

FORMANTS

1. Formants

- As air passes through vocal cords they vibrate with the fixed frequency.
- The result is sound wave with the same fundamental frequency and corresponding harmonics.
- By changing position of tongue, lips and mouth's muscles you are changing resonant frequencies of the mouth.
- This means that sound waves of certain frequencies become amplified once they enter the mouth.
- Such mouth's resonant frequencies are called formants.
- Formants are different when you say A,E,I,O or U.
- So the key in identifying what was said is to detect formants.
- When air that went through vocal cords enters mouth, harmonics that are near formants get amplified, making formants visible.

2. References

- [1] <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Formant>