

Semantic and syntactic processing in the human brain



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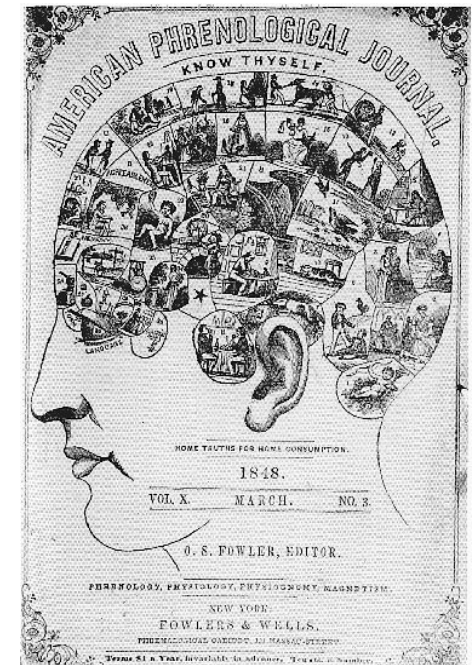
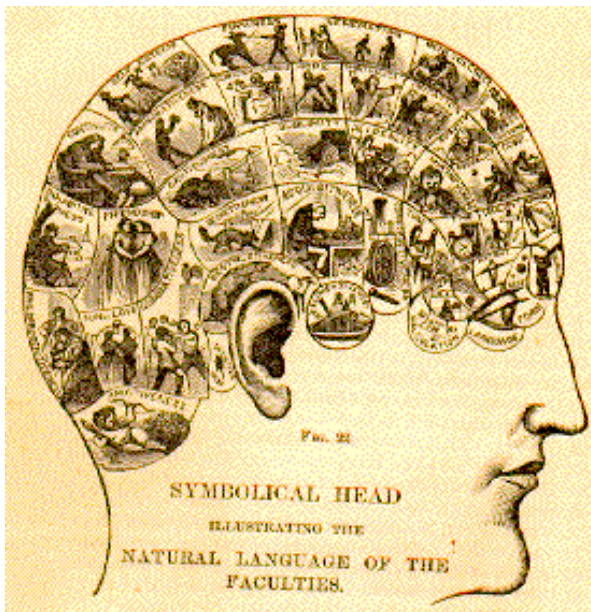
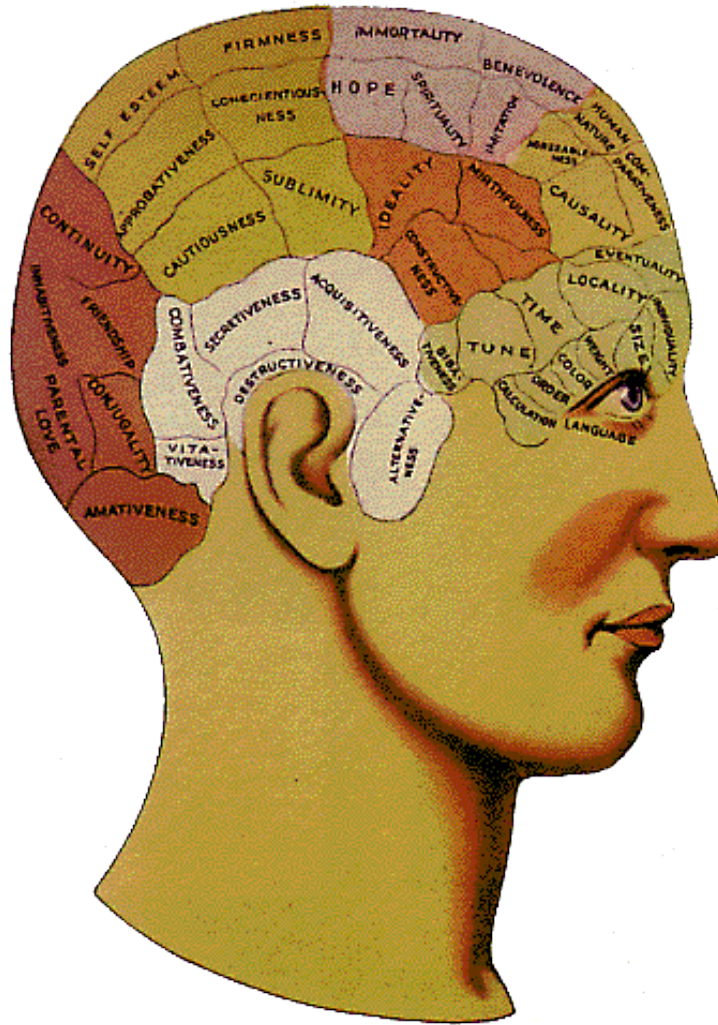
The plan of this mini-course again

- *Semantic processing in the brain: how our nervous system deals with the monotonicity of logical operators*
some logical considerations, followed by multi-modal experimental program with conclusions that might have theoretical implications to compositional semantics
- *Syntactic processing in the brain: the blessing of variability across individual brains and across languages and individuals speakers*
some anatomical considerations and techniques, with neurolinguistic studies of syntax that focus on variability



Franz Joseph Gall

Pieces of our psychology in brain pieces: Gall's Phrenology and functional localization



Gall's legacy: Mapping Principles and their Diagnostic Reflections

Take 1

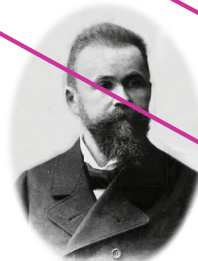
production

reception

naming



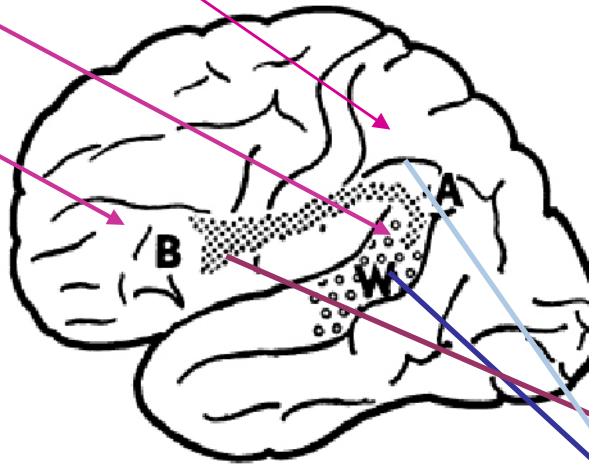
Paul Broca



Carl Wernicke



Norman Geschwind



Basis: bedside clinical observations, later codified clinical tests (e.g., *BDAE*, *WAB*)

APHASIA			
Nontluent	poor repetition	poor comprehension	Global Aphasia
		good comprehension	Broca Aphasia
	good repetition	poor comprehension	Mixed Transcortical Aphasia
		good comprehension	Transcortical Motor Aphasia
Fluent	poor repetition	poor comprehension	Wernicke's Aphasia
		good comprehension	Conduction Aphasia
	good repetition	poor comprehension	Transcortical Sensory Aphasia
		good comprehension	Anomic Aphasia

Is language modularized from other parts of cognition? The Modularism/Holism split in 19th century neurology



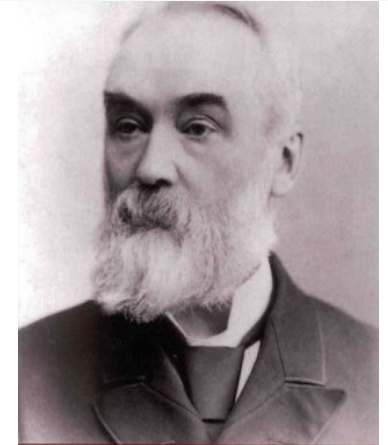
Broca

Broca's Leading ideas:

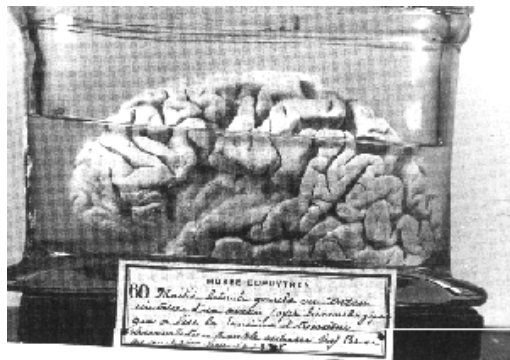
- Cerebral Representation*
- Functional Modularity*
- Lateralization*

Hughlings-Jackson's Leading ideas:

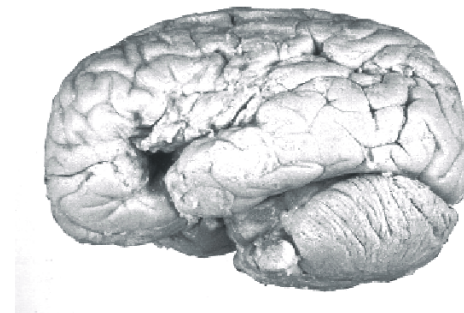
- To speak is to propositionize*
- Aphasia: loss of ability to handle symbols ("asymbolia")*
- Aphasia-apraxia-agnosia all have the same hierarchical structure*



John Hughlings-Jackson

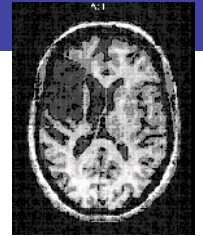


Mr. Tan's brain

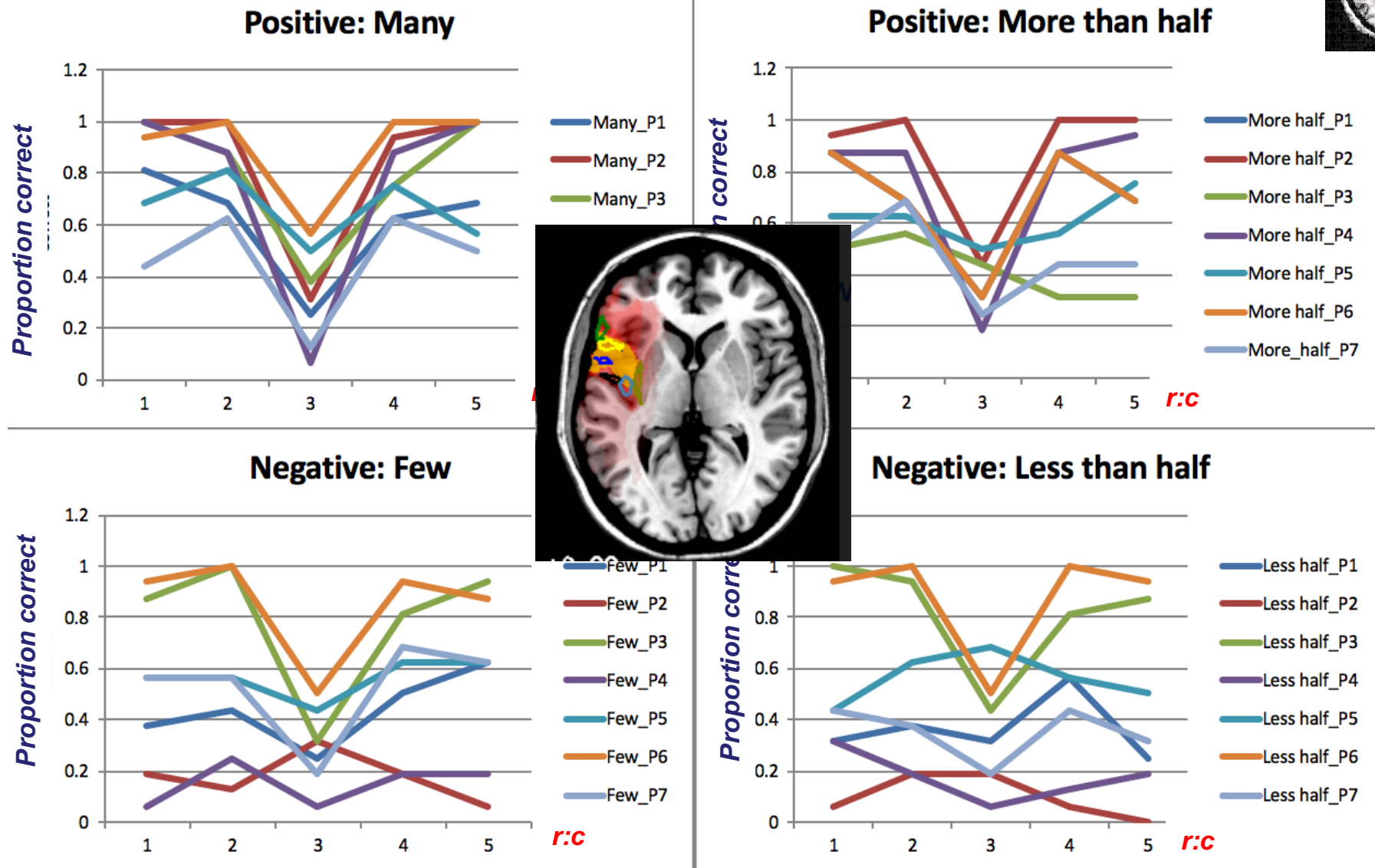


What we did last time

- Polar quantifiers are processed in a selective manner:
 - Reaction Time studies isolate the DE (Downward Entailing) component
 - fMRI likewise localized this computational process in the left anterior insula (Lalns)
 - aphasia points to a DE deficit, and a maximal overlap lesion map points to the Lalns



The PPP in Broca's aphasia



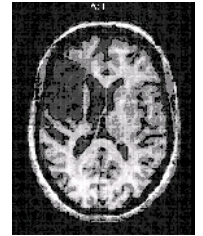
Individual patients' error pattern subsequent to a lesion in **Broca's region**

Syntactic processing in the brain: the blessing of variability across individual brains and across languages and individuals speakers

What we'll (try to) do in the next 2 classes

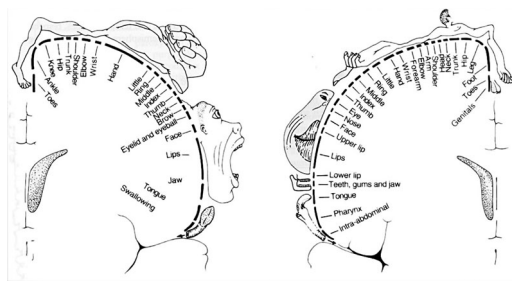
- Anatomical variability
 - Brains (like noses and mouths) have different morphological features
 - we'll describe a way to generalize over many brain despite their variable morphology
- Behavioral variability in health and in disease
 - aphasia points
- Structural variability
 - languages differ structurally.
- Anatomico-functional alignment

A strategy for discerning neurocognitive structure:

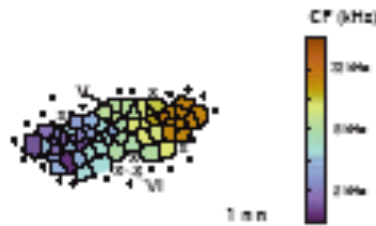


Syntacto-Topic Conjecture (STC)

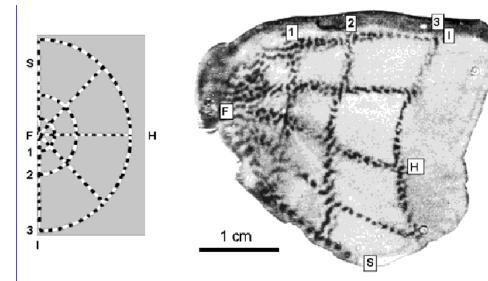
- a. Major syntactic (and perhaps semantic) operations are neurologically individuated
- b. The organization of these operations in brain space is linguistically significant



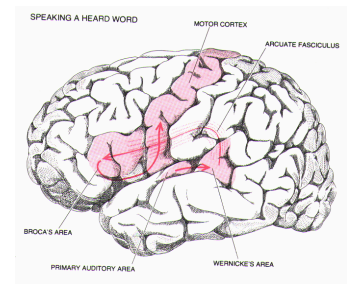
Somatotopy



Tonotopy



Retinotopy



Syntactotopy?

Implication:

The functional pieces of the language map are small and linguistic

Question:

What are the anatomical pieces of the language map?

