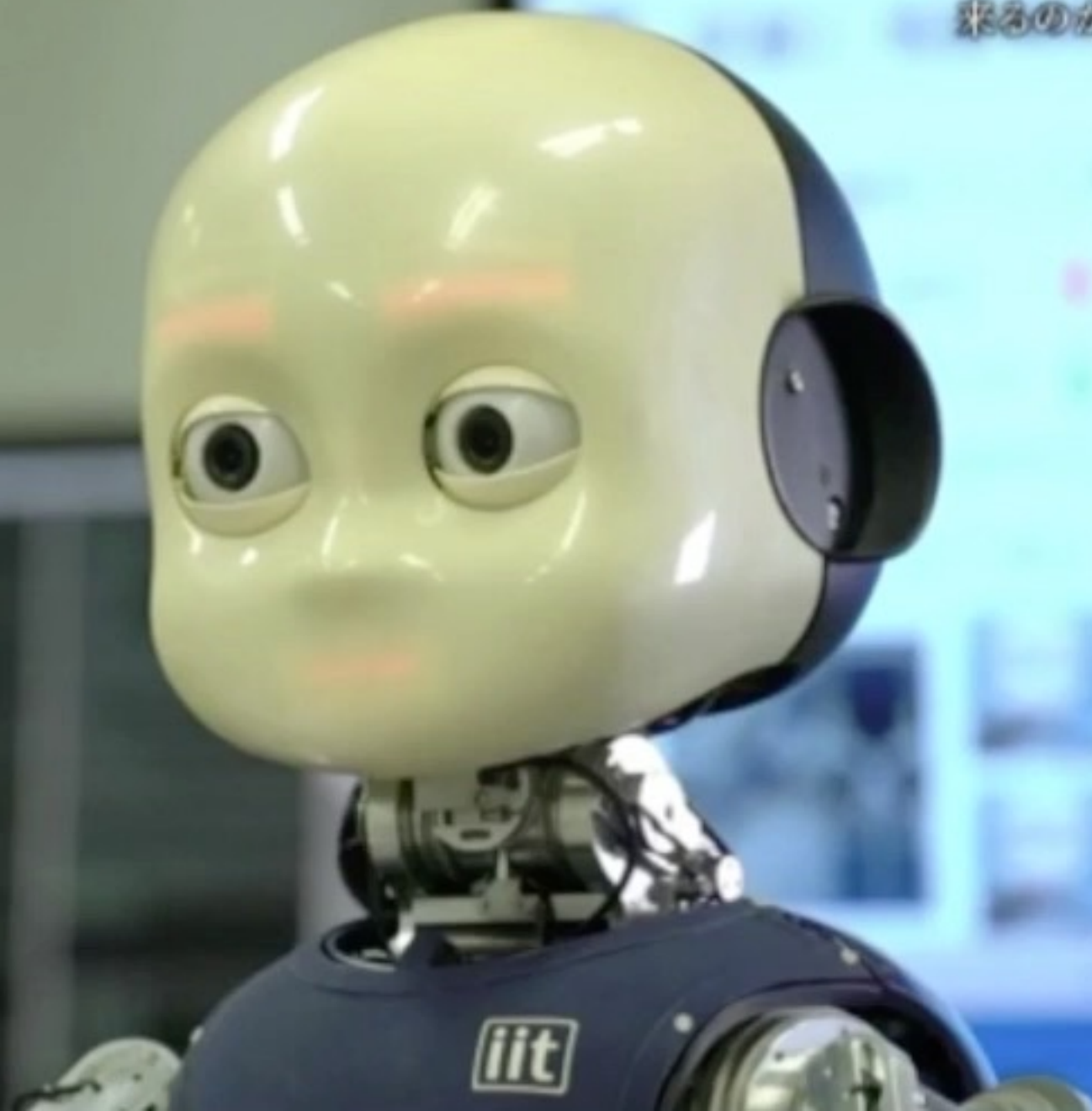




Cognitive Developmental Robotics

**Yukie Nagai**

IRCN, The University of Tokyo

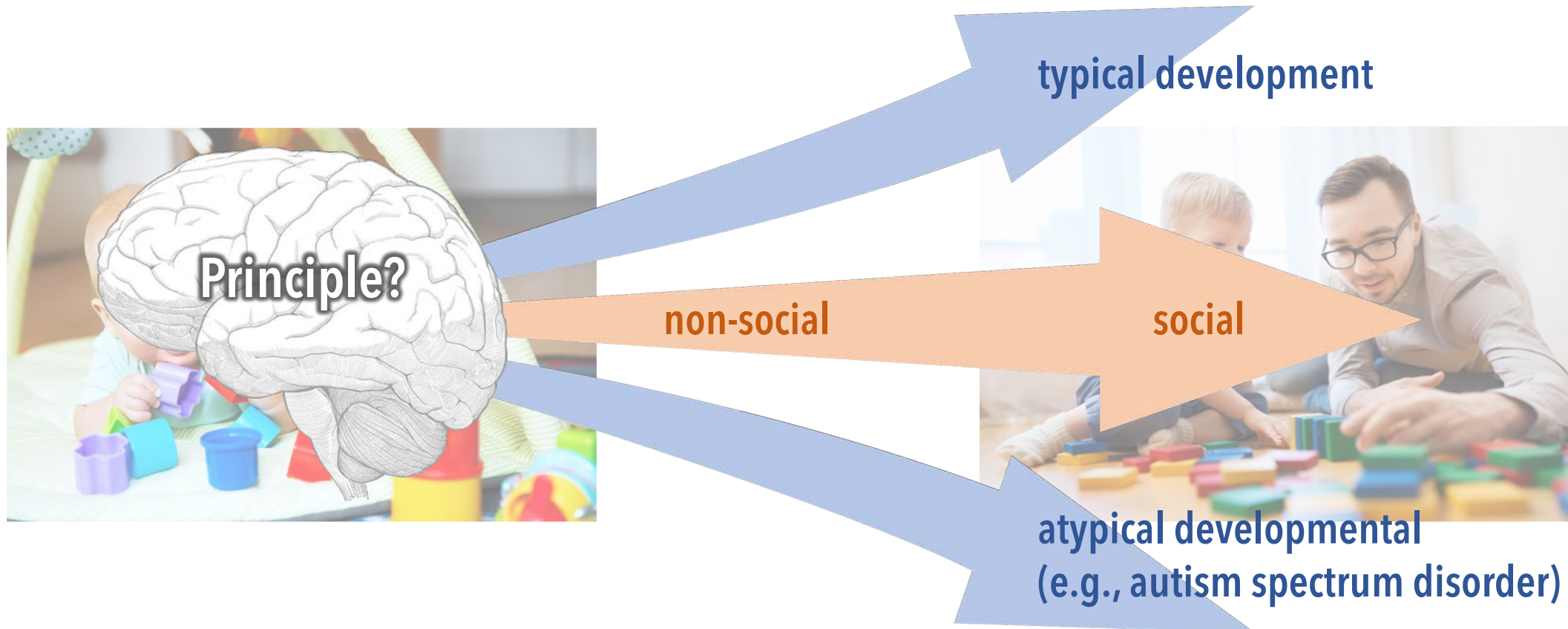






# Open Question: A Unified Principle of Cognitive Development?

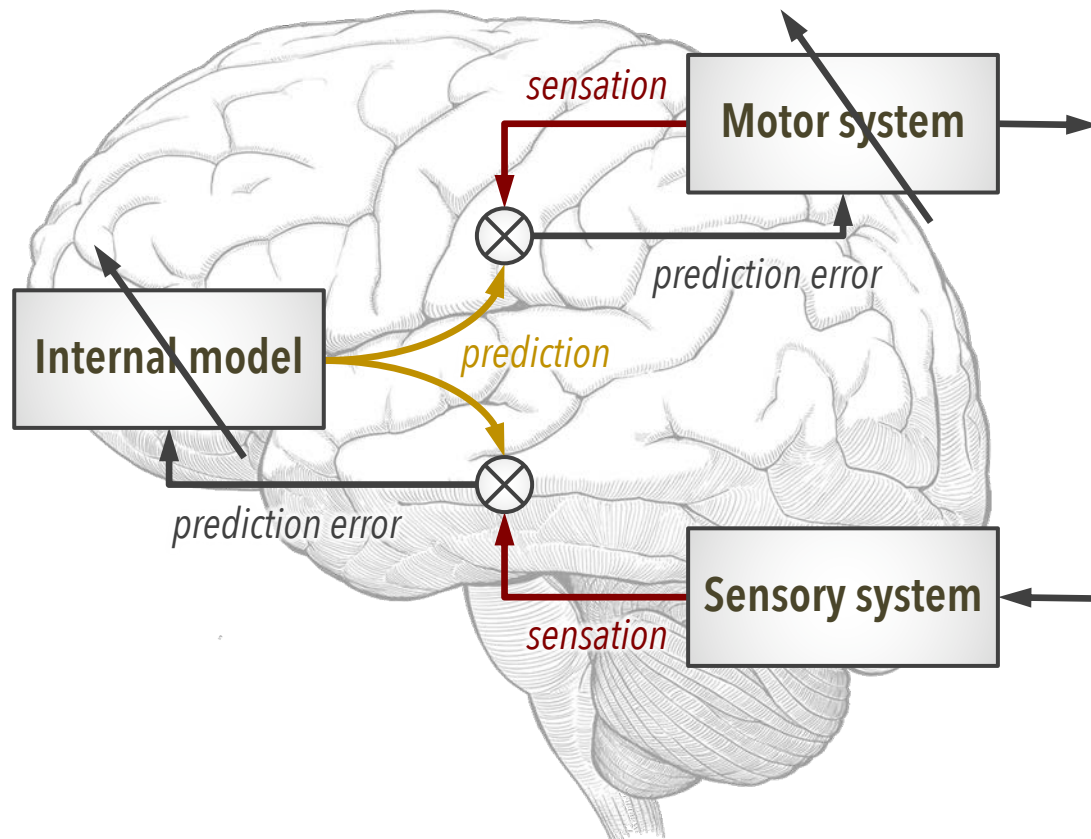
- What **neural mechanisms** underlie cognitive development?
- Can they account for both the **continuity and diversity** in development?



# Predictive Coding: A Unified Theory of Human Brain

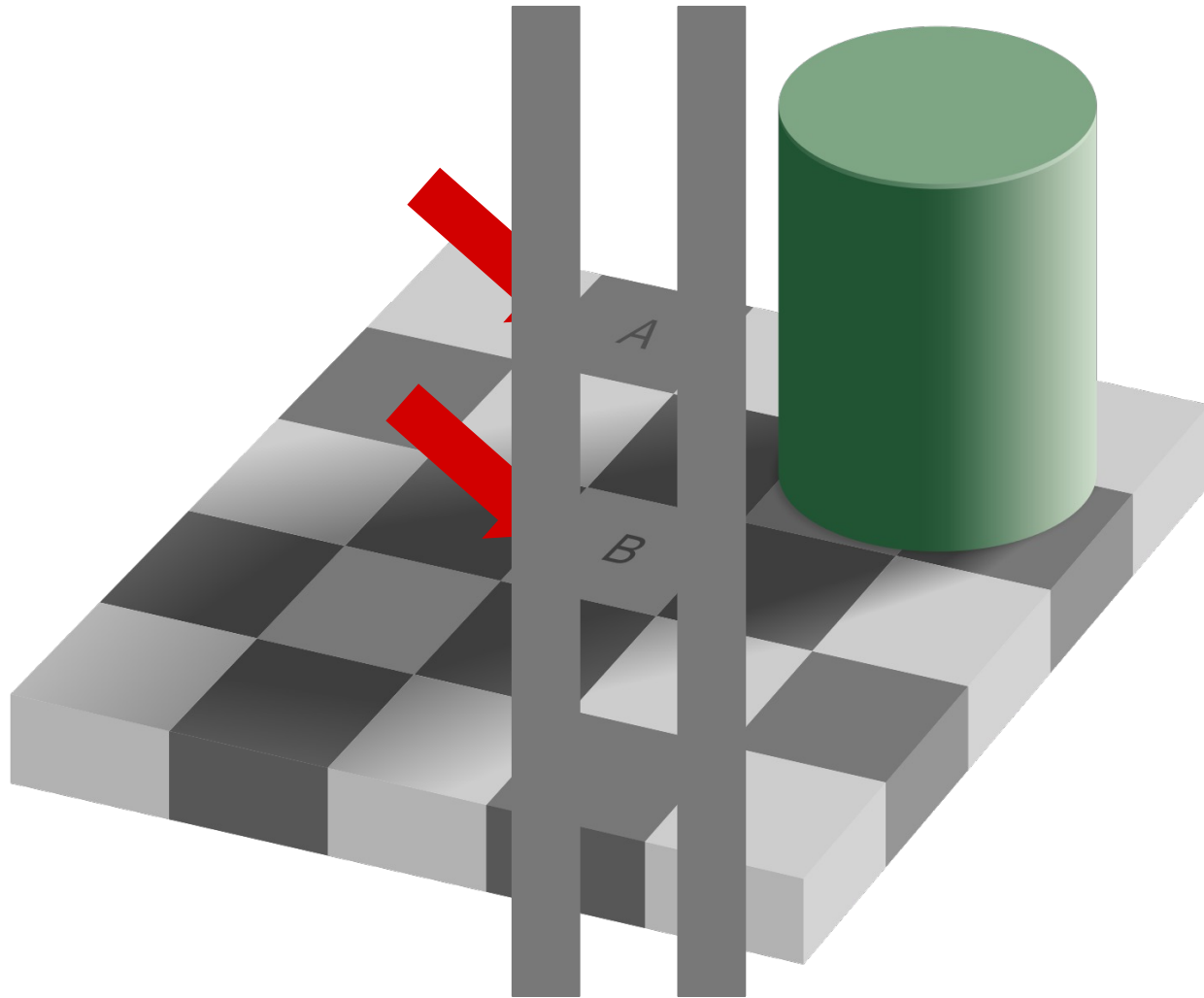
[Friston et al., 2006; Friston, 2010; Clark, 2013]

- The human brain perceives the world and acts on the world to **minimize prediction errors** (i.e., perceptual and active inference).



