

# Tamil consonants, IPA

|                     | Bilabial |     | Labio-dental |   | Dental |      | Alveolar |   | Retroflex |     | Alveolo-palatal |     | Velar |     | Glottal |     |
|---------------------|----------|-----|--------------|---|--------|------|----------|---|-----------|-----|-----------------|-----|-------|-----|---------|-----|
| Plosive             | [p]      | b   |              |   | [t̪]   | ɖ    | [t]      | d | [ʈ]       | ɖ   |                 |     | [k]   | g   |         |     |
| Aspirated plosive   | [pʰ]     |     |              |   | [t̪ʰ]  |      | [tʰ]     |   | [ʈʰ]      |     |                 |     | [kʰ]  |     |         |     |
| Affricate           |          |     |              |   |        |      |          |   |           |     | ʈ͡ʂ             | ɖ͡ʒ |       |     |         |     |
| Fricative           |          | [β] | [f]          |   |        | [ð̪] | s        | z | ʂ         |     | ɕ               |     | [x]   | [ɣ] | h       | [ɦ] |
| Nasal               |          | m   |              |   |        | [ɳ̪] |          | n |           | ɳ   |                 | ɲ   |       | [ŋ] |         |     |
| Tap                 |          |     |              |   |        |      |          | r |           | [ɽ] |                 |     |       |     |         |     |
| Trill               |          |     |              |   |        |      |          | r |           |     |                 |     |       |     |         |     |
| Approximant         |          |     |              | ʋ |        |      |          |   |           | ɻ   |                 | j   |       |     |         |     |
| Lateral approximant |          |     |              |   |        |      | l        |   | ɭ         |     |                 |     |       |     |         |     |

- Where symbols appear in pairs, the one to the right represents a voiced consonant.
- Where symbols appear singly, they are placed to the left within their column if they represent a voiceless consonant, and to the right if they represent voiced.
- Symbols enclosed in brackets represent non-phonemic consonants.
- Blacked-out cells indicate phones judged to be impossible.

