

Improved emotion recognition in speech by autistics: design, validation, and implementation of acoustically modulated prosodies

By

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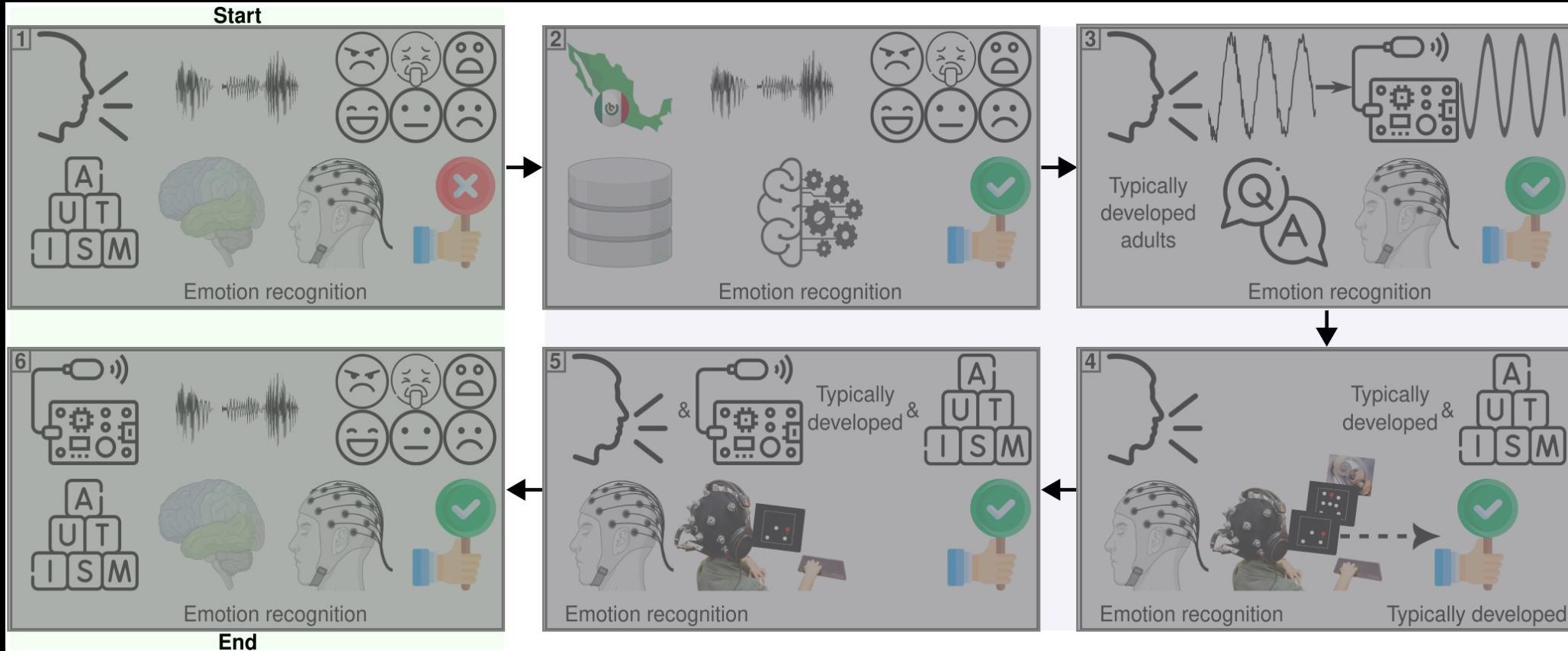
Rigoberto Martínez Méndez, PhD



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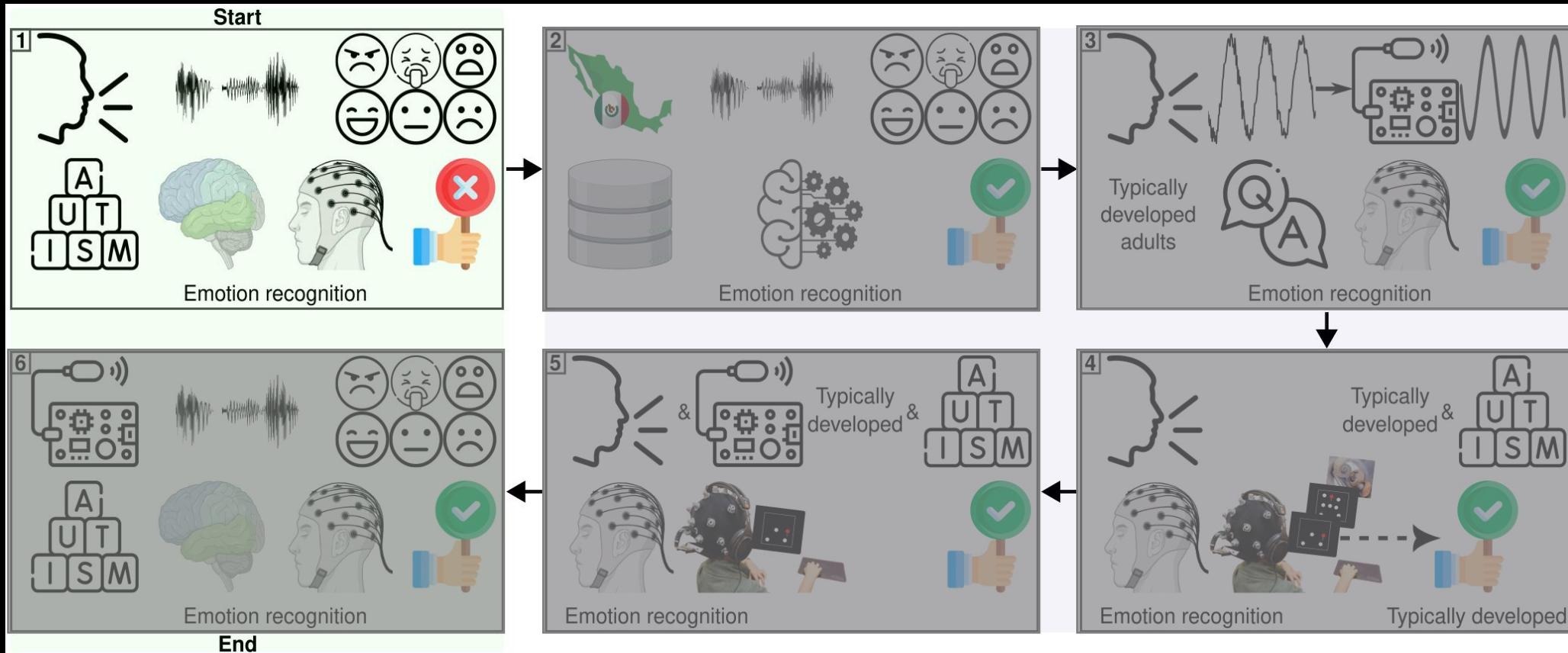
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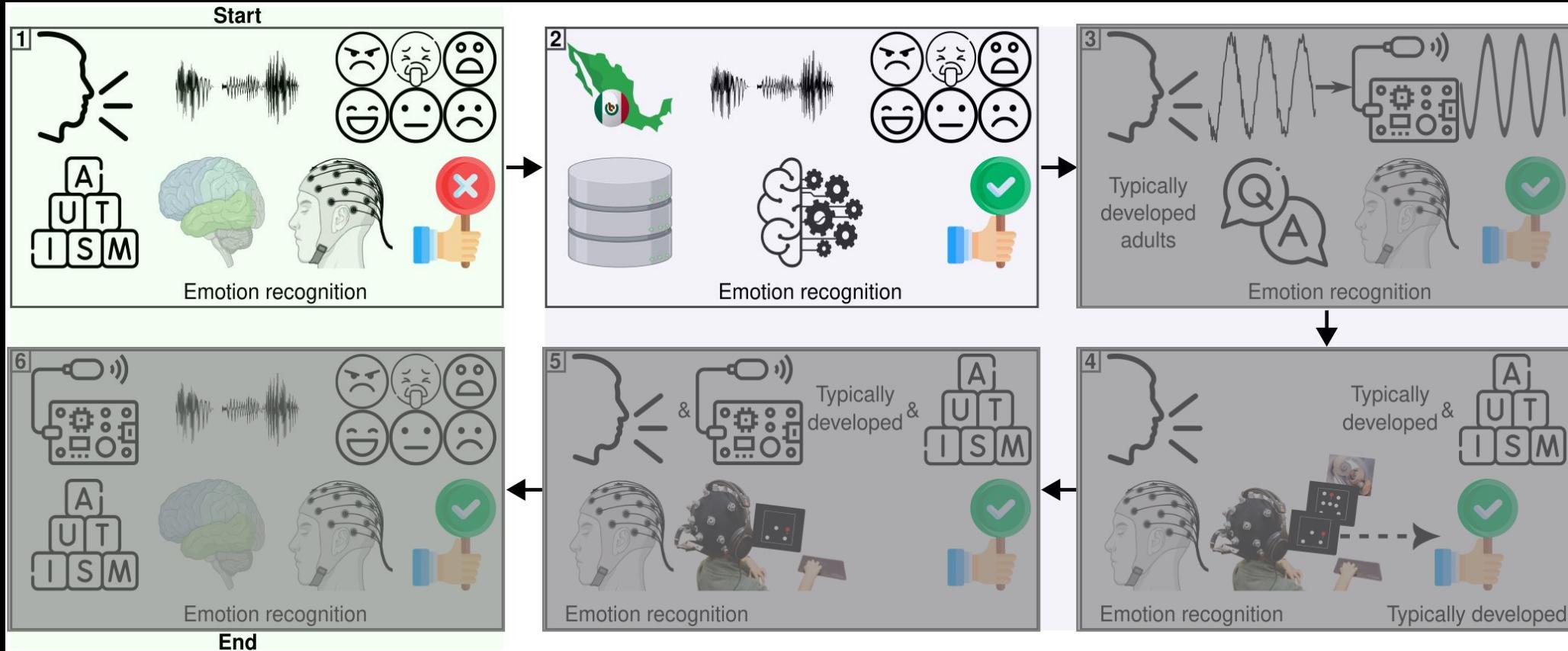
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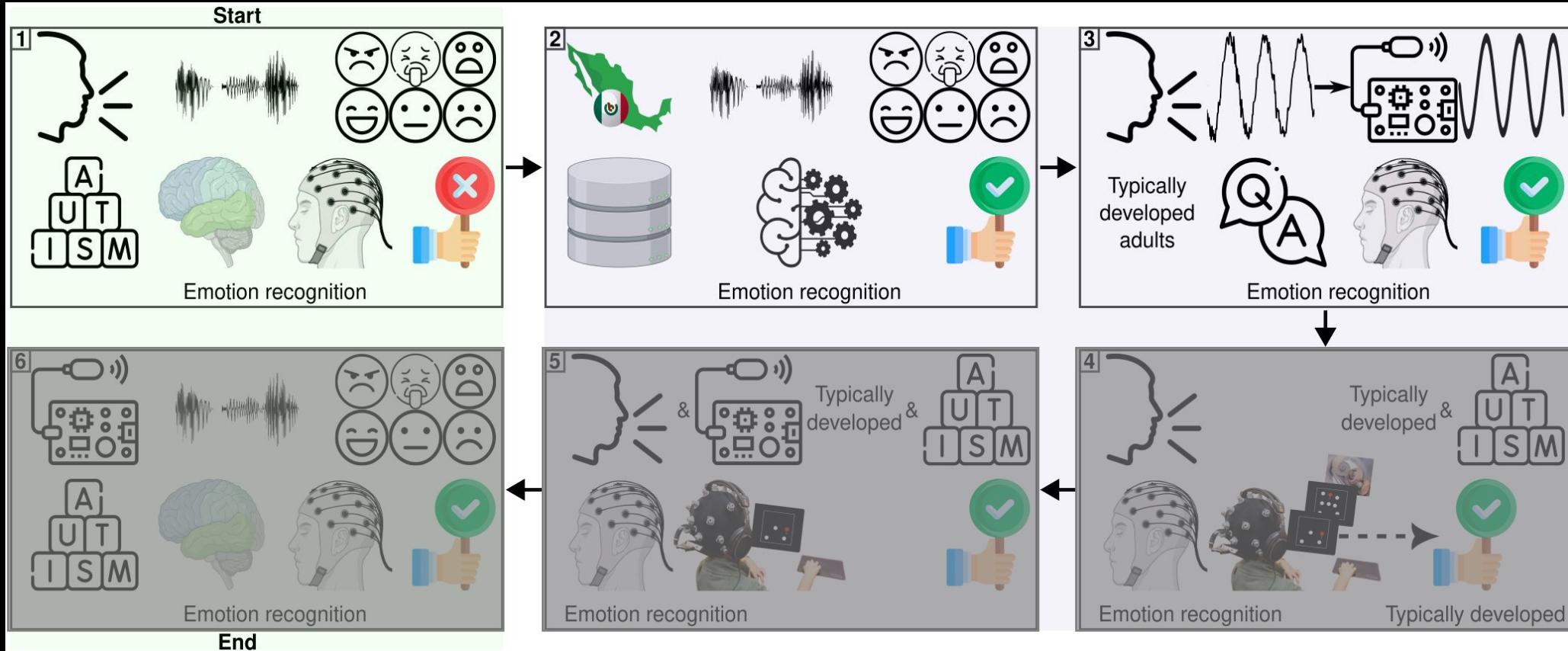
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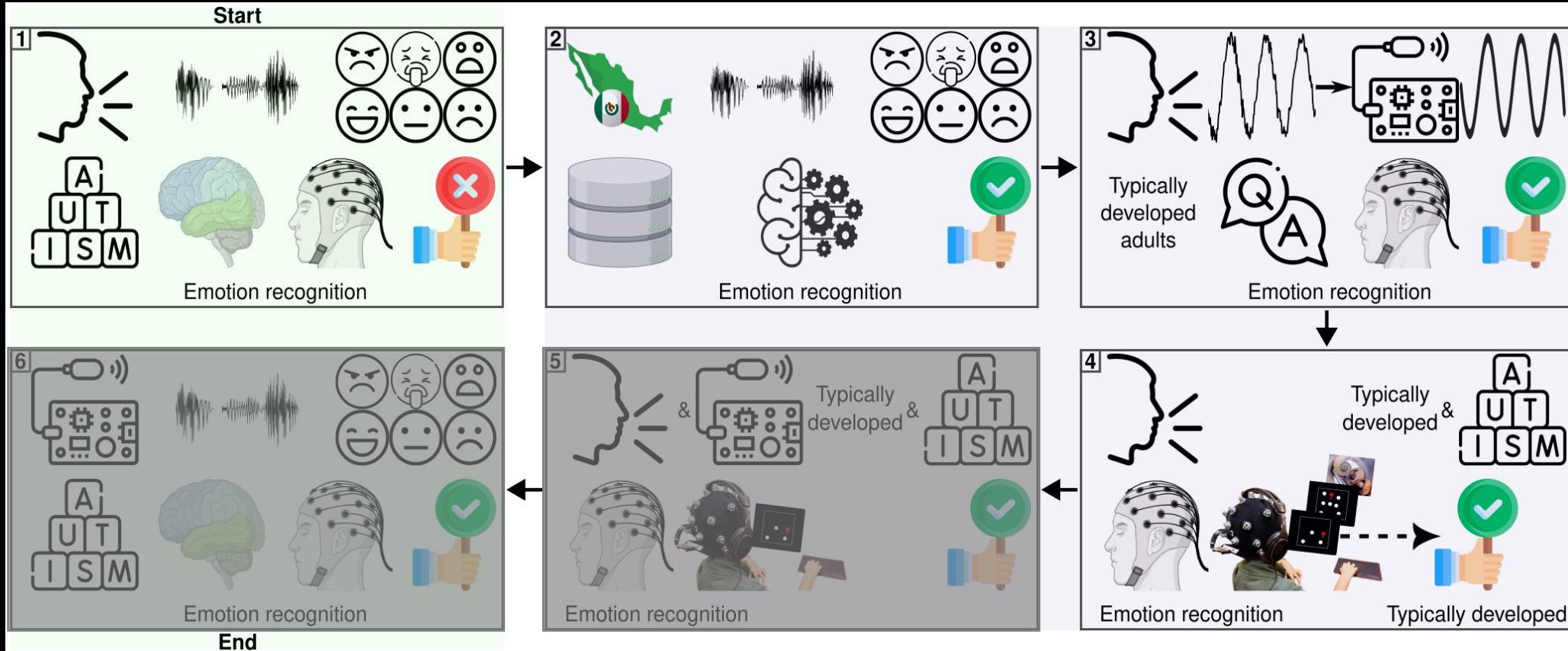
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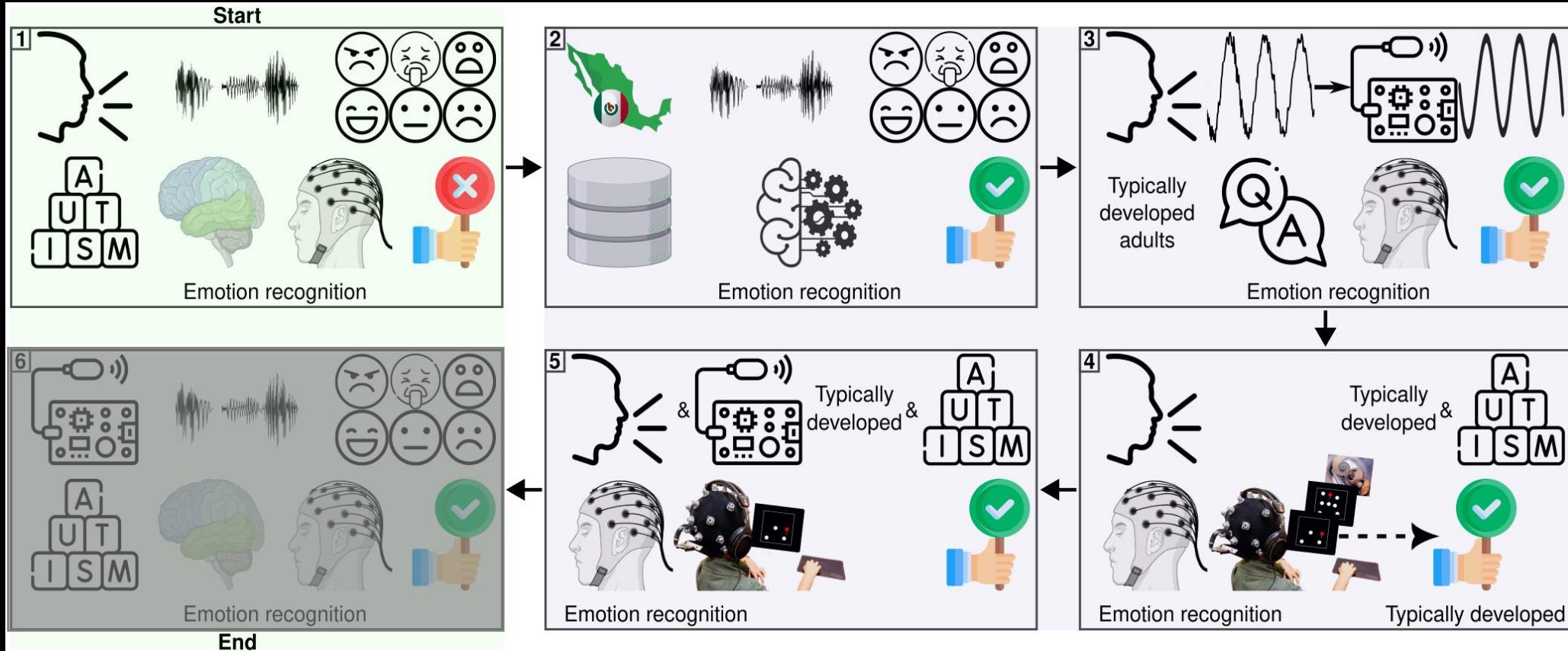
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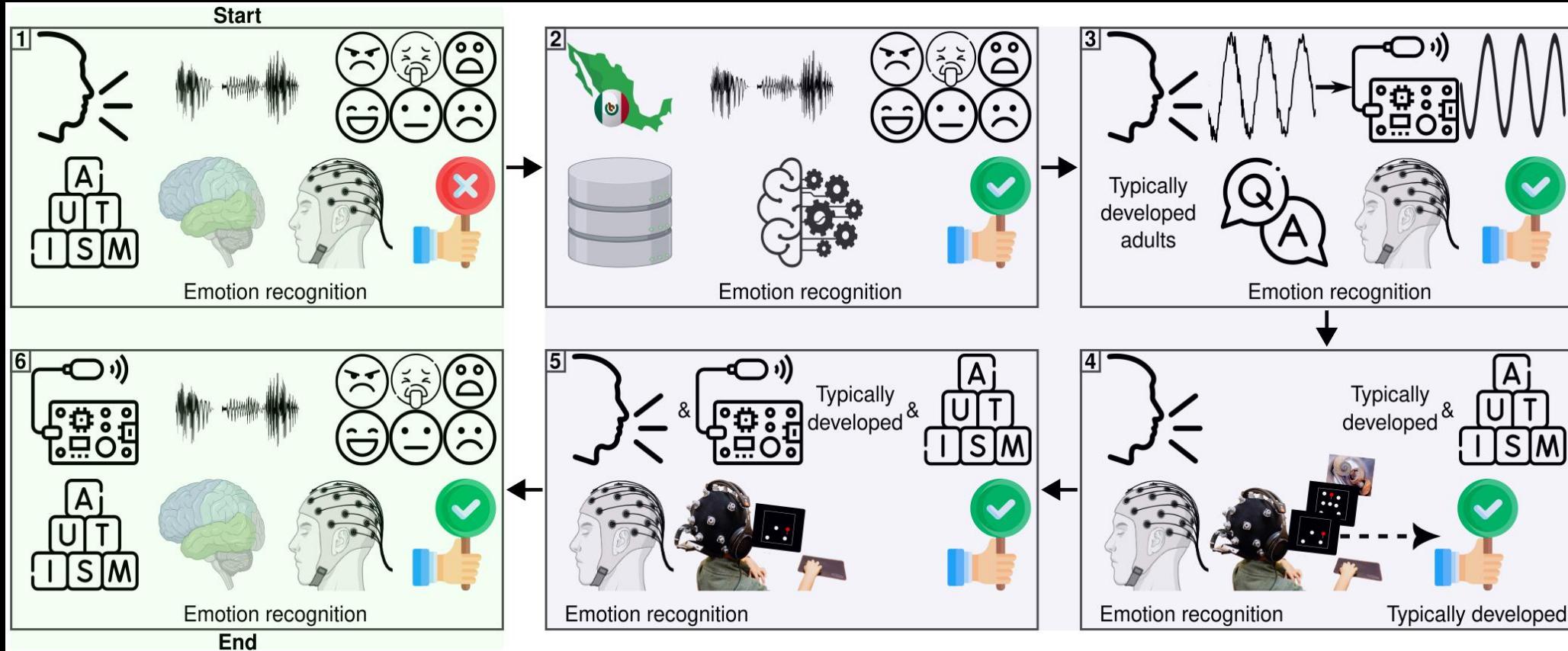
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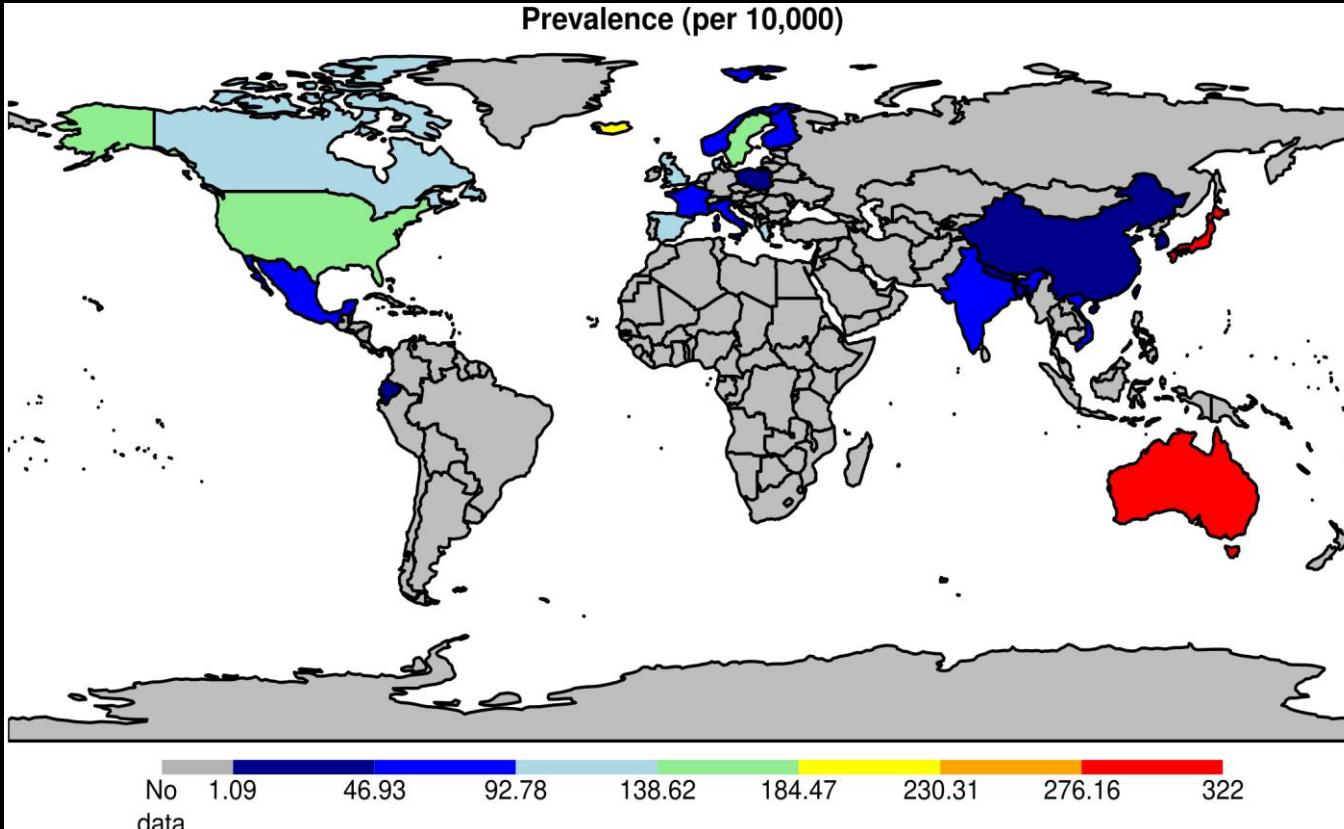
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Adaptation of emotional prosodies to Mexico



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Bangla Greek Sp (ES) En (CA)

Lack of adaptation and validation to **culture**:

- Screening and diagnostic
- Interventions

Unreliability and inefficiency

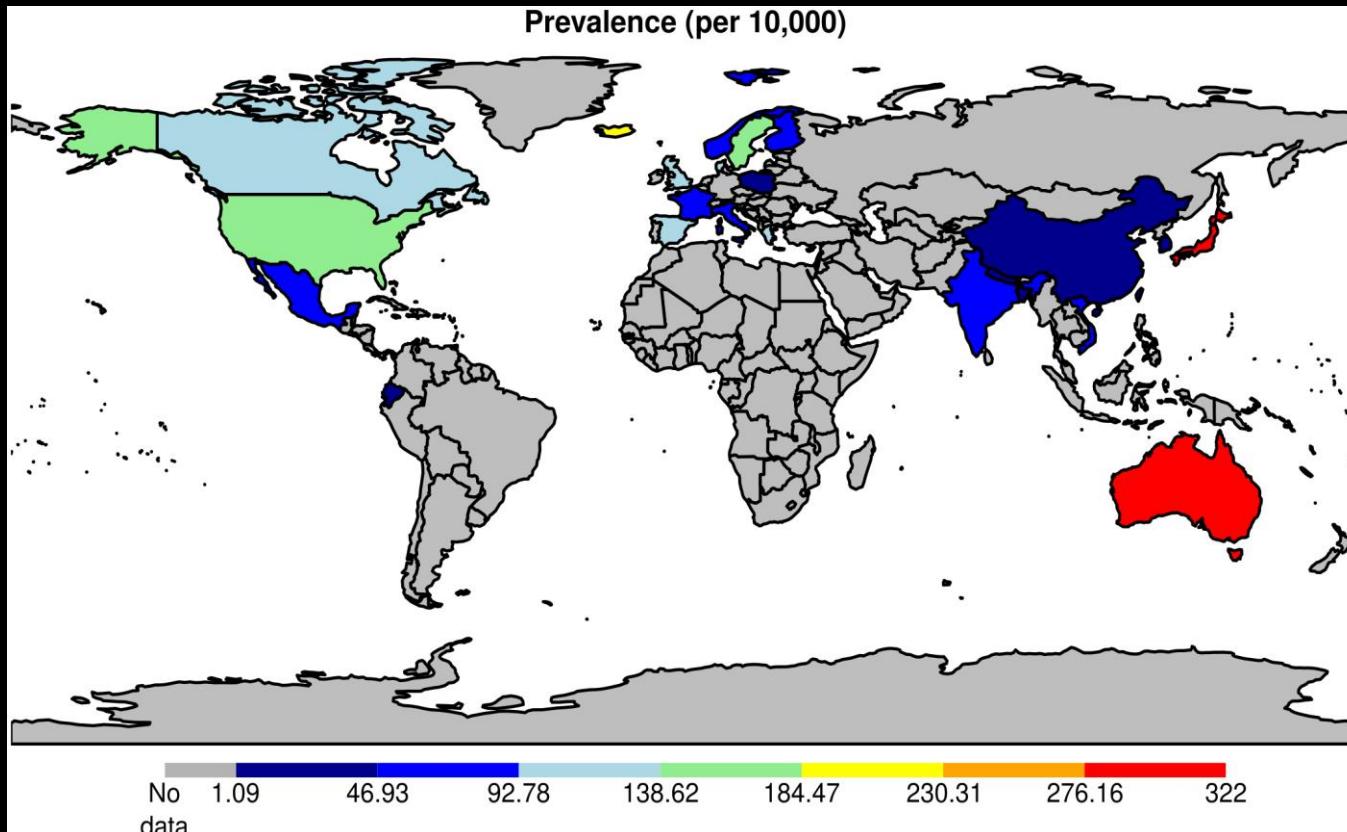
We created and validated materials adapted to Mexico

✓ **Mexican Emotional Speech Database (MESD)**

Adaptation of emotional prosodies to Mexico



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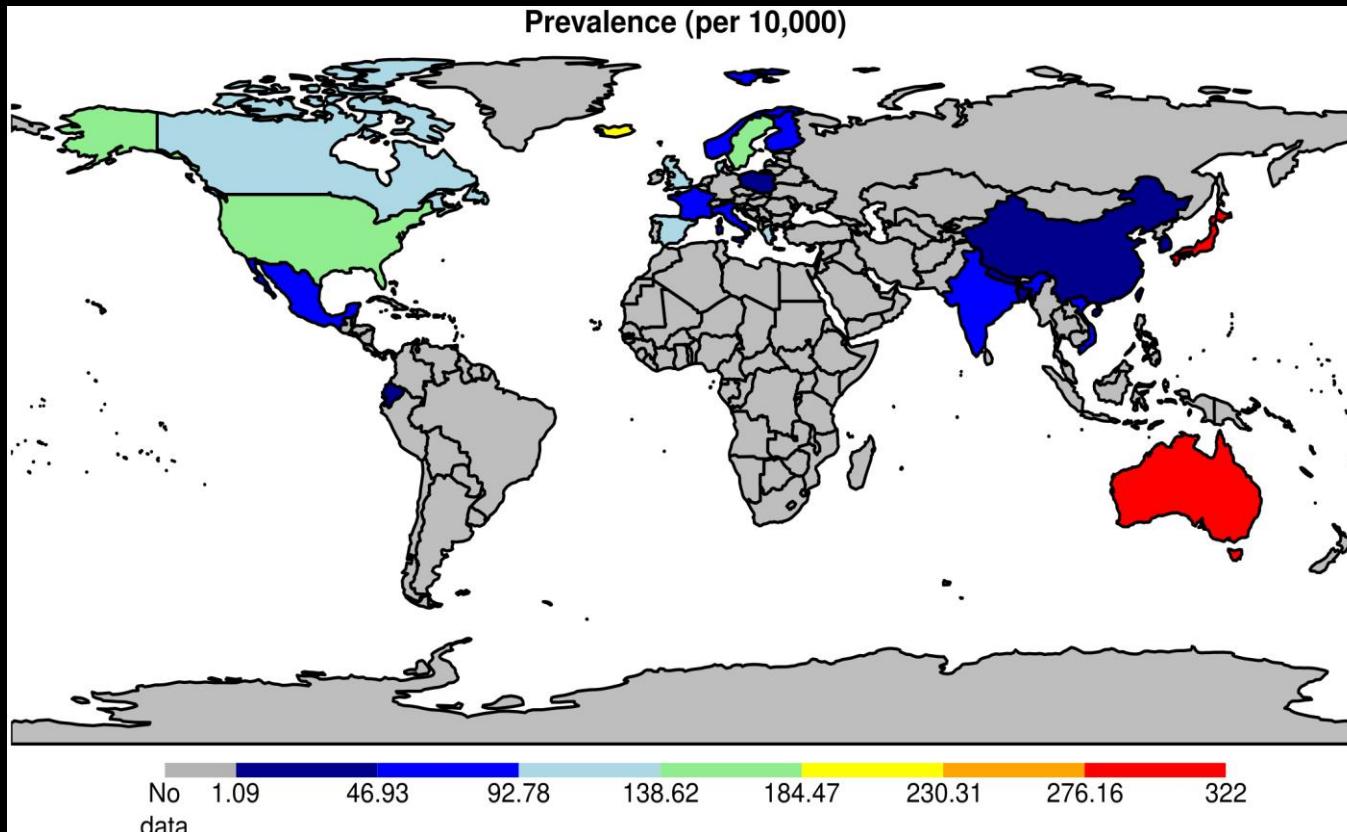
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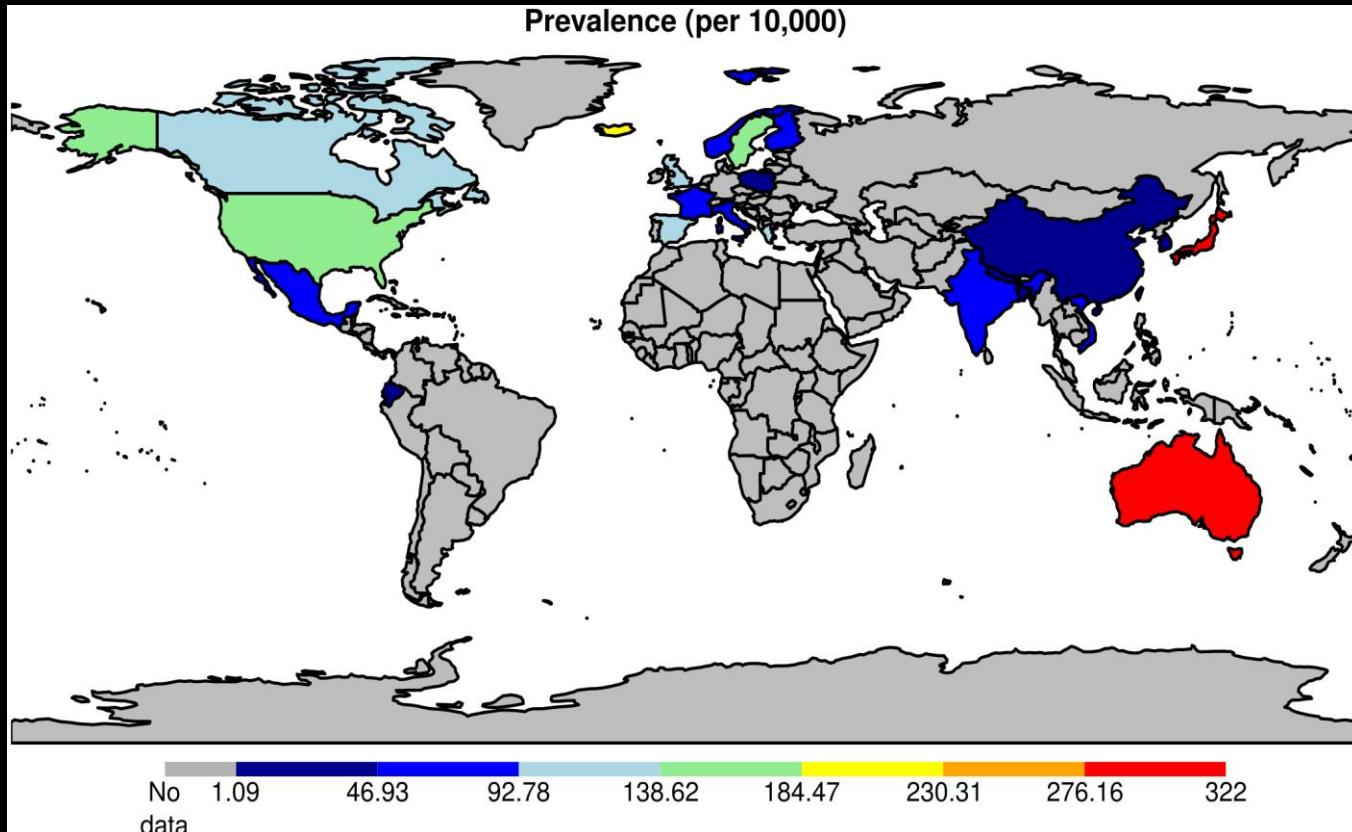
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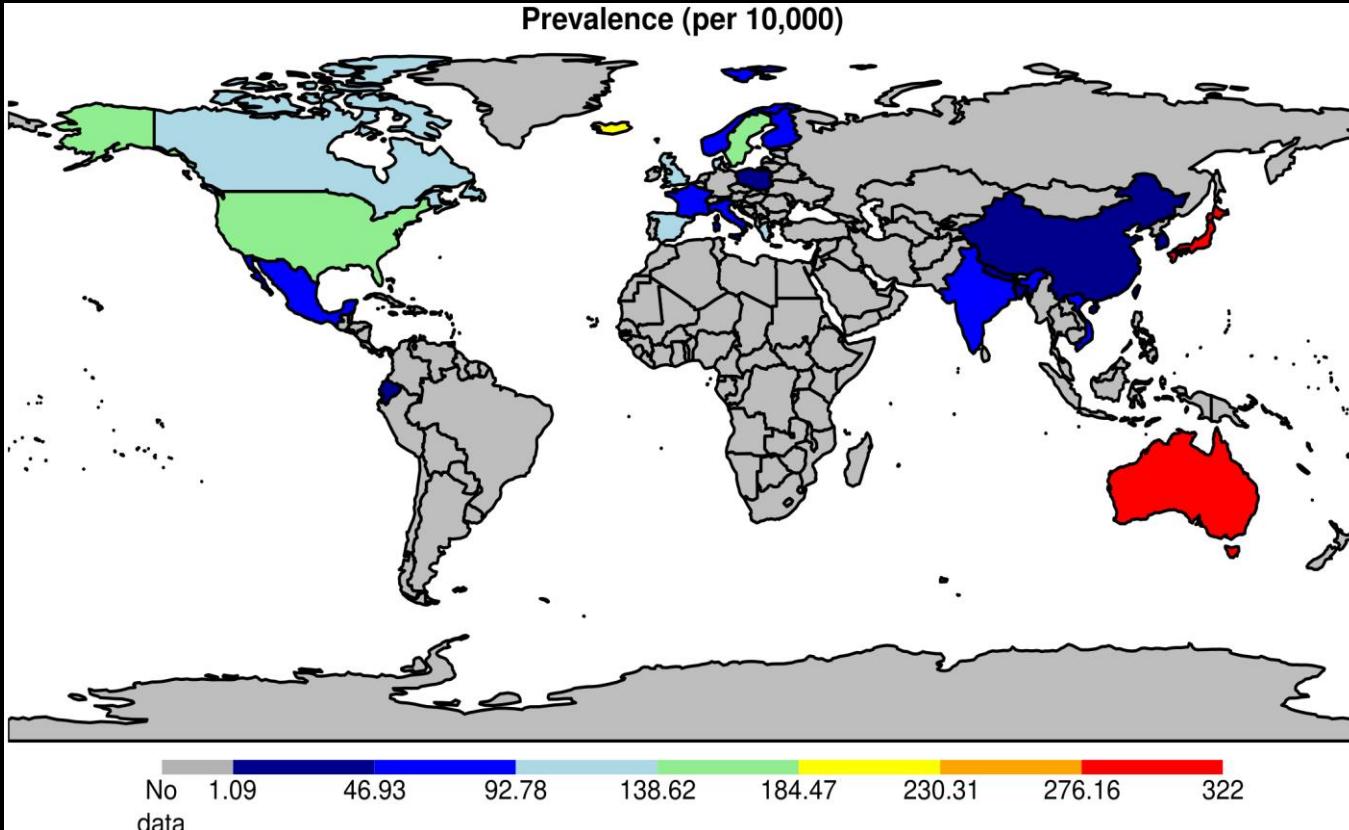
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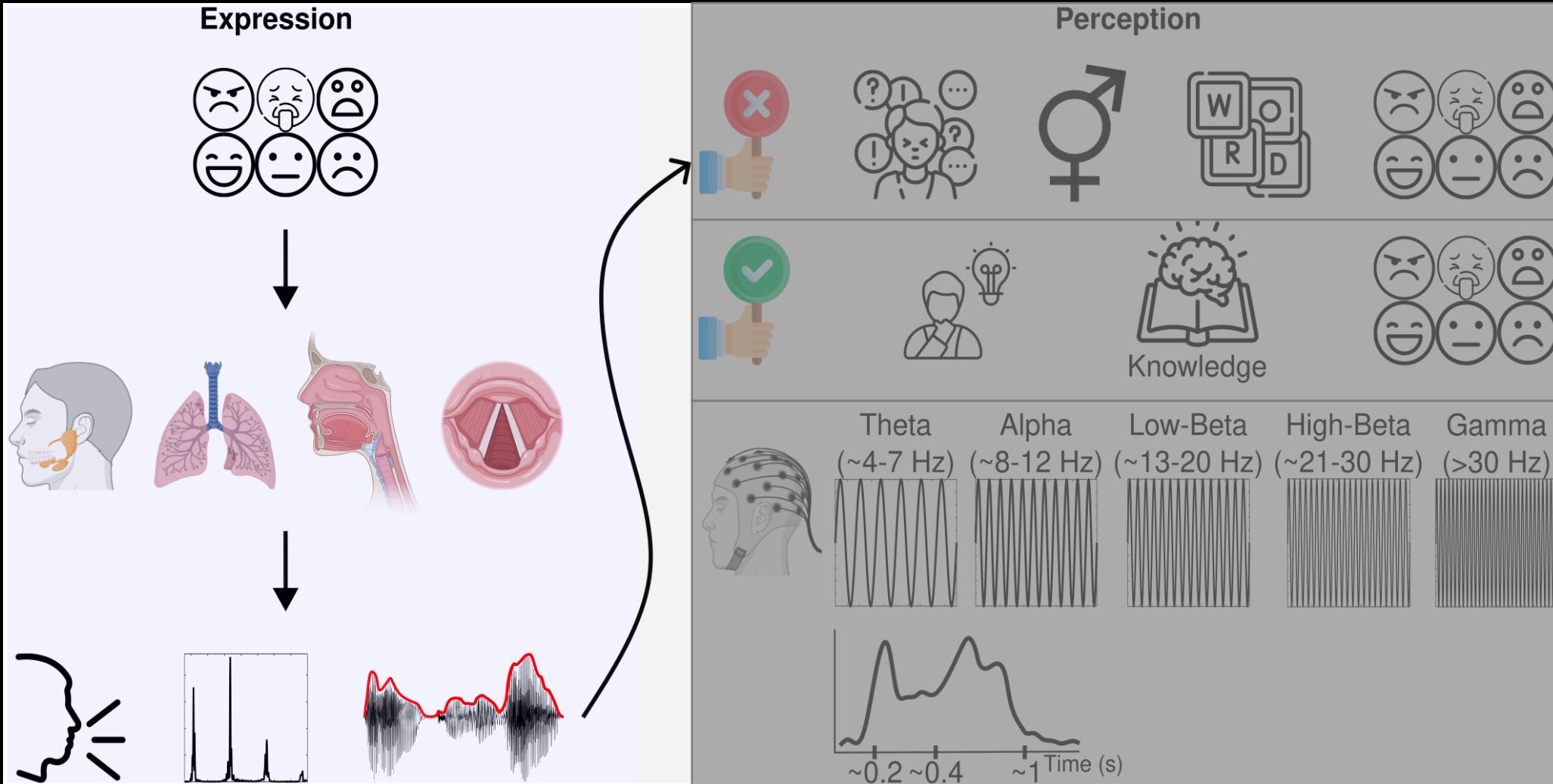
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Emotional prosodies: expression and perception



