

Expecting the unexpected

(Re)discovered variation in Albanian phonetics

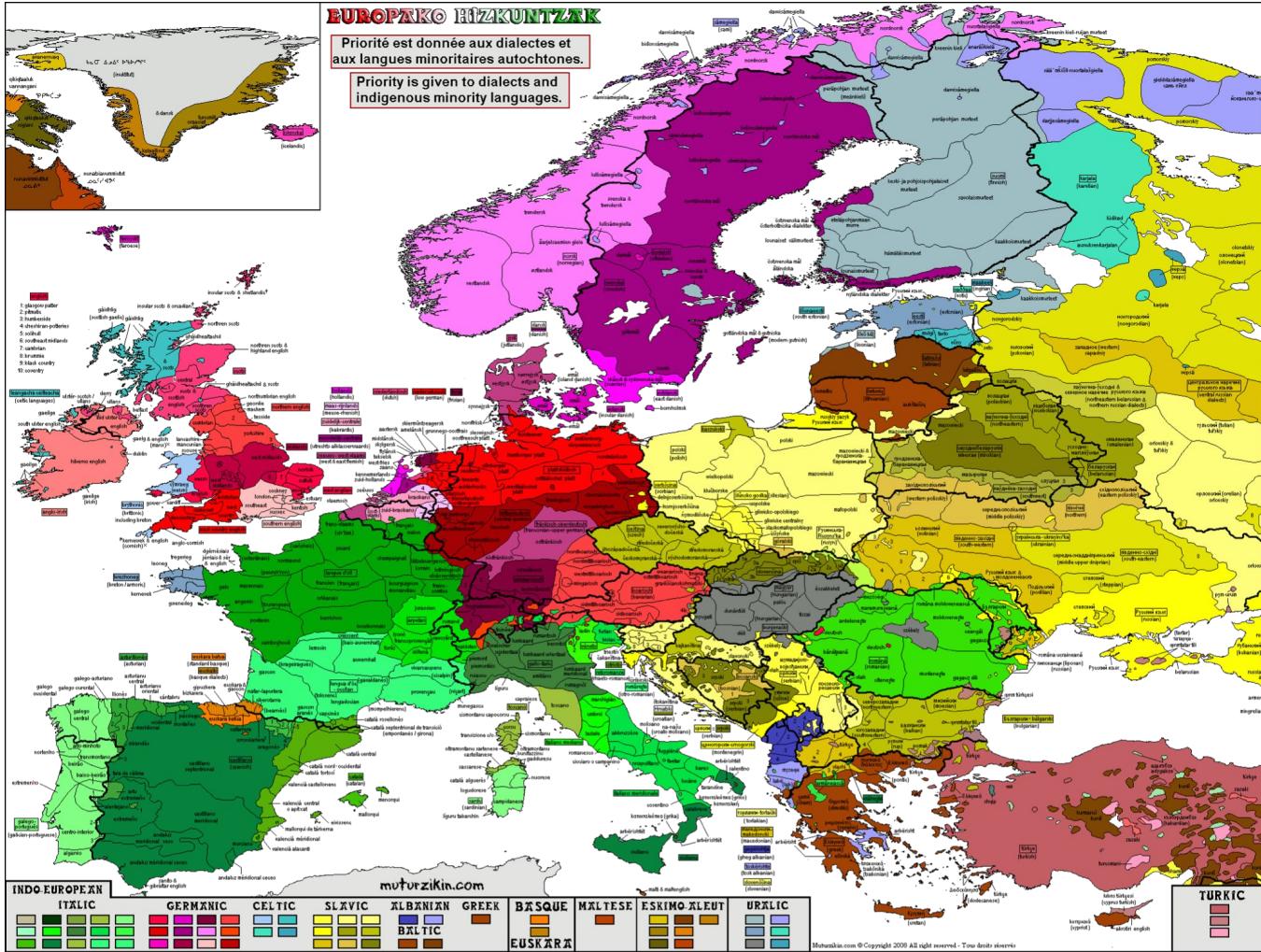
Lejda Kapia, Josie Riverin-Coutlée, Stephen Nichols*, Stefano Coretta

— IPS Kolloquium, 6 May 2021

* University of Manchester

Linguistic diversity and variation





Documentary and descriptive linguistics



Language documentation



Language description

**International
Phonetic
Association**

Illustrations of the IPA



The Phonetic Teacher's
Association is born in France.

Dhi Fonètik Tîc'er
Paul Passy



1886

The Phonetic Teacher's
Association is born in France.

Dhi Fonètik Tîtcer
Paul Passy



1887



Articles about “general
phonetics”.