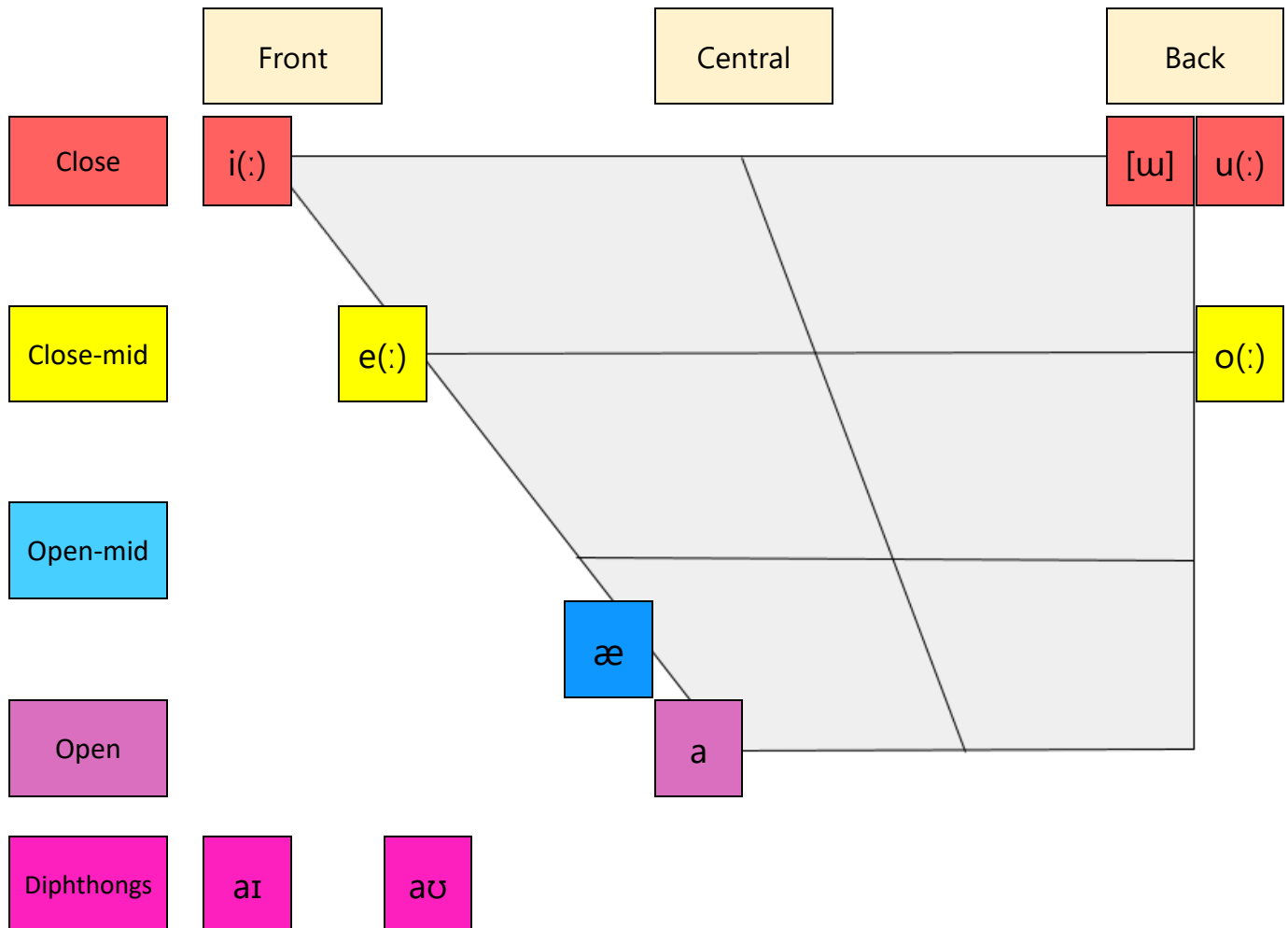
# Tamil consonants, Tamil script

|                     | Bilabial |      | Labio-dental |    | Dental |      | Alveolar |    | Retroflex |      | Alveolo-palatal |    | Velar |      | Glottal |      |
|---------------------|----------|------|--------------|----|--------|------|----------|----|-----------|------|-----------------|----|-------|------|---------|------|
| Plosive             | (ப்)     | ப்   |              |    | (த்)   | த்   | (ற்)     | ற் | (ட்)      | ட்   |                 |    | (க்)  | க்   |         |      |
| Aspirated plosive   | (ப்)     |      |              |    | (த்)   |      | (ற்)     |    | (ட்)      |      |                 |    | (க்)  |      |         |      |
| Affricate           |          |      |              |    |        |      |          |    |           |      | ச்              | ஜ் |       |      |         |      |
| Fricative           |          | (ப்) | ஃப           |    |        | (த்) | ஸ்       | ஃஜ | ஷ்        |      | ய்              |    | (க்)  | (க்) | ஹ்      | (க்) |
| Nasal               |          | ம்   |              |    |        | (ந்) |          | ன் |           | ண்   |                 | ஞ் |       | (ங்) |         |      |
| Tap                 |          |      |              |    |        |      |          | ர் |           | (ட்) |                 |    |       |      |         |      |
| Trill               |          |      |              |    |        |      |          | ற் |           |      |                 |    |       |      |         |      |
| Approximant         |          |      |              | வ் |        |      |          |    |           | ழ்   |                 | ய் |       |      |         |      |
| Lateral approximant |          |      |              |    |        |      | ல்       |    | ள்        |      |                 |    |       |      |         |      |

- Symbols enclosed in parentheses represent non-phonemic consonants.



