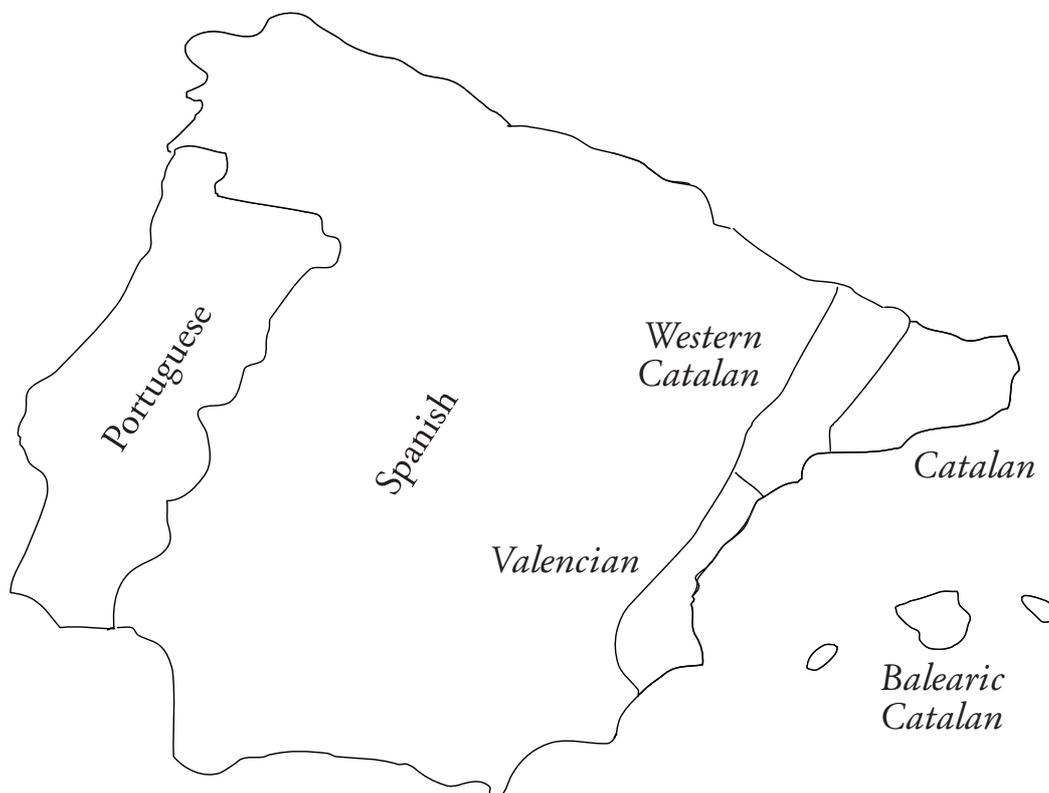


# Catalan Pronunciation 2017 Luciano Canepari

The pronunciation of Catalan (with its main territorial variants, see map) is dealt with in this paper, taken from the book *Natural Phonetics & Tonetics*. Certain coarticulatory *canIPA* taxophones are not shown, but easily inferable.

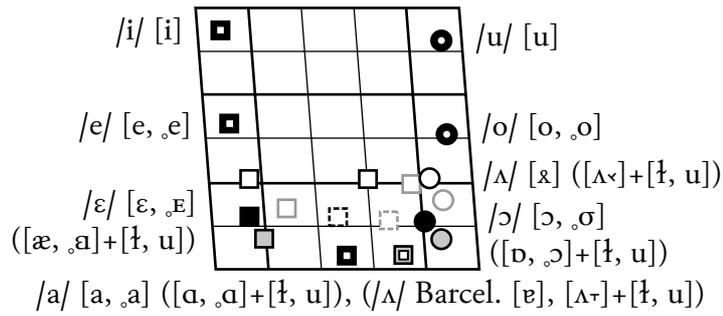


Neutral *Catalan* has only three *V* in unstressed syllables, ie /i, ə, u/ [i, ə, u] (with the possibility to have /e, ɛ; o, ɔ/ [e, ɛ; o, ɔ] in compounds, and derived or lofty forms as well as in loanwords); before [ʃ, u], /a, ʌ/ [a, ə] become [a, ʌ] (and /ɛ, ɔ/ [ɛ, ɔ], become [ʌ, ɔ]).

