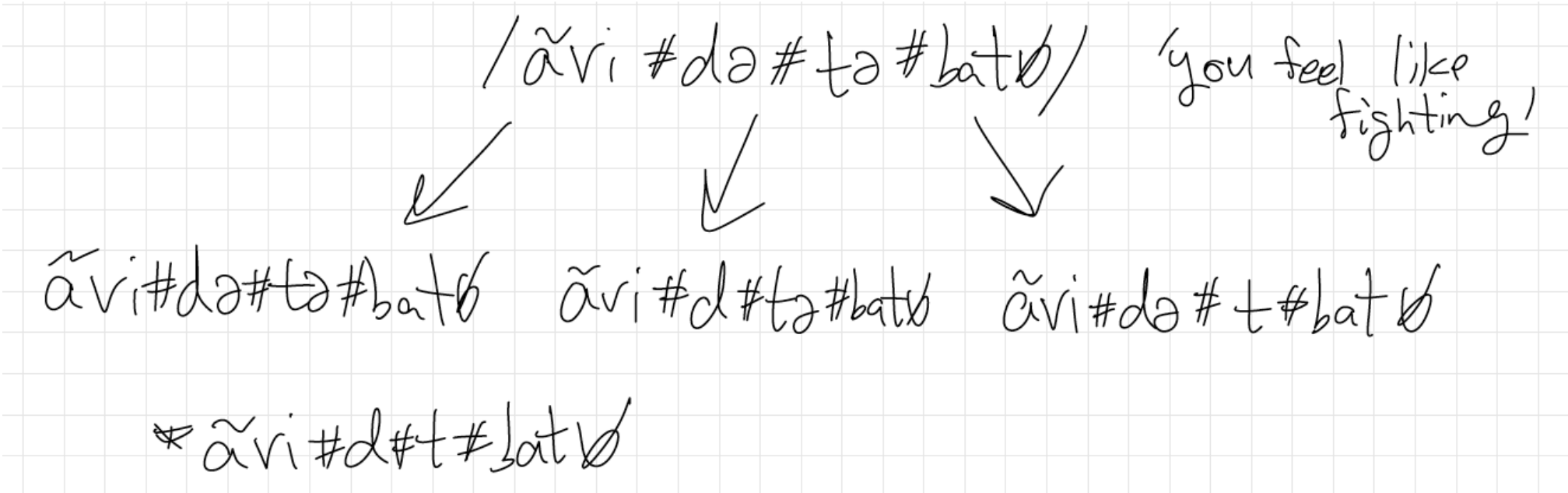
Advanced Phonology:
Opacity and Phonological Architecture

