

IDENTIFYING CHANGES IN LATE WOODLAND CERAMIC TRADITIONS

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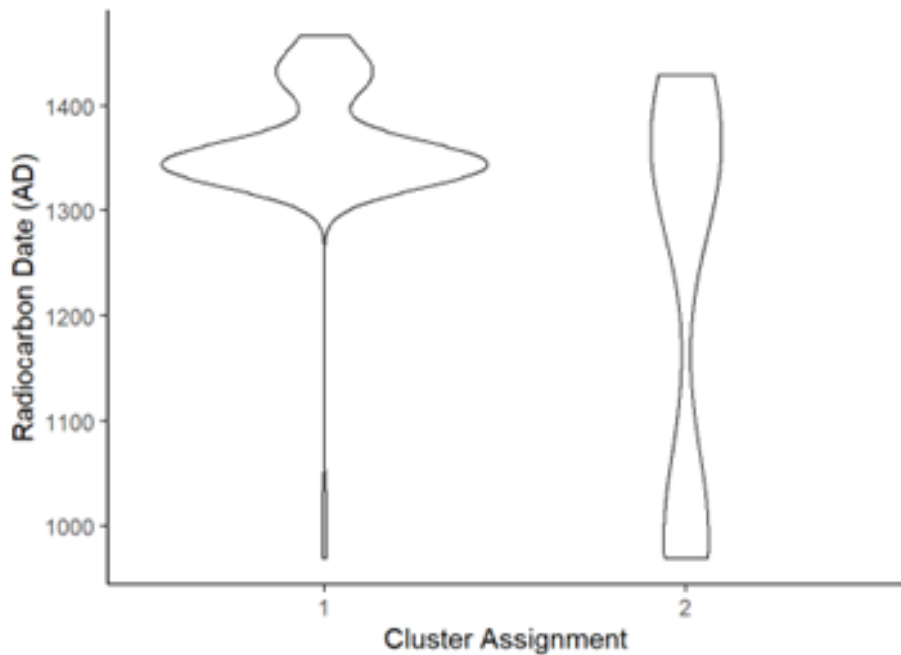
INTRODUCTION

The MacNichol Site in northern Ohio is a Late Woodland site occupied intermittently from about AD 740 to AD 1460. No formal analysis had previously been made of the ceramics from the site due to dating issues; with new dates and statistical modelling techniques, this assemblage sheds new light on changes in Late Woodland ceramics.

Cluster analysis shows that temper and firing environment predict change in Late Woodland ceramic traditions before and after AD 1250.

