शिखागोविश्वविद्यालये

प्रारम्भिकसंस्कृतम्

FIRST-YEAR SANSKRIT

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

अल्लटाचार्योद्द्रावितः पाठक्रमः ✦ *Designed by Andrew Ollett*

THE AORIST

## PART I: INTRODUCTION AND S-AORISTS

luṅ – 1 ❀ लुङ् – १

THE AORIST

The *aorist* is what European grammars call a group of forms that Pāṇini gathered under the tense-marker *luṅ*, which he teaches for **past time in general**.

✤ They are called the *aorist* because they generally correspond to forms so called in Greek.
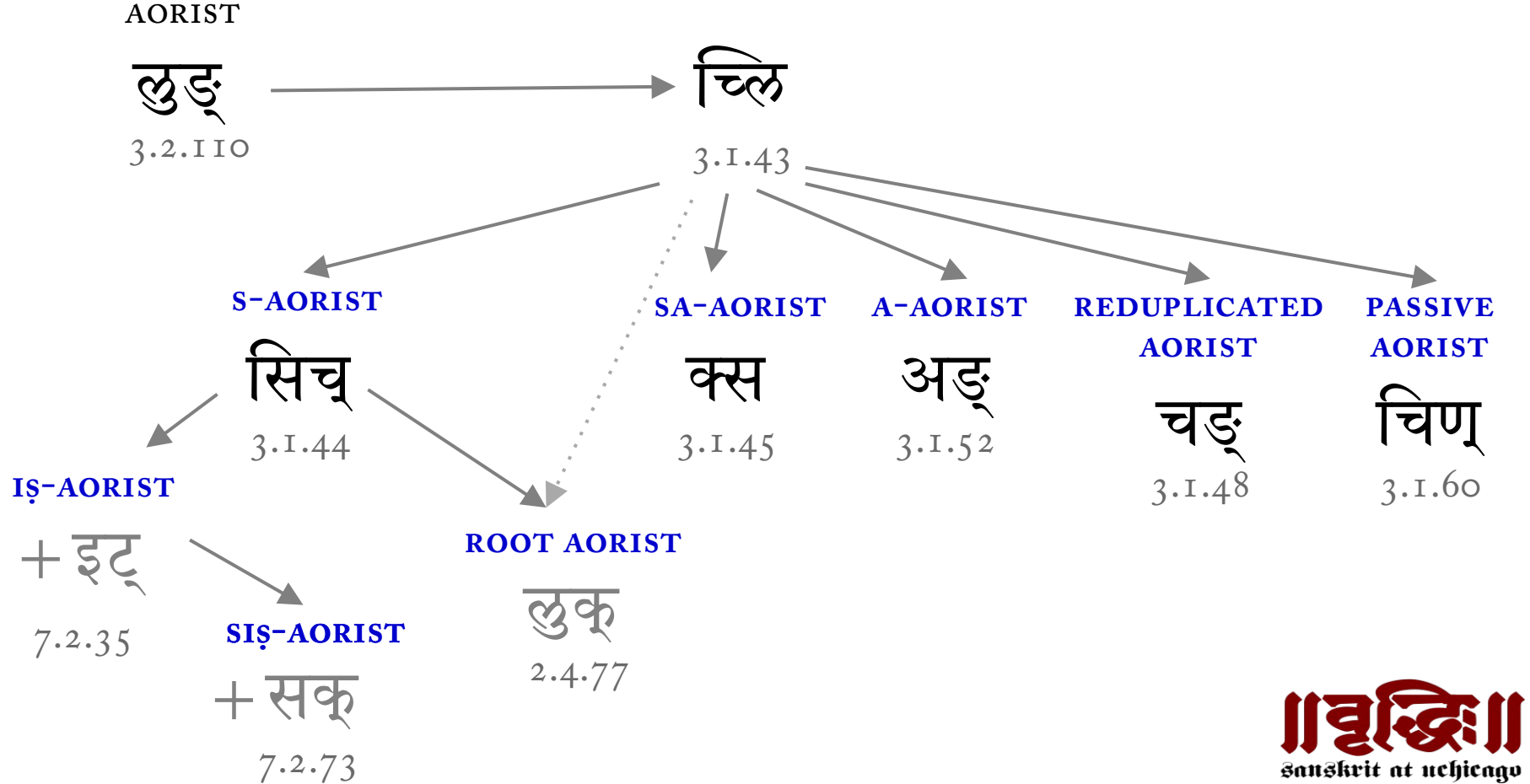
THE AORIST

