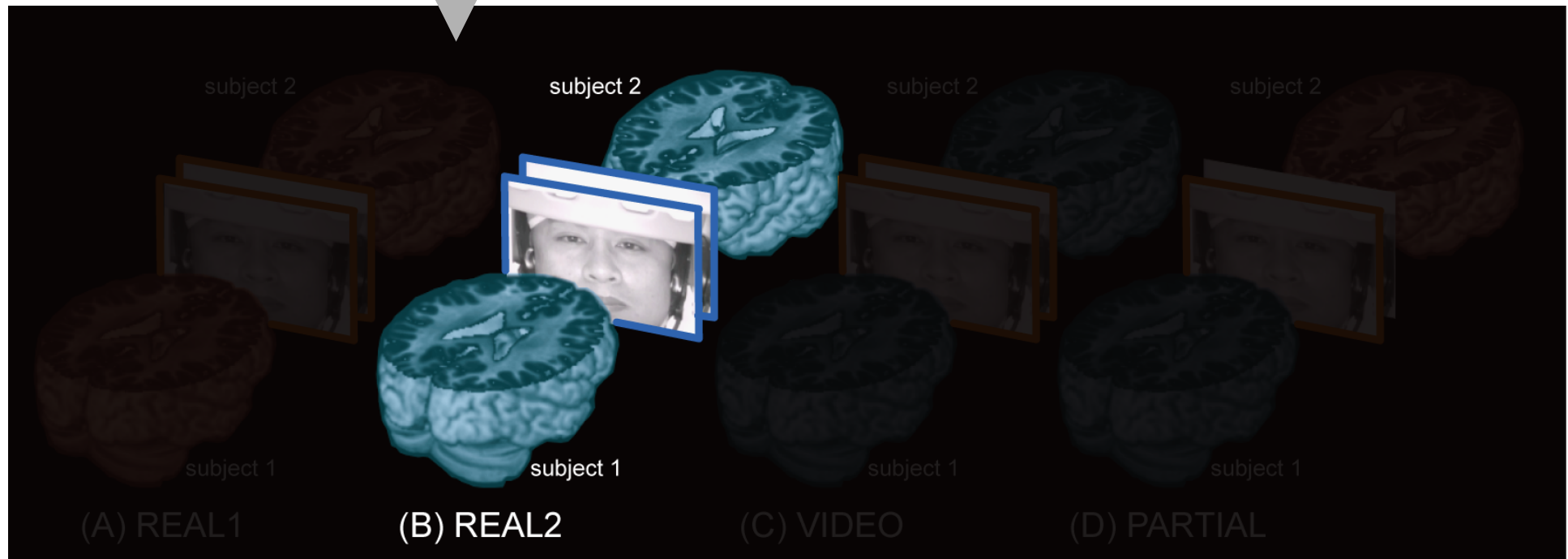
Synchronization extended anteriorly



Day 1

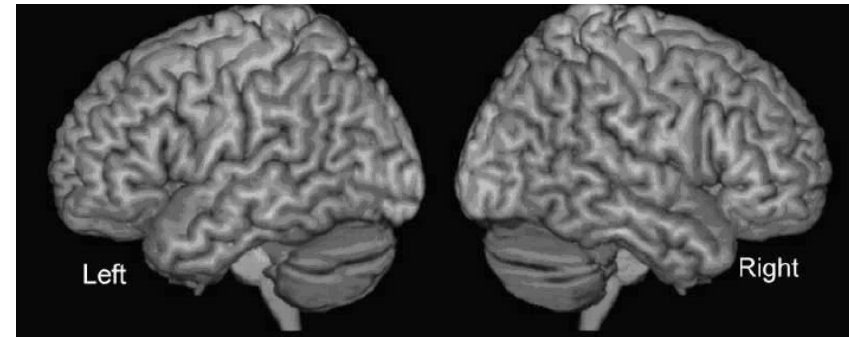
JA task Day 1

Day 2



Fake mutual gaze condition day 2 (VIDEO)