Modified from [Friston & Frith, 2015]

# Optical Illusion Generated by Predictive Brain



Which square looks brighter, A or B?

Subjective perception

$$A < B$$

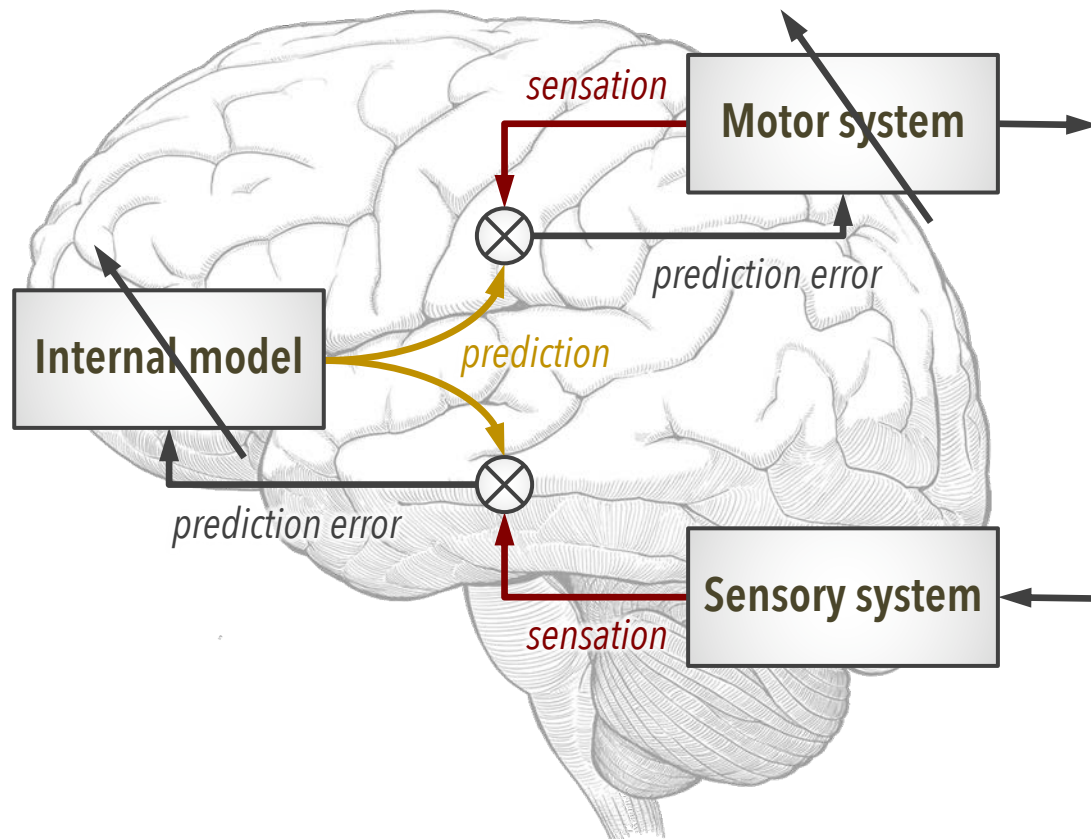
Physical stimuli

$$A = B$$

# Predictive Coding: A Unified Theory of Human Brain

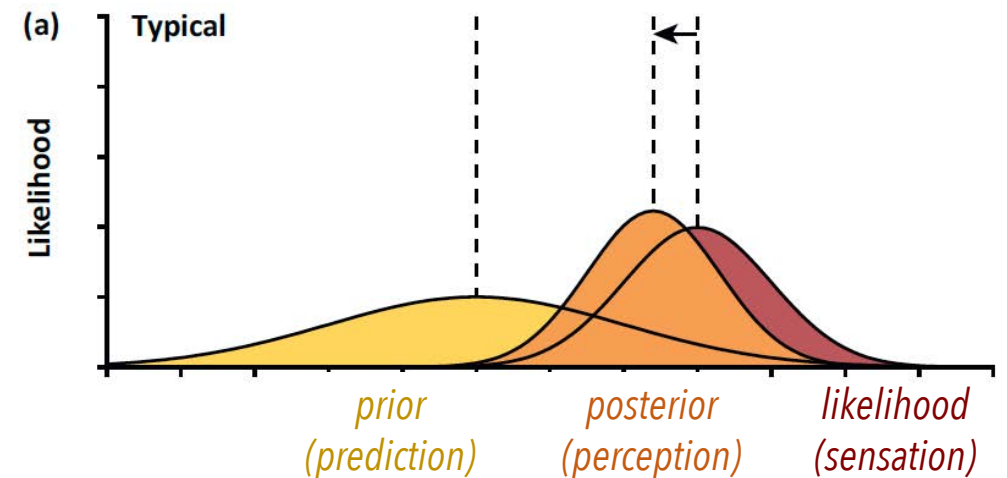
[Friston et al., 2006; Friston, 2010; Clark, 2013]

- The human brain perceives the world and acts on the world to **minimize prediction errors** (i.e., perceptual and active inference).



Modified from [Friston & Frith, 2015]

Bayes' theorem  
 $posterior \propto likelihood \cdot prior$



[Brock, 2012]



# Development from Non-Social to Social Cognition



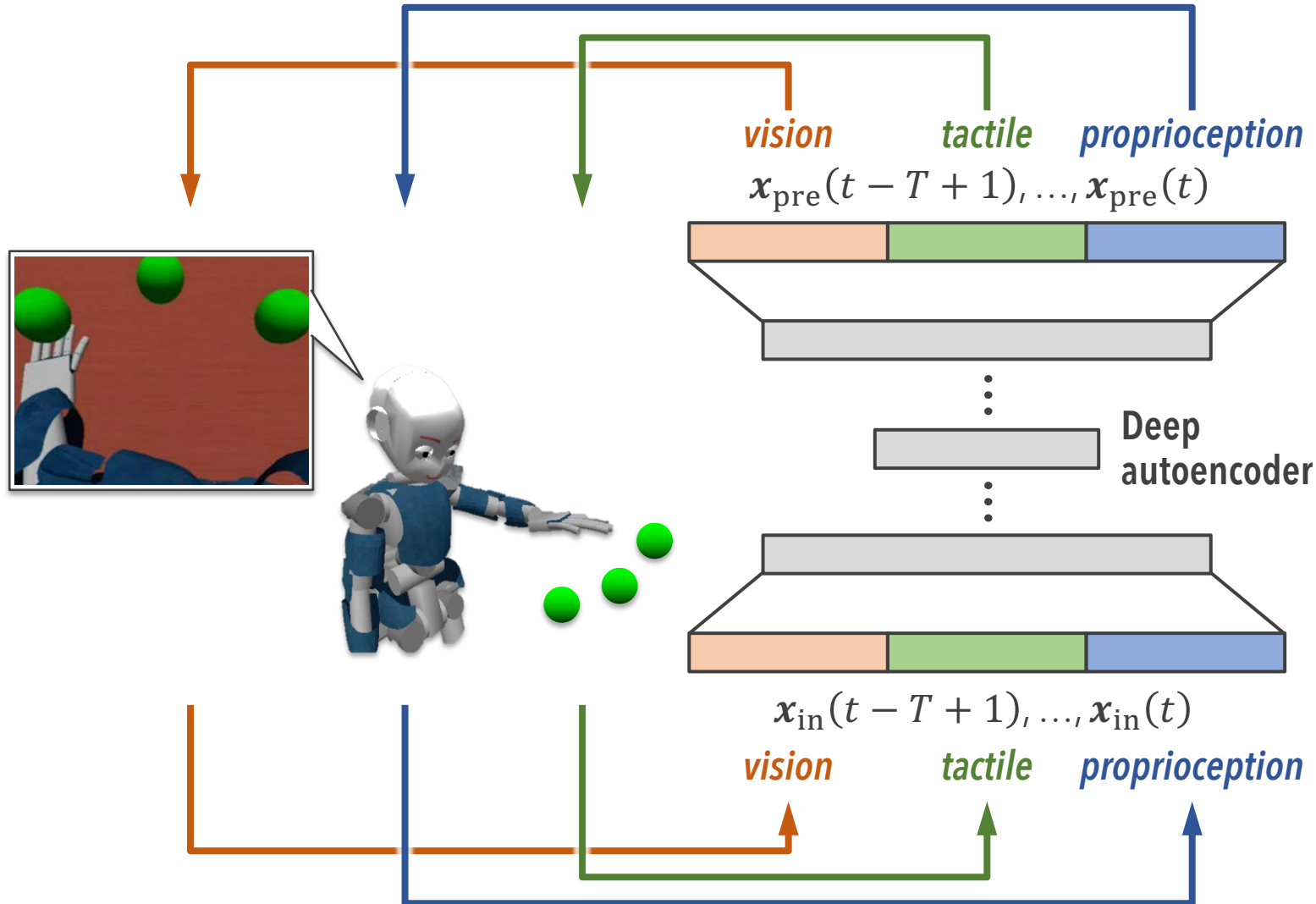
# Development of Altruistic Behavior

[Warneken & Tomasello, 2007]



# Development of Action Production and Perception

[Copete, Nagai & Asada, ICDL-EpiRob 2016]

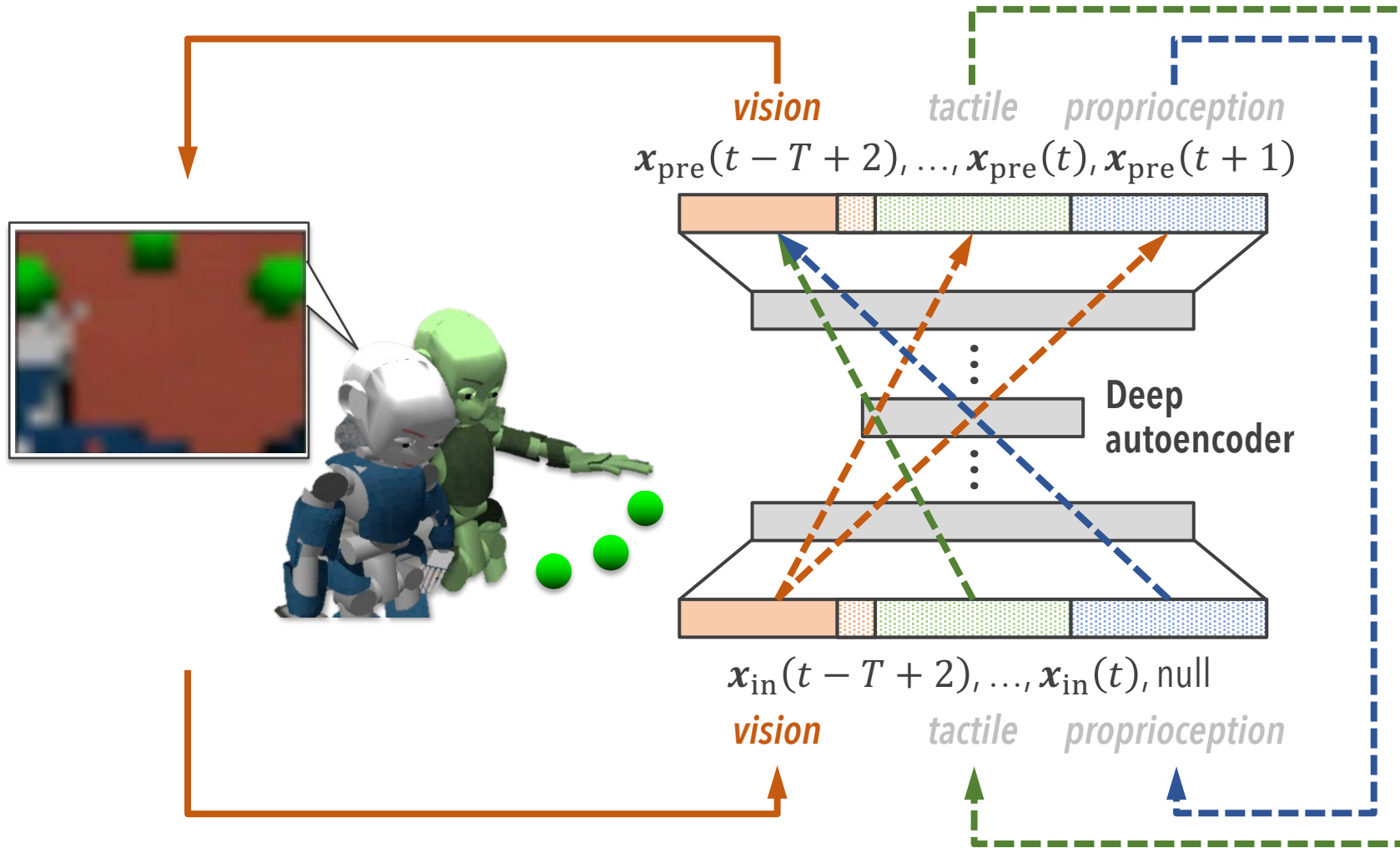


## Action production:

- **Predictive learning** (i.e., minimizing  $\|x_{in} - x_{pre}\|$ ) to associate *visual*, *tactile*, and *proprioceptive* signals

