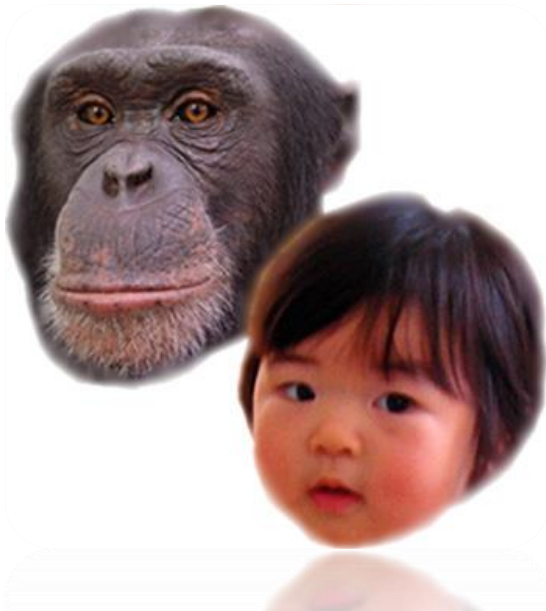


Ontogeny and its Evolutionary Foundation of Human Mind



Masako Myowa-Yamakoshi
Kyoto University, Japan

Smart Chimpanzees !

- Captive : Learning symbols (language, numbers...)
- Wild: Tool use and making



Tool use and making in wild chimpanzees

- ✓ Ant fishing by sticks
 - ✓ leaves use as sponge to drink water
 - ✓ Nut cracking by using stones as hammer and anvil
- etc...



Mirror self-recognition



Self-exploratory behaviors while watching own mirror or live images

e.g., Gallup, 1968, 1970, Savage-Rumbaugh, 1984, Eddy et al., 1996

Beyond “here and now” Recognition of 2 sec delayed self-image



Hirata, Fuwa, & Myowa-Yamakoshi, in prep.

Why have humans evolved “imitation” ?



■ ***Social learning*** by imitation

- Acquiring adaptive “non-genetic” skills in the human environment
- Transmitting knowledge and skills to next generations
- Foundation of human “**Culture**”

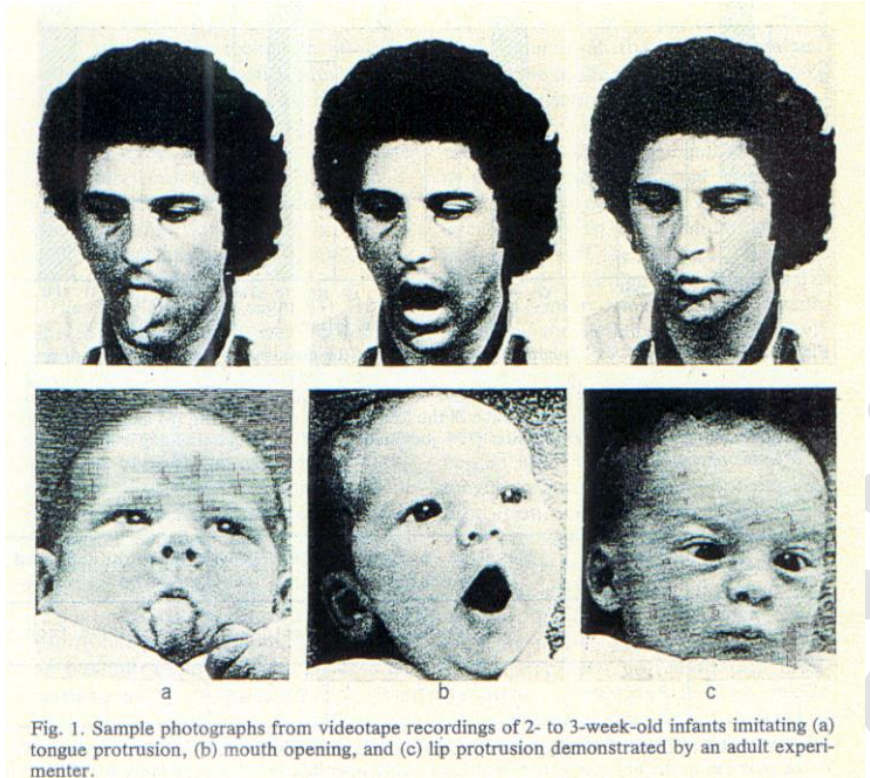
■ ***Foundation for development of social cognition***

- Awareness of self/others
- Capacity to represent symbols
- Understanding mental states of others “*Theory of mind*”

Newborns imitate facial gestures

Neonatal imitation

Humans' innate system:
Active intermodal matching
(AIM mechanism)



--- Meltzoff & Moore, 1977, *Science*

Visual-Motor matching behavior in newborns

Auditory–oral motor matching in newborns



Mouth opening to /a/a/a/



Mouth clutching to /m/m/m/

Auditory–Motor matching behavior in newborns

“Synesthetic” at birth ?

- **Visual-Motor** matching (Meltzoff & Moore, 1977)

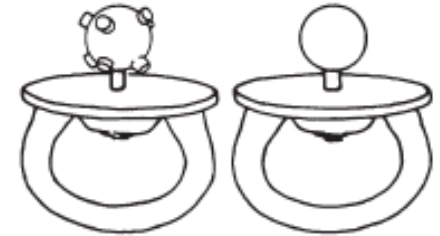
facial imitation in the neonatal period

- **Auditory-Motor** matching (Chen et al., 2004)

- **Visual-Tactual** matching

(Meltzoff & Borton, 1979, Streri et al., 2000)

shape information in tactual modality transform it in visual modality



Neonatal Synesthesia hypothesis ?

- Primary sensory cortex is not so specialized in the young infants
- Extra functional connections among cortical areas?

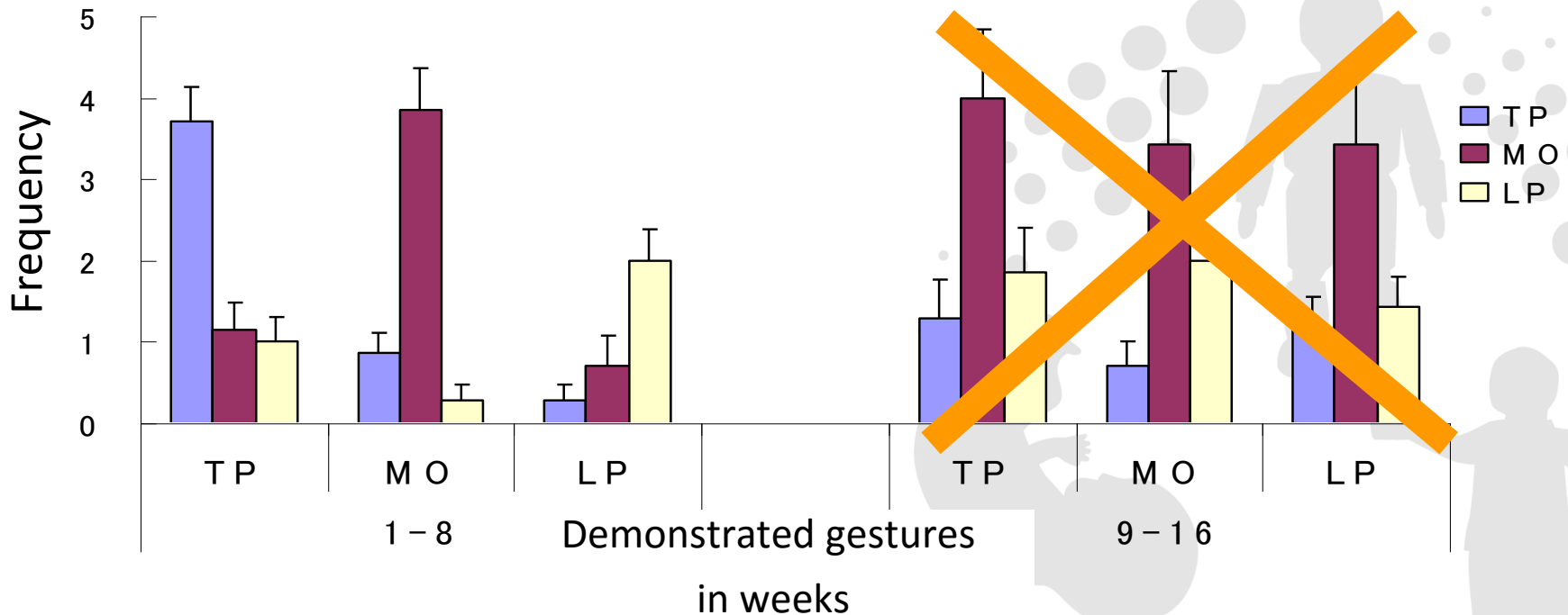
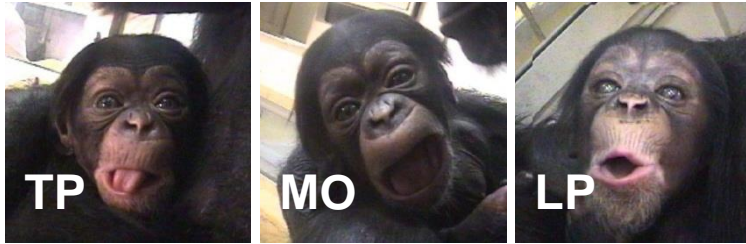
e.g., Baron-Cohen 1996, Maurer et al., 2009

Chimpanzee also show neonatal imitation



Myowa-Yamakoshi et al., 2004, *Dev Sci*.

Neonatal imitation in chimpanzees



Monkeys also show neonatal imitation

Mouth Opening

A₁



A₂



Tongue Protrusion

B₁



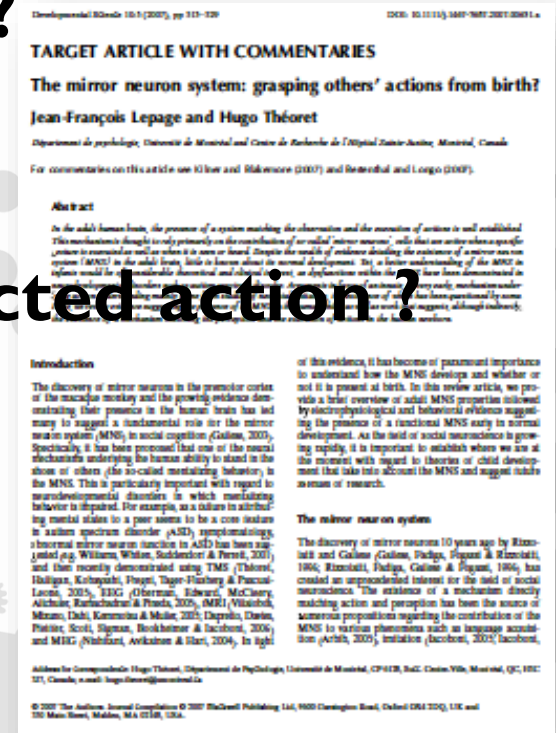
B₂



Is there evidence of a mirror system from birth?

