

## A survey of Wug-shaped curves: phonology, phonetics, syntax, semantics, language change

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Phonology Seminar

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The “wug shaped curve” is a quantitative pattern that looks sort of like a wug when plotted as a graph. Zuraw and Hayes (2017, *Lg.*) found three wug-shaped curves in phonological data, and used them to argue for the constraint-based framework of Harmonic grammar. I became curious just how widespread the wug-shaped curve is, and I spent some of my summer combing through older research, recalculating the analyses and replotting the data.

I found wug-shaped curves everywhere: in phonology, phonetics, syntax, semantics, sociolinguistics, and language change. I will present the results of my survey, and conclude with theory-comparison along with discussion of what the pervasive appearance of wug-shaped curves might mean for linguistic theory.

