

Diphthongs and Triphthongs

Ronaldo Lima Jr

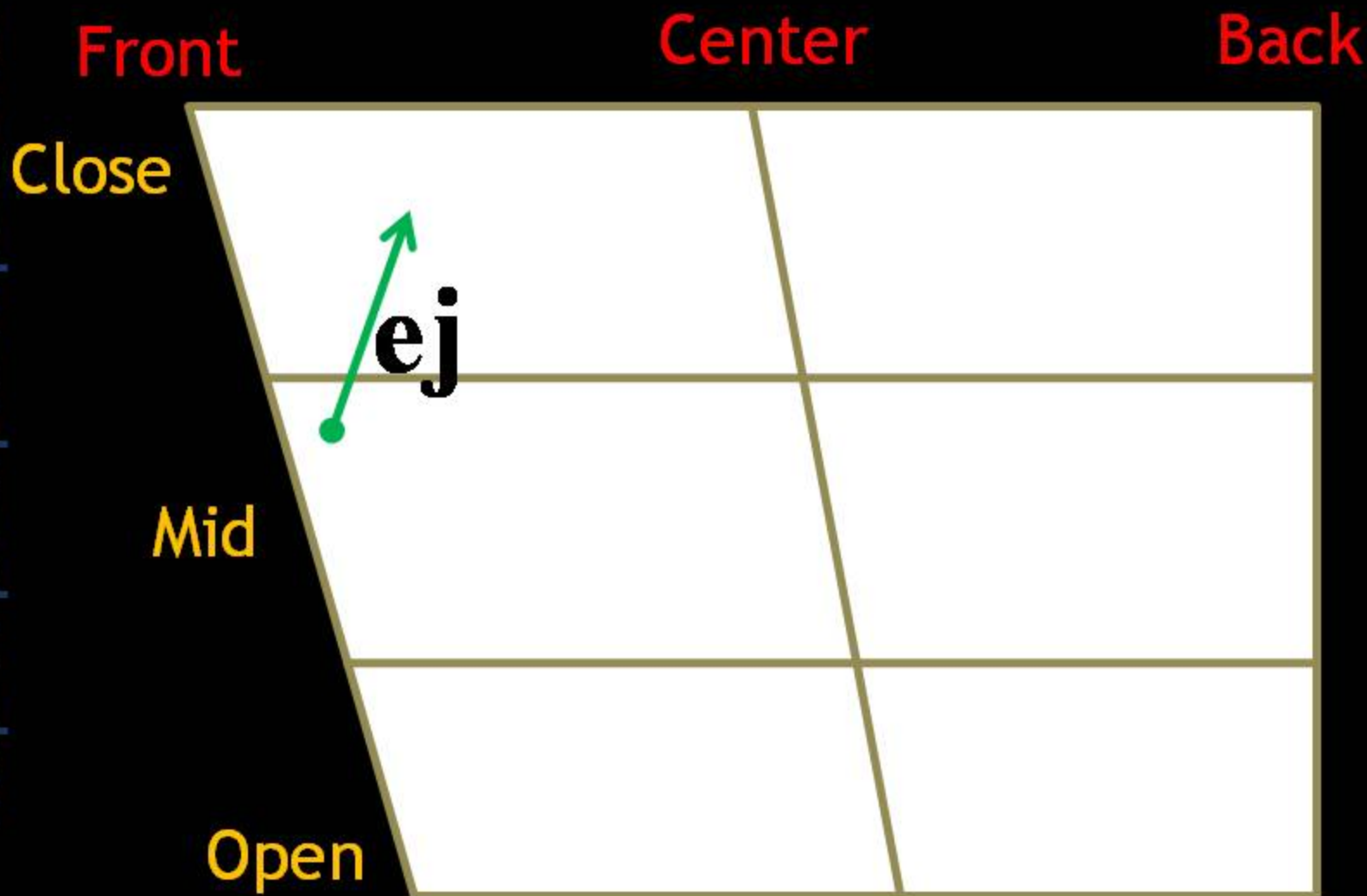
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DIPHTHONGS

- Also called **glides** because of the movement of the tongue, lips and jaw
- The first sound is longer
- Diphthongs are considered one **sound**

