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# Tongue root advancement and vowel duration: a gradient effect?

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# Background

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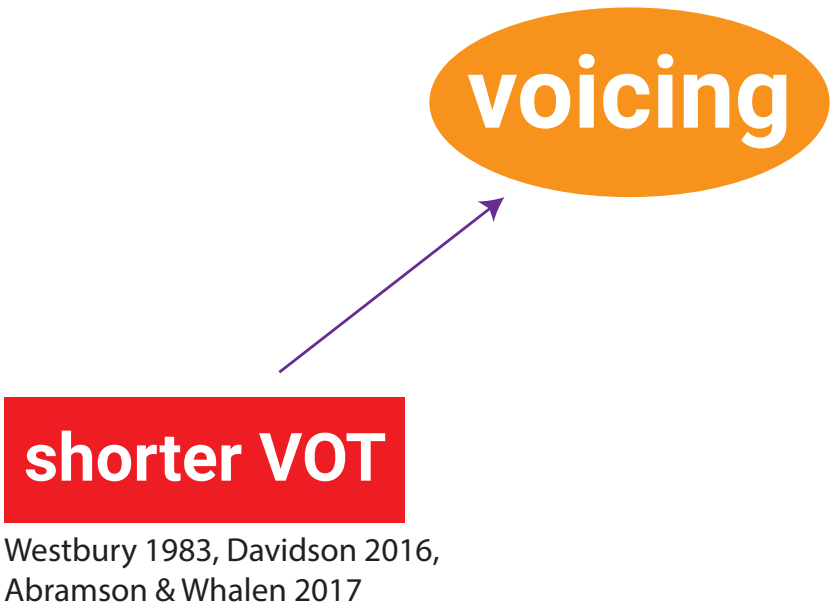


Westbury 1983, Davidson 2016,
Abramson & Whalen 2017

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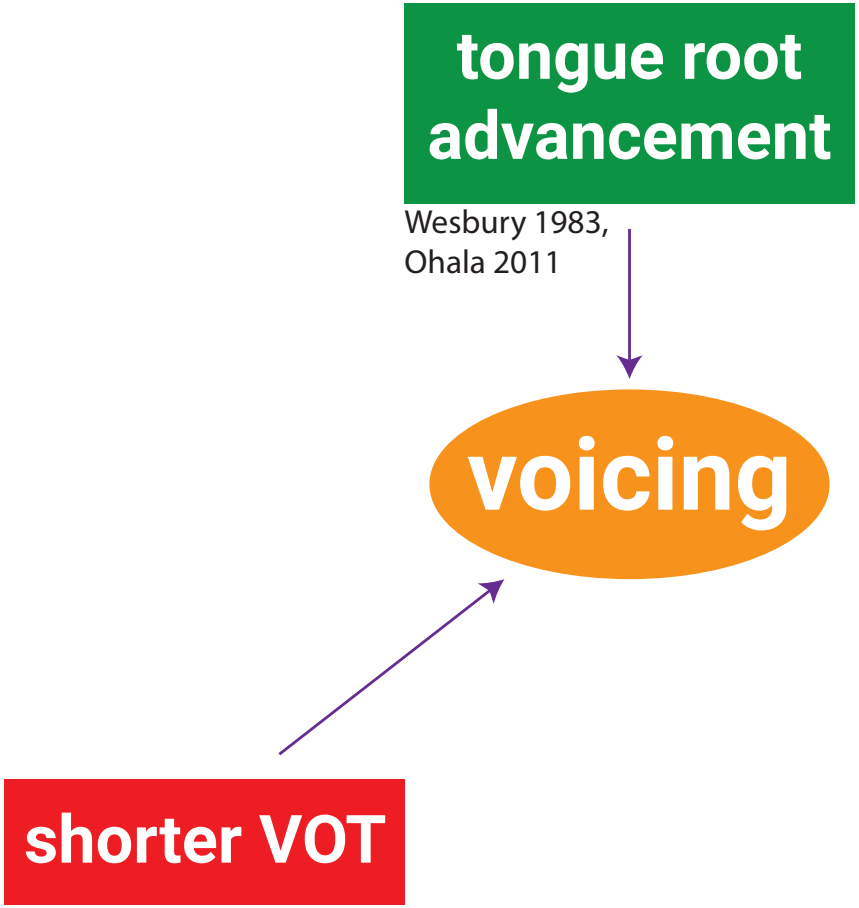
tongue root advancement
Wesbury 1983,
Ohala 2011
voicing
shorter VOT

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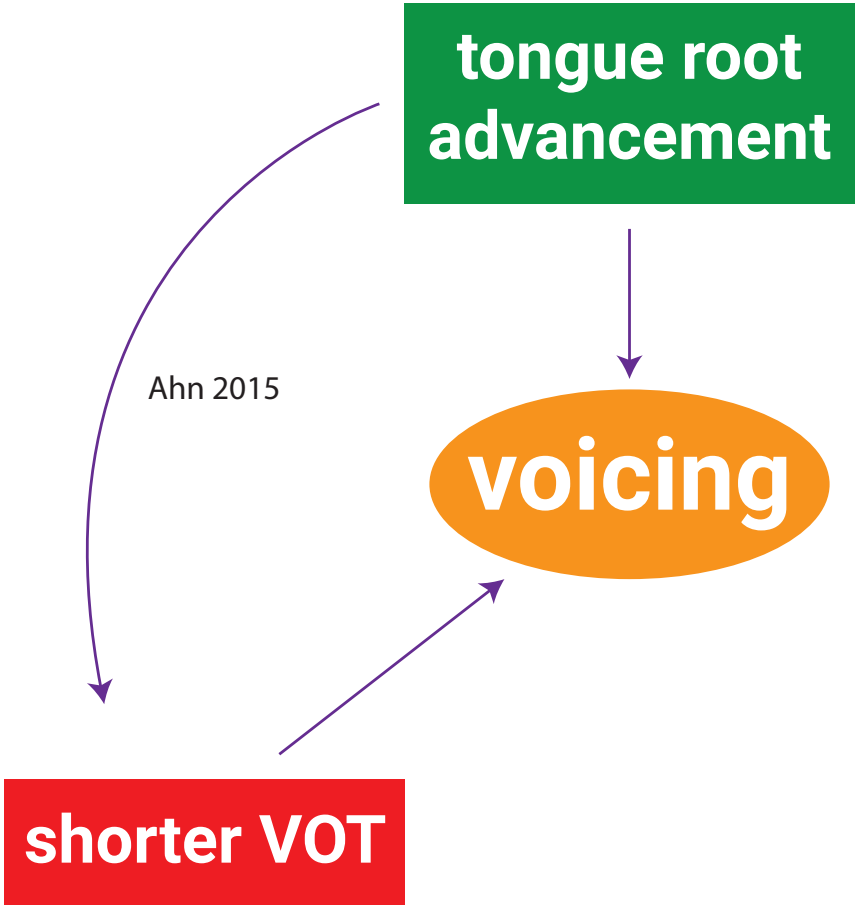

