

Paper

Spelke, E., Vishton, P., Von Hofsten, C. "Object Perception, Object-directed Action, and Physical Knowledge in Infancy," Chapter 10 in *Neural and Psychological Development*.
WRT: 1.25 hours

Assignment

Imagine that you are a graduate student working in an Artificial Intelligence Laboratory. Your research supervisor says, roughly, "I would like you to go to this conference on infant perception to see what this stuff is all about. Put together a little trip report for me when you get back." Because the conference is to be held in Sveti Stefan, a beautiful medieval town, converted into a resort, on the Adriatic Sea, you instantly agree.

Unfortunately, because of the time difference and the 9:30 am start time, you sleep through all the sessions.

Fortunately, the conference organizers have prepared a proceedings. Also, just after the conference concludes, you meet some attendees in a bistro, who tell you that the only talk worth going to was the one delivered by Spelke, and that talk was highly congruent with the material in her paper. You are saved.

- Produce the requested trip report. Start with something like "The conference involved little of interest to people working in Artificial Intelligence, except for the paper presented by Spelke..." Use either a slide show or ordinary prose format, whichever you like. Include salient ideas and your personal assessment overall.
- In your report, be sure to define in a few words Spelke's principles of cohesion, continuity, and contact.
- Also, identify the big surprise in Spelke's descriptions of infant expertise.
- Also, recall in your report that Sajit Rao asserts that he was much inspired and guided by Spelke's work. Speculate on how that inspiration and guidance might have shaped what Rao actually did.

When you think you are finished, go back over your report to be sure that you have provided a few interesting, specific details.