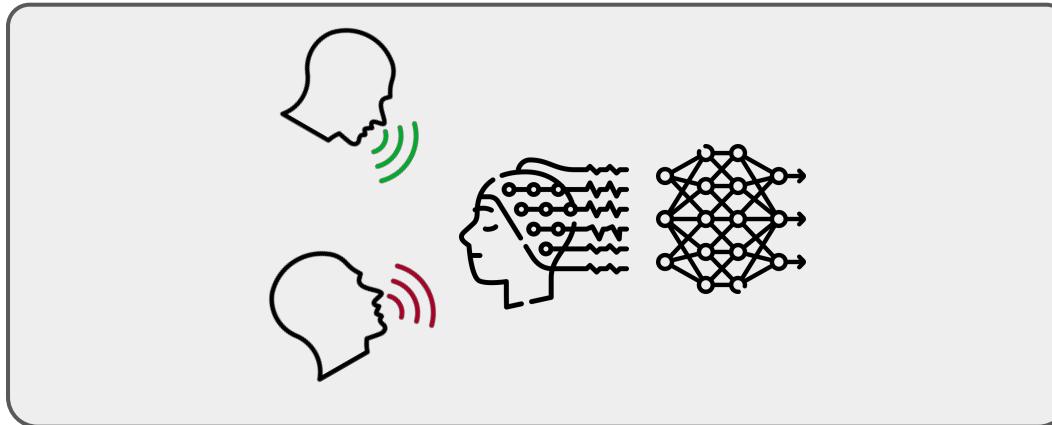


Exploring Foundation Models for Auditory Attention Decoding

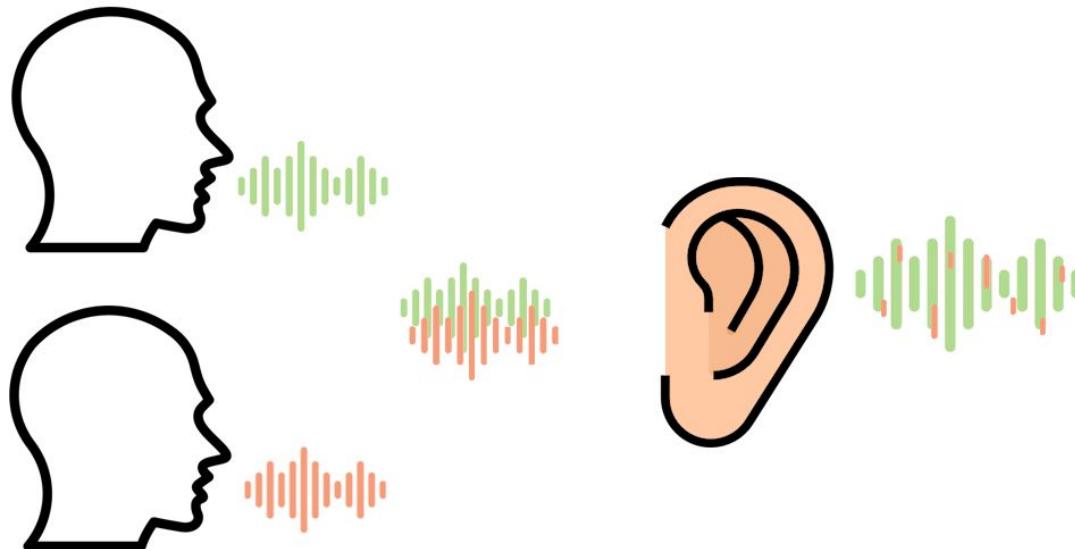


Rasmus Steen Mikkelsen (s204135)
Victor Tolsager Olesen (s204141)

Introduction

Introduction

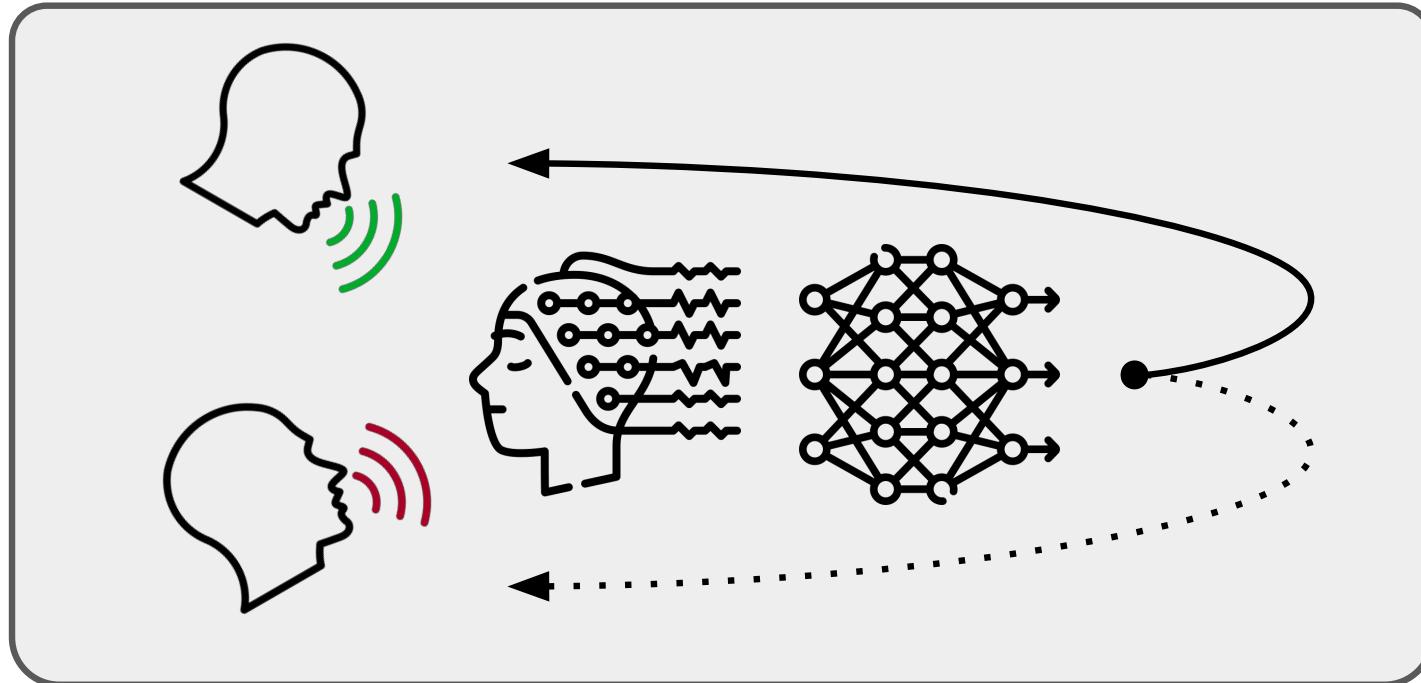
- Cocktail party effect
- Hearing aid users



Introduction

- AAD: Audio+EEG → Attention
- Decision window: Time segment used to predict

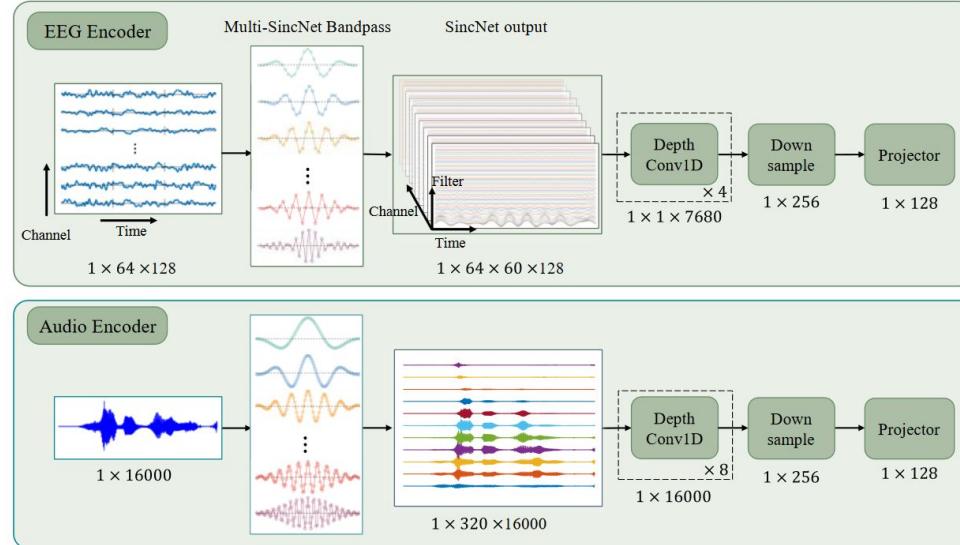
Auditory Attention Decoding



Introduction

Foundation models

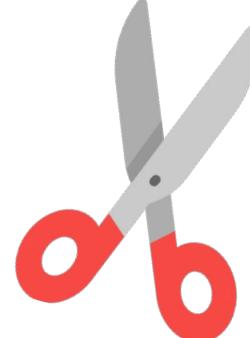
- Foundation Models
- SOTA AAD Models



NLP
BERT



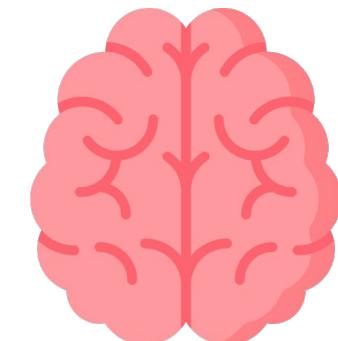
Vision+Text
CLIP



Audio+Text
CLAP



EEG
LaBraM



Introduction

Research questions



RQ1: How do CLAP and LaBraM perform as pretrained feature extractors for auditory attention decoding?

RQ2: How does contrastive learning compare to supervised classification for training robust AAD models using CLAP and LaBraM?

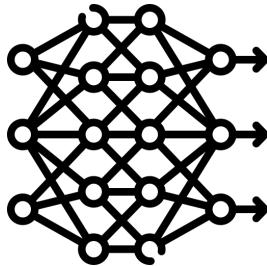
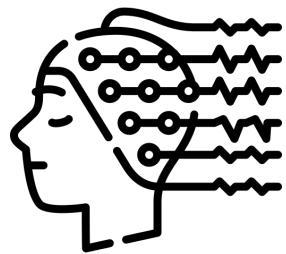
RQ3: How does the length of decision windows affect performance?

Literature Review

Literature Review

Signal Reconstruction

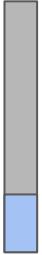
Backwards Approach



Correlation

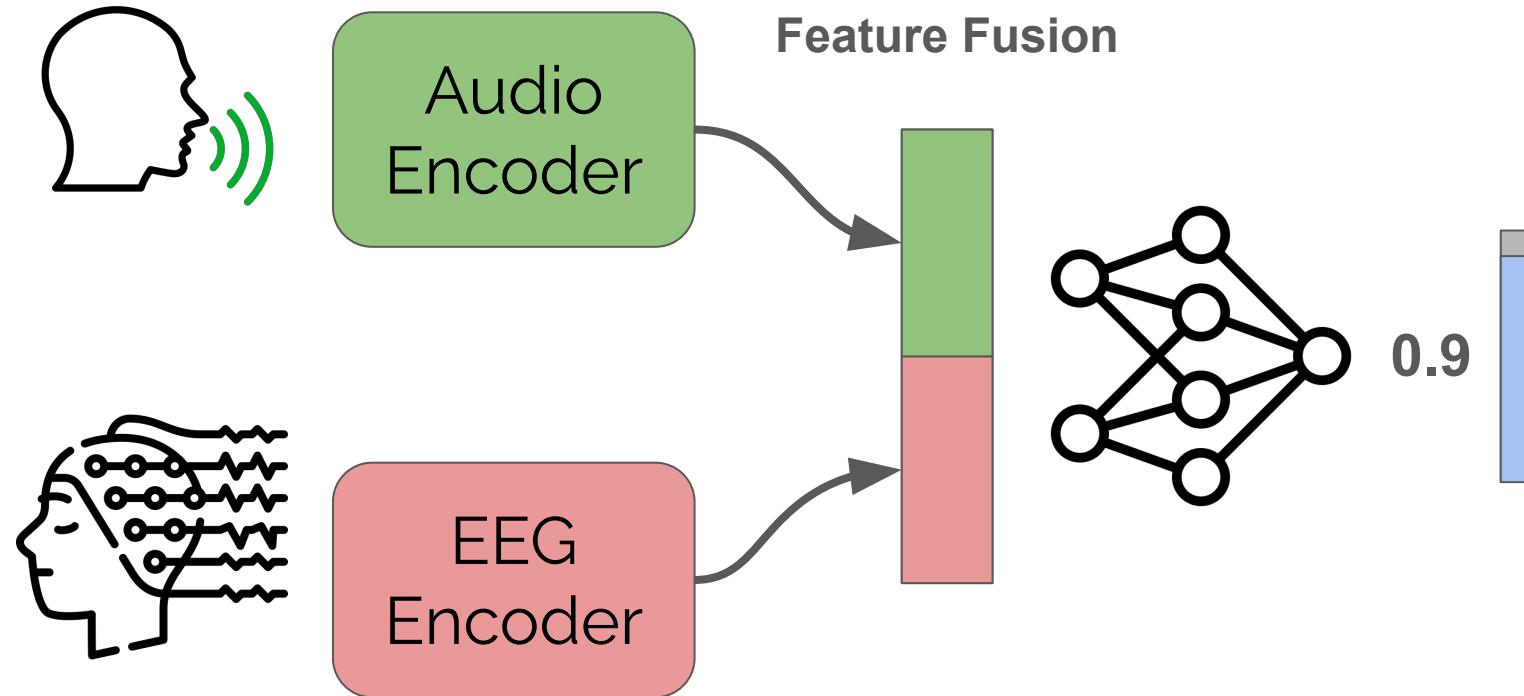
→

→



Literature Review

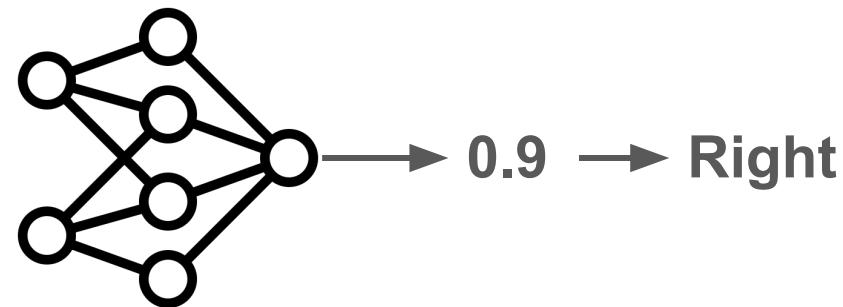
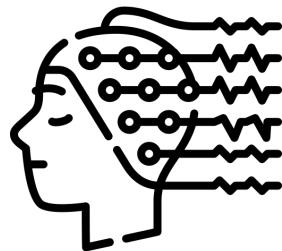
Direct Classification



Literature Review

ASAD

Auditory Spatial Attention Decoding



Literature Review

Why Direct Classification?

