

# **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). No inflection-class data is included in these corpora, and phonology has been totally ignored to the extent that 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 the 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 using a database of LCS inflectional-endings, reconstructing and inflection-class-marking the LCS lemmas, and then applying inflectional-endings to the stems according to the word's morphology-tag annotation<sup>1</sup>. Such LCS reconstructions are an extremely useful form of 'phonological annotation', since theoretically all the information required to give rise to an attested form must 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.

In the next section I will describe my computerised LCS inflectional-morphology in more detail, show how it can be used to "autoreconstruct" different OCS texts, and explain how difficulties caused by things like morphological innovations, badly-integrated foreign loanwords, or insufficiently-precise tagging-data can be overcome.

Since morphology-tagging and lemmatisation are a prerequisite for my method of automatic reconstruction, Section 2 will survey recent work on automating these tasks for early Slavonic texts. Thanks to modern deep-learning techniques and the large and growing amount of manually-produced training-data in Eckhoff's corpus, accuracies of 90%+ can easily be reached (depending on the target-text), and I will see how far up this can be pushed by better neural-network design and more careful and informed pre-processing of training and target-data.

As a test-case of "wholly automatic" phonological annotation, Section 3 will apply such methods to the Codex Assemanianus, an OCS lectionary containing most of the gospels which has been digitised in an ASCII-encoded format by Jouko Lindstedt but is not included in Eckhoff's corpus. Accuracy will be evaluated by comparing both the automatic tagging and lemmatisation, and the resulting LCS reconstructions, to 10 randomly-selected manually-annotated shorter sections.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

Section 4 will then use the wholly-automatically-reconstructed Assemanianus as the basis for a short investigation into aspects of its phonological and orthographic system, which will be compared against existing treatments of this text in the literature, to see to what extent useful insights can be extracted even without any form of manual-annotation.

## 1. Auto-reconstructing texts using a computerised Late Common Slavic inflectional morphology

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:

### 1.1 Late Common Slavonic as a "phonological index"

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. *вѣсакъ*, Ru. *всяк[уй]* <\*vьx-akъ), as well as the probable complete absence of PV2<sup>2</sup> in northern East Slavic (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, \*květъ, etc.).

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

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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 *свинѣца* <\*svinьkъ and *полотѣнѣца* <\*polьtьnьka), and those of \*g are not unknown: Zaliznjak (2004: 47) admits that palatalised forms of the Germanic loan *кѣнѣз-* <\*kьnēg- are the rule, but considers this to be a "supradialectal" word originating outside of the Novgorodian dialect-area; Galinskaja (2014: 10) is less convinced and adduces the form *оуѣрѣзѣ* '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 Galinskaja (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. *вѣхѣ* <\*vьxoјѣ from letter №850), and which come from letters which otherwise correctly convey the jers (by writing <ѣ, ѣ> for \*ь and <о, ѡ> for \*ѡ), the weak-jer is always written with <ѣ, ѡ>, 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 Galinskaja (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).

	Front	Back
High	i	y u
	ɨ ʏ ɪ	ʏ ɨ ʊ
Mid	e ɛ	ɔ o
	ě ě	
Low	Æ	
	a	

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

In addition, the following symbols are used to represent 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: /k ġ x f ü/, e.g. in respectively кѢТЪ <\*kitъ, ѿѣмонъ <\*igemonъ, хитонъ <\*xitonъ, иосифъ <\*ijosifъ<sup>3</sup>, and мѹро <\*müro. 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' (\*egüpъtь): ѧѵѳѸтѸ vs ѧѵѳѸтѸ vs ѧѵѳѸтѸ vs ѧѵѳѸтѸ vs ѧѵѳѸтѸ<sup>4</sup>, etc.. One might also ask whether a separate <Ѧ> letter for /ġ/ (and the writing of <к>/<ѥ> 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 <Ѷ, ѷ> 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.

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. **рѡбѣ** < \*orb-q vs Uspenskij Sbornik nt. acc. sg. **рѡло** < \*ordl-o, because for too large a proportion of the vocabulary this information is not sufficiently securely and

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, which is a work-in-progress web-interface for viewing and searching the annotated texts. Care should be taken with Eckhoff's digitisations, particularly in texts like Psal. where certain rusesome decisions from the editors Severjanov (1922) and Mareš (1997) have been compounded by further information-destroying simplifications (for instance, Severjanov transcribes <Ѧ> with <Ѧ>, but Eckhoff then replaces Severjanov's roundy diacritic with a titlo, leading to nonsense transcriptions like Psalm 8 <ѦѦѦѦѦ> for ms. <ѦѦѦѦѦ>). 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 /y/ and /ĕ/ are required to account for the split between North (East and West) and South Slavic forms of certain inflectional-endings: \*ȳ for the nom. sg. masc./nt. pres. act. participle of certain verb-classes whose present-stem ends on a hard-consonant, which in South Slavic remains high and backed, e.g. Supr. **ꙋоуѣ** <\*zovy, Psalterium Sinaiticum **ꙋоуѣ** <\*stergy-jъ, Codex Marianus **ꙋоуѣ** <\*jĒdy-jъ (these forms lead Kortlandt (1979:260) to posit that some dialects of early OCS retained some kind of nasal character in this vowel and may even have developed the special "hooked" nasal letter <ѥ> for it), but which in most of North Slavic lowered to /a/: Old Polish (Kazania Świętokrzyskie) has both *recą* and *recŃ* (with the special Old Polish letter for the merged reflex of \*ę and \*ǫ) <\*reky, and in other texts also *biorŃ* <\*bery; Russkaja Pravda **ꙋоуѣ**, Uspenskij Sbornik **ꙋоуѣ** <\*dojъdy, Ru.Ch.Sl. (Vita Methodii) **ꙋоуѣ** <\*vъxemogy-jъ. Kortlandt's positing of a CS \*ȳ (which he writes as \*aN) is far from universally accepted, and others consider these forms the result of various dialect-specific analogical process; see references and discussion in Olander (2015: 88-92). Whatever the truth of the matter, our \*ȳ is a convenient placeholder which allows all the relevant evidence to be retrieved.