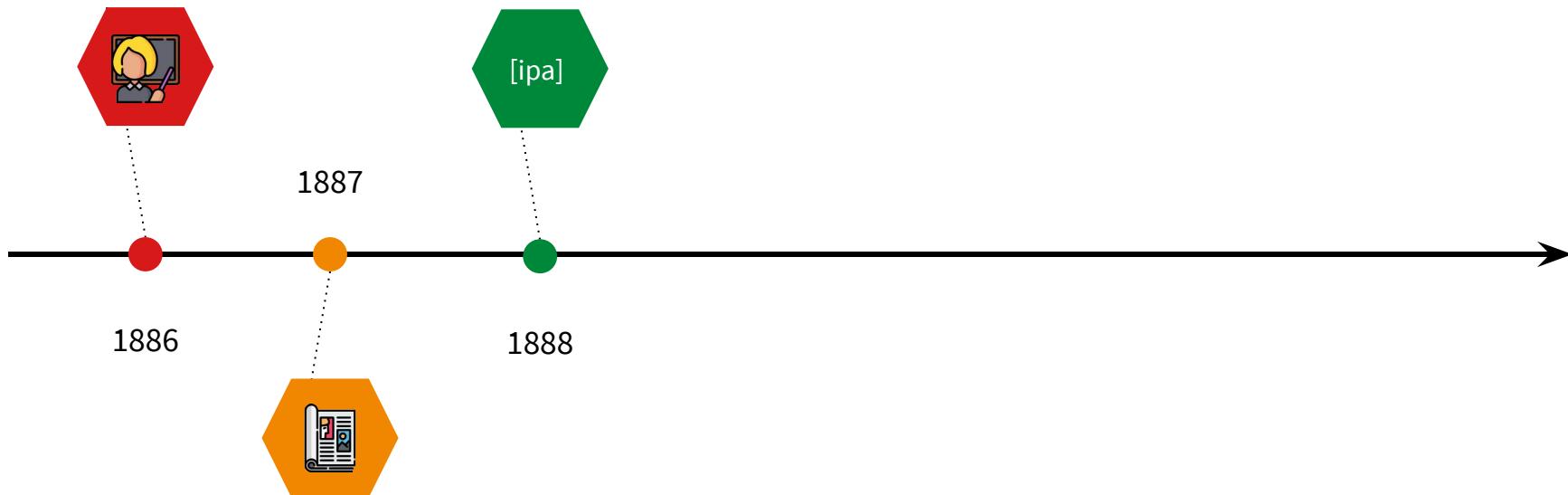
dhə fɔnetik tîtcər

The Phonetic Teacher's
Association is born in France.

Dhi Fonètik Tîtcer
Paul Passy

First version of the *International
phonetic alphabet*.

ðə fonetik tîtcər



Articles about “general
phonetics”.

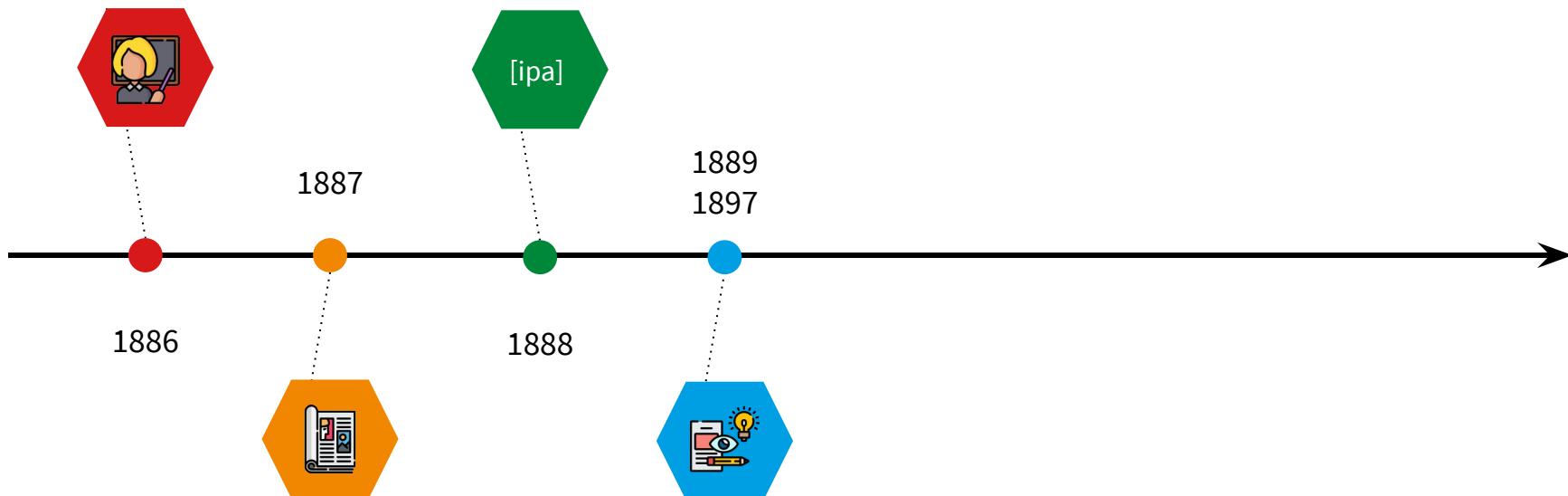
d̥ə fonetik tîtcər

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ðə fonetik tîtcær



Articles about “general phonetics”.

dhə fonetik tîtcær

L'Association Phonétique des Professeurs de Langue Vivantes

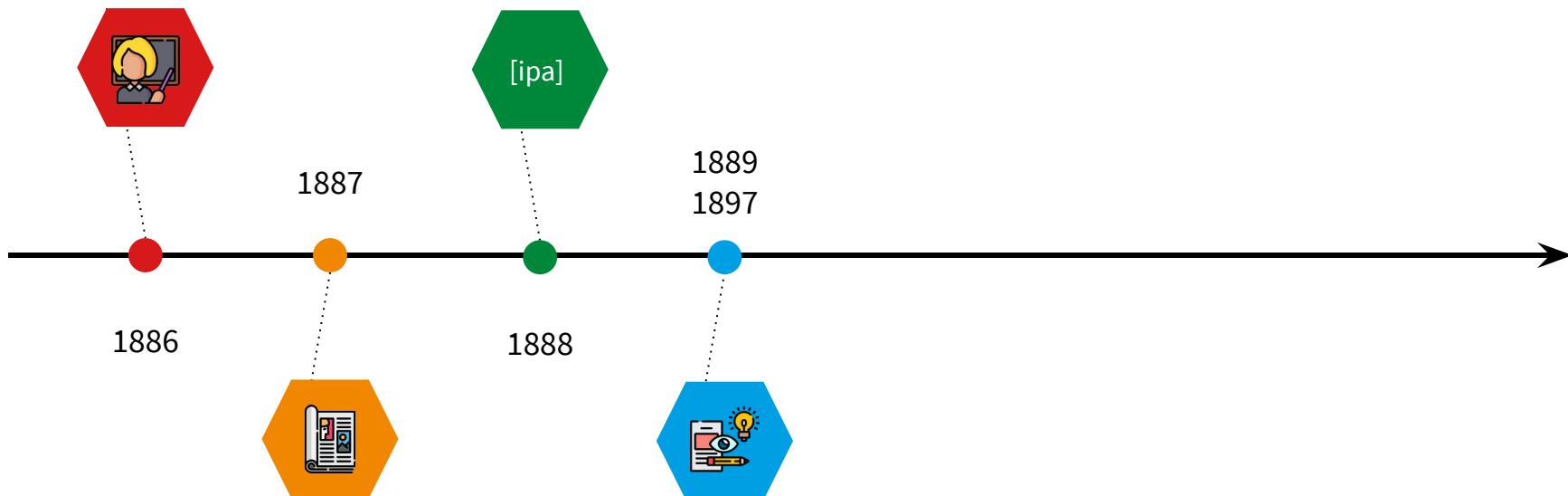
Le Maître Phonétique

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Articles about “general phonetics”.

