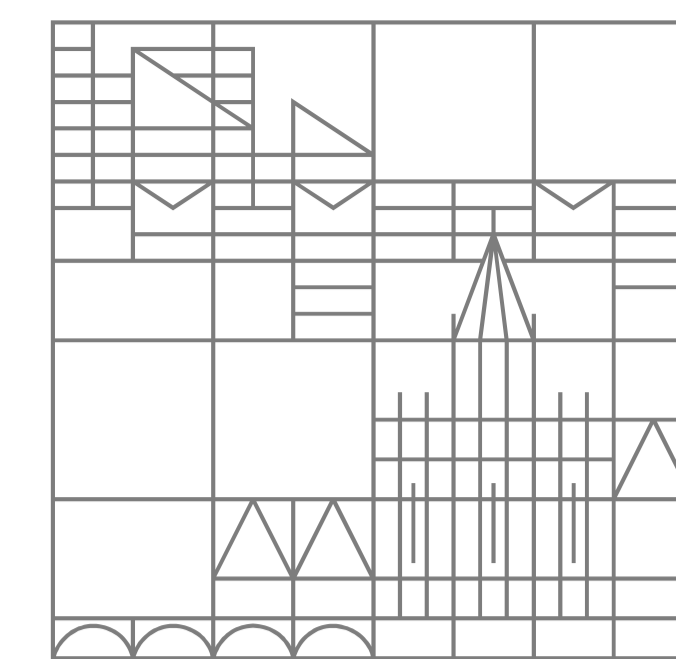


On Faroese intonation

Comparing intonation patterns of the two Faroese varieties spoken in Vestmanna (Streymoy) and in Klaksvík (Borðoy)



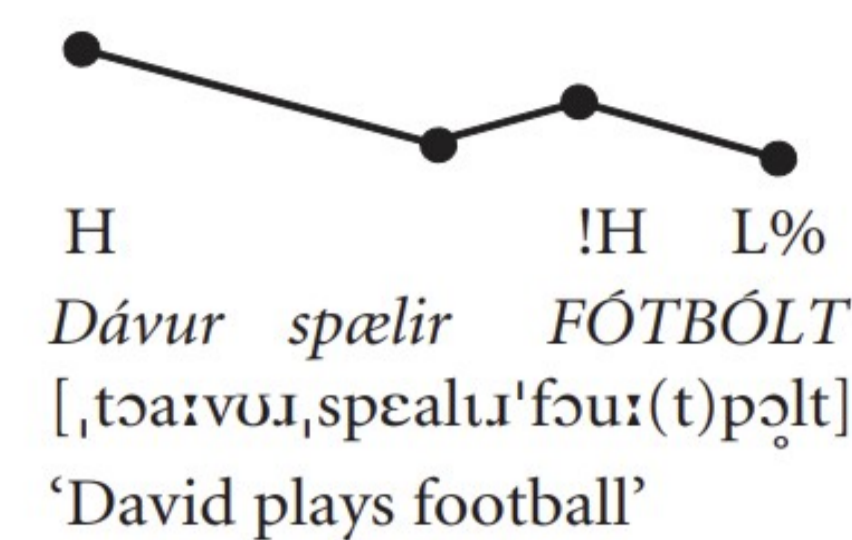
Christiane Ulbrich, Nicole Dehé, Moritz Jakob & Meike Rommel
SLBI 2022, Oldenburg, 30th June – 1st July 2022

Background

Faroese intonation:

- previous literature based on introspective data
- **declaratives (decl)**: typically start at high pitch level and have a downwards trend to a low terminus (L%) [1]
- **polar questions (PQs)**: have rising intonation [1]
- **wh-questions (whQs)**: generally have rising intonation [2] but can be realized with falling intonation [1]
- [1] reports regional variation

