

1 **Title: Medial prefrontal cortex represents the object-based cognitive map when**
2 **remembering an egocentric target location**

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18

19 **Abstract**

20 A cognitive map, representing an environment around oneself, is necessary for spatial
21 navigation. However, compared with its constituent elements such as individual landmarks,
22 neural substrates of coherent spatial information remain largely unknown. The present study
23 investigated how the brain codes map-like representations in a virtual environment specified
24 by the relative positions of three objects. Representational similarity analysis revealed an
25 object-based spatial representation in the hippocampus (HPC) when participants located
26 themselves within the environment, while the medial prefrontal cortex (mPFC) represented it
27 when they recollected a target object's location relative to their self-body. During recollection,
28 task-dependent functional connectivity increased between the two areas implying exchange
29 of self- and target-location signals between the HPC and mPFC. Together, the coherent
30 cognitive map, which could be formed by objects, may be recruited in the HPC and mPFC for
31 complementary functions during navigation, which may generalize to other aspects of
32 cognition, such as navigating social interactions.

33

34 **Introduction**

35 During navigation, it is necessary to locate our self-position in the current spatial
36 environment as well as to locate the objects relative to the self-body (i.e., egocentric location).
37 To conduct each of the two mental operations, we need map-like representations, called
38 “cognitive map” in our brain (Tolman, 1948). After the discovery of “place cells,” the
39 hippocampus (HPC) of the medial temporal lobe (MTL) has been considered responsible for
40 the cognitive map (Buffalo, 2015), and crucial contributions of the HPC to spatial memory
41 have also been reported by animal model studies that evaluated behavioral patterns of rodents
42 with an inactivated HPC using maze tasks (Nakazawa et al., 2002; Packard and McGaugh,
43 1996; Redish and Touretzky, 1998) as well as human studies that demonstrated the
44 relationship between HPC volume in individual subjects and their amounts of experience
45 exploring spatial environments (Woollett and Maguire, 2011; Schinazi et al., 2013, e.g.,
46 London taxi drivers). However, it remains largely unknown how neural substrates of the
47 cognitive map are involved in the two mental operations required to locate specific objects
48 within the environment. One possible reason for the difficulty in addressing this question is
49 that despite extensive studies on the spatial elements related to the cognitive map (e.g., self-
50 location, head-direction etc.) (O’Keefe and Dostrovsky, 1971; Vass and Epstein, 2013;
51 Chadwick et al., 2015; Buffalo, 2015; McCormick et al., 2018;), there is still a lack of
52 sufficient isolation and characterization of the neural signal of the cognitive map under the
53 previous research paradigms.

54 In addition to the HPC, the role of the medial prefrontal cortex (mPFC) in goal-
55 directed planning during navigation was demonstrated by a previous human fMRI study that
56 showed increased connectivity between the HPC and mPFC (Brown et al., 2016). The mPFC
57 has been long considered as a member of the core-brain system in the retrieval of episodic
58 memory (Konishi et al., 2000; Eichenbaum, 2017; McCormick et al., 2018), which is an

59 autobiographical memory consisting of spatial, object, and temporal information (Suzuki and
60 Naya, 2011; Naya and Suzuki, 2011; Squire and Wixted, 2011). Schacter et al. (2007)
61 suggested an involvement of the mPFC in future-simulation processing and recollection of
62 past episodes, which depend on mnemonic information stored as declarative memory
63 including both episodic and semantic memory. Recently, they also showed increased
64 connectivity between the HPC and mPFC during future simulation (Campbell et al., 2018).
65 This preceding literature suggests that the HPC and mPFC, which belong to the default-mode
66 network, work together when remembering stored information (e.g., cognitive map) and
67 construct the mental representation of goal-directed information (e.g., target-location) from
68 mnemonic information with the current context (e.g., self-location) (Schacter, 2012).
69 However, the specific functional role of each of HPC and mPFC during the construction
70 process (McCormick et al., 2018; Campbell et al., 2018) remain elusive, presumably because
71 the construction of goal-directed information (e.g., spatial navigation) includes at least two
72 mental operations described above (locating the self and locating an object target relative to
73 self-location), as previous experimental paradigms did not dissociate these aspects of
74 behavior.

75 To address these issues, we aimed to devise a novel 3D spatial-memory task with
76 spatial environments defined by objects, which would enable us to identify the representation
77 of the cognitive map and to investigate how it is related to the two mental operations (Fig. 1).
78 We used a stimulus set consisting of three different human characters throughout the entire
79 experiment, while the spatial configuration of the three characters was changed in a trial-by-
80 trial manner. The spatial configuration pattern was referred to as a “*map*” in the present study
81 (Fig. 1b). In each trial, participants encoded a *map* from the first-person’s view by walking
82 toward the characters in one of four fixed walking directions (walking period, Fig. 1c, see
83 Methods). Following the walking period, one human character (facing object) was presented

84 on a virtual-environment background with other characters being invisible, which gave the
85 participants a feeling of facing the presented character in the virtual environment (i.e., facing
86 period). After a short delay, one of the two remaining characters (targeting object) was
87 presented without the virtual environment background, and the participants were required to
88 remember the location of this second human character relative to their self-body (i.e.,
89 targeting period). Thus, the two mental operations were separated into two periods within a
90 single trial. This task design allowed us to detect the brain regions that distinguished the
91 spatial configurations of the objects (i.e., *map*) around the participants during the facing
92 period and targeting period separately. The results of the representational similarity analysis
93 (RSA; see Methods for details) (Kriegeskorte et al., 2012; Kriegeskorte et al., 2008) showed
94 that the spatial environment defined by the three objects were represented in the HPC during
95 the facing period, while it was represented in the mPFC during the targeting period,
96 suggesting different contributions of the object-based cognitive map to the recollection
97 between the two brain areas of the default-mode network.

98 **Results**

99 The experiment was conducted over two days with 19 participants. On the first day, the
100 participants were familiarized with the 3D virtual environment and the three human
101 characters through a head-nodding detection (HND) task (Fig. S1a). In this task, the
102 participants had the same walking experience as in the spatial-memory task but were
103 subsequently asked to indicate whether one of the three characters in a photo had nodded its
104 head during the walking period. On the second day, the participants performed the spatial-
105 memory task during fMRI scanning (Fig. 1a). To prevent voluntary memorization of the
106 spatial relationship of the human characters during the walking period, the HND trials were
107 pseudo-randomly mixed with the spatial-memory trials, and the participants were instructed
108 to focus on head-nodding of the human characters during the walking period in all trials. In
109 each trial, its trial-type (i.e., HND or memory task) became distinguishable only after the
110 walking period by subsequent stimuli. All participants exhibited ceiling performance with a
111 $93.6\% \pm 0.02\%$ correct rate (mean \pm SE, $n = 19$) for the spatial-memory task and no
112 significant difference was found among each of the task parameters (e.g., maps, walking
113 directions) (Fig. S1c). All participants also showed accuracy that was significantly higher
114 than chance level (50%) in both the head-nodding and no head-nodding trials in the HND
115 task (Fig. S1a). Attempts to memorize the spatial arrangements of the human characters
116 during scanning were examined using post-scanning questionnaires. All participants reported
117 that they did not make any voluntary effort to memorize the spatial relationship of the three
118 human characters nor utilize any special strategy for memorizing it (Table S2). It should be
119 noted that no participant was able to recall the number of map patterns they experienced in
120 the experiment even though only three of the six possible patterns of maps were repeatedly
121 presented to each participant. In addition, no significant changes in performance was found
122 across four experimental sessions (Fig. S1b; $F(3,72) = 0.38$, $P = 0.76$), suggesting that the

123 participants performed the spatial-memory task with high-performance from the beginning
124 and did not learn to use a systematic strategy to improve their performance during the
125 sessions. These behavioral results suggest that the present experimental design allowed us to
126 investigate neural operations for the retrieval after the participants automatically encoded the
127 spatial configuration of three human characters during the walking period when viewing the
128 characters attentively to detect head-nodding.

129

130 **Neural representation of the object-based cognitive map**

131 To decode the map information across the whole brain, we conducted searchlight-based RSA,
132 which examined the multi-voxel pattern similarity between trial pairs in the “same map” and
133 compared it with that in the “different map” condition across each brain voxel by drawing a 6
134 mm radius sphere with each voxel in the spherical center. Map information was decoded
135 regardless of other task parameters such as the walking direction or the identity of the facing
136 character by balancing the number of trials with other task parameters across the same and
137 different map conditions in the experimental design as well as excluding the effects of other
138 task parameters in the regression analysis (see Methods for details, Table. S1 for the regressor
139 list and the averaged r^2 among the regressors in each GLM).

140 We first assessed the map representation during the facing period (4.0 s including the
141 subsequent delay; Fig. 2a), in which the participants oriented themselves to a presented
142 human character in the 3D environment. We found a cluster located in the left middle HPC
143 (mHPC; Fig. 2b, $P < 0.01$, voxel-wise threshold; $P < 0.05$, cluster-corrected for multiple
144 comparison), suggesting that the map defined by multiple objects is represented in the HPC.
145 In addition to the mHPC, clusters were revealed in the insula, angular gyrus, and superior
146 temporal cortex (Fig. S2b, $P < 0.01$, voxel-wise threshold; $P < 0.05$, cluster-corrected for
147 multiple comparison; see discussion). We next assessed the map representation during the

148 targeting facing period (4.0 s including the subsequent delay), in which the participants
149 remembered the location of a target character relative to their self-body (egocentric target
150 location). In contrast to the facing period, we found clusters representing the map information
151 mainly in the mPFC including the rectus and BA 10 (Fig. 2c) rather than in the HPC during
152 the targeting period. A peak was revealed in the rectus ($x = 4, y = 50, z = -18$; t value: 5.62).
153 Outside of the mPFC, we found clusters in the precuneus and middle temporal gyrus, and the
154 inferior frontal cortex (Fig. 2c, Fig. S2c; $P < 0.001$, voxel-wise threshold; $P < 0.05$, cluster-
155 corrected for multiple comparison). These three brain regions have been consistently reported
156 to be involved in scene construction during recalling of past experience and imagination of
157 new experiences (Hassabis and Maguire, 2007; Bird et al., 2010; Gaesser et al., 2013), which
158 is consistent with the post-scanning report that all participants recalled and also imagined the
159 egocentric positions of the three human characters during the targeting period.

160 To validate the searchlight-based RSA results showing the map representations in the
161 HPC and mPFC, we conducted a region of interest (ROI)-based RSA using a total of four
162 masks consisting of both right and left hemispheres of the mHPC and rectus (mPFC) that
163 derived from the automated anatomical labeling (AAL, Fig. S4a, bottom panel) template. In
164 each ROI, we examined the multi-voxel pattern similarity in the “same-map” condition and in
165 the “different-map” condition separately. These similarities were then compared with chance
166 levels that were estimated as mean values among 5,000 of trial-based permutation results (see
167 Methods).

