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► **To cite this version:**

Clara Ponchard, Sergio Hassid, Didier Demolin. Automatic classification of French stops consonants. 178th Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America, Dec 2019, San diego, United States. hal-02502463

HAL Id: hal-02502463

<https://hal.science/hal-02502463>

Submitted on 9 Mar 2020

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Automatic classification of French stops consonants

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Abstract

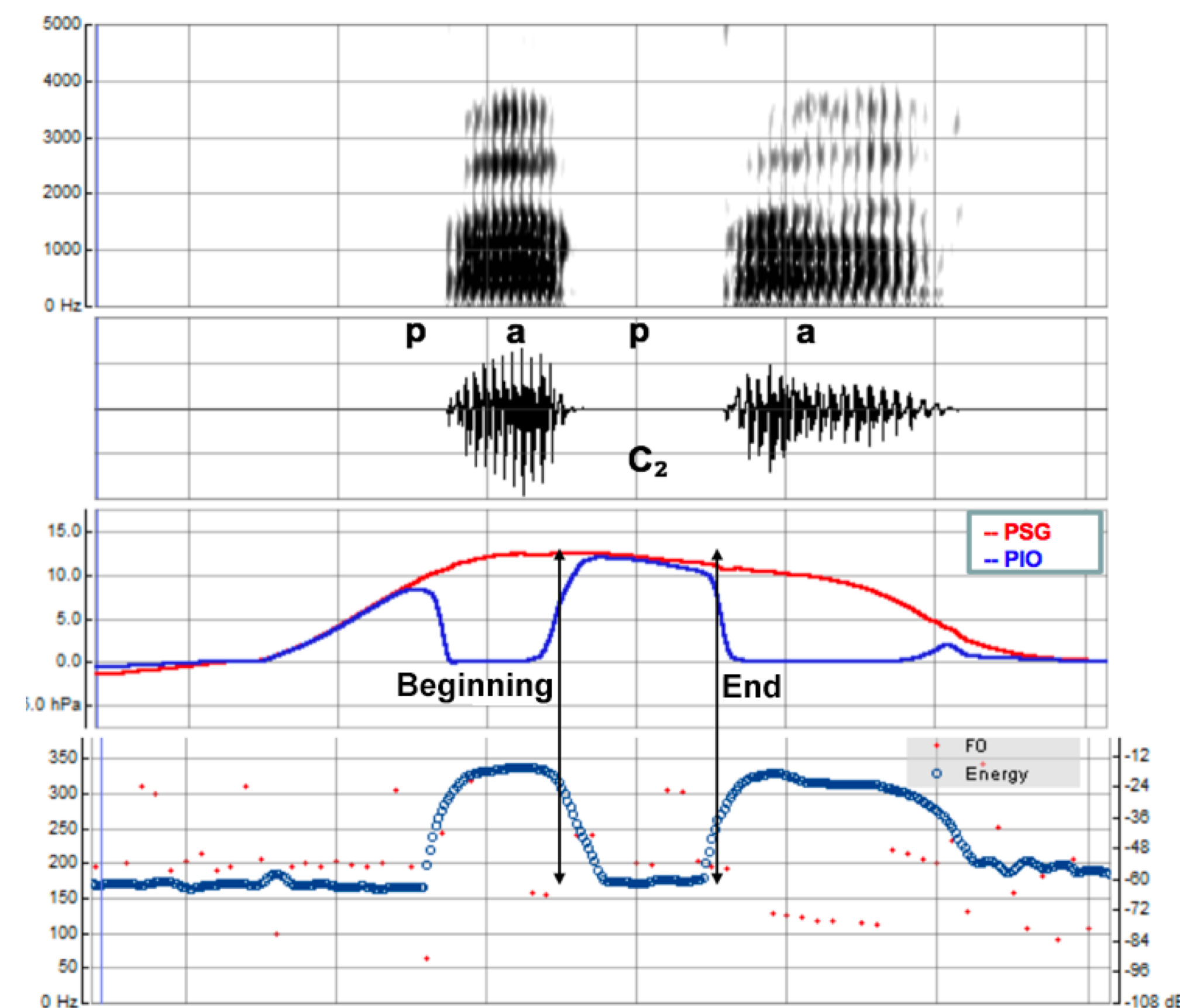
The purpose of this study is to analyze aerodynamic parameters involved in the production of French stops consonants. We focus our analysis on intraoral pressure and subglottic pressure measurements. The main goal of this study is to automate the processing of aerodynamic data in order to contribute providing reference data that are limited in the literature. We also want to analyze pressure variations according to voicing contrast, intervocalic context and different places of articulation. To do this, we carry out a phonetic analysis by means of statistical tests in order to analyze the relevant descriptors to understand variations of consonants. Then, we perform a supervised classification task to assess the relevance of these descriptors. The field of research is multidisciplinary and involves methods in phonetics, automatic language processing and machine learning.

Materials

Participants 4 native French speakers: two women (labelled F1 and F2) and two men (labelled M1 and M2) with normal larynx and no voice problems.

