

# The Baruch Ivcher Institute for **Brain, Cognition and Technology**

Prof. Amir Amedi  
Founding director  
amir.amedi@runi.ac.il

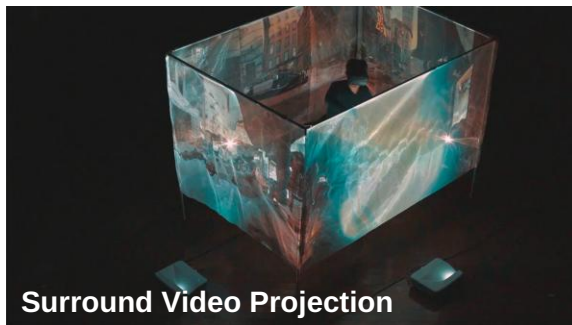
Ofek Salama  
Lab Manager  
Salama.ofek@post.runi.ac.il

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# The Baruch Ivcher Institute for Brain, Cognition and Technology



Ambisonic Audio Room (97 speakers)



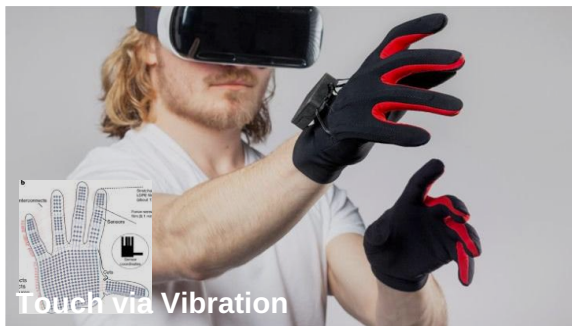
Surround Video Projection



Virtual Reality



The Neuro-immunology



Touch via Vibration



Ruth and Meir Rosental  
Brain Imaging Centre

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# Prof. Amir Amedi

**Undergraduate:** biology (brain sciences track), *HUJI* and music, *performance - Jazz department – Rubin music and dance high academy*

**Direct PhD:** Computational Neuroscience, *ICNC HUJI*

**Post doc training:** *Harvard Medical school*

**Publication record:** total citations: 11311 h-index: 44 Over 150 papers published

Visiting Fellow at NINDS, NIH; Instructor of Neurology at Harvard Medical School; Visiting Professor at the University of Amsterdam; and Faculty Affiliate at McGill University, Montreal.

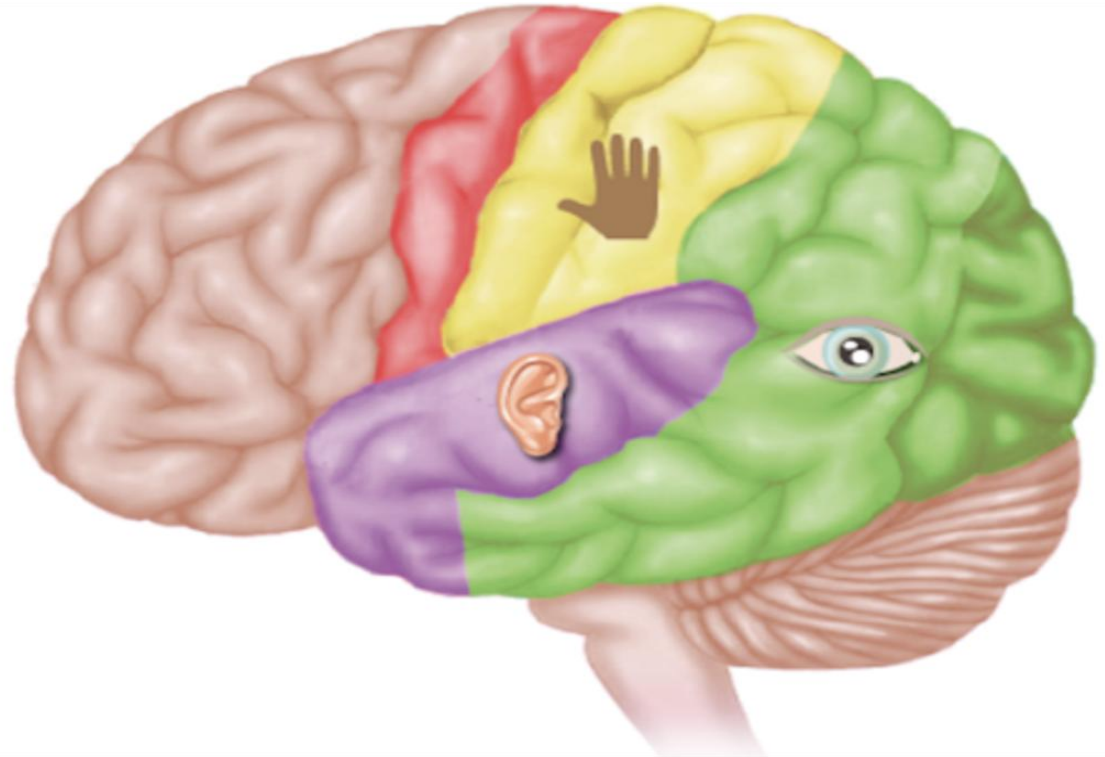
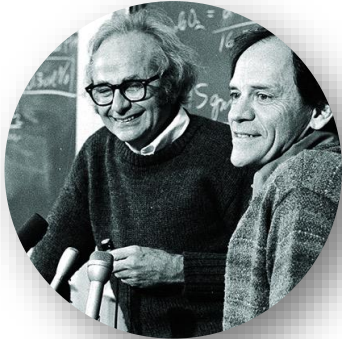
**PI - HUJI:** Senior Lecturer 2007; Associate Prof. 2011; Professor 2017. *IDC* 2019;