[..] the process of stimulus reconstruction [...] is not optimized to effectively detect attention. [...] the compression of multichannel EEG signals into a single waveform through stimulus reconstruction reduces the available information for analysis¹

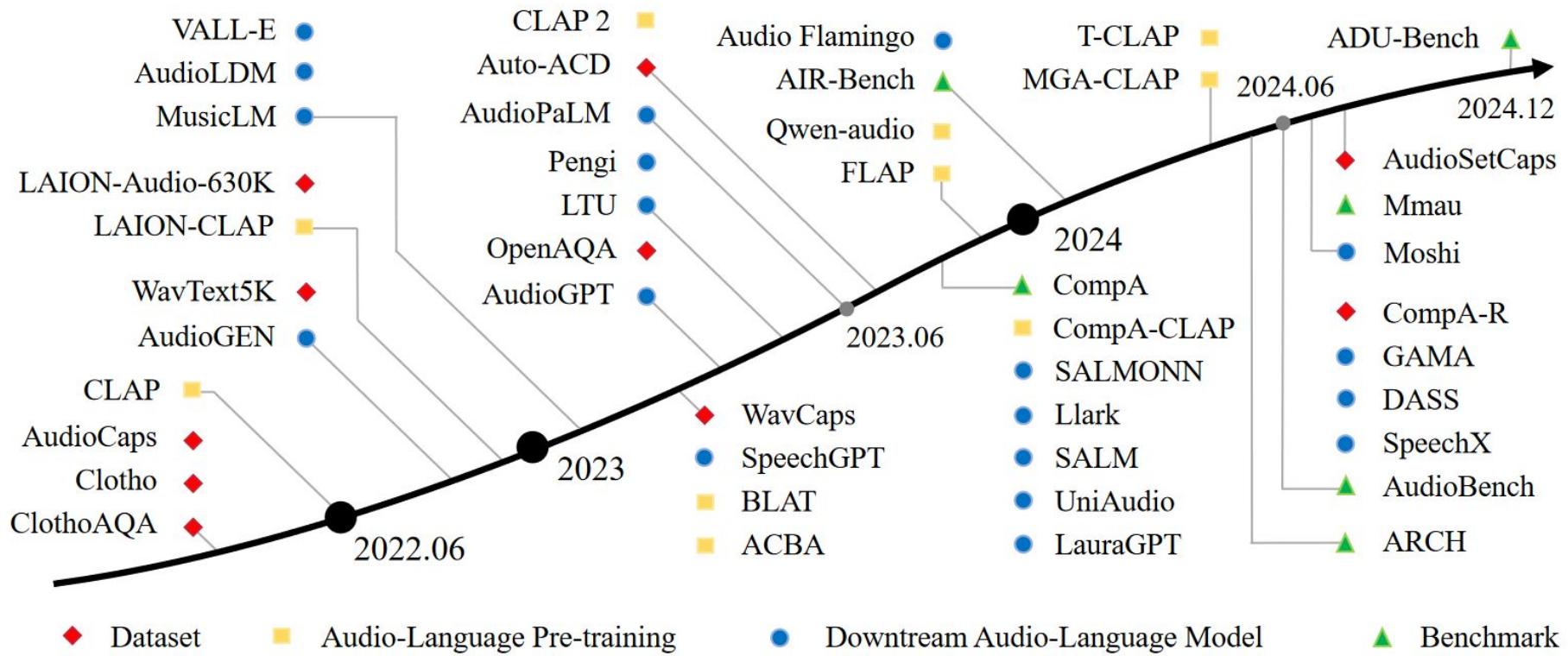
[...] correlation between the reconstructed and the attended speech envelopes is generally weak²

[1]: Siqi Cai et al. "EEG-based Auditory Attention Detection in Cocktail Party Environment."

[2]: Enze Su et al. "STAnet: A Spatiotemporal Attention Network for Decoding Auditory Spatial Attention From EEG."

Literature Review

Audio Foundation Models



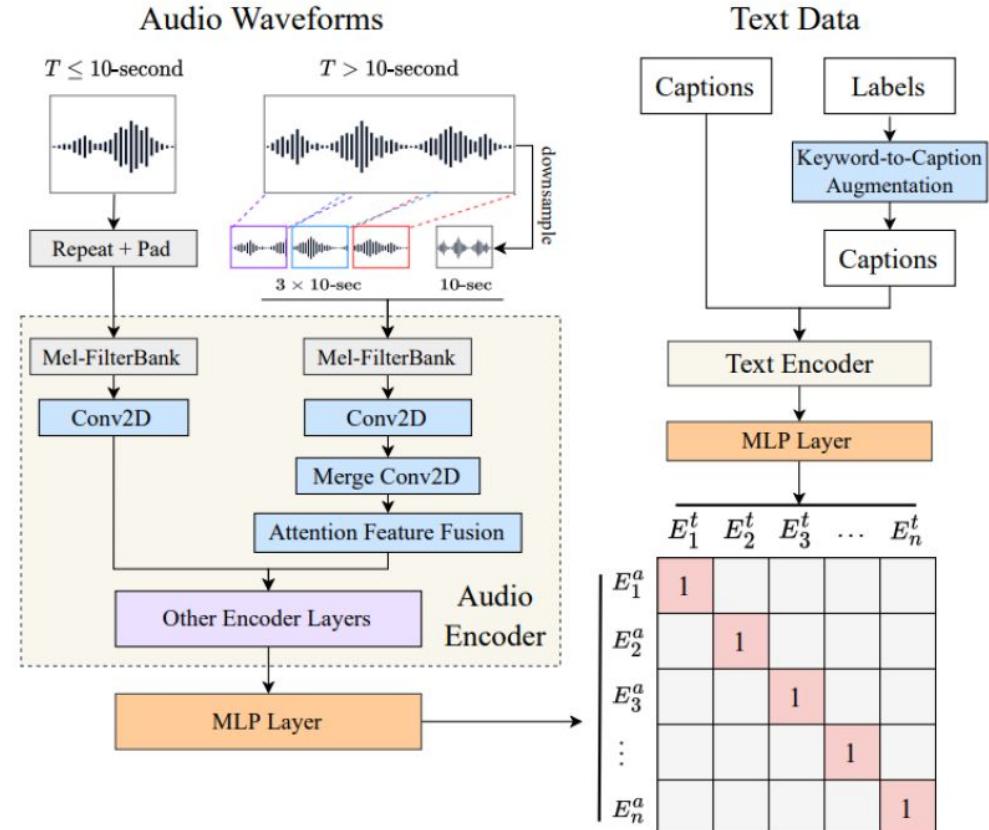
Literature Review

LAION-CLAP

- Contrastive Language Audio Pretraining (CLAP)
- Trained on multiple datasets



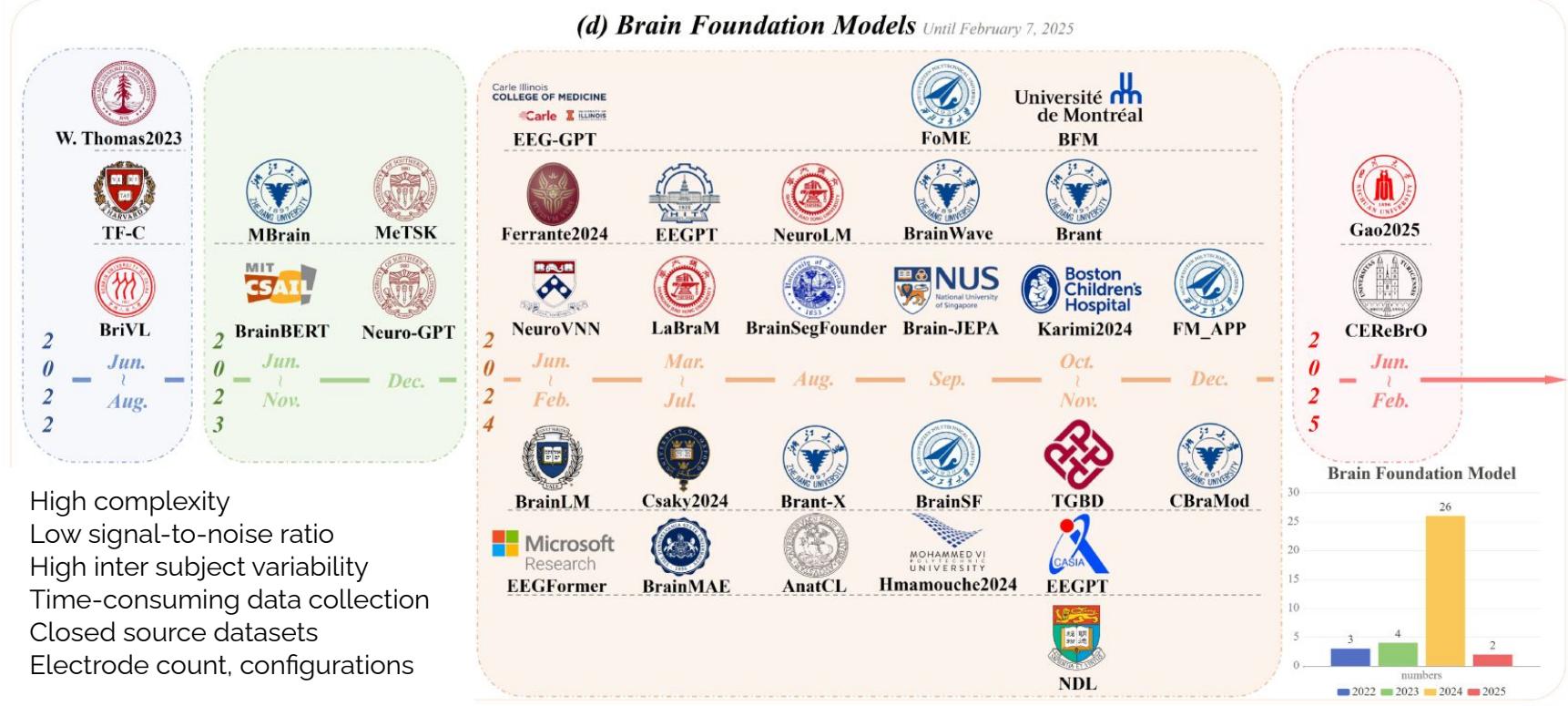
A group of people standing on the street near a busy freeway.



Literature Review

Brain Foundation Models

(d) **Brain Foundation Models** Until February 7, 2025

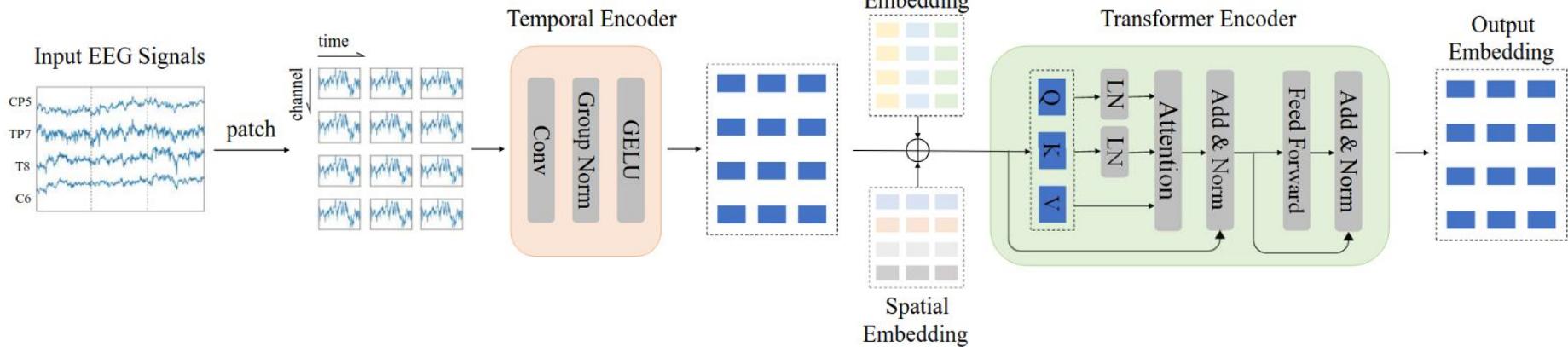


Literature Review

LaBraM

- Large Brain Model (LaBraM)

