



A definition of linguistic descent (*transmission*) as the major process in the family tree model

A language (or dialect) Y at a given time is said to be descended from language (or dialect) X of an earlier time if and only if X developed into Y by an unbroken sequence of instances of native-language acquisition by children.
--Ringe, Warnow and Taylor 2002:63

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Transmission the result of incrementation

- This is the normal type of internal language change, “change from below,” which is responsible for increasing distances between the branches of the family tree model over time.
- Such internal changes are generated by the process of *incrementation*, in which successive cohorts and generations of children advance the change beyond the level of their caretakers and role models, and in the same direction over many generations (Labov 1994: Ch. 14).

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Some questions on the trajectories of sound change in progress

- Once a sound change in progress has been identified, can we trace it to its origin?
- Can we predict the future path of a sound change from its past trajectory?
- If not, what new explanations can be found for deviations from that path?
- What are the relative roles of phonetic features and lexical identities in the development of a sound change? [Wednesday]

Some answers to these questions will be derived by the application of new techniques of forced alignment and automatic vowel measurement to a large corpus of recordings of vernacular speech in Philadelphia.

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Sources of data on the Philadelphia vowel system.

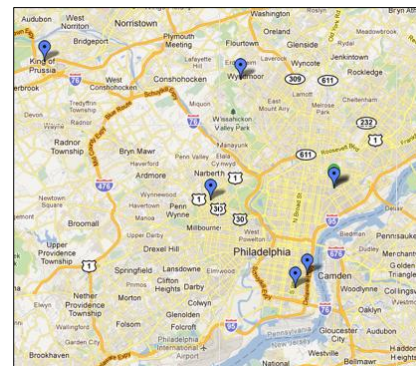
LCV: The study of Language Change and Variation. Philadelphia, 1973-1979
Principles of Linguistic Change, Vol 2: Social Factors, 2001

ANAE: Labov, Ash & Boberg. *Atlas of North American English*, 1993-2001 (2006).

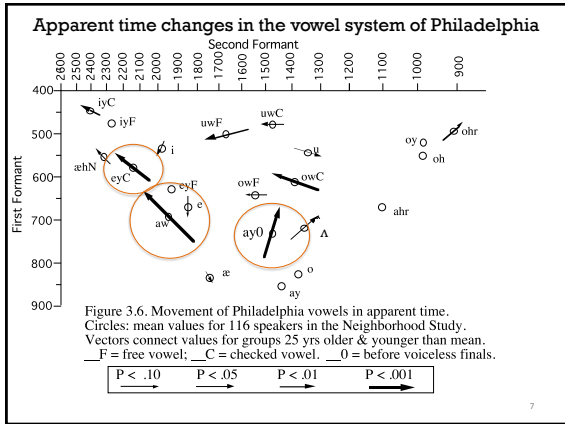
PNC: Philadelphia Neighborhood Corpus, 1972-2012.