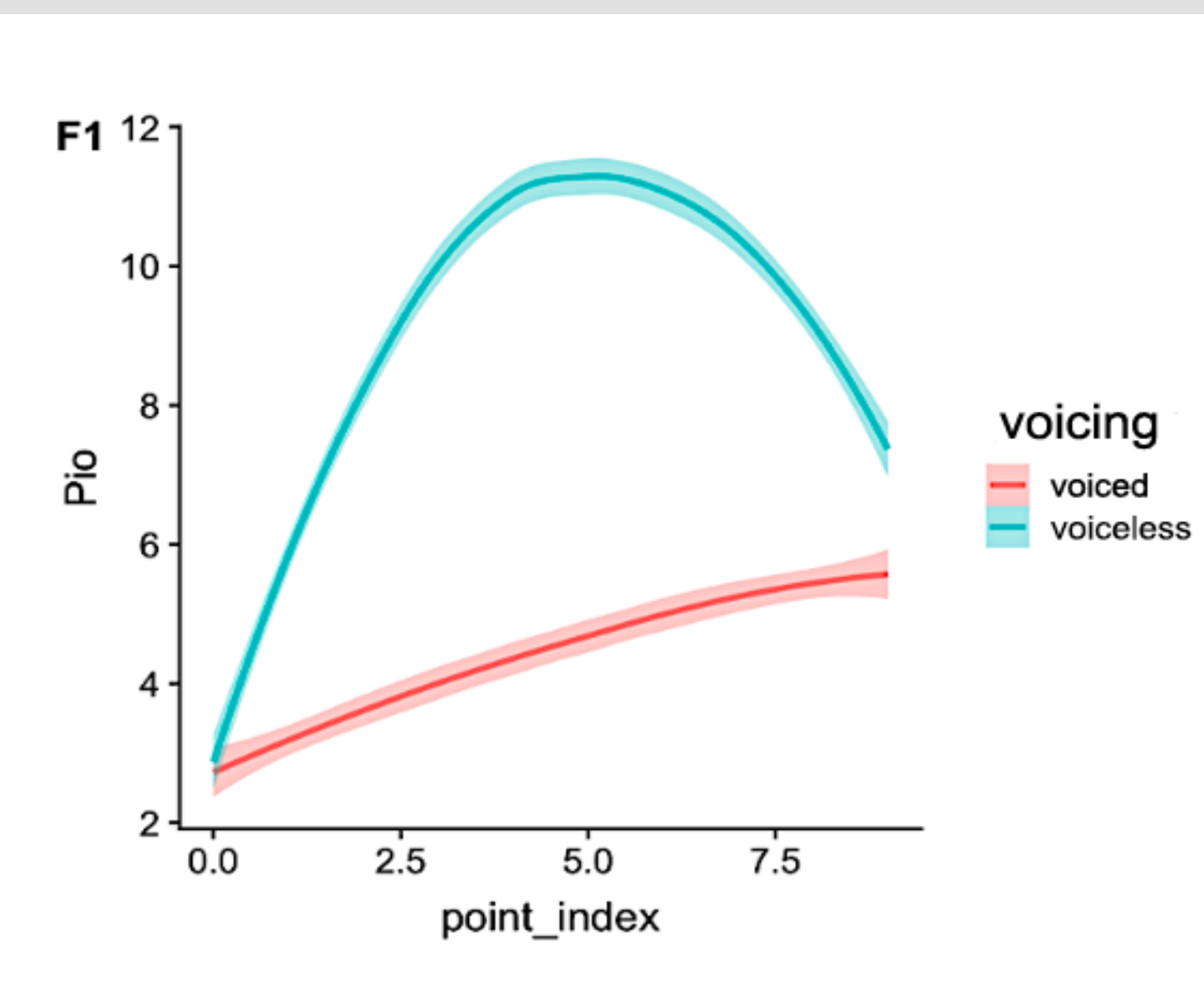
Corpus series of logatomes combining each of the French stops consonants with the vowels /a,i,u/ inserted in the sentence "[C¹VC²V] say [C¹VC²V] again" (ex: "papa dit papa encore") to be repeated five consecutives times.

Aerodynamics data Subglottal pressure (P_s) by tracheal puncture & Intraoral pressure (P_o) with a tube inserted through the nasal cavity into the oropharynx.