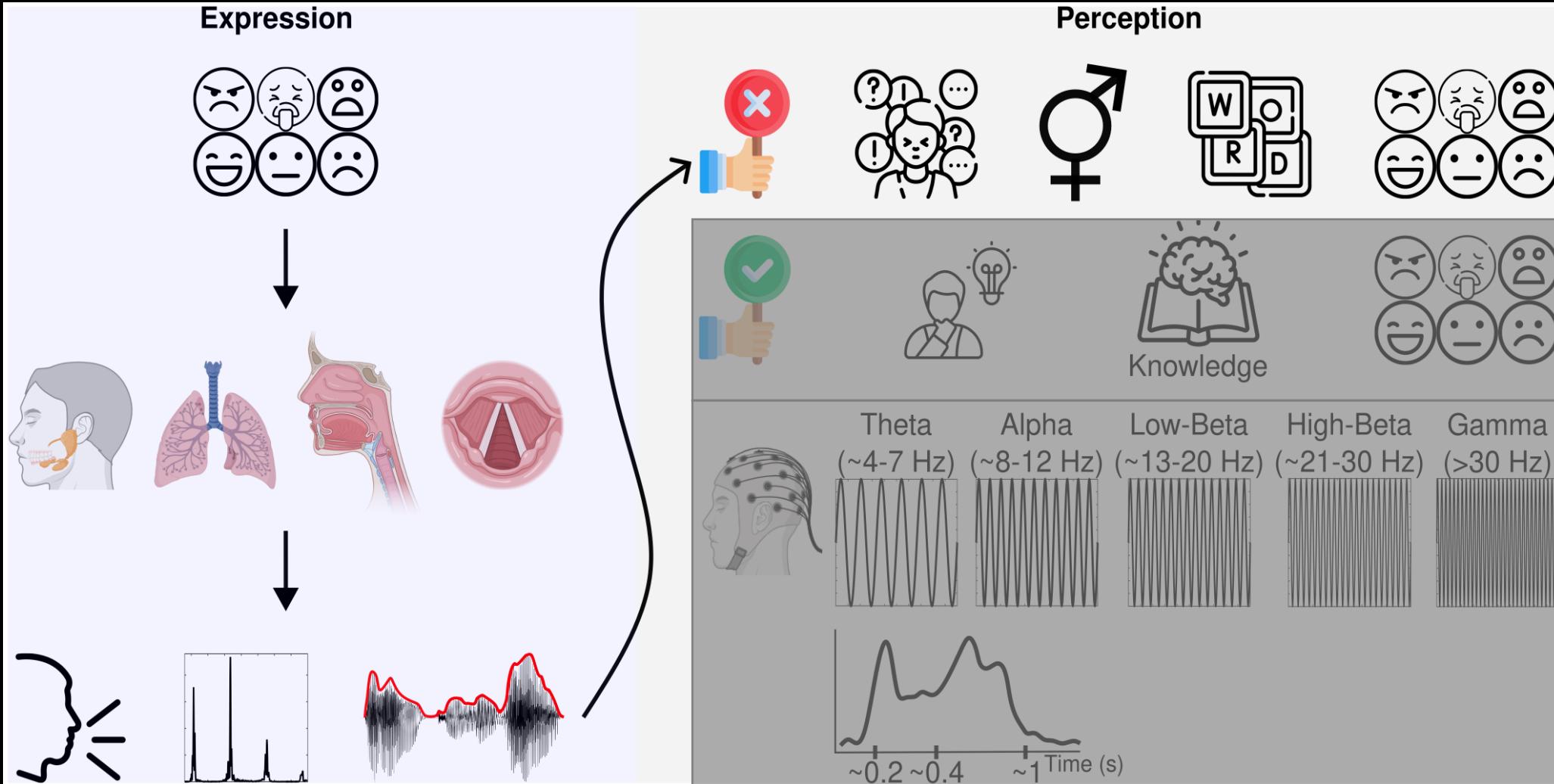
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Emotional prosodies: expression and perception



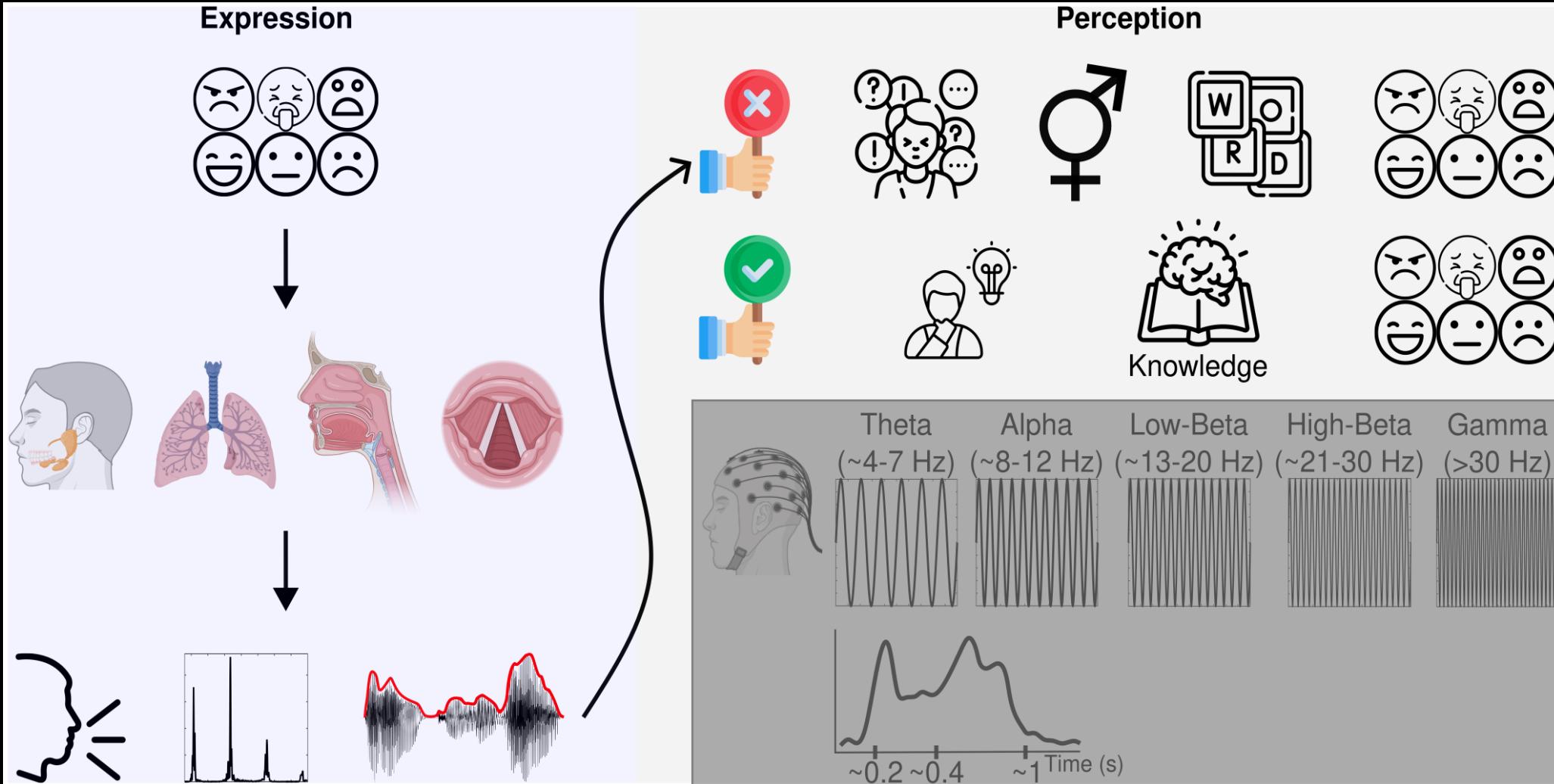
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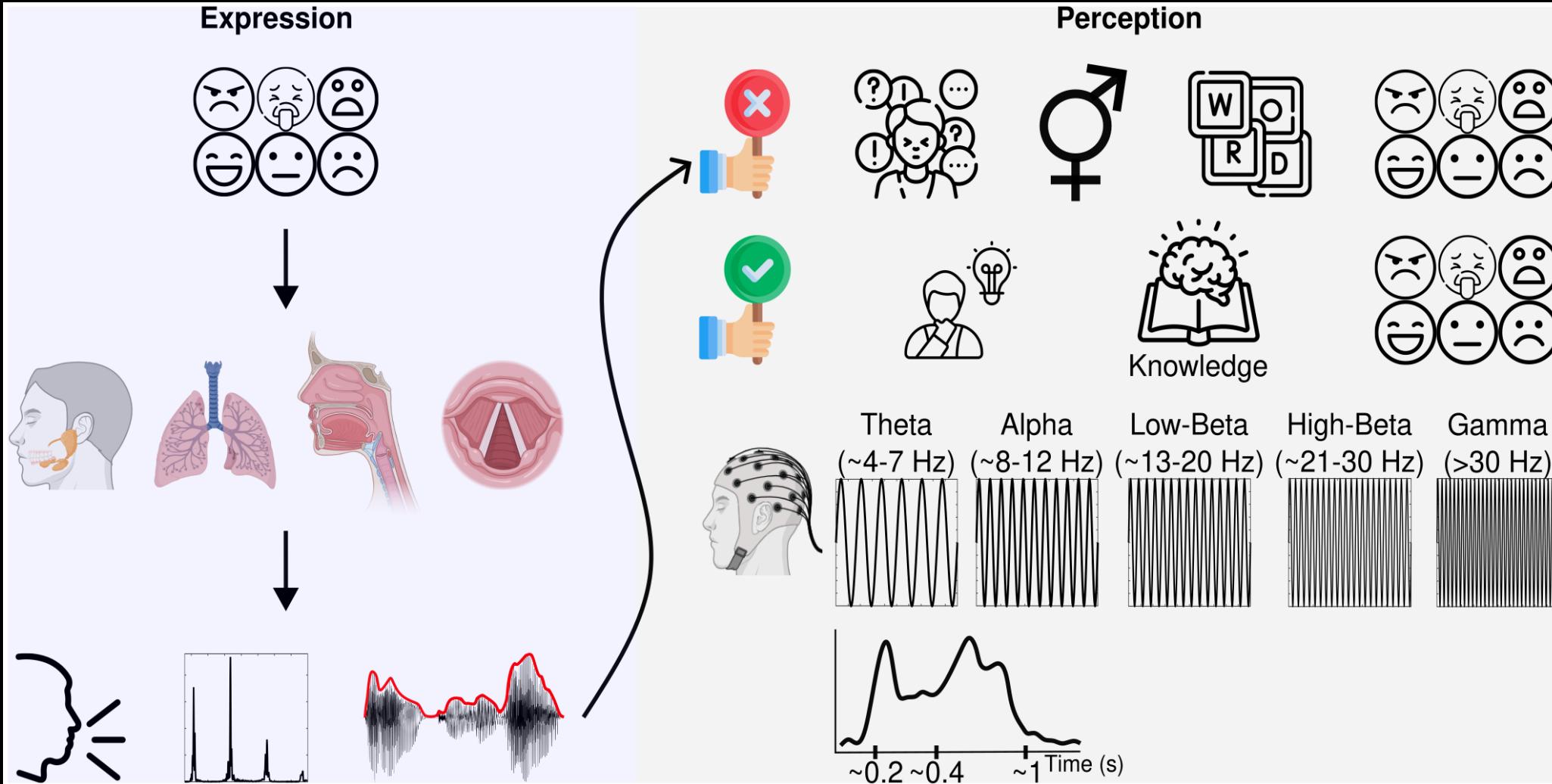
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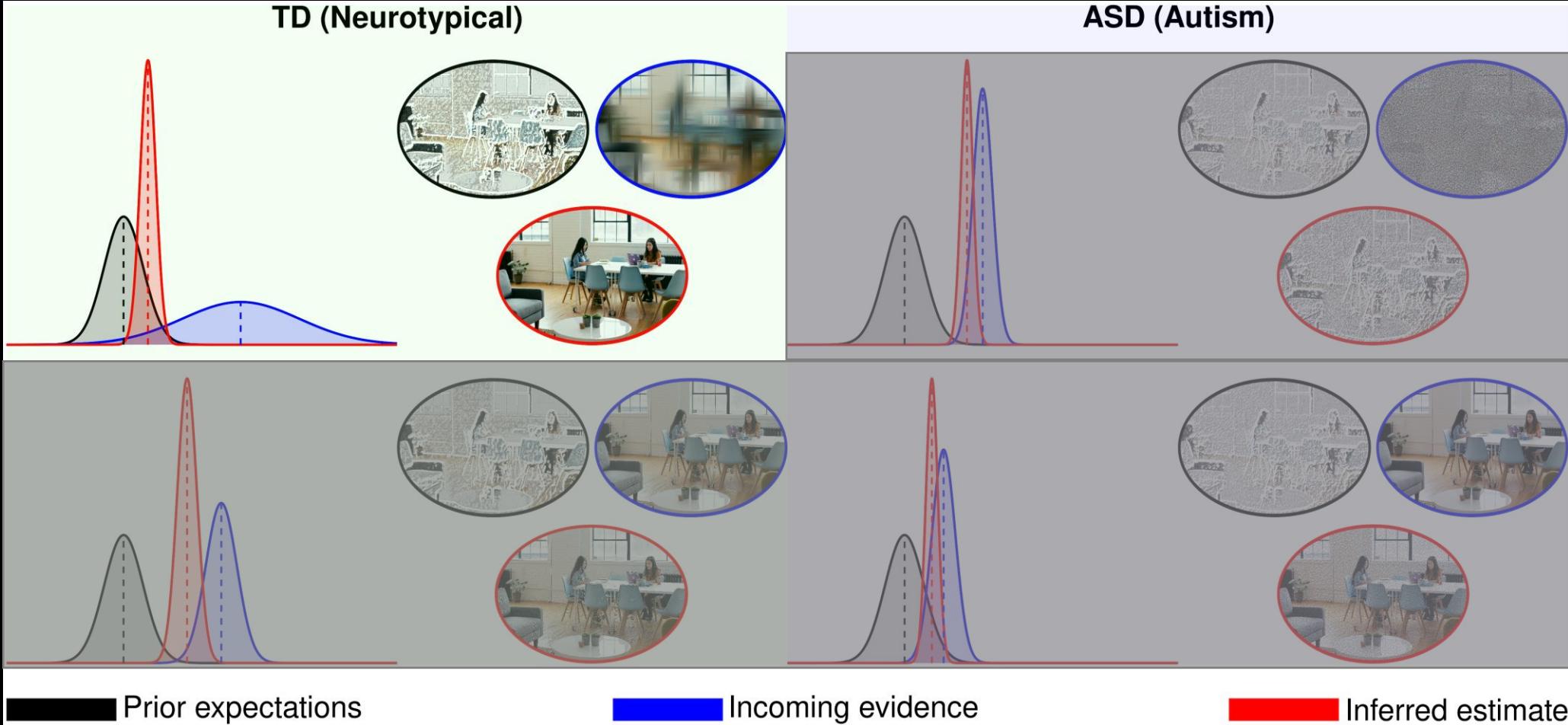
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ASD: unbalanced precision-weighting



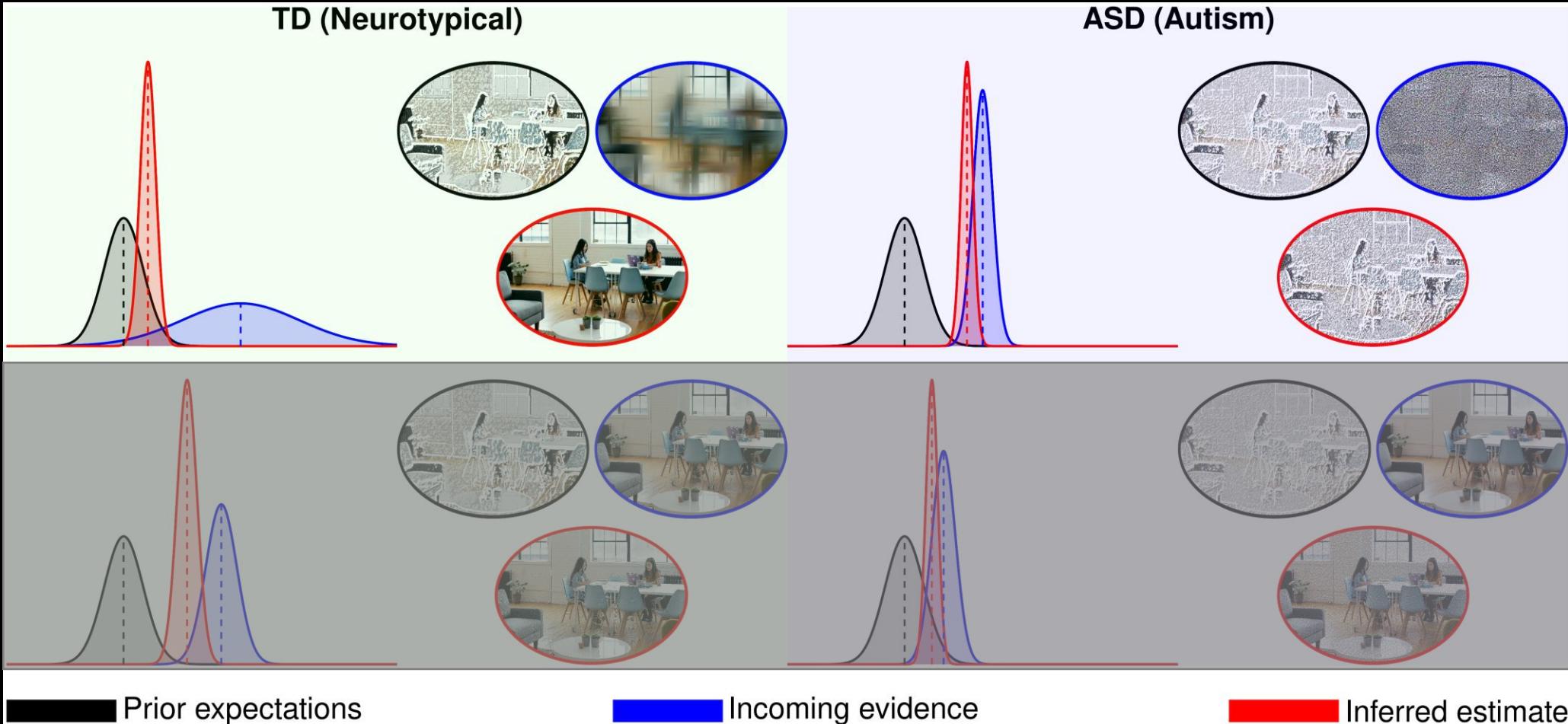
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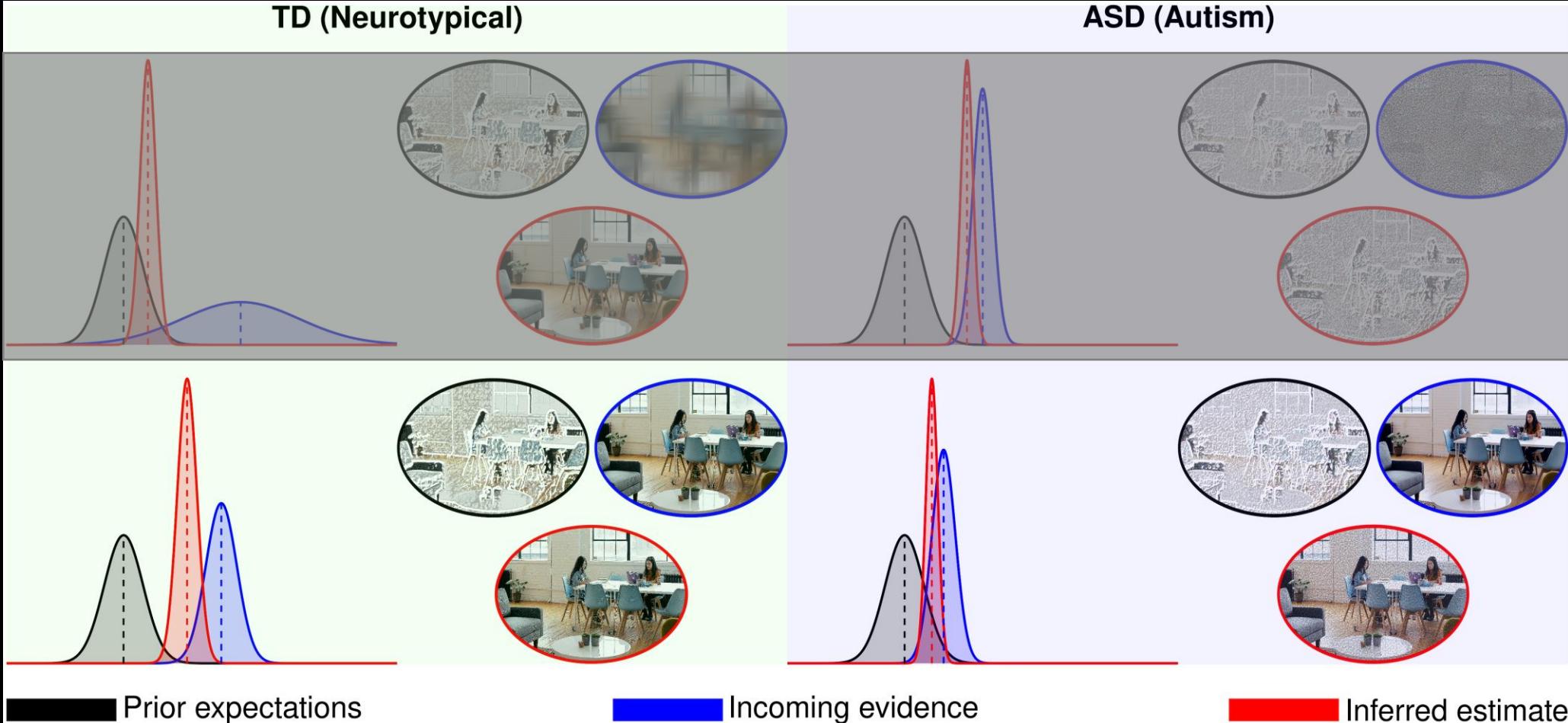
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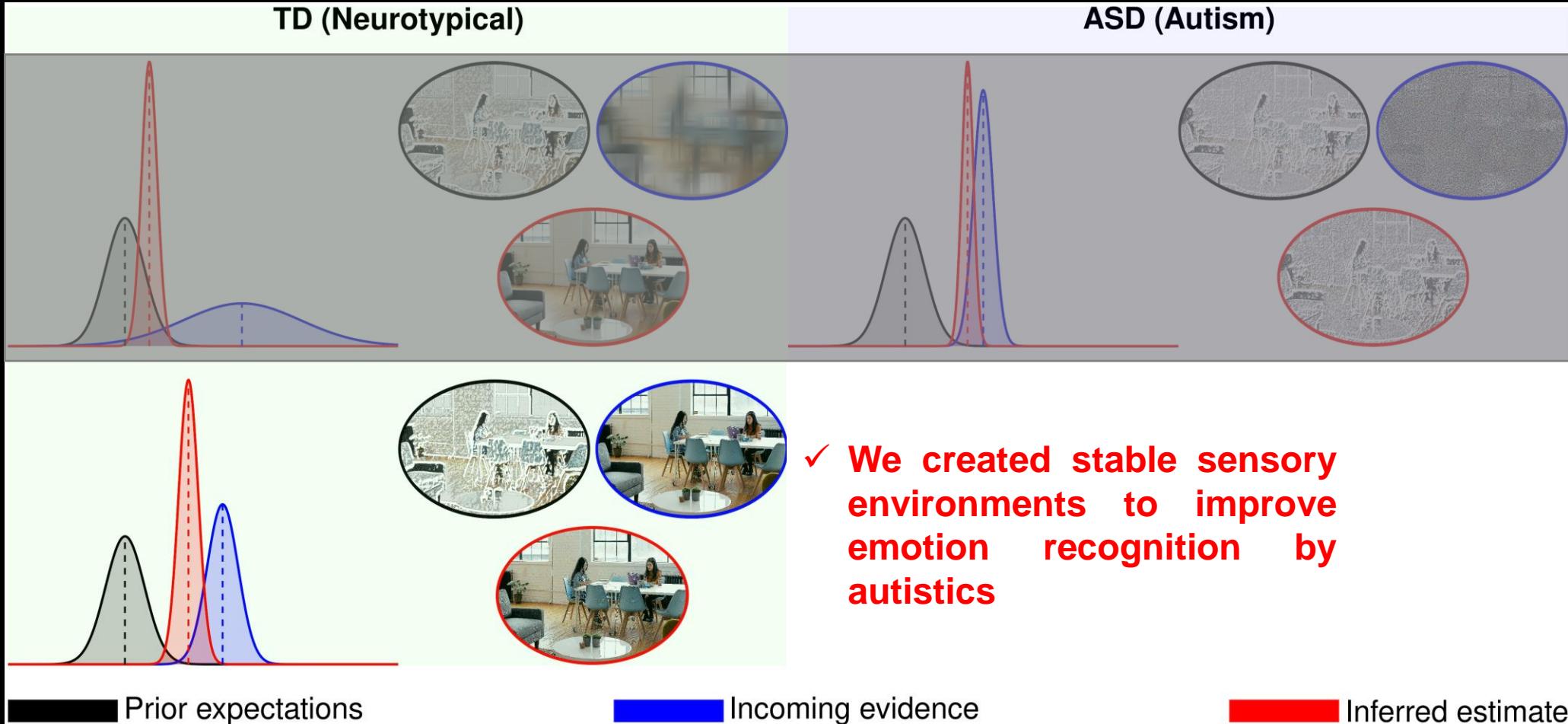
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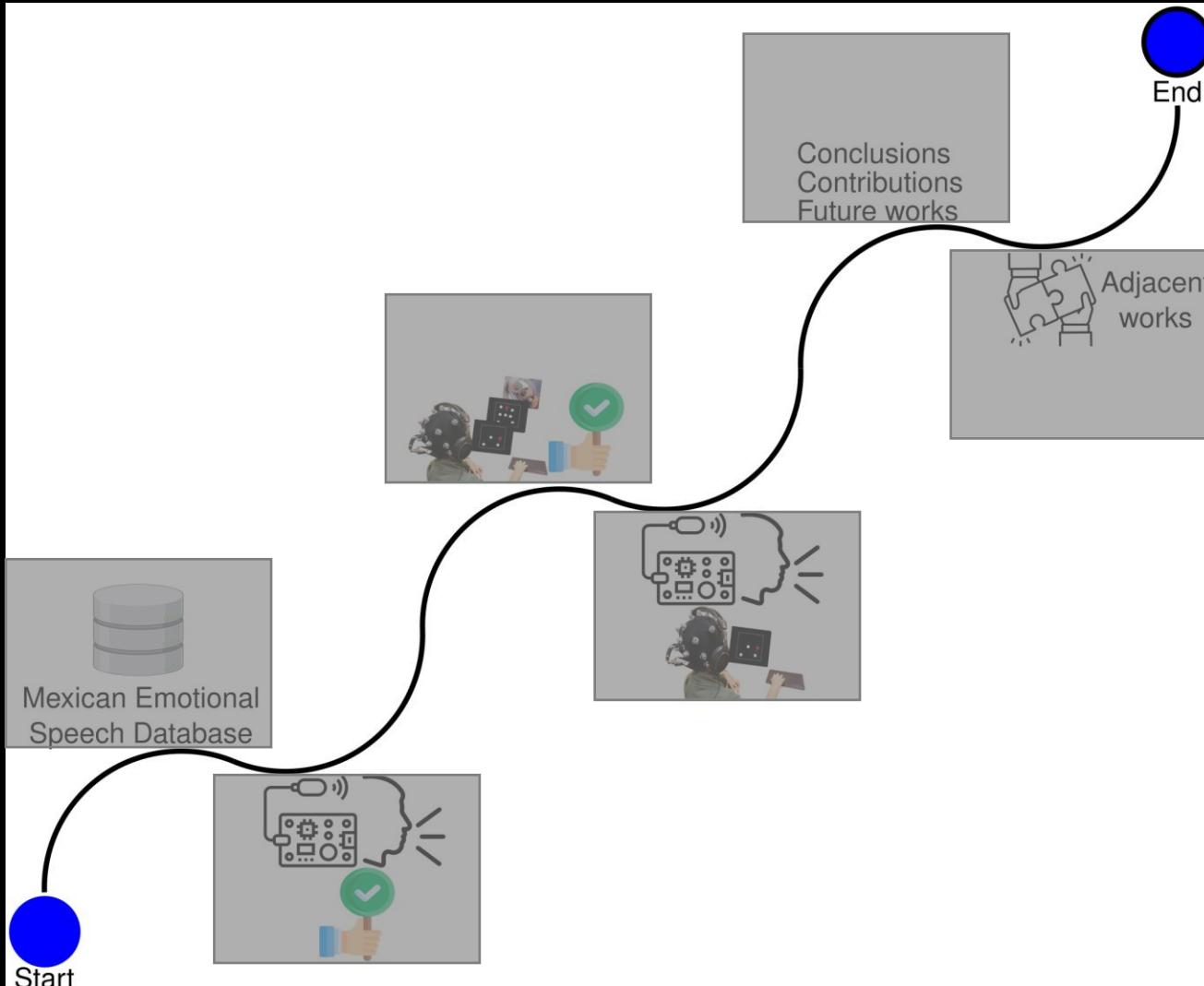
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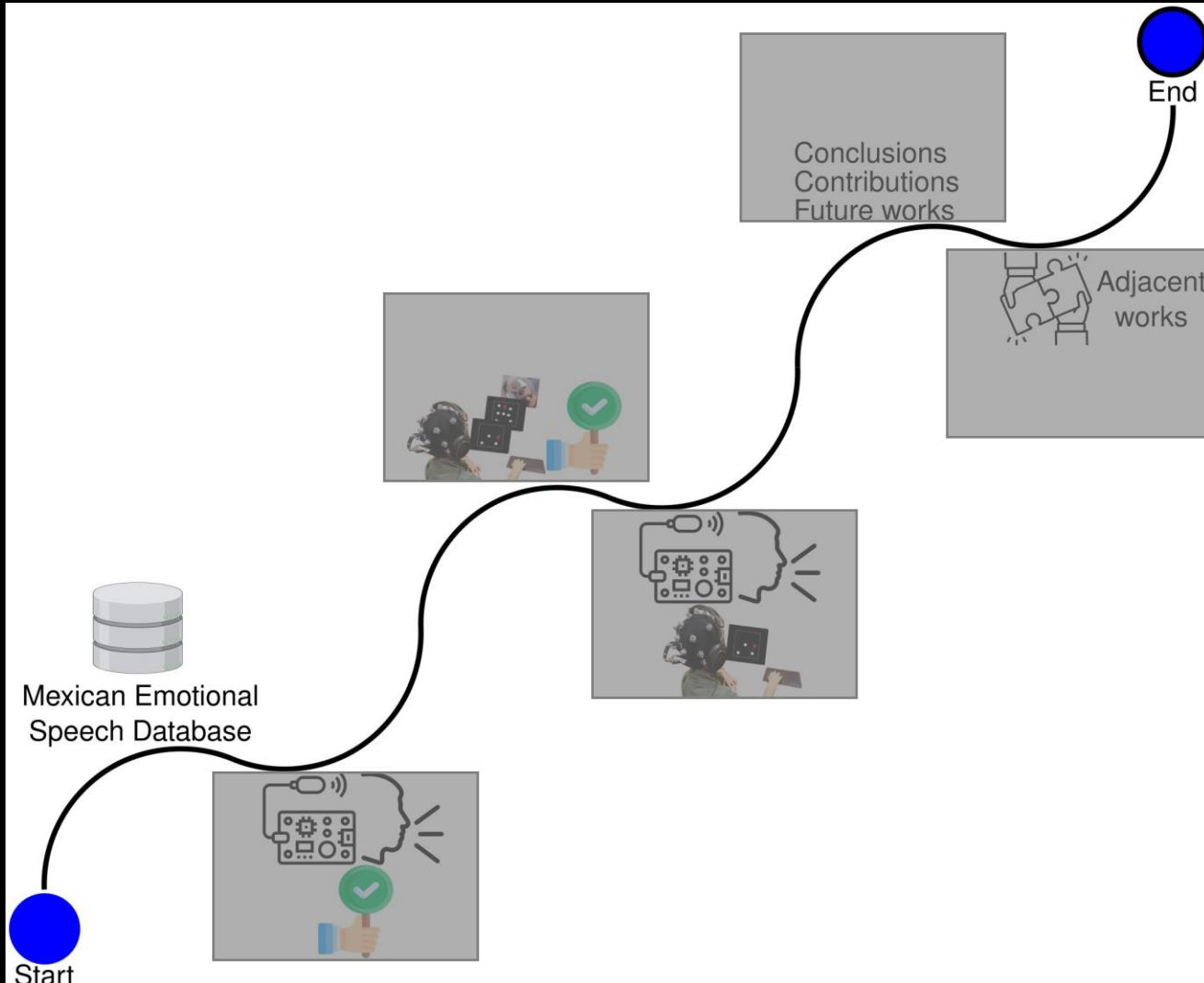
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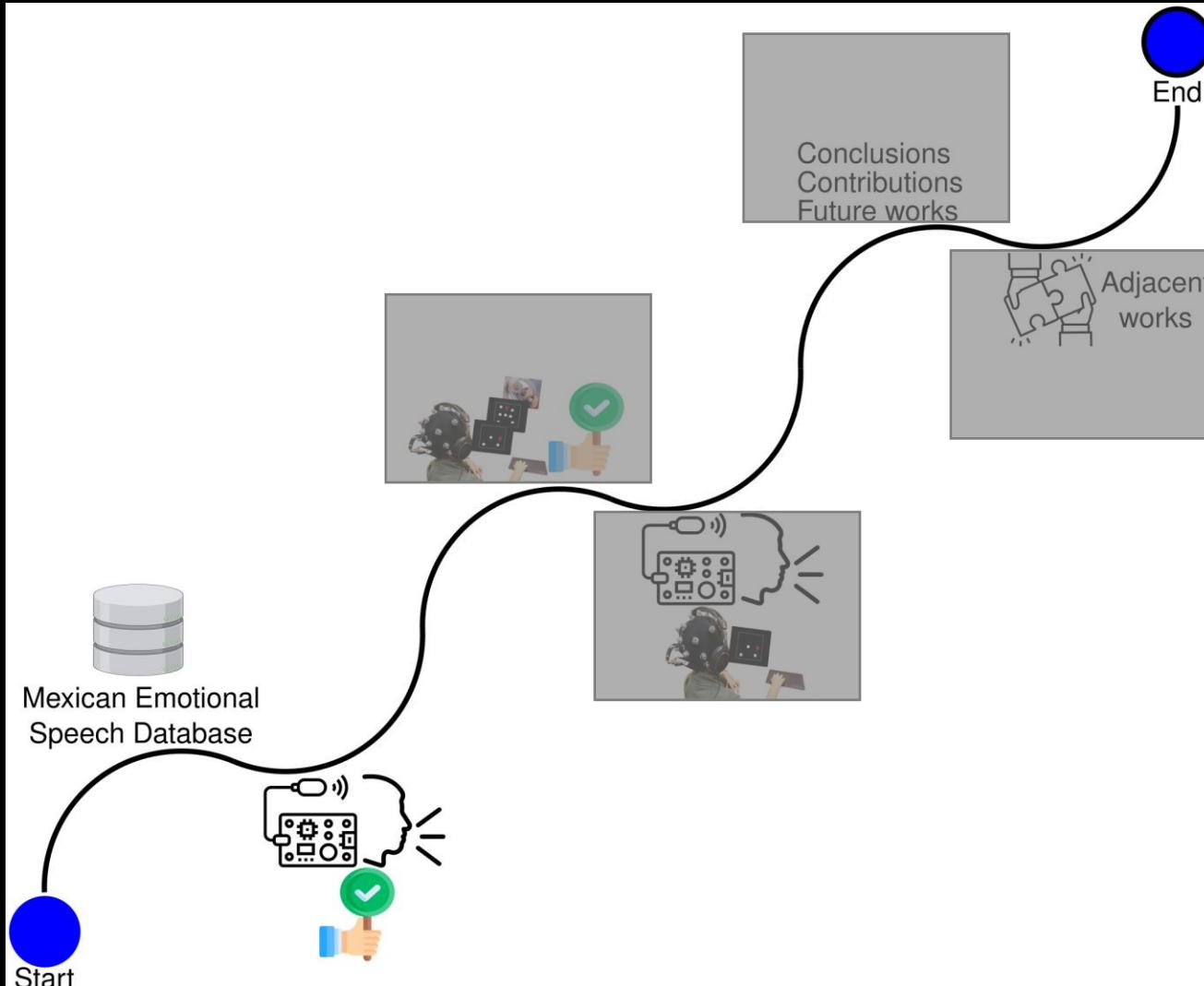
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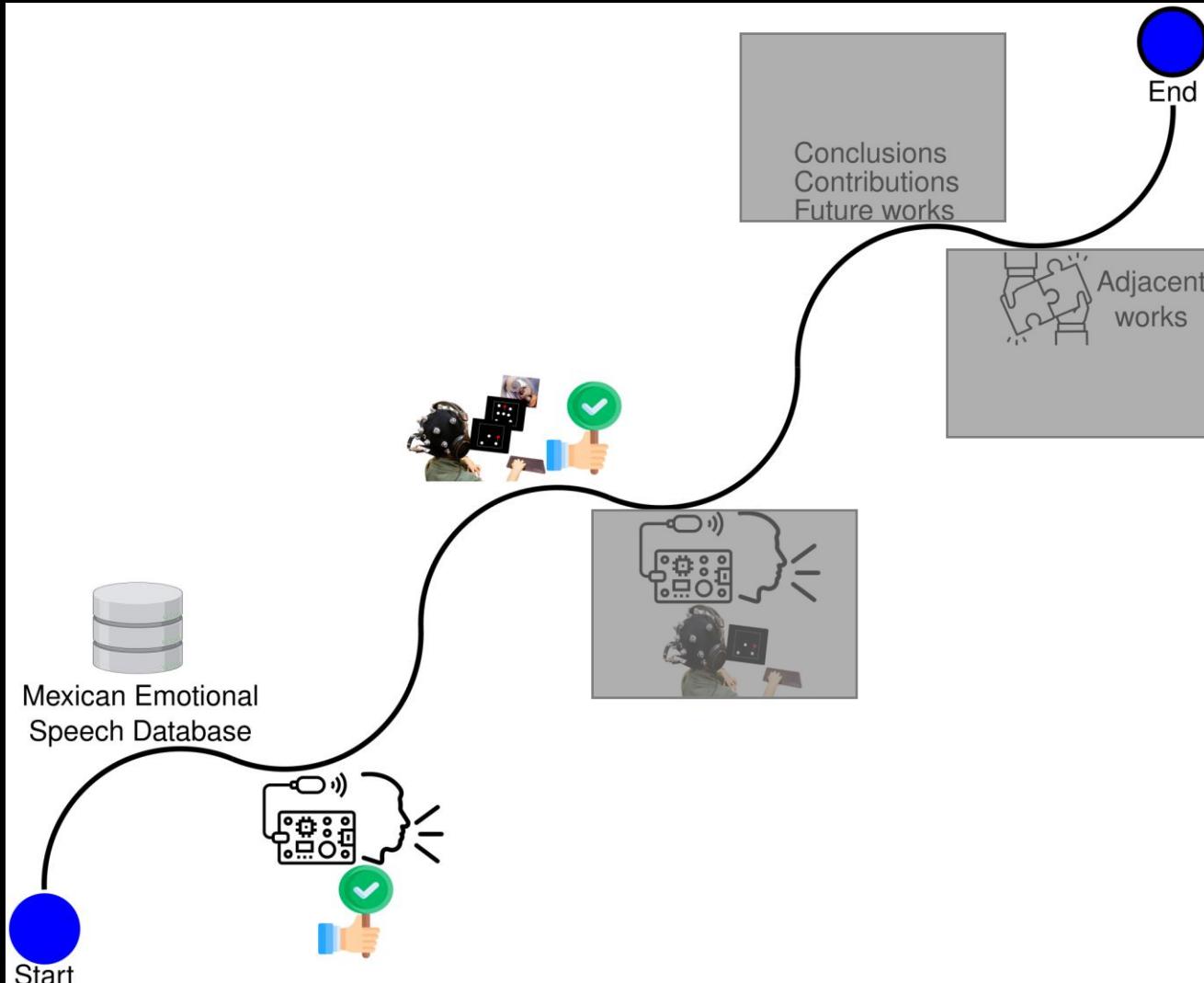
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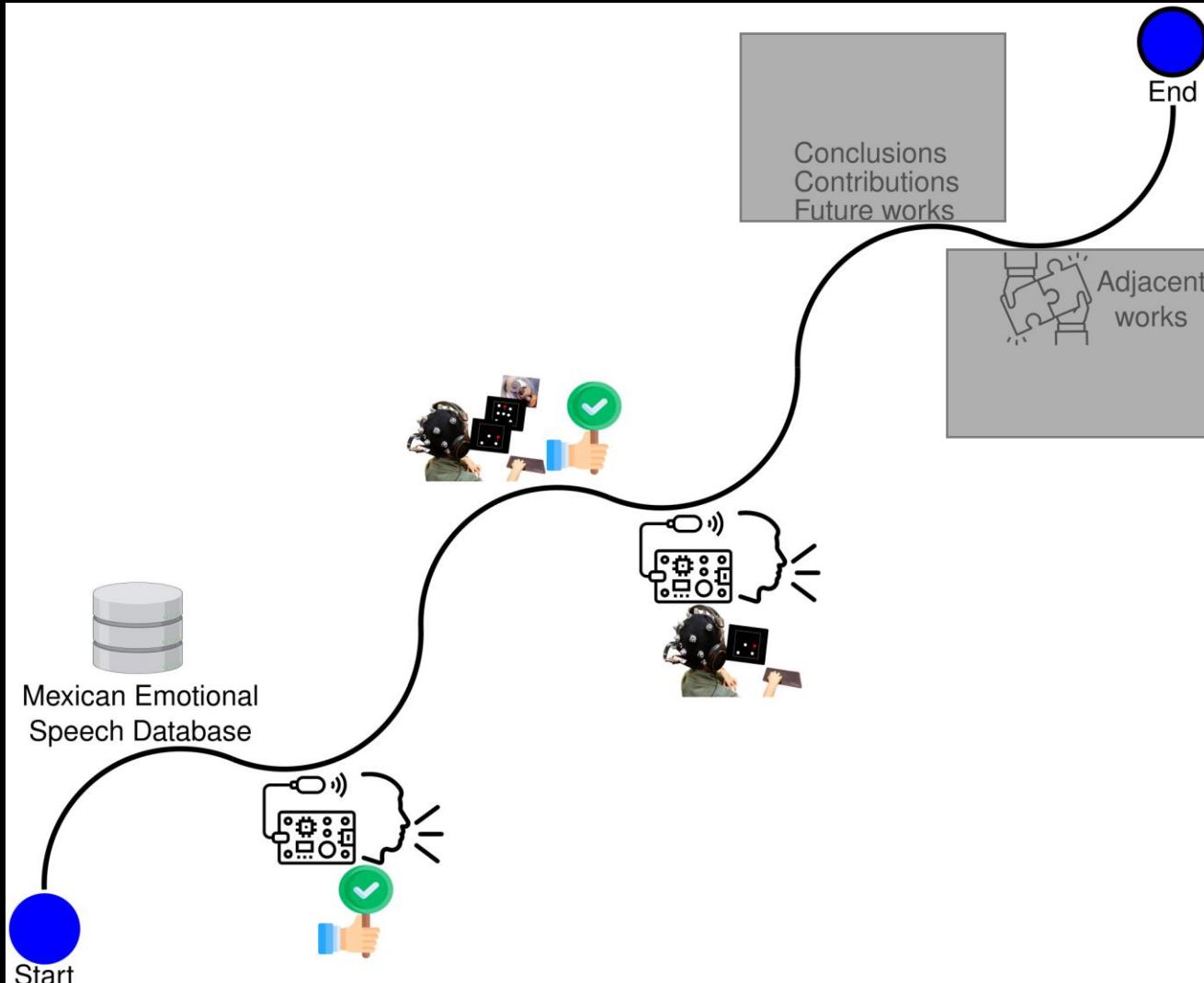
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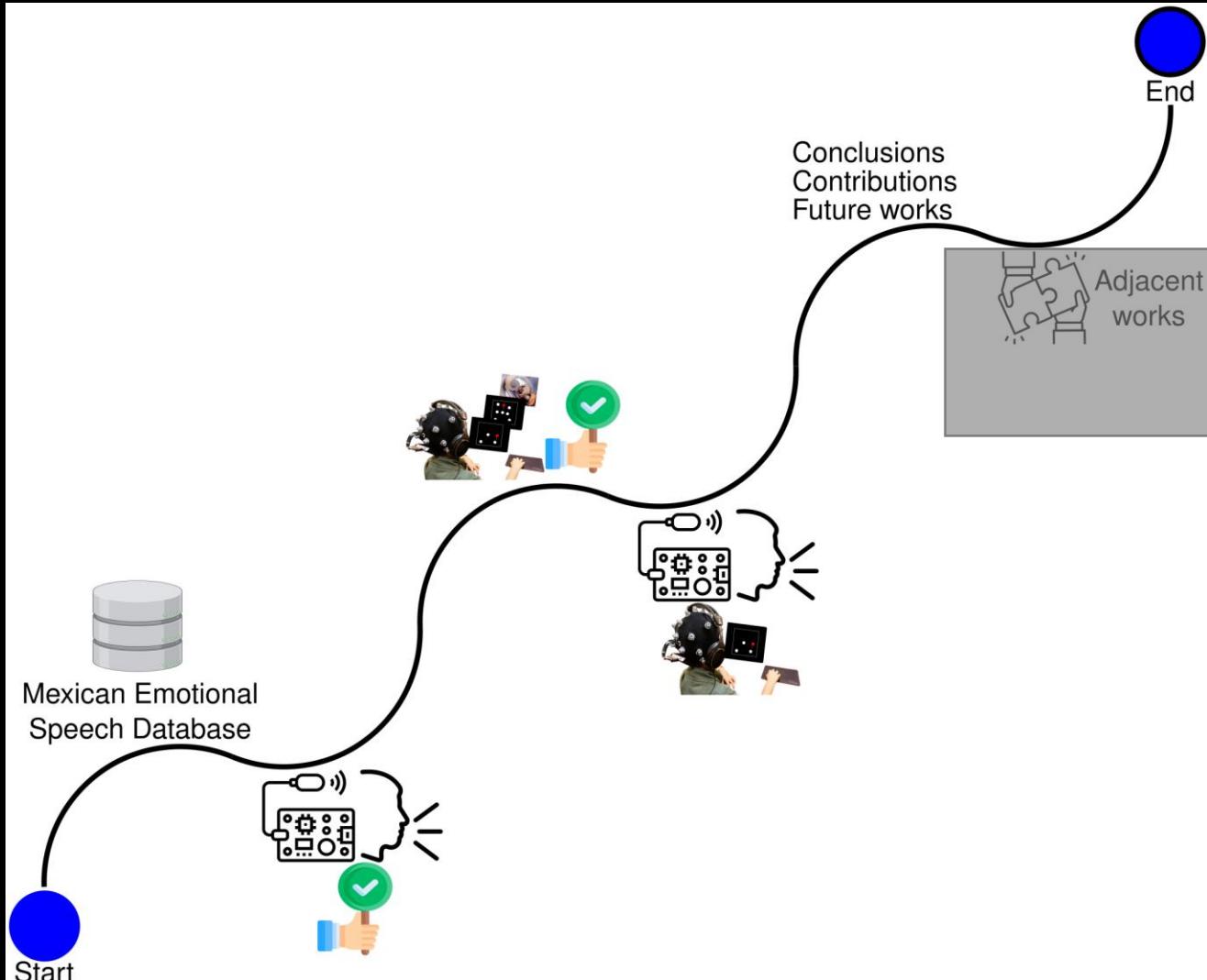
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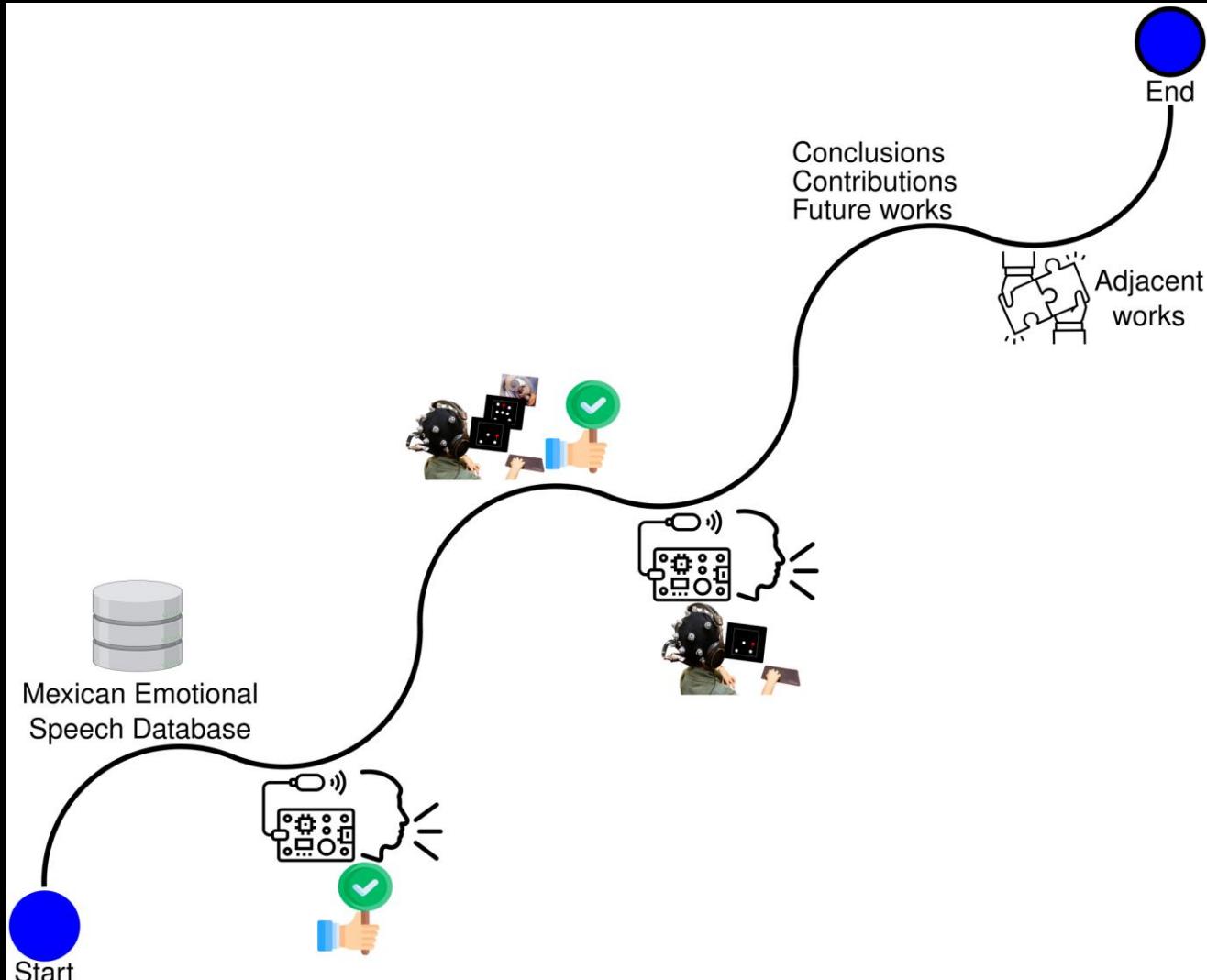
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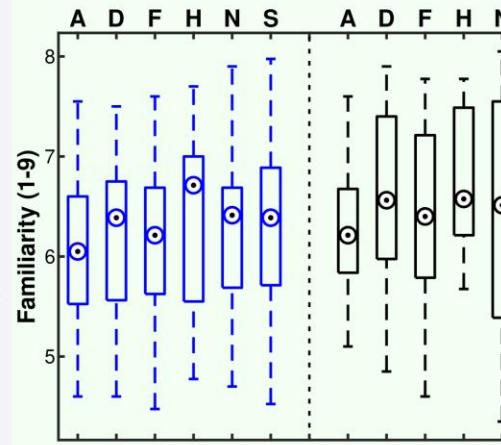
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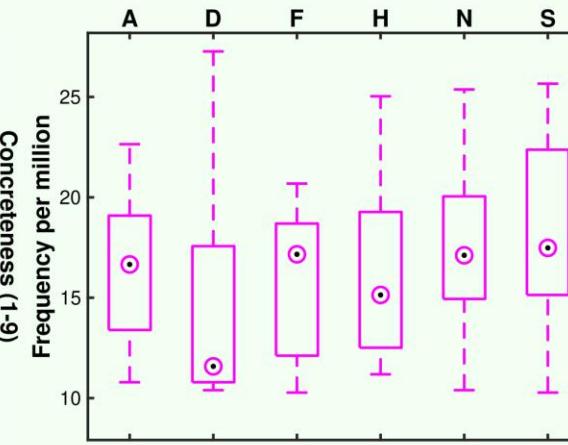
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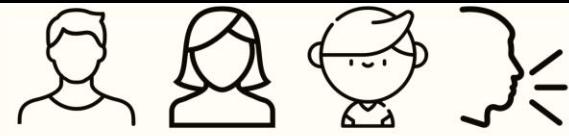
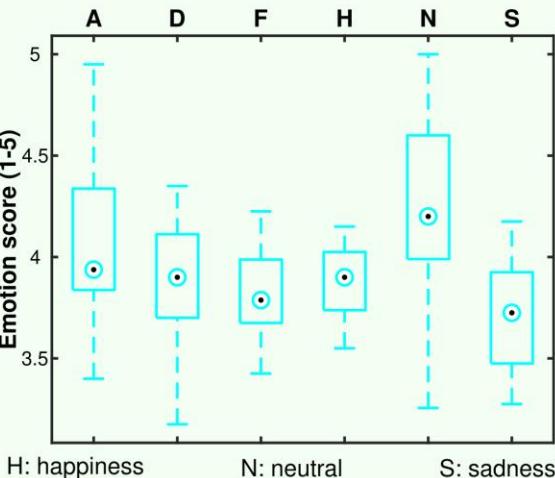
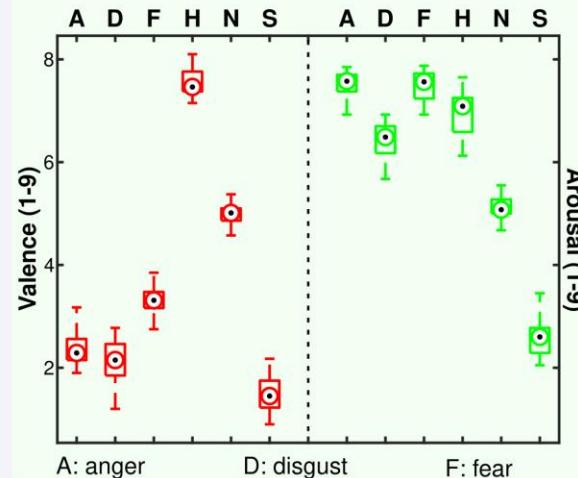
Corpus A
24 words per emotion



