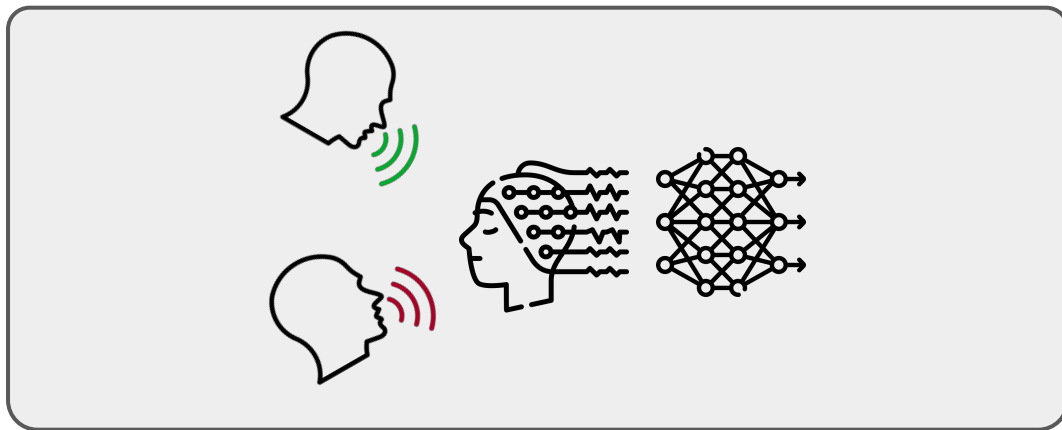


# Exploring Foundation Models for Auditory Attention Decoding



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

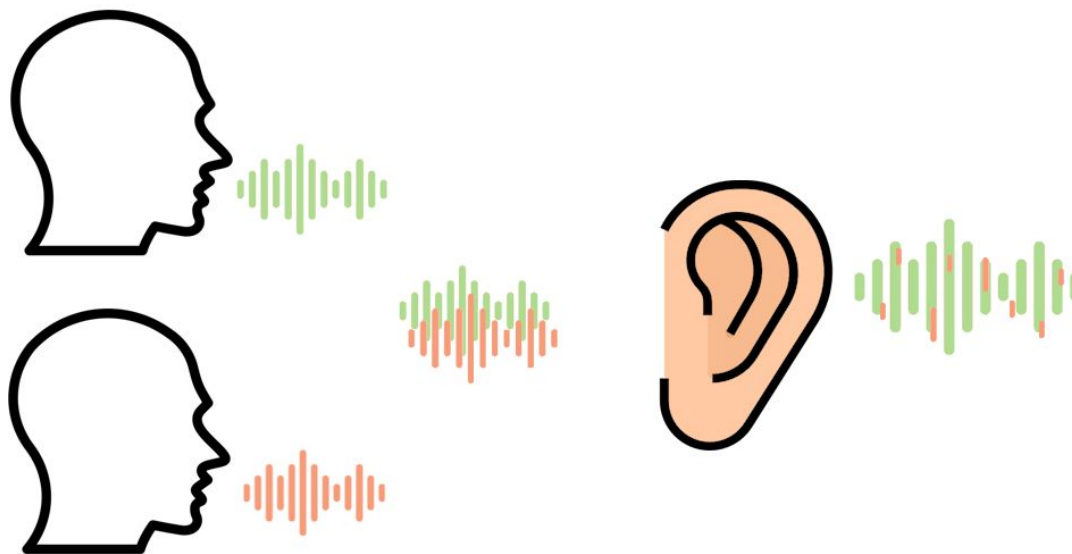


# Introduction



# Introduction

- Cocktail party effect
- Hearing aid users

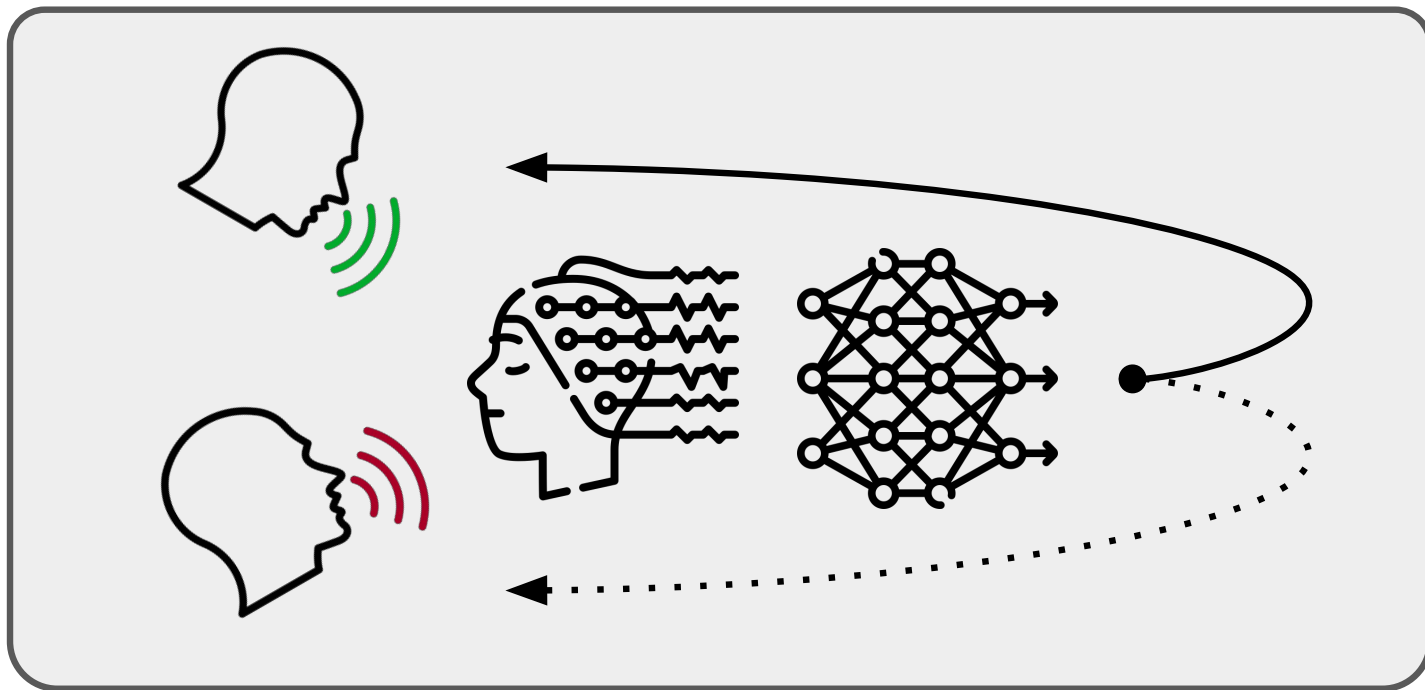




# Introduction

## Auditory Attention Decoding

- AAD: Audio+EEG → Attention
- Decision window: Time segment used to predict

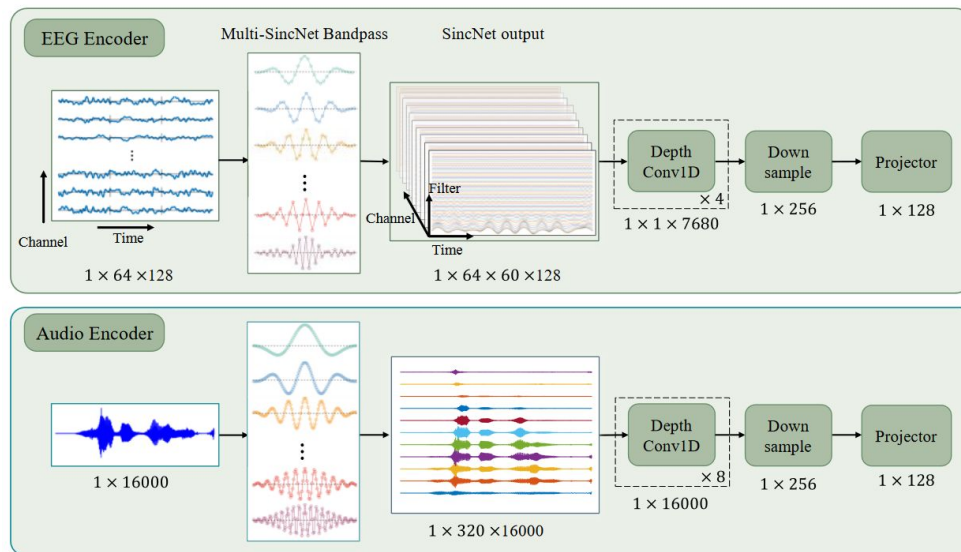




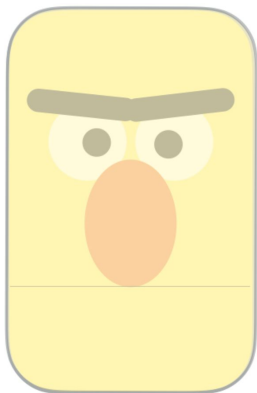
# Introduction

## Foundation models

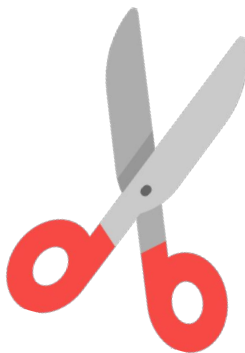
- Foundation Models
- SOTA AAD Models



NLP  
BERT



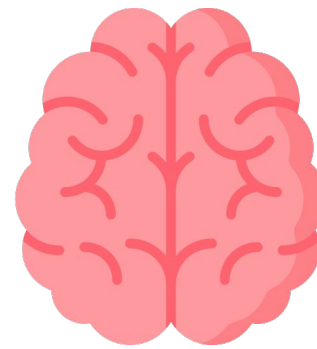
Vision+Text  
CLIP



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?



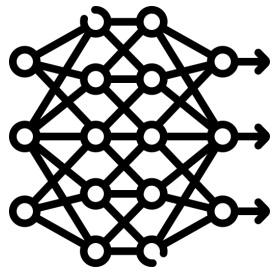
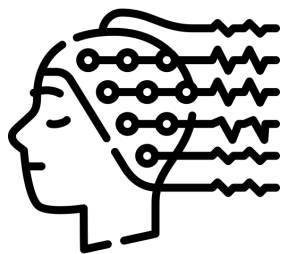
# Literature Review



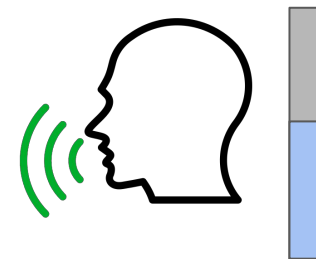
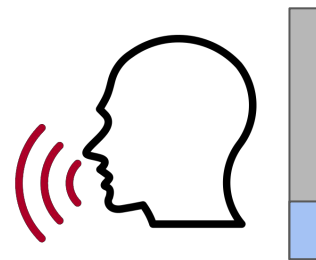
# Literature Review

Signal Reconstruction

## Backwards Approach



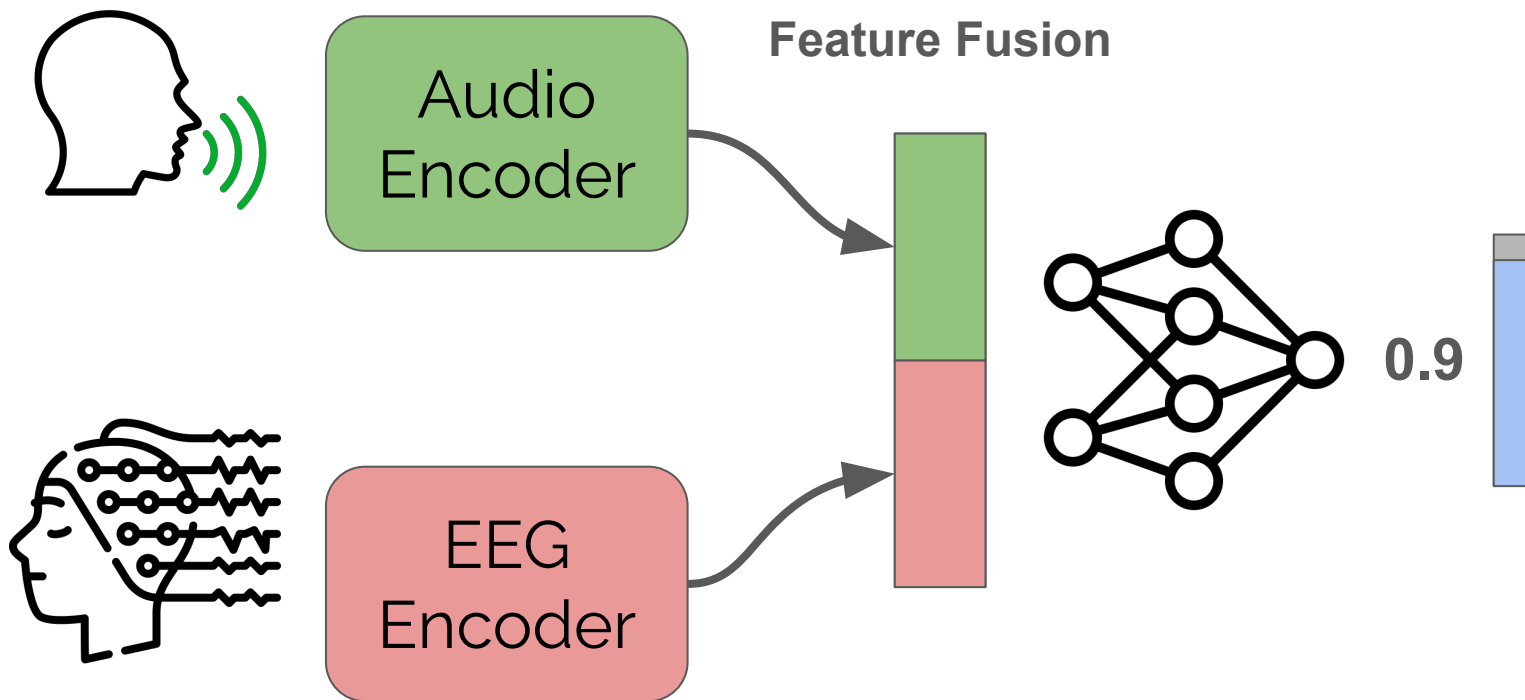
Correlation





# Literature Review

Direct Classification

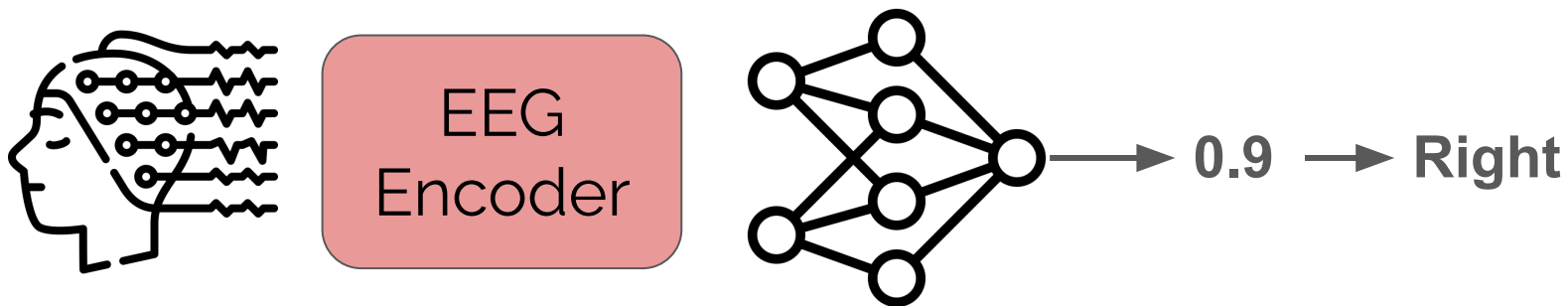




# Literature Review

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."

