

A photograph showing a Neanderthal skull mounted on a black rectangular base, positioned under a large, cylindrical yellow and silver microtomograph scanner. The machine has a metallic frame and a prominent yellow cylindrical component. The background is dark.

Microtomographie et paléoneurologie, révélations sur le cerveau des Néandertaliens et sur son fonctionnement ?

Antoine Balzeau

UMR 7194 CNRS, Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Paris, France

Qui suis-je ?

UMR 7194 CNRS, Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Paris, France

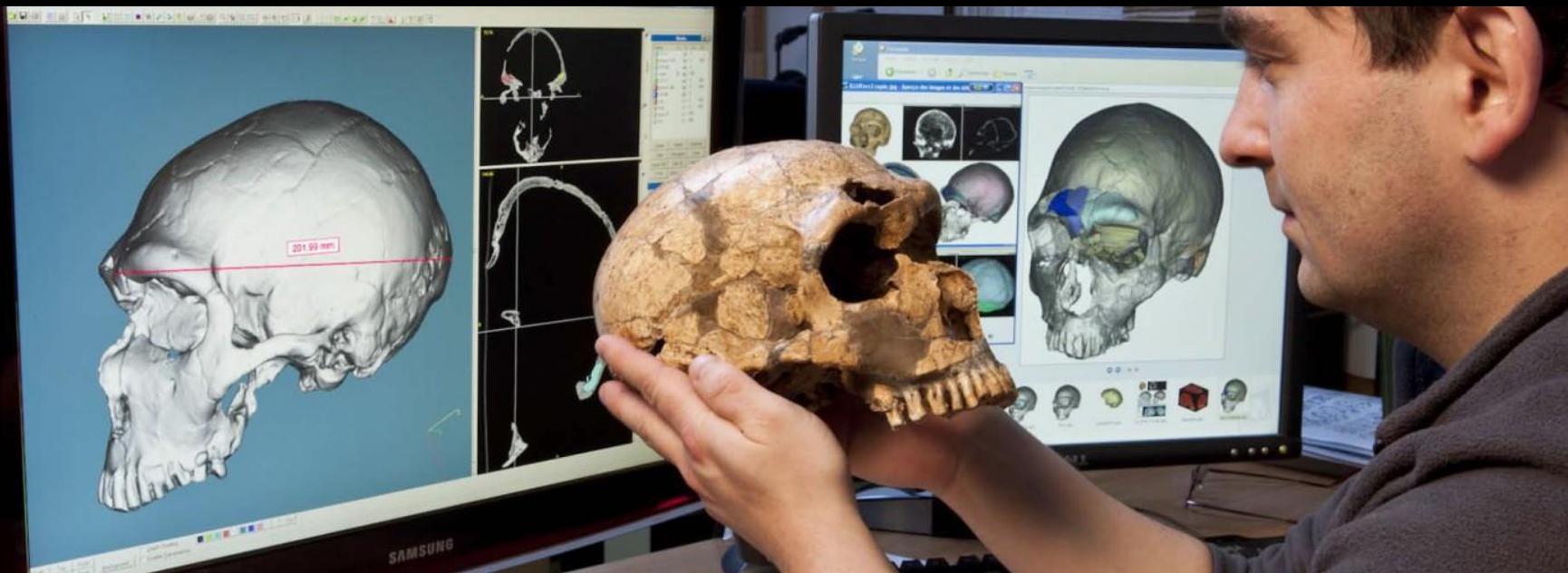
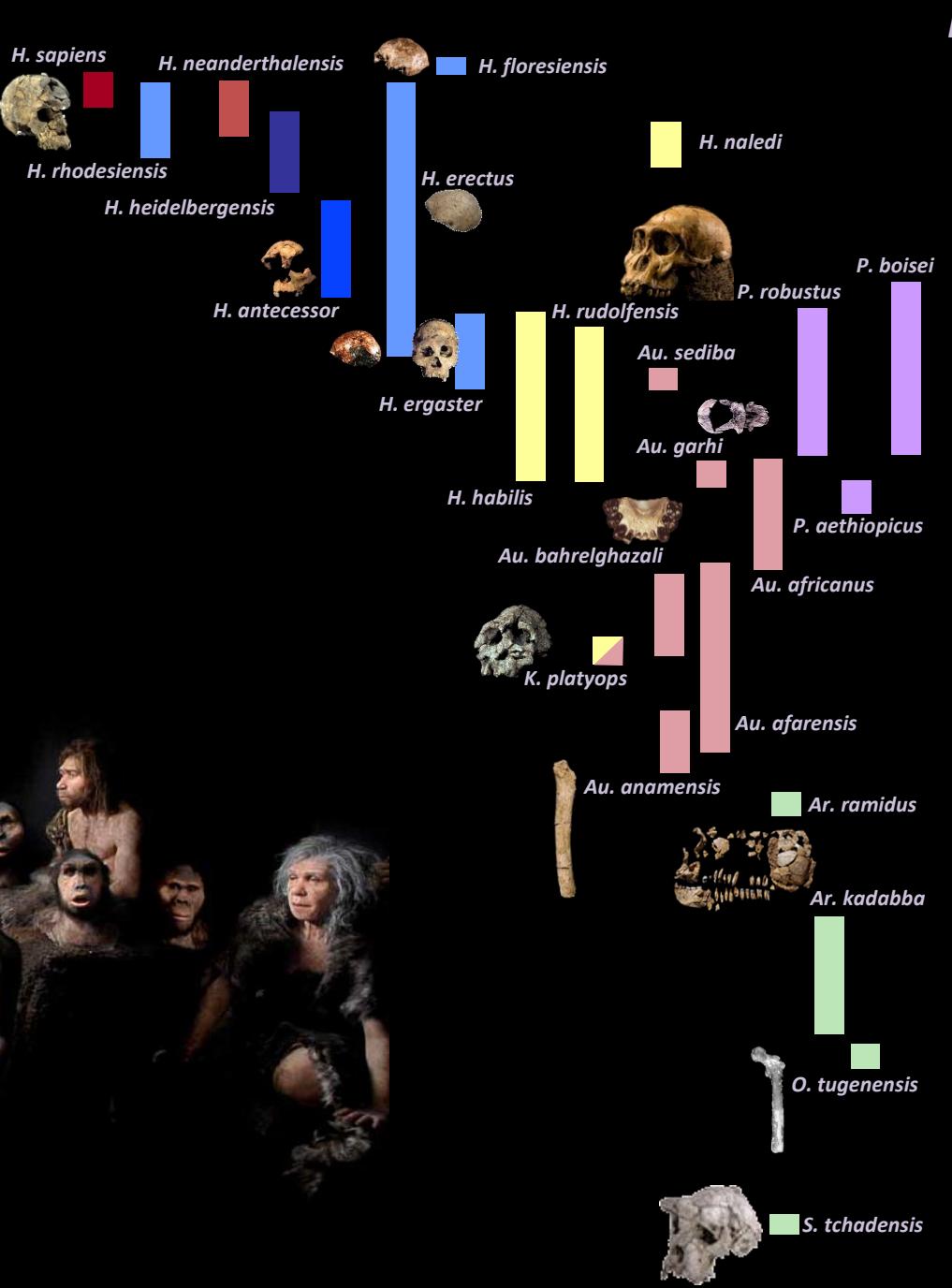
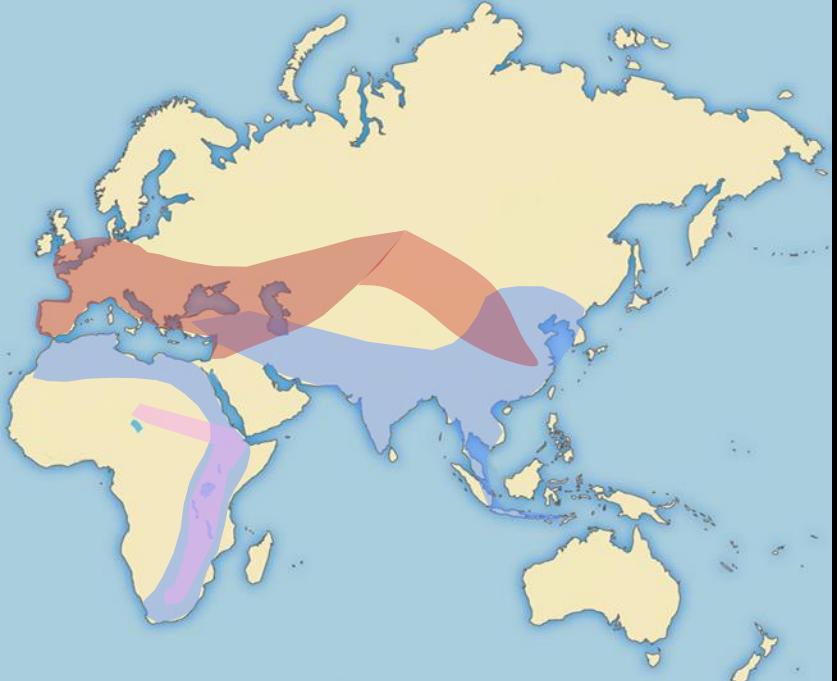
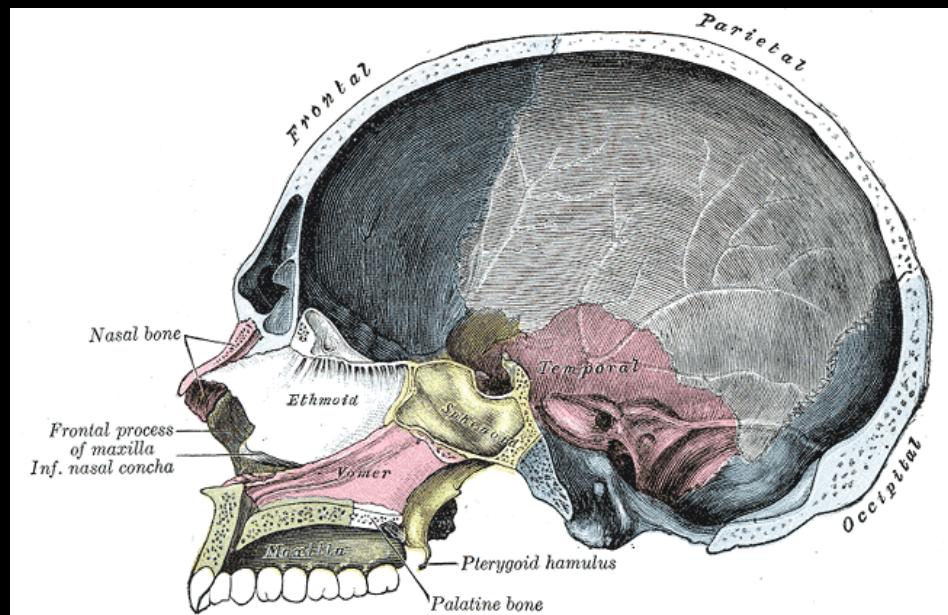


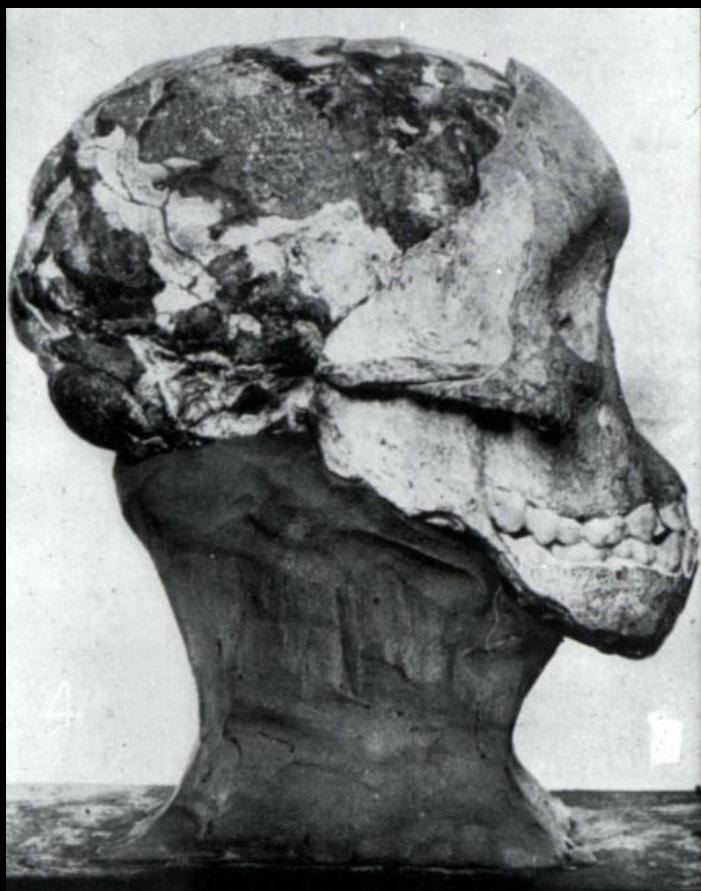
Plate-forme AST-RX, UMS 2700, CNRS-MNHN





Le cerveau, comment étudier ce qui ne se fossilise pas...







