

Improving the Mind with a Hop, Skip, and a Jump

Jing Chen
Christopher A. Kurby



Part 1: What changes?

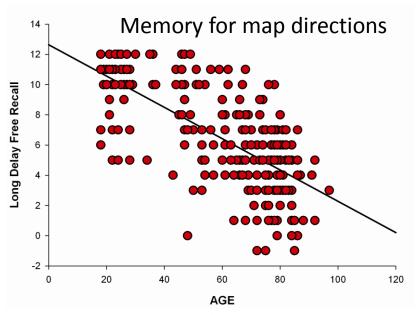


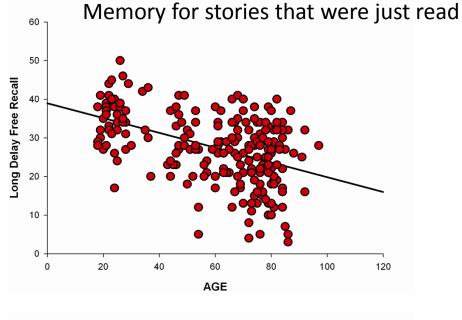
"Oh. getting old isn't so bad, except for maybe a little forgetfulness."

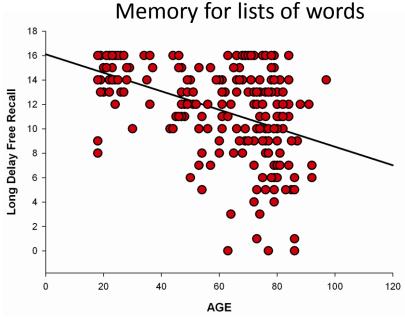
 Memory complaints are common among older adults (Galvin, 2005).

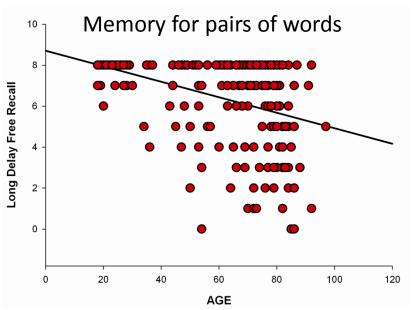
 Memory complaints is a major issue that are reported by those entering medical clinics for help (Galvin, 2005).

