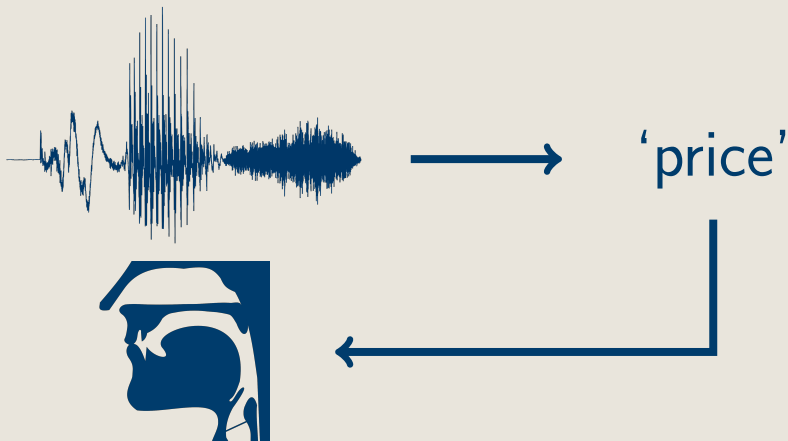


# From Abstract to Episodic: Representations in Speech Production

Jonathan C. Paramore  
jcparamo@ucsc.edu

University of Arizona  
March 27, 2026



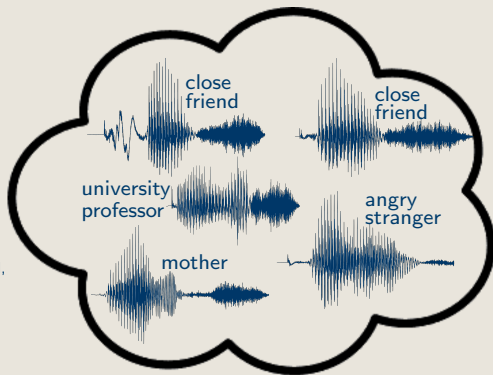


Perception and production require activating stored speech representations

**What is the substance of those representations?**

## Representations as Episodic Memory Traces

- ▶ Individual experiences hearing and producing words retained as **exemplars** (Kruszewski, 1995; Bybee, 2001)
  - Phonetic detail is preserved (Goldinger, 1998; Clapp and Sumner, 2025)
  - Extralinguistic social information co-indexed with speech events (Johnson, 2006; Babel, 2012; Hay et al., 2019)
- ▶ Over time, complex network of exemplars builds up in memory
  - ▶ **Substance**: highly detailed, concrete experiences



## Representations as Abstract Categories

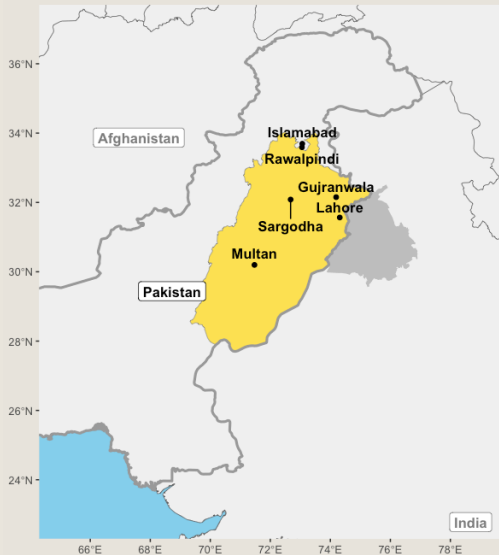
- ▶ Evidence for abstract categories (Wedel, 2012; Pierrehumbert, 2016)
  - Why sounds across words and contexts are treated as members of the same category
  - Why regular sound changes affect the whole lexicon
- ▶ Generative approaches
  - Typical to propose highly abstract representations  
e.g., /t/ → la[r]er 'latter'
  - **Covert representation**: at least one feature of the UR is never realized
- ▶ **Substance**: more general, context-free categories

## This Talk

- ▶ Assumption: multiple levels of speech representation
  - Highly detailed **episodic memories**
  - Abstract **underlying representations** (URs)
- ▶ How abstract can URs be?
  - Two experiments exploring representation of vowels before nasal consonants (**pre-N vowels**) in Pakistani Punjabi
  - **Covert URs** are needed to account for pre-N vowels
- ▶ Are covert URs learnable?
  - A novel computational learner: **UR PHaSE Learner**

# Background on Punjabi

- ▶ Native language of more than 78 million people in Pakistan – Bashir and Connors (2019)
- ▶ Approximately 33 million people in India



## Background on Punjabi Phonology

- Long vowels **contrast in nasality**:

		Front			Central			Back		
		short	long	nasal	short	long	nasal	short	long	nasal
High	tense		iː	ĩː				uː	ũː	
	lax	ɪ						ʊ		
Mid	tense		eː	ẽː				oː	õː	
	lax		ɛː	ẽː	ə			ɔː	õː	
Low	lax							ɑː	ãː	

Table 1: *Punjabi Vowel Inventory (Shackle, 2003)*

## Background on Punjabi Phonology

- ▶ Nasality contrast neutralized before nasal consonants (Zahid and Hussain, 2012)

[sã:]	'I was'	vs.	[sa:]	'breath'
[sã:ŋ]	'grindstone'	vs.	*[sa:ŋ]	

## Background on Punjabi Phonology

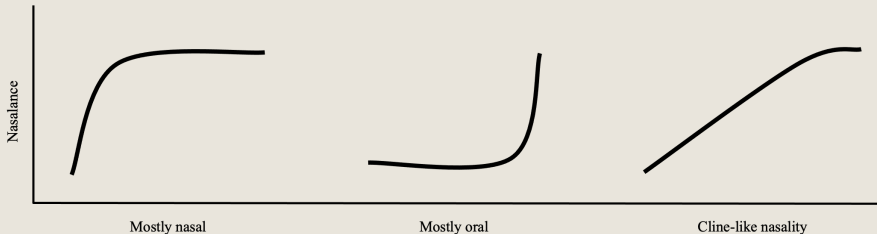
- ▶ Nasal vowels trigger regressive nasal harmony (Bhatia, 1993)
  - Vowels and glides (/ʊ/ and /j/) are targets
  - Other non-nasal consonants block transmission

/sa:ʊã:/	→	[sã:ũã:]	‘breath-PL’
/mətʃi:jã:/	→	[mətʃi:ĩã:]	‘fish-PL’
/ʃa:kã:/	→	[ʃa:xã:]	‘branch-PL’

- ▶ Unclear from previous literature whether pre-N vowels trigger nasal harmony

[a:ʊã:m]?	or	[ã:ũã:m]?	‘public’
[si:jã:ŋ]?		[sĩ:ĩã:ŋ]?	‘recognition’

## Experiment 1: How are pre-N vowels realized?



- ▶ **Nasalance:** amount of nasal airflow in the system as a proportion of the total amount of airflow

$$\frac{A^n}{A^n + A^o}$$

## Experiment 1: Participants & Stimuli

- ▶ 20 native Punjabi speakers
  - 11 men and 9 women
  - Ages 22-79 (mean = 40)
  
- ▶ Stimuli: 63 monosyllabic tokens sourced from three conditions
  - All V:N sequences part of the same morpheme

oral V: (26)	contrastive nasal $\tilde{V}$ : (20)	pre-N V: (17)
t <sup>h</sup> a: 'was'	t <sup>h</sup> ã: 'room'	t <sup>h</sup> a:ŋ 'piece of cloth'
se:k 'warmth'	sẽ:k 'termite'	
do: 'two'	pĩ:g 'swing'	do:ŋ 'cot ropes'
		bi:n 'musical instrument'

Table 2: Sample of words used in experiment 1

# Experiment 1: Measurements

- ▶ Dual chamber oro-nasal airflow mask from Glottal Enterprises
- ▶ Measures oral and nasal airflow separately
- ▶ Outputs separate time-aligned waveforms for each cavity



## Experiment 1: Procedure



- ▶ Recorded in a soundproof room at a university in Rawalpindi
- ▶ Words presented in Shahmukhi script in a randomized order:

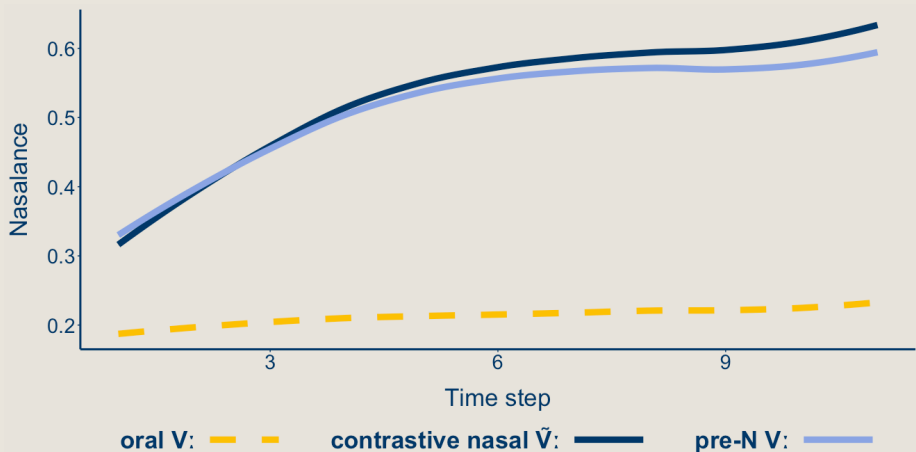
باں [bã:] 'arm'

- ▶ Each word produced 4 times while wearing the mask
- ▶ Instructions given in Punjabi by a native speaker consultant

## Experiment 1: Analysis

- ▶ Annotation
  - Hand-annotated in Praat
  - By me & 2 undergraduate RAs
- ▶ Measurement
  - Nasalance ( $\frac{A^n}{A^n + A^o}$ )
  - Measured at **11 equidistant timepoints** across each vowel
- ▶ Dataset
  - 19 of 20 participants included in the results
  - 5,062 total vowel tokens =  
67 words × 4 reps × 19 speakers – 30 low-quality tokens

## Experiment 1: Results



## Experiment 1: Results

- ▶ **Linear mixed-effects** model revealed no significant effect of vowel type (contrastive nasal  $\tilde{V}$ : vs. pre-N V:) on nasalance

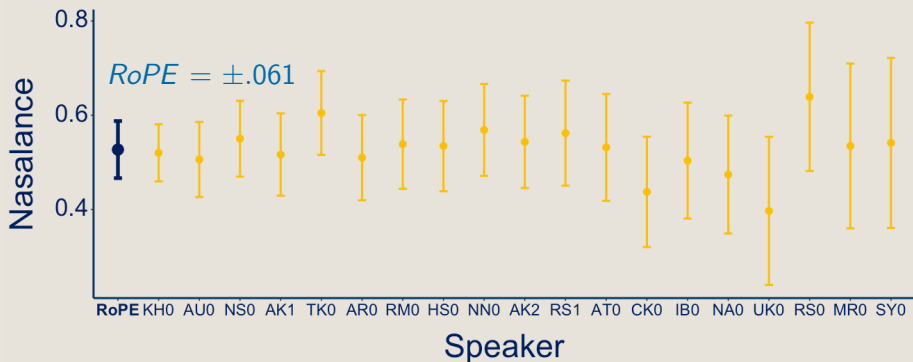
Comparison	$\beta$	95% CI	$p$
contrast. $\tilde{V}$ : – pre-N V:	.016	[-.007, .039]	.17