**Key grants:** ERC BrainVisionRehab 1.5M Euro, ERC NovelExperieSENSES: How experience shape brain specializations 2M Euro; GuestXR virtual reality network grant for 4 M euro. IDC part is 900K Euro



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# Critical Period Theory - Nobel Prize 1981



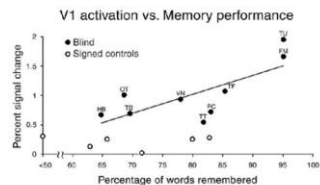
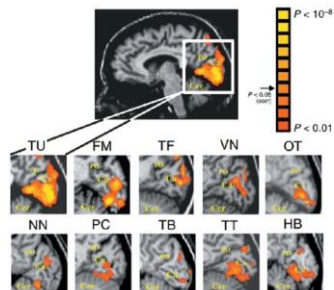
## Early 'visual' cortex activation correlates with superior verbal memory performance in the blind

Amir Amedi<sup>1</sup>, Noa Raz, Pazit Pianka, Rafael Malach & Ehud Zohary

*Nature Neuroscience* 6, 758–766 (2003) | Cite this article

## Transcranial magnetic stimulation of the occipital pole interferes with verbal processing in blind subjects

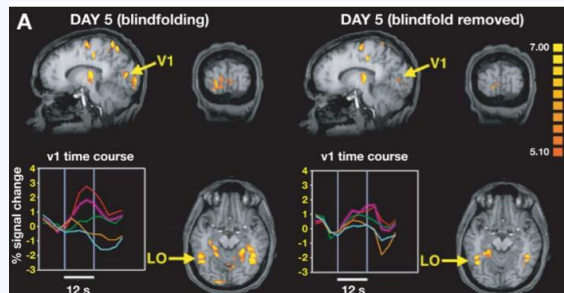
Amir Amedi<sup>1,4,5</sup>, Agnes Floel<sup>2,3,5</sup>, Stefan Knecht<sup>3</sup>, Ehud Zohary<sup>1</sup> & Leonardo G Cohen<sup>2</sup>



## ANNUAL REVIEWS

## The Plastic Human Brain Cortex

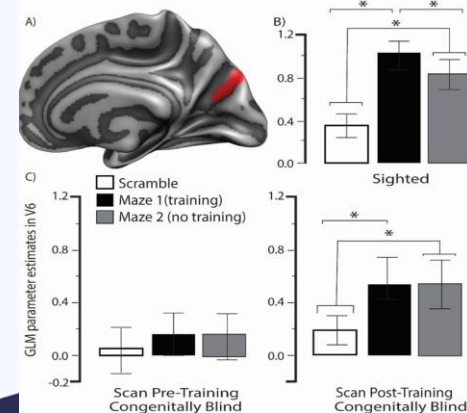
Alvaro Pascual-Leone, Amir Amedi, Felipe Fregni, and Lotfi B. Merabet



## Current Biology

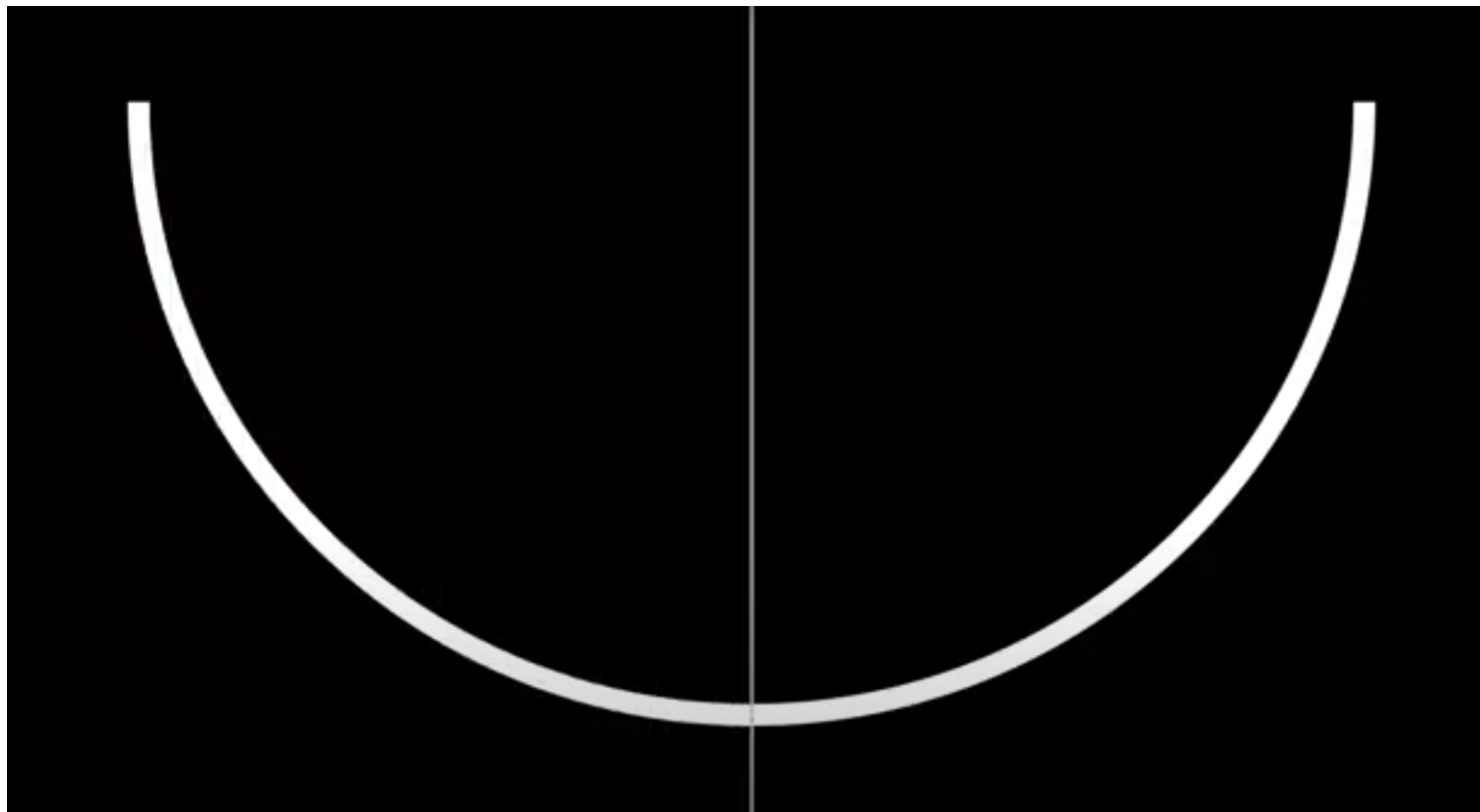
## Activation of human visual area V6 during egocentric navigation with and without visual experience

