

Towards phylogenetic analyses of linguistic data

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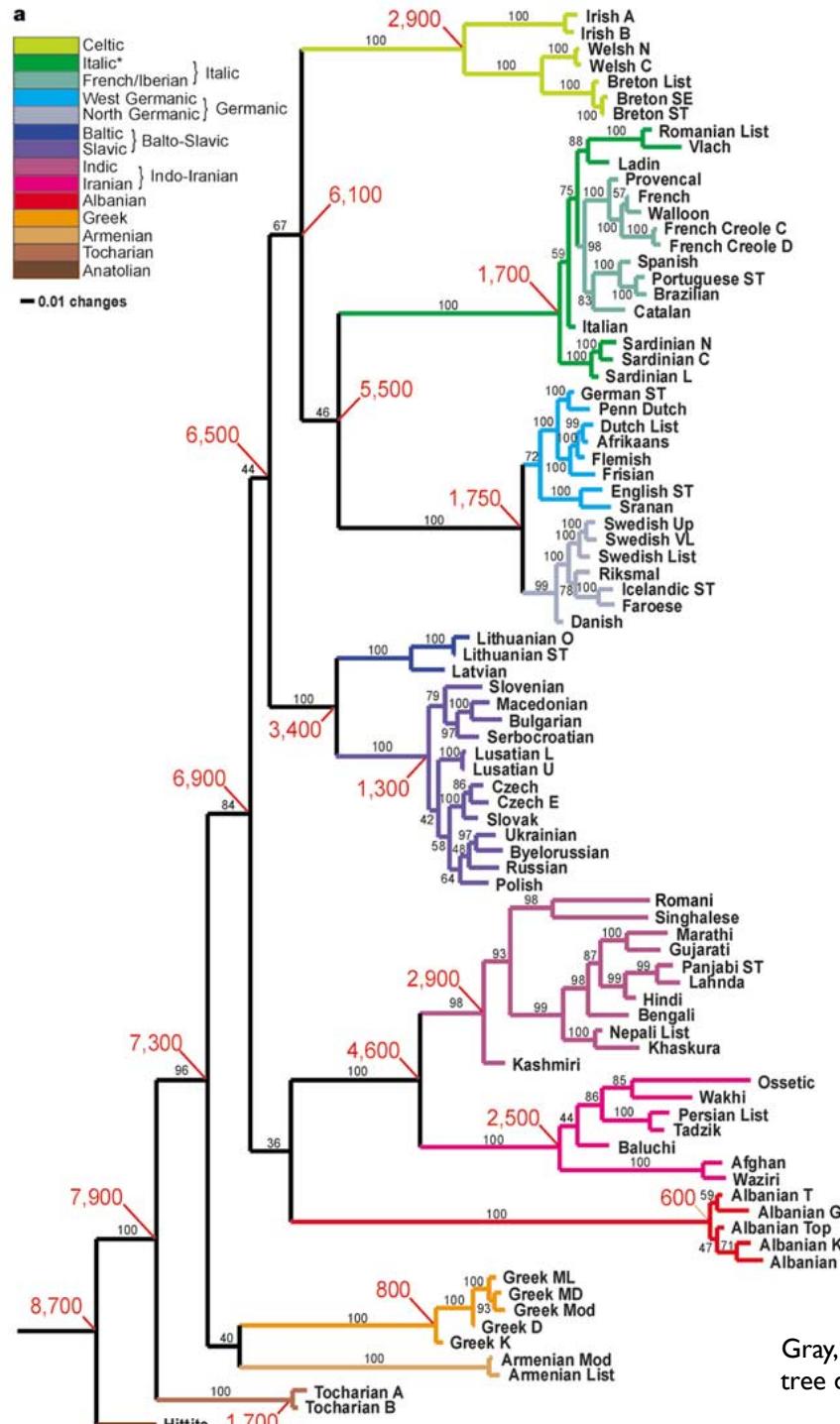


MAX-PLANCK-GESELLSCHAFT

Max Planck Institute
for Evolutionary Anthropology

I. Phylogenetic Analyses in Linguistics

Gothic	<i>fotus</i>	'foot'
Old Icelandic	<i>fo:tr</i>	'foot'
Old High German	<i>fuoz</i>	'foot'
German	<i>Fuss</i>	'foot'
Old English	<i>fo:t</i>	'foot'
English	<i>foot</i>	'foot'
Hittite	<i>pata-</i>	'foot'
Luvian	<i>pati-</i>	'foot'
Latin	<i>pe:s, pedis</i>	'foot'
Tocharian A	<i>päts</i>	'foot'
Tocharian B	<i>ptsa</i>	'foot'
Greek	<i>poús, podós</i>	'foot'
Armenian	<i>ot-n, ot-k'</i>	'foot, feet'
Sanskrit	<i>pá:t, pá:dam</i>	'foot'
Avestan	<i>pad-</i>	'foot'
Lithuanian	<i>pa~das</i>	'shoe'
Latvian	<i>acu-pedius</i>	'swift-footed'
Old Church Slavic	<i>pods</i>	'ground'
Proto-Indo-European	<i>*pʰet'-</i>	



Gray, Russel & Quentin D. Atkinson (2003). Language-tree divergence times support the Anatolian theory of Indo-European origin. *Nature* 426: 435-439.

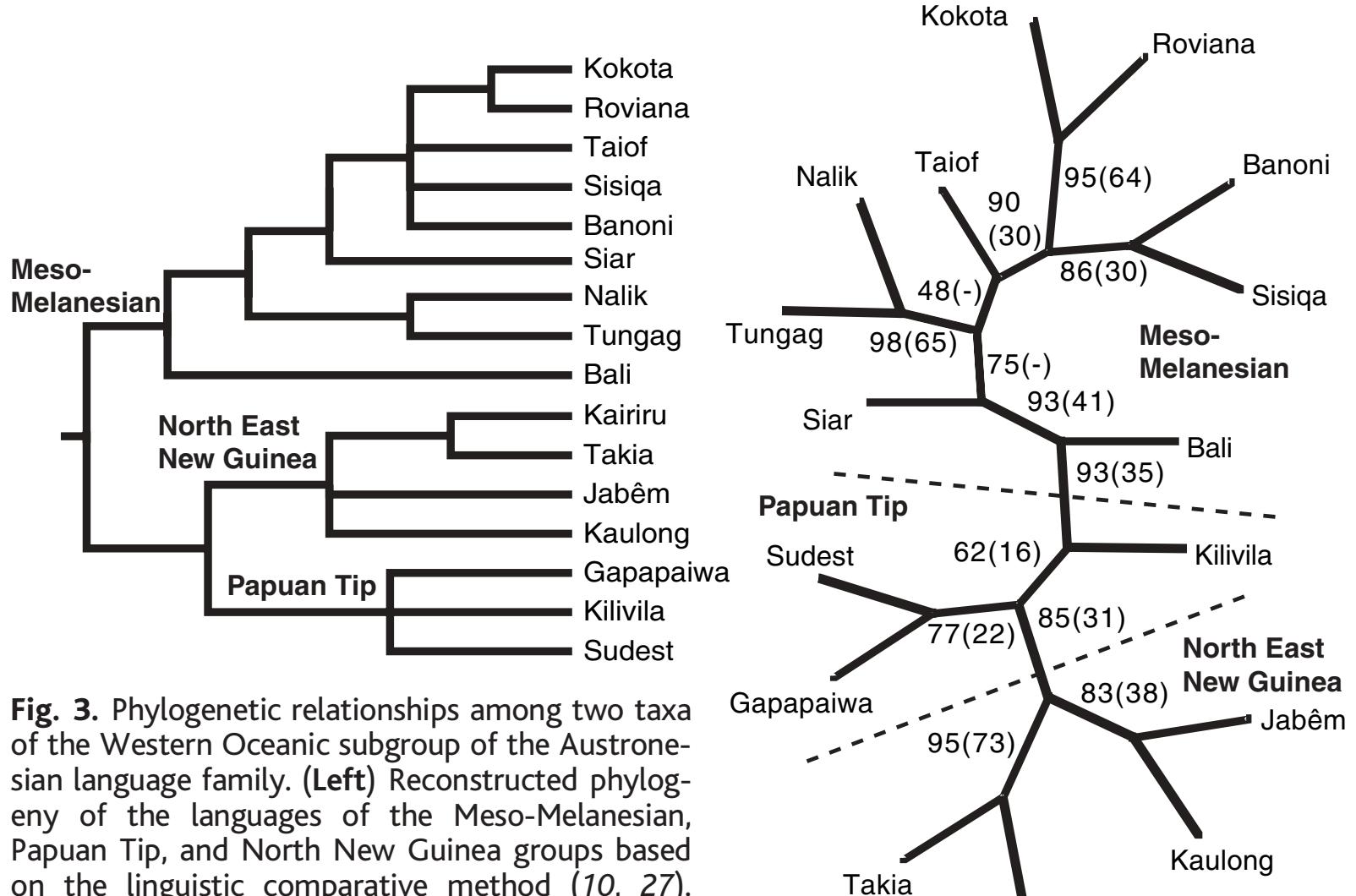
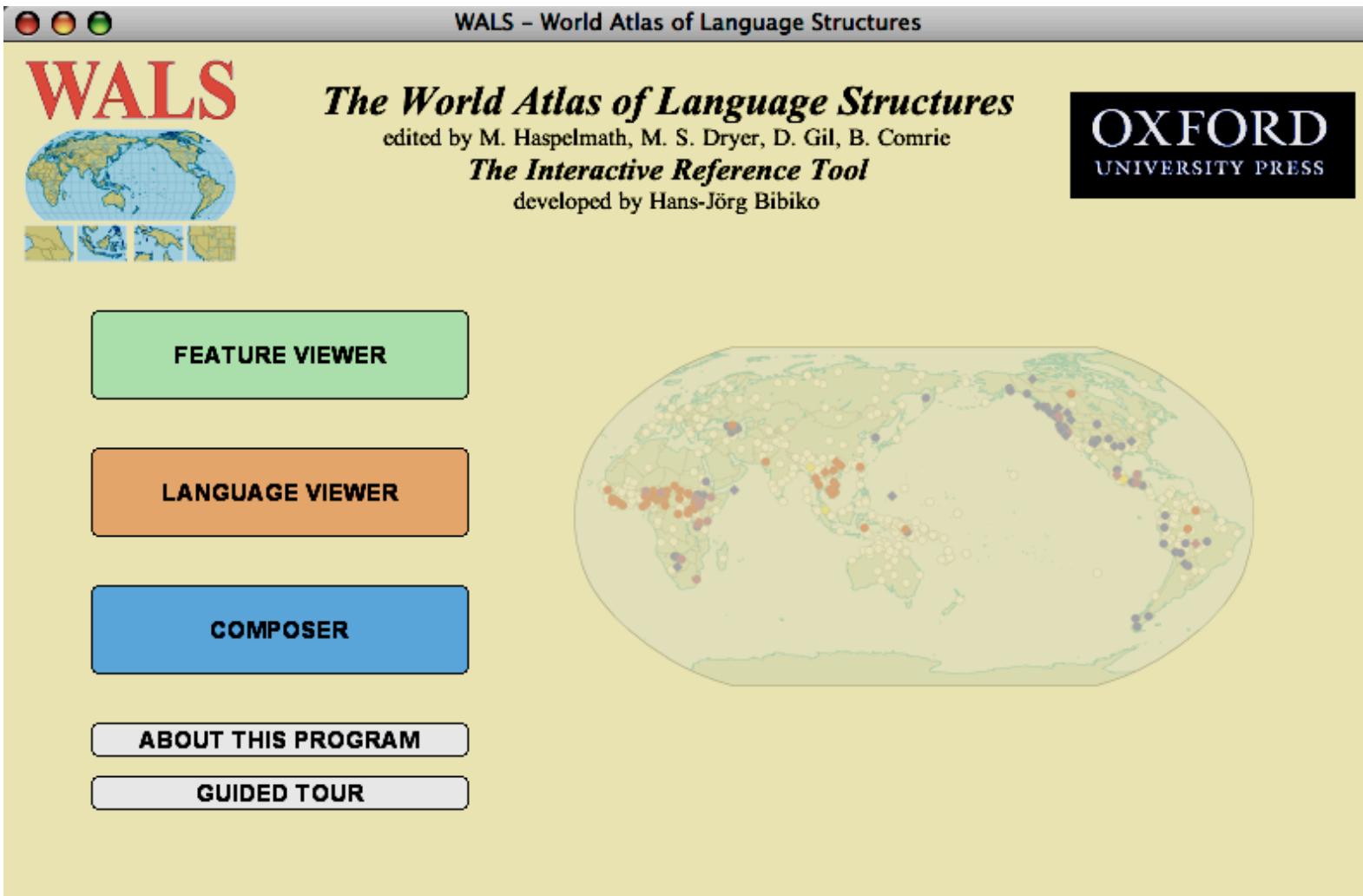


Fig. 3. Phylogenetic relationships among two taxa of the Western Oceanic subgroup of the Austronesian language family. (Left) Reconstructed phylogeny of the languages of the Meso-Melanesian, Papuan Tip, and North New Guinea groups based on the linguistic comparative method (10, 27). (Right) Unrooted parsimony tree showing relationships among the Meso-Melanesian and Papuan Tip groups based on grammatical traits only (that is, discarding abundant lexical evidence) (the figure shows reweighted and raw bootstrap values). The two trees show a high degree of concordance, with monophyly in both major taxa and the similar geographical structuring of within-taxon diversity.

