

Cristina Meini
Università del Piemonte Orientale
meini@lett.unipmn.it

Pierre Jacob on
Mirroring, mindreading and concept-
possession

Mirror neurons: The classical model

- Resonance
- We centric space
- Non conceptual understanding

Mirror neurons: The classical model

- Resonance
- We centric space
- Non conceptual understanding

“The fundamental mechanism that allows us a direct experiential grasp of the mind of others is not conceptual reasoning but direct simulation of the observed events through the mirror mechanism”
(Gallese et al., 2004)

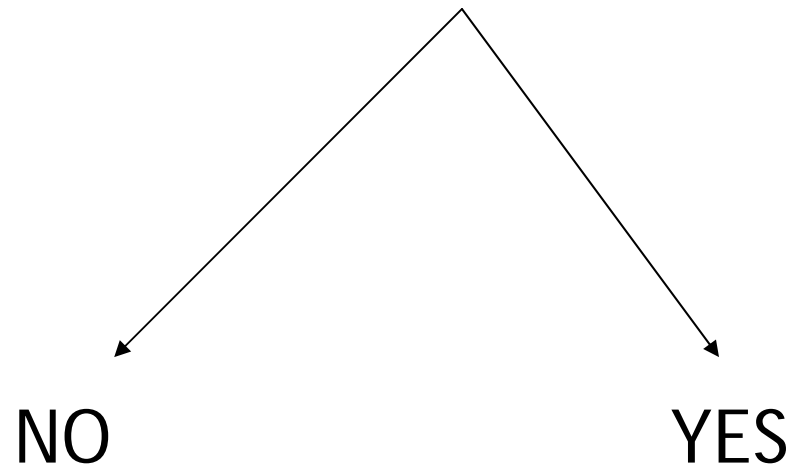
Mirror Neurons: The new model

Logically related mirror neurons:

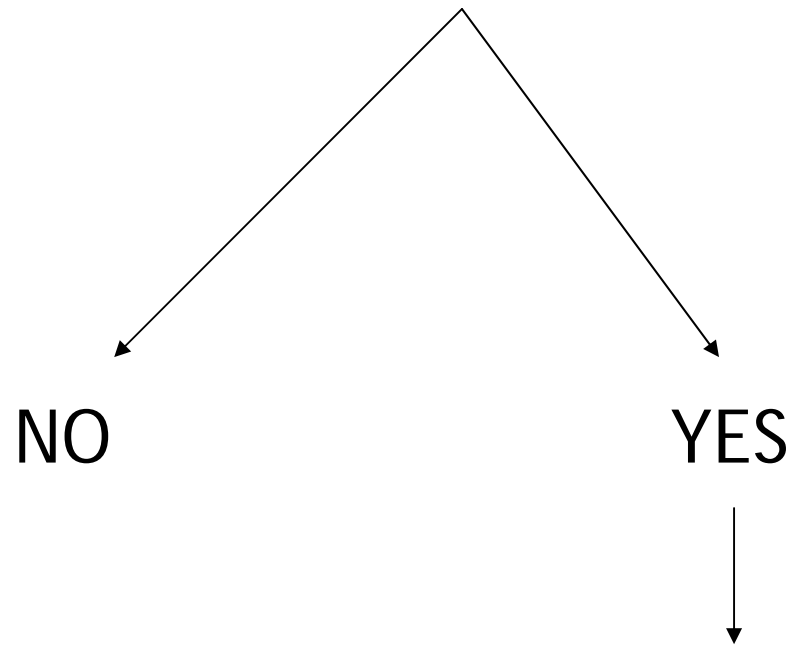
- No strict congruence between the motor and the perceptual properties of MNs
- Predictive model
- Inferential processes

Are MNs impaired in autism ?

Are MNs impaired in autism ?



Are MNs impaired in autism ?



Which model fits the data better?

Back to the classical view

Back to the classical view

Are MNs constitutively involved in mindreading?

Back to the classical view

Are MNs constitutively involved in mindreading?

NO, for Goldman's and Jacob's reasons
(mindreading requires concept possession)

Back to the classical view

Are MNs causally implicated in mindreading?

When they are not:

1) Beliefs and complex desires

When they are not:

- 1) Beliefs and complex desires
- 2) Complex social situations

When they are not:

- 1) Beliefs and complex desires
- 2) Complex social situations
- 3) Gaze direction

When they are not:

- 1) Beliefs and complex desires
- 2) Complex social situations
- 3) Gaze direction
- 4) Actions that are not part of the motor repertoire

When they could be:

Emotions

When they could be:

Emotions

Contrary to Jacob, I think that we are not Super Spartans

Super Spartans are no more philosophical creatures

A resonance mechanism with *causal* (i.e. no constitutive) role in understanding emotions?

Probably yes

.. And this mechanism could be central for the aesthetic experience

See

-Di Dio, Macaluso, Rizzolatti 2007, *The Golden Beauty: Brain Response to Classical and Renaissance Sculptures*, *PlosOne*, 11, E1201.

-Gallese and Freedberg 2007, *Mirror and Canonical Neurons are Crucial Elements in Aesthetic response*, *TICS*, 10,11, 411.