Phrenological beliefs and hopes in our midst:

The anatomist's:

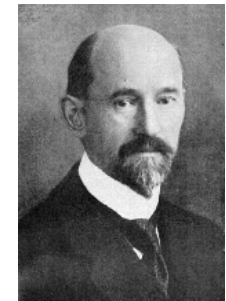
- **Anatomic modularity:** the brain can be parsed into pieces with *stable and identifiable borders (anatomical modules)*

The linguist's:

- **Grammatical modularity:** linguistic behavior is structured; the principles governing it can be parsed into pieces (*linguistic modules*)

The neurolinguist's:

- **Meaningful functional anatomy:** linguistic and anatomical modules align



Brodman



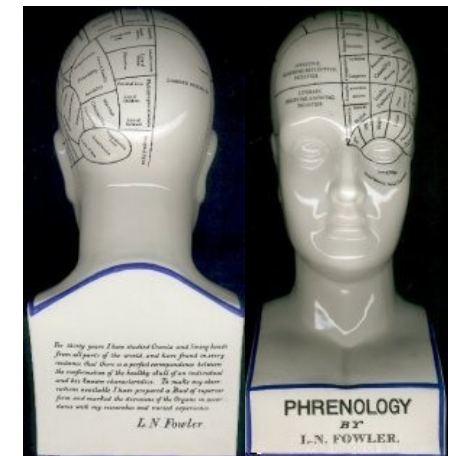
Chomsky

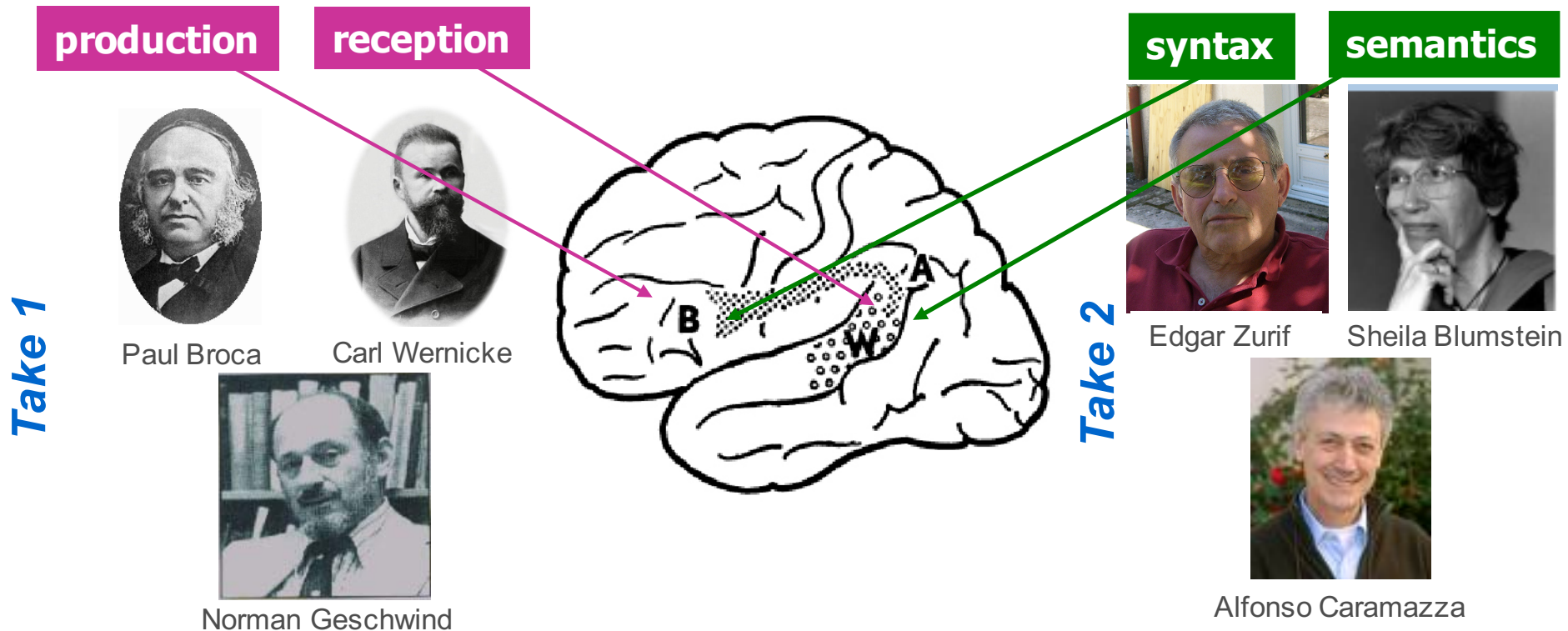
The localizationist research agenda:

- identify the linguistic modules and anatomical borders
- Seek alignment between the linguistic and the anatomical

The final punch line:

Pieces of linguistic knowledge provide the right functional resolution, aligning with cytoarchitectonic borders.
We are after **syntax and semantics brain maps**





Take 1: Bedside clinical observations, later codified in The *BDAE*, *WAB* and related clinical tests

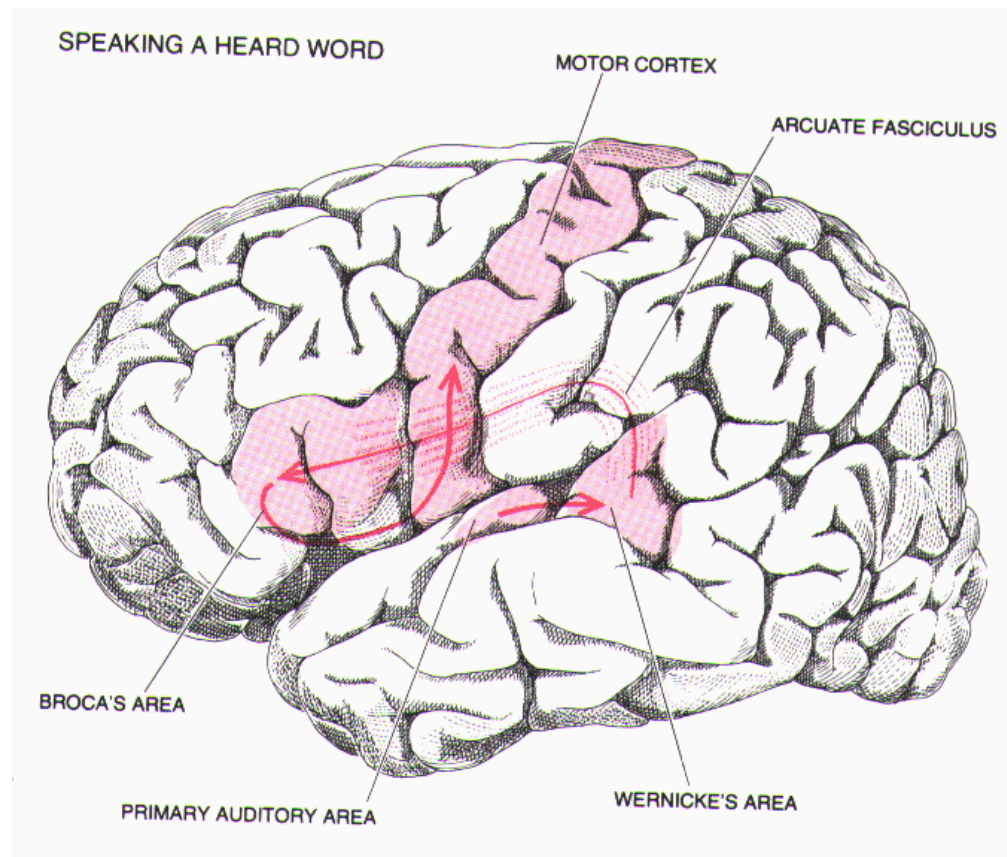
Take 2: Controlled experiments in several modalities; allusion to linguistic concepts.

Characteristic experiments:

1. Vary properties of stimuli to contrast linguistic “levels” (e.g., “syntax” vs. “semantics”)
2. Quantify errors, the dependent measure, allowing for objective tests

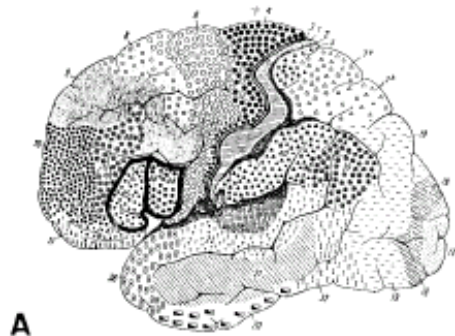
Talk 1: how to define anatomical borders in the face of huge variability

Problem 1: how to delineate borders between parts of the brain



Problem II: how to account for individual variation

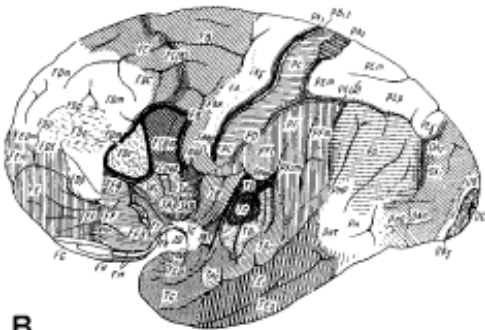
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A

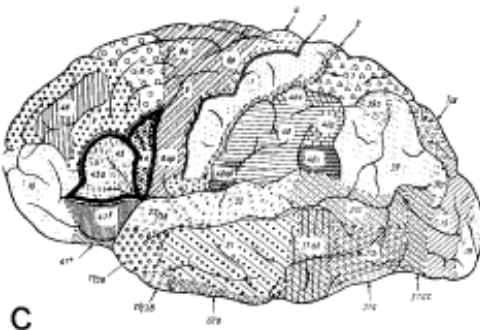
the lateral surface of the human brain

A Brodmann (1909)



B

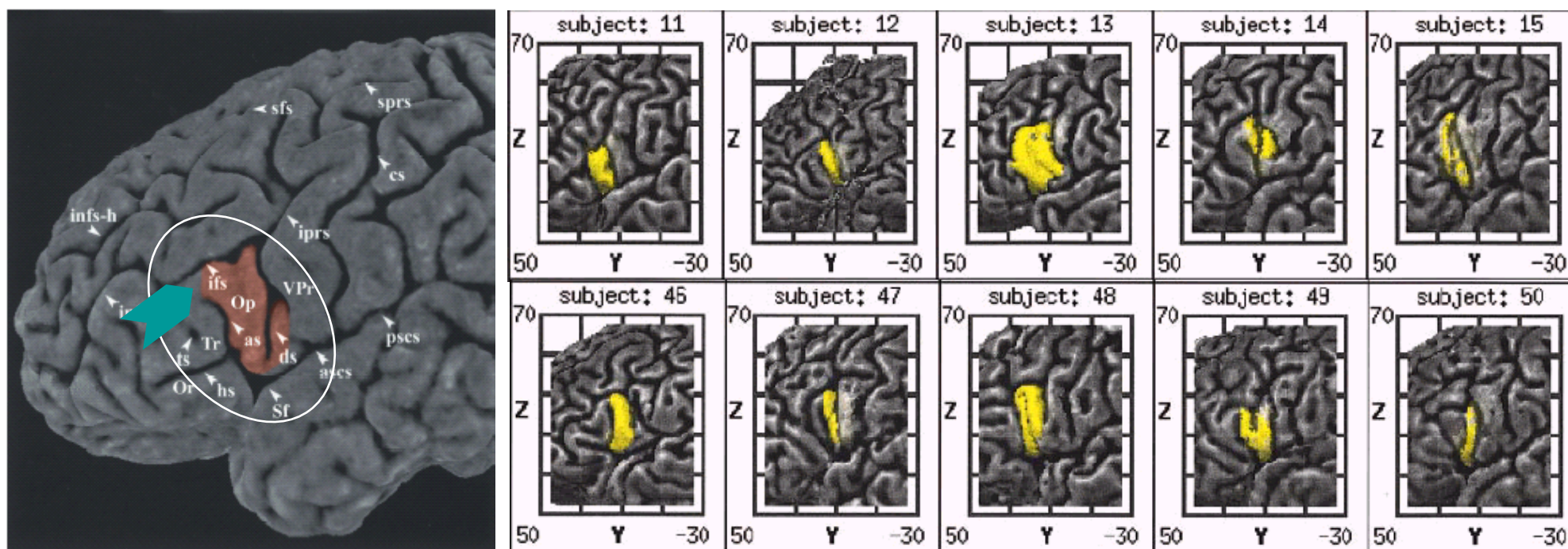
B Economo and Koskinas 1925)



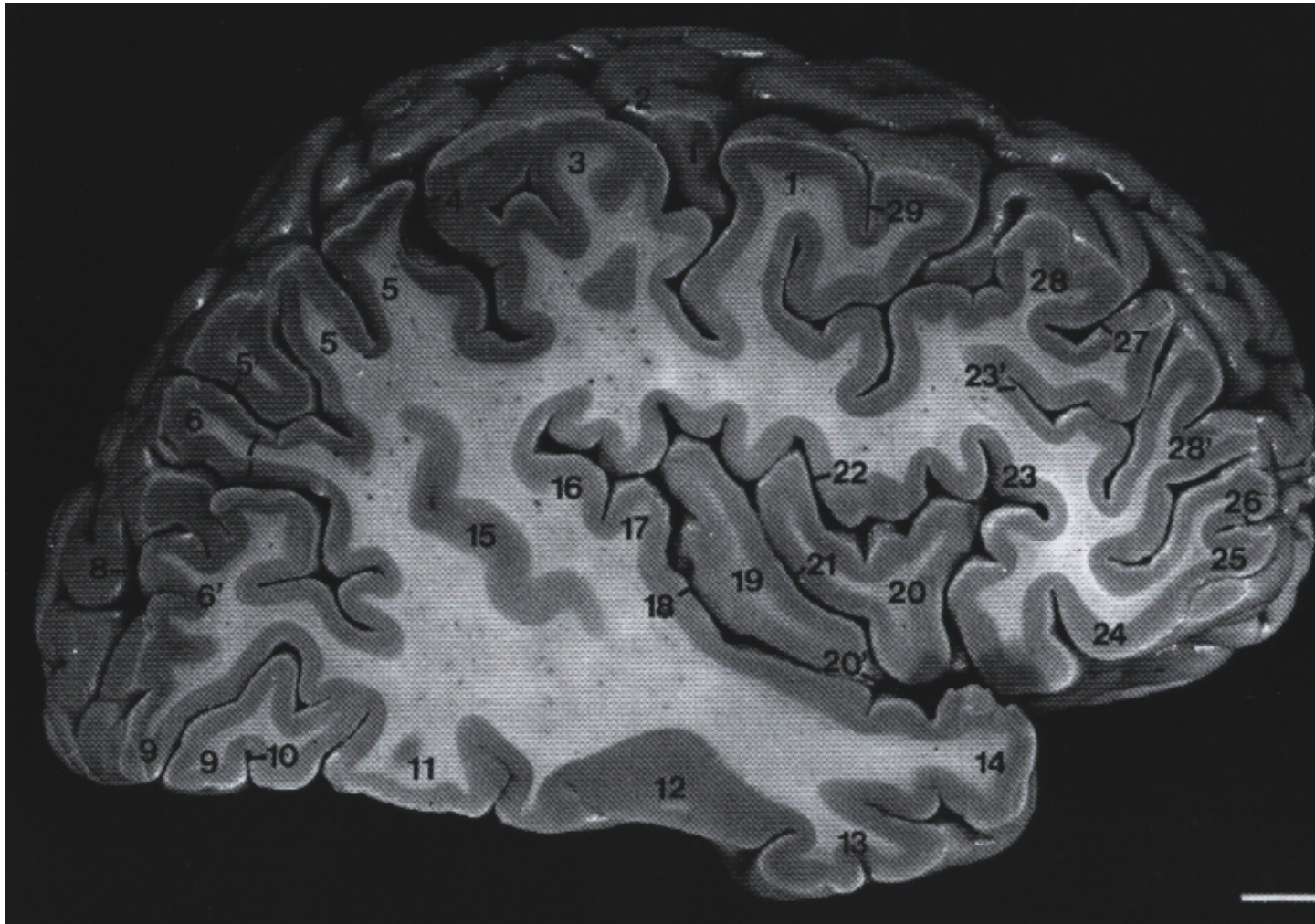
C

C Sarkisov *et al.* (1949)

The futility of topographic borders



Grey vs White Matter



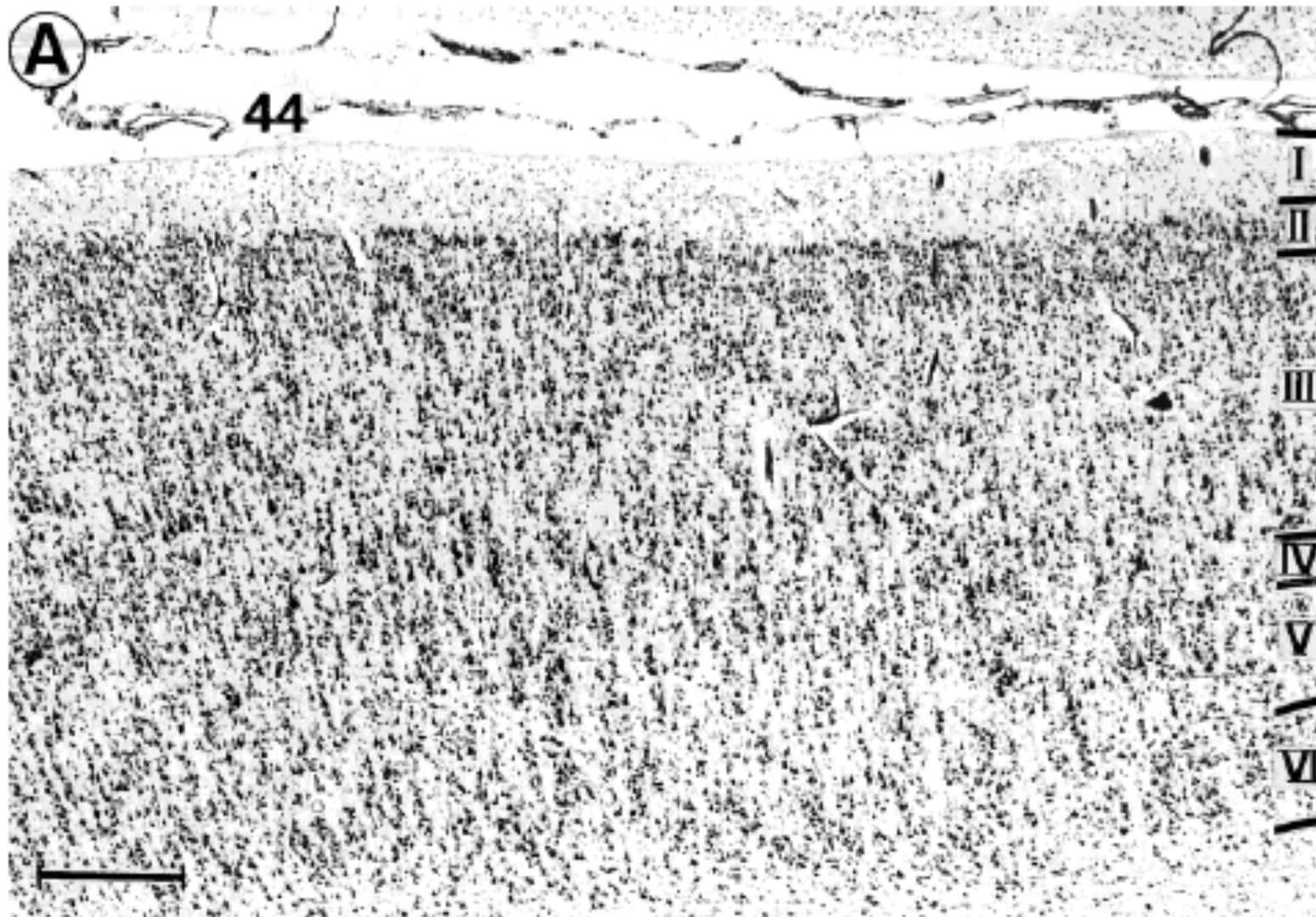
Gray matter: folded sheet containing cell bodies, dendrites.
White matter: axons