- ▶ Lack of significance does not indicate equivalence
- ▶ Equivalence Test can confirm statistical equivalence
  1. Define a Region of Practical Equivalence (**RoPE**)
  2. Check whether the 95% CI falls entirely within the RoPE
    - **Yes**: evidence for equivalence
    - **No**: no evidence for equivalence

## Experiment 1: Results

### ► Defining the **RoPE**

1. Compute by-speaker nasalance mean and sd for contrastive nasal  $\tilde{V}$ : tokens
2.  $RoPE = \pm 2sd$  of the speaker with the lowest variance



## Experiment 1: Results

- ▶ Comparing the 95% CI to the  $\pm.061$  *RoPE*

Comparison	$\beta$	95% CI	$p$
contrast. $\tilde{V}$ : – pre-N V:	.016	<b>[-.007, .039]</b>	.17

- ▶ **Takeaway:** pre-N V: and contrastive nasal  $\tilde{V}$ : are statistically equivalent in nasalance

## Experiment 2: Do pre-N vowels trigger harmony?

- ▶ Bhatia (1993) notes that **'nasal'** vowels trigger harmony

/sa:-vã:/	→	[sã:ũã:]	'breath-PL'
/mətʃi:-jã:/	→	[mətʃi:ĩã:]	'fish-PL'
/ʃa:k-ã:/	→	[ʃa:xã:]	'branch-PL'

- ▶ Given similarity of pre-N V: and contrastive nasal  $\tilde{V}$ :
  - might also expect pre-N V: to trigger harmony

[ã:ũã:m]	'public'
[sĩ:ĩã:ŋ]	'recognition'

## Experiment 2: Participants & Stimuli

- ▶ 16 native Punjabi speakers
  - 11 men and 5 women
  - Ages 18-43 (*mean* = 28)
  
- ▶ Stimuli
  - Same three conditions based on word-final vowel type
  - Di- and tri-syllabic words followed by genitive postposition, [də]
  - **VGV sequence** across final two syllables
  - All /V:N/ sequences part of the same morpheme

oral V: (10)	contrastive nas. $\tilde{V}$ : (8)	pre-N V: (6)
/pɑ:ue: də/ 'cot leg'	/tʃɑ:uẽ: də/ 'pumicstone'	/ədʒəuɛ:n də/ 'omum seed'
/tɑ:uu: də/ 'paternal uncle'	/sɑ:-uã: də/ 'breaths'	/ɑ:uɑ:m də/ 'public'
/sətɑ:ji: də/ 'twenty-seven'	/ti:ũ: də/ 'woman'	/ge:jɑ:ŋ də/ 'knowledge'

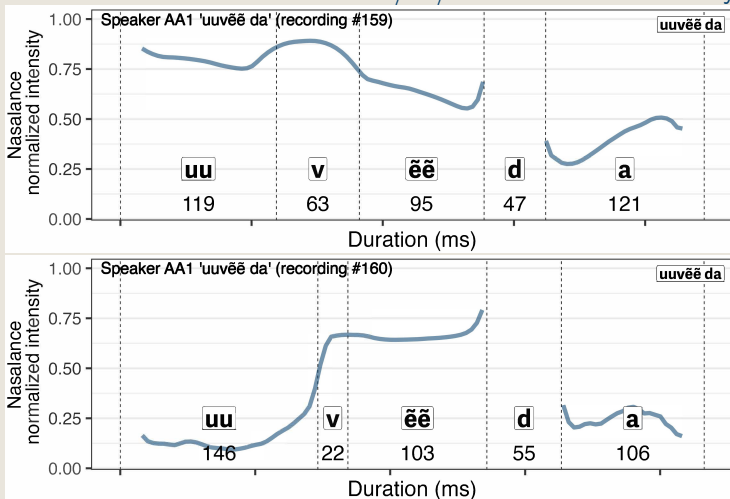
## Experiment 2: Procedure & Analysis

- ▶ Procedure and analysis the same as experiment 1
- ▶ Removed data for 1 speaker due to poor recording quality
- ▶ 1,389 total tokens: 24 words × 4 reps × 15 speakers - 51 low-quality tokens



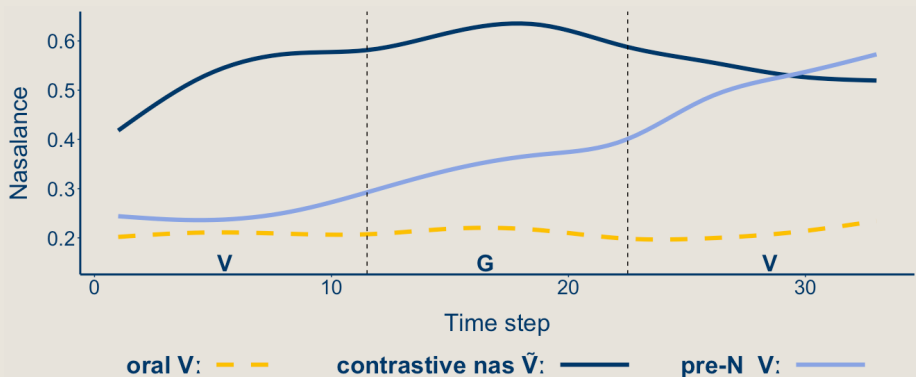
## Experiment 2: Optional Harmony

- ▶ 44% of tokens with contrastive / $\tilde{V}$ :/ vowels lacked harmony



## Experiment 2: Results

- ▶ 13 speakers showed a pattern of categorical pre-N nasalization



## What do these two experiments tell us?

- ▶ Key result:
  - Pre-N V: and contrastive nasal  $\tilde{V}$ : produced with statistically **equivalent nasalance**
  - They **pattern differently in triggering harmony**
- ▶ Both harmony and pre-N nasalization are productive
  - Informal wug tests indicate patterns extend to novel forms
  - Not an artifact of historical change
- ▶ Puzzle: Why do phonetically similar vowels behave differently?

