

1 Listeners adjust their prior expectations as they adapt to speech of an unfamiliar talker

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1 Abstract

YOUR ABSTRACT GOES HERE. All data and code for this study are shared via OSF,
including the R markdown document that this article is generated from, and an R library that
implements the models we present.

Keywords: speech perception; perceptual adaptation; distributional learning; ...

Word count: X

2 Listeners adjust their prior expectations as they adapt to speech of an unfamiliar talker

TO-DO

2.1 Highest priority

- MARYANN
 - Continue describing Experiment 2
 - Discuss with Florian for discussion
 - Fix any plot issues

2.1.1 Priority

- MARYANN
 - Fill in the references
- FLORIAN:
 - Review Introduction
 - Review Experiment 1 – comment on discussion of IO analysis
 - Review plots
 - Advise on how to adjust the text size of plot axis (`theme()` and `element_text` doesn't seem to work)

2.2 To do later

- Everyone: Eat ice-cream and perhaps have a beer.

1 Introduction

Talkers who share a common language vary in the way they pronounce its linguistic categories. Yet, listeners of the same language background typically cope with such variation without much trouble. In scenarios where a talker produces those categories in an unexpected and unfamiliar way, comprehending their speech may pose a real challenge. However, brief exposure to the talker’s accent (sometimes just minutes) can be sufficient for the listener to overcome any initial comprehension difficulty (e.g. Bradlow & Bent, 2008; Clarke & Garrett, 2004; X. Xie, Liu, & Jaeger, 2021; X. Xie et al., 2018). This adaptive skill is in a sense, trivial for any expert language user but becomes complex when considered from the angle of acoustic-cue-to-linguistic-category mappings. Since talkers differ in countless ways and each listening occasion is different in circumstance, there is not a single set of cues that can be definitively mapped to each linguistic category. Listeners instead have to contend with many possible cue-to-category mappings and infer the intended category of the talker. How listeners achieve prompt and accurate comprehension of speech in spite of this variability remains the overarching aim of speech perception research.

Researchers have been exploring the hypothesis that listeners solve this perceptual problem by exploiting their knowledge gained from experience with different talkers. This knowledge is often implicit and context contingent since listeners are sensitive to both social and environmental cues (e.g. age, sex, group identity, native language etc.) that are relevant for optimal speech perception. Impressively, shifts in perception can be induced implicitly through subtle cues such as the presence of cultural artefacts that hint at talker provenance, (Hay & Drager, 2010) and explicitly such as when the listener is instructed to imagine a talker as a man or a woman (Johnson, Strand, & D’Imperio, 1999). While these and other related effects of exposure-induced changes speak to the malleability of human perception, it remains unclear how human perceptual systems strike the balance between stability and flexibility.

One possibility is that listeners continuously update their implicit knowledge with each talker encounter by integrating prior knowledge of cue-to-category distributions with the statistics of the current talker’s productions, leading to changes in representations which affect listener categorisation behaviour. Broadly speaking, many theoretical accounts would agree with this

assertion. Connectionist (McClelland & Elman 1986; Luce & Pisoni, 1998), and Bayesian models of spoken word recognition (Norris & McQueen, 2008) and adaptation (D. F. Kleinschmidt & Jaeger, 2015) are generative systems that abstract the frequency of input. Even exemplar models of speech perception (Goldinger 1996, 1998; Johnson, 1997; Pierrehumbert 2001) which encode high fidelity memories of speaker-specific phonetic detail converge to a level of generalisation due to effects of token frequency (Pierrehumbert2003?; DragerKirtley2016?).

At the level of acoustic-phonetic input, listeners’ implicit knowledge refer to the way relevant acoustic cues that distinguish phonological categories are distributed across talkers within a linguistic system. Talkers of US-English, for instance, distinguish the /d/-/t/ contrasts primarily through the voice-onset-time (VOT) acoustic cue. Given its relevance for telling word pairs such as “din” and “tin” apart, a distributional learning hypothesis would posit that listeners learn the distribution of VOT cues when talkers produce those stop consonant contrasts in word contexts. Earliest evidence for listener sensitivity to individual talker statistics in the domain of stop consonants come from studies such as Allen & Miller (2004, also Theodore & Miller, 2010) but more recent studies that formalise the problem of speech perception as rational inference have shown that listeners’ behavioural responses are probabilistic function of the exposure talker’s statistics (Clayards, Tanenhaus, Aslin, & Jacobs, 2008a; D. F. Kleinschmidt & Jaeger, 2016; and Theodore & Monto, 2019).

Clayards et al. (2008a) for instance found that listeners responded with greater uncertainty after they were exposed to VOT distributions for a “beach-peach” contrast that had wider variances as compared to another group who had heard the same contrasts with narrower variances. Across both wide and narrow conditions, the mean values of the voiced and voiceless categories were kept constant and set at values that were close to the expected means for /b/ and /p/ in US English. The study was one of the first to demonstrate that at least in the context of an experiment, listeners categorisation behaviour was a function of the variance of the exposure talker’s cue distributions – listeners who were exposed to a wide distribution of VOTs showed greater uncertainty in their perception of the stimuli, exhibiting a flatter categorisation function on average, compared to listeners who were exposed to a narrow distribution.

In a later study D. F. Kleinschmidt and Jaeger (2016) tested listener response to talker

statistics by shifting the means of the voiced and voiceless categories between conditions. Specifically, the mean values for /b/ and /p/ were shifted rightwards by several magnitudes, as well as leftwards, from the expected mean values of a typical American English talker while the category variances remained identical and the distance between the category means were kept constant. With this manipulation of means they were able to investigate how inclined listeners are to adapt their categorisation behaviors when the statistics of the exposure talker were shifted beyond the bounds of a typical talker.

In all exposure conditions, listeners on average adapted to the exposure talker by shifting their categorization function in the direction of the predicted function of an ideal listener (a listener who perfectly learned the exposure talker’s cue statistics). However, in all conditions, listener categorization fell short of the predicted ideal categorization boundary. This difference between the observed and predicted categorization functions was larger, the greater the magnitude of the shift from the typical talker’s distribution, suggesting some constraints on adaptation.

The study we report here builds on the pioneering work of Clayards et al. (2008a) and D. F. Kleinschmidt and Jaeger (2016) with the aim to shed more light on the role of prior implicit knowledge on adaptation to an unfamiliar talker.

Specifically, while K&J16 demonstrated how prior beliefs of listeners can be inferred computationally from post-exposure categorisation, their experiment was not designed to capture listener categorisation data before exposure to a novel talker. Nor did they run intermittent tests to scrutinise the progress of adaptation. In the ideal adapter framework, listener expectations are predicted to be rationally updated through integration with the incoming speech input and thus can theoretically be analysed on a trial-by-trial basis. The overall design of the studies reported here were motivated by our aim to understand this incremental belief-updating process which has not been closely studied in previous work. We thus address the limitations of previous work and in conjunction, make use of ideal observer models to validate baseline assumptions that accompany this kind of speech perception study – that listeners hold prior expectations or beliefs about cue distributions based on previously experienced speech input (here taken to mean native AE listeners’ lifetime of experience with AE). Arriving at a definitive conclusion of what shape and form those beliefs take is beyond the scope of this study however we attempt to explore the

various proposals that have emerged from more than half a century of speech perception research.

