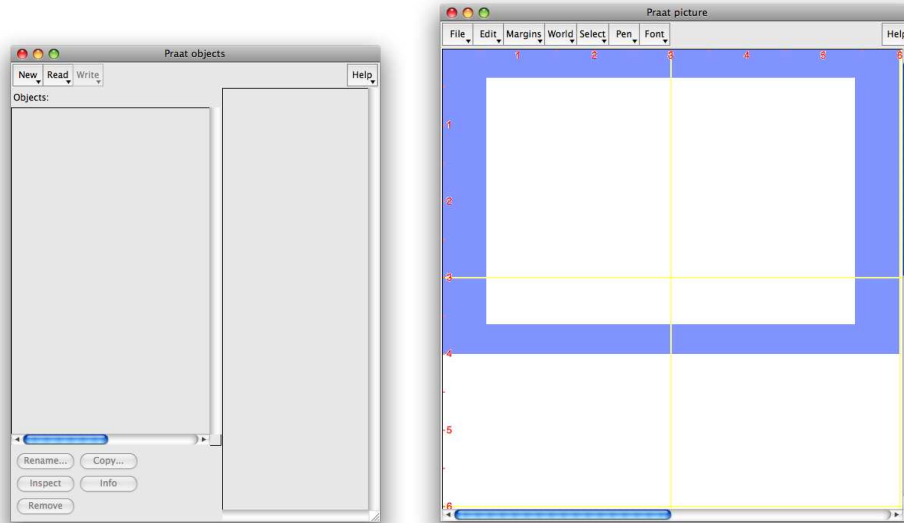
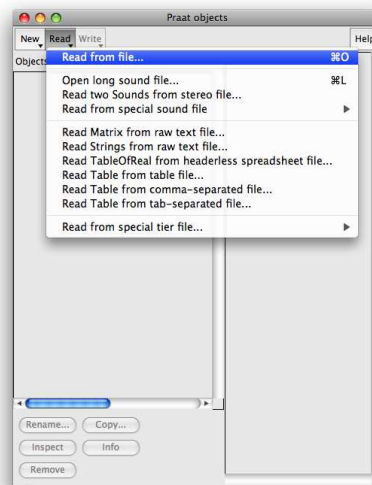


When you open Praat, you'll get two windows, the Praat objects window and the Praat picture window:

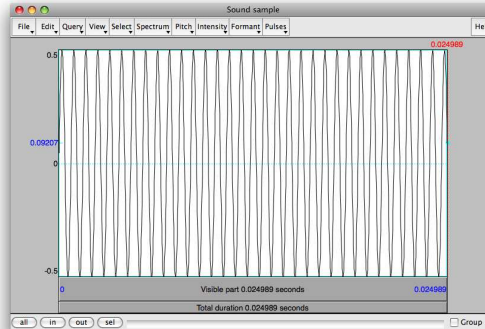
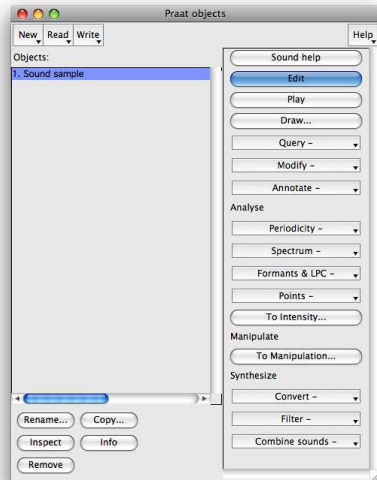


For most purposes in this course, you will only need the Praat objects window, so close the Praat picture window. From the Praat objects window, you can open previously recorded sound files, such as those for labs or recorded by you for your final project, by selecting Read from file... from the Read menu:

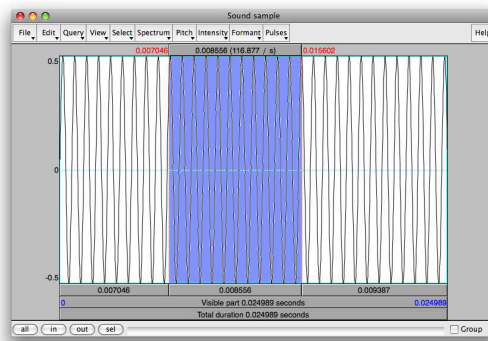


This will open up a window allowing you to select a file from your computer. Select the file you want and click Choose. This places the file in the list of objects in the Praat objects window and gives you a lot of new functions in the right panel of the window.

