
Research Article: New Research | Cognition and Behavior

What makes eye contact special? Neural substrates of on-line mutual eye-gaze: a hyperscanning fMRI study

Takahiko Koike^{1,2}, Motofumi Sumiya^{1,2}, Eri Nakagawa¹, Shuntaro Okazaki¹ and Norihiro Sadato^{1,2,3}

¹*Division of Cerebral Integration, Department of System Neuroscience, National Institute for Physiological Sciences (NIPS), Aichi, 444-8585, Japan*

²*Department of Physiological Sciences, School of Life Sciences, The Graduate University for Advanced Studies (SOKENDAI), Kanagawa, 240-0193, Japan*

³*Biomedical Imaging Research Center (BIRC), University of Fukui, Fukui, 910-1193, Japan*

<https://doi.org/10.1523/ENEURO.0284-18.2019>

Received: 12 July 2018

Revised: 27 January 2019

Accepted: 5 February 2019

Published: 25 February 2019

T.K. and N.S. designed research; T.K., M.S., E.N., and S.O. performed research; T.K. analyzed data; T.K. and N.S. wrote the paper; S.O. contributed unpublished reagents/analytic tools.

Funding: JSPS KAKENHI
15H01846
18H04207
15H05875
16K16894

Funding: MEXT KAKENHI
15K12775

Funding: <http://doi.org/10.13039/100009619>Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED)
JP18dm0107152h0003

Funding: <http://doi.org/10.13039/501100005806>Hayao Nakayama Foundation for Science and Technology and Culture

Conflict of Interest: We have no conflicts of interest to declare.

Correspondence should be addressed to Norihiro Sadato, sadato@nips.ac.jp

Cite as: eNeuro 2019; 10.1523/ENEURO.0284-18.2019

Alerts: Sign up at www.eneuro.org/alerts to receive customized email alerts when the fully formatted version of this article is published.

Accepted manuscripts are peer-reviewed but have not been through the copyediting, formatting, or proofreading process.

Copyright © 2019 Koike et al.

This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International license, which permits unrestricted use, distribution and reproduction in any medium provided that the original work is properly attributed.

1 **What makes eye contact special? Neural substrates of on-line mutual eye-gaze: a**
2 **hyperscanning fMRI study**

3

4 **Abbreviated title:** Neural substrates of on-line mutual eye-gaze

5

6 Takahiko Koike^{1,2}, Motofumi Sumiya^{1,2}, Eri Nakagawa¹, Shuntaro Okazaki¹, and
7 Norihiro Sadato^{1,2,3}

8

9 ¹ Division of Cerebral Integration, Department of System Neuroscience, National
10 Institute for Physiological Sciences (NIPS), Aichi, Japan 444-8585

11 ² Department of Physiological Sciences, School of Life Sciences, The Graduate
12 University for Advanced Studies (SOKENDAI), Kanagawa, Japan 240-0193

13 ³ Biomedical Imaging Research Center (BIRC), University of Fukui, Fukui, Japan
14 910-1193

15

16 Author contributions: TK and NS designed research; TK, MS, EN, and SO performed
17 research; TK analyzed data; and TK and NS wrote the paper.

18

19 **Corresponding author:**

20 Norihiro Sadato, MD, PhD

21 Division of Cerebral Integration, National Institute for Physiological Sciences, Okazaki,

22 444-8585, Japan

23 Email: sadato@nips.ac.jp;

24 Phone: +81-564-55-7841; Fax: +81-564-55-7843

25

26 **Number of figures:** 6

27 **Number of tables:** 4

28 **Abstract:** 241 words

29 **Significance statement:** 65 words

30 **Introduction:** 710 words

31 **Discussion:** 2524 words

32

33 **Acknowledgments**

34

35 **Conflicts of Interest**

36 We have no conflicts of interest to declare.

37

38 **Funding sources**

39 This study was supported by JSPS KAKENHI #15H01846 to NS, MEXT KAKENHI
40 #15K12775, JSPS KAKENHI #18H04207 and JSPS KAKENHI #15H05875 to TK, and
41 JSPS KAKENHI #16K16894 to EN. This research is partially supported by the
42 Strategic Research Program for Brain Sciences from Japan Agency for Medical
43 Research and Development (AMED) under grant number JP18dm0107152h0003 and by
44 the HAYAO NAKAYAMA Foundation for Science & Technology and Culture.

45

46

47

48 Abstract

49 Automatic mimicry is a critical element of social interaction. A salient type of automatic
50 mimicry is eye contact characterized by sharing of affective and mental states among
51 individuals. We conducted a hyperscanning functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI)
52 study involving online (LIVE) and delayed off-line (REPLAY) conditions to test our hypothesis
53 that recurrent interaction through eye contact activates the limbic mirror system, including the
54 anterior cingulate cortex (ACC) and anterior insula (AIC), both of which are critical for
55 self-awareness. Sixteen pairs of human adults participated in the experiment. Given that an
56 eye-blink represents an individual's attentional window toward the partner, we analyzed
57 pairwise time-series data for eye-blinks. We used multivariate autoregression analysis to
58 calculate the noise contribution ratio (NCR) as an index of how a participant's directional
59 attention was influenced by that of their partner. NCR was greater in the LIVE than in the
60 REPLAY condition, indicating mutual perceptual-motor interaction during real-time eye
61 contact. Relative to the REPLAY condition, the LIVE condition was associated with greater
62 activation in the left cerebellar hemisphere, vermis, and ACC, accompanied by enhanced
63 functional connectivity between ACC and right AIC. Given the roles of the cerebellum in
64 sensorimotor prediction and ACC in movement initiation, ACC-cerebellar activation may
65 represent their involvement in modulating visual input related to the partner's movement, which
66 may, in turn, involve the limbic mirror system. Our findings indicate that mutual interaction
67 during eye contact is mediated by the cerebellum and limbic mirror system.

68 Significance Statement (65 words)

69 Eye contact is a key element that connects humans during social communication. We focused on
70 a previously unaddressed characteristic of eye contact: real-time mutual interaction as a form of
71 automatic mimicry. Our results indicate that real-time interaction during eye contact is mediated

72 by the cerebellum and limbic mirror system. These findings underscore the importance of the
73 mirror system and cerebellum in real-time unconscious social interaction.

74

75 Introduction

76 Automatic mimicry refers to unconscious or automatic imitation of movement
77 (Prochazkova and Kret, 2017). It is a critical part of human social interaction because it is
78 closely tied to the formation of relationships and feeling of empathy (Chartrand and van Baaren,
79 2009). Automatic mimicry occurs when two or more individuals engage in the same behavior
80 within a short window of time (e.g., facial expressions, body postures, laughter, yawning)
81 (Prochazkova and Kret, 2017). Automatic mimicry induces synchronous behavior through
82 recurrent interaction (Okazaki et al. 2015), thereby enabling spontaneous synchronization (e.g.,
83 clapping) and goal-directed cooperation (Sebanz et al., 2006).

84 Eye contact is one of the most salient types of automatic mimicry, as two people must
85 be able to synchronize their eye movements to make eye contact (Prochazkova and Kret, 2017).
86 Eye gaze provides a communicative signal that transfers information regarding emotional and
87 mental states (Emery, 2000). Eye contact, or mutual gaze, conveys the message, “I am attending
88 to you,” thereby promoting effective communication and enhancing social interaction (Farroni
89 et al., 2002; Schilbach, 2015).

90 Recent functional MRI studies have revealed that eye contact activates the social brain,
91 including the fusiform gyrus (George et al., 2001; Calder et al., 2002; Pageler et al., 2003),
92 anterior (Calder et al., 2002; Wicker et al., 2003) and posterior superior temporal gyri (Pelphrey
93 et al., 2004; Schilbach et al., 2006; Conty et al., 2007), medial prefrontal cortex (Calder et al.,
94 2002; Kampe et al., 2003; Schilbach et al., 2006; Conty et al., 2007), orbitofrontal cortex
95 (Wicker et al., 2003; Conty et al., 2007), and amygdala (Kawashima et al., 1999; Wicker et al.,

96 2003; Sato et al., 2004) (see Senju and Johnson, 2009 for review). The abovementioned studies
97 were conducted using single-participant functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) data,
98 contrasting the neural activation elicited by an eye-contact event with that elicited by an
99 eye-aversion event. However, neural substrates underlying recurrent interaction during eye
100 contact that result in the development of shared, pair-specific psychological states (e.g.,
101 attention and emotion) remain unknown.

102 The mirror neuron system plays a role during mutual interaction through joint
103 attention (Saito et al. 2010; Koike et al. 2016). The existence of two main networks with mirror
104 properties has been demonstrated: one residing in the parietal lobe and premotor cortex plus
105 caudal part of the inferior frontal gyrus (parieto-frontal mirror system), and the other formed by
106 the insula and anterior medial frontal cortex (limbic mirror system) (Cattaneo and Rizzolatti,
107 2009). The parieto-frontal mirror system is involved in recognizing voluntary behavior, while
108 the limbic mirror system is devoted to recognizing affective behavior (Cattaneo and Rizzolatti
109 2009). We hypothesized that mutual interaction involving eye contact activates the limbic mirror
110 system.

111 This study aimed to elucidate the behavioral and neural representations of mutual
112 interaction during eye contact using hyperscanning fMRI (Koike et al., 2016). The neural
113 activity associated with real-time eye contact was compared with that of non-real-time eye
114 contact using a double-video system (Murray and Trevarthen, 1985). Eye contact is
115 characterized by a two-way, behavioral stimulus-to-brain coupling, such that the behavior of a
116 partner is coupled to the activation in the brain of the other (Hari and Kujala, 2009). Thus,
117 face-to-face interaction through eye contact can be regarded as a mirrored reactive–predictive
118 controller system consisting of two controllers (Wolpert et al., 2003). We used eye-blink as a
119 behavioral index of mutual exchange of communicative cues between two participants during

120 eye contact. As the blinks of others can be easily recognized due to their relatively long duration
121 (200–400 ms, VanderWerf et al. 2003), eye blinks can provide social communication cues
122 (Nakano and Kitazawa, 2010). Further, blink rates change with internal states such as arousal,
123 emotion, and cognitive load (Ponder and Kennedy, 1927; Hall, 1945; Stern et al., 1984). Finally,
124 the timing of eye-blinks is associated with implicit (Herrmann, 2010) and explicit (Orchard and
125 Stern, 1991) attentional pauses in task content. Nakano and Kitazawa (2010) observed that eye
126 blinks of a listener and speaker were synchronized during face-to-face conversations, and
127 concluded that eye-blinks define the attentional temporal window and that its synchronization
128 reflects smooth communication between interactants through sharing of attention in the
129 temporal domain. In this study, we used hyperscanning fMRI to analyze brain activation related
130 to eye-blinks using different measures: activation, modulation of functional connectivity, and
131 inter-brain synchronization.

132

133

134 Materials and Methods

135 Participants

136 Thirty-four volunteers participated in the experiment (20 men, 14 women; mean age \pm
137 standard deviation: 21.8 years \pm 2.12 years). Participant pairs were determined prior to the
138 experiment, and consisted of participants of the same sex. None of the participants had met each
139 other prior to the experiment. All participants except one were right-handed, as evidenced by the
140 Edinburgh Handedness Inventory (Oldfield, 1971). None of the participants had a history of
141 neurological or psychiatric illness. The protocol was approved by the ethics committee of the
142 Institute. The study was conducted in compliance with the national legislation and the Code of
143 Ethical Principles for Medical Research Involving Human Subjects of the World Medical
144 Association (Declaration of Helsinki). All participants provided written informed consent prior
145 to the experiment.

146

147 Design and Procedure

148 Experimental setup

149 In order to measure neural activation during the online exchange of eye signals
150 between pairs of participants, we used a hyperscanning paradigm with two MRI scanners
151 (Magnetom Verio 3T, Siemens, Erlangen, Germany) installed side-by-side in parallel, sharing
152 one control room and a triggering system (Morita et al., 2014; Koike et al., 2016). The top
153 component of the standard 32-channel coil was replaced by a small four-channel flex coil
154 (Siemens) attached with a special holding fixture (Takashima Seisakusho, Tokyo, Japan)
155 (Morita et al., 2014; Koike et al., 2016) to fully visualize the eye region. Online grayscale video
156 cameras were used during scanning to identify reciprocal face-to-face interaction (NAC Image
157 Technology, Tokyo, Japan). The cameras captured images of each participant's face, including

158 the eyes and eyebrows. The captured images were in turn projected using a liquid crystal display
159 (LCD) projector (CP-SX12000J, Hitachi, Tokyo, Japan) onto a half-transparent screen that
160 stood behind the scanner bed. The captured images were also entered into the picture delay
161 system (VM-800, Sugioka System, Osaka, Japan), which could output video delayed by an
162 arbitrary amount of time. For analysis, video pictures used in the experiment were transferred to
163 a video recording system (Panasonic, Osaka, Japan). We recorded facial movement in AVI
164 format (640×480 pixels, 30 frames/s). While the exact values varied depending on the
165 participant's head size, the screen stood approximately 190 cm from the participants' eyes, and
166 the stimuli were presented at a visual angle of $13.06^\circ \times 10.45^\circ$. The delay between the capture
167 and projection of the participants' face was controlled using a hardware device (VM-800, Ito Co.,
168 Ltd., Osaka, Japan) connected between the video camera and projector. The delay was set at 20 s
169 for the REPLAY condition and 0 s for the LIVE condition. The intrinsic delay of the online video
170 system in this experimental setup was approximately 100 ms.

171

172 Experimental conditions

173 We adopted a conventional blocked design for this study. Each run included three
174 conditions: LIVE, REPLAY, and REST. During the LIVE condition, participants were presented
175 with a live video of their partner's face in real time (Figure 1B), allowing for the online
176 exchange of information between the two participants. We instructed participants to gaze into
177 the right or left eye of their partners and think about their partner: what he/she is thinking about,
178 what is his/her personality, how he/she is feeling. The participants were instructed not to exhibit
179 explicit facial expressions such as laughing or grimacing. We also informed them that we will
180 stop MRI scanning if they were not gazing into the partner's eyes for an extended period of time.
181 The REPLAY condition was identical to the LIVE condition, except that the participant watched

182 a video picture of their partner's face presented at a delay of 20 s. Therefore, there was no
183 real-time interaction between the participants (Figure 1C). During the REPLAY condition, the
184 participant was informed that all the videos they were watching represented their partner's face
185 in real-time. During the REST condition (baseline), participants were required to gaze at the
186 blank screen (Figure 1A). Although we monitored the participants to ensure that they do not
187 fall asleep, two participants fell asleep during the experiment, and we had to restart the
188 experiment after a short break.

189 Before starting the run, a live video of the partner was presented on the screen to confirm
190 that an interactive partner was in the other scanner. Following confirmation, the video was
191 turned off. The first run began with the REST condition for 30 s, followed by the LIVE,
192 REPLAY, and REST conditions for 20 s each. After each 20-s presentation of the partner's face,
193 the screen was turned off for 1 s, and the condition was switched (i.e., from LIVE to REPLAY,
194 REPLAY to REST, etc.) (Figure 1D). The 1-s interval was designed to prevent participants from
195 becoming aware of the difference between the LIVE and REPLAY conditions. The order of
196 presenting the conditions was pseudo-randomized. The conditions were switched manually
197 during the fMRI run according to a predefined experimental design. Each run consisted of 8
198 LIVE and 8 REPLAY conditions. The total length of each run was 8 min 30 s, and the entire
199 scan consisted of 4 runs. Throughout the experiment, none of the participants exhibited any
200 sudden display of emotions such as laughter.

201 An interview following the experiment revealed that only 1 female pair realized that a
202 delayed facial picture was presented in one of the conditions during the experiment; thus, the
203 requirements of the experiment were not fulfilled in the pair. Data were analyzed from the
204 remaining 32 participants (20 men, 12 women; mean age \pm standard deviation: 21.8 years \pm 2.03
205 years).

206

207 *MRI data acquisition*

208 Brain activation data were acquired using interleaved T2*-weighted, gradient echo,
209 echo planar imaging (EPI) sequences. Volumes consisted of 60 axial slices, each 2.0-mm thick
210 with a 0.5-mm gap, covering the entire cerebral cortex and cerebellum. The time interval
211 between two successive acquisitions of the same image (repetition time or TR) was 1000 ms,
212 with a flip angle of 80° and echo time (TE) of 30 ms. The field-of-view (FOV) was 192 mm,
213 and the in-plane matrix size was 64 × 64 pixels. We used the multi-band accelerated sequence
214 developed at the University of Minnesota (Moeller et al., 2010), with the multi-band factor set
215 to 6. Thus, 510 volumes (8 min 30 s) were collected for each run. For anatomical reference,
216 T1-weighted high-resolution images were obtained using a three-dimensional
217 magnetization-prepared rapid-acquisition gradient echo sequence (MPRAGE, TR = 1800 ms,
218 TE = 2.97 ms, FA = 9°, FOV = 256 mm, voxel dimensions = 1 × 1 × 1 mm³) and a full
219 32-channel phased array coil.

220

221 *Data analysis*

222 *Behavioral data analysis*

223 *Extraction of eye-blink time-series*

224 Eye-blink was chosen as a behavioral index of interaction during mutual gaze (Koike
225 et al., 2016). We calculated the “*motion energy*” using the AVI video of the participant’s face
226 during the task (Schippers et al., 2010) to evaluate the time-series of eye-blinks. Due to
227 technical difficulties with the video recording system, data from 2 pairs were unavailable. In
228 total, video data of faces from 14 pairs (18 men, 10 women; mean age ± standard deviation:
229 21.8 years ± 2.17 years) were subjected to the analysis described below.

