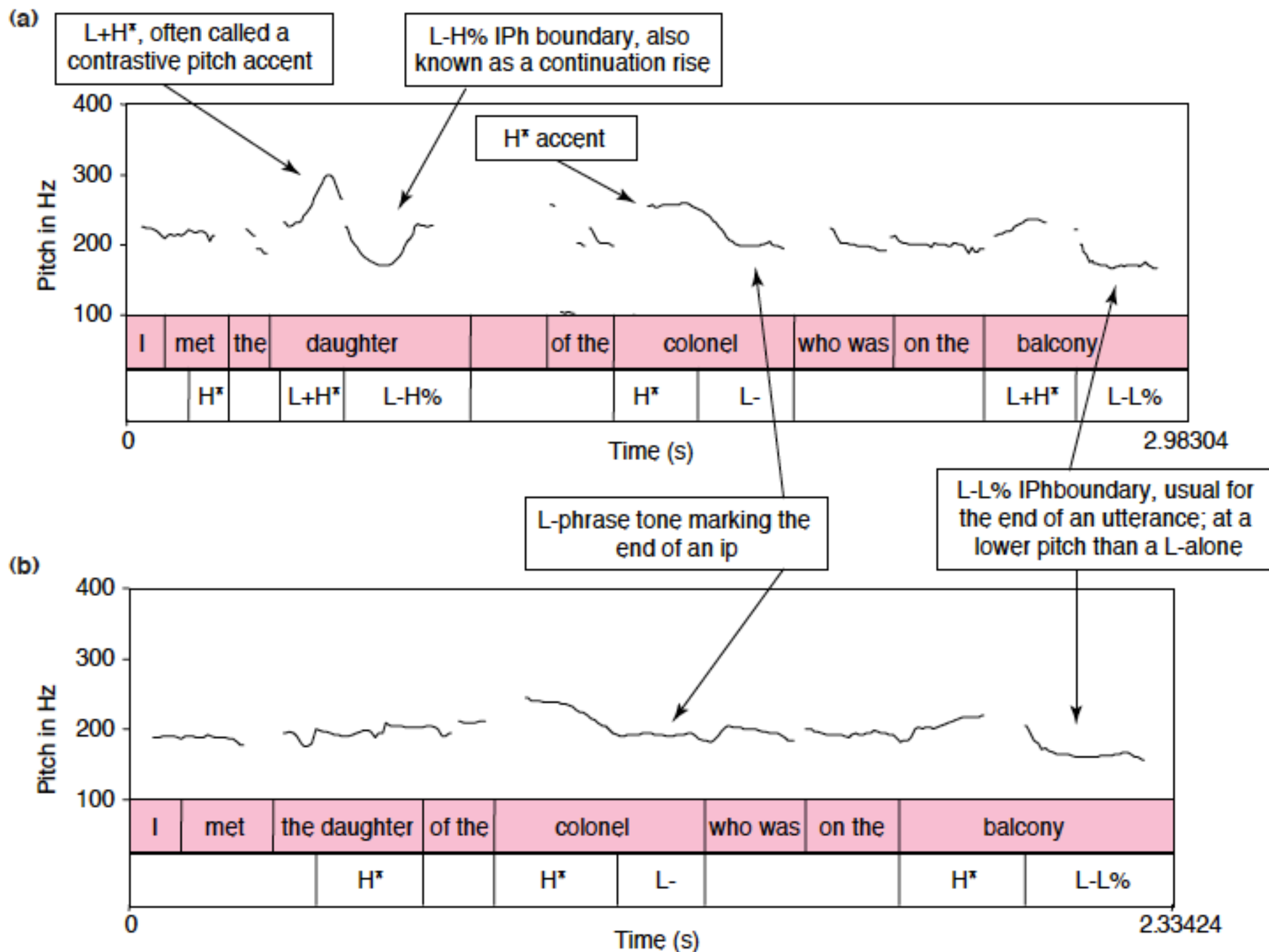


Today

- HW5 due Friday 2/25
- Office hours signups
- Prosody

ToBI

- “Tone and Boundary Indices”
 - Pitch targets: H or L
 - Pitch accents: H*, L*, L+H*, etc.
 - Intermediate phrases (ips) are minor units that must include at least one pitch accent: H-, L-
 - Intonational phrases (IPh) are major units that must include at least one ip: H%, L%



Prosodic boundaries

- Sometimes obligatory
 - *Because I was looking at my phone, ...*
- Sometimes optional
 - *I was looking at my phone, when ...*
- Comprehenders use prosody to make inferences about grammar
 - *When Roger left the house was dark.*

Prosodic boundaries

- The absolute magnitude of a prosodic cue isn't the only thing that's important; relative magnitude is important, too.
 - *Who came out ahead? Old men (#1) and women (#2) with very large houses.*
 - There are two interpretations:
 - “High attachment”—[old men and women] with large houses
 - “Low attachment”—[old men] and [women with large houses]
- If #1 is bigger than #2, then people prefer low attachment, but if #1 is smaller than #2, they prefer high attachment

“Covert” prosody

- There are measurable effects of prosody even when people are reading.
- Reading times, ERPs, etc, appear to indicate that while reading silently, people recreate the prosody that would go with the sentences they’re reading.
- Punctuation appears to affect this.
- You might ask, what about deaf people?

Why is prosody important?

- Helps indicate where the breaks are in an otherwise undifferentiated string; provides cues to structure
- “suppl[ies] the basic skeleton that allows humans to hold an auditory sequence in memory”
 - 24 83 44 90 is easier than 24834490

Other contributions prosody makes to comprehension

- Contrastive stress
 - *Pick up the RED cup*
 - *She WAS an olympic athlete.*
- Affect
 - *I really believe you.*
- Specific constructions
 - *Oh no she didn't.*
- Sound symbolism
 - *Under the table, there was a tiny little mouse.*

Discussion questions

1. How could you test whether comprehenders use prosody to determine whether a specific construction is being used or not?
2. How could you test whether comprehenders interpret prosodic information sound symbolically?