



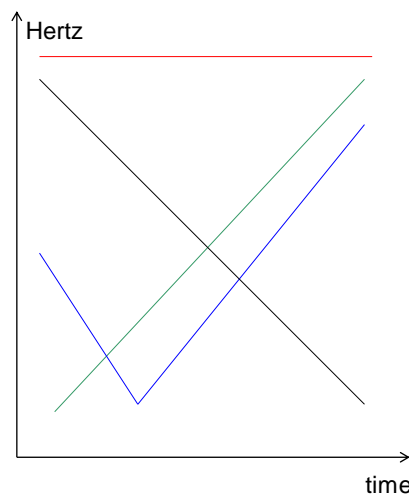
An Animated and Narrated Glossary of
Terms used in Linguistics
presents

Tone letter/value



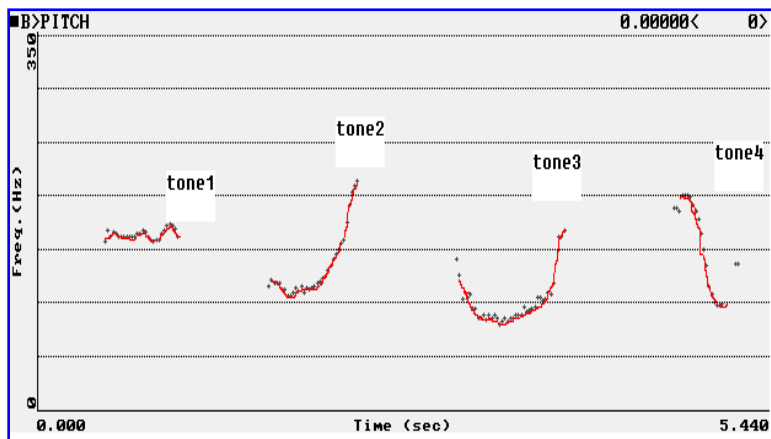
Tones in Putonghua

- Tone 1: High flat
- Tone 2: Rising
- Tone 3: Dipping
- Tone 4: Falling





Putonghua Tones (Wee 2004)



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Indicating tone

Diacritics

Descriptive labels

TONES AND WORD ACCENTS			
LEVEL		CONTOUR	
é or ˉ	Extra high	ě or ˆ	Rising
ē or ˊ	High	ē or ˋ	Falling
ē or ˊ	Mid	ē or ˊ	High rising
ē or ˊ	Low	ē or ˊ	Low rising
ē or ˊ	Extra low	ē or ˊ	Rising-falling

Pictorial shapes

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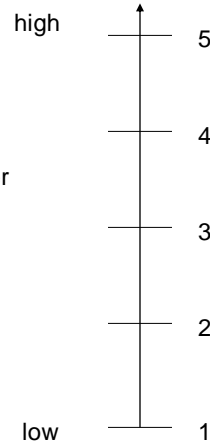
Tone Letters (Chao 1930)

Tone contour can be expressed in terms of **sequence** of tone letters indicating **starting, turning and ending points**.

Level tones can be [55], [33], [11] etc depending on (i) the kinds of tone contrasts in the language and (ii) the pitch level of the speaker using normal phonation.

Likewise, rising tones can be [15], [35], [13] etc, and falling tones are [51], [42], ...

Complex tones can be expressed as a sequence, e.g. [214], [353], ...



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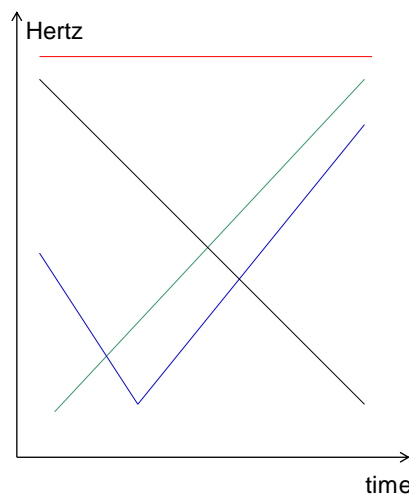
Tones in Putonghua

Tone 1: High flat = [55]

Tone 2: Rising = [15]

Tone 3: Dipping = [214]

Tone 4: Falling = [51]



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Tone value

When tones are expressed in terms of tone letters [1, 2, 3, 4, 5], that expression is known as the **tone value** of that tone.

E.g. Cantonese

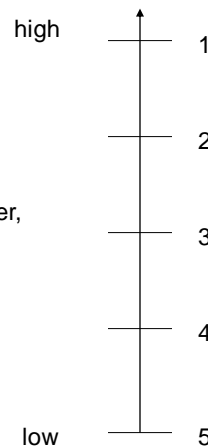
诗	时	使	米	试	事	识	各	食
<i>poem</i>	<i>time</i>	<i>cause</i>	<i>rice</i>	<i>try</i>	<i>matter</i>	<i>know</i>	<i>each</i>	<i>eat</i>
[55]	[21]	[35]	[13]	[33]	[22]	[5]	[3]	[2]
[53]								

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Tone Letters (South American)

Tone contour can be expressed in terms of **sequence** of tone letters indicating **starting, turning and ending points**.
Hyphens are often used to separate each tone letter, e.g. [3-5] is a low falling tone in this system.



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The End

Wee, Lian-Hee and Winnie H.Y. Cheung (2009)
An animated and narrated glossary of terms used in Linguistics.
Hong Kong Baptist University.

