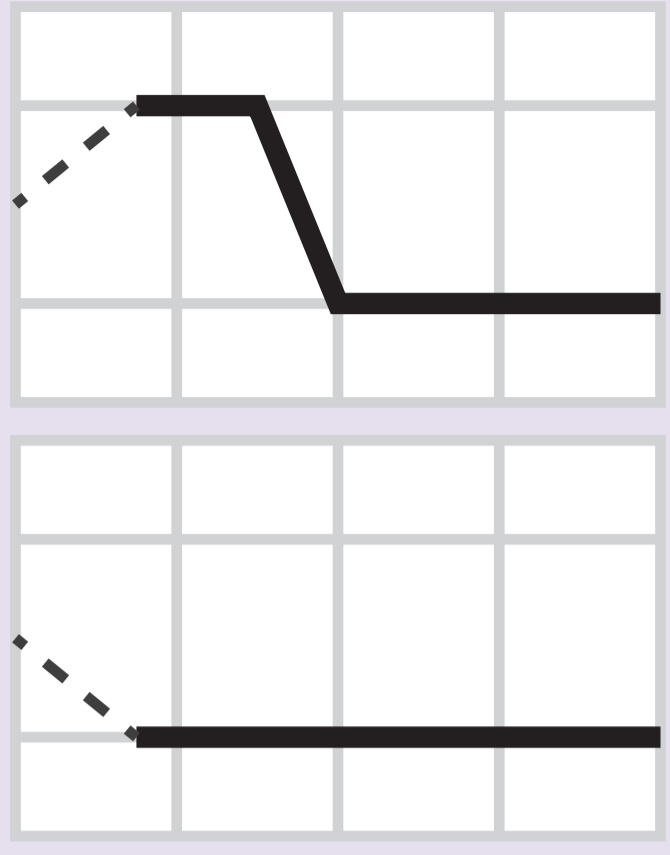


Epistemic Meaning and the LLL Tune in American English

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Phonological Forms



H*L-L%

L*L-L%

Pragmatic Functions

Default for Assertions, Commits the speaker, New information, etc.

Scathing Intonation?
Little to no research

Research Questions

What does L*L-L% do?

Does the choice of L*L-L% depend on epistemic stance?

Pierrehumbert & Hirschberg 1990

Context

Exp 1: Intonation Only

1-A: Guess what I picked up from the store
2-B: What did you get?
3-A: Take a guess

Exp 2: Intonation Redundant

1-A: Guess what I picked up from the store
2-B: What did you get?
3-A: Take a guess

Ruled In
4-B: Well, since you know I'm allergic to berries it can't be blueberries or strawberries... What did you get?
5-A: Oranges

Extended

Hypothesis

Felicity of 5A's intonation is dependent on his epistemic stance in the discourse.

