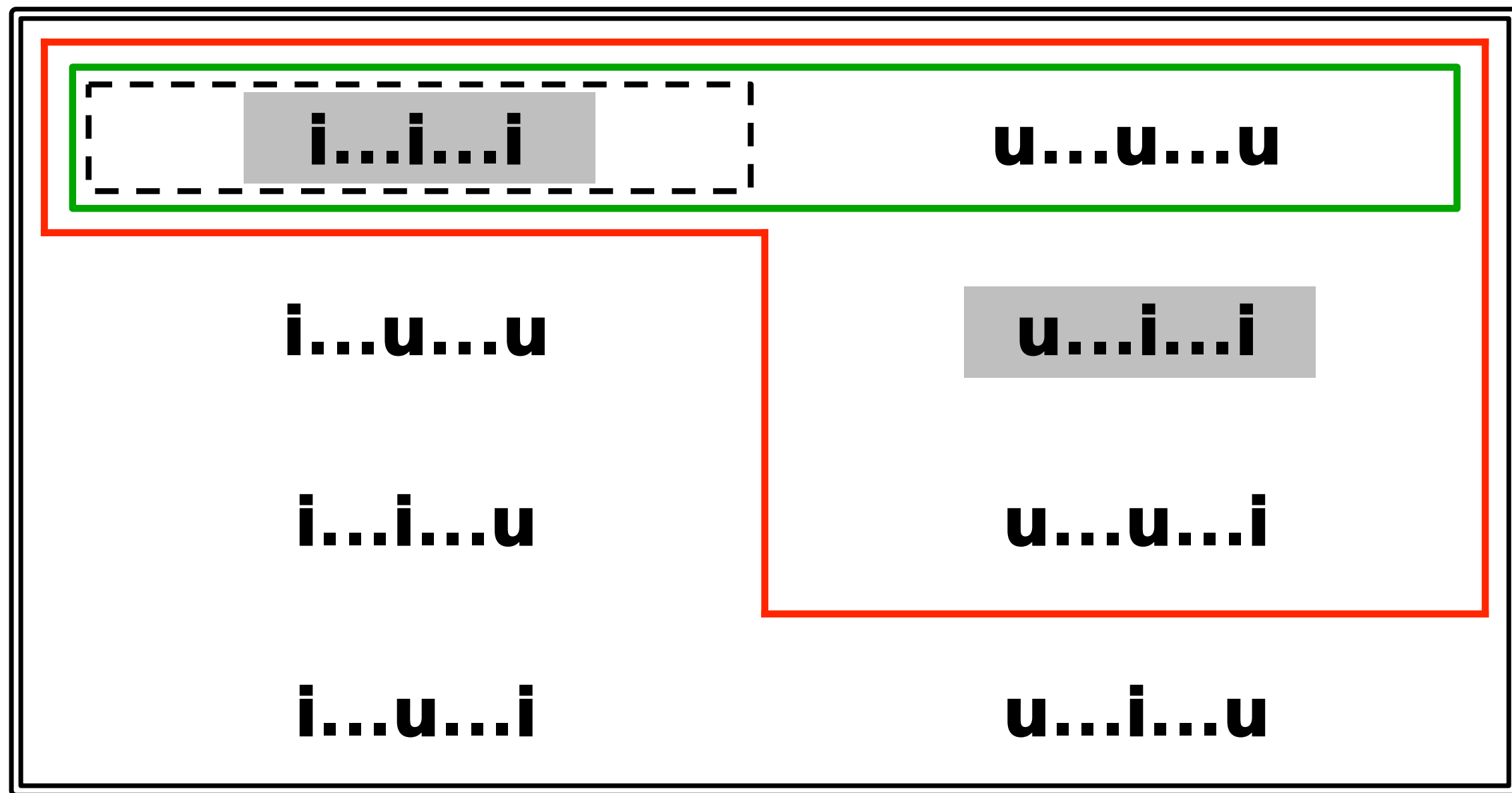


## Vowel Patterns in Roots in Tiv

Markus Hiller

### Assimilation-as-Licensing:

- No “assimilation constraint” (contra Lombardi 1999)
- Rather, consequence of minimizing no. of autosegments (Prince & Smolensky [2004: 30fn13]: \*STRUC)
- Patterns predicted include one of contrast **only** by spreading =: **supportive contrast**