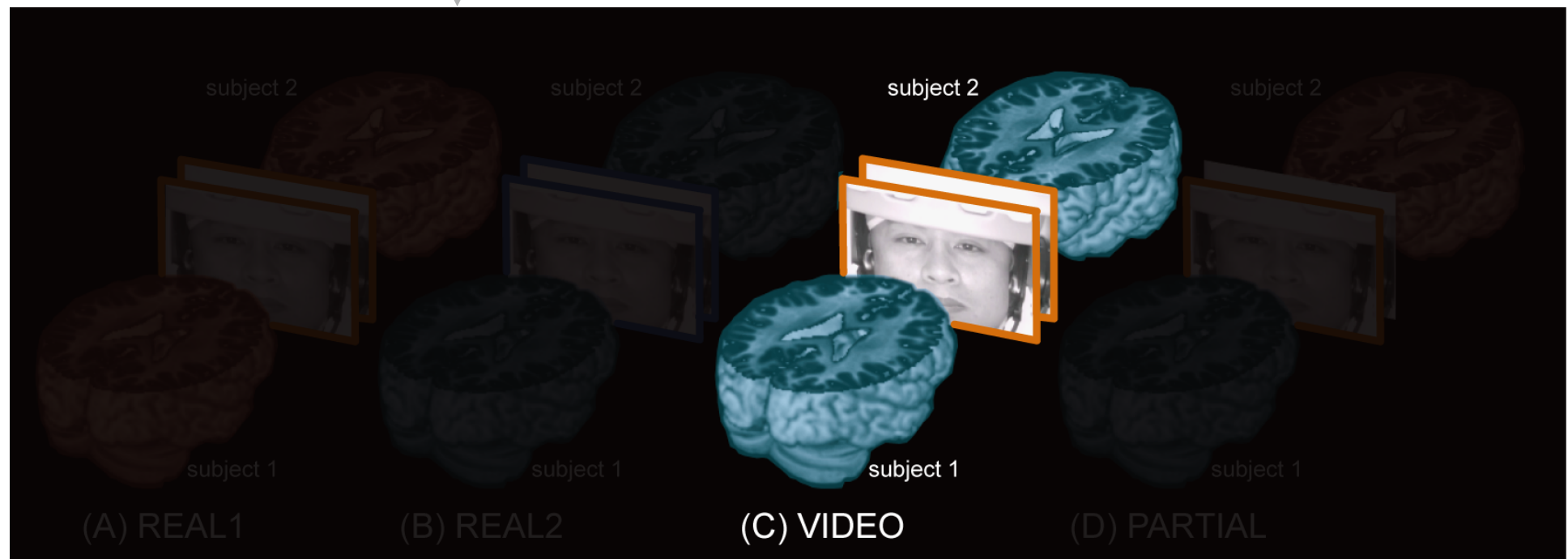
No synchronization
through VIDEO



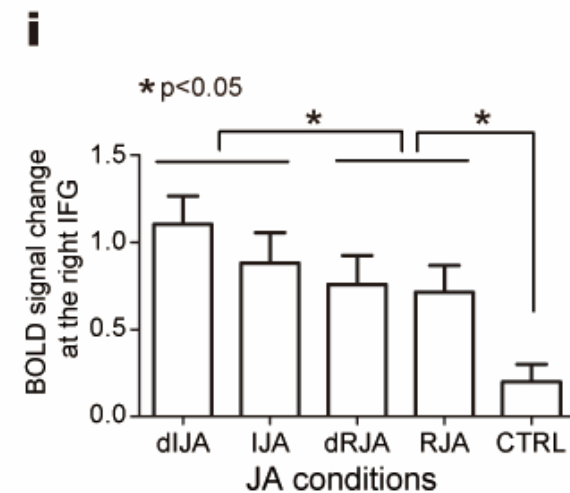