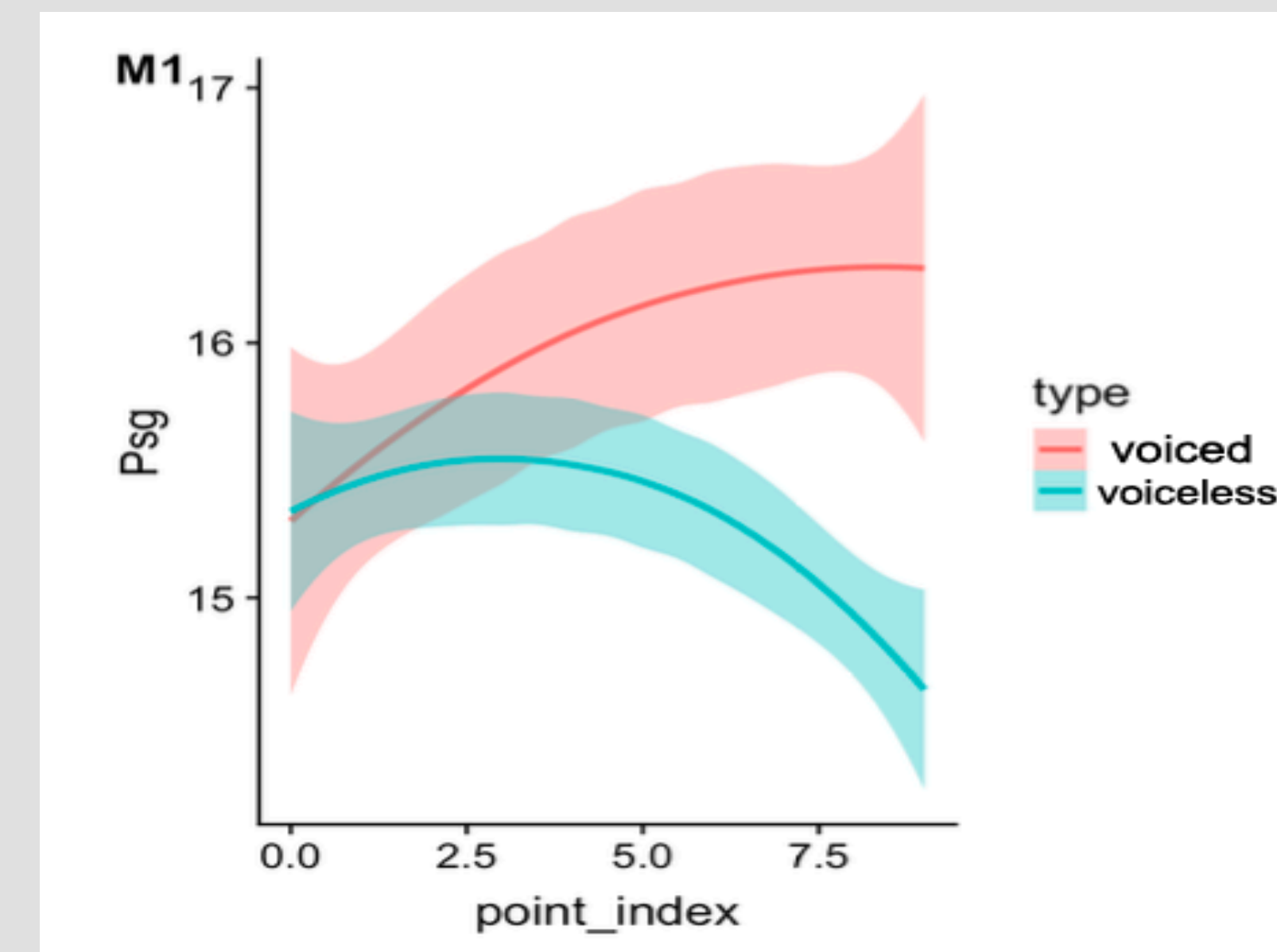
(1) Voicing contrast

