



GULP

‘Bring hither the fatted coo’ real-time change in Glaswegian over a century

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Keppochill Road. As with many other parts of the city, new housing has been built on the site



speaker from Maryhill, Glasgow,
recorded in 2013



There was a man who had two sons. The younger one said to his father, ‘father, give me my share of the estate’. So he divided his property between them. Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off in a distant country and there squandered his wealth on wild living. After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need.



Glasgow Cross at the height of the industrial troubles during the war. The pub advertises Lloyd George's New Munitions Ale at tuppence a schooner. The picture was taken in 1916 when the Government was

speaker from Glasgow, recorded in 1916



There was a man whae had twa son. The youngest of them said to his faither, 'Gie me that pairt of your guid's that belongs to me'. So the faither gied him his share. No mony days efterwards, the young man gaithered aw his belangings together, and went away into a faur country. There he wasted aw that he had. When he had spent awthing, a great famine kam ower the country, and he began to be in want.

- How has Glaswegian changed over the past century?
 - (relatively) stable?
 - stable or changing?
 - possibly changing?
- Inferring sound change in real- and apparent-time (e.g. Labov 1994; Sankoff and Blondeau 2007)

- How has Glaswegian changed over the past century?
 - vowel quality, e.g. /ʌ/ (BOOT)
 - vowel duration (Scottish Vowel Length Rule)
 - postvocalic /r/, e.g. *father, share*
- Inferring sound change in real- and apparent-time (e.g. Labov 1994; Sankoff and Blondeau 2007)

Materials and resources





SOUNDS OF THE CITY



Fine phonetic variation and sound change: A real-time study of Glaswegian

<http://soundsofthecity.arts.gla.ac.uk/>

Oct 2011-Dec 2014



The Leverhulme Trust

(target) corpus for a real-time study of Glaswegian Vernacular

<i>Decade of Recording</i>	<i>Old 67-90 (Decade of Birth)</i>	<i>Middle-aged 40-55 (Decade of Birth)</i>	<i>Young 10-15 (Decade of Birth)</i>
1970s	6 f, 6 m (1890s)	6 f, 6 m (1920s)	6 f, 6 m (1960s)
1980s	6 f, 6 m (1900s)	6 f, 6 m (1930s)	6 f, 6 m (1970s)
1990s	6 f, 6 m (1910s)	6 f, 6 m (1940s)	6 f, 6 m (1980s)
2000s	6 f, 6 m (1920s)	6 f, 6 m (1950s)	6 f, 6 m (1990s)

Private, force-aligned, electronic corpus of spontaneous speech, available for academic researchers, covering 100 years of Glaswegian in apparent- and real-time, stored in LABB-CAT.

Berliner Lautarchiv British & Commonwealth Recordings



- Wilhelm Doegen
- recordings made in prisoner of war camps in Germany between 1916 and 1918







6 speakers from western Central Belt of Scotland
recorded during 1916 and 1917

Vowel quality, e.g. BOOT



- /u/ is fronting in Anglo-English (e.g. Harrington et al 2011)
- Scottish English vowel is central-to-front (/ʊ/), lowered in East (McAllister1938; Macaulay 1977; Scobbie et al 2013)
- occurs within group of other ‘bimoraic’ vowels /i e a ɔ o ʊ / (cf Scobbie et al 1999)

assumption: (relatively) stable with social stratification for /ʊ a/ (cf. Macaulay 1977)

Sample for vowel quality

Berliner Lautarchiv		Sounds of the City	
Decade of birth		Decade of birth	
1890s	10X (3)	1890s	70O (4)
		1920s	00O (4)
		1960s	70Y (4)
		1990s	00Y (4)

Sounds of the City (e.g. Jose et al 2014)

- Search/extraction/automatic F1 & F2 measures
- data reduction
- 7488 tokens

Berliner Lautarchiv

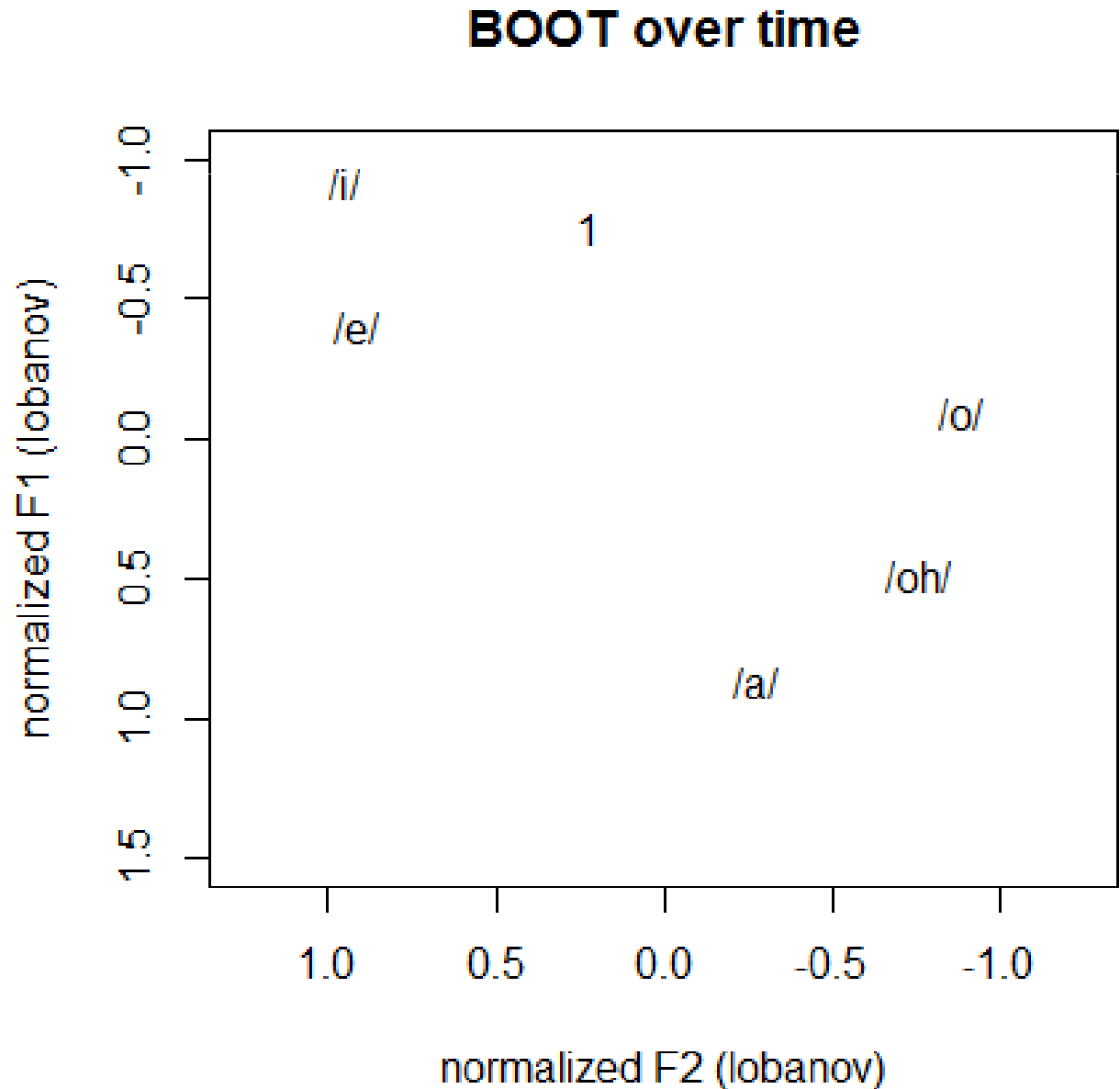
- hand-correction of all segment boundaries
- Search/extraction/automatic F1 & F2 measures
- hand-correction of formant measures
- 396 tokens

Lobanov normalization in NORM; LME in R

/ʈ/ BOOT

**1 = older
speakers born
in 1890s,
recorded in
1970s**

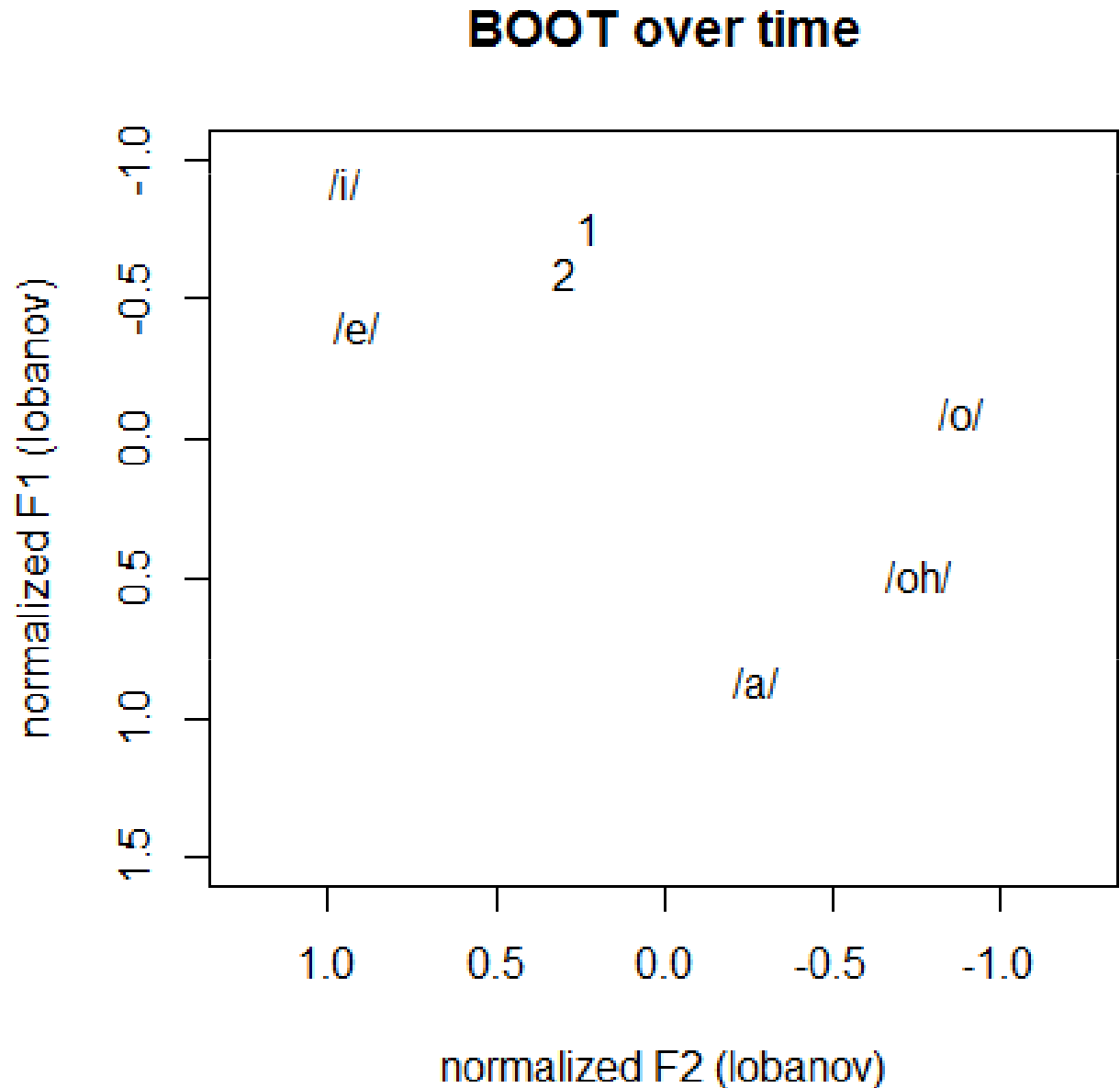
(n=265)