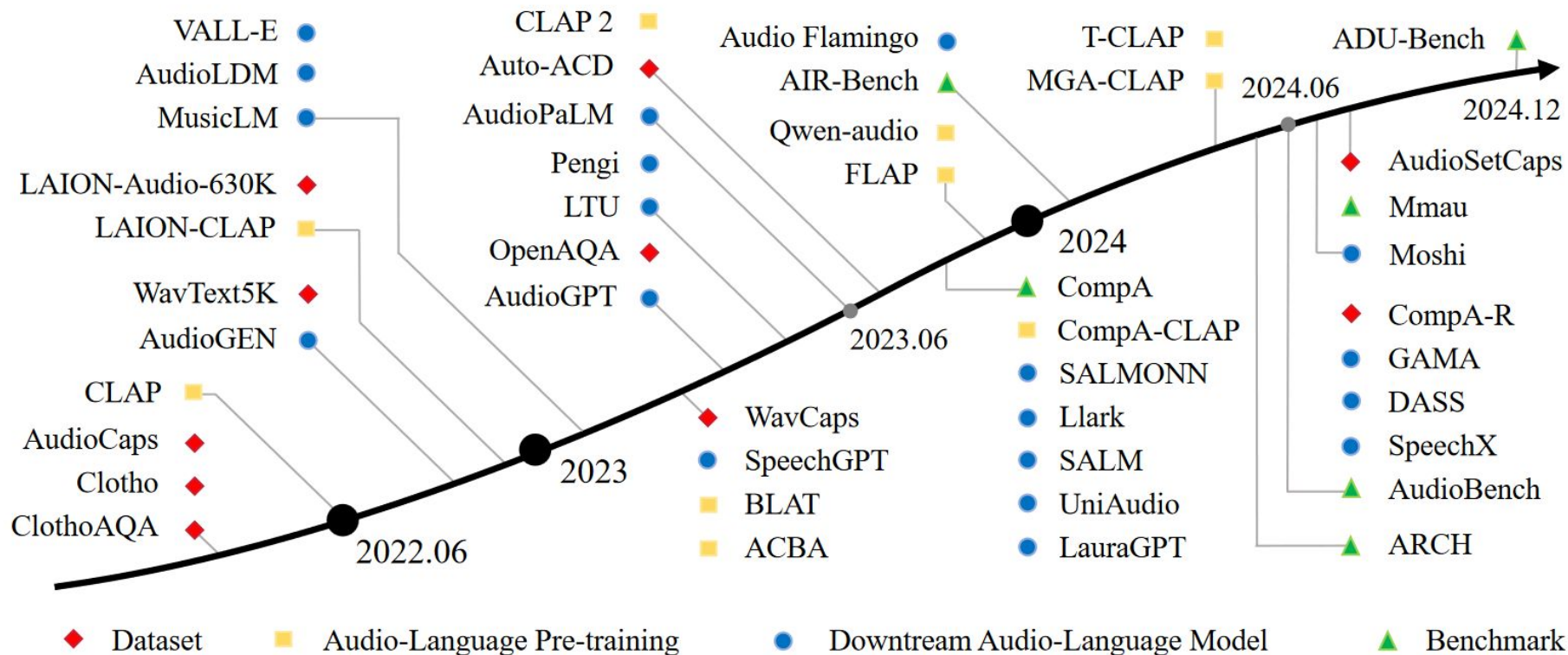
[2]: Enze Su et al. "STAnet: A Spatiotemporal Attention Network for Decoding Auditory Spatial Attention From EEG."



# Literature Review

## Audio Foundation Models

- Larger models
- Our model: LAION-CLAP





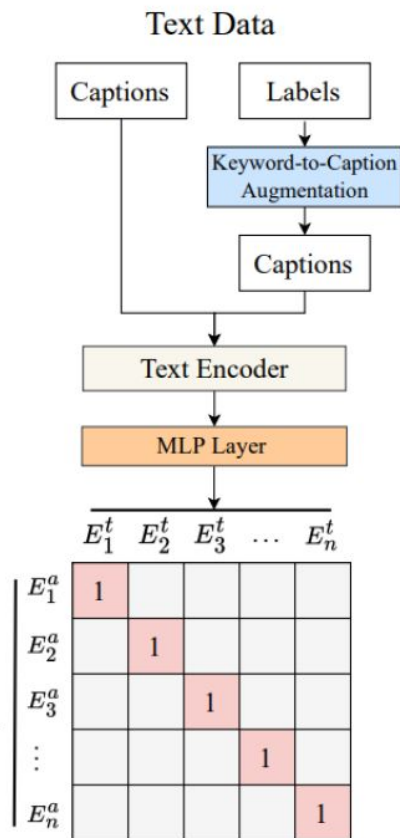
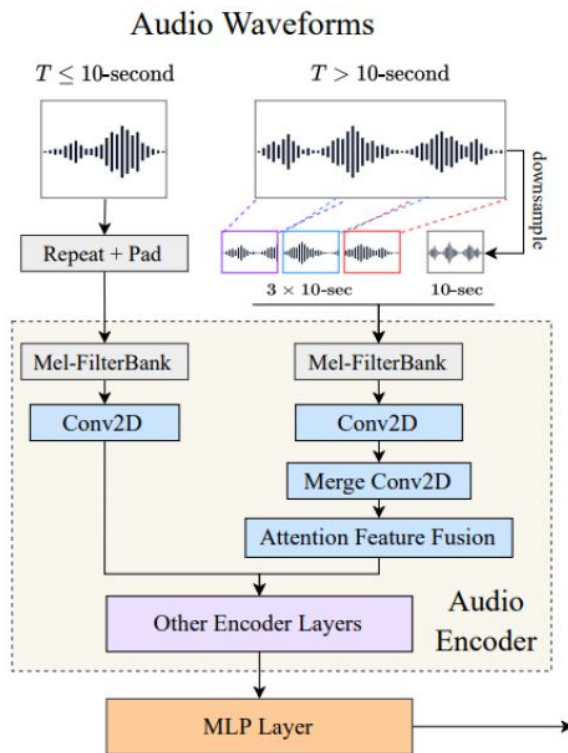
# Literature Review

## LAION-CLAP

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


**Traffic\_Light.wav**


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

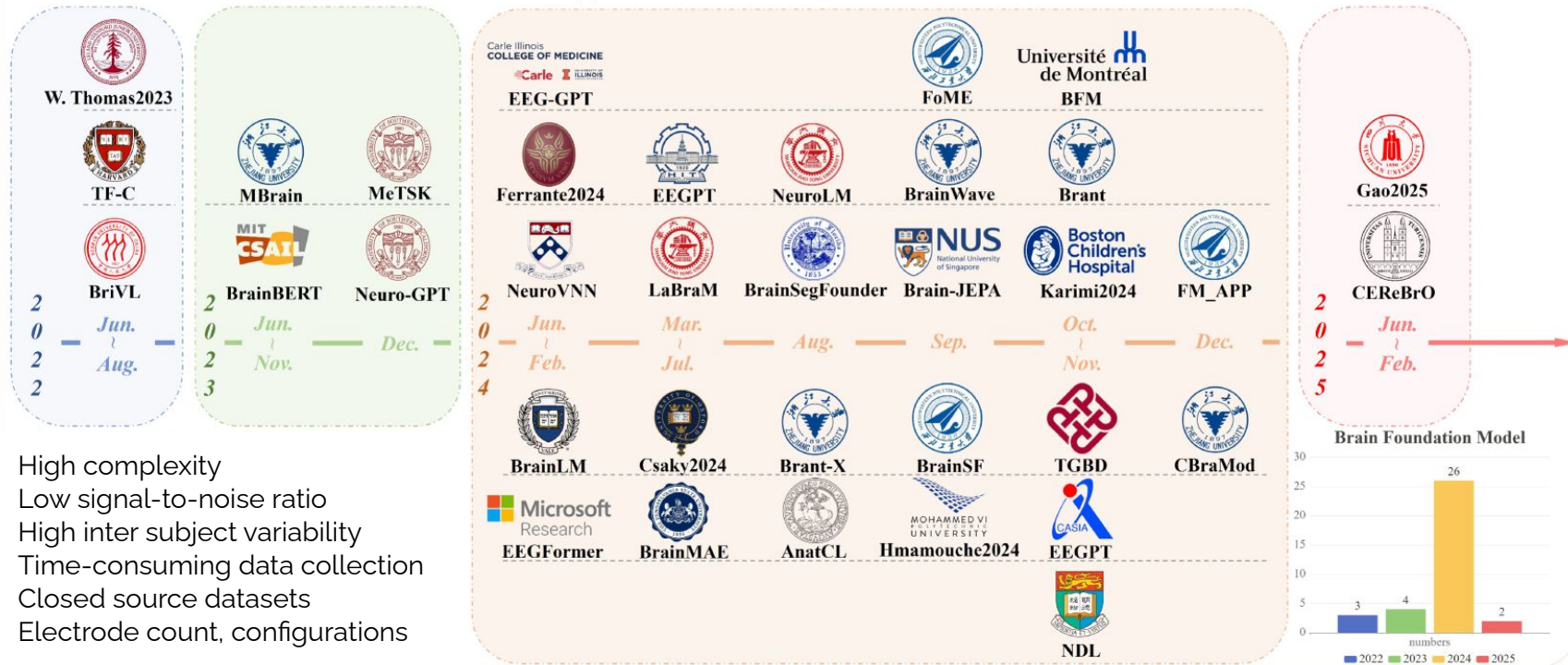




# Literature Review

## 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

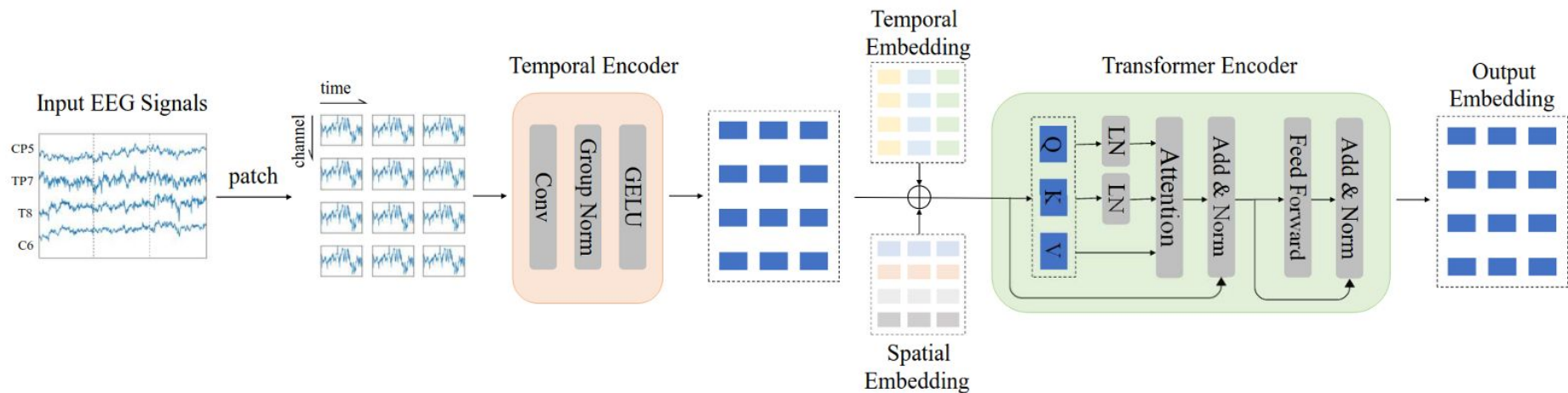


# Literature Review

LaBraM

- Large Brain Model (LaBraM)