Intraoral Pressure

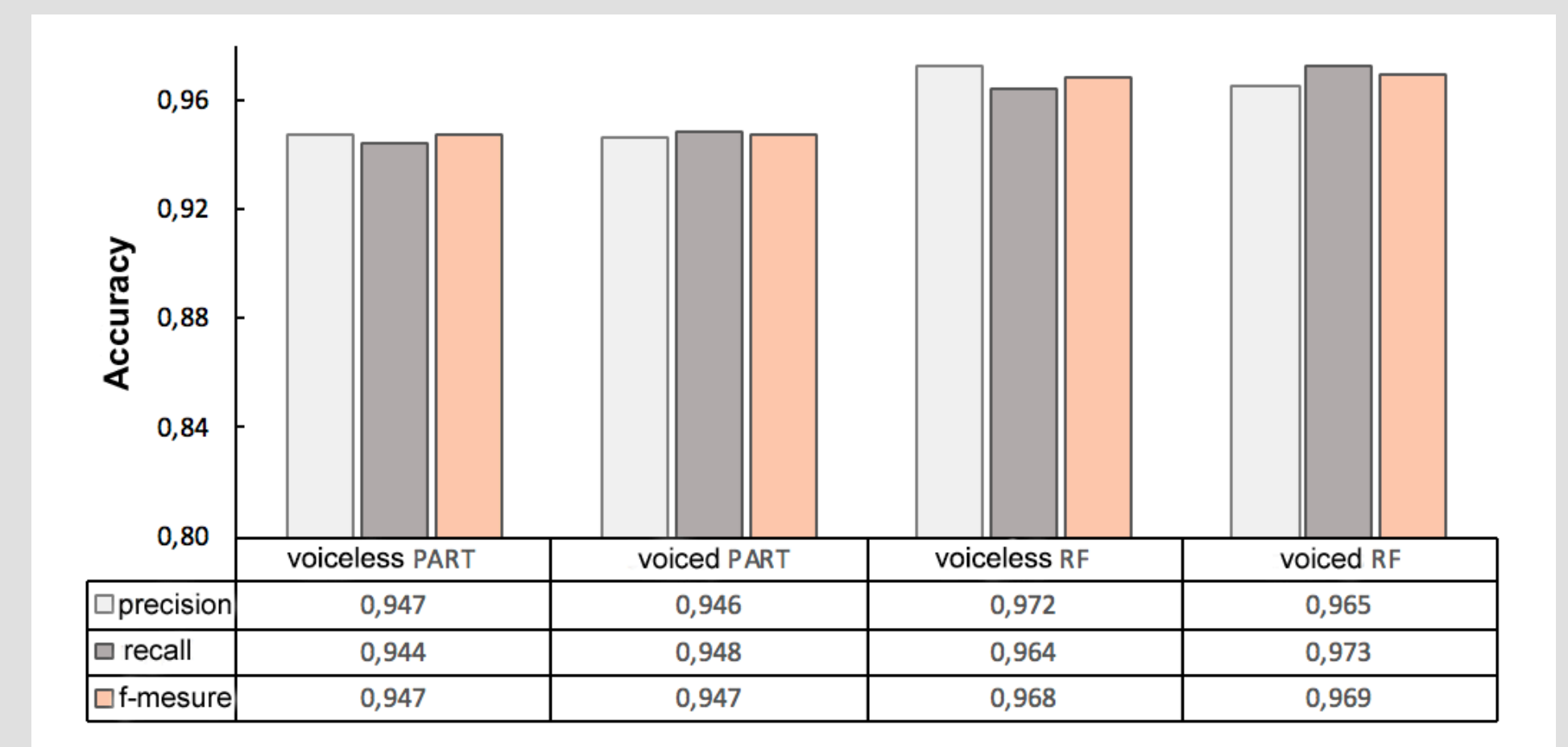


Results