CLOSING DIPHTHONGS

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CLOSING DIPHTHONGS

/ej/ /eɪ/*

cae

way / weigh

say

spray

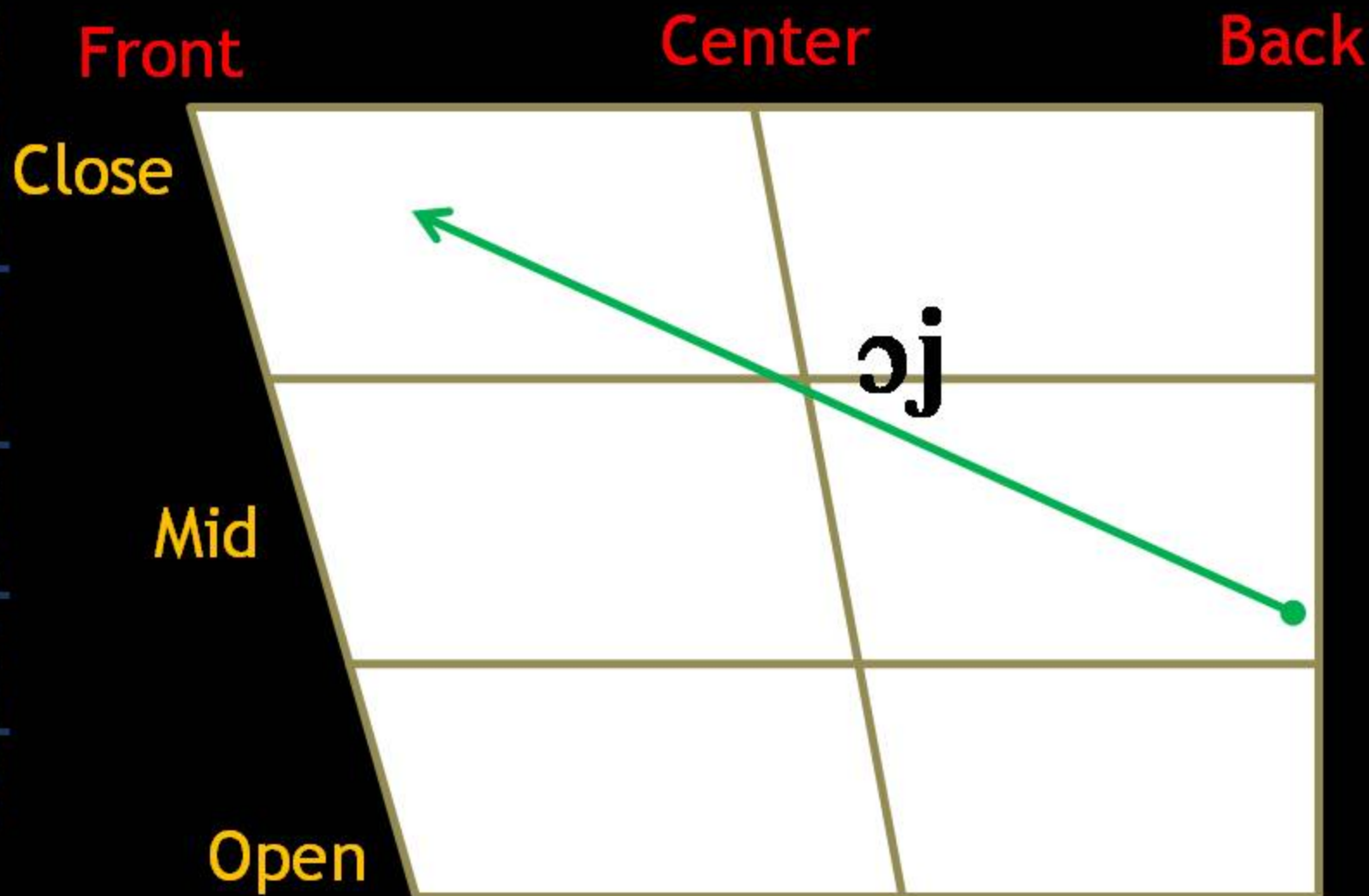
pain

steak

gauge

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CLOSING DIPHTHONGS

/ɔj/ /ɔɪ/*

toy

avoid

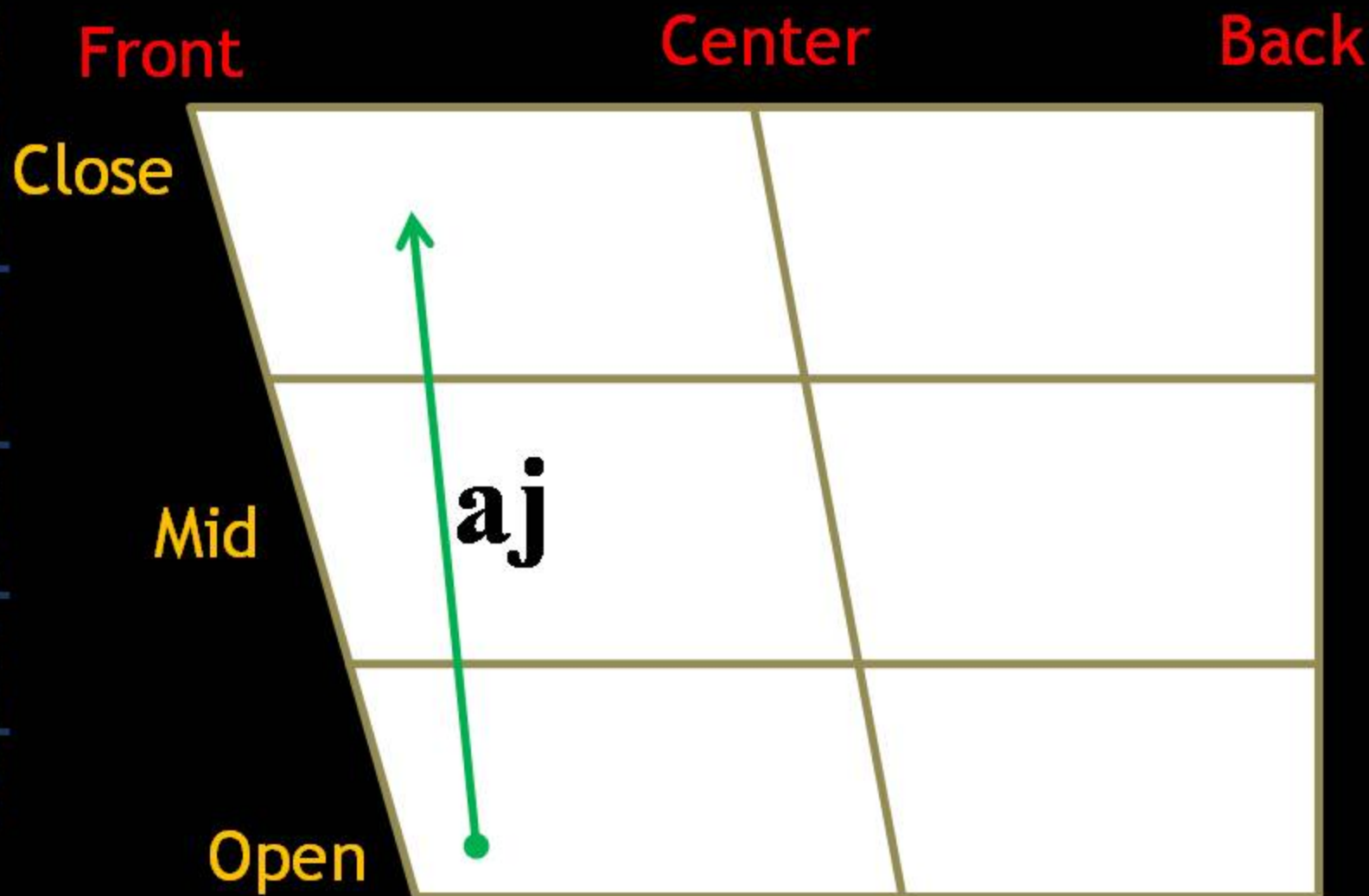
voice

enjoy

boy

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CLOSING DIPHTHONGS

/aj/ /aɪ/*

high / hii