2. Introducing Linguistic Typology



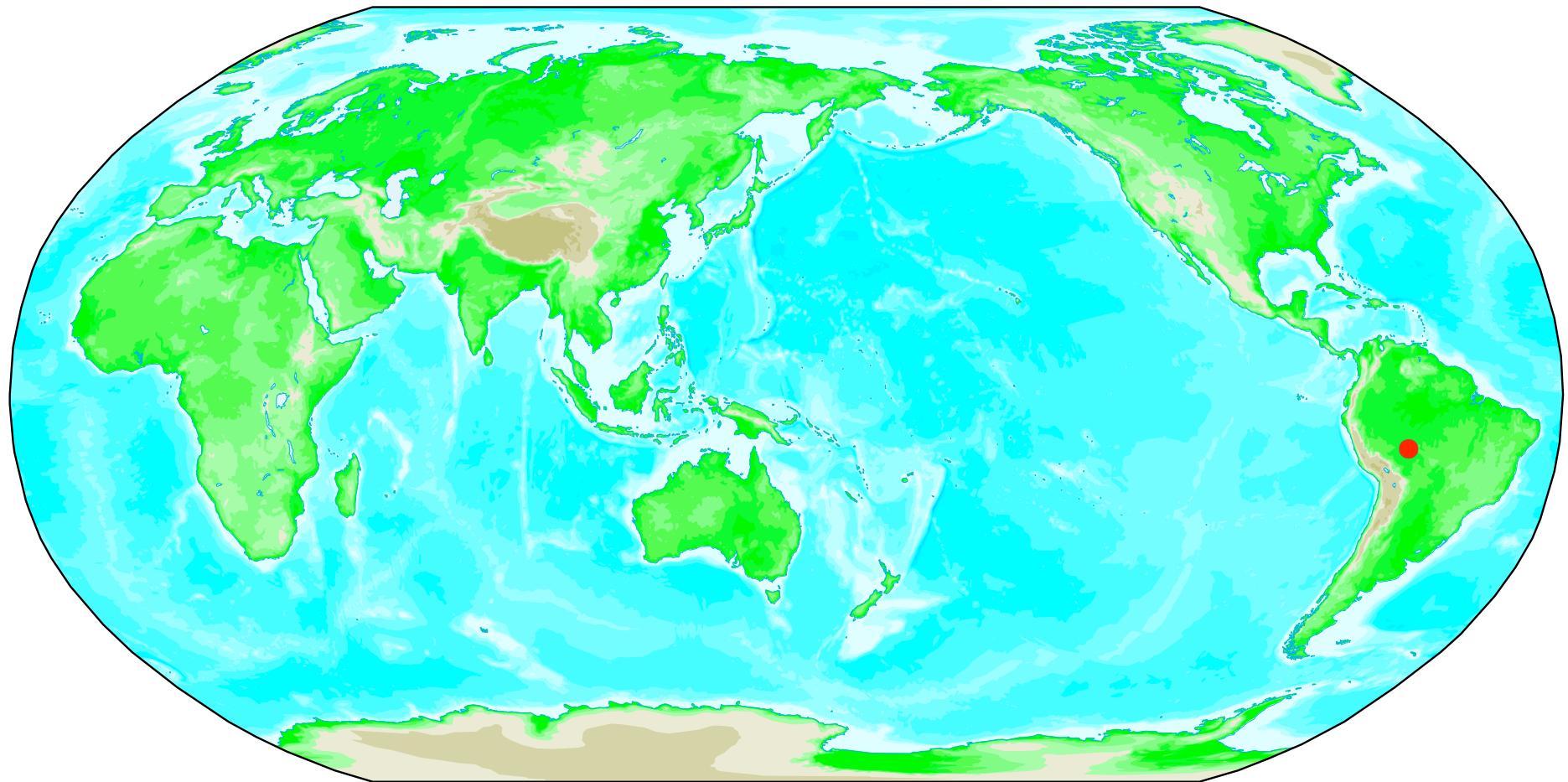
3. Investigating unusual characteristics

And the winners are:

In the category:

‘Most Unusual
Individual Language’

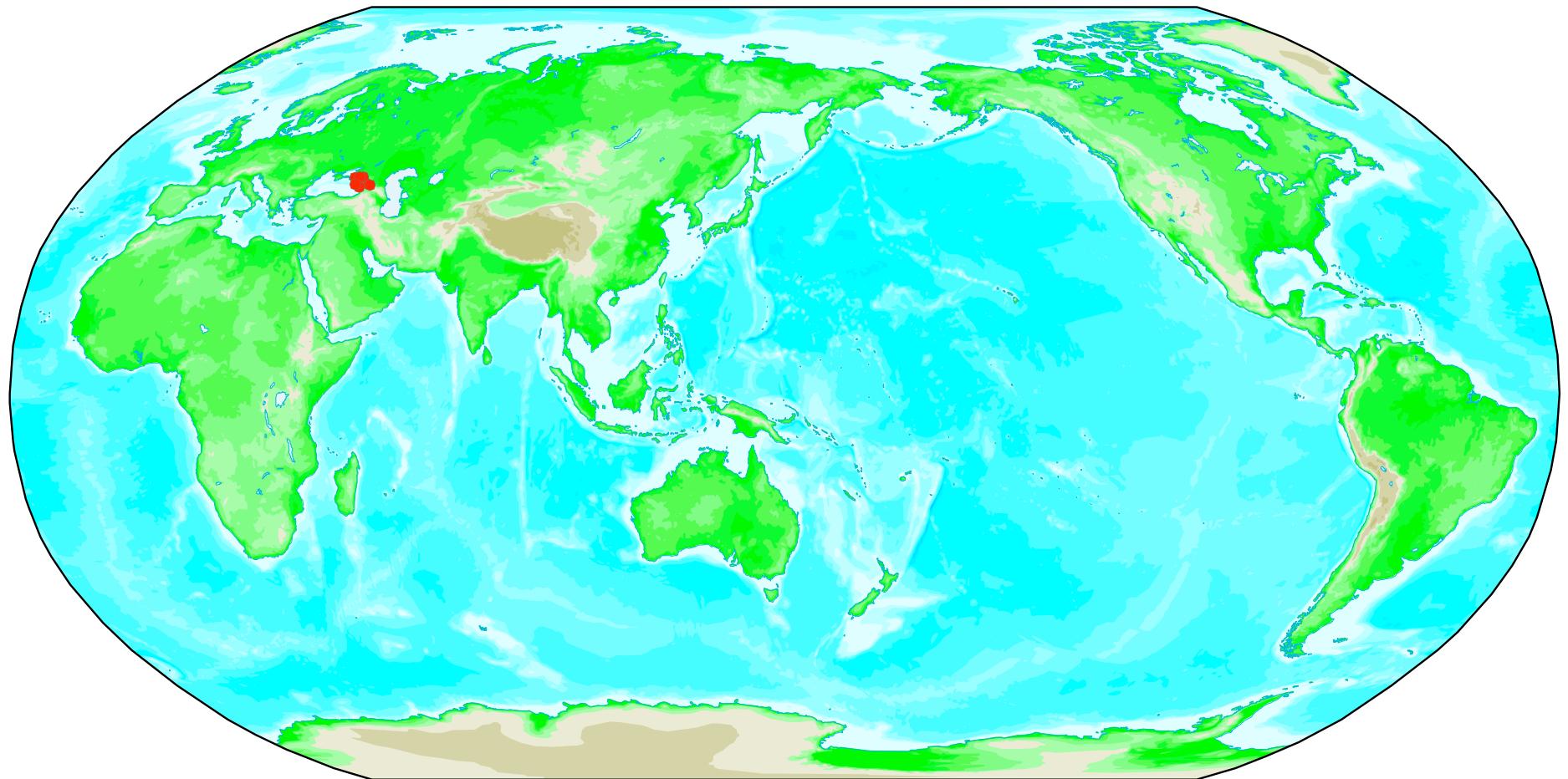
Wari'



In the category:

‘Most Unusual
Genealogical Group’

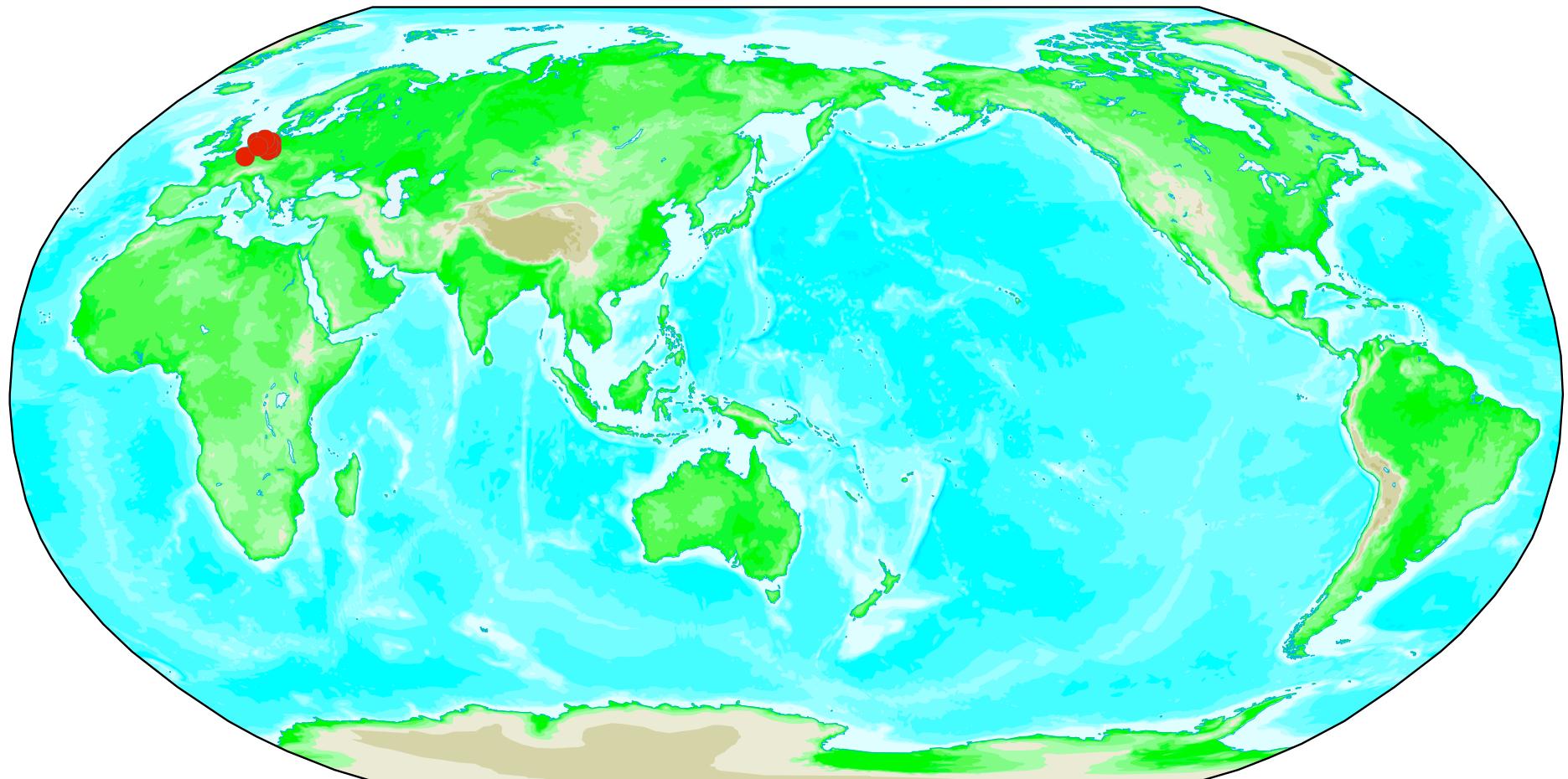
Northwest Caucasian



In the category:

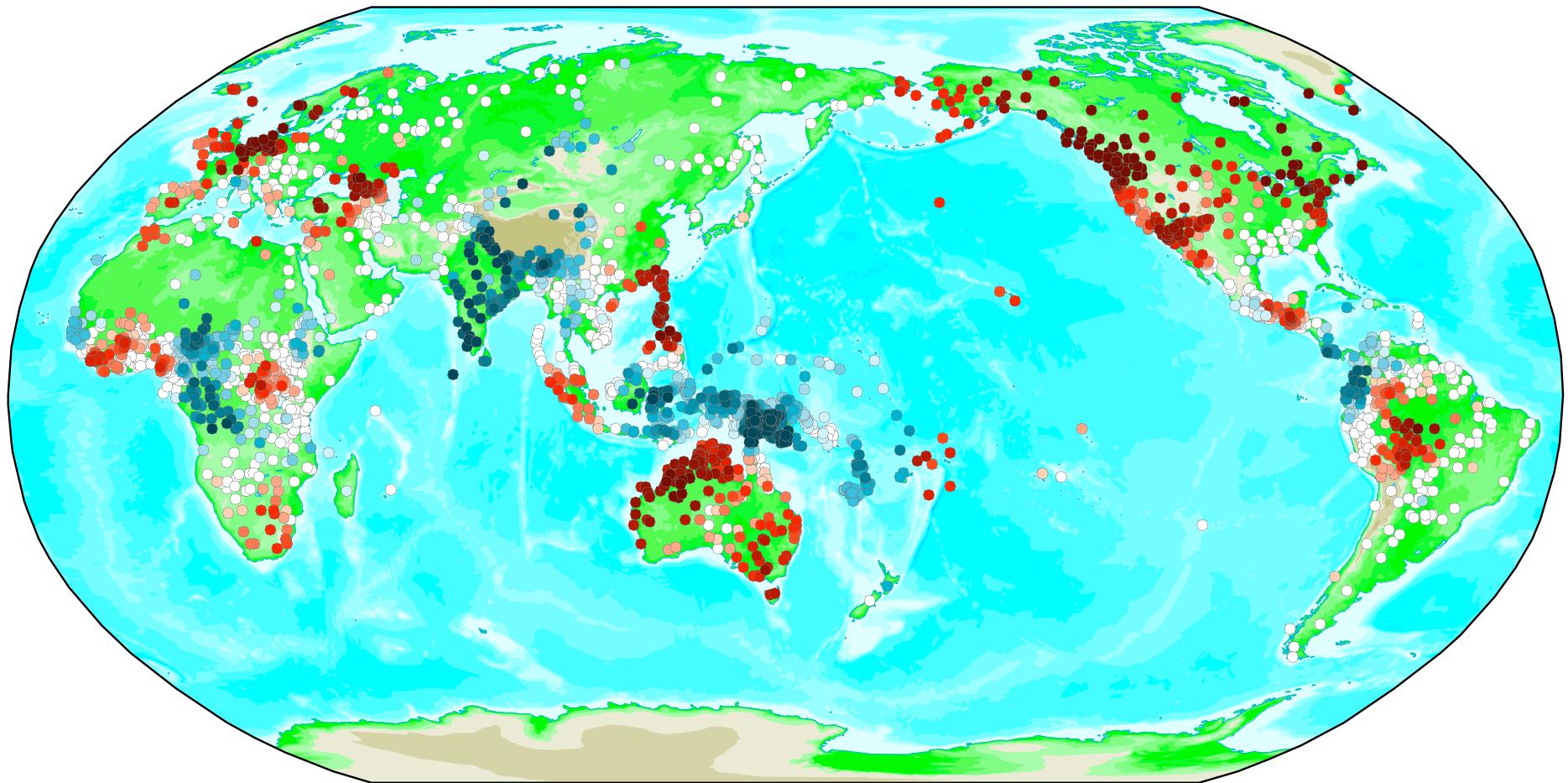
‘Most Unusual
Geographical Area’

Northwest Continental Europe



All languages

(red = rare, blue = common)

