Regionality in RP: evidence from the GOAT vowel

Caitlin Halfacre

Newcastle University

May 10, 2021

Research Questions
○○○○

Why Dynamic Data?
○○○○
○○○○

Data Collection
○

Analysis
○○○

Future Analysis
○○

Table of Contents

Questions

1. In terms of pronunciation, do potential north-eastern 'RP' speakers behave regionally or non-regionally?

2. What insights do these differences give us into the nature of a non-regional sociolect comprising diffuse speech communities?

Research Questions
○●○○

Why Dynamic Data?
○○○○
○○○○

Data Collection
○

Analysis
○○○

Future Analysis
○○

What is RP?

- An accent of English
  - with unusual origins (**?**)
  - with real speakers (**?**)
- Typologically originating in the South East, lacking regional features (**?**)
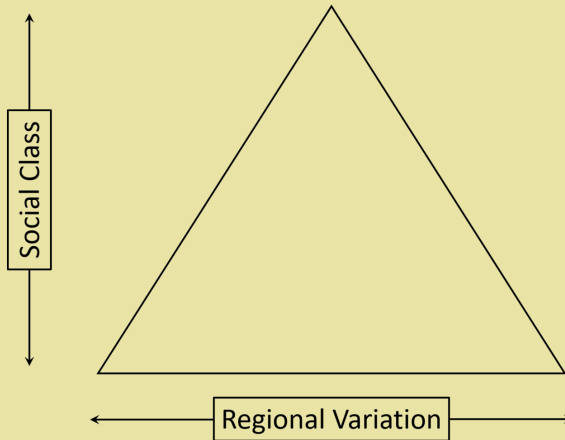- Change generally comes from south-eastern changes (**?**)

Research Questions
○●○○

Why Dynamic Data?
○○○○
○○○○

Data Collection
○

Analysis
○○○

Future Analysis
○○

What is RP?

Figure 1: (adapted from **?**)

Research Questions
○○●○

Why Dynamic Data?
○○○○
○○○○

Data Collection
○

Analysis
○○○

Future Analysis
○○

Defining a Speaker Group

RP has always been tied to social class and schooling...

Defining a Speaker Group

RP has always been tied to social class and schooling...

- Privately Educated

Research Questions
○○●○

Why Dynamic Data?
○○○○
○○○○

Data Collection
○

Analysis
○○○

Future Analysis
○○

Defining a Speaker Group

RP has always been tied to social class and schooling...

- Privately Educated
- Focussing on north-eastern speakers

Research Questions
○○●○

Why Dynamic Data?
○○○○
○○○○

Data Collection
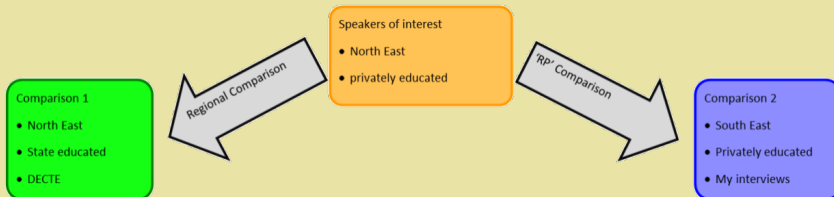○

Analysis
○○○

Future Analysis
○○

Defining a Speaker Group

RP has always been tied to social class and schooling...

- Privately Educated
- Focussing on north-eastern speakers
- Comparing within region and educational background

Research Questions
○○○●

Why Dynamic Data?
○○○○
○○○○

Data Collection
○

Analysis
○○○

Future Analysis
○○

Defining a Speaker Group

Locating the Variation

Speakers of interest
- North East
- privately educated

Regional Comparison

'RP' Comparison

Comparison 1
- North East
- State educated
- DECTE

Comparison 2
- South East
- Privately educated
- My interviews

Research Questions
○○○○

Why Dynamic Data?
●○○○
○○○○

Data Collection
○

Analysis
○○○

Future Analysis
○○

Previous Evidence on Regionality

- Two vowel distinctions - FOOT∼STRUT & TRAP∼BATH
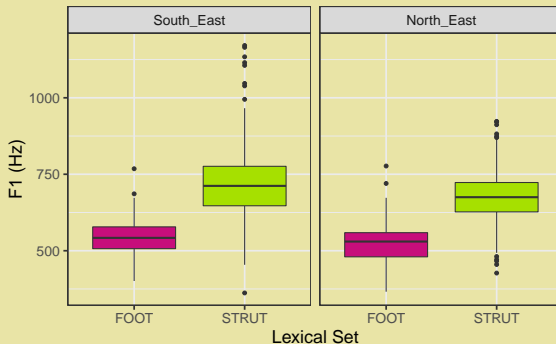- 10 privately educated speakers from MA data
- Linear mixed effects models (**?**)