Corpus B
24 words per emotion



Sequence repetition
Uncontrolled words
Do not differ across emotions and genders



Professional recording studio

Sennheiser e835 microphone
(flat frequency response 100 Hz to 10 kHz)

Focusrite Scarlett 2i4 audio interface

REAPER (Rapid Environment for Audio
Production, Engineering, and Recording)

24 bits; 48,000 Hz

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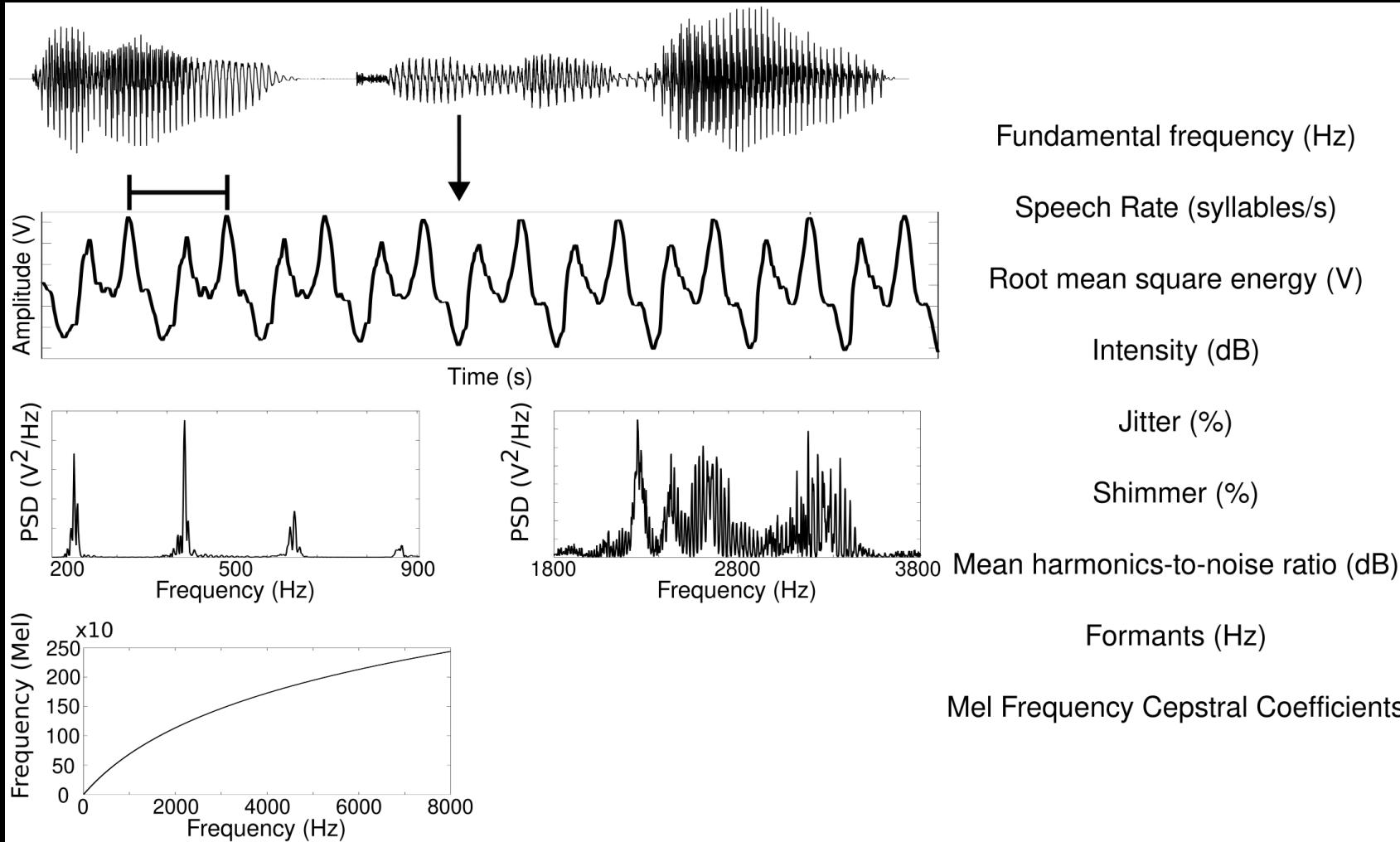


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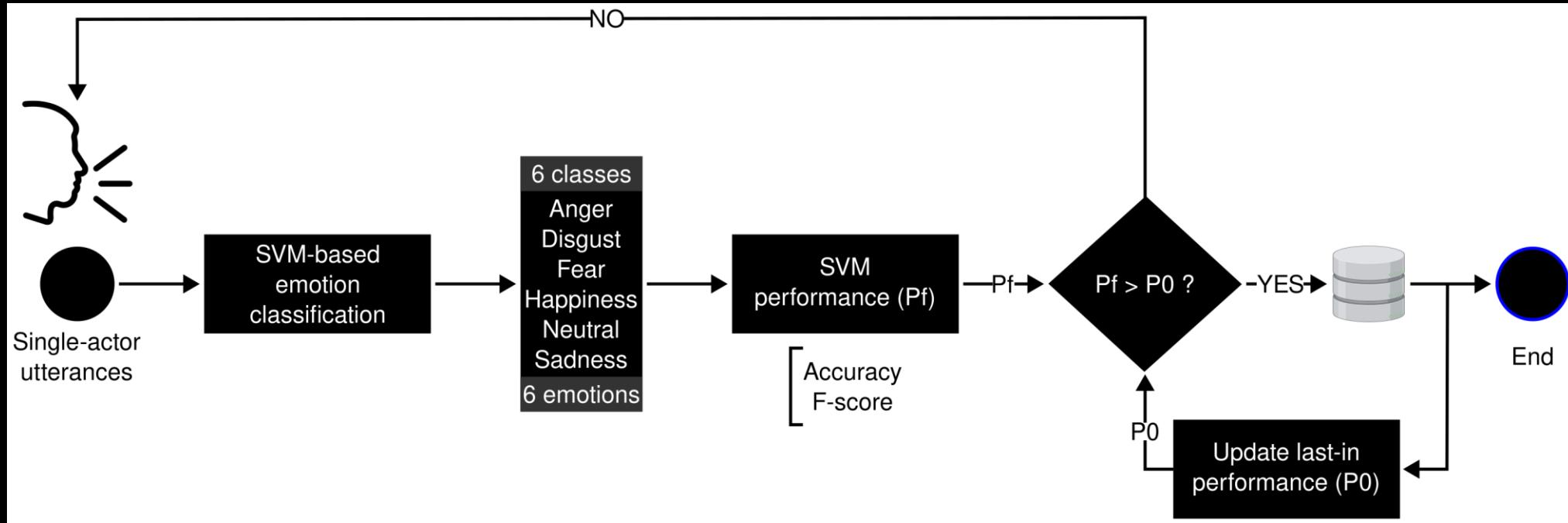
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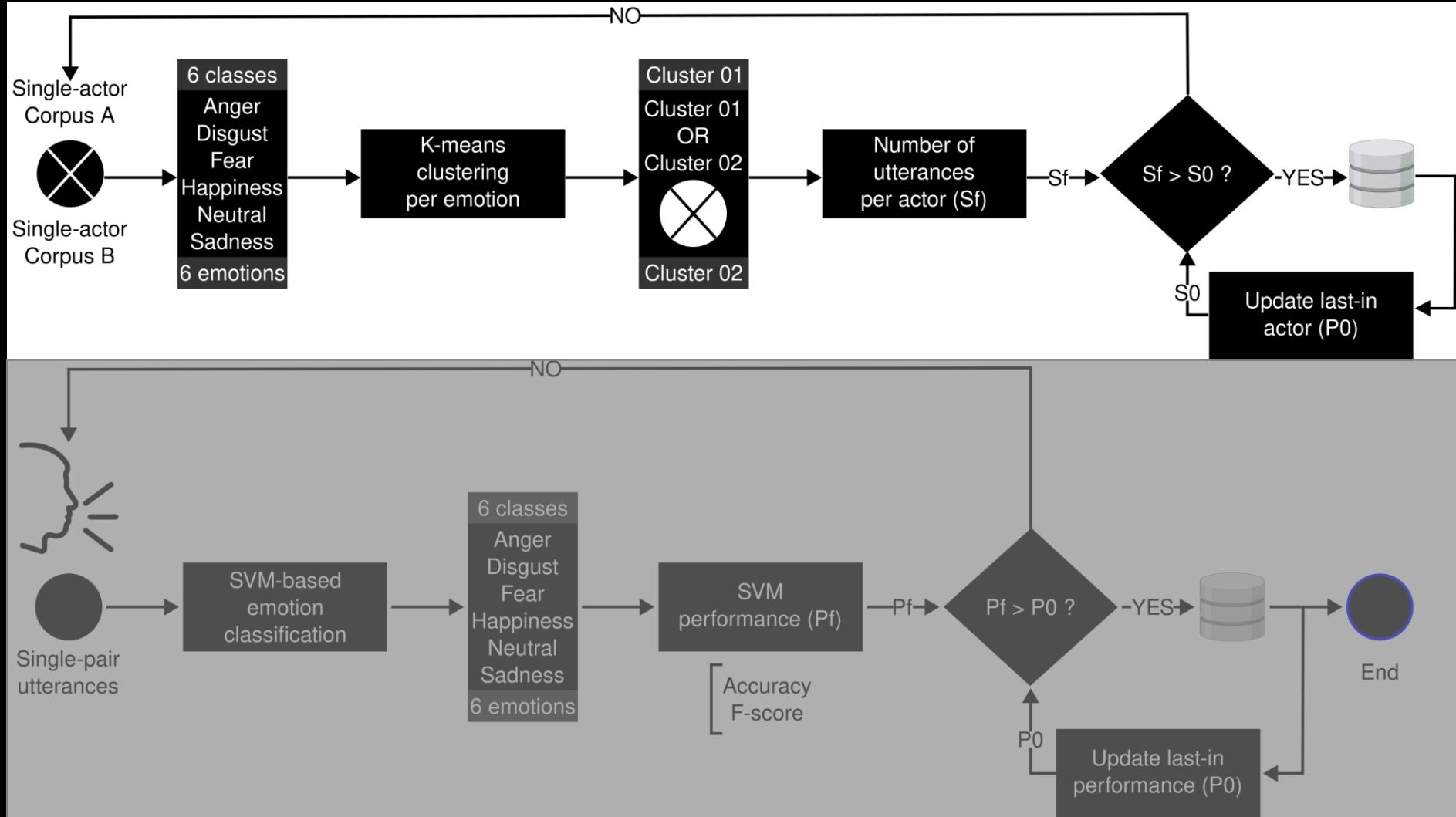
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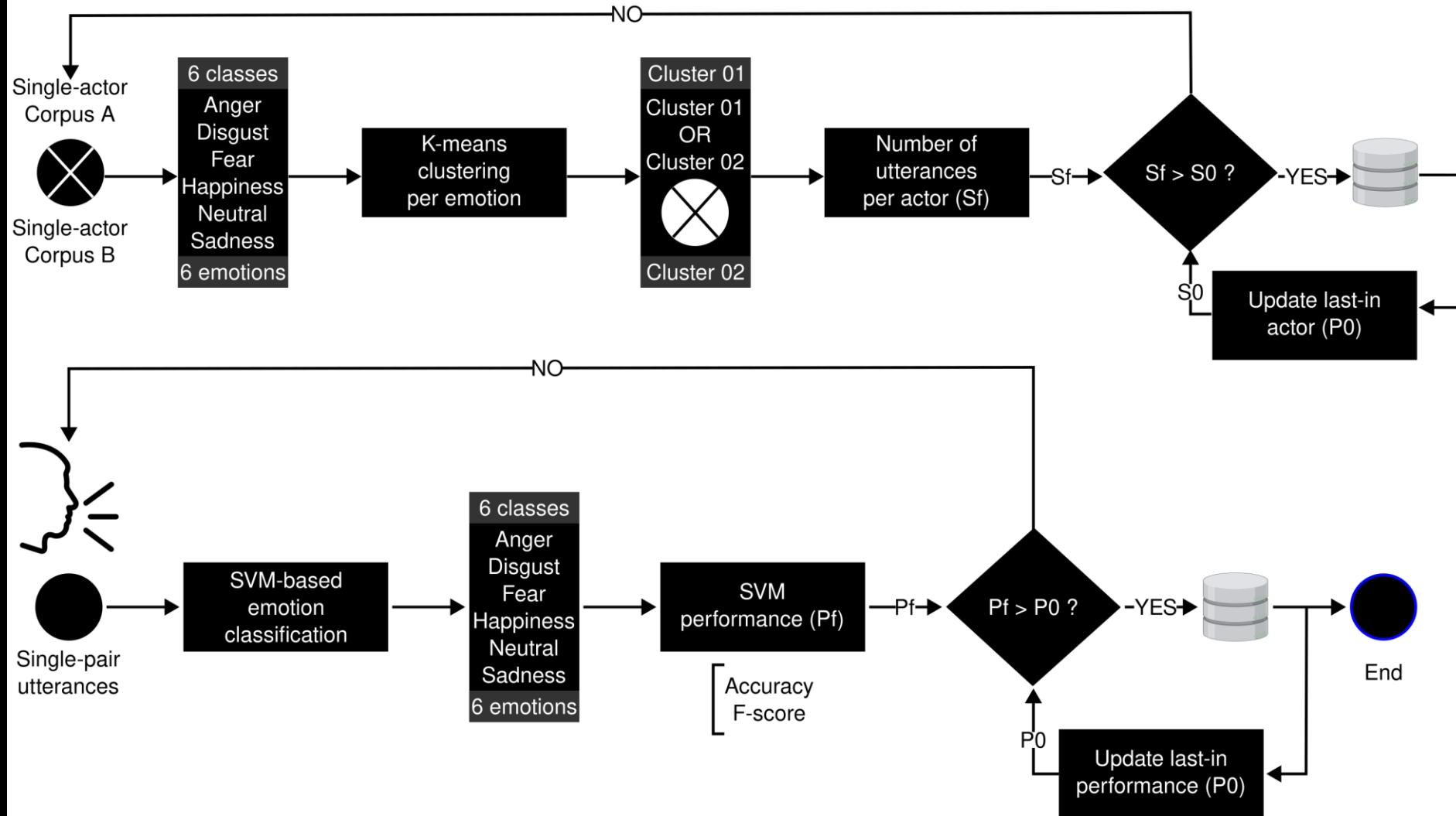
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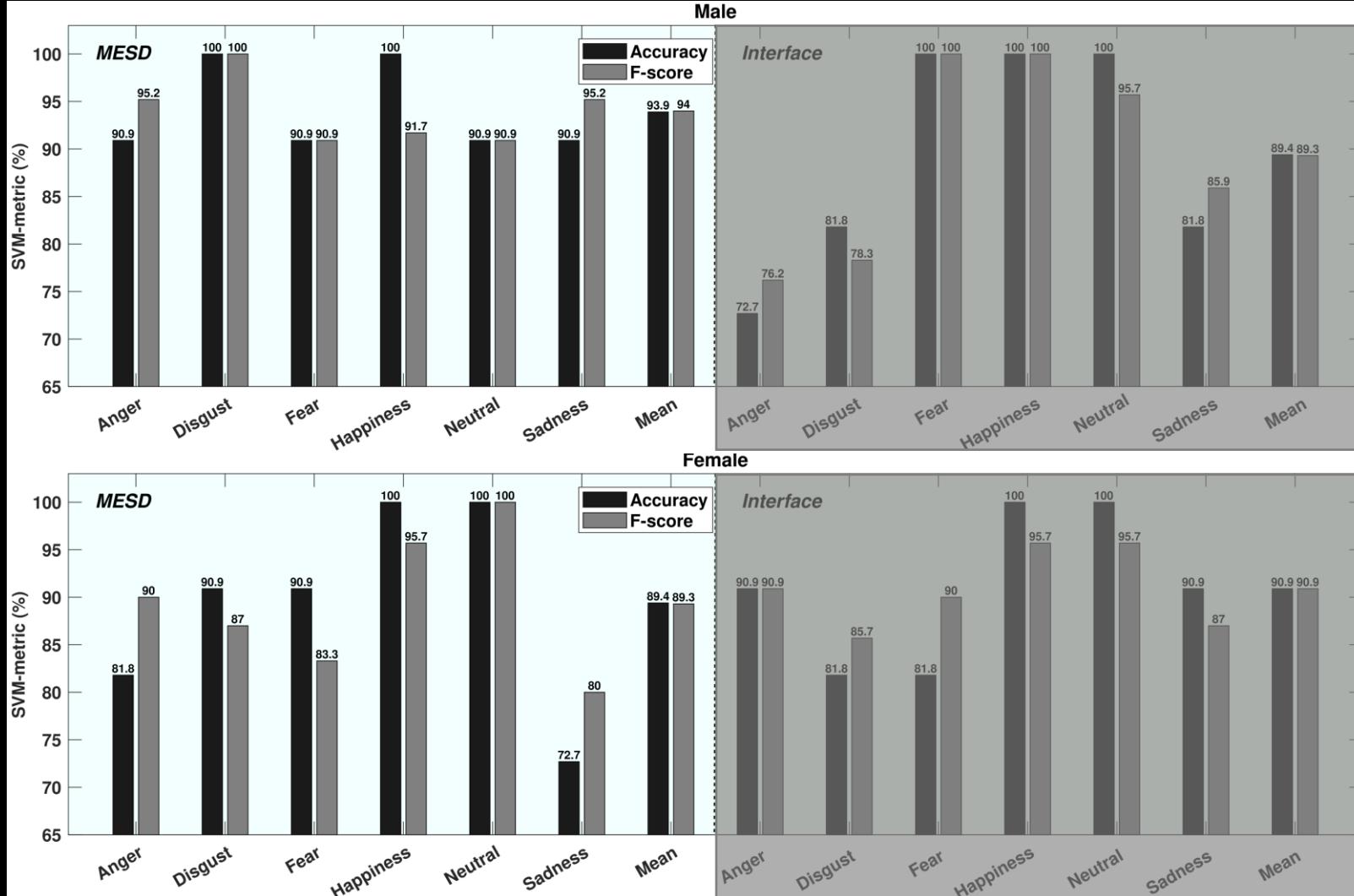


