

III. Vowels

	i	ɪ	e	ɛ	æ	ʌ	a	ɑ	ɔ	o	ʊ	u	y	ø	ɨ	ɯ
±high													+	-	+	+
±low													-	-	-	-
±back													-	-	+	+
±round													+	+	-	-
±ATR					??	??	??	??					+	+	??	??

Assume for now that [ʌ] and [ə] have the same feature specifications and differ only with respect to stress.

- What values do vowels have for the following features?
 [consonantal] [strident] [lateral]
 [sonorant] [continuant]
- What values do vowels *usually* have for the following features?
 [voice] [nasal]

For your information: Additional notes on vowel features

- Remember that each vowel symbol stakes out a fairly large region of the vowel space, so languages may vary somewhat in the phonological specifications they give to what appear to be the “same” vowels phonetically. Likewise, languages may differ in the precise phonetic realization of vowels that have the same phonological specifications. Therefore, always be sensitive to the natural classes that can be observed in the language you are working on, and be willing to adjust the feature specifications of the vowels to take into account the natural-class behavior.

Examples:

- Vowels represented by the symbols [ʌ] or [ə] are frequently [-ATR]. But in some languages, [ʌ] or [ə] may be the [+ATR] counterpart of [a] or [ɑ].
- In a language with a small vowel inventory, there may be little or no phonological evidence about the value of [±ATR] at all.
- In most languages, [ɛ] and [ɔ] pattern as mid vowels. But in some languages, [ɛ] and [ɔ] may behave phonologically as though they are [+low].

Warning

- Do not attempt to memorize these charts!
- Instead, memorize which *natural classes* each feature is used to distinguish