Lecture 12: Speech Data

LING 1340/2340: Data Science for Linguists

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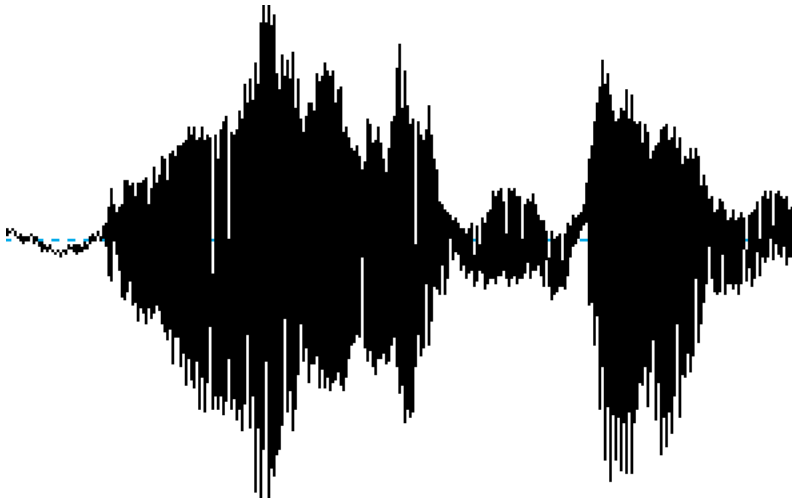
Objectives

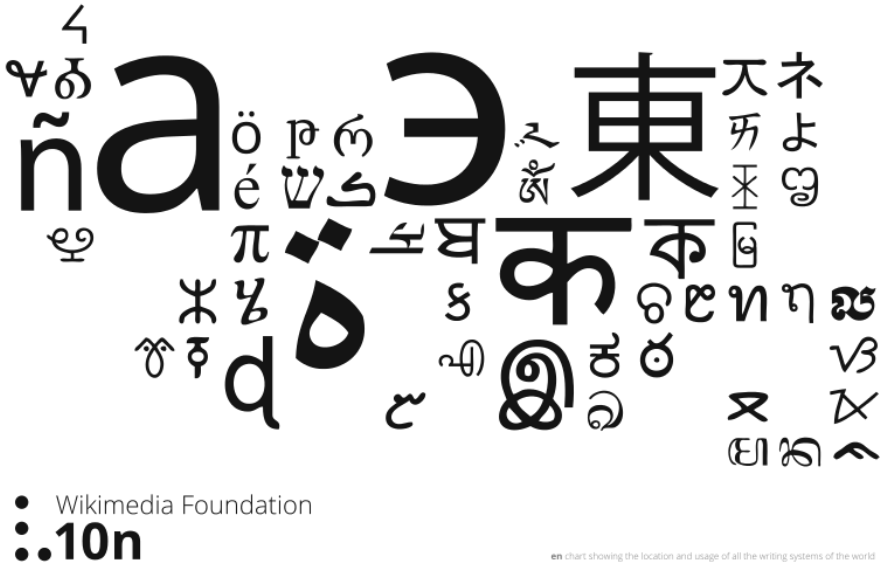
- ML, NLP wrap up
- Speech data
  - Speech corpora, datasets
  - PRAAT
  - Command-line utilities, conversion

Speech vs. Writing

- Ubiquitous to human communities
- Spontaneous
- Humans acquire speech without instruction



- Invented, many communities without
- Deliberate
- Requires instruction to learn



What to do with speech data?

