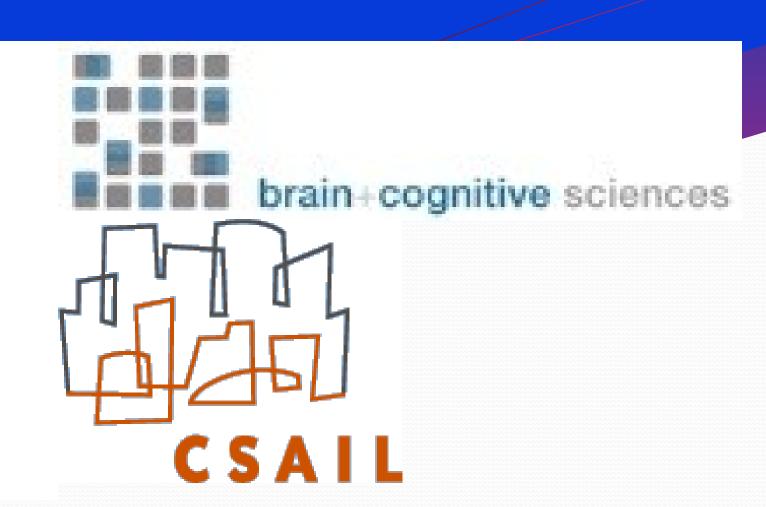


An fMRI Investigation of Differential Cortical Activity for Object Interaction Space Size

Wilma Bainbridge & Aude Oliva

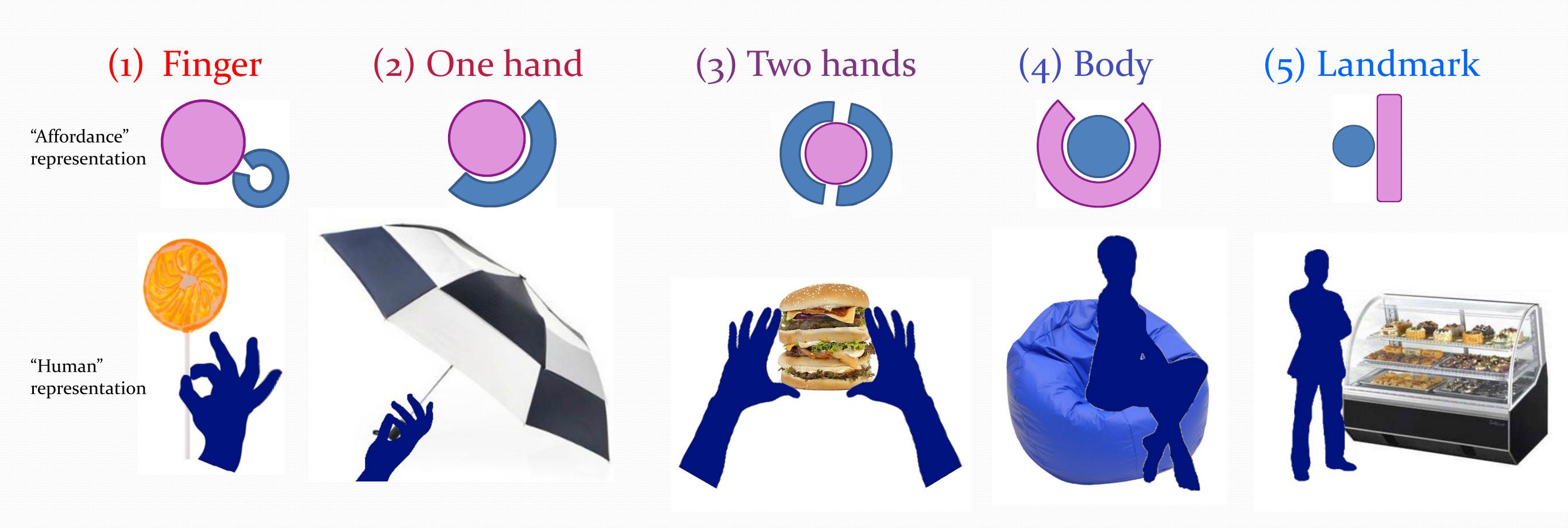


MOTIVATIONS:

- Little is known about human mental representations of the interaction space of objects
 - Debate 1: Action-perception dissociation (Goldenberg & Kanarth, 2006) OR integration (Grèzes et al, 2003)?
 - Debate 2: Categorical representation (hand vs body) OR gradient representation?
- Application: Robotics uses different, categorical systems for body navigation and handobject manipulation. Is this the right way to do it?
- Several cortical regions are sensitive to object function (Mahon et al, 2007), shape (Grill-Spector et al, 1999), and size (Konkle & Oliva, 2012)
- Metrics of distance and layout have been found in space regions (Morgan et al, 2011)
- In this preliminary study, we look at brain activity upon passive viewing of objects of different interaction spaces.

STIMULI:

5 categories of object interaction type with 120 images each = 600 images total:



Power spectra and mean luminance were examined amongst each category, no significant correlation was found with V1 activity

IMAGING METHODOLOGY:

- 32-channel 3T fMRI study of 10 right-handed human participants
- 3-mm voxels, 33 slices, TR = 2
- 10 participants performed a 1-back task while viewing blocks of object images against a white background, at the same retinal size
- Participants were asked to think of how they interact with each object

RESULTS:

WHOLE BRAIN RANDOM EFFECTS ANALYSIS:

Categories 4 + 5 > Categories 1 + 2

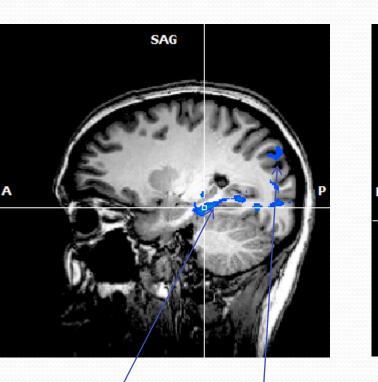
- PHC = Parahippocampal cortex (10/10 subjects) Peak voxel – R: (20,-29,-18); L: (-31,-41,-9)
- RSC = Retrosplenial cortex (9/10 subjects) Peak voxel – R: (17,-59,15); L: (-19,-62,12) *
- TOS = transverse occipital sulcus (10/10 subjects) Peak voxel – R: (20,-71,-12); L: (-34,-83,12)

Categories 1 + 2 > Categories 4 + 5

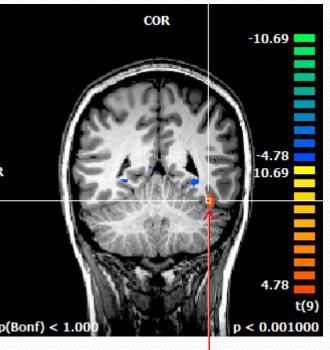
- OTS= occipito-temporal sulcus (10/10 subjects) Peak voxel –L: (-40,-47,-24)
- Peak voxel R: (65,-26,30); L: (-64,-23,39) *

10 Subjects Whole Brain Random Effects

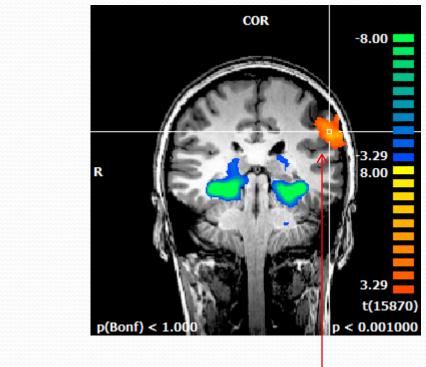
Single Representative Subject



PHC (R+L) TOS (R+L)





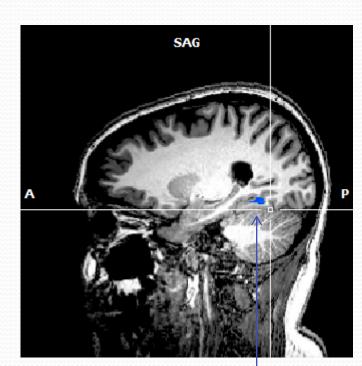


IPL (R+L)

- IPL = inferior parietal lobule (7/10 subjects)

