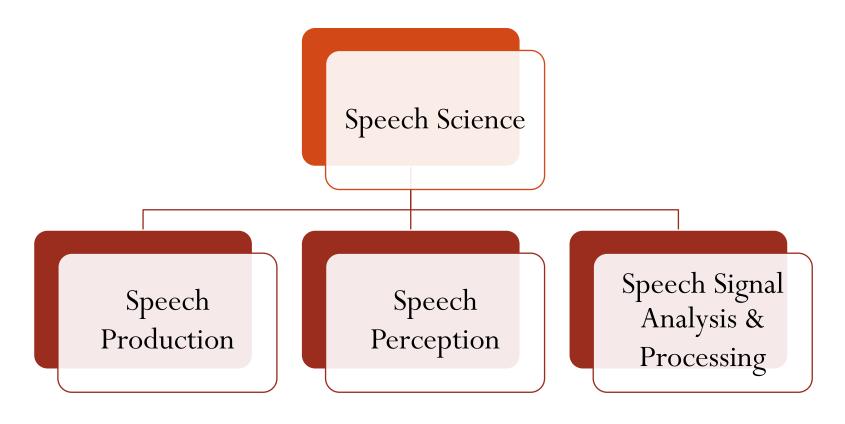
## Speech Science: Articulation and Acoustics

CS578 Winter Term, 2023-24 CSD UOC

Invited Lecture Dr Anna Sfakianaki Assistant Professor of Phonetics/Phonology University of Ioannina <u>asfakianaki@uoi.gr</u>

### **Speech Science**

• Speech Science is the experimental study of **speech communication**.



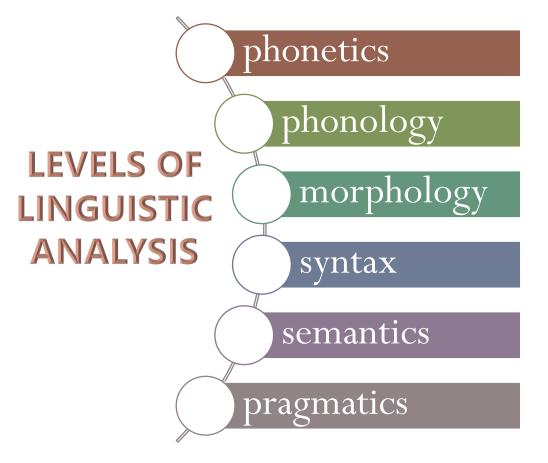
## **Speech Science and Phonetics**

- Speech Science has its origins in **Phonetics** 
  - **Phonetics** is the branch of linguistics that studies the sounds of speech.



Field work: **Peter Ladefoged** Language: **Toda** Kiawiarh Village, South India, 22/01/2006 <u>https://linguistics.ucla.edu/people/ladefoge/Remember/Index.htm</u>

## Linguistics



production and use of **speech sounds** in communication; articulatory and acoustic properties of speech

relations of **speech sounds** within the linguistic system

**word** formation and word alteration for sentence construction

grammar rules for sentence construction

meaning of words, utterances, sentences

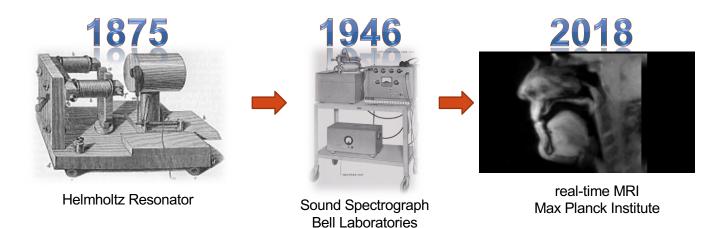
influence of **context** on utterance **meaning** 

## **Speech Science and Phonetics**

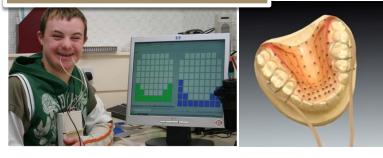
- Speech Science has its origins in **Phonetics** 
  - **Phonetics** is the branch of linguistics that studies the sounds of speech.
  - The **sounds of speech** are the pieces of the linguistic code used to communicate meaning.

Adding Technology to Phonetics  $\rightarrow$ 

empirical investigation of speech production and perception



#### EPG-electropalatography





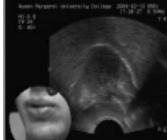
#### EMAelectromagnetic articulography



### Stroboscopy



#### **SPEECH SCIENCE** The instrumental study of speech



#### UTI -Ultrasound



### Questions posed by Speech Science

- How is speech planned and executed by the vocal system?
- How do the acoustic properties of sounds relate to their articulation?
- How and why do speech sounds vary from one context to another?
- How do listeners recover the linguistic code from auditory sensations?
- How do infants learn to produce and perceive speech?
- How and why do speech sounds vary between speakers?
- How and why do speech sounds vary across speaking styles or emotions?

UCL, PALS1004

## **Speech Science Applications**

- Core Applications
  - Speech recognition
  - Speech synthesis
  - Speaker recognition

- Other applications
  - Forensic speaker comparison
  - Language pronunciation teaching
  - Assessment and therapy for disorders of speech and hearing
  - Monitoring of well-being and mood



SpeakGreek, AUTh

Nao Robot, FORTH

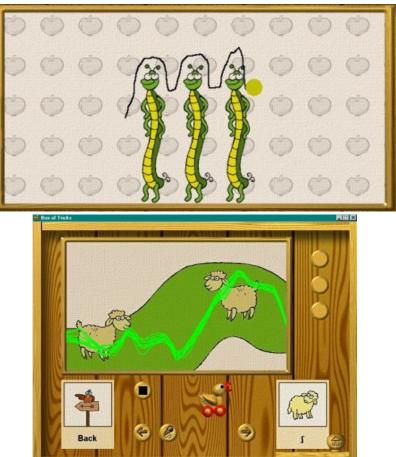
Anna Sfakianaki, University of Ioannina



### SPECO (SPEech COrrector)

- EU project (1998-2001)
- Visual display of acoustic information for children in need of assistance with various aspects of speech production
- Developed in 4 languages
- Multi-speaker database
- Commercial product (RCS)







## SpeakGreek



https://www.enl.auth.gr/speakgreek/index.html

- Free online pronunciation training tool for learners of Greek as a foreign/second language and for people with speech and hearing disorders
- Database of 60 speakers (men, women, children)

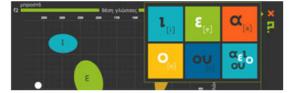
#### Voice Training



It contains applications which train users to produce sounds with appropriate voicing, to sustain sounds for as long as possible, to control the intensity and pitch of their voice.

#### Listen And Learn

#### Say And Learn



It contains applications which train users to produce correctly the Greek vowels and consonants in isolation, in syllables, words, word pairs, and sentences. It also trains users to produce the appropriate melody of Greek in statements, questions, and sentences with different focus.

# • i.e • aou • i.e • aou

It contains applications which train users to perceive and identify correctly the Greek vowels and consonants in syllables, words, word pairs, and sentences.

### SpeakGreek – Phonetic Library

#### [i]

#### Male Female Child



+ EPG & Ultrasound

#### Examples:

<>> [i]

<္) ήχοι

<) φίλη

<>> φίδι

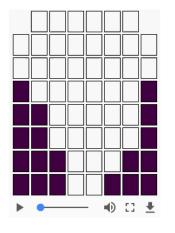
<္သာ είδηση

<и>3) ησυχία

/i/: close front unrounded The tongue front is raised towards the hard palate. The tongue is in advanced ar

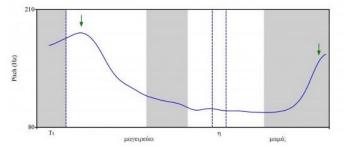
The sides of the tongue lips are spread. The soft vibrate.

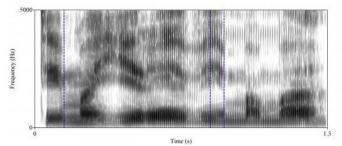


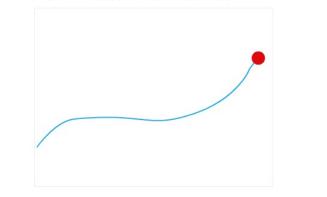




#### intonation

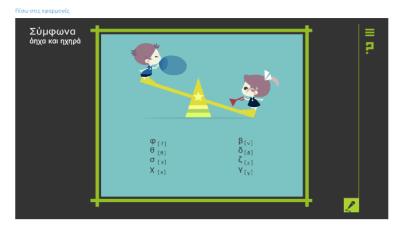






## SpeakGreek – Voice Training

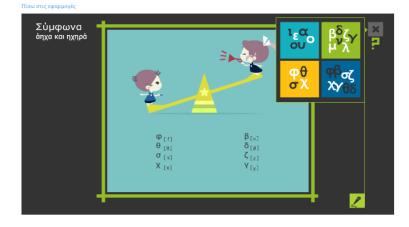
#### Μαθαίνω να παράγω φωνή

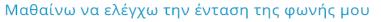


Μαθαίνω να ελέγχω την ένταση της φωνής μου



#### Μαθαίνω να παράγω φωνή







### Interdisciplinary Research

- Phoneticians/Linguists + Engineers
- ENRICH: Speech modifications/enhancements for easier cognitive processing <u>http://www.enrich-etn.eu/</u>



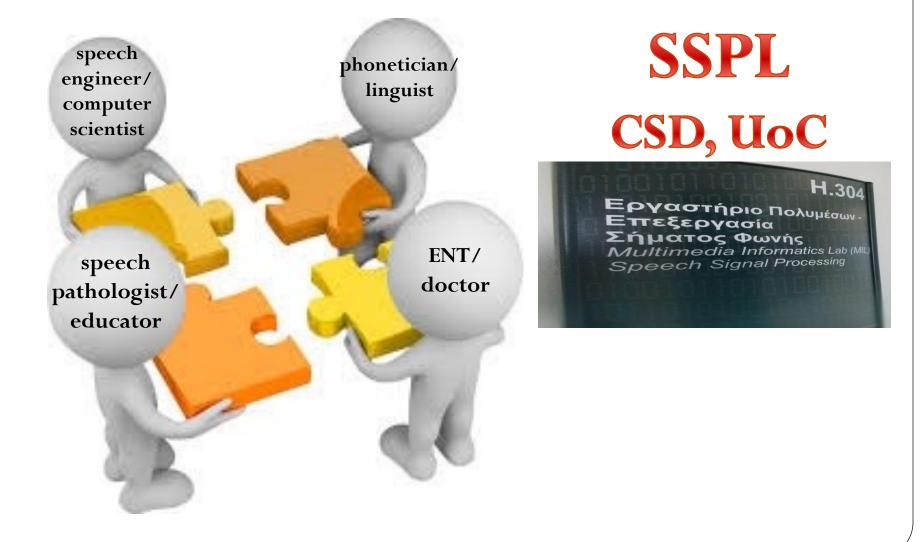
https://youtu.be/\_2W52Y3IE\_Y



 SPAN (Speech Production and Articulation Knowledge Group) University of Southern California <u>http://sail.usc.edu/span/index.html</u>



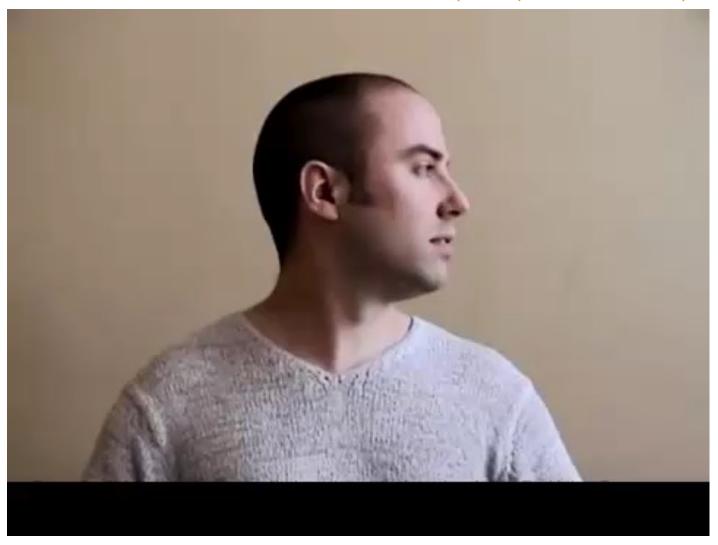
### Fruitful interdisciplinary cooperation



