

# **Necromancing Diels: computerising the phonological analysis of early Slavonic texts using existing treebank data and a Late Common Slavonic computerised inflectional morphology**

## **0. Introduction**

Much progress has been made in the last twenty years in early Slavonic corpus linguistics as a result of the Old Church Slavonic part of the PROIEL project (Haug & Jøhndal 2008) and its subsequent expansion as the TOROT treebank (Eckhoff & Berdičevskis 2015), such that currently just over 240,000 words of canonical OCS have been manually lemmatised, part-of-speech and morphologically-tagged, and syntactically parsed. The focus of these projects, however, has been exclusively on the higher-level linguistic domains of syntax, semantics, and pragmatics: surface-morphology has been of only incidental concern, for example in investigations into differential-object marking (Eckhoff 2015, 2022), but the sort of inflection-class-marking which would enable the retrieval of, say, masculine o-stems vs i-stems is lacking. The needs of historical phonologists especially are ill-served, since some of the texts (esp. Kiev Folia, Codex Suprasliensis, and partially Codex Zographensis) contain quite severe typographical inconsistencies and errors that make them dangerous to use without reference to the manuscripts.

That being said, enough information is included in Eckhoff's lemmatisation and morphology-tagging that, with a few exceptions (e.g. comparatives), the morphological shape of the inflected text-forms can be predicted from just the tag-information, provided that inflection-class annotations are added to the lemmas. This means that the immediate Late Common Slavonic ancestors of surface-text forms can be generated by reconstructing and inflection-class-marking the LCS lemmas, and then using a computerised LCS inflectional-morphology to inflect each text-word's lemma according to its morphology-tag<sup>1</sup>. Such LCS reconstructions are an extremely useful form of 'phonological annotation', because theoretically all the information required to give rise to an attested form must by definition be present in any correct reconstructed proto-form, and the complete regularity of the idealised LCS forms makes texts predictably searchable regardless of orthographic variability, abbreviations, or other irregularities in the surface-texts. When applied to whole texts, they make the exhaustive investigation of almost any phonological or orthographic question trivially easy compared to manually reading and extracting relevant forms, or using TOROT's existing lemmatisation and morphology-tagging to try to gather morphological categories which might contain the sound-groups one is interested in.

The goal of this article is to describe just such a computerised LCS inflectional-morphology, and to show how it can be used to "autoreconstruct" different OCS texts from the TOROT corpus, while explaining how difficulties caused by things like morphological innovations, badly-integrated foreign loanwords, or insufficiently-precise tagging-data can be overcome. The resulting 'phonologically annotated' texts should allow investigators of the lower-level linguistic domains (phonology, orthography, and morphology) to benefit from the huge amount of manual annotation work that has gone into the OCS part of TOROT, and the computerised LCS inflectional-morphology by itself is valuable in that it allows linguistically-rigorous and comprehensive inflection and conjugation-tables to be generated (reference to Поливанова 2013????).

A web-interface for autoreconstructed TOROT OCS text is being developed at <https://ocstexts.co.uk>, which aims to demonstrate the benefits of this extra layer of annotation by offering things like LCS phoneme-search of texts, conversion of each autoreconstructed word into canonical "normalised" OCS, for easy comparison with the manuscript-form, and computer-generated inflection and conjugation-tables for every reconstructed lemma. It also includes TOROT's existing morphology, lemmatisation, and (for three of the texts) Greek-alignment data, plus integration of the recently digitised OCS dictionaries hosted at [gorazd.org](http://gorazd.org).

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1 Morphological innovations and variations are detected by inspecting the text-forms and then applying 'alternative' endings as specified in the inflectional-endings database; see Section 1.2.

Slavonicists are in the fortunate position of having not only a widely and diversely attested set of daughter-dialects from which to reconstruct the proto-language, but also a historical written record that is so close in time to the Common Slavonic period that the far-southeastern Bulgarian dialect of Thessaloniki was considered a suitable vehicle for proselytising the proto-Czech speakers of Moravia. The hypothetical LCS system which I employ for my reconstructions is therefore mostly uncontroversial and widely agreed-upon (except in trivial matters of notation); nevertheless, a corpus-focused project like mine where the aim is to reconstruct *all* words of a text requires an exhaustiveness and rigour that leaves no room for the dodging of difficult points, so Section 1 of this article is taken up with a comprehensive exposition and justification of my chosen LCS system. Section 2 then looks in more detail at my computerised LCS inflectional-morphology and the structure of the existing TOROT data, and shows that together they can be used to produce the direct phonemic ancestor-forms of text-words, despite various challenges, including the morphological variation and restructuring which is occurring in even the earliest texts.

## **1. My Late Common Slavonic (LCS) phoneme-system**

The premise of my chosen form of "phonological annotation" is that the earliest Slavic texts reflect languages which are **structurally** close enough to the broadly-agreed-upon system of Late Common Slavonic that the forms underlying the manuscript-spellings are more or less trivially derivable (by the application of sound-change rules) from their theoretical LCS ancestors. By 'structurally' I am referring to structure at the phonological level; structural changes at higher levels of analysis (i.e. inflectional morphology, derivational morphology) are of no concern unless they are **made possible only by intervening phonological changes**.

My contention is that before about 1100 not enough of these structural changes are in evidence in any Slavic text, and thus texts can be relatively straightforwardly indexed using a well-chosen LCS system. Before giving examples of structural changes that are problematic for such an indexing-system, it's necessary to first lay out my LCS system in full:

In order to account for as much of the subsequently attested Slavic as possible, a point after the monophthongisation of diphthongs, but before the Second and Third Velar Palatalisations (PV2 and PV3) is chosen as the point of departure, because of the difference between the West Slavic /š/ and South/East /ś/ reflex of these two palatalisations of \*x (Cz. loc. pl. *dušich* vs Suprasliensis *доуѣхъ* <\*duxěxъ; Polish *wszak* vs Supr. *вѣѣкъ*, Ru. *вѣѣк[уй]* <\*vьx-akъ), as well as the probable complete absence of PV2 in northern East Slavic<sup>2</sup> (Old Novgorodian, see Zaliznjak 2004: 42-45 for the evidence), and the blocking of PV2 by an intervening \*v in West Slavic (Pol. *gwiazda*, Cz. *květ* <\*gvězda, \*kvěť, etc.).

To be explicit, the native phonemes in my LCS system are given in the tables below:

2 The evidence regarding the possible absence of PV3 from Novgorodian is far less convincing: the Birchbark letters abound with examples of the PV3 reflex of \*k (e.g. letter №439 from around 1200 has *сѣннѣѣ* <\*svinьkъ and *полотѣнѣѣ* <\*polьnьka), and those of \*g are not unknown: Zaliznjak (2004: 47) admits that palatalised forms of the Germanic loan *кѣнѣѣ* <\*kьneg- are the rule, but considers this to be a "supradialectal" word originating outside of the Novgorodian dialect-area; Галинская (2014: 10) is less convinced and adduces the form *оуѣѣрѣѣ* (cf. Russian *серьѣѣ*, commonly assumed to be an Oghur, i.e. Bulgar, Turkic loan, cognate with e.g. Kazakh *сырѣѣ*) 'earrings' from letter №429 as a word of "вполне бытового характера" which thus supposedly shows a native Novgorodian reflex of PV3 of \*g.

More importantly, as Галинская (op. cit.) points out, in all of the well-known Novgorodian forms of the pronoun \*vьxъ 'all' which supposedly show a lack of PV3 by retaining both /x/ and back/hard desinences (e.g. fem. gen. sg. *вѣѣхѣѣ* <\*vьxoĭĕ from letter №850), and which come from letters which otherwise correctly convey the jers (by writing <ѣ, ѣ> for \*ь and <ѣ, ѣ> for \*ъ), the weak-jer is always written with <ѣ, ѣ>, unambiguously suggesting a /ь/ pronunciation. These forms therefore more likely point to a LCS doublet-form \*vьxъ which would never contain the conditioning environment for PV3 anyway, and thus you can't use them as evidence of a lack of PV3 in Novgorodian (on the plausibility of such a doublet see Галинская (2014: 14), though cf. Zaliznjak's (2004: 54) less convincing explanation of the /ь/ in these words as an assimilation of original /ь/ to the back-vowels of the following syllable).