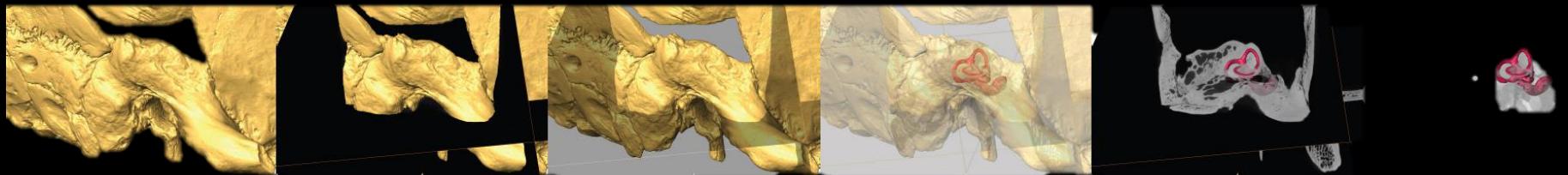
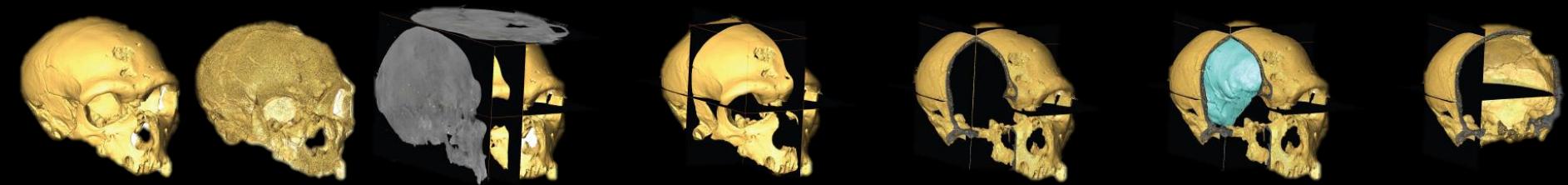
L'anthropologie « virtuelle », ou la face cachée des Hommes

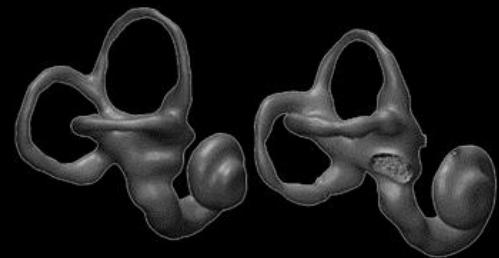
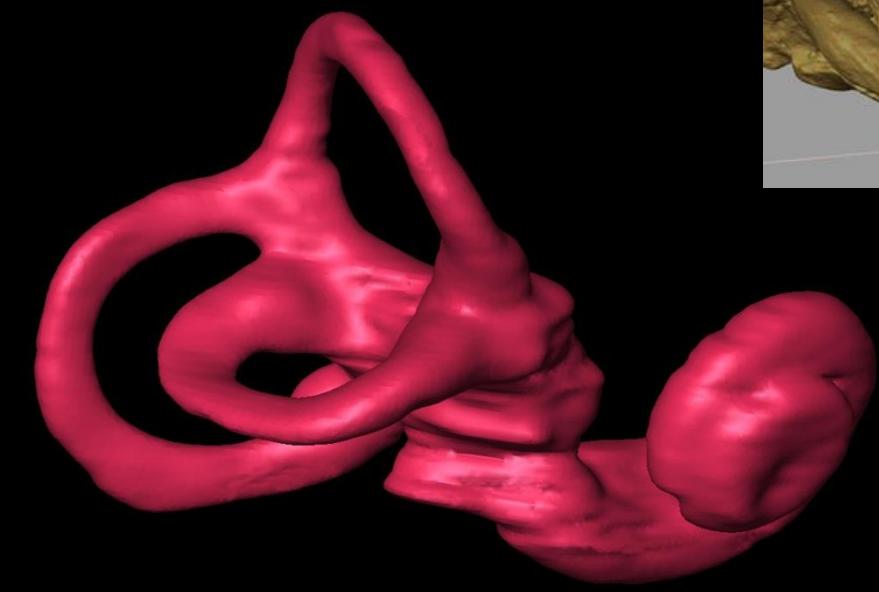
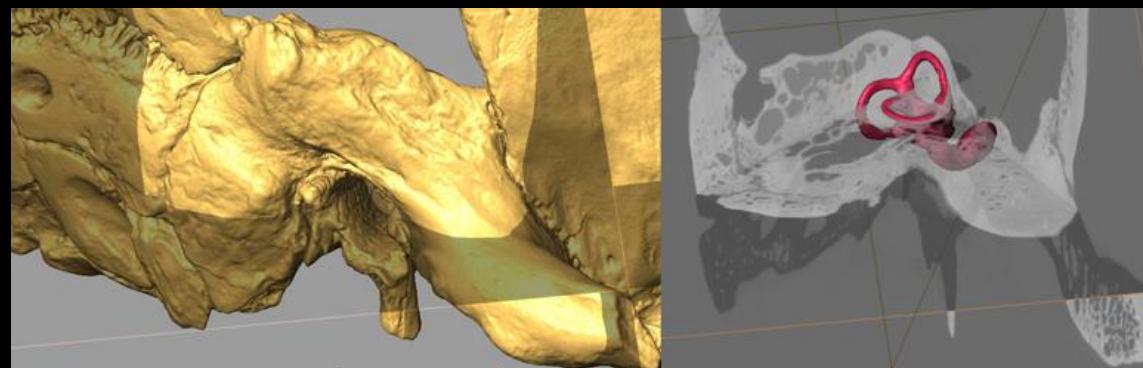
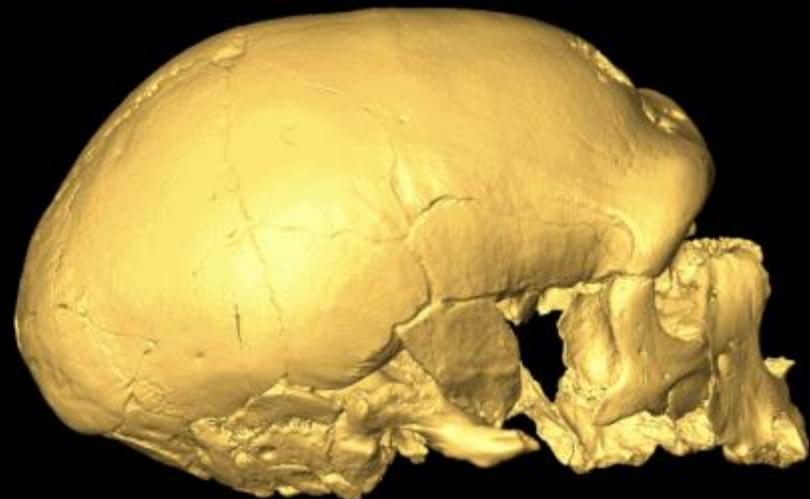


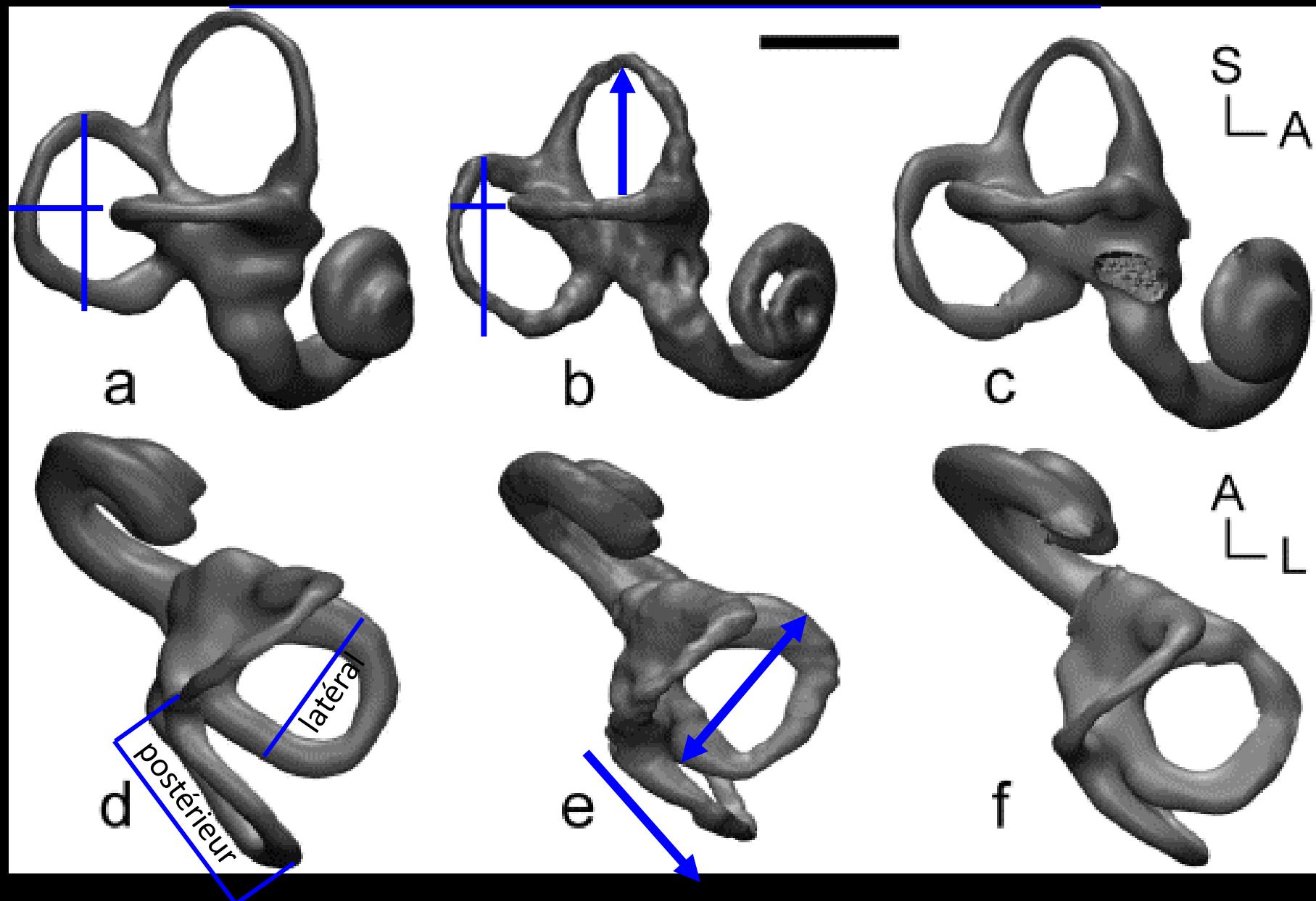
Crâne de Lilian Thuram, *Homo sapiens actuel* Reconstitution 3D, 2006

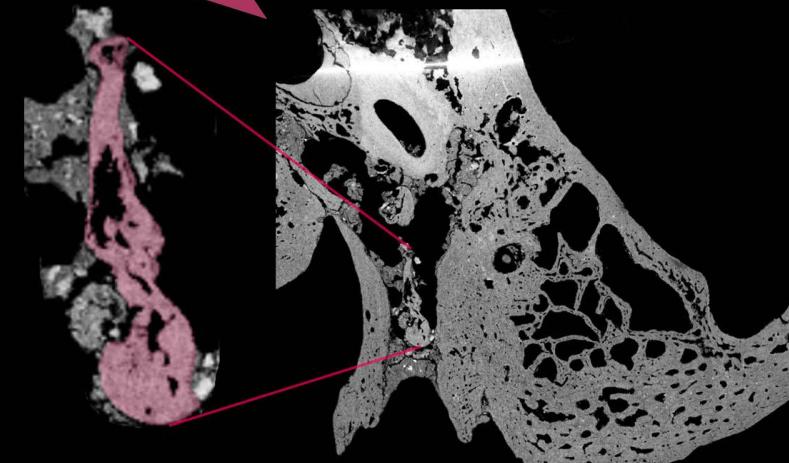
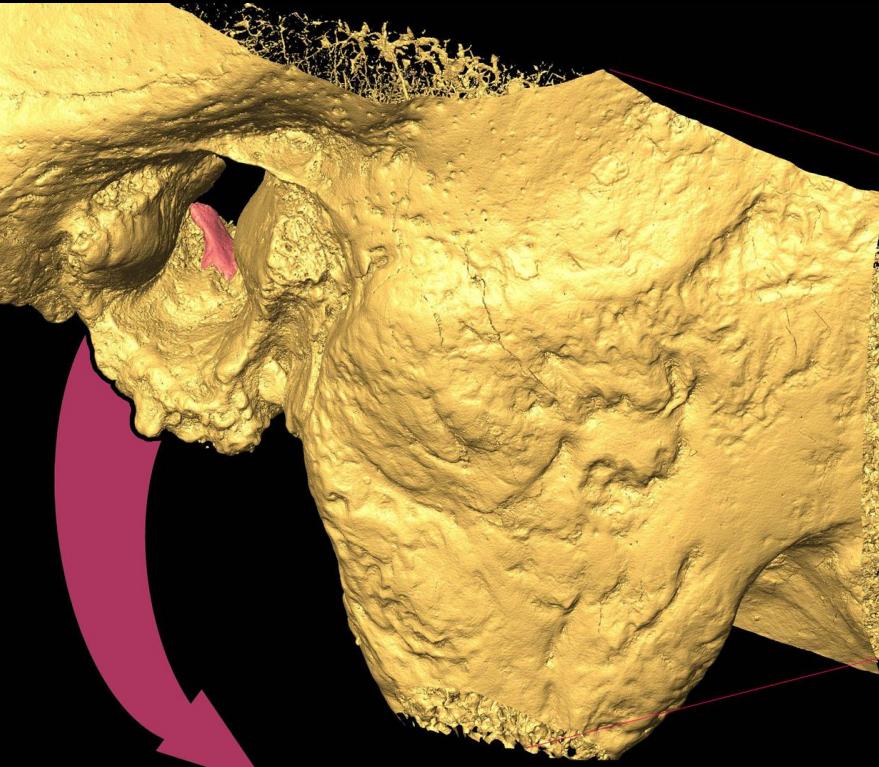
Pour la réalisation de ce crâne, Lilian Thuram a d'abord passé un scanner RX. Les données obtenues ont ensuite subi différents traitements afin d'établir une reconstruction en trois dimensions, en effaçant « virtuellement » la peau, les muscles, etc. À partir de ce crâne virtuel en trois dimensions, un procédé de prototypage a été utilisé pour en fabriquer une réplique exacte. Les traitements des données d'imagerie pour l'obtention de la reconstruction 3D ayant permis la production du prototype ont été effectués grâce au logiciel ArteCore (NESPOS, <https://www.nespos.org>)