168 In the left mHPC, the similarity was significantly higher than the chance level in the
169 same-map condition during the facing period (Fig. 2d; $t(18) = 3.26, P = 0.016$, bonferroni
170 corrected for multiple comparisons ($n = 4$)), while it was significantly lower than the chance
171 level in the different-map condition ($t(18) = -3.26, P = 0.016$). This tendency was also
172 observed during the targeting period, although the similarities for neither of the two

173 conditions reached a statistical significance (same-map: $t(18) = 1.99$, $P = 0.062$; different-
174 map: $t(18) = -1.99$, $P = 0.062$). In contrast to the left hemisphere, the similarities did not
175 differ from the control levels in any combination of the conditions and periods in the right
176 mHPC (Fig. 2d), suggesting a striking laterality effect on the map representation in the HPC.
177 On the other hand, both hemispheres of the rectus showed significantly higher and lower
178 similarities than the control levels in the same-map (the left rectus: $t(18) = 3.68$, $P = 0.007$;
179 the right rectus: $t(18) = 4.50$, $P = 0.001$) and different map conditions (the left rectus: $t(18) =$
180 -3.68 , $P = 0.007$; the right rectus: $t(18) = -4.49$, $P = 0.001$), respectively, only during the
181 targeting period. This tendency was observed during the facing period only in the left
182 hemisphere, although the similarities for neither of the two conditions reached a statistical
183 significance (same-map: $t(18) = 1.60$, $P = 0.126$; different-map: $t(18) = -1.60$, $P = 0.126$). The
184 ROI-based RSA thus confirmed the results of the searchlight-based RSA, indicating that
185 while the cognitive map was represented in the HPC during the facing period, the mPFC
186 represented it during the targeting period. It should be noted here that the map representation
187 in the different brain areas (i.e., HPC and mPFC) during the facing and targeting periods
188 could not be explained by different background images during the two periods themselves
189 (i.e., environment vs. noise) because the RSA revealed brain regions that discriminated trials
190 with different map information during each period in which the same background was
191 presented. Taken together, the HPC and mPFC may represent the cognitive map information
192 for the different functional operations. Some temporally-overlapping map representation in
193 the two brain areas may implicate an interaction to share the map information between them
194 although it did not reach a statistical significance (i.e., map representation in the mPFC and
195 HPC during the facing and targeting periods, respectively).

196

197 **Input signal for the map construction**

198 To examine possible signal input from the MTL sub-regions to the left mHPC for the map
199 construction during the facing period, we examined the neural representation of the facing-
200 character identity and walking direction that the participants perceptually and/or mentally re-
201 experienced based on their post-scanning reports (Table S2; Fig. S3a). The results revealed
202 that the bilateral perirhinal cortex (PRC) encoded character identity (Fig. S3b; $P < 0.001$,
203 initial threshold; $P < 0.05$, cluster-corrected for multiple comparison) (Naya et al., 2001;
204 Suzuki and Naya, 2014), while the parahippocampal cortex (PHC) and left retrosplenial
205 cortex (RSC) encoded the walking directions reflecting the spatial layout of one empty and
206 three occupied positions perceived by the participants during the walking period (Fig. 1c). In
207 the HPC, the left posterior HPC (pHPC) selectively represented the spatial layout but not the
208 character identity, while the bilateral anterior HPC (aHPC) revealed clusters for both
209 character identity and spatial layout (Fig. S3b). These results were consistent with the notion
210 of the “two cortical systems” model suggesting that object identity and spatiotemporal
211 context are processed in two separate neural systems with the PRC and PHC-RSC as the core
212 brain regions, with the two different information domains interacting in the HPC (Ranganath
213 and Ritchey., 2012). Together, the RSA analyses suggest that the MTL is associated with
214 representing the spatial environment in the following ways: elements such as each object
215 identity and spatial layout are represented by extrahippocampal areas while the relative
216 relationship between multi-objects is represented in the HPC, suggesting cognitive map
217 representation in the HPC.

218

219 **Current self-orientation on the map**

220 To compute the egocentric location of a target object (e.g., left, right, or back), information
221 on the current self-position/orientation on the map is necessary (Fig. 3a). Therefore, we
222 examined which brain regions were involved in representing such allocentric “heading-

223 direction” signals (Hargreaves et al., 2005; Wang et al., 2018). Interestingly, while no
224 significant cluster was revealed during the facing period (facing character; Fig. 3b), robust
225 clusters were revealed during the targeting period (Fig. 3b, $P < 0.001$, voxel-wise threshold; P
226 < 0.05 , cluster-corrected for multiple comparison). These clusters were located in the left
227 ERC, bilateral HPC and PHC inside the MTL as well as in the lateral occipital cortex, parietal
228 cortex, precuneus, and anterior cingulate cortex outside the MTL (Fig. 3b, $P < 0.001$, voxel-
229 wise threshold; $P < 0.05$, cluster-corrected for multiple comparison). These results suggested
230 that a self-orientation signal was induced during the targeting period, presumably because of
231 the necessity to compute the egocentric target location. This interpretation is consistent with
232 the post-scanning report in which participants reported imagining their self-orientation on the
233 map only during the targeting period.

234

235 **Remembering the egocentric location of a target object**

236 Next, we examined which brain regions signaled the egocentric location (left, right, or back
237 relative to self-body) of a target object (Fig. 4a). The results revealed robust clusters in both
238 the mPFC and MTL (Fig. 4a, $P < 0.001$, voxel-wise threshold; $P < 0.05$, cluster-corrected for
239 multiple comparison). In the mPFC, we identified the rectus, medial/superior orbitofrontal
240 cortex, and olfactory cortex. In the MTL, clusters were found in the anterior HPC. Apart from
241 the mPFC and MTL, clusters were also found in the lateral occipital cortex, inferior parietal
242 cortex, anterior temporal lobe, premotor cortex, and IPFC (middle and superior PFC). We
243 also found clusters in the precuneus and posterior parietal cortex, which were previously
244 reported to represent the egocentric location (Chadwick et al., 2015). The widely distributed
245 clusters may indicate that the brain regions representing the egocentric target locations can be
246 involved in either generation of the egocentric-target-location information from multiple
247 pieces of information (cognitive map, self-orientation, and target character identity) or its

248 maintenance while preparing for the following response. These distinct functions might be
249 supported by three different large-scale brain networks: the dorsal attention network,
250 frontoparietal control network, and default-mode network (Spreng and Schacter., 2011). In
251 contrast to the robust signal observed across different brain networks for egocentric target-
252 location, no cluster was revealed for allocentric target location relative to the spatial layout of
253 the characters (Fig. 4b, $P < 0.001$, voxel-wise threshold; $P < 0.05$, cluster-corrected for
254 multiple comparison), which implies that the target location may be directly retrieved in the
255 form of egocentric coordinates rather than via its allocentric representation.

256

257 **Increased default-mode network connectivity while locating a target compared with**
258 **self-locating**

259 The present results showed that the MTL and mPFC signaled a coherent map coding a spatial
260 relationship of the three human characters during the different time periods in which different
261 task demands were required (i.e., self-locating and target-locating). In addition, the MTL and
262 mPFC signaled the different location information even during the same targeting period;
263 MTL areas tended to represent self-orientation while the mPFC tended to represent
264 egocentric target location. To investigate how the different functional contributions of the
265 MTL and mPFC were substantiated by whole brain large-scale networks, we manually
266 segmented the MTL sub-regions in each participant's native space (Fig. S4a, top panel), and
267 conducted a task-based functional connectivity analysis using each of MTL and mPFC sub-
268 regions as seed (six and four, respectively). For each seed, the mean regional bold signals
269 associated with two TRs in each of facing and targeting period were estimated in each trial,
270 and concatenated across trials to make its task-based time course, which contains 72 time
271 points (i.e., 2 TRs \times 36 trials) in each session. The task-based time course of the regional
272 signal for each seed was correlated with each voxel's time course outside the seed and then

273 was averaged across the four sessions for each participant, generating seed-based
274 connectivity maps for each of facing and targeting periods (Ranganath et al., 2005). Then, we
275 compared the connectivity between the two periods across the participants using a
276 permutation test (see Methods for details).

277 First, we examined the connectivity between the MTL and mPFC subregions for each
278 of task demands, the result indicated a significantly larger connectivity between the medial
279 orbital frontal cortex and the MTL subregions in the targeting period relative to the facing
280 period. (aHPC: $t(18)=4.75$, $P=0.003$, pHPC: $t(18)=3.96$, $P=0.02$, PHC: $t(18)=6.85$, $P<0.001$,
281 bonferroni corrected for multiple comparison ($n=24$)). In addition, both the MTL and mPFC
282 showed significantly larger connectivity to brain areas that belong to the default-mode
283 network and those to the dorsal attention network during the targeting period compared to the
284 facing period (Fig. 5b, $P < 0.001$, voxel-wise threshold; $P < 0.05$, cluster-corrected for
285 multiple comparison). By contrast, both the MTL and mPFC showed significantly larger
286 connectivity to the frontoparietal control network during the facing period relative to the
287 targeting period (Fig. 5a, $P < 0.001$, voxel-wise threshold; $P < 0.05$, cluster-corrected for
288 multiple comparison). These results suggest that both the MTL and mPFC changed their
289 connectivity to the three functional networks depending on the task demands. We next
290 evaluated the task-based functional connectivity during each task period based on the three
291 functional network masks (Fig. S4b). This ROI analysis revealed that the default-mode
292 network was positively correlated with the MTL ($t(18) = 7.98$ for average across the sub-
293 regions within MTL, $P < 0.001$) and mPFC ($t(18) = 9.63$ for average across the sub-regions
294 within mPFC, $P < 0.001$) for both time periods with a significant increase during the targeting
295 period (Fig. 5c & Fig. S5, top panel; $F(1,72) = 4.51$, $P = 0.03$), regardless of the seeds (MTL
296 or mPFC; $F(1,72) = 0.00$, $P=0.98$). In contrast, the frontoparietal control network showed
297 significantly negative connectivity with the MTL ($t(18) = -10.50$, $P < 0.001$) and mPFC ($t(18)$

298 = -6.55, $P < 0.001$) during both task periods, this negative connectivity was stronger during
299 the targeting period (Fig. 5c $F(1,72) = 5.58$, $P = 0.02$, also see Fig. S5, middle panel;). These
300 results suggest that the default-mode network contributes more to the retrieval of the target
301 location than the self-location to an external reference. Interestingly, despite both the MTL
302 and mPFC being part of the default-mode network, they showed opposite connectivity
303 patterns to the dorsal attention network during both periods (Fig. 5c & Fig. S5, bottom panel;
304 $F(1,72) = 55.07$, $P < 0.001$); the MTL positively with the network while the mPFC negatively
305 correlated with it. The connectivity between the MTL and the dorsal attention network
306 increased from the facing to targeting period ($F(1,72) = 8.43$, $P = 0.005$). These results
307 suggested that the dorsal attention network, which contains the superior parietal lobule (SPL)
308 that represented egocentric target location (Fig. 4a), showed increased coupling with the
309 MTL during the targeting period.