## Articulation of Vowels & Consonants

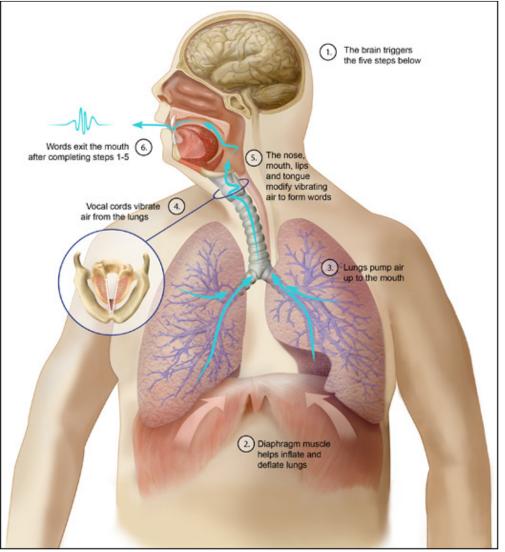
### **Speech Production**

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=osvE5Op1VzM&t=9s



### Speech production process

- Brain
- Energy source
- Diaphragm
- Lungs
- Trachea (windpipe)
- Larynx (voice box)
- Pharynx (throat)
- Oral tract (mouth)
- Nasal tract (nose)



Zina Deretsky, National Science Foundation

### **Speech Production**

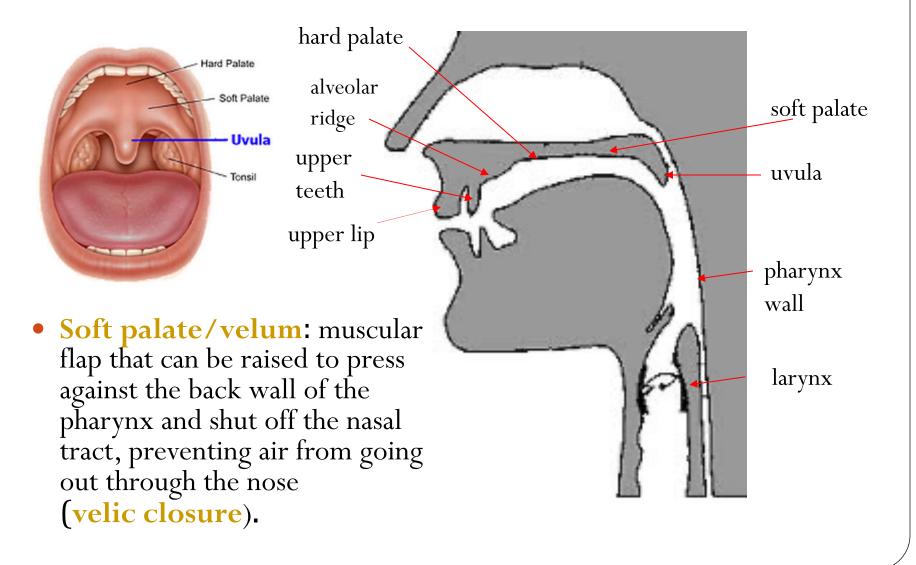
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SVKR3ESdAk8



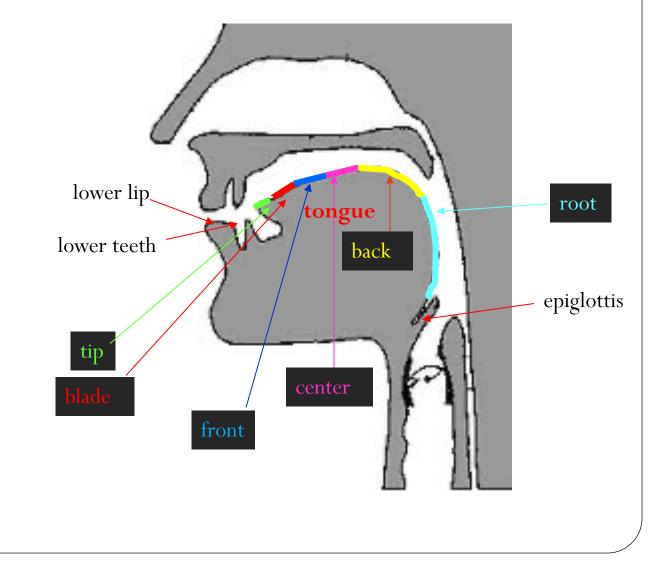
Real-time MRI span, USC University of Southern California

- The tongue and lips move rapidly from one position to another.
- The actions of the tongue are among the **fastest** and the most **precise** physical movements that people make.

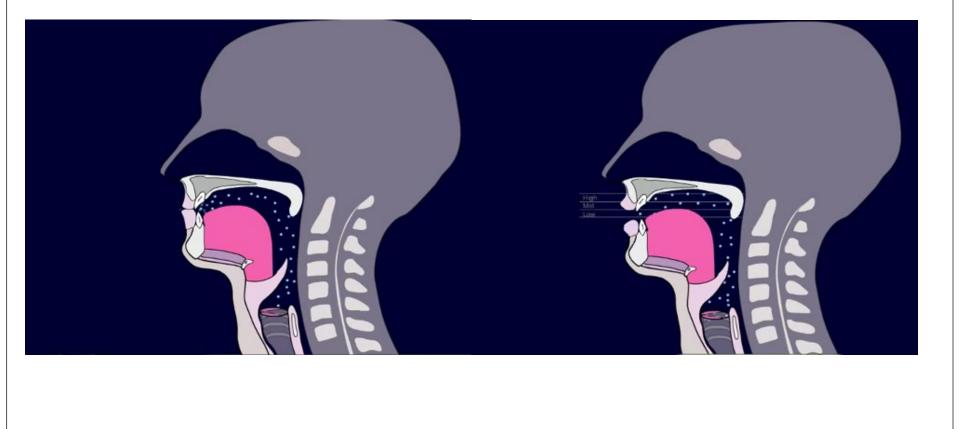
### Upper surface articulators



### Lower surface articulators



Consonants - Vowels

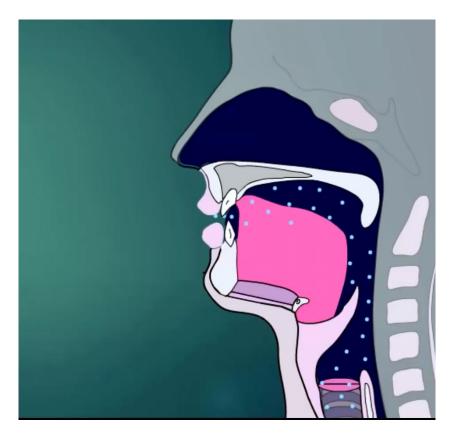




### Voicing

#### Manner of articulation

#### Place of articulation

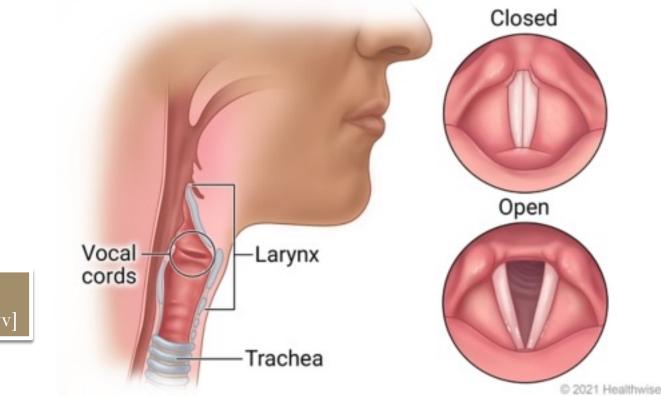


#### Voicing

- <u>Open</u> vocal folds:
  - breathing
  - production of voiceless sounds

### Vocal folds

- <u>Closed</u> vocal folds:
  - production of
     voiced sounds (phonation)

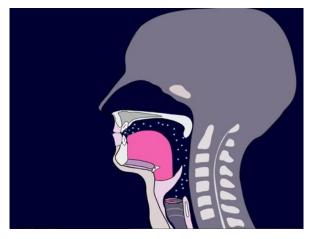


Exercise: [fffffffffvvvvvvvfffffffffffvvvv]

#### Voicing

- <u>Open</u> vocal folds:
  - breathing
  - production of voiceless sounds

#### [p] voiceless

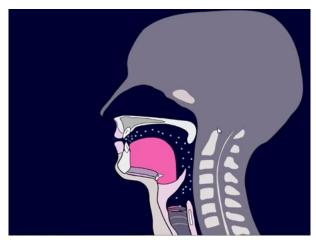


https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LsAjJwC4JTQ

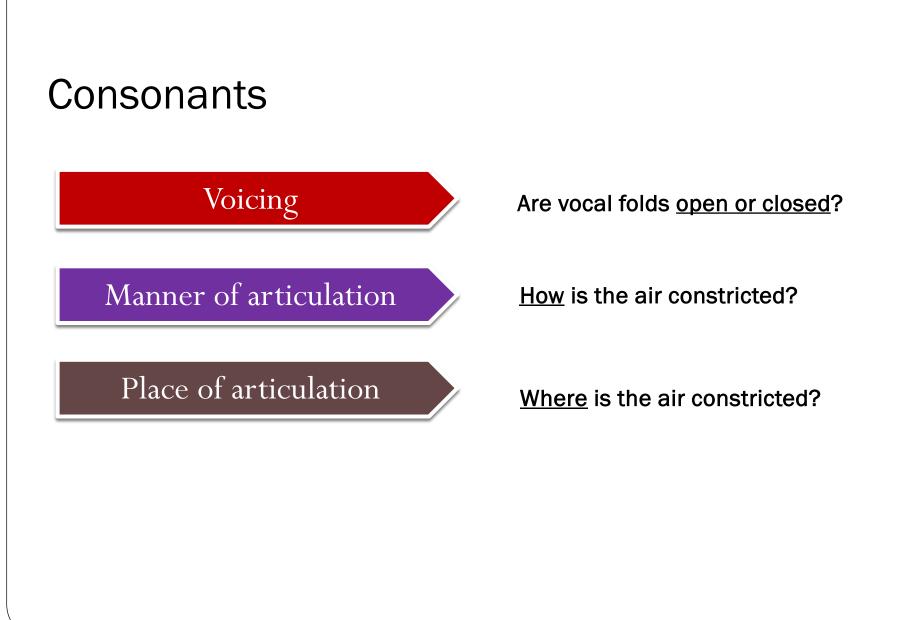
### Vocal folds

- <u>Closed</u> vocal folds:
  - production of
     voiced sounds (phonation)

#### [b] voiced



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eSaT1Cg1FbU



## **IPA** Chart (2020)

#### THE INTERNATIONAL PHONETIC ALPHABET (revised to 2020)

CONSONANT	rs (pulm	ONIC)													000	2020	) IPA
	Bilabial	Labiodental	Dental	Alveolar	Postalveolar	Retr	oflex	Pal	Palatal		Velar		Uvular		Pharyngeal		ottal
Plosive	рb			t d		t	d	с	J	k	g	q	G			2	
Nasal	m	ŋ		n			η		ր		ŋ		Ν				
Trill	В			r									R				
Tap or Flap		v		ſ			t										
Fricative	φβ	f v	θð	s z	∫ 3	ş	Z.	ç	j	x	X	χ	R	ħ	ſ	h	б
Lateral fricative				4 3													
Approximant		υ		r			ŀ		j		щ						
Lateral approximant				1			l		λ		L						

Symbols to the right in a cell are voiced, to the left are voiceless. Shaded areas denote articulations judged impossible.