Table 2: LCS Vowels after the monophthongisation of diphthongs

	Front		Back	
High	i		y	u
	í ь ĭ		y ɣ ɤ ĭ	
Mid	e ɛ		ɔ ɒ	
	ě ǣ			
Low	Æ			
		a		

Table 1: LCS consonants before PV2/PV3 (adapted from Winslow 2022: 304)

Labial		Dental		Palatal		Velar	
m		n		ń			
b	p	t	d	ħ	ḥ	k	g
		s	z	š	ž	x	
				č			
		l		ĺ			
		r		ř			
v				j			

### 1.1 Foreign sounds

In addition, the following symbols are used for phonemes of wholly foreign origin in order to represent badly-integrated foreign borrowings, whose level of integration into the native system we deliberately do not take a position on: /k̑ ǵ x̑ f̑ ü/, e.g. in respectively кѣтъ <\*kĭtŭ, ѣмѡнъ <\*ĭǵemŏnŭ, хитѡнъ <\*xĭtŏnŭ, ѡсифъ <\*ĭjosifŭ<sup>3</sup>, and мѡро <\*mŭro. Almost none of the words containing these symbols would actually have existed in the language during Common Slavonic times, but they need to be included in the indexing-system because they often contain native Slavic elements (f.ex. inflectional endings). Normally they represent specific sounds in the source-language (usually Greek), so including them is useful for investigating the process of these sounds' integration into the native systems. For instance, the extent to which Greek /ü/ is integrated into either native /i/ or /u/ can be seen in variations in the OCS spellings of the word for 'Egypt' (\*egŭpŭtŭ): ѡѣгѣпѣ vs ѡѣгѣпѣ vs ѡѣгѣпѣ vs ѣгѣпѣ vs ѡѣгѣпѣ<sup>4</sup>, etc.. One might also ask whether a separate <ѣ> letter for /ǵ/ (and the writing of <к̑>/<ř> with the palatalisation-diacritic) could be linked to the inadmissibility in the native systems of soft [kʲ, gʲ] sounds, and whether their replacement with regular <ѡ, ѣ> or <г, к> was more likely in systems with some level of native [kʲ, gʲ] (for instance, in Rus' after the so-called Fourth Velar Palatalisation \*ky, \*gy, \*xy > [kʲi, gʲi, xʲi], or in Novgorod due to the retention of native velars before front-vowels because of the non-action of PV2, etc.). In any case, such questions are far easier to investigate if all relevant forms can be reliably retrieved by giving them even a consciously artificial LCS representation.

### 1.2 Vowels

I have deliberately not included accentual information in my reconstruction of vowels, even though such information is in fact required to explain certain differing manuscript-reflexes, e.g. Russkaja Pravda fem. acc. sg. ѡѡѣѣ <\*orb-ŏ vs Uspenskij Sbornik nt. acc. sg. ѡѡѡѡ <\*ordl-ŏ, because for

3 Of course the sequence /jo/ violates LCS phonotactics as well.

4 Forms are given as they appear in the manuscripts; modern fonts and Unicode symbols mean that the misleading and unhelpful practice of transcribing Glagolitic into Cyrillic is no longer defensible. Where specific forms from Eckhoff's corpus-texts are cited, they are hyperlinked to that place on the [ocstexts.co.uk](http://ocstexts.co.uk) website. Care should be taken with Eckhoff's digitisations, particularly in texts like Psalterium Sinaiticum where certain rusesome decisions from the editors Severjanov (1922) and Mareš (1997) have been compounded by further information-destroying simplifications (for instance, Severjanov transcribes <ѣ> with <ѣ>, but Eckhoff then replaces Severjanov's roundy diacritic with a titlo, leading to nonsense transcriptions like Psalm 8 <ѣѣѣѣ> for ms. <ѣѣѣѣ>). Cleaned up digitisations, using the Glagolitic originals as the base-text, and a mechanism for displaying manuscript-images, are planned for the near future.

The two extra nasal-vowels /ɣ/ and /ǣ/ are required to account for the split between North (East and West) and South Slavic forms of certain inflectional-endings:

The need for the retention of the /Ē/ archiphoneme, which represents merged Early Common Slavonic \*ē \*ā in the position after palatal consonants, up to this point of LCS, is explored in detail in Winslow (2022), but the same archiphoneme (along with its short counterpart /Ė/) was explicitly posited by Kortlandt as far back as 1979 (p.266) as part of his ECS system. In short, a combination of:

- all together point very strongly towards there having occurred a split on the Southeastern periphery of Slavic between LCS dialects which have /ě/ < \*Ē and the majority of the rest which got /a/, and that original OCS ('Urkirchenslavisch') was an \*Ē > /ě/ dialect. I posit that \*Ē remained until the opposition /a:/ě/ after palatal consonants was reintroduced when PV2 and PV3 brought new soft-consonants /c š dž/ into the system, which could be followed by both /a/ and /ě/: fem. nom. sg. /stǫdža/ < \*stǫga (PV3) vs fem. loc. sg. /nodžě/ < \*nogě (PV2) (Winslow 2022: 304-305). Thus

5 Other troublesome pre-LCS morphological isoglosses reflected in the texts include the masc./nt. instr. sg. \*o- and \*jo-stem endings \*-ѣтъ/\*-ѣтъ (N.Sl., e.g. KF ѡѣтъ ѡѣтъ, Uspensk. Sbor. ѡѣтъ ѡѣтъ) and \*-омь/\*-емь (S.Sl., e.g. Supr. ѡѣтъ ѡѣтъ, ѡѣтъ ѡѣтъ), which are most commonly (e.g. Olander 2015: 168) thought to be analogical replacements of the original instr. sg. ending ECS \*ā which is preserved in the adverb \*въčera ‘yesterday’; and the \*-тъ (N.Sl.) vs \*-тъ (S.Sl.) verbal endings of 3<sup>rd</sup> sg. and pl. present (plus its extension to 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> sg. aorists like OCS ѡѣтъ, OR (Uspensk. Sbor.) ѡѣтъ, ѡѣтъ). Here I have no choice but to index them with dummy-symbols in the database: \*-Омь/\*-Емь for the instr. sg. ending and \*-tQ for the verb-endings.

archiphoneme.<sup>6</sup>

them with separate symbols<sup>7</sup> rather than as the sequences /ɤr ɤr ɤl ɤl/<sup>8</sup>.

6 It's possible to argue that the short \*ǣ counterpart to \*Ě persisted in East Slavic until after the Fall of the Jers, and that the ESL so-called e > o shift before hard-consonants / back-vowelled syllables is actually just the resolution of this archiphoneme as /o/ (where palatalisation of the preceding consonant remained, in e.g. Ukr. бджола <\*bъċĒla, or was newly phonemicised, in e.g. Ru. вѣсла <\*v'Ēsla <\*vesla), and that there was never a stage when these words had /e/ (based among other things on <o> spellings regardless of stress after palatal-letters in very early texts, and even after the letters for secondarily-soft LCS plain consonants in the Birchbark documents (Le Feuvre 1993, Nakonečnyj 1962), but there isn't space to elaborate on the issue here (see Winslow 2022: 304 fn.16). Unlike the situation with long \*Ě, OCS shows no sign of anything but an /e/ reflex of short \*ǣ (and indeed the fact that the East Slavs inherited their writing system ultimately from the Urkirchenslavisch system designed for such a dialect, rather than one which had a clear way of writing /soft consonant/ + /o/, is likely the reason that /o/ reflexes are so rarely detectable in the early texts, since <e> had to be used for both /e/ and /ʰo/, cf. the spelling ѡвшанъ of the Kipchak word /jovšan/ 'wormwood' in the Hypatian Codex, whose modern cognates (Turkmen ýowşan /jowšan/, Kazakh жусан /žuwsan/, Azeri yovşan) unambiguously point to a Kipchak /o/), and the history of the East Slavic /o/ reflexes remains the subject of much disagreement, so it's simpler for everyone if I continue the traditional practice of writing LCS \*e after palatals, even if that strictly speaking is inconsistent with my use of \*ǣ.

