❋ श्रीः ❋

Prakrit

Spring Quarter 2018

Prakrit Meter

Basic Principles

1. The Syllable (σ)

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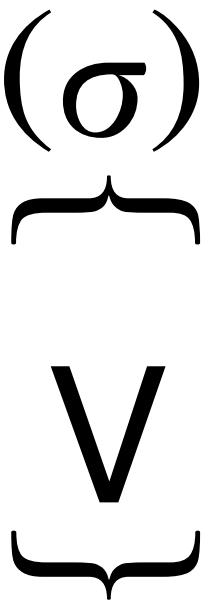

Every syllable must have
one and only one vowel.

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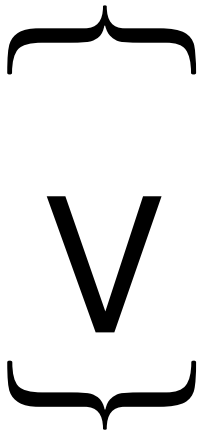
1. The Syllable (σ)



EXAMPLES

u

a

ō

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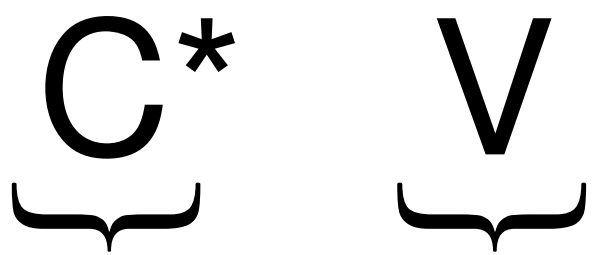

A syllable can have *zero or more* consonants before the vowel.

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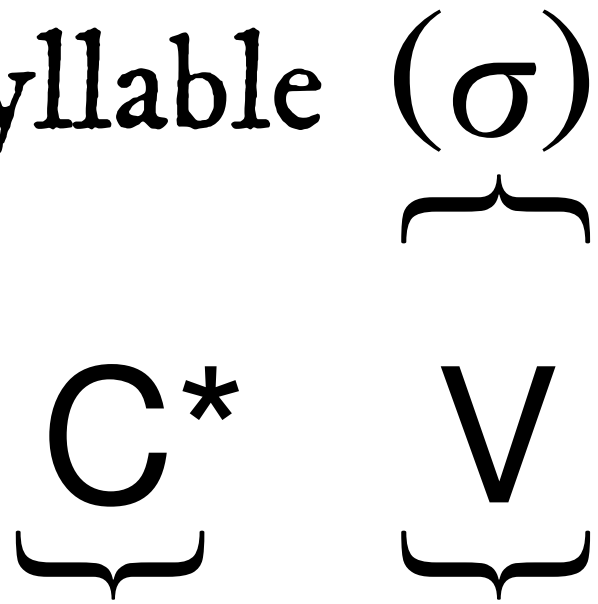

EXAMPLES

hē

kṣi

sva

pra

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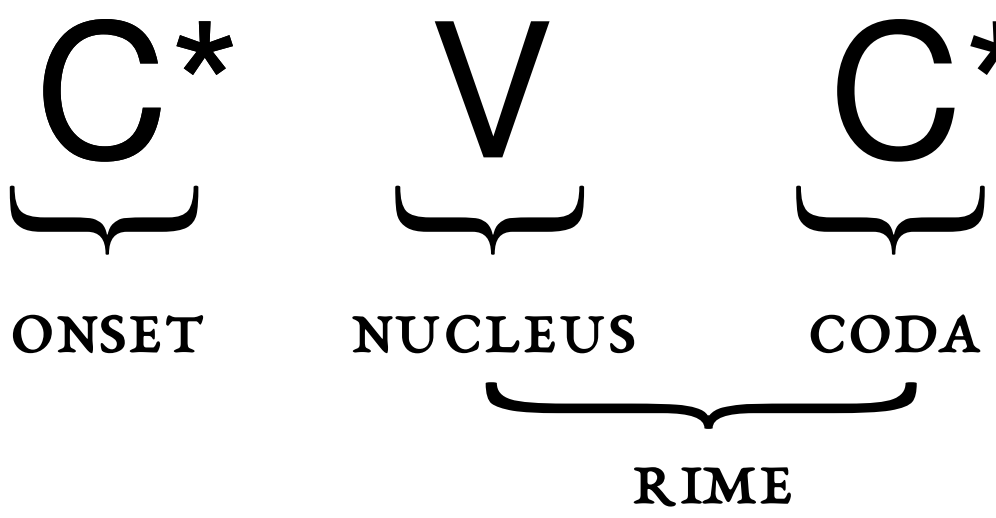

