

# The Accentuation of East Baltic Reflexes of PIE Root Nouns

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## 1 Introduction

### 1.1 Preliminaries

- de Saussure (1894: 492ff.) hypothesized that PIE long vowels (and also long diphthongs (Kuryłowicz 1948: 1ff.)) are reflected with the acute tone in Balto-Slavic (BS), whereas Kortlandt (1985) considers they yielded circumflex. While *žvér̃is* (3) ‘wild animal’ (acc.sg. *žvér̃ij*) < PIE \**gʰuér̃* speaks for Saussure’s view, the nominative singular ending of consonantal stems (-*uō*, -*ē*) and many monosyllabic forms speak for Kortlandt’s view.
- The phonetic realization of “acute syllable” remains unclear. The “acute-ness” of a syllable nucleus will be denoted with an underline following a convention introduced by Jasanoff (2004).
- Monosyllabic Circumflexion (MC) is a phenomenon according to which long vowels in monosyllabic words exhibit a circumflex tone instead of the expected acute (in the Balto-Slavic languages ~ Lithuanian; Hanssen (1885: 616), Zinkevičius (1980–81: II, 161ff.), Rasmussen (1999: 481ff.));
  1. pronominal forms (*tiē* [*< \*toi* pl.nom. ~ *geriéji* ‘the good (pl.nom)’], *tuōs* [*< \*-ōns* pl.acc. ~ *gerúosius* ‘id. (pl.acc.); Zinkevičius 1980–81: II, 162])
  2. **reflexes of PIE root nouns** (Latv. *gūovs* ‘cow’ [*< \*gʷ́ōus* ← acc.sg. *\*gʷ́ōm* (Larsson 2010: 73ff.); (Villanueva Svensson 2011: 20)])<sup>1</sup>
  3. prepositions/adverbs (*nuō* ‘from’ ~ *núotaka* ‘bride’ [Zinkevičius: id.]; *vēl* ‘again’ ~ Latv. *vēl* ‘still, yet’ [*< PB \*vēli*; Būga 1924: 95]; *vōs* ‘hardly’ ~ OCS *jedvva*, SCR *jēdva*, Čak. *jedvā*; PBS *\*edvās*)
  4. 3rd person future forms of monosyllabic stems  
*šōks* – *šókti* ‘to jump,’ *vŷs* – *výti* ‘to drive,’ etc.

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<sup>1</sup> *šuō* ‘dog’ [*< \*k̥uō*] (Hanssen 1885) may be an *n*-stem noun, but this can be also considered to have been in the environment of MC.

## 1.2 Data

The Baltic reflexes of the PIE nouns which are securely reconstructed as root-nouns with “long root” according to preceding works, e.g. Schindler (1972); Larsson (2010); Villanueva Svensson (2011):

- (1) a. *nósis* (1) ‘nose’ (~ Latv. *nāss*)  
b. *žvér̃is* (3) ‘wild animal’ (~ Latv. *zvērs*)  
c. *šird̃is* (3) ‘heart’ (~ Latv. *siŕds*), *šerdis* (1/3/4; ~ Latv. *seŕde*) ‘core of wood’
- (2) Latvian forms to be considered
  - a. *sāls* ‘salt’ (m./f.)
  - b. *gūovs* ‘cow’ (f.)
  - They are typically *i*-stems in Baltic (and Slavic; see below).
  - The nominative singular and accusative singular under certain environments were monosyllabic. The possibility that at least the Latvian forms (2a) and (2b) may reflect the result of MC has been pointed out.

## 1.3 Research question

Whereas the circumflex tone of the Latvian forms in (2) seems to exhibit the result of MC, the acute tone of other forms in (1) does not. How could MC affect those forms to give rise to different tones in them? What is the relative chronology?