# Development of Action Production and Perception

[Copete, Nagai & Asada, ICDL-EpiRob 2016]



## Action production:

- **Predictive learning** (i.e., minimizing  $\|x_{in} - x_{pre}\|$ ) to associate *visual*, *tactile*, and *proprioceptive* signals

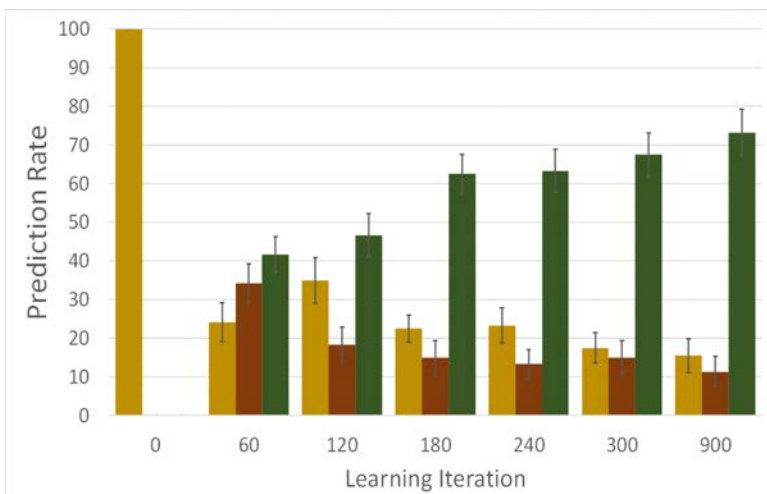
## Action perception:

- *Visual* action prediction facilitated by imaginary *tactile* and *proprioceptive* signals

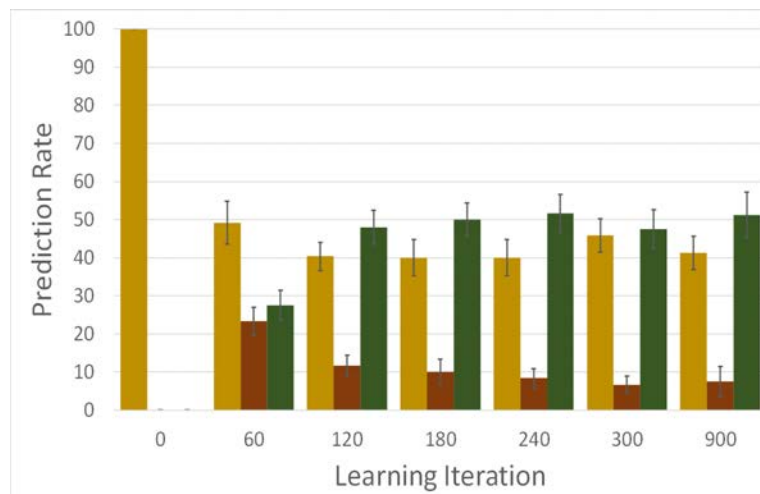
# Exp: Action Perception Improved by Motor Experiences

[Copete, Nagai & Asada, ICDL-EpiRob 2016]

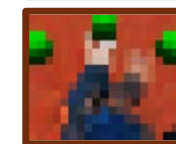
## Learning through action *generation*



## Learning through action *observation*



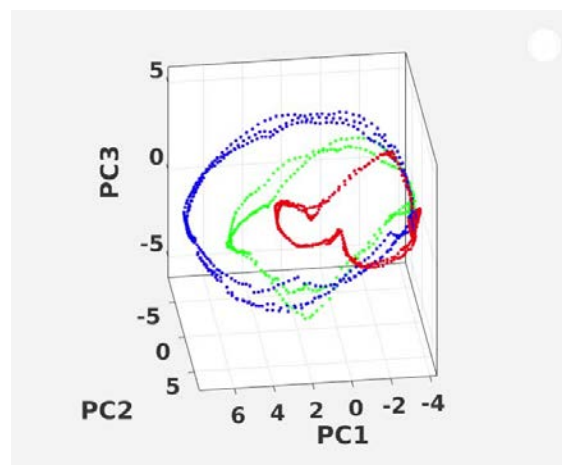
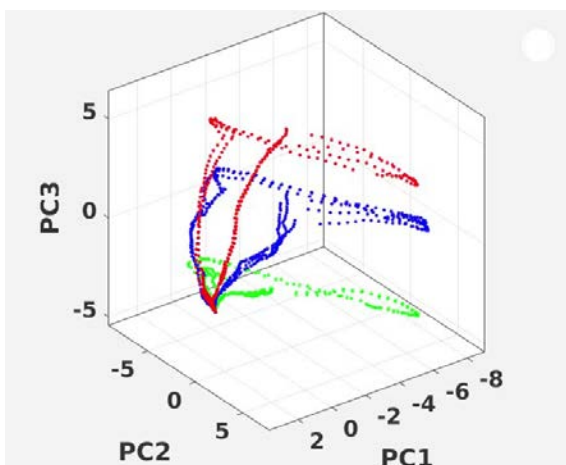
Correct goal



Incorrect goal



No goal



Reaching for left

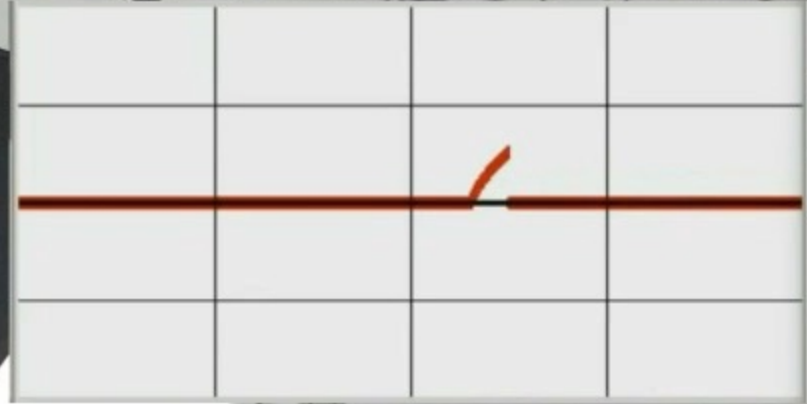
Reaching for center

Reaching for right

**Robot's vision**



**Prediction-error**



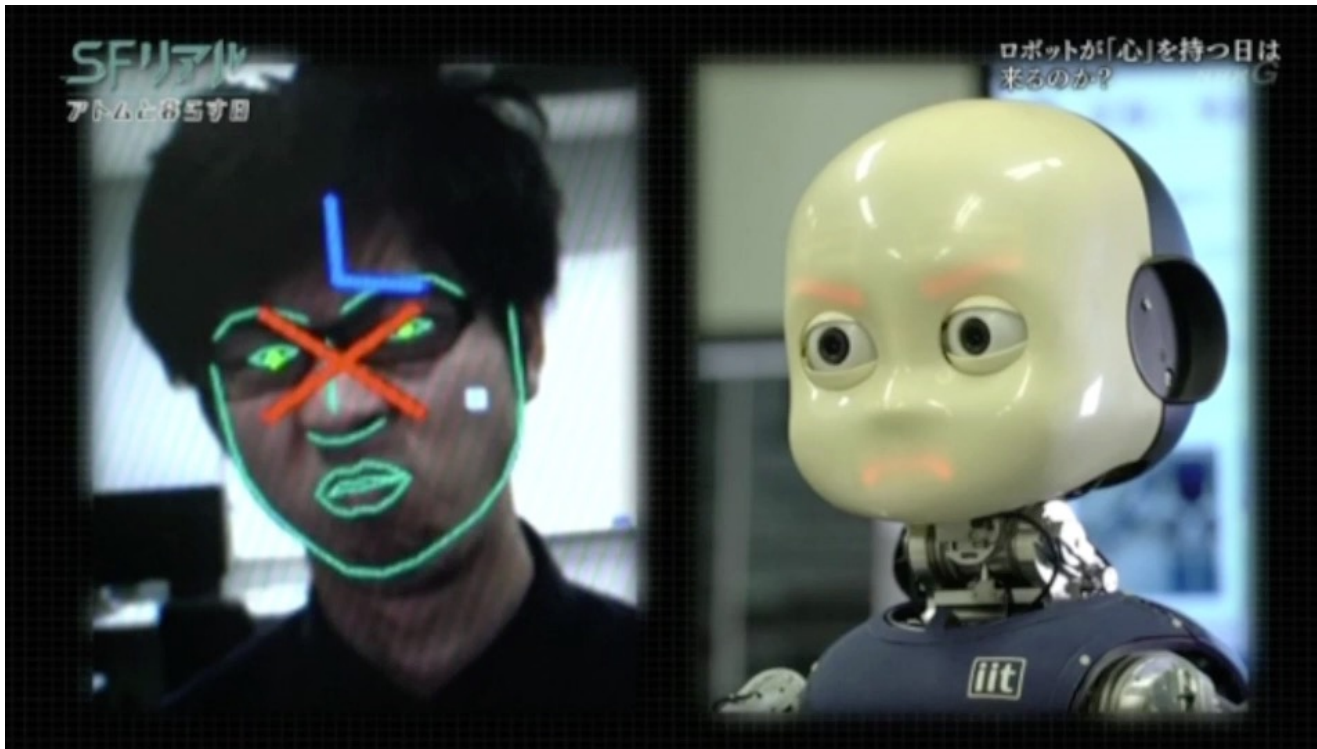
# Emergence of Altruistic Behavior

[Baraglia, Nagai & Asada, IEEE TCDS 2016; Baraglia et al., IJRR 2017]

# Development of Emotion and Its Inference

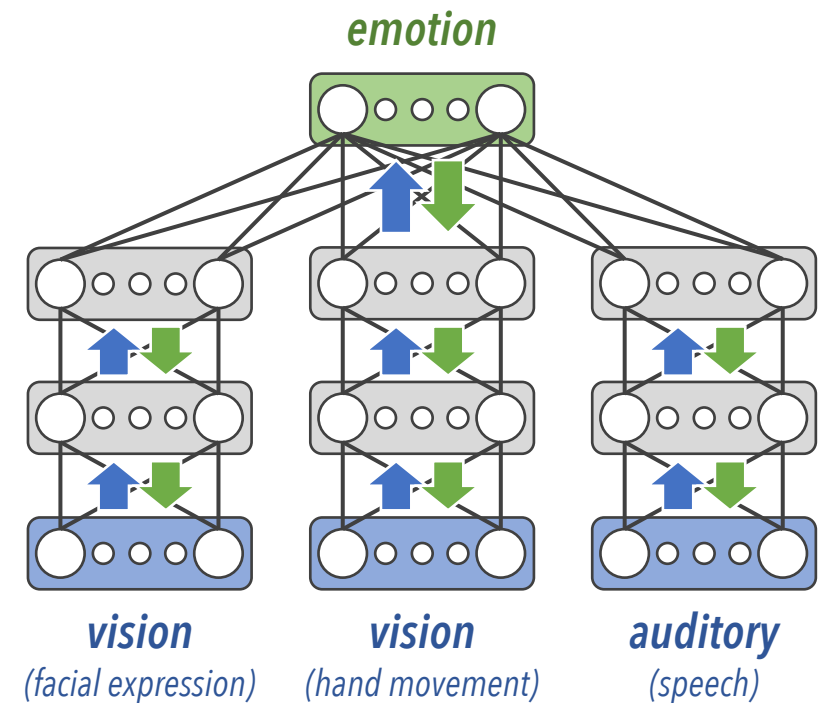
[Horii, Nagai & Asada, Paladyn 2016; IEEE TCDS 2018]

- **Prediction error minimization of multimodal sensory signals** enables robots to acquire emotion categories and the ability to infer other's emotion.



