

Title:- Forced Alignment using Montreal Forced Aligner (MFA)

1. Objective

The goal of this assignment is to automatically align speech audio with its corresponding text transcription using the Montreal Forced Aligner (MFA). This process allows us to determine the start and end times of words and phonemes in the audio, providing precise temporal information for linguistic analysis or speech processing tasks.

2. Environment Setup Summary

- Platform: Anaconda environment
- Conda Environment: mfa_env created with Python 3.10
- Montreal Forced Aligner Installation: via pip
- Dictionary Used: english_us_arpa
- Acoustic Model: english_mfa
- Dataset: 6 audio files (wav/) with corresponding transcripts (transcripts/)
- Tools for Verification: Praat for visualizing .TextGrid files

Setup Steps:

1. Installed Anaconda and created a dedicated environment.
2. Installed MFA using pip inside the environment.
3. Organized the dataset into wav/ and transcripts/ folders.
4. Downloaded and linked the required dictionary and acoustic model.
5. Verified installation with mfa --version.

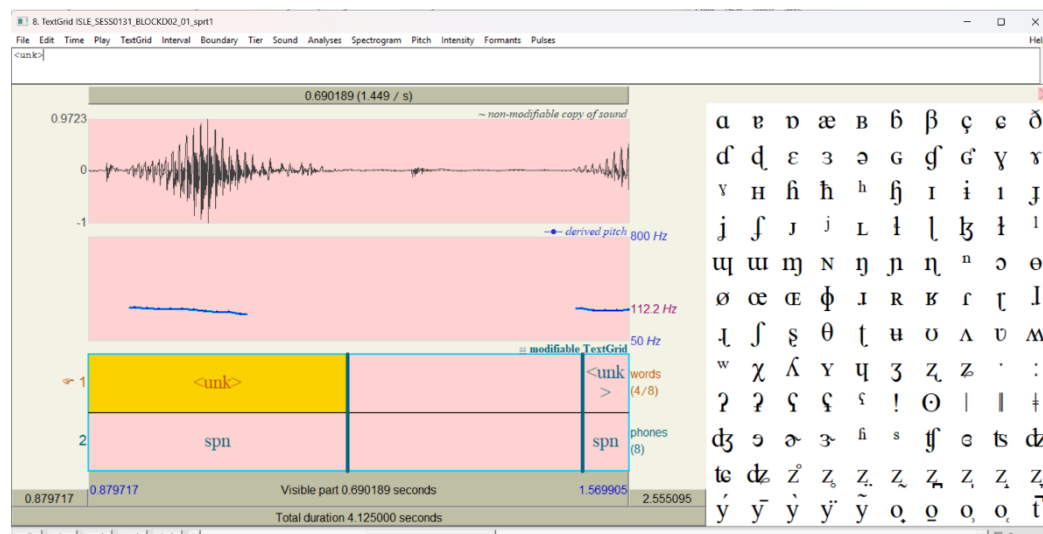
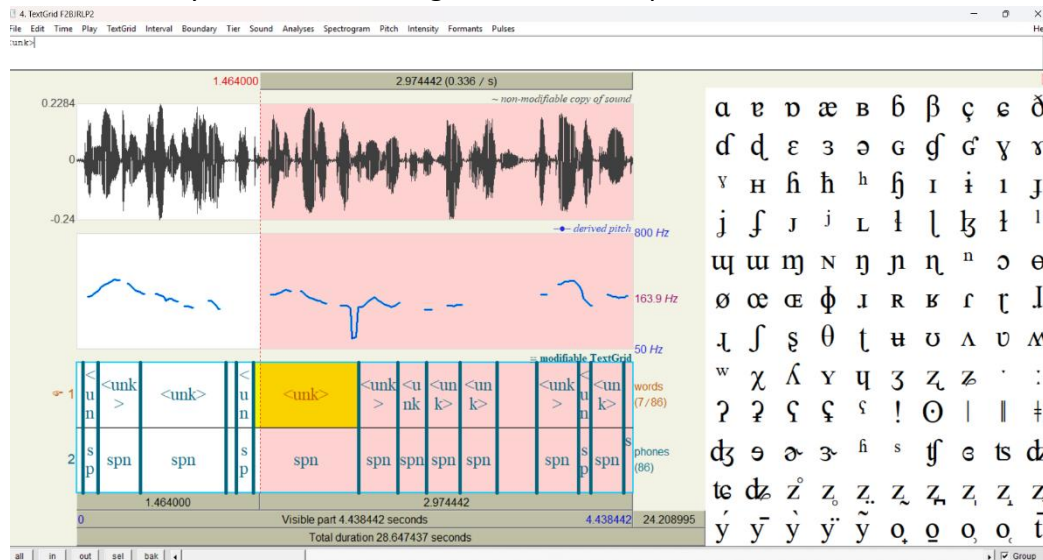
3. Alignment Results

- Files Processed: 6 audio-transcript pairs
- Outputs: 6 .TextGrid files in the output/ folder
- Verification: Opened in Praat to inspect word and phoneme tiers
- **Sample Visualization:**

file	begin	end	speaker	overall_log_likelihood	speech_log_likelihood	phone_duration_dev	snr
F2BJRLP3	0	30.7068125	corpus	-51.37498982			15.82396965
F2BJRLP1	0	25.309125	corpus	-51.29228813			12.78529621
F2BJRLP2	0	28.6474375	corpus	-50.79812391			12.94663003
ISLE_SESS0131_B1	0	3.875	corpus	-45.71493436			16.66894926
ISLE_SESS0131_B1	0	4.125	corpus	-45.37318875			17.95499649
ISLE_SESS0131_B1	0	4.5	corpus	-46.09251736			19.76424711

4. Observations

- Word and phoneme boundaries are accurate for most utterances.
- <unk> or spn symbols appear where the dictionary cannot map a word or during silence.
- Alignment quality is satisfactory; minor timing offsets exist in fast speech or unclear pronunciation.
- MFA efficiently handles batch alignment for multiple files.



5. Links

- Github: <https://github.com/pranaypadole22/-Forced-Alignment-using-Montreal-Forced-Aligner-MFA-IIITH-Assignment.git>
- Drive: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/15qmCW8dJfYE90jvuDP2ELIP3YJGBFDVo?usp=sharing>