Systems/Circuits

# Parietal Cortex Integrates Saccade and Object Orientation Signals to Update Grasp Plans

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Coordinated reach-to-grasp movements are often accompanied by rapid eye movements (saccades) that displace the desired object image relative to the retina. Parietal cortex compensates for this by updating reach goals relative to current gaze direction, but its role in the integration of oculomotor and visual orientation signals for updating grasp plans is unknown. Based on a recent perceptual experiment, we hypothesized that inferior parietal cortex (specifically supramarginal gyrus [SMG]) integrates saccade and visual signals to update grasp plans in additional intraparietal/superior parietal regions. To test this hypothesis in humans (7 females, 6 males), we used a functional magnetic resonance paradigm, where saccades sometimes interrupted grasp preparation toward a briefly presented object that later reappeared (with the same/different orientation) just before movement. Right SMG and several parietal grasp regions, namely, left anterior intraparietal sulcus and bilateral superior parietal lobule, met our criteria for transsaccadic orientation integration: they showed task-dependent saccade modulations and, during grasp execution, they were specifically sensitive to changes in object orientation that followed saccades. Finally, SMG showed enhanced functional connectivity with both prefrontal saccade regions (consistent with oculomotor input) and anterior intraparietal sulcus/superior parietal lobule (consistent with sensorimotor output). These results support the general role of parietal cortex for the integration of visuospatial perturbations, and provide specific cortical modules for the integration of oculomotor and visual signals for grasp updating.

Key words: fMRI; functional connectivity; grasp; parietal cortex; saccades; transsaccadic integration

### Significance Statement

How does the brain simultaneously compensate for both external and internally driven changes in visual input? For example, how do we grasp an unstable object while eye movements are simultaneously changing its retinal location? Here, we used fMRI to identify a group of inferior parietal (supramarginal gyrus) and superior parietal (intraparietal and superior parietal) regions that show saccade-specific modulations during unexpected changes in object/grasp orientation, and functional connectivity with frontal cortex saccade centers. This provides a network, complementary to the reach goal updater, that integrates visuospatial updating into grasp plans, and may help to explain some of the more complex symptoms associated with parietal damage, such as constructional ataxia.

Received Feb. 6, 2020; revised Apr. 20, 2020; accepted Apr. 21, 2020.

Author contributions: B.R.B., S.M., and J.D.C. designed research; B.R.B., J.V.-l., and G.N.L. performed research; B.R.B., J.V.-l., and G.N.L. analyzed data; B.R.B. wrote the first draft of the paper; B.R.B., S.M., and J.D.C. edited the paper; B.R.B. and J.D.C. wrote the paper.

The authors declare no competing financial interests.

This work was supported by a Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council Discovery Grant. B.R.B. was supported by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council Brain-in-Action CREATE Program, and the Ontario Graduate Scholarship (Queen Elizabeth II Graduate Scholarships in Science and Technology). S.M. was supported by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research during experiments and later a Marie Curie Fellowship. J.D.C. was supported by the Canada Research Chair Program. We thank Joy Williams for help in collecting the data as the MRI technologist; and Dr. Xiaogang Yan and Saihong Sun for technical and programming support.

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## Introduction

We inhabit a dynamic visual environment, where the brain must simultaneously compensate for both afferent (externally driven) and reafferent (internally driven) sensory events, often using internal efference copies of our own motion (Sherrington, 1908; Sperry, 1950; von Holst and Mittelstaedt, 1950; Helmholtz, 1867). For example, parietal cortex plays an important role in updating reach goals in response to both unexpected changes in object location (Pisella et al., 2000) and internally driven changes in eye position (Batista et al., 1999; Khan et al., 2005). This internal compensation, likely using saccade efference copies, allows more precise aiming (Vaziri et al., 2006; Dash et al., 2016) and reaches toward targets that are no longer visible (Henriques et

al., 1998; Fiehler et al., 2011). However, successful object manipulation also requires grasping: shaping of the hand to fit specific object attributes, such as shape and orientation (Jeannerod, 1984; Desmurget and Prablanc, 1997; Fabbri et al., 2016). In order to successfully coordinate reach transport and grasp (Marotta et al., 2003; Castiello, 2005), intended grasp location and orientation must remain linked and updated during saccades (Crawford et al., 2004; Fan et al., 2006). However, to date, the cortical mechanisms for transsaccadic grasp updating have not been studied.

Transsaccadic grasp updating could recruit the mechanisms for transsaccadic perception: the comparison and integration of visual information across visual fixations (Irwin, 1996; Prime et al., 2007; Melcher and Colby, 2008). Transcranial magnetic stimulation studies suggest that the frontal eye field (FEF) provides the saccade efference copy for transsaccadic integration in posterior parietal cortex (PPC) (Prime et al., 2010, 2011). A recent fMRI study showed that inferior parietal cortex (specifically, the supramarginal gyrus [SMG]) is sensitive to transsaccadic changes in visual stimulus orientation (Dunkley et al., 2016). Human SMG may be an expansion of primate lateral intraparietal cortex, which contains saccade, visual feature, and spatial updating signals (Gnadt and Andersen, 1988; Subramanian and Colby, 2014). Since the inferior parietal cortex is thought to mediate perception and action (Goodale and Milner, 1992; Rizzolatti and Matelli, 2003), we hypothesized that SMG might also play a role in transsaccadic updating of grasp orientation, using efference copy input from the FEF.

Successful grasp also requires the updating of sensorimotor plans. Several parietal regions have been implicated in the visuomotor transformations for grasp, including the anterior intraparietal sulcus (aIPS) (Murata et al., 2000; Monaco et al., 2010), superior parietal cortex (SPL) (Culham et al., 2003; Filimon et al., 2009), and superior parieto-occipital cortex (SPOC) (Gallivan et al., 2011; Rossit et al., 2013). Transcranial magnetic stimulation experiments suggest that SPOC is involved in early visuomotor transformations for reach goals (Vesia and Crawford, 2012; Monaco et al., 2014). Of these regions, the more anterior intraparietal regions have specifically been implicated in updating grasp in response to external visual perturbations (Glover et al., 2005; Le et al., 2014; Janssen and Scherberger, 2015). However, it is not known whether any part or all of these regions are specifically involved in transsaccadic grasp updating.

Based on this literature, we hypothesized that SMG and the parietal grasp network provide the visuomotor coupling for transsaccadic grasp updating, by integrating visual features with saccade signals from FEF. To test this model, we merged two previous event-related fMRI paradigms for transsaccadic integration (Dunkley et al., 2016) and grasp planning (Monaco et al., 2014) (see Fig. 1B). We then applied a specific set of criteria to identify regions involved in the integration of eye position and visual orientation signals for grasp updating: (1) these regions should be specifically sensitive to transsaccadic changes in required grasp orientation plans (see Fig. 1C1); (2) they should show saccade modulations during grasp preparation (see Fig. 1C2); and (3) these modulations should become progressively more grasp task-specific as the sensorimotor transformation advances (see Fig. 1C3). Finally, during grasp updating, these regions should show stronger functional connectivity, both with each other and the cortical saccade generator, during saccades compared with fixation.