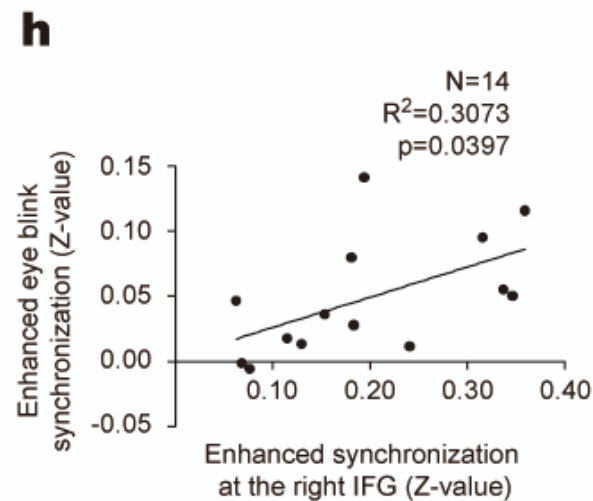
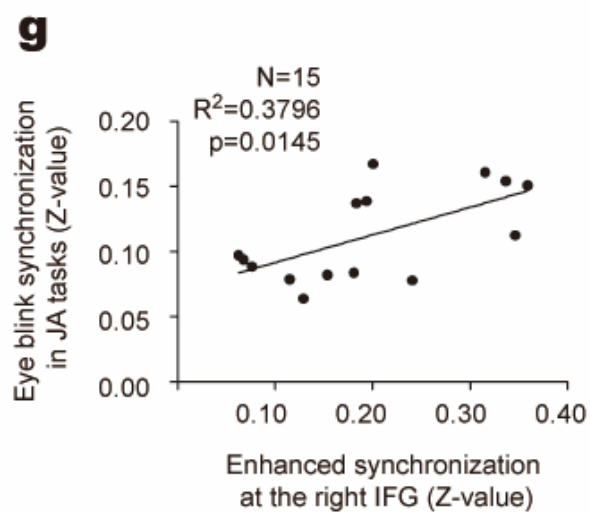
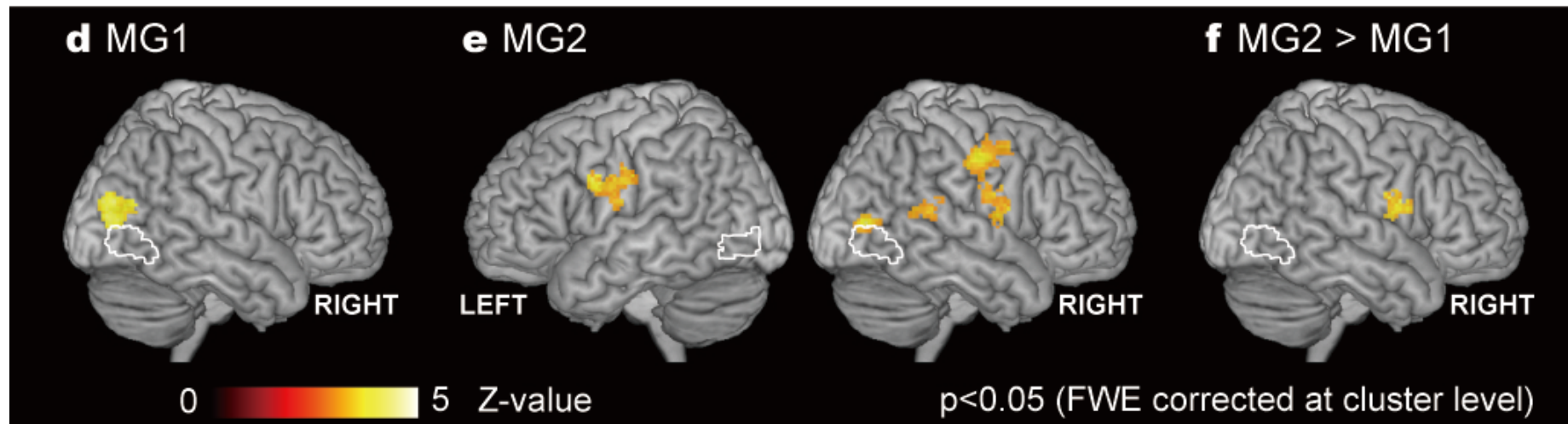
JA task Day 1