(NHK, 2016.08.23)

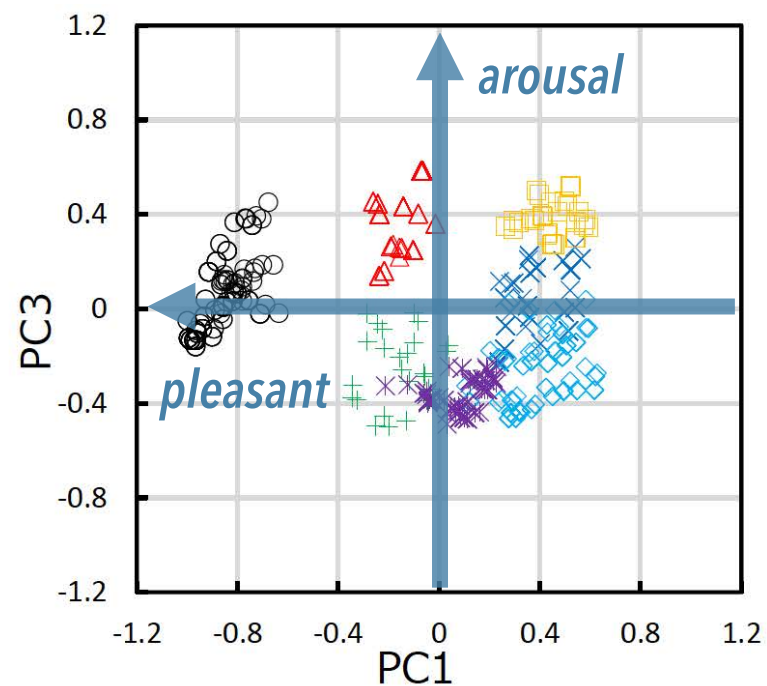
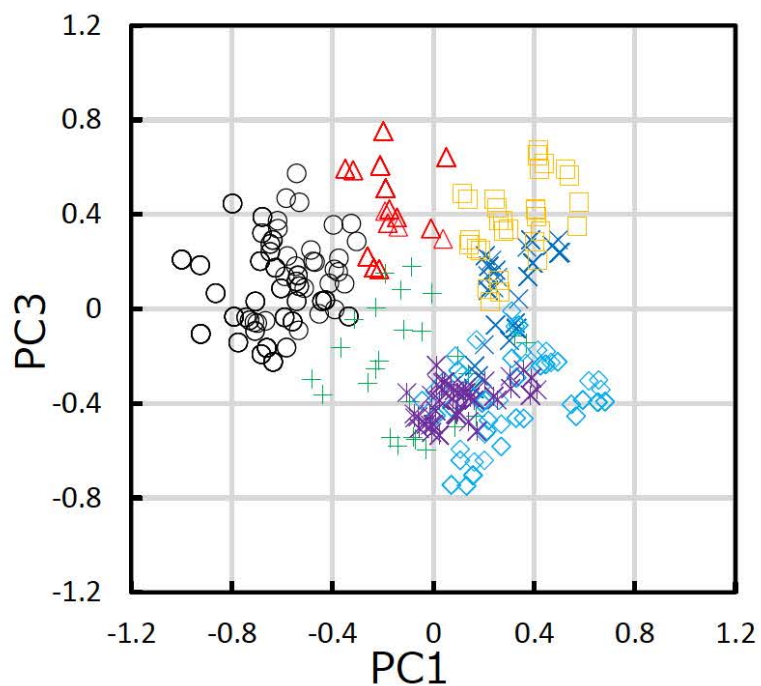
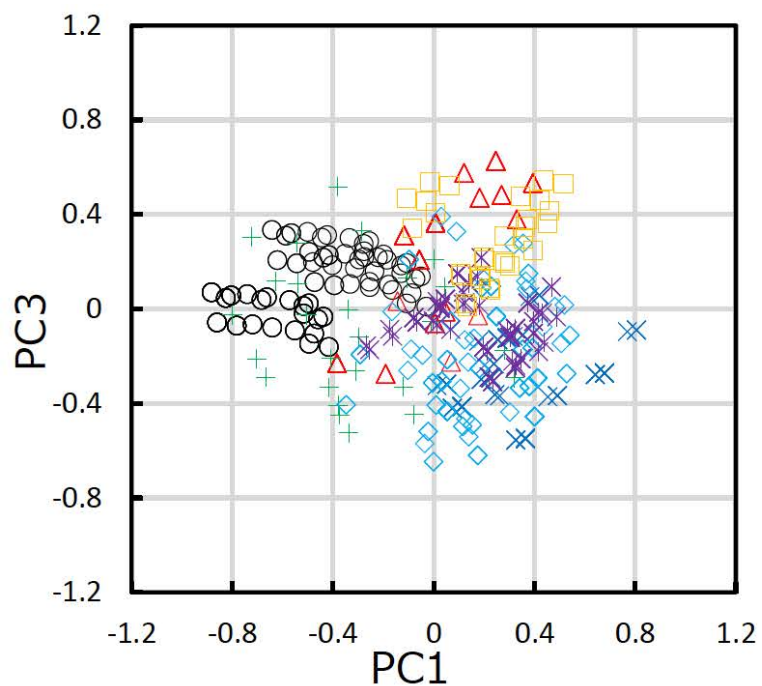
Multimodal deep belief network



# Exp 1: Developmental Differentiation of Emotion

[Horii, Nagai & Asada, IEEE TCDS 2018]

○ Joy △ Surprise + Neutral × Anger ◇ Disgust \* Sadness □ Fear



0

5,000

10,000 learning steps



# Exp 2: Emotion Estimation Facilitated by Mental Simulation

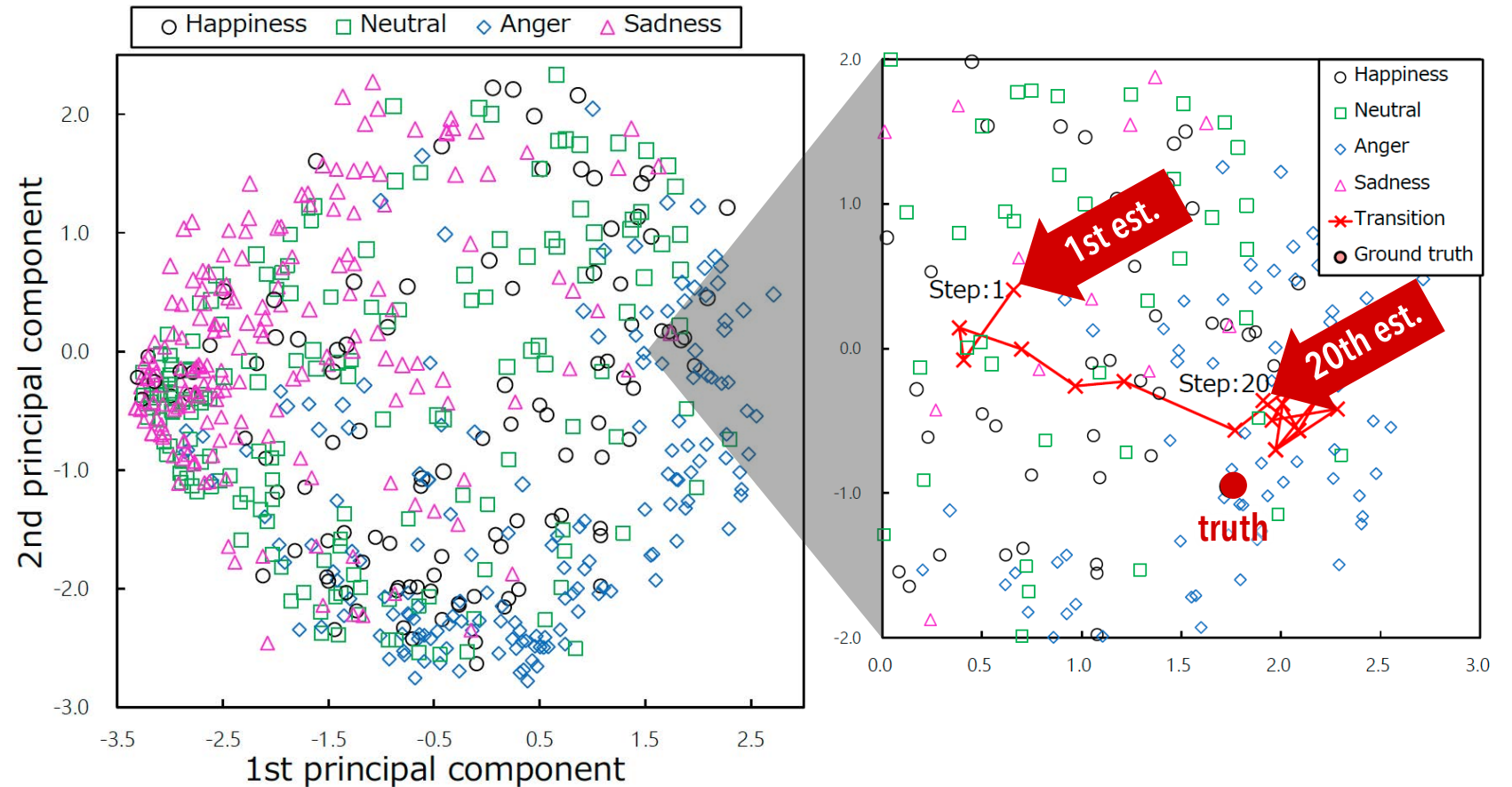
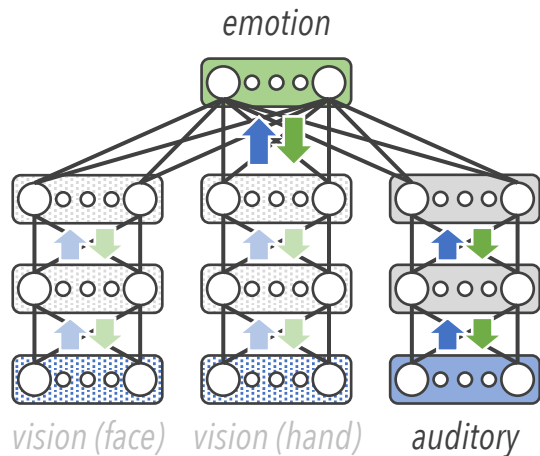
[Horii, Nagai & Asada, Paladyn 2016]

## Training

- Given all modality signals

## Testing:

- Given only auditory signal  
→ prediction of **imaginary visual signals**

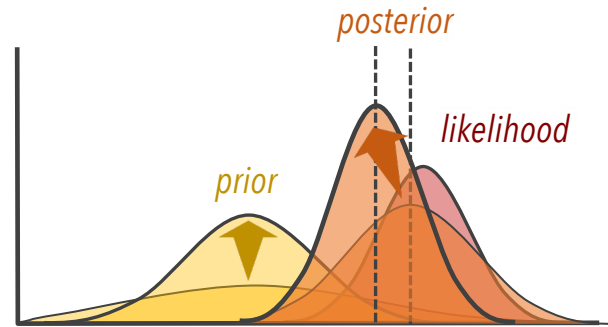


## Interim Summary 1

# Social Development Based on Predictive Coding

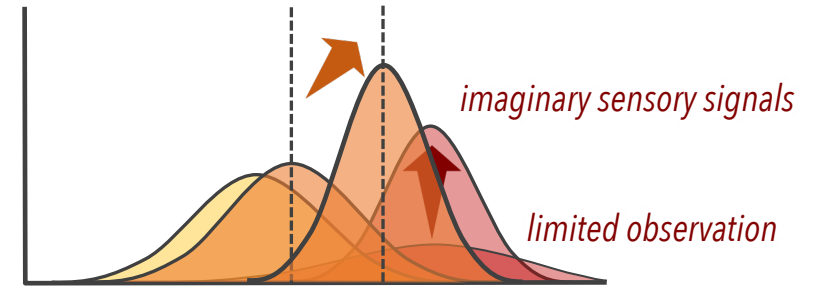
### Development of sensorimotor abilities

To acquire precise priors through sensorimotor experiences



### Emergence of social abilities

To estimate other's intention by predicting imaginary sensory signals using MNS



# Individual Diversity in Cognitive Development



# Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

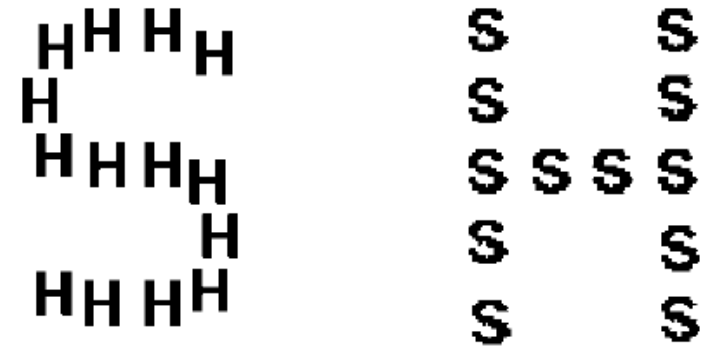
- Neurodevelopmental disorder characterized by:
  - Impaired social interaction and communication
  - Repetitive behaviors and restricted interests

[Baron-Cohen, 1995; Charman et al., 1997; Mundy et al., 1986]



- Specific perceptual-cognitive style described as a limited ability to understand global context