### Materials and Methods

Participants

To determine the appropriate number of participants (human) required for a sufficient effect size/level of power in this study, we reviewed the most relevant previous literature and then did a power analysis. The current experimental design was based on our previous fMRI studies of transsaccadic memory (Dunkley et al., 2016) and grasp orientation (Monaco et al., 2014). Thirteen participants were analyzed in the Dunkley et al. (2016) study and 14 in the Monaco et al. (2014) study. We have found previously that an additional motor response in the experiment increases the cortical activation in the posterior parietal ROIs for this study (Chen et al., 2014; Cappadocia et al., 2018), so we based our power analysis on the Monaco et al. (2011) study and chose their ROI that was closest to the posterior parietal activation that we expected. Specifically, we used the effect size (1.27, Cohen's d) from their left posterior intraparietal sulcus activation, along with the following parameters: (1) two-tailed t test option, (2) an  $\alpha$  value of 0.05 (we had planned for one contrast), and (3) a high power value (0.98). Using these values in G\*Power (Faul et al., 2009), we calculated that 13 participants would provide a sufficient actual power value (0.987).

In order to obtain a reliable dataset of 13 participants (after the exclusion criteria described in Analysis below), we had to test 17 participants. These were all graduate students from York University (Toronto), experienced with performing visual experiments and with no known neurologic disorders and normal or corrected-to-normal vision. These participants (7 females, 6 males) were all right-handed and were 26.5  $\pm$  3.7 years of age (range 22–32 years). All participants provided written consent and were compensated financially for their time. The York University Human Participants Review Subcommittee approved all experiments.

Experimental setup and stimuli

Participants were asked to fill out an MRI screening form. Upon passing MRI screening, participants were informed about the task. Once they felt comfortable with what the experiment entailed, they were asked to assume a supine position on the MRI table, with their head in a six-channel coil tilted forward at a 20° angle (to allow for direct visibility of the objects) (Monaco et al., 2014). To obtain a complete signal, we also placed a four-channel coil anteriorly on the head (Monaco et al., 2014).

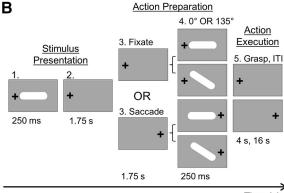
This experiment was conducted in complete darkness. In our setup, we had red fixation LEDs for participants to focus on during the entire duration of a trial. A fixation LED was placed to the left and right of the central stimulus (between 10° and 12° from the center of the stimulus to each LED) (Monaco et al., 2014). There was also a white LED that was used to illuminate the stimulus only when participants would grasp at a particular time point in each trial (see Fig. 1*A*,*B*). These LEDs were mounted onto a rotatable platform that was placed above each participant's pelvis. LEDs were held in place by MRI-compatible rigid tubes (which were made of many units to allow for movement of the overall tube to position the LEDs accordingly).

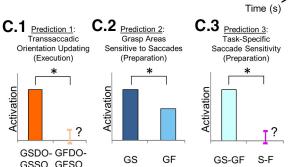
The stimulus that participants had to grasp was a 6°-long bar with rounded ends (see Fig. 1A,B) and centered on the platform. The bar could be rotated, but two MRI-compatible pins were placed in the surrounding area to ensure that the bar could only be oriented horizontally  $(0^\circ)$  or obliquely  $(135^\circ)$ .

For each participant, right eye position was recorded using an infrared camera affixed to the right side of the MRI table (see Fig. 1A). Eye movement signals were recorded using iViewX software (SensoMotoric Instruments) for offline analysis. We recorded, using a hand camera (see Fig. 1A), the reaching and grasping movements of participants during each trial of every run.

Last, to reduce any motion artifacts in the imaging data, participants' upper arm and shoulder were immobilized using an MRI-compatible belt that was strapped down across their torso. Participants reached with their right hand and pivoted only from their elbow joint, with only the minimal rotation of the shoulder joint. Their right arm was supported with foam padding and sand bags to provide a comfortable height from which the arm could reach and grasp the object for the duration of the experiment. We also made sure that the addition of the padding was







GSDO: Grasp Execution/Saccade Different Orientation
GFDO: Grasp Execution/Fixation Different Orientation
GSSO: Grasp Execution/Fixation Different Orientation
GSSO: Grasp Execution/Fixation GF: Grasp Preparation/Fixation
S: Saccade Localizer/Fixacade
F: Saccade Localizer/Fixation

Figure 1. Experimental setup, paradigm, and predictions. A, Setup of the experiment, showing participant lying supine on MRI table with head tilted at 20° under the head coil, along with MRI-compatible eye tracker for right eye and hand tracker. Participants rested their hand on the abdomen in a comfortable position and were asked to transport their hand to the platform to grasp an oriented 3D bar only when required to do so; a strap across the torso was used to ensure minimal-to-no movement of the shoulder and arm during transportation of the hand to the platform. The blue stalk above the platform was used to illuminate the central grasp object, whereas those to the left and right contained LEDs and were used to ensure fixation of gaze. B, Stimuli and task. An example of an initial trial condition is shown (0° grasp bar, gaze left) followed by the four possible conditions that might result: Fixate/Different Feature, Fixate/Same Feature, Saccade/Different Feature, and Saccade/ Same Feature. Each trial lasted 24 s and was comprised of three major phases: (1) Stimulus Presentation, during which the grasp object was illuminated in one of two possible orientations (0° or 135°) and gaze could be left or right; (2) Action Preparation, when participants maintained fixation on the same LED as in the previous phase (Fixate condition) or they made a saccade to the opposite LED (Saccade condition) – the object was illuminated a second time at the end of this phase and was presented either in the Same orientation as in phase 1 (0° if the initial was 0° or 135° if the initial orientation was 135°; Same condition) or at a Different orientation (0° if the initial was 135° or vice versa; Different condition); and (3) Action Execution, which required participants to grasp the oriented object within 4 s and then, return to rest (only the first 2 s were used for analysis). This was followed by an intertrial interval of 16 s. C, The possible predictions for sensitivity to saccade signals in grasp regions in three conditions. C1, The first prediction suggests that, during the Action Execution phase, cortical regions that specifically update object orientation across saccades should show a greater difference in activity between the Same and Different Orientation

appropriate and allowed participants to reach and grasp the object appropriately.

#### General paradigm/procedure

Experiment. We used an event-related fMRI design to identify cortical regions involved in updating grasp orientation across saccadic eye movements. Specifically, we developed a behavioral paradigm that combined elements of (1) a transsaccadic orientation memory study, where participants viewed a briefly presented sine-wave grating, made a saccade, and then had to judge whether a second visual stimulus had the same or different orientation (Dunkley et al., 2016); and (2) a grasp orientation study, where the orientation of a grasp stimulus could remain the same or change just before the reach (Monaco et al., 2011). First, participants were placed in the MRI bore, and a comfortable reach distance was determined for placement of the grasp stimulus by moving the platform along the MRI table. Participants were then trained to reach and grasp this bar stimulus (see Experimental setup and stimuli) in response to a specific "go" signal (see Fig. 1A,B). At the beginning of each reach trial, participants rested their arm, bent at the elbow, on their abdomen in a position that was within comfortable reaching distance of the stimulus. Participants were instructed to use all digits of their right hand to grasp the center of the object (see Fig. 1A). Upon completing the grasp, participants returned their arm to the same resting position as before the reach.