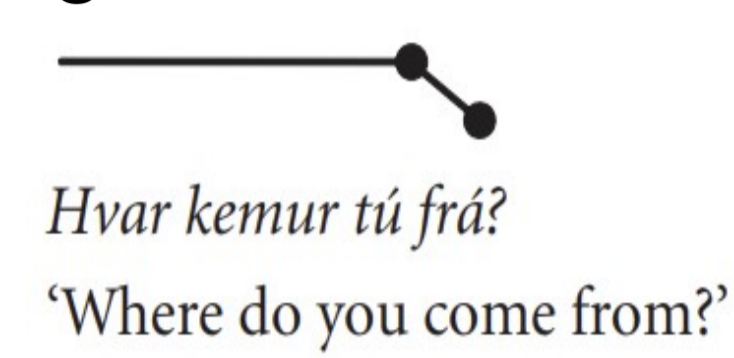
Declarative: high initial pitch falling to low terminus



Rising intonation in a PQ



Falling intonation in a whQ



examples from [1, p. 325]

Research questions

Q1: What are the typical intonation patterns for declaratives, polar questions and wh-questions in Faroese, in terms of pitch accents and boundary tones?

Q2: Do Faroese nuclear contours underlie regional variation; here: Vestmanna (Streymoy) vs. Klaksvík (Borðoy)?

Methodology

Participants & items:

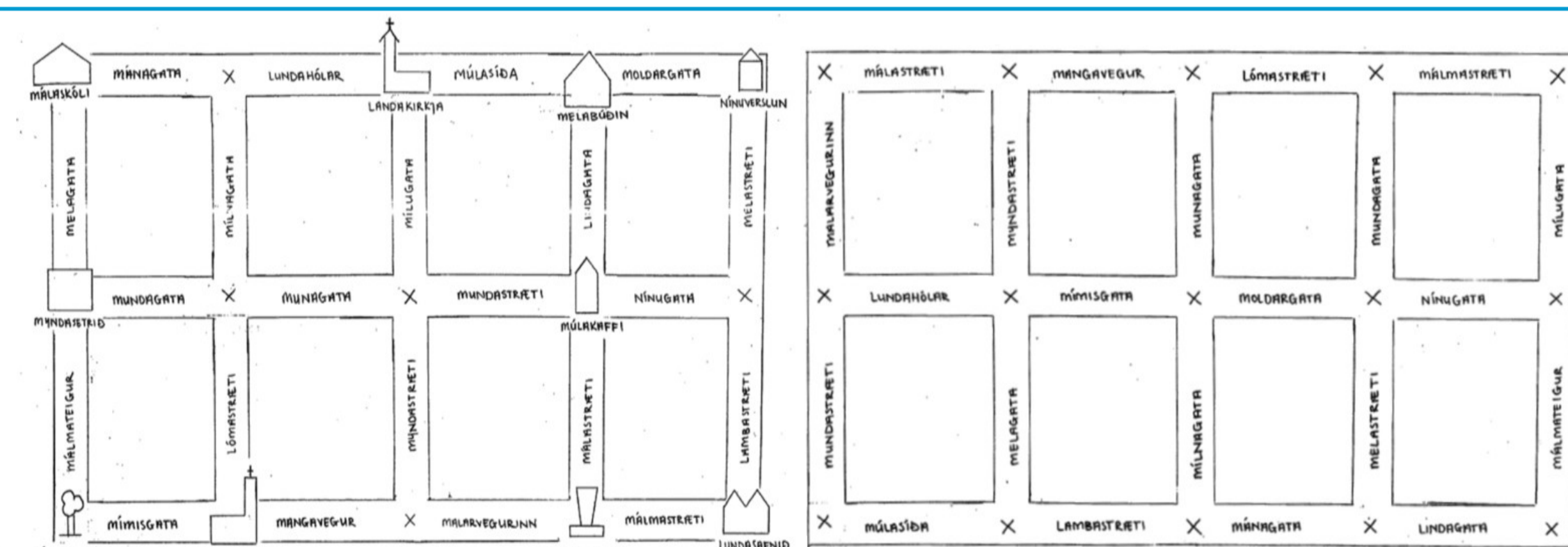
Place	Speakers (N)	Age (Ø) (SD)	Decls (N)	PQs (N)	whQs (N)
Vestmanna (Streymoy)	12	43.8y (SD: 19.4)	588	85	16
Klaksvík (Borðoy)	5	30.4y (SD: 5.1)	156	47	20

