

# Right brain damage failures of perceptual updating in ambiguous figures



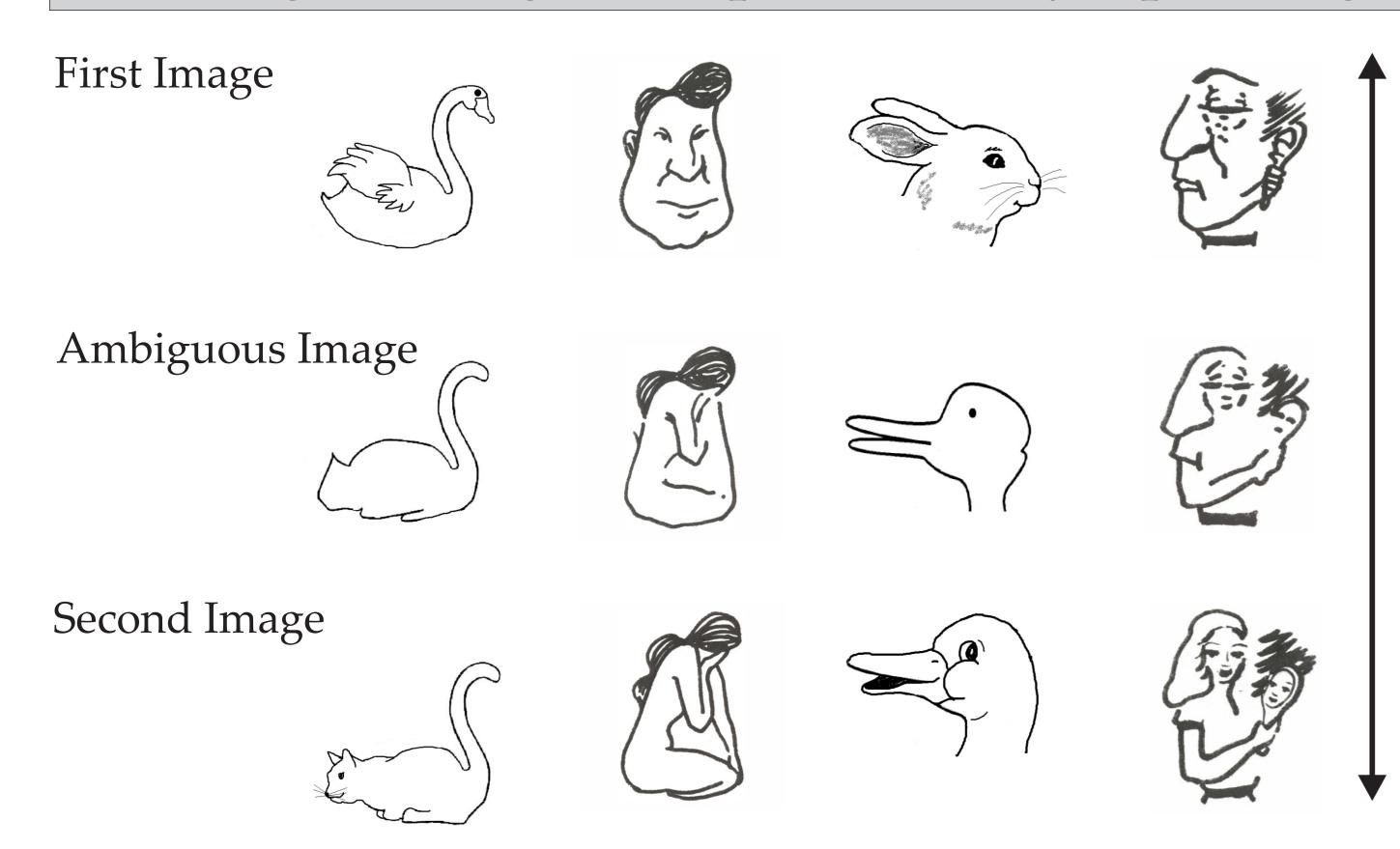
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### Search for a general updating deficit

