

# Evidential value of long-term laryngeal voice quality acoustics

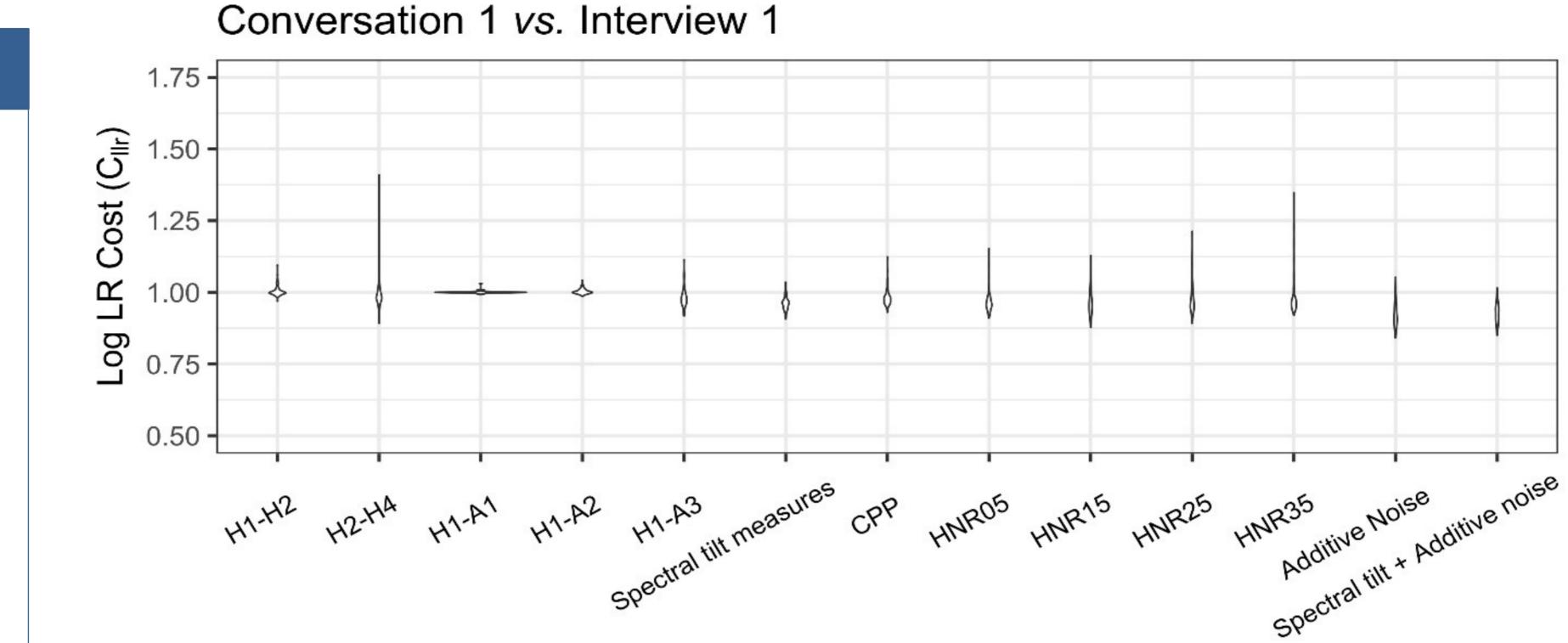


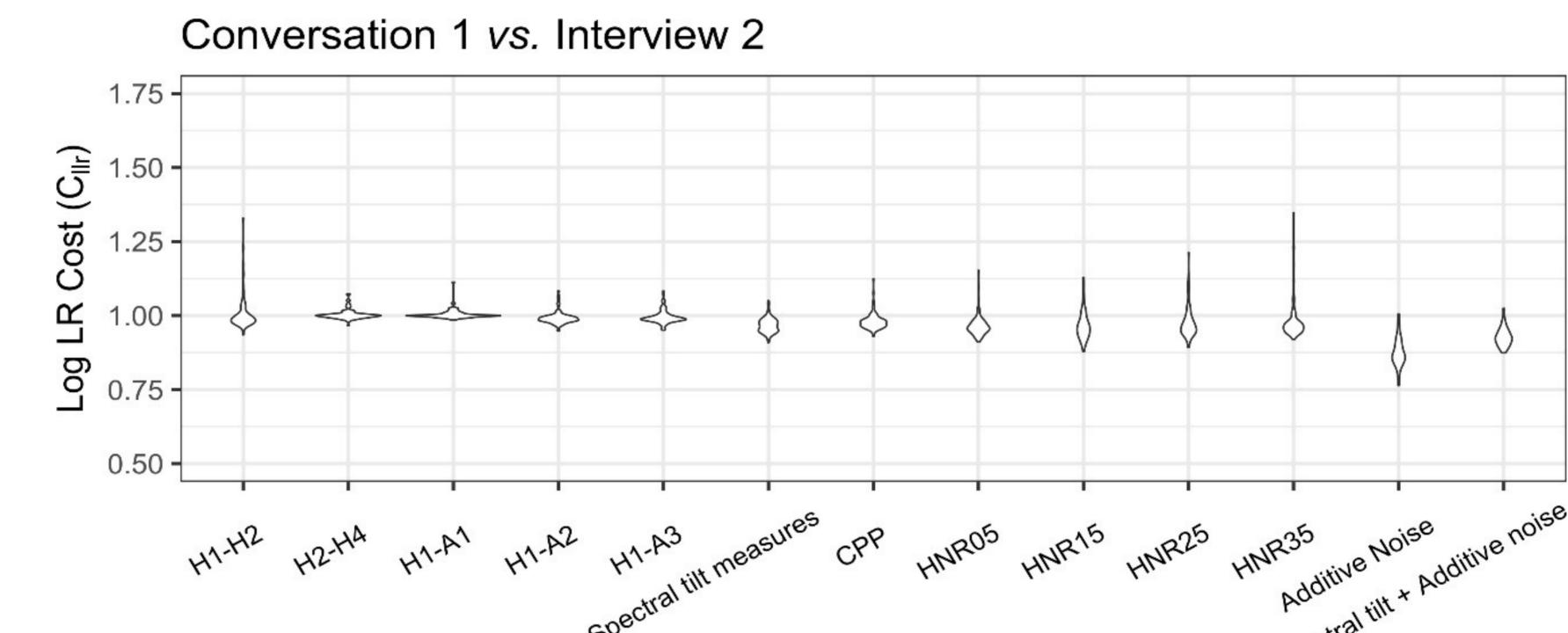
#### Ricky Chan<sup>1</sup>; Bruce Wang<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Speech, Language and Cognition Laboratory, School of English University of Hong Kong <sup>2</sup>Department of Chinese and Bilingual Studies, Hong Kong Polytechnic University

#### Results

- VQ parameters generally performed poorly
  - Mostly:  $C_{l/r} \sim 1 \& EER > 40\%$
- Improved when combining the five spectral tilt or the five additive noise parameters
- BUT: using both spectral tilt & additive noise parameters → worse performance → conflicting information for distinguishing speakers?
- Non-contemporaneous recordings  $\rightarrow$  higher  $C_{llr}$
- Stable system performance (low SD in  $C_{IIr}$  & EER values)





## Background

- Purported usefulness of voice quality (VQ) analysis in FVC<sup>1</sup>
  - BUT: limited empirical validation
- Few FVC studies compared
- 1. match vs. mismatch in speech style
- 2. contemporaneous vs. noncontemporaneous recordings
- This study: laryngeal VQ + non-contemporaneous recordings; Bayesian likelihood ratio

## Methods

- 75 male speakers aged 18-45
- Australian English
  - Sydney/New South Wales<sup>3</sup>
- Tasks: casual telephone conversation (CNV) & mock police interview (INT)
- Two recordings per speaker
  - ~ 2-week interval
- 33s of vocalic material per recording
- Spectral tilt and additive noise acoustic parameters
