

# *Emergence of Self :*

## *Development of Social Cognition from Perinatal Period*



Masako Myowa-Yamakoshi  
Kyoto University, Japan

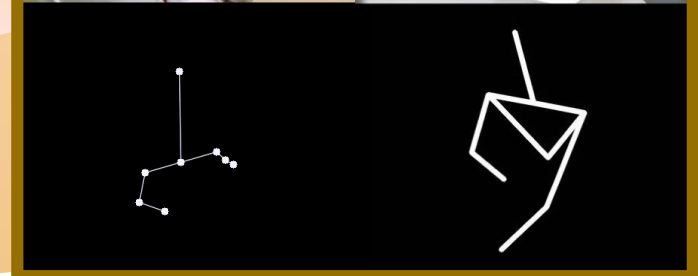
# Kyoto University Hospital



## Comparative perspective: Chimpanzee research



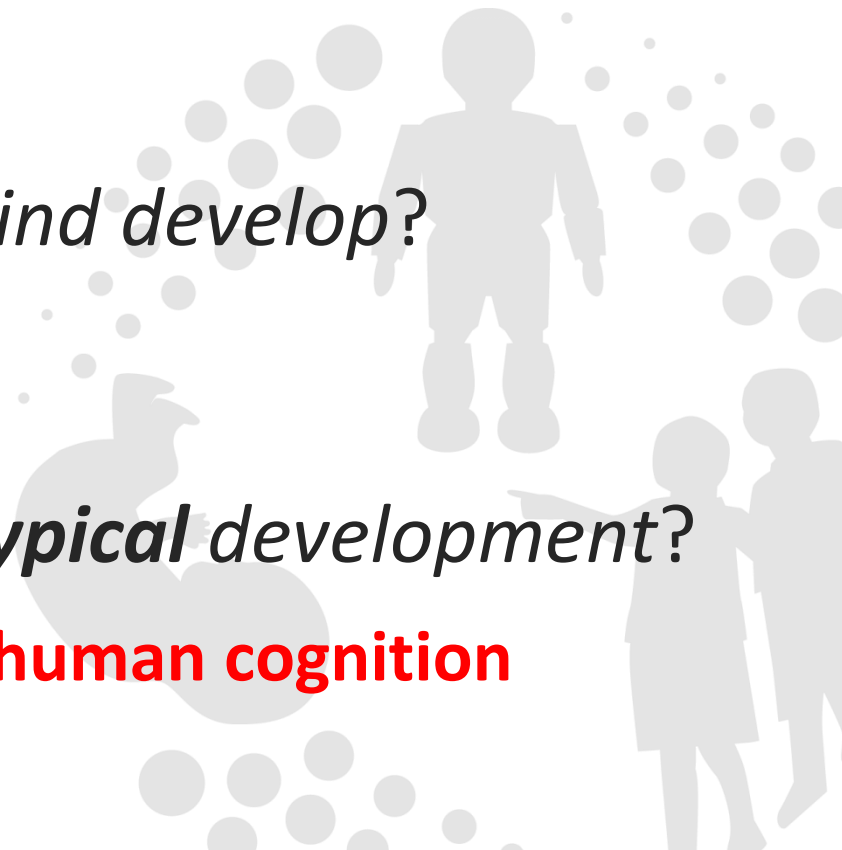
# Kyoto University Baby Lab



# Research Questions

toward an understanding of human mind --> consciousness

- 1. What does distinguish the mind of humans from that of other animals?*
  - **Evolutional foundation**
- 2. How does the human mind develop?*
  - **Ontogeny**
- 3. What causes **typical/atypical** development?*
  - **Developmental model of human cognition**



# Social and communicative deficits of autism spectrum disorders (ASD)

## ✓ Persistent deficits in social communication and social interaction across contexts

(DSM-V Criteria A)

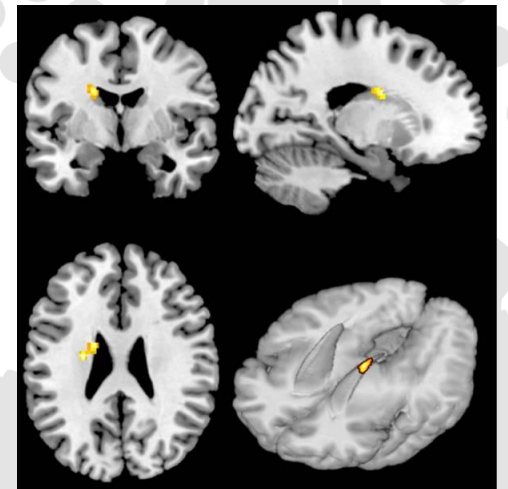
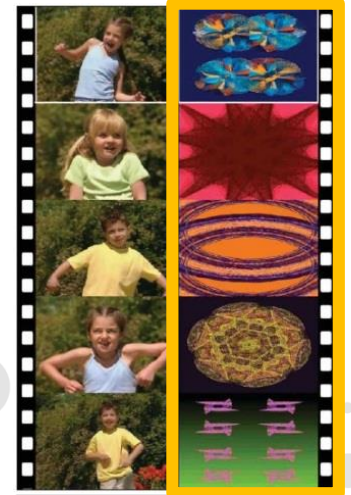
## ✓ Reward processing abnormalities in ASD are specific to **social stimuli**

(no difference for monetary rewards)

- Anterior cingulate vortex (ACC)
- Ventral striatum
- Ventral prefrontal cortex

## ✓ Abnormal functional activation and atypical structures of the Amygdala

## ✓ "Mirror neuron system" deficit ?

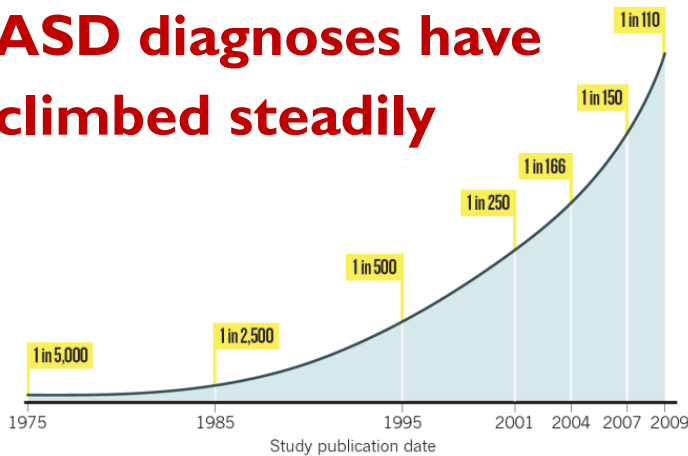


**When and Why such atypicality emerge in ASD?**

# The number of ASD children increases

## Nature (2011)

ASD diagnoses have climbed steadily

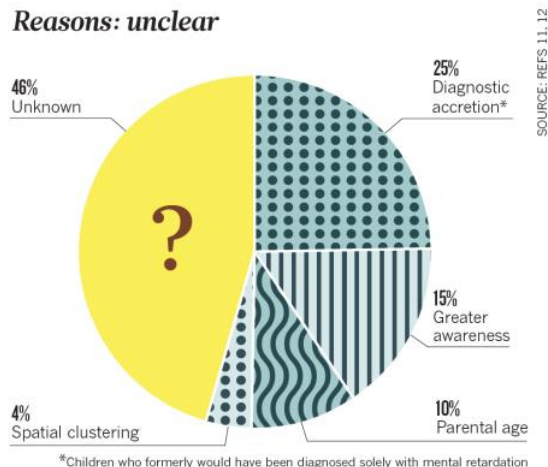


THIS WEEK

“How genes and the environment shape the development of autism?”

A strong support from government and philanthropic funders in recent years. And that investment has paid scientific dividends, above all the uncovering of genetic clues to underlying mechanisms—environmental factors, through gene-environment equation and thus will at best only ever yield part of the solution. It is widely agreed that environmental factors, through direct neurobiological mechanisms or interactions with genes, could

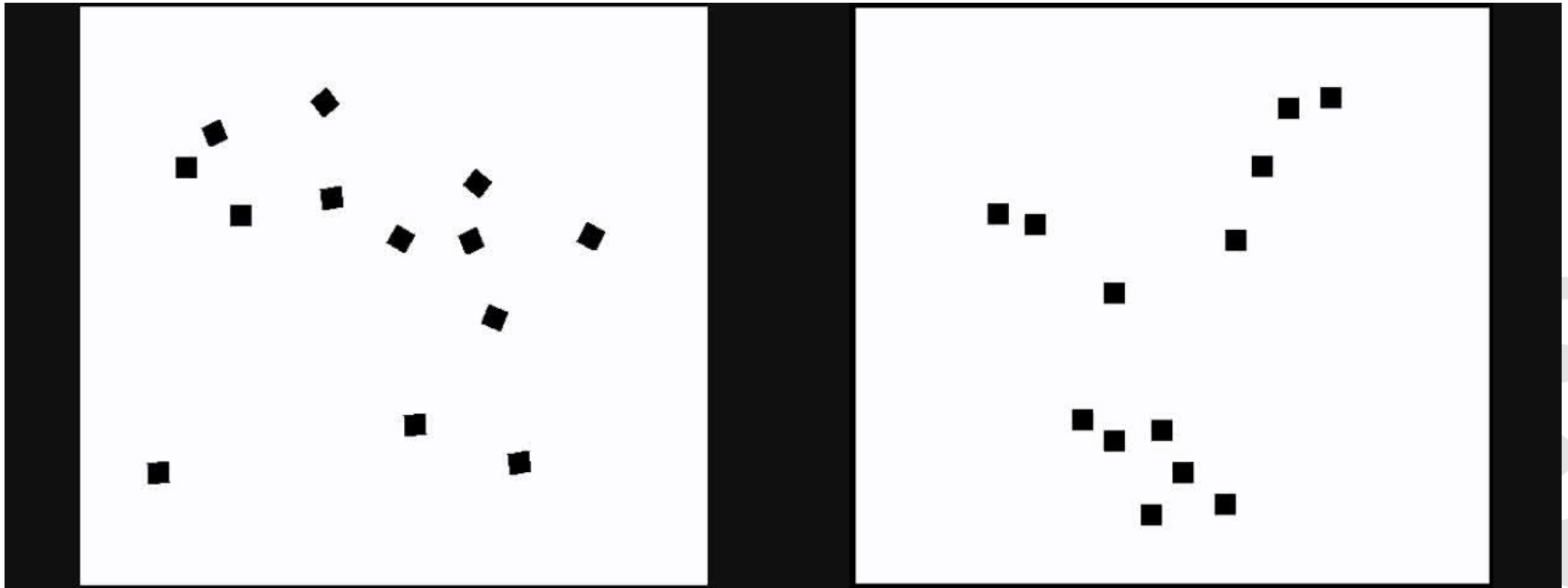
Reason is unclear



- ✓ The growth in the prevalence of autism cannot be explained only by genes
- ✓ Need to elucidate **the true environmental influences** on ASD (gene–environment interactions)
- ✓ From **fetal period**



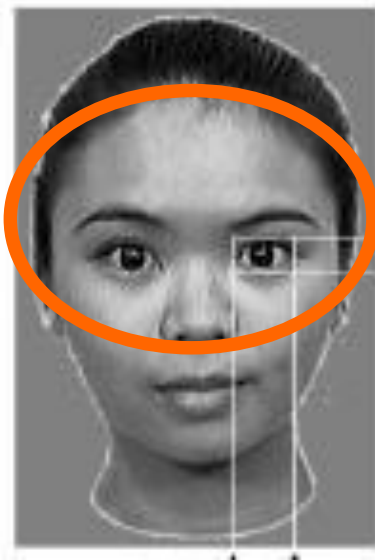
# Newborns prefer biological motion



Simion et al., 2008, *PNAS*

# Newborns prefer faces looking *directly* at them

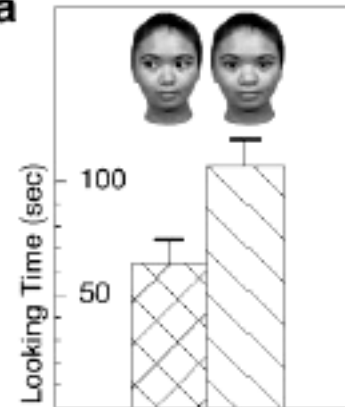
**a** Direct Gaze



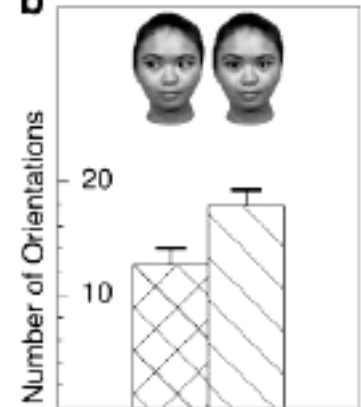
Averted Gaze



**a**



**b**



Farroni et al. 2002, *PNAS*

# Infants with ASD decrease attention to eyes from 2 to 6 months of age

## LETTER

doi:10.1038/nature12715

### Attention to eyes is present but in decline in 2–6-month-old infants later diagnosed with autism

Warren Jones<sup>1,2,3</sup> & Ami Klin<sup>1,2,3</sup>

Deficits in eye contact have been a hallmark of autism<sup>1,2</sup> since the condition's initial description<sup>3</sup>. They are cited widely as a diagnostic feature<sup>4</sup> and figure prominently in clinical instruments<sup>5</sup>; however, the early onset of these deficits has not been known. Here we show in a prospective longitudinal study that infants later diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders (ASDs) exhibit mean decline in eye fixation from 21.06 months of age, a pattern not observed in infants who do not develop ASD. These observations mark the earliest known indicators of social disability in infancy, but also falsify a prior hypothesis: in the first months of life, this basic mechanism of social adaptive action—eye looking—is not immediately diminished in infants later diagnosed with ASD; instead, eye looking appears to begin at normative levels prior to decline. The timing of decline highlights a narrow developmental window and reveals the early derailment of processes that would otherwise have a key role in canalizing typical social development. Finally, the observation of this decline in eye fixation—rather than outright absence—offers a promising opportunity for early intervention that could build on the apparent preservation of mechanisms subserving reflexive initial orientation towards the eyes.

Ami Klin, Warren Jones & ASD's offspring announcements by 1. In autism

Data were collected at 10 time points at months 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18 and 24. We studied 110 infants, enrolled as risk-based cohorts:  $n = 59$  at high-risk for ASD (full siblings of a child with ASD<sup>6</sup>) and  $n = 51$  at low-risk (without first-, second- or third-degree relatives with ASD). Diagnostic status was ascertained at 36 months. For details on study design, clinical characterization of participants, and experimental procedures, see Methods and Supplementary Information.

