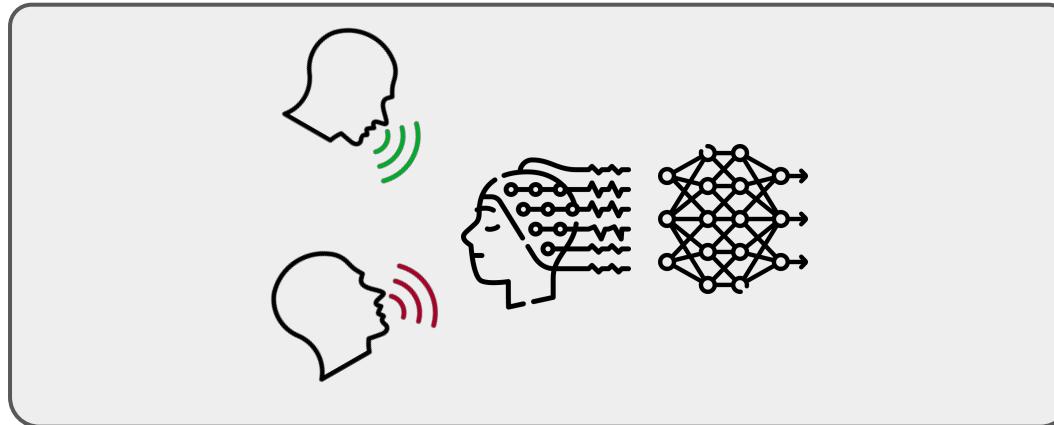


# Exploring Foundation Models for Auditory Attention Decoding

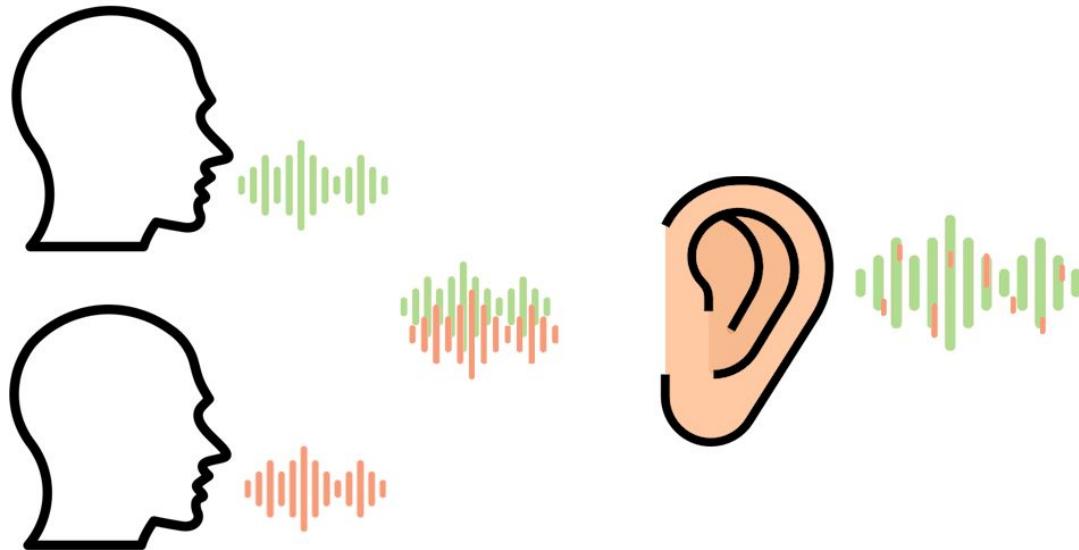


Rasmus Steen Mikkelsen (s204135)  
Victor Tolsager Olesen (s204141)

# Introduction

# Introduction

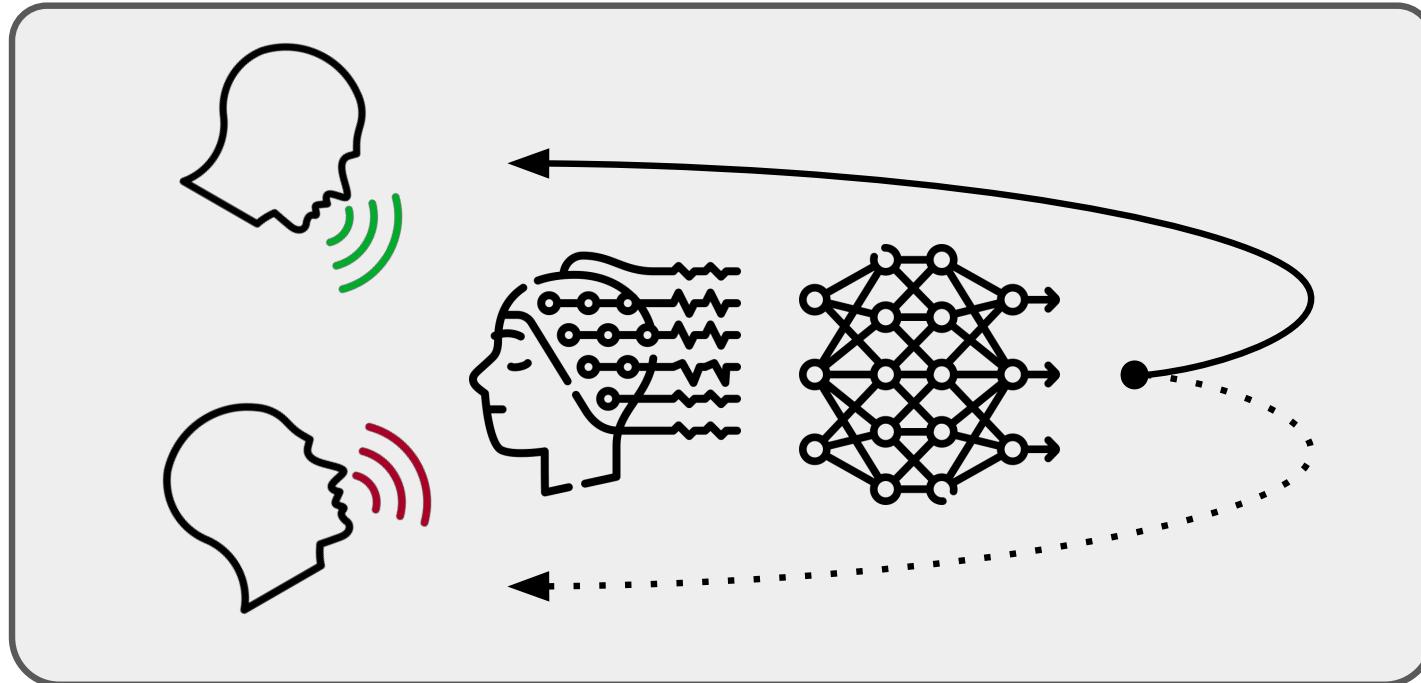
- Cocktail party effect
- Hearing aid users



# Introduction

## Auditory Attention Decoding

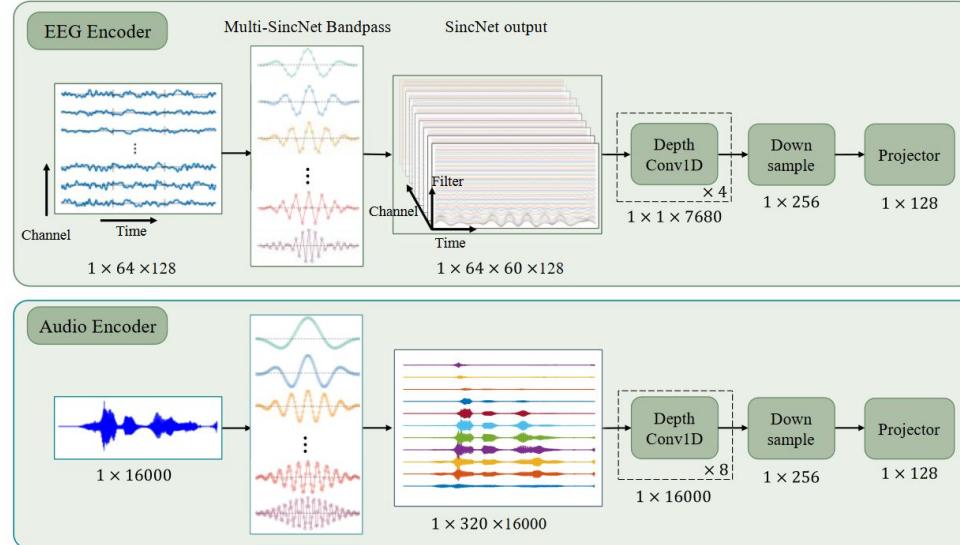
- AAD: Audio+EEG  $\rightarrow$  Attention
- Decision window: Time segment used to predict



# Introduction

## Foundation models

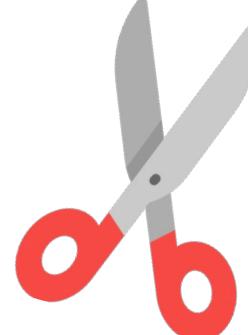
- Foundation Models
- SOTA AAD Models



NLP  
BERT



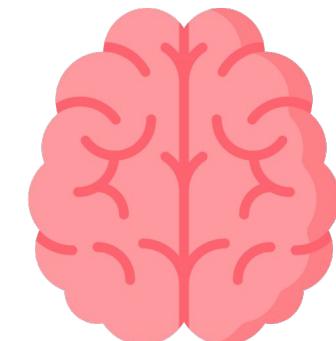
Vision+Text  
CLIP



Audio+Text  
CLAP



EEG  
LaBraM



# Introduction

## Research questions



**RQ1:** How do CLAP and LaBraM perform as pretrained feature extractors for auditory attention decoding?

**RQ2:** How does contrastive learning compare to supervised classification for training robust AAD models using CLAP and LaBraM?

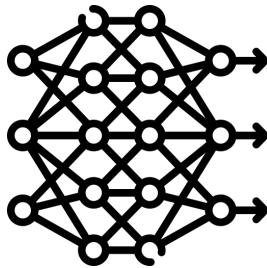
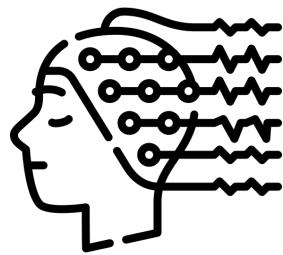
**RQ3:** How does the length of decision windows affect performance?

# Literature Review

# Literature Review

## Signal Reconstruction

### Backwards Approach

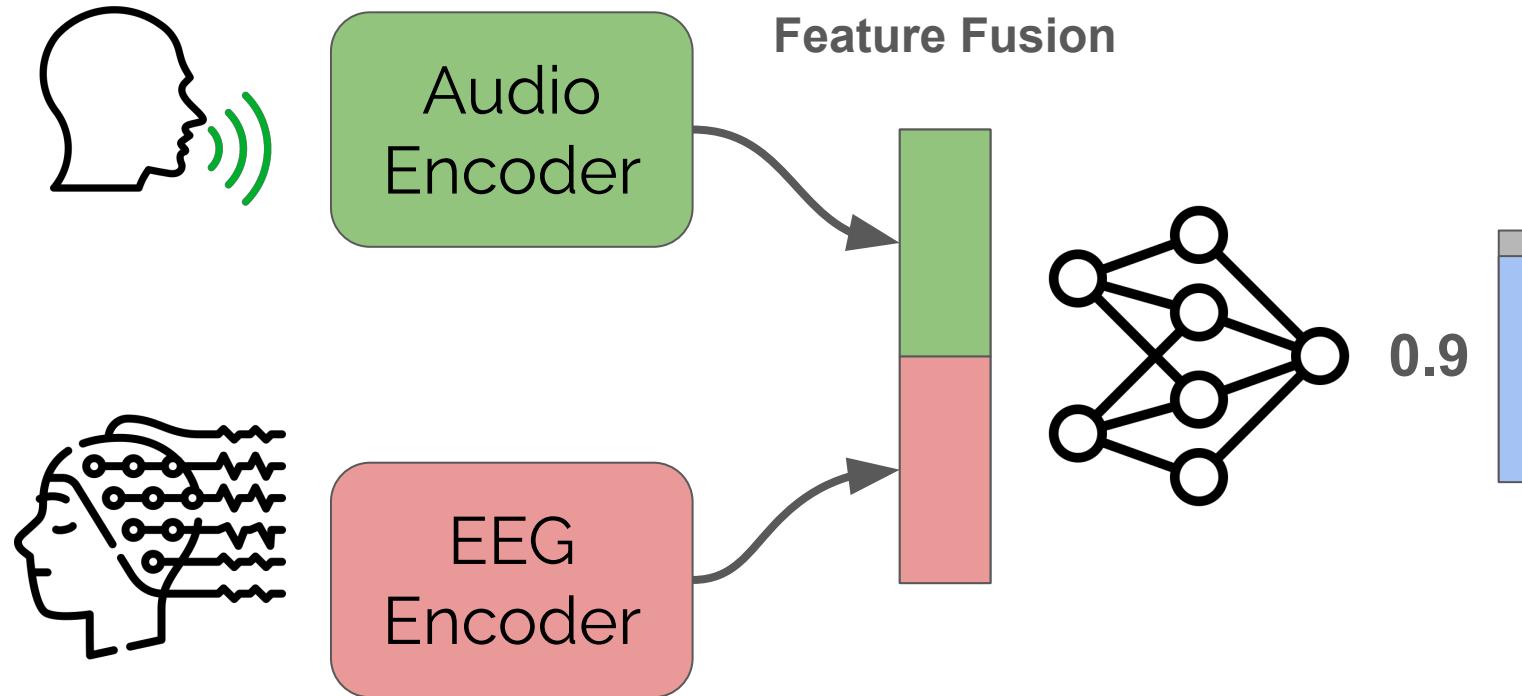


Correlation



# Literature Review

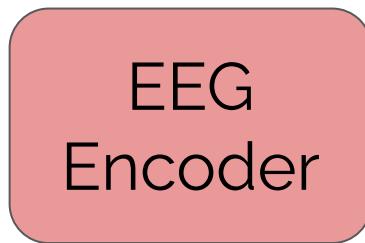
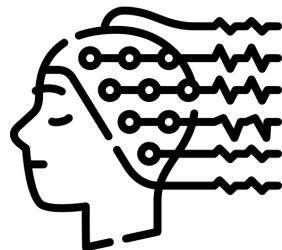
## Direct Classification



