

Spanish Pronunciation & Accents

(integrations for foreign accents of Spanish, 2023)

64. This chapter will show in explicit detail mainly the *vowels* and *intonation* patterns generally occurring in 43 foreign accents, because these are the pronunciation aspects which, in current teaching, are ‘normally’ dealt with on a guiltily superficial level, with no *vocograms* and, especially, no *tonograms*.

Spanish presents sequences of two different vowels (using differently all its five timbres [i, e, a, o, u]) to form true diphthongs, including those with final /i, u/ [Vi, Vu], which are problematic for languages like English (with [ɛɪ, aə, aʊ, ɔə, ɜʊ/σʊ]) and German (with [ae, ao, σʏ]). Of course, sequences like [jV, wV] are not diphthongs, as those like [jVi, wVi] are not ‘triphthongs’; for /j, w/, [j, w] should be avoided.

Problems deriving from misinterpretations of some peculiar Spanish graphemes are not included here, because they should already be overcome.

As for the *consonants* of Spanish, it is obvious that some are more difficult than others (which are less different). For the nasals, /ɲ/ is problematic even for those Italians who have /ɲ/, which is geminated between vowels, so Italian *legno* /leŋno/ [leŋ:ɲo] is different from Spanish *leño* /leɲo/ [leɲ:ɲo]. With speakers of other languages, Spanish /ɲ/ becomes ‘at best’ [ɲj, ɲj]. Other nasals are less problematic, although seen in detail in previous chapters.

Spanish /p, t, k/ must never be ‘aspirated’ [ph, th, kh], while /b, d, g/ are more frequently [β, δ, γ]; avoid [t̪, d̪] (and [t̪̞]). For possible half-voicing, see the general descriptions. It should be recalled that Spanish ‘/tʃ/’ [tʃ] (in addition to lacking any ‘aspiration’) does not have lip protrusion, contrary to many other languages. A more ‘serious’ problem is found for Spanish /j/ [j, g̞j], which is different from simpler ‘/j, gj/’.

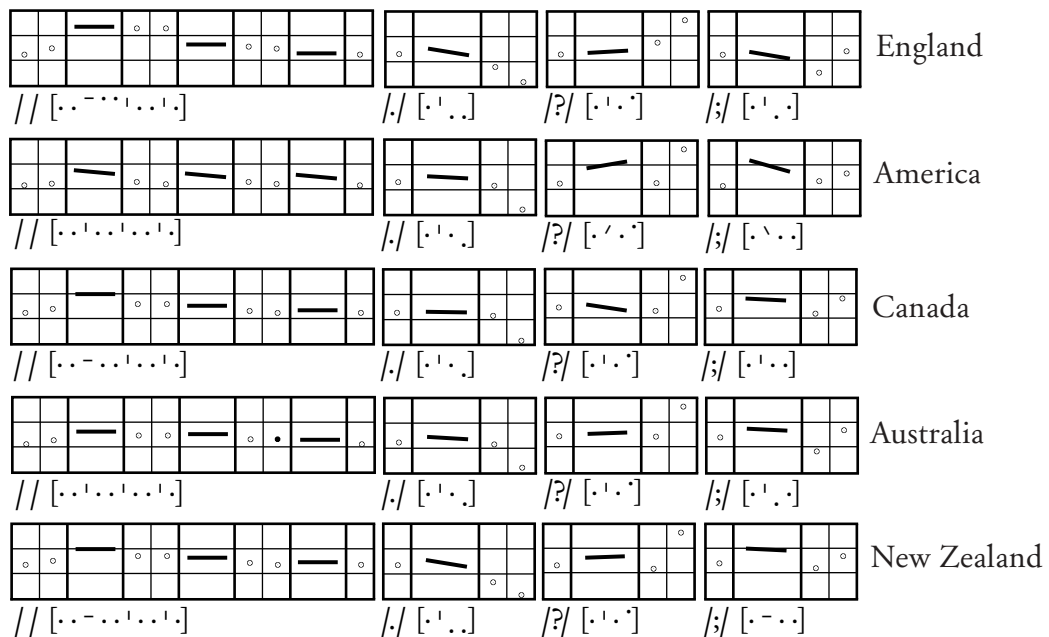
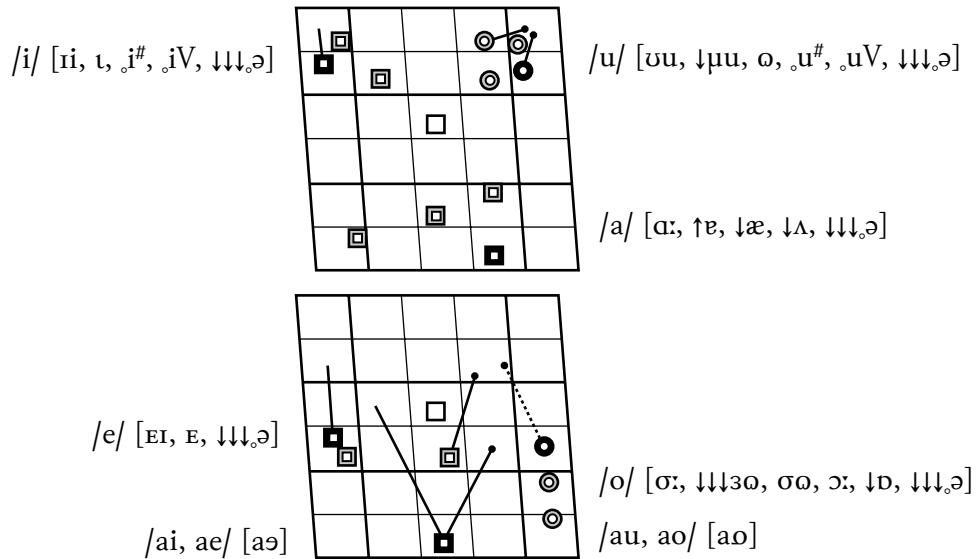
Spanish /θ/ ([θ] of the Castilian accent) may be simplified to /s/ [s] (as in most other Spanish accents). But, it is to be known that in many other languages /s/ is different from a true Castilian /s/ [s̺]. Sonority assimilation is described in the general chapters. Spanish /f/ [f] is different from [ɸ, ɸ], possible in other languages. Spanish /x/ [x, χ] is a velar or uvular constrictive, much stronger than a common laryngeal approximant, [h].

Castilian Spanish /ʎ/ [ʎ] in many native accents is simplified to /j/. However, as for /ɲ/ [ɲ], in Italian /ʎ/ is geminated between vowels, so Italian *Siviglia* /siˈviʎʎa/ [siˈviʎ:ʎa] is different from Spanish *Sevilla* /seβiʎa/ [seβi:ʎa]. With speakers of other languages, Spanish /ʎ/ becomes ‘at best’ [lj, lj]. For /l/ [l], it is better not to use anything like [ɫ, ɫ].