Clicks	Voiced implos	sives	Ejectives		Front	Centra	al	Back
O Bilabial	6 Bilabial	, <sub>1</sub>	Examples:	Close	i•y—	—-i•t	1	·m•u
Dental	d Dental/alveol	lar D'E	Bilabial		1	Y	υ	
(Post)alveolar	f Palatal	1	Dental/alveola	r Close-mid	e	ø—_9	•e	- x • o
↓ Palatoalveolar	of Velar	k'v	/elar				ə	
Alveolar lateral	G Uvular	s'	Alveolar fricat	Open-mid		€•œ—	3 0	- <b>A</b> • <b>D</b>
		~				æ	B	
OTHER SYMBOL	.S			Open		a.	<b>Е</b>	a•p
M Voiceless labial-	velar fricative C	Z Alveolo-p				Where symbols a to the right repres		
W Voiced labial-ve		J Voiced al	c					
U Voiced labial-pa	latal approximant $\mathfrak{h}$	Simultane	ous and	x		SUPRASEGM		
H Voiceless epiglo	Af	ffricates and do	uble articulati			Primary s		founa ti
F Voiced epiglotta		n be represente				Secondary	y stress	
0	ioi	ined by a tie ha	r if necessary.					
<pre>2 Epiglottal plosiv</pre>	joi	ined by a tie ba	r if necessary.			Long		e:
2 Epiglottal plosiv	e joi	ined by a tie ba	r if necessary.			Half-long		e'
DIACRITICS	e	athy voiced	1	Dental	d	Half-long Extra-sho	rt	
DIACRITICS Voiceless	n d Bre		b a		d	Half-long Extra-sho	rt oot) group	e• ĕ
DIACRITICS Voiceless	n d Bre s t _ Cre	athy voiced	1	Dental t Apical t	d	Half-long Extra-sho Minor (fo Major (in	rt ot) group tonation) gro	e' ĕ
DIACRITICS Voiceless Voiced h Aspirated More rounded	$r^{e}$ $r^{h}$ $r^{h}$ $d^{h}$ $r^{h}$ $d^{h}$	athy voiced	b a b a	Dental t	d	Half-long Extra-sho Minor (fo Major (in . Syllable b	rt ot) group tonation) gro	e' ĕ "i.ækt
DIACRITICS Voiceless Voiced h Aspirated	$\begin{array}{c} n & d \\ s & t \\ t^{h} & d^{h} \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{c} & Bre \\ \sim Cre \\ t^{h} & d^{h} \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{c} & Lint \\ & M \\ & Lab \\ \end{array}$	athy voiced eaky voiced guolabial	b a b a t d	Dental t Apical t	d d	<ul> <li>Half-long</li> <li>Extra-sho</li> <li>Minor (fo</li> <li>Major (in</li> <li>Syllable b</li> <li>Linking (a)</li> </ul>	rt oot) group tonation) groo oreak absence of a 1	e∙ ĕ ni.ækt break)
DIACRITICS Voiceless Voiced h Aspirated More rounded	$\begin{array}{c} \mathbf{n} & \mathbf{d} & \dots & \text{Bree} \\ \mathbf{s} & \mathbf{t} & \sim & \text{Cree} \\ \mathbf{t}^{h} & \mathbf{d}^{h} & \dots & \text{Ling} \\ \mathbf{q} & \mathbf{w} & \text{Lab} \\ \mathbf{q} & \mathbf{s} & \mathbf{s} \\ \mathbf{q} & \mathbf{s} & \mathbf{s} \end{array}$	athy voiced aky voiced guolabial pialized	$\begin{array}{c} \underline{b} & \underline{a} \\ \underline{b} & \underline{a} \\ \underline{t} & \underline{d} \\ \underline{t}^{w} & \underline{d}^{w} \end{array}$	Dental t Apical t Laminal t	d d ẽ	<ul> <li>Half-long</li> <li>Extra-sho</li> <li>Minor (fo</li> <li>Major (in</li> <li>Syllable b</li> <li>Linking (a)</li> </ul>	rt oot) group tonation) grou oreak absence of a ND WORD	e∙ ĕ ni.ækt break)
DIACRITICS Voiceless Voiced h Aspirated More rounded c Less rounded	$\begin{array}{c} \mathbf{n} & \mathbf{d} & \dots & \text{Bree} \\ \mathbf{S} & \mathbf{t} & \sim & \text{Cree} \\ \mathbf{t}^{\mathbf{h}} & \mathbf{d}^{\mathbf{h}} & \dots & \text{Ling} \\ \mathbf{Q} & \mathbf{w} & \text{Lab} \\ \mathbf{Q} & \mathbf{y} & \text{Value} \\ \mathbf{Q} & \mathbf{y} & \text{Value} \\ \mathbf{Q} & \mathbf{v} & Va$	athy voiced aky voiced guolabial pialized atalized	$\begin{array}{cccc} \underline{b} & \underline{a} \\ \underline{b} & \underline{a} \\ \underline{t} & \underline{d} \\ \underline{t}^w & \underline{d}^w \\ t^j & d^j \end{array}$	Dental t Apical t Laminal t Nasalized n Nasal release	d $\tilde{e}$ $d^n$	<ul> <li>Half-long Extra-sho</li> <li>Minor (fo</li> <li>Major (in</li> <li>Syllable b</li> <li>Linking (in</li> <li>TONES A</li> </ul>	rt oot) group tonation) grou oreak absence of a ND WORD	e• ĕ up ri.ækt break) ACCENTS
DIACRITICS Voiceless Voiced h Aspirated More rounded C Less rounded Advanced	$\begin{array}{c} \mathbf{n}  \mathbf{d}  \dots  \mathrm{Bree} \\ \mathbf{S}  \mathbf{t}  & \sim  \mathrm{Cree} \\ \mathbf{t}^{h}  \mathbf{d}^{h}  & \ \mathbf{Ling} \\ \mathbf{Q}  & \mathbf{W}  \mathrm{Lab} \\ \mathbf{Q}  & \mathbf{y}  \mathrm{Lab} \\ \mathbf{Q}  & \mathbf{y}  \mathrm{Veh} \\ \mathbf{Y}  & \mathbf{Y}  & \mathbf{Y}  \mathrm{Veh} \\ \mathbf{Y}  & \mathbf{Y}  \mathbf{Y}  \\ \mathbf{Y}  & $	athy voiced aky voiced guolabial pialized atalized arized	$\begin{array}{cccc} \overset{b}{\underline{b}} & \overset{a}{\underline{a}} \\ \overset{f}{\underline{b}} & \overset{g}{\underline{a}} \\ \overset{f}{\underline{t}^w} & \overset{d}{\underline{d}^w} \\ \overset{f}{\underline{t}^y} & \overset{f}{\underline{d}^y} \\ \overset{f}{\underline{t}^r} & \overset{f}{\underline{d}^r} \end{array}$	Dental t Apical t Laminal t Nasalized Nasal release	$\tilde{d}$ $\tilde{d}$ $\tilde{e}$ $d^n$ $d^1$	<ul> <li>Half-long</li> <li>Extra-sho</li> <li>Minor (fo</li> <li>Major (in</li> <li>Syllable b</li> <li>Linking (a</li> <li>TONES A</li> <li>LEVEL</li> <li>         é or i kig</li> <li>         é or          i kig</li> <li>         é figli</li> </ul>	rt tonation) group oreak absence of a l ND WORD	e ĕ up .ri.ækt break) ACCENTS CONTOUR / Rising \ Falling
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DIACRITICS Voiceless Voiced h Aspirated More rounded Less rounded Advanced Advanced Retreated Technized	$\begin{array}{c c} \mathbf{n} & \mathbf{d} & \dots & \mathrm{Bree} \\ \hline \mathbf{s} & \mathbf{t} & \sim & \mathrm{Cree} \\ \hline \mathbf{t}^{\mathbf{h}} & \mathbf{d}^{\mathbf{h}} & \dots & \mathrm{Iin} \\ \hline \mathbf{q} & \mathbf{w} & \mathrm{Lab} \\ \hline \mathbf{q} & \mathbf{w} & \mathrm{Lab} \\ \hline \mathbf{q} & \mathbf{w} & \mathrm{Lab} \\ \hline \mathbf{q} & \mathbf{v} & \mathrm{Vel} \\ \hline \mathbf{e} & \mathbf{s} & \mathrm{Pha} \\ \hline \mathbf{e} & \mathbf{s} & \sim & \mathrm{Vel} \\ \hline \mathbf{e} & \mathbf{s} & \mathrm{Aat} \end{array}$	athy voiced aky voiced guolabial bialized atalized arized arized arized or phary	$\begin{array}{c c} \dot{\underline{b}} & \dot{\underline{a}} \\ \dot{\underline{b}} & \dot{\underline{a}} \\ \dot{\underline{t}} & \dot{\underline{d}} \\ \dot{\underline{t}}^w & \dot{\underline{d}}^w \\ t^j & d^j \\ t^{\gamma} & d^{\gamma} \\ t^{\Gamma} & d^{\gamma} \\ e^{-(\underline{1} - e^{-\gamma})} \end{array}$	Dental t Apical t Apical t Nasalized n Nasal release l Lateral release No audible release t	$\begin{bmatrix} \dot{d} \\ \dot{d} \\ \ddot{e} \\ \dot{d}^n \\ \dot{d}^n \\ \dot{d}^n \end{bmatrix}$	<ul> <li>Half-long</li> <li>Extra-sho</li> <li>Minor (fo</li> <li>Major (in</li> <li>Syllable b</li> <li>Linking (in</li> <li>TONES A</li> <li>LEVEL</li> <li>e or i Ext</li> <li>e i Hig</li> <li>e i Mik</li> <li>e i Low</li> </ul>	rt tonation) group tonation) grou reak absence of a l ND WORD th h Ê er h Ê d Ĕ w È ra	e <sup>▼</sup> ĕ ıi.ækt break) ACCENTS CONTOUR A Rising V Falling V Falling
Voiceless Voiceless Voiced Aspirated More rounded Less rounded Advanced Retracted Retracted Mid-centralized	$\begin{array}{c} \mathbf{n}  \mathbf{d} \\ \mathbf{s}  \mathbf{t} \\ \mathbf{t} \\ \mathbf{t} \\ \mathbf{t} \\ \mathbf{d} \\ \mathbf{t} \\ $	athy voiced aky voiced guolabial ialized atalized arized arized or phary sed	$ \begin{array}{ccc} \begin{matrix} \dot{h} & \dot{a} \\ \dot{b} & \dot{a} \\ \hline \dot{t} & \dot{d} \\ \dot{t}^w & \dot{d}^w \\ \hline \dot{t}^j & \dot{d}^j \\ \hline \dot{t}^\gamma & \dot{d}^\gamma \\ \dot{t}^\gamma & \dot{d}^\gamma \\ \hline \dot{t}^\gamma & \dot{d}^\gamma \\ \hline \dot{t}^\gamma & \dot{c} \\ \dot{t}^\gamma & \dot{c} \\ \hline \dot{t}^\gamma & \dot{c} \\ \dot{t}^\gamma & \dot{t}^\gamma & \dot{c} \\ \dot{t}^\gamma & \dot{t}^\gamma & \dot{t}^\gamma & \dot{t}^\gamma \\ \dot{t}^\gamma & \dot{t}^\gamma & \dot{t}^\gamma & \dot{t}^\gamma & \dot{t}^\gamma \\ \dot{t}^\gamma & \dot{t}^\gamma & \dot{t}^\gamma & \dot{t}^\gamma & \dot{t}^\gamma & \dot{t}^\gamma \\ \dot{t}^\gamma & \dot{t}^\gamma &$	Dental t Apical t Nasalized Nasal release Lateral release No audible release	$\begin{bmatrix} \dot{d} \\ \dot{d} \\ \ddot{e} \\ \dot{d}^n \\ \dot{d}^n \\ \dot{d}^n \end{bmatrix}$	<ul> <li>Half-long</li> <li>Extra-sho</li> <li>Minor (fo</li> <li>Major (in</li> <li>Syllable b</li> <li>Linking (a</li> <li>TONES A</li> <li>LEVEL</li> <li>e and thig</li> <li>e and thi</li></ul>	rt tonation) group tonation) grou oreak absence of a l ND WORD the form the	e* ě i.ækt break) ACCENTS CONTOUR A Rising V Falling T High rising Low rising