## 2 Brief summary of preceding works

### 2.1 Morphological history of root nouns: PIE ~ PBS

- In nom.sg., the root could be lengthened either by Szemerényi’s Law [e.g., *\*ǵʰuer-s* > *\*ǵʰuēr* as in Gk. θύρος, -ός, Lith. žvér̃is ‘wild animal’] or by the loss of a consonant in the final consonant cluster [*\*pod-s* > *\*pōd*; Sihler (1995: 130, 280)], or secondarily by Stang’s law (Stang 1965: 292ff.).
- Expansion of syllabic resonants (*\*R* > *iR*) affected the accusative endings (PIE *\*-m* (sg.acc.)/*\*-ms* (pl.acc.) > PBS *\*-in* / *\*-ins*), together with nom.du. *-ī* (< *\*-ih₁*), causing root nouns to join *i*-stems (Vaillant (1958: 169ff.); Stang (1966: 219); Larsson (2010: 34ff.)) → monosyllabic forms in nom.sg. resulted in disyllabic forms.

## 2.2 MC and root noun

- Rasmussen (1999: 480ff.) discusses the possibility of MC to be traced back to a PBS stage, based on pronominal forms, s-aorist forms in Slavic, and alleged root-nouns.

However, in light of the discussions in Larsson (2002) and Larsson (2010), Rasmussen's analysis should be applied to better-established root nouns. The same can be applied to the list of root nouns found in Kortlandt (1985: 117ff.), Kortlandt (1997: 26).

- Larsson (2010: 73ff.) discusses a possibility that MC affected the tone of *\*gʷ́ōus* / *\*gʷ́ōm* ‘cow’ and *sáл-s* ‘salt.’ Also, it is implied that MC was prior to the generalization of *i*-stem.
  - Villanueva Svensson (2011: 19ff.):
    - for (2b), the monosyllabic *\*gʷ́ōm* is likely to have been inherited in PBS as well as in other IE languages; *\*gʷ́ōm* > *\*gʷ́ōm*.
    - B-S could inherit two different paradigms:
      - (3) a. nom.-acc.sg. *\*nás-* / obl. *\*nás-* (= 1a)  
b. nom.-acc. sg. *\*gʰuér-* / obl. *\*gʰuér-* (= 1b)
      - (4) a. nom.sg. *\*gʰáns-* / acc.sg. *\*gʰáns-* ‘goose’  
b. nom.sg. *\*sáл-* / acc.sg. *\*sáл-* (= 2a)
- While (3a), (3b), (4a) are derived from the stem of accusative-origin, (4b) from the nominative-originated stem.  
⇒ Why was nominative favored for particularly (4b)?

## 3 Ablauting/leveled paradigms inherited in PBS and PB

As observed in previous studies, the East Baltic accentuation of the former root nouns does not look coherent. I will clarify how MC could have affected the paradigms of the nouns in (1) and (2), looking into the ablaut pattern (suggested in Villanueva Svensson 2011) and the relative chronology of MC.

### 3.1 A special case: Latv. *gùovs* [2b]

cognates:

other IE: Skt. nom.sg. *gáus*, acc.sg. *gám*, gen.sg. *gós* ‘cow;’ Gk. *βοῦς*,

acc.sg. *βοῦν* (Dor. *βῶν*); Lat. *bōs*;

PIE: nom.sg. *\*gʷ́ou-s* (→ *\*gʷ́ōus*), acc.sg. *\*gʷ́ou-m* (> *\*gʷ́ōm* [Stang's Law]), gen.sg. *\*gʷ́eu-s*

