

# Verb clusters redux

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# Outline

- 1 One-slide summary
- 2 The data: dialect Dutch verb clusters
- 3 Theoretical background: dialectometry
- 4 Methodology: reverse dialectometry
- 5 Results
- 6 Main conclusion

# One-slide summary

## Main goal

Explore the interaction between formal-theoretical and quantitative-statistical approaches to linguistics.

## Central data

Word order variation in two- and three-verb clusters in 267 Dutch dialects.

## Main result

Roughly 80% of the attested variation can be reduced to three grammatical microparameters: (i) whether or not a dialect uses movement in deriving its verb clusters, (ii) whether or not there is an economy condition on movement, and (iii) a head parameter regulating the order of participles and infinitives *vis-à-vis* their selecting verbs.

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- in Dutch (like in many Germanic languages) verbs cluster together at the right edge of the (embedded) clause:

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that he yesterday during the class laughed has  
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         that he yesterday during the class laughed has  
         ‘that he laughed yesterday during class.’ (21)

- moreover, such verbal clusters typically show a certain degree of freedom in their word order:

(2)     dat hij gisteren    tijdens de les    heeft gelachen.  
         that he yesterday during the class had    laughed  
         ‘that he laughed yesterday during class.’ (12)

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### (3) Ferwerd Dutch

- a. dasto it ook net **zien** **meist**.  
that.you it also not see may  
'that you're also not allowed to see it.' (✓**21**)
- b. \*dasto it ook net **meist** **zien**.  
that.you it also not may see  
'that you're also not allowed to see it.' (\***12**)



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#### (4) Gendringen Dutch

- a. dat ee et ook nie **zien** mag.  
that you it also not see may  
'that you're also not allowed to see it.' (✓21)
- b. dat ee et ook nie **mag** **zien**.  
that you it also not may see  
'that you're also not allowed to see it.' (✓12)



- this word order freedom is typically a source of interdialectal variation:

## (5) Poelkapelle Dutch

- a. \*dajtgie ook nie **zien** **meug**.  
that.it.you also not see may  
'that you're also not allowed to see it.' (\*21)
- b. dajtgie ook nie **meug** **zien**.  
that.it.you also not may see  
'that you're also not allowed to see it.' (✓12)



- and the more complex the verbal cluster, the more variation there is: in verbal clusters consisting of two modal auxiliaries and one main verb, out of the six orders that are theoretically possible, four are attested in Dutch dialects:

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(6) Ik vind dat iedereen moet<sub>1</sub> kunnen<sub>2</sub> zwemmen<sub>3</sub>.

I find that everyone must can swim

'I think everyone should be able to swim.'

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 I find that everyone must can swim  
 'I think everyone should be able to swim.' (✓123)
- (7) a. ...dat iedereen moet<sub>1</sub> zwemmen<sub>3</sub> kunnen<sub>2</sub>. (✓132)  
 b. ...dat iedereen zwemmen<sub>3</sub> moet<sub>1</sub> kunnen<sub>2</sub>. (✓312)  
 c. ...dat iedereen zwemmen<sub>3</sub> kunnen<sub>2</sub> moet<sub>1</sub>. (✓321)  
 d. \*...dat iedereen kunnen<sub>2</sub> zwemmen<sub>3</sub> moet<sub>1</sub>. (\*231)  
 e. \*...dat iedereen kunnen<sub>2</sub> moet<sub>1</sub> zwemmen<sub>3</sub>. (\*213)

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(8) *Midsland Dutch*

- a. \*dat elkeen mot kanne zwemme.  
that everyone must can swim  
'that everyone should be able to swim.'(\*123)
- b. dat elkeen mot zwemme kanne.(✓132)
- c. \*dat elkeen zwemme mot kanne.(\*312)
- d. dat elkeen zwemme kanne mot.(✓321)
- e. \*dat elkeen kanne zwemme mot.(\*231)
- f. \*dat elkeen kanne mot zwemme.(\*213)



- but once again, it is not the case that each of the four allowed orders is attested in all dialects:

(9) *Langelo Dutch*

- |    |  |        |
|----|--|--------|
| a. | dat iedereen mot kunnen zwemmen.<br>that everyone must can swim<br>'that everyone should be able to swim.' | (✓123) |
| b. | *dat iedereen mot zwemmen kunnen.  | (*132) |
| c. | dat iedereen zwemmen mot kunnen.   | (✓312) |
| d. | *dat iedereen zwemmen kunnen mot.  | (*321) |
| e. | *dat iedereen kunnen zwemmen mot.  | (*231) |
| f. | *dat iedereen kunnen mot zwemmen.  | (*213) |

- more generally, the four possible cluster orders yield a total of 16 possible combinations, of which 12 are attested in Dutch dialects:

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<b>sample dialect</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>312</b>
Beetgum	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hippolytushoef	✓	✓	✓	*
Warffum	✓	✓	*	*
Oosterend	✓	*	*	*
Schermerhorn	✓	✓	*	✓
Visvliet	✓	*	✓	✓
Kollum	✓	*	✓	*
Langelo	✓	*	*	✓
Midsland	*	✓	✓	*
Lies	*	*	✓	*
Bakkeveen	*	*	✓	✓
Waskemeer	*	✓	*	*

- in order to get a more complete picture of the variation, we can look at the results from the SAND-project:
  - ▶ Syntactic Atlas of the Dutch Dialects (2000–2004)
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- if we map, for each of the 267 SAND-dialects, which dialect has which combination of cluster orders, we find 137 different combinations of verb cluster orders
- in other words, there are 137 different types of dialects when it comes to word order in verbal clusters

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- **in this talk** I use quantitative-statistical methods to identify three grammatical (micro)parameters that together are responsible for the bulk of the variation

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  - ▶ 3 about particle placement inside the cluster
  - ▶ 2 about morphology of the past participle
- for a total of 67 linguistic variables in 267 locations

- this yields a  $267 \times 67$  matrix with one row per location and one column per linguistic variable, i.e. locations = individuals and linguistic phenomena = variables