Research Questions
○○○○

Why Dynamic Data?
○●○○○
○○○○

Data Collection
○

Analysis
○○○

Future Analysis
○○

Previous Evidence on Regionality

FOOT-STRUT

Research Questions
○○○○

Why Dynamic Data?
○●○○
○○○○

Data Collection
○

Analysis
○○○

Future Analysis
○○

Previous Evidence on Regionality
FOOT-STRUT

Speakers from different regions behave similarly

Research Questions
○○○○

Why Dynamic Data?
○○○○
○●○○
○○○○

Data Collection
○

Analysis
○○○

Future Analysis
○○

Previous Evidence on Regionality

TRAP-BATH

Research Questions
○○○○

Why Dynamic Data?
○○○○
○○●○
○○○○

Data Collection
○

Analysis
○○○

Future Analysis
○○

Previous Evidence on Regionality
TRAP-BATH

Speakers behave like their region
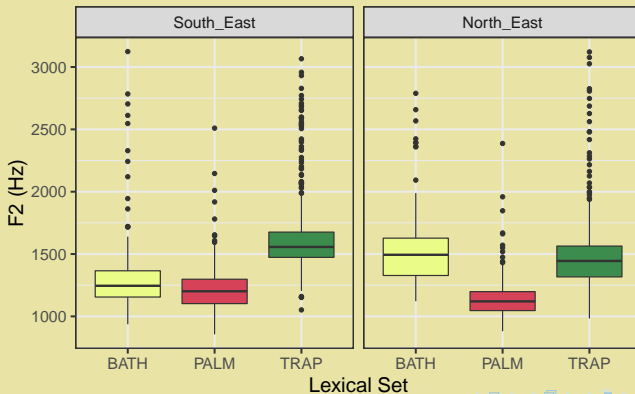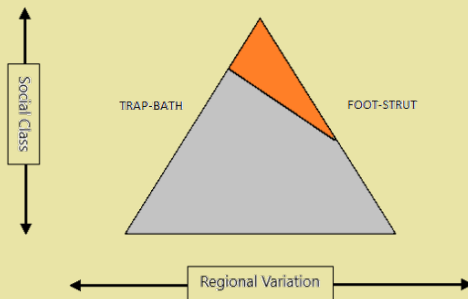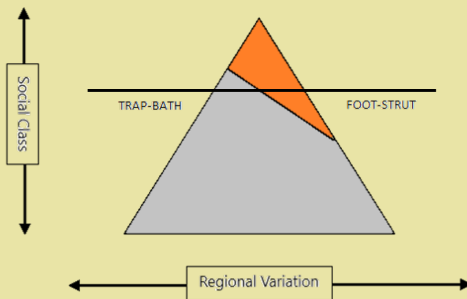
Research Questions
○○○○

Why Dynamic Data?
○○○●
○○○○

Data Collection
○

Analysis
○○○

Future Analysis
○○

Figure 2: (**?**)

Research Questions
○○○○

Why Dynamic Data?
○○○●
○○○○

Data Collection
○

Analysis
○○○

Future Analysis
○○

Figure 2: (**?**)

Research Questions   Why Dynamic Data?   Data Collection   Analysis   Future Analysis
○○○○   ○○○○   ○   ○○○   ○○
                            ●○○○

The GOAT vowel

GOAT Vowel Variation

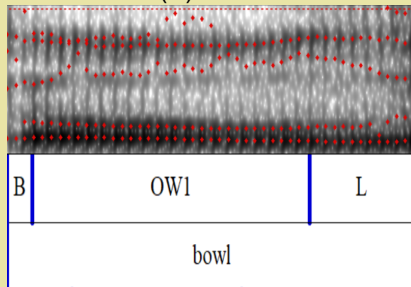In the North East:

- Socially stratified (**?**)
    - most common: monophthong oː
    - older male speakers: traditional centring diphthong [ʊə]
    - younger middle class speakers: national diphthong [oʊ] or [əʊ]
- Still highly variable (**?**)