/ʌ/ BOOT

**2 = older
speakers born
in 1920s,
recorded in
2000s**

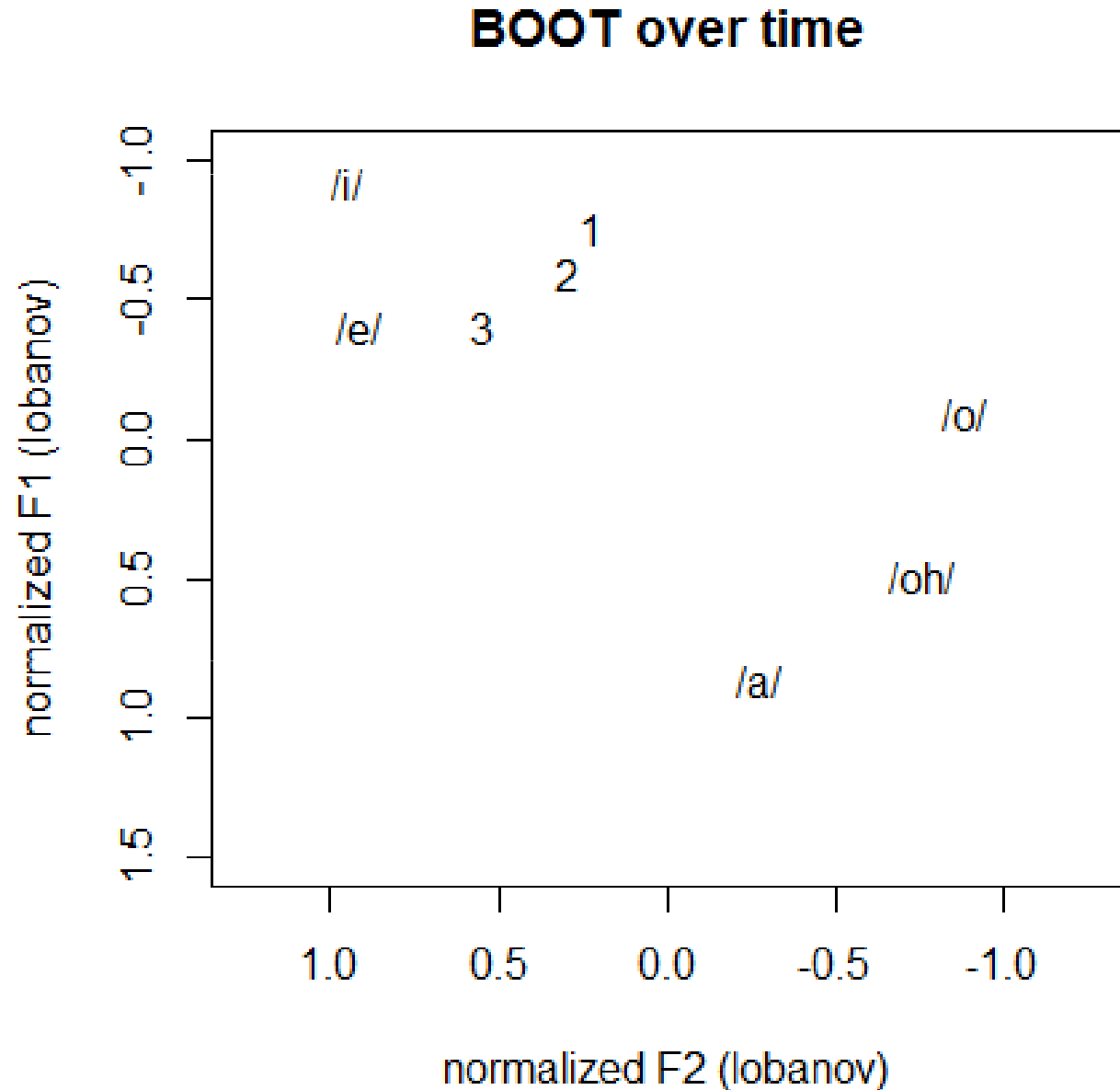
(n=751)



/ʌ/ BOOT

**3 = adolescent
speakers born
in 1960s,
recorded in
1970s**

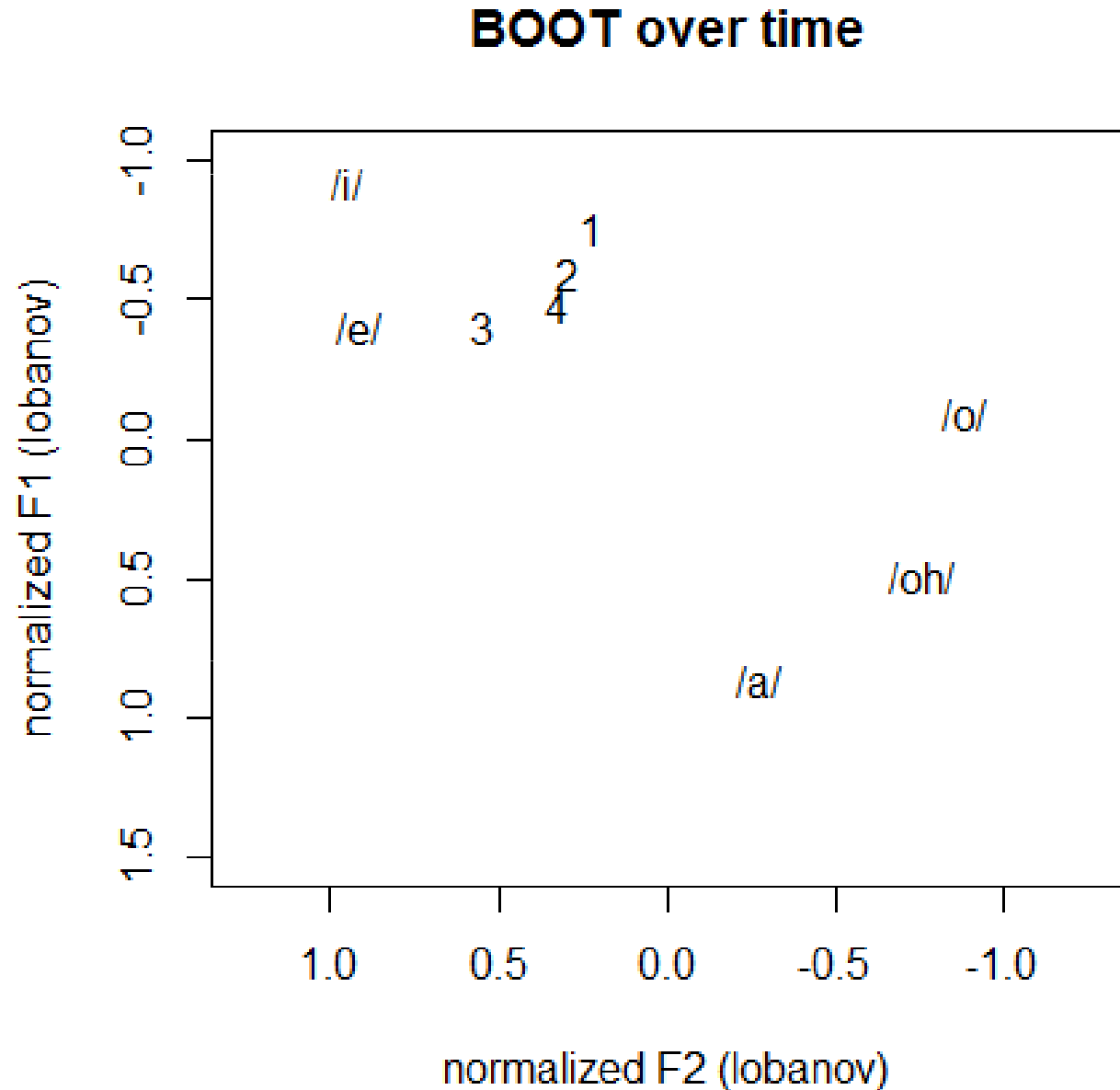
(n=128)



/ʌ/ BOOT

**4 = adolescent
speakers born
in 1990s,
recorded in
2000s**

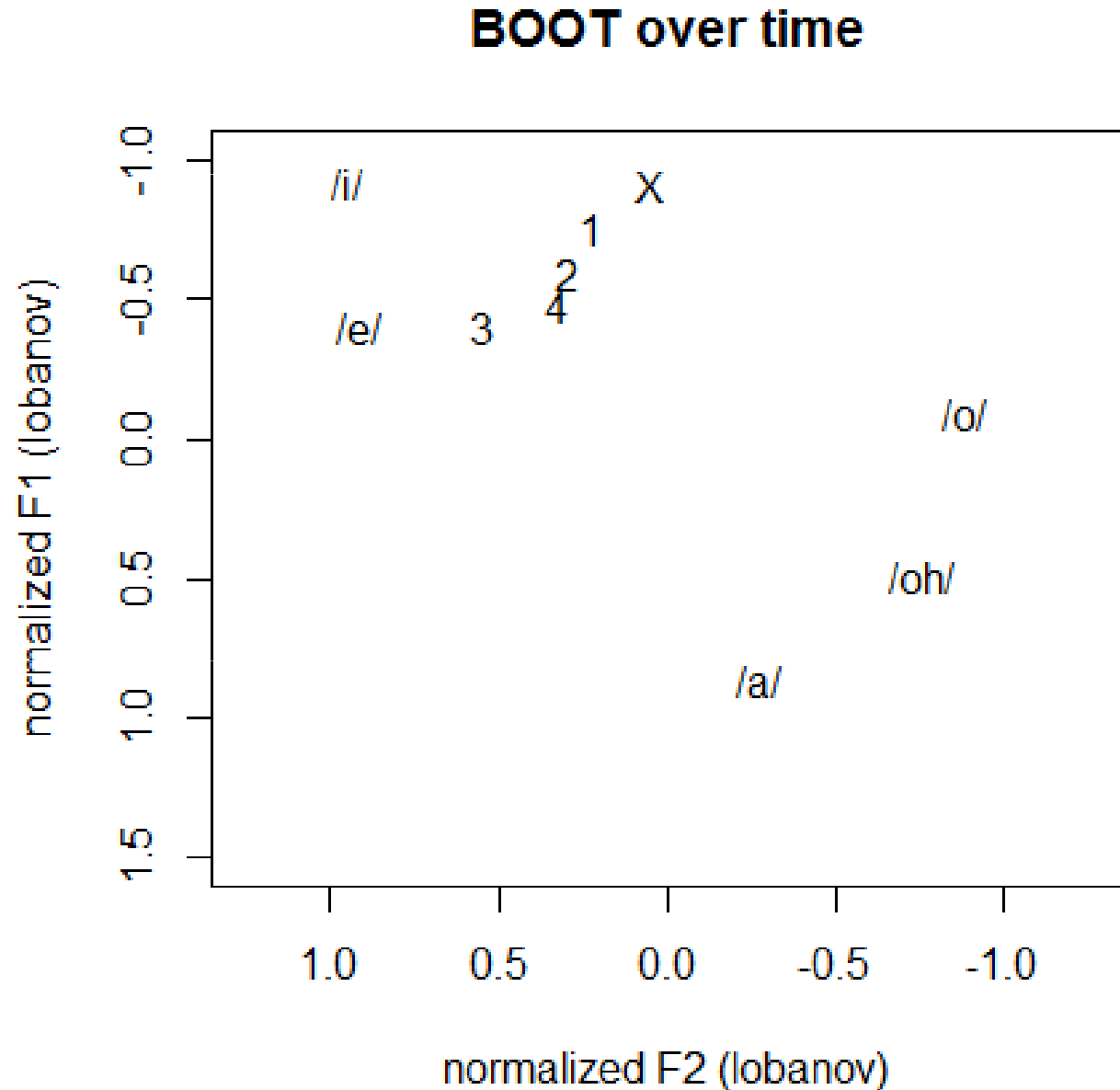
(n=226)



