• Discovered in monkeys in 1992 and studied ever since then.
• They discharge both when the animal performs an action (grasps an object) and sees another individual make a similar action (monkey or human).
• Each time a individual sees action by another individual, neurons that are activated when the same action is executed by himself are firing.

• Thus the individual has knowledge of the other’s action from his own activity.
Various theory of Origin of Mirror Neurons
Genetic Account

• The properties are due to heritable genetic factors

• The genetic predisposition to develop Mirror neuron evolved because they facilitate action understanding
A product of associative learning

• Cardinal matching properties of MN are a product of domain-general processes of associative learning.
• The genetic predisposition to develop Mirror neuron evolved because they facilitate action understanding
Four kinds of evidences to deciding between associative and genetic account.