- no evidence for BS ablauting paradigm; but it is possible that BS inherited a monosyllabic accusative singular form with a long root because of the operation of Stang's law in late PIE:  $*gō̃m$  (<  $*g^wō̃m$  <  $*g^wõm$ ).
- The reconstruction  $*g^weh_3-us/*g^wh_3-ou-s \rightarrow *g^wēh_3-us/*g^wh_3-ou-s$  (influence from  $*diē̄us$  'god'; Kortlandt 1985: 118; Lubotsky 1990: 133) may pose a few problems. For example, it is never scanned disyllabic (as opposed to *náus*) in Vedic, and some case forms (acc.sg. and loc.sg.) do not match the attested forms at all (Sihler 1995: 335).
- Probably, the *i*-stem was generalized to nom.sg.  $*gō̃us$ /acc.sg.  $*gō̃m$  analogically after other root nouns shifting to *i*-stems. When the stem-forming *-i-* was introduced to the paradigm, the accusative  $*gō̃m$  got *-v-* inserted in the root-final position as a hiatus breaker to result in  $*gō̃vi-m$ . The paradigm was leveled with the new nom-acc. stem  $*gō̃vi-$ .
- relative chronology: acute assignment  $\rightarrow$  MC  $\rightarrow$  generalization of *i*-stem  $\rightarrow$  Osthoff's Law (shortening of long diphthong:  $*\bar{V}R > \check{V}R$ )
  - MC premises the existence of the distinction of acute/non-acute: acute assignment  $\rightarrow$  MC
  - MC should be prior to the generalization of *i*-stems.
  - if Osthoff's law took place before the generalization of *i*-stems, it would have given rise to *Xgous* or possibly *Xgom* ( $\rightarrow$  Latv. *Xgavis*).

‘cow’			
	nom.sg.	acc.sg.	gen.sg.
PIE	$*g^wõus$	$*g^wõum (> *g^wō̃m)$	$*g^weũ-s$
	$*g^wō̃us$	$*g^wō̃m$	$*g^weũ-s$
PBS	acute assignment to long vowels		
	$*gō̃us$	$*gō̃m$	$*geũ-s$
	MC		
	$*gō̃us$	$*gō̃m$	$*geũ-s$
	analogical generalization of <i>i</i> -stem with the vocalism in strong cases with the epenthesis of <i>v</i> in the accusative stem-final position		
	$*gō̃vi-s$	$*gō̃vi-m$	$*gō̃vi-es$
	Osthoff's Law: vacuous operation		

### 3.2 Paradigms with simplified ablaut pattern in PBS

### 3.2.1 žvėrìs (3) ‘WILD ANIMAL’ [1B]

## cognates:

- Since Lithuanian and Latvian forms point to the acute root with the mobile paradigm, it was not affected by Hirt's Law. That speaks against the existence of a root-final laryngeal.
  - The generalized stem *\*žv̥éri-* provided the attested forms.

### 3.2.2 *nósis* (1) ‘NOSE’ [1A]

cognates:

Baltic: Latv. *nāss* ‘nostril,’ *nāse* ‘nose’ < PB \**nāsis*  
 Slavic: OCS *nosъ*, SCr. *nōs*, *nōsa*, Sln. *nōs* < PS \**nossъ* (c) ← \**nósa*  
           [nom.pl ← nom./acc. du. (Fritz 1996: 15)<sup>2</sup>] < \**nás-oh<sub>1</sub>*  
 other IE: Skt. *nās-/nas-* (f.) ‘nostril’ (du. *nāsā* ‘nose’), Lat. *nāris* (f.) / *nārēs*  
           (f.pl.) ‘nose,’ PGmc. \**nasō* (f.; < du. \**nás-oh<sub>1</sub>* cf. Kluge 1882:  
           509ff; Thöny 2013: 145ff.)