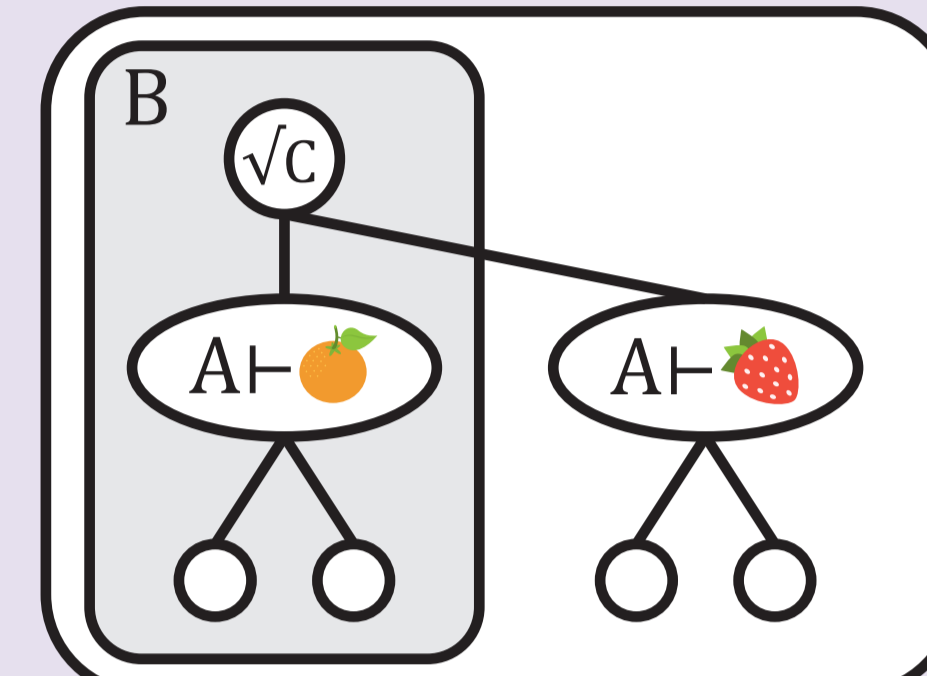
	In	Out
HLL	✓	#
LLL	#	✓

Does this pattern from intonation's epistemic contribution still hold when made redundant by an alternative cue?

Formalism in Commitment Space Semantics

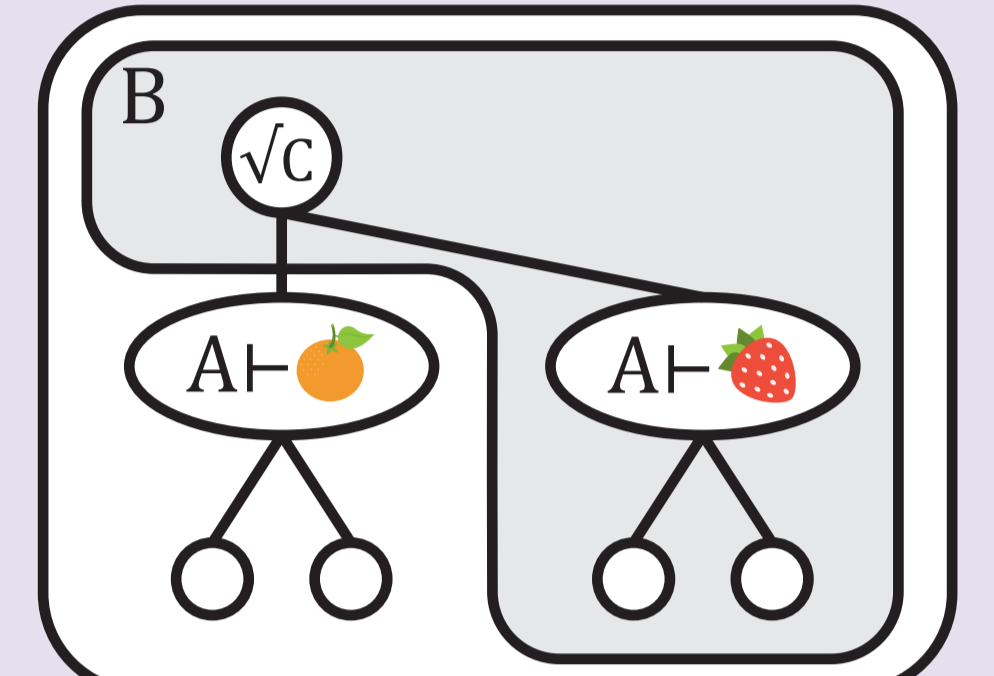
Krifka 2015

Ruled In



$\langle \dots, C^* \rangle + B$, to A: Can't be berries... what is it?
 $= \langle \dots, C^* \rangle \{ \{ \sqrt{C} \} UC + A+ \} \{ \phi \in \{ \text{Berries} \} \}$