Each trial started with the illumination of one of the two LEDs to the right and left of the central target. Then, the central target was illuminated for 250 ms. The target could be oriented at 0° or 135° (pseudorandomized and counterbalanced within and across runs). Participants were required to keep fixating for another 1.75 s. This first 2 s phase was referred to as the Stimulus Presentation phase (see Fig. 1B). After this period, participants kept fixating on the same LED for another 1.75 s (Fixate condition) or made a saccade to the other LED, which would be illuminated while the previous LED would be extinguished (Saccade condition). (Fixation occurred for the entirety of a trial only for Fixation trials, which were intermingled with Saccade trials.) Following this 1.75 s period, the object was illuminated for 250 ms. This was referred to as the Action Preparation phase (see Fig. 1B), when participants were expected to retain stimulus location and orientation information, and use this to prepare for a movement (Monaco et al., 2011; Chen et al., 2014; Cappadocia et al., 2018). The object could now be oriented in the same orientation as in the first illumination/presentation (Same Orientation condition, e.g., 0° orientation first and then, another 0° orientation; same for the 135° orientation) or a different orientation compared with the first (Different Orientation condition, e.g., 0° orientation first, followed by a 135° orientation, and vice versa). Participants were then given 4 s to reach out to grasp the object in its final orientation as described above (Action Execution phase) while still fixating the illuminated LED. Following this phase, the LED was set up for the next trial and participants had 16 s to rest while maintaining fixation (intertrial interval), so as to allow the BOLD signal to return to baseline. The illumination of the stimulus marked the beginning of each trial, whereas the end of the 16 s period of relaxation marked the end of the trial.

In order to create the different orientation conditions, one experimenter rotated the stimulus as needed in the scanner room, but out of the participant's view and in complete darkness. To reduce the possibility of participants predicting Different versus Same orientation based on

conditions in the Grasp Saccade condition compared with the Same — Different Orientation difference in the Grasp Fixate condition (GSSO, GSDO, GFSO, GFDO, respectively). *C2*, The second prediction indicates that, if a grasp region is modulated by saccade signals, the BOLD activity should be greater for the Saccade condition (Grasp Saccade condition [GS]) compared with the Fixate condition (Grasp Fixation condition [GF]). *C3*, The third prediction tests whether modulations due to saccade signals during the grasp Action Preparation phase (*C2*) are specific to grasp-related activity. This predicts a greater difference between the Saccade and Fixate conditions in the grasp experiment compared with a separate saccade localizer that only required participants to either saccade between our two LEDs or fixate on one of the LEDs: (Grasp Saccade — Grasp Fixate) — (Saccade — Fixate): (GS — GF) — (S — F).

sound feedback, the experimenter moved the stimulus away and back to its required orientation (also during Same Orientation conditions).

The design of the experiment consisted of a 2 (Gaze Position: Fixate or Saccade)  $\times$  2 (Gaze Fixation Location: Left or Right)  $\times$  2 (Object Orientation: 0° or 135°) design. This produced eight condition types, which were repeated 4 times within one run. There were six runs in total. As mentioned previously, the condition types were pseudorandomized and intermingled within each run and across runs.

Compared with our previous study (Dunkley et al., 2016), we used a shorter stimulus period (total of 2 s for each stimulus presentation) to match an acquisition time of 2 s, and to ensure a reasonably long run/experiment (given that a long intertrial interval is needed to allow the BOLD to return to baseline). Recent studies have suggested that this transsaccadic integration can occur on the order of tens of milliseconds (Prime et al., 2008; Dunkley et al., 2016; Stewart and Schütz, 2019). In addition, we chose a fixed intertrial interval (no jitter) because we did not investigate response timing in this study, and we wished to maximize our statistical power to detect transsaccadic integration signals (Dunkley et al., 2016).

Saccade localizer. To determine which regions are involved in the production of saccadic eye movements, we used a localizer that had a sequence similar to that of the experimental runs. This localizer comprised alternating periods of fixation and saccadic eye movements. First, a baseline of activity would be established as a result of participants fixating the illuminated LED for 18 s (two runs total of data were collected, where participants fixated the left LED first and right LED second, or vice versa). Then, every second for 6 s, the LEDs would alternate in illumination, resulting in saccades. After this, participants would then fixate the initial LED for 16 s. This fixation-saccade sequence was repeated 8 times in the localizer run. There was a last fixation period of 18 s.

Imaging parameters. We used a 3T Siemens Magnetom TIM Trio MRI scanner. The functional experimental data were acquired using an EPI sequence (TR = 2000 ms; TE = 30 ms; flip angle [FA]= 90 degrees; FOV =  $192 \times 192$  mm, matrix size =  $64 \times 64$  with an in-slice resolution of 3 mm  $\times$  3 mm; slice thickness = 3.5 mm, no gap) for all six functional runs in an ascending and interleaved manner. For the saccade localizer, an EPI sequence was also used to acquire the data sequences (TR = 2000 ms; TE = 30 ms; FA = 90 degrees; FOV =  $192 \times 192$  mm, matrix size =  $64 \times 64$  with an in-slice resolution of 3 mm  $\times$  3 mm; slice thickness = 3.5 mm, no gap). Along with functional data, a T1-weighted anatomic reference volume was acquired using an MPRAGE sequence  $(TR = 1900 \text{ ms}, FA = 256 \text{ mm} \times 256 \text{ mm}; \text{ voxel size} = 1 \times 1 \times 1 \text{ mm}^3).$ For each volume of anatomic data obtained, 192 slices were acquired. For the experimental task, we collected 395 volumes of functional data for the experimental runs, where each volume comprised 35 slices. For the saccade localizer, we collected 98 volumes of functional data, where each volume comprised 35 slices.

#### Analysis

Behavioral data. We monitored eye position during the experiment and analyzed it offline, to verify that participants fixated on the appropriate LED and did not make any additional, unnecessary saccades during trials. Any trials showing inappropriate fixation or saccades were removed from additional analysis. Similarly, video data were analyzed offline to determine whether the participant grasped the object at the required time. Any trials during which any anomaly in grasping occurred (i.e., participant grasped the object too early or too late, etc.) were removed from further analysis by being designated as confound predictors in the GLM (see below). On this basis, eight trials across all participants (0.003%) were removed from the entire dataset (two trials each were excluded from 2 participants and one trial from another 4 participants).