	AUX1(be.sg)-PART2	PART2-AUX1(be.sg)	AUX1(have.sg)-PART2	PART2-AUX1(have.sg)	AUX1(have
Midsland / Midslân	no	yes	no	yes	
Lies	no	yes	no	yes	
West-Terschelling	no	yes	no	yes	
Oosterend	NA	NA	no	yes	
Hollum	no	yes	NA	NA	
Schiermonnikoog	no	yes	no	yes	
Ferwerd / Ferwert	no	yes	no	yes	
Anjum / Eanjum	no	yes	no	yes	
Kollum	no	yes	no	yes	
Visvliet	no	yes	no	yes	
Oosterbierum / Ea	no	yes	no	yes	
Beetgum / Bitgum	no	yes	NA	NA	
Bergum / Burgum	no	yes	no	yes	
Jorwerd / Jorwert	no	yes	NA	NA	
Bakkeveen / Bakk	no	yes	no	yes	
Waskemeer / De v	no	yes	no	yes	
Kloosterburen	no	yes	no	yes	
Warffum	no	yes	no	yes	
Leermens	no	yes	no	yes	
Groningen	no	yes	yes	no	
Nieuw-Scheemda	NA	NA	no	yes	
Langelo	no	yes	no	yes	

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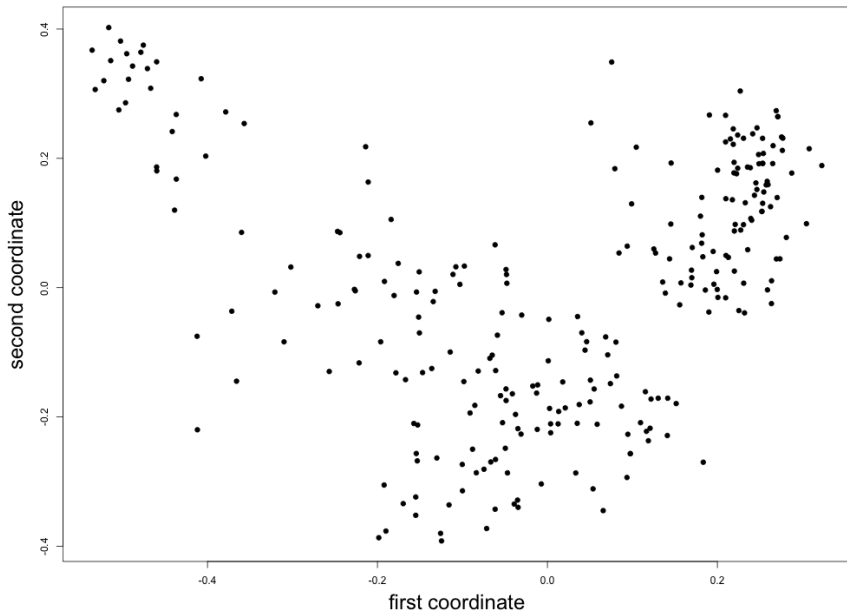


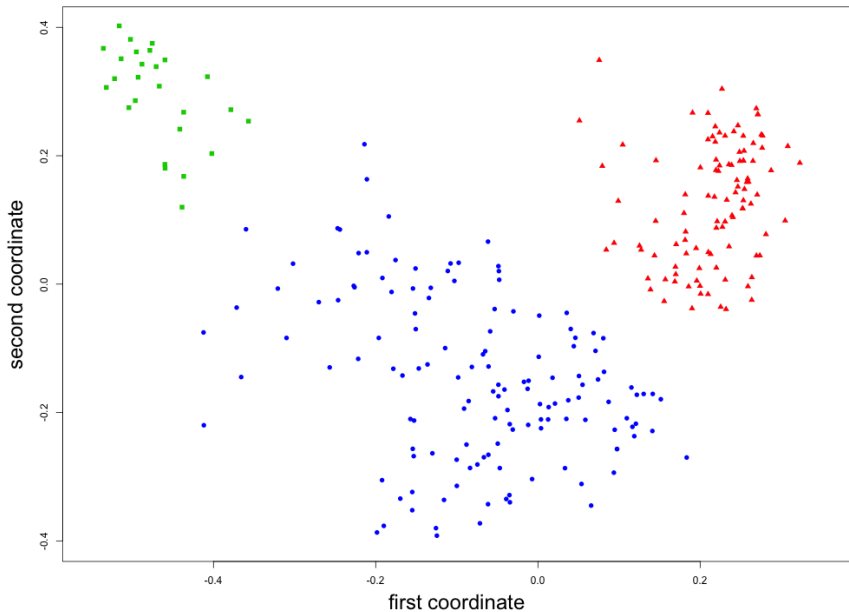
	Midslant	Lies	West-Terschelling	Oosterend	Hollum	Schiermonnikoog	Ferwerd	Anjum / Eanjou	Kollum	Visvliet	Oosterbierum	Beetgum / Bitgum
Midslant / Midslant	0,000	0,500	0,333	0,706	0,250	0,647	0,357	0,250	0,611	0,650	0,533	0,545
Lies	0,500	0,000	0,444	0,750	0,588	0,375	0,471	0,563	0,444	0,444	0,632	0,500
West-Terschelling	0,333	0,444	0,000	0,789	0,429	0,667	0,286	0,429	0,632	0,600	0,500	0,500
Oosterend	0,706	0,750	0,789	0,000	0,706	0,765	0,737	0,538	0,563	0,600	0,600	0,500
Hollum	0,250	0,588	0,429	0,706	0,000	0,667	0,167	0,000	0,625	0,714	0,462	0,500
Schiermonnikoog	0,647	0,375	0,667	0,765	0,667	0,000	0,625	0,667	0,400	0,556	0,706	0,500
Ferwerd / Ferwerd	0,357	0,471	0,286	0,737	0,167	0,625	0,000	0,182	0,588	0,682	0,308	0,500
Anjum / Eanjou	0,250	0,563	0,429	0,538	0,000	0,667	0,182	0,000	0,571	0,625	0,417	0,500
Kollum	0,611	0,444	0,632	0,563	0,625	0,400	0,588	0,571	0,000	0,353	0,625	0,500
Visvliet	0,650	0,444	0,600	0,600	0,714	0,556	0,682	0,625	0,353	0,000	0,588	0,500
Oosterbierum	0,533	0,632	0,500	0,600	0,462	0,706	0,308	0,417	0,625	0,588	0,000	0,500
Beetgum / Bitgum	0,545	0,714	0,500	0,727	0,500	0,750	0,333	0,556	0,643	0,500	0,167	0,500
Bergum / Bursum	0,500	0,500	0,429	0,813	0,500	0,571	0,333	0,500	0,429	0,667	0,571	0,500
Jorwerd / Jorwerd	0,692	0,667	0,583	0,846	0,545	0,667	0,400	0,600	0,571	0,692	0,500	0,500
Bakkeveen / Bakkeveen	0,400	0,500	0,438	0,706	0,385	0,563	0,357	0,385	0,438	0,579	0,533	0,500
Waskemeer / Waskemeer	0,438	0,526	0,556	0,818	0,500	0,588	0,471	0,533	0,471	0,652	0,588	0,500
Kloosterburen / Kloosterburen	0,500	0,412	0,611	0,810	0,563	0,357	0,529	0,600	0,333	0,636	0,706	0,500
Warffum	0,563	0,438	0,667	0,737	0,625	0,429	0,588	0,643	0,400	0,652	0,600	0,500
Leermens	0,667	0,652	0,739	0,550	0,773	0,650	0,739	0,722	0,389	0,455	0,667	0,500
Groningen	0,714	0,682	0,714	0,636	0,783	0,762	0,800	0,778	0,471	0,476	0,684	0,500
Nieuw-Scheer / Nieuw-Scheer	0,650	0,682	0,650	0,652	0,773	0,762	0,739	0,722	0,556	0,368	0,647	0,500
Langelo	0,727	0,524	0,739	0,652	0,792	0,650	0,760	0,647	0,550	0,500	0,700	0,500