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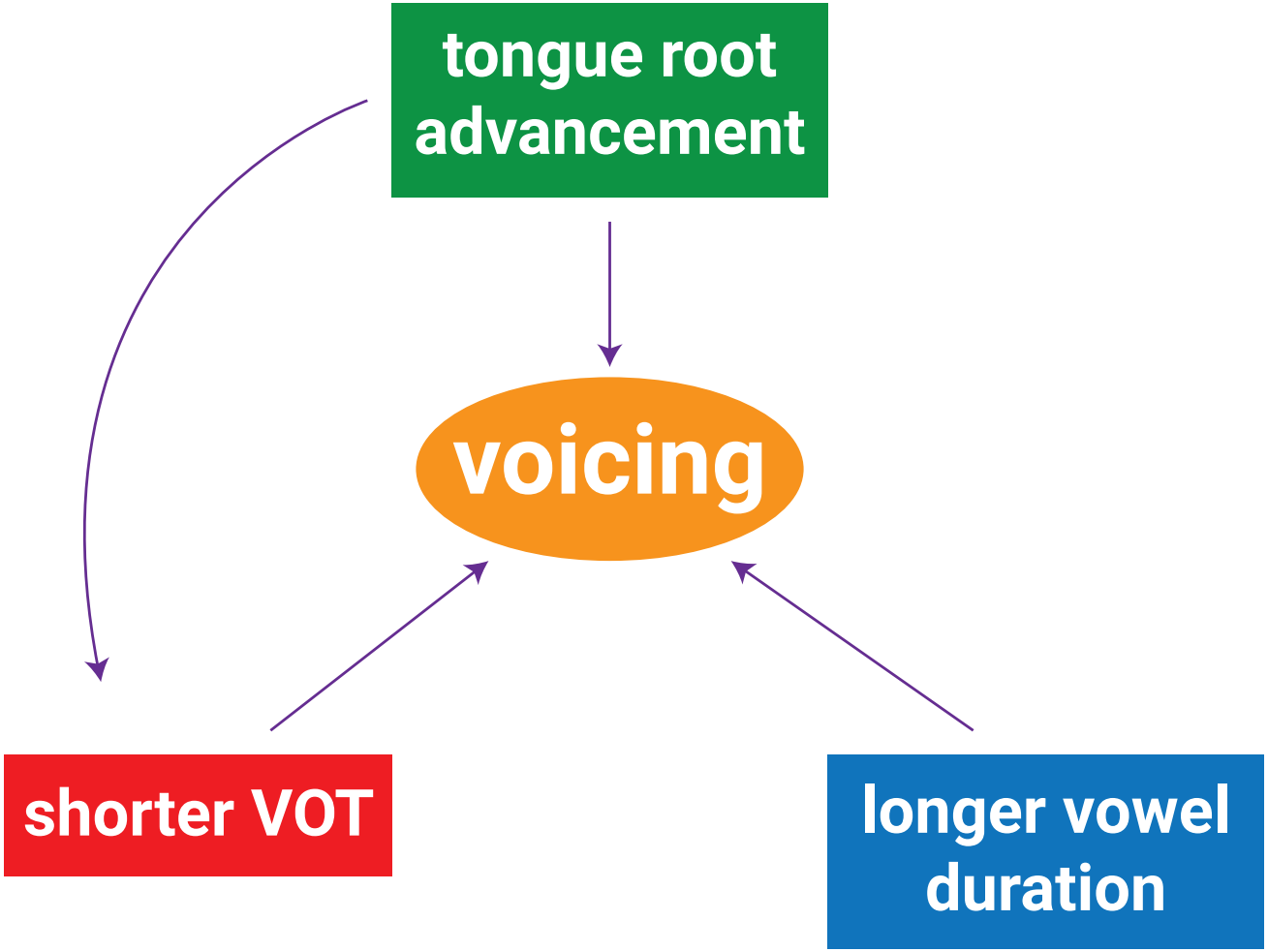
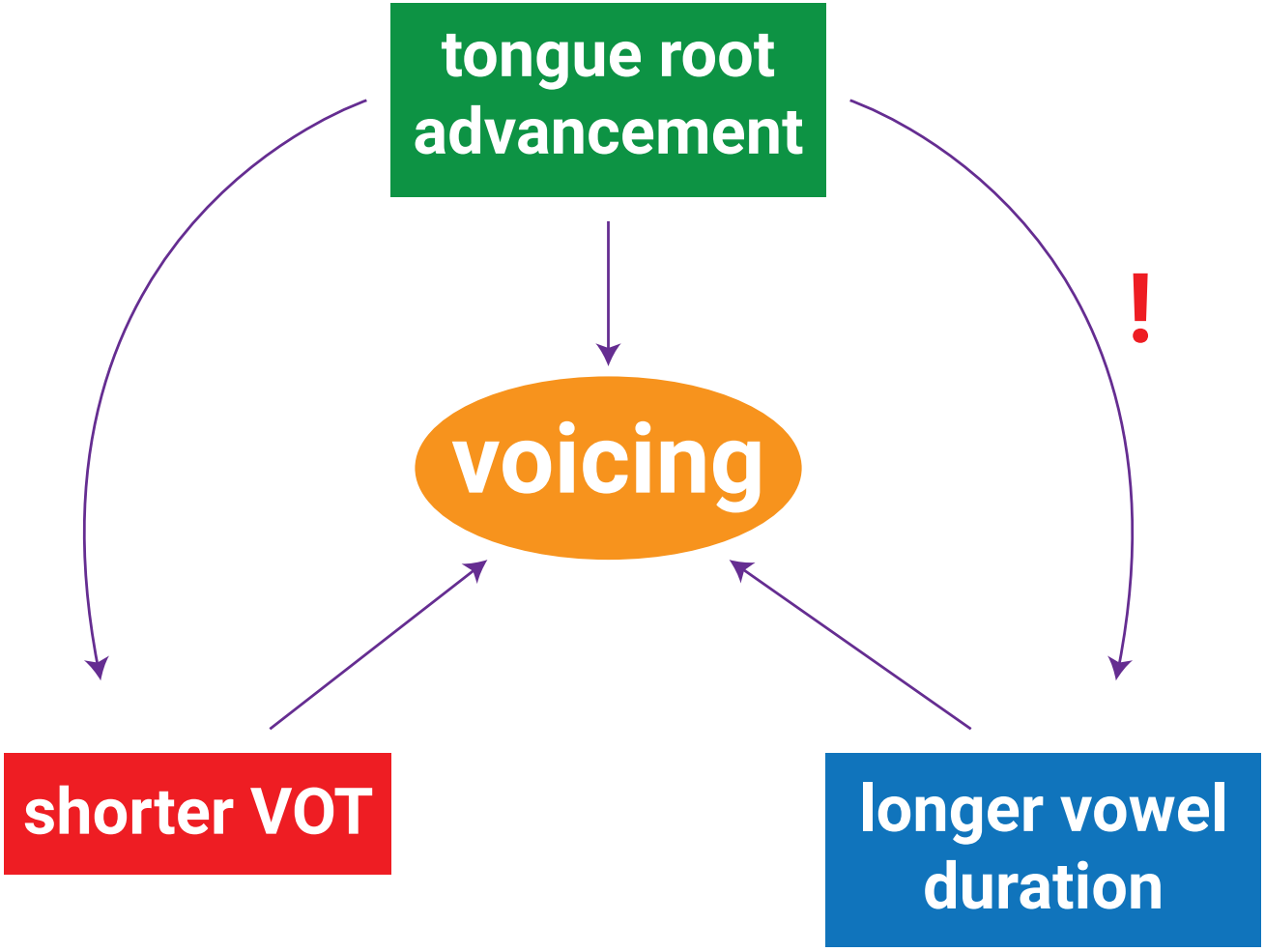