310 **Discussion**

311 In this study, we examined neural representations of space defined by three objects and found
312 that both the HPC and mPFC represented the object-based space around the participants.
313 Interestingly, the HPC represented the object-based map when the participants locate their
314 self-body in the environment constructed by the three objects, while the mPFC represented
315 the map when the participants remembered the location of a target object relative to the self-
316 body. These results suggest that the cognitive maps in different brain regions play different
317 functional roles. In addition, during the targeting period, we found differential spatial
318 representations across the MTL and mPFC: the MTL generally reinstated self-orientation,
319 while the mPFC represented egocentric target location relative to self-location. Increased
320 functional connectivity was observed between the MTL and mPFC under the necessity of the
321 retrieval of the target location from the stored memory (targeting period) compared to when
322 they actually faced the reference object to locate their self-body (facing period). These results
323 suggest that mental representations of the external world formed by the coherent space and its
324 constituent elements may be shared in the default-mode network including the MTL and
325 mPFC. The special role of the mPFC in this scheme might be to select the object location
326 based on the mnemonic information including the cognitive map and current self-location on
327 it, which might be propagated from the MTL.

328 To examine the representation of spatial “maps” (Fig. 1b), the present task was
329 designed to cancel out effects of a particular encoding experience related with the walking
330 direction as well as a particular object identity that the participants viewed during the facing
331 and targeting periods in each trial by balancing number of trials with each of those
332 confounding factors in each map (see Methods). Therefore, the neural representation of the
333 map information revealed by the RSA could not be explained by perceptual information in
334 the present study. Moreover, the participants always stood on the center of the virtual

335 environment during the facing and targeting periods, during which the map effect was
336 examined. Because of this task design, the map information does not directly indicate self-
337 location information like place fields of place cells in the HPC (O'Keefe and Dostrovsky,
338 1971). On the other hand, the representations of place-fields are reportedly influenced by the
339 animal's cognitive map, and the existence of cognitive maps could be most clearly
340 demonstrated by a phenomenon known as "remapping", which reportedly occurs in
341 populations of place cells in the rodent HPC (Moser et al., 2017). Therefore, it might be
342 reasonable to interpret the map representations in the left mHPC during the facing period as
343 experimental evidence of "remapping" of place cells in the human HPC even though the
344 participants stood in the same position. However, holding this interpretation predicts that
345 human place cells are localized in the left mHPC. This prediction is against consistent
346 evidence from previous human studies reporting that the right HPC was more involved in
347 encoding and retrieving spatial information than the left HPC (Abrahams et al., 1997;
348 Maguire et al., 1997; Ekstrom et al., 2003; Doeller et al., 2008; Schinazi, 2013). The other
349 possible interpretation for the map representation in the left mHPC is that it may encode an
350 allocentric spatial relationship of the three objects itself. This interpretation is consistent with
351 previous human imaging studies reporting contributions of the left HPC to the imagination of
352 visual scenes, which could be constructed from multiple spatial elements (Addis et al., 2007;
353 Bird et al., 2010). The specific role of the left HPC in relational memory was also reported in
354 non-spatial information domains, including associative learning (Kumaran et al., 2009;
355 Suarez-Jimenez et al., 2018) and social interactions (Tavares et al., 2015;). Taken together, it
356 might be more reasonable to interpret that the clusters in the left mHPC was related to a
357 coherent space constructed by the multiple objects rather than its influence on representations
358 of individual spatial elements such as self-location or head direction. RSA also suggested the
359 involvement of the PRC and PHC in MTL signaling the object identity and egocentric view

360 of their spatial layout, respectively, which might be used for constructing the coherent map
361 from its constituents in the left mHPC. Future studies should address how the coherent map
362 can be constructed by multiple objects in the MTL.

363 In contrast to the facing period, the representation of the map information was found
364 in the mPFC but not in the HPC during the targeting period. In addition, the mPFC signaled
365 the egocentric location of a targeting object, while the MTL concurrently signaled the self-
366 orientation. Involvement of the mPFC in constructing goal-directed information in the current
367 context is consistent with accumulating evidence showing that the mPFC contributes to
368 decision making or action selection (Saxena et al., 1998; Gallagher et al., 1999; Feierstein,
369 2006; Spiers and Maguire, 2007; Kable and Glimcher, 2009; Young and Shapiro, 2011;
370 Balaguer et al., 2016; Yamada et al., 2018). These previous studies consistently supported the
371 notion that the mPFC function becomes obvious when an appropriate selection requires
372 mnemonic information in addition to incoming perceptual information (Bradfield, 2015). In
373 this study, together with perceptual information responsible for target object identity,
374 mnemonic information such as the map information and self-orientation was required to solve
375 the task. Considering that the MTL could provide all the necessary mnemonic information, a
376 reasonable interpretation is that the mPFC was involved in the selection of a target location
377 among alternatives rather than the recollection or generation of it.

378 In addition to the HPC and mPFC, the map information has been observed in other
379 brain areas such as the angular gyrus (Seghier, 2013; Price et al., 2016), lateral temporal
380 gyrus (Karnath, 2001; Himmelbach et al., 2006), and precuneus (Cavanna and Trimble, 2006)
381 that also belong to the default-mode network. The brain areas in the default-mode network,
382 particularly the MTL sub-regions except for the PRC represented self-orientation during the
383 targeting period. On the other hand, RSA analysis showed that the representation of the

384 egocentric target object location recruited widely-distributed brain regions, which belong not
385 only to the default-mode network but also to the dorsal attention network and frontoparietal
386 control network. The increased functional connectivity between the MTL and the brain
387 regions of dorsal attention network as well as the mPFC suggest that the egocentric target
388 location signal is transmitted from the mPFC to the dorsal attention network, such as the SPL
389 (Evans et al., 2016), via the MTL, which implies a pivotal functional role of MTL as a hub of
390 mental representation of object-related (e.g., identity and location) signals. This signal
391 transmit across different brain networks may be related with the fact that the egocentric target
392 location was the main behaviorally relevant feature in the present task. These results contrast
393 with the present result that no brain regions represented the allocentric target location relative
394 to the spatial layout of the characters, which was not required to answer in the task.

395 Interestingly, the frontoparietal control network showed a strong negative correlation
396 with both the MTL and mPFC during both the facing and targeting periods, although the
397 IPFC in the frontoparietal control network represented both the map information and
398 egocentric direction during the targeting period. In addition, the IPFC represented walking
399 direction as well as character identity during both periods. These results suggest that the IPFC
400 computes the target location independently of the default-mode network. The parallel
401 contributions of the IPFC and MTL-mPFC in choosing the target location may reflect their
402 different cognitive functions (Jimura et al., 2004). IPFC has long been considered as a center
403 of executive functions (Funahashi, 2017; Miller et al., 2018) equipped with working memory
404 (Andrews et al., 2011; Barbey et al., 2013; Brunoni and Vanderhasselt, 2014; Funahashi,
405 2017). In human fMRI studies, the IPFC has been shown to contribute to the retrieval of task-
406 relevant information when more systematic thinking is required (Epstein et al., 2017; Javadi
407 et al., 2017). In the present study, the behavioral task was designed to ensure participants
408 neither actively maintained a spatial configuration of the human characters during the

409 walking period nor any systematic strategy to solve the task, which was confirmed by the
410 post-scanning test results. The greater signal for the cognitive map and the egocentric target
411 location in the mPFC than that in the IPFC may reflect that the current spatial memory task
412 was enough easy to allow participants to depend only on the involuntary encoding and
413 subsequent memory retrieval for their top-ceiling performance (Epstein et al., 2017; Javadi et
414 al., 2017).

415 In contrast to previous memory/navigation studies, which examined brain functions
416 using spatial environments consisting of immobile landmarks (e.g., stores) and/or landscapes
417 (e.g., mountains) (Bird et al., 2010; Woollett and Maguire, 2011; Schinazi et al., 2013;
418 Chadwick et al., 2015; Brown et al., 2016), the present study used a spatial environment
419 constructed by only mobile objects that could become targets and references of self-location
420 as well as determine the space (i.e., map) around oneself. This task design allowed us to
421 extract a mental representation of the spatial environment consisting of the minimum
422 essential constituents. This reductionist method could be useful for future studies
423 investigating the construction and functional mechanisms of a cognitive map because of its
424 simplicity. One critical concern might be whether the findings discovered by this reductionist
425 method can be applied to a more complicated cognitive map consisting of large numbers of
426 immobile spatial elements, which could be learned through extensive explorations over a
427 long time period (e.g., the city of London) (Woollett and Maguire, 2011). Another related
428 concern might be whether our brain system holds only one cognitive map or multiple ones at
429 a time (Meister and Buffalo, 2018). For example, we may hold an object-based cognitive map
430 consisting of relevant mobile objects such as same species, predators, and foods, while we
431 may also hold the other cognitive map consisting of landmarks, landscapes and other
432 immobile objects such as trees. Future studies should address the relationships of different

433 types of cognitive maps (e.g., mobile vs immobile, short-term vs. long-term) and their
434 underlying neural mechanisms.

435 The present study found neural representations of the space specified by objects
436 around us. This object-based cognitive map seems to interact with representation of self-
437 location in HPC and to mediate a selection of egocentric target-location in mPFC, which
438 would serve for leading us to the goal position. In addition to the spatial navigation, an
439 existence of the object-based cognitive map may equip us with a space representation for
440 persons separately from the background, which may serve for our social interactions
441 (Damasio et al., 1994; Stolk et al., 2015) as well as the encoding and retrieval of episodic
442 memory (Tulving, 2002; Squire and Wixted, 2011).

443

444 **Supplemental Information**

445 Supplemental Information includes six figures, two tables and two videos. The videos contain
446 trial examples for Day 1 and Day 2. In the video of day 1, please note we only used examples
447 of correct trials in which a green square of line was presented as feedback after the
448 participant's response. File size: 21.5 MB; Video duration: 1.23 minute; File format: .mp4;
449 Video codec: H.264; Aspect ratio: 1024 x 768.

