शिखागोविश्वविद्यालये

प्रारम्भिकसंस्कृतम्

FIRST-YEAR SANSKRIT

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

CC BY SA

अल्लटाचार्योद्भावितः पाठक्रमः *Designed by Andrew Ollett*

VISARGASANDHIḤ

विसर्गसन्धिः

॥वृद्धिः॥
sanskrit at uchicago

VISARGAḤ

Visargaḥ is not a *phoneme* of the Sanskrit language. It is a positional variant (allophone) of two other phonemes:

ष् स् र्

(*ṣ* is itself a positional variant of *s*, so it can be included here.)

॥वृद्धिः॥
sanskrit at uchicago

VISARGAḤ

When we learn a word in its *pausa* form, however, a final *r* and *s* are changed to *visargaḥ*:

देवस् → देवः

पुनर् → पुनः

॥वृद्धिः॥
sanskrit at uchicago

VISARGAḤ

In *visargasandhiḥ*, it is going to be important to know the phoneme that “underlies” a *visargaḥ*. One way to think of this is “undoing” the *sandhiḥ* process that turns a final s and r of a word into a *visargaḥ* in in its isolated form.

देवः → देवस्

पुनः → पुनर्

॥वृद्धिः॥
sanskrit at uchicago

VISARGASANDHIḤ

Visargasandhiḥ is regressive assimilation of *voicing* and, in certain cases, *place features*.

You should thus keep the following general rules in mind:

1. A *voiced sound* will result when a *voiced sound* follows.

2. A *voiceless sound* will result when a *voiceless sound* follows.

   2.a. A *palatal sound* will result when a *palatal sound* follows.

   2.b. A *retroflex sound* will result when a *retroflex sound* follows.

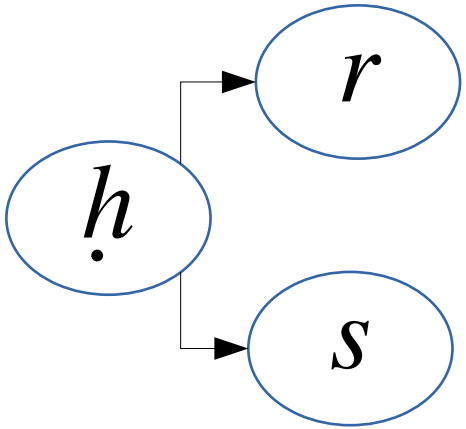
   2.c. A *dental sound* will result when a *dental sound* follows.

VISARGASANDHIḤ

Unlike many other types of external *sandhi*, however, the outcome of *visargasandhi* will depend on the sound **before** the *visargaḥ*, in addition to the sound that **follows** it.

THE FLOWCHART

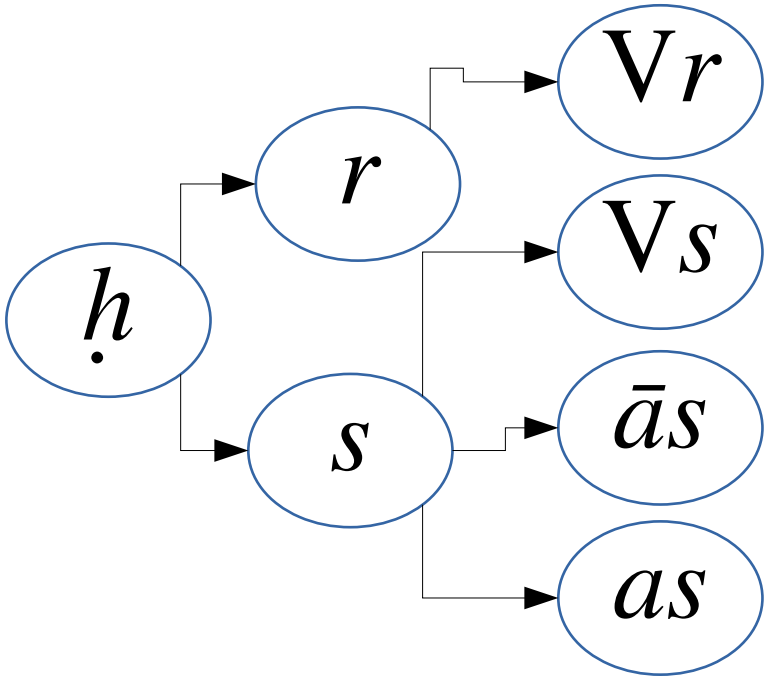
First make sure you know whether the *visargaḥ* represents an original *r* or *s*.



॥वृद्धिः॥
sanskrit at uchicago

THE FLOWCHART

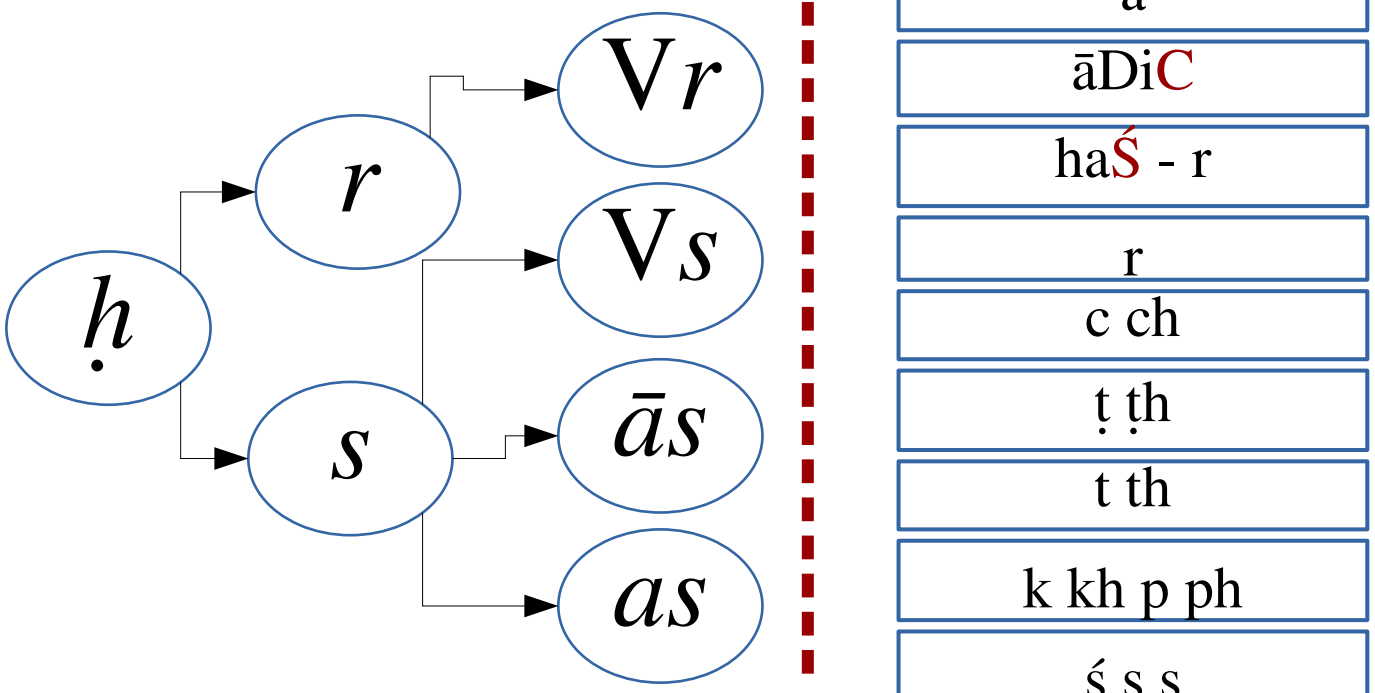
Then look at the vowel that precedes the *visargaḥ*.



