

# Proposals for experimental projects

Graz, Nov. and Dec. 2025



# Intro experiments



- Course set-up
  - Intro+background
  - Experiments (1 or 2 persons), brief presentations
  - Short report (1 person)
  - Assessment based on active participation and report
- ASR is way too broad to be addressed in just a few weeks
  - You might choose topic from precooked list
  - Keep the research question doable
  - Keep it feasible

# Python scripts available

- In github repo [ltenbosch2/Graz\\_github](#)

## Proposal experiments

- Bridging phonetics and ASR/deep learning
  - Locating phonetic structure in latent representations
- Prompting Whisper
  - ASR is context dependent
- Reasoning
  - Can we explain/understand the outcome of reasoning models?
- Behavior of transformer based networks on small (user-build) data sets
  - E.g., boolean mappings
  - Regular expressions: <https://aclanthology.org/2020.emnlp-main.576.pdf>

# List of experimental options

## 1. Bridging phonetics and ASR/deep learning

- Start by using pretrained wav2vec2.0 via Huggingface
  - Choose dataset
  - Process mono wave file (16 kHz)
  - Extract hidden layer  $k$ , and logit tensor
  - Select two vowels (for example) that minimally differ, e.g.
    - **Bahn** [ba:n] – "track, railway" – **Bonn** [bɔn] – (city name)
    - **Beet** [be:t] – "garden bed" – **Bett** [bɛt] – "bed"
    - **fühlen** ['fy:lən] – "to feel" – **füllen** ['fylən] – "to fill"
    - **Ofen** ['o:fn] – "oven" – **offen** ['ɔfn] – "open"
  - Use logit matrix to locate the corresponding time stamps
  - Try to measure these differences in vector space (as function of  $k$ ) by LDA or different

# List of experimental options (cont'd)

## 2. Whisper prompting

- Present a wave file, keep this file fixed and investigate what effect text prompting has on Whisper output
- Follow the recipe in following link  
[https://cookbook.openai.com/examples/whisper\\_prompts\\_guide](https://cookbook.openai.com/examples/whisper_prompts_guide)
- Helpful to prompt whisper for certain transcription style
- Keep it simple and transparent

# List of experimental options (cont'd)

## 3. Use of a Large Reasoning Model (LRM)

- Select an LRM (minimum DeepSeek-v1, install ollama)
- Select say 10 (simple to hard) questions directly related to this course (speech recognition, AI, transformers)
- Let the LRM provide a reasoning for all questions
- Assess these answers in detail
  - Define your assessment method – based on knowledge/literature
  - Provide a conclusion about the quality of the LRM chosen
- Defend your choices in model selection, method and data selection

# Reasoning example (depends on # free GB)

- install ollama
- Run any of your preferred models, e.g. deepseek (many versions)
- **ollama run deepseek-coder-v2**

Q: Do you see how the towers of Hanoi problem can be solved for all  $N > 1$  by using recursion?

A: “Thinking... Alright, so I'm trying to understand how to solve the Tower of Hanoi problem recursively for any number of disks greater than one. From what I remember, the classic Tower of Hanoi has three rods and three disks: two large disks and a small one. The goal is to move all the disks from the starting rod to another rod while following these rules:... [etc.]”

# List of experimental options (final)

## 4. Behavior of transformer based networks on small (user-build) data sets

- Small data sets (training, validation, testsets)
- Minimal functional transformer models

Various proposals (in .txt files):

- Graz\_various\_transformer\_studies.txt
  - 4 specific cases (from vector sequence to vector, to Boolean, character sequences)
- Graz\_regular\_expressions\_training\_transformers.txt
  - Data are created in Graz\_regular\_expressions\_create\_training\_test\_sets.txt
  - MA\_002 (data also in github) A\*B versus B\*A, in random real vector sequence
  - MA\_003, ABC versus ACB in random integer vector sequence (dim = 5)
  - MA\_003b, same as MA\_003 but with dim = 3
  - MA\_004, random integer sequence → Boolean (whether the last vector is between first two, or not)

# Short report

- Report of 3 pages proceedings format (2-column format)
  - Approx 2000 words
  - Intro + RQ
  - Method
  - Experimental data + set-up
  - Results
  - References



# Computational platforms

Up to you:

Cluster

Jupyter

SageMath

LaTeX

Cocalc:  
<https://cocalc.com/>

Own laptop  
• Windows, Linux

# For those interested in more involving experiments

- There are (too) many options!
- E.g. Compare wav2vec2.0 **without** lexicon versus **with** lexicon and LM
  - LM of small order (e.g., 3), via KenLM toolkit  
<https://kheafield.com/code/kenlm/>
  - finetuning XLSR model (Facebook, 2022) by fairseq toolkit (Ott et al., 2019)
  - Fairseq is a toolkit. With Fairseq you can train models that achieve state-of-the-art performance on machine translation and summarization tasks. It includes pre-trained models