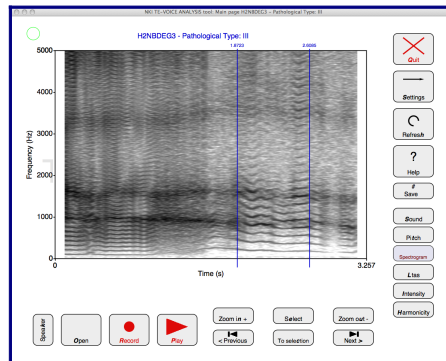


NKI TE-VOICE ANALYSIS tool



The *NKI TE-VOICE ANALYSIS tool* (TEVA) is intended to help the education and research of Speech Pathologists and others who want to study Tracheoesophageal speech. TEVA implements [Acoustic Signal Typing](#) from the work of Corina van As-Brooks (Van As 2001; 2006)

Contents

- [What is the NKI TEVA tool](#)
- [Getting started](#)
- [Overview of the Main page](#)
- [Overview of the Configuration page](#)
- [Tutorials](#)
- [Analysis calculations and displays](#)
- [Acoustic Signal Typing](#)
- [TEVA Copyright and License](#)

Introduction to TEVA

the NKI TE-VOICE ANALYSIS tool (TEVA) is developed as a tool for use in education and research. TEVA is intended to help Speech Pathologists and other researchers to study the acoustic characteristics of TE speech and to allow them to get experience with the acoustic analysis of Tracheoesophageal (TE) speech.

Introduction

TEVA is built on top of the Praat phonetics software package (<http://www.praat.org>). As such TEVA presents a selection of the relevant analysis methods with an easy to use interface. The approach to the analysis of TE speech used in TEVA is based on the work of Corina van As-Brooks as described in her PhD thesis ([Van As, 2001](#)).

Links to this page

- [NKI TE-VOICE ANALYSIS tool](#)

Getting started with TEVA

The NKI TE-VOICE ANALYSIS tool (TEVA) is a multi-platform stand-alone application. It is available for MS Windows, Apple Macintosh OSX, and Linux. It is also available as a separate interactive Praat script (<http://www.praat.org>).

Getting a copy of TEVA

TEVA is licensed under the [GNU GPLv2](http://www.gnu.org/licenses/gpl-2.0.html) and can be freely used and distributed. You can download a copy of TEVA from http://www.fon.hum.uva.nl/IFA-SpokenLanguageCorpora/NKICorpora/NKI_TEVA/. TEVA can be saved on your hard disk or USB thumb drive and started by clicking on the icon.

The TEVA pages

After you start TEVA, a window will appear. This will initially contain the *Main* page. In normal practice, this is the page you will spend most of your time in. There is a second page which allows you to change the settings of the application, the *Configuration* page. You can turn pages using a button on the top right of each page (with an arrow symbol →).

Each page contains a number of buttons. The *Main* page also contains a canvas which is used to draw the results of the analysis on. You interact with TEVA by clicking the buttons. For instance, at the top-right of the *Main* page, there is a **Quit** button labeled with a red X cross that will terminate the application when you click on it. While the TEVA application is busy processing whatever the click of a button asks it to do, the button will be grayed out (the label will be gray too instead of black or colored). While a button is grayed out, TEVA will not respond to other button clicks.

Every button has a keyboard shortcut. This shortcut is generally a single character, one of the letters of the label on the button. That character will be printed in *italic* in the label. For instance, in English, the Quit button is labeled **Quit** (with an italic *Q*). Hitting the **Q** key (upper or lowercase) will terminate the program.

You can change the size of the TEVA window just as you can with every other window on your desktop. However, you will notice that the positioning of the buttons and texts on the page will be off. Sometimes the windows will look completely scrambled. The page can be redrawn with the **Refresh** button or by hitting the **space bar**. Use the **space bar** when the page is so scrambled that you cannot click the **Refresh** button anymore.

Each page contains a **Help** button. This button is labeled with a ? question mark. Hitting the ? or / key will start the interactive **Help** service. While **Help** is active, a single line of help text will appear whenever you click a button. Clicking the **Help** button again will stop the **Help** service. The help text for each button will include the keyboard shortcuts in the current language.

General functions

Here are descriptions of a few often used buttons for general use. English labels will be used here. The keyboard shortcuts are given between the [brackets] (might depend on language).

