

*"Je n'entrerai pas dans la discussion aride et embrouillée de l'histoire des voyelles nasales."*

*(Gaston Paris, 1878)*

# THE NASAL VOWELS OF WALLONIA

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[danielezrajohnson.com/johnson\\_afls\\_2014.pdf](http://danielezrajohnson.com/johnson_afls_2014.pdf)

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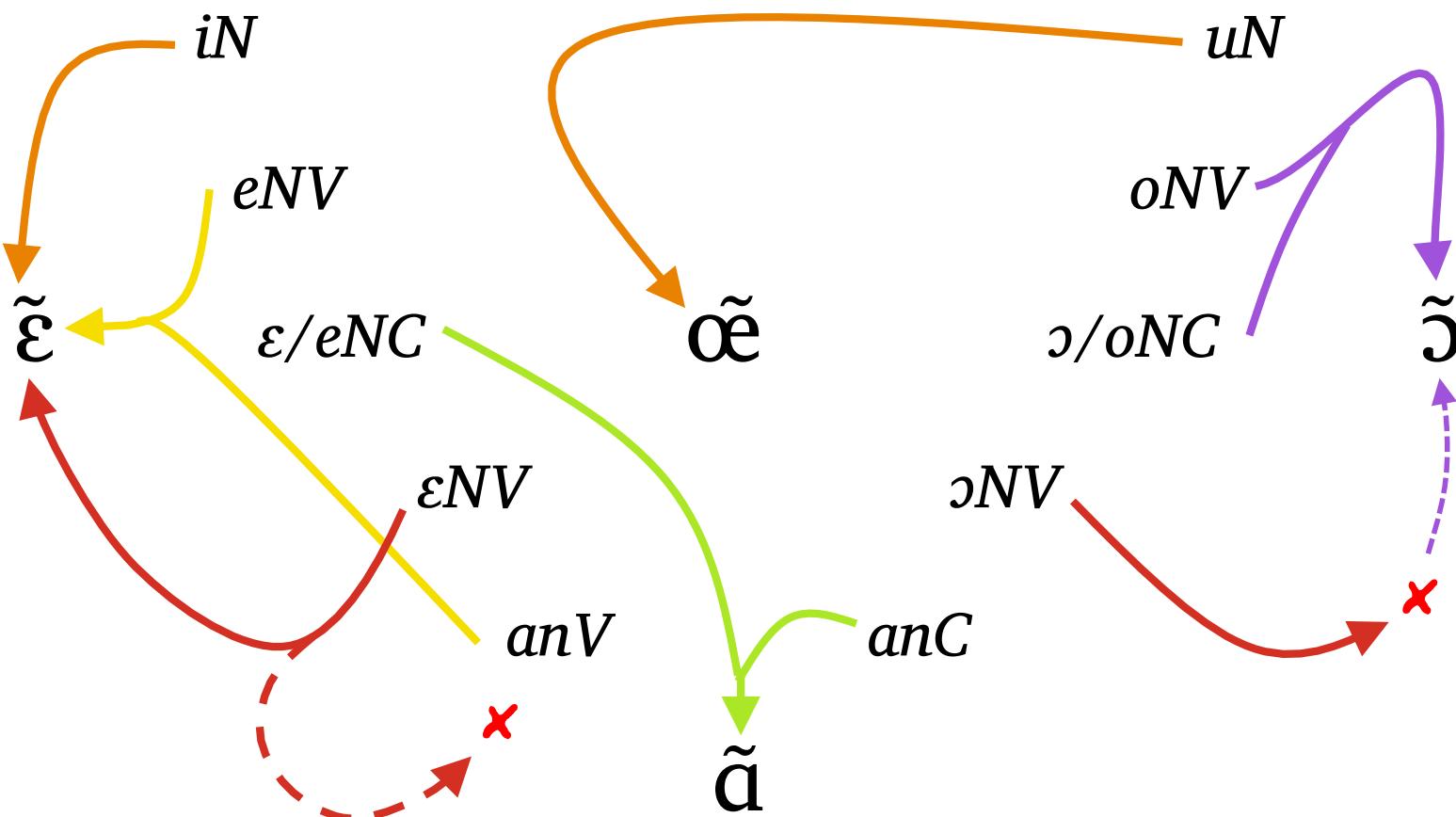
# INTRODUCTION