Functional imaging data: experimental. A GLM was created for each run for each participant. A predictor was used as a baseline for the period of fixation at the beginning and the end of each run (Baseline), accounting for the first 18 s of each run and the 16 s intertrial interval. The initial 2 s (Stimulus Presentation phase) during which the object was illuminated and participants had to fixate an LED was assigned a predictor that indicated the location of the fixation LED (Adapt\_LVF and Adapt\_RVF if the fixation was on the right LED or left LED,

respectively; left and right visual field for LVF and RVF, respectively). The subsequent Action Preparation phase (2 s) was assigned one of four predictors: Sacc\_DiffFeature, Sacc\_SameFeature, Fix\_DiffFeature, or Fix\_SameFeature for when participants made a saccade or fixated and, for each of these, whether the orientation of the object was the same (Same Orientation condition) or different (Different Orientation condition). The Action Execution phase was divided in two 2 s phases. There were four predictors for the first 2 s of the grasp event. These predictors were based on the direction of the preceding saccade and on whether the orientation of the object that was being grasped was the same in the Action Preparation phase as in the Stimulus Presentation phase (Same Orientation condition) or different (Different Orientation condition). Thus, the four predictors were as follows: Motor Execution\_Sacc\_ DiffFeature, Motor Execution\_Sacc\_SameFeature, Motor Execution\_Fix\_ DiffFeature, and Motor Execution\_Fix\_SameFeature. The following 2 s of the Action Execution phase were provided a Motor Execution predictor. These predictors comprised each GLM for each participant (BrainVoyager QX 2.8, Brain Innovation). Each predictor variable was convolved with a hemodynamic response function (standard 2- $\gamma$  function model). GLMs were modified through the addition of confound predictors for eye movement or hand movement errors. If a GLM had >50% of the trials being modeled in the confound predictor, the GLM for that run was not included in the overall population level GLM (random effects GLM, RFX GLM).

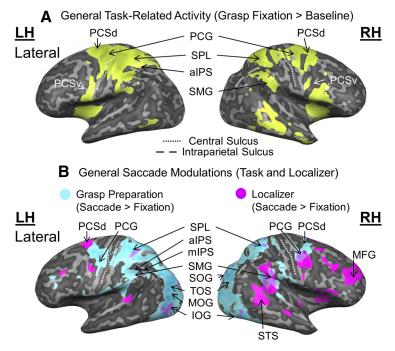
Additionally, functional data for all runs across all participants were preprocessed (slice time correction: cubic spline, temporal filtering: <2 cycles/run, and 3D motion correction: trilinear/sinc). Data for runs that had abrupt motion of >2 mm were excluded from the RFX GLM and additional analysis. As a result, the data from 4 participants were excluded because more than half of the runs were unusable due to abrupt, excessive head motion of >2 mm. From the remaining 13 participants, 8 additional runs were removed (i.e., 256 trials of a possible 2496 across the 13 participants, or 10.3%). The anatomic data were transformed to a Talairach template (Talairach and Tournoux, 1988), and the functional data from the remaining 13 participants were coregistered using gradient-based affine alignment (translation, rotation, scale affine transformation) to raw anatomic data. Functional data were smoothed using an FWHM of 8 mm.

Functional imaging data: saccade localizer. For the preprocessing of functional data for the localizer, see Functional imaging data: experimental. On the basis of excessive head motion (>2 mm), one person's data were completely excluded, half of the data were excluded for a second person (runs where initial fixation was on the left), and half were excluded for a third person (runs where initial fixation was on the right). Using the remaining functional data, we ran an RFX GLM on the data for each of the localizers. For the saccade localizers, we had three predictors: a 9 s Baseline predictor, a 16 s fixation Fix predictor, and a 6 s saccade Sacc predictor. The results of the saccade localizer were used to identify which areas are involved in saccade production in our task specifically (see Figs. 2B, 4B).

#### Experimental design and statistical analysis

BrainVoyager (QX 2.8, Brain Innovation) was used for the analysis in this study. For each analysis, we derived data from the most appropriate experimental phase (i.e., Action Preparation phase, Action Execution phase), that is, when the relevant brain events would be expected. This included volumetric map contrasts for general grasp and saccade activation (Grasp Fixation – Baseline; Grasp Saccade – Fixation) from the Action Preparation phase (see Fig. 2), as well as the more specific hypothesis tests described below. This experiment was not designed to temporally separate BOLD signals from our task phases, so they could be influenced by other task phases, but these additional signals should cancel in our specific hypothesis tests.

In the above contrasts, the volumetric maps had p values Bonferronicorrected according to the number of contrasts that were applied to the same dataset (i.e., p < 0.25 for two contrasts, corrected from p < 0.05). in addition, cluster threshold correction was applied to these data using the plugin provided by BrainVoyager that implements Monte Carlo simulations (Forman et al., 1995). In order to qualitatively visualize the data (see Figs. 2–5), we superimposed the surviving clusters onto the "inflated"



**Figure 2.** Overview of general grasp task-related activity (A) and saccade modulations (B), derived from the Action Preparation phase. A, Inflated brain renderings of an example participant (left and right hemispheres from the lateral view, respectively). An activation map obtained using an RFX GLM (n=13) is shown for the contrast, Grasp Fixation > Baseline (chartreuse). B, Activation maps for a Saccade > Fixate contrast obtained using an RFX GLM (n=13) on grasp experiment data (sky blue) and on a separate saccade localizer (fuchsia) were overlaid onto inflated brain renderings from an example participant (left and right hemispheres shown in the lateral views). mIPS, Middle intraparietal sulcus; SOG, superior occipital gyrus; TOS, transverse occipital sulcus; MOG, middle occipital gyrus; IOG, inferior occipital gyrus; STS, superior temporal sulcus.

brain rendering of an example participant" for each analysis. Since this process often results in small anatomic distortions, we sometimes also include transverse slice renderings below in key points (see Fig. 3A). These data are only provided for visualization purposes: the following describes the objective procedures that we used for anatomic localization and hypothesis testing.

Localization of sites of interest. We hypothesized that (1) several specific cortical areas are involved in transsaccadic updating of grasp plans (see Introduction), and (2) to qualify for this role, they must pass three specific predictions (see Fig. 1C). In order to apply these predictions to specific sites, we first used the contrast [(Grasp Saccade Different Orientation – Grasp Saccade Same Orientation) – (Grasp Fixation Different Orientation – Grasp Fixation Same Orientation)], with a t statistic of 2.2 (p < 0.048), as implemented in BrainVoyager, to the Action Execution phase. This was designed to provide a preliminary dataset related to cortical signals that are feature modulated in a saccade-specific manner. Again, cluster threshold correction was applied to these data. In Results, we refer to the regions that survive as "clusters of activation" (i.e., see Fig. 3A).

Next, to localize specific anatomic sites within these clusters, we decreased the *p* values applied to the data until only peak voxels of activation remained within each of the clusters (Frost and Goebel, 2012; Lührs et al., 2017). These peak voxels were then used to determine the Talairach coordinates shown in Table 1. These coordinates were then fed into BrainVoyager Brain Tutor (Brain Tutor 2.5, Brain Innovation) to provide an initial estimate of the anatomic name of each "site," which were then confirmed against previous conventions in the literature (see Table 1). We adjusted the thresholds to select active voxels within a maximum 1000 mm<sup>3</sup> cubic area surrounding the peak voxel(s). The selected areas were then used to test our specific predictions (see Hypothesis testing).

Hypothesis testing. Once the sites of interest were determined, they were used to test our specific predictions (see Fig. 1C). Here, we used BrainVoyager to select a subcluster of activation around each peak voxel

and extract the corresponding  $\beta$  weights. We then plotted these  $\beta$  weights in "bar graph" format that allowed direct visual comparisons to our predictions. For each prediction, the p value (0.05) was Bonferroni-corrected for the number of t tests conducted (i.e., relative to how many sites were tested).

