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Laboratoire des Systèmes Perceptifs

Listening strategies and inter-individual variability in stop consonant perception

Léo Varnet, Géraldine Carranante

École Normale Supérieure Paris

ARCHES meeting, 30-31/10/2023

Objectives of the fastACI team



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Objectives of the fastACI team



Auditory revcorr

Reverse correlation (aka **revcorr**) is the perfect tool to reveal perceptual cues used in a psychophysical task, based on purely behavioral data... in particular for auditory categorization tasks. [Varnet et al. 2013, 2015; Varnet & Lorenzi, 2022; Osses & Varnet, 2023]

Core idea: adding **random fluctuations** to the stimulus and measure how they affect the participant's responses on a trial-by-trial basis.

Original Article

High-Frequency Sensorineural Hearing Loss Alters Cue-Weighting Strategies for Discriminating Stop Consonants in Noise

Léo Varnet¹ ⁽⁶⁾, Chloé Langlet¹, Christian Lorenzi¹, Diane S. Lazard², and Christophe Micheyl³

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Probing temporal modulation detection in white noise intrinsic envelope fluctuations: A reverse-correlation s

Léo Varnet[®] and Christian Lorenzi[®] Laboratoire des Systèmes Perceptifs, Département d'Études Cognitives, École Normale Supérieure, Université Paris Sciences & Lettres, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, 75005 Paris, France

Abstract

There is increasing evidence that (NH) individuals, even when we perceptual strategies is an importwo complementary approache noise and (b) measuring the reduspectrotemporal locations of The cue-weighting strategies we frequency loss, and 15 HI lists amplification to compensate 60 than on the low-frequency cui differences in internal noise. If frontiers in HUMAN NEUROSCIENCE

METHODS ARTICLE published: 16 December 2013 doi: 10.3389/fnhum.2013.00865

Using auditory classification images for the identification of fine acoustic cues used in speech perception

Léo Varnet^{1,2,*}, Kenneth Knoblauch³, Fanny Meunier^{1,2,4} and Michel Hoen^{1,2}

¹ Neuroscience Research Centre, Brain Dynamics and Cognition Team, INSERM U1028, CNRS UMR5292, Lyon, France ² Ecole Doctorale Neurosciencea et Cognition, Université de Lyon, Université Lyon 1, Lyon, France ³ Integrative Neuroscience Department, Stem Cell and Brain Research Institute, INSERM U846, Bron, France

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uary noise on sound perception results from the must andom intrinsic-envelope fluctuations arising from ess on this phenomenon to probe AM detection strate differentiation and the strategies of the strategies of the errors-correlation analysis was then carried on the cicus of the simulus' temporal networks of the strategies annihistense waves able to track the population of AM I aboved a marked temporal decay and a consistent p aboved marked temporal decay and a consistent p molecule filter and the strategies of the strategies of the molecule filter and the strategies of the strategies of the molecule filter and the strategies of the strategies of the molecule filter and the strategies of the strategies of the molecule filter and the strategies of the stra

Auditory revcorr studies (full diagram on https://dbao.leo-varnet.fr/) paralinguistics Truetworthinger [Ponsot et al., 2018a, 2018b] units 0.1









phoneme categorization

[Varnet et al., 2013, 2015]



[Ponsot et al., 2020; Joosten & Neri, 2012: Varnet & Lorenzi, 20221

тіме



pure-tone detection & loudness perception

[Ahumada & Lovell, 1971; Shub & Richards, 2009; Ponsot et al. 2013]

Topic: perception of stop consonants /b/ and /d/. **Targets**: 2 VCV sounds (t_0 =/aba/ and t_1 =/ada/) from the Oldenburg Logatome Corpus [Wesker et al., 2005], equalized in duration and rms.



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Topic: perception of stop consonants /b/ and /d/. **Targets**: 2 VCV sounds (t_0 =/aba/ and t_1 =/ada/) from the Oldenburg Logatome Corpus [Wesker et al., 2005], equalized in duration and rms.



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targets (a,b,c) (a,c) (a,c)(a,c)



phoneme participant's categorisation response



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/ada/

0.4 0.6 0.8

Time (s)

targets

/aba/

0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8 0 0.2

Time (s)

participant's phoneme noise for trial i categorisation response Ν, 'aba" $r_i =$ + Estimation ACI B aba of the ACI - 3241 2024 774 400 GLM + lasso regularization 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8 ada $P(r_i = "aba") = \phi(\underline{N}_i \cdot \beta + c)$ Time (s)

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Auditory Classification Image (ACI): time-frequency matrix of decision weights. Shows how a specific noise configuration can mislead the participant.

Results [Osses & Varnet, 2023]



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Results [Osses & Varnet, 2023]



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ACI method

Results [Osses & Varnet, 2023]



• The analysis successfully identified the **main cue** for the task (F2 onset), consistent with the phonetics literature [Liberman et al., 1954]...