230 Figure 2 illustrates the procedure used to calculate the motion energy time-series
231 representing eye-blinks. First, the spatial window (400×100 pixels) of the AVI video was
232 manually set to cover the eye area of each participant. Second, using the pixel intensity of the
233 defined eye area, we obtained the motion energy index, which can detect the occurrence of
234 motion only from a series of pictures (Schippers et al., 2010). The first-order difference in
235 picture intensity was calculated frame-by-frame in each pixel, and the average of the absolute
236 value of differences in each frame was calculated. This process was used to obtain motion
237 energy values at specific time points. The calculation was repeated to obtain the motion energy
238 time-series reflecting eye-blinks during each run. Third, we divided the time-series in each run
239 into shorter sub-sections corresponding to the LIVE, REPLAY, and REST conditions. Although
240 each condition lasted 20 s (Figure 1D), we analyzed only the final 15 s of each condition to
241 minimize the effect of brightness instability (largely due to the procedure for switching
242 conditions). We obtained 8 time-series for each condition of a single run. As each participant
243 underwent 4 runs, 32 time-series were obtained for each condition per participant. Finally, the
244 effect of the linear trend in the data was removed using the “detrend” function implemented in
245 MATLAB. The whole procedure was performed using a MATLAB script (MATLAB 14;
246 Mathworks, Natick, MA, USA) developed in-house.

247

248 Number of eye-blinks

249 To determine whether the number of eye-blinks itself was influenced by differences in the type
250 of task, we calculated the number of eye-blinks in the LIVE, REPLAY, and REST conditions
251 using the extracted time-series of motion energy. We first adapted the peak-detection function
252 implemented in MATLAB, which automatically detected and marked the time-point at which
253 the eye-blink appeared to occur (see Figure 2). Next, we visually examined whether the detected

254 time-point was acceptable. Finally, we calculated the average number of eye-blinks in 1 block
 255 (15 s) for each participant. All calculations were performed using a MATLAB script (MATLAB
 256 2014) developed in-house.

257

258 Causality analysis between eye-blink time-series

259 Several hyperscanning studies have used synchronization or correlation as an
 260 index of interaction (Babiloni and Astolfi, 2012; Koike et al., 2016), neither of which can
 261 evaluate the directional effect. In this study, we used an Akaike causality model (Akaike, 1968;
 262 Ozaki, 2012), which can delineate the causal direction and quantify its effect. The Akaike
 263 causality model utilizes a multivariate autoregressive (MVAR) model under the steady state
 264 assumption and can quantify the proportion of the power-spectral density of an observed
 265 variable from the independent noise of another variable. The quantified causality, that is the
 266 noise contribution ratio (NCR) index, is regarded as a measure of how one variable is
 267 influenced by another. In this study, we assumed that the eye-blink time-series satisfies a steady
 268 state assumption at least in one block. The NCR values were calculated as follows.

269 First, an MVAR model was applied to a pair of time-series data, $x(t)$ and $y(t)$, using the
 270 linear sum of the history of the two time-series, as follows:

$$271 \quad x(t) = \sum_{i=1}^N a_i x(t-i) + \sum_{i=1}^N b_i y(t-i) + u_x(t) \quad (\text{Eq. 1})$$

$$272 \quad y(t) = \sum_{i=1}^N c_i x(t-i) + \sum_{i=1}^N d_i y(t-i) + u_y(t), \quad (\text{Eq. 2})$$

273 where the time-series $x(t)$ and $y(t)$ correspond to the time-series of the participant's
 274 eye-blinks and that of the partner, respectively. In these equations, a_i , b_i , c_i , and d_i

275 indicate AR coefficients, while u_x and u_y indicate the residual noise in the eye blinks of the
 276 participant and partner, respectively. The AR order N defines the duration of the history. For
 277 each pair of time-series data, the AR order N was estimated to minimize the Akaike information
 278 criterion in the range from 1 to 10. Next, we estimated the power spectrum of the two
 279 time-series based on the sum of the contributions of the x -specific noise (i.e., $|\alpha(f)|^2 \sigma_{ux}^2$)
 280 and y -specific noise (i.e., $|\beta(f)|^2 \sigma_{uy}^2$). Here, $\alpha(f)$ and $I2(f)$ are frequency response
 281 functions, derived from Fourier transformation via an impulse response function, using a set of
 282 AR coefficients, while σ_{ux} and σ_{uy} indicate the variance of residual noise u_x and u_y ,
 283 respectively. The $NCR_{y \rightarrow x}(f)$, an index reflecting how the participant's eye blinks $x(t)$ are
 284 influenced by the partner's eye-blinks $y(t)$, was calculated from the ratio of part of the spectral
 285 density of $x(t)$ contributed by σ_{uy}^2 to the total spectral density of $x(t)$ at frequency f .
 286 Therefore, $NCR_{y \rightarrow x}(f)$ can be expressed as follows:

$$287 \quad NCR_{y \rightarrow x}(f) = \frac{|\beta(f)|^2 \sigma_{uy}^2}{|\alpha(f)|^2 \sigma_{ux}^2 + |\beta(f)|^2 \sigma_{uy}^2}. \quad (\text{Eq. 3})$$

288 To assess how $x(t)$ is influenced by $y(t)$ across the whole frequency range, we
 289 mathematically integrated NCR values via trapezoidal numerical integration as follows:

$$290 \quad \Sigma NCR_{y \rightarrow x} = \int_0^{f_s/2} NCR_{y \rightarrow x}(f) df, \quad (\text{Eq. 4})$$

291 where f_s is the sampling frequency of the time-series $x(t)$ and $y(t)$. In this study, f_s was 30 Hz,
 292 based on the frame rate of the video data. We collected 32 time-series for each condition.
 293 Therefore, our calculations yielded 32 ΣNCR values for each condition per participant. These 32

294 ΣNCR values were averaged to calculate one summarized ΣNCR value for each participant in
295 each condition. Using the summarized ΣNCR , we applied statistical analyses to determine
296 whether the influence of the partner differed between conditions. The entire procedure was
297 performed using a MATLAB script (MATLAB 2014) written in-house.

298 In this study, we calculated four ΣNCR values to assess how a participant's eye-blink
299 was influenced by that of the partner. Firstly, in the REST condition, participants could see
300 nothing on the screen. Therefore, the ΣNCR value in the REST condition, i.e. $\Sigma NCR_{F \rightarrow F}^{REST}$, was
301 regarded as a baseline of causal relationship. In the LIVE condition, the face of one participant
302 was immediately projected on the screen, and the partner was able to see the face in real time. In
303 this condition, we calculated ΣNCR between two participants' time-series, i.e. $\Sigma NCR_{F \rightarrow F}^{LIVE}$. The
304 ΣNCR value represents how participants influence their partners when they mutually interact
305 with each other in real-time. Next, in the REPLAY condition, two types of causality were
306 calculated- first, the ΣNCR value between actual eye-blinks, like in the LIVE condition, i.e.
307 $\Sigma NCR_{F \rightarrow F}^{REPLAY}$; and second, the ΣNCR value in the REPLAY condition representing how the
308 eye-blinks projected on the screen has an influence on the actual eye-blink time series,
309 $\Sigma NCR_{S \rightarrow F}^{REPLAY}$. While it is possible that a participant's face receives influence from the delayed
310 picture on the screen (Nakano and Kitazawa, 2010), influence from an actual eye-blink to the
311 screen (reverse-influence) is theoretically absent. We also calculated the ΣNCR value, i.e.
312 $\Sigma NCR_{F \rightarrow F}^{REST}$. It represents how participants are influenced by video picture, while there could be
313 only unidirectional influence from the screen to actual eye-blinks.

314

315 Estimation of statistical inferences and data visualization

316 All statistical inference estimation for the behavioral data analysis was performed
317 using R (RRID: SCR_001905). We analyzed three types of behavioral measures. (1) The

318 number of eye-blinks is highly influenced by the degree of attention (Ponder and Kennedy,
319 1927; Hall 1945; Stern et al. 1984; Herrmann, 2010; Orchard and Stern, 1991) and could reflect
320 the differences across conditions. We tested the number of eye-blinks in three conditions using
321 repeated-measures analysis of variance (ANOVA). (2) Σ NCR values: We have four Σ NCR
322 values for each participant- $\Sigma\text{NCR}_{F \rightarrow F}^{\text{REST}}$ in the REST condition, $\Sigma\text{NCR}_{F \rightarrow F}^{\text{REPLAY}}$ and $\Sigma\text{NCR}_{S \rightarrow F}^{\text{REPLAY}}$
323 in the REPLAY condition, and $\Sigma\text{NCR}_{F \rightarrow F}^{\text{LIVE}}$ in the LIVE condition. The differences between them
324 were assessed using repeated-measures ANOVA. (3) Enhanced Σ NCR values: In the REST
325 condition, participants know there is no interaction with a partner as nothing is projected on the
326 screen. Therefore, theoretically speaking, the REST condition could be regarded as a baseline
327 condition. We calculated the increase in Σ NCR values (enhancement) by subtracting the
328 $\Sigma\text{NCR}_{F \rightarrow F}^{\text{REST}}$ value from each of the Σ NCR values. Thus, we have three enhanced Σ NCR values
329 for each participant: $\Sigma\text{NCR}_{F \rightarrow F}^{\text{LIVE}} - \Sigma\text{NCR}_{F \rightarrow F}^{\text{REST}}$, $\Sigma\text{NCR}_{F \rightarrow F}^{\text{REPLAY}} - \Sigma\text{NCR}_{F \rightarrow F}^{\text{REST}}$, and $\Sigma\text{NCR}_{S \rightarrow F}^{\text{REPLAY}} -$
330 $\Sigma\text{NCR}_{F \rightarrow F}^{\text{REST}}$. Repeated-measures ANOVA was used to test the differences between these values.
331 In all ANOVA procedures, the effect size was measured using the generalized eta-squared value
332 (Olejnik and Algina, 2003). In the post-hoc pair-wise analysis, estimated p-values were adjusted
333 using Bonferroni correction. The confidence levels for post-hoc pair-wise analyses were
334 calculated via Franz-Loftus's pair-wise confidence intervals (Franz and Loftus, 2012). The
335 details of the statistical methods used in this behavioral data analysis are listed in Table 1. All
336 the graphs were prepared using the RainCloudPlots R-script (Allen et al., 2018)
337 (<https://github.com/RainCloudPlots/RainCloudPlots>), which could provide a combination of
338 box, violin, and dataset plots. In the dataset plot, each dot represents a data point, respectively.
339 Outliers were defined by two standard deviations and are represented in Figure 2 by red
340 diamonds. In the boxplot, the line dividing the box represents the median of the data, while the
341 ends of the box represent the upper and lower quartiles. The extreme lines show the highest and

342 lowest values excluding outliers defined by 2.0 standard deviations.

343

344 Neuroimaging analysis

345 Image preprocessing

346 The first 10 volumes (10 s) of each fMRI run were discarded to allow for stabilization
347 of the magnetization, and the remaining 500 volumes per run (total of 2,000 volumes per
348 participant) were used for the analysis. The data were analyzed using statistical parametric
349 mapping (SPM12, Wellcome Trust Center for Neuroimaging, London, UK)
350 (RRID:SCR_007037) implemented in MATLAB 2014 (RRID: SCR_001622). All volumes were
351 realigned for motion correction. The whole-head T1-weighted high-resolution MPRAGE
352 volume was co-registered with the mean EPI volume. The T1-weighted image was normalized
353 to the Montreal Neurological Institute template brain using a nonlinear basis function in SPM12.
354 The same normalization parameters were applied to all EPI volumes. All normalized EPI
355 images were spatially smoothed in three dimensions using a Gaussian kernel (full-width at
356 half-maximum = 8 mm).

357

358 Estimation of task-related activation using univariate generalized linear modeling (GLM)

359 Due to technical difficulties, we could not acquire fMRI data from 1 pair. Therefore,
360 we analyzed whole fMRI data acquired from 30 participants (18 men, 12 women; mean age \pm
361 standard deviation: 21.7 years \pm 2.10 years). Statistical analysis was conducted at two levels.
362 First, individual task-related activation was evaluated. Second, summary data for each
363 participant were incorporated into a second-level analysis using a random effects model
364 (Friston et al., 1999) to make inferences at a population-level.

365 In the individual-level analysis, the blood oxygenation level-dependent (BOLD)

366 time-series representing the brain activation of each participant was first modeled using a
367 boxcar function convolved with a hemodynamic-response function and filtered using a
368 high-pass filter (128 s), while controlling for the effect of runs. Serial autocorrelation assuming
369 a first-order autoregressive model was estimated from the pooled active voxels using the
370 restricted maximum likelihood procedure and used to whiten the data (Friston et al., 2002). No
371 global scaling was applied. The model parameters were estimated using the least-squares
372 algorithm on the high-pass-filtered and whitened data and design matrix. Estimates for each of
373 the model parameters were compared with the linear contrasts to test hypotheses regarding
374 region-specific condition effects. Next, the weighted contrasts of the parameter estimate (i.e.,
375 LIVE > REST and REPLAY > REST) in the individual analyses were incorporated into the
376 group analysis. Contrast images obtained via individual analyses represented the normalized
377 task-related increment of the MR signal relative to the control condition (i.e., the REST
378 condition) for each participant.

379 In the group-level analysis, we investigated differences in brain activation between the
380 LIVE and REPLAY conditions using these contrast images and the random-effect model
381 implemented in SPM12. We analyzed this data using the paired t-test. The resulting set of voxel
382 values for each contrast constituted a statistical parametric map of the t-statistic (SPM {t}). The
383 threshold for significance of the SPM {t} was set at $p < 0.05$ with family-wise error (FWE)
384 correction at the cluster level for the entire brain (Friston et al., 1996). To control family-wise
385 error rates using random field theory (Eklund et al., 2016), the height threshold was set at
386 uncorrected $p < 0.001$, which is conservative enough to depict cluster-level inference with the
387 parametric procedure (Flandin and Friston, 2017). To validate the statistical inference with
388 parametric method, we also tested the statistical significance of activation using a nonparametric
389 permutation test implemented in the SnPM13 toolbox (RRID: SCR_002092; (Nichols and

390 Holmes, 2002)). We used the non-parametric paired t-test with no variance smoothing; the
391 number of permutations was set at 10000. The SnPM toolbox did not yield statistical
392 significance at all the voxels reported in SPM, thus the p-values for some voxels have not been
393 listed in the tables.

394

395 Generalized psycho-physiological interaction analysis

396 Next, we performed generalized psycho-physiological interaction (gPPI) analysis
397 (Friston et al., 1997; McLaren et al., 2012) using the CONN toolbox (Whitfield-Gabrieli and
398 Nieto-Castanon, 2012) (RRID: SCR_009550) in order to reveal how effective connectivity from
399 the LIVE- or REPLAY-specific regions (towards other brain regions) was altered between the
400 LIVE and REPLAY conditions. For this purpose, we selected three clusters based on the LIVE
401 > REPLAY contrast defined by the results of univariate GLM analysis (Figure 3, Table 2) as
402 seed regions for the gPPI analysis. We used conventional seed-to-voxel gPPI analysis in which
403 the whole brain is the search area. The components associated with a linear trend, cerebrospinal
404 fluid (CSF), white-matter (WM), and experimental tasks (i.e., LIVE and REPLAY effects) were
405 removed from the BOLD time-series as confounding signals. Using the residual time-series,
406 gPPI analysis was performed to evaluate whether the effective connectivity from the seed region
407 was modulated by the task condition (i.e., the LIVE or REPLAY condition) at the individual
408 level. This individual-level analysis produced contrast images representing the modulation of
409 effective connectivity from the seed region. Up to this point, all procedures were conducted
410 using the CONN toolbox. Finally, we used these contrast images and the random-effect model
411 implemented in SPM12 to test whether any regions exhibited significant differences in effective
412 connectivity between the LIVE and REPLAY conditions. Analyses were assessed at $p < 0.05$
413 with FWE correction at the cluster level. The height threshold to form each cluster was set at an

414 uncorrected p value of 0.001. This relatively high cluster-forming threshold is enough to prevent
415 the failure of multiple-comparison problem in cluster-level statistical inference (Eklund et al.,
416 2016; Flandin and Friston, 2017). We also listed statistical values estimated by the SnPM
417 toolbox with a nonparametric permutation test.

418

419 Inter-brain synchronization analysis

420 We tested for differences in the inter-brain synchronization of the LIVE and REPLAY
421 conditions using conventional voxel-to-voxel method employed by previous hyperscanning
422 fMRI studies that can identify inter-brain synchronization of activation without any prior
423 assumptions (Saito et al., 2010; Tanabe et al., 2012). We focused on the spontaneous fluctuation
424 of BOLD signal that is unrelated to the task-related activation or deactivation (Fair et al., 2007).
425 First, the task-related activation/deactivation was removed from the BOLD time-series using the
426 GLM model implemented in the SPM12. This yielded 3D-Nifti files representing residual
427 time-series that are independent of task-related activation/deactivation compared to baseline, i.e.,
428 the REST condition. Second, we divided the original time-series into three sub-time-series
429 based on the experimental design: LIVE, REPLAY, and REST conditions. Third, we
430 concatenated sub-time-series into one long time-series. The length of the LIVE- and
431 REPLAY-related residual time-series was 640 volumes. Next, we calculated the inter-brain
432 synchronization between the voxels representing the same MNI coordinates (x, y, z) in the two
433 participants using the Pearson's correlation coefficient. This computation was performed using a
434 MATLAB script developed in-house. The correlation coefficient r was transformed to the
435 standardized z-score using Fisher's r-to-z transformation. Finally, we obtained two 3D-Nifti
436 images representing inter-brain synchronization in the LIVE and REPLAY conditions per pair.