<sup>2</sup>Fritz (1996: 15) reconstructs an amphikinetic paradigm derived from a root \**h₂enh₁*-‘breathe,’ i.e., nom.sg. \**h₂énh₁-ōs* / acc.sg. \**h₂énh₁-os-m* / gen.sg. \**h₂ṇh₁-s-és*. He considers in Baltic this paradigm developed to PB nom.sg. \**nōs* (< PIE \**h₂nōs* < \**h₂ṇh₁-ōs*) / acc.sg. \**násim*, where the root was leveled with \*-ā-, with the length from nom.sg. and the quality of the

				‘nostril’
PIE	nom.sg.	acc.sg.	obl.	nom.du.
	(*nás-s? >)	*nás	*nás-m	(*ns-? →) *nas-
Late PIE				*nás-(i)h <sub>1</sub> (→ *nás-oh <sub>1</sub> )
				semantic split of paradigm
			↖ ↘	
		‘nostril’		↓
	nom.sg.	acc.sg.	obl.	‘nose’
	*nás	*nás-m	*nas-	*nás-oh <sub>1</sub>
late PIE				loss of laryngeal
	*nás	*nás-m	*nas-	*nás-ō (→ PS / PGmc.)
PBS	<b>simplification of ablaut</b>			
	*nás	*nás-m	*nas-	*nas-ō
	acute assignment to long vowels and extension of syllabic resonant			
	*nás	*nás-im	*nas-	*nas-ō
	MC			
	*nás	*nás-im	*nas-	*nas-ō
	generalization of accusative stem in i-stem for ‘nostril’			
	*nási-s	*nási-m	*nási-	*nas-ō

- Skt. gen.du. *nas-ós* speaks against the weak stem \*nh<sub>2</sub>s- of the reconstruction \*neh<sub>2</sub>s-/\*nh<sub>2</sub>s-os (Kortlandt 1985:118), since neither \*nh<sub>2</sub>s- (> Skt. *Xās-*) nor \*nh<sub>2</sub>s- (> *Xnis-*) would give rise to the attested weak stem Skt. *nas-*, cf. Larsson (2010: 83).
- Besides, an acrostatic paradigm with á ~ á ablaut (Rasmussen 1989: 260; Larsson 2010: 84) and a mobile paradigm with á ~ Ø (Schindler 1972: 37) or á ~ a ablaut (Mayrhofer 1986–96: Vol. II, 31) are suggested.
- Schindler’s paradigm \*nás-s (> \*nás) / \*ns-’ developed to Mayrhofer’s ablaut pattern \*nás / \*nas-’?
- The fact that Sl. \*nösъ (c) ‘nose’ does not have the long root generalized (either in Germanic) in contrast to PB. \*násis ‘nostril’ (cf. Latv. *nāss* ‘nostril,’

vowel from acc. stem. On the other side, he considers that the Slavic forms are derived from an old dual stem of the amphikinetic paradigm \*h<sub>2</sub>n-ós-oh<sub>1</sub> (> PS \*nósa). Although it is questionable if it is plausible to reconstruct an amphikinetic paradigm with rather complicated combination of phonological and analogical processes, the argument for the reinterpretation of the nom.acc. dual as nom.acc.plural of the o-stem sounds plausible in light of similar arguments for the Germanic cognates.

*nāsis* (pl.) ‘nose’) suggests a possibility of a split of paradigm into ‘nostril’ and ‘nose’ in PBS or before. The paradigm for ‘nostril’ probably underwent the simplification of ablaut pattern and the generalization of accusative stem in *i*-stem.

### 3.3 Ablauting paradigms in PBS

#### 3.3.1 *sāls* ‘SALT’ [2A]

cognates:

- Baltic: OPruss. *sal* (unknown length of the root)
- Slavic: OCS *solv* (f.), Scr. *sō*, *söli*, Sln. *sōl*, *söli* < PS \**sölb* (c)
- other IE: Gk. ἄλς, ἄλος m. ‘salt,’ f. ‘sea,’ Lat. *sāl*, *salis* m./n. ‘salt’

‘salt’		
	nom.sg.	acc.sg.
PIE	* <i>sál-s</i> (> <i>sáł</i> )	* <i>sál-m</i>
PBS	acute assignment to long vowels and extension of syllabic resonant	
	* <i>sáł</i>	* <i>sál-im</i>
MC		
	* <i>sáł</i>	* <i>sálím</i>
generalization of <i>i</i> -stem, keeping the ablaut pattern		
	* <i>sális</i>	* <i>sálím</i>
Osthoff’s law: vacuous operation		
	* <i>sáli-s</i>	* <i>sáli-m</i>
		* <i>sali-</i>