The need for the retention of the / $\bar{\text{E}}$ / archiphoneme, which represents merged Early Common Slavonic \* $\bar{\text{e}}$  \* $\bar{\text{a}}$  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 / $\bar{\text{E}}$ /) was explicitly posited by Kortlandt as far back as 1979 (p.266) as part of his ECS system. In short, a combination of:

2.) overwhelming spellings of palatal-letter (<ѡѣѧ>) + jat' in the Kiev Folia (the oldest and therefore least distant ms. from the 'original' OCS, as first codified by Cyrill and Methodius and for which the Glagolitic alphabet was devised) for the reflexes of LCS \*č/š/ž/h + \*Ē (e.g. ѠѢѦѦѦѦ <\*ob-věhĀlъ, ѠѡѡѦѦѦ <\*dušĀmi), as well as occasional traces of such spellings in later Glagolitic OCS (e.g. Psal. ѡѡѡѢ <\*čĀšę); and

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**), 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> sgl. aorists like OCS **ѡѣтъ**, OR (Uspensk. Sbor.) **ѡѣтъ**, **ѡѣтъ**). Here I have no choice but to index them with dummy-symbols in the database: \*-Omь/\*-Emь for the instr. sg. ending and \*-tQ for the verb-endings.

since my LCS system is based on a point just *before* PV2 and PV3, I must also retain the \* $\bar{\text{E}}$  archiphoneme.<sup>6</sup>

The syllabic liquids / $\text{r}_\text{f}$   $\text{r}_\text{b}$   $\text{l}_\text{f}$   $\text{l}_\text{b}$ / are included as unitary vocalic phonemes, following Schenker (1995: 94), rather than as combinations of / $\text{r}_\text{b}$   $\text{r}_\text{f}$   $\text{l}_\text{f}$   $\text{l}_\text{b}$ /, because these groups descend from PIE syllabic liquids and many descendant South Slavic dialects which retain syllabic liquids in this position (including most of those underlying canonical OCS) do not show any evidence of an intervening oral-vowel + liquid stage (such a view is shared by Bethin 1998: 71-72; cf. also Bulgarian dialectal evidence in Stojkov 1954: 130-131, where hard consonants precede reflexes of the LCS / $\text{r}_\text{f}$   $\text{r}_\text{b}$ / even in dialects with secondarily-palatalised consonants before fallen weak LCS / $\text{r}_\text{b}$ /).

The need for both front and back \* $\text{r}_\text{f}$  \* $\text{r}_\text{b}$  is unambiguously shown by the East Slavic reflexes /er/ and /or/ (Ru. *смерть*, *морковь*), but \* $\text{r}_\text{f}$  vs \* $\text{r}_\text{b}$  is more complicated: PIE \* $\text{p}_\text{h}2\text{nos}$ , \* $\text{w}_\text{h}2\text{k}^{\text{w}}\text{os}$  > Lithuanian *pilnas* 'full', *wilkas* 'wolf' (LCS \* $\text{p}_\text{h}2\text{r}_\text{f}$   $\text{r}_\text{b}$   $\text{l}_\text{f}$   $\text{l}_\text{b}$ ) vs Lith. *stulpas* (LCS \* $\text{stl}_\text{p}$   $\text{r}_\text{b}$   $\text{l}_\text{f}$   $\text{l}_\text{b}$  'pillar') suggests that Balto-Slavic had differentiated front/back variants of the PIE syllabic \* $\text{l}$  (Bethin 1998: 69), but the ancestor to East Slavic backed all vowels preceding tautosyllabic / $\text{l}$ / (Ru. *молоко* < Proto-ESL. \**molko* < LCS \**melko* > OCS *млѣко*), and thus only has /ol/ reflexes here: Ru. *волк*, *столб*, *полный*. It's true that Polish has *wilk* and *milczeć* (<\* $\text{m}_\text{h}2\text{r}_\text{f}$   $\text{r}_\text{b}$   $\text{l}_\text{f}$   $\text{l}_\text{b}$ ti), but the Polish reflexes are complicated and likely have more to do with the surrounding consonants: \* $\text{p}_\text{h}2\text{r}_\text{f}$   $\text{r}_\text{b}$  by contrast gives *pełny* with hardened / $\text{l}$ / and the Polish non-palatalising-/e/ reflex of \* $\text{r}_\text{b}$ , and the differing reflexes in *wierzch* <\* $\text{v}_\text{h}2\text{r}_\text{f}$   $\text{r}_\text{b}$   $\text{l}_\text{f}$   $\text{l}_\text{b}$ , *śmierć* <\* $\text{s}_\text{h}2\text{m}_\text{h}2\text{r}_\text{f}$   $\text{r}_\text{b}$   $\text{l}_\text{f}$   $\text{l}_\text{b}$  and *martwy* <\* $\text{m}_\text{h}2\text{r}_\text{f}$   $\text{r}_\text{b}$   $\text{l}_\text{f}$   $\text{l}_\text{b}$  rule out any explanation based on the nature of the LCS syllabic-liquid alone (for more discussion see Bethin op. cit.: 73-75).