Day 1

Day 2



Neural synchronization of the right IFG represents enhanced sharing attention



No JA, no change in synchronization

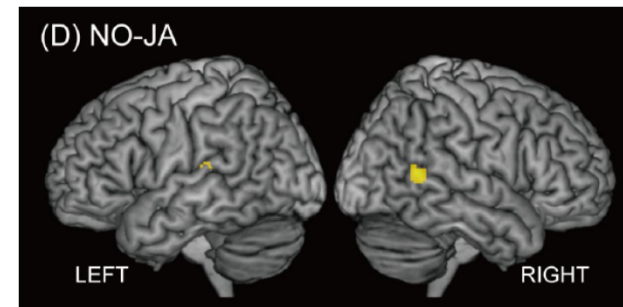
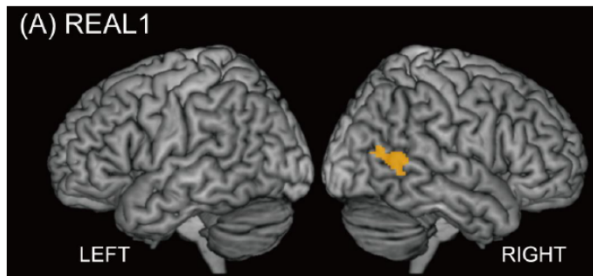
Day 1

Live mutual gaze

~~JA tasks~~

Day 2

Live mutual gaze



Anteriorly extended synchronization is JA specific

With different partner, no change in synchronization

Day 1

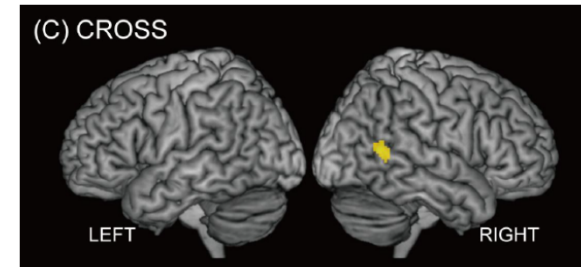
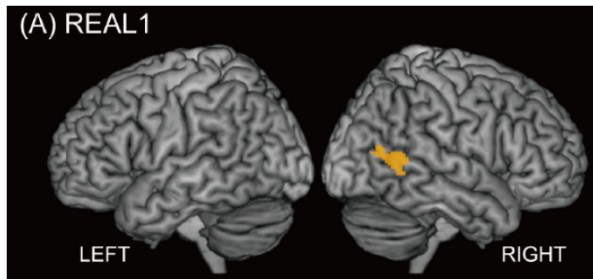
Eye contact