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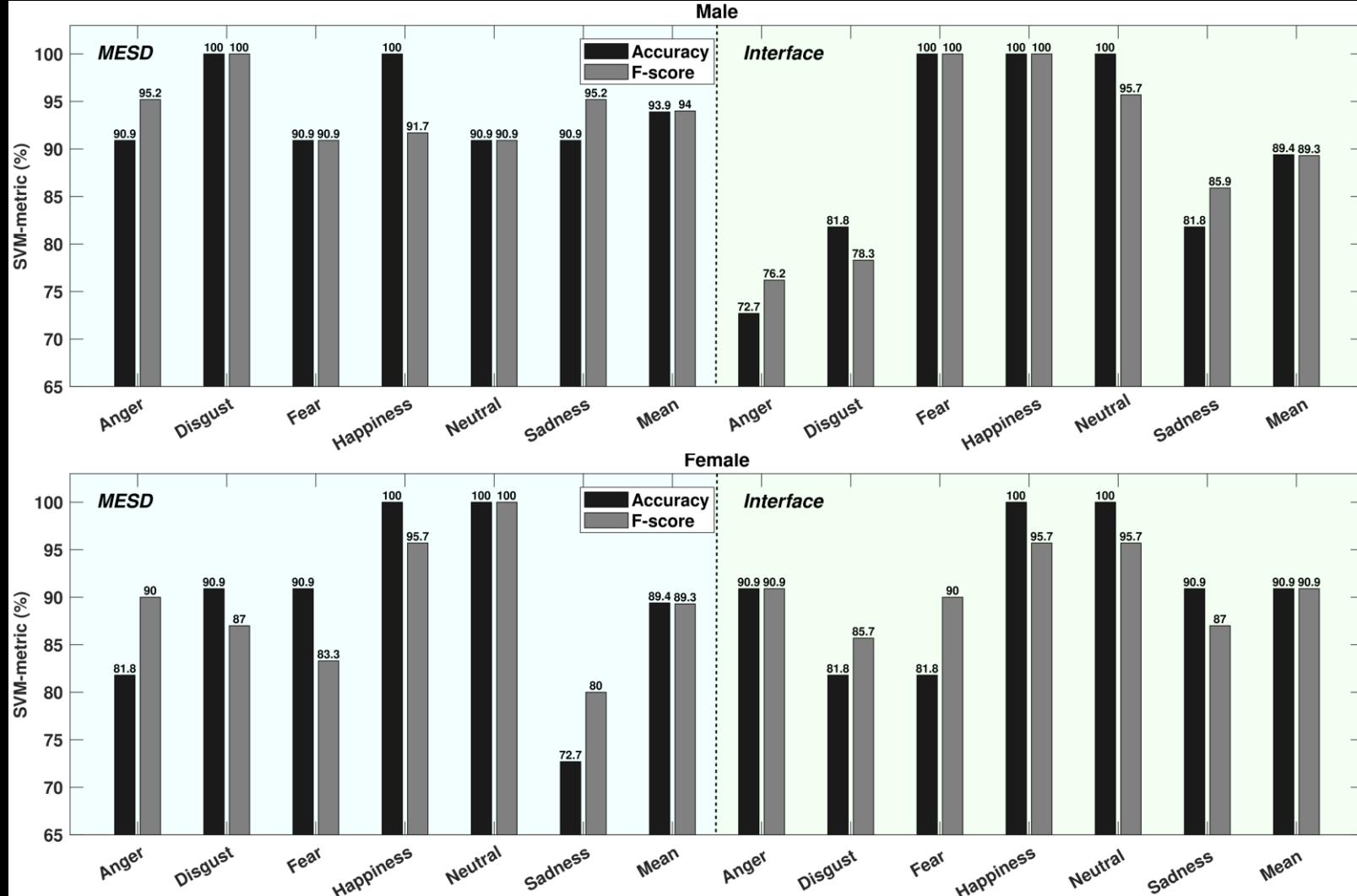


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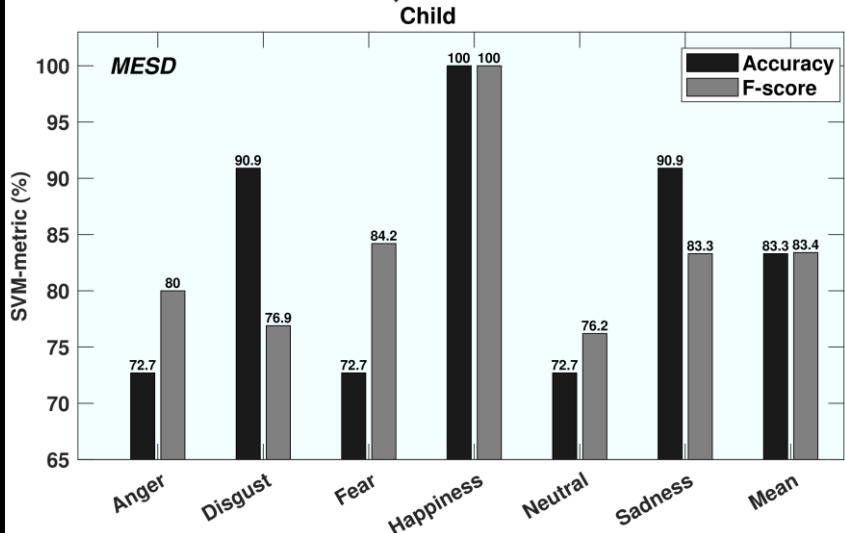
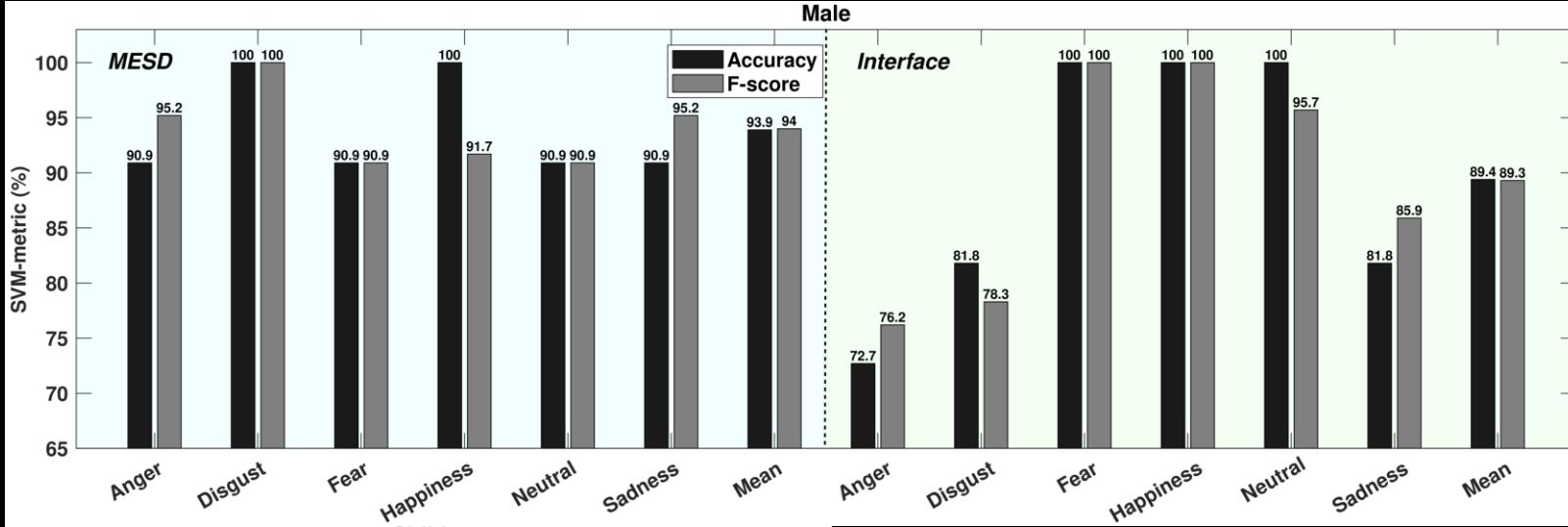


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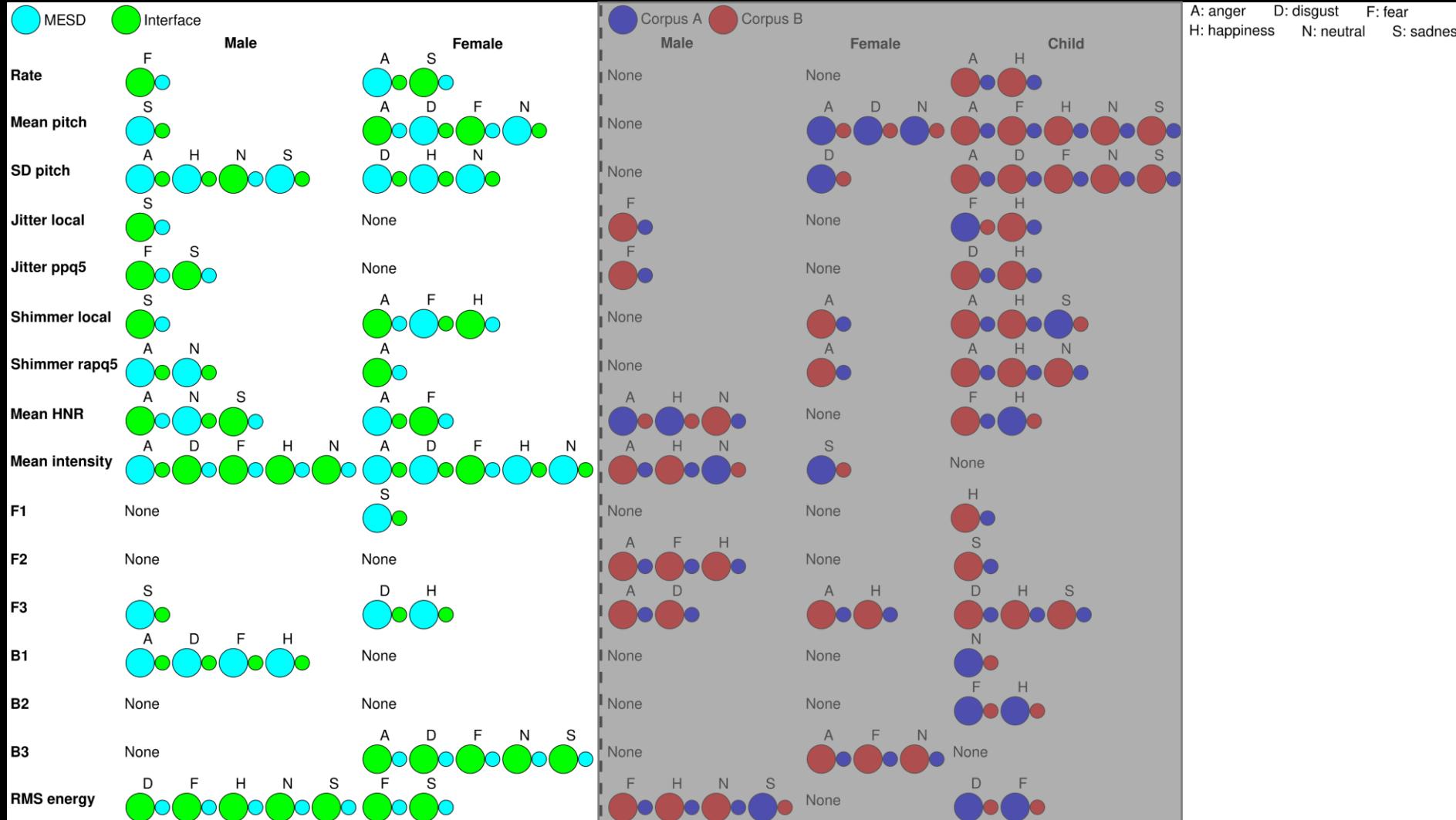


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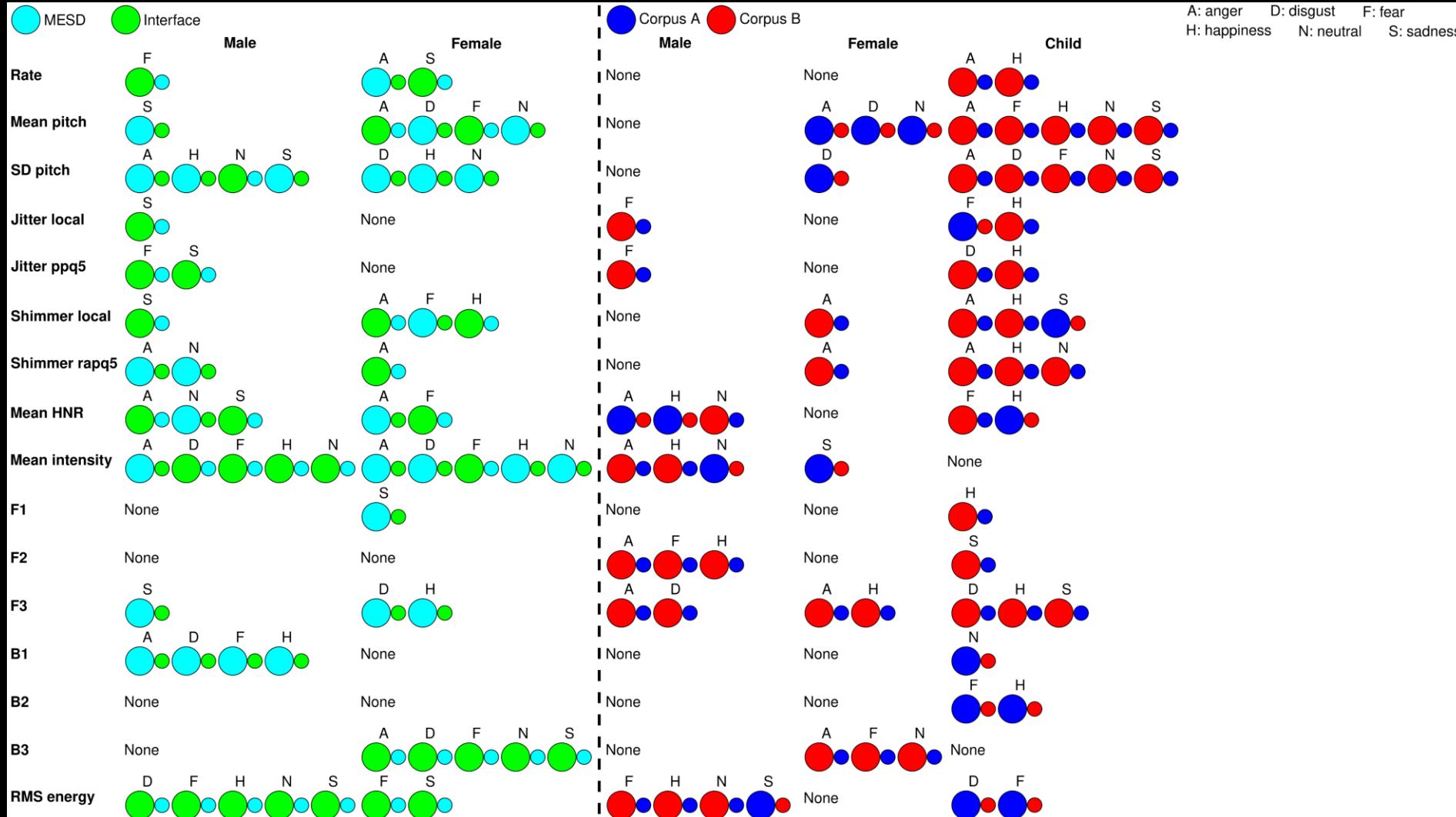


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Mexican Emotional Speech Database



A database for emotional speech, shaped by the Mexican culture was created, that is:

- Competitive compared to a previously-validated database of same language
- Corpus B is controlled for trade-offs between lexicosemantic attributes and emotions to ensure posterior unbiased emotion recognition by listeners

From the database:

- The assessment of emotion recognition by **humans** is necessary to confirm its reliability
- Reliable material to substantiate the **posterior creation of naturalness-reduced emotional prosodies**

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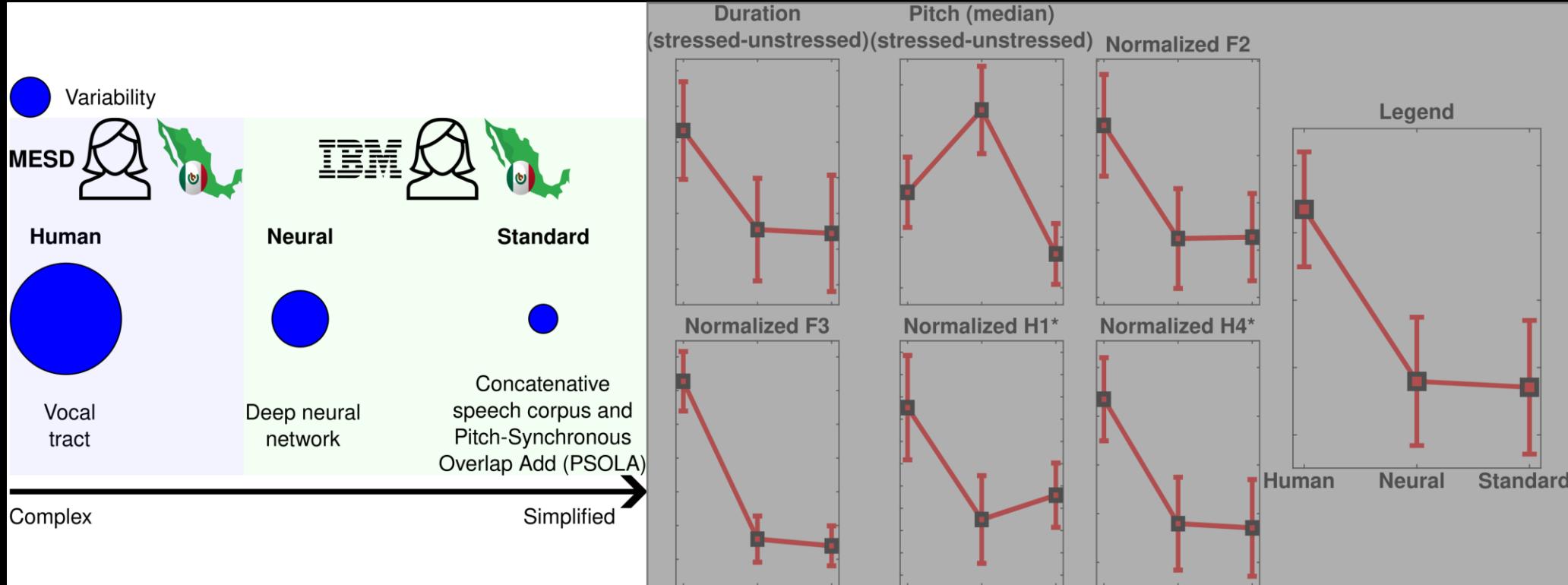
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Naturalness-reduced voices: creation



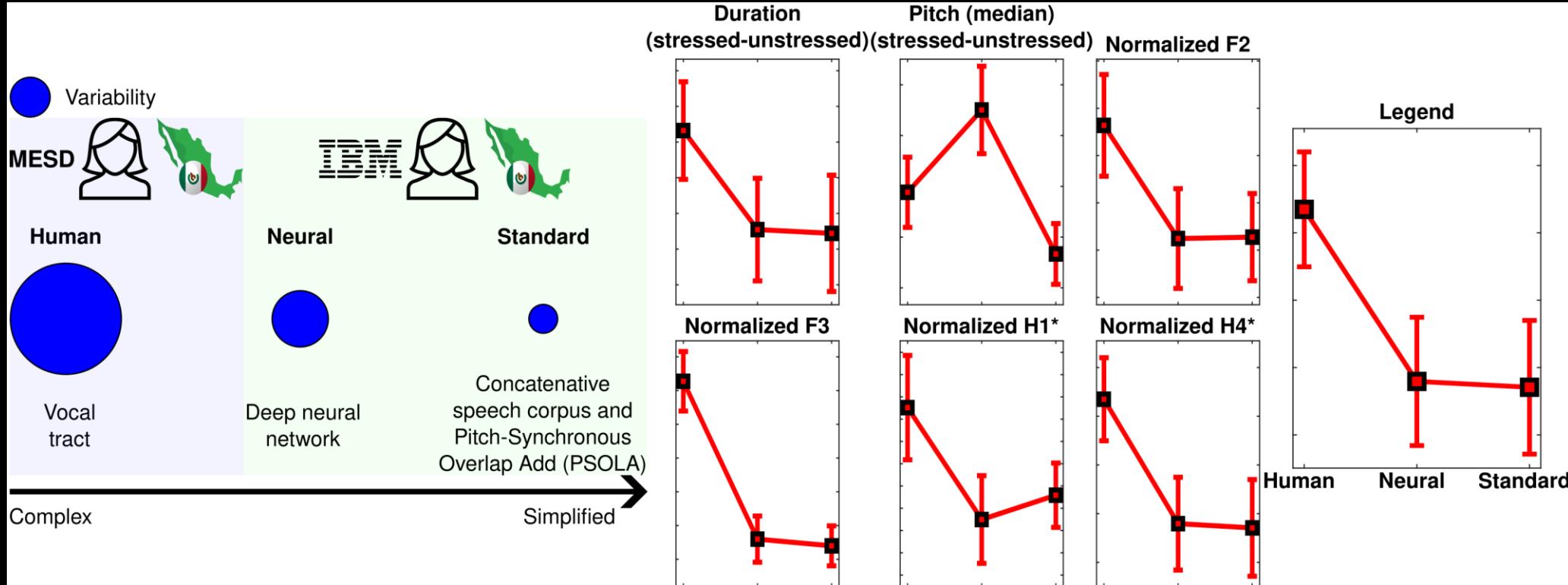
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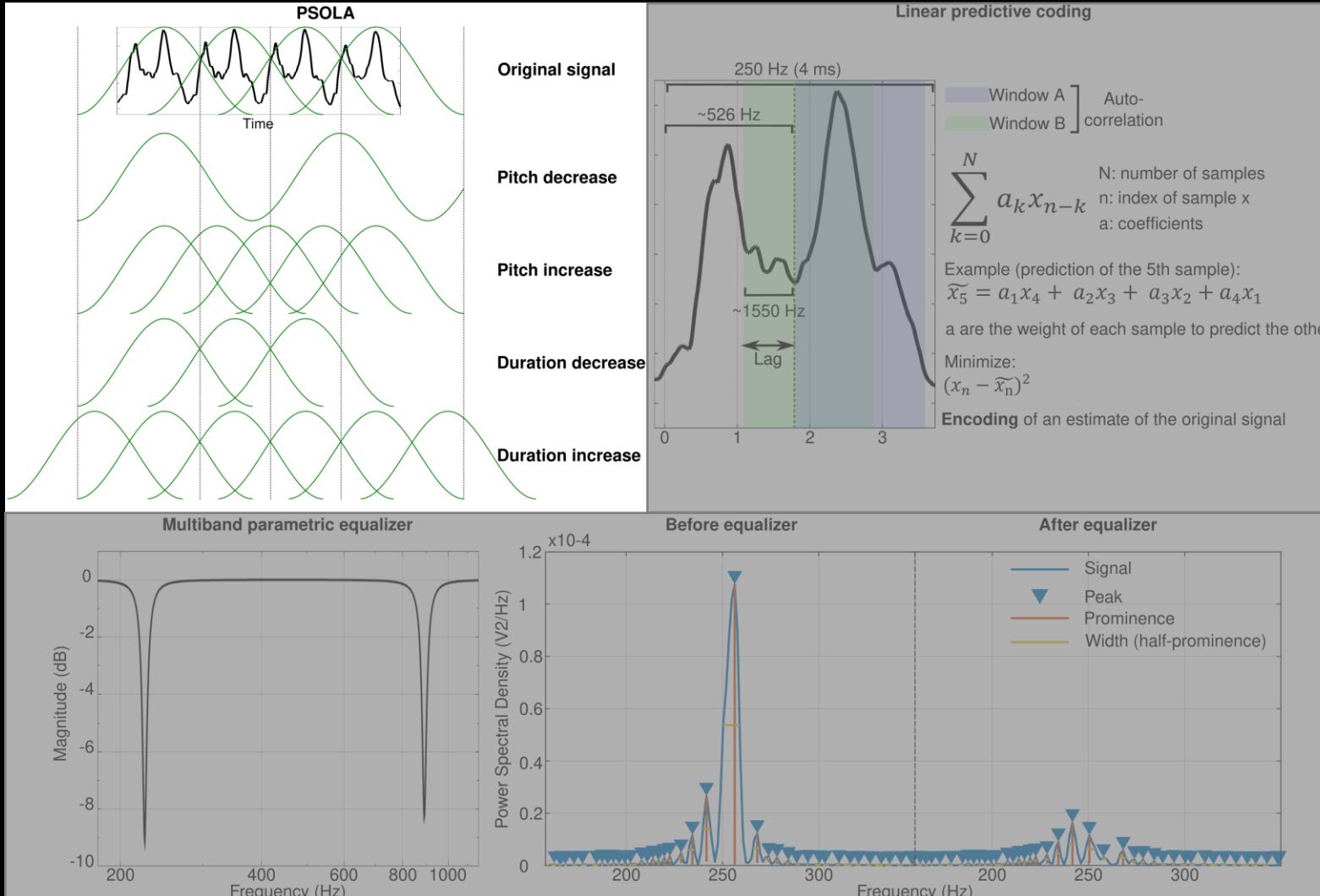


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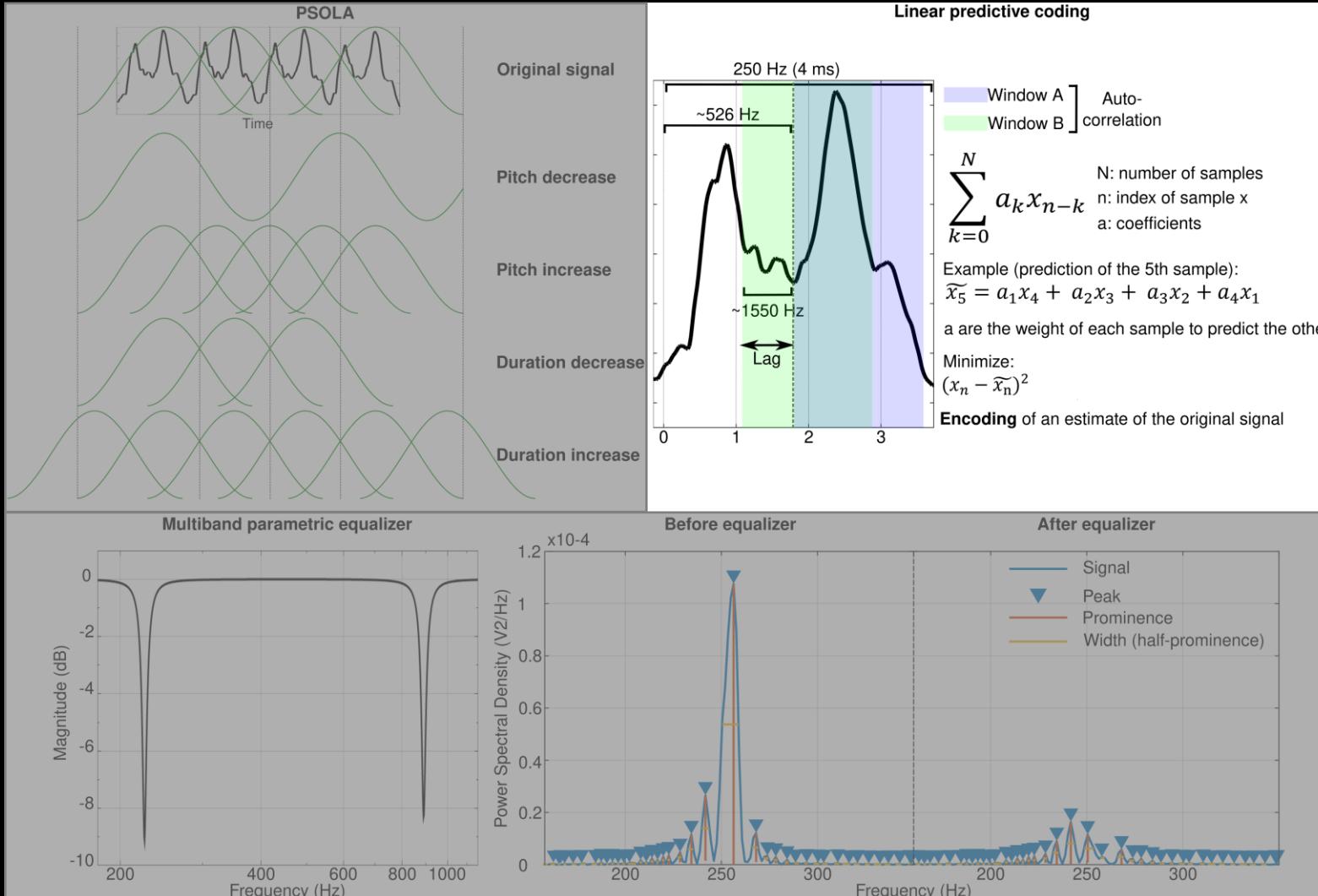


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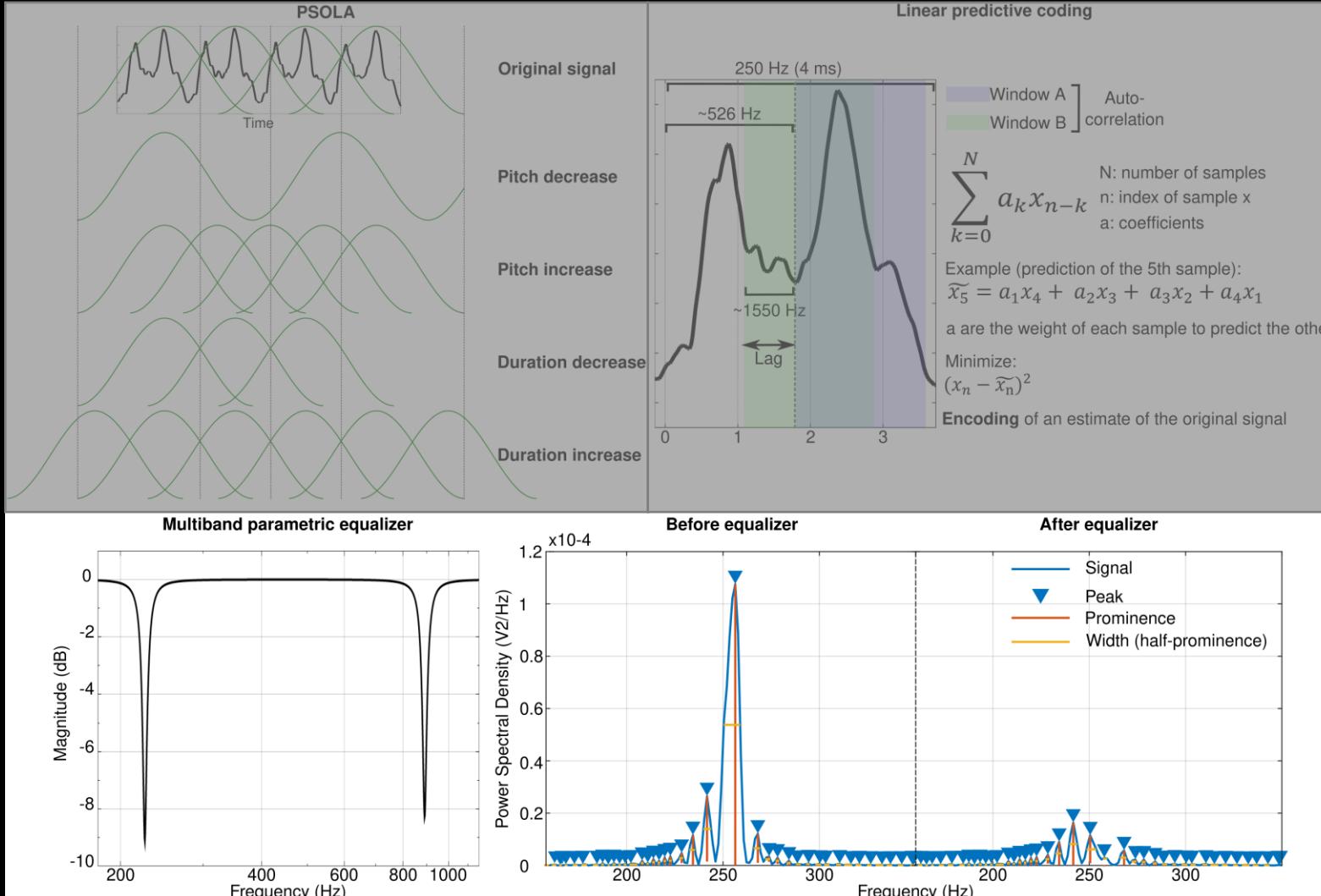


Naturalness-reduced voices: creation



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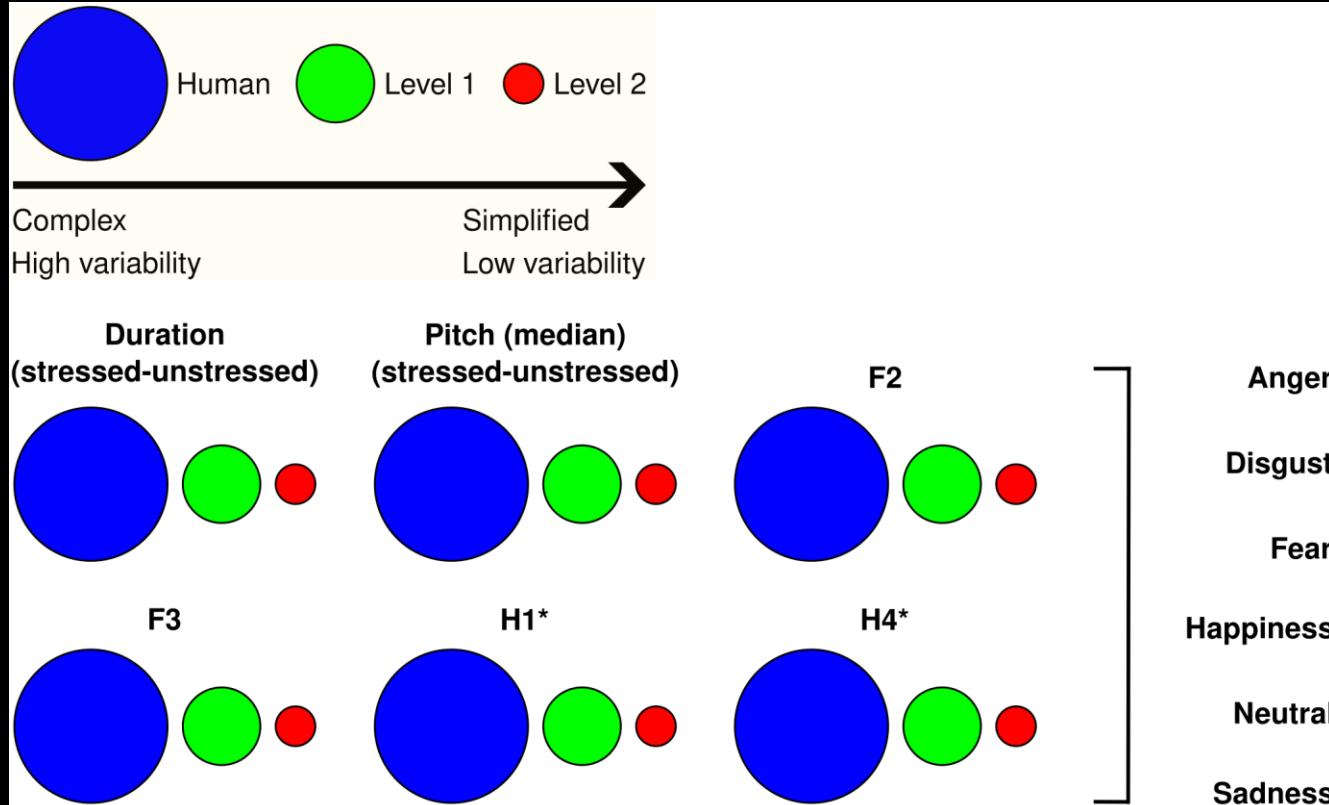
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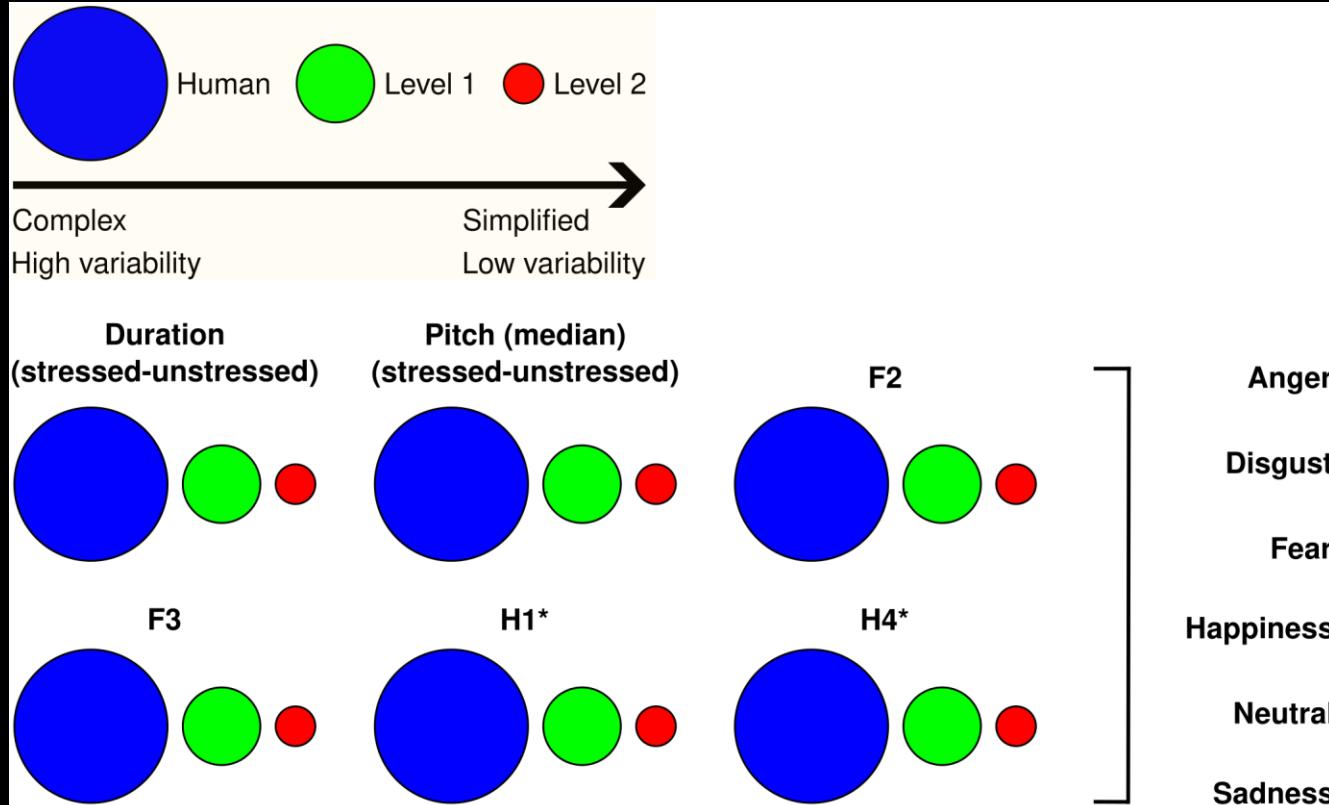