437 We conducted the random-effect model analysis in SPM12 at the group level. The

438 normalized inter-brain synchronization images were used in the group level analysis. Here, the
439 paired t-test was used to test the differences in inter-brain synchronization between the LIVE
440 and REPLAY conditions. The resulting set of voxel values for each contrast constituted a
441 statistical parametric map of the t statistic (SPM {t}). The threshold for significance of the SPM
442 {t} was set at $p < 0.05$ with family-wise error (FWE) correction at the cluster level for the entire
443 brain (Friston et al., 1996); the height threshold was set at an uncorrected p value of 0.001. This
444 cluster threshold is conservative enough to prevent failure in cluster-level inference (Eklund et
445 al., 2016; Flandin and Friston, 2017). The statistical inference was also estimated by a
446 non-parametric permutation test using the SnPM toolbox, like the GLM and gPPI analyses.
447 Anatomical labeling was based on Automated Anatomical Labeling (Tzourio-Mazoyer et al.,
448 2002) and the Anatomy toolbox v1.8 (Eickhoff et al., 2005). Final images have been displayed
449 on a standard template brain image (<http://www.bic.mni.mcgill.ca/ServicesAtlases/Colin27>)
450 using MRICron (<https://www.nitrc.org/projects/mricron>; Rorden & Brett, 2000).

451

452 Results

453 Behavioral index

454 Figure 3A shows the average number of eye-blinks per block. Repeated-measures
455 ANOVA revealed a significant effect of condition (Table 1, a) ($F(2,54) = 13.1814$, $p < 0.0001$,
456 $\eta_g^2 = 0.0354$). A post-hoc comparison with Bonferroni correction revealed that there were no
457 significant differences in the number of eye-blinks between the LIVE and REPLAY conditions
458 (Table 1, d) ($t(27) = 2.3522$, $p = 0.0786$, Bonferroni correction), while the number of eye-blinks
459 was greater in the REST condition than in the LIVE (Table 1, b) ($t(27) = 3.9464$, $p = 0.0015$,
460 Bonferroni correction) and REPLAY (Table 1, c) ($t(27) = 3.8499$, $p = 0.0021$, Bonferroni
461 correction) conditions.

462 Next, we compared the ΣNCR values using repeated-measures ANOVA (Figure 3B)
 463 and found a significant effect of condition was significant ($F(3, 81) = 3.9830, p = 0.0295, \eta_g$
 464 $^2 = 0.03236$, Table 1, e). A post-hoc comparison with Bonferroni correction revealed that there
 465 were significant differences between the $\Sigma NCR_{F \rightarrow F}^{LIVE}$ and $\Sigma NCR_{F \rightarrow F}^{REPLAY}$ ($T(27) = 3.406, p =$
 466 0.0126 , Table 1f), $\Sigma NCR_{F \rightarrow F}^{LIVE}$ and $\Sigma NCR_{S \rightarrow F}^{REPLAY}$ ($T(27) = 3.2934, p = 0.0168$, Table 1h).
 467 Differences in the other pairs did not meet the threshold for statistical significance (Table 1g, i, j,
 468 k). To confirm that the outliers did not skew the parametric statistics, we re-computed the
 469 statistical values after removing outliers defined by two standard deviations rather than 1.5.
 470 Four subjects to whom the outlier data could be attributed in at least one of the four conditions
 471 were excluded from the analysis; the repeated-measures ANOVA therefore included a sample of
 472 24. Even after removing the outliers, the repeated-measures ANOVA could replicate the
 473 significant effect of condition ($F(3, 69) = 4.3334, p = 0.0074, \eta_g^2 = 0.0785$, Table 1l), as well as
 474 the significant differences between the $\Sigma NCR_{F \rightarrow F}^{LIVE}$ and $\Sigma NCR_{F \rightarrow F}^{REPLAY}$ ($T(23) = 3.0965, p =$
 475 0.0306 , Table 1m), and between $\Sigma NCR_{F \rightarrow F}^{LIVE}$ and $\Sigma NCR_{S \rightarrow F}^{REPLAY}$ ($T(23) = 3.0779, p = 0.0318$,
 476 Table 1o). Differences in the other pairs did not meet the threshold for statistical significance
 477 (Table 1n, p, q, r).

478 We also tested differences across enhanced ΣNCR values using repeated-measures
 479 ANOVA (Figure 3C) and found that the effect of condition was significant ($F(2, 54) = 10.3784, p$
 480 $= 0.0002, \eta_g^2 = 0.03236$, Table 1s). A post-hoc comparison with Bonferroni correction revealed
 481 that there were significant differences between $\Sigma NCR_{F \rightarrow F}^{LIVE} - \Sigma NCR_{F \rightarrow F}^{REST}$ and
 482 $\Sigma NCR_{F \rightarrow F}^{REPLAY} - \Sigma NCR_{F \rightarrow F}^{REST}$ ($T(27) = 3.4061, p = 0.0063$, Table 1t), as well as between
 483 $\Sigma NCR_{F \rightarrow F}^{LIVE} - \Sigma NCR_{F \rightarrow F}^{REST}$ and $\Sigma NCR_{S \rightarrow F}^{REPLAY} - \Sigma NCR_{F \rightarrow F}^{REST}$ ($T(27) = 3.2934, p = 0.0084$, Table 1u).
 484 Differences in the other pair did not meet the threshold for statistical significance (Table 1v).
 485 We recalculated statistical inferences as raw NCR values without outliers to ensure that the

486 outliers had no effect on the inferences. The stricter criteria for outliers remained two standard
 487 deviations, resulting in the removal seven subjects from the analysis. Even after outliers were
 488 excluded from the analysis, we obtained qualitatively identical results: significant effect of
 489 condition ($F(2, 40) = 7.9233, p = 0.0013, \eta_g^2 = 0.1330$, Table 1w), and significant differences
 490 between $\Sigma NCR_{F \rightarrow F}^{LIVE} - \Sigma NCR_{F \rightarrow F}^{REST}$ and $\Sigma NCR_{F \rightarrow F}^{REPLAY} - \Sigma NCR_{F \rightarrow F}^{REST}$ ($T(20) = 2.8343, p = 0.0306$,
 491 Table 1x, and between $\Sigma NCR_{F \rightarrow F}^{LIVE} - \Sigma NCR_{F \rightarrow F}^{REST}$ and $\Sigma NCR_{S \rightarrow F}^{REPLAY} - \Sigma NCR_{F \rightarrow F}^{REST}$ ($T(20) = 2.9034$,
 492 $p = 0.0265$, Table 1y). Difference in other pair did not meet the threshold for statistical
 493 significance (Table 1z).

494 To test whether or not these enhancements of entrainment of eye-blinking is influenced
 495 by the number of blocks, we calculated the Akaike causality index for separate blocks of the
 496 experiment and applied the repeated-measures ANOVA (4 blocks \times 4 conditions) to the ΣNCR
 497 data. We found a significant effect of conditions ($F(3,81) = 3.9830, p = 0.0106, \eta_g^2 = 0.0132$, Table
 498 1aa). However, the effects of sessions ($F(3,81) = 1.0351, p = 0.3816, \eta_g^2 = 0.0139$, Table 1bb) and
 499 interaction (session \times conditions) ($F(9,243) = 1.8235, p = 0.0647, \eta_g^2 = 0.0128$, Table 1cc) were
 500 nonsignificant. Therefore, in the following analysis of neuroimaging data, we combined data
 501 from the four blocks.

502

503 Brain activation in the LIVE and REPLAY conditions

504 We used GLM analysis (Table 1dd, ee) to elucidate brain activation in the LIVE and
 505 REPLAY conditions. For the LIVE vs. REPLAY contrast, we observed greater activation in the
 506 left cerebellar hemisphere (lobule VI, VII, and VIIIa), bilateral paravermis area (lobule XI)
 507 (Figure 4A), and the pre-supplementary motor area (pre-SMA) extending to the dorsal tier of
 508 the anterior cingulate cortex (ACC) (Figure 4B). No significant differences in activation were
 509 observed in the REPLAY vs. LIVE contrast. Detailed information regarding each cluster is

510 outlined in Table 2.

511

512 Results of the gPPI analysis

513 The gPPI analysis (Table 1ff, gg) revealed that the effective connectivity from the
514 ACC region toward the dorsal anterior insular cortex (dAIC) (Chang et al., 2013) was greater
515 during the LIVE condition than during the REPLAY condition (Figure 4, Table 3). No regions
516 exhibited greater effective connectivity involving the pre-SMA–ACC regions in the REPLAY
517 condition than in the LIVE condition. There was no modulation of effective connectivity
518 involving cerebellar seed regions.

519

520 Inter-brain synchronization

521 Figure 6 illustrates inter-brain synchronization that is specific to the LIVE condition
522 (Table 1hh, ii). It was found on the bilateral middle occipital gyrus (MOG). Detailed
523 information about these clusters is described in Table 4. No regions showed significant
524 inter-brain synchronization in the REPLAY condition compared to the LIVE condition.

525

526 Discussion

527 This study aimed to elucidate the behavioral and neural representations of mutual
528 interaction during eye contact by comparing the neural activity associated with real-time eye
529 contact with that associated with non-real-time eye contact. Our findings suggest that mutual
530 interaction/shared attention during eye contact is mediated by the cerebellum and the limbic
531 mirror system.

532

533 Behavioral index

534 In this study, causal analysis using a multivariate autoregressive (MVAR) model
535 (Akaike, 1968; Ozaki, 2012) was performed to assess how an individual's temporal attentional
536 window is influenced by that of the partner (Schippers et al., 2009; Okazaki et al., 2015; Leong
537 et al., 2017). Our results show that participants were more sensitive to the eye-blinks of a
538 partner in the LIVE condition than in the REPLAY condition as none of the participants
539 perceived the difference between the LIVE and REPLAY conditions. Thus, the experimental
540 setup for our LIVE condition enabled a reciprocal feedback system through the visual modality.
541 Our findings suggest that perceptual-motor interaction occurs during eye contact without
542 conscious awareness. Previous researchers have argued that an essential component of real-time
543 social interactions involves reciprocal coupling via perceptual-motor linkages between
544 interacting individuals (Nicolis and Prigogine, 1977; Haken, 1983; Bernieri and Rosenthal,
545 1991; Strogatz, 2003; Oullier et al., 2008). Our results extend this notion to the attention
546 mediated by the minimal motion of blinking, which represents the temporal window of attention
547 towards one's partner. Interestingly, the influence from a partner was significantly greater when
548 the information flow between two individuals was reciprocal ($\Sigma\text{NCR}_{F \rightarrow F}^{\text{LIVE}}$) than when it was
549 unidirectional ($\Sigma\text{NCR}_{S \rightarrow F}^{\text{REPLAY}}$). As the mutual interaction in real time evinced a significant effect
550 on the partner's eye blink, this finding indicated that the mutual online interaction is critical to
551 the influence of the other's eye blink. Feedback through the on-line mutual interaction may
552 induce a non-linear response, causing the subtle effect to be amplified (Okazaki et al. 2015).

553 This experiment can be regarded as a simplified version of the social contingency
554 detection task originally reported by Murray and Trevarthen (1985). Social contingency is
555 defined as the cause-effect relationship between one's behavior and consequent social events
556 (Gergely, 2001; Nadel, 2002) and is highly associated with a sense of self or one's own body in

557 infancy, developing a sense of reciprocity, and participation with others (Rochat, 2001), all of
558 which are critical for typical development (Mundy and Sigman, 1989; Gergely, 2001; Goldstein
559 et al., 2003; Kuhl et al., 2003; Watanabe, 2013). Several previous studies have investigated
560 differences in mother–infant interactions between real-time bidirectional interaction and off-line
561 unidirectional interaction (Murray and Trevarthen, 1985; Nadel et al., 2001; Stormark and
562 Braarud, 2004; Soussignan et al., 2006). Even in adults, turn-taking behavior accompanying
563 social contingency is likely to serve as experience-sharing, which represents the basis of all
564 social behaviors (Rochat, 2009; Stevanovic and Peräkylä, 2015). Our results indicate that even a
565 minimal task condition, such as mutual gaze, constitutes a reciprocal feedback system that can
566 provide a basis for the detection of social contingency, promoting sharing of attention between
567 partners (Farroni et al., 2002; Schilbach, 2015).

568

569 Neural substrates of eye-contact in real-time

570 Using a conventional GLM approach, we observed LIVE-specific activation in the
571 cerebellum and ACC. The cerebellum plays a key role in error detection and processing of
572 temporal contingency (Blakemore et al., 2003; Trillenberget al., 2004; Matsuzawa et al., 2005),
573 the latter of which is critical for real-time social communication (Gergely and Watson, 1999).
574 The cerebellum is also critically involved in sensorimotor prediction (Blakemore and Sirigu,
575 2003), especially in building predictions about the actual sensory consequences of an executed
576 motor command. One previous fMRI study reported that the prediction error caused by sensory
577 feedback is essential for acquiring internal forward models of movement control (Imamizu et al.,
578 2000). This prediction (forward model) is mainly used in the early stages of movement
579 execution to maintain accurate performance in the presence of sensory feedback delays
580 (Wolpert and Kawato, 1998), as well as in social interaction (Wolpert et al., 2003). Considering

581 that real-time social interaction can be regarded as a cross-individual sensorimotor loop
582 (Wolpert et al., 2003; Froese and Fuchs, 2012), the cerebellum may receive visual afferents of
583 the partner's blink as sensory feedback for the prediction of one's blink movement, in order to
584 evaluate temporal contingency between the partners' blinks.

585 In humans, the ACC is located in the medial wall of the cerebral hemisphere, adjacent
586 to the pre-SMA (Habas, 2010). The ventral (limbic) tier occupies the surface of the cingulate
587 gyrus, corresponding to Brodmann's areas 24a and 24b, and subcallosal area 25. The dorsal
588 (paralimbic) tier is buried in the cingulate sulcus, corresponding to Brodmann's areas 24c and
589 32 (see Paus, 2001 for a review). The dorsal tier is involved in volitional motor control (Deiber
590 et al., 1996; Picard and Strick, 1996; Brázdil et al., 2006).

591 The ACC and cerebellum constitute a tightly connected cortico-cerebellar network.
592 Recent functional connectivity analysis studies have demonstrated that distinct cerebellar seed
593 regions in the anterior portion of the crus I exhibit functional connectivity with the dorsolateral
594 prefrontal cortex, the rostral portion of the inferior parietal lobule, and a frontal midline region
595 bordering the pre-SMA and ACC in healthy adults (Buckner et al., 2011; Riedel et al., 2015).
596 Conversely, the ACC exhibits a negative correlation with the cerebellum (Margulies et al.,
597 2007), possibly reflecting its hypothesized role in the inhibition of pre-potent stereotyped
598 responses (Paus et al., 1993; Paus, 2001). In terms of anatomical connectivity, Zalesky et al.
599 (2014) used diffusion MRI to demonstrate disruption of white matter connectivity between the
600 cerebellum and the cingulate cortex in individuals with Friedreich ataxia, an autosomal
601 recessive disease involving degeneration of the spinal cord and cerebellum, thereby supporting
602 the notion of reverse cerebellar diaschisis (Schmahmann and Sherman, 1998).

603 The cortico-cerebellar-thalamo-cortical circuit involving the cerebellum and ACC
604 plays a role in attention. The cerebellum is involved in attention, including

605 anticipation/prediction of the internal conditions for a particular operation, as well as the setting
606 of specific conditions in preparation for that operation (Allen et al., 1997; Schweizer et al.,
607 2007). Honey et al. (2005) reported that patients with schizophrenia exhibited an attenuated
608 response of the ACC and cerebellum to degradation of the target during a continuous
609 performance task, paralleling their limited visual attentional resources. They also observed
610 disruption in the pattern of task-related connectivity of the ACC to the prefrontal regions.
611 Honey et al. (2005) concluded that attentional impairments associated with schizophrenia could
612 be attributed to the cortico–cerebellar–thalamo–cortical circuit, which includes the ACC and
613 cerebellum. Considering the role of the ACC and cerebellum in sensorimotor and attentional
614 control, the ACC–cerebellar network may constitute a reactive–predictive controller system
615 (Noy et al., 2011) by which one’s own attention-contingent motor output (that is, eye-blink) is
616 modulated by the visual input of the partner’s movement. Under the mirror-configuration during
617 the LIVE condition, the reactive-predictive controllers in two individuals work to coordinate
618 their own behavior with the partner’s. Thus, it closes the sensorimotor circuits across the
619 individuals.

620

621 Enhanced connectivity between the ACC and AIC

622 We observed enhanced effective connectivity from the ACC to the right dorsal region
623 of the AIC (dAIC) in the LIVE condition than in the REPLAY condition. In the present study,
624 no emotional processes were included in the task, suggesting that the enhancements in
625 connectivity were related to recurrent interaction via eye contact. The ACC has a strong
626 connection to the AIC (Margulies et al., 2007; Taylor et al., 2009; Ghaziri et al., 2015), most
627 prominently in the dAIC (Chang et al., 2013), a central hub in which several different cognitive
628 networks converge (Dosenbach et al., 2006; Chang et al., 2013). The ACC-AIC network

629 represents the portion of the limbic mirror system related to the recognition of affective
630 behavior (Cattaneo & Rizzolatti, 2009; Fabbri-Destro et al., 2008; Singer et al. 2004).

