



Diphthongs & Triphthongs



Diphthongs

- Diphthongs are sounds which consist of a **movement** or **glide** from one **VOWEL** to another.
- A vowel which remains constant and does not glide is called a **pure vowel**.



Diphthongs

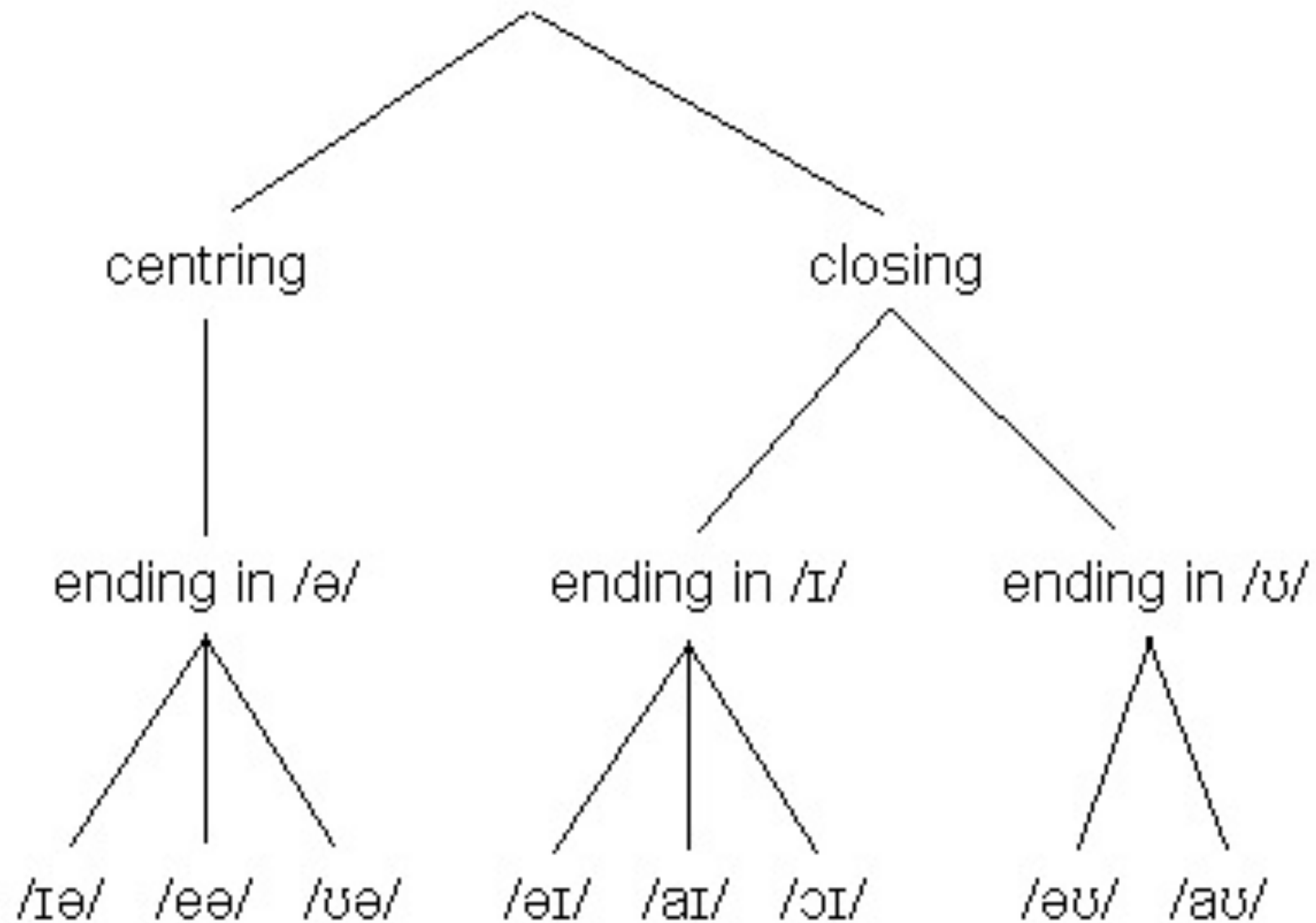
- Diphthongs are like the long vowels in their length. The **first part** of all the diphthongs is **longer** and **stronger** than the second part.
- Example : **aɪ** as in *eye*



Diphthongs

- The total number of diphthongs is **eight** and are divided into **three groups**:

DIPHTHONGS



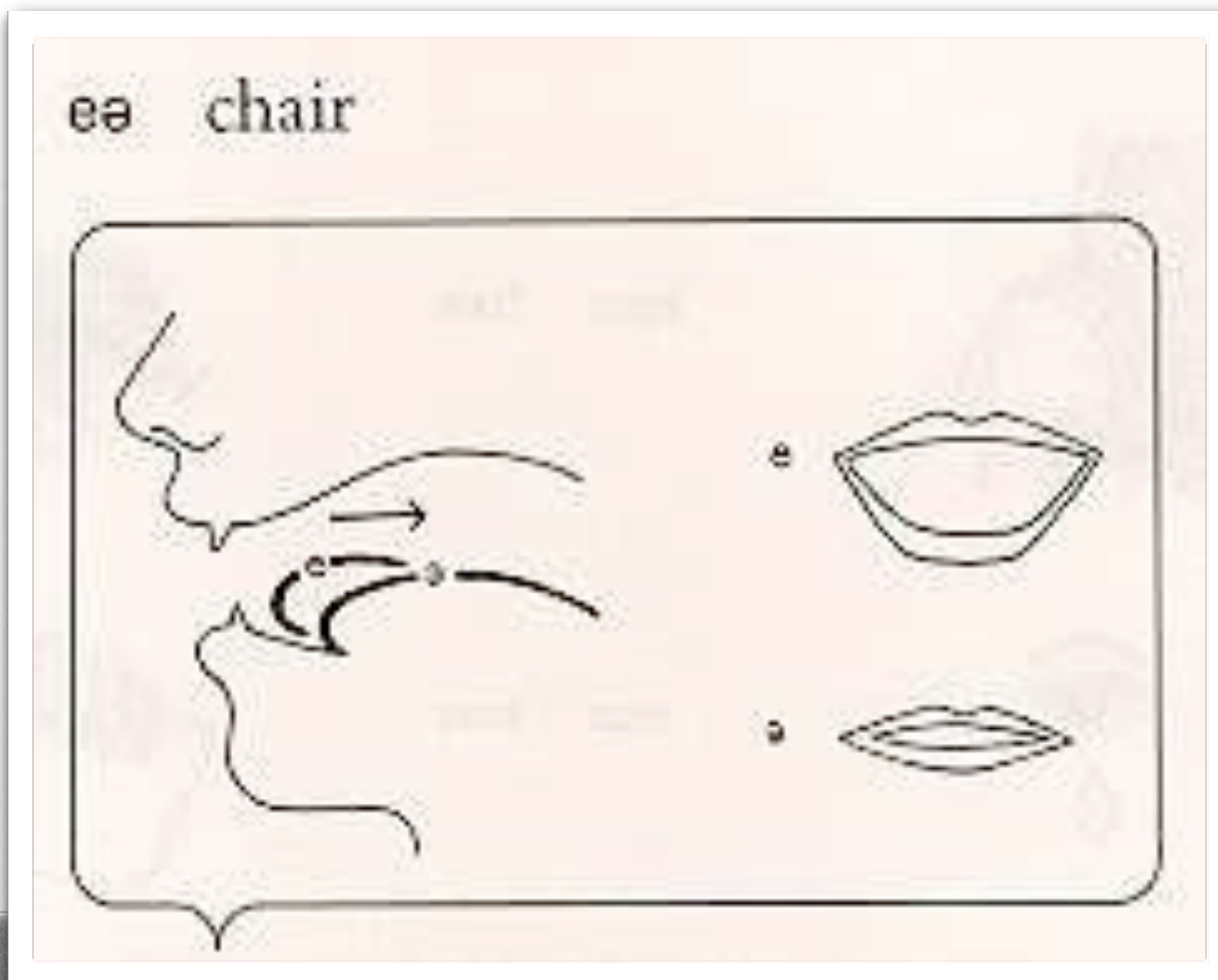
The eight English diphthongs

Redrawn by UKT from p.020 , 090626

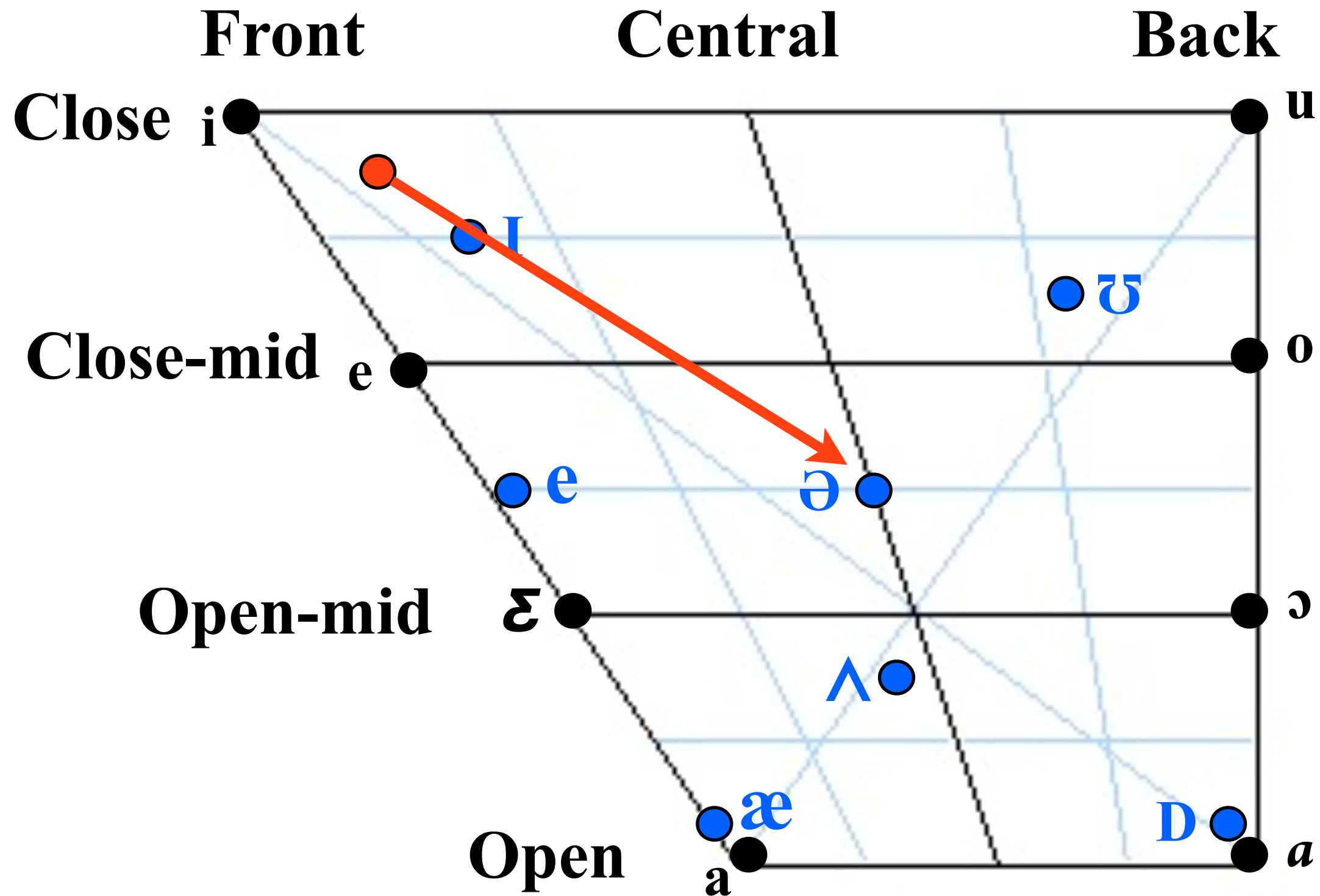


1. Centring Diphthongs

