

# Regionality in RP: evidence from the GOAT vowel

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# Table of Contents

- 1 Research Questions
- 2 Why Dynamic Data?
  - The GOAT vowel
- 3 Data Collection
- 4 Analysis
- 5 Future Analysis

# 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?

# 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 (?)

# What is RP?

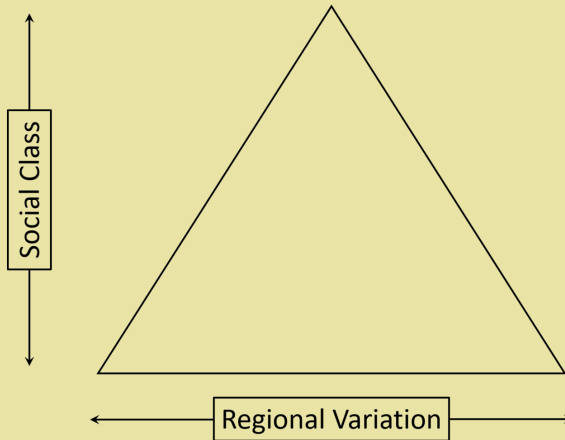


Figure 1: (adapted from ?)

# Defining a Speaker Group

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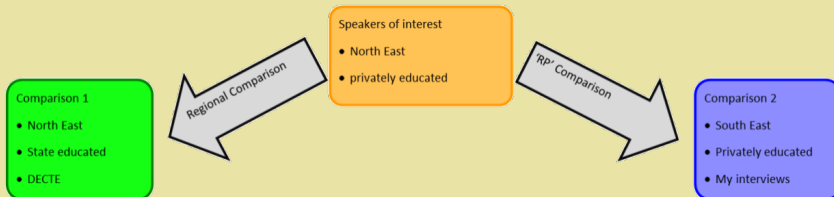
# Defining a Speaker Group

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

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

# Defining a Speaker Group

## Locating the Variation



# Previous Evidence on Regionality

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

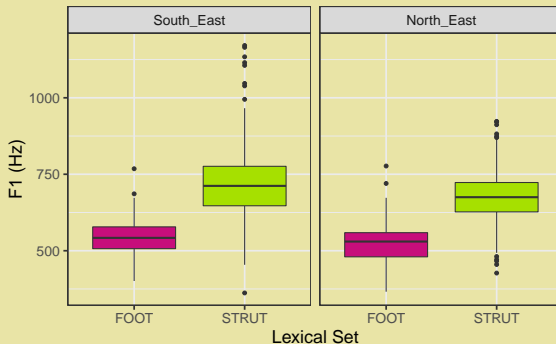
# Previous Evidence on Regionality

FOOT-STRUT

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## FOOT-STRUT

Speakers from different regions behave similarly



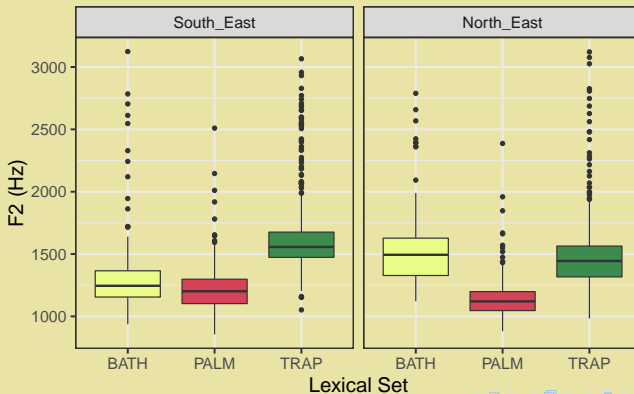
# Previous Evidence on Regionality

TRAP-BATH

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## TRAP-BATH

Speakers behave like their region



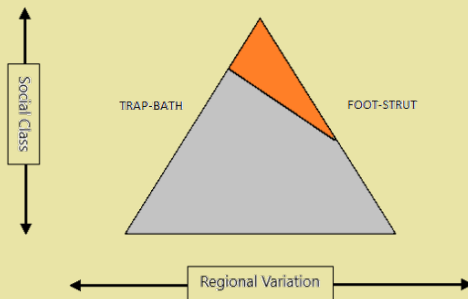
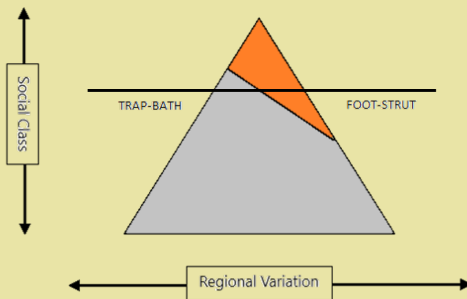


Figure 2: (?)