## Neural Transformer

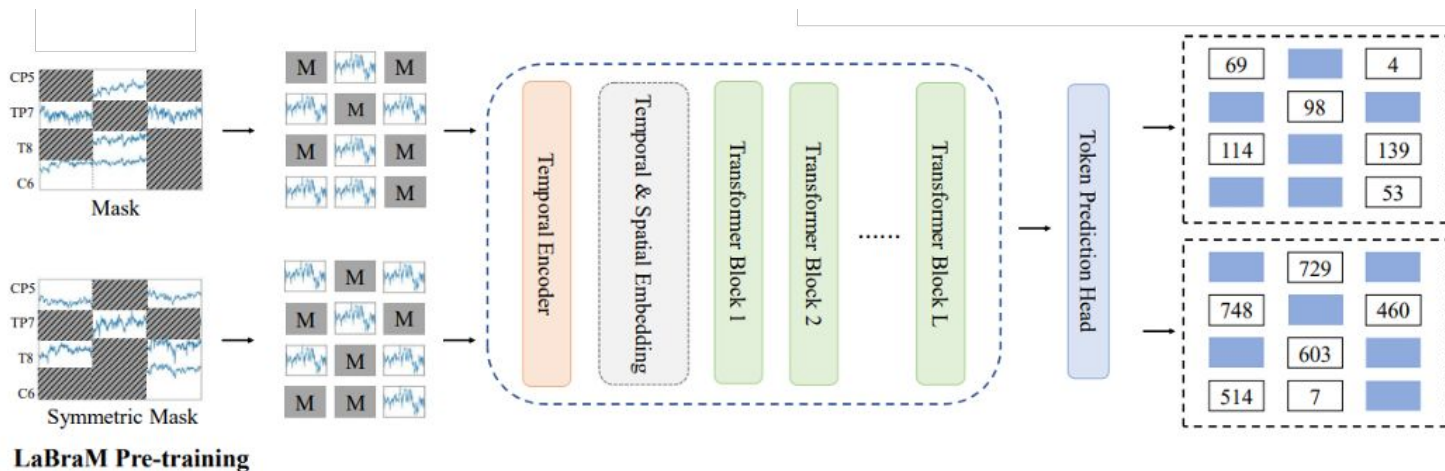
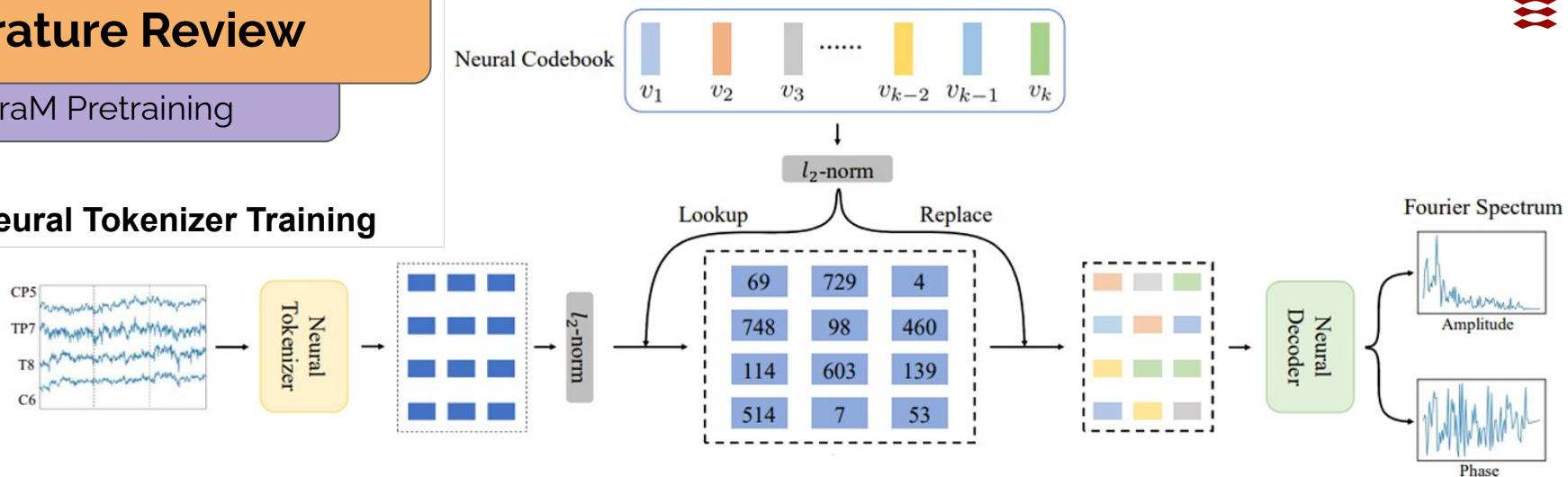




# Literature Review

## LaBraM Pretraining

### Neural Tokenizer Training





# Data

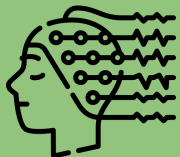


# Data

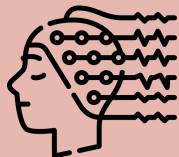
## Overview

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

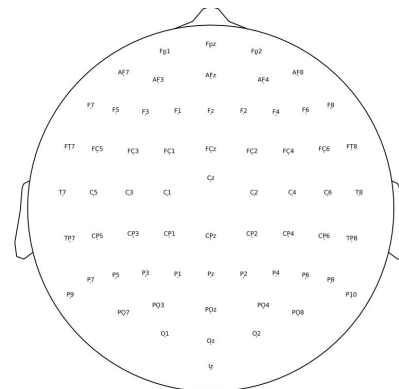
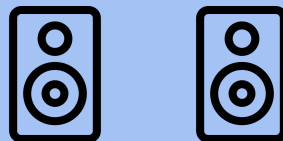
### Freefield



### Insertphones



### -1,-4,-7dB





# 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	×	×	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	✓	×	✓

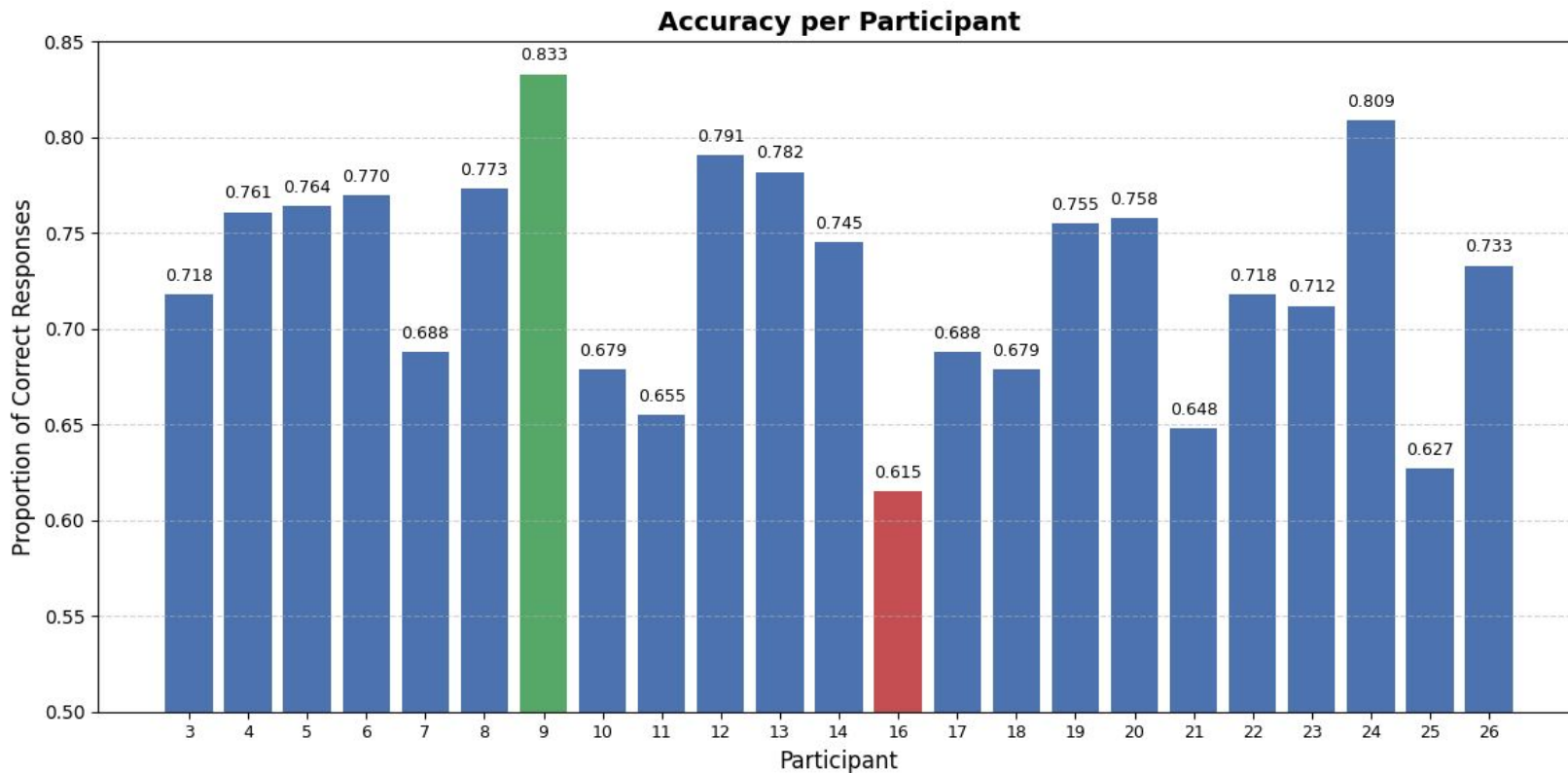
Subject	Condition	# Missing Trials
10	Insert	16
20	-7dB	11
26	Insert	16
26	-4dB	15



# Data

Response accuracy

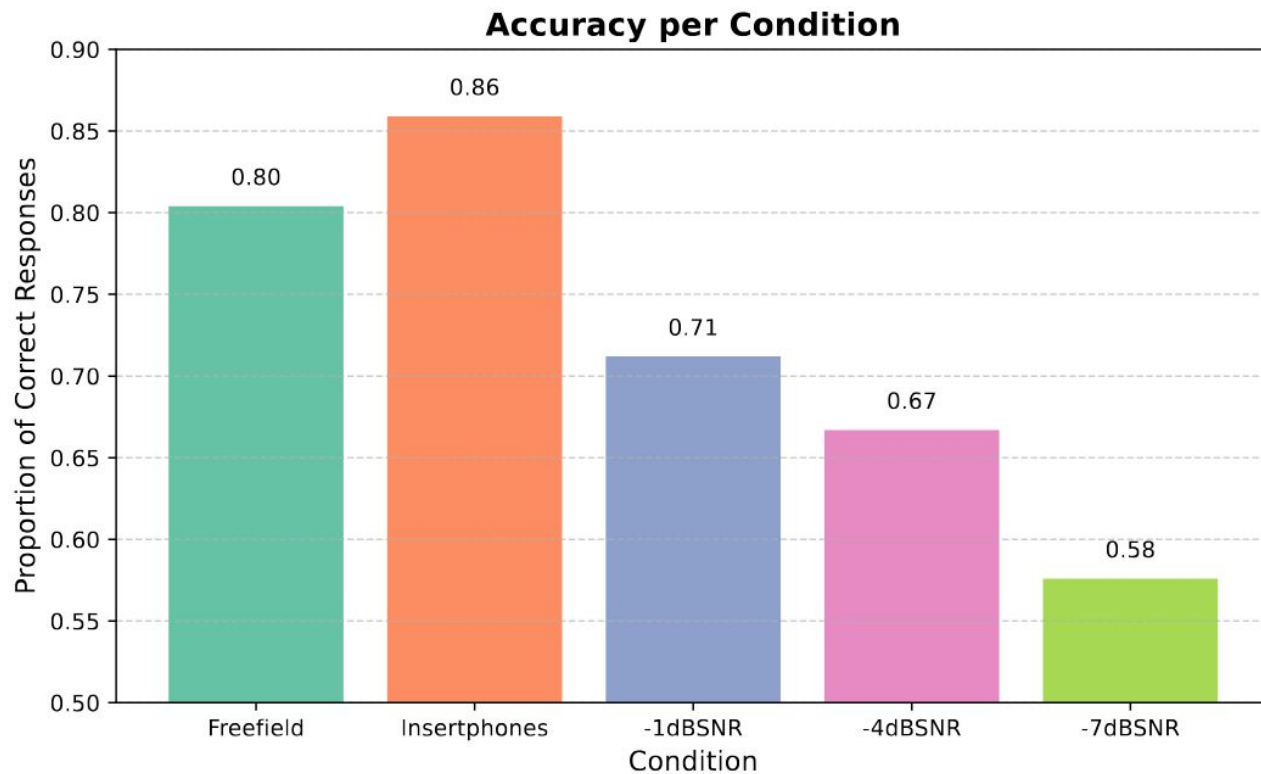
2 yes/no questions per trial





# 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  $\rightarrow$  200Hz
4. Audio upsampled from 44100Hz  $\rightarrow$  48000Hz

