MEETING 5 — OVERVIEW

- Review homework 4
- Downstep, and !H* and H+!H* accents
- Labeler agreement and tone confusions

WHAT IS DOWNSTEP?

- "... compression of pitch range that lowers the F0 targets for any H tones subsequent to a downstep trigger." (Engligh ToBI Guide, p.24)

- In Pierrehumbert's system, the downstep trigger is phonological: any bitonal pitch accent (H*+L, H+L*, L*+H, L+H*) will trigger.

- In the ToBI system, the trigger for downstep is not defined, but may in fact be related to discourse salience.

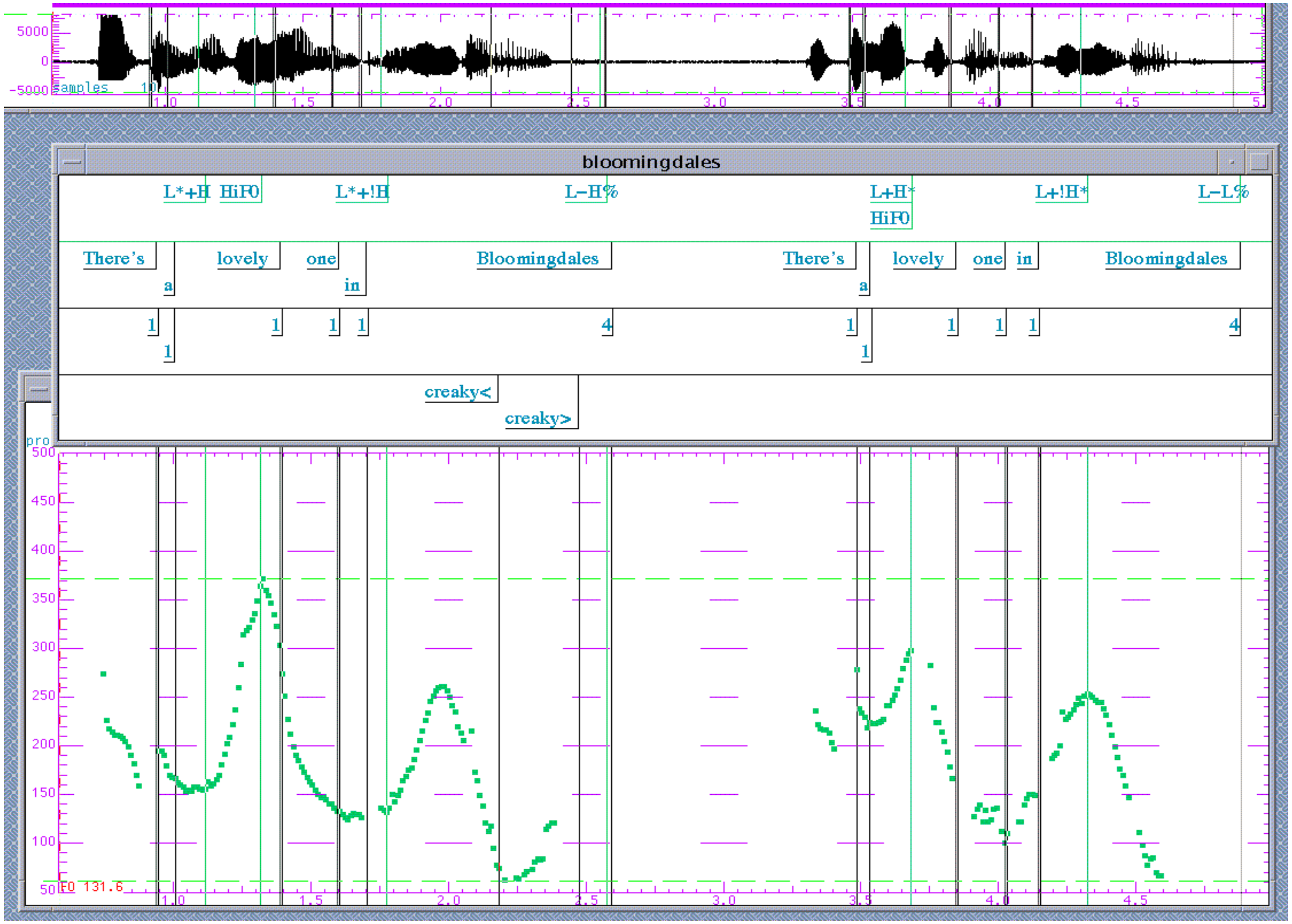

Figure 1: Non-downstepped then downstepped L*+H and L+H* accents.