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# GOAT Vowel Variation

In the North East:

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

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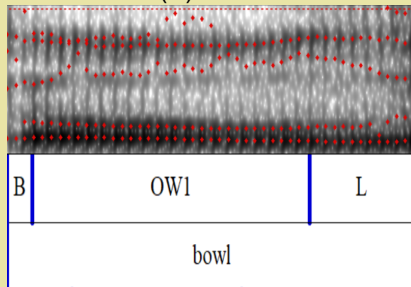
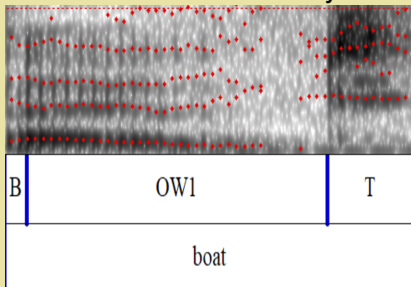
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In the South East:

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

# GOAT Allophony

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



# Morphologically Complex

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

	<i>hole</i>	<i>hole-y</i>	<i>holy</i>	<i>hope</i>
<b>Stage 0</b>	[həʊl]	[həʊli:]	[həʊli:]	[həʊp]
<b>Stage 1</b>	[hɔʊl]	[həʊli:]	[həʊli:]	[həʊp]
<b>Stage 2</b>	[hɔʊl]	[hɔʊli:]	[həʊli:]	[həʊp]
<b>Stage 3</b>	[hɔʊl]	[hɔʊli:]	[hɔʊli:]	[həʊp]

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

# Why Dynamic Data?

The GOAT vowel is:

- highly variable, including monophthong or diphthong
- morphologically complex

Dynamic data analysis is fast moving into sociophonetic research ??

# Data Collection

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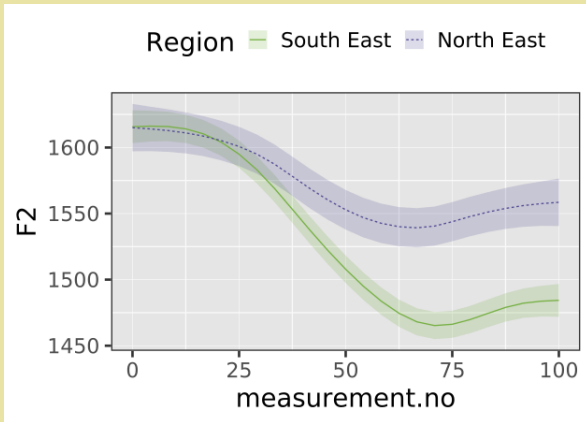
- Speakers privately educated in the North East & South East
- Sociolinguistic interviews, word lists, minimal pairs
- Montreal Forced Aligner (?) & FAVE-extract (?) with script edited to extract at 10% intervals ?
- Potential problem with V// segmentation - merge V// in TextGrid:
  - rerun extraction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

## Trajectory analysis with GAMMs (???)

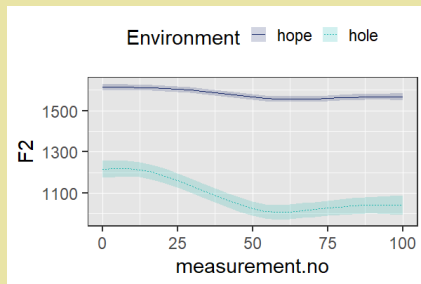
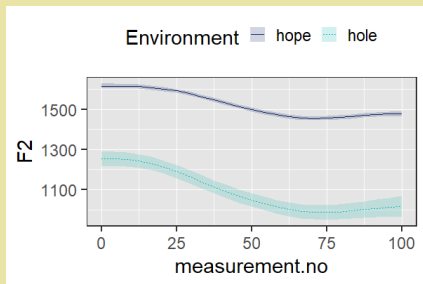
## Trajectory analysis with GAMMs (???)

- 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

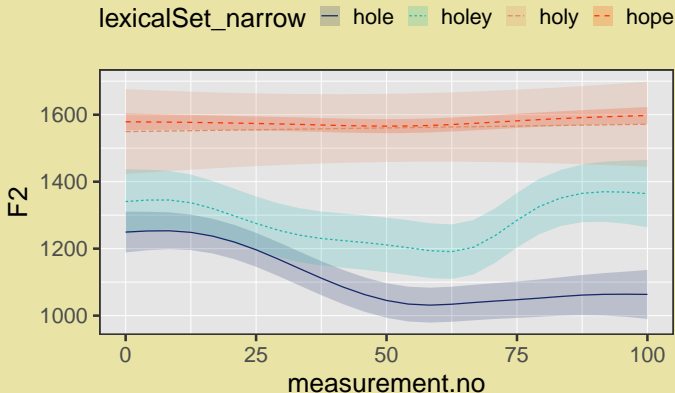


# GOAT Allophony by Region (NE vs SE)



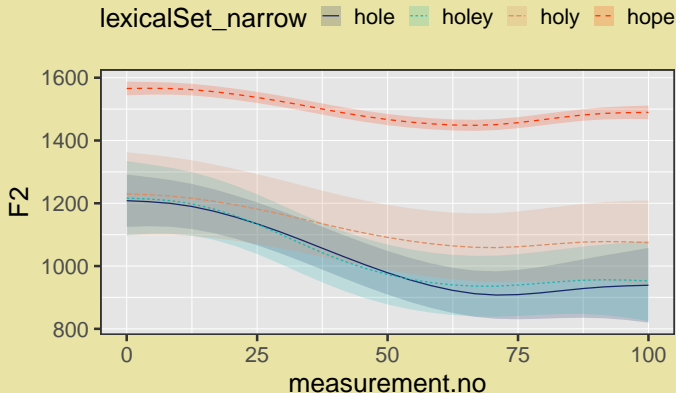
# Disyllabic Contexts by Region

2x South-Eastern Speakers



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2x North-Eastern Speakers



## 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?