Of the high-risk infants, 12 met criteria for ASD<sup>7</sup> (10 males, 2 females), indicating a conversion rate of 20.3%<sup>8</sup>. One child from the low-risk cohort was also diagnosed with ASD. Given the small number of girls in the ASD group, we constrained current analyses to males only, 11 ASD (10 from the high-risk cohort and 1 from the low-risk), and 25 typically developing (all from the low-risk cohort).

At each testing session, infants viewed scenes of naturalistic caregiver interaction (Fig. 1a, b) while their visual scanning was measured with eye-tracking equipment. The 36 typically developing and ASD children viewed 2,384 trials of video scenes.

Control comparisons tested for between-group differences in attention to task and completion of procedures. There were no between-group differences in duration of data collected per child (typically developing = 71.25 (27.66) min, ASD = 64.16 (30.77) min, data given





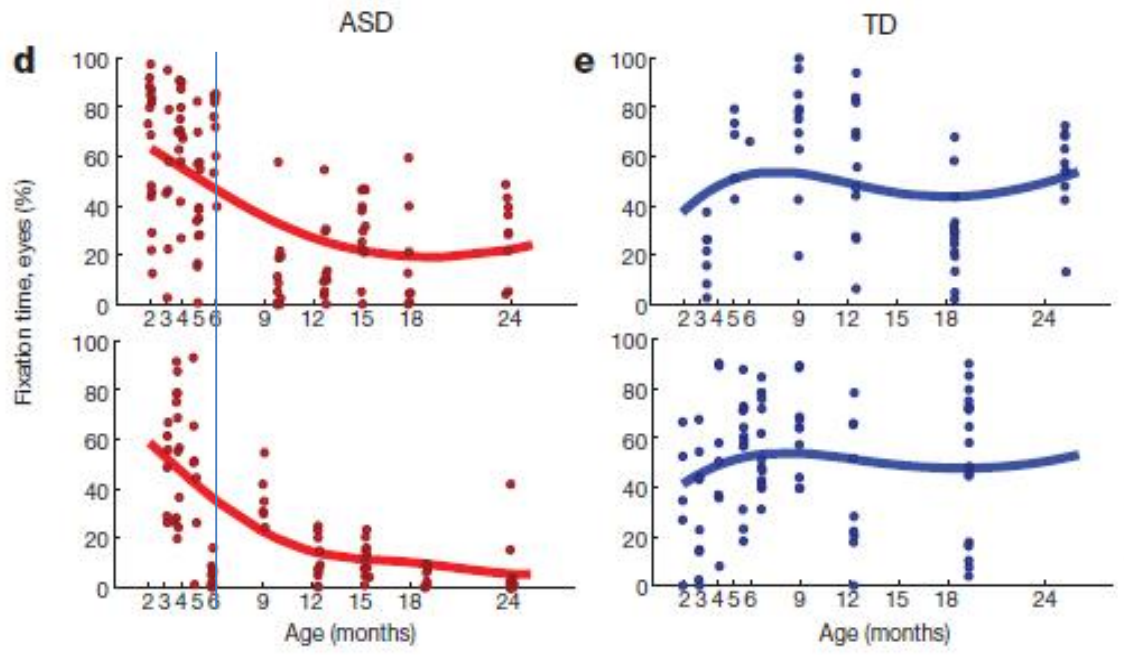
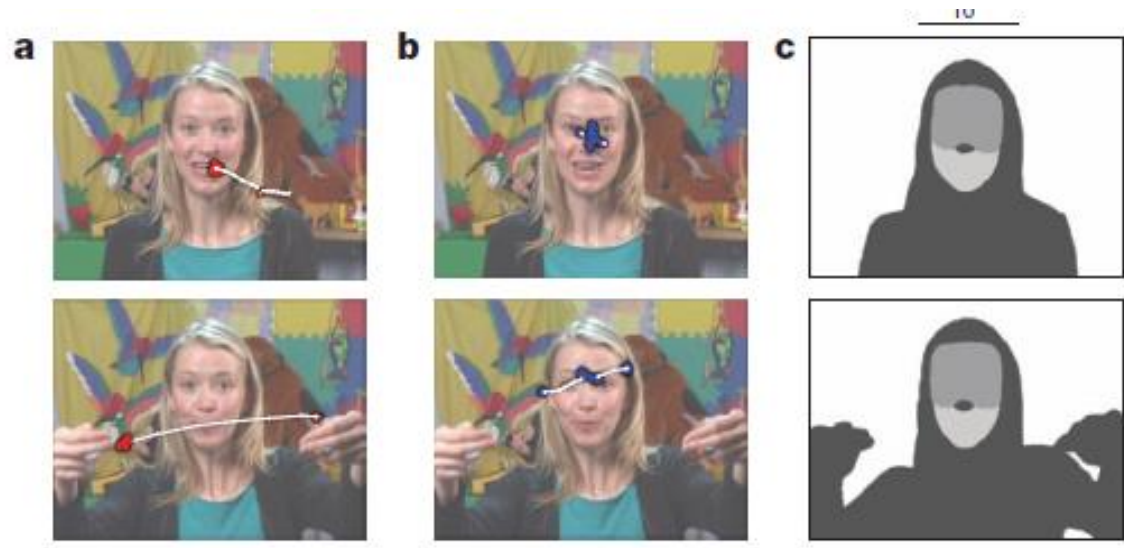
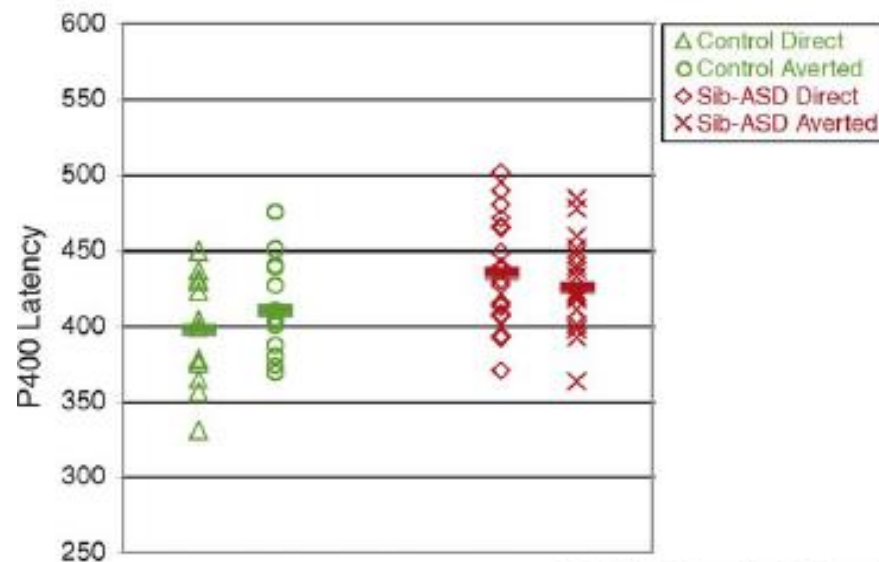
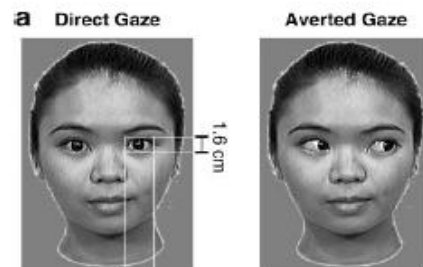


Figure 1 | Example stimuli, visual scanpaths, regions-of-interest, and longitudinal eye-tracking data from 2 until 24 months of age. a, Data from a 6-month-old infant later diagnosed with ASD, red. b, Data from a typically developing (TD) 6-month-old infant, blue. Two seconds of eye-tracking data are overlaid on each still image, onscreen at the midpoint of the data sample. Saccades are plotted as thin white lines with white dots; fixation data are plotted as larger coloured dots. c, Corresponding regions of interest for each image in a and b, shaded to indicate eye, mouth, body and object regions. d, e, Trial data with FDA curve fits plotting percentage of total fixation time on eyes, from 2 until 24 months of age, for two children with ASD (d) and two TD children (e).

# Getting answers from babies about autism

Mayada Elsabbagh and Mark H. Johnson

Centre for Brain and Cognitive Development, Birkbeck, University of London, Henry Wellcome Building, London, WC1E 7HX, UK



# Cortical activation in response to various sensory stimuli in newborns

- Near-infrared spectroscopy (NIRS)
- Produce a new NIRS headgear covering the entire head (the occipital, temporal, centroparietal areas)
- No studies measure brain activities over broad cortical areas for various sensory stimuli with the same probe

Noninvasive blood oxygenation monitoring

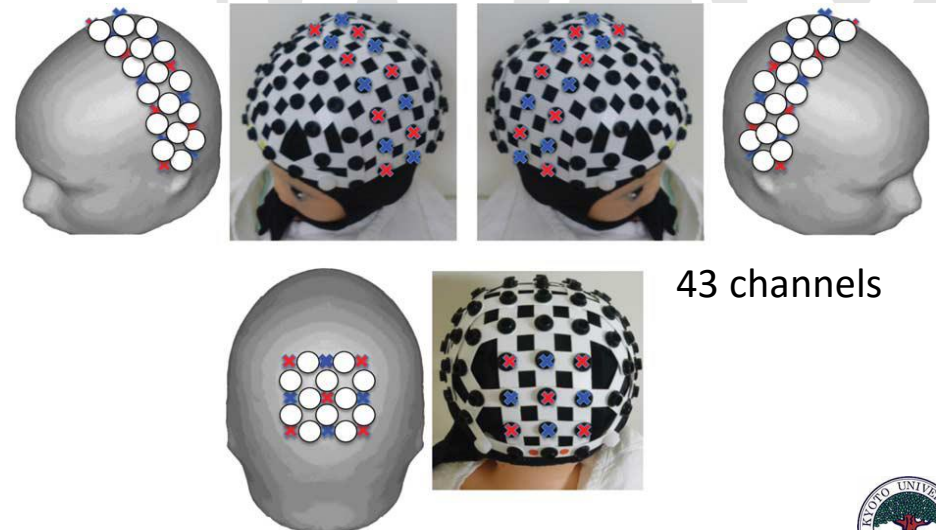


# Novel NIRS headgears covering the whole newborn brain

Shibata et al. 2012, *NeuroReport*

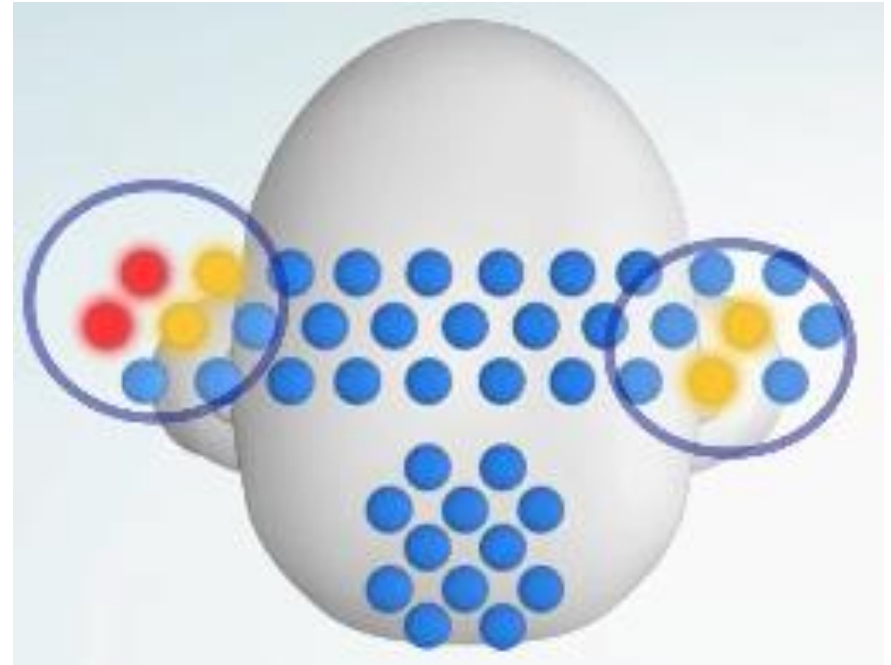
## Three types of sensory stimuli

- **Auditory**: noise, speech, piano music, female voice
- **Visual**: flashing light at 8-20Hz
- **Tactile**: vibration motor



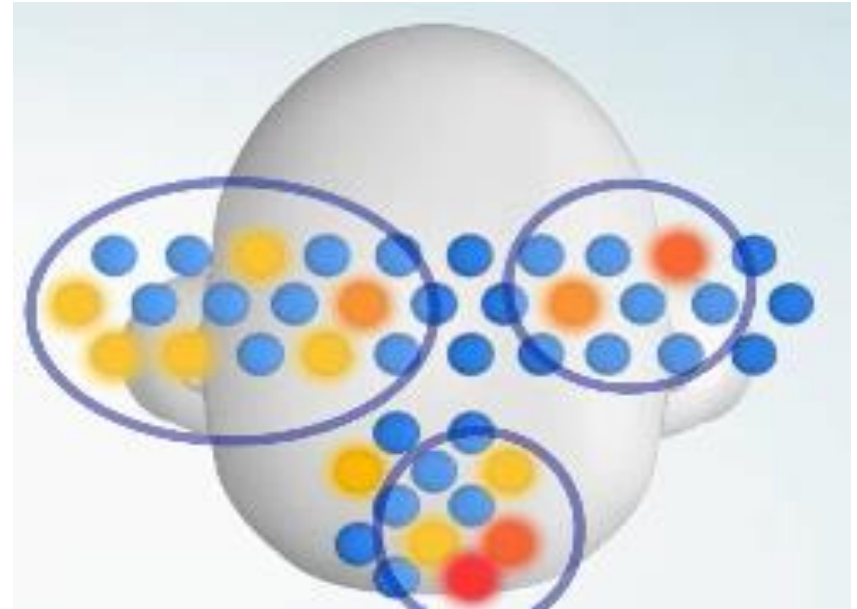


# Auditory task



**Right / Left temporal areas**

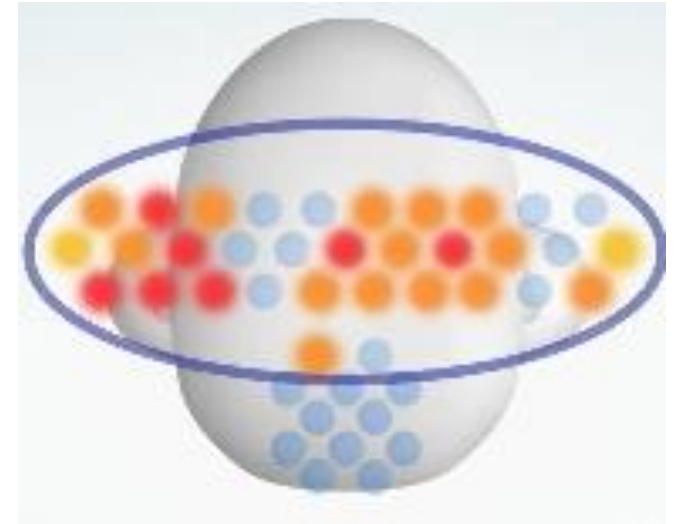
# Visual task



**Occipital and some Temporal areas**



# Tactile task



**Right/Left temporal and centroparietal areas**

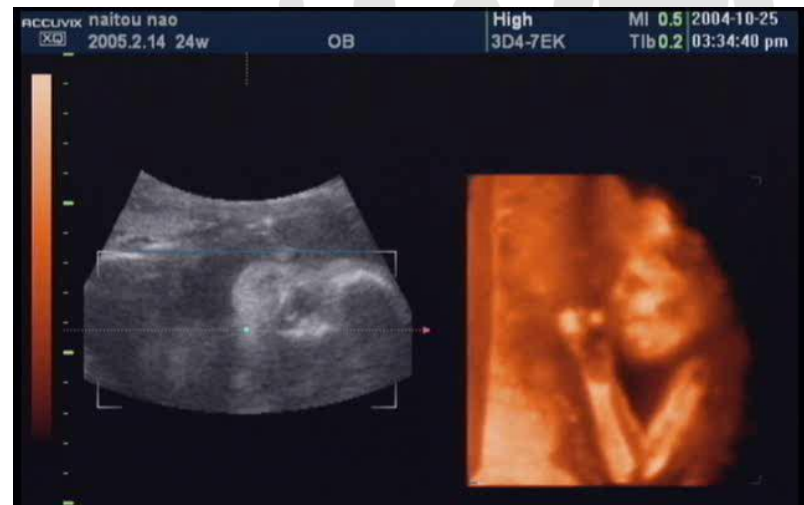
# Tactile experience is important in early development

- Different types of stimuli activate each corresponding primary sensory cortex
- Tactile stimuli activate in broader brain areas compared with other types of stimuli
- Importance of tactile sensation in the perinatal period



# Observation of human fetus using four-dimensional ultrasound sonography

Scanning fetal **body movements** and **facial expression** with 3-D imaging in almost real-time mode (20 frames /sec.)