Ruled Out

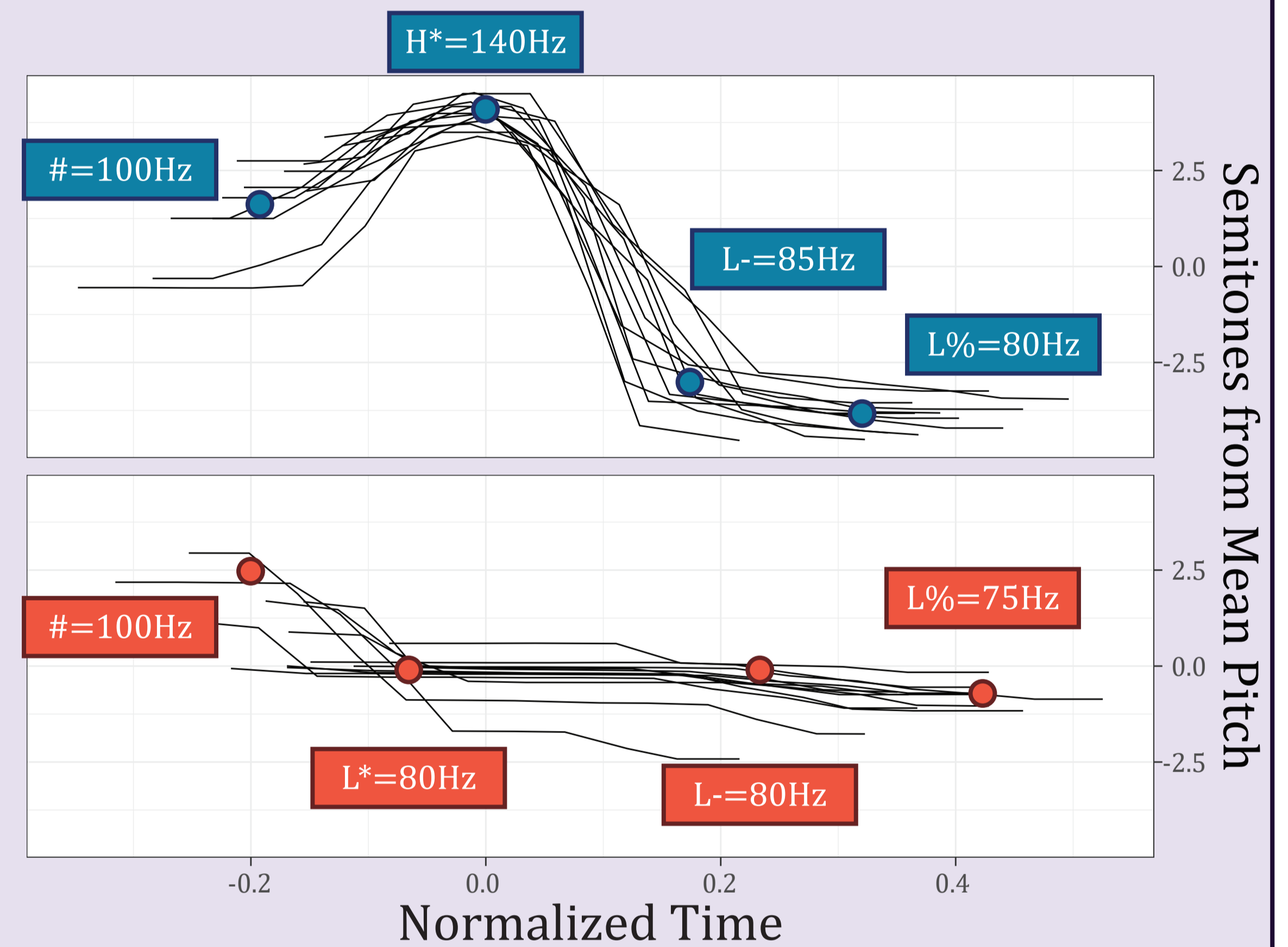
