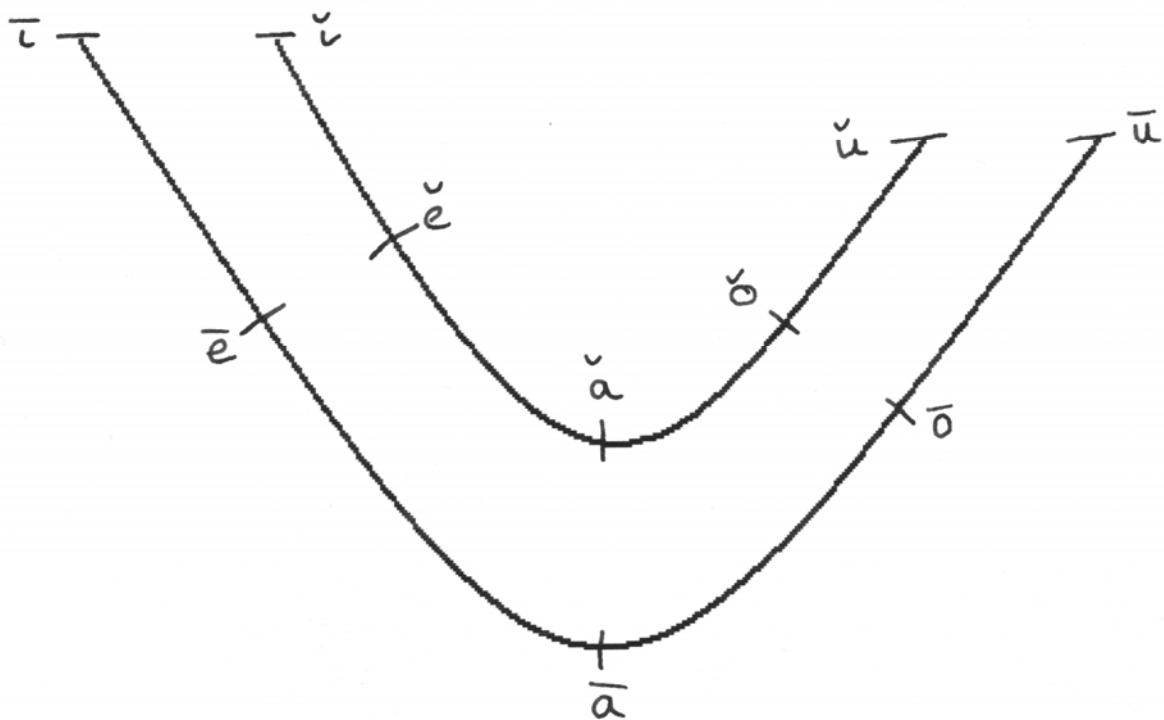


Lecture 6: More sound changes in Greek

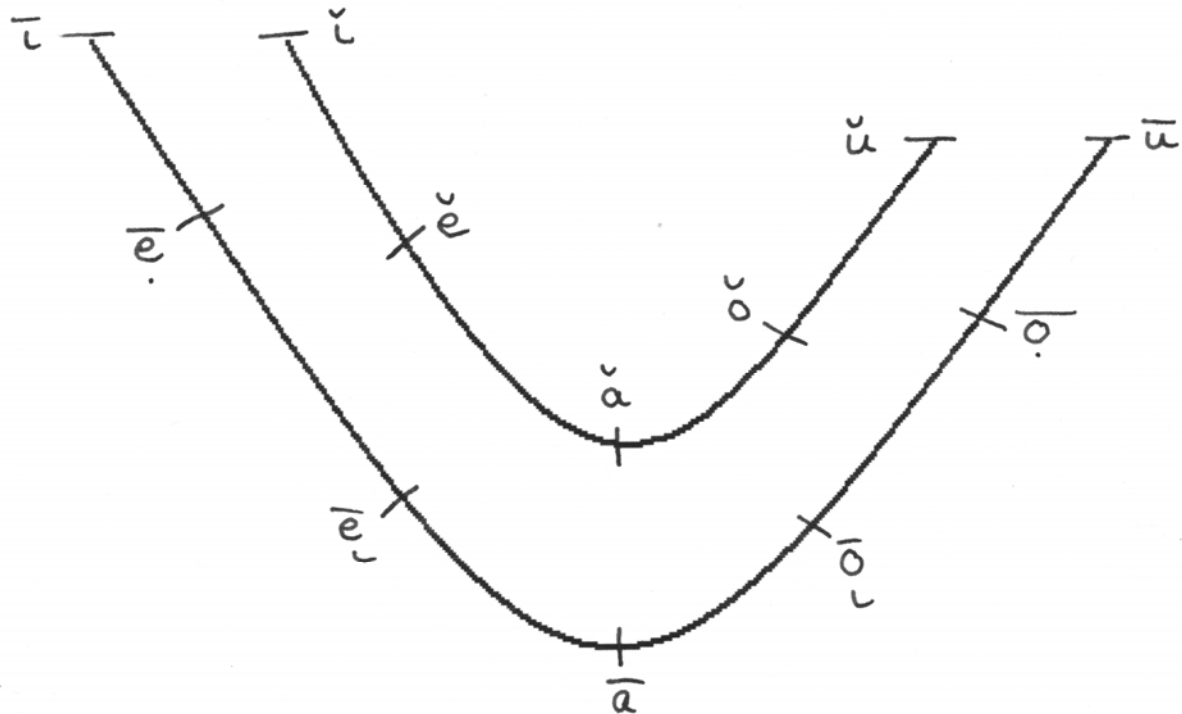
Treatment of foreign phonemes

1. Vowel changes