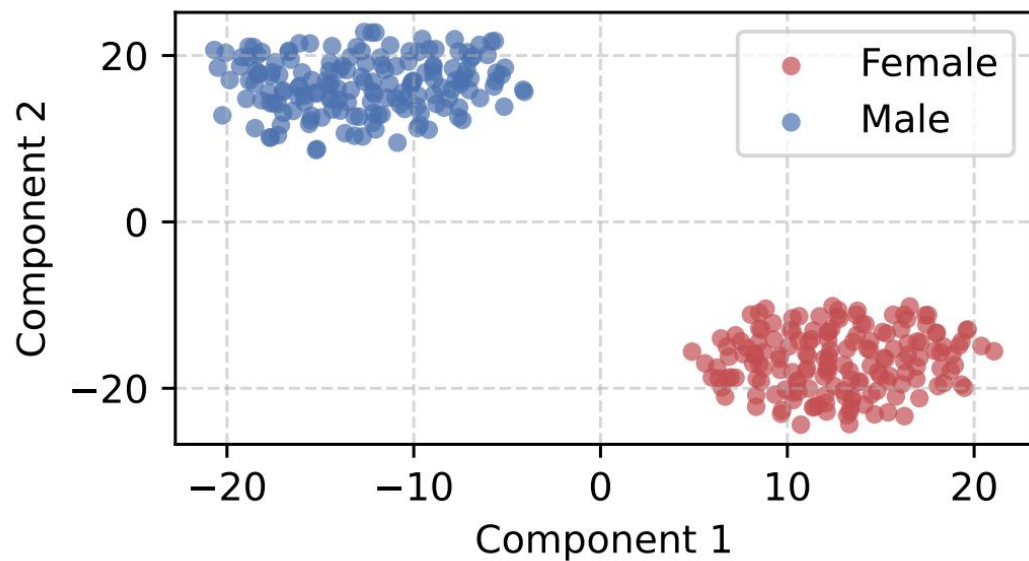




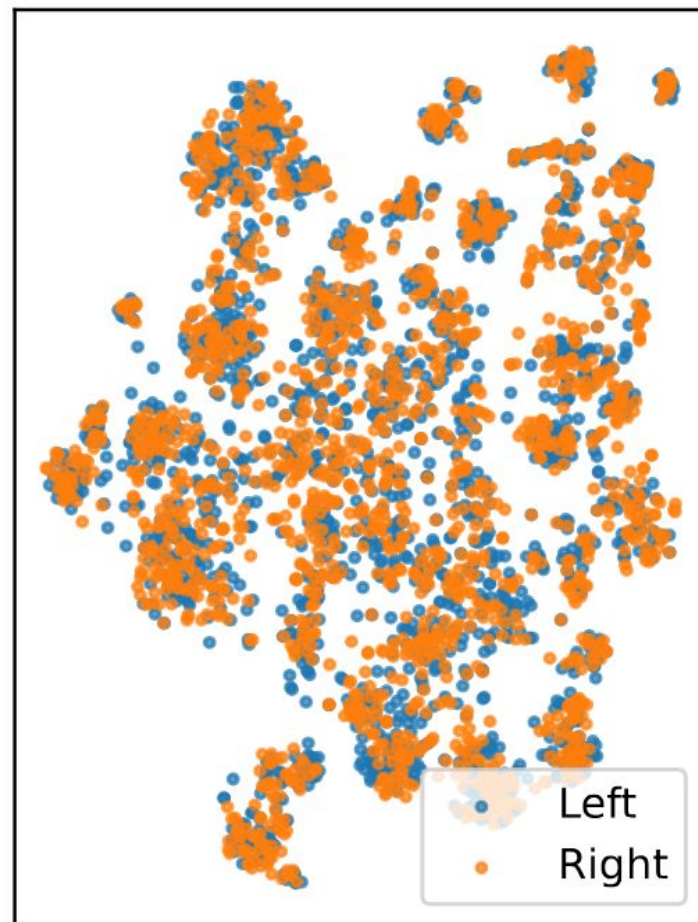
# Data

Data visualization

t-SNE of CLAP Embeddings by Gender



Direction as label



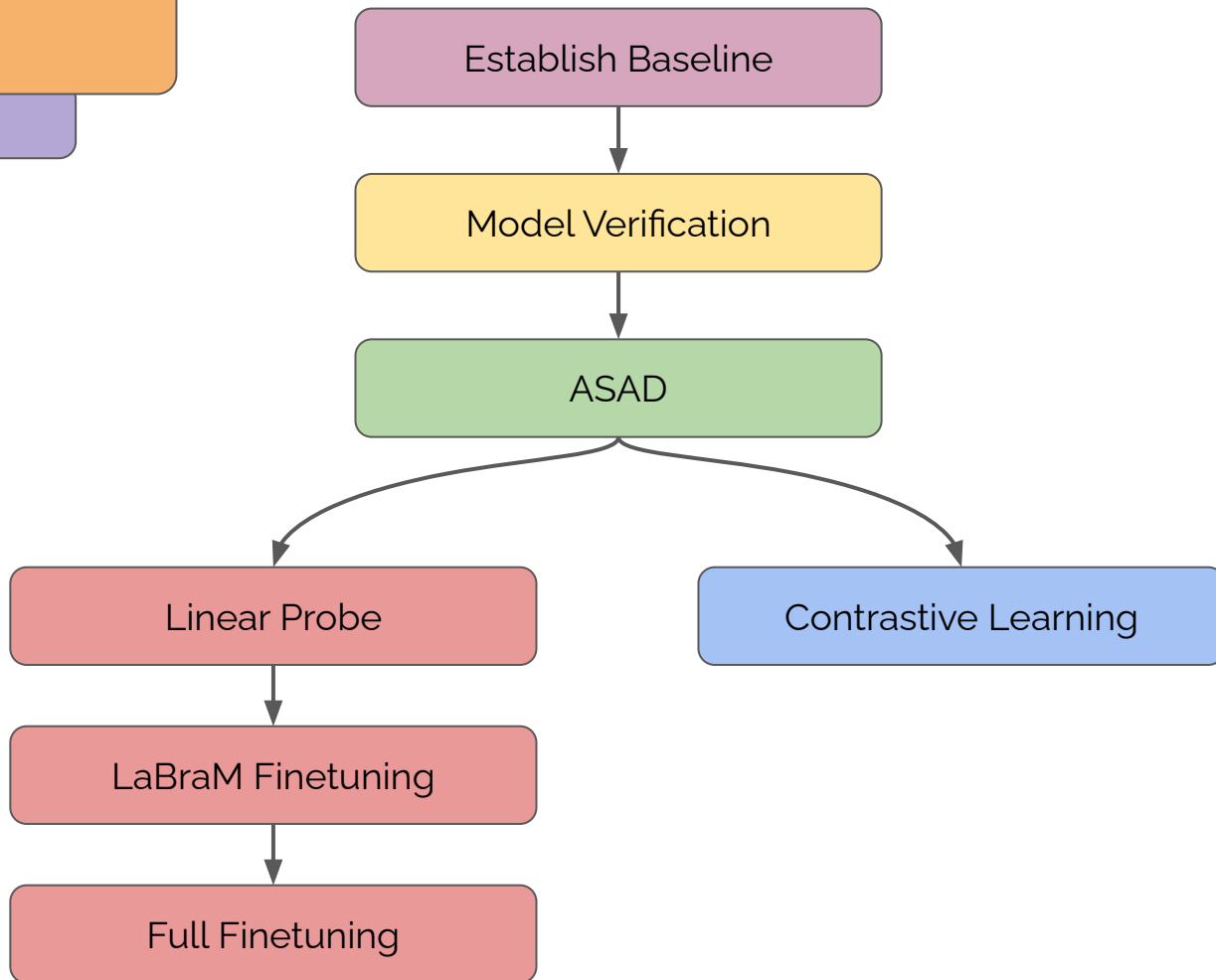


# Methodology



# Methodology

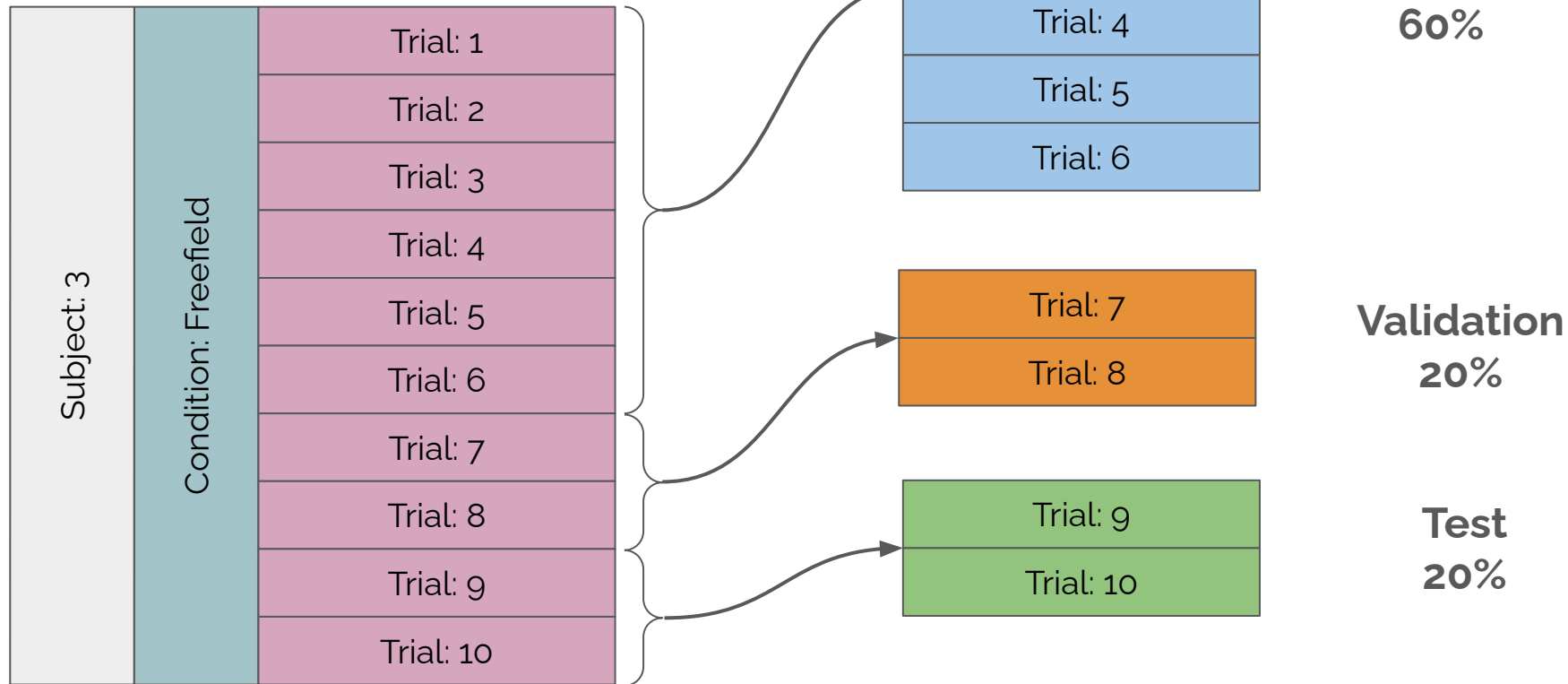
Process





# Methodology

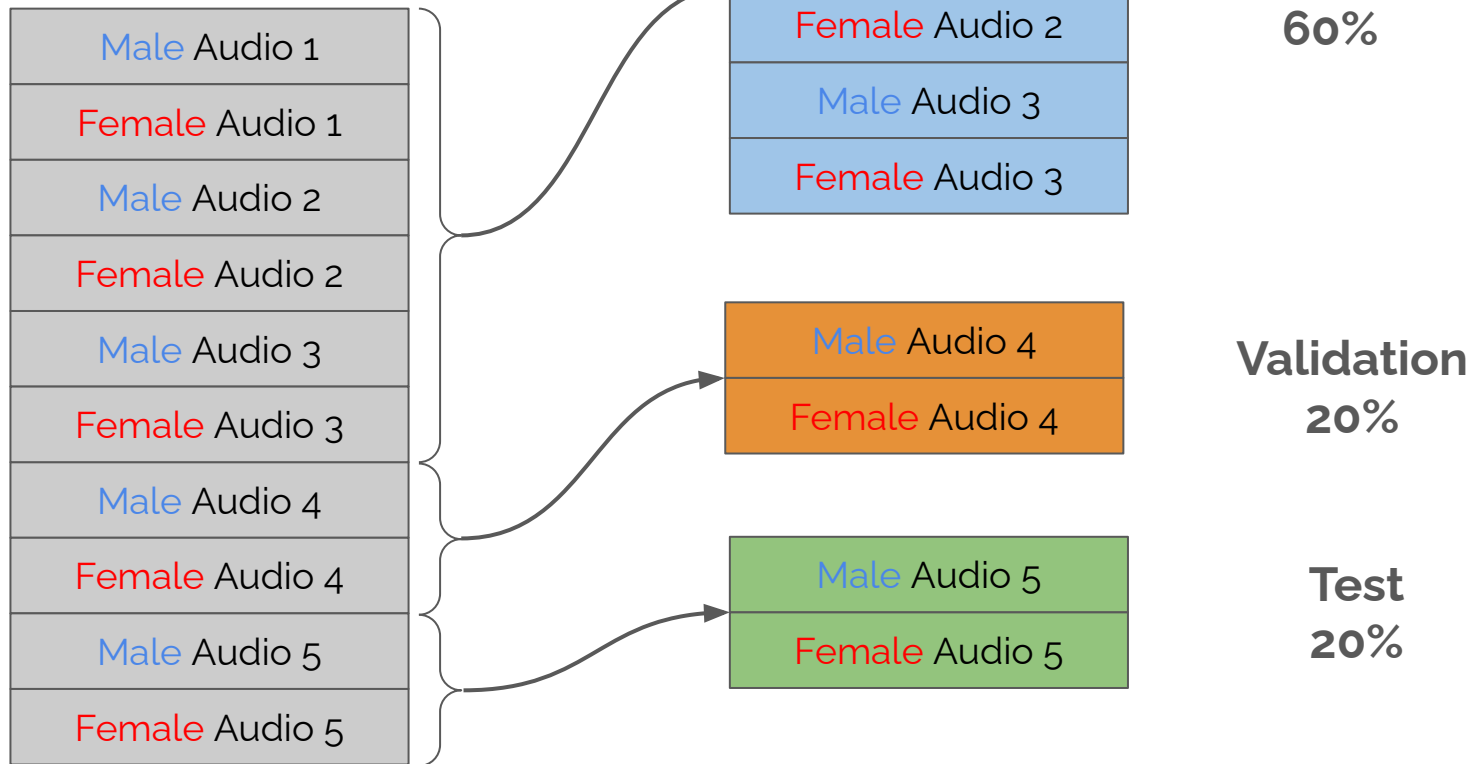
Data Split - Temporal





# Methodology

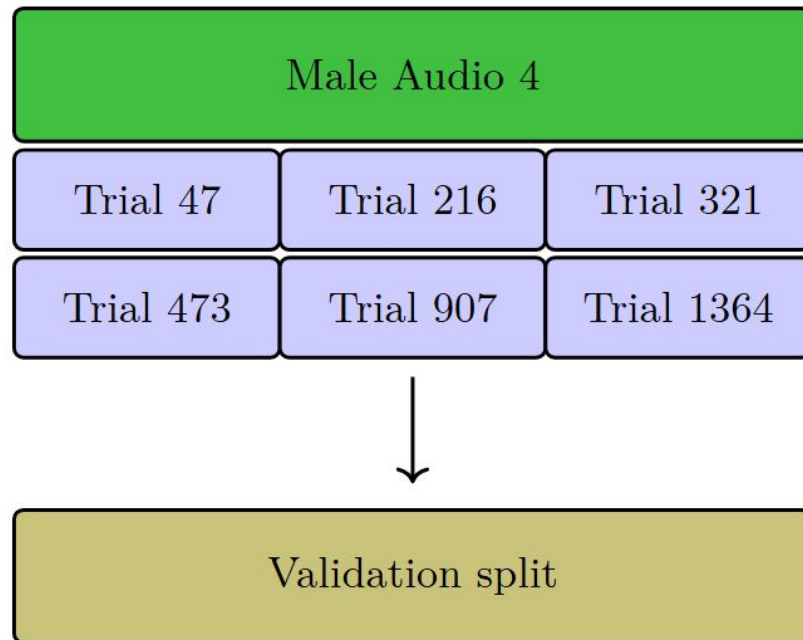
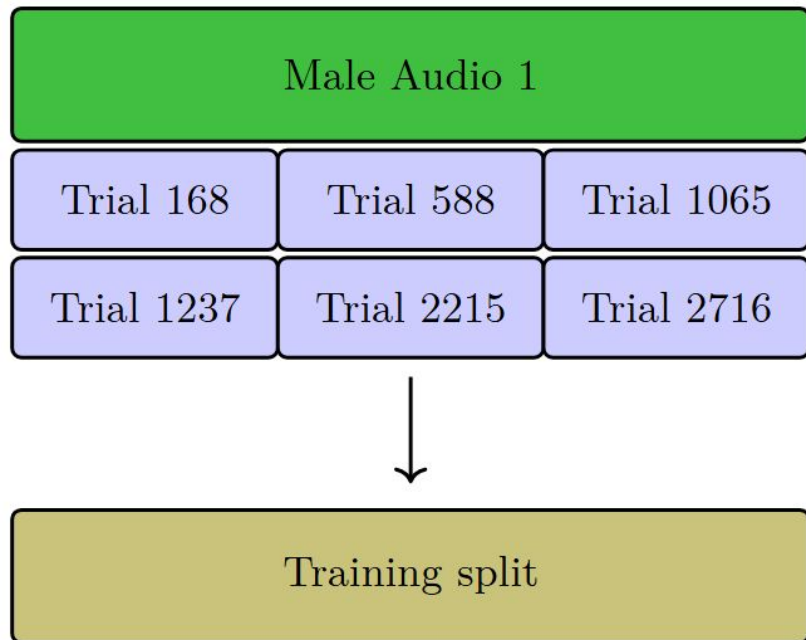
Data Split - Audio Disjoint





# Methodology

Data Split - Audio Disjoint



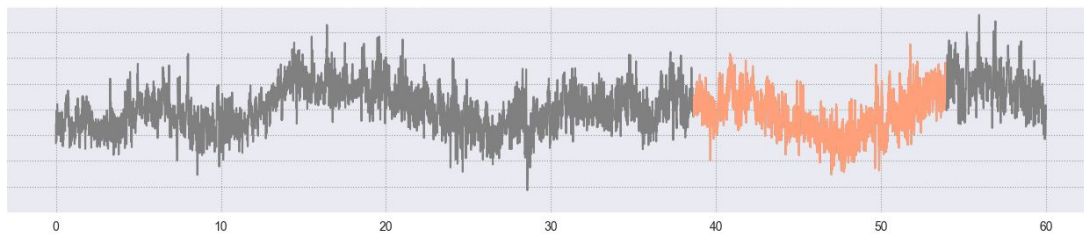


# Methodology

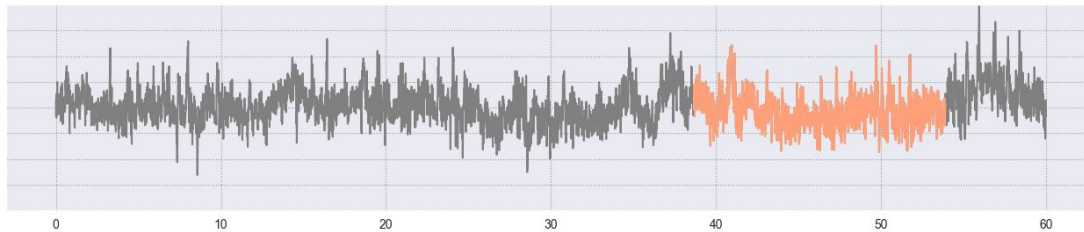
## Trial sampling

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

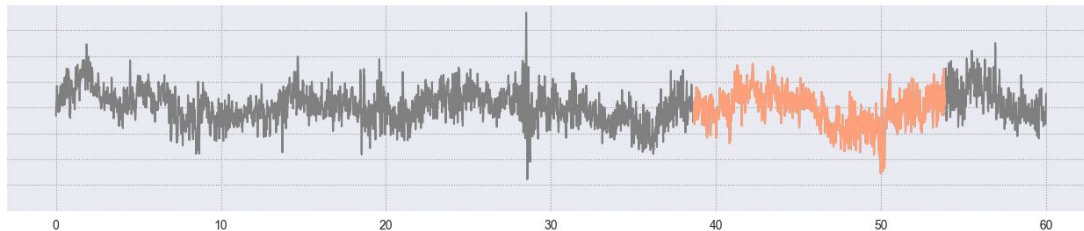
EEG Channel 1



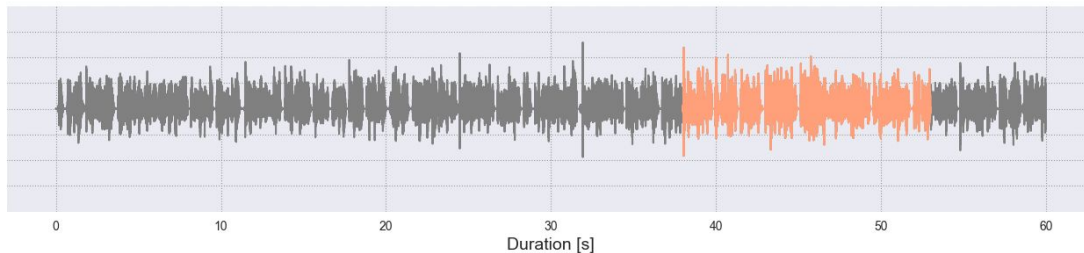
EEG Channel 2



EEG Channel 3



Audio

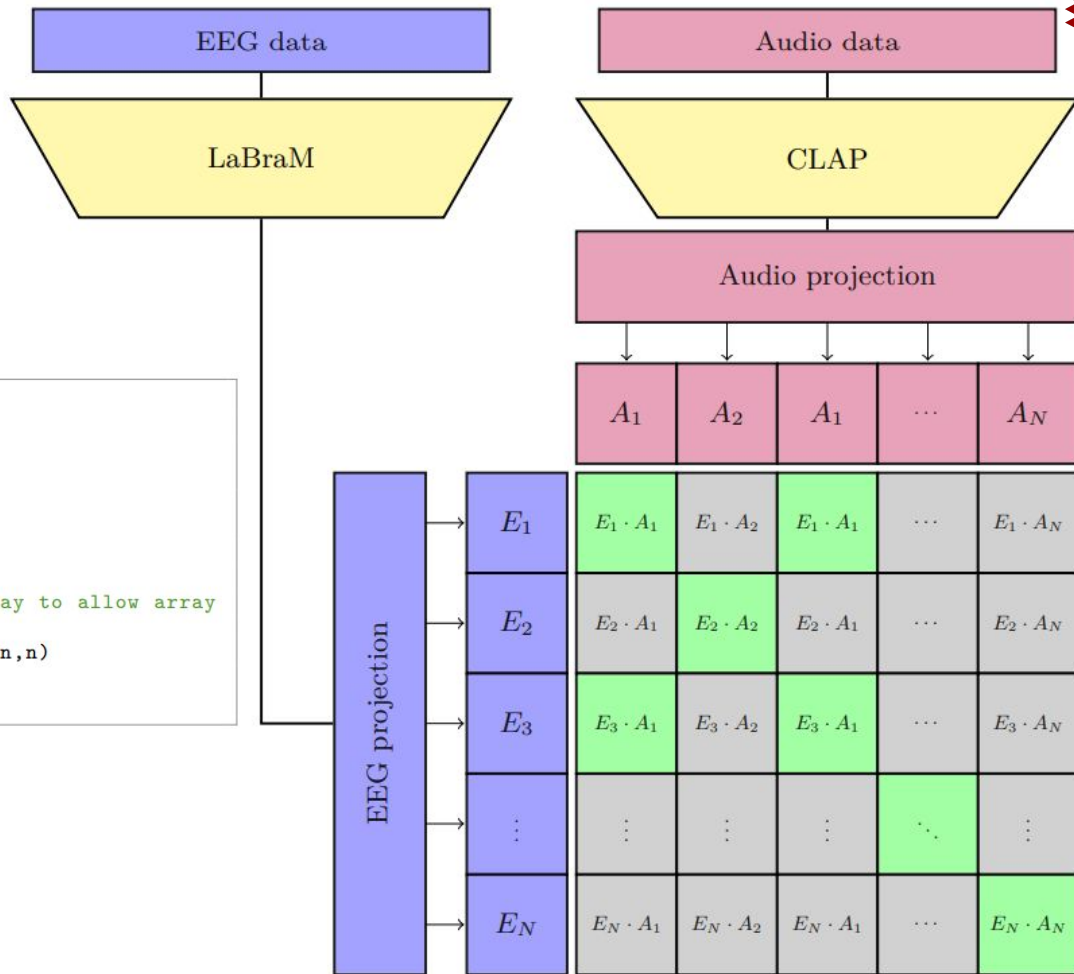




# Methodology

## Contrastive learning

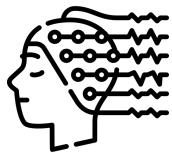
```
1 # eeg_embed - EEG model embedding [n, d]