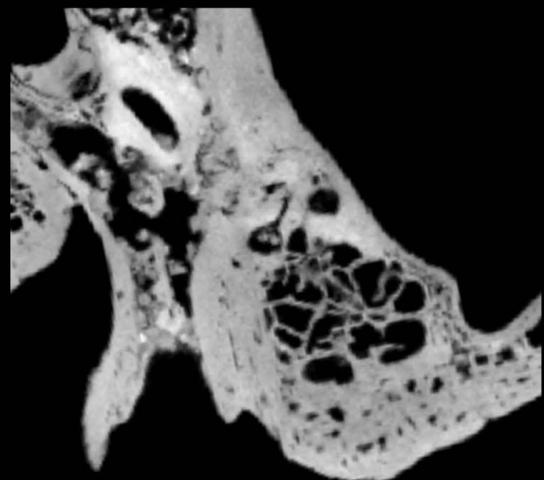




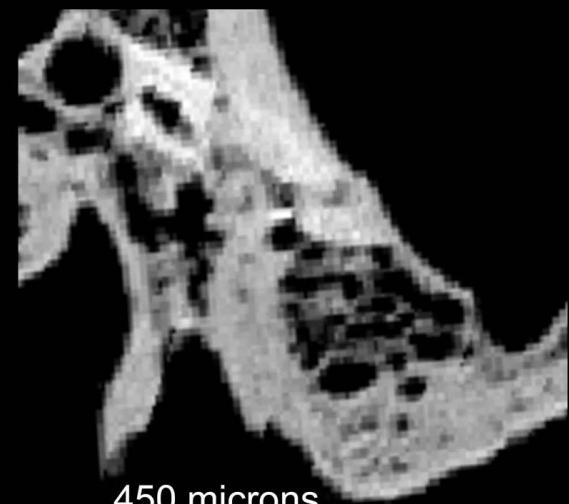




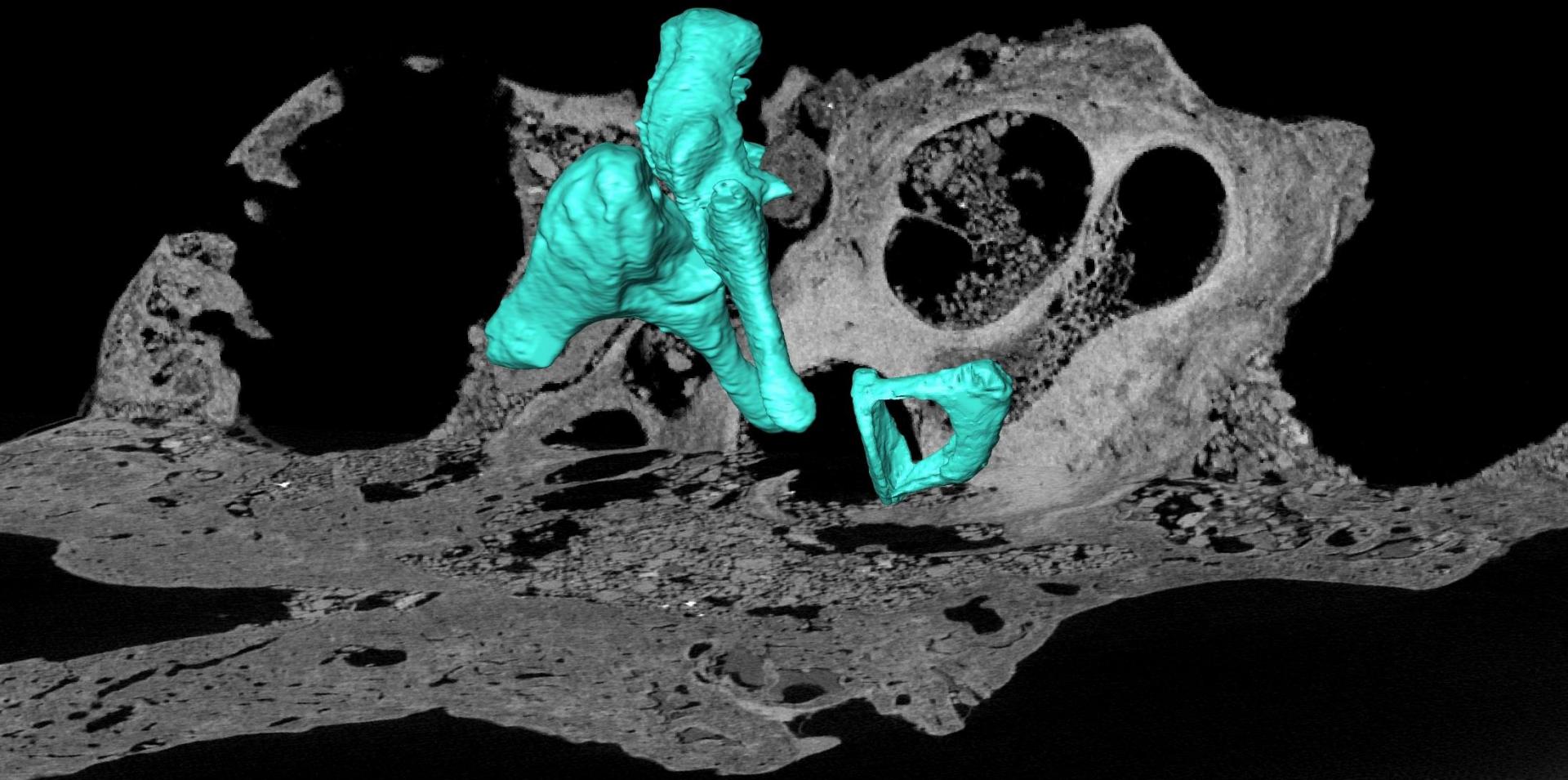
23 microns



123 microns



450 microns



Early hominin auditory capacities

Quam et al., Science 2015

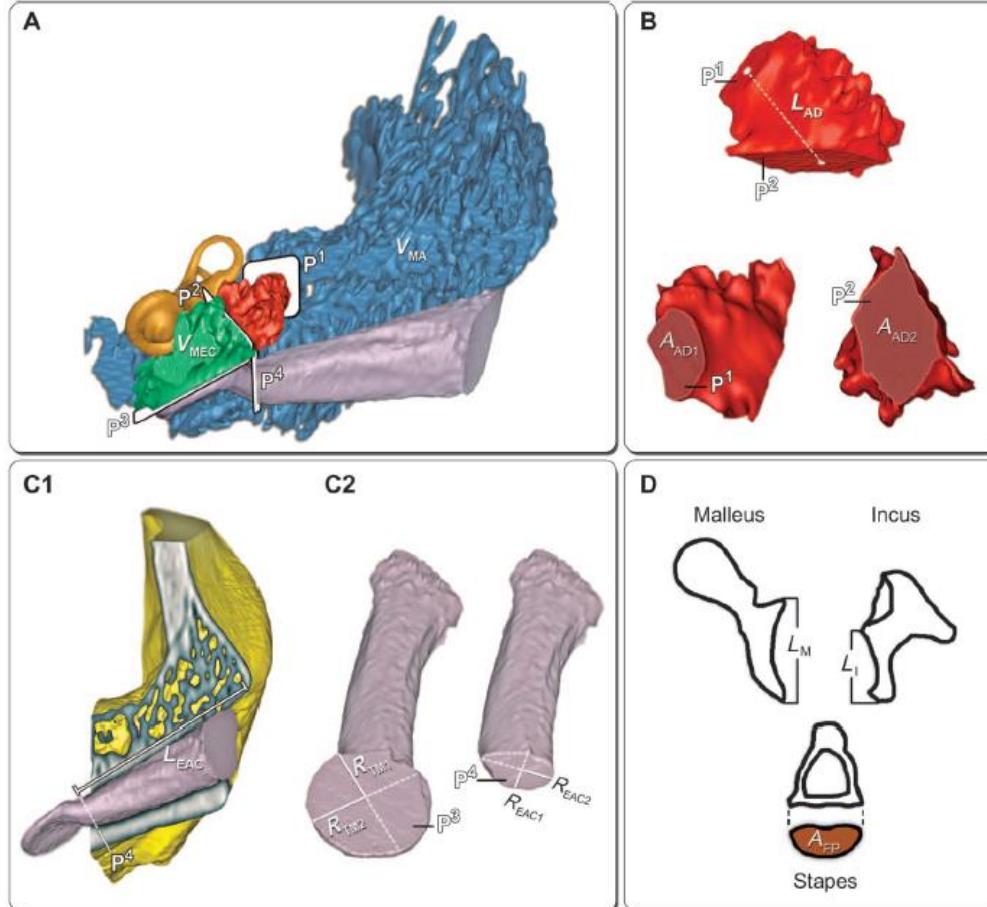
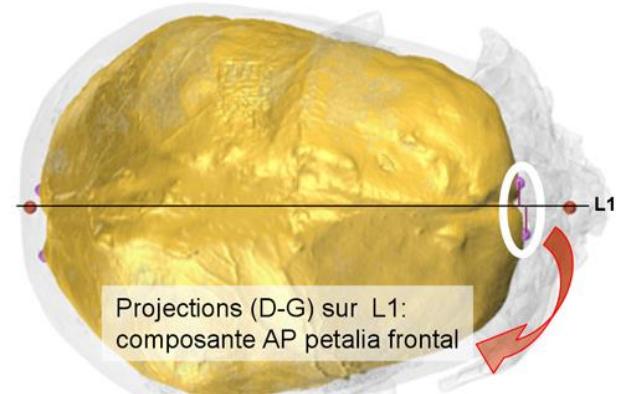
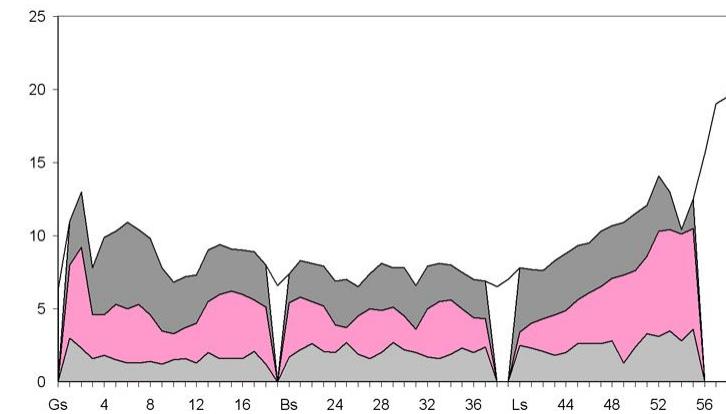
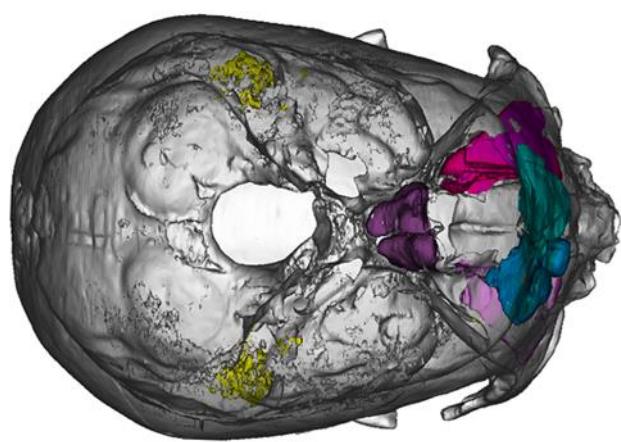
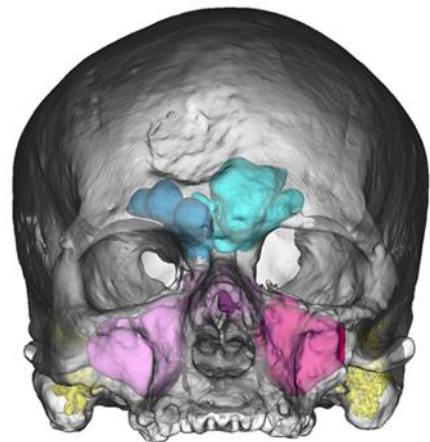
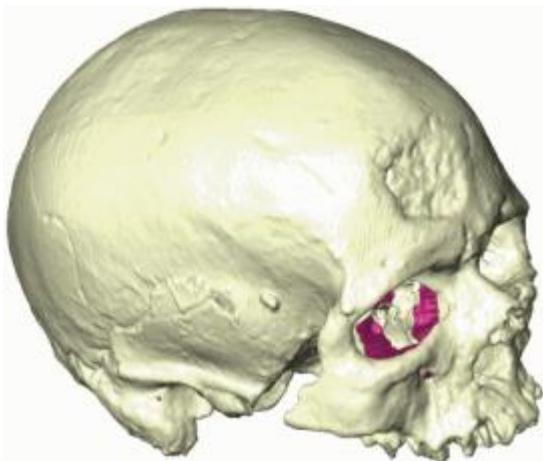
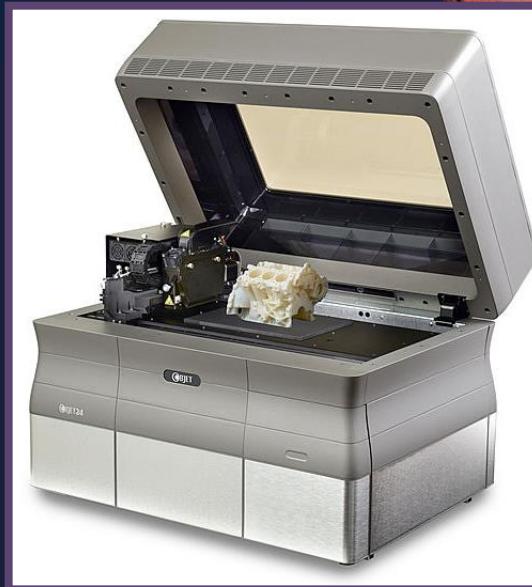
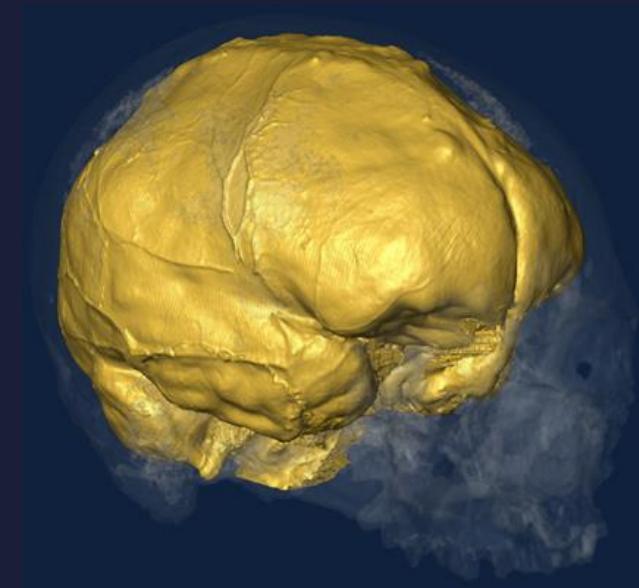
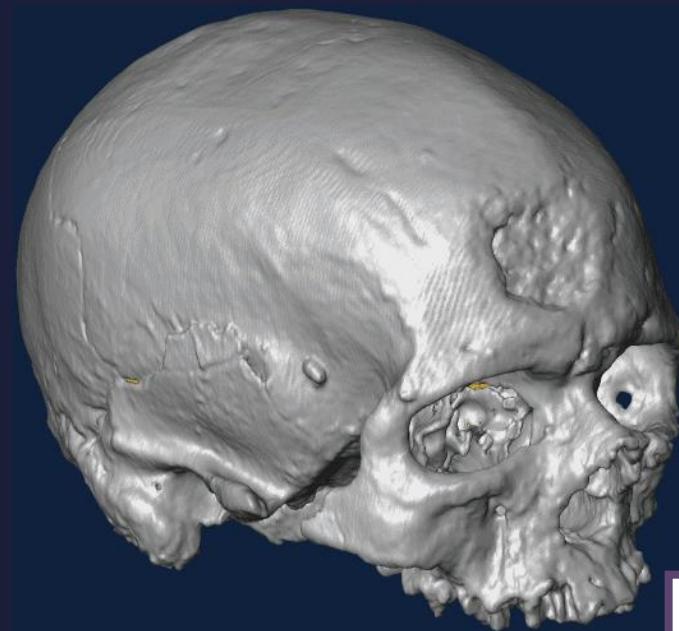