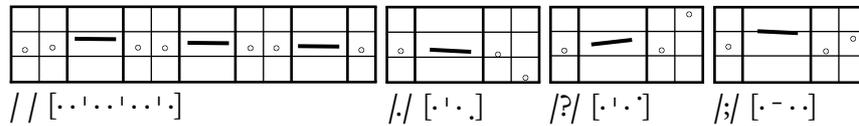
For ⟨i, u⟩, it presents /CiV, CuV/, /VjV, VwV/ but /#jV/, /kwV, gwV/, and diphthongs of the /Vi, Vu/ kind. It has /n≡C/ and also /ŋ/, which occurs finally or in /ŋN/ ⟨gm, gn⟩. Phonotactically we find the sequences /ts, dz/ [tʃ, dʒ], often erroneously described as stopstrictives ('affricates'): *potser* /putʃe/ [putʃe], *gats* /'gats/ ['gatsʃ], *botzina* /budʒina/ [budʒina].

In intervocalic position, we find /ttʃ, ddʒ/ [tʃtʃ, dʒdʒ] as well (which differ considerably both from plain /tʃ, dʒ/ [tʃ, dʒ] and from the geminates found in other languages, /tʃtʃ, dʒdʒ/ [tʃtʃ, dʒdʒ]): *despatxar* /dʌspʌtʃa/ [dʌspʌtʃa], *mitjà* /mid-ʃa/ [midʃa] (however, in other contexts, we have /tʃ, dʒ/ [tʃ, dʒ]: *despatx* /dʌspʌtʃ/ [dʌspʌtʃ], *despatx obert* /dʌspʌtʃ u'bert/ [dʌspʌdʒ u'βert]).

After pauses or C, /ʃ, ʒ/ [ʃ, ʒ] increasingly more often correspond to /tʃ, dʒ/ [tʃ, dʒ]: *(un) xal* /((un)ʃal, -ʃal/ [(un)ʃal, -ʃal], *(un) joc* /((un)ʒok, -ʒok/ [(un)ʒok, -ʒok].



m		n		ɲ	ŋ
p b		t d	[t̪ d̪]	tʃ dʒ	k g
	f [v]	ʃ ʒ	[ʃ ʒ]	ʎ ʝ	[ɣ]
[β]		[ð]		j	w
		r [rː]	ʎ [ʎ]	λ	[l]



-dʒɔk], but nothing of the kind happens with /s, z/. Generally, /ʃ<sup>#</sup>s, ʒ<sup>#</sup>z; tʃ<sup>#</sup>s, tʃ<sup>#</sup>z/ become [ʃ<sup>#</sup>s, ʒ<sup>#</sup>z; tʃ<sup>#</sup>s, tʃ<sup>#</sup>z].

The sequences /pl, bl; kl, gl/ are often (though not always) heterosyllabic, with possible lengthening or even gemination of non-continuant C, ie [C<sup>#</sup>l, C<sup>#</sup>l, C<sup>#</sup>Cl]; in non-traditional pronunciations, these sequences can even be homosyllabic [<sup>#</sup>Cl], ie with /b, g/ [β, ɣ], which normalize the situation in these four cases, for syllabification as well.

Certain geminations are possible, especially for sonants, written with unassimilated historical spelling: *admetre*, *cotna*, *atlas*, *espatlla* /Λs'paλλλλ/ [ɛs'paλλλλ]. /l/ is typically velarized, [ɫvɫ(C<sup>#</sup>)], or [l] in any context.