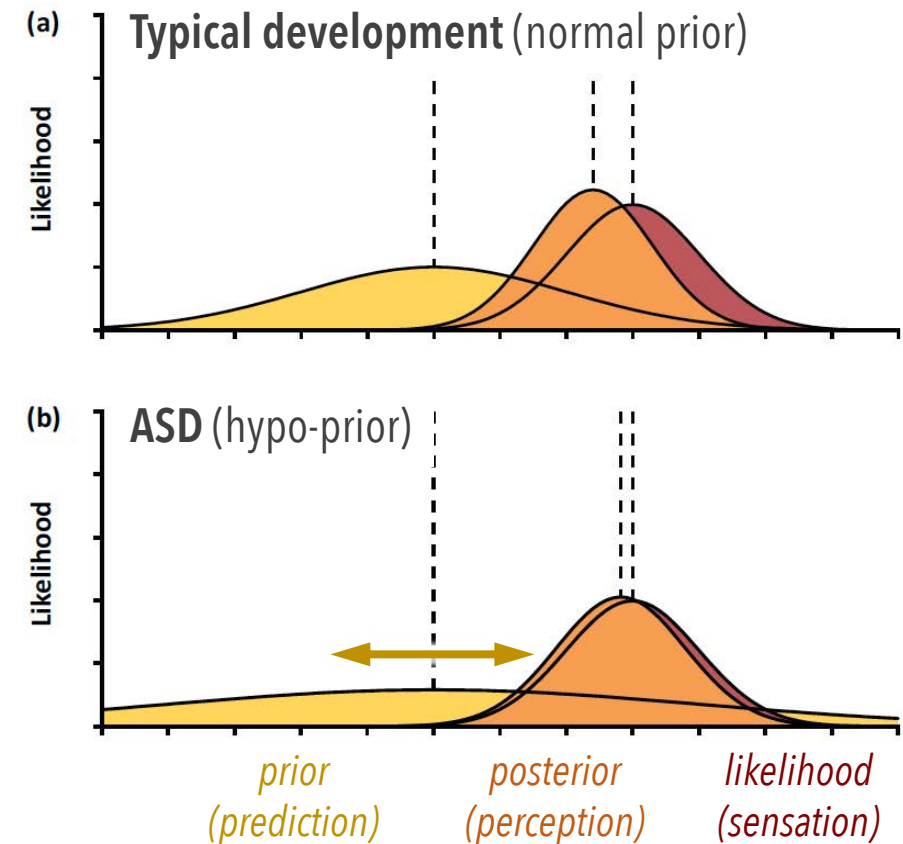
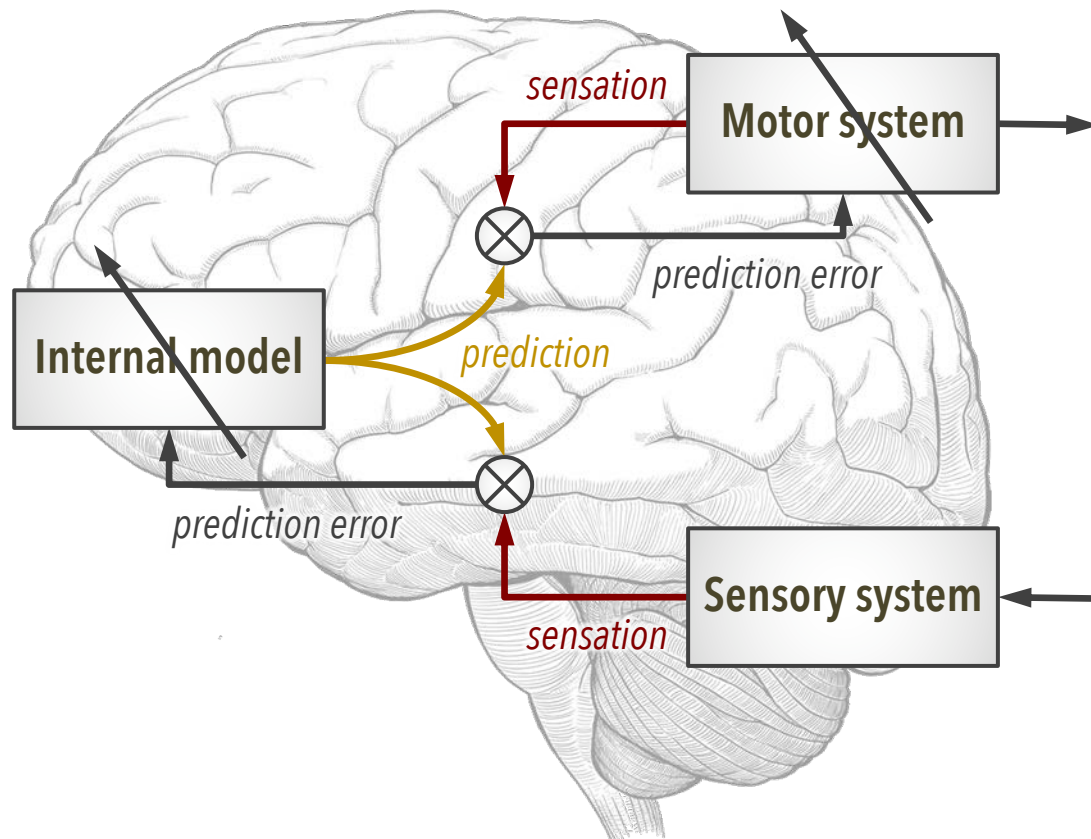
- Weak central coherence [Happé & Frith, 2006]
- Local information processing bias [Behrmann et al., 2006; Jolliffe & Baron-Cohen, 1997]



[Behrmann et al., 2006]

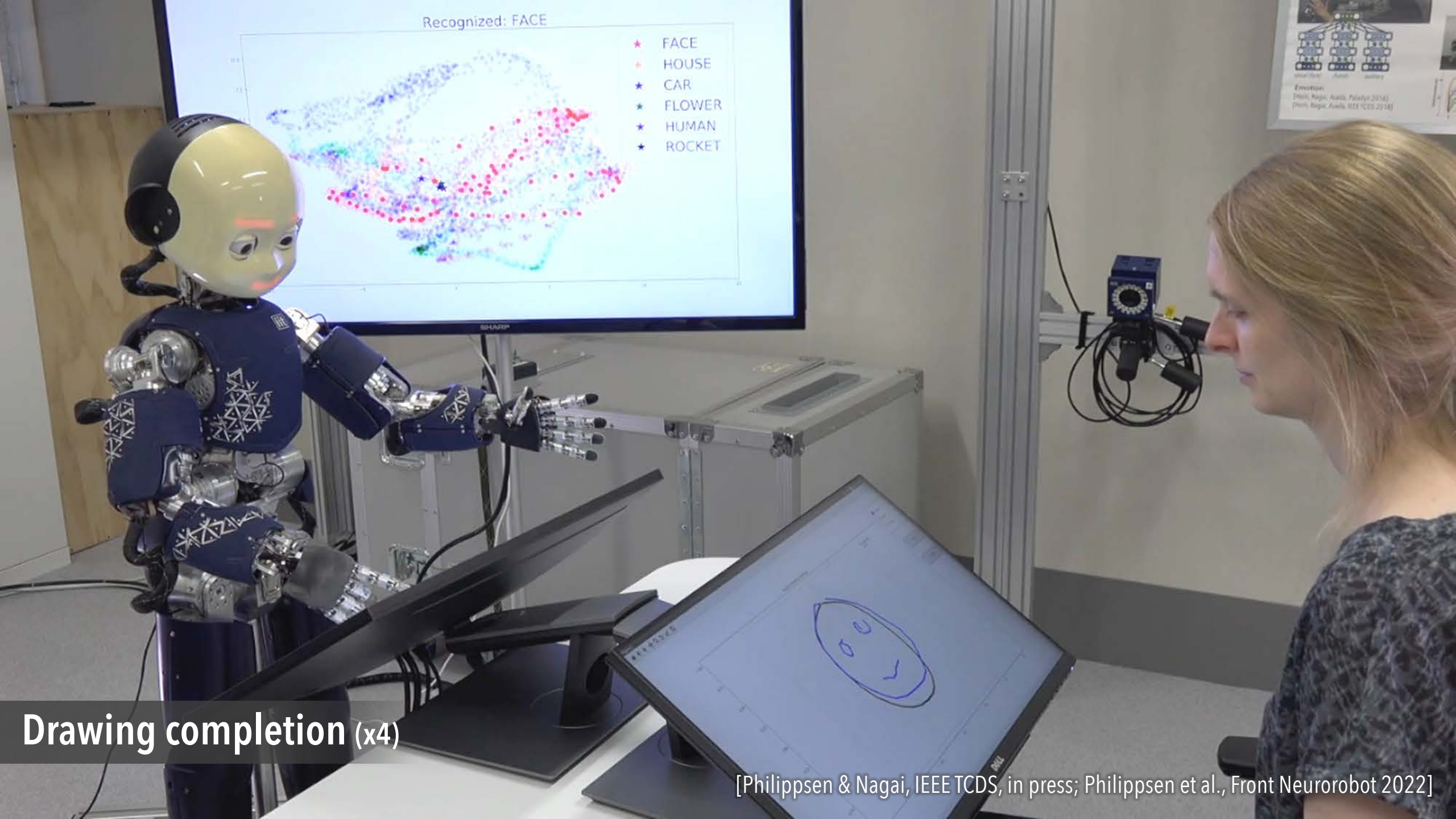
# Predictive Coding Account for ASD

- **Aberrant precision of top-down predictions** may cause atypical cognitive abilities in ASD. [Brock, 2012]



Modified from [Friston & Frith, 2015]

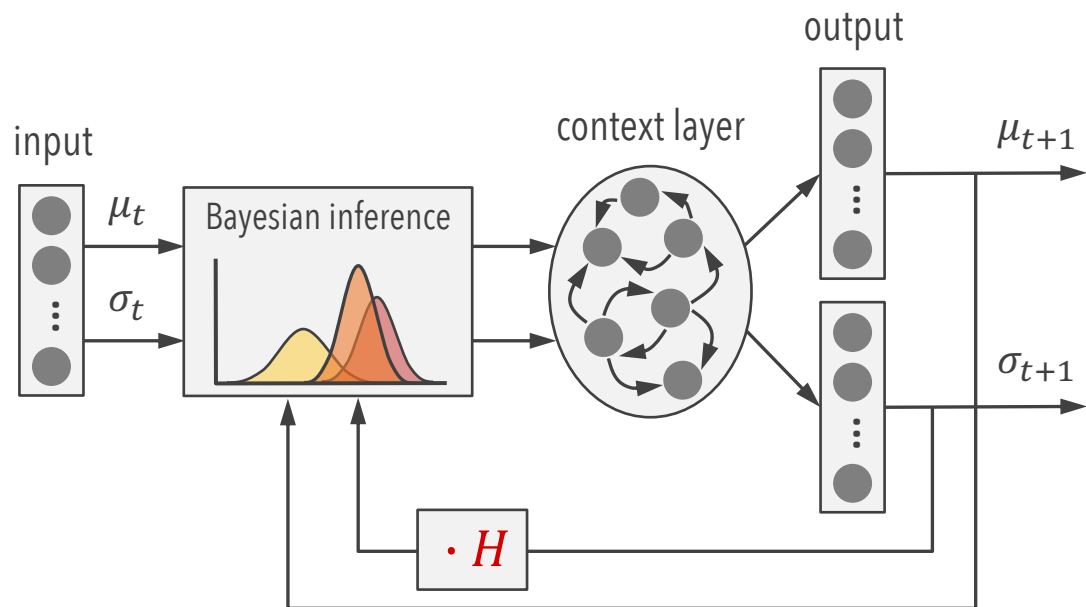
[Brock, 2012]



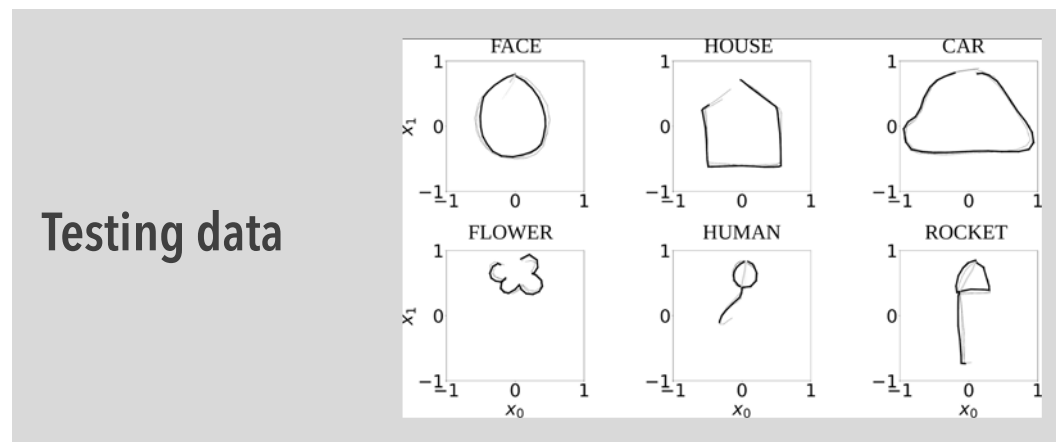
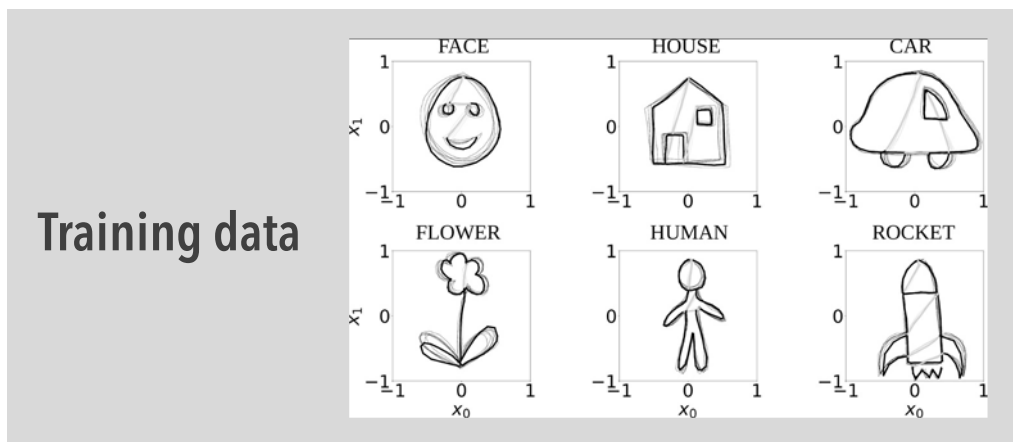
Drawing completion (x4)

# Learning of Representational Drawing with RNN

[Philippsen & Nagai, IEEE TCDS, in press; Philippsen et al., Front Neurobot 2022]