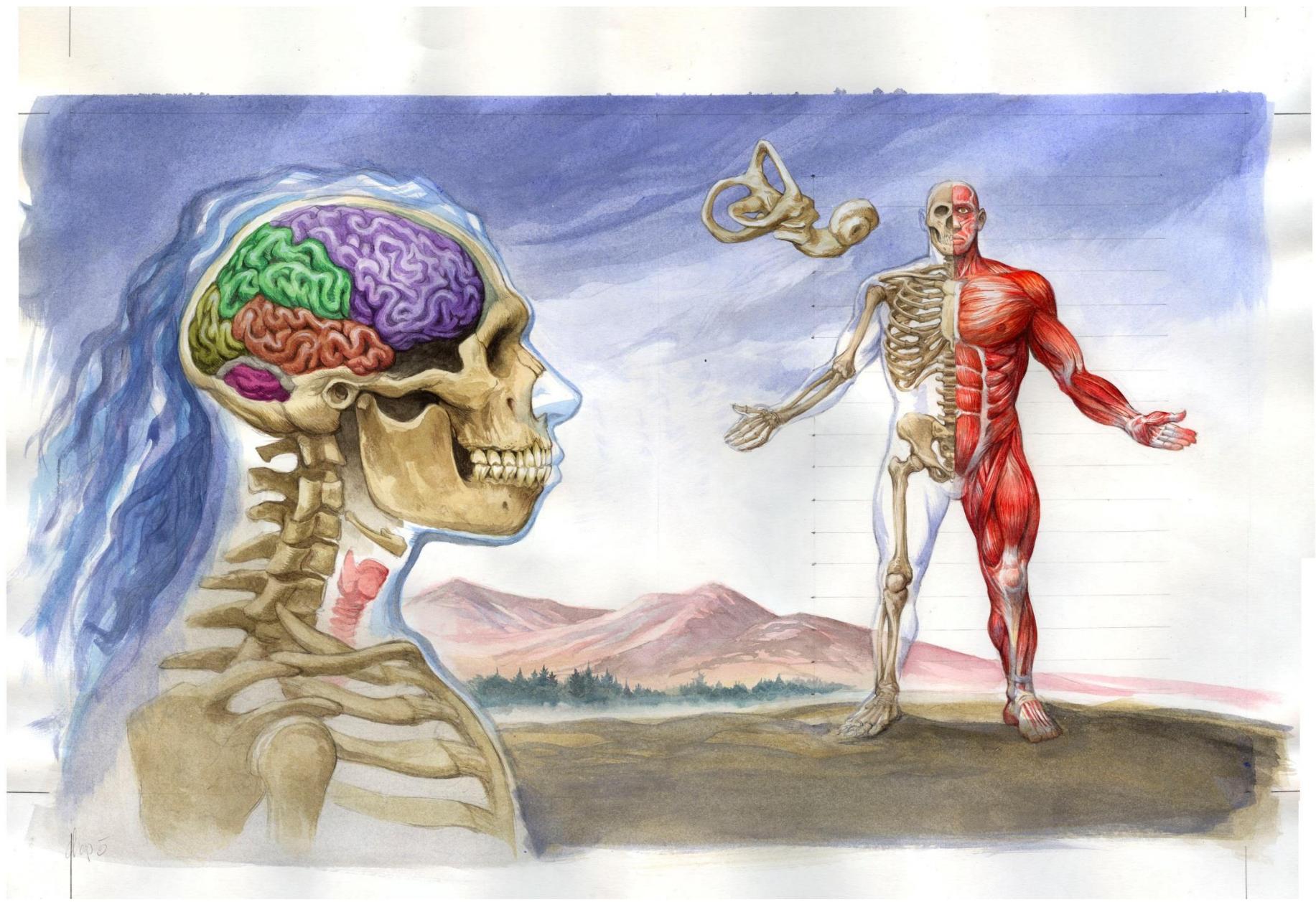
Fig. 1. Measurements of the middle and outer ear (A to C) and ear ossicles (D). (A), (B), (C1), (C2), and (D) are not drawn to the same scale. (A) to (C) are based on the 3D reconstruction of the left side of HTB 1769 (*Pan troglodytes*), showing the EAC (gray), the middle ear cavity (green), the aditus ad antrum (red), the mastoid antrum and connected mastoid air cells (blue), the inner ear (orange), and the temporal bone (yellow). P¹, limit between the mastoid antrum and the connected mastoid air cells with the aditus ad antrum. P², entrance to the aditus ad antrum from the middle ear cavity. P³, medial edge of the tympanic groove (sulcus tympanicus). P⁴, cross section perpendicular to the long axis of the EAC that meets the lateral end of the tympanic groove. (A) V_{MA}, volume of the mastoid antrum and connected mastoid air cells, measured dorsal to P¹; V_{MEC}, volume of the middle ear cavity, bounded by P² to P³. (B) L_{AD}, length of the aditus ad antrum, measured as the distance from the center of P¹ to the center of P²; A_{AD1}, area of the exit of the aditus ad antrum to the mastoid antrum and connected mastoid air cells; A_{AD2}, area of the entrance to the aditus ad antrum from the middle ear cavity. For modeling purposes, we have calculated the radius (R_{AD1} and R_{AD2}; not shown), which would correspond to a circle with the given area for the exit (A_{AD1}) and entrance (A_{AD2}). (C1) L_{EAC}, length of the EAC, measured from the most lateral extent of the tympanic groove (defined by P⁴) to the spina suprameatum. In *Pan*, the spina suprameatum is replaced by the superior-most point of the porus acusticus externus. (C2) R_{TM1}, half of the measured greater diameter of the tympanic membrane, measured in P³; R_{TM2}, half of the measured lesser diameter (perpendicular to R_{TM1}) of the tympanic membrane, measured in P³; R_{EAC1} and R_{EAC2}, half of the measured diameters of the two major perpendicular axes (superoinferior and mediolateral) of the EAC measured at P⁴. (D) is based on the profiles of the malleus and incus from the temporal bone AT-1907 and the stapes from Cranium 5. L_M, functional length of the malleus, measured as the maximum length from the superior border of the lateral process to the inferior-most tip of the manubrium; L_I, functional length of the incus, measured from the lateral-most point along the articular facet to the lowest point along the long crus in the rotational axis; A_{FP}, measured area of the footplate of the stapes.



Aller plus loin dans l'exploration : le prototypage rapide

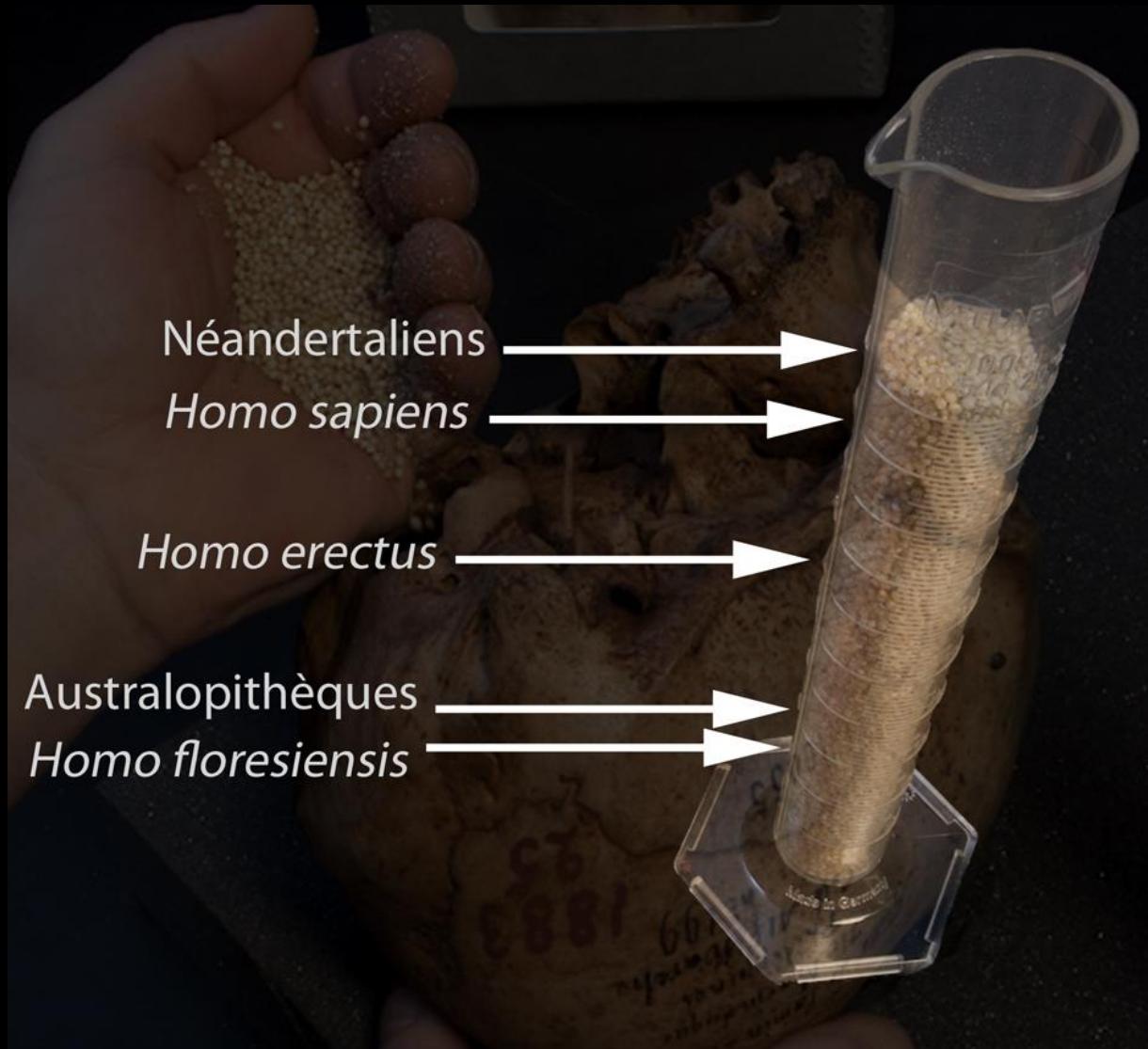


endocrâne de Cro-Magnon 1

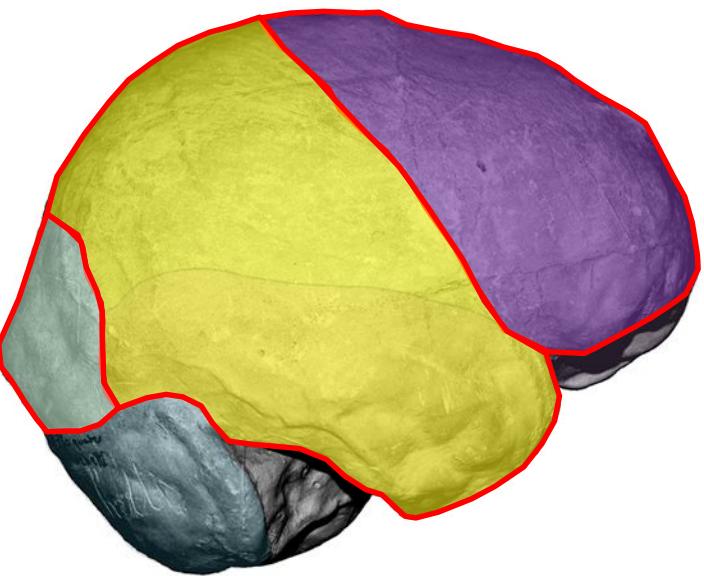
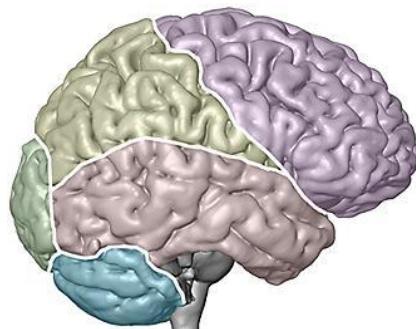


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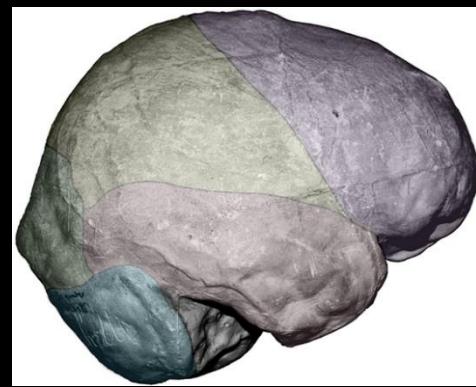
La taille du cerveau...



