

Representing Speech in Theory and Practice

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In this tutorial we will look at the question of how best to represent speech, whether 'externally', in transcription, orthography, diagrams or verbal descriptions, or 'internally', in models of perception and production.

Of course we will not come up with one single good-for-everthing solution to the problem of how to represent speech! Many representations are available to us, and all of them have value when used appropriately. Rather we will accept the fact that different contexts, purposes and audiences require different types of representation. This will allow us to consider some principles according to which the most appropriate type for a particular context can be chosen, and then used consistently.

The focus will be fairly practical, as we consider how to apply the principles in a range of phonetic applications (bring your own issues to discuss with the group), but we will also consider implications of the principles for phonetic and phonological theory.