/ʈ/ BOOT

**X = young
adult speakers
born in 1890s,
recorded in
1910s**

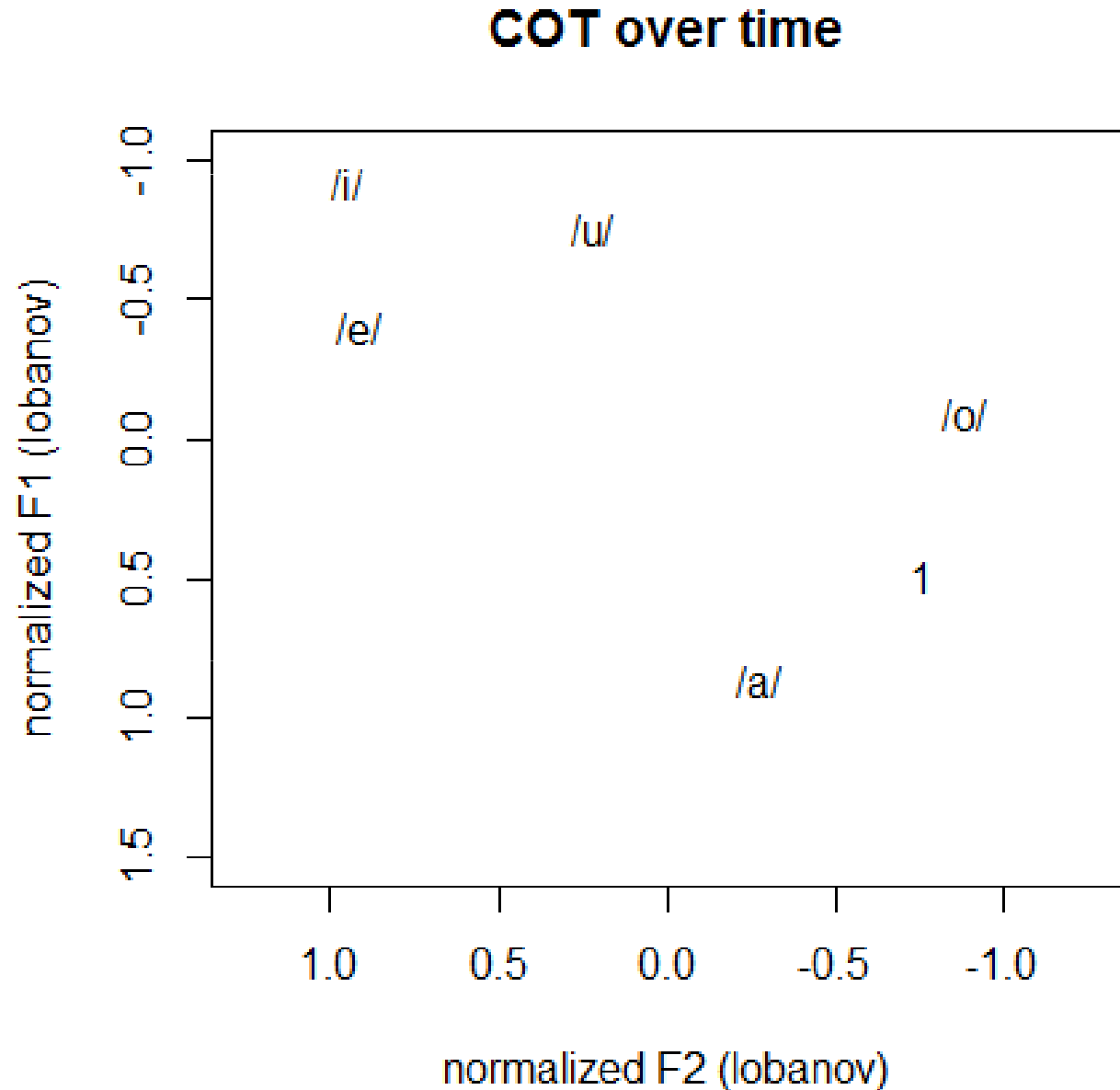
(n=56)



/ɔ/ COT

**1 = older
speakers born
in 1890s,
recorded in
1970s**

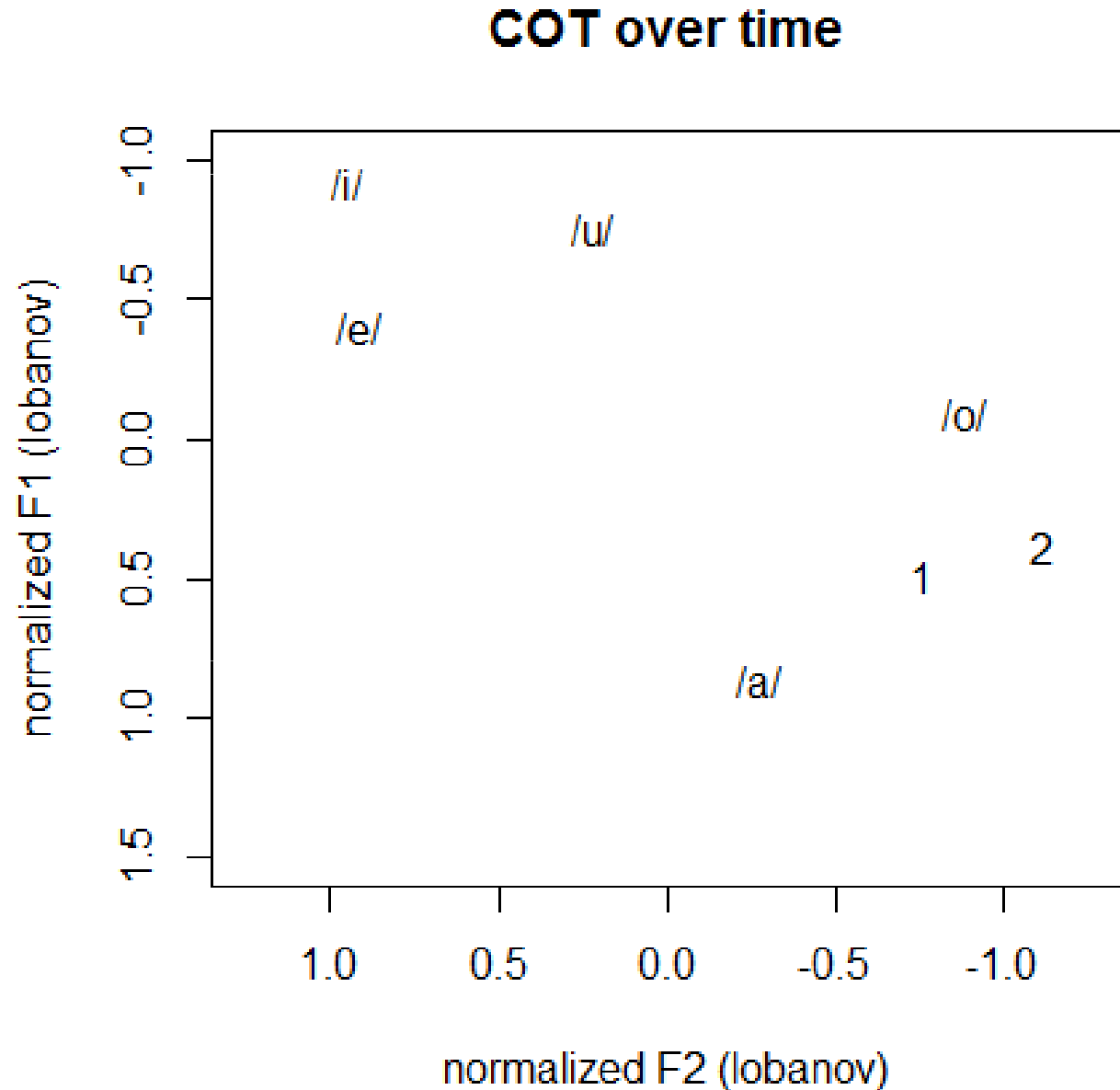
(n=278)



/ɔ/ COT

**2 = older
speakers born
in 1920s,
recorded in
2000s**

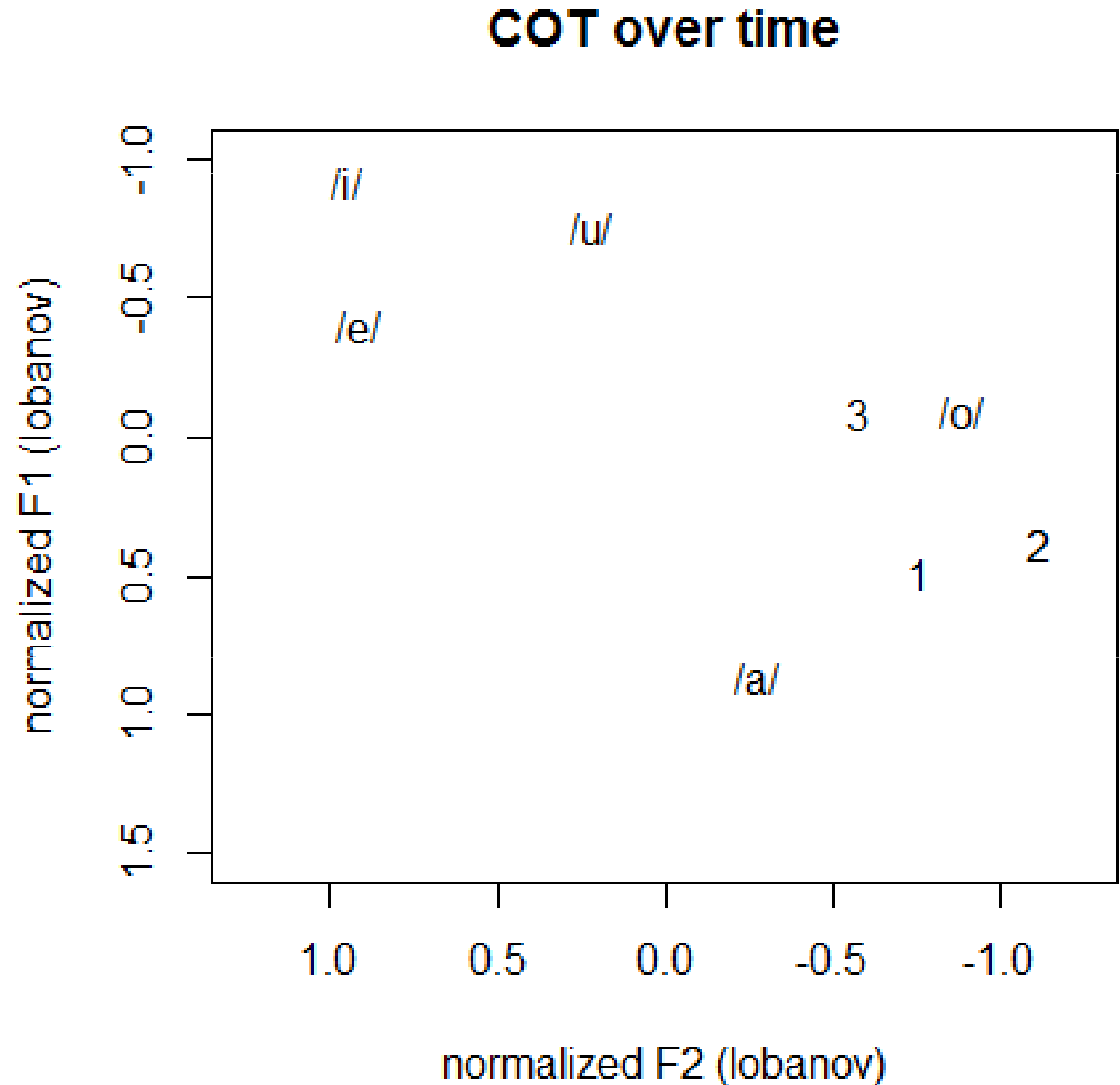
(n=568)



/ɔ/ COT

**3 = adolescent
speakers born
in 1960s,
recorded in
1970s**

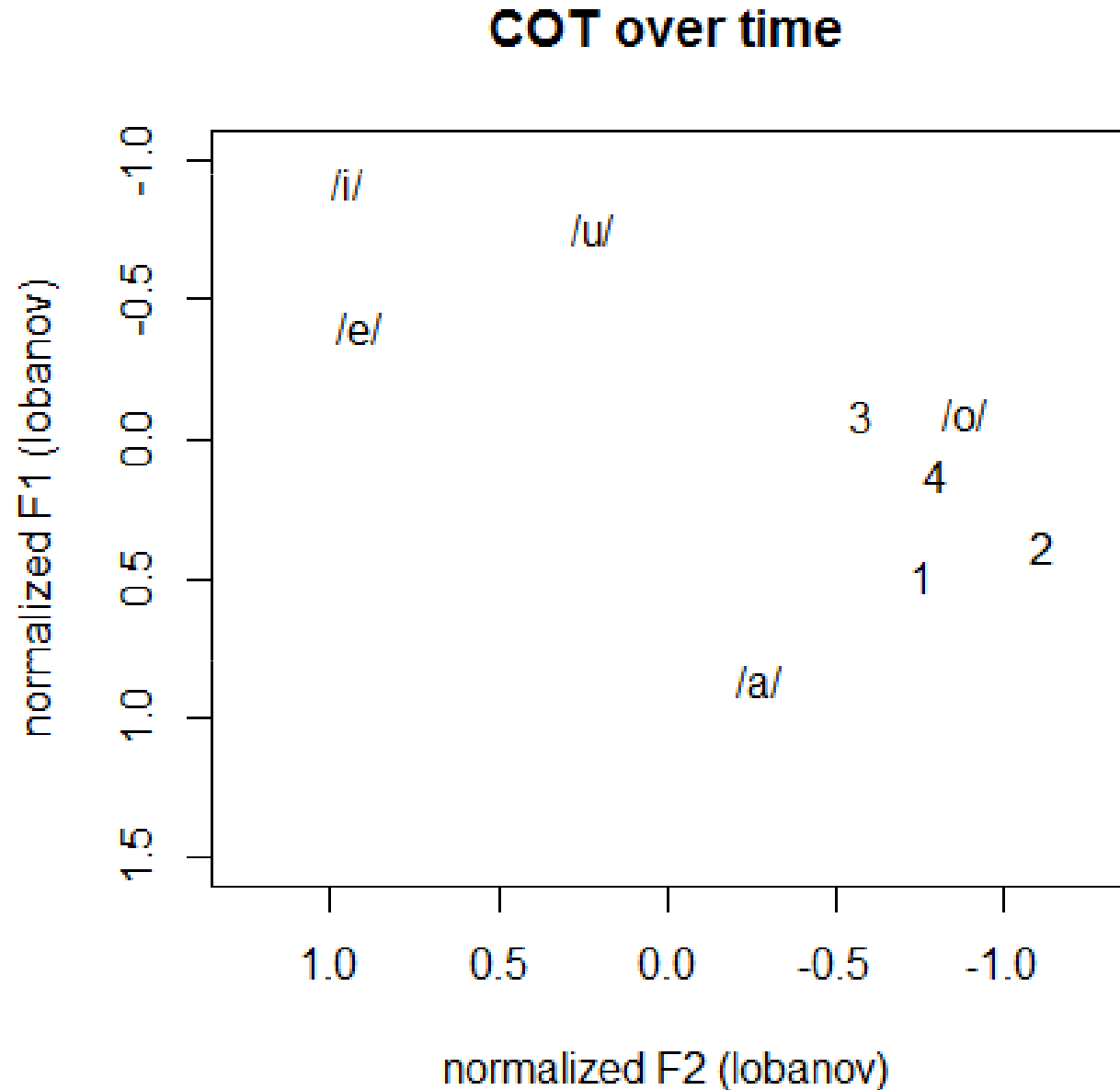
(n=146)