(Almost) all aorists are formed in a similar way:

á-kārṣ-ī-t

past tense augment

aorist stem

[augment]
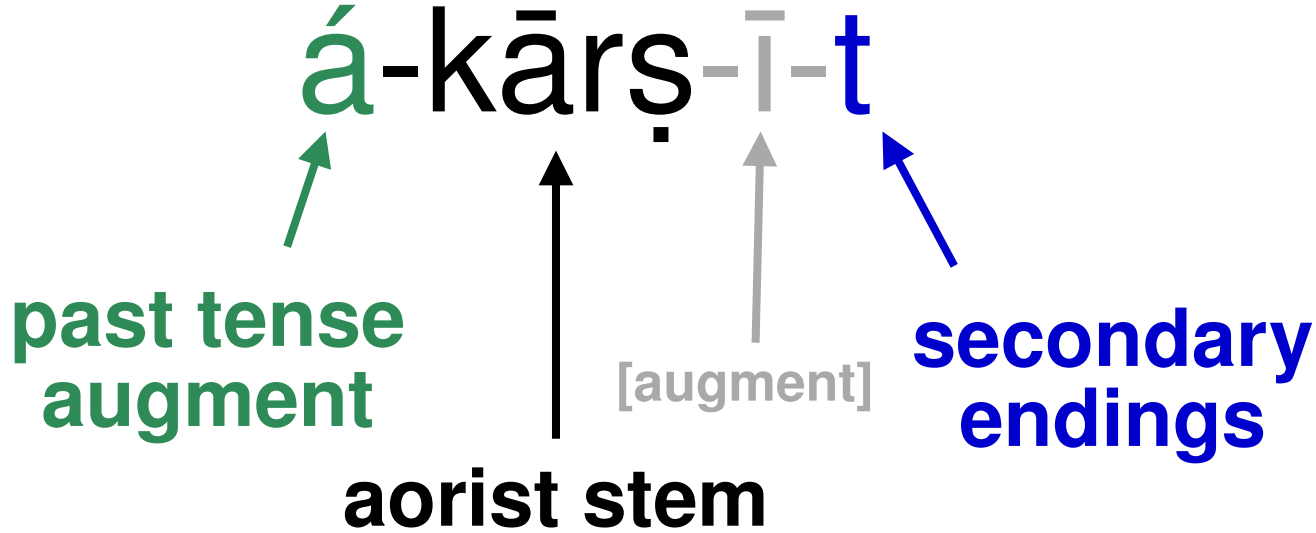
secondary endings

THE AORIST

Under the larger category of **aorists** (i.e., a finite past tense, formed with the augment and secondary endings, using a **different stem** from that of the present) we have a number of different forms, which represent different ways of forming the **aorist stem**:

THE AORIST

AORIST

लुङ्   ⟶   च्लि

3.2.110   3.1.43

S-AORIST   **SA-AORIST**   **A-AORIST**   **REDUPLICATED**   **PASSIVE**
                                              AORIST   **AORIST**

सिच्   क्स   अङ्   चङ्   चिण्

3.1.44   3.1.45   3.1.52   3.1.48   3.1.60

IṢ-AORIST

ROOT AORIST

+इट्   लुक्

7.2.35   2.4.77

      SIṢ-AORIST

      +सक्

      7.2.73

THE AORIST

You might ask: why do we have **eight** different formations? Wouldn't **one** do just as well? (In fact, why do we need an aorist at all, given that we already have several other past tenses?)

THE AORIST

Historically, aorist forms were used to represent a particular *aspect* (i.e., that the action is complete or punctual, rather than extended in time), but in Sanskrit there is no real difference in aspect between the aorist and the other past tenses (the imperfect and perfect).