Subglottal Pressure

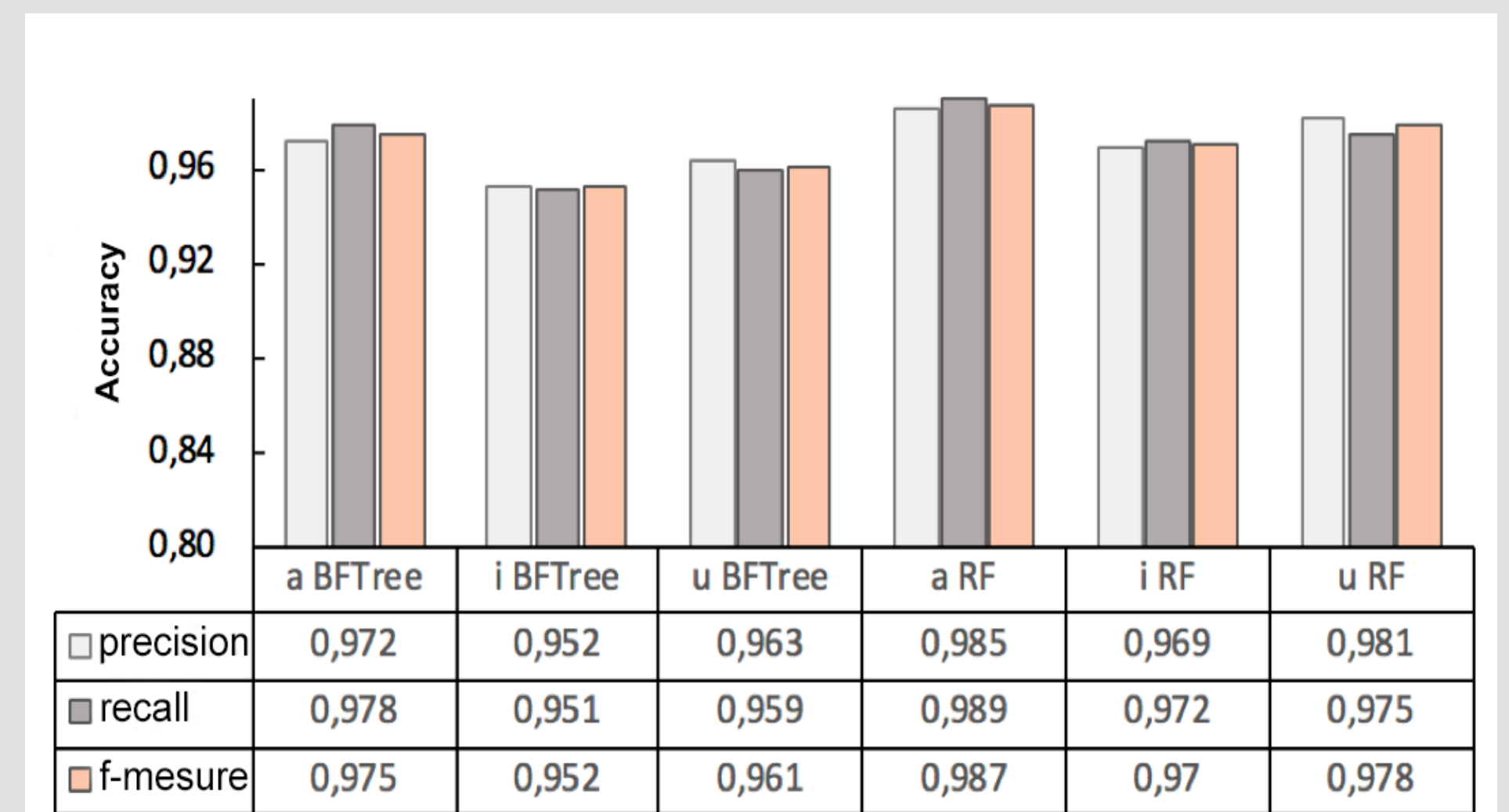