# Literature Review

ASAD

## Auditory Spatial Attention Decoding



# Literature Review

## Why Direct Classification?

*[..] the process of stimulus reconstruction [...] is not optimized to effectively detect attention. [...] the compression of multichannel EEG signals into a single waveform through stimulus reconstruction reduces the available information for analysis<sup>1</sup>*

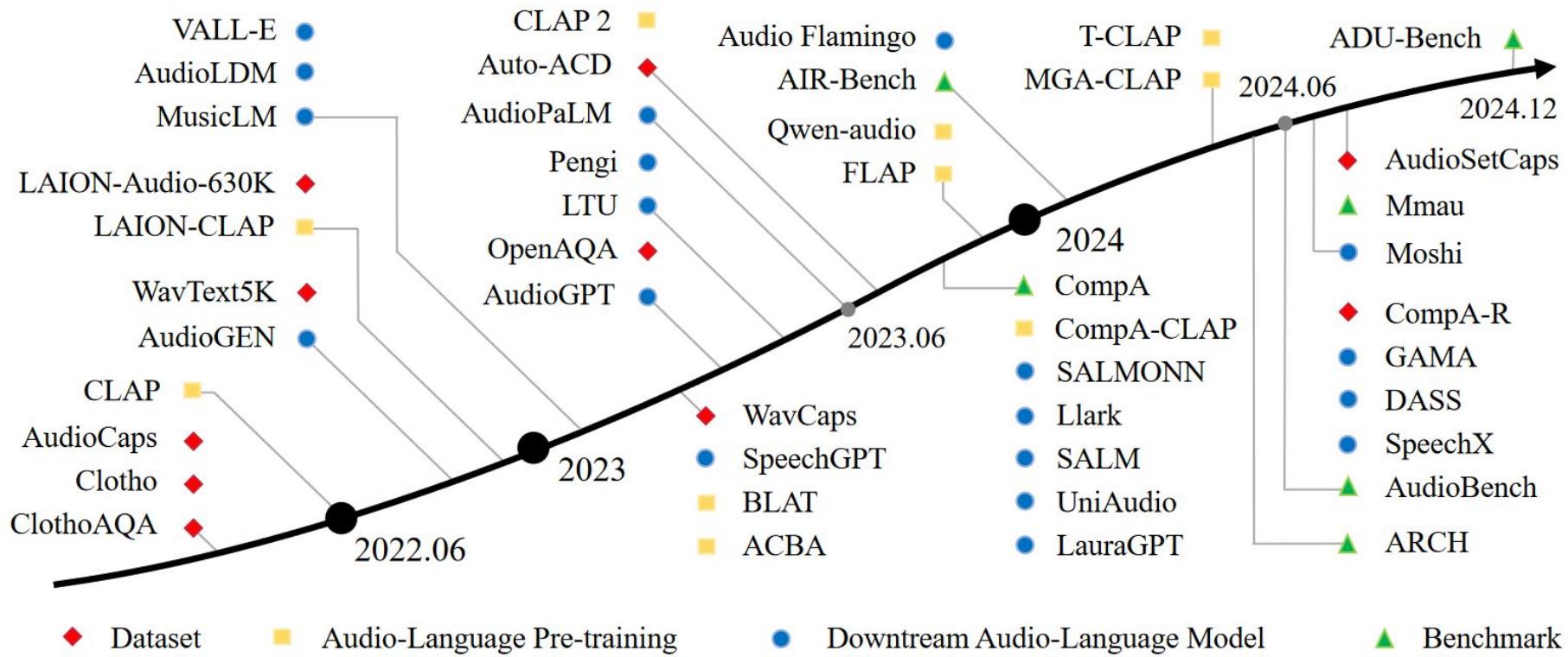
*[...] correlation between the reconstructed and the attended speech envelopes is generally weak<sup>2</sup>*

[1]: Siqi Cai et al. "EEG-based Auditory Attention Detection in Cocktail Party Environment."

[2]: Enze Su et al. "STAnet: A Spatiotemporal Attention Network for Decoding Auditory Spatial Attention From EEG."

# Literature Review

## Audio Foundation Models



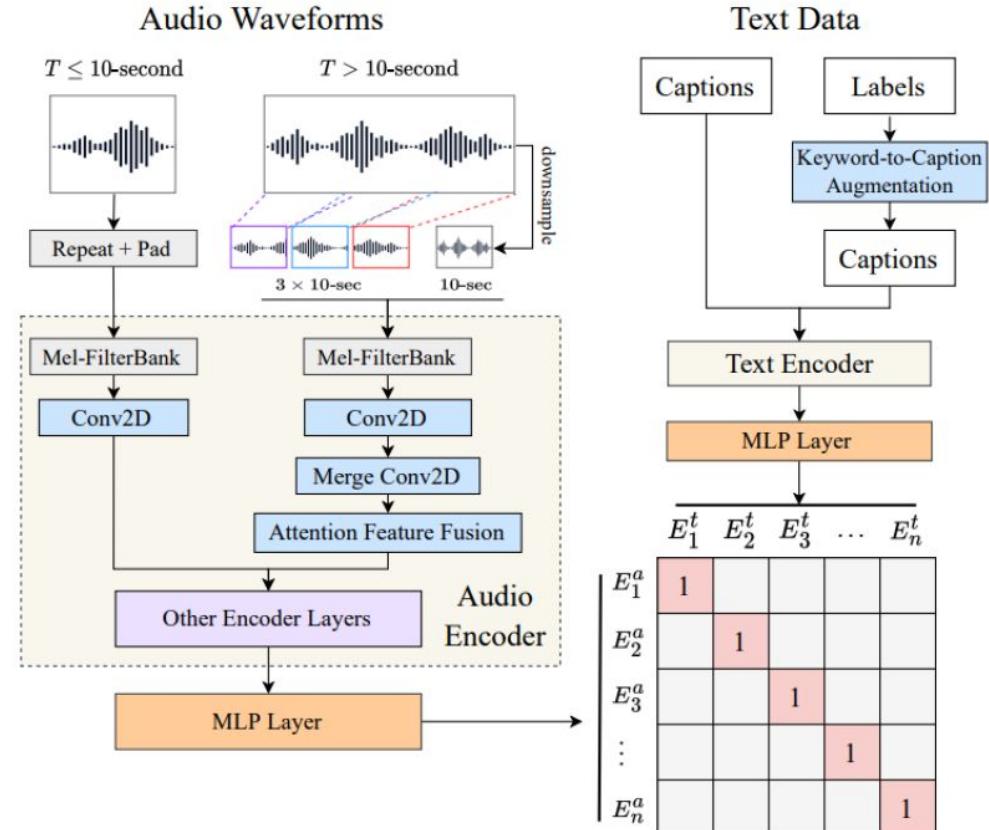
# Literature Review

## LAION-CLAP

- Contrastive Language Audio Pretraining (CLAP)
- Trained on multiple datasets



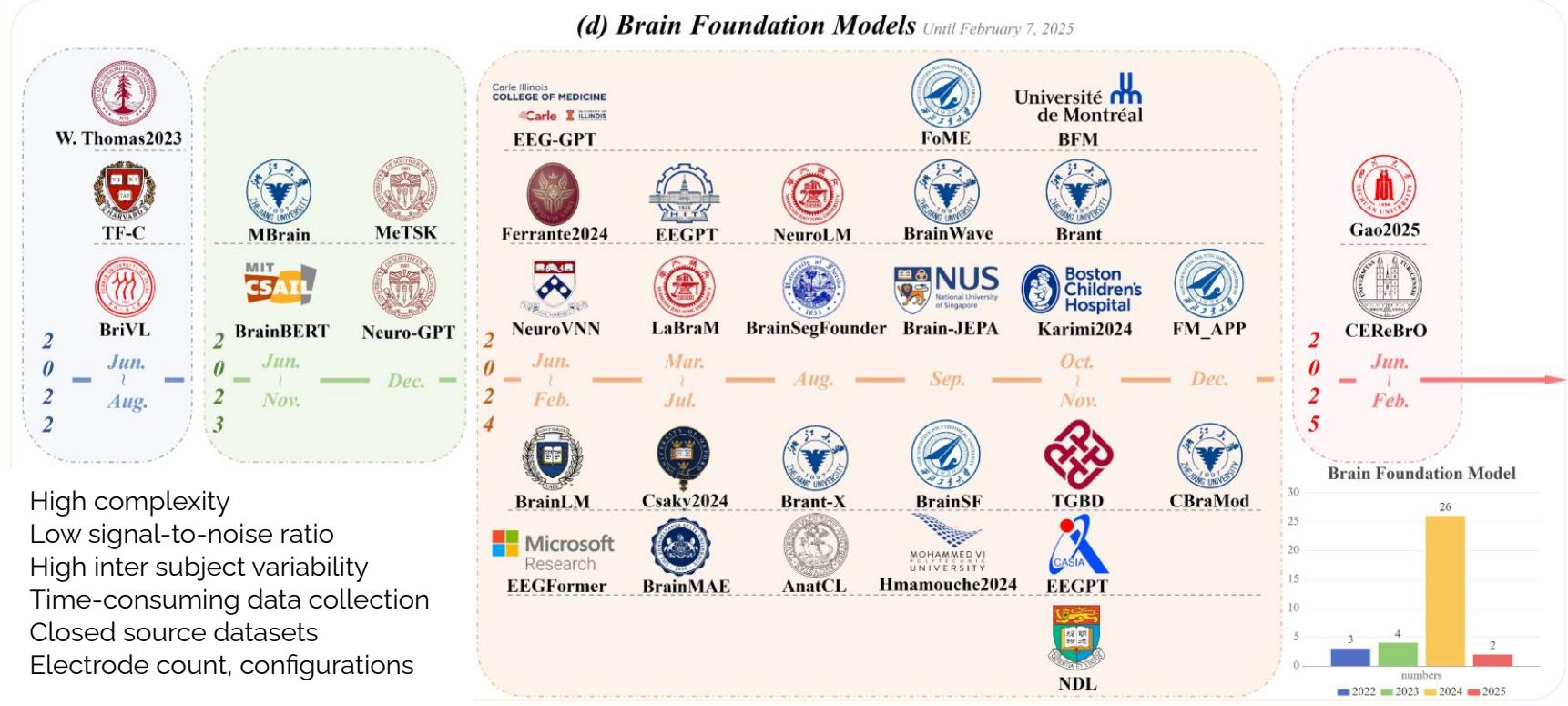
*A group of people standing on the street near a busy freeway.*



# Literature Review

## Brain Foundation Models

(d) **Brain Foundation Models** Until February 7, 2025



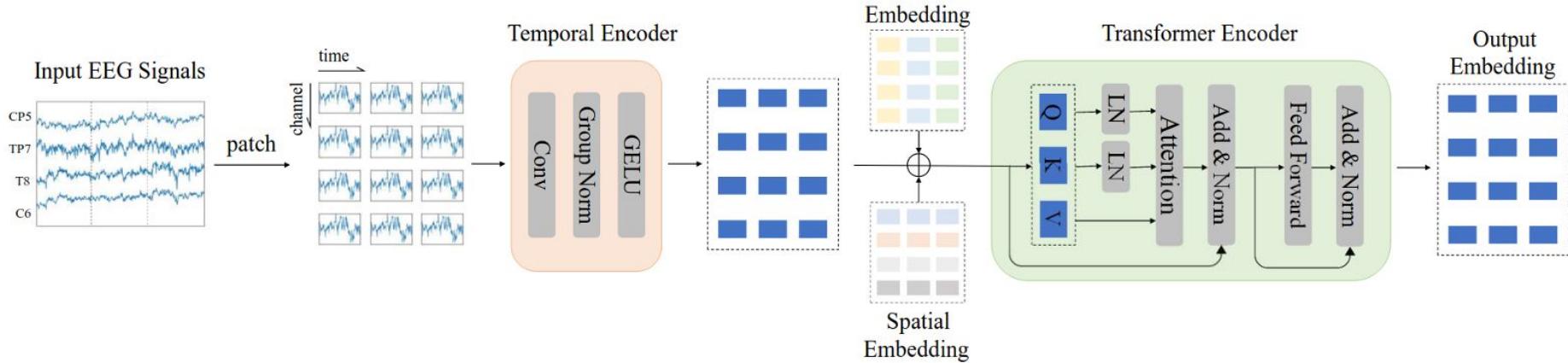
- High complexity
- Low signal-to-noise ratio
- High inter subject variability
- Time-consuming data collection
- Closed source datasets
- Electrode count, configurations

# Literature Review

## LaBraM

- Large Brain Model (LaBraM)

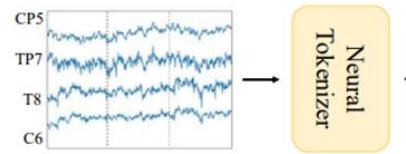
## Neural Transformer



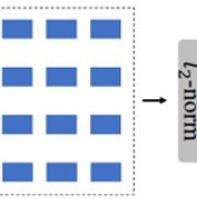
# Literature Review

## LaBraM Pretraining

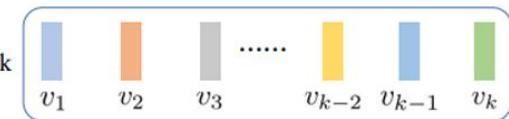
### Neural Tokenizer Training



Neural  
Tokenizer



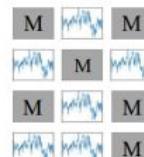
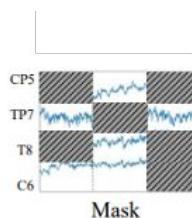
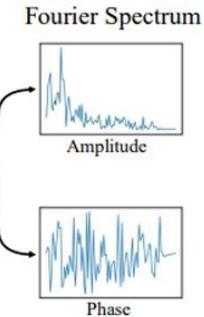
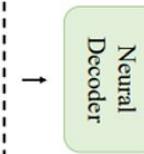
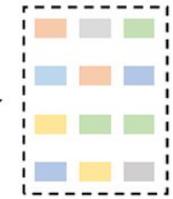
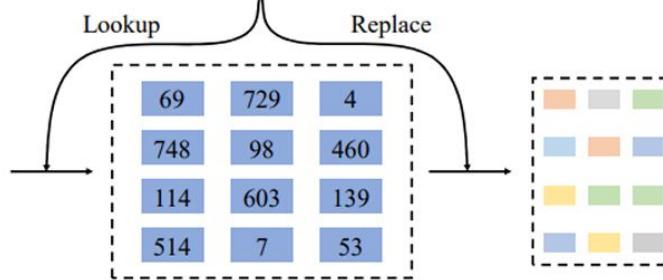
$l_2$ -norm