2 # audio_embed - Audio model embedding [n, d]
3 # target_ids - ids of audio segments [n]
4 # b, t_prime - learnable bias and temperature
5 # n - mini-batch size
6 eeg_embed_z = l2_normalize(eeg_embed)
7 audio_embed_z = l2_normalize(audio_embed)
8 t = exp(t_prime)
9 # ~ is used as a short hand for adding a new axis to an array to allow array
10 # broadcasting
11 labels = 2 * (target_ids[:, ~] == target_ids[~, :]) - ones(n,n)
12 logits = dot(eeg_embed_z, audio_embed_z.T) * t + b
13 loss = -sum(log_sigmoid(labels * logits)) / n
```





# Methodology

Contrastive learning



**LaBraM**

BX200



Linear

BX200



Linear

BX128

**SigLIP**

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



**CLAP**

BX512



Linear

BX200



Linear

BX128



# Results & Discussion



## Results & Discussion

### Baseline

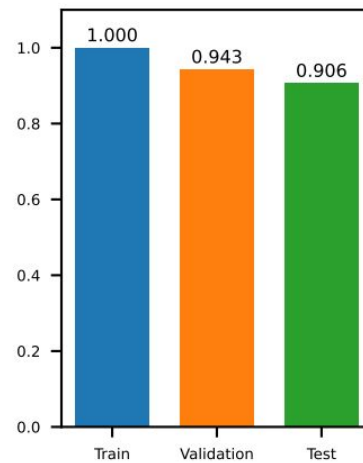
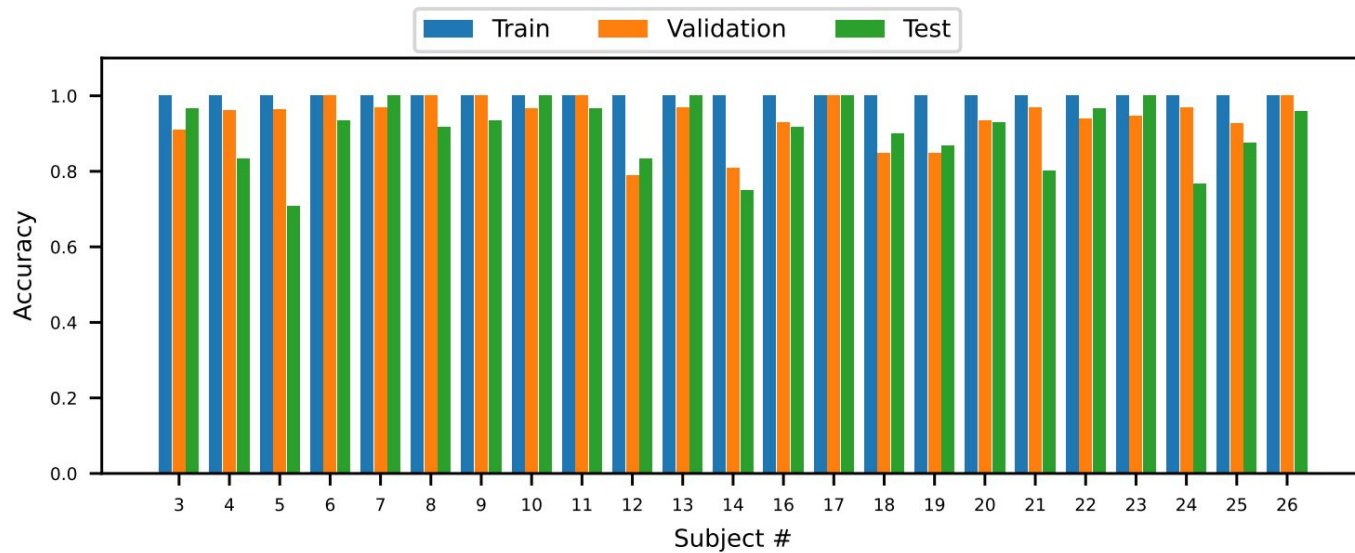
- Each experiment used a 15 second decision window
- Only ran experiments with a single seed
- Backwards model