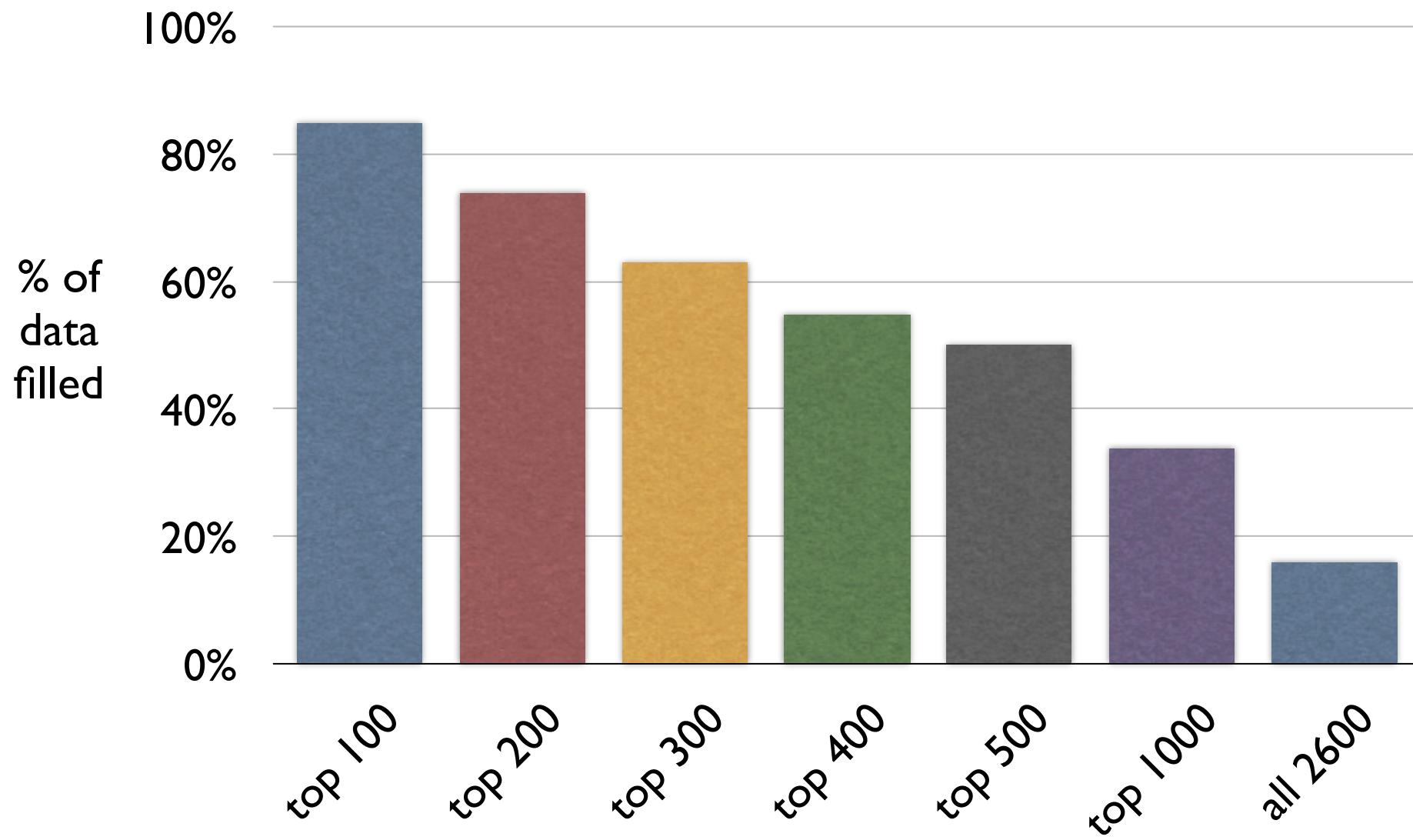


4. Towards Phylogenetic Analyses with WALS

A wealth of data (for linguistics)

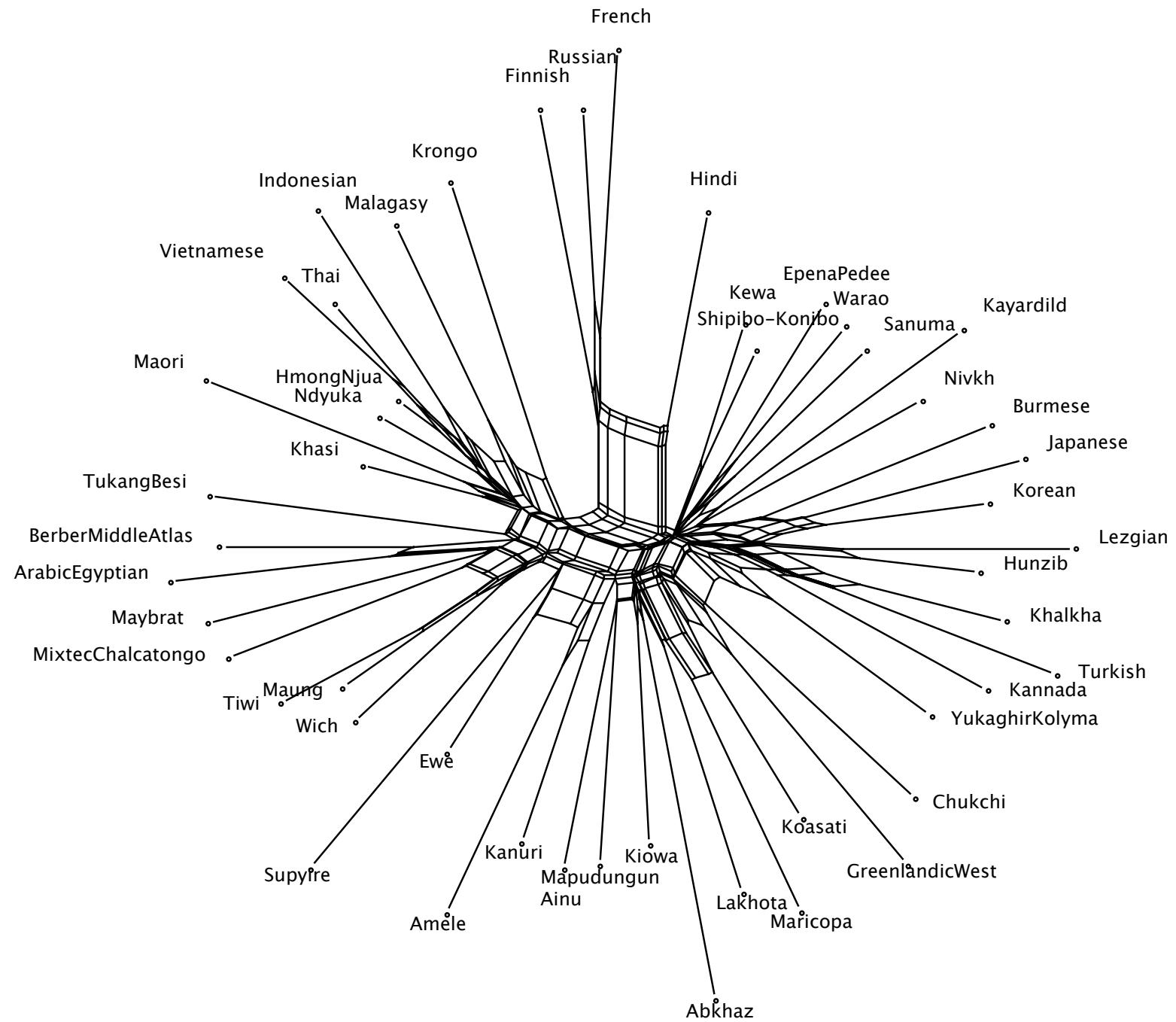
- 2,600 languages
- 140 characteristics
- almost 60,000 datapoints
- but: $60,000/2,600*140 = 0.165$
- the datatable is only 16.5 % filled !

Choosing the best languages



Reliability

- Latvian was checked (by B.Wälchli)
- 109 coding point in WALS
- 2 ‘technical’ errors (= 1.8 %)
- 5 ‘interpretative’ errors (= 4.6 %)



5. Improving Typology

5. Improving Typology

- Finer-grained Coding
- ‘Deconstructing’ Typology
- Select Suitable Characteristics

LANGUAGE VIEWER

COMPOSER

select a feature

- ▶ thematically
- ▶ alphabetically
- ▶ user-defined

SHRINK LIST

search for a feature
51

SEARCH

WALS the Feature Viewer

SHOW MAP

FEATURE PROFILE area: Nominal Categories

51. Position of Case Affixes

Author: Matthew S. Dryer

934 languages

symbol: include: click to list languages below [no. of lgs : of genera : of families]

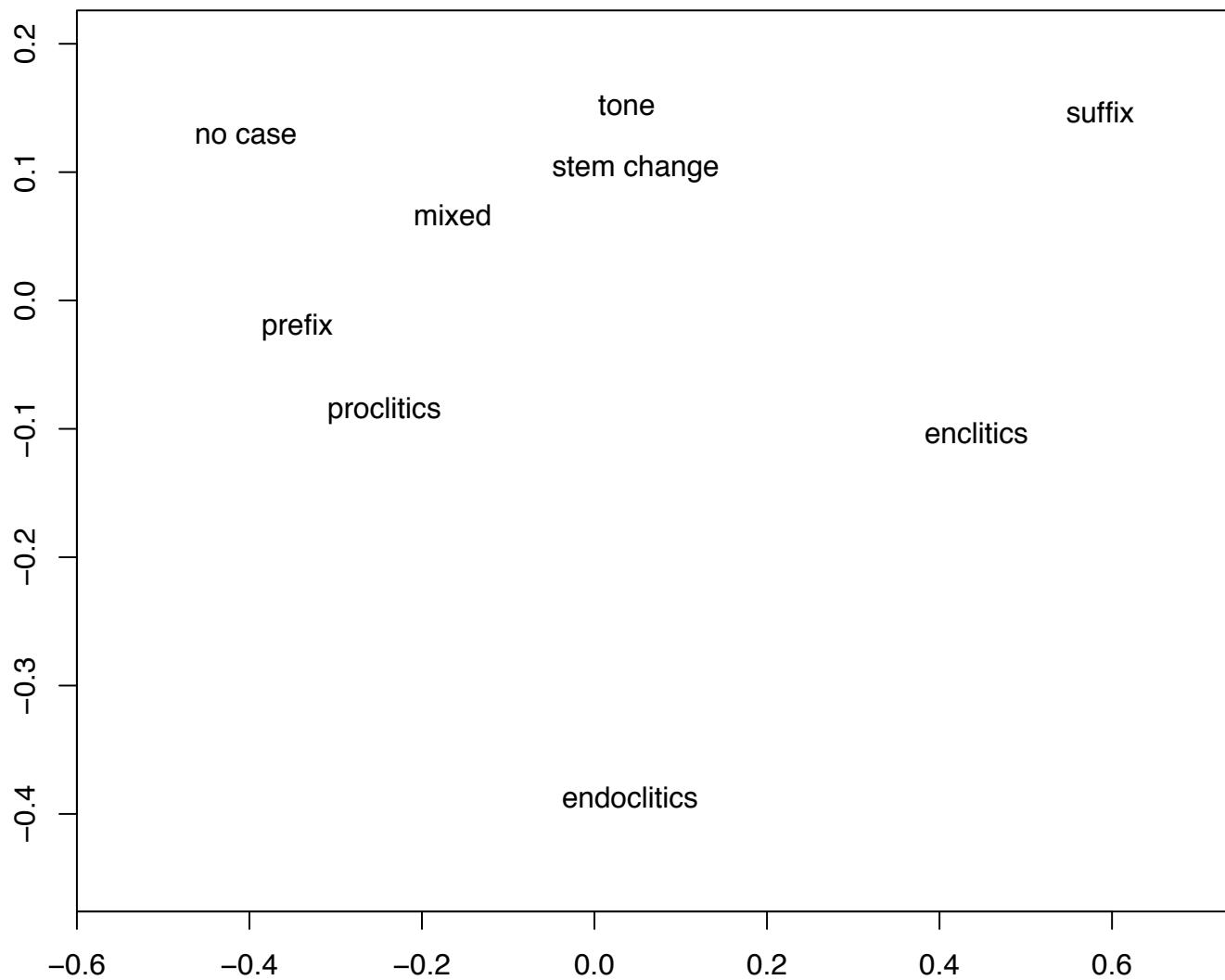
●	<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Case suffixes [431:174:90]
●	<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Case prefixes [35:19:14]
●	<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Case tone [4:2:1]
●	<input type="checkbox"/>	4. Case stem change [2:1:1]
●	<input type="checkbox"/>	5. Mixed morphological case [8:7:6]
●	<input type="checkbox"/>	6. Postpositional clitics [95:59:36]
●	<input type="checkbox"/>	7. Prepositional clitics [15:10:8]
●	<input type="checkbox"/>	8. Inpositional clitics [6:3:1]
●	<input type="checkbox"/>	9. No case affixes or adpositional clitics [338:145:56]

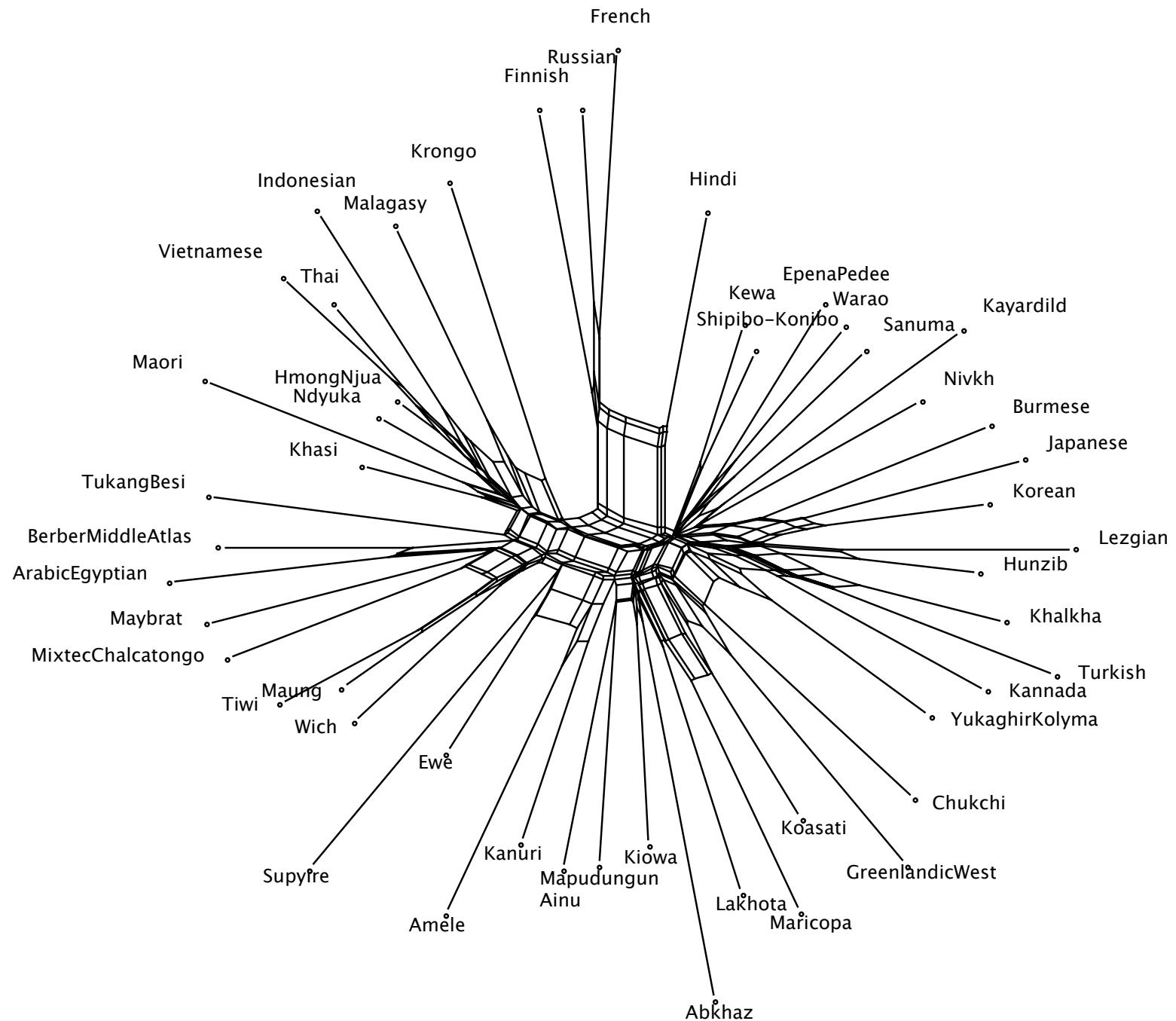
Merge: 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9.