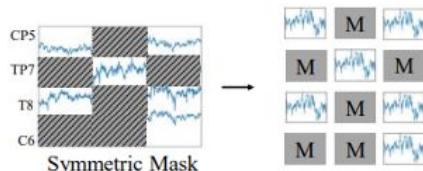
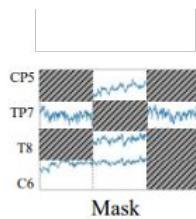
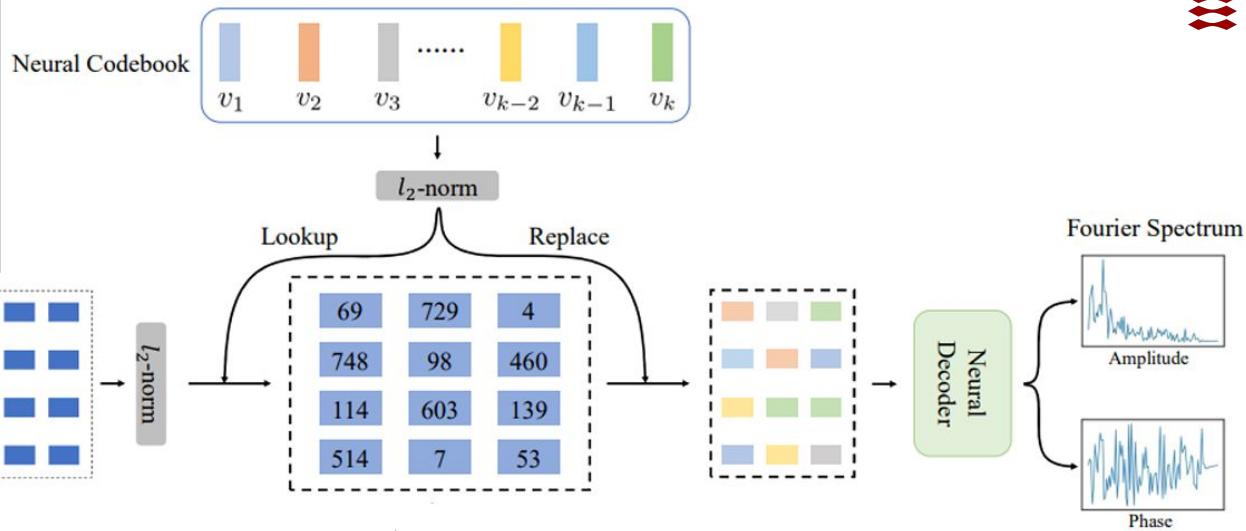
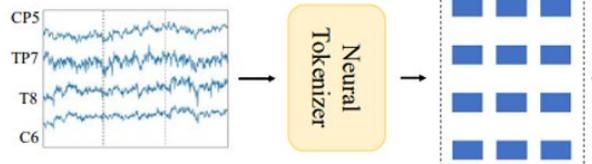
Neural Transformer



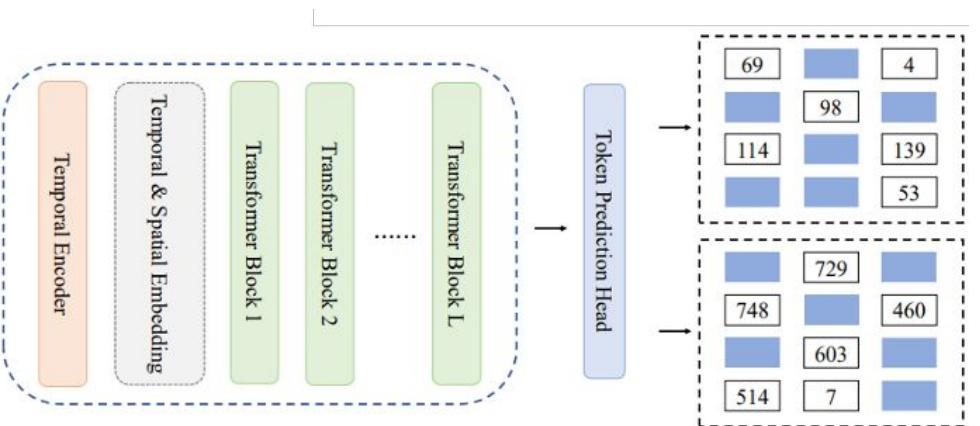
Literature Review

LaBraM Pretraining

Neural Tokenizer Training



LaBraM Pre-training

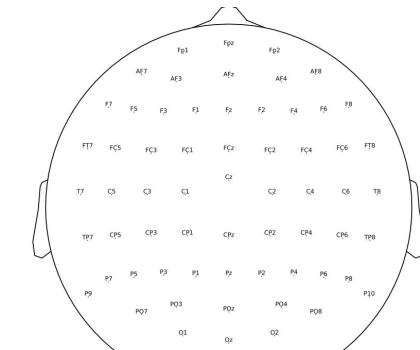
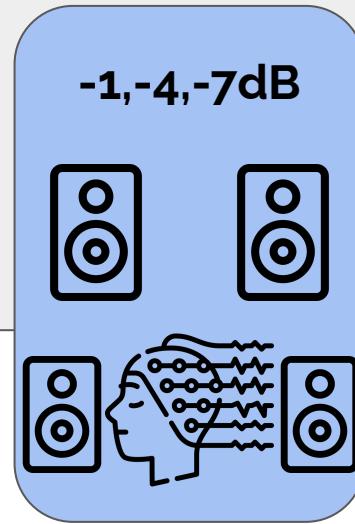
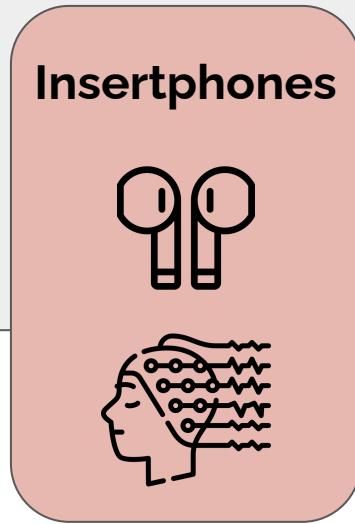
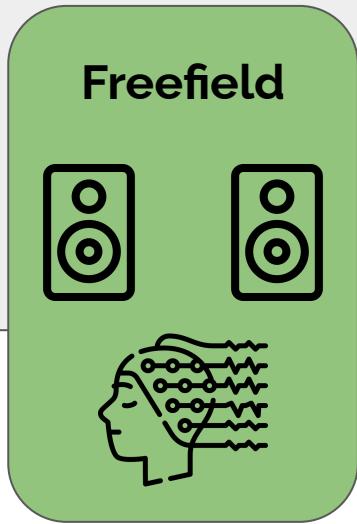


Data

Data

Overview

- 26 subjects
- Five conditions
- Male audio clips: 200, Female audio clips: 165
- Trial length: 1 minute



Data

Missing data

- 3 subjects missing, left with 23 subjects
- 3364 trials

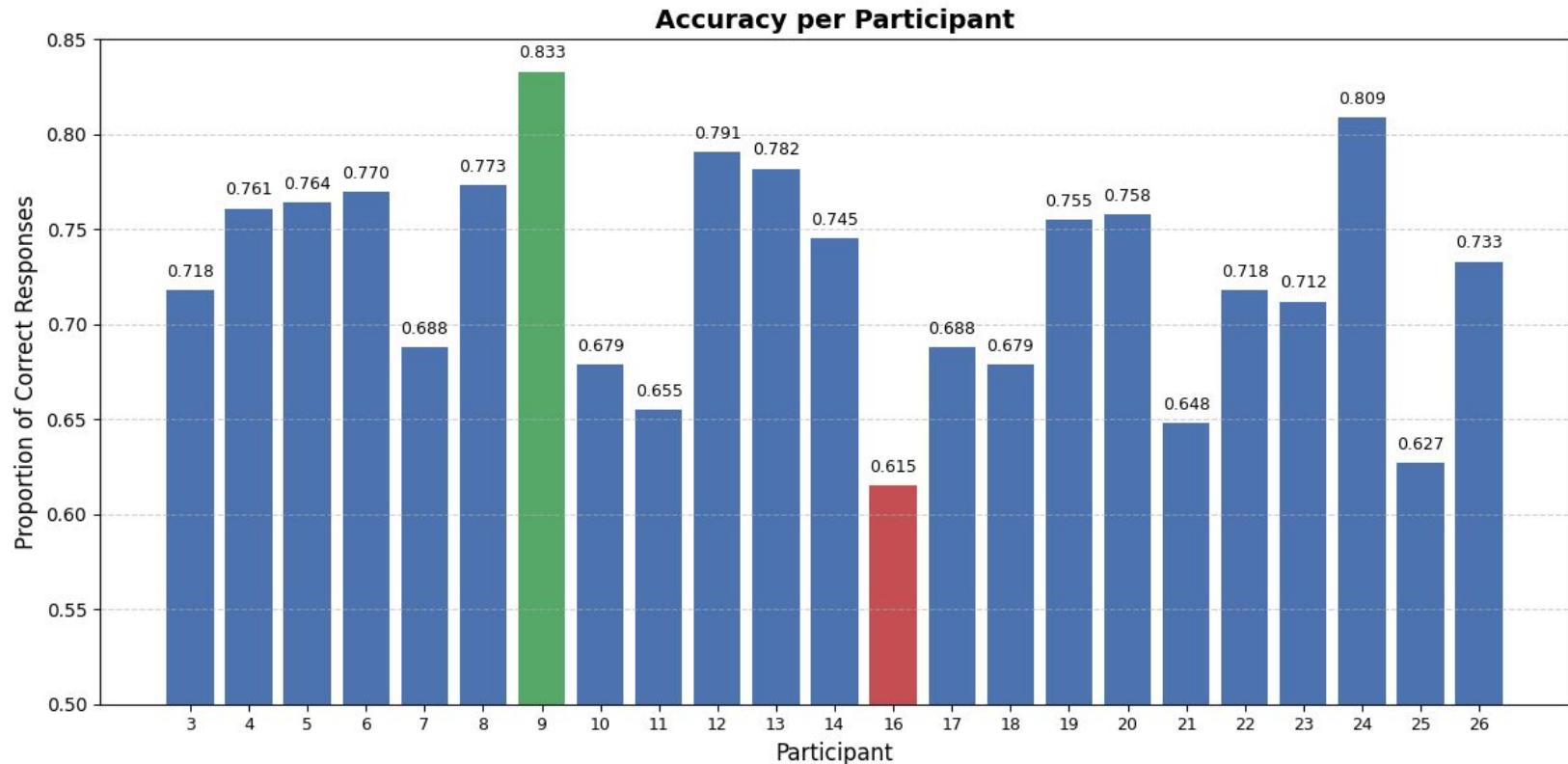
Subject	1	2	4	5	8	14	15	16	23	25
Insert	x	x	✓	✓	x	✓	x	x	✓	✓
Free	x	x	✓	x	✓	✓	x	x	✓	x
-1dB	x	x	✓	✓	✓	x	x	x	x	✓
-4dB	x	x	x	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	✓
-7dB	x	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	x	✓

Subject	Condition	# Missing	Trials
10	Insert	16	
20	-7dB	11	
26	Insert	16	
26	-4dB	15	

Data

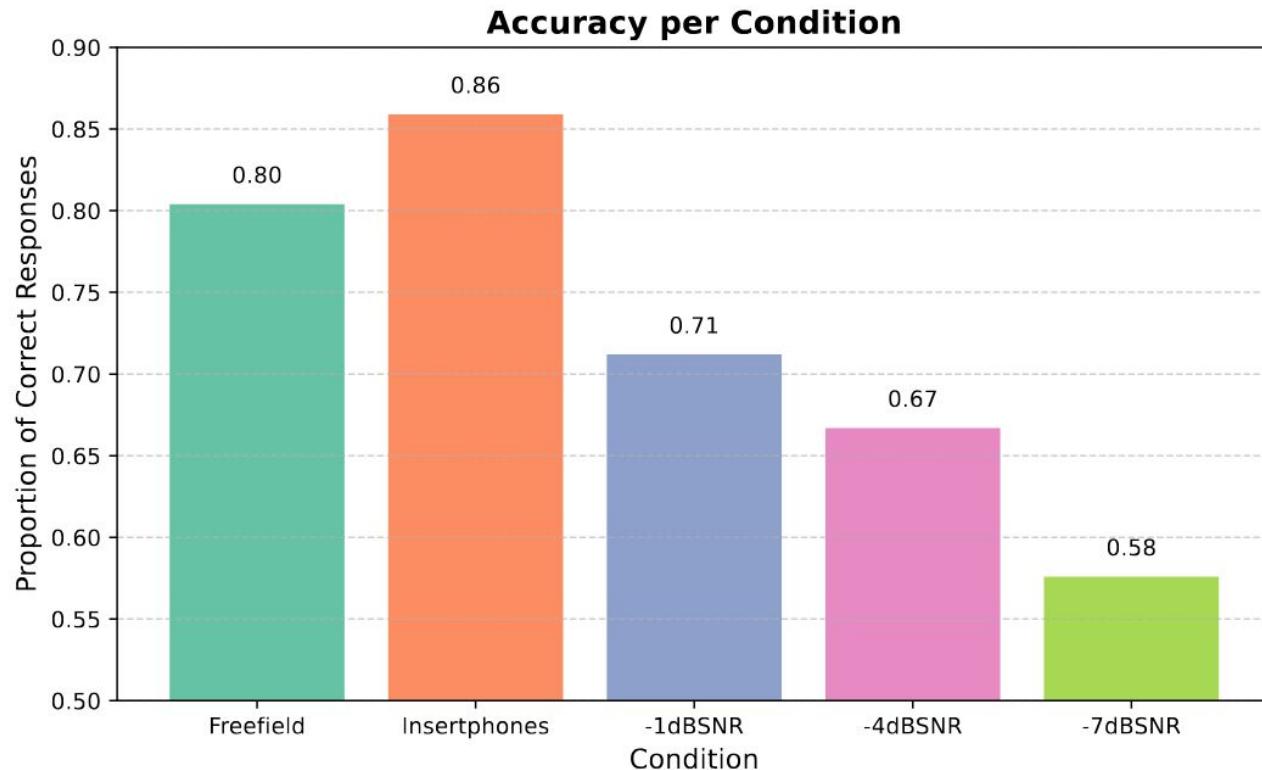
Response accuracy

2 yes/no questions per trial



Data

Response accuracy



Data

Preprocessing

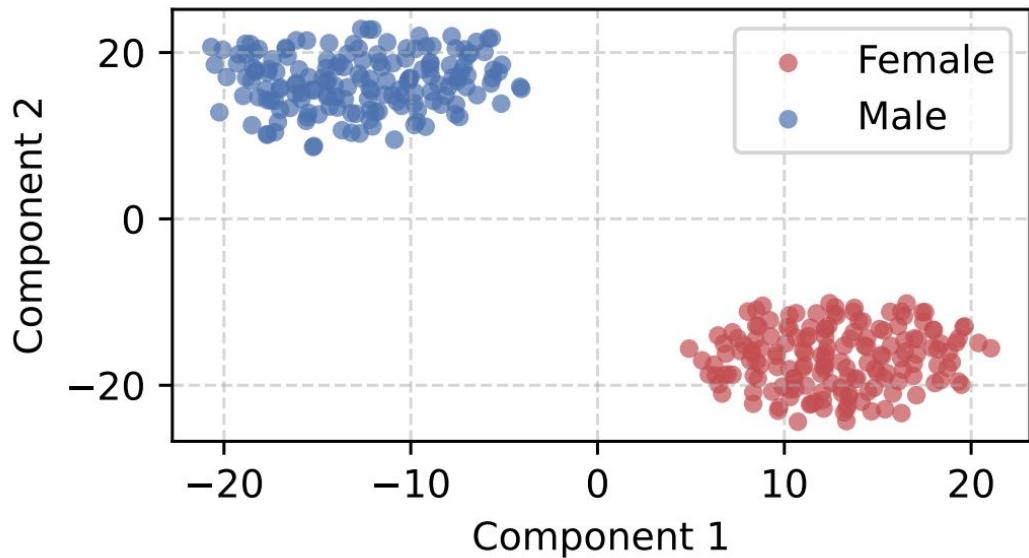
1. EEG was bandpass filtered between 0.5-30Hz
2. Independent Component Analysis (ICA) to remove EEG artifacts
3. EEG downsampled from 8192Hz → 200Hz
4. Audio upsampled from 44100Hz → 48000Hz