- reconstruction with laryngeal: nom.sg. \**seh₂-ls* / acc.sg. \**sh₂-el-m* / gen.sg. \**sh₂-l-os* (Kortlandt 1985: 119).
- reconstruction as a root noun: nom.sg. \**sál-s* / acc.sg. \**sál-m* / gen.sg. \**sl̥-ós* (→ \**sál-s* or \**sal-ós*; Larsson 2010: 74ff), also Sihler 1995: 282.
- the Proto Slavic form \**solv* has a short root in the same *i*-stem as in Baltic. This suggests an ablauting paradigm for Proto-Balto-Slavic (Larsson 2010: 75).
- nom.sg. stem \**sáli-* was generalized in Baltic, whereas acc.sg. stem \**sálím* in Slavic

### 3.3.2 širdis (3) ‘HEART’ [1C]

Cognates:

Baltic: Latv. *siұds*, ’ OPruss. *seyr* (/sēr/ neut. sg.nom. only in *Elbinger Vocabulary*; with a-stem masc. declension in Catechisms) ‘heart;’ Lith. *šerdis* (1/3/4), Latv. *seŕde* ‘the core of wood’ < PB \*šerdis (\*šerdis?) /\*širdís

Slavic: OCS *srъdьce*, Cz *sřce* < *šírdi-* (~ Gk. *καρδία*, OIr. *cride* < \**k̥rdjōm*); OCS *srěda* ‘middle,’ SCr *srijèda* ‘Wednesday’

other IE: Gk. *κῆρ*, *κῆρος* (n.), Lat. *cor*, *cordis* (n.), Skt. *hárdi* (< \**k̥erd-h₂*; n.)

- reconstruction as a root noun: nom.sg. \**k̥ér* / gen.sg. \**k̥rd-ós* (Szemerényi 1970: 523; Sihler 1995: 282; Larsson 2010: 79)
- This may be also a special case in that it may involve a split of the paradigm in accordance to the meanings.
- Ablauting paradigm in PBS: both Baltic and Slavic preserve cognates in zero grade and e-grade with similar semantic variations
- neuter** gender: cf. Lat. *cor*, *cordis*, Skt. *hárdi*, and Gk. *κῆρ*, *κῆρος* in neuter; it turned animate in a later stage in BS, through a process of neuter plural (= collective) reinterpreted as a feminine \**šírdā*, or through a thematization as attested by *širdai* (3/4) ‘quarrel.’ (Szemerényi 1970: 531<sup>48</sup>)

‘heart’				
	nom.sg.	acc.sg.	obl.	nom.pl (= collective)
PIE	* <i>k̥érд</i> (> * <i>k̥ér</i> )	* <i>k̥érд</i> (> * <i>k̥ér</i> )	* <i>k̥rd-</i> ‑	<i>k̥érд-(e)h₂</i> (→ <i>k̥érд-(e)h₂</i> ?)
PBS	palatalization of * <i>k̥</i> , and Winter’s law			
	* <i>sér</i>	* <i>sér</i>	* <i>śr̥d-</i> ‑	* <i>śérda</i>
	Acute assignment to long vowels			
	* <i>sér</i>	* <i>sér</i>	* <i>śr̥d-</i> ‑	* <i>śérda</i>
	extension of syllabic resonant			
	* <i>s̥ér</i>	* <i>s̥ér</i>	* <i>śīrd-</i> ‑	* <i>śérda</i>
	MC			
	* <i>s̥ér</i>	* <i>s̥ér</i>	* <i>śīrd-ós</i>	* <i>śérda</i>
	Osthoff’s Law			