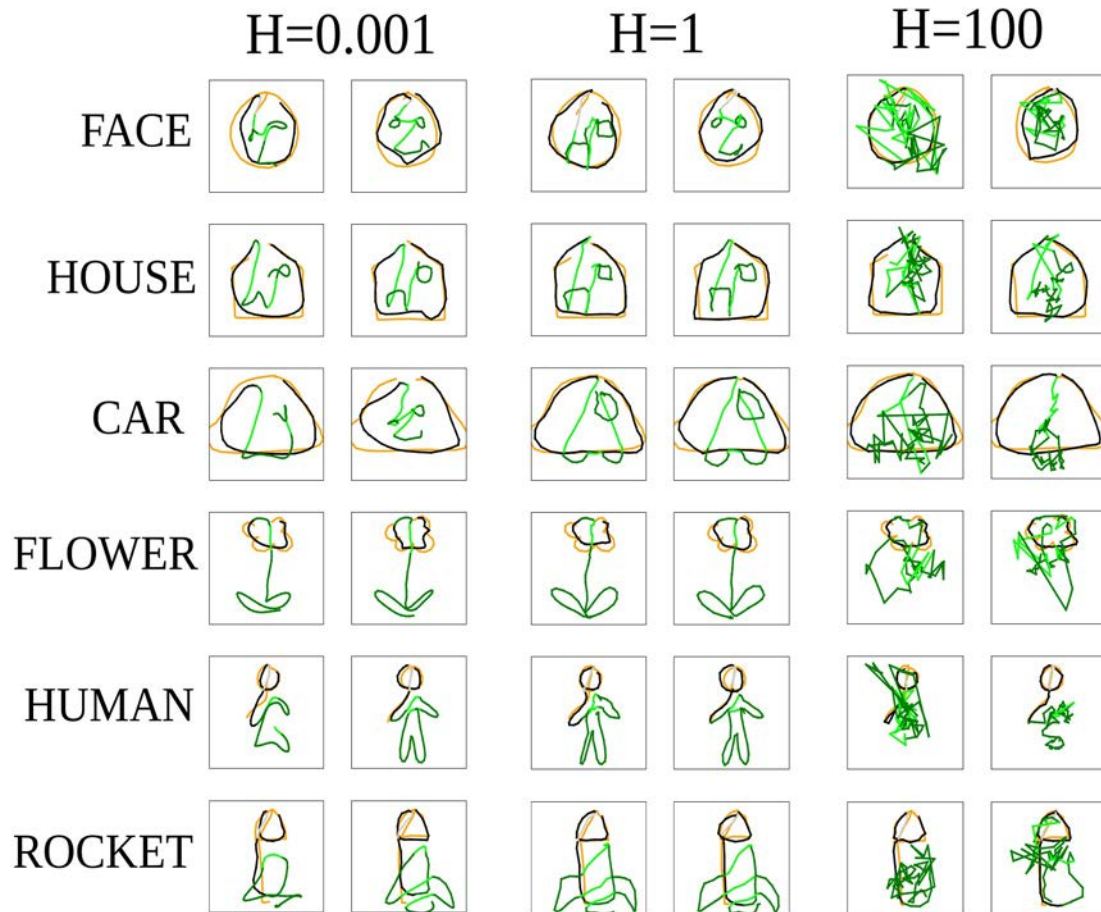


- How **aberrant precision of predictions  $H$**  affects the drawing ability of a neural network
  - Training: learn to draw six types of objects
  - Testing: infer the intended objects from the first 33% of trajectories and complete missing parts

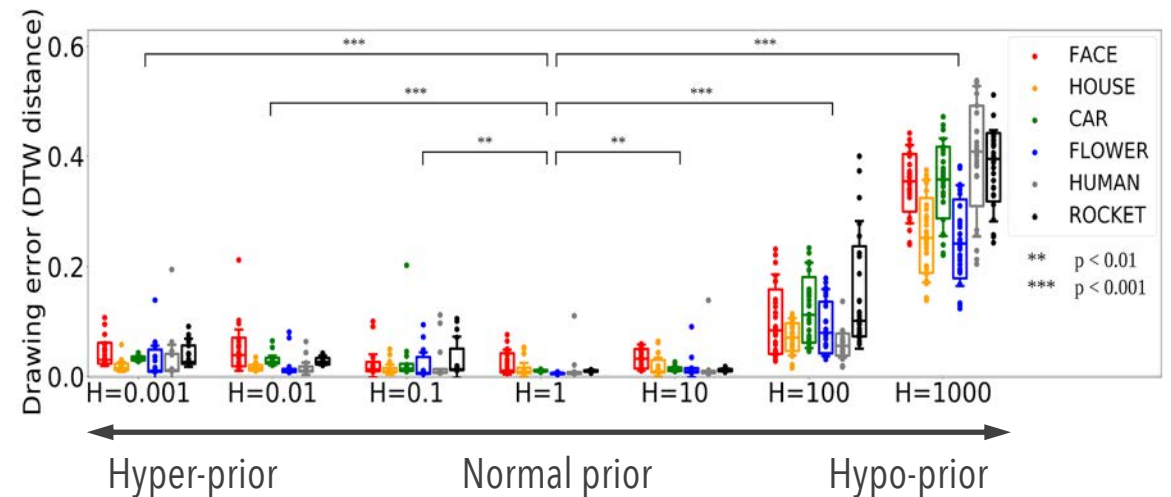


# Exp 1: Influence of Aberrant Prediction on Drawing

[Philippsen & Nagai, IEEE TCDS, in press]



- Influences of precision  $H$ 
  - Hyper-priors ( $H \ll 1$ ): **misinterpretation** of intended patterns, abstract drawing
  - Normal priors ( $H \approx 1$ ): successful completion
  - Hypo-priors ( $H \gg 1$ ): **tracing, scribbling**

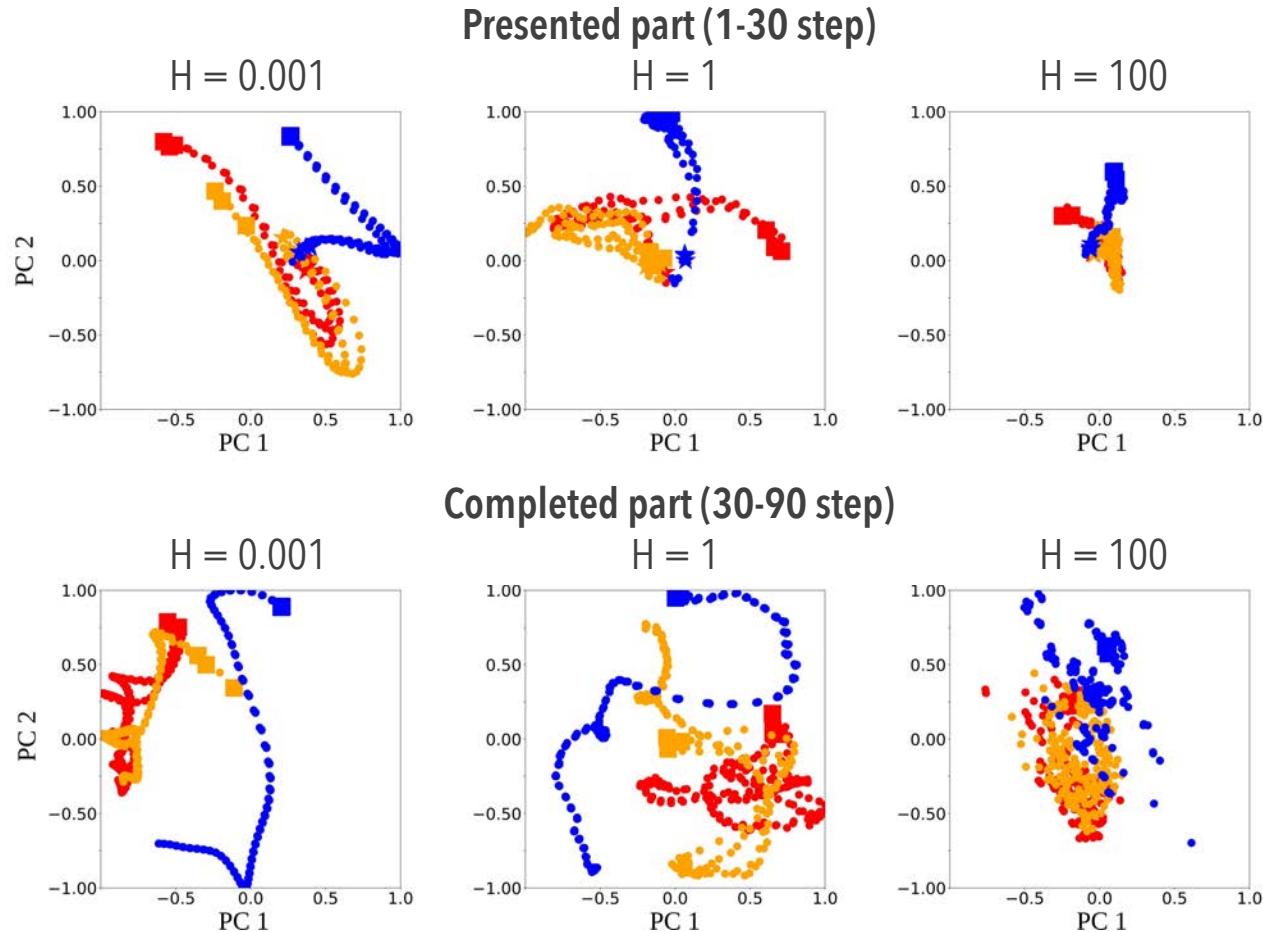




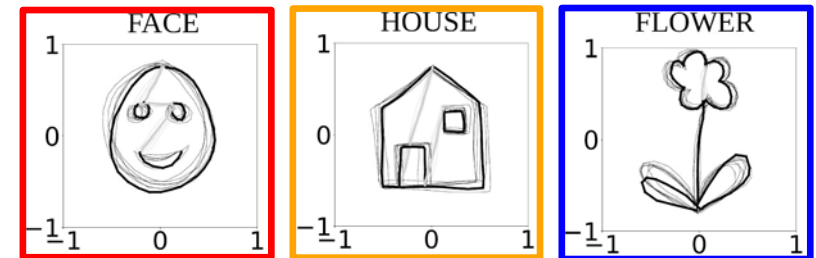
# Exp 2: Influence of Aberrant Prediction on Internal Model

[Philippsen & Nagai, IEEE TCDS, in press]

## PCA space of 100 context neurons



- Influences of precision  $H$ 
  - Hyper-priors ( $H \ll 1$ ): **undifferentiated** strong attractors
  - Normal priors ( $H \approx 1$ ): properly differentiated attractors
  - Hypo-priors ( $H \gg 1$ ): **no/weak** attractors





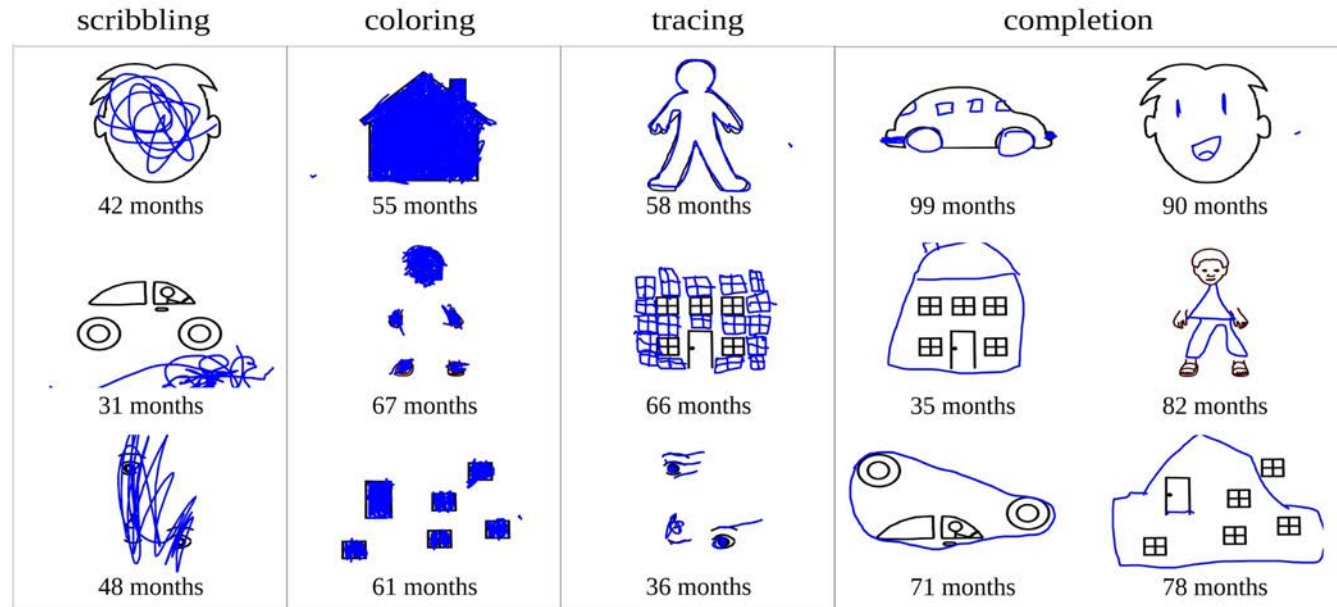
# Development of Representational Drawing in Children

[Philippsen, Tsuji & Nagai, Front Psychology 2022]

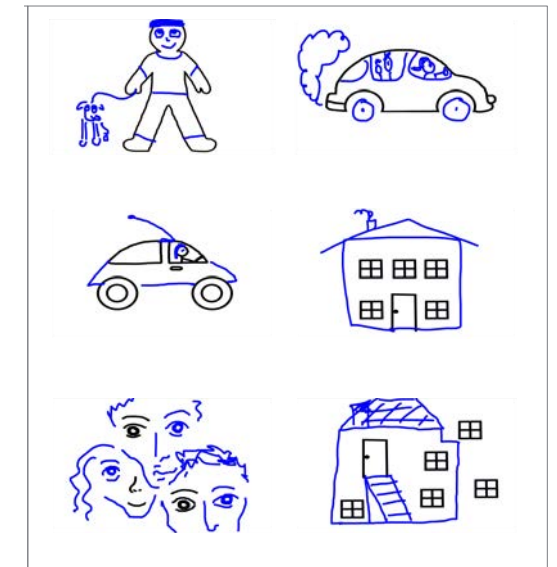


- How the **drawing ability based on predictive processing** develops with age
  - 104 typically-developing children (2-8 years old, 62M+42F)
  - 621 drawing data (given only outer/inner features)
  - AQ scores assessed by parents