On the *Main* page

- **Quit:** [Q] Stop TEVA. Will save the current preferences
- **Settings:** [S] Go to *Configuration* page
- **Refresh:** [h] Redraw the current page, hitting the space-bar always refreshes the screen
- **Help:** [?] Press on the button you want information on, press *Help* again to continue

On the *Configuration* page

- **Help:** [?] Press the button you want information on, press *Help* again to continue
- **Return:** [R] Go back to *Main* page
- **English:** [E] Use English labels and help
- **Deutsch:** [D] Use German labels and help
- **Nederlands:** [N] Use Dutch labels and help
- **Manual:** [M] Display this manual

More can be found in [Overview of Main page](#) and [Overview of Configuration page](#) .

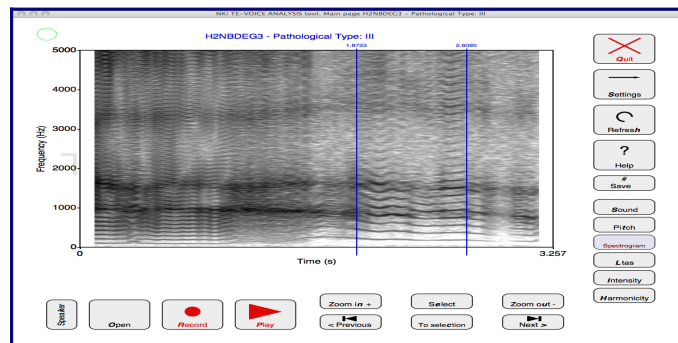
Language support

TEVA supports a few languages, currently English, German, and Dutch. Extending this to other languages is rather easy (just translating a few dozen sentences). But it can only be done with the help of a native speakers of that language. Please contact us if you would like to help to port TEVA to your language.

Links to this page

- [NKI TE-VOICE ANALYSIS tool](#)

Overview of Main page



TEVA is used by clicking buttons on the current page. Here is a list of the buttons on the Main page with a description of their use. English labels will be used here. The keyboard shortcuts are given between the []-brackets (might depend on language). See also the [Overview of Configuration page](#).

General functions

- **Quit:** [Q] Stop TEVA. Will save the current preferences
- **Settings:** [S] Go to *Configuration* page
- **Refresh:** [h] Redraw the current page, hitting the space-bar always refreshes the screen
- **Help:** [?] Press on the button you want information on, press *Help* again to continue

Recorded speech

- **Speaker:** [k] Input speaker data. Speakers from a table can be selected by ID, row number, or by stepping to the next, >, or previous, <, speaker. Click **Ready** to complete
- **Open:** [O] Open sound file (or a list of sound files)
- **Record:** [R] Record your speech. You have 4 seconds, watch the recording "light" on the top left
- **Play:** [P] Play back of recording

The sound level of the sound will be indicated as a colored circle in the top left of the page. The diameter scales with the maximal amplitude and the color indicates whether the maximal amplitude is too high (red), good (green), or too low (darker green to black).

Selecting an interval of speech

The current time window will be indicated with vertical blue lines if it is smaller than the current display. Changing the display (eg, zoom in or out) will set the display window to the current time window.

- **Select:** [e] Select a new start and an endtime with the cursor
- **To selection:** [c] Go to selected start and endtime
- **Zoom out:** [u-] Double the current time window
- **Zoom in:** [n+] Halve the current time window
- **Previous:** [<] Previous interval, or shift current time window to the left

- **Next:** [>] Next interval, or shift the current time window to the right

Saving and printing a report

- **Save** [#] Save recording and a report of the analysis

The current sound, and a report with all graphs and the analysis results can be saved into a separate map (or directory). The analysis windows are calculated and pictures are stored. A web page (.html and .odt) is created for printing on Apple OSX and Microsoft Windows systems. On Apple OSX the pictures are saved as PDF graphics, on Microsoft Windows as WMF graphics. On these two systems, a web page (.html) is created with the report. On all systems, pictures are also saved as PostScript graphics (EPS) and a report with an .odt extension is created. This report can be opened with OpenOffice.org or LibreOffice word processors for inspection and printing. Both OpenOffice.org and LibreOffice.org are Free and Open Source word processing programs.

Analysis calculations and displays

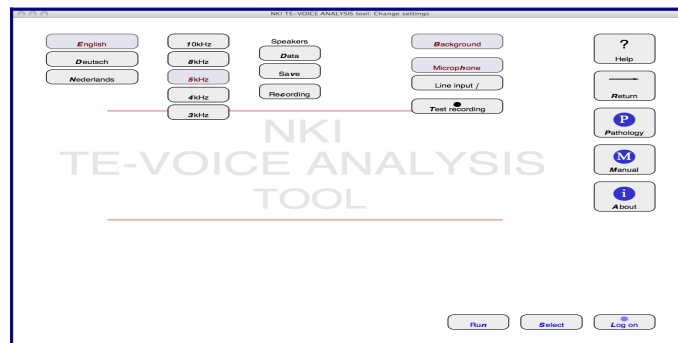
Selected statistics about the analysis will be written below the display. This includes the [Acoustic Signal Typing](#) analysis related to the display.