$*\tilde{s}ēr$	$*\tilde{s}ēr$	$*\tilde{s}ird\text{-ós}$	$*\tilde{s}érdā$
split of paradigm			
‘core’			‘heart’
nom.sg.	acc.sg.	collective	nom.sg.
$*\tilde{s}ēr$	$*\tilde{s}ēr$	$*\tilde{s}érdā$	acc.sg.
			collective
			$*\tilde{s}írd$
			$*\tilde{s}írd$
			$*\tilde{s}írdā$

- PIE  $*\hat{k}ēr \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow$  OPruss /sēr/ ?? (unknown accentuation)
- $*\tilde{s}érdā \rightarrow$  Lith. *šerdis* (1/3 ( $\rightarrow$  4))
- Winter’s Law should be before the acute assignment: Winter’s Law  $\dots \rightarrow$  MC.
- $*\tilde{s}írdā$  (collective)  $\rightarrow$  East Baltic forms (Lith. *šírdis*, Latv. *sīrds* ‘heart;’ Lith. *šírdai* (3 ( $\rightarrow$  4)) ‘quarrel’); generalization of *i*-stem took place at a later stage, motivated by other feminine body-part terms in *i*-stem, e.g. *akīs* (4) ‘eye,’ *ausīs* (4) ‘ear,’ *nósis* (1) ‘nose’ cf. Szemerényi 1970: 531<sup>48</sup>.
- Thus, the results of MC in this paradigm seem to have died out.

## 4 Conclusion

- Relative Chronology derived in this paper:
  - Winter’s law/acute assignment  $\rightarrow$  MC
  - $\rightarrow$  generalization of *i*-stem among root nouns  $\rightarrow$  Osthoff’s law.
- Each word or paradigm has its own history. The relative chronology of MC and the generalization of *i*-stem and various morphological changes played a major role for the reflexes of MC to disappear.

## 5 Excursus: *šuō* ‘dog’ (4)

Cognates:

Baltic: Latv. *suns* (dial. so [suo]), ’ OPruss. *sunis* ‘dog;’ PB  $*\tilde{s}ō$   
 other IE: Gk.  $\chi\omega\nu$ , gen.sg.  $\chi\omega\nό\varsigma$ , OIr. *cūl*, gen.sg. *con*, Skt. *śuā*,  
 gen.sg. *śunás* < PIE nom.sg.  $*\tilde{k}u(-)ón-s$ , gen.sg.  $*\tilde{k}u(-)n-ós$

- It is unclear whether it was a root nouns or an *n*-stem noun.

- The ending of the nom.sg. is considered to have undergone the following sound change in PIE: \*-on-s > \*-ōn > ō / \_\_ #

Szemerényi (1996: 115ff.); Jasanoff (1989: 138)

		‘dog’
	nom.sg.	acc.sg.
PIE	$*\hat{k}u(-)ón-s$	$\hat{k}uón-m$
	$*\hat{k}uó$	gen.sg.
PBS	palatalization of $\hat{k}$ , acute assignment	
	$*\acute{s}uó$	$\acute{s}uónm$
	extension of syllabic resonant	
	$\acute{s}\bar{o}$	$sónim$
	MC	
	$\tilde{s}\bar{o}$	$\acute{s}ónim$
	generalization of <i>i</i> -stem??	
	$*\acute{s}un-ós$	
	$\acute{s}un-ós$	

- \* $\acute{u}$  disappeared between a sibilant and a vowel; cf. Lith. *sesuō* ‘sister’ ~ Skt. *svásar-*, Goth. *swistar*.
- The nominative singular of Latv. *suns* is an *i*-stem form (\**sunis*), but in the Lithuanian paradigm, the *i*-stem was not generalized throughout, with the nominative singular *šuō* still keeping *n*-stem ending (NB: in Lithuanian *šuō* is classified as an *n*-stem synchronically). This may provide an interesting case where a trace of MC can be persistently preserved when the generalization of the accusative stem in *i*-stem has failed.

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