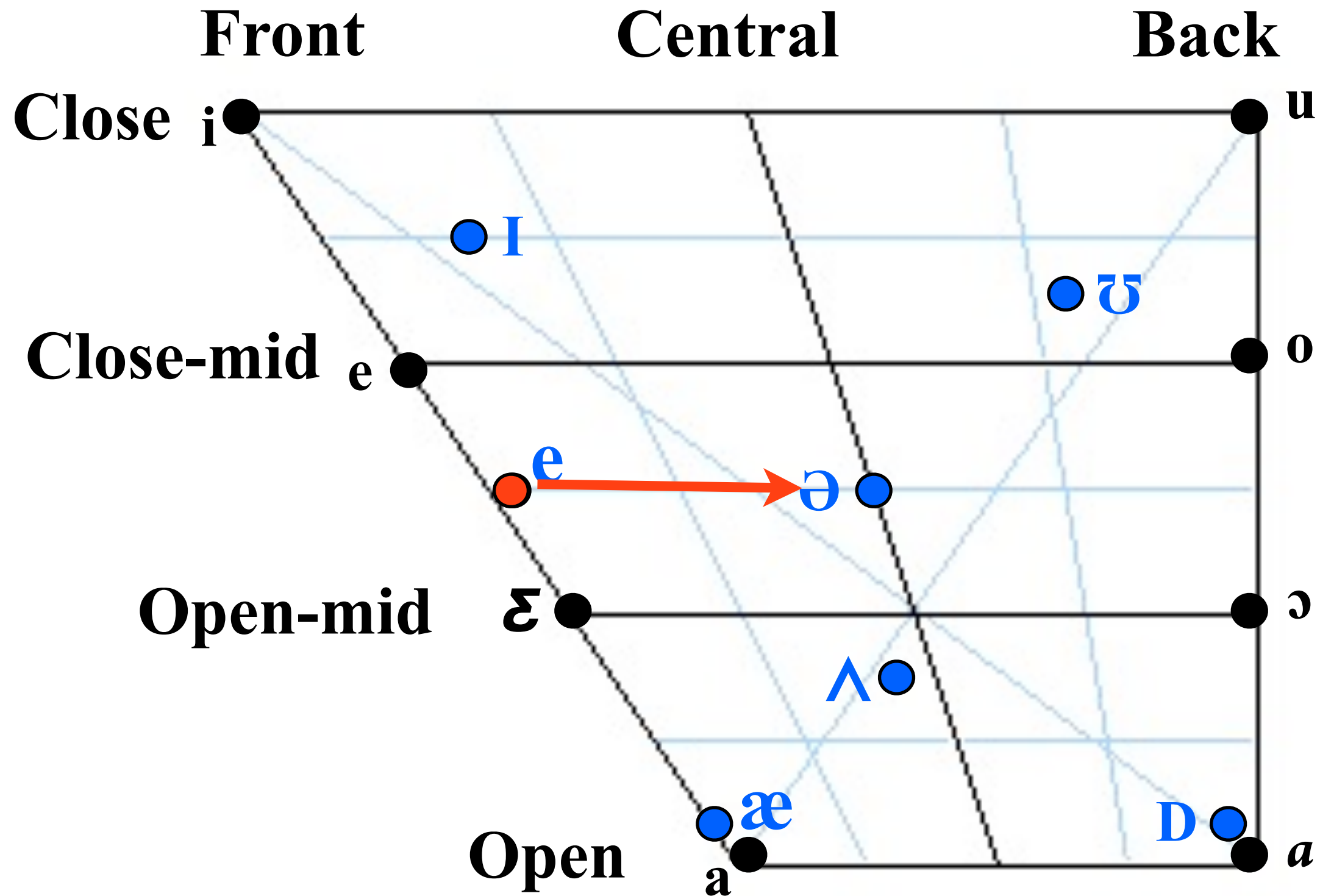
- Ending in ə



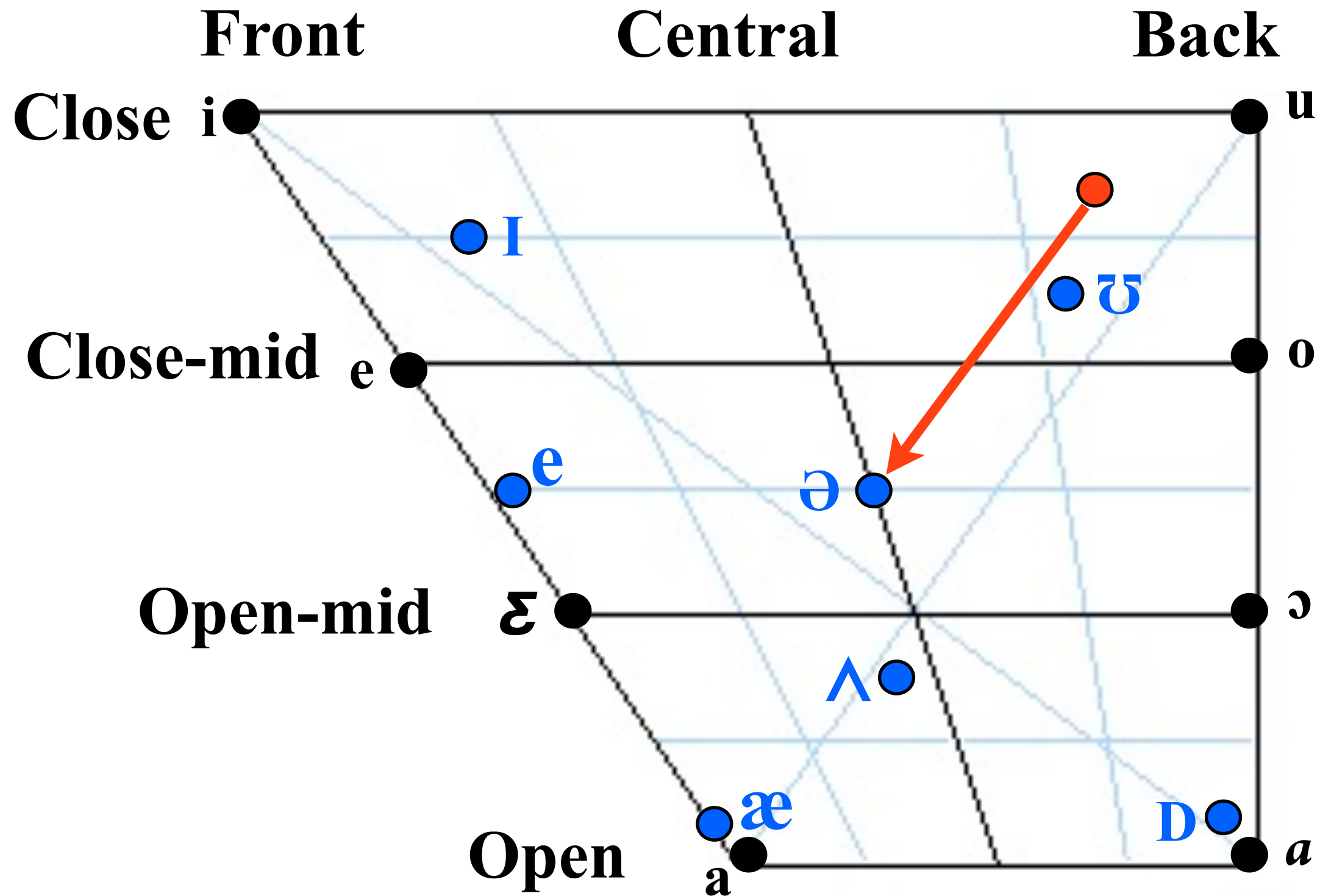
1. IΘ as in *beard, fierce*

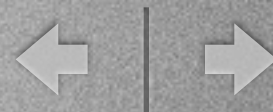


2. e \eth as in *aired*, *cairn*