MORE ABOUT DOWNSTEP IN ToBI ...

- Any pitch accent (containing a high) or high phrase accent can be downstepped, and this is marked by a “!” before the main HIGH tone component: for example, !H*, L+!H*, L*+!H, !H-, etc.
- The effect of downstep is cumulative within the intermediate phrase.
- Downstep is blocked by an intermediate phrase (or higher) boundary. That is, a new pitch range which is independent of the previous specification is chosen at each new iP.
- MEANING: Downstepped accents tend to mark information which is already in, or inferable from, the discourse context (see Pierrehumbert & Hirschberg (1990) for a related discussion of H*+L).

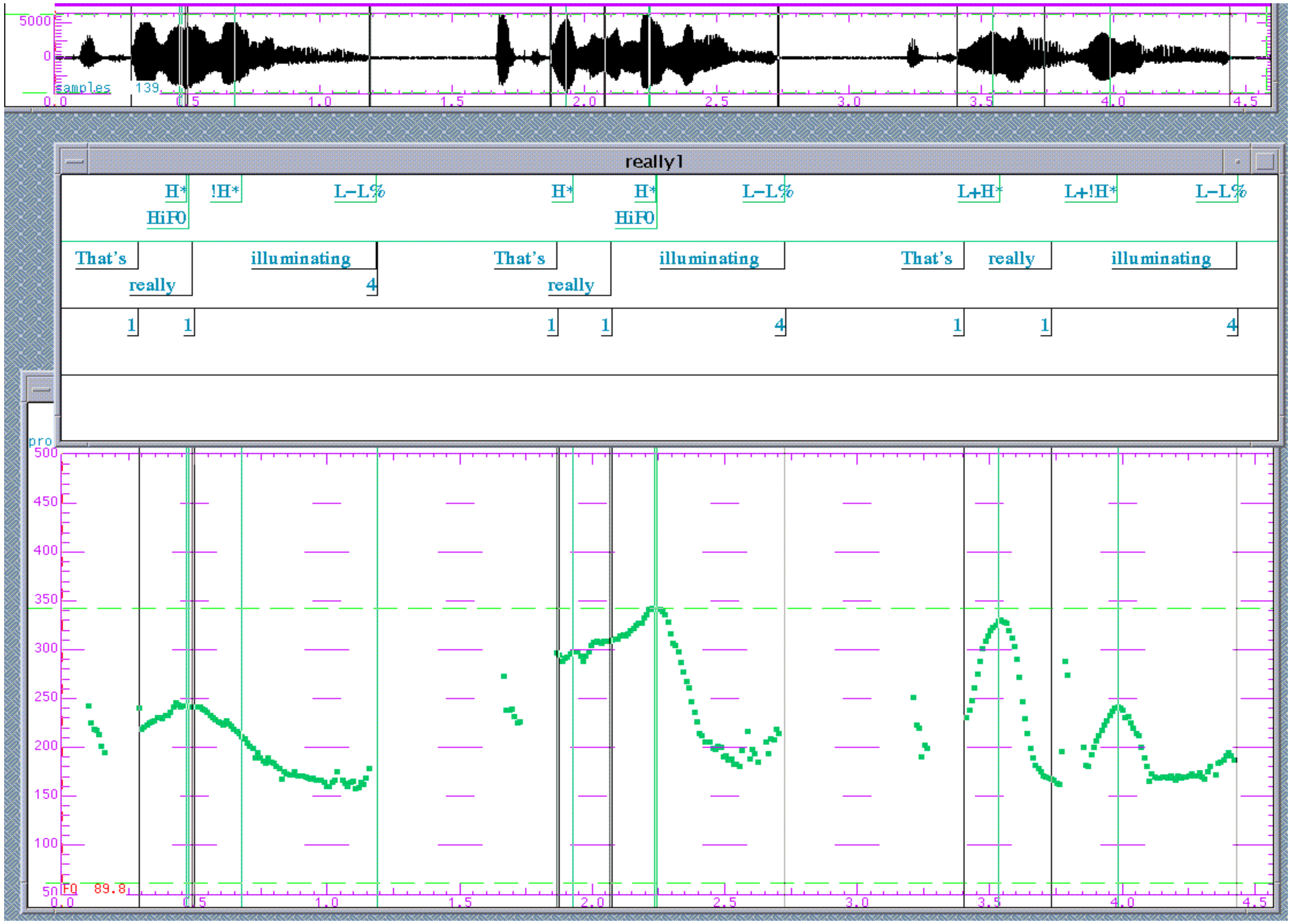

Figure 2: Downstepped nuclear !H* vs. non-downstepped nuclear H* vs. downstepped nuclear L+H*.

