

Fiat Lingua

Title: Patterns of Allophony

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MS Date: 06-20-2019

FL Date: 04-01-2015

FL Number: FL-00002B-01

Citation: Annis, William S. 2019. "Patterns of Allophony."
FL-00002B-01, *Fiat Lingua*, <<http://fiatlingua.org>>. Web. 01 Apr. 2015.

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Patterns of Allophony

William S. Annis

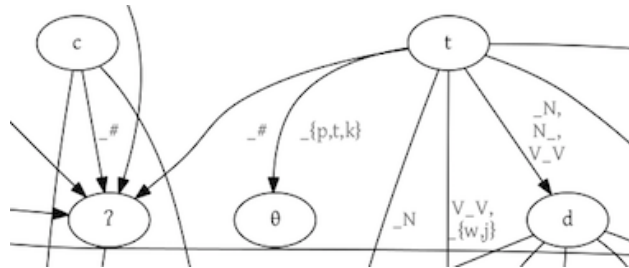
June 20, 2019

This is a small collection of common allophones taken from the PBase database¹, presented as graphs. In making these graphs I have focused on selecting patterns that occur more than once, or which are part of a larger pattern that occurs more than once. For example, in some languages /l/ will present as [d] after nasals. In fewer languages both /r/ and /l/ will do this, so I include them both. I have tried to leave out one-off exotica, but one or two might have slipped through if they struck me as especially interesting.

I have omitted certain very common changes. For example, voicing assimilation of any kind is left out for consonant clusters, and do I not include either nasal assimilation or word-final devoicing. I have also left out all patterns of deletion, which are also largely predictable (as codas, word-finally, etc.).

Reading the Graphs

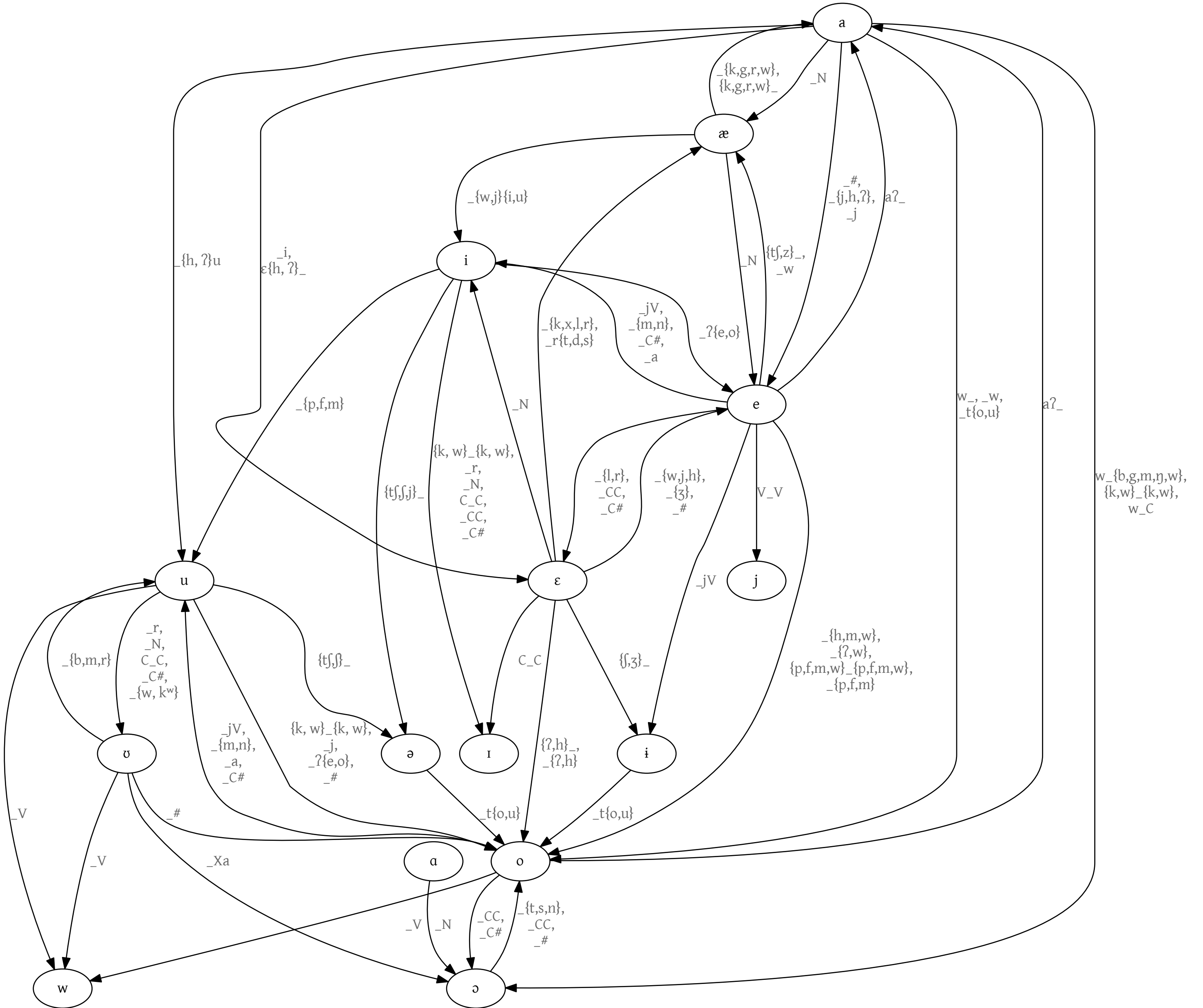
Arrows indicate the direction of change. The environment in which the change occurs is indicated by the grey text *to the right* of the line. So, in the selection below, note that /t/ becomes [θ] before /p/, /t/, and /k/, but becomes the glottal stop [ʔ] word finally.