- **Sound:** [S] The Sound waveform
- **Pitch:** [t] Pitch contour
- **Spectrogram:** [L] Narrow band spectrogram (100 ms window)
- **Ltas:** [L] Long time average spectrum
- **Intensity:** [I] Intensity
- **Harmonicity:** [H] The Harmonicity to Noise ratio

Links to this page

- [Adding speaker information](#)
- [Getting started with TEVA](#)
- [NKI TE-VOICE ANALYSIS tool](#)
- [Opening an existing recording](#)
- [Recording your own voice](#)
- [Saving a report](#)

Overview of Configuration page



TEVA is used by clicking buttons on the current page. Here is a list of the buttons on the Configuration page with a description of their use. English labels will be used here. The keyboard shortcuts are given between the []-brackets (might depend on language). See also the [Overview of Main page](#).

Man buttons are radio type push buttons. When clicked, they remain "pushed down" until another button is pushed. The state of these button is remembered between invocations of TEVA.

General functions

- **Help:** [?] Press the button you want information on, press *Help* again to continue
- **Return:** [R] Go back to *Main* page
- **English:** [E] Use English labels and help
- **Deutsch:** [D] Use German labels and help
- **Nederlands:** [N] Use Dutch labels and help

Spectral display

The display of spectral features should be reduced to exclude irrelevant detail. Set the maximal frequency to a frequency that just includes all the relevant features

- **10kHz:** [01] Display up to 10 kHz
- **8kHz:** [8] Display up to 8 kHz
- **5kHz:** [5] Display up to 5 kHz
- **4kHz:** [4] Display up to 4 kHz
- **3kHz:** [3] Display up to 3 kHz

Speaker data tables and recording duration

It is useful to have a list of speaker data available. TEVA can read and write Tab delimited tables (tsv) with speaker data.

- **Data:** [D] Read table with speaker data
- **Save:** [v] Write current table with speaker data

- **Close:** [o] Close current table and open a new, empty one
- **Recording:** [c] Time of recording in seconds

Each row in the speaker table contains four fields separated by tabs:

- [1] Speaker, or Recording, ID (must be unique)
- [2] Speaker description (age, sex, etc)
- [3] Comments
- [4] File name of a recording with path relative to the table

If given, the recording will be automatically loaded if this speaker is selected in the main page.
Recording sets the duration of live recordings.

Miscellaneous

- **Background:** [B] Show background or not
- **Microphone:** [h] Use the built-in microphone for recording
- **Line input |:** [|+] Use the line-input for recording
- **Test recording:** [T] Test recording level

Additional information

- **Pathology:** [P] Information about pathological types
- **Manual:** [M] This manual
- **About:** [iA] Information about NKI TE-VOICE ANALYSIS tool and credits

Links to this page

- [Adding speaker information](#)
- [Determine pathological type](#)
- [Getting started with TEVA](#)
- [NKI TE-VOICE ANALYSIS tool](#)
- [Recording your own voice](#)

TEVA Tutorials

Tutorials to get acquainted with TEVA

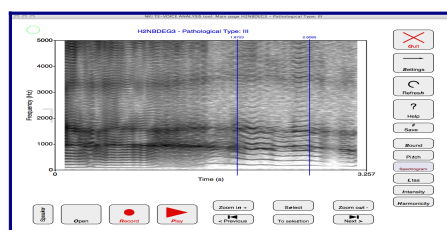
- [Recording your own voice](#)
- [Opening an existing recording](#)
- [Selecting stable sounds](#)
- [Adding speaker information](#)
- [Determine pathological type](#)
- [Saving a report](#)
- Using examples

Links to this page

- [NKI TE-VOICE ANALYSIS tool](#)

© R.J.J.H. van Son, December 19, 2011

Recording your own voice



How to record and analyze a voice.

Record your voice

First set up your computer for voice recording. You should use a microphone of a reasonable quality. Furthermore, if your computer has some kind of *Microphone* boost feature, make sure it is turned off. Then use some application you know to check whether you can actually record your sound. For instance, if you have Praat (www.praat.org) or Audacity (audacity.sourceforge.net) installed, try to record your voice with them. If recording works, you can continue.