buy / bye

tie

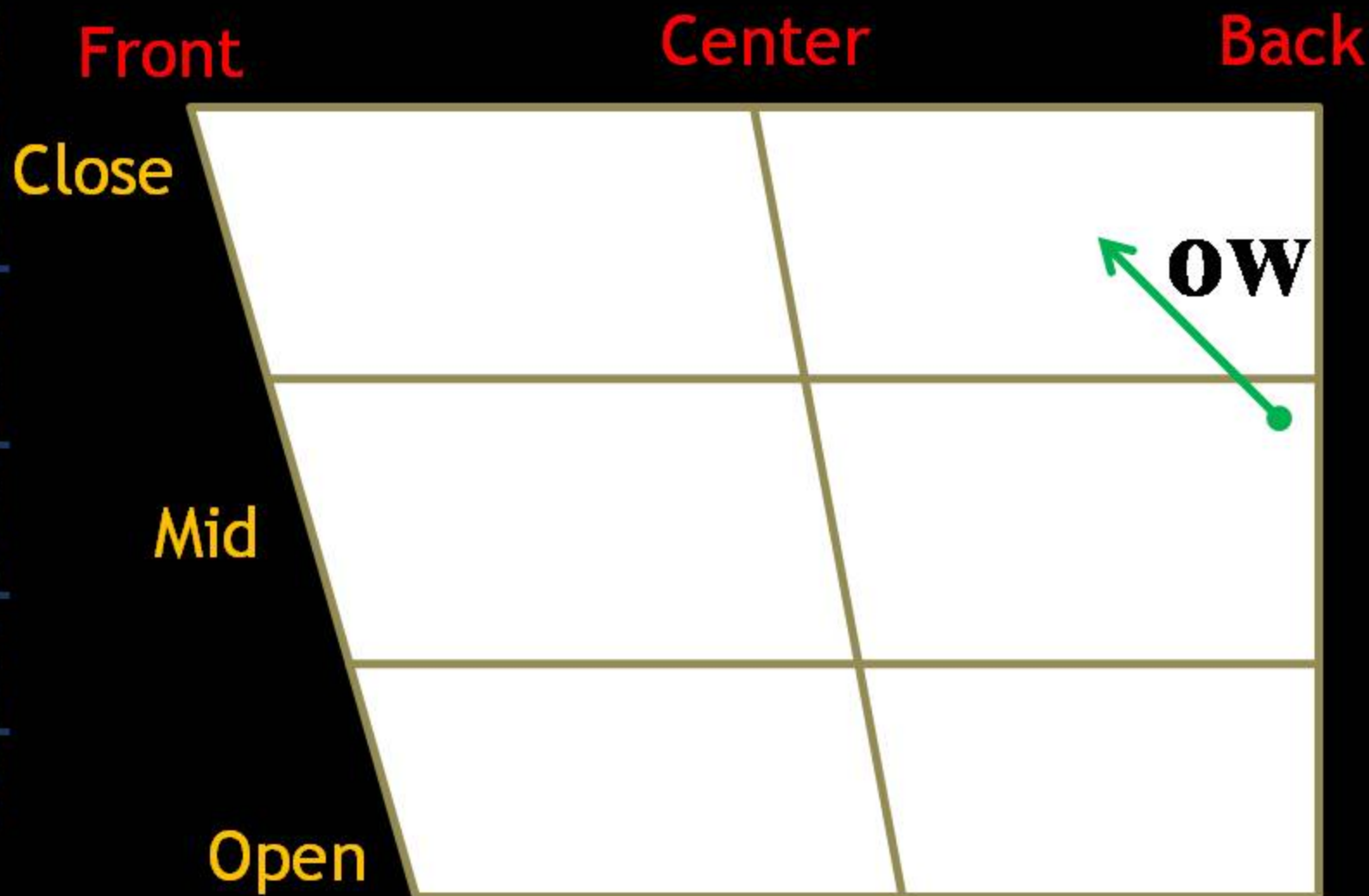
kite

might

eye

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CLOSING DIPHTHONGS

/oʊ/ /ou/*

go

snow

toast

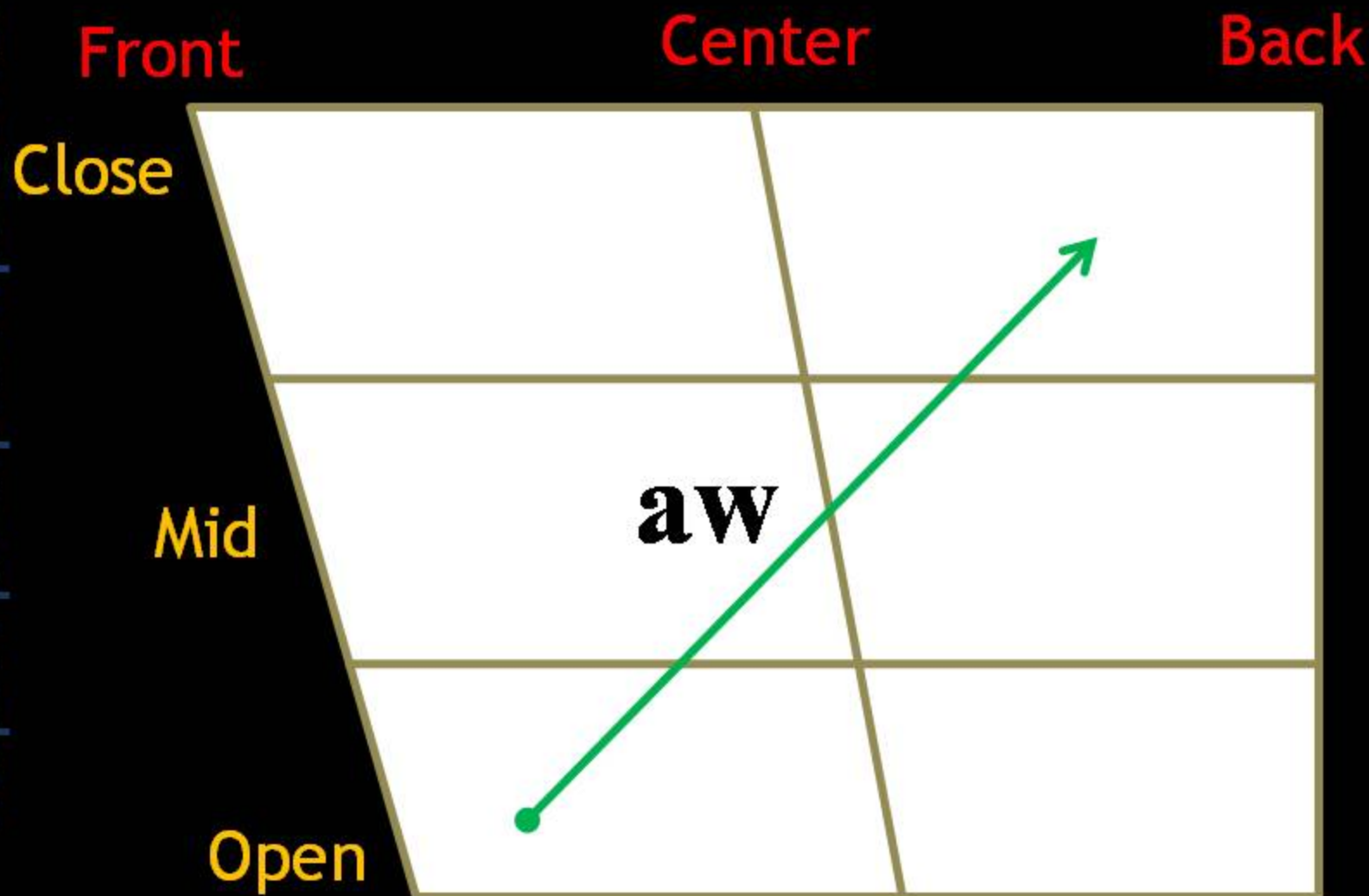
home

hello

although

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CLOSING DIPHTHONGS

/aʊ/ /aʊ/*

house

loud

down

how

bough

DIPHTHONGS

The previous were the 5
diphthongs for American and
British English.