631 Medford and Critchley (2010) proposed that the AIC and ACC represent the basis of
632 self-awareness by constituting the input (AIC) and output (ACC) components of a system. In
633 such a system, the integrated awareness of cognitive, affective, and physical states first
634 generated by the integrative functions of the AIC are then re-represented in the ACC as a basis
635 for the selection of and preparation for responses to inner or outer events. Craig (2009) regarded
636 the AIC as the probable site for awareness, based on its afferent representation of “feelings”
637 from the body, and the ACC as the probable site for the initiation of behaviors. Meltzoff (2005)
638 proposed a “like-me” framework for the understanding of others. He suggested that imitation
639 enables understanding of another mind based on an understanding of actions and their
640 underlying mental states. Singer et al. (2004) observed that pain empathy relies on neural
641 structures that are also involved in the direct experience of that emotion (i.e., the limbic mirror
642 system (ACC, AIC)). This finding is consistent with the Simulation Theory, which proposes that
643 “we understand other people’s minds by using our mental states to simulate how we might feel
644 or what we might think in a given situation” (Lamm and Singer 2010). Lamm and Singer (2010)
645 concluded that perceiving the states of another activates neural representations encoding each
646 state when it is experienced personally. In the eye-contact state, participants are aware that they
647 are attending to their partner during eye contact. Therefore, given that the ACC–AIC network
648 represents self-awareness, its activation during real-time eye contact may represent a shared
649 mental state (i.e., awareness involving the participant and partner) such as shared attention. This
650 interpretation is consistent with a study by Hietanen et al. (2008), which demonstrated that
651 autonomic arousal is enhanced by eye contact with a live human, but not with static images of
652 faces. The authors argued that this might be due to the enhancement of self-awareness by the

653 presence of another person. The results of our study suggest that the self-awareness is enhanced
654 by the social contingency generated with live humans through the interaction of each other's
655 attentional windows via eye-blinks and that the regulation of self-awareness by interaction
656 might be caused by the cerebellar–cerebral networks that tap into the limbic mirror system.

657

658 Inter-brain synchronization

659 By comparing the degree of inter-brain synchronization between the LIVE and REPLAY
660 conditions, we found an enhancement in the MOG region related to the LIVE condition. This
661 region is in the lateral occipitotemporal cortex (LOTTC) and is almost identical to the region that
662 shows inter-brain synchronization specific to eye-contact state (Koike et al., 2016). Previous
663 studies suggest that the LOTTC receives both sensory inputs of a partner's behavior (Lingnau and
664 Downing 2015) and efference copies of one's own behavior (Astafiev et al., 2004; Orlov et al.,
665 2010). Therefore, the roles of the LOTTC in supporting action perception and overt action
666 performance are closely related. The LOTTC may play a role in the human action observation
667 network (Caspers et al. 2010) that is typically attributed to the frontoparietal mirror system
668 (Oosterhof et al. 2013). Thus, the MOG region may conceivably receive information about self
669 and other's eye-blinks.

670 Based on the electroencephalography (EEG) hyperscanning experiment of the mutual gaze
671 between mothers and infants, Leong et al. (2017) found interpersonal neural synchronization.
672 They argued that the phase of cortical oscillations reflects the excitability of underlying
673 neuronal populations to incoming sensory stimulation (Schroeder and Lakatos, 2009), a possible
674 mechanism for temporal sampling of the environment (Giraud and Poeppel, 2012).
675 Interpersonal neural synchronization could increase within a dyad during the course of social
676 interaction because each partner is continuously producing salient social signals (such as gaze)

677 that act as synchronization triggers to reset the phase of his or her partner's ongoing oscillations
678 (Leong et al. 2017). The present study showed neural synchronization in the LOTC, which
679 receives both visual input of others' actions and efference copies of one's own actions. The
680 salient social signals sent to the partner through gaze or blink (defining the temporal attentional
681 window), the motor command corresponding to which is likely delivered to the LOTC as an
682 efference copy. The eye-blink may, thus, act as a synchronization trigger. Therefore, the
683 cross-individual neural synchronization of the MOG represents the alignment of the temporal
684 pattern of attention, which may optimize communicative efficiency (Leong et al. 2017).

685

686 Limitations and future directions

687 The present study is subject to several limitations. First, concerning the
688 hyperscanning-fMRI experimental design, the very long mutual gaze condition was not
689 ecological and may be quite different from conceptions of 'mutual gaze' or 'eye-contact'
690 informed by daily life. This is due to our use of a blocked-design, the most effective way to
691 detect brain activation. Also, the product of our experimental design, estimations of the
692 temporal dynamics of eye-blink entrainment, brain activation, and inter-brain synchronization
693 could not be performed. While we could not find a significant effect of session on the eye-blink
694 entrainment in real-time eye-contact, it is possible that the eye-blinking entrainments only occur
695 in the very first phase of mutual gaze condition in one block. By refining the experimental and
696 analytical design, we may further gain insight into the dynamics of inter-individual interaction
697 through eye-contact and inter-brain synchronization. To explore the temporal dynamics of
698 inter-brain synchronization, we are currently conducting a hyperscanning simultaneous
699 EEG-fMRI recording that could integrate the merits of the two neuroimaging methods (Koike et
700 al., 2015). As the present study demonstrated the efficacy of using Akaike causality analysis to

701 evaluate dynamic mutual interaction, future studies applying this method to EEG data in
702 ecological settings of normal and diseased populations are warranted.

703 The present study is also limited by its capacity only to find inter-brain
704 synchronization between homologous regions, but not between non-homologous regions – i.e.,
705 fronto-parietal synchronization (Dumas et al., 2010). In our setting, two participants play
706 identical roles in eye-to-eye communication; therefore, the resonance through inter-brain closed
707 loop might occur in the homologous regions. However, the inter-brain effect may also occur
708 between non-homologous regions. To explore this possibility, an ROI analysis based on the
709 precise parcellation of human cerebral cortex in human connectome project (HCP) may be the
710 most suitable (Glasser et al., 2016). Future studies adapting this method could reveal the
711 mechanism underlying the means by which two brains are wired through an eye-to-eye
712 communication without any conscious awareness.

713

714 Summary

715 In the present hyperscanning fMRI study, we focused on real-time mutual interaction
716 during eye contact. The open-and-close timing of the attentional window, defined by eye-blinks,
717 was entrained to that of the counterpart during real-time mutual interaction. Our findings
718 indicate that the social interaction is nonlinear, and the influence from the partner might be
719 amplified by the nonlinearity during the real-time interaction. Corresponding with the
720 nonlinearly amplified behavioral coordination, real-time interaction during eye contact was
721 found to be mediated by the amplified activation of the cerebellum and the cingulate motor
722 cortex.; this was accompanied by enhanced connectivity within the limbic mirror system. These
723 findings underscore the notion that real-time eye contact generates an emergent property of

724 shared attention, which is mediated by a cerebello–cerebral network inclusive of the limbic

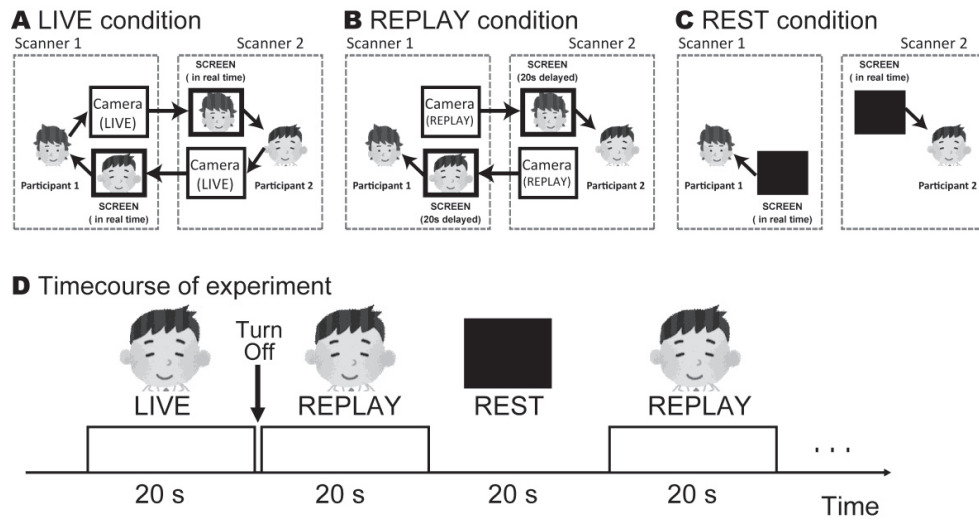
725 mirror system.

726

727

728 **Figures**

729



730

731

732 Figure 1. Experimental setup. (A) LIVE condition: The face of Participant 1 is projected on the

733 screen of Participant 2 in real-time and vice versa, allowing mutual exchange of information.

734 (B) REPLAY condition: The picture is projected on the screen with a 20-s delay, therefore,

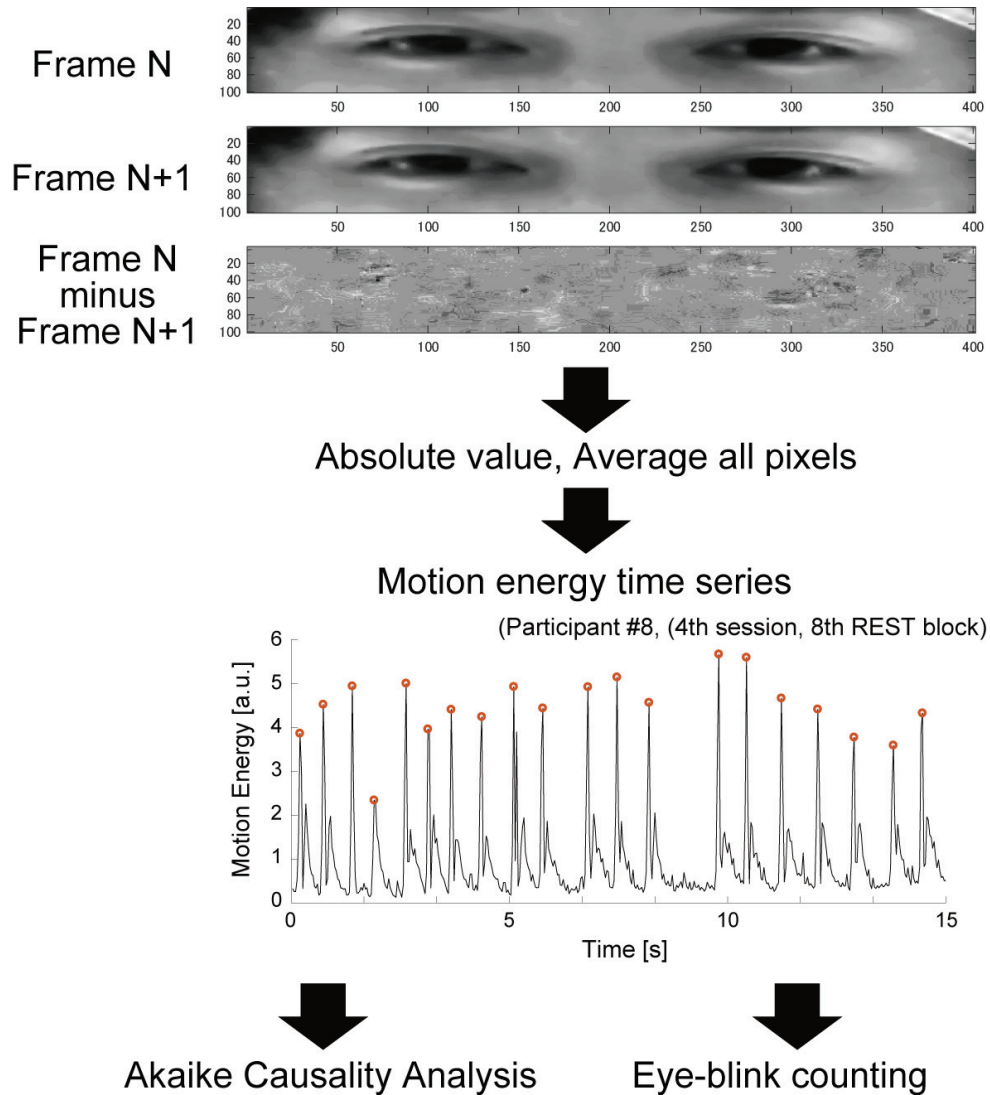
735 there is no mutual interaction between participants in real-time. (C) REST condition (baseline):

736 No image is presented on the black screen. (D) Sequence of presentation of the experimental

737 conditions.

738

739



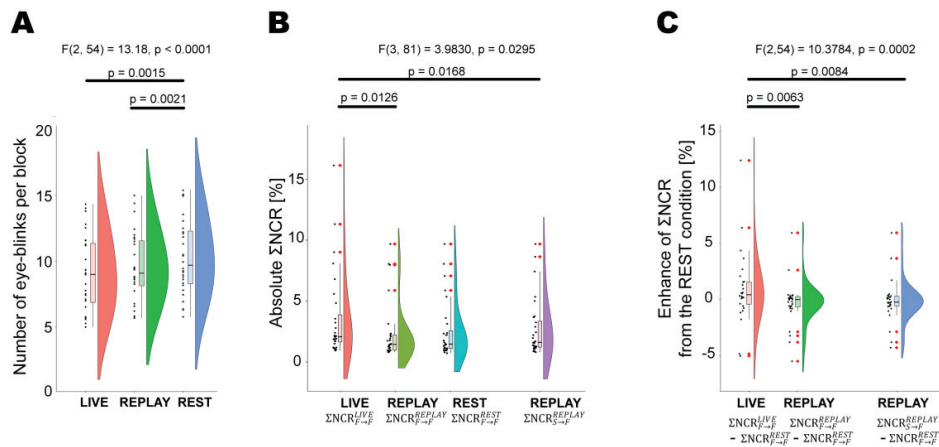
740

741 Figure 2. Evaluation of the motion energy time-series representing eye-blinks. The red-dots

742 indicate the timing of the detected eye-blink.

743

744



745

746 Figure 3. Behavioral analysis. (A) The number of eye-blinks per block. We omitted the first 5 s

747 of each block because of instability of the recorded video induced by task switching; the number

748 of eye blinks was therefore calculated based on the succeeding 15 s. Each dot represents a data

749 point. In the boxplot, the line dividing the box represents the median of the data, the ends

750 represent the upper/lower quartiles, and the extreme lines represent the highest and lowest

751 values excluding outliers. (B) Σ NCR values. The integral of the Noise Contribution Ratio752 (NCR) of each condition across the whole frequency range was calculated. $\Sigma\text{NCR}_{F \rightarrow F}^{\text{LIVE}}$ is the753 Σ NCR from the time-series of the participant's facial movement to that of the partner during the754 LIVE condition. $\Sigma\text{NCR}_{F \rightarrow F}^{\text{REPLAY}}$ is the Σ NCR from the time-series of the participant's facial755 movement to that of the partner during the REPLAY condition. $\Sigma\text{NCR}_{F \rightarrow F}^{\text{REST}}$ is the Σ NCR from

756 the time-series of the participant's facial movement to that of the partner during the REST

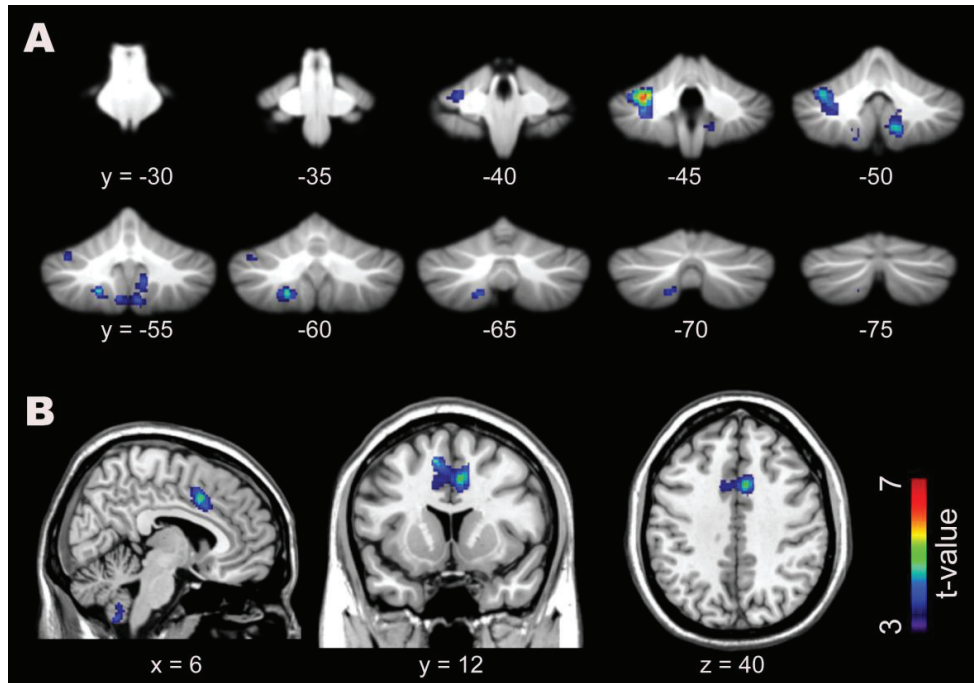
757 condition. $\Sigma\text{NCR}_{S \rightarrow F}^{\text{REPLAY}}$ is the Σ NCR from the time-series from the participant's delayed facial

758 movement on the screen to the partner's time-series during the REPLAY condition. (C)

759 Enhanced Σ NCR values from the REST condition.

760

761



762

763 Figure 4. Brain regions exhibiting significantly greater activation in the LIVE condition than in

764 the REPLAY condition. A, Cerebellar activation is overlaid on the coronal planes of the SUIT

765 template (Diedrichsen, 2006; Diedrichsen et al., 2009). B, The activation in the anterior

766 cingulate cortex (ACC) is superimposed on the T1-weighted high resolution anatomical MRI