॥वृद्धिः॥
sanskrit at uchicago

THE FLOWCHART

Then look at the vowel that precedes the *visargaḥ*.



॥वृद्धिः॥
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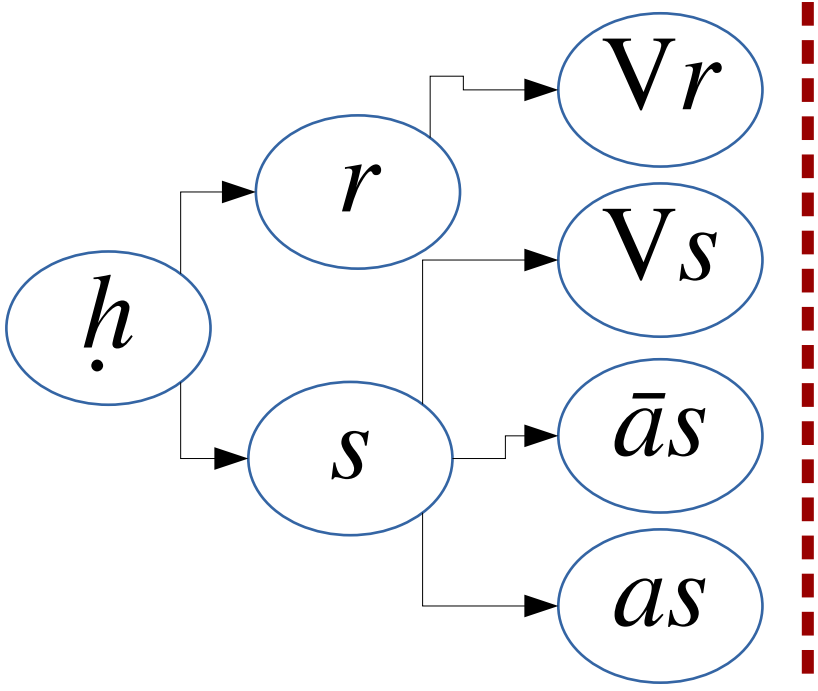
THE FLOWCHART

Finally, look at the sound that follows it. The following classes will be relevant:



a
āDiC
haŚ - r
r
c ch
ṭ ṭh
t th
k kh p ph
ś ṣ s

॥वृद्धिः॥
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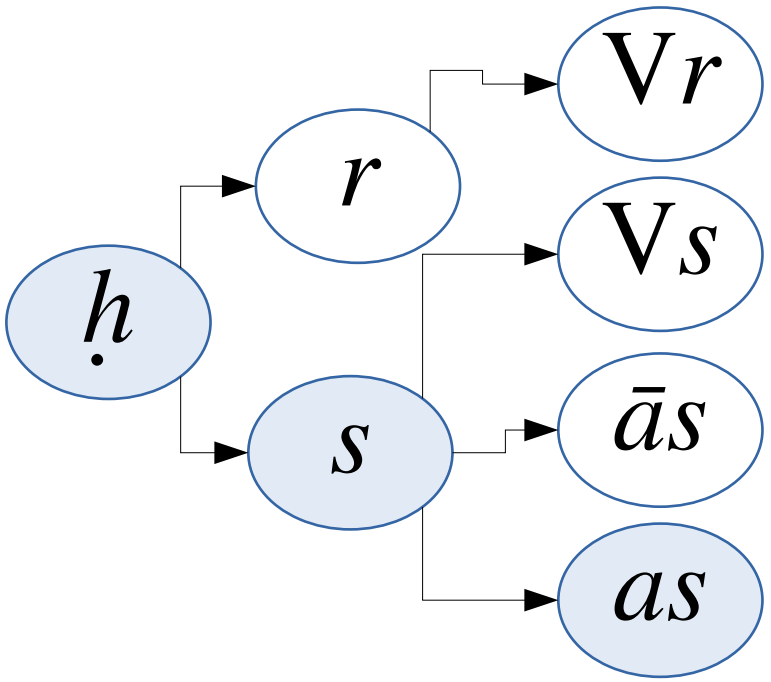
CASE I: FINAL -AS



a
āDiC
haŚ - r
r
c ch
ṭ ṭh
t th
k kh p ph
ś ṣ s

… ō# ^’ …

॥वृद्धिः॥
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CASE I: FINAL -AS

देवः [देवस्] # ^ अस्ति

देवो ऽस्ति

The final *-as* becomes *-ō*, and the initial *a-* of the following word is elided.

॥वृद्धिः॥
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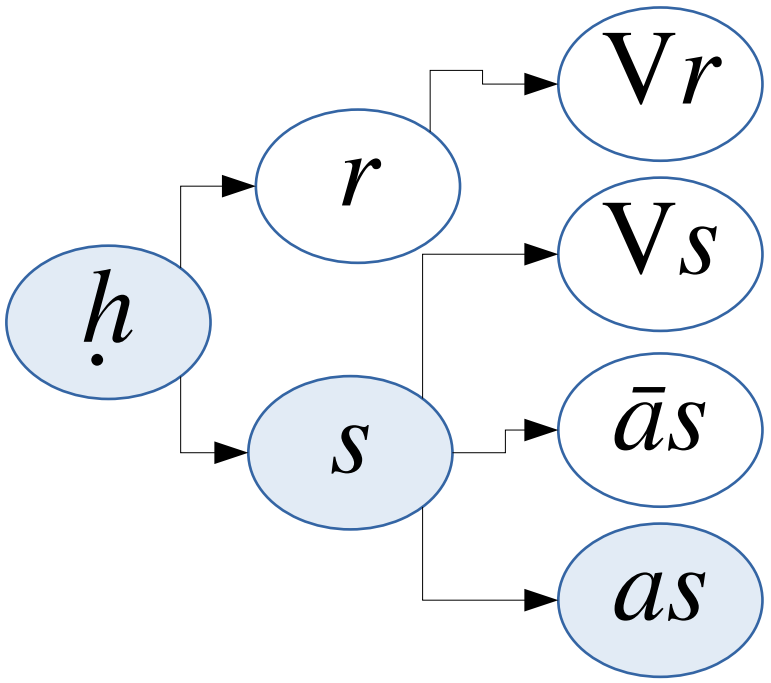
CASE I: FINAL -AS



a
āDiC
haŚ - r
r
c ch
ṭ ṭh
t th
k kh p ph
ś ṣ s

… a#

॥वृद्धिः॥
sanskrit at uchicago

CASE I: FINAL -AS

देवः [देवस्] # ⋮ ^ इव

देव इव

The final -*s* (-*ḥ*) is elided, and a hiatus remains between the final -a and the initial vowel of the following word.