Stage 1: Proto-Greek c. 1375 BC

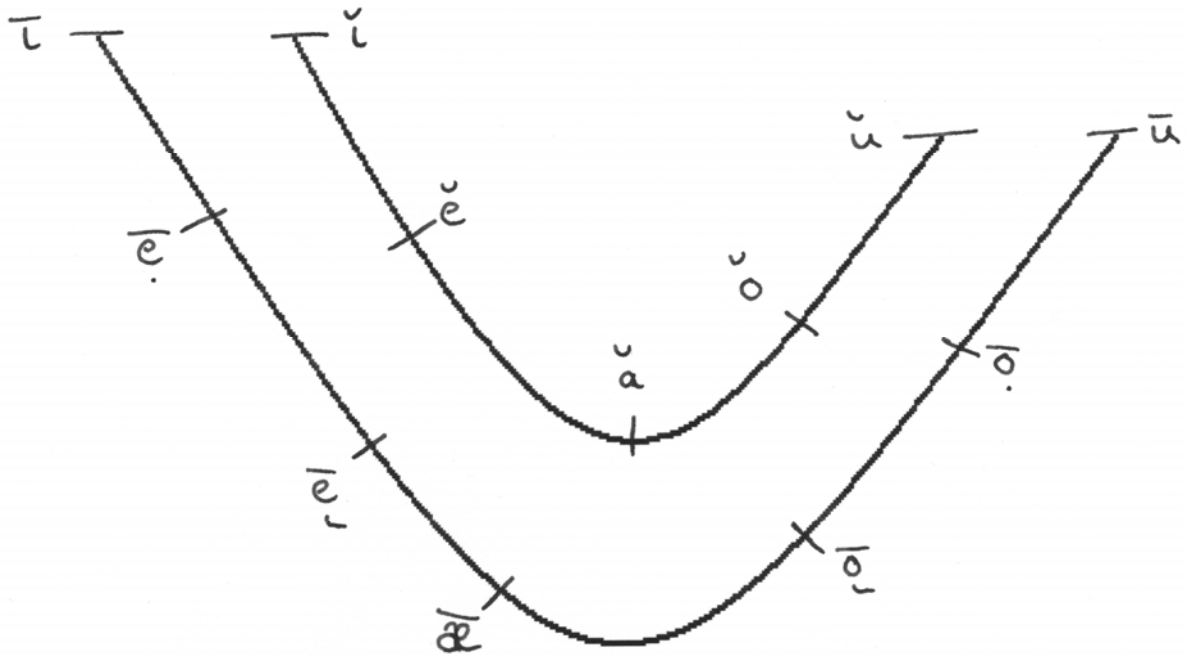


- NB longer front axis (physiologically true)
- Simple system
- NB little happens to short vowels

