

Developmental aspects of accommodation: Using longitudinal ACQDIV corpus

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Background

- In everyday interactions, speakers tend to accommodate to the speech of their conversation partners.
- There are numerous studies which **measure** the **acoustic and phonetic** properties of accommodation phenomena in different adult communication situations (Pardo et al. 2012).
- However, few studies have investigated the **development of linguistic accommodation** in early language acquisition (Nardy et al. 2014).



Research Questions

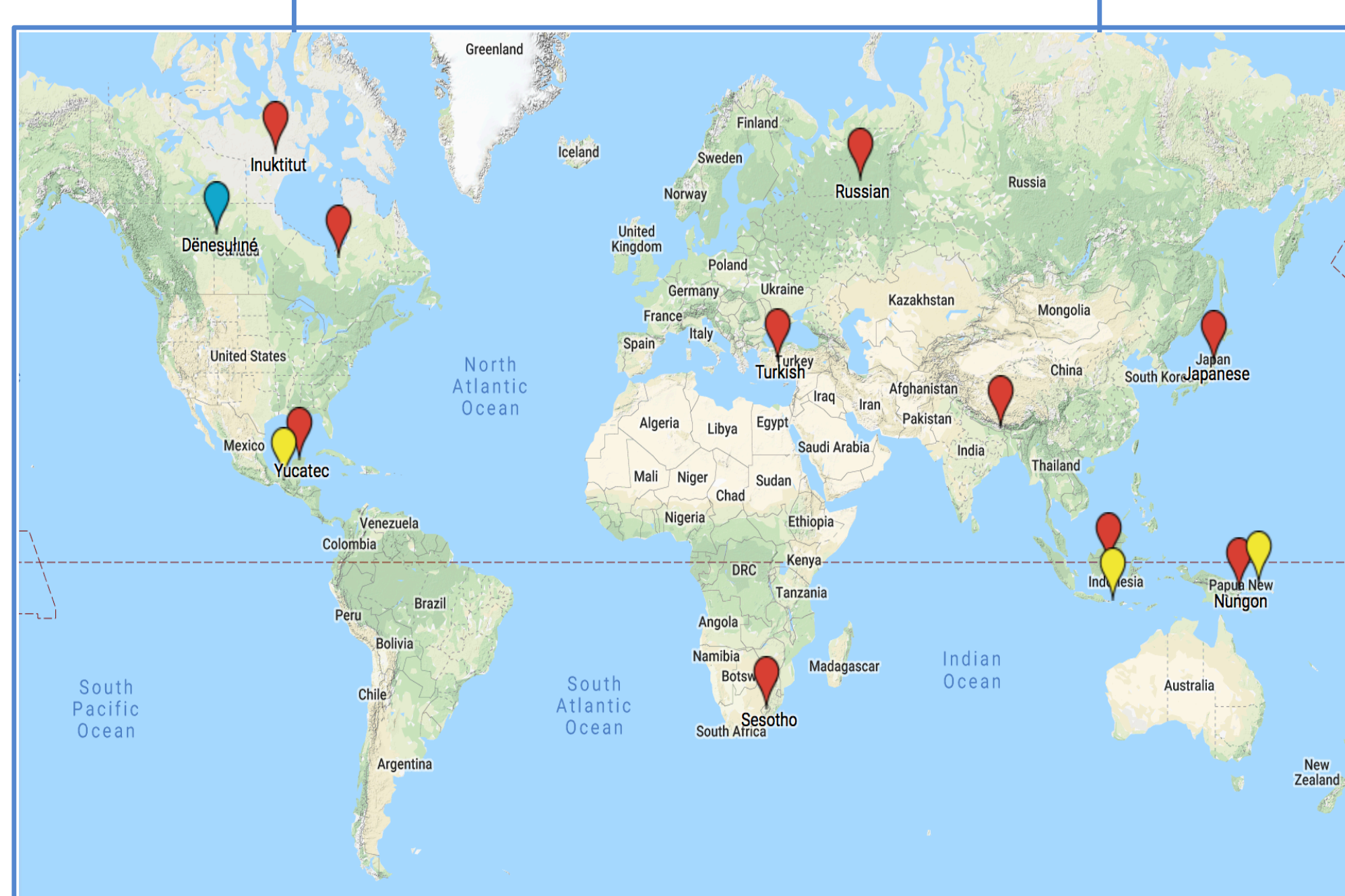
- **Do children accommodate** at all, and do adults accommodate to the children?
- In what respect are **children different from adults** in terms of accommodation?
- What is the **role of linguistic accommodation** in early language development?