A secondary aim was to begin to address possible concerns of ecological validity of prior work. While no speech stimuli is ever ideal, previous work on which the current study is based did have limitations in one or two aspects: the artificiality of the stimuli or the artificiality of the distributions. For e.g. (Clayards et al., 2008a) and (D. F. Kleinschmidt & Jaeger, 2016) made use of synthesised stimuli that were robotic or did not sound human-like. The second way that those studies were limited was that the exposure distributions of the linguistic categories had identical variances (see also Theodore & Monto, 2019) unlike what is found in production data where the variance of the voiceless categories are typically wider than that of the voiced category (Chodroff & Wilson, 2017). We take modest steps to begin to improve the ecological validity of this study while balancing the need for control through lab experiments by employing more natural sounding stimuli as well as by setting the variances of our exposure distributions to better reflect empirical data on production (see section x.xx. of SI).

2 Experiment 1: Listener’s expectations prior to informative exposure

Experiment 1 investigates native (L1) US English listeners’ categorization of word-initial stop voicing by an unfamiliar female L1 US English talker, prior to more informative exposure. Specifically, listeners heard isolated recordings from a /d/-/t/ continuum, and had to respond which word they heard (e.g., “din” or “tin”). The recordings varied in voice onset time (VOT), the primary phonetic cue to word-initial stop voicing in L1 US English, as well as correlated secondary cues (f0 and rhyme duration). Critically, exposure was relatively uninformative about the talker’s use of the phonetic cues in that all phonetic realizations occurred equally often. The design of Experiment 1 serves two goals.

The first goal is methodological. We use Experiment 1 to test basic assumptions about the paradigm and stimuli we employ in the remainder of this study. We obtain estimates of the category boundary between /d/ and /t/ *for the specific stimuli used in Experiment 2*, as perceived *by the type of listeners we seek to recruit for Experiment 2*. We also test whether prolonged

testing across the phonetic continuum changes listeners’ categorization behavior. Previous work has found that prolonged testing on uniform distributions can reduce the effects of previous exposure (Liu & Jaeger, 2018a; e.g., **mitterer2011?**), at least in listeners of the age group we recruit from (**scharenborg-janse2013?**). However, these studies employed only a small number of 5-7 perceptually highly ambiguous stimuli, each repeated many times. In Experiment 1, we employ a much larger set of stimuli that span the entire continuum from very clear /d/s to very clear /t/s, each presented only twice. If prolonged testing changes listeners’ responses, this has to be taken into account in the design of Experiment 2.

The second purpose of Experiment 1 is to introduce and illustrate relevant theory. We compare different models of listeners’ prior expectations against listeners’ categorization responses in Experiment 1. The different models all aim to capture the implicit expectations of an L1 adult listener of US English might have about the mapping from acoustic cues to /d/ and /t/ based on previously experienced speech input. As we describe in more detail after the presentation of the experiment, the models differ, however, in whether these prior expectations take into account that talkers can differ in the way they realize /d/ and /t/. This ability to take into account talker differences even prior to more informative exposure is predicted—though through qualitatively different mechanisms, as we discuss below—both by normalization accounts (Cole, Linebaugh, Munson, & McMurray, 2010; McMurray & Jongman, 2011) and by accounts that attribute adaptive speech perception to changes in category representations (Bayesian ideal adaptor theory, D. F. Kleinschmidt & Jaeger, 2015; EARSHOT, Magnuson et al., 2020; episodic theory, Goldinger, 1998; exemplar theory, Johnson, 1997; Pierrehumbert, 2001). It is, however, unexpected under accounts that attribute adaptive speech perception solely to ad-hoc changes in decision-making. We did not expect that Experiment 1 yields a decisive conclusion with regard to this second goal, which is also addressed in Experiment 2. Rather, we use Experiment 1 as a presentationally convenient way to introduce some of the different models and provide readers with initial intuitions about what experiments of this type can and cannot achieve.

2.1 Methods

2.1.1 Participants

Participants were recruited over Amazon’s Mechanical Turk platform, and paid \$2.50 each (for a targeted remuneration of \$6/hour). The experiment was only visible to Mechanical Turk participants who (1) had an IP address in the United States, (2) had an approval rating of 95% based on at least 50 previous assignments, and (3) had not previously participated in any experiment on stop voicing from our lab.

24 L1 US English listeners (female = 9; mean age = 36.2 years; SD age = 9.2 years) completed the experiment. To be eligible, participants had to confirm that they (1) spent at least the first 10 years of their life in the US speaking only English, (2) were in a quiet place, and (3) wore in-ear or over-the-ears headphones that cost at least \$15.

2.1.2 Materials

We recorded multiple tokens of four minimal word pairs (“dill”/“till”, “dim”/“tim”, “din”/“tin”, and “dip”/“tip”) from a 23-year-old, female L1 US English talker with a mid-Western accent. These recordings were used to create four natural-sounding minimal pair VOT continua (dill-till, dip-tip, din-tin, and dip-tip) using a Praat script (Winn, 2020). The full procedure is described in the supplementary information (SI, ??). The VOT continua ranged from -100ms VOT to +130ms VOT in 5ms steps. Experiment 1 employs 24 of these steps (-100, -50, -10, 5, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75, 80, 85, 90, 100, 110, 120, 130). VOT tokens in the lower and upper ends were distributed over larger increments because stimuli in those ranges were expected to elicit floor and ceiling effects, respectively.

We further set the F0 at vowel onset to follow the speaker’s natural correlation which was estimated through a linear regression analysis of all the recorded speech tokens. We did this so that we could determine the approximate corresponding f0 values at each VOT value along the continua as predicted by this talker’s VOT. The duration of the vowel was set to follow the natural trade-off relation with VOT reported in Allen and Miller (1999). This approach closely resembles that taken in Theodore and Monto (2019), and resulted in continuum steps that sound highly natural (unlike the robotic-sounding stimuli employed in Clayards et al., 2008a; D. F. Kleinschmidt & Jaeger, 2016). All stimuli are available as part of the OSF repository for this

article.

In addition to the critical minimal pair continua we also recorded three words that did not contain any stop consonant sounds (“flare”, “share”, and “rare”). These word recordings were used as catch trials. Stimulus intensity was set to 70 dB sound pressure level for all recordings.

2.1.3 Procedure

The code for the experiment is available as part of the OSF repository for this article. A live version is available at (<https://www.hlp.rochester.edu/FILLIN-FULL-URL>). The first page of the experiment informed participants of their rights and the requirements for the experiment: that they had to be native listeners of English, wear headphones for the entire duration of the experiment, and be in a quiet room without distractions. Participants had to pass a headphone test, and were asked to keep the volume unchanged throughout the experiment. Participants could only advance to the start of the experiment by acknowledging each requirement and consenting to the guidelines of the Research Subjects Review Board of the University of Rochester.

On the next page, participants were informed about the task for the remainder of the experiment. They were informed that they would hear a female talker speak a single word on each trial, and had to select which word they heard. Participants were instructed to listen carefully and answer as quickly and as accurately as possible. They were also alerted to the fact that the recordings were subtly different and therefore may sound repetitive. This was done to encourage their full attention.

Each trial started with a green fixation dot being displayed. At 500ms from trial onset, two minimal pair words appeared on the screen, as shown in Figure 1. At 1000ms from trial onset, an audio recording from the matching minimal pair continuum started playing. Participants were required to click on the word they heard. For each participant, /d/-initial words were either always displayed on the left side or always displayed on the right side. Across participants, this ordering was counter-balanced. After participants clicked on the word, the next trial began.