# Human fetuses begin to learn

## ■ Toward the “*external world*”

- Pushing womb wall by their palm (25 w GA)
- Grasping umbilical cord by their fingers (30 w GA)

## ■ Toward “*their own body*”

- Hands to mouth (18 w GA)
- Sucking (20 w GA)
- Grasping hands, tiptoes, knees (22 w GA)
- Opening mouth *before* hand to mouth/sucking (24 w GA)

“*anticipatory mouth opening*”



# Fetal anticipatory mouth opening ?

- Newborns show coordinated movements between their hands and mouths (**hand-to-mouth**)
- “**Anticipatory**” mouth opening before their hands come in contact with their mouths

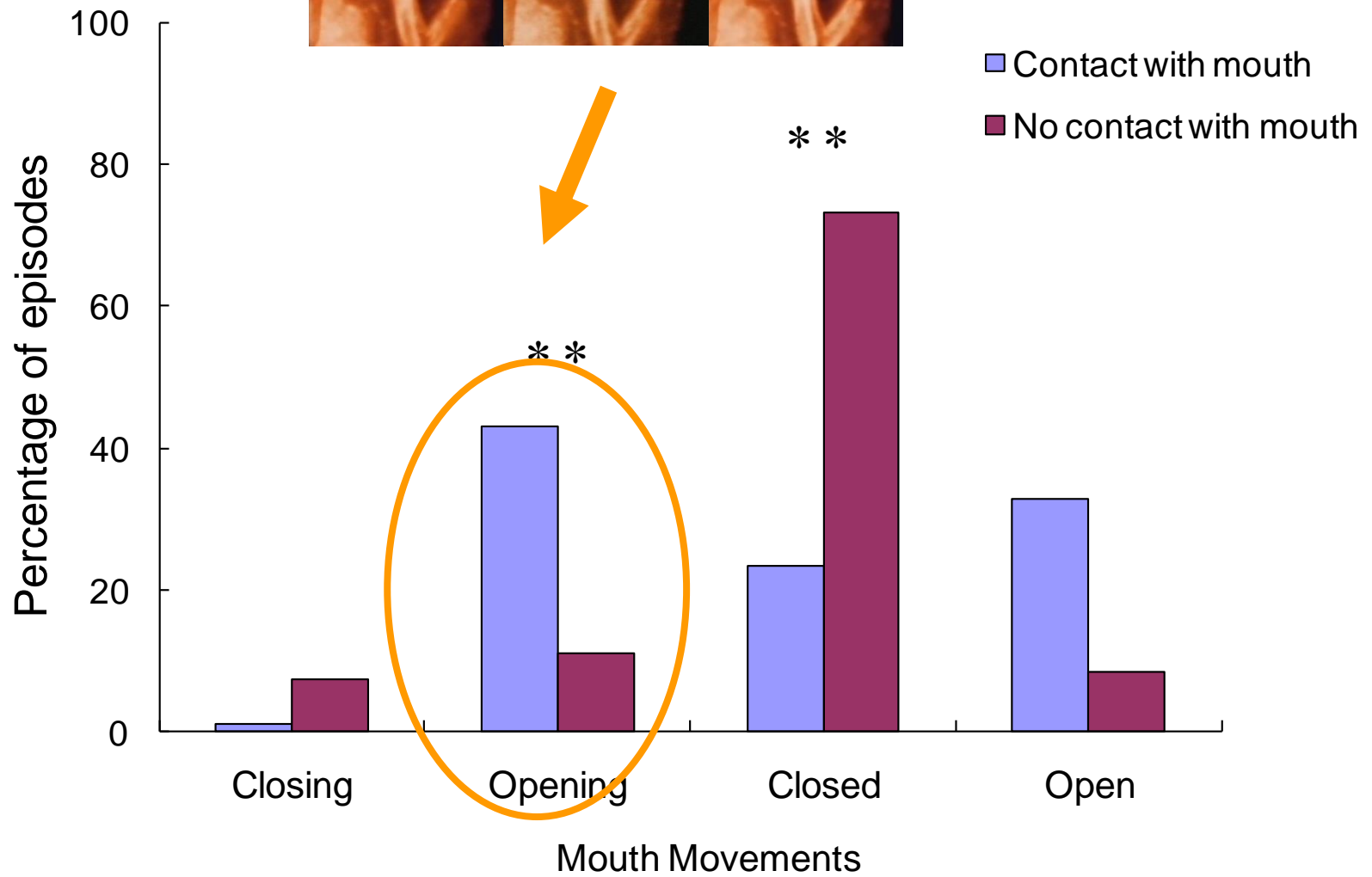
Hand-Mouth contact is an action that reflects the anticipation of the goal, which is the behavioral evidence for “**intention**” (primitive knowledge of **self**)



Butterfield, 1999; Chhat, 2001



19-34 weeks GA





# Development of proprioception in the womb



# Fetuses learn mother's voice

Human fetuses discriminate mother's voice from other females' voice

- Increase heart rate
- Responses were sustained for 4 min

- **Activate oral movements !**

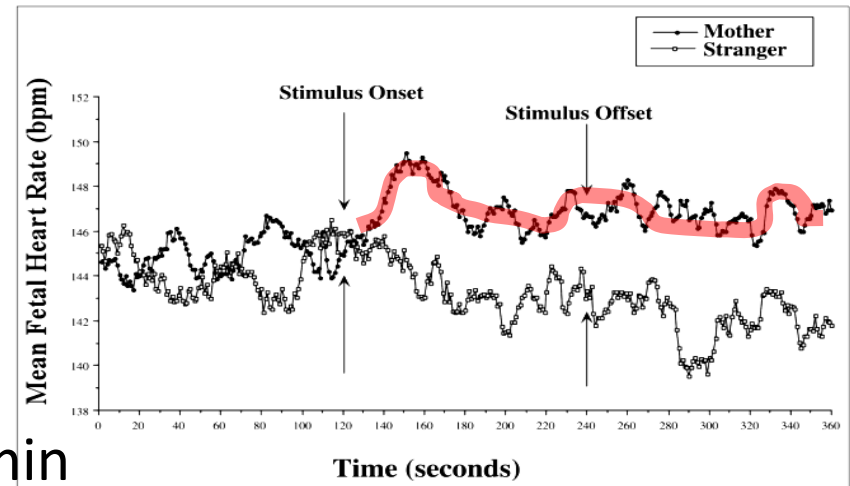
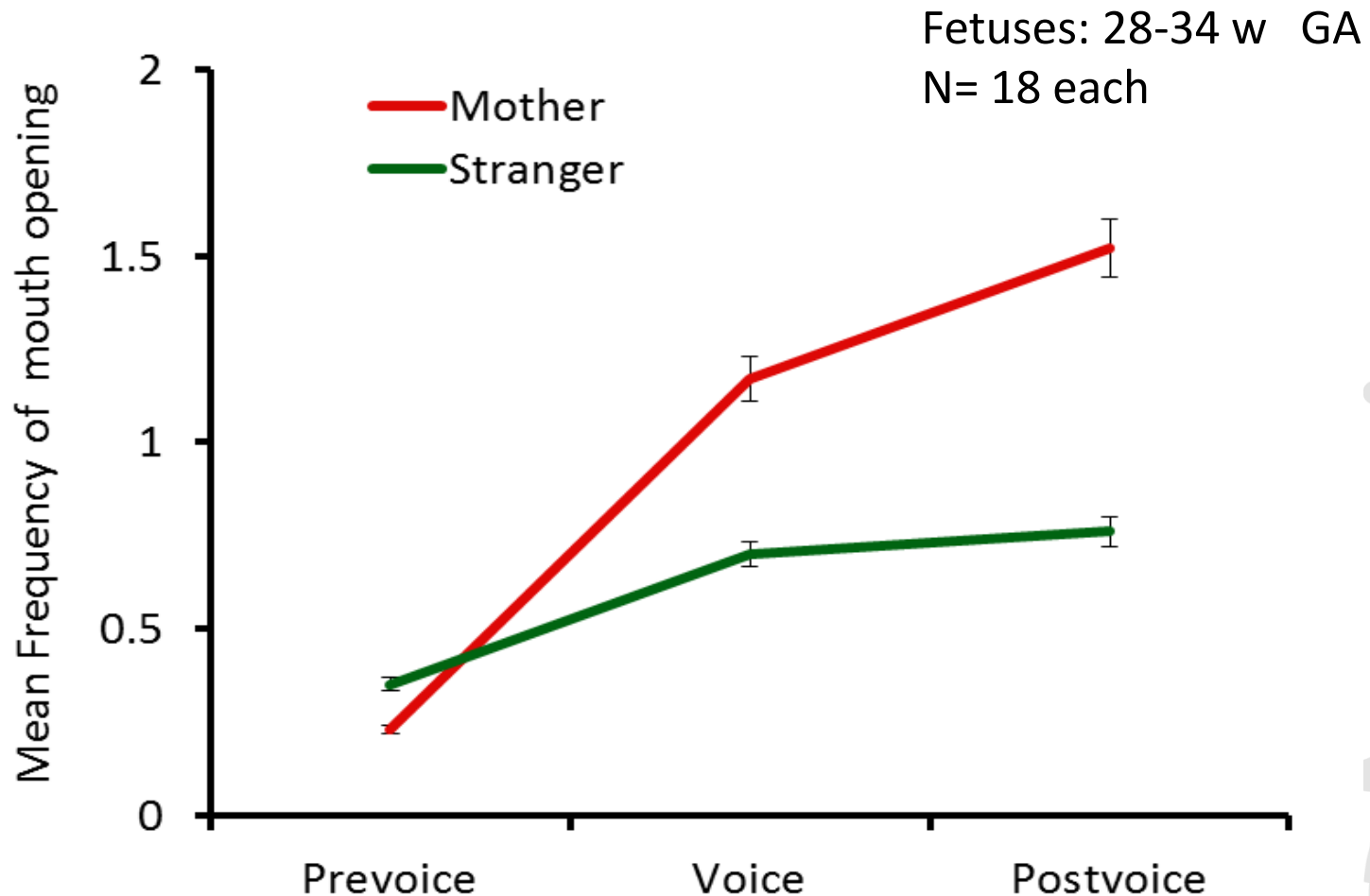


Fig. 1. Average fetal heart rate for the 2 min prior to voice onset, 2 min of mother's or stranger's voice, and 2 min following voice offset.