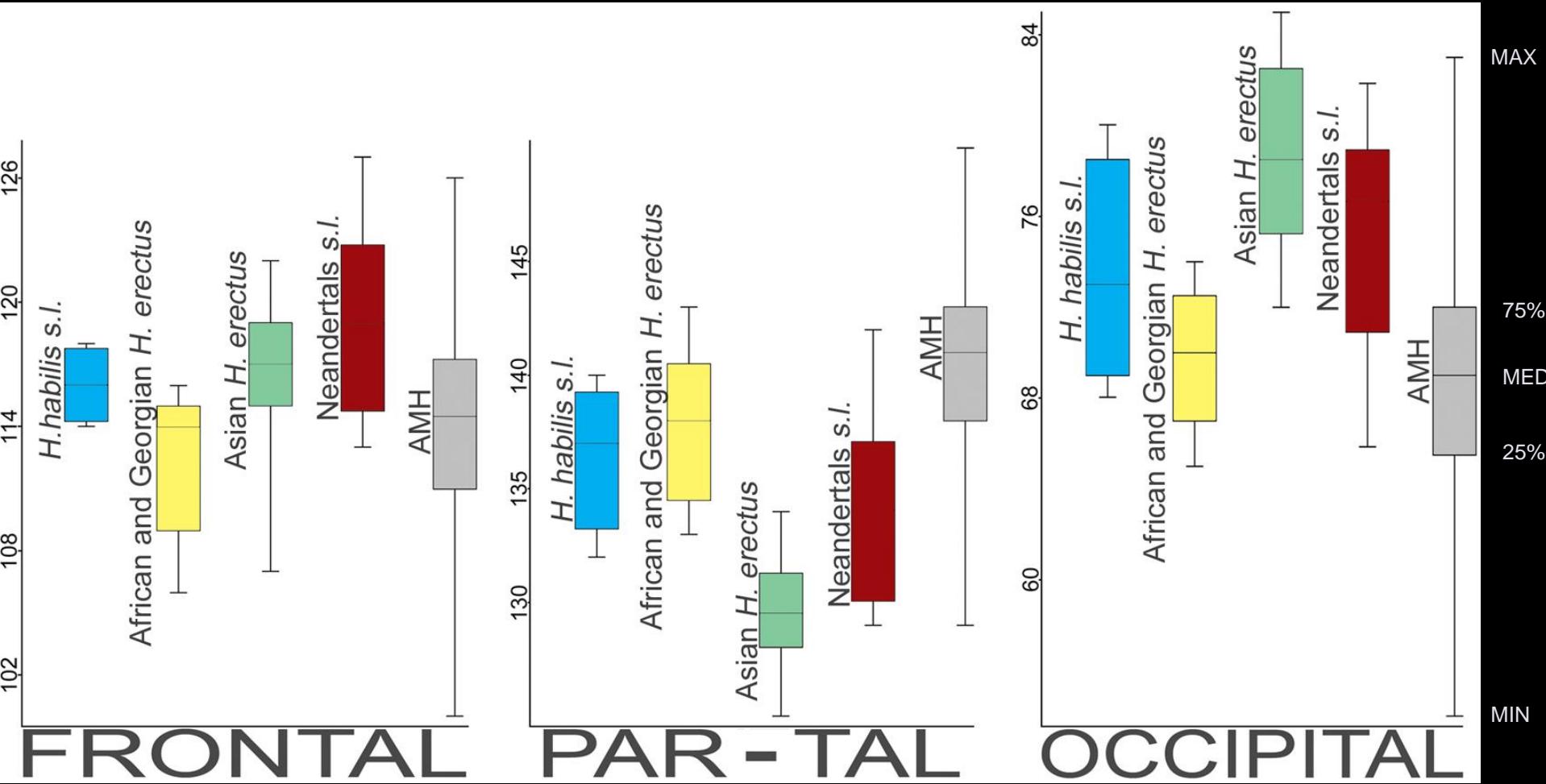
Le « cerveau »



Des différences de forme ?



Variations de la surface des lobes frontaux, pariétaux-temporaux et occipitaux (données relatives)



Research

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<http://dx.doi.org/10.1098/rspb.2013.0168>



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New insights into differences in brain organization between Neanderthals and anatomically modern humans

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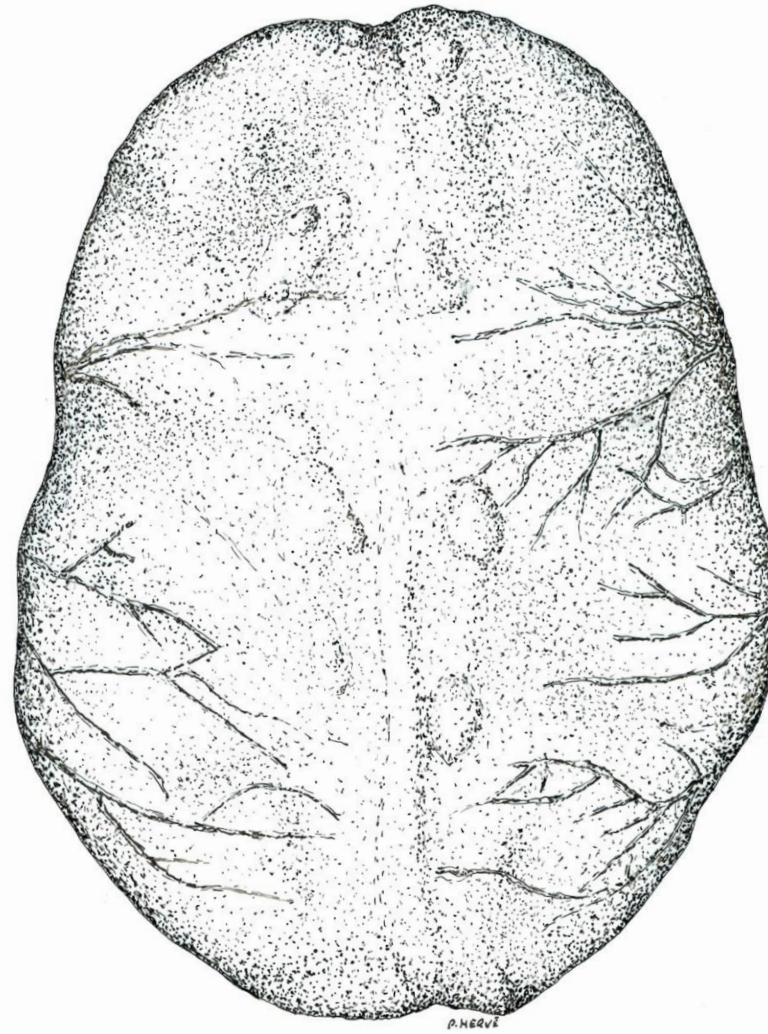
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Previous research has identified morphological differences between the brains of Neanderthals and anatomically modern humans (AMHs). However, studies using endocasts or the cranium itself are limited to investigating external surface features and the overall size and shape of the brain. A complementary approach uses comparative primate data to estimate the size of internal brain areas. Previous attempts to do this have generally assumed that identical total brain volumes imply identical internal organization. Here, we argue that, in the case of Neanderthals and AMHs, differences in the size of the body and visual system imply differences in organization between the same-sized brains of these two taxa. We show that Neanderthals had significantly larger visual systems than contemporary AMHs (indexed by orbital volume) and that when this, along with their greater body mass, is taken into account, Neanderthals have significantly smaller adjusted endocranial capacities than contemporary AMHs. We discuss possible implications of differing brain organization in terms of social cognition, and consider these in the context of differing abilities to cope with fluctuating resources and cultural maintenance.

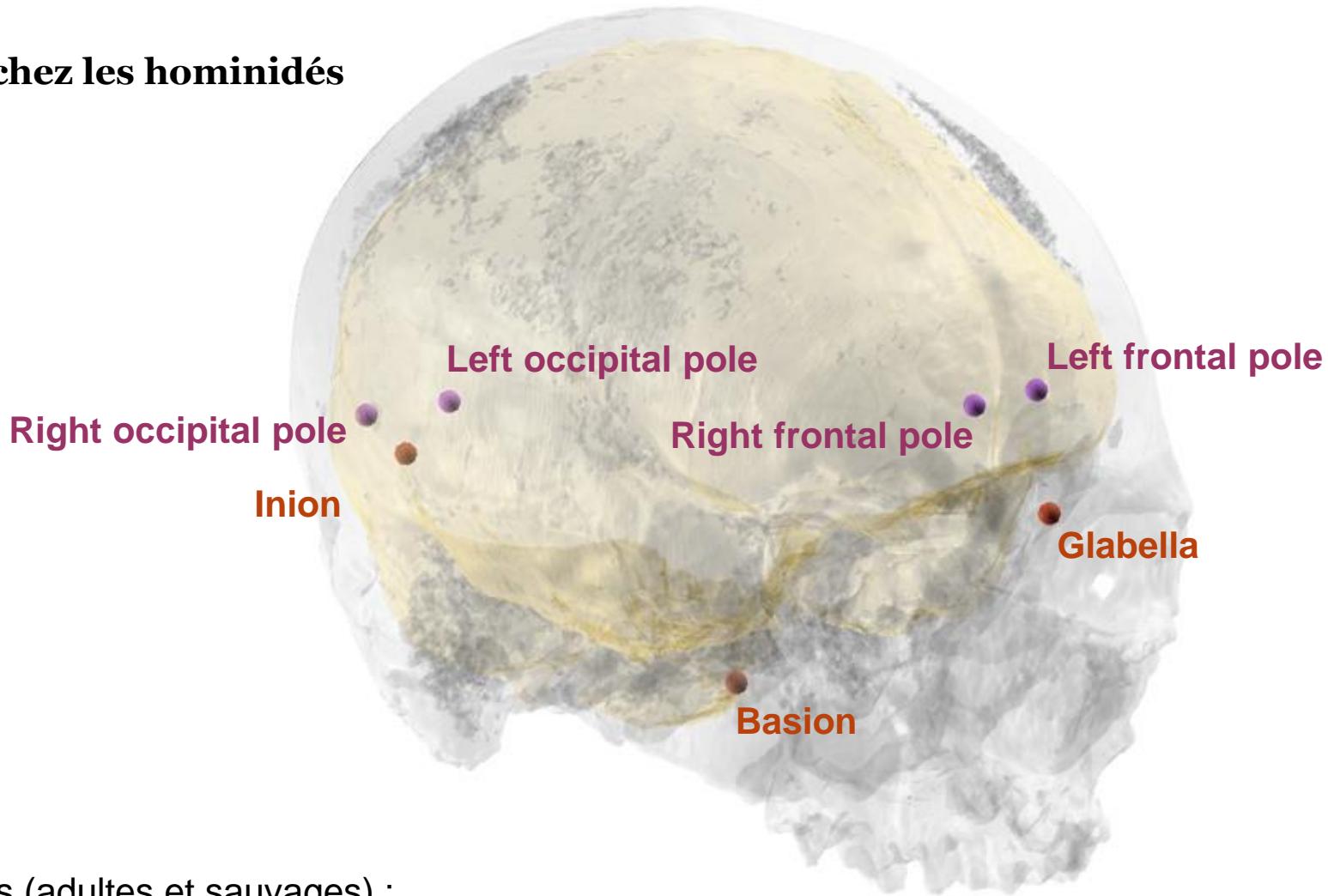


Les pétalias
Et la latéralité manuelle

Plus "l'aire de Broca"



Les pétalias chez les hominidés



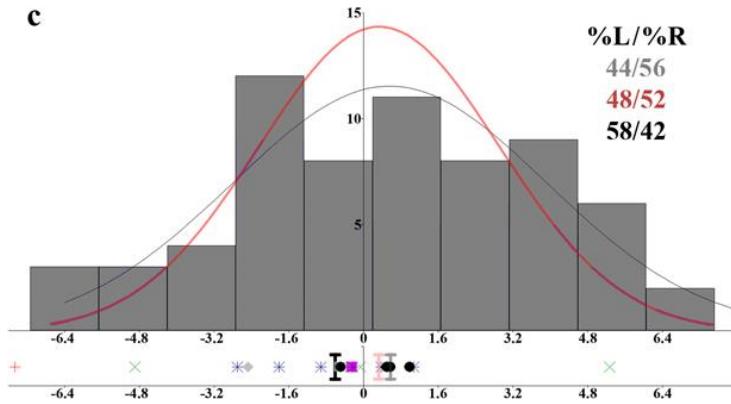
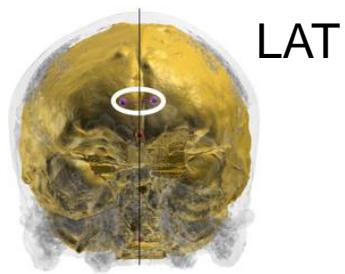
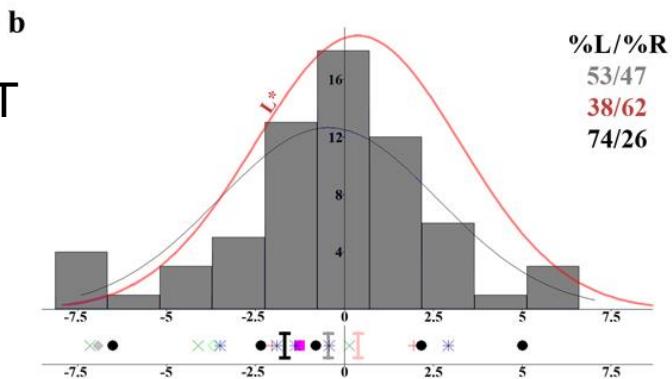
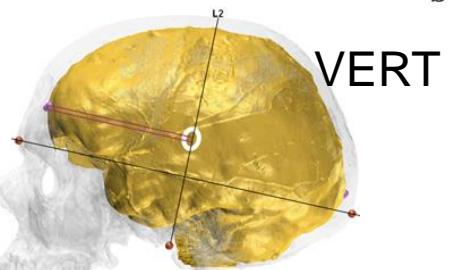
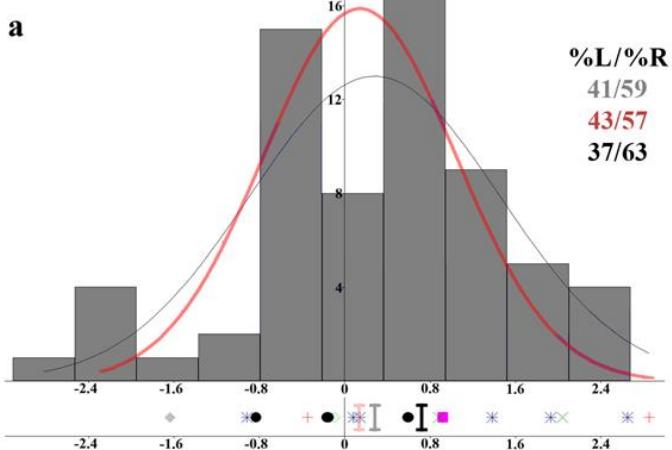
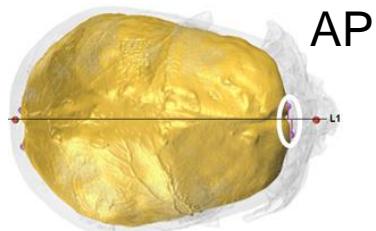
110 grands singes (adultes et sauvages) :