THE AORIST

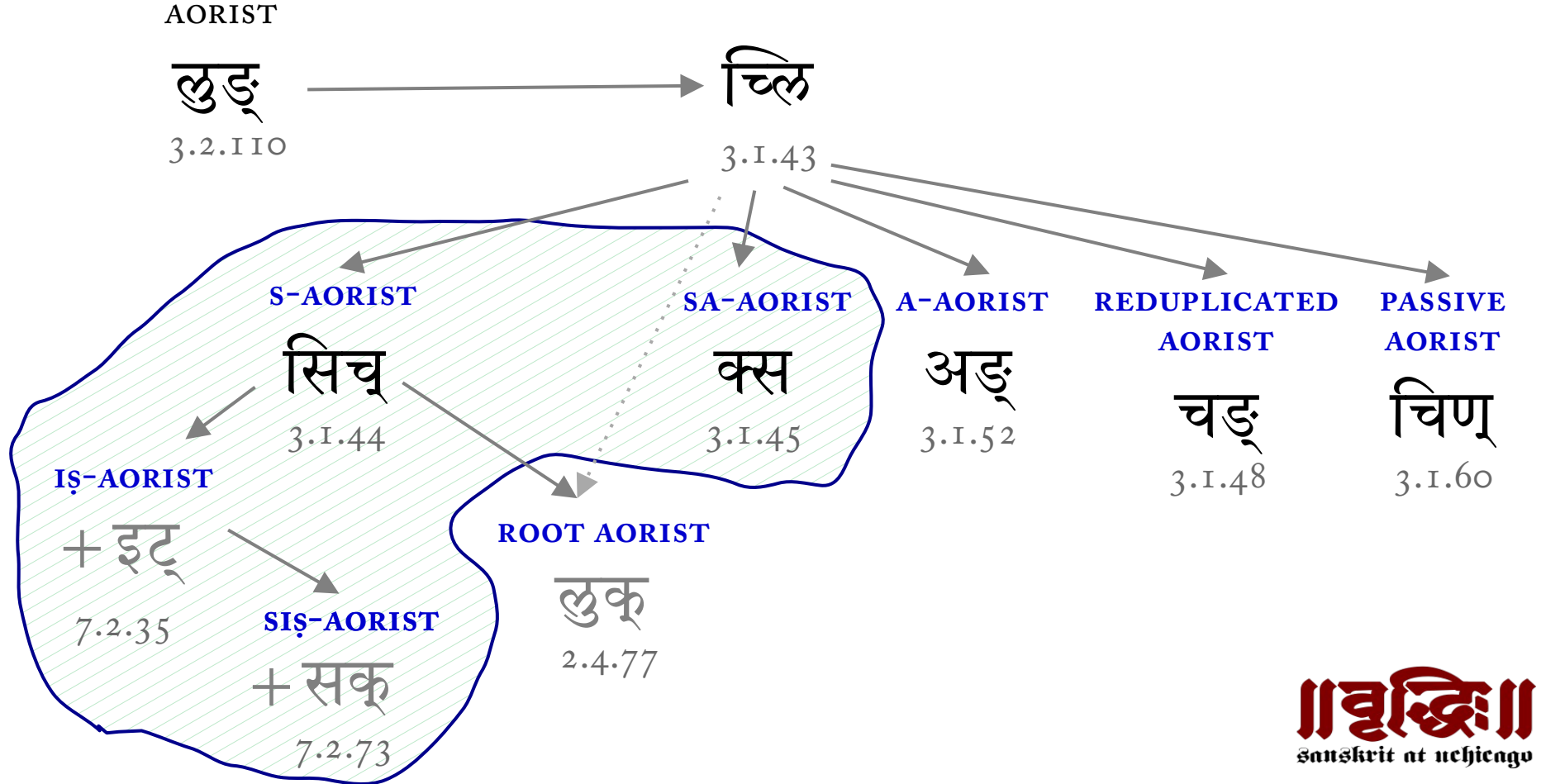The **specific type of aorist** used for a given verb depends on several factors:

- **root structure;**
- **voice** (active/passive);
- **valency** (simple/causative).

Generally **one form** is favored for a particular verbal root (at least in the active non-causative).

THE S-AORIST

In this presentation we will focus on what is probably the most **common** of the aorist forms, namely, the **s-aorist** or **sigmatic aorist**. It is so called because the aorist stem forming suffix includes an *s*.

THE AORIST

AORIST

लुङ्
3.2.110

चलि
3.1.43

S-AORIST
सिच्
3.1.44

इष्-AORIST
+इट्
7.2.35

SIṢ-AORIST
+सक्
7.2.73

ROOT AORIST
लुक्
2.4.77

SA-AORIST
क्स
3.1.45

A-AORIST
अङ्
3.1.52

REDUPLICATED
AORIST
चङ्
3.1.48

PASSIVE
AORIST
चिण्
3.1.60

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THE S-AORIST

There are four *s*-aorists:

- 🍂 the **simple *s*-aorist** (the **default** form)
- 🍂 the s-aorist with *iṬ* (often called ***iṣ*-aorist**)
- 🍂 the *s*-aorist with *saK* and *iṬ* (often called ***siṣ*-aorist**)
- 🍂 the *s*-aorist with the thematic vowel (***sa*-aorist**)

THE SIMPLE S-AORIST

The simple *s*-aorist, formed with the suffix Pāṇini calls *sic*, is **athematic**. This means that the endings are added directly* onto the aorist stem, the vowel gradation of which varies with the endings.