Method

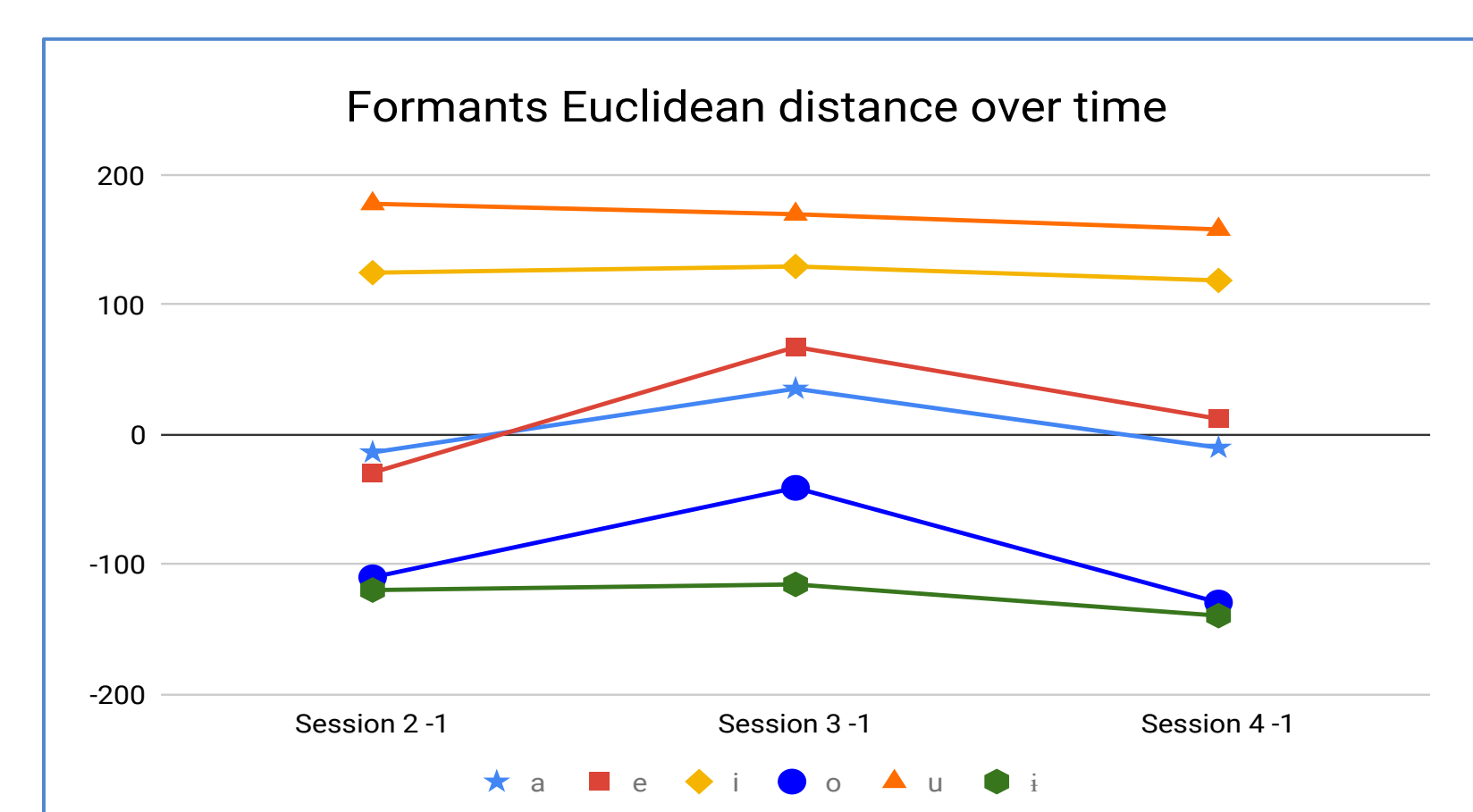
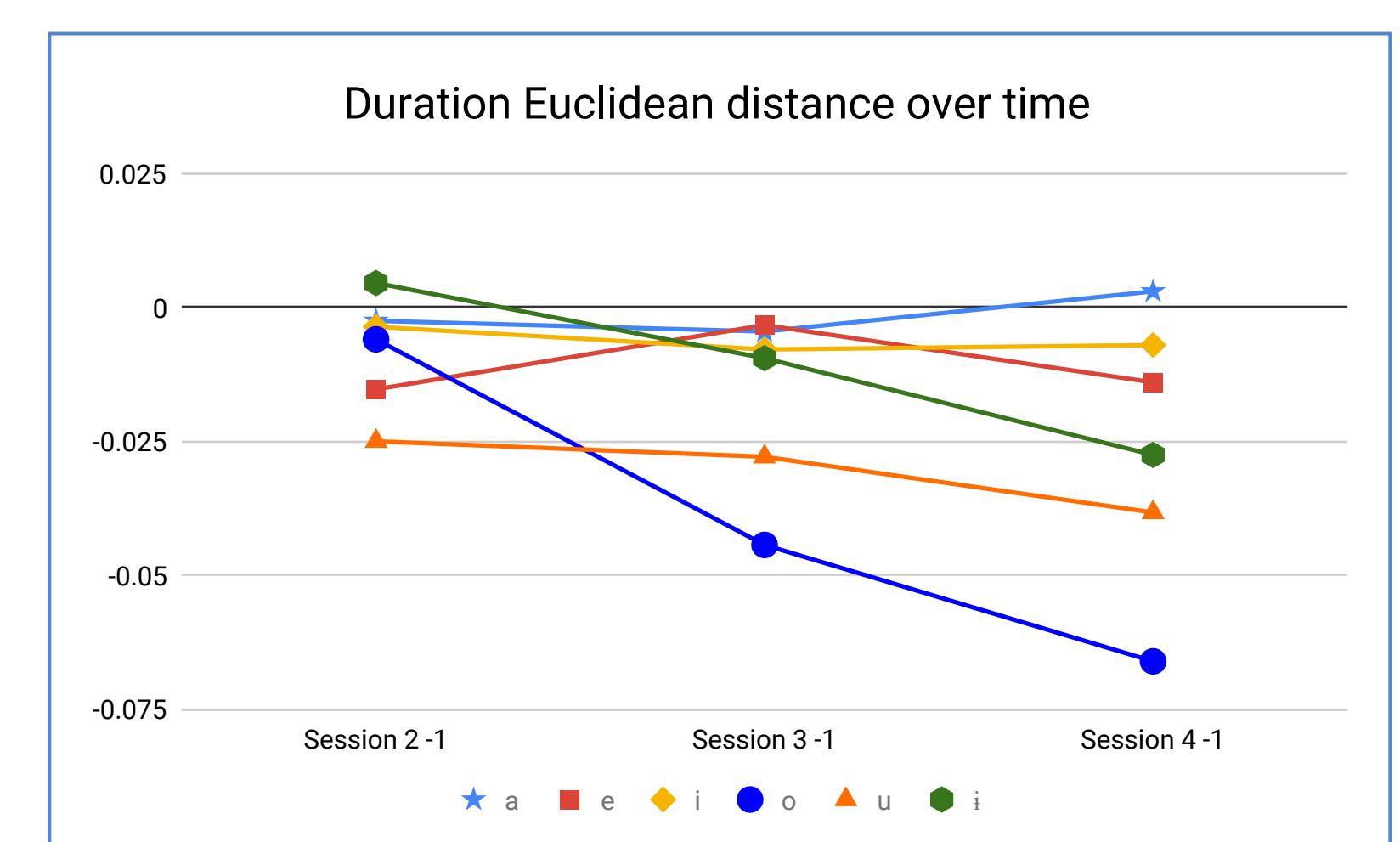
- Using part of the ACQDIV corpus.
- Chintang: A Tibeto-Burman language (spoken in Nepal).
- 6 children (0.6 to 4.4 years).
- Natural interactions: Child – adult / child – child (recorded in several sessions).
- Lexical features: Lexical choices, Acoustic features : F0, formants and segment duration.
- **The Euclidean distance** was measured between the mother's and the child's vowel duration in the different recording sessions.

ACQDIV corpus



Preliminary Results

Convergence between the mother and her child



Future work

- Look at all adult – child interactions instead of just mother – child interactions.
- Investigate the long-term effect of accommodation on language acquisition:
 - Comparing between the 'normal' development (of phonetic categories) and the development in case of an occurrence of accommodation. **Can accommodation be an explanation for inter-children variability in language acquisition?**