Elena Aggius-Vella<sup>1</sup>, Daniel-Robert Chebat<sup>2</sup>, Shachar Maidenbaum<sup>1</sup>, Amir Amedi<sup>1,6,7,8</sup> • Show footnotes



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## EyeMusic SSD: Seeing through Sound



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## EyeMusic SSD: Seeing through Sound



 NATIONAL  
GEOGRAPHIC

THE  
NEW YORKER

The New York Times

nature  
neuroscience

 nature  
COMMUNICATIONS

Neuron

Trends in  
Cognitive  
Sciences

JNeurosci  
THE JOURNAL OF NEUROSCIENCE

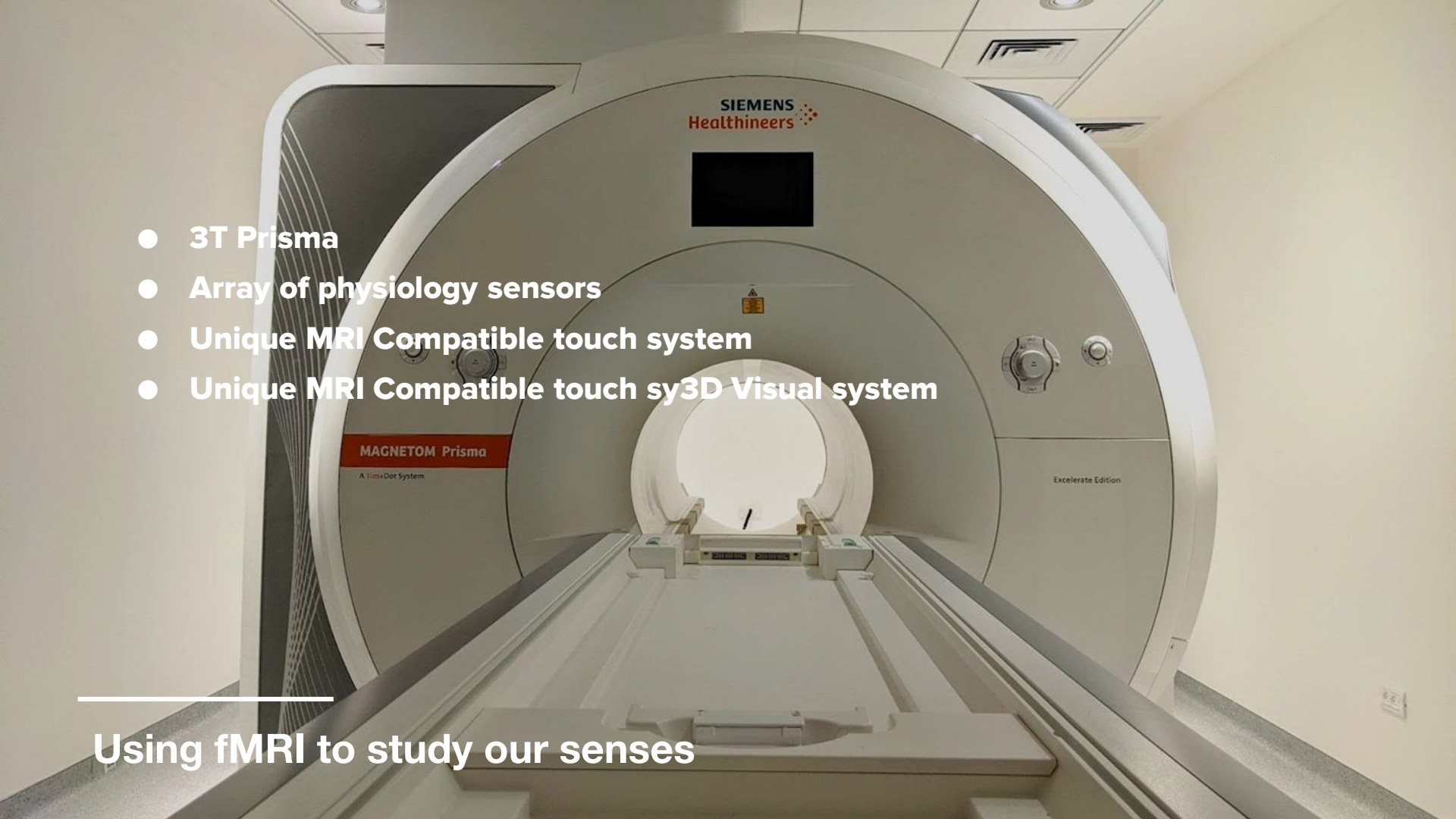
Current  
Biology

NeuroImage

- 
- A photograph of a multisensory room. The room is dark with grey walls and a dark floor. A central office chair is positioned in the middle. The walls are covered with a grid of black tracks, each holding a small, rectangular speaker. The room is illuminated by recessed lighting along the top of the walls. A semi-transparent grey box is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing a list of features.
