MEETING 4 — OVERVIEW

- Review of tonal 'syntax'
- Hmk #3 review
- Pierrehumbert (1980) vs. ToBI tonal inventories
- L*+H scooped accent

THE 'SYNTAX' OF TONAL COMBINATIONS

- Each *intermediate phrase* (iP) contains one or more *pitch accents* (*).
- The last accent in the iP is the *nuclear accent*.
- All non-final accents in the iP are *prenuclear* accents.
- Each iP is maked by a phrase accent (L- or H-) at its right edge.
- Intermediate phrases combine into larger prosodic units called *intonation phrases* (IP).
- Each IP is marked by a boundary tone (L% or H%) at its right edge.

PIERREHUMBERT (1980) vs. ToBI TONES

P-1980	H*	L+H*	L*	L*+H	H*+L	H+L*		
ToBI	H*	L+H*	L*	L*+H	(!H*)	(H+!H*)	L+!H*	L*+!H

- See Pierrehumbert & Hirschberg (1990, p. 281) for a schematization of each pitch accent shape with accompanying phrase accent and boundary tone combo.

L*+H "SCOOPED" ACCENT

- Low F0 on the accented syllable, followed by a "fixed" rise.

- MEANING: Information is prominent due to the pitch accent, but is not added to the mutual belief space. The L+H combination evokes a set of alternatives, much like in the L+H* case. Informally, the L*+H accent is said to carry the meaning of *uncertainty* (about a set of entities evoked in the discourse), *incredulity*, or *lack of speaker commitment* in general. [Read more: Pierrehumbert & Hirschberg (1990), Ward & Hirschberg (1985).]

- Pierrehumbert & Steele (1989) give experimental evidence for the distinction between L+H* and L*+H.