At a higher resolution: Cortical layers

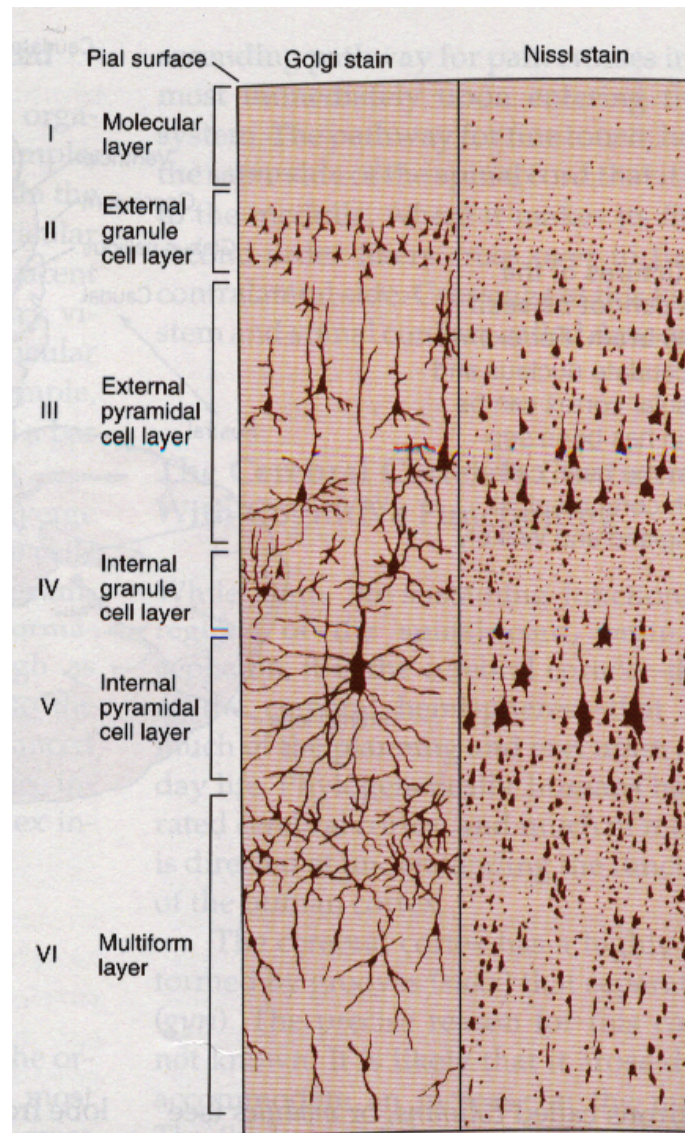


FIGURE 27.7 Horizontal section through Brodmann's (1909) area 10, which belongs to the granular part of the prefrontal cortex. The Roman numerals indicate the six isocortical layers. Bar = 3 mm.

even higher: *A Cortical Slice Stained for Cell Bodies*



a schema: Cortical Layers



I Dendrites of deeper cells

II Small granule cells

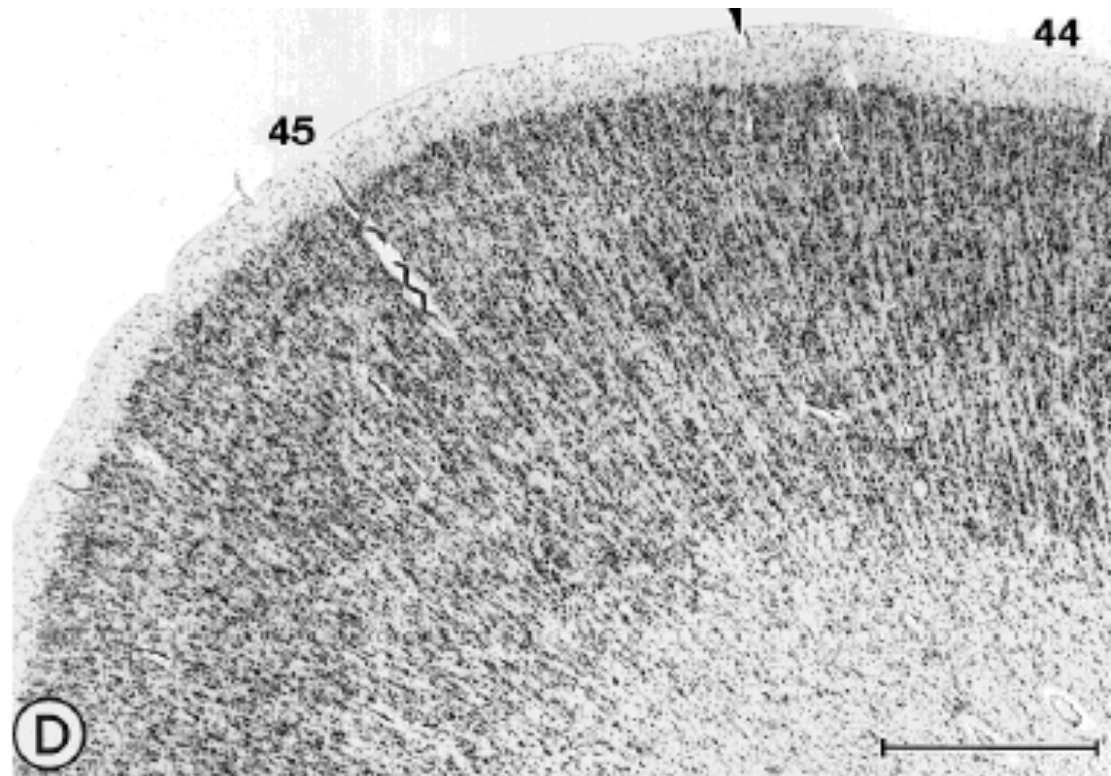
III Variety of cells, many pyramidal in shape

IV Mainly granule cells

V Pyramidally shaped cells larger than in layer III

VI Heterogeneous layer of neurons blends into white matter

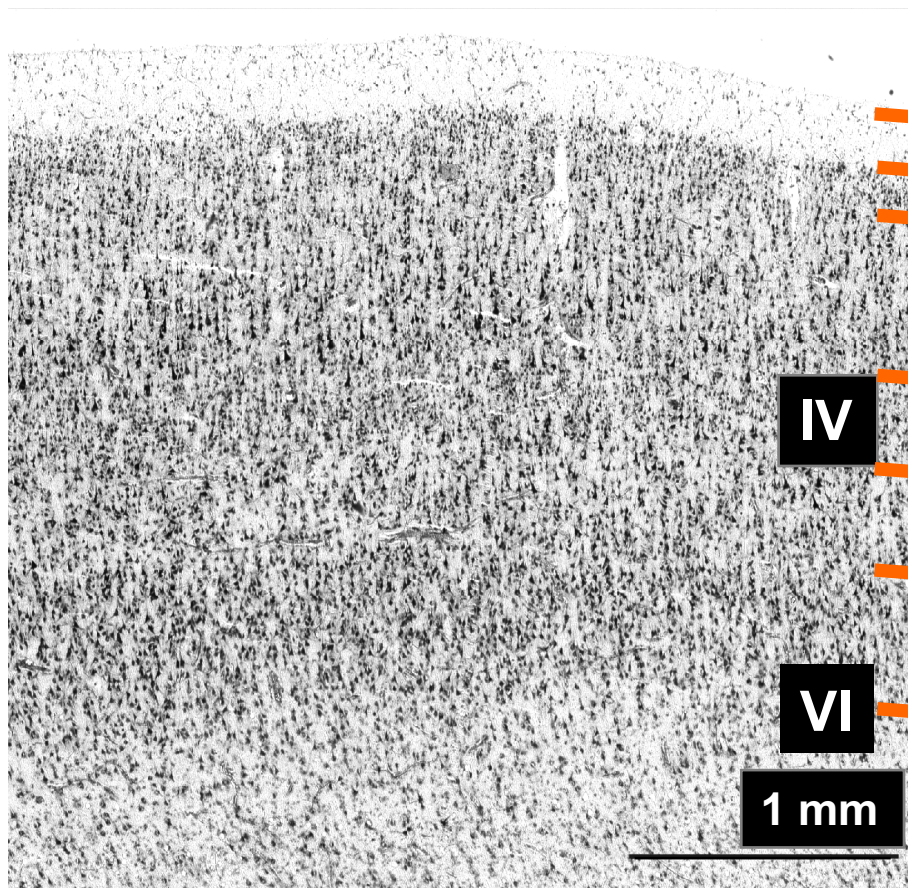
The idea of Cytoarchitectonic borders



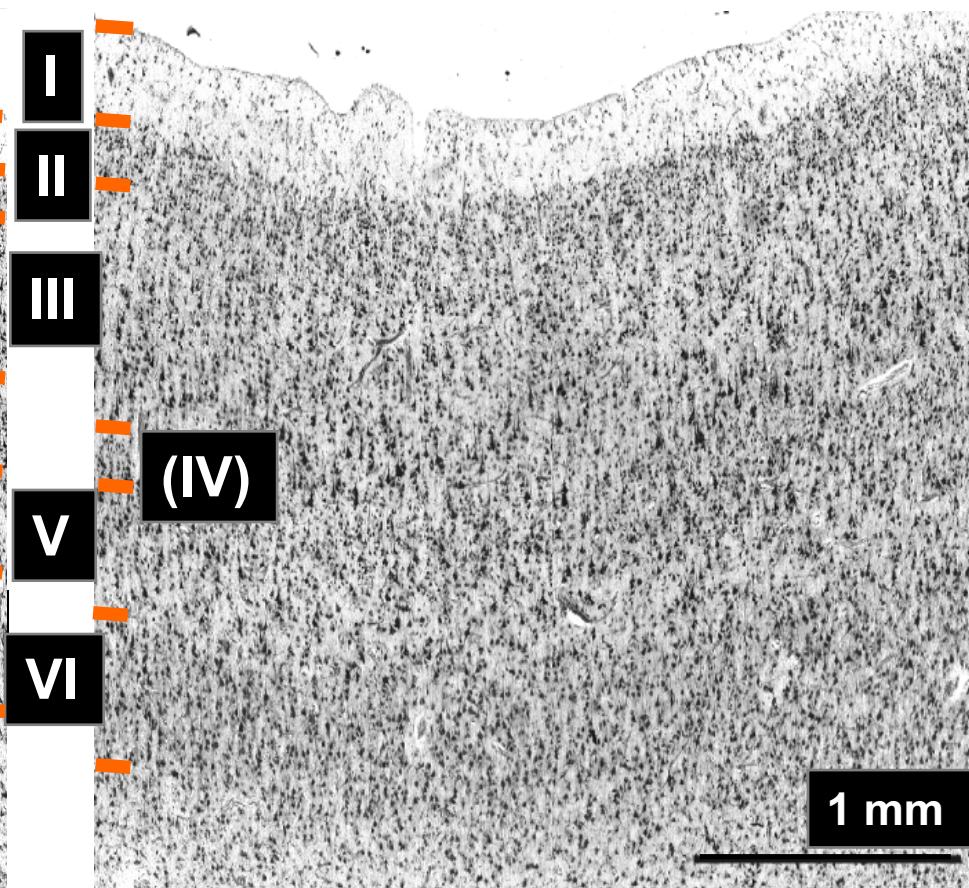
- The cell layers vary throughout Cortex
- Changes in the lamina reflect borders between cytoarchitectonic regions
- Changes in lamina may be in regards to size of layers or the layers' cell size or packing density

*Current Cytoarchitectonics: BA 44 & 45 stained for cell bodies
(Amunts, Zilles)*

BA45



BA44



I

II

III

IV

V

VI

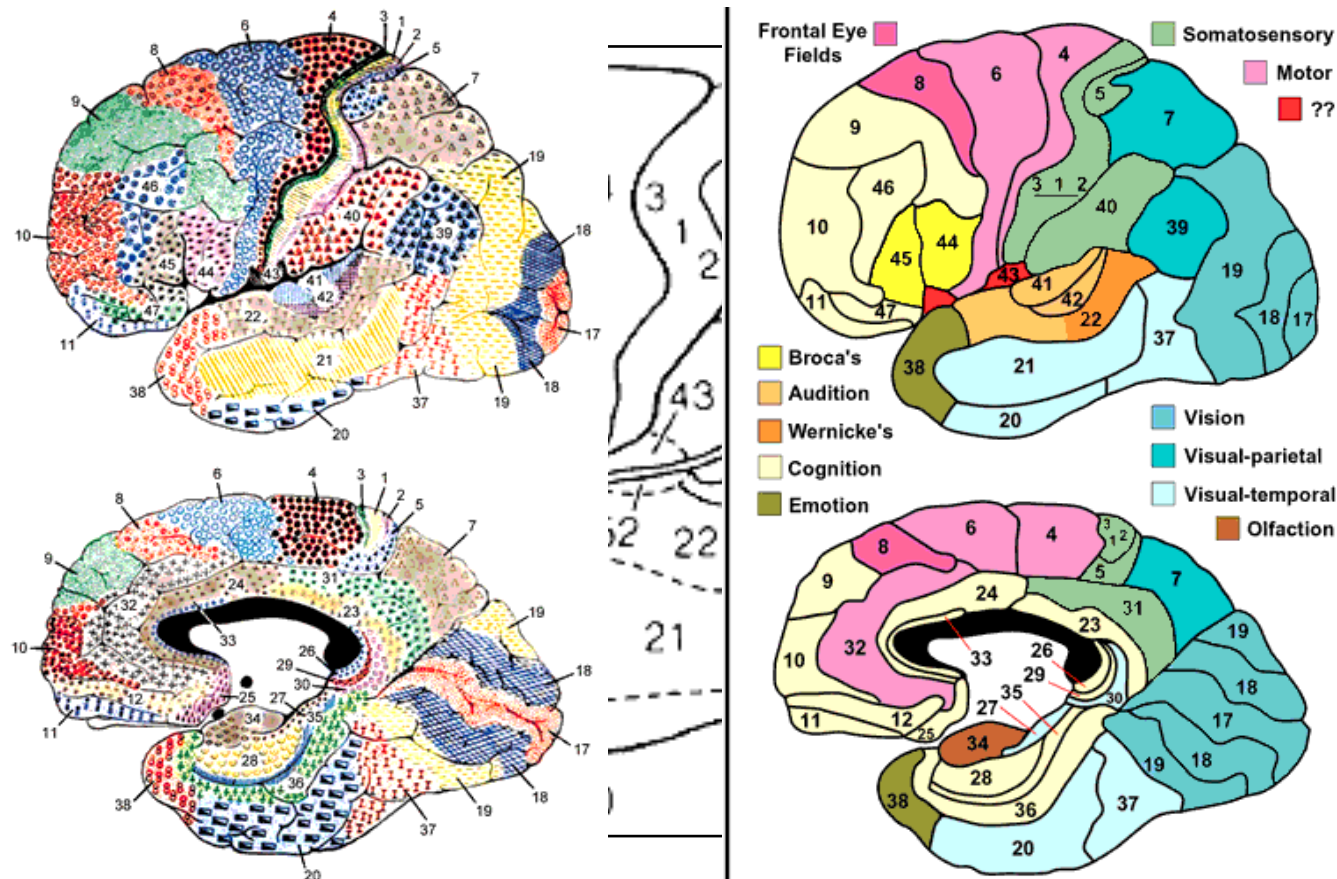
(IV)