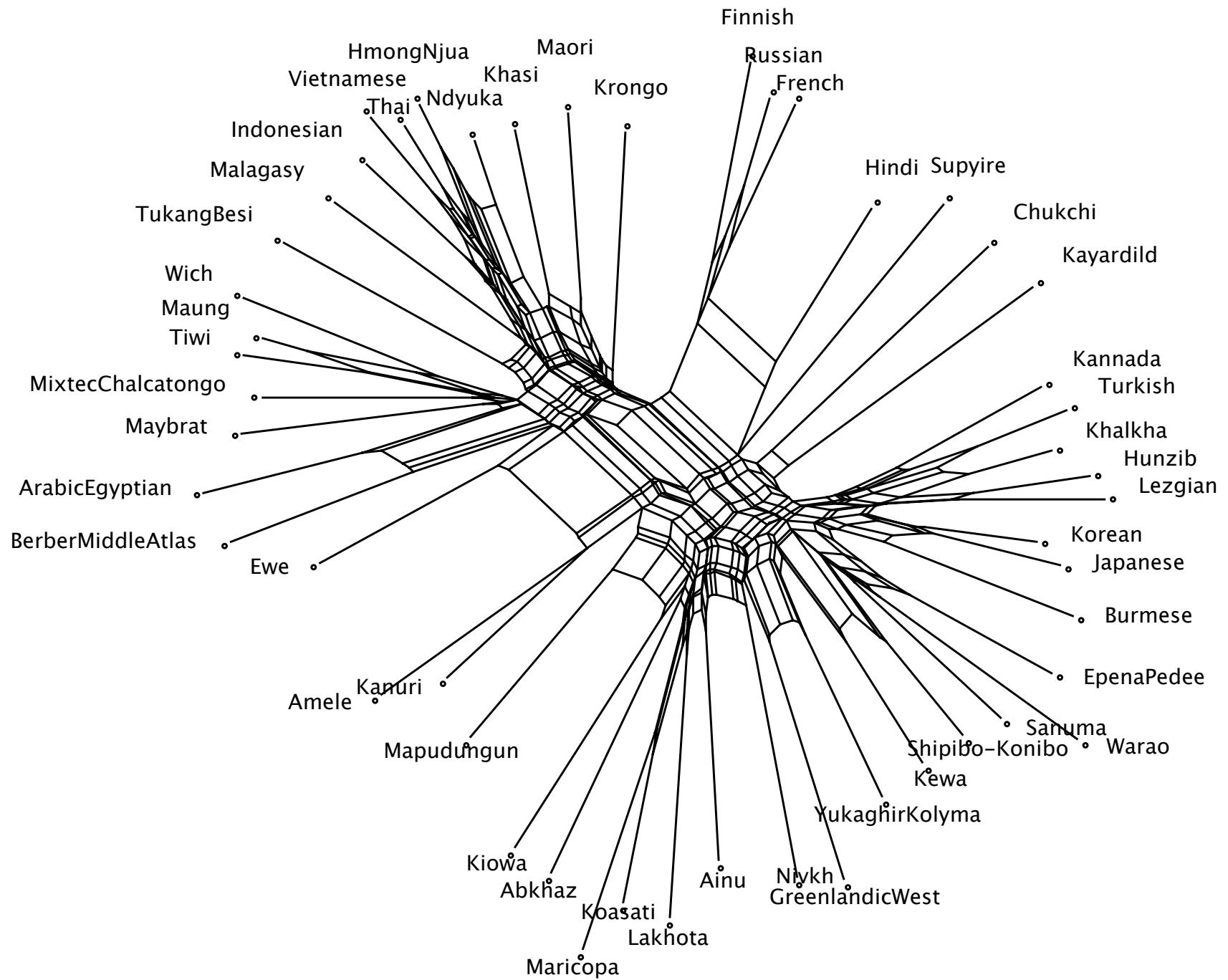
arrange the languages by
languages ▾

COPYLIST

Estimate **character-similarities** from cooccurrence in low-level genetic groups







5. Improving Typology

- Finer-grained Coding
- ‘Deconstructing’ Typology
- Select Suitable Characteristics

	L ₁	L ₂	L ₃	L ₄	L ₅	L ₆	L ₇	L ₈	...
L ₁	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	
L ₂	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	
L ₃	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	
L ₄	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	
L ₅	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	
L ₆	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	
L ₇	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	
L ₈	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	
...									

Undifferentiated Typology

	L ₁	L ₂	L ₃	L ₄	L ₅	L ₆	L ₇	L ₈	...
L ₁	1	1	1	0.37	0.37	0.28	0.28	0.28	
L ₂	1	1	1	0.37	0.37	0.28	0.28	0.28	
L ₃	1	1	1	0.37	0.37	0.28	0.28	0.28	
L ₄	0.37	0.37	0.37	1	1	0.58	0.58	0.58	
L ₅	0.37	0.37	0.37	1	1	0.58	0.58	0.58	
L ₆	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.58	0.58	1	1	1	
L ₇	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.58	0.58	1	1	1	
L ₈	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.58	0.58	1	1	1	
...									

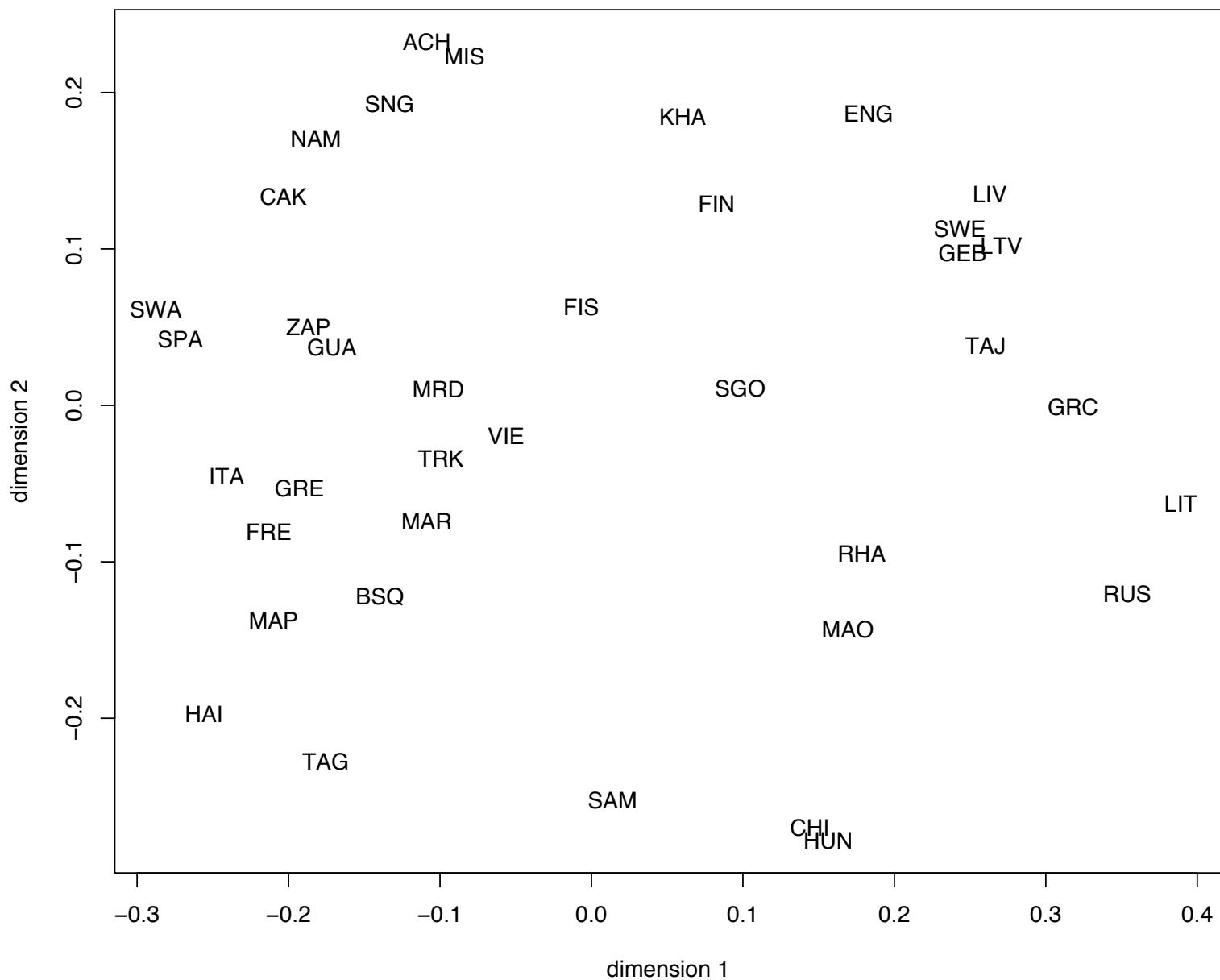
Inter-type similarities

	L ₁	L ₂	L ₃	L ₄	L ₅	L ₆	L ₇	L ₈	...
L ₁	1	0.55	0.72	0.31	0.70	0.61	0.50	0.58	
L ₂	0.55	1	0.55	0.31	0.40	0.44	0.31	0.48	
L ₃	0.72	0.55	1	0.29	0.53	0.51	0.48	0.60	
L ₄	0.31	0.31	0.29	1	0.38	0.36	0.26	0.27	
L ₅	0.70	0.40	0.53	0.38	1	0.64	0.51	0.46	
L ₆	0.61	0.44	0.51	0.36	0.64	1	0.57	0.43	
L ₇	0.50	0.31	0.48	0.26	0.51	0.57	1	0.47	
L ₈	0.58	0.48	0.60	0.27	0.46	0.43	0.47	1	
...									

‘Deconstructed’ Typology

	MRD	LIT	ENG	FRE
I050	sams	eiti	go	aller
I070	sams	eiti	come	venir
I090	sams	eiti	come	venir
I104	lisems	kopti	come	sortir
I105	valgoms	zengti	descend	descendre
I114	—	—	come	se faire entendre
I120	vetjams	varyti	drive	pousser
I140	sams	eiti	come	se rendre
I160	jutams	eiti	walk	marcher

	ACH	ALB	ARM	AVA	BSQ	CAK	CHA	CHI	CHO	EFI	ENG	EST	EWE	FIJ	FIN	FIS	FRE	GEB	GRC	GRE	GUU	HAI	HAU	HAW	HIN	HUN	ICE	ITA	JAM	KAT	KHA	LIT	LIV	LTV	MAO	MAP	MA	
ACH	1	0.43	0.62	0.31	0.41	0.57	0.6	0.22	0.41	0.51	0.55	0.46	0.54	0.35	0.46	0.35	0.45	0.44	0.4	0.39	0.52	0.41	0.72	0.41	0.55	0.23	0.48	0.47	0.32	0.36	0.55	0.37	0.47	0.45	0.36	0.43	0.4	
ALB	0.43	1	0.53	0.26	0.41	0.45	0.41	0.2	0.32	0.34	0.38	0.3	0.33	0.26	0.31	0.29	0.4	0.33	0.25	0.41	0.53	0.35	0.49	0.29	0.34	0.28	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.28	0.37	0.26	0.28	0.33	0.28	0.4	0.4	
ARM	0.62	0.53	1	0.27	0.4	0.63	0.61	0.26	0.37	0.4	0.54	0.46	0.47	0.34	0.42	0.4	0.41	0.44	0.4	0.39	0.57	0.33	0.67	0.36	0.53	0.24	0.46	0.49	0.32	0.31	0.49	0.34	0.37	0.3	0.37	0.3		
AVA	0.31	0.26	0.27	1	0.27	0.24	0.27	0.25	0.18	0.22	0.32	0.36	0.27	0.31	0.33	0.21	0.26	0.32	0.24	0.25	0.31	0.23	0.26	0.28	0.32	0.25	0.34	0.26	0.28	0.25	0.32	0.29	0.33	0.34	0.27	0.3		
BSQ	0.41	0.41	0.4	0.27	1	0.41	0.34	0.22	0.25	0.28	0.29	0.28	0.32	0.29	0.32	0.21	0.36	0.26	0.23	0.37	0.44	0.33	0.38	0.3	0.32	0.26	0.28	0.42	0.25	0.32	0.34	0.25	0.27	0.3	0.34	0.36	0.3	
CAK	0.57	0.45	0.63	0.24	0.41	1	0.55	0.21	0.39	0.4	0.4	0.38	0.42	0.3	0.36	0.34	0.44	0.31	0.32	0.37	0.56	0.35	0.61	0.31	0.43	0.21	0.37	0.48	0.27	0.26	0.41	0.29	0.38	0.39	0.29	0.41	0.3	
CHA	0.6	0.41	0.61	0.27	0.34	0.55	1	0.24	0.41	0.41	0.6	0.41	0.46	0.33	0.43	0.39	0.43	0.43	0.39	0.43	0.47	0.33	0.59	0.39	0.45	0.24	0.5	0.46	0.3	0.35	0.57	0.33	0.43	0.46	0.33	0.37	0.3	
CHI	0.22	0.2	0.26	0.25	0.22	0.21	0.24	1	0.16	0.2	0.27	0.37	0.22	0.28	0.26	0.19	0.19	0.31	0.28	0.18	0.25	0.18	0.23	0.23	0.25	0.29	0.3	0.2	0.33	0.25	0.3	0.29	0.33	0.33	0.25	0.25	0.2	
CHO	0.41	0.32	0.37	0.18	0.25	0.39	0.41	0.16	1	0.29	0.28	0.24	0.31	0.21	0.26	0.22	0.27	0.24	0.22	0.27	0.33	0.27	0.45	0.23	0.27	0.17	0.26	0.32	0.21	0.26	0.31	0.21	0.24	0.27	0.2	0.29	0.3	
EFI	0.51	0.34	0.4	0.22	0.28	0.4	0.41	0.2	0.29	1	0.32	0.27	0.36	0.23	0.31	0.27	0.32	0.26	0.23	0.32	0.33	0.32	0.51	0.26	0.35	0.18	0.29	0.37	0.22	0.27	0.41	0.2	0.29	0.27	0.25	0.32	0.3	
ENG	0.55	0.38	0.54	0.32	0.29	0.4	0.6	0.27	0.28	0.32	1	0.58	0.47	0.47	0.48	0.37	0.32	0.52	0.5	0.34	0.39	0.25	0.5	0.46	0.54	0.33	0.6	0.37	0.44	0.35	0.58	0.5	0.56	0.6	0.41	0.31	0.3	
EST	0.46	0.3	0.46	0.36	0.28	0.38	0.41	0.37	0.24	0.27	0.58	1	0.46	0.49	0.48	0.3	0.28	0.58	0.49	0.25	0.39	0.21	0.41	0.38	0.48	0.39	0.63	0.29	0.46	0.31	0.58	0.6	0.8	0.79	0.42	0.31	0.3	
EWE	0.54	0.33	0.47	0.27	0.32	0.42	0.46	0.22	0.31	0.36	0.47	0.46	1	0.29	0.42	0.29	0.35	0.4	0.33	0.3	0.38	0.31	0.52	0.31	0.52	0.25	0.46	0.32	0.32	0.31	0.49	0.35	0.43	0.49	0.32	0.33	0.3	
FIJ	0.35	0.26	0.34	0.31	0.29	0.3	0.33	0.28	0.21	0.23	0.47	0.49	0.29	1	0.32	0.19	0.22	0.36	0.47	0.22	0.34	0.21	0.36	0.73	0.34	0.36	0.43	0.28	0.35	0.32	0.38	0.66	0.45	0.48	0.67	0.33	0	
FIN	0.46	0.31	0.42	0.33	0.32	0.36	0.43	0.26	0.26	0.31	0.48	0.48	0.42	0.32	1	0.42	0.31	0.45	0.36	0.33	0.38	0.24	0.45	0.3	0.5	0.28	0.48	0.36	0.37	0.28	0.48	0.38	0.46	0.48	0.3	0.27	0.3	
FIS	0.35	0.29	0.4	0.21	0.21	0.34	0.39	0.19	0.22	0.27	0.37	0.3	0.29	0.19	0.42	1	0.32	0.36	0.25	0.29	0.35	0.21	0.39	0.22	0.41	0.21	0.34	0.32	0.26	0.19	0.2	0.32	0.33	0.2	0.19	0.2		
FRE	0.45	0.4	0.41	0.26	0.36	0.44	0.43	0.19	0.27	0.32	0.32	0.28	0.35	0.22	0.31	0.32	1	0.3	0.22	0.43	0.43	0.52	0.39	0.24	0.36	0.21	0.35	0.51	0.25	0.26	0.34	0.22	0.26	0.28	0.23	0.35	0.3	
GEB	0.44	0.33	0.44	0.32	0.26	0.31	0.43	0.31	0.24	0.26	0.52	0.58	0.4	0.36	0.45	0.36	0.3	1	0.41	0.26	0.36	0.2	0.41	0.36	0.49	0.31	0.57	0.3	0.39	0.25	0.46	0.48	0.56	0.59	0.33	0.22	0	
GRC	0.4	0.25	0.4	0.24	0.23	0.32	0.39	0.28	0.22	0.23	0.5	0.49	0.33	0.47	0.36	0.25	0.22	0.41	1	0.21	0.29	0.2	0.38	0.45	0.37	0.34	0.44	0.25	0.37	0.25	0.42	0.71	0.52	0.51	0.4	0.22	0.2	
GRE	0.39	0.41	0.39	0.25	0.37	0.37	0.43	0.18	0.27	0.32	0.34	0.25	0.3	0.22	0.33	0.29	0.43	0.26	0.21	0.38	0.42	0.38	0.24	0.31	0.23	0.28	0.42	0.24	0.27	0.39	0.2	0.24	0.28	0.35	0.3			
GUU	0.52	0.53	0.57	0.31	0.44	0.56	0.47	0.25	0.33	0.33	0.39	0.39	0.38	0.34	0.38	0.35	0.43	0.36	0.29	0.38	1	0.38	0.51	0.33	0.48	0.28	0.38	0.47	0.31	0.3	0.46	0.3	0.37	0.42	0.35	0.49	0.4	
HAI	0.41	0.35	0.33	0.3	0.33	0.35	0.33	0.18	0.27	0.32	0.25	0.21	0.31	0.21	0.24	0.21	0.52	0.2	0.2	0.38	0.38	1	0.39	0.23	0.25	0.21	0.22	0.44	0.21	0.25	0.28	0.18	0.19	0.23	0.21	0.42	0.3	0.3
HAU	0.72	0.49	0.67	0.26	0.38	0.61	0.59	0.23	0.45	0.51	0.5	0.41	0.52	0.36	0.45	0.39	0.39	0.41	0.38	0.42	0.51	0.39	1	0.38	0.51	0.24	0.43	0.47	0.33	0.31	0.51	0.33	0.43	0.44	0.34	0.44	0.4	
HAW	0.41	0.29	0.36	0.28	0.3	0.31	0.39	0.23	0.23	0.26	0.46	0.38	0.31	0.73	0.3	0.22	0.24	0.36	0.45	0.24	0.33	0.23	0.38	1	0.37	0.35	0.37	0.31	0.35	0.34	0.38	0.59	0.38	0.41	0.67	0.32	0	
HIN	0.55	0.34	0.53	0.32	0.32	0.43	0.45	0.25	0.27	0.35	0.54	0.48	0.52	0.34	0.5	0.41	0.36	0.49	0.37	0.31	0.48	0.25	0.51	0.37	1	0.31	0.51	0.35	0.35	0.33	0.57	0.41	0.53	0.53	0.37	0.29	0.3	
HUN	0.23	0.28	0.24	0.25	0.26	0.21	0.24	0.29	0.17	0.18	0.33	0.39	0.25	0.36	0.28	0.21	0.21	0.31	0.34	0.23	0.28	0.21	0.24	0.35	0.31	1	0.3	0.26	0.28	0.39	0.28	0.3	0.39	0.35	0.42	0.35	0.28	0.2
ICE	0.48	0.3	0.46	0.34	0.28	0.37	0.5	0.3	0.26	0.29	0.29	0.34	0.3	0.46	0.43	0.48	0.34	0.35	0.57	0.44	0.28	0.38	0.22	0.43	0.37	0.51	0.3	1	0.34	0.39	0.28	0.55	0.48	0.58	0.61	0.35	0.26	0.3
ITA	0.47	0.5	0.49	0.26	0.42	0.48	0.46	0.2	0.32	0.37	0.37	0.29	0.32	0.28	0.36	0.32	0.51	0.3	0.25	0.42	0.47	0.44	0.37	0.35	0.26	0.24	0.27	0.36	0.26	0.27	0.33	0.28	0.44	0.3	0.32	0.2		
JAM	0.32	0.3	0.32	0.28	0.25	0.27	0.3	0.3	0.33	0.21	0.22	0.44	0.46	0.32	0.35	0.37	0.26	0.25	0.39	0.37	0.24	0.31	0.21	0.33	0.35	0.39	0.24	1	0.32	0.41	0.42	0.4	0.38	0.34	0.32	0.2		
KAT	0.36	0.28	0.31	0.25	0.32	0.35	0.26	0.2	0.26	0.27	0.31	0.3	0.21	0.35	0.2	0.28	0.22	0.28	0.35	0.27	0.3	0.25	0.31	0.34	0.3	0.35	0.33	0.35	0.3	0.35	0.34	0.3	0.3	0.3				
KHA	0.55	0.37	0.49	0.32	0.41	0.5	0.31	0.41	0.58	0.58	0.49	0.38	0.48	0.34	0.34	0.46	0.42	0.39	0.46	0.28	0.51	0.38	0.57	0.3	0.55	0.36	0.41	0.38	1	0.37	0.56	0.53	0.41	0.37	0.3			
LIT	0.37	0.26	0.34	0.29	0.25	0.29	0.21	0.21	0.2	0.5	0.6	0.35	0.66	0.38	0.25	0.22</																						