Optional Schwa Deletion (OSD) in French

ə → Ø

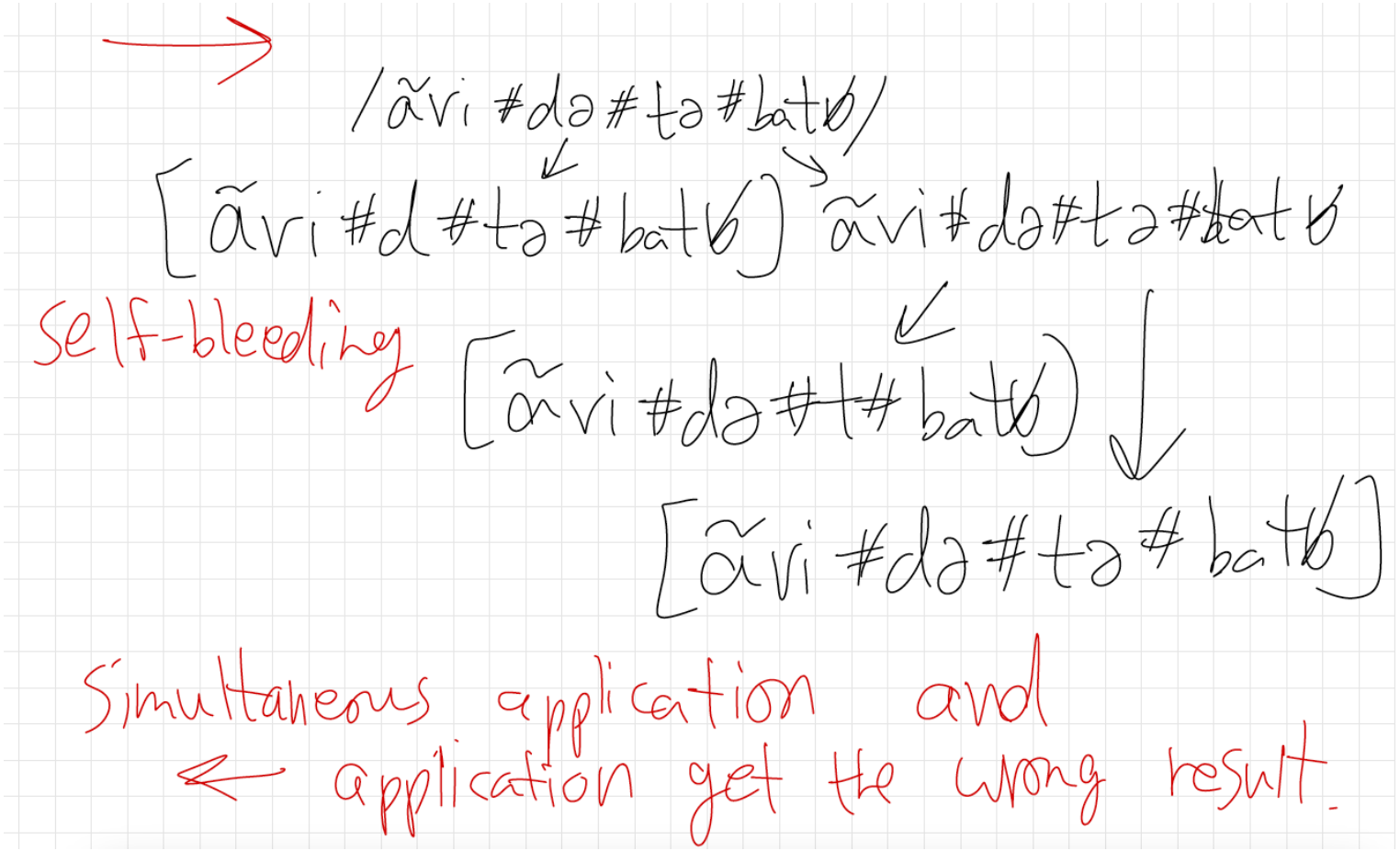
Dell (1985)

- Les règles et les sons: Schwas in adjacent syllables
  - Optional schwa deletion (OSD)
  - Rule: ə → Ø / $V\#C\_$ (optional)



Dell (1985)

- Self-bleeding



Dell (1985)

- Direction: Left-to-Right and not Right-to-Left
  - Right-to-Left is wrong (deleting 2 schwas) – not because the generated sequence is illegal in the language [kstr]

L'interdiction de certains groupes de consonnes dans l'output de VCE ne peut pas être mise sur le compte d'une contrainte générale qui interdirait à certaines séquences d'apparaître dans les représentations phonétiques[66]. Par exemple dans *il veut que ce travail soit bien fait* on prononce [... vöksətra...], [... vökəstra...] mais pas *[... vökstra...], quoique le groupe [kstr] soit présent dans la représentation phonétique de *extràordinaire* et dans une de celles de *lux(e) trop voyant*. Il

1 - Iterativity

- SPE (Chomsky and Halle 1968): Non-iterative application, but:
  - Simultaneous application of OSD generates wrong output
  - Argument for self-bleeding

2 - Locality

- Riggle and Wilson (2005): It seems the choice is position-specific
- Challenge for OT - an extended version can generate local optionality

(9) Inter-derivational reranking (illustrated for two positions)

a. C dominates D at both positions
C@1 >> D@1, C@2 >> D@2

b. C dominates D at position 1 but not at position 2
C@1 >> D@1, D@2 >> C@2

c. C dominates D at position 2, but not at position 1
D@1 >> C@1, C@2 >> D@2

d. C is dominated by D at both positions
D@1 >> C@1, D@2 >> C@2

(12) Local evaluation in French

/ ãvidə$_1$tə$_2$batʁ/	*SCHW@2	MAX-V@2	MAX-V@1	*SCHW@1	SYLLCON
b. ãvidə$_1$tbatʁ		*		*	*
b.′ ãvidtə$_2$batʁ	* !		* !		

Open Questions

- Verify Dell's analysis of OSD, is it valid today? Do speakers prefer opaque (self-counterbleeding) or transparent (self-bleeding) forms?
  - Iterativity and optionality
- Specifically here – in which direction does the rule operate?

Addressing the question

- Record the different options (4 for example) with a native
  - Build sentences with valid sequences like [kstr]
  - Use also articulatory difficult sequences
- Let speakers judge between options

ə → ∅

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