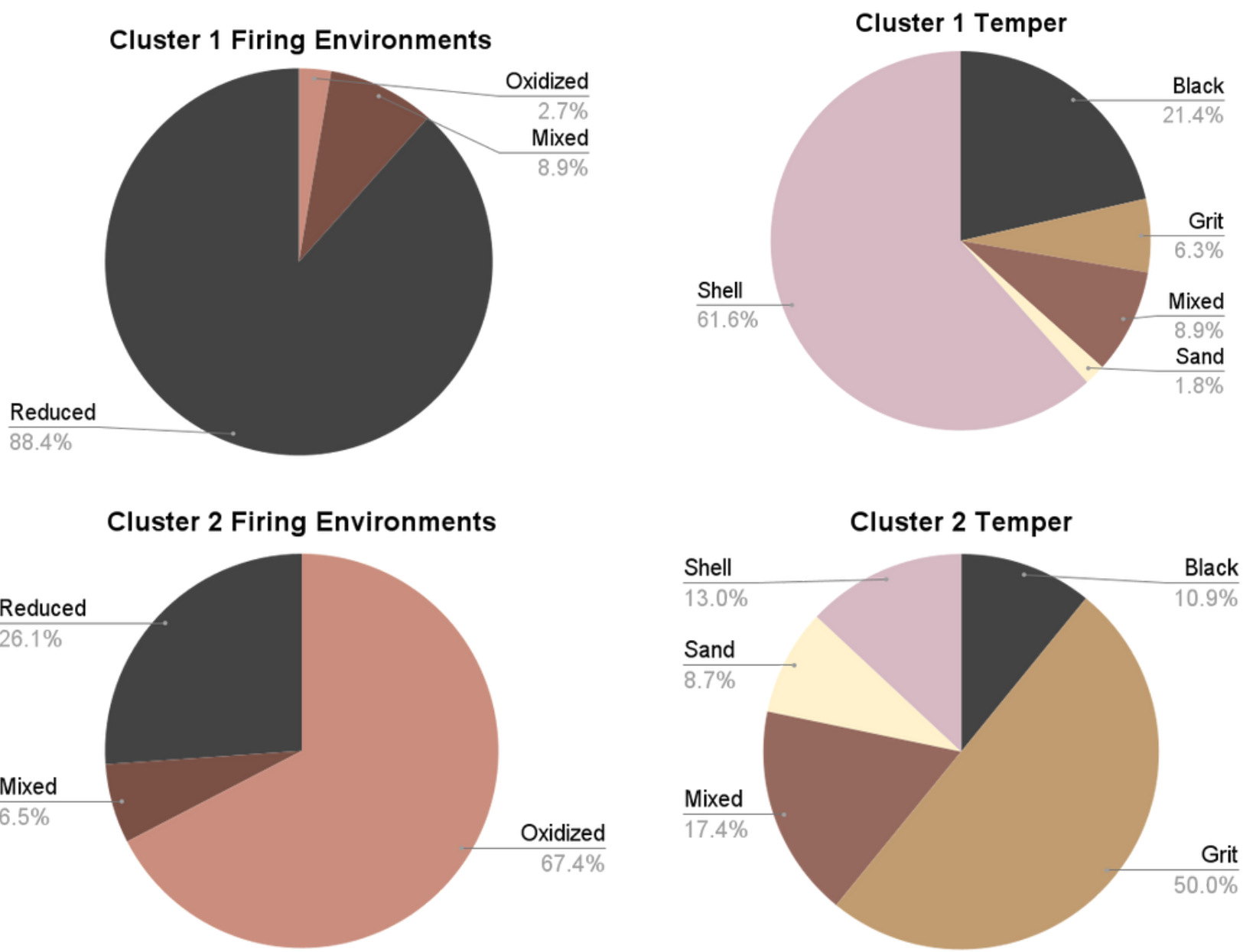
CHANGE OVER TIME

- Cluster 1 generally later; Cluster 2 originates earlier but continues past inflection point



CLUSTER ANALYSIS

- Sherds run through Partitioning Around Medoids algorithm to group by similarity in terms of temper, firing environment, color, and thickness
- Temper & firing environment proved most significant for grouping



CERAMICS OF THE LATE WOODLAND

- Western Lake Erie Basin primarily characterized by two traditions: the Western Basin Tradition (WBT) and the Sandusky Tradition (ST)
- A shift occurs around AD 1250 with different ceramics thought to have originated from ST (but this is debated).
- Some say change indicates displacement of WBT; however, our results imply interaction between the groups



CONCLUSIONS

- Type of temper and firing environment show the most change from the early to late occupations of the MacNichol site
- The older style of ceramics identified by the clustering algorithm continue to be found after AD 1250, suggesting that the later ceramics did not represent a complete displacement of this tradition
- Cluster analysis and other statistical models are powerful tools for the study of ancient ceramics.

Acknowledgements

Thank you to my advisors, Dr. Raven Garvey and Laura Bossio, and to Dr. Lisa Young and the members of my cohort for making this thesis possible.

Key Reference

Stothers, D. M., & Abel, T. J. (2002). The Early Late Woodland in the Southwestern Lake Erie Littoral Region. In J. P. Hart & C. B. Rieth (Eds.), Northeast subsistence-settlement change, A.D. 700-A.D. 1300. New York State Museum/New York State Education Department.