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



# Results & Discussion

## Condition classification



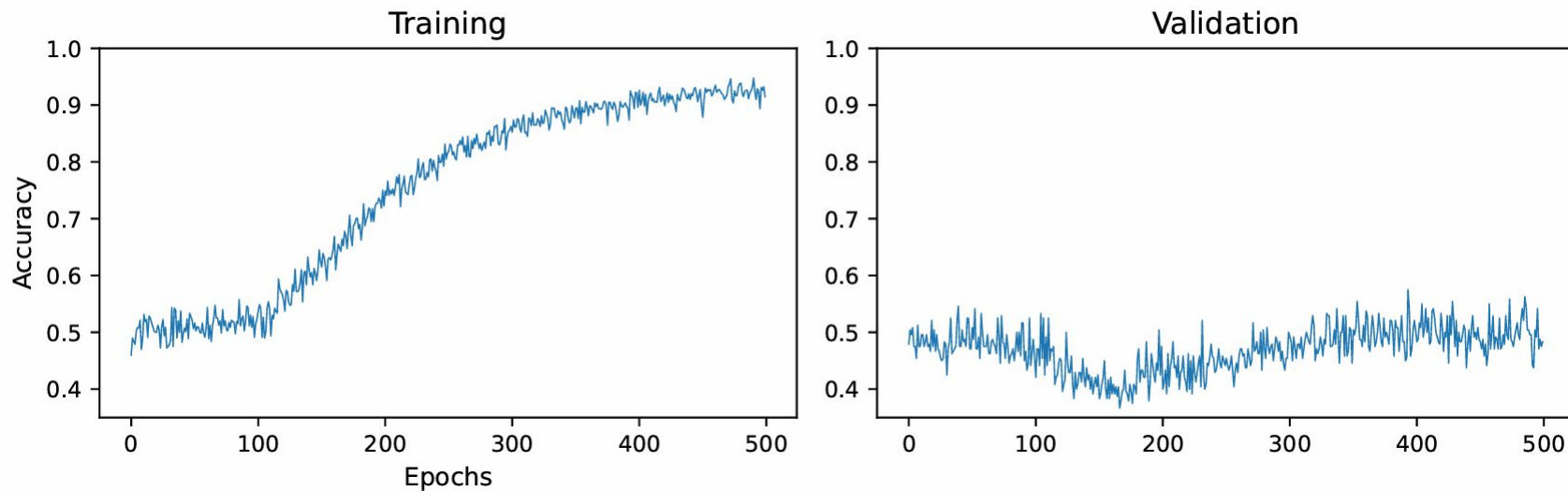


# Results & Discussion

## Contrastive learning

- Overfitting
- Memorization

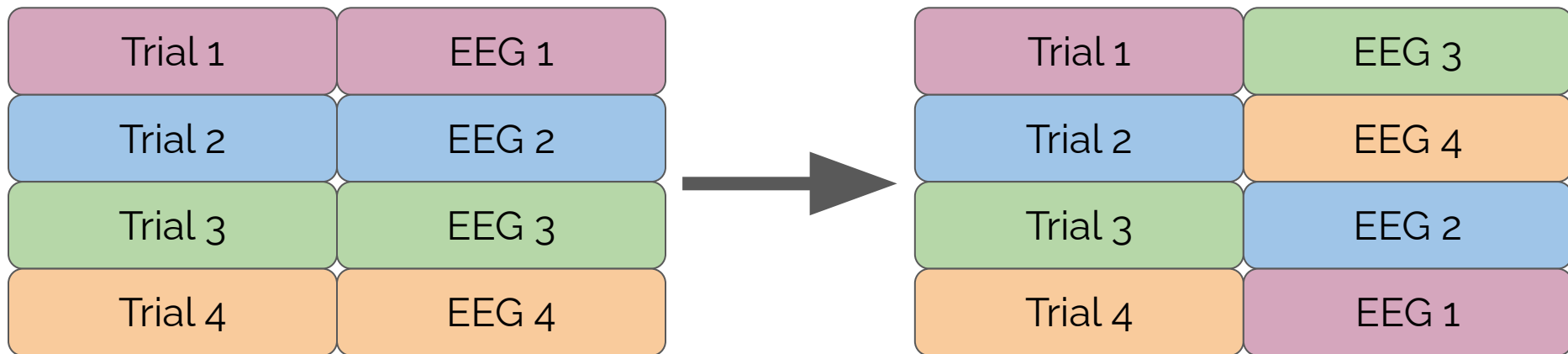
### Temporal Split





## Results & Discussion

Contrastive learning

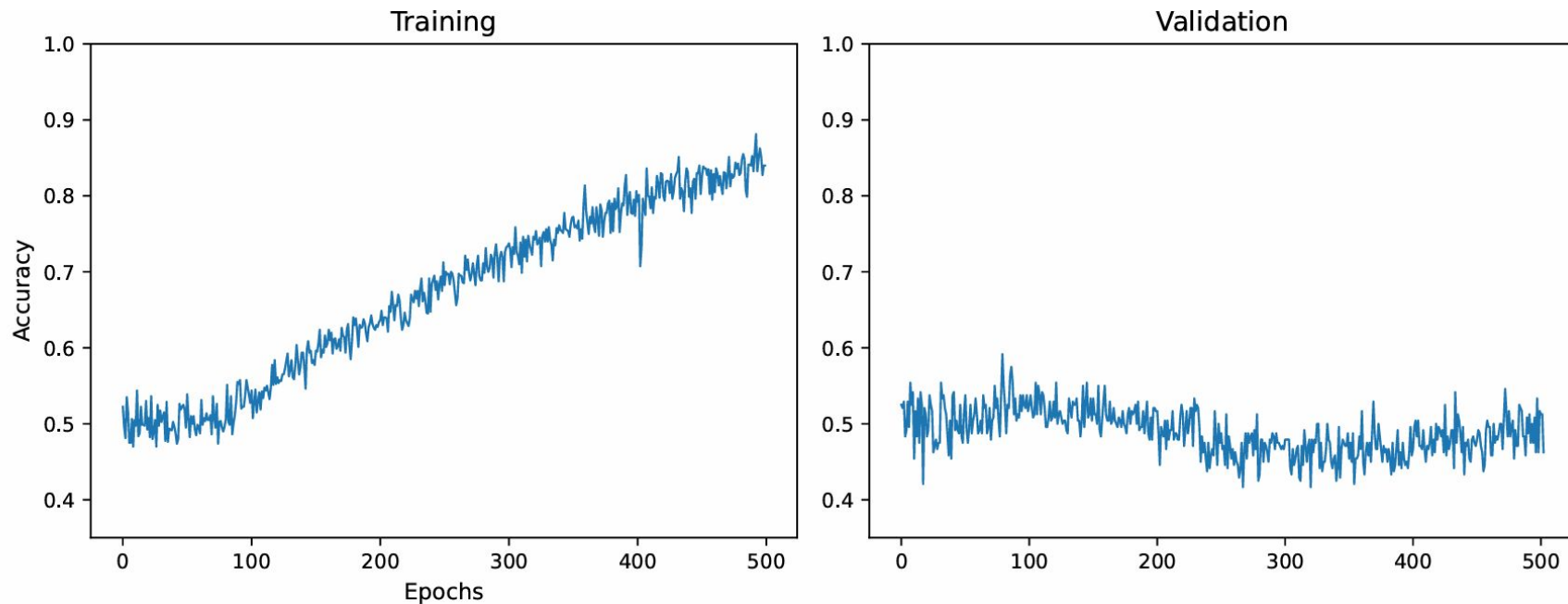




# Results & Discussion

Contrastive learning

## Temporal Split with mismatched EEG



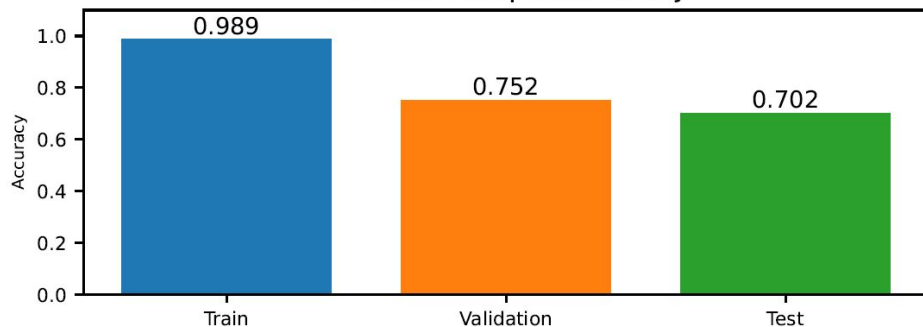


# Results & Discussion

## Contrastive learning

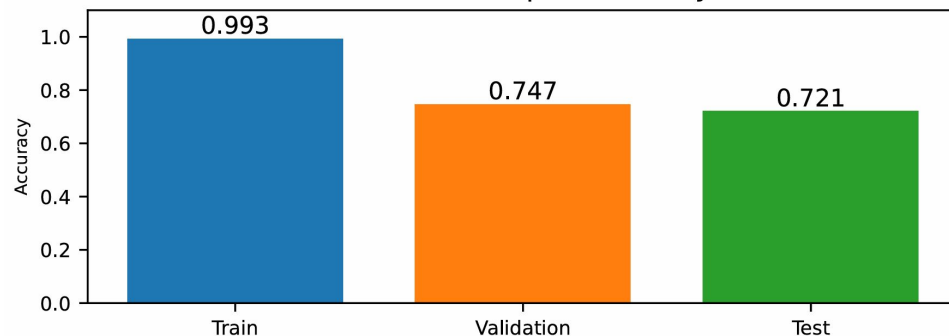
### Noise-free conditions

Contrastive split accuracy