While most OCS shows no sign at all of a front-back distinction in the syllabic-liquids and writes the reflexes of these groups overwhelmingly with < $\text{r}_\text{b}$ > and < $\text{l}_\text{b}$ >, the Kiev Folia, which is the only OCS text that reflects a pre-Jer Shift stage and is very nearly flawless in its etymologically correct rendering of the jers, also spells \* $\text{r}_\text{f}$   $\text{r}_\text{b}$  and \* $\text{l}_\text{f}$   $\text{l}_\text{b}$  as one would expect:  $\text{r}_\text{f}$   $\text{r}_\text{b}$   $\text{l}_\text{f}$   $\text{l}_\text{b}$  <\* $\text{r}_\text{f}$   $\text{r}_\text{b}$   $\text{l}_\text{f}$   $\text{l}_\text{b}$ , and  $\text{r}_\text{f}$   $\text{r}_\text{b}$   $\text{l}_\text{f}$   $\text{l}_\text{b}$  <\* $\text{r}_\text{f}$   $\text{r}_\text{b}$   $\text{l}_\text{f}$   $\text{l}_\text{b}$  (Winslow 2022: 313), and even Zographensis spells all 5 occurrences of \* $\text{v}_\text{h}2\text{r}_\text{f}$   $\text{r}_\text{b}$   $\text{l}_\text{f}$   $\text{l}_\text{b}$  'wolf' with  $\text{r}_\text{f}$   $\text{r}_\text{b}$   $\text{l}_\text{f}$   $\text{l}_\text{b}$  and all 15 instances of its \*- $\text{m}_\text{h}2\text{r}_\text{f}$   $\text{r}_\text{b}$   $\text{l}_\text{f}$   $\text{l}_\text{b}$  root with  $\text{r}_\text{f}$   $\text{r}_\text{b}$   $\text{l}_\text{f}$   $\text{l}_\text{b}$  (e.g.  $\text{r}_\text{f}$   $\text{r}_\text{b}$   $\text{l}_\text{f}$   $\text{l}_\text{b}$   $\text{r}_\text{f}$   $\text{r}_\text{b}$   $\text{l}_\text{f}$   $\text{l}_\text{b}$ ). Therefore, taken as a whole the Slavic evidence pretty securely points to front and back variants of both syllabic liquids, and for searching purposes it's far preferable to denote them with separate symbols<sup>7</sup> rather than as the sequences / $\text{r}_\text{b}$   $\text{r}_\text{f}$   $\text{l}_\text{f}$   $\text{l}_\text{b}$ /.<sup>8</sup>

6 It's possible to argue that the short \* $\bar{\text{E}}$  counterpart to \* $\bar{\text{E}}$  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* <\* $\text{p}_\text{h}2\text{r}_\text{f}$   $\text{r}_\text{b}$   $\text{l}_\text{f}$   $\text{l}_\text{b}$ , or was newly phonemicised, in e.g. Ru. *вѣсла* <\* $\text{v}_\text{h}2\text{r}_\text{f}$   $\text{r}_\text{b}$   $\text{l}_\text{f}$   $\text{l}_\text{b}$  <\**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 \* $\bar{\text{E}}$ , OCS shows no sign of anything but an /e/ reflex of short \* $\bar{\text{E}}$  (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 /'o/, cf. the spelling  $\text{r}_\text{f}$   $\text{r}_\text{b}$   $\text{l}_\text{f}$   $\text{l}_\text{b}$  of the Kipchak word /jovšan/ 'wormwood' in the Hypatian Codex, whose modern cognates (Turkmen *yowšan* /jowšan/, Kazakh *жусан* /žuwsan/, Azeri *yovšan*) 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 \* $\bar{\text{E}}$ .

7 In the database I will have to use the single Unicode characters < $\text{r}_\text{f}$   $\text{r}_\text{b}$   $\text{l}_\text{f}$   $\text{l}_\text{b}$ >, rather than what's shown in my table, since the latter cannot actually be rendered without using the letters for / $\text{r}_\text{f}$   $\text{r}_\text{b}$   $\text{l}_\text{f}$   $\text{l}_\text{b}$ / 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 / $\text{r}_\text{f}$   $\text{r}_\text{b}$ /, which I will have to replace with < $\text{r}_\text{f}$   $\text{r}_\text{b}$ >.