Some diacritics may be placed above a symbol with a descender, e.g.  $\check{\eta}$ 

Download from:

https://www.internationalpho neticassociation.org/IPAcharts /IPA\_chart\_orig/IPA\_charts\_ E.html

#### IPA Online:

https://teaching.ncl.ac.uk/ipa/links.html

### **Interactive IPA Charts**

 SPAN (Speech Production and Articulation Knowledge Group) University of Southern California <u>http://sail.usc.edu/span/index.html</u>

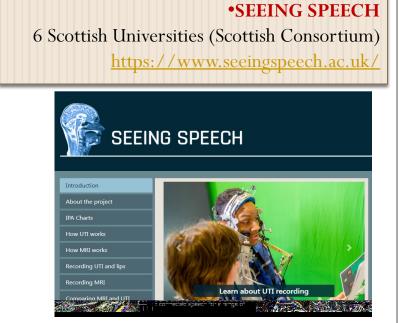
Span | speech production and articulation knowledge group

welcome team publications resources

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the real-time MRI IPA charts



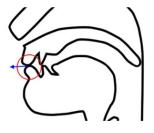


eNunciate (A Visual Language Learning Tool) The University of British Columbia <u>https://enunciate.arts.ubc.ca/</u>

#### Manner of Articulation

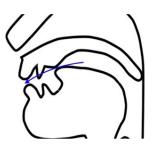
### Consonants

Complete blockage of air flow



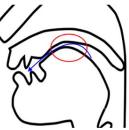


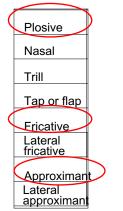
Partial blockage of air flow (turbulence)





Partial blockage of air flow (no turbulence)

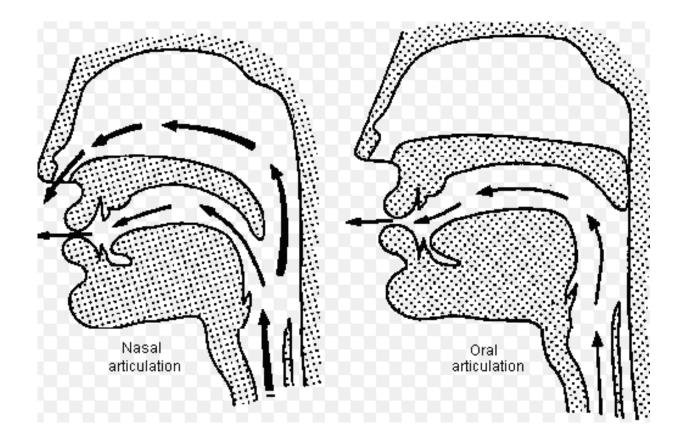




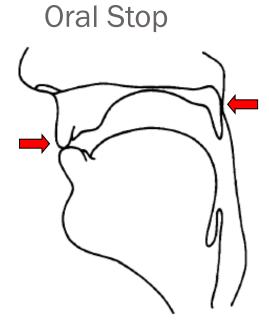
## Nasal vs. oral articulation

#### Nasal sounds

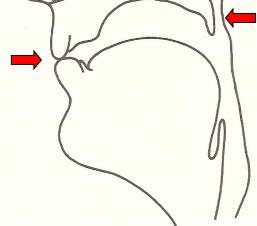
#### • Oral sounds



### Manner of Articulation







Place of Articulation

### Basic places of articulation

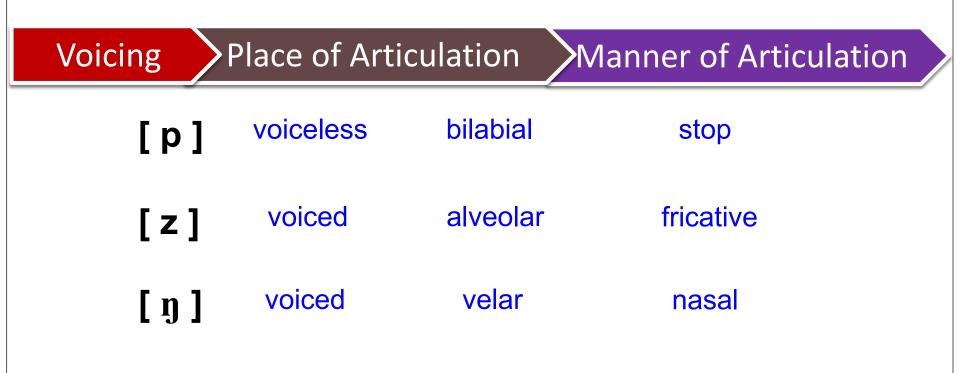
### **Articulator**

- lips
- tongue tip/blade
- tongue dorsum

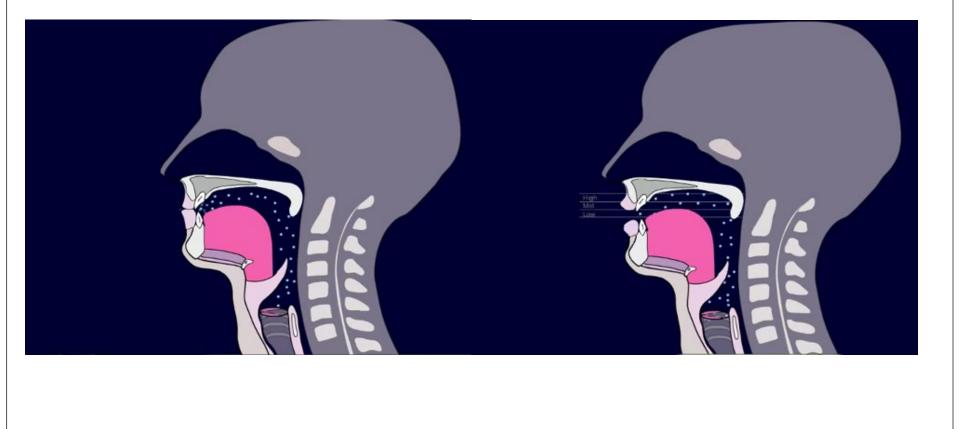
Articulation labial coronal dorsal

Example: "topic"

### Articulatory description of Consonants



Consonants - Vowels

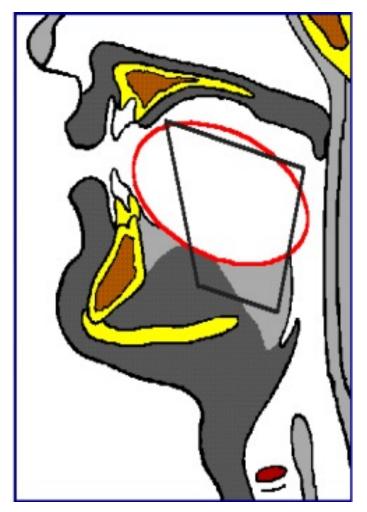


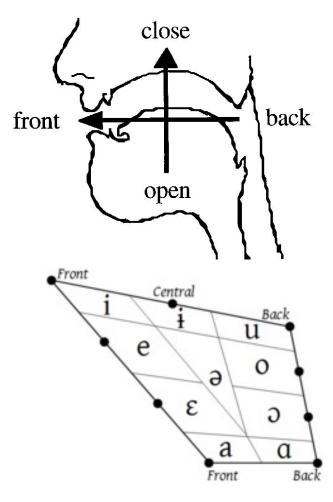
### Articulation of vowels

Articulators do not come very close
 together → the passage of the airstream is
 relatively unobstructed.

Articulatory description focuses on
Position of highest point of the tongue
Position of the lips

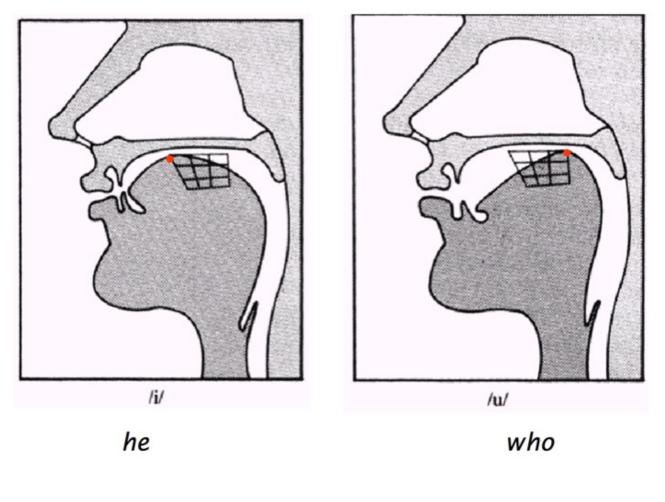
## Tongue position





Principles of the IPA (1949)

# Tongue position-vowel quadrilateral



Ling520, Penn Arts & Sciences

# UCLA tongue video

 X ray video of tongue and lip movement during production of vowels /i, e, a, o, u/.

### Download from

http://www.phonetics.ucla.edu/ vowels/chapter11/tongue.ht <u>ml</u>

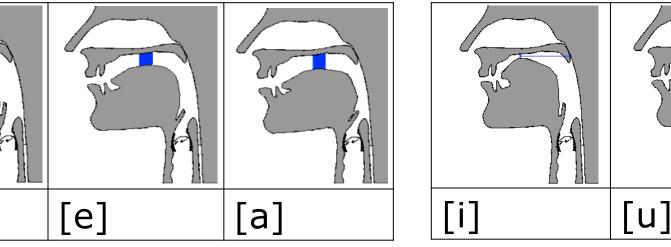


# Articulatory description of vowels

- 1. height of tongue body
- 2. **front-back** position of the tongue
- 3. degree of lip rounding



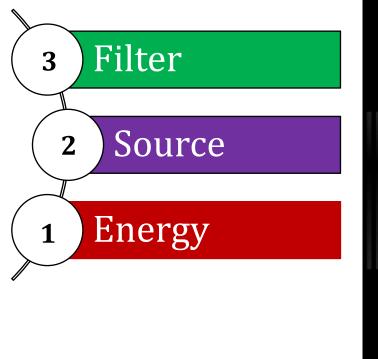


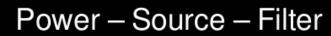


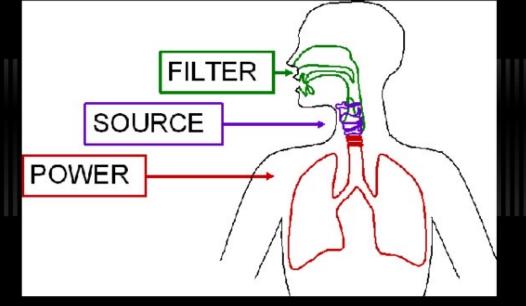
# Acoustics of Vowels & Consonants

Anna Sfakianaki, University of Ioannina Anna Sfakianaki, University of Ioannina

# Source-Filter Theory





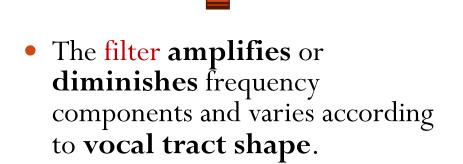


https://www.vocalsonstage.com/vocals-on-stage-blog/resonance-and-articulation

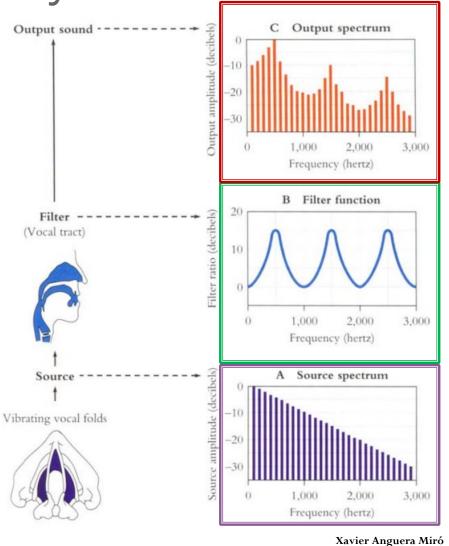
Anna Sfakianaki, University of Ioannina Anna Sfakianaki, University of Ioannina

# Source-Filter Theory

• The output spectrum is formed by the filter and is different for each sound.