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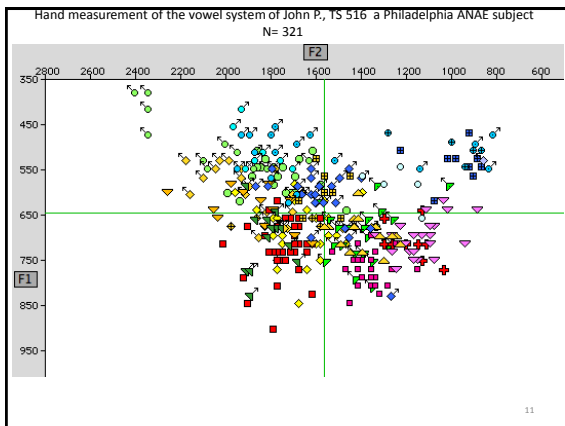
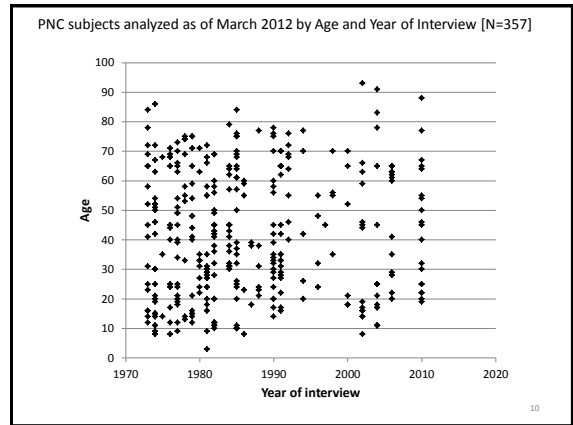
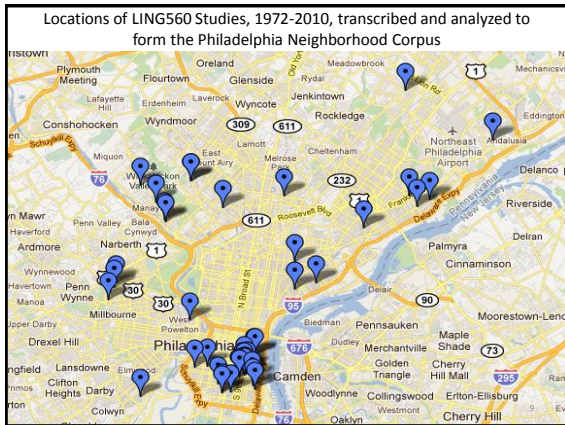
The study of Language Change and Variation [LCV] in Philadelphia, 1973-1979: the locations of six long-term neighborhood studies



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- ### The Philadelphia Neighborhood Corpus [PNC]
- created from archives of LING560 "The Study of the Speech Community"
- Sociolinguistic interviews by students in "The Study of the Speech Community" (W. Labov, G. Sankoff)
 - Yearly, 1972-1992; Bi-yearly, 1994-2010:
 - 59 neighborhood studies
 - 1,087 recordings
 - Time span:
 - Dates of interviews: 38 years
 - Dates of birth: 103 years
 - Material transcribed to date:
 - 49 neighborhoods
 - 358 speakers
 - over 150 hours of speech (average 29 minutes/speaker)
 - 750,000 measurements of vowels > 50 msec duration



fave.ling.upenn.edu

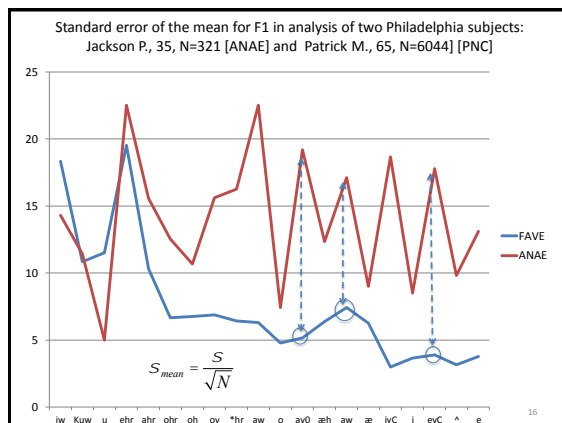
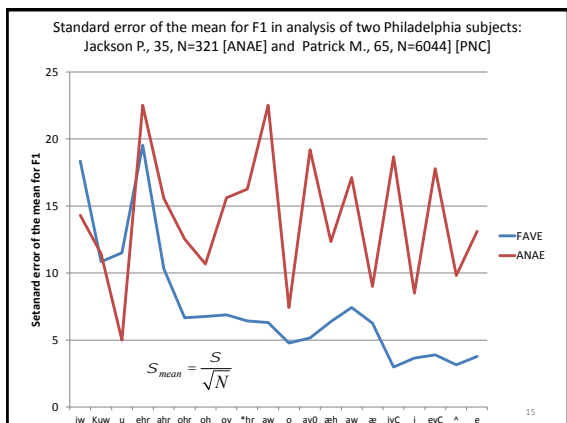
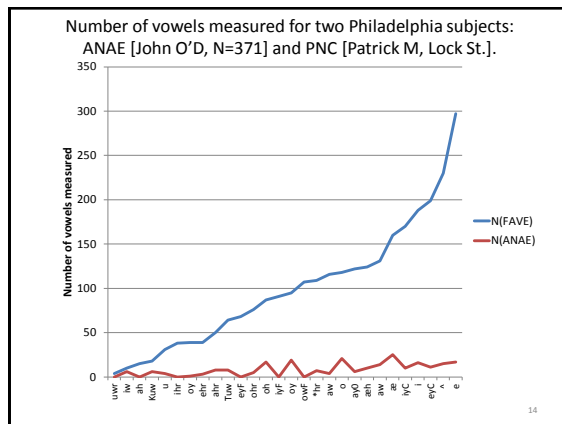
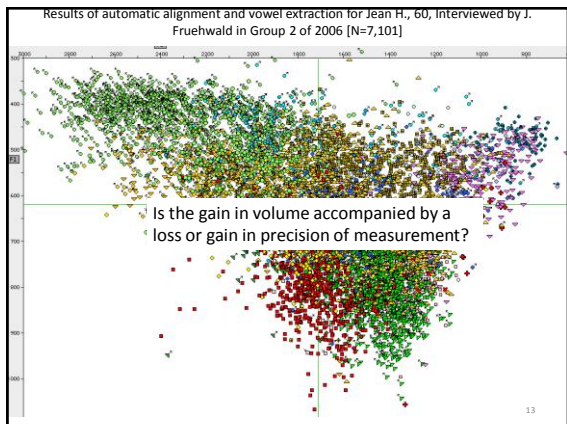
Home | FAVE-align | FAVE-extract | How to use FAVE-align | How to use FAVE-extract | About | Downloads