8 To my mind the only evidence in support of a genuine jer + liquid stage comes from the paradigms of verbs like OCS *сѣти* <\* $\text{s}_\text{h}2\text{t}_\text{f}$   $\text{r}_\text{b}$   $\text{l}_\text{f}$   $\text{l}_\text{b}$ , where the syllabic / $\text{r}_\text{f}$   $\text{r}_\text{b}$ / in the stem alternates with / $\text{r}_\text{b}$   $\text{r}_\text{f}$ / depending on the vocalicity of the following morpheme: the e.g. 3sg. pres. \* $\text{s}_\text{h}2\text{t}_\text{f}$   $\text{r}_\text{b}$   $\text{l}_\text{f}$   $\text{l}_\text{b}$  (Zogr., Supr. *сѣти*) or (one possibility of the) 3<sup>rd</sup> sg. aorist \* $\text{s}_\text{h}2\text{t}_\text{f}$   $\text{r}_\text{b}$   $\text{l}_\text{f}$   $\text{l}_\text{b}$  (Supr. *сѣти*) must have / $\text{r}_\text{b}$   $\text{r}_\text{f}$ /, while the 3<sup>rd</sup> pl. aorist \* $\text{s}_\text{h}2\text{t}_\text{f}$   $\text{r}_\text{b}$   $\text{l}_\text{f}$   $\text{l}_\text{b}$  (Supr. *сѣти*) and the other possibility for the 3<sup>rd</sup> sg. aorist \* $\text{s}_\text{h}2\text{t}_\text{f}$   $\text{r}_\text{b}$   $\text{l}_\text{f}$   $\text{l}_\text{b}$  (Psal. Sin. *сѣти*, or with a different prefix Mar. *сѣти* <\* $\text{ot}_\text{f}$   $\text{r}_\text{b}$   $\text{l}_\text{f}$   $\text{l}_\text{b}$ ), being word-final or pre-consonantal, must be syllabic / $\text{r}_\text{f}$   $\text{r}_\text{b}$ / or / $\text{r}_\text{b}$   $\text{r}_\text{f}$ /. The same alternation occurs in the zero-grade forms of verbs like \**umerti*, as is clear from the Polish reflexes *umarł* <\* $\text{um}_\text{h}2\text{r}_\text{f}$   $\text{r}_\text{b}$   $\text{l}_\text{f}$   $\text{l}_\text{b}$  vs *umrę* <\* $\text{um}_\text{h}2\text{r}_\text{f}$   $\text{r}_\text{b}$   $\text{l}_\text{f}$   $\text{l}_\text{b}$ . The argument could be that at some stage, before

## Consonants

### Dejotation

Reflexes of the so-called jot-palatalisation are all written either as unitary palatal phonemes, or in the case of jot-palatalised labials as /v́ ḿ b́ ṕ/, rather than as sequences of consonant + /j/, hence /ń́ í́ / for \*nj \*lj \*rj. The ‘dejotated’ reflexes of \*tj (and \*kt+front-vowel) and \*dj are denoted using the modern Serbian Cyrillic letters /h/ and /ĥ/ respectively, because the commonly used alternatives, i.e. /t̚ d̚/ (as used in e.g. Olander 2015) or /k̚ g̚/ (as used by me in Winslow 2022), or variations thereof, are visually too close to symbols used elsewhere in the system. /k̚, g̚/ are anyway already used in my system for foreign /k, g/ before front-vowels, and /t̚ d̚/ look too similar to the common denotations of secondarily-palatalised post-Jer Shift /t' d'/, as used in discussions of systems like Russian or Eastern Bulgarian where they arise.

The compelling hypothesis, first proposed by Durnovo (1929: 55-58) but most recently elaborated by Vermeer (2014: 209-214), and accepted by Mathiesen (2014: 197 fn. 22) and Winslow (2022: 310 fn.25), according to which the Urkirchenslavisch reflexes of \*h, ĥ were close enough to foreign /g k/ before front-vowels that the original Glagolitic system used <Ѡ ѡ> for both sets (i.e. alongside attested <Ѡ ѡ> < ѱ ѱ> would have been \*\*<Ѡ ѡ> <\*osq̃heni, and alongside attested <Ѡ ѡ> <\*d̥herb̥ would have been \*\*<Ѡ ѡ> <κ̃ηνσο̃ς><sup>9</sup>), does not prevent us from keeping the foreign sounds separate for our LCS stage, since clearly they differed enough in all the dialects underlying actually attested OCS to be written separately.

Pre-dejotation \*stj and \*zdj are differentiated from the PV1 reflexes of \*sk and \*zg by writing the former as \*šh and \*žh and the latter as \*šč and \*žž, even though their modern reflexes do not differ from each other anywhere and so must've fallen together in the CS period, because they often alternate with their respective un-palatalised counterparts morphologically and derivationally, e.g. očistiti:očišhenъje vs. jъskati:jъščq, jĀzditī:jĀžh̃q vs jъzgъnati:jъžženq.

There are convincing arguments for PV2/3 having preceded dejotation, at least in more central areas, most recently presented in e.g. Vermeer (2014: 197) and Wandl & Kavitskaya (2023: 244-247), and therefore it could be objected that my system, which contains the dejotation reflexes /h̃h̃ń́/ but not the PV2/3 reflexes /c̃ ś̃ d̃z̃/, is ahistorical. However it should be reemphasised that the primary goal of my LCS reconstructions is to act as an index which allows reflexes in texts to be found, not to be a historically realistic description of some actually-existing LCS dialect. The absence of PV2 in Novgorodian shows that it can't have preceded dejotation everywhere in Slavic, and in any case the replacement of the sequences /tj dj nj lj rj/ by articulatorily distinct combined units, no longer associated by speakers with their /t/ and /j/ phonemes, is structurally completely irrelevant unless and until these new units merge with existing phonemes (or new sequences of dental + /j/ are introduced), as e.g. in the KF dialect where /tj/ merged with /c/ from PV2/3, or in ESL where it merged with /č/ from PV1. A language which had distinct Czech-like palatal [c, ɟ] reflexes of \*tj and \*dj, and also no new sequences of [tj, dj], could not convincingly be argued to have undergone dejotation at the phonemic level, as these new units would just be phonetic realisations of /tj, dj/. Analysed like that, the symbols /h̃h̃ń́/ in my system strictly speaking would really just be cover-symbols for the pre-jotation sequences, but such notation is preferable since it prevents searches for groups containing /j/ alone from returning results polluted by all the

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the LCS tendency towards Open Syllables became dominant, the stems in these paradigms were surely unitary /t̃ir/, /m̃ir/, i.e. 3sg. aor. /sũ.t̃ir.re/ vs 3<sup>rd</sup>. pl. aor. /sũ.t̃ir.š̃e/, and that the latter's closed /t̃ir/ syllable was only forced to open itself up by changing to /t̃i/ because of the Law of Open Syllables. Thus at least one source of the syllabic-liquids could be shown to have developed from a vowel + liquid stage, but that still doesn't prove that they all did, or that the change of /t̃ir/ to /t̃i/ in these verb-forms was not merely a move to an already-existing syllabic-liquid phoneme.