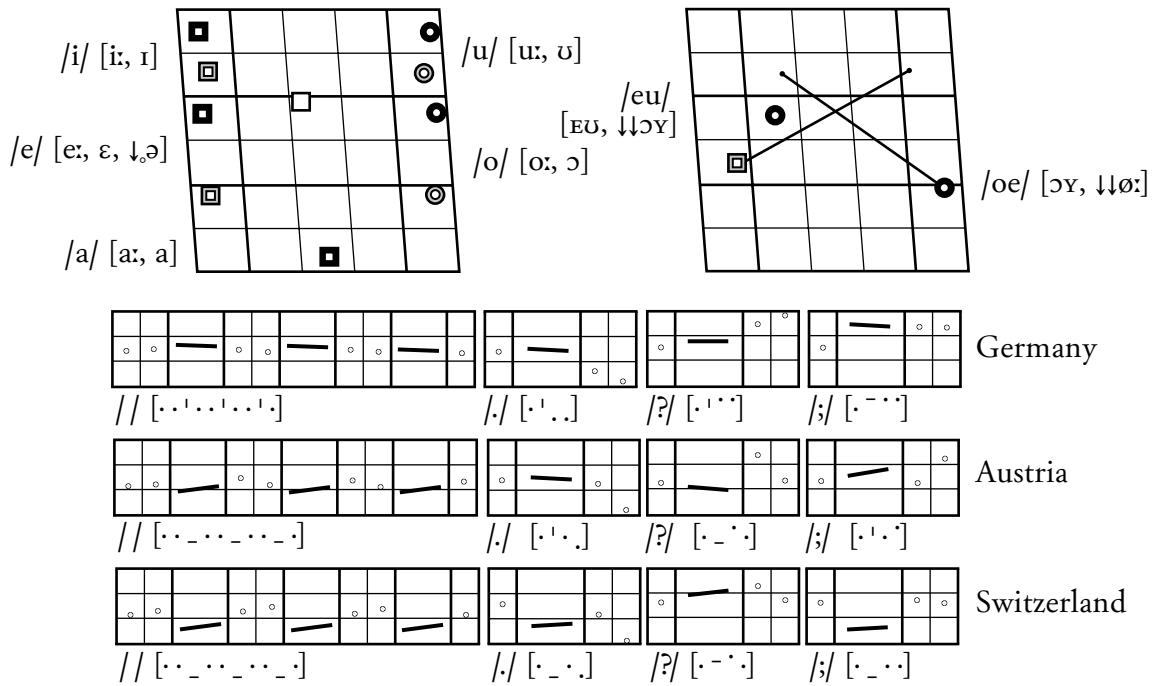
Spanish R is a real problem for most foreigners, as /r, r, rr/. In addition to being often unified into a single phone and realized not as alveolar, [r, rr], but as [R, R, R] or [ɹ, ɹ, ɹ], in certain languages it may also be vocalized when final or followed by a consonant. Words like *raro*, *carro*, *carne* are: Sp. /'raro, 'karro, 'karne/ ['raro, 'karrɔ, 'karne], It. /'raro, 'karro, 'karne/ ['raro, 'karrɔ, 'karne]; also notice: Sp. *carrera*, *carretera* /kar'rera, kar'retera/ [kar'rɛɾa, kar'rɛɾa], and It. *carriera*, *carrettiera* /kar'rjɛra, karret'tjɛre/ [kar'rjɛra, karret'tjɛre].

Of course, these observations mainly concern the neutral pronunciations used by foreigners, who are surely also influenced by their regional or popular accents, as the native speakers of Spanish around the world certainly present many regional or popular peculiarities of their own accents (which are systematically described in Canepari's *Spanish Pronunciation & Accents* and in Miotti's *Pronunciación y acentos del español*, in addition to exhaustive treatments of the pronunciation of Spanish).

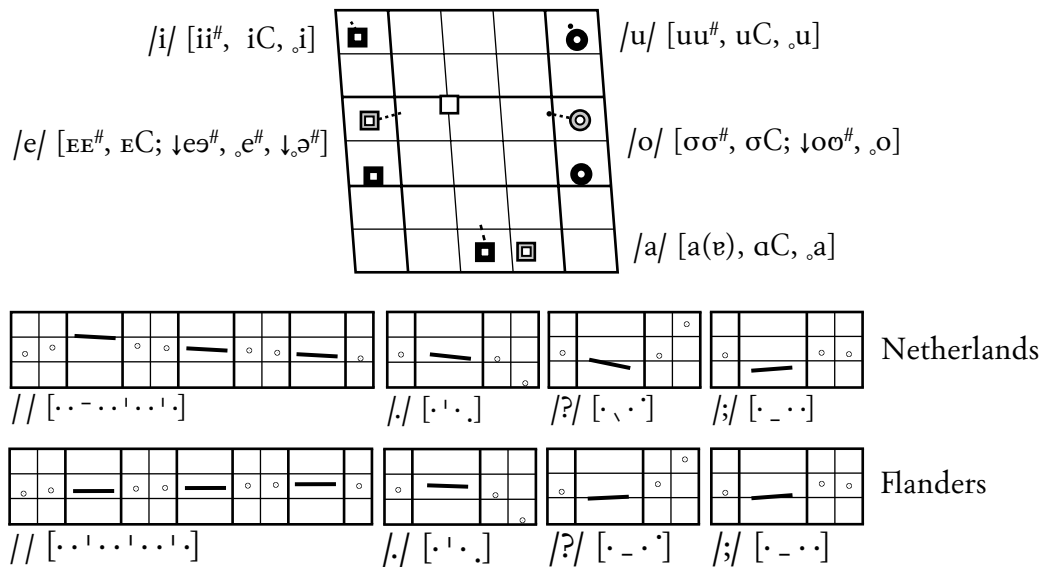
64.1. English accent.



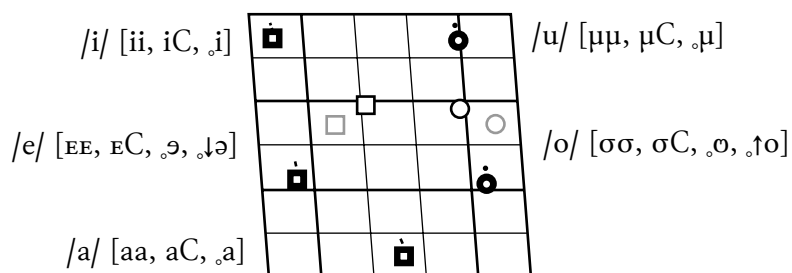
64.2. German accent.