Children

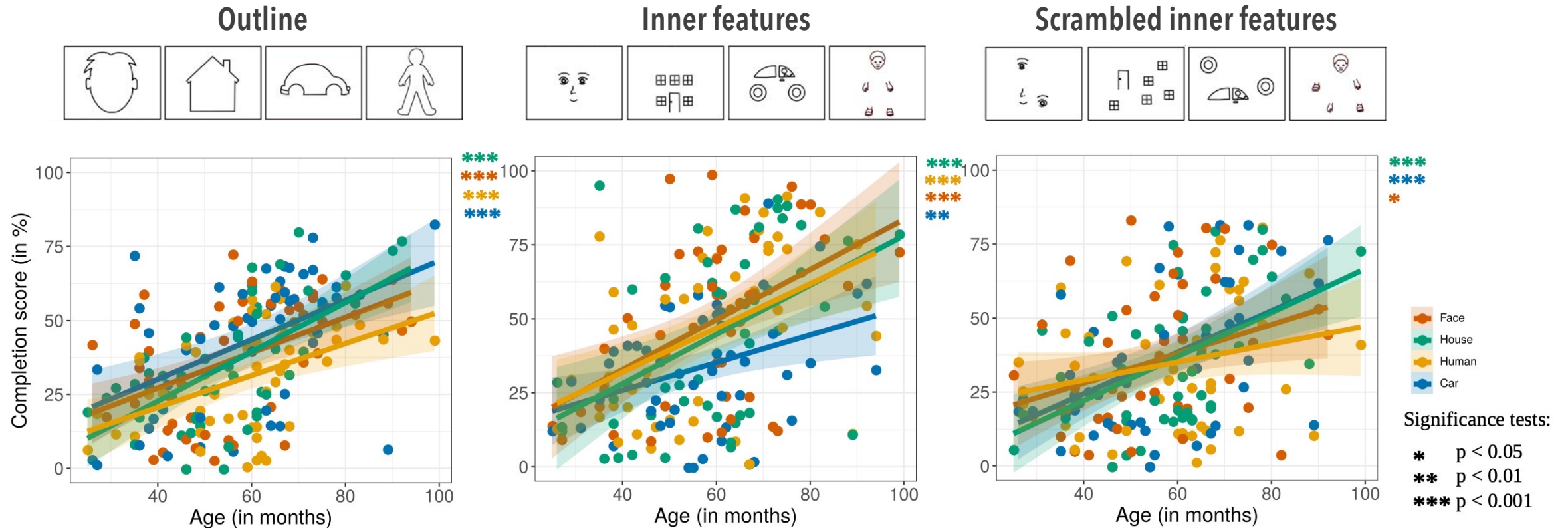


Adults



# Exp 1: Subjective Evaluation by Adult Rating

[Philippsen, Tsuji & Nagai, Front Psychology 2022]

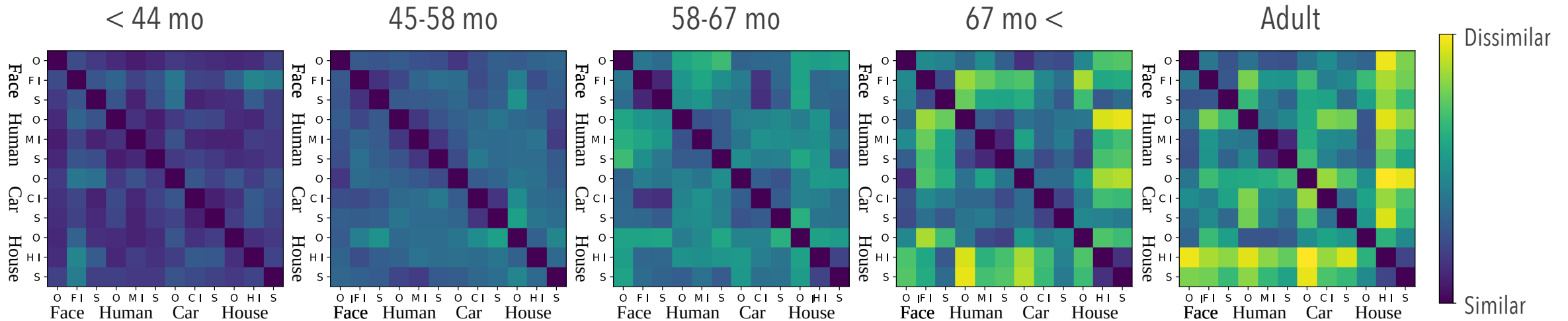


- Linear **improvement in prediction and completion** abilities with age
- More significant improvement in outline/inner features conditions

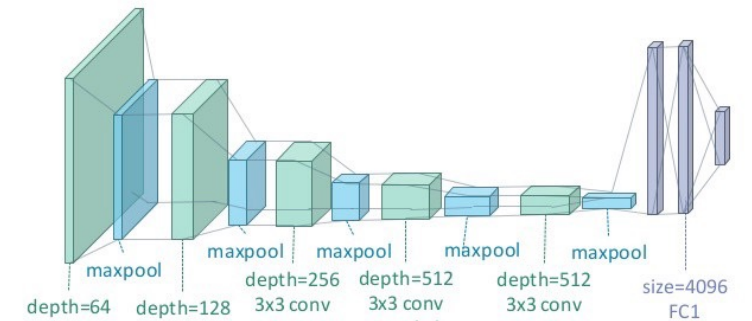
# Exp 2: Categorical Drawings Evaluated by Convolutional NN

[Philippsen, Tsuji & Nagai, Front Psychology 2022]

## Dissimilarity between categories



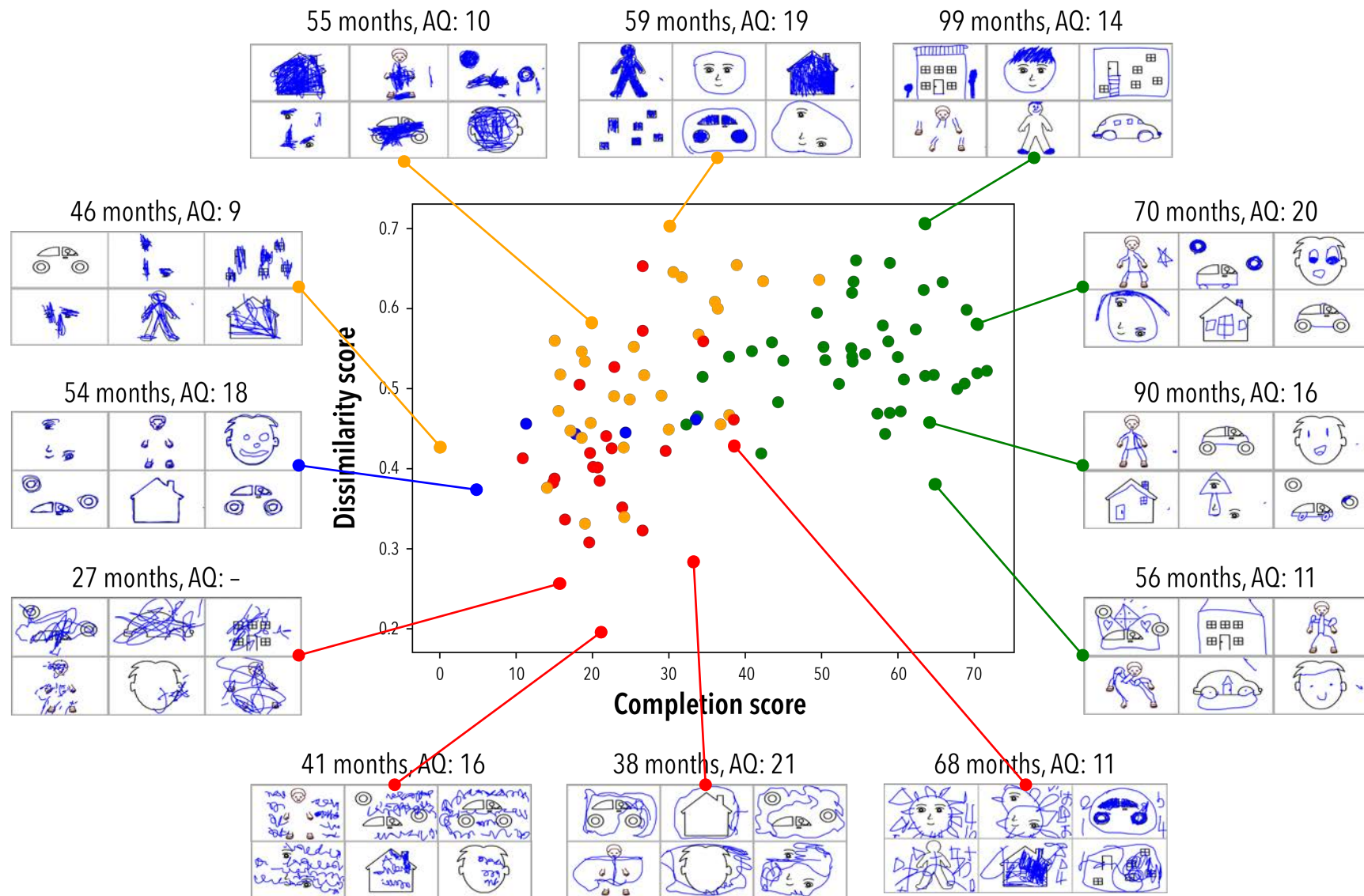
- Development of categorical representations with age
  - Younger children: **undifferentiated** categories
  - Older children and adults: **properly differentiated** categories



DCNN pre-trained on ImageNet dataset  
[Simonyan & Zisserman, 2014]

# Exp 3: Developmental Diversity in Drawing

[Philippsen, Tsuji & Nagai, Front Psychology 2022]

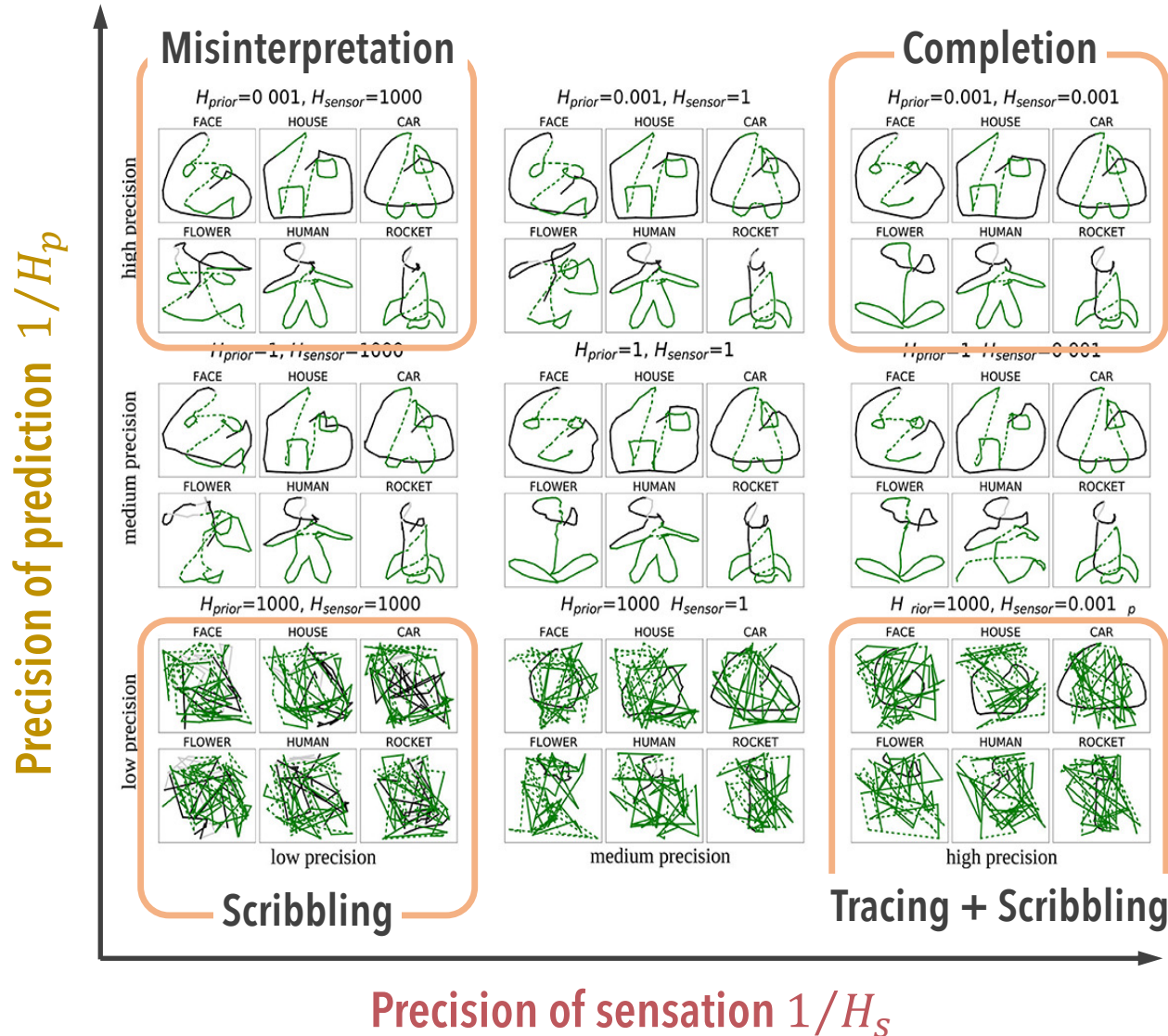


### Drawing style

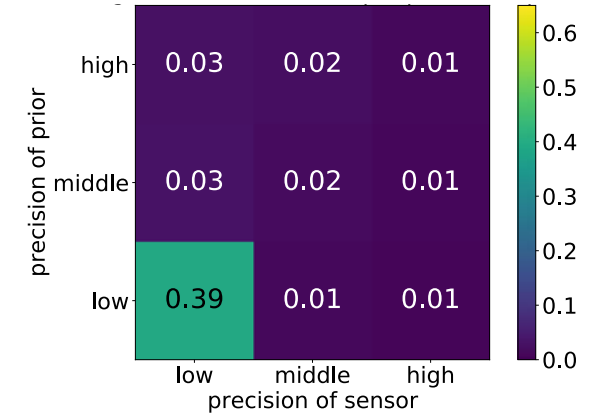
- Scribbling 
- Coloring 
- Tracing 
- Completion 