7 In the database I will have to use the single Unicode characters <ř ř Ĩ Ĭ>, rather than what's shown in my table, since the latter cannot actually be rendered without using the letters for /r ř l ĭ/ plus the 'combining ring below' U+0325 symbol, which means searches for the consonantal liquids on their own will also return results containing syllabic liquids. The same problem affects /ĕ y/, which I will have to replace with <ě ŷ>.

8 To my mind the only evidence in support of a genuine jer + liquid stage comes from the paradigms of verbs like OCS сзърѣти <\*sъtŕĕti, where the syllabic /r̩/ in the stem alternates with /ɾr/ depending on the vocalicity of the following morpheme: the e.g. 3sg. pres. \*sъtŕetę (Zogr., Supr. сзѣтъреть) or (one possibility of the) 3<sup>rd</sup> sg. aorist \*sъtŕę (Supr. сзѣтъре) must have /ɾre/, while the 3<sup>rd</sup> pl. aorist \*sъtŕĕŝę (Supr. сзѣтъръша) and the other possibility for the 3<sup>rd</sup> sg. aorist \*sъtŕĕ (Psal. зѣтърь, or with a different prefix Mar. зѣтърь, <\*otŕĕ), being word-final or pre-consonantal, must be syllabic /r̩/. The same alternation occurs in the zero-grade forms of verbs like \*umerti, as is clear from the Polish reflexes umarł <\*umŕĭl vs umře <\*umŕę. The argument could be that at some stage, before





phoneme in the earliest OCS texts is an intricate problem, so the ability to investigate the reflexes of \*j in isolation from the dejotation-reflexes is important.

#### 1.4 Issues involving the glide /j/

##### 1.4.1 Word-initial \*jĒ-/a-

The tendency for ECS \*ā- to have taken prothetic /j/ by LCS times (in accordance with the drive towards open syllables) can make it difficult to distinguish this group from \*jĒ- in the absence of wider Indo-European evidence. Normally I've followed Derksen (2008), or the ESSJa (Этимологический словарь славянских языков, Trubačev 1974-), but for certain lexemes, e.g. \*ama 'pit', which in OCS is spelt overwhelmingly with **амъ**- or **ѡмъ**-, the single Greek cognate ἄμη adduced by ESSJa I p.70 in favour of jot-less \*am- is not enough to categorically exclude the alternative \*jĒma. In particular the 1sg. nom. pronoun \*azъ/\*jĒzъ is especially problematic: I follow ESSJa I p.100 which ultimately plumps for \*azъ, but Derksen doesn't discuss it at all. (A lengthy discussion of the evidence can be found in Teneva's (2012) article on the subject.) Forms with insecure etymologies can't under any methodology be used as good evidence in phonological investigations, so in difficult cases like the above I simply mark the lemma in the database and provide some short discussion, so that eventually the web-interface can flag such forms in some way and inform users of the specific difficulties.

Like Derksen, I assume that roots going back to PIE jot-less long \*ē or diphthongal \*oi-, e.g. the root for 'to eat', PIE \*h<sub>1</sub>ēd-, all took prothetic \*j and merged with \*jĒ- from other sources, unlike Durnovo (1929: 54), who seems to think that such a development was limited to Bulgarian and Macedonian dialects, including those underlying OCS (where in the Cyrillic mss. we get regular **ѡсти** etc.). Isolated nominal forms like Ru. *язва* (which Derksen (2008: 155) derives from a Balto-Slavic \*oi- based on Lith. *aiža* and Old Prussian *eyswo*) suggest that \*ě reflexes in the modern forms of verbs like Ru. *examъ*, Pol. *jeść* are later generalisations from prefixed forms like OR **ѣхати**, where no jot-prothesis could take place (cf. Schenker 1995: 88, Winslow 2022: 302 fn.14).

##### 1.4.2 Jers before \*j

As explored more fully in Winslow (2022: 313-315), OCS spellings seem to suggest that free-variation between <ѣ, ѡ> and <и, ѡ> was a feature of the pre-Jer Shift Urkirchenslavisch orthographic system for conveying the reflexes of the sound-groups \*ĕj and \*oj (so-called 'tense jers'), regardless of whether they were in strong or weak position. The examples given were: Zogr. **ѡрѣмѣнѣ** vs **ѡрѣмѣнѣ** <\*znamenĕjĒ, **ѡдѣмѣ** <\*udařĕjĕ vs **ѡмѣмѣ** <\*omočĕjĕ; Mar. **ѡсѣдѣ** vs **ѡсѣдѣ** <\*osqdetĕjĕ; KF **ѡмѣмѣ** vs **ѡмѣмѣ** <\*milostĕjĕ, **ѡмѣмѣ** vs **ѡмѣмѣ** <\*vĕxomogĕjĕ). Of importance here is the fact that the same orthographic system characterises both pre- (i.e. KF) and post-Jer Shift texts; that even in strong position in a text like Zographensis, which shows pretty clear signs of having undergone the Jer Shift, spellings like **ѡдѣмѣ**, **ѡмѣмѣ**, **ѡмѣмѣ** for what in the live dialect underlying Zogr. must surely have been /udařij/, /bolij/, /veštij/, are not infrequent<sup>10</sup>. The fact that the same alternation occurs in the pre-Jer Shift KF (i-stem gen. plurals **ѡрѣмѣмѣ** <\*zapovĕdĕjĕ vs **ѡрѣмѣмѣ** <\*ludĕjĕ) suggests that it is a common inheritance from the Urkirchenslavisch spelling system, and thus that in pre-Jer Shift Slavic the difference between /ѣ ѡ/ and /и ѡ/ was neutralised before /j/, and we should perhaps posit archiphonemes (which I call /Ī/ and /Ŷ/) in this position. These archiphonemes

10 Marianus and Psalterium Sinaiticum, on the other hand, frequently show a Russian-style /ej/ reflex of strong tense \*ĕj: Psal. **ѡрѣмѣ** <\*vorĕjĕ, **ѡрѣмѣ** <\*plĕjĕ, **ѡрѣмѣ** <\*mĕjĕ; Mar. **ѡрѣмѣмѣ** <\*zapovĕdĕjĕ, **ѡдѣмѣ** <\*udařĕjĕ, **ѡмѣмѣ** <\*gvozďĕjĕny-jĕ. Psal. (Psalm 21) even has a past act. part. Nsg. masc. def. form **ѡмѣмѣ** <\*jbstgĕjĕ that suggests an /oj/ reflex of \*ĕjĕ.

However, for simplicity and accessibility's sake it's better to avoid overburdening the indexing-system with unfamiliar and controversial archiphoneme-symbols, so I keep *\*ɸj*/*\*ɸj* as the denotations for these groups.

Since we can't ever be sure of the precise timing or route by which these late borrowings entered the various Slavic dialects, or of the extent of their adoption by Slavs beyond a tiny and often Greek-knowing scribal-class, the best solution is to set all such foreign /ij/ groups apart from the native vocabulary by using an \*ij reconstruction, even where we can be pretty sure that early nativisation to reflexes of \*ъj occurred: \*dijĀvolъ, \*vasilijъ, \*marijĀ etc.