Stage 2: Attic-Ionic c. 1000 BC

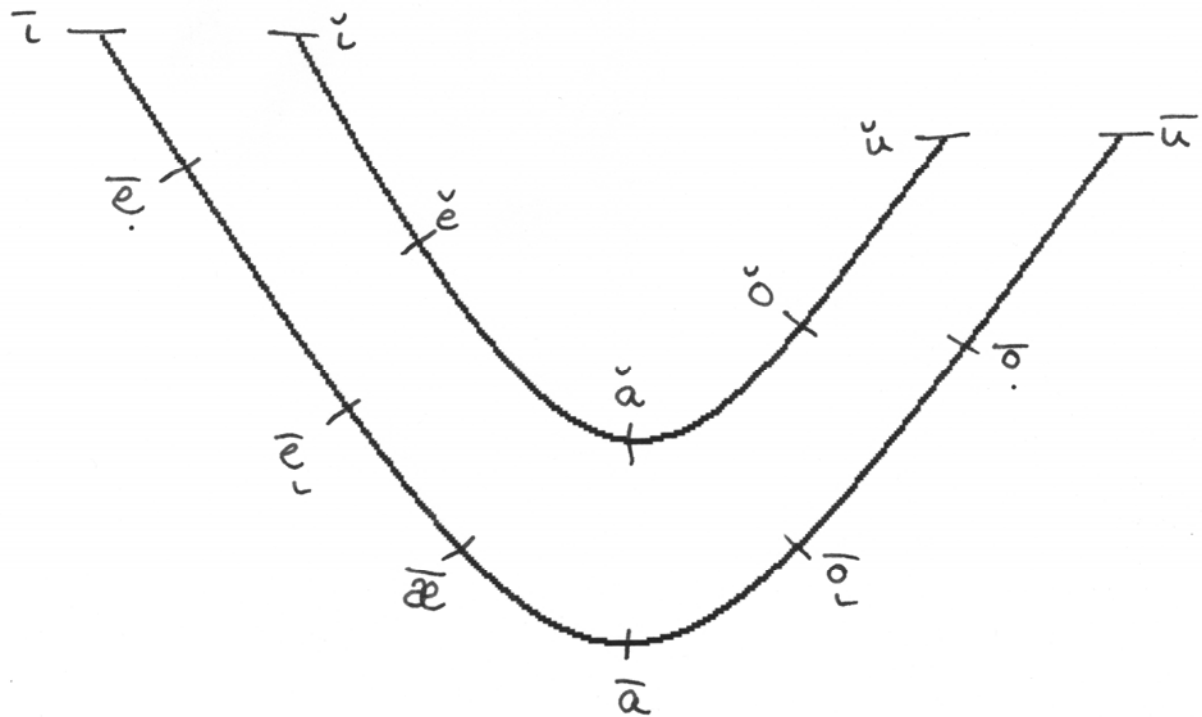
- Also NWGk, Corinthian, Megarian, E. Argive
- 1st wave of compensatory lengthening
e.g. εἰμί < *ěsmi Ä *ěhmi Ä *ěmi Ä *ēmi
- Maximal differentiation of phonological space
- Back axis mirrors front
e.g. βουλή < *bölnā Ä *bölā Ä *bōlā
- NB phonetic NOT written representation
- Alpha also gains from compensatory lengthening
e.g. *selasnā > Dor. σελᾶνᾱ (Att. σελήνη)
*stalnā > Dor. σταῶλᾱ (Att. στήλη)

