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The List-Strength Effect and Categorical Frequency Memory:  
Tests of Availability

by

Joanne Bonanno

B.A., Wilfrid Laurier University, 1994

THESIS

submitted to the Department of Psychology  
in partial fulfilment of the requirements  
for the Master of Arts degree

Wilfrid Laurier University

Waterloo

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## Abstract

The availability view of memory maintains that the retrieval of categorical frequency information is a function of recall of category exemplars. The List-Strength Effect (LSE), which is evidenced when increasing the strength of competing items in a list reduces memory for the other items, has been found to be a characteristic of recall, but not recognition, performance. The present study was designed to a) further examine the relationship between cued recall and frequency judgments of category exemplars by testing for the presence of a LSE in categorical frequency estimation; and b) to examine the role that estimation strategies may play in judgments of frequency. The results of Experiment 1 found that 1) there was modest evidence of a LSE in categorical frequency judgment, and that 2) there was an identical pattern of effects in the statistical analyses of cued-recall and frequency estimates. These results provide some evidence as to the use of recall as an estimation strategy. Experiment 2 again showed a modest LSE in category frequency judgments. However, frequency estimation did not differ significantly when the same category exemplars were repeated in the study list (same context) versus when different category exemplars were presented (different context). Experiment 2a, in which cued recall was examined for the different-context condition, did not show a LSE. Furthermore, performance in Experiment 2a was lower than category frequency estimation performance in Experiment 2. It was concluded that recall of category exemplars plays a role in category frequency estimation, but is not the principle underlying process.

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## The List-Strength Effect

**Introduction**

Across a considerable range of conditions, people have been shown to have a good memory for the frequency with which an event occurs. This frequency sensitivity has been demonstrated in laboratory settings as well as ecologically valid situations which take place on a day-to-day basis. For example, people have been shown to be sensitive to the natural occurrence rates of single letters (Attneave, 1953) as well as causes of death (Lichtenstein, Slovic, Fischhoff, Layman, & Combs, 1978). In the laboratory setting, people have shown a remarkable sensitivity to how often a word is presented even when they did not know the nature of the upcoming memory test (e.g. Hintzman & Block, 1971; Hasher & Zacks, 1979, 1984; Hasher & Chromiak, 1977; Jonides & Naveh-Benjamin, 1987).

The accuracy with which people judge **classes** of episodic events has also been shown to be significant. Specifically, memory for category frequency in which higher-order, superordinate level information that has been explicitly or implicitly referenced, has been demonstrated as reliable (e.g., Alba, Chromiak, Hasher & Attig, 1980; Barsalou & Ross, 1986; Freund & Hasher, 1989; Greene, 1989; Watkins & LeCompte, 1991; Bruce, Hockley & Craik, 1991). The typical paradigm in studies involving categorical frequency estimation involves presenting subjects with a list of exemplars from different taxonomic categories such that the number of exemplars per category is varied. At final test, subjects are

### The List-Strength Effect

presented with the category names and asked to estimate how many times they saw an exemplar from that category.

Two hypotheses have been developed to account for the basis of category frequency estimates. These hypotheses are the category-counter hypothesis and the recall-estimate hypothesis.

#### Category-Counter Hypothesis

According to the category-counter hypothesis, frequency estimates are based on information stored at the superordinate level (Alba et al., 1980; Brooks, 1985). In effect, this hypothesis postulates that when an exemplar is seen by a subject, a depiction of its categorical superordinate is triggered in memory. A count representing the frequency of activation is kept in some manner at the superordinate level. At final test, subjects base their category frequency judgments on the number that the category-counter has automatically and continuously tabulated. Thus, frequency judgments are based on information stored at the superordinate level and not on the retrieval of the memory traces of each individual exemplar.

In this view, frequency counting is proposed to be automatic (as defined by Hasher & Zacks, 1979;1984) and as such must be evidenced in the following conditions: 1) subjects must be equally as accurate given implicit or explicit memory instructions; 2) practice, or depth of processing should not increase accuracy; and 3) tasks performed concurrently should not adversely affect frequency judgments (as long as the category exemplars receive some

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minimal degree of encoding).

**Recall-Estimate Hypothesis**

The recall-estimate hypothesis of category frequency memory is parallel to the availability hypothesis of probabilistic reasoning (Tversky & Kahneman, 1973), the multiple-trace theory of item repetition effects (Hintzman, 1976), and the exemplar theory of category representation (Hintzman, 1986). This hypothesis is in direct opposition to the category-counter hypothesis. It is proposed that each presentation of an exemplar forms a distinct memory trace and category names are used as cues in retrieving exemplar traces. At final test, the number of retrieved exemplar traces are counted and frequency judgments are based on this count. Information is not stored or retrieved at the superordinate category level.

The exemplar-retrieval hypothesis postulates that judgments of category frequency are analogous to that of cued recall. In cued recall, category names are used as retrieval cues for remembering the exemplars. Similarly, in categorical frequency estimation, the retrieved exemplars are in effect, counted. And as such, this hypothesis would predict a monotonic relationship between cued recall and categorical frequency estimation.

**Recall-Estimate Evidence**

Tversky and Kahneman (1973) suggested that people base frequency estimates on "availability", the ease with which instances of that particular category come to mind. They presented

### The List-Strength Effect

subjects with lists containing names. At test, subjects were asked to judge whether there were more male or female names. The results showed that the gender for which there were more famous names were not only judged to be more frequent but also, reflected better recall of those names. Since recall was shown as being akin to frequency estimation, it provided salient evidence for availability.

Lewandowsky and Smith (1983) provided further evidence in favour of the availability hypothesis. They demonstrated that repeating non-famous names increased recallability, as well as achieving a parallel increase in frequency estimates (Experiments 1 and 3). Similarly, making non-famous names more prominent by increasing presentation time, also resulted in parallel effects of the two measures (Experiment 3). Overall, Lewandowsky and Smith's results show that both recall and frequency judgment vary in the same manner to changes in the independent variable, as an availability heuristic would suggest.

In addition to casting doubt on the automaticity view of frequency memory, Williams and Durso (1986) also revealed further evidence in favour of an availability hypothesis. First they showed that correlations between frequency estimation and recall were affected by the same manipulations in a parallel manner. Specifically, judgments of category frequency were affected by instructions (explicit vs. implicit) such that subjects were more sensitive to differences in category frequency when they had been

### The List-Strength Effect

given explicit instructions to attend to category frequency. The same was true in the recall condition, where subjects recalled more items after frequency instructions than after read-only instructions. And second, by showing that manipulations in recall (e.g. varying time allowed to encode items at study and response time at final test) affected subjects' frequency estimates. In effect, varying the amount of time subjects viewed each word led to differences in the sensitivity to categorical frequency. And this pattern was mirrored in the correlations with recall. Williams and Durso, in essence, found a clear pattern such that manipulations that benefitted recall also improved frequency estimation.

Greene (1989) specifically investigated the relationship between categorical frequency estimation and cued recall. Item generation, exemplar spacing and extralist cues have all been shown to influence cued recall and as such, Greene examined whether or not categorical frequency estimation would similarly be influenced, as an availability hypothesis would suggest. The results showed that effects of generation (Experiment 1), exemplar spacing (Experiment 2), and extralist cuing (Experiment 3) affected the accuracy and magnitude of categorical frequency judgments, as well as the number of exemplars recalled. First, frequency judgments were affected by variables influencing organizational and rehearsal processes, which challenge the theory of automatic encoding of frequency estimation. Second, Experiment 3 demonstrated that extralist cues presented at test lowered the magnitude of frequency

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estimates as well as the number of exemplars recalled. This effect could not be due to interfering with access to the superordinate level as category names were also supplied at time of test. Because the category-counter account maintains categorical frequency estimation is solely based on information stored at the superordinate level, Greene provided salient evidence against this theory.

In effect, this literature which has demonstrated both recall and frequency estimates to vary in the same manner according to changes in the independent variable, supports a recall-estimate view. This parallel movement between recall and judgments of frequency has been achieved with strength manipulations, either by item repetition or increased presentation rate (e.g., Tversky & Kahneman, 1973; Lewandowsky & Smith, 1986; Williams & Durso, 1986). This was also true for Greene (1989) when he investigated the effects of item generation, extralist cuing and exemplar spacing. While this pattern of results does suggest that recall is an integral part of the ability to judge frequency, there is also compelling evidence which argues against this notion. Whereas in the recall-estimate view recall is considered necessary in estimating frequency, according to the category-counter hypothesis the role that recall plays is much exaggerated. Support for the category-counter view is based on several dissociations found between recall and frequency judgments.

### Category-Counter Evidence

### The List-Strength Effect

Alba et al. (1980) tested the notion that categorical frequency estimation is based solely upon higher-order, superordinate level information that is automatically activated. Subjects were presented with zero, three, six and nine exemplars from each of several high frequency categories at a 3-second rate. Subjects were sensitive to superordinate frequency regardless of whether or not: 1) subjects were expecting a frequency or recall test; 2) exemplars were randomized or blocked by category at presentation; 3) superordinate names were presented at final test at a 2-s or 10-s rate--demonstrating that subjects were able to make accurate frequency discrimination of category labels when presumably there was not sufficient time for a retrieve-and-count strategy to work. Also, it was found that categorical frequency judgments and cued recall did not behave in the same manner: As the number of exemplars from a given category increased, accuracy in recalling that information decreased, while frequency judgments increased proportionally. Thus, Alba et al. provided some evidence that exemplars implicitly activate their respective superordinate category, regardless of strategy or intentionality. These results are in direct opposition with those of Williams and Durso (1986) who found a parallel pattern of effects between cued recall and categorical frequency estimates with manipulations in intentionality, encoding time and time at retrieval.

Freund and Hasher (1989) and Barsalou and Ross (1986) also demonstrated a dissociation between cued recall and frequency



### The List-Strength Effect

estimation. Specifically, Freund and Hasher found that instructions about category membership affected frequency judgments but not recall. That is, in one condition, subjects were informed of a recall test at outset, and subsequently given a card containing all 13 category names. These subjects were further instructed by being told that rehearsing the items by category had been found to be helpful. In the not-informed condition, subjects were given no such card containing category labels following their recall test instructions. The results showed that judgments of category frequency increased more sharply in the informed than in the not-informed condition, whereas recall increased equally with frequency in both conditions.

Barsalou and Ross (1986) found a similar dissociation between recall and frequency estimates, this time with memory for property frequency. That is, when people encode words sharing a particular property such as **red** (e.g., tomato, blood, stop sign) or **hot** (e.g., sauna, fire) will they later show sensitivity to the relative number of hot and red items? The results showed that whereas cued recall increased as a function of property category frequency, frequency judgments did not.

These dissociations suggest that frequency judgments are not based on retrieval of exemplars as an availability, or recall-estimate hypothesis would predict.

More recently, Watkins and LeCompte (1991) also concluded that the role of recall in categorical frequency estimation was much

### The List-Strength Effect

exaggerated. In Experiments 1 and 2, between 6 and 24 exemplars were presented to subjects along with their category names. At test, subjects either recalled the category exemplars or gave frequency estimates. The results for both Experiments 1 and 2 showed that frequency judgements greatly exceeded the number of exemplars recalled and, reflected to a greater extent, actual category size.

Furthermore, when Watkins and LeCompte made efforts to induce a recall-estimate strategy (Experiments 3-5), the same pattern of results emerged. They did this by requiring overt recall prior to frequency estimation by using small categories (from 1-4 exemplars), and by removing the category names at study (in order to reduce the extent to which exemplars would be thought of in terms of their categories). The results of these experiments also indicated that frequency estimates more closely approximated actual category size than that of recall. These results, thus, provide strong evidence against the view that category frequency estimates are based solely on the retrieval of instances.

Bruce et al. (1991) also provided evidence as to the limitations of the availability hypothesis using cued recall by category names as a measure. To the extent that frequency judgments are a function of recall, Bruce et al. looked for: 1) positive correlations between the two measures and 2) changes in independent variables resulting in parallel movement of the two measures. The results showed that correlations were in fact

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moderately strong (when actual frequency was held constant) under certain conditions. In effect, strong positive correlations were found between recall and frequency estimation when: a) list instances were not categorized aloud at study; b) when cued recall preceded frequency judgments; and c) when there was a 1-week delay in the frequency and cued recall task. Under other conditions however, Bruce et al. found serious weaknesses with availability, such as when subjects categorized list members aloud during study and were given feedback, or when the cued recall task did not precede the frequency judgment task. Under those conditions, the correlation between the two measures was at best, marginal.

In terms of comparable changes between the two measures in response to experimental manipulations, Bruce et al. also revealed problems with availability. For, in most cases, this parallel movement between frequency and recall did not occur. First, variation in recall test position impaired frequency estimation, but either did not affect, or had an opposite effect on recall. In addition, the variable age also differentially affected the two measures. While frequency judgments between young and elderly subjects did not reliably differ, young subjects recalled significantly more words than elderly subjects. Overall, the results across Bruce et al.'s experiments suggest a limited role for availability when list items are subjected to powerful categorical encoding at study.

Thus, evidence for the category-counter hypothesis is in

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direct opposition to the evidence supporting the recall-estimate hypothesis which essentially found recall and judgments of frequency behaving similarly to various manipulations. In contrast, the literature supporting the category-counter hypothesis shows recall and frequency judgments behaving differently under different manipulations. That is, while some manipulations were shown to affect recall of study list items, they did not similarly affect estimates of frequency of those items. For example, a presentation rate of 2-seconds or 10-seconds at final test did not affect frequency judgments of those items, but did affect recall. This and other dissociations (e.g., Freund & Hasher, 1989; Watkins & LeCompte, 1991) reveal evidence of a limited role of recall in estimating frequency.

The category-counter hypothesis would suggest that recall is independent of category frequency judgments; the recall estimate theory argues that it is an integral part of frequency estimation. Empirical support for each hypothesis is mixed, as findings both consistent and problematic for each theory have been obtained.

The present study was designed to further examine the relationship between cued recall and frequency judgments of category exemplars. To this end, the list-strength effect was evaluated for both cued recall and category frequency judgments.

### The List-Strength Effect

Tulving and Hastie (1972, Experiment 1) serendipitously discovered that repeating some items in a study list reduced free

### The List-Strength Effect

recall of the remaining items when the total number of different items was held constant. Ratcliff, Shiffrin, and Clark (1990) explored this effect, comparing recognition, free, and cued recall. Subjects were exposed to three lists: A pure-weak list in which exemplars were presented at a 1-second rate; a pure-strong list in which exemplars were presented at a 2-second rate; and finally a mixed list in which half of the items were presented at a 1-second rate and the other half presented at a 2-second rate. According to the list-strength hypothesis, memory for weak items in the pure-weak list should be better than weak items in a mixed list due to the other items in the mixed list being, on average, stronger. Alternatively, memory for strong items in the pure-strong list should be worse than for strong items in the mixed list because the other items in the mixed list are on average, weaker.

The list-strength effect was summarized by Ratcliff et al. by calculating a ratio of ratios, where the mixed strong-to-weak ratio should be larger than the pure strong-to-weak ratio. Table 1 shows what the list-strength effect looks like in terms of a ratio of ratios. In effect, there should be a greater difference between the strong and weak items in a mixed list, since strong items should be better remembered in a mixed list, whereas weak items should be more difficult to remember in a mixed list. Thus, while the strong-to-weak ratios should be greater than 1 in both groups, the overall mixed/pure ratio of ratios should also be greater than 1 due to the greater difference between strong and weak items in a

## The List-Strength Effect

mixed list.