450 **Author Contributions**

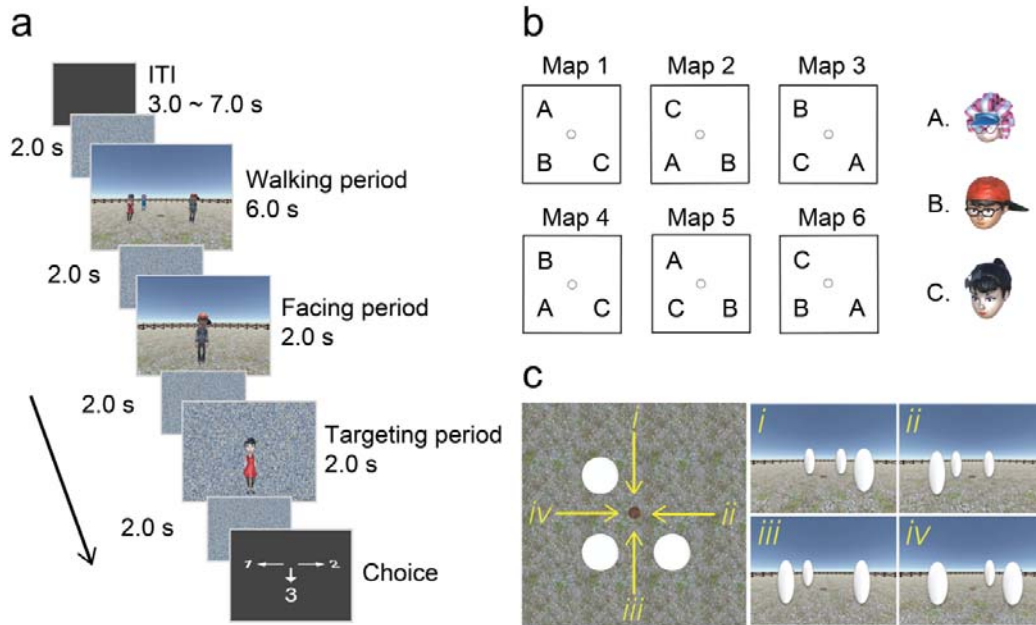
451 B.Z. and Y.N made the experimental design; B.Z. conducted all experiments and data
452 analysis under supervision of Y.N.; B.Z. and Y.N. wrote the paper.

453 **Acknowledgments**

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458 Cen Yang for comments on an early version of the manuscript.

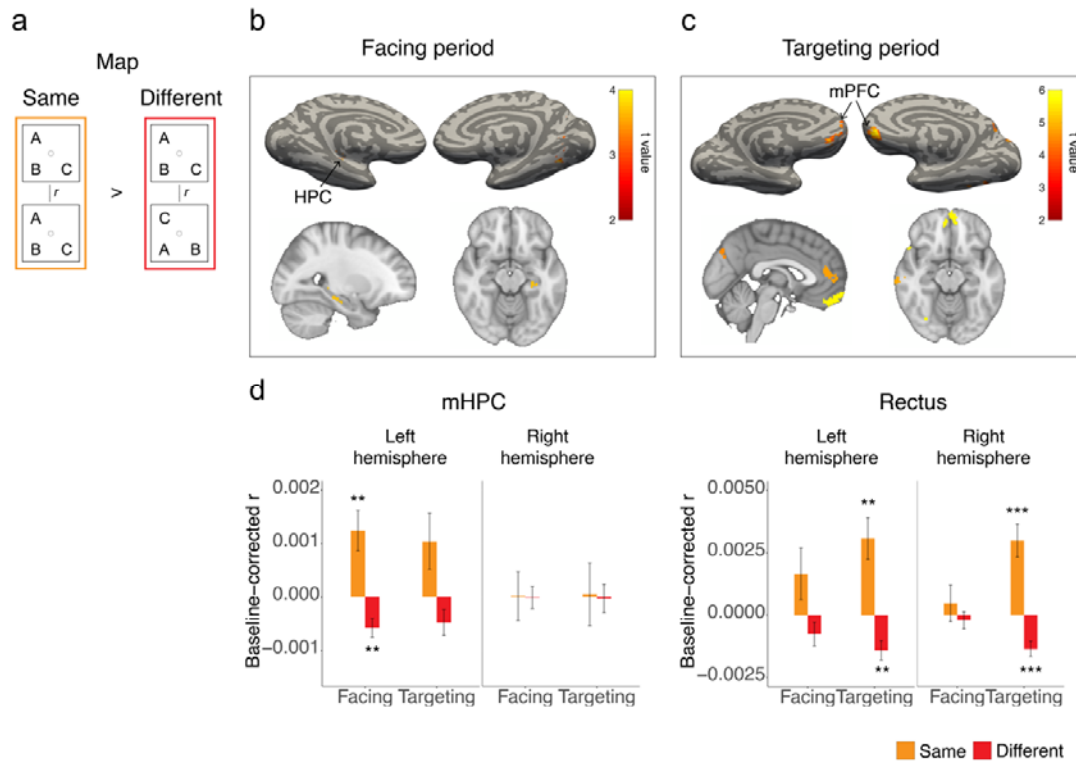
459 **Figures**



460

461 Figure 1: Task design. (a) spatial-memory task. Each trial consisted of three periods. In the
462 walking period, participants walked toward three human characters using the first-person
463 perspective and stopped on a wood plate. In the facing period, one of the human characters
464 was presented, indicating the participant's current self-orientation. In the targeting period, a
465 photo of another character was presented on the scrambled background. The participants
466 chose the direction of the target character relative to their body upon presentation of a
467 response cue. (b) Maps were defined by the relative position of the three human characters,
468 while the unfilled dot represents the wood plate. (c) The walking directions were defined by
469 the spatial layout of the three human characters from the participant's first-person perspective.

470



471

472 Figure 2: Neural representation of cognitive map in MTL and mPFC. (a) Schematic

473 representation of decoding the maps using RSA. (b) In the facing period, RSA revealed a

474 cluster in the left middle HPC (mHPC; t value: 3.84; MNI coordinates: -28, -25, -16; shown

475 on sagittal and transverse section) within the MTL ($P < 0.01$, initial threshold; $P < 0.05$,

476 cluster-corrected for multiple comparison). (c) In the targeting period, clusters were revealed

477 in the mPFC ($P < 0.001$, initial threshold; $P < 0.05$, cluster-corrected for multiple

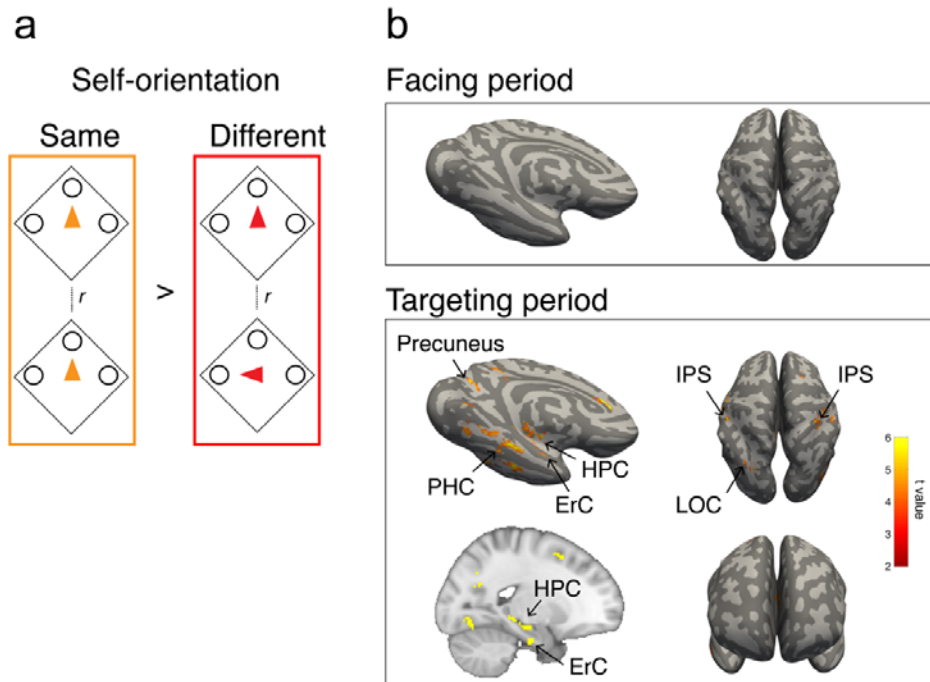
478 comparison). The peak was revealed in the rectus within the mPFC (t value: 5.62; MNI

479 coordinates: 4, 50, -18). (d) The left mHPC and bilateral rectus revealed a significantly higher

480 similarity than chance level in the “same-map” condition during facing and targeting period,

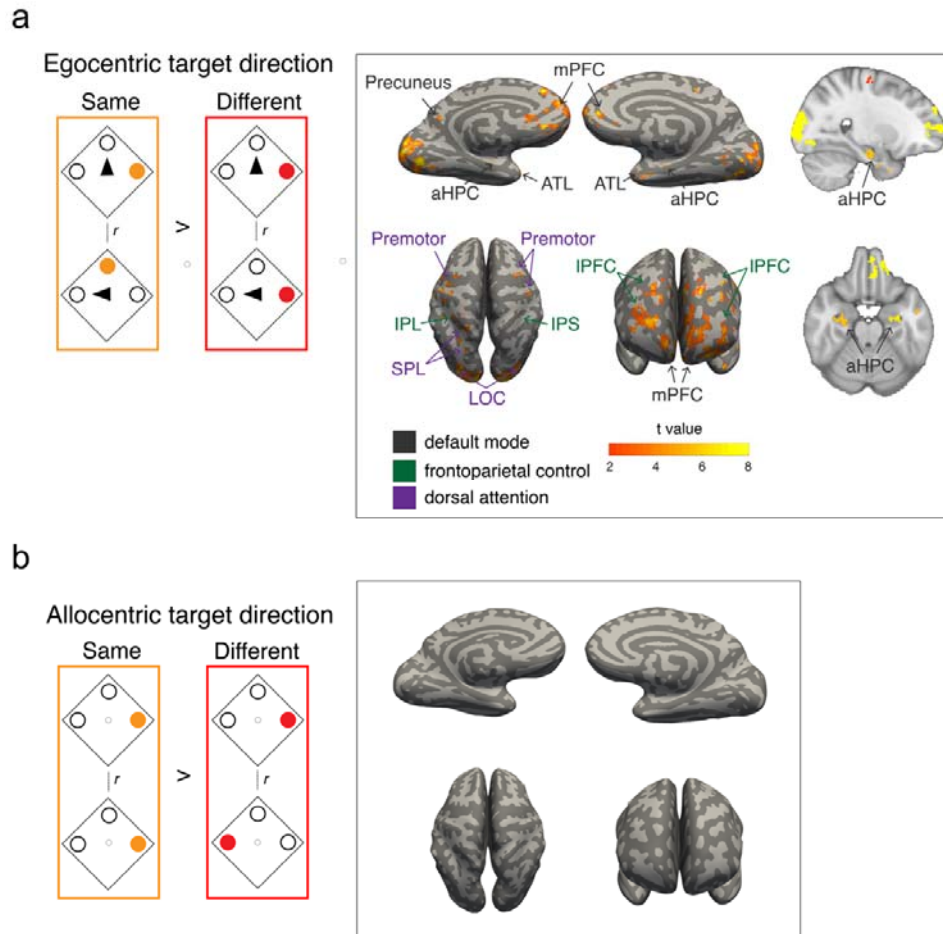
481 respectively (the left mHPC: $t(18) = 3.26$, $P = 0.016$; the left rectus: $t(18) = 3.68$, $P = 0.007$;

482 the right rectus: $t(18) = 4.50$, $P = 0.001$; bonferroni corrected for multiple comparisons).