- □ Mental model = hypothesis about the world based on experience
- □ When predictions of mental model ≠ incoming data:
  - (1) detect mismatch
- (2) revise model
- □ Updating in the right hemisphere: Danckert et al (2012): RBD impairment to exploit a changing bias in a rock, paper, scissors game.
  - (1) Impairment of model building or updating?
  - (2) Learned helplessness due to a too long task?
  - (3) Poor statistical reasoning or reward processing?
- □ If Right Hemisphere responsible for updating: Updating impairment in a different task that
  - (1) does not require learning a model in the first place
- (2) is easy & less dependent on detecting statistic regularities in the world & does not require reward processing

# Ambiguous figures: quick & easy updating

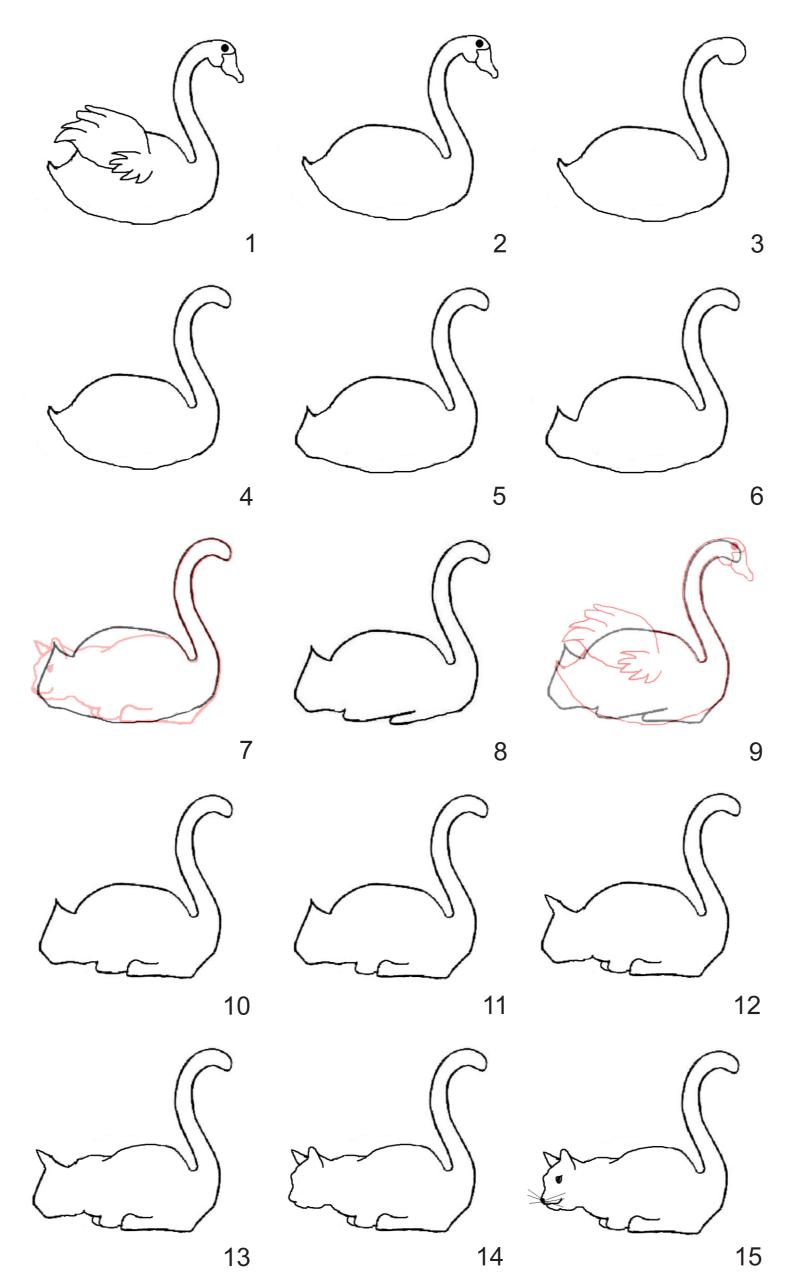


- ☐ Four picture sets based on ambiguous figures (picture # 8)
- ☐ Pictures changed gradually to the two extremes
- □ 17 pictures per picture set (15 pictures + 2 catch trials)
- □ 8 different sequences counterbalanced between participants

### Acknwoledgements:

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### Updating models based on gradual change



### **Instruction:**

"I will show you series of pictures that begin with the picture of a commonly known object. It will then change gradually over the pictures to finally show a completely different object by the end of the series. Tell me for each picture what you see".