9 Interestingly, this aspect of the hypothesised Urksl. orthographic system has rearisen in the modern Macedonian standard due to Turkish loanwords: *кемер* < Tk. *kemer* ‘belt’, *ке* < \*[x̣]he[ṭ]; *ѓон* < Tk. *gön* ‘leather’, *меѓу* < \*meĥu.



dejotation-groups. As I explored in my previous article (Winslow 2022), the status of /j/ as a 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.

## /j/

### Word-initial \*jĀ-/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 \*jĀ- in the absence of wider Indo-European evidence. Normally I've followed Derksen (2009), or the ESSJA, but for certain lexemes, e.g. \*ama 'pit', which in OCS is spelt overwhelmingly with **амъ**- or **ѧмъ**-, 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 \*jĀma. In particular the 1sg. nom. pronoun \*azъ/jĀzъ 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 \*jĀ- 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 **ѣсти** etc.). Isolated nominal forms like Ru. *язва* (which Derksen derives from a Balto-Slavic \*oi- based on Lith. *aiža* and Old Prussian *eyswo*) suggest that \*ē reflexes in the modern forms of verbs like Ru. *есть*, Pol. *jeść* are later generalisations from prefixed forms like OR **ѣхъ**, where no jot-prothesis could take place (cf. Schenker 1995: 88, Winslow 2022: 302 fn.14).

### Jers before \*j

As explored more fully in Winslow (2022: 313-315), OCS spellings seem to suggest that free-variation between <ѣ, ѧ> and <и, ѣ> was a feature of the pre-Jer Shift Urkirchenslavisch orthographic system for conveying the reflexes of the sound-groups \*ĭj and \*ĕj (so-called 'tense jers'), regardless of whether they were in strong or weak position. The examples given were: Zogr. **ѡрѣмѣ** vs **ѡрѣмѣ** <\*znamenĭjĀ, **ѡрѣмѣ** <\*udařĭ-jъ vs **ѡрѣмѣ** <\*omočĭ-jъ; Mar. **ѡрѣмѣ** vs **ѡрѣмѣ** <\*osqdetъ ĭjъ; KF **ѡрѣмѣ** vs **ѡрѣмѣ** <\*milostĭjō, **ѡрѣмѣ** vs **ѡрѣмѣ** <\*vъxomogy-jъ). 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 **ѡрѣмѣ**, **ѡрѣмѣ**, **ѡрѣмѣ** 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 **ѡрѣмѣ** <\*zapovĕdĭjъ vs **ѡрѣмѣ** <\*ludĭjъ) suggests that it is a common inheritance from the Urkirchenslavisch spelling system, and thus that in pre-Jer Shift Slavic the difference between /ъ ѣ/ and /и ѣ/ was neutralised before /j/, and we should perhaps posit archiphonemes (which I call /Ī/ and /Ĳ/) in this position. These archiphonemes

10 Marianus and Psalterium Sinaiticum, on the other hand, frequently show a Russian-style /ej/ reflex of strong tense \*ĭj: Psal. **ѡрѣмѣ** <\*vorbĭjъ, **ѡрѣмѣ** <\*plĭbĭjъ, **ѡрѣмѣ** <\*mĕnĭjъ; Mar. **ѡрѣмѣ** <\*zapovĕdĭjъ, **ѡрѣмѣ** <\*udařĭ-jъ, **ѡрѣмѣ** <\*gvozdbĭjny-jĕ. Psal. (Psalm 21) even has definite past. act. part. Nsg. masc. form **ѡрѣмѣ** <\*jbstgĭ-jъ that suggests an /oj/ reflex of \*ĭjъ.

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 *\*<sub>bj</sub>*/*\*<sub>ḃj</sub>* 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 *иѡа́новъ* (borrowed via Gk. *Ἰακώβ*), or *ѿεμѡнъ* (< *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 *исусъ* < 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. ѱѣт ѿдъ suggest that it causes the same /Ŷ/

13 Spellings like Zogr. Mark 13:3 “**Ἰῶḡḡḡḡ. Ἰ ἁḡḡḡḡ. Ἰ ἁḡḡḡḡ.**” “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 \*jɛj Ēkonʷ/ > /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.



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 *doimu*. 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 (шуйица) 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. 𐌱𐌰𐌿𐌸𐌰𐌹𐌸 <\*žerbъji.