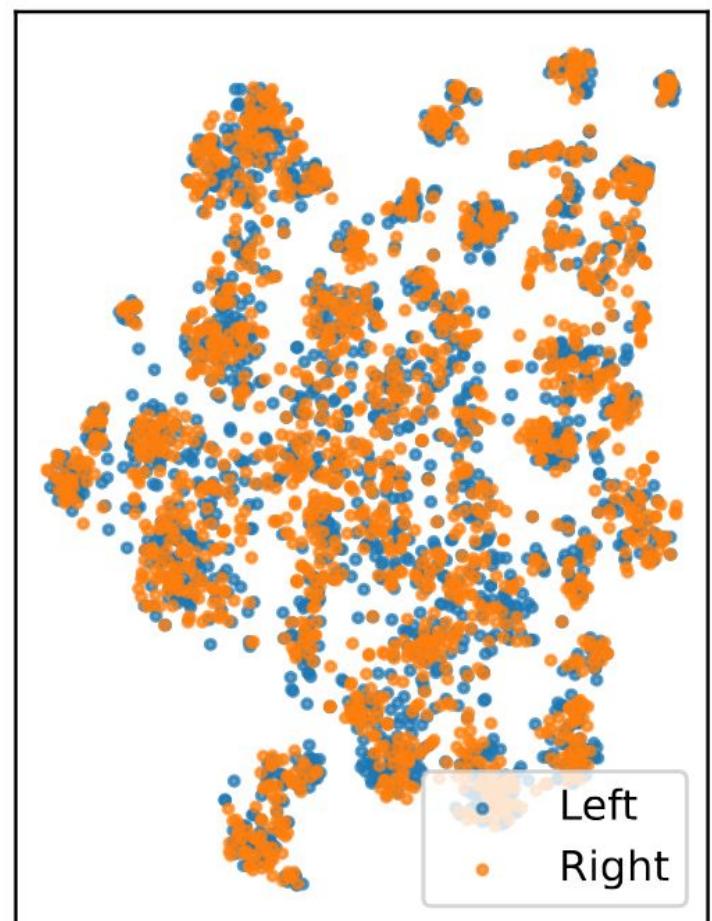
Data

Data visualization

t-SNE of CLAP Embeddings by Gender



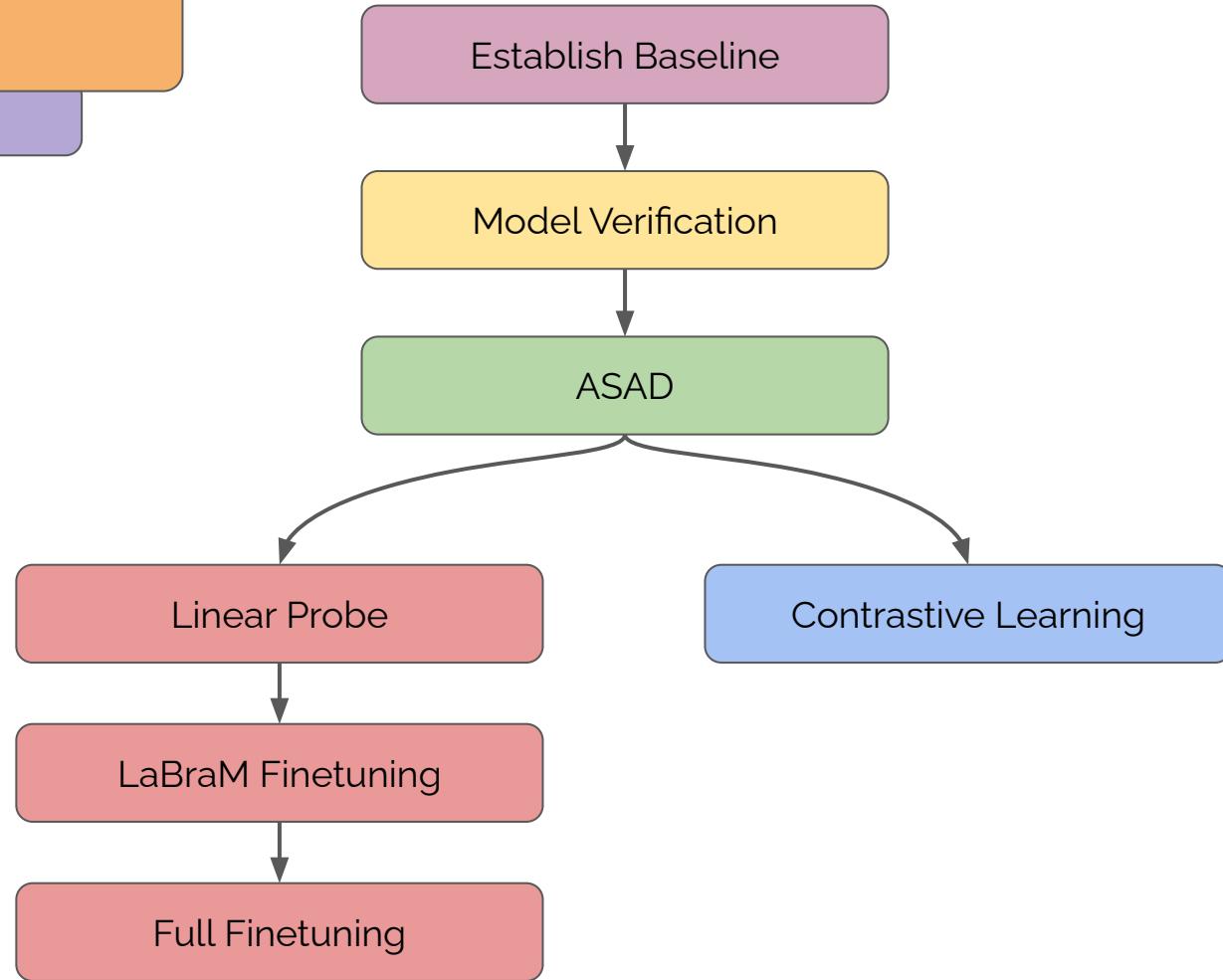
Direction as label



Methodology

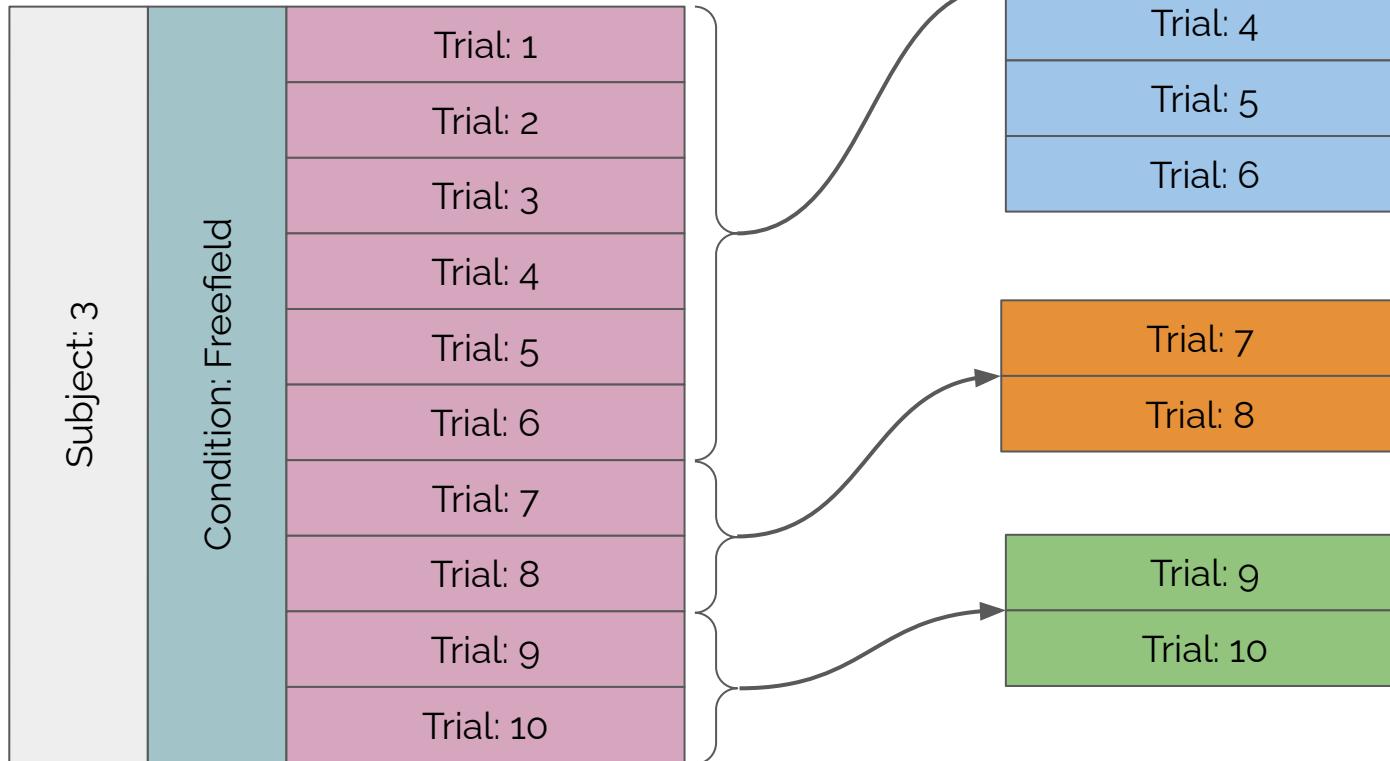
Methodology

Process



Methodology

Data Split - Temporal



Train
60%

Validation
20%

Test
20%

Methodology

Data Split - Audio Disjoint

Male Audio 1
Female Audio 1
Male Audio 2
Female Audio 2
Male Audio 3
Female Audio 3
Male Audio 4
Female Audio 4
Male Audio 5
Female Audio 5

Male Audio 1
Female Audio 1
Male Audio 2
Female Audio 2
Male Audio 3
Female Audio 3

Male Audio 4
Female Audio 4

Male Audio 5
Female Audio 5

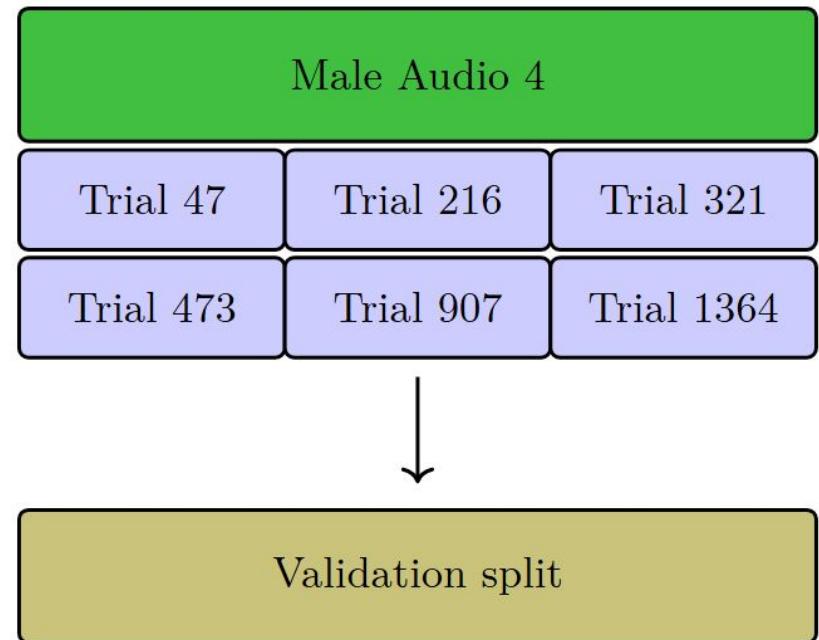
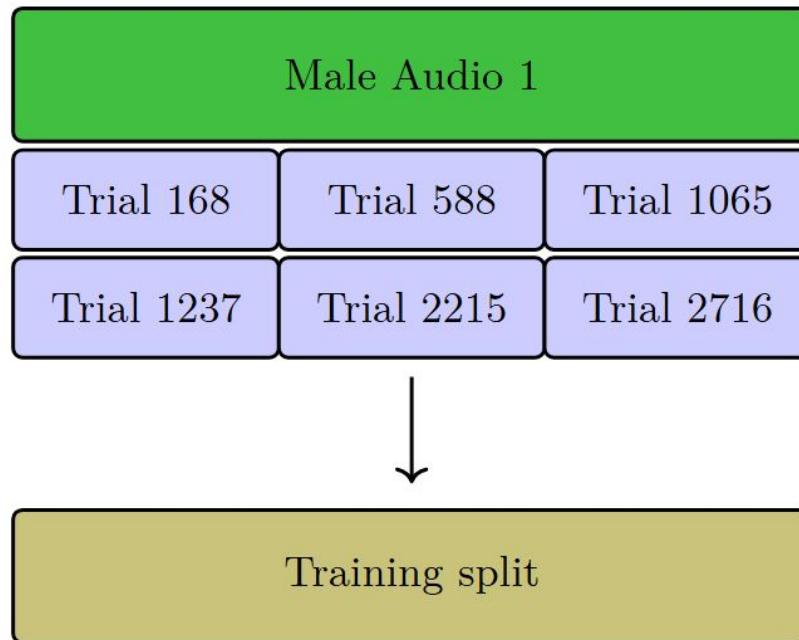
Train
60%