/ɔ/ COT

**4 = adolescent
speakers born
in 1990s,
recorded in
2000s**

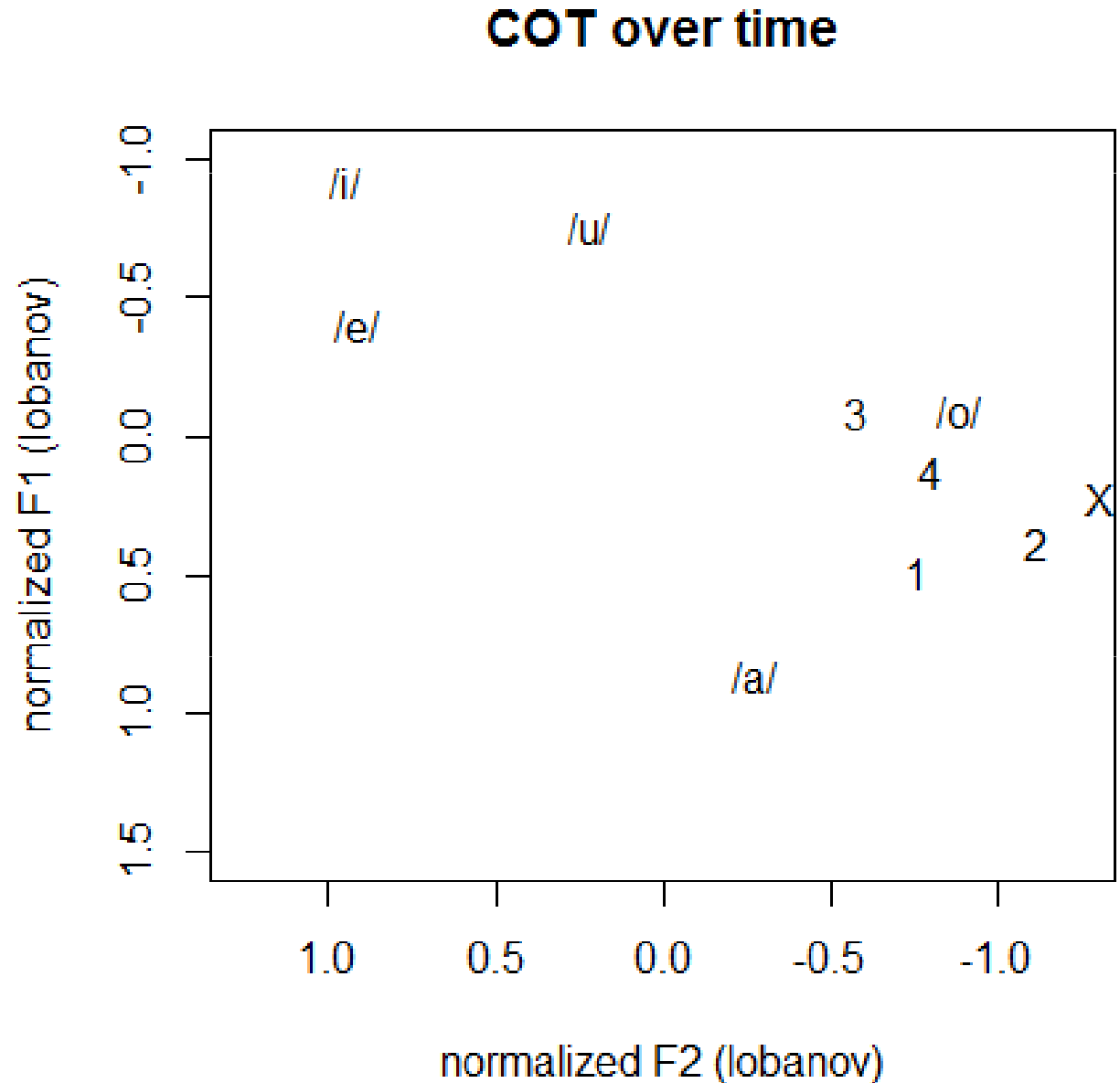
(n=237)



/ɔ/ COT

**X = young
adult speakers
born in 1890s,
recorded in
1910s**

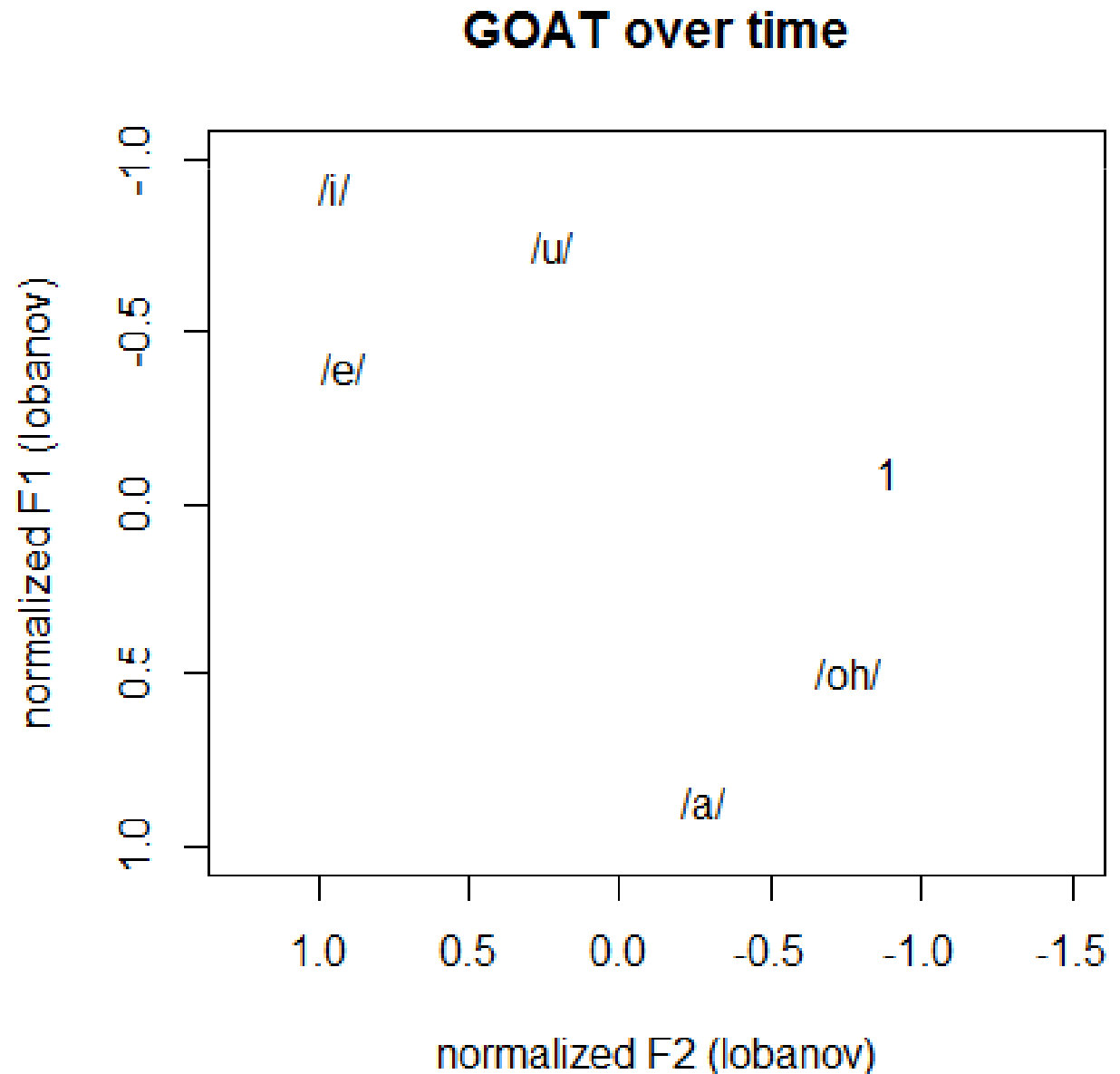
(n=32)



/o/ GOAT

**1 = older
speakers born
in 1890s,
recorded in
1970s**

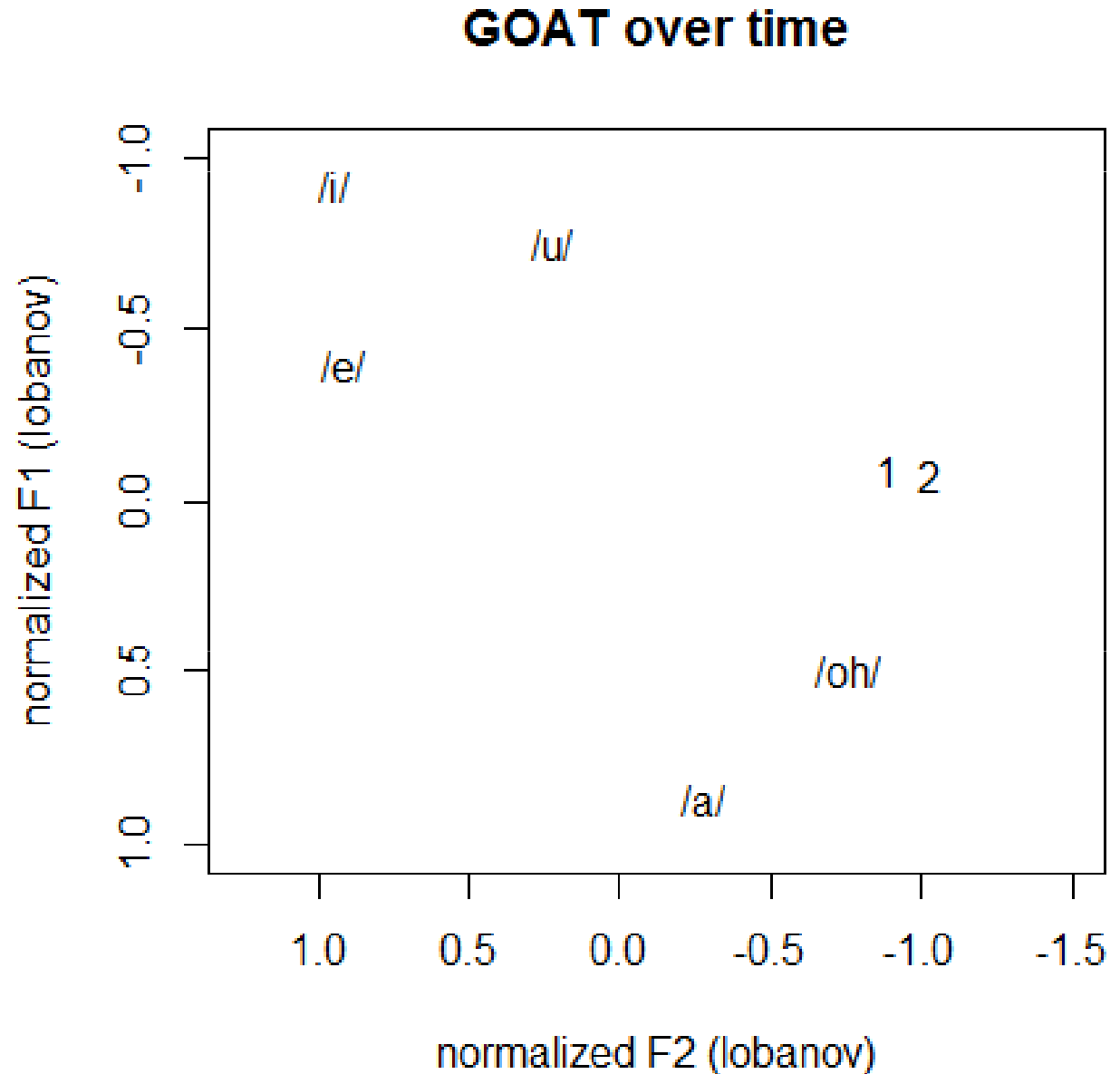
(n=180)