VI

1 mm

1 mm

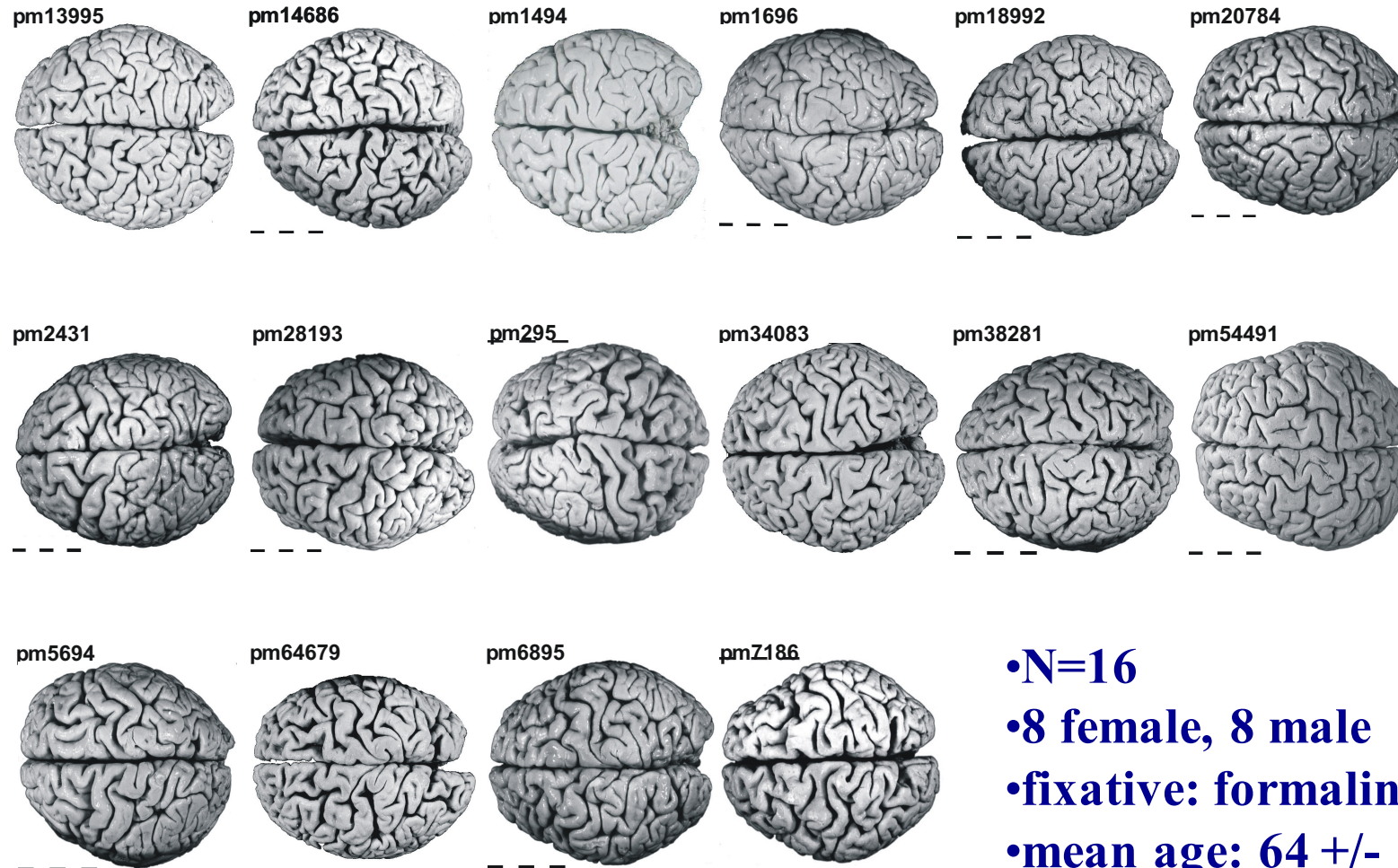
Cytoarchitectonic modularity: Brodmann's parcellation of cortex



2 questions:

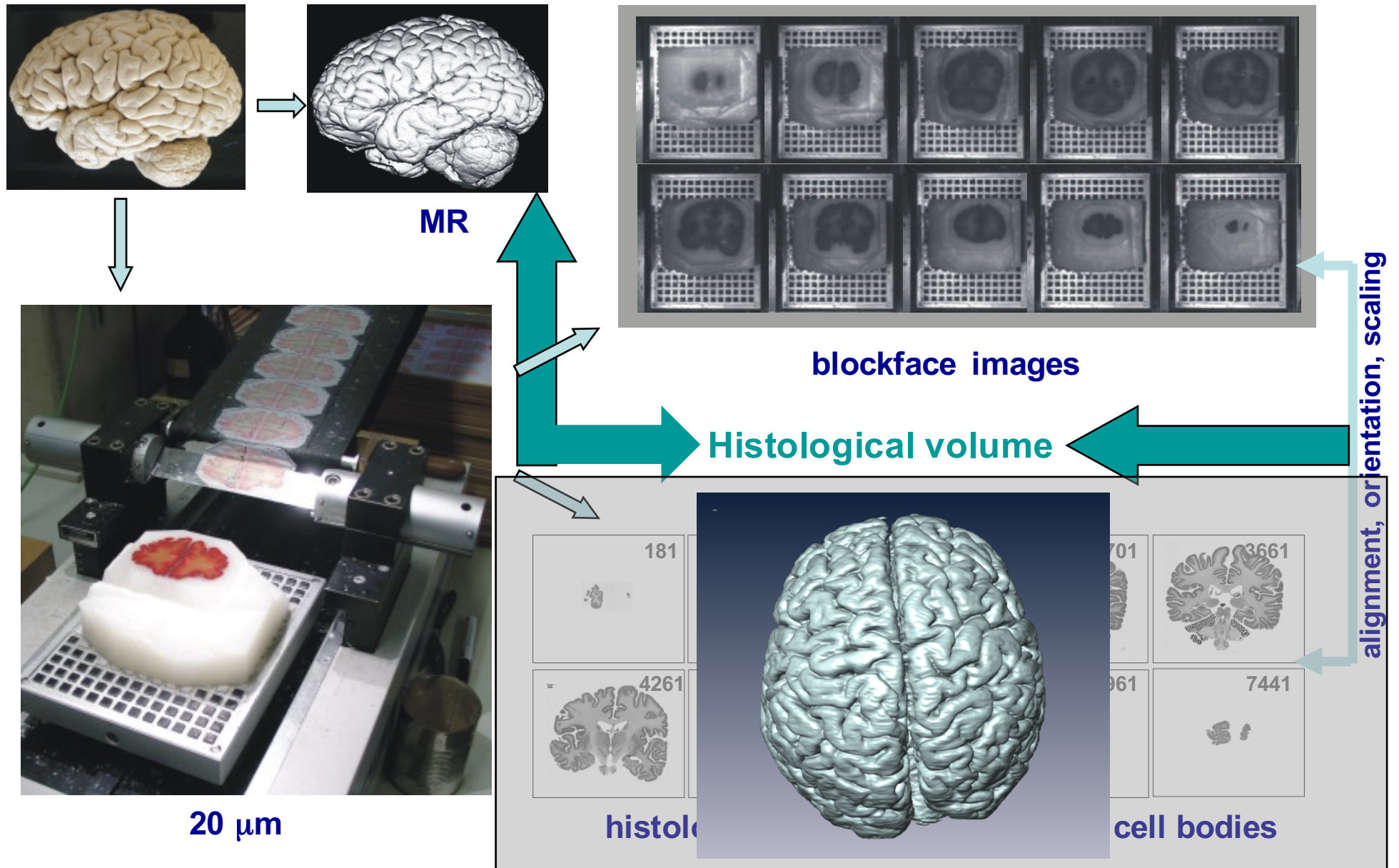
- Is there a perfect topographic/cytoarchitectonic correspondence?
- If not, which, if any, is the correct unit for functional analysis?

postmortem brains

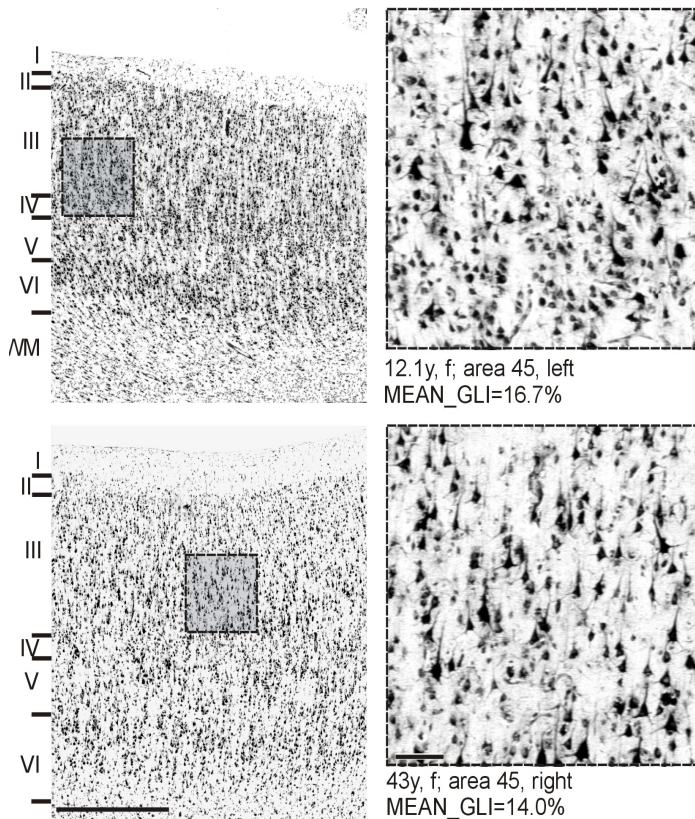


- **N=16**
- **8 female, 8 male**
- **fixative: formalin or Bodian**
- **mean age: 64 +/- 16 y**
- **postmortem delay: 12-24h**

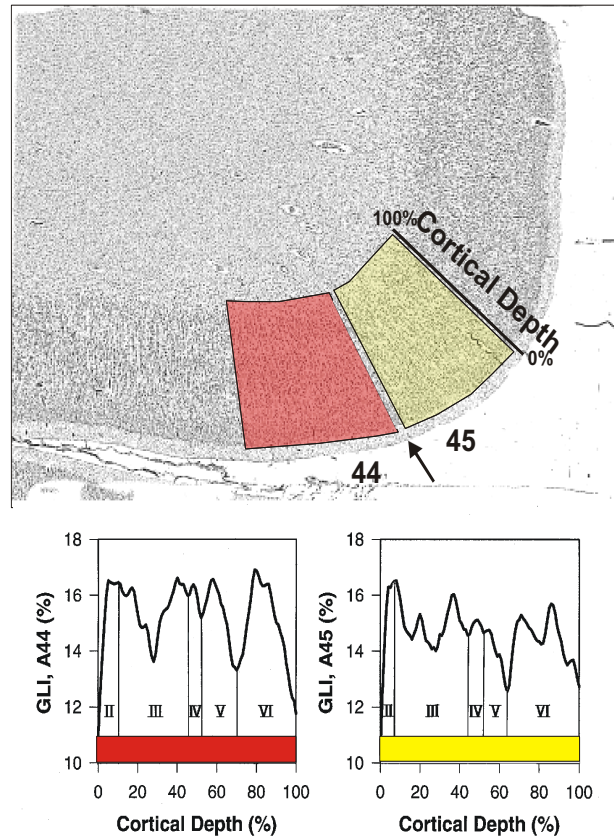
Histological processing



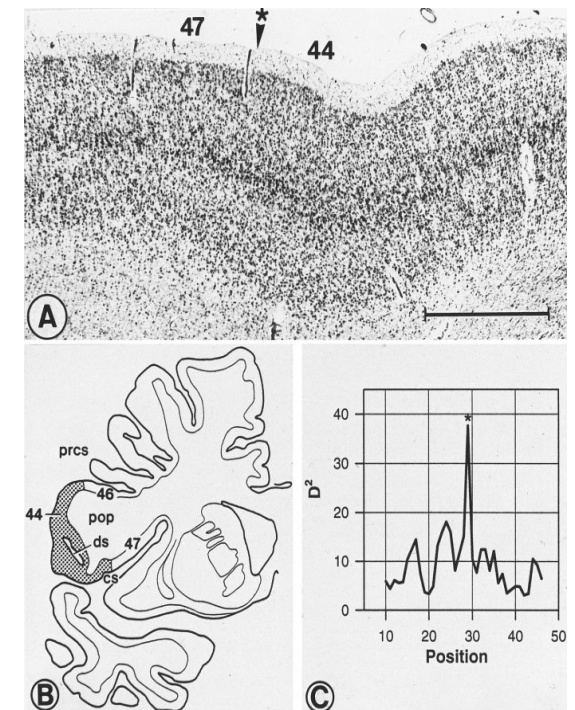
An observer-independent approach to the definition of cytoarchitectonic borders (Zilles, Schleicher, Amunts et al.)



1. Gray Level Index (GLI): an estimate of the volume-fraction of cell bodies



2. Laminar cytoarchitectonic cortical patterns are analyzed via GLI profiles

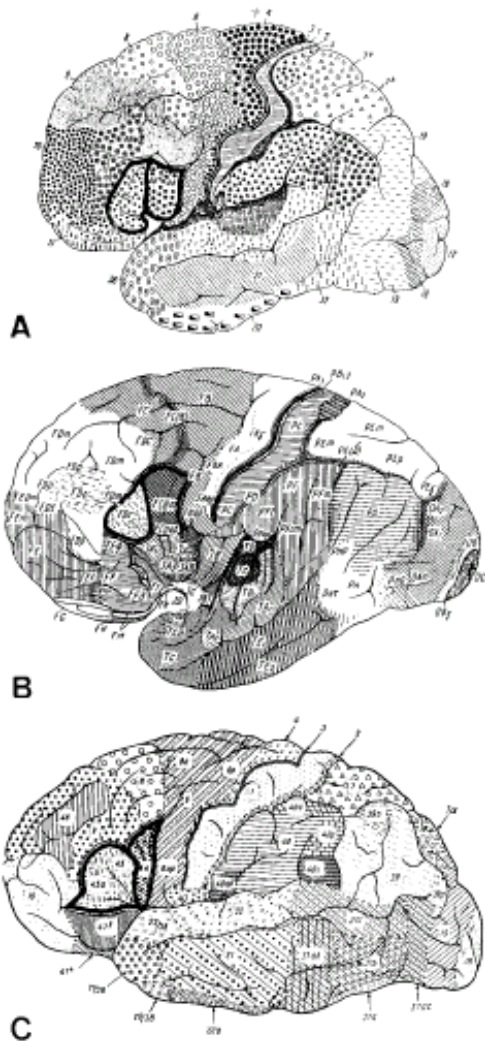


3. Borders are established where abrupt changes in laminar pattern are detected

Source: Katrin Amunts, FZ Jülich

Problem III: Cytoarchitectonic variability

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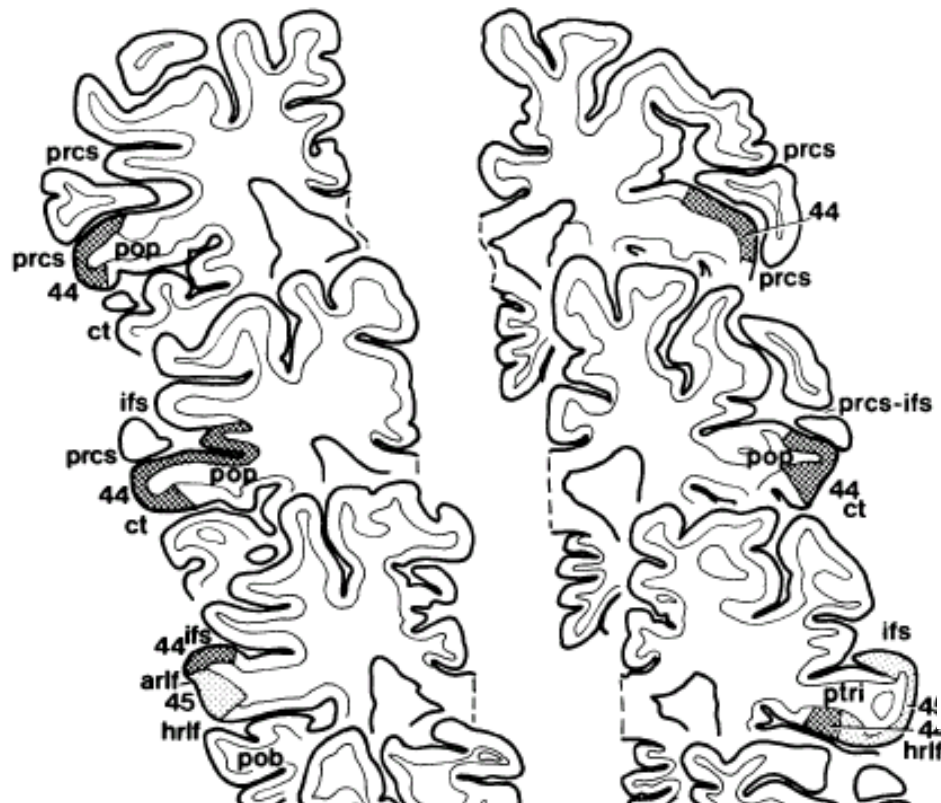
Cytoarchitectonic maps of the lateral surface of human brain

A Brodmann (1909)

B Economo and Koskinas 1925))

C Sarkisov *et al.* (1949)

*Problem IV: no correspondence –
Variation in cytoarchitectonic-topographic relations*



THE JOURNAL OF COMPARATIVE NEUROLOGY 412:319-341 (1999)

**Broca's Region Revisited:
Cytoarchitecture and Intersubject
Variability**

KATRIN AMUNTS,^{1*} AXEL SCHLEICHER,¹ ULI BÜRGE,¹ HARTMUT MOHLBERG,¹
HARRY B.M. UYLINGS,² AND KARL ZILLES^{1,3}

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²Netherlands Institute for Brain Research, 1105 AZ Amsterdam, The Netherlands

³Institute of Medicine, Research Center Jülich, D-52425 Jülich, Germany

Source: Katrin Amunts, FZ Juelich

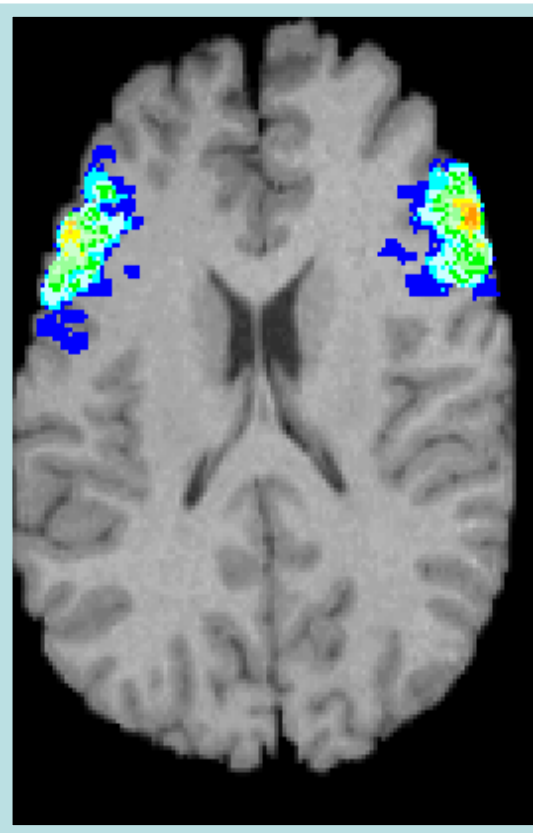
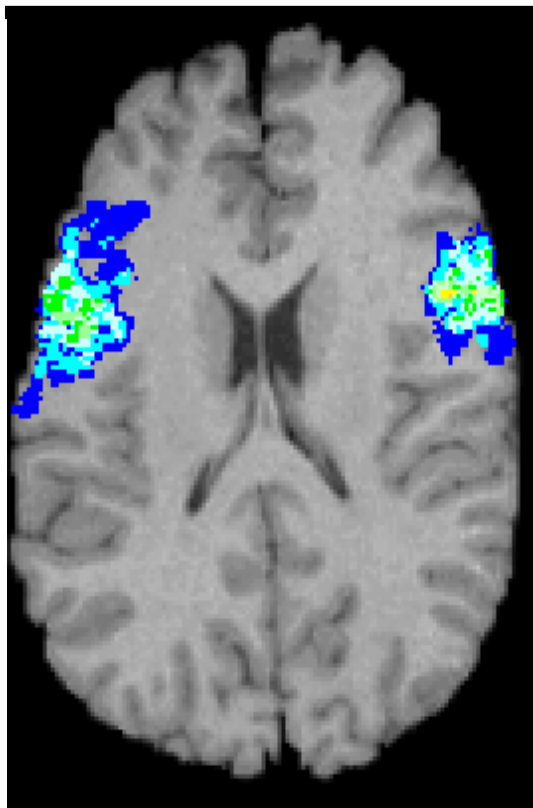
Variation summary:

1. There is considerable individual variation in the shape of topographic borders in certain brain regions.
2. There is considerable individual variation in the shape of cytoarchitectonic borders in certain brain regions.
3. The correspondence between the two border types is poor.

