

Vowel formants example

Steven Moran

(16 October, 2023)

Contents

Getting started	1
Load the R packages that we need for analysis	1
Load some example vowel data	2
Have a look at the raw data	2
Working with the data	2
Overview	2
Single speaker	3
All speakers	4
Filter out outliers	6
Analyses	9
Phonetic differences by sex	9
Differences in pitch	11
Pitch versus height	12

Getting started

Load the R packages that we need for analysis

In R, you need to install (once) any R software package (aka library) that you want to use, before you load it with the `library()` function.

This code will check whether or not you have those packages, and if not, will install them and load the packages for you.

```
if(!require("tidyverse")) install.packages("tidyverse")
if(!require("ggpubr")) install.packages("ggpubr")
if(!require("devtools")) install.packages("devtools")
library(devtools)
if(!require("ggConvexHull")) devtools::install_github("cmartin/ggConvexHull")
```

Once a package is already installed on your computer, you can simply load it with the `library()` function, like this:

```
library(tidyverse)
library(ggpubr)
library(ggConvexHull)
```

Some notes on what these libraries do (you can skip this and go to the next section):

The tidyverse package will install several R packages including:

- ggplot for creating nice looking plots
- dplyr for manipulating data easily

We are going to additionally use ggpubr package because it is helpful in making professional looking plots.

And the ggConvexHull package, which extends the `geom_polygon()` function in the ggplot package, so that we can add a convex hull around our vowel polygon data. This package is available via GitHub and hence the devtools package.

Load some example vowel data

First make sure that you set your working directory to where this file is by clicking on RStudio > Session > Set Working Directory > To Source File Location.

Then we can load some example data in the same directory as this file.

```
df <- read_csv('data.csv')
```

Note that this is an example, and what you really want to be able to do is load the data that we collect in class from in the Google spreadsheet.

To do so, first download it from the shared Google sheets as a CSV file.

Put it in the same directory as this file.

Then you can load it with the same command above.

Have a look at the raw data

Let's have a look at the data.

```
df
```

```
## # A tibble: 35 x 10
##       ID Word  Vowel    F0    F1    F2    F3 Sex  L1      Height
##   <dbl> <chr> <chr> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <chr> <chr>    <dbl>
## 1     1    heed    i    120   319  2522  3299 M    English    69
## 2     1   hayed    e    115   418  2119  3631 M    English    69
## 3     1   hawed    a    115   558  1044  2677 M    English    69
## 4     1  who'd    u    122   317   874  2668 M    English    69
## 5     1   hoed    o    119   457  1044  2587 M    English    69
## 6     2    heed    i    180   383  2756  3159 F    English    62
## 7     2   hayed    e    181   503  2596  2937 F    English    62
## 8     2   hawed    a    177   785  1509  2817 F    English    62
## 9     2  who'd    u    201   383  1208  2837 F    English    62
## 10    2   hoed    o    185   544  1208  2817 F    English    62
## # i 25 more rows
```

Working with the data

Overview

Above we had a quick look at the raw data, which you can also do directly with RStudio by clicking on the dataframe in the Environment tab.

There are lots of ways of doing preliminary data analysis and one great way is to visualize the data!

Recall our discussion of how the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) vowel chart looks – head faces left, vertical access is the jaw’s height (closed to open) and the horizontal access is the position of the tongue (front to back in the mouth).

Single speaker

Let’s look at one speaker in our sample. This is where the data manipulation R package `dplyr` comes in handy! We will talk about how to use these functions in class.

The `dplyr` package has several functions that allow us to `filter()` rows and to `select()` columns (among many other useful things!).

Let’s filter out a single speaker and plot their vowels. You can set the ID to yourself!

```
single_speaker <- df %>% filter(ID == 5)
```

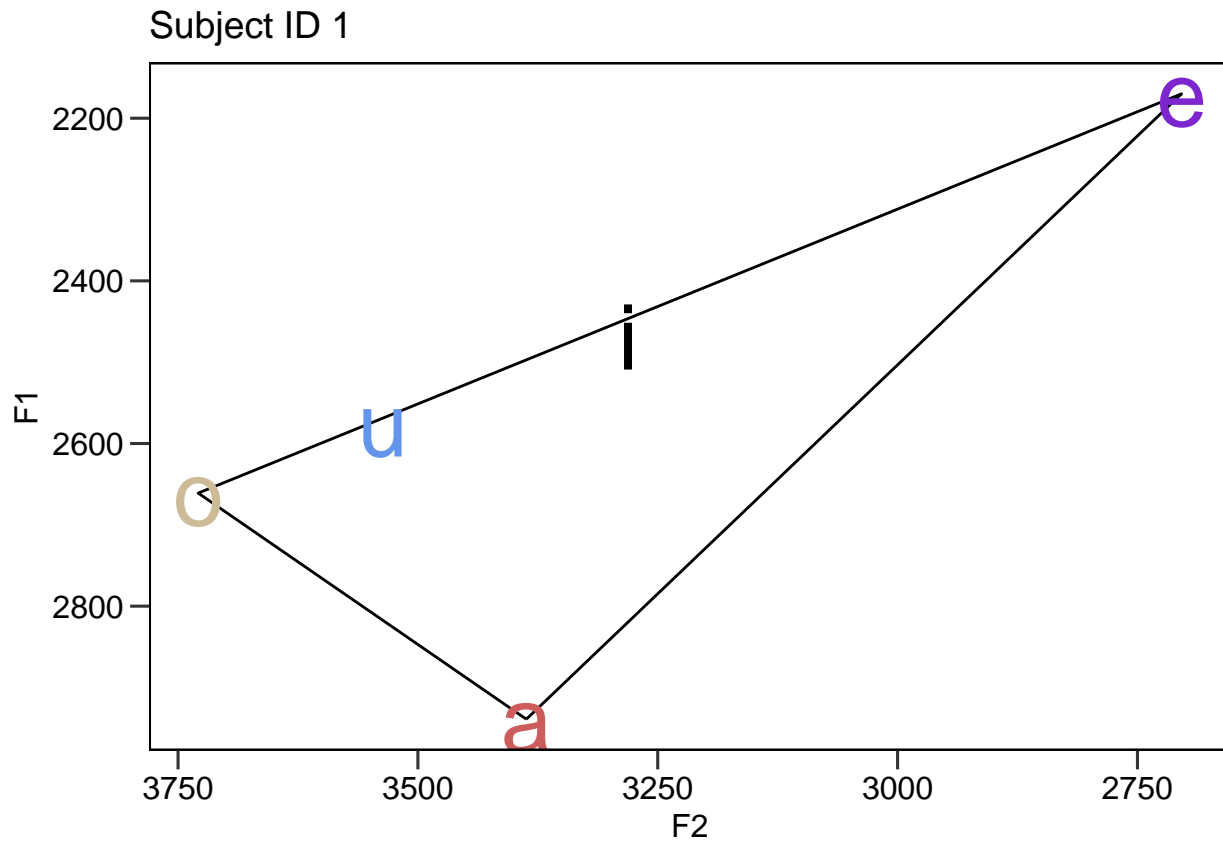
Above, we have saved the output of filtering by `ID == 1` (read “subject ID equals one”) to a new data frame and named it `single_speaker`. Let’s have a look.

```
single_speaker
```

```
## # A tibble: 5 x 10
##       ID Word Vowel   F0    F1    F2    F3 Sex  L1    Height
##   <dbl> <chr> <chr> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <chr> <chr>    <dbl>
## 1     5 heed  i    169.  2469  3281  3772 M   Spanish    67
## 2     5 hayed e    142.  2170  2704  3750 M   Spanish    67
## 3     5 hawed a    133.  2939  3387  4583 M   Spanish    67
## 4     5 who'd u    144.  2576  3537  4220 M   Spanish    67
## 5     5 hoed  o    127.  2661  3729  4583 M   Spanish    67
```