Research Questions
○○○○

Why Dynamic Data?
○○○○
●○○○

Data Collection
○

Analysis
○○○

Future Analysis
○○

The GOAT vowel

GOAT Vowel Variation
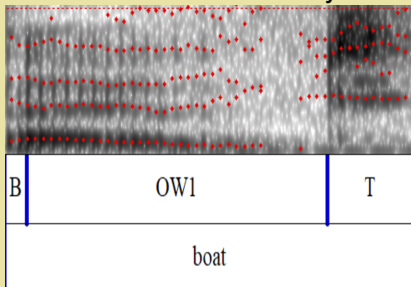
In the North East:

- Socially stratified (**?**)
  - most common: monophthong oː
  - older male speakers: traditional centring diphthong [ʊə]
  - younger middle class speakers: national diphthong [oʊ] or [əʊ]
- Still highly variable (**?**)

In the South East:

- Diphthongal [əʊ] since 19th century (**?**)
- Fronting occurred across the country (**??**, and others) - blocked pre lateral consonants (coda /l/)

Research Questions ○○○○

Why Dynamic Data? ○○○○ ○●○○

Data Collection ○

Analysis ○○○

Future Analysis ○○

The GOAT vowel

GOAT Allophony

Originally RP generalised the fronting - no distinction between GOAT and GOAL - a truly non-regional feature (**?**)

Research Questions
○○○○

Why Dynamic Data?
○○○○
○○●○

Data Collection
○

Analysis
○○○

Future Analysis
○○

The GOAT vowel

Morphologically Complex

Variation in disyllabic contexts, with different morphological structures (**??**), e.g. *solo, bowler*

	hole	*hole-y*	*holy*	*hope*
Stage 0	[həʊl]	[həʊliː]	[həʊliː]	[həʊp]
Stage 1	[hɔul]	[həʊliː]	[həʊliː]	[həʊp]
Stage 2	[hɔul]	[hɔuliː]	[həʊliː]	[həʊp]
Stage 3	[hɔul]	[hɔuliː]	[hɔuliː]	[həʊp]

Table 1: Life cycle of Phonological Processes (**??**)

Research Questions
○○○○

Why Dynamic Data?
○○○○
○○○●

Data Collection
○

Analysis
○○○

Future Analysis
○○

The GOAT vowel

Why Dynamic Data?

The GOAT vowel is:

- highly variable, including monophthong or diphthong
- morphologically complex

Dynamic data analysis is fast moving into sociophonetic research **??**

Research Questions
○○○○

Why Dynamic Data?
○○○○
○○○○

Data Collection
●

Analysis
○○○

Future Analysis
○○

Data Collection

- Speakers privately educated in the North East & South East

Research Questions
○○○○

Why Dynamic Data?
○○○○
○○○○

Data Collection
●

Analysis
○○○

Future Analysis
○○

Data Collection

- Speakers privately educated in the North East & South East
- Sociolinguistic interviews, word lists, minimal pairs
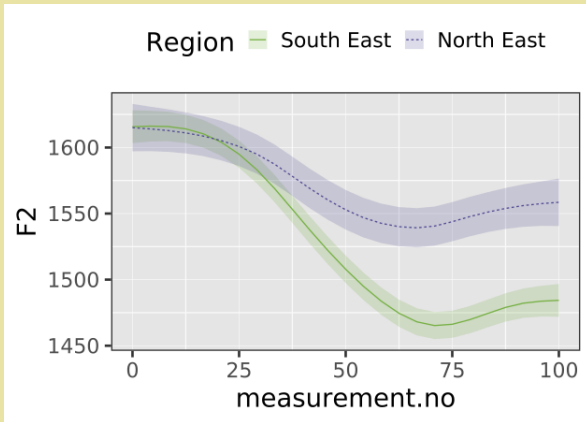
Research Questions
○○○○

Why Dynamic Data?
○○○○
○○○○

Data Collection
●

Analysis
○○○

Future Analysis
○○

Data Collection

- Speakers privately educated in the North East & South East
- Sociolinguistic interviews, word lists, minimal pairs
- Montreal Forced Aligner (**?**) & FAVE-extract (**?**) with script edited to extract at 10% intervals **?**
- Potential problem with V/l/ segmentation - merge V/l/ in TextGrid:
  - rerun extraction or
  - extract with Praat script & normalise in R (**?**)