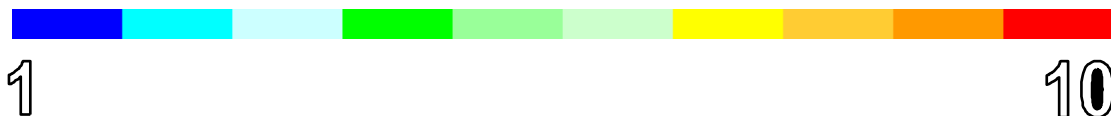
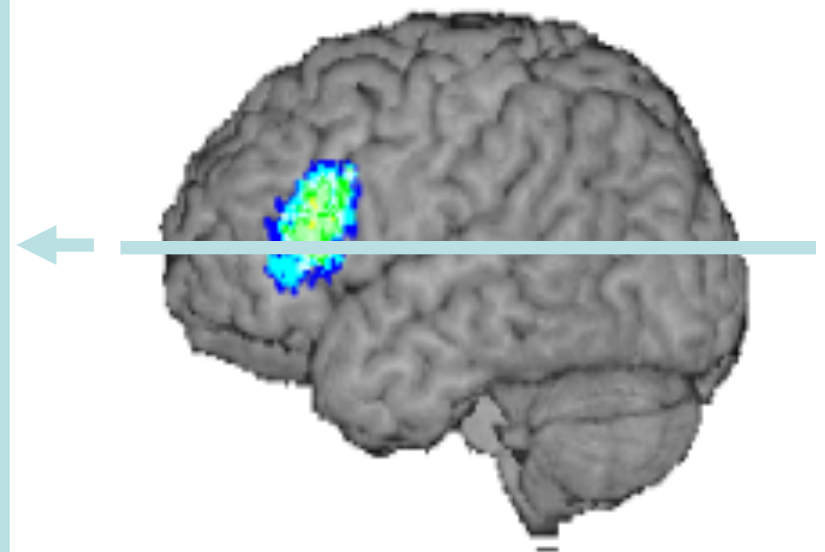
Amunts' cytoarchitectonic probability maps of Broca's region (n=10)

BA 44

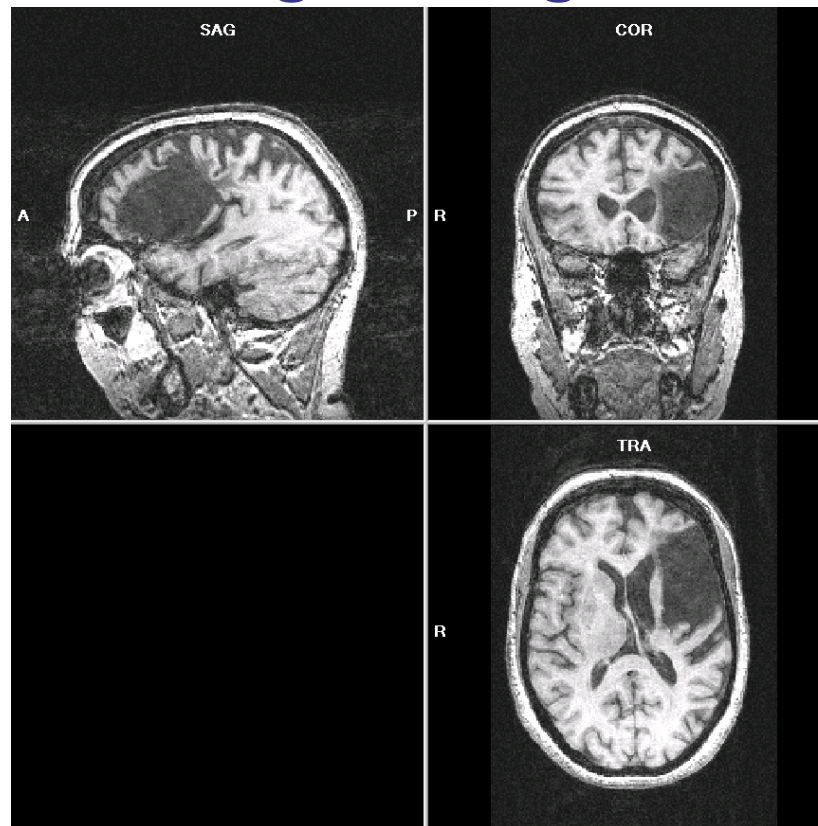
BA 45



$z=20\text{ mm}$



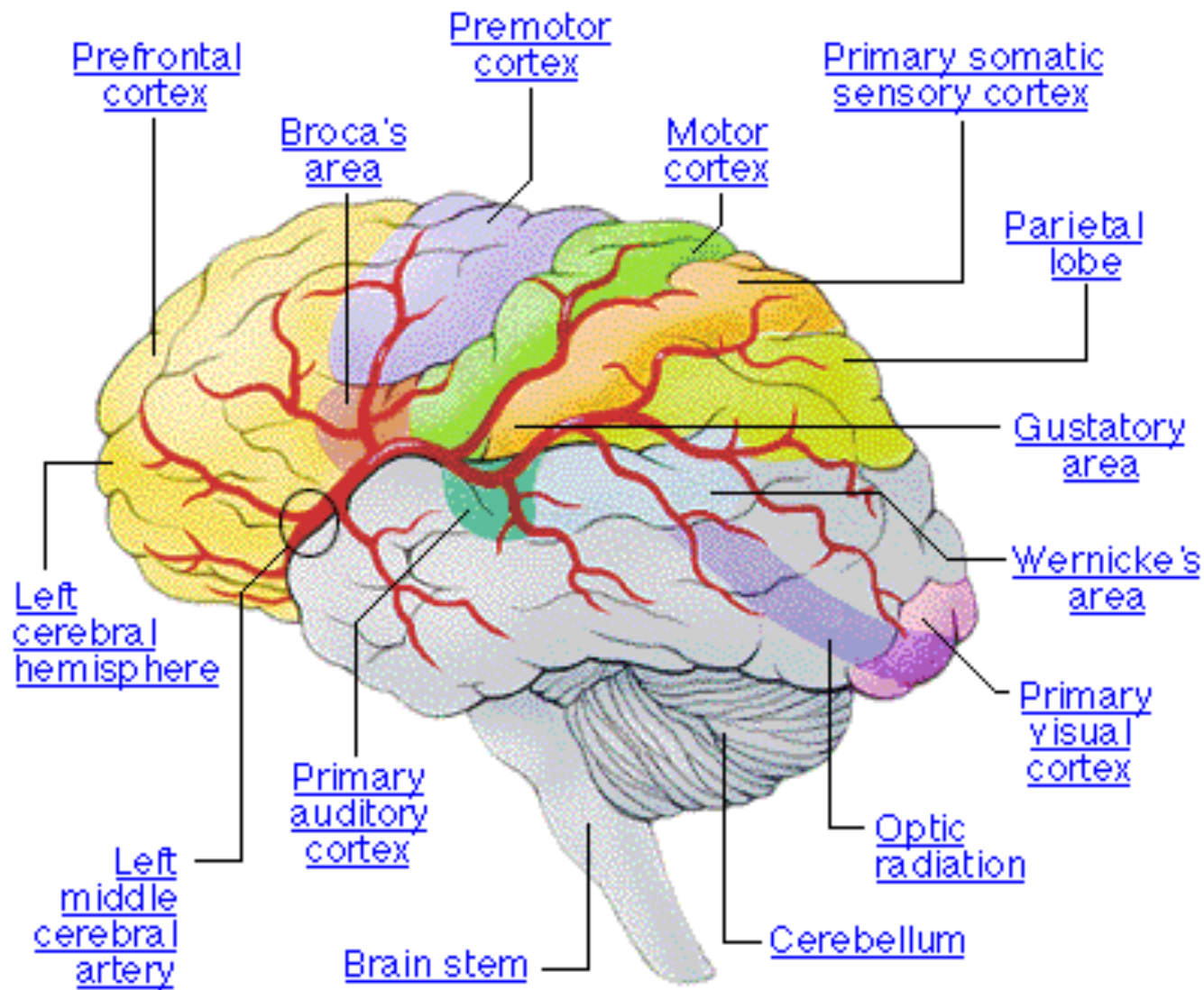
Talk 2: reverse engineering in Broca's aphasia



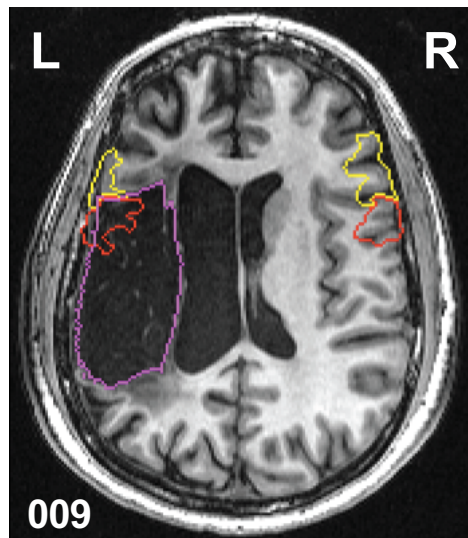
Goals: a. to identify linguistic neurological natural classes through patterns of impairment and sparing in aphasia; b. to get a preliminary glimpse at the linguistic brain map.

Logic of inquiry: Missing pieces of neural tissue that correlate with missing linguistic operations point to the **critical involvement** of these brain regions in computation, that are mapped onto these cerebral loci.

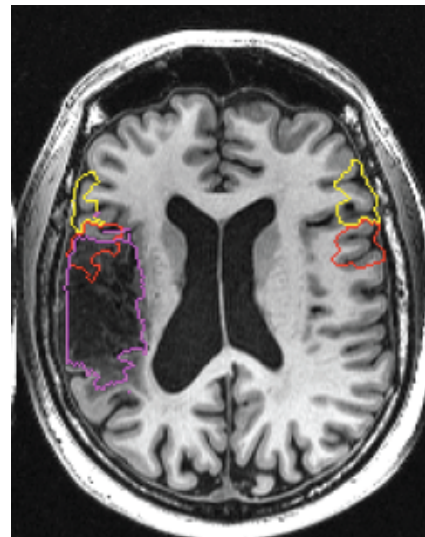
Schema of blood vessels in the brain



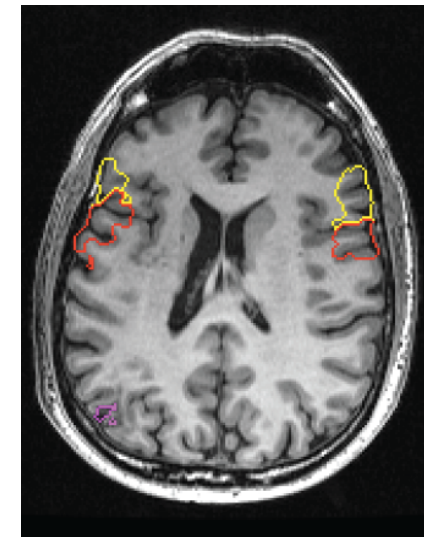
Applications of p-maps: 2. lesion localization and quantification



BA 44 45
% DESTROYED 70.2 26.7



44 46 9.7



45 44 45
0 0

What we did last time

- Methods for anatomical parcellation of the human brain
 - the brain has parts, and one goal of the modular project is to identify them (i.e., for aligning brain pieces with pieces of language we must have a clear delineation of the brain pieces)
 - a critical step is in finding a parcellation method
 - a method based on topographic landmarks is not likely to succeed
 - a method based on histologically-determined, “cytoarchitectonic” landmarks is more likely to succeed
 - this method has to grapple with the problem of variability. Probabilistic maps (and atlases) help us to do. The neurolinguistic mapping project uses these atlases as anatomical localizers
- Methods for behavioral parcellation of the human brain
 - “reverse engineering” in aphasia subsequent to focal brain damage: “equate missing piece of brain with missing piece of cognition”

What I (hope to) do today

- Methods for the assessment of the receptive deficit in aphasia
 - the mapping from comprehension scores onto syntactic representation
 - the mapping from grammaticality judgment scores onto syntactic representation
 - a generalization: Trace-Deletion Hypothesis (TDH)
- Problems for the TDH
 - individual variability and tools for handling it
 - cross-linguistic variability and tool for handling it
- Corroborating evidence
 - fMRI results from movement experiments
- Possible relations between the TDH and fMRI results in health

(1)

a. Semantically “Irreversible”

The ball that the boy is kicking was red

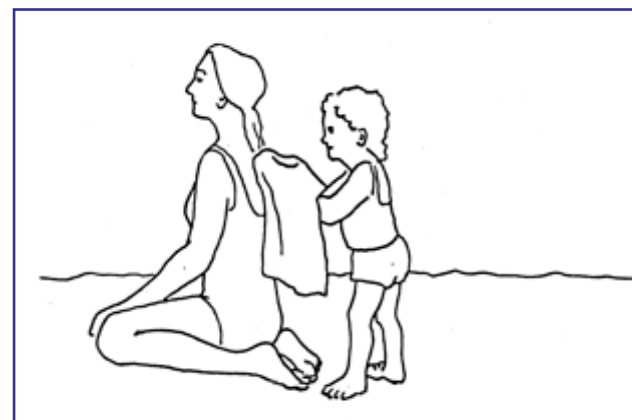
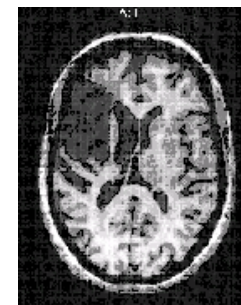
b. Semantically “Reversible”

The woman who the girl is drying is thin

Performance

High

Low



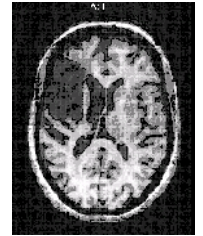
Caramazza & Zurif's conclusion:

- Broca's aphasics have “asyntactic comprehension.”
- As there is a syntactic problem in production, it follows that syntax – harnessed for both productive and receptive tasks – is located in Broca's area.

*** Food for thought: What picture-pair is given for (1a)? ***

BUT

This can't be right because the comprehension deficit doesn't encompass all syntax: when tested in a binary-choice θ -assignment paradigm, patients only fails on sentences with a **Movement** relation.



Alternative Analysis The cognitive building blocks, or modules, that align with neurological pieces are *smaller* than previously supposed

Above chance

(2)
-Movement

- a. The girl dried the woman
- b. It was the girl who dried the woman



chance

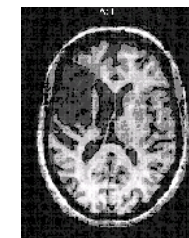
(3)
+Movement

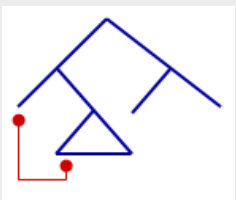
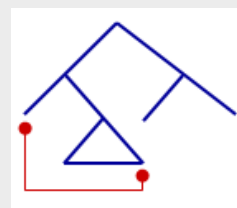
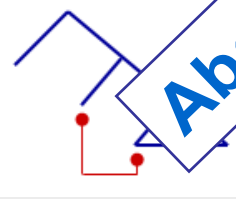
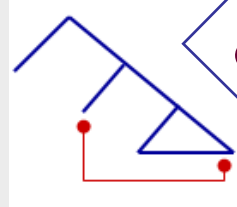
- a. **The woman** who the girl dried ◀ was thin
- a. It was **the woman** who the girl dried ◀
- b. **The woman** was dried ◀ by the girl

A testing session



Complexity a 2x2 factorial design of relative clauses (*Embedding type X Movement*) helps focus on the movement deficit:



(4)		Canonical word order (+Movement)	Canonical word order (-Movement)
Center Embedding	I.	 <p>The boy [who _ is chasing the tall girl] is Dan</p>	II.  <p>The boy [who the tall girl is chasing _] is Dan</p>
	III.	 <p>Dan is the boy [who _ is chasing the tall girl]</p>	IV.  <p>Dan is the boy [who the tall girl is chasing _]</p>

Above chance

chance

Summary of basic data

Performance level

(5) Relative clauses

a. Subject

The woman who dried the girl was thin

above chance

b. Object

The woman who the girl dried ◀ was thin



chance

(6) Questions

a. Subject-questions

Which woman dried the girl

above chance

b. Object-questions

Which girl did the woman dry ◀?



chance

(7) Active/Passive

a. The woman dried the girl

above chance

b. The girl was dried ◀ by the woman



chance

Query Movement seems relevant, but how can chance performance be derived?