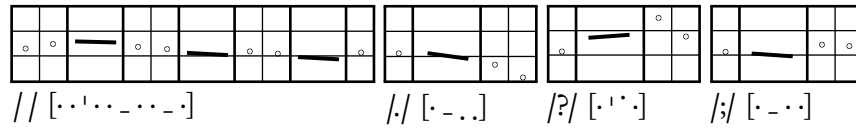
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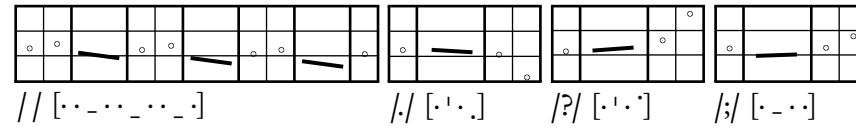
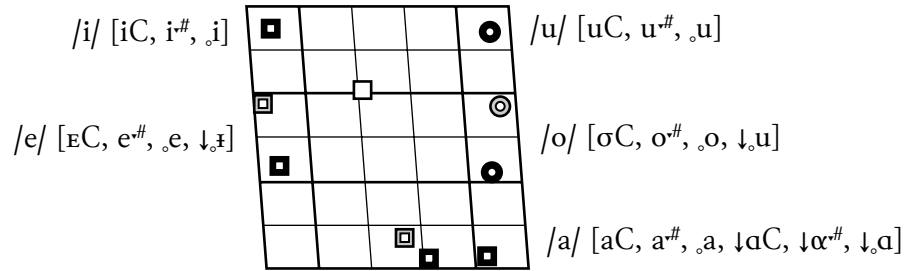
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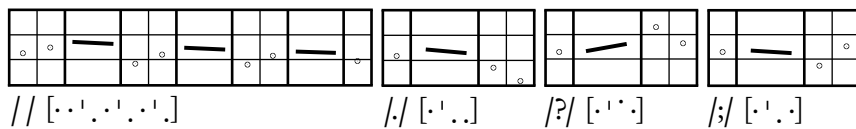
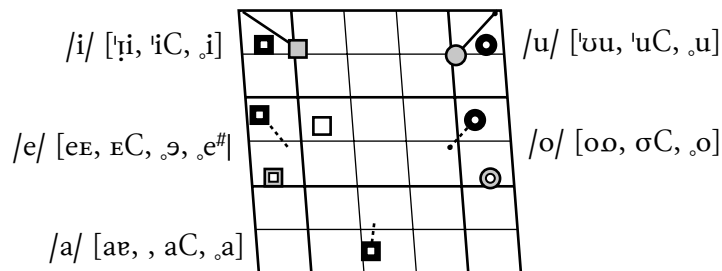
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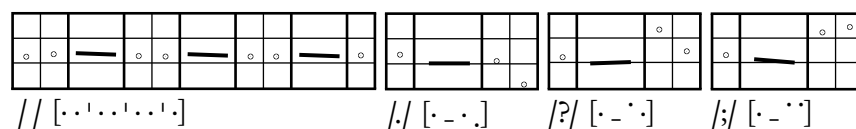
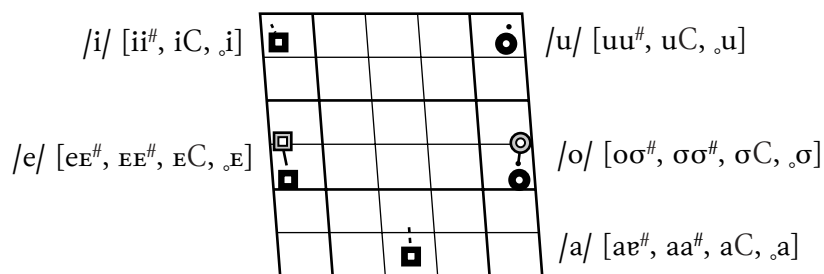
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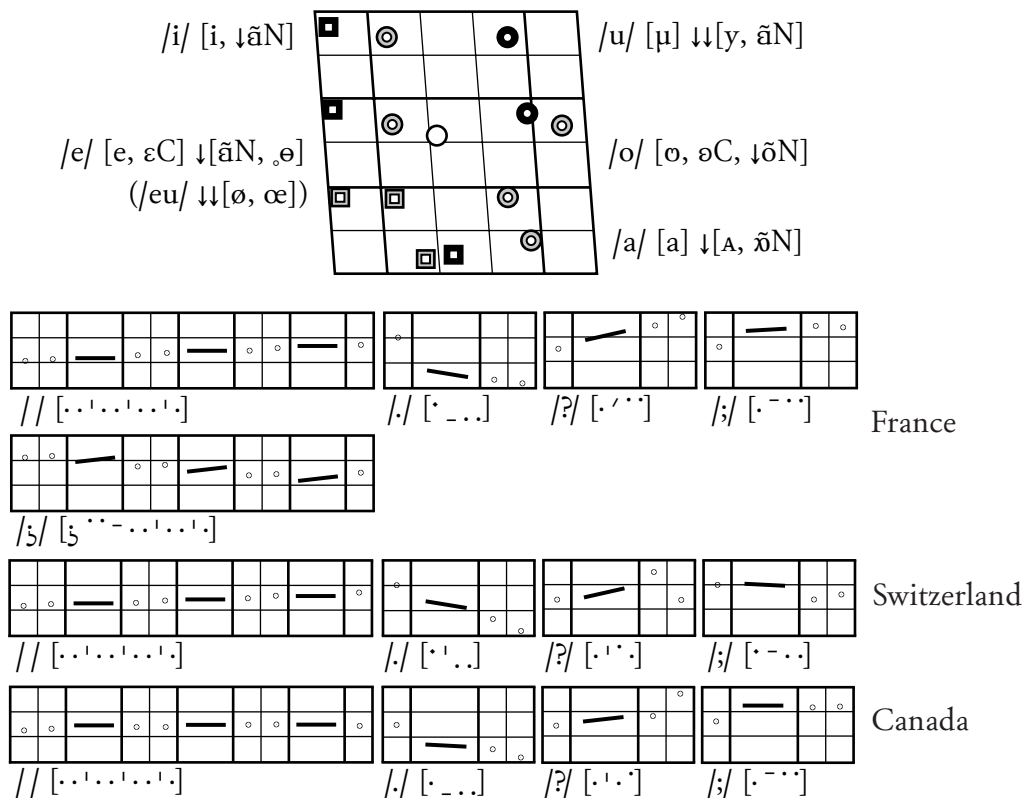
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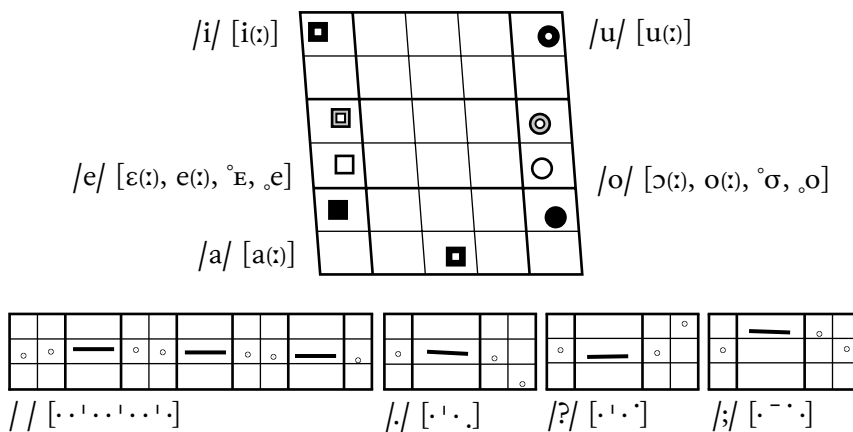
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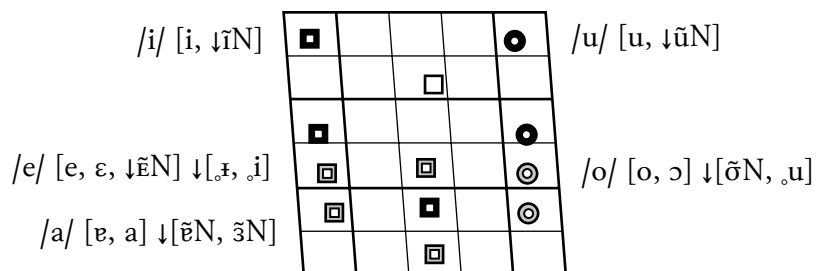
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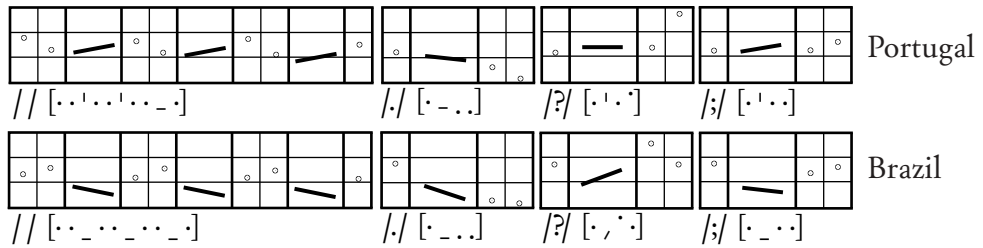
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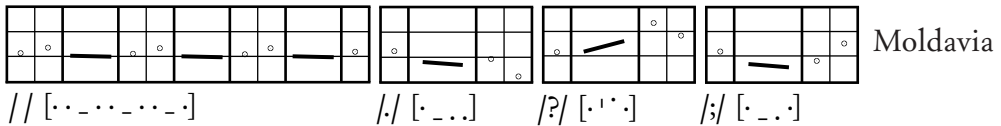
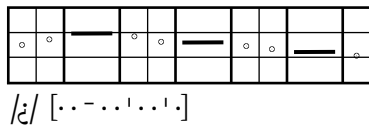
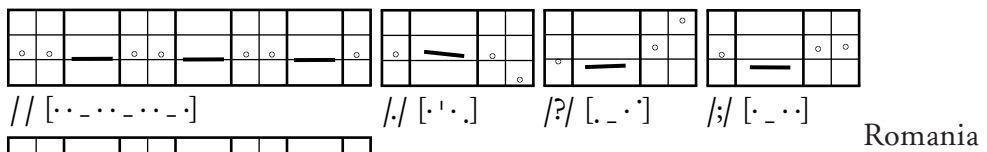
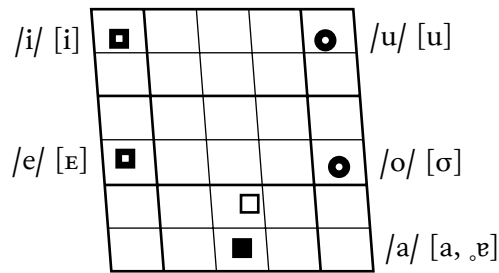
64.10.1. Portuguese accent.