$l_2$ -norm

Lookup

Replace



Temporal Encoder

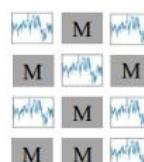
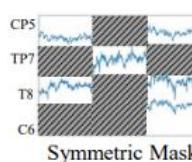
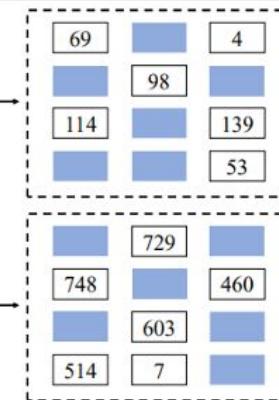
Temporal & Spatial Embedding

Transformer Block 1

Transformer Block 2

Transformer Block L

Token Prediction Head



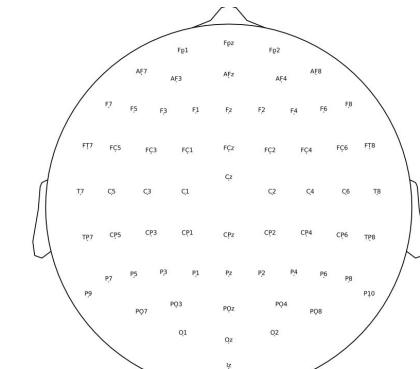
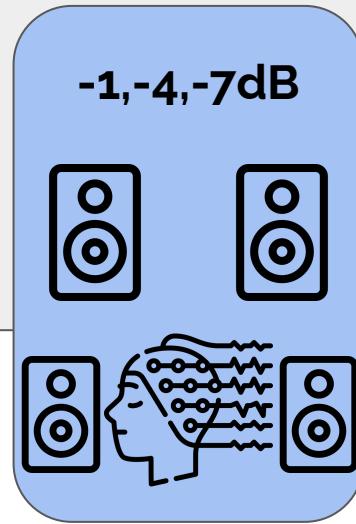
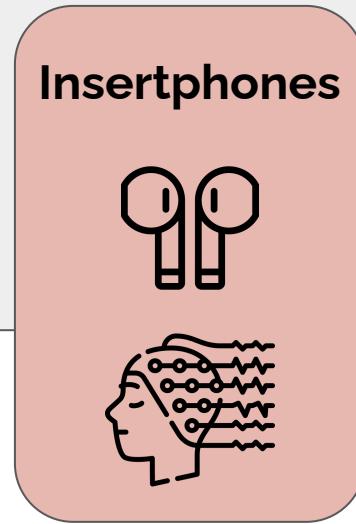
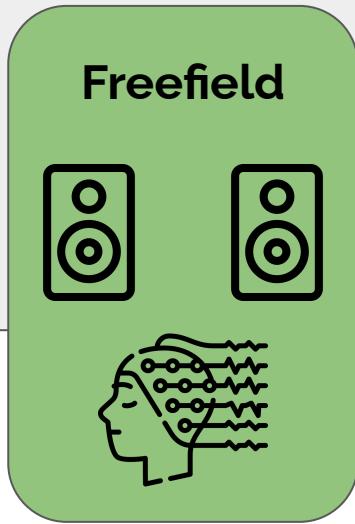
LaBraM Pre-training

# Data

# Data

## Overview

- 26 subjects
- Five conditions
- Male audio clips: 200, Female audio clips: 165
- Trial length: 1 minute



# Data

## Missing data

- 3 subjects missing, left with 23 subjects
- 3364 trials

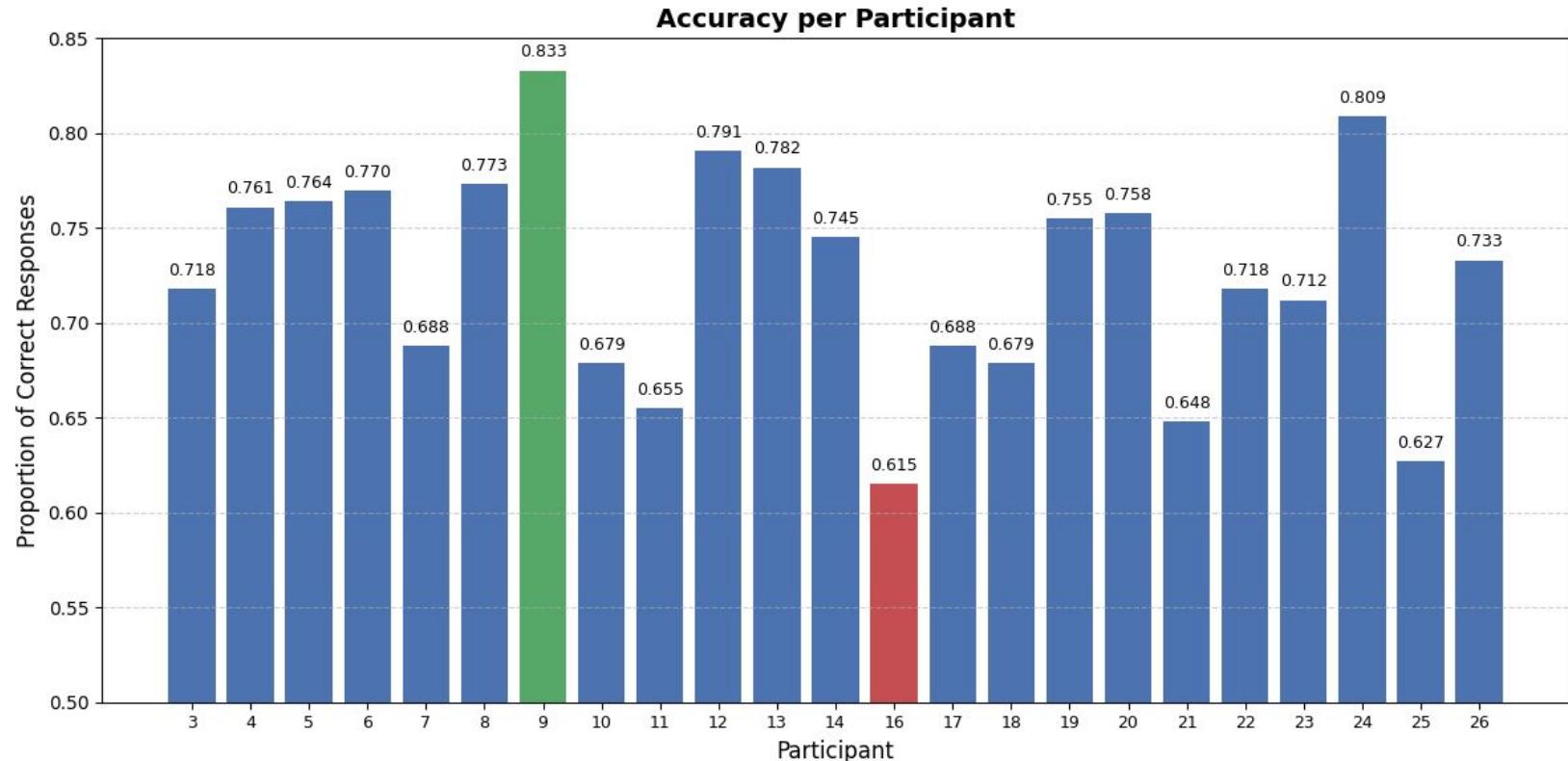
Subject	1	2	4	5	8	14	15	16	23	25
Insert	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓
Free	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗
-1dB	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓
-4dB	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓
-7dB	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓

Subject	Condition	# Missing	Trials
10	Insert	16	
20	-7dB	11	
26	Insert	16	
26	-4dB	15	

# Data

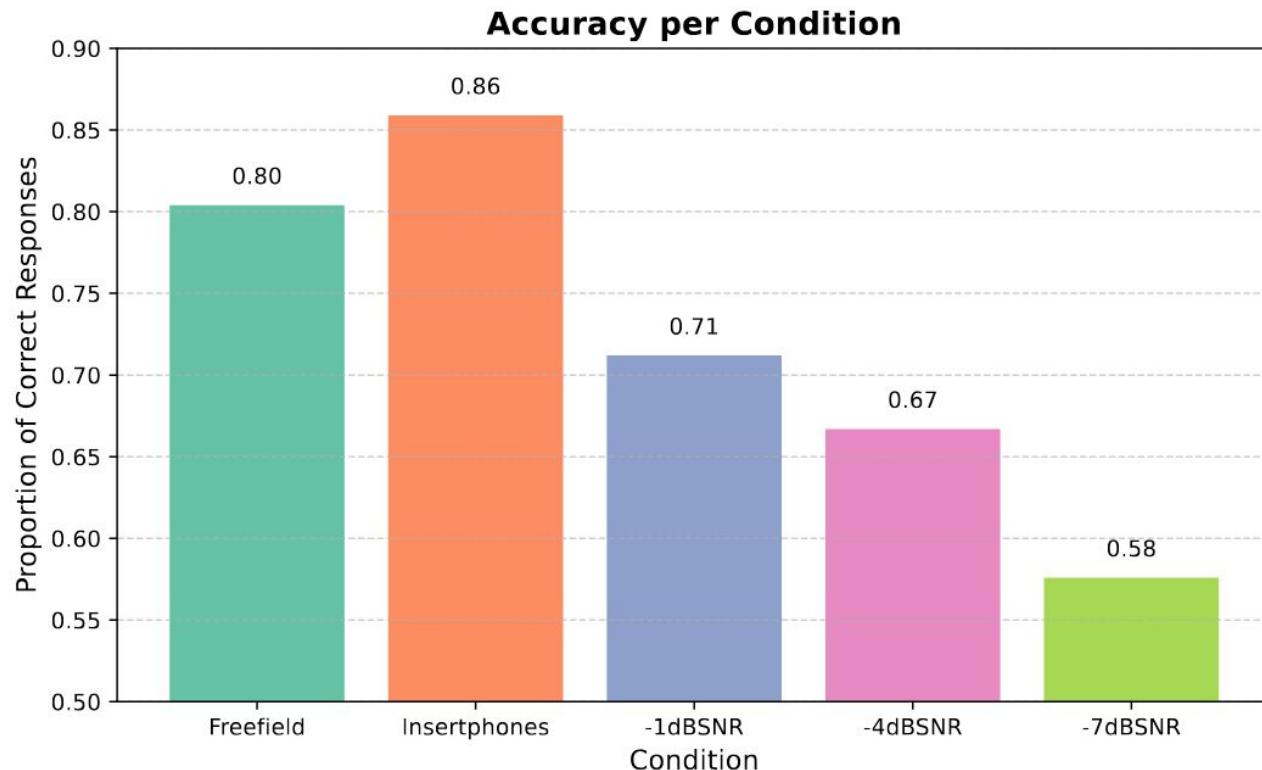
Response accuracy

2 yes/no questions per trial



# Data

## Response accuracy



# Data

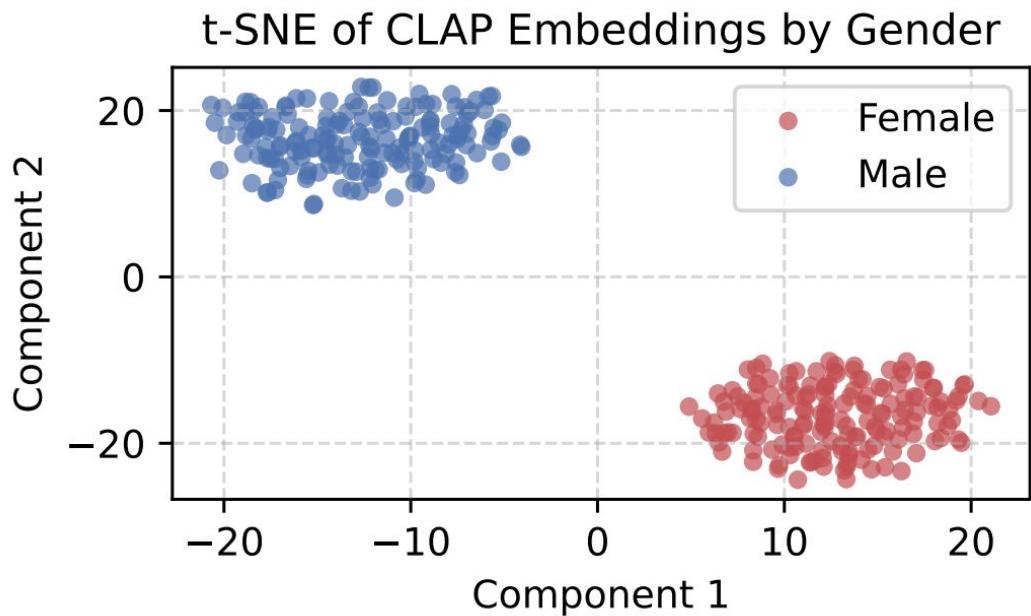
## Preprocessing

1. EEG was bandpass filtered between 0.5-30Hz
2. Independent Component Analysis (ICA) to remove EEG artifacts
3. EEG downsampled from 8192Hz → 200Hz
4. Audio upsampled from 44100Hz → 48000Hz

