CARDIFF UNIVERSITY PRIFYSGOL AERDY

Validation of a binaural model for speech intelligibility in noise and reverberation



Model*

BRIR: binaural room impulse response **BMLD**: binaural masking level difference Φ : interaural phase difference **ρ**: interaural coherence S/N ratio: signal-to-noise ratio **SII**: speech intelligibility index **SRT**: speech reception threshold

* computationally efficient version of Lavandier & Culling (2010) model



Predictions in anechoic*

Peissig & Kollmeier (1997)

- Subjective adjustment procedure in

Hawley et al. (2004)

- Adaptative procedure in **English** - One, two or three interferers at one, two or three of a range of azimuths (-30°) , $0^{\circ}, 30^{\circ}, 60^{\circ} \text{ and } 90^{\circ})$

Culling et al. (2004)

ENTPE

- Same as Hawley et al. (2004) with

Noise interferers and frontal target sentences in all experiments

Anechoic => head-related impulse responses (HRIRs) instead of BRIRs for the predictions

When original HRIRs not available (P&K1997, Hal.2004, B&P1988) => HRIRs from Gardner and Martin (1994)

* Jelfs et al. (2011), Hear. Res. (in press)

Bronkhorst & Plomp (1988)

- Adaptative procedure in **Dutch** - **One interferer** at 0°, 30°, 60°, 90°, 120°, 150°, or 180° - Conditions with both cues (FF), **no binaural unmasking** (dL) or **no better-ear listening** (dT)

German

- Interferers: one (17 azimuths between 0° and 360°), **two** (17 az.+105°), or **three** $(17 \text{ az.}+105^{\circ}+255^{\circ})$



- Binaural and monaural listening



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three interferers

- Conditions with both cues (FF), **no binaural unmasking** (ILD-only) or **no better-ear listening** (ITD-only)





Main discrepancy associated with a HRIR difference at 90°



Predictions in reverberation*

Noise interferers, target sentences and real-room BRIRs in all experiments

Adaptive procedure in **English** (except B&B2006)

* Lavandier et al. (2011), J. Acoust. Soc. Am. (under review)

Experiment 1

- One interferer at three azimuths $(-25^\circ, 0^\circ)$ or 25°) and **two distances** (0.65 or 5 m), and a target at $(25^\circ, 0.65m)$
- Meeting room 1
- Conditions with both cues (BRIR) or **no** binaural unmasking (SEIR for Spectral Envelope Impulse Response)

Experiment 2

- One interferer in 12 selected conditions involving three azimuths $(-25^\circ, 0^\circ \text{ or } 25^\circ)$, **5 distances** (0.65, 1.25, 2.5, 5 and 10 m) and 4 rooms (corridor, L-shaped, lecture hall, meeting 2)

Beutelmann & Brand (2006)

- Adaptative procedure in German - One interferer (8 azimuths between -140° and 180°) and a frontal target - **Two rooms** (cafeteria, office)



Experiment 3

asking (dB)

Spatial



Conclusions

> model predicting speech reception thresholds in combined noise and reverberation > accounts for the effects of binaural unmasking, head-shadow and room colouration For multiple interfering sources and real-room acoustics \succ reproduces a range of data sets from the literature (\neq languages and procedures) > without parameter fitting