*motives for studying nasal vowels of Wallonia:*

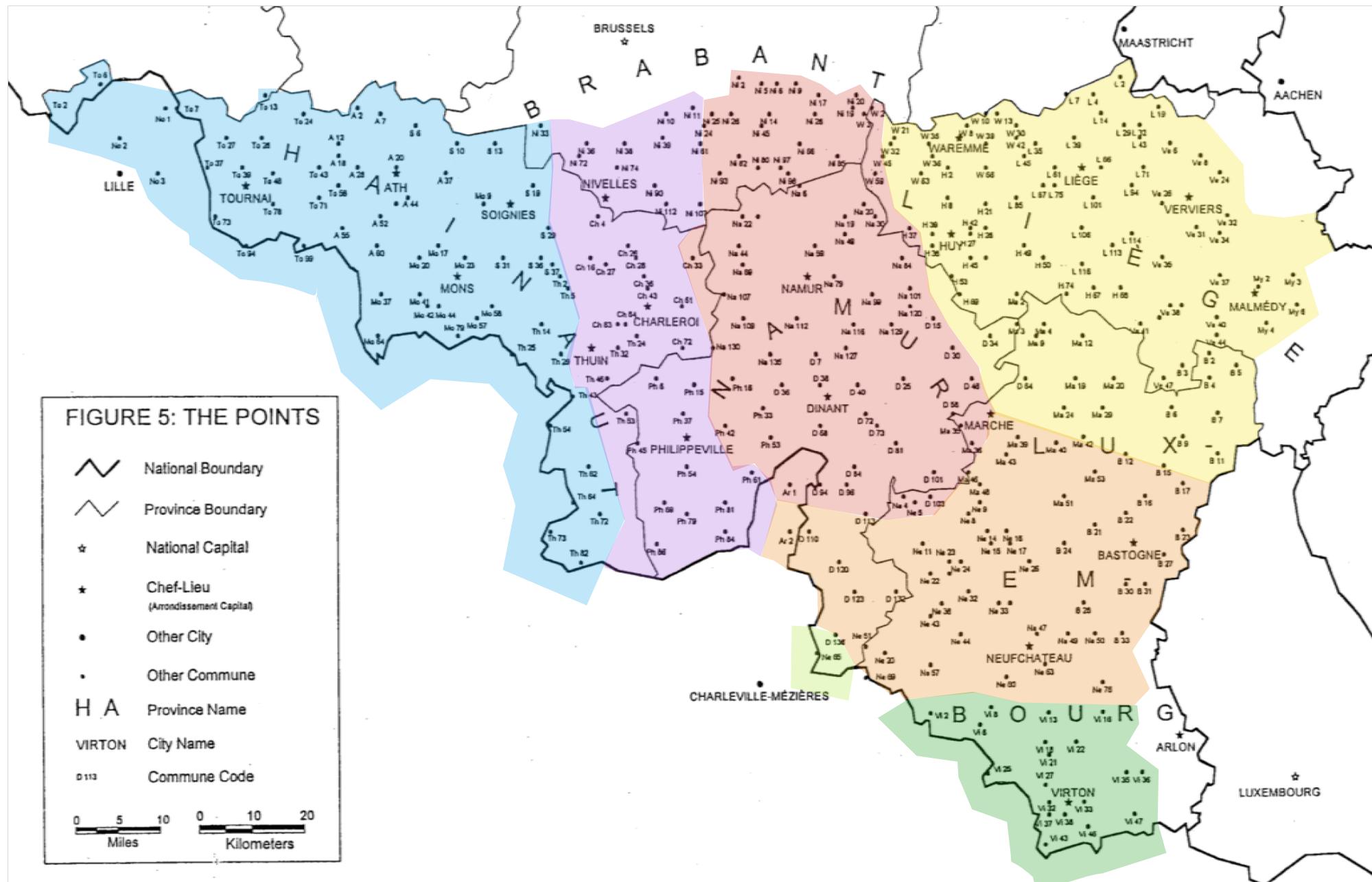
- compare community studies to a linguistic atlas
  - possibly cast light on NV history in French
  - in a peripheral area (conservative & innovative)
  - perhaps distinguish internal/external change
  - external change can be diffusion or borrowing
- 
- *Atlas linguistique de la Wallonie (1920/1935-)*
  - 12 community studies (1892-1984)

# HISTORY OF (FRENCH) N. V.

- five periods: allophonic nasalization, parallel evolution with oral vowels, separate evolution, loss of coda NC, denasalization before NC

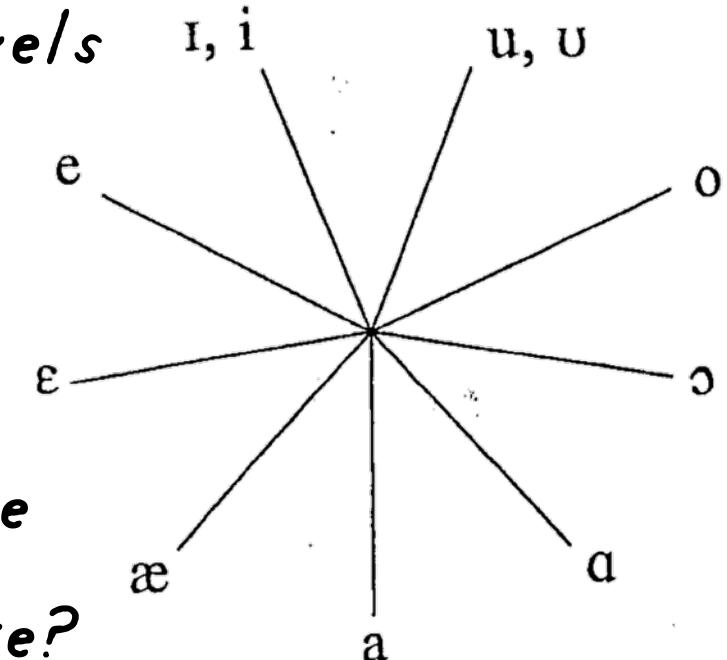


# THE DIALECTS OF WALLONIA



# METHODS / PHONOLOGICAL P.O.V.

- 359 ALW points (better: just 305 base points)
- coded 27 words per point, where available
- words show 10 basic developments, few others
- then, 8/20 volumes of ALW published; now, 17
- symbol: of distinct nasal vowels
- front rounded NV excluded
- some community studies tested contrasts, the others (and ALW) taken at face value
- 'impressionistic' FW: adequate?