Now let’s plot Subject ID 1’s vowel formant values for F1 and F2.

```
ggplot(single_speaker, aes(x = F2, y = F1, color = Vowel)) +
  geom_convexhull(alpha = 0, colour = "black") +
  geom_text(aes(label = Vowel), size = 12) +
  scale_x_reverse() +
  scale_y_reverse() +
  coord_cartesian() +
  theme_pubr(border = TRUE, legend = "none") +
  theme(axis.ticks.length = unit(.25, "cm")) +
  scale_color_manual(
    name = "Vowel",
    values = c(
      "a" = "indianred",
      "i" = "black",
      "u" = "cornflowerblue",
      "o" = "wheat3",
      "e" = "purple3"
    )
  ) +
  ggtitle('Subject ID 1')
```



```
summary(df)
```

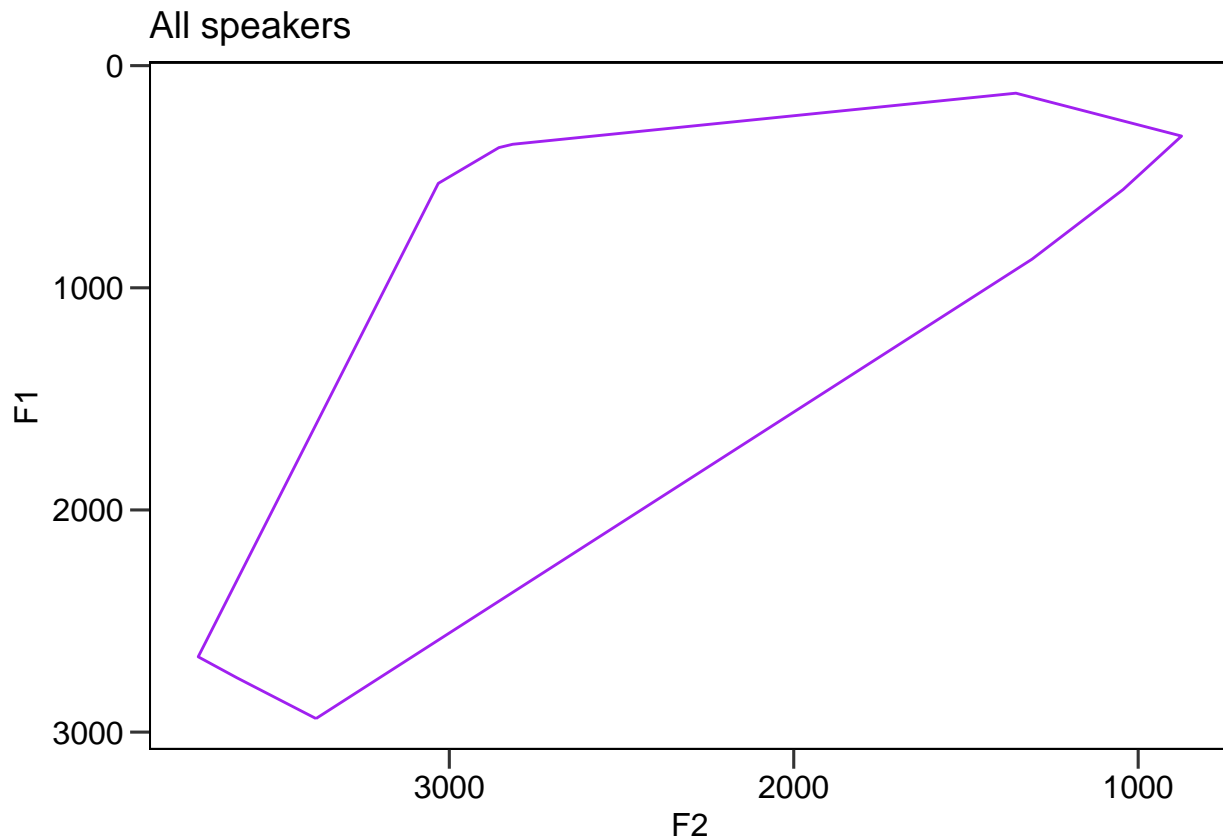
```
##      ID      Word      Vowel      F0
## Min.   :1  Length:35  Length:35  Min.   :115.0
## 1st Qu.:2  Class :character  Class :character  1st Qu.:123.5
## Median :4  Mode  :character  Mode  :character  Median :142.3
## Mean   :4                                     Mean  :154.9
## 3rd Qu.:6                                     3rd Qu.:182.4
## Max.   :7                                     Max.   :207.0
##      F1      F2      F3      Sex
## Min.   : 124.0  Min.   : 874  Min.   :2307  Length:35
## 1st Qu.: 344.5  1st Qu.:1208  1st Qu.:2824  Class :character
## Median : 461.0  Median :2268  Median :3104  Mode  :character
## Mean   : 925.0  Mean   :2132  Mean   :3287
## 3rd Qu.:1120.5  3rd Qu.:2818  3rd Qu.:3736
## Max.   :2939.0  Max.   :3729  Max.   :4583
##      L1      Height
## Length:35  Min.   :62.00
## Class :character  1st Qu.:62.00
## Mode  :character  Median :67.00
##                                     Mean  :66.43
##                                     3rd Qu.:69.00
##                                     Max.   :70.00
```

