

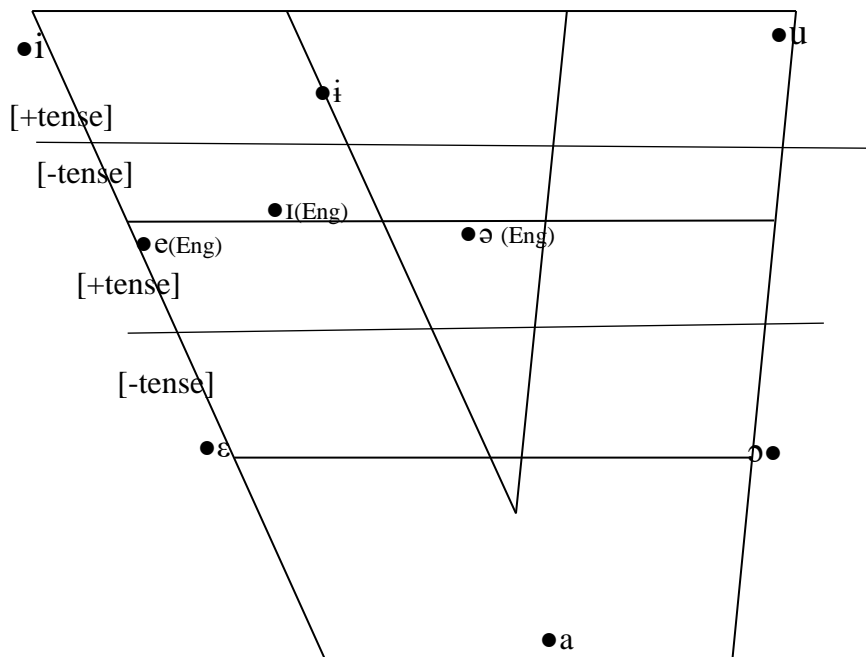
## DISTINCTIVE FEATURES: TWO ISSUES\_DATA

### 1. THE FEATURE $[\pm\text{tense}]$

The feature  $[\pm\text{tense}]$  works well with high and mid vowels. It cuts the high vowel space into two: upper high and lower high, and, similarly, the mid vowels space is divided into upper mid and lower mid.

Upper high and upper mid vowels are  $[\text{+tense}]$  while lower high and lower mid vowels are  $[\text{-tense}]$ . Vowels that are  $[\text{-tense}]$  are called lax vowels.

Standard Polish vowels (Biedrzycki 1974: 28)



The feature  $[\pm\text{tense}]$  distinguishes, for example, Polish  $[i]$  from English  $[ɪ]$  and Polish  $[ɛ]$  from English  $[e]$ :

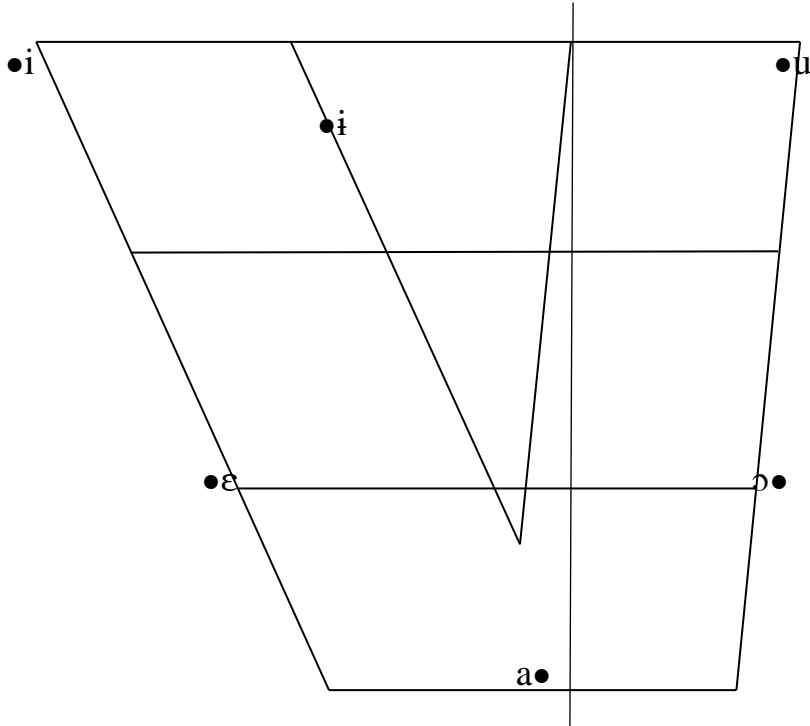
Polish  $[i]$  is  $[\text{+tense}]$  while English  $[ɪ]$  is  $[\text{-tense}]$

Polish  $[ɛ]$  is  $[\text{-tense}]$  while English  $[e]$  is  $[\text{+tense}]$ .