36 *Pan paniscus* (17 mâles/19 femelles), 36 *P. troglodytes* (17/19), 38 *Gorilla gorilla* (18/20)

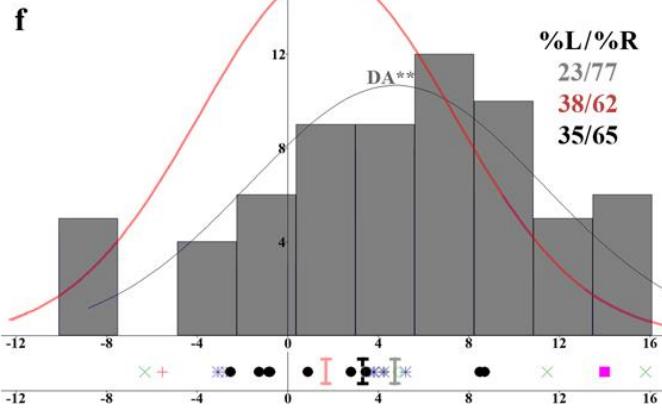
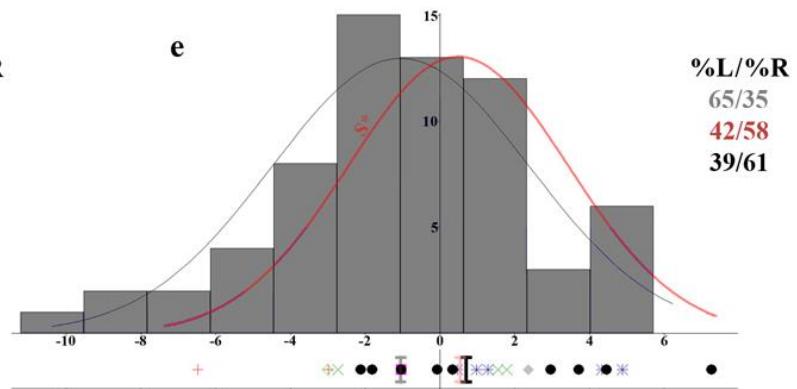
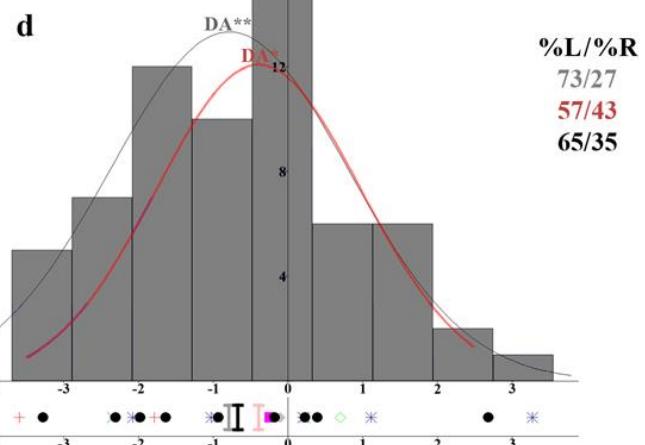
45 Hommes anatomiquement modernes actuels et 21 fossiles : Cro Magnon 1, 3, Mladeč 1, Pataud, Rochereil, Nazlet Khater 2, Skhul 5, Song Terus, Téviec 8, 9, 16, Afalou Bou Rhummel et Taforalt (N=10)

23 homininés fossiles : Sts 5, KNM-WT 17000, KNM-ER 1813, 3733, 3883, OH 9, Broken Hill, LH 18, Ngandong 1, 7, 12, Sambungmacan 3, Ngawi, Liang Bua 1, Petralona, Gibraltar 1, Guattari, La Chapelle-aux-Saints, Saccopastore 1, La Ferrassie 1, La Quina H5, Spy 1 et 10

ASYMETRIES FRONTALES



ASYMETRIES OCCIPITALES



Synthèse et conclusions

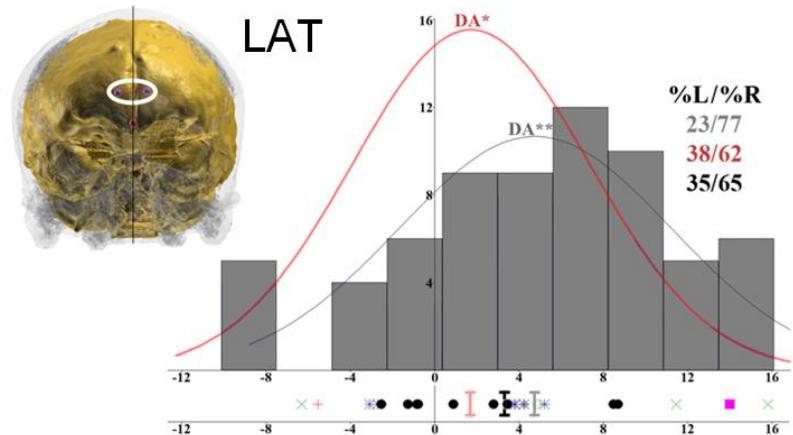
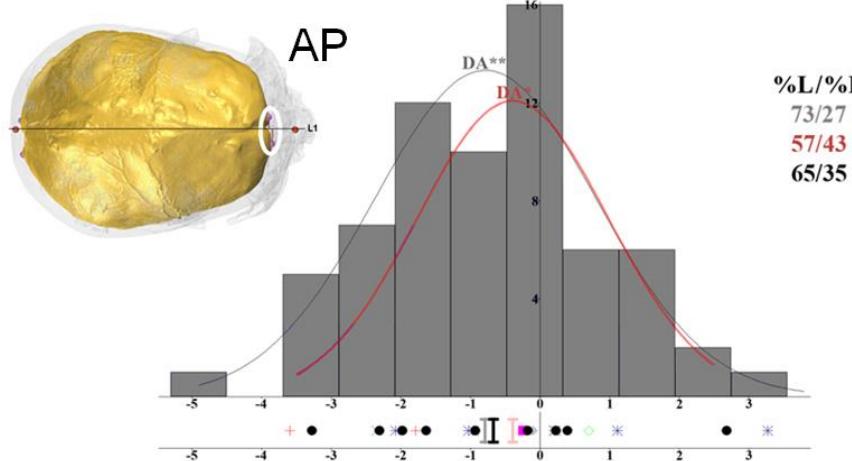
1- Homininés fossiles

Besoin de plus de matériel, mais sont plus proches des HAM que des grands singes

2- Schéma commun d'asymmétrie de l'endocrâne chez les grands singes

Des similarités et quelques différences

Présence d'AD pour les composantes AP et latérale pour la pétalia occipitale !



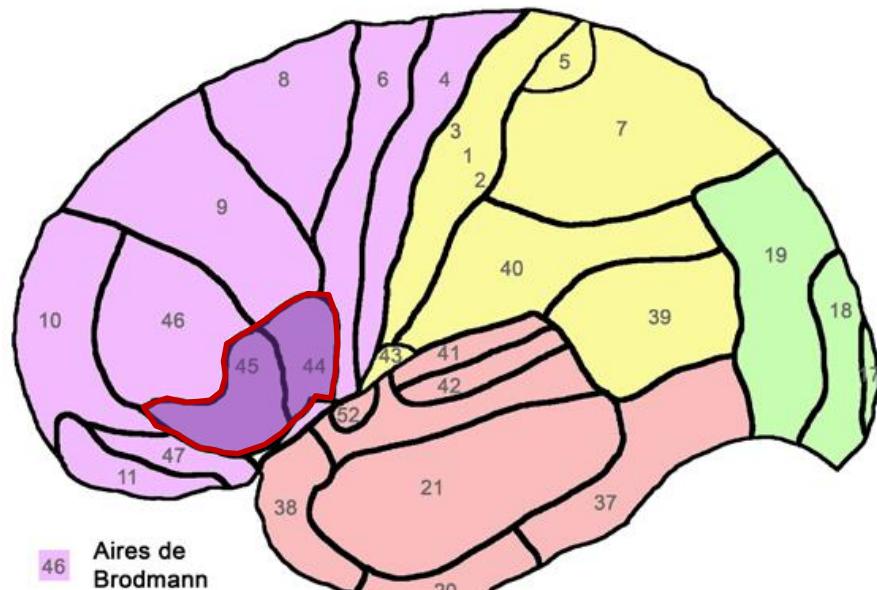
Implications pour la discussion des possibles relations entre les pétalias AP chez les homininés et les capacités fonctionnelles et comportementales

What is the Broca's area?



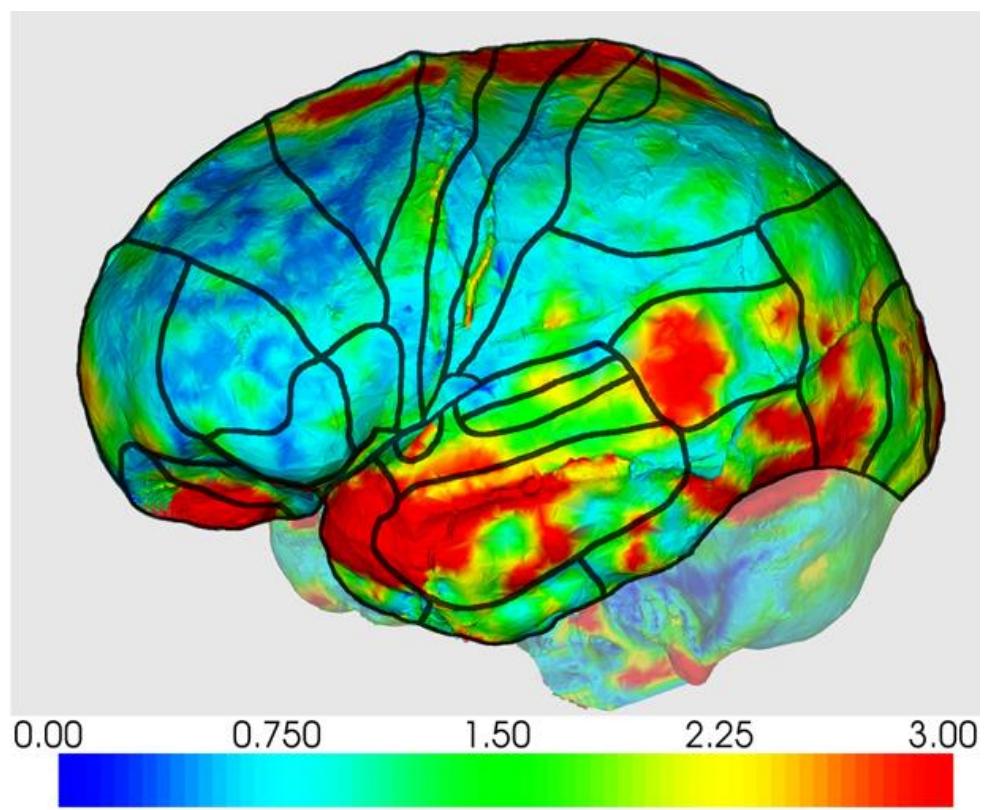
1861... Leborgne, « Tan »