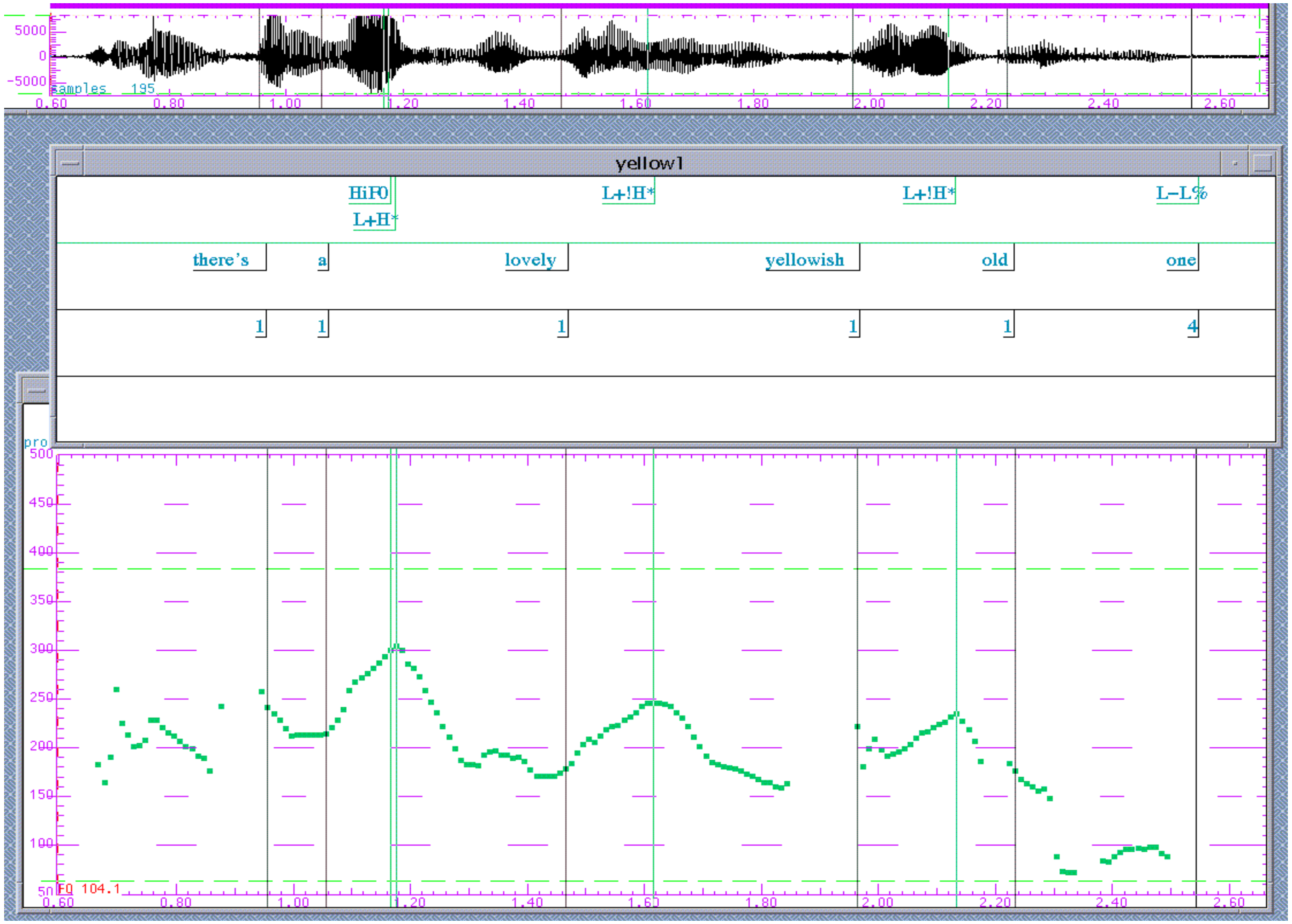

Figure 3: Downstepping of accents within the intermediate phrase.