- Mirror Neuron System is **innate** in humans ?
- MNS **developmentally changes** ?
- MNS and **goal-directed actions**
Neonatal imitation is goal-directed action?

No convincing evidence of mirror system in infancy



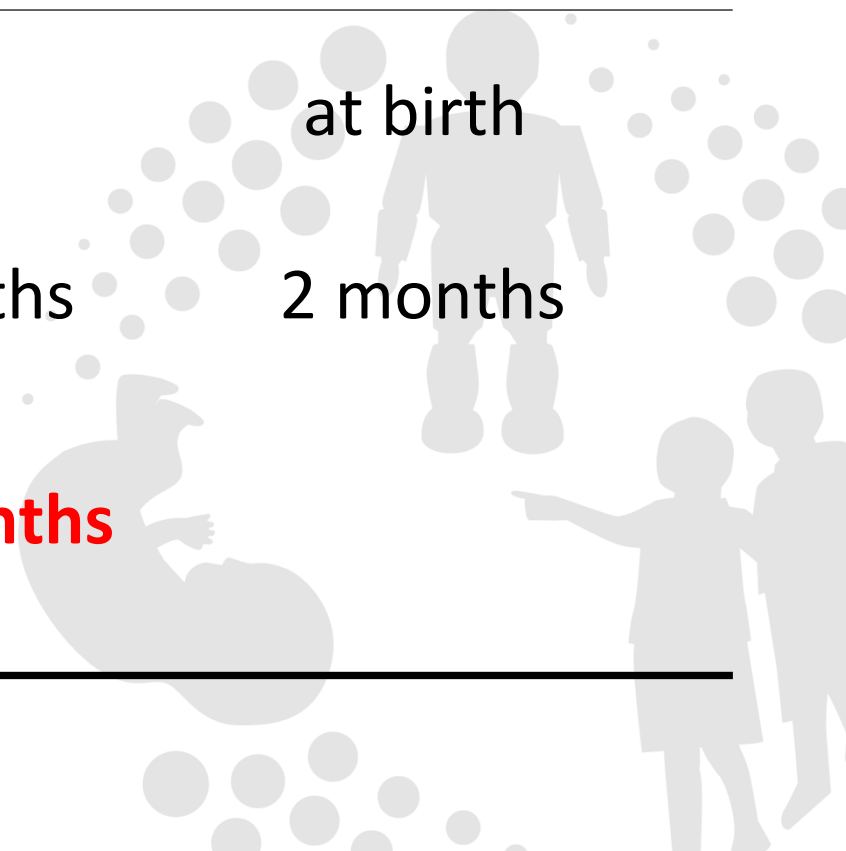
Chimpanzee also show neonatal imitation



--- Myowa-Yamakoshi et al., 2004, *Dev Sci.*

Development of bodily imitation

	Humans	Chimpanzees
Neonatal imitation	at birth	at birth
Disappear of neonatal imitation	2-3 months	2 months
Whole body (later) imitation	9-12 months	

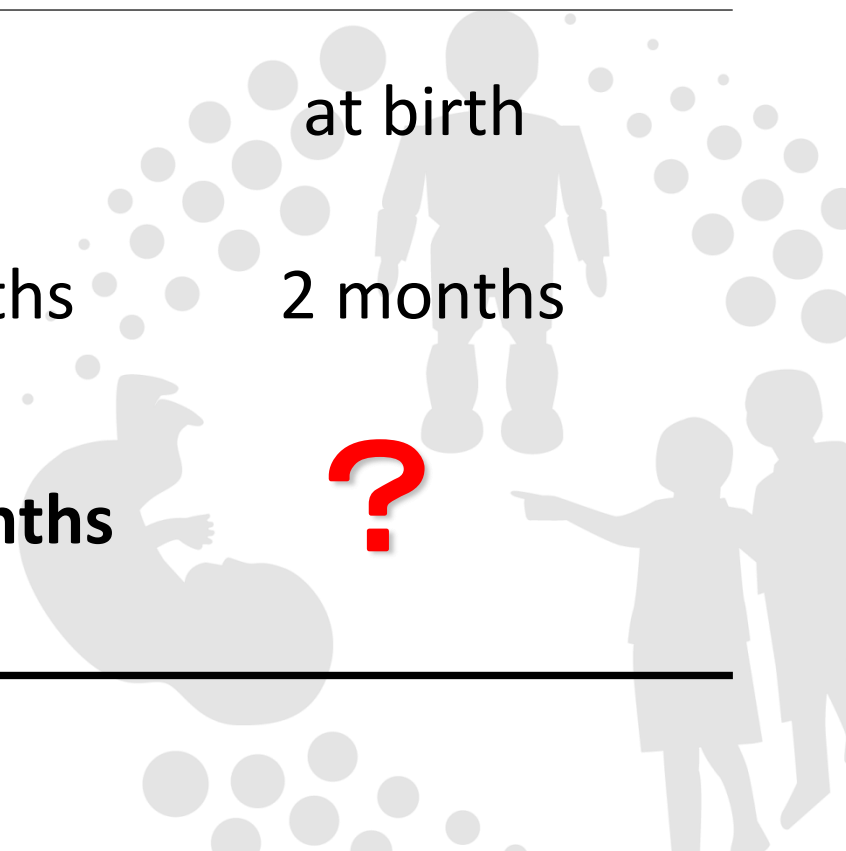


Later imitation in social-communicative context



Development of bodily imitation

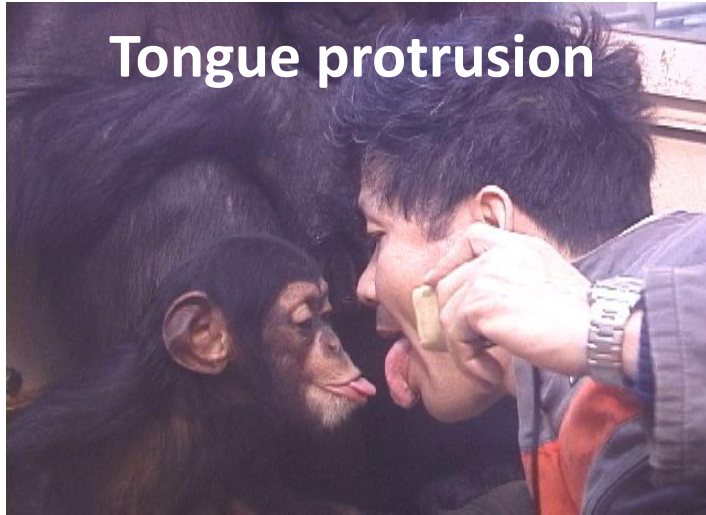
	Humans	Chimpanzees
Neonatal imitation	at birth	at birth
Disappear of neonatal imitation	2-3 months	2 months
Whole body (later) imitation	9-12 months	?



Development of facial imitation in chimpanzees

- At 9 months of age, the chimpanzee's imitative responses “re-appeared”
- However . . .



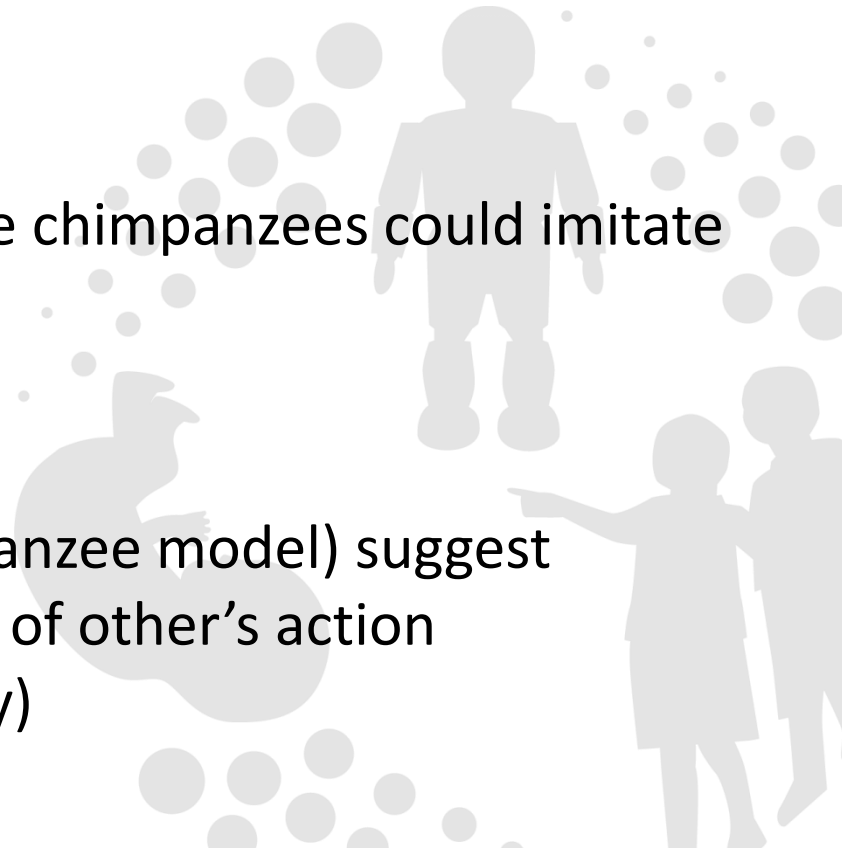


Myowa-Yamakoshi, 2009,
Handbook of Soc. Cog. Neurosci.



Do chimpanzees imitate ?