tongue root advancement
voicing
shorter VOT
longer vowel duration

# Background


tongue root advancement
voicing
!
shorter VOT
longer vowel duration

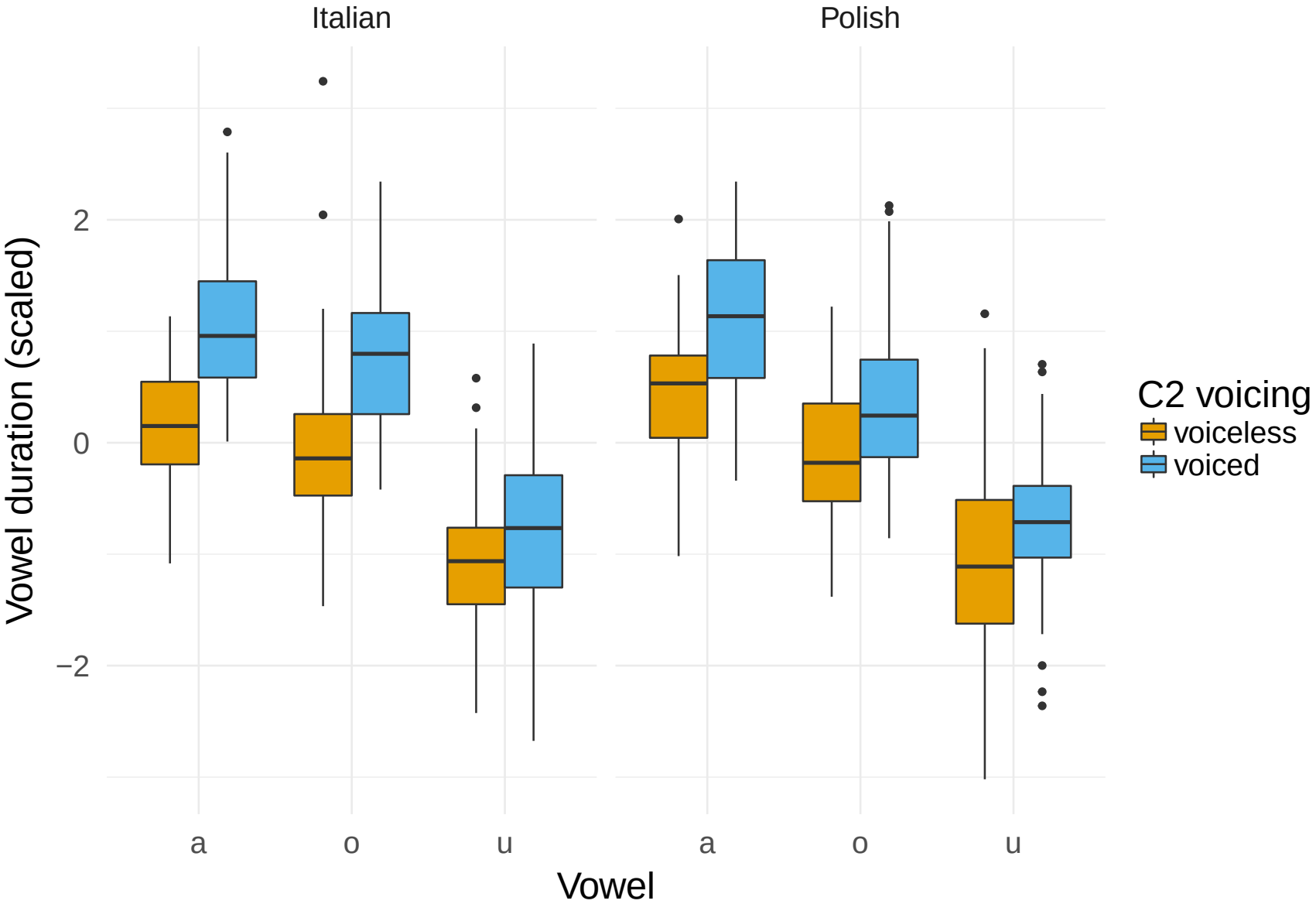
# Background

- **Voicing effect** (VE): **vowels are longer when followed by voiced stops** (House & Fairbanks, 1953; Peterson & Lehiste, 1960; Chen, 1970; Klatt, 1973; Lisker, 1974; Fowler, 1992; Lampp & Reklis, 2004)
  - **Italian**: voicing effect of 35 msec (Farnetani & Kori, 1986)
  - **Polish**: mixed results
    - Keating (1984): no effect
    - Nowak (2006) PhD dissertation: 4.5 msec effect
- **Larger study**: relative timing of laryngeal and lingual activity
  - Simultaneous UTI + EGG + audio
- **This study**: exploratory, data driven

# Methods (a summary)

- **Participants**: 4 Italians (2 F, 2 M), 4 Polish (2 F, 2 M)
- Targets
  - $C_1V_1C_2V_1$
  - $C_1$ = /p/, $V_1$ = /a, o, u/, $C_2$ = /t, d, k, g/
  - *pata*, *pada*, *paka*, ..., *poto*, *podo*, ...
- Frame sentence
  - *Dico X lentamente*, 'I say X slowly'
  - *Mówię X teraz*, 'I say X now'
- Data
  - Durational data from acoustics
  - Tongue contours from ultrasound tongue imaging
- Reproducibility
  - https://github.com/stefanocoretta/2018-baap