In rhythm groups, /Λ/ in contact with another V is regularly elided, even when not shown by spelling: *d'aquí a una estona* //dΛΛ'ki ΛunΛΛs'tonΛ// /dΛ'ki (Λ)unΛs'tonΛ/ [dɛ'ki (ɛ)unɛs'tonɛ], *que es diu* //kΛΛs'diu// /kΛz'diu/ [kɛz'diu], *que es fa* //kΛΛs'fa// /kΛs'fa/ [kɛs'fa].

In the infinitives and gerunds with enclitic pronouns, -r, -t, which are normally 'silent', are pronounced as /r, t/: *fer* /'fe/ but *fer-ho* /'feru/, *anant* /Λ'nan/, but *anant-hi* /Λ'nanti/, *portar* /pur'ta/, but *portar-se* /pur'tarsΛ/.

All final stops are invariably voiceless before /V, C̣, l/ and voiced before /C̣/; therefore, b<sup>#</sup>, d<sup>#</sup>, g<sup>#</sup> are regularly /p, t, k/: *tub estret*, *arab*, *fred intens*, *liquid*, *biolleg i geoleg*, *llarg*; vice versa, p<sup>#</sup>, t<sup>#</sup>, c<sup>#</sup> change to /b, d, g/ in cases like *prop de*, *pot venir*, *esbufec desaprovador*, *poc modest*.

Even f<sup>#</sup>, (t)s<sup>#</sup>, tx<sup>#</sup>/Vig<sup>#</sup> are /v, (d)z, dʒ/ before /V, C̣/: *buf estrany* [ˈbu vɛs'tran], *els nens* [ɛɫz'nɛns], *tots els jugadors* [ˈtɔdʒɛɫ(z) ʒuɣaˈdoɾs], *mateix any* [mɛtɛ'zɔn], *vaig demanar* [ˈbaɖɔdɛmɛˈna]; notice that the former has [v] even though this variety of Catalan does not normally have /v/.

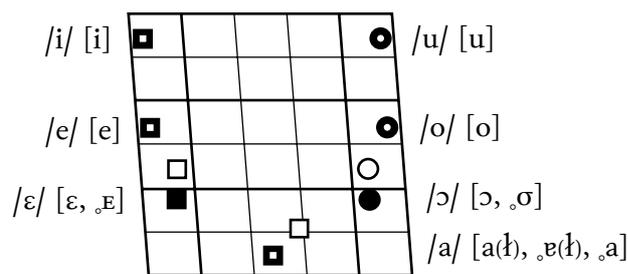
Within word boundaries, very much like what happens in sentences, and in lof-

ty words, loanwords, or derived forms, written with *b*, *d* before /C̄/, correspond to /p, t/: *substancia*, *obscurir*, *dissabte*, *adquirir*; while, for *p*, *t*, *c*, *s*/ç, before /C̄/, we have /b, d, g; z/ (realized as stops, [b, d, g]): *capdavall*, *abducció*, *futbol*, *anècdota*, *dracma*, *feliçment*, as well as in cases as *viatge*, *dotze* /ddʒ, dz/. Regularly, /ps̄#, ls̄#/ are [ps̄, ls̄].

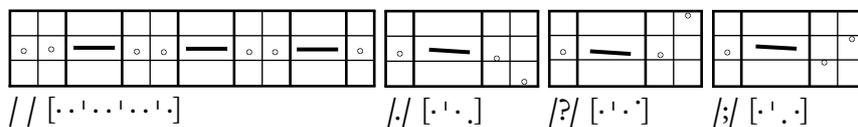
In Barcelona, both under the influence of Castilian and normal evolution, /Λ/ is [e], or [ʌ] before [t̪, u] (many younger speakers tend to have /Λ/ → /e/ for *e*); /ʌ/ changes to /j/; even, /ʃ, ʒ/ → /tʃ, dʒ/, and, in intervocalic position, /ddʒ/ → /ttʃ/; /bl, gl/ → /pl, kl/ (all these features are highly stigmatized but extremely widespread).