- Tomasello, Savage-Rumbaugh, & Kruger (1993)
Three “encultulated” chimpanzees could imitate 16 novel actions on objects as much as human children did
- Custance, Whiten, & Bard (1995)
Of 48 novel gestures, two captive chimpanzees could imitate 13 and 20 arbitrary gestures
- Whiten et al. (2009)
Recent their experiments (chimpanzee model) suggest a significant capacity for copying of other’s action (goal-directed manipulations only)



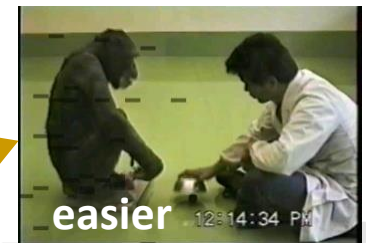
Factors influencing whole-body imitation in chimpanzees

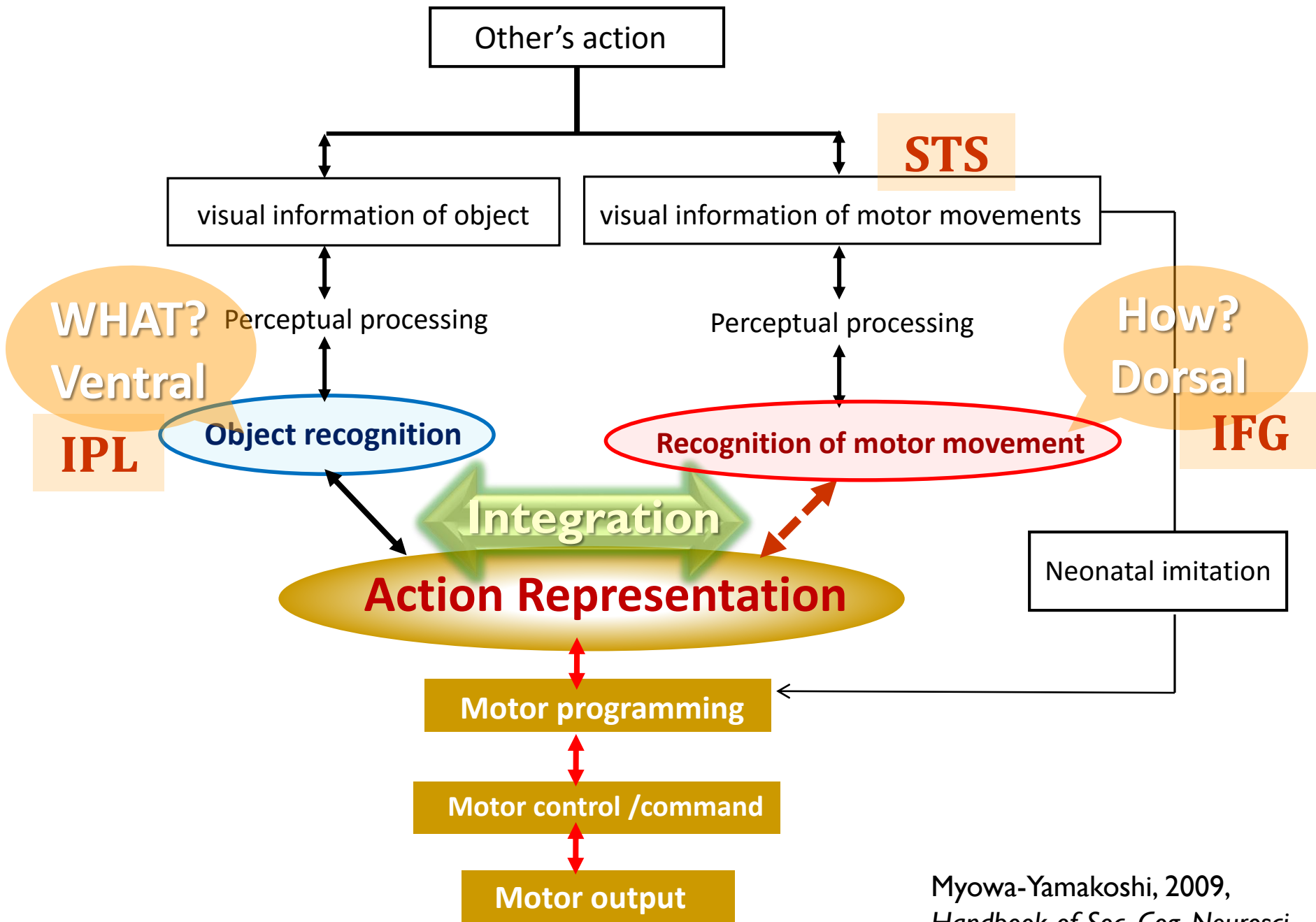


Myowa-Yamakoshi & Matsuzawa , 1999, 2000, *J. Comp. Psychol.*

Factors influencing imitation in chimps

- The chimpanzees rarely reproduced demonstrated actions at the first attempt
- It was easier for the chimpanzees to perform an action in which an object was directed toward some external location (**transitive** action) than to manipulate a single object alone (**intransitive** action)
- Chimpanzees seem to pay much attention to **where the manipulated object was being directed** than **the motor movement of others** performing the manipulation





Myowa-Yamakoshi, 2009,
Handbook of Soc. Cog. Neurosci.

How do humans and chimpanzees see other's action?

- difference of visual information processing between humans and chimpanzees ??
- **Goal-directed action**
e.g., “pouring juice into a cup”
- Chimpanzees (5-14 years ; n=6)
- 8- and 12-month-old infants
(n = 16, each)
- Adults (n = 15)



How do humans and chimpanzees see other's action?



Participants

pouring juice into a cup

Human 8 months

×

Human 12 months

△

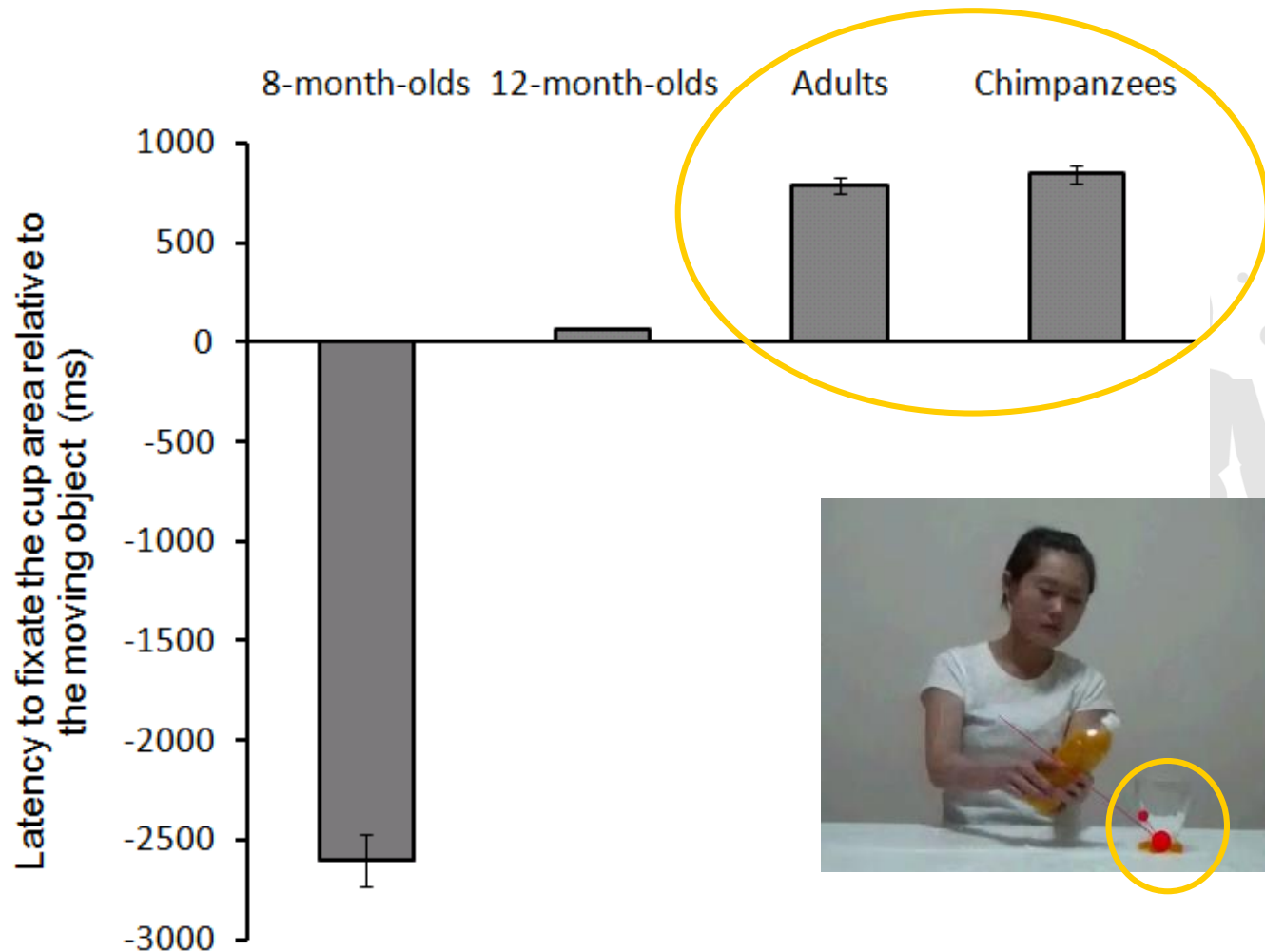
Human adults (22.4 years)

○

Chimpanzees (5~15 years)