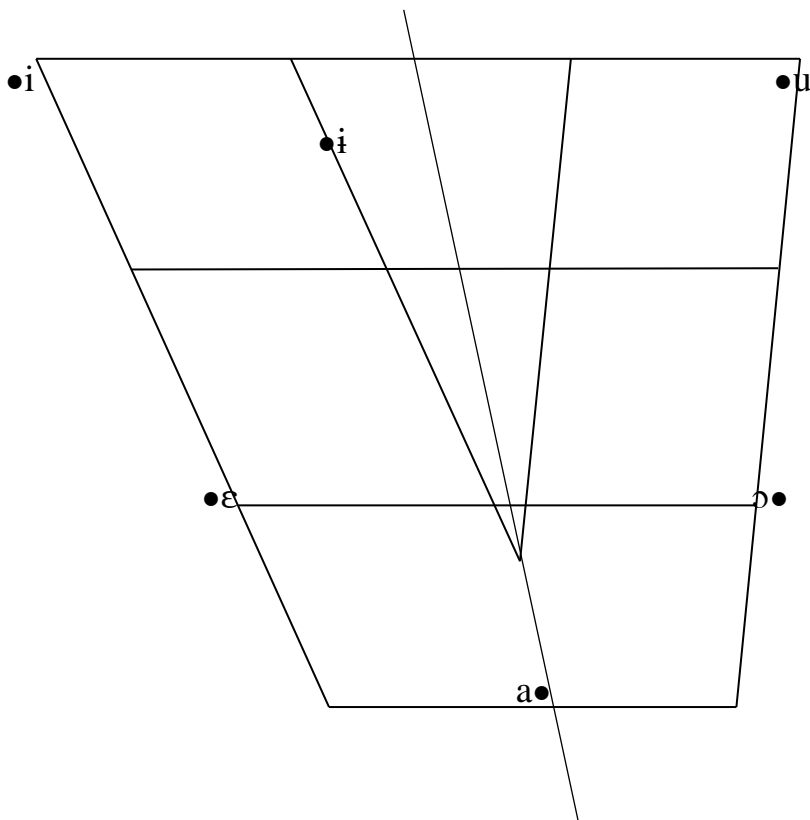
2. IS POLISH [i] CLASSIFIED AS [-back] OR [+back]?

Standard Polish vowels (Biedrzycki 1974: 28)

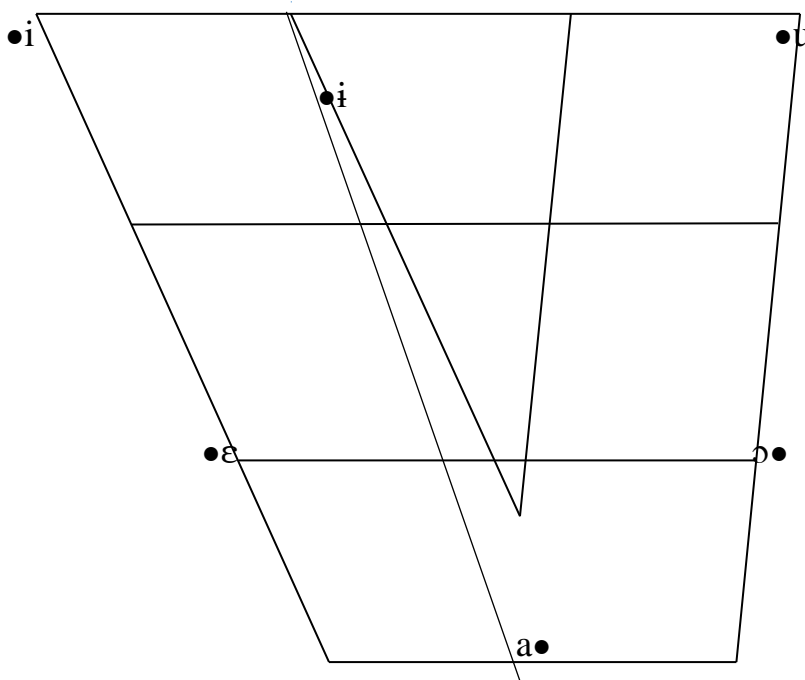
(1)



(2)



(3)



How do the following data help us decide whether //i// and //a// are [-back] or [back]?

brud – brudzić //brud+i+ tɛ// → [brudzitɛ]

brud – brudz+ie (loc.sg.) //brud+ε// → [brudzε]

brud – brud+u (gen.sg.) //brud+u// = [brudu]

brud – bru+om (dat.pl.) //brud+ɔm// = [brudɔm]

brud+ami (instr.pl.) //brud+ami// → [brudam'i]

brud – brud+y (nom.pl.) //brud+i// = [brudi]

What exactly is the argument for deciding whether the central vowels //i// and //a// are [-back] or [+back]?