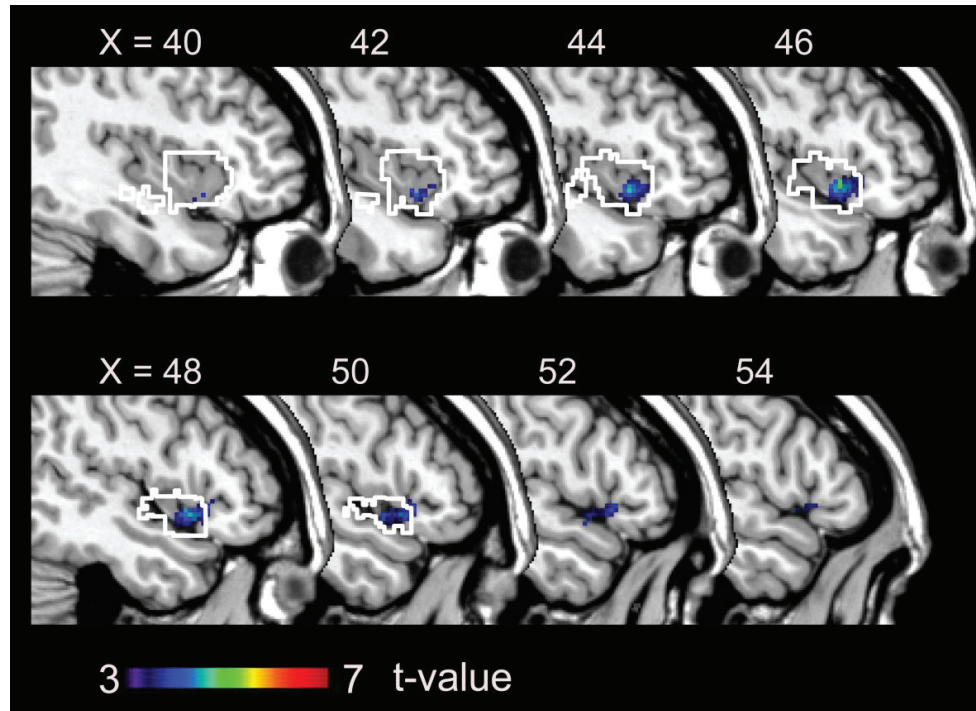
767 normalized to the MNI template space in the sagittal (left), coronal (middle), and transaxial

768 (right) planes that crossed at (6, 12, 30) in the MNI coordinate system (mm). MNI: Montreal

769 Neurological Institute; SUIT: spatially unbiased infratentorial template.

770

771



772

773

774

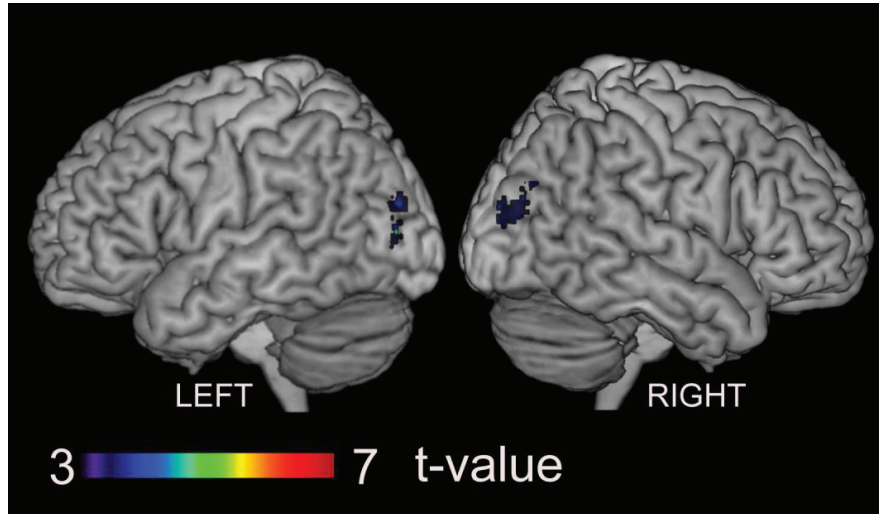
775

776

777

Figure 5. Regions exhibiting greater effective connectivity from the ACC in the LIVE condition than in the REPLAY condition. The area outlined in white is the dorsal AIC (Chang et al., 2013). X indicates the MNI coordinates (mm). ACC: anterior cingulate cortex; AIC: anterior insular cortex; MNI: Montreal Neurological Institute.

778



779

780 Figure 6. Regions exhibiting greater inter-brain synchronization during the LIVE condition
781 than the REPLAY condition. These areas are superimposed on a surface-rendered
782 high-resolution anatomical MRI normalized to the MNI template viewed from the left and
783 right. MRI: Magnetic resonance imaging; MNI: Montreal Neurological Institute.

784

785

786 Tables

787 Table 1. Statistical analysis.

Statistics Table		Data Type	Data structure	Type of test	Multiple comparison correction	Program	Statistics	p-values	Power / Confidence interval
Location Manuscript	Figure								
a	3A	Number of eye blinks	Normal distribution	One-way repeated ANOVA	--	R	F(2,54)=13.1814	p<0.0001	$\eta_p^2 = 0.03540$
b		Number of eye blinks	Normal distribution	t-test (Post-hoc test, LIVE vs REST)	Bonferroni	R	T(27)=3.9464	p=0.0015	mean = -1.2757 (-1.9389 to -0.6124)
c		Number of eye blinks	Normal distribution	t-test (Post-hoc test, REPLAY vs REST)	Bonferroni	R	T(27)=3.8499	p=0.0021	mean = -0.7946 (-1.2182 to -0.3711)
d		Number of eye blinks	Normal distribution	t-test (Post-hoc test, LIVE vs REPLAY)	Bonferroni	R	T(27) = 2.3522,	p=0.0786	mean = -0.4810 (-0.9006 to -0.0614)
e	3B	Absolute ZNCR	Normal distribution	One-way repeated ANOVA	--	R	F(3,81)=3.9830	p=0.0295	$\eta_p^2 = 0.03236$
f		Absolute ZNCR	Normal distribution	Paired t-test (Post-hoc test, LIVEFF vs REPLAYFF)	Bonferroni	R	T(27)=3.406	p = 0.0126	mean = 1.2294 (0.4888 to 1.9700)
g		Absolute ZNCR	Normal distribution	Paired t-test (Post-hoc test, LIVEFF vs RESTFF)	Bonferroni	R	T(27)=1.4598	p = 0.9354	mean = 0.8888 (-0.3604 to 1.379)
h		Absolute ZNCR	Normal distribution	Paired t-test (Post-hoc test, LIVEFF vs REPLAYSF)	Bonferroni	R	T(27)=3.2934	p = 0.0168	mean = 1.0455 (0.3941 to 1.6969)
i		Absolute ZNCR	Normal distribution	Paired t-test (Post-hoc test, REPLAYFF vs RESTFF)	Bonferroni	R	T(27)=0.9065	p = 1.0000	mean = -0.3406 (-1.1116 to 0.4304)
j		Absolute ZNCR	Normal distribution	Paired t-test (Post-hoc test, REPLAYFF vs REPLAYSF)	Bonferroni	R	T(27)=1.2083	p = 1.0000	mean = -0.1838 (-0.4960 to 0.1284)
k		Absolute ZNCR	Normal distribution	Paired t-test (Post-hoc test, RESTFF vs REPLAYSF)	Bonferroni	R	T(27)=0.4349	p = 1.0000	mean = 0.1568 (-0.5829 to 0.8965)
l		Absolute ZNCR	Normal distribution	One-way repeated ANOVA	--	R	F(3,69)=4.3334	p=0.0074	$\eta_p^2 = 0.0785$
m		Absolute ZNCR	Normal distribution	Paired t-test (Post-hoc test, LIVEFF vs REPLAYFF)	Bonferroni	R	T(23)=3.0965	p=0.0306	mean = 1.0291 (0.3416 to 1.7165)
n		Absolute ZNCR	Normal distribution	Paired t-test (Post-hoc test, LIVEFF vs RESTFF)	Bonferroni	R	T(23)=1.0783	p=1.0000	mean = 0.4588 (-0.4214 to 1.3390)
o		Absolute ZNCR	Normal distribution	Paired t-test (Post-hoc test, LIVEFF vs REPLAYSF)	Bonferroni	R	T(23)=3.0779	p=0.0318	mean = 0.7771 (0.2548 to 1.2994)
p		Absolute ZNCR	Normal distribution	Paired t-test (Post-hoc test, REPLAYFF vs RESTFF)	Bonferroni	R	T(23)=1.9902	p=1.0000	mean = -0.5702 (-1.1630 to 0.0225)
q		Absolute ZNCR	Normal distribution	Paired t-test (Post-hoc test, REPLAYFF vs REPLAYSF)	Bonferroni	R	T(23)=1.4744	p=0.9234	mean = -0.2519 (-0.6054 to 0.1015)
r		Absolute ZNCR	Normal distribution	Paired t-test (Post-hoc test, REPLAYFF vs REPLAYSF)	Bonferroni	R	T(23)=1.1336	p=1.0000	mean = 0.3183 (-0.2626 to 0.8992)
s		RelativeZNCR	Normal distribution	Paired t-test (Post-hoc test, RESTFF vs REPLAYSF)	Bonferroni	R	F(2,54)=10.3784	p = 0.0002	$\eta_p^2 = 0.0483$
t		RelativeZNCR	Normal distribution	Paired t-test (Post-hoc test, LIVEFF vs REPLAYFF)	Bonferroni	R	T(27)=3.4061	p = 0.0063	mean = 1.2294 (0.4888 to 1.9700)
u	RelativeZNCR	Normal distribution	Paired t-test (Post-hoc test, LIVEFF vs REPLAYSF)	Bonferroni	R	T(27)=3.2934	p = 0.0084	mean = 1.0455 (0.3941 to 1.6969)	
v	RelativeZNCR	Normal distribution	Paired t-test (Post-hoc test, REPLAYFF vs RESTSF)	Bonferroni	R	T(27)=1.2083	p = 0.7122	mean = -0.1838 (-0.4960 to 0.1284)	
w	RelativeZNCR	Normal distribution	Paired t-test (Post-hoc test, RESTFF vs REPLAYSF)	Bonferroni	R	F(2,40)=7.9233	p=0.0013	$\eta_p^2 = 0.1330$	
x	RelativeZNCR	Normal distribution	Paired t-test (Post-hoc test, LIVEFF vs REPLAYFF)	Bonferroni	R	T(20)=2.8343	p=0.0306	mean = 7805 (0.0102 to 0.0250)	
y	RelativeZNCR	Normal distribution	Paired t-test (Post-hoc test, LIVEFF vs REPLAYSF)	Bonferroni	R	T(20)=2.9034	p=0.0264	mean = 0.8362 (0.0088 to 0.0167)	
z	RelativeZNCR	Normal distribution	Paired t-test (Post-hoc test, REPLAYFF vs RESTSF)	Bonferroni	R	T(20)=0.6790	p=1.0000	mean = 0.0558 (-0.1156 to 0.2271)	
aa	4	fMRI (BOLD activation)	Normal distribution	Paired t-test (LIVE > REPLAY)	Random effect model at cluster-level inference	SPM	--	--	--
bb		fMRI (BOLD activation)	No assumption	Paired t-test (LIVE > REPLAY)	Nonparametric permutation test at cluster-level inference	SnPM	--	--	--
cc	5	fMRI (PPI value)	Normal distribution	Paired t-test (LIVE > REPLAY)	Random effect model at cluster-level inference	SPM	--	--	--
dd		fMRI (PPI value)	No assumption	Paired t-test (LIVE > REPLAY)	Nonparametric permutation test at cluster-level inference	SnPM	--	--	--
ee	6	fMRI (Normalized inter-brain sync)	Normal distribution	Paired t-test (LIVE > REPLAY)	Random effect model at cluster-level inference	SPM	--	--	--
ff		fMRI (Normalized inter-brain sync)	No assumption	Paired t-test (LIVE > REPLAY)	Nonparametric permutation test at cluster-level inference	SnPM	--	--	--

788

789

790

791

Table 2. Regions exhibiting greater activation in the LIVE condition than in the REPLAY

792

condition. The p-values satisfying the statistical threshold ($p < 0.05$) after correcting for

793

multiple comparisons (pFWE) are emphasized using a bold type-face. FWE: family-wise

794

error.

795

Cluster level inference			Peak level inference		T-value	MNI coordinates			Side	Location	Probability
P _{FWE}		Cluster size mm ³	P _{FWE}			X	Y	Z			
SPM	SnPM		SPM	SnPM							
0.015	0.025	2616	0.960	0.443	3.848	-40	-60	-30	L	Cerebellum	Lobule VIIa crus I (Hem) (99%)
			0.006	0.001	6.734	-28	-46	-30	L	Cerebellum	Lobule VI (Hem) (85%)
			0.642	0.195	4.406	-28	-44	-44	L	Cerebellum	
0.010	0.022	2880	0.408	0.111	4.720	-18	-60	-52	L	Cerebellum	Lobule VIIIb (Hem) (68%)
			0.846	--	4.119	-6	-54	-54	L	Cerebellum	Lobule IX (Hem) (80%)
			0.954	--	3.870	-14	-52	-52	L	Cerebellum	Lobule IX (Hem) (67%)
			0.815	0.283	4.169	6	-56	-56	R	Cerebellum	Lobule IX (Hem) (86%)
			0.495	0.139	4.598	12	-50	-50	R	Cerebellum	Lobule IX (Hem) (87%)
0.002	0.014	4176	0.274	0.069	4.945	-8	10	50	L	Pre-SMA	
			0.986	0.532	3.702	-10	10	38	L	ACC	
			0.274	0.069	4.945	6	12	40	R	ACC	
0.056	0.040	1824	0.227	0.055	5.044	-8	-46	-22	L	Cerebellum	
			0.463	0.127	4.641	0	-56	-26	R	Cerebellum	Fastigii Nucleus (37%)
			0.471	0.130	4.630	14	-52	-30	R	Cerebellum	

ACC, Anterior cingulate cortex; Pre-SMA, Pre-supplementary motor area; MNI, Montreal Neurological Institute; Hem, Hemisphere

796

797

798

799 Table 3. Regions exhibiting enhanced effective connectivity from the anterior cingulate
 800 cortex (ACC) in the LIVE condition. The p-values satisfying the statistical threshold
 801 ($p < 0.05$) after correcting for multiple comparisons (pFWE) are emphasized using a bold
 802 type-face. FEW: family-wise error

Cluster level inference			Peak level inference			MNI coordinates			Side	Location	Probability
P _{FWE}		Cluster size mm ³	P _{FWE}		T-value	X	Y	Z			
SPM	SnPM		SPM	SnPM							
0.000	0.0824	1208	0.868	0.378	5.063	46	14	-6	R	Insular	
			1.000	1.000	3.545	54	14	-4	R	IFG	BA44 (21%)
			1.000	--	4.156	50	20	-4	R	IFGOr	BA45 (31%)

IFG, Inferior frontal gyrus; IFGOr, Inferior frontal gyrus (pars opercularis); Montreal Neurological Institute; BA, Brodmann area

803

804

805

806 Table 4. The regions exhibiting enhanced inter-brain synchronization in the LIVE condition

807 compared to REPLAY condition. The p-values satisfying the statistical threshold ($p < 0.05$) after

808 correcting for multiple comparisons (pFWE) are emphasized using a bold type-face.

Cluster level inference			Peak level inference			MNI coordinates			Side	Location	Probability
P _{FWE}		Cluster size mm ³	P _{FWE}		T-value	X	Y	Z			
SPM	SnPM		SPM	SnPM							
0.001	0.2258	1088	0.999	0.829	5.753	-26	-82	4	L		
			1.000	0.999	4.695	-34	-78	4	L	MOG	
			1.000	0.999	4.628	-28	-86	22	L	MOG	
0.007	0.2852	880	1.000	0.998	4.739	28	-76	24	R	MOG	
			1.000	1.000	3.983	38	-80	16	R	MOG	
			1.000	1.000	3.827	34	-88	18	R	MOG	hOc4Ip (35.4%)

MOG, Middle Occipital Gyrus; Montreal Neurological Institute

809

810

811 References

812

813 Akaike H (1968) On the use of a linear model for the identification of feedback systems. *Ann Inst*
814 *Stat Math* 20:425-439.

815 Allen G, Buxton RB, Wong EC, Courchesne E (1997) Attentional activation of the cerebellum
816 independent of motor involvement. *Science* 275:1940-1943.

817 Allen M, Poggiali D, Whitaker K, Marshall TR, Kievit R (2018) Raincloud plots: a
818 multi-platform tool for robust data visualization. *PeerJ Preprints* 6:e27137v1

819 Astafiev S V., Stanley CM, Shulman GL, Corbetta M (2004) Extrastriate body area in human
820 occipital cortex responds to the performance of motor actions. *Nat Neurosci* 7:542-548.

821 Bernieri F, Rosenthal R (1991) Interpersonal coordination: Behavior matching and interactional
822 synchrony. In: *Fundamentals of nonverbal behavior* (Feldman RS, Rime B, eds), pp
823 401-432. New York: Cambridge University Press.

824 Blakemore SJ, Boyer P, Pachot-Clouard M, Meltzoff A, Segebarth C, Decety J (2003) The
825 detection of contingency and animacy from simple animations in the human brain. *Cereb*
826 *Cortex* 13:837-844.

827 Blakemore SJ, Sirigu A (2003) Action prediction in the cerebellum and in the parietal lobe. *Exp*
828 *Brain Res* 153:239-245.

829 Brázdil M, Kuba R, Rektor I (2006) Rostral cingulate motor area and paroxysmal alien hand
830 syndrome. *J Neurol Neurosurg Psychiatry* 77:992-993.

831 Buckner RL, Krienen FM, Castellanos A, Diaz JC, Yeo BTT (2011) The organization of the
832 human cerebellum estimated by intrinsic functional connectivity. *J Neurophysiol*
833 106:2322-2345.

834 Calder AJ, Lawrence AD, Keane J, Scott SK, Owen AM, Christoffels I, Young AW (2002)
835 Reading the mind from eye gaze. *Neuropsychologia* 40:1129-1138.

