## Package 'readtextgrid'

October 27, 2025

```
Type Package
Title Read in a 'Praat' 'TextGrid' File
Version 0.2.0
Description 'Praat' <a href="https://www.fon.hum.uva.nl/praat/">https://www.fon.hum.uva.nl/praat/</a> is a widely
      used tool for manipulating, annotating and analyzing speech and
      acoustic data. It stores annotation data in a format called a
      'TextGrid'. This package provides a way to read these
      files into R.
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Author Tristan Mahr [aut, cre] (ORCID:
       <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8890-5116>),
      Dan Villarreal [ctb],
      Jonathan Washington [ctb],
      Josef Fruehwald [aut]
Maintainer Tristan Mahr <tristan.mahr@wisc.edu>
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example\_textgrid

Locate the path of an example textgrid file

## Description

Locate the path of an example textgrid file

#### Usage

```
example_textgrid(which = 1)
```

## Arguments

which

index of the textgrid to load

## Details

This function is a wrapper over system.file() to locate the paths to bundled textgrids. These files are used to test or demonstrate functionality of the package.

Two files are included:

- 1. "Mary\_John\_bell.TextGrid" the default TextGrid created by Praat's Create TextGrid command. This file is saved as UTF-8 encoding.
- 2. "utf\_16\_be.TextGrid" a TextGrid with some IPA characters entered using Praat's IPA character selector. This file is saved with UTF-16 encoding.
- 3. "nested-intervals.TextGrid" A textgrid containing an "utterance" tier, a "words" tier, and a "phones" tier. This file is typical of forced alignment textgrids where utterances contain words which contain speech segments. In this case, alignment was made by hand so that word and phone boundaries do not correspond exactly.

#### Value

Path of "Mary\_John\_bell.TextGrid" bundled with the readtextgrid package.

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pivot\_textgrid\_tiers Pivot a textgrid into wide format, respecting nested tiers

#### **Description**

Pivot a textgrid into wide format, respecting nested tiers

## Usage

```
pivot_textgrid_tiers(data, tiers, join_cols = "file")
```

#### Arguments

data a textgrid dataframe created with read\_textgrid()

tiers character vector of tiers to pivot into wide format. When tiers has more than 1

element, the tiers are treated as nested. For example, if tiers is c("utterance", "word", "phone"), where "utterance" intervals contain "word" intervals which in turn contain "phone" intervals, the output will have one row per "phone" interval and include utterance\_\* and word\_\* columns for the utterance and word intervals that contain each phone interval. tiers should be ordered from broad-

est to narrowest (e.g, "word" preceding "phone").

join\_cols character vector of the columns that will uniquely identify a textgrid file. De-

faults to "file" because these columns have identical values for tiers read from

the same textgrid file.

#### **Details**

For the joining nested intervals, two intervals a and b are combined into the same row if they match on the values in the join\_cols columns and if the a\$xmin <= b\$xmid and b\$xmid <= a\$xmax. That is, if the midpoint of b is contained inside the interval a.

#### Value

a dataframe with just the intervals from tiers named in tiers converted into a wide format. Columns are renamed so that the text column is pivot into columns named after the tier names. For example, the text column in a words tier is renamed to words. The xmax, xmin, annotation\_num, tier\_num, tier\_type are also prefixed with the tier name. For example, the xmax column in a words tier is renamed to words\_xmax. An additional helper column xmid is added and prefixed appropriately. See examples below.

## **Examples**

```
data <- example_textgrid(3) |>
  read_textgrid()
data

# With a single tier, we get just that tier with the columns prefixed with
```

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```
# the tier_name
pivot_textgrid_tiers(data, "utterance")
pivot_textgrid_tiers(data, "words")

# With multiple tiers, intervals in one tier that contain intervals in
# another tier are combined into the same row.
a <- pivot_textgrid_tiers(data, c("utterance", "words"))
cols <- c(
    "utterance", "utterance_xmin", "utterance_xmax",
    "words", "words_xmin", "words_xmax"
)
a[cols]

a <- pivot_textgrid_tiers(data, c("utterance", "words", "phones"))
cols <- c(cols, "phones", "phones_xmin", "phones_xmax")
a[cols]</pre>
```

read\_textgrid

Read a textgrid file into a tibble

## **Description**

Read a textgrid file into a tibble

#### Usage

```
read_textgrid(path, file = NULL, encoding = NULL)
read_textgrid_lines(lines, file = NULL)
legacy_read_textgrid(path, file = NULL, encoding = NULL)
legacy_read_textgrid_lines(lines, file = NULL)
```

## Arguments

path	a path to a textgrid
file	an optional value to use for the file column. For read_textgrid(), the default is the base filename of the input file. For read_textgrid_lines(), the default is NA.
encoding	the encoding of the textgrid. The default value NULL uses readr::guess_encoding() to guess the encoding of the textgrid. If an encoding is provided, it is forwarded to [readr::locale()] and [readr::read_lines()].
lines	alternatively, the lines of a textgrid file

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#### **Details**

The legacy\_read\_textgrid functions are the original textgrid parsers provided by the package. They assume that the TextGrid file is a "long" format textgrid; this is the default format used by "Save a text file..." in Praat.

The current read\_textgrid() functions are more flexible and can read in "short" format textgrids and textgrids with comments.

See <a href="https://www.fon.hum.uva.nl/praat/manual/TextGrid\_file\_formats.html">https://www.fon.hum.uva.nl/praat/manual/TextGrid\_file\_formats.html</a> for a description of the textgrid file format. Note that this package does not strictly adhere to format as described in this document. For example, the document says that numbers should be freestanding (surrounded by spaces or string boundaries), but Praat.exe can handle malformed numbers like 100ms. Therefore, we tried to implement a parser that matched what Praat actually handles.

#### Value

a tibble with one row per textgrid annotation

#### **Examples**

```
tg <- system.file("Mary_John_bell.TextGrid", package = "readtextgrid")
read_textgrid(tg)</pre>
```

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