Participants heard 192 target trials (four minimal pair continua, each with 24 VOT steps, each heard twice). In addition, participants heard 12 catch trials. On catch trials, participant saw

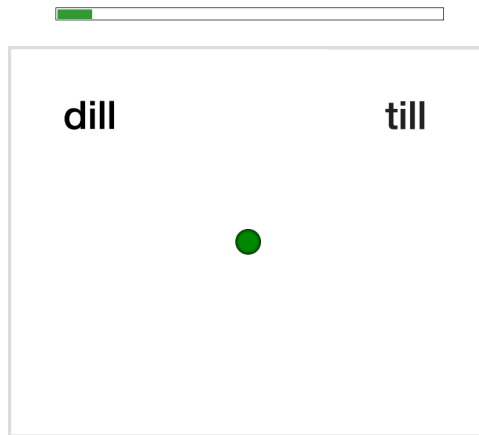


Figure 1. Example trial display. The words were displayed 500ms after trial onset and the audio recording of the word was played 1000ms after trial onset

two written catch stimuli on the screen (e.g., “flare” and “rare”), and heard one of them (e.g. “rare”). Since these recordings were easily distinguishable, they served as a check on participant attention throughout the experiment.

The order of trials was randomized for each participant with the only constraint that no stimulus was repeated before each stimulus had been heard at least once. Catch trials were distributed randomly throughout the experiment with the constraint that no more than two catch trials would occur in a row. Participants were given the opportunity to take breaks after every 60 trials. Participants took an average of 12 minutes ($SD = 4.8$) to complete the 204 trials, after which they answered a short survey about the experiment.

2.2 Results

We first present the behavioral analyses of participants’ categorisation responses. Then we compare participants’ responses to the predictions of different models fit on the distribution of stop voicing cues in a large database of L1 US English productions of word-initial /d/s and /t/s (Chodroff & Wilson, 2018).

2.2.1 Exclusions

We excluded from analysis participants who committed more than 3 errors out of the 12 catch trials ($<75\%$ accuracy, $N = 3$), participants with an average reaction time (RT) more than three

standard deviations from the mean of the by-participant means ($N = 0$), and participants who reported not to have used headphones ($N = 0$) or not to be native (L1) speakers of US English ($N = 0$). For the remaining participants, trials that were more than three SDs from the participant’s mean RT were excluded from analysis (1.6%). Finally, we excluded participants ($N = 0$) who had less than 50% data remaining after these exclusions.

2.2.2 Behavioral analyses

The goal of our behavioral analyses was to address three methodological questions that are of relevance to Experiment 2: (1) whether our stimuli resulted in ‘reasonable’ categorisation functions, (2) whether these functions differed between the four minimal pair items, and (3) whether participants’ categorisation functions changed throughout the 192 test trials.

To address these questions, we fit a single Bayesian mixed-effects psychometric model to participants’ categorization responses on critical trials (e.g., **prins2011?**). This model is essentially an extension of mixed-effects logistic regression that also takes into account attentional lapses. A failure to do so—while commonplace in research on speech perception (incl. our own work, but see Clayards, Tanenhaus, Aslin, & Jacobs, 2008b; D. F. Kleinschmidt & Jaeger, 2016)—can lead to biased estimates of categorization boundaries (e.g., **wichman-hill2001?**). The mixed-effects psychometric model describes the probability of “t”-responses as a weighted mixture of a lapsing-model and a perceptual model. The lapsing model is a mixed-effects logistic regression (Jaeger, 2008) that predicts participant responses that are made independent of the stimulus—for example, responses that result from attentional lapses. These responses are independent of the stimulus, and depend only on participants’ response bias. The perceptual model is a mixed-effects logistic regression that predicts all other responses, and captures stimulus-dependent aspects of participants’ responses. The relative weight of the two models is determined by the lapse rate, which is described by a third mixed-effects logistic regression.

The *lapsing model* only contained an intercept (the response bias in log-odds) and by-participant random intercepts. Similarly, the *model for the lapse rate* only had an intercept (the lapse rate) and by-participants random intercepts. Previous studies with similar paradigms have typically found lapse rates of 0-10% (< -2.2 log-odds, e.g., Clayards et al., 2008a; D. F.

Kleinschmidt & Jaeger, 2016). No by-item random effects were included for the lapse rate nor lapsing model since these parts of the analysis—by definition—describe stimulus-*independent* behavior. The *perceptual model* included an intercept and VOT, as well as the full random effect structure by participants and items (the four minimal pair continua), including random intercepts and random slopes by participant and minimal pair. We did not model the random effects of trial to reduce model complexity. This however makes our analysis of trials in the model anti-conservative.

Based on previous experiments, we expected a strong positive effect of VOT, with increasing proportions of “t”-responses for increasing VOTs. We did not have clear expectations for the effect of trial other than that responses should become more uniformed (i.e move towards 50-50 “d”/“t”-bias or 0-log-odds) as the experiment progressed (Liu & Jaeger, 2018b) due to the un-informativeness of the stimuli. Finally, the models included the covariance between by-participant random effects across the three linear predictors for the lapsing model, lapse rate model, and perceptual model. This allows us to capture whether participants who lapse more often have, for example, different response biases or different sensitivity to VOT (after accounting for lapsing).

We fit the model using the package `brms` (Bürkner, 2017) in R (R Core Team, 2021a; RStudio Team, 2020). Following previous work from our lab (Hörberg & Jaeger, 2021; X. Xie et al., 2021), we used weakly regularizing priors to facilitate model convergence. For fixed effect parameters, we standardized continuous predictors (VOT) by dividing through twice their standard deviation (`gelman2008standardize?`), and used Student priors centered around zero with a scale of 2.5 units (following `gelman2008weakly?`) and 3 degrees of freedom. For random effect standard deviations, we used a Cauchy prior with location 0 and scale 2, and for random effect correlations, we used an uninformative LKJ-Correlation prior with its only parameter set to 1, describing a uniform prior over correlation matrices (`Lewandowski2009?`). Four chains with 2000 warm-up samples and 2000 posterior samples each were fit. No divergent transitions after warm-up were observed, and all \hat{R} were close to 1.

```
## Warning: Using `size` aesthetic for lines was deprecated in ggplot2 3.4.0.
```

```
## i Please use `linewidth` instead.
```