Forced Alignment & Vowel Extraction (FAVE)

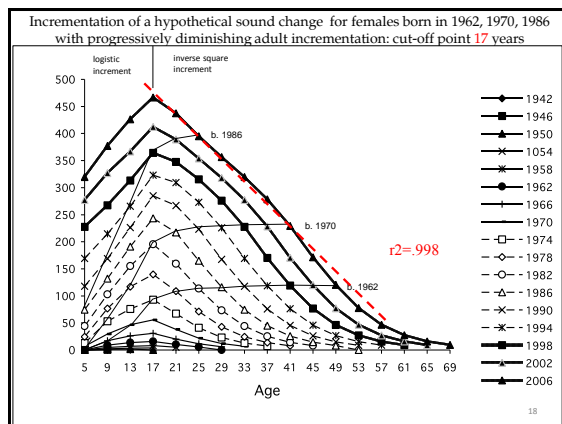
An online suite for automatic vowel analysis

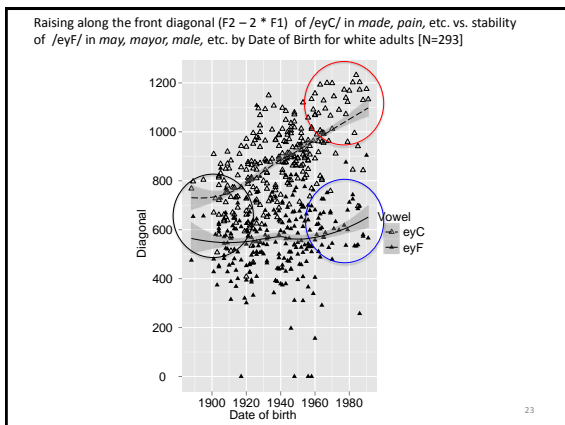
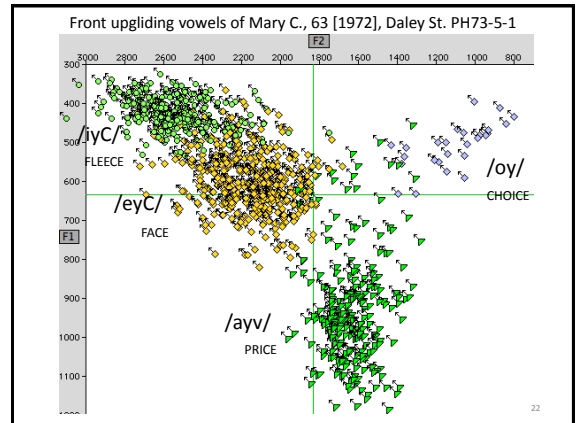
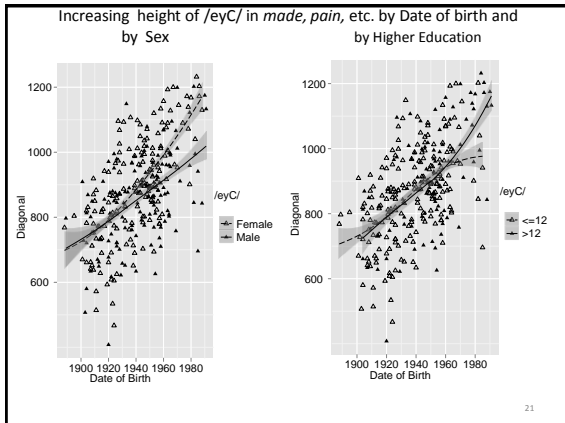
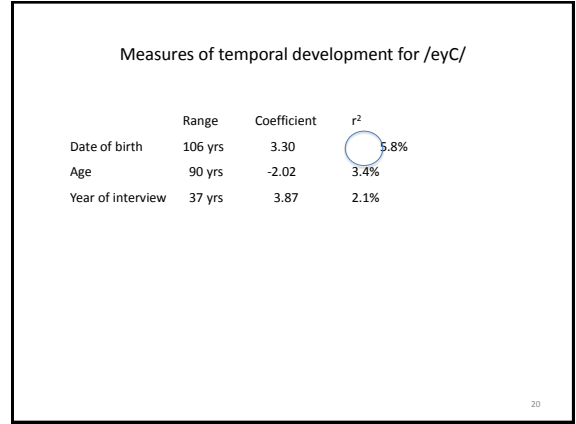
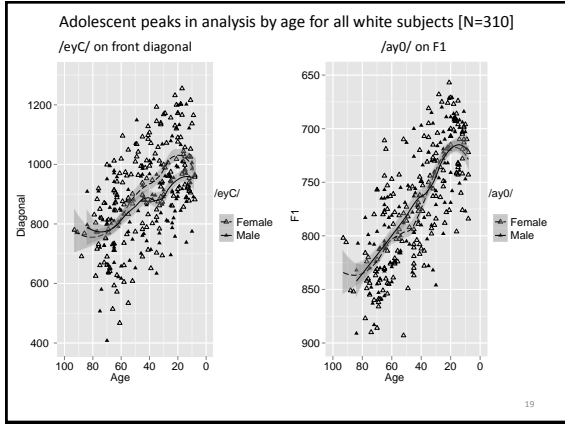
What is FAVE?

The FAVE (Forced Alignment & Vowel Extraction) program suite allows you to automatically align and extract large quantities of vowel formant measurements from sociolinguistic interviews or other bodies of orthographically transcribed data. FAVE is a set of two programs: FAVE-align and FAVE-extract.



