

# Metaphony

Due: in class, Thursday, December 4, 2008

Based on Walker, Rachel (2005). Weak triggers in vowel harmony. *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory*.

## Directions and notes

The data illustrate some vowel alternations in some Romance dialects (6 Italian and one Spanish). Develop an account for each dialect and discuss how they are similar and different. Be sure to say what the underlying forms for the roots and affixes are. Discuss to what extent constraints that block rules, constraints that trigger rules, and persistent (repair) rules play roles.<sup>1</sup>

- Acute accents mark stress (may or may not be relevant, depending on your analysis).
- I have given the vowel inventory for each dialect.
- For some dialects, I have no data for [a]; assume, in those dialects, that it does not alternate.

## Foggiano/Pugliese (i, e, ε, a, u, o, ə)

kjéna	‘full (fem.)’	kjínu	‘full (masc.)’
péte	‘foot’	píti	‘feet’
móffa	‘soft (fem.)’	múffu	‘soft (masc.)’
gróssa	‘big (fem.)’	grússu	‘big (masc.)’

Assume that [a] does not alternate.

## Veneto (i, e, ε, a, u, o, ə)

védo	‘I see’	te vídi	‘you see’
préte	‘priest’	préti	‘priests’
bélo	‘beautiful (masc. sg.)’	béli	‘beautiful (masc. pl.)’
kóro	‘I run’	te kúri	‘you run’
módo	‘way’	módi	‘ways’
gáto	‘cat’	gáti	‘cats’

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<sup>1</sup>A persistent rule is one that applies at any point in a derivation when its structural description is met.

### Southern Umbro (i, e, ε, a, u, o, ɔ)

vérde	‘green (sg.)’	vírdi	‘green (pl.)’
péde	‘foot’	pédi	‘feet’
tjéka	‘blind (fem.)’	tjéku	‘blind (masc.)’
róssa	‘red (fem.)’	rússu	‘red (masc.)’
nóva	‘new (fem.)’	nóvu	‘new (masc.)’
nóstra	‘our (fem.)’	nóstru	‘our (masc.)’

Assume that [a] does not alternate.

### Salentino (i, e, ε, a, u, o, ɔ)

mése	‘month’	mísi	‘months’
péte	‘foot’	piéti	‘feet’
lénta	‘slow (fem.)’	liéntu	‘slow (masc.)’
pilósa	‘hairy (fem.)’	pilúsu	‘hairy (masc.)’
fírte	‘strong (sg.)’	fuérti	‘strong (pl.)’
mórta	‘dead (fem.)’	muértu	‘dead (masc.)’

Assume that [a] does not alternate.

### Calvello (i, e, ε, a, u, o, ɔ)

mése	‘month’	mísi	‘months’
pére	‘foot’	piéri	‘feet’
kavróne	‘carbon’	kavrúni	‘carbons’
móvo	‘I move’	muóvi	‘you move’

Assume that [a] does not alternate.

### Lena (i, e, a, u, o)

fía	‘daughter’	fíu	‘son’
néna	‘child (fem.)’	nínu	‘child (masc.)’
kabéθα	‘head (fem.)’	kabíθu	‘head (masc.)’
tsóba	‘wolf (fem.)’	tsúbu	‘wolf (masc.)’
gáta	‘cat (fem.)’	gétu	‘cat (masc.)’

### Teramo (i, e, ε, a, u, o, ɔ)

Schematic data, not real Teramo words!!

védo	‘I see’	vídi	‘you see’
préte	‘priest’	príti	‘priests’
gáto	‘cat’	gíti	‘cats’
kóro	‘I run’	kúri	‘you run’
módo	‘way’	múdi	‘ways’