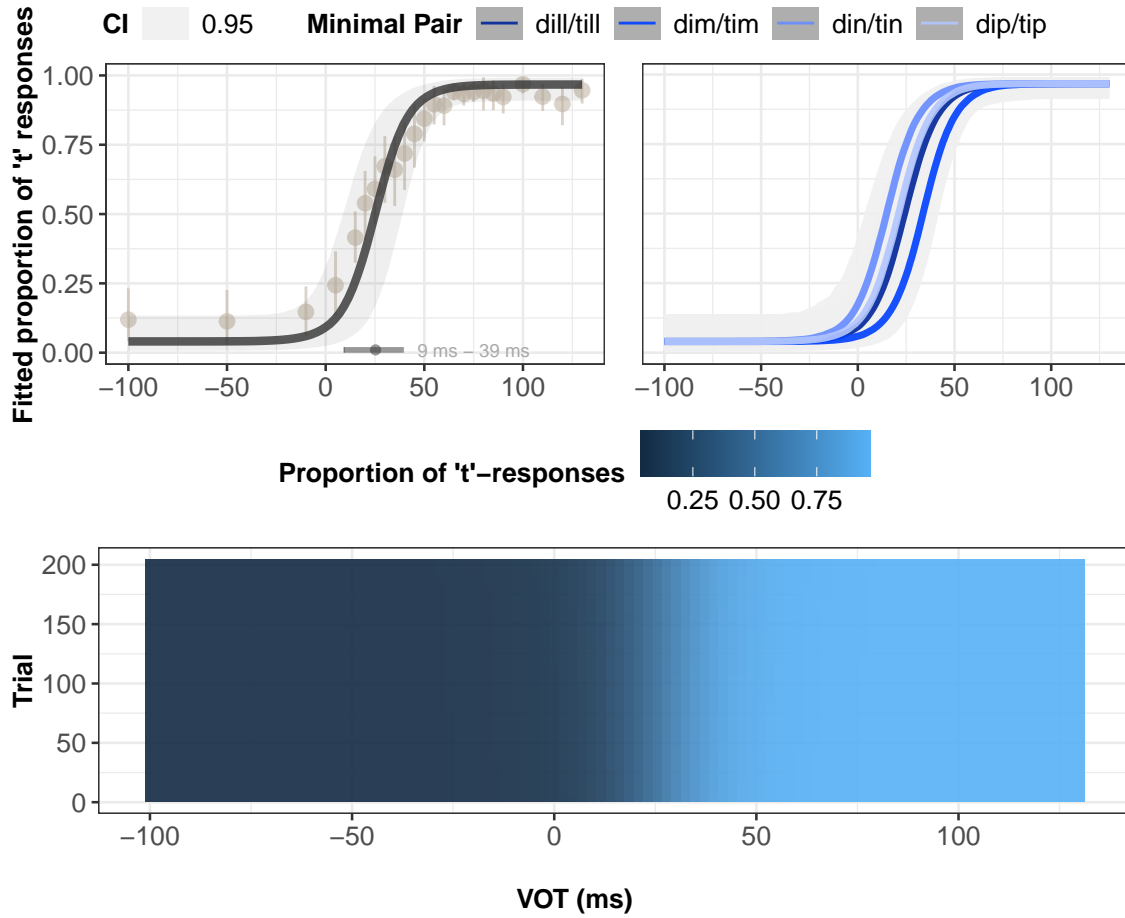


Figure 2. Categorisation functions and points of subjective equality (PSE) derived from the Bayesian mixed-effects psychometric model fit to listeners' responses in Experiment 1. The categorization functions include lapse rates and biases. The PSEs correct for lapse rates and lapse biases (i.e., they are the PSEs of the perceptual component of the psychometric model).¹ **Panel A:** Effects of VOT, lapse rate, and lapse bias, while marginalizing over trial effects as well as all random effects. Vertical point ranges represent the mean proportion and 95% bootstrapped CIs of participants' "t"-responses at each VOT step. Horizontal point ranges denote the mean and 95% quantile interval of the points of subjective equality (PSE), derived from the 8000 posterior samples of the population parameters. **Panel B:** The same but showing the fitted categorization functions for each of the four minimal pair continua. Participants' responses are omitted to avoid clutter. **Panel C:** Joint effects of VOT and trial as well as lapse rate and bias, while marginalizing over random effects.

The lapse rate was estimated to be on the slightly larger side, but within the expected range (7.5 %, 95%-CI: 2.3 to 20.4%; Bayes factor: Inf 90%-CI : -3.49 to -1.55). Maximum a posteriori (MAP) estimates of by-participant lapse rates ranged from XX . Very high lapse rates were estimated for four of the participants with one in particular whose CI indicated exceptionally high uncertainty. These lapse rates might reflect data quality issues with Mechanical Turk that started to emerge over recent years (see **REFS?**; and, specifically for experiments on speech perception, **cummings2023?**), and we return to this issue in Experiment 2.

The response bias were estimated to slightly favor “t”-responses (54.8 %, 95%-CI: 17.7 to 82.5%; Bayes factor: 1.69 90%-CI : -1.17 to 1.33), as also visible in Figure 2 (left). Unsurprisingly, the psychometric model suggests high uncertainty about the participant-specific response biases, as it is difficult to reliably estimate participant-specific biases while also accounting for trial and VOT effects (range of by-participant MAP estimates: XX). For all but four participants, the 95% CI includes the hypothesis that responses were unbiased. Of the remaining four participants, three were biased towards “t”-responses and one was biased toward “d”-responses.

There was no convincing evidence of a main effect of trial ($\hat{\beta} = -0.2$ 95%-CI: -0.7 to 0.4; Bayes factor: 2.67 90%-CI : -0.58 to 0.27). Given the slight overall bias towards “t”-responses, the direction of this effect indicates that participants converged towards a 50/50 bias as the test phase proceeded. This is also evident in Figure 2 (right). In contrast, there was clear evidence for a positive main effect of VOT on the proportion of “t”-responses ($\hat{\beta} = 12.6$ 95%-CI: 9.8 to 15.6; Bayes factor: Inf 90%-CI : 10.29 to 15.03). The effect of VOT was consistent across all minimal pair words as evident from the slopes of the fitted lines by minimal pair 2 (left). MAP estimates of by minimal pair slopes ranged from . The by minimal-pair intercepts were more varied (MAP estimates:) with one of the pairs, dim/tim having a slightly lower intercept resulting in fewer ‘t’-responses on average. In all, this justifies our assumptions that word pair would not have a substantial effect on categorisation behaviour. From the parameter estimates of the overall fit we obtained the category boundary from the point of subjective equality (PSE) (25ms) which we use for the design of Experiment 2.

Finally to accomplish the first goal of experiment 1, we look at the interaction between VOT and trial. There was weak evidence that the effect of VOT decreased across trials ($\hat{\beta} = -0.6$

95%-CI: -2.6 to 1.5; Bayes factor: 2.56 90%-CI : -2.3 to 1.12). The direction of this change—towards more shallow VOT slopes as the experiment progressed—makes sense since the test stimuli were not informative about the talker’s pronunciation. Similar changes throughout prolonged testing have been reported in previous work. (Liu & Jaeger, 2018a, 2019; **REFS?**).

Overall, there was little evidence that participants substantially changed their categorisation behaviour as the experiment progressed. Still, to err on the cautious side, Experiment 2 employs shorter test phases.

2.3 Comparisons to model of adaptive speech perception

We now turn to final aim of experiment 1 which is to make use of computational models to delve into the theoretical underpinnings that inform the assumptions we make in studies of this kind.

Speakers’ productions can act as a proxy for listeners’ implicit knowledge of the distributional patterns of cues. This production-perception relationship within a phonological system was observed in early work by (Abramson & Lisker, 1973) who found that production statistics of talkers along VOT aligned well with data from listeners who had categorised a separate set of synthesised VOT stimuli. This allows for the use of analytic models as tools for predicting categorisation behaviour from speech production (Nearey & Hogan, 1986).

We apply this principle in fitting ideal observer (IO) models by linking the distributional patterns of input to the categorisation behaviour that listeners make in the perception of our stimuli. We compare the categorisation behaviour against predictions of several IO models differentiated by the various assumptions they incorporate. These IOs are trained on cue measurements extracted from an annotated database of 92 L1 US-English talkers’ productions (Chodroff & Wilson, 2017) of word initial stops. By using IOs trained solely on production data to predict behaviour we avoid additional computational degrees of freedom and limit the risk of overfitting the model to the data thus reducing bias.

