

Practical Praat scripting

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I need to measure F1 & F2 for each vowel in my recording.

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Praat script

for each vowel:

measure F1 & F2
and save the measurements

I need to measure F1 & F2 for each vowel in my recording.

Praat script

```
for each segment:  
  if it's a vowel:  
    measure F1 & F2  
    and save the measurements
```

I need to measure F1 & F2 for each vowel in my recording.

Praat script

for each segment in the TextGrid:

 if it's a vowel:

 measure F1 & F2 from the Sound

 and save the measurements to a text file

I need to measure X for each Y in my recording.

Praat script

```
for each segment in the TextGrid:  
  if it's a Y:  
    measure X from the Sound  
    and save the measurements to a text file
```

I need to measure X for each Y in my recording.

Before

make a TextGrid for your sound recording

Praat script

for each segment in the TextGrid:

 if it's a Y :

 measure X from the Sound

 and save the measurements to a text file

After

open the text file, plot, analyze ...

Make a TextGrid for your sound recording

Annotate your sound manually in Praat

1. Select your Sound, then `To TextGrid...` "phone word"
(also available under the `Annotate -` menu)
2. Select your Sound and TextGrid, then `View & Edit`

Annotate your sound automatically with forced alignment

1. Make a word-level transcript of your sound in a plain text file.
2. Align your sound and transcript one of these ways:
 - ▶ On the web at <http://phon.chass.ncsu.edu/cgi-bin/step7.cgi>
or <http://fave.ling.upenn.edu/FAAValign.html>
 - ▶ At the command-line interface on our server. Ask Jeff and read <http://phon.wordpress.ncsu.edu/lab-manual/forced-alignment/>
 - ▶ Install HTK and P2FA on your computer (ask Eric)

Open the text file, plot, analyze . . .

- ▶ Plot in R (try the commands at the end of `everyscript.praat`)
- ▶ Or look at your data in a spreadsheet program.

Modifying the script

- ▶ What if X is another measurement?
- ▶ What if Y isn't a vowel (or isn't even a segment)?
- ▶ Figure out your measurements interactively through the Editor (if possible). Make measurements interactively then through the Praat menus, and then paste history to add them to your script.
- ▶ Use procedures, forms, etc.
- ▶ Document your code (using #).
- ▶ Comment out (with #) instead of deleting (until you're sure).

Helpful hints

- ▶ Look the Praat manual and then Google if you don't find what you want, and then ask someone.
- ▶ Understand the measurements you are making and make frequent reality checks.
- ▶ Use `printline` to check variables.
- ▶ Make one change at a time.
- ▶ Use `Search...` `Go to line...` (`Ctrl-L`).
- ▶ Loop through just a few intervals until your script works.
- ▶ Look at the Phonology Lab Manual:
<http://phon.wordpress.ncsu.edu/lab-manual/> (try `extract_and_label.praat` and the vowel plot assignment)