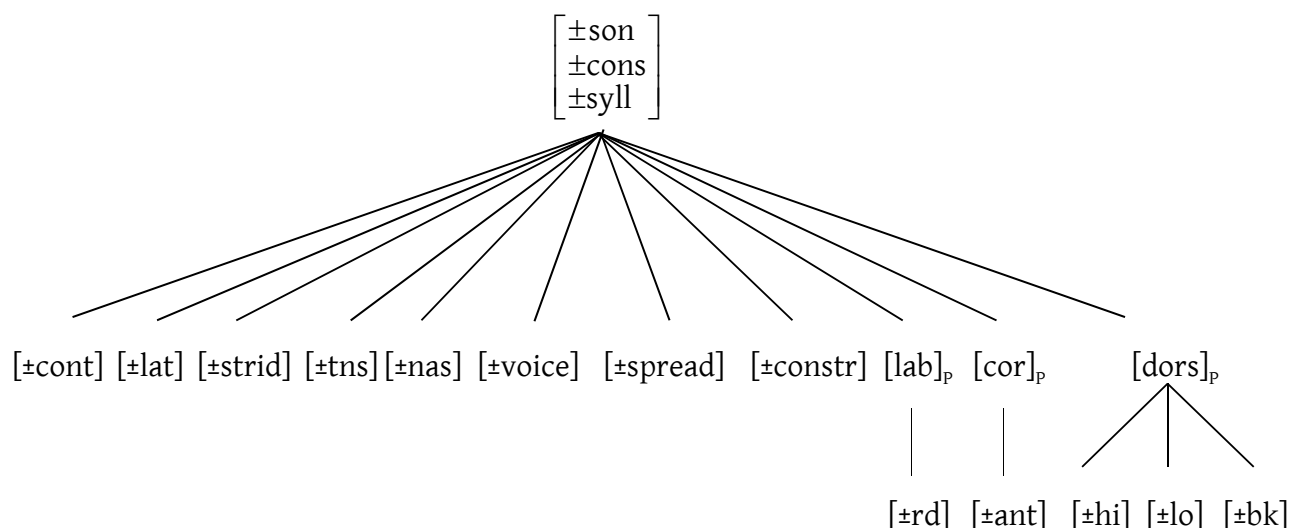
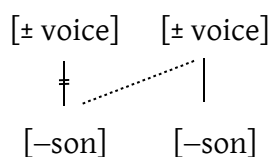


# Geometry of the Feature System

Each feature, other than the major class features, is on a distinct tier of the representation. The feature tiers are all linked, directly or indirectly, to the “root” tier of the phoneme, which contains the major class features.



Rules of assimilation involve the spread of tier from one phoneme to another. For example, a rule of regressive voicing assimilation (as in Hebrew לִזְכּוֹר /lizkor/ → [liskor]) is stated as follows:



and a rule of nasal assimilation (as in English *impolite* /ɪm+pələyt/ → [ɪmpələyt]):