Stage 3: Attic-Ionic c. 900 BC



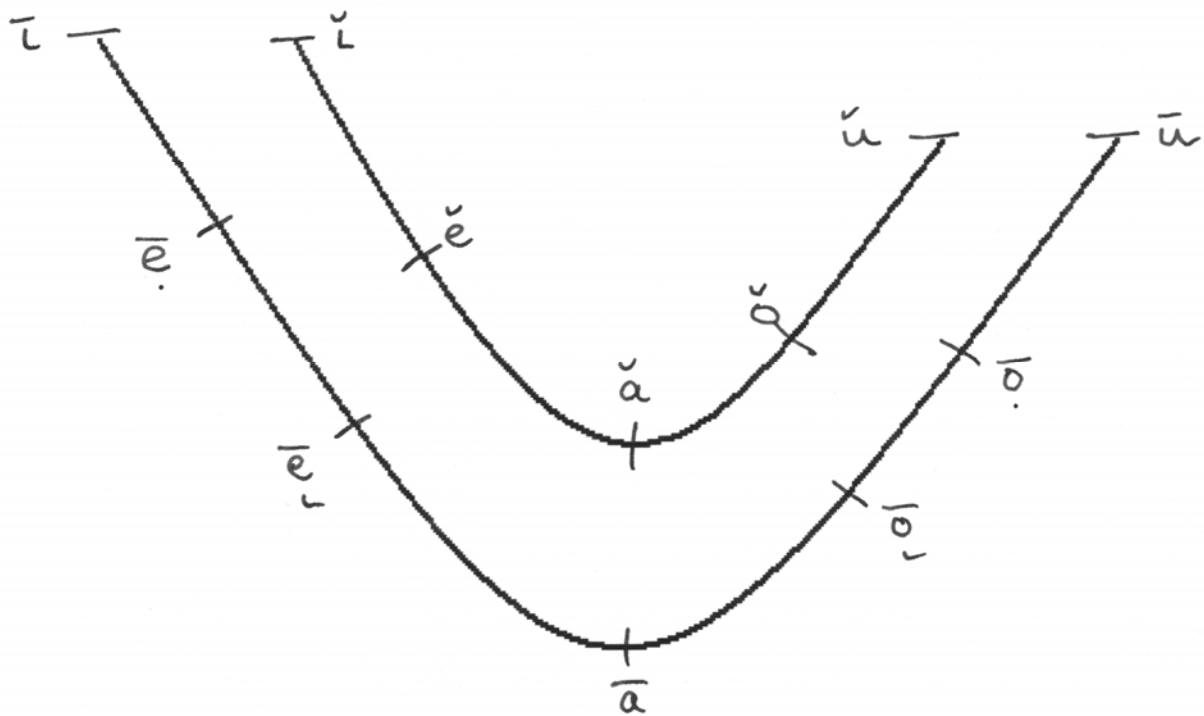
- Small change [ā] Ä [æ]
- NB H was used to represent [æ] as it had no value (Ionic is psilotic)

Stage 4: Attic-Ionic c. 800-700 BC



- 2nd wave of compensatory lengthening
- e.g. *hens Ä εῖς
- *ep^hilee Ä ἐφίλει
- *p^hilons Ä φίλους
- *timaete Ä τιμᾶτε
- *tans Ä τᾶς
- NB contracted forms now
- New alpha phoneme from contraction
- Typologically strange: 4 on back axis, 5 on front

Stage 5: Attic c. 700



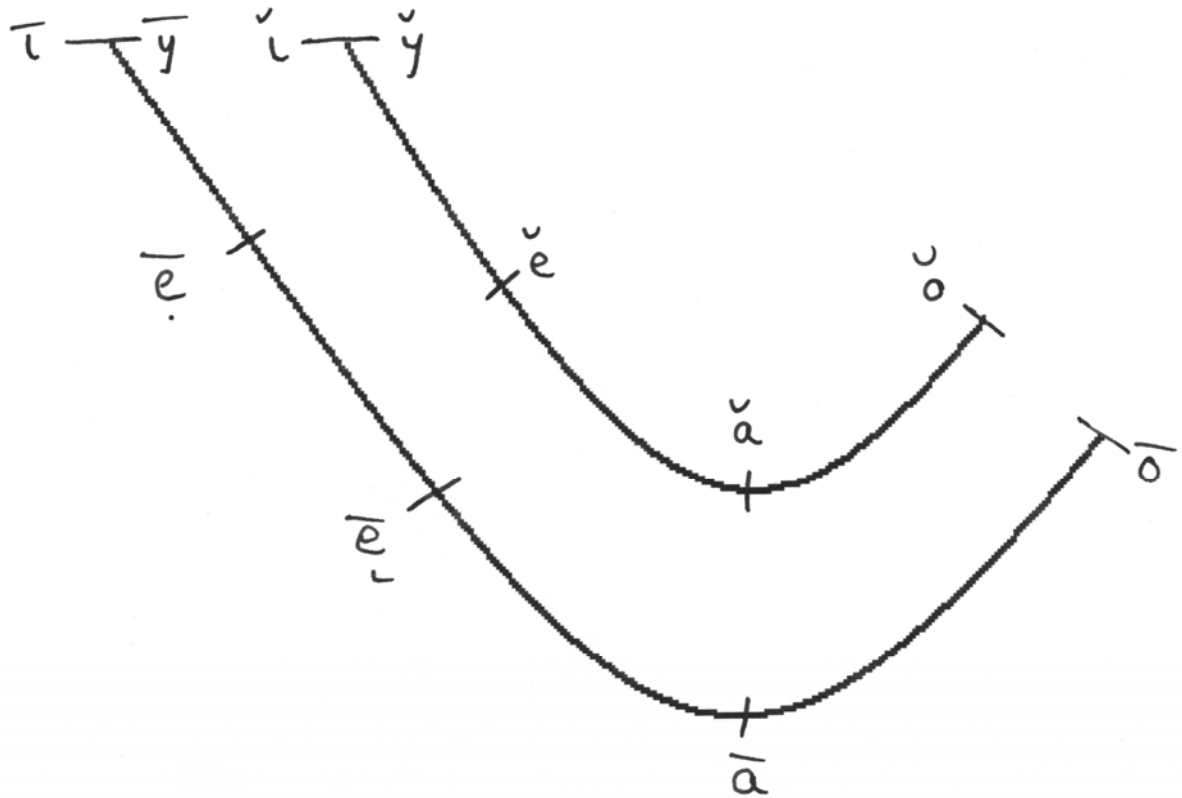
- Balance restored: [æ] destroyed
- Attic and Ionic now separated
- Ionic: [æ] → [ē], Attic some [æ] → [ē], some [æ] → [ā]
- Attic reversion: after ρ, ε, ι