No Glagolitic text makes any effort to distinguish /je/ (after vowels or word-initially) from post-consonantal /e/, writing both with <ѣ>, unlike the situation with the reflexes of \*jē vs \*ĕ, where in Zogr. and Mar. and partially in Assem. (Velcheva 1981: p.168) the full front-nasal digraph <ѥ> is reserved for \*jē, while just the second 'nasalising component' <ѧ> is used for post-consontal \*ĕ, e.g. Mar. 3<sup>rd</sup> pl. aorist ѡѡѧѥ <\*jese, as opposed to KF рътъѡѡѧѥ <\*prijeti vs въѡѡѧѥ <\*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 jotted <ѿ> 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*, *evanĝelъje*, *eĝŭрьтъ*, *elisavetъ*, *elinъ*, *evanĝelistъ*, *eĝŭрьтьскъ*, *elinъскъ*, *episkupъstvo*, *evrejskъ*, *elisejъ*, *етѣтаусъ*, *etiјорьskъ*), the only spellings with <ѿ> are ѿлиси, ѿппъ, ѿлини, and ѿлина, 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 <ѿ>, vs 3070 with <ѿ><sup>15</sup>. Thus 97.2% of native word-initial \*je- in Suprasliensis is spelt with <ѿ>, while 97.5% of the occurrences of the clearly post-LCS Greek-mediated foreign borrowings listed above instead use plain <ѧ>, 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.

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 *\*s/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 *гъѣвѣнѣти* <*\*gyb-nqti* > Ukr. *гу́нути*, vs OCS *оуѣзѣнѣти* <*\*usъr-nqti* (cf. 3sg. aor. *оуѣзѣ*), Ru. *тонуть* <*\*top-nqti*, though see Meillet (1965: 142)). Geminate consonants were banned and either simplified (*иѣвшѣти* <*\*jъs-sekti*) or dissimilated (*процѣвѣти* <*\*prokviť-ti*).

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

५१०५ १५ ०४ ३० १० ०४ १५ ३०

15 The leftover 14 are things like 1st. pres. dual. *ймавѣ* which Eckhoff's corpus wrongly lemmatises as \*jъmati instead of \*jъmĕti, and which thus get reconstructed as \*jemĕvĕ instead of \*jъmavĕ. 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  $\sigma\tau\rho\zeta$ ) 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 (p. 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.  $\text{взвѣрѣ}$  ‘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 ъrq.kъ*. Meillet (p. 136) also cites the Old Polish adverb *zdręki* <*\*jъz ъrq.ky*, 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 < $\text{зрѣкѣ}$ > and so seems to be tolerated, even though Diels cites prepositional forms like Supr.  $\text{вездѣрѣма}$  <*\*bez ъ\*orzuma*,  $\text{вездѣрѣла}$  <*\*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 Uspenskiĭ Sbornik is pretty consistent in keeping prefixed verb-forms like  $\text{разрѣшитѣ}$  <*\*orzrūšiti*, 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 ъdrqky/ can be identified with separate /bez/ and /rḡky/.

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-sečē*, Mar.  $\text{срѣдѣ}$  <*\*jъs-šьdъ*, Assemanianus  $\text{срѣдѣ}$  <*\*ors-širĕjqtъ*, 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  $\text{расширѣше}$ .<sup>16</sup> This treatment is also more consistent with my handling of verbs like *\*jъs-kěliti* (> OCS  $\text{исцѣлѣти/исцѣлѣти}$ ) where simplification *must* have occurred posterior to our pre-PV2 LCS stage (since /sk/ is always totally

16 Conversely, sequences of *\*sk*, *\*zg* at prefix-boundaries which show PV1 reflexes, like Mar., Zogr.  $\text{срѣдѣ}$  <*\*orš-čьtetъ* (ECS *\*skīt-* > *\*ščit-*), 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-červa*, 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 <зж> 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 *дождь* <*\*dъžhъ*).

### Morphological innovations that scupper LCS reconstruction

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>17</sup>. Evidence for such a change is furnished by the Old Russian masc gen./acc. form **ѠАѠ** from the 1229 Treaty between Smolensk, Riga and Gotland (Version A). LCS \*taty̯ is a masc. i-stem noun with genitive \*tati, as it still appears in the Codex Suprasliensis translation of John Chrysostom's Homily for Holy Thursday (...ТО КАЖЕТЪ ВЛАДЫКЪЗІ ЧЛОВЕКОЛЮБИЕ· ІАКО ПРѢДАННИКА РАЗВОЙНИКА 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. **ѠАТЬ** /tat'/) of this noun now ends on the same class of "soft" consonants as original jo-stem nouns like \*koñ̥ > /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 \*born̥ > /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>18</sup>. Consequently, a word like **ѠАТЬ** has begun to take jo-stem endings, including the Old Russian /a/ reflex of LCS \*Ā in the genitive/accusative singular.

Were the same shift from i-stem to jo-stem to occur in a word like \*zvěřь, 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 Suprasliensis does in fact contain 3X gen. sg. зѣръ, with what looks like a jo-stem reflex of \*řĀ

18 Russian feminine i-stems like *весь* (<\**вѣсь*, ‘village’) do not fall together with ja-stems in the way the masculines like \**zvěř* 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 \*-*Ē*- vocalism which can only occur after LCS palatals, meaning they too end up totally unreconstructable due to an illegal \*\*s<sub>1</sub>Ē sequence.

Forms like **T A T A**, then, though they frustrate our goal of reconstructing entire texts, do provide us some objective measure of ‘linguistic distance’ between stages of a language, because their existence presupposes at least one intervening stage where the structure of the phonological system has changed enough from our LCS stage to have caused/allowed restructuring of the morphological system.

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 ၵႁႃႈႁူဝ်ႈ is given below:

*Figure 1: TOROT annotation for Psal. Sin. Psalm 70 ဘုရားရှင်အရှင်အေးမြတ်စွာပါး*

A detailed explanation of each feature can be found in Section 6 of Eckhoff et al. (2018: p.<sup>?</sup>), but here it suffices to say that in this example the tag “1spia---i” is telling us that ၵႃႈတူဝ်ႈမၼိၼ်ႇႁဵၼ်း is **1<sup>st</sup>** person, **singular**, **p**resent-tense, **i**ndicative-mood, **a**ctive-voice, has no gender, case, degree, or strength features, and is **inflectable** rather than non-inflecting.