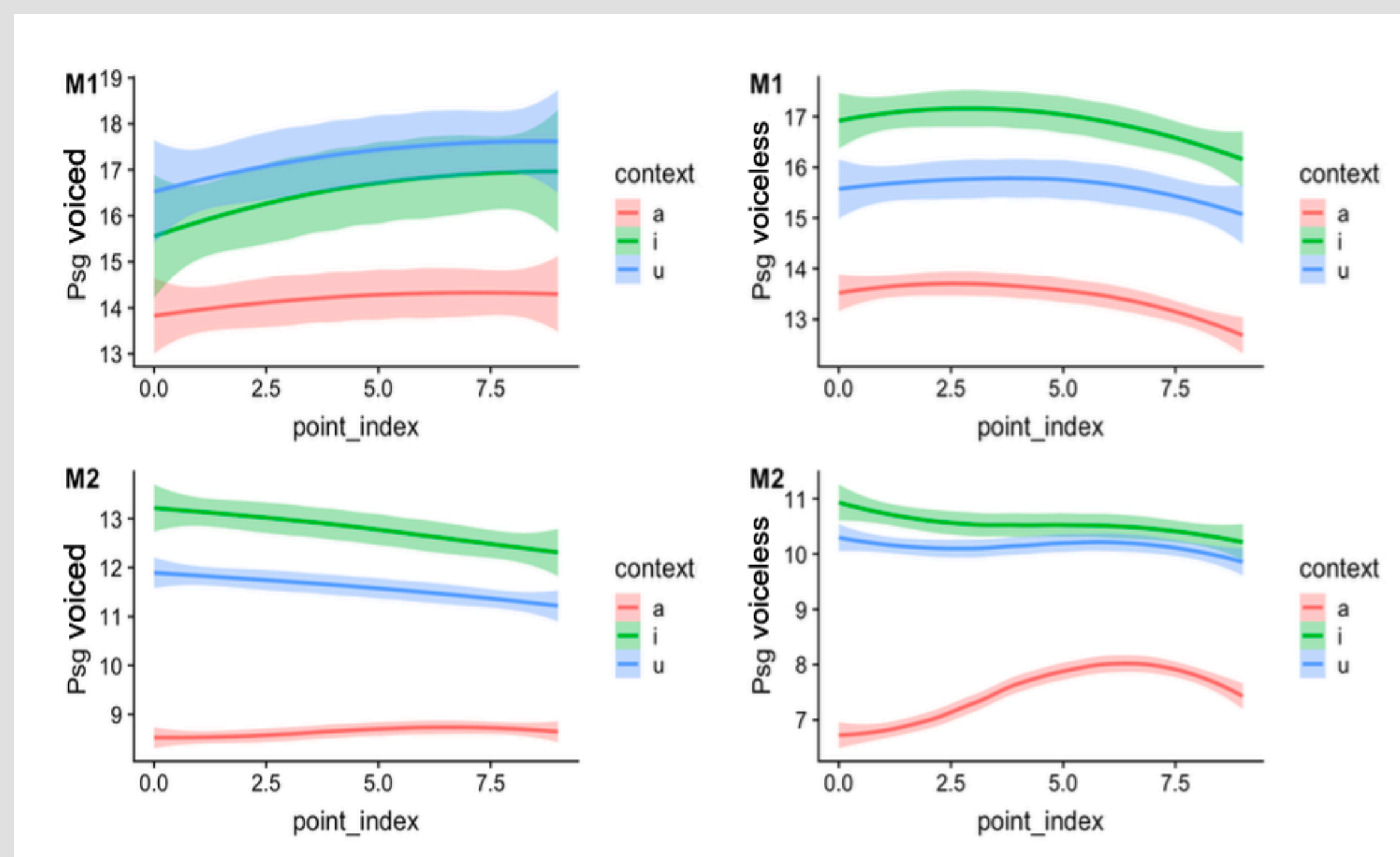
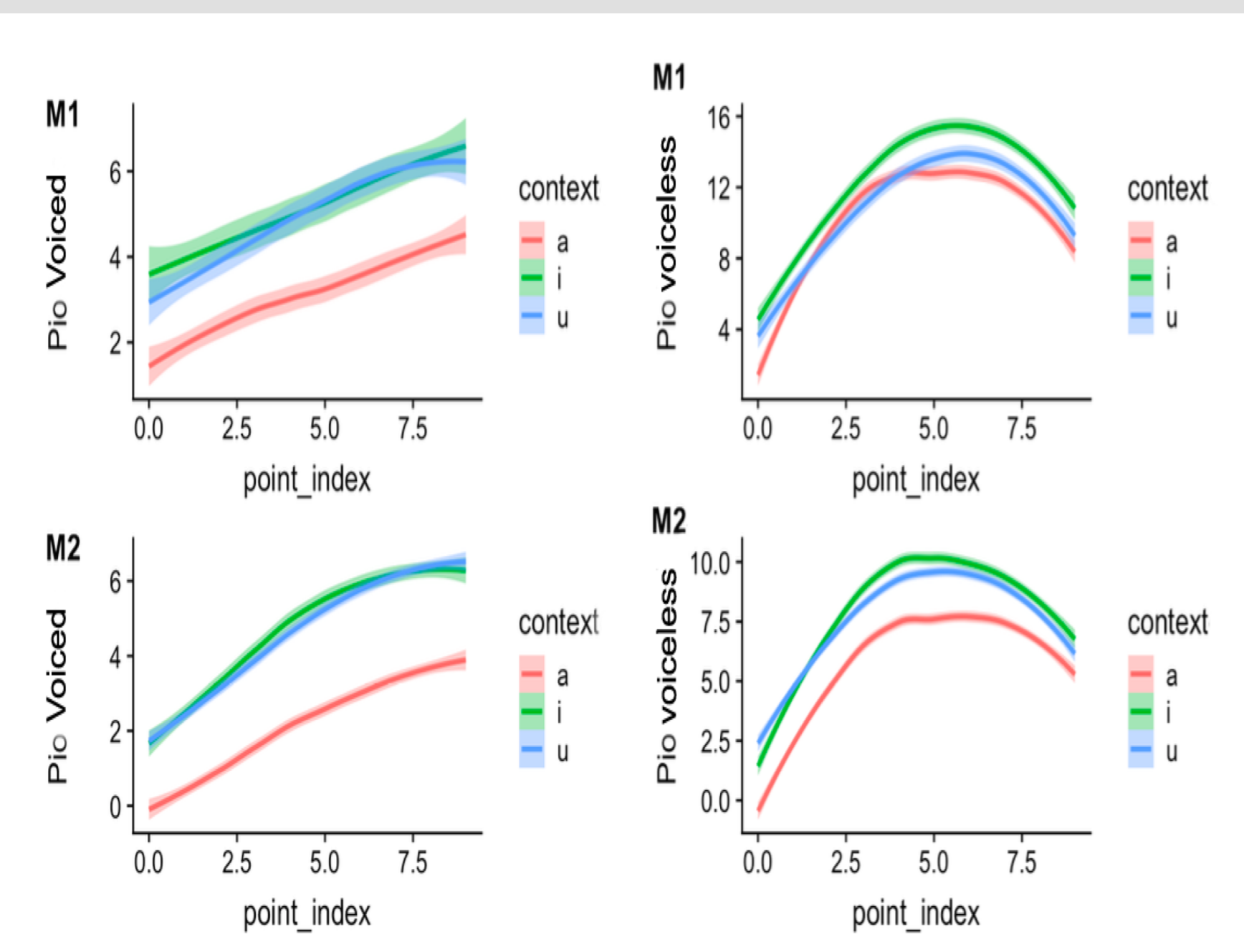