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L'Association Phonétique Internationale

Le Maître Phonétique

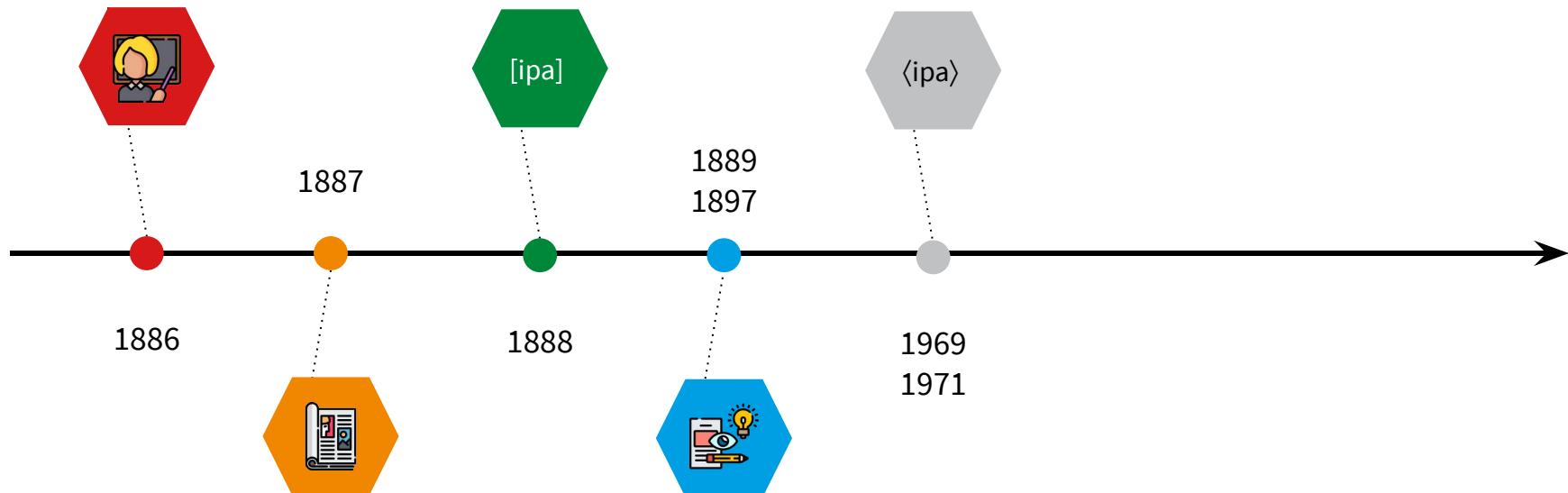
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The Journal of the International Phonetic Association.



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L'Association Phonétique Internationale

Le Maître Phonétique

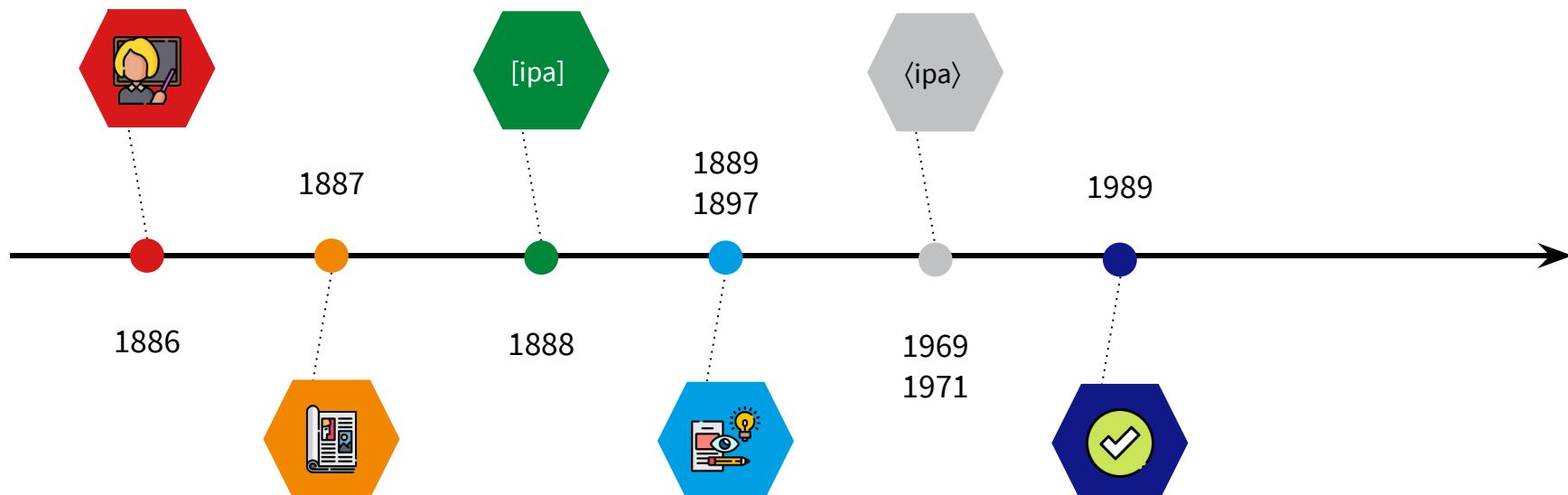
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ðə fonetik tîtcær

The Journal of the International Phonetic Association.



Articles about “general phonetics”.

dhə fonetik tîtcær

L'Association Phonétique Internationale
Le Maître Phonétique

The Kiel Convention takes place.