Hypotheses about the nature of long-term representations maintained by listeners continues to be debated and revised. On one hand there is the proposition that automatic processes that operate purely on the acoustic input is sufficient mechanism for listeners to cope with variation; this can be loosely referred to as normalization accounts. On the other hand are hypotheses that

listeners learn and store cue distributions in memory for later retrieval –this does not however, preclude cue normalisation and may even happen in conjunction to it. Within this latter hypothesis, there is debate over the resolution of the input that is actually learned and stored, with exemplar models arguably, accounting for the greatest degree of granularity – listeners could for instance store talker-specific statistics. A more parsimonious account would suggest that listeners store models of groups of talkers, according to a structure that is most informative for robust speech perception (D. F. Kleinschmidt, 2019; D. F. Kleinschmidt & Jaeger, 2015). We thus compare listener categorisations to models that incorporate one or more of these hypotheses (see SI for details of IO fitting).

Each panel in figure 3 shows 92 talker-specific ideal observer models colour-coded by talker sex, bearing different assumptions plotted against the psychometric fit of listener categorisations (thick black line). We focus mainly on comparing the points of subjective equality (PSEs) which represents the boundary between the two categories. While the functions are not simply described by their PSEs since their slope also matters, we focus on it here as this is most relevant to the design of experiment 2. All IO plots in figure 3 except for (A) are integrated with a noise variance to simulate perceptual noise on the part of listeners (Kronrod, Coppess, & Feldman, 2016). The IOs were trained on unnormalised VOTs without noise (A); unnormalised VOTs (B); unnormalised bivariate cues of VOT and F0 (C); C-CuRE-normalised VOT and F0 (D) (McMurray and Jongman (2011) see SI section).

Beginning with a qualitative assessment of the plots, IOs that incorporate perceptual noise in the models (B-D) appear to capture the uncertainty reflected in our data better. The slopes of the IOs in panel A are far steeper than the fitted categorisation function but with added noise, as with the IOs in B-D the IO slopes flatten out to better match the slope of the fitted line. This itself indicates that perception of acoustic stimuli is not entirely faithful to the bottom-up signal but is inferred through a combination of what listeners actually perceived and their existing knowledge of the underlying linguistic category (Kronrod et al., 2016). Noticeably, in all IO types the median estimated PSE from our participant data is located to the left of the IO-predicted median PSEs although the range of fitted estimates do overlap with the IOs in the upper region.

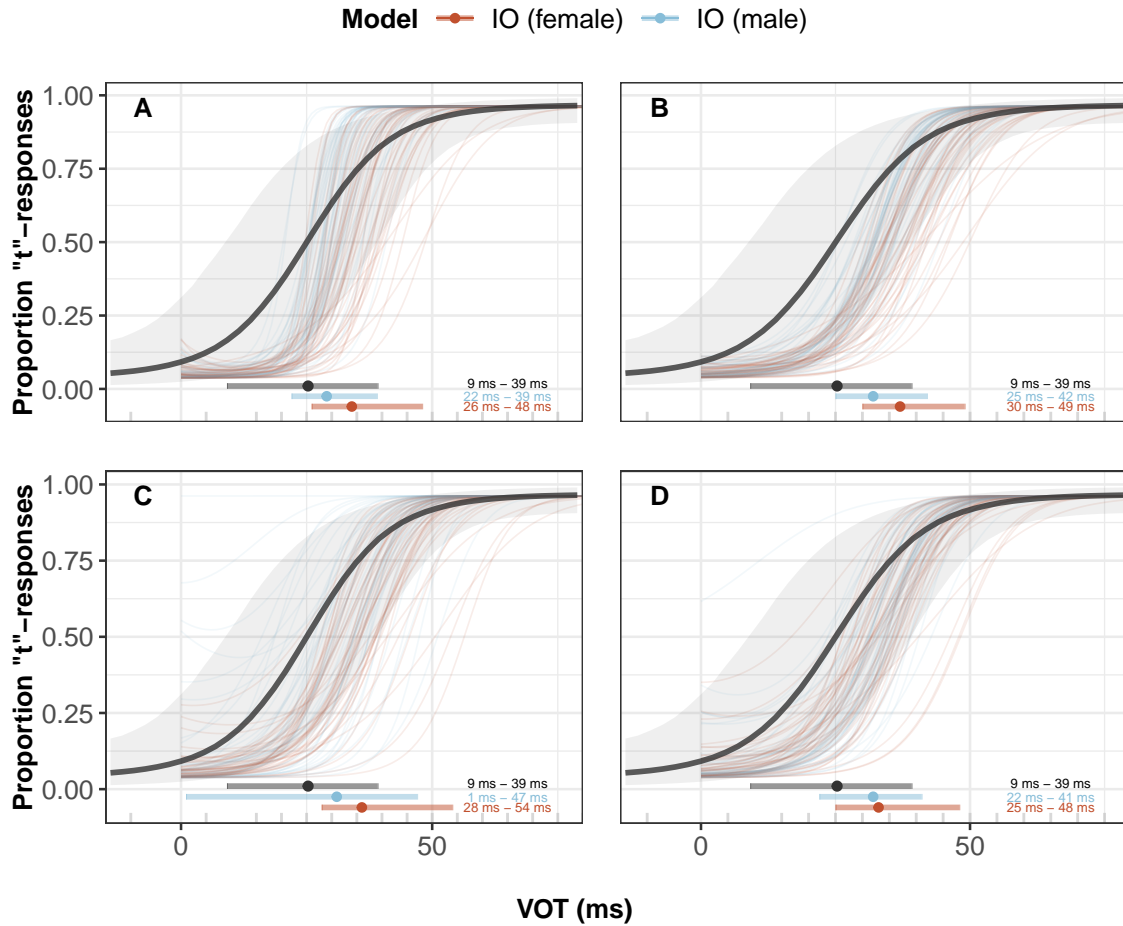


Figure 3. Comparing predicted vs. observed categorization functions for Experiment 1. The black line and interval show the psychometric fit and 95% CI for Experiment 1 marginalizing over all random effects. Each thin line shows the prediction of a single talker-specific ideal observers derived from a database of word-initial stop productions (data: Chodroff & Wilson, 2017; data preparation & model code: X. Xie, Jaeger, & Kurumada, 2022). The lapse rate and response bias for the ideal observers was set to match the MAP estimates of the psychometric model. For ease of comparisons, horizontal point ranges show the PSE and its 95% CI after discounting lapses.

```
391 ## # A tibble: 736 x 13
```

```
392 ##   Talker gender mvgr          category mu          Sigma          prior lapse_rate lapse_b
393 ##   <fct> <fct> <list>          <fct> <list>      <list>          <dbl>          <dbl>
394 ## 1 113093 female <tibble [2 x 3]> /d/      <dbl [1]> <dbl [1 x 1]> 0.5          0.0752
395 ## 2 113093 female <tibble [2 x 3]> /t/      <dbl [1]> <dbl [1 x 1]> 0.5          0.0752
396 ## 3 120217 male   <tibble [2 x 3]> /d/      <dbl [1]> <dbl [1 x 1]> 0.5          0.0752
397 ## 4 120217 male   <tibble [2 x 3]> /t/      <dbl [1]> <dbl [1 x 1]> 0.5          0.0752
398 ## 5 120232 male   <tibble [2 x 3]> /d/      <dbl [1]> <dbl [1 x 1]> 0.5          0.0752
```

```

399 ## 6 120232 male <tibble [2 x 3]> /t/ <dbl [1]> <dbl [1 x 1]> 0.5 0.0752
400 ## 7 120235 male <tibble [2 x 3]> /d/ <dbl [1]> <dbl [1 x 1]> 0.5 0.0752
401 ## 8 120235 male <tibble [2 x 3]> /t/ <dbl [1]> <dbl [1 x 1]> 0.5 0.0752
402 ## 9 120238 male <tibble [2 x 3]> /d/ <dbl [1]> <dbl [1 x 1]> 0.5 0.0752
403 ## 10 120238 male <tibble [2 x 3]> /t/ <dbl [1]> <dbl [1 x 1]> 0.5 0.0752
404 ## # ... with 726 more rows

```

3 EXPERIMENT 2: Listeners' adaptation to an unfamiliar talker

The chief aim of experiment 2 was to investigate the incremental process of adapting expectations when listening to an atypical talker. We simulate atypical talkers by incrementally shifting the production statistics from the original distribution of our synthesised stimuli (as determined from the perceptual responses in experiment 1). This gave us a baseline talker (+0ms shift), a marginally shifted talker (+10ms), and a significantly shifted talker (+40ms shift).