Validation
20%

Test
20%

Methodology

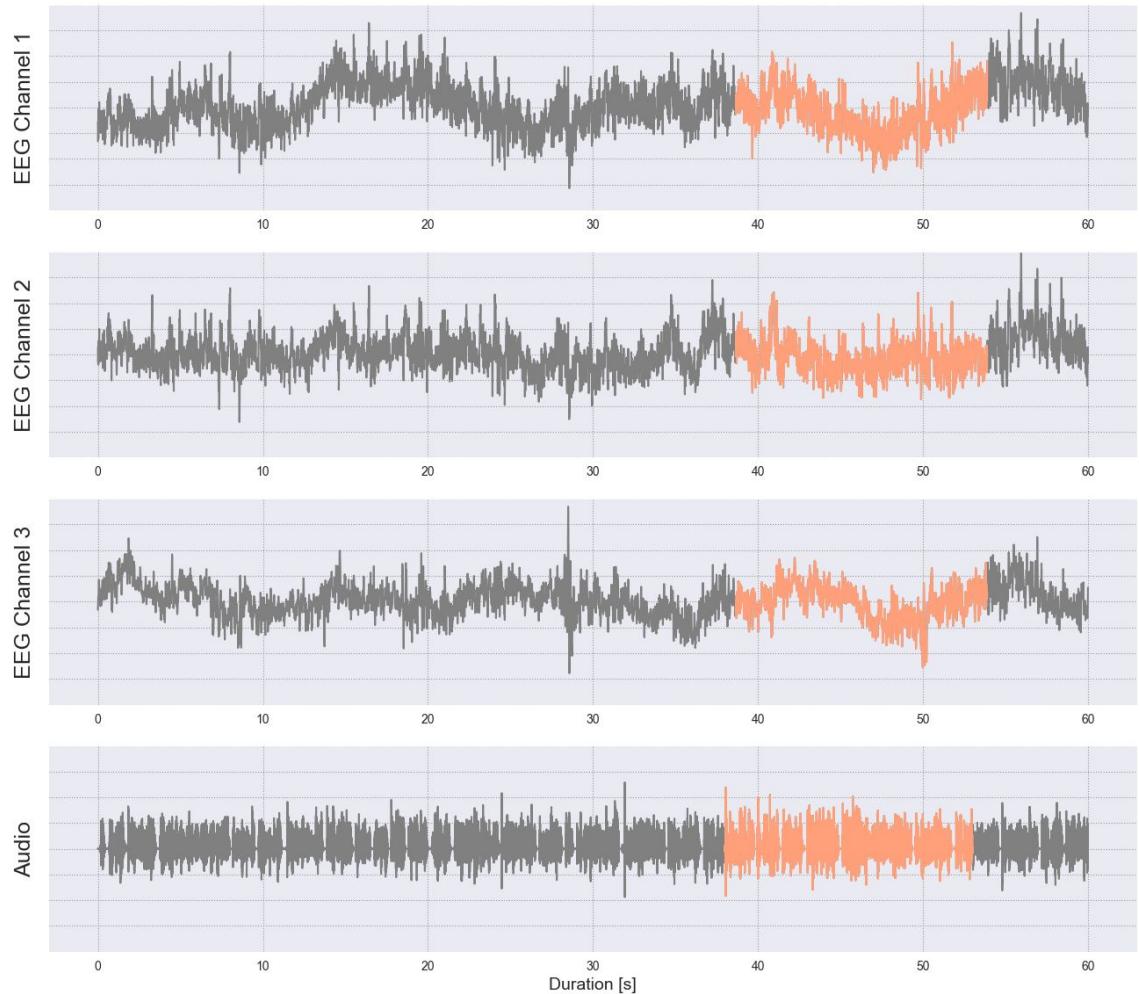
Data Split - Audio Disjoint



Methodology

Trial sampling

- Randomized trial segments
- Fixed validation segments
- Three augmentations:
 - Channel dropout
 - FT Surrogate
 - Time Reverse



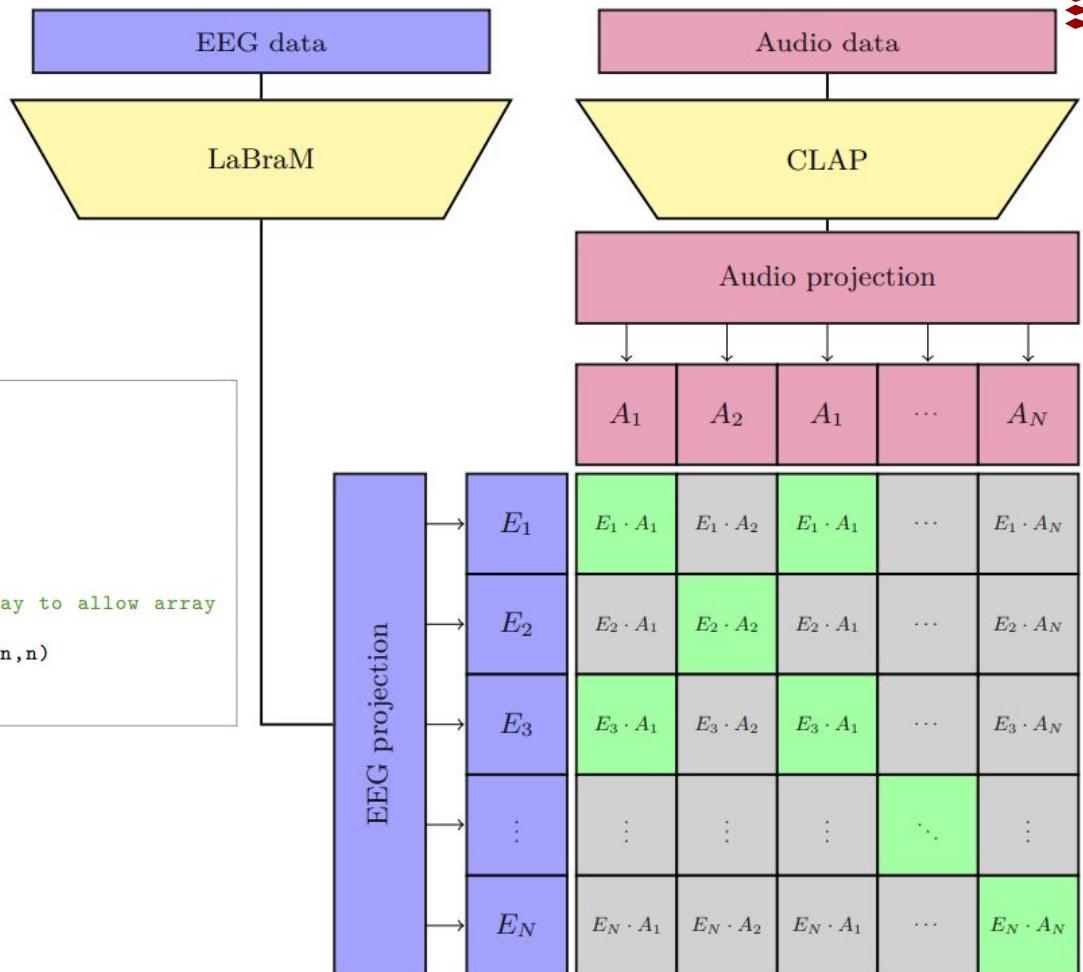
Methodology

Contrastive learning

```

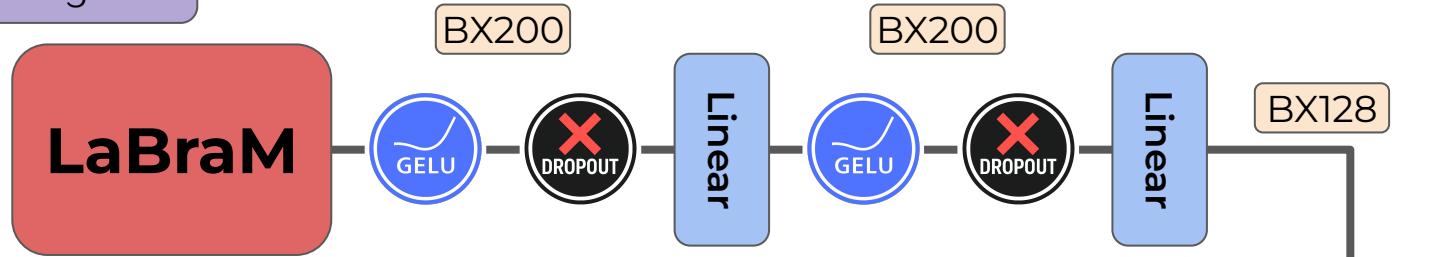
1 # eeg_embed - EEG model embedding [n, d]
2 # audio_embed - Audio model embedding [n, d]
3 # target_ids - ids of audio segments [n]
4 # b, t_prime - learnable bias and temperature
5 # n - mini-batch size
6 eeg_embed_z = 12_normalize(eeg_embed)
7 audio_embed_z = 12_normalize(audio_embed)
8 t = exp(t_prime)
9 # ~ is used as a short hand for adding a new axis to an array to allow array
   broadcasting
10 labels = 2 * (target_ids[:, ~] == target_ids[~, :]) - ones(n,n)
11 logits = dot(eeg_embed_z, audio_embed_z.T) * t + b
12 loss = -sum(log_sigmoid(labels * logits)) / n

```

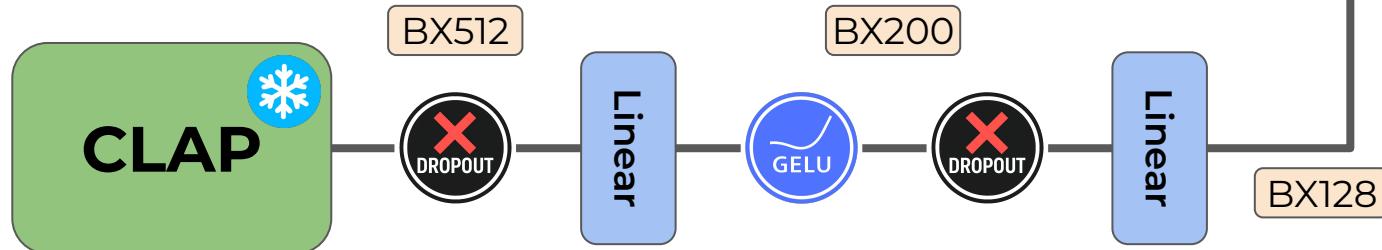


Methodology

Contrastive learning



Dropout: 0.08
LR: 5e-4
Scheduler: OneCycle
Batch size: 32



Results & Discussion

Results & Discussion

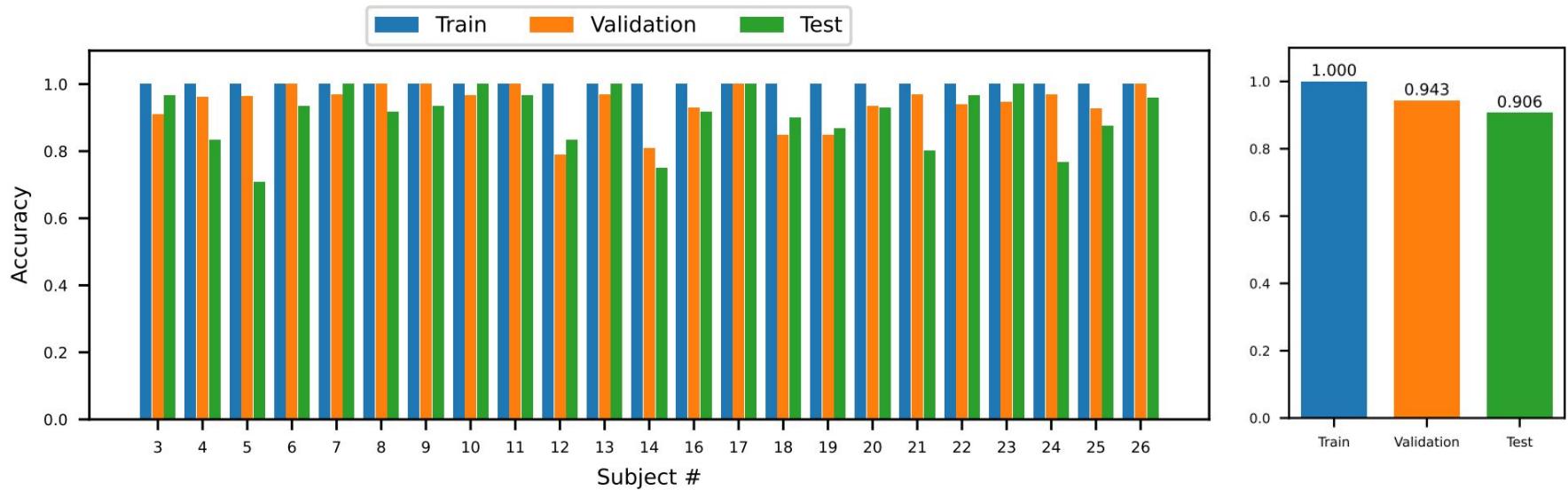
Baseline

- Each experiment used a 15 second decision window
- Only ran experiments with a single seed
- Backwards model