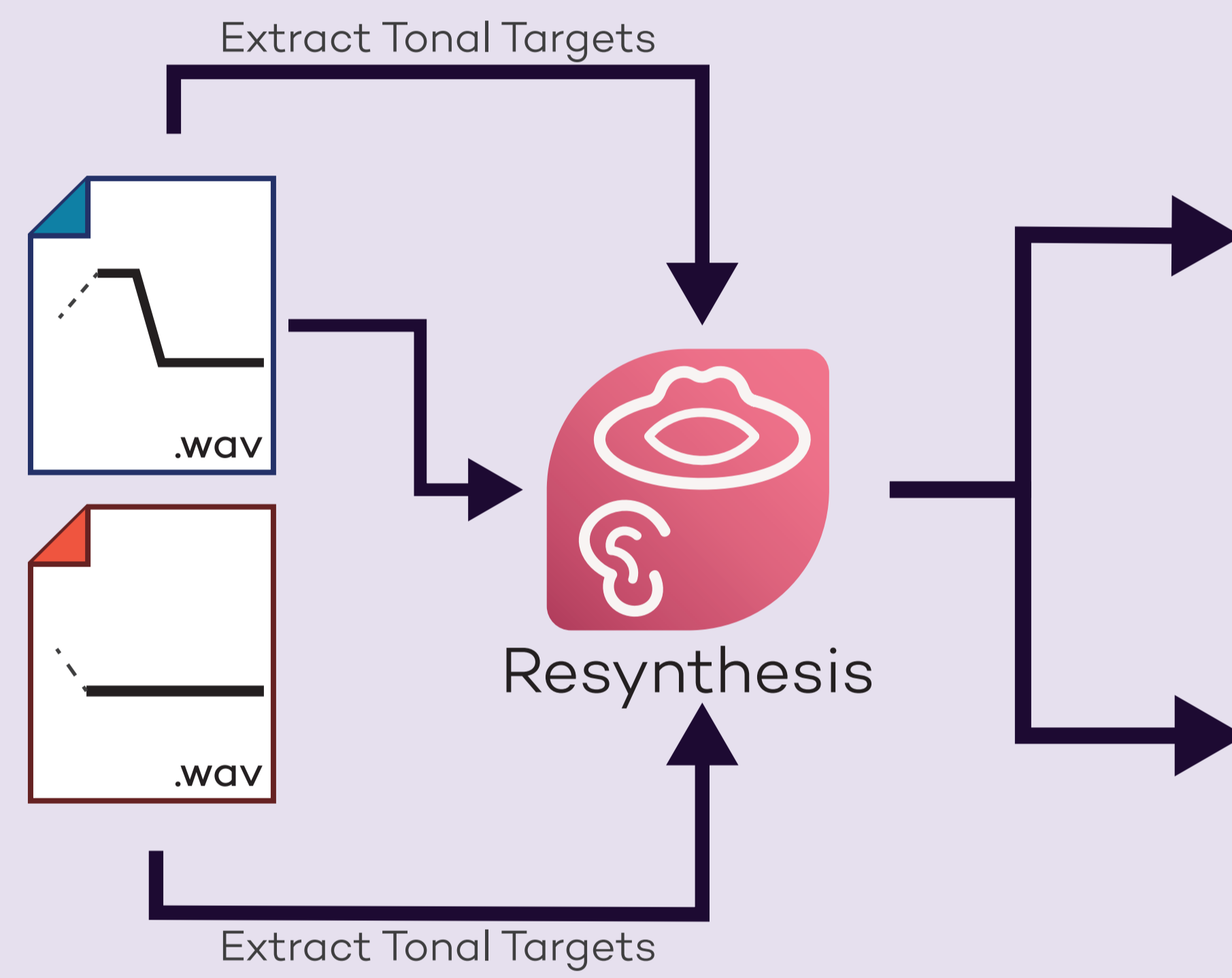
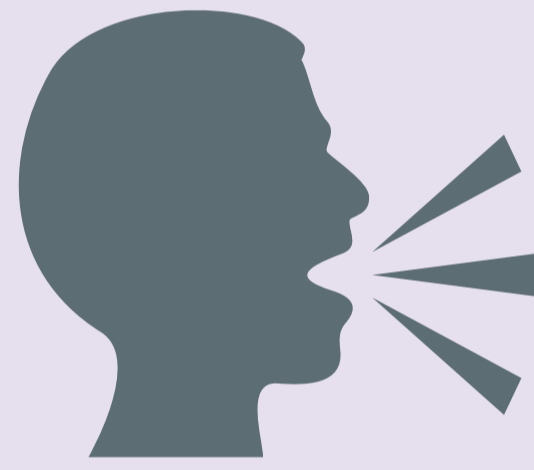