All speakers

Let's plot all of the F1 and F2 formants in our sample and see what they look like. We use the `ggplot()` function with lots of other functions. This is complicated – do not worry, we will go through this mess in

class.

```
ggplot(df, aes(x = F2, y = F1, color = Vowel)) +  
  geom_convexhull(alpha = 0, colour = "purple") +  
  scale_x_reverse() +  
  scale_y_reverse() +  
  coord_cartesian() +  
  theme_pubr(border = TRUE, legend = "none") +  
  theme(axis.ticks.length = unit(.25, "cm")) +  
  scale_color_manual(  
    name = "Vowel",  
    values = c(  
      "a" = "indianred",  
      "i" = "black",  
      "u" = "cornflowerblue",  
      "o" = "wheat3",  
      "e" = "purple3"  
    )  
  ) +  
  ggtitle('All speakers')
```

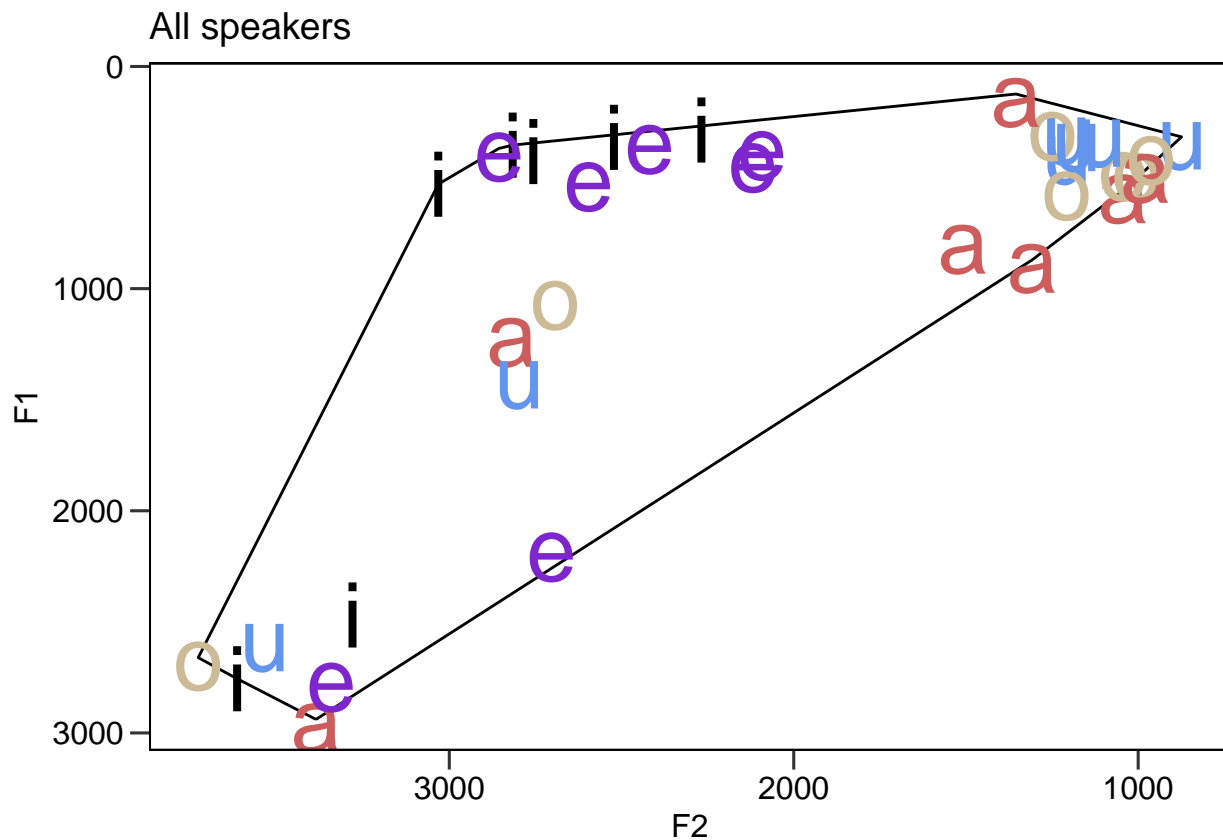


```
ggplot(df, aes(x = F2, y = F1, color = Vowel)) +  
  geom_convexhull(alpha = 0, colour = "black") +  
  geom_text(aes(label = Vowel), size = 12) +  
  scale_x_reverse() +  
  scale_y_reverse() +  
  coord_cartesian() +  
  theme_pubr(border = TRUE, legend = "none") +
```

```

theme(axis.ticks.length = unit(.25, "cm")) +
scale_color_manual(
  name = "Vowel",
  values = c(
    "a" = "indianred",
    "i" = "black",
    "u" = "cornflowerblue",
    "o" = "wheat3",
    "e" = "purple3"
  )
) +
ggtitle('All speakers')

```



This isn't a very normal looking vowel chart! We seem to have some outliers and/or mistakes in formant measurements, e.g., the “e” vowel in the bottom left corner is way too high in terms of F1 and F2 frequencies.