Principles of the IPA

Phonemic

/b/

[β] - [b]

Typographical

/rouver/

/ʁuvaʁ/

Albanian
Shqip

Albanian





After WWII



Socio-political context



Spacio-urban policies



Tirana up to the 1970s



Congress of Orthography (1972)



Literacy for All



July 1990 - German Embassy



Tirana Now

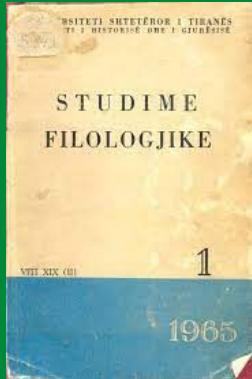


Pazari i Ri (“Viktualien Markt”), 1959 & 2017

Albanien. Tirana. Markt.
Skypnë. Pazari i Tiranës.



Phonetics/Phonology in Albanology



20 articles since 1960

JPhon	0
LabPhon	0
JASA	0

- All impressionistic
- Standard normative
- Historical grammar
- Dialectology

That said ...

- Grammatical descriptions of all varieties of two main dialects
- Review here previous peer-reviewed work

Northern Tosk Toskërishtja veriore



Methods



5 speakers of Northern Tosk (+1 excluded)



Word list + Sentences + Era e Veriut dhe Dielli ('The North Wind and the Sun')



Auditory impressions

Acoustic measurements

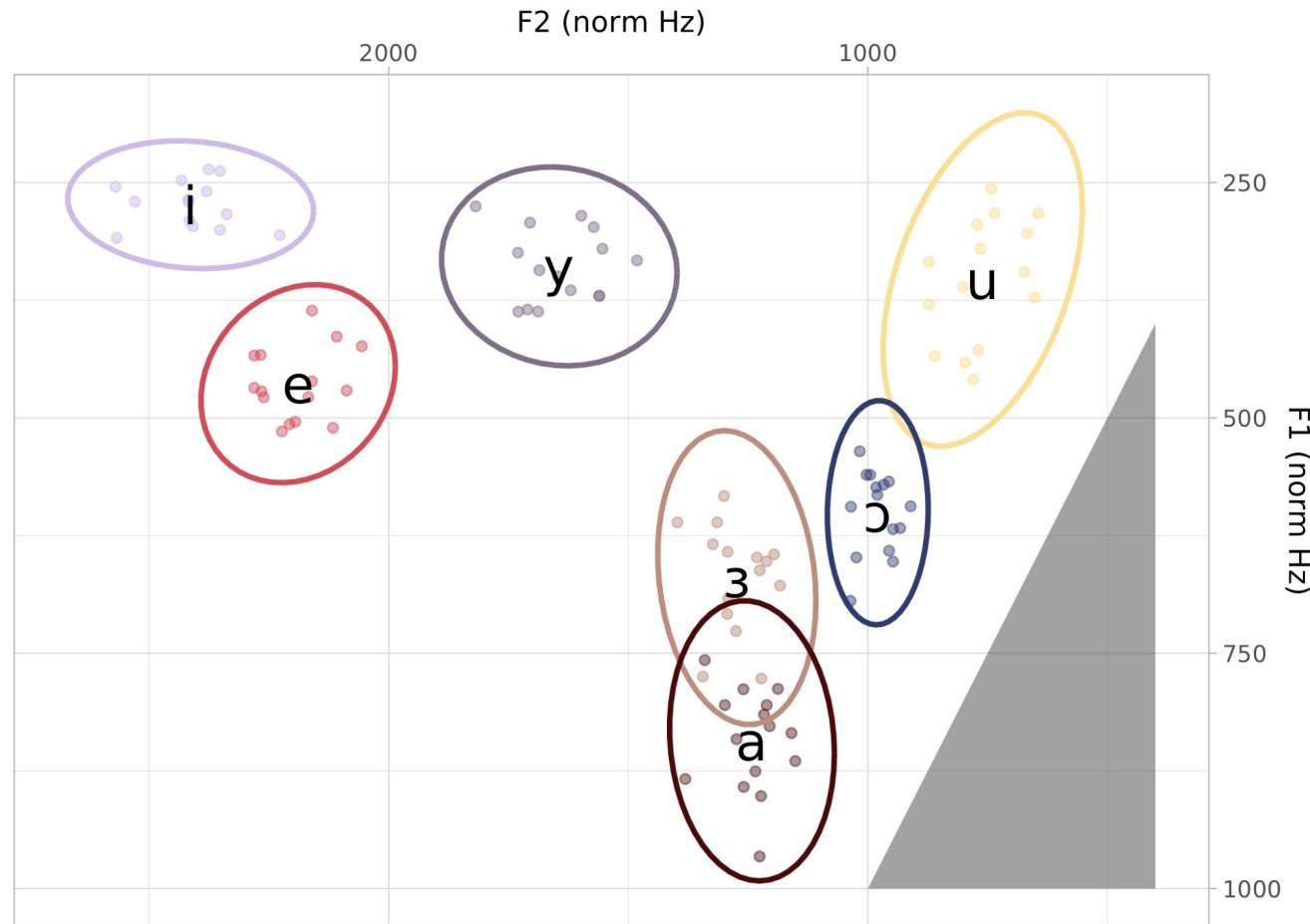
Palatography + Labiography + UTI (1 speaker)