## Generative Analysis: Abstract URs

- ▶ Generative analysis relies on abstract representations
  - **Covert URs**: URs with a feature never realized faithfully
  - Pre-N vowels underlyingly oral
  - Pre-N nasal assimilation covers up the oral representation
  - Nasal harmony only triggered by underlyingly nasal vowels

## Generative Interpretation: Abstract URs

	a. /sa:ʋã:/	b. /a:ʋa:m/
Nasal Harmony: [-cons] → [+nas]/-X <sub>0</sub> [-cons] V <sub>[+nas]</sub>	sã:ũã:	—
pre-N Assimilation: V → [+nas]/-C <sub>[+nas]</sub>	—	a:ʋã:m
	[sã:ũã:]	[a:ʋã:m]

Table 3: Pre-N assimilation counterfeeds nasal harmony in Punjabi

## Alternatives to an abstract analysis

- ▶ The generative analysis is quite a strong claim
  - Posits that learners acquire representations they never experience
  
- ▶ Are there effective alternatives?
  - I argue that any surface-true analysis is inadequate

## Alternative: Complex Co-Occurrence Constraint

- ▶ A more complex co-occurrence constraint transparently explains the harmony patterns (Albright, 2002)

/a:ʊã:m/	*[ $\tilde{G}\tilde{V}iN$ ]	HARMONY
→ a. a:ʊã:m		**
b. ã:ũã:m	*! W	L

- ▶ Two issues with this approach:
  1. **Computational**
  2. **Pathological Predictions**

## Computational Costs

- ▶ Learning segmental co-occurrence constraints becomes intractable quickly (Hayes and Wilson, 2008, p.391-2)

$$* \begin{bmatrix} \pm Feat1 \\ \pm Feat2 \\ \vdots \\ \cdot \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \pm Feat3 \\ \pm Feat4 \\ \vdots \\ \cdot \end{bmatrix} \dots \begin{bmatrix} \pm Feat5 \\ \pm Feat6 \\ \vdots \\ \cdot \end{bmatrix}$$

- ▶ Learning co-occurrence constraints with  $> 2$  natural classes requires strong restrictions on constraint types
  - Otherwise, set of possible constraints is too large
- ▶ Permitting constraints like  $*[\tilde{G}\tilde{V}:N]$  dramatically increases the number of possible constraints the learner must consider

## Pathological Predictions

- ▶ Complex co-occurrence constraints risk overfitting the lexicon  
(Chomsky and Halle, 1965; Hayes and White, 2013; Wilson and Gallagher, 2018)
  - Grammar should rule out **principled** phonotactic Gaps:  
e.g., ill-formed *bnick* [bnɪk] in eng.
  - Grammar should not rule out **accidental** phonotactic Gaps:  
e.g., unattested but acceptable *blick* [blɪk] in eng.
- ▶ Permitting complex constraints like  $*[\tilde{G}\tilde{V}:N]$  will generate many constraints that are surface-true by chance
  - More complex structures are more likely to be accidentally absent from the lexicon

## Conclusion from Nasality in Punjabi

- ▶ No clear way to model the Punjabi nasality data without appealing to **covert URs**
- ▶ **How abstract can URs be?**
  - They can contain covert features that are never experienced by the language user

## Abstraction & Learnability

- ▶ Nasality in Pakistani Punjabi motivates Covert URs
- ▶ But are covert URs **learnable**?

Abstraction raises two general learnability problems (Jarosz, 2019):

### 1. Preference for minimally abstract representations

- All else equal, learner should minimize abstraction
- Faithful /sǎ:ŋ/ → [sǎ:ŋ] over unfaithful /sa:ŋ/ → [sǎ:ŋ]

### 2. Search Space Explosion

- Potential URs for [sǎ:ŋ] are infinite with unconstrained abstraction

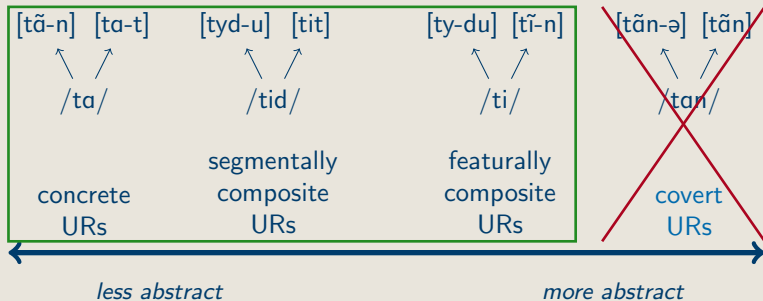
/sǎ:ŋ/	/sa:ŋ/	/si:ŋ/
/sĩ:ŋ/	/sǎ:ŋə/	/sǎ:d/
⋮	⋮	⋮

## Previous Solutions

Several learning algorithms have been proposed that minimize UR abstraction (O'Hara, 2017; Paramore, 2025)

The issue of search space tractability is largely unsolved

- ▶ Wang and Hayes (2025): **UR abstraction must be limited** to levels that permit exhaustive search of the candidate space.