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Insert Table 1 about here  
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In seven experiments, Ratcliff et al. found evidence of a reliable list-strength effect in free recall, at the very most a small effect in cued recall, and an absent or negative effect in recognition. In three comparisons of the list-strength effect for free recall, the ratio of ratios varied from 1.35 to 3.22 with a mean of 1.52. All comparisons produced a significant list-strength effect. In four comparisons for cued recall, the ratio of ratios varied from 1.07 to 1.51 with a mean of 1.27. The list-strength effect was significant in only one of the four comparisons. Finally, in fourteen comparisons for recognition, Ratcliff et al. found that the ratio of ratios varied from .77 to 1.10 with a mean of .92. Ten of the 14 ratios were less than one. Ratcliff et al. were unable to identify the conditions that produced a negative list-strength effect. These results held whether strengthening was achieved by extra repetitions or study time. No one has yet determined the exact mechanism by which this phenomenon occurs.

Yonelinas, Hockley and Murdock (1992) further examined the absence of a list-strength effect in item recognition using rapid presentation rates in order to control for rehearsal borrowing between strong and weak items in mixed lists. Consistent with Ratcliff et al., under a variety of manipulations, there was no

### The List-Strength Effect

evidence to suggest a list-strength effect in recognition memory.

#### Experiment 1

In order to investigate the relative role that recall plays in categorical frequency judgment, Experiment 1 was designed to test for the presence of a list-strength effect in two conditions, cued-recall and frequency judgment. The role of recall in categorical frequency memory is questionable. In the list-strength effect however, the most robust effects are achieved with recall. So if the list-strength effect is found in categorical frequency judgements, it would provide strong evidence in favour of availability.

The list-strength effect has not been examined for category recall. As described above, Ratcliff et al. found a reliable list-strength effect for free recall, but only a modest, at best, effect for cued recall. However, in their cued-recall procedure, which was typical of cued-recall studies in general, and of the list-strength effect in particular, there was one to-be-remembered item for each recall cue. In the category cued-recall task in Experiment 1 of the present study, with the exception of frequency 1, there was more than one to-be-recalled item for each category recall cue. Therefore, category recall is more similar to a free-recall task than to the cued-recall task examined by Ratcliff et al. For this reason, it was predicted that a significant list-strength effect would be found for category recall. Furthermore, it is also possible that the size of the list-strength effect could

### The List-Strength Effect

increase as the number of category exemplars to be recalled increases.

In terms of frequency judgments, two opposing predictions were made, one for each theory. That is, the recall-estimate view would predict a list-strength effect in judgments of categorical frequency, thus supporting the role of recall in these estimates. Alternatively, the category-counter view predicts the absence of such an effect in categorical frequency judgments which would question the role of recall in frequency memory.

### Method

Design. The design was a 2x4x2x2 factorial with test (cued recall vs. categorical frequency) as a between-subjects factor and category frequency (1,3,5,7), presentation duration (1 or 3 sec.) and list type (mixed vs. pure) as within-subjects factors. Note that test type was not a factor in the analysis of variance. The two groups were analyzed separately because the two test types had different dependent variables.

Participants. Fifty introductory Psychology students participated voluntarily for bonus credit from the participant pool at Wilfrid Laurier University. Twenty-five subjects were randomly assigned to the cued recall condition, and twenty-five to the frequency estimation condition.

Apparatus and Materials. The stimulus items were chosen from the Battig and Montague (1969) and Hunt and Hodge (1971) sets of



## The List-Strength Effect

norms. The word pool consisted of 512 words, 8 words from each of 64 categories (see Appendix A). Study lists and test lists were generated and presented on IBM compatible laboratory computers. The exemplars and category names were presented on a monochrome monitor and appeared in upper case in the centre of the screen.

Procedure. Each participant was individually tested and randomly assigned to either the frequency judgment or cued-recall group. Assignment of category to frequency was random in each session with the restriction that a given category was only presented in one study list in a session. In any one list, four of the categories contained one instance, four of the categories contained 3 instances, four of the categories contained 5 instances and four of the categories contained 7 instances. Thus, the study lists consisted of a total of 64 exemplars from 16 different categories. The categorical lists were presented in a blocked format; that is, the exemplars from the same category were presented sequentially in the study list.

Presentation rate (1-sec. vs. 3-sec.) was manipulated between lists in the pure list conditions and between categories in the mixed list condition. Each subject received a total of four study lists: 1 pure-fast list, 1 pure-slow list, and 2 mixed lists. In a mixed list, two of the four categories in a frequency set were presented at a 3-second rate and the other two at a 1-second rate. In the pure-fast list (pure-weak list), each exemplar was presented at a 1-second rate. In the pure-slow list (pure-strong list), each

### The List-Strength Effect

exemplar was presented at a 3-second rate. There was a .5 second blank interval between presentations of each exemplar in the study list.

The order of categories within a study list, and the order of the four lists within a given session was randomly determined. There was a different random sequence for each subject in a test group. Each subject in the frequency judgment group was yoked with a different subject in the cued-recall group and both members of a yoked pair saw the identical study lists.

Each of the four study lists was immediately followed by a test list. The test lists consisted of the 16 superordinate category names presented in random order. The order of the test cues was identical for the frequency judgment and cued-recall members of a yoked pair.

Subjects in each condition were given appropriate test instructions specifying the nature of the up-coming tests. The frequency estimation group was instructed to estimate how many times each category was represented by an exemplar; the cued-recall group was asked to write down as many exemplars from the particular category as they could remember. Subjects in both groups were shown at outset during instruction examples of what to write down during a final test. The presentation of the category labels at test was subject-paced; by pushing any key on the computer keyboard, participants were able to move onto the next test cue. Subjects initiated the presentation of each study list when they

## The List-Strength Effect

were ready to do so. A session took approximately 30 minutes to complete. There was no time limit given in either group.

Results

Recall. The mean number of exemplars recalled for each list and presentation rate condition as a function of presentation frequency are presented in Figure 1. Recall increased with the number of exemplars for both the fast and slow presentation rates in both mixed and pure list conditions.

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 Insert Figure 1 about here  
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A 4 (frequency) X 2 (presentation rate) X 2 (pure vs. mixed lists) ANOVA was performed on subject mean recall scores. All results are reported significant at the .05 level unless stated otherwise. The analysis showed strong items to be better recalled than weak items,  $F(1,24)=17.02$ ,  $MSe=0.48$ . As expected, there was also a main effect of frequency,  $F(3,72)=391.20$ ,  $MSe=0.59$ . There was no significant difference in overall mean recall between mixed and pure lists,  $F(1,24)=.63$ ,  $MSe=0.37$ .

In terms of two-way interactions, the only one of statistical significance was that of presentation rate by frequency,  $F(3,72)=6.24$ ,  $MSe=0.31$ . The presentation rate by list interaction did not approach significance,  $F(1,24)=1.10$ ,  $MSe=0.48$ , nor did the frequency by list interaction,  $F(3,72)=.99$ ,  $MSe=0.31$ .

Finally, there was a significant presentation rate x

## The List-Strength Effect

frequency x list interaction,  $F(3,72)=4.13$ ,  $MSe=0.26$ . This interaction reflects the fact that a list strength effect was found at some, but not all presentation frequencies.

The strong/weak ratios and the ratio of ratios for each frequency are shown in Table 2. It can be seen in Table 2 that the ratio of ratios is greater than 1 for frequencies 3 and 5, indicating a list strength effect for these frequencies. However, the ratio of ratios is less than 1 for frequencies 1 and 7 indicating an absent or negative list strength effect. Averaging over frequency, the mean strong to weak ratios were 1.20 and 1.16 for mixed and pure lists, respectively. The overall mixed/pure ratio of ratios was 1.03. Thus, when cued recall is averaged over frequency, no list strength effect was found.

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 Insert Table 2 about here  
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Frequency Estimates. Figure 2 shows mean frequency estimates for each presentation rate and list type as a function of presentation frequency. The mean frequency estimates were analyzed in the same manner as the cued-recall scores. The results for the frequency estimation group paralleled those found in the recall condition. As Figure 2 illustrates, frequency estimates increased with presentation frequency and strong items in the mixed list appear to be better remembered than weak items in a mixed list.

## The List-Strength Effect

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Insert Figure 2 about here

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Mean frequency estimates for strong items were greater than for weak items,  $F(1,24)=10.77$ ,  $MSe=0.59$ . There was also a significant main effect of frequency,  $F(3,72)=191.62$ ,  $MSe=1.54$ , and no effect of type of list,  $F(1,24)=.16$ ,  $MSe=0.75$ . As in the recall group, the only significant two-way interaction was that between presentation rate and frequency,  $F(3,72)=2.81$ ,  $MSe=0.64$ . The presentation rate by list interaction did not approach significance,  $F(1,24)=.48$ ,  $MSe=1.10$ , nor did the list by frequency interaction,  $F(3,72)=.87$ ,  $MSe=0.50$ .

Also, as for cued-recall, the presentation rate x frequency x list interaction was significant,  $F(3,72)=3.04$ ,  $MSe=0.48$ . This interaction indicates a list-strength effect that is modified by frequency. The strong/weak ratios and the ratio of ratios are shown for each frequency in Table 3. The mixed/pure ratio of ratios were greater than 1 at frequencies 1 and 3, but less than 1 at frequencies 5 and 7. Averaging over frequency, the mean strong to weak ratios were 1.12 and 1.01 for mixed and pure lists, respectively, and the overall mixed/pure ratio of ratios was 1.11.

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Insert Table 3 about here

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### Discussion

### The List-Strength Effect

The results provide only modest support for a list-strength effect in category cued-recall, as the size of the effect varied with frequency. Also, contrary to what one might predict, the effect did not increase systematically with frequency. It is not surprising that there was no effect at frequency 1 as Ratcliff et al. (1990) did not find a reliable list strength effect for cued recall with one to-be-remembered item. However, the fact that no systematic increase in the ratio of ratios was found is inconsistent with the prediction that the list-strength effect should increase with frequency as the demands on recall increase with frequency (or, as the number of items to be recalled increase with frequency).

The results of Experiment 1 also provide limited support for a list-strength effect in categorical frequency estimation. The significance of this finding lies in the understanding of how categorical frequency judgments are actually produced. While the literature on the availability view of memory and the category-counter hypothesis have been essentially in direct opposition in terms of the role that recall plays in categorical frequency estimation (e.g. Lewandowsky & Smith, 1983; Williams & Durso, 1986; Greene, 1989; vs. Alba et al., 1980; Freund & Hasher, 1989; Barsalou & Ross, 1986; Watkins & LeCompte, 1991; Bruce et al., 1991), Experiment 1 provides evidence in favour of the recall-estimate view. That is, the finding of a modest list-strength effect in both recall and frequency estimation suggests that

### The List-Strength Effect

frequency estimation may be based, at least in part, on an availability view (Tversky & Kahneman, 1973).

This conclusion is based on previous literature in both the categorical frequency judgment and list-strength effect domains. In the frequency judgment sphere, the role of recall has been basically divided in the literature. However, studies on the list-strength phenomenon which occurs when the strengthening of some (but not all) items on a list reduces memory for the remaining items, have concurred on the fact that it is only a function of recall (Ratcliff et al., 1990; Yonelinas et al., 1992). Thus, the present finding of a limited list-strength effect in categorical frequency judgment provides some evidence in favour of the availability view of memory.

The findings of Experiment 1, however, cannot be over-emphasized as there was not a significant overall list-strength effect. Ratcliff et al. (1990) suggested that one reason that a list-strength effect could be attenuated is due to a redistribution of coding, rehearsal, or effort between items in a mixed list. In effect, this redistribution takes the form of "borrowing" time from strong items to weak items. In an effort to reduce such borrowing between strong and weak items, Ratcliff et al. blocked items in mixed lists. In the present study, it is important to note that presentation rate was blocked by category, so the size of presentation rate blocks varied within and between lists. Due to the fact that block size varied in Experiment 1 in order to

### The List-Strength Effect

manipulate frequency, rehearsal borrowing is more of a problem than in Ratcliff et al.'s experiments. Ratcliff et al. who also used multiple lists within a session, each with a different strength composition, also gave an alternate possibility as to how the list-strength effect could be compromised. They proposed that under these circumstances, subjects may have not restricted their focus to the list they just studied, but rather to the session as a whole. Therefore, any differences between pure and mixed lists could have been reduced overall.

Despite some atypicalities, the fact that the results of Experiment 1 showed the same pattern of effects in the statistical analysis of recall and frequency estimates adds support to the availability view. Specifically, the effects of presentation rate, type of list, and frequency were parallel for both types of memory tests. This finding replicates previous findings which also demonstrated parallel movement between these two measures (e.g., Lewandowsky & Smith, 1986; Williams & Durso, 1986; Greene, 1989).

Overall, the present results are suggestive, but somewhat tentative. The findings of 1) a list-strength effect qualified by frequency and 2) parallel movement between the two measures are indicative of recall playing a role in categorical frequency estimation. While Experiment 1 suggests that recall can play a role in frequency estimation, it is not clear what other strategies subjects might use.



### The List-Strength Effect

Specifically, the factors that lead a subject to choose between one strategy over another are numerous. The question remains: Does the strategy used in estimating absolute event frequency have an impact on such estimation? There are at least two different general strategies that can be used in estimating event frequency: enumeration and nonenumeration based strategies. Enumeration occurs when individual events/items are retrieved and counted and this count serves as the basis for the frequency judgment. Nonenumeration-based strategies are those that produce relative or a more qualitative evaluation of event frequency. For example, frequency judgments could be based on an assessment of the general strength or familiarity of the category information. Therefore, interpretation of performance differences in the literature may reflect differences purely in strategy use rather than representational differences, or a combination of both. This could be one reason why findings in the literature support two contradictory hypotheses for categorical frequency estimation.

### Experiment 2

Experiment 1 has provided some evidence supporting the use of recall as a strategy in estimating categorical frequency. This is not to suggest however that it is the only strategy used in the judgment of event frequency. Memory researchers have already established that there may be multiple ways in which a frequency judgment is produced (e.g., Freund & Hasher, 1989; Barsalou & Ross, 1986; Watkins & LeCompte, 1991; Bruce et al., 1991; Greene, 1989).

### The List-Strength Effect

While Experiment 1 provided some evidence in support of recall as a strategy, there are numerous factors which may reflect performance differences in frequency judgments. In effect, performance in frequency estimation may vary with the way that the information is encoded, the strategy used, or both (Brown, in press).

There have been numerous theories developed on how frequency information is represented in episodic memory. Tversky and Kahneman (1973) based people's ability in estimating frequency on availability-- that is, the ease with which particular instances come to mind. Howell (1973) distinguished four predominant ways in which frequency information could be derived. They are: the trace strength view, the multiple traces view, the multiple processes view, and the numerical inference view. The trace strength view maintains that any identifiable event is represented by a single memory trace that grows stronger upon each occurrence. Thus, any indicator of frequency memory, be it estimation or discrimination, is exclusively a consequence of assessing the value of the current strength. The multiple trace hypothesis maintains that every experience of an event produces a separate memory trace, so that multiple representations of an event coexist and are distinguishable by some attribute that may be tagged. In this case therefore, any indicator of frequency memory would in effect, represent the **number** of stored traces for an event. Howell's multiple-process hypothesis is to some extent, a compromise in that

## The List-Strength Effect

it assumes both the strength and multiple-trace views may play a role. In essence, the multiple-process view suggest that these two hypotheses may **not** be mutually exclusive in that both strength and number of traces accumulate concurrently. Finally, Howell's numerical inference hypothesis argues that if a subject knows in advance that frequency of items is important, they will strategically count. This raises a key question in studies of event frequency, which is, at what point and under what conditions do subjects switch from overt counting strategies to some other kind of intuitive representation?