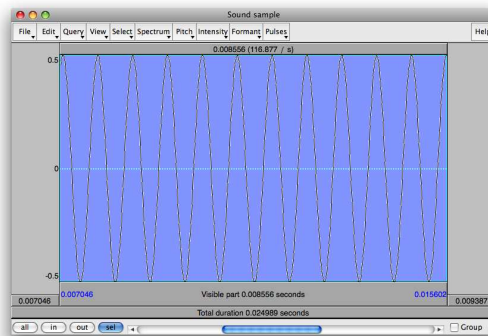
One of the most important function now available is Edit, which will open up a new window showing the the selected sound as a waveform:



From this new window, you can manipulate the sound, zoom in and out, and most importantly, take measurements of various aspects of the sound. You can select a portion of the wave simply by clicking and dragging the cursor to highlight the portion you want to select.

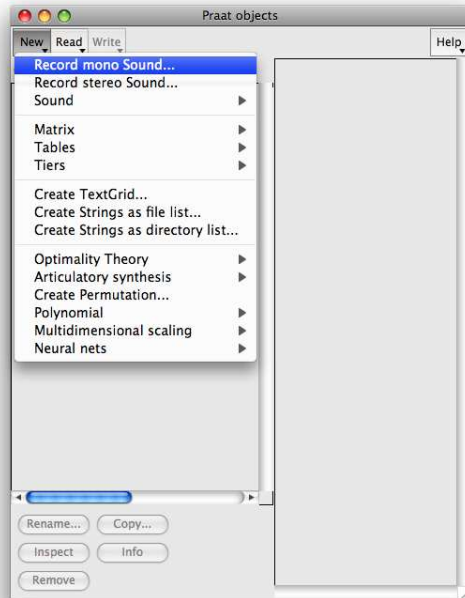


Note how Praat tells you the duration of the selected portion. This is how you can measure how long any piece of a sound is. Once you've selected a portion you want to examine, you can click `sel` to zoom in on that portion:

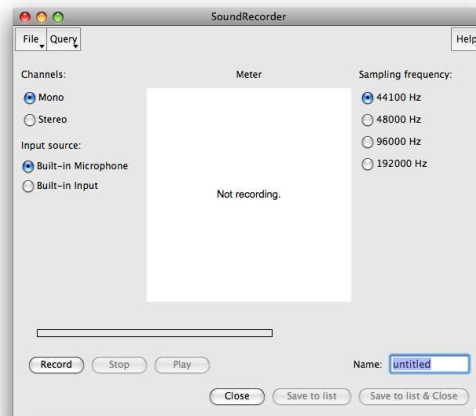


You'll learn how to use many of the options in this window as part of your labs.

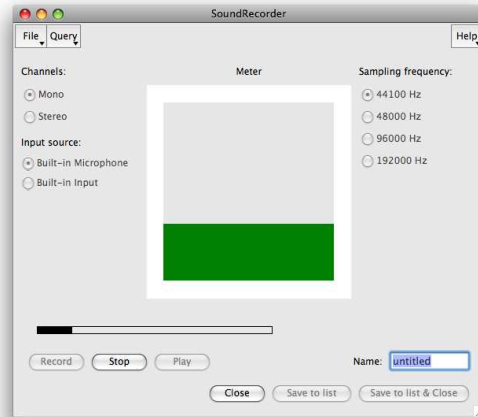
You can also create your own new sounds directly in Praat, rather than having to have access to a previously recorded sound file. To record someone speaking, be sure your computer has some sort of audio input, such as a built-in microphone. Select **Record mono Sound...** (you'll have no need for recording stereo sounds):



This will open up a new window, the Praat SoundRecorder:



When you are ready to record, press **Record**, which will start recording all sound directed at the microphone. In the middle of the window, you can monitor the level of sound. If your sound source is too loud or too close to the microphone, the meter may get into the red, which will likely mean your file will be distorted. As long as you stay in the green and yellow, your sound file should be fine:



When you are finished recording, press **Stop**, and the recording will stop. Clicking **Play** will let you review the recording, and if it's satisfactory (note that you can easily cut out unwanted portions later), you can give it a name and press **Save to list** to create a new sound object in the Praat objects window. From there, you can use the **Edit** function to open the sound up in its own window and examine, edit, and measure it.

Finally, when you are finished and ready to quit Praat, if you want to save your newly recorded and edited sounds to a file, select the sound you want to save and then select **Write to WAV file...** (or any other format of your choice), which will open up a window allowing you to choose a location (and a new name if you want) for your sound file:

