

284.

Different vowel timbres used by monolingual native speakers

284.1. The chapters on monolingual native speakers (see below) have clearly shown that the English vowels have a huge range of fluctuation, which might even seem to be impossible –if not absurd– in other languages.

In fact, in addition to a very considerable amount of vowel phonemes and diphonemes (and taxophones!), which is already something ‘extravagant’ in itself, native speakers freely show their rich possibilities, at all times.

284.2. Of course, even among native speakers, communicative uncertainties and ambiguities are certainly possible. However, for foreign speakers the task of exactly understanding what they hear is undoubtedly more difficult.

284.3. Therefore, we will here present some vocograms which can certainly be of help. They have been expressly chosen to show the terrible range of possibilities. We chose to make reference to the native-like international English accent, because we think it is the aptest form to illustrate the real situation of the different kinds of regional accents we have described (not excluding neutral, traditional, and mediatic accents).

284.4. For six of the chosen monophthongs, a single vocogram is sufficient to clearly illustrate actual fluctuations: /i[#], iV, ɪ, e, æ, uV/. For other six monophthongs two vocograms are necessary, because of possible different lip positions: /ə:, ə, a:, ɔ:, ʊ, ɒ/.

Of course, the diphthongs have their two separate elements. Two of these diphthongs can be shown by means of just two vocograms: /ii, ei/. Three others need three vocograms: /ae, œe, uu/. The last two diphthongs need four vocograms: /oʊ, aʊ/.

284.5. Obviously, some realizations are to be preferred, while others must be just tolerated as native speaker’s peculiarities. We will use the ‘appreciation’ up-arrow (↑), and the ‘deprecatory’ down-arrow (↓), also repeated, as necessary.

Most regional or social variants are shown, although some –more peculiar ones– are not. However, they can all be found in the general chapters, and in §§ 54-59, and –of course– in §§ 69-210 & §§ 212-220. No examples are provided here, because they can easily be found in the chapters just indicated.

284.6. Not to complicate things more than advisable, we did not include taxophones, especially those followed by [t̪] and variants, or /ɪ, ɿ, ɿt̪, ɿɛ/, or [l̪]. We also excluded /ə/ and the diaphonemes /ə̯, ə̯x, ə̯ɛ, ə̯ɔ, ə̯ʊ, ə̯ʌ/ (with all their possibilities).

284.7. Some regional variants are only implicitly hinted at (but they can be found in their relative chapters), as [iɪ, uʊ] or most ‘narrowed’ diphthongs such as /ae/ [aa, aə, æə, ae], or narrowly diphthongized long or short monophthongs.

Also shortening of long monophthongs or lengthening of short monophthongs have not been included. G 108 also deals with the typical American Southern ‘drawl’, which can change short monophthongs into highly peculiar triphthongs.

284.8. Not every single elements shown for the first or second part of diphthongs can actually combine freely (so far), although most of their combinations are possible (as shown in our descriptions). In fact, the main aim of this chapter is to draw close and special attention to all possible timbre differences, in order to prepare people to their (difficult) listening task.

fig 284.1. /i#/ [i].

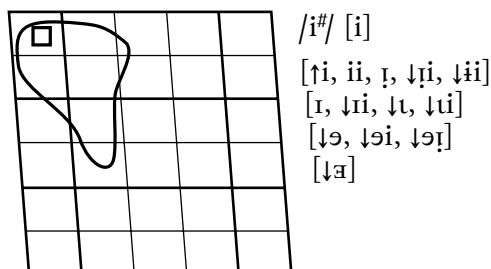


fig 284.2. /iV/ [i].

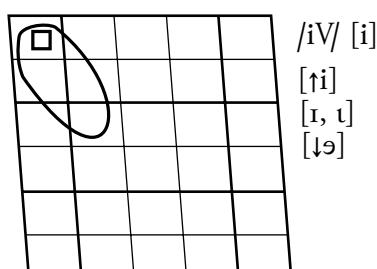


fig 284.3. /ɪ/ [ɪ].

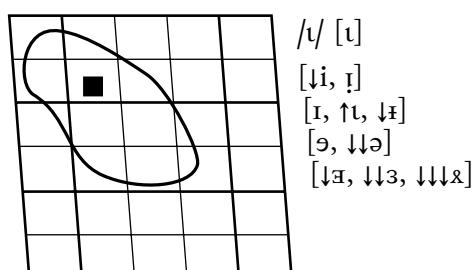


fig 284.4. /E/ [E].

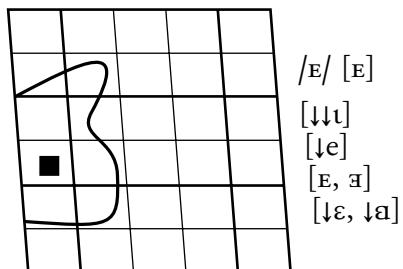


fig 284.5. /æ/ [æ].

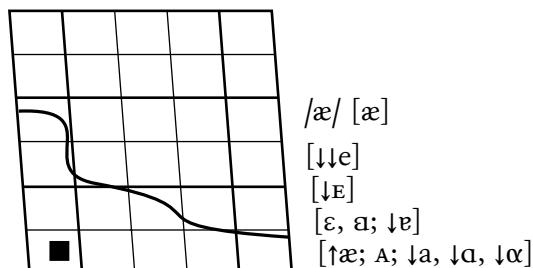


fig 284.6. /ə:/ [ə:].

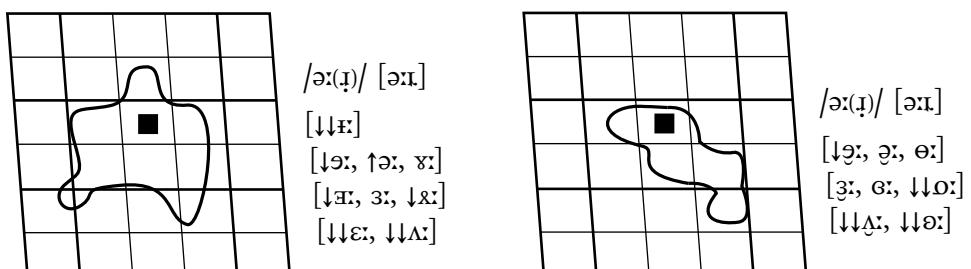


fig 284.7.

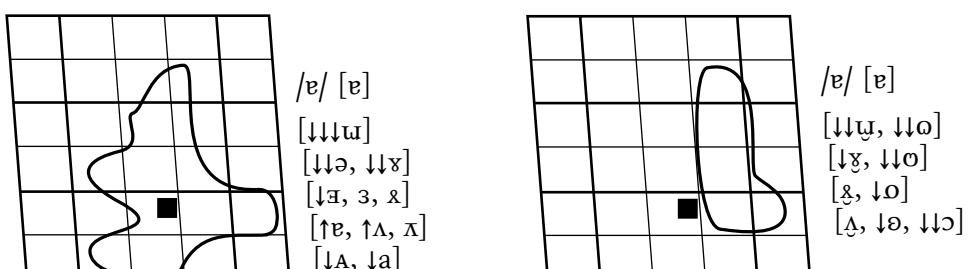


fig 284.8. /ɑ:/ [ɑ:]

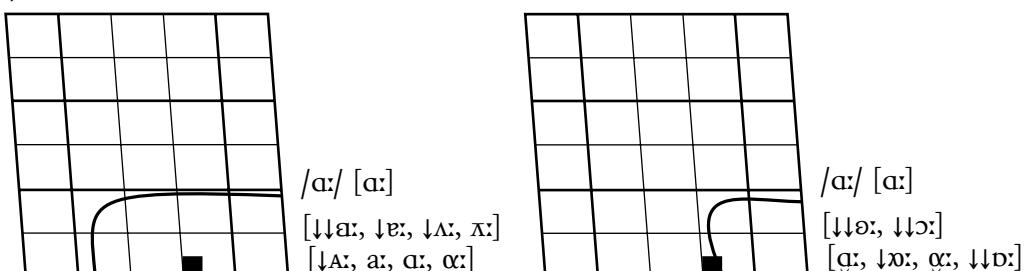


fig 284.9. /uV/ [u].

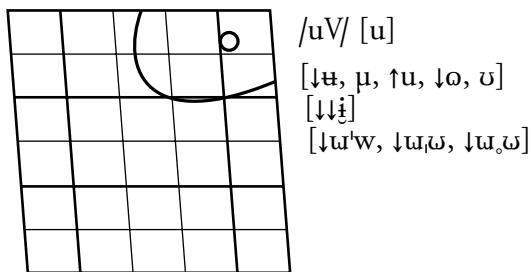


fig 284.10. /ø/ [ø].

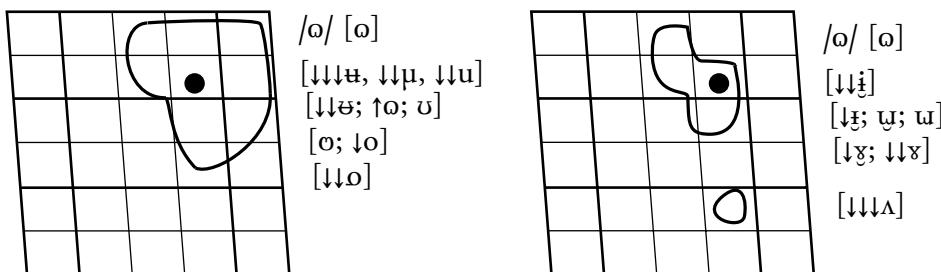


fig 284.11. /ɔ:/ [ɔ:].

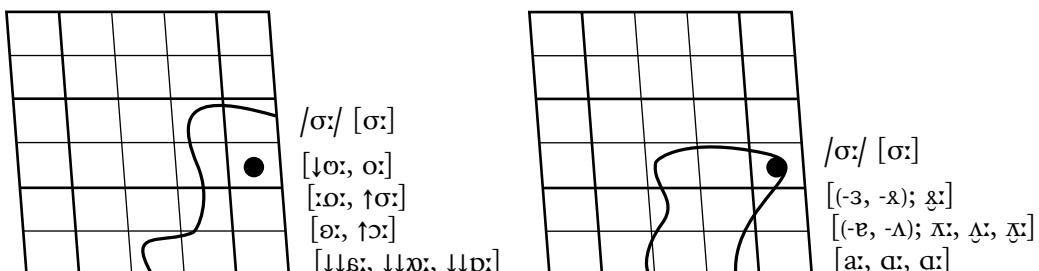


fig 284.12. /ɒ/ [ɒ].

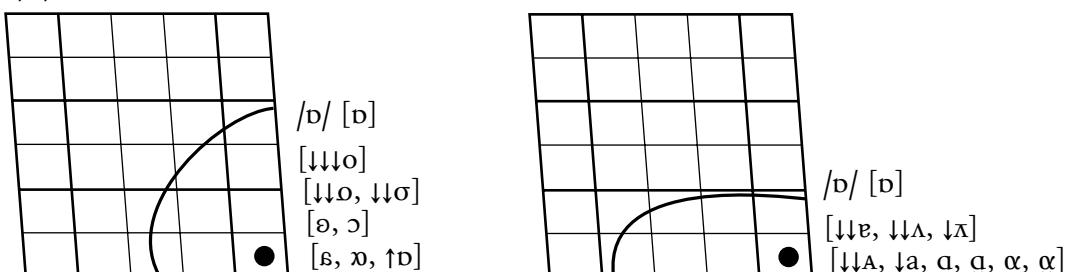


fig 284.13. /i:/ [i:].

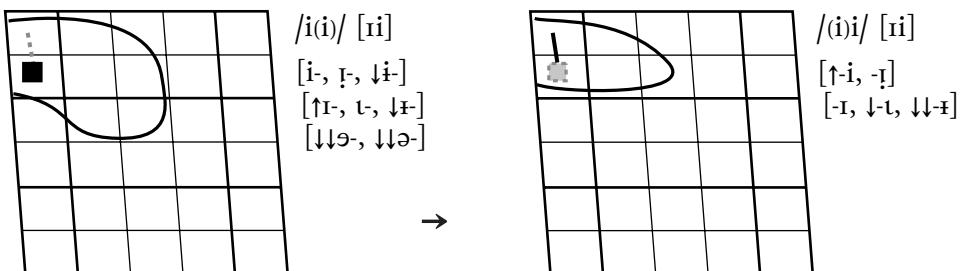


fig 284.14. /EI/ [EI].

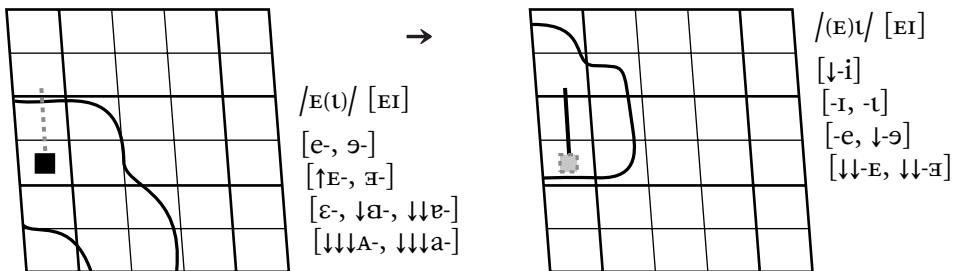


fig 284.15. /σε/ [σε].

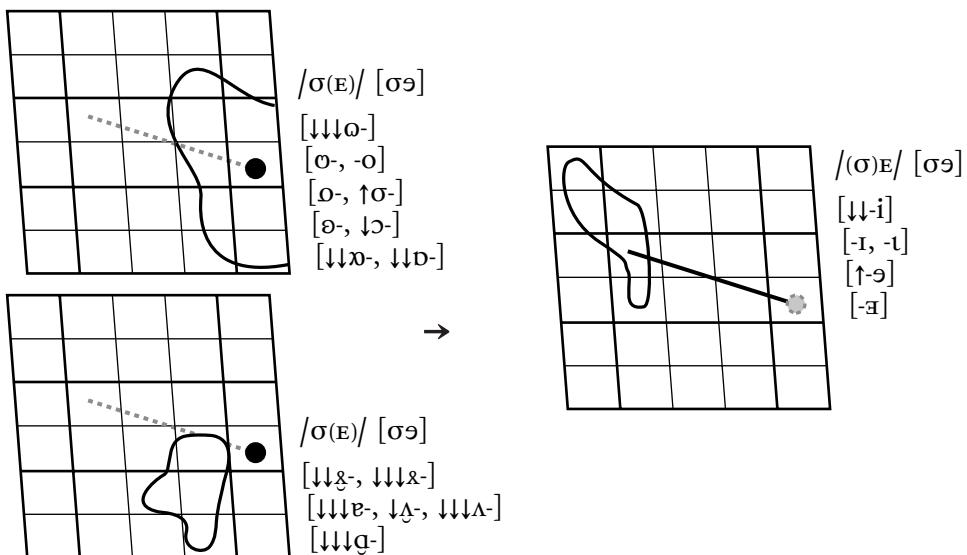


fig 284.16. /ae/ [aɛ].