/o/ GOAT

**2 = older
speakers born
in 1920s,
recorded in
2000s**

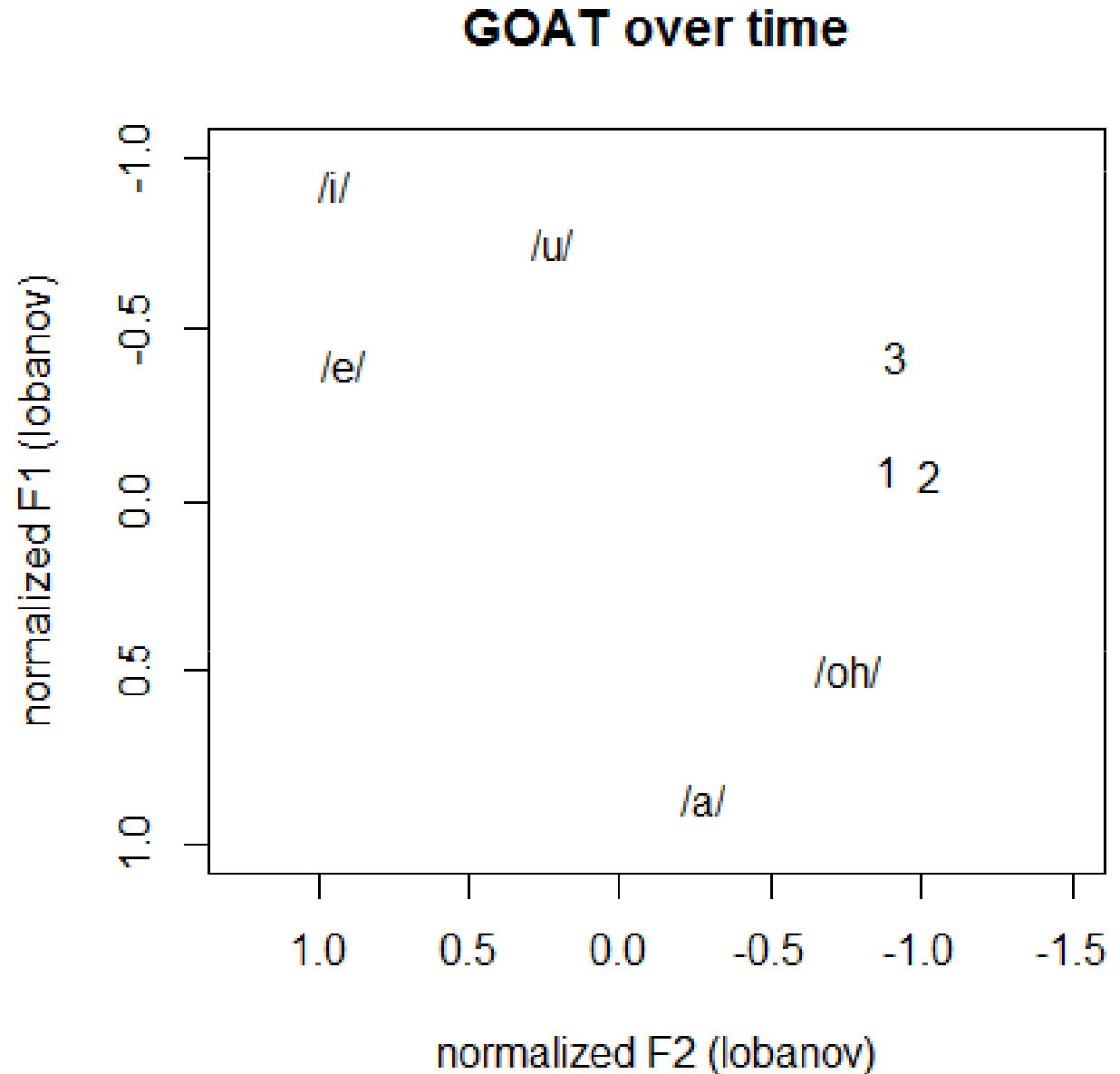
(n=386)



/o/ GOAT

**3 = adolescent
speakers born
in 1960s,
recorded in
1970s**

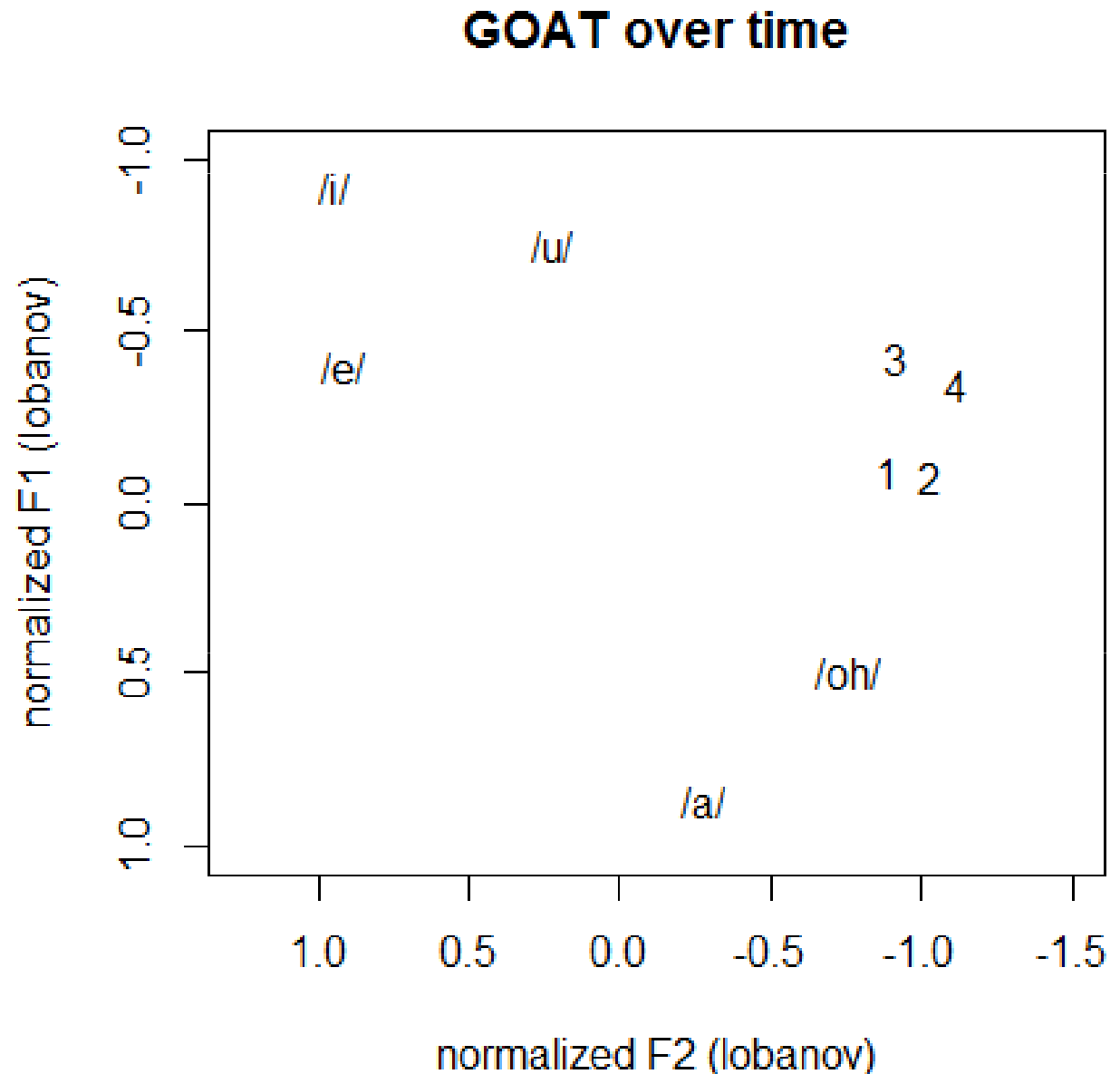
(n=169)



/o/ GOAT

**4 = adolescent
speakers, born
in 1990s
recorded in
2000s**

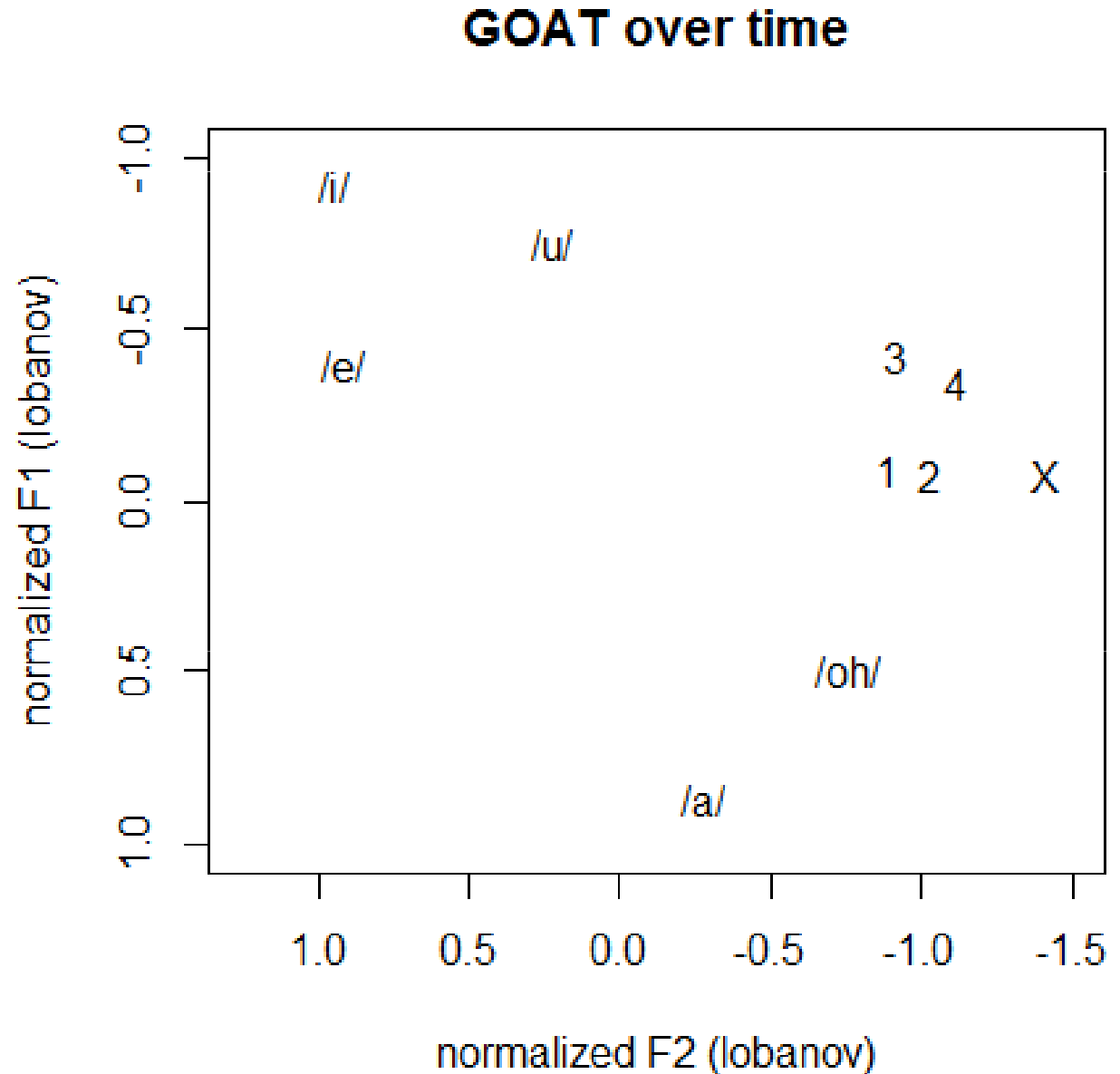
(n=153)