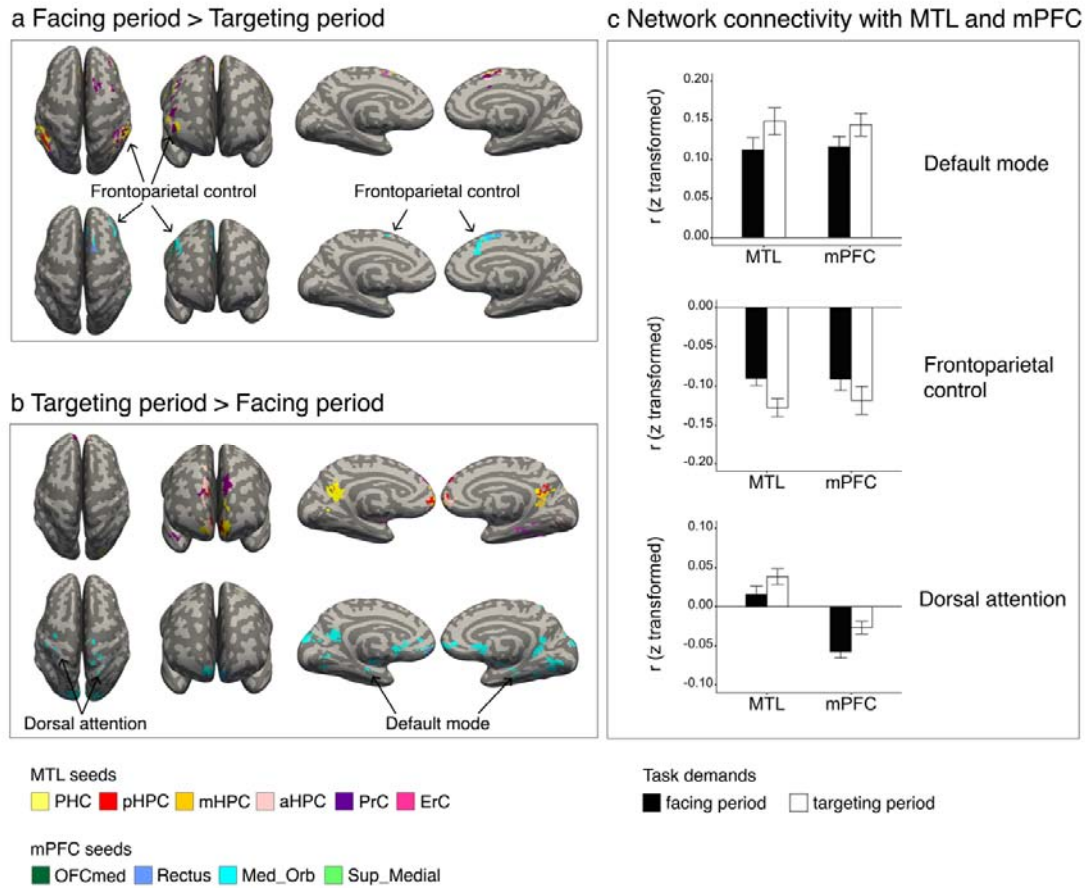
483

484 Figure 3: Neural representation of self-orientation on cognitive map. (a) Schematic
485 representation of decoding participants' self-orientation. (b) In the facing period, no cluster
486 was revealed even with the use of a more liberal threshold ($P < 0.01$, initial threshold; $P <$
487 0.05 , cluster-corrected for multiple comparison). In the targeting period, clusters were
488 revealed in the MTL (bilateral HPC, PHC, and left ErC) and self-motion areas (inferior
489 parietal cortex, RSC, and lateral occipital cortex).



490

491 Figure 4: Neural representation of retrieved egocentric target location. (a) Left panel:
492 Schematic representation of decoding the egocentric direction of a target character. Right
493 panel: Clusters were revealed across a wide range of brain areas ($P < 0.001$, initial threshold;
494 $P < 0.05$, cluster-corrected for multiple comparison). Many of the clusters belonged to one of
495 the following three functional networks: the default-mode network, frontoparietal control
496 network, and dorsal attention network. The aHPC is shown on sagittal and transverse section
497 of volume image for display purpose ($P < 0.001$, initial threshold; $P < 0.05$, cluster-corrected
498 for multiple comparison). (b) Left panel: Schematic representation of decoding allocentric
499 direction of a target character. Right panel: No clusters were revealed even with the use of a
500 liberal threshold ($P < 0.01$, initial threshold; $P < 0.05$, cluster-corrected for multiple
501 comparison).



502

503 Figure 5: Increased default-mode network connectivity while locating a target compared with
 504 locating oneself. (a) The frontoparietal control network showed enhanced connectivity
 505 strength with the MTL and mPFC in the facing period compared to the targeting period ($P <$
 506 0.001 , initial threshold; $P < 0.05$, cluster-corrected for multiple comparison). (b) The default-
 507 mode network and dorsal attention network showed enhanced connectivity strength with the
 508 MTL and mPFC in the targeting period compared to the facing period ($P < 0.001$, initial
 509 threshold; $P < 0.05$, cluster-corrected for multiple comparison). (c) The mean connectivity
 510 strength of MTL and mPFC sub-regions with three networks, respectively. Note that the
 511 connectivity between default-mode network and MTL/mPFC was examined using default-
 512 mode network mask without the MTL/mPFC, respectively.

513

514 **Materials and Methods**

515

516 **Participants**

517 Nineteen right-handed university students with normal or corrected-to-normal vision were
518 recruited from Peking University (12 females, 7 males). The average age of the participants
519 was 24.9 years (range: 18–30 years). All participants had no history of psychiatric or
520 neurological disorders and gave their written informed consent prior to the start of the
521 experiment, which was approved by the Research Ethics Committee of Peking University.

522

523 **Experimental design**

524 *Virtual environment.* We programmed a 3D virtual environment using Unity software (Unity
525 Technologies, San Francisco). The environment was designed with a circular fence as a
526 boundary (48 virtual meters in diameter), a flat grassy ground, a uniform blue sky, and with a
527 wood plate surrounded by four vertices of a square placed in the center (Fig. 1b, 4.7 virtual
528 meters for side length). Three human characters (Mixamo, San Francisco,
529 <https://www.mixamo.com>) were placed on three of the vertices in each trial. A map was
530 defined by the relative relationship of the three human characters (Fig. 1b). From the six
531 possible maps, three of them were pseudo-randomly selected for each participant to collect
532 enough number of trials' data for each condition during the allowable range of scanning
533 duration. The maps were the only environmental cues relevant to the task requirement, no
534 distal cues were used outside the boundary. Participants performed the task using the first-
535 person perspective with a 90° field of view (aspect ratio = 4:3), they had never seen a top-
536 down view of the virtual environment.

537 *Walking period.* Participants walked from one of four starting locations near the circular
538 boundary (4 virtual meters from the boundary) toward the human characters (Fig. 1c) and

539 stopped on the wood plate. The visual stimuli (spatial environment viewed from first-person
540 perspective) were determined by the combination of the map and walking direction, in other
541 words, each map was presented by four different visual stimuli that were determined by the
542 starting position (Fig. 1c). Importantly, participants were blinded to the map concept
543 throughout the task. The walking period lasted for 6.0 s, during which each character had a
544 20.6% probability of nodding its head at a random time point between the start and end of
545 walking. There was a 50%, 38.9%, 10.2%, and 0.9% probability for 0, 1, 2, and 3 characters
546 to nod head in each trial; we subjectively selected a 20.6% head-nodding probability for each
547 character to ensure an approximately equal number of trials with head-nodding and no head-
548 nodding. During the walking period, participants were required to pay attention to the heads
549 of the human characters rather than to memorize their spatial arrangement. The height of the
550 participants was 1.8 virtual meters from the ground, which was the same as that of the human
551 characters. No response was required during the walking period.

552 Two tasks were completed in two consecutive days. On day 1, the participants
553 performed an HND task that did not include spatial-memory trials. On day 2, participants
554 performed a spatial-memory task.

555 *Head-nodding detection (HND) task.* Participants performed 144 randomly ordered HND
556 trials in a behavioral experimental room. In each trial, a photo of one of the characters was
557 presented on a screen after the walking period, and participants were asked to indicate
558 whether the character nodded its head or not (Fig. S1a). For this task, there was a 50% chance
559 that the character in the presented photo nodded its head. Feedback was given after the
560 participants had responded with either green (correct) or red (incorrect) photo border. The
561 stimuli were rendered on a PC and presented on a 27-inch LCD monitor (ViewSonic XG2730)
562 with a screen resolution of 1024 x 768. The HND task was used to examine whether

563 participants paid attention to head-nodding rather than memorizing the spatial arrangement of
564 the characters, which would be indicated by high success rates in the head-nodding test.

565 *Spatial-memory task.* During this task, participants performed 144 spatial-memory
566 trials (90%) and 16 HND trials (10%) that lasted ~ 70 min in an MRI scanner. Participants
567 were notified that the remuneration depended only on the performance in the HND trials
568 although they were also encouraged to perform the spatial memory task as best as they could
569 (videos of trial examples are available online for both tasks). The trial-type (i.e., HND or
570 memory task) was distinguishable after the walking period by subsequent stimuli. In the
571 spatial-memory task, participants experienced a “facing period” and a “targeting period”
572 sequentially after the walking period. In the facing period, their self-orientation was changed
573 immediately to one of the human characters (facing-character) without viewpoint transition,
574 and a character with the environment background was presented for 2.0 s with the other two
575 characters being invisible, the participants were instructed to face the character. In the
576 targeting period, a photo of another character (targeting-character) was presented as a target
577 on a scabbled background for 2.0 s. Each of the three experimental periods was followed by
578 a 2.0-s delay (noise screen). At the end of each trial, participants indicated the direction of the
579 target character relative to their self-body by pressing a button when a cue presented on the
580 screen; no feedback was shown for both trial-types (Fig. 1a). The spatial-memory task
581 contained four experimental sessions, each containing a spatial information combination of 3
582 maps x 4 walking directions x 3 facing-character identities in each session, with targeting-
583 characters balanced across sessions. After scanning, all participants completed a post-
584 scanning interview and reported the strategy they used to perform the task (Table. S2).