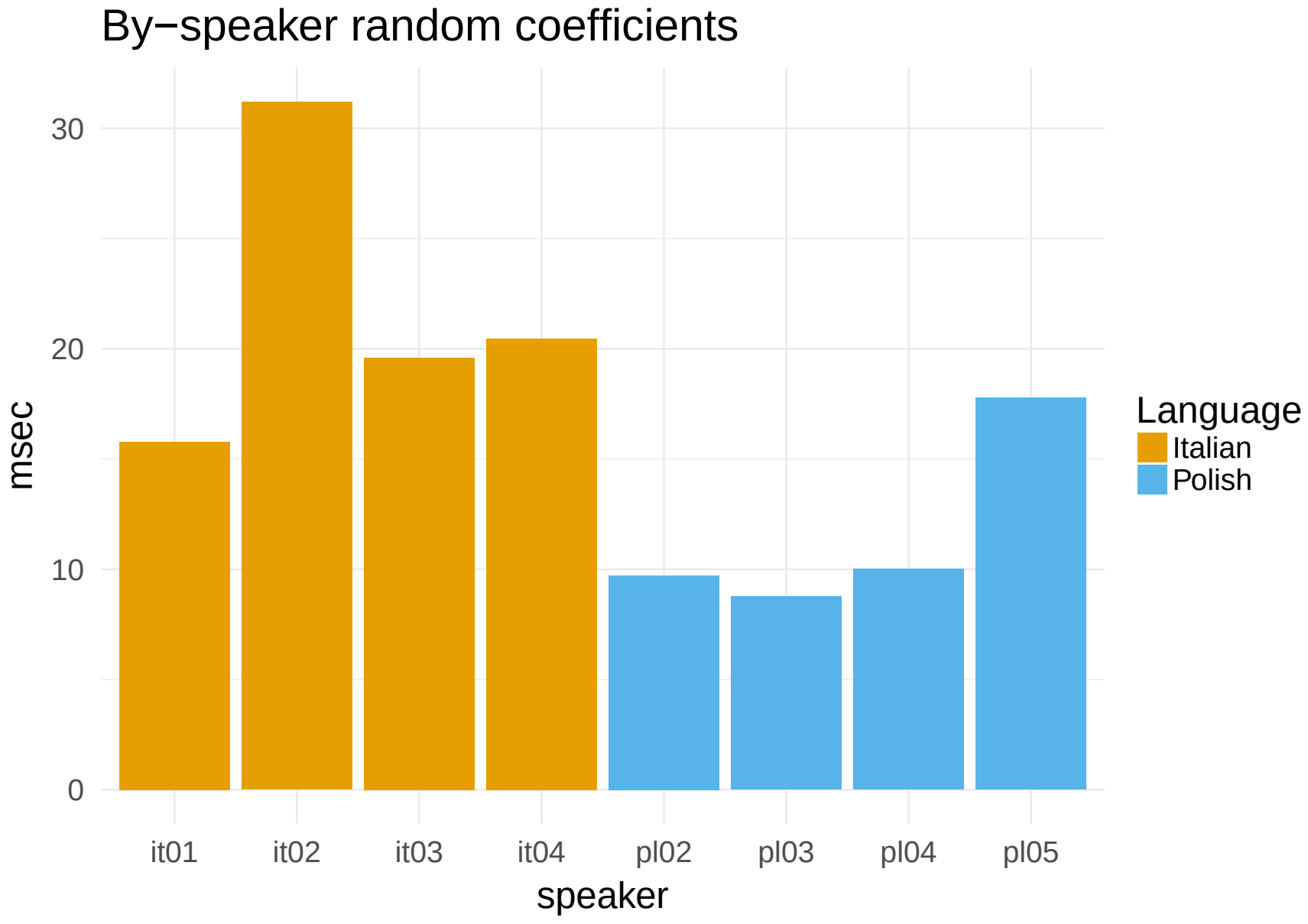
# Results: Vowel duration



# Results: Vowel duration

- Linear mixed-effects models (Bates et al., 2015; Kuznetsova et al., 2016)
- **Italian**: $\beta$ = 22 msec, $\chi^2(3)$ = 15.8, p = 0.0012434
- **Polish**: $\beta$ = 12 msec, $\chi^2(3)$ = 12.39, p = 0.0061556

