

LUCIEN VAN BEEK, LUK HUITINK

Ancient Greek

Phonology – Part 1: Segments



Universiteit
Leiden



Roadmap

- Segments
 - Consonant phonemes
 - Geminates
 - Vowels
 - Diphthongs

Consonant phonemes

- | | | voiceless | voiced | aspirated |
|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|---------|-----------------------|
| ■ plosives: | labial | /p/ <π> | /b/ <β> | /p ^h / <φ> |
| | dental | /t/ <τ> | /d/ <δ> | /t ^h / <θ> |
| | velar | /k/ <κ> | /g/ <γ> | /k ^h / <χ> |
| ■ continuants: | nasals | /m/ <μ> /n/ <ν> | | |
| | liquids | /r/ <ρ> /l/ <λ> | | |
| ■ | dental fricative | /s/ <σ> | | |
| | glottal fricative | /h/ <ʰ> (only word-initial) | | |
| ■ affricate(?): | dental | /dz/ <ζ> (or rather /sd/?) | | |

Evidence for realization

- Example: voiceless plosives
- <θ φ χ> are aspirated [t^h p^h k^h], <τ π κ> unaspirated [t p k]
 - Native grammarian terms: δασύ 'rough' vs. ψιλόν 'smooth'
 - In elided prepositions, <τ π κ> become <θ φ χ> before /h-/:
ἀφ' ἁλός < *ἀπὸ ἁλός
 - Aspirates borrowed early on as voiceless stops into Latin:
purpura 'purpur snail' < πορφυρά

Geminates

■ Geminates

- All consonants except for /dz/ and /h/ may occur as geminates
- Cf. ἵππος ‘horse’, ἐννέα ‘nine’
- Only /ll/, /mm/, /rr/ and /tt/ are frequent in Cl. Att.

■ Minimal pairs:

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| • ἔβαλον (aor.) | vs. ἔβαλλον (impf.) |
| • βῆτε ‘go!’ (impv. 2 nd pl.)
coughing’ | vs. βῆτε ‘you (pl.) are
coughing’ |
| • ἐκαλύπτομεν ‘we concealed’ | vs. ἐκκαλύπτομεν ‘we revealed’ |

Geminates

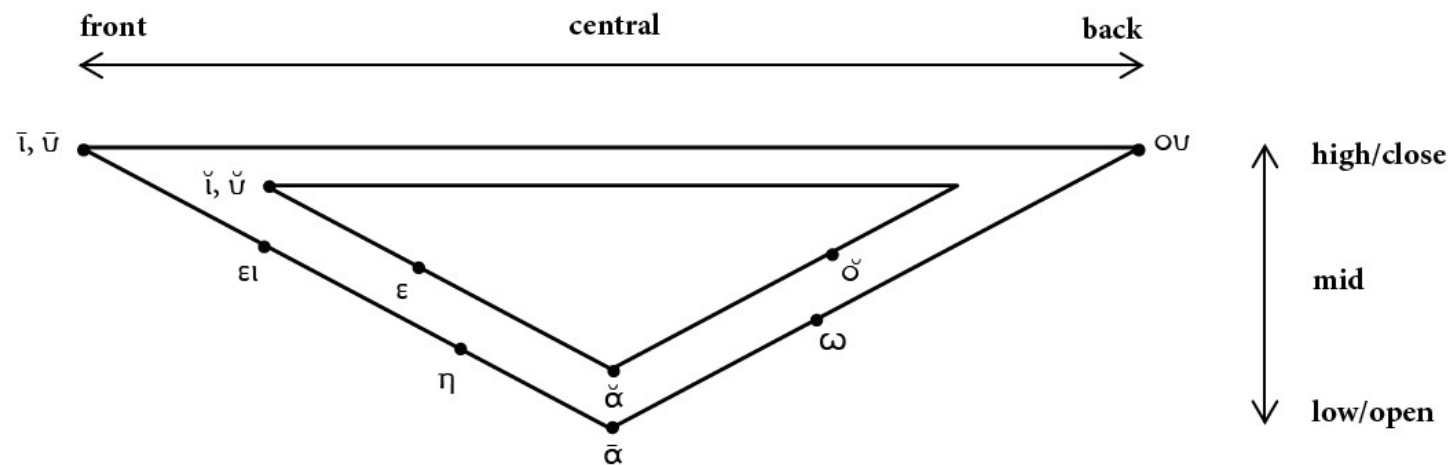
- **Geminates**
- Often result from internal sandhi (preverbs, compounds)
 - ἐλλείπω < ἐν-λείπω
 - συσσιτέω < συν-σιτέω, etc.
- Spelling of geminated aspirated plosives: <τθ> <πφ> <κχ>
 - Σαπφώ Sappho