# UR Progressive Hypothesis Space Expansion Learner

**UR PHaSE Learner** is a novel learning algorithm

- ▶ Considers UR candidates in batches, based on UR→SR mapping disparities
  - As opposed to considering all potential URs in parallel
- ▶ Stops searching for optimal solution once all observed forms are sufficiently likely
  - As opposed to exhaustively searching the space for the maximally optimal solution

# UR PHaSE Learner

## Four iterative learning steps

### Step I: phonotactic learning

- Acquires phonotactic patterns

### Step II: $n$ -disparity UR Expectation Maximization learning

- Determines optimal UR for each morpheme
- UR set constrained to  $n$  disparities

### Step III: Minimum Likelihood Threshold Evaluation

- Evaluates whether observed data is sufficiently likely under the current grammar
- Learning successful if likelihood of all SRs  $> .95$

### Step IV: UR Candidate Expansion

- Updates UR candidate space to include  $n + 1$  disparity URs

## Step I: Phonotactic Learning

### Input:

- ▶ 30 Punjabi forms from 5 categories provided to the learner
  - Morpheme boundaries labeled

i.	[sa:]	'breath'	ii.	[sã:-ũã:]	'breath-PL'
iii.	[gã:]	'cow'	iv.	[gã:-ũã:]	'cow-PL'
v.	[tavã:ŋ]	'penalty'			

- ▶ 11 constraints (see appendix for constraint definitions)
  - SPRD-L[NAS]: nasal harmony constraint
  - \*<sub>VN</sub>: pre-N nasality assimilation
  - ID[NAS]/\_V (Hauser and Hughto, 2020): handles opacity in parallel constraint evaluation frameworks

**Goal:** Calibrate constraint weights to acquire phonotactic patterns

## Step I: Phonotactic Learning Results

Constraint	Type	initial w	final w
SPRD-L[NAS]	mark.	50.00	0.13
*NASOBS	mark.	50.00	100.00
*NASG	mark.	50.00	0.47
*NASV	mark.	50.00	0.00
*VN	mark.	50.00	100.00
*LOWRD	mark.	50.00	100.00

Table 4: Constraint weights during phonotactic learning

## Step II: EM Learning with 0-disparity URs

1. Define the UR Hypothesis space for each morpheme

Morpheme

'breath'

'penalty'

SRs

[sa:]

[sã:]

[ta:vã:ŋ]

0-disparity URs

sa:

sã:

ta:vã:ŋ

## Step II: EM Learning with 0-disparity URs

2. Use EM learning to search for the combination of URs and weights that maximize data likelihood (Jarosz, 2006a,b, 2009, 2010, 2015)

Morpheme	UR candidates	Prior $\mathbb{P}$
'breath'	/sɑː/	0.5
	/sãː/	0.5
'penalty'	/tɑːvãːŋ/	1.0

**E-step:** Find UR probability distribution over potential URs that maximizes likelihood of the data.



**M-step:** Update constraint weights to maximize UR→SR mappings likelihood under posterior UR probabilities.

## Step II: EM Learning with 0-disparity URs

Constraint	Type	initial w	final w
SPRD-L[NAS]	mark.	0.13	62.92
*NASOBS	mark.	100.00	100.00
*NASG	mark.	0.47	60.24
*NASV	mark.	0.00	23.16
*VN	mark.	100.00	100.00
ID[NAS]	faith.	0.00	83.44
IDFin[NAS]	faith.	0.00	89.46
ID[NAS]/_V	contfaith.	0.00	100.00
ID[RD]	faith.	0.00	6.29
*LOWRD	mark.	100.00	100.00
ID[VOC]	faith.	0.00	0.01

Morpheme	UR candidates	Prior $\mathbb{P}$	Posterior $\mathbb{P}$
'breath'	/sɑ:/	0.5	0.5
	/sã:/	0.5	0.5
'penalty'	/tɑ:ũã:ŋ/	1.0	1.0

- ▶ 0-disparity UR space is too restrictive
  - Learner can't jointly model harmony in [sã:ũã:] and non-harmony in [tɑ:ũã:ŋ]
  - Distributes probability across competing URs for 'breath'

## Step III: Minimum Likelihood Evaluation

SR	Likelihood
[sa:]	0.50
[sã:ũã:]	0.48
[ta:vã:ŋ]	1.00

**Minimum Likelihood Threshold of  $> .95$  not met!**

## Step IV: UR Candidate Expansion

- ▶ In an attempt to improve likelihood, learner expands UR set to include 1-disparity URs
  - If adjusting constraint weights is insufficient, the problem lies in the representations
- ▶ **Crucial:** Does not expand using all possible features
  - Candidate space would grow too large
- ▶ Exploits information from the EM learning stage
  - Eligible features must be associated with markedness constraints violated by at least one SR
    - Markedness violations identify features active in the data
  - Flipping these features introduces new UR→SR mappings
    - Creates new tradeoffs between markedness and faithfulness constraints

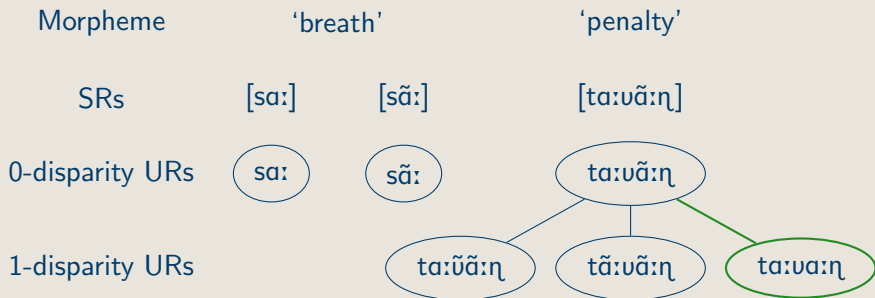
## Step IV: UR Candidate Expansion

- ▶ Only constraints associated with the [NAS] feature are violated by at least one SR

Constraint	final w
SPRD-L[NAS]	62.92
*NASOBS	100.00
*NASG	60.24
*NASV	23.16
*VN	100.00
*LOWRD	100.00

## Step IV: UR Candidate Expansion

- ▶ Expand UR space: create 1-disparity candidates by flipping [NAS] on eligible segments