5. Improving Typology

- Finer-grained Coding
- ‘Deconstructing’ Typology
- Select Suitable Characteristics

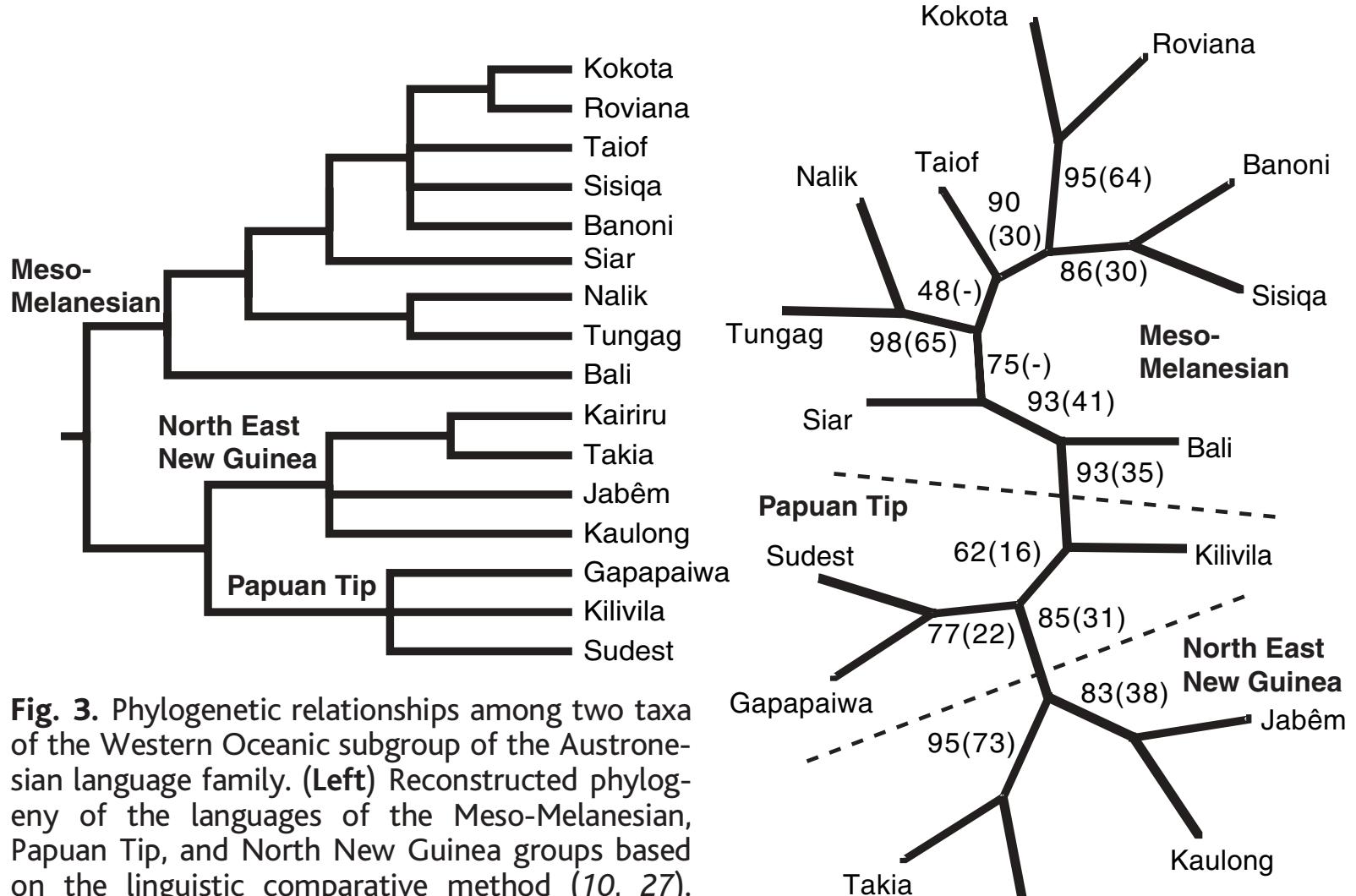
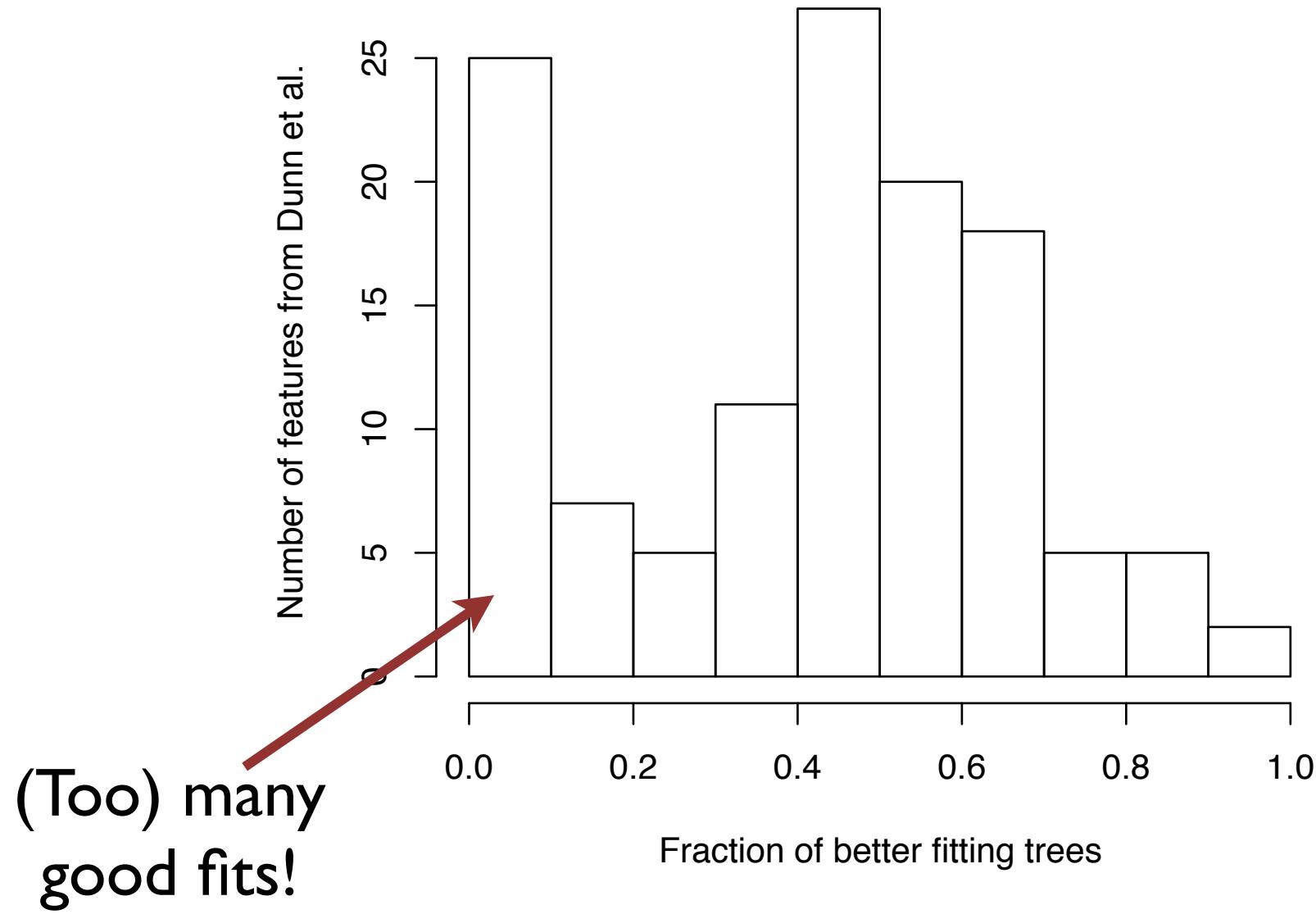
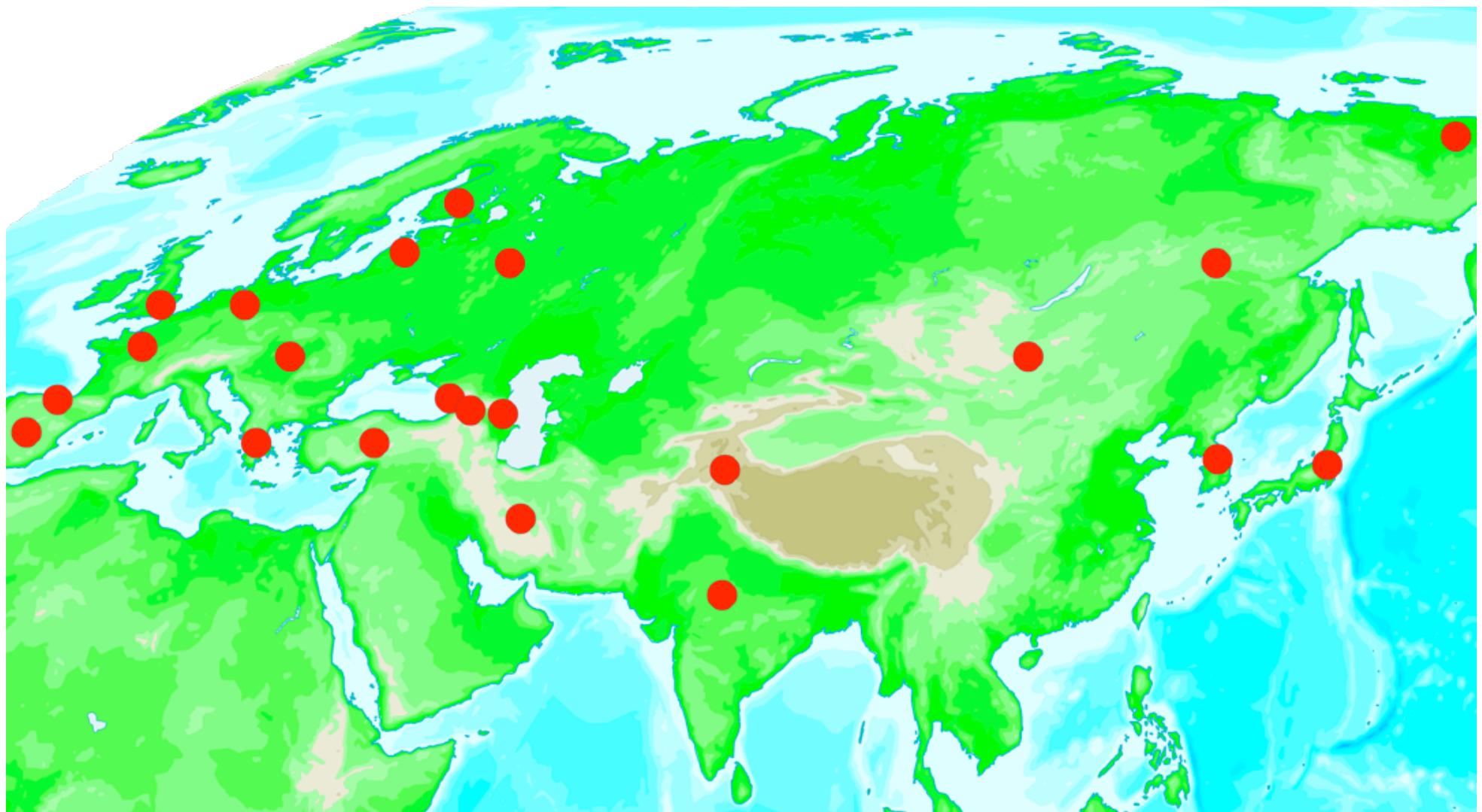