Research Questions
○○○○

Why Dynamic Data?
○○○○
○○○○

Data Collection
○

Analysis
●○○

Future Analysis
○○

Trajectory analysis with GAMMs (**???**)

Research Questions
○○○○

Why Dynamic Data?
○○○○
○○○○

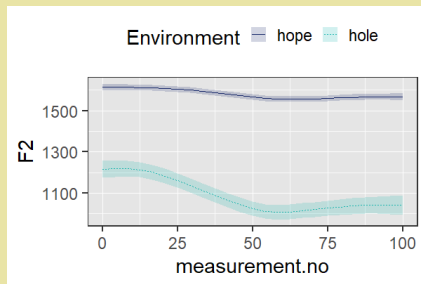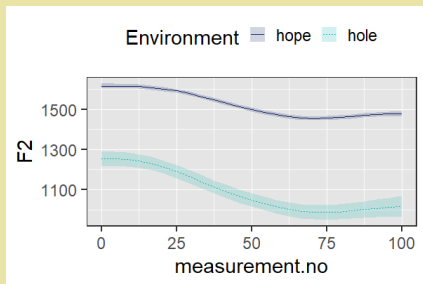Data Collection
○

Analysis
●○○

Future Analysis
○○

Trajectory analysis with GAMMs (**???**)

- parametric term: region or context
- smooths: measurement number, duration
- tensor product interaction: measurement number & duration
- difference smooth: measurement number by region/context
- random smooth: trajectory
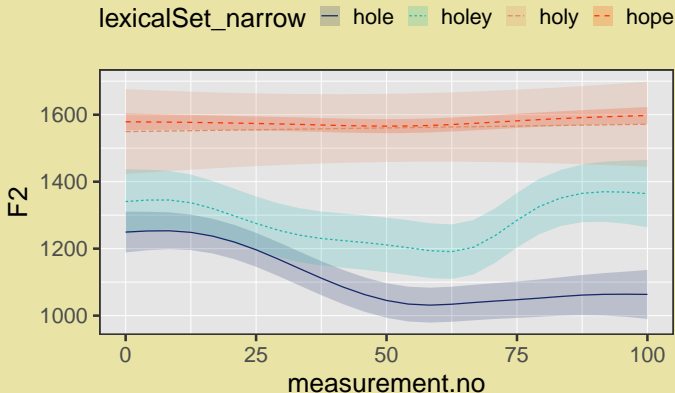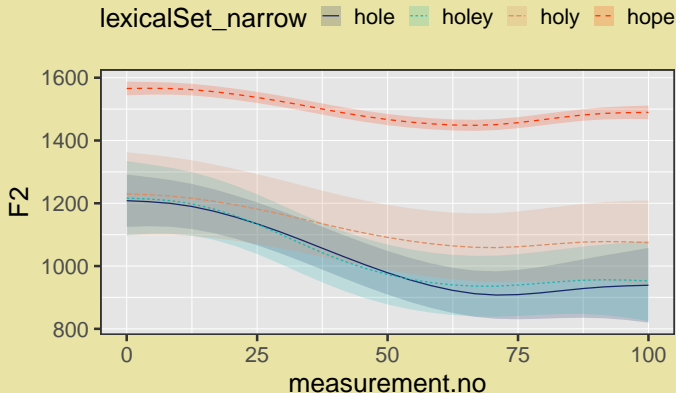
GOAT Vowel by Region

Research Questions
○○○○

Why Dynamic Data?
○○○○
○○○○

Data Collection
○

Analysis
○○●

Future Analysis
○○

GOAT Allophony by Region (NE vs SE)

Research Questions
○○○○

Why Dynamic Data?
○○○○
○○○○

Data Collection
○

Analysis
○○○

Future Analysis
●○

Disyllabic Contexts by Region

2x South-Eastern Speakers

Research Questions
○○○○

Why Dynamic Data?
○○○○
○○○○

Data Collection
○

Analysis
○○○

Future Analysis
●○

Disyllabic Contexts by Region

2x North-Eastern Speakers

Regionality in RP: evidence from the GOAT vowel

Research Questions
○○○○

Why Dynamic Data?
○○○○
○○○○

Data Collection
○

Analysis
○○○

Future Analysis
○●

Further Questions

- Is GOAT allophony affected by the north-eastern GOAT variation?
- Is the variation in disyllabic contexts affected by more fine grained social analysis: e.g. number of years in private education, parents education?