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ACI method

Results [Osses & Varnet, 2023]



- The analysis successfully identified the **main cue** for the task (F2 onset), consistent with the phonetics literature [Liberman et al., 1954]...
- ...as well as several **secondary cues** (e.g., F1 onset).

Plosive consonants experiment [Carranante et al., 2024]

- Discrimination task in noise
- 6 target sounds (plosive C in context /aCa/)
- 7 participants \times 7 contrasts, 4.000 trials/condition



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Place of articulation contrasts



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Géraldine Carranante

Geraldine Carra Place of articulation contrasts



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Group-averaged ACIs

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Group results

Place of articulation cues:

- F2 onset
- F1 onset
- release burst (/d/ and /t/)
- coarticulation on F1 and F2



Group-averaged ACIs

Voicing cues:

- voicing bar
- F1 onset

3241

N 2024

1315

774

422

194

48

• release burst (only for /t/)



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-0.5

-1.5

Artificial listener



Artificial listener: updated PEMO [Osses & Kohlrausch, 2021]



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Interindividual variability



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The similarity between listening strategies can be quantified by attempting to predict the responses of one participant using the ACI of another.

Interindividual variability



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Our group of normal-hearing participants shows significant heterogeneity in their listening strategies: the ACI of one participant is better at predicting new data from this participant, rather than new data from another participant.



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Comparing the strategies of NH and HI listeners [Varnet et al., 2019]

Cues for categorizing da/ga in noise:

- Primary HF cue: F2/F3 onsets
- Secondary LF cue: F1 onset



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Comparing the strategies of NH and HI listeners [Varnet et al., 2019]

Cues for categorizing da/ga in noise:

- Primary HF cue: F2/F3 onsets
- Secondary LF cue: F1 onset

How is the relative importance of the high- and low-frequency cues impacted by hearing loss?



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Comparing the strategies of NH and HI listeners [Varnet et al., 2019]



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3 groups:

- NH
- HI (HF loss)
- HI (flat loss)

Audibility restored by amplification (NAL-R formula).

Comparing the strategies of NH and HI listeners [Varnet et al., 2019]



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3 groups:

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Audibility restored by amplification (NAL-R formula).

After frequency-dependent amplification, all HI participants still relied more heavily on the primary cue than on the secondary cue.

ACIs for NH and HI Comparing the strategies of NH and HI listeners [Varnet et al., 2019]



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HI listeners

3 groups:

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Differences in the exact weights associated to each cue.

ACIs for NH and HI Comparing the strategies of NH and HI listeners [Varnet et al., 2019] Léo Varnet, Géraldine



Carranante

HI listeners

3 groups:

- NH ۲
- HI (HF loss)
- HI (flat loss)

Audibility restored by amplification (NAL-R formula).

After frequency-dependent amplification, all HI participants still relied more heavily on the primary cue than on the secondary cue.

Differences in the exact weights associated to each cue.

HI participants show **different cue-weighting strategies**, even though their hearing loss was corrected through amplification.

Comparing the strategies of NH and HI listeners

ACIs for NH and HI

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Sarah Attia

Collecting **ACIs for many auditory profiles** (PTT, age, experience with hearing aids...) to explore:

- 1. how listening strategies for phoneme comprehension depend on these characteristics
- 2. what is the interindividual variability within each group
- 3. whether there is a link between individual strategies and efficiency of hearing aids



• The **auditory revcorr approach** can reveal listening strategies and acoustic cues in psychoacoustic tasks (e.g., pitch perception, AM detection) and psycholinguistic tasks (e.g., phoneme discrimination, segmentation).

Code available on GitHub as an open-source MATLAB toolbox with documentation and turnkey experiments [Osses & Varnet, 2021]: https://github.com/aosses-tue/fastACI

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• The **auditory revcorr approach** can reveal listening strategies and acoustic cues in psychoacoustic tasks (e.g., pitch perception, AM detection) and

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psycholinguistic tasks (e.g., phoneme discrimination, segmentation).

• It can also produce reliable results at the individual level, making it possible to explore **individual listening strategies**.

Code available on GitHub as an open-source MATLAB toolbox with documentation and turnkey experiments [Osses & Varnet, 2021]: https://github.com/aosses-tue/fastACI



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- The **auditory revcorr approach** can reveal listening strategies and acoustic cues in psychoacoustic tasks (e.g., pitch perception, AM detection) and psycholinguistic tasks (e.g., phoneme discrimination, segmentation).
- It can also produce reliable results at the individual level, making it possible to explore **individual listening strategies**.
- Could be a useful tool to explore how suprathreshold deficits affect phoneme comprehension.

Code available on GitHub as an open-source MATLAB toolbox with documentation and turnkey experiments [Osses & Varnet, 2021]: https://github.com/aosses-tue/fastACI



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Thanks for your attention! And thanks to all my collaborators:



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