



Measuring percepts

- There is a temptation to trust our intuition about what we see
 - Introspection
 - Philosophy
- However, what we report is often biased by more than just the "pure" perceptual experience



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Environmental noise

- It's not just neural noise that can make a task difficult
- Suppose you are waiting for a phone call
- The phone is in another part of your apartment and you are listening for its ring
- You may hear other sounds as well (noise)
 - Washing machine
 - Dishwasher
 - Television
 - Radio
 - Other apartments
- You have to decide if a sound you heard was your phone within the noise or just the noise alone
- Detection is a discrimination task

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Discrimination

- The situation is complicated further because your reports of whether the stimulus was present depends on more than just the perceptual experience
- For example, if it is a very important phone call, you will "respond" to many sounds, even if you think they are unlikely to be the phone
 - Hits and false alarms will be frequent
 - Misses and correct rejections will be rare
- If the call is not important and you are busy doing something else, you might decide that what you heard was not the phone
 - Hits and false alarms will be rare
 - Misses and correct rejections will be frequent













PSY 310: Sensory and Perceptual Processes





















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