In badly-integrated clearly post-LCS foreign words, such as Biblical names like *иѡанѣ* (borrowed via Gk. *Ἰακώβ*), or *ѡсмонѣ* (< *ήγεμών*), I keep a bare initial \*i-, though this is rather an arbitrary choice and done partly as a way of marking such words as non-native<sup>13</sup> (cf. my treatment of foreign initial \*e- below). An exception is made for *иѡсѣ* < Gk. *Ἰησοῦς*, which I have as \*jisusъ, because of the greater likelihood that Slavs will have heard of Jesus even before the first biblical translations, and because spellings like Zogr. *ѡсѣ* suggest that it causes the same /Ŷ/

13 Spellings like Zogr. Mark 13:3 “**Ἰἶἰἰἰἰἰἰ. Ἰ Ἰἰἰἰἰἰ. Ἰ Ἰἰἰἰἰἰ.**” “Peter and Jacob and John” would suggest that this initial *\*i-* can get dropped after an */i/* of a preceding word, but whether this points to a dropping of the non-native *\*i-*, simple deletion of a double */i i/* (haplology), or a native-like reflex of a weak-*jer* */\*i \*jɨj.Ėkonʷ/ > /i jakov/,* is not really knowable, so indexing such words with a markedly foreign initial *\*ij-* group is again the best way of allowing such difficult cases to be investigated.



archiphoneme reflex of \*ɸ before \*j as you get in e.g. native Mar. ᎠᎵᎠ ᎠᎵᎠᎵᎠᎵᎠ < \*vɸ \_ jɸstinq (see above).

Prefixed forms like \*do-jyti 'to come, arrive' for morphological reasons have to be distinguished from the class 4 verb \*dojiti/dojiši/dojimъ etc. 'to breastfeed' (and its derived noun \*dojidlika), a difference which is reflected in the modern Ukrainian *dіjmu* (<\*dojъti with compensatorily-lengthened /o/ > /i/) vs *doïmu*. Thus /i/ can follow /j/ when the former is part of a morpheme which just happens to be stuck onto a /j/-ending stem: I similarly allow words like \*šujika (шунца) and \*vojinyъ 'warrior' (воинъ, as opposed to \*vojъnyъ, the gen. pl. of \*vojъna), or the loc. sg./pl. desinences of any jo-stem noun whose stem ends on /j/, e.g. Psal. **𐌱𐌰𐌿𐌸𐌰𐌹𐌸𐌰𐌽** <\*žerbъji.

#### 1.4.4 Word-initial \*je-/\*e-

No Glagolitic text makes any effort to distinguish /je/ (after vowels or word-initially) from post-consonantal /e/, writing both with <ǣ>, unlike the situation with the reflexes of \*ję vs \*ę, where in Zogr. and Mar. and partially in Assem. (Белчева 1981: 168) the full front-nasal digraph <ǣę> is reserved for \*ję, while just the second 'nasalising component' <ę> is used for post-consontal \*ę, e.g. Mar. 3<sup>rd</sup> pl. aorist **ǣęę** <\*jęse, as opposed to KF **ꙗꙗꙗ** <\*prijeti vs **ꙗꙗꙗꙗ** <\*vъzeli<sup>14</sup>.

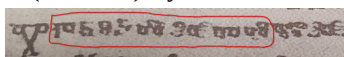
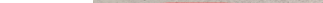
Glagolitic evidence alone therefore would suggest that foreign borrowings with word-initial /e-/ were simply adapted to whatever the reflex of native LCS \*je was. Suprasliensis, though, which uses the jotated <ѣ> letter, does in fact make an extremely consistent spelling distinction between foreign borrowings and native Slavic words: of the 157 occurrences of the 13 foreign lemmas I have so far reconstructed with word-initial \*e/\*je- which appear in Supr. (*episkupъ*, *evanġelъje*, *eġŭrъtъ*, *elisavetъ*, *elinъ*, *evanġelistъ*, *eġŭrъtъskъ*, *elinъskъ*, *episkupъstvo*, *evrejъskъ*, *elisejъ*, *etъmauszъ*, *etijorъskъ*), the only spellings with <ѣ> are *ѣлиси*, *ѣѣппъ*, *ѣлини*, and *ѣлина*, i.e. 4/157 or 2.5%. By contrast, of the 3172 native Slavic words in Suprasliensis which I Autoreconstruct as starting with \*je- (not all of whose *lemmas* start with \*je-, e.g. forms of \*byti), just 88 are written with initial <ѣ>, vs 3070 with <ѣ><sup>15</sup>. Thus 97.2% of native word-initial \*je- in Suprasliensis is spelt with <ѣ>, while 97.5% of the occurrences of the clearly post-LCS Greek-mediated foreign borrowings listed above instead use plain <ѣ>, suggesting that *some* sort of difference was felt, at least by the scribes of Suprasliensis, and that we probably shouldn't index these with the same \*je- as used for native forms. I therefore use non-jotated \*e- for such foreign borrowings, and the extent to which they take prothetic \*j- and fall together with the native vocabulary is left as something for investigators to determine based on the evidence of each manuscript.

## 1.5 Prefixes

The last particularity of my LCS indexing-system worth mentioning relates to the handling of consonant-clusters in prefixes: as exhaustively exemplified by Diels (1963: 121-125), Common Slavic permitted only a restricted set of consonant-combinations in the syllable onset, generally either combinations of the continuants \*/\*z plus obstruent or sonorant (except \*/r, see below), or of obstruents plus sonorant (with some curiosities such as the seeming dialectal diversity in the tolerance of \*/bn but not \*/pn: OCS гъбнѣти <\*gyb-nŋti > Ukr. *гнути*, vs OCS оуѣзънѣти <\*usŋr-nŋti (cf. 3sg. aor. оуѣзъ), Ru. *тонуть* <\*top-nŋti, though see Meillet (1965: 142)). Geminate consonants were banned and either simplified (*ицѣшати* <\*jъs-sĕkti) or dissimilated (*процвѣсти* <\*prokvit-ti).

The ban on \*sr/\*zr is dealt with by insertion of \*t and \*d respectively, but the commonly-cited examples of \*str < \*sr (сѣтра, стрѣжа, стрѣзъ) all concern root-internal \*sr where insertion of \*t is

14 Psalterium Sinaiticum contains at least five occurrences of non-digraph <ε> for \*ε̣: Eckhoff's digitisation suggests ႥႬႭၿၳၵ, ႧႭၿၳၵၶၦၵၷ, ႧႭၿၳၵၶ, Ⴇၼ, Ⴇၽ, and ႧᅇႬၾၴၻၰၵ, but the last one ႧᅇႬၾၴၻၰၵ (which is from Psalm 151 in the part discovered in 1975) comes from a mistake in Mareš's (1997: 50) Cyrillicised edition: the manuscript-photograph in Tarnanidēs (1988: 260) clearly shows ႧᅇႬၾၴၻၰၵ:



15 The leftover 14 are things like 1st. pres. dual. *ймѣѣ* which Eckhoff's corpus wrongly lemmatises as *имати* instead of *имѣѣти*, and which thus get reconstructed as \**jeměvĕ* instead of \**jĕmavĕ*. At the time of writing only 3227/6862 Suprasliensis lemmas have been reconstructed, but those 3227 cover 89713/99194, or 90.4%, of the words.

common also to the Germanic and sometimes Baltic cognates. The examples given by Meillet (1965: 136) include: (for  $\sigma\tau\rho\omicron\gamma\tau\alpha$ ) Lith. dial. *srauja* next to Latvian *strauja*, then Germanic *\*straum-* (> Eng. *stream*, Old Norse *straumr* etc.); (for  $\sigma\tau\rho\gamma\beta$ ) Lith. *aštrus*, Gk. *ἄκρος* (here the *\*s* is from PIE *\*k*). As Meillet says, “*ce n'est pas un développement germano-balto-slave; d'une part, le développement d'un -t- dans le groupe sr est chose naturelle et se retrouve ailleurs (fr. pop. castrole de casserole) et, d'autre part, le développement de t en ces conditions n'est pas général en baltique: str est régulier en lette, mais sr subsiste couramment en lituanien.*”, so we can't really be sure when the Slavic change took place or whether it was still active during our LCS stage. The only indication of its activity in OCS is the single Psal.  $\text{срѣдѣ}$  <\*sorm-omъ spelling cited by Diels (1963: 122); otherwise new /sr/ from metathesised *\*sErC* groups is tolerated unchanged.