## Step II: EM Learning with 1-disparity URs

Constraint	Type	initial w	final w
SPRD-L[NAS]	mark.	0.13	48.45
*NASOBS	mark.	100.00	100.00
*NASG	mark.	0.47	48.45
*NASV	mark.	0.00	0.00
*VN	mark.	100.00	100.00
ID[NAS]	faith.	0.00	0.00
IDFin[NAS]	faith.	0.00	100.00
ID[NAS]/_V	contfaith.	0.00	100.00
ID[RD]	faith.	0.00	6.28
*LOWRD	mark.	100.00	100.00
ID[VOC]	faith.	0.00	0.01

Morpheme	UR candidates	Prior $\mathbb{P}$	Posterior $\mathbb{P}$
'breath'	/sa:/	0.5	1.0
	/sã:/	0.5	0.0
'penalty'	/ta:uã:ŋ/	0.25	0.0
	/ta:ua:ŋ/	0.25	1.0
	/ta:ũã:ŋ/	0.25	0.0
	/tã:uã:ŋ/	0.25	0.0

- ▶ 1-disparity UR space resolves the learning problem
  - Successfully models harmony in [sã:ũã:]
  - Non-harmony in [ta:uã:ŋ] successfully blocked by ID[NAS]/\_V

## Step III: Minimum Likelihood Evaluation

SR	Likelihood
[sa:]	1.00
[sã:ũã:]	0.96
[ta:vã:ŋ]	1.00

**Minimum Likelihood Threshold satisfied!**

## Zooming Out

- ▶ Previous work indicates speech is stored at multiple levels of representation:
  - Phonetically/socially detailed episodic memories (e.g., Bybee 2001)
  - Abstract representational categories (e.g., Wedel 2012; Pierrehumbert 2016)
- ▶ This talk: How abstract can those categories be?
  - Some patterns require completely **covert** representations
  - With the right learning architecture, these representations are learnable

## Future Directions: From Episodic to Abstract

- ▶ Abstract categories have been shown to emerge from episodic memories
  - Local interactions give rise to higher-order structure over time  
(Wedel, 2004, 2012)
- ▶ What drives learners to posit covert structure?
  - How can unobserved features enter the representation?

## Future Directions: From Abstract to Episodic

- ▶ In speech production, how do the various levels of representation interact?

'price' → /praɪs/  $\xrightarrow{\text{grammar}}$  [p<sup>h</sup>ɹaɪ̯s]



## Future Directions: UR PHaSE Learner

- ▶ Does the learner generalize to other patterns requiring abstract URs? (O'Hara, 2017; Gilbert, 2023; Wang and Hayes, 2025)
- ▶ In principle, 2-disparity, 3-disparity, etc. URs are learnable
  - At deeper disparity levels, the UR hypothesis space could grow too large
  - Predicts an upper bound on learnable abstraction

# Thank you!



**The  
Humanities  
Institute**  
UC SANTA CRUZ

# References I

- Albright, A. C. (2002). *The identification of bases in morphological paradigms*. PhD thesis, UCLA.
- Babel, M. (2012). Evidence for phonetic and social selectivity in spontaneous phonetic imitation. *Journal of Phonetics*, 40:177–189.
- Bashir, E. and Conners, T. J. (2019). *A descriptive grammar of Hindko, Panjabi, and Saraiki*. Mouton-CASL Grammar Series. De Gruyter Mouton.
- Beddor, P. S. (2007). Nasals and nasalization: The relation between segmental and coarticulatory timing. In *Proceedings of the XVIth International Congress of Phonetic Sciences*, pages 249–254. Universität des Saarlandes, Saarbrücken, Germany.
- Bhatia, T. K. (1993). *Punjabi*. Descriptive Grammars. Routledge.
- Bybee, J. (2001). *Phonology and language use*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Chomsky, N. and Halle, M. (1965). Some controversial questions in phonological theory. *Journal of Linguistics*, 1:97–138.
- Clapp, W. and Sumner, M. (2025). Talker-specificity beyond the lexicon: Recognition memory for spoken sentences. *Psychonomic Bulletin & Review*, 32:3201–3213.
- Gilbert, M. (2023). Testing for underlying representations: Segments and clusters in Sevillian Spanish. *Natural Language & Linguistic Theory*, 42:493–531.
- Goldinger, S. D. (1998). Echoes of echoes? an episodic theory of lexical access. *Psychological Review*, 105(2):251–279.
- Hauser, I. and Hughto, C. (2020). Analyzing opacity with contextual faithfulness constraints. *Glossa: a journal of general linguistics*, 5(1):1–33.
- Hay, J., Walker, A., Sanchez, K., and Thompson, K. (2019). Abstract social categories facilitate access to socially skewed words. *PLoS ONE*, 14(2):e0210793.

