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Multi-level timing in speech

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ABSTRACT

This report describes a model of timing control in English speech, whereby higher-level linguistic information determines the timing framework of an utterance, and lower-level phonetic factors determine how each segment is accommodated into that framework to produce a timing pattern that satisfies the requirements of both the higher and lower levels of control. The results are based on findings from two different databases of British English speech, and compare differences between talkers and styles. Details are given of an implementation showing how the model is used to predict durations in a speech synthesis system.