New occurrences of *\*zr*, on the other hand, are regularly generated in the language right up to OCS times, not only in the derivational-morphology because of the verb-prefixes *\*orz-*, *\*vъz-*, *\*jъz-* (e.g. Supr. 3sg. aor.  $\text{взвѣдоу}$  ‘roared’, from *\*vъz-ruti*), but also because of the clitic prepositions *\*jъz* and *\*bez*, which form one phonological word with whatever follows them and thus cause OCS spellings like Mar. Luke 1  $\text{срѣдѣ}$  <\*jъ.z ър.кѣ. Meillet (p.136) also cites the Old Polish adverb *zdręki* <\*jъz ър.кѣ, which proves that the phenomenon is not limited to SSL or OCS. Curiously, though, despite this overwhelming evidence of a synchronic /zr/ > /zdr/ rule in OCS, /zr/ from the metathesised *\*zork-* root is never spelt <зрѣк> and so seems to be tolerated, even though Diels (p.122) cites prepositional forms like Supr.  $\text{вездѣ}$  <\*bez ъ\*orzuma,  $\text{вездѣ}$  <\*bez ъ\*ordla, which come from metathesised *\*orT-* groups but *do* show inserted /d/. Such inconsistency is hard to explain unless the addition of /d/ has been partly morphologised as a variant of specifically the prepositions before /r/.

With such a sound-change that appears most often at morpheme or straight-up word-boundaries, there is a strong drive to restore the underlying shape of the constituent parts, hence the modern languages have mostly restored /zr/ groups in e.g. Russian *разрешить*, and there are traces of this even in Psalterium Sinaiticum: Psalm 48  $\text{срѣдѣ}$  (Diels 1963: 122). In Old Russian, the Uspenskij Sbornik is pretty consistent in keeping prefixed verb-forms like  $\text{разрѣшитѣ}$  <\*orzrūšitъ, but by the time of the Laurentian Codex we get forms like  $\text{взрѣшитѣ}$  and  $\text{нѣзрѣшитѣ}$ . Therefore even though *\*sr* > *\*str* and *\*zr* > *\*zdr* appear to be simply voiced and unvoiced variants of the same sound change, the practical effects are very different because the former is, from the LCS perspective, totally ‘opaque’, since it only occurs in roots and thus is not analysable by speakers into constituent morphemes without the inserted stop, in the way that /bez ъdrōky/ can be identified with separate /bez/ and /rōky/.

For this reason I don't include /zdr/ <\*zr at prefix or preposition-boundaries in my LCS system, so that investigators can see for themselves the extent of each text's adherence to the expected phonological development vs restoration of /zr/ under morphological pressure.

Following the same logic I also retain illegal *\*ss* and *\*sš* groups in prefixed-verbs like Psal.  $\text{срѣдѣ}$  <\*jъs-seče, Mar.  $\text{срѣдѣ}$  <\*jъs-šъdъ, Assemanianus  $\text{срѣдѣ}$  <\*ors-širĀjqtъ, because that same drive towards restoration of the underlying shapes of the prefixes *\*jъs-/ors-* etc. can be seen in modern Russian *иссякнуть*, *расширять*, and Laurentian Codex  $\text{расширѣши}$ .<sup>17</sup> This treatment is

16 For some baffling reason this form is missing from Eckhoff's text, so I link instead to the relevant folio of David Birnbaum's online edition.

17 Conversely, sequences of *\*sk*, *\*zg* at prefix-boundaries which show PV1 reflexes, like Mar., Zogr.  $\text{срѣдѣ}$  <\*orš-čъtetъ (ECS *\*skīt-* > *\*ščīt-*), Psal.  $\text{срѣдѣ}$  <\*orž-žigajetъ (ECS *\*zgīg-* > *\*žžīg-*) are kept as *\*šč*, *\*žž*. Such forms may well not go all the way back to the time of PV1, and instead be just the result of a synchronic rule prohibiting /zž/ and /sč/ (> /žž/ and /šč/) that remained active until much more recently, especially given prepositional-phrase forms like Psal.  $\text{срѣдѣ}$  <\*jъs-čъcъrva, so this is arguably inconsistent with my treatment of *\*ss*, *\*sš* etc. My justification is firstly that *\*sk*, *\*zg* > *\*šč*, *\*žž* are *conspicuously* PV1-changes, which we *know* originated well before our target LCS point, whereas the precise timing of de-gemination or simplification of *\*sš* is less clear-cut; and secondly that even in languages like Russian which *orthographically* have restored <сч> and <жж> spellings in compounds like *исчезнуть* and *разжечь*, the pronunciations are still arguably direct reflexes of LCS *\*šč* and *\*žž*, viz. [s:] and [z:] (or, in the conservative Moscow-dialect, the palatalised [z:] found also in *дожечь* <\*dъžhъ).

also more consistent with my handling of verbs like \*jъs-kělitī (> OCS ицѣлити/исцѣлити) where simplification *must* have occurred posterior to our pre-PV2 LCS stage (since /sk/ is always totally permissible), and where manuscripts show great diversity, e.g. Zogr. and Assem. consistently have ѡѡΔΔ- while Mar. and Psal. keep ѡѡѡΔΔ- (more discussion of the wider Slavic reflexes of this group, including the OCS <ѣ> spellings, can be found in Meillet 1965: 133).

## 1.6 Morphological innovations that scupper LCS reconstruction

The units of the phoneme-system sketched above serve as the building-blocks for all higher-level linguistic systems, most immediately the inflectional-morphology and derivational-morphology systems, whose features are thus constrained by said phoneme-system and the distributional-restrictions of its units (i.e. *phonotactics*). Changes which occur in the phoneme-system between the time of our theoretical LCS and the time of our texts can therefore trigger (or allow) restructuring of these morphological systems, which in turn can produce forms containing phoneme-sequences with no possible direct LCS ancestor-sequences.

An example of such morphological change contingent upon structural phonological change, leading to forms which preclude any direct LCS-stage reconstruction, is the replacement of i-stem endings with those of the corresponding jo- or jā-stems, in nouns whose stems end on labials or the subset of LCS dental consonants which lack palatal counterparts, viz. /d t s z/<sup>18</sup>. Evidence for such a change is furnished by the Old Russian masc gen./acc. form **ТАТА** from the 1229 Treaty between Smolensk, Riga and Gotland (Version A). LCS \*tatъ is a masc. i-stem noun with genitive \*tati, as it still appears in the Suprasliensis translation of John Chrysostom's Homily for Holy Thursday (...**ТО КАЖЕТЪ ВЛАДЫКЪЗЫ ЧЛОВѢКОЛЮБЫЕ**· **ІАКО ПРѢДАННИКА РАЗБОЙНИКА ТАТИ**...), but in the dialect underlying the 1229 Treaty the rise of phonemically palatalised /t'/ after the Jer Shift means that the stem (and the nom. sg. **ТАТЪ** /tat'/) of this noun now ends on the same class of "soft" consonants as original jo-stem nouns like \*koň > /kon'/. where the original LCS palatal \*ń has fallen together with secondarily-palatalised /n'/ from plain LCS \*n before LCS front-vowels, in e.g. the original i-stem \*bornъ > /boron'/. This system thus no longer distinguishes between descendants of the original LCS palatals and the newly secondarily-palatalised consonants like /t'/: both are now together in the set of 'soft' consonants, opposed to their 'plain' or 'hard' counterparts, and so tend towards taking the same set of inflectional endings (in this case those of the original jo-stems)<sup>19</sup>. Consequently, a word like **ТАТЪ** has begun to take jo-stem endings, including the Old Russian /a/ reflex of LCS \*Ā in the genitive/accusative singular.

LCS /Ā/, though, by definition can only occur after LCS palatal consonants (see above), so a reconstruction \*tatĀ is just nonsensical. In the case of the dat. sg. /u/-desinence (which isn't attested in our Treaty but exists in modern Russian *матю*), we don't even have an LCS archiphoneme available to signal a preceding soft-consonant; there's simply no way of getting from LCS \*tatu to Russian /tat'u/, because such a form was only made possible by the rise of phonemic /t'/, so our ability to index it with our LCS system is gone.