Automatic Classification



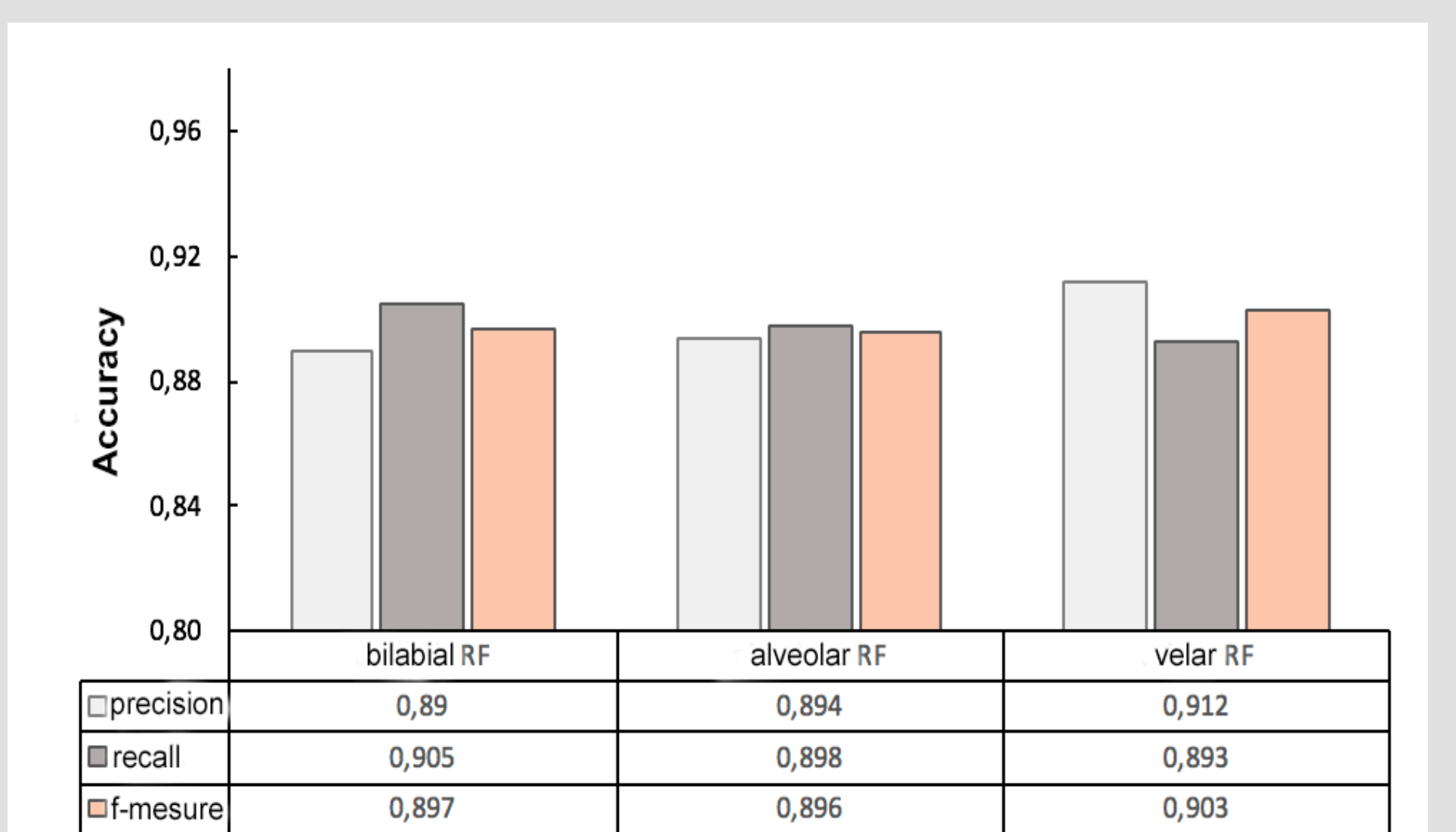
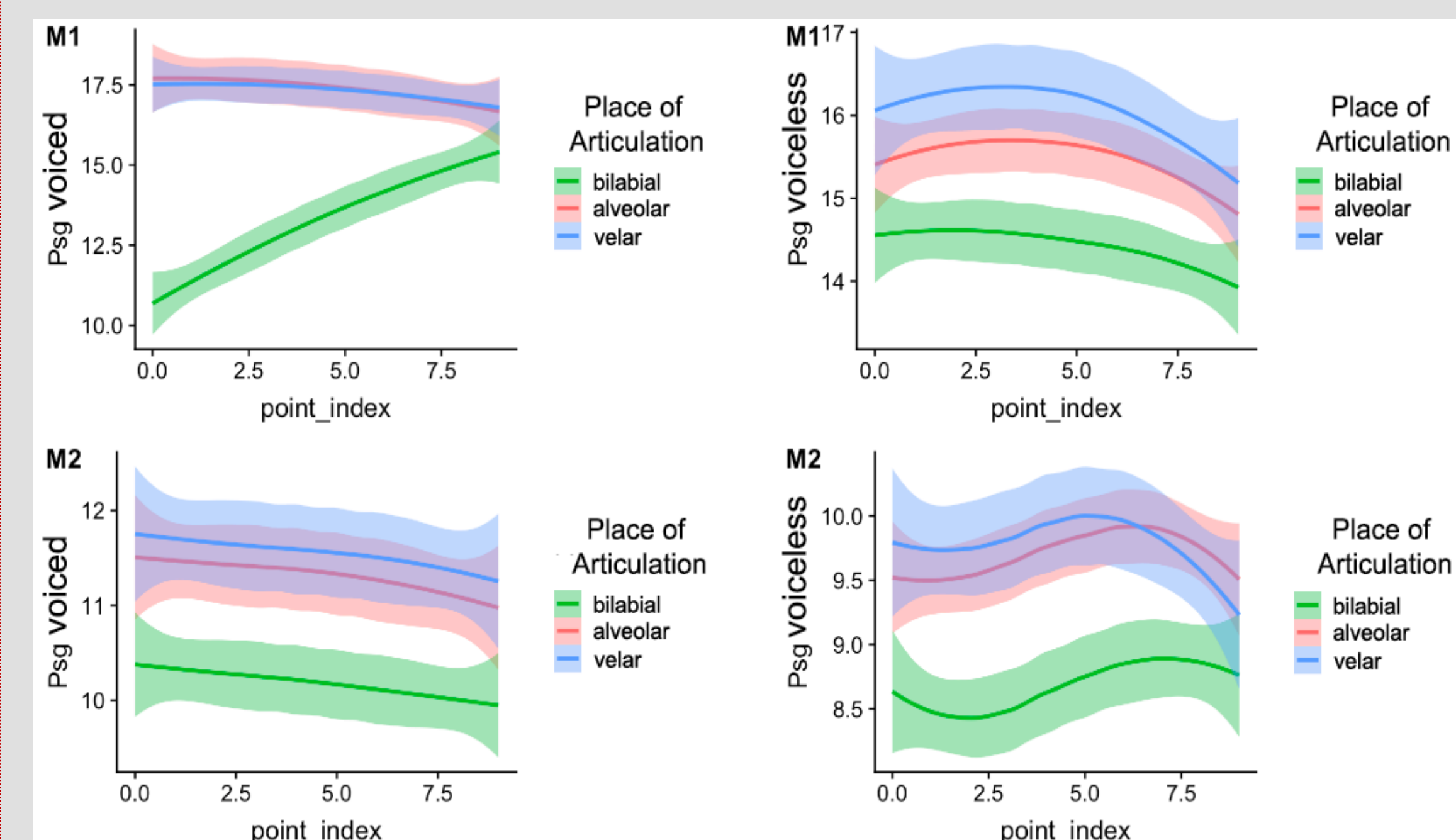
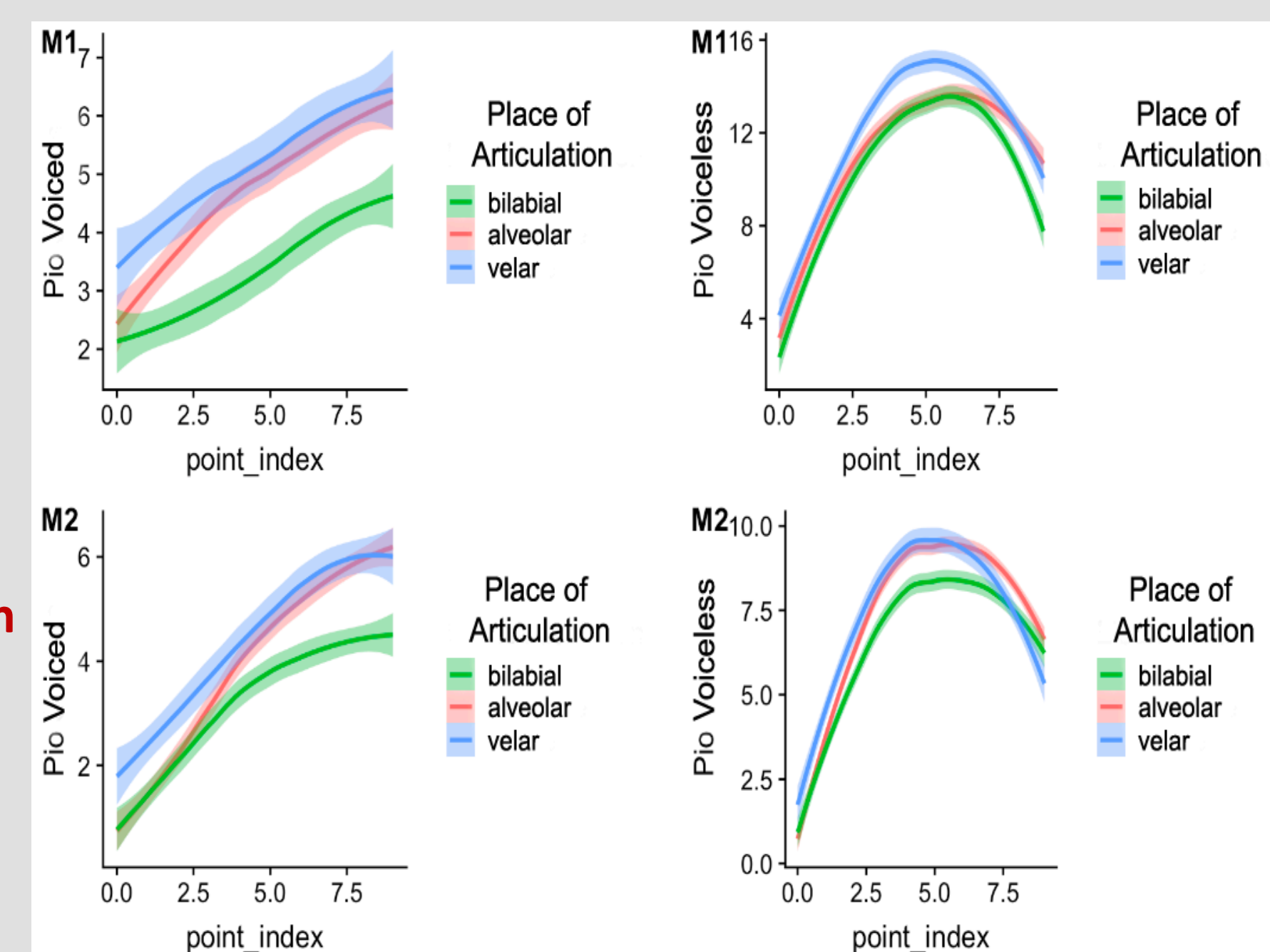
Evaluation of the performance of PART & Random Forest algorithms for the classification of voicing contrast with P_o measurements

(2) Intervocalic context



Evaluation of the performance of BFTree & Random Forest algorithms for the classification of intervocalic context with P_s measurements

(3) Places of articulation



Evaluation of the performance of Random Forest algorithm for the classification of places of articulation with P_o measurements

Conclusion

This research work has highlighted the interest of using aerodynamic data for the automatic classification of French stops consonants. Indeed, during supervised classification, we obtained a performance of 97.8328% for the intervocalic context, 96.839% for the voicing contrast and 89.8821% for the automatic classification of places of articulation. These classification tasks revealed that subglottal pressure was sufficient to detect the consonantal context. The same is true for intraoral pressure coupled with duration, which appeared to be the most relevant parameter for detecting voicing contrast and places of articulation.