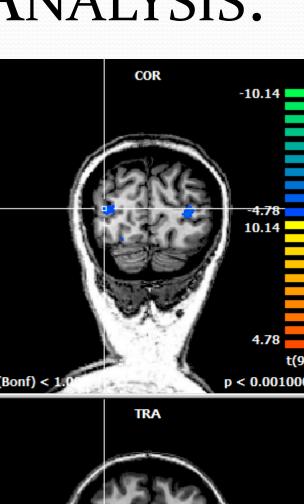
RSC (R+L)

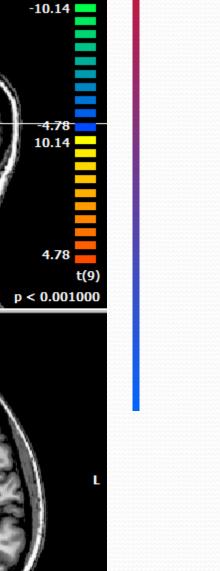
WHOLE BRAIN PARAMETRIC ANALYSIS:



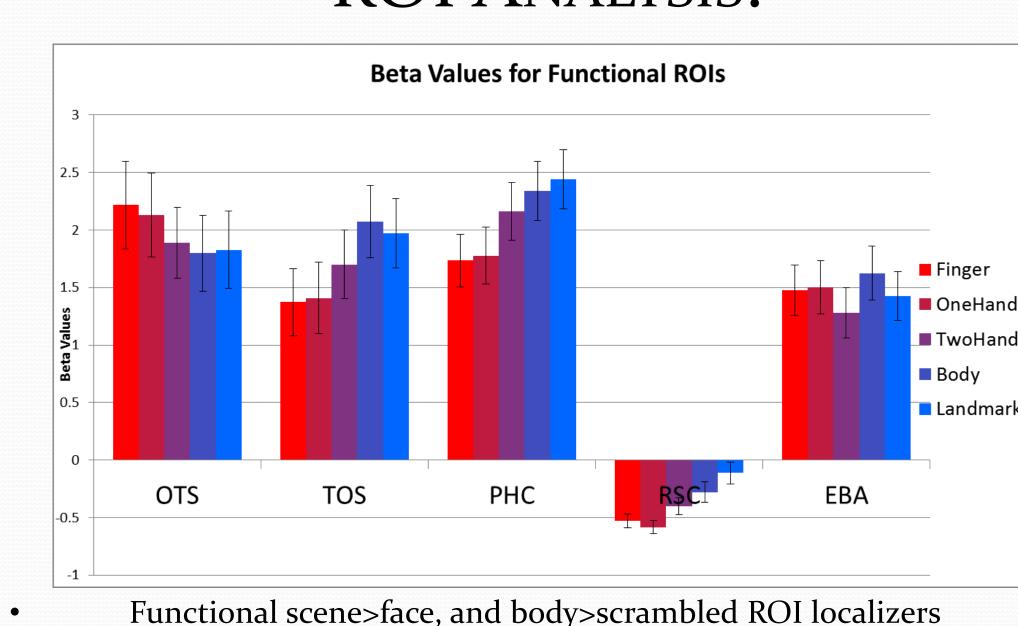
- Parametric increase in activity with increasing object category number
- R: (32,-80,12); L: (-31,-86,9)
- R: (23,-56,-6) PHC (R)







ROI ANALYSIS:



- Functional scene>face, and body>scrambled ROI localizers Correlations between interaction space size and beta value:
 - **OTS**: r = -0.1808, p = .2642
 - **TOS**: r = 0.2899, p = 0.0411
 - **PHC**: r = 0.3671, p = 0.0087 **RSC**: r = 0.6043, p ~ 0.0000

CONCLUSIONS & FUTURE DIRECTIONS:

- Cortical regions are differentially selective to different interaction spaces, there may be a parametric relationship
- Future studies to separate object interaction space from object size
- High resolution scanning of relevant cortical regions
- Examine human analogs of important topics in robot body & arm trajectory planning:
 - Points of grasp and aperture
 - Homotopic classes of trajectory
 - Coarse versus fine movement

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