Attempting to understand the observed pattern – Mapping Principles:

P1. Transparency

Error rates must be derived deductively.

(the mapping from representation to error-rate must be explicit)

P2. Restricted Outcomes

The response set determines the range of discernible error types.

(in a binary-choice θ -assignment paradigm, outcomes must be relativized to chance).

P3. Full Interpretation Under Duress

Interpretive forced-choice tasks require that all referential elements have a semantic role.

(when grammatical θ -assignment fails, a θ -less referential element acquires a semantic role via extra-grammatical means)

TDH: trace deletion + default help deduce the pattern

Trace deletion: delete all traces

Default Strategy (S): assign a θ -role to a θ -less NP by linear position

Linear positions: NP1=agent; NP2=theme; NP3=?

Implementation for scores of binary-choice θ -assignment tests

Performance level

Proper compensation in Subject-gap Relative Clauses

(8) a. *[The woman]_i who_i [* dried the girl] was thin*

above chance

|
agent (S)

|
theme (G)

θ -conflict in Object-gap Relative Clauses

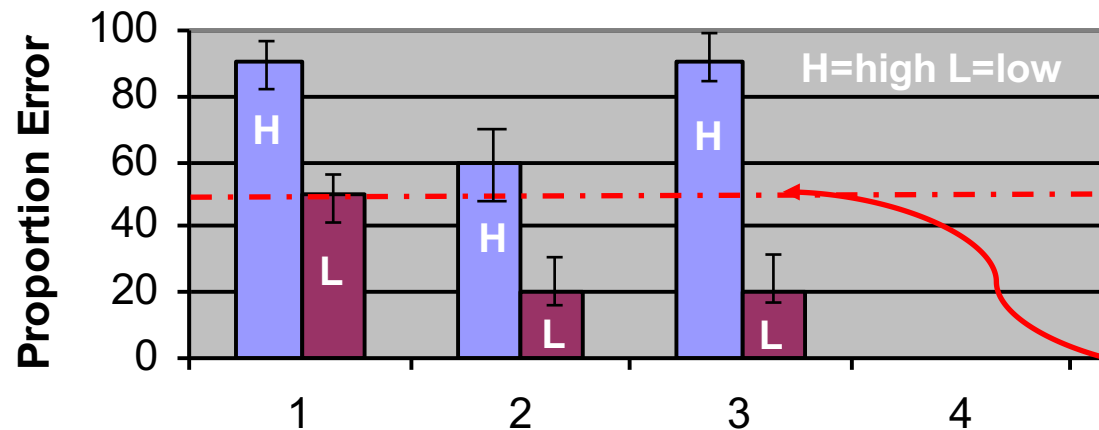
b. *[The woman]_i who_i [the girl dried *] was thin*

chance

|
agent (S)

|
agent (G)

A Typology of Error Patterns in binary-choice designs

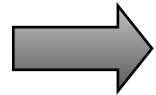
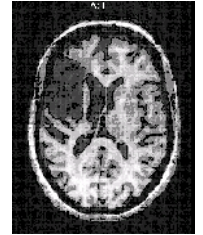


Dual test pass

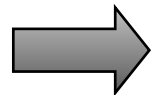
1. $H_{ac} > L_c$
2. $H_c > L_{bc}$
3. $H_{ac} > L_{bc}$

Comment: Chance is relativized to the size of the response set. A binary-choice design puts chance at 50%; other designs might entail different levels.

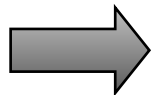
Consequences of the TDH:



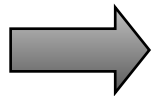
A moved argument may be disconnected from its θ -role



Representations are exempt from violations of movement constraints

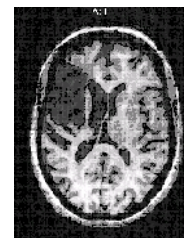


Processing operations that depend on traces are disrupted.



Activations in Broca's area would be monitored when traces are linked to their antecedents in the intact brain

XP-Movement-selective impairments in grammaticality judgment



	CONDITION	+Grammatical	-Grammatical
Movement violations	1. Wh-movement/ that-trace	Which woman did David think that John saw? Which woman did David think saw John?	<i>*Which woman did David think that saw John?</i>
	2. Superiority	I don't know who said what	<i>*I don't know what who saw</i>
Other violations	3. Place of auxiliary	They could have left town Could they have left town?	<i>*Have they could leave town?</i>
	4. Negation	John has not left the office John did not sit	<i>*John did not have left the office *John sat not</i>



YES



NO

% error

CONDITION	FC		RD		FA		WF		X'
	+G	-G	+G	-G	+G	-G	+G	-G	
1. Wh-movement/that-t	0	88	75	25	0	100	33	38	44.9
2. Superiority	0	63	63	38	75	0	88	0	40.9
3. Place of auxiliary	0	25	4	75	2	0	21	0	15.9
4. Negation	0	13	6	25	0	19	38	6	13.4

Converging evidence II: Cross-Modal Priming failure

Action at-a-distance –
priming at the gap



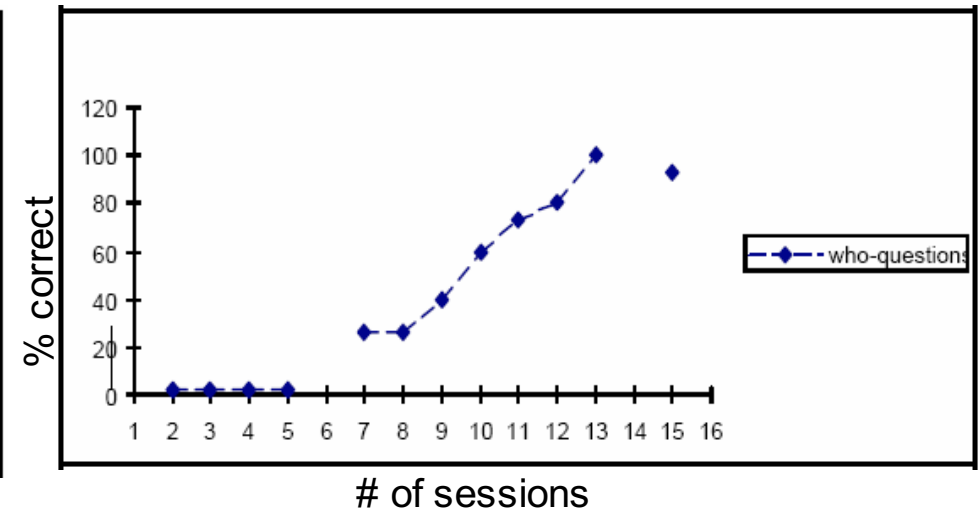
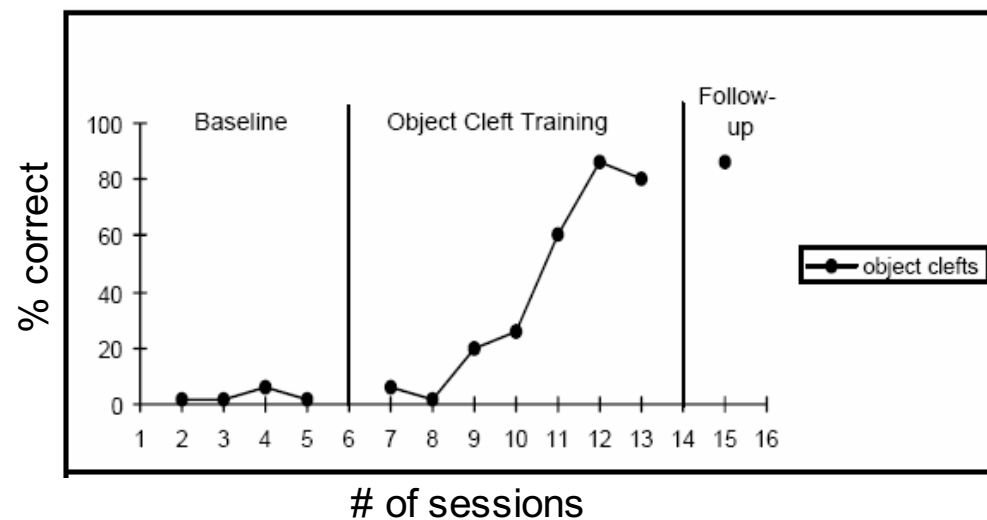
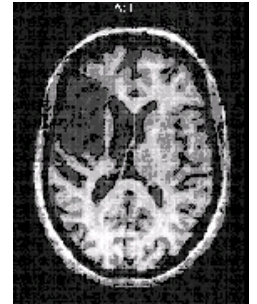
(15) a. The priest enjoyed *the drink* *1

[that the caterer was *2 serving ~~*the drink*~~ *3]
to the guests

BEER
PEER
TEER

In aphasia, there is priming at *1, but at *3 the antecedent fails to be properly primed, indicating antecedent-gap linking failure

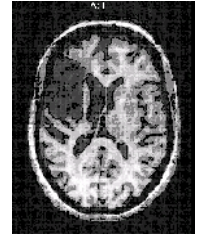
Converging evidence III: Movement is a generalization in therapy for aphasic patients



(16) a. It is **the man** that the ◀ boy pushed
↑

b. **who** did the boy push ◀
↑

Can we conclude that XP-Movement is localized in Broca's area?



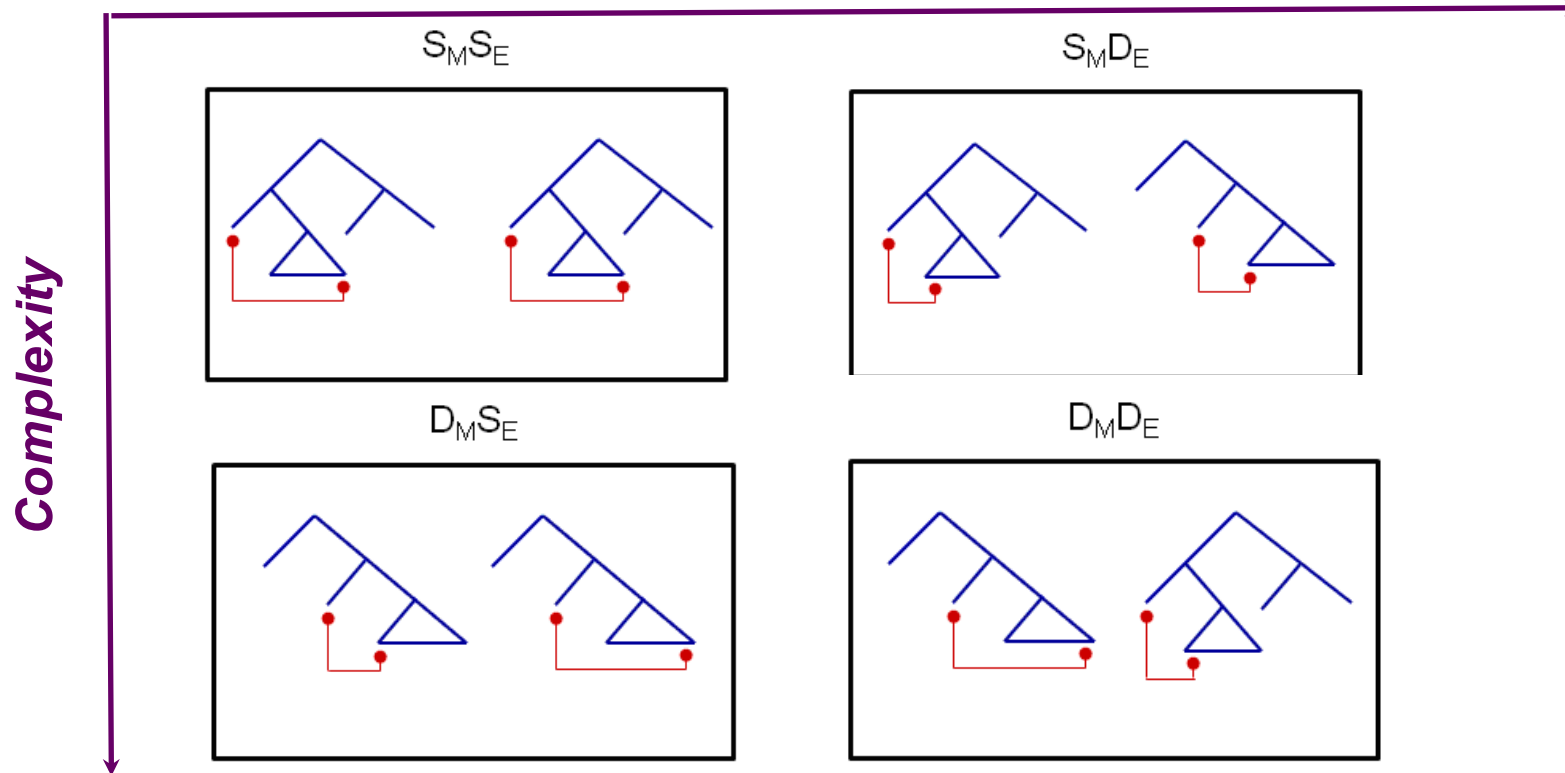
Perhaps, but there are some questions that we need to answer first:

- I. How great (and significant) is **performance variation** among individual patients? It has been claimed that **variation is boundless**.
- II. How great (and significant) is **cross-linguistic variation**?
- III. How precisely can we **localize** the processes **cortically**?
- IV. Is the calculation of syntactic Movement during language comprehension neurologically **distinguishable** from other syntactic and/or cognitive operations?

Query If *Movement* is localized in Broca's region, where is the rest of the syntax?



Reflections of this distinction in health:
Andrea Santi's fMRI adaptation study of *Embedding (Complexity)* vs. *Movement*:



Expectation: the *Complexity* and *Movement* factors would dissociate anatomically

- Adaptation to Movement and Embedding
- Adaptation to Movement



Imaging syntactic movement: an fMRI with parameterized distance

(12) Movement

a. **The mailman** and **the mother** of **Jim** love **the woman** who *Kate* burnt ◀

...NP... NP...NP... **The woman**...*NP*... ◀
↑

b. **The mother** of **Jim** loves **the woman** who *the mailman* and *Kate* burnt ◀

...NP... NP...**The woman**...*NP*... *NP*... ◀
↑

c. **Kate** loves **the woman** who *the mailman* and *the mother* of *Jim* burnt ◀

... NP...**The woman**...*NP*...*NP*...*NP*... ◀
↑

(13) Binding

a. **The sister** of **Kim** assumes that **Anne** loves **the mailman** who burnt **himself**

...NP... NP...NP... **the mailman** ... **himself**

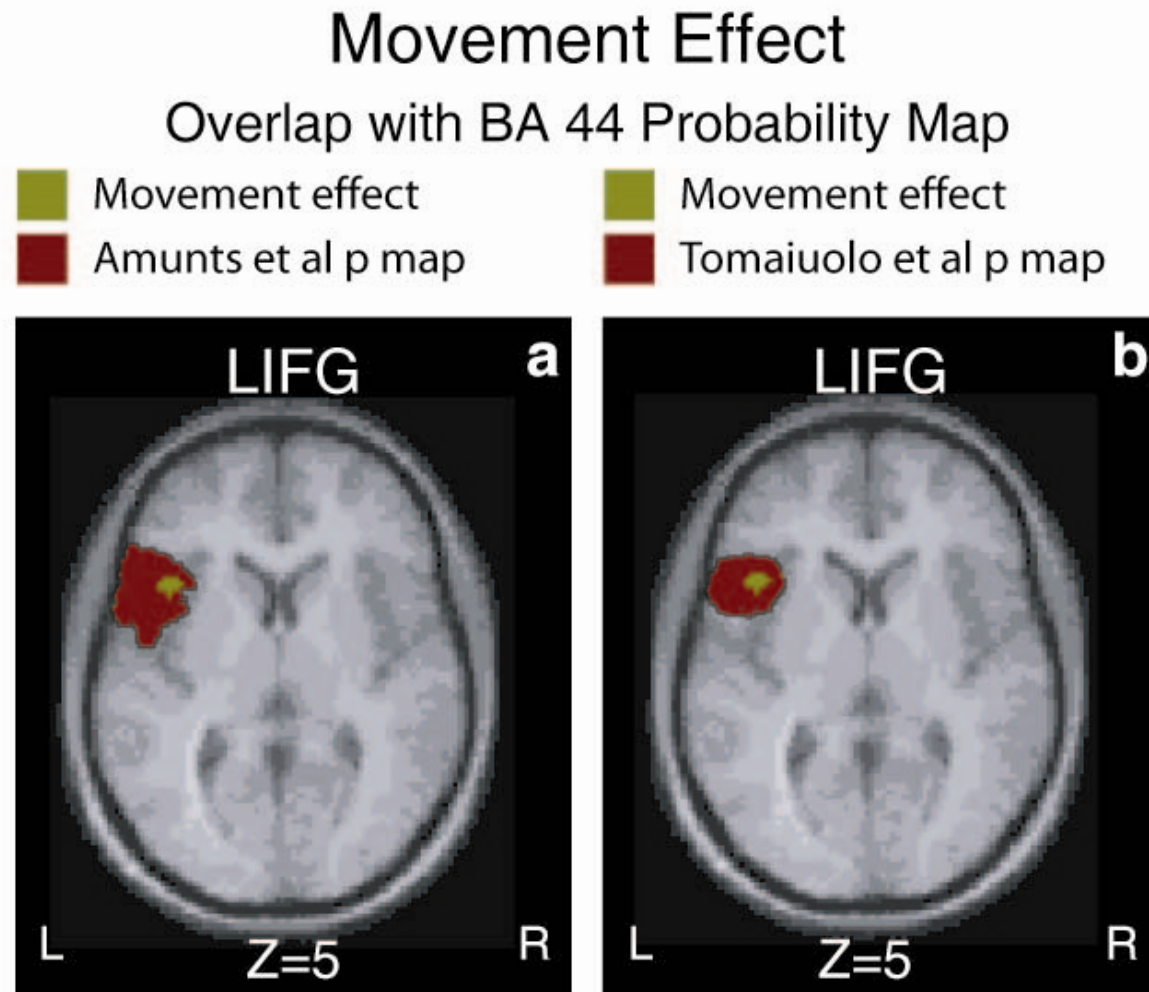
b. **The sister** of **Kim** assumes that **the** [↑]~~ma~~[!]~~il~~[!]~~ma~~[!][!]~~n~~ who loves *Anne* burnt **himself**

