

A Simple Taste Alphabet	
Taste	Coding
salty	1
sweet	2
sour	3
bitter	4

Table 5.12: A simple encoding of tastes.

Another Taste Alphabet	
Sensation	Coding
salty	1
sweet	2
sour	3
bitter	4
umami	5
astringent	6
pungent	7

Table 5.13: A more complex encoding of tastes.

about how you would create an alphabet for a language with which you are not familiar, such as Chinese, or how you would create an alphabet for another sense, such as pictures that you see, sensations that you feel, or scents that you smell.

Another example is provided by odors. The Yale OdorDB contains 140 different odors. Imagine building an odor coder that monitors odors in a room and once a second produces a vector containing 140 numbers (an “odor vector”), with the first component in the vector measuring the concentration of the first odor, the second component measuring the concentration of the second odor, etc. Similarly, imagine that you wanted to fill a room with a particular odor. In this case, one could build an odor decoder that given an odor vector would release the appropriate amounts