JA tasks

Day 2

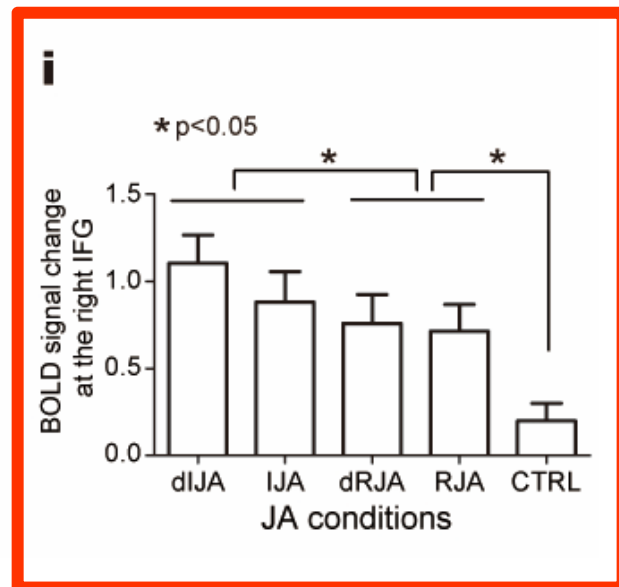
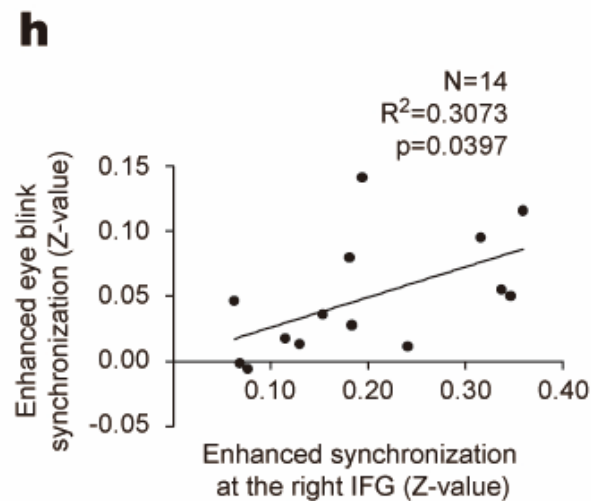
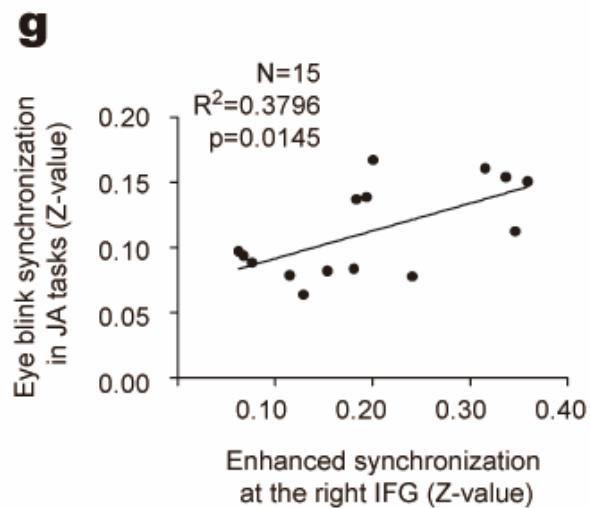
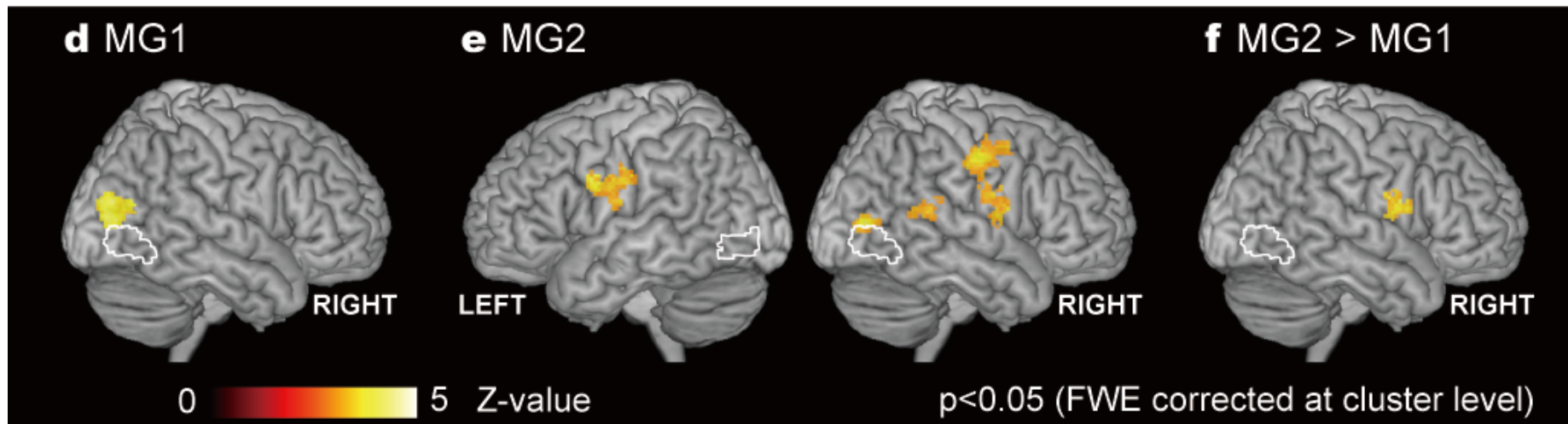
Eye contact