Age and Episodic Memory



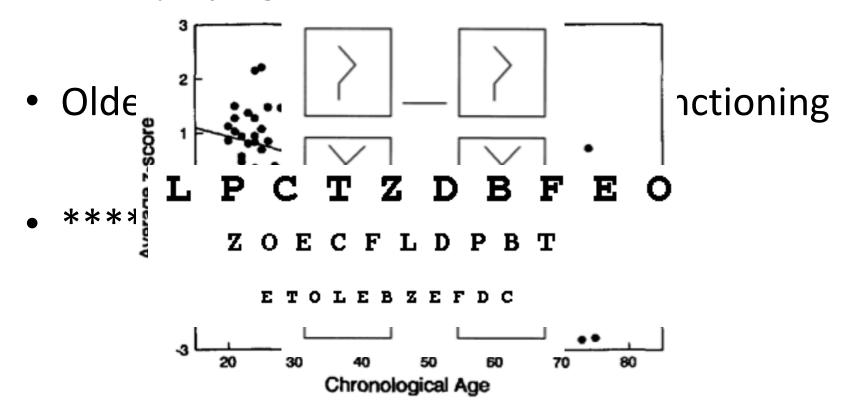


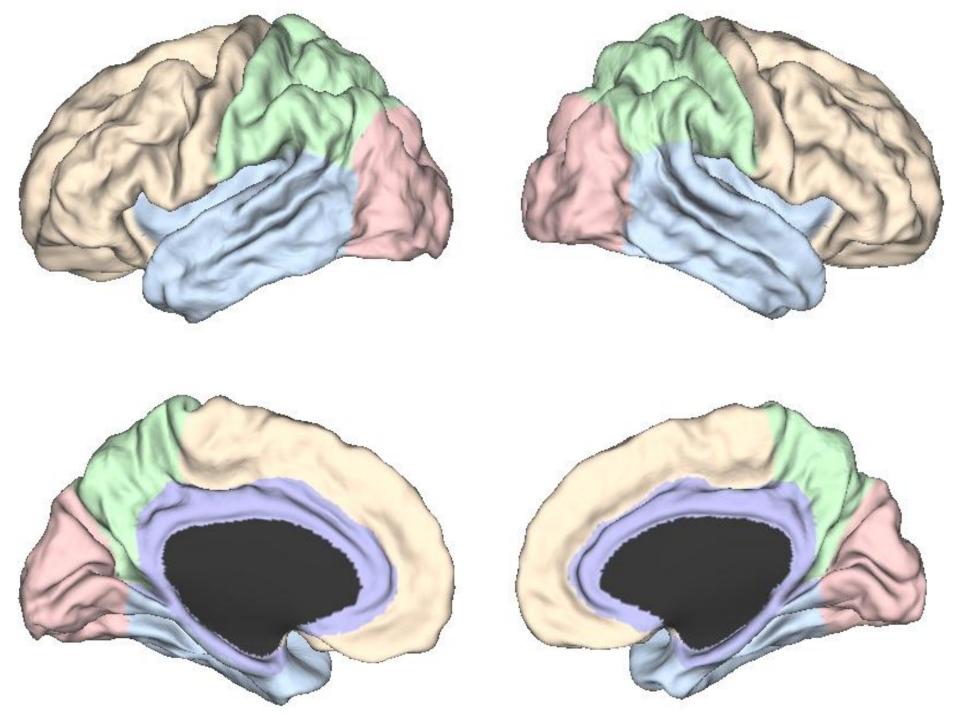




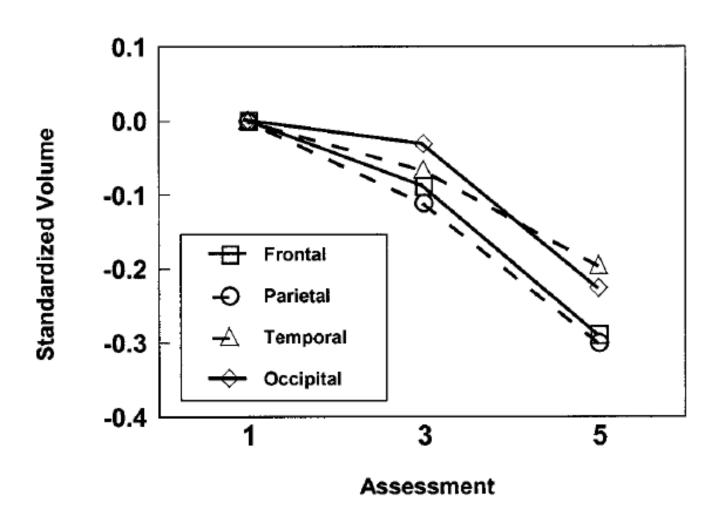
Why are there declines in memory with age?

- Reduced processing speed (Salthouse, 1996)
 - How quickly you can solve a problem, or make simple judgments.