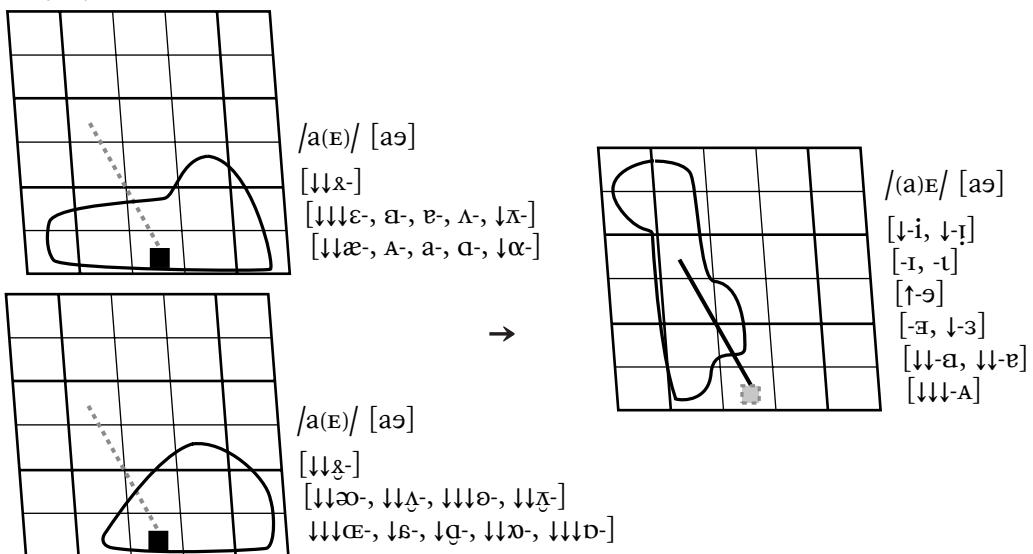


fig 284.17. /uu/ [ʊu].

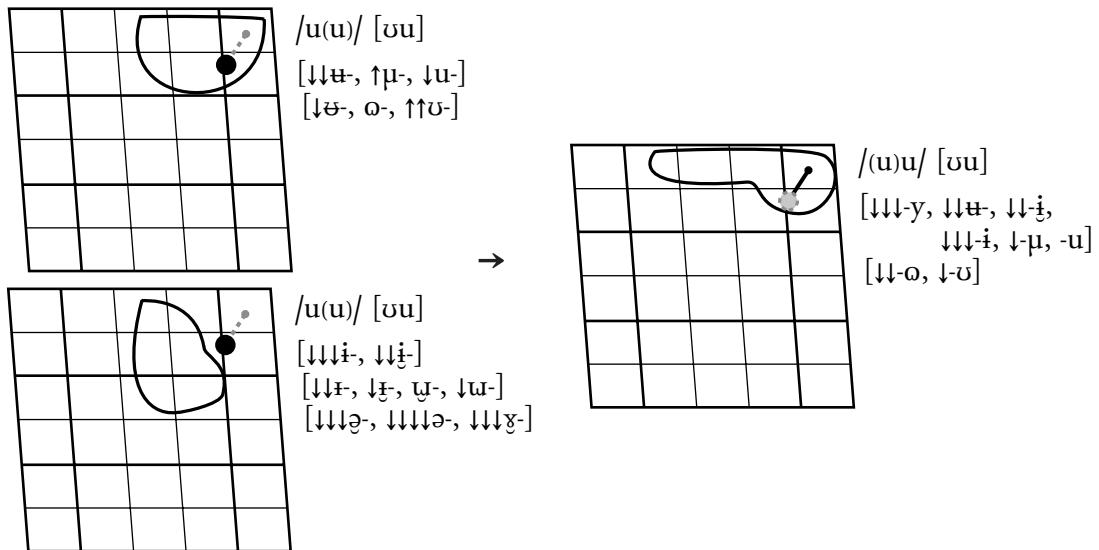


fig 284.18. /σə/ [σə].