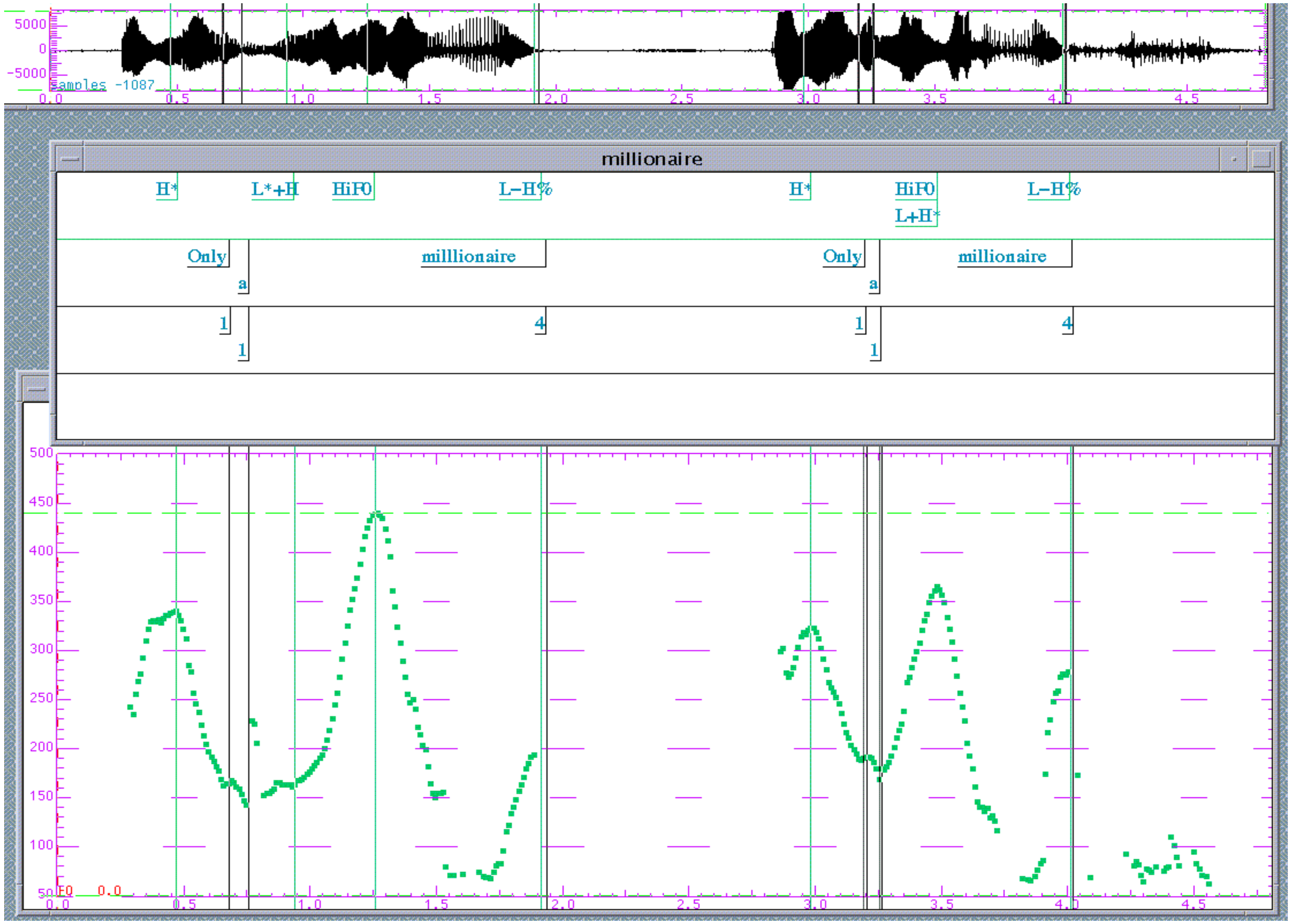

Figure 1: Contrast between L*+H and L+H* accents.

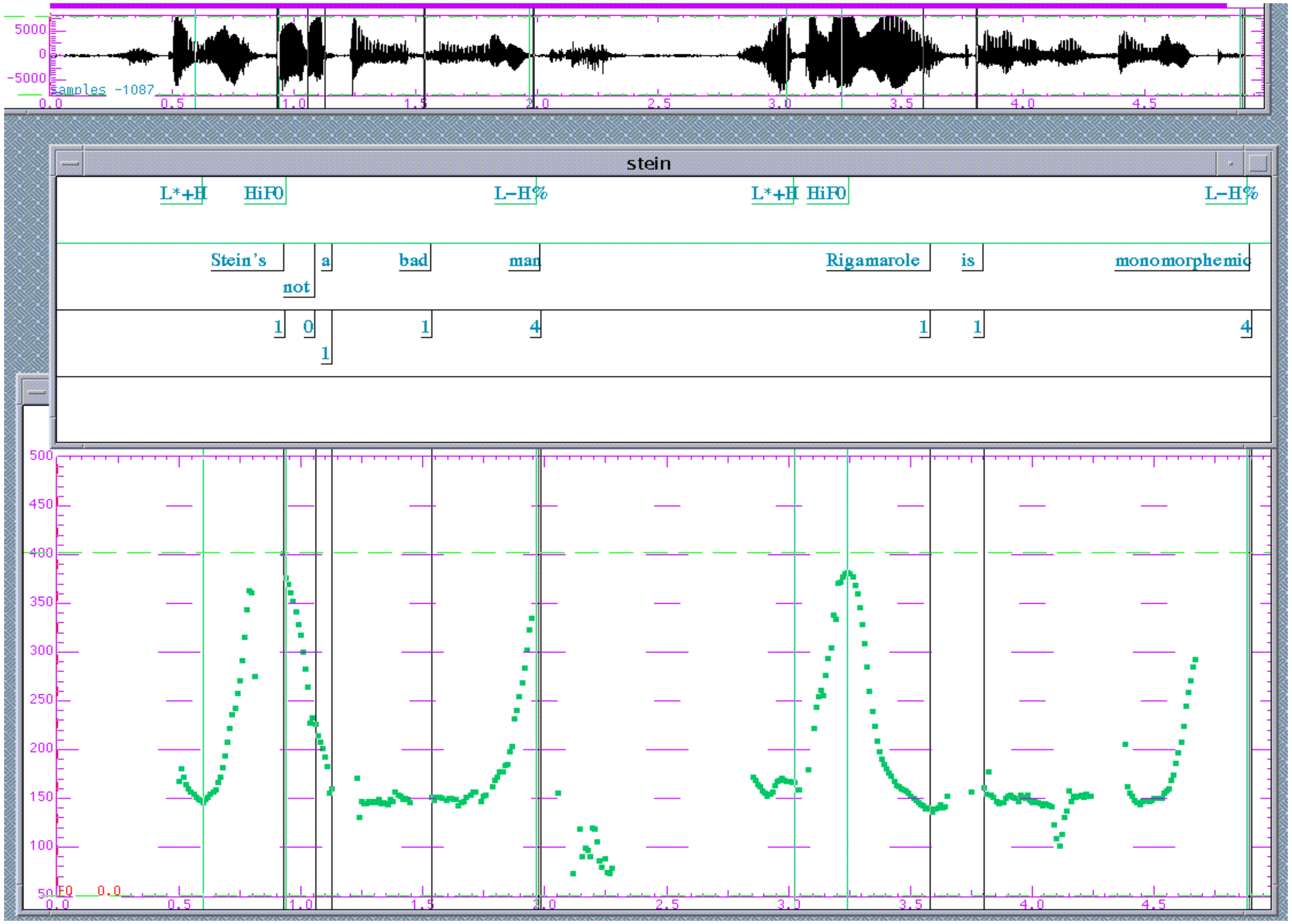

Figure 2: Rise of L*+H occurs at fixed time after accented syllable.