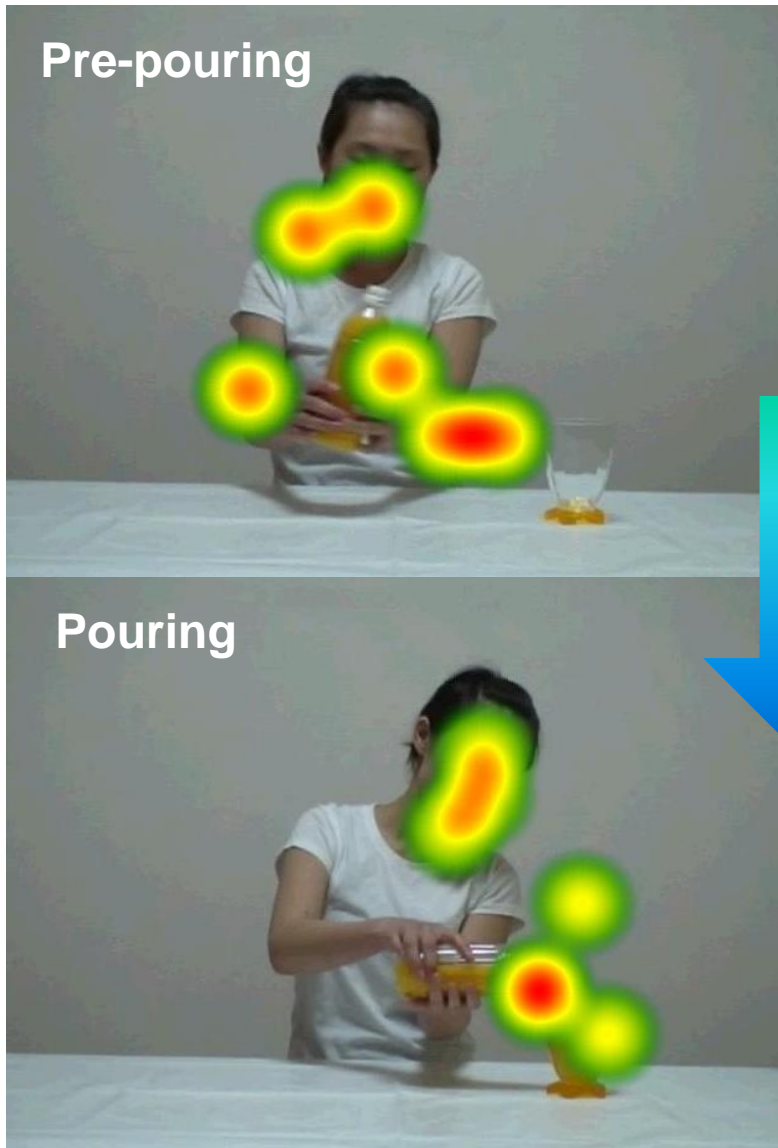
○

Anticipatory look of action goal

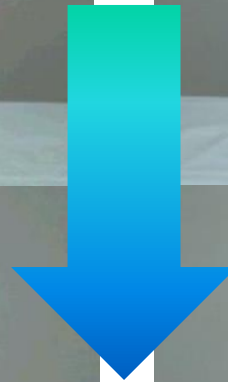
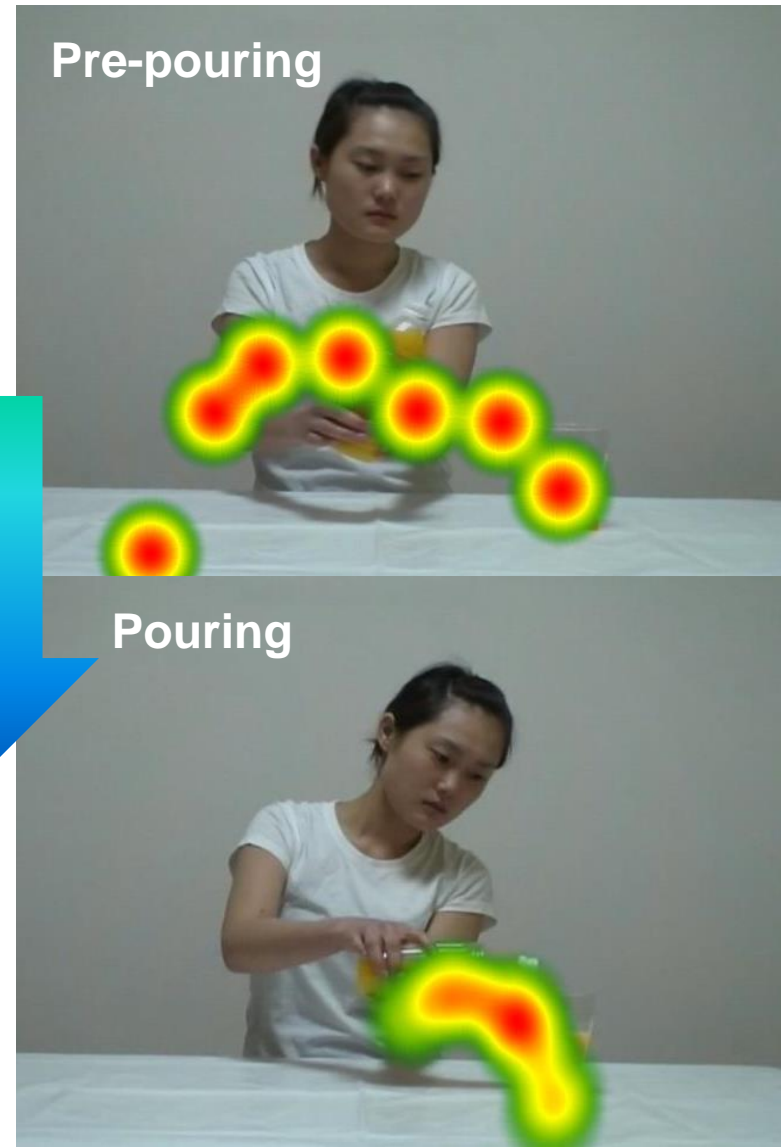


