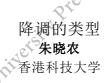# TYPES OF FALLING TONES
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ABSTRACT

Based on firsthand acoustic data, this paper aims to determine how many phonologically contrastive falling tones exist in tonal languages, and what kinds of distinctive features are needed to specify them.[1] These goals are achieved by using a tonal model called the Multi-Register and Four-Level Model, which represents tones along four parameters: register, length, height, and contour. Having excluded a quasi-falling tone, this paper identifies seven Falling Tonotypes in the M Register: High, Low, MS-High, MS-Low, Deferred-High, Deferred-Low, and Slight Falling. Four of these also occur in the L Register with special voice qualities. In total, there are eleven Falling Tonotypes, which can be specified according to five distinctive features.

KEYWORDS

Tonotype　**T**one　**T**ypology　**F**alling types　**T**onal representation　**T**onal parameters　**R**egister　**D**istinctive feature

降调的类型

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提要

本文旨在确定声调语言中到底有多少种有音法对立的降调，刻画这些降调又需要什么样的区别特征。要做到这些，一是需要大量的第一手声学材料，二是需要一个'分域四度'标调制，在这个模型中，声调用四个参数或维度来表达：域度、长度、高度、拱度。在排除了一种貌似降调之后，本文辨认出中域里的七种降型：高降、低降、中短高降、中短低降、高弯降、低弯降、微降。其中有四种还出现于低域，带有特殊发声态。降调总共有十一种，可以用五个区别特征来刻画：[±中域，长，直，高前，高后]。