* Except for endings that consist in a single consonant (e.g., *-s* and *-t*). In these cases, the augment *ī* intervenes between the stem and the ending.

॥वृद्धि॥
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THE SIMPLE S-AORIST

The stem-forming suffix, *s*, will usually trigger some internal *sandhiḥ*. In particular:

- it is retroflexed after RUKI triggers (velar and palatal stops, *i*-vowels, *u*-vowels, and *r*):

  a-vāc-s-ī-t ⟶ avākṣīt

  a-nai-s-ī-t ⟶ anaiṣīt

  a-kār-s-ī-t ⟶ akārṣīt

  a-śrau-s-ī-t ⟶ aśrauṣīt

THE SIMPLE S-AORIST

The stem-forming suffix, *s*, will usually trigger some internal *sandhiḥ*. In particular:

- the *s* is **dropped entirely** if the root ends in a consonant and the ending begins with a dental:

  a-vāc-s-tām ⟶ avāktām

  a-vac-s-ta ⟶ avakta

  a-kṣaip-s-tām ⟶ akṣaiptām

  a-kṣip-s-ta ⟶ akṣipta

THE SIMPLE S-AORIST

The stem-forming suffix, *s*, will usually trigger some internal *sandhiḥ*. In particular:

- the *s* is **dropped entirely** if the root ends in a consonant and the ending begins with a dental:

  (and also if the root ends in a **short vowel**:)

  a-kṛ-s-ta ⟶ akṛta

  (these are probably **root aorist** forms in origin)

THE SIMPLE S-AORIST

For the simple s-aorist, the root takes *vŕddhiḥ* in the *parasmaipadám*.

In the *ātmanēpadám*, it takes *guṇáḥ* if it ends in *i*, *ī*, *u*, or *ū*, and otherwise remains in the **zero grade**.

SECONDARY ENDINGS

परस्मैपदम्

	एकवचनम्	द्विवचनम्	बहुवचनम्
प्रथमपुरुषः	-ī-t	-tām	-uḥ
मध्यमपुरुषः	-ī-ḥ	-tam	-ta
उत्तमपुरुषः	-am	-va	-ma

आत्मनेपदम्

	एकवचनम्	द्विवचनम्	बहुवचनम्
प्रथमपुरुषः	-ta	-ātām	-ata
मध्यमपुरुषः	-thāḥ	-āthām	-dhvam
उत्तमपुरुषः	-i	-vahi	-mahi

THE SIMPLE S-AORIST

परस्मैपदम्

√पच्

	एकवचनम्	द्विवचनम्	बहुवचनम्
प्रथमपुरुषः	*ápākṣīt*	*ápāktām*	*ápākṣuḥ*
मध्यमपुरुषः	*ápākṣīḥ*	*ápāktam*	*ápākta*
उत्तमपुरुषः	*ápākṣam*	*ápākṣva*	*ápākṣma*

आत्मनेपदम्

	एकवचनम्	द्विवचनम्	बहुवचनम्
प्रथमपुरुषः	*ápakta*	*ápakṣātām*	*ápakṣata*
मध्यमपुरुषः	*ápakthāḥ*	*ápakṣāthām*	*ápagdhvam*
उत्तमपुरुषः	*ápakṣi*	*ápakṣvahi*	*ápakṣmahi*

THE SIMPLE S-AORIST

परस्मैपदम्

	एकवचनम्	द्विवचनम्	बहुवचनम्
प्रथमपुरुषः	*ápākṣīt*	*ápāktām*	*ápākṣuḥ*
मध्यमपुरुषः	*ápākṣīḥ*	*ápāktam*	*ápākta*
उत्तमपुरुषः	*ápākṣam*	*ápākṣva*	*ápākṣma*

आत्मनेपदम्

	एकवचनम्	द्विवचनम्	बहुवचनम्
प्रथमपुरुषः	*ápakta*	*ápakṣātām*	*ápakṣata*
मध्यमपुरुषः	*ápakthāḥ*	*ápakṣāthām*	*ápagdhvam*
उत्तमपुरुषः	*ápakṣi*	*ápakṣvahi*	*ápakṣmahi*

