Pause-internal particles (PINTs)

Research Questions: What is the frequency and duration of PINTs? Does PINTs usage vary between- and within-speakers?

- Lectures from Open Yale Courses: spontaneous speech from 5 different lecturers, recorded over a 12-week period
- Annotations of PINTs: silence (sil), inhalation noise (in), exhalation noise (ex), filler particles uh and um, tongue click (cl), and other (o)
- Annotations of three separate lectures per speaker (approx. 5 hours total)

Pause-internal particles in university lectures
Mikey Elmers, Jürgen Trouvain
Dept. of Language Science and Technology, Saarland University, Saarbrücken (Germany)
elmers@lst.uni-saarland.de

Conclusion
- PINTs account for 30% of total speaking time with silences, inhalation noises, and realizations of 'uh' accounting for 27% of total speaking time
- Speakers are consistent with their individual PINTs usage throughout the 12-week course
- Speakers exhibit different PINTs choice and frequency

Between- and within-speaker variability

Duration and frequency distribution of PINTs

Plot Details
- Top left: proportion of PINTs to speech
- Top right: individual PINTs proportion of total speaking time
- Bottom right: individual PINTs duration information
- Below: individual PINTs count for each speaker and session