

I. Comparative Reconstruction (30 pts)

Reconstruct the *consonants* of Proto-Romance based on the following data. Your answer should consist of a list of the PR phonemes and any rules needed to derive the attested consonants in the languages below (ordered if needed). WARNING: use *only* the data below. Do *not* try to apply any other knowledge you may have of Latin or the Romance languages (the best answer to this problem may or may not agree with the actual historical facts).

Spanish	Italian	Romanian	Sardinian	
rama	rama	ramə	ramu	‘branch’
branka	branka	brinkə	branka	‘claw’
tela	tela	tearə	tela	‘cloth’
baka	vaka	vakə	baka	‘cow’
duelo	duɔlo	dor	dolu	‘grief’
kasa	kaza	kasə	kaza	‘house’
pera	pera	parə	pira	‘pear’
luna	luna	lunə	luna	‘moon’
bera	vera	varə	bera	‘true’ (fem.)
gola	gola	gurə	gula	‘throat’
sal	sale	sare	sale	‘salt’
mes	meze	---	meze	‘month’
sordo	sordo	surd	surdu	‘deaf’
pesa	peza	pasə	peza	‘weighs’
barba	barba	barbə	barba	‘beard’

Solution

Proto-Romance consonants:

*p	*t	*k
*b	*d	*g
	*s	
*v	*r, *l	
*m	*n	

You must reconstruct both \*b and \*v and both \*l and \*r (both pairs occur word-initially before vowel, so no plausible conditioned split is possible).

There **are** two conditioned splits:

PR \*l > r in Romanian between vowels (or you could just say word-internally).

PR \*s > z in Italian and Sardinian between vowels.