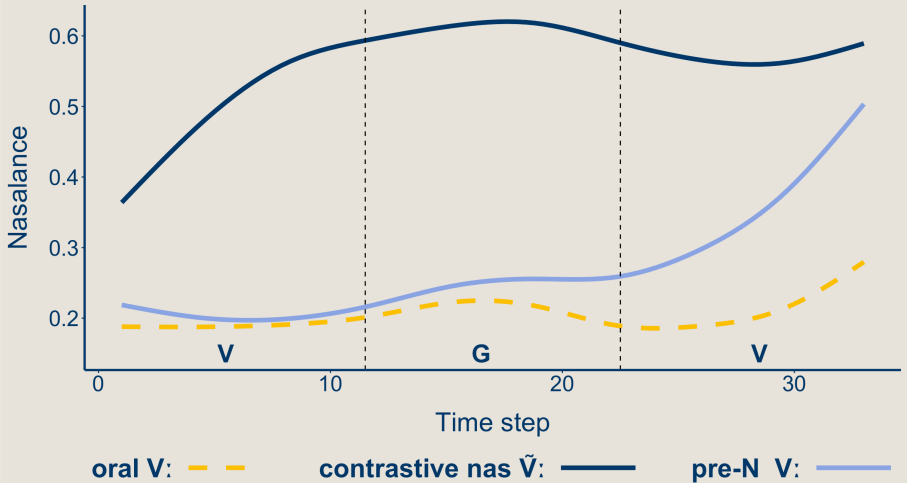
## References II

- Hayes, B. and White, J. (2013). Phonological naturalness and phonotactic learning. *Linguistic Inquiry*, 44:45–75.
- Hayes, B. and Wilson, C. (2008). A maximum entropy model of phonotactics and phonotactic learning. *Linguistic Inquiry*, 39(3):379–440.
- Jakubíček, M., Kilgarrif, A., Kovář, V., Rychlý, P., and Suchomel, V. (2013). The TenTen Corpus family. In *7th International Corpus Linguistics Conference CL*, pages 125–127.
- Jarosz, G. (2006a). *Rich lexicons and restrictive grammars - Maximum likelihood learning in Optimality Theory*. PhD thesis, Johns Hopkins University.
- Jarosz, G. (2006b). Richness of the base and probabilistic unsupervised learning in Optimality Theory. In *Proceedings of the Eighth Meeting of the ACL SPecial Interest Group on Computational Phonology*, pages 50–59.
- Jarosz, G. (2009). Restrictiveness and phonological grammar and lexicon learning. In Elliot, M., Kirby, J., Sawada, O., Staraki, E., and Yoon, S., editors, *Proceedings of the 43rd Annual Meeting of the Chicago Linguistics Society*, volume 43, pages 125–134.
- Jarosz, G. (2010). Implicational markedness and frequency in constraint-based computational models of phonological learning. *Journal of Child Language. Special Issue on Computational Models of Child Language Learning*, 37(3):565–606.
- Jarosz, G. (2015). Expectation driven learning of phonology. University of Massachusetts manuscript.
- Jarosz, G. (2019). Computational modeling of phonological learning. *Annual Review of Linguistics*, 5:67–90.
- Johnson, K. (2006). Resonance in exemplar-based lexicon: The emergence of social identity and phonology. *Journal of Phonetics*, 34:485–499.
- Kruszewski, M. (1883/1995). *Očrk Nauki O Jazyke (An outline of linguistic science)*. *Writings in general linguistics*, pages 43–173. John Benjamins.

## References III

- O'Hara, C. (2017). How abstract is more abstract? learning abstract underlying representations. *Phonology*, 34:325–345.
- Paramore, J. C. (2025). Learning covert URs via disparity minimization. In *Eighth Annual Meeting of the Society for Computation in Linguistics (SCiL)*, volume 8.
- Pierrehumbert, J. B. (2016). Phonological representation: Beyond abstract versus episodic. *Annual Review of Linguistics*, 2:33–52.
- Shackle, C. (2003). *Punjabi*, chapter 16, pages 581–621. Routledge Language Family Series. Routledge.
- Walker, R. (2003). *Reinterpreting transparency in nasal harmony*, pages 37–72. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.
- Wang, Y. and Hayes, B. (2025). Learning phonological underlying representations: the role of abstractness. *Linguistic Inquiry*.
- Wedel, A. B. (2004). *Self-organization and categorical behavior in phonology*. PhD thesis, University of California, Santa Cruz.
- Wedel, A. B. (2012). Lexical contrast maintenance and the organization of sublexical contrast systems. *Language and Cognition*, 4(4):319–355.
- Wilson, C. and Gallagher, G. (2018). Accidental gaps and surface-based phonotactic learning: A case study of South Bolivian Quechua. *Linguistic Inquiry*, 49(3):610–623.
- Zahid, S. and Hussain, S. (2012). An acoustic study of vowel nasalization in Punjabi. *Language & Technology*, 61.

## Appendix: 2 Lahori Speakers Nasality Pattern

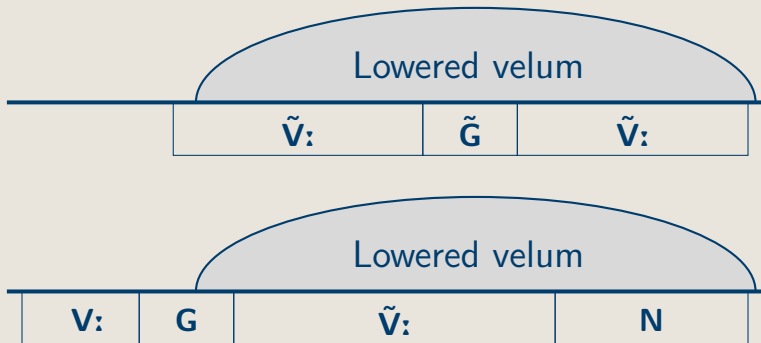


# Pathological Predictions with Complex Constraints

- ▶ Corpus test: Pakistani Punjabi Phonotactics
  - **pnbTenTen corpus** (2017) (Jakubíček et al., 2013)
  - 2.8-million word corpus from 5,351 webpages
  - Analyzed 3-gram sequences over broad natural classes: N, L, O, V:,  $\tilde{V}$ :
- ▶ Key Finding:
  - **Principled** Gap: \*[#NN]
  - **Accidental** Gap: \*[L $\tilde{V}$ :L]
    - Words like [lɑ:l] ‘red’ are abundant
    - Native speakers judge unattested [lã:l] as acceptable

## Alternative 2: A fixed nasalization window

- ▶ Harmony reflects a constant-sized nasal gesture (Beddor, 2007)
- ▶ Nasal gesture anchored to the rightmost nasal segment edge

