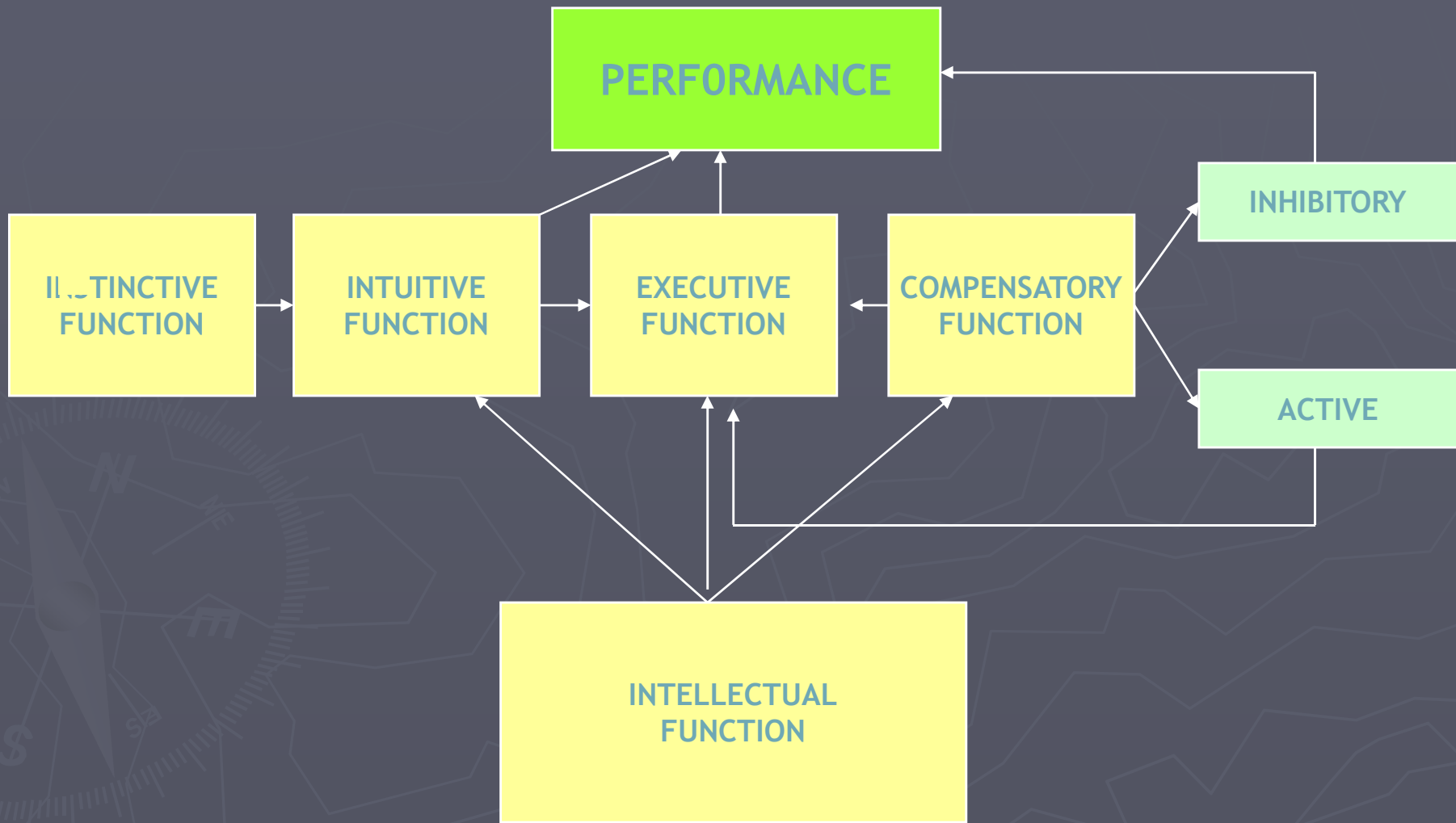


Theory of a Different Kind of Mind: Understanding Autistic Thinking

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A FIVE FUNCTION MODEL OF THE PERFORMANCE OF INDIVIDUALS ON THE AUTISTIC SPECTRUM