Filter out outliers

If we have outliers in our data, we can filter them out for exploratory purposes. For example, perhaps we find some data points (observations) that are missing data or perhaps some mistakes were made in the data collection. (Note that you should never remove outliers in real scientific experiments!)

First, let's check that all subjects have recorded all five vowels.

This code is a bit complex, but we will discuss it in class. By using `dplyr` we can “pipe” data frames (table data) into functions and manipulate the data.

Here we group by ID, i.e., we group each subjects responses into their own groups, and then we count (by “summarizing”) how many rows (`n()` function) are in each group – and we do so by creating a new column

called vowels.

```
df %>% group_by(ID) %>% summarize(vowels = n())
```

```
## # A tibble: 7 x 2
##       ID vowels
##   <dbl> <int>
## 1     1     5
## 2     2     5
## 3     3     5
## 4     4     5
## 5     5     5
## 6     6     5
## 7     7     5
```

```
df %>% group_by(Vowel) %>% select(Vowel, F1) %>% summarize(count = n())
```

```
## # A tibble: 5 x 2
##   Vowel count
##   <chr> <int>
## 1 a         7
## 2 e         7
## 3 i         7
## 4 o         7
## 5 u         7
```

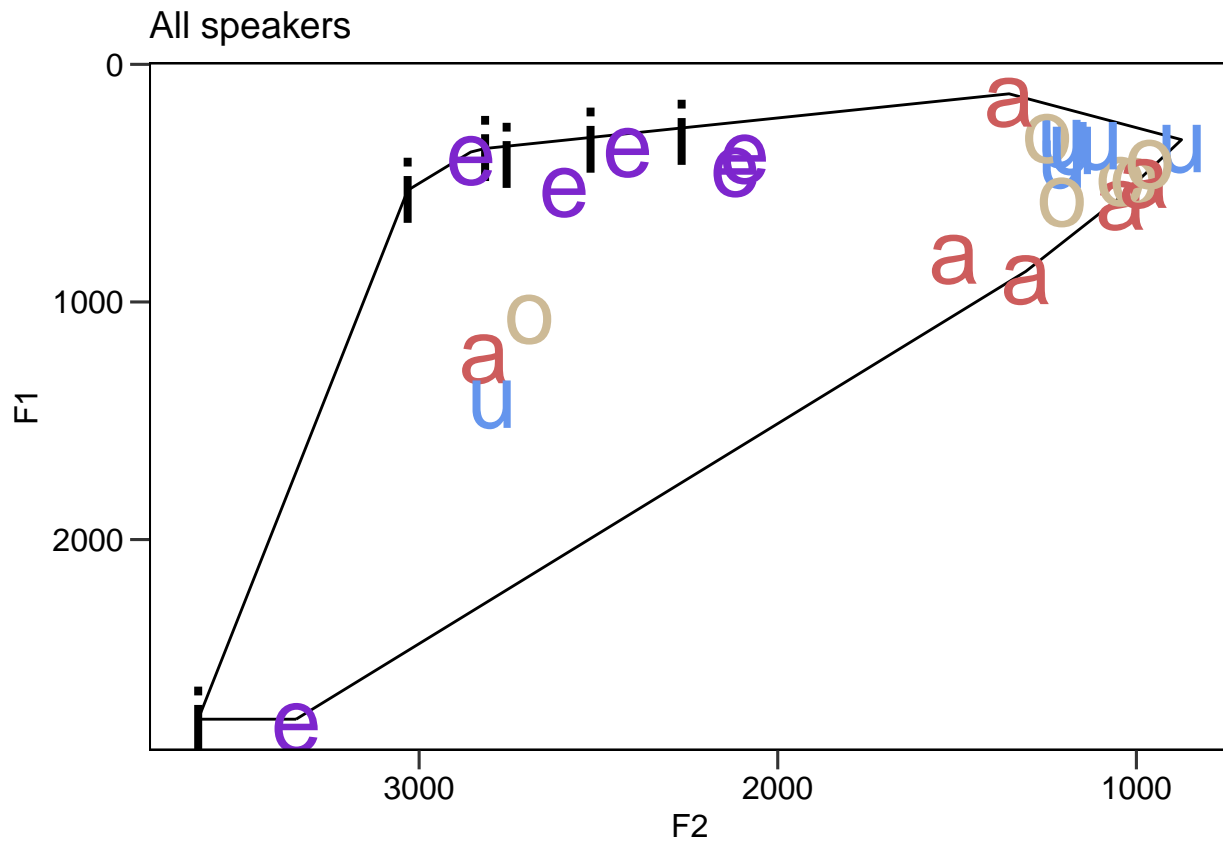
We will pretend that subject ID 2 does not have 5 observations. What we can do is remove that subject from our data set like this:

```
temp <- df %>% filter(ID != 5)
```

We saved the new data frame in a “temporary” data frame, so that we still have the full data in the `df` data frame.

Now let’s revisualize what’s left. We can use the same code we used above.