Myowa-Yamakoshi et al. 2012, *Nature Commun.*

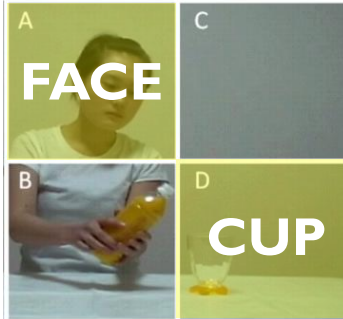
12 months



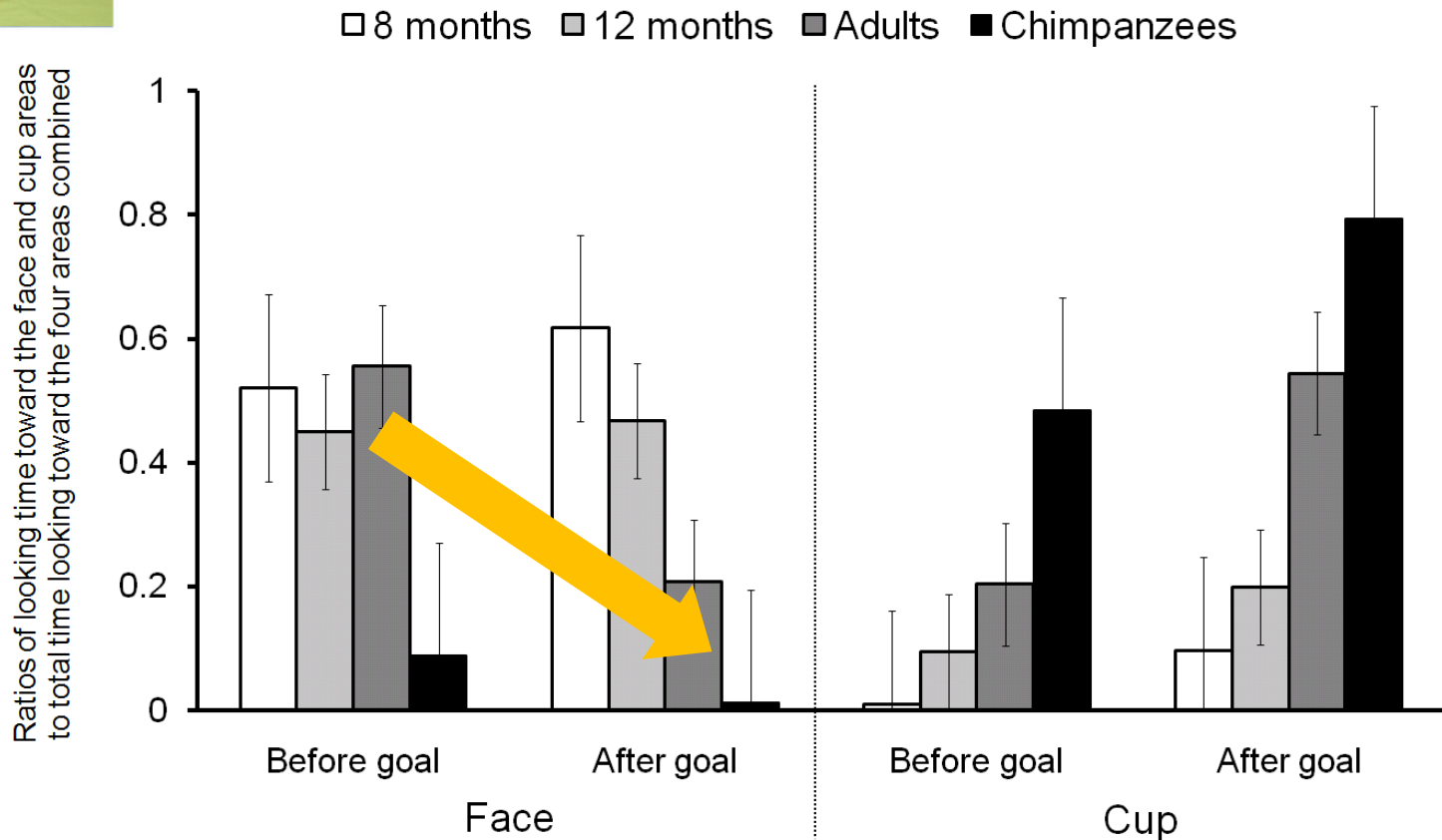
Chimpanzees



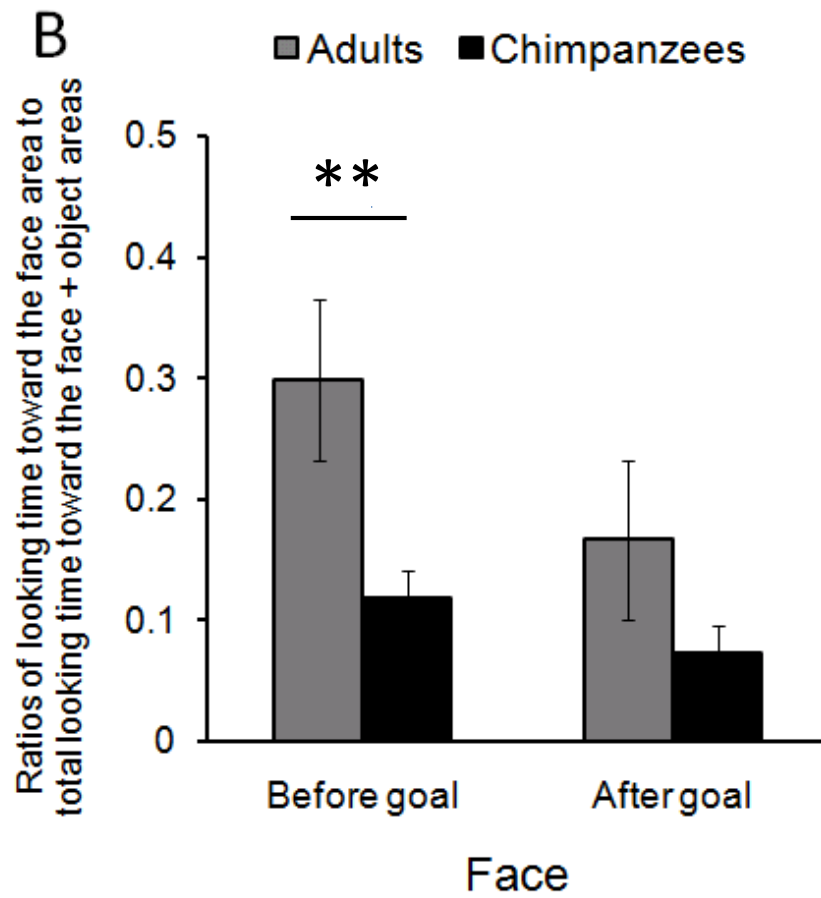
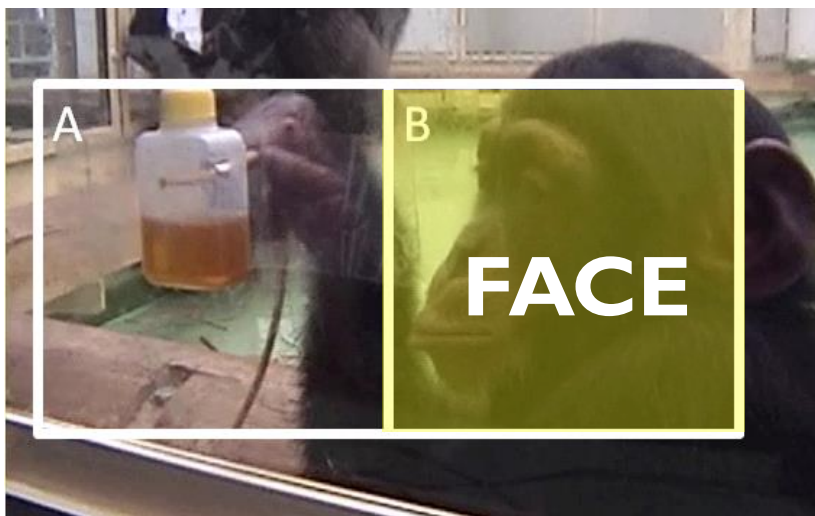
Spatial distribution of fixations



Myowa-Yamakoshi et al. 2012, *Nature Commun.*



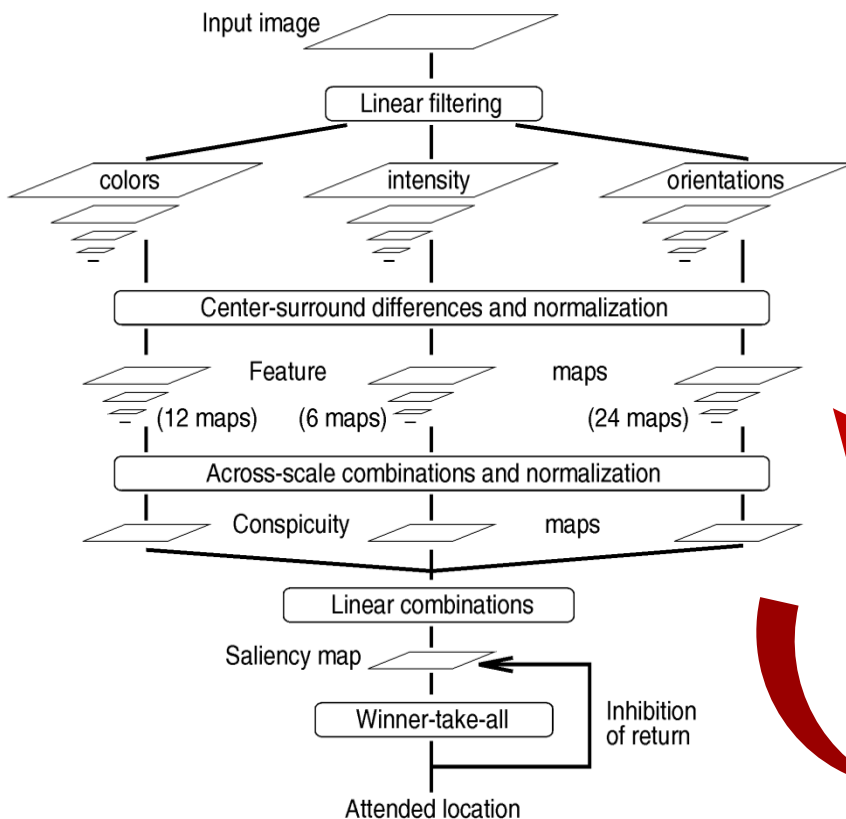
Spatial distribution of fixations for chimpanzee action



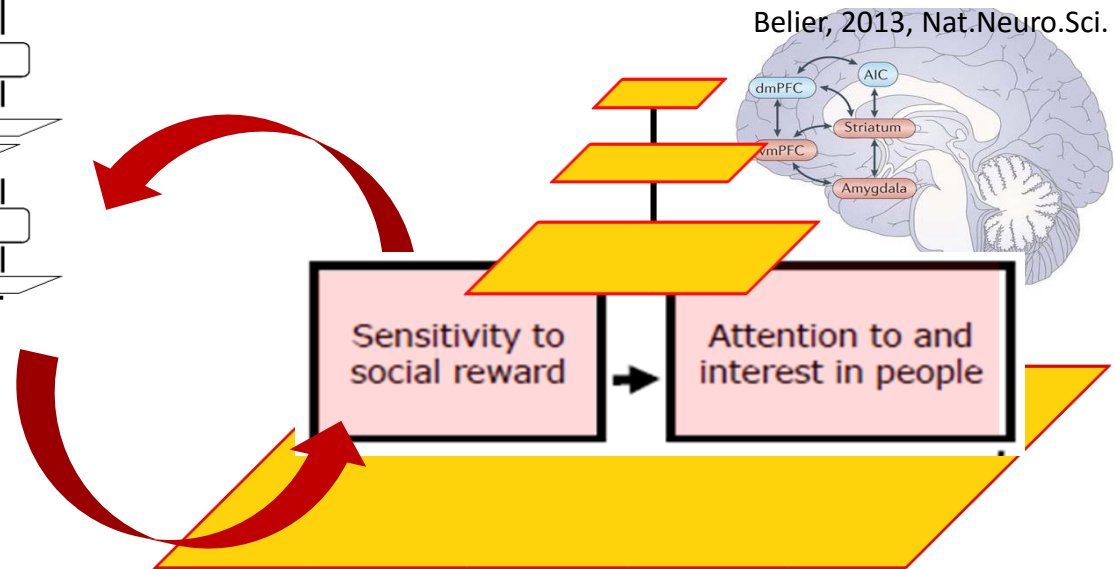
Why do humans look at face?

Saliency-Based Visual Attention model

Itti et al. 1998



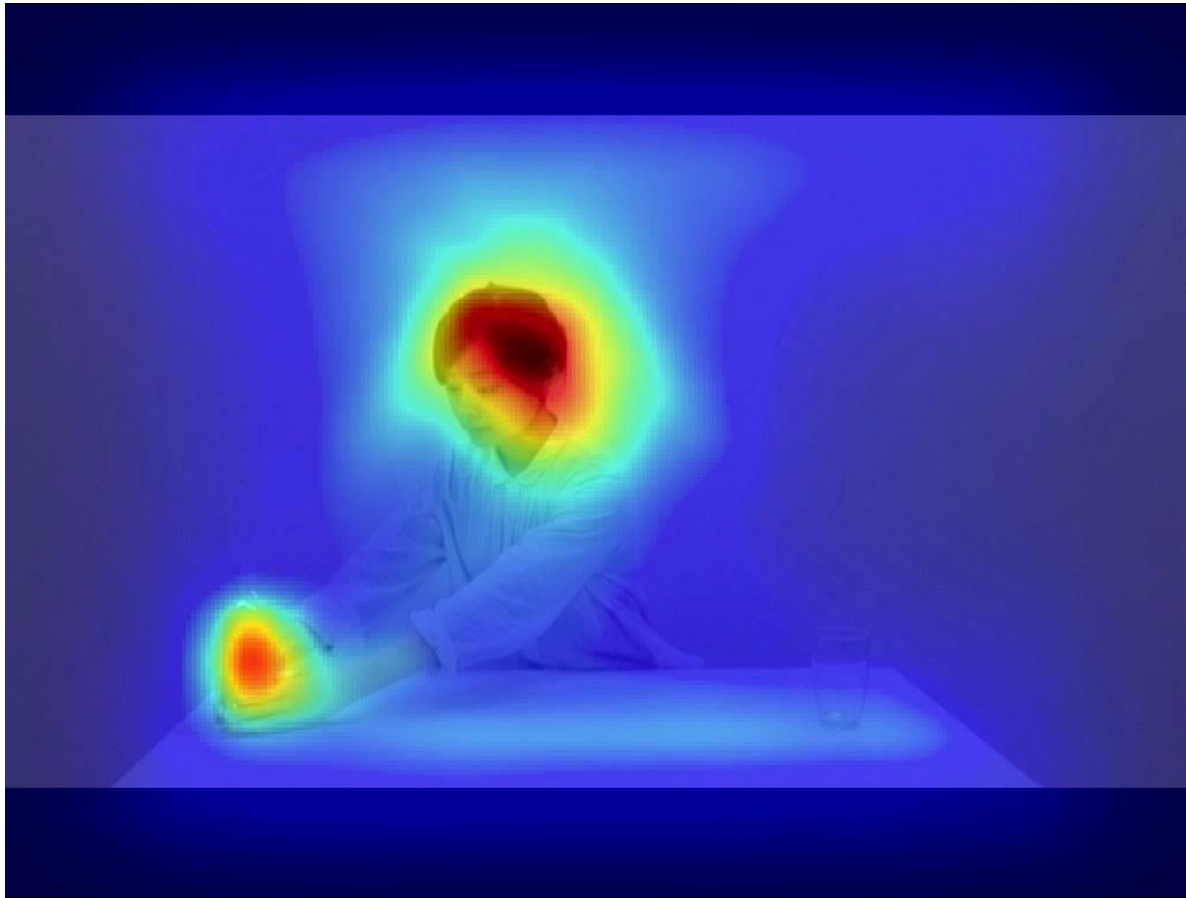
Disengagement, Preference
Intrinsic motivation (reward system)



