

List of Tables

Table 2-1 Formants in Hz for five different vowels. Values in parenthesis of the first column correspond to bandwidth around each formant (in Hz).....	27
Table 2-2 The absolute values of the segregation parameter and its corresponding percent F0 segregation at each vowel level.	34
Table 4-1 Mean values of the pure-tone thresholds (dB HL) for YNH, ONH and OHI subjects of Chintanpalli et al. (2016).	69
Table 4-2 Model parameters used across the three different listening models. SR parameters are given in spikes/sec.	73
Table 4-3 F0 benefit (in percent) comparison between concurrent vowel data (Chintanpalli et al., 2016) and three listening models.	77

List of Figures

Figure 1-1 The concurrent vowel scores as a function of F0 difference.....	2
Figure 1-2 Anatomy of the human ear and cochlea.....	6
Figure 1-3 Cat tuning-curves and rate-level functions	10
Figure 1-4 Period histograms of a fiber at different levels.....	11
Figure 1-5 Adaptation of and HSR fiber to the onset response..	12
Figure 1-6 Frequency spectrum and the rate coding of the vowel /ε/.	14
Figure 1-7 ALSR of the vowel /ε/ at various sound levels, from 18 to 78 dB....	15
Figure 1-8 Synchronized rates in response to vowel /ε/ for two cat fibers of a normal and impaired fiber.	15
Figure 2-1 Percent identification scores of both the vowels for same F0 (squares) and different F0 (triangles) as a function of the vowel level...	25
Figure 2-2 The Block diagram of the F0-guided segregation algorithm.	29
Figure 2-3 Predicted percent identification scores of both vowels, one vowel, F0 segregation and F0 benefit.	36
Figure 2-4 Similarity scores as a function of vowel level for same and different F0 conditions.	37
Figure 2-5 Model responses for /æ/ (F0 = 100 Hz), /ɑ/ (F0 = 100 Hz)/ presented at 25 dB SPL, 65 dB SPL and 85 dB SPL.	39
Figure 2-6 Model responses for /æ/ (F0 = 100 Hz), /ɑ/ (F0 = 126 Hz)/ presented at 25 dB SPL.	40
Figure 2-7 Model responses for /æ/ (F0 = 100 Hz), /ɑ/ (F0 = 126 Hz)/ presented at 65 dB SPL.	41
Figure 2-8 Model responses for /æ/ (F0 = 100 Hz), /ɑ/ (F0 = 126 Hz)/ presented at 85 dB SPL.	42

Figure 3-1 Effect of vowel-pair duration on mean normalized pooled-ACF values evaluated at the fundamental frequencies.....	52
Figure 3-2 Predicted effects of F0 difference on concurrent vowel identification and segregation for 200 ms duration.	53
Figure 3-3 Predicted effects of F0 difference on concurrent vowel identification and segregation for 50 ms durations.	55
Figure 3-4 Predicted effects of F0 difference on identification scores of one vowel of the pair for two different vowel durations.	56
Figure 4-1 Block diagram illustrating the steps involved in the computational model to predict the concurrent vowel scores across F0 differences for three listening groups.....	68
Figure 4-2 Predicted effects of F0 difference on percent concurrent vowel identification and percent segregation..	75
Figure 4-3 Effect of F0 difference on one-vowel-correct identification of the pair. for three listening models.....	78
Figure 4-4 Model responses for /i/ (F0 = 100 Hz), /æ/ (F0 = 106 Hz)/ presented to the YNH model..	79
Figure 4-5 Model responses for /i/ (F0 = 100 Hz), /æ/ (F0 = 106 Hz)/ presented to the ONH model.....	80
Figure 4-6 Model responses for /i/ (F0 = 100 Hz), /æ/ (F0 = 106 Hz)/ presented to the OHI model.....	81
Figure 4-7 / Model responses for /u/ (F0 = 100 Hz), /æ/ (F0 = 106 Hz)/ presented to the YNH model	82
Figure 4-8 Model responses for /u/ (F0 = 100 Hz), /æ/ (F0 = 106 Hz)/ presented to the ONH model and OHI model.....	83

List of Abbreviations

ACF	Autocorrelation Function
AN	Auditory-Nerve
ALSR	Average localized synchronized rate
BM	Basilar Membrane
C1	Component-1
C2	Component-2
CF	Characteristic Frequency
CS	Cochlear Synaptopathy
DRNL	Dual Resonance Non-Linear
DPOAE	Distortion product otoacoustic emissions
DR	Discharge rate
F0	Fundamental Frequency
F1– F5	Formant 1- Formant 5
HSR	High Spontaneous Rate
IHC	Inner-Hair-Cell
LSR	Low Spontaneous Rate
MSR	Medium Spontaneous Rate
NIHL	Noise-induced hearing loss

OHC	Outer-Hair-Cell
OHI	Older adults with Hearing Loss
ONH	Older adults with Normal Hearing
PTA	Pure-Tone Average
SEM	Standard Error Mean
SNHL	Sensorineural Hearing Loss
SPL	Sound Pressure Level
SR	Spontaneous Rate
TRNL	Triple- path nonlinear filter bank
YNH	Younger adults with Normal Hearing