# Conditions	Validation accuracy	Test accuracy
Two conditions	0.643	0.604
Five conditions	0.564	0.568

Results & Discussion

Condition classification

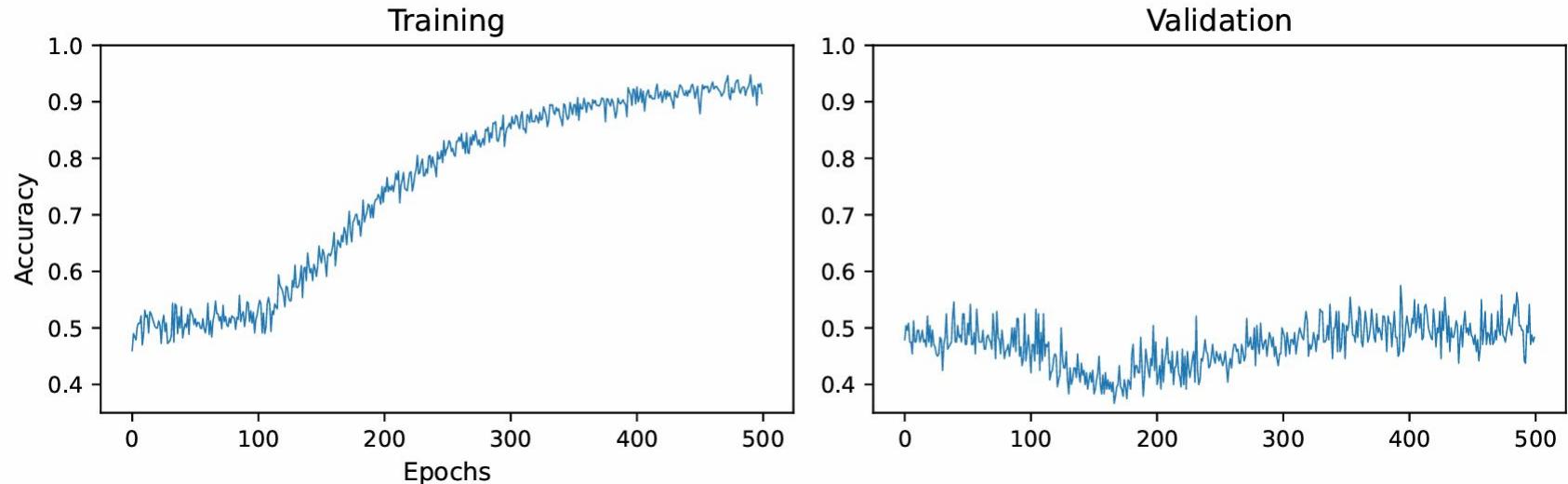


Results & Discussion

Contrastive learning

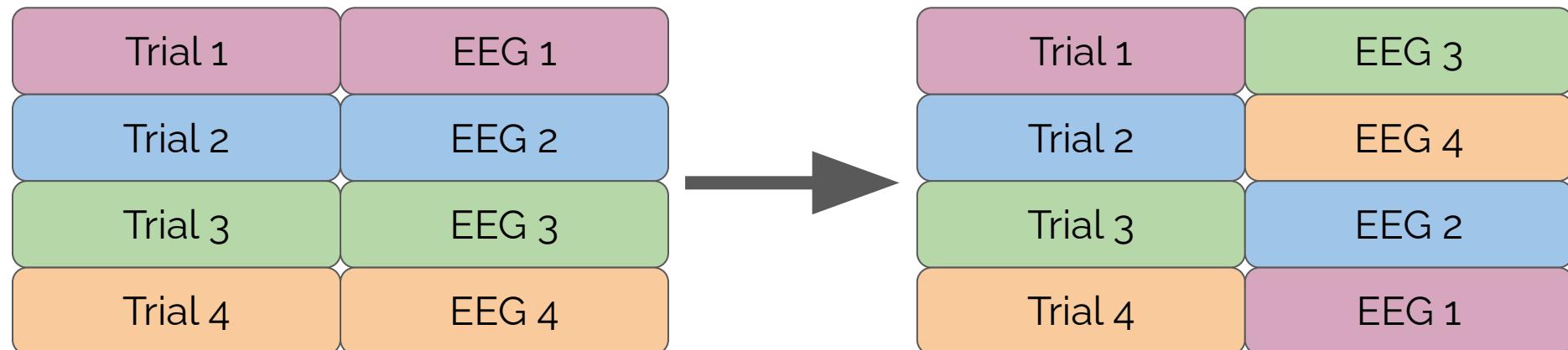
- Overfitting
- Memorization

Temporal Split



Results & Discussion

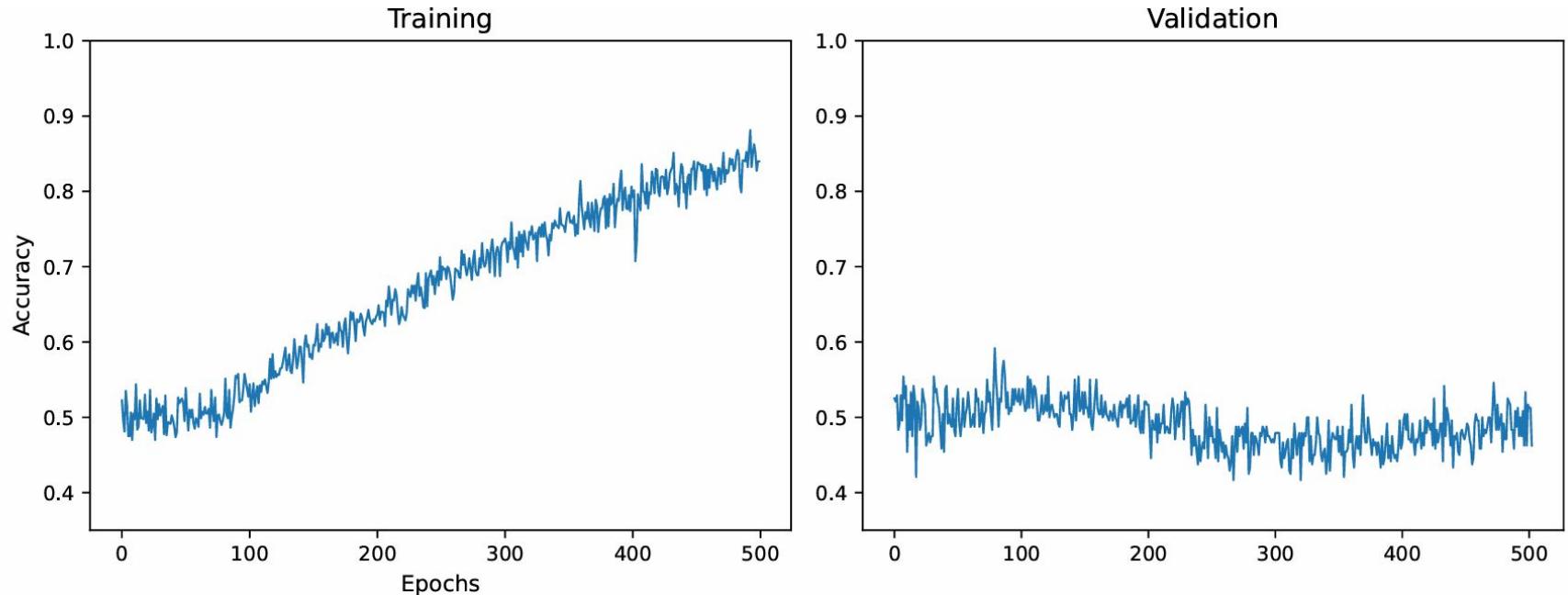
Contrastive learning



Results & Discussion

Contrastive learning

Temporal Split with mismatched EEG

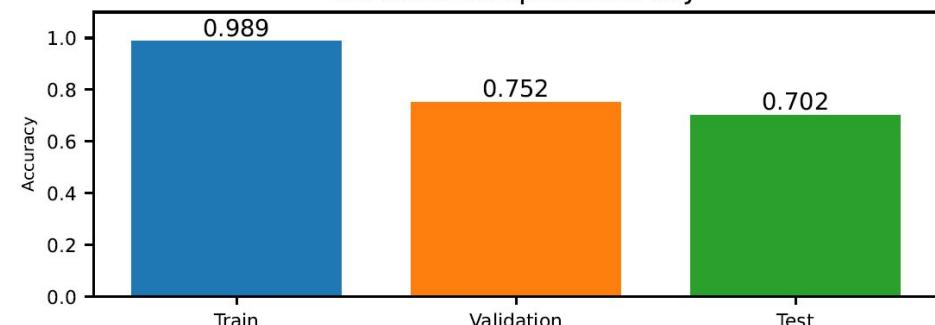


Results & Discussion

Contrastive learning

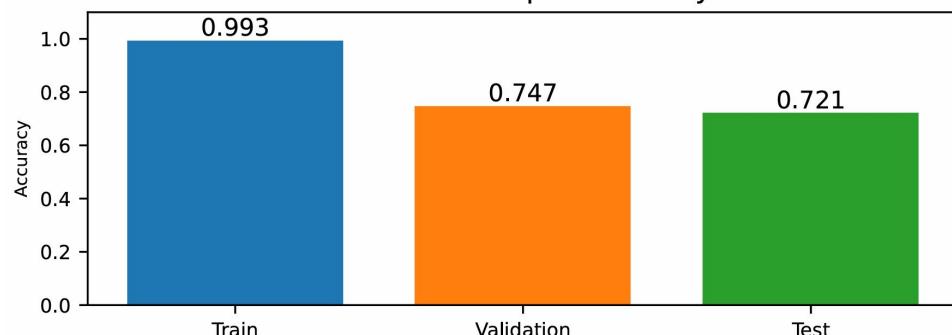
Noise-free conditions

Contrastive split accuracy



All conditions

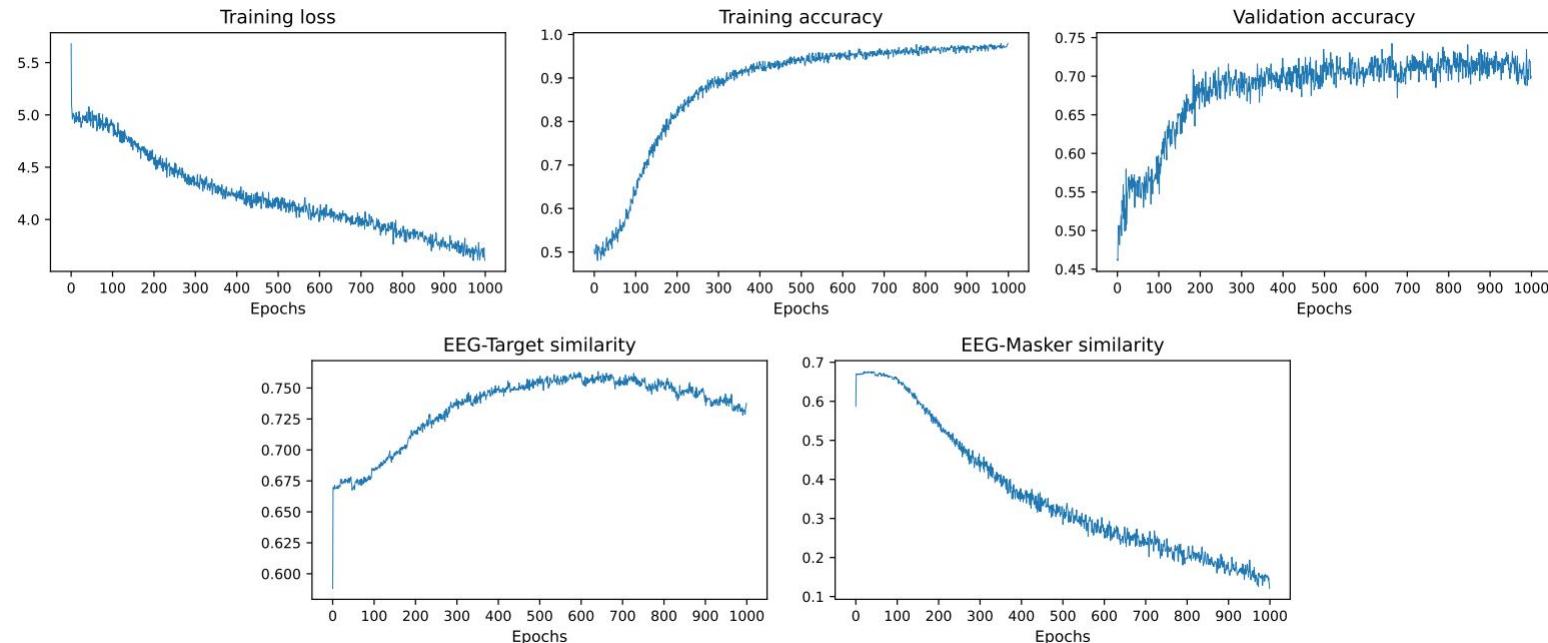
Contrastive split accuracy



Results & Discussion

Contrastive learning

All conditions

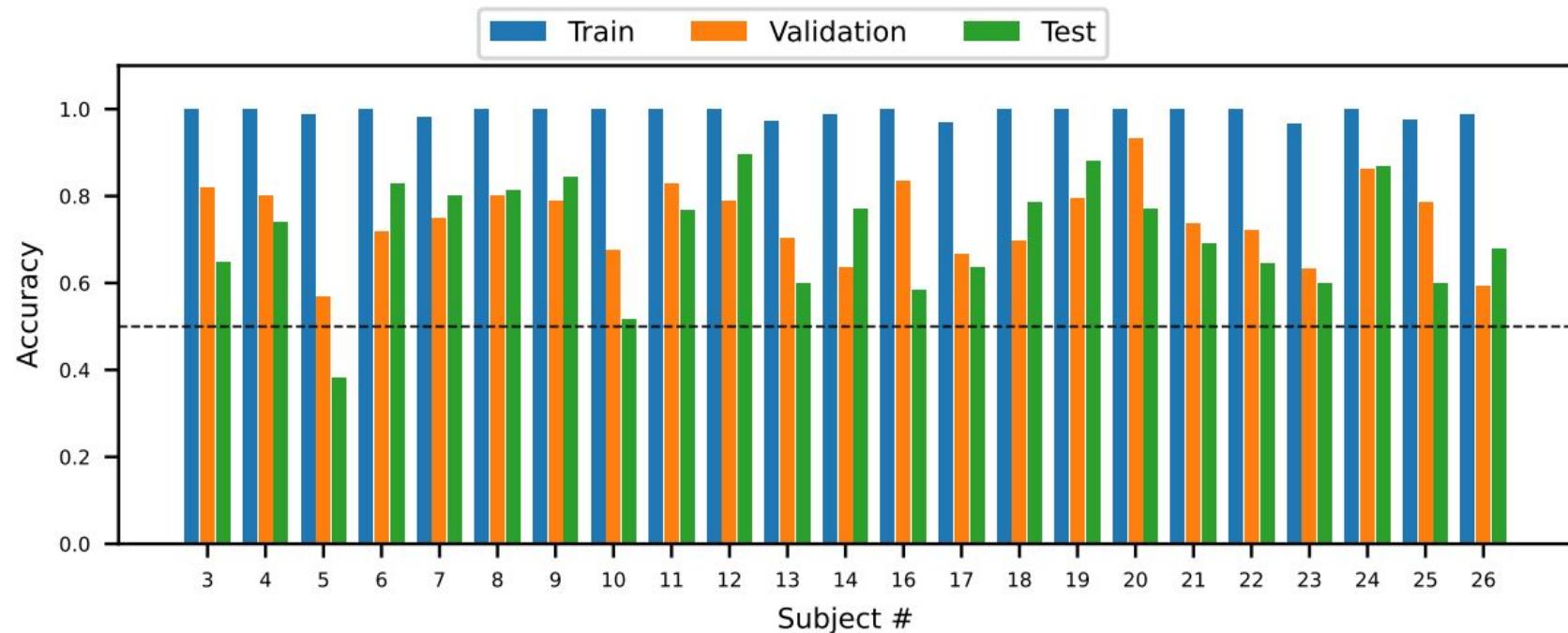


Results & Discussion

Contrastive learning

- Better than random guessing