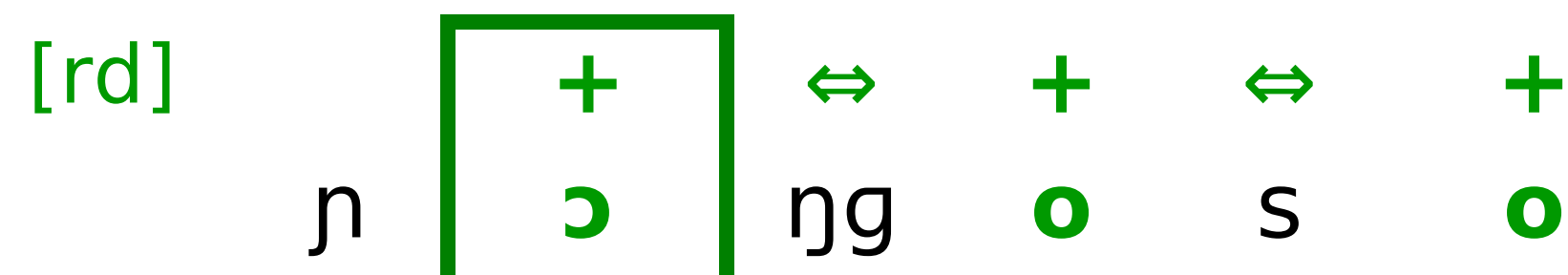
**Tbl.1** Patterns predicted: no contrast — assimilation — supportive contrast — full contrast — reduction

input: /so.i/	ID <sub>vi</sub> (rd)	*[+rd]	*[-rd]	ID(rd)
so i     + -		*	*!	
→ so u \ / +		*		*
se i \ / -	*!		*	*
so u     + +		**!		*