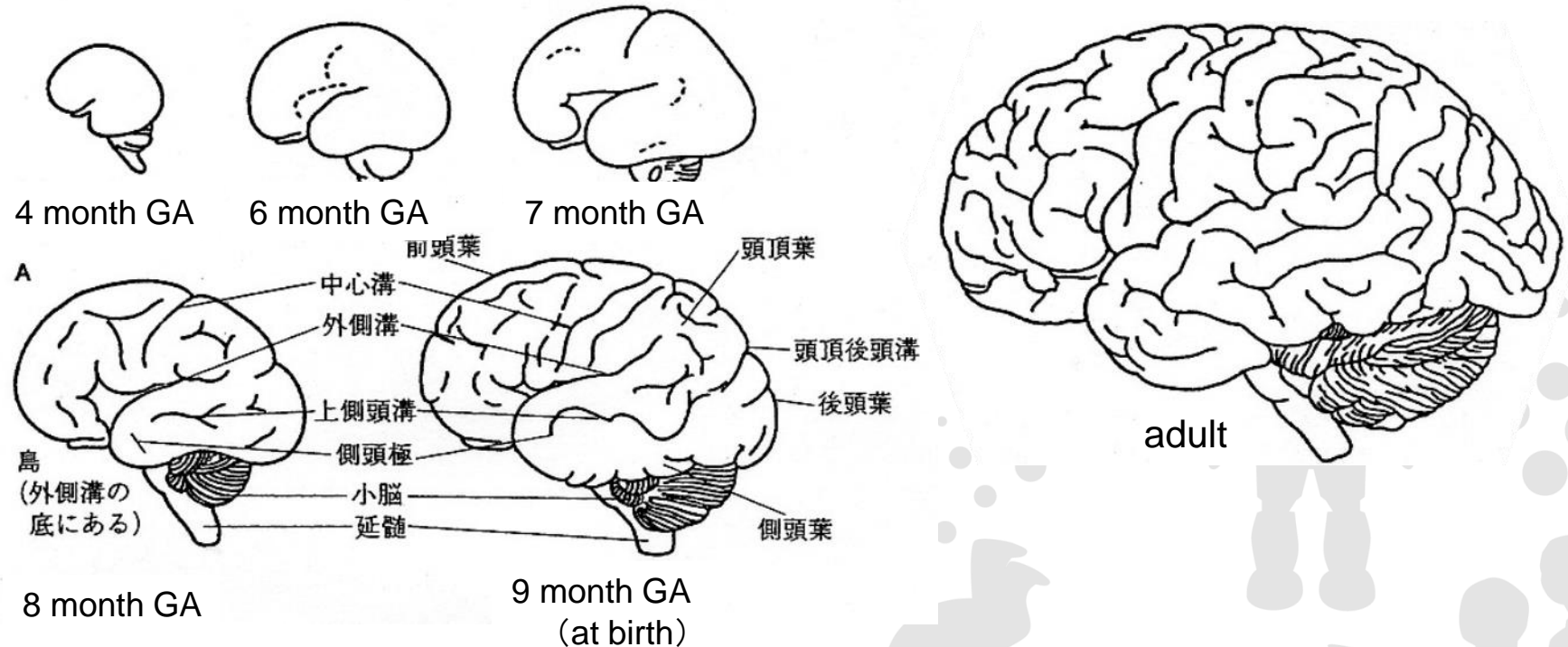


# Oral responses to mother's and stranger's voices





# Fetal brain development in humans



**remarkable development in the last trimester of pregnancy**

- increase in brain volume
- increase the amount of sulcal

# Observation of chimpanzee fetuses

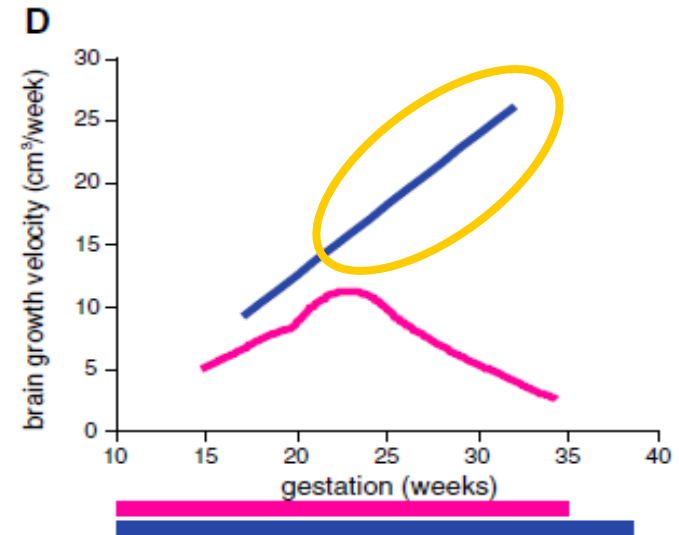
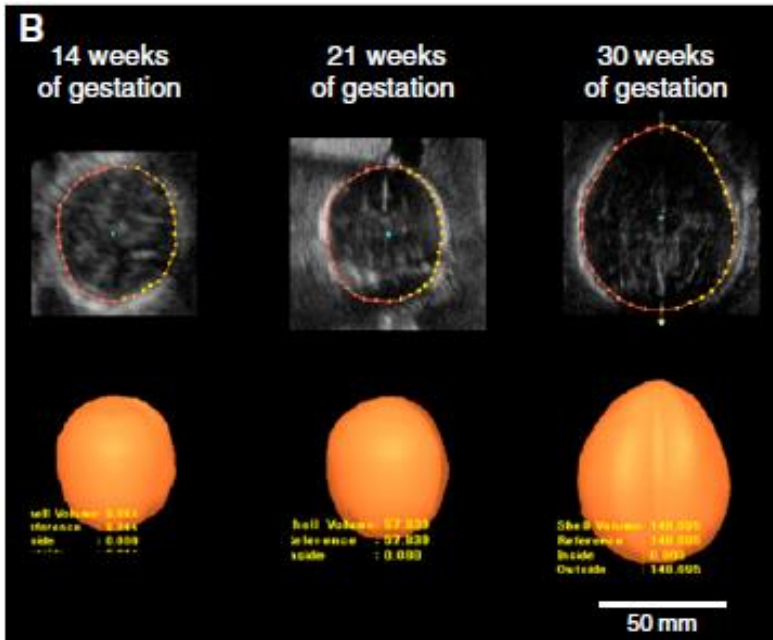
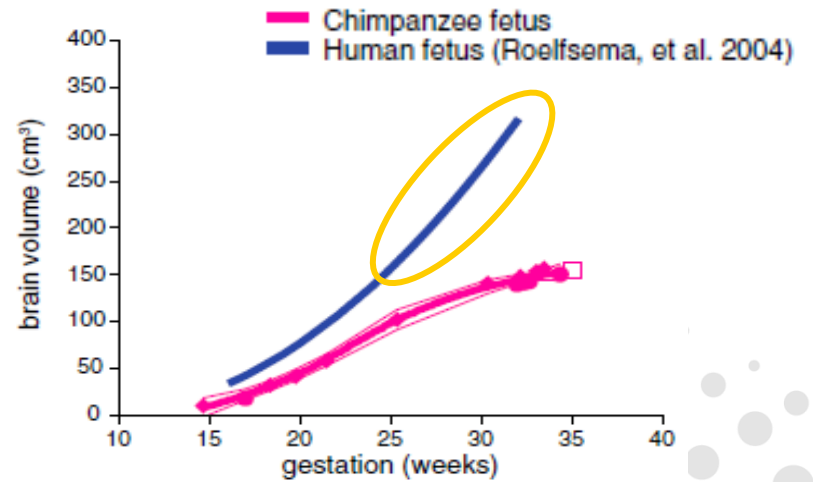


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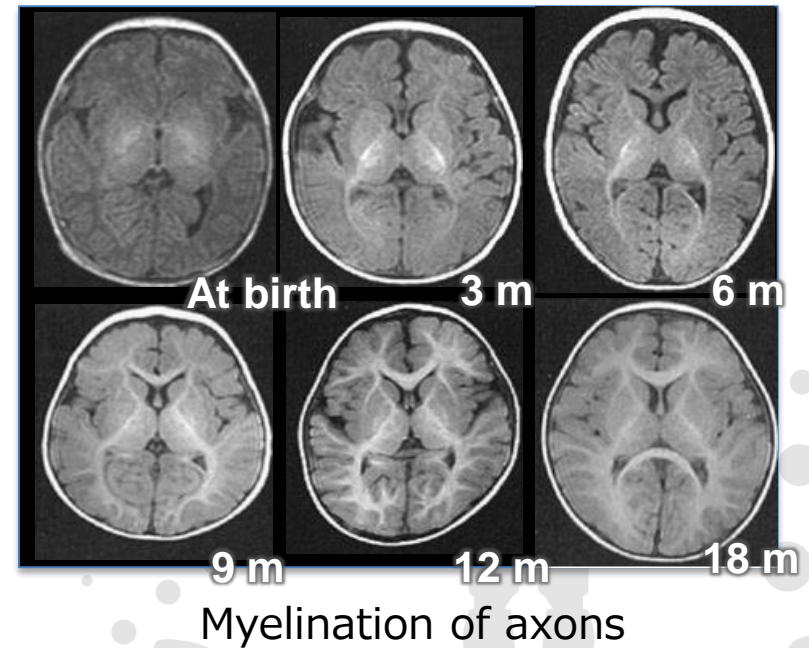
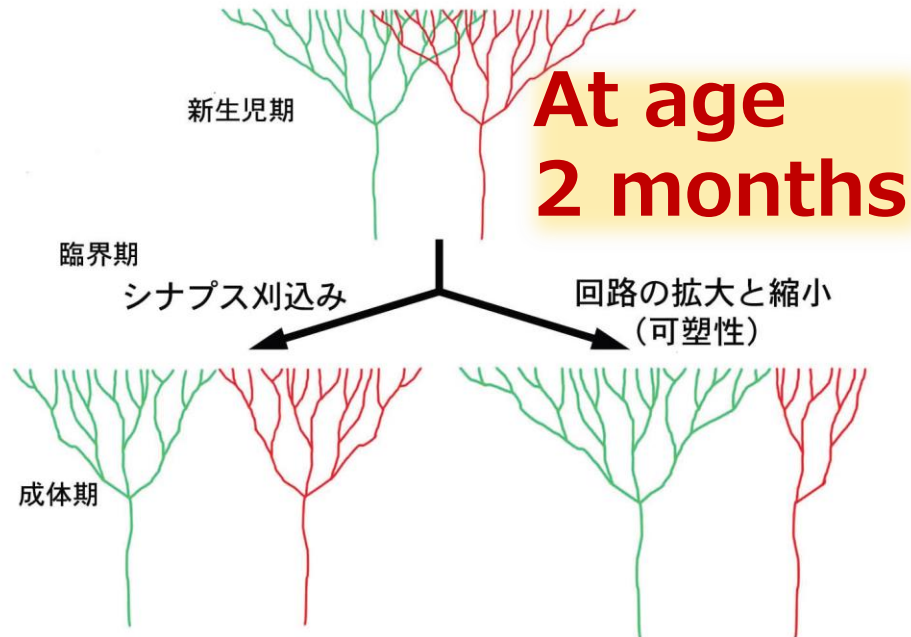


# Remarkable enlargement of the human brain

Sakai et al., 2012, *Current Biology*



# Development of early neural system



- **Explosion of synapse formation**  
densities peaking at age 2 months  
in all areas except visual area
- **Synaptic pruning**  
at different rates among different  
cortical areas (until teenage)

Effects of Postnatal  
Environment ?

# Development of Preterm Infants



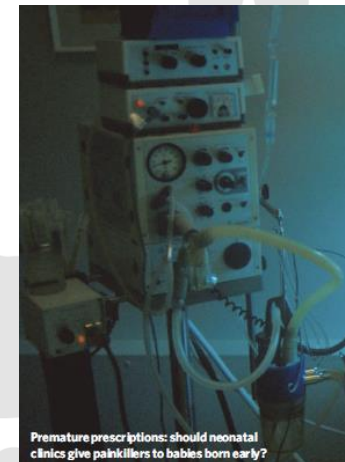
*Nature*, 444(9), November 2006

# Environment in NICU (neonatal intensive-care units)



--- *Nature*, 444(9), November 2006

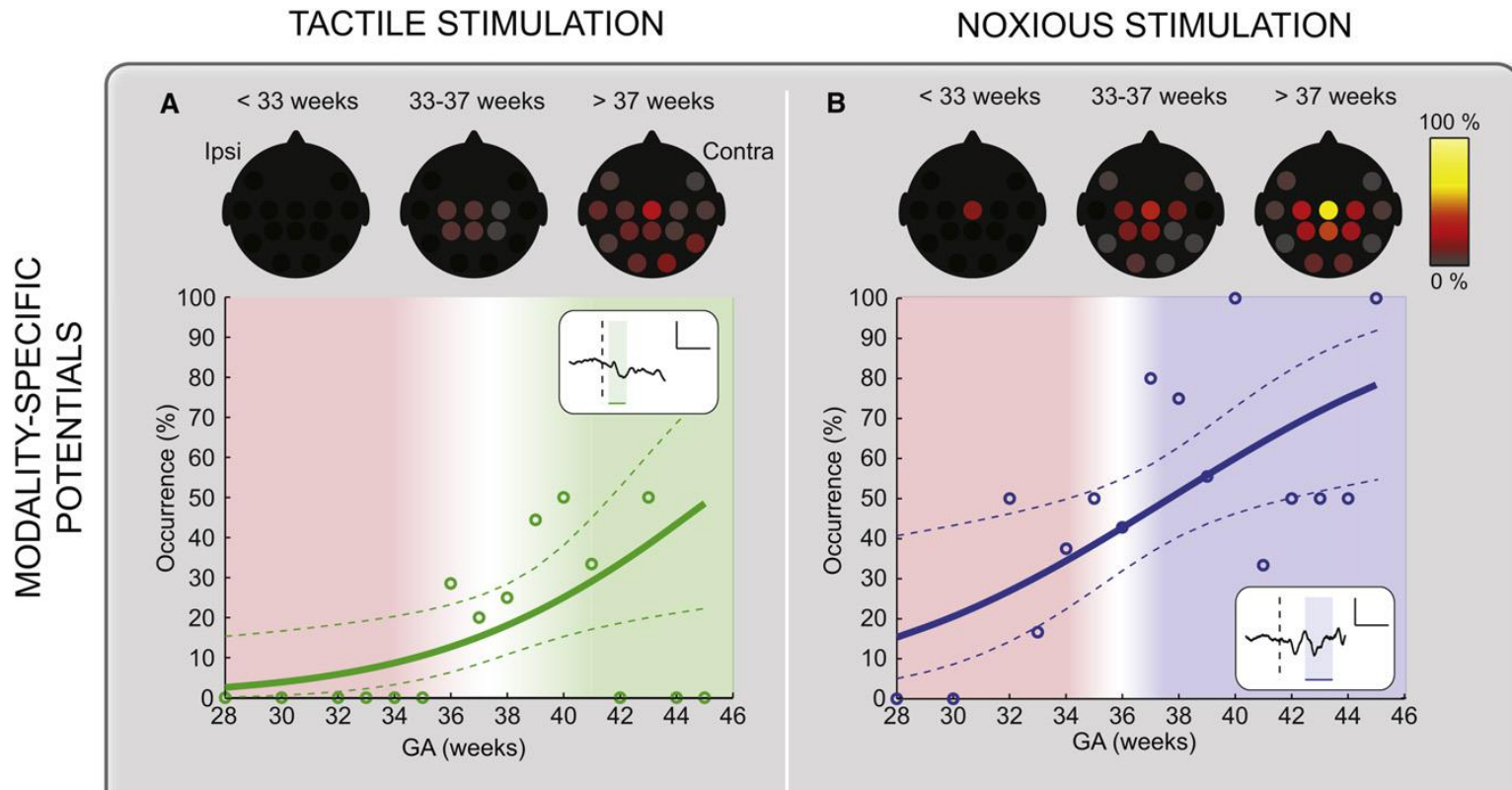
- excessive noise and light
- motionless in an incubator
- isolation from mother
- many routine medical procedures (may be painful)





# A Shift in Sensory Processing that Enables the Developing Human Brain to Discriminate Touch from Pain

Fabrizi et al., *Current Biology*, 2011



- ✓ The human brain may discriminate touch from pain from 35–37 weeks GA
- ✓ **Before 35–37 weeks**, touch and noxious lance evoke nonspecific neuronal bursts
- ✓ **After 35–37 weeks**, touch and noxious lance evoke modality-specific potentials

# Preterm birth increases developmental risks

- Extremely preterm babies (<27 weeks of GA)
- Babies born **just two weeks early** are at higher risk of physical and mental problems than those born later

Lindstrom et al., 2011, *Pediatrics*

## Higher risk of

- **Language development**
- **Cognitive** and **social-emotional** functioning
- **ADHD** (2.5 – 5 times greater)
- **LD** (4 – 6 times greater)
- **ASD** (5 times greater ?)