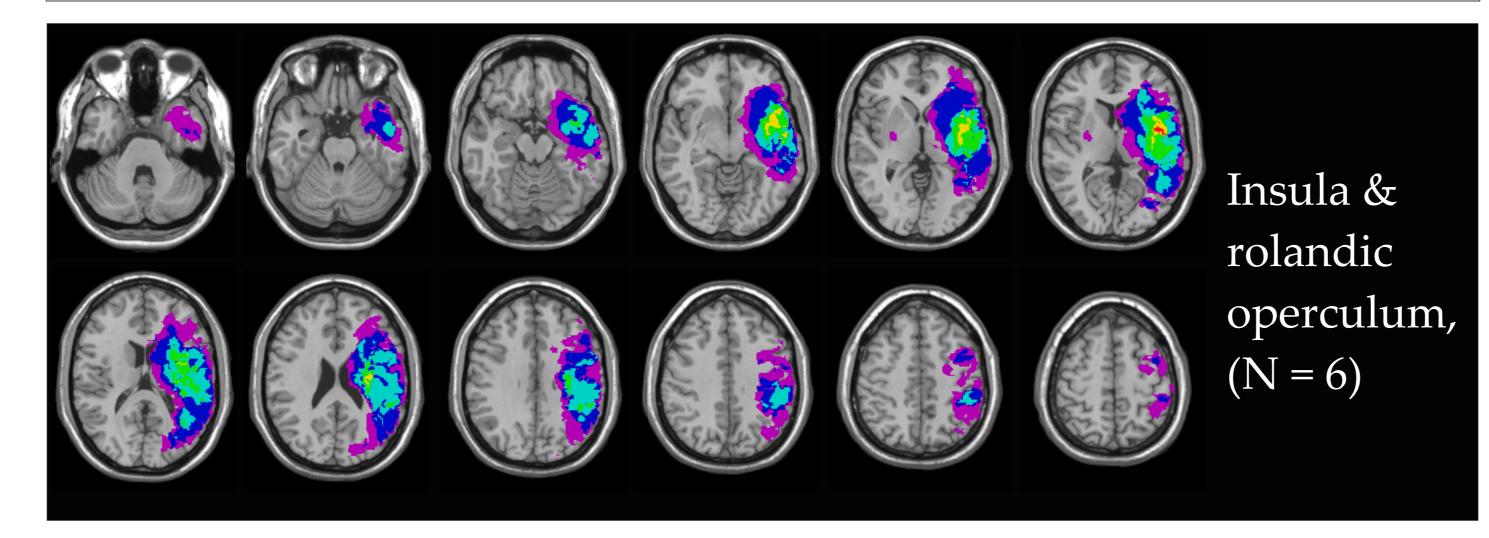
# Dependent Variable:

# first object reports

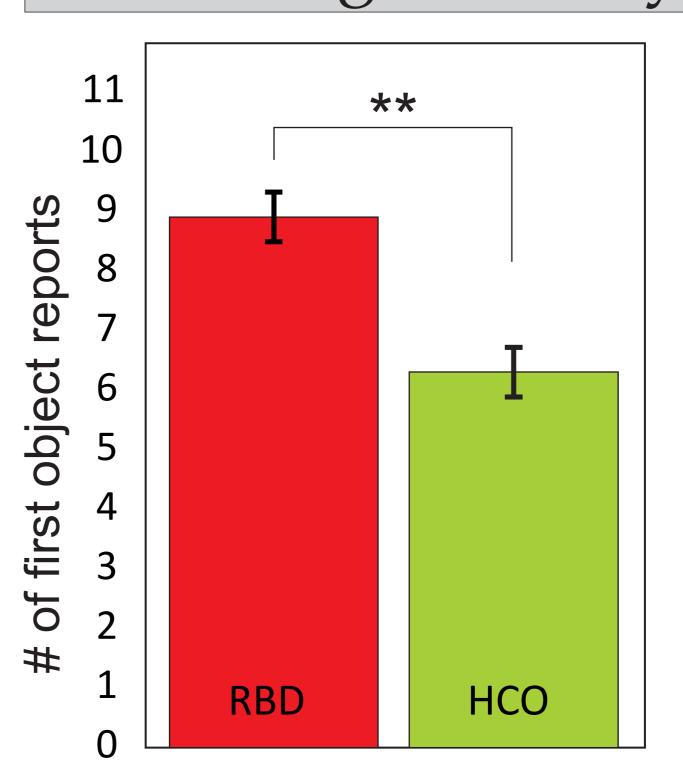
Logic: The longer participants stick with the first object, the less efficiently they update.