[r] often has lowering effect cf Lat. *cineris* < **ciniris*

Explains Attic χωρᾶ, Ionic χωρη

When the sound developed, the grapheme came too

Cycladic inscription preserves distinction: κασιγνετη

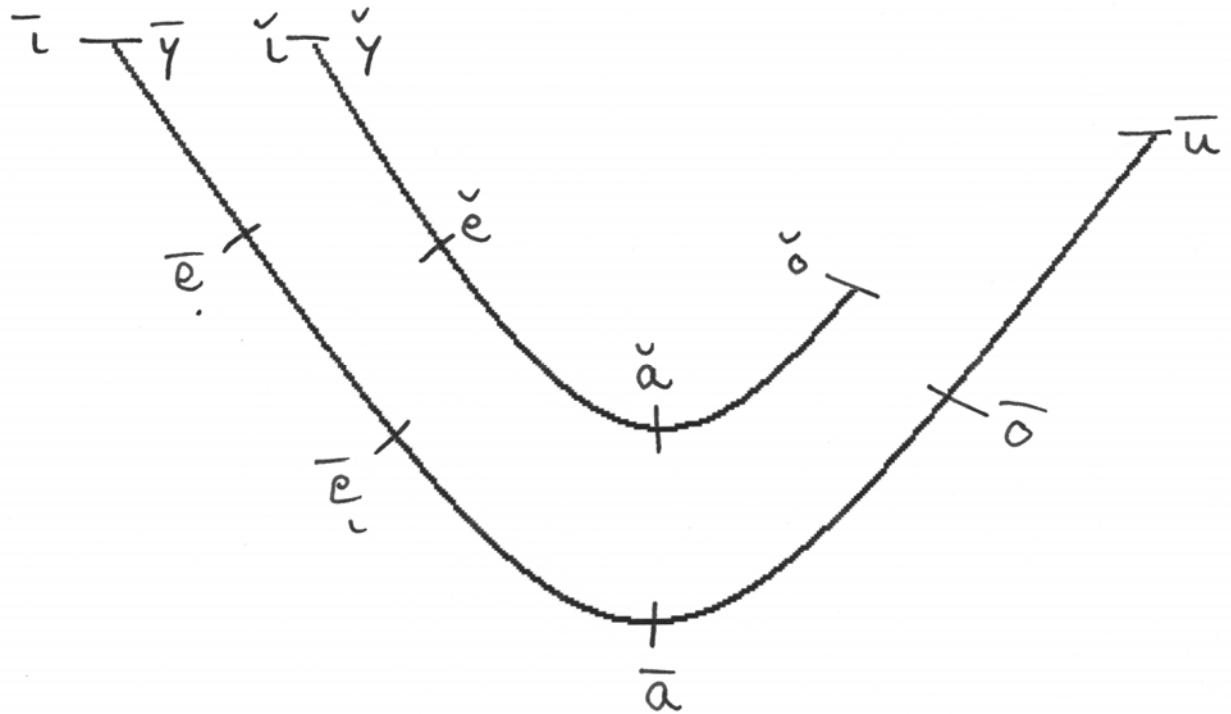
Stage 6: Attic c. 600

- Both short and long u become fronted \ddot{A} [y] (only in Attic-Ionic)
- Tongue position of [i] + lip rounding
- Same change occurs from Latin to French
e.g. *murum* \ddot{A} *mur* [myr]
- Not clear why change happens – overcrowding? others moving up?
- Now a gap in the system: drag chain possible