585

586 **fMRI data acquisition**

587 Imaging data were collected using a 3T Siemens Prisma scanner equipped with a 20-channel
588 receiver head coil. Functional data were acquired with a Multi-band Echo Planer imaging
589 (EPI) sequence (TR = 2000 ms, TE = 30 ms, matrix size: $112 \times 112 \times 62$, flip angle: 90° , gap
590 = 0 mm; resolution: $2 \times 2 \times 2.3 \text{ mm}^3$, number of slices: 62, slice thickness: 2 mm, slice
591 orientation: transversal), four experimental sessions were collected with, on average, 478,
592 476, 473, 475 TRs, respectively. A high-resolution T1-weighted three-dimensional
593 anatomical data set was collected to aid in registration (MPRAGE, TR = 2530 ms, TE = 2.98
594 ms, matrix size: $448 \times 512 \times 192$, flip angle: 7° , resolution: $0.5 \times 0.5 \times 1 \text{ mm}^3$, number of
595 slices: 192, slice thickness: 1 mm, slice orientation: sagittal). During scanning, experimental
596 stimuli were presented through a Sinorad LCD projector (Shenzhen Sinorad Medical
597 Electronics) onto a 33-inch rear-projection screen located over the subject's head with a
598 resolution of 1024×768 and viewed with an angled mirror positioning on the head coil.
599

600 **fMRI preprocessing**

601 Functional data for each session were preprocessed independently using FSL FEAT
602 (FMRIB's Software Library, version 6.00, <https://fsl.fmrib.ox.ac.uk/fsl/fslwiki>; Woolrich et
603 al., 2001; Woolrich et al., 2004). For each session, the first three functional volumes were
604 discarded to allow for T1 equilibration, and the remaining functional volumes were slice-time
605 corrected, realigned to the first image, and high-pass filtered at 100 s. For group-level
606 statistics, each session's functional data were registered to a T1-weighted standard image
607 (MNI152) using FSL FLIRT (Jenkinson and Smith, 2001), and this procedure also resampled
608 the functional voxels into a $2 \times 2 \times 2 \text{ mm}$ resolution. For RSA, data were left unsmoothed to
609 preserve any fine-grained spatial information (Chadwick et al., 2012). For functional
610 connectivity analysis, data were smoothed using a 5 mm FWHM Gaussian kernel and were
611 high-pass filtered at 0.01 Hz to remove low-frequency signal drifts.

612

613 **Anatomical masks**

614 We manually delineated the MTL, including the HPC, PHC, PRC, and ERC on each
615 participant's native space using established protocols (Insausti et al., 1998; Pruessner et al.,
616 2000; Pruessner et al., 2002; Duvernoy, 2005), as well as a delineating software ITK-SNAP
617 (www.itksnap.org). The HPC was further divided into its anterior, middle, and posterior parts
618 given the anatomical and functional variability along the HPC long axis (Poppenk et al.,
619 2013), the anterior border of pHPC and the posterior border of aHPC were defined by the
620 appearance of the crus of the fornix and the uncus apex relative to mHPC along the coronal
621 orientation, respectively (Pruessner et al., 2000; Poppenk et al., 2013). For PFC sub-regions,
622 we used the AAL template (Rolls et al., 2015), and selected four mPFC sub-regions for ROI-
623 analysis, which included the rectus, medial orbital gyrus (OFCmed), medial orbital frontal
624 gyrus (Med_Orb), and superior medial frontal gyrus (Sup_Med). All ROIs were resampled
625 and aligned with the functional volumes, and voxels outside of the brain were excluded.

626

627 **Representational similarity analysis (RSA)**

628 Task-relevant information was decoded using RSA. We tried to dissociate the neural effect of
629 facing and targeting period based on 4 s duration from each period onset to the end of
630 following noise period (Zeithamova et al., 2017). First, the trial-based multi-voxel activity
631 patterns of two periods were obtained by creating two separate univariate general linear
632 models (GLM). In each GLM, the 4 s blood-oxygen-level-dependent (BOLD) signals of 36
633 trials (a session) were modeled using boxcar regressors. In addition to the 36 trial-based
634 regressors of interest, nuisance regressors were included, which included twelve regressors
635 for modeling the visual patterns of the walking period determined by the maps and walking
636 directions, three for modeling the character identities in the remaining period (for example, in

637 the facing period GLM, three targeting characters were specified as nuisance regressors), four
638 for modeling head-nodding detection trials, three for modeling 3 directional cues in the
639 response period, and six motion parameters. This procedure generated 36 trial-based multi-
640 voxel patterns in participant's native space (2 x 2 x 2.3 mm voxels) for each period, those
641 multi-voxel patterns were normalized prior to subsequent analysis by subtracting the grand
642 mean pattern of the 36 multi-voxel patterns for each session (Vass and Epstein, 2013).

643 Searchlight-based RSA. Next, we computed the representational similarity for each
644 spatial information based on the 36 multi-voxel patterns using a searchlight-based RSA
645 (Libby et al., 2014; Chadwick et al., 2015), which was conducted using custom Matlab
646 (version R2018b, www.mathworks.com/matlab/) scripts. In detail, a sphere with a 6 mm
647 radius was constructed (85 voxels per sphere) for each brain voxel, and the spheres near the
648 edge of the brain with fewer than ten voxels were excluded from the analysis. The activity
649 parameters within each sphere were extracted from each of the 36 multi-voxel patterns,
650 resulting in a 36-column by n-row (number of voxels within the sphere) matrix. The pattern
651 similarity was then calculated between each column-by-column pair using Pearson's
652 correlation, and was normalized using Fisher's r-to-z transformation. This procedure finally
653 generated a 36-by-36 correlation matrix for each period in each brain voxel. Next, given that
654 a multi-voxel pattern contains the combination of multiple spatial information, we conducted
655 a GLM as a regression on the correlation matrix, which included each element from one side
656 of diagonal of the matrix but did not the diagonal elements, by specifying multiple
657 categorical regressors to dissociate an effect of each spatial information from potential
658 influences of others. In each regressor, either "1 (same)" or "0 (different)" were used to
659 correspond with the correlation coefficient of a given column-to-row element of the
660 correlation matrix. An estimated parameter of each regressor evaluated an increase or
661 decrease in the similarity in the same condition relative to the different condition concerning

662 on the spatial information specified by the regressor. For the facing period, the GLM
663 contained five categorical regressors, which included the (1) “map”, (2) “walking direction”,
664 and (3) “facing-character identity”. Since the participants reported thinking about their bodies
665 rotating between the walking direction and self-orientation relative to the environment, we
666 also added the (4) “rotation angle” (turn left/right 45°, turn left/right 135°), and (5) their
667 “self-orientation” into the GLM. For the targeting period, seven regressors were built, which
668 included: (1) “map”, (2) “walking direction”, (3-4) participants’ “rotation angle” and “self-
669 orientation”, (5) “targeting-character identity”, and (6-7) “egocentric and allocentric position
670 of target-character”. It is important to note that the “facing-character identity” was not
671 included in the targeting period GLM since the effect of each facing character was regressed
672 out in the GLM computing of multi-voxel activity patterns. r^2 was computed and ranged from
673 0 to 0.03 for the facing period GLM, and 0 to 0.04 for the targeting period GLM (Table S1).
674 Each regressor’s parameter was then assigned to the center voxel of each sphere so that a
675 whole-brain statistical parametric map could be generated for each spatial information for
676 each period, with those spatial representations being finally averaged across the four scanner
677 sessions.

678 *ROI-based RSA.* To validate the representation of the cognitive map information in
679 the HPC and mPFC suggested by the searchlight-based RSA, we further conducted an
680 independent RSA using anatomical ROIs for the both hemispheres of mHPC and rectus. We
681 reasoned that since searchlight analysis identifies the spatial representations as clusters in
682 small portions of anatomical regions, if those representations are stable enough, the
683 corresponding anatomical regions, on average, should show a clear increasing tendency in
684 similarity when the to-be-tested spatial information are same in trial-pairs compared to a
685 chance level such that they match the searchlight results. To test this, we separated each of
686 mHPC and rectus into the left and right hemispheres and generated 4 anatomical ROIs, the

687 rectus masks were normalized into the participants' native space. For each ROI, the multi-
688 voxel pattern similarity was calculated independently for "same-map" and "different-map"
689 conditions from the correlation matrix of each period, then the similarity of both conditions
690 was averaged across the four sessions for each participant. The chance level was determined
691 by permutation test, in which the trial labels on the correlation matrix were shuffled before
692 calculating the representational similarity of "same-map" and "different-map" conditions.
693 This procedure was performed by 5000 times for each ROI, the chance level was obtained for
694 each condition by averaging the 5000 shuffled similarity results. We then subtract the chance
695 level from the similarity in each condition, and tested whether or not the baseline-corrected
696 similarity is significantly different from zero across the participants using one-sample t-test
697 (two-tailed).

698

699 **Functional connectivity (FC) analysis**

700 To investigate the functional networks for different task demands, we examined the whole-
701 brain FC using each sub-region of MTL and mPFC as seed (Fig. S4a; 12 for the MTL and 8
702 for the mPFC). In detail, we first removed the nuisance covariates from the preprocessed
703 functional data by creating a GLM, which specified the signal averaged over the lateral
704 ventricles, white matter, and whole brain, six motion parameters, and their derivatives as
705 regressors. The residual signal was bandpass-filtered, leaving signals within the frequency
706 range 0.01 to 0.1 Hz, and was shifted by two TR intervals (4 s) for subsequent analysis
707 (Tomparry and Davachi, 2017). We computed a regional time course for each anatomical
708 mask in each of facing and targeting period. To do this, we averaged signals over the mask at
709 each TR within the period, and then concatenated the two TRs in one trial with those in the
710 next trial within a session (Ranganath et al., 2005). The regional time course for each
711 anatomical mask was correlated with the time course of each voxel in the rest of the brain,

712 resulting in a whole-brain correlation map for each period in each scanning session. The
713 correlation maps were averaged across four scanning sessions for each participant, and were
714 then submitted to a two-tailed t-test for group level statistics.

715 Each cluster, which derived from the contrast analysis in connectivity between facing
716 and targeting period based on an initial threshold of $p=0.001$, was assigned to each of the
717 three networks based on previous literatures: default-mode network, frontoparietal control
718 network, and dorsal attention network (Vincent et al., 2008; Schacter et al., 2012; Gelström
719 and Graziano., 2017). In the present study, default-mode network contains the clusters of
720 mPFC, MTL, posterior cingulate cortex, and anterior temporal gyrus; frontoparietal control
721 network contains the clusters of paracingulate gyrus, lateral PFC, and inferior parietal lobule;
722 dorsal attention network contains the clusters of occipital pole, lateral occipital cortex, cuneal
723 cortex, lingual gyrus, superior parietal lobule, and postcentral gyrus (Fig. S4b). To examine
724 modulation effects on the connectivity of MTL/mPFC with the large-scale networks by
725 different task demands, we computed mean connectivity between each of MTL and mPFC
726 subregions with each network. For the default-mode network, we prepared for two masks, in
727 which the MTL or mPFC was removed for the examinations of its connectivity with the
728 default-mode network.