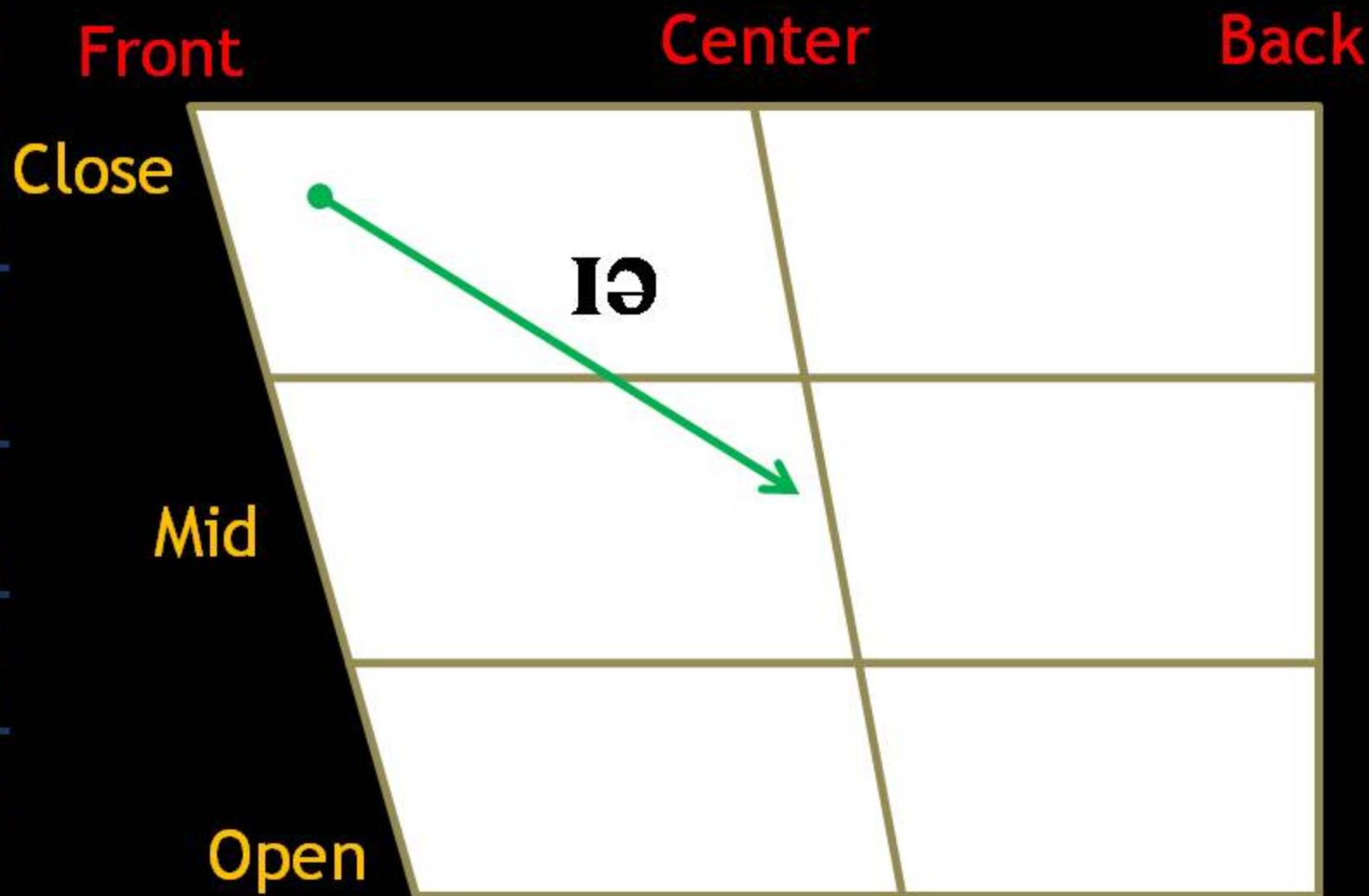
However, some authors don't consider
/ej/ and /ow/ diphthongs, but pure
vowels, using the symbols /e/ and
/o/ to represent them.

DIPHTHONGS

The following are diphthongs
only in British and non-rhotic
varieties of English.