Stage 7: Attic c. 500

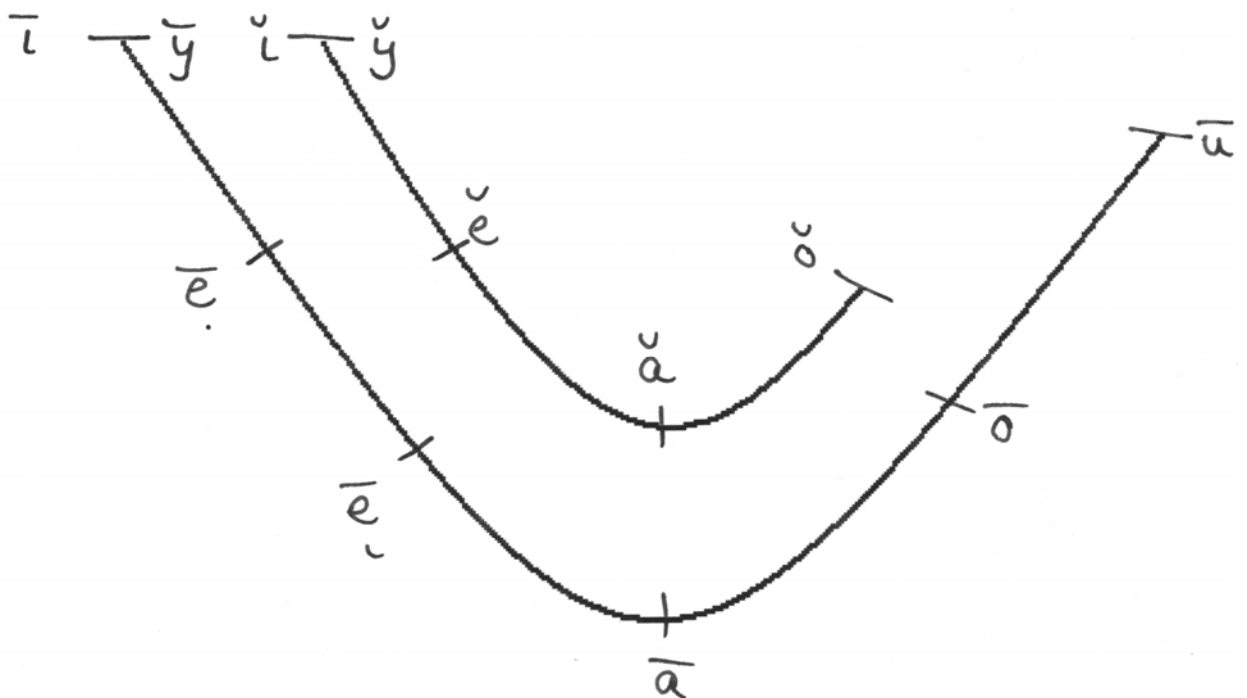
- Monophthongisation:
[ei] \ddot{A} [ē]: grapheme <ει> used for all examples
[ou] \ddot{A} [ō]: grapheme <ου> used for all examples