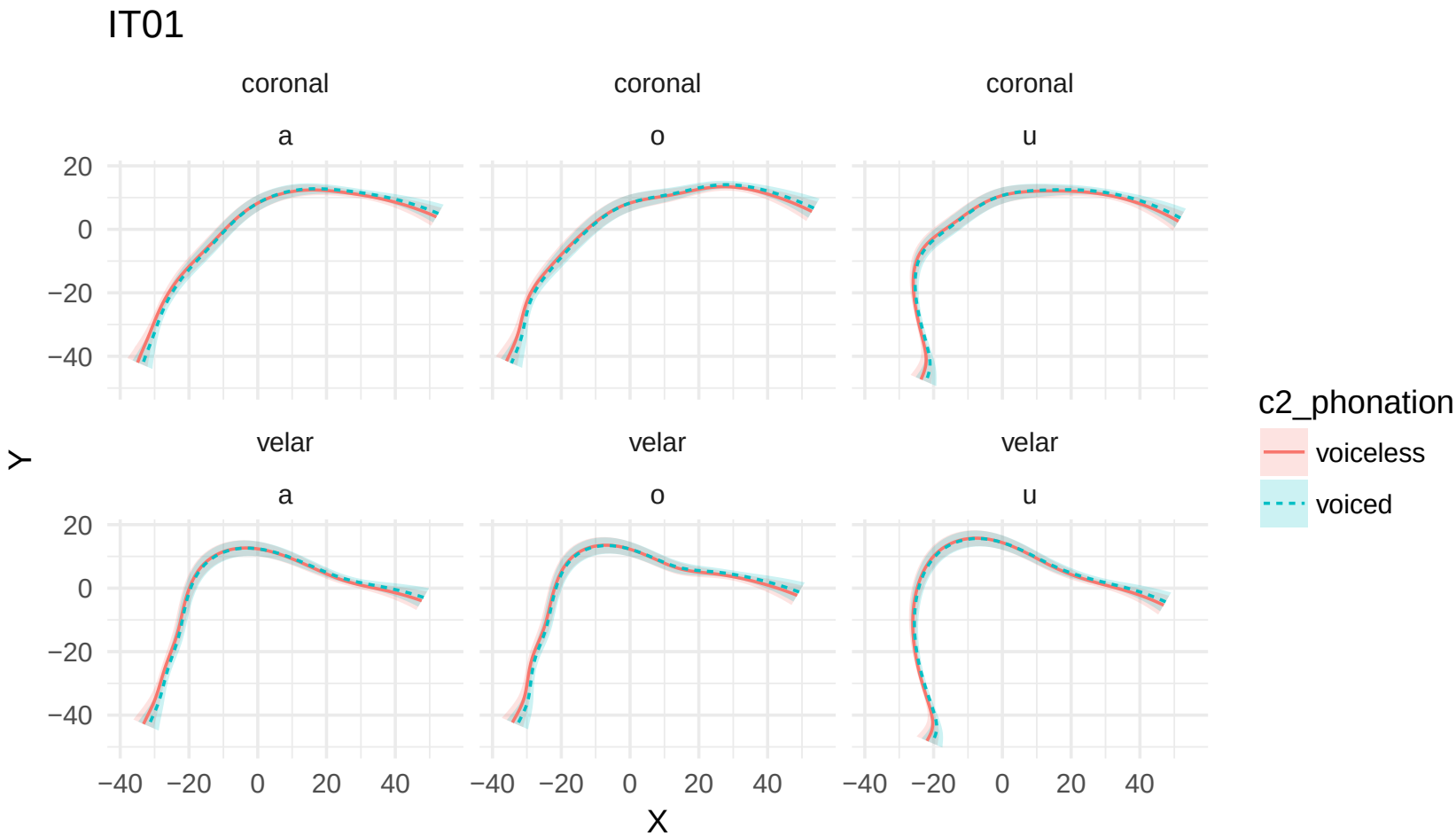
# Results: Vowel duration



# Results: Tongue contours

- **Midsagittal tongue contours**
  - From *within consonant closure* (at maximum tongue displacement, Strycharczuk & Scobbie, 2015), polar coordinates (Heyne & Derrick, 2015b,a; Mielke, 2015)
- **Generalised additive mixed models (GAMMs)** (Wood, 2006; Sóskuthy, 2017; van Rij et al., 2017; Coretta, 2017)
- **Polar GAMMs** with the `rticulate` R package (Coretta, 2018a,b)
- **General trends**
  - Idiosyncratic use of TRA
  - 2 speakers with relatively greater TRA

# Results: Tongue contours



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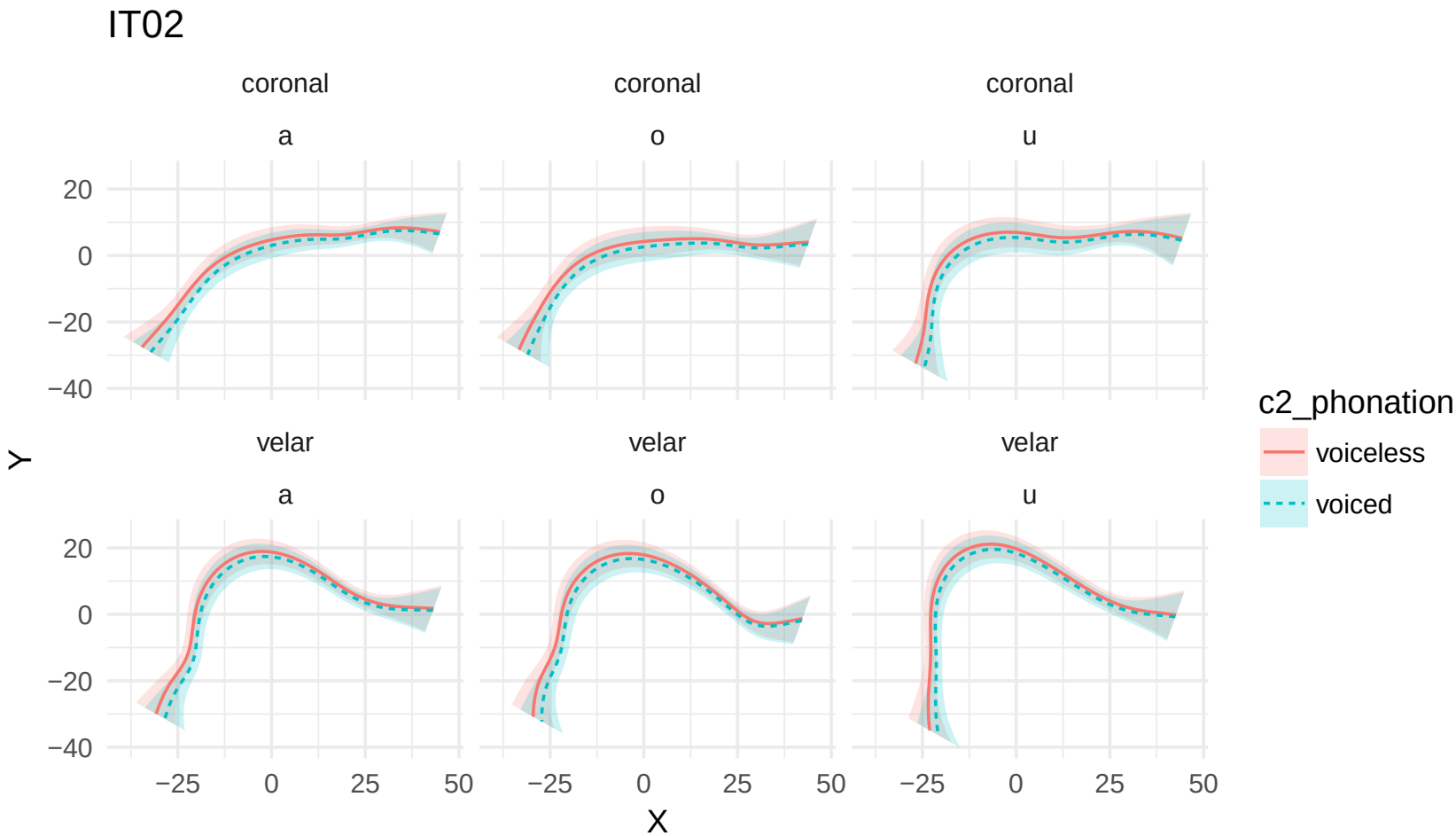

