

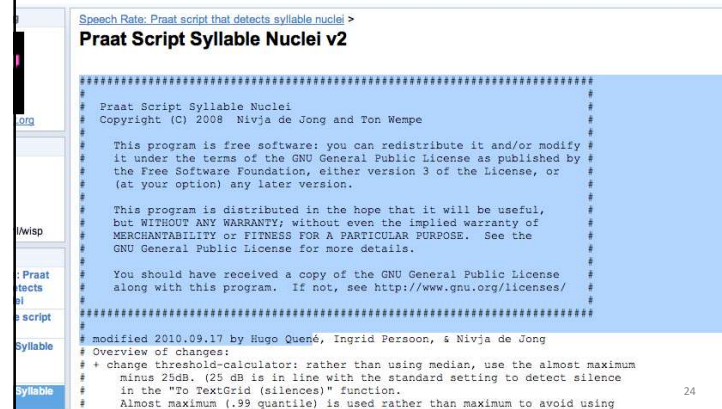
Praat script HOWTO: download praat

- Go to praat.org (or, search for: *praat*)
- Download “praat”
- Unzip
- Place “praat.exe” on your desktop (it is a small executable)



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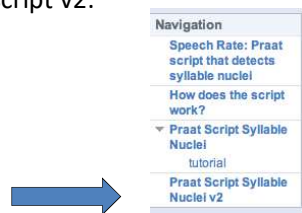
Copy the script:
starting from “####” to “endfor” (bottom of page):



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Praat script HOWTO: get the script

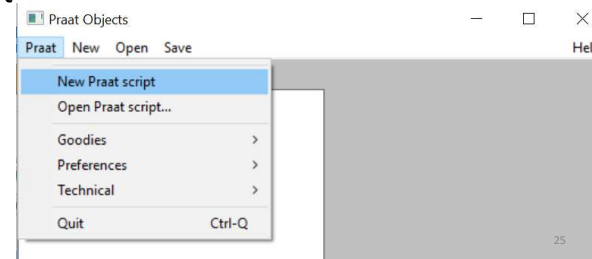
- Open praat
- Go to <http://sites.google.com/site/speechrate> (or, search for: *speech rate praat script*)
On the site, click on Praat script v2: as found in bottom left



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Praat script HOWTO: get the files

- Open PRAAT (double click)
- Ignore window “PRAAT picture” or close it
- In PRAAT Objects window, choose “New praat script”



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Praat script HOWTO: get the files

- Paste the script (ctrl-V) into the new window
 - NB on a mac, sometimes you need to paste it first into a text editor and then into PRAAT
- Download from the “summerschool”-page of the praat script some soundfiles, and save them into a folder that is easily accessible
<https://sites.google.com/site/speechrate/Home/summerschool>

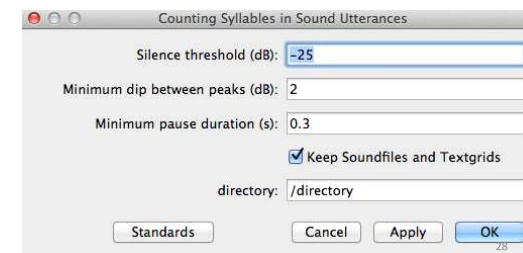
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Praat script HOWTO: change defaults

Change default values

Change silence threshold “-25” becomes “-20”

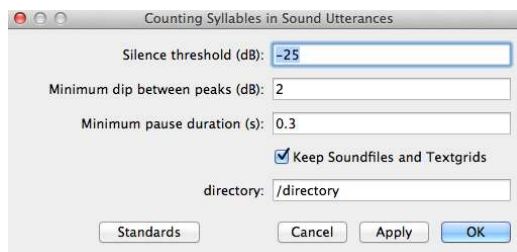
Change “/directory” to your directory



Praat script HOWTO: run the script

Run the script

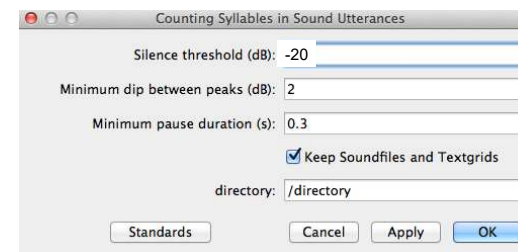
- Ctrl-r or choose ‘run script’



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Silence threshold (dB): from the 99% loudest peak, how much dB below should be counted as silence?

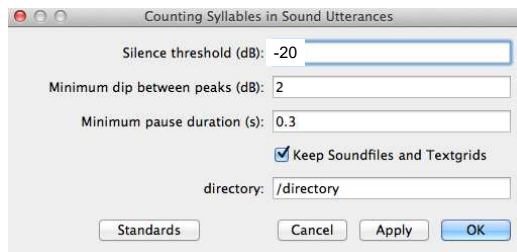
The higher this number (e.g. -30, -40), the lower the chance of finding silent pauses



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In between two consecutive peaks in loudness (“potential syllable nuclei”): how deep should the dip in intensity be?

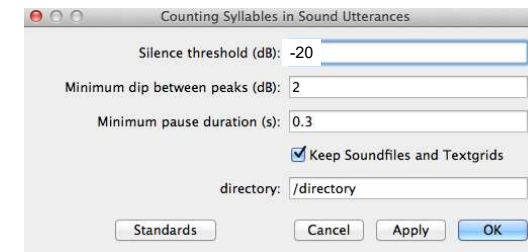
The higher this number, the fewer syllables will be found



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Praat script HOWTO

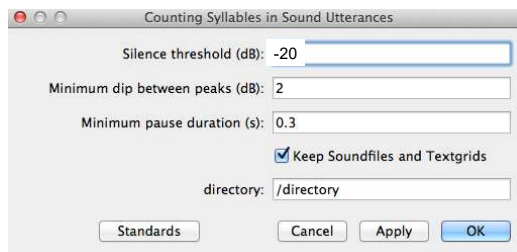
Check “Keep Soundfiles and TextGrids” to inspect performance of the script.



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Minimum pause duration (s): How long should a pause be to be counted as a silent pause?

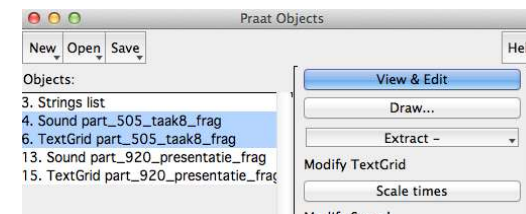
The higher this number, the fewer pauses will be found



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Praat script HOWTO

Checking the TextGrids for performance:



In the PRAAT objects window, select the Soundfile and the corresponding TextGrid together, then click “View and Edit”

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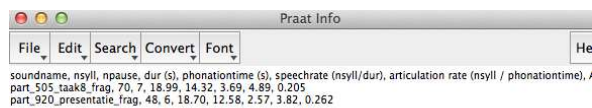
Praat script 'disclaimer'

- The script will only work if the soundfile does not have too much background noise (otherwise: perform a filter first)
- The script can only detect syllables that are actually there; many unstressed/reduced syllables not picked up
- A long syllable can erroneously be counted as two (if there are two peaks with a sufficient dip...)

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Praat script HOWTO

Results are written in an "Info"-window:



You can save this file, and open it in a spreadsheet program: indicate comma is a delimiter.

For now, just note the "speechrates" calculated by the script: 7th column (thus, 6th number)

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