- Vocal fold vibration (for voiced sounds) produces the source spectrum.
  - **Spectrum:** Energy of the signal distributed with frequency



http://www.xavieranguera.com/tdp\_2011/4-Source-Filter-Models.pdf

# Formants

### • Sounds differ from each other in three ways

- 1. pitch/frequency
- 2. loudness
- 3. quality
- A vowel sound contains a number of different pitches simultaneously
  - pitch at which it was spoken
  - various overtone pitches that give it its distinctive quality
- Vowel Quality 🔶 Overtone Structure

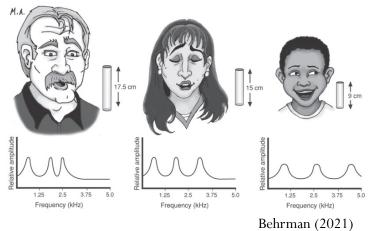
#### **Overtones = Formants**

• The lowest 3 formants distinguish vowels from each other

• F1 **F2 F3** 

# Fundamental Frequency (FO)

- Fundamental frequency: number of vocal fold vibrations per second.
- Vocal folds must be vibrating in order to have F0.
- It corresponds to variations in pitch (speech melody or intonation).
- Vocal folds may vibrate faster or slower giving higher or lower pitch to the sound, BUT the formants of the sound remain the same as long as vocal tract shape remains unchanged.
- Male voice: **120** Hz
- Female voice: 220 Hz
- Child voice: 260-280 Hz
- All voiced sounds are distinguishable due to their formants.



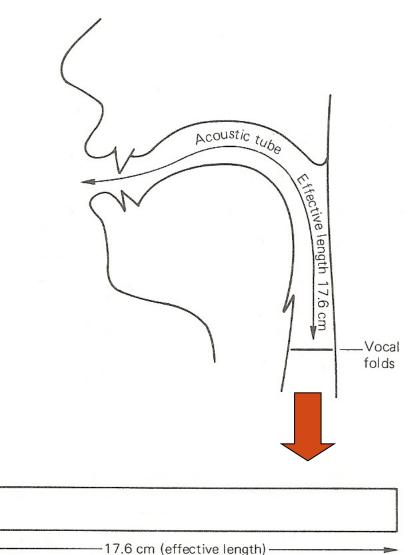
# How do formants arise?

- The air in the vocal tract acts like the air in a bottle.
  - Tap on a bottle.
  - Open your mouth, make a glottal stop and flick a finger against your neck just to the side and below the jaw.

What do you observe?

Articulate [i, e, a, o, u] without producing sound.
What do you observe?

> Pitch of F1 going up for [i, e] and down for [a, o, u]

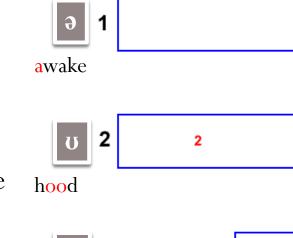


Anna Sfakianaki, University of Ioannina

# Tube models

- Formants that characterize different vowels are the result of the different shapes of the vocal tract.
- Any body of air will vibrate in a way that depends on its size and shape.
  - Blow across the top of
    - an empty bottle
    - partially filled bottleWhat do you observe?

Great volume of air  $\rightarrow$  low-pitched note Small volume of air  $\rightarrow$  high-pitched note

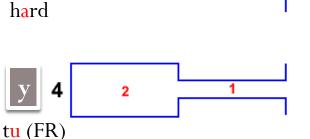


a

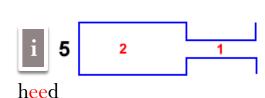
æ 6

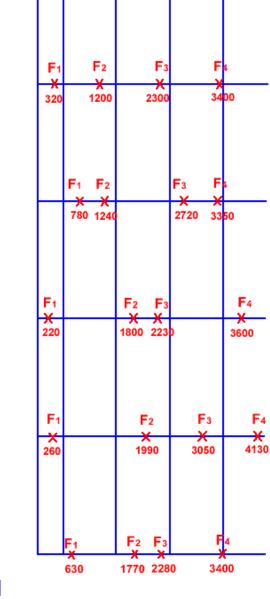
had

3



2





E1

F<sub>2</sub>

F3

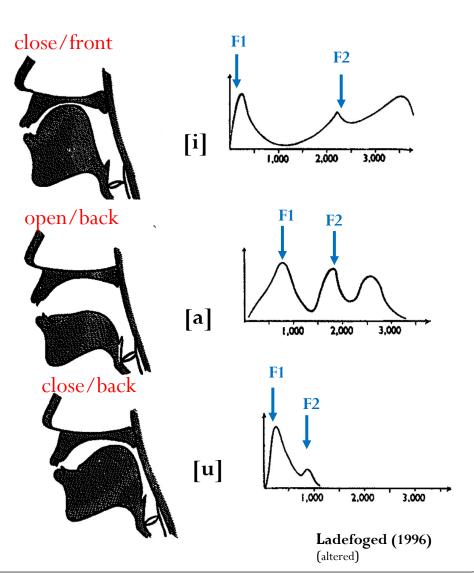
2500

F4

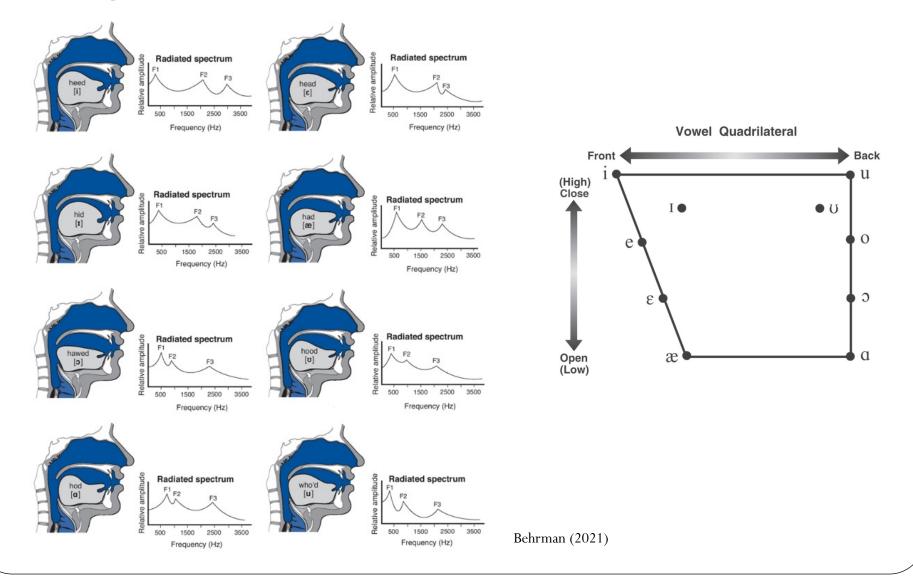
Adapted from Fant (1960)

# **Spectra and Formants**

- Frequencies that are amplified, receive more energy and correspond to formants.
- Thus every speech sound corresponds to a different spectrum, and different formants.
  - [i]: F1 and F2 at a distance
  - [a]: F1 and F2 close
  - [u]: F1 and F2 close



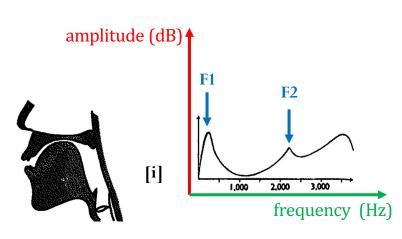
# **Spectra and Formants**

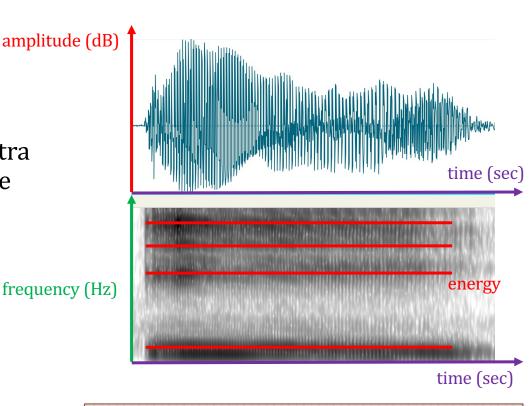


# Spectrum vs Spectrogram

- Spectrum: distribution of energy with frequency
  - (amplitude vs frequency) [2D] two-dimensional
- Spectrogram: series of spectra at consecutive points in time
  - (frequency vs time vs amplitude/energy) [3D] three-dimensional

frequency (Hz)

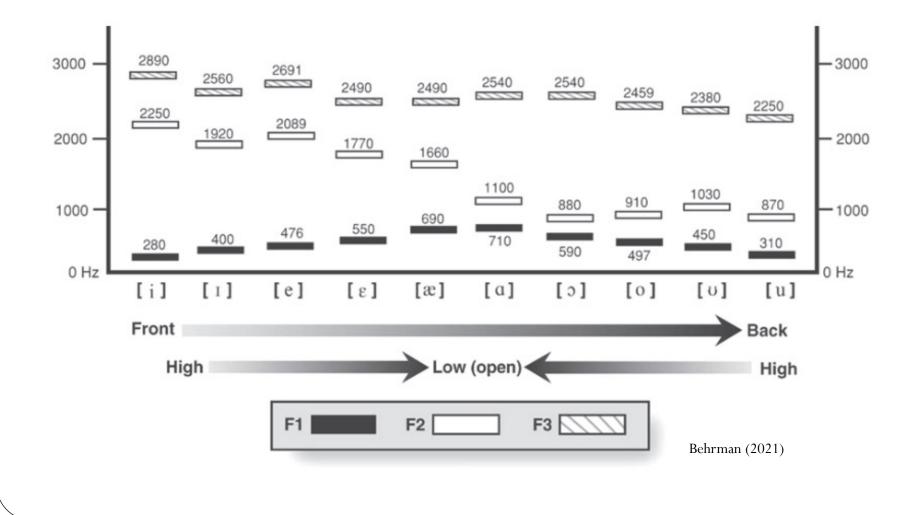




#### **Spectrograms**

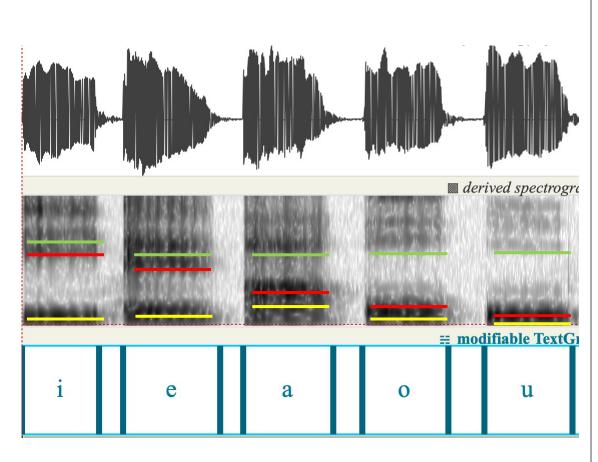
Dark bands for concentrations of energy at particular frequencies showing the source and filter characteristics of speech

# Acoustics of vowels



# Acoustics of Greek vowels

- F1: Formant 1 Inversely related to tongue height. High values = low (open) vowel
- F2: Formant 2 Related to frontness (or rather F2-F1) High values = front vowel
- F3: Formant 3 Related to roundedness and rhotacization Low values = rhotacization / roundedness



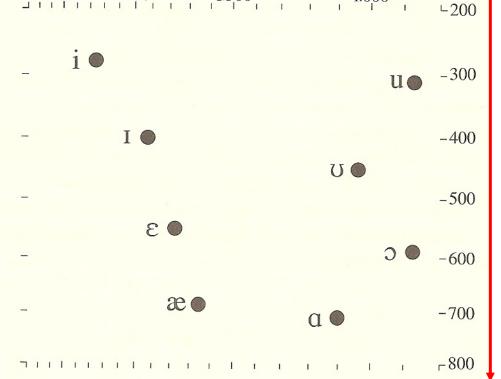
**F1** 

### F1 by F2 plot

- Zero frequency is placed at the top right corner because formants are inversely related to traditional articulatory parameters.
- F2 scale not as expanded as F1, due to less prominent energy (F1: 80% of vowel energy).