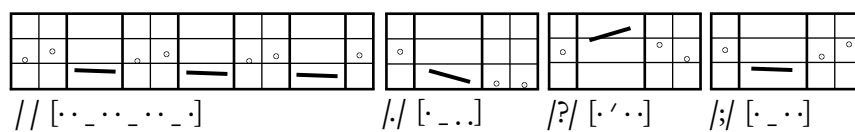
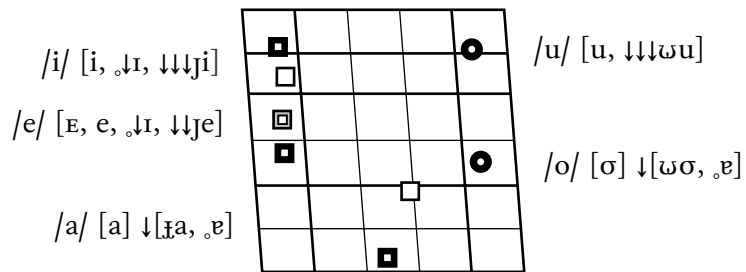
64.10.2. Portuguese accent.



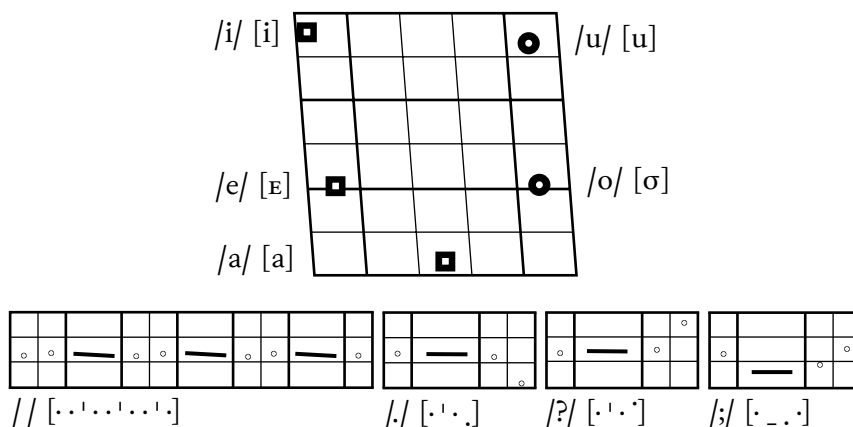
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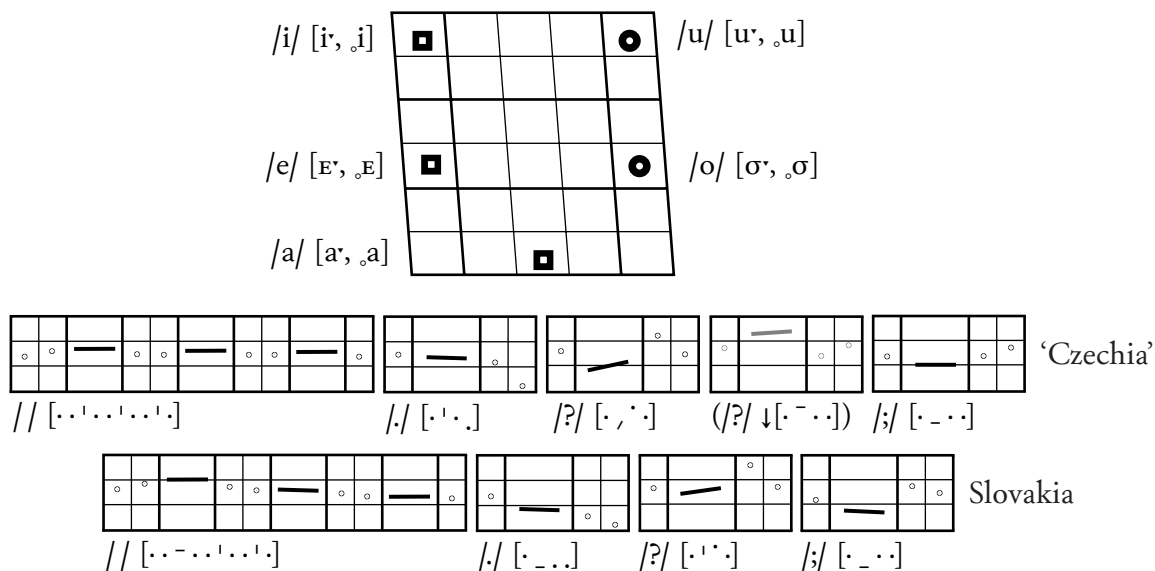
64.12. Russian accent.



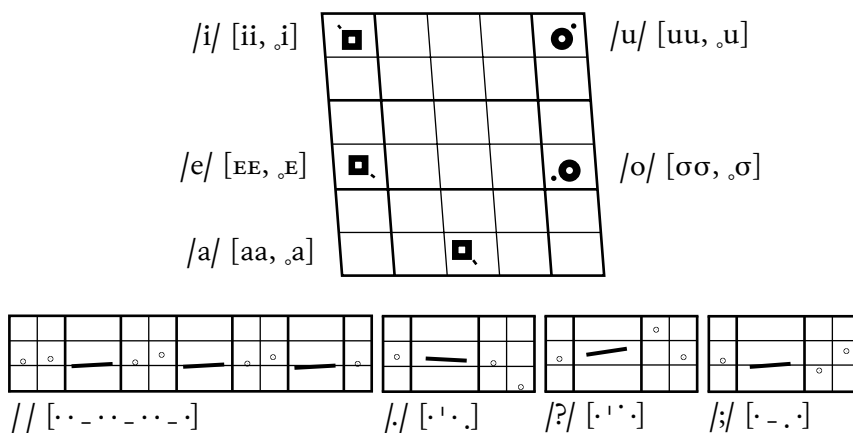
64.13. Polish accent.



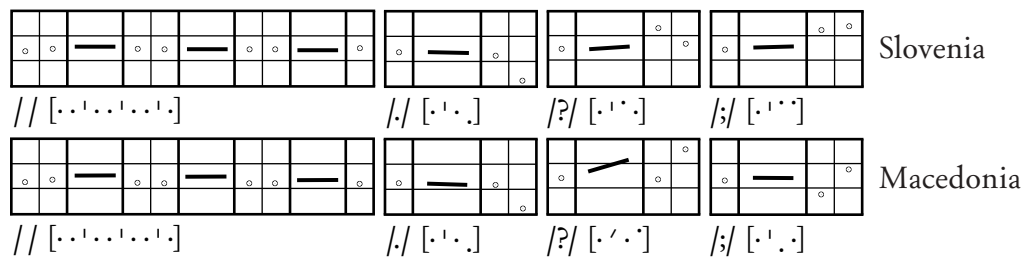
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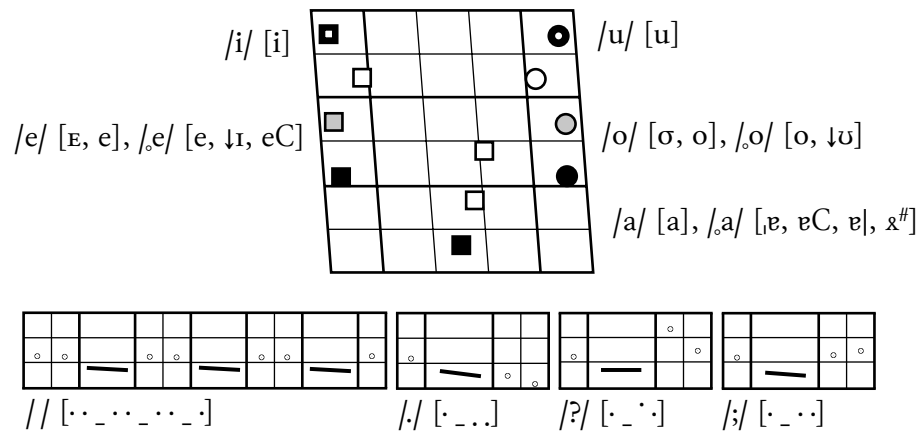
64.15.1. Former-Yugoslavian accent.