Brown (1995) has proposed a taxonomy of distinct estimation processes in an attempt to address some of the ambiguities of people's strategy use. The main division in Brown's taxonomy is between **enumeration** and **nonenumeration** strategies. It is also useful in terms of organizing existing theoretical positions in frequency estimation.

Enumeration is the result of events or individual items being retrieved and individually counted, and this count serves as the basis for the frequency estimate. This count may be seen as being akin to recall--as the recall-estimate hypothesis would argue.

Nonenumeration processes on the other hand are **qualitative** in nature, producing a **relative** estimate of event frequency. And as such, it is assumed that these relative estimations must be transformed into numerical values for an absolute frequency judgment.

### The List-Strength Effect

In Brown's (1995) investigation of the processes underlying absolute event frequency, subjects studied word pairs consisting of a category label and category exemplar (e.g., FRUIT--apple). In three experiments, subjects were presented with either a same-context or different-context study list. In the different-context condition the category label was presented with a different exemplar at each presentation (e.g., FRUIT--apple; FRUIT--pear; FRUIT--peach). In the same-context condition, the category label was presented with the same exemplar at each presentation (e.g., FRUIT--apple; FRUIT--apple; FRUIT--apple). Presentation frequencies for the target items ranged from 2 to 16.

The results across three experiments demonstrated that subjects used different strategies in estimating frequency. Verbal accounts taken in Experiment 1 revealed that different-context subjects often retrieved and counted relevant instances when they estimated event frequencies and that same-context subjects relied on nonenumeration strategies. Experiments 2 and 3 showed that response times increased sharply with presentation frequency in the different but not in the same context condition. Also in Experiments 1 and 2, it was indicated that strategy selection affected the magnitude of the frequency judgment. Specifically, Brown found that underestimation tended to occur in the different-context condition, particularly at the higher frequencies and that overestimation tended to occur in the same-context condition. Finally, in Experiment 3, it was shown that information given to

### The List-Strength Effect

subjects about the upper bound of the frequency range affected frequency judgments in the same but not in the different-context condition. In effect, telling subjects there was a bound of "x" items only affected the same-context group. Overall then, Brown demonstrated that 1) there was at least dual strategy use in estimating event frequency; and 2) that a selected strategy is related to the contents of memory.

Overall, Brown's recent evidence suggests that people enumerate when event instances are judged distinctive in nature, and use nonenumeration-based strategies when instances are deemed similar. The presence of a qualified list-strength effect in Experiment 1 indicated the use of an enumeration-based process in the judgment of categorical frequency; that process being recall. Due to the fact that Experiment 1 was a different-context paradigm, the results may be seen as being parallel to Brown's findings. On this basis, it should be possible to manipulate a number of factors that influence the way that information is encoded, stored and retrieved, and assess how these factors affect categorical frequency judgments. Taken one step further, a list-strength effect (evidence of recall and therefore, enumeration) in a different-context but not in a same-context condition, would provide salient evidence of multiple strategy use in estimating categorical frequency.

The purpose of Experiment 2, therefore, was to examine the list-strength effect for category frequency judgments in a

### The List-Strength Effect

different-context condition that would encourage a recall-based strategy and in a same-context condition that would be far less amenable to a recall-based strategy. It was hypothesized that there would be evidence of a list-strength effect in the different but not in the same-context condition.

### Method

Design. The design was a 2x4x2x2 factorial with test (same-context vs. different-context) as a between-subjects factor and category frequency (2,4,8,12), presentation rate (1 or 3 sec.) and list type (mixed vs. pure) as within-subjects factors.

Participants. Forty-eight students participated voluntarily for either bonus credit from the participant pool at Wilfrid Laurier University or for payment. Twenty-four subjects were randomly assigned to the same-context condition, and twenty-four to the different-context condition.

Apparatus and Materials. The stimulus items were the same as in Experiment 1 with the additional exemplars taken from the Battig and Montague (1969), Hunt and Hodge (1971) and McEvoy and Nelson (1982) sets of norms (see Appendix B). The word pool consisted of 768 words from 64 different categories.

Procedure. The procedure of Experiment 2 was different from Experiment 1 in a number of respects in order to more closely replicate Brown's study. First, the frequencies of the categories increased from that of Experiment 1, which also meant a longer list length. The frequencies in Experiment 2 were 2,4,8,

### The List-Strength Effect

and 12. Per study list, each frequency was represented four times, equalling 16 different exemplar categories. The total list length in Experiment 2 per study list was 104 items. Also, in Experiment 2, each exemplar was presented with its respective category label on the computer screen. The category label and exemplar were placed on two lines in the centre of the computer screen. The label was placed one line above the exemplars with the label in lower case letters and exemplars in upper case letters.

There were two conditions in Experiment 2: Same-context and different-context. In the different context condition, each category label was presented with a different exemplar (e.g., City--TORONTO; City--OTTAWA; City-- LONDON). In the same-context condition, each category label was presented with the same exemplar each time (e.g., City--TORONTO; City--TORONTO; City--TORONTO). As in Experiment 1, each subject received four study lists in a session: One pure slow, one pure fast and two mixed lists. Subjects initiated the beginning of each study list sequence by pressing any key on the computer keyboard.

Each study list was followed by a test list. Subjects initiated the test list by pressing any key on the computer keyboard. Each test list consisted of the 16 different category labels presented one at a time in the centre of the computer screen. The tests were subject-paced such that upon making a decision, they typed a numerical value directly onto the computer and then pushed the enter key. Pushing the enter key advanced the

### The List-Strength Effect

display to the next test item. Subjects were also allowed to make corrections to their numerical estimates by using the backspace key before pushing the enter key. In Experiment 2, response times were also taken and were measured by the amount of time to type numbers and hit the enter key from the onset of the category test probe.

In terms of instructions, subjects were told to make their decisions both as accurately and quickly as possible, although accuracy was more important than speed. Subjects were reminded that when not sure of the correct response, to make their best guess and to move onto the next test item. They were also informed of the nature of the up-coming memory tests. Because subjects were given four separate study-test trials, explicit instructions were necessary. The average session lasted approximately 30 minutes.

### Results

Mean Frequency Estimates. Figure 3 shows the mean frequency estimates for each presentation rate and list type as a function of presentation frequency for the different-context condition. It is clear in Figure 3 that frequency judgments increased with presentation frequency and that they were higher for strong items compared to weak items.

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 Insert Figure 3 about here  
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The mean frequency estimates for each presentation rate and



## The List-Strength Effect

list type as a function of presentation frequency for the same-context condition are presented in Figure 4. The results for the same-context condition paralleled those found in the different-context condition. As Figure 4 illustrates, strong items have higher mean frequency estimates than weak items. This difference between strong and weak items is considerably larger in the mixed lists which the list-strength phenomenon would predict. Thus, in mixed lists, it would appear that the strong items are remembered more and the weak items are remembered less.

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 Insert Figure 4 about here  
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A 4(frequency) x 2(list type) x 2(presentation rate) x 2(condition) ANOVA was performed on mean frequency estimates. All results were reported significant at the .05 level. The results showed estimates for strong items to be greater than estimates for weak items,  $F(1,46)=18.04$ ,  $MSe=3.81$ . There was also a main effect of frequency,  $F(1,46)=427.76$ ,  $MSe=3.61$ . The type of list did not approach significance,  $F(1,46)=.05$ ,  $MSe=5.60$ , nor did condition,  $F(1,46)=2.67$ ,  $MSe=32.52$ . The only significant two-way interaction was that of list type by presentation rate,  $F(1,46)=13.08$ ,  $MSe=2.03$ , so that presentation rate (1 or 3-sec.) had differential effects on the type of list, either mixed or pure. This list type by presentation rate interaction reflects the list-strength effect.

The other two-way interactions did not approach significance:

## The List-Strength Effect

Condition by list type,  $F(1,46)=1.81$ ,  $MSe=5.80$ , condition by presentation rate,  $F(1,46)=.25$ ,  $MSe=3.88$ , condition by frequency,  $F(3,138)=.40$ ,  $MSe=3.65$ , list type by frequency,  $F(3,138)=.49$ ,  $MSe=2.92$ , and presentation rate by frequency,  $F(3,138)=1.98$ ,  $MSe=2.67$  were all not reliable. The three way interactions of: Condition by list type by presentation rate,  $F(1,46)=.24$ ,  $MSe=2.00$ , condition by list type by frequency,  $F(3,138)=.94$ ,  $MSe=2.88$ , condition by presentation rate by frequency,  $F(3,138)=.20$ ,  $MSe=2.75$ , and list type by presentation rate by frequency,  $F(3,138)=.78$ ,  $MSe=2.37$  were also not significant. Finally, the four-way interaction between these variables also did not approach significance,  $F(3,138)=1.18$ ,  $MSe=2.36$ .

Ratio of Ratios. The list-strength effect is further illustrated in the different-context condition by overall strong to weak ratio of ratios of 1.17 and 1.02 for mixed and pure lists, respectively. The overall mixed/pure ratio of ratios was 1.16. Table 4 presents the strong/weak ratios at each frequency for the different-context condition.

In the same-context condition, a similar pattern emerged demonstrated by overall strong to weak ratios of 1.16 and 1.04 for the mixed and pure lists, respectively. In addition, the overall mixed/pure ratio of ratios was calculated at 1.11. Table 5 presents the strong/weak ratios at each frequency for the same-context condition.

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## The List-Strength Effect

Insert Tables 4 and 5 about here

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Mean Response Time. The same analysis was done for response times as for the mean frequency estimates. All items reported significant were at the .05 level. Figures 5 and 6 demonstrate how response times varied with frequency. They show how there is a greater increase with frequency in the different-context condition than in the same-context condition. In effect, response latency in the same-context condition varied little as a function of frequency whereas response latency in the different-context condition tended to increase.

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Insert Figures 5 and 6 about here

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The analysis of variance revealed that there was a significant main effect of condition,  $F(1,46)=4.14$ ,  $MSe=36.86$ , indicating a difference in response times between same and different contexts. There was also a main effect of frequency,  $F(1,46)=7.43$ ,  $MSe=5.26$  so that the latency of frequency estimates significantly increased as a function of actual item frequency. List type and presentation rate did not approach significance, with  $F(1,46)=.26$ ,  $MSe=3.12$  and  $F(1,46)=2.95$ ,  $MSe=2.29$ , respectively.

There was only one significant two-way interaction, presentation rate by frequency,  $F(3,138)=3.71$ ,  $MSe=0.84$ , so the rate of the items had an effect on the latency of subjects'

### The List-Strength Effect

estimates of frequency. The other two-way interactions did not approach significance: condition by list type  $F(1,46)=.22$ ,  $MSe=3.14$ , condition by presentation rate,  $F(1,46)=.15$ ,  $MSe=2.27$ , list type by presentation rate,  $F(1,46)=2.15$ ,  $MSe=2.85$ , list type by frequency,  $F(1,46)=.25$ ,  $MSe=1.28$ ; and finally condition by frequency  $F(1,138)=2.00$ ,  $MSe=5.25$ , which shows that there was no significant difference in response times with presentation frequency between groups.

No three-way interactions approached significance, with condition by list type by presentation rate at  $F(1,46)=2.10$ ,  $MSe=2.84$ , condition by list type by frequency,  $F(3,138)=.85$ ,  $MSe=1.26$ , condition by presentation rate by frequency,  $F(3,138)=.49$ ,  $MSe=0.84$ , and finally, list type by presentation rate by frequency,  $F(3,138)=2.50$ ,  $MSe=0.89$ .

The four-way interaction of condition by list type by presentation rate by frequency was significant,  $F(3,138)=3.03$ ,  $MSe=0.89$ . This interaction is difficult to interpret, but indicates that the main effects of condition and frequency are qualified by type of list and presentation rate. It should be noted, however, that overall response times were quite slow and somewhat variable. The standard errors of the means presented in Figures 5 and 6 varied from 1.11 to 3.07. Thus, the response time results must be interpreted with caution. It does seem quite clear from these results, though, that response time did not increase in a pronounced or systematic fashion as a function of frequency in

### The List-Strength Effect

either the same or different context condition. Further, the pattern of response times do not show the clear differences between the same and different context conditions that Brown (1995) obtained.

### Discussion

The results show some evidence in favour of a recall-estimate view of categorical frequency judgment. Whereas Brown (1995) demonstrated that different strategies affected the pattern of performance on frequency judgments depending on what context the exemplars were in, the present experiment found similar performance in both the same-context and different-context conditions. In effect, whereas Brown found evidence of selective strategy use related to the context the event frequency was presented in, the present study found evidence of common strategies across both conditions. This could mean that a) subjects used a single strategy or, b) that subjects used a mixture or combination of strategies in both conditions. If subjects used a recall strategy some, but not all of the time then one would expect a modest list-strength effect and this is what was found in Experiment 2.

The reaction time data are more difficult to interpret. Brown (1995) found that response times increased sharply with presentation frequency in the different but not in the same-context condition. From this, Brown concluded that subjects favour enumeration-based strategies when event instances are distinctive (as in the different-context condition) and alternatively, favour

### The List-Strength Effect

nonenumeration strategies when they are not. While the present experiment found an effect of condition, there was no frequency by condition interaction; reaction times did not increase with frequency significantly in the different compared to the same context condition as in Brown's study. As such, the present reaction time results do not fully support a recall strategy. However, it is possible that subjects' emphasized accuracy and may not have been very concerned with response times, which was evident in the variability of the mean response times. Instructions given to subjects did not particularly highlight the importance of speed in making their decisions. Any future replications of this aspect of the experiment should address this problem.

There are a few possible reasons as to why the present study did not replicate Brown's findings of enumeration based strategy in the different but not in the same context condition. First, Brown's study used a presentation rate of 5.5 seconds for the study lists whereas this experiment used presentation rates of 1 and 3 seconds. Perhaps Brown's 5.5-second rate allowed subjects in the different context condition more time to organize the study lists by categories which would benefit a recall strategy.

Another difference in Brown's study was the actual study list itself. There was one list only, consisting of 260 category-label exemplar pairs. The present study contained four study lists, each followed by a test list. And as such, subjects were informed at outset of the nature of the up-coming memory test. Brown

### The List-Strength Effect

alternatively, with only one study list, did not inform subjects that the up-coming memory test involved frequency estimates. Perhaps knowing in advance what kind of test it is influenced the type of strategy subjects used in remembering the information. In all likelihood Brown's subjects expected a memory/recall test and studied the lists to that end. Therefore, it is more likely that they would try to use recall at test, at least in the different-context condition. Subjects in the present experiment knew about a frequency test, and may not have categorized or organized the lists as well, or were less likely to study lists in preparation for a recall type of test.

In effect, the results of Experiment 2 did not show the two distinct strategies that Brown observed. While reaction time data did reveal a between group difference, the reliability of that data is in question. Replication with identical instructional procedures to Brown's is in order. What is clear about Experiment 2 is that it shows limitations in the generality of Brown's results.

### Experiment 2a

In Experiment 2 a significant list-strength effect was found for category frequency estimation. The purpose of Experiment 2a was to further examine the nature of the list-strength effect at these frequencies, this time with a cued-recall task. All aspects of Experiment 2a were identical to those of the different-context condition of Experiment 2 with the exception of the task at test.