After you started TEVA, click on the *Settings* (→) button to go to the [Configuration page](#). There you should check the relevant sound input, either *Microphone* if you use a built-in microphone or the microphone jack, or *Line input* if you have connected to the line input. You can use the *Test recording* button to open a window where you can check the setup and recording level. Close the window when you are satisfied. Note that your changes in the settings of this window will be ignored.

After you are satisfied that the recording setup is working, go back to the [Main page](#) by clicking the *Return* (→) button.

On the [Main page](#), click on the red *Record* (•) button. A bright red spot will appear in the top left corner of the page during the time of the recording. The default duration of a recording is 4 seconds. You can change this duration on the [Configuration page](#), with the *Recording* button. While the red spot is visible, speak a sustained /a/ sound in the microphone.

After the recording has stopped, the wave-form of the recorded sound will be shown in the central part of the [Main page](#). The wave-form display is the default setting of TEVA. However, if TEVA was closed the last time while another display was selected, that display will be used again. The bright red spot in the top left corner will have been replaced by a open colored circle. The diameter and color of the circle indicate the maximum amplitude of the recorded sound. A big red circle means the recorded sound might have been too loud and clipped. A green circle indicates a safe recording level. When the circle becomes smaller and the color becomes darker towards black, the sound level of the recording might have been too soft.

Listen to the recorded sound. You can play the recorded sound by clicking the red *Play* button (right pointing solid triangle). You might notice that the recorded sound is not 4 seconds long (or whatever your recording setting is). TEVA will cut off silence at the start and end of the recording. Check whether there is enough of the /a/ recorded and that there is no background noise in the recording. Repeat the recording procedure until you are satisfied with the result. You do not have to reject the old recording, a new recording simply replaces the existing recording.

Other displays and analysis

When you click on any of the buttons on the right side below *Sound*, e.g., *Pitch*, *Spectrogram*, *Ltas*, *Intensity*, or *Harmonicity*, these will be displayed instead. Calculation of some of these displays might take some time, so be patient. Below all of the windows, except *Sound* and *Spectrogram*, text will appear with statistics of these analysis types.

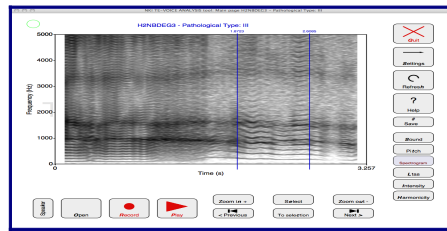
Next:

- [Opening an existing recording](#)
- [Adding speaker information](#)
- [Selecting stable sounds](#)
- [Determine pathological type](#)
- [Saving a report](#)

Links to this page

- [TEVA Tutorials](#)

Opening an existing recording



How to open existing sound files in TEVA.

Audio formats

TEVA can handle all [audio file formats](#) that Praat can read. This includes, among others, WAV, AIFF/C, FLAC, and MP3 files.

Open a file

To open an existing recording, click the *Open* button on the [Main page](#). A file select window will open which allows you to select the file in the customary way. Then click *Choose*. The file will open and the currently selected analysis display will be drawn.

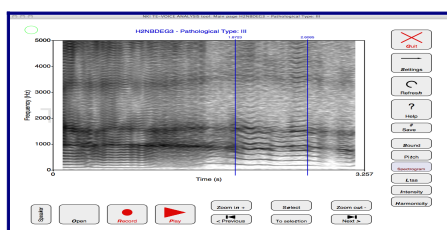
Next:

- [Recording your own voice](#)
- [Selecting stable sounds](#)
- [Adding speaker information](#)
- [Determine pathological type](#)
- [Saving a report](#)

Links to this page

- [TEVA Tutorials](#)

Adding speaker information



How to add information about a speaker to TEVA.

Record or Open an /a/ sound, select a stable part of the recording:

- [Recording your own voice](#)
- [Opening an existing recording](#)
- [Selecting stable sounds](#)

Adding information about a recording

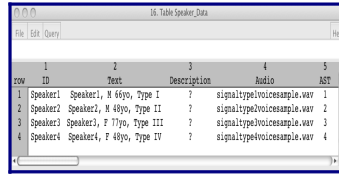
TEVA can keep a record of recordings. Click the *Speaker* button at the bottom left of the [Main page](#). A window will open where you can enter an identifier (name or code) and other information like sex, age, treatment etc. There is also a field for more informal comments. The string before the first punctuation mark on the first line of the window (the Speaker ID field) will be used internally to represent the ID code of the speaker. Click the *Ready* button when you have completed the input. You can change the text later if you like.