# COMMUNITY STUDIES

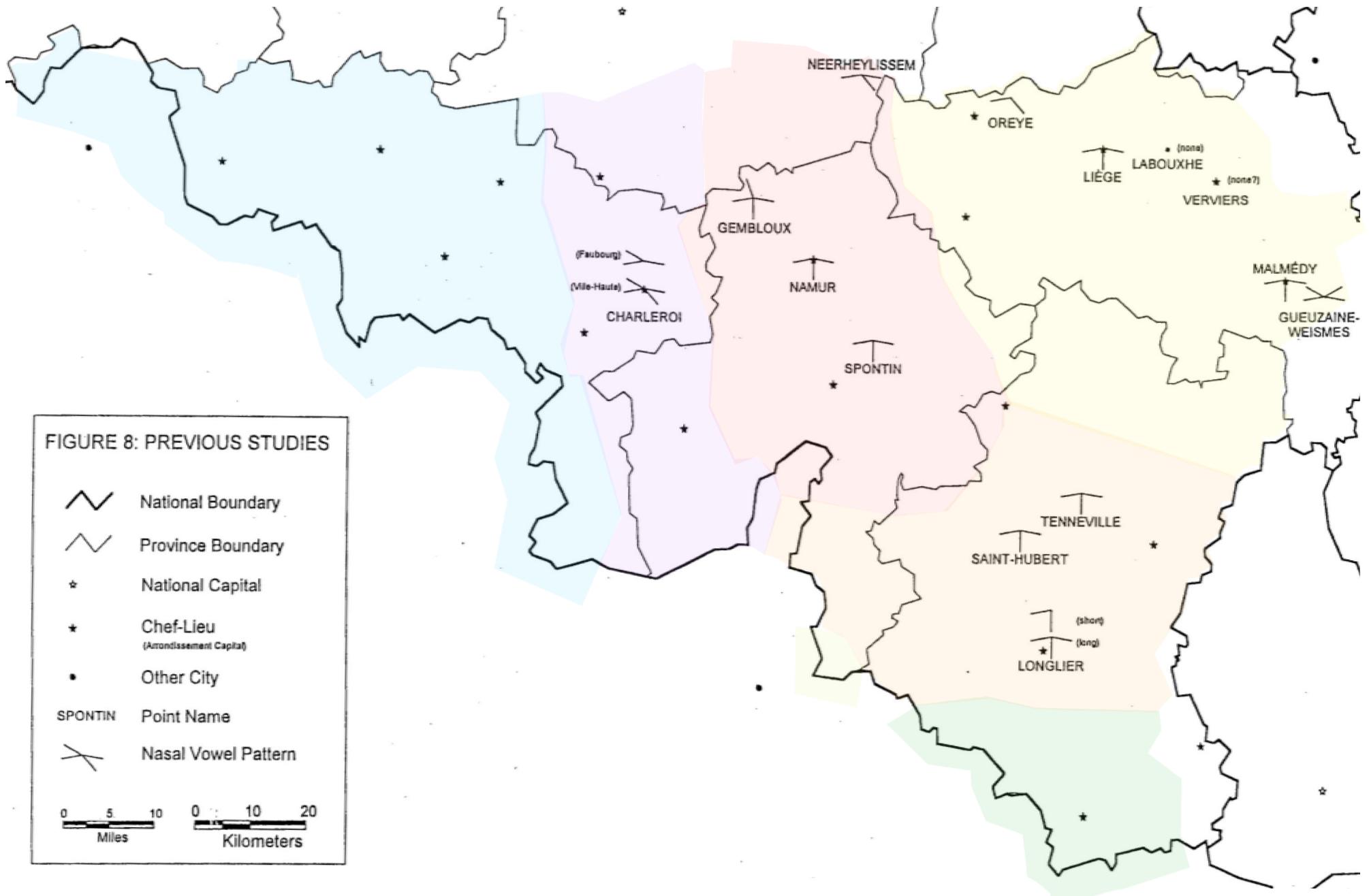
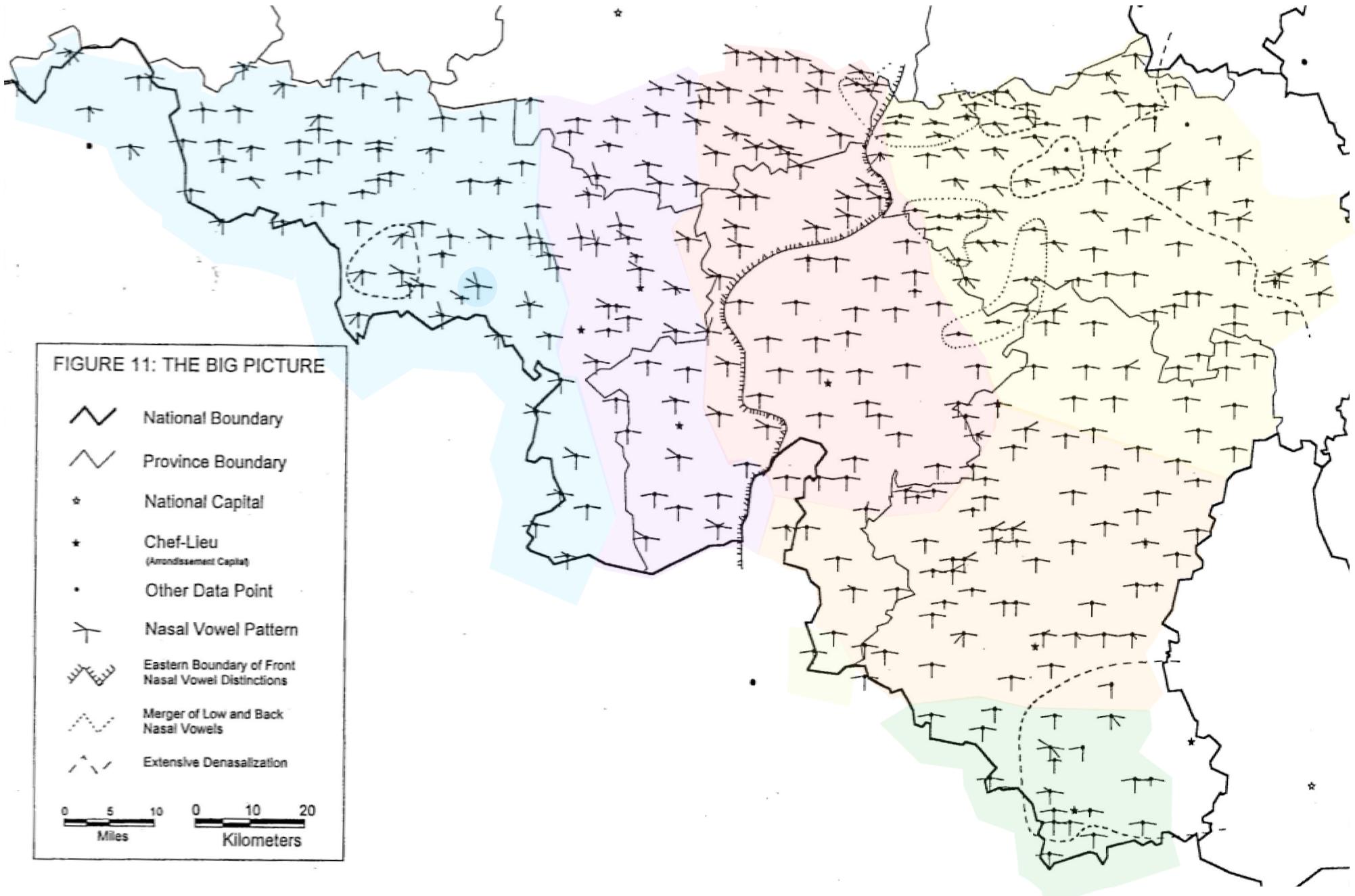
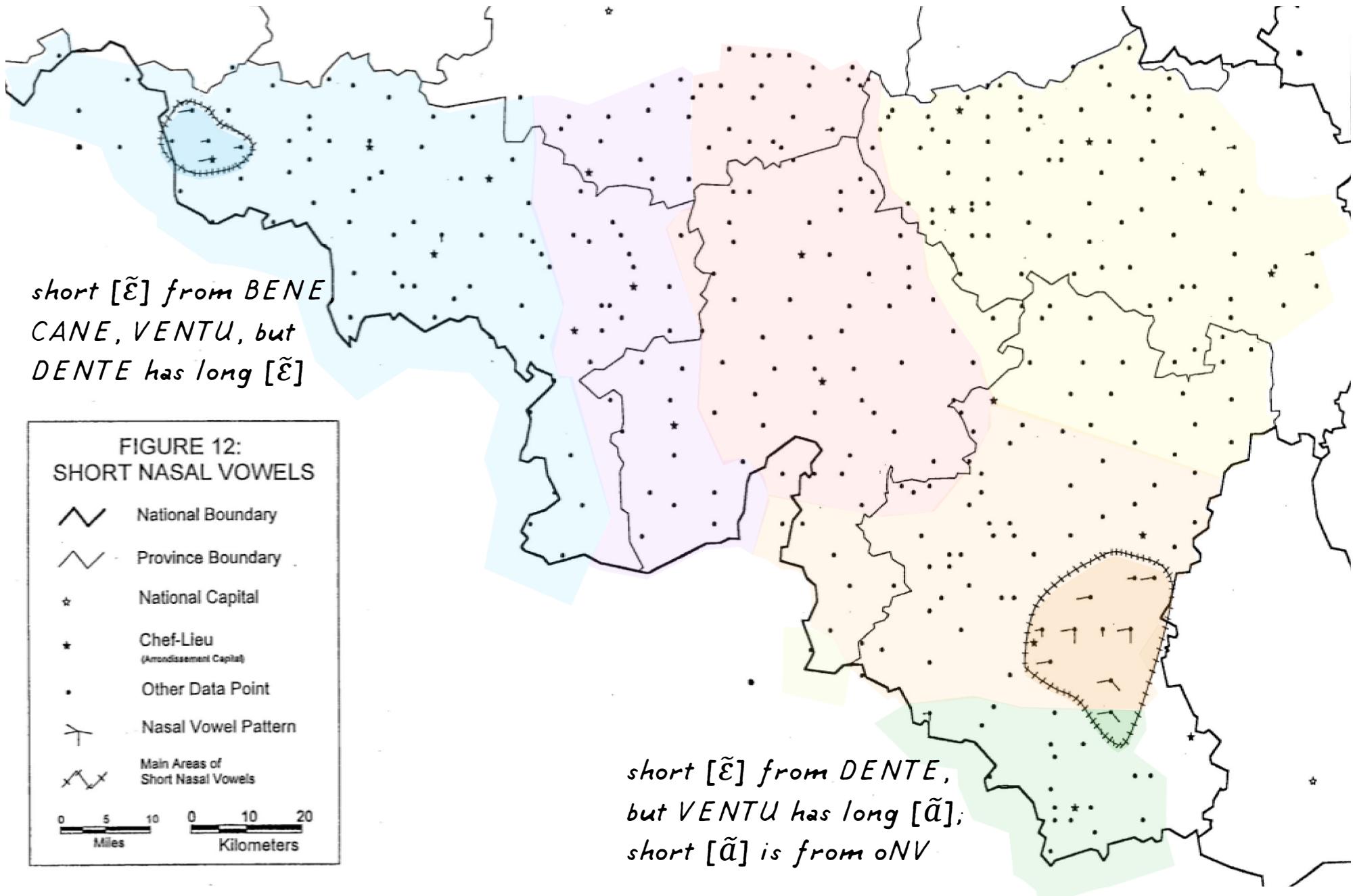