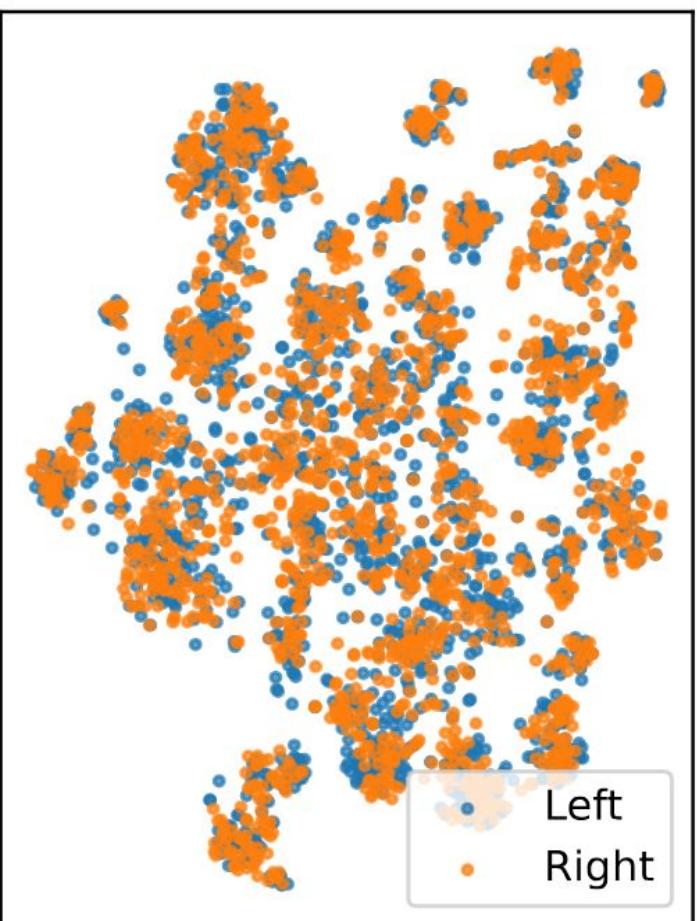


# Data

## Data visualization



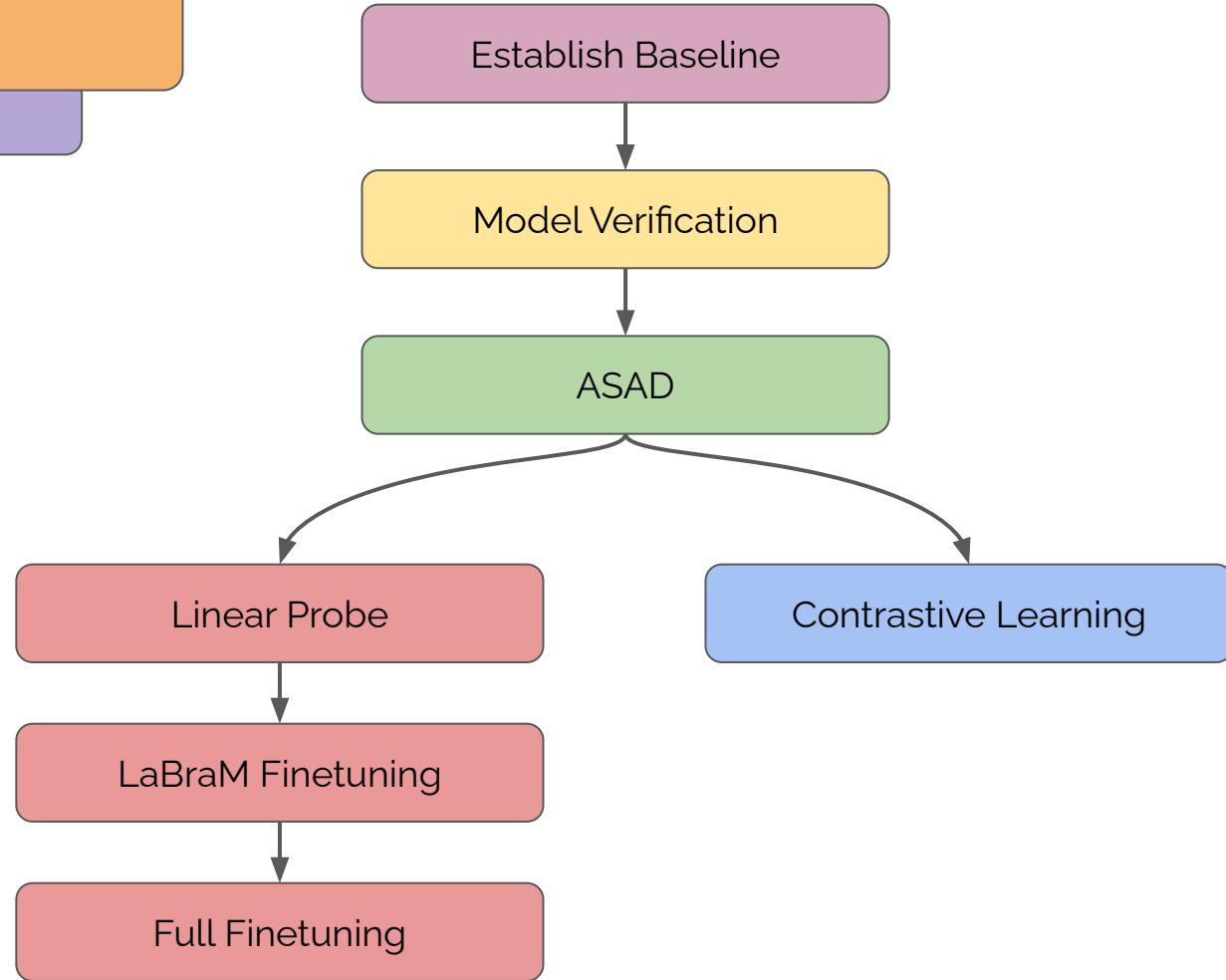
## Direction as label



# Methodology

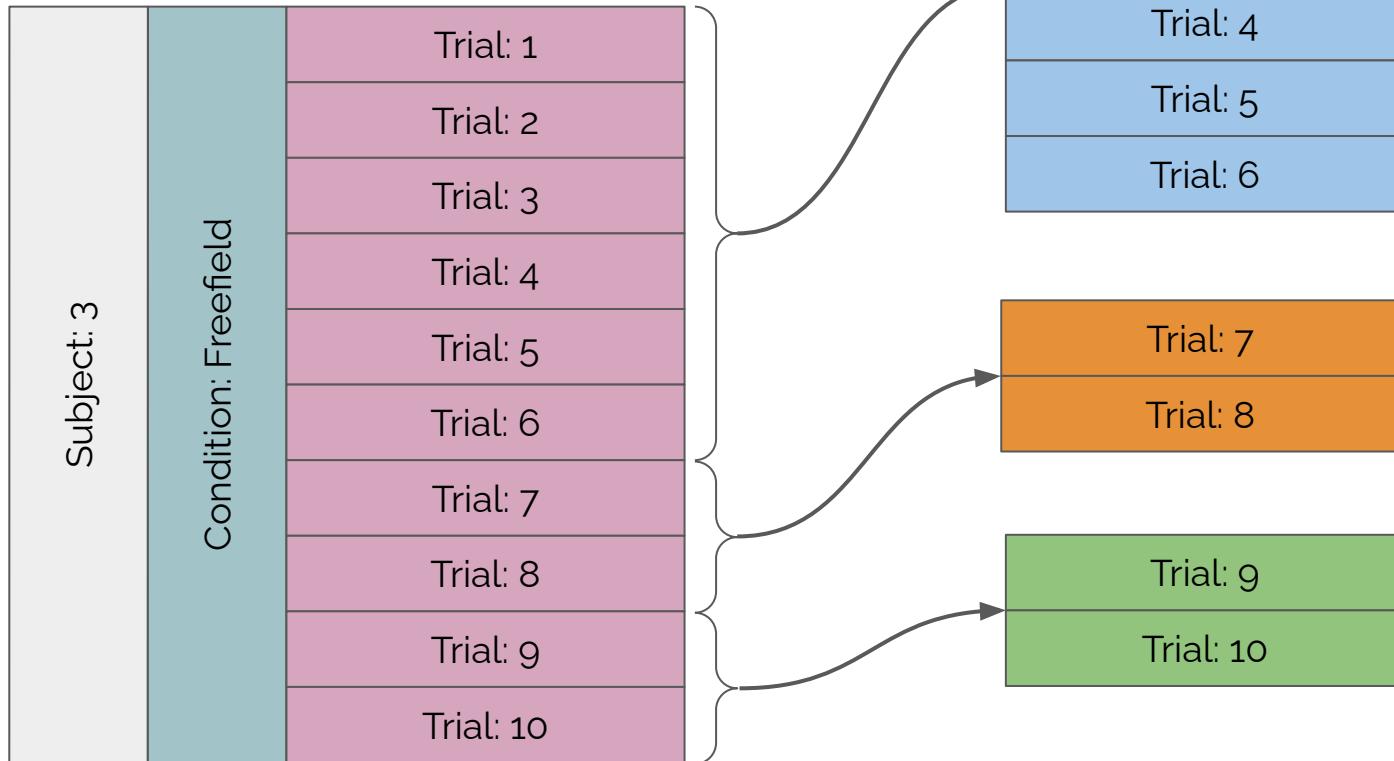
# Methodology

Process



# Methodology

Data Split - Temporal



Train  
60%

Validation  
20%

Test  
20%

# Methodology

Data Split - Audio Disjoint

Male Audio 1
Female Audio 1
Male Audio 2
Female Audio 2
Male Audio 3
Female Audio 3
Male Audio 4
Female Audio 4
Male Audio 5
Female Audio 5

Male Audio 1
Female Audio 1
Male Audio 2
Female Audio 2
Male Audio 3
Female Audio 3

Male Audio 4
Female Audio 4

Male Audio 5
Female Audio 5

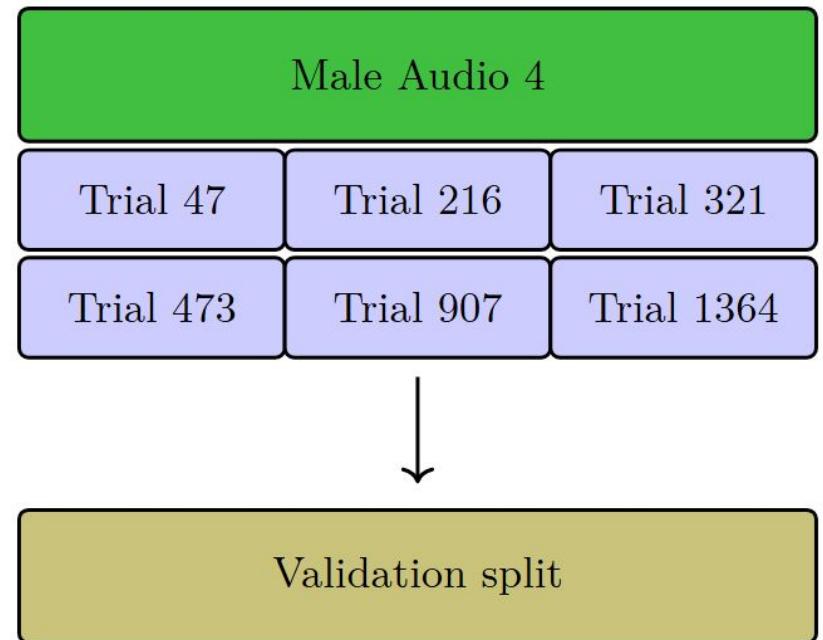
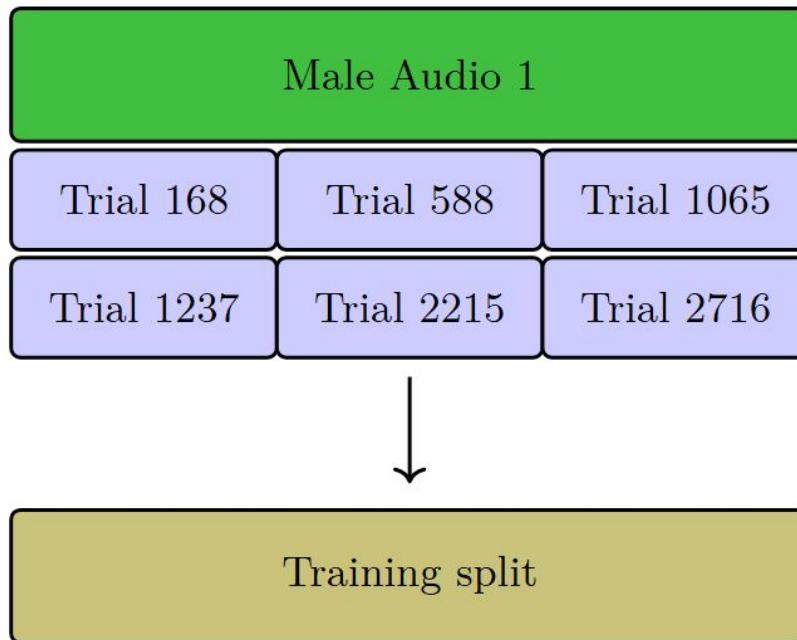
Train  
60%