/o/ GOAT

**X = young
adult speakers
born in 1890s,
recorded in
1910s**

(n=25)



Vowel quality - summary

- (some) vowels not as stable as we had assumed
- /ʌ/ BOOT seems to have lowered
- but also shifts in other back vowels
 - /ɔ/ COT raising/fronting
 - /o/ GOAT raising
 - change with age-grading

Scottish Vowel Length Rule (SVLR)



The Scottish Vowel Length Rule (SVLR)

- vowels are short except
 - before /r/, e.g. *beer*
 - before voiced fricatives, e.g. *bees, breathe*
 - before morpheme boundary, e.g. *bee, agree*

	SHORT	SHORT	LONG
Scottish English:	<i>beat</i>	<i>bead</i>	<i>bees,beer,bee</i>
	SHORT	LONG	LONG
English English	<i>beat</i>	<i>bead</i>	<i>bees,beer,bee</i>

- Historically, and in many Scots dialects, all monophthongs and /ai/ (e.g. Aitken 1981)
- in Scottish varieties in high contact with Anglo-English, SVLR weakening and shifting to voicing effect (e.g. Hewlett et al 1999; Llamas et al 2011)
- assumed to be strong in Glasgow, only for /i ʌ ai/ (Scobbie et al 1999)

assumption: SVLR in Glaswegian is stable but perhaps some erosion

Sample for SVLR

Berliner Lautarchiv		Sounds of the City	
decade of birth		decade of birth	
1890s	10X (3)		
		1920s	70M (4)
		1950s	00M (4)
		1960s	70Y (4)
		1990s	00Y (4)

Sounds of the City (e.g. Rathcke/Stuart-Smith 2013)

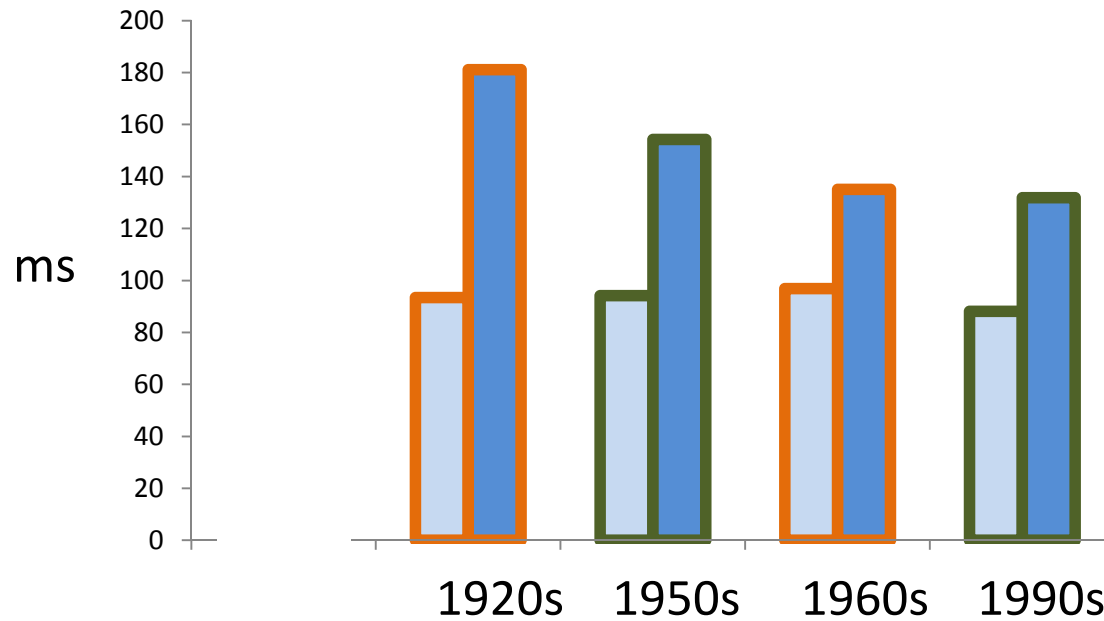
- Hand-corrected vowel boundaries
 - Coding for number of segments/syllables and prosodic factors (prominence/phrase)
- 1520 tokens for /i ʌ/ and /a/

Berliner Lautarchiv

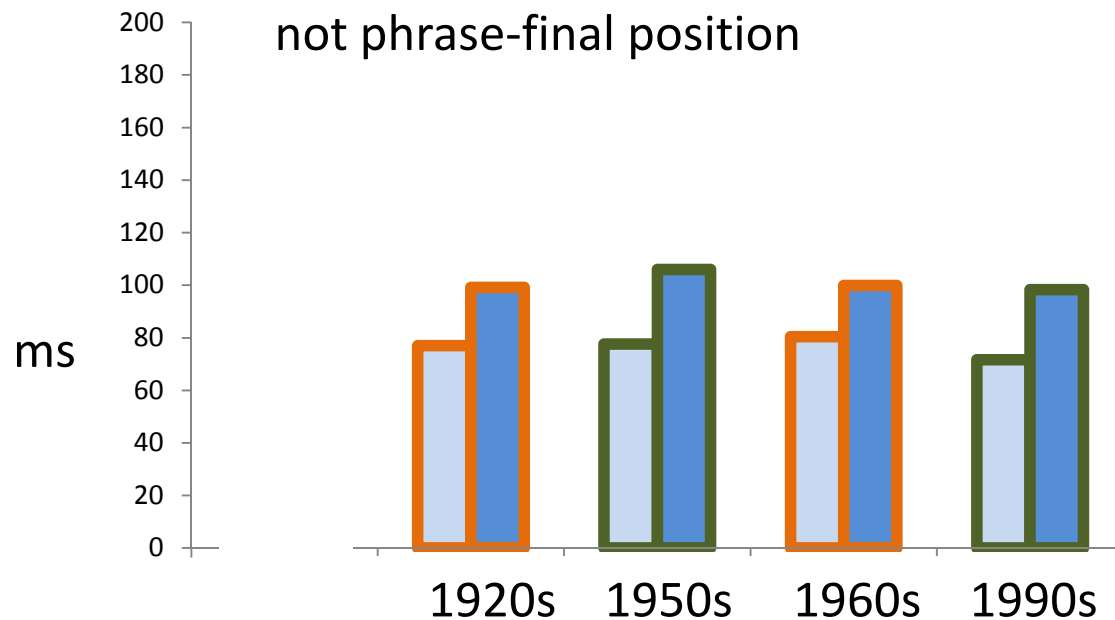
- Hand-correction of all segment boundaries
 - Coding for number of segments/syllables and prosodic factors
- 517 tokens for /i ʌ ai/ and /e a ɔ o/

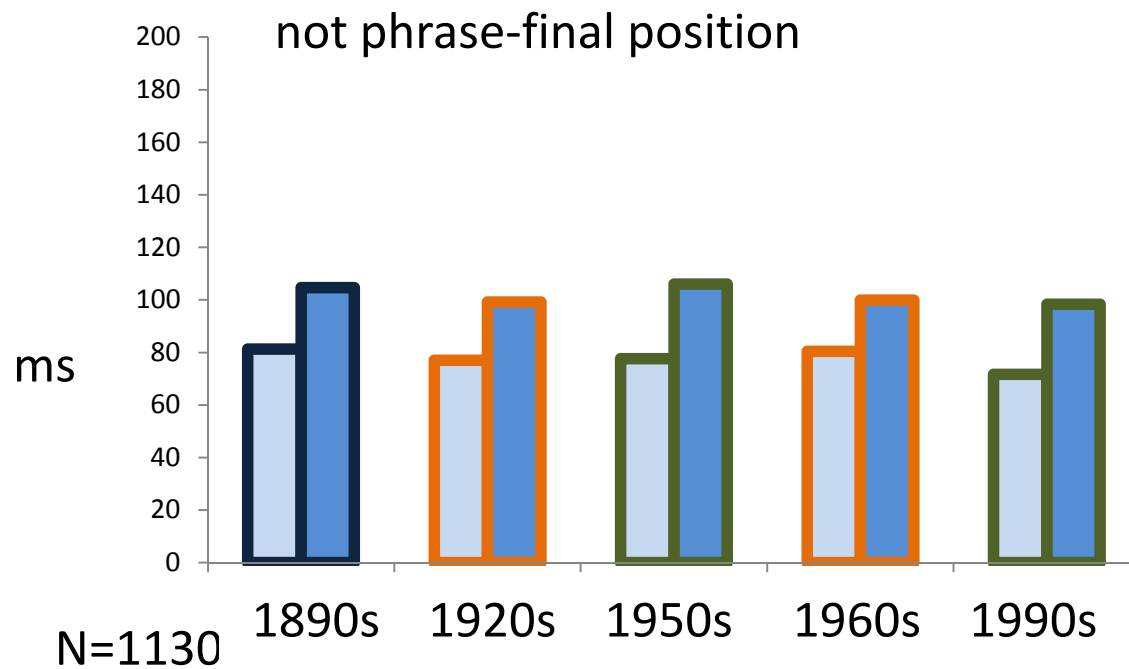
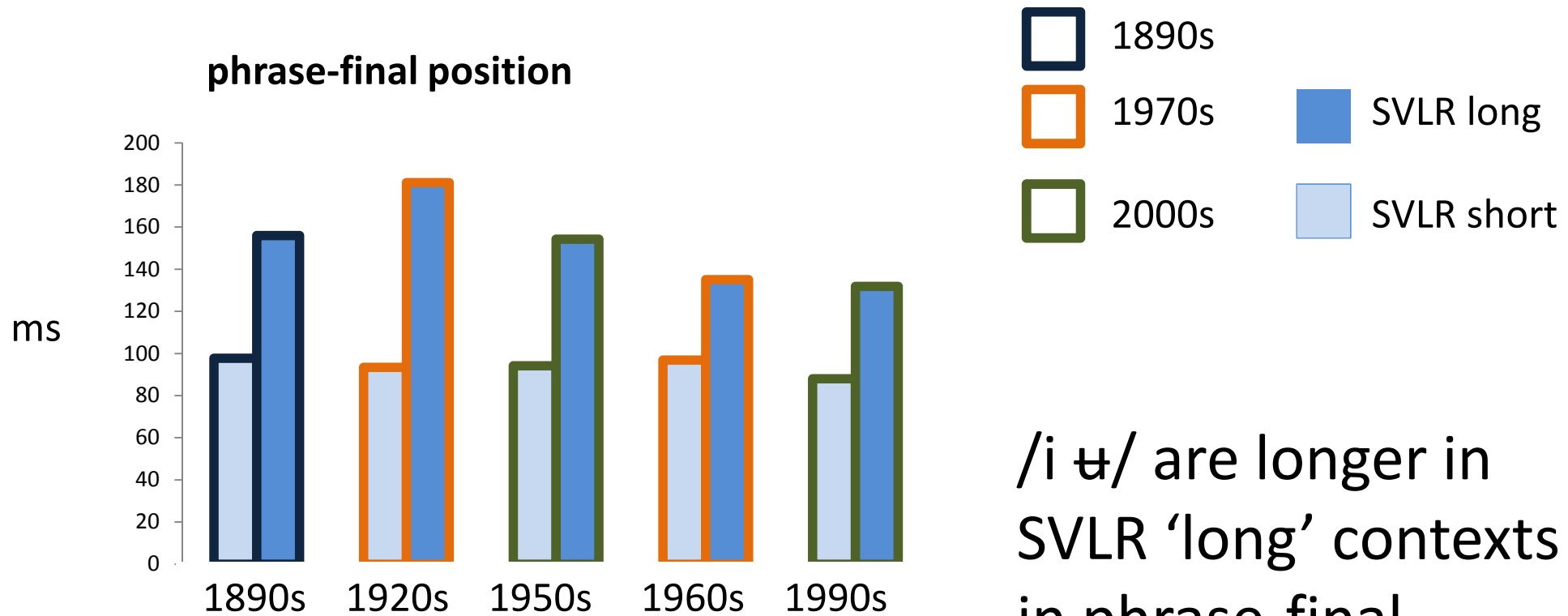
LME in R