- **97 speaker layout**
  - **Spatial audio (Ambisonics)**
  - **4 projectors**
  - **Sound transparent screens**
  - **Unique in-house touch devices**
  - **AR/VR**
  - **Algorithmic development**

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**Using the Multisensory-Room to study our senses**

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- **3T Prisma**
  - **Array of physiology sensors**
  - **Unique MRI Compatible touch system**
  - **Unique MRI Compatible touch sy3D Visual system**

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**Using fMRI to study our senses**

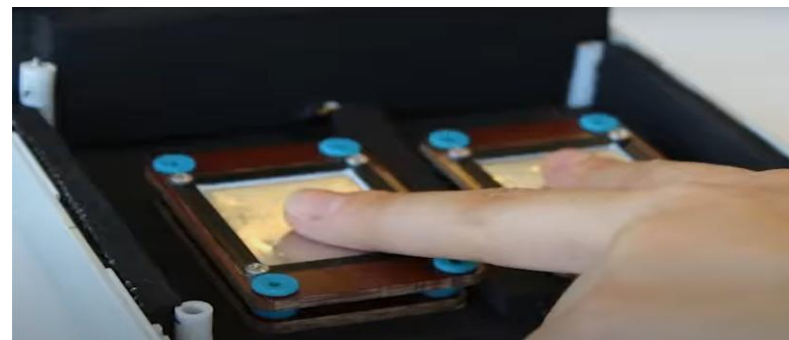
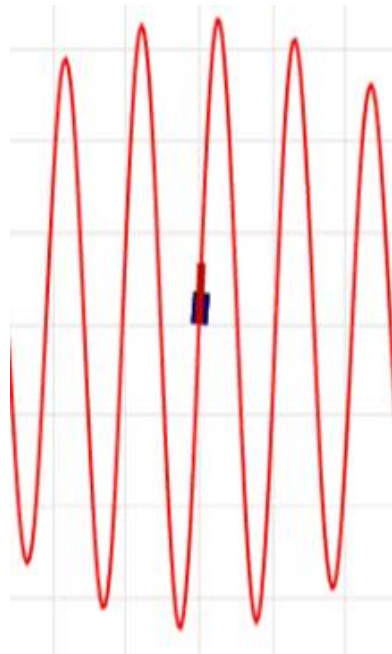
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## Sound through Touch



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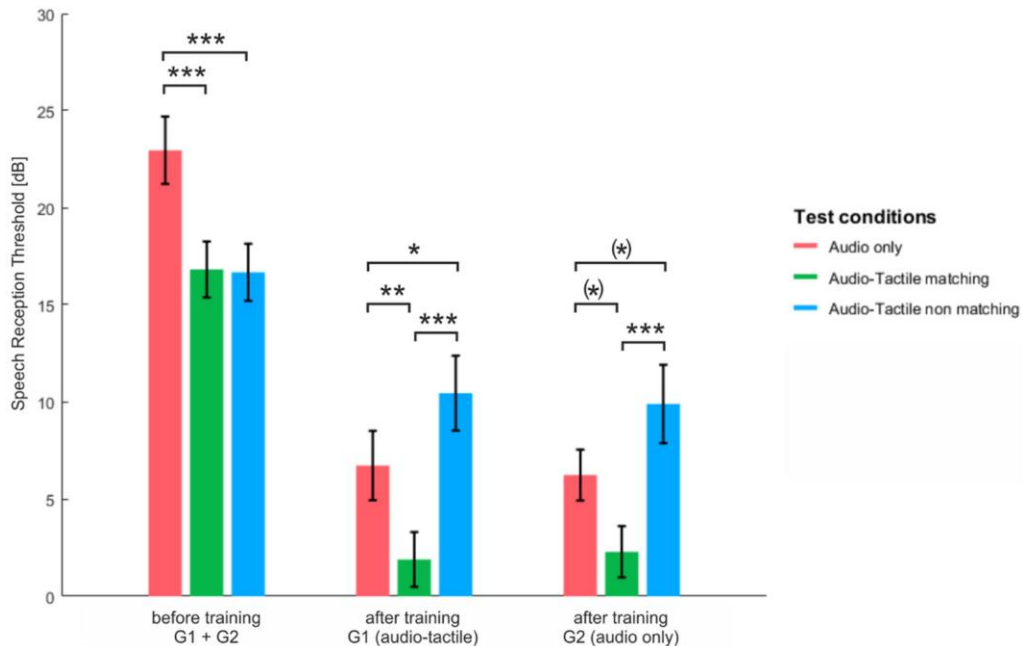
## Speech to Touch



