

## Experiment 2: Cutting up a damp skunk

## 1. Introduction

In this experiment, we're going to manipulate stretches of the waveform of the utterance "damp skunk" to see how a sound's context influences its perception. You'll need to follow the steps listed in the Methods section scrupulously to get the desired effects. You'll then report them by answering the corresponding questions in the Results section.

To do this experiment, you'll need to download the waveform file "damp\_skunk\_6.wav" as well as this document. None of the changes you make below in this file are saved, so it's always possible to go back to the beginning by removing the entry from the Object list and re-reading the file.

## 2. Method

- a. Select the [s] at the beginning of the word "skunk" by selecting the interval between 0.541435 and 0.675295, and then cutting it using "Cut" (also Ctrl-X) from the Edit menu.
- b. Paste the [s] at 0.018707, by moving the cursor to that location and then using "Paste after selection" (also Ctrl-V) from the Edit menu.
- c. Undo the Paste by selecting "Undo" (also Ctrl-Z) from the Edit menu. Now selection the interval between 0.335408 and 0.490181, and cut it out.
- d. Move the cursor to 0.626, using "Move cursor to" from the Select menu, and paste the interval cut out in step (c). Then select the interval from 0.780794 to 0.906 and cut it out.
- e. Paste the interval cut out in step (d) at 0.335408.
- f. Select the interval from 0.526542 to 0.560414, cut it out, and paste it at 0.083696. Then select the interval from 0.117555 to 0.135944, cut it out, and paste it at 0.541484.

## 3. Results

- a. Play the result. What do you hear?
- b. Play the result. What do you hear? What's surprising about the changes that take place in (a) and (b)?

- c. Play the result. What do you hear? Does anything change compared to (a)?
- d. Play the result. What has changed?
- e. Play the result. What do you hear now? What's surprising about the changes brought about by steps (d) and (e)?
- f. Play the result. What do you hear now? What has changed? What has, perhaps, remained the same?