The previous investigation of this question D. Kleinschmidt (2020) found that while listeners do learn the statistics of a given exposure talker, adaptation tended to fall short of the ideal categorisation boundary when the talker displayed atypical distributional information. Crucially, the distance from the ideal boundary was larger, the more the statistics deviate from the distribution of a typical talker.

3.1 Methods

3.1.1 Participants

Participants were recruited over the Prolific platform, and paid \$8.00 each (for a targeted remuneration of \$19.40/hour). The experiment was only visible to Prolific participants who (1) had an IP address in the United States, (2) were US citizens and only knew English, and (3) had not previously participated in any experiment on stop voicing from our lab.

122 L1 US English listeners (male = 60, female = 59, NA = 3; mean age = 38 years; SD age = 12 years) completed the experiment. To be eligible, participants had to confirm that they

(1) spent at least the first 10 years of their life in the US speaking only English, (2) were in a quiet place and free from distractions, and (3) wore in-ear or over-the-ears headphones that cost at least \$15.

Participants had to undergo a sound check designed to test that they were indeed wearing headphones [CITE headphone check study]

3.1.2 Materials

A subset of the materials described in experiment 1 were used, in particular three continua of the minimal pairs dill-till, din-tin, and dip-tip. The dim-tim continuum was omitted in order to keep the pairs as distinguishable as possible.

We employed a multi-block exposure-test design 4 which enabled the assessment of listener perception before informative exposure as well as incrementally at intervals during informative exposure. To have a comparable test of exposure, test blocks were made up of a uniform distribution of 12 VOT stimuli (-5, 5, 15, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 65, 70), identical across test blocks and between conditions. Each of the test tokens were presented once at random.

The conditions were created by first ascertaining the baseline distribution (+0ms shift) and then shifting that distribution by +10ms and by +40ms to obtain the remaining two conditions. We began by estimating the point of subjective equality (PSE) from the fitted categorisation function in experiment 1. The PSE is the stimulus along the continuum that was perceived to be the most ambiguous by listeners (i.e. the point that elicited equal probability of being categorised as /d/ or /t/) thus marking the categorical boundary. The PSE is where the likelihoods of both categories intersect and have equal density (we assumed Gaussian distributions and equal prior probability for each category). To limit the infinite combinations of likelihoods that meet this criterion we set the variances of the /d/ and /t/ categories based on parameter estimates (X. Xie et al. (2022)) obtained from the production database of Chodroff and Wilson (2017). To each variance value we added 80ms noise following ((**kronrod?**)) because these likelihoods were estimated from perception data wherein listeners are expected to have perceived the target sound through a noisy channel. We took an additional degree of freedom of setting the distance between the means of the categories at 46ms; this too was based on the population parameter estimates.

The means of both categories were then obtained through a grid-search process to find the posterior

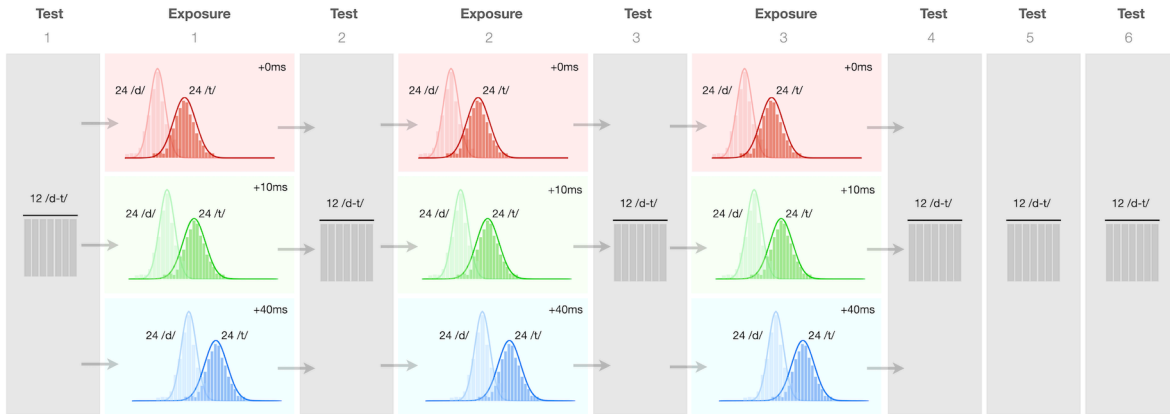


Figure 4. Experiment 2 multi-block design. Test blocks in grey comprised identical stimuli within and between conditions

3.2 Procedure

You should use a verbose caption that is self-contained and clearly states the main points of the figure. When you look at the R markdown for this document, note that the caption is *outside* of the R-chunk but linked to the R-chunk through a reference in the chunk option fig.cap. Notice also how the reference in the main text uses the label fig:label, whereas the caption and the R chunk option fig.cap that generates the figure use the label ref:label. Finally, the R-chunk itself is called label. Make sure to follow this format in order to make sure that your figure references and captions knit correctly. This example also demonstrates how you can use a globally defined base width and height for all figures. In this example, the base height is multiplied by two because we're faceting the data into two rows.

You can also make phonetic symbols, e.g., for the sound category [ʃ] (as in *ship*, Newman et al., 2001). And you can type equations like Equation (1), which describes Wichmann and Hill's psychometric model with parameters α and β and more.

$$p(category|input) = (1 - \lambda) \frac{\mathcal{N}(input|\mu_c, \Sigma_c) \pi}{\sum_i \mathcal{N}(input|\mu_{c_i}, \Sigma_{c_i}) \pi_i} + \lambda \frac{\pi}{\sum_i \pi_i} \quad (1)$$

All data and code for this article can be downloaded from <https://osf.io/q7gjp/>. This article

is written in R markdown, allowing readers to replicate our analyses with the press of a button using freely available software (R, R Core Team, 2021a; RStudio Team, 2020), while changing any of the parameters of our models. Readers can revisit any of the assumptions we make—for example, by substituting alternative models of linguistic representations. The supplementary information (SI, §1) lists the software/libraries required to compile this document. Beyond our immediate goals here, we hope that this can be helpful to researchers who are interested in developing more informative experimental designs, and to facilitate the interpretation of existing results (see also Tan, Xie, & Jaeger, 2021).

