THE PHONETICS AND PHONOLOGY OF FOCUS MARKING
An Integrated Perspective

16th Conference of the Association for Laboratory Phonology, June 22 2018

Simon Ritter & Doris Mücke
IfL Phonetik, University of Cologne

BACKGROUND

Gradience [1]

Choice of category ~ phonological
Physical realisation ~ phonetic

Previous work on nuclear pitch accents in German focus marking: Phonological + phonetic gradience seem to go in the same direction [2, 3].

Describe phonological + phonetic gradience in unified system?

RESEARCH QUESTION

Can an attractor-based account model the phonological + phonetic gradience found in German focus intonation?

DATA

27 native German speakers produce focus structures in a game-like task.

Sentence structure held constant, e.g. “Er hat den Hammer auf die Wohse gelegt”

3 focus types: broad, narrow, contrastive

Measure: Tonal Onglide
Speaker-normalised

Results

Frequency

Measure: Tonal Onglide
Speaker-normalised

CONCLUSION

Nuclear pitch accents of our focus data can be modelled in a dynamic framework.

Both phonological and phonetic variation is accounted for in a unified system.