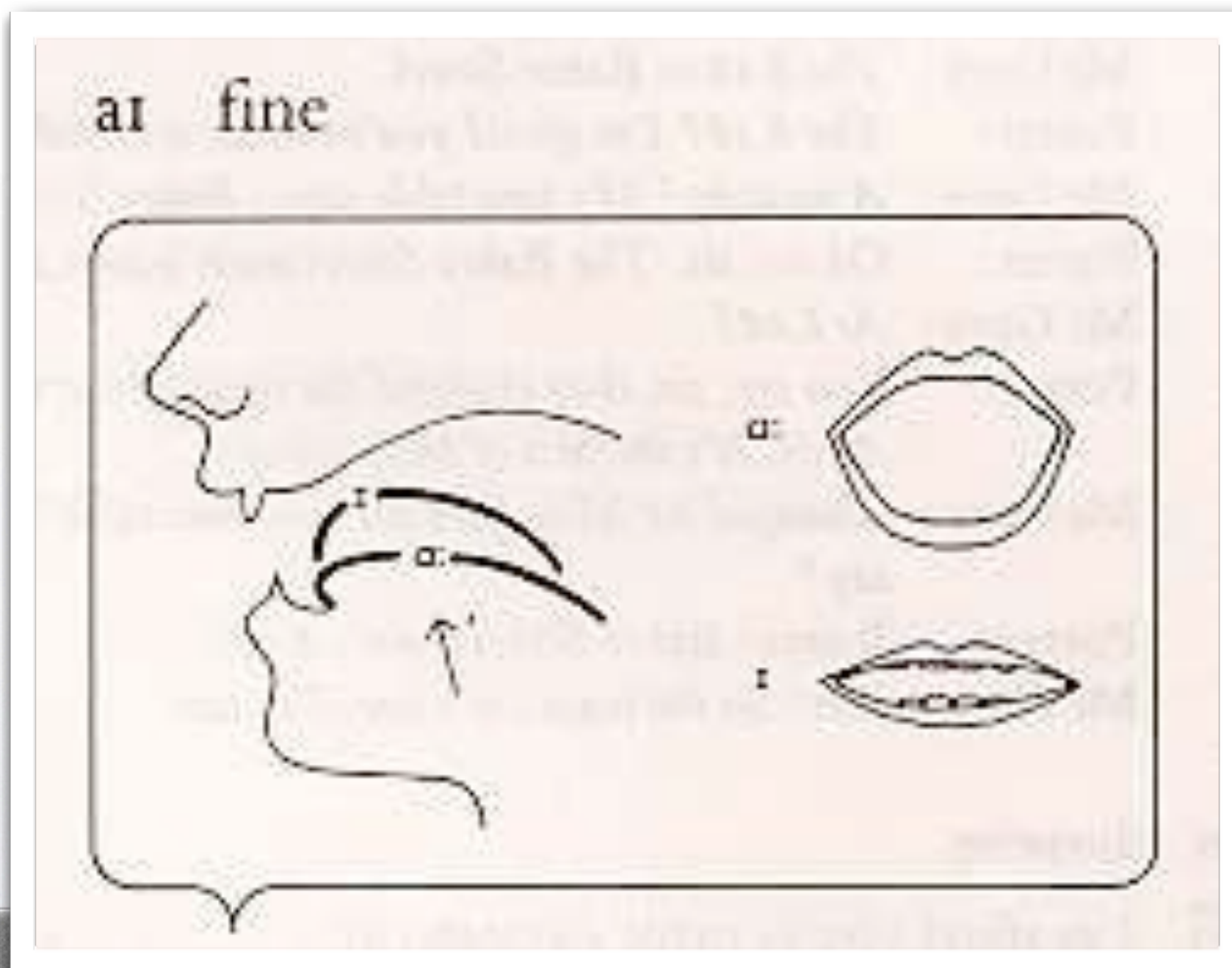
3. ʊə as in *moored, tour*



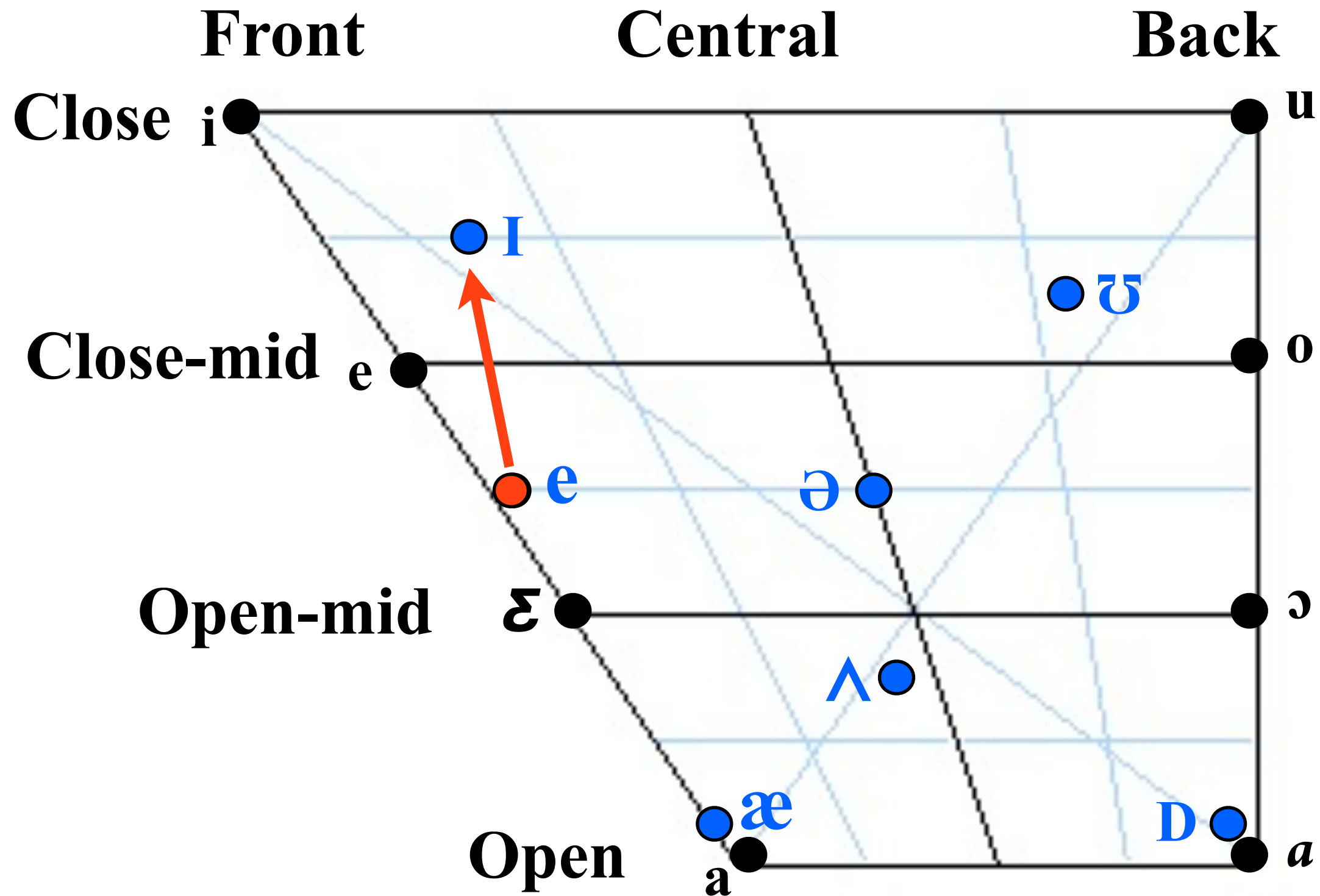


2. Closing Diphthongs

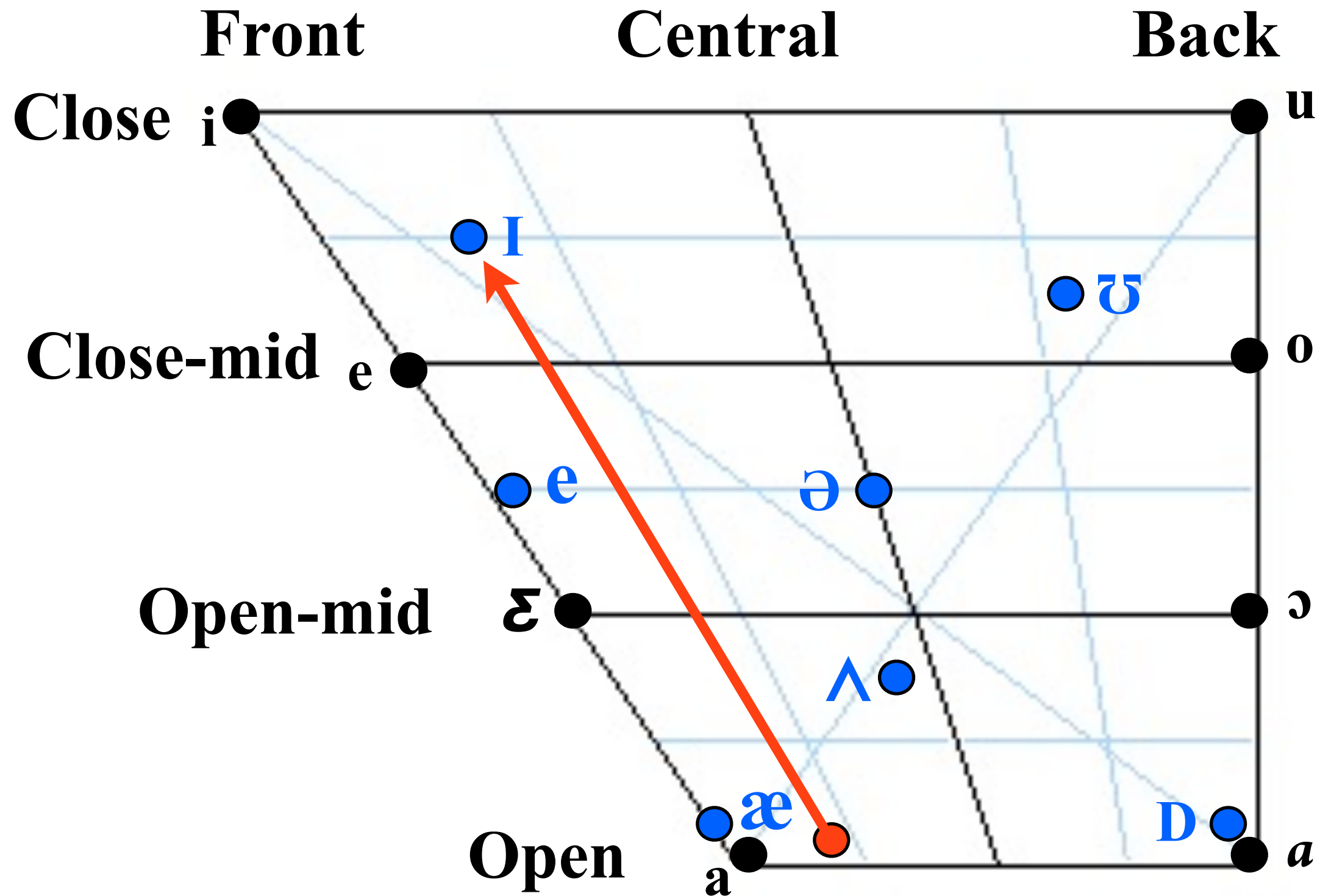