Reading a table with speaker information

In general, it is better to collect speaker information in a table beforehand. You can open such a table with the *Open* button in the [Main page](#), or with the *Data* button in the [Configuration page](#). When opened, you will have to select a specific speaker or recording from the list. This is done using the *Speaker* button on the [Main page](#). You can type in the ID code of the recording, or the line number in the table, and click *Ready*. Or you can step through all the records with the next (>) and previous (<) buttons.

You can save changes to the list with the *Save* button in the [Configuration page](#). You can close and purge the current table with the *Close* button in the [Configuration page](#). With *Close*, the current table is not saved.

Format of the speaker info table



row	1	2	3	4	5
	ID	Text	Description	Audio	AST
1	Speaker1	Speaker1, M 66yo, Type I	?	signaltype1voicesample.wav	1
2	Speaker2	Speaker2, M 48yo, Type II	?	signaltype2voicesample.wav	2
3	Speaker3	Speaker3, F 77yo, Type III	?	signaltype3voicesample.wav	3
4	Speaker4	Speaker4, F 48yo, Type IV	?	signaltype4voicesample.wav	4

Speaker Info tables are tab delimited (tsv) lists with four fields, starting with a line with the field names separated by tabs.

- 1: ID of speaker or recording (must be unique)
- 2: Essential information, often starting with the ID code
- 3: Free form comments
- 4: Relative path to the audio file
- 5: Manually entered [Acoustic Signal Type](#), i.e., 1, 2, 3, or 4

If the table contains a path to a sound file, this file will be opened automatically when the record is chosen

Missing columns are automatically generated when the table is read. So, if a table without the Description and AST columns is read, two empty columns with the labels *Description* and *AST* are created.

An example file:

```
ID Text Description Audio AST
Speaker1 Speaker1, M 66yo, Type I [comments]
signaltype1voicesample.wav 1
Speaker2 Speaker2, M 48yo, Type II [comments]
signaltype2voicesample.wav 2
Speaker3 Speaker3, F 77yo, Type III [comments]
signaltype3voicesample.wav 3
Speaker4 Speaker4, F 48yo, Type IV [comments]
signaltype4voicesample.wav 4
```

A text-only file without the *.tsv* or *.Table* extension will be read as a list of [Strings](#). The table with the speaker data is constructed from these [Strings](#). Each line in this file is interpreted as a *Text* field and the (unique?) ID is extracted from the text upto the first punctuation mark. If a *Type: IV* or *Type: 4* like string is found in the line, the *AST* is set to this value.

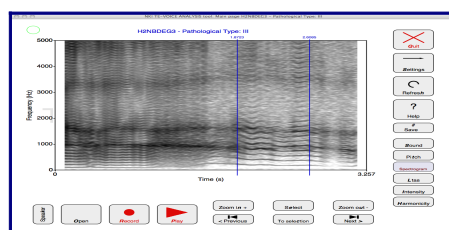
Next:

- [Determine pathological type](#)
- [Saving a report](#)

Links to this page

- [TEVA Tutorials](#)

Selecting stable sounds



How to select a stable part of the voice.

Record or Open an /a/ sound and add information about the speaker and recording:

- [Recording your own voice](#)
- [Opening an existing recording](#)
- [Adding speaker information](#)

Introduction and basics

Not all parts of your recording will be useful for the analysis. Selecting a part of the recording is done with the buttons around the *Select* button. If the current interval is smaller than the current window, the boundaries of the current interval are indicated by vertical blue lines. With *Zoom in* (+) and *Zoom out* (-) you can decrease and increase the size of the window. With the *Previous* and *Next* buttons you can step through the recording. With the *Select* button you can indicate the start and end of the preferred interval.

Selecting a stable interval of speech

Go to the *Spectrogram* for selecting a stable part of your /a/ recording. *Zoom out* until you see the complete recording. You might notice that the recorded sound is not 4 seconds long (or whatever your recording setting is). TEVA will cut off silence at the start and end of the recording. A stable /a/ sound will show a smooth spectrogram with many harmonics as horizontal lines. The more harmonics are clearly visible, the better the voice is. Find the longest stretch of speech with many, flat harmonics. This will be the interval to analyse. For the [Acoustic Signal Typing](#) analysis, around 0.1-0.2 seconds of speech are needed.

Click on *Select*. A blue text will appear below the display "*Select new start time (or press Select or a key to continue)*". If you press *Select* again or press any key on the keyboard, the selection procedure will stop. Use the mouse pointer to click on the start of the desired stable interval inside the display.