Brodmann's cytoarchitectonic map



46 Aires de Brodmann

- Lobe frontal
- Lobe parietal
- Lobe temporal
- Lobe occipital



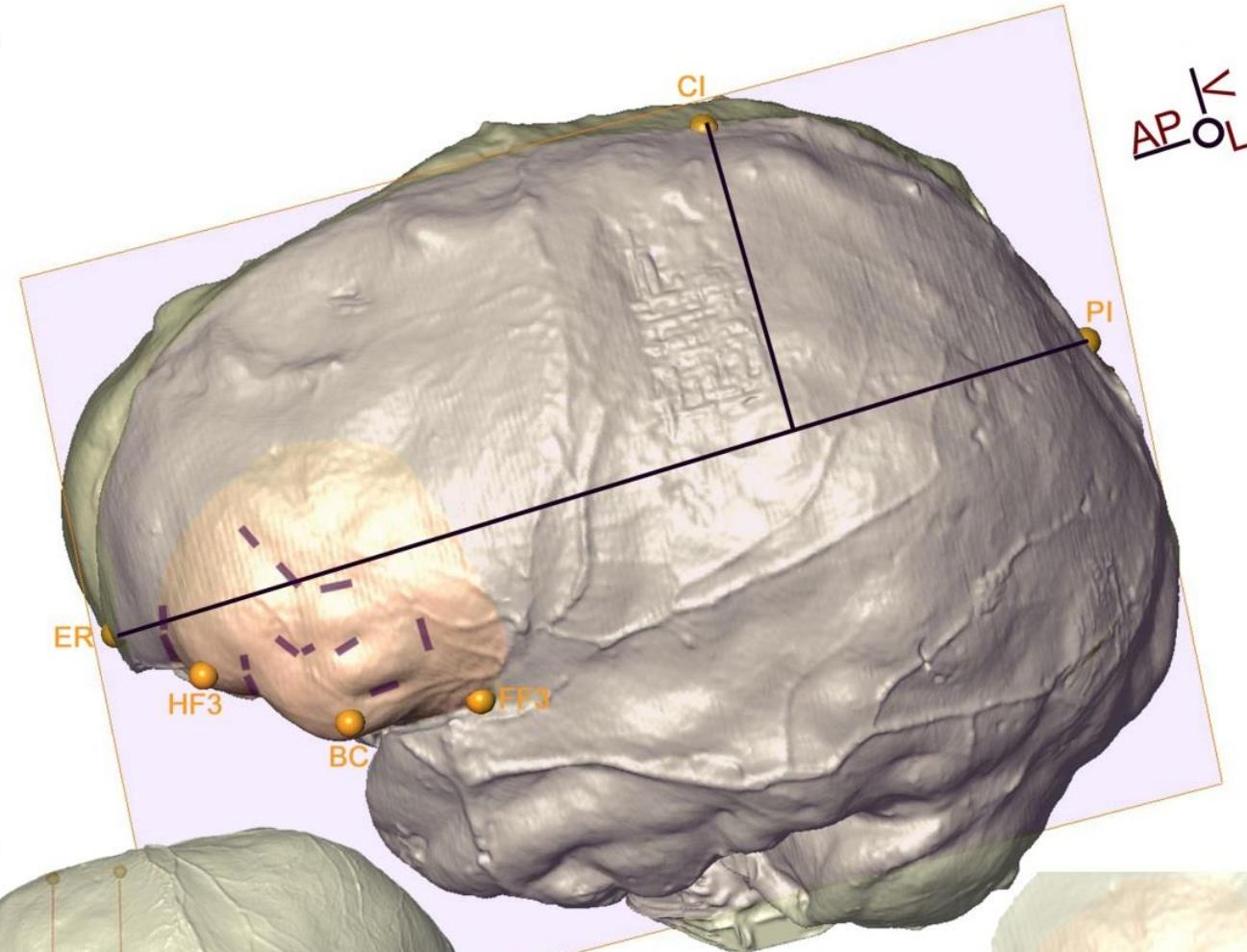
METHODS

A

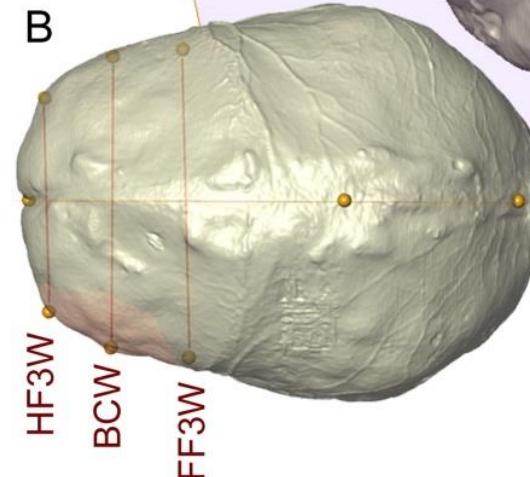
A: position of the landmarks used to delimitate the 3rd frontal convolution: the orbital part of the 3rd frontal convolution that corresponds to the anterior extension of the convolution (HF3), the point of maximal curvature of triangular part of the 3rd frontal convolution that characterize the lateral extension and bulging of the "Broca's cap" (BC) and the upper point of the sylvian valley that is between the opercular part of the 3rd frontal convolution and the temporal lobe and therefore corresponds to the posterior extension of the 3rd frontal convolution (FF3); position of the 3 points used to define a plane in order to characterize bilateral asymmetries: the base of encephalic rostrum between left and right 1st frontal convolution in the midsagittal plane (ER), the intersection between the central sulci and the interhemispheric fissure (CI) and the intersection between the perpendicular sulci and the interhemispheric fissure (PI). The referential on the top right shows the orientation of the components of the asymmetries (method 1).

B: illustration of the widths of the frontal lobes at HF3 (HF3 width), at the level of the Broca's cap (BC w), at FF3 (FF3 w).

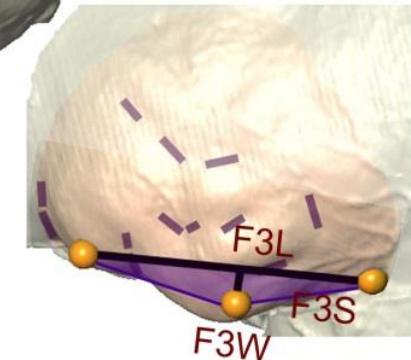
C: illustration of the antero-posterior extension of the 3rd frontal convolution (F3L), its width (F3W) and of the size (F3S) of the triangle defined by the 3 points delimiting the 3rd frontal convolution (C).



B



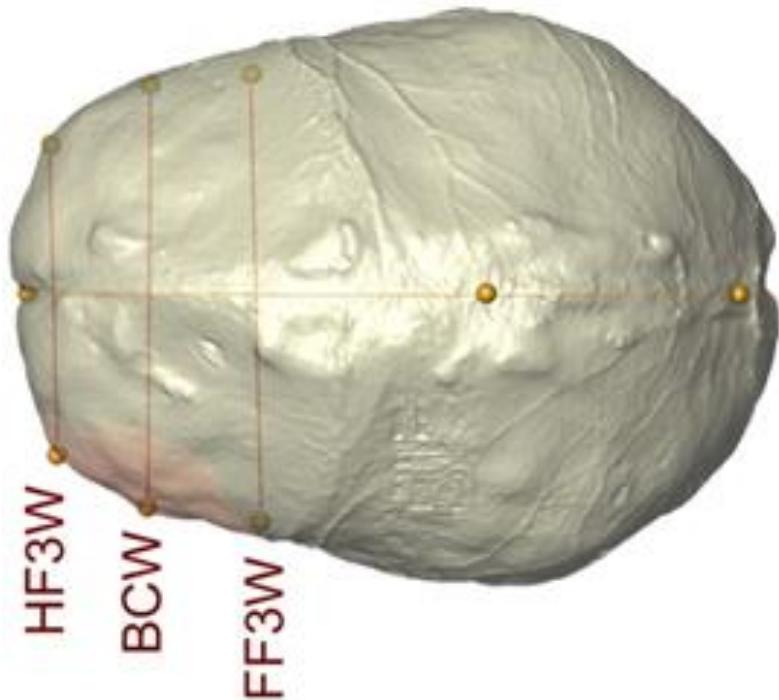
C



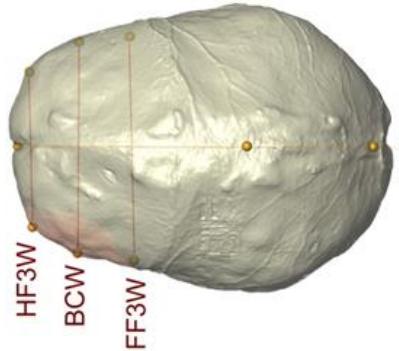
RESULTS

Width of the frontal lobes

This approach documents the bilateral distribution of pairs of anatomical points, but not of the bilateral variation in their size and shape because global shape of the other areas of the brain also influences these parameters.



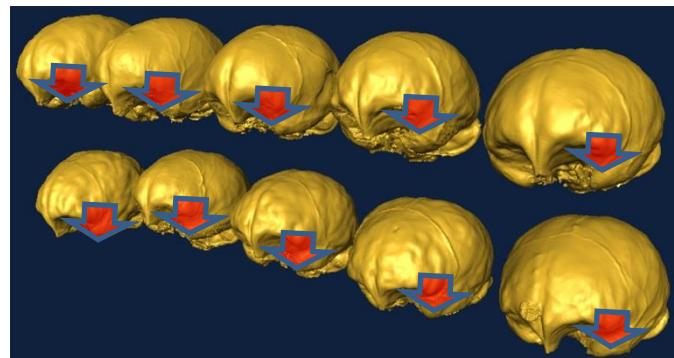
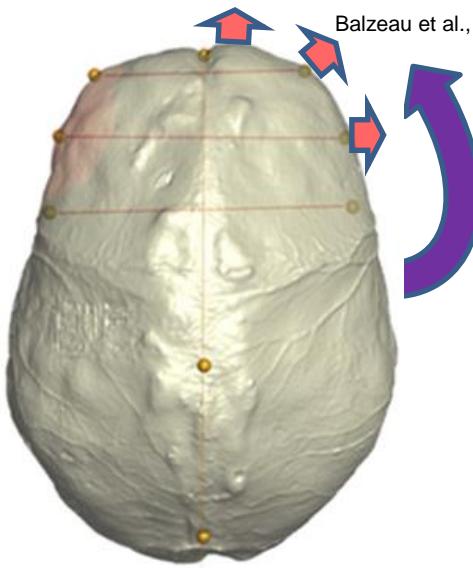
Width of the frontal lobes



| | Neandertals (N=6) | 73,4 | 65,6 | 104,6 | 93,5 | 104,7 | 93,6 |
|------------------------|-------------------|---------------|----------|-------------------|----------|---------------|----------|
| | | Width head F3 | | Width Broca's cap | | Width foot F3 | |
| | N | absolute | relative | absolute | relative | absolute | relative |
| <i>Homo sapiens</i> | N | 139 | | | | | |
| | min | 53,1 | 47,5 | 78,8 | 68,4 | 79,9 | 69,4 |
| | mean-SD | 63,8 | 56,1 | 86,1 | 75,9 | 89,0 | 78,1 |
| | mean | 70,4 | 62,1 | 92,3 | 81,4 | 97,2 | 85,8 |
| | mean+SD | 77,0 | 68,1 | 98,4 | 86,9 | 105,4 | 93,4 |
| | max | 90,6 | 81,5 | 109,8 | 98,8 | 118,6 | 106,8 |
| <i>Pan paniscus</i> | V* | 9,4 | 9,7 | 6,7 | 6,8 | 8,5 | 9,0 |
| | N | 35 | | | | | |
| | min | 39,2 | 58,6 | 55,9 | 81,7 | 58,4 | 86,6 |
| | mean-SD | 46,2 | 66,8 | 60,2 | 87,2 | 63,4 | 91,6 |
| | mean | 50,7 | 72,1 | 63,8 | 90,8 | 67,8 | 96,4 |
| | mean+SD | 55,1 | 77,4 | 67,3 | 94,3 | 72,2 | 101,3 |
| <i>Pan troglodytes</i> | max | 59,4 | 80,6 | 69,9 | 98,1 | 73,9 | 105,4 |
| | V* | 8,9 | 7,4 | 5,6 | 4,0 | 6,5 | 5,1 |
| | N | 36 | | | | | |
| | min | 45,8 | 64,2 | 62,7 | 89,2 | 59,2 | 87,6 |
| | mean-SD | 52,8 | 73,3 | 65,9 | 91,3 | 65,1 | 90,6 |
| | mean | 56,5 | 77,6 | 68,8 | 94,4 | 68,3 | 93,7 |
| | mean+SD | 60,3 | 81,8 | 71,7 | 97,5 | 71,4 | 96,8 |
| | max | 63,5 | 86,7 | 75,0 | 101,7 | 73,7 | 100,4 |
| | V* | 6,7 | 5,5 | 4,2 | 3,3 | 4,6 | 3,3 |

Asymmetries of the frontal lobes

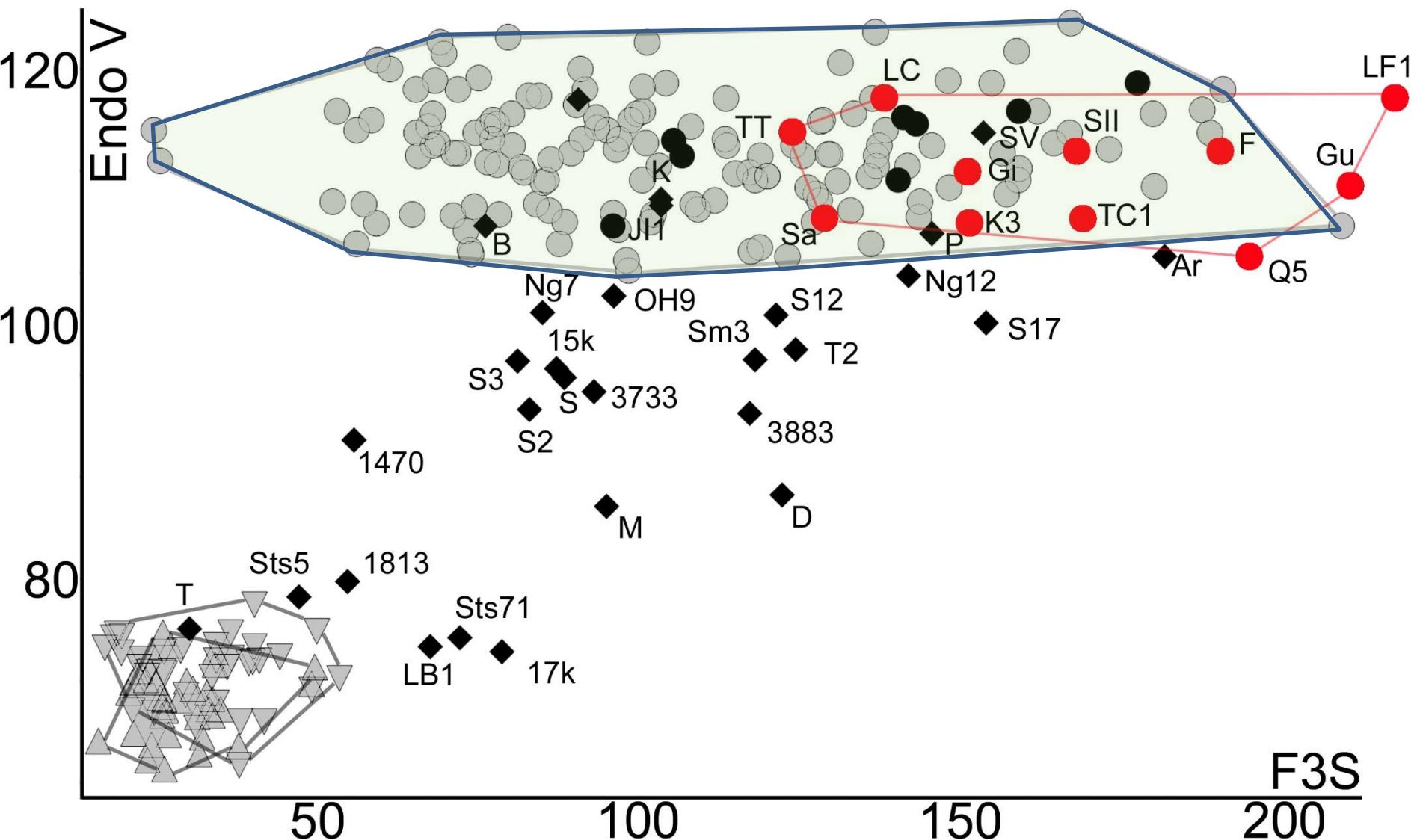
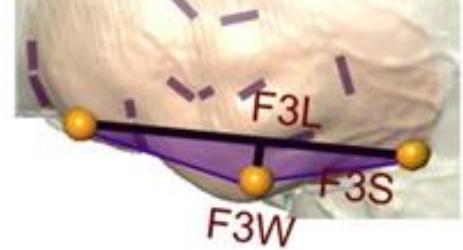
Balzeau et al., 2012; Holloway 1982; this study