836 Caspers S, Zilles K, Laird AR, Eickhoff SB (2010) ALE meta-analysis of action observation and
837 imitation in the human brain. *Neuroimage* 50:1148-1167.

838 Cattaneo L, Rizzolatti G (2009) The mirror neuron system. *Arch Neurol* 66:557-560.

839 Chang LJ, Yarkoni T, Khaw MW, Sanfey AG (2013) Decoding the role of the insula in human
840 cognition: Functional parcellation and large-scale reverse inference. *Cereb Cortex*
841 23:739-749.

842 Chartrand TL, Van Baaren RB (2009) Human mimicry. *Adv Exp Soc Psychol* 41:219-274.

843 Conty L, N'Diaye K, Tijus C, George N (2007) When eye creates the contact! ERP evidence for
844 early dissociation between direct and averted gaze motion processing. *Neuropsychologia*
845 45:3024-3037.

- 846 Craig AD (2009) How do you feel - now? The anterior insula and human awareness. *Nat Rev*
847 *Neurosci* 10:59-70.
- 848 Deiber MP, Ibañez V, Sadato N, Hallett M (1996) Cerebral structures participating in motor
849 preparation in humans: a positron emission tomography study. *J Neurophysiol* 75:233-247.
- 850 Diedrichsen J (2006) A spatially unbiased atlas template of the human cerebellum. *Neuroimage*
851 33:127-138.
- 852 Diedrichsen J, Balsters JH, Flavell J, Cussans E, Ramnani N (2009) A probabilistic MR atlas of
853 the human cerebellum. *Neuroimage* 46:39-46.
- 854 Dosenbach NUF, Visscher KM, Palmer ED, Miezin FM, Wenger KK, Kang HC, Burgund ED,
855 Grimes AL, Schlaggar BL, Petersen SE (2006) A core system for the implementation of
856 task sets. *Neuron* 50:799-812.
- 857 Dumas G, Nadel J, Soussignan R, Martinerie J, Garnero L (2010) Inter-brain synchronization
858 during social interaction. *PLoS One* 5(8): e12166.
- 859 Eickhoff SB, Stephan KE, Mohlberg H, Grefkes C, Fink GR, Amunts K, Zilles K (2005) A new
860 SPM toolbox for combining probabilistic cytoarchitectonic maps and functional imaging
861 data. *Neuroimage* 25:1325-1335.
- 862 Eklund A, Nichols TE, Knutsson H (2016) Cluster failure: Why fMRI inferences for spatial extent
863 have inflated false-positive rates. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A* 113:7900-7905.
- 864 Emery N (2000) The eyes have it: The neuroethology, function and evolution of social gaze.
865 *Neurosci Biobehav Rev* 24:581-604.
- 866 Fabbri-Destro M, Rizzolatti G (2008) Mirror neurons and mirror systems in monkeys and humans.
867 *Physiology* 23:171-179.
- 868 Fair D, Schlaggar B, Cohen A, Miezin F, Dosenbach NUF, Wenger KK, Fox MD, Snyder AZ,
869 Raichle ME, Petersen SE (2007) A method for using blocked and event-related fMRI data
870 to study “resting state” functional connectivity. *Neuroimage* 35:396-405.
- 871 Farroni T, Csibra G, Simion F, Johnson MH (2002) Eye contact detection in humans from birth.
872 *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A* 99:9602-9605.
- 873 Flandin G, Friston KJ (2017) Analysis of family-wise error rates in statistical parametric mapping
874 using random field theory. *Hum Brain Mapp* 00:0-2 Available at:
875 <http://doi.wiley.com/10.1002/hbm.23839>.
- 876 Franz VH, Loftus GR (2012) Standard errors and confidence intervals in within-subjects designs:
877 Generalizing Loftus and Masson (1994) and avoiding the biases of alternative accounts.
878 *Psychon Bull Rev* 19:395-404.
- 879 Friston KJ, Buechel C, Fink GR, Morris J, Rolls E, Dolan RJ (1997) Psychophysiological and
880 modulatory interactions in neuroimaging. *Neuroimage* 6:218-229.
- 881 Friston KJ, Glaser DE, Henson RN, Kiebel S, Phillips C, Ashburner J (2002) Classical and

- 882 Bayesian inference in neuroimaging: applications. *Neuroimage* 16:484-512.
- 883 Friston KJ, Holmes A, Poline JB, Price CJ, Frith CD (1996) Detecting activations in PET and
884 fMRI: levels of inference and power. *Neuroimage* 4:223-235.
- 885 Friston KJ, Holmes AP, Worsley KJ (1999) How many subjects constitute a study? *Neuroimage*
886 10:1-5.
- 887 Froese T, Fuchs T (2012) The extended body: A case study in the neurophenomenology of social
888 interaction. *Phenomenology and the Cognitive Sciences* 11(2): 205-235.
- 889 George N, Driver J, Dolan RJ (2001) Seen gaze-direction modulates fusiform activity and its
890 coupling with other brain areas during face processing. *Neuroimage* 13:1102-1112.
- 891 Gergely G (2001) The obscure object of desire: “Nearly, but Clearly Not, Like Me”: Contingency
892 preference in normal children versus children with autism. *Bull Menninger Clin*
893 65:411-426.
- 894 Gergely G, Watson JS (1999) Early socio-emotional development: Contingency perception and
895 the social-biofeedback model. In P. Rochat (Ed.), *Early social cognition: Understanding*
896 *others in the first months of life* (pp. 101-136). Mahwah, NJ, US: Lawrence Erlbaum
897 Associates Publishers.
- 898 Ghaziri J, Tucholka A, Girard G, Houde J-C, Boucher O, Gilbert G, Descoteaux M, Lippe S,
899 Rainville P, Nguyen DK (2015) The corticocortical structural connectivity of the human
900 insula. *Cereb Cortex* 27(2):1-13.
- 901 Giraud AL, Poeppel D (2012) Cortical oscillations and speech processing: Emerging
902 computational principles and operations. *Nat Neurosci* 15:511-517.
- 903 Glasser M, Coalson T, Robinson E, Hacker C, Harwell J, Yacoub E, Ugurbil K, Andersson J,
904 Beckmann C, Jenkinson M, Smith S, Van Essen D (2016) A multi-modal parcellation of
905 human cerebral cortex. *Nature* 536: 171-178.
- 906 Goldstein MH, King AP, West MJ (2003) Social interaction shapes babbling: testing parallels
907 between birdsong and speech. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A* 100:8030-8035.
- 908 Habas C (2010) Functional connectivity of the human rostral and caudal cingulate motor areas in
909 the brain resting state at 3T. *Neuroradiology* 52:47-59.
- 910 Haken H (1983) *Advanced synergetics: Instability hierarchies of self-organizing systems and*
911 *devices*. Berlin: Springer-Verlag.
- 912 Hall A (1945) The origin and purposes of blinking. *Bri J Ophthalmol* 29:445-467.
- 913 Hari R, Kujala M (2009) Brain basis of human social interaction: from concepts to brain imaging.
914 *Physiol Rev* 89:453-479.
- 915 Herrmann A (2010) The interaction of eye blinks and other prosodic cues in German Sign
916 Language. *Sign Lang Linguist* 13:3-39.
- 917 Hietanen JK, Leppänen JM, Peltola MJ, Linna-Aho K, Ruuhiala HJ (2008) Seeing direct and

- 918 averted gaze activates the approach-avoidance motivational brain systems.
919 *Neuropsychologia* 46:2423-2430.
- 920 Honey GD, Pomarol-Clotet E, Corlett PR, Honey RAE, Mckenna PJ, Bullmore ET, Fletcher PC
921 (2005) Functional dysconnectivity in schizophrenia associated with attentional modulation
922 of motor function. *Brain* 128:2597-2611.
- 923 Imamizu H, Miyauchi S, Tamada T, Sasaki Y, Takino R, Putz B, Yoshioka T, Kawato M (2000)
924 Human cerebellar activity reflecting an acquired internal model of a new tool. *Nature*
925 403:192-195.
- 926 Kampe KKW, Frith CD, Frith U (2003) “Hey John”: signals conveying communicative intention
927 toward the self activate brain regions associated with “mentalizing,” regardless of modality.
928 *J Neurosci* 23:5258-5263.
- 929 Kawashima R, Sugiura M, Kato T, Nakamura A, Hatano K, Ito K, Fukuda H, Kojima S,
930 Nakamura K (1999) The human amygdala plays an important role in gaze monitoring.
931 *Brain* 122:779-783.
- 932 Koike T, Tanabe HC, Sadato N (2015) Hyperscanning neuroimaging technique to reveal the
933 “two-in-one” system in social interactions. *Neuroscience Research* 90:25-32.
- 934 Koike T, Tanabe HC, Okazaki S, Nakagawa E, Sasaki AT, Shimada K, Sugawara SK, Takahashi
935 HK, Yoshihara K, Bosch-Bayard J, Sadato N (2016) Neural substrates of shared attention
936 as social memory: A hyperscanning functional magnetic resonance imaging study.
937 *Neuroimage* 125:401-412.
- 938 Kuhl PK, Tsao F-M, Liu H-M (2003) Foreign-language experience in infancy: effects of
939 short-term exposure and social interaction on phonetic learning. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A*
940 100:9096-9101.
- 941 Lamm C, Singer T (2010) The role of anterior insular cortex in social emotions. *Brain Struct*
942 *Funct* 214:579-559.
- 943 Leong V, Byrne E, Clackson K, Georgieva S, Lam S, Wass S (2017) Speaker gaze increases
944 information coupling between infant and adult brains. *Proc Natl Acad Sci*
945 114:13290-13295.
- 946 Lingnau A, Downing PE (2015) The lateral occipitotemporal cortex in action. *Trends Cogn Sci*
947 19:268-277.
- 948 Margulies DS, Kelly CAM, Uddin LQ, Biswal BB, Castellanos FX, Milham MP (2007) Mapping
949 the functional connectivity of anterior cingulate cortex. *Neuroimage* 37:579-588.
- 950 Matsuzawa M, Matsuo K, Sugio T, Kato C, Nakai T (2005) Temporal relationship between action
951 and visual outcome modulates brain activation: an fMRI study. *Magn Reson Med Sci*
952 4:115-121.
- 953 McLaren DG, Ries ML, Xu G, Johnson SC (2012) A generalized form of context-dependent

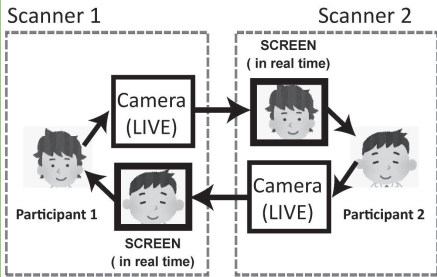
- 954 psychophysiological interactions (gPPI): A comparison to standard approaches.
955 *Neuroimage* 61:1277-1286.
- 956 Medford N, Critchley HD (2010) Conjoint activity of anterior insular and anterior cingulate
957 cortex: awareness and response. *Brain Struct Funct* 214:535-549.
- 958 Meltzoff AN (2005) Imitation and other minds: The “Like Me” hypothesis. In: *Perspectives on*
959 *imitation: from neuroscience to social science* (Hurley S, Chater N, eds), pp 55-77.
960 Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.
- 961 Moeller S, Yacoub E, Olman CA, Auerbach E, Strupp J, Harel N, Uğurbil K (2010) Multiband
962 multislice GE-EPI at 7 tesla, with 16-fold acceleration using partial parallel imaging with
963 application to high spatial and temporal whole-brain fMRI. *Magn Reson Med*
964 63:1144-1153.
- 965 Morita T, Tanabe HC, Sasaki AT, Shimada K, Kakigi R, Sadato N (2014) The anterior insular and
966 anterior cingulate cortices in emotional processing for self-face recognition. *Soc Cogn*
967 *Affect Neurosci* 9:570-579.
- 968 Mundy P, Sigman M (1989) The theoretical implications of joint-attention deficits in autism. *Dev*
969 *Psychopathol* 1:173-183.
- 970 Murray L, Trevarthen C (1985) Emotional regulation of interaction between 2-month-olds and
971 their mothers. In: *Social perception in infants* (Field TM, Fox NA, eds), pp 177-197.
972 Norwood.
- 973 Nadel J (2002) Imitation and imitation recognition: Functional use in preverbal infants and
974 nonverbal children with autism. In: *The imitative mind Development evolution and brain*
975 (Meltzoff AN, Prinz W, eds), pp 42-62. Cambridge University Press.
- 976 Nakano T, Kitazawa S (2010) Eyeblink entrainment at breakpoints of speech. *Exp Brain Res*
977 205:577-581.
- 978 Nicolis G, Prigogine IS (1977) *Self-organization in nonequilibrium systems: from dissipative*
979 *structures to order through fluctuations*. New York: Wiley.
- 980 Noy L, Dekel E, Alon U (2011) The mirror game as a paradigm for studying the dynamics of two
981 people improvising motion together. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A* 108:20947-20952.
- 982 Okazaki S, Hirotani M, Koike T, Bosch-Bayard J, Takahashi HK, Hashiguchi M, Sadato N (2015)
983 Unintentional interpersonal synchronization represented as a reciprocal visuo-postural
984 feedback system: a multivariate autoregressive modeling approach. *PLoS One*
985 10:e0137126.
- 986 Olejnik S, Algina J (2003) Generalized Eta and Omega Squared Statistics: Measures of Effect
987 Size for Some Common Research Designs. *Psychol Methods* 8:434-447.
- 988 Oldfield RC (1971) The assessment and analysis of handedness: the Edinburgh inventory.
989 *Neuropsychologia* 9:97-113.

- 990 Orchard LN, Stern JA (1991) Blinks as an index of cognitive activity during reading. *Integr*
991 *Physiol Behav Sci* 26:108-116.
- 992 Oosterhof NN, Tipper SP, Downing PE (2013) Crossmodal and action-specific: neuroimaging the
993 human mirror neuron system. *Trends Cogn Sci* 17:311-318.
- 994 Orlov T, Makin TR, Zohary E (2010) Topographic representation of the human body in the
995 occipitotemporal cortex. *Neuron* 68:586-600.
- 996 Oullier O, de Guzman GC, Jantzen KJ, Lagarde J, Kelso JA (2008) Social coordination dynamics:
997 measuring human bonding. *Soc Neurosci* 3:178-192.
- 998 Ozaki (2012) *Time-series Modeling of Neuroscience Data*. FL: CRC press.
- 999 Pageler NM, Menon V, Merin NM, Eliez S, Brown WE, Reiss AL (2003) Effect of head
1000 orientation on gaze processing in fusiform gyrus and superior temporal sulcus. *Neuroimage*
1001 20:318-329.
- 1002 Paus T (2001) Primate anterior cingulate cortex: where motor control, drive and cognition
1003 interface. *Nat Rev Neurosci* 2:417-424.
- 1004 Paus T, Petrides M, Evans AC, Meyer E (1993) Role of the human anterior cingulate cortex in the
1005 control of oculomotor, manual, and speech responses: a positron emission tomography
1006 study. *J Neurophysiol* 70:453-469.
- 1007 Pelphrey K, Viola R, McCarthy G (2004) When strangers pass: Processing of mutual and averted
1008 social gaze in the superior temporal sulcus. *Psychol Sci* 15:598-603.
- 1009 Picard N, Strick PL (1996) Motor areas of the median wall: a review of their location and
1010 functional activation. *Cereb Cortex* 6:342-353.
- 1011 Ponder E, Kennedy WP (1927) On the act of blinking. *Q J Exp Physiol* 18:89-110.
- 1012 Prochazkova E, Kret ME (2017) Connecting minds and sharing emotions through mimicry: A
1013 neurocognitive model of emotional contagion. *Neurosci Biobehav Rev* 80:99-114.
- 1014 Riedel MC, Ray KL, Dick AS, Sutherland MT, Hernandez Z, Fox PM, Eickhoff SB, Fox PT,
1015 Laird AR (2015) Meta-analytic connectivity and behavioral parcellation of the human
1016 cerebellum. *Neuroimage* 117:327-342.
- 1017 Rochat P (2001) Social contingency detection and infant development. *Bull Menn Clin*
1018 65:347-360.
- 1019 Rochat P, Passos-Ferreira C, Salem P (2009) Three Levels of Intersubjectivity in Early
1020 Development. In: *Enacting Intersubjectivity. Paving the way for a dialogue between*
1021 *cognitive science, social cognition and neuroscience* (Carassa A, Morganti F, Rivaeds G,
1022 eds), pp173-190. Lugano, Switzerland: Università della Svizzera Italiana.
- 1023 Rorden C, Brett M (2000) Stereotaxic display of brain lesions. *Behavioural Neurology*,
1024 12:191-200.
- 1025 Sato W, Kochiyama T, Yoshikawa S, Naito E, Matsumura M (2004) Enhanced neural activity in