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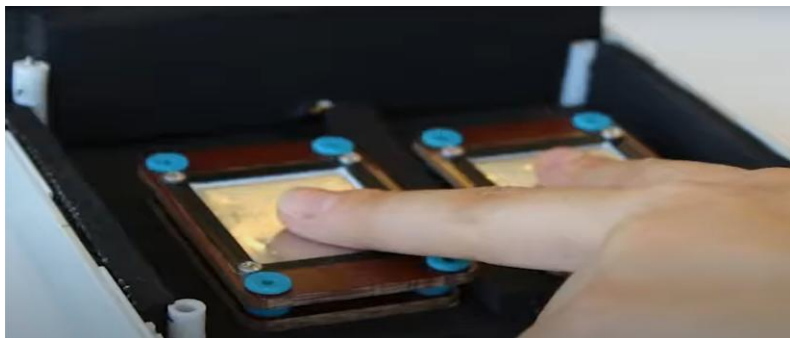
# Speech to Touch SSD: Hearing through your fingers

- **No training: 6dB improvement** in speech comprehension in noise
- **Under an hour training: 10dB improvement** speech comprehension in noise doubled

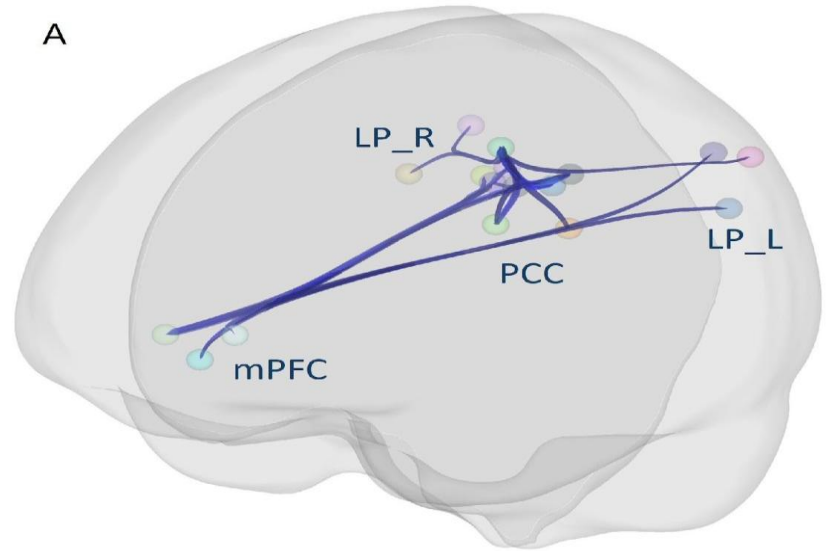
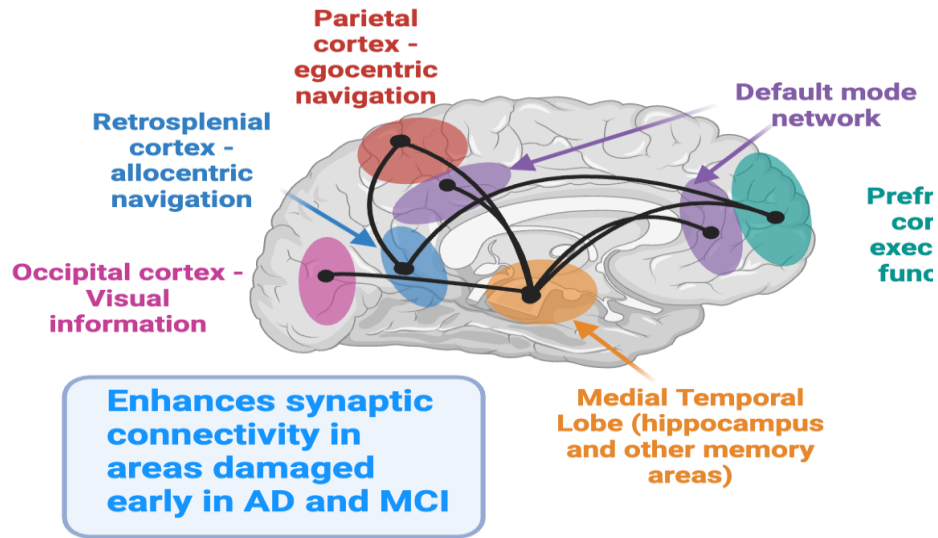


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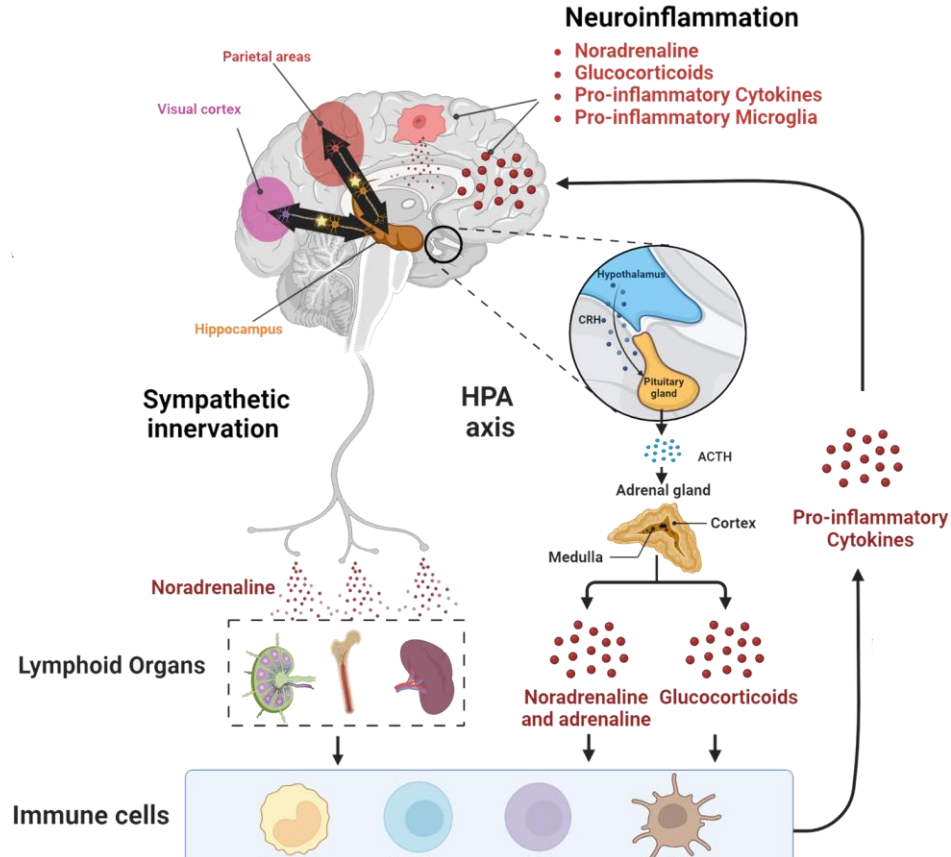
## Speech to Touch SSD: Location to Touch