॥वृद्धिः॥
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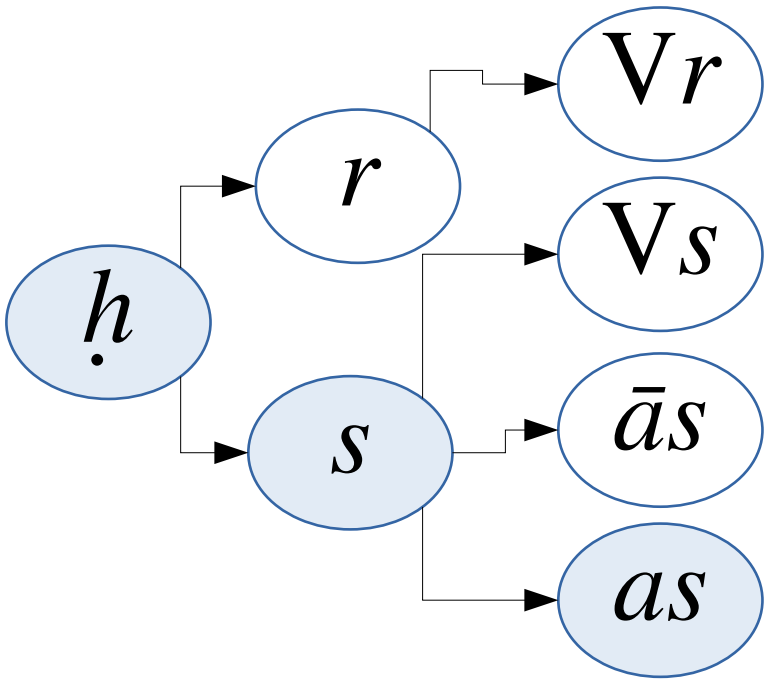
CASE I: FINAL -AS



a
āDiC
haŚ - r
r
c ch
ṭ ṭh
t th
k kh p ph
ś ṣ s

… ō#

॥वृद्धिः॥
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CASE I: FINAL -AS

देवः [देवस्] # ⋮ ^ गच्छति

देवो गच्छति

The final -*as* becomes -*ō*.

॥वृद्धिः॥
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CASE I: FINAL -AS

देवः [देवस्] # ⋮ ^ रोचते

देवो रोचते

The final -*as* becomes -*ō*.

॥वृद्धिः॥
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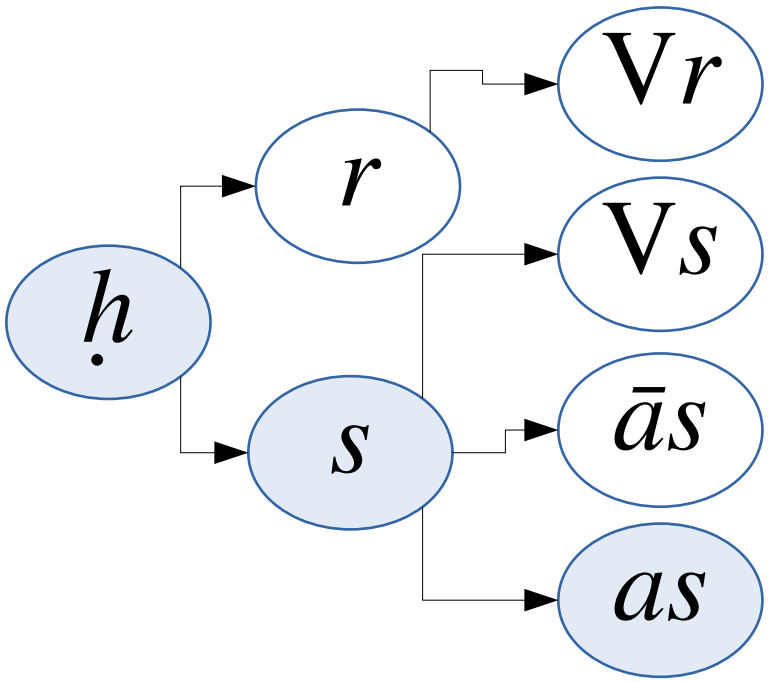
CASE I: FINAL -AS



a
āDiC
haŚ - r
r
c ch
ṭ ṭh
t th
k kh p ph
ś ṣ s

… Ś#

॥वृद्धिः॥
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CASE I: FINAL -AS

देवः [देवस्] # ⋮ ^ चलति

देवश्चलित

The final -*s* takes on the voicing and place features of the following consonant, thus becoming the voiceless palatal sibilant *ś*.

॥वृद्धिः॥
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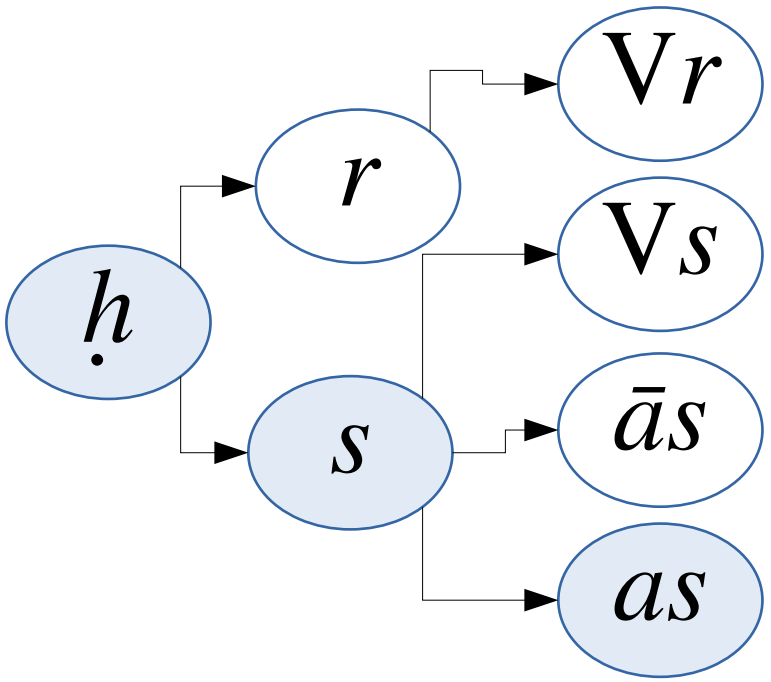
CASE I: FINAL -AS



a
āDiC
haŚ - r
r
c ch
ṭ ṭh
t th
k kh p ph
ś ṣ s

… ṢḤ#

॥वृद्धिः॥
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CASE I: FINAL -AS

देवः [देवस्] # ⋮ ^ टीकाम्

देवष्टीकाम्

The final -*s* takes on the voicing and place features of the following consonant, thus becoming the voiceless retroflex sibilant *ṣ*.

॥वृद्धिः॥
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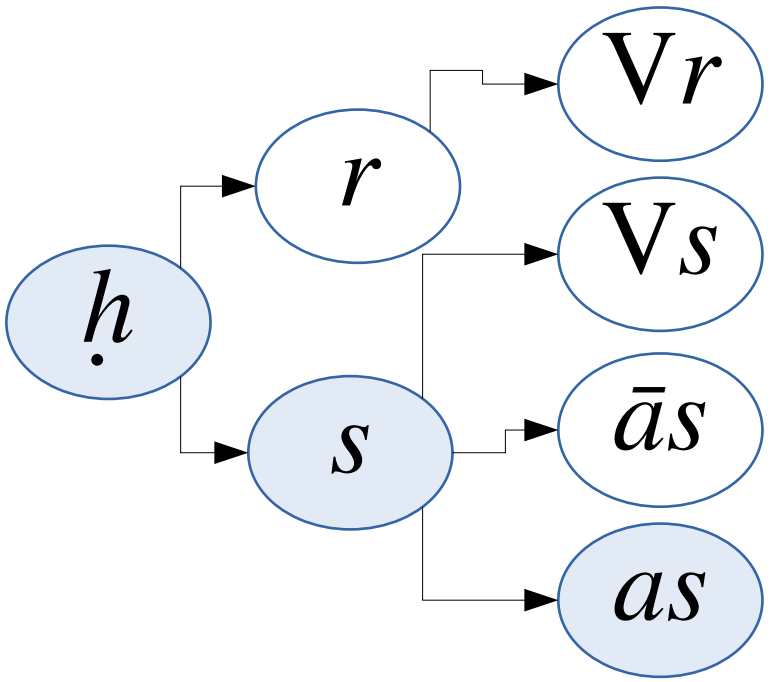
CASE I: FINAL -AS



a
āDiC
haŚ - r
r
c ch
ṭ ṭh
t th
k kh p ph
ś ṣ s

… S#

॥वृद्धिः॥
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CASE I: FINAL -AS

देवः [देवस्] # ⋮ ^ तु

देवस्तु

The final -*s* takes on the voicing and place features of the following consonant, thus becoming the voiceless dental sibilant *s*.