| | HF3 | | | BC | | | FF3 | | |
|------------------------|------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| | AP | VERT | LAT | AP | VERT | LAT | AP | VERT | LAT |
| <i>Homo sapiens</i> | | | | | | | | | |
| FA1 | 2,2 | 2,2 | 3,3 | 2,5 | 2,9 | 2,9 | 2,8 | 3,4 | 3,5 |
| DA | 0,2 | 0,3 | 1,2 *** | -0,9 *** | 0,7 * | 1,8 *** | -1,1 *** | -0,5 | 2,3 *** |
| FA4a | 2,2 | 2,4 | 3,1 | 2,3 | 2,9 | 2,8 | 2,5 | 3,5 | 3,3 |
| Kurtosis | -0,3 | 0,7 | -0,5 | 0,0 | 0,5 | 1,4 ** | 0,0 | 0,7 | 0,6 |
| Skew | 0,1 | -0,1 | 0,1 | 0,3 | -0,6 ** | 0,5 * | 0,2 | -0,4 | 0,6 ** |
| <i>Pan paniscus</i> | | | | | | | | | |
| FA1 | 2,2 | 3,2 | 3,0 | 3,3 | 3,6 | 2,4 | 3,6 | 3,8 | 3,2 |
| DA | -1,0 | -1,3 | 1,0 | -1,9 ** | -0,8 | 1,6 | -2,9 *** | -0,3 | 2,4 *** |
| FA4a | 2,1 | 3,0 | 2,9 | 3,0 | 3,4 | 2,3 | 3,2 | 3,6 | 2,7 |
| Kurtosis | -0,5 | 0,3 | -0,6 | -0,3 | -0,8 | 0,1 | 1,6 * | -0,6 | -0,2 |
| Skew | 0,2 | 0,5 | 0,3 | -0,1 | -0,1 | 0,9 * | -0,9 * | 0,0 | 0,4 |
| <i>Pan troglodytes</i> | | | | | | | | | |
| FA1 | 1,5 | 3,4 | 1,8 | 2,0 | 29,9 | 2,4 | 2,5 | 6,1 | 1,9 |
| DA | -0,5 | -1,9 * | 0,3 | -0,4 | -29,8 *** | -0,4 | -1,9 *** | -6,1 *** | 0,3 |
| FA4a | 1,5 | 3,9 | 2,1 | 1,9 | 3,8 | 2,3 | 2,1 | 2,7 | 1,9 |
| Kurtosis | -0,2 | 6,6 *** | 6,1 *** | 0,3 | 0,6 | 0,4 | 6,6 *** | 0,1 | 0,5 |
| Skew | -0,4 | -2 *** | 1,6 *** | 0,2 | -0,2 | -0,4 | 1,5 *** | -0,3 | 0,3 |

* indicates a p value <0.05, **<0.01, ***<0.001 after sequential Bonferroni procedure for correction for multiple tests.

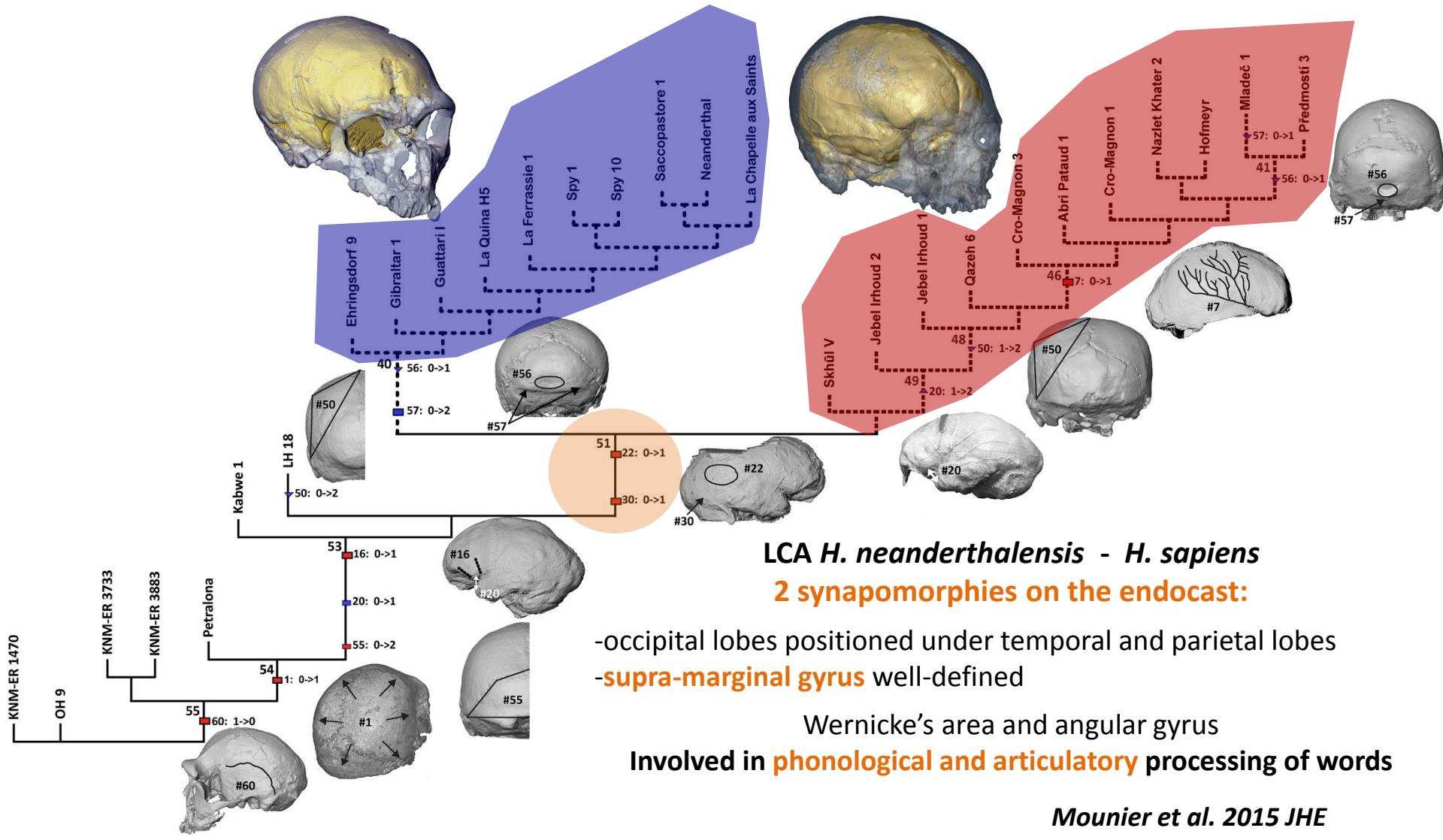
Size of the « Broca's cap »

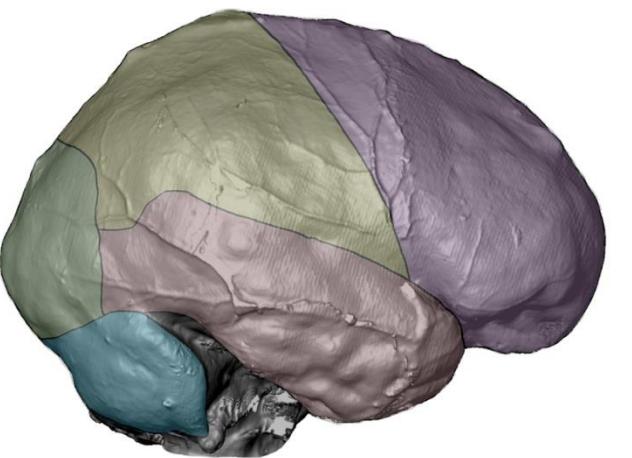
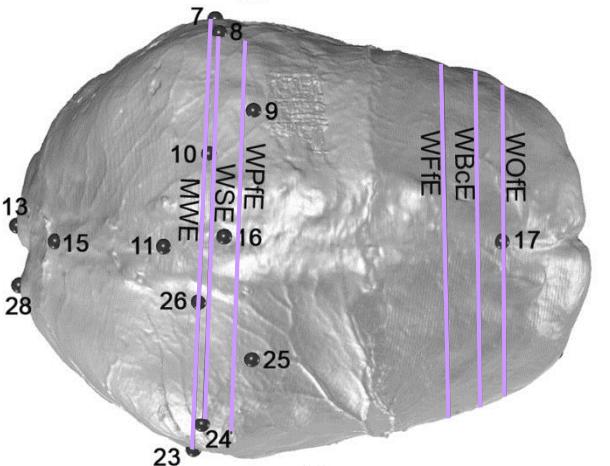
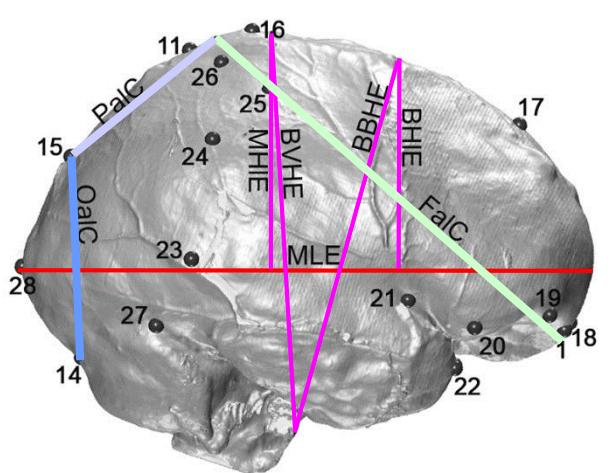


Evolution of language: major hypotheses

Great Leap Forward II

Anatomy – Brain





| | MLE | MWE | WSE | WPfE | WBcE | WOfE | WFfE | Wcereb | BBHE | BVHE | MHIE | BHIE |
|------------------------|---------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|--------|------|------|------|------|
| UP AMH | N | 13 | 13 | 14 | 13 | 11 | 9 | 10 | 8 | 8 | 7 | 11 |
| | V* | 3.9 | 4.4 | 5.0 | 4.8 | 4.4 | 3.3 | 5.6 | 5.8 | 4.3 | 5.0 | 7.9 |
| | Min | 15.1 | 10.8 | 10.7 | 10.7 | 8.9 | 7.1 | 9.2 | 9.0 | 10.3 | 10.6 | 6.0 |
| | Mean-SD | 15.3 | 11.3 | 10.9 | 10.9 | 8.9 | 7.2 | 9.5 | 9.2 | 10.5 | 10.6 | 5.5 |
| | Mean | 15.9 | 11.9 | 11.5 | 11.5 | 9.3 | 7.5 | 10.0 | 9.7 | 11.0 | 11.2 | 6.8 |
| | Mean+SD | 16.5 | 12.4 | 12.0 | 12.0 | 9.7 | 7.7 | 10.6 | 10.2 | 11.4 | 11.7 | 6.3 |
| Extant AMH | Max | 17.0 | 12.9 | 12.5 | 12.5 | 10.0 | 7.9 | 10.9 | 10.6 | 11.8 | 12.2 | 7.8 |
| | N | 102 | 102 | 102 | 102 | 102 | 102 | 102 | 101 | 101 | 101 | 101 |
| | V* | 4.1 | 4.5 | 3.9 | 4.2 | 5.7 | 12.8 | 5.3 | 4.8 | 3.9 | 3.5 | 10.9 |
| | Min | 13.5 | 10.6 | 10.3 | 10.2 | 8.1 | 5.9 | 8.8 | 8.1 | 9.2 | 9.9 | 4.6 |
| | Mean-SD | 14.3 | 11.3 | 11.1 | 10.9 | 8.6 | 6.6 | 9.6 | 8.8 | 10.2 | 10.5 | 4.5 |
| | Mean | 14.9 | 11.9 | 11.5 | 11.3 | 9.1 | 7.5 | 10.1 | 9.2 | 10.6 | 10.8 | 5.1 |
| perm. t(bc) p %MeanVar | Mean+SD | 15.5 | 12.4 | 11.9 | 11.8 | 9.7 | 8.5 | 10.7 | 9.7 | 11.0 | 11.2 | 5.7 |
| | Max | 16.0 | 13.1 | 12.7 | 12.4 | 10.5 | 9.9 | 11.5 | 10.3 | 11.5 | 11.8 | 7.5 |
| | perm. t(bc) p | *** | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | * | * | * | *** | *** |
| | %MeanVar | 7 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | -1 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 16 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | 16 |

| | FC | PC | OC | |
|------------------------|---------------|-------|-------|------|
| UP AMH | N | 13 | 14 | 13 |
| | V* | 4.05 | 7.05 | 8.27 |
| | Min | 10.59 | 5.17 | 5.25 |
| | Mean-SD | 10.91 | 5.58 | 5.48 |
| | Mean | 11.36 | 6.00 | 5.96 |
| | Mean+SD | 11.81 | 6.42 | 6.45 |
| Extant AMH | Max | 12.16 | 6.92 | 6.80 |
| | N | 102 | 102 | 102 |
| | V* | 4.34 | 11.03 | 8.65 |
| | Min | 9.48 | 4.58 | 4.12 |
| | Mean-SD | 10.22 | 5.72 | 4.66 |
| | Mean | 10.69 | 6.43 | 5.10 |
| perm. t(bc) p %MeanVar | Mean+SD | 11.15 | 7.14 | 5.54 |
| | Max | 12.08 | 7.72 | 6.18 |
| | perm. t(bc) p | *** | * | *** |
| | %MeanVar | 6 | -7 | 17 |

| | Frontal lobes | Parietal lobes | Occipital lobes | cerebellar lobes |
|------------------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| UP AMH | N | 11 | 7 | 9 |
| | V* | 4.33 | 4.97 | 6.37 |
| | Min | 0.78 | 0.95 | 0.49 |
| | Mean-SD | 0.82 | 0.95 | 0.49 |
| | Mean | 0.85 | 1.00 | 0.52 |
| | Mean+SD | 0.89 | 1.05 | 0.56 |
| Extant AMH | Max | 0.90 | 1.10 | 0.59 |
| | N | 98 | 98 | 98 |
| | V* | 4.02 | 2.95 | 7.98 |
| | Min | 0.71 | 0.91 | 0.38 |
| | Mean-SD | 0.77 | 0.96 | 0.45 |
| | Mean | 0.81 | 0.99 | 0.49 |
| perm. t(bc) p %MeanVar | Mean+SD | 0.84 | 1.02 | 0.52 |
| | Max | 0.88 | 1.06 | 0.57 |
| | perm. t(bc) p | ** | ns | ** |
| | %MeanVar | 6 | 1 | 8 |
| | | | | * |
| | | | | -5 |