A vertical blue line will be drawn at the point where you clicked. The text below the display will have changed to "*Select new end time (or press Select or a key to continue)*". Use the mouse pointer to click on the end of the desired stable interval inside the display. A second blue line will appear and the text disappears.

If you now click on the *Play* button, you will hear only the fragment you selected. The blue lines will be present in all other displays, except the *Ltas* display. The *Ltas* display will have changed and will only give the spectrum of the selected interval. All the statistics printed below the displays will refer to only

the selected interval.

You can move around the selected interval with the *Previous* and *Next* buttons. You can make the window match the selected interval by clicking on *To selection*.

Next:

- [Determine pathological type](#)
- [Saving a report](#)

Links to this page

- [TEVA Tutorials](#)

Determine pathological type

How to determine the [pathological type](#) and [read the acoustic signal typing](#)

Record or Open an /a/ sound, select a stable part of the recording and add information about the speaker and recording:

- [Recording your own voice](#)
- [Opening an existing recording](#)
- [Selecting stable sounds](#)
- [Adding speaker information](#)

Pathological type

A short description of the criteria to determine the pathological type is displayed when you click on the *Pathology* button on the [Configuration page](#). It can also be found on the [Acoustic Signal Typing](#) manual page.

The criteria for the pathological typing are mostly impressionistic. This is about the ability of the speaker to produce a stable /a/ sound with many harmonics. This can be evaluated by listening to the sound, and looking at the *Spectrogram*. Inspection of the *Pitch* and *Harmonicity* displays will give extra information.

When a voice has been evaluated and a type decided upon, the type can be entered by pressing one of the number keys, 1-4 for types I - IV. The types can always be changed. Pressing 0 will erase the type. The currently selected type will be printed over the display.

Acoustic signal typing

There is also an [automatic evaluation of pathological type](#). The displays for *Pitch*, *Ltas*, and *Harmonicity* contain pathological type estimates preceded by "AST:" ([Acoustic Signal Typing](#)) based on individual [acoustic measures](#). The median value of these measures is displayed in arabic numerals (1-4) as long as no pathological type has been entered by hand. Note that the automatic AST will only be calculated from measures for which the display has been shown (calculated). So it will change until all the relevant displays have been shown. The median AST will be calculated when a report is generated.

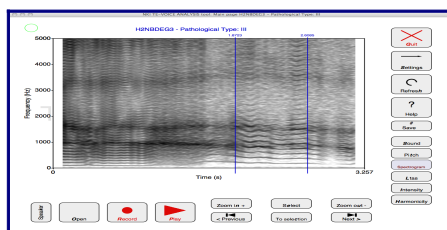
Next:

- [Saving a report](#)

Links to this page

- [TEVA Tutorials](#)

Saving a report



Generate a printable report.

Record or Open an /a/ sound, select a stable part of the recording and add information about the speaker and recording:

- [Recording your own voice](#)
- [Opening an existing recording](#)
- [Selecting stable sounds](#)
- [Adding speaker information](#)
- [Determine pathological type](#)

After selecting a stable part of a recording and determining the pathological type, the results should be stored in a report for later use. This is done by clicking the *Save* button on the [Main page](#). A name can be entered and then click *Save*. The default name is the ID code in the Speaker information.

All displays are regenerated and a map (directory) is created with the report in two formats: An HTML document and an ODT (.odt) document. The odt document can be opened with LibreOffice.org and OpenOffice.org and printed on all platforms. On MS Windows and Mac OSX, a web page (HTML) file is generated with the same information:

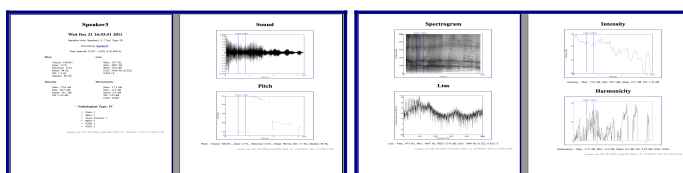
Windows: Open the HTML file with Internet Explorer, graphics are in Windows Meta File format (MFT)

Mac OSX: Open the HTML file with Safari, graphics are in PDF format

(work is under way to generate HTML files on all platforms using PNG graphics)

Viewing and printing

The report files are in the directory with the name you saved, e.g., *Speaker3*. Inside, there are three files and two directories. The files are *example1.odt* and *Speaker3.html* (the latter not on Linux). There is also a copy of the recording in the directory. The two subdirectories contain the graphics, one is called *eps* and contains the graphics in *eps* format, the other is called either *wmf* (Windows) or *pdf* (OSX) and contains the graphics in *wmf* or *pdf* format.