Note:
- Past tense augment

THE SIMPLE S-AORIST

परस्मैपदम्

	एकवचनम्	द्विवचनम्	बहुवचनम्
प्रथमपुरुषः	*ápākṣīt*	*ápāktām*	*ápākṣuḥ*
मध्यमपुरुषः	*ápākṣīḥ*	*ápāktam*	*ápākta*
उत्तमपुरुषः	*ápākṣam*	*ápākṣva*	*ápākṣma*

आत्मनेपदम्

	एकवचनम्	द्विवचनम्	बहुवचनम्
प्रथमपुरुषः	*ápakta*	*ápakṣātām*	*ápakṣata*
मध्यमपुरुषः	*ápakthāḥ*	*ápakṣāthām*	*ápagdhvam*
उत्तमपुरुषः	*ápakṣi*	*ápakṣvahi*	*ápakṣmahi*

Note:
- Gradation of root vowel

(here *vṛ́ddhiḥ* in *parasmaipadam*, zero grade in *ātmanēpadam*)

THE SIMPLE S-AORIST

परस्मैपदम्

	एकवचनम्	द्विवचनम्	बहुवचनम्
प्रथमपुरुषः	*ápākṣīt*	*ápāktām*	*ápākṣuḥ*
मध्यमपुरुषः	*ápākṣīḥ*	*ápāktam*	*ápākta*
उत्तमपुरुषः	*ápākṣam*	*ápākṣva*	*ápākṣma*

Note:
- Endings

आत्मनेपदम्

	एकवचनम्	द्विवचनम्	बहुवचनम्
प्रथमपुरुषः	*ápakta*	*ápakṣātām*	*ápakṣata*
मध्यमपुरुषः	*ápakthāḥ*	*ápakṣāthām*	*ápagdhvam*
उत्तमपुरुषः	*ápakṣi*	*ápakṣvahi*	*ápakṣmahi*

THE SIMPLE S-AORIST

परस्मैपदम्

	एकवचनम्	द्विवचनम्	बहुवचनम्
प्रथमपुरुषः	ápākṣ*īt*	ápāk*tām*	ápākṣ*uḥ*
मध्यमपुरुषः	ápākṣ*īḥ*	ápāk*tam*	ápāk*ta*
उत्तमपुरुषः	ápākṣ*am*	ápākṣ*va*	ápākṣ*ma*

आत्मनेपदम्

	एकवचनम्	द्विवचनम्	बहुवचनम्
प्रथमपुरुषः	ápak*ta*	ápakṣ*ātām*	ápakṣ*ata*
मध्यमपुरुषः	ápak*thāḥ*	ápakṣ*āthām*	ápag*dhvam*
उत्तमपुरुषः	ápakṣ*i*	ápakṣ*vahi*	ápakṣ*mahi*

Note:
- Endings

* These ones show
-ī- inserted
between the stem
and ending!

||वृद्धिः||
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THE SIMPLE S-AORIST

परस्मैपदम्

	एकवचनम्	द्विवचनम्	बहुवचनम्
प्रथमपुरुषः	*ápākṣīt*	**ápāktām**	*ápākṣuḥ*
मध्यमपुरुषः	*ápākṣīḥ*	**ápāktam**	**ápākta**
उत्तमपुरुषः	*ápākṣam*	*ápākṣva*	*ápākṣma*

आत्मनेपदम्

	एकवचनम्	द्विवचनम्	बहुवचनम्
प्रथमपुरुषः	**ápakta**	*ápakṣātām*	*ápakṣata*
मध्यमपुरुषः	**ápakthāḥ**	*ápakṣāthām*	**ápagdhvam**
उत्तमपुरुषः	*ápakṣi*	*ápakṣvahi*	*ápakṣmahi*

Note:
- Endings

* These ones show the loss of -*s*- before endings beginning with a dental!