- Analyze it directly.
  - Language identification
  - Phonetic research
  - Informing models (example below)
- Convert it to text, then text-process for downstream tasks
  - ASR (Automatic Speech Recognition) and ASU (… Understanding)
  - Automatic closed-captioning
- The other direction:
  - Speech Synthesis / Text-to-Speech (TTS)
  - Conversational Agents

Well-known speech corpora

- Buckeye Corpus (Pitt et al. 2005)
  - Python interface! https://github.com/scjs/buckeye/blob/master/Quickstart.ipynb
- TIMIT (Garofolo et al. 1993)
  - 10 sentences read by 630 speakers from 10 US dialect regions
  - Orthographic transcription and phonetic annotation
- Switchboard corpus (Godfrey et al. 1993, 1997)
  - Phone conversations between strangers on assigned topic, 2400 conversations by 543 speakers, many US dialects represented
- TalkBank corpora (MacWhinney, at CMU!)
  - Multiple research focus areas: L1 acquisition, multilingualism, etc.
  - Data contributed by many researchers
- CORAAL (Corpus of Regional African American Language)
  - Recorded speech from regional varieties of AAL, includes audio recordings along with time-aligned orthographic transcription, all downloadable

What do *linguists* do with speech data?

- Measuring duration: VOT (Voice Onset Time), etc.
- Measuring formants, F0/pitch
- Measuring amplitude, frequency
- Audio format conversion
  - WAV, MP3, FLAC
  - Channels, sampling rates, etc.
- Edit and manipulate sound
  - Crop, copy, slice, paste…
  - Manipulate pitch, duration…

What tool do we use for these, I wonder…?

PRAAT

https://www.fon.hum.uva.nl/praat/

- Everyone's favorite phonetics data analysis tool
- Venerable, powerful, versatile… and idiosyncratic

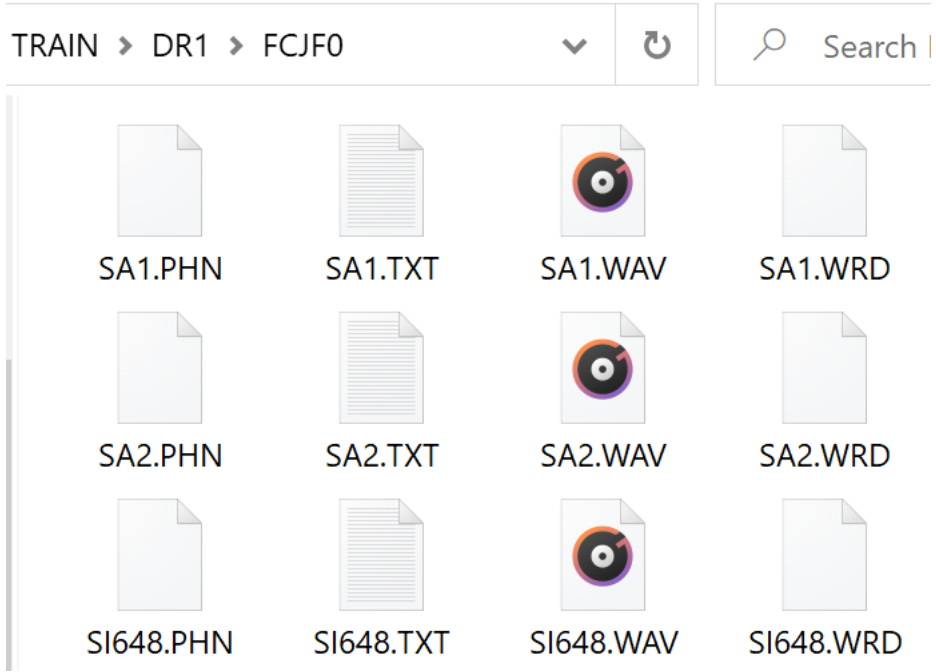
- Logo change was very much celebrated (or not…):
  - https://blogs.umass.edu/linguist/2020/10/19/umass-redesign-of-praat-logo/

- Using Praat for Linguistic Research, by Will Styler:
  - https://wstyler.ucsd.edu/praat/
- Paat Scripting Tutorial, by Eleanor Chodroff:
  - https://eleanorchodroff.com/tutorial/PraatScripting.pdf