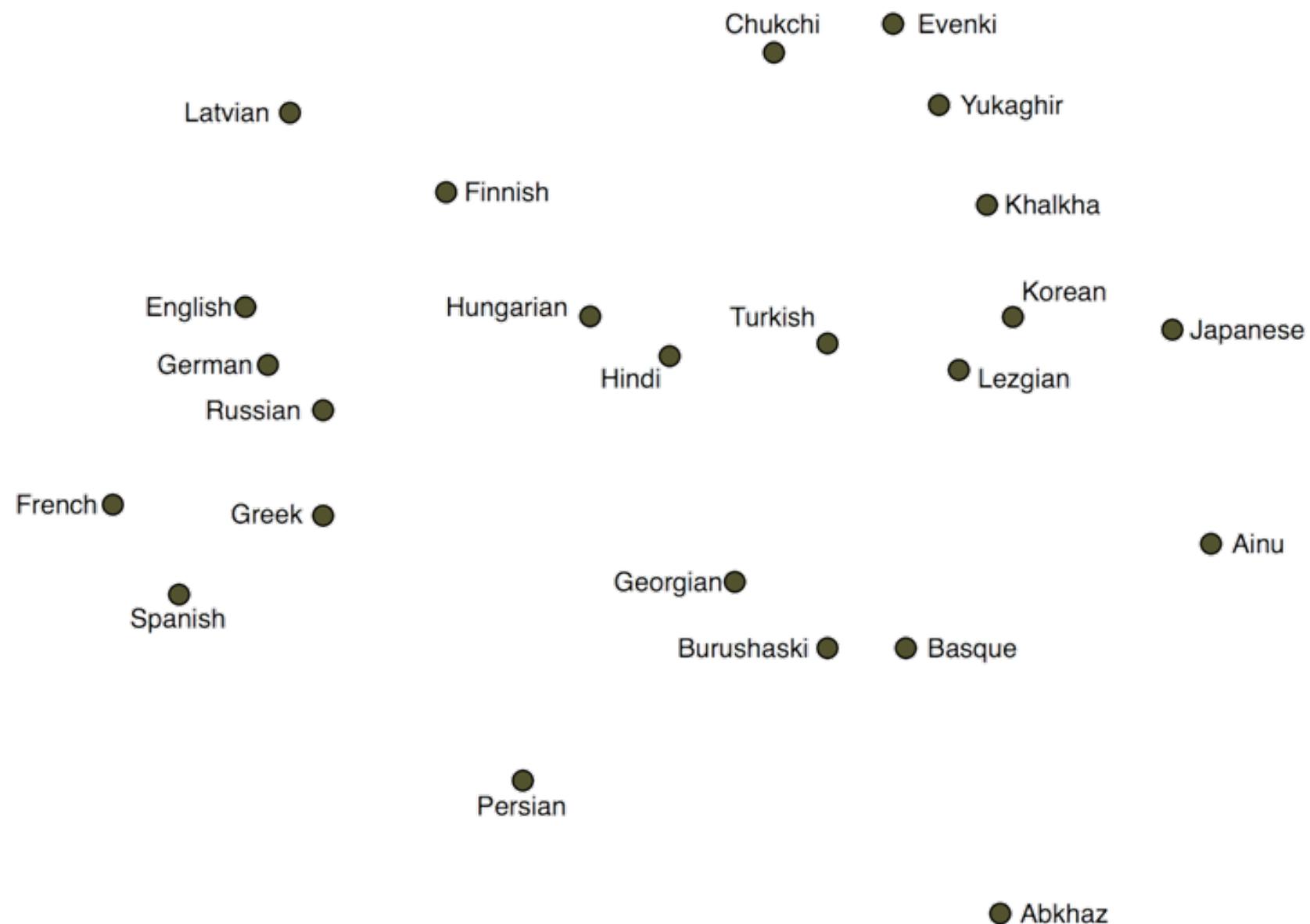
Fig. 3. Phylogenetic relationships among two taxa of the Western Oceanic subgroup of the Austronesian language family. (Left) Reconstructed phylogeny of the languages of the Meso-Melanesian, Papuan Tip, and North New Guinea groups based on the linguistic comparative method (10, 27). (Right) Unrooted parsimony tree showing relationships among the Meso-Melanesian and Papuan Tip groups based on grammatical traits only (that is, discarding abundant lexical evidence) (the figure shows reweighted and raw bootstrap values). The two trees show a high degree of concordance, with monophyly in both major taxa and the similar geographical structuring of within-taxon diversity.

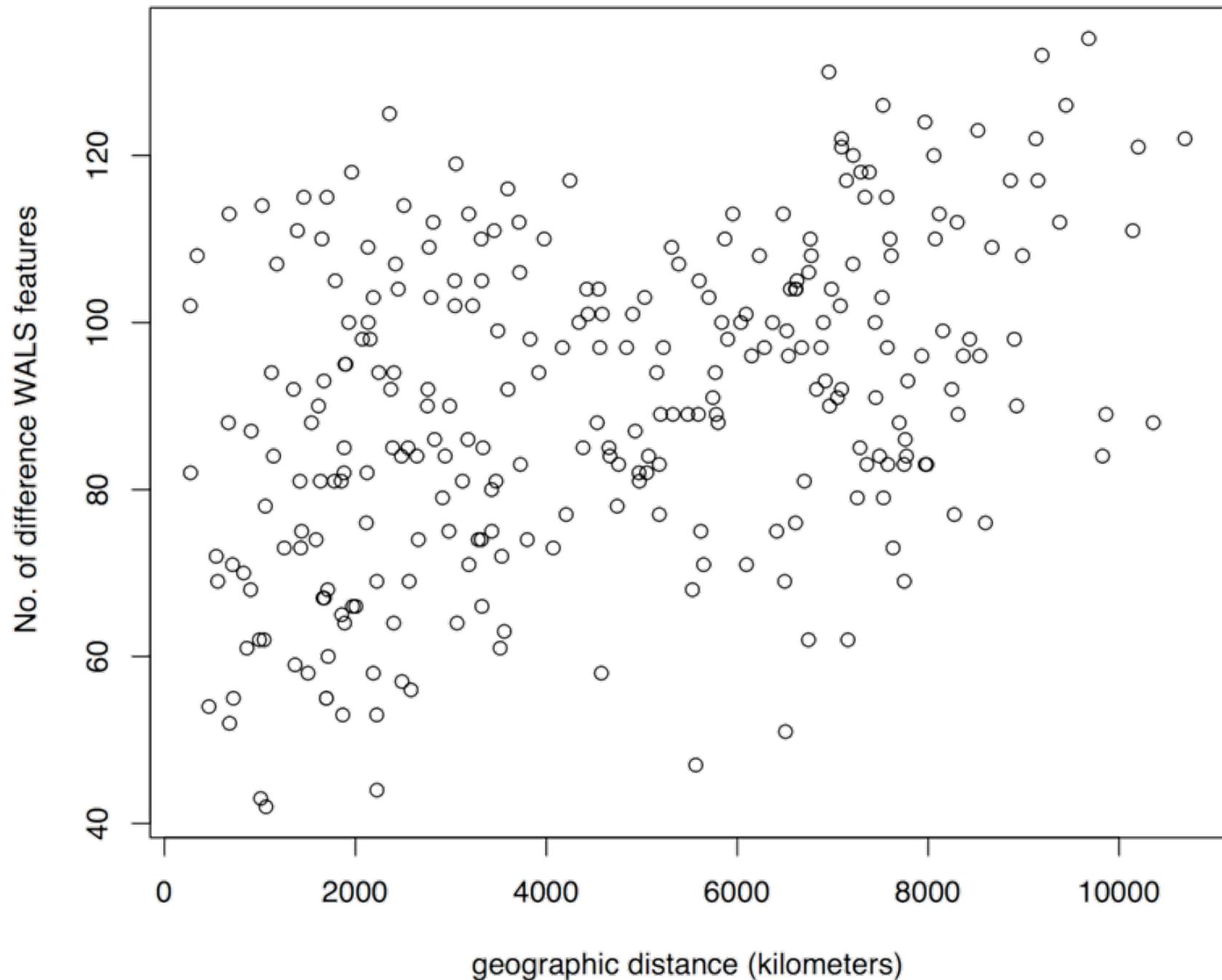
Fit for all 125 features

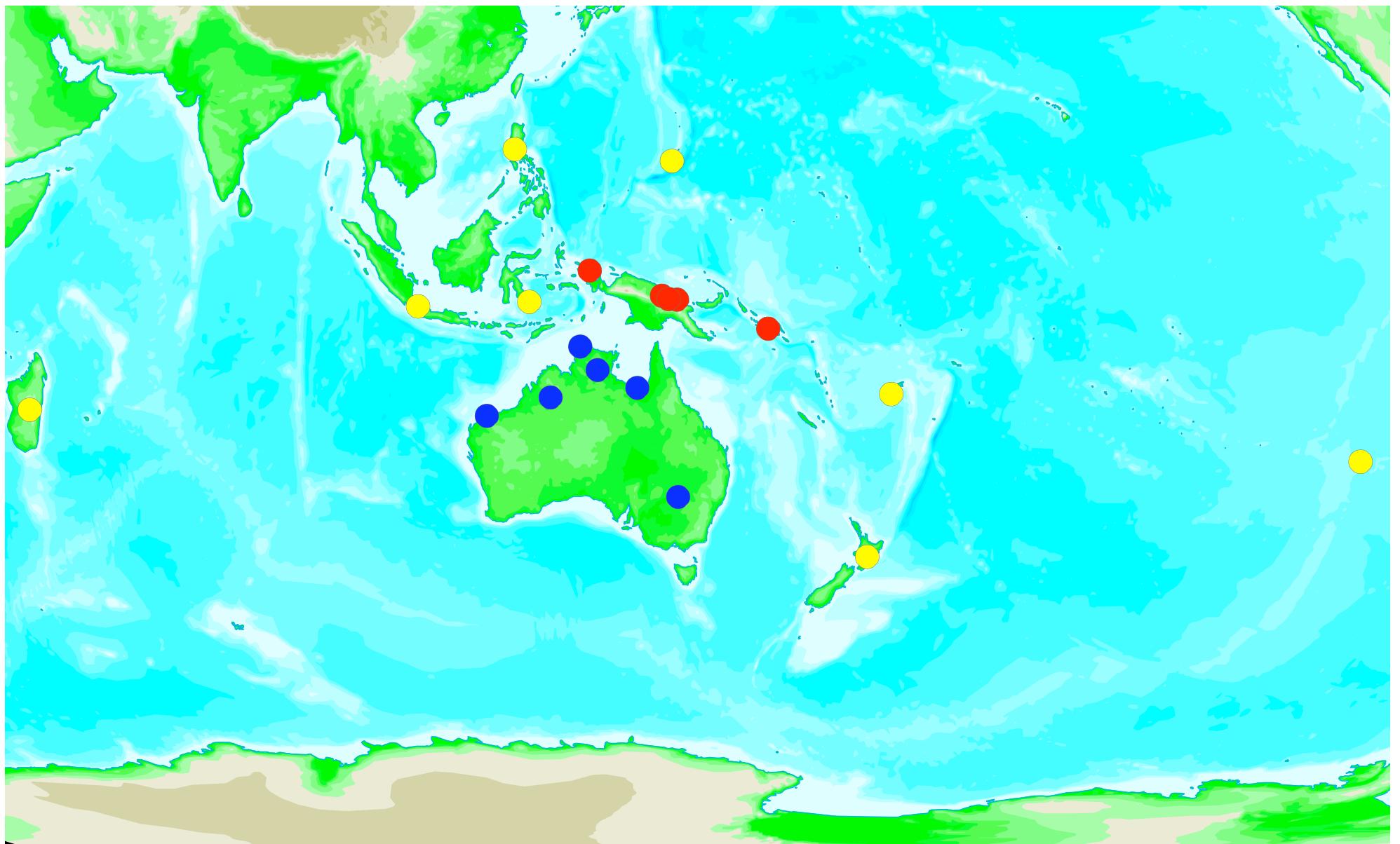


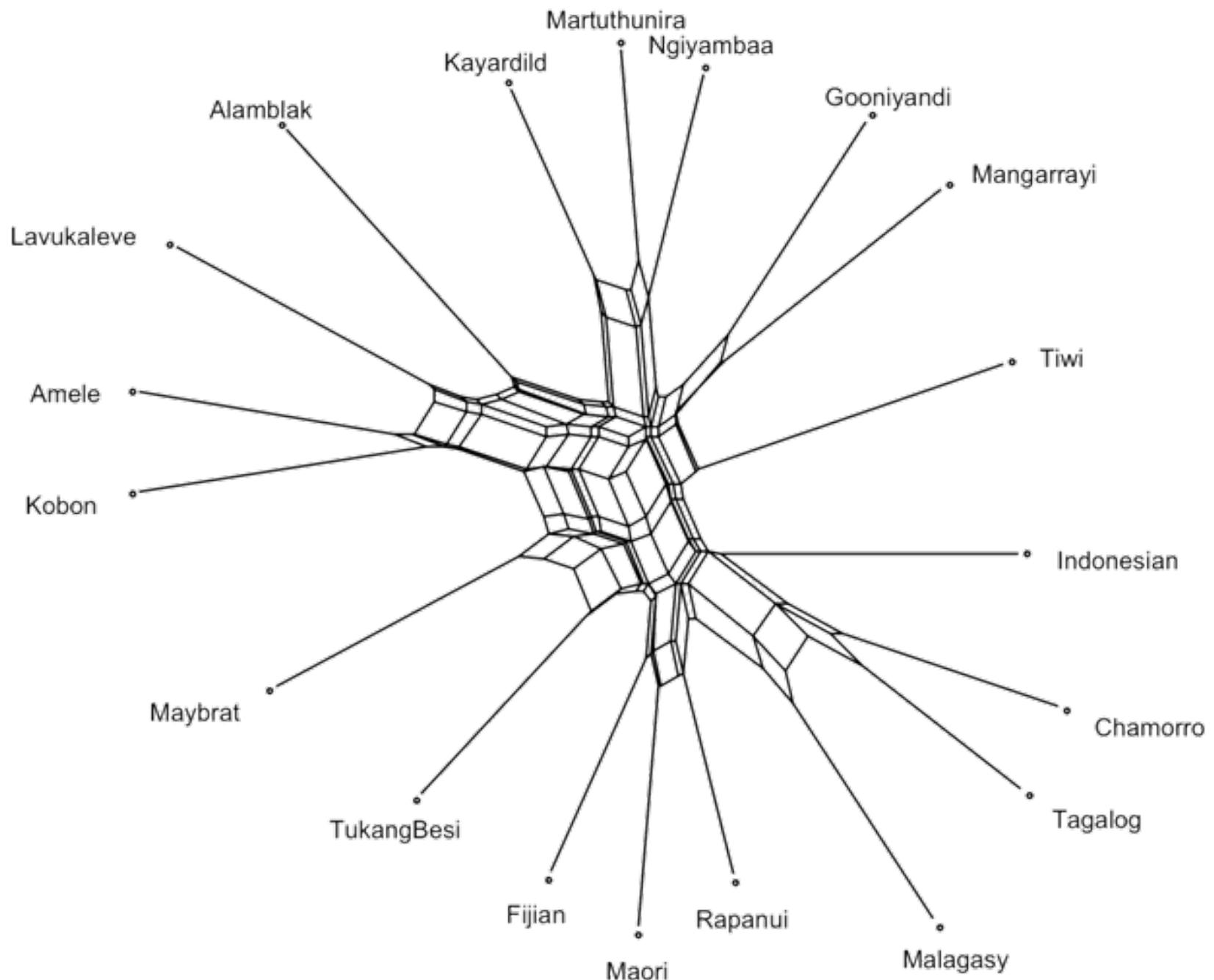
6. The Problem of Geographical Similarities