phrase-final position



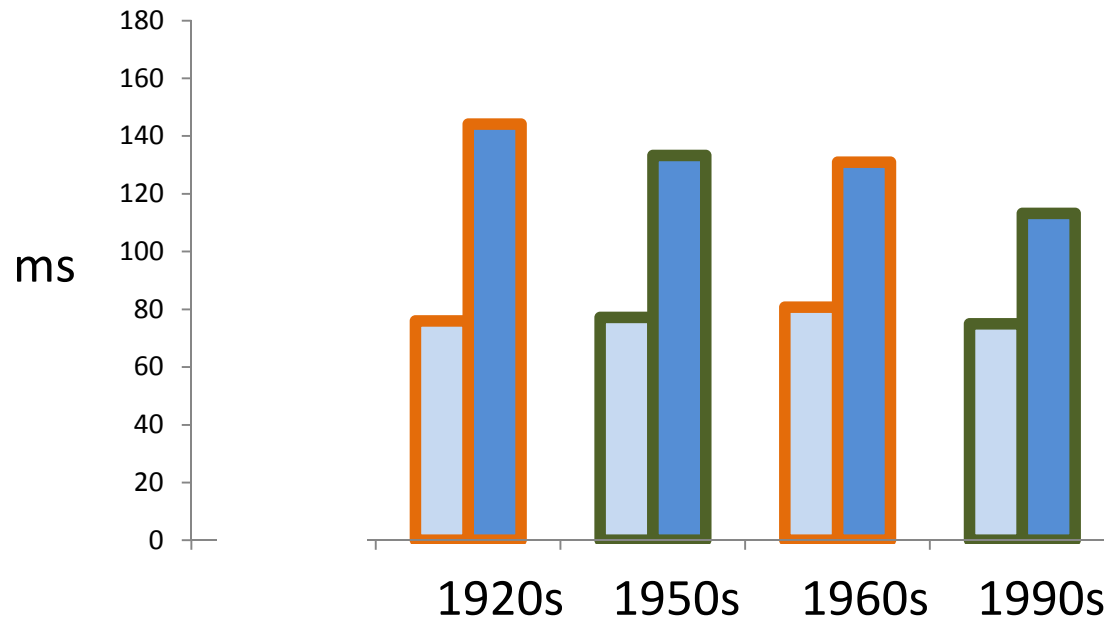
/i ʌ/ are longer in SVLR 'long' contexts in phrase-final position, but shorten over time in that position



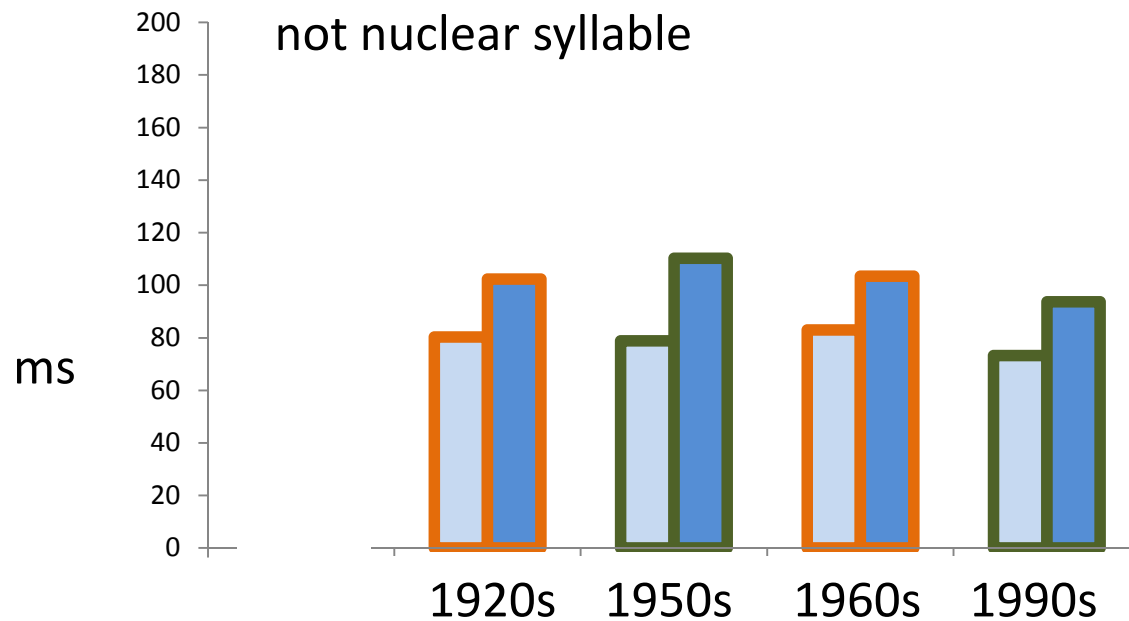


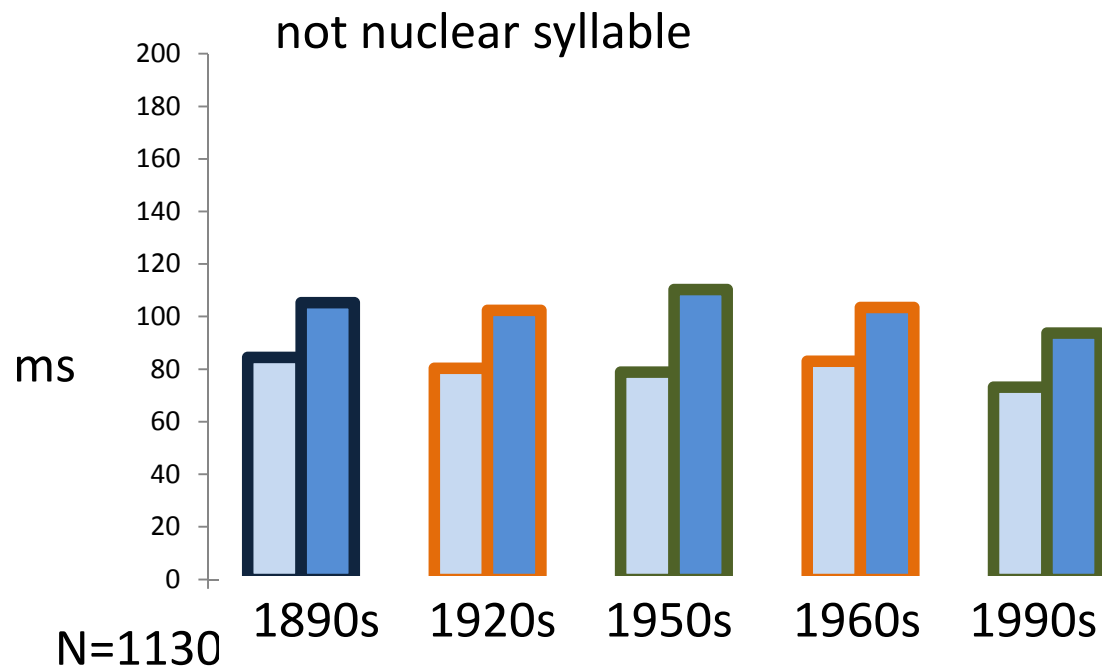
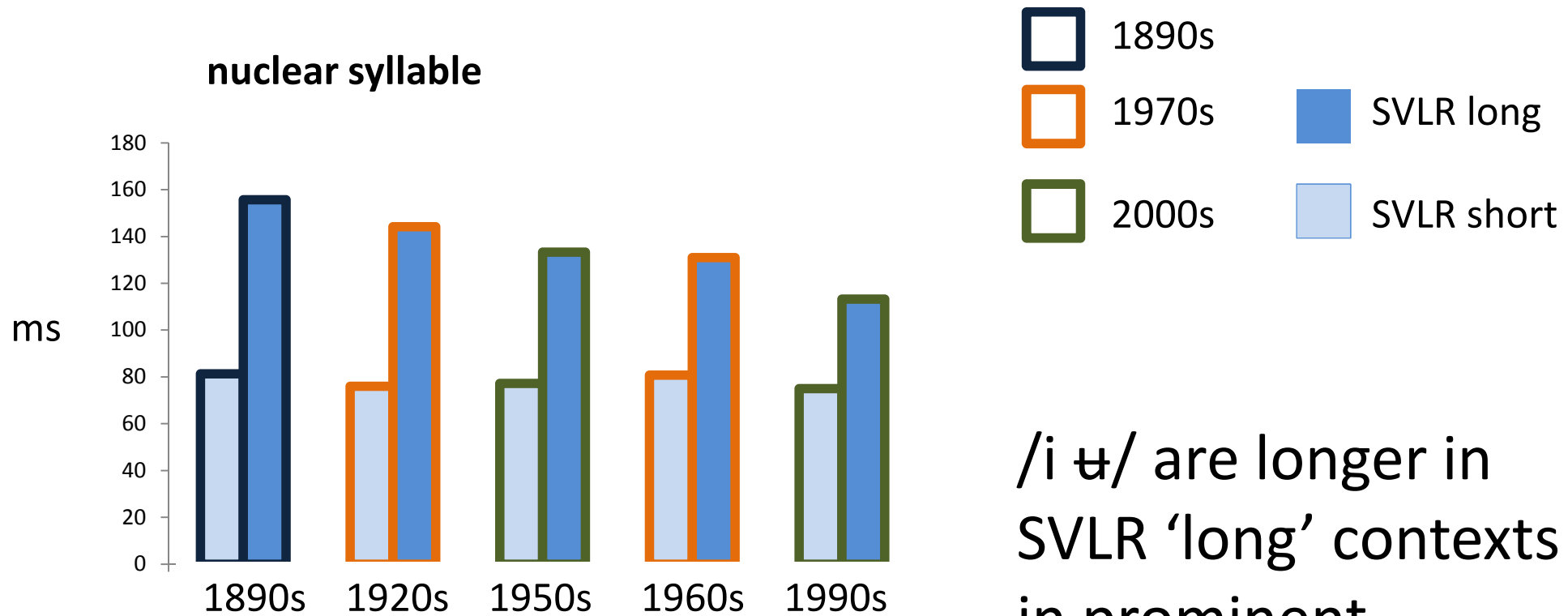
/i ʌ/ are longer in SVLR 'long' contexts in phrase-final position, but shorten over time in that position

nuclear syllable



/i ʌ/ are longer in SVLR 'long' contexts in prominent (nuclear) syllables, but shorten over time in that position





/i ʌ/ are longer in
SVLR 'long' contexts
in prominent
(nuclear) syllables,
but shorten over time
in that position

Scottish Vowel Length Rule - summary

- SVLR is only found in /i ʌ ai/ in 1916-17
(cf Scobbie et al 1999)
- especially in stronger prosodic positions
(phrase final position, nuclear position)
- it also appears to be weakening over time in
these positions (cf Nakai et al 2012)

(role of contact weak in Sounds of the City
sample; cannot be checked for Berliner
Lautarchiv)

postvocalic /r/





- weakened postvocalic /r/ attributed to ‘degenerate Glasgow-Irish’ (Trotter 1901 in Johnston 1997:511)
- articulatory studies reveal presence of covert tongue gestures (e.g. Lawson et al 2011; Lawson et al 2014), audible for those with experience of Glaswegian (Lennon 2014)

assumption: derhoticisation is a long-term, gradual, system-internal, change in progress

Sample for postvocalic /r/

Berliner Lautarchiv		Sounds of the City	
decade of birth		decade of birth	
1890s	10X (6)		
		1940s	90M (4)
		1950s	00M (6)
		1980s	90Y (4)
		1990s	00Y (18)

Sounds of the City (e.g. Stuart-Smith 2003; Stuart-Smith et al 2014)