Validation  
20%

Test  
20%

# Methodology

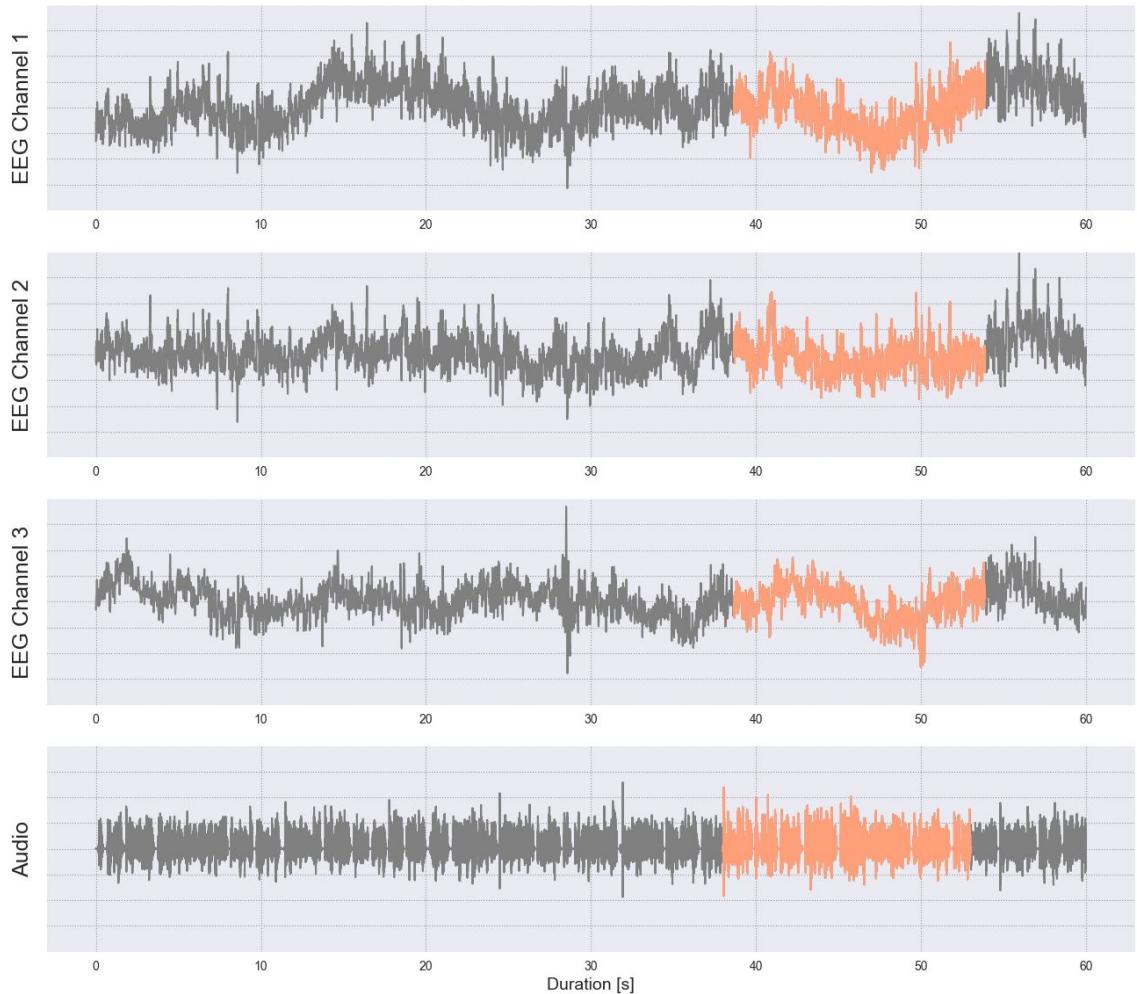
Data Split - Audio Disjoint



# Methodology

## Trial sampling

- Randomized trial segments
- Fixed validation segments
- Three augmentations:
  - Channel dropout
  - FT Surrogate
  - Time Reverse



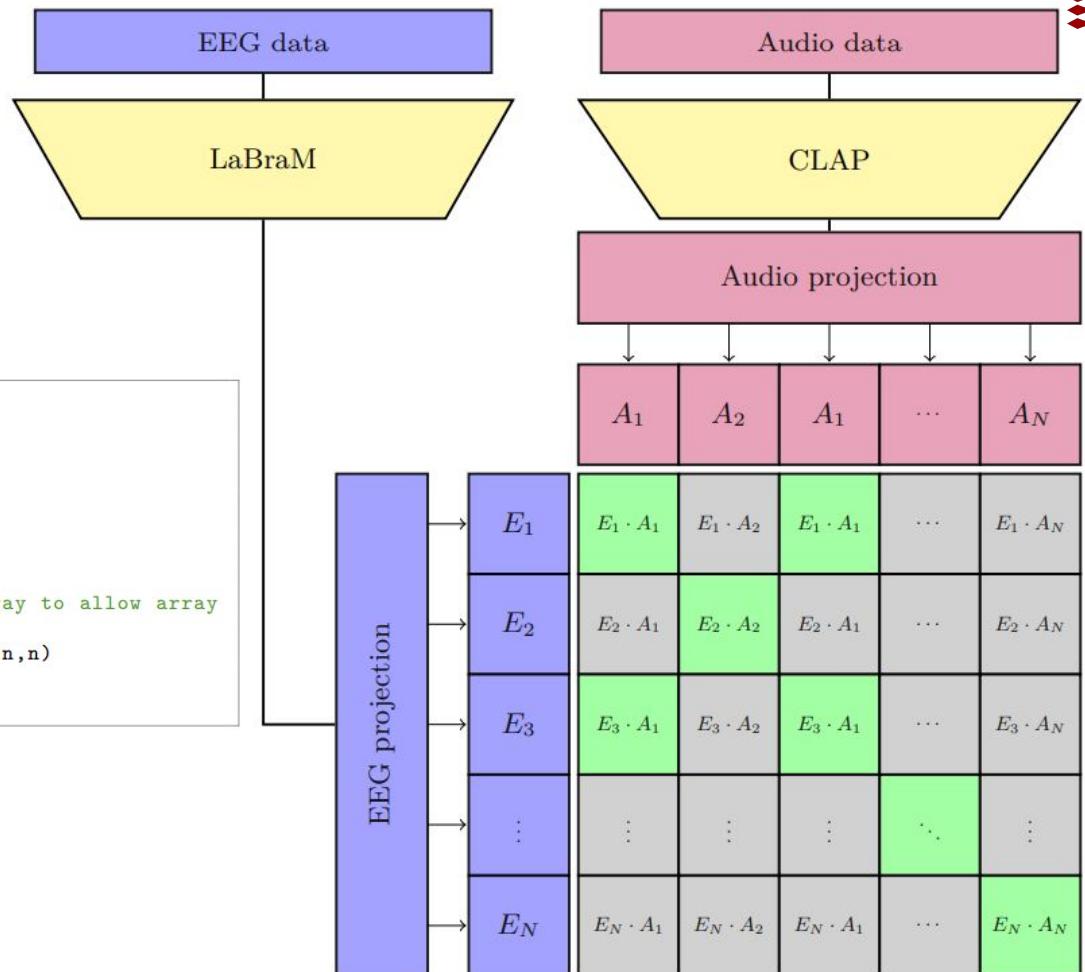
# Methodology

## Contrastive learning

```

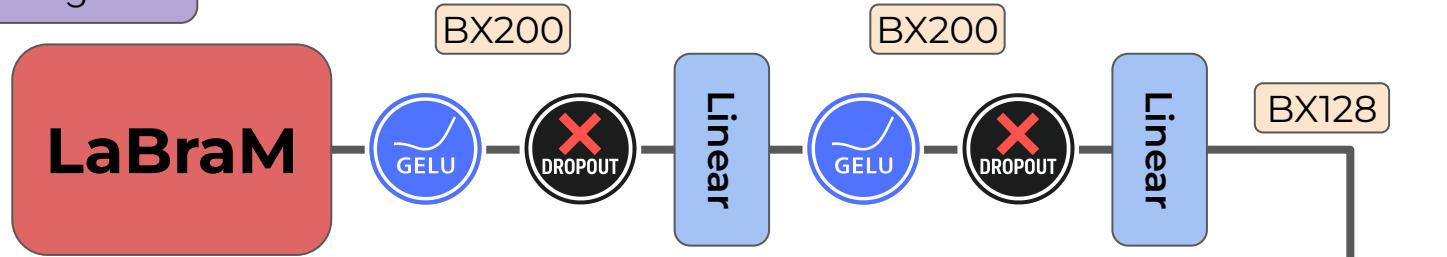
1 # eeg_embed - EEG model embedding [n, d]
2 # audio_embed - Audio model embedding [n, d]
3 # target_ids - ids of audio segments [n]
4 # b, t_prime - learnable bias and temperature
5 # n - mini-batch size
6 eeg_embed_z = 12_normalize(eeg_embed)
7 audio_embed_z = 12_normalize(audio_embed)
8 t = exp(t_prime)
9 # ~ is used as a short hand for adding a new axis to an array to allow array
   broadcasting
10 labels = 2 * (target_ids[:, ~] == target_ids[~, :]) - ones(n,n)
11 logits = dot(eeg_embed_z, audio_embed_z.T) * t + b
12 loss = -sum(log_sigmoid(labels * logits)) / n

```

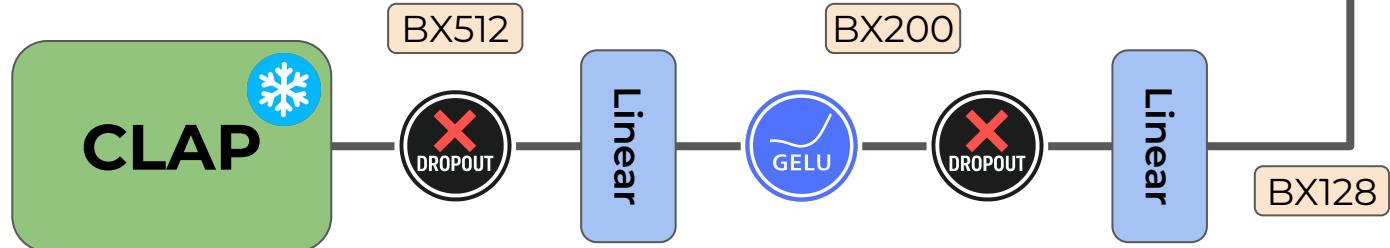


# Methodology

Contrastive learning



Dropout: 0.08  
LR: 5e-4  
Scheduler: OneCycle  
Batch size: 32



# Results & Discussion

# Results & Discussion

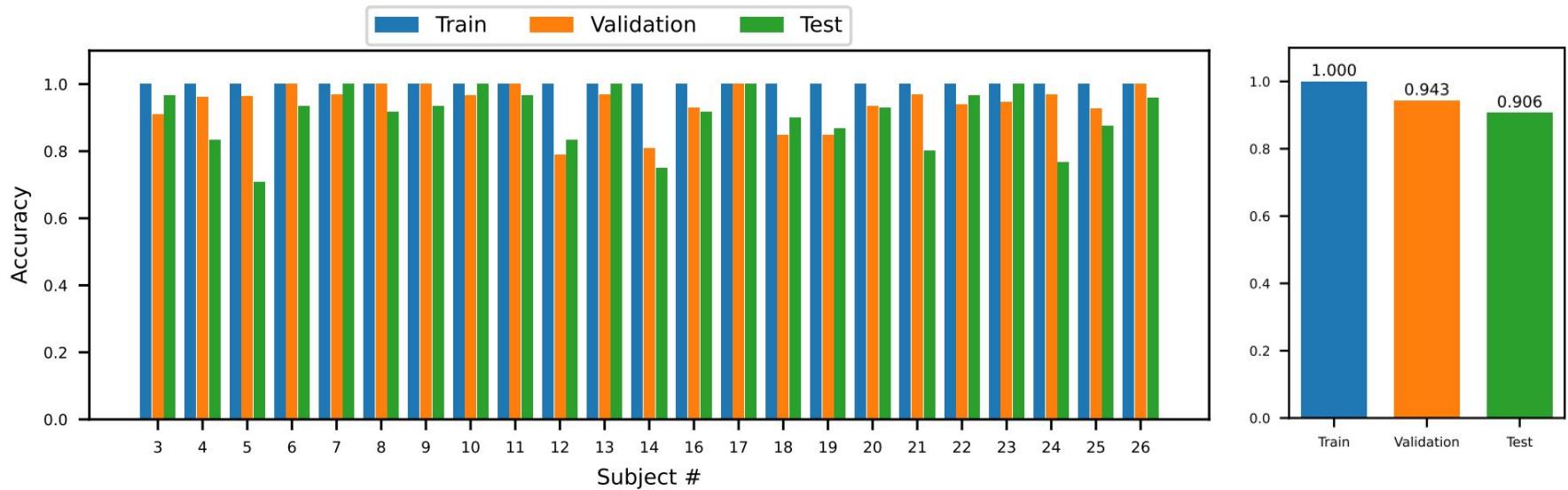
## Baseline

- Each experiment used a 15 second decision window
- Only ran experiments with a single seed
- Backwards model