Vowels

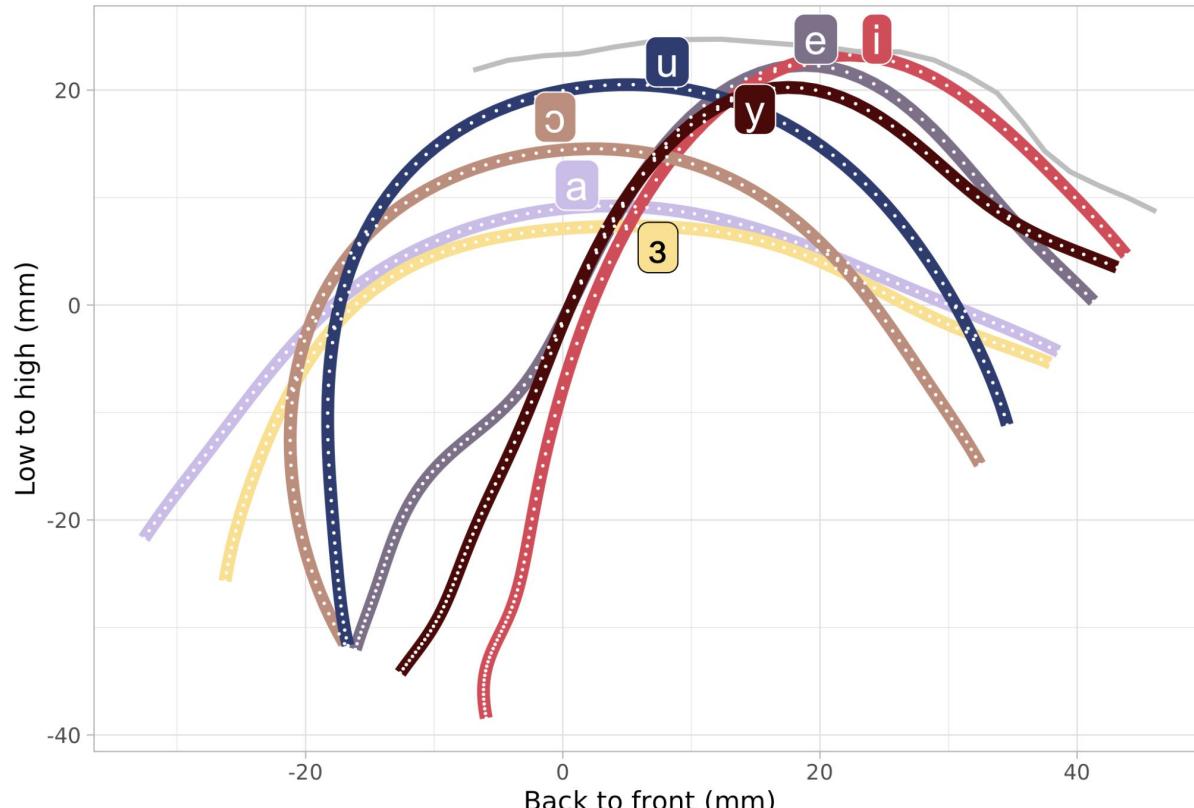
i	/pikʒ/	pike	'drop, dot'	
y	/pykʒ/	pyke	'head (of a hammer)'	
u	/puɾo/	puro	'cigar'	
e	/peɾi/	peri	'thread'	
ə	/pəɾ/	pér	'for'	
ɔ	/poɾ/	por	'but'	
a	/paɾa/	para	'before'	

(partly based on Beci 2004)

