Vowel quantity and the fortis-lenis distinction in North Low Saxon

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The initial idea for the project was to develop an analysis of the Central Franconian tone accents. Yet, I found myself much more interested in the Low German overlength phenomena of my Hamburg and Lower Saxony origin. ‘Unfortunately’, the title of the project was chosen rather generally as *Tone and Intrasegmental Structure in West-Germanic Dialects*, which formally allowed me to divert somewhat from the original plan, and to dive into the (also West-Germanic) matter of Low German dialects - not that my promotior and supervisors would have disapproved of my ambitions. Their support was tremendous, and the result is the present dissertation. Therefore, I would like to thank first and foremost my promotor Paul Boersma, and my supervisors Marc van Oostendorp, Ben Hermans, and Wolfgang Kehrein. So many opinions, so much input, such an incredibly huge amount of support! I’m still wowed – and keep wondering how I actually made my way through all of your suggestions and theories. You made my four PhD years definitely a singularly exciting, memorable, and inspiring time.

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