॥वृद्धिः॥
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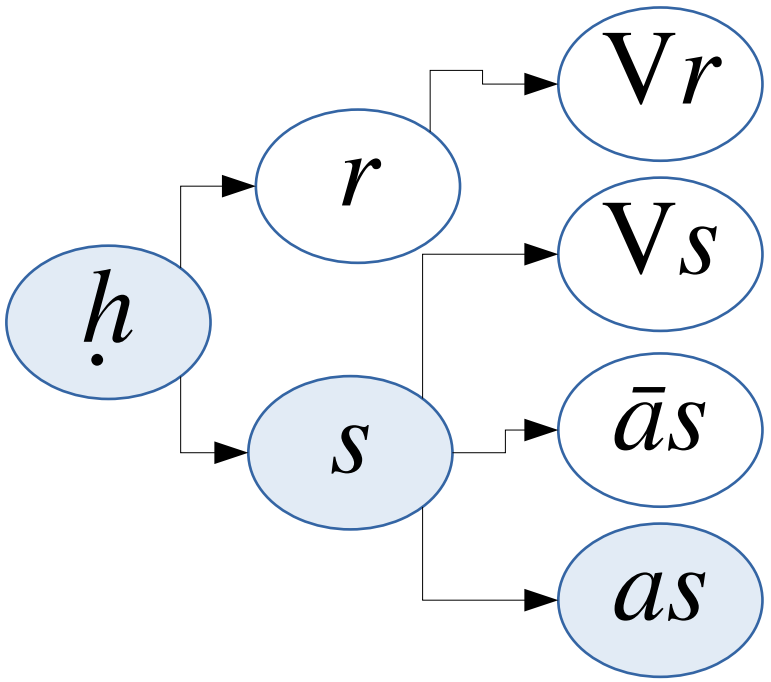
CASE I: FINAL -AS



a
āDiC
haŚ - r
r
c ch
ṭ ṭh
t th
k kh p ph
ś ṣ s

… ḥ#

॥वृद्धिः॥
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CASE I: FINAL -AS

देवः [देवस्] # ^ प्रकृष्टः

देवः प्रकृष्टः

The final -*s* would take on the voicing and place features of the following consonant, but since there is no voiceless labial fricative in Sanskrit, the *visargaḥ*—a placeless and voiceless fricative—remains.

॥वृद्धिः॥
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CASE I: FINAL -AS

देवः [देवस्] # ⋮ ^ प्रकृष्टः

देवꣳ प्रकृष्टः

Very rarely, you will see a special sign called *upadhmānīyaḥ* used for a voiceless labial fricative.

CASE I: FINAL -AS

देवः # ^ करोति

[देवस्]

देवः करोति

The final -*s* would take on the voicing and place features of the following consonant, but since there is no voiceless velar fricative in Sanskrit, the *visargaḥ*—a placeless and voiceless fricative—remains.

॥वृद्धिः॥
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CASE I: FINAL -AS

देवः [देवस्] # ⋮ ^ करोति

देव× करोति

Very rarely, you will see a special sign called *jihvāmūlīyaḥ* used for a voiceless velar fricative.

CASE I: FINAL -AS

देवः [देवस्] # ⋮ ^ सर्पति

देवः सर्पति

A *visargaḥ* always remains before a sibilant.

(Occasionally you will see the final -*s* assimilated to the following sibilant.)

॥वृद्धिः॥
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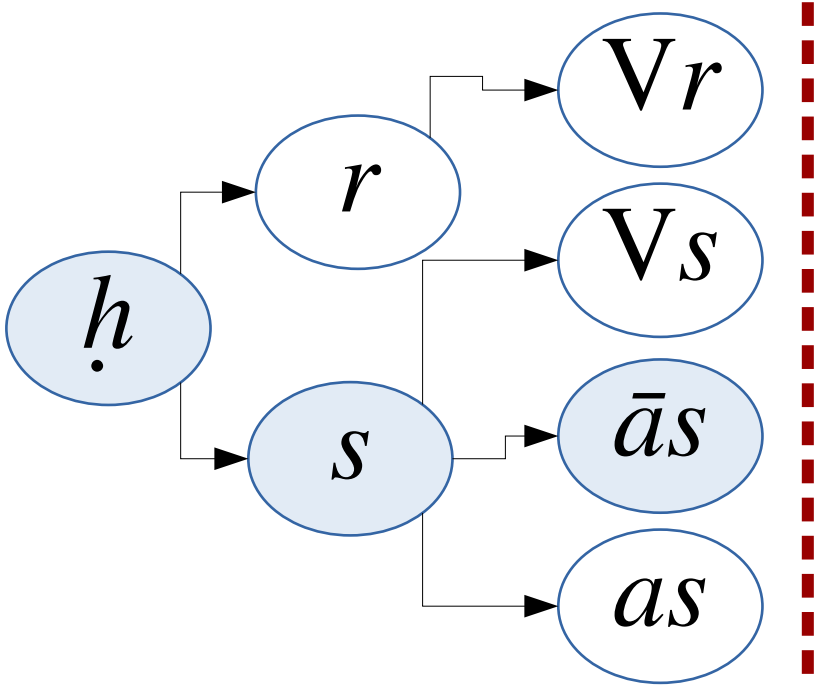
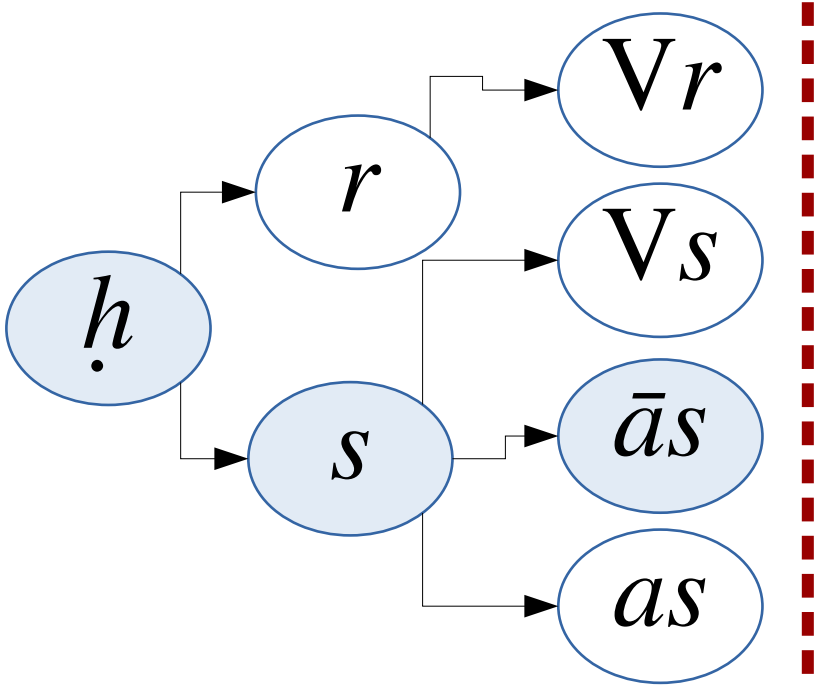
CASE II: FINAL -ĀS



a
āDiC
haŚ - r
r
c ch
ṭ ṭh
t th
k kh p ph
ś ṣ s

॥वृद्धिः॥
sanskrit at uchicago

CASE II: FINAL -ĀS



a
āDiC
haŚ - r
r
c ch
ṭ ṭh
t th
k kh p ph
ś ṣ s

… ā#

॥वृद्धिः॥
sanskrit at uchicago

CASE II: FINAL -ĀS

देवाः [देवास्] # ⋮ ^ एव

देवा एव

The final -*s* (-*ḥ*) is elided, and a hiatus remains between the final -*ā* and the initial vowel of the following word.