CENTERING DIPHTHONGS

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CENTERING DIPHTHONGS

BrE /ɪə/ AmE /ɪr/

beer

beard

fear

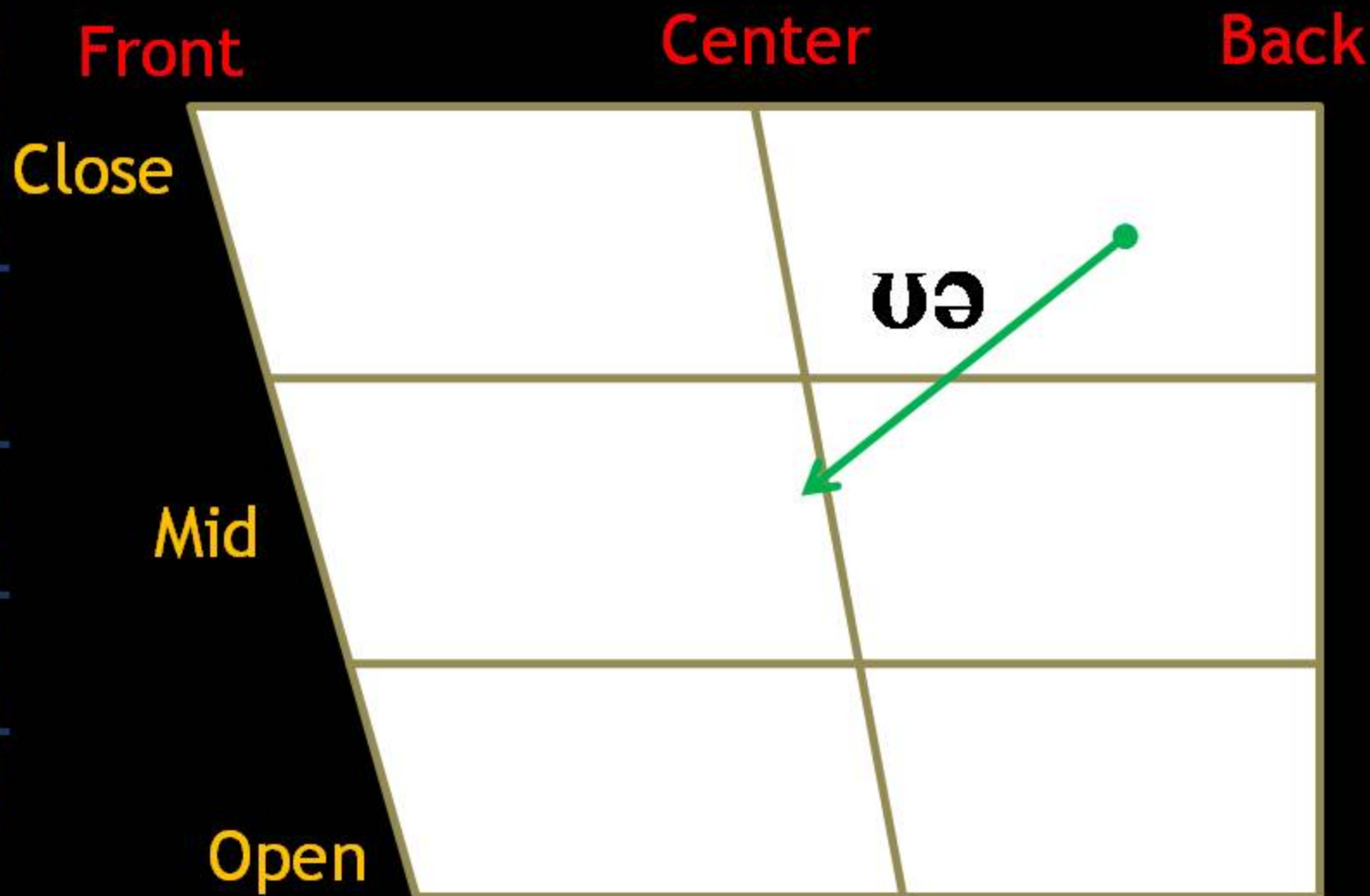
pierce

here

idea

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CENTERING DIPHTHONGS

BrE /ʊə/ AmE /ʊr/

sure*

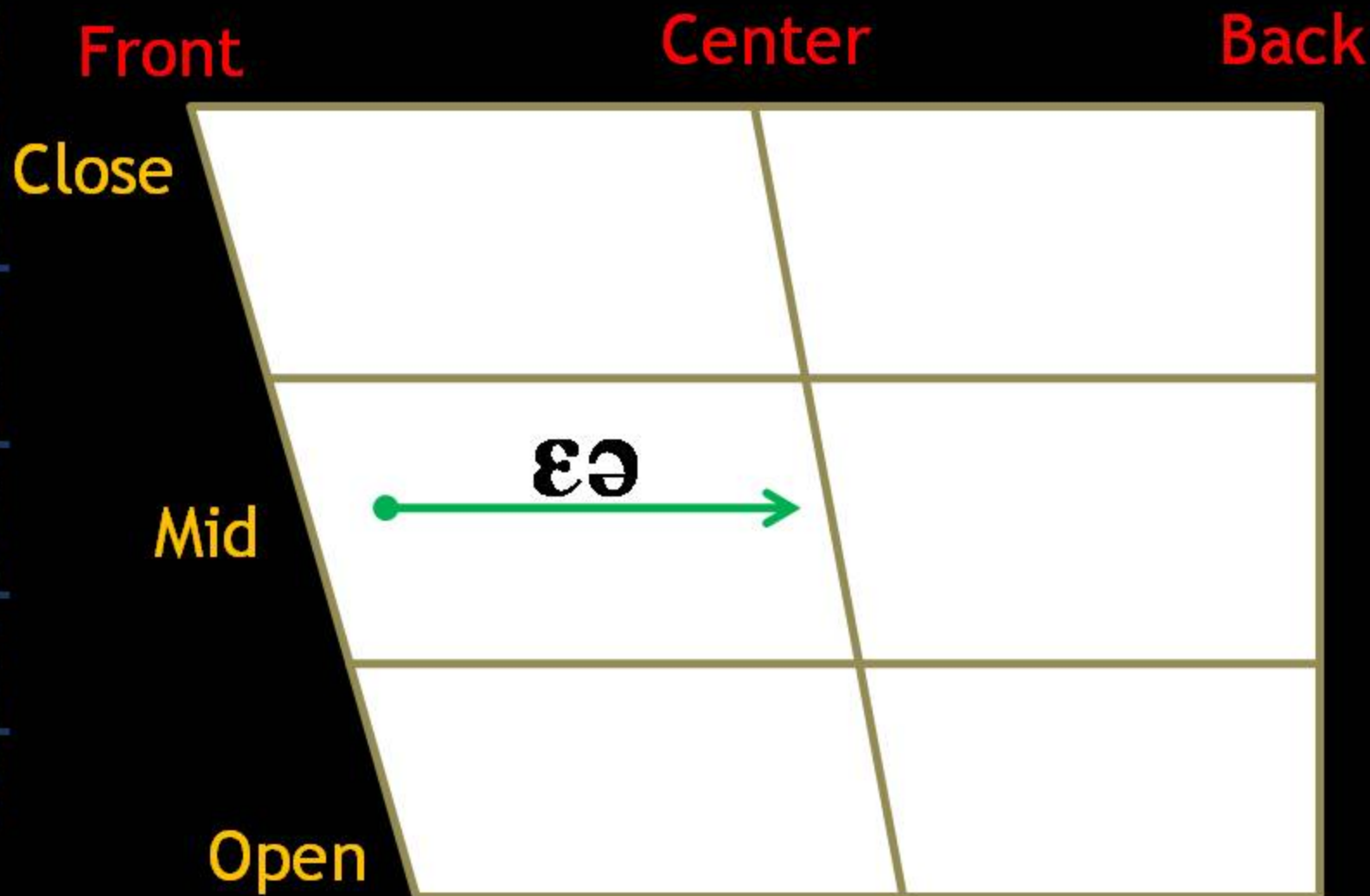
moor

tour

*(some speakers say BrE /ʃɔːr/ AmE /ʃɜːr/)