$\langle \dots, C^* \rangle + B$, to A: Can't be citrus... what is it?
 $= \langle \dots, C^* \rangle \{ \{ \sqrt{C} \} UC + A- \} \{ \phi \in \{ \text{Citrus} \} \}$

Stimuli

- Turn
- 1
 - 2
 - 3
 - 4
 - 5

oranges
arugula
monorails
cinderella
germany
volleyball
iowa
lavender
roses
rosemary
ribeye
narnia



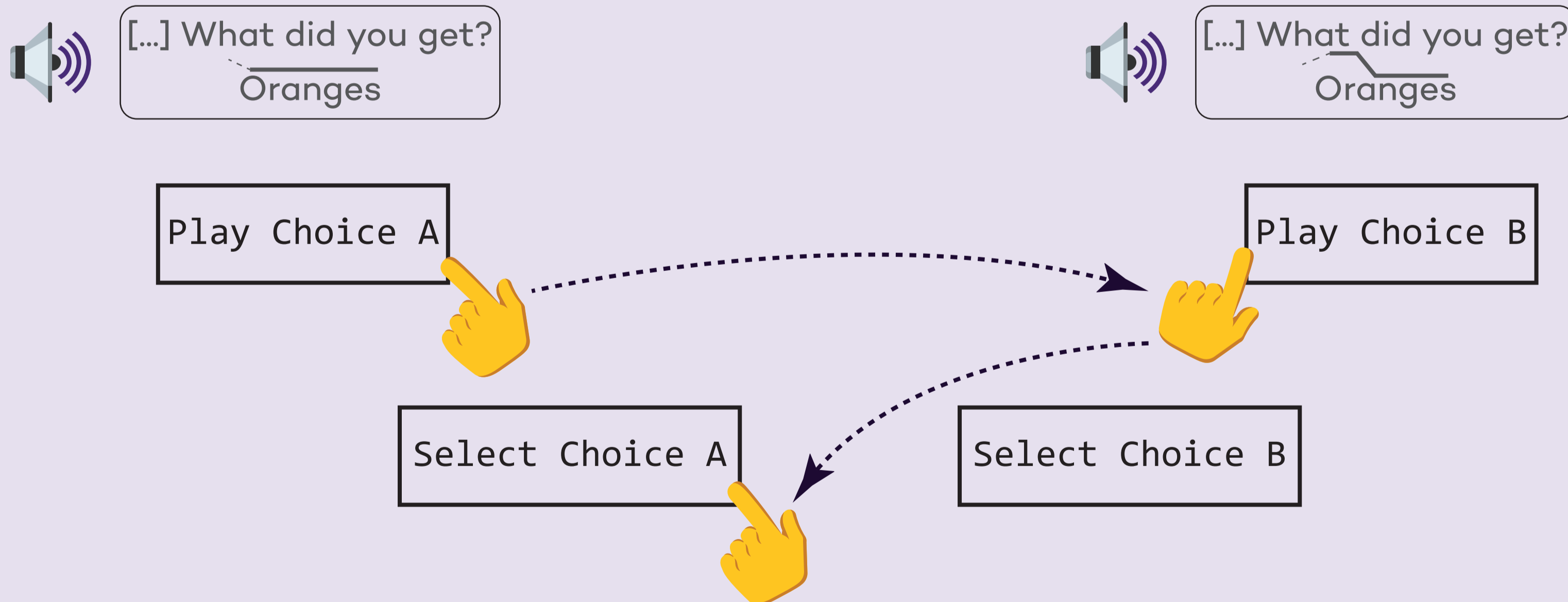
Centered on H*

Procedure

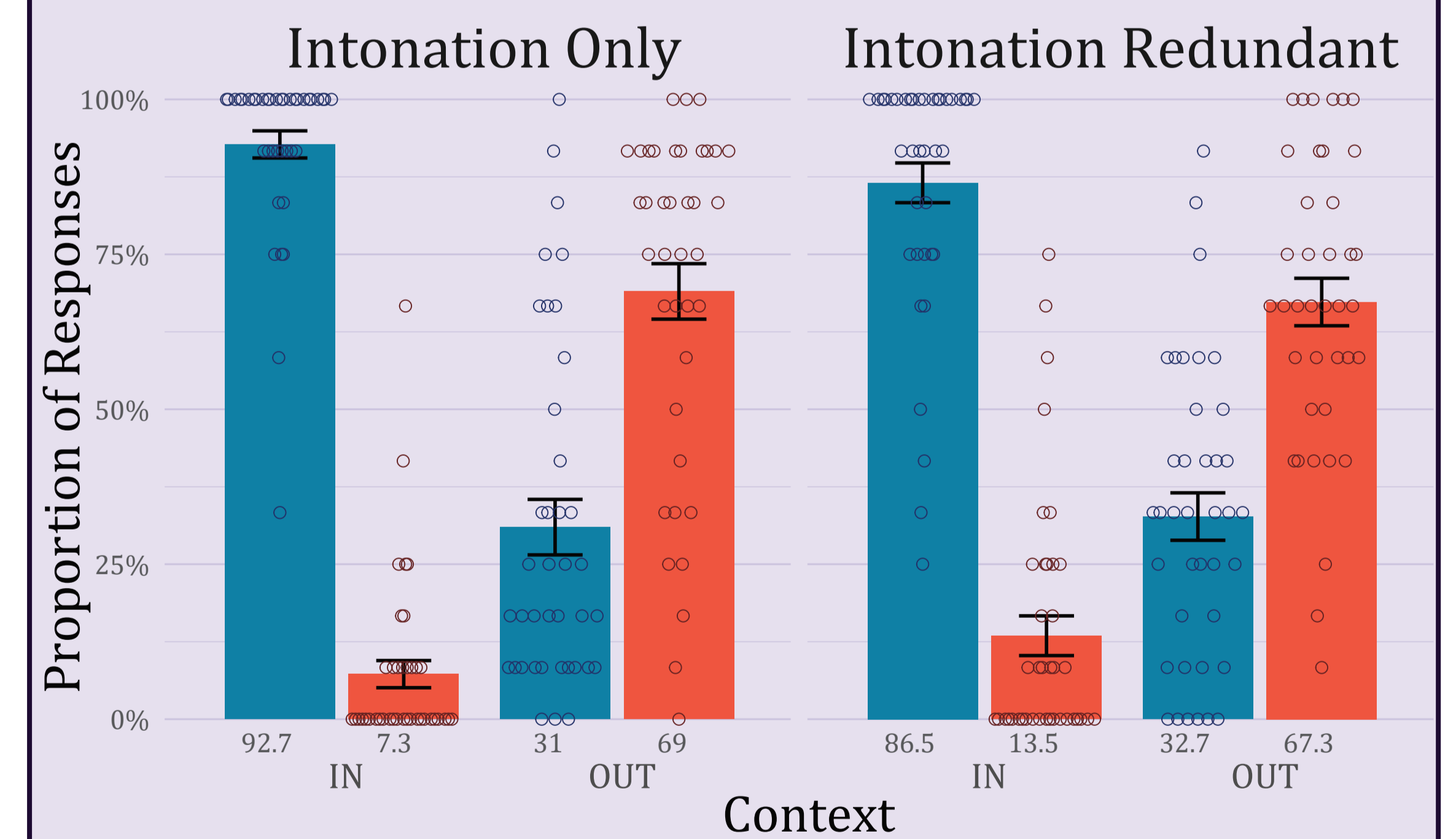
Task: Select the more appropriate response

guess what I picked up from the store
what did you get
take a guess

well since you know i'm allergic to citrus it can't be lemons or grapefruit what did you get



Results



LLL is preferred in the Ruled Out context, but not as much as HLL is in the Ruled In context

Conclusions

HLL and LLL are felicitous in different contexts

HLL Favored when the proposition is considered a possibility by the addressee
A default for assertions which requires no special context to be licensed

LLL Favored when the proposition is not expected by the addressee
Seems marked in comparison to HLL, requiring specific context

Proposed Interpretation:
LLL expresses a speaker's
withholding of commitment

Licenses inferences

...knows addressee will be disappointed
...believes info is abundantly obvious
...embarrassed to admit information
...reluctant to become committed
...believes possible repercussions