# Exp 3: Influence of Aberrant Prediction and Sensation on Drawing

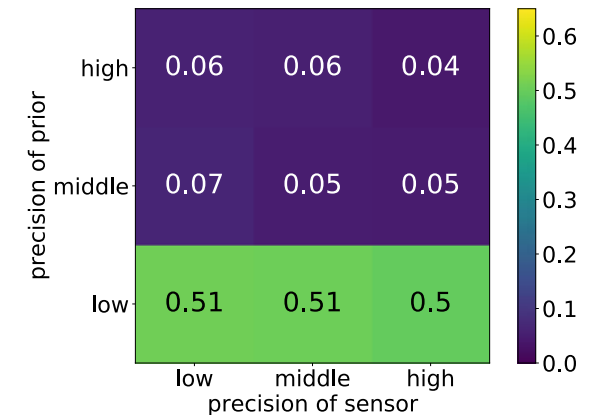
[Philippsen, Tsuji & Nagai, Front Neurobot 2022]



Avg. error to closest shape  
(Presented part)



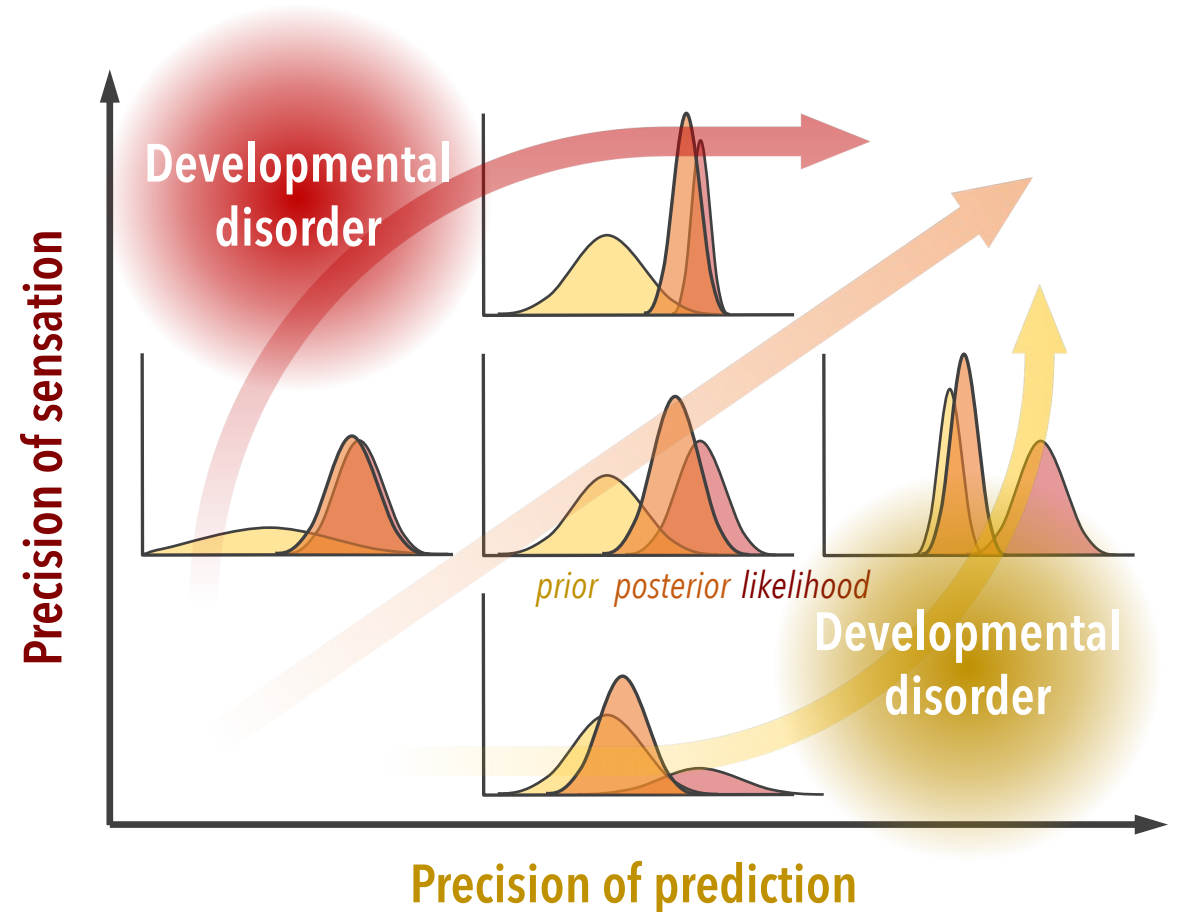
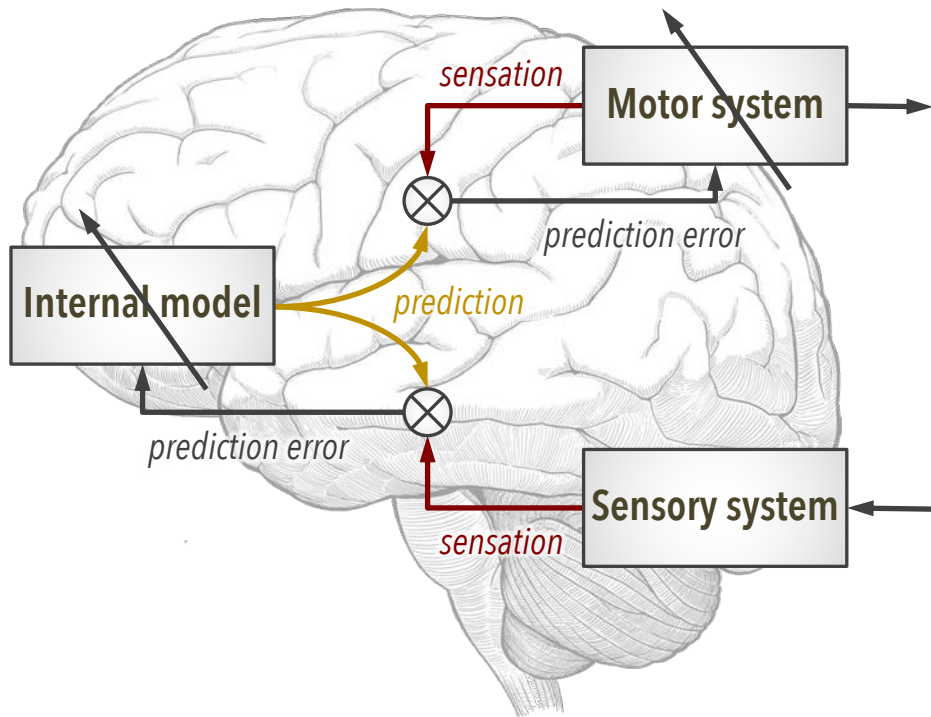
(Completed part)



## Interim Summary 2

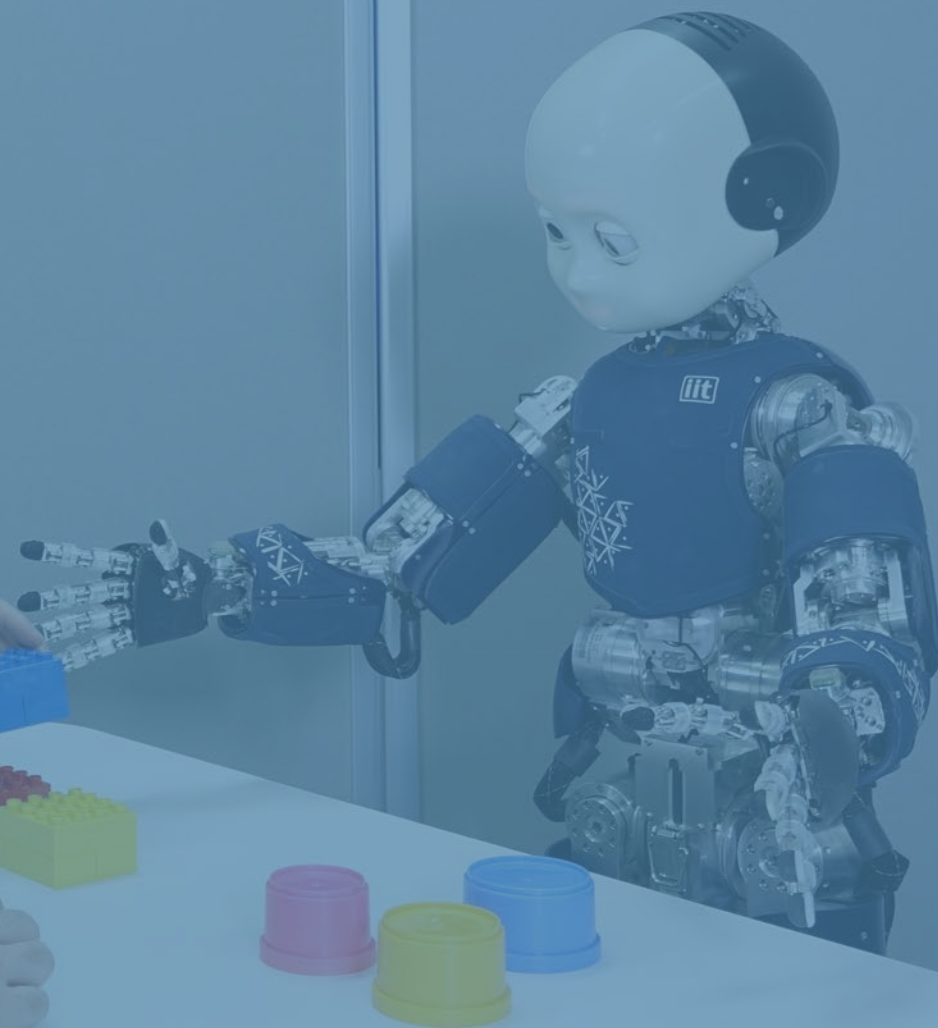
# Individual Diversity Based on Predictive Coding

- Improvement in **prediction and sensory precision** leads to cognitive development.
- Imbalance between prediction and sensation produces individual diversity.

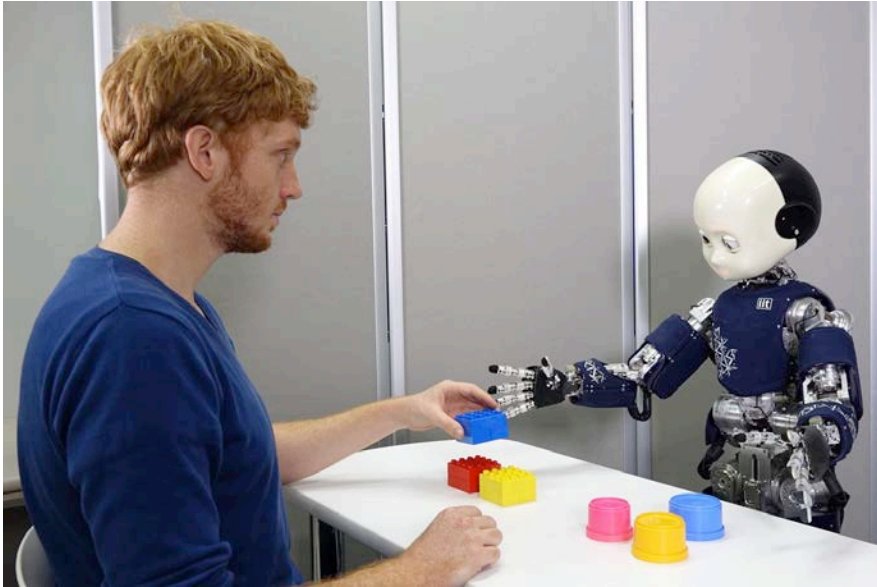




# Conclusion



# Cognitive Developmental Robotics



- **Robotic approach** to elucidate human intelligence
  - To bridge the gap between neuroscience and psychology
  - To gain new insights into neural, bodily, and social mechanisms
- **Predictive coding** as a unified principle for cognitive development and neurodiversity
  - Typical development as a result of balanced precision of sensation and prediction
  - Developmental disorders as a result of imbalanced precision

# Thank You!



nagai.yukie@mail.u-tokyo.ac.jp | <http://developmental-robotics.jp>

**CREST**

Cognitive Feeling (2021-2026)  
Cognitive Mirroring (2016-2021)



AI x Tojisha-Kenkyu (2020-2022)

科研費  
KAKENHI

KIBAN(S) Cognitive Individuality (2021-2025)  
KIBAN(S) Mother-Infant Interaction (2021-2025)



JIZAI Translators (2022-2026)



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- Dalila Burin
- Jiarui Li
- Khuria Amila
- Julien Jenvrin
- Anja Philippsen (-2021.03)
- Guillermo Enriquez (-2022.06)
- Alexis Holgado (-2022.05)
- Sean Lynch (-2022.11)
- Sho Tsuji
- Shinichiro Kumagaya
- Satsuki Ayaya

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- Erhan Oztop
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- Shibo Qin (-2015.03)
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