- MVKD + logistic regression
- 25 speakers: training, test, reference
- 100 replications<sup>4</sup>

### Discussion

- Speech style mismatch + noncontemporaneous recordings: typical in FVC casework
- → VQ parameters: limited evidential value
  - At best be combined with other features (e.g. MFCC)<sup>2</sup>
- VQ: not phonologically contrastive; no socially conditioned variation (males)
- → Little room for betweenspeaker variation?
- Methodological issues:
  - MVKD—suitable?
  - Large age range
  - Not enough speech material for VQ analysis?







# Ricky Chan

rickykwc@nku.ni



# Bruce Wang

bruce.wang@alumni.york.ac.uk



#### References

- 1. Gold, E., & French, P. (2011). International practices in forensic speaker comparison. *International Journal of Speech Language and the Law*, 18(2).
- 2. Hughes, V., Cardoso, A., Foulkes, P., French, J. P., Harrison, P. & Gully, A. (2019). Forensic voice comparison using long-term acoustic measures of voice quality. *Proceedings of the 19th International Congress of Phonetic Sciences (ICPhS)*. Melbourne, Australia.
- 3. Morrison, G. S., Zhang, C., Enzinger, E., Ochoa, F., Bleach, D., Johnson, M., Folkes, B. K., De Souza, S., Cummins, N., & Chow, D. (2015). Forensic database of voice recordings of 500+ Australian English speakers.
- 4. Wang, B. X., Hughes, V., & Foulkes, P. (2019). The effect of speaker sampling in likelihood ratio based forensic voice comparison. *International Journal of Speech Language and the Law*, 26(1), 97–120