729

730 **Statistical analysis**

731 For searchlight-based RSA, we used an initial threshold of $p < 0.001$. If no clusters were
732 revealed, a liberal threshold of $p < 0.01$ was used. For whole brain FC analysis, an initial
733 threshold of $p < 0.001$ was used to identify robust network patterns. The reliability of clusters
734 was tested using a non-parametric statistical inference that does not make assumptions about
735 the distribution of the data (Nichols and Holmes, 2002; Winkler et al., 2014; Chadwick et al.,
736 2015), the test was conducted with the FSL randomise package (version v2.9,

737 <http://fsl.fmrib.ox.ac.uk/fsl/fslwiki/Randomise>), and performed 5000 random sign-flips on
738 whole brain searchlight beta images or FC images, we then reported clusters with the size
739 higher than 95% of the maximal suprathreshold clusters in permutation distribution. ROI-
740 based RSA used two-tailed one sample t-test to examine the significance of each anatomical
741 mask. Paired t-test was used to examine the difference in connectivity among MTL and
742 mPFC subregions between task demands. All t-test results were Bonferroni-corrected for
743 multiple comparison. The statistical significance was determined according to whether the
744 corrected *P* value was smaller than 0.05. Analysis of variance (ANOVA) was used to test the
745 influence in connectivity between MTL/mPFC and large-scale functional network along time
746 periods.

747 **Supplemental Information**

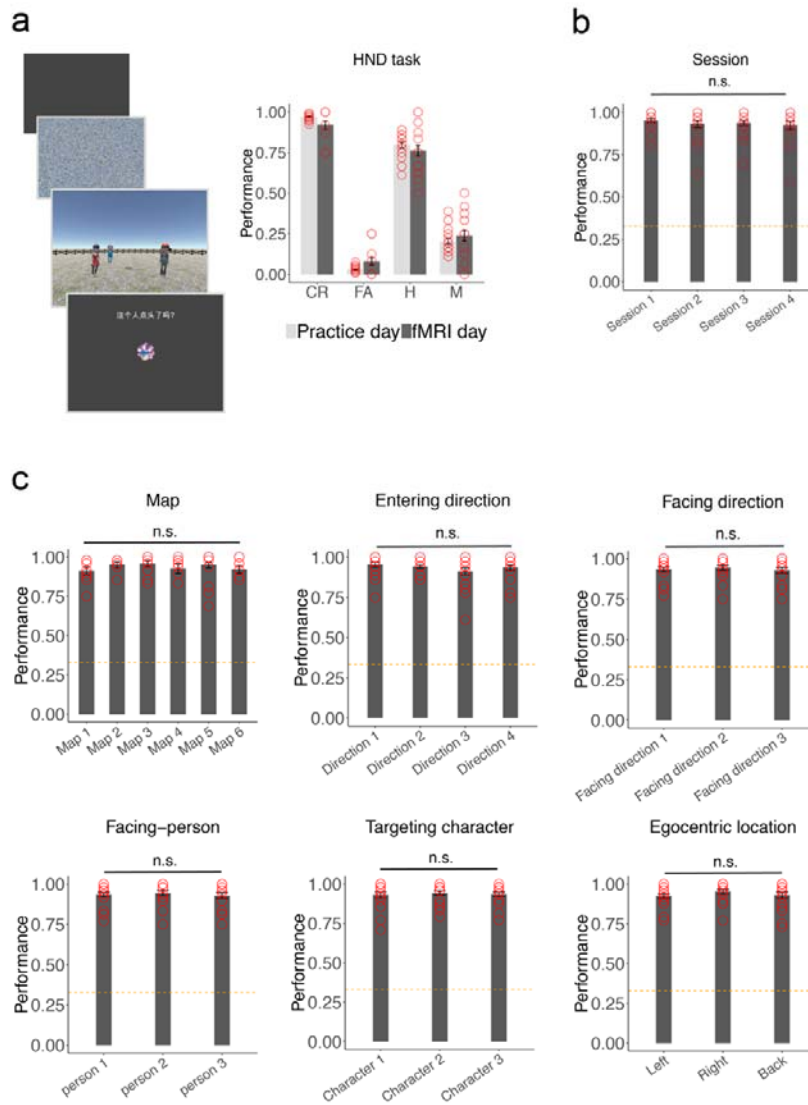
748 **“Medial prefrontal cortex represents the object-based cognitive map when**
749 **remembering an egocentric target location”**

750 **Bo Zhang and Yuji Naya**

751

752 Supplemental Information includes six figures, two tables and two videos. The videos contain
753 trial examples for Day 1 and Day 2. In the video of day 1, please note we only used examples
754 of correct trials in which a green square of line was presented as feedback after the
755 participant’s response. File size: 21.5 MB; Video duration: 1.23 minute; File format: .mp4;
756 Video codec: H.264; Aspect ratio: 1024 x 768.

757 Figure S1: Behavioral results.

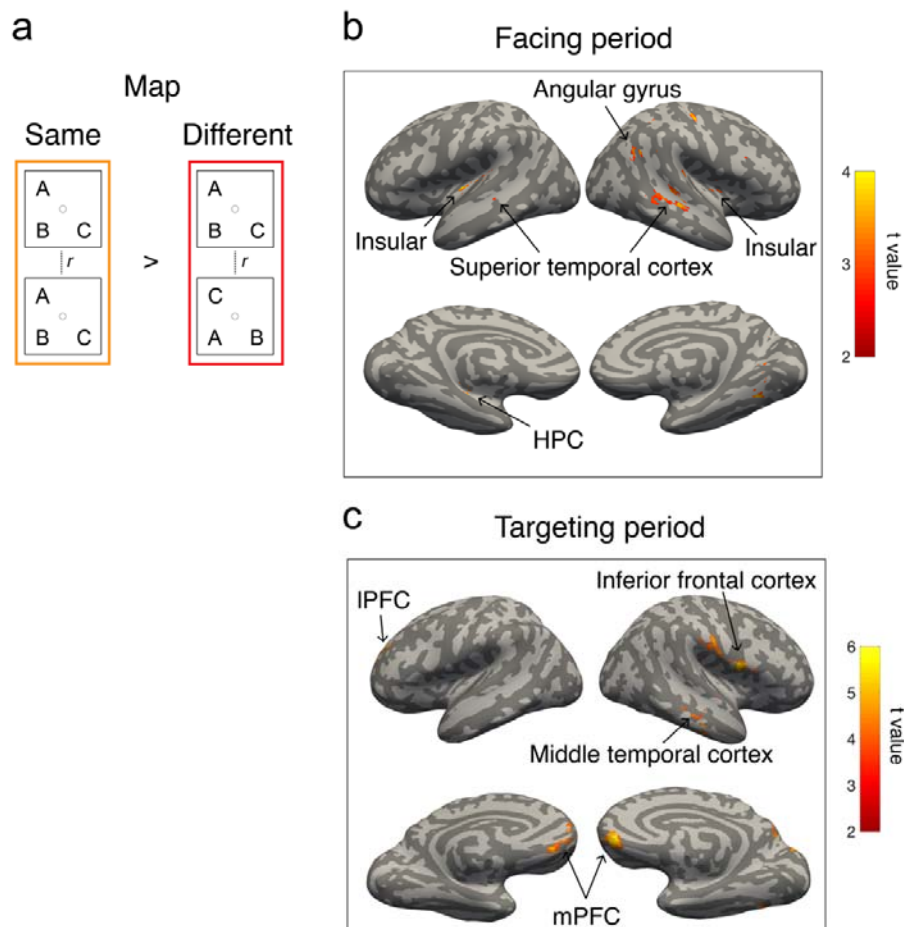


758
 759 (a) Paradigm and performance for the head-nodding detection (HND) task. In both the
 760 practice and fMRI day, participants exhibited a high accuracy of detecting head nodding and
 761 rejecting if there was no head nodding (practice day: head-nodding trials, $t(18) = 15.714$, $P =$
 762 5.907×10^{-12} , no head-nodding trials, $t(18) = 112.4$, $P = 2.2 \times 10^{-16}$; fMRI day: head-nodding
 763 trials, $t(15) = 7.399$, $P = 2.224 \times 10^{-6}$, no head-nodding trials, $t(14) = 6.315$, $P = 1.908 \times 10^{-5}$).
 764 (b) Performance in the spatial-memory task. No significant difference was found among four
 765 sessions ($F(3,72) = 0.38$, $P < 0.001$).

766 (c) Performance in the spatial-memory task for each category of spatial information. No
767 significant difference was found among the spatial information in each category (map: $F(5,33)$
768 $= 2.19$, $P = 0.08$; walking direction: $F(3,72) = 1.10$, $P = 0.35$; facing character: $F(2,54) = 0.27$,
769 $P = 0.76$; facing direction: $F(2,54) = 0.94$, $P = 0.40$; targeting character: $F(2,54) = 0.15$, $P =$
770 0.86 ; egocentric direction: $F(2,54) = 0.82$, $P = 0.45$).