I. Unidirectional change in Philadelphia

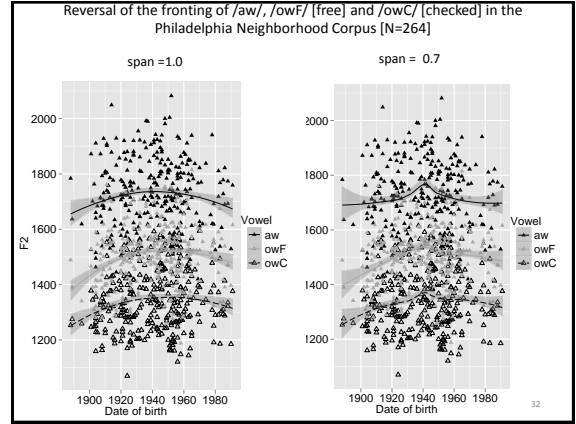
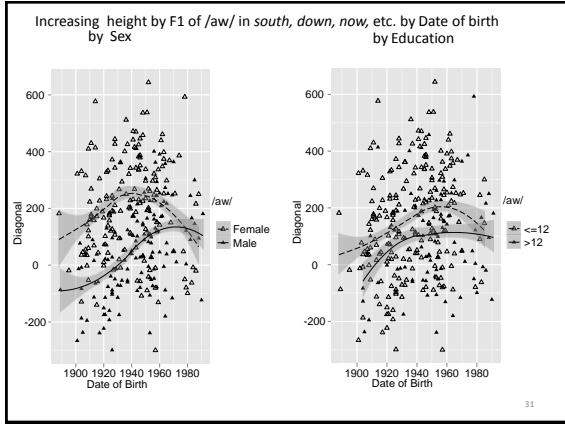




When did the raising of */eyC/* begin? After 1944.

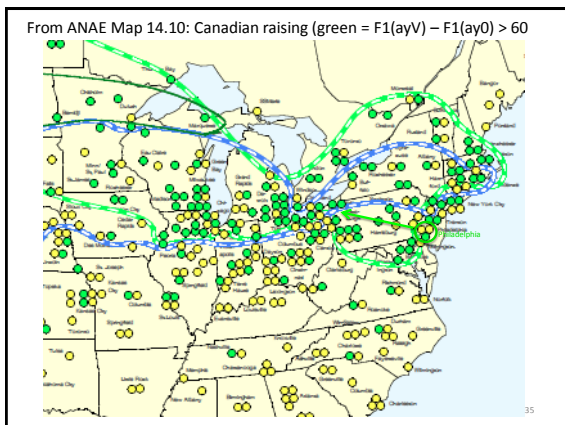
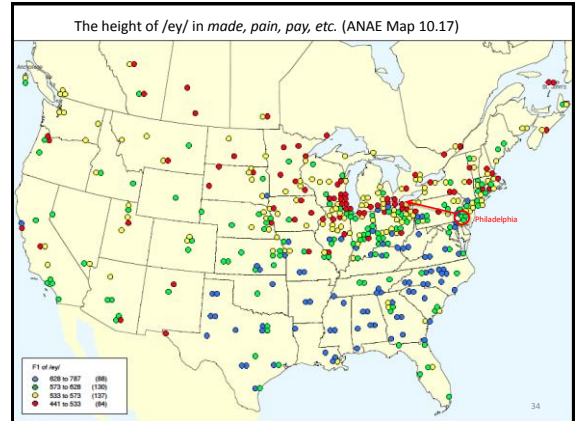
For */ey/*, De Camp [1933] shows only [eɪ] for both checked and free. PEAS [1961] uses a comparable notation [eɪ] for most vowels. . . Tucker [1944] states that "in 'long a', as in *day*, the first element ranges from [æ] to [a]", and compares it to Cockney in this respect.

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The relation of Philadelphia sound changes to the dialect geography of North America

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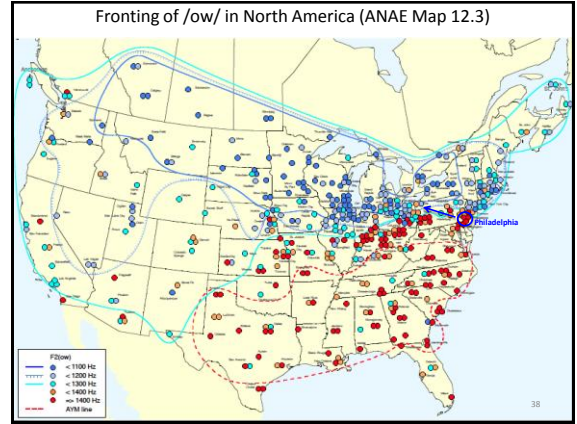
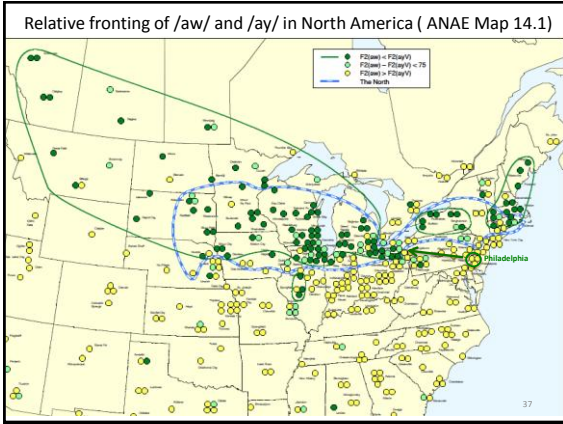