THE SIMPLE S-AORIST

परस्मैपदम्

√कृ

	एकवचनम्	द्विवचनम्	बहुवचनम्
प्रथमपुरुषः	ákārṣīt	ákārṣṭām	ákārṣuḥ
मध्यमपुरुषः	ákārṣīḥ	ákārṣṭam	ákārṣṭa
उत्तमपुरुषः	ákārṣam	ákārṣva	ákārṣma

आत्मनेपदम्

	एकवचनम्	द्विवचनम्	बहुवचनम्
प्रथमपुरुषः	ákṛta	ákṛṣātām	ákṛṣata
मध्यमपुरुषः	ákṛthāḥ	ákṛṣāthām	ákṛḍhvam
उत्तमपुरुषः	ákṛṣi	ákṛṣvahi	ákṛṣmahi

THE SIMPLE S-AORIST

परस्मैपदम्

√नी

	एकवचनम्	द्विवचनम्	बहुवचनम्
प्रथमपुरुषः	*ánaiṣīt*	*ánaiṣṭām*	*ánaiṣuḥ*
मध्यमपुरुषः	*ánaiṣīḥ*	*ánaiṣṭam*	*ánaiṣṭa*
उत्तमपुरुषः	*ánaiṣam*	*ánaiṣva*	*ánaiṣma*

आत्मनेपदम्

	एकवचनम्	द्विवचनम्	बहुवचनम्
प्रथमपुरुषः	*ánēṣṭa*	*ánēṣātām*	*ánēṣata*
मध्यमपुरुषः	*ánēṣṭhāḥ*	*ánēṣāthām*	*ánēḍhvam*
उत्तमपुरुषः	*ánēṣi*	*ánēṣvahi*	*ánēṣmahi*

THE SIMPLE S-AORIST

Verbs ending in long *ā* or *ē* form their
ātmanēpadam (but not *parasmaipadam*) with the
simple *s*-aorist, and replace their root vowel with *i:*

√dā   a-di-s-ta   ⟶   adita

              a-di-s-thāḥ   ⟶   adithāḥ

              a-di-s-i   ⟶   adiṣi

THE IṢ-AORIST

The *iṣ*-aorist is just what we call the *s*-aorist when the augment *i* (Pāṇini's *iṬ*) is added between the root and the aorist stem forming suffix *s*.

(Note that the second and third person singular *parasmaipadam* endings are not *-iṣ-īḥ* and *-iṣ-īt*, but simply *-īḥ* and *-īt*, because the augment *iṬ* cannot occur twice.)

THE IṢ-AORIST

The roots that take the *iṣ*-aorist are those that tend to take the augment *iṬ* in other contexts. Rather than memorizing which roots take it, and which don't, you should adopt a "know it when you see it" approach.

- ❧ Or you can study §§331–340 of Müller's *Sanskrit Grammar for Beginners*.

THE IṢ-AORIST

The **vowel gradation** is slightly different because of the augment, which generally requires a **full grade** of the vowel before it. Hence:

- Final vowels (and some roots with medial *a*) take *vŕddhiḥ* in the *parasmaipadam* and *guṇáḥ* in the *ātmanēpadam*.

- Otherwise, a root tends to take *guṇáḥ* in both the *parasmaipadam* and *ātmanēpadam*.

THE IṢ-AORIST

परस्मैपदम्

√बुध्

	एकवचनम्	द्विवचनम्	बहुवचनम्
प्रथमपुरुषः	*ábōdhīt*	*ábōdhiṣṭām*	*ábōdhiṣuḥ*
मध्यमपुरुषः	*ábōdhīḥ*	*ábōdhiṣṭam*	*ábōdhiṣṭa*
उत्तमपुरुषः	*ábōdhiṣam*	*ábōdhiṣva*	*ábōdhiṣma*

आत्मनेपदम्

	एकवचनम्	द्विवचनम्	बहुवचनम्
प्रथमपुरुषः	*ábōdhiṣṭa*	*ábōdhiṣātām*	*ábōdhiṣata*
मध्यमपुरुषः	*ábōdhiṣṭhāḥ*	*ábōdhiṣāthām*	*ábōdhiḍhvam*
उत्तमपुरुषः	*ábōdhiṣi*	*ábōdhiṣvahi*	*ábōdhiṣmahi*

THE IṢ-AORIST

परस्मैपदम्

√पू

	एकवचनम्	द्विवचनम्	बहुवचनम्
प्रथमपुरुषः	*ápāvīt*	*ápāviṣṭām*	*ápāviṣuḥ*
मध्यमपुरुषः	*ápāvīḥ*	*ápāviṣṭam*	*ápāviṣṭa*
उत्तमपुरुषः	*ápāviṣam*	*ápāviṣva*	*ápāviṣma*