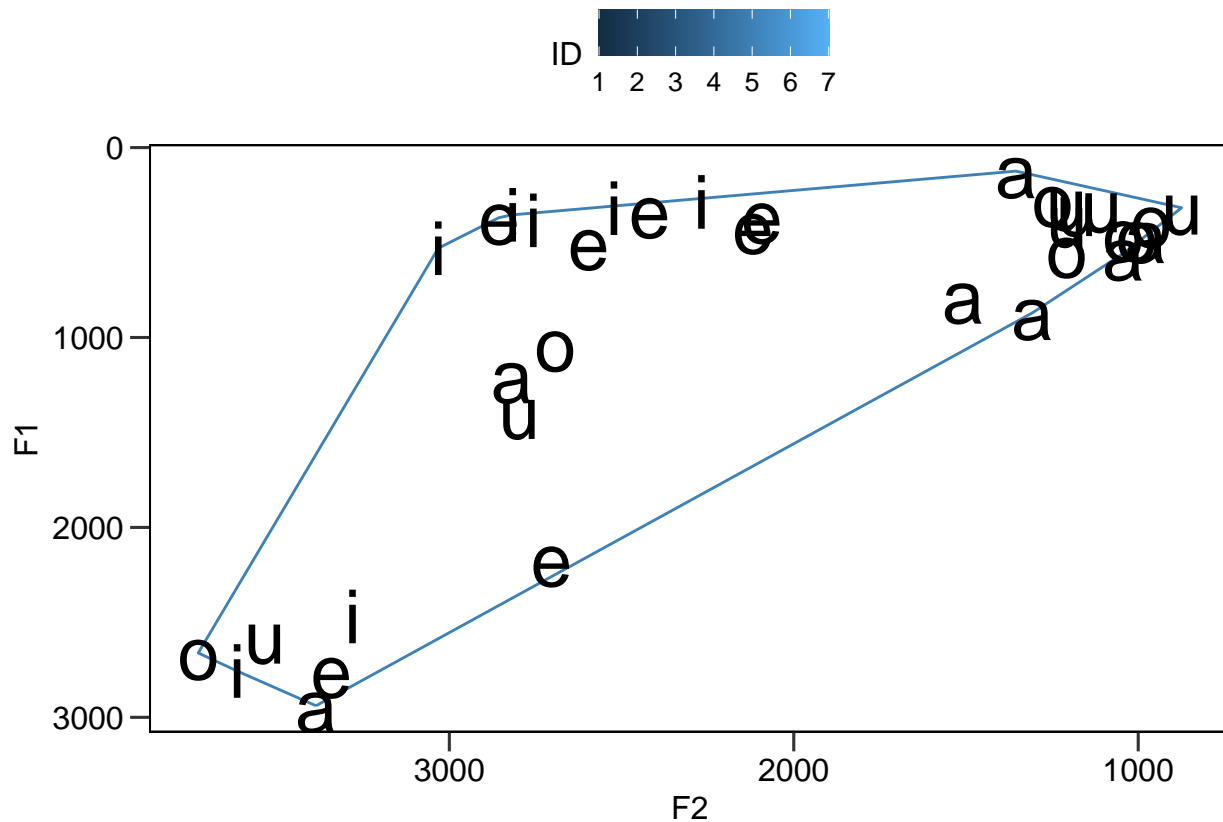
```
ggplot(temp, aes(x = F2, y = F1, color = Vowel)) +
  geom_convexhull(alpha = 0, colour = "black") +
  geom_text(aes(label = Vowel), size = 12) +
  scale_x_reverse() +
  scale_y_reverse() +
  coord_cartesian() +
  theme_pubr(border = TRUE, legend = "none") +
  theme(axis.ticks.length = unit(.25, "cm")) +
  scale_color_manual(
    name = "Vowel",
    values = c(
      "a" = "indianred",
      "i" = "black",
      "u" = "cornflowerblue",
      "o" = "wheat3",
      "e" = "purple3"
    )
  ) +
  ggtitle('All speakers')
```



See how the vowel chart changes. If we have great or more outliers, we will see more change.

For each speaker, we can add the vowel polygon lines.

```
ggplot(df, aes(x = F2, y = F1)) +
  geom_convexhull(alpha = 0, aes(colour = ID)) +
  geom_text(aes(label = Vowel), size = 10) +
  scale_x_reverse() +
  scale_y_reverse() +
  coord_cartesian() +
  theme_pubr(border = TRUE) +
  theme(axis.ticks.length = unit(.25, "cm"))
```