CENTERING DIPHTHONGS

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CENTERING DIPHTHONGS

BrE /ɛə/ AmE /ɛr/

where / wear

chair

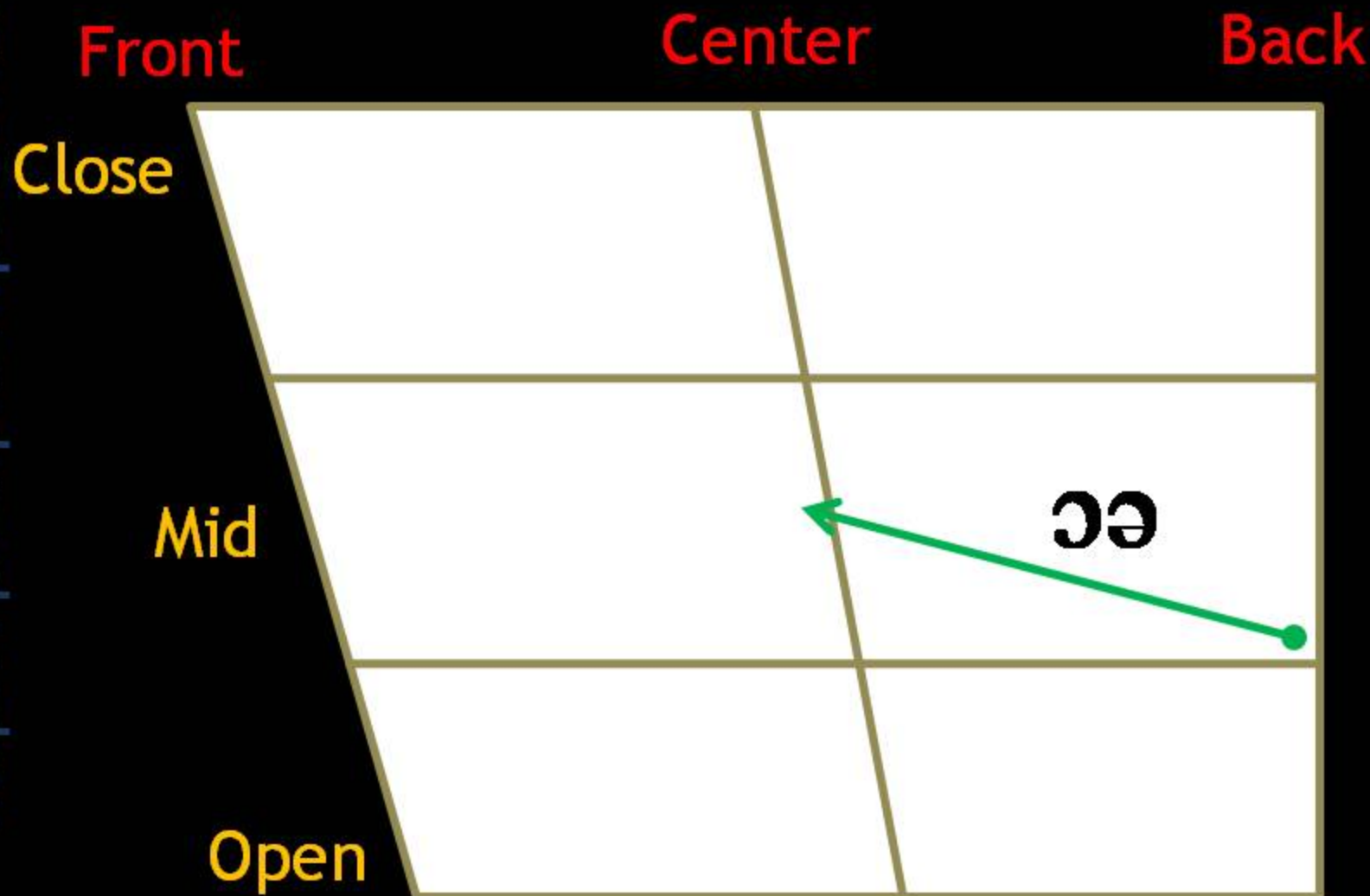
dare

stare

there

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CENTERING DIPHTHONGS

BrE /ɔə/ AmE /ɔr/

four

bore

core

soar

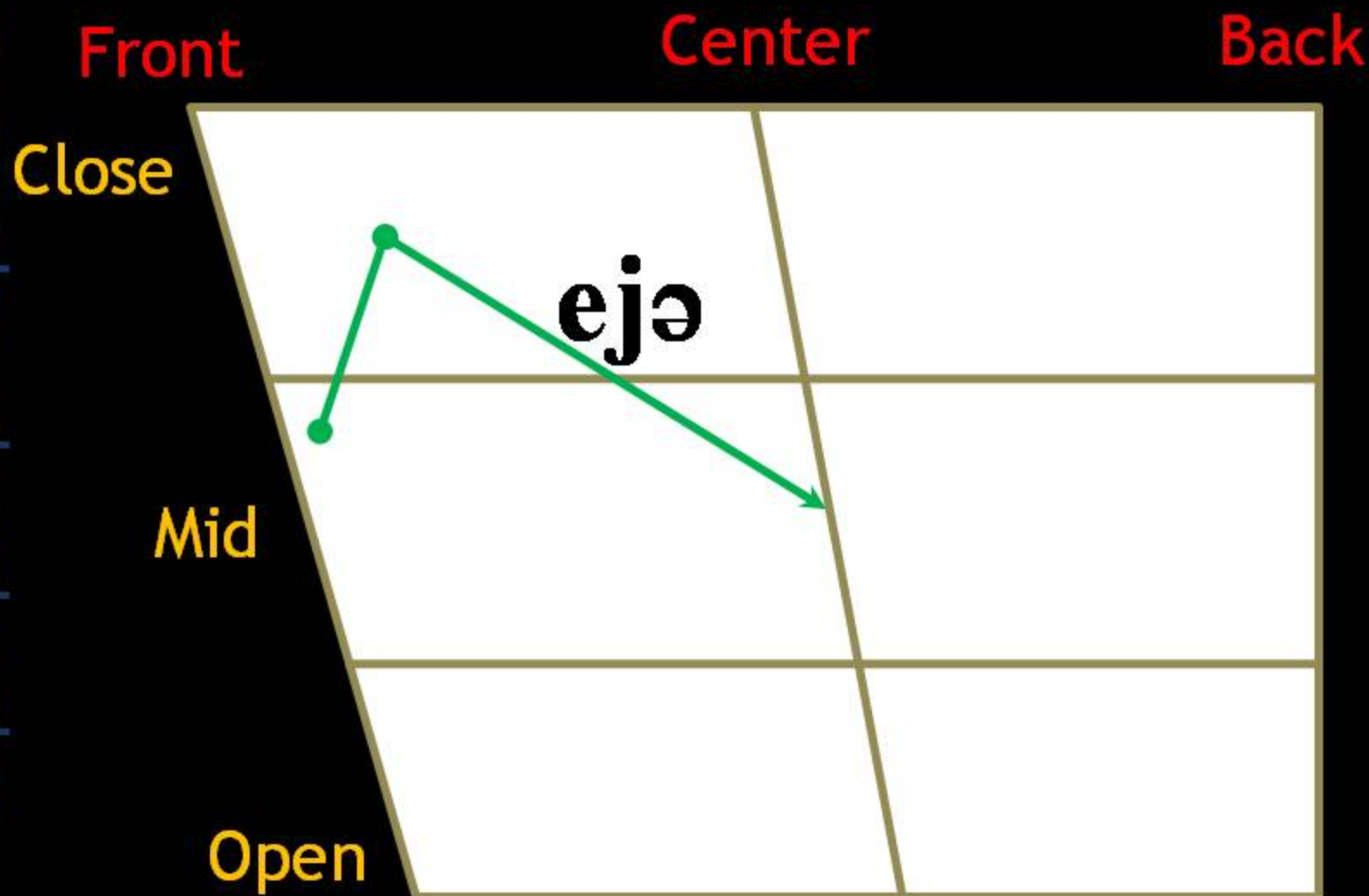
ignore

TRIPHTHONGS

- Just like the **centering diphthongs**, the **triphthongs** only occur in British and non-rhotic varieties of English
- They are the **closing diphthongs** + /ə/
- In American and rhotic varieties of English, the triphthongs are considered **two syllables**, a closing diphthong and /ər/