Anger
Disgust
Fear
Happiness
Neutral
Sadness

Naturalness-reduced voices: creation

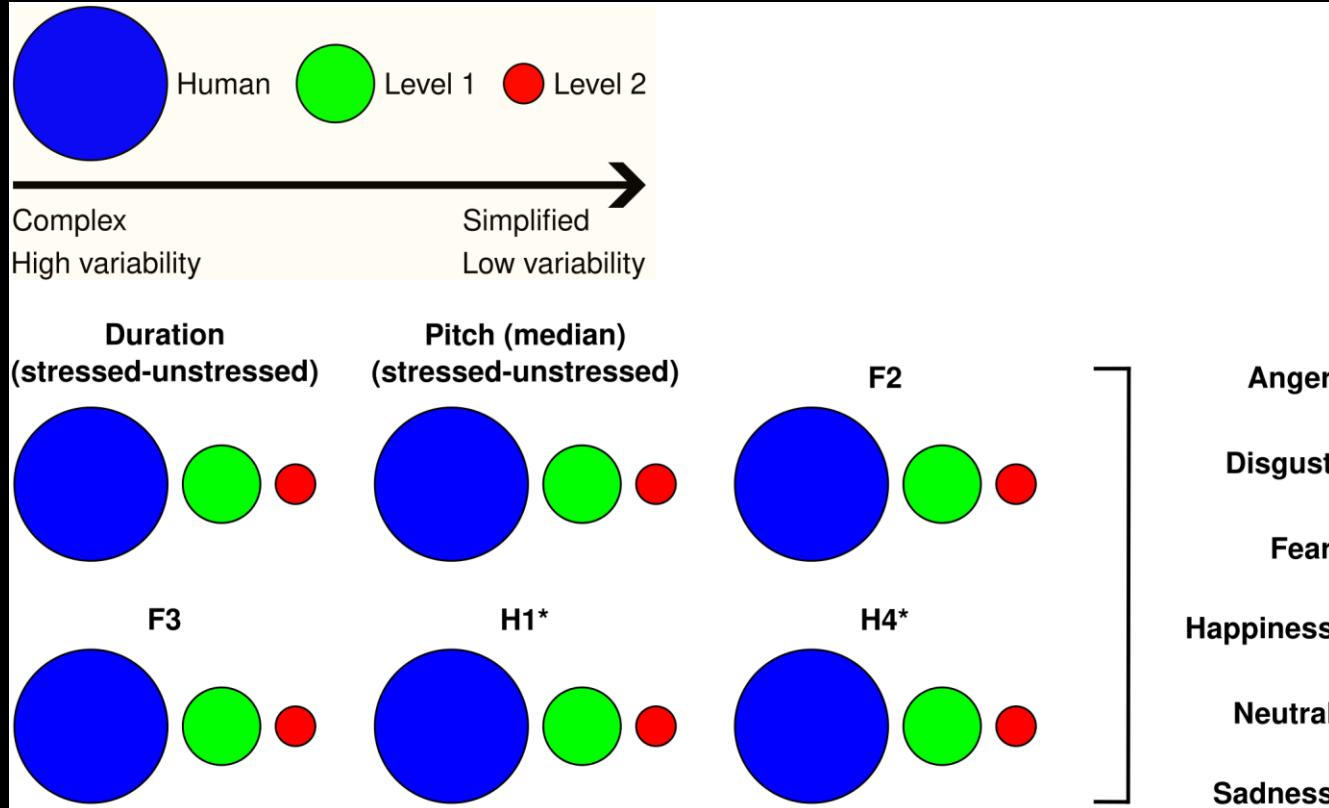


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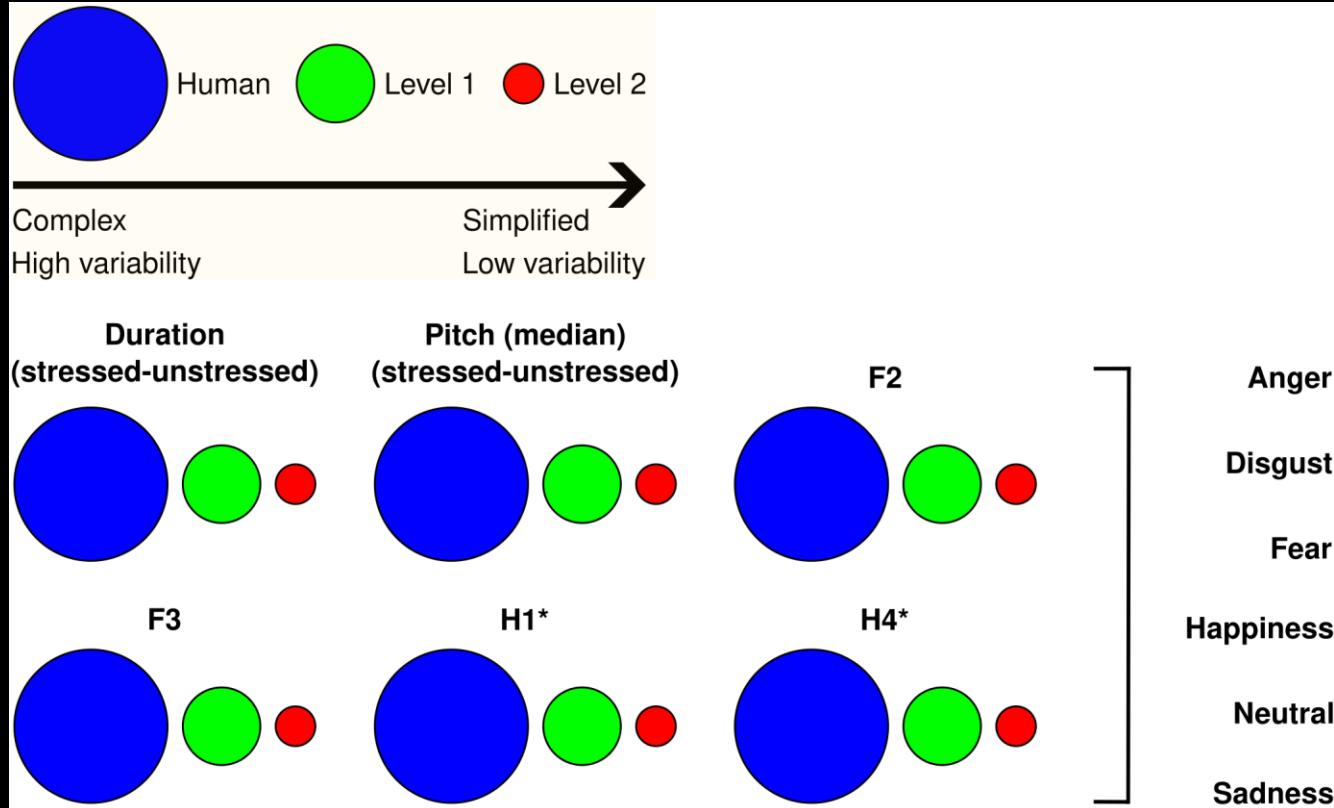
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- Disgust
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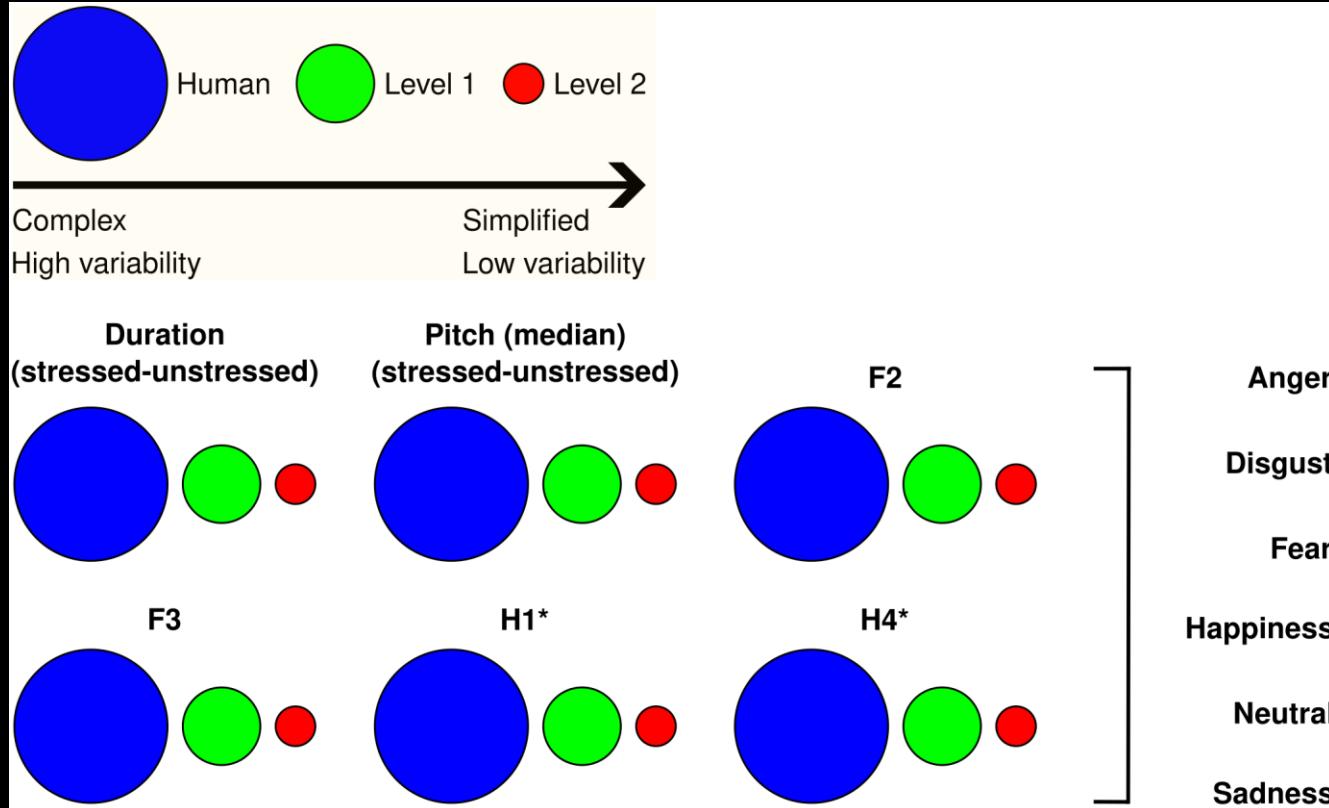
Naturalness-reduced voices: creation



- Anger
- Disgust
- Fear
- Happiness
- Neutral
- Sadness

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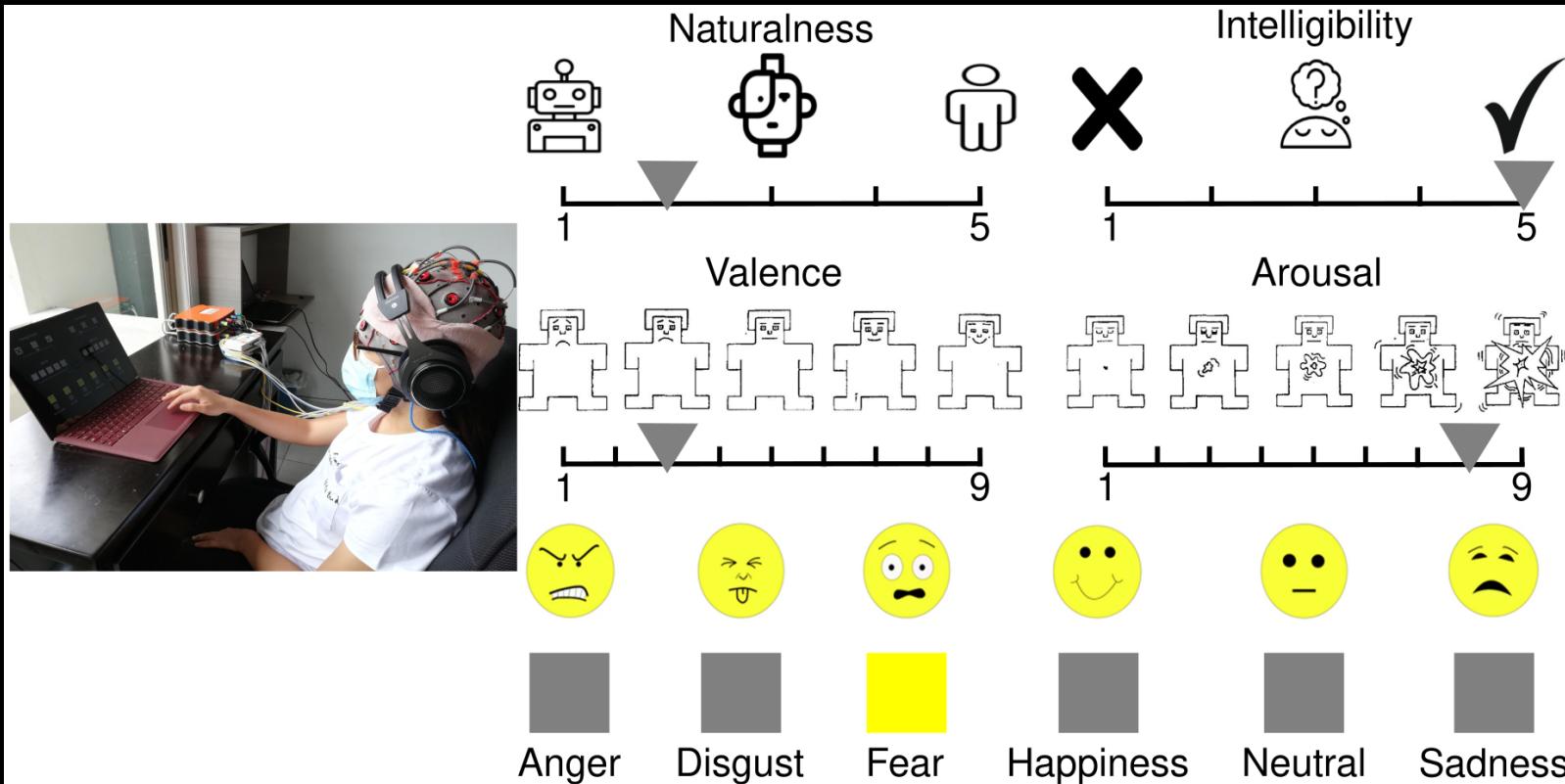


- ✓ We created simplified acoustic environments for emotional prosodies



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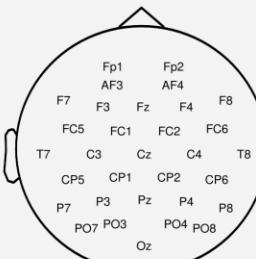
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Type of data	Type of data	Data curation
Electroencephalography (EEG)	Behavioral	
	Qualitative emotions	Accuracy F-score
	Quantitative emotions Valence and arousal	Repeated measures ANOVA Emotion and level effects p<0.05 corrected for multiple comparisons (Bonferroni)
	Naturalness Intelligibility	p<0.05 corrected for multiple comparisons (Bonferroni)
	Online	
	32 channels	Baseline means removal
	Expanded 10-20 topography	
	Sample frequency: 256 Hz	Artifact Subspace Reconstruction (mean: 21/24, sd: 4)
	Impedance<5 kOhms	Bad channels detection and interpolation (mean: 1.8/32, sd: 2)
		Extended Infomax Independent Components Analysis
	Butterworth bandpass 8th order 0.1-100 Hz	Wavelet-ICA for fixed-sourced artifacts rejection
	Butterworth notch 4th order 60 [58-62] Hz	Reference Electrode Standardization Technique
	Offline	
		Butterworth low-pass 8th order 30 Hz
		Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) Emotion and level effects
		1000 permutations under data exchangeability
		One or more neighboring sensors
		Cluster-level statistic: sum of statistics
		Maximum cluster-level statistic per iteration
		p<0.05 corrected for multiple comparisons (Bonferroni)
		Inter-Trial Phase Coherence (ITPC) Between trials Between participants
		Morlet wavelet 1 cycle (2 Hz) - 15 cycles (30 Hz)
		ITPC = $\text{mean}(M[\cos(\text{angle}) + i \sin(\text{angle})]) / M$
		P200 [0.15 0.25] s Early LPP [0.4 0.7] s Late LPP [0.7 1] s
		Significant ITPC compared to baseline (1000 permutations)

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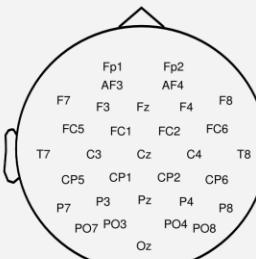
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		Butterworth low-pass 8th order 30 Hz Epoch definition [-0.5 1] s Baseline correction [-0.5 -0.2] s Single-trial Event-Related Potentials (ERP) Linear Discriminant Analysis Beamformer P200 [0.15 0.25] s Early LPP [0.4 0.7] s Late LPP [0.7 1] s
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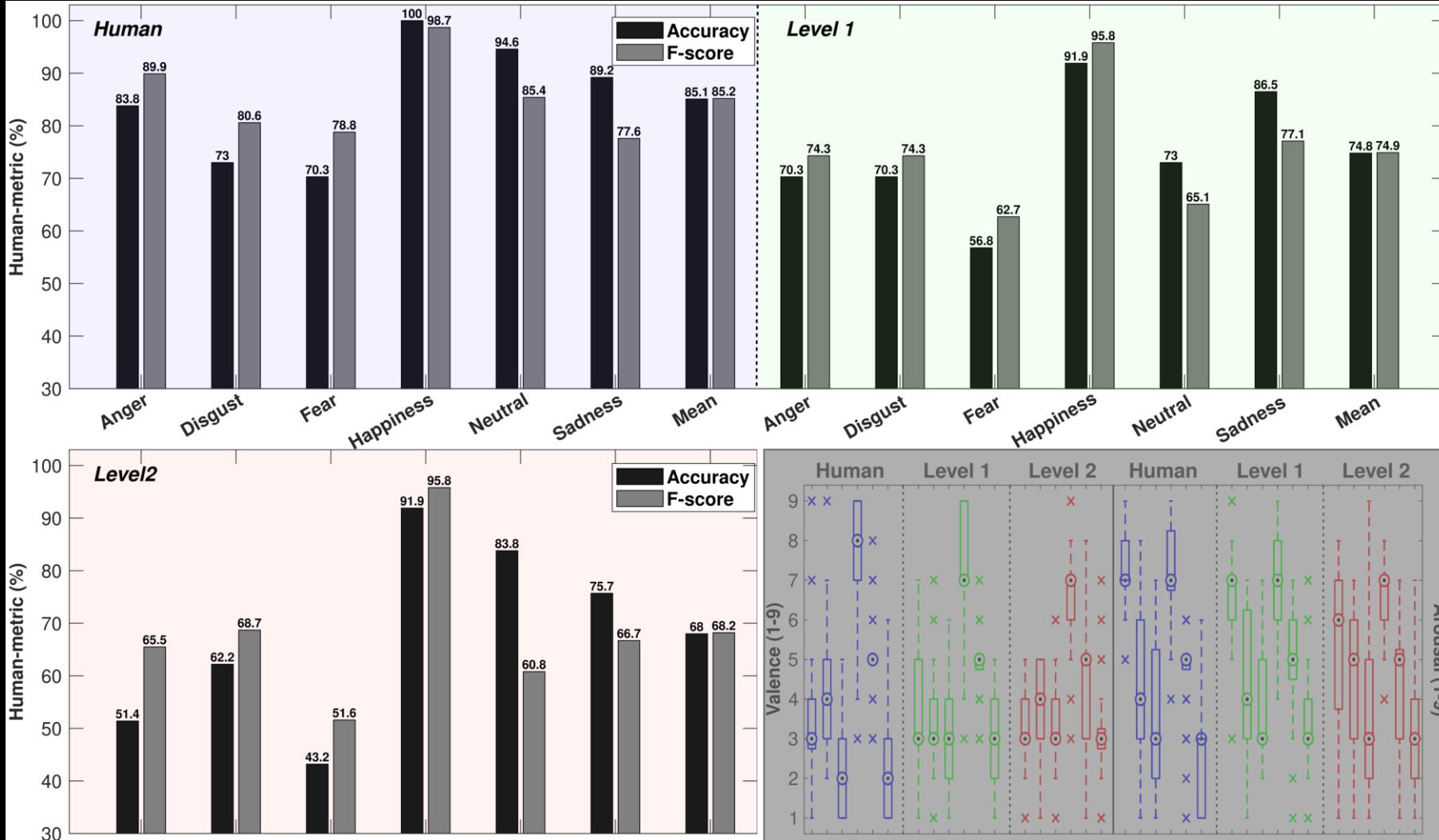
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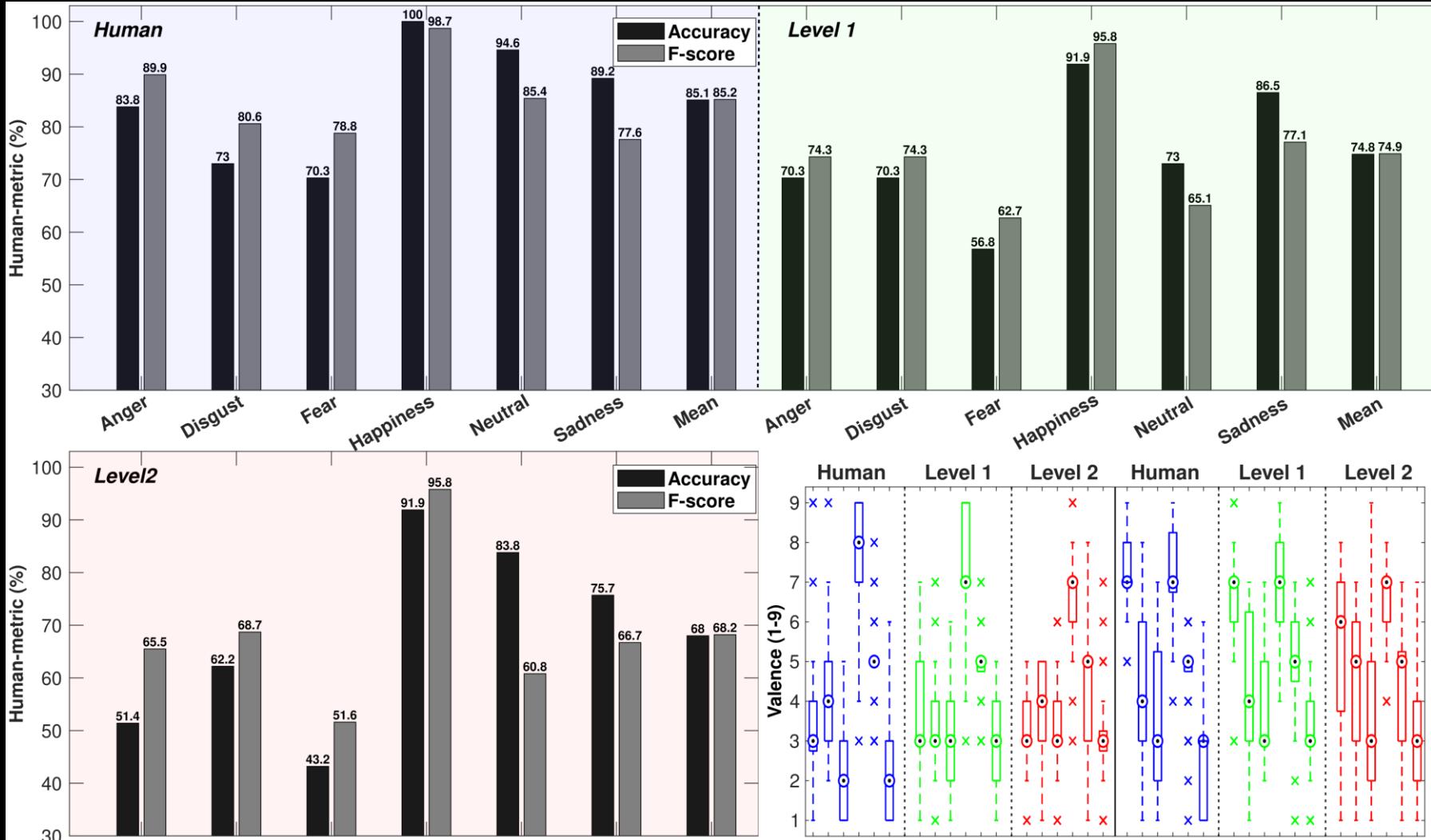
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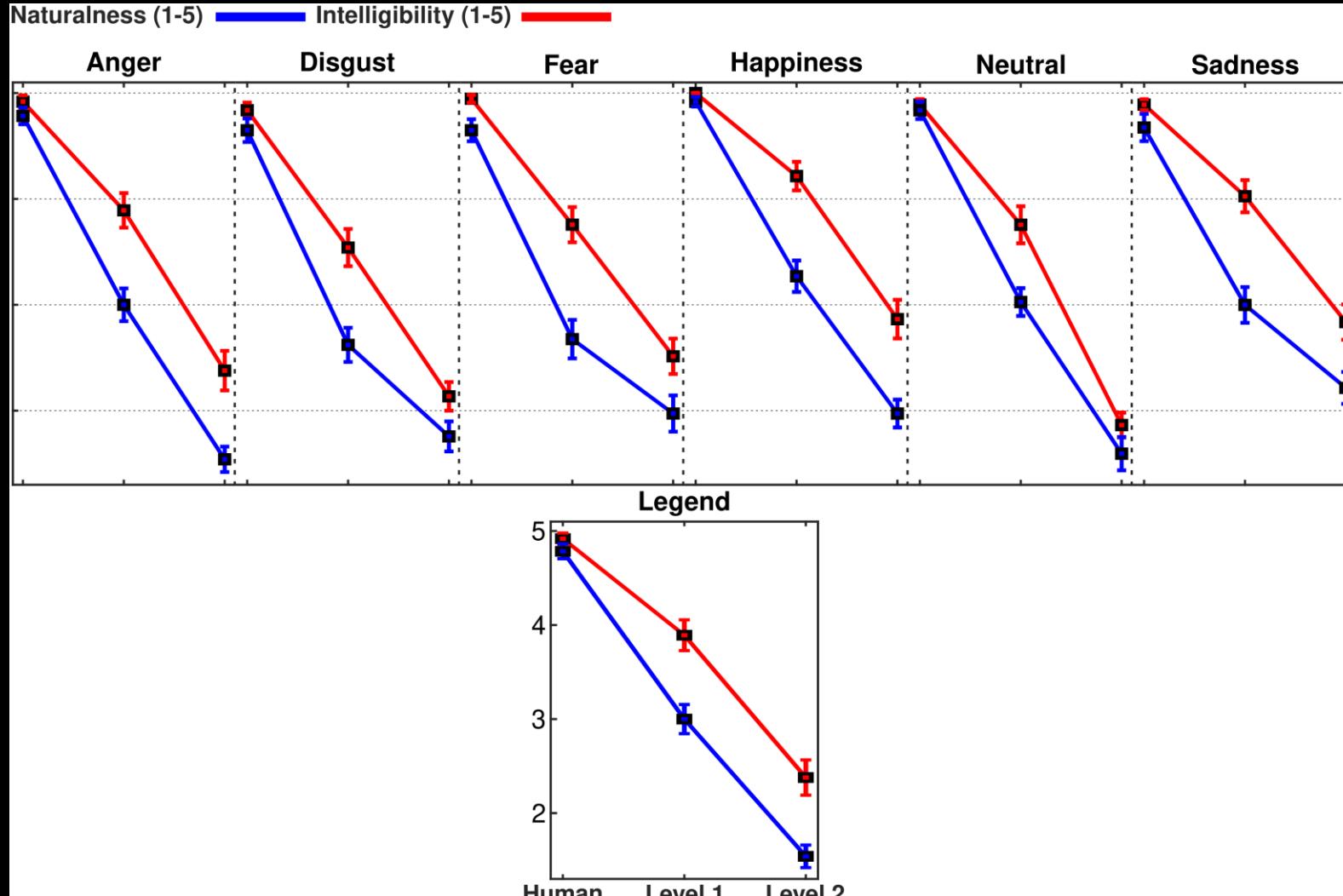


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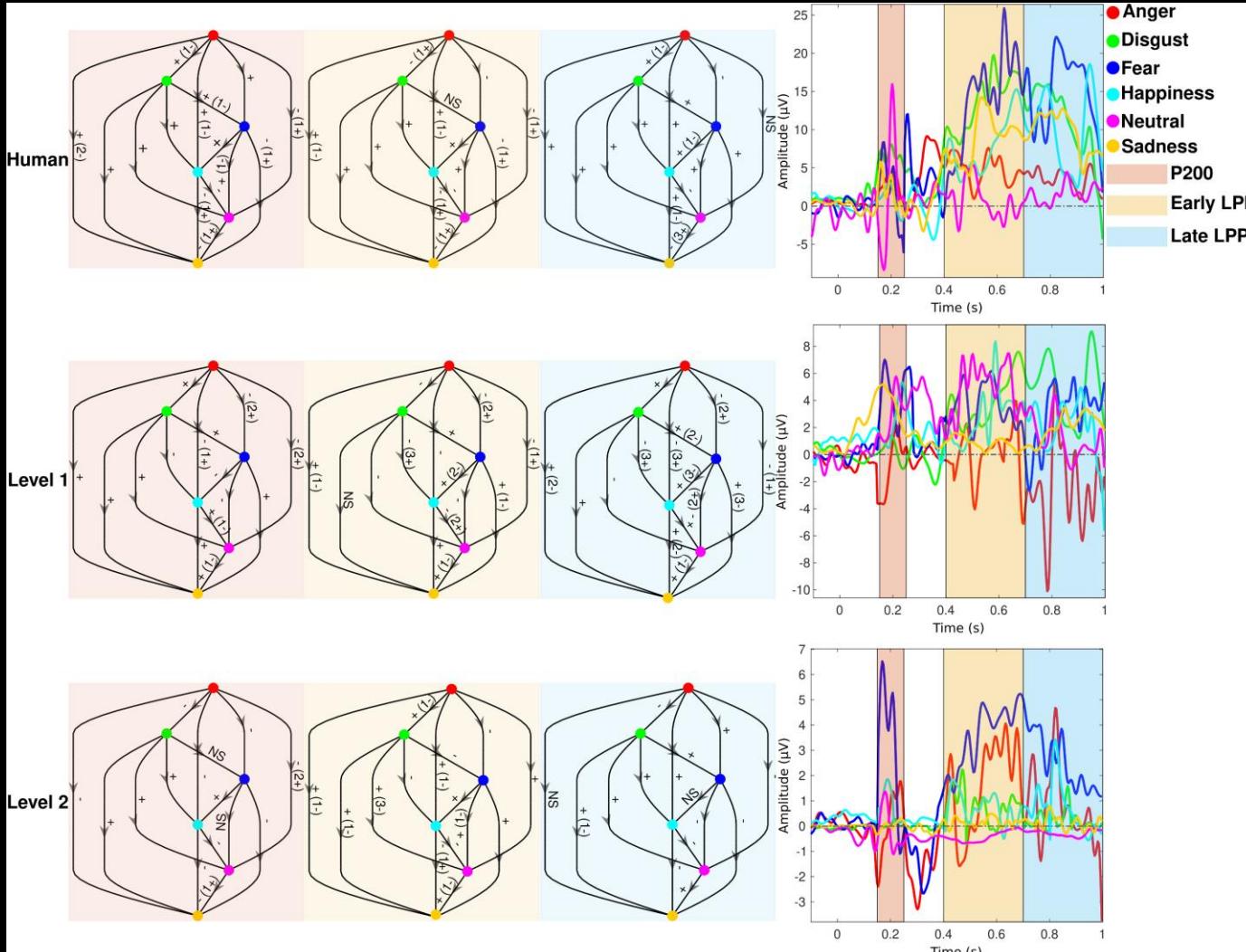


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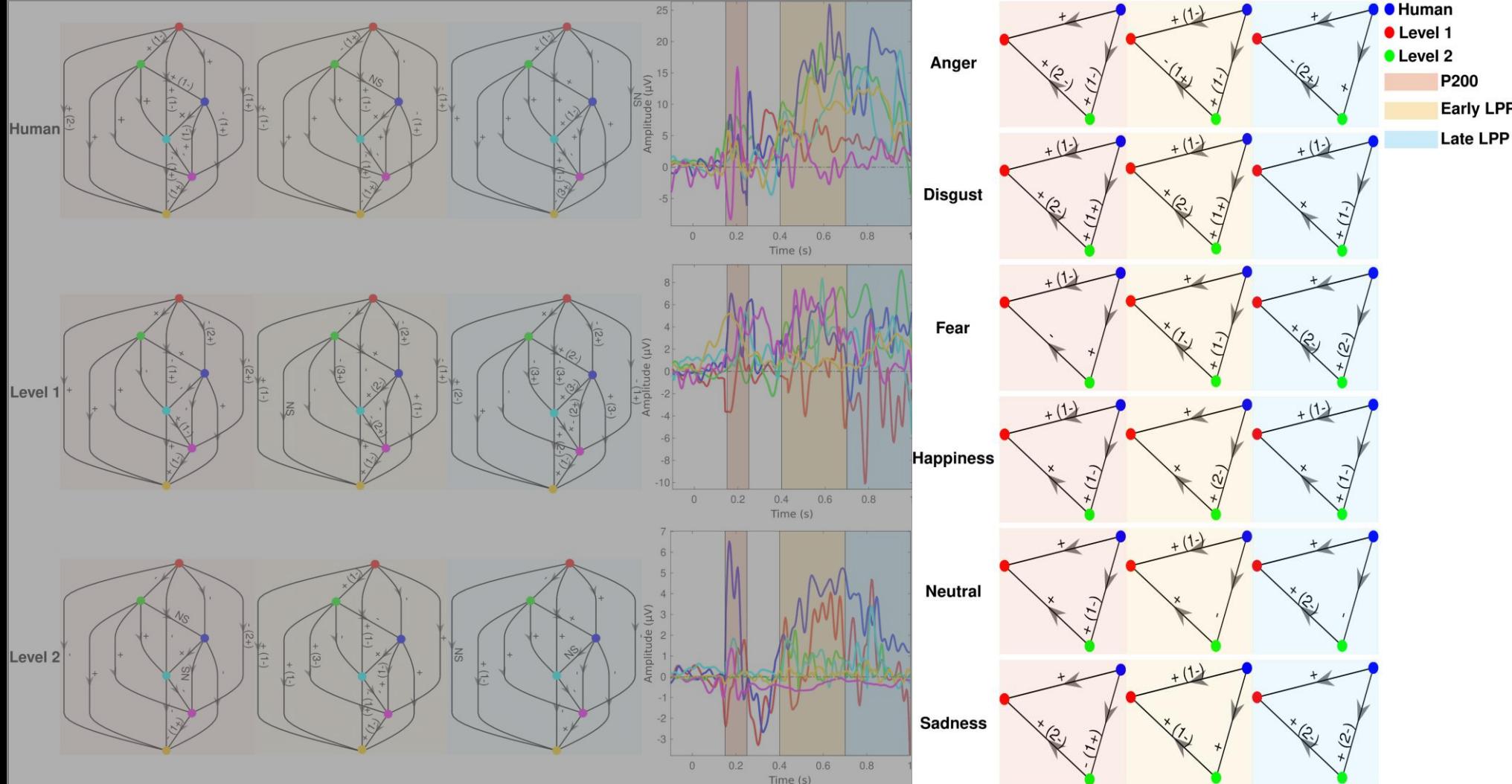


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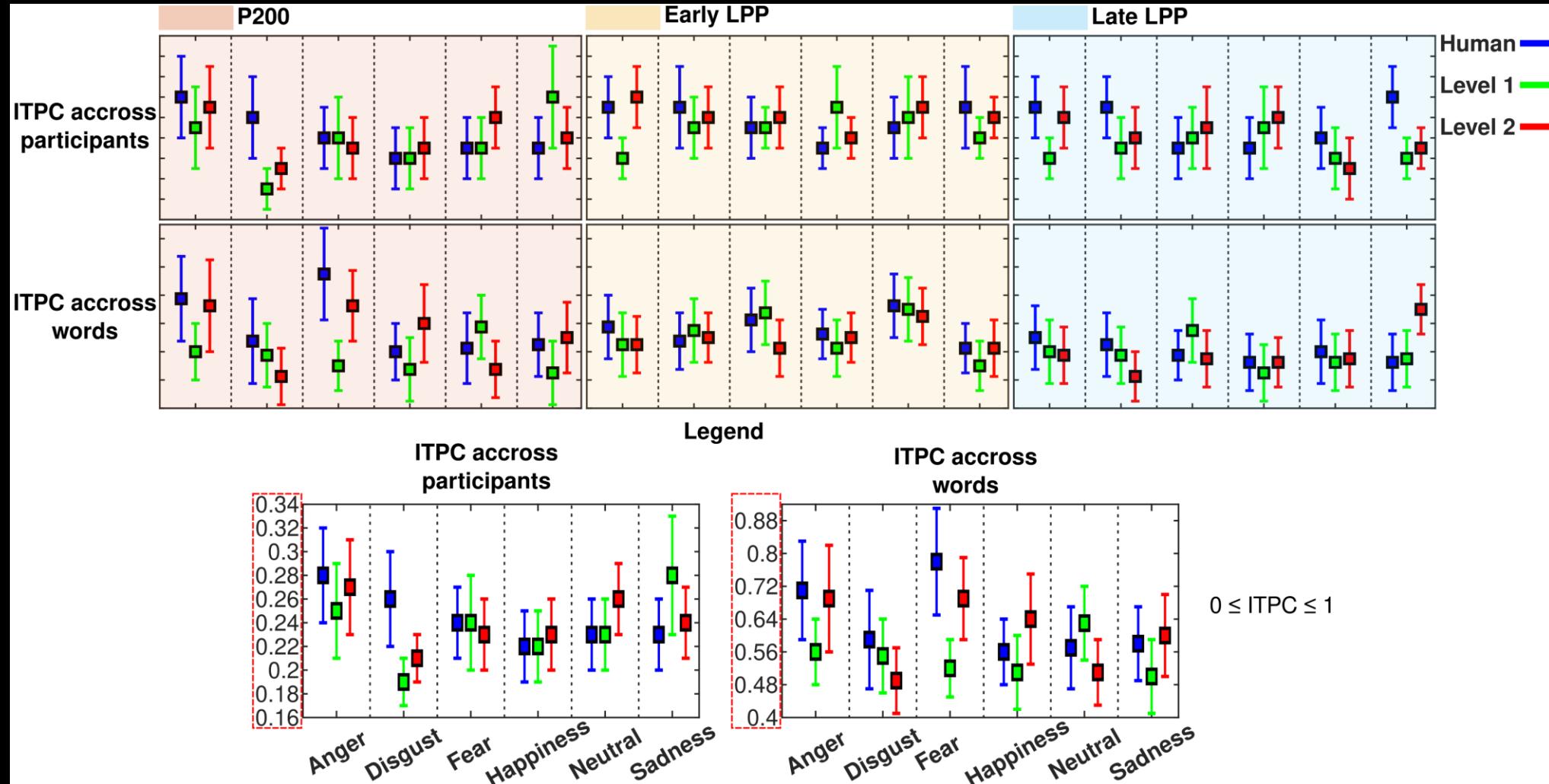
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Human and naturalness-reduced voices



Naturalness-reduced voices were created:

- From high to low **variability** of acoustic features: Human > Level 1 > Level 2
- From which **emotional prosodies are recognized**, assessed by behavioral and electrophysiological markers
- Differential early and late patterns of neuronal activity while naturalness reduces highlight different processes for perception

Human voices previously recorded:

- Allow **emotional prosody recognition**, as assessed by behavioral and electrophysiological markers

Validity of MESD's word corpus:

- High coherence for emotion processing **between words** for every emotion (high ITPC)

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Human and naturalness-reduced voices



From the complemented database (human and naturalness-reduced voices):

- The assessment of emotion recognition by **children** is necessary
- The validation of an experimental paradigm is necessary, that allows to assess both:
 - (a) precision-weighting mechanisms for perception
 - (b) emotional prosodies' recognition

Two studies have been implemented:

- I. Validation of an experimental paradigm to assess perception by children (TD and ASD)
 - Human voices only
- II. Assessment of perception by TD and ASD children (and of repeatability of previously emphasized experimental framework)
 - Human and naturalness-reduced voices

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Human and naturalness-reduced voices



