

## Assignment #2: Romance metaphony

Due Oct. 14

Based on Walker, Rachel (2005). Weak triggers in vowel harmony. *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory* 23. (see there for primary data sources)

### Directions and notes

The data illustrate 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.

I think the alternations themselves are simple to grasp—what is of interest is the **rule/constraint interaction**. Discuss how constraints that block rules, constraints that trigger rules, and persistent (repair) rules could play roles.

- Acute accents mark stress (may or may not be relevant, depending on your analysis).
- I have given the vowel-phoneme inventory for each dialect.
- For some dialects, I have no data for [a]; assume, in those dialects, that it does not alternate.
- One representative word is given for each vowel in each language. Assume that the word is indeed representative of all words with that vowel—for example, the fact that *pilósa* has three syllables instead of two isn't relevant.

**Foggiano/Pugliese** (i,e,ɛ,a,u,o,ɔ)—assume that [a] does not alternate

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

**Veneto** (i,e,ɛ,a,u,o,ɔ)

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’

**Southern Umbro** (i,e,ɛ,a,u,o,ɔ) —assume that [a] does not alternate

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

**Salentino** (i,e,ε,a,u,o,ɔ) —assume that [a] does not alternate

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

**Calvello** (i,e,ε,a,u,o,ɔ) —assume that [a] does not alternate

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

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

fía	‘daughter’	fíu	‘son’
néna	‘child (fem.)’	nínu	‘child (masc.)’
kabéθa	‘head (fem.)’	kabíθu	‘head (masc.)’ <sup>1</sup>
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’

<sup>1</sup> I don’t know why there are masculine and feminine words for ‘head’. Maybe it is a figurative meaning?