

Do socioeconomic, biological, and parenting factors contribute to individual differences in infant motor development?

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Research Aims

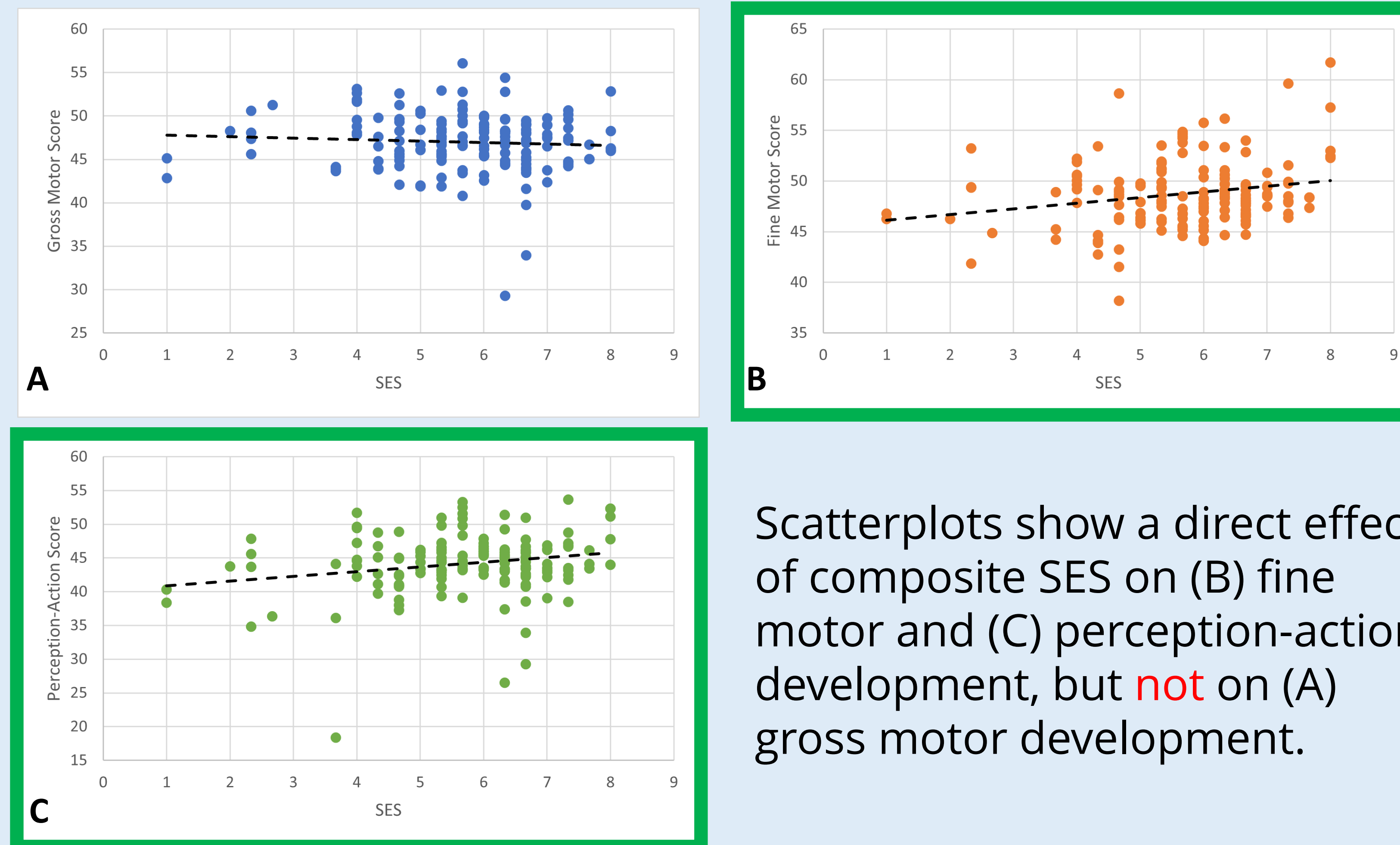
- Use a broad parent-report measure of infant motor development to examine sources of individual differences
 - Early Motor Questionnaire (EMQ)
- Examine impact of:
 - Socioeconomic status
 - Gestational age
 - Parenting factors
- Closer look at components contributing to socioeconomic status
 - Education vs. income

Method

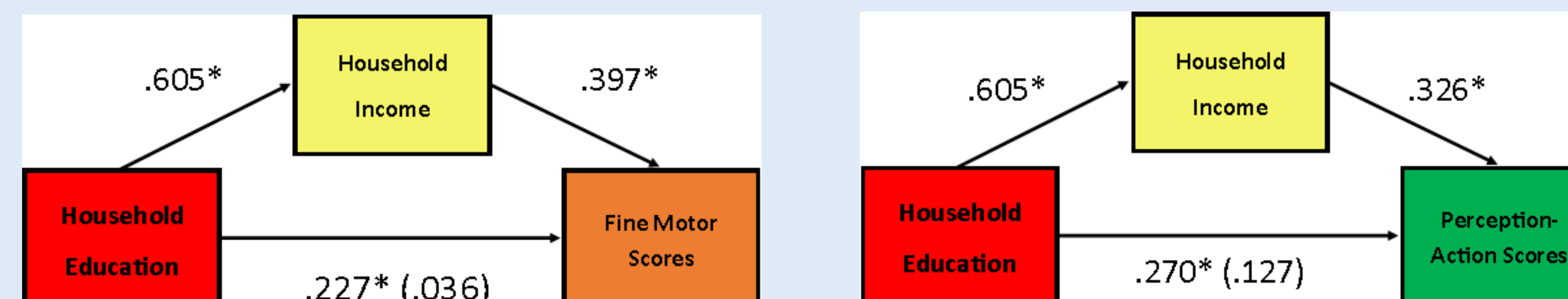
- 99 infants ages 1.1 – 25.5 months (50.5% female) and their caregivers
 - Total of 158 survey responses
- Parent-completed EMQ with 3 sub scales:
 - Gross motor (GM)
 - Fine motor (FM)
 - Perception-action (PA) development.
- Predictors examined:
 - Household education and income (SES)
 - Gestational age
 - Parent perceptions