Were the same shift from i-stem to jo-stem to occur in a word like \*zvěрь, then the structural change would not be so catastrophic, because our LCS system *does* contain a palatal \*ř which any allophonically-softened LCS hard \*r could easily be subsumed into. Indeed, interestingly

18 In some dialects (notably East Slavic) the PV3 reflexes \*ś and \*ž became palatalised counterparts to plain /s z/, i.e. /s' z'/, and merged with the /s' z'/ that developed from LCS \*s,z before front-vowels, but in most OCS they seem to have just hardened to /s, z/: searching my database for the sequence \*ъхѣ, for example, turns up exclusively <ѣ> spellings in Marianus, just one <ѣ> in Zogr., and exclusively <ѣ> in Suprasliensis, with only Assem. and Psal. containing a significant minority of <ѣ> spellings.

19 Russian feminine i-stems like *весь* (<\*vьsь, 'village') do not fall together with ja-stems in the way the masculines like \*zvěрь fall together with jo-stems, but they do all still take the /am, ax, ami/ endings in the dat., loc. and instr. pl., e.g. *вѣсям*, which contain the same LCS ja-stem \*-Ā- vocalism which can only occur after LCS palatals, meaning they too end up totally unreconstructable due to an illegal \*\*sĀ sequence.

Suprasliensis does in fact contain 3X gen. sg. **385<sup>1</sup>ѣѣ**, with what looks like a jo-stem reflex of \*rĭĕ (spelt with jat' as an overhang of the Glagolitic tradition, cf. 2X **морѣ** vs 1X **морѣа** spellings), suggesting that Russian-style secondary palatalisation of \*r > /r'/ may have occurred in the Bulgarian dialect underlying it<sup>20</sup>. You don't, though, get anything like **ТАТА**<sup>21</sup>, so the system-wide development of secondary-palatalisation does not seem to have advanced enough to have caused the sort of fundamental structural reorganising which shifted \*tatъ into the jo-stems in Old Russian.

## 2 LCS Morphology and the Autoreconstructor

The ten-place morphology-tags included as part of the word-level annotations in Eckhoff’s TOROT corpus constitute a veritable goldmine of linguistic data, because, based as they are on the *form* of a word rather than the *function*, they bridge the gap between the higher (syntax, semantics etc.) and lower (phonology, orthography, morphology) levels of linguistics analysis. An example TOROT annotation for the word **၃၁၁၁၁၁၁၁၁၁၁၁** is given below:

Figure 1: TOROT annotation for Psal. Sin. Psalm 70 ဘုရားရှင်အရှင်အရှင်အရှင် in XML format

A detailed explanation of each feature can be found in Section 6 of Eckhoff et al. (2018: 41), but here it suffices to say that in this example the tag “1spia---i” is telling us that  $\text{ལ་མེད་ལ་འཁྱུག་པ་ལེ་}$  is 1<sup>st</sup>

21 Except the numerous gen. sg. *ꙗꙗꙗꙗ* and dat. sg. *ꙗꙗꙗꙗꙗ* for the i-stem \**gospodъ*, but this word seems to be an isolated special case, because it bafflingly turns up even in early Glagolitic OCS with endings like *ꙗꙗꙗꙗ* (ju-stem dat. sg. \*-*evi*, cf. Supr. *ꙗꙗꙗꙗꙗꙗ*), *ꙗꙗꙗꙗ* (jo-stem dat. sg. \*-*u*), and *ꙗꙗꙗ* (jo-stem gen. sg. \*-*Ē*). See Van Wijk (1929).

23 The spreadsheet containing my reconstructions and inflection-class annotations for the TOROT OCS lemmas can be downloaded from [https://github.com/12401453/torot\\_2023/blob/main/lemma\\_lists/chu\\_lemmas\\_master.xlsx](https://github.com/12401453/torot_2023/blob/main/lemma_lists/chu_lemmas_master.xlsx)



24 Extra handling is required for forms of \*byti, since that has a separate future-paradigm (and future-participle) which TOROT does actually specify separately with an ‘f’ value for the *tense* feature, as well as two variant imperfect sets (3sg. \*bě vs. \*běaše, which aren’t tagged, but which I detect), and a ‘conditional’ \*bimb, \*bi, \*bq etc. Participles require an extra step to read their nominal-features and add their adjective-like endings.





Full paradigms for the 4,500-ish OCS lemmas I have so far reconstructed can be dynamically generated here <https://ocstexts.co.uk/words>; these are constructed from LCS lemmas in the same way the Autoreconstructor reconstructs individual forms, except it produces every form in the paradigm, rather than just the one specified by a text-word's morphology-tag. The LCS forms are then converted into 'normalised' OCS by the browser using the `convertToOCS()` function here: [https://github.com/12401453/ocs\\_server/blob/main/HTML\\_DOCS/LCS\\_to\\_OCS.js#L197](https://github.com/12401453/ocs_server/blob/main/HTML_DOCS/LCS_to_OCS.js#L197).

☐ Corpus forms

	Present	Aorist	Imperfect	Imperative	Participles	
1st sg.	сѣтърѣ	сѣтърѣхъ	сѣтърѣахъ	сѣтърѣмь	PRAP <sup>1</sup>	сѣтърѣи
2nd sg.	сѣтърѣши	сѣтърѣ сѣтърѣ	сѣтърѣаше	сѣтърѣи	PRAP <sup>2</sup>	сѣтърѣицѣ
3rd sg.	сѣтърѣтъ	сѣтърѣ сѣтърѣ	сѣтърѣаше	сѣтърѣи	PAP	сѣтърѣи
1st du.	сѣтърѣвѣ	сѣтърѣховѣ	сѣтърѣаховѣ	сѣтърѣвѣ	L-Part.	сѣтърѣахъ
2nd du.	сѣтърѣта	сѣтърѣта	сѣтърѣашета	сѣтърѣта	PPP	сѣтърѣи сѣтърѣи
3rd du.	сѣтърѣте сѣтърѣта	сѣтърѣте сѣтърѣта	сѣтърѣашете сѣтърѣашета	сѣтърѣте	PrPP	сѣтърѣомъ
1st pl.	сѣтърѣмъ	сѣтърѣомъ	сѣтърѣахомъ	сѣтърѣмъ	Infinitive	сѣтърѣти
2nd pl.	сѣтърѣте	сѣтърѣте	сѣтърѣашете	сѣтърѣте	Supine	сѣтърѣи
3rd pl.	сѣтърѣтъ	сѣтърѣахъ сѣтърѣахъ	сѣтърѣахъ	сѣтърѣахъ		

Figure 4: Dynamically-generated paradigm for the OCS verb *сѣтърѣти*, based on the Autoreconstructor's computerised LCS inflectional-morphology

The accuracy of the generated-forms can then be gauged by comparing them to tables populated only by forms which actually occur in Eckhoff's corpus-texts, using the 'Corpus-forms' switch:

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now I've left all such adjectives wholly uncontracted (though the Autoreconstructor does actually mark long-adjectivals that contain such problematic concatenations and this information could be used to exclude them from searches).