॥वृद्धिः॥
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CASE II: FINAL -ĀS

देवाः [देवास्] # ^ ये

देवा ये

The final -*s* (-*ḥ*) is elided.

॥वृद्धिः॥
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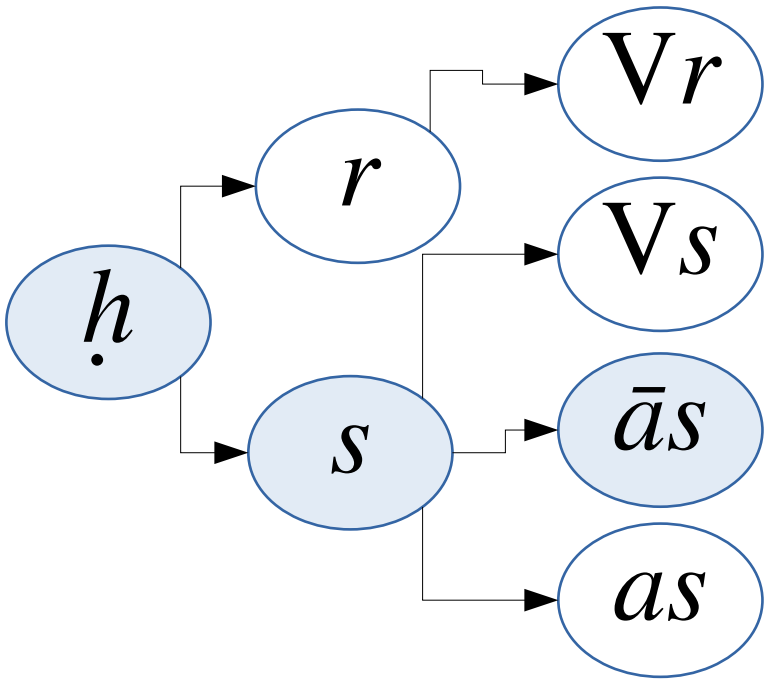
CASE II: FINAL -ĀS



a
āDiC
haŚ - r
r
c ch
ṭ ṭh
t th
k kh p ph
ś ṣ s

… Ś#
… Ṣ#
… S#

॥वृद्धिः॥
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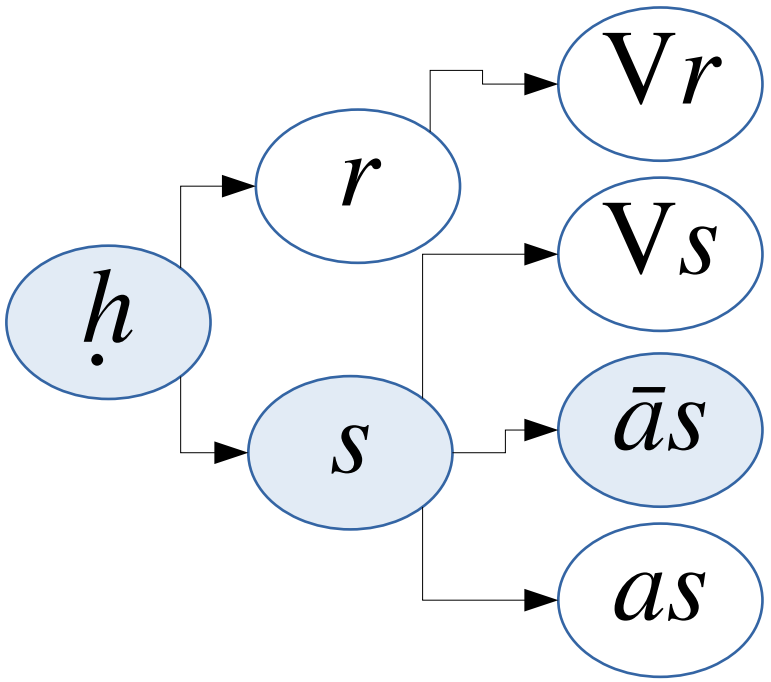
CASE II: FINAL -ĀS



a
āDiC
haŚ - r
r
c ch
ṭ ṭh
t th
k kh p ph
ś ṣ s

… ḥ#

॥वृद्धिः॥
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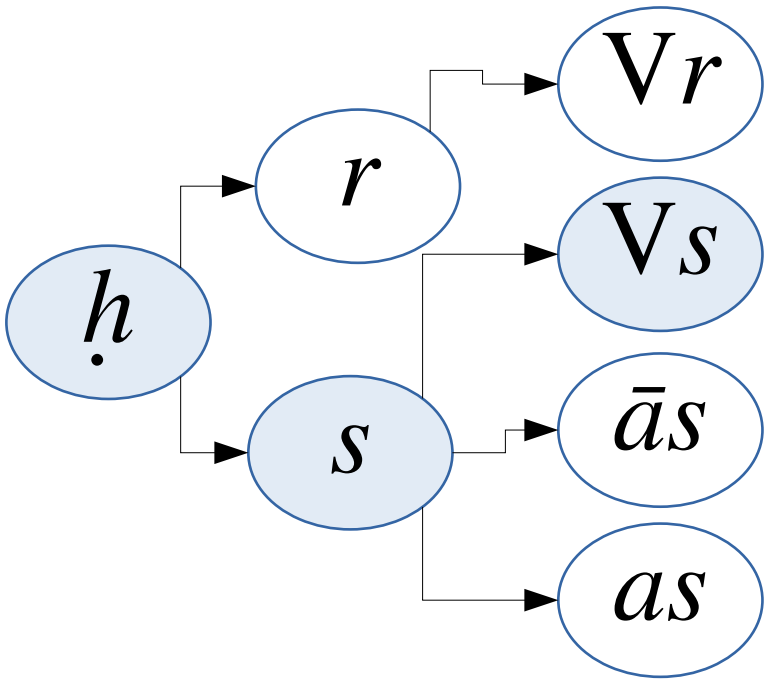
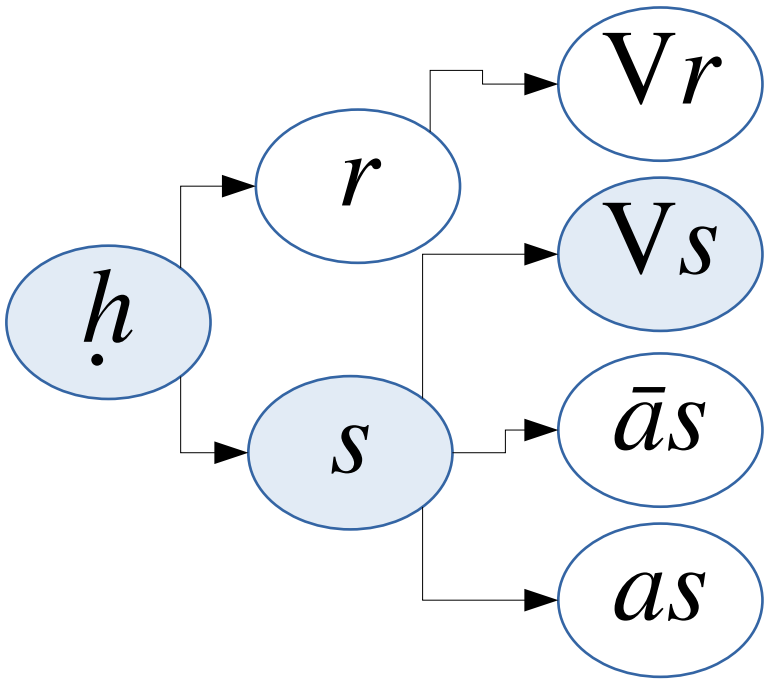
CASE III: FINAL -VS (any vowel except a or ā)



a
āDiC
haŚ - r
r
c ch
ṭ ṭh
t th
k kh p ph
ś ṣ s

॥वृद्धिः॥
sanskrit at uchicago

CASE III: FINAL -VS (any vowel except a or ā)



a
āDiC
haŚ - r
r
c ch
ṭ ṭh
t th
k kh p ph
ś ṣ s

… Vr#

॥वृद्धिः॥
sanskrit at uchicago

CASE III: FINAL -ĀS

अग्निः [अग्निस्] # ^ अस्ति

अग्निरस्ति

The final -*s* (-*ḥ*) becomes *r*.