आत्मनेपदम्

	एकवचनम्	द्विवचनम्	बहुवचनम्
प्रथमपुरुषः	*ápaviṣṭa*	*ápaviṣātām*	*ápaviṣata*
मध्यमपुरुषः	*ápaviṣṭhāḥ*	*ápaviṣāthām*	*ápaviḍhvam*
उत्तमपुरुषः	*ápaviṣi*	*ápaviṣvahi*	*ápaviṣmahi*

THE IṢ-AORIST

परस्मैपदम्

√वद्

	एकवचनम्	द्विवचनम्	बहुवचनम्
प्रथमपुरुषः	*ávādīt*	*ávādiṣṭām*	*ávādiṣuḥ*
मध्यमपुरुषः	*ávādīḥ*	*ávādiṣṭam*	*ávādiṣṭa*
उत्तमपुरुषः	*ávādiṣam*	*ávādiṣva*	*ávādiṣma*

आत्मनेपदम्

	एकवचनम्	द्विवचनम्	बहुवचनम्
प्रथमपुरुषः	*ávadiṣṭa*	*ávadiṣātām*	*ávadiṣata*
मध्यमपुरुषः	*ávadiṣṭhāḥ*	*ávadiṣāthām*	*ávadiḍhvam*
उत्तमपुरुषः	*ávadiṣi*	*ávadiṣvahi*	*ávadiṣmahi*

THE SIṢ-AORIST

A handful of roots add *-iṣ-* to the root **already** augmented with *s*, forming the *siṣ*-aorist:

- √रम्   "play, stay"
- √नम्   "bow"
- √यम्   "control"
- those ending in *ā*, like √या "go"

THE SIṢ-AORIST

This formation is limited to the *parasmaipadam*. In the *ātmanēpadam* they form a regular *s*-aorist.

The root stays in its full-grade form. The forms are thus as if from the roots *raṁs*, *yaṁs*, *naṁs*, *yās*, etc.

THE SIṢ-AORIST

परस्मैपदम्

	एकवचनम्	द्विवचनम्	बहुवचनम्
प्रथमपुरुषः	áyāsīt	áyāsiṣṭām	áyāsiṣuḥ
मध्यमपुरुषः	áyāsīḥ	áyāsiṣṭam	áyāsiṣṭa
उत्तमपुरुषः	áyāsiṣam	áyāsiṣva	áyāsiṣma

√या

THE SA-AORIST

The final *s*-aorist is a **thematic** conjugation, which uses the thematic vowel *a* after the aorist marker *s*. The endings are identical to those of the **imperfect** (i.e., use third person *-an* and *-anta*, rather than *-uḥ* and *-ata*).

✿ Note that this form will still be clearly distinguishable from the imperfect because it has an *s*.

THE SA-AORIST

This form is used only for verbs that:

- end in *ś*, *ṣ*, *s*, or *h*;

- have a medial *i, ī, u, ū, ṛ,* or *ṝ*;

- do not take the augment *iṬ.*

e.g., √*viś*, √*diś*, √*duh*, etc. (Not √*dṛś*, which takes the regular *s*-aorist.)

The root stays in the **zero grade** in all these forms.

THE SA-AORIST

परस्मैपदम्

√दिश्

	एकवचनम्	द्विवचनम्	बहुवचनम्
प्रथमपुरुषः	ádikṣat	ádikṣatām	ádikṣan
मध्यमपुरुषः	ádikṣaḥ	ádikṣatam	ádikṣata
उत्तमपुरुषः	ádikṣam	ádikṣāva	ádikṣāma

आत्मनेपदम्

	एकवचनम्	द्विवचनम्	बहुवचनम्
प्रथमपुरुषः	ádikṣata	ádikṣātām	ádikṣanta
मध्यमपुरुषः	ádikṣathāḥ	ádikṣāthām	ádikṣadhvam
उत्तमपुरुषः	ádikṣi	ádikṣāvahi	ádikṣāmahi

THE SA-AORIST

THE SA-AORIST

Four verbs ending in *h* (duh "milk," *dih* "smear," *lih* "lick," and *guh* "hide") optionally take regular *s*-aorist endings before *ātmanēpadam* endings beginning with a dental:

√duh a-duh-sa-ta ⟶ adugdha *or* adhukṣata

a-duh-sa-thāḥ ⟶ adugdhāḥ *or* adhukṣathāḥ

a-duh-sa-dhvam ⟶ adugdhvam *or* adhukṣadhvam