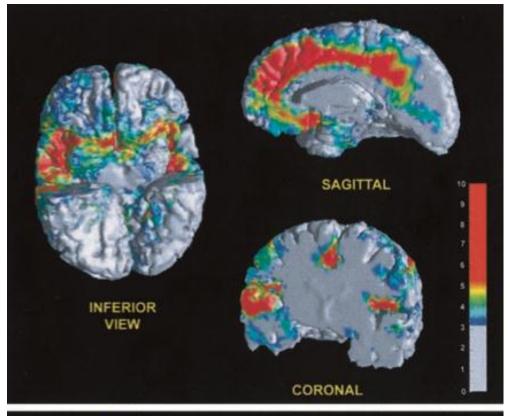


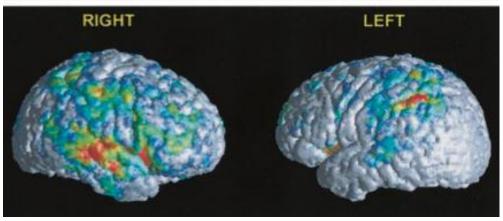


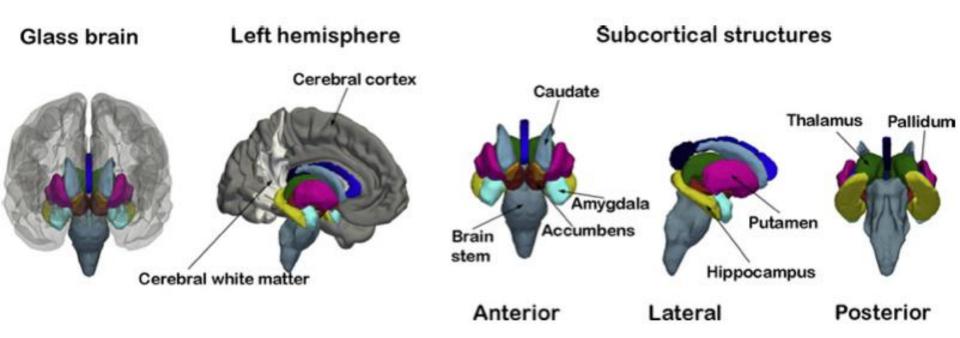
Resnick et al., 2003
Different regions show different among of age-related changes