- this yields a  $267 \times 67$  matrix with one row per location and one column per linguistic variable, i.e. locations = individuals and linguistic phenomena = variables
- step 1: convert the table into a  $267 \times 267$  (symmetric) distance matrix, whereby for each pair of locations a distance between them is calculated based on the linguistic features they share
- step 2: apply multidimensional scaling (MDS) to the distance matrix

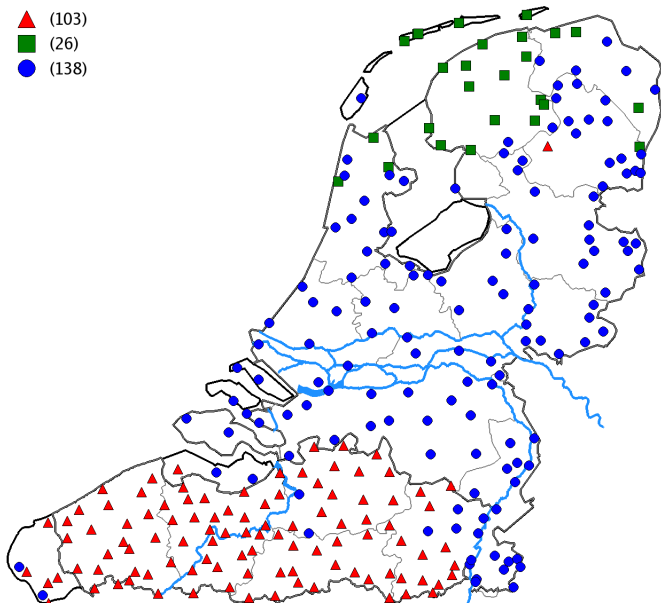
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- step 2: apply multidimensional scaling (MDS) to the distance matrix
- MDS is a mathematical technique for reducing a multidimensional distance matrix to a low dimensional space in which each point represents an object from the distance matrix, and distances between points represents, as well as possible, dissimilarities between objects (Borg and Groenen, 2005)

## 2-dimensional MDS-representation 67 verb cluster phenomena





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- step 3: project the data back onto a geographical map



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  - ① the linguistic constructions themselves play only an indirect role in the outcome of the analysis: we can see when two dialects differ, but we don't see which cluster orders are responsible for this difference and to what extent

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  - ② there is no link between the data that feed into the quantitative analysis and the formal theoretical literature on verb clusters

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  - 1 cluster orders are *individuals* rather than variables, i.e. instead of calculating differences between dialect locations, we measure differences between linguistic constructions
  - 2 theoretical analyses of verb cluster orders are decomposed in their constitutive parts, which makes it possible to include them as supplementary variables in the analysis



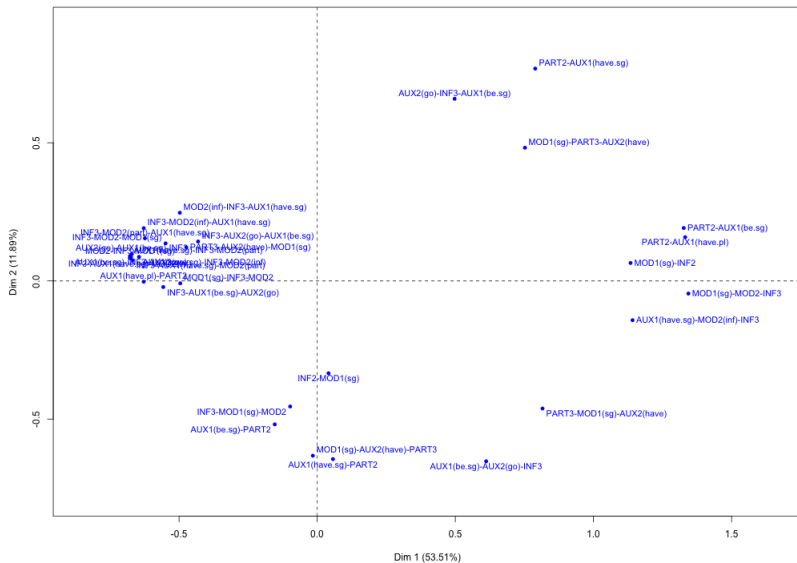
- starting point: a  $31 \times 267$  data table whereby each cluster order represents a row and each dialect location a column