### Vowels in Tiv verb roots (i):

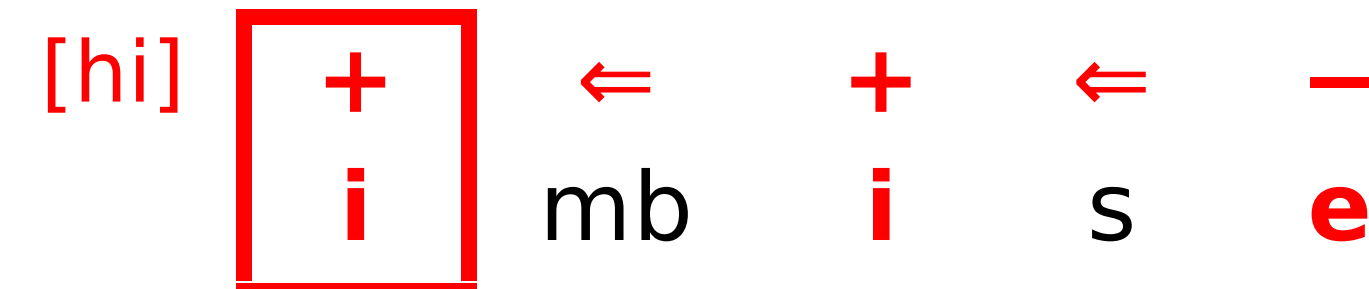
individual distinctive features

#### Assimilation of [±round]:

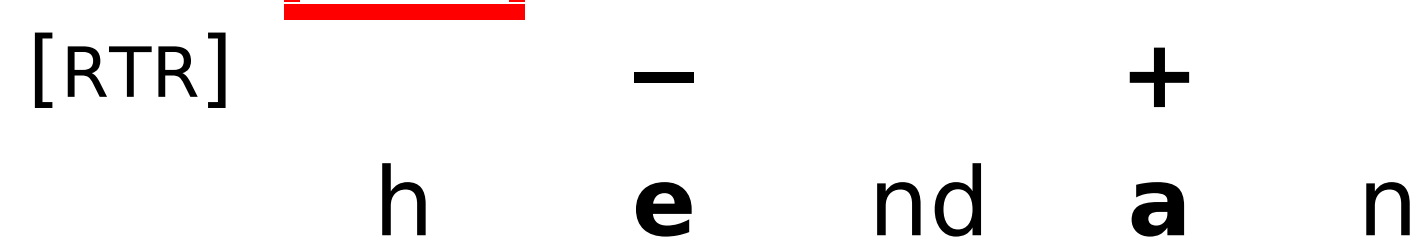


... except from [+hi] onto [-hi], u...e rather than \*u...o, vgl. (ii)

#### Supportive ct. of [±high]:



#### Full contrast of [±RTR]:



... but in addition, dissimilation: for ??a...a is exceptional.