Data treatment:

- dialogues were orthographically transcribed by native speakers of Faroese
- recordings were coded according to utterance type
- nuclear/pre-nuclear accents and boundary tones were annotated in Praat [3]

Map Task:

- maps adapted from [4] for Faroese
- names of streets and landmarks written on maps to allow for some control of elicited data
- participants tested in pairs, asking for and receiving directions to landmarks

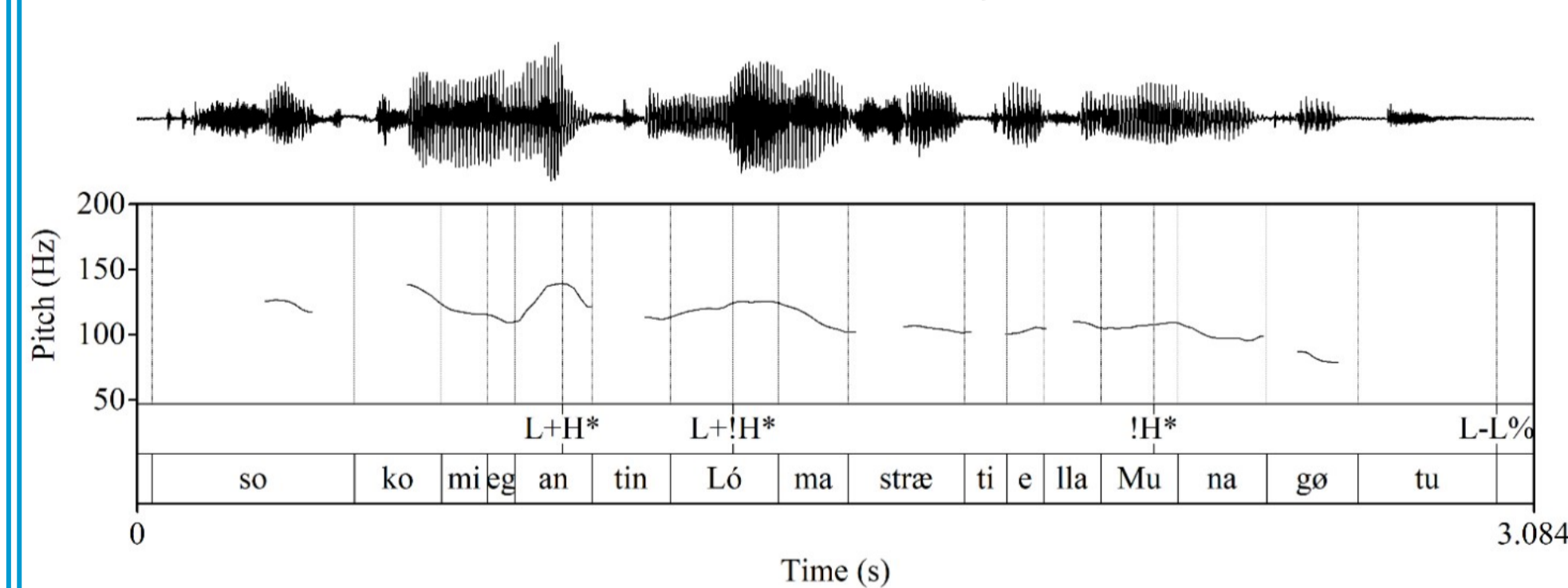


Results & Discussion

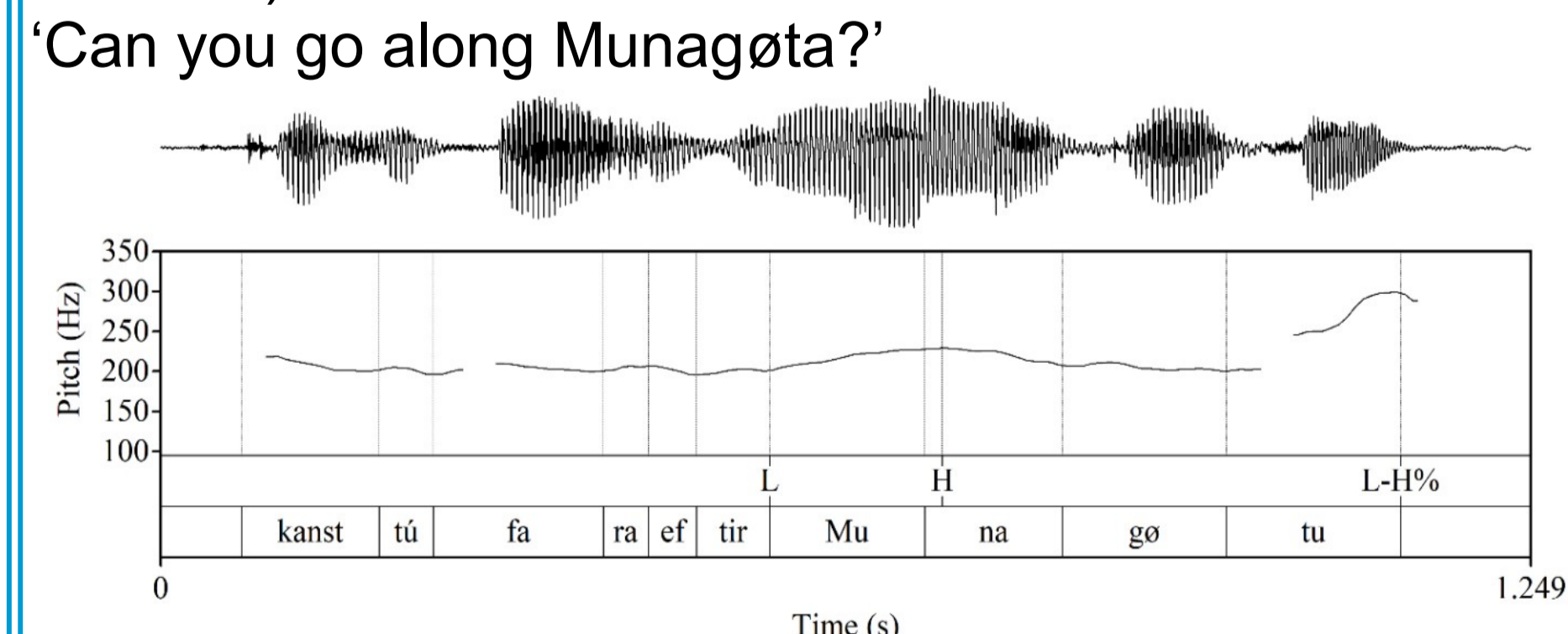
Results (preliminary)