*Nature*, 2011

Long-term study of **gene-environment interactions** is needed



# ANS assessment by infant cry

biology  
letters

rsbl.royalsocietypublishing.org

Research



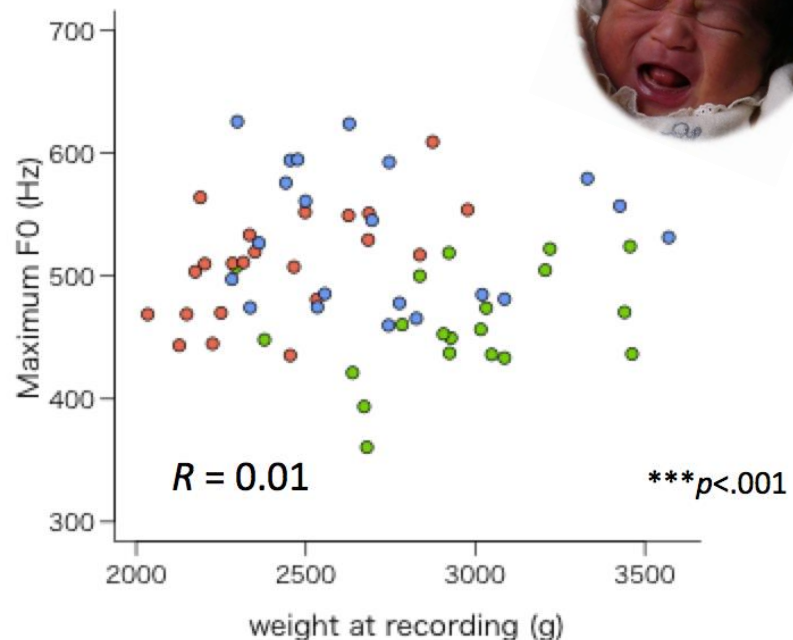
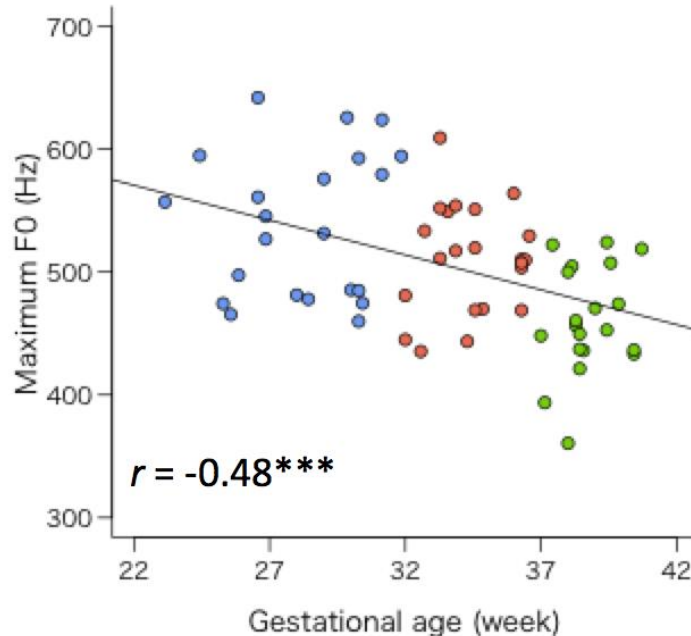
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Cite this article: Shinya Y, Kawai M, Niwa F, Myowa-Yamakoshi M. 2014 Preterm birth is

## Animal behaviour

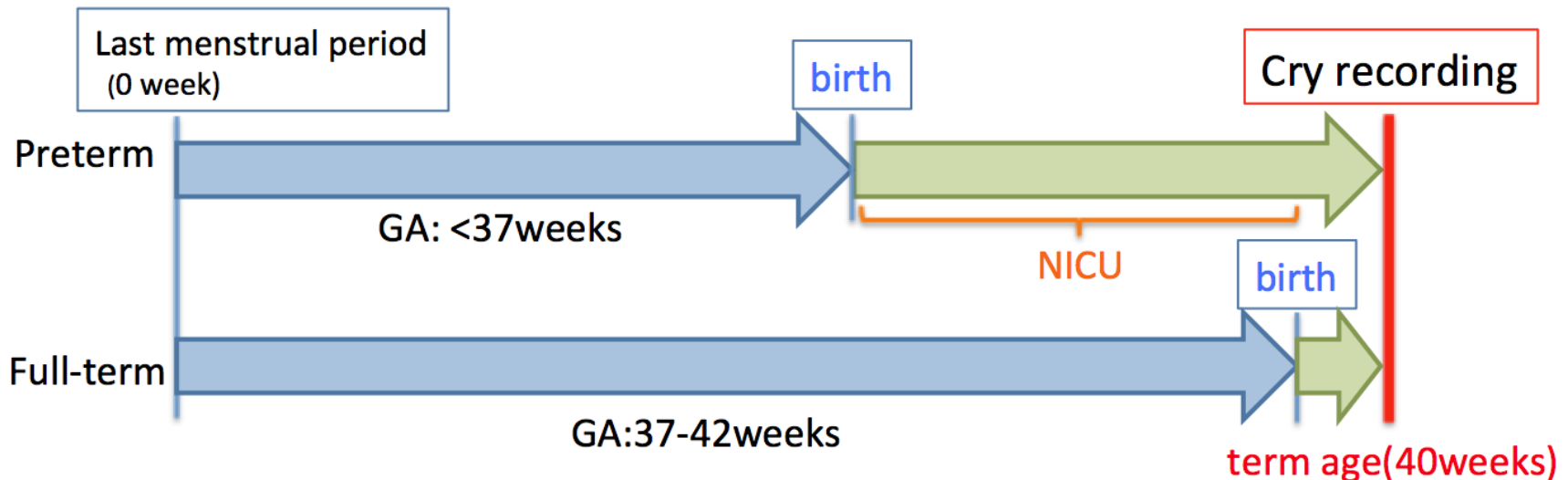
Preterm birth is associated with an increased fundamental frequency of spontaneous crying in human infants at term-equivalent age

Yuta Shinya<sup>1,3</sup>, Masahiko Kawai<sup>2</sup>, Fusako Niwa<sup>2</sup>  
and Masako Myowa-Yamakoshi<sup>1</sup>



# Participants

- ✓ Full-term newborns (n=20)
- ✓ Preterm infants of term-equivalent age (n=44)
  - \* They were born at Kyoto University hospital
  - \* No severe brain lesion and complications (e.g. IVH, PVL, cerebral palsy)



# Recording and Analysis

- Spontaneous cries within 30 min before feeding

- Acoustic index:

**Fundamental frequency (F0)**

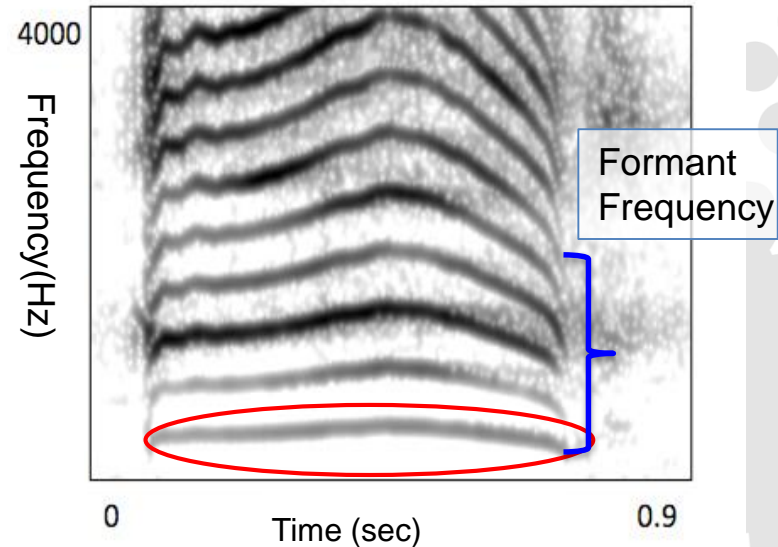
Duration

Formant frequency etc...



Investigation of the effects on infant cry

- **Gestational age**
- **Body size**
- **Intra Uterine Growth Retardation (IUGR)**



spectrogram of a cry utterance

# Examples of infants' cry

Full-term's cry

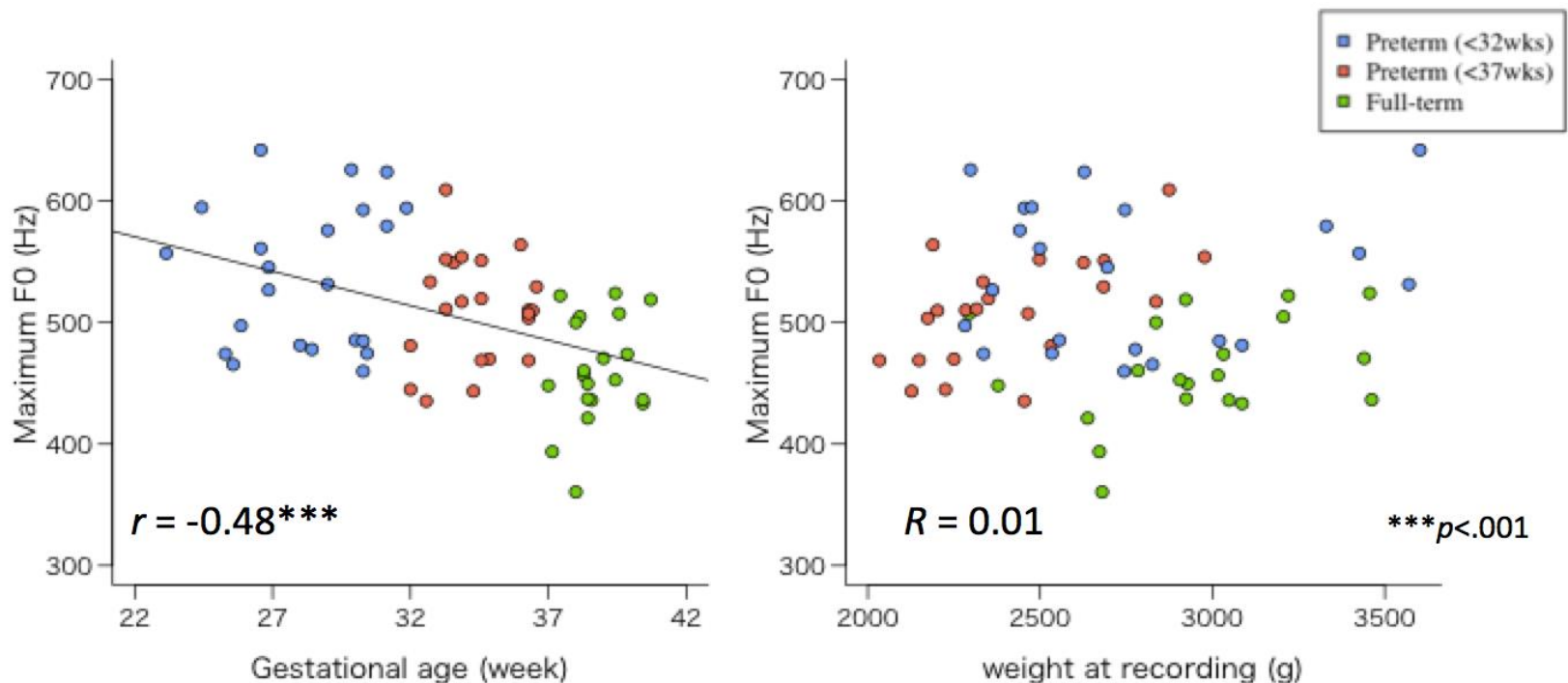


Preterm's cry



# Results

- 1) Shorter gestational age is related to higher F0 of spontaneous cry at term-equivalent age
- 2) Higher F0 is not related to neither smaller body size nor IUGR



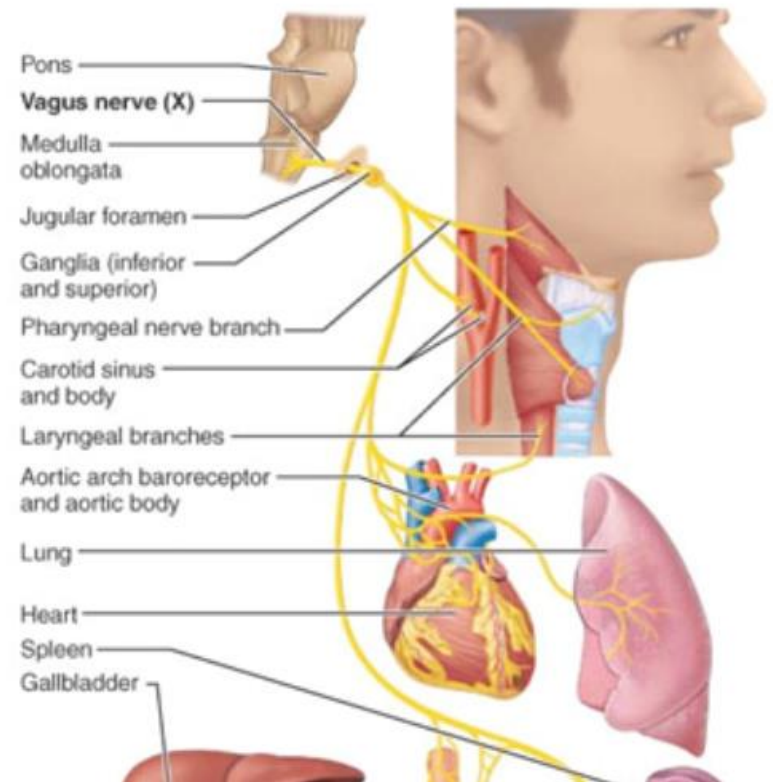


# Why preterm birth increase F0 of spontaneous crying?

The effect of **lower vagal activity** on higher pitch of crying ?