a. Ending in **I**



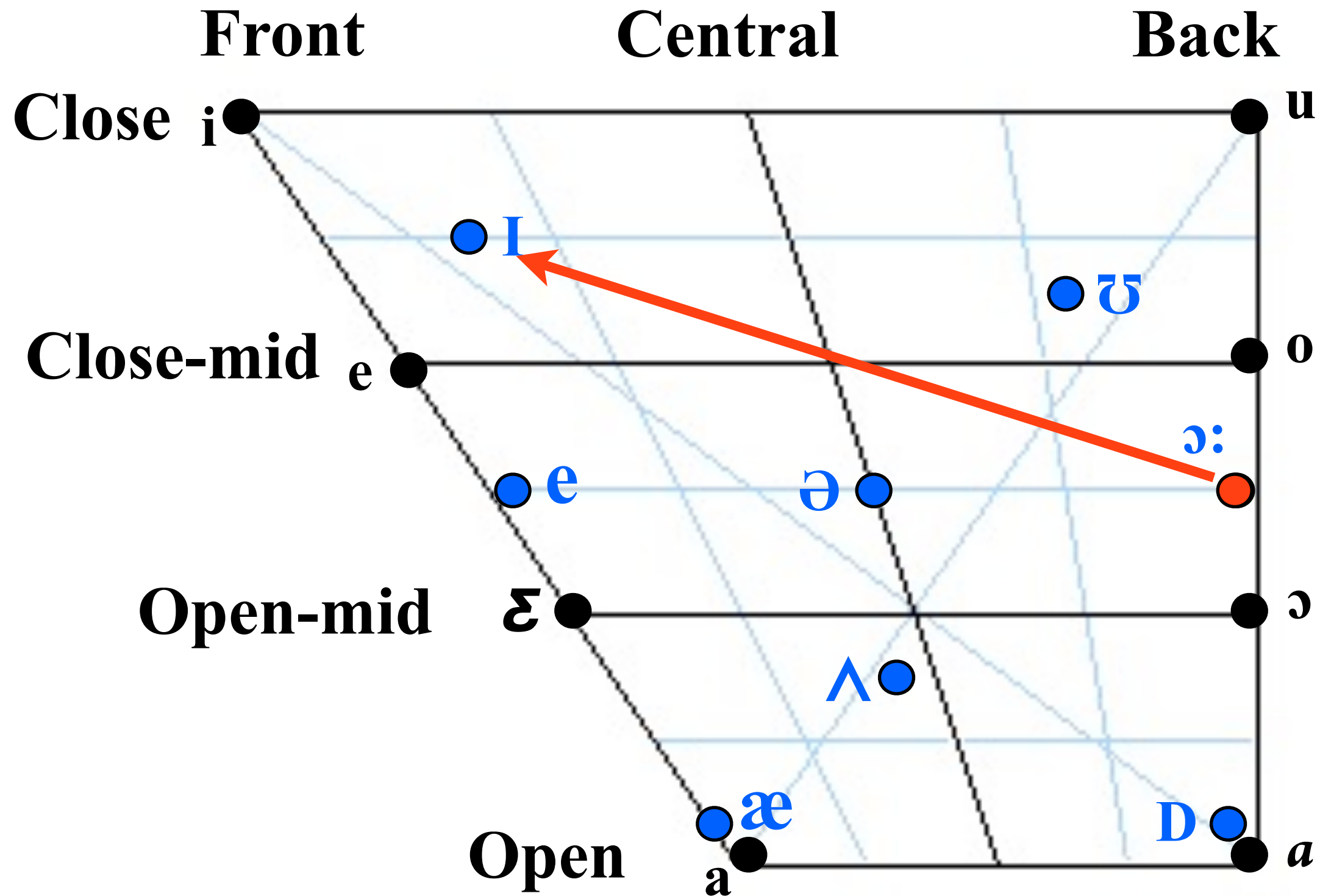
1. eɪ as in *paid*, *pain*



2. **aɪ** as in *tide, time*. It begins with an open vowel similar to **ʌ** in *cut, bun*.



