Creating pictures

The Praat program can be used to view and produce analysis displays of sound in two ways. If you are still getting familiar with your material or annotating it, you would probably prefer to use acoustic visualizations via the editor windows, such as the Sound editor or the TextGrid editor. In the editors, you can also take preliminary measurements on the basis of various analysis displays. However, if you want to draw high-quality images that can be transferred to a word processing document and perhaps printed, you can use the Picture window. First, you can compute a separate analysis object to the object list and to use that as the basis for your drawing. Alternatively, you can draw some pictures directly from the editor windows.

Drawing a picture

1. In the object window, select the object(s) from which you want to draw an image. If you want to draw an analysis picture that does not yet have a corresponding object in the Object list, select the *Sound* object first and compute the desired analysis object from it by selecting the corresponding command in the dynamic menu (the buttons on the right).
2. In the Picture window, use the mouse to select a rectangle (***Viewport***) of the desired size and shape in which to draw the picture. If the Picture window is not visible, don't worry, it will appear as soon as you select any **Draw** or **Paint** command in the Object window.
3. If necessary, change the drawing color of the picture you want to draw next (from the **Pen** menu in the Picture window) and/or the font type and size (from the **Font** menu in the Picture window). This selection only affects the properties of the next image, not the previous content of the drawing window.
4. In the object window, select the object from which you want to draw an image. Then select the appropriate drawing command under either the **Draw** or **Paint** button from the dynamic menu (the **Paint** command appears instead of the **Draw** command, if, e.g., a ***Spectrogram*** object is selected). A form appears asking for some information about the image you are drawing.
   - A check mark in *Garnish* means that a box is automatically drawn around the image and the default names and scales are marked on the horizontal and vertical axes. For example, if for some reason you want to superimpose images of different objects, or if you want to define the titles and numbers of the axes yourself, uncheck *Garnish*.
5. Press ***OK*** to draw the image within the area selected in the drawing window. The image automatically scales to fill the selected area.

Saving images

Before saving or copying an image from the Praat Picture window, be sure to select the part of the drawing area that you want to save or move.

The image drawn in the Picture window of the Praat program can be

- *copied to the clipboard* with the command **Copy to clipboard** (works in the Windows and Macintosh versions of Praat) and then pasted into, e.g., a word processing

document with the Paste command on the external program's **Edit** menu. NB: the image will not be saved anywhere until you save the document in the external program!

- *saved as a Praat image file* that cannot be opened by any other program, using the **File: Write to Praat picture file...** command. The default file extension for *praat image* files is *.prapic*
- *saved in PDF, PNG or EPS image files* (commands in the File menu).

Open image files in the Praat Picture window

Praat can be used to build complex images. However, most of the graphics files will need to be post-processed in external programs. The special Praat picture files (*.prapic*) are the only image files saved by Praat that can also be opened again in Praat.

To open a Praat picture, select **File: Read from Praat picture file...** in the Picture window.