	Midsland	Lies	West.Tersch	Oosterend	Hollum	Schiermonni	Ferwerd	Anjum	Kollum
AUX1(be.sg)-PART2	no	no	no	NA	no	no	no	no	no
PART2-AUX1(be.sg)	yes	yes	yes	NA	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
AUX1(have.sg)-PART2	no	no	no	no	NA	no	no	no	no
PART2-AUX1(have.sg)	yes	yes	yes	yes	NA	yes	yes	yes	yes
AUX1(have.pl)-PART2	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no
PART2-AUX1(have.pl)	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
MOD1(sg)-INF2	no	no	yes	no	no	no	no	no	no
INF2-MOD1(sg)	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
MOD2-INF3-MOD1(sg)	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no
MOD1(sg)-MOD2-INF3	no	no	no	yes	no	no	no	no	yes
MOD1(sg)-INF3-MOD2	yes	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no
INF3-MOD2-MOD1(sg)	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
INF3-MOD1(sg)-MOD2	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no
MOD1(sg)-AUX2(have)-PART3	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	NA	no
MOD1(sg)-PART3-AUX2(have)	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	NA	yes
PART3-MOD1(sg)-AUX2(have)	no	yes	no	yes	no	no	no	NA	yes
PART3-AUX2(have)-MOD1(sg)	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	NA	yes
AUX1(be.sg)-AUX2(go)-INF3	no	no	no	yes	no	no	no	no	NA
AUX1(be.sg)-INF3-AUX2(go)	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	NA
AUX2(go)-AUX1(be.sg)-INF3	no	no	no	no	no	yes	no	no	NA
AUX2(go)-INF3-AUX1(be.sg)	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	NA
INF3-AUX1(be.sg)-AUX2(go)	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	NA
INF3-AUX2(go)-AUX1(be.sg)	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	no	yes	yes	NA
AUX1(have.sg)-MOD2(inf)-INF3	no	no	no	yes	no	no	no	no	no
AUX1(have.sg)-INF3-MOD2(part)	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no
AUX1(have.sg)-INF3-MOD2(inf)	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no
MOD2(inf)-INF3-AUX1(have.sg)	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no
INF3-AUX1(have.sg)-MOD2(inf)	no	no	yes	no	no	no	no	no	no
INF3-AUX1(have.sg)-MOD2(part)	no	no	no	INF3-AUX1(have.sg)-MOD2(part)	no	no	no	no	no
INF3-MOD2(part)-AUX1(have.sg)	no	yes	no	no	no	yes	no	no	yes
INF3-MOD2(inf)-AUX1(have.sg)	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	no	yes	yes	no

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- when we reduce the 31-dimensional distance matrix to a two-dimensional space, we can plot the differences and similarities between the cluster orders from the SAND-project

Two-dimensional representation of the 31 SAND-verb cluster orders



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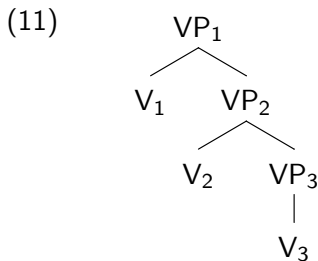
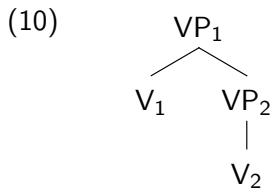


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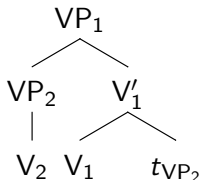
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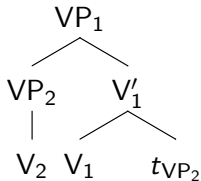
(12)



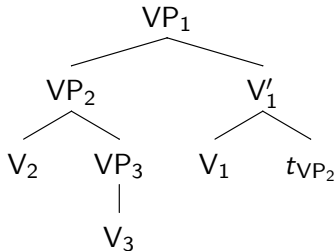
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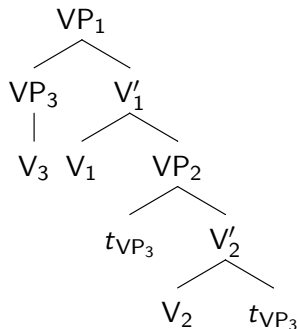


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(14)

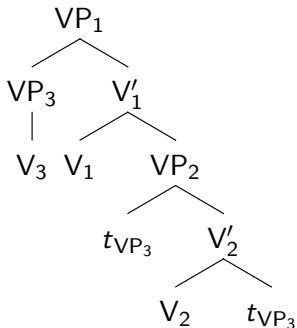




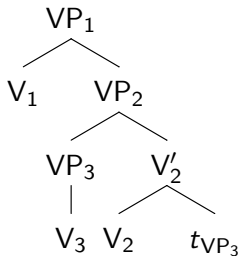
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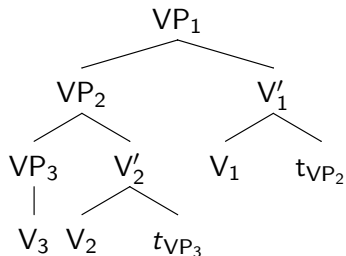
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- and the 31 SAND cluster orders can be encoded in terms of these micro-parameters