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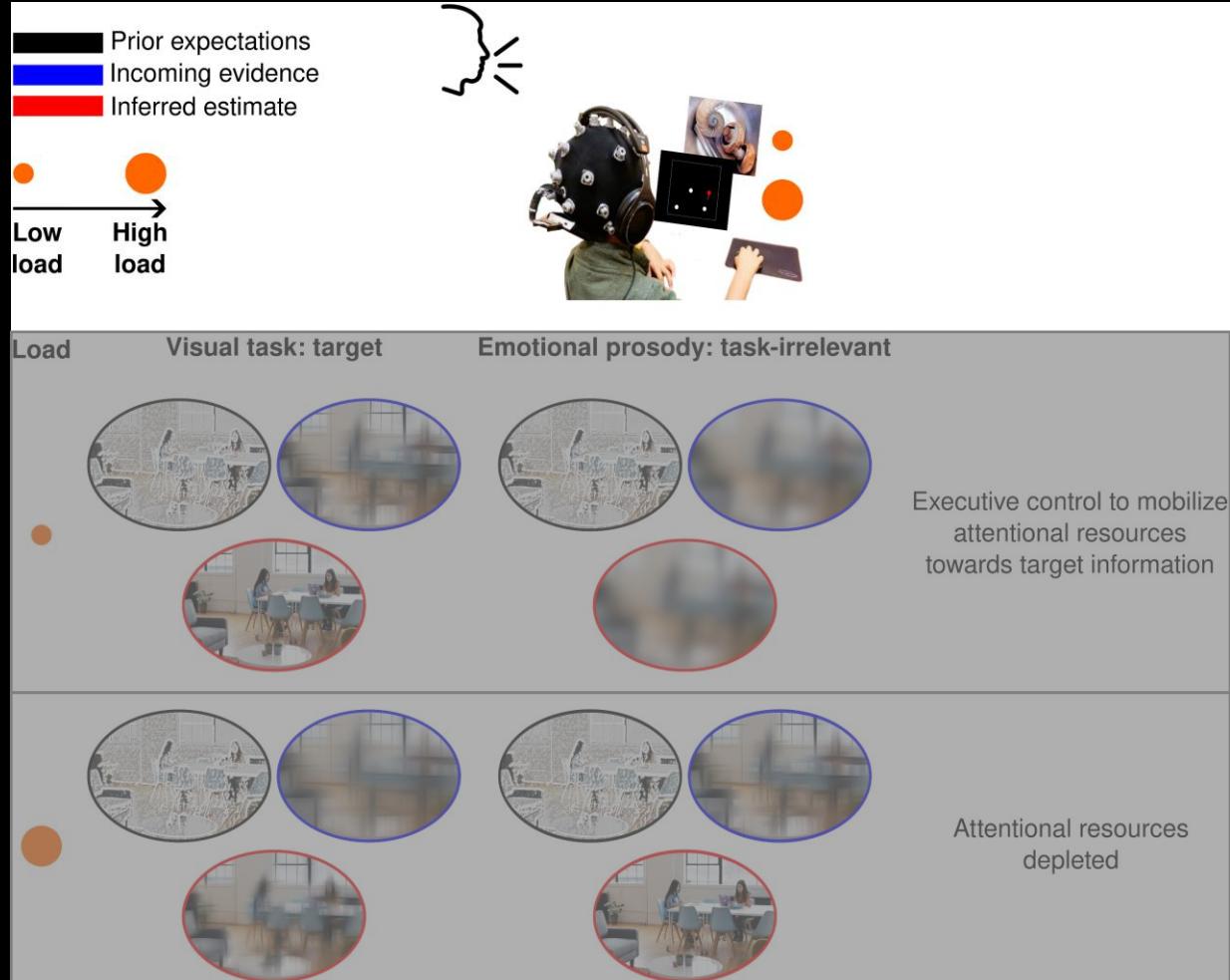
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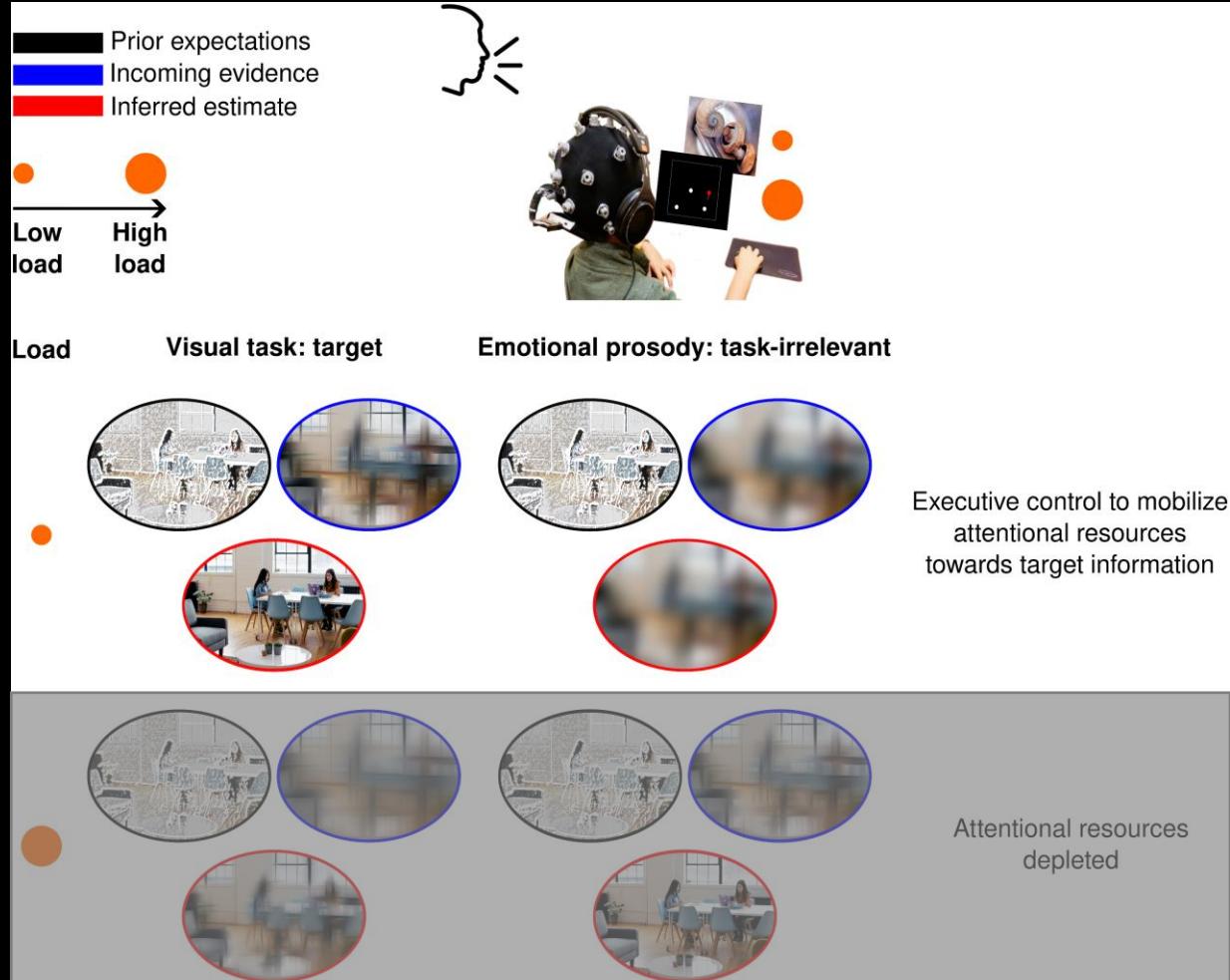
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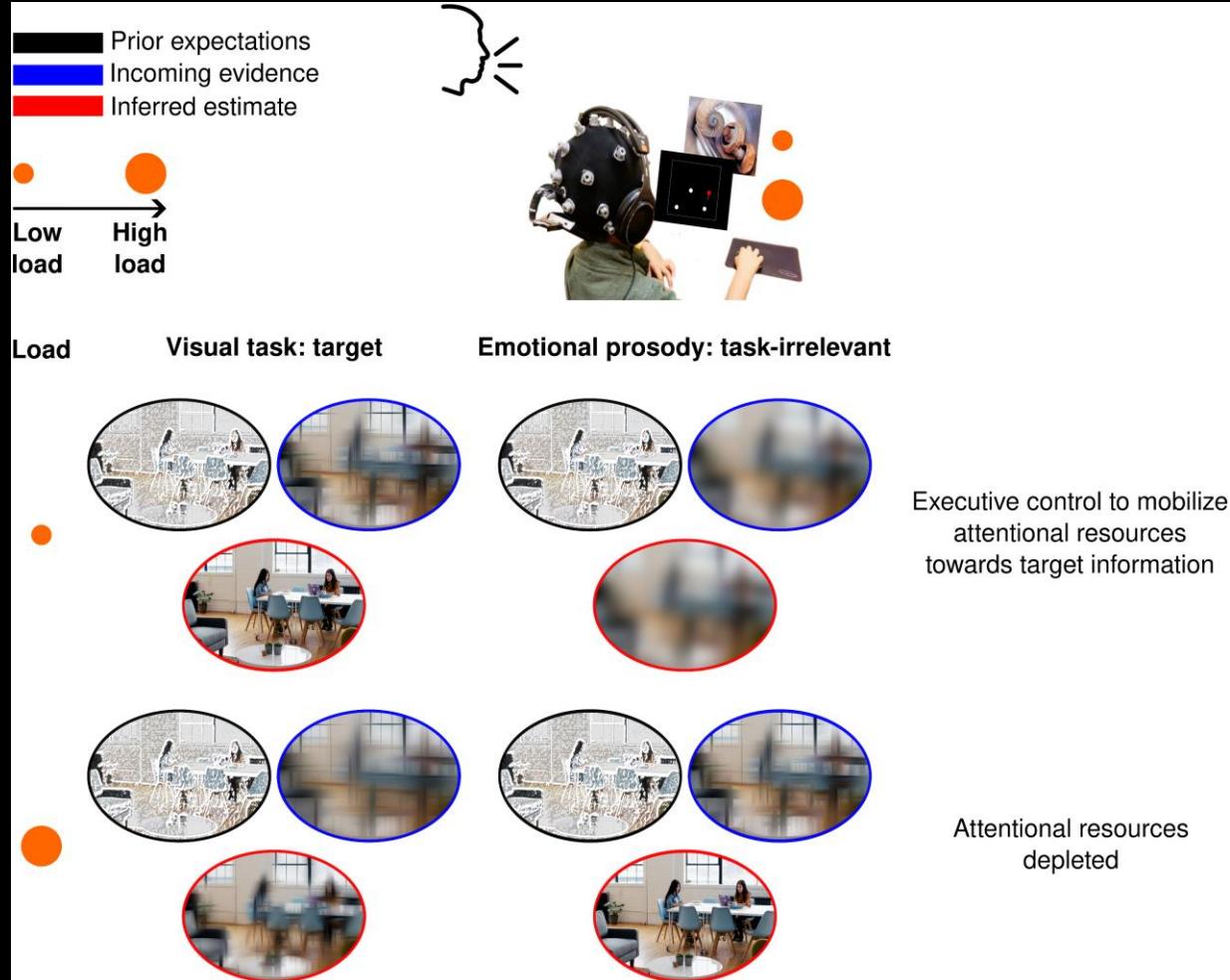
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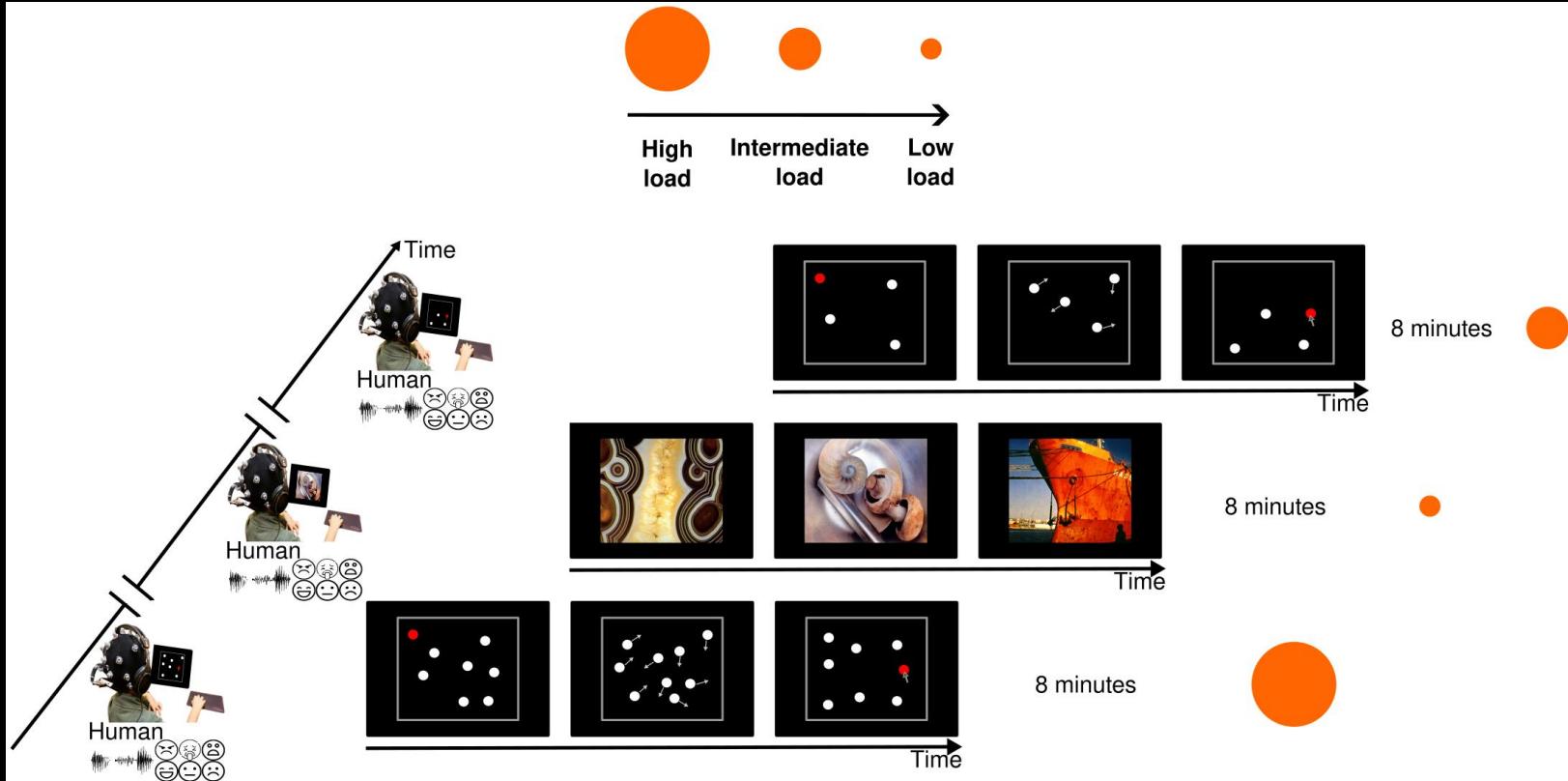
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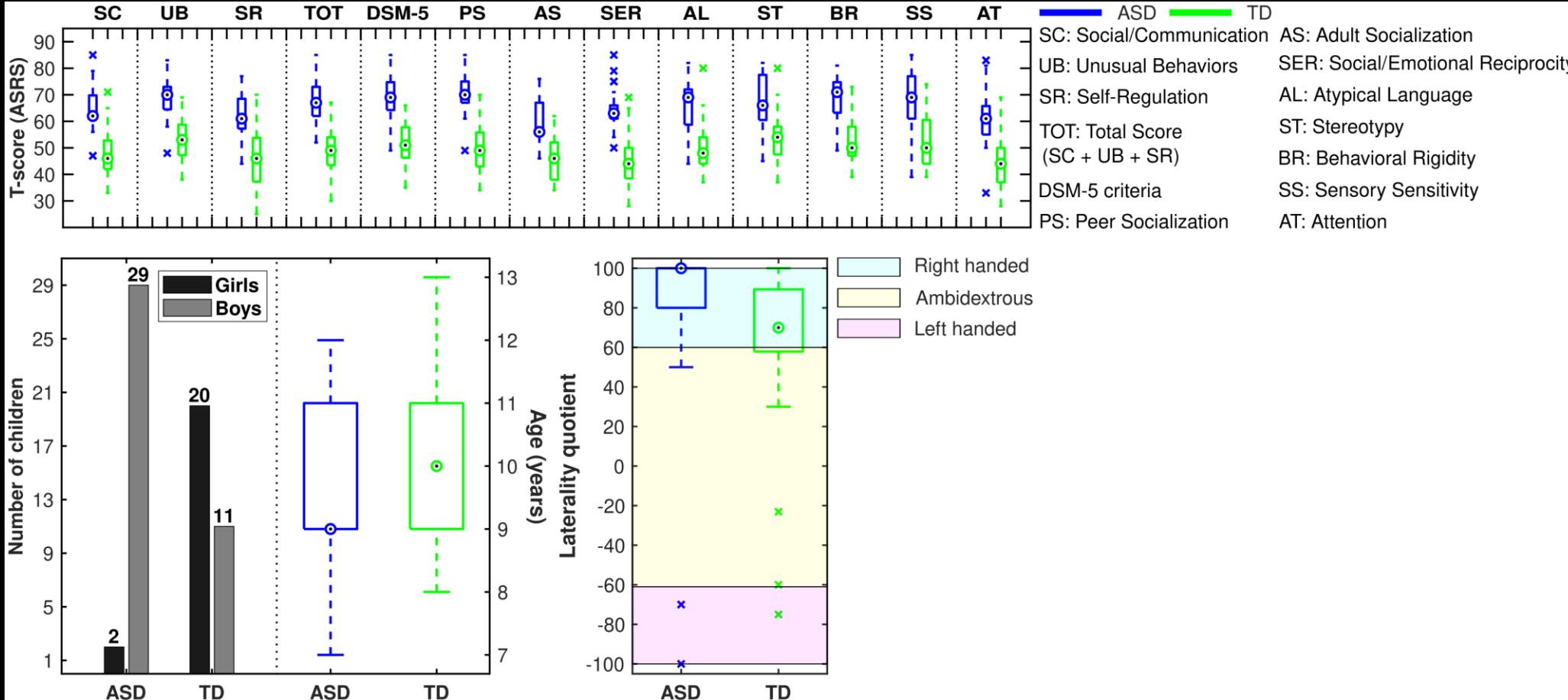
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Type of data		Data curation																					
Behavioral																							
Correct/incorrect responses on MOT	Tracking capacity (m')	<p>Rate of correct guess</p> $p = \frac{n/d}{(m/n + d/2)}$ $m = n(dp - d/2)$ $m \text{ is in range: } [-d/2, d/2]$ $m' = -1 + \frac{(2(m - \min(m))}{\max(m) - \min(m)})$ $m' \text{ is in range } [-1, 1]$	<p>Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) Group and condition effects $p < 0.05$ corrected for multiple comparisons (post-hoc Tukey)</p> <p>Bayesian ANOVA In case of null result Evidence in favor of the null hypothesis (BF01)</p>																				
Type of data		Data curation																					
Electroencephalography (EEG)	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Online</th> <th>Offline</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>17 channels</td> <td>Average referencing</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Expanded 10-20 topography</td> <td>Baseline means removal</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sample frequency: 256 Hz</td> <td>Butterworth bandpass 6th order 0.1-100 Hz</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Impedance <10 kOhms</td> <td>Line noise removal 60 Hz - Cleanline</td> </tr> <tr> <td> ASD TD ASD and TD </td> <td>Artifact Subspace Reconstruction (mean: 22.5/24, sd: 4.8) Bad channels detection and interpolation (mean: 3.4/32, sd: 2.1, 1.1/24, sd: 1) Extended Infomax Independent Components Analysis ICLabel for fixed-sourced artifacts rejection (<70% brain, mean: 1.77, sd: 2)</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Time-locked to auditory stimuli</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>ERSP extraction Morlet wavelet 3 to 67.5 cycles 4 to 90 Hz</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Baseline [-1.1 -1] s</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Significant ERSP compared to baseline (1000 permutations)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Online	Offline	17 channels	Average referencing	Expanded 10-20 topography	Baseline means removal	Sample frequency: 256 Hz	Butterworth bandpass 6th order 0.1-100 Hz	Impedance <10 kOhms	Line noise removal 60 Hz - Cleanline	 ASD TD ASD and TD	Artifact Subspace Reconstruction (mean: 22.5/24, sd: 4.8) Bad channels detection and interpolation (mean: 3.4/32, sd: 2.1, 1.1/24, sd: 1) Extended Infomax Independent Components Analysis ICLabel for fixed-sourced artifacts rejection (<70% brain, mean: 1.77, sd: 2)		Time-locked to auditory stimuli		ERSP extraction Morlet wavelet 3 to 67.5 cycles 4 to 90 Hz		Baseline [-1.1 -1] s		Significant ERSP compared to baseline (1000 permutations)	<p>Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) Emotion and condition effects 1000 permutations under data exchangeability One or more neighboring sensors Cluster-level statistic: sum of statistics Maximum cluster-level statistic per iteration $p < 0.05$ corrected for multiple comparisons (Bonferroni)</p> <p>Bayesian ANOVA In case of null result Evidence in favor of the null hypothesis (BF01)</p>	
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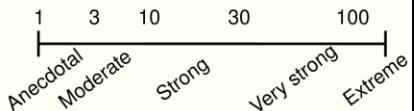


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Behavioral			
Correct/incorrect responses on MOT	Tracking capacity (m')	$p = \frac{n/d}{m/n + d/2}$ $n: \text{proportion of correct responses}$ $d: \text{the number of targets}$ $m: \text{number of discs}$ $m: \text{number of targets correctly tracked after correction}$ $m \in [-d/2, d/2]$ $m' = -1 + \frac{(2(m - \min(m))}{\max(m) - \min(m)}$ $m' \in [-1, 1]$	$\min(m) = -2 \text{ when } d = 4$ $\min(m) = -4 \text{ when } d = 8$ $\max(m) = 2 \text{ when } d = 4$ $\max(m) = 4 \text{ when } d = 8$
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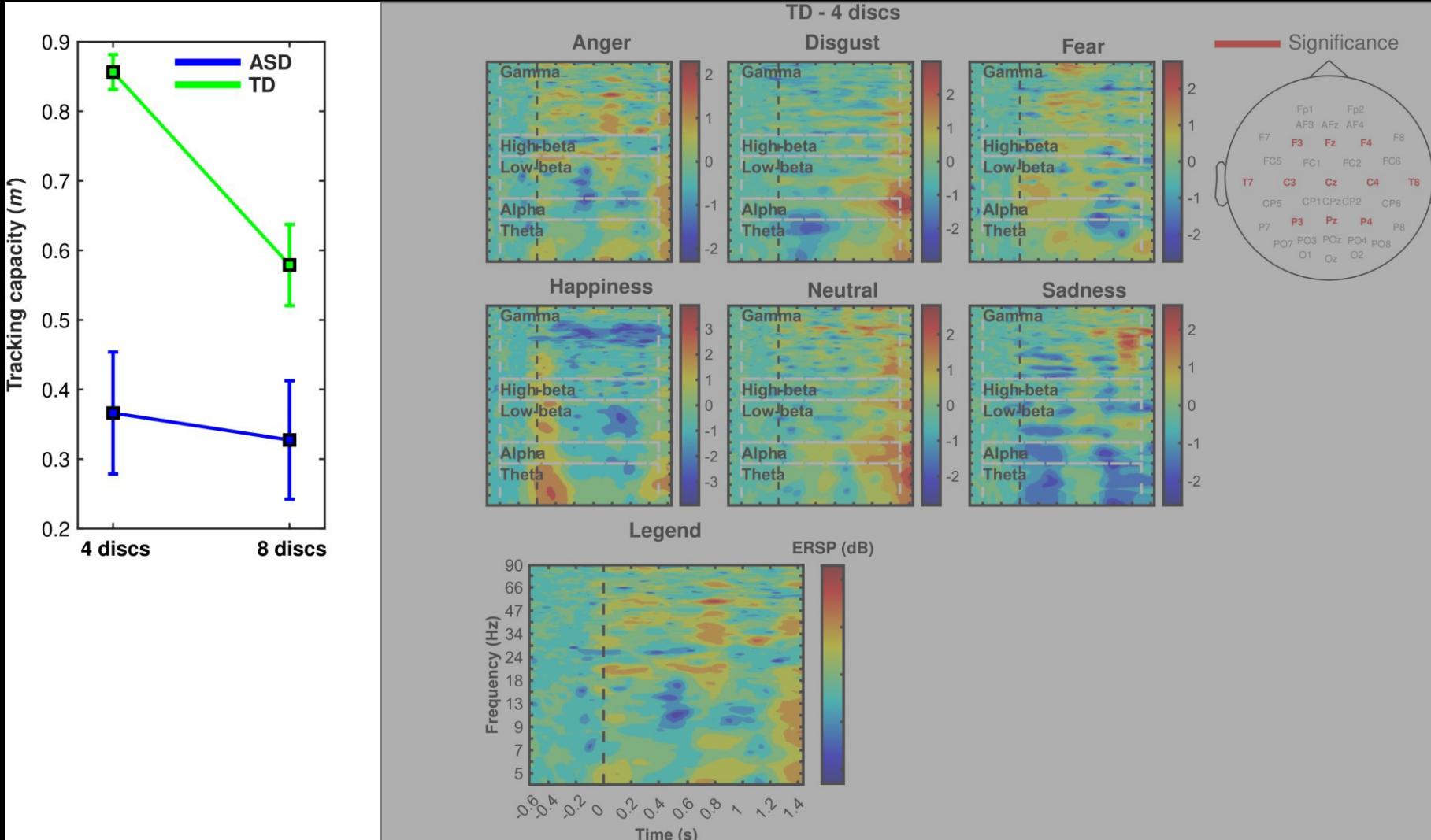
Medium load: emotion recognition by TD



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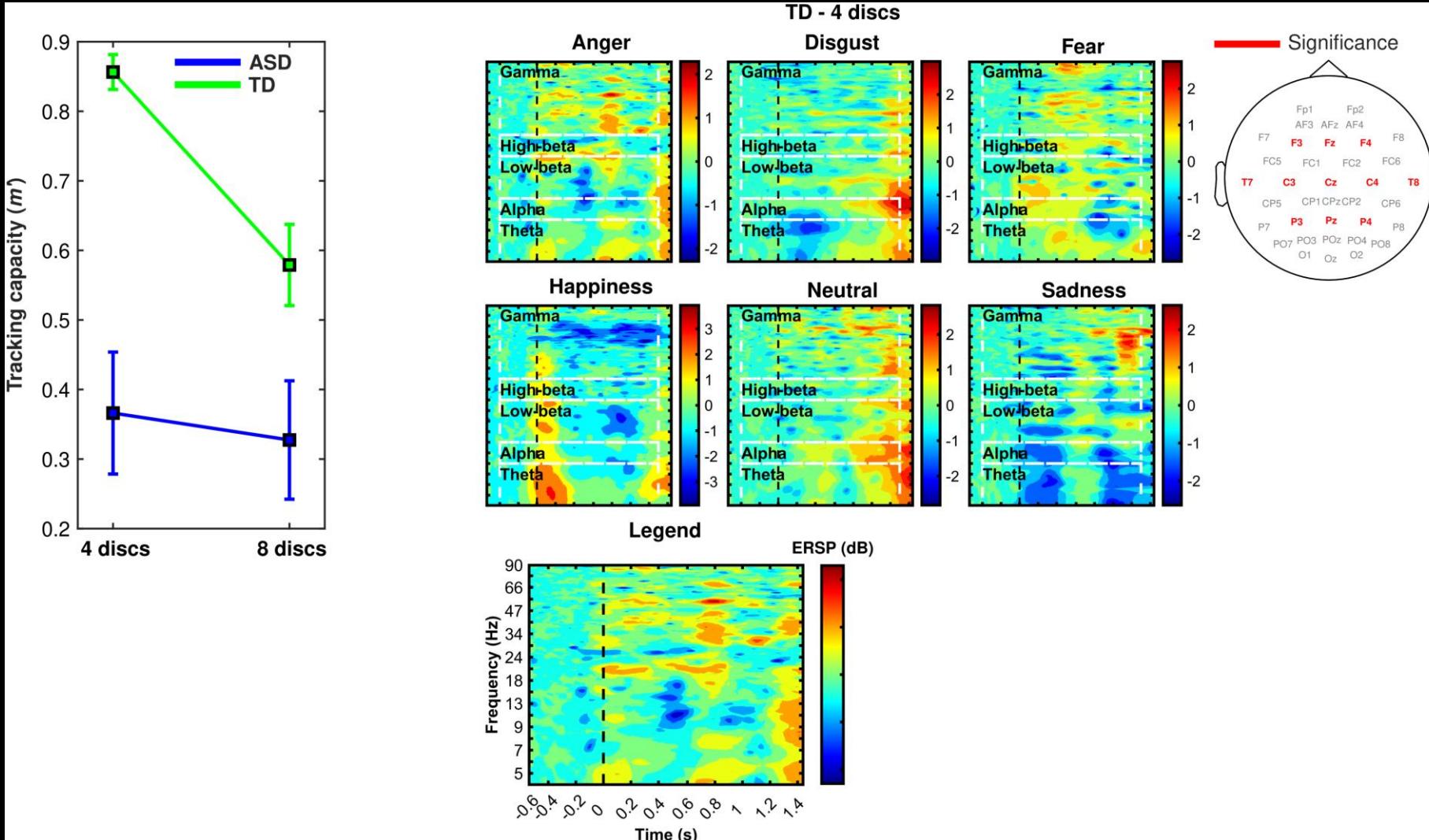
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Medium load: emotion recognition by TD

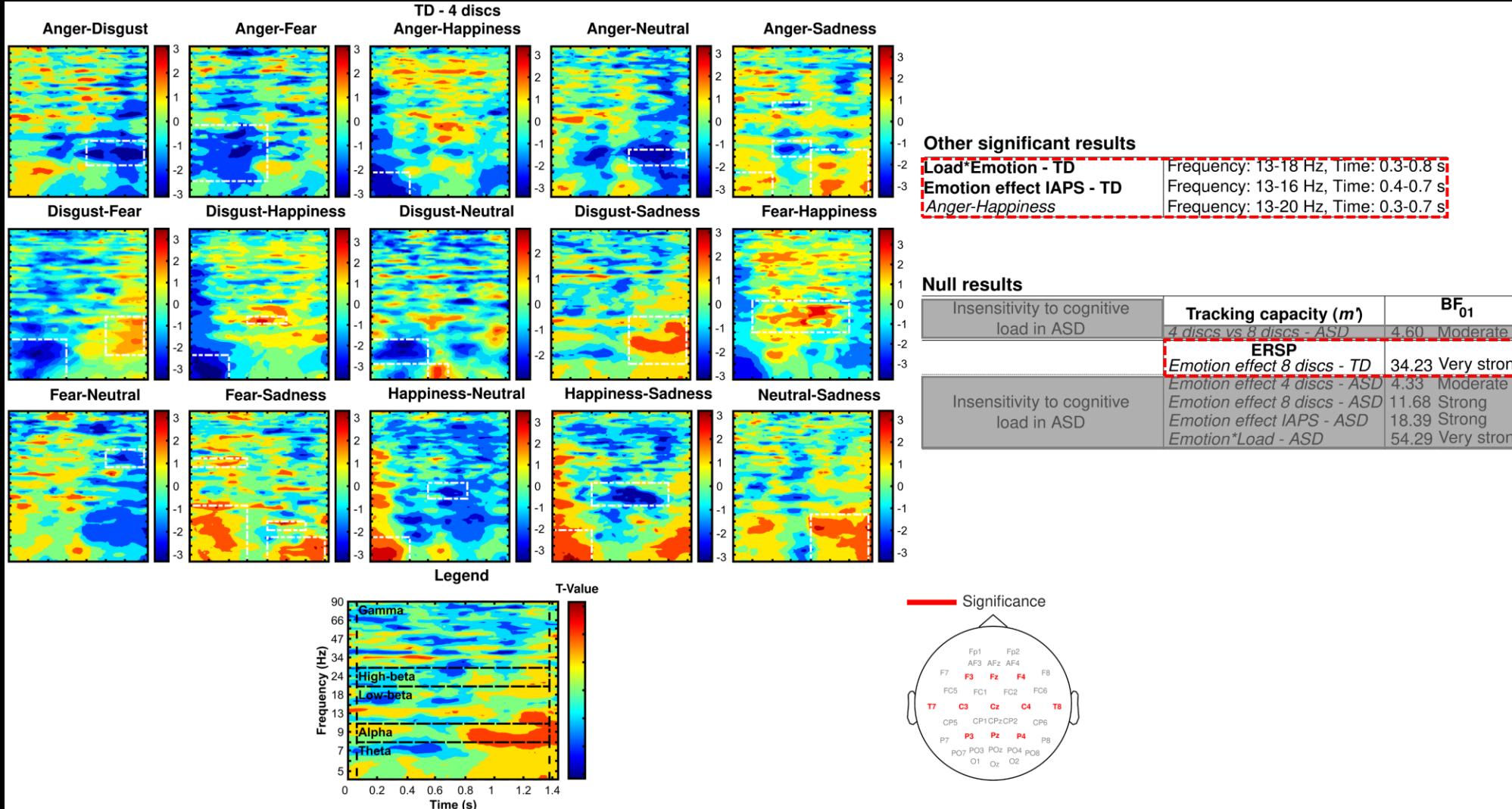


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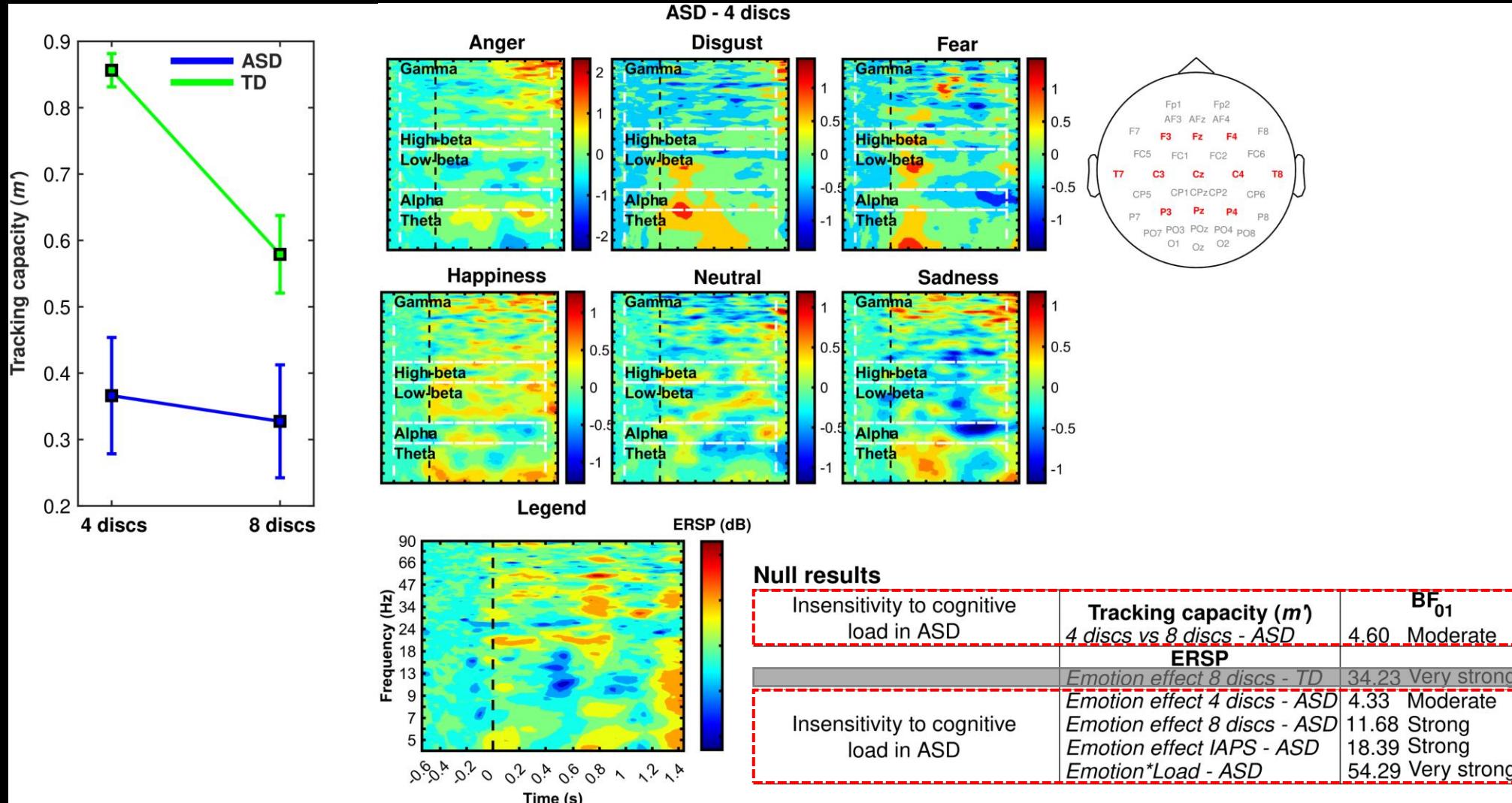
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A validated paradigm to assess perception



Mechanisms for perception:

- **Emotions are recognized by TD children** while listening to human voices
 - **Medium load (4 discs)** is optimal to process emotional prosodies
- Both the tracking capacity and ERSP are insensitive to cognitive load in ASD
- ASD children have lower tracking capacity than TD:
 - Consistent with the **overestimation of environmental variability** and **steady overweighting of sensory inputs**. Clear the path for **the next study**
- Altered neuronal processing of emotional prosodies in ASD while listening to human voices. No emotion recognition

From the complemented database (human and naturalness-reduced voices):

- The perception of **naturalness-reduced** emotional prosodies by children is necessary
- **4 discs** to assess precision-weighting mechanisms by behavioral markers

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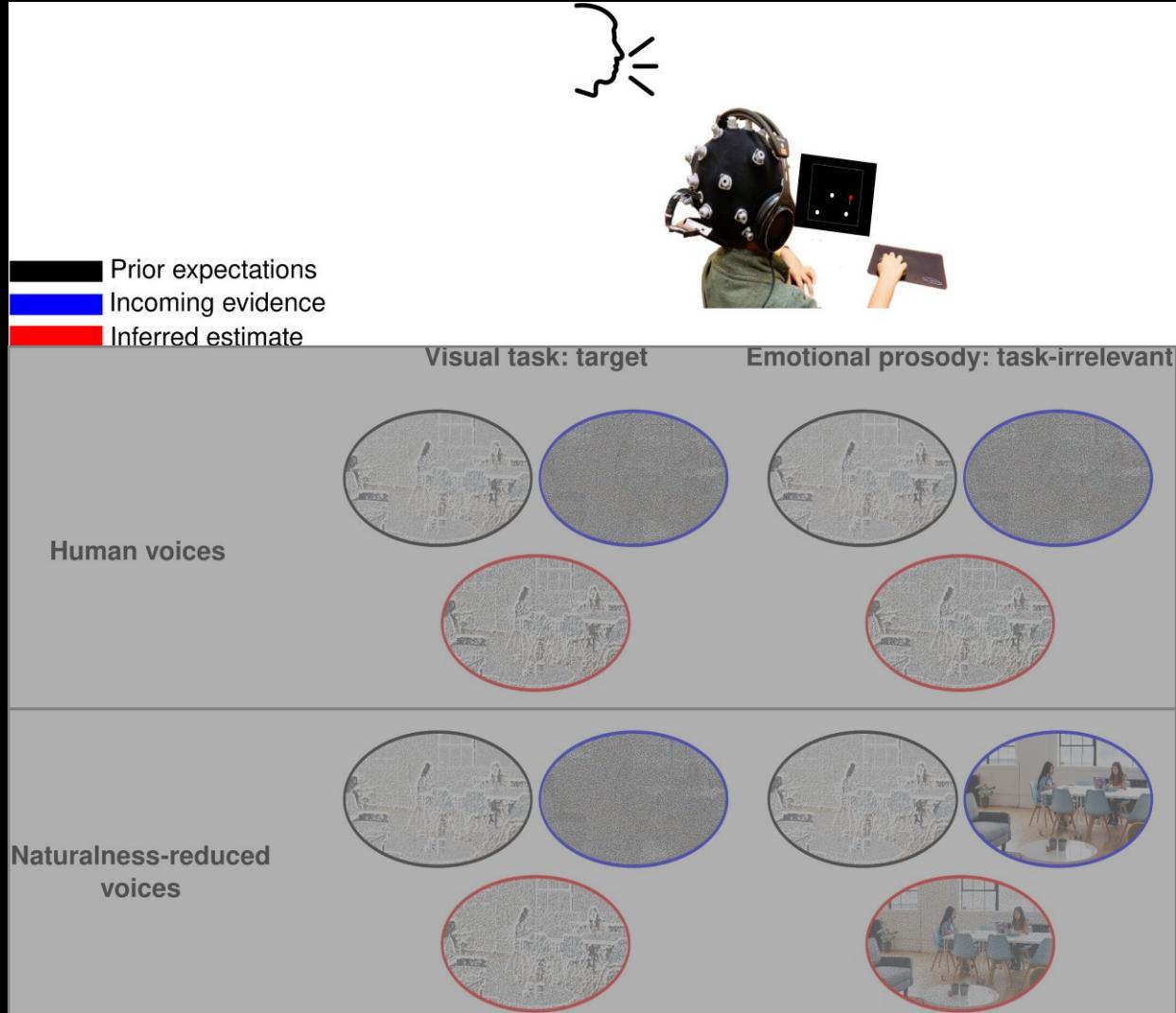
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Naturalness reduction: perception ASD and TD