FIGURE 8: PREVIOUS STUDIES

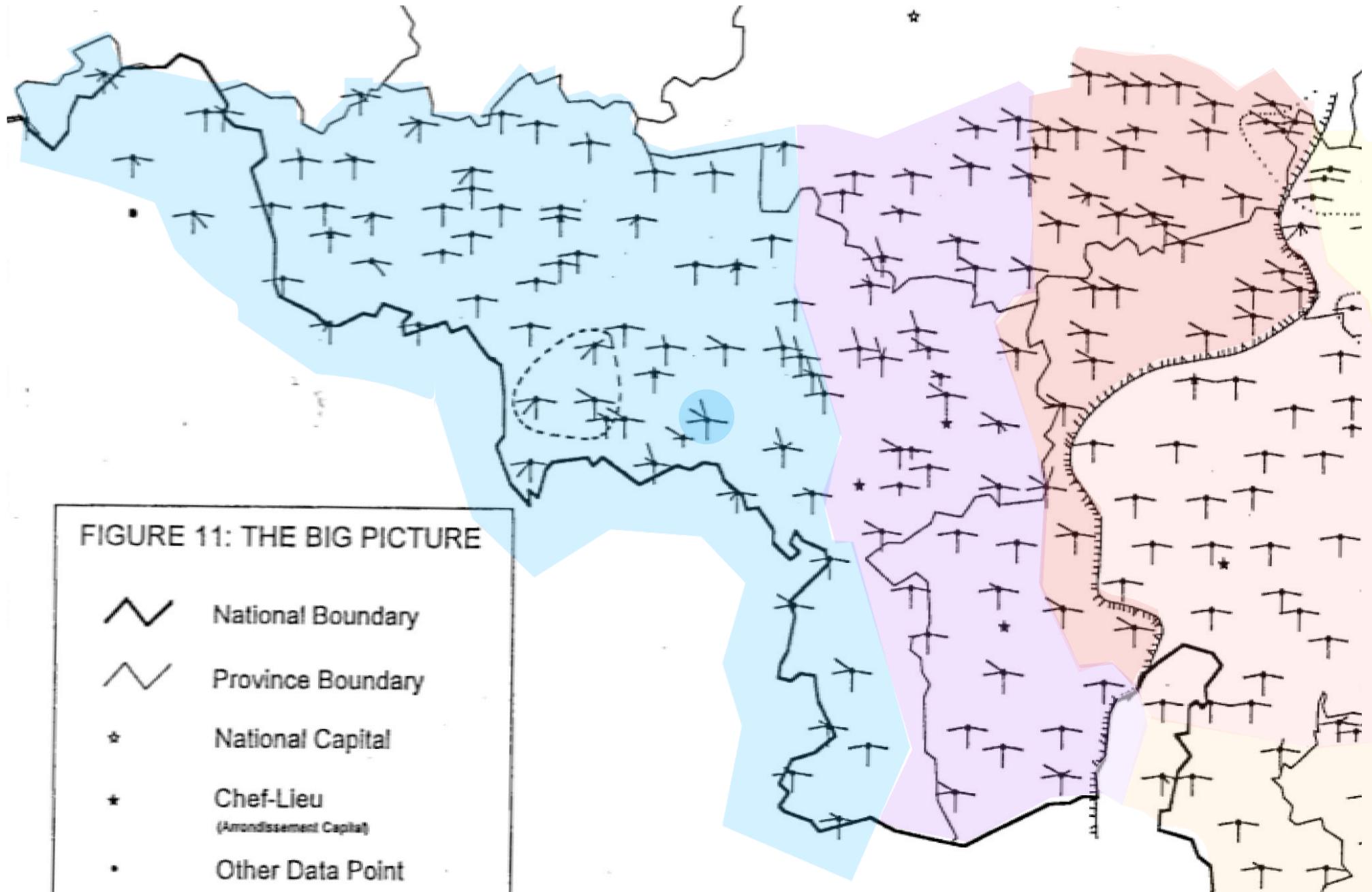
# N. V. SYSTEMS FROM L'ALW



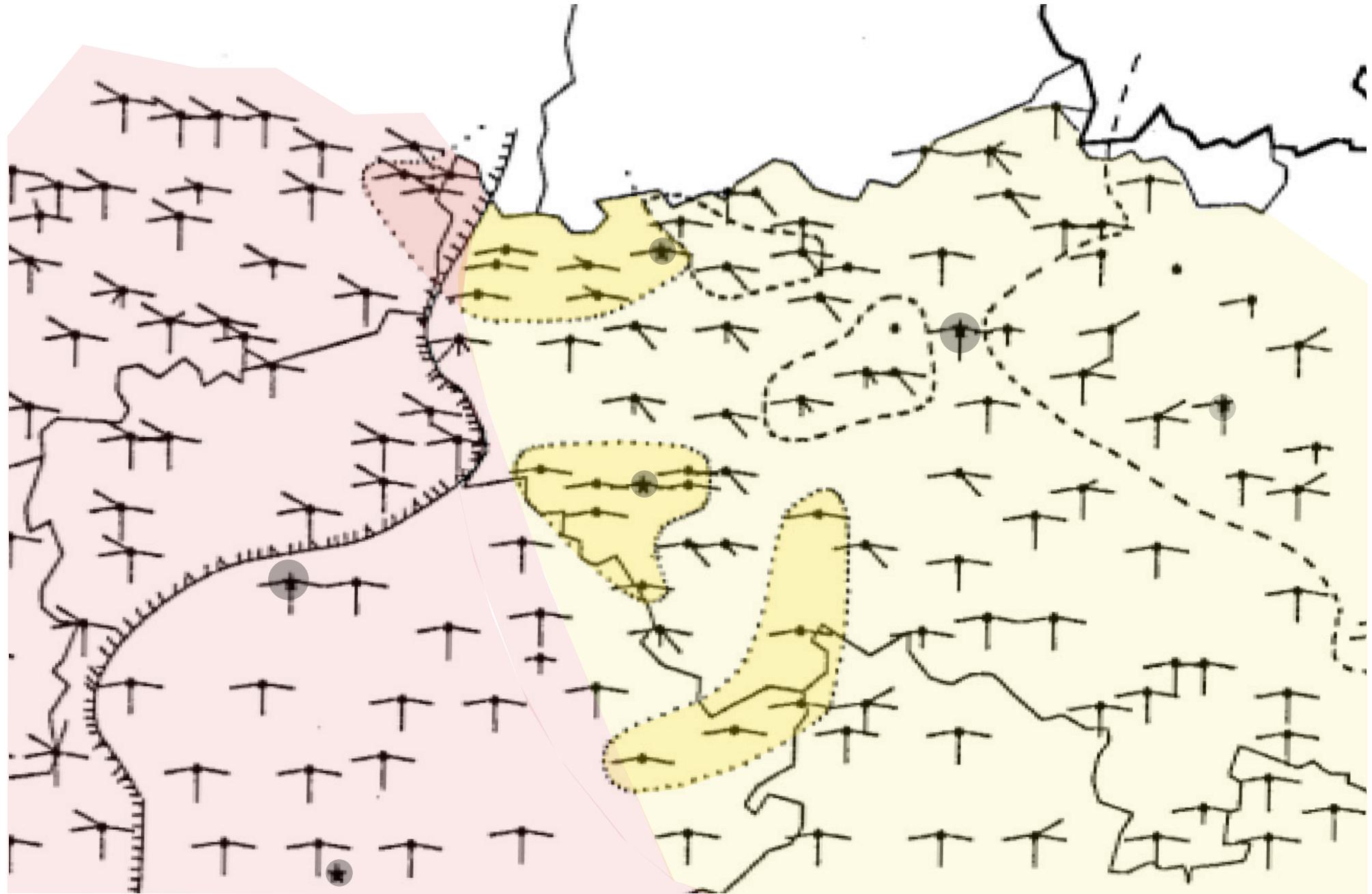
# SHORT NASAL VOWELS



# FRONT N. V. DISTINCTION



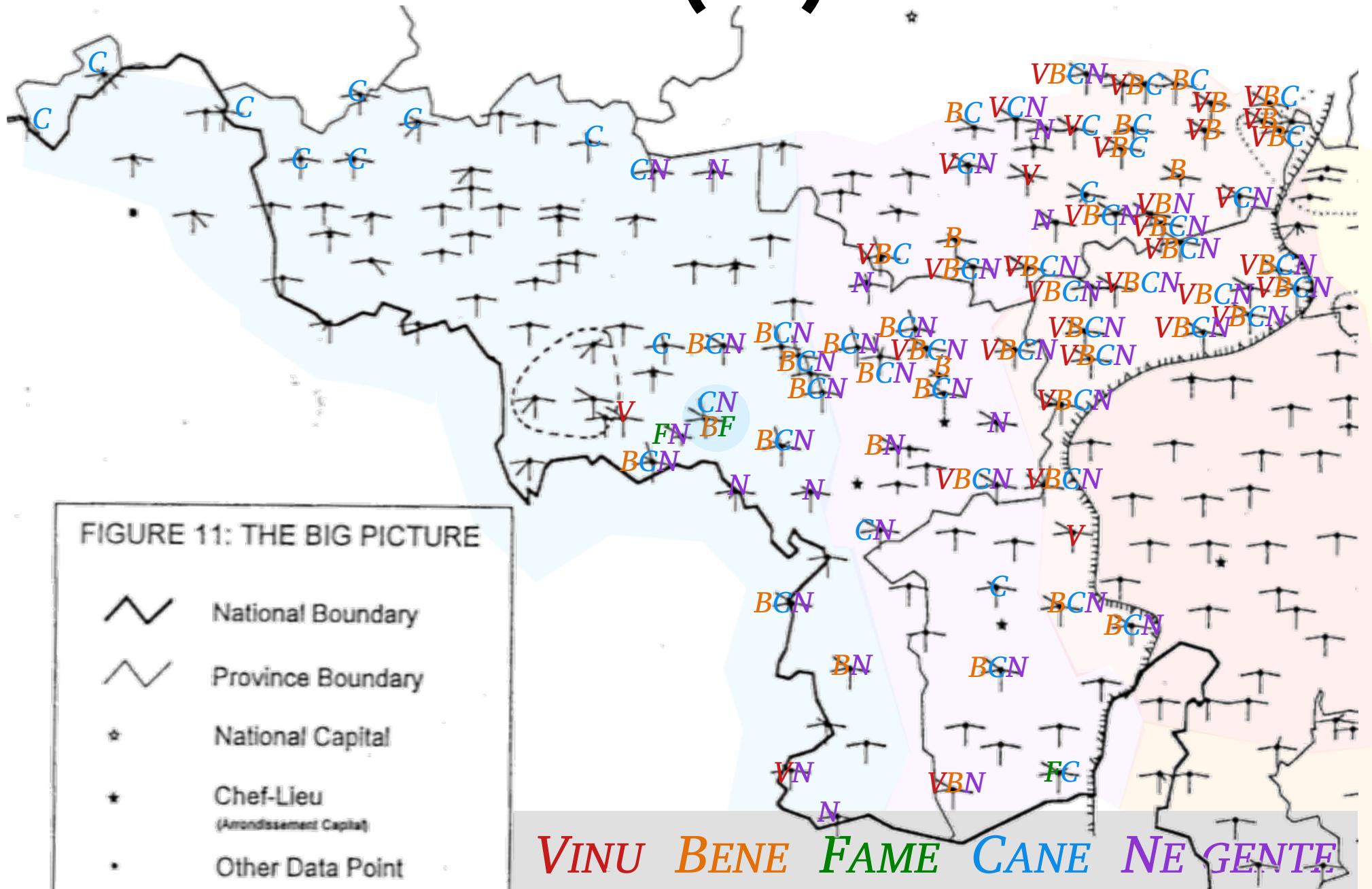
# LOW-BACK N. V. MERGER



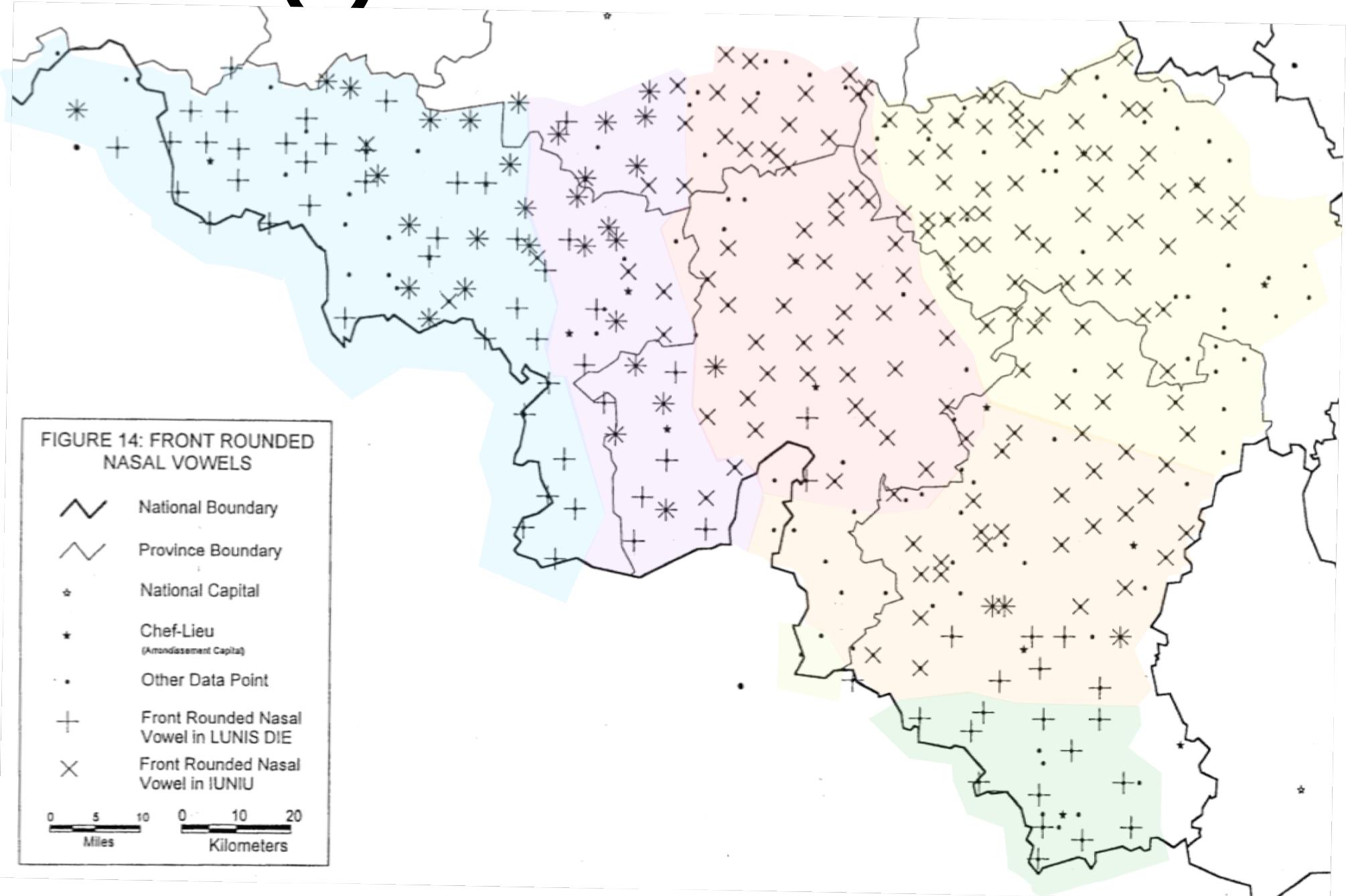