Praat + TIMIT

Activity
7 minutes

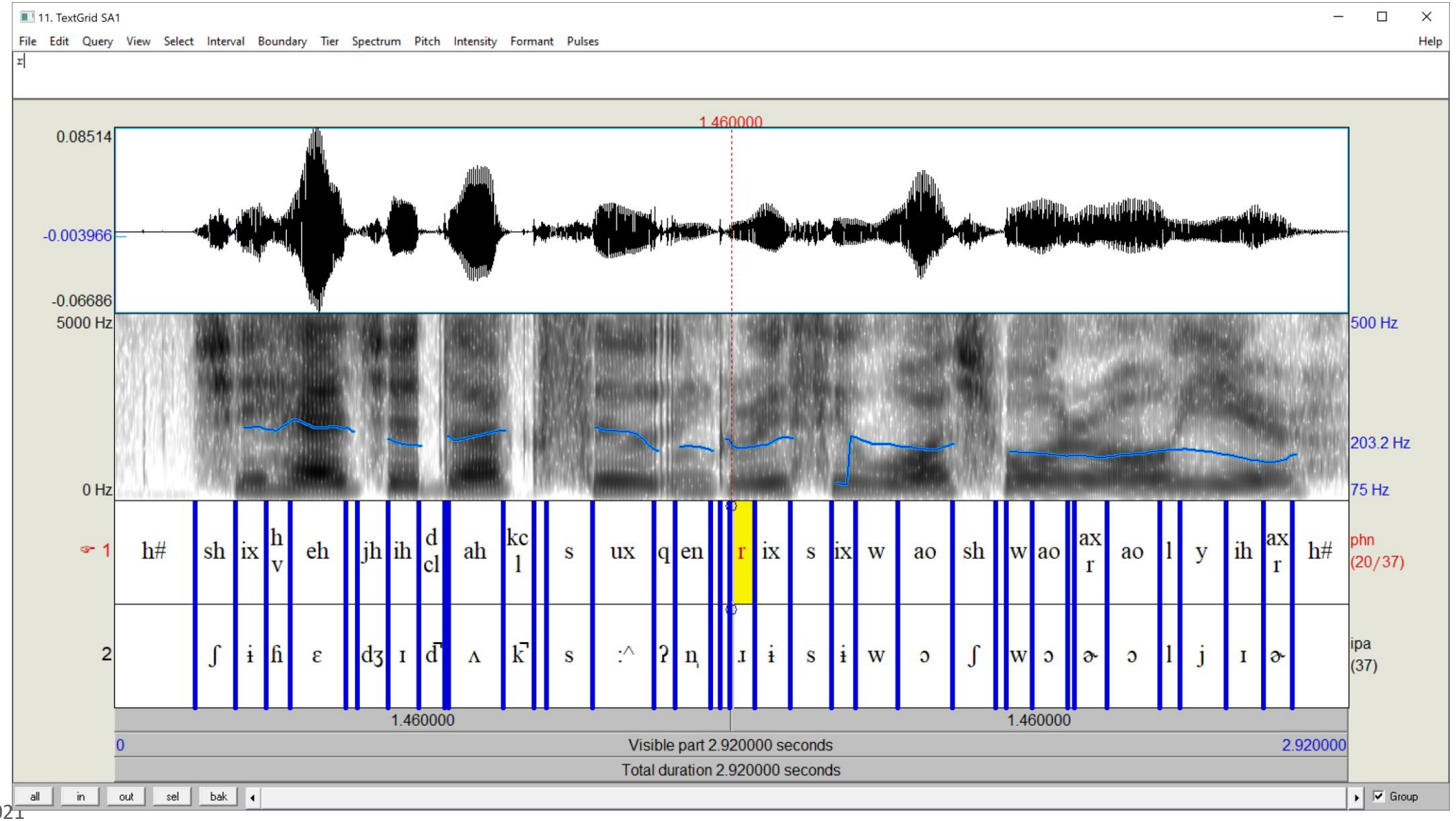
- An excerpt of TIMIT dataset is available on our GitHub org, in "Licensed-Datasets"
  - Get it by pulling from the repo.
- You probably have Praat on your laptop already
  - Pair up, open up "SA1.*" files in Praat, explore, see what you can do!
  - Also encouraged: command-line exploration