# Conditions	Validation accuracy	Test accuracy
Two conditions	0.643	0.604
Five conditions	0.564	0.568

# Results & Discussion

## Condition classification

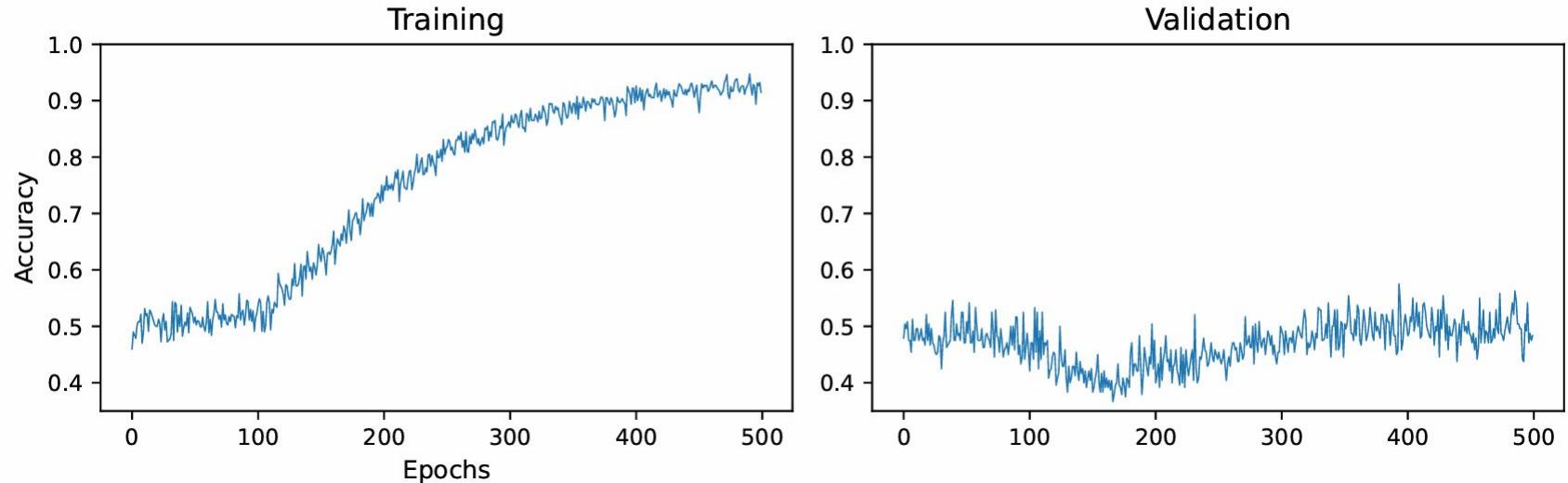


# Results & Discussion

## Contrastive learning

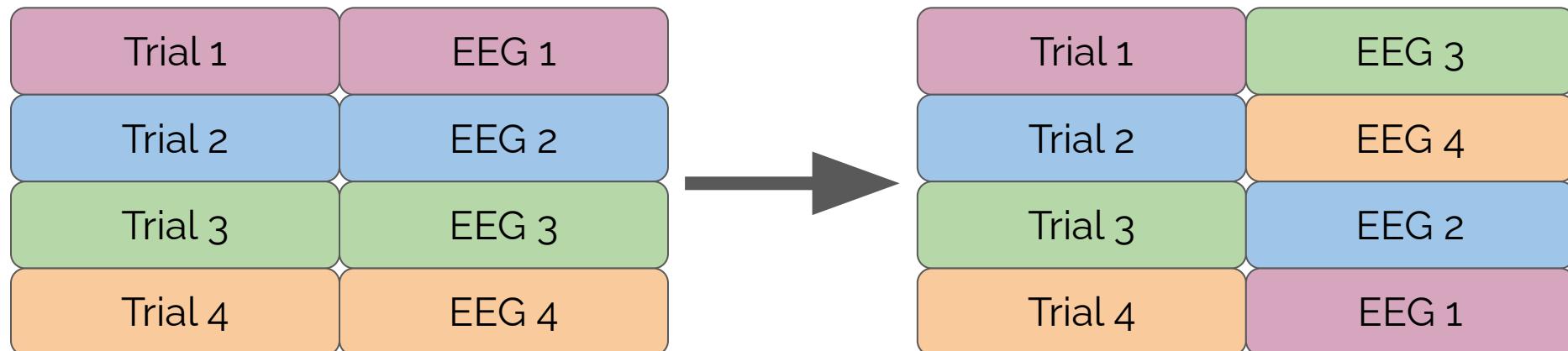
- Overfitting
- Memorization

### Temporal Split



# Results & Discussion

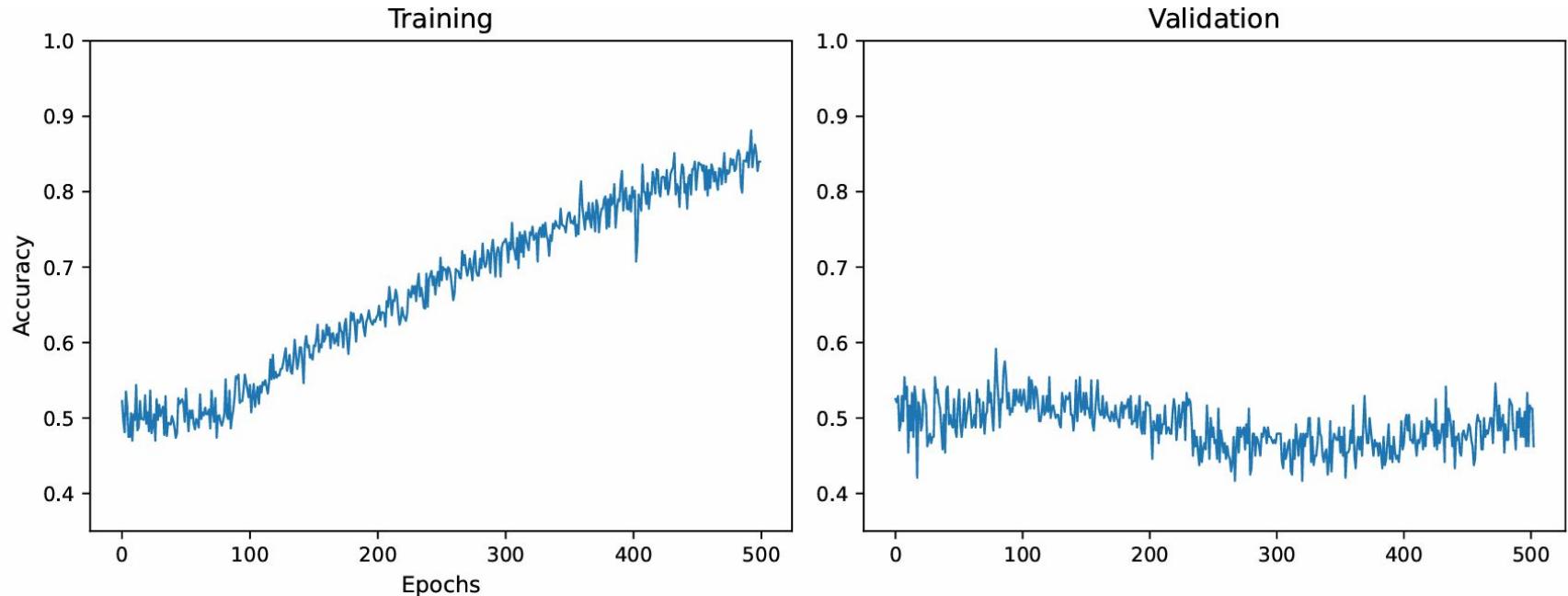
## Contrastive learning



# Results & Discussion

## Contrastive learning

### Temporal Split with mismatched EEG

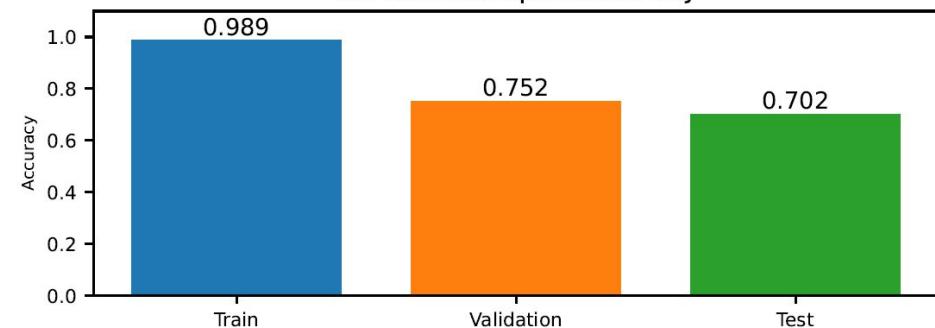


# Results & Discussion

## Contrastive learning

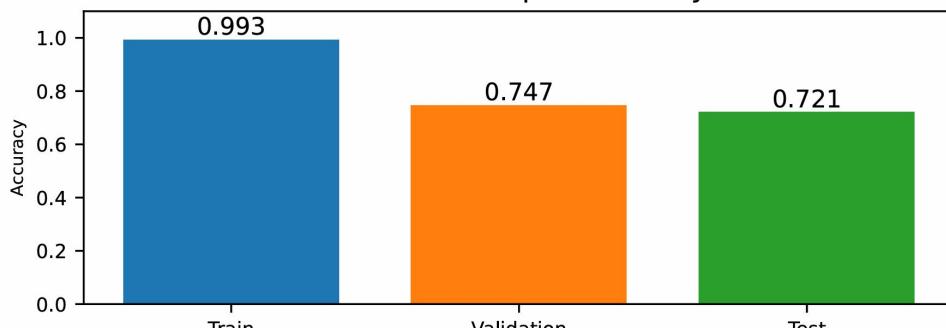
### Noise-free conditions

Contrastive split accuracy



### All conditions

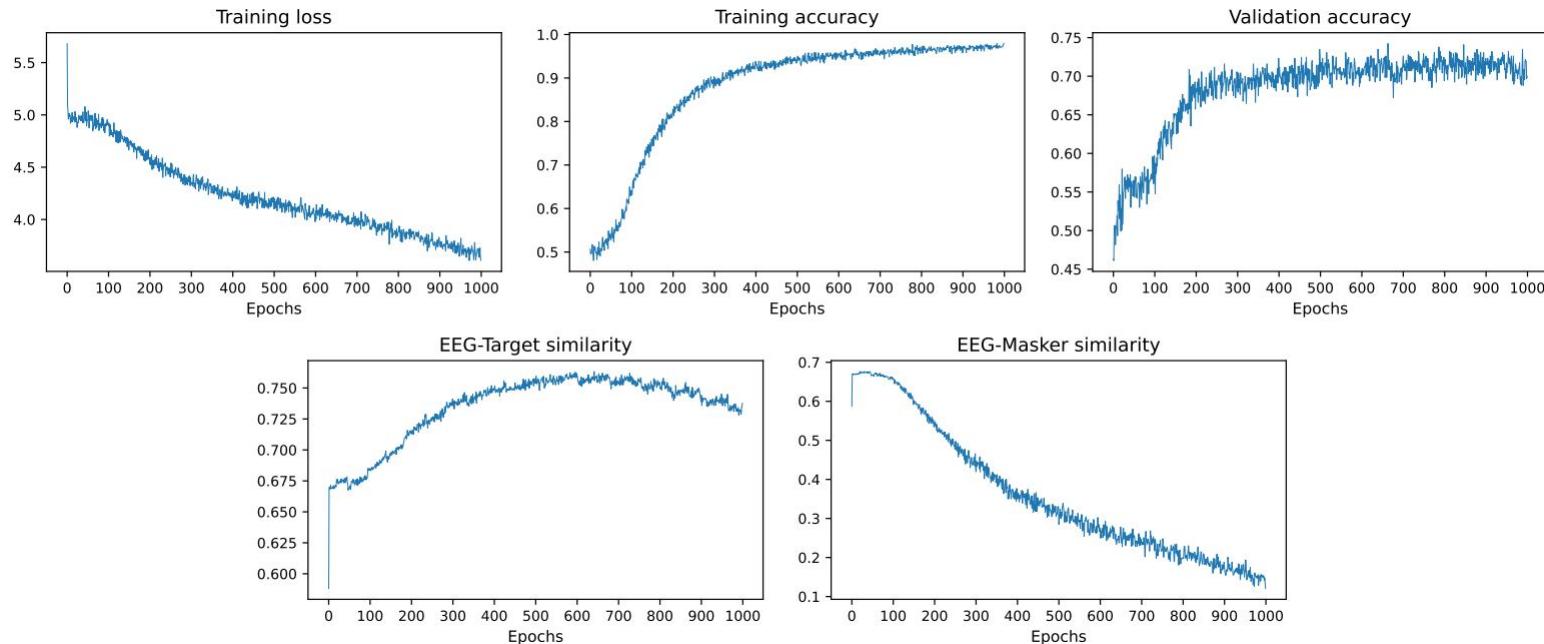
Contrastive split accuracy



# Results & Discussion

## Contrastive learning

### All conditions

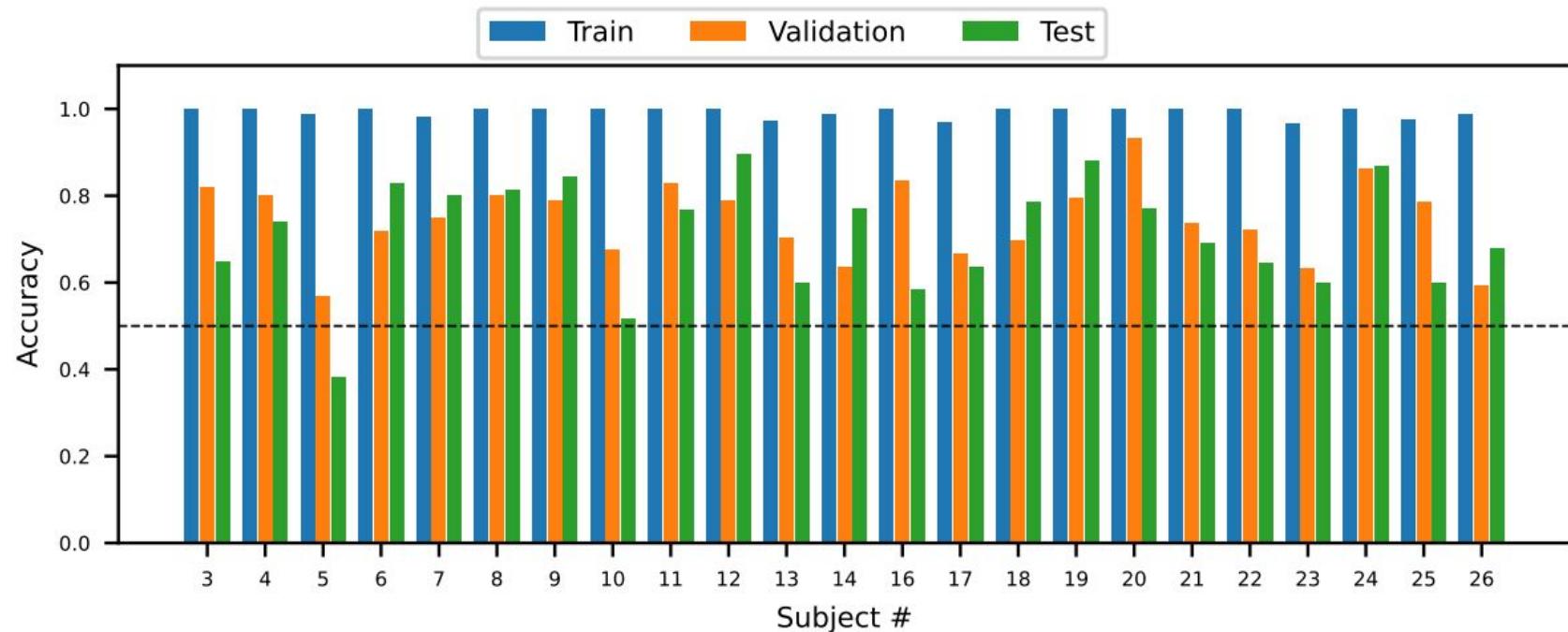


# Results & Discussion

## Contrastive learning

- Better than random guessing
- High response accuracy + no missing data-> high model accuracy (9, 12, 24)