Resnick et al., 2003 – Loss of gray matters

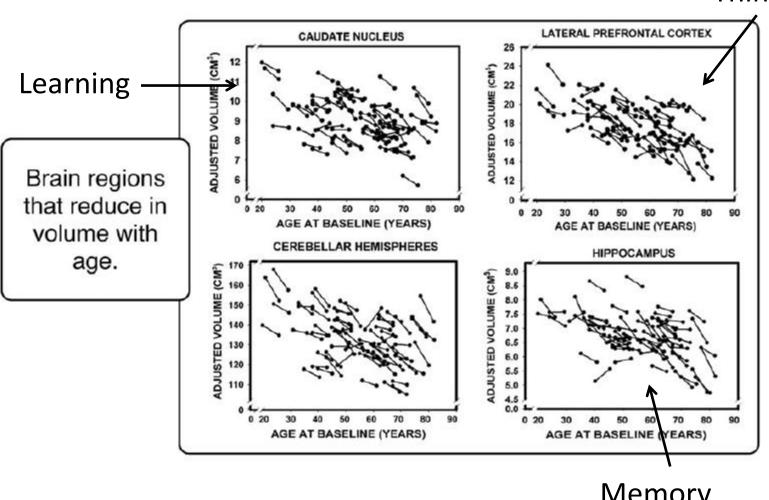




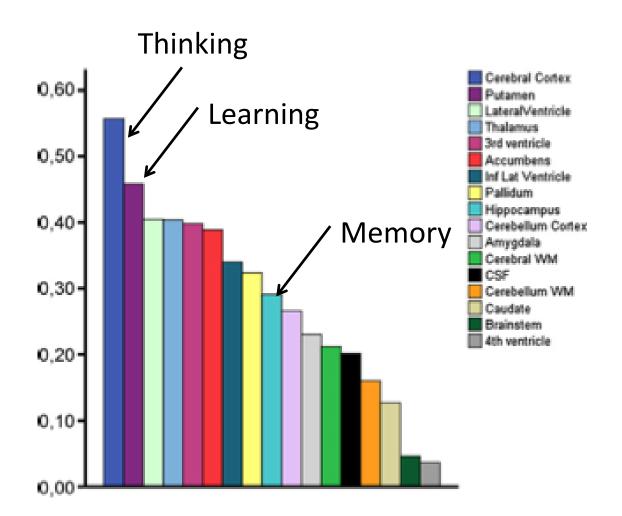


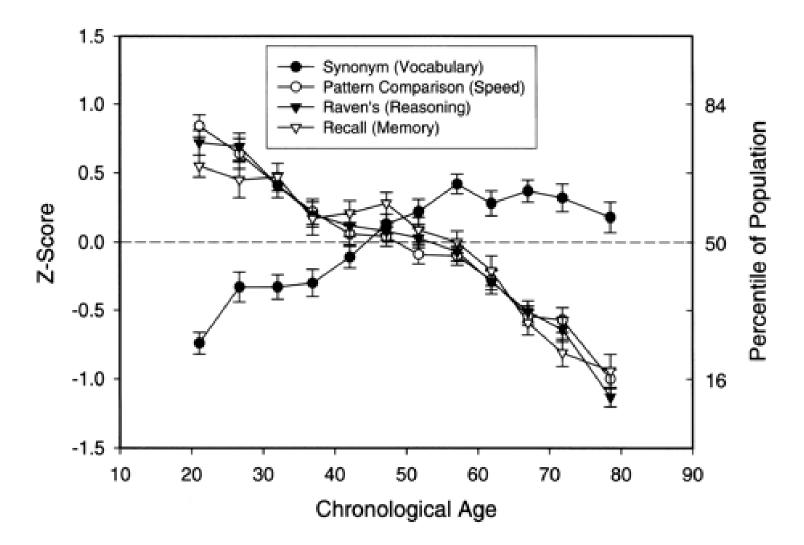
Raz, et al., 2005 A 5-year study of healthy older adults (mean age 63.79)

Thinking



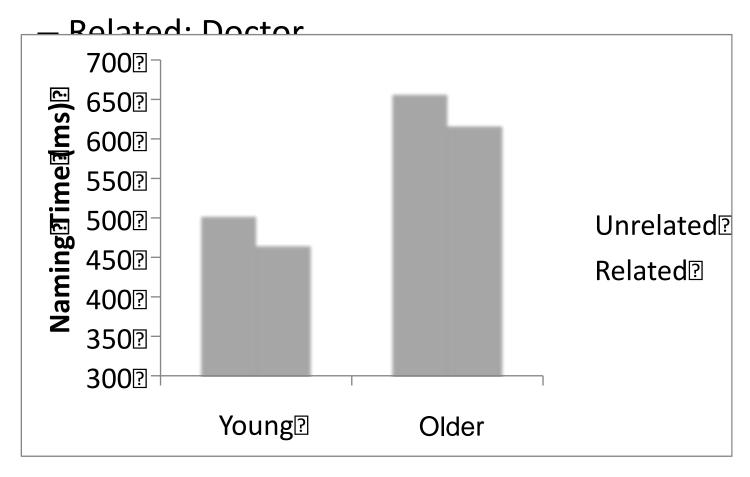
Memory





Implicit Memory - Semantic Priming

- Target word: Nurse
 - Unrelated: Butter



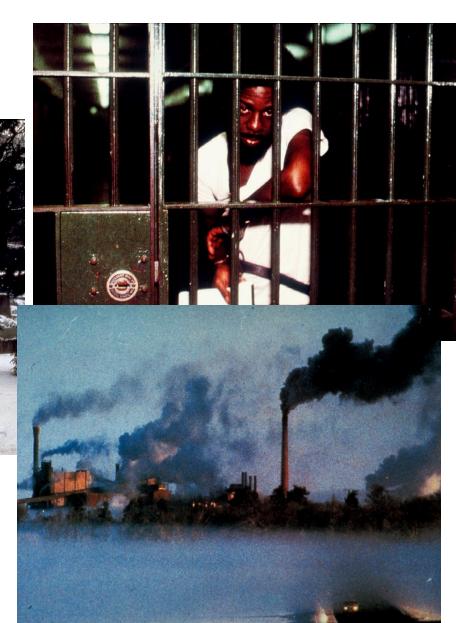
Data from Hutchison et al (2008)