### The List-Strength Effect

Theoretically, any presence of a list-strength effect should be at least as strong, if not stronger, in a cued-recall task than in a frequency judgment task. Subjects tested in Experiment 2a were presented with the same lists of study and test items in the same order as subjects tested in the different-context condition of Experiment 2.

#### Method

Design. A 2x4x2 totally within subjects design was used in Experiment 2a with type of list (mixed vs. pure), presentation frequency (2,4,8,12) and presentation rate (1-second vs. 3-seconds) as the factors.

Participants. Twenty-four students participated voluntarily for either course credit from the participant pool at Wilfrid Laurier University or for payment.

Apparatus and Materials. The same program was used to generate the study and test lists for Experiment 2a as was used in Experiment 2.

Procedure. The only difference in procedure in Experiment 2a was in the task itself. The subjects' task was a cued-recall test instead of a frequency test. For each category label presented at test subjects were instructed to write down the exemplars of that category that were presented on the study list. Subjects proceeded through the test at their own pace. The subjects initiated the beginning of each trial by pressing the "U" key on the computer keyboard.



## The List-Strength Effect

Results

Mean Recall. The mean number of exemplars recalled for each list type and presentation rate as a function of presentation frequency are presented in Figure 7. Items recalled increased as a function of frequency as expected. Also evident is an effect of strength, with strong items being better recalled than weak items. Not expected was a larger difference in the pure lists between strong and weak items, as Figure 7 illustrates. The list-strength effect would predict that the difference between strong and weak items to be in the mixed lists, where on average, strong items are in a sense "stronger" and weak items are "weaker".

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 Insert Figure 7 about here  
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A 4(frequency) X 2(presentation rate) X 2(list type) ANOVA was performed on the subject mean recall scores. The analysis showed strong items to be better remembered than weak items,  $F(1,23)=36.95$ ,  $MSe=1.08$ . There was a main effect of frequency,  $F(1,23)=423.79$ ,  $MSe=0.68$ , and no significant difference in overall mean recall between mixed and pure lists,  $F(1,23)=.07$ ,  $MSe=0.71$ .

The only significant two-way interaction was that of presentation rate by frequency,  $F(3,69)=9.09$ ,  $MSe=0.54$ ; the difference in the number of strong versus weak items recalled increased as a function of frequency. The presentation rate by list interaction did not approach significance,  $F(1,23)=3.16$ ,

### The List-Strength Effect

$MSe=0.39$ ; nor did the frequency by list interaction,  $F(3,69)=.40$ ,  $MSe=0.40$ . The presentation rate x frequency x list interaction was not significant at  $F(3,69)=.10$ ,  $MSe=0.50$ .

Ratio of Ratios. An effect of strength was also illustrated by an average of strong to weak ratios of 1.18 and 1.30 for mixed and pure lists, respectively. The overall mixed/pure ratio of ratios however demonstrates the general absence of the list-strength effect with a value of 0.90. Table 6 presents the strong/weak ratios and the ratio of ratios across each presentation frequency.

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 Insert Table 6 about here  
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Analysis of Intrusions. One strategy that subjects could use in a category recall task would be to generate category exemplars from semantic memory and then decide whether each exemplar had been presented on the basis of episodic memory for the study list. In other words, information about category membership from semantic memory could be used to guide retrieval. Such a strategy would lead to reporting intrusions, or exemplars that were not presented on the study list. If subjects used such a strategy, it would also be expected that intrusion errors would be greater for categories where the exemplars were presented at a fast rate rather than a slow rate because episodic memory for the category exemplars presented at a fast rate would be poorer.

### The List-Strength Effect

To test for such a possibility, mean intrusion rates were calculated by recording the average number of times subjects recalled category exemplars that were never presented in the study list. These rates are presented for each frequency and list condition in Table 7. Overall, the number of intrusions was quite low and this precluded any statistical analyses of intrusion rates between conditions. Inspection of Table 7 indicates, at most, only marginal differences in intrusion rates between categories presented at fast and slow rates, or between mixed and pure lists.

As the recall rates presented in Table 6 show, subjects on average correctly recalled approximately half of the total number of exemplars presented at each frequency. Errors were predominantly due to omission rather than intrusions or guesses. These results indicate that subjects were recalling exemplars from their episodic memory of the study list, and did not use category information from semantic memory to augment or guide retrieval to any great extent.

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Insert Table 7 about here  
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### Discussion

Overall, there was no evidence of a list-strength effect in cued-recall in Experiment 2a. Theoretically, the results of Experiment 2 should have been replicated in terms of a list-

### The List-Strength Effect

strength effect in Experiment 2a since list-strength has been shown to be a feature of recall performance. This did not occur as demonstrated in the statistical analyses and further illustrated by an overall mixed/pure ratio of ratios of .90.

Perhaps the reason a list-strength effect was not found in Experiment 2a is because the list-strength effect is small or nonexistent in any cued recall task. This conclusion would agree with the results of Ratcliff et al. and would be consistent with the cued recall results of Experiment 1. Note that in Experiment 1, there was not an overall list-strength effect for cued recall (overall ratio of ratios of 1.03). Replication is needed in order to determine if perhaps there is a limit to the list-strength phenomenon in categorical frequency memory.

### General Discussion

The aim of the present study was to test the recall hypothesis for category frequency estimation by examining the list-strength effect for category frequency judgments and category cued recall. Experiments 1 and 2 showed modest list-strength effects in judgments of category frequency. However, in Experiment 2, frequency estimation did not differ significantly when the same category exemplars were repeated in the study list compared to when different category exemplars were presented in the study list. Further, Experiment 2a, which examined cued recall for the different-context condition, did not show evidence of a list-strength effect. In fact, cued recall performance in Experiment 2a

### The List-Strength Effect

was lower than frequency judgment performance in Experiment 2.

All things considered, the present findings possibly make a stronger argument against the recall-estimate hypothesis than for it. This is true for a number of reasons, starting with Experiment 1. While there was a parallel pattern of effects for cued recall and frequency estimates in Experiment 1, the actual list-strength effect was quite modest for both tests. While the overall mixed/pure ratio of ratios were greater than 1 for both types of tests (1.03 and 1.11 for the cued recall and frequency groups, respectively) the overall effects were quite weak. Similarly, Ratcliff et al.'s cued recall group (Experiment 3) showed strong items to be better remembered than weak items with strong/weak ratios of 1.86 and 1.74 for mixed and pure lists, respectively with an overall ratio of ratios of 1.07. In the present study, it was assumed that because there were multiple exemplars for each cue (with the exception of frequency 1), the cued recall task was more akin to a free recall task which, theoretically, should produce robust list-strength effects. However, perhaps the problem of only finding a modest list-strength effect is in the very fact that subjects were provided any cue at all. There remains the possibility that providing subjects even with only one cue for multiple to-be-remembered items, organized their memory for an event differently than if they were given no cue at all.

It would be interesting for future research to investigate Experiment 1 in exactly the same manner, this time using a truly

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free recall task providing subjects with absolutely no cue in aiding their recall. That is, simply asking subjects to remember as many words as they could at the end of each study trial, without any category cues. If the results showed robust list-strength effects then it would show that the list-strength effect is largely limited to free recall, and is not a salient feature of any cued recall test. This would also mean that comparing the list-strength effect for category frequency estimation and cued recall is not a strong test of the role of recall in category frequency estimation, because the list-strength effect is not a strong feature of cued recall. Alternatively, if the results of such an experiment showed once again modest list-strength effects, if any, then it would provide more conclusive evidence against the use of recall as a strategy; or, if in the case of a modest list-strength effect once again, recall in combination with other strategies/processes.

There are a number of reasons why Experiment 2 cannot lend a great amount of support to the recall-estimate hypothesis. The mean judgments of frequency (Tables 4 and 5) showed a very similar pattern of results for the same and different-context conditions. If recall played a critical role in these judgments, one would expect a much larger difference between these two conditions because recall of exemplars should have been much easier in the different-context condition. While Brown found this, the present study did not. Also, if recall were being used as a strategy in estimating frequency, the list-strength effect should have

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increased as a function of frequency, when there is more to recall and as the test becomes more similar to free recall than cued recall (see ratio of ratios in Tables 4 and 5). This did not happen in Experiment 2 as the ratio of ratios for each frequency remained relatively consistent across each frequency.

The response time data in Experiment 2 also do not provide strong support for a recall strategy as there was no interaction between frequency and condition. While there was a main effect of condition in that response times were slower in the different-context condition, they did not increase systematically with frequency. This poses a serious problem because if subjects were consistently using a recall strategy, response times should increase with frequency, especially in the different-context condition where subjects had many different exemplars to recall. In contrast, Brown found a rather sharp increase in response time with presentation frequency in the different but not in the same-context condition. He concluded that this was due to different-context subjects using enumeration based strategies and same-context subjects using non-enumeration based strategies.

However, there are at least two problems concerning the response time data in Experiment 2 which make the results difficult to interpret. First, the time that passed between the moment subjects made a decision and when they actually entered their frequency estimate, adds considerable noise to the data in Experiment 2. While Brown, in his study, demonstrated that there

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was not a statistical difference between these two times, it is still a factor to consider. Also another problem with the present data is the fact that instructions did not emphasize speed of responding, which could have also contributed to the variability of the response times.

The findings of Experiment 2a also pose a serious problem for the recall-estimate hypothesis for two reasons. First of all, the cued recall results did not show a list-strength effect. Second, performance was quite low. If recall was difficult in Experiment 2, then a recall strategy would not be very helpful for judgments of frequency either. Note that the recall scores were much lower in Experiment 2a than the mean frequency judgments in the different, and even the same, context conditions of Experiment 2. So, if subjects in Experiment 2 were using a recall strategy, they had to be supplementing recall with something else in order to arrive at much higher, and quite accurate, judgments of frequency.

To summarize, the reasons which provide evidence against a recall estimate hypothesis are: 1) a small or modest list-strength effect for both cued recall and frequency estimation in Experiment 1; 2) the similar pattern of results for same and different context conditions in Experiment 2; 3) the list-strength effect did not increase reliably with frequency in Experiments 1 and 2; 4) mean response times did not increase with frequency in a systematic or meaningful fashion in Experiment 2; 5) the cued recall results in



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Experiment 2a did not show a list-strength effect; and 6) the low performance in cued recall in Experiment 2a. Based on these findings, it can be argued that category frequency judgments are not primarily based on recall. There was, however, some evidence for a recall component in judgments of frequency, primarily: 1) there was a list-strength effect, although modest, in judgments of category frequency in Experiment 1; 2) there was a parallel pattern of effects between frequency and cued recall in Experiment 1; and 3) there was evidence of a list-strength effect present in Experiment 2. Based on these findings, it could be argued that some subjects used recall some of the time to estimate frequency, and this resulted in the small list-strength effects which were found in Experiments 1 and 2. An alternate possibility is that subjects actually tried to recall some of the exemplars, and supplemented recall with some other information to arrive at their final frequency estimate. If judgments of frequency are only partially based on recall, one would expect only a small list-strength effect, which is what the present study found. Therefore, it is more likely that category frequency judgments are the result of complex retrieval and decision processes, recall playing some role, but it is not the primary process in such estimation.

How would this explanation account for the literature supporting the recall-estimate theory? For example, evidence that familiarity with category exemplars (Tversky & Kahneman, 1973), exemplar spacing (Greene, 1989), and exposure time (Williams &

## The List-Strength Effect

Durso, 1986) affect categorical frequency judgments and recall in the same manner is compatible with the recall-estimate notion but does not absolutely confirm it. Watkins and LeCompte (1991) who found evidence of a dissociation between frequency judgments and recall and who concluded that a recall-estimate strategy is greatly exaggerated, argued that logically, recall and frequency judgments may respond to a variable in the same way even if the judgments are not solely moderated by recall.

There are a number of possibilities regarding future research directions with respect to the present study. First of all, as there was such disagreement with the results of Experiment 2 and Brown's findings, a further attempt to replicate Brown's (1995) results could be done following his procedure more closely. For example, perhaps the 1-second versus 3-second difference in presentation rate was not great enough. Perhaps increasing the difference between fast and slow presentation rates to 1.5 seconds versus 5.5 seconds (the latter being what Brown used in his study). Another possibility for future research is testing both cued recall and judgment of frequency within subjects. For example, having 8 lists; 2 pure and 2 mixed for the cued recall and the same for judgment of frequency tests, but do not tell subjects which test until after they have studied each list so that they do not know the test when they are studying the lists. In the present experiment, specific instructions on the type of test were given to the subjects at outset as the four tests were identical per

### The List-Strength Effect

subject. Finally, future instructions could highlight the importance of both speed and accuracy as being equally important. The present study highlighted both but emphasized accuracy over speed. This way, subjects may place more emphasis on response time. Future research could also examine possible boundaries of recall in estimating categorical frequency by manipulating factors affecting encoding, storage, and retrieval of information. It is highly likely, and consistent with the present study, that some factors, but not others, elicit the use of recall in judgments of categorical frequency. There remains a host of other factors in addition to list-strength, that need to be evaluated before any firm statements regarding strategy use may be made. Thus, while recall was found here to play some role in estimating categorical frequency in the present study, it is certainly not the rule in such estimation.

## The List-Strength Effect

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## The List-Strength Effect

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## The List-Strength Effect

Table 1. A simulated example of mean recall and the list-strength effect as demonstrated by strong/weak ratios and overall mixed/pure ratio of ratios.

Strength (seconds)	Mixed List	Pure List	Mixed/Pure Ratio of Ratios
3	1.34	1.17	
1	1.01	1.11	
Strong/Weak Ratio	1.33	1.05	<b><u>1.27</u></b>



## The List-Strength Effect

Table 2. Mean recall and strong/weak ratios for each frequency for the cued-recall group of Experiment 1.

Rate (seconds)	<u>Mixed list</u>	<u>Pure list</u>	Mixed/Pure ratio of ratios
<u>(frequency 1)</u>			
3 s	0.51	0.72	
1 s	0.55	0.57	
s/w ratio:	0.93	1.26	0.74
<u>(frequency 3)</u>			
3 s	2.26	2.12	
1 s	1.56	1.97	
s/w ratio:	1.45	1.08	1.34
<u>(frequency 5)</u>			
3 s	3.39	3.21	
1 s	2.72	3.00	
s/w ratio:	1.25	1.07	1.17
<u>(frequency 7)</u>			
3 s	4.49	4.50	
1 s	3.88	3.65	
s/w ratio:	1.16	1.23	0.94
<u>Note. s/w=strong/weak.</u>			

## The List-Strength Effect

Table 3. Mean frequency estimates and strong/weak ratios for each frequency for the frequency group of Experiment 1.

Rate (seconds)	<u>Mixed list</u>	<u>Pure list</u>	Mixed/Pure ratio of ratios
<u>(frequency 1)</u>			
3 s	1.67	1.47	
1 s	1.38	1.71	
s/w ratio:	1.21	0.86	1.41
<u>(frequency 3)</u>			
3 s	3.04	2.94	
1 s	2.71	3.17	
s/w ratio:	1.12	0.93	1.21
<u>(frequency 5)</u>			
3 s	4.50	4.40	
1 s	4.20	4.02	
s/w ratio:	1.07	1.09	0.98
<u>(frequency 7)</u>			
3 s	5.72	5.97	
1 s	5.34	5.16	
s/w ratio:	1.07	1.16	0.92
<u>Note. s/w=strong/weak</u>			

## The List-Strength Effect

Table 4. Mean frequency estimates and strong/weak ratios for each frequency for the different-context condition of Experiment 2.