Stage 8: Attic by 350



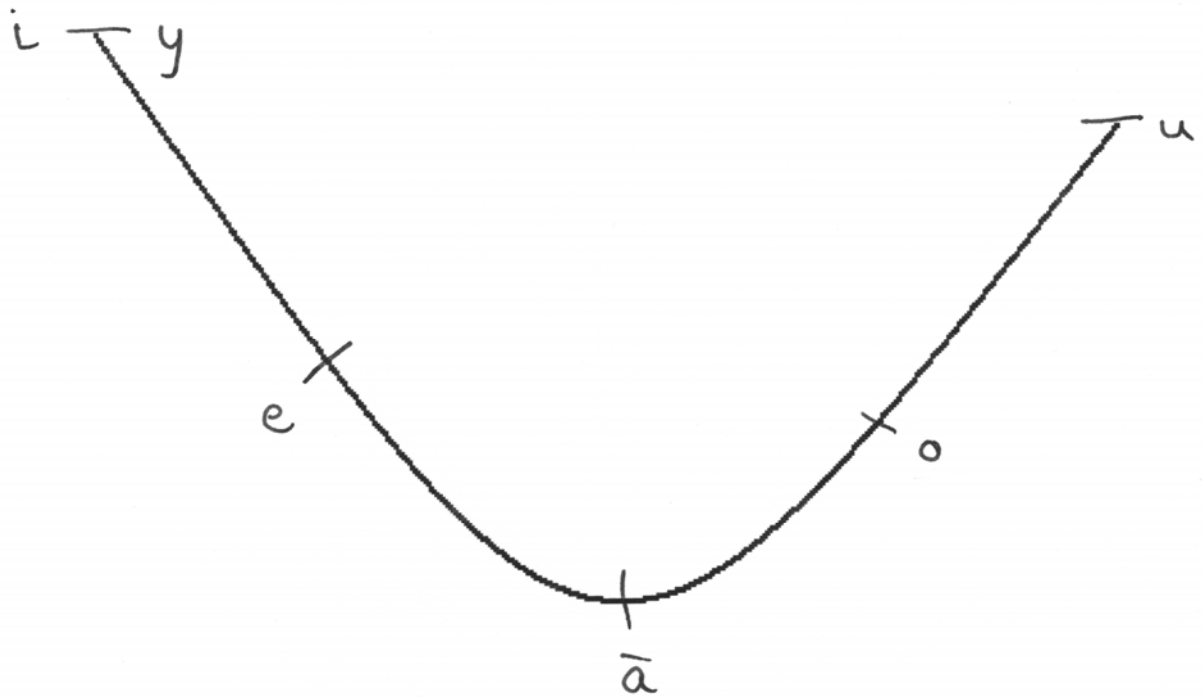
- Drag chain effect

Stage 9: Koine c. 3C BC



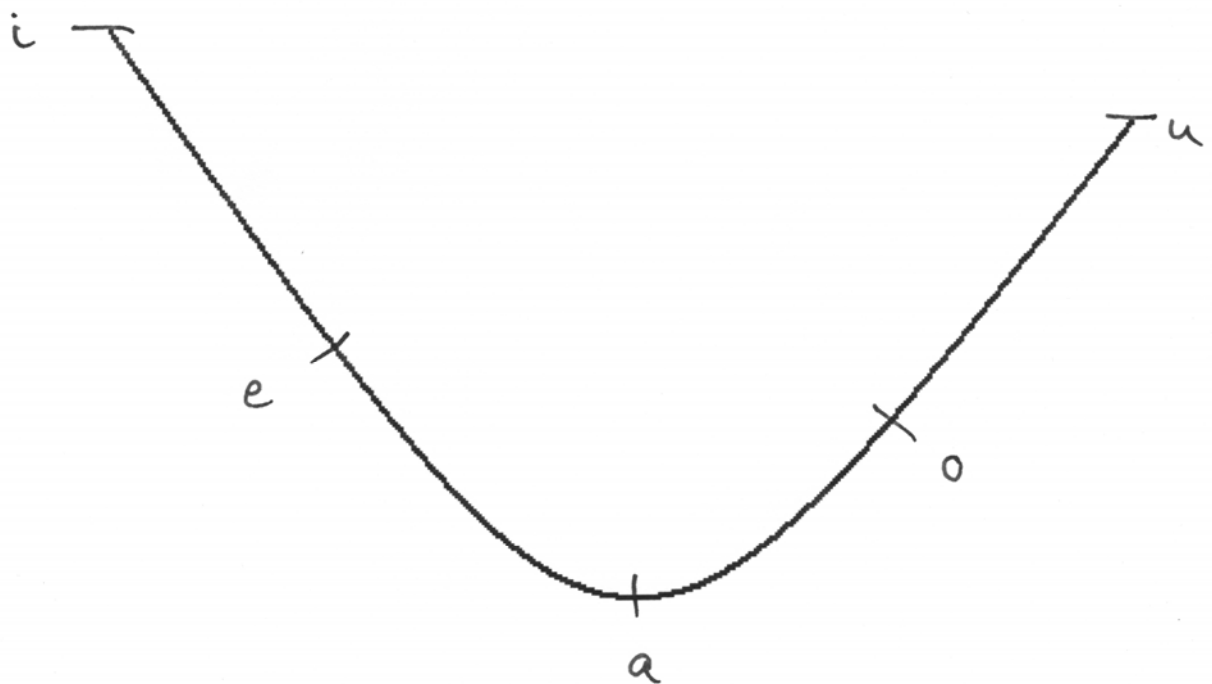
- Front vowels also move up

Stage 10: c. 3C AD



- Length distinction lost

Stage 11: c. 1000 AD



- Maximally simple system

2. The Digamma: ɸ

- Originally called ɸαῦ (Semitic *waw*), then δίγαμμα
- Name: Dionysius of Halicarnassus *Ant. Rom. i. 20*
ὥσπερ γάμμα διτταῖς ἐπὶ μίαν ὀρθὴν ἐπιζευγνύμενον ταῖς πλαγίοις
- Pronounced [w]
- Prone to loss in all dialects
- First in consonant clusters, then /V_V/, then /#_ (word-initially) by C2 BC
- When lost in certain sequences, some dialects have compensatory lengthening:

*ksenwos

early inscription ξενφος, Ion ξεῖνος, Dor. ξηνος, Att. ξένος

*korwā

early inscription κορφα, Ion κούρη, Dor. κώρᾱ, Att. κόρη

- Note the relative chronology: loss of ɸ after Att-Ion. $\bar{\alpha}\bar{\Delta}\eta$
- κορῆ $\bar{\Delta}$ *κορᾱ
- Attic and Ionic behave differently – must occur after separation

3. Foreign phonemes: Greek and Latin

- Different at different stages
- C2 AD Jewish inscriptions at Rome use β for L.<V> ([v])

βιξιτ = vixit [vixit]

- Difficult in cognate languages
- Known to be differences – Quintilian (12.10.27):

iucundissimas ex Graecis litteras non habemus, vocalem alteram, alteram consantem...quas mutuari solemus quotiens illorum nominibus utimur...ut in Zephyris...

Adaption

- The usual course e.g. Hindi [p^hilam]
- Some evidence that this done by Greek speakers of Latin:
nam contra Graeci aspirare F ut φ solent, ut pro Fundanio Cicero testem, qui primam eius litteram dicere non possit, irridet. (Quintilian 1. 4. 14)

- Early Latin *Corinto* etc.
- Latin *Fabius* > Greek Φαβιος (VG 22)
- Follows allophone rather than grapheme

Chrestus = Χρῆστος, Fr. *crème* = χρῆσμα, It. *artetico* = ἀρθοῖτικός

Latin *Aquilius* > Greek ακυλλιος

Adoption

- ϕ , θ , χ first transcribed as <p, t, k> (VG 26)
Pilemo, Corinto, Antioc
- In mid 2C BC transcribed as <ph, th, kh>
Philippus, philtrum, Corinthus, cithara, thesaurus, Achaea, bacchanal, machina, chorus
- Aspirates then found in native Latin words
pulcher, lachrima, sepulchrum, bracchium, triumphus etc.
- Cicero (Or. 160) accepts *pulcher, triumphus, Carthago*
- Rejects *sepulchrum, chorona, lachrima, Orchiuius*
- Grammarians disagree
- But interesting that most occur in vicinity of liquid – could represent allophone
- The grapheme <y>
- Greek υ early represented by Latin *u* (adaptation)
 $\beta\acute{\upsilon}\rho\sigma\eta$ > *bursa* (cf It *borsa*, Fr. *bourse*)
- But grapheme <y> used in classical period
hymnus, Hyacinthus, symbolus, nympa, Olympia etc.
- Not universally – ‘mistakes’ found in inscriptions and developments
crypta found as *crupta* in inscr, cf It. *grotta*
- Some hypercorrection
myser for *miser*, *sylua* for *silva* (cf Greek $\mu\upsilon\sigma\alpha\rho\acute{o}\varsigma$, $\acute{\upsilon}\lambda\eta$)
- Cf English *garage* – natural pronunciation [garidʒ]

Bibliography

W.S. Allen *Vox Graeca* (CUP 3rd edn. 1987)

W.S. Allen *Vox Latina* (CUP 2rd edn. 1978)

Horrocks *Greek: A history of the language and its speakers* (Longman, 1997)