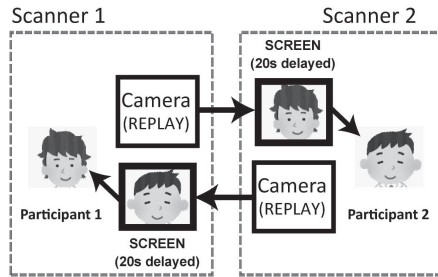
- 1026 response to dynamic facial expressions of emotion: an fMRI study. *Brain Res Cogn Brain*
1027 *Res* 20:81-91.
- 1028 Saito DN, Tanabe HC, Izuma K, Hayashi MJ, Morito Y, Komeda H, Uchiyama H, Kosaka H,
1029 Okazawa H, Fujibayashi Y, Sadato N (2010) “Stay tuned”: Inter-individual neural
1030 synchronization during mutual gaze and joint attention. *Front Integr Neurosci* 4:1-12.
- 1031 Schilbach L (2015) Eye to eye, face to face and brain to brain: novel approaches to study the
1032 behavioral dynamics and neural mechanisms of social interactions. *Curr Opin Behav Sci*
1033 3:130-135.
- 1034 Schilbach L, Wohlschlaeger AM, Kraemer NC, Newen A, Shah NJ, Fink GR, Vogeley K (2006)
1035 Being with virtual others: Neural correlates of social interaction. *Neuropsychologia*
1036 44:718-730.
- 1037 Schippers MB, Roebroek A, Renken R, Nanetti L, Keysers C (2010) Mapping the information
1038 flow from one brain to another during gestural communication. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A*
1039 107:9388-9393.
- 1040 Schmahmann JD, Sherman JC (1998) The cerebellar cognitive affective syndrome. *Brain*
1041 121:561-579.
- 1042 Schroeder CE, Lakatos P (2009) Low-frequency neuronal oscillations as instruments of sensory
1043 selection. *Trends Neurosci* 32:9-18.
- 1044 Schweizer TA, Alexander MP, Cusimano M, Stuss DT (2007) Fast and efficient visuotemporal
1045 attention requires the cerebellum. *Neuropsychologia* 45:3068-3074.
- 1046 Sebanz N, Bekkering H, Knoblich G (2006) Joint action: bodies and minds moving together.
1047 *Trends Cogn Sci* 10:70-76.
- 1048 Senju A, Johnson MH (2009) The eye contact effect: Mechanisms and development. *Trends Cogn*
1049 *Sci* 13:127-134.
- 1050 Singer T, Seymour B, O’Doherty J, Kaube H, Dolan RJ, Frith CD (2004) Empathy for pain
1051 involves the affective but not sensory components of pain. *Science* 303:1157-1162.
- 1052 Soussignan R, Nadel J, Canet P, Gerardin P (2006) Sensitivity to Social Contingency and Positive
1053 Emotion in 2-Month-Olds. *Infancy* 10:123-144.
- 1054 Stern JA, Walrath LC, Goldstein R (1984) The endogenous eyeblink. *Psychophysiology* 21:22-33.
- 1055 Stevanovic M, Peräkylä A (2015) Experience sharing, emotional reciprocity, and turn-taking.
1056 *Front Psychol* 6:1-7.
- 1057 Stormark KM, Braarud HC (2004) Infants’ sensitivity to social contingency: A “double video”
1058 study of face-to-face communication between 2- and 4-month-olds and their mothers.
1059 *Infant Behav Dev* 27:195-203.
- 1060 Strogatz SH (2003) *Sync: The emerging science of spontaneous order*. New York: Hyperion.
- 1061 Tanabe HC, Kosaka H, Saito DN, Koike T, Hayashi MJ, Izuma K, Komeda H, Ishitobi M, Omori

- 1062 M, Munesue T, Okazawa H, Wada Y, Sadato N (2012) Hard to “ tune in ”: neural
1063 mechanisms of eye contact and joint attention in high-functioning autistic spectrum
1064 disorder. *Front Hum Neurosci* 6:268.
- 1065 Trillenber P, Verleger R, Teetzmann A, Wascher E, Wessel K (2004) On the role of the
1066 cerebellum in exploiting temporal contingencies: Evidence from response times and
1067 preparatory EEG potentials in patients with cerebellar atrophy. *Neuropsychologia*
1068 42:754-763.
- 1069 Tzourio-Mazoyer N, Landeau B, Papathanassiou D, Crivello F, Etard O, Delcroix N, Mazoyer B,
1070 Joliot M (2002) Automated anatomical labeling of activations in SPM using a macroscopic
1071 anatomical parcellation of the MNI MRI single-subject brain. *Neuroimage* 15:273-289.
- 1072 VanderWerf F, Brassinga P, Reits D, Aramideh M, Ongerboer de Visser B (2003) Eyelid
1073 movements: behavioral studies of blinking in humans under different stimulus conditions. *J*
1074 *Neurophysiol* 89:2784-2796.
- 1075 Watanabe K (2013) Teaching as a dynamic phenomenon with interpersonal interactions. *Mind,*
1076 *Brain, Educ* 7:91-100.
- 1077 Whitfield-Gabrieli S, Nieto-Castanon A (2012) Conn: A functional connectivity toolbox for
1078 correlated and anticorrelated brain networks. *Brain Connect* 2:125-141.
- 1079 Wicker B, Keysers C, Plailly J, Royet JP, Gallese V, Rizzolatti G (2003) Both of us disgusted in
1080 my insula : the common neural basis of seeing and feeling disgust. *Neuron* 40:655-664.
- 1081 Wolpert DM, Doya K, Kawato M (2003) A unifying computational framework for motor control
1082 and social interaction. *Philos Trans R Soc B Biol Sci* 358:593-602.
- 1083 Wolpert DM, Kawato M (1998) Multiple paired forward and inverse models for motor control.
1084 *Neural Networks* 11:1317-1329.
- 1085 Zalesky A, Akhlaghi H, Corben LA, Bradshaw JL, Delatycki MB, Storey E, Georgiou-Karistianis
1086 N, Egan GF (2014) Cerebello-cerebral connectivity deficits in Friedreich ataxia. *Brain*
1087 *Struct Funct* 219:969-981.
- 1088
- 1089

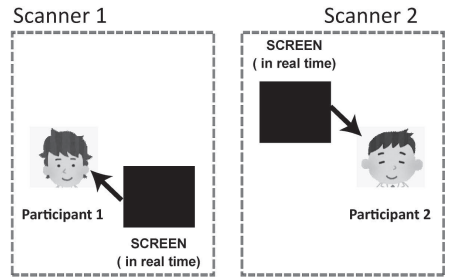
A LIVE condition



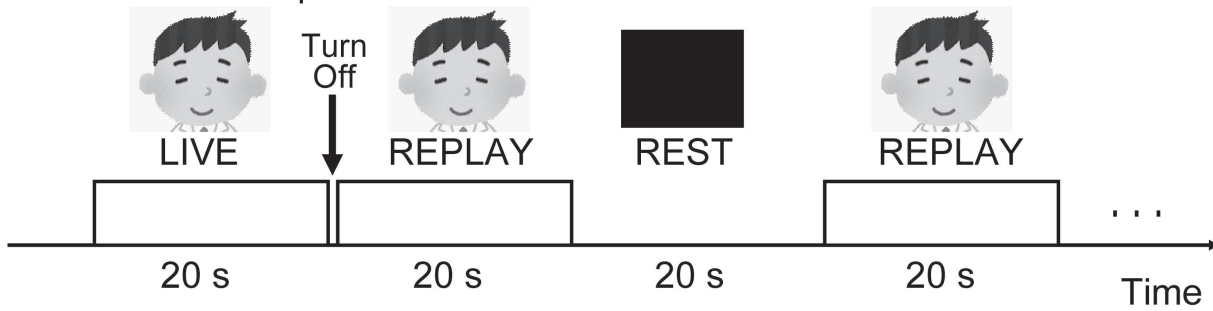
B REPLAY condition



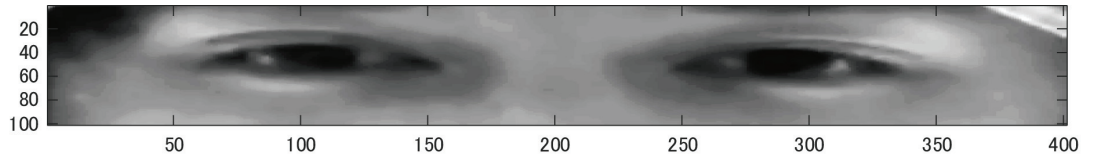
C REST condition



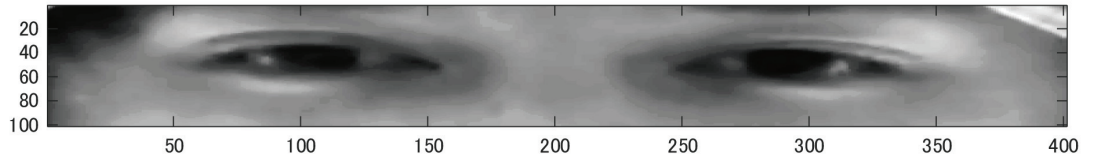
D Timecourse of experiment



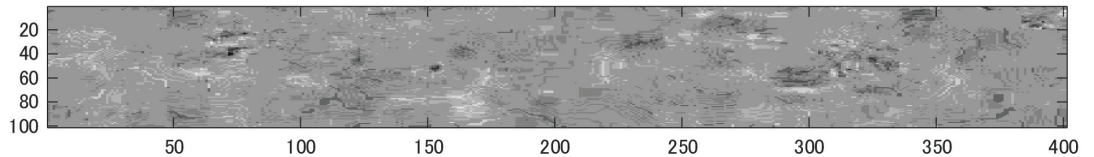
Frame N



Frame N+1



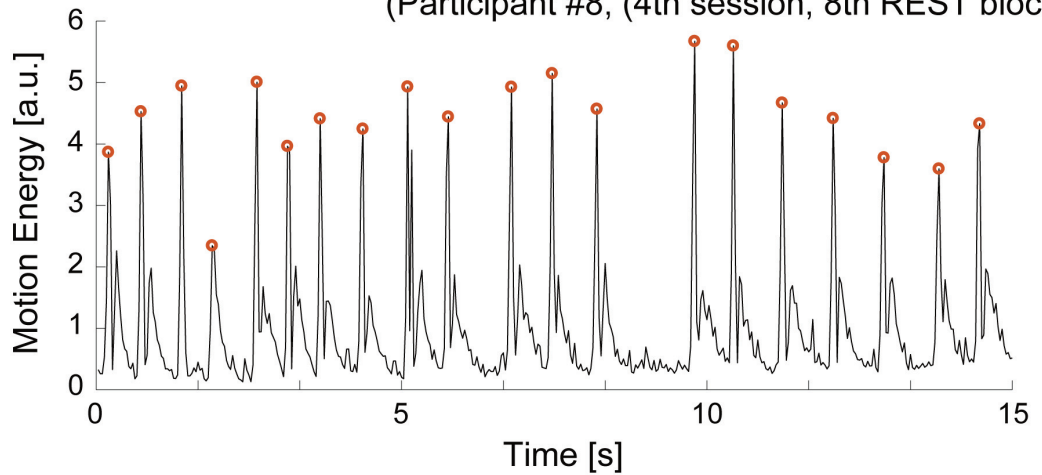
Frame N
minus
Frame N+1



Absolute value, Average all pixels

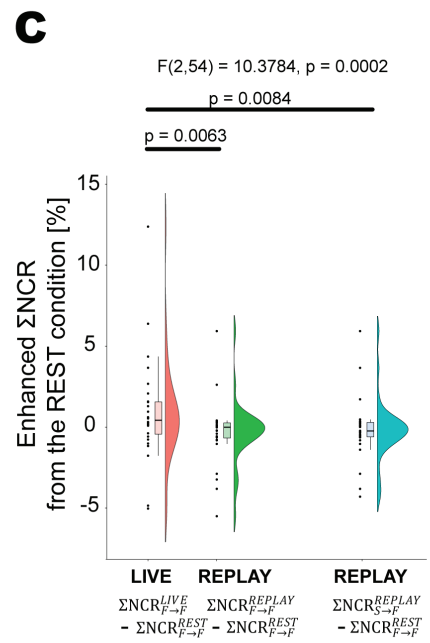
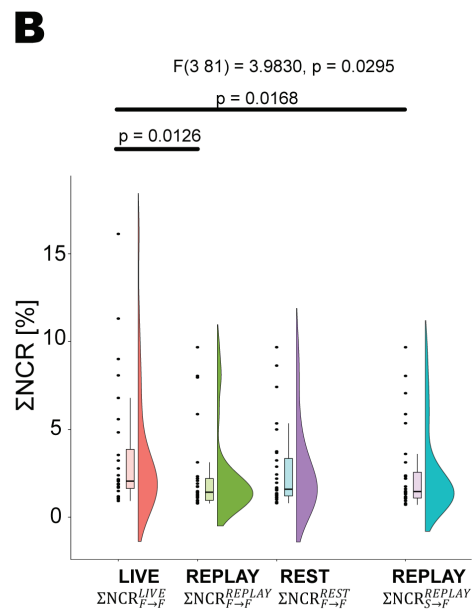
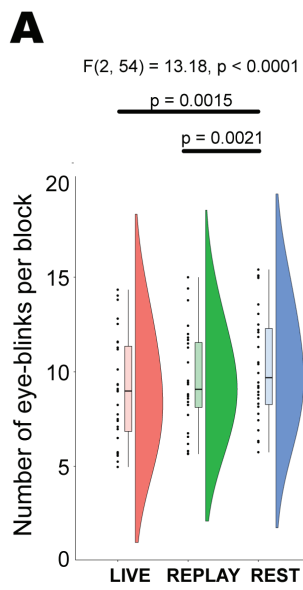
Motion energy time series

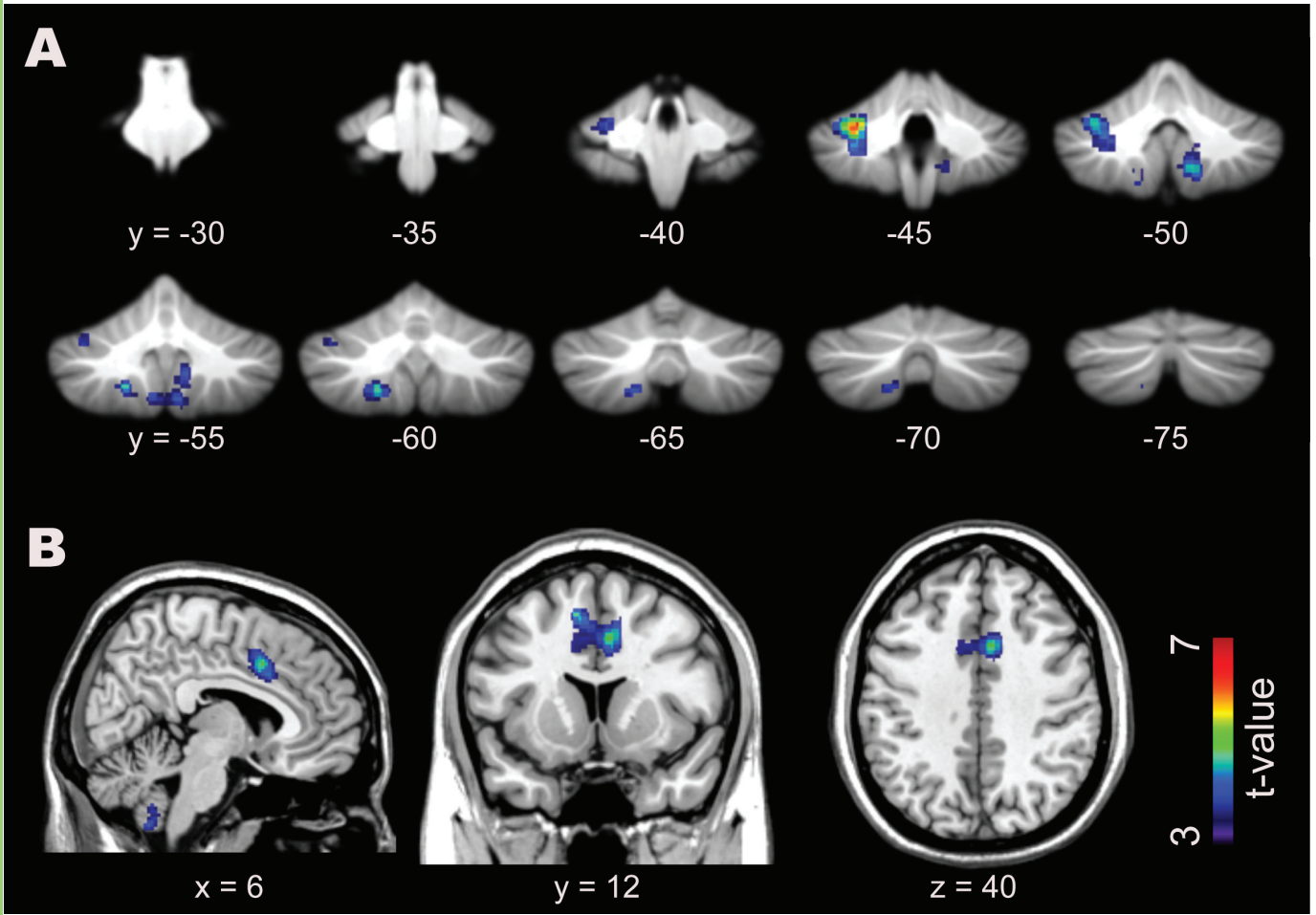
(Participant #8, (4th session, 8th REST block))

