

Why care?



- ① Language is one of the most fascinating cognitive systems in our brains.

- Professors record lectures in sweat pants.
 - A student saw a professor in sweat pants.
 - Professors learn students' names in sweat pants.
 - The roster lists students' names in sweat pants. 😂
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- A student in sweat pants saw a professor.
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- Professors in New York teach students in sweat pants.
 - Professors in sweat pants teach students in New York.

② Language is one of the most important cognitive systems in our brains.

- Without language, our ability to express our thoughts and to understand the world is extremely limited.
- Thought experiment: If brain damage were to wipe out most of your cognitive abilities, and you could only keep one, which one would it be:
 - Memory
 - Decision making
 - Emotion
 - Language
 - Learning
 - Reasoning



HMM...

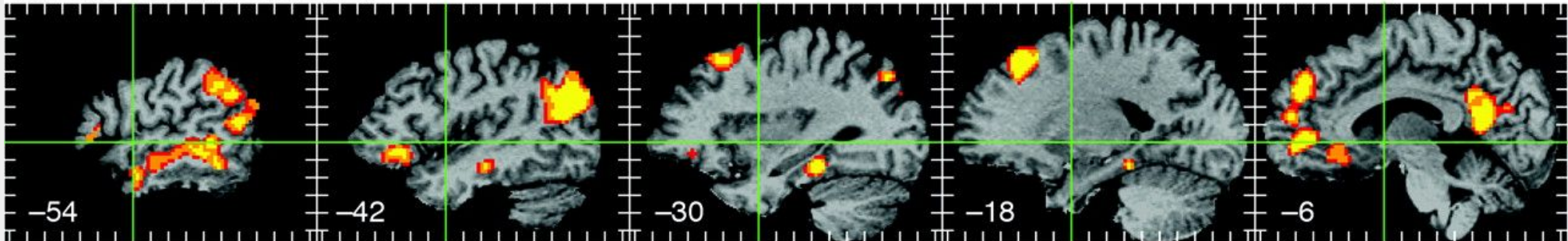
- In brain surgery, doctors work hard to try to make sure they don't remove any bits of language.

➤ Presurgical language mapping

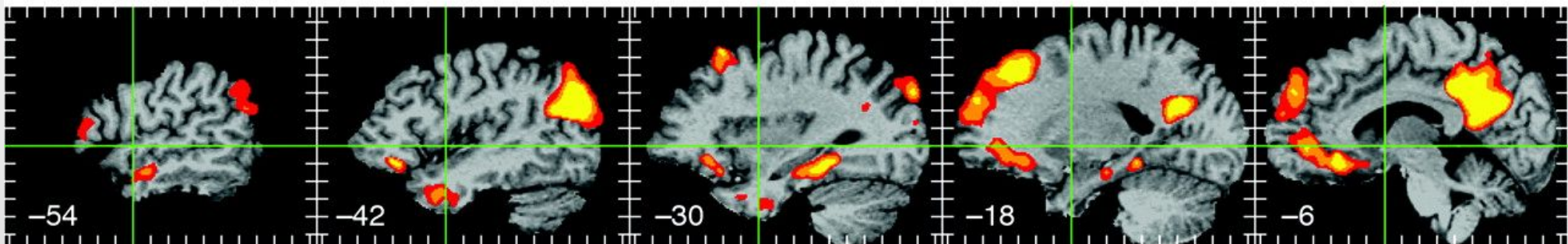
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l1SAC1HcAzc>

- ③ Language permeates through other cognitive systems – our brains are “doing language” most of the time.

General Semantic Network



"Default State" Network



➤ We cannot understand the brain without understanding language in the brain.



Why care about the neural basis of language?

- Language is fun!
- Language is important!
- Language is everywhere!