# HISTORICAL-PHONETIC P.O.V.

- ENC falling in w/ aNC linked to (early) u > y
- Longlier (Ne 47, outside u area) shows merger,  
Charleroi (Ch 1, outside u area) does not
- Charleroi and Gembloux: [ɛ̃] from iN, εNV
- other community studies more 'Walloon proper'
- ALW: ENC merged w/ aNC as [ã] in W Ne,  
SE Di (Further south, ENC is [a], aNC [ã])
- W Walloon, Picard: u > y (late?), but ENC [ɛ̃]
- diverse sources of (WW, P) high(er) front NV
- previous: if de-N, across board; ALW: not so

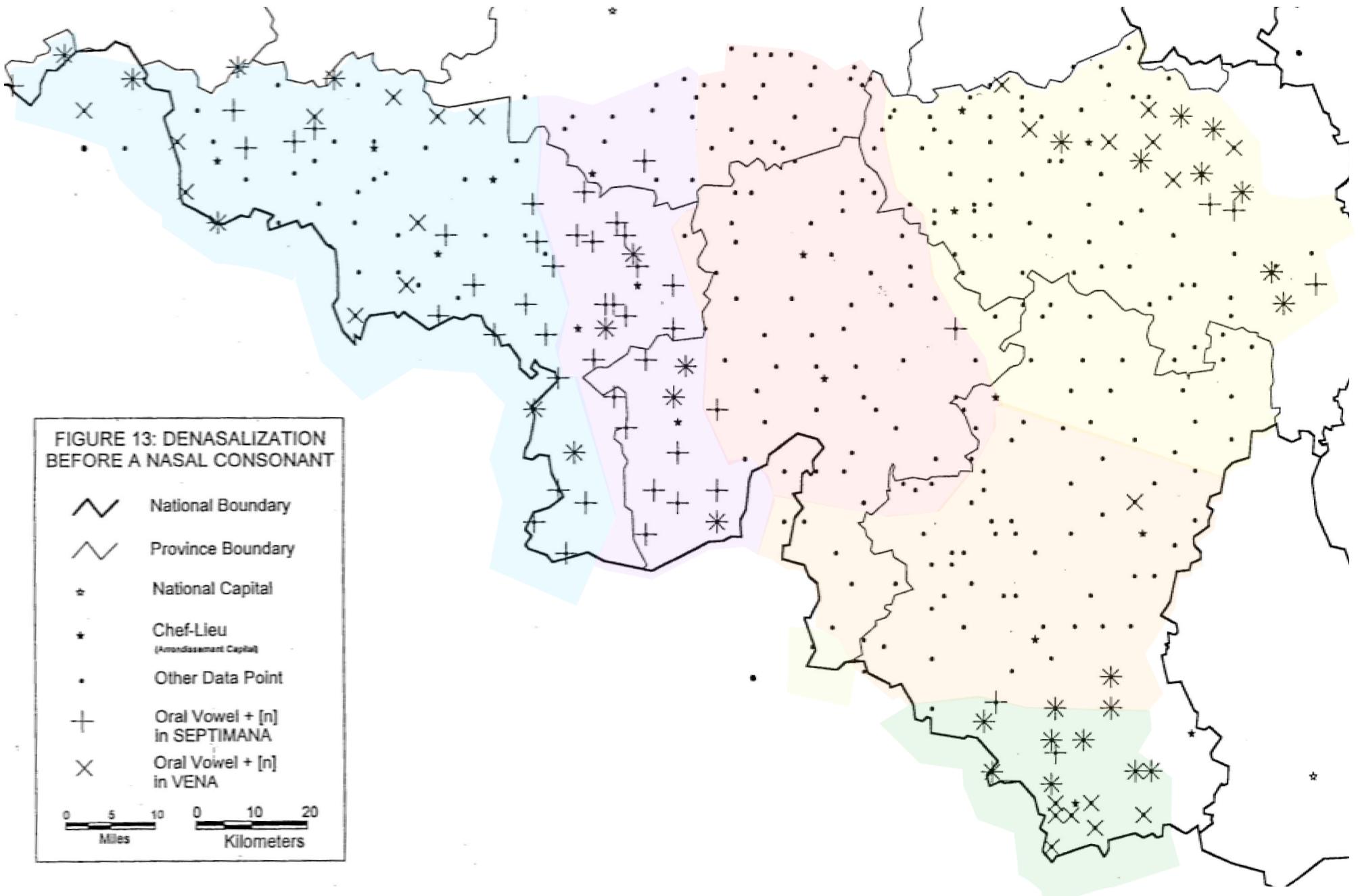
# ORIGINS OF HIGH(ER) FRONT N. V.