... NP...NP... **the mailman** ...*NP*... **himself**

c. **Anne** assumes that **the mailman** who loves *the sister* of *Kim* burnt **himself**

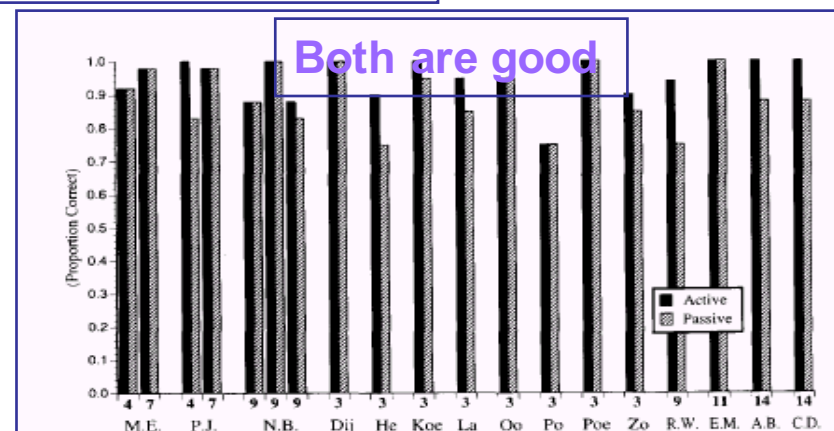
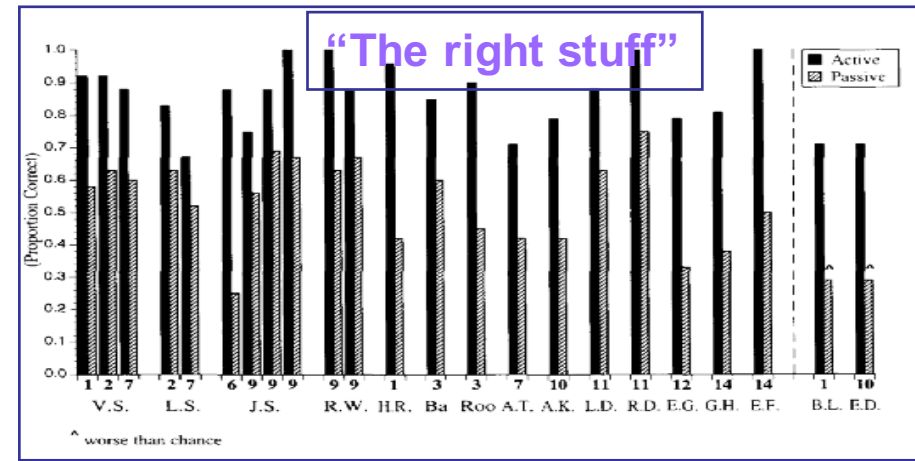
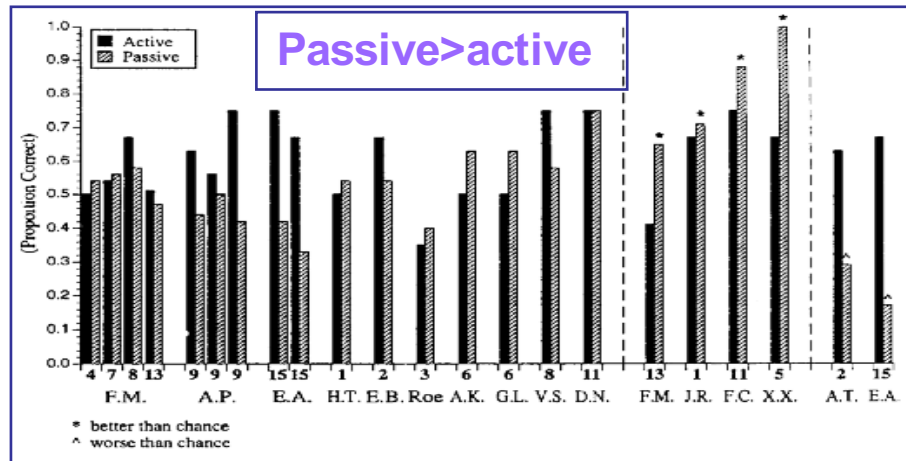
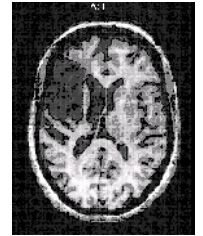
...NP... **the mailman**... *NP*... *NP*... **himself**
↑

Applications of p-maps: localization of activation clusters in fMRI



A Reality Check: Huge Individual Variation

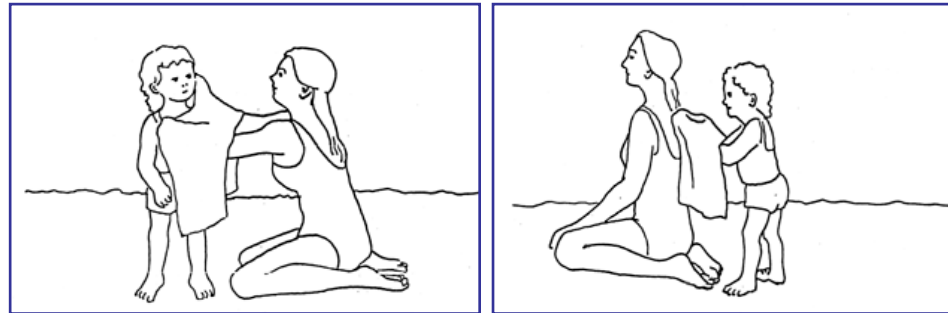
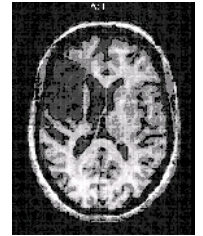
active  vs. passive 



R.S. Berndt et al. / Cognition 58 (1996) 289–308

NB: Histograms represent proportion correct

The concept of chance level performance:
When we talk about chance, we expect...

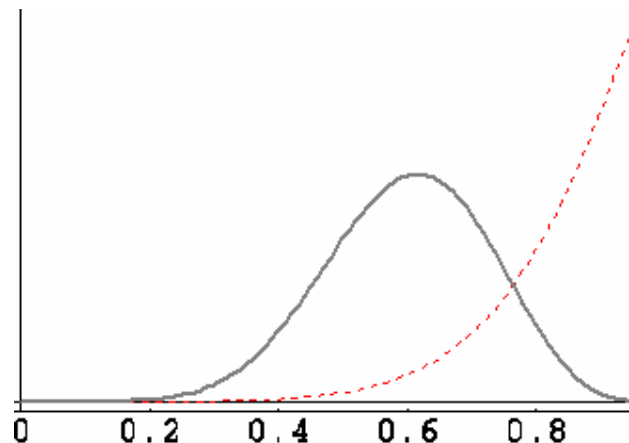


(9) *a. active:* The girl dried the woman

b. Passive: **The girl** was **dried** by the woman

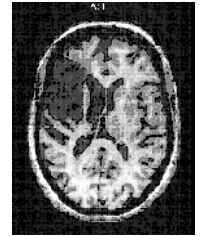
above chance
chance

...unimodal distributions, with means right down the middle





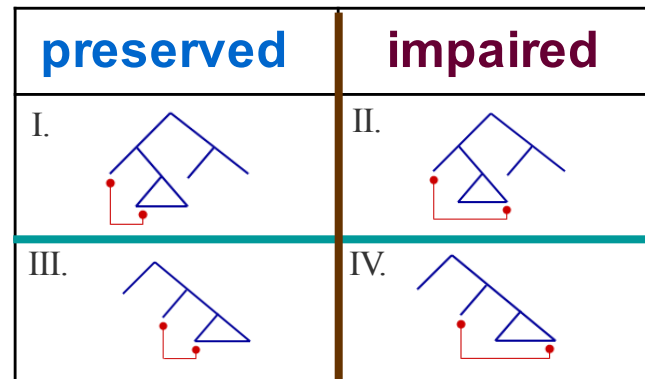
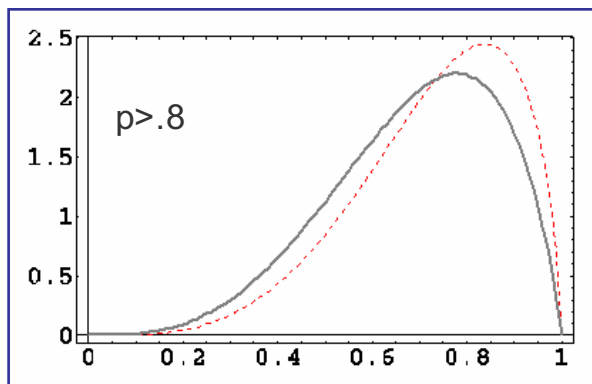
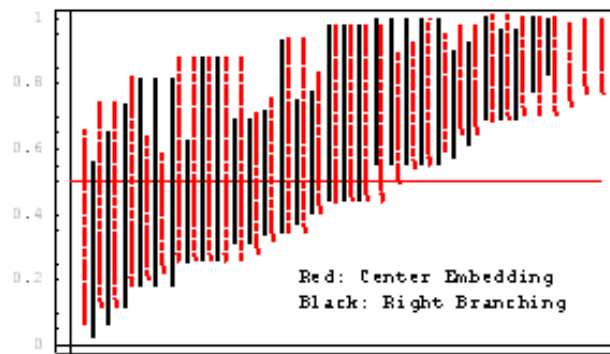
I. measuring “boundless variation” that blurs our vision



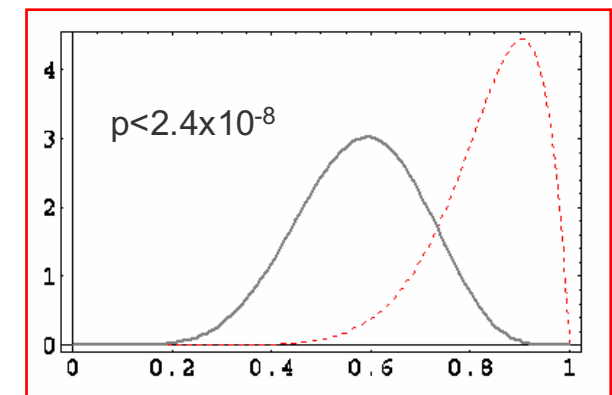
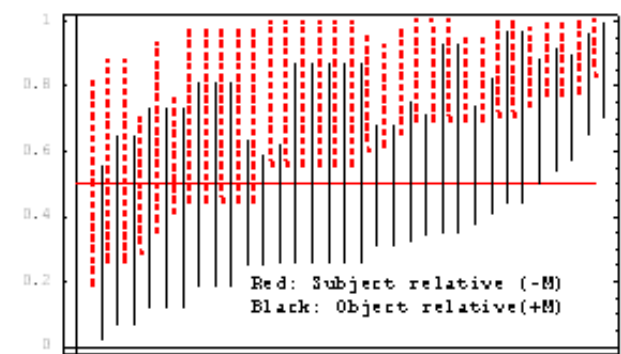
Dan Drai’s large-scale outlook on relative clause comprehension [n=32]

- Each individual score is represented as a $p < .01$ Confidence Interval on a binome
- A factorial design



A: analysis by Embedding type (rows)



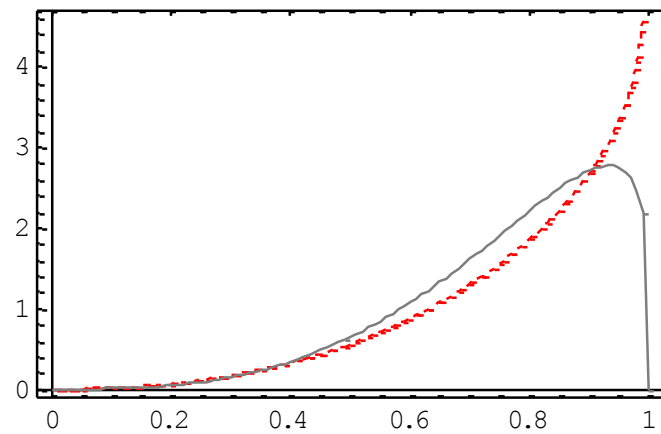
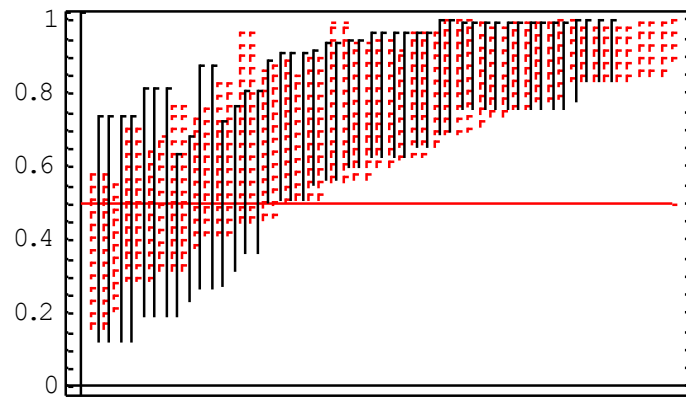
B: analysis by Movement type (columns)



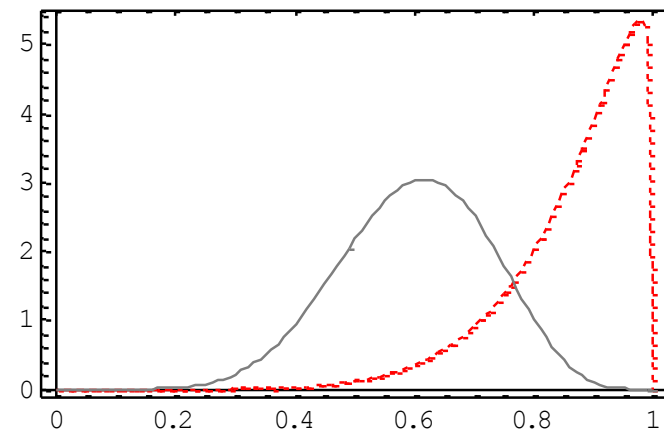
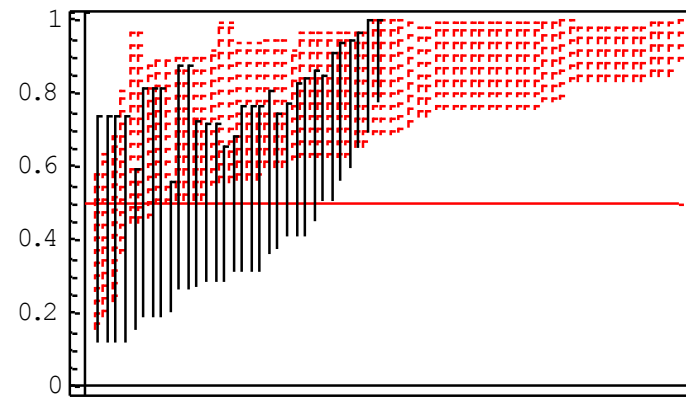
Active/Passive vs. Movement

		Movement	
		-M	+M
Mood	ACTIVE	a. Ha-xayal metzayer 'et ha-rofe ha-ze <i>The soldier is drawing this doctor</i>	b. 'Et ha-rofe ha-ze ha-chayal metzayer ►  <i>This doctor, the soldier is drawing</i>
	PASSIVE	c. door het meisje wordt de jongen ◀ gekust <i>by the girl was The boy kissed</i>	d. The boy was seen ► by the girl 