# Right Brain Damaged (RBD) Healthy Controls (HCO) N = 12 (8 male) N = 12 (7 male) $Moca^* = 23.17 (\pm 4.57)$ $Moca = 26.6 (\pm 2.0)$ $Age^* = 65.00 (\pm 8.10) \text{ years}$ $Age = 72.25 (\pm 5.22) \text{ years}$

## Lesions predicting the worst performance



## RBDs significantly impaired in updating



### General cognitive impairment?

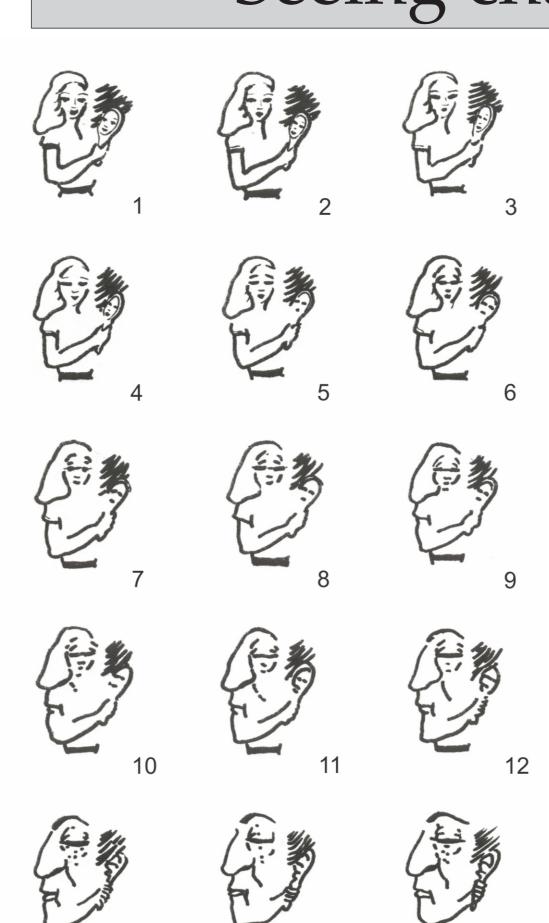
Moca & # first object reports:

HCO:  $\tau = -.68^{**}$ , p < .01 RBD:  $\tau = -.19$ , p > .40

### Perseveration?

- ✓ all participants 100% correct on catch trials
- RBDs see differences, BUT they interpret these difference in favor of the first object

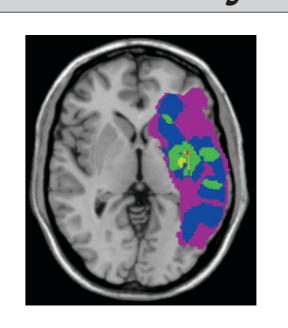
# Seeing change but not updating



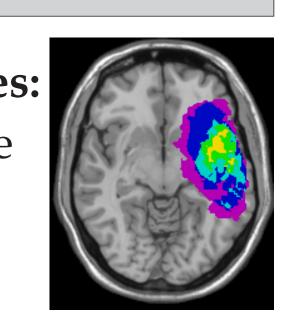
1.6	c bat hot apaating
1	Lady looking in the mirror
2	Lady looking in the mirror
3	Lady looking in the mirror
4	Lady looking in the mirror
5	Lady looking in the mirror
6	Something is going around her waist
7	She looks in a different direction
8	Mirror looks towards us
9	Woman holding a baby
10	Woman holding a baby; mouth of baby open
11	Woman holding a baby
12	Baby looking at the <b>mother</b> ; maybe choking
13	Guy
14	Guy, sleeping
15	Guy, ear

### Insula may be the key

Danckert et al (2012):
Worst performance in
the rock, paper,
scissors game



Ambiguous figures:
Worst performance
in the ambiguous
figures task



### Updating and Theory of Mind (ToM)

- ☐ Griffin et al (2006): lesions in the right BA 44 & 45 and the right insula predicts ToM impairment in RBD patients
- ☐ Rafetseder et al (in prep.): Correlation ToM & updating in 5 year olds



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