

## **A resource model of working memory**

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Baddeley and Hitch's classic model divides working memory into domain-specific subsystems and a shared, domain-general central executive that plays a role in allocating resources to items stored in the subsystems. The nature of this resource—in particular, its quantization (discrete vs. continuous) and the flexibility of its allocation—has been studied extensively in the visual domain, with evidence from experiments using continuous responses to measure precision providing support for models with flexibly and continuously divisible resources. It remains unclear, however, whether similar mechanisms mediate the division of resources in phonological working memory. In two experiments, we show that the principles of resource division in phonological working memory are similar to vision: precision decreases monotonically as set size increases, and attended items are processed with greater precision at the expense of unattended items. A third experiment shows that attention affects both the encoding and maintenance phases of working memory.