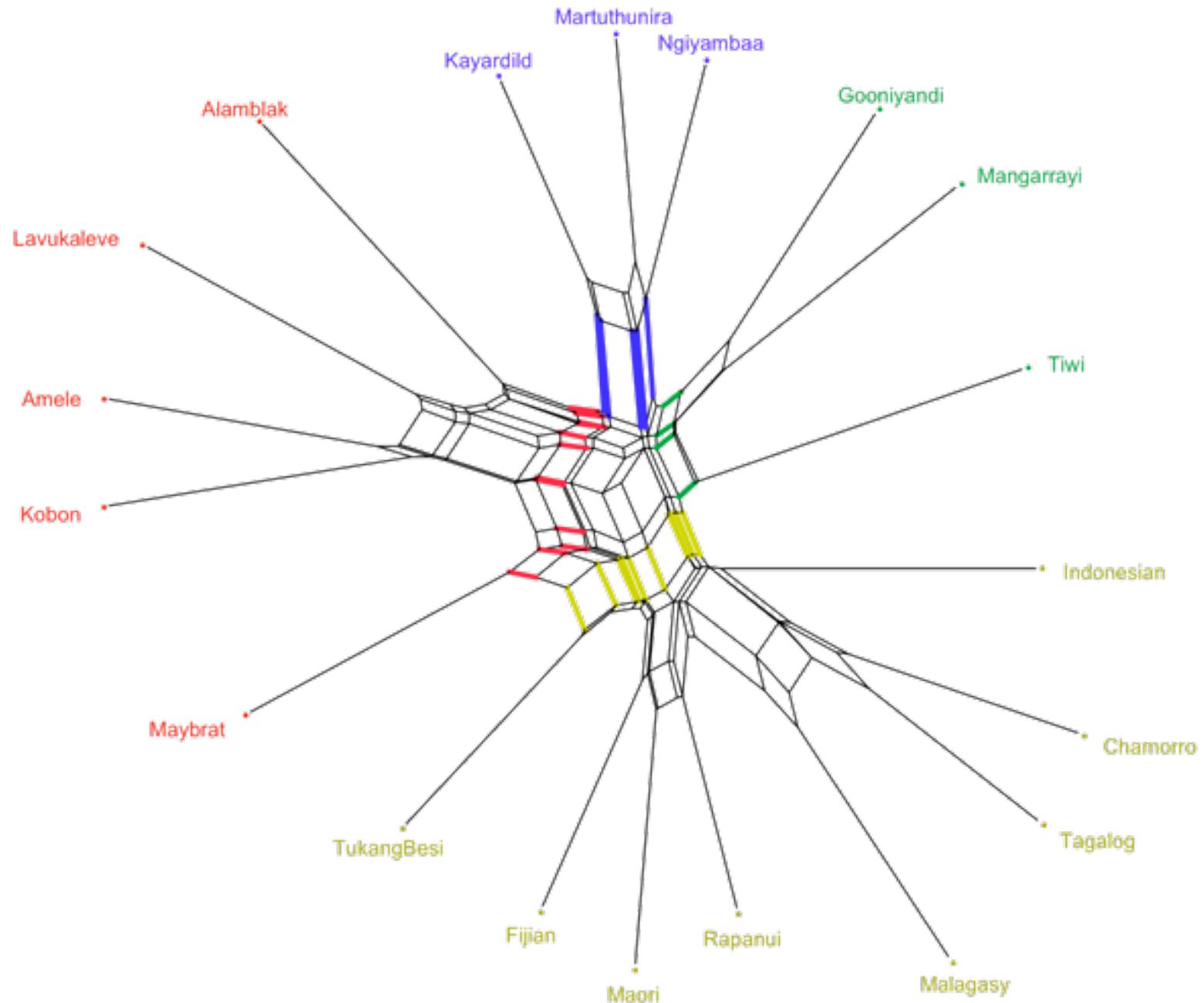




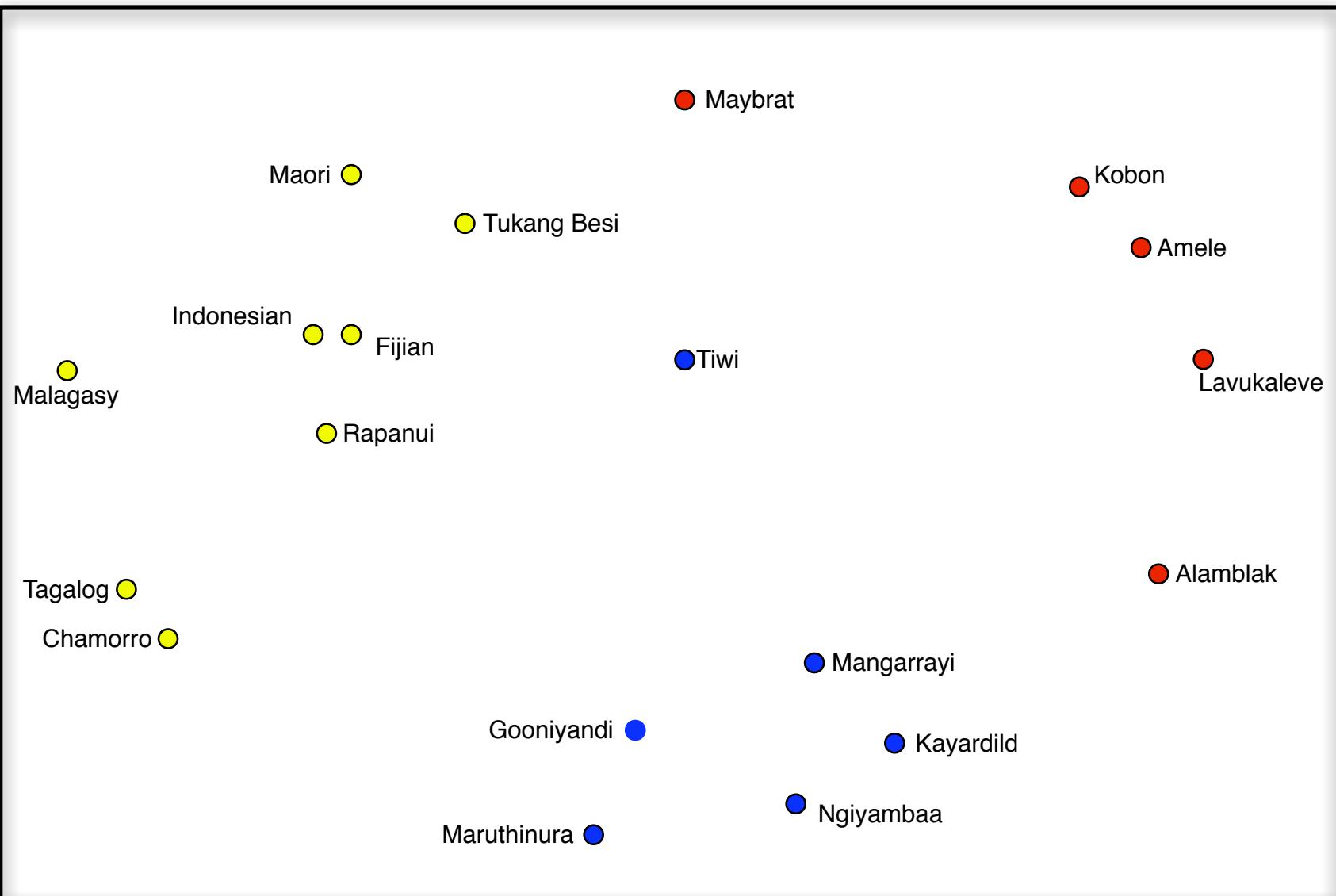


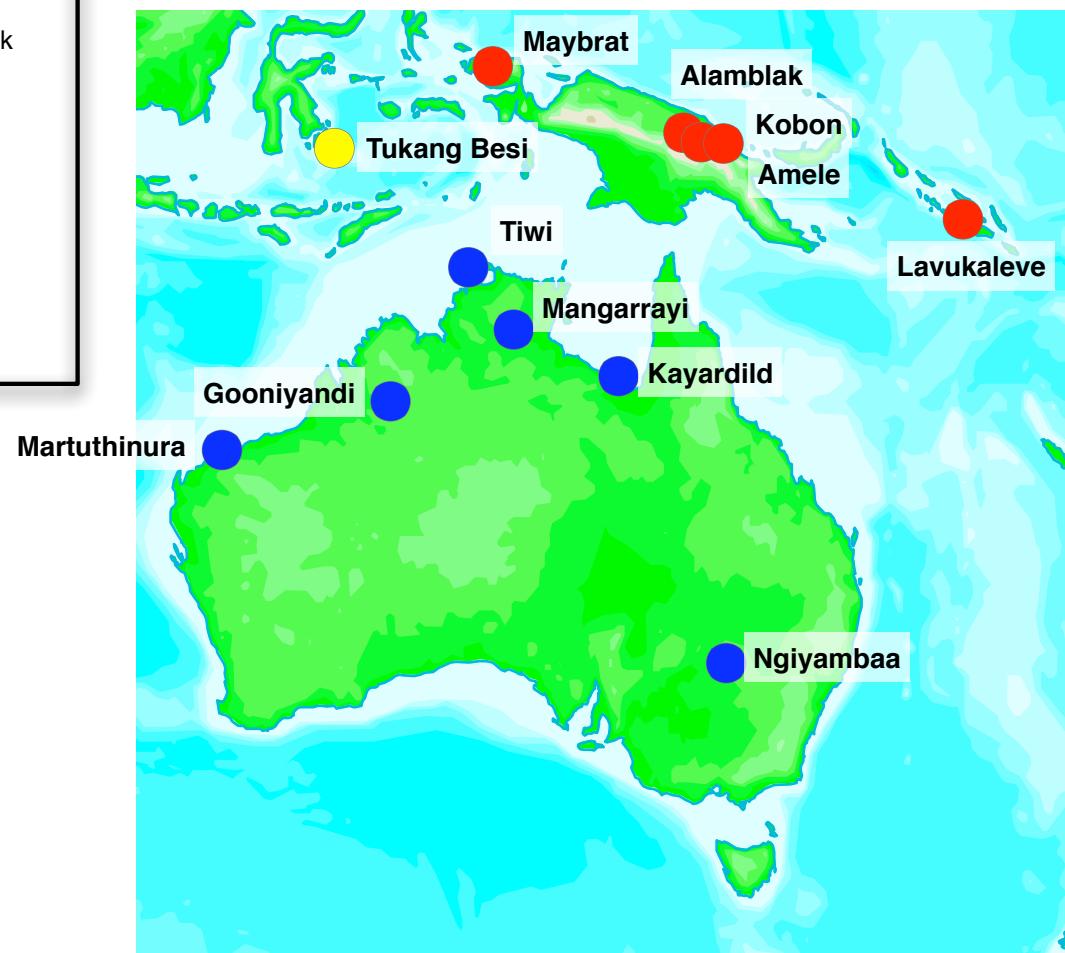
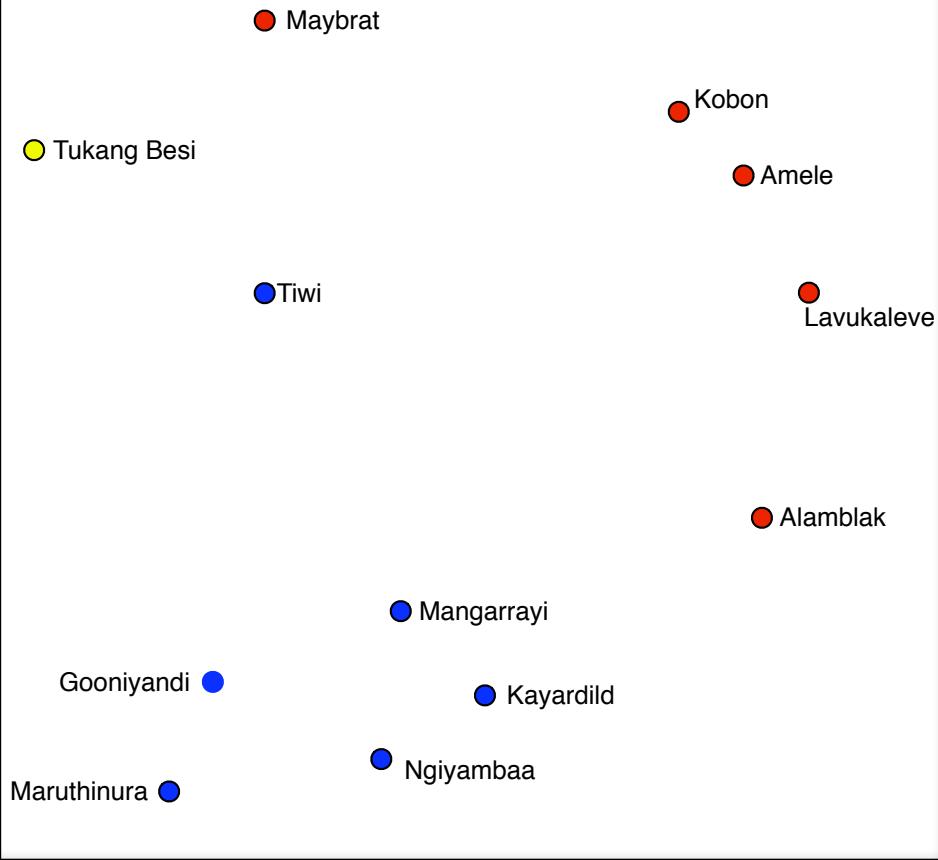