Spelling: *c* /s, k/, *ç* /s/, *g* /ʒ, g/, *Vig*# /Vtʃ/, *j* /ʒ/, *ll* /ʎ/, *ll* /ll/, *ny* /ɲ/, *tg* and *tj* /ddʒ/, *ts* /ts/, *x* /ʃ/, *Vix*# /Vʃ/, *tx* /tʃ/, *VttʃV*, *tz* /dz/, *y* /j/, *z* /z/.

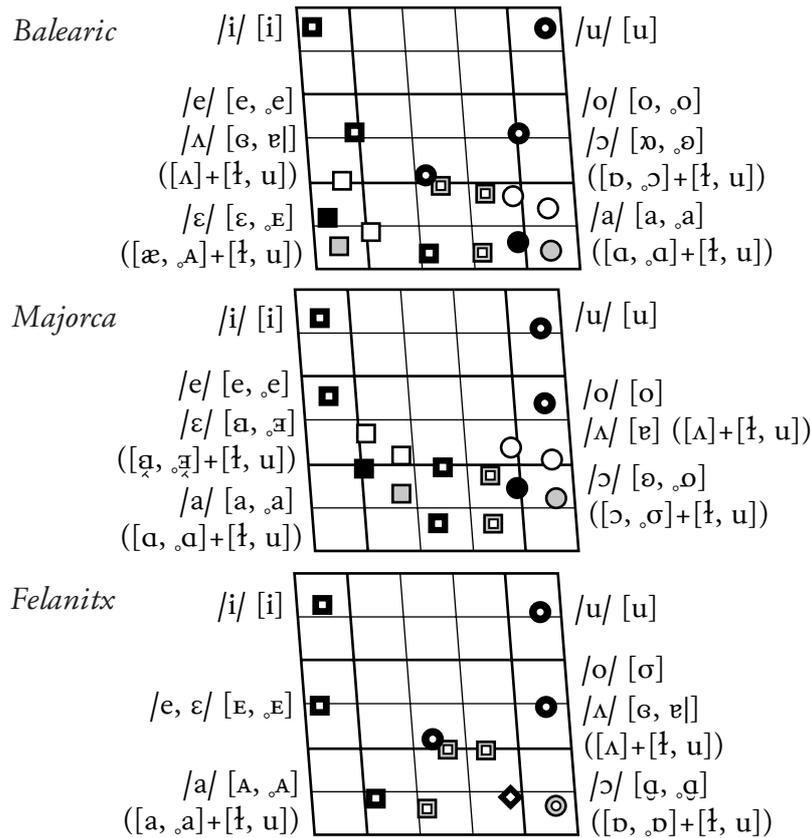
(North-)Western *Catalan* has a different distribution of /e, ε, o, ɔ/ from neutral Catalan, and presents five V (instead of just three) in unstressed syllables, too: /i, e, a, o, u/ [i, e, ẽ, o, u] (even for [ʰa, ʰe]). Besides, /n≡C/.



m		n		ɲ	ŋ
p b		[t̪ d]	tʃ dʒ		k g
	f [v]	ʃ z	ʎ ʝ		[ç]
[β]		[ð]	r r:	ɫ	ʎ
					w



*Balearic* (or *B. Catalan*) has stressed /ʰΛ/ [ʰɔ] and /ɛΛ/ [ɔ, ẽ] as unmarked local features; for /ε, a, ɔ/ it has [e, a, ə] and [æ, a, ɔ] + [t̪, u]. We also find /ẽo/ (and more rarely, /ẽe/ too, which often alternates with /ʌ/). /ʌ/ is found only in words deriving from Latin *l*- or *-ll*-, whereas those with ‘palatalized’ *Cl*, *liV* clusters have /j/; /l/ can always be [t̪, l] in any context; /v/ ≠ /b/; besides, /n≡C/, including /nk/ [ɲk, ɲc]. The palatal taxophones of /k, g/ [c; ɟ, ɰ] before /i, e, ε, a, ʌ/ and word-final /k/ [c] are noteworthy. Often /b, g/ do not present the usual taxophones [β, ç] (while [ð] for /d/ is generally present).