First, we tested whether the overall statistical results of the volumetric map contrast described above [(Grasp Saccade Different Orientation - Grasp Saccade Same Orientation) - (Grasp Fixation Different Orientation -Grasp Fixation Same Orientation)] from the Action Execution phase held up for the specific anatomic coordinates selected as our sites of interest, using their  $\beta$  weights for direct comparison to Prediction 1 (see Fig. 1C1). In other words, we confirmed whether these specific sites of interest showed the same saccade-specific stimulus orientation modulations as the entire cluster. We then used their active voxels to extract  $\beta$  weights from two additional Preparatory Phase contrasts (when saccades occurred) to test Predictions 2 and 3: saccade-related activation (Grasp Saccade - Grasp Fixation) to test Prediction 2 (see Fig. 1C2), and task-specific saccade-sensitivity [(Grasp Saccade Grasp Fixation) - (Localizer Saccade - Localizer Fixation)] to test Prediction 3. In other words, we tested whether these sites were modulated by saccades in our task, and whether those modulations were task-specific. Last, for each test of our predictions, t and p values, as well as effect size (calculated Cohen's d, using G\*Power) (Faul et al., 2009) are provided.

Functional connectivity: psychophysiological interaction analysis. Finally, to determine the network of cortical regions that interact to update saccade signals during the grasp preparation, we conducted psychophysiological interaction analysis (Friston et al., 1997; McLaren et al., 2012; O'Reilly et al., 2012) on data derived from right SMG (seed region) from the Action Preparation phase. We used three

predictors: (1) physiological component (z-normalized time courses obtained from the seed regions for each participant for each included run), (2) psychological component (predictors of the model were convolved with a hemodynamic response function), and (3) psychophysiological interaction component (multiplication of z-normalized time courses with task model in a volume-by-volume manner). For the task model produced for the psychological component, the Saccade predictors were set to a value of 1, whereas the Fixation predictors were set to a value of 0. Single design matrices were created for each participant for each included run. These were subsequently included in an RFX GLM (Friston et al., 1997) to determine functional connectivity between right SMG with each of these and associated sites.

### **Results**

#### Task-related grasp and saccade modulations

Various studies have shown that humans can remember stimulus properties for several seconds, and use these to plan action until a Go signal is provided (Chen et al., 2014; Cappadocia et al., 2018). Our goal here was to examine the influence of a saccade on these signals, especially when it interrupts a change in the external world. To test this, we used a task (Fig. 1B) with three key phases: Stimulus Presentation (which begins with the original grasp stimulus orientation), Action Preparation (which included a saccade in 50% of trials, and ends with a Different or Same stimulus orientation that also acts as a Go signal), and Action Execution (where the actual reach and grasp occurs). By design, we expected brain activation to be dominated by: (1) visual signals during the Stimulus Presentation phase, (2) grasp preparation, saccade, and spatial updating signals during the Action Preparation phase, and (3) grasp motor signals and (in

the case of Different stimulus orientations) grasp orientation updating during the Action Execution phase of this task. As noted in Materials and Methods, our experiment was not designed to distinguish the temporal events in this sequence (Cappadocia et al., 2017), but for each analysis we maximized the relevant signal by deriving data from the most appropriate task phase.

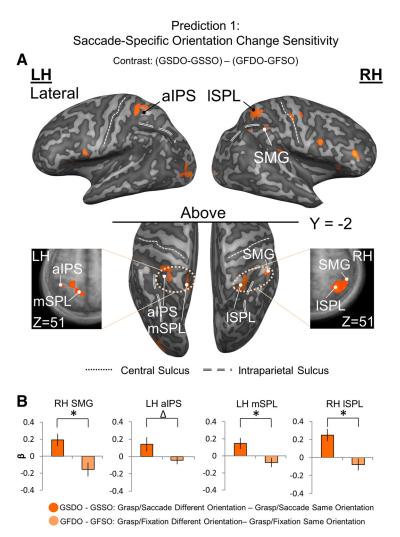
We begin with an overview of the activation derived from the Action Preparation phase (between first and second stimulus; Fig. 1B), where one might expect to find events most closely related to the saccade-related updating of the original grasp stimulus. First, we derived the overall task-related activity from this phase, by contrasting Grasp Fixation trials against their baseline activity (Fig. 2A). This revealed activation in a parietofrontal network, including right SMG and several well-established reach/grasp regions: aIPS, SPL, precentral gyrus (PCG; corresponding to primary motor cortex), and dorsal/ventral precentral sulcus (PCSd/PCSv; likely portions of these regions corresponding to dorsal and ventral premotor cortex, respectively) (Culham et al., 2003; Galletti et al., 2003; Castiello, 2005). In short, the initial stimulus (and likely subsequent events) evoked massive activity in the grasp network.

To detect whether these task-related signals were also modulated by saccades, we compared Grasp Saccade trials with Grasp Fixation trials derived from the Action Preparation phase (Fig. 2B, sky blue regions), and compared this with activity from our saccade localizer task (Fig. 2B, fuchsia regions). These two contrasts produced overlap in some cortical regions (e.g., right frontal cortex and SMG), but saccades also produced extensive superior parietal and occipital modulations in the grasp task, including aIPS and adjacent portions of SPL (Murata et al., 2000; Culham et al., 2003; Filimon et al., 2009; Monaco et al., 2010). However, these additional modulations could be related to various functions, such as updating reach goals (Batista et al., 1999; Khan et al., 2005), general aspects of eye-hand coordination (Vesia and Crawford, 2012), or expected sensory feedback (Culham and Valyear, 2006). To identify specific transsaccadic grasp updating activity, we used our a priori predictions (Fig. 1C1-C3) to localize and test specific sites of interest, as described in Materials and Methods and shown in the following analyses.

# Interactions between saccade and orientation sensitivity

If our participants incorporated original object orientation into short-term memory and used this for grasp planning (Monaco et al., 2011; Chen et al., 2014), their brains should (1) update this information across saccades (Melcher and Colby, 2008; Dunkley et al., 2016), and (2) update this again when they saw the final object orientation (Wolf and

Schütz, 2015; Fornaciai et al., 2018). Thus, the cortical response to the second stimulus should be modulated by the orientation of the first stimulus (Monaco et al., 2011), and some of these modulations should depend on changes in eye position. Specifically, we



**Figure 3.** Localizing (**A**) and testing (**B**) sites for Prediction 1: saccade-specific orientation change sensitivity. A, Voxelwise statistical map overlaid onto inflated brain rendering of an example participant obtained using an RFX GLM (n = 13) for Different > Same in the Grasp Saccade (GS) condition compared with the Grasp Fixate (GF) condition, derived from the Action Execution phase. Top panels, Lateral views of the inflated brain rendering on which can be seen activation in right ISPL and SMG. Black/white dots represent peak voxels of activation. Middle, Bottom panels, Top view of the left and right hemispheres, which display activation also in the left aIPS and mSPL. Left and rightmost panels, Transverse slices through the average brain of all the participants onto which the activation in these four regions can be viewed in more detail. These results (that the final motor plan was modulated by the initial stimulus orientation) contradict the notion that participants waited for the second stimulus orientation to begin action planning. Instead, they show that an orientation-specific action plan was formed immediately, and then updated when the second stimulus was presented. **B**, Bar graphs of  $\beta$  weights plotted for the difference between the Grasp Saccade Different and Same Orientation conditions (dark orange) versus the difference between the Grasp Fixation Different and Same conditions (light orange). The small, variable Grasp Fixation results are analogous to the results of sensory adaptation studies, where both repetition suppression and enhancement effects have been observed. Data were extracted from the active voxels in the transsaccadic sites shown in A. To quantitatively test Prediction 1, we performed a priori-motivated repeatedmeasures t tests; given that there are four areas and therefore, four t tests to be conducted, the significance level p value (0.05) was Bonferroni-corrected (0.05/4 = 0.0125). Statistical tests were conducted on  $\beta$  weights extracted from active voxels of these sites to test Prediction 1. Values are mean  $\pm$  SEM analyzed by repeatedmeasures t tests (for specific statistical values, see Results). \*Statistically significant difference between the GS and GF  $\beta$  weights (i.e., that the p value obtained is less than the Bonferroni-corrected p=0.0125).  $\Delta$  indicates an uncorrected significant difference between the GS and GF  $\beta$  weights (i.e., that the p value obtained is less than the original significance level p = 0.05, but is not less than the Bonferroni-corrected p = 0.0125).