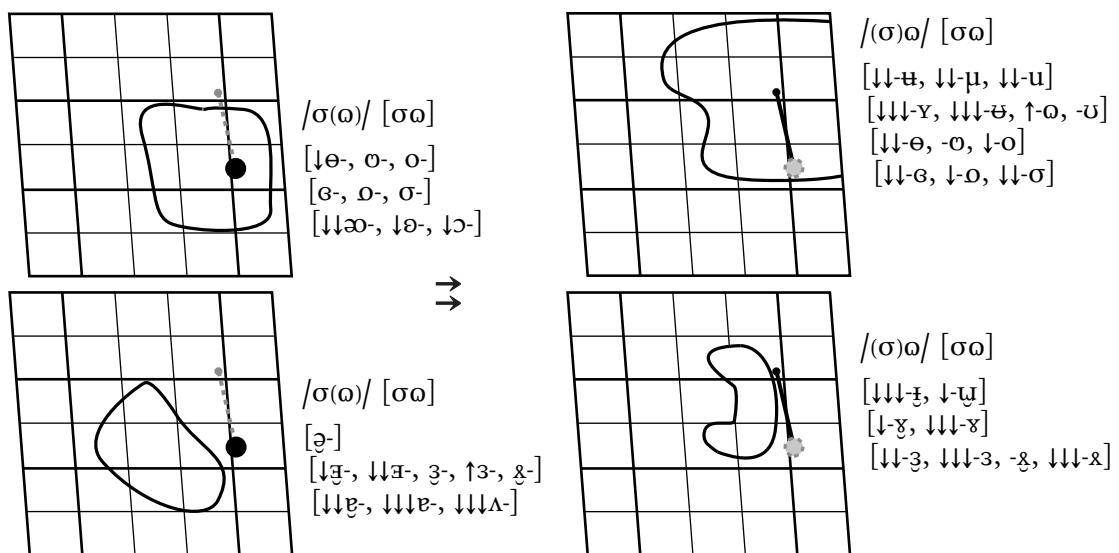
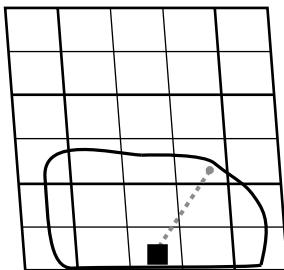
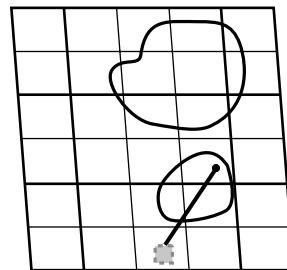


fig 284.19. /aʊ/ [aʊ].



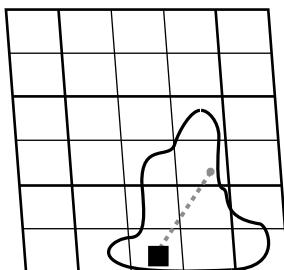
/a(ʊ)/ [aʊ]

[↓↓↓-ɛ-, ↓↓ɛ-, ↓↓ɜ-, ↓↓ʌ-]
 [↓↓↓-ɛ-, ↓↓ɪ-, ə-, ʌ-, ʌ-]
 [↓æ-, ʌ-, ə-, ʌ-, ↓↓ɑ-]



/(a)ʊ/ [aʊ]

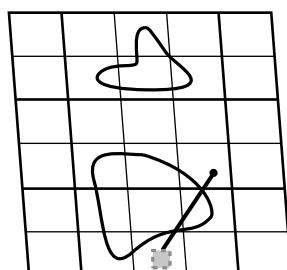
[↓↓↓-ɪ, ↓↓-ɪ, ↓↓-ɪ]
 [↓↓↓-ɪ, ↓↓-ɪ, -ʊ, ↓ʊ]
 [↓-ɪ, -ʊ]
 [↓-ʊ, ↓-ɪ]



→

/a(ʊ)/ [aʊ]

[↓↓-ɪ]
 [↓↓ɜ-, ↓↓ɪ-, ↓↓ʊ-]
 [↓ɪ-, ↓↓ɛ-, ʌ-, ʌ-]
 [↓↓æ-, ↓↓ɪ-, ↓ɪ-, ↓↓ʊ-, ↓↓ɒ-]



/(a)ʊ/ [aʊ]

[↓↓-ɪ]
 [↓↓-ɪ, ↓↓-ɪ, ↓↓-ɪ]
 [↓↓↓-ɪ, ↓↓↓-ɪ, ↓↓-ɪ]
 [↓↓-ɪ, ↓↓-ɪ, ʌ-, ʌ-]
 [↓↓-ɪ]