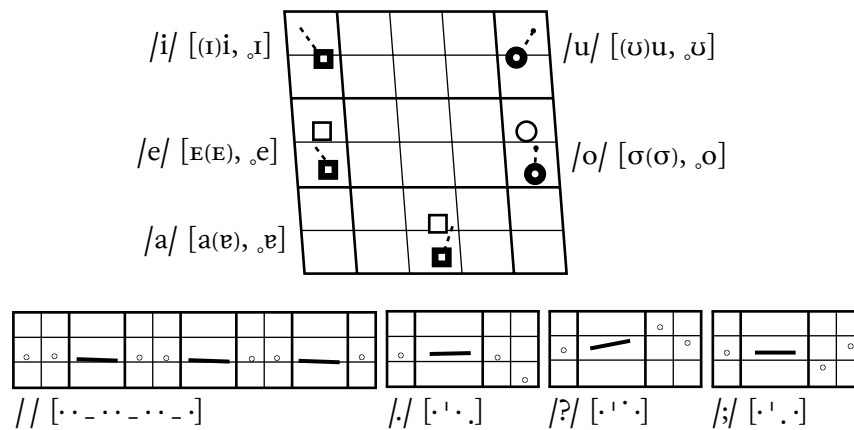
64.15.2. Former-Yugoslavian accent.



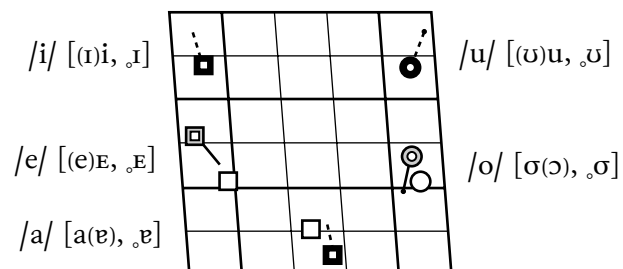
64.16. Bulgarian accent.



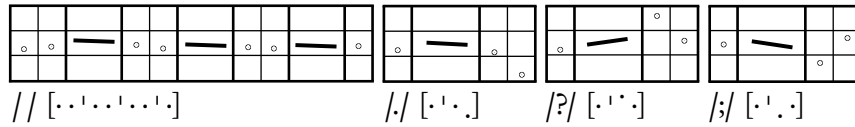
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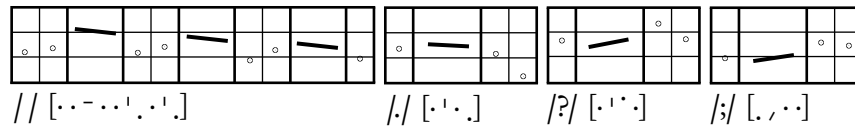
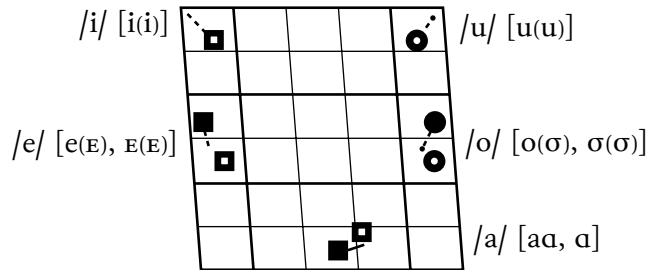
64.18.1. Lithuanian accent.



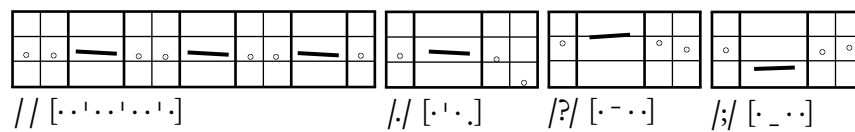
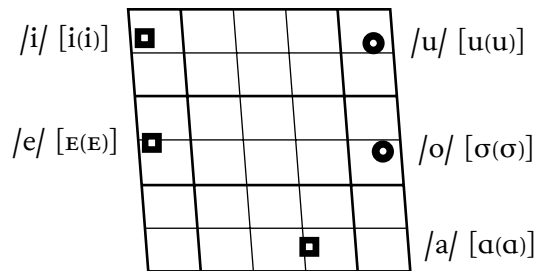
64.18.2. Lithuanian accent.



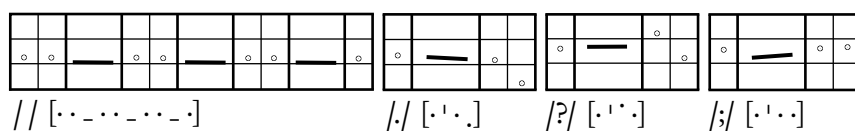
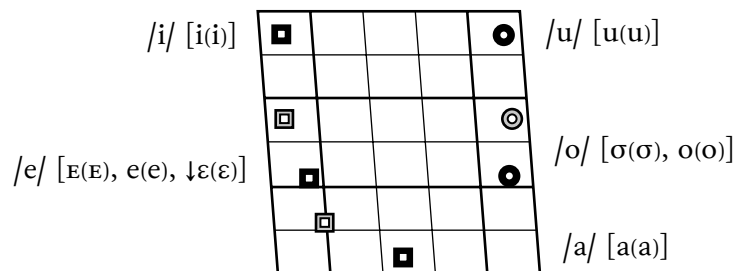
64.19. Estonian accent.



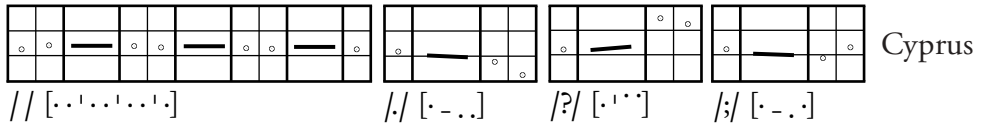
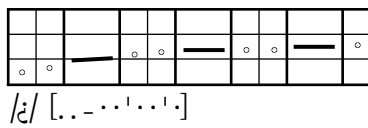
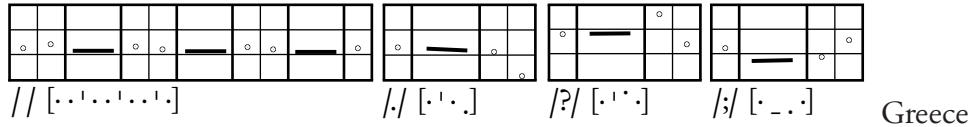
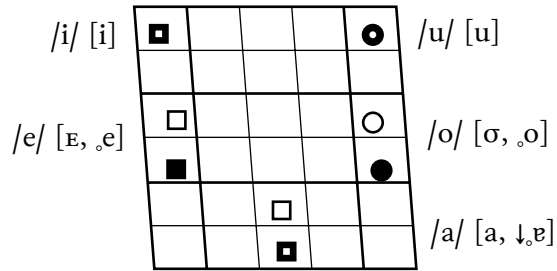
64.20. Finnish accent.



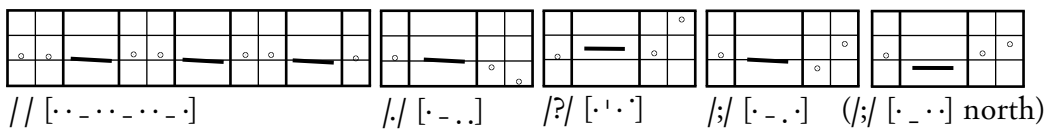
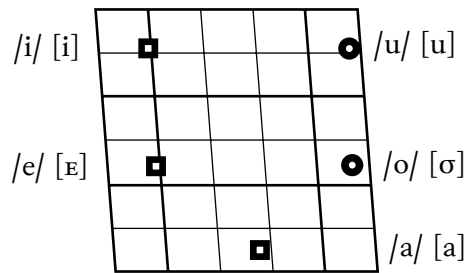
64.21. Hungarian accent.