### All conditions

Contrastive split accuracy

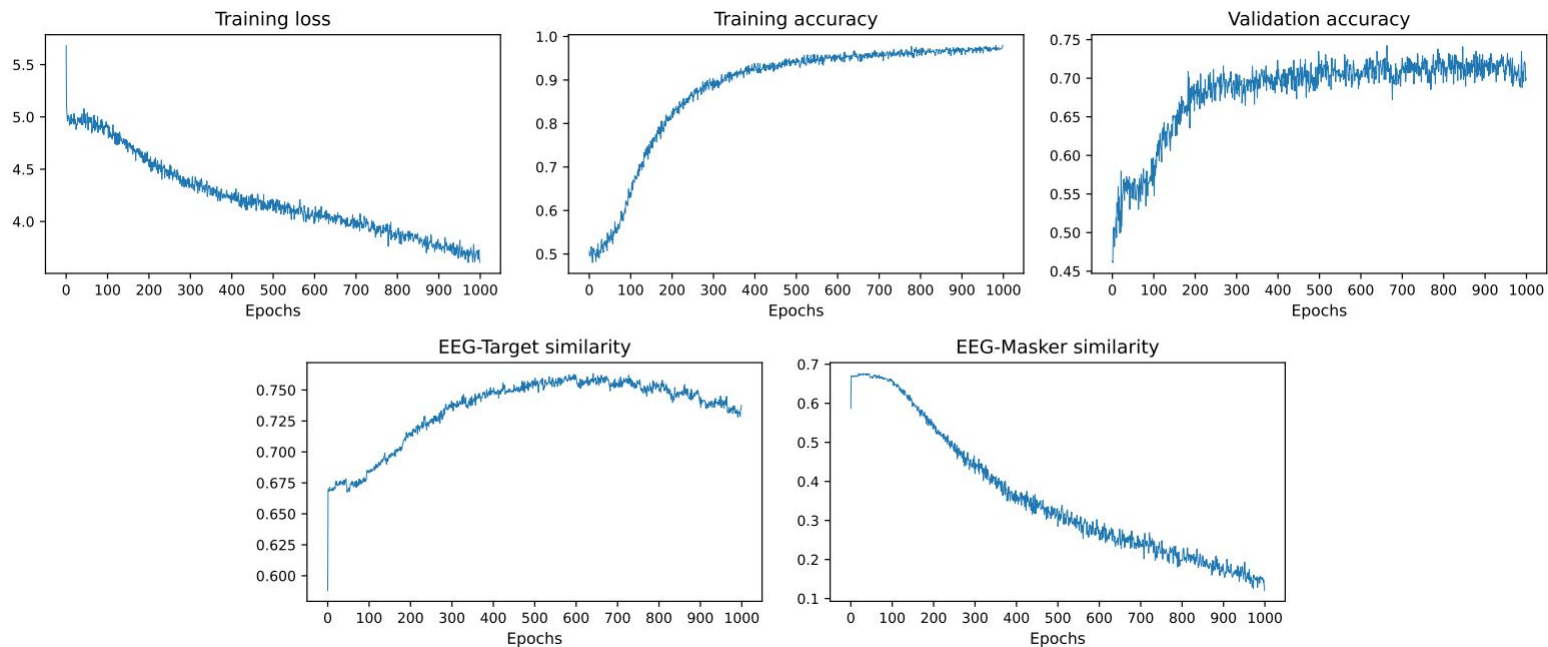




# Results & Discussion

## Contrastive learning

### All conditions



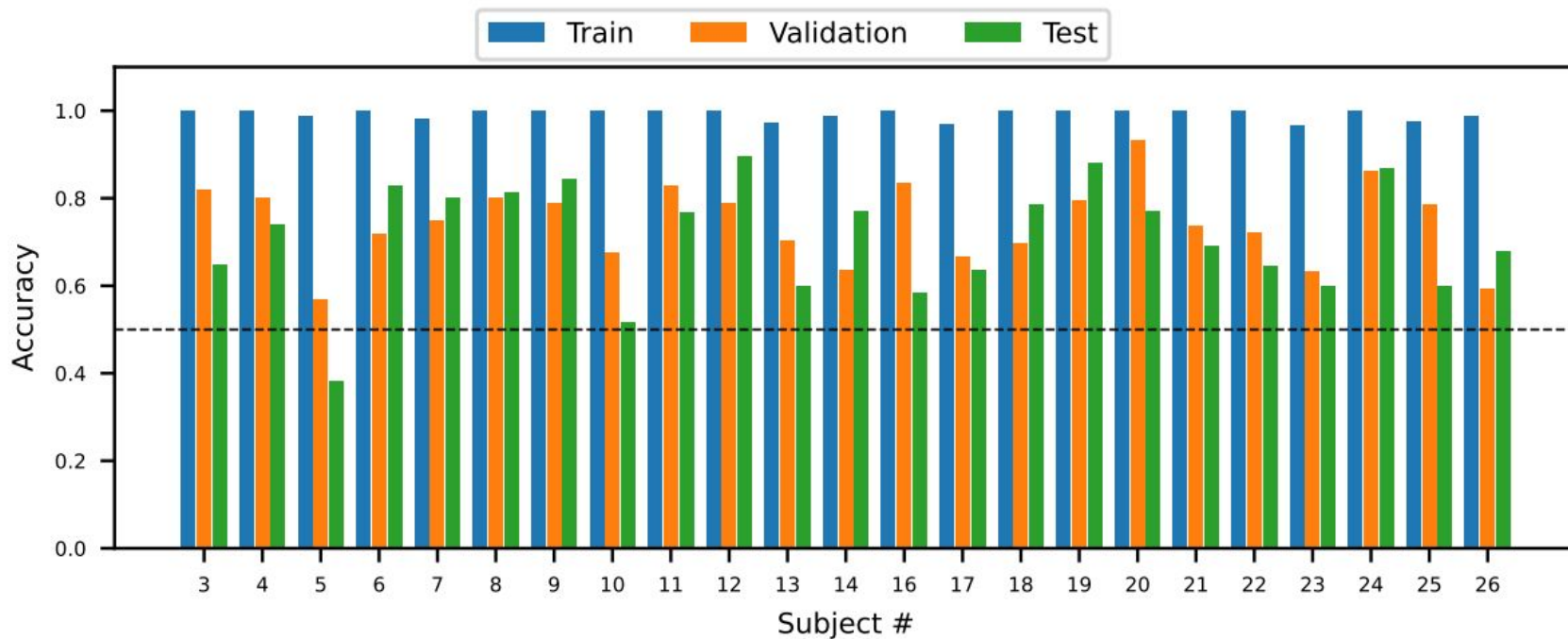


# Results & Discussion

Contrastive learning

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

## Subject accuracy on all conditions

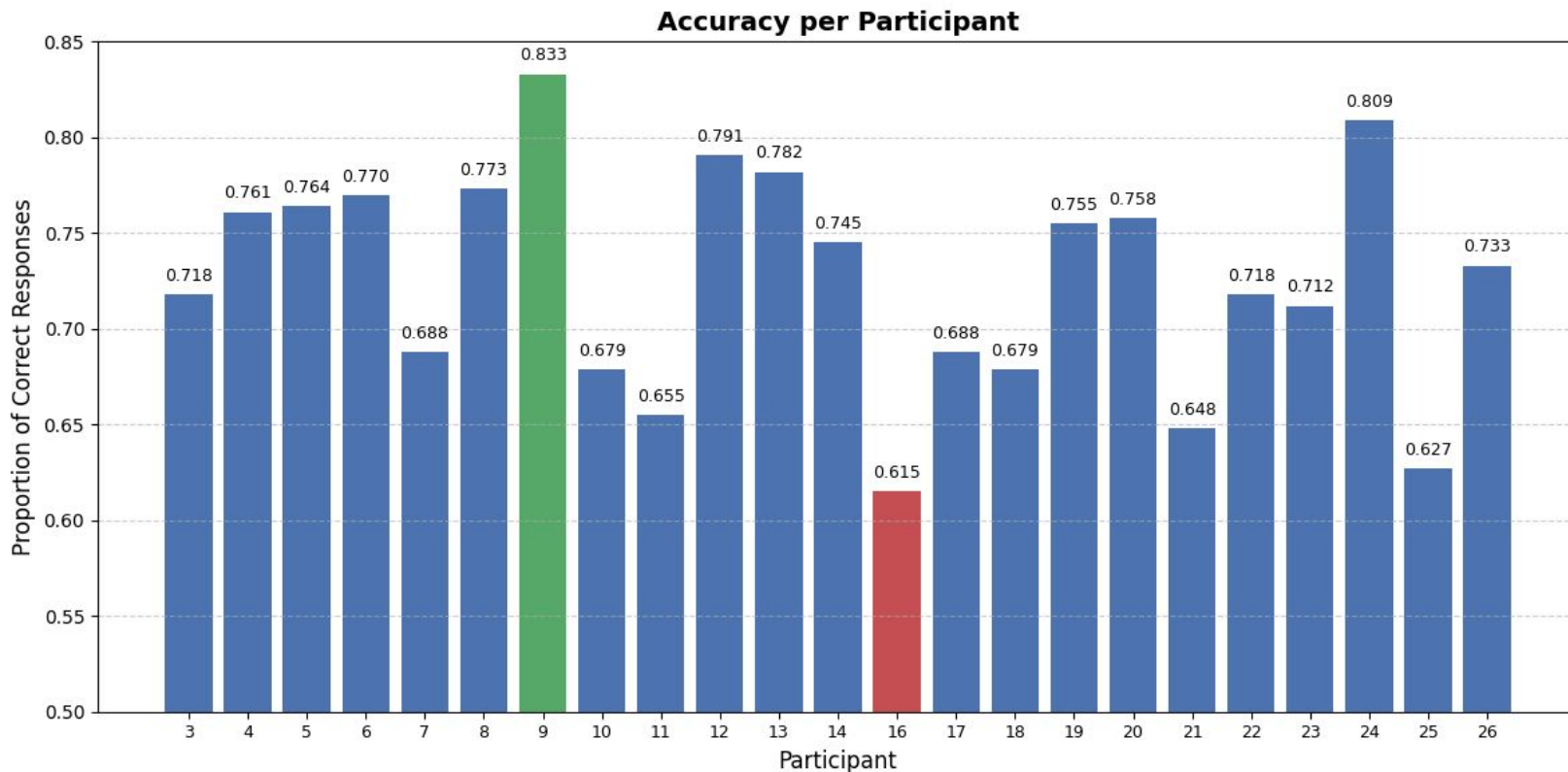




# Data

Response accuracy

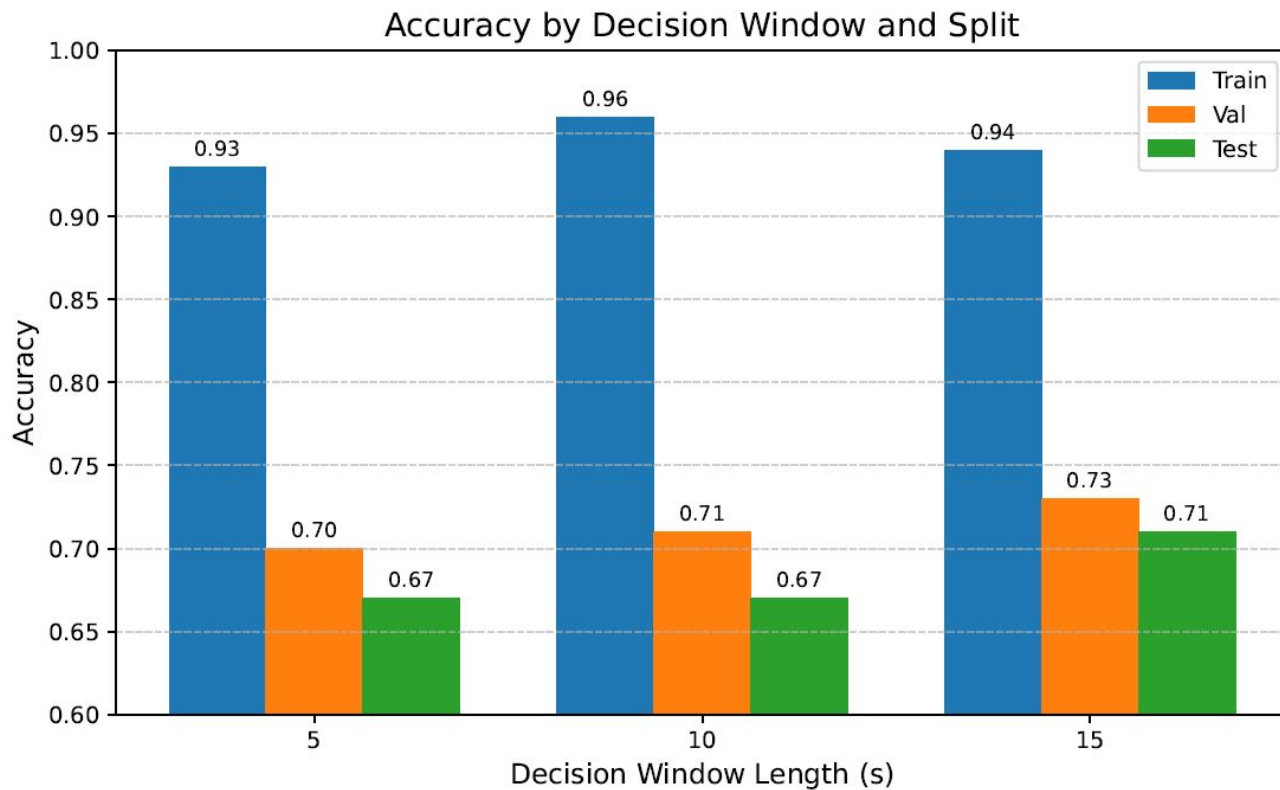
2 yes/no questions per trial





# Results & Discussion

Contrastive learning





## Results & Discussion

### Augmentation results

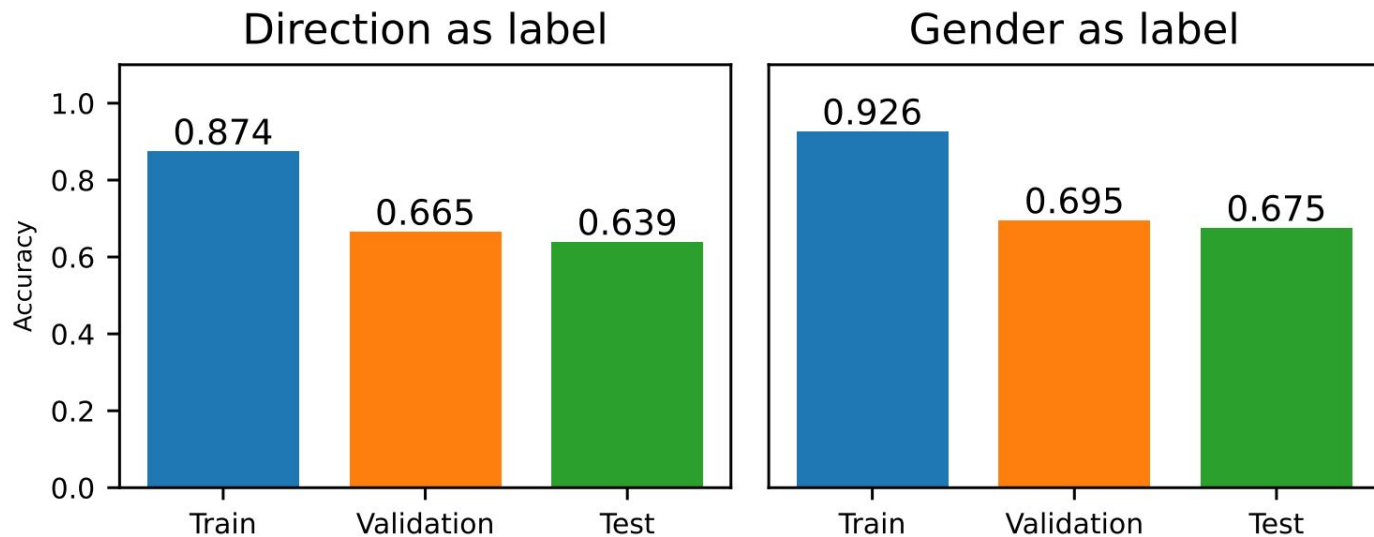
- TR: Time Reversal
- DR: Channel Dropout
- FTS: Fourier Transform  
Surrogate