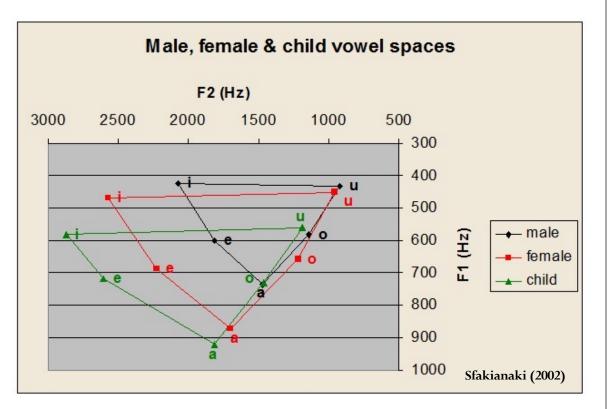
# 

**F2** 



## Greek vowel space

- Formant values are influenced by anatomical characteristics (vocal tract and vocal fold size, etc.)
  - Lower in men, higher in women, even higher in children
- Formant values are also influenced by phonetic context.



# Speech synthesis demo

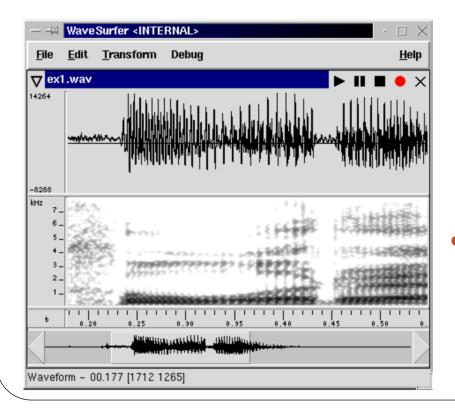
- The notion that vowels contain several different pitches at the same time is difficult to appreciate.
- The demo shows how a sentence is built from its component waves.
- This speech was synthesized in 1971 by Peter Ladefoged on a synthesizer at UCLA.
- "A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush" «Κάλιο πέντε και στο χέρι παρά δέκα και καρτέρει» (Greek translation)
- See the demo here: <u>https://linguistics.berkeley.edu/acip/course/chapter8/spee</u> <u>chbird/</u>

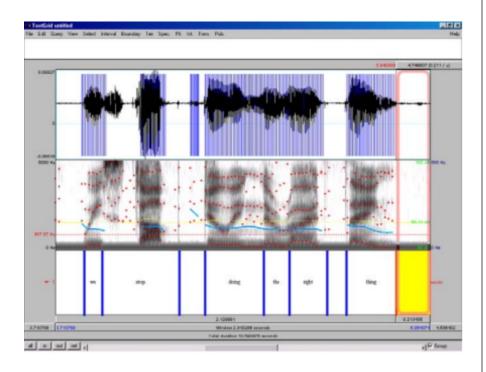
Anna Sfakianaki, University of Ioannina

### Computer Programs for acoustic analysis (free access)

#### Praat

http://www.fon.hum.uva.nl/praat/ University of Amsterdam





#### Wavesurfer http://www.speech.kth.se/wavesurfer/

KTH (Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm)

# F1, F2 and F3 of English vowels

Vowel	F1(Hz)	F2(Hz)	F3(Hz)
i:	280	2620	3380
I	360	2220	2960
e	600	2060	2840
æ	800	1760	2500
Λ	760	1320	2500
a:	740	1180	2640
D	560	920	2560
<b>o:</b>	480	760	2620
υ	380	940	2300
u:	320	920	2200
3:	560	1480	2520

Adult male formant frequencies in Hertz collected by J.C.Wells around 1960. Note how F1 and F2 vary more than F3.

UCL, PALS1004

Anna Sfakianaki, University of Ioannina

### **Traditional vowel chart**

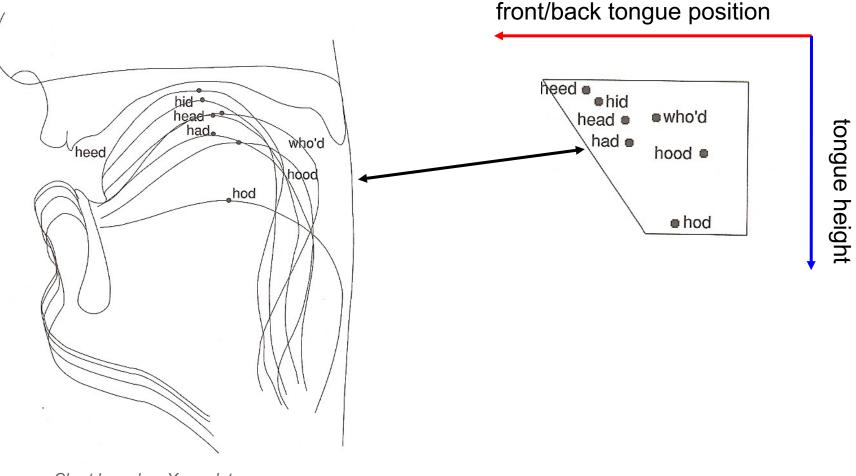
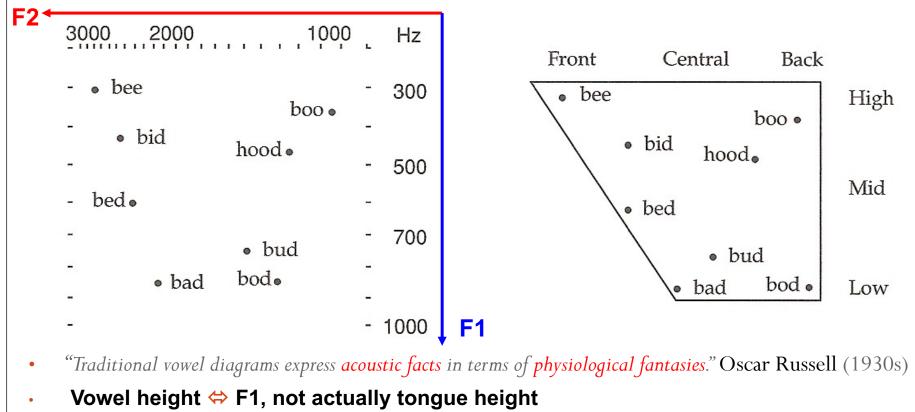


Chart based on X-ray data

Ladefoged, Vowels & Consonants, (2001:115) /

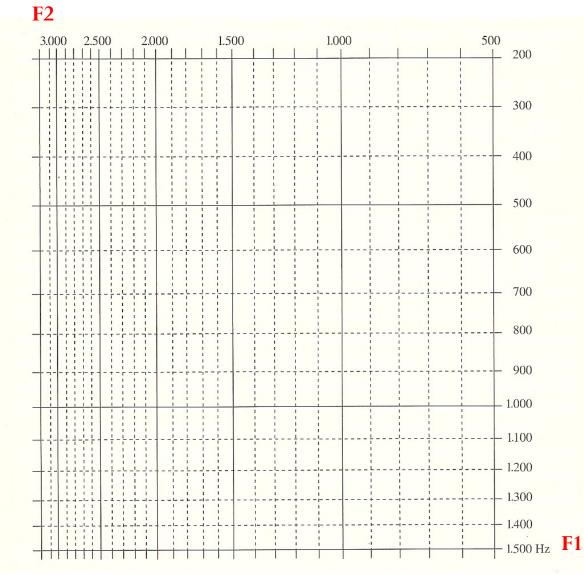
Anna Sfakianaki, University of Ioannina

### Comparison



Front – back dimension
 Front – back dimension
 backness
 +
 lip rounding
 Degree of backness
 F1-F2 difference
 The closer together F1 and F2, the more "back" a vowel sounds.

### Exercise: Make your own F1 by F2 plot



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# Types of spectrograms

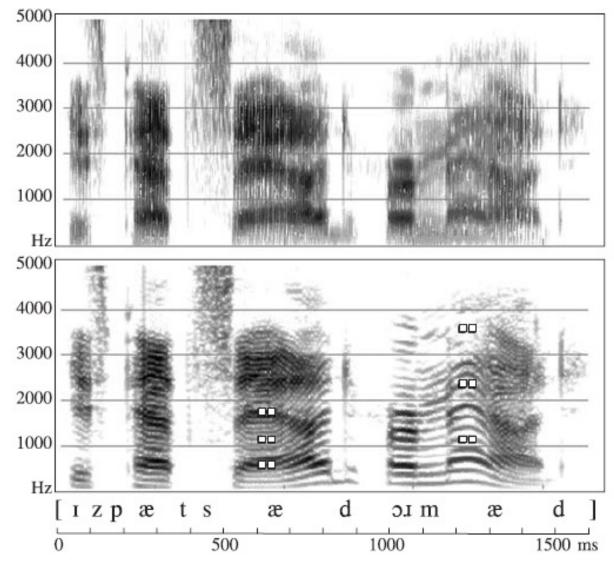
"Is Pat sad or mad?"

#### wide-band spectrograms

- Very accurate in the time dimension
- Less accurate in the frequency dimension

#### narrow-band spectrograms

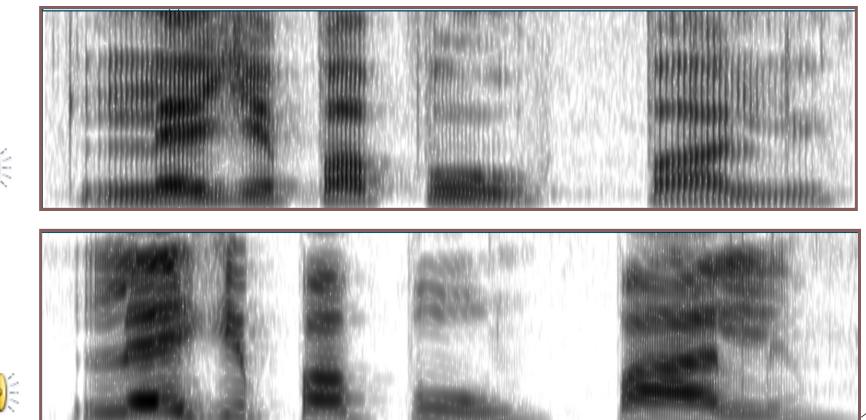
 More accurate in the frequency dimension (at the expense of accuracy in the time dimension)



# Male vs Female voice

- Women's voices usually have a higher pitch.
- The higher the F0 the more difficult it is to locate formants, because the harmonics interfere with the display of formants.

Greek phrase uttered by a male and a female Greek adult.  $\Lambda \acute{\epsilon} \gamma \epsilon \ll \pi \alpha \pi \pi \sigma \acute{\nu} \gg \pi \acute{\alpha} \lambda \iota.$  (Say "grandfather" again)



male



female



# Individual Differences

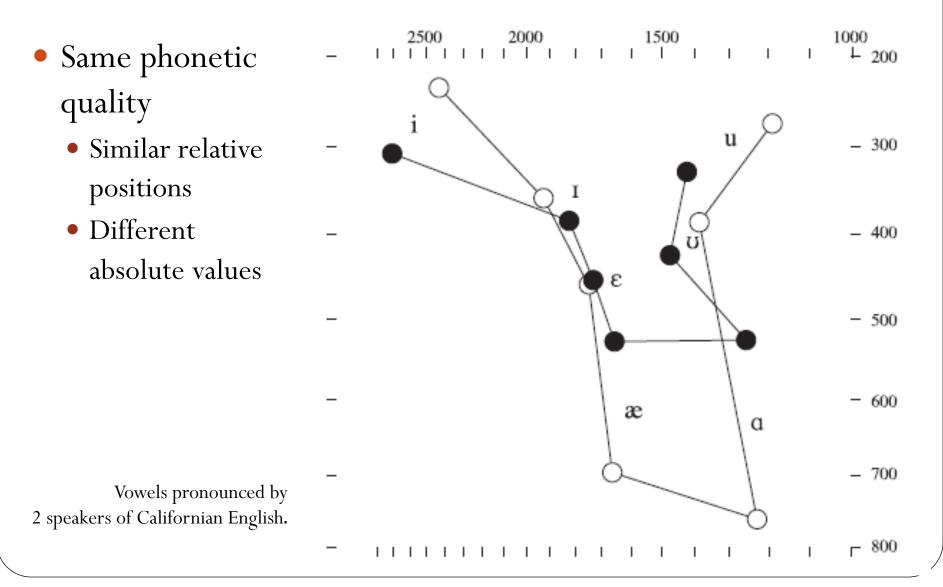
- It is important to know what sort of differences exist between different speakers.
  - When trying to measure features that are linguistically significant, one must know how to discount purely individual features.
  - 2. When trying to find out whether a speaker has speech problems.