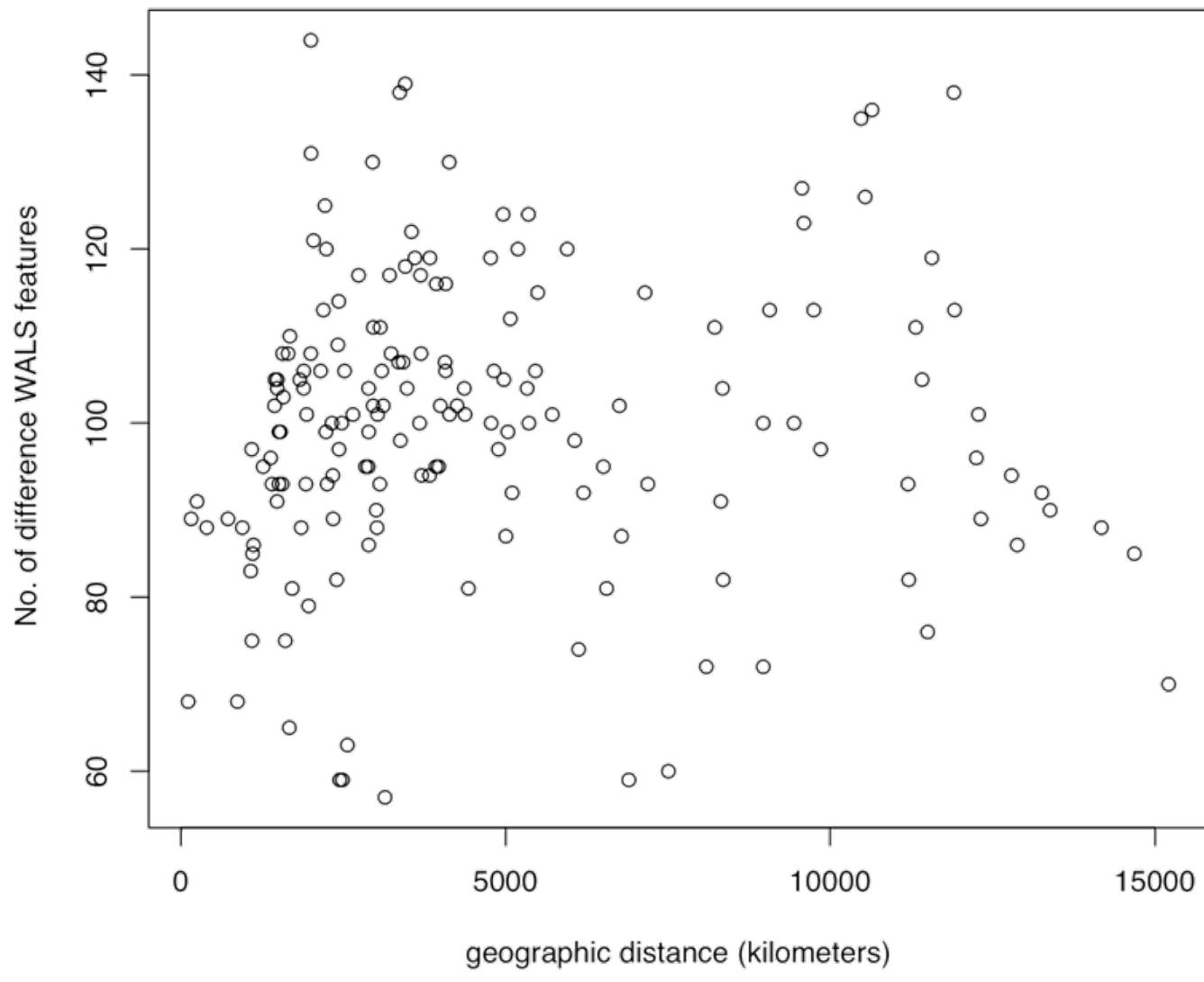


MDS of typological distances





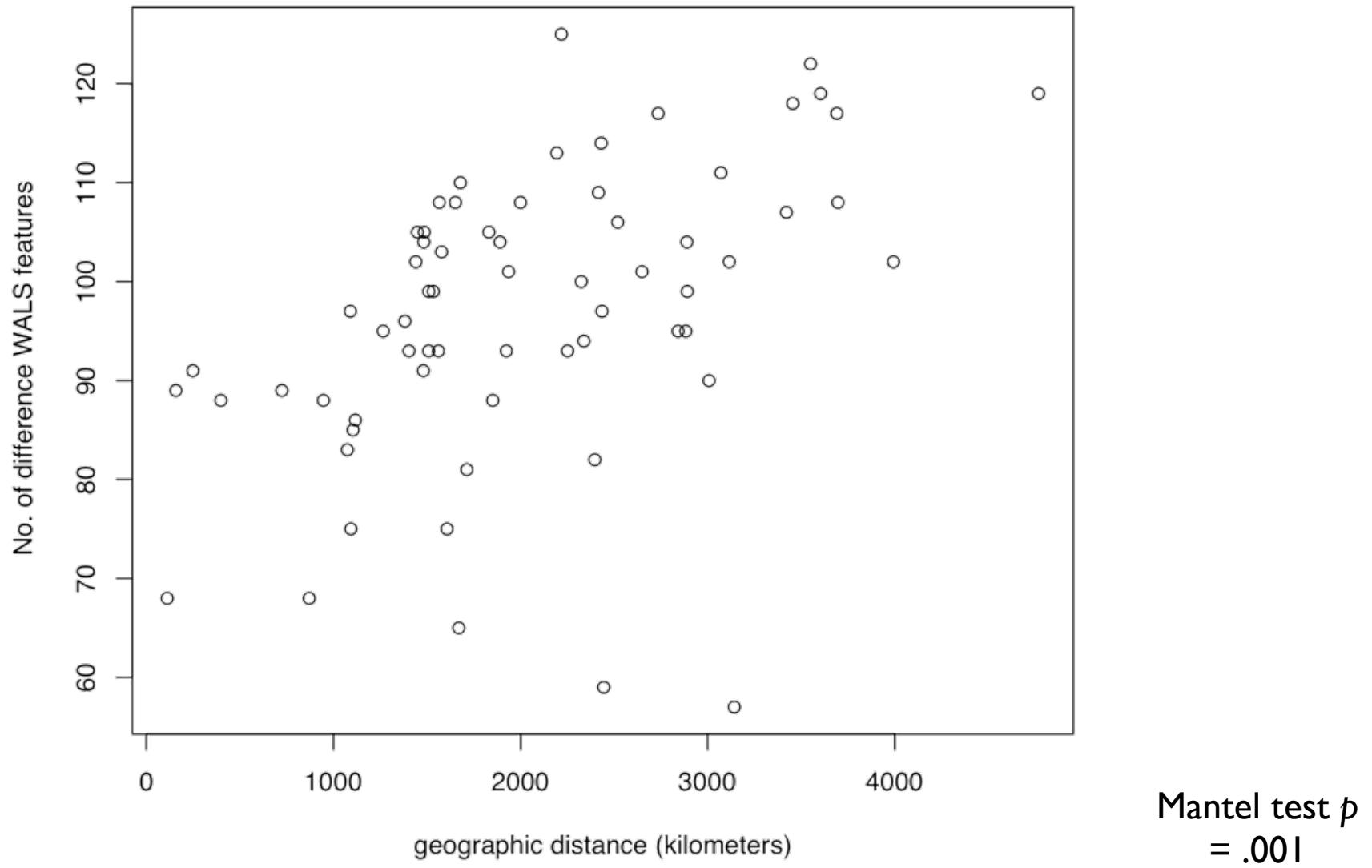
Typology/geography correlation



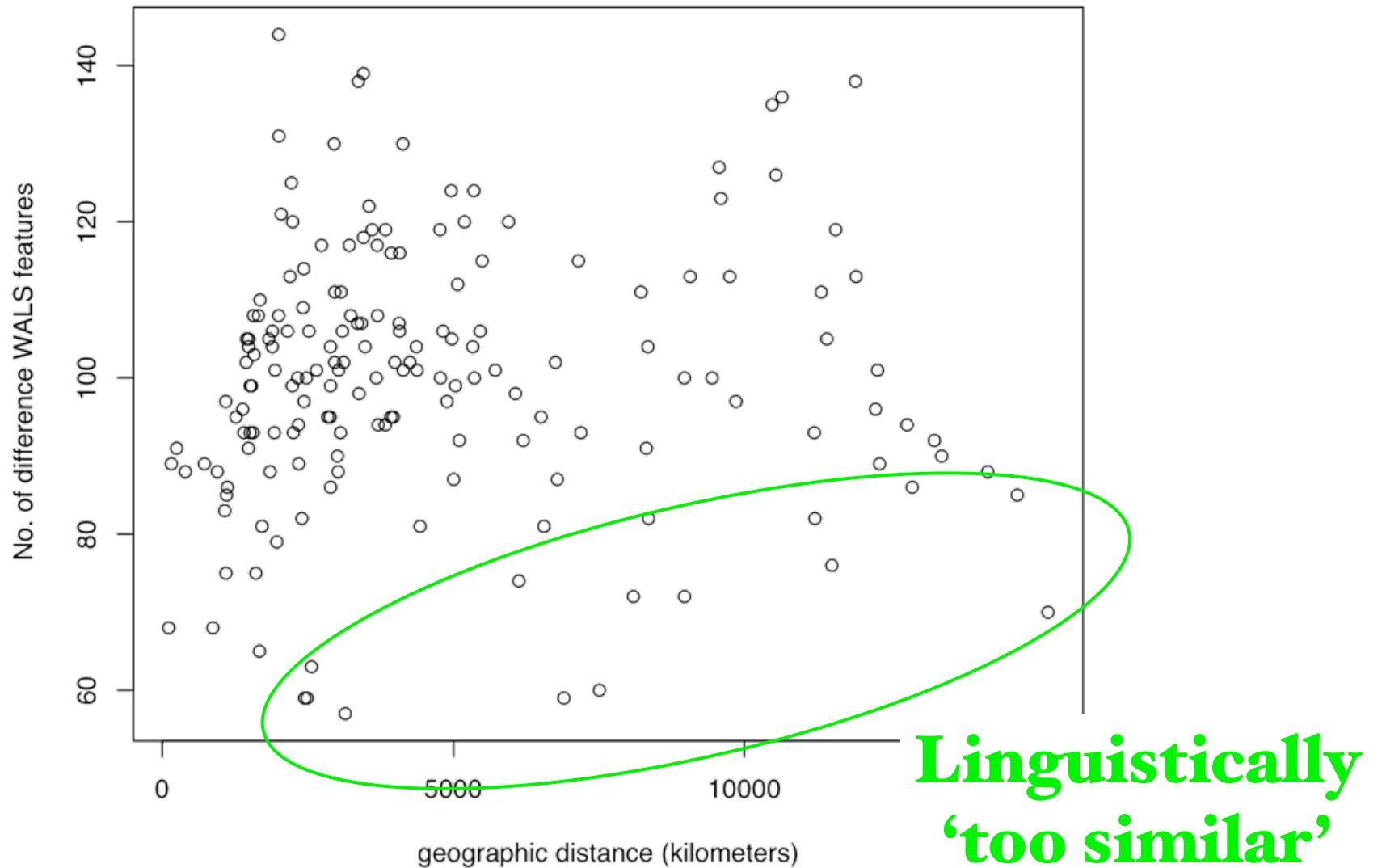
When does correlation improve?

	Pearson's <i>r</i>
Nothing removed	.035
Rapanui	.186
Chamorro	.086
Indonesian	.076
Fijian	.073
Tagalog	.071
Maori	.062
Tukang Besi	.048

Correlation for selection



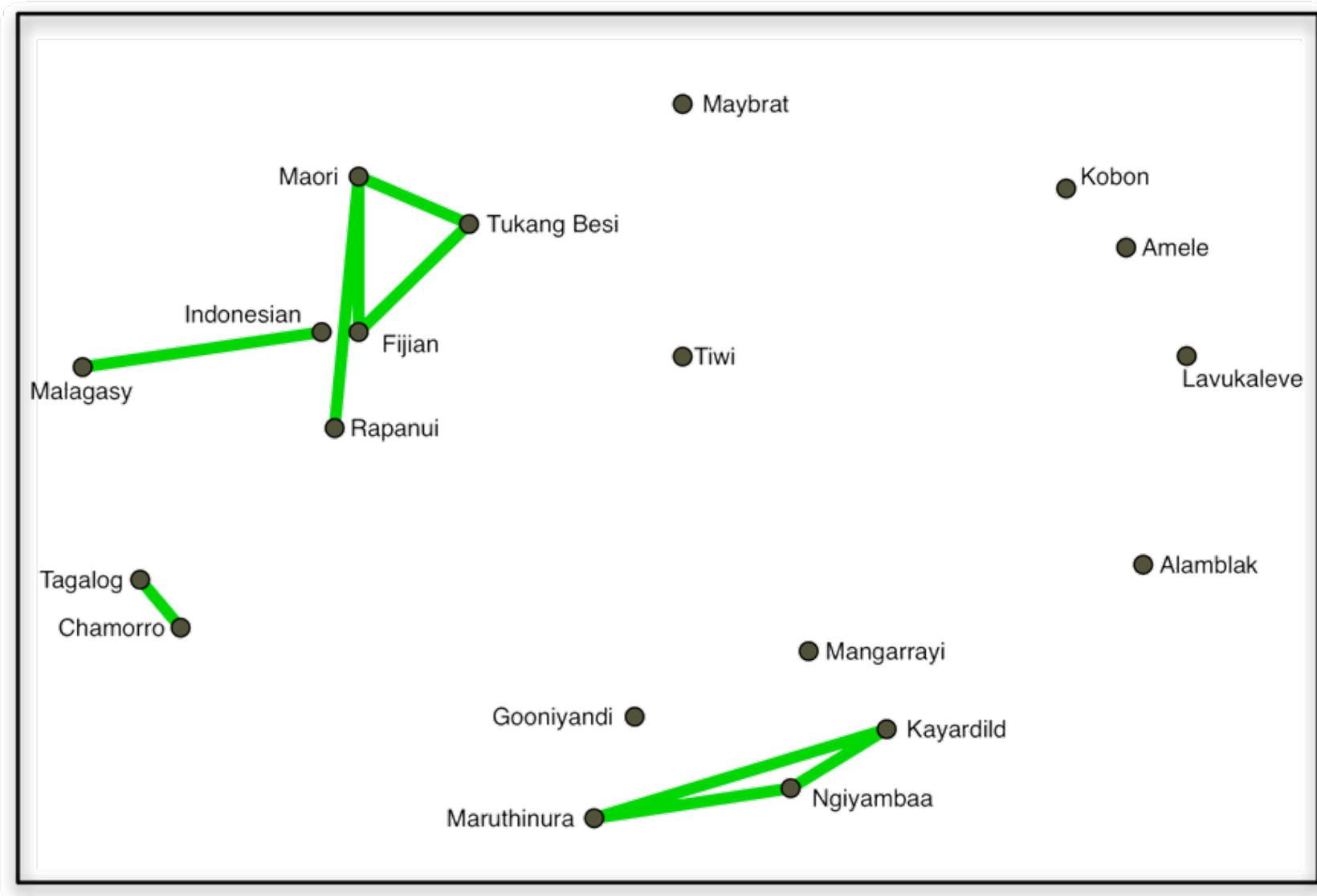
Investigation typology/geography relation



Linguistically ‘too similar’



Linguistically ‘too similar’





MAX-PLANCK-GESELLSCHAFT

Max Planck Institute
for Evolutionary Anthropology