4 General discussion

Fig. XX summarizes participants' categorization functions across the different test blocks. To analyse the incremental effects of exposure condition on the proportion of /t/ responses at test, we fitted a Bayesian mixed-effects psychometric model with lapse rate (cf. Wichmann & Hill, 2001). The perceptual model contained exposure condition (sliding difference coded, comparing the +10ms against the +0ms shift condition, and the +40ms against the +10ms shift condition), test block (sliding difference coded from the first to last test block), VOT (Gelman scaled), and their full factorial interaction. We also included the full random effect structure by participant and item. The lapse rate and response bias (.5 for both /d/ and /t/) were assumed to be constant across blocks and exposure condition. We used the same weakly regularizing priors as in Xie, Liu, and Jaeger (2021). Condition and test blocks were successive-difference coded. There was a main effect of VOT; participants were more likely to give voiceless responses as VOT increased. Condition had a main effect on responses such that with larger shifts, participants on average responded with fewer /t/s. Additionally, the difference in average /t/ responses between the +40 and +10 conditions (-2.4 reduction in log-odds) was larger than the difference between the +10 and +0 conditions (-1.05 in log-odds). Qualitatively, the results indicate listeners adjust their expectations to align with the statistics of the exposure talker, consonant with previous findings of studies employing this paradigm (e.g., Clayards et al.; K&J16).

495 **4.1 Methodological advances that can move the field forward**

496 An example of a subsection.

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Supplementary information

Both the main text and these supplementary information (SI) are derived from the same R markdown document available via OSF. It is best viewed using Acrobat Reader. Some links and animations might not work in other PDF viewers.

§1 Required software

The document was compiled using `knitr` (Y. Xie, 2021) in RStudio with R:

```
## -
## platform      x86_64-apple-darwin17.0
## arch          x86_64
## os            darwin17.0
## system        x86_64, darwin17.0
## status
## major         4
## minor         1.3
## year          2022
## month         03
## day           10
## svn rev       81868
## language      R
## version.string R version 4.1.3 (2022-03-10)
## nickname      One Push-Up
```

You will also need to download the IPA font SIL Doulos and a Latex environment like (e.g., MacTex or the R library `tinytex`).

We used the following R packages to create this document: R (Version 4.1.3; R Core Team, 2021b) and the R-packages `broom` [R-broom], `assertthat` (Version 0.2.1; Wickham, 2019a), `brms` (Version 2.18.0; Bürkner, 2017, 2018, 2021), `broom.mixed` (Version 0.2.9.4; Bolker & Robinson, 2022), `cowplot` (Version 1.1.1; Wilke, 2020), `curl` (Version 4.3.3; Ooms, 2022), `data.table`

(Version 1.14.6; Dowle & Srinivasan, 2021), *diptest* (Version 0.76.0; Maechler, 2021), *dplyr* (Version 1.0.10; Wickham, François, Henry, & Müller, 2021), *forcats* (Version 0.5.2; Wickham, 2021a), *gganimate* (Version 1.0.8; Pedersen & Robinson, 2020), *ggdist* (Version 3.2.0; Kay, 2022a), *ggforce* (Version 0.4.1; Pedersen, 2022), *ggplot2* (Version 3.4.0; Wickham, 2016), *ggpubr* (Version 0.5.0; Kassambara, 2020), *ggrepel* (Version 0.9.2; Slowikowski, 2021), *ggstance* (Version 0.3.6; Henry, Wickham, & Chang, 2020), *kableExtra* (Version 1.3.4; Zhu, 2021), *knitr* (Version 1.41; Y. Xie, 2015), *LaplacesDemon* (Version 16.1.6; Statisticat & LLC., 2021), *latexdiff* (Version 0.1.0; Hugh-Jones, 2021), *linguisticsdown* (Version 1.2.0; Liao, 2019), *lme4* (Version 1.1.31; Bates, Mächler, Bolker, & Walker, 2015), *lmerTest* (Version 3.1.3; Kuznetsova, Brockhoff, & Christensen, 2017), *lubridate* (Version 1.9.0; Grolemund & Wickham, 2011), *magick* (Version 2.7.3; Ooms, 2021), *magrittr* (Version 2.0.3; Bache & Wickham, 2020), *MASS* (Version 7.3.58.1; Venables & Ripley, 2002), *Matrix* (Version 1.5.1; Bates & Maechler, 2021), *modelr* (Version 0.1.10; Wickham, 2020), *pander* (Version 0.6.5; Daróczi & Tsegelskyi, 2022), *papaja* (Version 0.1.1.9,001; Aust & Barth, 2020), *phonR* (Version 1.0.7; McCloy, 2016), *plotly* (Version 4.10.1; Sievert, 2020), *posterior* (Version 1.3.1; Vehtari, Gelman, Simpson, Carpenter, & Bürkner, 2021), *processx* (Version 3.8.0; Csárdi & Chang, 2021), *purrr* (Version 0.3.5; Henry & Wickham, 2020), *RColorBrewer* (Version 1.1.3; Neuwirth, 2022), *Rcpp* (Eddelbuettel & Balamuta, 2018; Version 1.0.9; Eddelbuettel & François, 2011), *readr* (Version 2.1.3; Wickham, Hester, & Bryan, 2021), *rlang* (Version 1.0.6; Henry & Wickham, 2021), *scales* (Version 1.2.1; Wickham & Seidel, 2022), *stringr* (Version 1.4.1; Wickham, 2019b), *tibble* (Version 3.1.8; Müller & Wickham, 2021), *tidybayes* (Version 3.0.2; Kay, 2022b), *tidyr* (Version 1.2.1; Wickham, 2021b), *tidyverse* (Version 1.3.2; Wickham et al., 2019), *tinylabels* (Version 0.2.3; Barth, 2022), and *tufte* (Version 0.12; Y. Xie & Allaire, 2022). If opened in RStudio, the top of the R markdown document should alert you to any libraries you will need to download, if you have not already installed them. The full session information is provided at the end of this document.

§2 Overview

§2.1 Overview of data organisation

§3 Stimuli generation for perception experiments

§3.1 Recording of audio stimuli

§3.2 Annotation of audio stimuli

§3.3 Synthesis of audio stimuli

§4 Web-based experiment design procedure

§4.1 Making exposure conditions

§4.2 Ideal observer training

We train the IOs on cue distributions extracted from an annotated database of XX L1 US-English talkers' productions (Chodroff and Wilson (2017)) of word initial stops. We apply Bayes' theorem to derive the IOs' posterior probability of categorising the test stimuli as "t". This is defined as the product of the likelihood of the cue under the hypothesis that the talker produced "t", and the prior probability of that cue. By using IOs trained solely on production data to predict categorization behaviour we avoid additional computational degrees of freedom and limit the risk of overfitting the model to the data thus reducing bias.

We filtered the database to /d/s and /t/s which gave 92 talkers (4x male and 4x female), each with a minimum of 25 tokens. We then fit ideal observers to each talker under different hypotheses of distributional learning [and evaluated their respective goodness-of-fit to the human data]. In total we fit x IOs to represent the different hypotheses about listeners' implicit knowledge – models grouped by sex, grouped by sex and Predictions of the IO were obtained using talker-normalized category statistics for /d/ and /t/ from (X. Xie et al., 2022) based on data from (chodroff2017?), perceptual noise estimates for VOT from (Kronrod et al., 2016), and a lapse rate identical to the psychometric model estimate.

