Praat: Beyond the Basics

Will Styler, LSA Minicourse 2016

Course Abstract

The Praat phonetics software package is as powerful as it is ubiquitious, with a world of functionality available to those who are willing to go beyond the basics. In this minicourse, we'll spend the first half of the session talking about some of Praat's more interesting functionality, from data annotation, to manipulating sound files by splicing, modifying pitch and duration or filtering noise, and producing publication-quality graphics from your data. Then, in the second half of the session, we'll talk about the advantages, challenges, pitfalls and practical methods of running and writing Praat scripts, which can help you speed up repetitive tasks, perform more complex analyses, and automate data collection.

Course Materials

- http://savethevowels.org/praat/lsa_minicourse_materials.zip

Examining Sounds

1. Welcome to the Editor Window
2. Waveforms and Spectrograms (Section 6.1)
3. Broadband vs. Narrowband Spectrograms (Section 6.2)
4. Extracting Spectral Slices (Section 6.9)
5. Formants in the Editor Window (Section 6.6)
6. Pitch in the Editor Window (Section 6.4)
7. Voice Quality (Jitter, Shimmer, HNR and Voice Report) (Section 6.5)
8. Analysis outside the Editor (Formant and Pitch Objects)

Manipulating Sounds

1. Manipulating sounds in the editor window (Section 7.2)
2. Rescaling amplitude (Section 7.9)
3. Concatenating Sounds (Section 7.10)
4. Combining Sounds (Section 7.11)
5. Pitch and Duration Modification ("To Manipulation") (Section 7.6-7.8)
6. Filtering (Section 7.4)

Displaying Sounds

1. Making Pretty Pictures in Praat (Section 8)
2. Overlaying Multiple Pretty Pictures in Praat (Section 8.1)

Annotating Sounds

1. Making Textgrids (Section 9)
2. Point vs. interval tiers
3. Multiple tiers
4. Opening Textgrids as Text Files

Praat Scripting

- See http://savethevowels.org/talks/praat_scripting.html
- Also see Section 11 of the manual