Links to this page

- [TEVA Tutorials](#)

© *R.J.J.H. van Son, December 20, 2011*

Analysis

Praat commands used to calculate the analysis results

TEVA is a Praat script. The commands used to perform the analysis and draw the displays are listed here:

Displays

Sound

-

Pitch

```
select Sound SND  
To Pitch... 0 60 600
```

Spectrogram

```
select Sound SND  
To Spectrogram... 0.1 'Fn' 0.001 10 Gaussian
```

F_n is the Nyquist frequency

Ltas

```
select Sound SND  
To Spectrum... yes  
To Ltas \(1-to-1\)
```

Intensity

```
select Sound SND  
To Intensity... 60 0 yes
```

Harmonicity

```
select Sound SND  
To Harmonicity \(cc\)... 'dT' 60 0.1 1.0
```

dT is the time step

Measurements

Voiced fraction

```
select Sound SND
To Pitch... 0 60 600
```

Count the number of voiced frames in the window and divide by the total number of frames. Using these settings, the step size (frame duration) is 0.0125s.

GNE (glottal to noise excitation ratio)

```
select Sound SND
Extract part... 'T1' 'T2' rectangular 1.0 false
To Harmonicity (gne)... 500 4500 1000 80
gne = Get maximum
```

T₁ and T₂ are the start and end time, respectively

Jitter

```
select Sound SND
To Pitch... 0 60 600
To PointProcess
jitter = Get jitter \(local\)... 'T1' 'T2' 0.0001 0.05 5
```

T₁ and T₂ are the start and end time, respectively

Shimmer

```
select Sound SND
To Pitch... 0 60 600
To PointProcess
select Sound SND
plus PointProcess SND
shimmer = Get shimmer (local)... 'T1' 'T2' 0.0001 0.05 5 5
```

T₁ and T₂ are the start and end time, respectively

BED (band energy difference)

```
select Sound SND
To Spectrum... yes
To Ltas \(1-to-1\)
Get number of bins
```

Average power over bins. Where lowPower is the average power over bins between 0 and 500 Hz and highPower is the average power over bins between 4000 and 5000 Hz

```
bed = 10 * log10(lowPower / highPower)
```

CoG (spectral center of gravity)

```
select Sound SND  
To Spectrum... yes  
To Ltas \(1-to-1\)  
Get number of bins
```

Sum the power ($10^{(\text{power}/10)}$), sumPower over the bins and the product of frequency and energy ($f * 10^{(\text{power}/10)}$), productFreq, over all bins.

```
cog = productFreq / sumPower
```

Links to this page

- [Acoustic Signal Typing](#)
- [NKI TE-VOICE ANALYSIS tool](#)
- [Overview of Main page](#)

Acoustic Signal Typing

Introduction

The quality of the voice in Tracheoesophageal (TE) speech is determined by the characteristics of the neo-glottis. Individual differences in the functioning of the neo-glottis after treatment cause great variation in the intelligibility and quality of speech. The voice pathology of TE speech is graded into four levels.

Pathology types (Van As, 2001, Chapter 5)

Type I - Stable & Harmonic (press 1)

- Stable signal for longer than two seconds
- Clear harmonics up to at least 1000 Hz

Type II - Stable & At least one harmonic (press 2)

- Stable signal for longer than two seconds
- At least one stable harmonic at the fundamental frequency for longer than two seconds

Type III - Unstable or Partly harmonic (press 3)

- No stable signal for longer than two seconds, or
- Harmonics in only part of the sample (for longer than 1 second)

Type IV - Barely harmonic (press 4)

- No or only short-term detectable harmonics (for shorter than 1 second)

(press 0 to reset)

Table of the relation between the four types of acoustic signal typing and the perceptual judgment of overall voice quality for 39 speakers (converted to percentages).

Perceptual judgment of overall voice quality				
	Good	Reasonable	Poor	
Type I	70%	40%	0%	
Type II	45%	45%	10%	
Type III	20%	35%	45%	
Type IV	0%	25%	75%	

Acoustic measures of voice quality

In Acoustic Signal Typing, the voice characteristics are determined using acoustic analysis of speech. The typing is based on both visual inspection of plots of these analysis parameters and quantitative measures of a short (e.g., 0.1 second) stretch of "stable" speech.

