

INDUCTIVE BIASES: THE VIEW FROM ALLOMORPHY

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Language learners typically converge on the same grammar for their language even though the input is consistent with many different generalizations. This indicates that learners share inductive biases that favors some generalizations over others, but the source of these biases remains unclear: is there an innate grammatical bias? Are some sources of information cognitively more accessible than others? I will present a series of studies approaching this question through the lens of contextual allomorphy, aiming to elucidate the learner's relationship towards different kinds of syntactic, semantic and phonological cues.

The results contribute to a growing literature on the inductive biases which learners bring to the acquisition process, highlighting the importance of a grammatically-informed distinction between different sources of information.