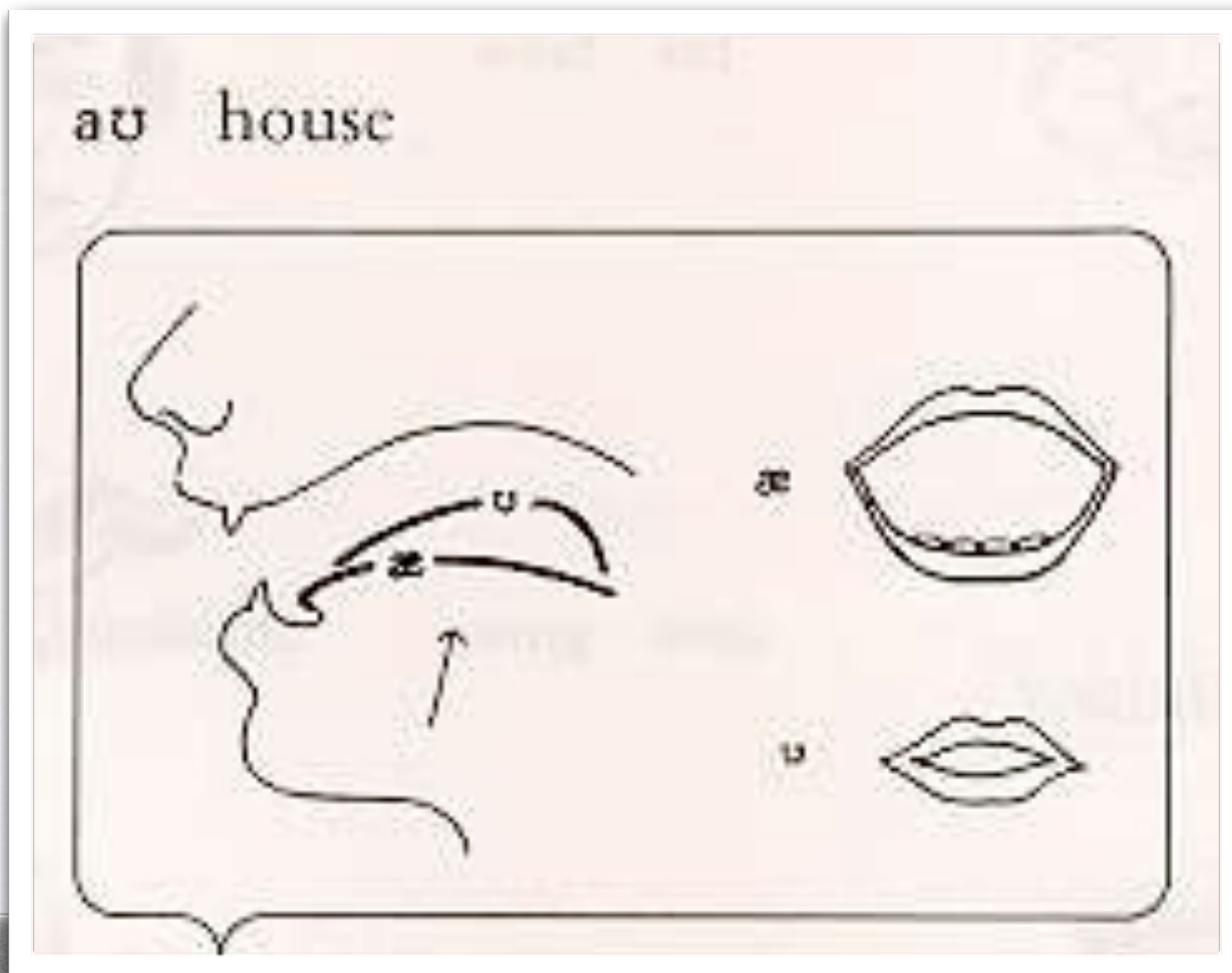
3. ɔɪ as in *voice, void*



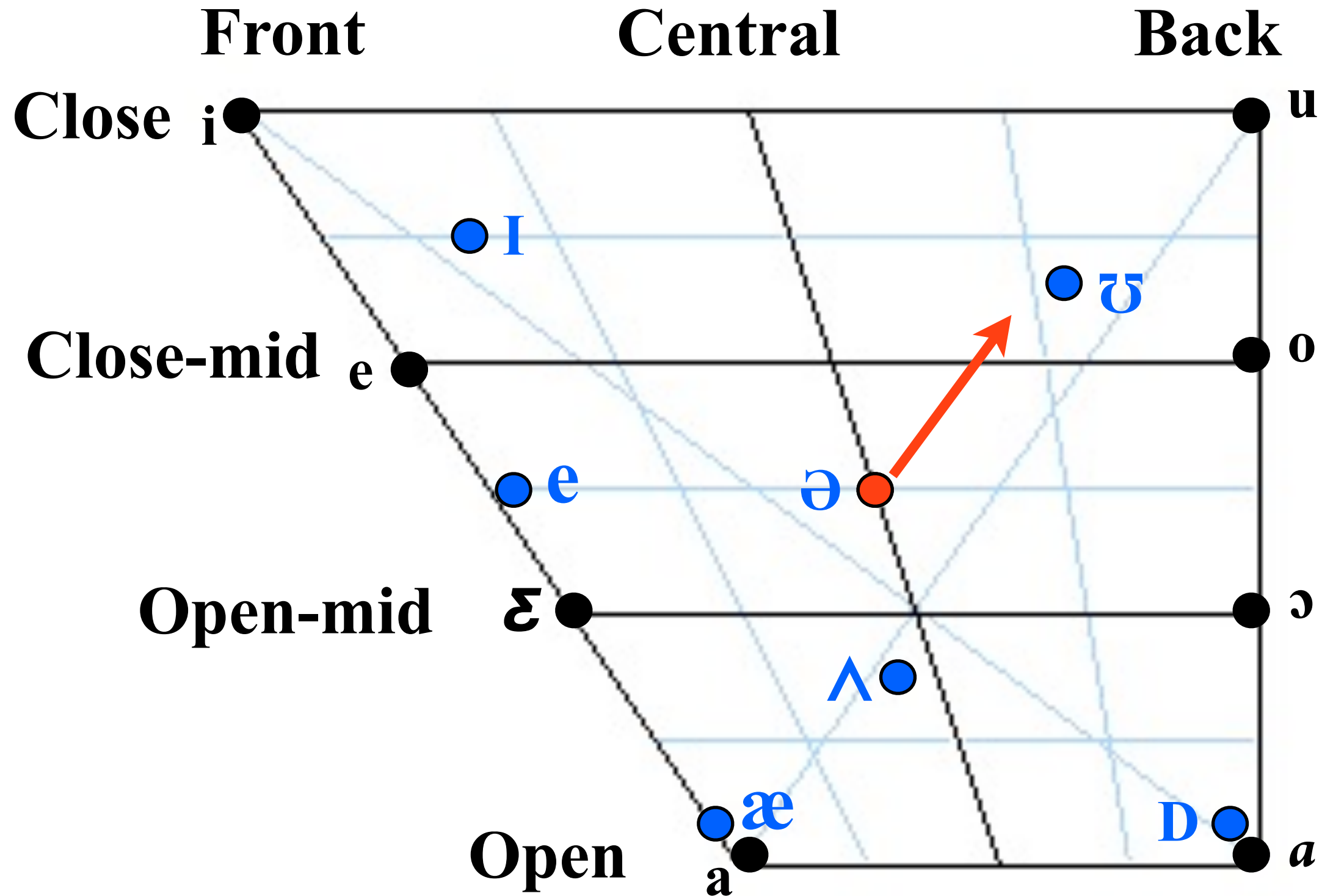


2. Closing Diphthongs

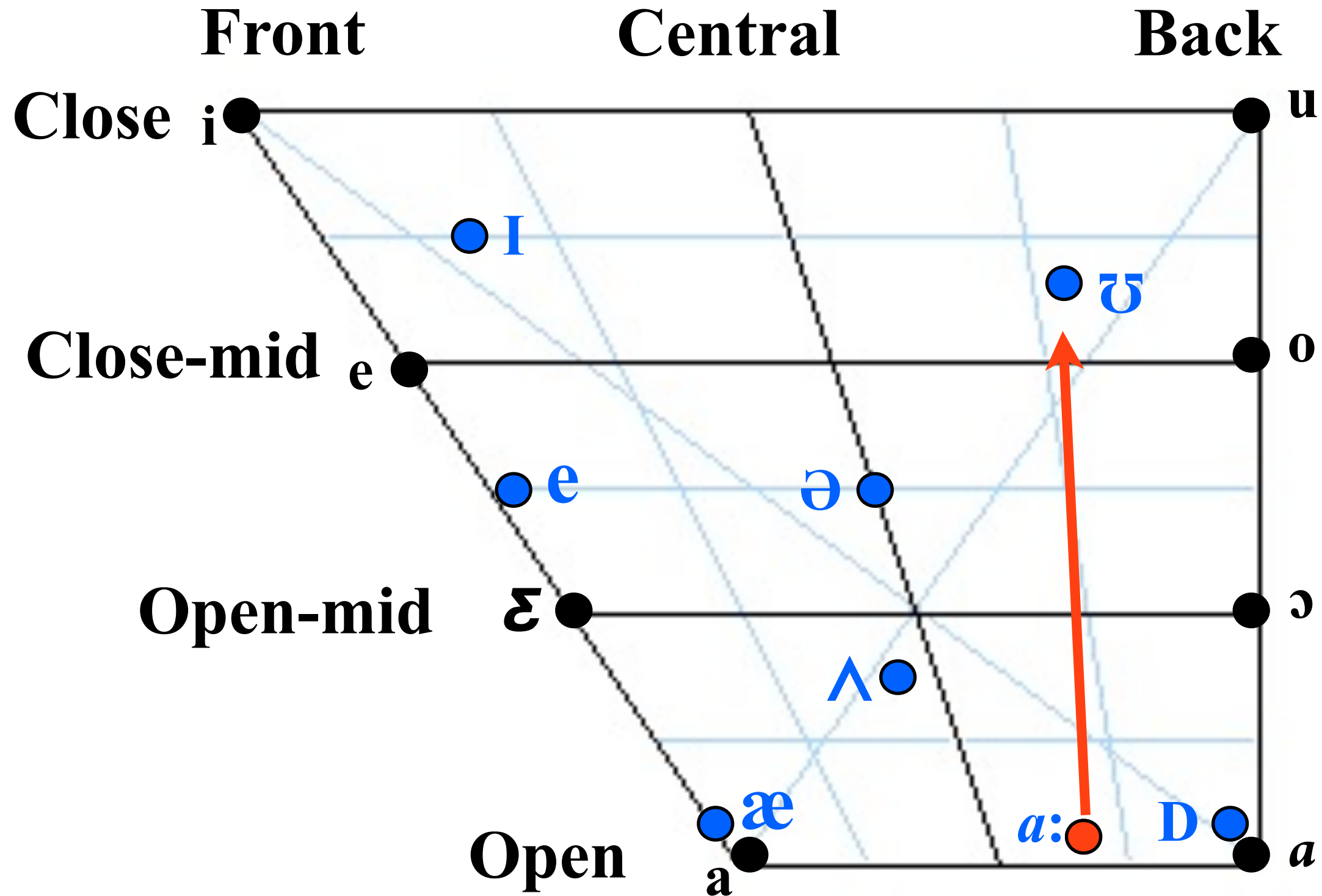
b. Ending in **ʊ**



1. **əʊ** as in *load, home*

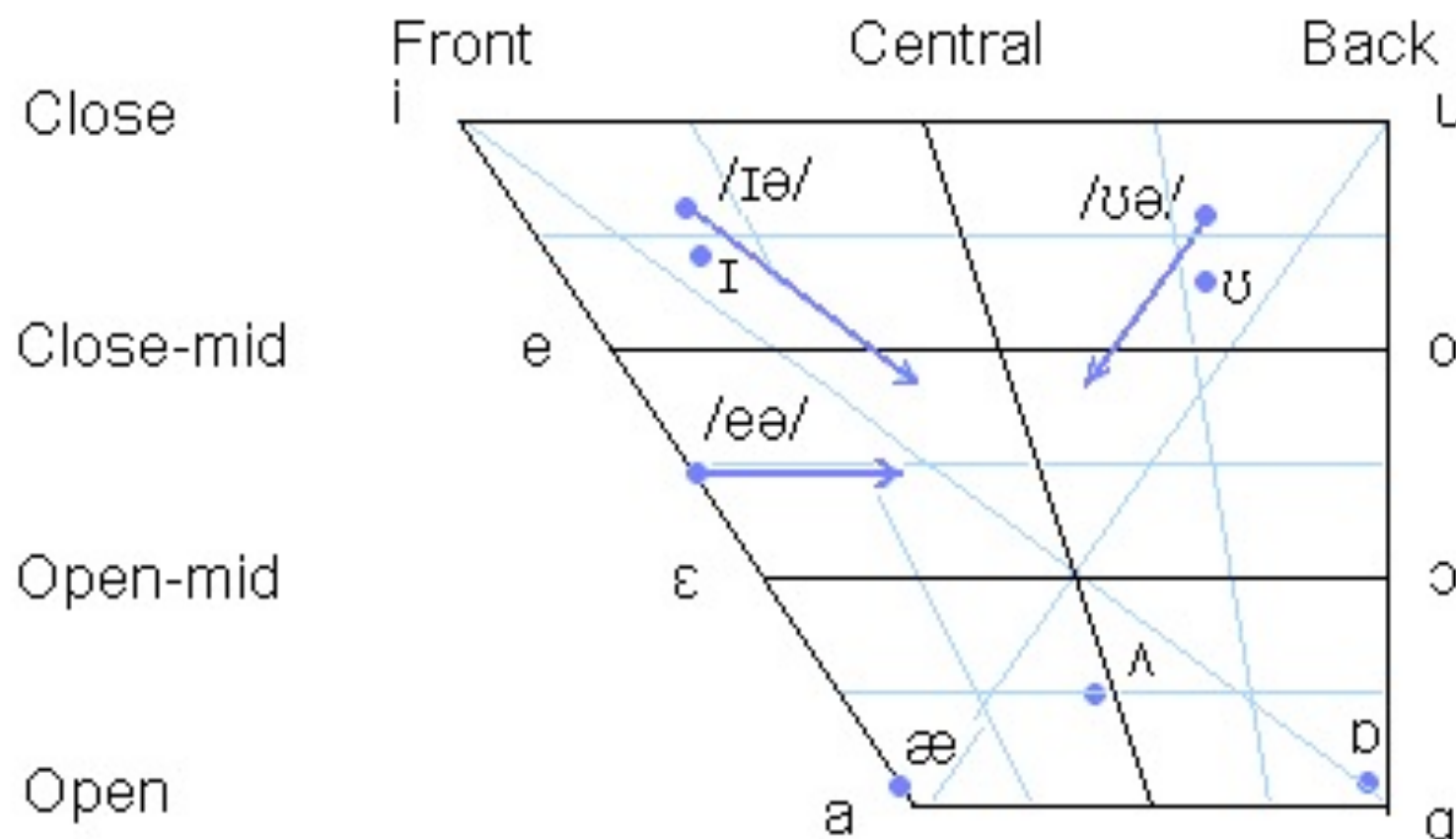


2. aʊ as in *loud, house*





Summary

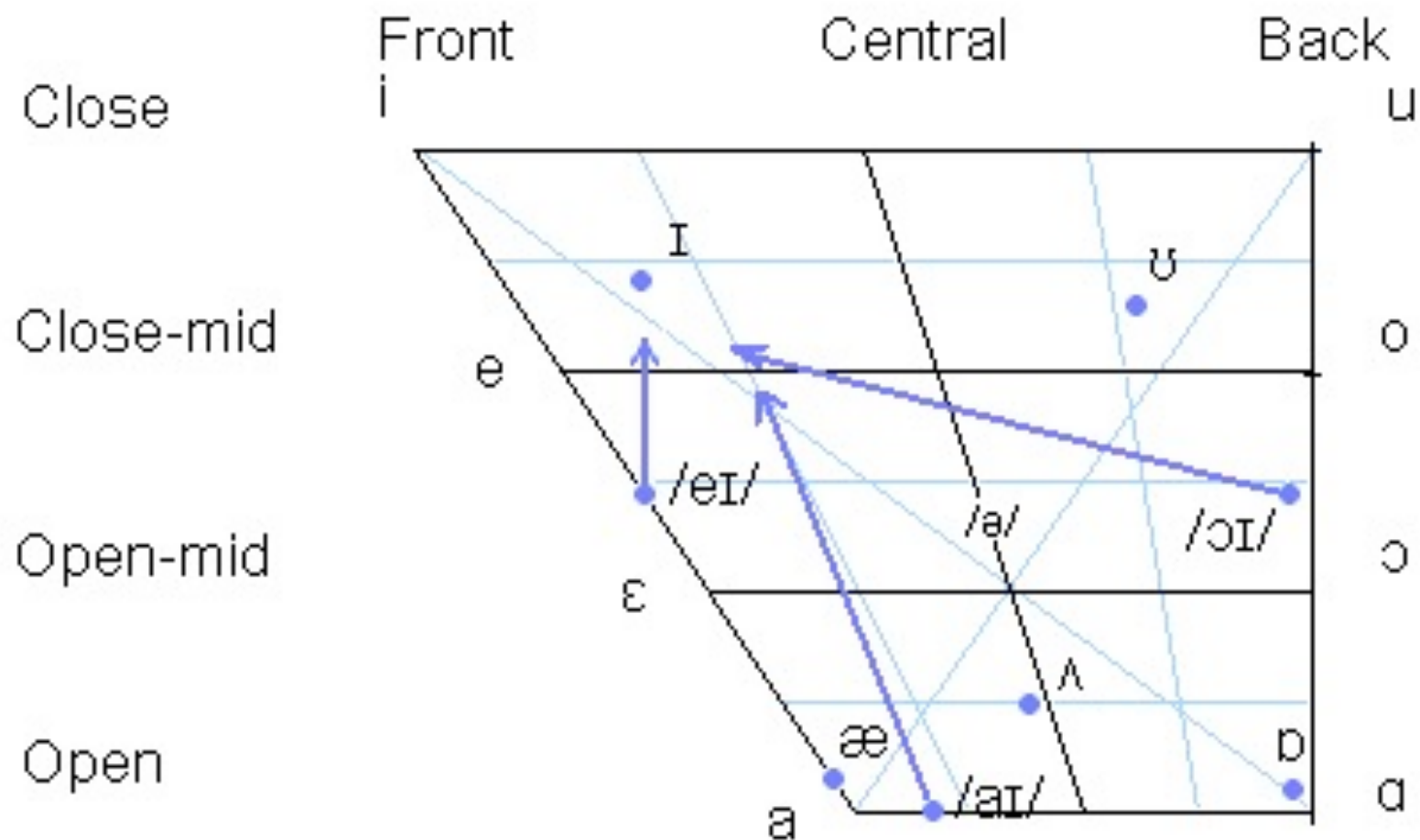


English centring diphthongs - p.020-021 and checked vowels

UKT: The original book gives three different diagrams which I have combined into one. The English centring diphthongs indicated are: /ɪə/ , /eə/ , /ʊə/ . It is noted that in Roache's diagrams /ɪ/ on p.014 is lower than that shown on p.020. We find a similar case for /ʊ/ .