Vowels



Vowels



Polar GAM smoothing, k = 8

Vowels

/i/



/e/



/a/



/y/



/ɔ/



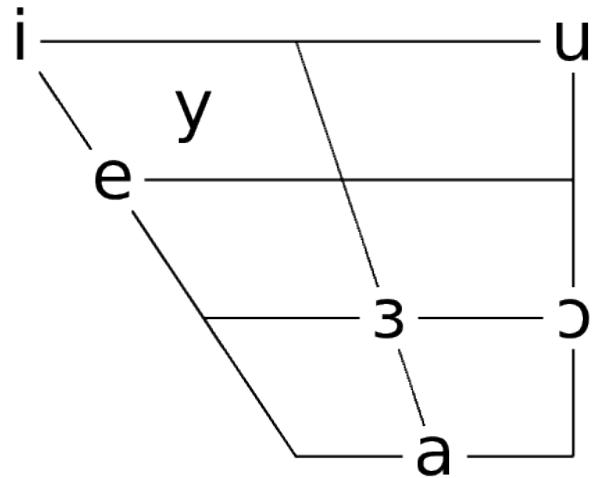
/u/



/ɛ/



Vowels

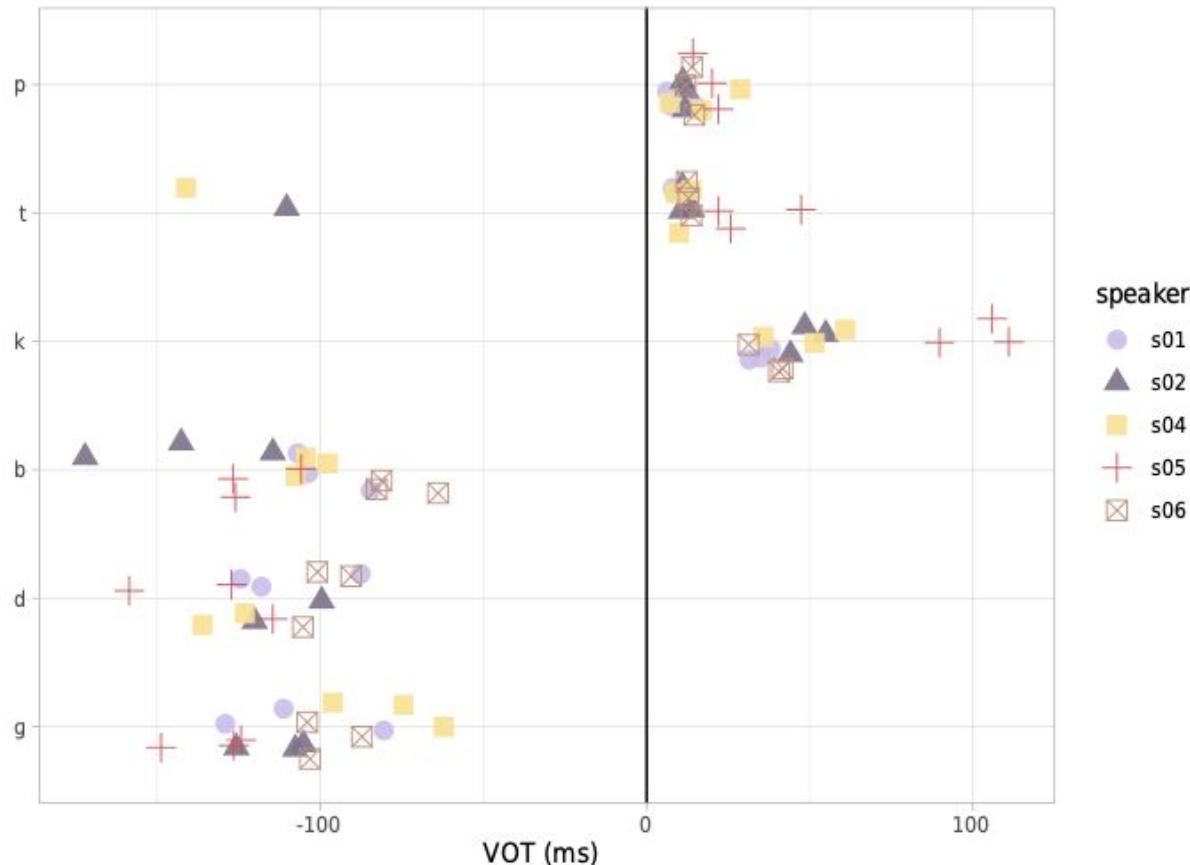


- Unstressed vowels (e.g. Belluscio 2014)
- Vowel sequences (e.g. Beci 2002)

Consonants

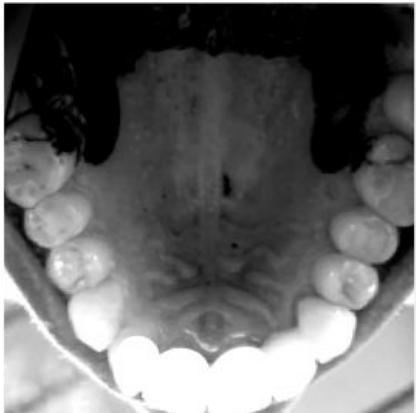
	Bilabial	Labio-dental	Dental	Alveolar	Post-alveolar		Retroflex	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
					Apical	Laminal				
Plosive	p b			t d					k g	
Affricate				ts dz	tʃ dʒ	tʃ̚ dʒ̚				
Nasal	m			n				j		
Trill				r						
Flap							r			
Fricative		f v	θ ð	s z		ʃ ʒ				h
Approx.								j		
Lateral			t̬	l						