	<u>Mixed list</u>	<u>Pure list</u>	<u>Mixed/Pure ratio of ratios</u>
Rate (seconds)			
(frequency 2)			
3 s	3.22	2.96	
1 s	2.51	3.08	
s/w ratio:	1.28	0.96	1.33
(frequency 4)			
3 s	4.72	4.40	
1 s	4.13	4.43	
s/w ratio:	1.14	0.99	1.15
(frequency 8)			
3 s	8.05	7.10	
1 s	7.09	6.65	
s/w ratio:	1.13	1.06	1.07
(frequency 12)			
3 s	10.33	9.49	
1 s	9.20	8.97	
s/w ratio:	1.12	1.05	1.07
Note. s/w=strong/weak			

## The List-Strength Effect

Table 5. Mean frequency estimates and strong/weak ratios for each frequency for the same-context condition of Experiment 2.

Rate (seconds)	<u>Mixed list</u>	<u>Pure list</u>	Mixed/Pure ratio of ratios
<u>(frequency 2)</u>			
3 s	3.80	4.03	
1 s	3.72	3.73	
s/w ratio:	1.02	1.08	0.94
<u>(frequency 4)</u>			
3 s	5.55	5.29	
1 s	4.64	5.21	
s/w ratio:	1.19	1.01	1.18
<u>(frequency 8)</u>			
3 s	8.42	8.23	
1 s	6.89	7.55	
s/w ratio:	1.22	1.09	1.12
<u>(frequency 12)</u>			
3 s	10.79	10.10	
1 s	8.96	10.18	
s/w ratio:	1.20	0.99	1.21
<u>Note.s/w=strong/weak</u>			

## The List-Strength Effect

Table 6. Mean recall and strong/weak ratios for each frequency for Experiment 2a.

Rate (seconds)	Mixed list	Pure list	Mixed/Pure ratio of ratios
(frequency 2)			
3 s	1.07	1.12	
1 s	1.02	0.87	
s/w ratio:	1.05	1.29	0.81
(frequency 4)			
3 s	2.21	2.15	
1 s	1.83	1.67	
s/w ratio:	1.21	1.29	0.93
(frequency 8)			
3 s	3.78	4.01	
1 s	3.13	3.04	
s/w ratio:	1.21	1.32	0.92
(frequency 12)			
3 s	5.47	5.63	
1 s	4.43	4.29	
s/w ratio:	1.23	1.31	0.94
Note.s/w=strong/weak			

## The List-Strength Effect

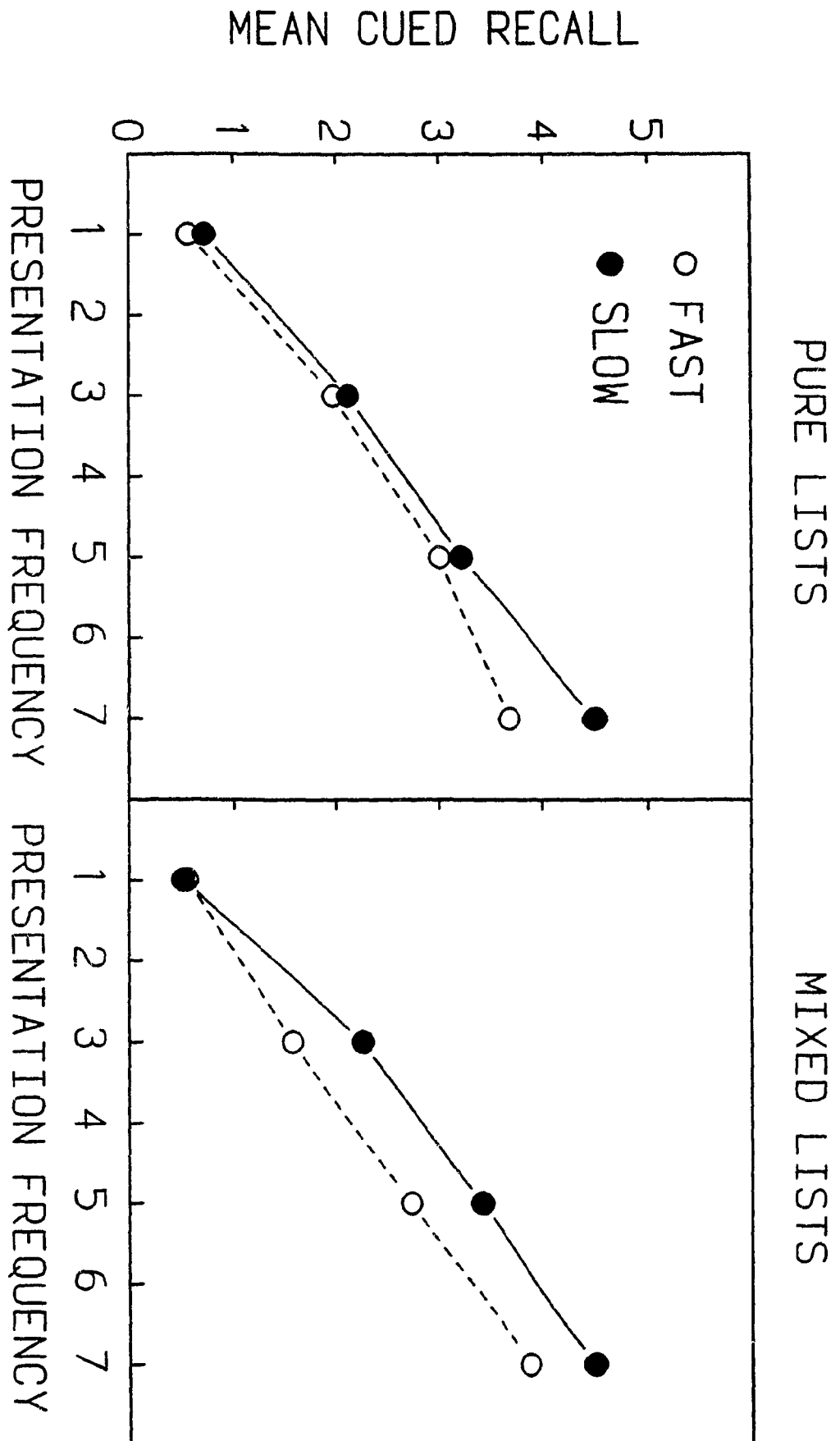
Table 7. Mean number of intrusions recalled for each frequency and list type for Experiment 2a.

<u>List Type</u>					
<u>Pres.</u> <u>Freq.</u>	Fast Pure	Fast Mixed	Slow Pure	Slow Mixed	TOTAL
2	.88	.63	.71	.63	2.85
4	1.08	.79	.71	.46	3.04
8	.67	.96	.71	.75	3.09
12	.38	.42	.50	.21	1.51
TOTAL	3.01	2.80	2.63	2.05	<u>10.49</u>

## The List-Strength Effect

Figure 1. Mean cued recall as a function of presentation frequency and presentation rate for mixed and pure lists for Experiment 1.

Figure 1.

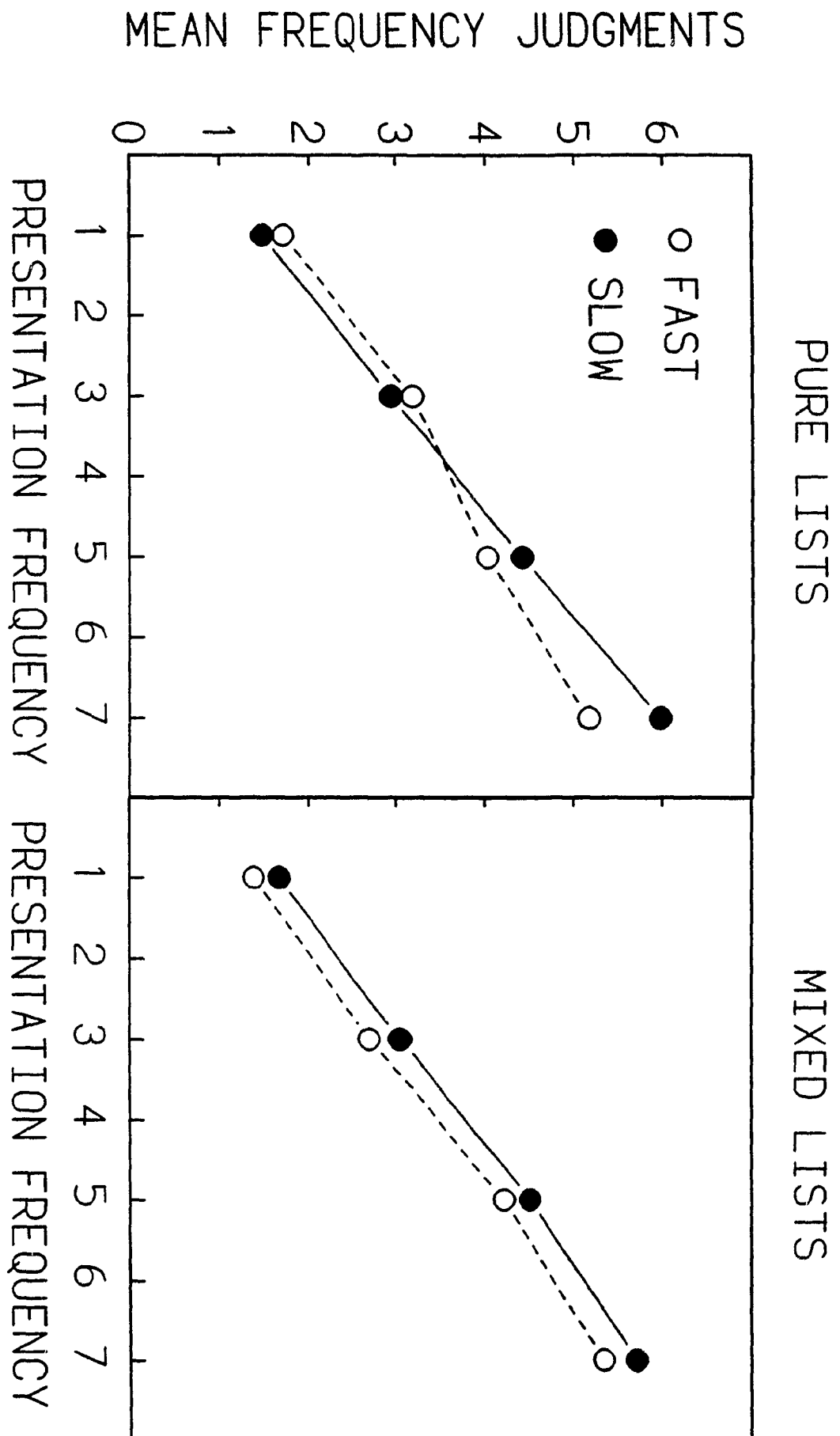




## The List-Strength Effect

Figure 2. Mean frequency judgments as a function of presentation frequency and presentation rate for mixed and pure lists for Experiment 1.

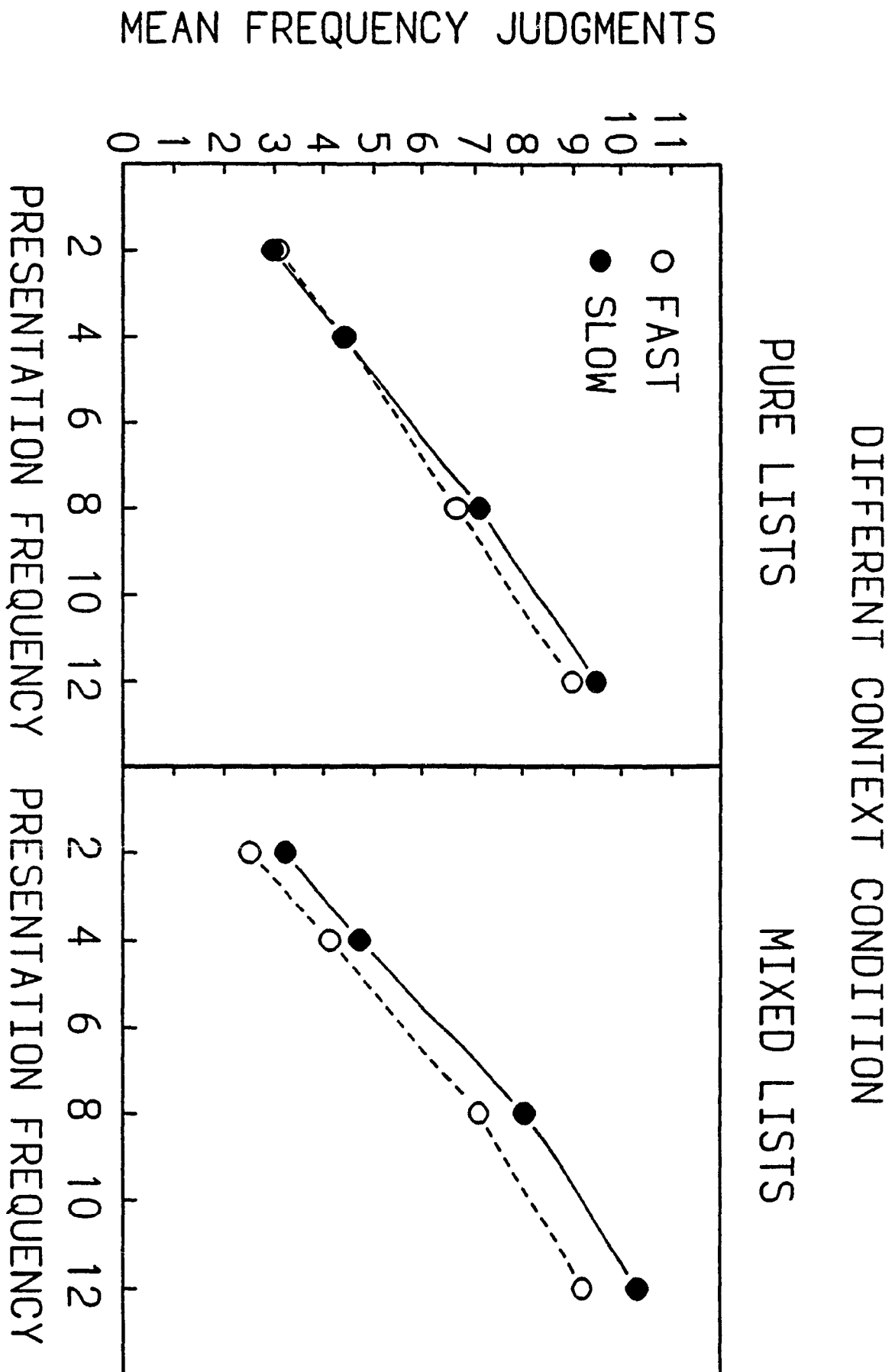
Figure 2.



## The List-Strength Effect

Figure 3. Mean frequency judgments as a function of presentation frequency and presentation rate for mixed and pure lists in the different-context condition for Experiment 2.