Positive

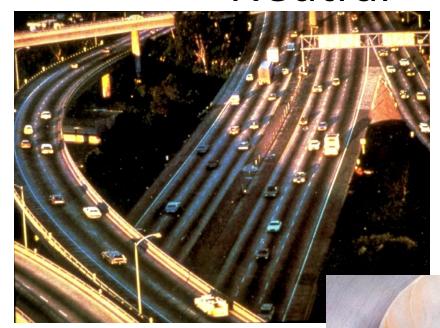


Negative

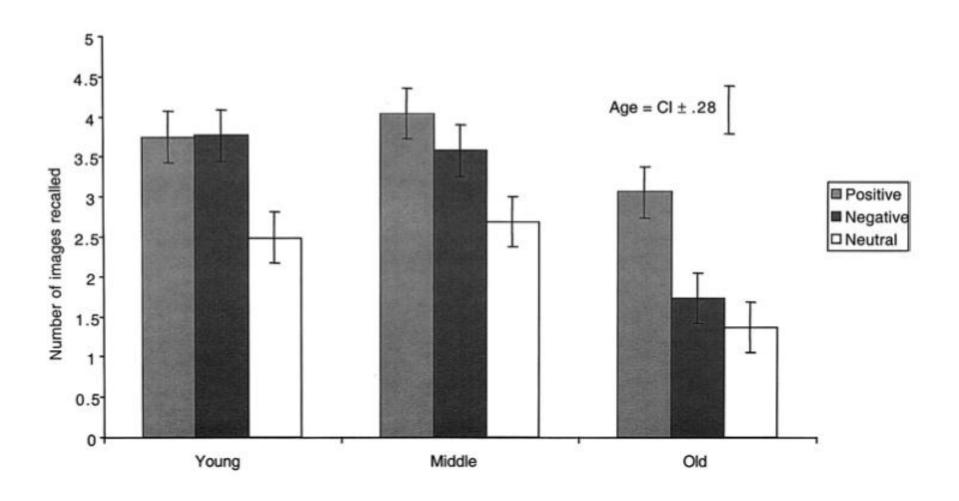




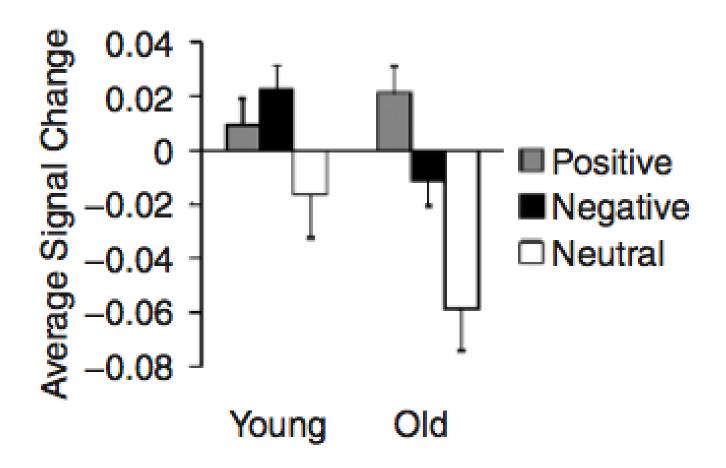
Neutral





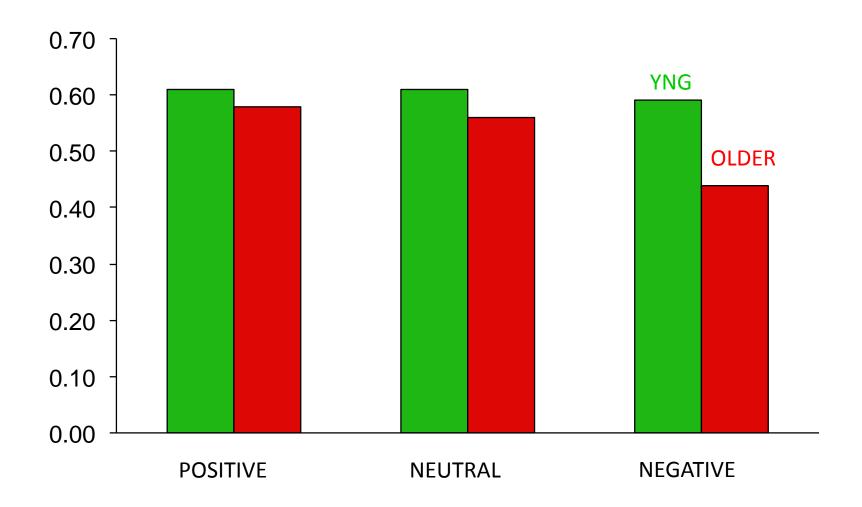


Charles, Mather & Carstensen (2003)



Mather et al. (2004)

Stereotypes and Aging



Can we improve memory, thinking, and even the brain itself?