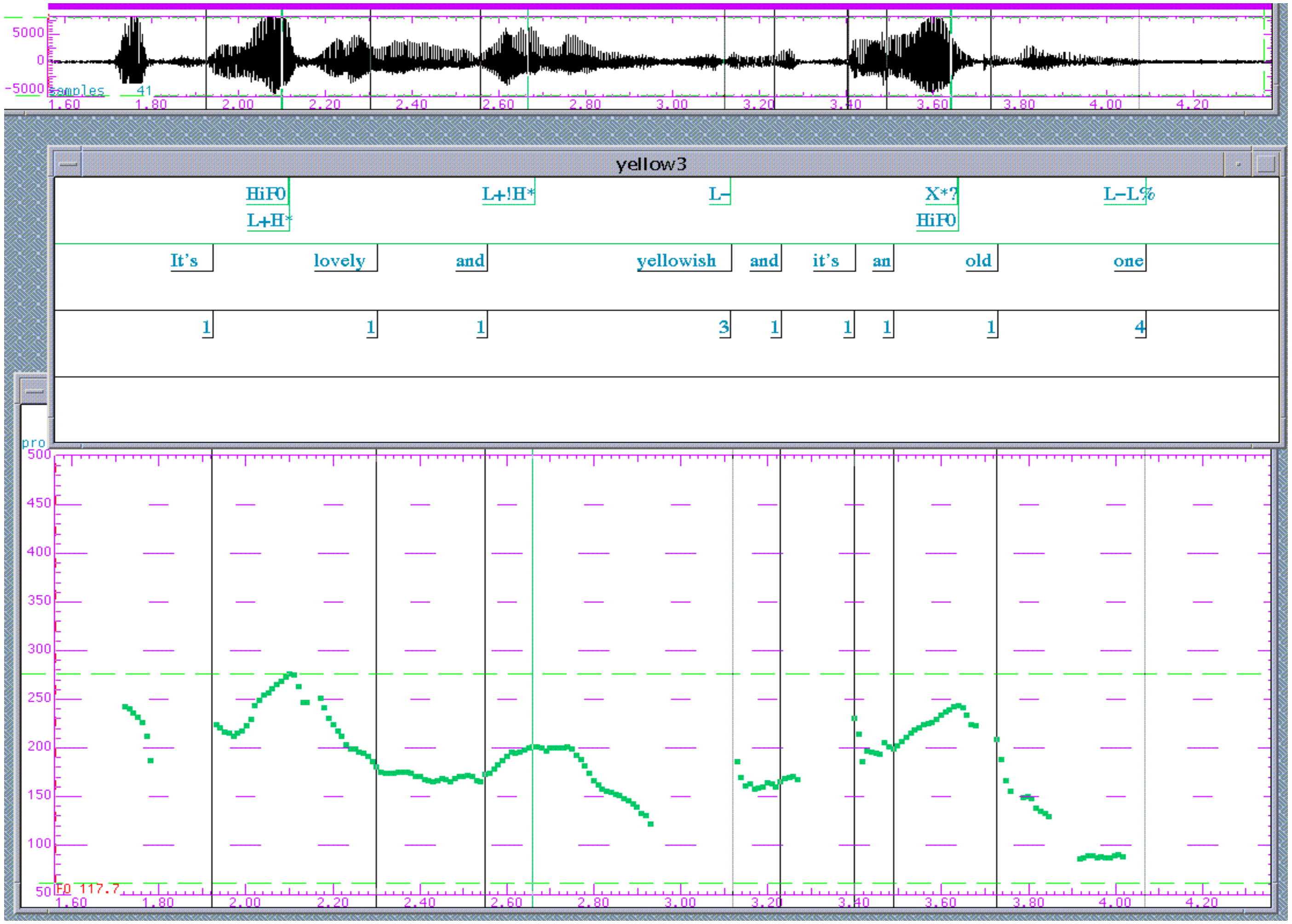

Figure 4: Downstep 'resetting' at an intermediate phrase boundary.

THE H+!H* ACCENT, OR IS IT H+L*?

- A fall from a high pitch to a lower pitch level on the accented syllable.