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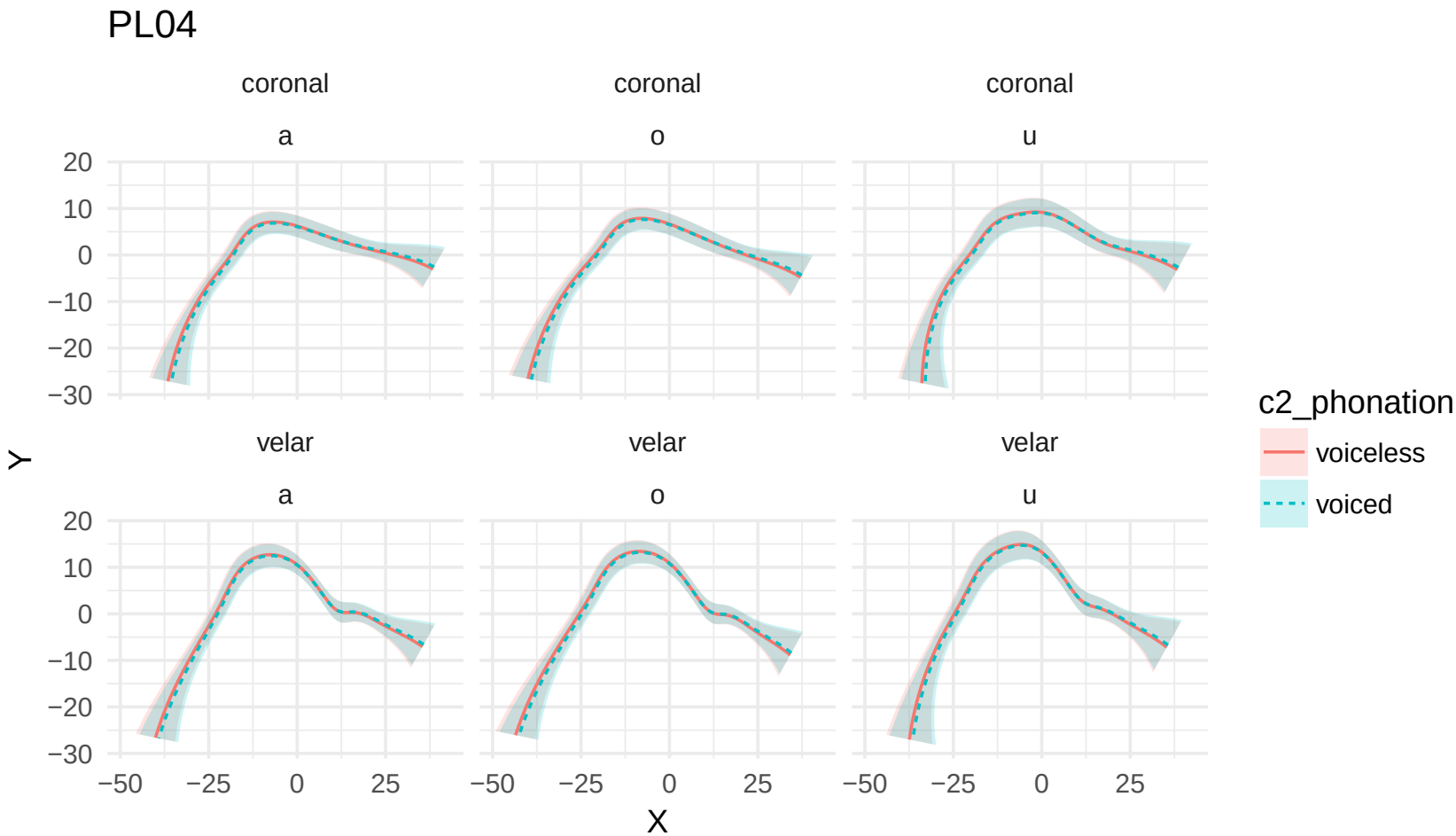
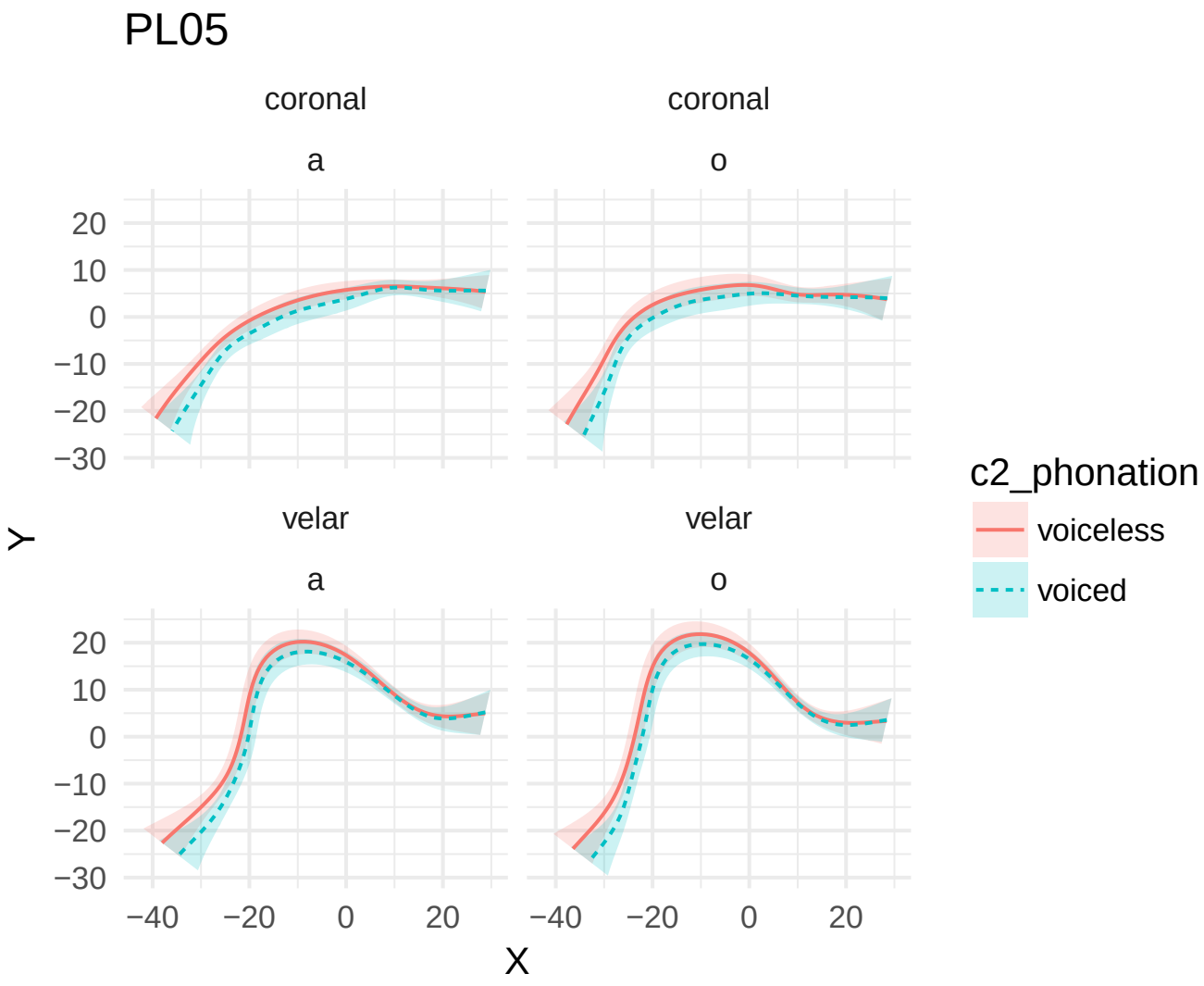