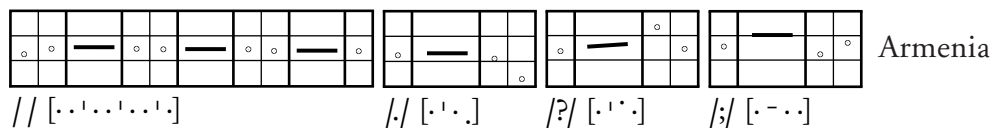
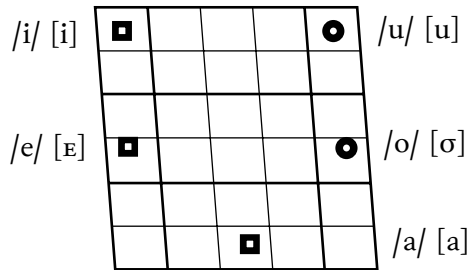
64.22. Greek accent.



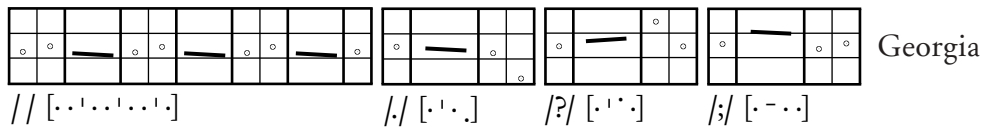
64.23. Albanian accent.



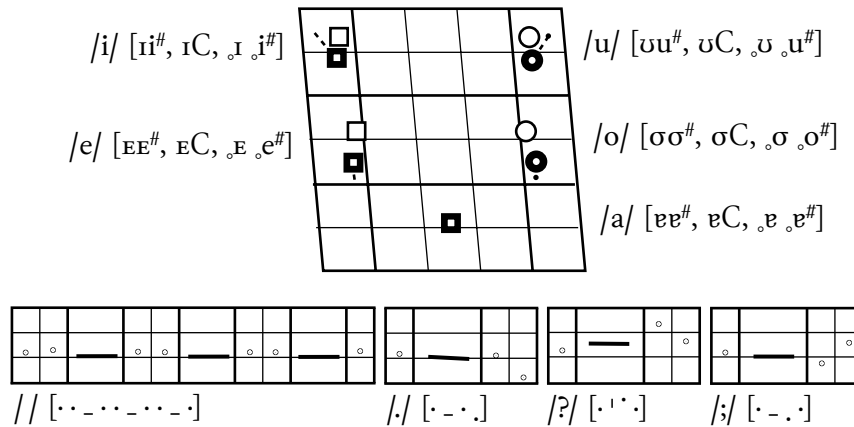
64.24.1. Caucasian accent.



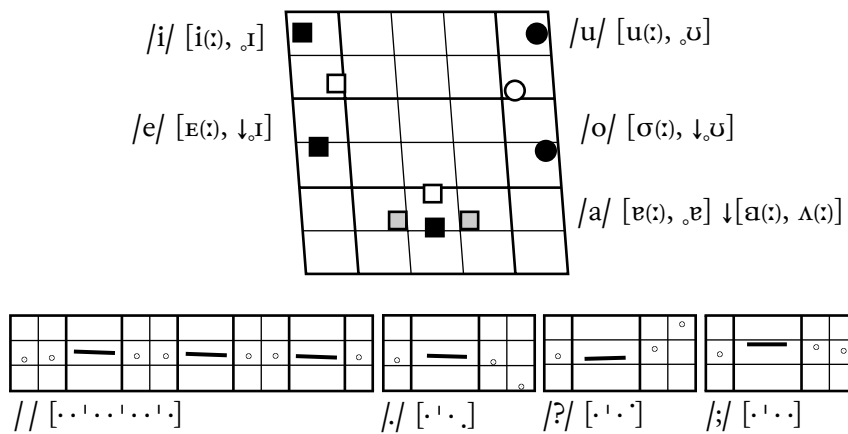
64.24.2. Caucasian accent.



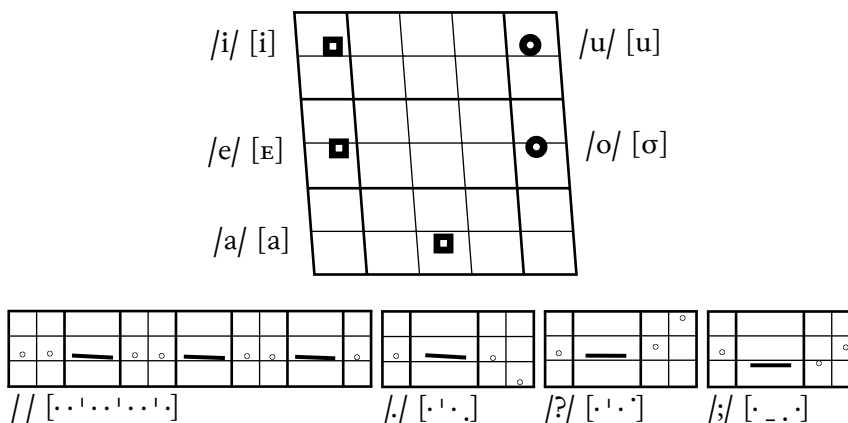
64.25. Maltese accent.



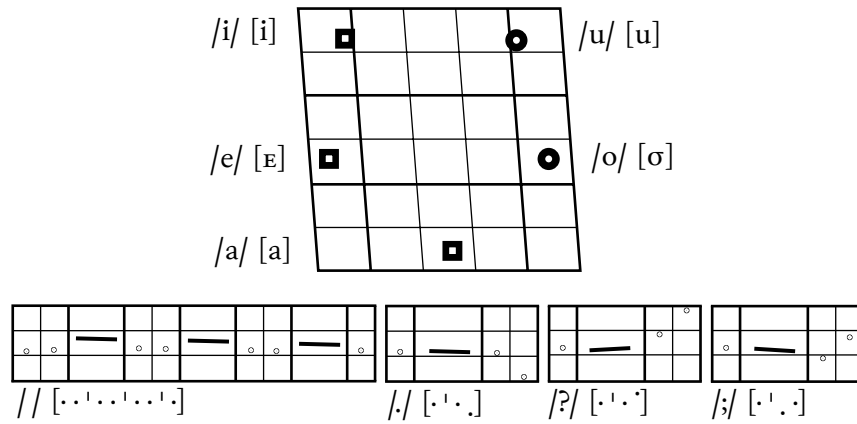
64.26. Arabic accent.



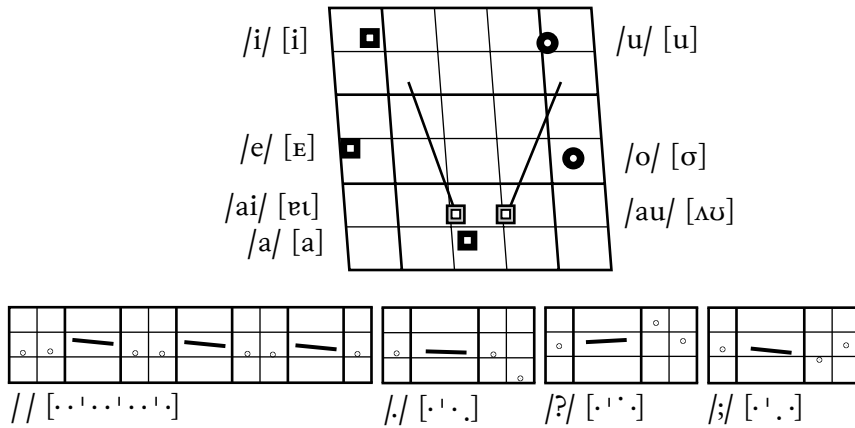
64.27. Hebrew accent.