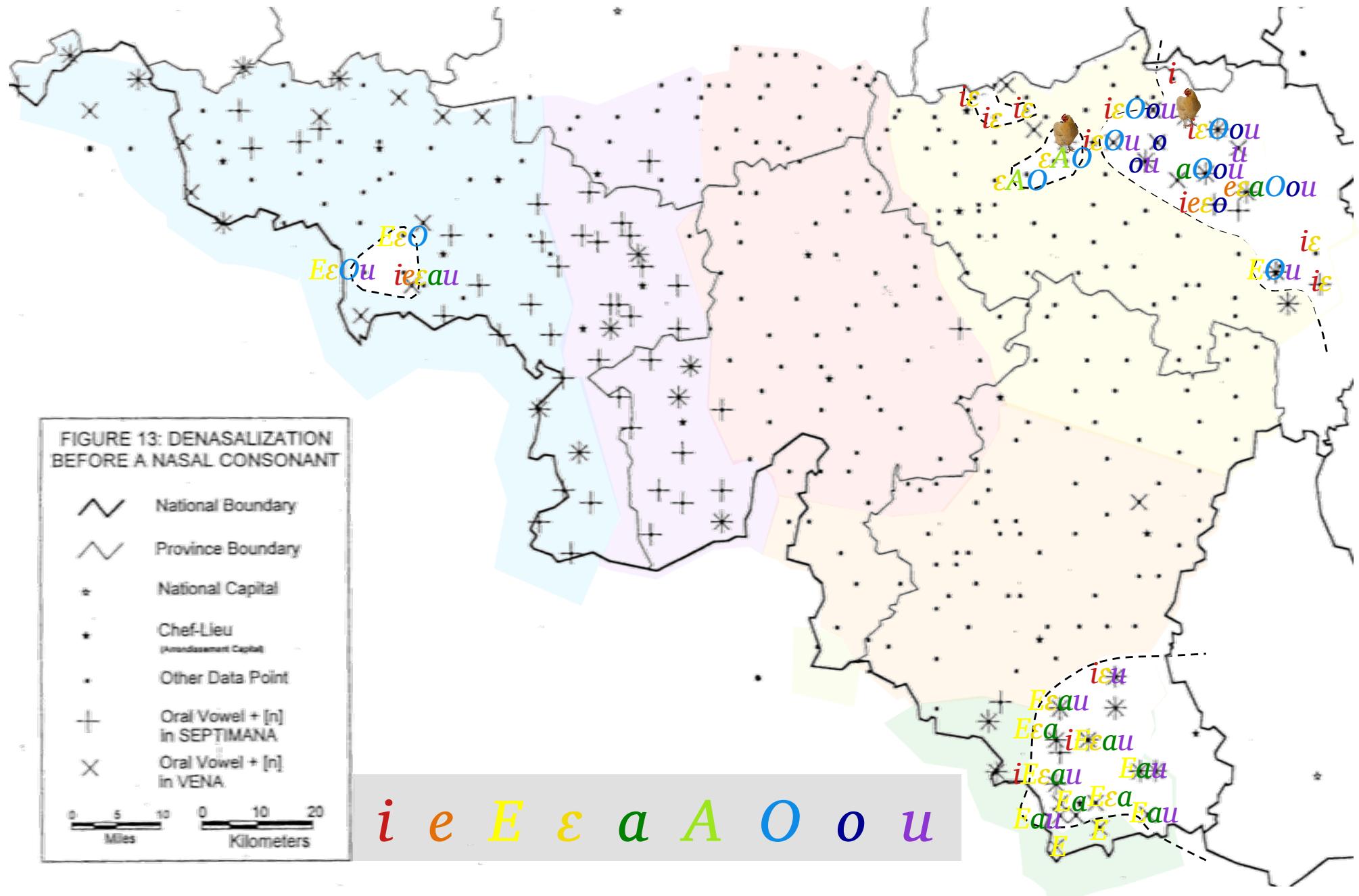
# ORIGIN(S) OF FRONT ROUNDED N. V.



# DENASALIZATION BEFORE N.C.



# SPONTANEOUS DENASALIZATION



# CONCLUSIONS AND THANKS

- evidence from periphery can challenge theories of the evolution of central/standard varieties
- Wallon dialects are (were) innovative but also diverse: very local developments (despite topo)
- trad. atlas data works for phon./h.phon. study
- Thanks: Marie-Guy Boutier, Université de Liège  
Rodney Sampson. 1998. Nasal Vowel Evolution in Romance. Oxford: Oxford University Press.  
Jakob Wüest. 1979. La dialectalisation de la Gallo-Romania. Bern: Éditions Francke.