With different partner

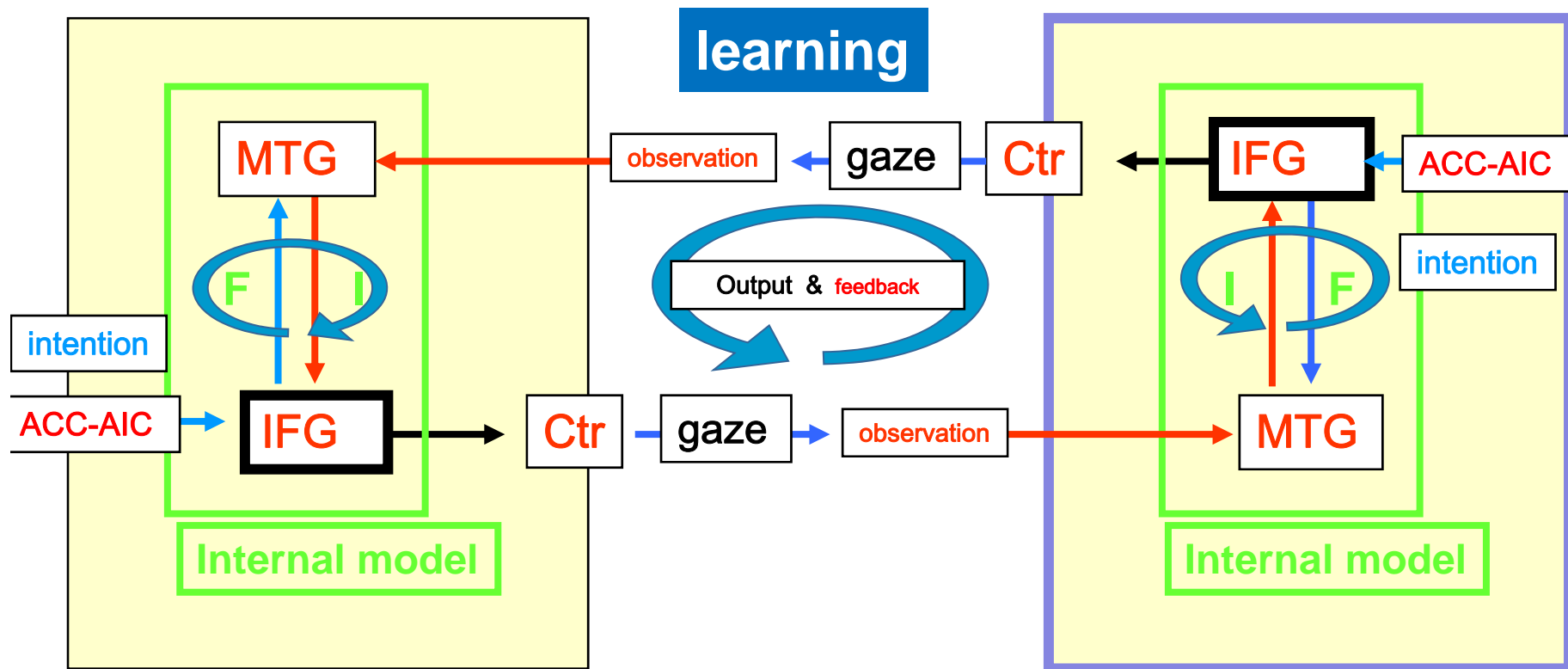


Anteriorly extended synchronization is partner specific

Neural synchronization of the right IFG represents enhanced sharing attention



“Sync” model representing inter-subjectivity during face-to-face communication



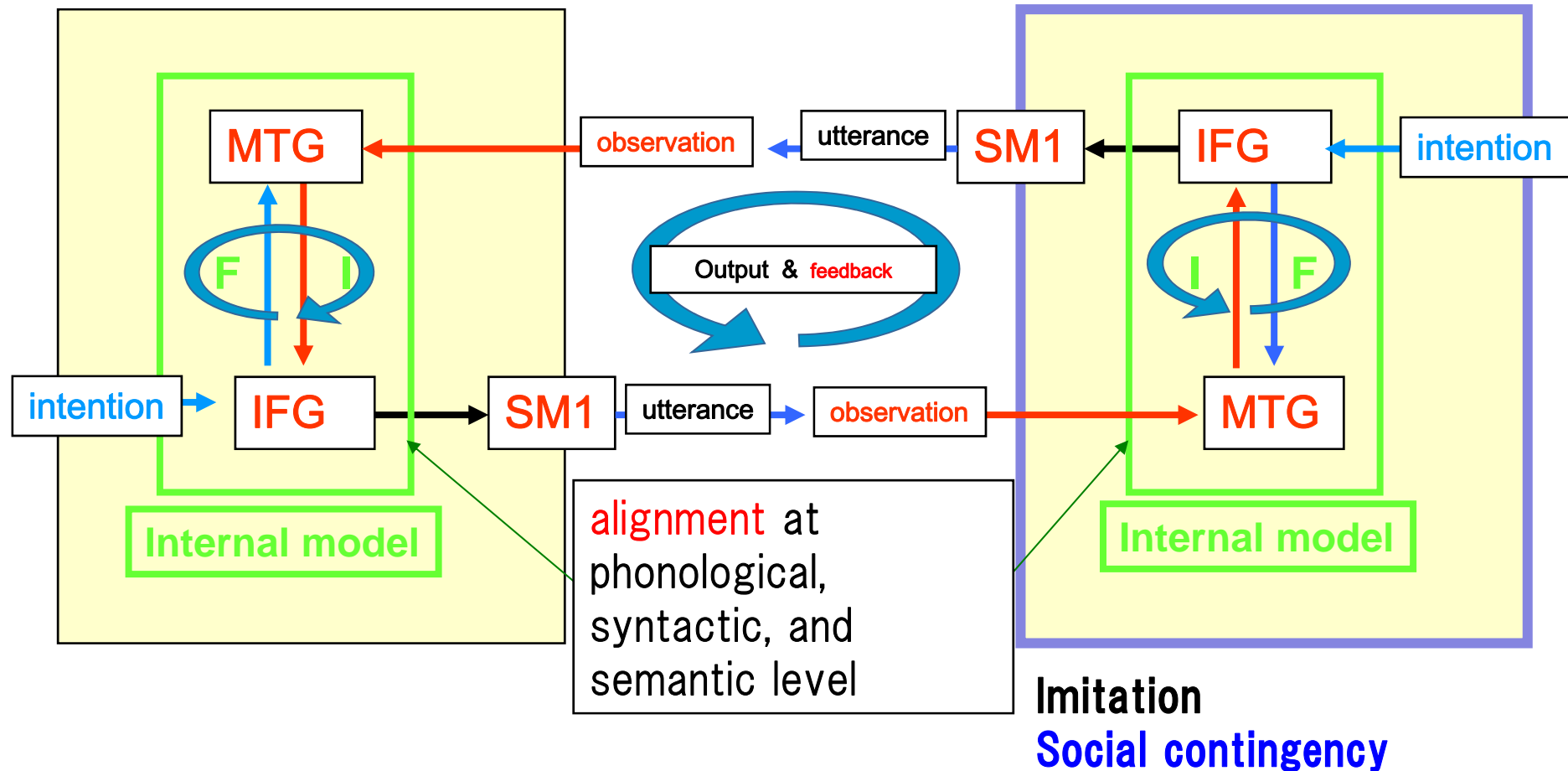
Sharing attention is established by the internal model formation through *cross-individual Hebbian learning* during joint attention task

Summary

Hyperscanning functional MRI showed the inter-brain effect of enhanced sharing attention emerged from the joint attention that cannot be reduced to the individual.

Extension to the dialogue and linguistic learning

Reinforcement learning



Shared action representation of language formed in BA that includes the third object

Development of social cognition

age	milestone behavior
0 m	neonatal imitation
4 m	social contingency
9 m	joint attention
1.5 y	self recognition
4.5 y	theory of mind
school	metaphor / sarcasm white lie moral empathy prosocial behavior



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1KppOC33Mfw>

Thank you for your
attention!