## Vagus nerve

- Parasympathetic nervous system
- Control of visceral organs (e.g. heart, larynx)
- Decrease tension of vocal folds (e.g. Patural et al., 2008)
- Preterms...  
lower vagal activity at term age relative to full-terms (e.g. Patural et al., 2008)



# Data Analysis

- ✓ Cry F0 × Vagal activity
- ✓ **Heart rate variability (HRV)**
  - RR intervals → RR time series
  - Spectra domain analysis using FFT

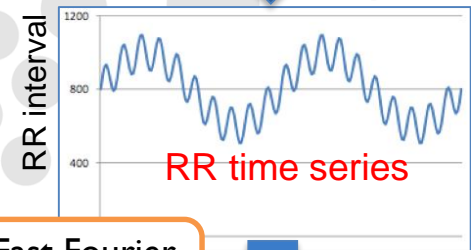
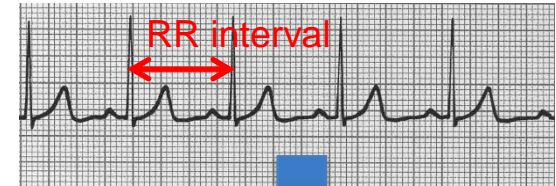
**High** freq component (**HF**: 0.25-1.50Hz)

- Respiration: **parasympathetic** (vagal activity)

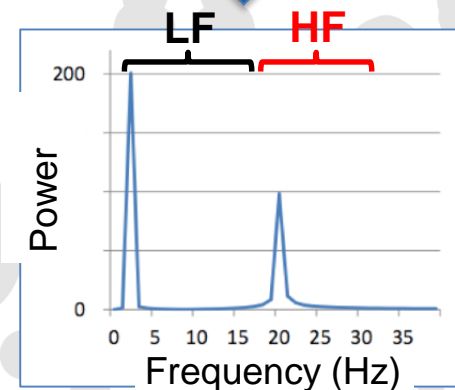
**Low** freq component (**LF**: 0.04-0.24Hz)

- Blood pressure: sympathetic/parasympathetic

ECG data



Fast Fourier Transform



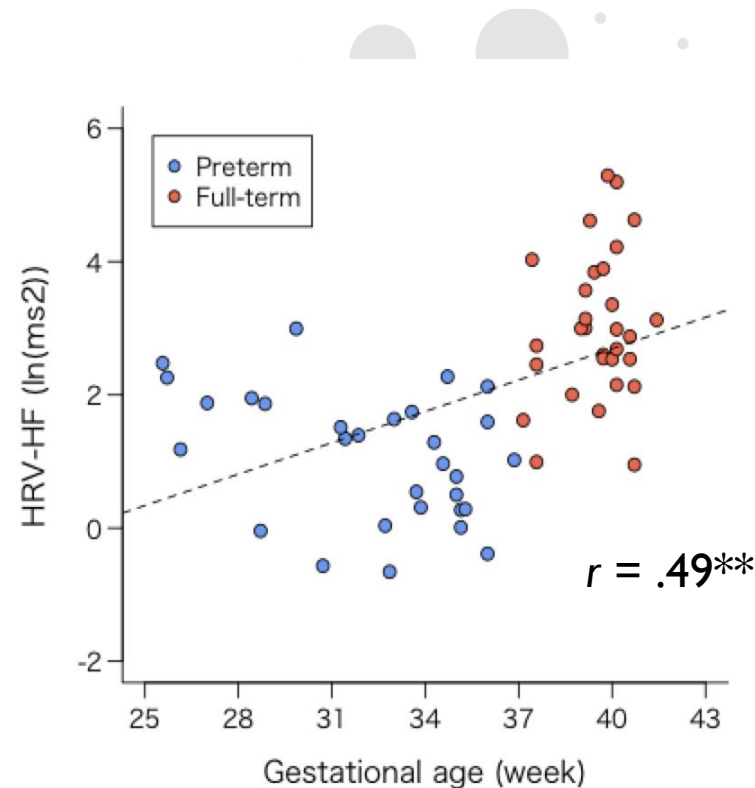
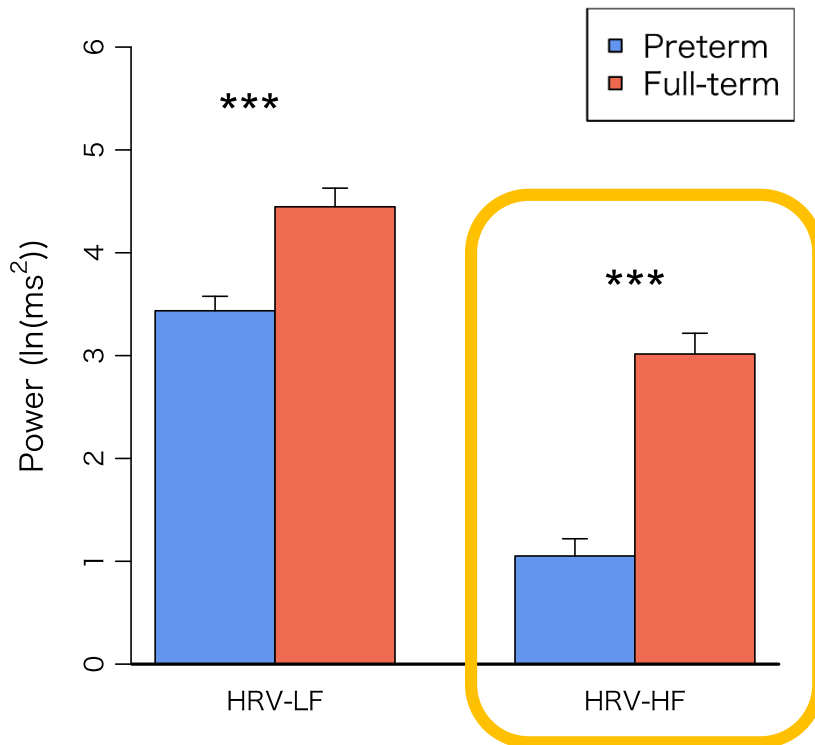
# Resting Heart Rate Variability (HRV-HF)

HF component: parasympathetic nervous system

Preterms (n=30, 32.3GA), Full-terms (n=30, 39.5GA)

1) **HRV-HF: *Preterm < Full-term*** ( $t=5.59, p<.001$ )

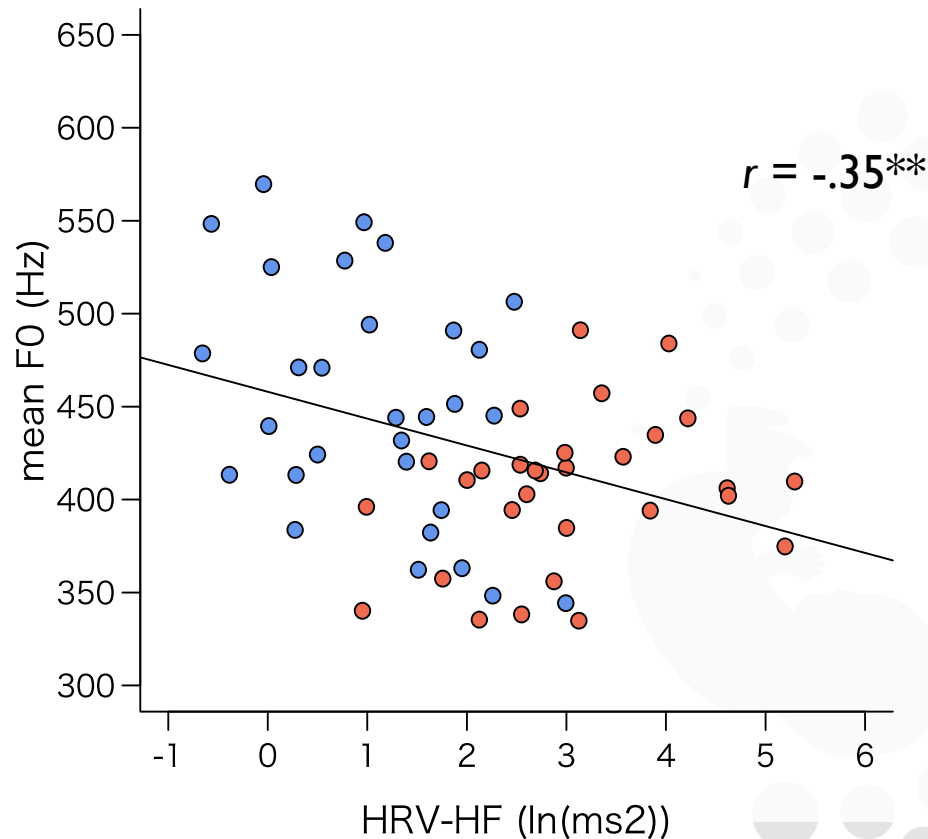
2) **GA × HRV-HF: *Positive correlation*** ( $r=.49, p<.01$ )



# Resting HRV-HF × Cry F0

Resting HRV (HF) × F0 of spontaneous cry

→ **Negative correlation** ( $r = -.35, p < .01$ )



# Science "Latest News"

Science

AAAS

12 Aug 2014

## Premature baby's shrill cry may be sign of something deeper

Higher pitch could indicate lower activities in nerve that aids digestion

### 早産児ほど泣き声高く

研究したのは、教育学者の明和政子教授と医学研究科の河村昌隆教授、教育学部研究科大学院の新藤大さとのグループ。京大医学部付属病院で生まれた赤ちゃんのうち、妊娠から37週と38週と39週の早産児をそれぞれ2人ずつ、全員が予定日後まで成長した後の自発的な泣き声を調べた。その結果、37週産児は平均40ヘルツ、38週の産児は平均40ヘルツ、39週の産児は平均40ヘルツだった。グループは泣き声

#### 京大グループ発表

千定日前早く生まれた赤ちゃんは、千定日後に生まれた赤ちゃんに比べて高い声で泣く傾向があると、京大のグループが19日、発表した。声の高低差は、心拍数を下げた声帯の振を和らげる自律神経の迷走神経の活動が関係しているという。

### 迷走神経 成熟関与?

声の高低差は赤ちゃんの体重は関係していません。原因となっている迷走神経は、成人ほど発達せず、気との関連がつかない。町、その結果、39週産児は40ヘルツ、38週産児は40ヘルツ、37週産児は40ヘルツだった。グループは泣き声

### 早産の赤ちゃん 高い泣き声

京都大学教育学部研究科の明和政子教授らのグループが19日、早い時期に生まれる赤ちゃんは高い声で泣く傾向があると発表した。研究グループは、早産児の泣き声を調べた。その結果、37週産児は平均40ヘルツ、38週産児は平均40ヘルツ、39週産児は平均40ヘルツだった。グループは泣き声

は不明だった。明和教授は、京大付属病院で生まれた赤ちゃん計64人について、妊娠37週前後に生まれた赤ちゃんの泣き声を調べた。その結果、37週産児は平均40ヘルツ、38週産児は平均40ヘルツ、39週産児は平均40ヘルツだった。グループは泣き声

## SCIENCESHOT

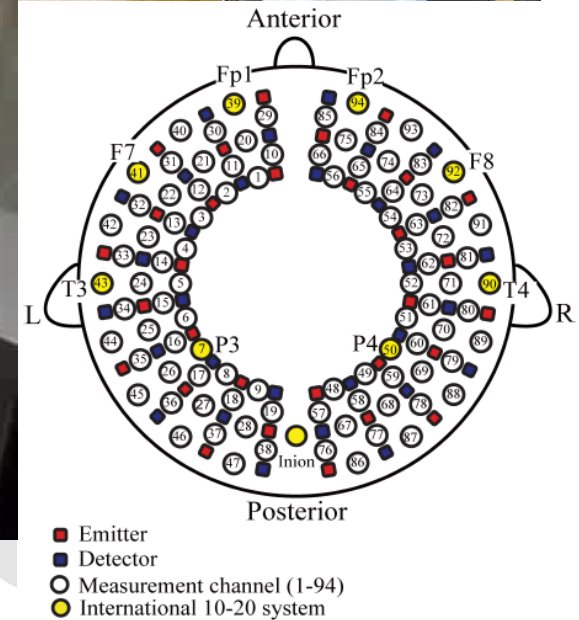


SHANNON DRAWE/ISTOCKPHOTO/THINKSTOCK



# Preterm infants at term-equivalent age vs. full-term newborns

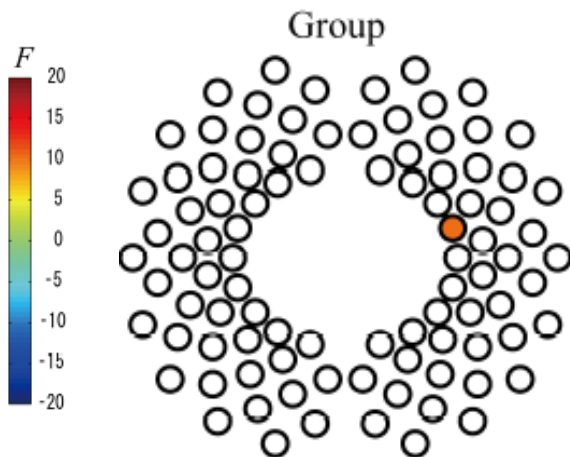
- Cortical activation in response to speech stimuli
- 94-channel Near-infrared spectroscopy (NIRS)



# Preterm infants at term-equivalent age and Full-terms show different speech processing

Activation (oxy-Hb)

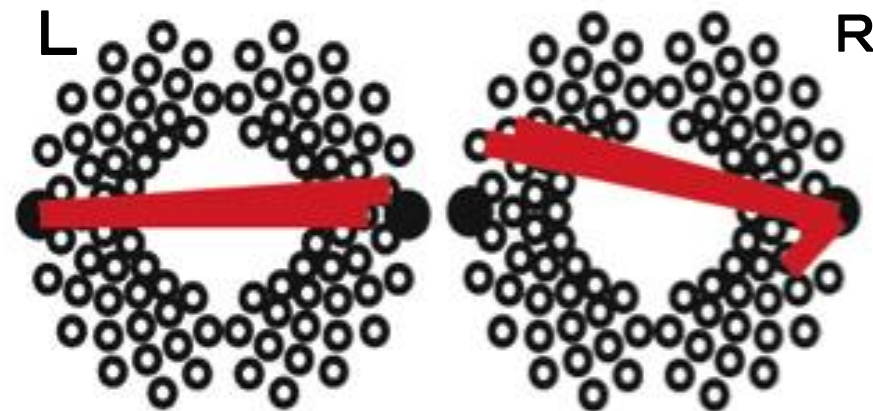
**Full-term > Preterm**



lower right temporal activation

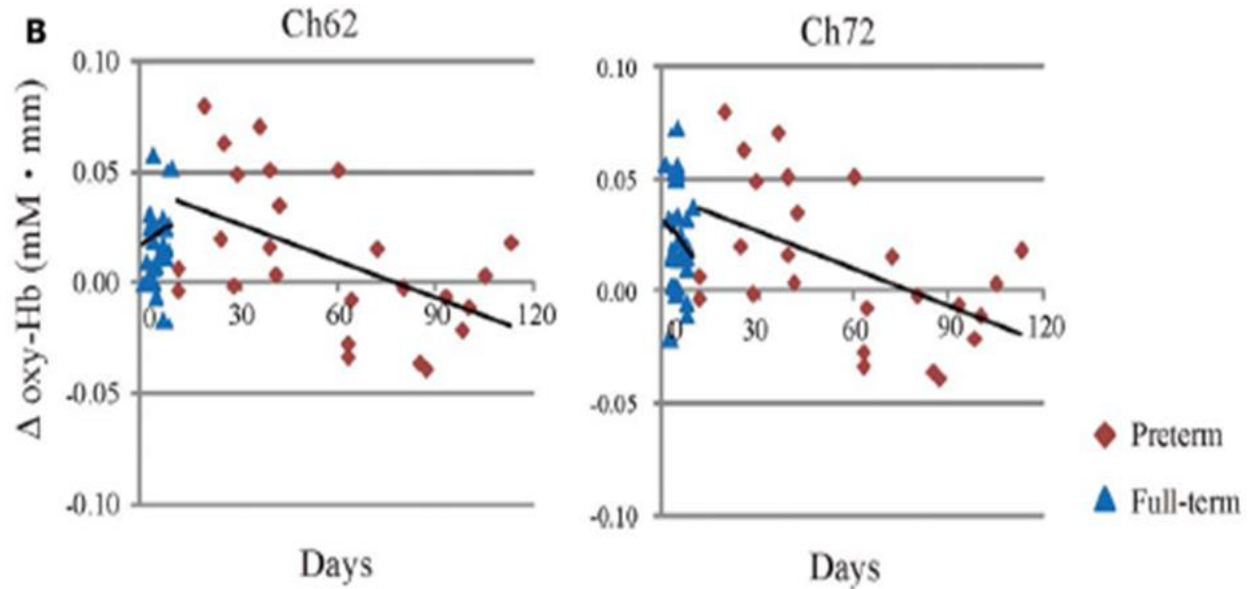
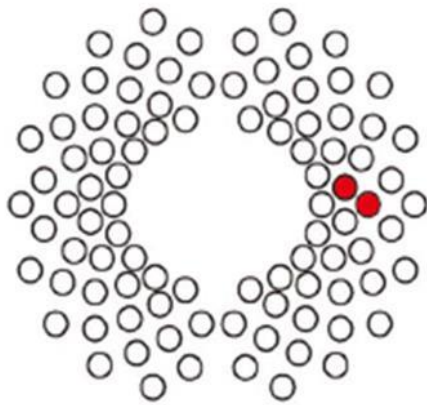
Functional Connectivity