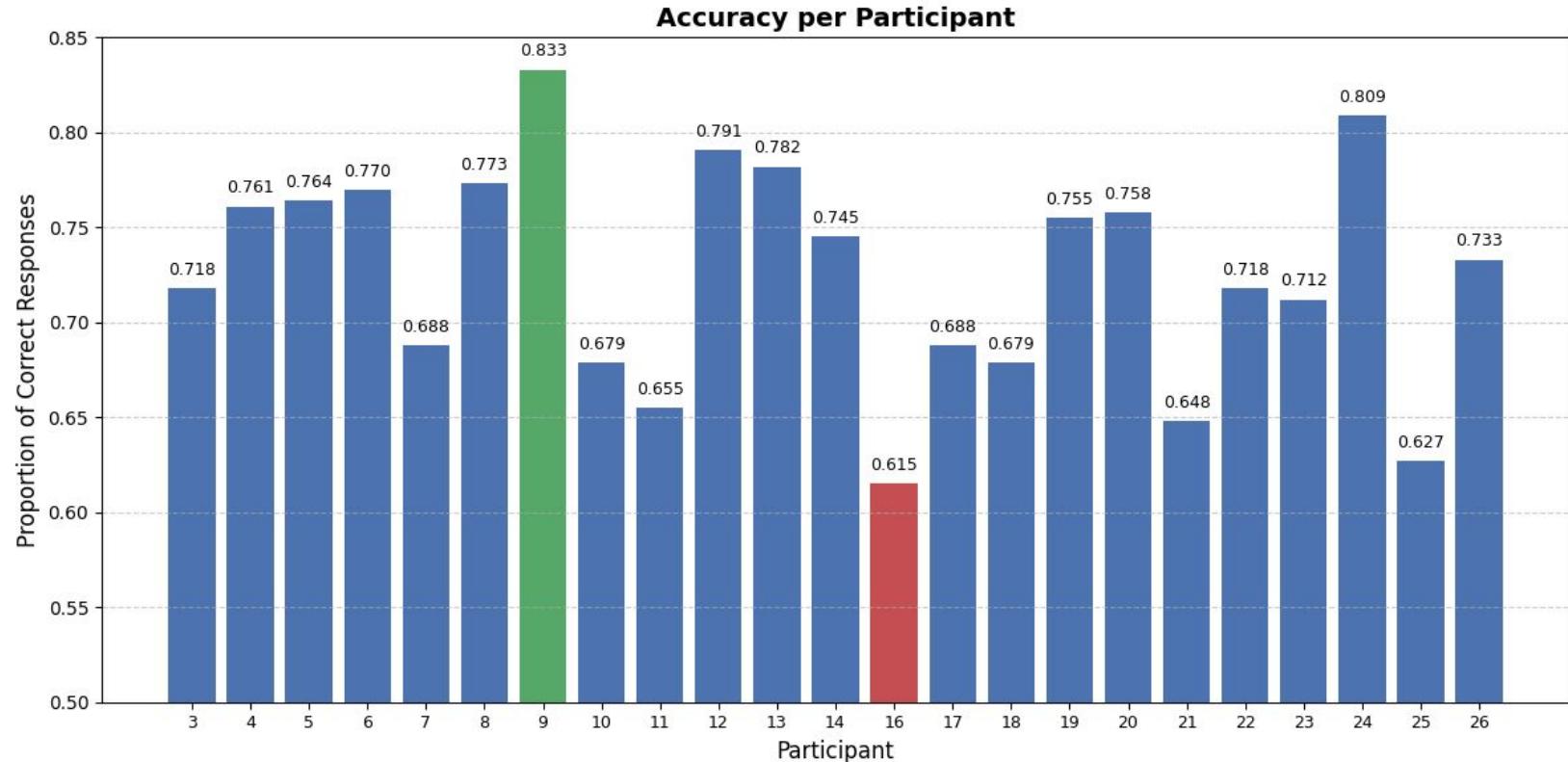
### Subject accuracy on all conditions



# Data

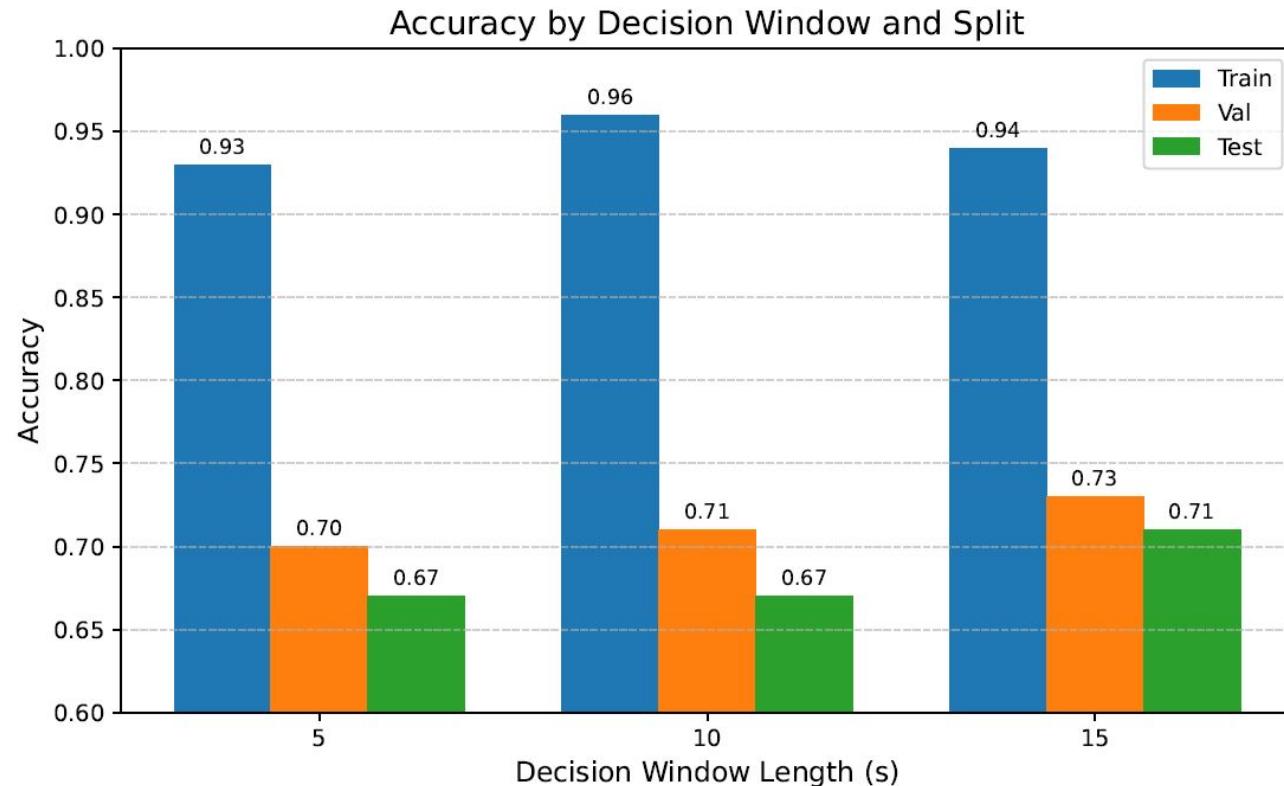
Response accuracy

2 yes/no questions per trial



# Results & Discussion

## Contrastive learning



## Results & Discussion

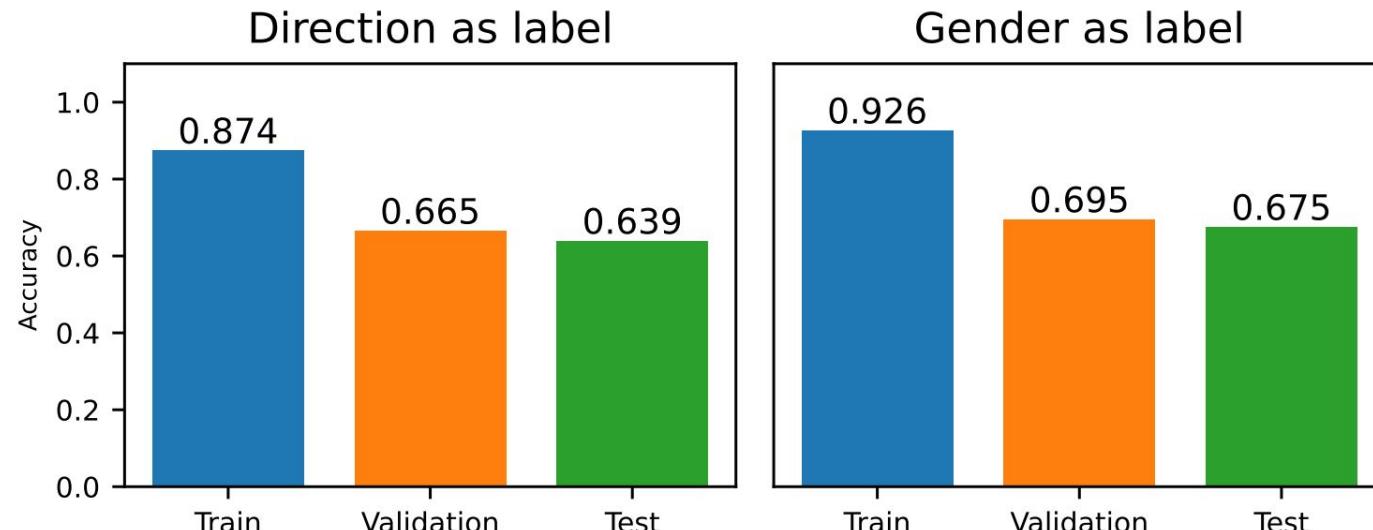
### Augmentation results

- TR: Time Reversal
- DR: Channel Dropout
- FTS: Fourier Transform Surrogate

		Train	Val	Test
	No aug	<b>0.989</b>	<b>0.752</b>	0.702
	TR	0.987	0.748	<b>0.725</b>
	DR	0.946	0.711	0.667
	FTS	0.905	0.714	0.694

# Results & Discussion

ASAD



## Results & Discussion

Direct classification

	Train	Validation	Test
Linear probe	0.572	0.521	0.522
LaBraM finetuning	<b>0.984</b>	<b>0.707</b>	<b>0.676</b>
Full finetuning	0.722	0.523	0.492

# Conclusion

# Conclusion

RQ1

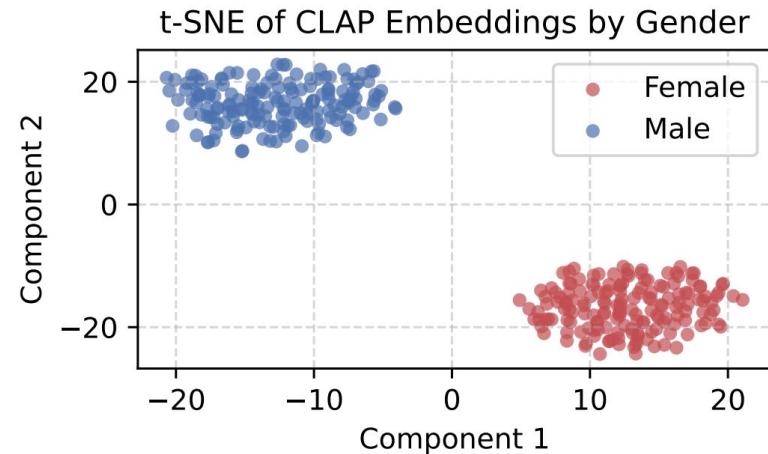
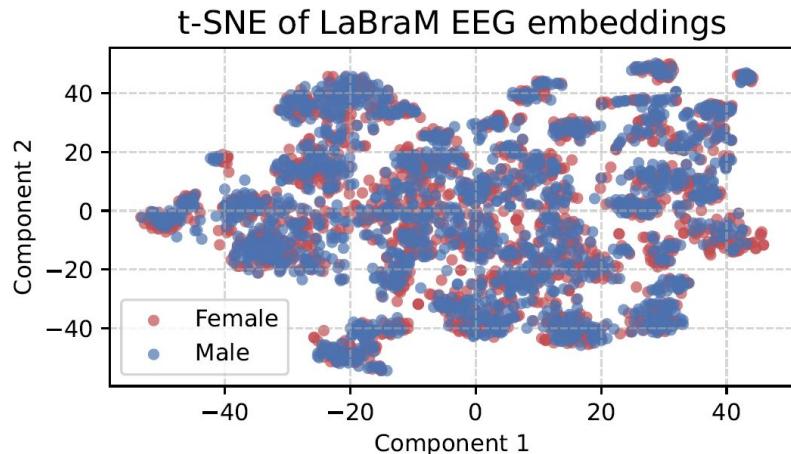
RQ1: How do CLAP and LaBraM perform as pretrained feature extractors for auditory attention decoding?

	Train	Validation	Test
Linear probe	0.572	0.521	0.522

# Conclusion

RQ1

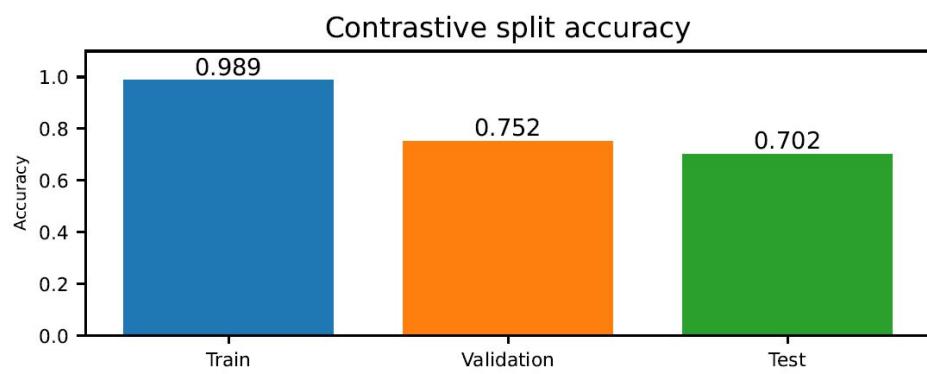
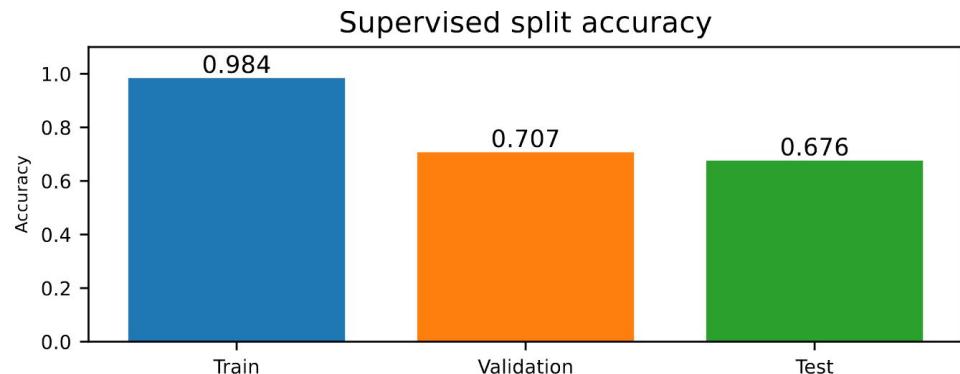
RQ1: How do CLAP and LaBraM perform as pretrained feature extractors for auditory attention decoding?