771 Figure S2: Neural representations of the cognitive map outside of MTL and mPFC, related to

772 Figure 2.



773

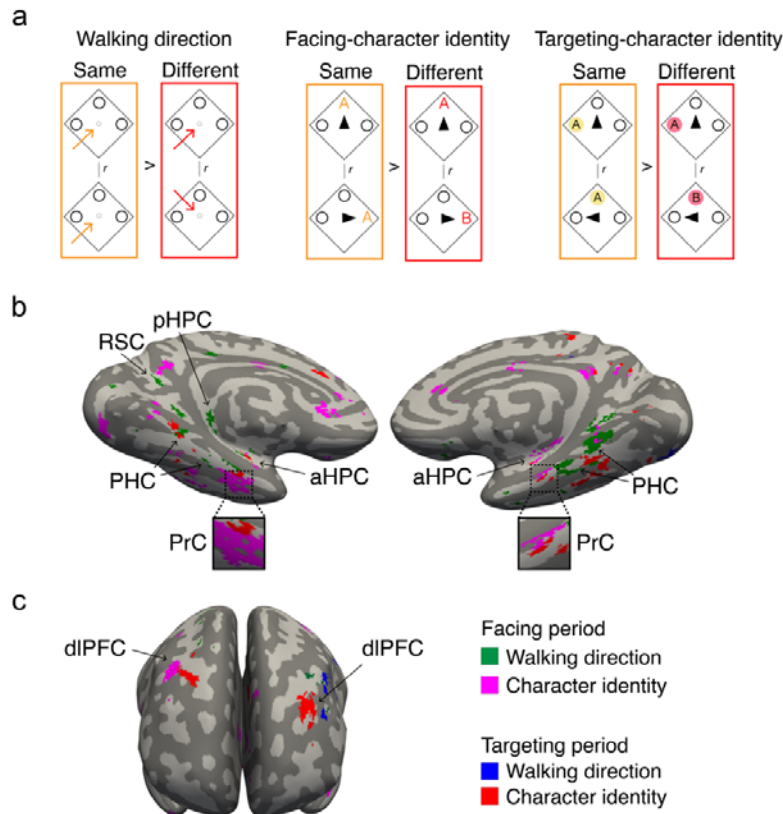
774 (a) Schematic representation of decoding the cognitive map using RSA. (b, c) Neural

775 representation of the cognitive map during facing period ($P < 0.01$, initial threshold; $P < 0.05$,

776 cluster-corrected for multiple comparison) and targeting period ($P < 0.001$, initial threshold; P

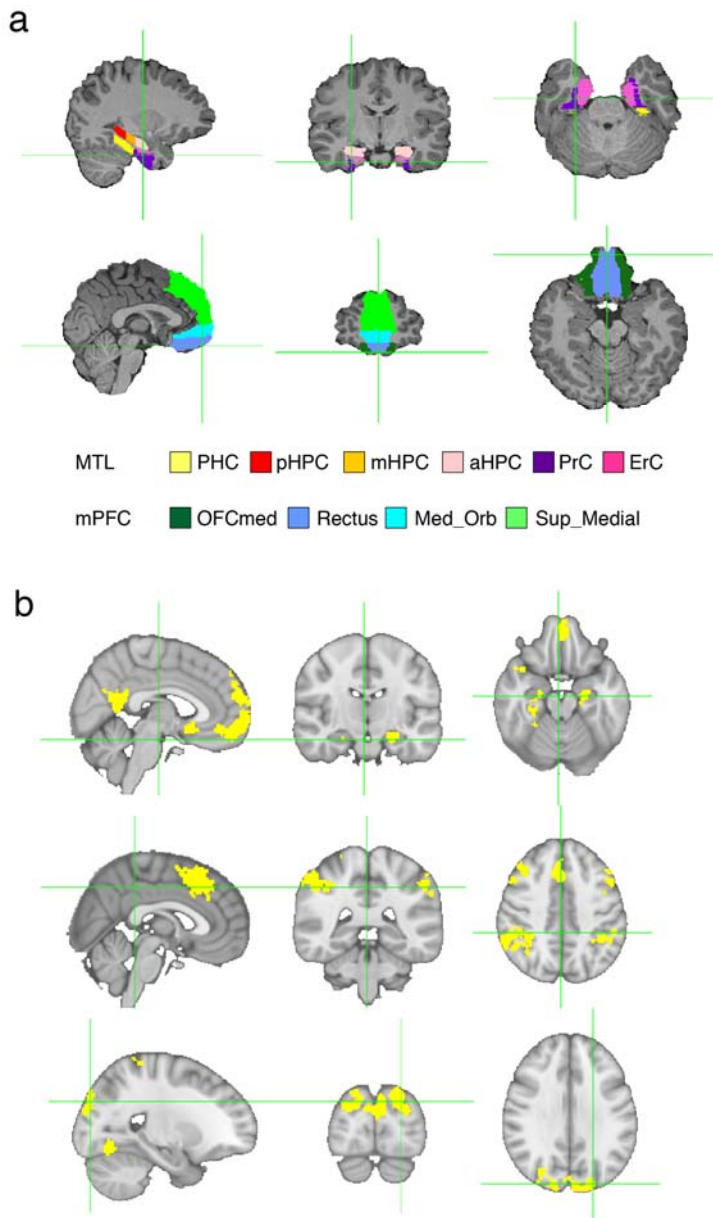
777 < 0.05 , cluster-corrected for multiple comparison), respectively.

778 Figure S3: Neural representation of the walking direction and character identity in the MTL,
779 related to Figure 2.



780
781 (a) Schematic representation for decoding walking direction (left), the character identity in
782 the facing period (middle) and targeting period (right), respectively. (b) The PrC selectively
783 encodes the character identity not the walking direction, and the PHC, PPA, and HPC
784 encodes both the character identity and walking direction. In particular, the PrC encoded both
785 the facing- and targeting-character across both periods, while there was a clear attenuation in
786 the encoding for the walking direction in the targeting period compared to the facing period
787 ($P < 0.001$, initial threshold; $P < 0.05$, cluster-corrected for multiple comparison). (c) The
788 clusters located in the IPFC for both the walking direction and character identity across the
789 two temporal periods.

790 Figure S4: Example of anatomical and functional masks of a participant (No. 13), related
791 to Figure 3, Figure 5 and Figure S5.



792

793

794 (a) medial temporal lobe sub-regions (top panel) and mPFC sub-regions (bottom panel) in

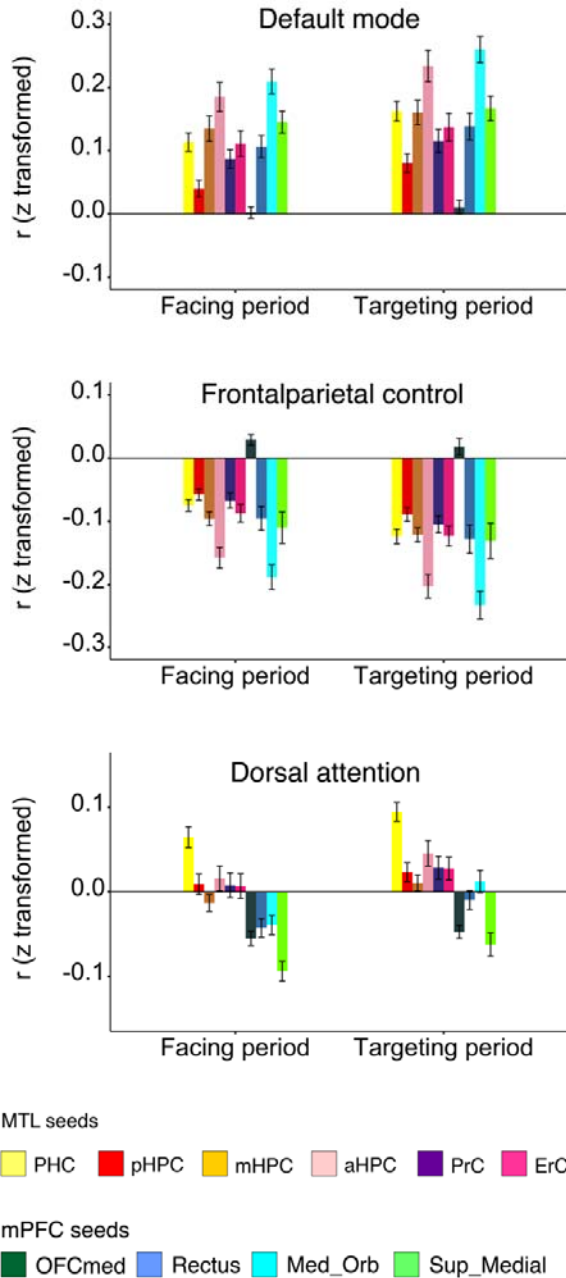
795 native space of participants, (b) The network masks identified from the contrast analysis in

796 connectivity between facing and targeting period and were overlapped on MNI152 template.

797 Default-mode network (top panel), Frontoparietal control network (middle panel), Dorsal

798 attention network (bottom panel).

799 Figure S5: Connectivity strength of the default-mode network, frontoparietal control,
800 and dorsal attention network with each MTL and mPFC sub-region, related to Figure 5.



801
802 Note that for the connectivity between default-mode network and MTL/mPFC, two network
803 masks were prepared with the MTL and mPFC excluded, respectively.

804 Table S1: Averaged r^2 among searchlight-based GLM regressors for the facing period (top)
 805 and the targeting period (bottom) across participants, related to Figure 2, Figure 3, and Figure
 806 4.

	Map	Walking direction	Facing character identity	Rotation angle	Self-orientation
Map	1.0000	0.0057	0.0037	0.0057	0.0037
Walking direction	0.0057	1.0000	0.0057	0.0008	0.0057
Facing character identity	0.0037	0.0057	1.0000	0.0035	0.0307
Rotation angle	0.0057	0.0008	0.0035	1.0000	0.0035
Self-orientation	0.0037	0.0057	0.0307	0.0035	1.0000

807

	Map	Walking direction	Targeting character identity	Self-orientation	Allocentric position of target	Egocentric position of target	angle
Map	1.0000	0.0057	0.0037	0.0037	0.0037	0.0057	0.0037
Walking direction	0.0057	1.0000	0.0000	0.0057	0.0000	0.0008	0.0000
Targeting character identity	0.0037	0.0000	1.0000	0.0000	0.0307	0.0000	0.0000
Self-orientation	0.0037	0.0057	0.0000	1.0000	0.0418	0.0035	0.0418
Allocentric position of target	0.0037	0.0000	0.0307	0.0418	1.0000	0.0000	0.0418
Egocentric position of target	0.0037	0.0000	0.0000	0.0418	0.0418	0.0000	1.0000
angle	0.0057	0.0008	0.0000	0.0035	0.0000	1.0000	0.0000

808

809 Table S2 Post-scanning interview questions (1st column), Typical feedback summarized from
 810 participants (2nd column), Percentage of typical feedback for each question relative to all
 811 participants (3rd column).

812

Question	Typical feedback	Percentage
What did you direct your attention to during walking?	I focused on the heads of 3 characters to detect the head-nodding.	100%
Did you try to memorize the relative position of 3 characters? If yes, how did you memorize? If no, how did you solve the task?	No, I solved the task because I remembered the scene that I had looked at during the walking period.	79%
	Yes, I tried to memorize each scene like photograph during the walking period.	21%
Do you think whether you walked toward 3 characters in the same direction across all trials or in different directions?	I moved in same direction for all the time.	89%
	It might be different directions although I am not sure.	11%
Did you notice how many different spatial arrangements of 3 characters were presented during the task? If yes, answer the number of spatial arrangements.	No, I did not notice the number of arrangements.	100%
Did you feel as your body rotated or as a spatial environment rotated around you when you looked at the facing character? Do you think whether or not the angles differed across trials?	It was my body rotating, I felt the difference in rotation angle across trials.	84%
	It was my body rotating, I did not notice the difference in the rotation angle.	16%
What did you think about when you looked at the facing-character?	I recalled the relative position of the three characters during walking, and my position and orientation after walking.	100%
	I imagined the three human characters' directions relative to me.	79%
What did you think about when you looked at the targeting character?	I first recalled the position of three human characters relative to me. I confirmed my facing direction around them, and then I chose the target location.	100%
	I recalled what I experienced during walking period.	21%

813

814 **Reference**

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