॥वृद्धिः॥
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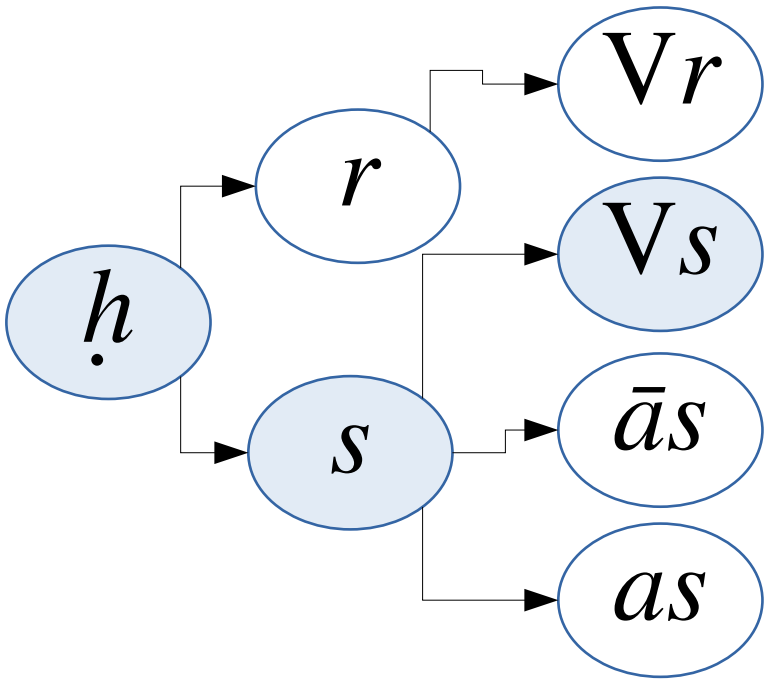
CASE III: FINAL -VS (any vowel except a or ā)



a
āDiC
haŚ - r
r
c ch
ṭ ṭh
t th
k kh p ph
ś ṣ s

… V̄#

॥वृद्धिः॥
sanskrit at uchicago

CASE III: FINAL -VS

अग्निः [अग्निस्] # ⋮ ^ रोचते

अग्नी रोचते

The final -*s* (-*ḥ*) becomes *r*, but this *r* is immediately lost before the following *r*, and the preceding vowel is lengthened in compensation.

॥वृद्धिः॥
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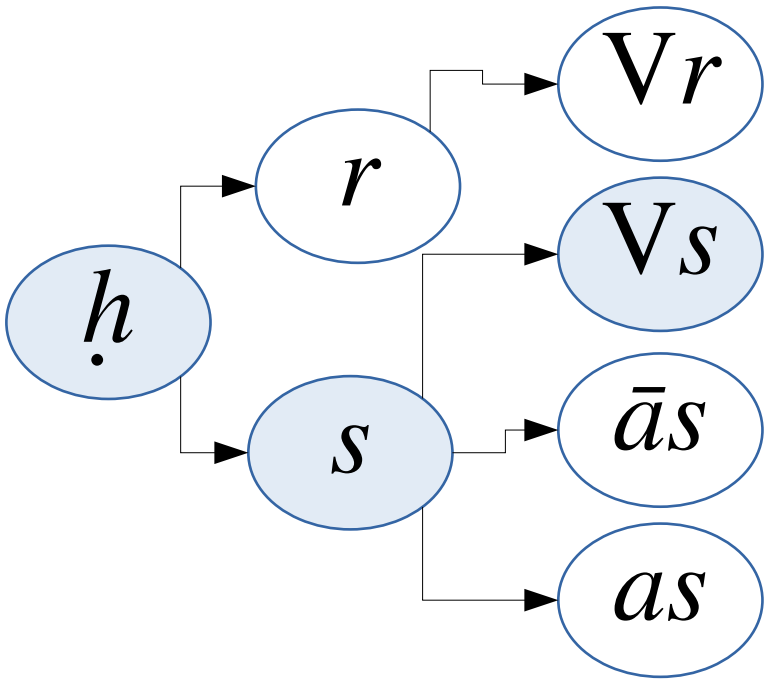
CASE III: FINAL -VS (any vowel except a or ā)

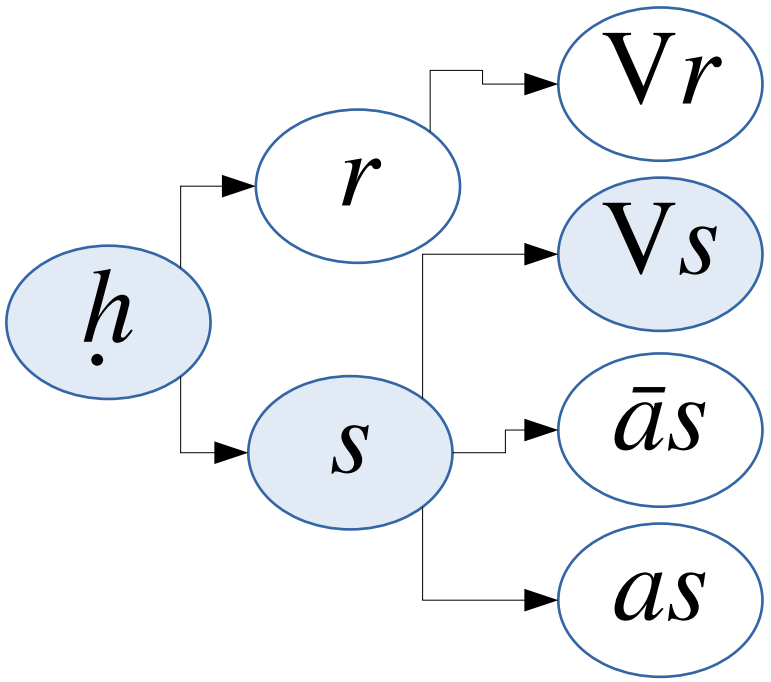


a
āDiC
haŚ - r
r
c ch
ṭ ṭh
t th
k kh p ph
ś ṣ s

… Ś#
… Ṣ#
… S#

॥वृद्धिः॥
sanskrit at uchicago

CASE III: FINAL -VS (any vowel except a or ā)