# Improving Connectivity

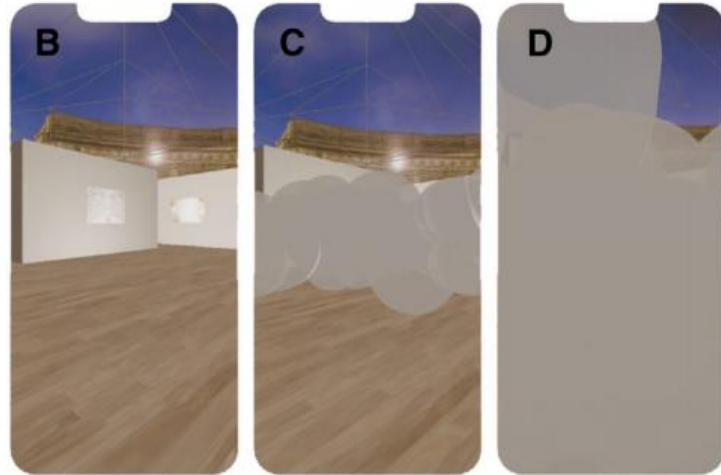
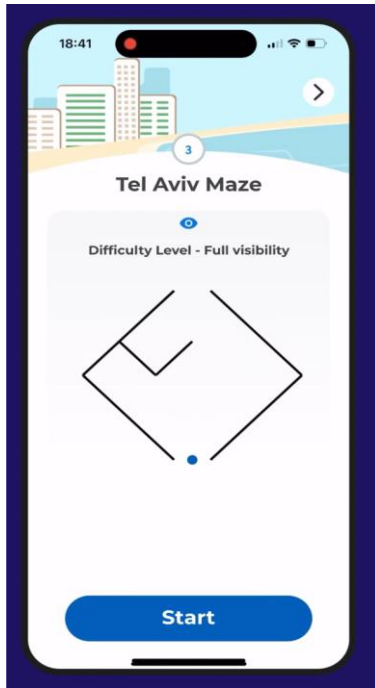


# New perspective: connections between brain and body

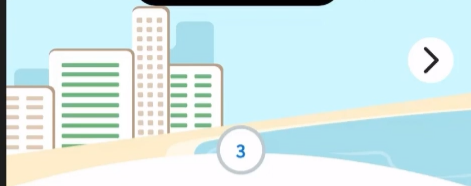


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# Creating software-drug combinations



18:41



3

## Tel Aviv Maze

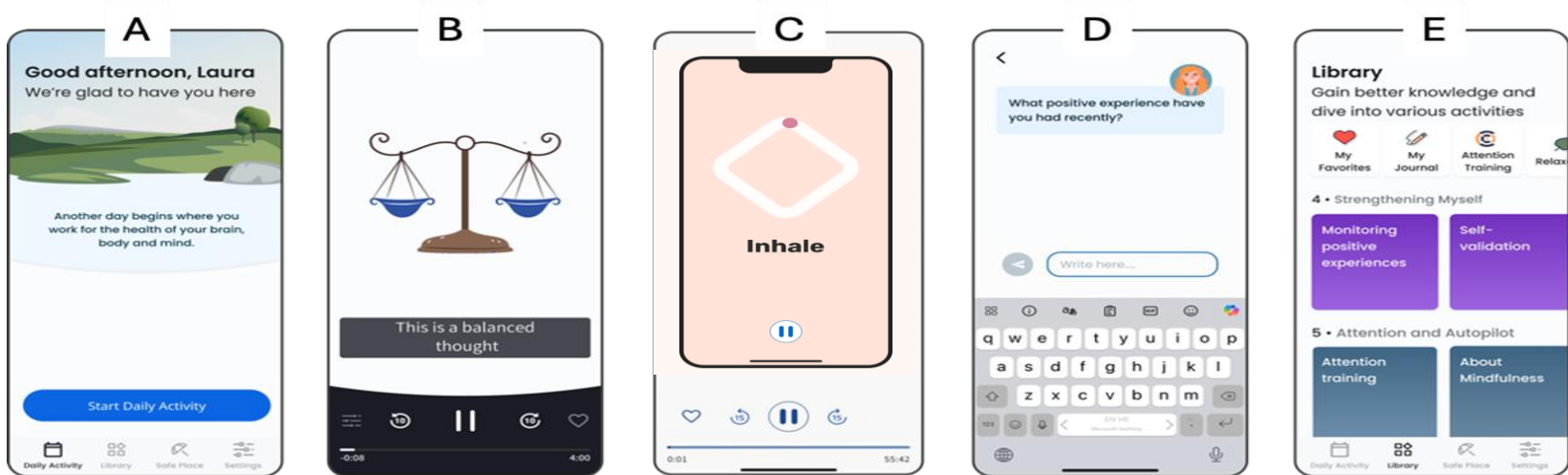


Difficulty Level - Full visibility



Start

# Integrating Exercises From Clinical Psychology



# Case Study 1: RMPY-007

Digital Monotherapy Phase 1 Trial Results Show Biological Biomarker Improvement, **published in Nature Scientific Reports and iScience**