#### Redu. of comb. [+RTR, -low]:

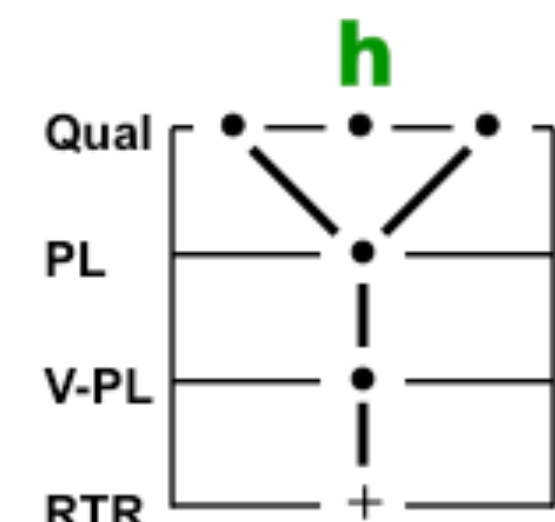
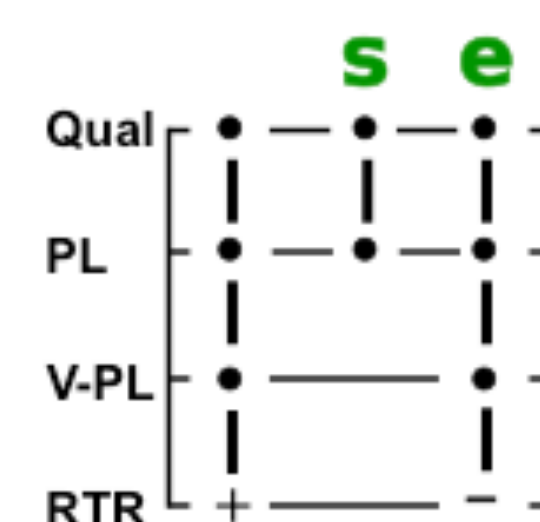
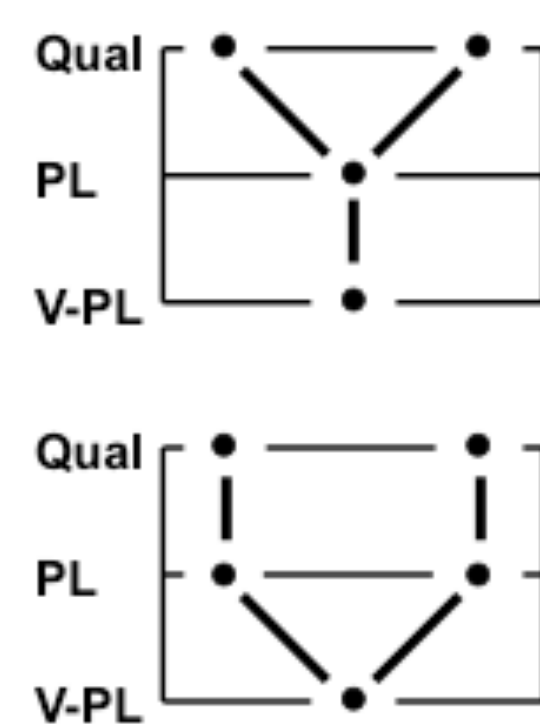
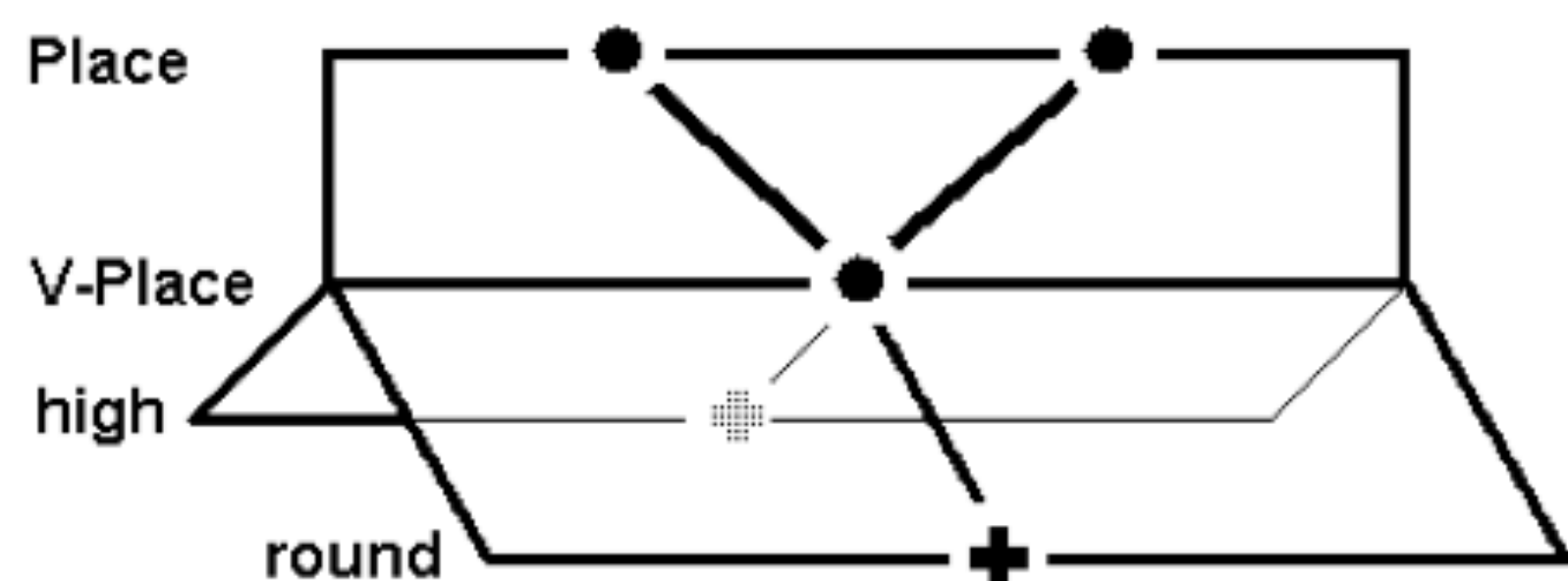


v <sub>n+1</sub> \ v <sub>n</sub>	i	e	a	u	o	ɔ
i	✓	✓	✓	--	--	--
e	--	✓	✓	--	--	--
a	--	✓	○	--	--	○
u	--	✓	✓	✓	--	--
o	--	--	--	--	✓	--
ɔ	--	--	○	--	✓	○

### Vowels in Tiv verb roots (ii):

feature geometrical effects

#### Feature Geometry (detail)



### Conclusion:

- Assimilation is a result of minimizing representational structure.
- Typology predicted is attested, for different vowel features in Tiv verb (etc.) roots.
- Feature geometry is straightforwardly integrated, some relev. effects also found in Tiv.
- This captures the generalizations found in this rather complex pattern of distributions.
- In particular, it provides a better fit with the data than underspec.+ association rules.