Open .WAV file first, and then the rest after

Your will get warnings with some txt files

TIMIT data in Praat



TIMIT data in command-line

- Use `cat`, `less`, `grep`!

```
narae@T480s MINGW64 ~/Desktop/speech/TRAIN-DR1-FCJF0
$ ls
SA1.PHN  SA2.PHN  SI1027.PHN  SI1657.PHN  SI648.PHN  SX127.PHN  SX217.PHN  SX307.PHN  SX37.PHN  SX397.PHN
SA1.TXT  SA2.TXT  SI1027.TXT  SI1657.TXT  SI648.TXT  SX127.TXT  SX217.TXT  SX307.TXT  SX37.TXT  SX397.TXT
SA1.WAV  SA2.WAV  SI1027.WAV  SI1657.WAV  SI648.WAV  SX127.WAV  SX217.WAV  SX307.WAV  SX37.WAV  SX397.WAV
SA1.WRD  SA2.WRD  SI1027.WRD  SI1657.WRD  SI648.WRD  SX127.WRD  SX217.WRD  SX307.WRD  SX37.WRD  SX397.WRD

narae@T480s MINGW64 ~/Desktop/speech/TRAIN-DR1-FCJF0
$ cat *TXT
0 46797 She had your dark suit in greasy wash water all year.
0 34509 Don't ask me to carry an oily rag like that.
0 49460 Even then, if she took one step forward he could catch her.
0 45466 Or borrow some money from someone and go home by bus?
0 57856 A sailboat may have a bone in her teeth one minute and lie becalmed the next.
0 24679 The emperor had a mean temper.
0 27751 How permanent are their records?
0 23143 The meeting is now adjourned.
0 36250 Critical equipment needs proper maintenance.
0 39220 Tim takes Sheila to see movies twice a week.

narae@T480s MINGW64 ~/Desktop/speech/TRAIN-DR1-FCJF0
$ head SA1.PHN
0 3050 h#
3050 4559 sh
4559 5723 ix
5723 6642 hv
6642 8772 eh
8772 9190 dcl
9190 10337 jh
10337 11517 ih
11517 12500 dcl
12500 12640 d

narae@T480s MINGW64 ~/Desktop/speech/TRAIN-DR1-FCJF0
$ head SA1.WRD
3050 5723 she
5723 10337 had
9190 11517 your
11517 16334 dark
16334 21199 suit
21199 22560 in
22560 28064 greasy
28064 33360 wash
33754 37556 water
37556 40313 all

narae@T480s MINGW64 ~/Desktop/speech/TRAIN-DR1-FCJF0
```

```
Jane Eyre@T480s MINGW64 ~/Documents/Data_Science/Licensed-
s Speech Corpus/timit/TIMIT/TRAIN/DR1/FCJF0 (main)
$ grep dh *PHN
SA2.PHN:29000 29490 dh
SI648.PHN:27613 28841 dh
SI648.PHN:46640 46990 dh
SX127.PHN:2231 2834 dh
SX217.PHN:13785 14590 dh
SX307.PHN:1960 2170 dh

Jane Eyre@T480s MINGW64 ~/Documents/Data_Science/Licensed-
s Speech Corpus/timit/TIMIT/TRAIN/DR1/FCJF0 (main)
$ cat SA2.TXT
0 34509 Don't ask me to carry an oily rag like that.

Jane Eyre@T480s MINGW64 ~/Documents/Data_Science/Licensed-
s Speech Corpus/timit/TIMIT/TRAIN/DR1/FCJF0 (main)
$ grep ae *PHN
SA2.PHN:4600 6864 ae
SA2.PHN:22266 24898 ae
SA2.PHN:29490 32279 ae
SI1027.PHN:41210 43040 ae
SI648.PHN:12040 13800 ae
SX127.PHN:10160 11640 ae
```

Which files have /ð/ sound?

Wrapping up

- Next class:
  - More command-line tools
  - ASR theory
  - Forced alignment overview
  - Quick survey: speech data processing in Python
  - ELAN
- 3rd progress report due on Tuesday
- Also coming up: project presentations