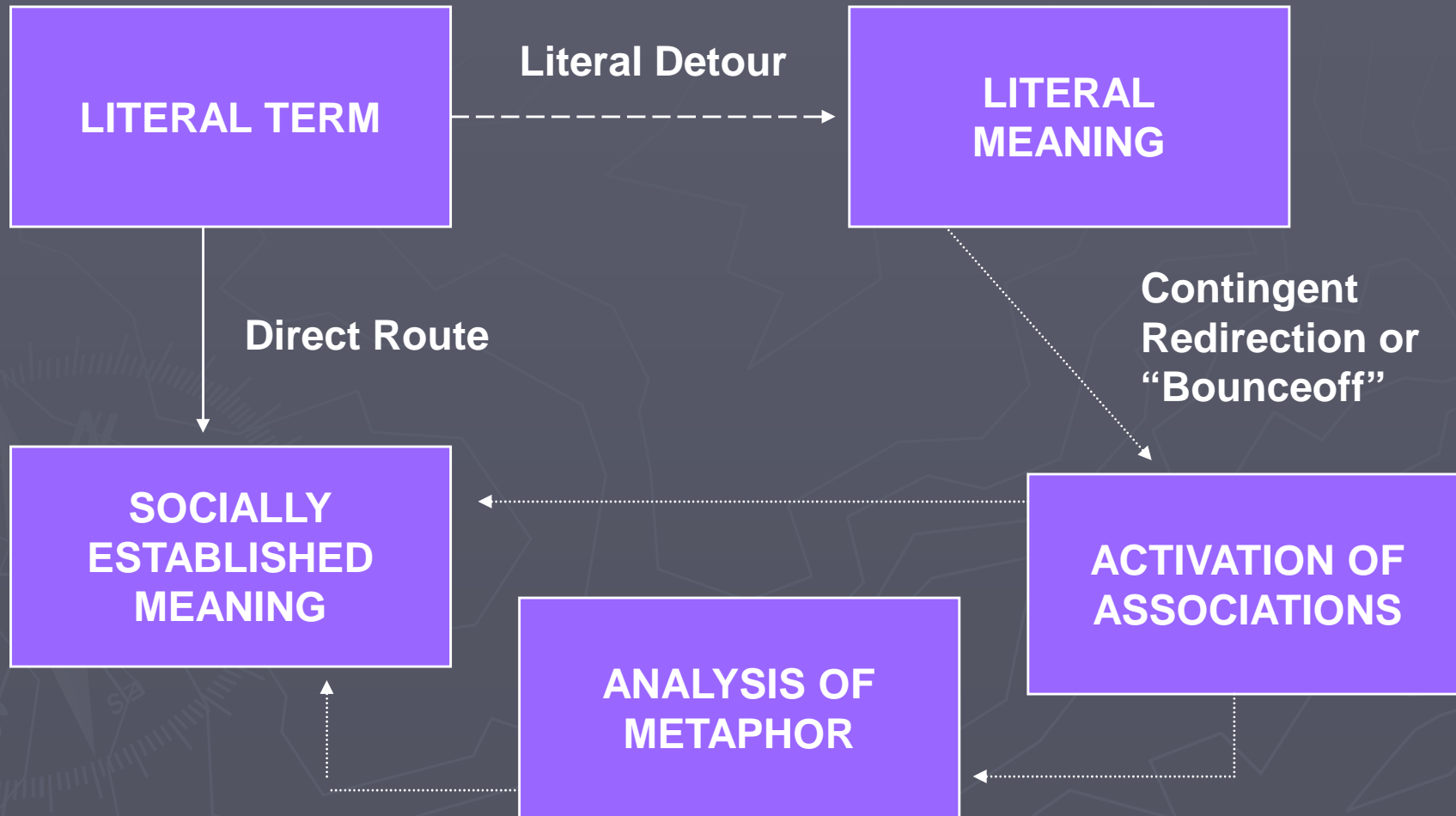
Literal and Non-literal interpretations

- ▶ Literal interpretations
- ▶ Metaphors and the literal detour
- ▶ Exaggerations
- ▶ Hyperbole
- ▶ Paradoxes

Difficulties in Multi-tasking

- ▶ Individual variations in the general population
- ▶ Situational influences in general population

The Literal Detour



Visualization

- ▶ Tendency toward visual *or* verbal mode
- ▶ “Digital” vs. “spatial” visualization
- ▶ Visualization of metaphors (e.g., “In the ball park.” → Worry about a spectator getting hit with the ball).

Traditional Theory of Mind: Perceived Intentions of Others

- ▶ Types of “mind reading”
 - Awareness of different information
 - Awareness of different values and goals
 - Perception of changes in others’ mind
- ▶ Learning theory of mind in tests vs. spontaneous “field” performance
- ▶ Acceptability of other people’s values

Spontaneous Awareness vs. Acceptability of Others' Thoughts and Values

Awareness

- Others understood but not receptive to their ideas

- Others understood and receptive to their ideas

- Others not understood and not receptive to their ideas

- Others not understood but receptive to their ideas

Acceptability

Change

▶ Dislike of change

- Violation of expectations
- Difficulty understanding new environment
- Perceived loss of control
- Strong preference for established tastes

Transitions

- ▶ Components (e.g., Iawata 2004)
 - Cessation of current task
 - Change of location
 - Initiation of new task
- ▶ Felt control
- ▶ Concentration

Rules

- ▶ Importance of clear standards rather than “spirit” of the law
- ▶ Like of rules but
 - Concern about “new” or “unknown” rules
 - Rules depending on “discretion” may result in distress due to unpredictable outcome
- ▶ Unjust rules
- ▶ “Unauthorized leadership”

Empathy

- ▶ Feeling of concern for others vs. understanding of exact emotions experienced
- ▶ The “Golden Rule” and theory of mind
- ▶ Social justice