Phonogroup Meeting – Experiment File Notes (for Praat)

I.   Praat Download

1. First download the *LATEST* version of Praat from http://www.fon.hum.uva.nl/praat/

2. It is important to download the latest version because the script you write might change depending on the version of Praat that you have.

II.   Sample Script

1. An experiment is defined in a simple text file, which we call an *experiment file*. The following is an example of such an experiment file. The first two lines have to be typed exactly as in this example, the rest depends on your stimuli, on your response categories, and on the way the experiment is to be presented to the listener. The order of the elements in this file cannot be changed, and nothing can be skipped.

2. In the following example, the subject has to click 400 times. She sees three buttons, labelled *first*, *second*, and *third*, but the second button (the one with the empty response category) is not clickable: it has a light grey rather than a yellow interior and cannot be chosen by the subject. In your *ResultsMFC* object, you will only see *A* and *B* responses.

#	Sample Script	Explanation of line (if needed)
1	"ooTextFile"	
2	"ExperimentMFC 6"	Lines 1-4 to remain the same. Needed for ABX script
3	blankWhilePlaying? <no>	
4	stimuliAreSounds? <yes>	
5	"Sounds/" ".wav"	5 – identifies the folder with stims
6	carrier "" ""	6 – if we need an auditory carrier phrase
7	initial silence 0.5	7 – silence *before* stim presentation
8	inter-stimulus interval 0.3	8 – silence *between* three three stims
9	final silence 0	9 – silence *after* all three stims
10	100 stimuli	10 – total number of stimuli
11	"300,300,320" "" "300,320,340" "" "300,340,340" "" "300,340,360" "" ... (and 96 more triplets of substimuli) ...	11 – Each triplet with the following format: "A, B X" "" "A,B,X"... **Note**: Praat's fussy. Ensure you use ", not regular open/close quotes.
12	4 replications	12 – number of replications of all stims
13	break every 50	13 – how often does sub get a break
14	<PermuteBalancedNoDoublets>	14 – No immediate repetitions
15	"Click to start."	15 – Prompt at the very beginning
16	"Say whether the second sound is more similar to the first or to the third."	16 – Prompt during each trial
17	"You can have a short break if you like. Click	17 – Prompt during break

	to proceed."	
18	"The experiment has finished."	18 – Final prompt
19	0 replays	19 – # of replays of each presentation
20	replay button 0 0 0 0 "" ""	20 – replay button position (not needed)
21	ok button 0 0 0 0 "" ""	21 – ok button position (not needed)
22	oops button 0 0 0 0 "" ""	22 – oops button position (not needed)
23	responses are sounds? <no> "" "" "" "" 0 0 0	23 – not needed
24	3 response categories	24 – number of options and position
25	0.1 0.3 0.4 0.6 "first" 30 "" "A"	**NOTE**: Go here for more info
26	0.4 0.6 0.4 0.6 "second" 30 "" ""	
27	0.7 0.9 0.4 0.6 "third" 30 "" "B"	
28	0 goodness categories	28 - not needed

III. Steps to run the sample experiment file as an experiment

1. Paste the code of the experiment into a new text file.

2. Store the sounds in a folder named "Sounds". Note the folder should be in the *SAME* folder as the experiment script file.
   a. The sounds are already on Angel.

3. Open the text file with the "Read from file" option in Praat (as you would open any normal recording). Once it is in the Praat object window, you can run the file.

4. Note the help function is useful for anything that is unclear to you.

IV. Help

1. Go to the Praat "Help" menu and select "Praat Intro".

2. In the search bar, paste "experimentMFC 2.1. The experiment file". This will take you to the discussion of an experimental script.

3. You can also access the same info for this webpage:
   http://www.fon.hum.uva.nl/praat/manual/ExperimentMFC.html