predicted that these sites should show an increased response to orientation changes in the Grasp Saccade condition and little or no increase in the Grasp Fixation condition (Fig. 1C1). Alternatively, if participants ignored the initial stimulus and waited for the final stimulus to plan the grasp, these modulations should not occur.

Table 1. Putative names, Talairach coordinates, and active voxels within 1000 mm<sup>3</sup> for each site of interest extracted from the Action Execution phase

	Talairach coordinates							
Site name	x (mean)	y (mean)	z (mean)	x (SD)	y (SD)	z (SD)	Active voxels (n)	References
Left aIPS	-38	<b>-41</b>	53	2.3	1.6	1.9	217	Tunik et al., 2008; Singhal et al., 2013
Left mSPL	<b>—13</b>	-51	54	2.4	2.3	2.7	642	Tunik et al., 2008; Filimon et al., 2009
Right SMG	49	-40	48	2.0	2.2	2.1	361	Dunkley et al., 2016
Right ISPL	35	<b>—49</b>	53	2.8	2.8	2.7	875	Tunik et al., 2008; Filimon et al., 2009

Based on previous literature, we hypothesized that this might involve both right SMG (Dunkley et al., 2016) and the intra/ superior parietal grasp network (Glover et al., 2005; Le et al., 2014). To test this, we had to localize specific sites of interest and apply our three predictions (Fig. 1C). As a first step, we identified cortical regions that were sensitive to changes in grasp orientation (Different vs Same Orientation) that follow saccades. Specifically, we used a voxelwise contrast applied to the trials wherein a saccade or fixation occurred: that is, (Grasp Saccade Different Orientation - Grasp Saccade Same Orientation) -(Grasp Fixation Different Orientation - Grasp Fixation Same Orientation). Then, as described in Materials and Methods, we applied a cluster thresholding algorithm to isolate specific clusters of activation. This yielded four separate clusters of activation, spanning left and right anterior PPC (Fig. 3A). This suggests that several regions within anterior PPC show saccade-specific sensitivity to grasp stimulus orientation changes, but does not yet provide the anatomic specificity required to test our hypotheses.

#### Site localization and anatomic coordinates

To localize specific anatomic sites for our subsequent analysis, we identified the peak voxels of PPC clusters described in the previous section, and then extracted their Talairach coordinates (Table 1). According to BrainVoyager Brain Tutor 2.5 (Brain Innovation), these peak voxels correspond to right SMG, left aIPS, and left/right SPL, which we further identified as left medial superior parietal lobule (mSPL) (a medial portion of left SPL), and right ISPL (a lateral portion of right SPL, slightly posterolateral to right aIPS). This was confirmed against previous literature (Tunik et al., 2008; Singhal et al., 2013; Dunkley et al., 2016). These sites have been indicated as black/white dots superimposed on the voxel clusters in Figure 3A, and will henceforth be referred to as "putative transsaccadic grasp updating sites." In the following two hypothesis sections, it is only the active voxels immediately surrounding these sites (within a 1000 mm<sup>3</sup> cubic area) that were analyzed (see Materials and Methods).

#### Prediction 1: saccade-specific orientation sensitivity

Prediction 1 (Fig. 1C1) was that our putative transsaccadic grasp updating sites should be more sensitive to changes in grasp stimulus orientation, which occur across a saccade, as opposed to fixation. [We have already shown this for the voxel clusters used to localize these sites (Fig. 3A), so here we are simply confirming this for data derived from these specific anatomic coordinates (right SMG, left aIPS, left mSPL, and right lSPL), and converting the data into a bar-graph format for direct comparison with our prediction (Fig. 1C1).] To do this, we extracted  $\beta$  weights from the active voxels, including and surrounding the peak voxel(s) of these sites, again from the Action Execution phase. Figure 3B shows the orientation change sensitivity of these variables (Different – Same) for each of our four sites, contrasting the Saccade condition against the Fixation condition.

As expected, each followed the predicted pattern: higher orientation change sensitivity following saccades versus fixation. For statistical analysis of these data, we used an  $\alpha$  value of 0.05; we tested Prediction 1 for our four transsaccadic grasp updater sites, so resulting p values were adjusted for multiple comparisons and assessed against a Bonferroni p value of 0.0125 (0.05/4) for statistical significance. All four sites showed significant saccade-specific responses to changes in stimulus orientation ( $t_{(12)SMG} = 3.30$ ,  $p_{SMG} = 0.0032$ , effect size = 0.92;  $t_{(12)aIPS} = 2.34$ ,  $p_{aIPS} = 0.019$ , effect size = 0.65;  $t_{(12)ISPL}$  = 5.49,  $p_{ISPL}$  = 0.000069, effect size = 1.52;  $t_{(12)\text{mSPL}} = 3.04$ ,  $p_{\text{mSPL}} = 0.0051$ , effect size = 0.84). These p values remained significant after correction for multiple comparisons, with the exception of one site: aIPS. However, the original cluster associated with aIPS (Fig. 3A) did survive cluster threshold correction, and this was a key component of our hypothesis, so we retained this site for further analysis.

# Predictions 2 and 3: site-specific saccade modulations and task specificity

To examine the influence of saccades on our putative transsaccadic grasp updating sites, we performed additional contrasts. Figure 4 shows (1) the overall activity over baseline during the Fixation condition (Fig. 4A), and (2) saccade modulations in both our task and saccade localizer (Fig. 4B), derived as in Figure 2B. The location of our putative transsaccadic grasp updating sites is indicated by the four black dots superimposed on the contrasts. All four sites (right SMG, left aIPS, and bilateral SPL) fell within these task-related regions of activation, as well as within or bordering on, regions of saccade modulation in the localizer task (Fig. 4B). We then used the sites of interest defined in Figure 3A to extract  $\beta$  weights from the latter data, to directly test Prediction 2 (greater activation during saccades compared with fixation) and Prediction 3 (greater modulation during the grasp task than during saccades alone, i.e., task-specific saccade modulations).