TRIPHTHONGS

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TRIPHTHONGS

BrE /ejə/ **AmE** /ej ər/

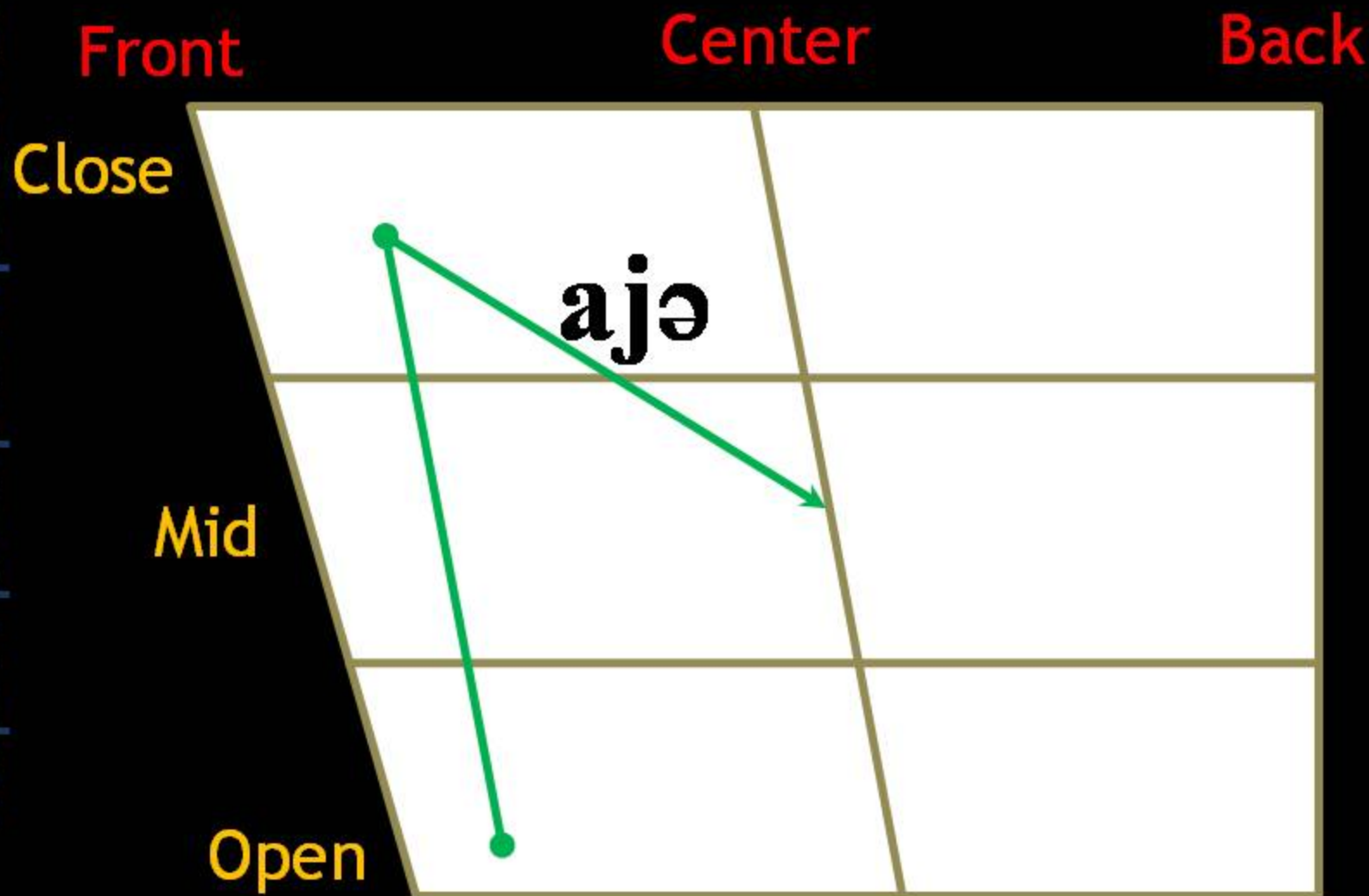
layer

player

mayor

TRIPHTHONGS

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TRIPHTHONGS

BrE /ajə/ AmE /aj ər/

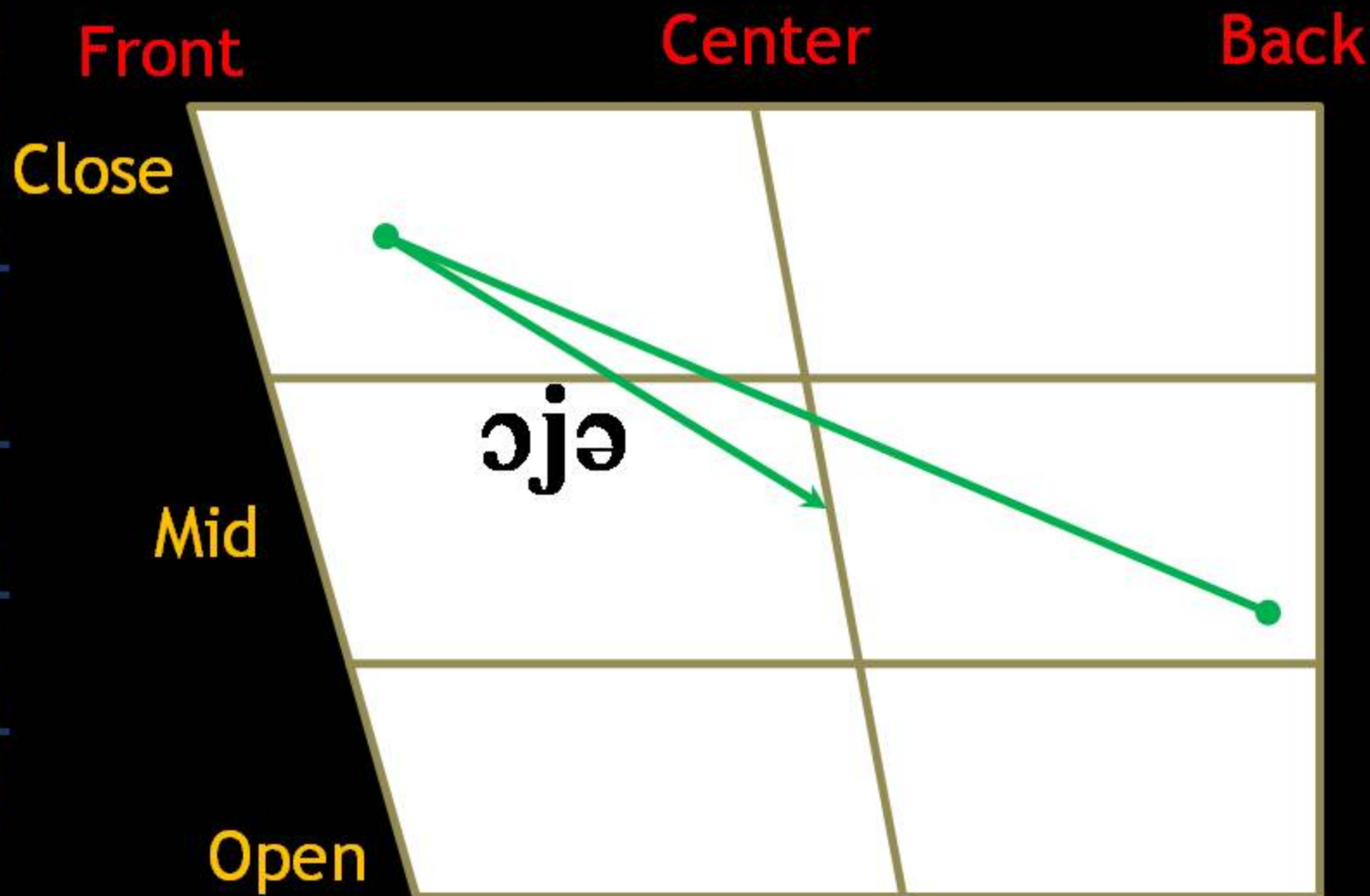
lier

fire

iron

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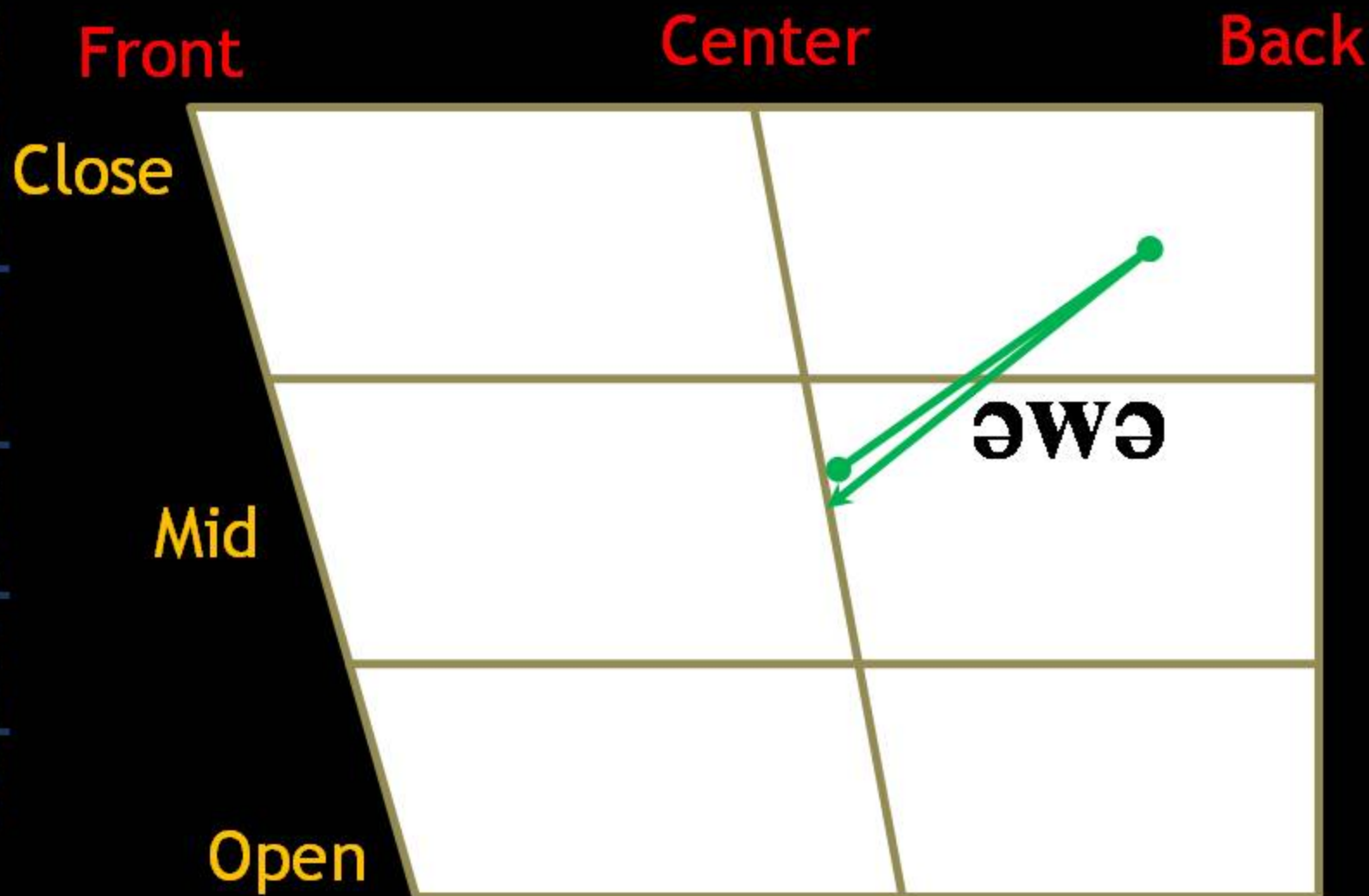
TRIPHTHONGS