19 Numerous spellings in Supr. like  $\text{бѡѣра}$  <\*buĭĀ,  $\text{ѡѣкарѣтъ}$  <\*ukaĭĀjetĕ,  $\text{моѡу}$  <\*moĭu etc., however, point to a hardening of LCS palatal \*ĭ to plain /r/, so it's difficult to know whether  $\text{зѣръѣ}$  spellings stem from a genuine /zvĕřa/ form in the history of the language, or if they instead represent synchronic /zvĕra/, i.e. with a hard o-stem ending, but with confusion by the scribe between <ѣ> and <ѣа>/<ѣъ> spellings for what in his/her dialect would've all been /ra/.

21 Identical lemmas with the *same* part-of-speech tag, such as вести 'to lead' <\*ved-ti and вести 'to drive' <\*vez-ti, both of which have 'V-' for verb, are differentiated by appending #2 etc. to the extra homomorphs, i.e. вести vs. вести#2.

tense meaning in its non-past indicative forms (and the Greek Septuagint here has *ἀναγγεῖλῶ τὰ θαυμάσιά σου*, with a morphologically future-formed *ἀναγγεῖλῶ* ‘I will proclaim’ from *ἀναγγέλλω*). The tagging thus follows the *inflectional*-morphology of  $\text{ʋ-əθ}^\circ\text{ʋ-Δ}\text{Π}\text{σ}^\circ\text{ə}$ , rather than the future-meaning which is carried by the *derivational*-morphology. This is important because the Autoreconstructor works by *inflecting* LCS lemmas according to those morphology-tags; the annotation gives no information about its derivational-morphology or derivational relationship to its imperfective (and thus 1sg. *present* tense) counterpart  $\text{ʋ-əθ}^\circ\text{ʋ-Δ}\text{Π}\text{σ}^\circ\text{+}\text{ə}$ , since that is annotated with a separate lemma.

An even clearer example where this *form over function* annotation helps us is with the accusatives of animate nouns: it’s well known that a type of so-called differential-object-marking is beginning to take hold in Early Slavic, whereby syntactic accusatives use genitive endings to varying extents as a way of encoding the semantic ensouledness (and possibly definiteness) of the noun (the details aren’t important; for a recent thorough diachronic treatment of the topic see e.g. Eckhoff 2022), e.g. Supr. *разбойника въ порядѣ въведе* ‘he brought the robber into paradise’. If these were all tagged as accusatives, the Autoreconstructor would produce the wrong ancestor to the text-form, e.g. *\*orzbojnik-ъ*, because the semantic information needed to decide whether this differential-object-marking is needed is not available. Happily though all such animate-accusatives are marked as genitive in TOROT: the morphology-tag for *разбойника* above is “-s---mg--i”, so the Autoreconstructor produces *\*orzbojnik-a*.

The Autoreconstructor reads the morphology-tag character-by-character and numerifies each field, and from that it computes a number which corresponds to the row of the inflection-table where that particular word’s inflection-class-endings are stored. For verbs this will be a number between 1 and 44 (9 person/number combinations for each of present, aorist, imperfect, and imperative, plus 8 non-finite forms,  $9 \times 4 + 8$ ), and for nominals between 1 and 63 (7 cases \* 3 numbers \* 3 genders). A version of the function which actually implements this tag-reading process can be seen in the `OcsServer::numerifyMorphTag()` function here:

[https://github.com/12401453/ocs\\_server/blob/main/OcsServer.cpp#L2714](https://github.com/12401453/ocs_server/blob/main/OcsServer.cpp#L2714).<sup>22</sup>

Currently each inflection-class has up to three tables associated with it, the first of which is full (i.e. contains 44 or 63 entries) and holds the ‘basic’ or ‘correct’ (from the LCS perspective) endings. The second and third tables are ‘sparse’, in that they only contain entries for those parts of the paradigm where we expect to encounter alternative forms, with those I consider ‘deviant’ or ‘innovated’ held in table 2, and ‘alternative’ but still ‘correct’ endings (i.e. LCS allomorphs) in table 3. An example of some of the endings in the three tables for basic class 1 verbs like *\*rehi* is given below:

<sup>22</sup> 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’ *\*bimь*, *\*bi*, *\*bq* etc. Participles require an extra step to read their nominal-features and add their adjective-like endings.



```
inner_map v_11_c0 = {
{1, "q"},
{2, "eši"},
{3, "etQ"},
{4, "evě"},
{5, "eta"},
{6, "ete"},
{7, "emь"},
{8, "ete"},
{9, "qtQ"},
{10, "ь"},
{11, "e"},
{12, "e"},
{13, "ově"},
{14, "eta"},
{15, "ete"},
{16, "omь"},
{17, "ete"},
{18, "q"},
};

inner_map v_11_c1 = {
{6, "eta"},
{10, "oxь"},
{13, "oxově"},
{14, "osta"},
{15, "oste"},
{16, "oxomь"},
{17, "oste"},
{18, "ošě"},
{24, "ěašeta"},
{37, "qtj"},
};

inner_map v_11_c2 = {
{10, "сб"},
{13, "sově"},
{14, "sta"},
{15, "ste"},
{16, "somь"},
{17, "ste"},
{18, "se"},
};
```

Figure 2: Inflection-endings for class 1 verbs like *\*rehi*, *\*greti* stored using C++ `std::unordered_map<int, std::string>`