- High response accuracy + no missing data-> high model accuracy (9, 12, 24)

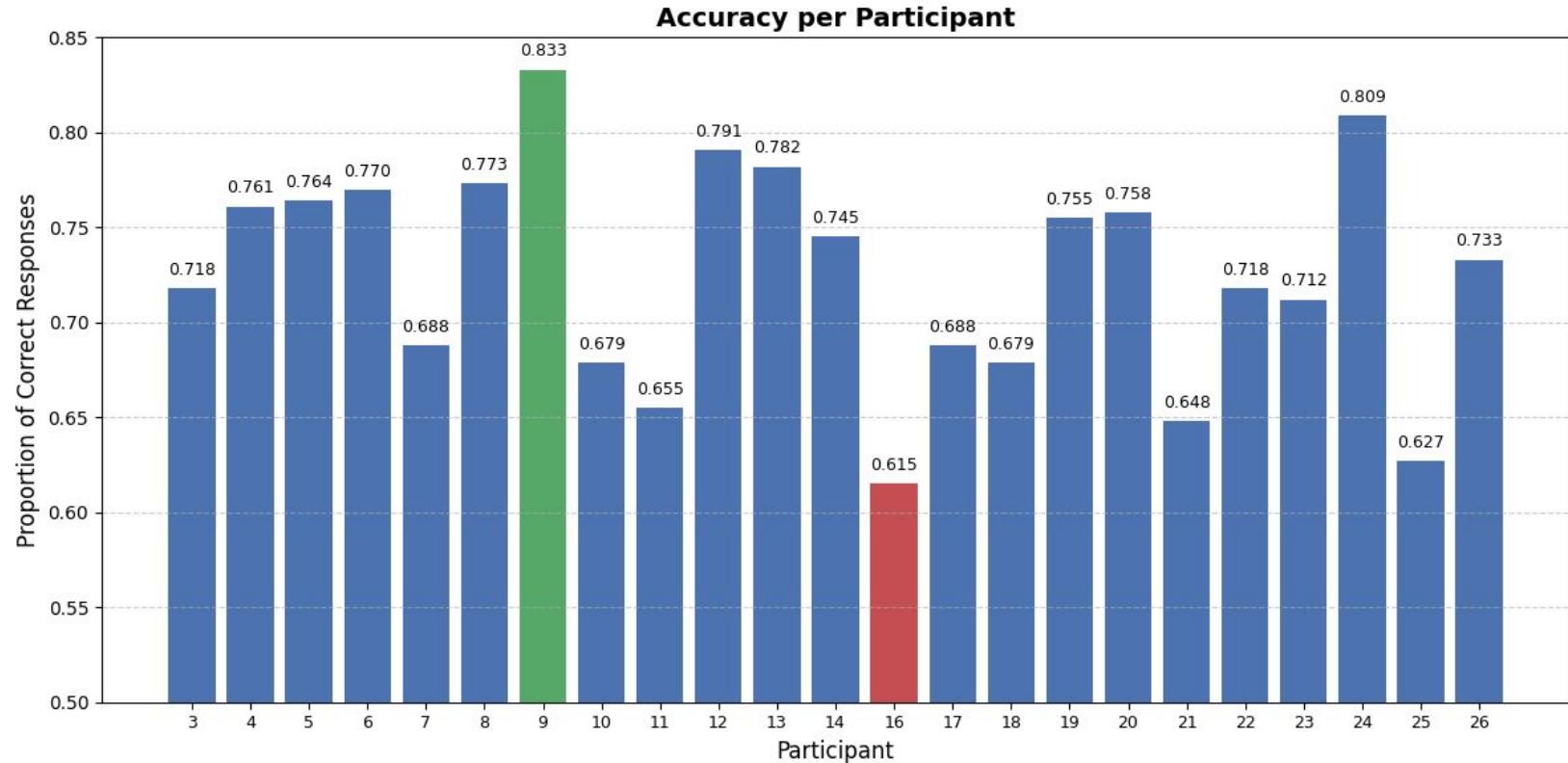
Subject accuracy on all conditions



Data

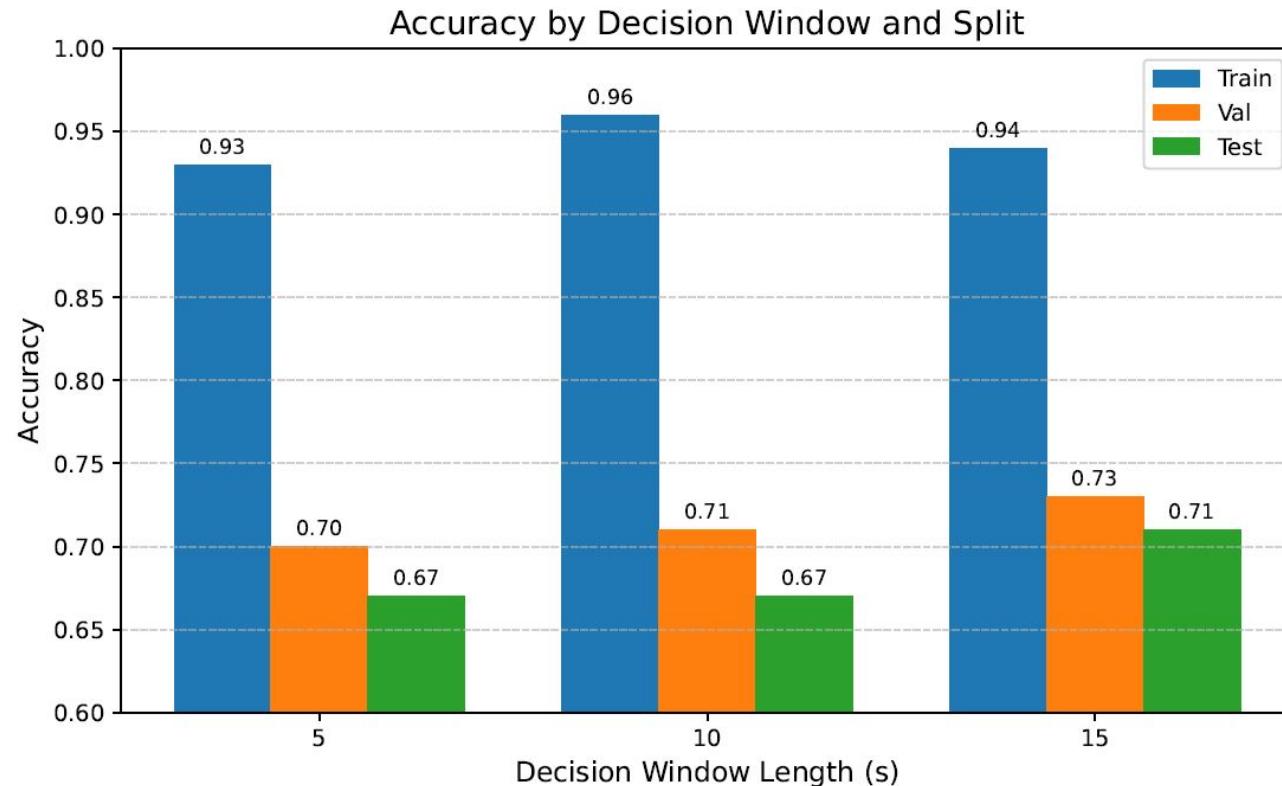
Response accuracy

2 yes/no questions per trial



Results & Discussion

Contrastive learning



Results & Discussion

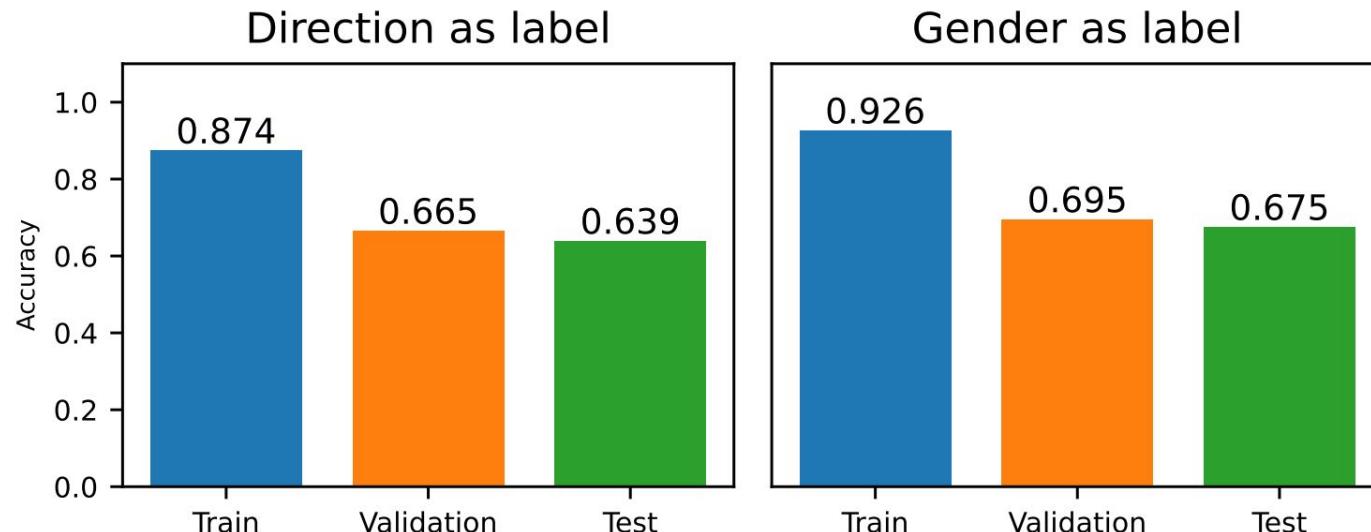
Augmentation results

- TR: Time Reversal
- DR: Channel Dropout
- FTS: Fourier Transform Surrogate

		Train	Val	Test
No aug		0.989	0.752	0.702
TR		0.987	0.748	0.725
DR		0.946	0.711	0.667
FTS		0.905	0.714	0.694

Results & Discussion

ASAD



Results & Discussion

Direct classification

	Train	Validation	Test
Linear probe	0.572	0.521	0.522
LaBraM finetuning	0.984	0.707	0.676
Full finetuning	0.722	0.523	0.492

Conclusion

Conclusion

RQ1

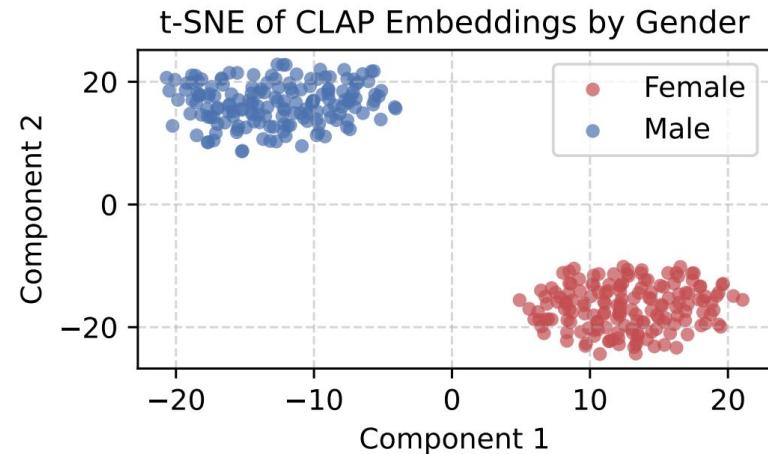
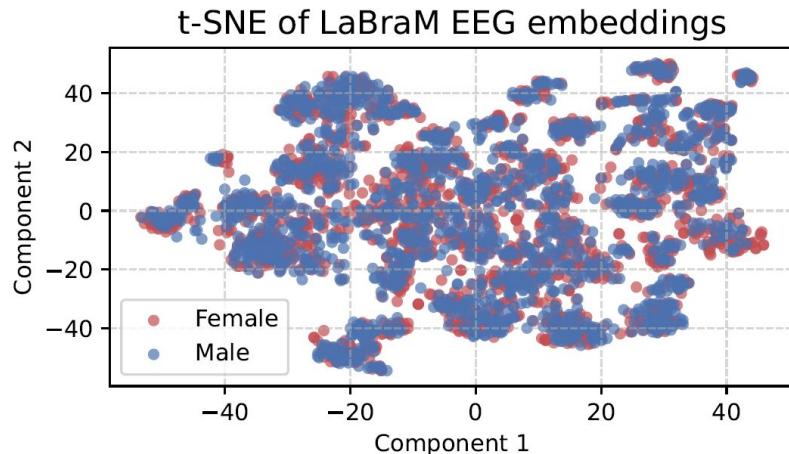
RQ1: How do CLAP and LaBraM perform as pretrained feature extractors for auditory attention decoding?