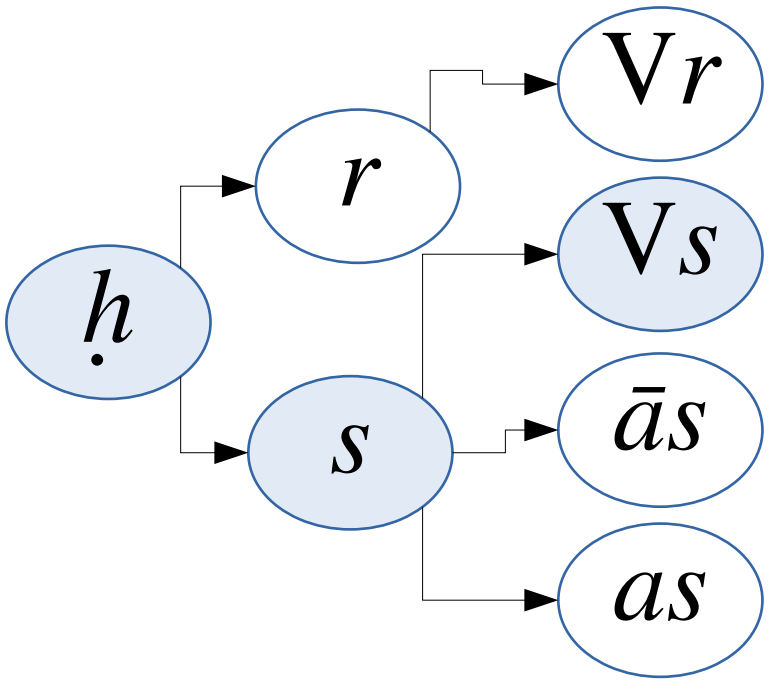


a
āDiC
haŚ - r
r
c ch
ṭ ṭh
t th
k kh p ph
ś ṣ s

… ḥ#

॥वृद्धिः॥
sanskrit at uchicago

CASE III: FINAL -VS (any vowel except a or ā)

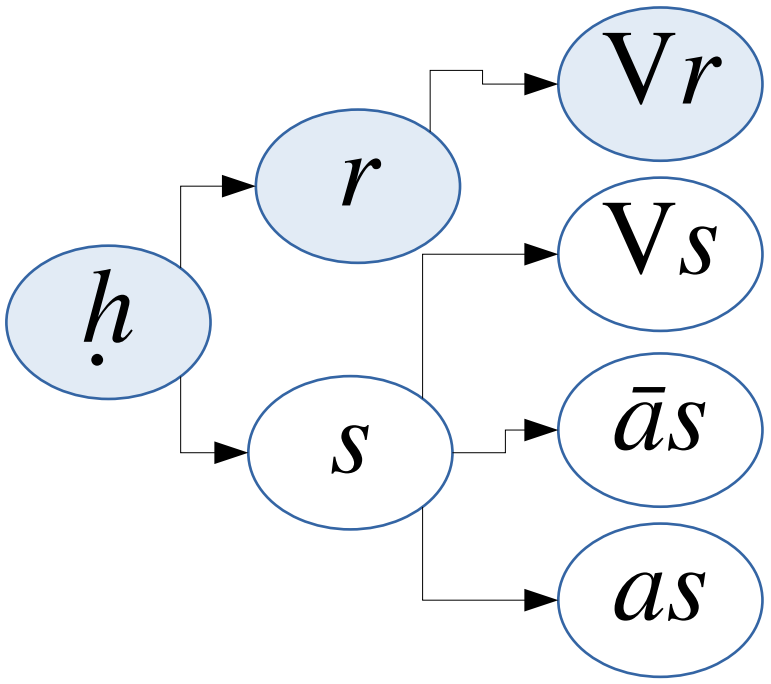


a
āDiC
haŚ - r
r
c ch
ṭ ṭh
t th
k kh p ph
ś ṣ s

… ḥ#

॥वृद्धिः॥
sanskrit at uchicago

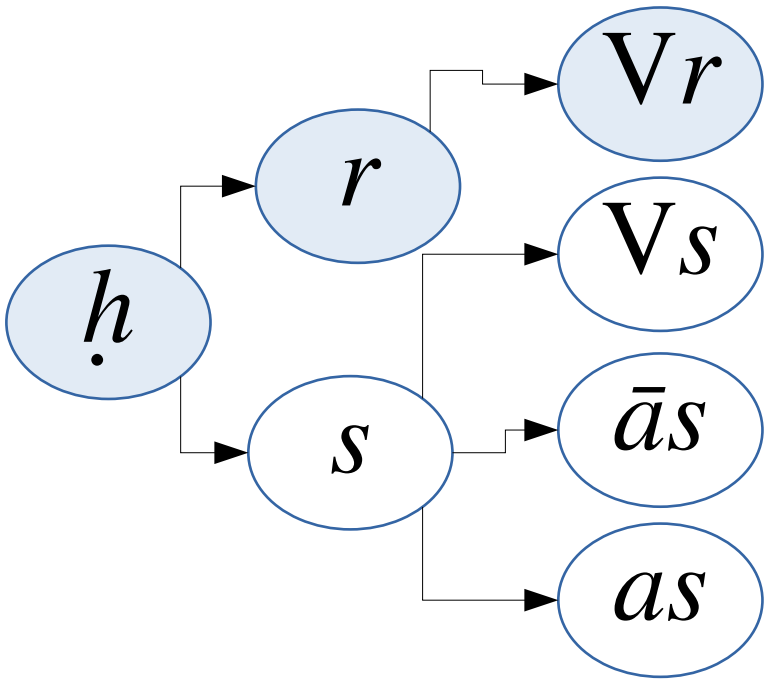
CASE IV: FINAL -VR (any vowel)



a
āDiC
haŚ - r
r
c ch
ṭ ṭh
t th
k kh p ph
ś ṣ s

॥वृद्धिः॥
sanskrit at uchicago

CASE IV: FINAL -VR (any vowel)



a
āDiC
haŚ - r
r
c ch
ṭ ṭh
t th
k kh p ph
ś ṣ s

… r#

॥वृद्धिः॥
sanskrit at uchicago

CASE III: FINAL -VS

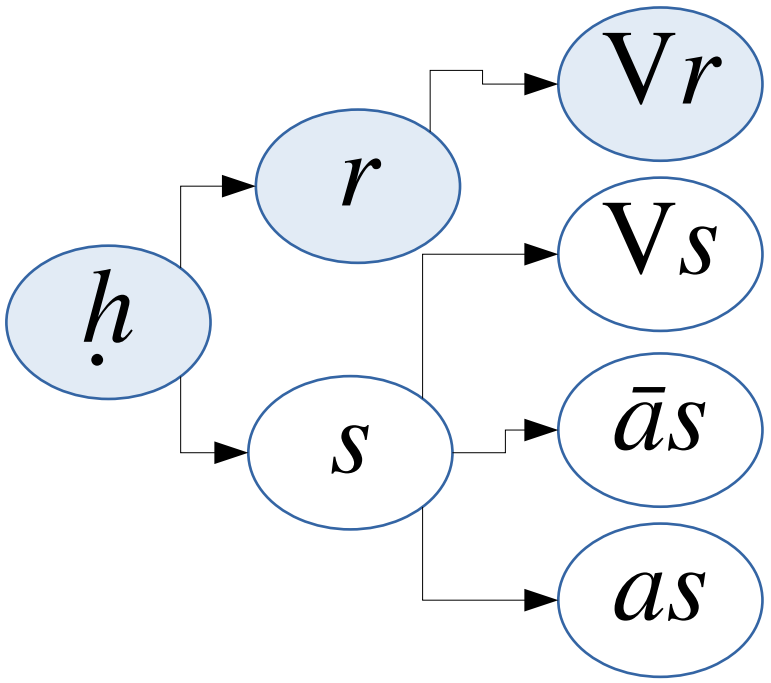
पुनः [पुनर्] # ⋮ ^ अपि

पुनरपि

The final -*ḥ* becomes *r*.