higher-order emotional/cognitive control system

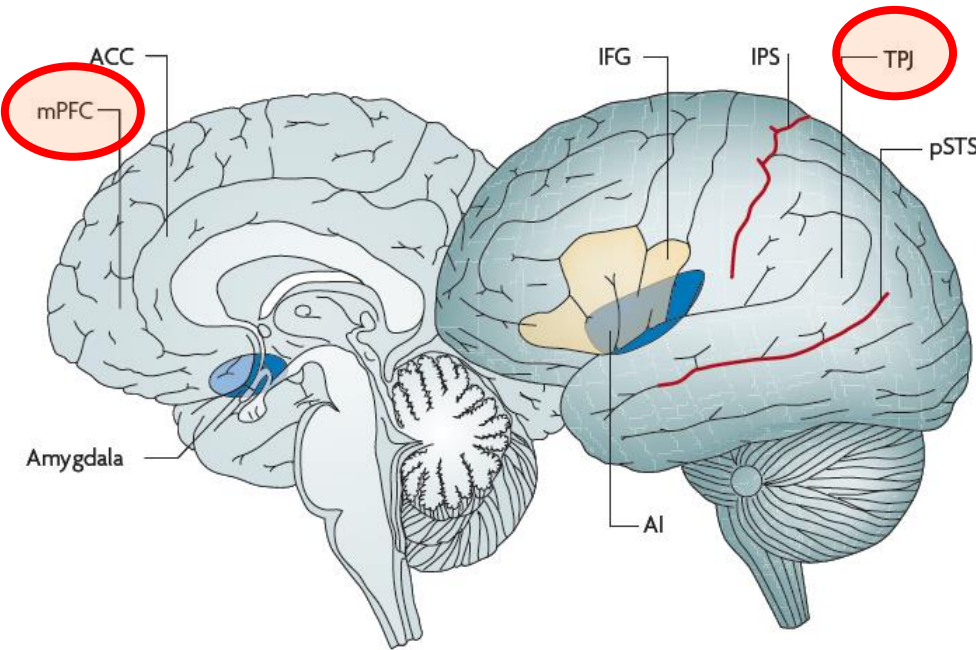
Probabilities by LL Saliency Model

Harel et al., 2006



Myowa-Yamakoshi, Yoshida, Kawai, & Hirata, in prep.

Beyond mirror neuron system “Mentalizing” Cognitive Process of Inferences



Blakemore, S-J., 2008, *Nat. Rev. Neurosci.*

Brain imaging in human adults

* Mirror neuron system

STS (Superior Temporal Sulcus)

BM perception

IPL (Inferior Parietal Lobule)

encode kinesthetic information

IFG (inferior frontal gyrus)

encode goal-orientation aspects of action,
connected with anterior insula (AI) & Amygdala

* Mentalizing (inhibition/reasoning)

TPJ (temporo-parietal junction)

perspective taking

left = egocentric, right = allocentric

mPFC (medial prefrontal cortex)

working memory, long-term memory

decision making, inhibitory control

Top-down control of IFG and STS

I think ...

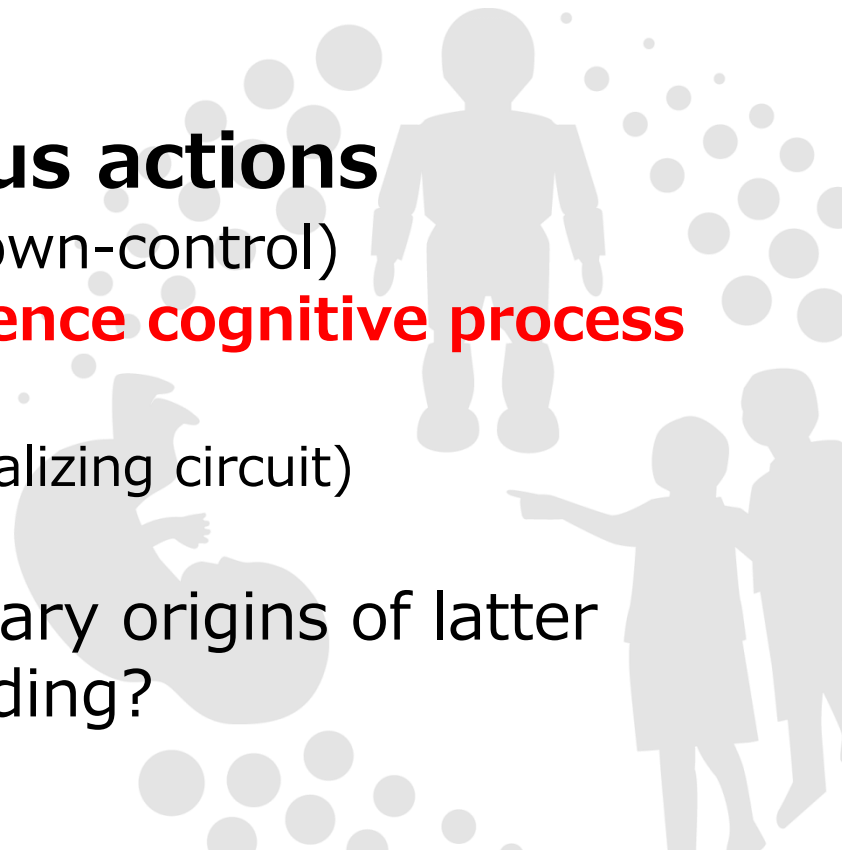
(1) **Familiar goal-directed actions**

- MNS (encode action goal based on own experience)
- **no need to discriminate the perspectives of self and others**

(2) **Unfamiliar/ambiguous actions**

- need to **inhibit MNS** (topdown-control)
- need to activate **the inference cognitive process** outside MNS areas
(e.g., TPJ, mPFC..., the mentalizing circuit)

(3) Ontogenetic and evolutionary origins of latter types of action understanding?



How humans/chimpanzees see *unfamiliar/ambiguous* actions ?

When the predicted action goal is **NOT** achieved...?

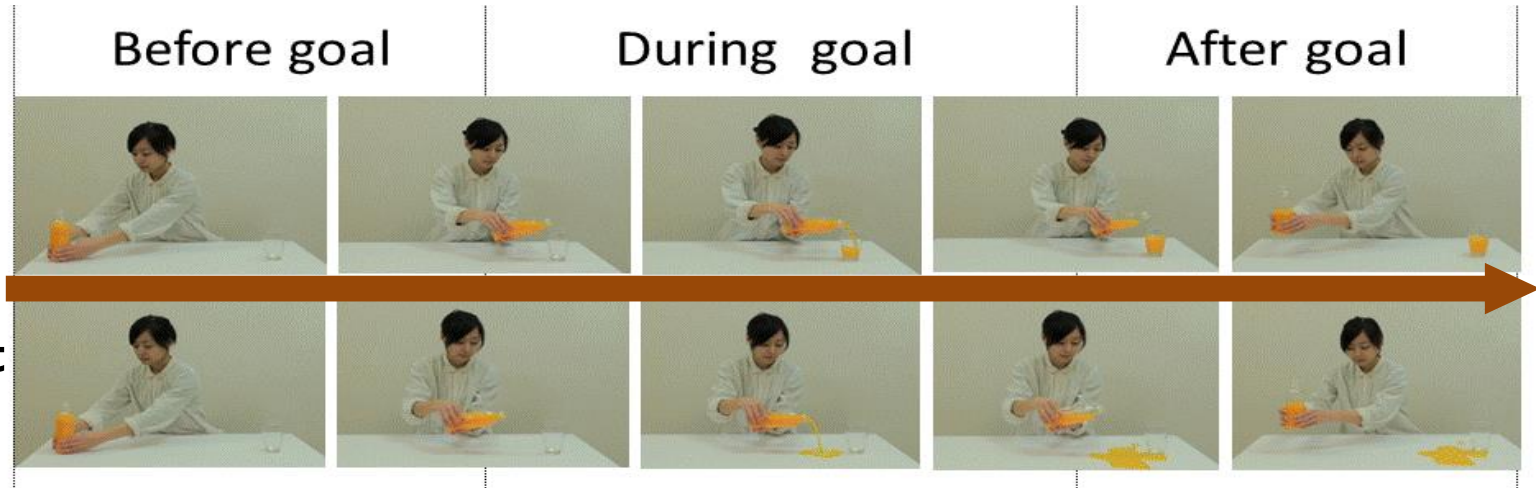
Congruent action



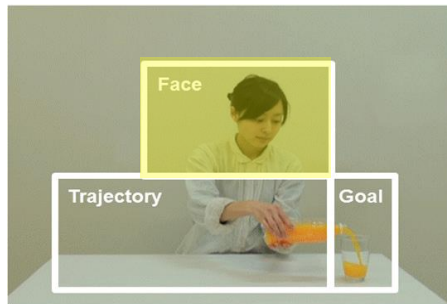
Incongruent action



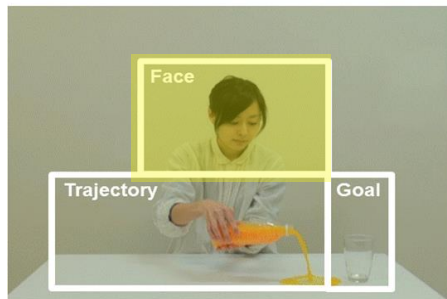
Face AOI and three phases



Congruent action



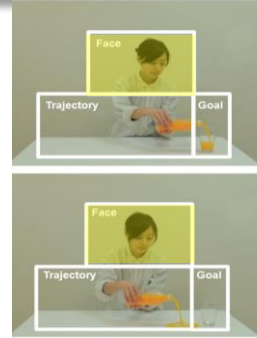
Incongruent action



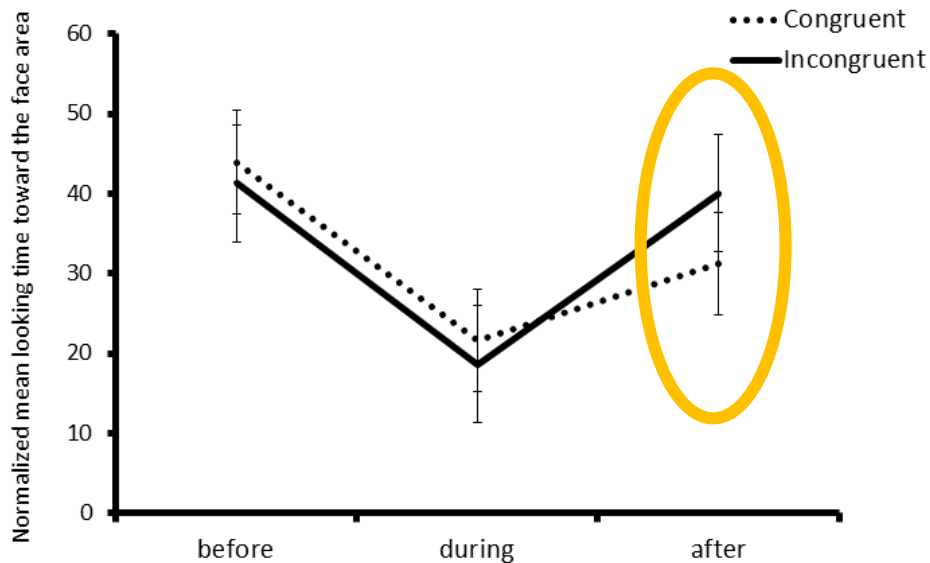
Ratio of looking time at **FACE** area to total looking time in the 3 (Face+ Trajectory + Goal) areas combined