# Conclusion

RQ2

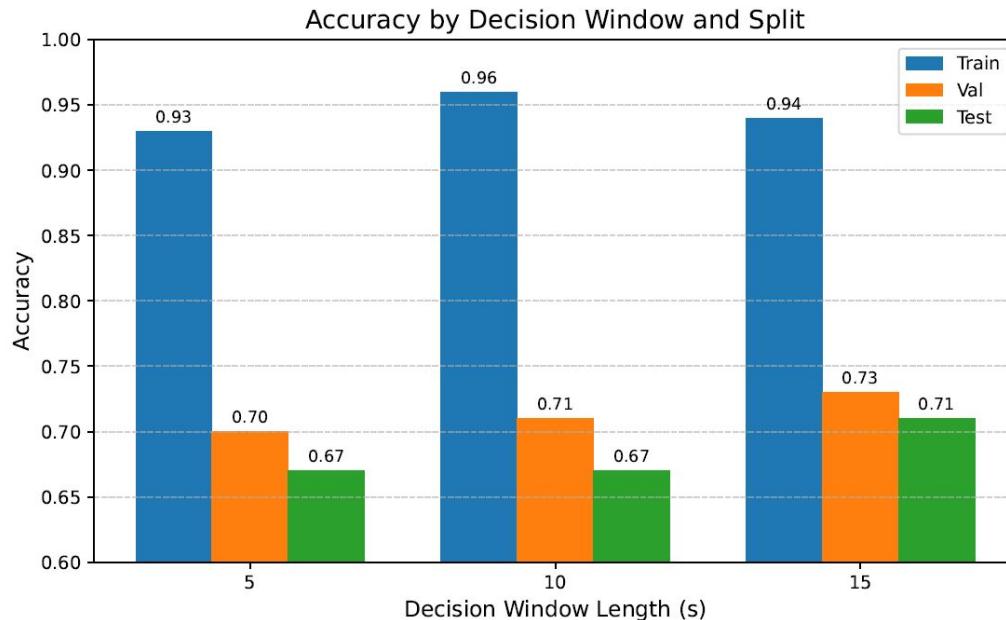
RQ2: How does contrastive learning compare to supervised classification for training robust AAD models using CLAP and LaBraM?



# Conclusion

RQ3

RQ3: How does the length of decision windows affect performance?



Thank you for  
your  
Attention

# Appendix

# Results & Discussion

## Baseline

- Each experiment used a 15 second decision window
- Only ran experiments with a single seed
- Backwards TRF model

### Two condition performance

Split	Validation accuracy	Test accuracy
Temporal	0.588	0.633
Audio-disjoint	0.643	0.604

### Five condition performance

Split	Validation accuracy	Test accuracy
Temporal	0.593	0.599
Audio-disjoint	0.564	0.568

# Literature Review

## Why Direct Classification?

[...] the process of stimulus reconstruction [...] is not optimized to effectively detect attention. [...] the compression of multichannel EEG signals into a single waveform through stimulus reconstruction reduces the available information for analysis<sup>1</sup>

[The neural network] outperforms the baseline linear stimulus reconstruction method, improving decoding accuracy [...] from 59% to 87%<sup>2</sup>

[...] correlation between the reconstructed and the attended speech envelopes is generally weak<sup>3</sup>

[1]: Siqi Cai et al. "EEG-based Auditory Attention Detection in Cocktail Party Environment."

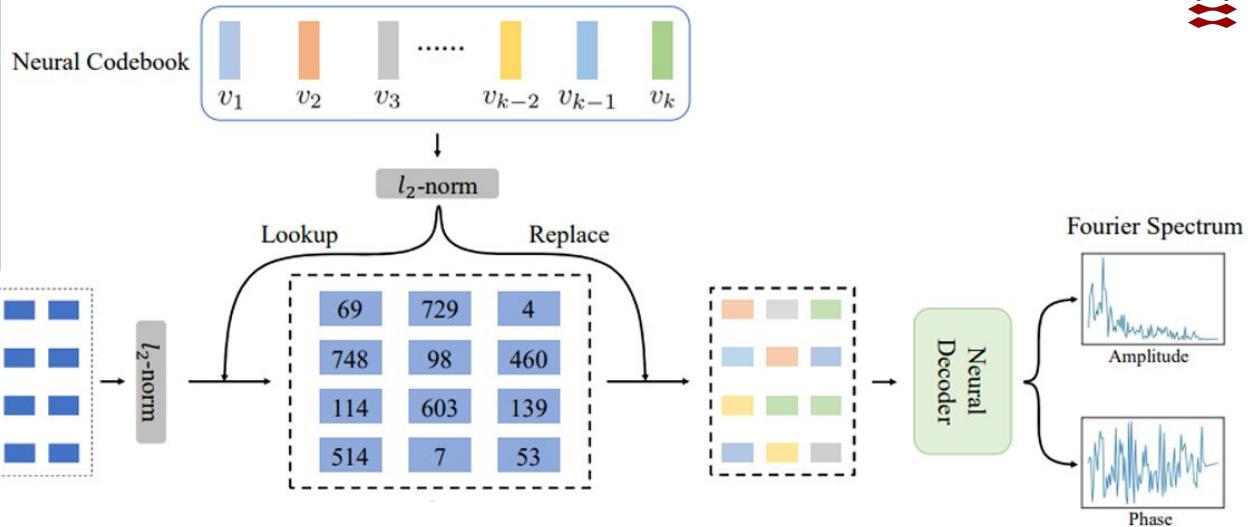
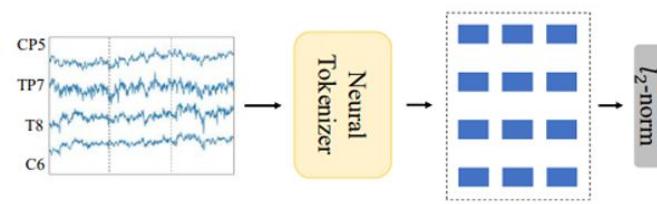
[2]: Gregory Ciccarelli et al. "Comparison of Two-Talker Attention Decoding from EEG with Nonlinear Neural Networks and Linear Methods."

[3]: Enze Su et al. "STAnet: A Spatiotemporal Attention Network for Decoding Auditory Spatial Attention From EEG."

# Literature Review

## LaBraM Pretraining

### Neural Tokenizer Training



$$\mathcal{L}_T = \sum_{x \in \mathcal{D}} \sum_{i=1}^N \left\| o_i^A - A_i \right\|_2^2 + \left\| o_i^\phi - \phi_i \right\|_2^2 + \left\| \text{sg}(\ell_2(p_i)) - \ell_2(v_{z_i}) \right\|_2^2 + \left\| \ell_2(p_i) - \text{sg}(\ell_2(v_{z_i})) \right\|_2^2$$

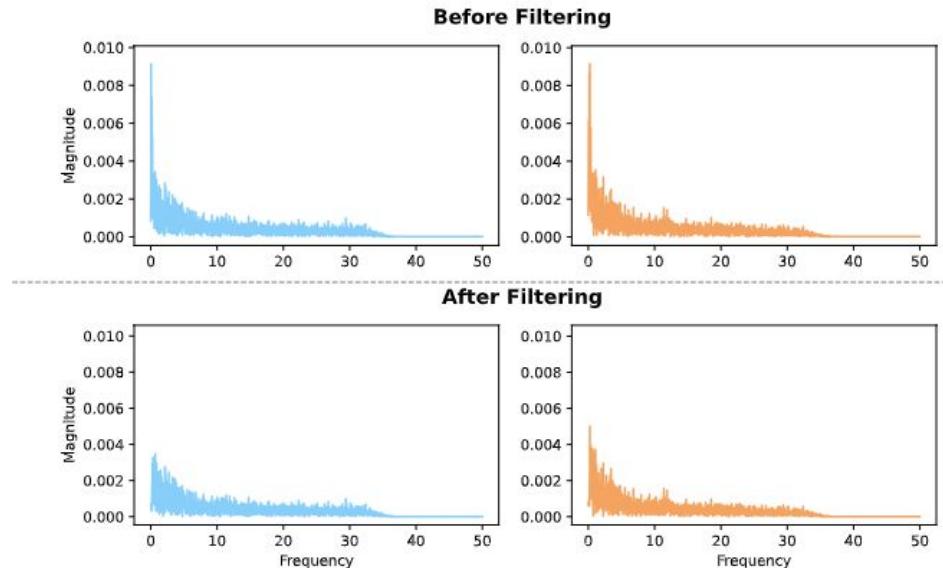
Annotations for the equation:

- Predicted amplitude:  $o_i^A$
- Predicted phase:  $o_i^\phi$
- Tokenizer Vector:  $\ell_2(p_i)$
- Codebook Vector:  $\ell_2(v_{z_i})$
- Actual amplitude:  $A_i$
- Actual phase:  $\phi_i$
- Codebook Vector:  $\ell_2(v_{z_i})$

# Data

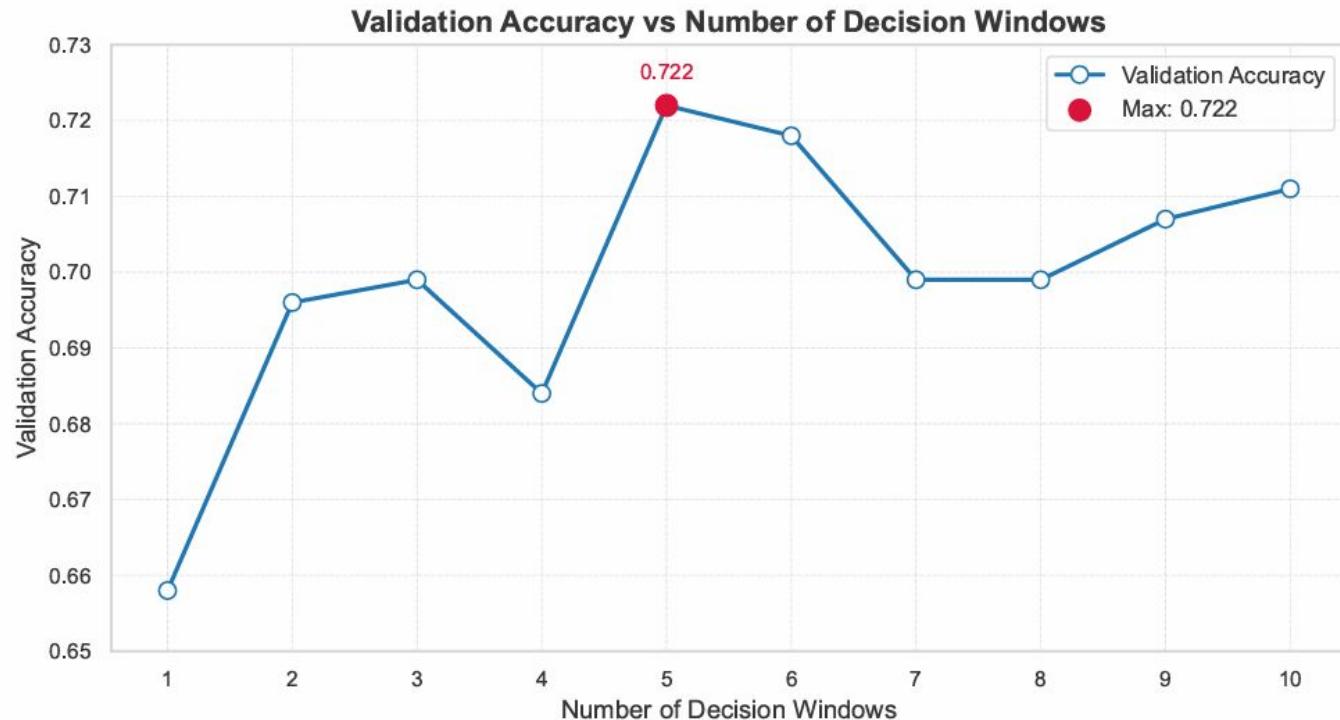
## Preprocessing

- EEG was bandpass filtered between 0.5-30Hz
- ICA to remove EEG artifacts
- EEG downsampled from 8192Hz  
→ 200Hz
- Audio upsamples from 44100Hz  
→ 48000Hz



# Results & Discussion

## Contrastive learning



# Results & Discussion

## Comparisons

### Lund Contrastive

- Hearing impaired subjects
- Unspecified background noise
- CNN + attention
- Subject specific architecture

### Lund DCCA

- No added background noise
- Whisper + Deep  
Canonical-correlation analysis

	<b>Lund Contrastive<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Lund DCCA<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Our Model</b>
<b>Accuracy</b>	71.5%	67.9%	67.0%

(5 second decision window)

[1] Gautam Sridhar et al. "Improving auditory attention decoding in noisy environments for listeners with hearing impairment through contrastive learning"

[2] Alessandro Celoria et al. "An ASR-based Hybrid Approach for Auditory Attention Decoding"

## Results & Discussion

Out-of-sample classification