m		n		ɲ	
p b	t d	[t̪ d̪]	tʃ dʒ	[c ɟ]	k g
	f v	ʃ z	ʎ ʝ	[j]	[ɣ]
[β]	[ð]			j	ω
		r r:	ɫ	ʎ	[l]

◦ ◦ — ◦ ◦ — ◦ ◦ — ◦	◦ — ◦ ◦	◦ — ◦ ◦	◦ — ◦ ◦
// [······]	/./ [·'..]	/ʔ/ [·'··]	/;/ [·'··]

There is a less typical accent, especially in Majorca, resulting both from Castilian influence and normal evolution, which exhibits the V given in the second vocogram; for /l/ it tends to have [lʎ], whereas it never has /Λ/ (→ /j/); increasingly more often, /v/ → /b/, /ʃ/ → /tʃ/, and /j/ → [Vj̞, |g̞j̞, ɲg̞j̞]. In Minorca, we find /r<sup>#</sup>/ [r<sup>#</sup>].

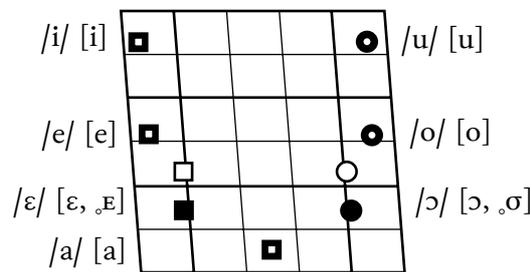
More marked variants, as that of Felanitx, may present seven V, instead of the eight of ordinary Balearic, because of the coalescence of /ε/ with /e/ → [ɛ], as a consequence /a/ → [A], /ɔ/ → [ɔ̞].

*Valencian* /vəɫɛnʃiən, -ʃən/ (*Catalan*, also *Southern Catalan*), has five V in unstressed positions, /i, e, a, o, u/; /ε, ɔ/ are fairly centralized, [ɛ̞, ̘ɛ̞; ɔ̞, ̘ɔ̞]. It traditionally distinguishes /b, v/ <b, v>; after pauses, /b, d, g/ are [b̞, d̞, ɡ̞]; /s, z/ become [ʃ, z̞] after /i/. Compared to neutral Catalan, it has no /z̞/ which has become /dʒ̞/: *gent* [ˈdʒɛnt], *joc*

[*ɫ̥ɔk*]. The sequences /CjV, CwV/ can be [CiV, CuV]; as on the Balearic Isles, /*ʎ*/ is only found for Latin *l*- and *-ll*-, not for ‘palatalized’ *Cl*, *liV* clusters; /*n*≡C/; besides, /*j*/ [j], but [g̟j] after *N* or pauses; /*ʎ*/ [ʎ] (but also [l]).

In Valencia and its outskirts, but even sparsely in the Valencian territory, both under the influence of Castilian and normal evolution, we find no voiced stop-strictive phonemes, nor voiced grooved constrictives; we do find, however, the assimilated phonetic realizations [z, ʒ; dz, dʒ] before voiced C.

For /sC/, there is often [hC], or assimilation to the following C, [C], even with gemination, [CC], as in eastern Andalusian. /*ʎ*/ coalesces with /*j*/ [j, g̟j]; likewise, /w/ is often ‘/gw/’ [w, ɣ]; besides, /v/ → /b/ (all these features are highly stigmatized but extremely widespread). Spelling (differences with neutral Catalan): *g* /*ɫ̥*, *g* / *j* /*ɫ̥* /, *Vix*# /*Vi*ʎ/.



m		n		ɲ	
p b	t d	[t̪ d̪]		k g	
	f v	ʃ ʒ	ɫ̥ ɫ̥̟	[g̟j]	
[β]	[v]	[δ]	ʎ [ʎ]	[ʒ ʒ]	j
		r r:	ʎ [l]		w
				ʎ	