Figure 4*C* shows the application of Prediction 2 on  $\beta$  weights extracted from grasp-related activity in Figure 4*B*. All four sites showed significantly higher activity in the presence of saccades (t test statistics were assessed against a Bonferroni-corrected p value of 0.0125 [0.05/4=0.0125] for multiple comparisons for the four transsaccadic sites separately for each of Predictions 2 and 3), although SMG did not survive correction for multiple comparisons ( $t_{(12)\text{SMG}} = 2.08$ ,  $p_{\text{SMG}} = 0.030$ , effect size = 0.58;  $t_{(12)\text{aIPS}} = 3.85$ ,  $p_{\text{aIPS}} = 0.0011$ , effect size = 1.07;  $t_{(12)\text{ISPL}} = 4.53$ ,  $p_{\text{ISPL}} = 0.00034$ , effect size = 1.26;  $t_{(12)\text{mSPL}} = 7.27$ ,  $p_{\text{mSPL}} = 0.0000050$ , effect size = 2.02).

To test the task specificity of these modulations, we applied Prediction 3; that is, we tested whether our putative updating sites showed saccade modulations during the grasp task, but not during saccades alone (Fig. 4*D*). In this case, only aIPS and bilateral SPL showed significant task specificity ( $t_{(12)SMG} = 1.34$ ,  $p_{SMG} = 0.11$ , effect size = 0.43;  $t_{(12)aIPS} = 3.58$ ,  $p_{aIPS} = 0.0030$ , effect size = 1.14;  $t_{(12)SPL} = 3.44$ ,  $p_{ISPL} = 0.0037$ , effect size = 1.09;  $t_{(12)mSPL} = 3.12$ ,

 $p_{\rm mSPL}$  = 0.0062, effect size = 0.99). This suggests a progression of grasp task specificity from SMG to the more superior motor regions.

# Functional connectivity of SMG with saccade and grasp sites

Our analyses so far have confirmed our perceptual updating result for SMG (Dunkley et al., 2016), and extended this function to sensorimotor updating in aIPS and SPL for grasp; but do these sites participate in a coherent functional network for grasp updating? Based on our previous finding that right SMG is active for perceptual orientation updating (Dunkley et al., 2016), and its reappearance in the current grasp task, we hypothesized that SMG is a key hub for updating visual orientation across saccades, and that it would communicate with both saccade regions (for signal input) and grasp regions (for signal output) during our grasp task. To do this, we identified a seed site within the right SMG using our independent saccade localizer data, and performed a psychophysiological interaction analysis to examine which sites showed increased functional connectivity for Saccade compared with Fixation trials with SMG derived from data aligned with the Action Preparation phase (Fig. 5A-C). This resulted in three sites that survived cluster threshold correction: right PCSd (likely a portion corresponding to FEF), left medial, superior frontal gyrus (likely the supplementary eye field [SEF]), and SPL (including a cluster that overlaps with aIPS).

### **Discussion**

In this study, we set out to identify the cortical regions associated with updating grasp plans during changes in gaze direction and/or object orientation. We reasoned that, to perform this function, the brain would have to integrate saccade signals in regions sensitive to visual orientation and/or grasp orientation updating. To identify these sites, we applied three specific criteria: specific transsaccadic sensitivity to orientation changes, sensitivity to intervening saccades versus fixation, and task specificity in these saccade modulations, at least in the more superior parietal grasp motor sites. We found four sites that met these criteria: right SMG, a site previously implicated in transsaccadic orientation perception (Dunkley et al., 2016), and three more dorsal sites that are associated with grasp correction (Prime et al., 2008; Vesia et al., 2010). Finally, with the use of task-related functional connectivity analysis with seed site SMG, we identified a putative network for saccades that includes parietal and prefrontal regions.

# Transsaccadic updating of object orientation for grasp

Here, we hypothesized that SMG (Dunkley et al., 2016) would contribute to feature updating for grasp execution, whereas some part of other regions involved planning/updating grasp orientation

#### Predictions 2 and 3: Saccade / Task Specificity

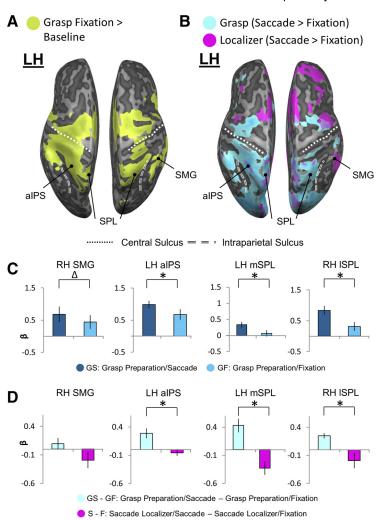
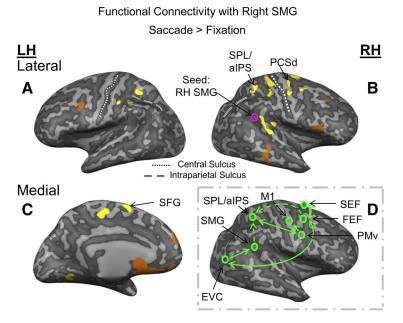


Figure 4. Location of putative transsaccadic updating sites (from Figure 3) superimposed on general grasp regions (A) and saccade modulations (B) derived from the Action Preparation phase, followed by tests for Predictions 2 (C) and 3 (D). A, An inflated brain rendering of an example participant (left and right hemispheres viewed from above, respectively). An activation map obtained using an RFX GLM (n = 13) is shown for the contrast, Grasp Fixation > Baseline (chartreuse). The four putative transsaccadic grasp updating sites (depicted as black dots) from Figure 3 are superimposed on this activation.  $\boldsymbol{B}$ , Activation maps for a Saccade > Fixate contrast obtained using an RFX GLM (n = 13) on grasp experiment data (sky blue) and on a separate saccade localizer (fuchsia) were overlaid onto an inflated brain rendering from an example participant (left and right hemispheres shown from a bird's eye view). These overlaid activation maps allow for comparison of which cortical sites respond to saccade signals in a grasp task-specific manner.  $\boldsymbol{C}$ , Bar graphs of  $\boldsymbol{\beta}$  weights plotted for Grasp Saccade (GS) conditions (dark blue) versus Grasp Fixation (GF) conditions (light blue) from all 13 participants. Data were extracted from active voxels from the transsaccadic sites, the peak voxels of which are represented by the black dots above in A and B to test Prediction 2. To quantitatively test Prediction 2, we performed a priori-motivated repeatedmeasures t tests; given that there are four areas and, therefore, four t tests to be conducted, the significance level p value (0.05) was Bonferroni-corrected (0.05/4 = 0.0125) (for specific statistical values, see Results). Values are mean  $\pm$  SEM analyzed by repeated-measures t tests. D, Bar graphs of  $\beta$  weights plotted for Grasp Saccade conditions (pale blue) versus Grasp Fixation conditions (magenta). Data were extracted from the transsaccadic sites shown in Figure 2A, B, which were compared for only the 10 participants whose data were analyzed for the saccade localizer. Statistical tests were conducted on eta weights extracted from the active voxels of these areas to test Prediction 3. Values are mean  $\pm$  SEM analyzed by dependent t test. To quantitatively test Prediction 3, we performed a priori-motivated repeated-measures t tests; given that there are four areas and, therefore, four t tests to be conducted, the significance level p value (0.05) was Bonferroni-corrected (0.05/4 = 0.0125) (for specific statistical values, see Results). \*Statistically significant difference between the GS and GF eta weights (i.e., that the pvalue obtained is less than the Bonferroni-corrected p=0.0125).  $\Delta$  indicates an uncorrected significant difference between the GS and GF  $\beta$  weights (i.e., that the p value obtained is less than the original significance level p = 0.05, but is not less than the Bonferroni-corrected p = 0.0125).