**Preterm > Full-term**



higher interhemispheric connectivity

# Cerebral responses were inversely correlated with PNA in the right temporal region of the preterm infants



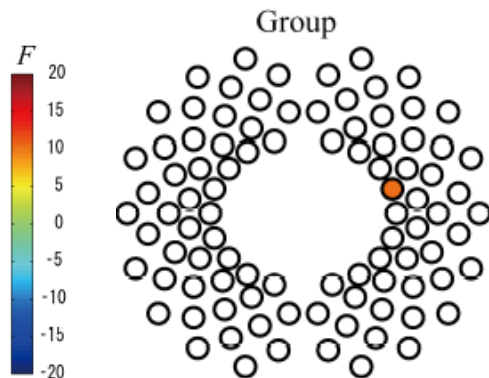
The channels with significant correlations between the PNA and oxy-Hb changes

Oxy-Hb changes were **inversely correlated** with PNA in Ch62 and Ch72 in **the right temporal region** of the preterm group

# Preterm infants at term-equivalent age and Full-terms show different speech processing

Activation (oxy-Hb)

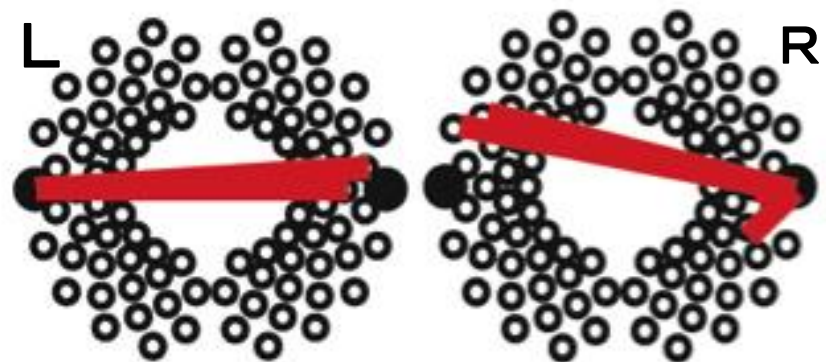
**Full-term > Preterm**



lower right temporal activation

Functional Connectivity

**Preterm > Full-term**

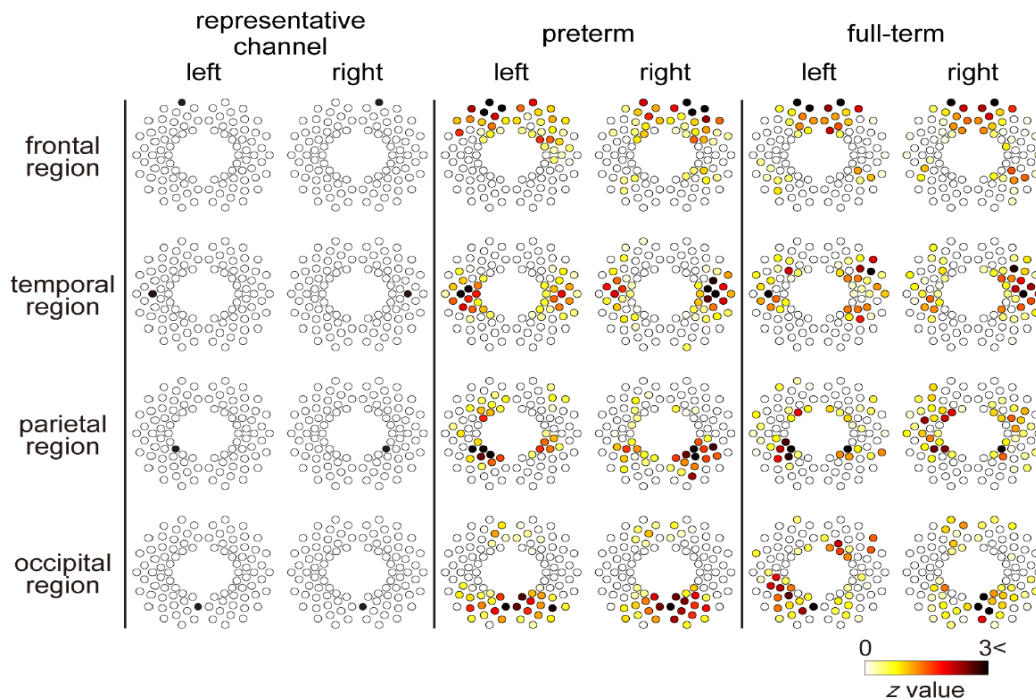


higher interhemispheric connectivity

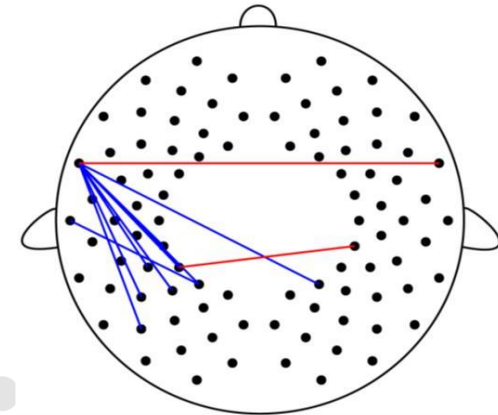
**Preterm infants follow developmental trajectories different from those born term ?**



# Resting-State Functional Connectivity (RSFC)



Fuchino et al. (2013)



**Red:** the connections higher in **preterm infants**  
**Blue:** the connections higher in **full-term infants**

Preterm infants and full-term infants show different developmental trajectories

- RSFC between the **bilateral temporal regions**  
**preterms** > **full-terms**
- RSFC between the **left temporal and left parietal regions**  
**full-terms** > **preterms**

later cognitive language development?



# Follow-up study on preterm infants' development

- Follow-up during the first two years of life
- Comparison of attention patterns between preterms and full-terms

## (1) **Audio-Visual integration processing**

- Sensitivity for A-V synchrony
- Buba-Kiki perception
- A-V emotional information matching



## (2) **Attention to social stimuli**

- Biological motion perception
- Visual preference for geometric patterns and humans
- Joint attention



AV synchrony in speech

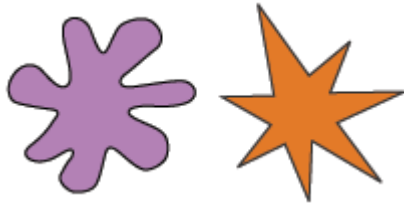


AV emotional information matching

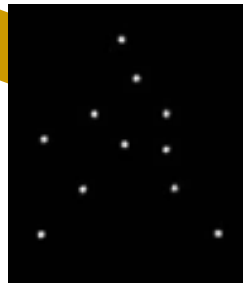


**Information processing  
in social context**

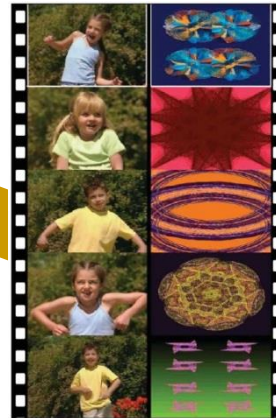
Joint attention



Buba-Kiki perception



Biological  
motion  
perception

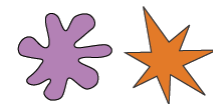
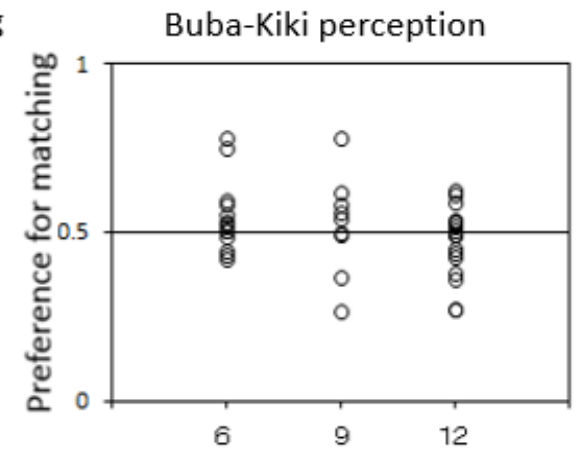
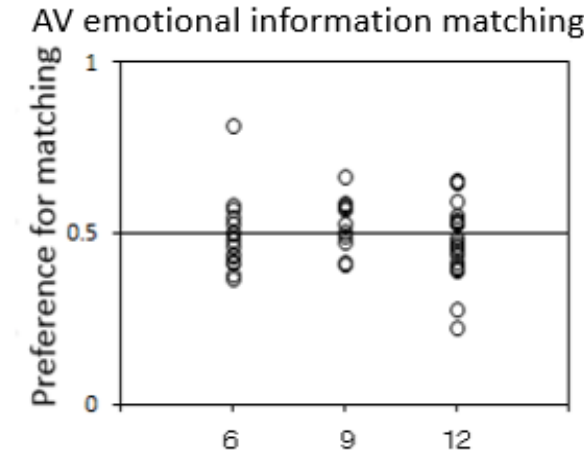
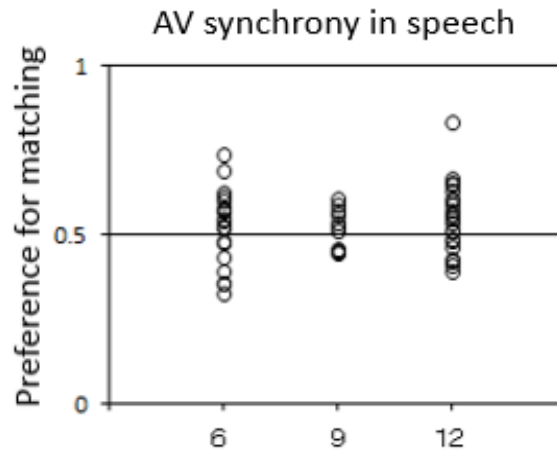
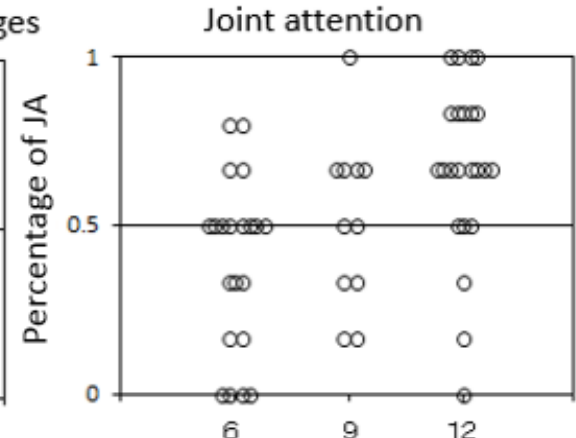
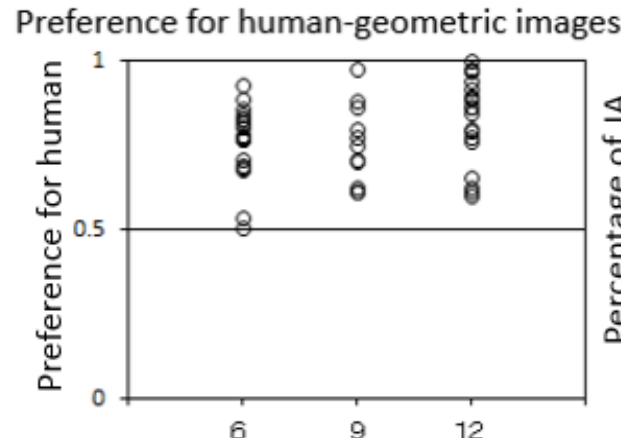
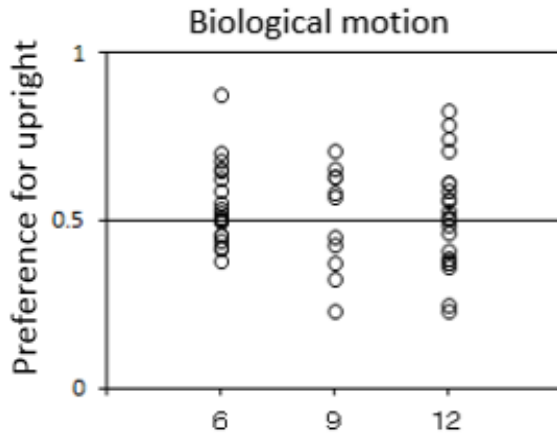