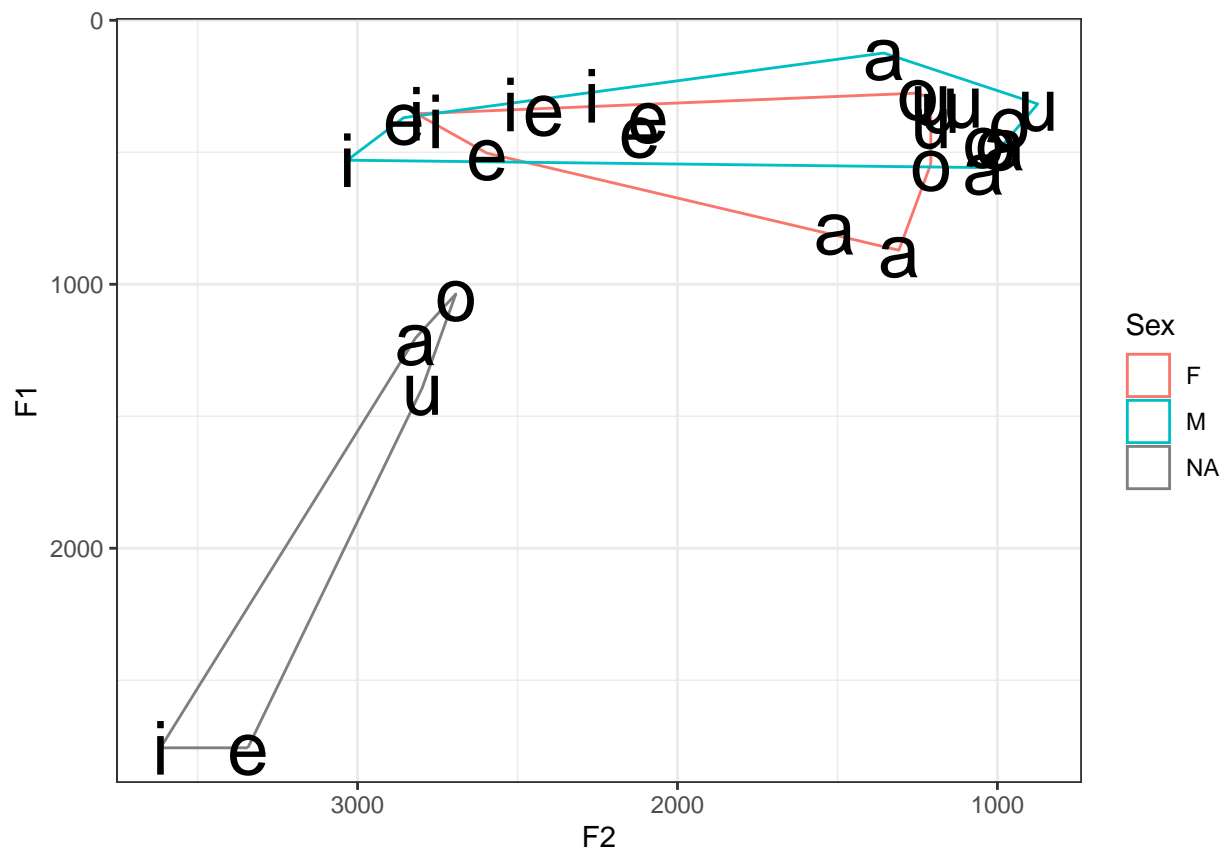



Analyses

Phonetic differences by sex

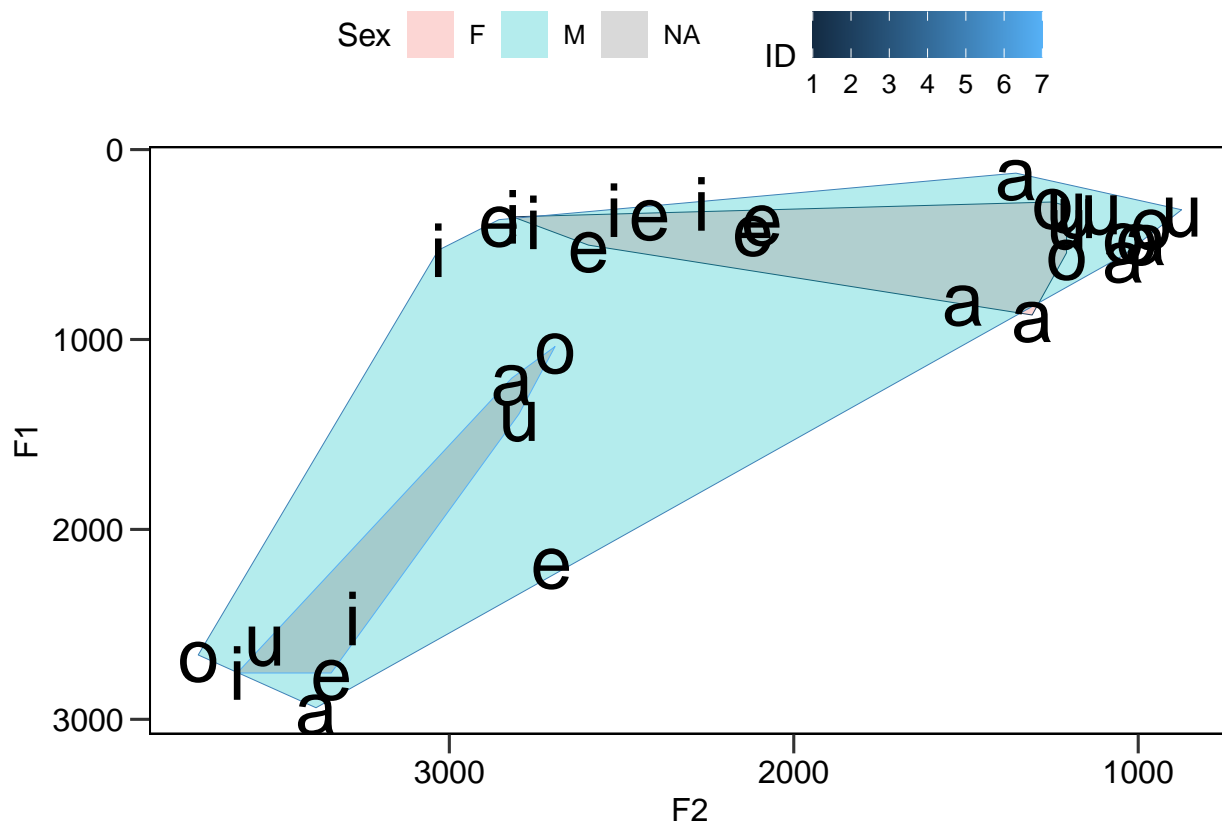
Let's plot individual vowel polygons by the reported sex of the speaker. As we expect from the literature on phonetic differences between male and female speech, the vowel polygon of the women in our sample displays greater acoustic range than the men.

```
temp <- df %>% filter(ID != 5)
ggplot(temp, aes(x = F2, y = F1)) +
  geom_convexhull(alpha = 0, aes(colour = Sex)) +
  geom_text(aes(label = Vowel), size = 10) +
  scale_x_reverse() +
  scale_y_reverse() +
  coord_cartesian() +
  theme_pubr(border = TRUE) +
  theme(axis.ticks.length = unit(.25, "cm")) +
  theme_bw()
```



We can also plot individual vowel polygon spaces by sex and filled in by color.

```
ggplot(df, aes(x = F2, y = F1)) +
  geom_convexhull(alpha = 0.3, lwd = 0, aes(colour = ID, fill = Sex)) +
  geom_text(aes(label = Vowel), size = 10) +
  scale_x_reverse() +
  scale_y_reverse() +
  coord_cartesian() +
  theme_pubr(border = TRUE) +
  theme(axis.ticks.length = unit(.25, "cm"))
```



Differences in pitch

Recall that we also recorded our F0 – our fundamental frequency, which we perceive as our pitch. This is in the F0 column of our data frame:

```
head(df)
```

```
## # A tibble: 6 x 10
##   ID Word Vowel  F0  F1  F2  F3 Sex  L1  Height
##   <dbl> <chr> <chr> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <chr> <chr> <dbl>
## 1     1 heed i      120  319 2522 3299 M   English 69
## 2     1 hayed e      115  418 2119 3631 M   English 69
## 3     1 hawed a      115  558 1044 2677 M   English 69
## 4     1 who'd u      122  317  874 2668 M   English 69
## 5     1 hoed o      119  457 1044 2587 M   English 69
## 6     2 heed i      180  383 2756 3159 F   English 62
```