Rho

- /r/ and /rr/
- /r/ probably realized as an alveolar trill
- word-initially <ῥ>, with *spiritus asper*, or <PH-> in older inscriptions.
 - Either voiceless [r̥] or pre-aspirated [ʰr]
- In internal sandhi, <ῥ-> appears as <pp>
 - ῥέω 'to flow', impf. ἔ-ρρει 'it flowed'

Vowels

- The Attic vowel triangle (4th c. BCE)



G1

de verwijzingen naar secties in de CGCG moeten worden verwijderd.

Gebruiker; 04.04.2019

Vowels

- **Vowels:** spelling and sources
- /y(:)/ <υ> fronted from *[u(:)] in the prehistory of Attic-Ionic
- /u:/ <ου> has been raised from [o:] in the early 4th c. BCE
- /a:/ reflects:
 - Common Greek [a:] after /e, i, r/
 - The product of various contractions, crasis or CL 2 and 3

Vowels

- **Long mid-vowels:** spelling and sources
 - /ɛ:/ and /ɔ:/ : **inherited** long vowels
 - spelled <η> and <ω> in the Ionic alphabet (Introduction, Part 3)
 - may alternate with /e/ <ε> and /o/ <ο> in ablaut (Morphology, Part 1)
 - /ɛ:/ may also reflect Common Greek /a:/
- /e:/ and /u:/ (< [o:]) : **secondary** long vowels
 - spelled <ει> and <ου> in the Ionic alphabet

Vowels

- **Long mid-vowels:** spelling and sources
- /e:/ <ει> and /u:/ <ου> : **secondary** long vowels
- Arose from
 - 1. contraction and CL of short vowels (prehistoric)
 - ἔκτεινα ‘I killed’ < *e-kten-s-a, ἐγένου ‘you were born’ < *e-genee-o
 - 2. inherited diphthongs /ei/ and /ou/ (6th–5th c. BCE)
- <ει> and <ου> from source 1. are called ‘spurious diphthongs’

Diphthongs

- **Diphthongs:** AGr. has only falling diphthongs
- Second segment: glide [j] or [ʊ] (allophones of /i, u/)
- 7 'normal' diphthongs: /ai/ */ei/ /oi/ /ui/ /au/ /eu/ */ou/
 <αι> <ει> <οι> <υι> <αυ> <ευ> <ου>
- 6 long diphthongs: /a:i/ /ε:i/ /ɔ:i/ /a:u/ /ε:u/ /ɔ:u/
 <α> <η> <ω> <ᾱυ> <ηυ> <ωυ>
- Diphthongs may occur before consonants or vowels:
 - λείπει 'he is leaving', εἴη 'may it be'

Diphthongs

- **Long diphthongs** occur in:
 - augmented forms, e.g. ηὔχετο ‘he prayed/boasted’
 - forms with crasis, e.g. τᾶυτό < τὸ αὐτό ‘the same’
 - Contracted forms, e.g. ᾠδῇ ‘singing’ < αἰοιδῇ
 - the dat.sg. endings -α -η -ω