	Barbiers-base.generation	Barbiers-movement	Barbiers-spec-pied-piping	Barbiers-feature.checking-failure
AUX1(be.sg)-PART2	yesBase	noMvt	noPiedP	noFeatCheckFail
PART2-AUX1(be.sg)	noBase	yesMvt	noPiedP	noFeatCheckFail
AUX1(have.sg)-PART2	yesBase	noMvt	noPiedP	noFeatCheckFail
PART2-AUX1(have.sg)	noBase	yesMvt	noPiedP	noFeatCheckFail
AUX1(have.pl)-PART2	yesBase	noMvt	noPiedP	noFeatCheckFail
PART2-AUX1(have.pl)	noBase	yesMvt	noPiedP	noFeatCheckFail
MOD1(sg)-INF2	yesBase	noMvt	noPiedP	noFeatCheckFail
INF2-MOD1(sg)	noBase	yesMvt	noPiedP	noFeatCheckFail
MOD2-INF3-MOD1(sg)	noBase	yesMvt	noPiedP	yesFeatCheckFail
MOD1(sg)-MOD2-INF3	yesBase	noMvt	noPiedP	noFeatCheckFail
MOD1(sg)-INF3-MOD2	noBase	yesMvt	noPiedP	noFeatCheckFail
INF3-MOD2-MOD1(sg)	noBase	yesMvt	yesPiedP	noFeatCheckFail
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MOD1(sg)-AUX2(have)-PART3	yesBase	noMvt	noPiedP	noFeatCheckFail
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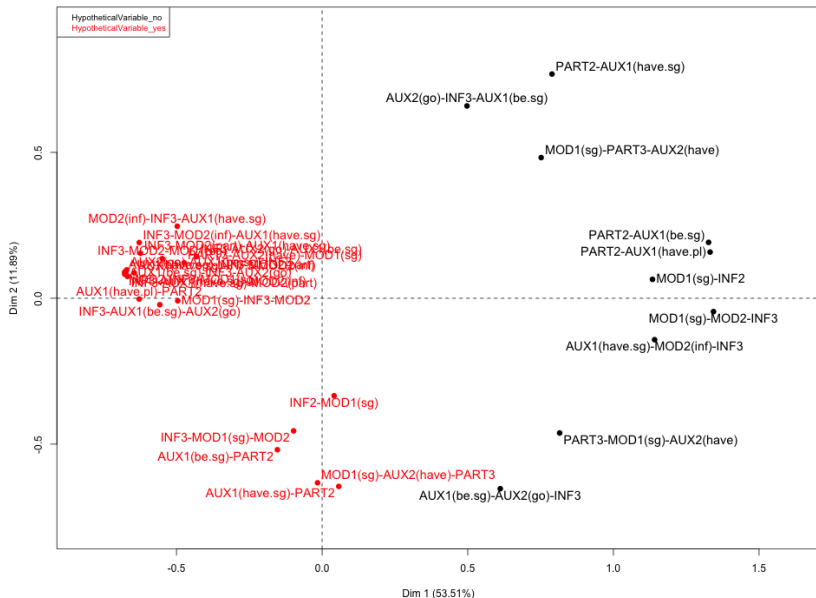
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# The first two dimensions vs. a hypothetical variable



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- ★ **word of caution:**  $\eta^2$  also goes up if the number of possible values of the linguistic variable goes up (Richardson (2011)) → safest option is to look for variables with a high  $\eta^2$  **and** only two or three possible values



# Outline

- 1 One-slide summary
- 2 The data: dialect Dutch verb clusters
- 3 Theoretical background: dialectometry
- 4 Methodology: reverse dialectometry
- 5 Results**
- 6 Main conclusion

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- **what they are:** the identity of those parameters = the interpretation of the dimensions

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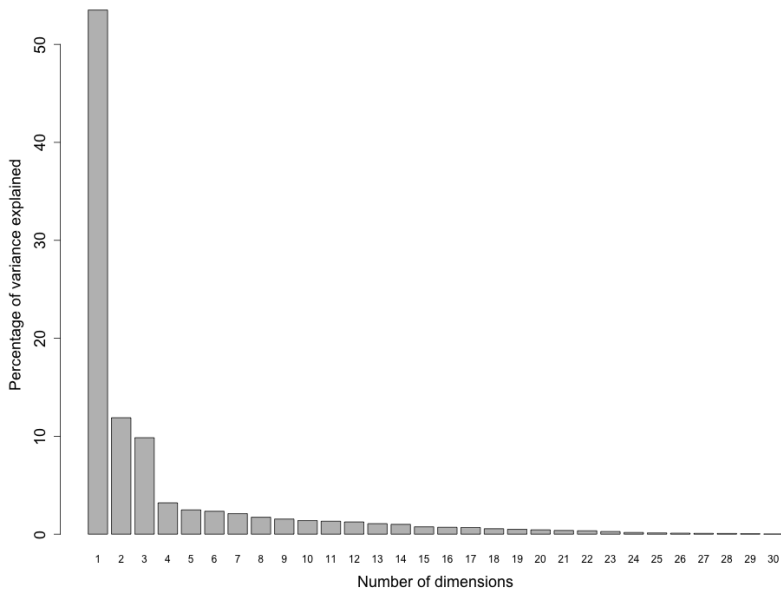
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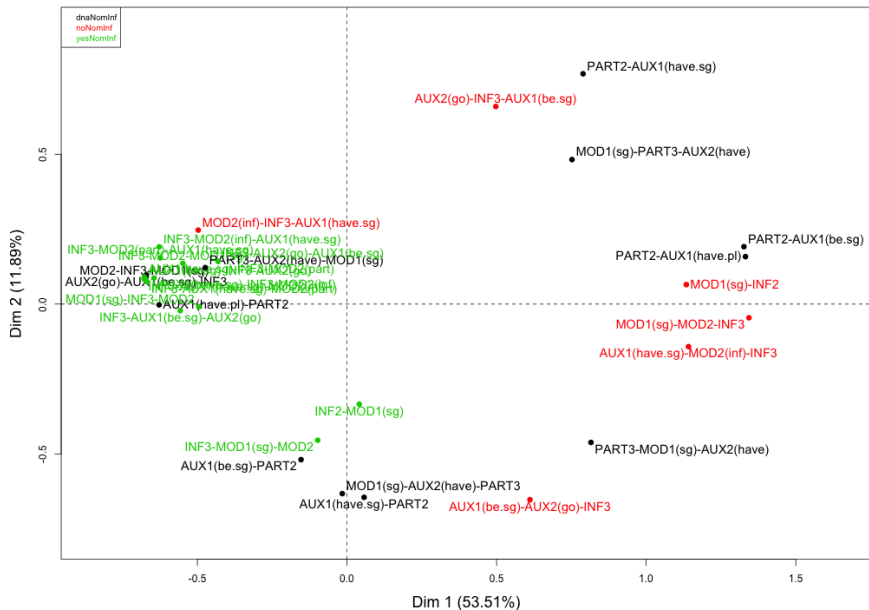
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	<b>dimension 1</b>
BarBen.NomInf	0.425
Bader.VMod	0.398