POC Trial | N=17 | Age 50–55 with SCD | 2 weeks duration

**Intervention:** RMPY-007 mobile app delivering psychological + spatial training

**Modalities:** CBT, mindfulness, ACT, psychoeducation, virtual navigation

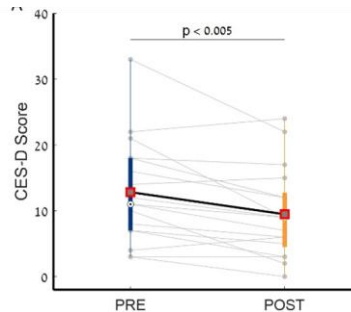
**Assessment:** Saliva Samples; rsfMRI; Psychological questionnaires

## Key Outcomes:

- Psychological:** Decreased depression (CES –D score was reduced by 26.6% with a large effect size ( $d = -0.829$ ,  $p=0.004$ ))
- Immune:** Decreased IL-18 (decreased levels by 25% with a medium effect size ( $d = -0.64$ ,  $p<0.05$ ))
- Brain:** Increased rsFC between SN-DMN and MTL, correlated with immune and depression changes

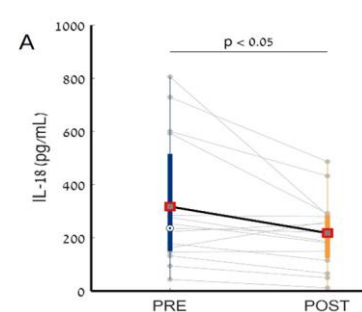
## Psychological Eval

Pre and Post intervention

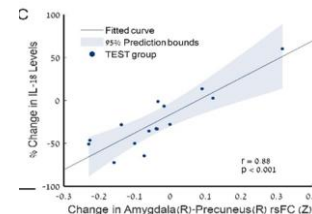


## Cytokines

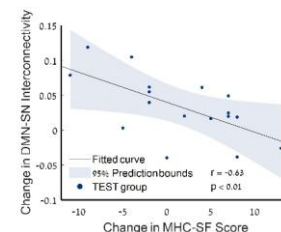
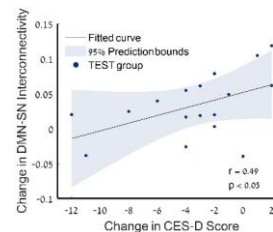
Pre and Post intervention



**Cytokines** Association between changes in Amygdala connectivity & reductions in IL-18 levels



**Psychological Eval** Association between changes in DMN-SN connectivity & improvements in psychological scores



# Case Study 2: RMPY-008

Digital Monotherapy Phase 1 Trial Results Show Biological Biomarker Improvement, **published in Nature Digital Medicine**

Randomized Controlled Trial | N=103 | Age 50–65 with SCD and anxiety | 6 weeks duration

**Intervention:** RMPY-008 mobile app delivering psychological + spatial training

**Modalities:** CBT, mindfulness, ACT, psychoeducation, virtual navigation

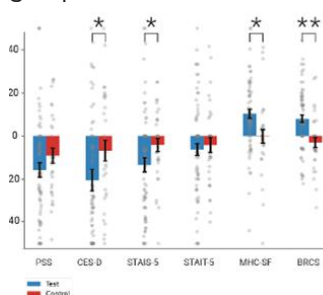
**Assessment:** Blood Samples; rsfMRI; clinical questionnaires

## Key Outcomes:

- Psychological:** Statistically significant inter-group reduction in depression and anxiety, along with significant increased resilience and well-being
- Immune:** Statistically significant inter-group reduction in: TNF- $\alpha$ , IL-17, IL-23, IL-12, MCP-1, IFN- $\gamma$
- Brain:** Increased rsFC in insula-mPFC/ACC/dIPFC, correlated with immune and mood changes