☒ Corpus forms

	Present	Aorist	Imperfect	Imperative	Participles	
1st sg.					PRAP <sup>1</sup>	
2nd sg.					PRAP <sup>2</sup>	
3rd sg.	сѣтърѣтъ сѣтърѣтъ	сѣтърь сѣтърьѣ			PAP	сѣтърьъ сѣтърьъши
1st du.					L-Part.	сѣтърьъаъ
2nd du.					PPP	сѣтърьени
3rd du.					PrPP	
1st pl.				сѣтърьѣмъ	Infinitive	
2nd pl.					Supine	сѣтърьтъ
3rd pl.		сѣтърьша				

Figure 5: Forms of the same сѣтърѣти verb as they actually occur in Eckhoff's (Cyrillicised) TOROT corpus of Church Slavic texts

An advantage of basing computer-generated paradigms on converted LCS (rather than directly on normalised OCS) is that it allows for the possibility of dialect or manuscript-specific conversions: e.g. Kiev Folia-flavoured paradigms that convert \*h, \*ĥ to <ц, з> and use <ѣ> for *all* \*Ē, or a Marianus-specific conversion that frequently shows vocalised strong-jers, or even an artificial pre-Jer Shift form of Old Russian that shows the denasalisation of \*ę via mixing up of <ѣ> and <ѧ>:

	Sing.	Dual	Plural
Nom.	КЪНІАЗЬ КЪНАГЪ	КЪНАЗІА	КЪНАЗИ
Acc.	КЪНАЗЬ КЪНАГЪ	КЪНАЗА	КЪНІАЗѢ КЪНАГЪІ
Gen.	КЪНАЗІА	КЪНАЗЮ	КЪНІАЗЬ КЪНАГЪ
Dat.	КЪНІАЗЮ	КЪНІАЗЕМА КЪНАГОМА	КЪНАЗЕМЪ КЪНАГОМЪ
Loc.	КЪНІАЗИ КЪНІАЗѢ	КЪНАЗЮ	КЪНІАЗИХЪ КЪНАЗѢХЪ
Instr.	КЪНАЗЬМЬ КЪНАГЪМЬ	КЪНАЗЕМА КЪНАГОМА	КЪНІАЗИ КЪНАГЪІ
Voc.	КЪНІАЖЕ	КЪНІАЗА	КЪНІАЗИ

Figure 6: Dynamically-generated paradigm of \*кѣнегъ but with an Old Russian rather than OCS conversion

	Sing.	Dual	Plural
Nom.	КЪНАСЬ КЪНАГЪ	КЪНАСА	КЪНАШИ
Acc.	КЪНАСЬ КЪНАГЪ	КЪНАСА	КЪНАСА КЪНАГЪІ
Gen.	КЪНАСА	КЪНАСОУ	КЪНАСЬ КЪНАГЪ
Dat.	КЪНАСОУ	КЪНАСЕМА КЪНАГОМА	КЪНАСЕМЪ КЪНАГОМЪ
Loc.	КЪНАШИ КЪНАСѢ	КЪНАСОУ	КЪНАСИХЪ КЪНАСѢХЪ
Instr.	КЪНАСЕМЬ КЪНАГОМЬ	КЪНАСЕМА КЪНАГОМА	КЪНАШИ КЪНАГЪІ
Voc.	КЪНАЖЕ	КЪНАСА	КЪНАШИ

Figure 7: \*кѣнегъ with the canonical OCS conversion for comparison

## 2.3 Detecting and dealing with morphological innovations

217066	приведоша	3paia----i	privedošę	privedo
217101	въздѣхнѣвъ	-supamn-si	vъzdxnъvъ	vъzdxъ
217112	разврѣзосте	3daia----i	orzvrъzoste	orzvrъzete
217261	бѣгивѣ	-supamn-si	bolgoslovivъ	bolgoslovilъ
217266	ѣша	3paia----i	jĕšę	jĕšę
217272	възаша	3paia----i	vъzęšę	vъzęšę
217302	начаша	3paia----i	načęšę	načęšę
217316	въздѣхнѣвъ	-supamn-si	vъzdxnъvъ	vъzdxъ
217455	приведоша	3paia----i	privedošę	privedo
217600	начать	3saia----i	načęť	načę
217605	сѣноу	-s---md--i	synu	synovi
217635	начать	3saia----i	načęť	načę
217787	поѣтъ	3saia----i	pojęť	poję
217832	моѣомъ	-s---mi--i	mosijomъ	mosijemъ
217856	моѣови	-s---md--i	mosijovi	mosiju
217869	быс	3saia----i	bystъ	by
217960	сѣнѣ	-s---ml--i	synę	synu
218067	невѣрьнѣ	-s---mvpsi	nevęrъnъ	nevęrъne
218108	быс	3saia----i	bystъ	by
218173	нѣмѣ	-s---mvpwi	nęmъjъ	nęmęjъ
218175	глоухѣ	-s---mvpwi	gluxъjъ	glušejъ
218198	быстъ	3saia----i	bystъ	by
218206	оумрѣтъ	3saia----i	umertъ	umer
218388	ѣмени	-s---nl--i	jъmeni	jъmene
218419	ѣмени	-s---nl--i	jъmeni	jъmene
218561	окомъ	-s---ni--i	okomъ	očesъmъ
218648	моѣю	-s---md--i	mōžu	mōževi
218688	моѣжа	-s---mg--i	mōžĕ	mōžu
218755	прѣлѣубѣ	-s---fa--i	perluby	perlubъvъ
218762	поустивѣши	-supafn-si	pustivъši	pušĕbъši

Figure 6: Auto-detected and -reconstructed morphological deviances from a small part of the Book of Mark in Codex Zographensis

The screenshot above shows some raw data from my autoreconstructed SQLite database of the TOROT OCS texts; in this case it's forms from Zographensis (around Mark 7 to Mark 10) where the Autoreconstructor has detected morphological innovations. The fourth column shows what the Autoreconstructor thinks is the direct phonological ancestor to the text-form, but the ancestor of the 'original', 'correct', or 'default' morphological form is also generated and stored in the fifth column, so that such cases of innovation can be easily searched-for and counted (since non-innovated forms have NULL values in this column).

Types of innovation detected here include:

- extended S-aorists of class 1 verbs: 3<sup>rd</sup> pl. **приведоша** vs. **приведѣ**, 3<sup>rd</sup> dual **разврѣзосте** vs. **\*разврѣзете**<sup>27</sup>
- unetymological extension of the RUKI-rule-produced \*š in 3<sup>rd</sup> pl. primary sigmatic aorists: **ѣша** vs. **ѣса** <\*jĕd-s-ę, **възаша** vs. **възаса** <\*vъzym-s-ę, **начаша** vs. **начаса** <\*načъn-s-ę (neither \*d, \*m, nor \*n have ever been RUKI sounds)
- extension of the \*-nq- suffix to the past. act. part. of class 2 verbs like **въздѣхнѣти**: **въздѣхнѣвъ** (cf. Mar. **въздѣхнѣ** from **оуздѣхнѣти**)

27 Koch (1990: 293) lists only sigmatic aorists as possibilities for the \*-verz-/\*-vřz- stem verbs, and it seems that outside of the 3<sup>rd</sup> sg. (e.g. Psal. **бѣгоуѣѣѣ**, Zogr. **ѣгоуѣѣѣ**) no root-aorists are attested in any Slavic text, so maybe I am wrong to set up asigmatic root-aorists like 3<sup>rd</sup> dual \*-vřzete as a possibility alongside primary sigmatic \*-verste (e.g. Mar. Mark 7 **бѣгоуѣѣѣ**). My justification is that the \*-verg-/\*-vřg- stem verbs *do* attest such root-aorists, e.g. 3<sup>rd</sup> pl. **ѣгоуѣѣѣѣ** in Psal. Psalm 77, and I don't see what, apart from the nature of the final stem-consonant (obstruent vs. continuant), could be grounds for classifying these two verbs differently.

- addition of the \*-tQ suffix from the 3<sup>rd</sup> sg. pres. (see fn. 5 above) to 3<sup>rd</sup> sg. aorist forms: НАУАТЪ, ПОАТЪ, ОУМРЪТЪ
- original u/ju-stem nouns taking o/jo-stem endings: dat. sg. ѿноу, мѣжоу; loc. sg. ѿнѣ, gen. sg. мѣжа
- past act. part. of class 4 verbs using the suffix \*-ivъ rather than \*-jъ: бѣгивѣ, поуѣтивѣши (cf. Mar. Mark 10 [ѣхашѣ](#) <\*pust-jъši)

Deciding upon the “correct” morphological endings for an unattested language inevitably entails some uncertainty and controversy: for instance, \*-ox- aorists occur in both OCS and Old Russian, so why do I consider them LCS deviances? Basically because they **never**<sup>28</sup> occur in Marianus, which would be quite improbable if they were a discarded archaism (especially given their ubiquity in the closely related Zographensis).