	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

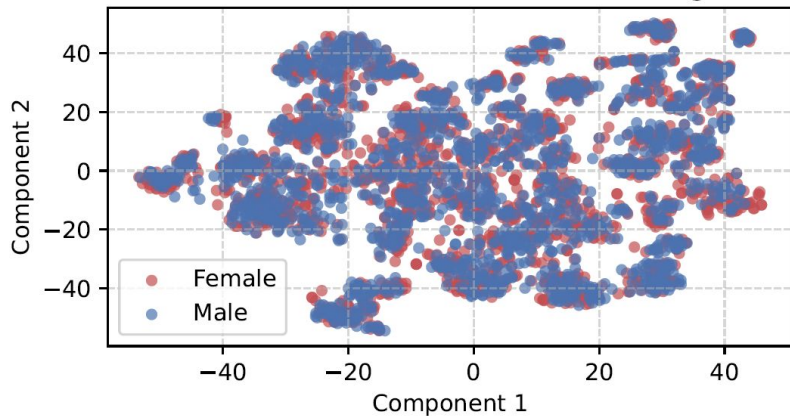


# Conclusion

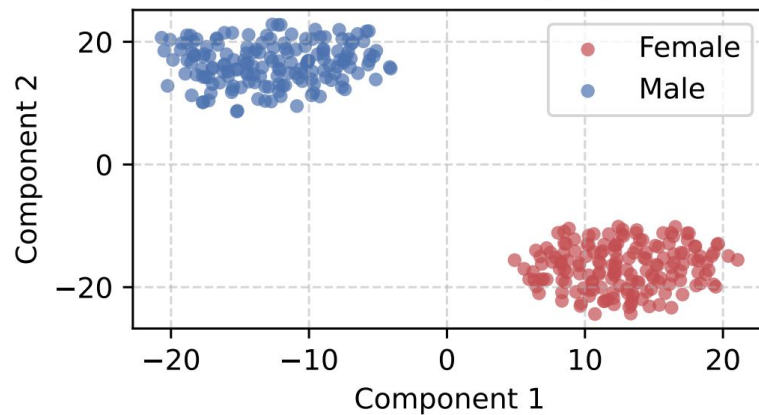
RQ1

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

t-SNE of LaBraM EEG embeddings



t-SNE of CLAP Embeddings by Gender



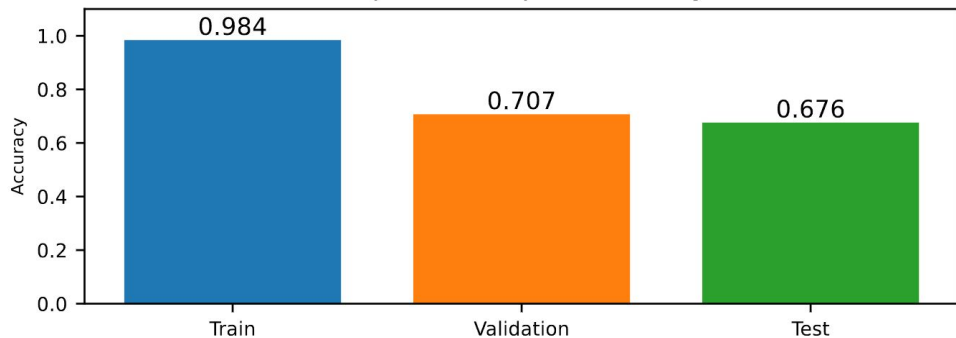


# Conclusion

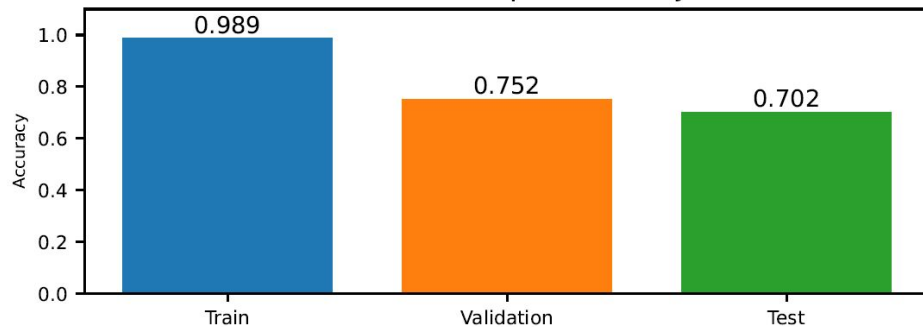
RQ2

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

Supervised split accuracy



Contrastive split accuracy

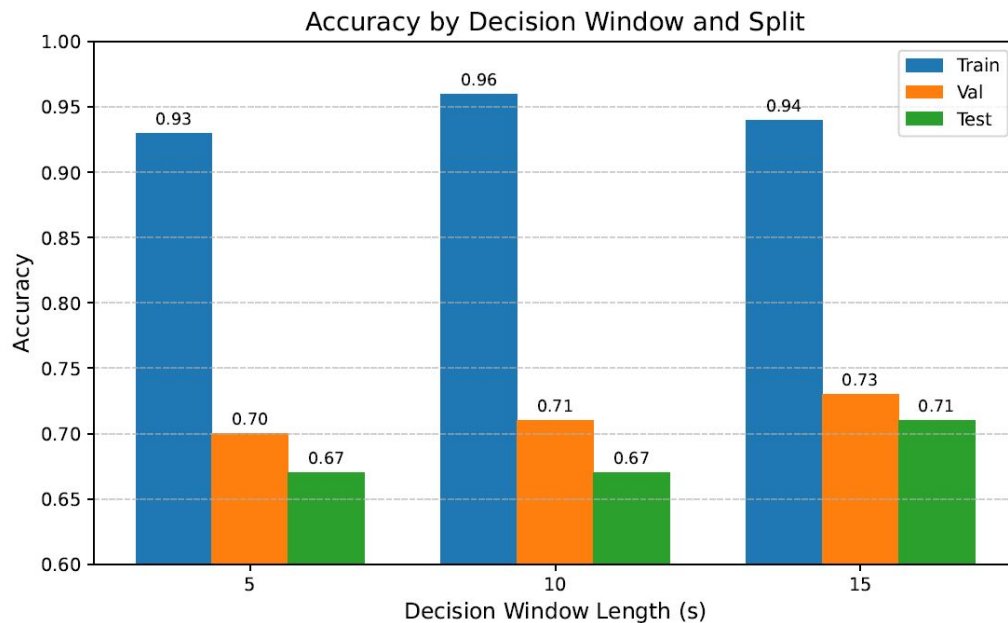




# Conclusion

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."

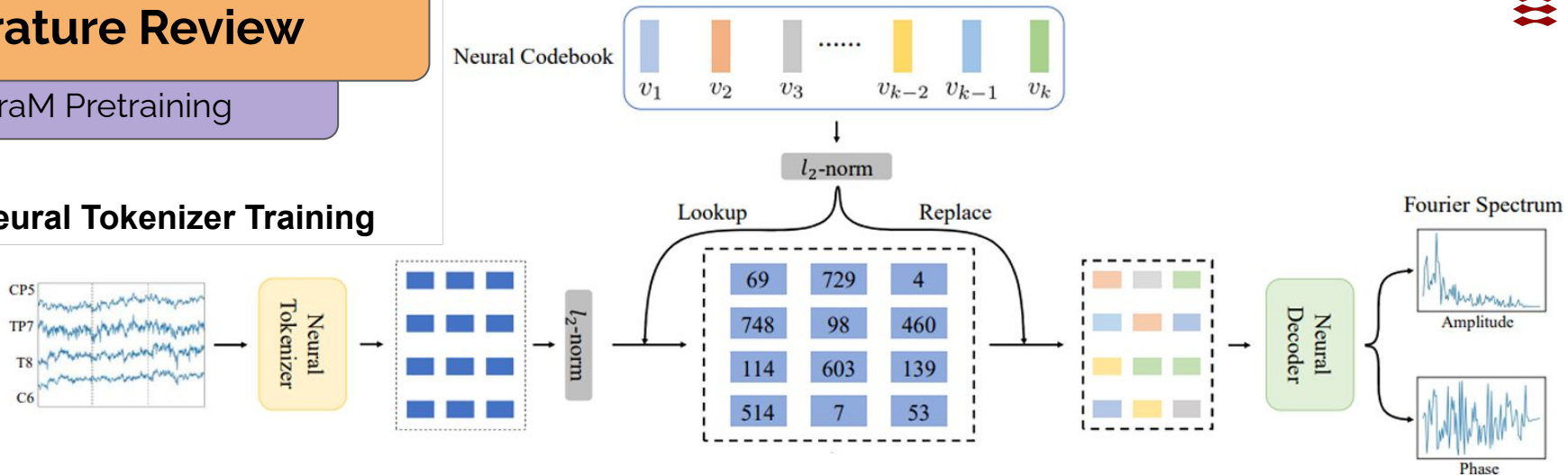
[3]: Enze Su et al. "STAnet: A Spatiotemporal Attention Network for Decoding Auditory Spatial Attention From EEG."



# Literature Review

## LaBraM Pretraining

### Neural Tokenizer Training



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

Predicted amplitude Predicted phase

Actual amplitude Actual phase

Tokenizer Vector

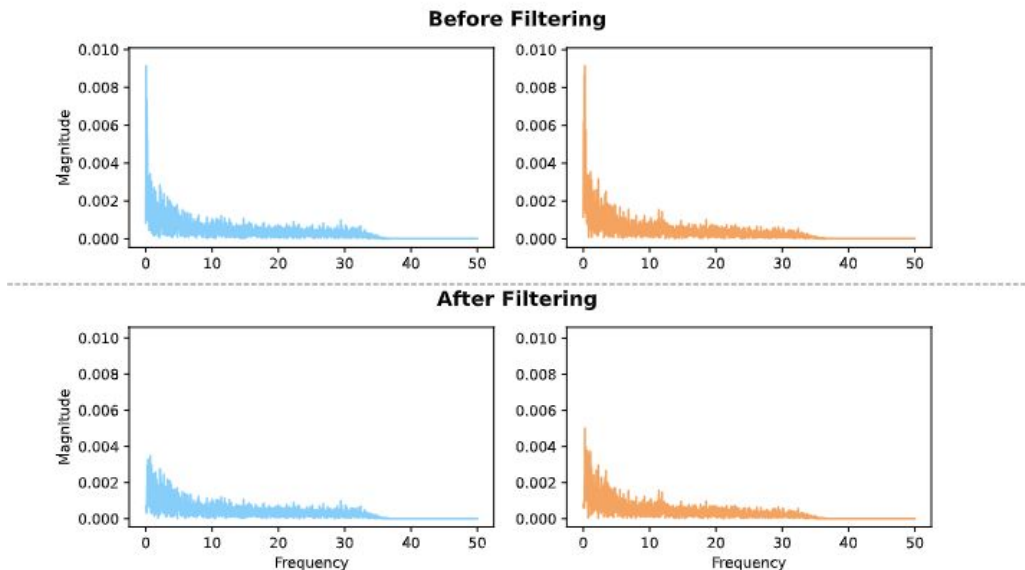
Codebook Vector



# Data

## Preprocessing

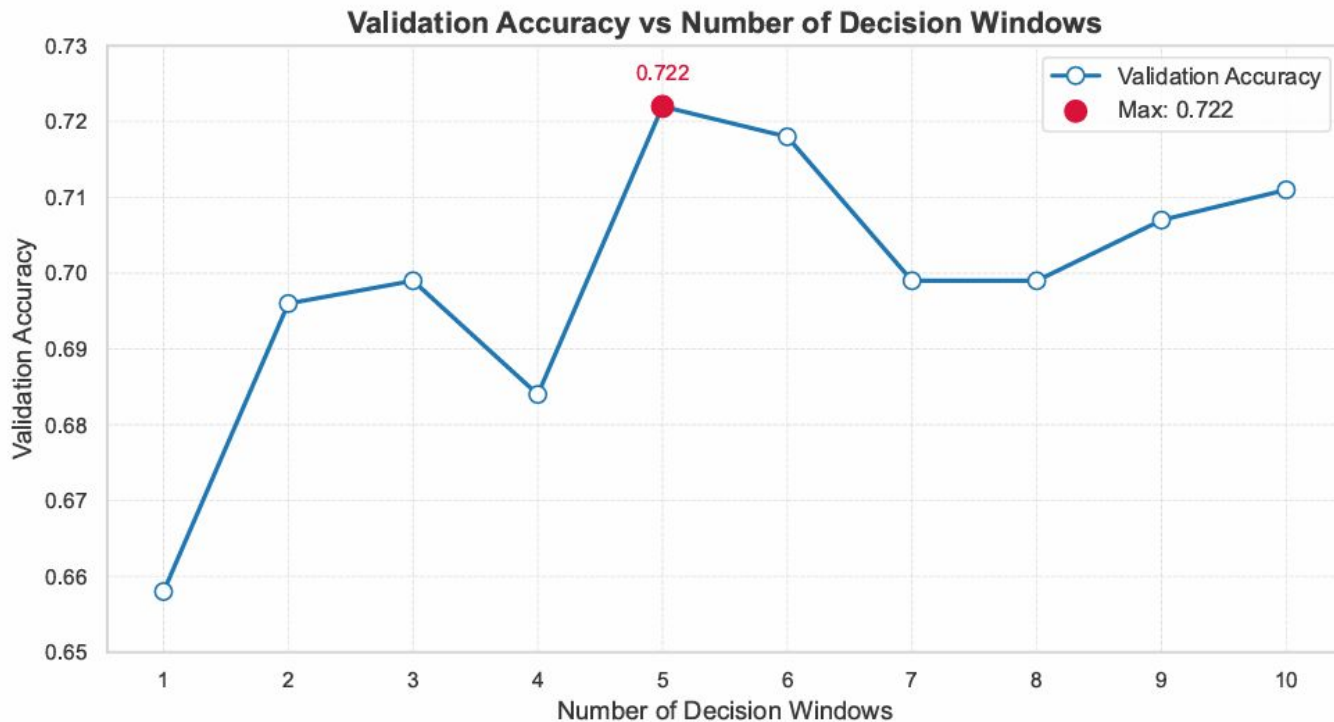
- EEG was bandpass filtered between 0.5-30Hz
- ICA to remove EEG artifacts
- EEG downsampled from 8192Hz → 200Hz
- Audio upsamples from 44100Hz → 48000Hz





# 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

	Lund Contrastive <sup>1</sup>	Lund DCCA <sup>2</sup>	Our Model
<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

Leave-one-out condition AAD performance