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A: What's up with the baby? Why is she crying so much?
B: She's teething.
       H+!H*     L-L%
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- MEANING: Cues that the information should already be in the mutual belief space (see Pierrehumbert & Hirschberg (1990) for a related discussion of H+L*).

- Is the ToBI H+!H* equivalent in meaning and form to H+L*? [Read more: Grice (1995) describes a systematic difference between the two accents.]

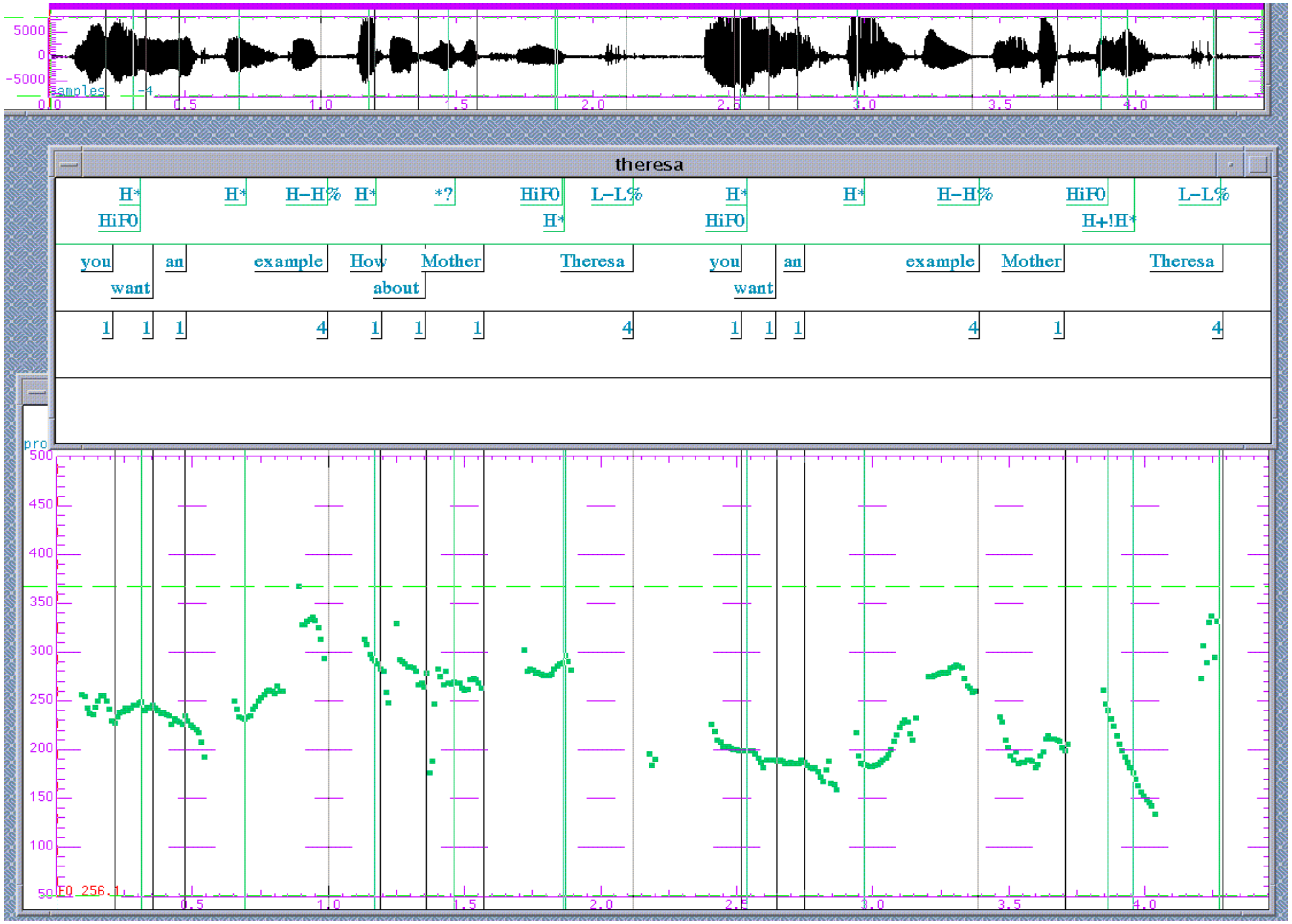

Figure 5: Example of H+!H* accent on *Mother Theresa* in the second utterance.