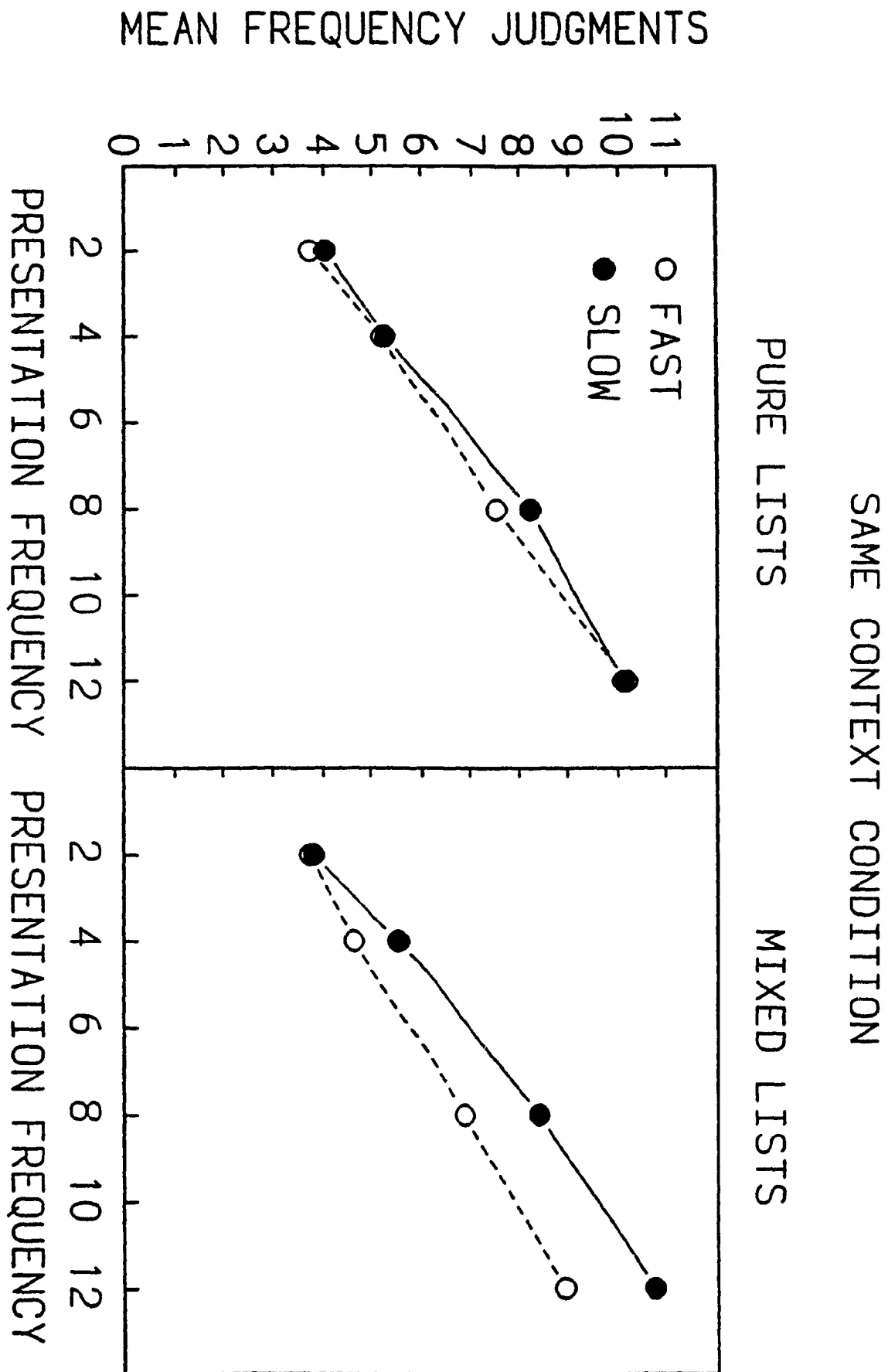
Figure 3.



## The List-Strength Effect

Figure 4. Mean frequency judgments as a function of presentation frequency and presentation rate for mixed and pure lists in the same-context condition for Experiment 2.

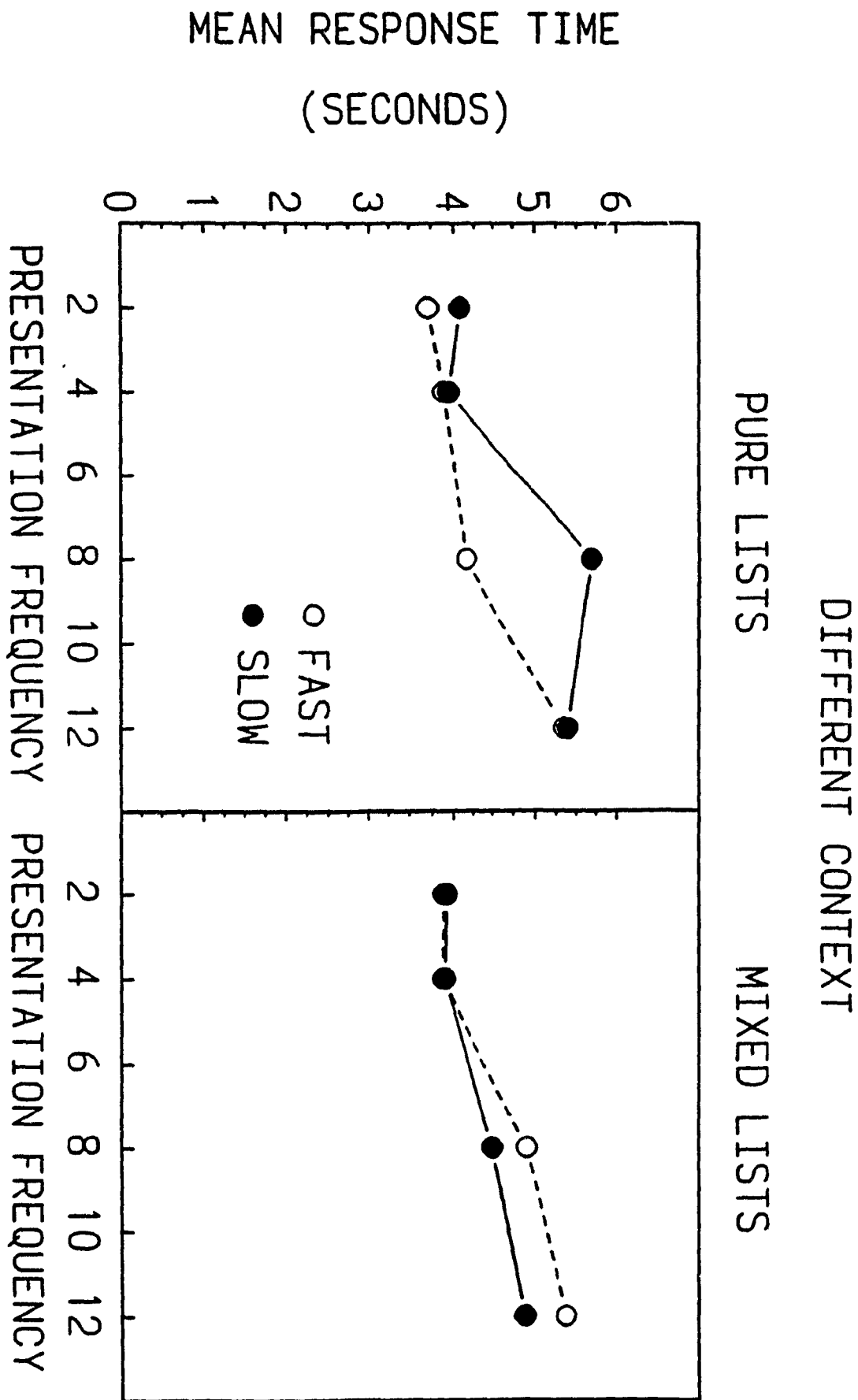
Figure 4.



## The List-Strength Effect

Figure 5. Mean response time as a function of presentation frequency and presentation rate for mixed and pure lists in the different-context condition for Experiment 2.

Figure 5.

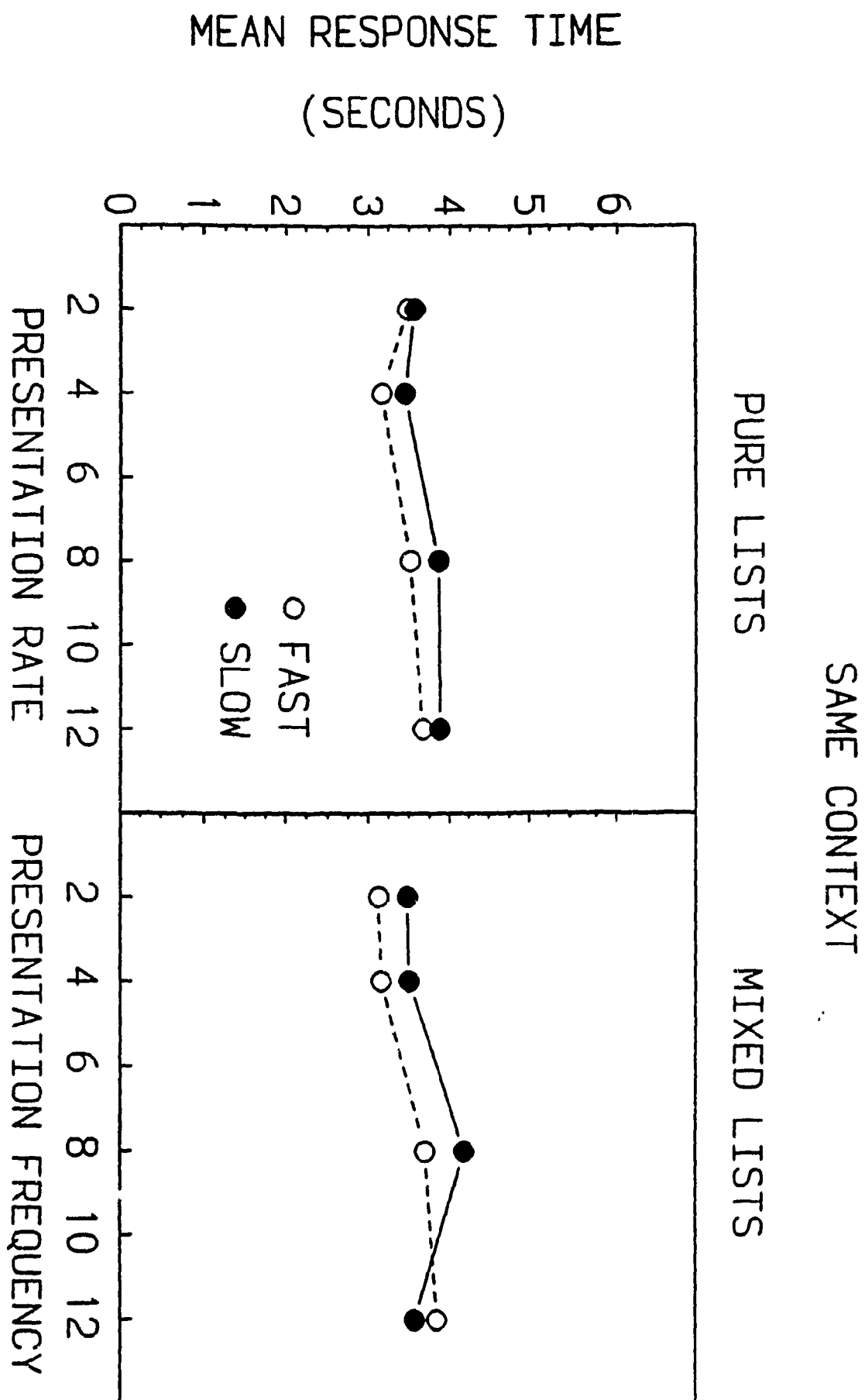




## The List-Strength Effect

Figure 6. Mean response time as a function of presentation frequency and presentation rate for mixed and pure lists in the same-context condition for Experiment 2.

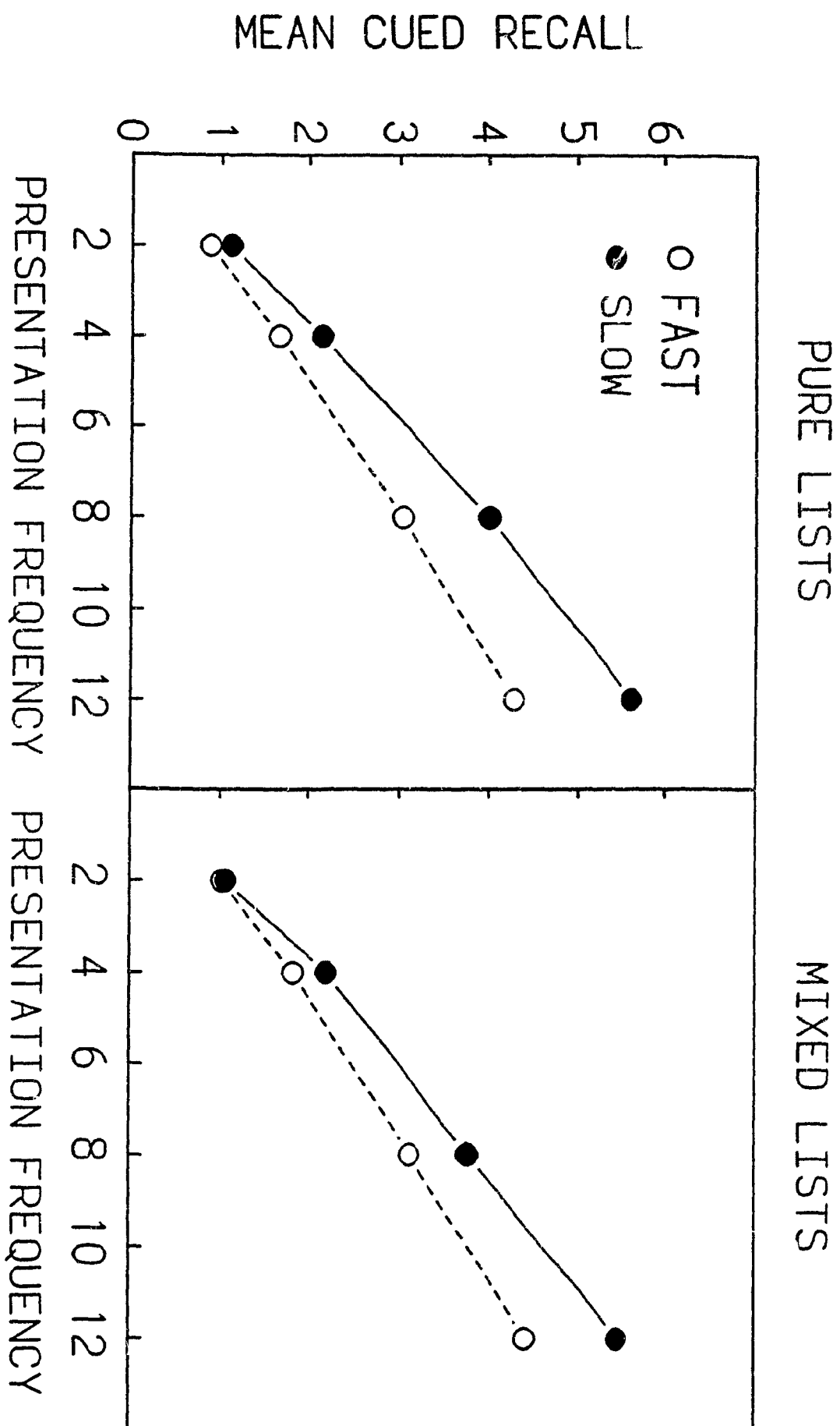
Figure 6.



## The List-Strength Effect

Figure 7. Mean cued recall as a function of presentation frequency and presentation rate for mixed and pure lists for Experiment 2a.

Figure 7.