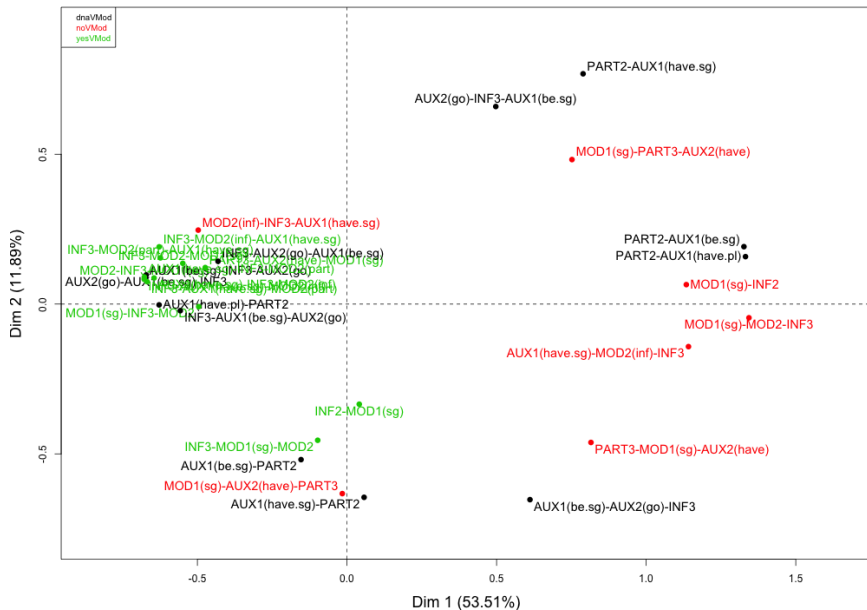
- ▶ BarBen.NomInf: Barbiers and Bennis (2010): the infinitival main verb is nominalized
- ▶ Bader.VMod: Bader (2012): the complement of a modal verb precedes the modal



# Dimension 1 vs. Barbiers & Bennis's (2010) nominalized infinitives



# Dimension 1 vs. Bader's (2012) VMod-constraint



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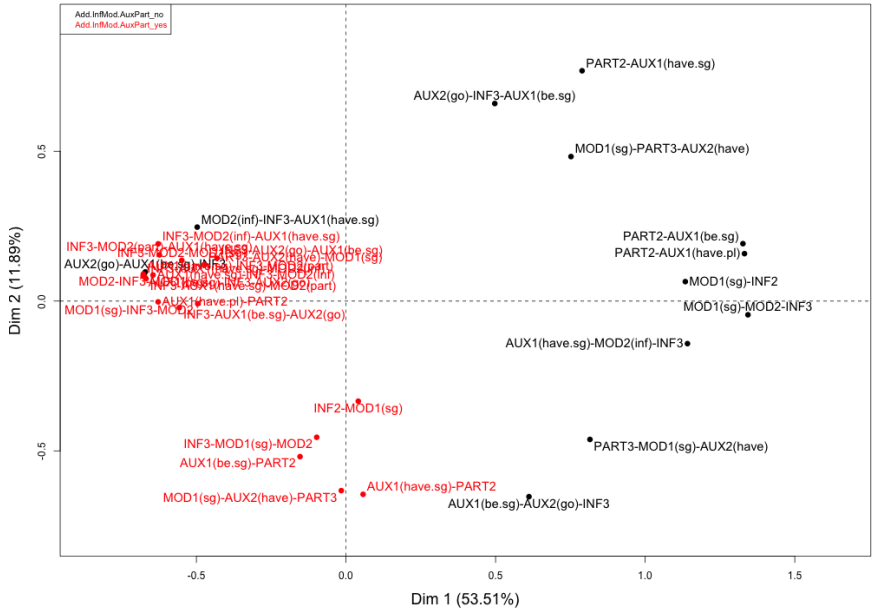
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- $\eta^2$  of InfMod.AuxPart: 0.6142

# Dimension 1 vs. the new InfMod.AuxPart-variable



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    - ★ AUX2(go)-AUX1(be.sg)-INF3: possibly spurious: this is an order that seems excluded in any cluster in Dutch (only two hits in the whole of SAND)
    - ★ MOD2(inf)-INF3-AUX1(have.sg)
- **this means** that the first (and most important) source of variation in Dutch verb clusters—i.e. the first microparameter—concerns the placement of modals and auxiliaries vs. the verbs they select
- it sets apart dialects that consistently place infinitives to the right and participles to the left from those that don't



# Results: Dimension 2

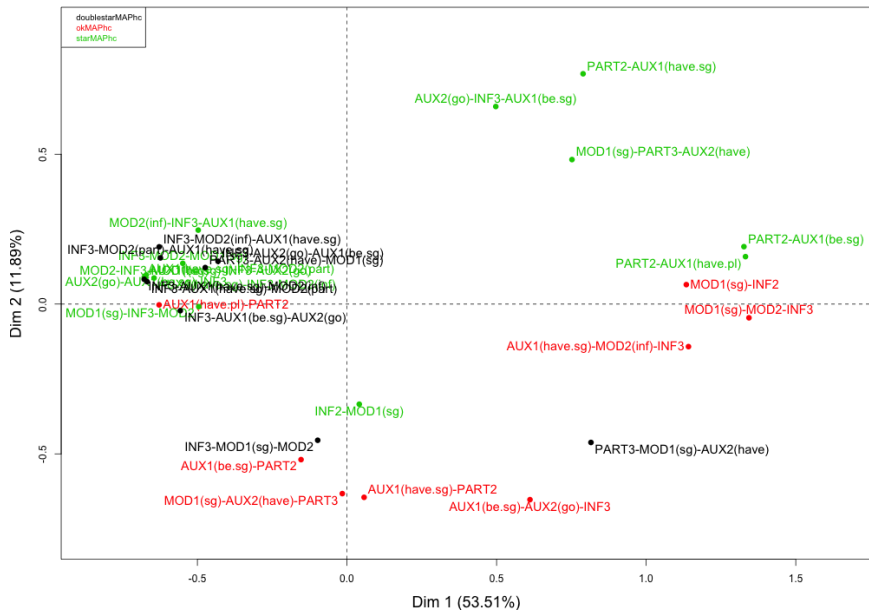
## Results: Dimension 2

- highest  $\eta^2$ -values:

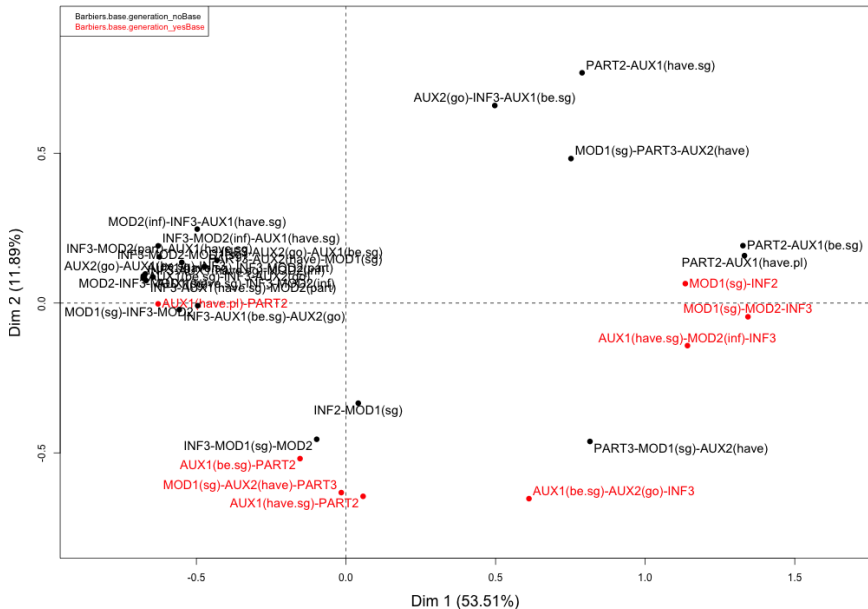
	<b>dimension 2</b>
SchmiVo.MAPhc	0.379
Barbiers.base.generation	0.309

- ▶ SchmiVo.MAPhc: Schmid and Vogel (2004): “If A and B are sister nodes at LF, and A is a head and B is a complement, then the correspondent of A precedes the one of B at PF.”
- ▶ Barbiers.base.generation: Barbiers (2005): head-initial base structure

# Dimension 2 vs. Schmid & Vogel's (2004) MAPhc-constraint



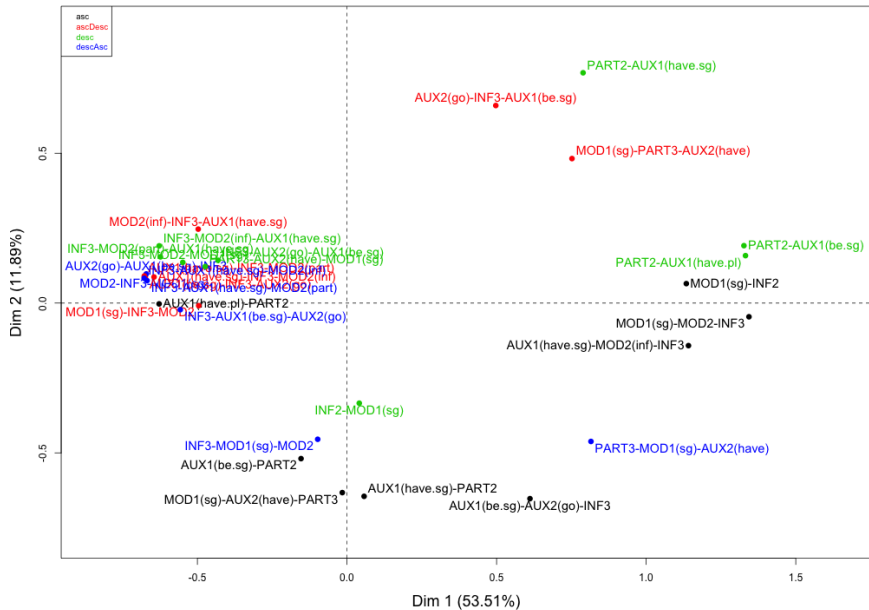
### Dimensions 1 and 2 of the verb cluster MCA vs. Barbiers's (2005) base-generation



- **note:** just as was the case with dimension 1, the variables culled from the literature leave room for improvement in interpreting dimension 2

- **note:** just as was the case with dimension 1, the variables culled from the literature leave room for improvement in interpreting dimension 2
- another variable that does well is slope ( $\eta^2 = 0.422$ ): is the order ascending, descending, first-ascending-then-descending, or first-descending-then-ascending?

# Dimension 2 vs. slope



- **note:** ascDesc and desc pattern towards the positive values of dimension 2, while asc and descAsc tend to yield negative values for this dimension



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- new variable: FinalDescent:

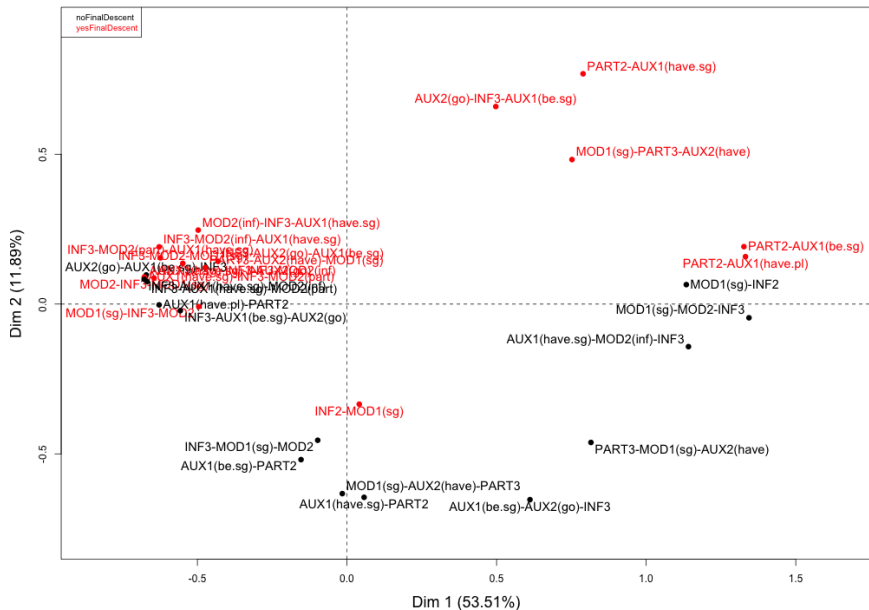
- **note:** ascDesc and desc pattern towards the positive values of dimension 2, while asc and descAsc tend to yield negative values for this dimension
- new variable: FinalDescent:
  - ▶ set to 'yes' if the cluster ends in a descending order