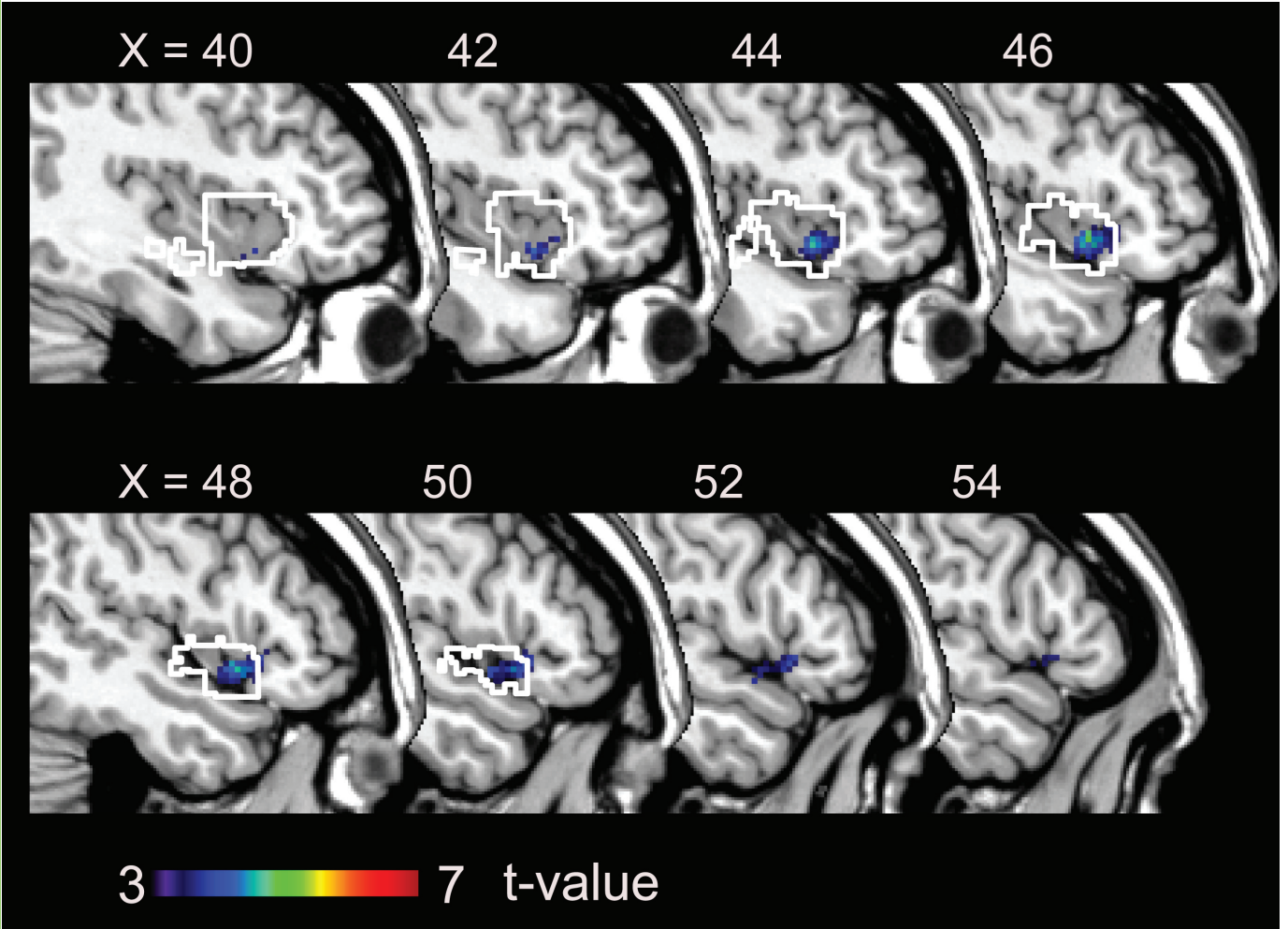


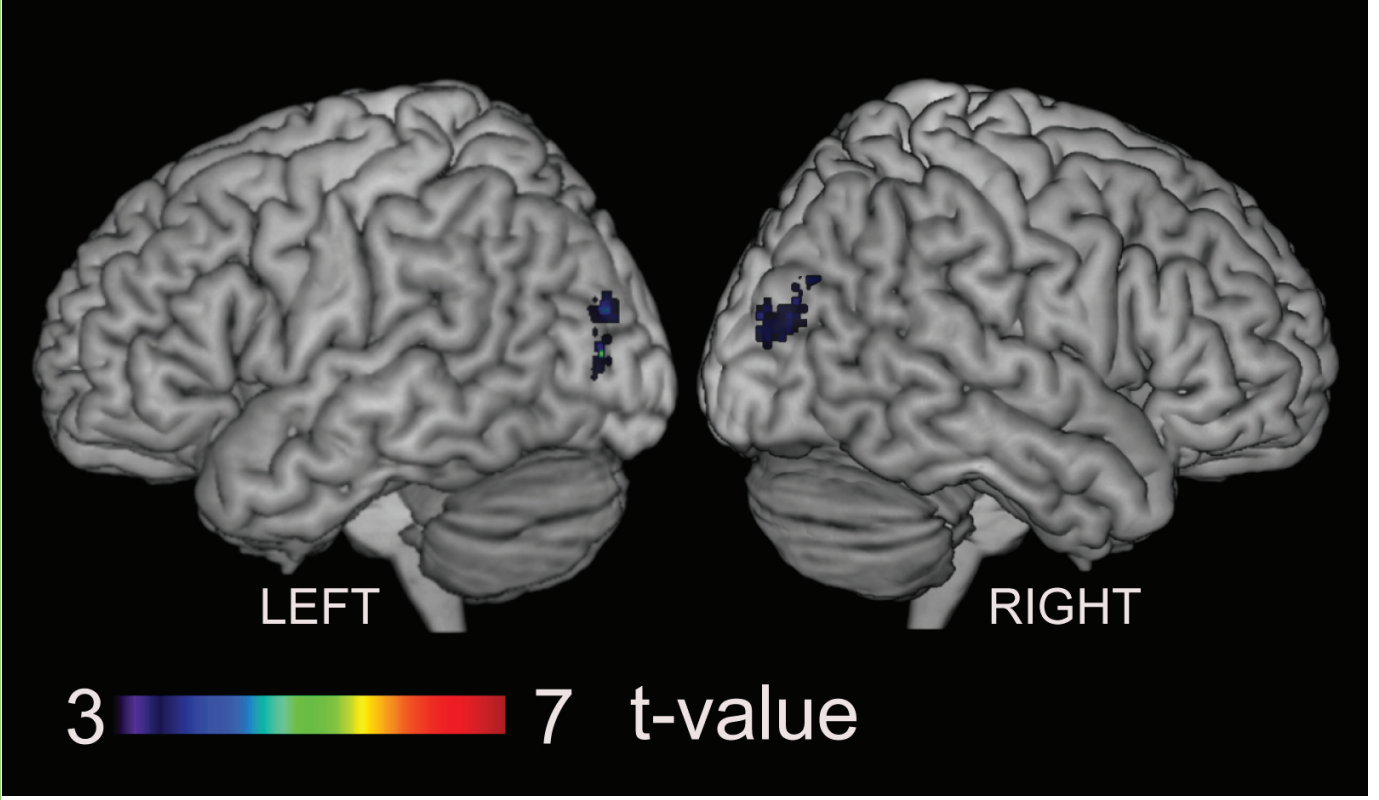
Akaike Causality Analysis

Eye-blink counting









Tables 1

Location		Data Type	Data structure	Type of test	Multiple comparison correction	Program	Statistics	p-values	Power / Confidence interval
Manuscript	Figure								
a	3A	Number of eye blinks	Normal distribution	One-way repeated ANOVA	--	R	F(2, 54) = 13.1814	p<0.0001	$\eta^2 = 0.03540$
b		Number of eye blinks	Normal distribution	t-test (Post-hoc test, LIVE vs REST)	Bonferroni	R	T(27)=3.9464	p=0.0015	mean = -1.2757 (-1.9389 to -0.6124)
c		Number of eye blinks	Normal distribution	t-test (Post-hoc test, REPLAY vs REST)	Bonferroni	R	T(27)=3.8499	p=0.0021	mean = -0.7946 (-1.2182 to -0.3711)
d		Number of eye blinks	Normal distribution	t-test (Post-hoc test, LIVE vs REPLAY)	Bonferroni	R	T(27) = 2.3522,	p=0.0786	mean = -0.4810 (-0.9006 to -0.0614)
e	3B	Absolute Σ NCR	Normal distribution	One-way repeated ANOVA	--	R	F(3, 81)=3.9830	p=0.0295	$\eta^2 = 0.03236$
f		Absolute Σ NCR	Normal distribution	Paired t-test (Post-hoc test,	Bonferroni	R	T(27)=3.406	p = 0.0126	mean = 1.2294

				LIVEFF vs REPLAYFF)					(0.4888 to 1.9700)
g		Absolute Σ NCR	Normal distribution	Paired t-test (Post-hoc test, LIVEFF vs RESTFF)	Bonferroni	R	T (27)=1.4598	p = 0.9354	mean = 0.8888 (-0.3604 to 2.1379)
h		Absolute Σ NCR	Normal distribution	Paired t-test (Post-hoc test, LIVEFF vs REPLAYSF)	Bonferroni	R	T (27)=3.2934	p = 0.0168	mean = 1.0455 (0.3941 to 1.6969)
i		Absolute Σ NCR	Normal distribution	Paired t-test (Post-hoc test, REPLAYFF vs RESTFF)	Bonferroni	R	T (27)=0.9065	p = 1.0000	mean = -0.3406 (-1.1116 to 0.4304)
j		Absolute Σ NCR	Normal distribution	Paired t-test (Post-hoc test, REPLAYFF vs REPLAYSF)	Bonferroni	R	T (27)=1.2083	p = 1.0000	mean = -0.1838 (-0.4960 to 0.1284)
k		Absolute Σ NCR	Normal distribution	Paired t-test (Post-hoc test, RESTFF vs REPLAYSF)	Bonferroni	R	T (27)=0.4349	p = 1.0000	mean = 0.1568 (-0.5829 to 0.8965)
l		Absolute Σ NCR	Normal distribution	One-way repeated ANOVA	--	R	F (3, 69)=4.3334	p=0.0074	$\eta_g^2 = 0.0785$

m	Absolute Σ NCR	Normal distribution	Paired t-test (Post-hoc test, LIVEFF vs REPLAYFF)	Bonferroni	R	T (23)=3. 0965	p=0. 0306	mean = 1. 0291 (0. 3416 to 1. 7165)
n	Absolute Σ NCR	Normal distribution	Paired t-test (Post-hoc test, LIVEFF vs RESTFF)	Bonferroni	R	T (23)=1. 0783	p=1. 0000	mean = 0. 4588 (-0. 4214 to 1. 3390)
o	Absolute Σ NCR	Normal distribution	Paired t-test (Post-hoc test, LIVEFF vs REPLAYSF)	Bonferroni	R	T (23)=3. 0779	p=0. 0318	mean = 0. 7771 (0. 2548 to 1. 2994)
p	Absolute Σ NCR	Normal distribution	Paired t-test (Post-hoc test, REPLAYFF vs RESTFF)	Bonferroni	R	T (23)=1. 9902	p=1. 0000	mean = -0. 5702 (-1. 1630 to 0. 0225)
q	Absolute Σ NCR	Normal distribution	Paired t-test (Post-hoc test, REPLAYFF vs REPLAYSF)	Bonferroni	R	T (23)=1. 4744	p=0. 9234	mean = -0. 2519 (-0. 6054 to 0. 1015)
r	Absolute Σ NCR	Normal distribution	Paired t-test (Post-hoc test, REPLAYFF vs REPLAYSF)	Bonferroni	R	T (23)=1. 1336	p=1. 0000	mean = 0. 3183 (-0. 2626 to 0. 8992)

s	3C	Relative Σ NCR	Normal distribution	One-way repeated ANOVA	--	R	F (2, 54)=10. 3784	p = 0. 0002	$\eta^2 = 0. 0483$
t		Relative Σ NCR	Normal distribution	Paired t-test (Post-hoc test, LIVEFF vs REPLAYFF)	Bonferroni	R	T (27)=3. 4061	p = 0. 0063	mean = 1. 2294 (0. 4888 to 1. 9700)
u		Relative Σ NCR	Normal distribution	Paired t-test (Post-hoc test, LIVEFF vs REPLAYSF)	Bonferroni	R	T (27)=3. 2934	p = 0. 0084	mean = 1. 0455 (0. 3941 to 1. 6969)
v		Relative Σ NCR	Normal distribution	Paired t-test (Post-hoc test, REPLAYFF vs RESTSF)	Bonferroni	R	T (27)=1. 2083	p = 0. 7122	mean = -0. 1838 (-0. 4960 to 0. 1284)
w		Relative Σ NCR	Normal distribution	One-way repeated ANOVA	--	R	F (2, 40)=7. 9233	p=0. 0013	$\eta^2 = 0. 1330$
x		Relative Σ NCR	Normal distribution	Paired t-test (Post-hoc test, LIVEFF vs REPLAYFF)	Bonferroni	R	T (20)=2. 8343	p=0. 0306	mean = 7805 (0. 0102 to 0. 0250)
y		Relative Σ NCR	Normal distribution	Paired t-test (Post-hoc test, LIVEFF vs REPLAYSF)	Bonferroni	R	T (20)=2. 9034	p=0. 0264	mean = 0. 8362 (0. 0088 to 0. 0167)
z		Relative Σ NCR	Normal distribution	Paired t-test (Post-hoc test,	Bonferroni	R	T (20)=0. 6790	p=1. 0000	mean = 0. 0558

				REPLAYFF vs RESTSF					(-0.1156 to 0.2271)
aa	--	Absolute Σ NCR	Normal distribution	Repeated ANOVA, Main effect of conditions	--	R	F(3, 81)=3.9830	p=0.0106	$\eta^2 = 0.0132$
bb		Absolute Σ NCR	Normal distribution	Repeated ANOVA, Main effect of sessions	--	R	F(3, 81)=1.0351	P=0.3816	$\eta^2 = 0.0139$
cc		Absolute Σ NCR	Normal distribution	Repeated ANOVA, Interaction (session x condition)	--	R	F(9, 243)=1.8235	p=0.0647	$\eta^2 = 0.0128$
dd	4	fMRI (BOLD activation)	Normal distribution	Paired t-test (LIVE > REPLAY)	Random effect model at cluster-level inference	SPM	--	--	--
ee		fMRI (BOLD activation)	No assumption	Paired t-test (LIVE > REPLAY)	Nonparametric permutation test at cluster-level inference	SnPM	--	--	--
ff	5	fMRI (PPI value)	Normal distribution	Paired t-test (LIVE > REPLAY)	Random effect model at cluster-level inference	SPM	--	--	--

gg		fMRI (PPI value)	No assumption	Paired t-test (LIVE > REPLAY)	Nonparametric permutation test at cluster-level inference	SnPM	--	--	--
hh	6	fMRI (Normalized inter-brain sync)	Normal distribution	Paired t-test (LIVE > REPLAY)	Random effect model at cluster-level inference	SPM	--	--	--
ii		fMRI (Normalized inter-brain sync)	No assumption	Paired t-test (LIVE > REPLAY)	Nonparametric permutation test at cluster-level inference	SnPM	--	--	--

Table 2

Cluster level inference			Peak level inference		T-value	MNI coordinates			Side	Location	Probability
P _{FWE}		Cluster size mm ³	P _{FWE}			X	Y	Z			
SPM	SnPM		SPM	SnPM							
0.015	0.025	2616	0.960	0.443	3.848	-40	-60	-30	L	Cerebellum	Lobule VIIa crus I (Hem) (99%)
			0.006	0.001	6.734	-28	-46	-30	L	Cerebellum	Lobule VI (Hem) (85%)
			0.642	0.195	4.406	-28	-44	-44	L	Cerebellum	
0.010	0.022	2880	0.408	0.111	4.720	-18	-60	-52	L	Cerebellum	Lobule VIIIb (Hem) (68%)
			0.846	--	4.119	-6	-54	-54	L	Cerebellum	Lobule IX (Hem) (80%)
			0.954	--	3.870	-14	-52	-52	L	Cerebellum	Lobule IX (Hem) (67%)
			0.815	0.283	4.169	6	-56	-56	R	Cerebellum	Lobule IX (Hem) (86%)
			0.495	0.139	4.598	12	-50	-50	R	Cerebellum	Lobule IX (Hem) (87%)
0.002	0.014	4176	0.274	0.069	4.945	-8	10	50	L	Pre-SMA	
			0.986	0.532	3.702	-10	10	38	L	ACC	
			0.274	0.069	4.945	6	12	40	R	ACC	
0.056	0.040	1824	0.227	0.055	5.044	-8	-46	-22	L	Cerebellum	
			0.463	0.127	4.641	0	-56	-26	R	Cerebellum	Fastigii Nucleus (37%)
			0.471	0.130	4.630	14	-52	-30	R	Cerebellum	

ACC, Anterior cingulate cortex; Pre-SMA, Pre-supplementary motor area; MNI, Montreal Neurological Institute; Hem, Hemisphere

Table 3

Cluster level inference			Peak level inference		T-value	MNI coordinates			Side	Location	Probability
P _{FWE}		Cluster size mm ³	P _{FWE}			X	Y	Z			
SPM	SnPM		SPM	SnPM							
0.000	0.0824	1208	0.868	0.378	5.063	46	14	-6	R	Insular	
			1.000	1.000	3.545	54	14	-4	R	IFG	BA44 (21%)
			1.000	---	4.156	50	20	-4	R	IFGOr	BA45 (31%)

IFG, Inferior frontal gyrus; IFGOr, Inferior frontal gyrus (pars opercularis); Montreal Neurological Institute; BA, Brodmann area

Table 4

Cluster level inference			Peak level inference		T-value	MNI coordinates			Side	Location	Probability
P _{FWE}		Cluster size mm ³	P _{FWE}			X	Y	Z			
SPM	SnPM		SPM	SnPM							
0.001	0.2258	1088	0.999	0.829	5.753	-26	-82	4	L		
			1.000	0.999	4.695	-34	-78	4	L	MOG	
			1.000	0.999	4.628	-28	-86	22	L	MOG	
0.007	0.2852	880	1.000	0.998	4.739	28	-76	24	R	MOG	
			1.000	1.000	3.983	38	-80	16	R	MOG	
			1.000	1.000	3.827	34	-88	18	R	MOG	hOc4Ip (35.4%)

MOG, Middle Occipital Gyrus; Montreal Neurological Institute