## The List-Strength Effect

### Appendix A

1	GEMS
2	DIAMOND
3	RUBY
4	EMERALD
5	SAPPHIRE
6	PEARL
7	OPAL
8	JADE
9	TOPAZ
10	UNITS OF TIME
11	HOURL
12	MINUTE
13	SECOND
14	YEAR
15	DAY
16	CENTURY
17	MONTH
18	DECADE
19	RELATIVES
20	AUNT
21	UNCLE
22	FATHER
23	MOTHER
24	BROTHER
25	SISTER
26	COUSIN
27	GRANDMOTHER
28	METALS
29	IRON
30	COPPER
31	STEEL
32	GOLD
33	ALUMINUM
34	SILVER
35	TIN
36	BRASS
37	READING MATERIALS
38	MAGAZINE
39	BOOK
40	NEWSPAPER
41	PAMPHLET
42	NOVEL
43	TEXTBOOK
44	JOURNAL
45	ARTICLE
46	FOUR-FOOTED ANIMALS
47	DOG
48	CAT
49	HORSE
50	COW
51	LION
52	TIGER
53	ELEPHANT
54	PIG
55	TYPES OF CLOTH
56	COTTON
57	WOOL
58	SILK
59	RAYON
60	NYLON

61 VELVET  
62 LINEN  
63 SATIN  
64 COLOURS  
65 BLUE  
66 RED  
67 GREEN  
68 YELLOW  
69 ORANGE  
70 BLACK  
71 PURPLE  
72 WHITE  
73 UTENCILS  
74 KNIFE  
75 SPOON  
76 FORK  
77 PAN  
78 POT  
79 SPATULA  
80 STOVE  
81 MIXER  
82 RELIGIOUS BUILDINGS  
83 CHURCH  
84 SYNAGOGUE  
85 TEMPLE  
86 CHAPEL  
87 CATHEDRAL  
88 MOSQUE  
89 SHRINE  
90 MONASTERY  
91 PARTS OF SPEECH  
92 NOUN  
93 ADJECTIVE  
94 PRONOUN  
95 VERB  
96 ADVERB  
97 CONJUNCTION  
98 PREPOSITION  
99 INTERJECTION  
100 TYPES OF FURNITURE  
101 CHAIR  
102 TABLE  
103 BED  
104 SOFA  
105 DESK  
106 LAMP  
107 DRESSER  
108 TELEVISION  
109 BODY PARTS  
110 LEGS  
111 ARMS  
112 HEAD  
113 EYE  
114 FOOT  
115 NOSE  
116 FINGER  
117 EAR  
118 FRUITS  
119 APPLE  
120 ORANGE

121 PEAR  
122 BANANA  
123 PEACH  
124 GRAPE  
125 CHERRY  
126 PLUM  
127 WEAPONS  
128 GUN  
129 RIFLE  
130 BOMB  
131 CLUB  
132 SWORD  
133 PISTOL  
134 BAYONET  
135 WHIP  
136 ELECTIVE OFFICES  
137 PRESIDENT  
138 VICE-PRESIDENT  
139 SENATOR  
140 MAYOR  
141 TREASURER  
142 SECRETARY  
143 GOVERNOR  
144 CONGRESSMAN  
145 DWELLINGS  
146 HOUSE  
147 APARTMENT  
148 TENT  
149 CAVE  
150 HUT  
151 HOTEL  
152 TRAILER  
153 DORMITORY  
154 ALCOHOLIC DRINKS  
155 BEER  
156 WHISKEY  
157 GIN  
158 WINE  
159 VODKA  
160 BOURBON  
161 SCOTCH  
162 RUM  
163 COUNTRIES  
164 FRANCE  
165 RUSSIA  
166 ENGLAND  
167 GERMANY  
168 CANADA  
169 ITALY  
170 SPAIN  
171 CHINA  
172 CRIMES  
173 MURDER  
174 RAPE  
175 ROBBERY  
176 ASSAULT  
177 ARSON  
178 KIDNAPPING  
179 LARCENY  
180 FORGERY



181	TOOLS
182	HAMMER
183	SAW
184	NAILS
185	SCREWDRIVER
186	CHISEL
187	RULER
188	WRENCH
189	PLIERS
190	CLERGYMEN
191	PRIEST
192	MINISTER
193	RABBI
194	POPE
195	BISHOP
196	PASTOR
197	REVEREND
198	MONK
199	SPICES
200	SALT
201	PEPPER
202	SUGAR
203	GARLIC
204	VANILLA
205	CINNAMON
206	CLOVES
207	PAPRIKA
208	FUELS
209	OIL
210	GAS
211	COAL
212	WOOD
213	KEROSENE
214	PETROLEUM
215	PROPANE
216	BUTANE
217	PROFESSIONS
218	DOCTOR
219	LAWYER
220	TEACHER
221	DENTIST
222	ENGINEER
223	PROFESSOR
224	CARPENTER
225	SALESMAN
226	EARTH FORMATIONS
227	MOUNTAIN
228	HILL
229	VALLEY
230	RIVER
231	ROCK
232	LAKE
233	CANYON
234	CLIFF
235	SPORTS
236	FOOTBALL
237	BASEBALL
238	BASKETBALL
239	TENNIS
240	SWIMMING

241 SOCCER  
242 GOLF  
243 HOCKEY  
244 WEATHER  
245 HURRICANE  
246 TORNADO  
247 RAIN  
248 SNOW  
249 HAIL  
250 SLEET  
251 STORM  
252 WIND  
253 CLOTHING  
254 SHIRT  
255 SOCKS  
256 PANTS  
257 SHOES  
258 BLOUSE  
259 SKIRT  
260 COAT  
261 DRESS  
262 BUILDING PARTS  
263 WINDOW  
264 DOOR  
265 ROOF  
266 WALL  
267 FLOOR  
268 CEILING  
269 ROOM  
270 BASEMENT  
271 CHEMICALS  
272 OXYGEN  
273 HYDROGEN  
274 NITROGEN  
275 SODIUM  
276 IRON  
277 POTASSIUM  
278 CARBON  
279 SULFUR  
280 MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS  
281 PIANO  
282 DRUM  
283 TRUMPET  
284 VIOLIN  
285 CLARINET  
286 FLUTE  
287 GUITAR  
288 SAXOPHONE  
289 MONEY  
290 DOLLARS  
291 NICKELS  
292 DIMITES  
293 QUARTERS  
294 PENNIES  
295 FRANCS  
296 PESOS  
297 LIRA  
298 KINDS OF MUSIC  
299 JAZZ  
300 CLASSICAL

301 ROCK  
302 POPULAR  
303 FOLK  
304 SYMPHONY  
305 OPERA  
306 BLUES  
307 BIRDS  
308 ROBIN  
309 SPARROW  
310 CARDINAL  
311 BLUEJAY  
312 EAGLE  
313 CROW  
314 CANARY  
315 PARRAKEET  
316 BEVERAGES  
317 MILK  
318 COKE  
319 WATER  
320 COFFEE  
321 TEA  
322 LEMONADE  
323 JUICE  
324 SPRITE  
325 VEHICLES  
326 CAR  
327 BUS  
328 AIRPLANE  
329 TRAIN  
330 TRUCK  
331 BICYCLE  
332 MOTORCYCLE  
333 BOAT  
334 SCIENCES  
335 CHEMISTRY  
336 PHYSICS  
337 PSYCHOLOGY  
338 BIOLOGY  
339 ZOOLOGY  
340 BOTANY  
341 ASTRONOMY  
342 MATHEMATICS  
343 TOYS  
344 DOLL  
345 BALL  
346 DOLLHOUSE  
347 YO-YO  
348 TEDDYBEAR  
349 JACKS  
350 PUZZLE  
351 RATTLE  
352 DANCES  
353 WALTZ  
354 TWIST  
355 FOX-TROT  
356 CHA-CHA  
357 JITTERBUG  
358 RUMBA  
359 TANGO  
360 POLKA

361 VEGETABLES  
362 CARROT  
363 PEA  
364 CORN  
365 BEAN  
366 POTATO  
367 TOMATO  
368 LETTUCE  
369 SPINACH  
370 FOOTGEAR  
371 SHOES  
372 BOOTS  
373 SANDALS  
374 SOCKS  
375 LOAFERS  
376 MOCCASINS  
377 SNOWSHOES  
378 SNEAKERS  
379 INSECTS  
380 FLY  
381 ANT  
382 BEE  
383 MOSQUITO  
384 SPIDER  
385 BEETLE  
386 ROACH  
387 WASP  
388 GIRL NAMES  
389 MARY  
390 SUSAN  
391 ANNE  
392 JANE  
393 JUDY  
394 CAROL  
395 BARBARA  
396 KATHY  
397 BOY NAMES  
398 JOHN  
399 BOB  
400 BILL  
401 JIM  
402 TOM  
403 JOE  
404 DICK  
405 MIKE  
406 FLOWERS  
407 TULIP  
408 CARNATION  
409 ORCHID  
410 CHRYSANTHEMUM  
411 PANSY  
412 GARDENIA  
413 DAFFODIL  
414 DANDELION  
415 DISEASES  
416 CANCER  
417 TUBERCULOSIS  
418 MEASLES  
419 LEUKEMIA  
420 POLIO

421 MUMPS  
422 SYPHILIS  
423 MALARIA  
424 TREES  
425 OAK  
426 MAPLE  
427 PINE  
428 ELM  
429 BIRCH  
430 DOGWOOD  
431 SPRUCE  
432 REDWOOD  
433 SHIPS  
434 SAILBOAT  
435 DESTROYER  
436 SUBMARINE  
437 ROWBOAT  
438 YACHT  
439 CANOE  
440 FREIGHTER  
441 TUGBOAT  
442 KINDS OF FISH  
443 TROUT  
444 BASS  
445 SHARK  
446 HERRING  
447 CATFISH  
448 PERCH  
449 SALMON  
450 TUNA  
451 CITIES  
452 TORONTO  
453 CHICAGO  
454 WASHINGTON  
455 LONDON  
456 PARIS  
457 VANCOUVER  
458 SASKATOON  
459 DETROIT  
460 EMOTIONS  
461 FEAR  
462 LOVE  
463 HATE  
464 ANGER  
465 HAPPINESS  
466 JOY  
467 SADNESS  
468 SORROW  
469 AUTOMOBILES  
470 FORD  
471 CHEVROLET  
472 PONTIAC  
473 BUICK  
474 CADILLAC  
475 PLYMOUTH  
476 OLDSMOBILE  
477 DODGE  
478 HOLIDAYS  
479 CHRISTMAS  
480 EASTER

481 CANADA DAY  
482 THANKSGIVING  
483 LABOUR DAY  
484 NEW YEAR'S  
485 SUMMER  
486 MARCH BREAK  
487 RELIGIONS  
488 CATHOLIC  
489 JEWISH  
490 BAPTIST  
491 METHODIST  
492 PROTESTANT  
493 BUDDHIST  
494 HINDU  
495 PRESBYTERIAN  
496 SENSES  
497 SMELL  
498 TOUCH  
499 TASTE  
500 SIGHT  
501 HEARING  
502 BALANCE  
503 SOUND  
504 FEELING  
505 MONTHS  
506 JUNE  
507 APRIL  
508 JANUARY  
509 JULY  
510 MARCH  
511 MAY  
512 FEBRUARY  
513 AUGUST  
514 MEATS  
515 STEAK  
516 PORK  
517 BEEF  
518 CHICKEN  
519 LAMB  
520 HAM  
521 FISH  
522 HAMBURGER  
523 LANGUAGES  
524 FRENCH  
525 SPANISH  
526 ENGLISH  
527 GERMAN  
528 RUSSIAN  
529 ITALIAN  
530 LATIN  
531 GREEK  
532 DRUGS  
533 PENICILLIN  
534 ASPIRIN  
535 MORPHINE  
536 CODEINE  
537 DEXEDRINE  
538 HEROIN  
539 MARIJUANA  
540 OPIUM

541	COSMETICS
542	LIPSTICK
543	POWDER
544	MASCARA
545	ROUGE
546	EYELINER
547	EYESHADOW
548	FOUNDATION
549	BLUSH
550	PLANETS
551	MARS
552	VENUS
553	JUPITER
554	EARTH
555	SATURN
556	MERCURY
557	NEPTUNE
558	URANUS
559	GODS
560	ZEUS
561	APOLLO
562	HERCULES
563	ODYSSEUS
564	APHRODITE
565	ULYSSES
566	CUPID
567	ATLAS
568	REPTILES
569	SNAKE
570	LIZARD
571	ALLIGATOR
572	CROCODILE
573	FROG
574	TURTLE
575	DINOSAUR
576	RATTLESNAKE

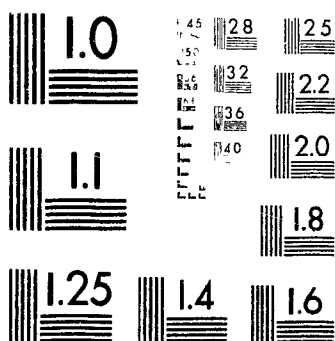
## The List-Strength Effect

### Appendix B



2 of/de 2

PM-1 3½"x4" PHOTOGRAPHIC MICROCOPY TARGET  
NBS 1010a ANSI/ISO #2 EQUIVALENT



PRECISION<sup>SM</sup> RESOLUTION TARGETS

1 Gems  
2 DIAMOND  
3 RUBY  
4 EMERALD  
5 SAPPHIRE  
6 PEARL  
7 OPAL  
8 JADE  
9 TOPAZ  
10 AMETHYST  
11 ONYX  
12 GARNET  
13 TURQUOISE  
14 Time Units  
15 HOUR  
16 MINUTE  
17 SECOND  
18 YEAR  
19 DAY  
20 CENTURY  
21 MONTH  
22 DECADE  
23 WEEK  
24 MILLISECOND  
25 EON  
26 ERA  
27 Relatives  
28 AUNT  
29 UNCLE  
30 FATHER  
31 MOTHER  
32 BROTHER  
33 SISTER  
34 COUSIN  
35 GRANDMOTHER  
36 GRANDFATHER  
37 NEPHEW  
38 NIECE  
39 HUSBAND  
40 Metals  
41 IRON  
42 COPPER  
43 STEEL  
44 GOLD  
45 ALUMINUM  
46 SILVER  
47 TIN  
48 BRASS  
49 BRONZE  
50 LEAD  
51 PLATINUM  
52 URANIUM  
53 Reading Material  
54 MAGAZINE  
55 BOOK  
56 NEWSPAPER  
57 PAMPHLET  
58 NOVEL  
59 TEXTBOOK  
60 JOURNAL

61 ARTICLE  
62 LETTER  
63 ENCYCLOPEDIA  
64 PERIODICAL  
65 POEM  
66 Four-Footed Animals  
67 DOG  
68 CAT  
69 HORSE  
70 COW  
71 LION  
72 TIGER  
73 ELEPHANT  
74 PIG  
75 BEAR  
76 MOUSE  
77 RAT  
78 DEER  
79 Types of Cloth  
80 COTTON  
81 WOOL  
82 SILK  
83 RAYON  
84 NYLON  
85 VELVET  
86 LINEN  
87 SATIN  
88 POLYESTER  
89 FLANNEL  
90 BURLAP  
91 DENIM  
92 Colours  
93 BLUE  
94 RED  
95 GREEN  
96 YELLOW  
97 ORANGE  
98 BLACK  
99 PURPLE  
100 WHITE  
101 BROWN  
102 MAROON  
103 GRAY  
104 PINK  
105 Appliances  
106 REFRIGERATOR  
107 STOVE  
108 DISHWASHER  
109 WASHER  
110 OVEN  
111 RANGE  
112 DRYER  
113 FREEZER  
114 TOASTER  
115 BLENDER  
116 MIXER  
117 VACUUM  
118 Math Operations  
119 ADDITION  
120 DIVISION