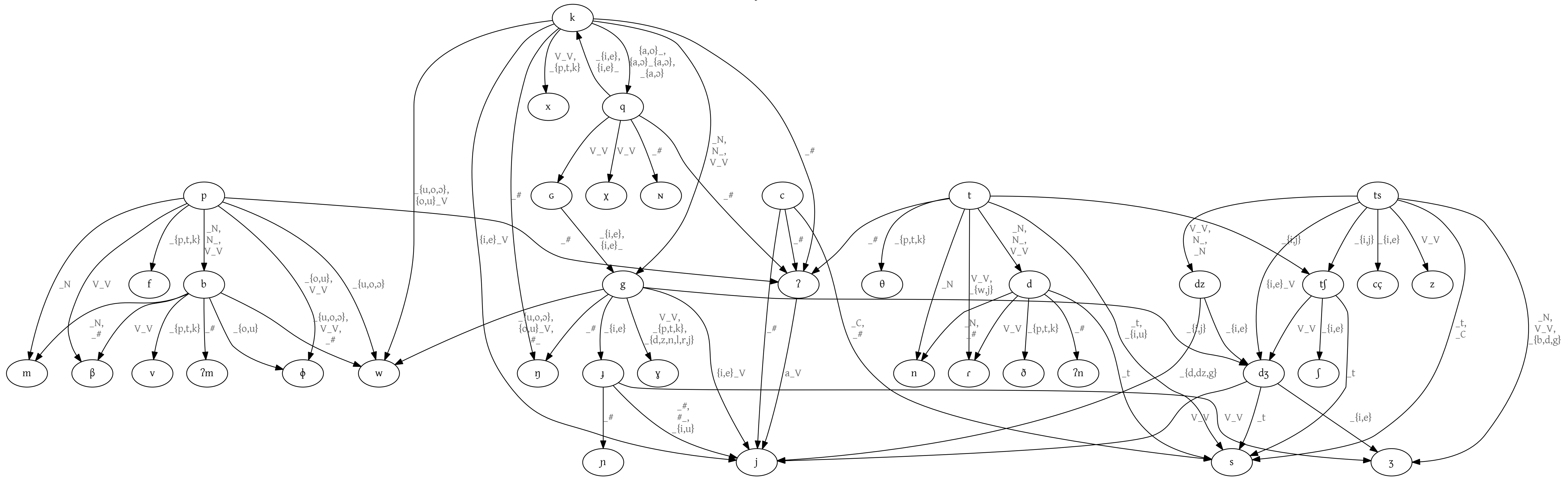
The environments are given in fairly standard notation: C is a consonant, V a vowel, N any nasal consonant, # is a word boundary, and the underline represents the sound itself. Curly braces enclose a set of phonemes. So, the notation _# marks a change that occurs at the end of a word, _ {w,j} V marks a change that occurs when the sound is followed by either /w/ or /j/ and then a vowel, and # _ {i,e} marks a change that happens at the start of a word and followed by either /i/ or /e/.