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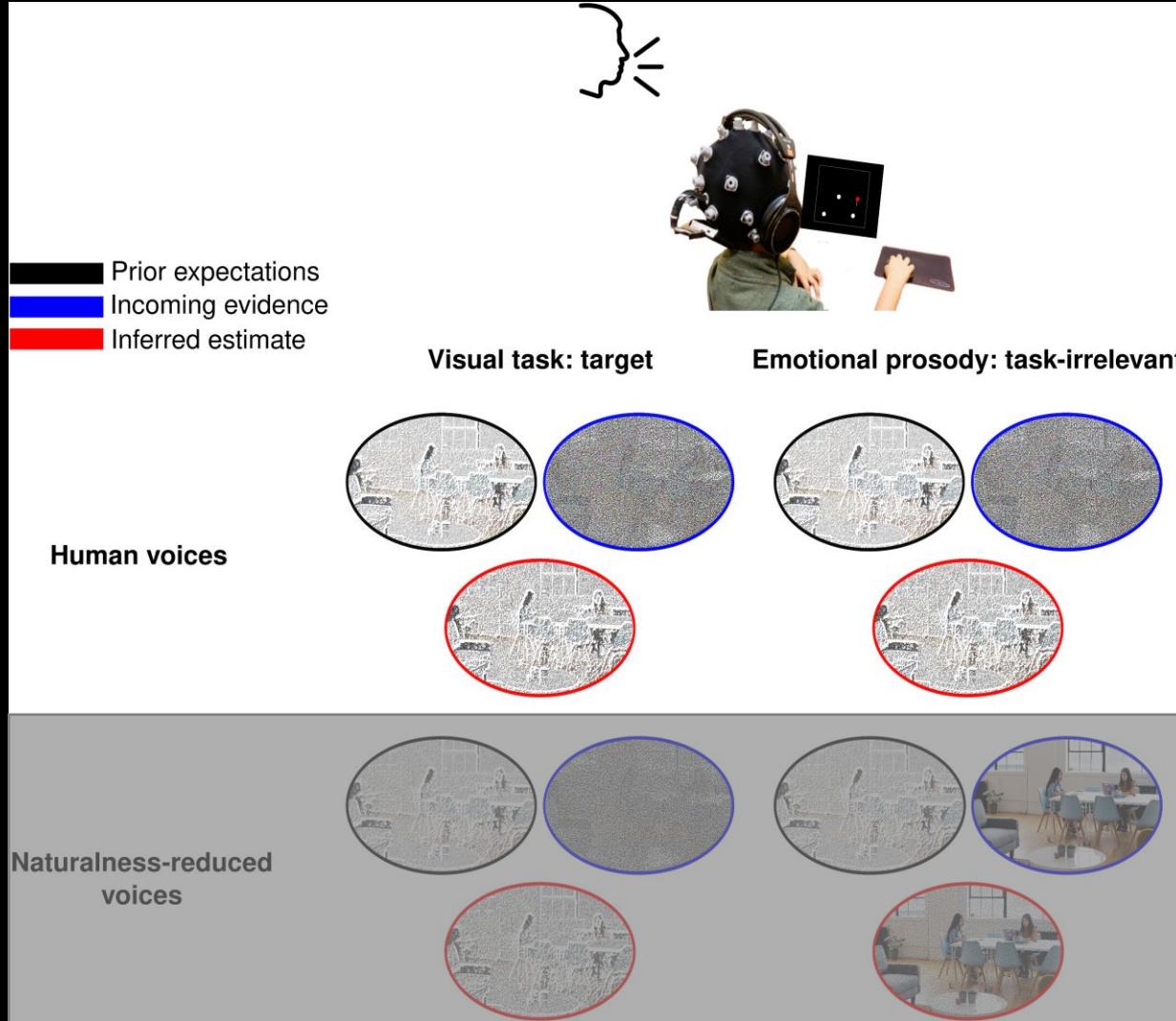


Naturalness reduction: perception ASD and TD



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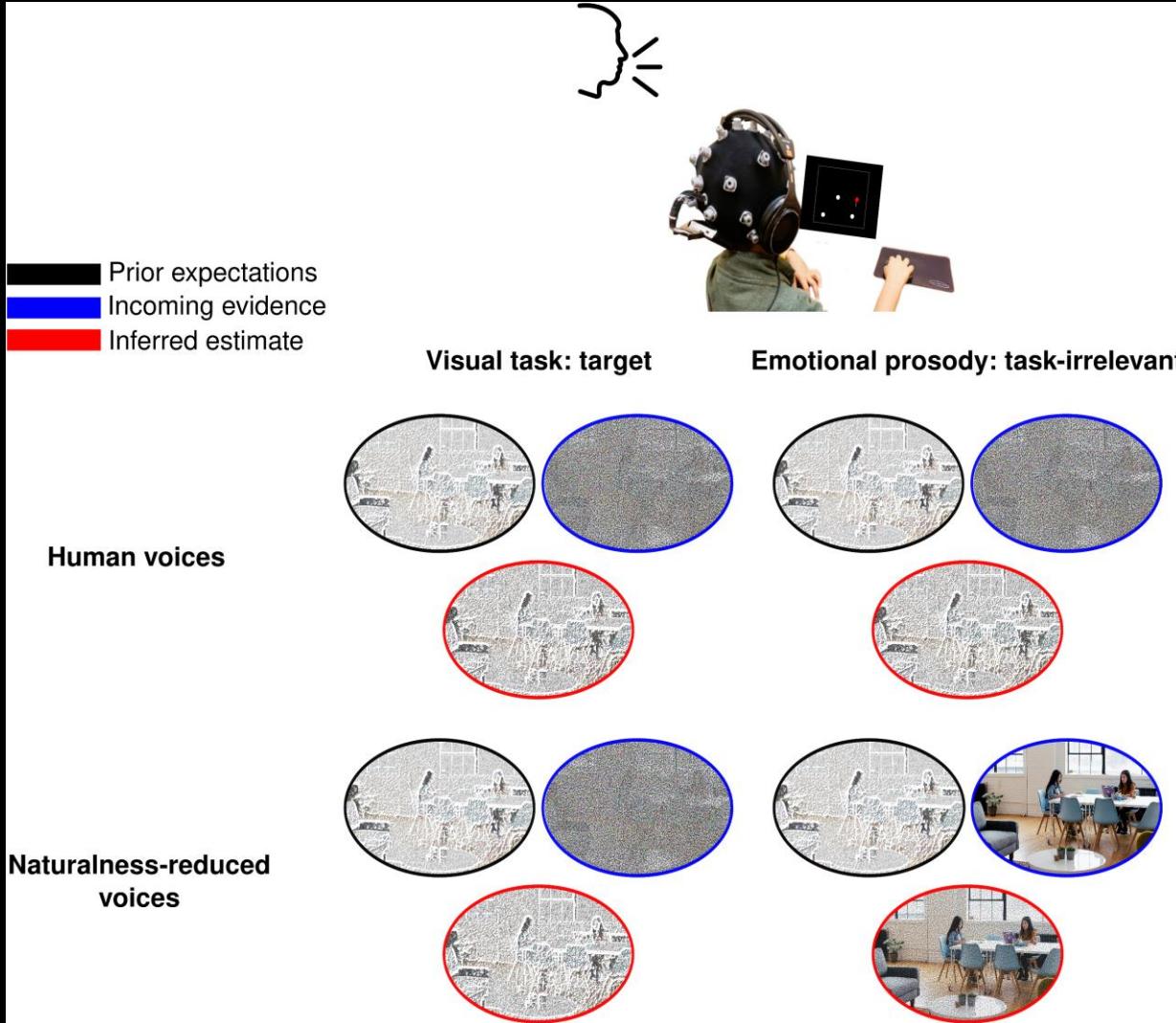


Naturalness reduction: perception ASD and TD

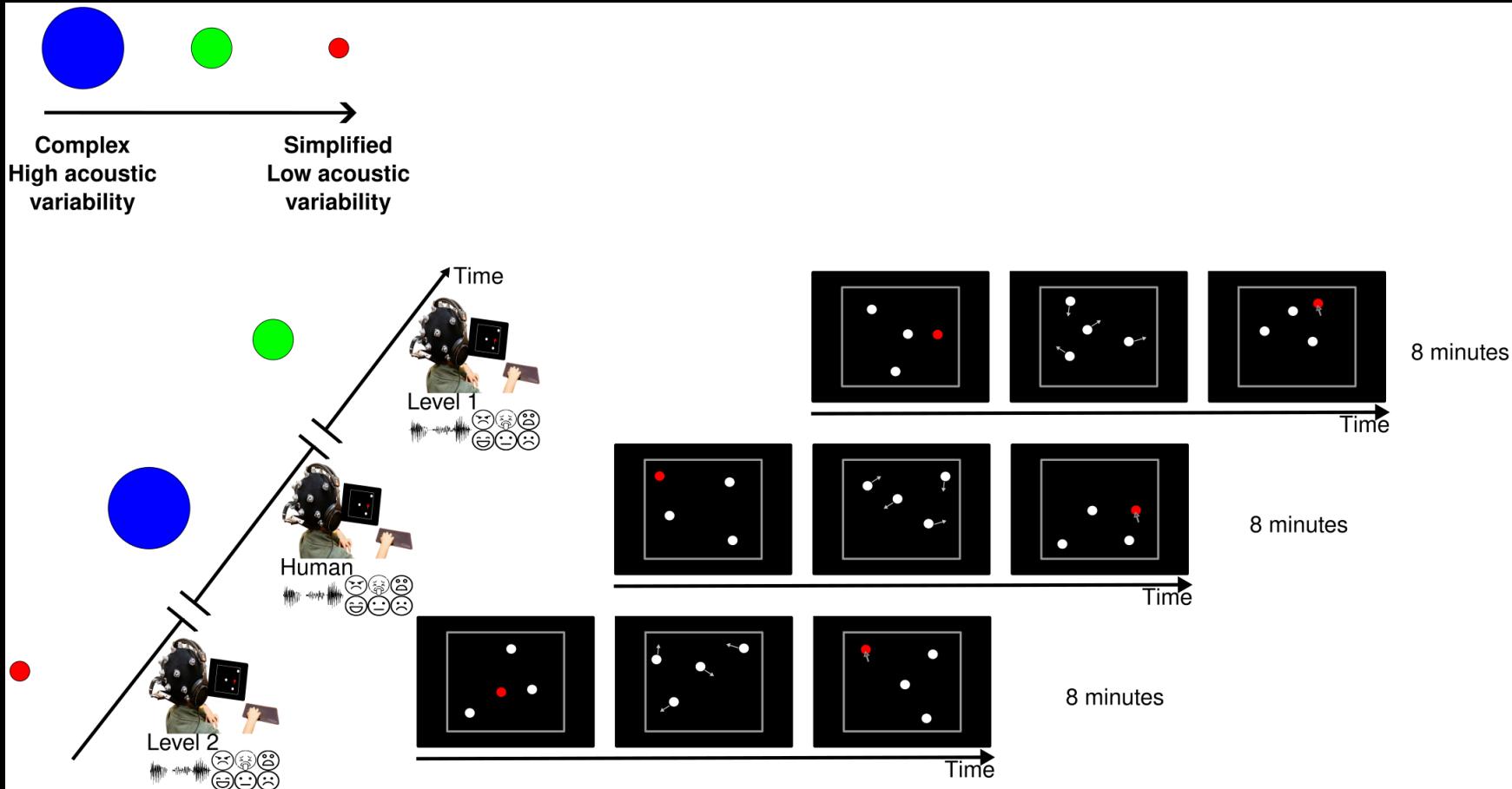


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Naturalness reduction: perception ASD and TD



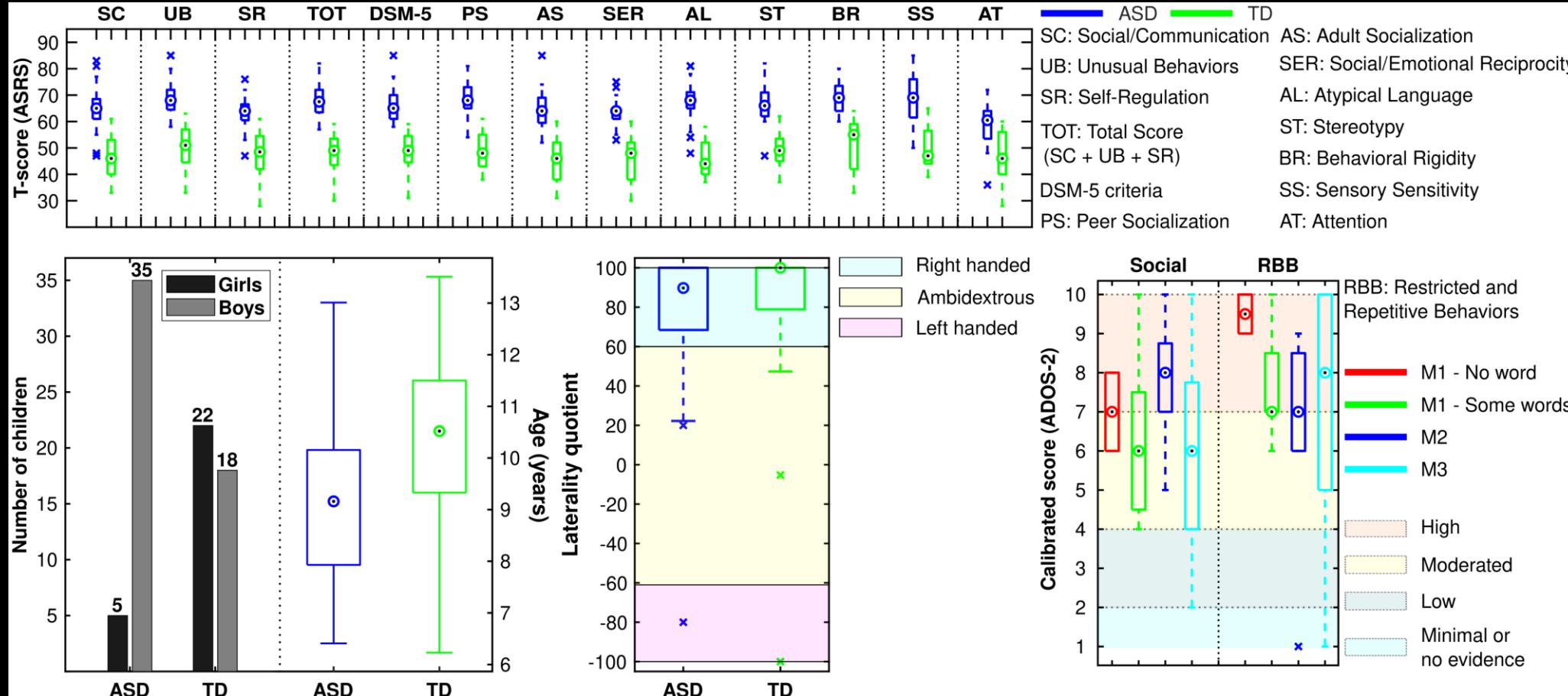
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Naturalness reduction: perception ASD and TD



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Perception by ASD and TD: markers



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Type of data	Data curation			Analysis of Variance (ANOVA)
Behavioral				Group and condition effects
Correct/incorrect responses on MOT	Tracking capacity (m)	$p = \frac{n/d}{(m/n + d/2)}$ $m = n(dp - d/2)$ $m \text{ is in range: } [-d/2, d/2]$ $[-2, 2]$	p : proportion of correct responses n : the number of targets d : number of discs m : number of targets correctly tracked after correction	$p < 0.05$
				Bayesian ANOVA In case of null result
				Evidence in favor of the null hypothesis (BF01)
Type of data	Online	Offline		
Electroencephalography (EEG)	22 channels	Average referencing	Epoch definition [-1.1 2] s	Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) Emotion and condition effects
	Expanded 10-20 topography	Baseline means removal		1000 permutations under data exchangeability
	Sample frequency: 500 Hz	High-pass; transition band [0.25 0.75] Hz, stopband attenuation: 80 dB - clean_rawdata function		One or more neighboring sensors
	Impedance<10 kOhms	Line noise removal 60 Hz - Cleanline		Cluster-level statistic: sum of statistics
		Artifact Subspace Reconstruction (mean: 23/24, sd: 3.2)		Maximum cluster-level statistic per iteration
		Bad channels detection and interpolation (mean: 1.7/22, sd: 1.4)		$p < 0.05$ corrected for multiple comparisons (Bonferroni)
		Extended Infomax Independent Components Analysis		Bayesian ANOVA In case of null result
		ICLabel for fixed-sourced artifacts rejection (<70% brain, mean: 1.90, sd: 2.2)		Evidence in favor of the null hypothesis (BF01)

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				Bayesian ANOVA In case of null result
				Evidence in favor of the null hypothesis (BF01)

Perception by ASD and TD: markers



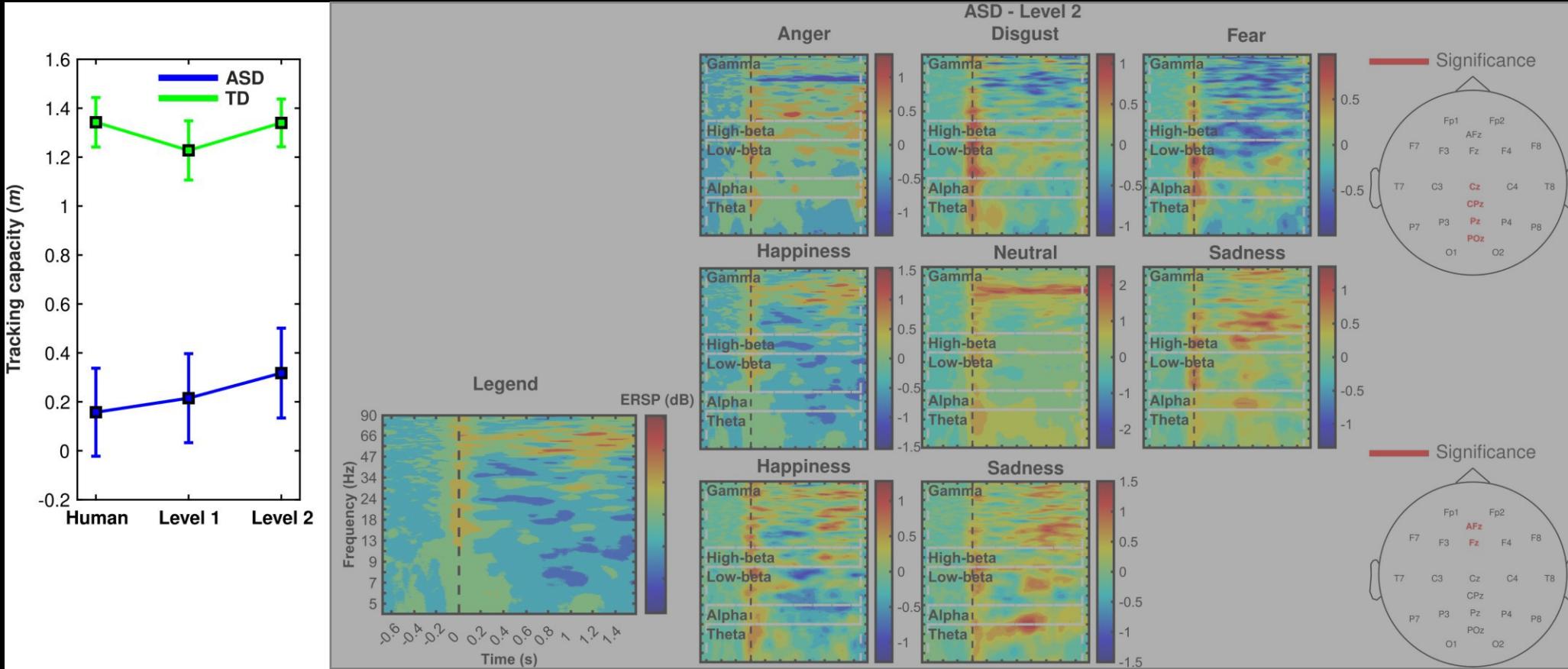
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Type of data	Data curation			Analysis of Variance (ANOVA)
Behavioral	$p = \frac{n/d}{(m/n + d/2)}$			Group and condition effects
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Impedance<10 kOhms	Line noise removal 60 Hz - Cleanline	Cluster-level statistic: sum of statistics		Maximum cluster-level statistic per iteration
ASD and TD	Artifact Subspace Reconstruction (mean: 23/24, sd: 3.2)	ERSP extraction Morlet wavelet	$p < 0.05$ corrected for multiple comparisons (Bonferroni)	
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Level 2: emotion recognition by ASD



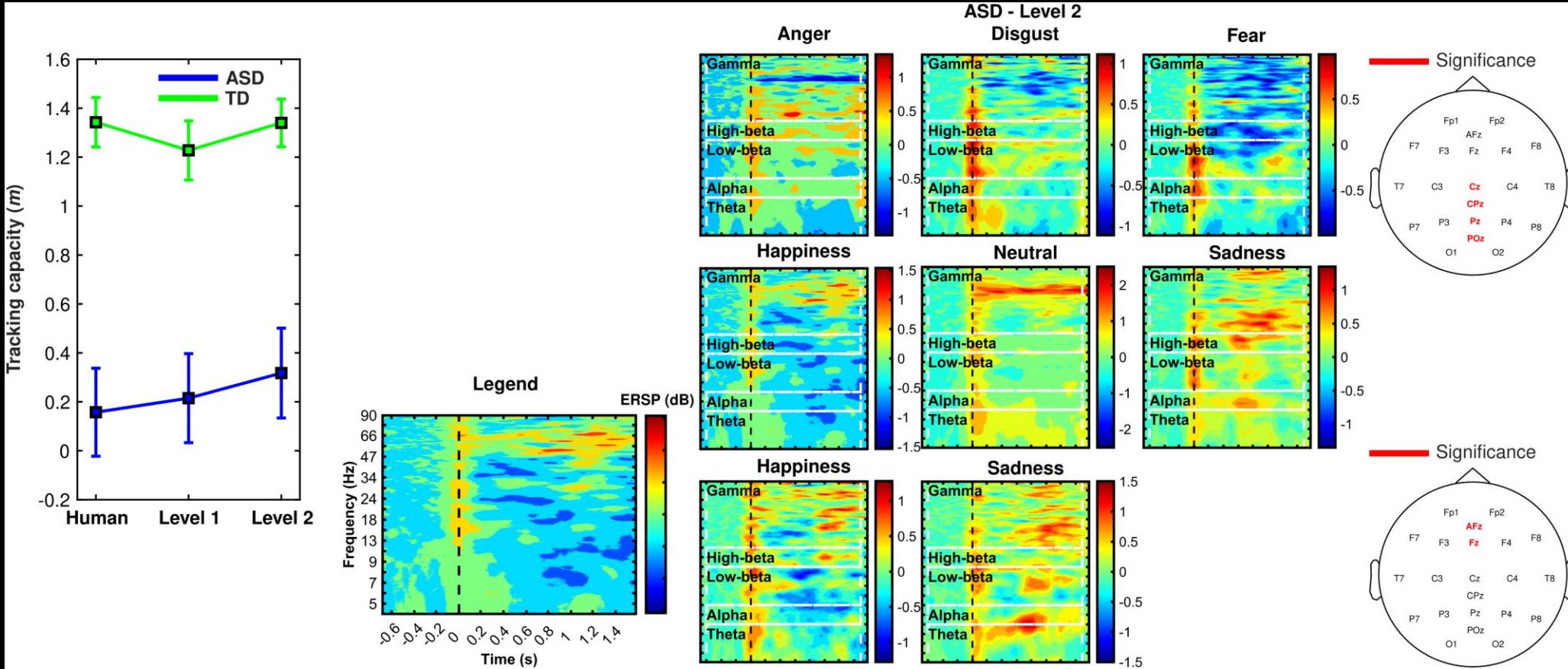
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Level 2: emotion recognition by ASD



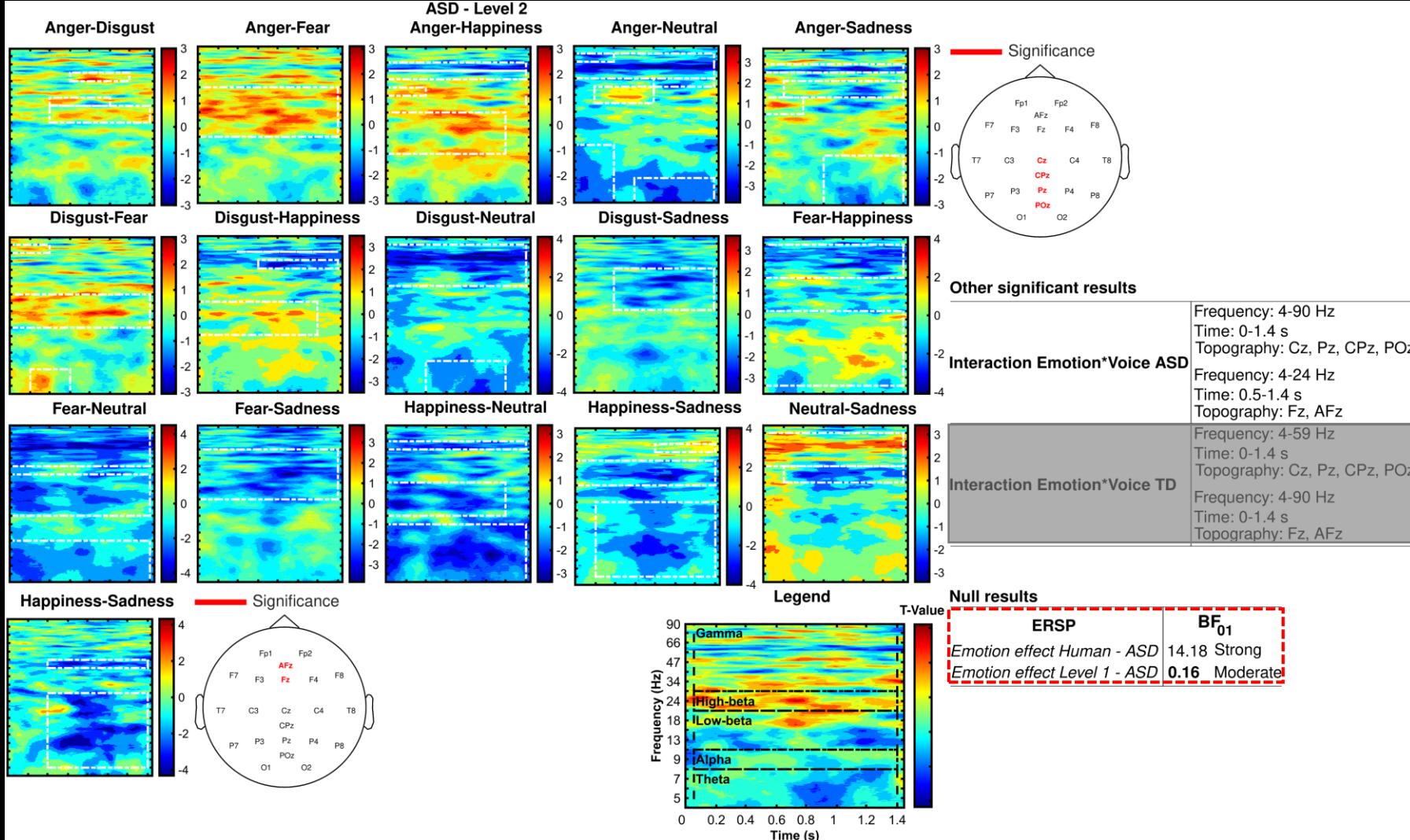
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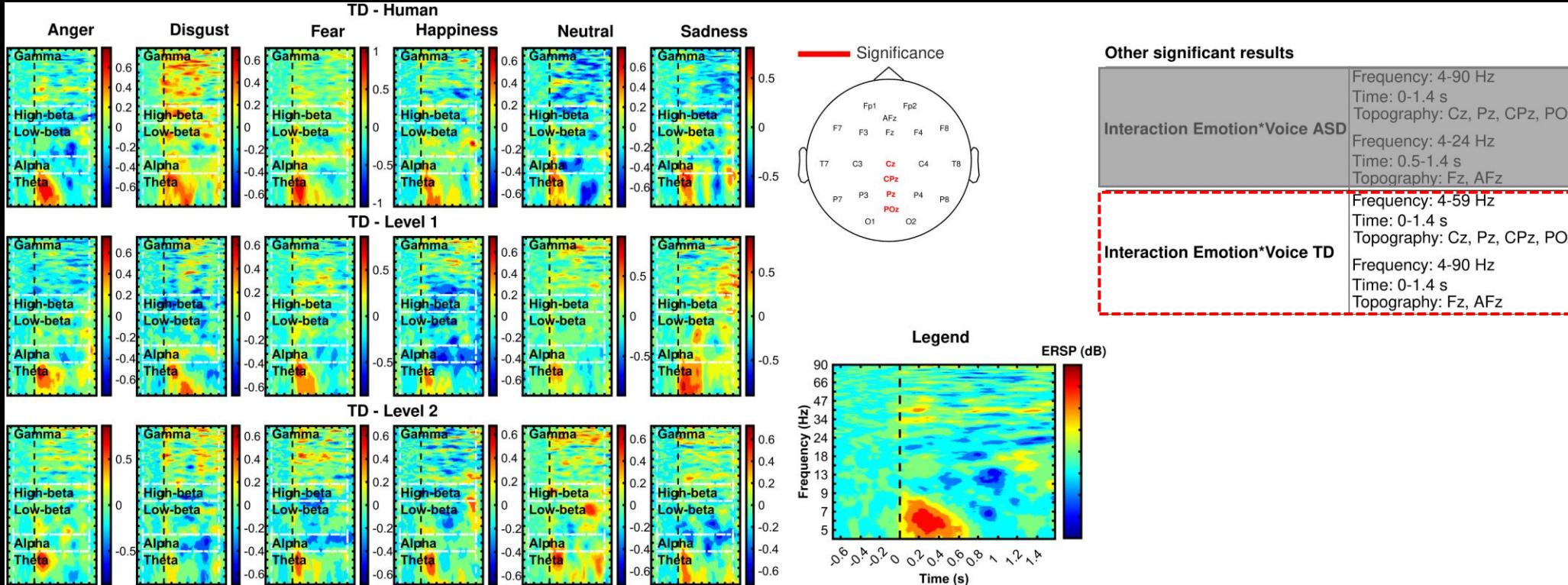
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Level 2: emotion recognition by ASD

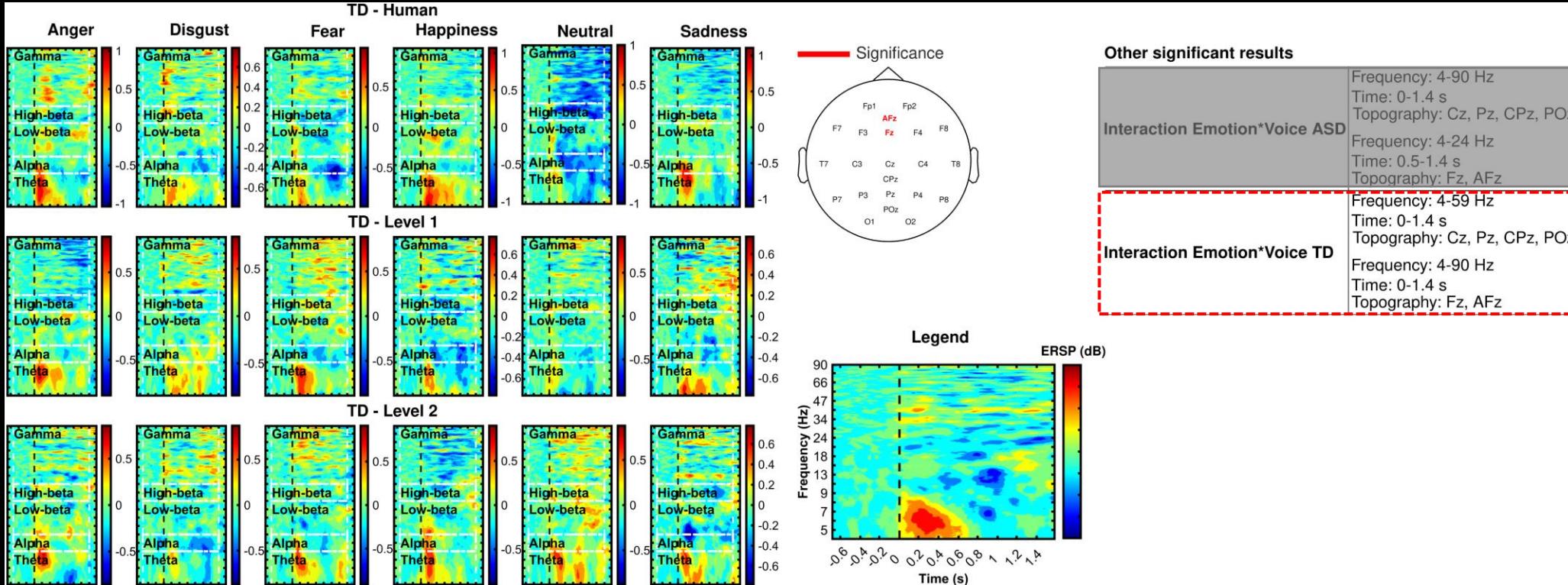


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Optimization of the acoustic environment



Mechanisms for perception:

- **Emotions are recognized by TD children** while listening to both human and naturalness-reduced voices
 - Nevertheless, different mechanisms for perception are involved (emotion*voice)
- ASD children have **lower tracking capacity** than TD
- **ASD children recognize emotion while listening to Level 2**
 - Recognition of acoustic hierarchical scales (fine-grained)

About naturalness-reduced voices for ASD:

- **More reliable (near to discrete) acoustic variations** within words while conserving unique profiles of emotions
- Require the accurate encoding of acoustic variations
- Perception adapted to autistic mechanisms

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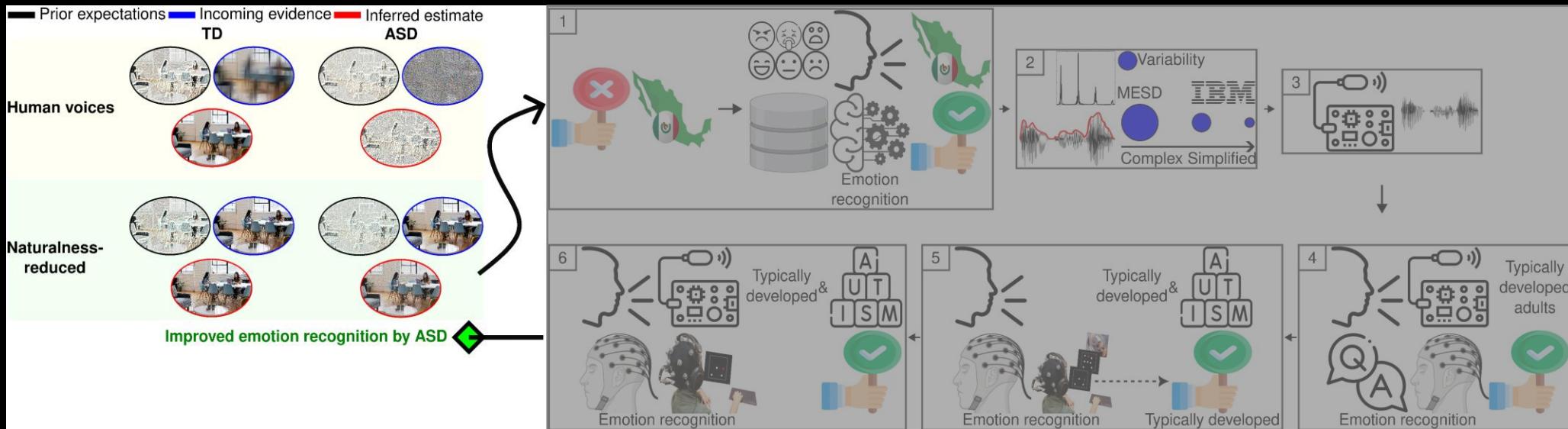
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Take-home message



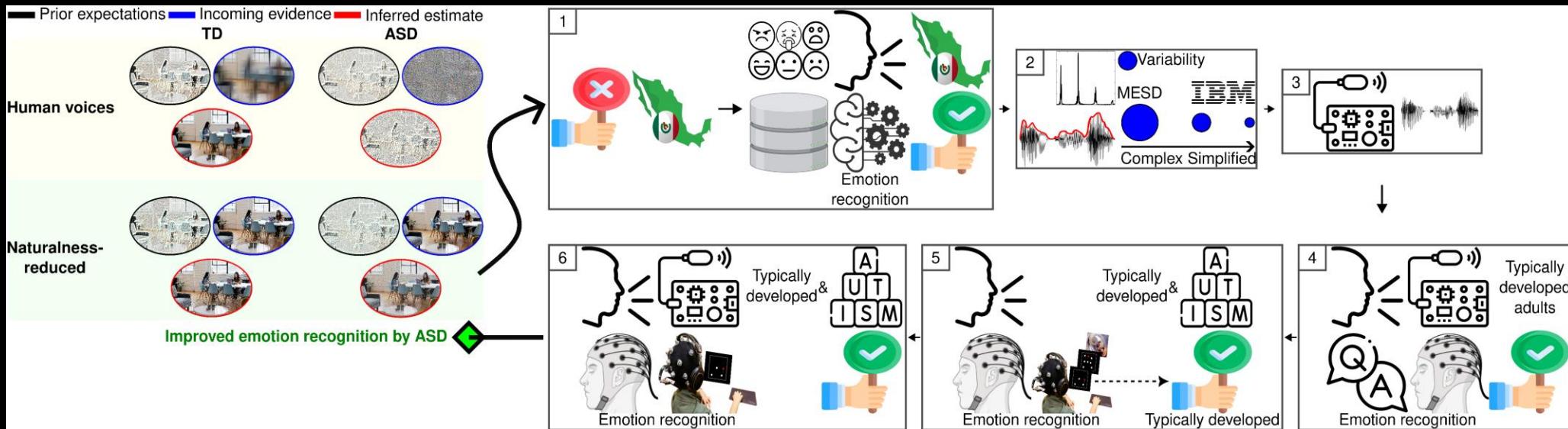
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Contributions



Acoustic engineering Experimental paradigm Clinical setting

Design, validation, implementation

No. de Folio: P000409-autismoEGG2020-CEIC-CR002
Monterrey, Nuevo León, México a Martes, 14 de Julio de 2020

Mtro. Mathilde Marie Duville ,
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Av. Ignacio Múñoz Prieto # 3000 pte.
Los Laureles
Monterrey
Nuevo León, México CP: 64710

PRESENTE.-
Estimada Mtro. Mathilde Marie Duville ,
Por medio de la presente le informamos a Usted que el Comité de Ética en Investigación de la Escuela de Medicina del Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey, a revisado la documentación del Protocolo.

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Open access data

[1] M. M. Duville, L. M. Alonso-Valerdi, and D. I. Ibarra-Zarate, "The Mexican Emotional Speech Database (MESD): elaboration and assessment based on machine learning," in *2021 43rd Annual International Conference of the IEEE Engineering in Medicine & Biology Society (EMBC)*, Mexico: IEEE, Nov. 2021, pp. 1644–1647. doi: 10.1109/EMBC46164.2021.9629934.

[2] M. M. Duville, L. M. Alonso-Valerdi, and D. I. Ibarra-Zarate, "Mexican Emotional Speech Database Based on Semantic, Frequency, Familiarity, Concreteness, and Cultural Shaping of Affective Prosody," *Data*, vol. 6, no. 12, p. 130, Dec. 2021, doi: 10.3390/data6120130.

[3] M. M. Duville, L. M. Alonso-Valerdi, and D. I. Ibarra-Zarate, "Neuronal and behavioral affective perceptions of human and naturalness-reduced emotional prosodies," *Front. Comput. Neurosci.*, vol. 16, p. 1022787, Nov. 2022, doi: 10.3389/fncom.2022.1022787.

[4] M. M. Duville, D. I. Ibarra-Zarate, and L. M. Alonso-Valerdi, "Autistic traits shape neuronal oscillations during emotion perception under attentional load modulation," *Sci Rep*, vol. 13, no. 1, p. 8178, May 2023, doi: 10.1038/s41598-023-35013-x.

[5] M. M. Duville *et al.*, "Perception of task-irrelevant affective prosody by typically developed and diagnosed children with Autism Spectrum Disorder under attentional loads: electroencephalographic and behavioural data," *Data in Brief*, vol. 48, p. 109057, Mar. 2023, doi: 10.1016/j.dib.2023.109057.