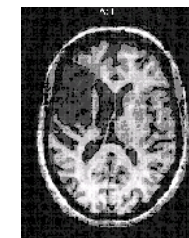
Active vs. passive



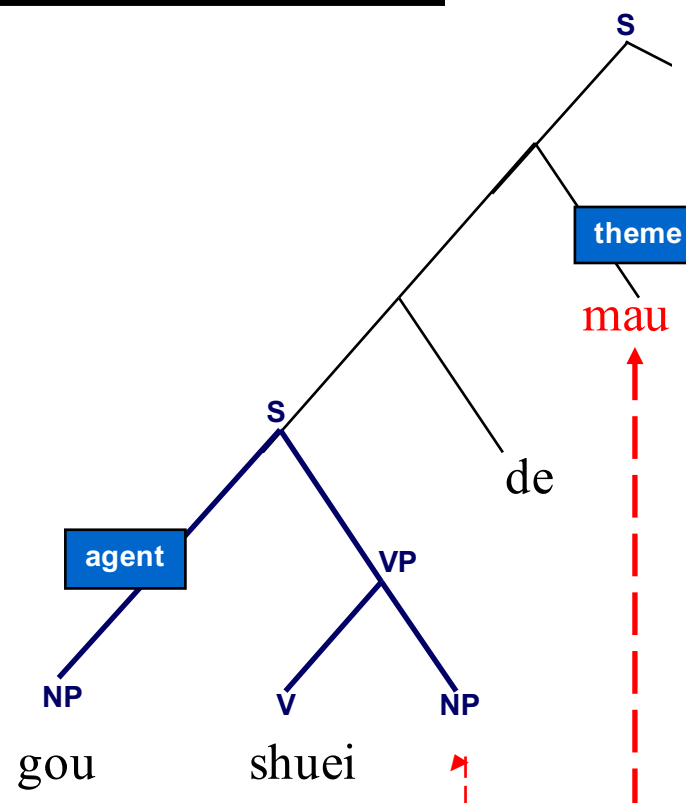
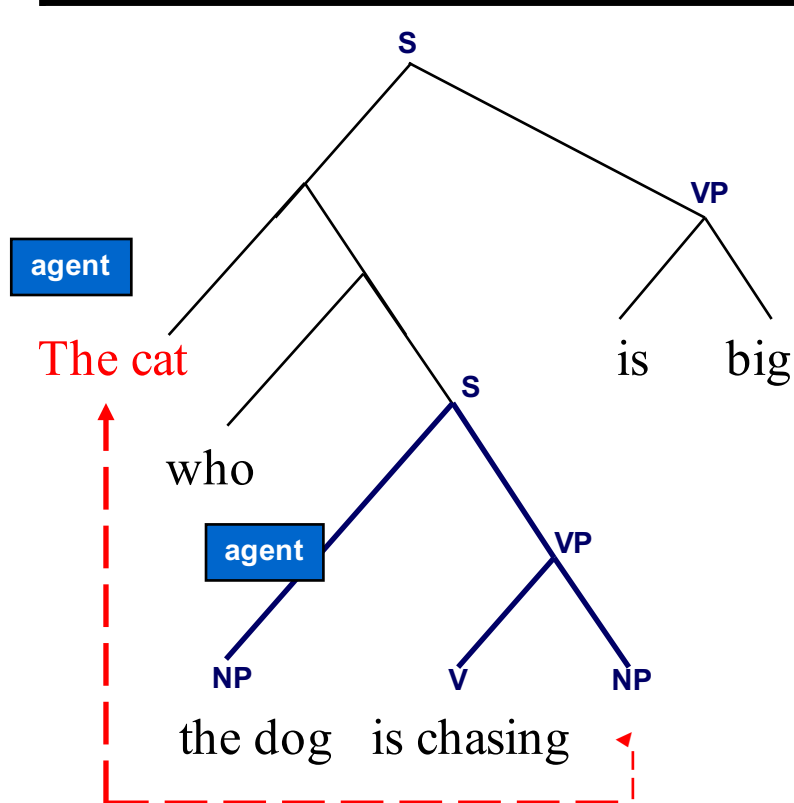
+Movement vs. -Movement



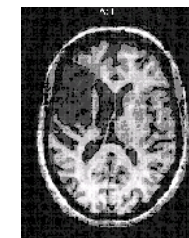
II. Cross-linguistic variation that sharpens our vision: English vs. Chinese relative clauses



(10)	English
a. <i>The cat</i> who <i>is big</i> [is chasing the dog]	<i>Above chance</i>
b. <i>The cat</i> who <i>is big</i> [the dog is chasing ◀]	<i>Chance</i>



More cross-linguistic variation that sharpens our vision: English vs. German/Dutch passive



(11) English

a. active: The girl dried the woman

b. Passive: **The woman** was **dried** ◀ by the girl

Above chance

Chance

(12) Dutch/German

a. active: *De man redt de vrouw*

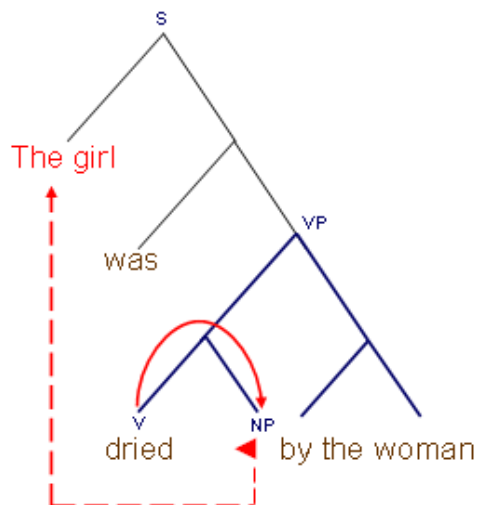
The man saves the woman

b. Passive: **De vrouw** wordt door de man ◀ **gered**

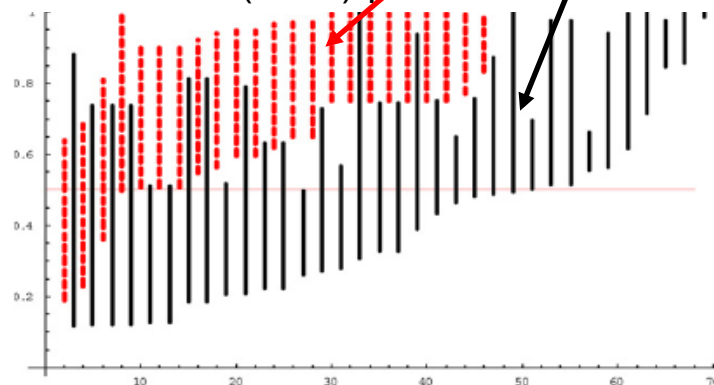
Above chance

Above chance

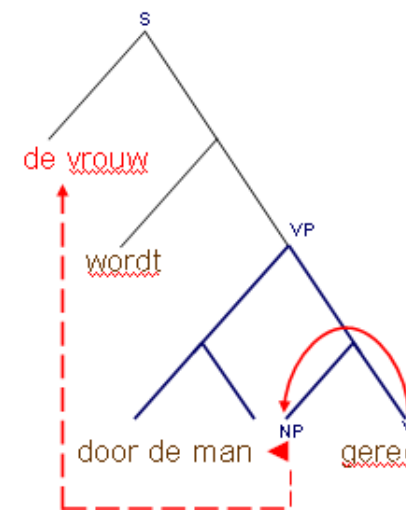
English (chance)



Dutch/German (n=18) vs. English (n=34) passive



Dutch (above chance)

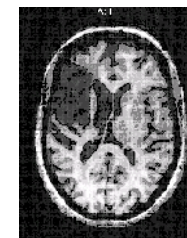


English

“Bridging”

(13) The woman was dried *t* [by the girl]

chance



Dutch

(14) De vrouw wordt [door de man] *t* gered

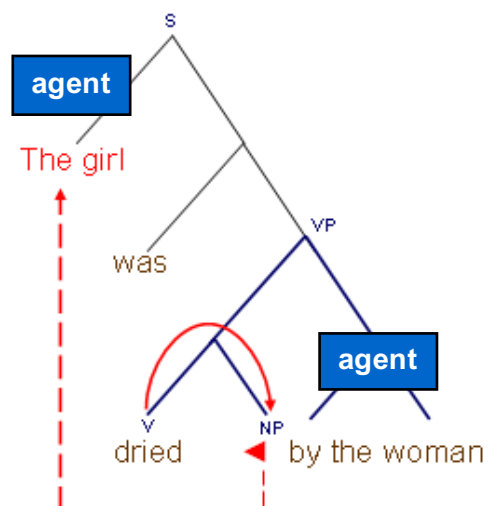
above chance

German

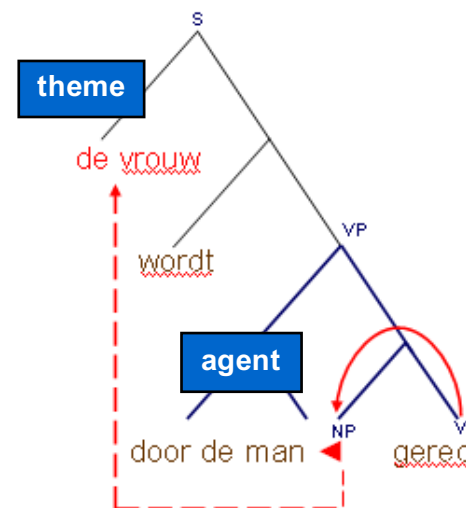
(15) Der Gaul wird [vom Esel] *t* getreten

above chance

English (chance)



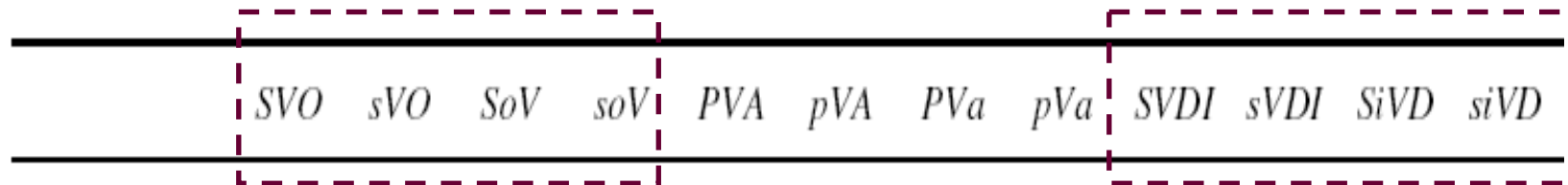
Dutch (above chance)



NB This analysis predicts comprehension failure only if the moved element crosses its λ -assigner. This has consequences to λ -assignment to VP-internal subjects.

3 cross-linguistic puzzles

1. Italian clitics



(16) Cliticized Direct Objects in transitive sentences

a. Mario cerca Flora

Mario seeks Flora

S V O

b. Mario *la*_i cerca *t*_i

Mario *her* seeks *t*

S *cl*_i V *t*_i

(17) Cliticized Indirect Objects in ditransitive sentences

a. Mario da un regalo a Flora

Mario gives a present to Flora

S V DO IO

b. Mario *le*_i da un regalo *t*_i

Mario *her* gives a present *t*

S *cl*_{IO} V DO *t*_{IO}

Raw patient scores (# correct out of 10 trials)

	<i>SVO sVO SoV soV</i>				<i>SVDI sVDI SiVD siVD</i>			
A.D.	8	6	6	7	7	5	1	4
D.R.	5	3	5	2	8	3	2	2
L.Z.	7	10	8	9	8	8	4	7
M.B.	10	9	8	8	8	7	6	5
M.G.	7	6	8	5	8	7	6	3
P.Gh.	8	7	9	6	10	10	5	7
P.Gi.	7	7	7	5	9	9	5	1
R.O.	8	7	2	5	5	8	1	5

Results

<i>SVO</i>	<i>sVO</i>	<i>SoV</i>	<i>soV</i>	<i>PVA</i>	<i>pVA</i>	<i>PVa</i>	<i>pVa</i>	<i>SVDI</i>	<i>sVDI</i>	<i>SiVD</i>	<i>siVD</i>
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(16) Cliticized Direct Objects in transitive sentences

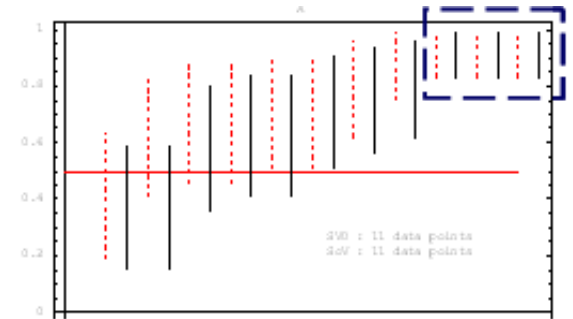
a. Mario cerca Flora

Mario seeks Flora

S V O

b. Mario *la_i* cerca *t_i*
 Mario *her* seeks *t*

S *cl_i* V *t_i*



(17) Cliticized Indirect Objects in ditransitive sentences

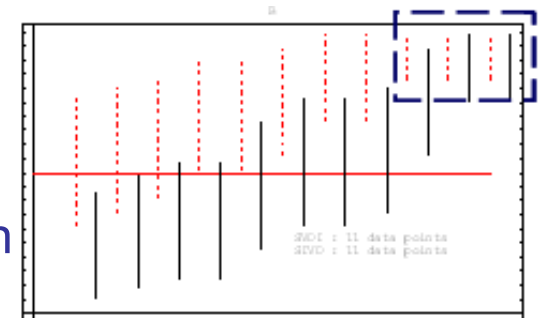
a. Mario da un regalo a Flora

Mario gives a present to Flora

S V DO IO

b. Mario *le_i* da un regalo *t_i*
 Mario *her* gives a present

S *cl_{IO}* V DO *t_{IO}*



Can these asymmetries be deduced from the TDH?

(16)' Cliticized Direct Objects in transitive sentences

a. Mario₁ t₁ cerca Flora

S * V O

|

|

agent(G) theme(G)

b. Mario₁ t₁ la₂ cerca t₂

S * cl V *

|

|

agent(S) theme(S)

(17)' Cliticized Indirect Objects in ditransitive sentences

a. Mario₁ t₁ da un regalo a Flora

S * V DO

|

|

agent(S) theme(G) goal(G)

b. Mario₁ t₂ le_i da un regalo t_i

S * cl V DO *

|

|

|

agent(S) theme(S) theme(G)

NB - Chance performance in (17b) is derived via a theme-theme conflict that brings about a thematically incoherent representation, but it all seems to work only if we drop the “bridging” assumption

2. Another Complication from Japanese and Korean: An unexpected difference within SOV Languages

(18) a. Dutch Passive

De vrouw wordt door de man ◀ *gered* *above chance*

The woman was by the man saved

b. Japanese Passive

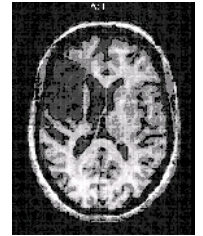
Taro-ga Hanako-ni ◀ *nagu-rare-ta* *chance*

Taro-NOM Hanako-ni hit-PASS-PAST

2 cross-linguistic differences that may be relevant:

- I. Unlike Dutch/German, Japanese has no auxiliary in passive
- II. *-ni* is a Dative case, and is not exactly like *by*, *door* or *vom*.

3. A quantitative mystery: Murky Italian Contrasts

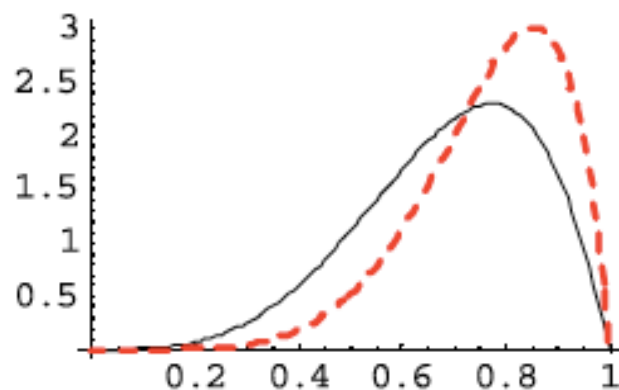


(19) a. active: *Il ragazzo abbraccia la ragazza*
The boy hugs the girl

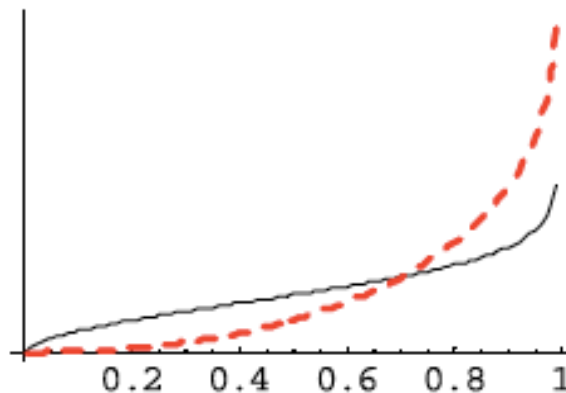
slightly above chance

b. Passive: *La ragazza è abbracciata* ◀ dal ragazzo

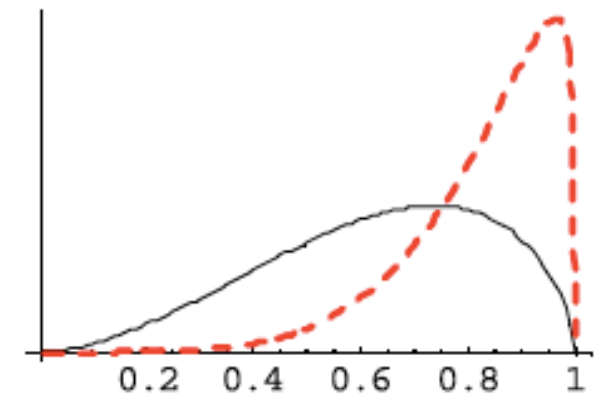
almost at chance



Caramazza *et al.* (n=38)



Luzzatti *et al.* (n=11)



Drai & Grodzinsky (n=27)

extensions

- **Generality**

- I. Can we find independent evidence for this pattern of selectivity?
- II. Do all patients perform in the same way?
- III. Is the deficit equally manifested in languages other than English, and if so, how do we think about it?
- IV. What are there implications to the normal brain?

- **Specificity**

- V. What are the bounds of the pattern of selectivity?
- VI. Do only Broca's patients exhibit this pattern?
- VII. Is there a regular relation between lesion and performance type?

the end
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Peter Pieperhoff

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Virginia Jaichenco, Martin Fuchs,

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