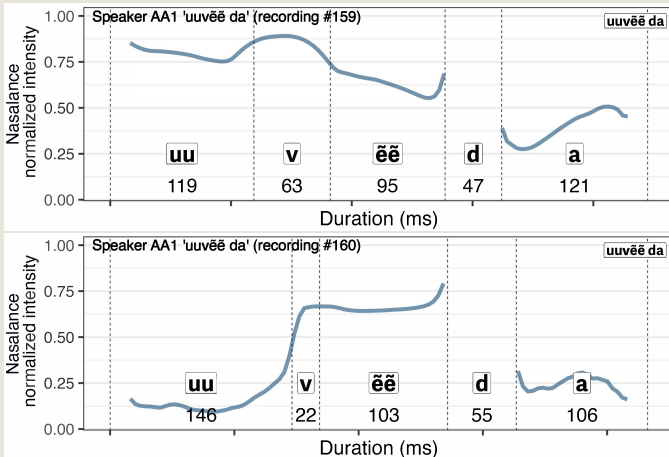


Adapted from Beddor (2007, p.249)

## Alternative 2: A fixed nasalization window

Two problems with this analysis:

1. Fixed nasalization window incompatible with harmony optionality



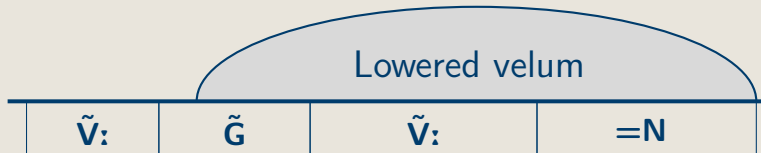
## Alternative 2: A fixed nasalization window

Two problems with this analysis:

2. Incorrect predictions for contrastive nasal  $\tilde{V}$ := $NV$  forms
  - Contrastive nasal  $\tilde{V}$ : forms in exp2 also elicited with  $NV$  postpositions

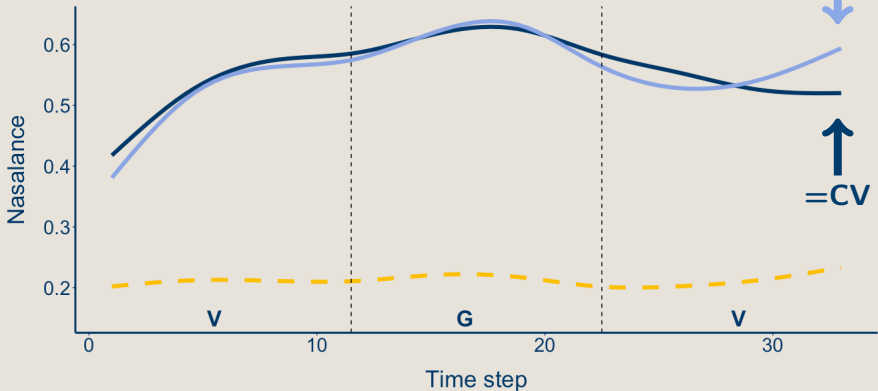
contrastive nas. $\tilde{V}$ := $CV$ (8)	contrastive nas. $\tilde{V}$ := $NV$ (8)
/tʃa:uẽ: də/ 'pumicstone' (GEN)	/tʃa:uẽ: nũ/ 'pumicstone' (ACC)
/sa:-uã: də/ 'breaths' (GEN)	/sa:-uã: nẽ/ 'breaths' (ERG)
/ti:uĩ: də/ 'woman' (GEN)	/ti:uĩ: nẽ/ 'woman' (ERG)

- Nasalization window should shift right in presence of  $NV$



## Alternative 2: A fixed nasalization window

- ▶ No shift in nasality observed



## Appendix: Constraint Definitions I

- i. **SPRD-L[NAS]** (cf. Walker, 2003, p.47)  
For every occurrence of a [+NAS] feature in a prosodic word, if that [+NAS] feature is dominated by some segment, assign a violation for every segment to the left of that segment that does not dominate the [+NAS] feature.
- ii. **\*NASOBS** (Walker, 2003, p.51)  
Assign a violation for every obstruent that dominates a [+NAS] feature.
- iii. **\*NASG** (Walker, 2003, p.51))  
Assign a violation for every glide that dominates a [+NAS] feature.
- iv. **\*NASV** (Walker, 2003, p.51))  
Assign a violation for every vowel that dominates a [+NAS] feature.
- v. **\*VN**  
Assign a violation for every vowel that dominates a [-NAS] feature when directly preceding a nasal consonant.
- vi. **ID[NAS]**  
For every segment, *A*, assign a violation if the output value for the [NAS] feature dominated by *A* does not match the input value for the [NAS] feature dominated by *A*.

## Appendix: Constraint Definitions II

vii. ID<sub>FIN</sub>[NAS]

For every segment, *A*, assign a violation if the output value for the [NAS] feature dominated by *A* does not match the input value for the [NAS] feature dominated by *A* in the final syllable of a prosodic word.

viii. ID<sub>[NAS]</sub>/—V

Let *A* be a segment that occurs before an oral vowel, *V*, in the input. Assign one violation if the output correspondent of *A* does not have the same specifications for [NAS] as *A*.

ix. ID<sub>[RD]</sub>

For every segment, *A*, assign a violation if the output value for the [RD] feature dominated by *A* does not match the input value for the [RD] feature dominated by *A*.

x. \*LOW<sub>RD</sub>

Assign a violation for every vowel that dominates a [RD] feature and a [LOW] feature simultaneously.

xi. ID<sub>[VOC]</sub>

For every segment, *A*, assign a violation if the output value for the [VOC] feature dominated by *A* does not match the input value for the [VOC] feature dominated by *A*.