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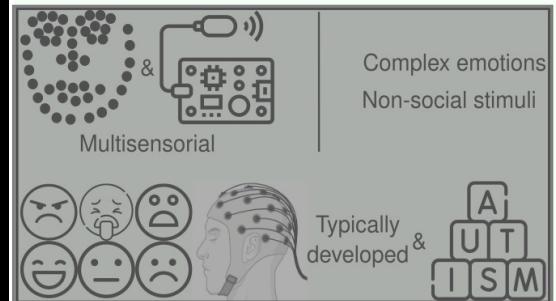
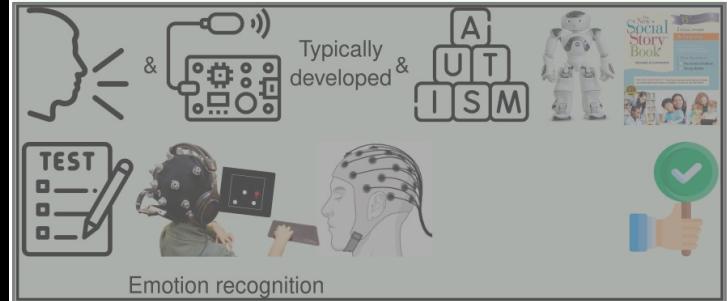
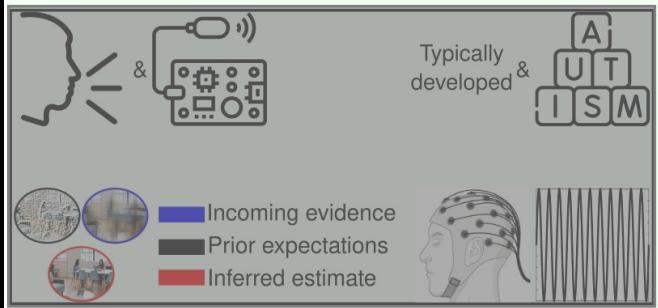
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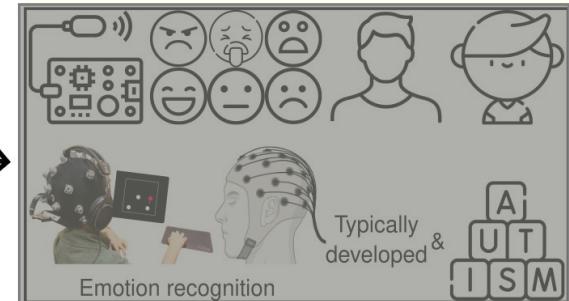
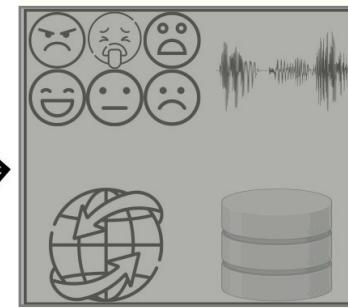


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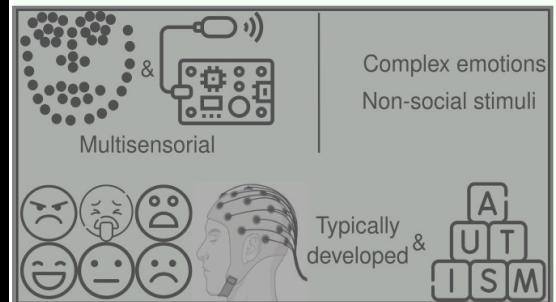
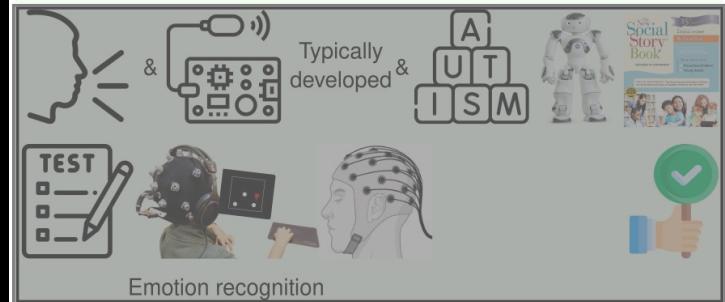
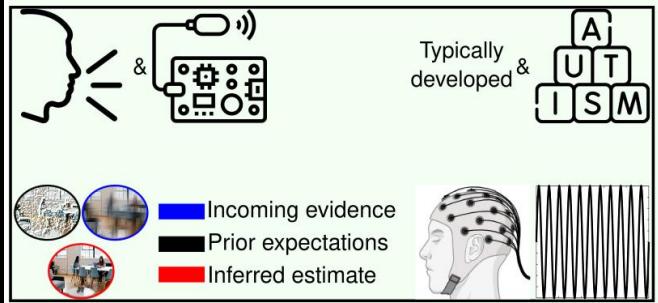


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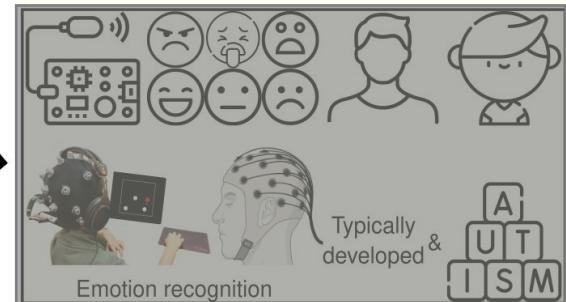
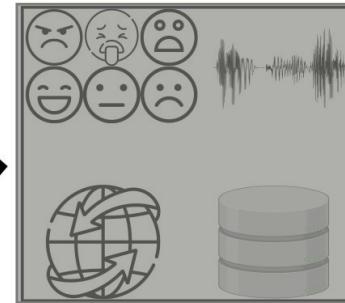


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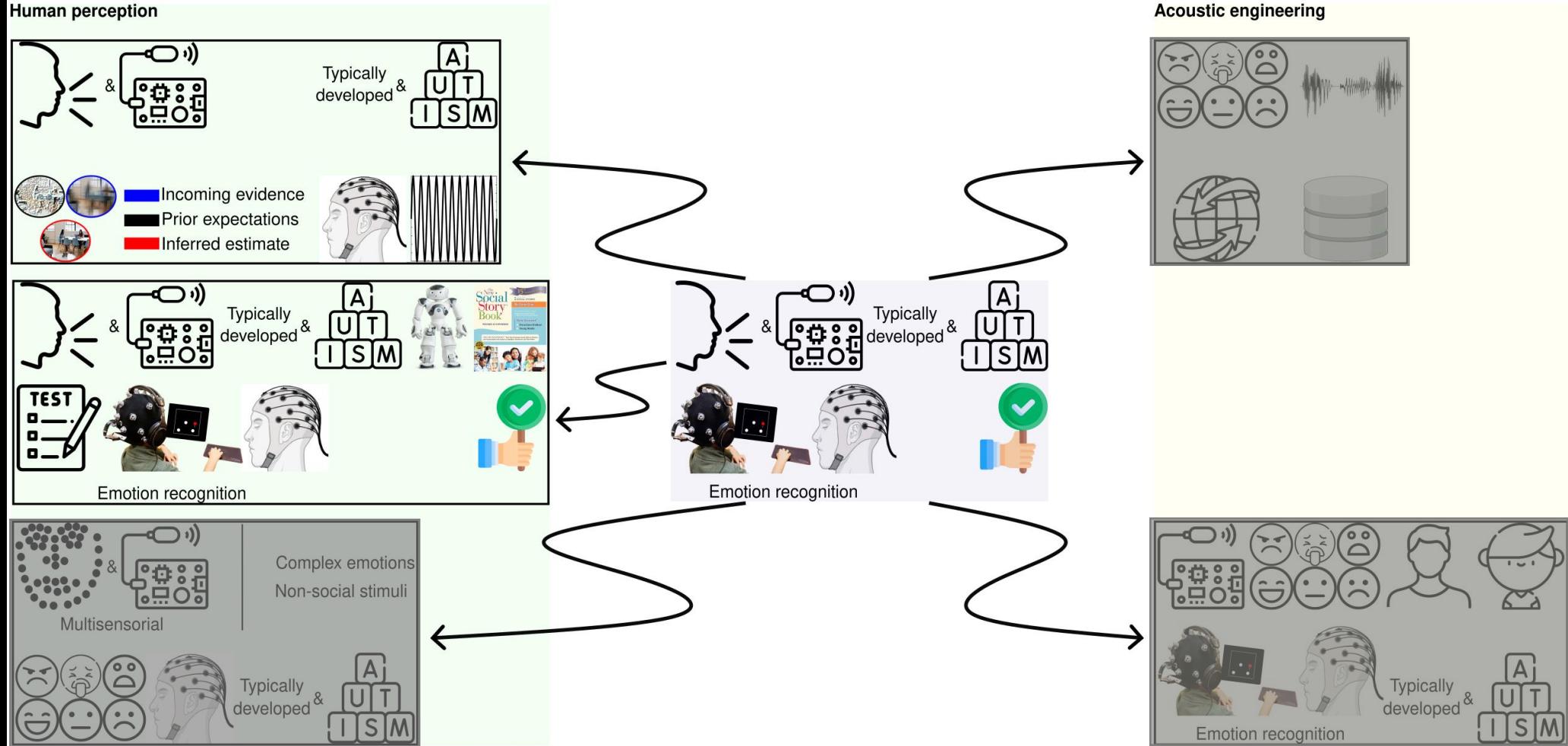
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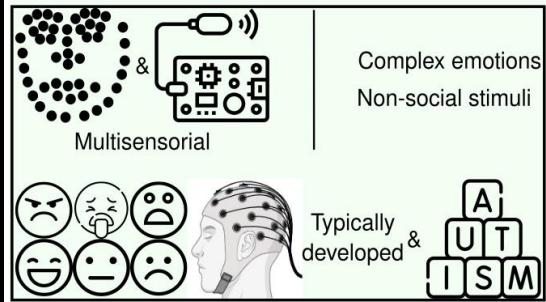
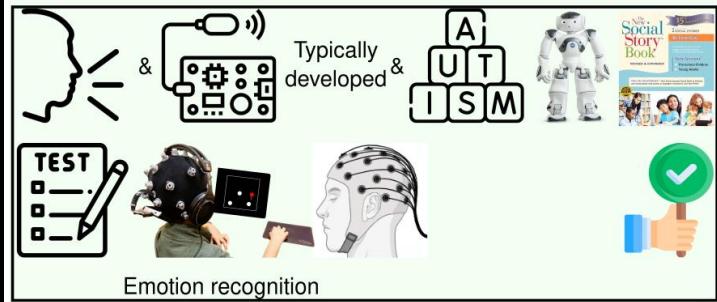
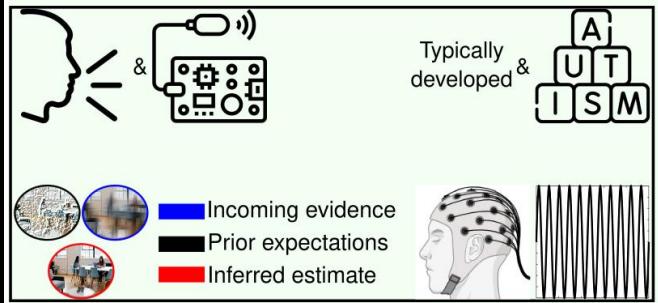


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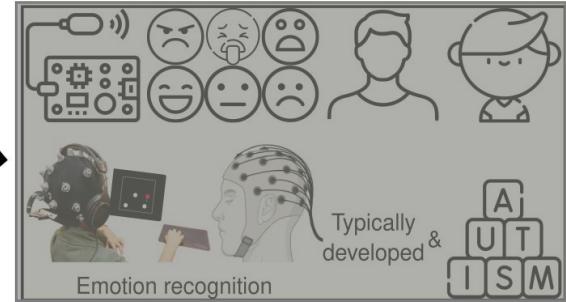
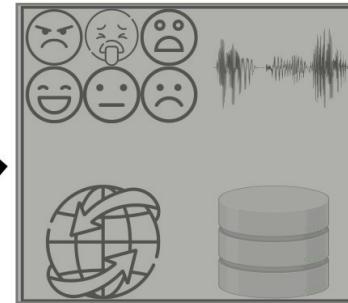


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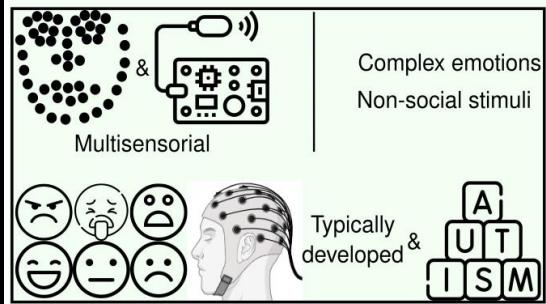
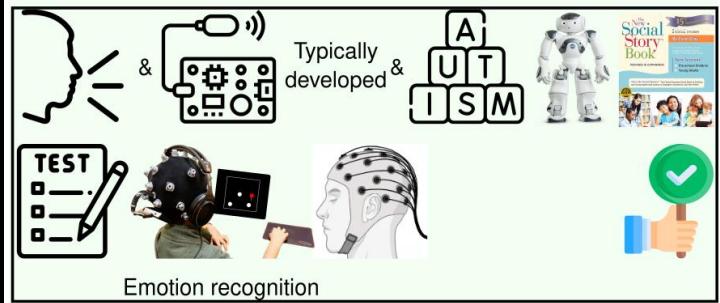
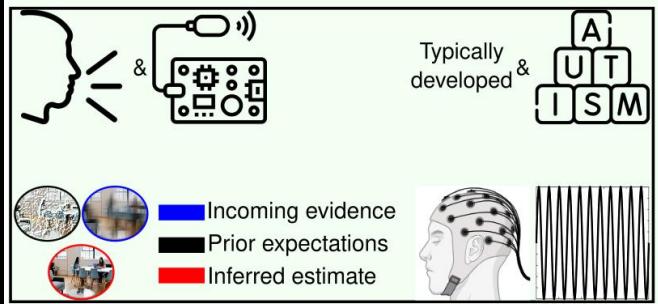


Work opportunities

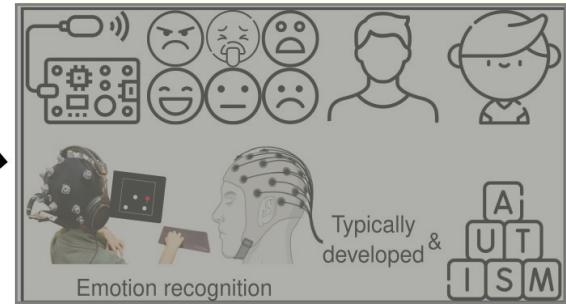
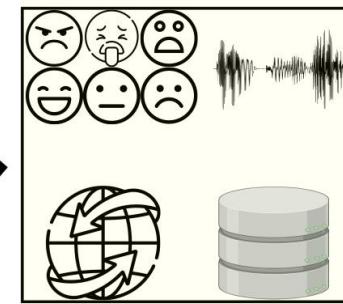


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Human perception



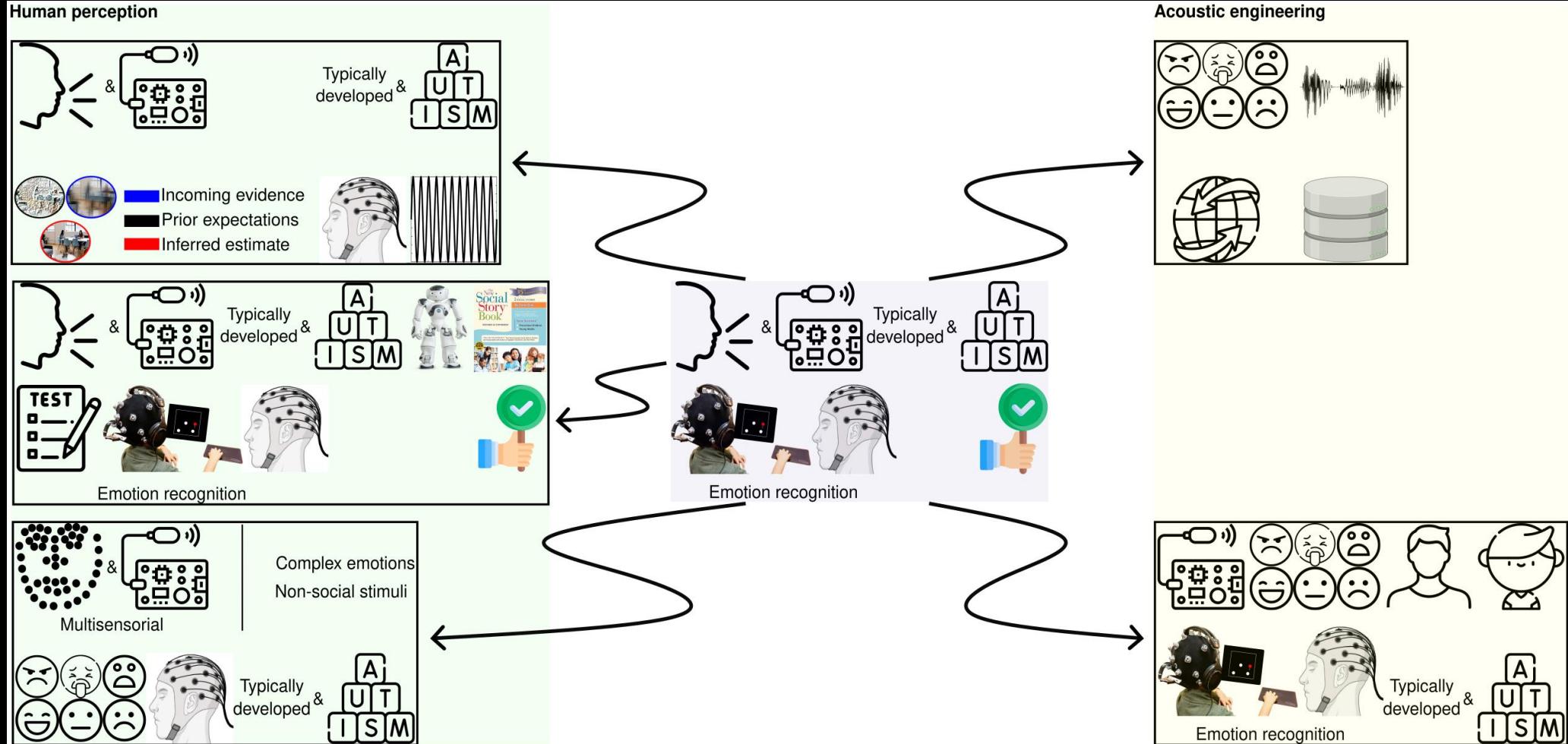
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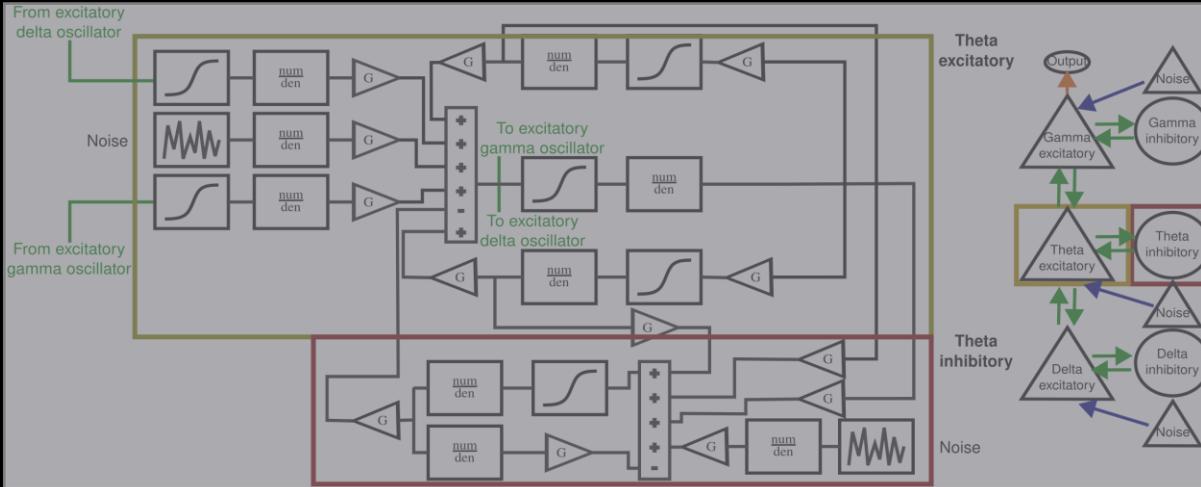
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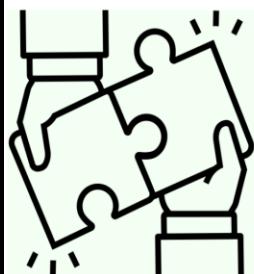
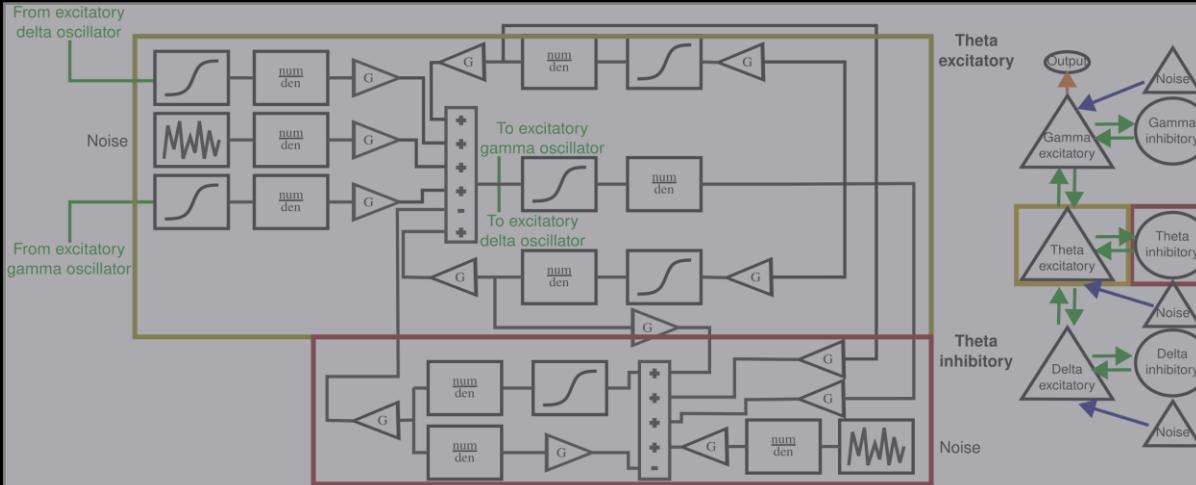
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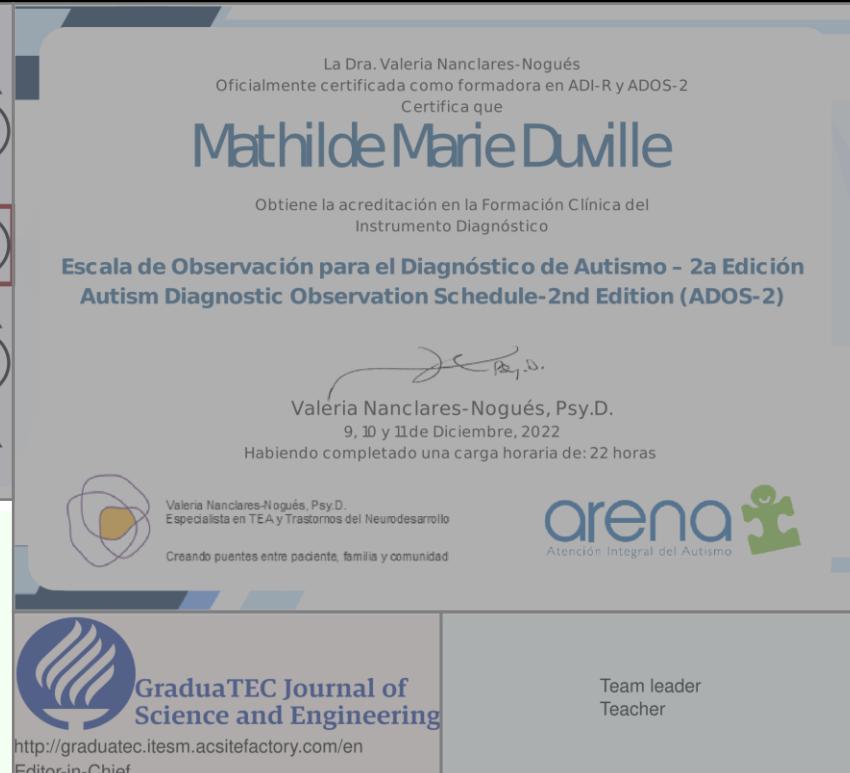


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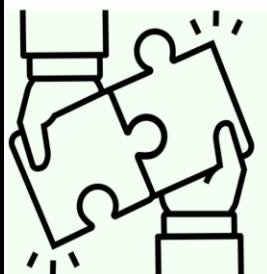
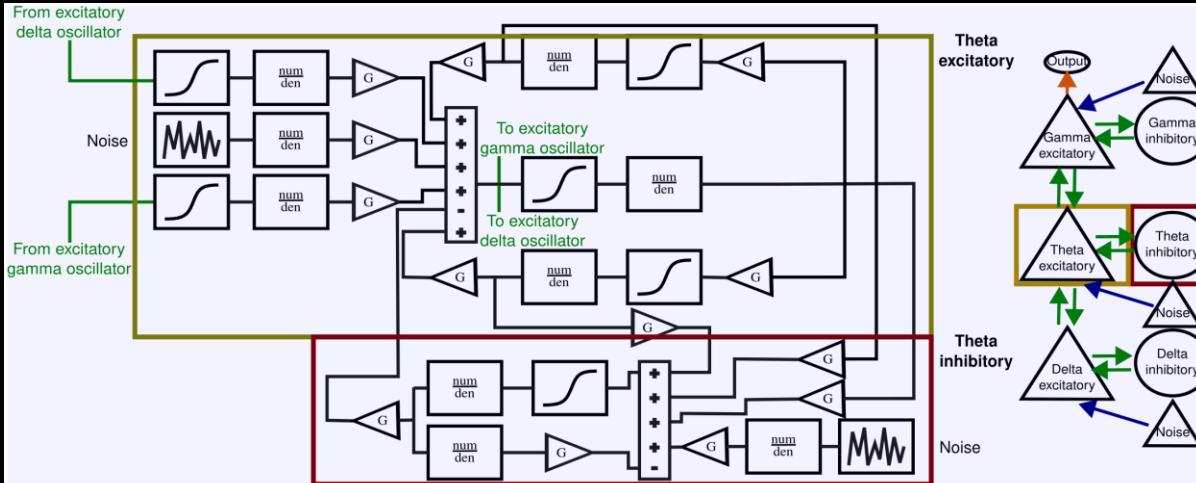
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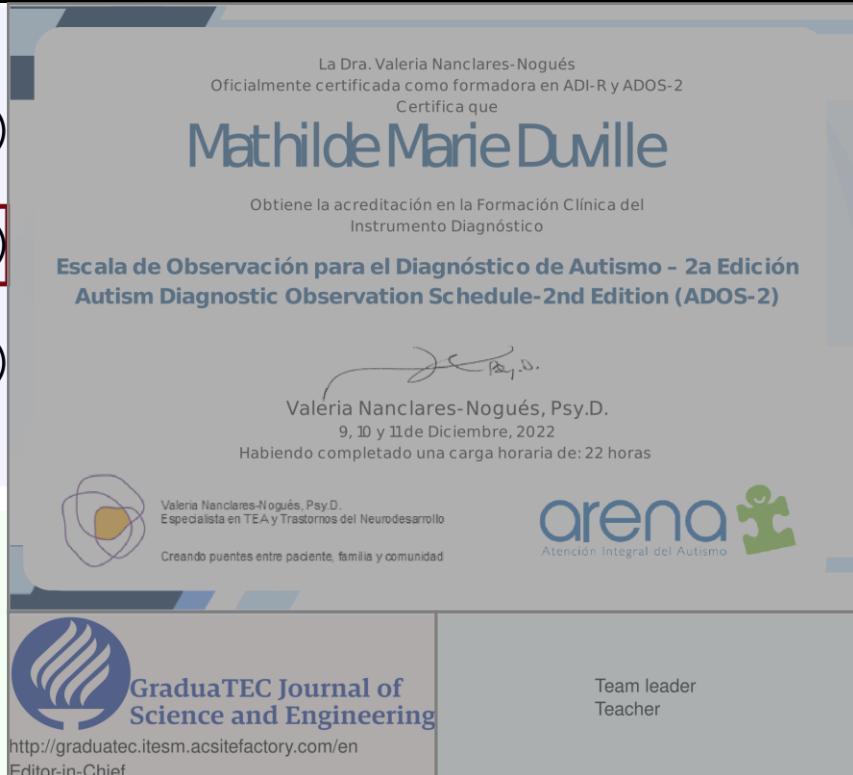
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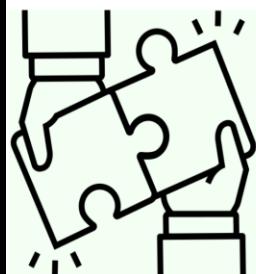
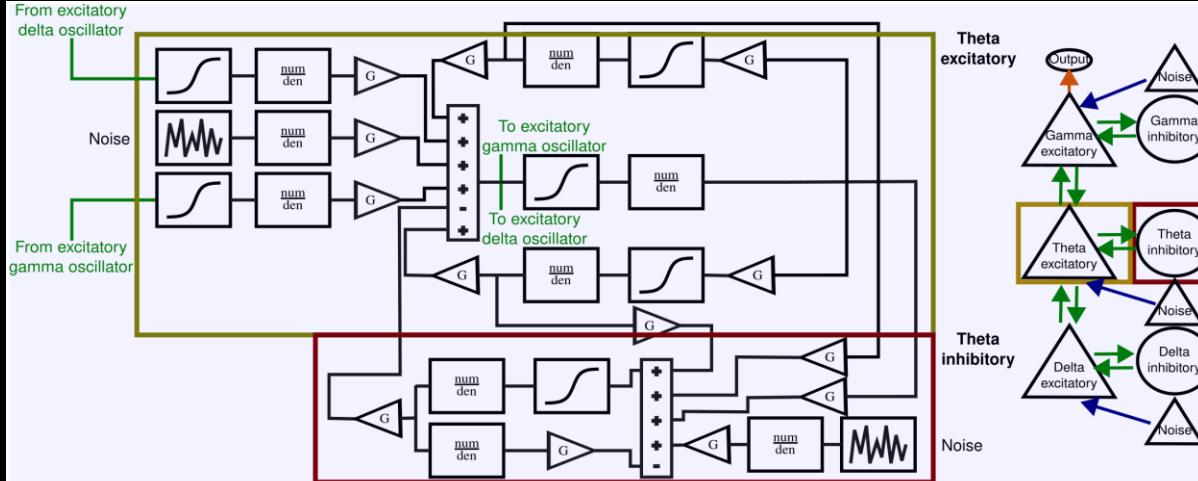


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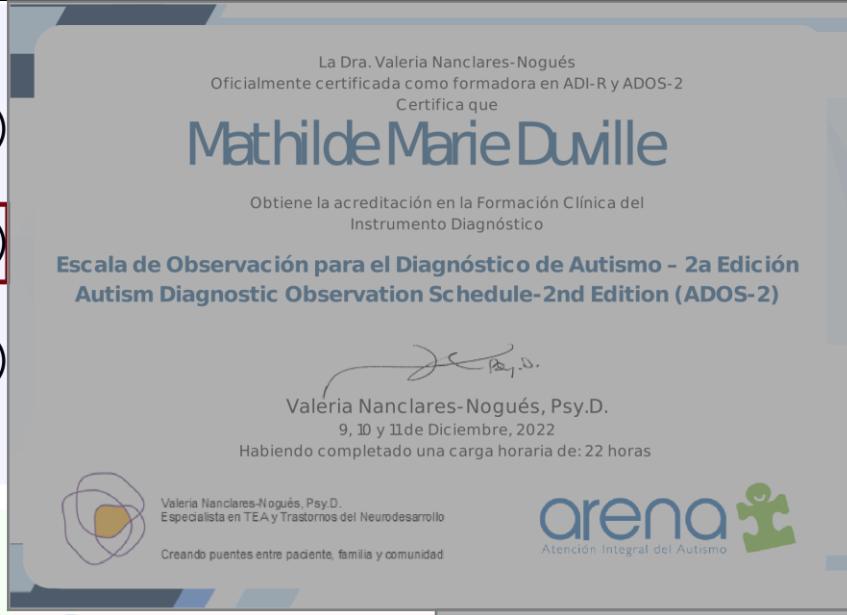
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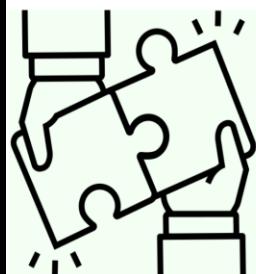
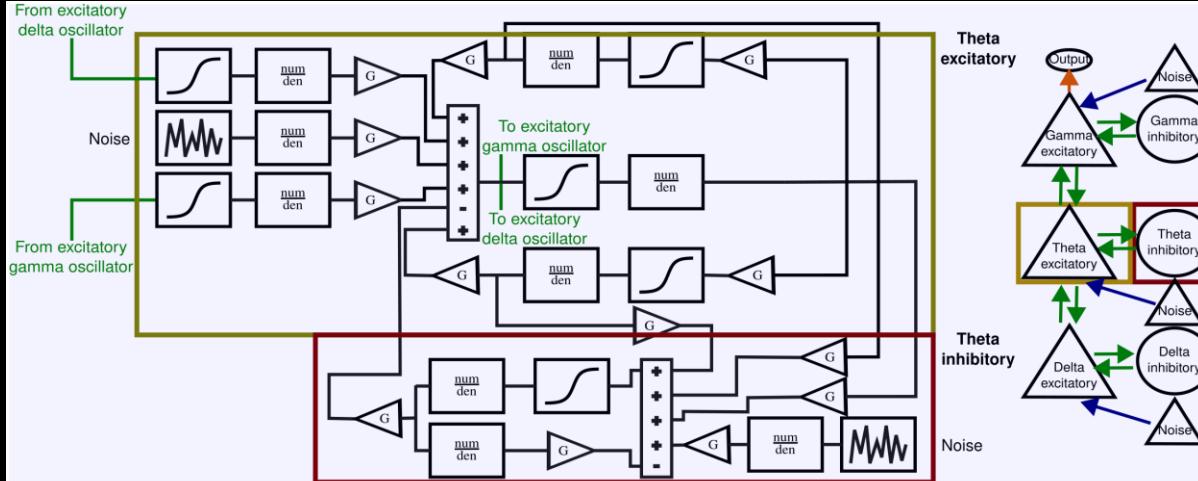


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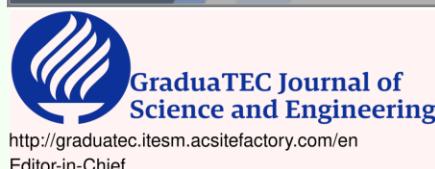
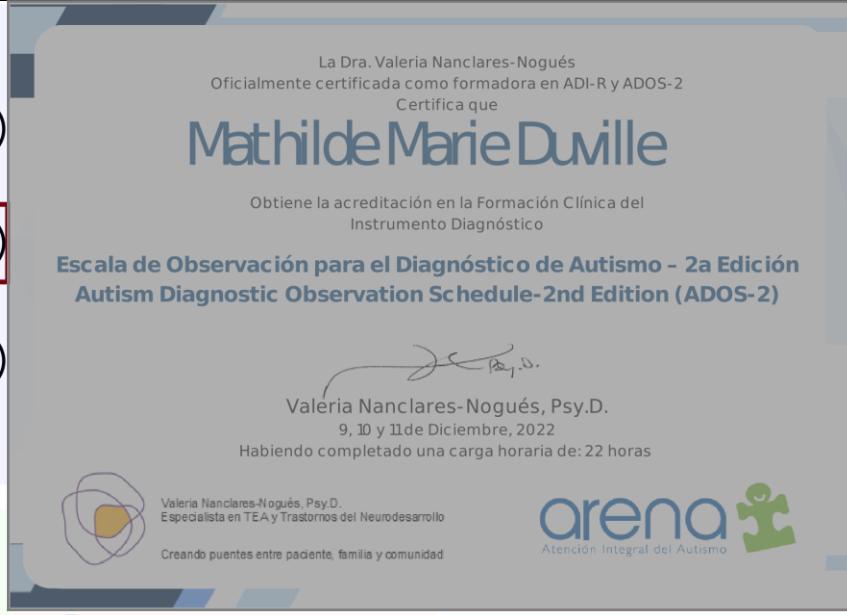


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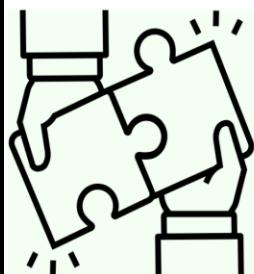
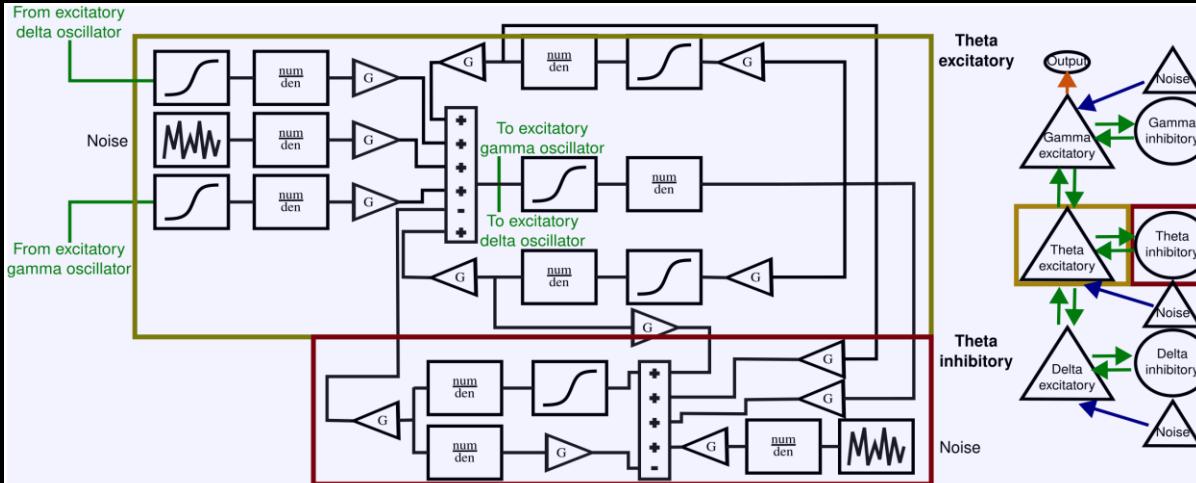
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The Dra. Valeria Nanclares-Nogués
Oficialmente certificada como formadora en ADI-R y ADOS-2
Certifica que
Mathilde Marie Duville
Obtiene la acreditación en la Formación Clínica del
Instrumento Diagnóstico
Escala de Observación para el Diagnóstico de Autismo - 2a Edición
Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule-2nd Edition (ADOS-2)
9, 10 y 11 de Diciembre, 2022
Habiendo completado una carga horaria de: 22 horas
Valeria Nanclares-Nogués, Psy.D.
arena Atención Integral del Autismo
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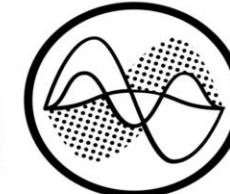
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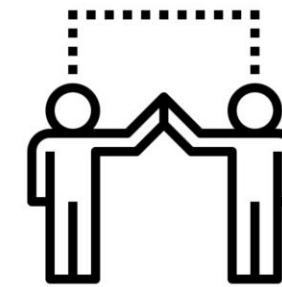
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Colleagues



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Thank you for your attention