॥वृद्धिः॥
sanskrit at uchicago

CASE IV: FINAL -VR (any vowel)

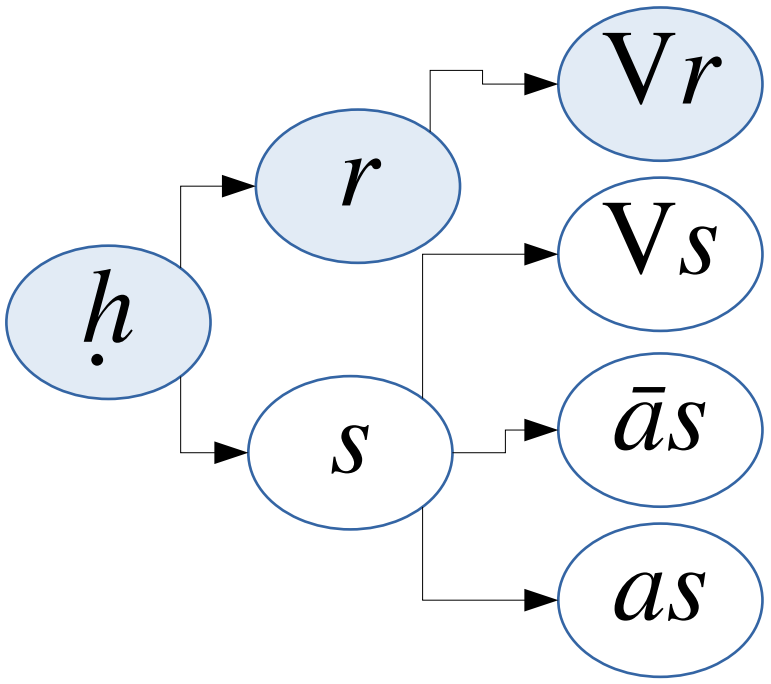


a
āDiC
haŚ - r
r
c ch
ṭ ṭh
t th
k kh p ph
ś ṣ s

… V̄#

॥वृद्धिः॥
sanskrit at uchicago

CASE IV: FINAL -VR (any vowel)



a
āDiC
haŚ - r
r
c ch
ṭ ṭh
t th
k kh p ph
ś ṣ s

… Ś#
… Ṣ#
… S#

॥वृद्धिः॥
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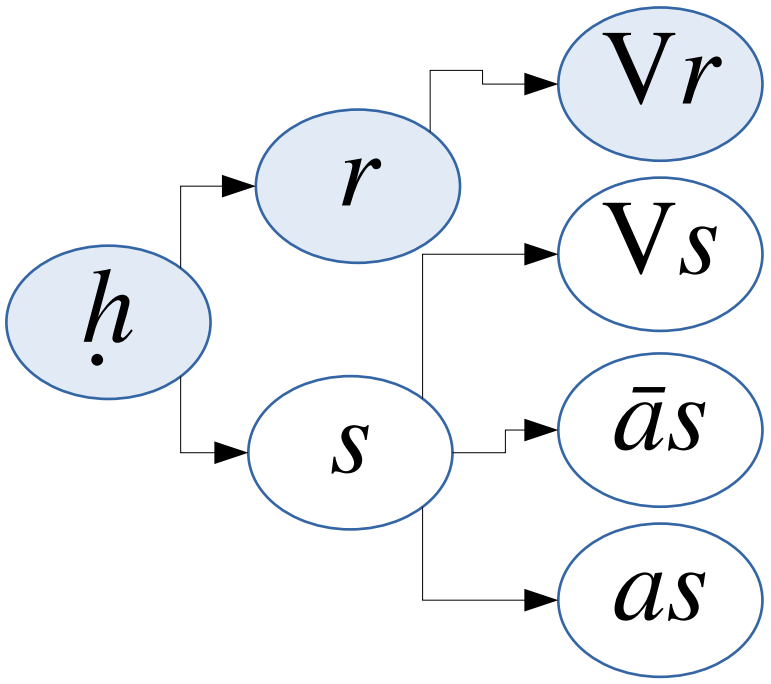
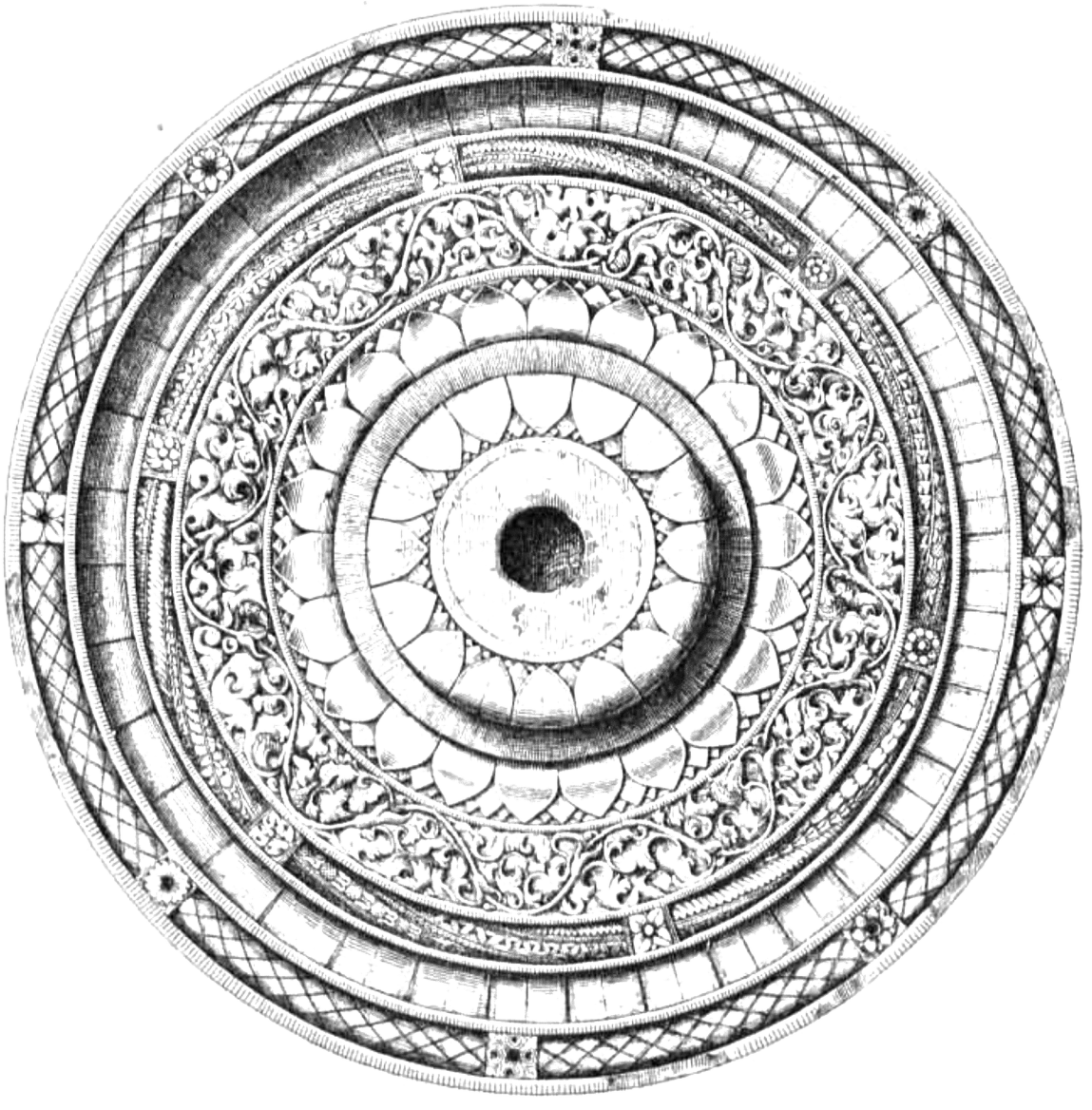
CASE IV: FINAL -VR (any vowel)



a
āDiC
haŚ - r
r
c ch
ṭ ṭh
t th
k kh p ph
ś ṣ s

… ḥ#

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