F0-Declination in French and German Broadcast News speech
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The aim of this project is to contribute to the discussion about the nature of f0-Declination. F0-Declination is referred to as "the tendency for F0 to gradually drift downward in the course of an utterance" (Cohen and t'Hart, 1990). It is still debated whether it is part of the linguistic code (and speaker controlled) or whether it is an automatic byproduct of some physiological process and as well whether it is a global attribute that requires whole-phrase planning or whether it is a concatenation of local events.
Contrary to most previous research, this study investigates F0-Declination in natural speech from large uncontrolled broadcast-news corpora and undertakes a cross-linguistic comparison, thus revealing the general declination effect in order to help better understand the nature of declination.