Here the ‘deviant’ endings consist mostly of the ‘extended S-’, or \*-ox- aorists (e.g. Assem. *рѣхѣ*), while the third ‘alternative’ table contains the primary S-aorist endings (e.g. Assem. *рѣхѣ* < \*pogrěb-se). Clearly those primary S-aorist endings just being stuck onto a stem like *\*greb-* would not produce the correct LCS form, so for certain inflection-classes there are post-processing functions which do things like replace all “ebse” with “ěse”, or (for stems which end on RUKI-consonants like *\*rek-*) all “eks” with “ěx”. The full routines can be found in [https://github.com/12401453/ocs\\_server/blob/main/autoreconstructor/verb\\_cleaning.h](https://github.com/12401453/ocs_server/blob/main/autoreconstructor/verb_cleaning.h); to a large extent this is just enforcing the Slavic consonant-cluster restrictions discussed in Section 1.1.

The inflection-tables themselves are indexed by integer-keys associated with each inflection-class, such that the ‘correct’ table’s key always ends on ‘1’, meaning that shifting to the alternative tables is a matter of simply incrementing the key by either 1 or 2, and I can keep track of whether or not a form has required a deviant or alternative ending by inspecting the final value of this key<sup>23</sup>.

```
std::unordered_map<int, inner_map> verb_ = {
{111, v_11_c0},
{112, v_11_c1},
{113, v_11_c2},
};
```

Figure 3: Integer-keys of the three inflection-tables in Figure 2

Multiple inflection-classes can share the same tables, for instance the *masc\_o*, *nt\_o*, and *fem\_a* noun-classes all take endings from the *adj\_hard* table, since the same set of 63 endings (21 for each gender) is used in all four paradigms<sup>24</sup>.

23 This is bad design and prevents me from easily handling more than one type of morphological innovation: for the *masc\_jo* class nom. pl. I have the i-stem *\*-ъje* ending in the ‘deviances’ table (as found in e.g. Supr. *стражѣ* < \*storž-ъje ‘guards’), which leaves no room for forms like Supr. *зюкѣ* < \*znoj-eve, Psal. *ѣмѣ* < \*zmbj-eve, which have the \*-eve ending from the masc. ju-stems.

24 The long-form adjectives (and participles) are then formed by just sticking the inflected-form of the pronoun *\*jь* onto the end, since this is the origin of such long-forms (Vaillant 1942). I agree with Townsend and Janda (1996: 178) that some simplification of these concatenated ending must have occurred by LCS, especially where the short-form endings contain \*m or \*x (e.g. the dat. and loc. pl. for all genders), because it’s unreasonable that e.g. Mar. Matt. 24 masc. loc. pl. *рѣхѣ* could’ve developed directly from *\*nebesъskěxъjixъ* (here not least because of the lack of PV2-reflex). I am however reluctant to adopt the (undiscussed) simplified LCS forms they present in the tables on p. 182-3 before I’ve done a more thorough investigation of early manuscript-forms, so for now I’ve left all

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

---

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).





## Deviance detection

217066	приведоша	3paia----i	privedošę	privedo
217101	въздѣхнѣвъ	-supamn-si	vъzdxnъvъ	vъzdxъ
217112	разврѣзосте	3daia----i	orzvrъzoste	orzvrъzete
217261	бѣгивѣ	-supamn-si	bolgoslovivъ	bolgoslovъ
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	моѣомѣ	-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	окомѣ	-s---ni--i	okomъ	očesъmъ
218648	моѣю	-s---md--i	mōžu	mōžęvi
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>25</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 **въздѣхнѣти**)

25 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. **въздѣхнѣ**, Zogr. **въздѣхнѣ**) 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 **въздѣхнѣ**). My justification is that the \*-verg-/\*-vřg- stem verbs *do* attest such root-aorists, e.g. 3<sup>rd</sup> pl. **въздѣхнѣ** 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, ПОІАТЪ, ОУМРѢТЪ
- original u/ju-stem nouns taking o/jo-stem endings: dat. sg. ѿноу, мѣжю; loc. sg. ѿнѣ, gen. sg. мѣжа
- past act. part. of class 4 verbs using the suffix \*-ivъ rather than \*-jъ: БГВИВЪ, ПОУСТИВЪШИ (cf. Mar. Mark 10 ⲡⲁⲩⲱⲥⲱⲩⲥ <\*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>26</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. ⲉⲧⲉⲗⲉⲗⲉⲗⲉⲗⲉ <\*težĀtelĒ, Supr. ⲥⲱⲧⲓⲧⲉⲗⲉⲗⲉ <\*svetitelĒ. 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 ⲙⲉⲧⲉⲗⲉⲗⲉ<sup>27</sup> mean we can’t follow Meillet (1965: 426) in setting up \*-tele as the ‘correct’ ending, because spellings like ⲉⲧⲉⲗⲉⲗⲉ 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>28</sup>.

## References

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- 26 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 \*oxъ, \*oxov, \*oxom, \*oſę, \*osta\$, and \*oste\$ (the latter two using ‘regular-expression’ mode and \$ to specify end-of-word), which for Mar. turns up nothing except three ⲉⲧⲉⲗⲉⲗⲉ forms.
- 27 Searching my database for \*tele\$ returns only a single ⲉⲧⲉⲗⲉⲗⲉ in Supr. without the diacritic; everything in Zogr. has it.
- 28 Diels mentions only Psal. Psalm 26 ⲉⲧⲉⲗⲉⲗⲉ, 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.