The relative fronting of /ay/ and /aw/ in North America

South and Midland: $F2(aw) > F2(ay)$
 [rait næø]

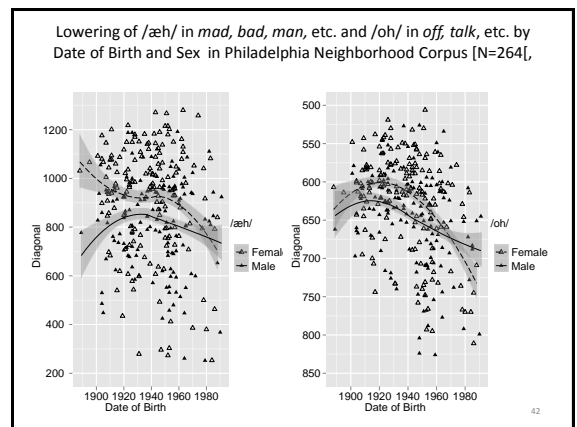
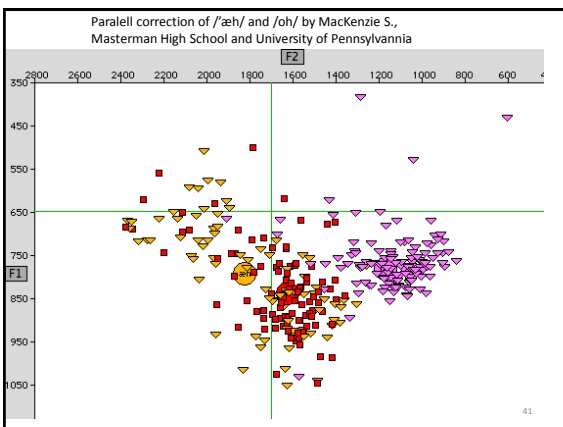
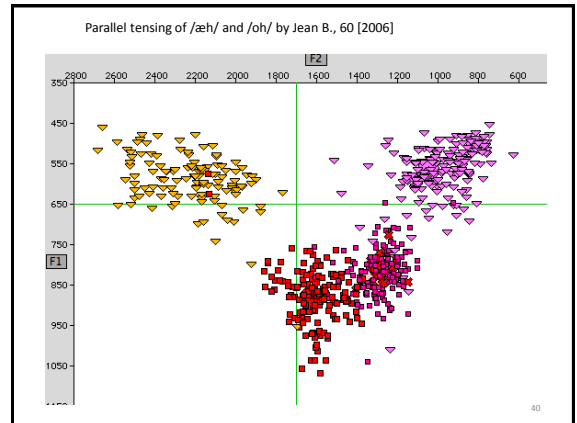
North: $F2(ay) > F2(ayw)$
 [rait naø]

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III. Socially salient features of Philadelphia phonology:
 recent lowering of tense /æh/ and /oh/