¹<http://pbase.brohan.ca/query>

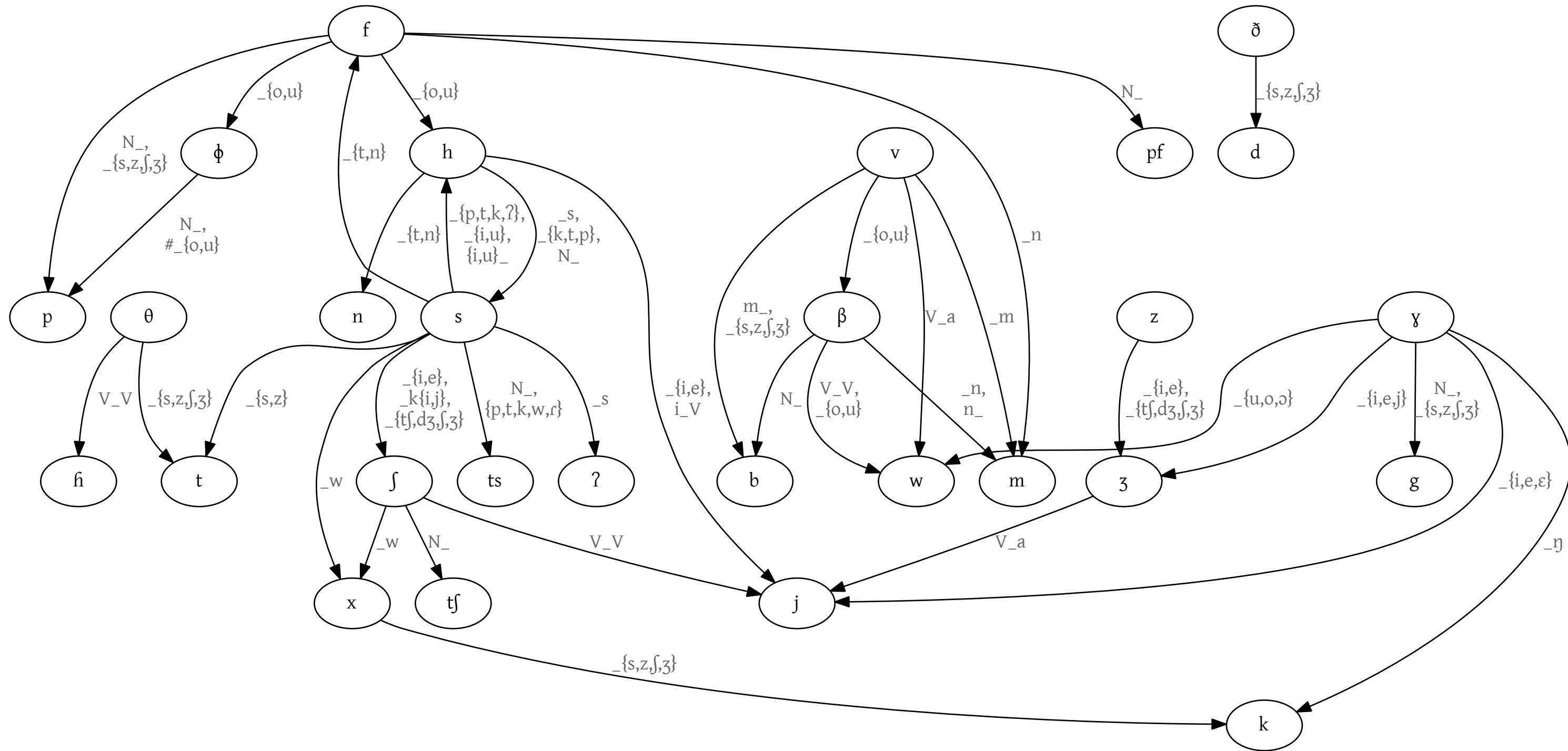
Vowels



Stops and Affricates



Fricatives



Resonants