Visual determination of pathology uses displays of:

- [Waveform](#)
- [Pitch](#)
- [Spectrogram](#)
- [Long Time Average Spectrum](#) (LTAS)
- [Intensity](#)
- [Harmonicity-to-Noise ratio](#)

A quantitative evaluation is based on the analysis of:

- [Voiced fraction](#), fraction of frames that is voiced (%)
- [Jitter](#) (%)
- Standard deviation of the [Pitch](#)
- BED (band energy difference), difference in dB between high and low power in the [LTAS](#)
- The mean of the [Harmonicity](#)
- GNE (glottal to noise excitation ratio), the maximum of a form of [Harmonicity](#)

These measures are determined on a short segment (around 0.1 second) of speech from the most stable part of a sustained /a/ sound. [Pathological categories](#) are defined using (Van As, 2001). See [Analysis calculations and displays](#) for details on the commands used.

References:

- Van As, C.J. (2001), *Tracheoesophageal Speech. A Multidimensional Assessment of Voice Quality*, Ph.D.-thesis, University of Amsterdam, 209 pag.
- van As-Brooks, C.J., Koopmans-van Beinum, F.J., Pols, L.C.W., and Hilgers, F.J.M. (2006), *Acoustic Signal Typing for Evaluation of Voice Quality in Tracheoesophageal Speech* Journal of Voice, Volume 20 (3), p355-368.
- Van As, C.J. (2008), *Acoustic analyses of postlaryngectomy voice and their perceptual relevance* Invitational Round Table "Evidence-based Voice and Speech Rehabilitation in Head and Neck Cancer", p8-14 [<http://dare.uva.nl/document/130984>]

Links to this page

- [Adding speaker information](#)
- [Determine pathological type](#)
- [Introduction to TEVA](#)
- [NKI TE-VOICE ANALYSIS tool](#)
- [Overview of Main page](#)
- [Selecting stable sounds](#)

AST categories

Category boundaries

Categories are determined when the corresponding analysis is performed, e.g., when a display is drawn or data are saved. Automatically determined values are displayed in Arabic numbers (1, 2, 3, 4). Categories set by hand are displayed by Roman numerals (*I*, *II*, *III*, *IV*). Category boundaries are taken from (Van As, 2001, Table 5.4 p88) and here indicated by Roman numerals for clarity.

- Voiced Fraction:
 - $I < 90.2\% < II < 77.45\% < III < 50\% < IV$ (VF < 50% is *IV* also for F_0 sd and Jitter)
- F_0 standard deviation:
 - $I < 3.360 < II < 7.495 < III; IV$ if Voiced Fraction < 50%
- Jitter:
 - $I < 5.3\% < II < 8.05\% < III; IV$ if Voiced Fraction < 50%
- Mean Harmonicity:
 - $I > 7.195 > II > 4.050 > III > 1.925 > IV$ (dB)
- GNE:
 - $I > 0.820 > II > 0.795 > III > .745 > IV$
- BED:
 - $I > 23.85 > II > 19.95 > III > 13.50 > IV$ (dB)

The final automatic AST category is defined as the median of the individual measures.

Links to this page

- [Acoustic Signal Typing](#)
- [Determine pathological type](#)

TEVA license

NKI TE-VOICE ANALYSIS tool version 1.0

Netherlands Cancer Institute tool for **Tracheoesophageal Voice Analysis** (TEVA)

For more information, visit our websites: http://www.fon.hum.uva.nl/IFA-SpokenLanguageCorpora/NKICorpora/NKI_TEVA/ and <http://www.provoxweb.info/acoustic-analyses.html> . TEVA is based on Praat (<http://www.praat.org>)

This application was made possible by an unrestricted research grant from: **ATOS MEDICAL AB**: P.O. BOX 183 SE-242 22 HÖRBY SWEDEN

This application is licensed under the GNU GPL version 2 or later (<http://www.gnu.org/licenses/old-licenses/gpl-2.0.html>)

The NKI TE-VOICE ANALYSIS tool

Copyright © 2011 Netherlands Cancer Institute and R.J.J.H. van Son
Praat code Copyright © 1992–2011 Paul Boersma and David Weenink

This program is free software; you can redistribute it and/or modify it under the terms of the GNU General Public License as published by the Free Software Foundation; either version 2 of the License, or (at your option) any later version.

This program is distributed in the hope that it will be useful, but **WITHOUT ANY WARRANTY**; without even the implied warranty of **MERCHANTABILITY or FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE**. See the GNU General Public License for more details.

You should have received a copy of the GNU General Public License along with this program; if not, write to the Free Software Foundation, Inc., 51 Franklin Street, Fifth Floor, Boston, MA 02110-1301, USA.

Links to this page

- [Getting started with TEVA](#)
- [NKI TE-VOICE ANALYSIS tool](#)