Consonants

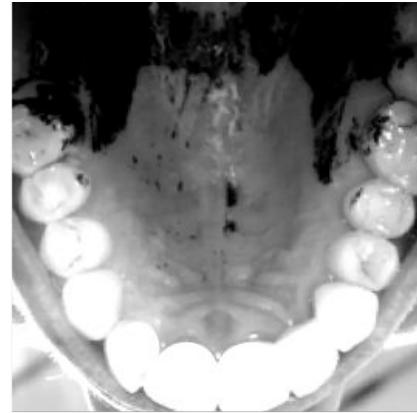


Consonants

/k/



/g/

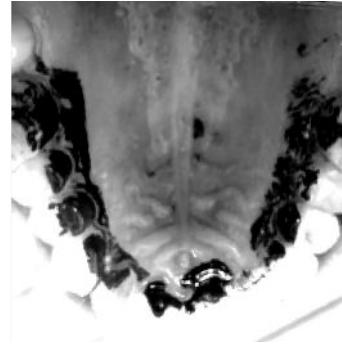


Consonants

/t/



/d/



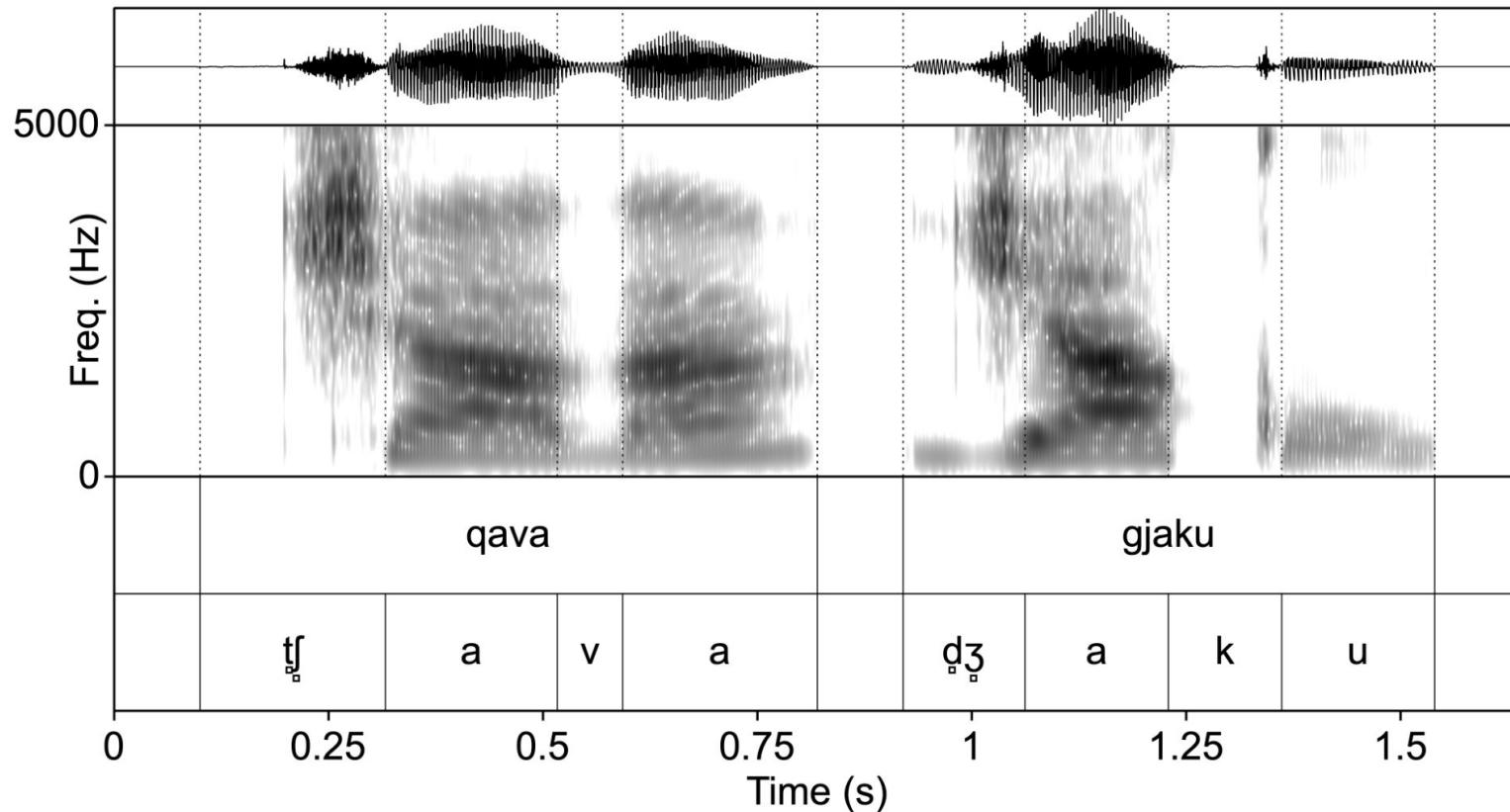
/ts/



/dz/

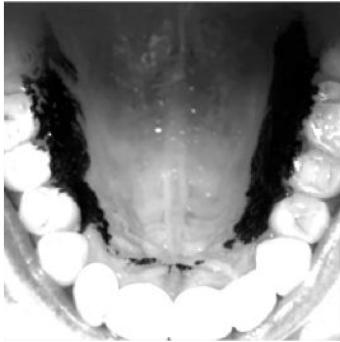


Consonants

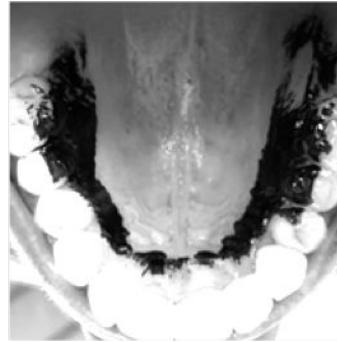


Consonants

/tʃ/



/dʒ/



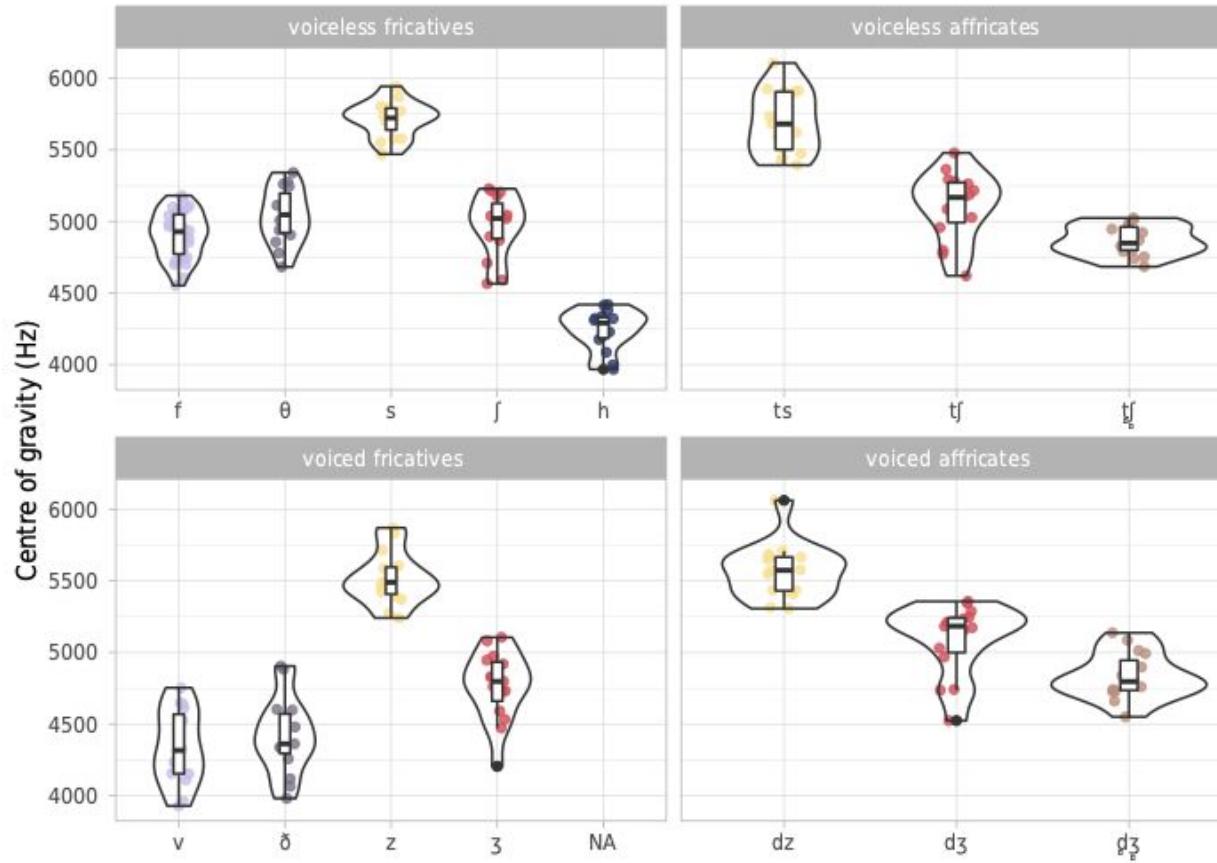
/t_ç/



/d_ʒ/



Consonants



Consonants

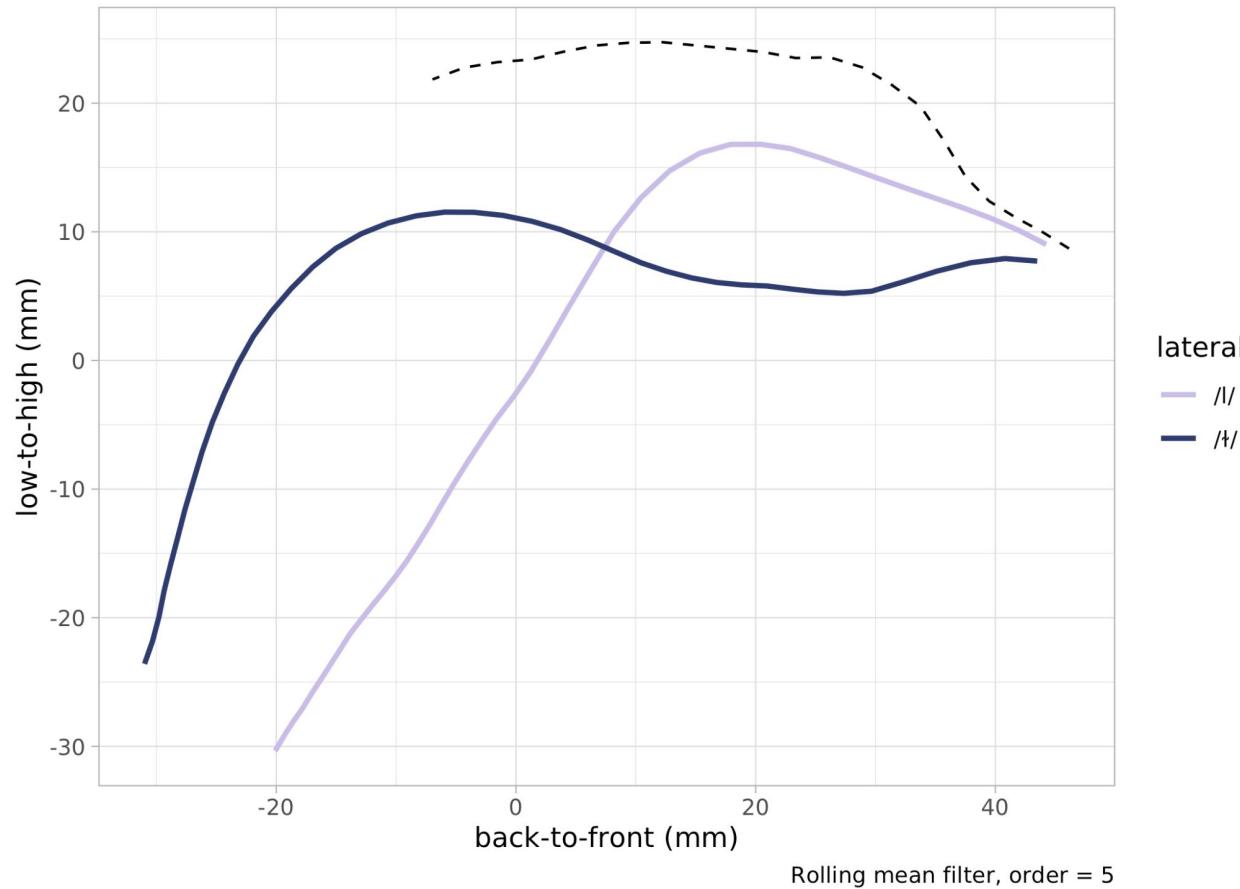
/l/



/t/



Consonants



Consonants

- Northern Tosk contrasts two rhotics: ⟨r⟩ and ⟨rr⟩
- In our data, ⟨rr⟩ was all but invariably an alveolar trill [r]
- Whereas ⟨r⟩ showed a great deal of variation (see also Belluscio 2014)
 - E.g. retroflex flap [ɾ], retroflex approximant [ɻ], (post-)alveolar approximant [ɹ]
 - Generally speaking, [ɻ] was found in the coda, with [ɾ] elsewhere
 - However, with limited data, we cannot yet make any definitive generalisations

One more thing...

Table 3 Coverage by category for *JPhon*.

Consonant categories	Coverage	Vowel categories	Coverage	Suprasegmental categories	Coverage
VOT	30%	Formants	23%	Stress	10%
Closure duration	20%	Dispersion	6%	Length	5%
Voicing	20%	Additional features	25%	Tone or pitch accent	17%
Formant transitions	5%	Duration	23%	Intonation	8%
Fricative spectra	5%	Intensity	6%	Interactions	13%
Fricative duration	3%	Interactions	5%	Other	6%
Burst	9%	Other	20%		
Preaspiration	2%				
Sonorants	7%				