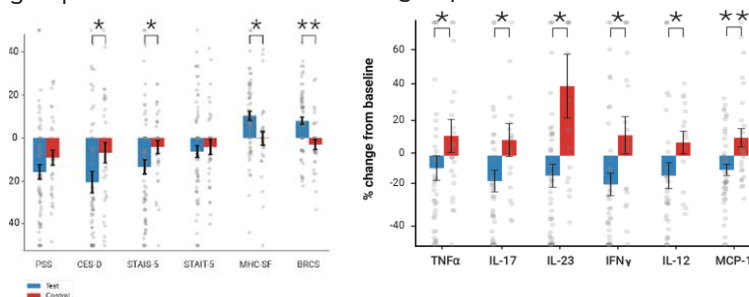
## Psychological Eval

Change from baseline for each group



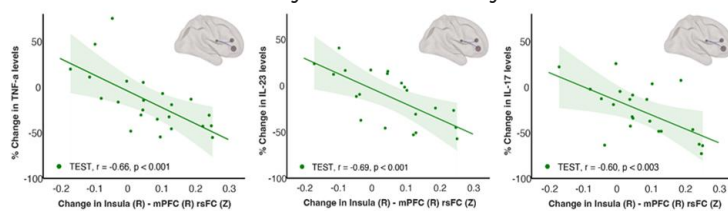
## Cytokines

Change from baseline for each group



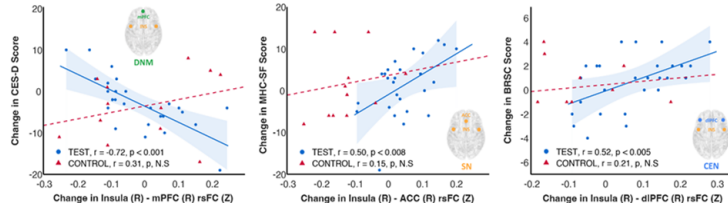
## Cytokines

Association between changes in insula connectivity & reductions in cytokines levels



## Psychological Eval

Association between changes in insula connectivity & improvements in psychological scores



# Case Study 3: Hybridopa

## Hybrid Trial Results Show Clinical Improvement

Randomized Controlled Trial | N=41 | Age 45-80 with Parkinson's Disease | 3 weeks duration

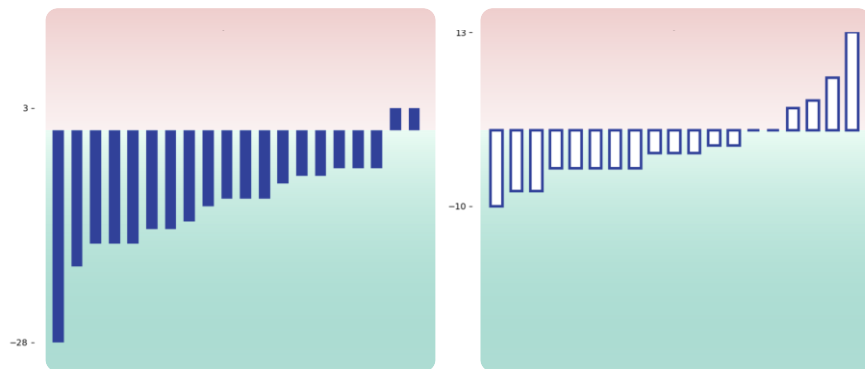
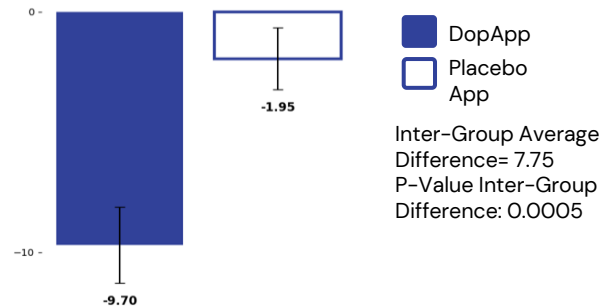
**Intervention:** DopApp mobile app delivering psychological, motor, speech, sleep and cognitive training

**Assessment:** UPDRS, PDSS, BDI, Blood Samples, rsfMRI

### Key Outcomes:

- Primary Endpoint:** UPDRS parts I+II+III reduced by 9.7 compared to 1.95 reduction in placebo
- Response rate 90%
- Brain:** Improved rsFC between VLT and primary motor cortex (M1), correlated with UPDRS change
- Brain:** Improved rsFC between AVT and Amygdala and hippocampus correlated with change in depression score

### Primary Endpoint: Total MDS-UPDRS (I+II+III) intergroup difference



Subjects (ordered by difference)

Threshold	DopApp	Placebo App	P-Value
Minimal Response Rate ( $\leq -3$ pts)	90.0%	57.89%	0.031
Medium Response Rate ( $\leq -5$ pts)	90.0%	42.11%	0.0022
Strong Response Rate ( $\leq -7$ pts)	65.0%	15.79%	0.0031

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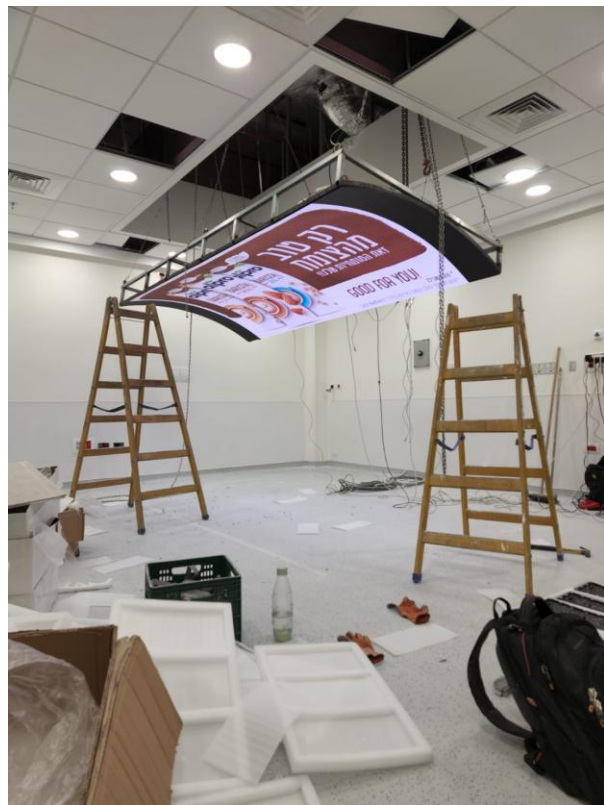
# Sha'arei Zedek Cancer Treatment Center











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## Neuro-wellness - CT environment at oncology department



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