Visual preference for  
geometric patterns

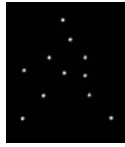
**AV information  
integration**

8~10 min at maximum

# Full terms (n=55)



# Preterms at term-equivalent age (n=56)



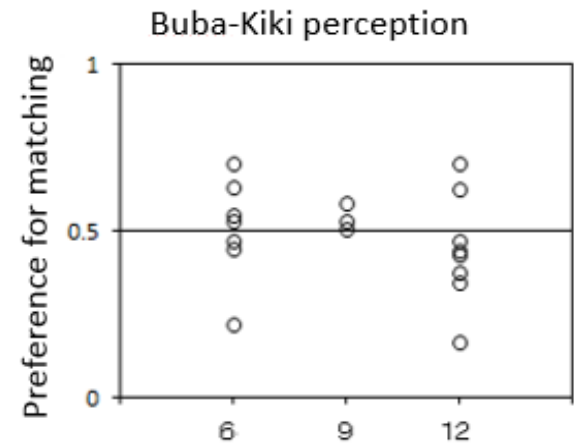
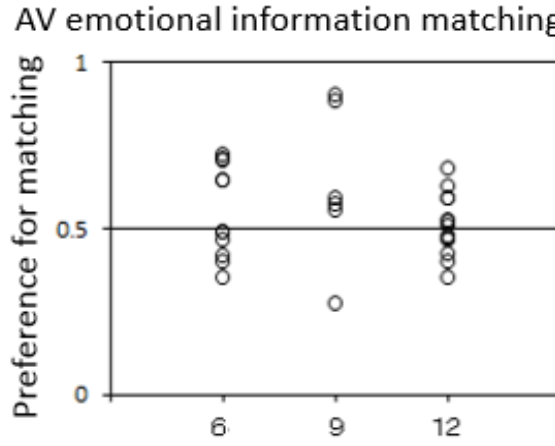
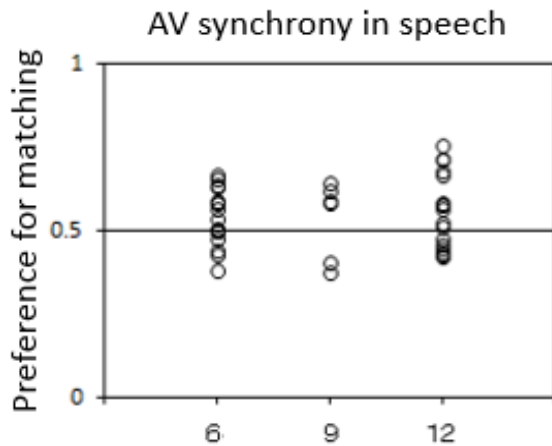
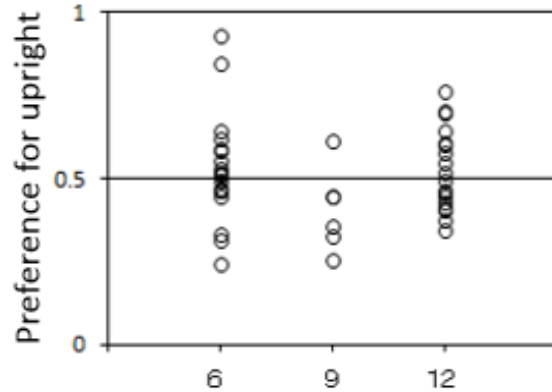
Biological motion



Preference for human-geometric images

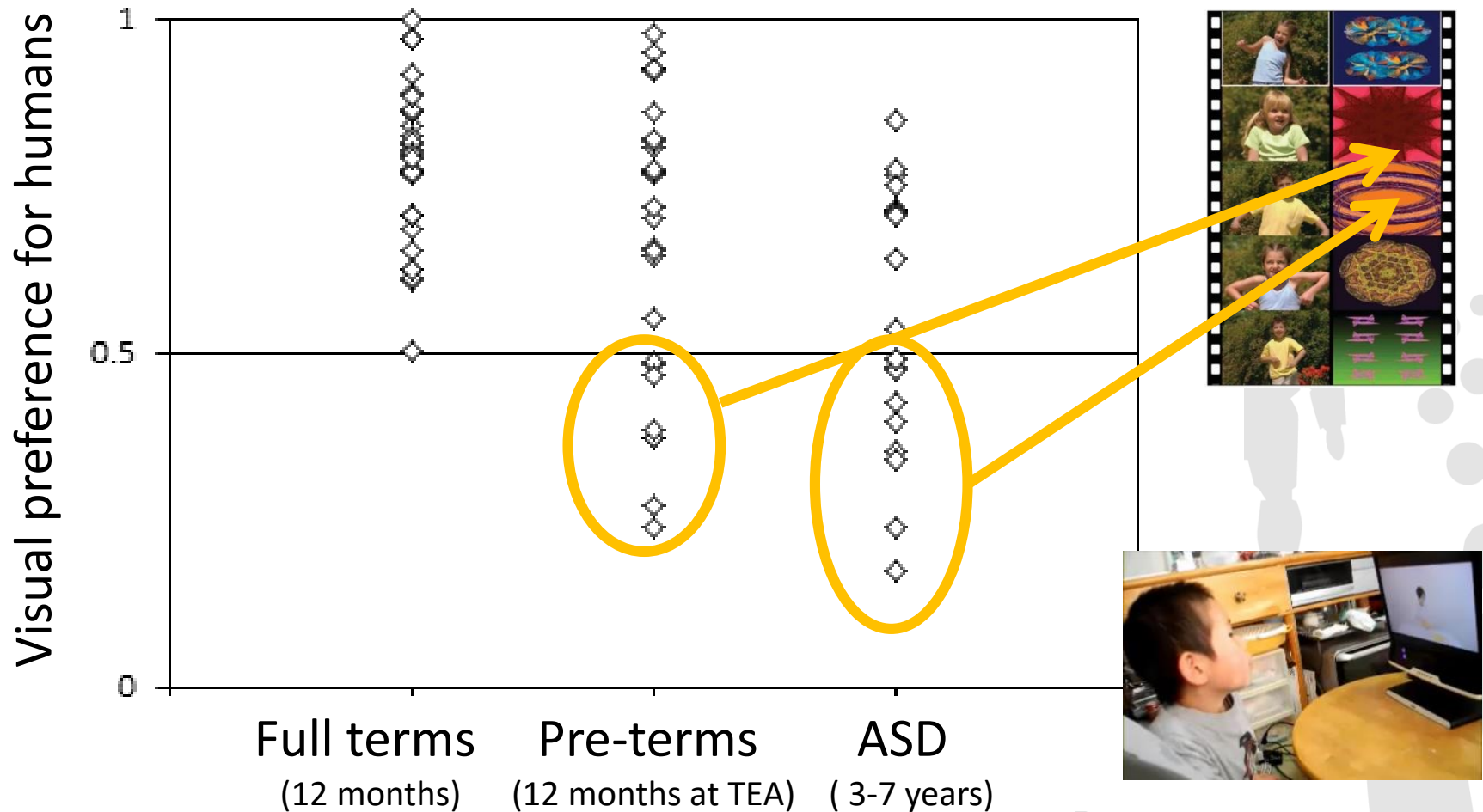


Joint attention



# Preference for geometric patterns

Preference over 60% for geometric patterns is early predictive diagnosis biomarkers for ASD (Pierce et al., 2011)





# Impairment of Motor Control in ASD

doi:10.1093/brain/awt208

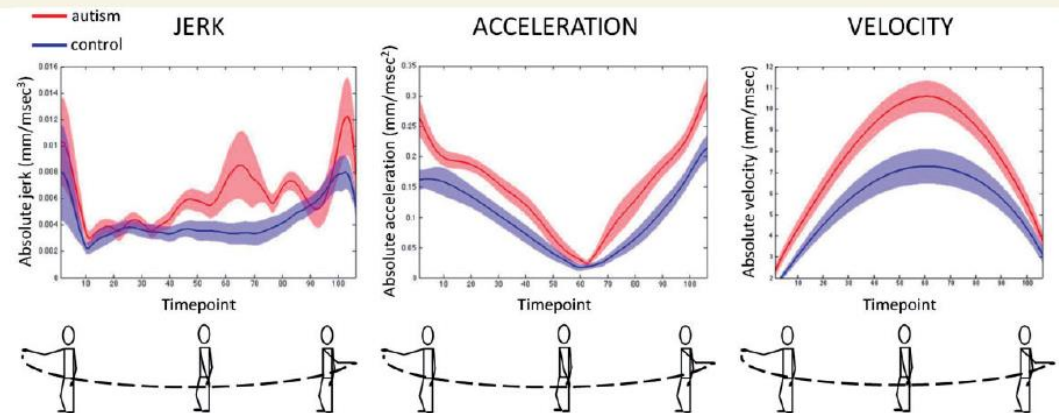
Brain 2013; 136; 2816–2824 | 2816

**BRAIN**  
A JOURNAL OF NEUROLOGY

## Atypical basic movement kinematics in autism spectrum conditions

Jennifer L. Cook,<sup>1,2</sup> Sarah-Jayne Blakemore<sup>1</sup> and Clare Press<sup>3</sup>

Individuals with autism spectrum conditions have difficulties in understanding and responding appropriately to others. Additionally, they demonstrate impaired perception of biological whether individuals with autism move with an atypical kinematic impairments, and in principle may contribute to some of their acceleration and jerk while adult participants with autism and movements. Additionally, participants with autism took part in observed movements as 'natural' or 'unnatural'. Results show that they did not minimize jerk to the same extent as the matched typical control. The degree to which kinematics were atypical was correlated with the severity of autism symptoms as measured by the Autism Spectrum Quotient. Differences in movement kinematics in autism might be due to developmental experience of their own atypical kinematic profile.



**Figure 3** Basic kinematics of arm movements for control participants and individuals with autism in the primary task. When executing simple sinusoidal arm movements individuals with autism made more jerky movements (*left*) and travelled with faster absolute acceleration (*middle*) and velocity (*right*). Mean movement vectors are plotted in red for the autism group and blue for the control group. Shaded regions indicate the standard error of the mean.

# Motor control and Social cognition



“ Internal models of the body and the (SOCIAL) world ”

## **Motor control in Social Context:**

- Sensori / Motor Prediction / Feedback
- Error correction
- Estimation of Motor commands

**How Motor Control System relates to Social Cognitive Development?**

# Motion Capture

## Developmental Science

Developmental Science (2014), pp 1–8

### SHORT REPORT

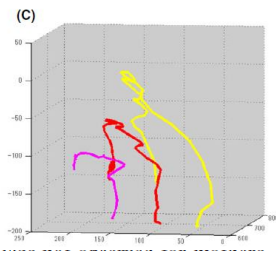
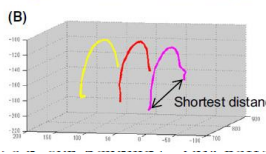
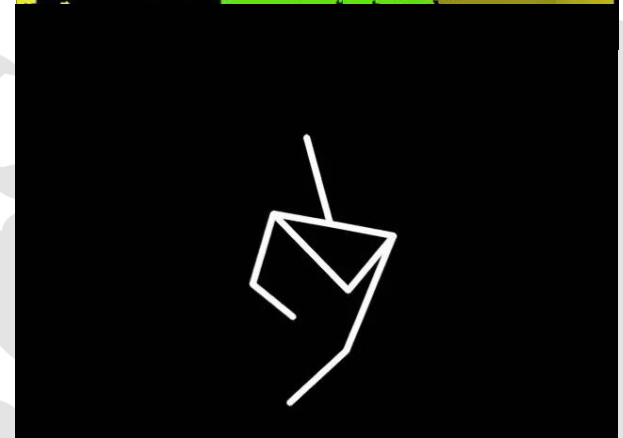
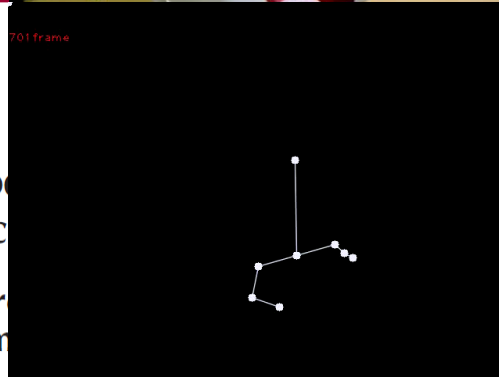
### Infant's action skill dynamically modified by mother's demonstration in the dyadic interaction

Hiroshi Fukuyama,<sup>1</sup> Shibo Qin,<sup>2</sup> Yasuhiro Minoru Asada<sup>2</sup> and Masako Myowa-Yamamoto

- 1. Graduate School of Education, Kyoto University, Japan
- 2. Graduate School of Engineering, Osaka University, Japan

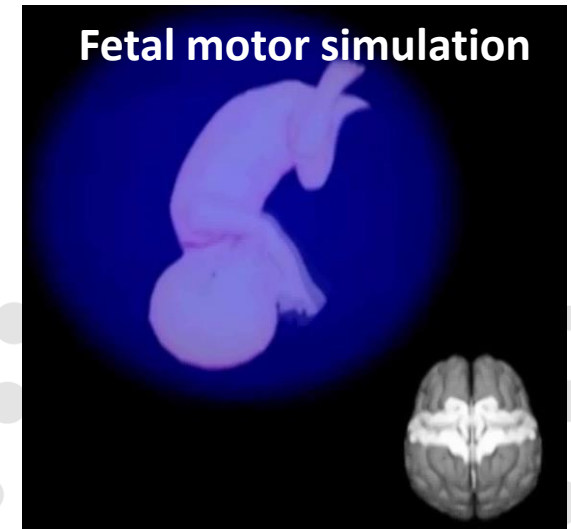
#### Abstract

When interacting with infants, human adults modify their actions. We demonstrated that infant-directed modification affects the mother's action during an interaction. We recorded mothers demonstrating a cup-nesting task during interaction. In particular, the variance in the distance that the mother's hand moved to the cups increased after the infant's early involvement manipulation.

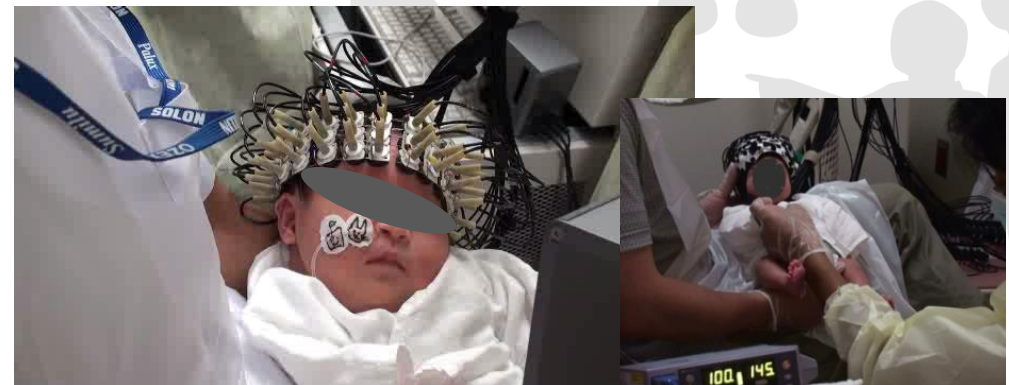
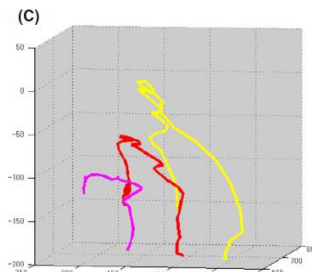
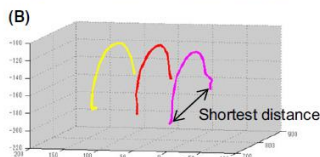


# New approach: *Constructive Developmental Science*

- ✓ ***“Constructive Developmental Science”***
- ✓ Understanding the **principles of human development** by analyzing data and modeling it from the perinatal period
- ✓ **New understanding of human mind and its disorders**



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