

Graded Constraints in English Word Forms

Brent Vander Wyk¹ & James McClelland²

¹Carnegie Mellon University & Center for the Neural Basis of Cognition, ²Stanford University

1 Interesting patterns in occurrence rates...

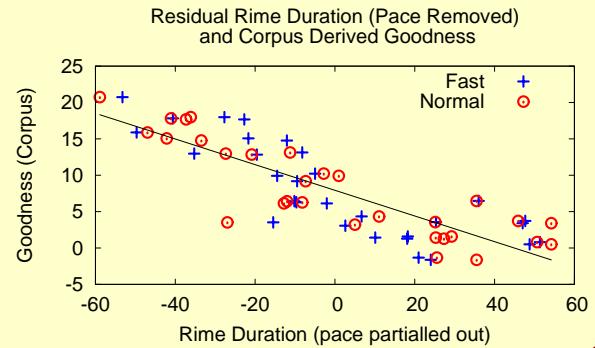
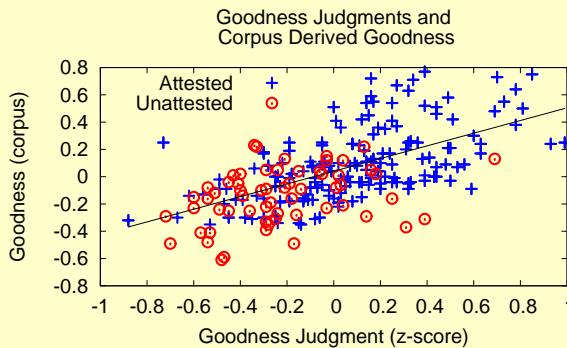
Voiced									
Long (VV)					Short (V)				
Embellished					Embellished				
Cod	alon	a	e	n_	l_	z_	z	_d	
d	12.2	2	1.9			14.4	6.8	1	0.
b	2.4					13		0.4	
g	1.2					15.4			
Unvoiced									
Long (VV)					Short (V)				
Embellished					Embellished				
Cod	alon	a	e	n_	l_	s_	s	_t	
t	19.2	2.6	1.1	3.9	0.2	22.6	8	4.6	7.8
p	8.7		0.5	0.2		17	9.4	1.6	1.2
k	13.5	0.1	0.8	0.2		21.6	12	2.2	3.2
								5.6	1.8

n_ = preceding homorganic nasal, l_ = preceding liquid, z/s_ preceding coronal fricative, _z/s subsequent coronal fricative, _d/t subsequent coronal stop.

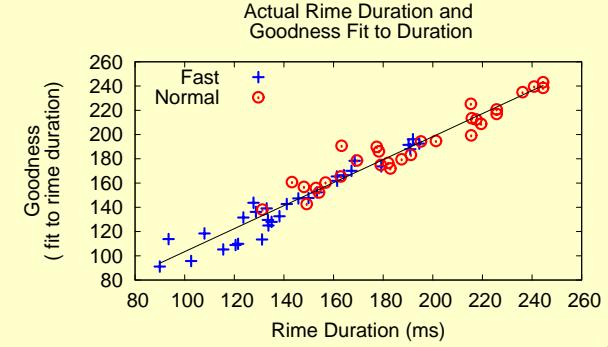
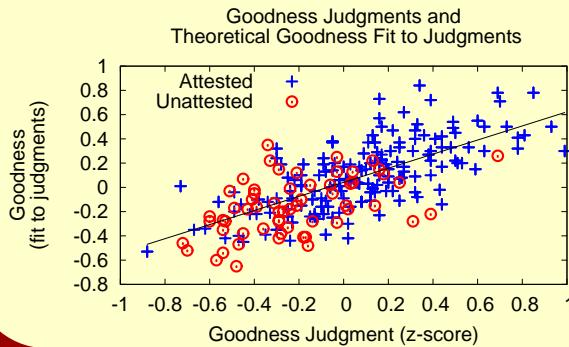
2 Accounted for by weighted parameters...

Data Set			
Constraint	Corpus	Ratings	Durations
base	20.73	0.81	138.1
Long Vowel	-2.9	-0.30	4.6
Voiced Coda	-4.8	-0.29	22.7
Labial Stop	-3.0	-0.19	17.8
Dorsal Stop	-2.7	-0.12	14.1
Nasal Emb.	-11.5	-0.40	33.9
Pre-s Emb.	-14.2	-0.35	82.6
Pace	-	-	-47

3 Same weighted parameters account for ratings & durations...



4 Or fits can be improved using regression...



Correlations Among Weights	
Corpus & Ratings	0.77*
Corpus & Durations	0.9**
Ratings & Durations	-0.52

* p < 0.1

** p < 0.05

- Small number parameters
- Real-valued weights
- Capture variance across multiple data sets
- Similar weights