- 3. For valid speaker identification in forensic situations.
- Individual variation is readily apparent when studying spectrograms → relative quality

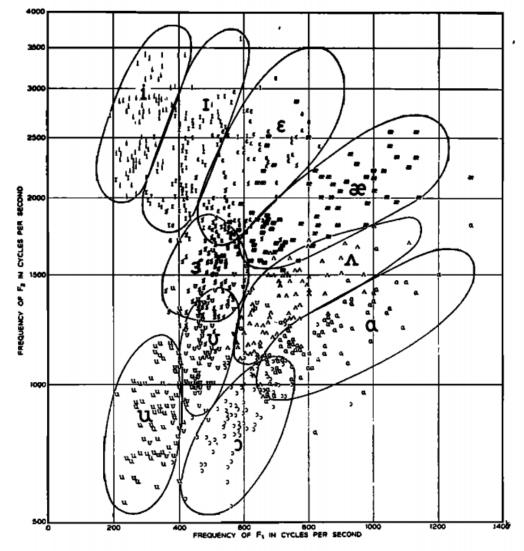
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# Individual Differences



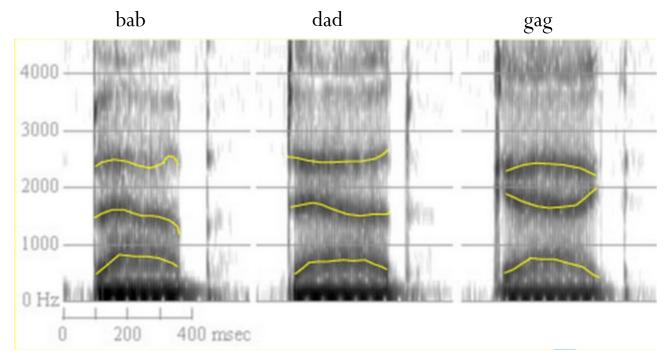
# Speaker variation

- Peterson & Barney (1952)
  - 76 speakers
    - 33 men, 28 women,15 children
  - Variability in vowel production
  - Overlap in formant frequencies



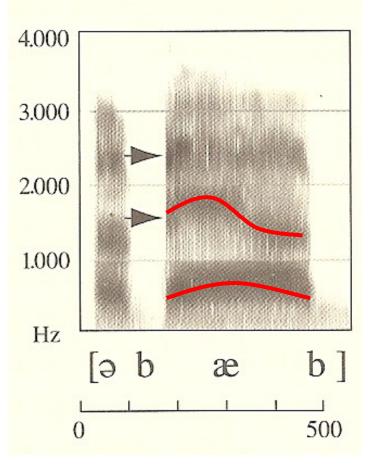
# **Acoustics of Consonants**

- The acoustic structure of consonants is usually more complicated than that of vowels.
- In many cases, there is no distinguishable feature during the consonant articulation itself, e.g. silence part of [p, t, k].
- We have to look for the identity of the consonant at the beginning or the ending of the vowel beside it.



# Stops

- Each of the stop sounds conveys its quality by its effect on the adjacent vowel.
- The formants of **[**æ**]** correspond to the particular shape of the vocal tract.
- During the production of [bæ] the formants correspond to the particular shape that occurs the moment the lips come apart.
- Closure of the lips causes a lowering of all formants.
- The syllable [bæb] will begin with formants in a lower position, then they will rapidly rise to the positions of [æ], and finally descend again as the lip closure is formed.



# Anticipatory Coarticulation and Loci

- For the production of e.g. [bib] or [bab], the tongue will be in position for the vowel even when the lips are closed at the beginning of the word.
- This happens because the part of the tongue not involved in the formation of the consonant closure is already in position for the following vowel.
- The formants at the moment of consonantal release will vary according to vowel.
- The apparent point of origin of the formant for each place of articulation is called the **locus** of that place of articulation.
- The locus depends on adjacent vowels.

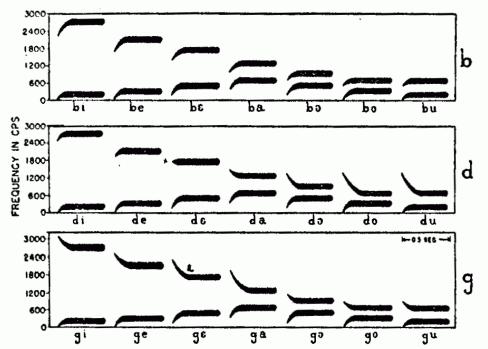
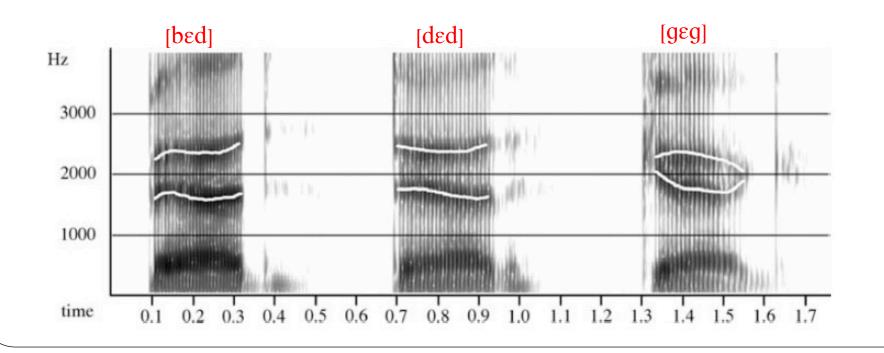


FIG. 1. Synthetic spectrograms showing second-formant transitions that produce the voiced stops before various vowels.

Delattre, 1969

# Formant transitions

- Faint voicing striations near the baseline for each of the stops [b, d, g] (voice bar).
- In all three words, F1 rises from a low position due to consonant closure, hence it does not distinguish one place of articulation from another.
- What distinguishes the three stops are the onsets and offsets of F2 and F3.



# Voiced stops

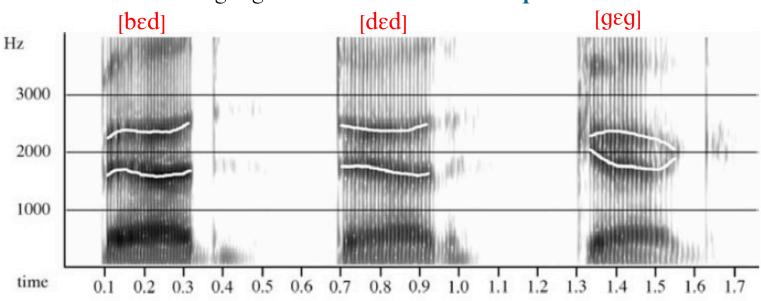
- [bɛd]
  - F2 & F3 start at a lower frequency than in  $[d\epsilon d]$ .
  - F2 & F3 are noticeably rising from a low locus.

### • [dɛd]

- F2 is fairly steady at the beginning.
- F3 drops a little.

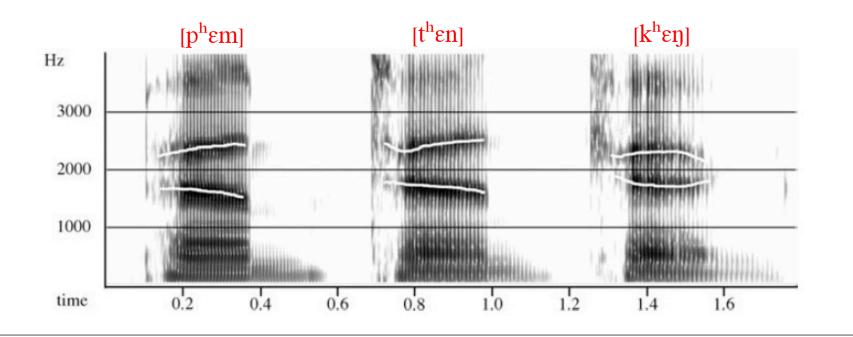
### • [gɛg]

• Characteristic coming together of F2 & F3  $\rightarrow$  velar pinch



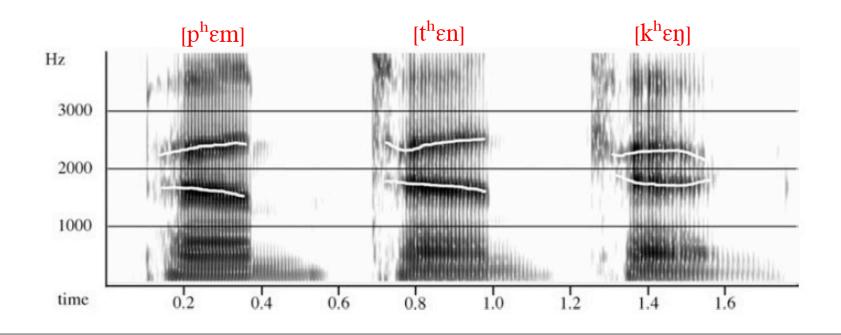
# Voiceless stops

- The release of aspirated stops is marked by a sudden sharp spike ightarrow lean vertical line.
- Period of aspiration noise  $\rightarrow$  absence of energy in F1 & no vertical striations
- Frequency & intensity
  - [t] > [k] > [p]
- Intensity of [p] burst is sometimes so low that there is no evidence of it on a spectrogram.



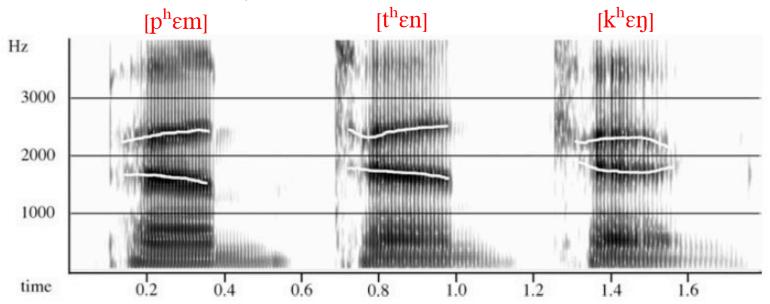
# Voiceless stops

- Formant transitions also present in aspiration noise.
- [p<sup>h</sup>ɛm] : F2 & F3 rising into the vowel.
- [t<sup>h</sup>ɛn] : F2 steady, F3 dropping and then rising.
- $[k^{h} \epsilon \eta]$  : characteristic velar pinch



# Nasals

- A clear mark of a nasal (and a lateral) is an abrupt change in the spectrogram at the time of the formation of the articulatory closure.
- A nasal has a formant structure similar to that of a vowel. Differences:
  - Bands are fainter.
  - Bands located in particular frequency locations depending on characteristic resonances of the nasal cavities.
- F1: around **250** Hz
- Large region above F1 with no energy.
- F2 etc: varying according to speaker (here around 2000 Hz).
- Place cues sometimes not very clear.