Again, we access any column in the data frame with the \$ operator with the name of the column as the suffix, e.g. let's get all values (aka observations, rows) of F0:

```
df$F0
```

```
## [1] 120.0 115.0 115.0 122.0 119.0 180.0 181.0 177.0 201.0 185.0 201.0 203.0
## [13] 205.0 207.0 206.0 126.0 127.0 124.0 126.0 124.0 169.3 142.3 132.9 143.6
## [25] 127.3 122.0 133.0 120.0 123.0 122.0 180.4 180.2 179.3 198.4 183.8
```

We can also use various R functions on columns. For example, you can summarize numerical values from a column with the `summary()` function!

```
summary(df$F0)
```

```
##      Min. 1st Qu.  Median    Mean 3rd Qu.    Max.
##    115.0  123.5   142.3   154.9   182.4   207.0
```

Perhaps we want to summarize the F0 by sex? In “base R”:

```
# Get a column by name
df$F0
```

```
## [1] 120.0 115.0 115.0 122.0 119.0 180.0 181.0 177.0 201.0 185.0 201.0 203.0
## [13] 205.0 207.0 206.0 126.0 127.0 124.0 126.0 124.0 169.3 142.3 132.9 143.6
## [25] 127.3 122.0 133.0 120.0 123.0 122.0 180.4 180.2 179.3 198.4 183.8
```

```
# Get rows by filtering the contents of a column; here by "sex is F(emale)"
df[df$Sex == "F", ]
```

```
## # A tibble: 15 x 10
##       ID Word Vowel   F0    F1    F2    F3 Sex  L1      Height
##   <dbl> <chr> <chr> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <chr> <chr>    <dbl>
## 1     2 heed  i      180   383  2756  3159 F    English    62
## 2     2 hayed e      181   503  2596  2937 F    English    62
## 3     2 hawed a      177   785  1509  2817 F    English    62
## 4     2 who'd u      201   383  1208  2837 F    English    62
## 5     2 hoed  o      185   544  1208  2817 F    English    62
## 6     3 heed  i      201   354  2816  3392 F    English    67
## 7     3 hayed e      203   335  2419  2995 F    English    67
## 8     3 hawed a      205   871  1308  3074 F    English    67
## 9     3 whod  u      207   296  1209  3034 F    English    67
## 10    3 hoed  o      206   276  1249  2975 F    English    67
## 11    NA <NA> <NA>    NA    NA    NA    NA <NA> <NA>    NA
## 12    NA <NA> <NA>    NA    NA    NA    NA <NA> <NA>    NA
## 13    NA <NA> <NA>    NA    NA    NA    NA <NA> <NA>    NA
## 14    NA <NA> <NA>    NA    NA    NA    NA <NA> <NA>    NA
## 15    NA <NA> <NA>    NA    NA    NA    NA <NA> <NA>    NA
```

```
# Get just the contents of the column we want by the filter -- ugh this is painful!
df[df$Sex == "F", ]$F0
```

```
## [1] 180 181 177 201 185 201 203 205 207 206 NA NA NA NA NA
```

```
# Now let's summarize that mess
summary(df[df$Sex == "F", ]$F0)
```

```
##      Min. 1st Qu.  Median    Mean 3rd Qu.    Max.   NA's
##    177.0  182.0   201.0   194.6   204.5   207.0     5
```

```
# And the men
summary(df[df$Sex == "M", ]$F0)
```

```
##      Min. 1st Qu.  Median    Mean 3rd Qu.    Max.   NA's
##    115.0  121.5   124.0   127.7   128.7   169.3     5
```

Men in the sample have on average lower pitch.

Pitch versus height

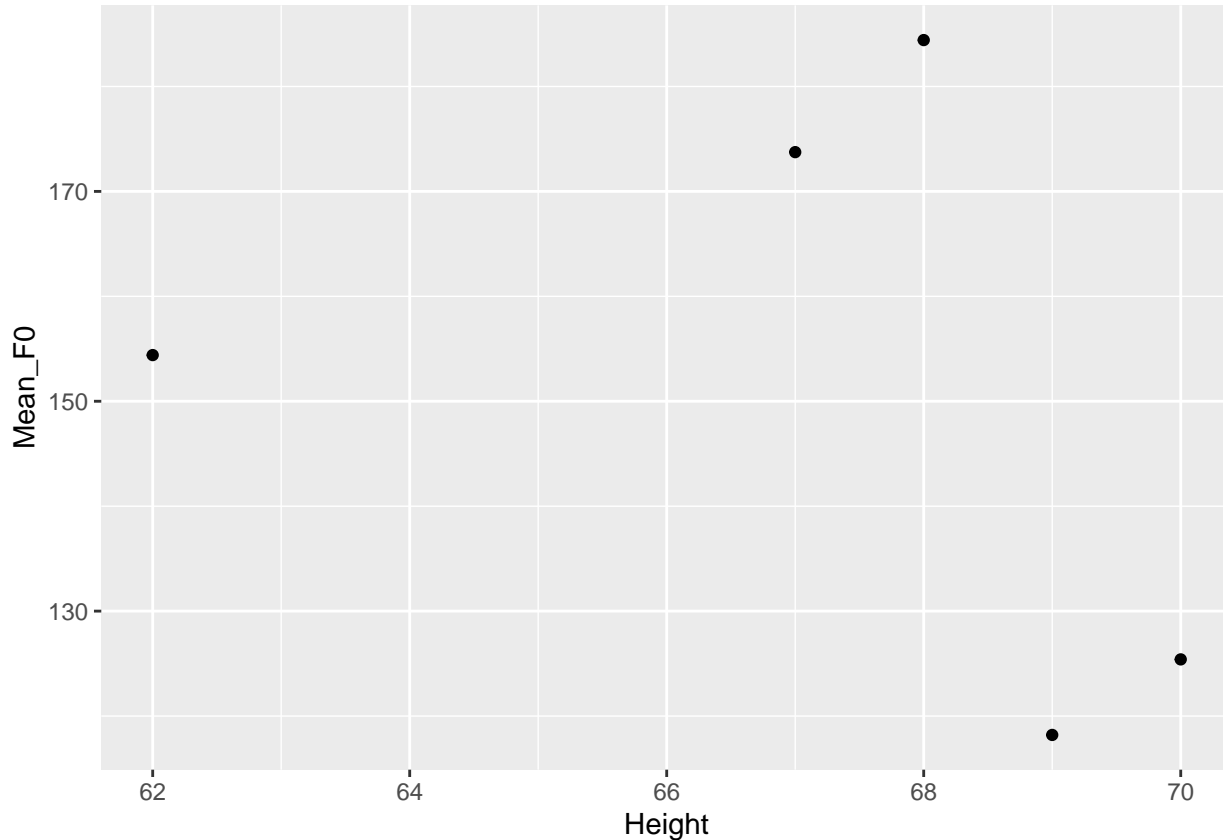
Lastly, let's see if there is a correlation between one's height and one's F0.