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- new variable: FinalDescent:
  - ▶ set to 'yes' if the cluster ends in a descending order
  - ▶ set to 'no' if it ends in an ascending order

FinalDescent_yes	FinalDescent_no
21	12
132	123
321	312
231	213

# Dimension 2 vs. FinalDescent



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  - ▶ caveat: two-verb clusters  $\rightarrow$  there are only two possible orders, so you can always get from one to the other with one movement operation
- **this means** that the second source of variation in Dutch verb clusters—i.e. the second microparameter—concerns the degree to which a cluster order diverges from a strictly head-final order

# Results: Dimension 3

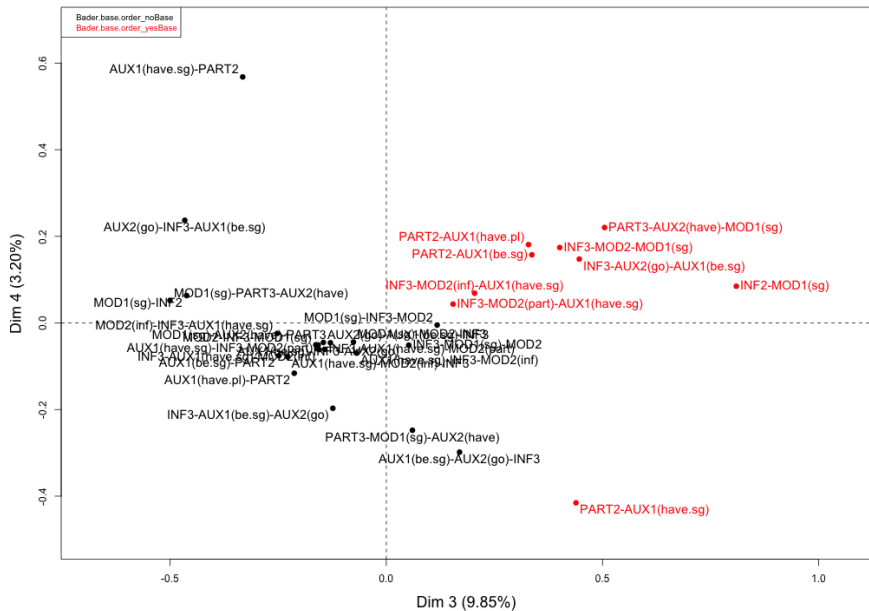
## Results: Dimension 3

- highest  $\eta^2$ -values:

	<b>dimension 3</b>
SchmiVo.MAPch	0.701
Bader.base.order	0.686

- ▶ SchmiVo.MAPch: Schmid and Vogel (2004): “If A and B are sister nodes at LF, and A is a head and B is a complement, then the correspondent of B precedes the one of A at PF.”
- ▶ Bader.base.order: Bader (2012): a strictly head-final base order

### Dimension 3 vs. Bader's (2012) base-generated order



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- there is a very strong correlation between a head-final base order and the third dimension in the analysis
- **this means** that the third source of variation in Dutch verb clusters—i.e. the third microparameter—concerns the question of whether a dialect diverges from a strictly head final order or not

# Results: Conclusion

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  - 2 which dialects can diverge from or not: [ $\pm$ Movement] (dimension 3)

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  - ② which dialects can diverge from or not: [ $\pm$ Movement] (dimension 3)
  - ③ those that diverge can diverge strongly or not: Economy of Movement (dimension 2)

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  - ② which dialects can diverge from or not: [ $\pm$ Movement] (dimension 3)
  - ③ those that diverge can diverge strongly or not: Economy of Movement (dimension 2)
  - ④ above and beyond all this, a headedness parameter regulates the order of infinitives and participles *vis-à-vis* their selecting verbs: [ $\pm$ ModInf&PartAux] (dimension 1)

# Outline

- 1 One-slide summary
- 2 The data: dialect Dutch verb clusters
- 3 Theoretical background: dialectometry
- 4 Methodology: reverse dialectometry
- 5 Results
- 6 Main conclusion**

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- the considerable variation found in Dutch verb cluster orders can be reduced to three grammatical microparameters:
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[ $\pm$ ModInf&PartAux]
  - 2 the degree of divergence from a head-final order:  
[EconomyOfMovement]

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- the considerable variation found in Dutch verb cluster orders can be reduced to three grammatical microparameters:
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[EconomyOfMovement]
  - ③ adherence to a head-final order or not: [ $\pm$ Movement]



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- more generally, there is room for fruitful collaboration between formal-theoretical and quantitative-statistical linguistics:

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- the considerable variation found in Dutch verb cluster orders can be reduced to three grammatical microparameters:
  - ① the order of modals and auxiliaries vs. the verbs they select:  
[ $\pm$ ModInf&PartAux]
  - ② the degree of divergence from a head-final order:  
[EconomyOfMovement]
  - ③ adherence to a head-final order or not: [ $\pm$ Movement]
- more generally, there is room for fruitful collaboration between formal-theoretical and quantitative-statistical linguistics:
  - ▶ the former can guide the interpretation of results from the latter
  - ▶ the latter can help evaluate and test hypotheses of the former

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