**Figure 5.** Functional connectivity network involved in transsaccadic updating of grasp orientation. *A-C*, Using a Saccade > Fixation contrast (from the Action Preparation phase) and the right SMG as a seed region obtained from the separate saccade localizer, psychophysiological interaction is shown in the activation maps (yellow represents positive correlation; copper represents negative correlation) overlaid onto the inflated brain renderings of an example participant. Right FEF, SPL (that extends into the aIPS), and left SEF show significant, cluster-corrected positive correlation with right SMG. Only sites that passed a p < 0.05 and cluster threshold correction are labeled.  $\textbf{\textit{D}}$ , A potential network for the communication between right SMG and other saccade and grasp regions.

(Murata et al., 2000; Monaco et al., 2014, 2015) would also be involved in the transsaccadic updating of orientation for grasp preparation. To test this, we compared orientation change specificity for saccades versus fixation during Action Execution, and found four sites (right SMG, left aIPS, and bilateral SPL) that fit this criterion and passed our standard statistical criteria. (Our right ISPL site was similar to left aIPS, but positioned more laterally and posterior.) We further found that all of these sites were modulated by saccades, although the motor task specificity of these modulations was clearer in aIPS and SPL. Finally, the laterality of these responses was consistent with our hypothesis (i.e., right SMG being consistent with the general role of right parietal cortex in spatial awareness) (Perry and Zeki, 2000), whereas left aIPS was opposite to the motor effector uses (the right hand). This supports a general-purpose role for right SMG in the transsaccadic updating of object orientation, and adds a more unique role for aIPS and SPL in updating grasp orientation.

SMG is a region that has largely been implicated in perception tasks, such as those requiring spatial processing of orientation (Kheradmand et al., 2015) and visual search (Eimer et al., 2011), or those requiring cross-modal spatial attention (Macaluso et al., 2000). In contrast, SPL possesses both saccade and grasp-preshaping signals (Filimon et al., 2009; Gallivan et al., 2011), making this an ideal site to update grasp plans. Our anterior SPL grasp updating sites excluded more posterior grasp areas, such as SPOC (Gallivan et al., 2011; Rossit et al., 2013), consistent with the idea that the latter is concerned with setting initial reach goals (Vesia et al., 2010; Vesia and Crawford, 2012), whereas the former anterior areas are involved in updating those goals (Glover et al., 2005; Le et al., 2014; Janssen and Scherberger, 2015). These updated signals might then be relayed to PMd

(Tanné-Gariépy et al., 2002; Davare et al., 2006), which possesses both reach-only and intermingled saccade-reach populations of neurons (Filimon et al., 2009). Finally, aIPS is sensitive to object orientation information for grasp (Murata et al., 2000; Brouwer et al., 2009; Glover et al., 2012; Vesia et al., 2017). aIPS appeared twice in our analysis: first, in Figure 3, near the coordinates provided in some previous studies (Medendorp et al., 2003; Gallivan et al., 2011; Monaco et al., 2011) and second, clustered with SPL in our network analysis (Fig. 5). It is thought that populations of neurons in aIPS may process object features, such as its orientation to ultimately shape and orient the hand to match the object's shape and orientation (Monaco et al., 2014). Information related to grasping is then proposed to travel to PMv to engage specific reach/grasp-related neuronal populations to generate motor commands (Davare et al., 2006, 2009; Filimon et al., 2009). Thus, our result appears to be consistent with the known functions of these regions, and extends our understanding of how these functions might be linked to update grasp signals in the presence of saccades.

# A putative network for transsaccadic updating of grasp plans

An important goal for this study was to understand how distributed cortical regions might

work as a network to update grasp plans during saccades. Based on the computational requirements of this function, we hypothesized that such a network should involve: (1) regions specific to transsaccadic updating of orientation features, (2) saccade regions for oculomotor input, and (3) and grasp updating regions for motor output. Given our previous (Dunkley et al., 2016) and current results, we hypothesized that right SMG would play the first role (i.e., here, it would update object features across saccades during the Action Preparation phase so that these could be spatially integrated with new visual information for Action Execution), and chose this as the seed site for our functional connectivity analysis. As described in the Introduction, we expected prefrontal saccade regions to play the second role, and parietal grasp regions to provide the final role (based on our current results, aIPS/SPL). Indeed, this analysis revealed a functional network for saccades versus fixation involving right SMG, right SPL, right aIPS, right PCSd, and the left superior frontal gyrus. Together with the overlapping sites that fit the previous three criteria, this suggests a saccade-dependent network with the specific properties needed for updating grasp orientation.

Psychophysiological interaction analysis does not provide directionality; but based on the functional requirements of the task and known physiology of these regions, we conceptualized this network as shown in Figure 5D. PCSd likely corresponds to the right FEF (Luna et al., 1998; Krauzlis, 2005). The FEF is a key component of the cortical saccade generator (Krauzlis, 2005), and is known to provide reentrant feedback to earlier visual areas (Moore and Armstrong, 2003; Hamker, 2010). The superior frontal gyrus likely corresponds to the SEF (Grosbras et al., 1999; Krauzlis, 2005), which has reciprocal connections with FEF. Thus, FEF/SEF could be the source of saccade signals for SMG and the entire network. As discussed above, aIPS (Gallivan et al.,

2011) and SPL are implicated in grasp planning/corrections, show saccade signals (Filimon et al., 2009; Filimon, 2010), and of course were already implicated in transsaccadic grasp updating in our other analyses. Thus, this putative network appears to possess all of the signals and characteristics that one would expect to find in a transsaccadic updating circuit during grasp preparation.

Eye-hand coordination is relatively understood in terms of the transport component of reach, but little is known about the integration of saccade and visual signals for updating grasp configuration across eye movements. We set out to identify a putative human grasp updater and found a remarkably consistent cluster of regions, including SMG and aIPS/SPL, (likely) receiving oculomotor inputs from prefrontal eye fields. This network provides the necessary neural machinery to integrate object features and saccade signals, and thus ensure grasp plans remain updated and coordinated with gaze-centered reach transport plans (Batista et al., 1999; Khan et al., 2005). These new findings have several general implications: First, this circuit might explain some of the various symptoms of constructional apraxia resulting from damage to the PPC (Heilman et al., 1986; Sirigu et al., 1996). Constructional apraxia is a disorder affecting complex manual tasks that involve the coding and updating of multiple objects (Smith and Gilchrist, 2005; Russell et al., 2010). Second, the role of the inferior parietal cortex in both transsaccadic perception (Dunkley et al., 2016) and grasp updating supports the notion that inferior parietal cortex (a very late phylogenetic development) has high-level visuospatial functions for both ventral and dorsal stream vision (Goodale and Milner, 1992). Finally, the various roles of specific parietal modules in spatial updating (Klier and Angelaki, 2008), visual feedback corrections (Medendorp et al., 2003), and (here) a combination of the two for action updating support a general role for parietal cortex for detecting, differentiating, and compensating for internally- and externally-induced spatial perturbations.

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