Face AOI: Humans vs. Chimpanzees adults

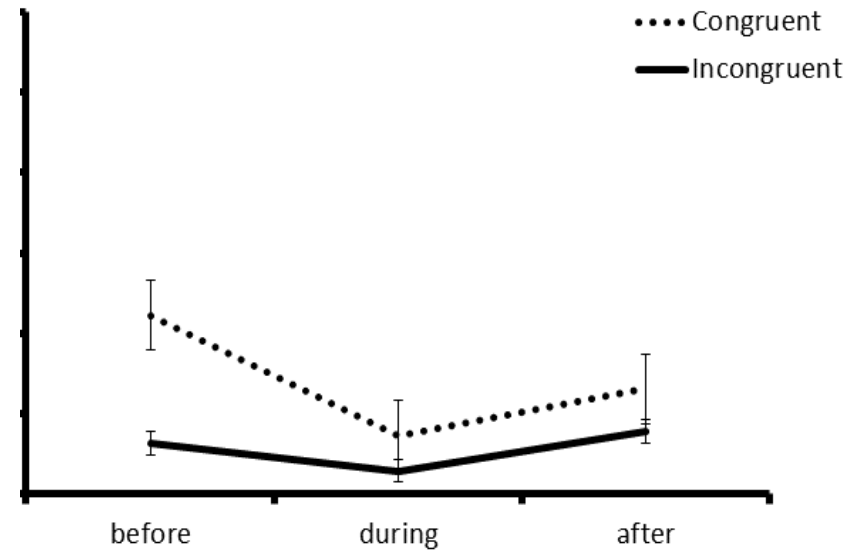
Congruent vs. Incongruent



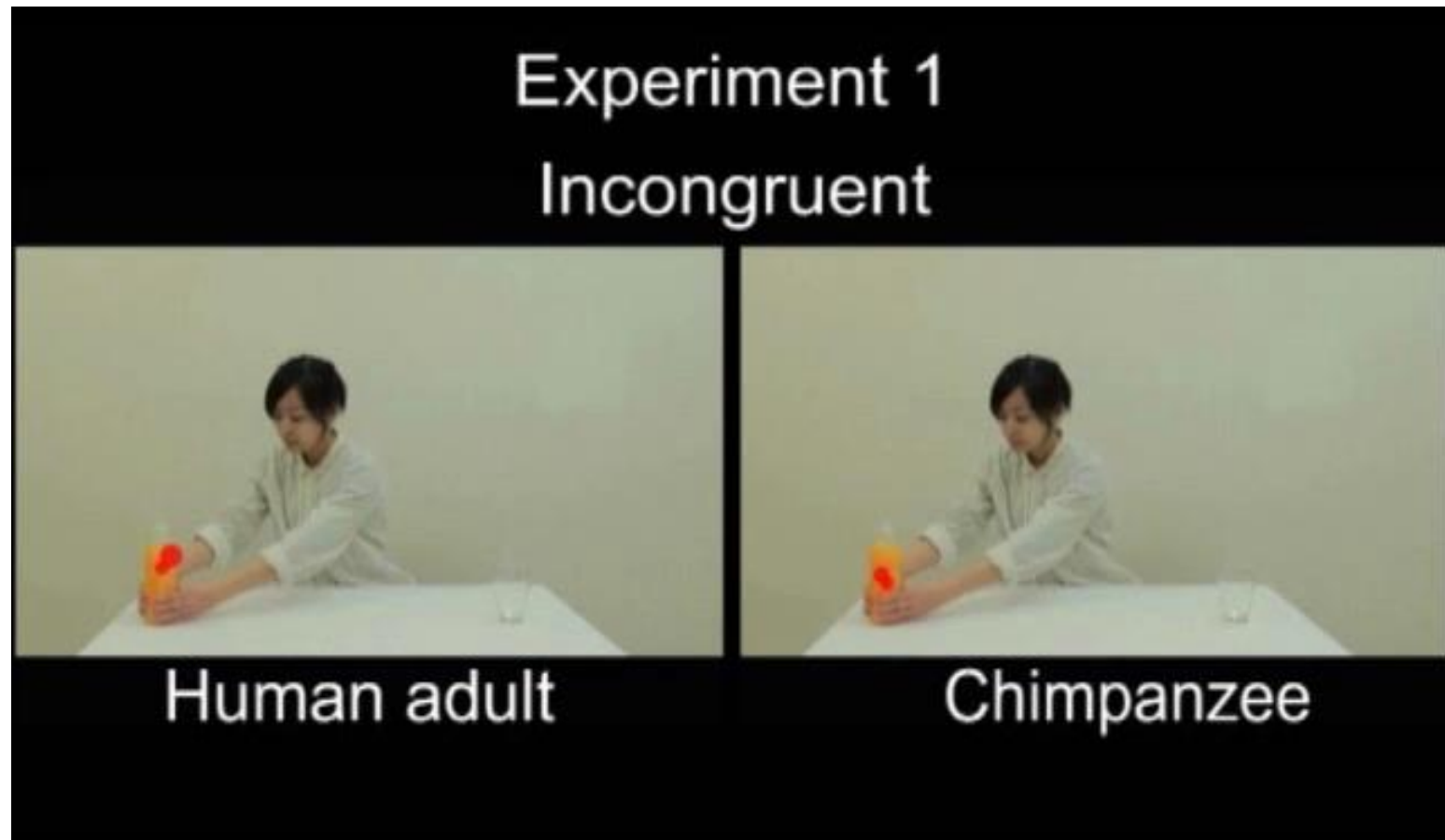
Human adults (n=15)



Chimpanzee adults (n=6)