Example contours

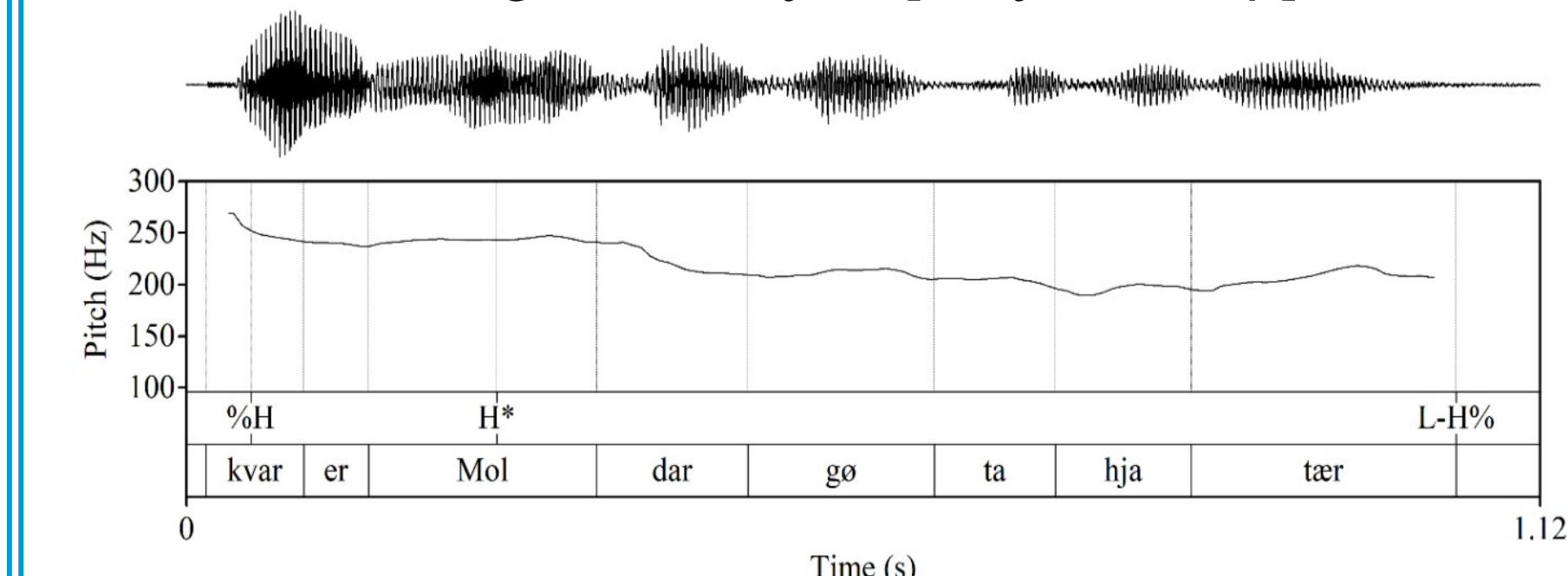
Decl (speaker K04, male, from Klaksvík)
'then I arrive at Lómastræti or Munagøta'



PQ (speaker K03, female, from Klaksvík)
'Can you go along Munagøta?'



whQ (speaker V02, female, from Vestmanna)
'where is Moldargøta with you [on your map]?'



Nuclear accents (values rounded)

nuclear accent	place	decls (N=744)	PQs (N=132)	whQs (N=36)
(!)H*	Vestmanna	92.0%	77.7%	87.5%
	Klaksvík	75.0%	61.7%	55.0%
L+(!)H*	Vestmanna	6.0%	8.2%	6.3%
	Klaksvík	22.4%	23.4%	20.0%
L*	Vestmanna	2.0%	14.1%	6.3%
	Klaksvík	2.6%	14.9%	25.0%

Boundary tone (values rounded)

bound-ary tone	place	decls (N=744)	PQs (N=132)	whQs (N=36)
H%	Vestmanna	8.8%	91.8%	81.3%
	Klaksvík	5.8%	95.7%	55.0%
L%	Vestmanna	86.2%	7.1%	18.8%
	Klaksvík	93.0%	2.1%	45.0%
%	Vestmanna	4.9%	1.2%	0%
	Klaksvík	1.3%	2.1%	0%

Discussion

Q1

- declaratives typically produced with a nuclear pitch peak and a falling contour (ending in L%)
- both PQs and whQs preferably realized with a final rise (H%)
- (!)H* most frequent nuclear peak accent across utterance types but rising peak accents also observed (L+(!)H*)
- additionally we find preliminary evidence for a stress seeking phrase accent (see e.g. [5])

Q2

- L+(!)H* used more frequently by K than by V speakers across all sentence types
- more frequent use of L% in whQs by K speakers than by V speakers

[1] Árnason, K. 2011. *The Phonology of Icelandic and Faroese*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
 [2] Lockwood, W.B. 1977. *An Introduction to Modern Faroese* (3rd printing). Tórshavn: Føroya Skúlabólagrunnur.
 [3] Boersma, P. & Weenink, D. 2019. Praat: doing phonetics by computer [Computer program]. <http://www.praat.org/>.
 [4] Dehé, N. 2018. The intonation of polar questions in North American ('heritage') Icelandic. *Journal of Germanic Linguistics* 30(3): 213-259.
 [5] Grice, M., Ladd, D. R., & Arvaniti, A. 2000. On the place of phrase accents in intonational phonology. *Phonology* 17, 143-185.