# Results: Tongue contours



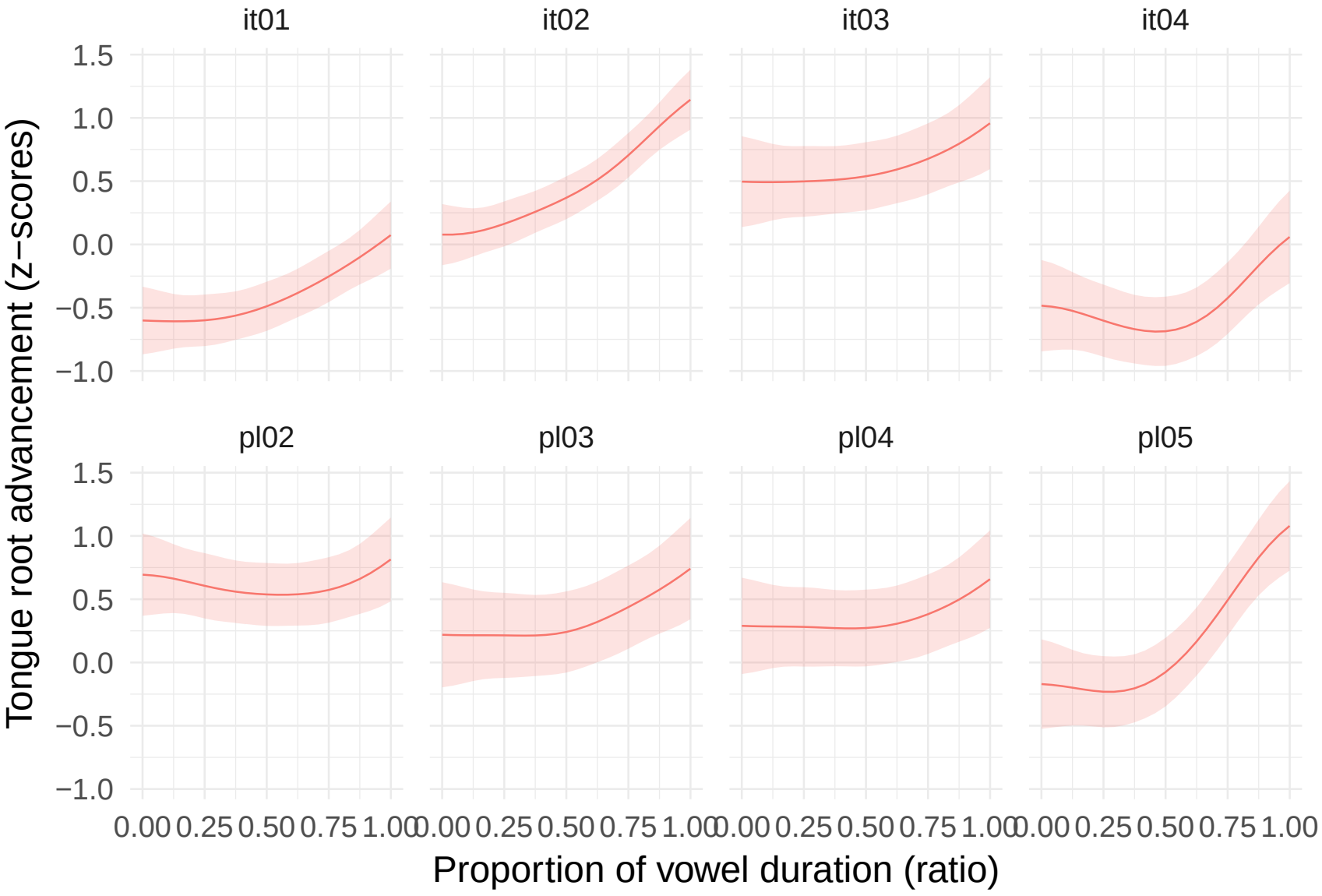
# Discussion: Results summary

- **Effect of voicing on vowel duration**
  - Italian: +22 msec
  - Polish: +12 msec
- **Tongue contours**
  - 4 of 8 speakers (IT01, IT02, IT03, PL05) show TRA within closure
- **2 speakers** (IT02, PL05) with stronger VE and greater TRA