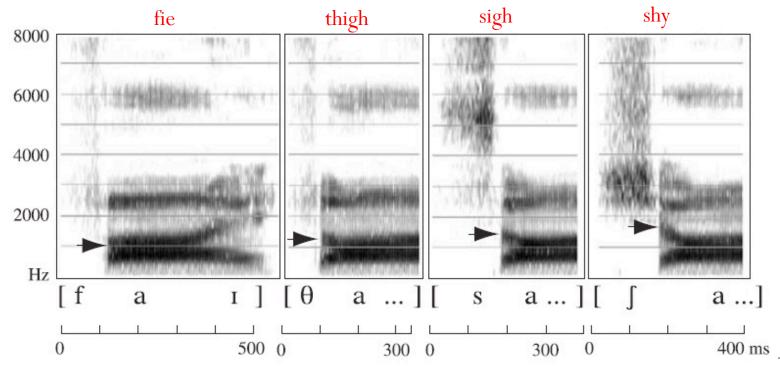


# **Voiceless fricatives**

- Highest frequencies in speech occur over fricatives.
- Frequency scale increased to 8000 Hz.
- Diphthong [aI] : F1 & F2 start close together for low central [a] and move apart for high front [I].
- Fricatives: Random energy distributed over a wide range of frequencies. sigh fie thigh 8000 6000 4000 2000 Hz f θ a ... ] [ a S a ... a 500 0 400 ms 0 300 0 300 0

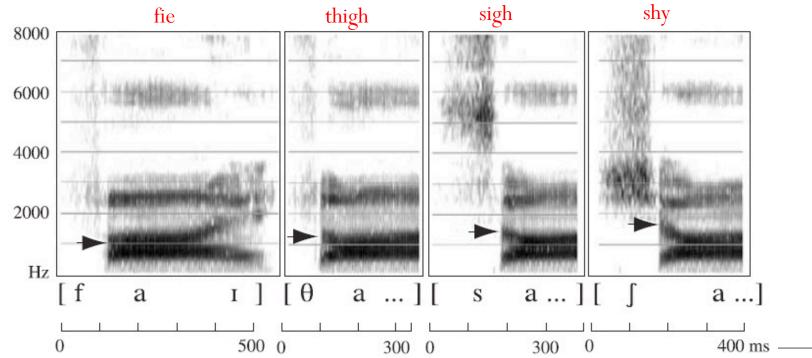
# Voiceless fricatives [f, $\theta$ ]

- Same pattern in [f] and  $[\theta]$ .
- Difference: Movement of F2 into following vowel.
  - Very little movement in [f].
  - In [ $\theta$ ], F2 starts around 1200 Hz and moves down.
- Often confused in noisy settings.
- Fallen together in some accents of English, such as London Cockney
  - *fin* and *thin* both pronounced with a [f].



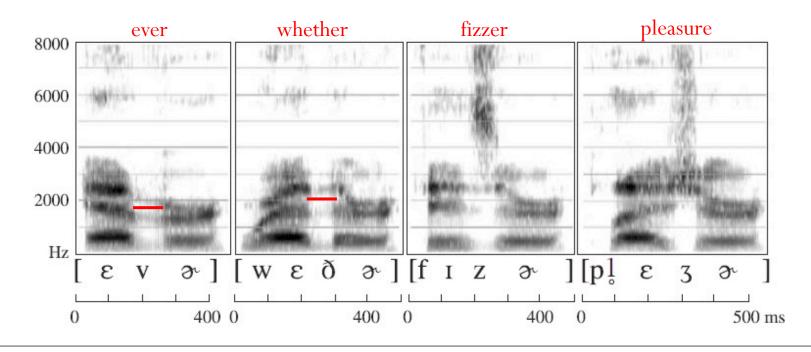
# Voiceless fricatives [s, $\int$ ]

- The noise in [s] is centered at a high frequency, **5000 6000** Hz.
- In  $[\int]$  it is lower, extending down to about 2500 Hz.
- Both [s,  $\int$ ] have **larger acoustic energy** and produce **darker patterns** than [f,  $\theta$ ]
- Both  $[s, \int]$  are marked with distinctive formant transitions.
- The locus of F2 transition increases throughout the words
  - $[f] < [\theta] < [s] < [\int]$  (see arrows in fig.)
- Before  $[\int] F2$  of [a] is in a position comparable to its location in [i].



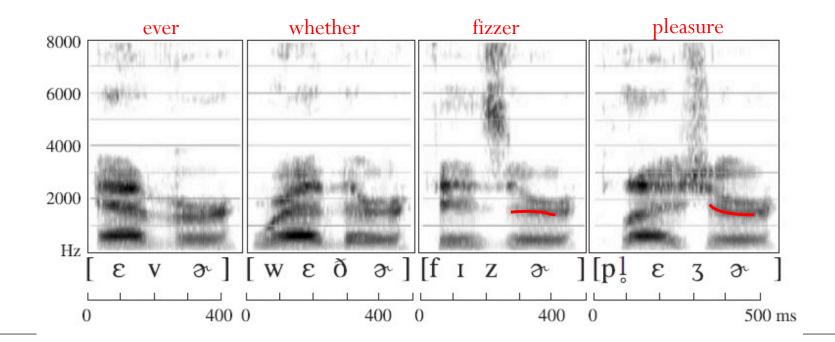
# Voiced fricatives [v, ð]

- Voiced fricatives [v,  $\check{0}$ , z, 3] have patterns similar to their voiceless counterparts [f,  $\theta$ , s,  $\int$ ].
- Voiced fricatives also have vertical striations indicative of voicing.
- Vertical striations due to voicing are apparent throughout [v] and  $[\check{0}]$ .
- The fricative component of [v] is very faint.
- F2 higher around [ð] than [v].



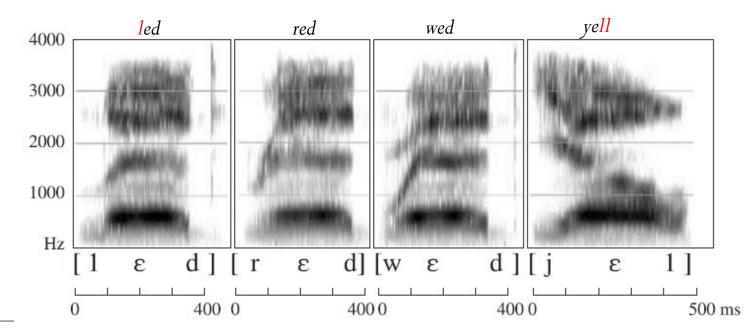
# Voiced fricatives [z, 3]

- Fricative energy in higher frequencies very apparent in [z, 3].
- Voice bar
  - faint in [z]
  - hard to see in [3] –vertical striations due to voicing in 6-8 kHz.



# Lateral and central approximants

- Voiced approximants have formants not unlike those of vowels.
- The initial [l] has formants with center frequencies of approx. **250**, **1100** & **2400** Hz, which change abruptly in intensity at the beginning of the vowel.
- A marked change in formant pattern is characteristic of voiced nasals and laterals.
- A final lateral may have little of no central contact, making it not really a lateral but a **back unrounded vowel**.
- A formant around **1100** or **1200** Hz is typical of most initial laterals for most speakers.



# Lateral and central approximants

- The most obvious feature of approximant [J] is the low frequency of F2 and F3.
- F3 begins at 1600 Hz!
- There is great similarity between *red* and *wed*. Young children have difficulty trying to distinguish them.
- The approximant [w] also starts with a low position for all three formants.
- F2 of [w] has the sharpest rise, as if it were a very short [u].
- The movements of formants for [j] are like those of a very short [i].
- This is why [w] and [j] are appropriately called <u>semivowels</u>, that is, semi versions of vowels [u] and [i] respectively.

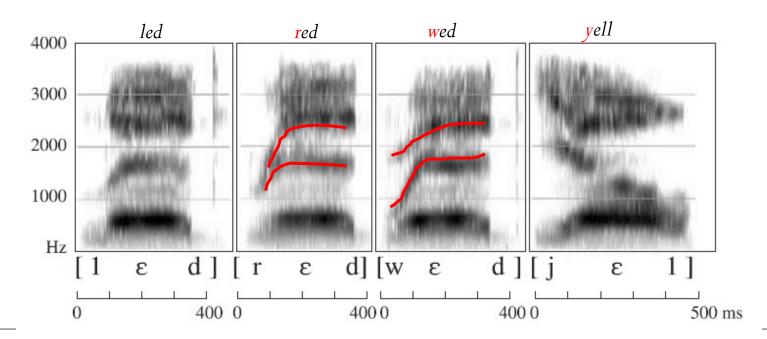
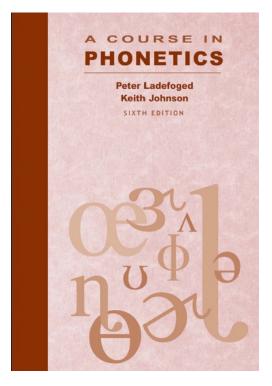


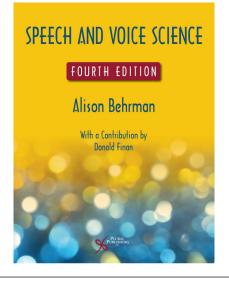
TABLE 8.1	Acoustic correlates of consonantal features. Note: These descriptions should be regarded only as rough guides. The actual acoustic correlates depend to a great extent on the particular combination of articulatory features in a sound and on the neighboring vowels.
Voicod	Vertical strictions corresponding to the vibrations of the vesal folds
Voiced	Vertical striations corresponding to the vibrations of the vocal folds.
Bilabial	Locus of both second and third formants comparatively low.
Alveolar	Locus of second formant about 1700–1800 Hz.
Velar	Usually high locus of the second formant. Common origin of second and third formant transitions.
Retroflex	General lowering of the third and fourth formants.
Stop	Gap in pattern, followed by burst of noise for voiceless stops or sharp beginning of formant structure for voiced stops.
Fricative	Random noise pattern, especially in higher frequency regions, but dependent on the place of articulation.
Nasal	Formant structure similar to that of vowels but with nasal formants at about 250, 2500, and 3250 Hz.
Lateral	Formant structure similar to that of vowels but with formants in the neighborhood of 250, 1200, and 2400 Hz. The higher formants are considerably reduced in intensity.
Approximan	Formant structure similar to that in vowels, usually changing.

Ladefoged & Johnson, 2011:204

# Acknowledgements

- Material for this presentation has been adapted <u>mainly</u> from chapters 1 and 8 of
  - Ladefoged, P., & Johnson, K. (2011). A course in phonetics. (6<sup>th</sup> ed.). Canada: Wadsworth, Cengage Learning
- Figures/pictures on slides 44, 48 and 50 from
  - Chapter 3 of Behrman, A. (2021).
     Speech and voice science. (4<sup>th</sup> ed.).
     Plural Publishing.





# Read & visit...



- Ladefoged & Johnson "Articulation & Acoustics", chapters 1 and 8 (A course in phonetics", 6<sup>th</sup> ed.)
- Visit the websites (for Articulation)
  - <u>https://corpus.linguistics.berkeley.edu/acip/course/chapter1/</u> (Material from UC Berkeley Linguistics for the book "A course in phonetics")
  - <a href="http://soundsofspeech.uiowa.edu/index.html#english">http://soundsofspeech.uiowa.edu/index.html#english</a> (Mobile App: Interactive Phonetic Library for American English)
  - <a href="https://www.enl.auth.gr/speakgreek/library.html">https://www.enl.auth.gr/speakgreek/library.html</a> (Interactive Phonetic Library for Greek)
  - <u>http://smu-facweb.smu.ca/~s0949176/sammy/</u> (Interactive Sagittal Section)



### • Visit the websites (for Acoustics)

- <u>https://www.compadre.org/books/?ID=46&About=1</u> An Interactive eBook on the physics of sound (Indiana University Southeast)
- <u>http://zonalandeducation.com/mstm/physics/waves/waveAdder/Wave</u> <u>Adder1.html</u> Wave Adder
- <u>http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gg4IHbiITd0</u> Introduction to spectrogram analysis (FloridaLinguistics.com)
- <u>http://www.linguistics.ucla.edu/people/hayes/103/SpectrogramReading/ShortComparisons/</u> Spectrogram reading practice (by Bruce Hayes, UCLA)
- <u>http://home.cc.umanitoba.ca/~robh/howto.html</u> Monthly Mystery Spectrogram Webzone –Rob Hagiwara's professional web-space
- <u>http://www.acoustics.hut.fi/publications/files/theses/lemmetty\_mst/chap4.html</u>
   Problems in Speech Synthesis (Helsinki University of Technology)