§5 Session Info

- Session info -----

setting value

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794 ## tz      Europe/Stockholm
795 ## date    2022-12-05
796 ## pandoc  2.18 @ /Applications/RStudio.app/Contents/MacOS/quarto/bin/tools/ (via rmarkdown)
797 ##
798 ## - Packages -----
799 ## package      * version      date (UTC) lib source
800 ## abind         1.4-5        2016-07-21 [1] CRAN (R 4.1.0)
801 ## arrayhelpers  1.1-0        2020-02-04 [1] CRAN (R 4.1.0)
802 ## assertthat    * 0.2.1       2019-03-21 [1] CRAN (R 4.1.0)
803 ## av            0.8.2        2022-10-06 [1] CRAN (R 4.1.2)
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813 ## brms          * 2.18.0       2022-09-19 [1] CRAN (R 4.1.2)
814 ## Brobdingnag   1.2-9        2022-10-19 [1] CRAN (R 4.1.2)
815 ## broom         1.0.1        2022-08-29 [1] CRAN (R 4.1.2)
816 ## broom.mixed   0.2.9.4      2022-04-17 [1] CRAN (R 4.1.2)

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820	##	carData	3.0-5	2022-01-06	[1]	CRAN	(R 4.1.2)
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824	##	classInt	0.4-8	2022-09-29	[1]	CRAN	(R 4.1.2)
825	##	cli	3.4.1	2022-09-23	[1]	CRAN	(R 4.1.2)
826	##	cluster	2.1.4	2022-08-22	[1]	CRAN	(R 4.1.2)
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883	##	gtools	3.9.4	2022-11-27	[1]	CRAN	(R 4.1.2)
884	##	haven	2.5.1	2022-08-22	[1]	CRAN	(R 4.1.2)
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891	##	httr	1.4.4	2022-08-17	[1]	CRAN	(R 4.1.2)
892	##	igraph	1.3.5	2022-09-22	[1]	CRAN	(R 4.1.2)
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922	##	matrixStats	0.63.0	2022-11-18	[1]	CRAN	(R 4.1.2)
923	##	memoise	2.0.1	2021-11-26	[1]	CRAN	(R 4.1.0)
924	##	mime	0.12	2021-09-28	[1]	CRAN	(R 4.1.0)
925	##	miniUI	0.1.1.1	2018-05-18	[1]	CRAN	(R 4.1.0)
926	##	minqa	1.2.5	2022-10-19	[1]	CRAN	(R 4.1.2)
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972	##	rstan	2.21.7	2022-09-08	[1]	CRAN	(R 4.1.2)
973	##	rstantools	2.2.0	2022-04-08	[1]	CRAN	(R 4.1.2)
974	##	rstatix	0.7.1	2022-11-09	[1]	CRAN	(R 4.1.2)
975	##	rstudioapi	0.14	2022-08-22	[1]	CRAN	(R 4.1.2)
976	##	rvest	1.0.3	2022-08-19	[1]	CRAN	(R 4.1.2)
977	##	sandwich	3.0-2	2022-06-15	[1]	CRAN	(R 4.1.2)
978	##	scales	1.2.1	2022-08-20	[1]	CRAN	(R 4.1.2)
979	##	sessioninfo	1.2.2	2021-12-06	[1]	CRAN	(R 4.1.0)
980	##	sf	1.0-9	2022-11-08	[1]	CRAN	(R 4.1.2)
981	##	shiny	1.7.3	2022-10-25	[1]	CRAN	(R 4.1.2)
982	##	shinyjs	2.1.0	2021-12-23	[1]	CRAN	(R 4.1.0)
983	##	shinystan	2.6.0	2022-03-03	[1]	CRAN	(R 4.1.2)
984	##	shinythemes	1.2.0	2021-01-25	[1]	CRAN	(R 4.1.0)
985	##	StanHeaders	2.21.0-7	2020-12-17	[1]	CRAN	(R 4.1.0)
986	##	stringi	1.7.8	2022-07-11	[1]	CRAN	(R 4.1.2)
987	##	stringr	* 1.4.1	2022-08-20	[1]	CRAN	(R 4.1.2)
988	##	survival	3.4-0	2022-08-09	[1]	CRAN	(R 4.1.2)
989	##	svglite	2.1.0	2022-02-03	[1]	CRAN	(R 4.1.2)
990	##	svUnit	1.0.6	2021-04-19	[1]	CRAN	(R 4.1.0)
991	##	systemfonts	1.0.4	2022-02-11	[1]	CRAN	(R 4.1.2)
992	##	tensorA	0.36.2	2020-11-19	[1]	CRAN	(R 4.1.0)
993	##	TH.data	1.1-1	2022-04-26	[1]	CRAN	(R 4.1.2)
994	##	threejs	0.3.3	2020-01-21	[1]	CRAN	(R 4.1.0)
995	##	tibble	* 3.1.8	2022-07-22	[1]	CRAN	(R 4.1.2)
996	##	tidybayes	* 3.0.2	2022-01-05	[1]	CRAN	(R 4.1.2)

```

997 ## tidyr          * 1.2.1      2022-09-08 [1] CRAN (R 4.1.2)
998 ## tidyselect     1.2.0      2022-10-10 [1] CRAN (R 4.1.2)
999 ## tidyverse      * 1.3.2      2022-07-18 [1] CRAN (R 4.1.2)
1000 ## timechange      0.1.1      2022-11-04 [1] CRAN (R 4.1.2)
1001 ## tinylabels     * 0.2.3      2022-02-06 [1] CRAN (R 4.1.2)
1002 ## transformr      0.1.4      2022-08-18 [1] CRAN (R 4.1.2)
1003 ## tufte           0.12        2022-01-27 [1] CRAN (R 4.1.2)
1004 ## tweenr          2.0.2      2022-09-06 [1] CRAN (R 4.1.2)
1005 ## tzdb            0.3.0      2022-03-28 [1] CRAN (R 4.1.2)
1006 ## units           0.8-0      2022-02-05 [1] CRAN (R 4.1.2)
1007 ## urlchecker      1.0.1      2021-11-30 [1] CRAN (R 4.1.0)
1008 ## usethis         2.1.6      2022-05-25 [1] CRAN (R 4.1.2)
1009 ## utf8            1.2.2      2021-07-24 [1] CRAN (R 4.1.0)
1010 ## vctrs           0.5.1      2022-11-16 [1] CRAN (R 4.1.2)
1011 ## viridis         0.6.2      2021-10-13 [1] CRAN (R 4.1.0)
1012 ## viridisLite     0.4.1      2022-08-22 [1] CRAN (R 4.1.2)
1013 ## vroom           1.6.0      2022-09-30 [1] CRAN (R 4.1.2)
1014 ## webshot         0.5.4      2022-09-26 [1] CRAN (R 4.1.2)
1015 ## withr           2.5.0      2022-03-03 [1] CRAN (R 4.1.2)
1016 ## xfun            0.35       2022-11-16 [1] CRAN (R 4.1.2)
1017 ## xml2            1.3.3      2021-11-30 [1] CRAN (R 4.1.0)
1018 ## xtable          1.8-4      2019-04-21 [1] CRAN (R 4.1.0)
1019 ## xts             0.12.2     2022-10-16 [1] CRAN (R 4.1.2)
1020 ## yaml            2.3.6      2022-10-18 [1] CRAN (R 4.1.2)
1021 ## zoo             1.8-11     2022-09-17 [1] CRAN (R 4.1.2)
1022 ##
1023 ## [1] /Library/Frameworks/R.framework/Versions/4.1/Resources/library
1024 ##
1025 ## -----

```