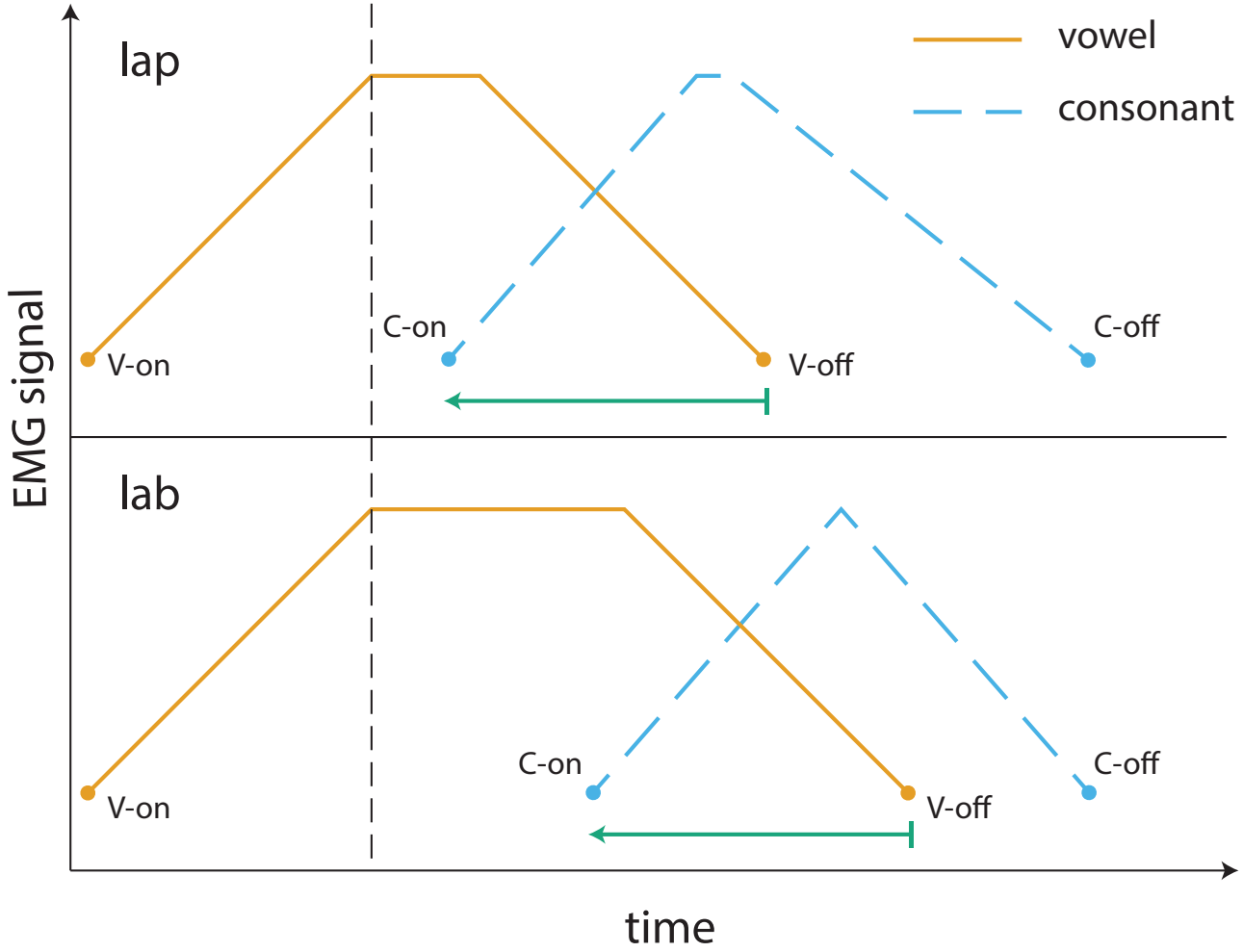
# Discussion

- **TRA hypothesis**: Longer vowel duration allows for greater tongue root advancement.
    - Cf. with Halle & Stevens (1967): laryngeal adjustments
- If TRA hypothesis is correct:
    - TRA during the vowel
    - Greater TRA in IT02 and PL05

# Discussion: TRA during the vowel



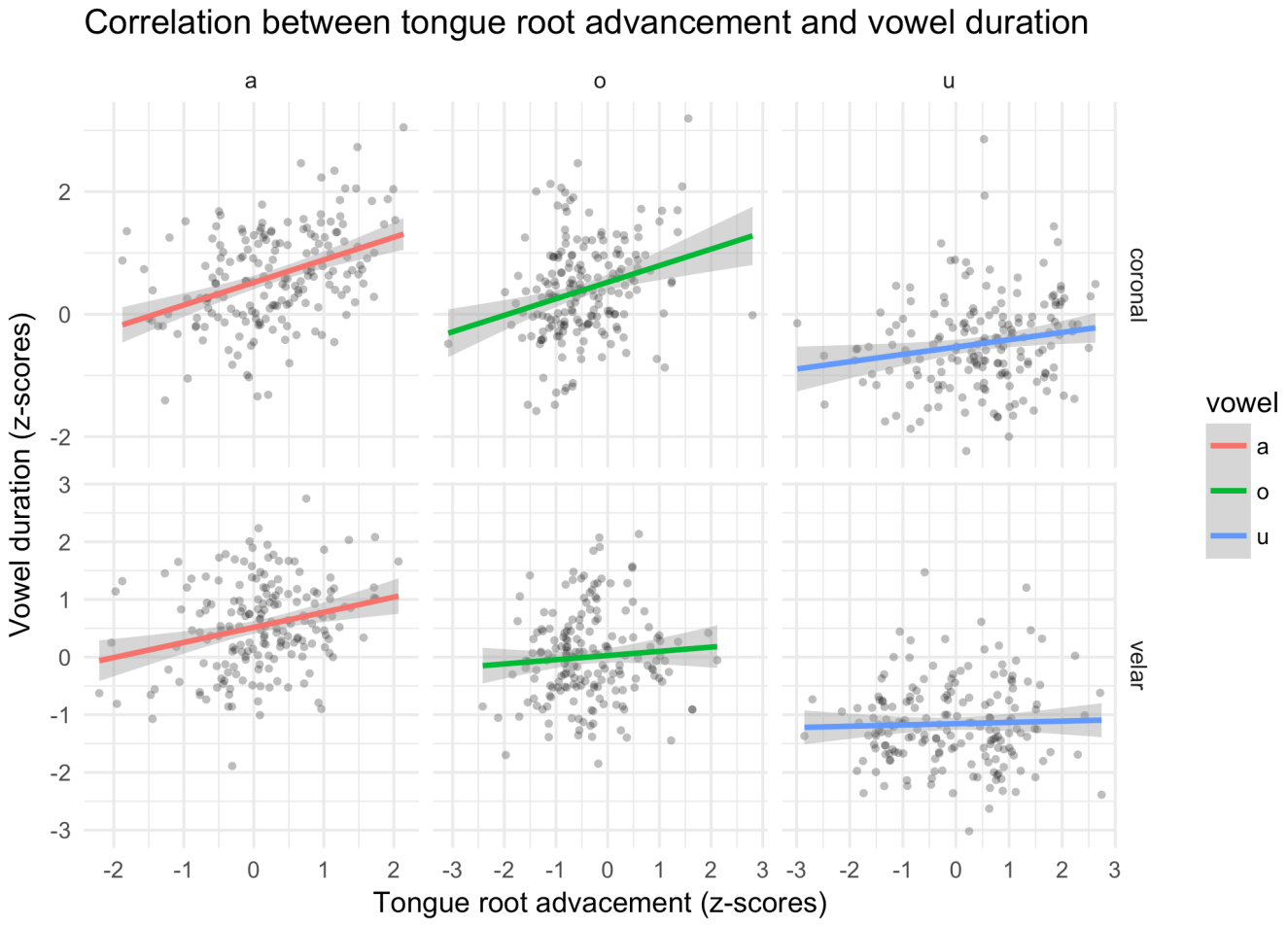
# Discussion: Electromiography (EMG, Raphael, 1975)



# Discussion

- Raphael (1975): **sustained muscular activity in vowels followed by voiced consonants**
  - extra time allows more tongue root advancement?
- Is this a gradual (linear) relationship?
  - We might see a **positive correlation between vowel duration and degree of TRA** (but caveat!)

# Discussion: Vowel Duration ~ TRA



# Conclusion

- Durational and ultrasound data from 8 speakers
  - Stronger VE ~ Greater TRA
  - TRA during the vowel
  - Vowel duration ~ TRA
- Future work
  - More speakers
  - Can the TRA gesture account for durational difference?

# THANK YOU!

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