First, let's get the data we want by "grouping" the height variable and summarizing the mean F0 for each by height.

```
tmp <- df %>% group_by(Height) %>% summarize(Mean_F0 = mean(F0))
```

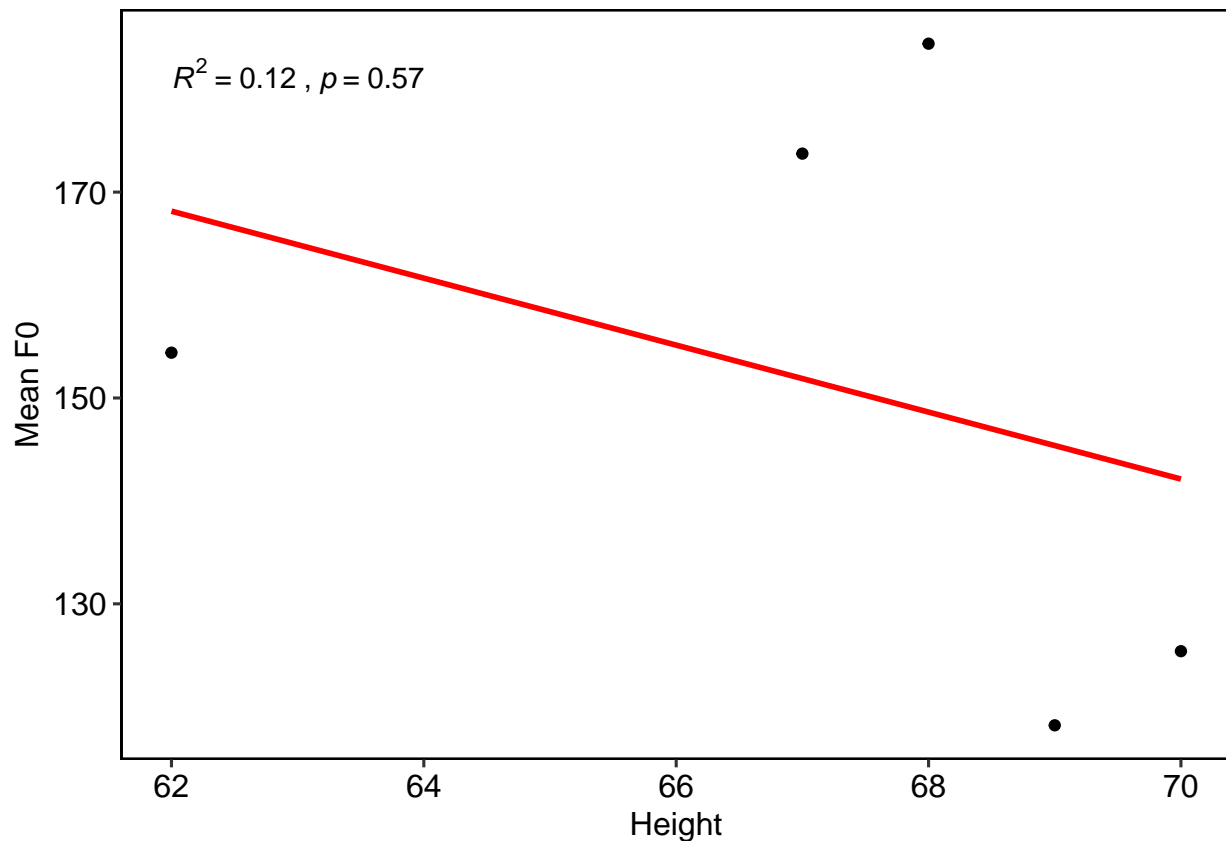
Now let's plot the results as a linear regression.

```
ggplot(tmp, aes(x=Height, y=Mean_F0)) +  
  geom_point()
```



```
ggplot(tmp, aes(Height, Mean_F0)) +  
  geom_point(colour = "black", alpha = 1) +  
  xlab("Height") +  
  ylab("Mean F0") +  
  theme_pubr(border = TRUE, margin = TRUE) +  
  geom_smooth(method = "lm", se = FALSE, colour = "red") +  
  ggpubr::stat_cor(aes(label = paste(..rr.label.., ..p.label.., sep = "~~, ~~"))) )
```

```
## Warning: The dot-dot notation (``.rr.label.`) was deprecated in ggplot2 3.4.0.  
## i Please use `after_stat(rr.label)` instead.  
## This warning is displayed once every 8 hours.  
## Call `lifecycle::last_lifecycle_warnings()` to see where this warning was  
## generated.  
## `geom_smooth()` using formula = 'y ~ x'
```



And indeed it looks like as one gets taller, their pitch on average gets lower.

We can also get the model statistics directly from the data with these functions.

```
model1 <- lm(Mean_F0 ~ Height, data = tmp)
summary(model1)
```

```
##
## Call:
## lm(formula = Mean_F0 ~ Height, data = tmp)
##
## Residuals:
##      1       2       3       4       5
## -13.75  21.86  35.79 -27.18 -16.72
##
## Coefficients:
##              Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
## (Intercept)  369.826    339.506   1.089   0.356
## Height       -3.253     5.048  -0.644   0.565
##
## Residual standard error: 31.44 on 3 degrees of freedom
## Multiple R-squared:  0.1216, Adjusted R-squared: -0.1712
## F-statistic: 0.4153 on 1 and 3 DF,  p-value: 0.5652
```