121 MULTIPLICATION  
122 SUBTRACTION  
123 EQUATION  
124 ALGEBRA  
125 FORMULA  
126 DERIVATIVE  
127 EXPONENT  
128 PERCENTAGE  
129 LIMIT  
130 QUADRATIC  
131 Speech Parts  
132 NOUN  
133 ADJECTIVE  
134 PRONOUN  
135 VERB  
136 ADVERB  
137 CONJUNCTION  
138 PREPOSITION  
139 INTERJECTION  
140 PARTICIPLE  
141 SUBJECT  
142 SENTENCE  
143 VOWEL  
144 Furniture  
145 CHAIR  
146 TABLE  
147 BED  
148 SOFA  
149 DESK  
150 LAMP  
151 DRESSER  
152 TELEVISION  
153 STOOL  
154 BUREAU  
155 BOOKCASE  
156 CABINET  
157 Body Parts  
158 LEGS  
159 ARMS  
160 HEAD  
161 EYE  
162 FOOT  
163 NOSE  
164 FINGER  
165 EAR  
166 HAND  
167 TOE  
168 MOUTH  
169 STOMACH  
170 Fruits  
171 APPLE  
172 ORANGE  
173 PEAR  
174 BANANA  
175 PEACH  
176 GRAPE  
177 CHERRY  
178 PLUM  
179 GRAPEFRUIT  
180 LEMON

181 TANGERINE  
182 APRICOT  
183 Weapons  
184 GUN  
185 RIFLE  
186 BOMB  
187 CLUB  
188 SWORD  
189 PISTOL  
190 BAYONET  
191 WHIP  
192 SPEAR  
193 AXE  
194 HATCHET  
195 MACHETE  
196 Elective Offices  
197 PRESIDENT  
198 VICE-PRESIDENT  
199 SENATOR  
200 MAYOR  
201 TREASURER  
202 SECRETARY  
203 GOVERNOR  
204 CONGRESSMAN  
205 COUNCILMAN  
206 CHAIRMAN  
207 JUDGE  
208 ALDERMAN  
209 Dwellings  
210 HOUSE  
211 APARTMENT  
212 TENT  
213 CAVE  
214 HUT  
215 HOTEL  
216 TRAILER  
217 DORMITORY  
218 MANSION  
219 COTTAGE  
220 CABIN  
221 CASTLE  
222 Alcoholic Drinks  
223 BEER  
224 WHISKEY  
225 GIN  
226 WINE  
227 VODKA  
228 BOURBON  
229 SCOTCH  
230 RUM  
231 BRANDY  
232 RYE  
233 CHAMPAGNE  
234 VERMOUTH  
235 Countries  
236 FRANCE  
237 RUSSIA  
238 ENGLAND  
239 GERMANY  
240 CANADA

241 ITALY  
242 SPAIN  
243 CHINA  
244 MEXICO  
245 SWEDEN  
246 BRAZIL  
247 THAILAND  
248 Crimes  
249 MURDER  
250 RAPE  
251 ROBBERY  
252 ASSAULT  
253 ARSON  
254 KIDNAPPING  
255 LARCENY  
256 FORGERY  
257 FRAUD  
258 PERJURY  
259 MANSLAUGHTER  
260 BLACKMAIL  
261 Tools  
262 HAMMER  
263 SAW  
264 NAILS  
265 SCREWDRIVER  
266 CHISEL  
267 RULER  
268 WRENCH  
269 PLIERS  
270 DRILL  
271 SCREWS  
272 PLANE  
273 SAWHORSE  
274 Clergymen  
275 PRIEST  
276 MINISTER  
277 RABBI  
278 POPE  
279 BISHOP  
280 PASTOR  
281 REVEREND  
282 MONK  
283 NUN  
284 PREACHER  
285 ARCHBISHOP  
286 DEACON  
287 Flavourings  
288 SALT  
289 PEPPER  
290 SUGAR  
291 GARLIC  
292 VANILLA  
293 CINNAMON  
294 CLOVES  
295 PAPRIKA  
296 OREGANO  
297 NUTMEG  
298 THYME  
299 PARSLEY  
300 Fuels

301	OIL
302	GAS
303	COAL
304	WOOD
305	KEROSINE
306	PETROLIUM
307	PROPANE
308	BUTANE
309	GASOLINE
310	PETROL
311	DIESEL
312	STEAM
313	Professions
314	DOCTOR
315	LAWYER
316	TEACHER
317	DENTIST
318	ENGINEER
319	PROFESSOR
320	CARPENTER
321	SALESMAN
322	NURSE
323	PSYCHOLOGIST
324	PLUMBER
325	ACCOUNTANT
326	Earth Formations
327	MOUNTAIN
328	HILL
329	VALLEY
330	RIVER
331	ROCK
332	LAKE
333	CANYON
334	CLIFF
335	OCEAN
336	VOLCANO
337	STREAM
338	SEA
339	Sports
340	FOOTBALL
341	BASEBALL
342	BASKETBALL
343	TENNIS
344	SWIMMING
345	LACROSSE
346	BADMINTON
347	BOWLING
348	WRESTLING
349	SOCCER
350	GOLF
351	HOCKEY
352	Weather
353	HURRICANE
354	TORNADO
355	RAIN
356	SNOW
357	HAIL
358	SLEET
359	STORM
360	WIND

361 CYCLONE  
362 SUNSHINE  
363 LIGHTNING  
364 THUNDER  
365 Clothing  
366 SHIRT  
367 SOCKS  
368 PANTS  
369 SHOES  
370 BLOUSE  
371 SKIRT  
372 COAT  
373 DRESS  
374 BRA  
375 TOP  
376 SWEATER  
377 JACKET  
378 Fixtures  
379 SINK  
380 TOILET  
381 FAUCET  
382 BATHTUB  
383 LIGHT  
384 MIRROR  
385 WINDOW  
386 SHOWERHEAD  
387 TILE  
388 SOAPDISH  
389 SHOWER  
390 TUBMAT  
391 Chemicals  
392 OXYGEN  
393 HYDROGEN  
394 NITROGEN  
395 SODIUM  
396 POTASSIUM  
397 CARBON  
398 SULFUR  
399 ZINC  
400 MERCURY  
401 ARGON  
402 CALCIUM  
403 CHLORINE  
404 Musical Instruments  
405 PIANO  
406 DRUM  
407 TRUMPET  
408 VIOLIN  
409 CLARINET  
410 FLUTE  
411 GUITAR  
412 SAXOPHONE  
413 TROMBONE  
414 TUBA  
415 HARP  
416 CELLO  
417 Money  
418 DOLLARS  
419 NICKELS  
420 DICES



421        QUARTERS  
422        PENNIES  
423        FRANCS  
424        PESOS  
425        LIRA  
426        YEN  
427        RUBLE  
428        SHILLING  
429        CENTS  
430        Music  
431        JAZZ  
432        CLASSICAL  
433        ROCK'N  
434        POPULAR  
435        FOLK  
436        SYMPHONY  
437        OPERA  
438        BLUES  
439        COUNTRY  
440        ALTERNATIVE  
441        RAP  
442        PUNK  
443        Birds  
444        ROBIN  
445        SPARROW  
446        CARDINAL  
447        BLUEJAY  
448        EAGLE  
449        CROW  
450        CANARY  
451        PARRAKEET  
452        HAWK  
453        BLACKBIRD  
454        WREN  
455        PARROT  
456        Beverages  
457        MILK  
458        COKE  
459        WATER  
460        COFFEE  
461        TEA  
462        LEMONADE  
463        JUICE  
464        SPRITE  
465        PEPSI  
466        COCOA  
467        ROOTBEER  
468        SODA  
469        Vehicles  
470        CAR  
471        BUS  
472        AIRPLANE  
473        TRAIN  
474        TRUCK  
475        BICYCLE  
476        MOTORCYCLE  
477        BOAT  
478        SCOOTER  
479        WAGON  
480        TRICYCLE

481 TRACTOR  
482 Sciences  
483 CHEMISTRY  
484 PHYSICS  
485 PSYCHOLOGY  
486 BIOLOGY  
487 ZOOLOGY  
488 BOTANY  
489 ASTRONOMY  
490 MATHEMATICS  
491 GEOLOGY  
492 MICROBIOLOGY  
493 MEDICINE  
494 ENGINEERING  
495 Type of Nuts  
496 WALNUT  
497 PEANUT  
498 PECAN  
499 CASHEW  
500 ALMOND  
501 BRAZILNUT  
502 MACADAMIA  
503 PISTACHIO  
504 ACORN  
505 CHESTNUT  
506 COCONUT  
507 HAZELNUT  
508 Dances  
509 WALTZ  
510 TWIST  
511 FOX-TROT  
512 CHA-CHA  
513 JITTERBUG  
514 RUMBA  
515 TANGO  
516 POLKA  
517 HUSTLE  
518 SQUARE  
519 DISCO  
520 BALLET  
521 Vegetables  
522 CARROT  
523 PEA  
524 CORN  
525 BEAN  
526 POTATO  
527 TOMATO  
528 LETTUCE  
529 SPINACH  
530 ASPARAGUS  
531 BROCCOLI  
532 CELERY  
533 CABBAGE  
534 Footgear  
535 SHOES  
536 BOOTS  
537 SANDALS  
538 LOAFERS  
539 MOCCASINS  
540 SNOWSHOES

541 SNEAKERS  
542 HEELS  
543 FLATS  
544 GALOSHES  
545 PUMPS  
546 CLEATS  
547 Insects  
548 FLY  
549 ANT  
550 BEE  
551 MOSQUITO  
552 SPIDER  
553 BEETLE  
554 ROACH  
555 WASP  
556 GRASSHOPPER  
557 LADYBUG  
558 GNAT  
559 MOTH  
560 Girl Names  
561 MARY  
562 SUSAN  
563 ANNE  
564 JUDY  
565 JANE  
566 CAROL  
567 BARBARA  
568 KATHY  
569 LINDA  
570 KRISTINE  
571 NANCY  
572 CARMEN  
573 Boy Names  
574 JOHN  
575 BOB  
576 BILL  
577 JIM  
578 TOM  
579 JOE  
580 DICK  
581 MIKE  
582 GEORGE  
583 STEVE  
584 MARK  
585 HARRY  
586 Flowers  
587 TULIP  
588 CARNATION  
589 ORCHID  
590 CHRYSANTHEMUM  
591 PANSY  
592 GARDENIA  
593 DAFFODIL  
594 DANDELION  
595 ROSE  
596 IRIS  
597 LILAC  
598 GERANIUM  
599 Diseases  
600 CANCER

601 TUBERCULOSIS  
602 MEASLES  
603 LEUKEMIA  
604 POLIO  
605 SMALLPOX  
606 MONONUCLEOSIS  
607 PNEUMONIA  
608 LEPROSY  
609 MUMPS  
610 SYPHILIS  
611 MALARIA  
612 Trees  
613 OAK  
614 MAPLE  
615 PINE  
616 ELM  
617 BIRCH  
618 DOGWOOD  
619 SPRUCE  
620 REDWOOD  
621 FIR  
622 HICKORY  
623 SYCAMORE  
624 ASH  
625 Ships  
626 SAILBOAT  
627 DESTROYER  
628 SUBMARINE  
629 ROWBOAT  
630 YACHT  
631 CANOE  
632 FREIGHTER  
633 TUGBOAT  
634 STEAMSHIP  
635 SCHOONER  
636 LINER  
637 MOTORBOAT  
638 Fish  
639 TROUT  
640 BASS  
641 SHARK  
642 HERRING  
643 CATFISH  
644 PERCH  
645 SALMON  
646 TUNA  
647 GOLDFISH  
648 SWORDFISH  
649 SUNFISH  
650 WHALE  
651 Cities  
652 TORONTO  
653 CHICAGO  
654 WASHINGTON  
655 LONDON  
656 PARIS  
657 VANCOUVER  
658 SASKATOON  
659 DETROIT  
660 WINNIPEG

661 FREDERICTON  
662 MIAMI  
663 CALGARY  
664 Emotions  
665 FEAR  
666 LOVE  
667 HATE  
668 ANGER  
669 HAPPINESS  
670 JOY  
671 SADNESS  
672 SORROW  
673 DEPRESSION  
674 JEALOUSY  
675 EXCITEMENT  
676 BITTERNESS  
677 Automobiles  
678 FORD  
679 CHEVROLET  
680 PONTIAC  
681 BUICK  
682 CADILLAC  
683 PLYMOUTH  
684 OLDSMOBILE  
685 DODGE  
686 HONDA  
687 JEEP  
688 CHRYSLER  
689 VOLKSWAGEN  
690 Dogs  
691 COLLIE  
692 POODLE  
693 BEAGLE  
694 SPANIEL  
695 DOBERMAN  
696 HUSKY  
697 TERRIER  
698 BULLDOG  
699 SHEPHERD  
700 SIBERIAN  
701 SHEEPDOG  
702 DALMATIAN  
703 Parts of Buildings  
704 DOOR  
705 ROOF  
706 WALL  
707 FLOOR  
708 CEILING  
709 ROOM  
710 BASEMENT  
711 BRICK  
712 HALL  
713 STAIR  
714 ELEVATOR  
715 CHIMNEY  
716 Religions  
717 CATHOLIC  
718 JEWISH  
719 BAPTIST  
720 METHODIST

721	PROTESTANT
722	BUDDHIST
723	HINDU
724	PRESBYTERIAN
725	MOSLEM
726	EPISCOPAL
727	LUTHERAN
728	JUDAISM
729	Months
730	JUNE
731	APRIL
732	SEPTEMBER
733	JANUARY
734	OCTOBER
735	JULY
736	NOVEMBER
737	MARCH
738	DECEMBER
739	MAY
740	FEBRUARY
741	AUGUST
742	Meats
743	STEAK
744	PORK
745	BEEF
746	CHICKEN
747	LAMB
748	HAM
749	FISH
750	HAMBURGER
751	SIRLOIN
752	ROAST
753	TURKEY
754	BOLOGNA
755	Languages
756	FRENCH
757	SPANISH
758	ENGLISH
759	GERMAN
760	RUSSIAN
761	ITALIAN
762	LATIN
763	GREEK
764	JAPANESE
765	MALTESE
766	UKRAINIAN
767	POLISH
768	Drugs
769	PENICILLIN
770	ASPIRIN
771	MORPHINE
772	CODEINE
773	DEXEDRINE
774	HEROIN
775	MARIJUANA
776	OPIUM
777	LSD
778	COCAINE
779	BENZEDRINE
780	NOVACAINE

781	Cosmetics
782	LIPSTICK
783	POWDER
784	MASCARA
785	ROUGE
786	EYELINER
787	EYESHADOW
788	FOUNDATION
789	BLUSH
790	POWDER
791	POLISH
792	PERFUME
793	CREAM
794	Composers
795	BEETHOVEN
796	BACH
797	MOZART
798	BRAHMS
799	TCHAIKOVSKY
800	CHOPIN
801	SCHUBERT
802	HAYDN
803	MANCINI
804	GERSHWIN
805	STRAUSS
806	HAMMERSTEIN
807	Mythical Beings
808	ZEUS
809	APOLLO
810	HERCULES
811	ODYSSEUS
812	APHRODITE
813	ULYSSES
814	CUPID
815	ATLAS
816	UNICORN
817	CYCLOPS
818	MEDUSA
819	PEGASUS
820	States
821	GEORGIA
822	FLORIDA
823	ALABAMA
824	CALIFORNIA
825	TENNESSEE
826	TEXAS
827	VIRGINIA
828	MISSISSIPPI
829	KENTUCKY
830	MAINE
831	ILLINOIS
832	MARYLAND