Summary



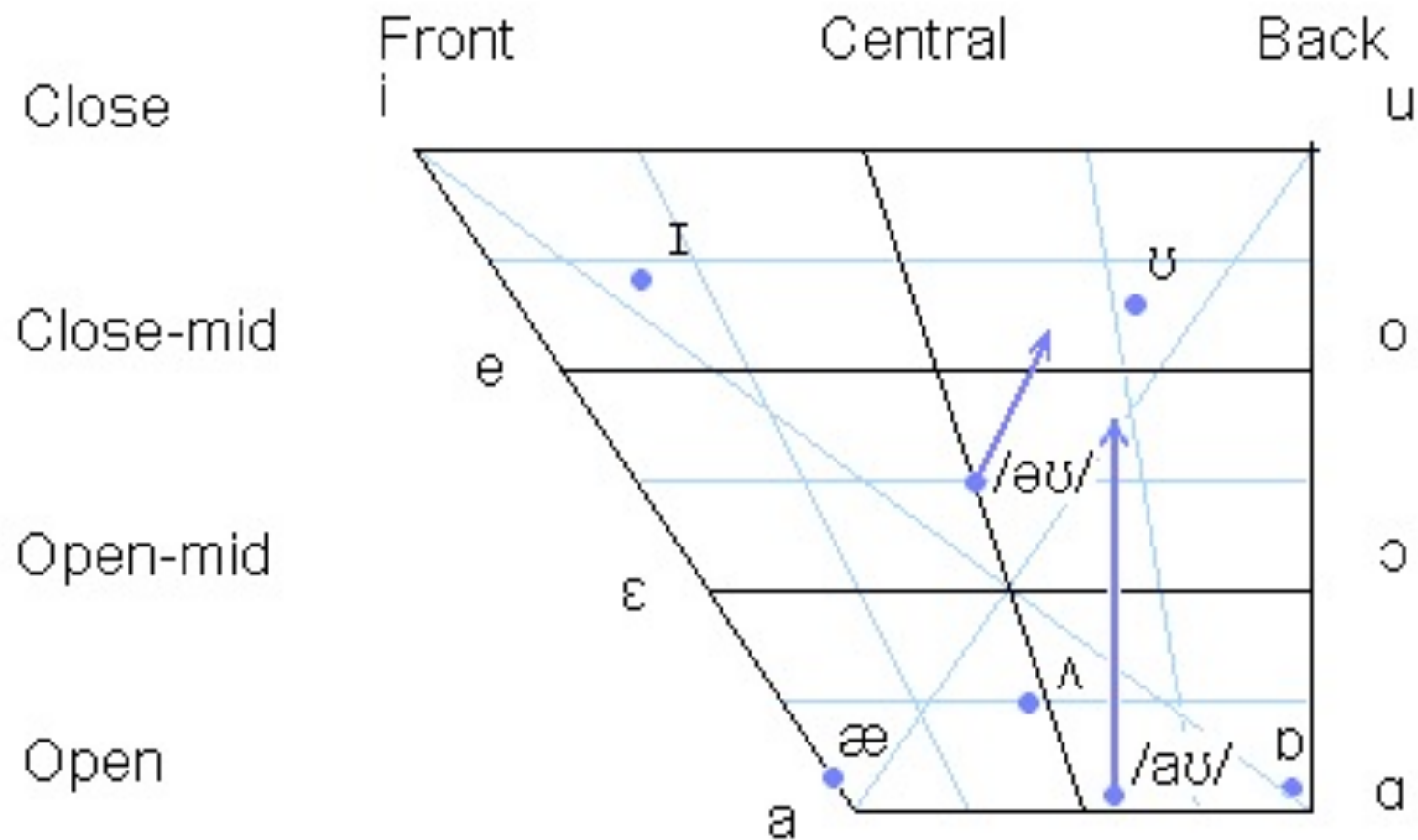
English closing diphthongs ending in /ɪ/ - p.021-022

English short vowels - or checked vowels. p.014-015

UKT: The original book gives three different diagrams which I have combined into one. The English closing diphthongs ending in /ɪ/ are: /eɪ/ , /aɪ/ , /ɔɪ/ .



Summary



English closing diphthongs ending in /ʊ/- p.022

English short vowels - or checked vowels. p.014-015

UKT: Roach gave two different diagrams which I have combined into one. The English closing diphthongs ending in /ʊ/ are: /əʊ/ and /aʊ/. Refer back to /aɪ/ and compare it to /aʊ/ and you will see that the starting point /a/ are quite different.



Triphthong

- **The most complex English sounds of the vowel type are the triphthongs. They can be either difficult to pronounce or recognize.**



Triphthong

- A triphthong is a glide from one vowel to another and then to a third, all produced rapidly and without interruption.



Triphthong

- Triphthongs can be looked on as being composed of the five closing diphthongs with Θ added on the end:



Triphthong

eI + ə = eIə as in *layer, player*

aI + ə = aIə as in *lair, fire*

ɔI + ə = ɔIə as in *loyal, royal*

əʊ + ə = əʊə as in *lower, mower*

aʊ + ə = aʊə as in *power, hour*