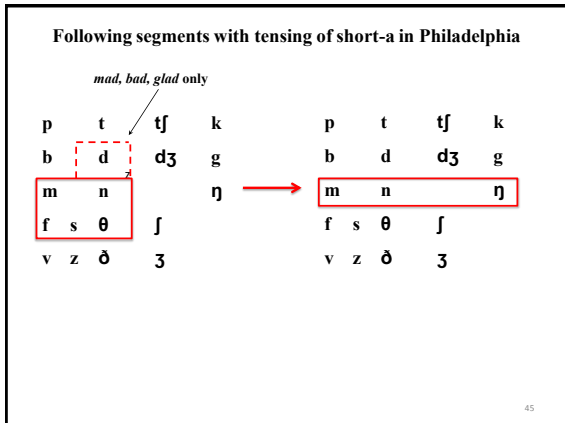
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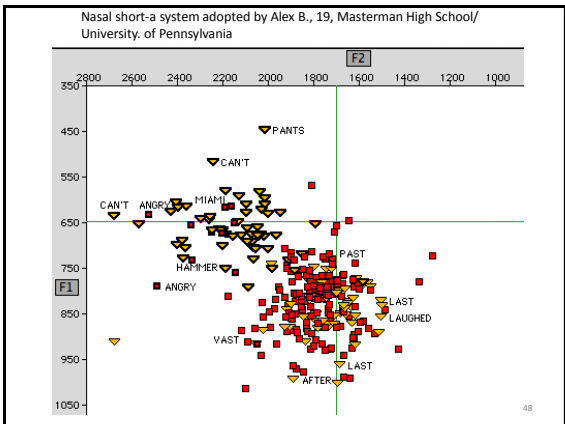
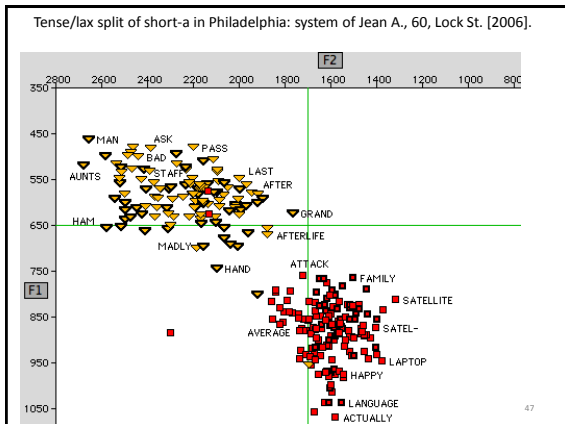
IV. Social correction of Philadelphia phonology: from the split system to the nasal system

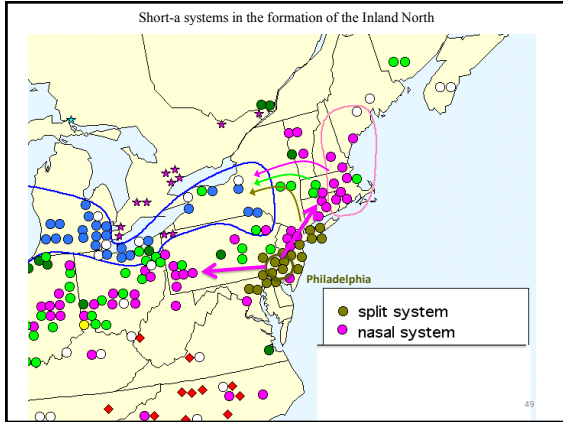
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Some further conditions on the tensing of short-a in Philadelphia

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Some general observations on the causes of Philadelphia sound change

- There is no structural imperative behind the raising of /eyC/ and /ay0/ in Philadelphia
- The most consistent feature shared by Philadelphia sound changes is the alignment with the dialect geography of the North and North Midland and a shift away from features characteristic of the South and South Midland.
- Some time in the formative years of those born in the 1940s the dialect of Philadelphia was re-oriented from a Southern to a Northern variety of English.
- The triggering event most likely associated with this change is the population movement brought about by World War II.

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Some benefits from the large-scale study of change in progress..

Extended data in real time allows us to track change from its inception and thus formulate, if not solve, the actuation problem.

As the volume of data increases, significant differences may appear among members of the population, testifying to the differentiating force of the variable or the change in progress.

But from the outset, the large-scale study of variation shows us how similar members of the speech community are, that the orderly heterogeneity of the community is a social fact in Durkheim's sense.

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