BrE /ɔjə/ **AmE** /ɔj ər/

loyal
royal
lawyer

TRIPHTHONGS

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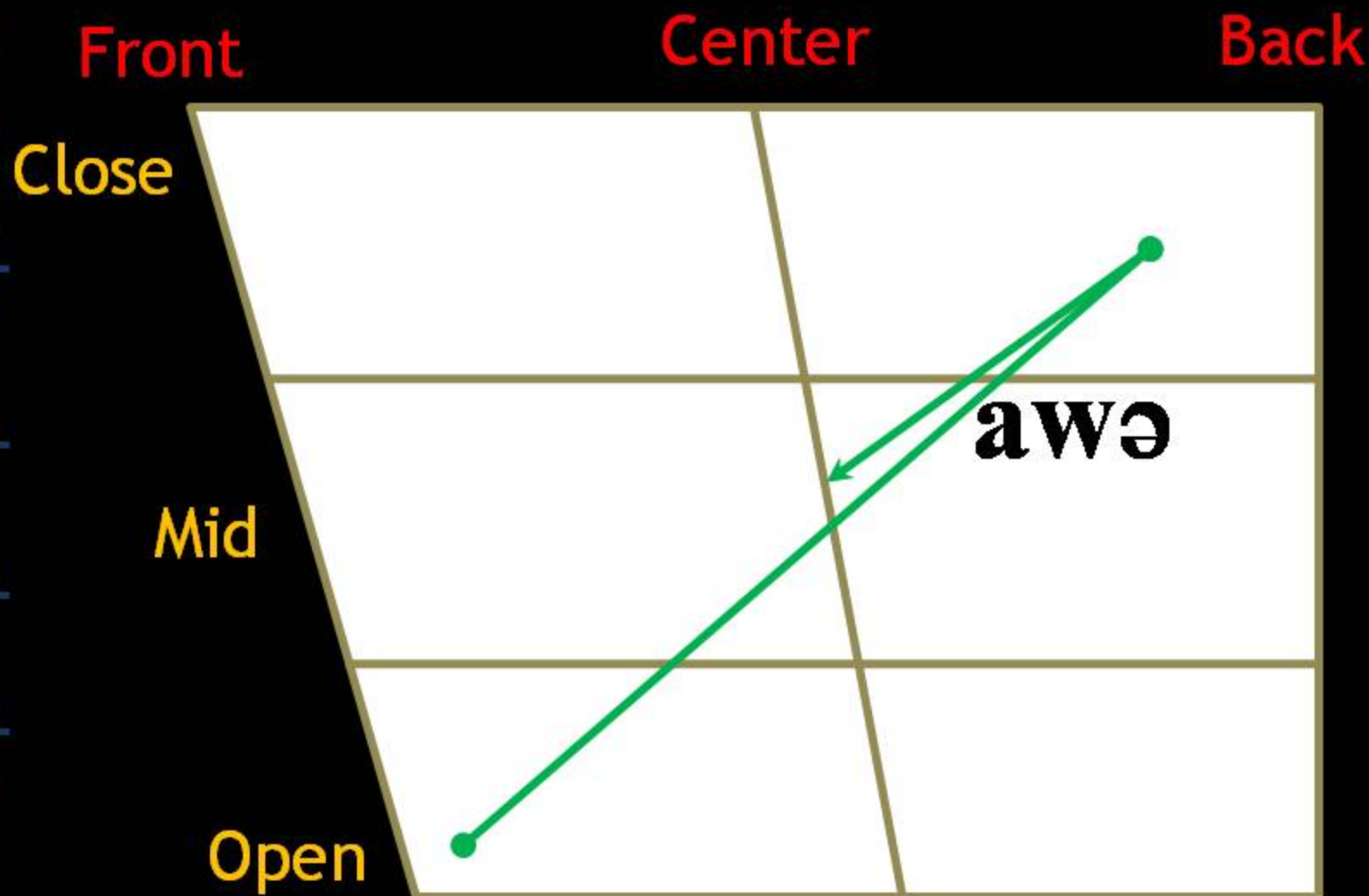
TRIPHTHONGS

BrE /əwə/ AmE /ow ər/

lower
mower
slower

TRIPHTHONGS

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TRIPHTHONGS

BrE /aʊə/ AmE /aʊ ər/

power

hour / our

Bauer

DIPHTHONGS AND SPELLING

Notice the following:

kit /kɪt/ - kite /kaɪt/

sit /sɪt/ - site /saɪt/

spit /spɪt/ - spite /spaɪt/

wip /wɪp/ - wipe /waɪp/

bit /bɪt/ - bite /baɪt/

rip /rɪp/ - ripe /raɪp/

DIPHTHONGS AND SPELLING

Likewise:

rat /ræt/ - rate /rejt/

fat /fæt/ - fate /fejt/

mad /mæd/ - made /mejd/

back /bæk/ - bake /bejk/

past /pæst/ - paste /pejst/

hat /hæt/ - hate /hejt/

DIPHTHONGS AND SPELLING

Therefore:

‘knitted’ has to be pronounced /'nɪtɪd/. To be pronounced /'naɪtɪd/, the spelling would have to be ‘knited’*, coming from ‘knite’* and not ‘knit’.

DIPHTHONGS AND SPELLING

Likewise:

‘hated’ has to be pronounced /^hejtɪd/. To be pronounced /^hætɪd/, the spelling would have to be ‘hatted’*, coming from ‘hat’* and not ‘hate’.

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