In other cases we are dealing with hodge-podge paradigms which are only ever attested with endings from multiple older classes, and sometimes dialectal or orthographic features of the manuscripts can make it difficult to distinguish potential LCS ancestors of certain endings. For instance, I have a *masc\_tel* class used for agent-nouns like OCS ДѢЛАТЕЛѢ (i.e. Diels 1963: 166), which in the sg. and dual. behave exactly like masc jo-stems, but which in the gen. and instr. plural are attested also with basically consonant-stem endings on a hard \*-tel- stem, e.g. Zogr. [ѣхѣ+ѣ+ѣ](#) <\*tęžĚtelъ, Supr. [свѣтитѣлѣ](#) <\*svĕtitely. The nom. pl. appears also to take a consonant-stem \*-e ending, but as Diels (op. cit.) points out, the spellings in Zogr. and Supr. (where use of the palatalisation-diacritic <^> to denote LCS \*ĭ is consistent enough to suggest a real phonemic /ĭ/ in the underlying dialects) like [мѣхѣлѣ](#)<sup>29</sup> mean we can’t follow Meillet (1965: 426) in setting up \*-tele as the ‘correct’ ending, because spellings like [ѣхѣлѣ](#) in Mar. could just as easily descend from \*žetelē as from \*žetele. Absent a manuscript which both consistently marks \*ĭ and doesn’t use such a mark in this nom. pl. desinence, there’s no hard evidence of this \*-tele ending ever actually existing. I thus use \*-telē in the ‘correct’ table, and the jo-stem \*-telī in the ‘deviances’ table<sup>30</sup>.

## 2.4 Overcoming poor lemmatisation practice

Sometimes Eckhoff’s lemmatisation is too coarse-grained, in that forms which clearly descend from distinct doublets are subsumed under one lemma. To demonstrate just one example of how the Autoreconstructor deals with this sort of problem, take the numeral [ѣдинъ](#) <\*jedīnъ, which in the earliest OCS has straightforward hard pronominal endings and which therefore goes in my *pron\_hard* class alongside demonstratives like \*онъ. There is, however, what must be viewed as an LCS doublet \*jedъnъ<sup>31</sup>, which gives e.g. Serbian *jedan* and the modern Russian fem. nt. and oblique-case forms *одна*, *одного* etc., and which is used for the majority of non masc. nom./acc. sg. forms of the pronoun in Suprasliensis<sup>32</sup>, e.g. [ѣд’номоу](#). Notwithstanding Eckhoff’s habit of

28 Having Autoreconstructed all of Marianus I can verify this (admittedly already well-established) fact far more quickly and easily than was possible just with Eckhoff’s morphology and part-of-speech annotation-information: using TOROT the smallest net you could cast would be one that caught all aorist-tense verbs, whereas I can just search for reflexes of \*охъ, \*охов, \*охом, \*оѣ, \*оста\$, and \*осте\$ (the latter two using ‘regular-expression’ mode and \$ to specify end-of-word), which for Mar. turns up nothing except the three occurrences of [ѣстоу](#).

29 Searching my database for \*telē\$ returns only a single [ѣлѣлѣ](#) in Supr. without the diacritic; everything in Zogr. has it.

30 Diels mentions only Psal. Psalm 26 [ѣхѣлѣлѣ](#), but the Autoreconstructor is intended for use with other early texts beyond canonical OCS which might also contain this type of assimilation to the jo-stems.

31 This despite Meillet’s (1965: 144) incoherent speculation about the /i/ in \*jedīnъ resulting from a phonetic development of strong \*ъ, analogous to what happens in the vicinity of \*j, because “or il s’agit d’un composé dont le second élément est \*jīnŭ”. While this interpretation of \*jedīnъ’s derivation could be true (and according to Derksen’s (2008: 212) etymology of the \*jъnъ pronoun, its \*j is prothetic, meaning it wouldn’t develop if already attached to a stem ending in \*d), the idea that a synchronic \*-дъnъ by any purely phonological means could become /-din/, let alone early enough to completely displace by analogy the oblique forms in the earliest OCS where [ѣдѣ](#)-spellings are overwhelming, is ludicrous and contradicted by all the philological evidence.

32 According to my database there are 145 reflexes of \*jedъn- in this category vs 46 from \*jedīn-, though all 107 reflexes of the masc. nom./acc. sg. are from \*jedīnъ. Interestingly the Uspenskij Sbornik, in contrast to later



lemmatising these with *ѣДИНЪ* instead of *ѣДЫНЪ*, it's trivial for the Autoreconstructor to check the form (which has in a previous step already been aggressively normalised to get rid of morphologically-irrelevant variation) for a <ДИН> sequence, which would never occur in the inflexional-ending and so always point to a \*jedin-descended stem, and then replace our autoreconstruction with \*jedьн- if such isn't found:

```
// check for *jedьн-
if (lemma_ref.lemma_id == compileTimeHashString("Рхѣдинъ") || lemma_ref.lemma_id == compileTimeHashString("Маѣдинъ"))
{
  if (Sniff(cyr_id, "дін", 20) == false)
  {
    stem = "jedьн";|
  }
}
```

Figure 7: Part of the Autoreconstructor's code which checks for reflexes of \*jedьн- that TOROT has mistakenly lemmatised under *ѣДИНЪ*

In the long-term TOROT itself should fix such lemmatisation problems, but in the meantime checks like the above are computationally extremely cheap and prevent great swathes of the texts from being wrongly autoreconstructed.

### 3. Conclusion and prospects for future work

The foregoing article has laid out a method for leveraging existing morphosyntactic annotation-data to produce rigorous phonological annotations of Old Church Slavonic texts, and in so doing to make the results of large-scale corpus-building efforts like PROIEL and TOROT useful to historical phonologists, morphologists, and textologists, rather than just to "linguists" in the narrow cognitive-science sense of the word. Both the resulting annotations and the computational apparatus used to produce them have value not only for researchers, but also in their potential for creating innovative pedagogical tools for learners.

In subsequent articles I intend to show the usefulness of such annotations by using them to holistically and comprehensively test the predictions implied by previous researchers into the sound-systems of early Slavic, because for certain questions in this field there are simply too many data-points for exhaustive manual investigations to be feasible. One thinks for example of the so-called Jer Umlaut proposed by Jagić (REFERENCE ???), which holds that OCS texts show a tendency for weak back-jers to be fronted when followed by a front-vowel, or of the theory advanced by Totomanova (2014: 14-28) about a purported merger of the jers in the earliest Bulgarian after palatal and palatalised consonants, parallel to the better-known Middle Bulgarian merger of the nasals in the same environment. An LCS phoneme-index that allows the immediate retrieval of all the spellings of the relevant sound-groups is exactly what's needed to examine the correctness of such theories.

Though important OCS texts are still lacking the sort of annotation-data needed for the method of autoreconstruction outlined here, it should be noted that recent advances in neural-network-based tagging and lemmatisation (e.g. Rabus & Besters-Dilger 2021) mean that modern taggers trained on the existing manual-annotated corpus will perform extremely well on the remaining canonical OCS texts, which massively cuts down the time and effort required to do for, say, the Savinna Kniga what has already been done for the Marianus<sup>33</sup>. As the volume and quality of training-data increases, the performance of such automatic taggers can only improve, which will open up more and more of the early Slavic written record to the sort of automatic 'phonological annotation' described here.

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Russian, appears to completely lack \*jedьн-, though all except the single *оѧһнон* are spelt with the OCS <ѣ/ѣ> reflex of initial \*je-.

33 The Codex Assemanianus (Cyrillicised from Jouko Lindstedt's ASCII-encoded version) is included on [ocstexts.co.uk](http://ocstexts.co.uk) with a wholly automatic lemmatisation, tagging, and autoreconstruction that used a (slightly improved version of) the outdated method detailed in Berdičevskis, Eckhoff & Gavrilova (2016), and as shoddy as the autoreconstructions often are one can still glean useful insights from searching around in it.

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