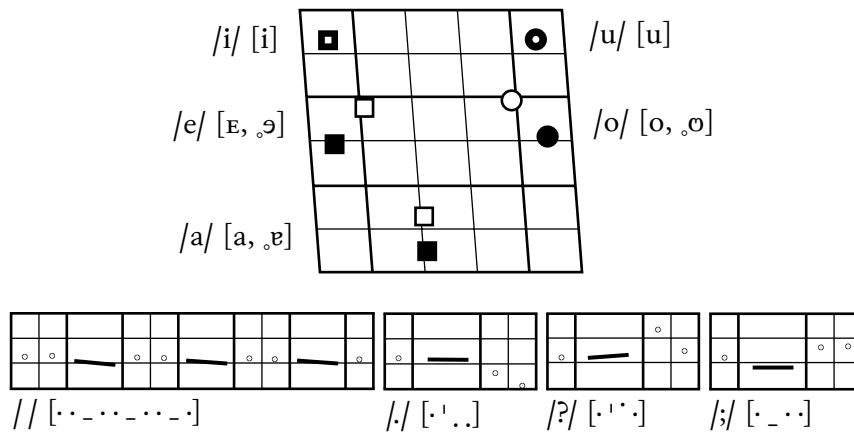
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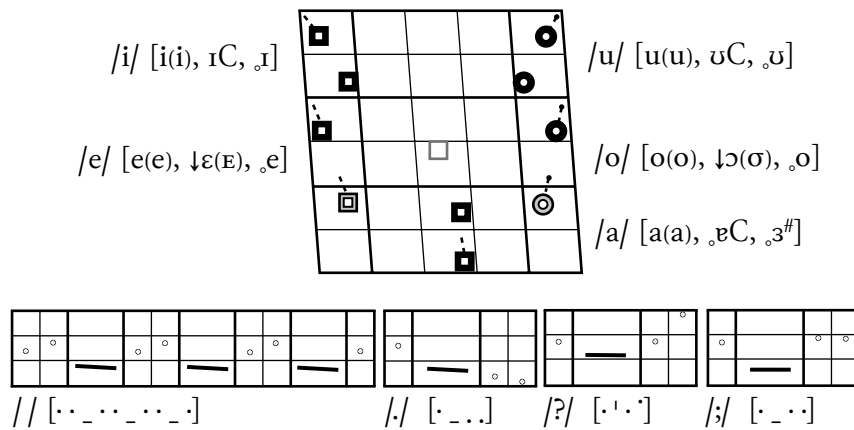
64.29. Somali accent.



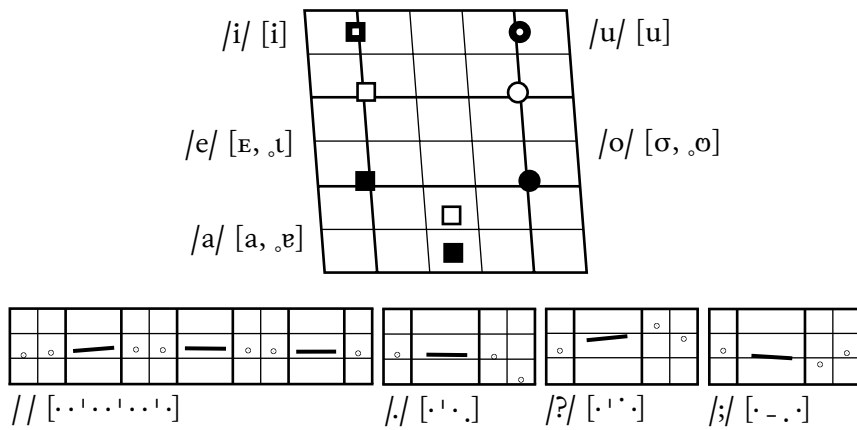
64.30. Persian accent.



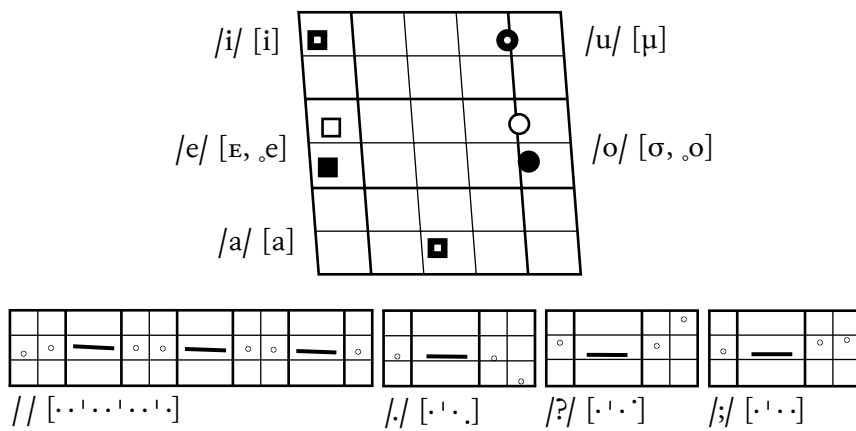
64.31. Hindi accent.



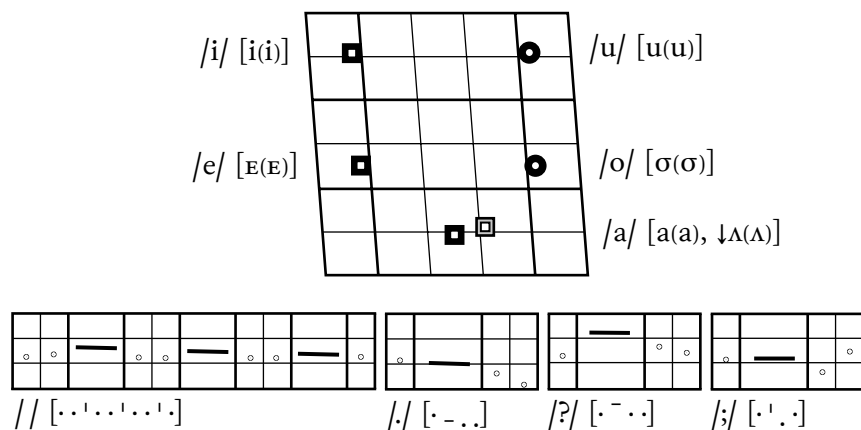
64.32. Philippine accent.



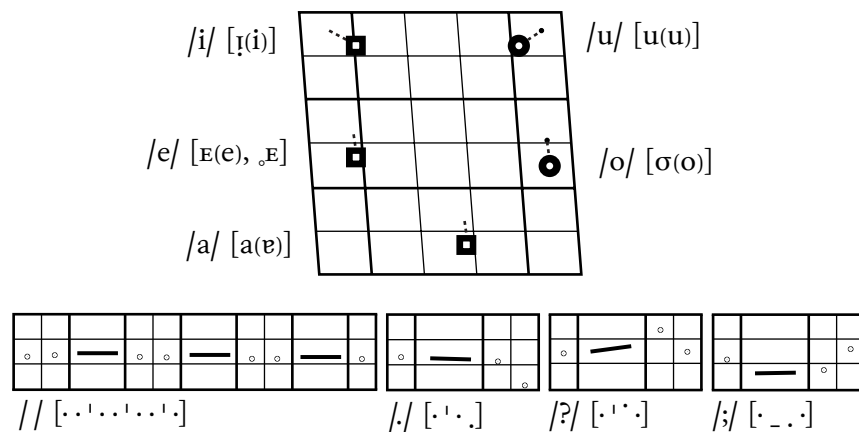
64.33. Indonesian accent.



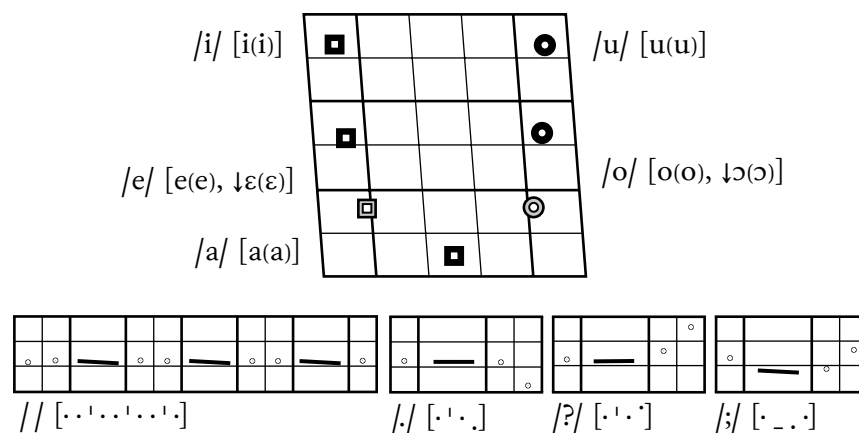
64.34. Turkish accent.