	Train	Validation	Test
Linear probe	0.572	0.521	0.522

Conclusion

RQ1

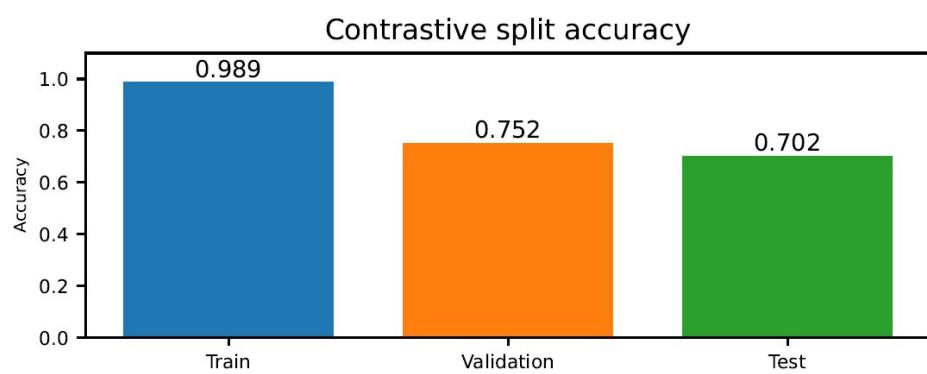
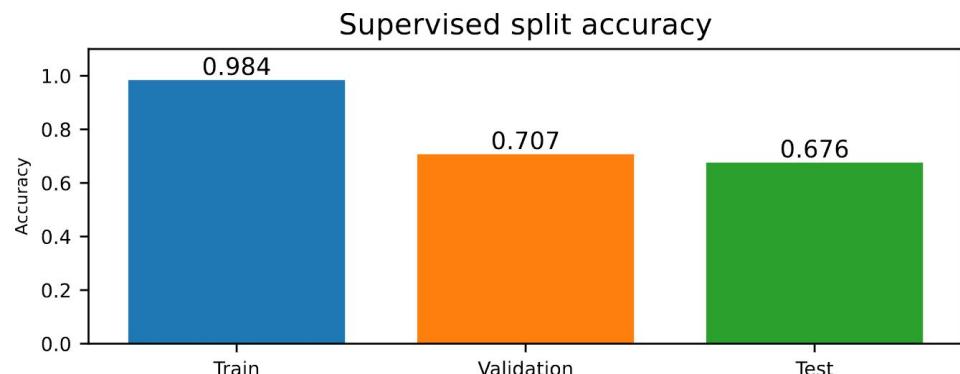
RQ1: How do CLAP and LaBraM perform as pretrained feature extractors for auditory attention decoding?



Conclusion

RQ2

RQ2: How does contrastive learning compare to supervised classification for training robust AAD models using CLAP and LaBraM?



Conclusion

RQ3

RQ3: How does the length of decision windows affect performance?



Thank you for
your
Attention

Appendix

Results & Discussion

Baseline

- Each experiment used a 15 second decision window
- Only ran experiments with a single seed
- Backwards TRF model

Two condition performance

Split	Validation accuracy	Test accuracy
Temporal	0.588	0.633
Audio-disjoint	0.643	0.604

Five condition performance

Split	Validation accuracy	Test accuracy
Temporal	0.593	0.599
Audio-disjoint	0.564	0.568

Literature Review

Why Direct Classification?

[...] the process of stimulus reconstruction [...] is not optimized to effectively detect attention. [...] the compression of multichannel EEG signals into a single waveform through stimulus reconstruction reduces the available information for analysis¹

[The neural network] outperforms the baseline linear stimulus reconstruction method, improving decoding accuracy [...] from 59% to 87%²

[...] correlation between the reconstructed and the attended speech envelopes is generally weak³

[1]: Siqi Cai et al. "EEG-based Auditory Attention Detection in Cocktail Party Environment."

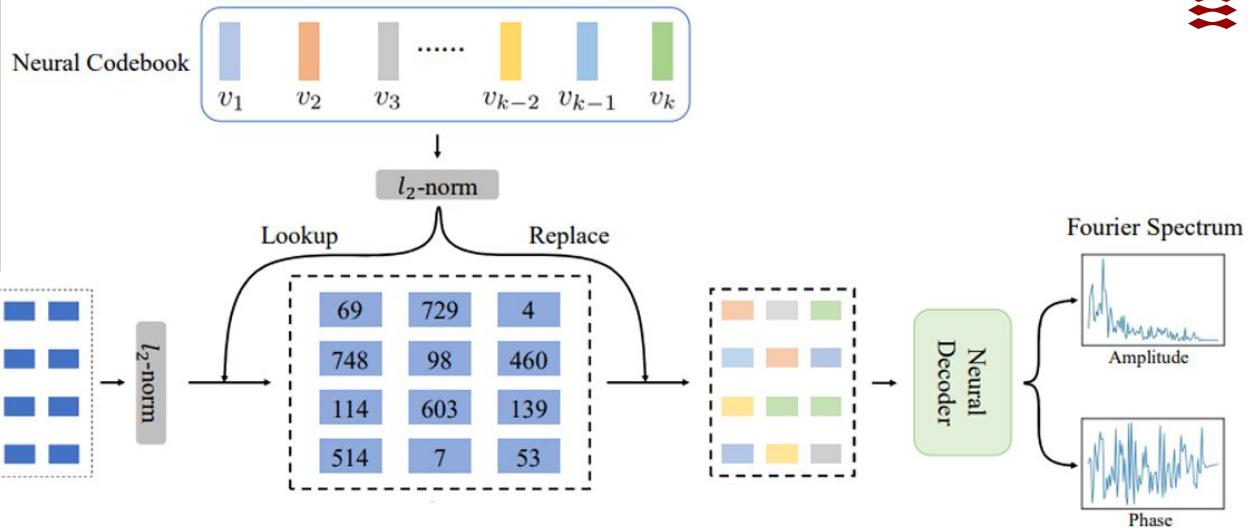
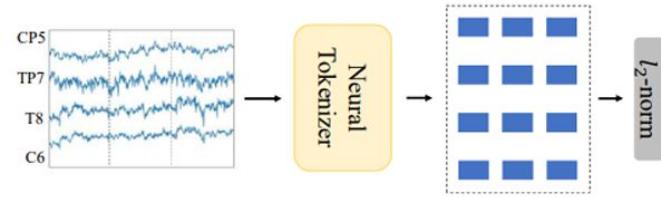
[2]: Gregory Ciccarelli et al. "Comparison of Two-Talker Attention Decoding from EEG with Nonlinear Neural Networks and Linear Methods."

[3]: Enze Su et al. "STAnet: A Spatiotemporal Attention Network for Decoding Auditory Spatial Attention From EEG."

Literature Review

LaBraM Pretraining

Neural Tokenizer Training



$$\mathcal{L}_T = \sum_{x \in \mathcal{D}} \sum_{i=1}^N \left\| o_i^A - A_i \right\|_2^2 + \left\| o_i^\phi - \phi_i \right\|_2^2 + \left\| \text{sg}(\ell_2(p_i)) - \ell_2(v_{z_i}) \right\|_2^2 + \left\| \ell_2(p_i) - \text{sg}(\ell_2(v_{z_i})) \right\|_2^2$$

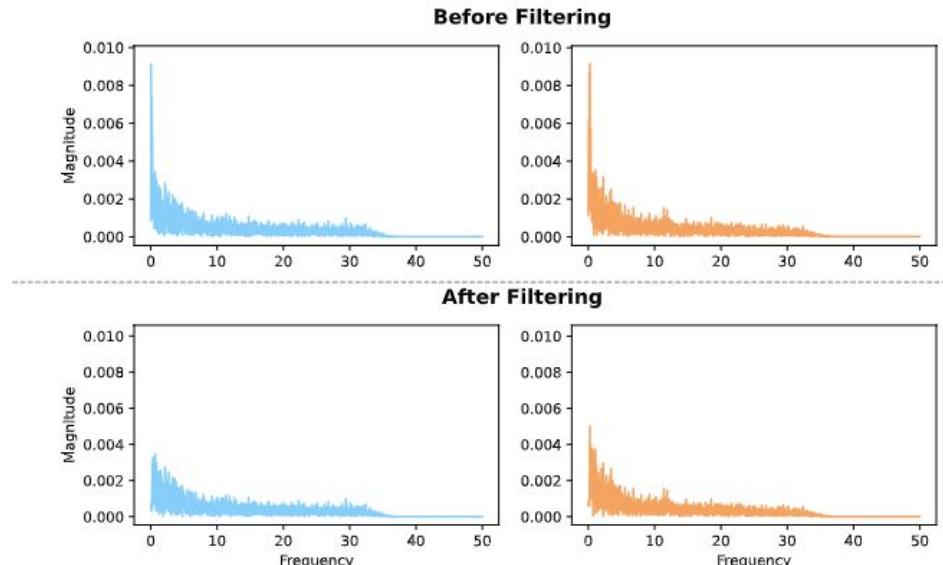
Annotations below the equation:

- Predicted amplitude: Points to o_i^A
- Predicted phase: Points to o_i^ϕ
- Tokenizer Vector: Points to $\ell_2(p_i)$
- Actual amplitude: Points to A_i
- Actual phase: Points to ϕ_i
- Codebook Vector: Points to $\ell_2(v_{z_i})$

Data

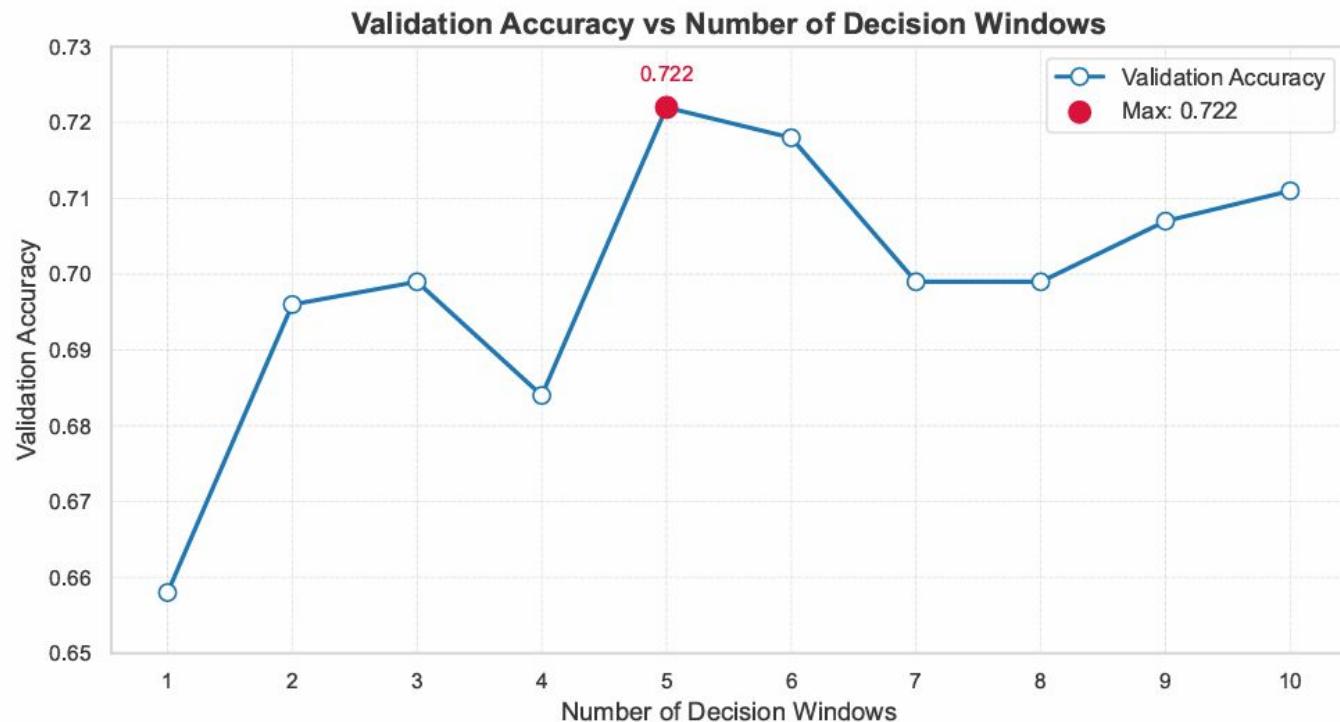
Preprocessing

- EEG was bandpass filtered between 0.5-30Hz
- ICA to remove EEG artifacts
- EEG downsampled from 8192Hz
→ 200Hz
- Audio upsamples from 44100Hz
→ 48000Hz



Results & Discussion

Contrastive learning



Results & Discussion

Comparisons

Lund Contrastive

- Hearing impaired subjects
- Unspecified background noise
- CNN + attention
- Subject specific architecture

Lund DCCA

- No added background noise
- Whisper + Deep
Canonical-correlation analysis

	Lund Contrastive¹	Lund DCCA²	Our Model
Accuracy	71.5%	67.9%	67.0%

(5 second decision window)

[1] Gautam Sridhar et al. "Improving auditory attention decoding in noisy environments for listeners with hearing impairment through contrastive learning"

[2] Alessandro Celoria et al. "An ASR-based Hybrid Approach for Auditory Attention Decoding"

Results & Discussion

Out-of-sample classification