Other	27%				

Table 1 Phonetic categories surveyed.

Consonants	Vowels	Suprasegmentals
✓ Voice Onset Time (VOT)	✓ Formants	✓ Stress
Closure duration	Dispersion	
✓ Voicing/Voicing duration	✓ Vowel features	✓ Tone/pitch accent
Formant transitions (place)	Duration	✓ Intonation
✓ Fricative spectrum	Intensity	Interactions
Fricative duration	Interactions	✓ Other
Burst characteristics	✓ Other (labiography, UTI)	(phonotactics)
✓ Sonorants		
✓ Other (palatography, UTI)		

Future work

- IPA Illustration of Gheg and other varieties of Albanian
- More extensive investigation of Albanian acoustics and articulation
 - Rhotics
 - Affricates
 - /ʒ/
- Perceptual studies
- Sociophonetics

eṛa e veriut ḫe die-li pō ziheſin se kuſ iſte m3 i fɔṛt3 |
kuṛ aty kalbi n3 uðstaṛ t̄[z] kiſte veſur n3 pałtɔ t3 ngṝht3 ||

ata ḥan3 dakɔṛd t̄[z] kuſ do ta b3nte uðstaṛin t3 hit̄te pałtɔn m3 p3ṛpaṛa do t3 t̄[z]uhej
m3 i fɔṛti ||

fił pas k3saj |

eṛa e veriut fiłci t3 frynte me džiθ3 fut̄in3 e saj |
pɔṛ sa m3 ſum3 t̄[z] frynte at̄[z] m3 ſum3 kapej uðstaṛi pas pałtɔs s3 tij |
deřisa m3 n3 fund eṛa e veriut u dorȝzua ||

pastaj die-li l3jci rezet e tij t3 ngṝhta |
ᬁe meñzheṛz uðstaṛi e hɔt̄si pałtɔn ||

e k3ſtu eṛa e veriut u detyṛua t3 pṛanɔnte t̄[z] die-li iſte m3 i fɔṛt3 se ajo

Thanks!
Faleminderit!

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www.bunkart.al

www.spiegel.de

www.tirana.al

www.aktivpress.com