Individual differences in motor development may be explained by:

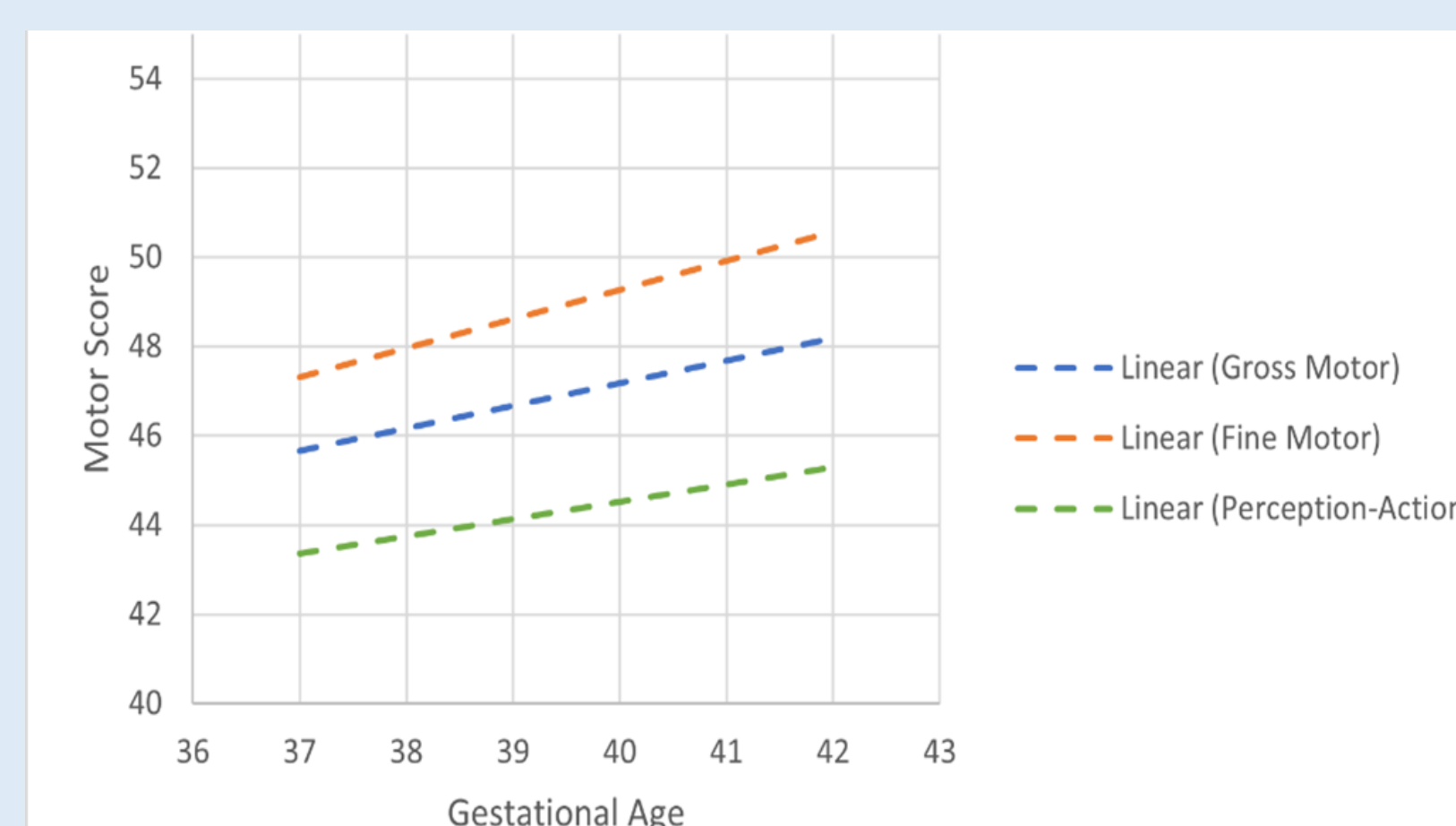
1) SES for fine motor and perception-action skills



...but income mediates the effect of education



2) Gestational age for gross and fine motor skills



3) No observed influence of parent perceptions

Background

- Socioeconomic, biological, and parenting factors have been identified as possible predictors of early motor development₁
- Previous research has identified **effects of socioeconomic factors** on specific motor skills₂ but has **not** explored effects on **broader motor domains**.
- Research on effects of biological factors across motor domains have reported **contradictory results**₃
- The current study explores effects of **SES, gestational age, and parenting factors on motor development in a larger sample of infants**.

Conclusions

- A child's home environment and their gestational age **shape development differently** depending on the motor domain being examined
- Impact of parenting experiences may be limited to certain period of development and the current study was too broad to find those specific periods
- Researchers, practitioners, and parents should **avoid taking a one-size-fits-all approach** to motor development

References

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