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Attic shortening or metrical lengthening?

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According to a well-known rule, a syllable of Classical Greek containing a short vowel that is followed by two or more consonants, is said to be long *positione* ‘by position’ (as distinguished from a long-vowel syllable, which is considered long *natura* ‘by nature’), the syllabic quantity being evidenced by the syllable’s occupying a long slot in the meter. If, however, the postvocalic consonants are stop-and-liquid (*muta cum liquida*) or stop-and-nasal, *correptio Attica* ‘Attic shortening’ is alleged to take place, with the result that the syllable in question becomes a short one and occupies a short slot in the meter.

These rules seem to me inadequate on two counts. First, syllabic quantity is not the same phonological phenomenon as vocalic quantity, hence the terms “long” and “short” cannot be applied equally to syllable and vowel. Second, what requires an explanation