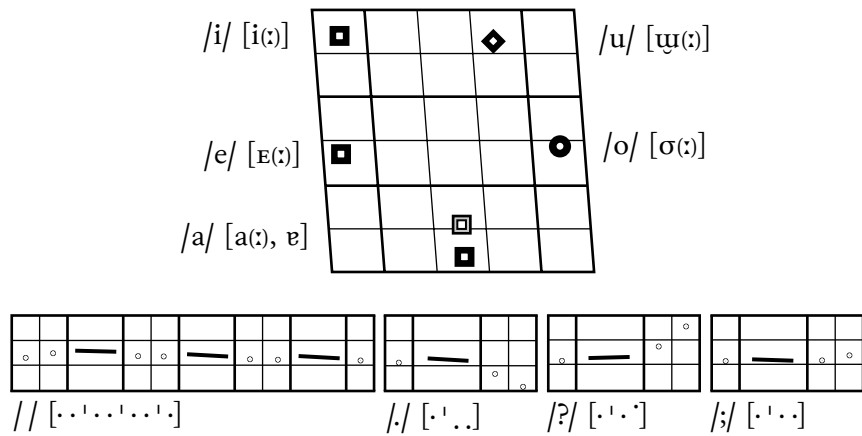
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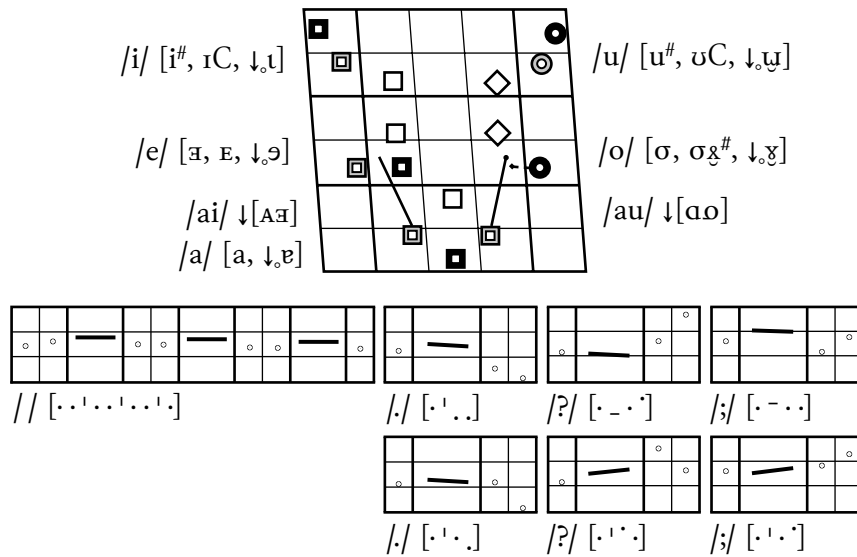
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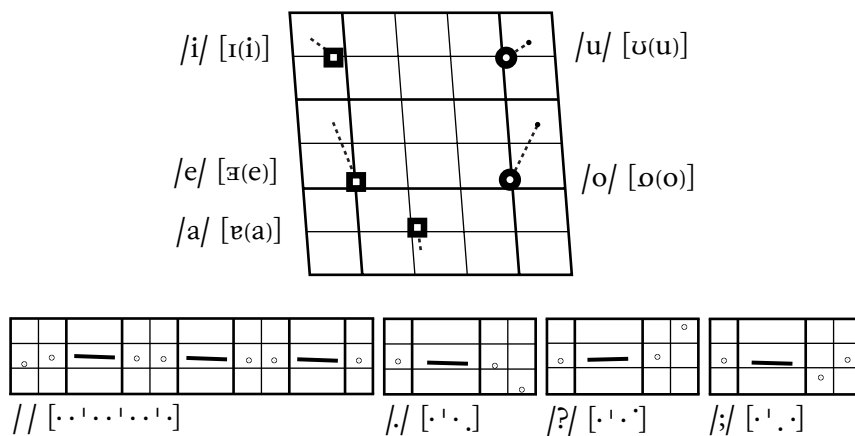
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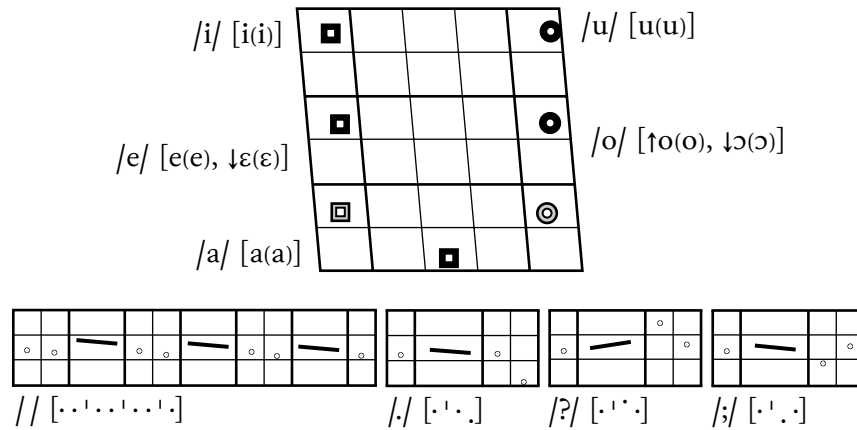
64.38. Chinese accent.



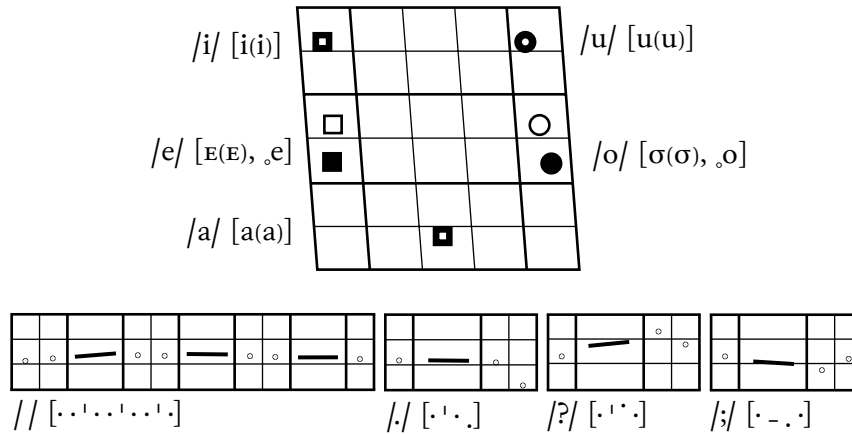
64.39. Cambodian accent.



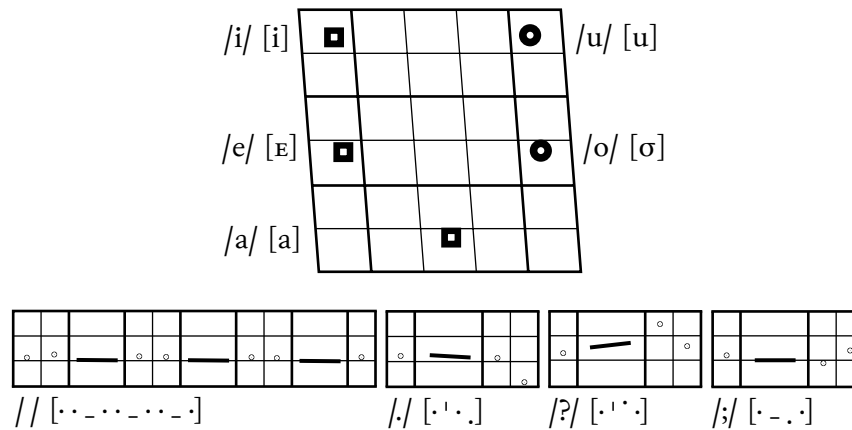
64.40. Vietnamese accent.



64.41. Thai accent.



64.42. Papuan accent.



64.43. Mid-western African accent.