- narrow auditory transcription by Claire Timmins/JSS

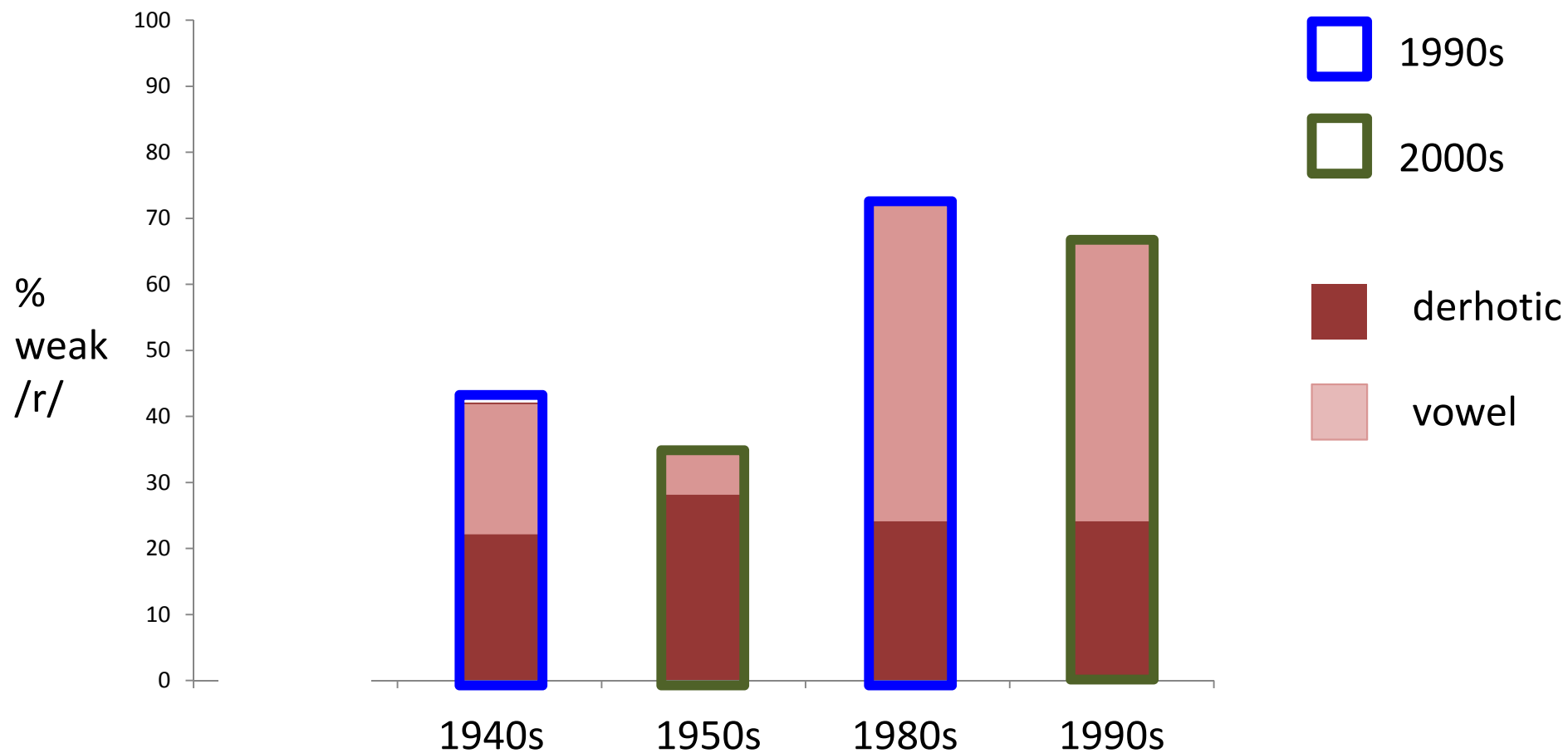
➤ 3697 tokens

Berliner Lautarchiv

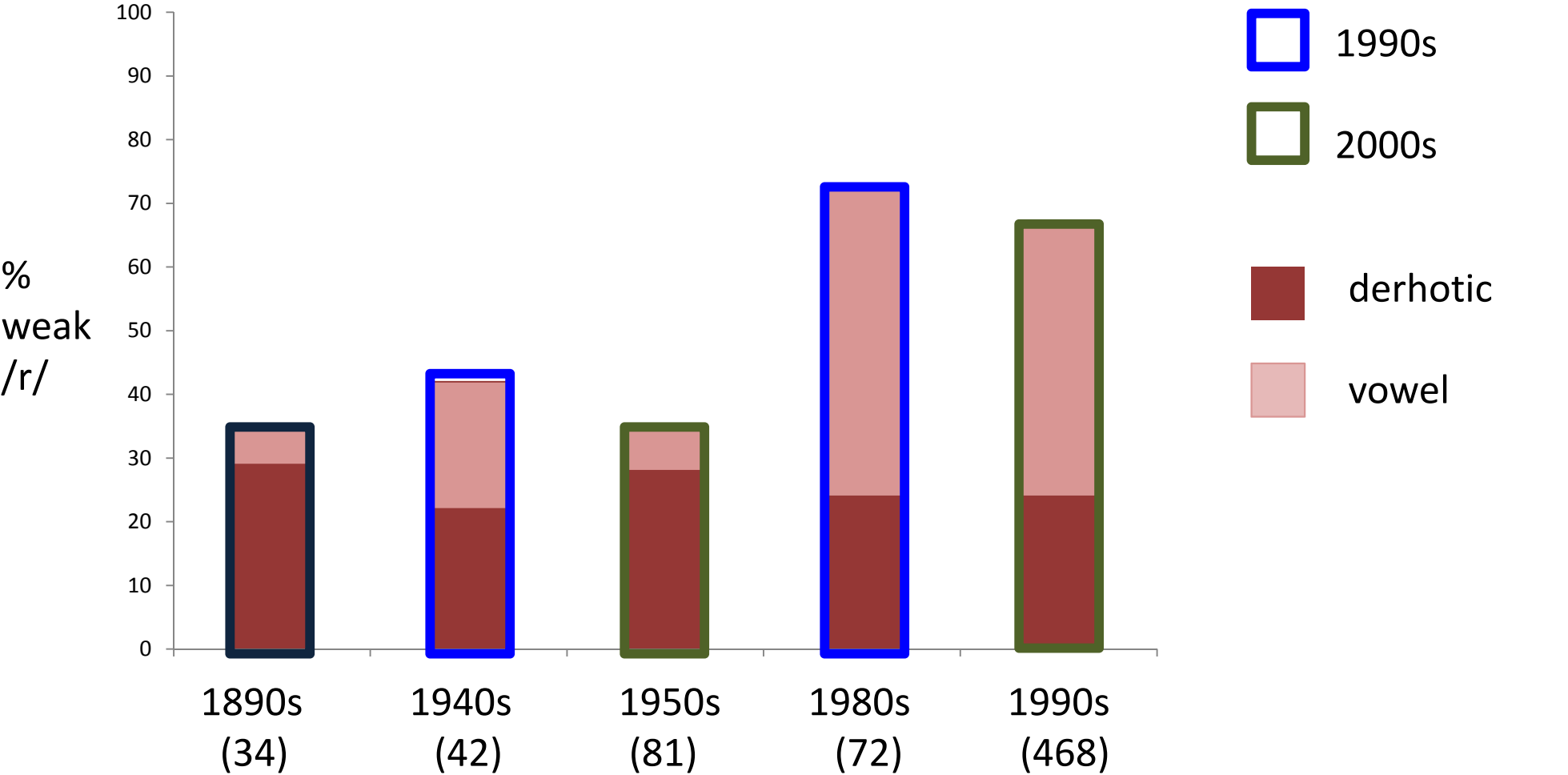
- narrow auditory transcription by Eleanor Lawson

➤ 361 tokens

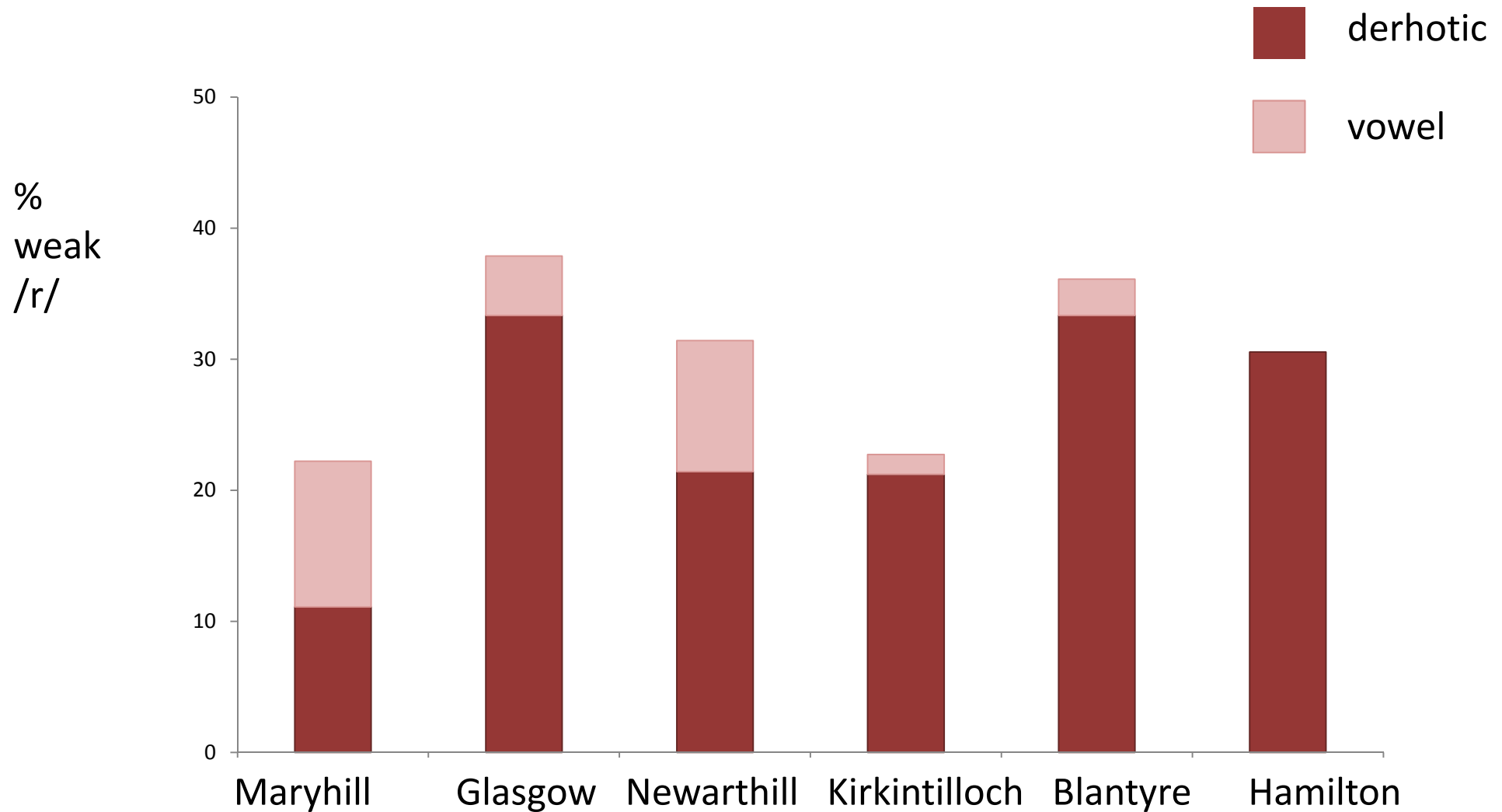
weak /r/ in read wordlists



weak /r/ in read wordlists



Weak /r/ in individual speakers in Berliner Lautarchiv



Postvocalic /r/ - summary

- pattern of derhoticisation seems to be fairly stable until the period of urban regeneration, with an increase after that
- also age-grading in younger speakers?
- this may also apply to the BL speakers who were in their mid-twenties and performing
- but more data for the years between 1890s and 1950s is needed

Discussion



- How has Glaswegian accent changed over the past century (for these features)?
- BOOT seems to be lowering (and COT and GOAT are raising)
- SVLR seems to be changing, erosion apparent in stronger prosodic positions
- derhoticisation of postvocalic /r/ may be a long-term change, but seems to be characterized by long-term periods of stability, and possible age-grading

- methodological challenge of achieving comparison
 - linguistic/prosodic factors promoting change
 - patterns inferred as longer term changes in progress, also show age-grading and stylistic variability (Sankoff e.g. 2006)
- inference of sound change depends on the resolution with which we inspect our data

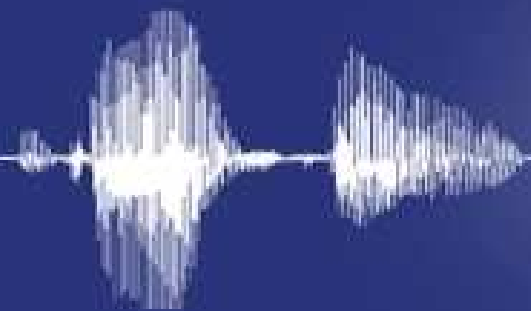
and the 'fatted coo'?



and the 'fatted coo'?



Bring forth the best claes, and pit them oan him, and put a ring on his haun, and shoes on his feet. And bring hither the **fatted** coo and kill it, and let us eat and be merry, for this ma son was deid and is aleeve again.



SOUNDS OF THE CITY

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Thank you!



The Leverhulme Trust

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