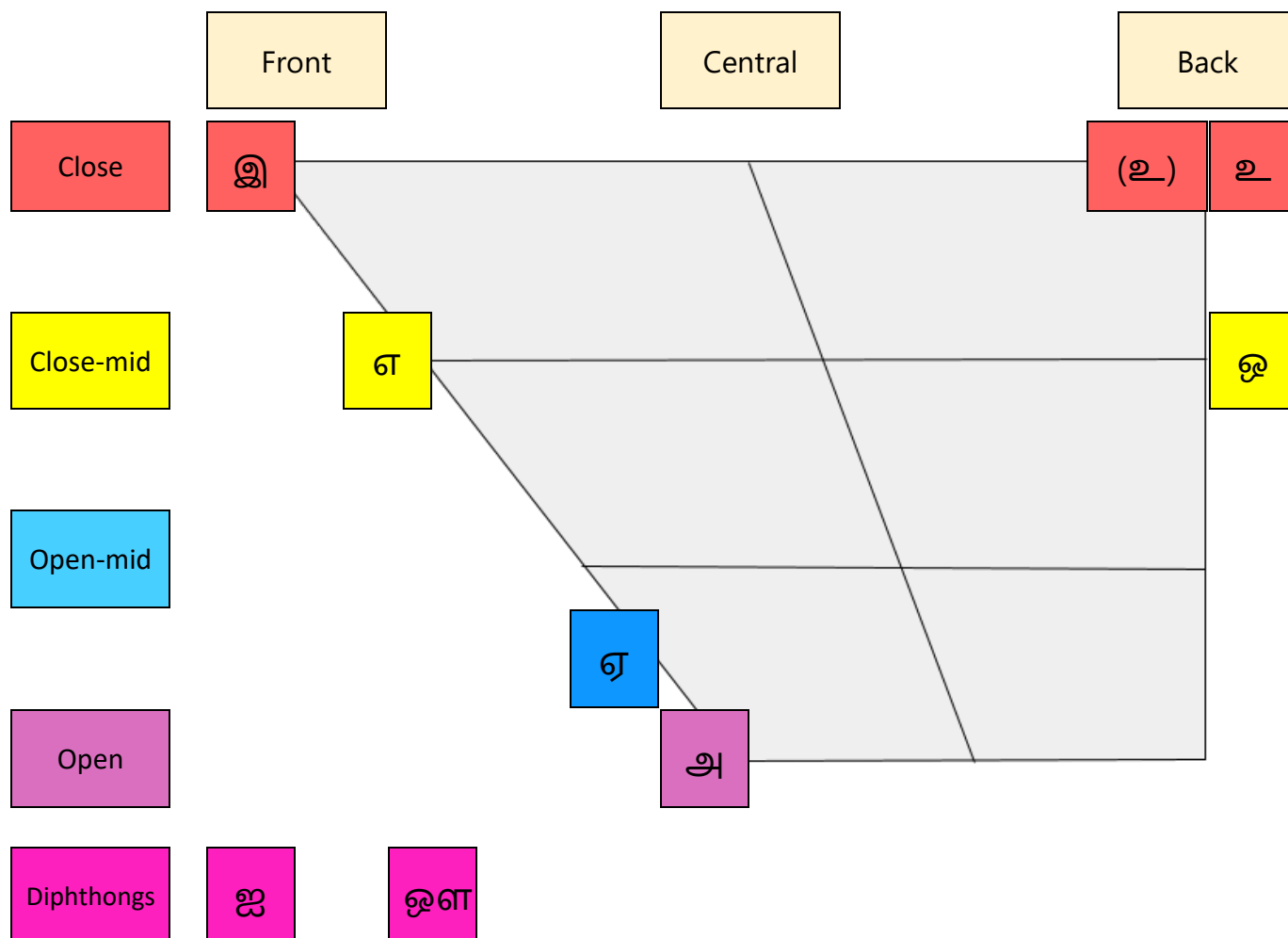
# Tamil vowels, IPA



- Where symbols appear in pairs, the one to the right represents a rounded vowel.
- Where symbols appear singly, the front vowels are unrounded; the back vowel [o] is rounded.
- In Tamil, vowel length is phonemic; so for example, [a] and [a:] are different phonemes. The audio clips are intended to represent only vowel quality, not duration, so both phonemes are represented in the same cell as [a(:)].



# Tamil vowels, Tamil script



- Symbols enclosed in brackets represent non-phonemic vowels.
- Where symbols appear in pairs, the one to the right represents a rounded vowel.
- Of the symbols appearing singly, the front vowels are unrounded; the back vowel ஒ is rounded.
- Only the characters for the short versions of the vowels are shown.



# References

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