Humans vs. Chimpanzees

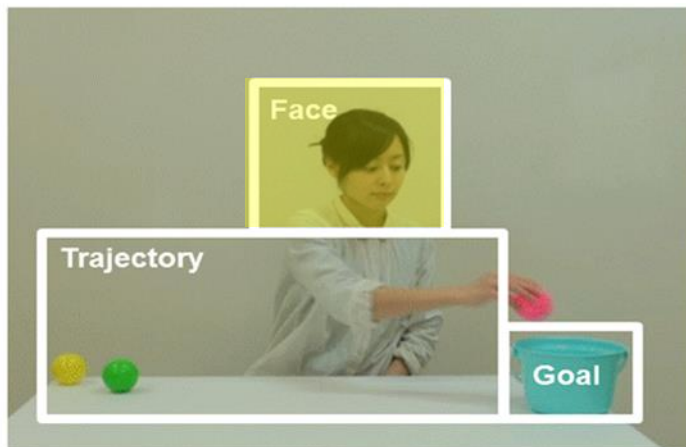


Spatial distribution of fixations for “non-food-related” action

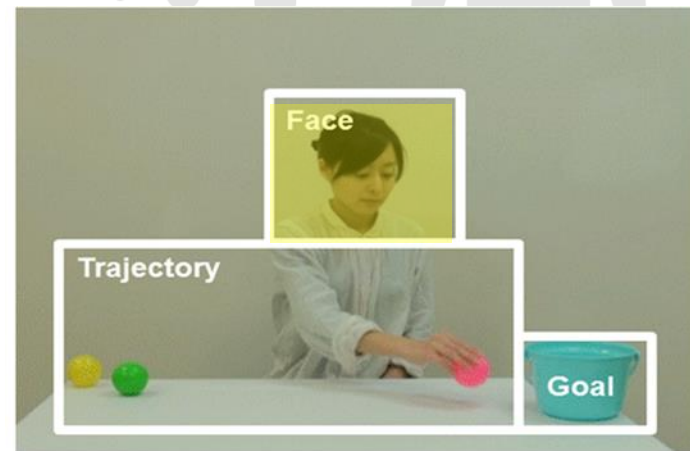
Congruent
action



Incongruent
action



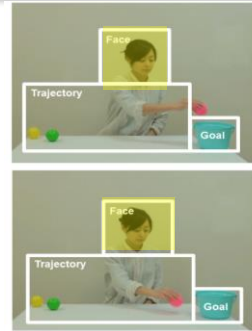
Congruent action



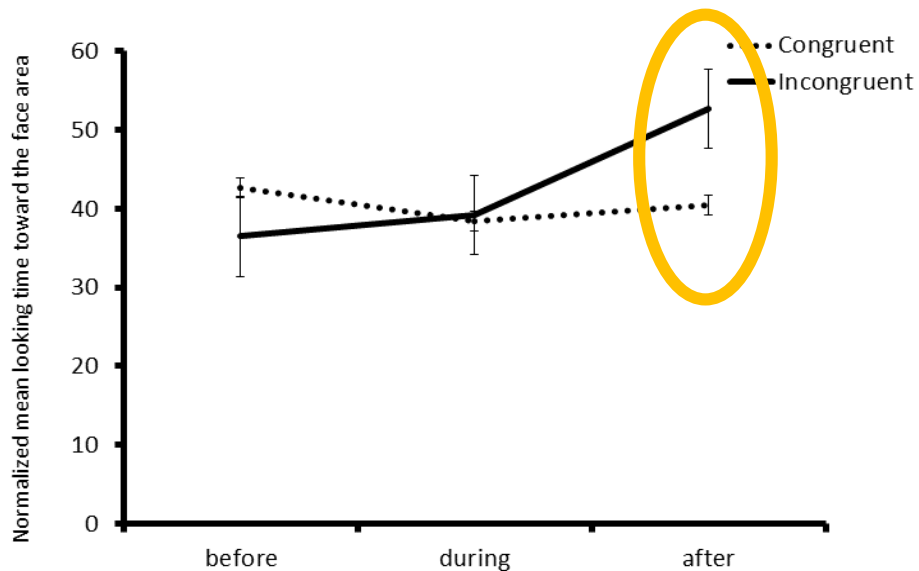
Incongruent action

Visual patterns for a "non-food-related" action

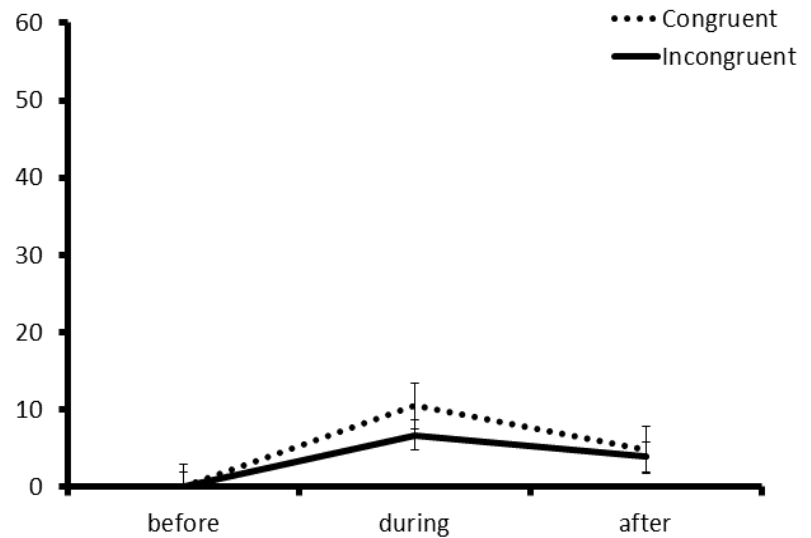
Congruent vs. Incongruent



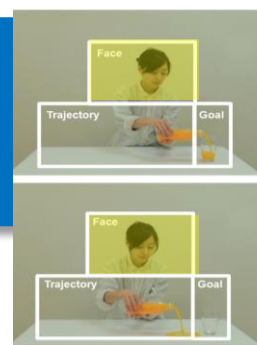
Human adults (n=15)



Chimpanzee adults (n=6)

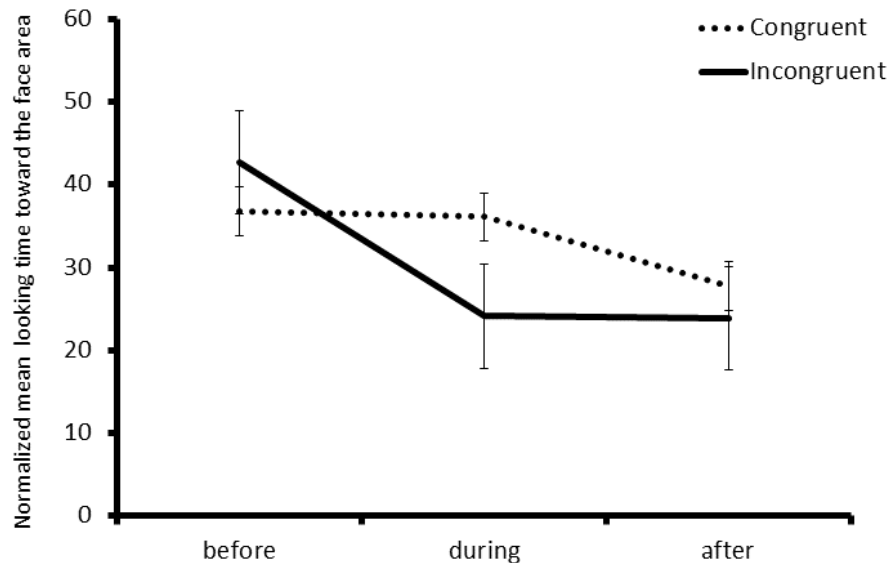


Developmental change

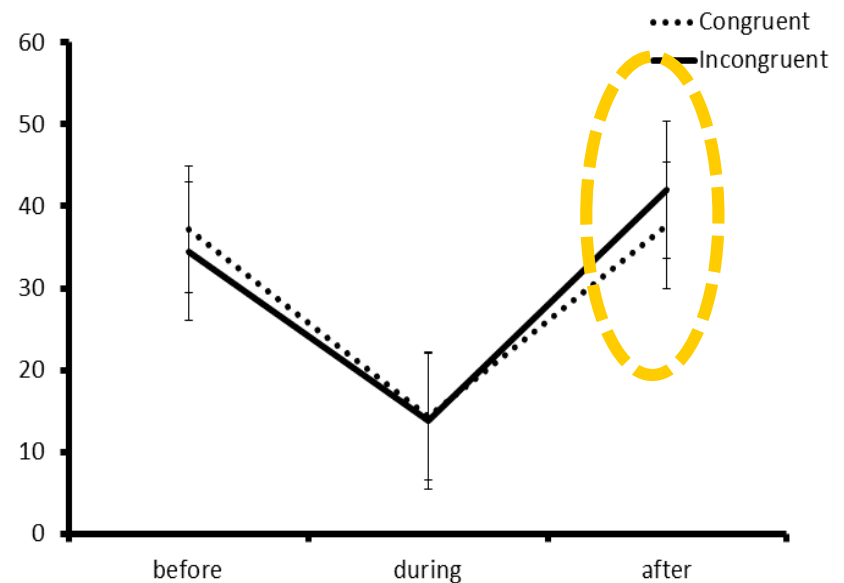


Congruent vs. Incongruent

12-month-old Human Infants
(n=16)



3.5-year-old Human Children
(n=16)

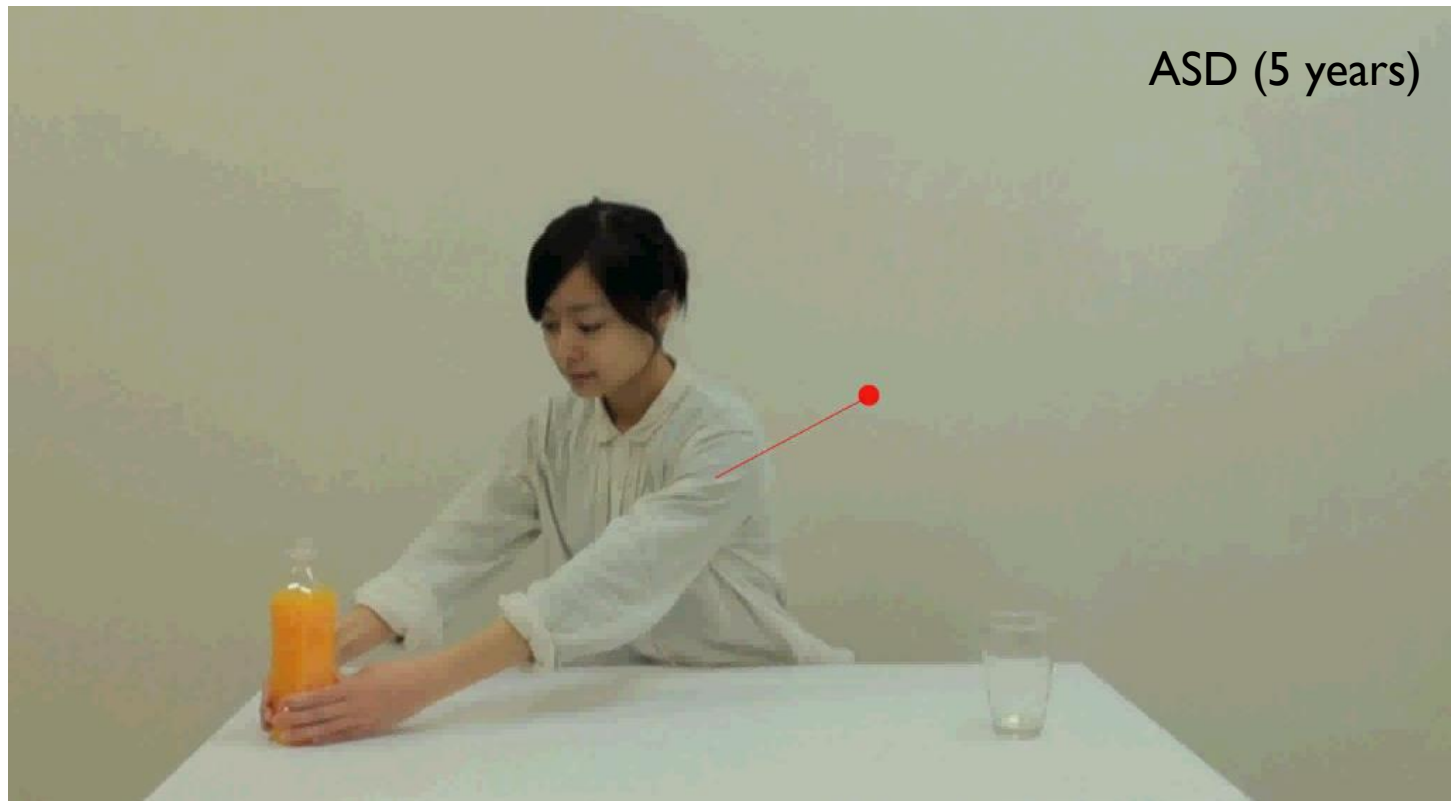


Humans and chimpanzees differently attend to action

- Chimpanzees anticipate action goals in the same way as human adults
- Humans refer to other's face, **depending on context**
Chimpanzees rarely pay attention to other's face
 - mainly focusing on object-related information
- Humans view goal-directed actions by integrating information of other's mental states and the manipulated objects
 - adaptive significance in human evolution?

Different attentional patterns is reflected in difference of action understanding of others

When children with ASD look at face ?



Joint research with Umino, M.D. (Aoyama Clinic, Tokyo)

Beyond automatic imitation
Humans “intentionally” imitate failed action of others



Humans show “active teaching” from early stage of life



Chimpanzees never show “active teaching”



Social Learning in chimpanzees



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