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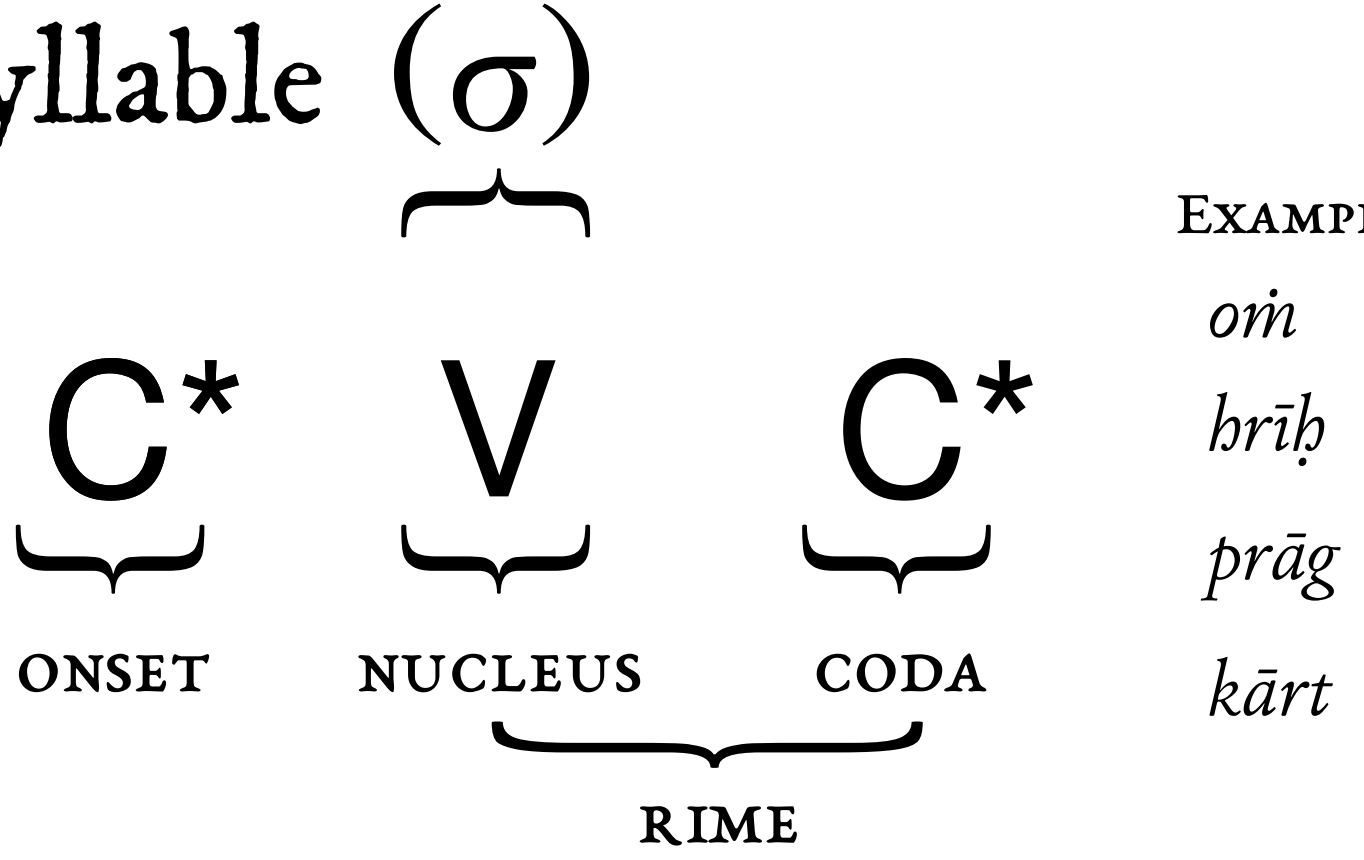


EXAMPLES

oṁ

hrīḥ

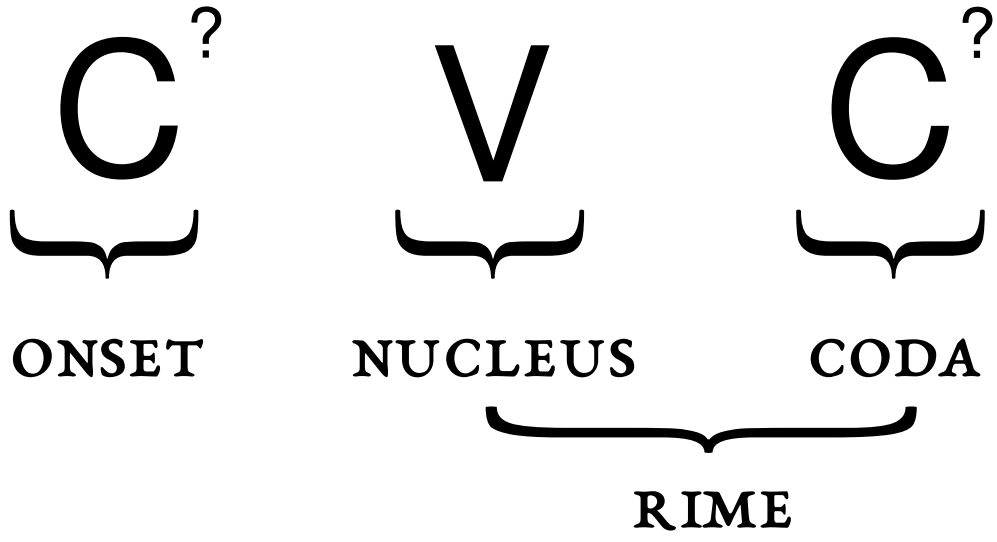
prāg

kārt

A syllable can have *zero or more* consonants after the vowel.

Basic Principles

1. The Syllable (σ) in Prakrit



In Prakrit, *one* consonant at most may occur both in onset and in the coda.

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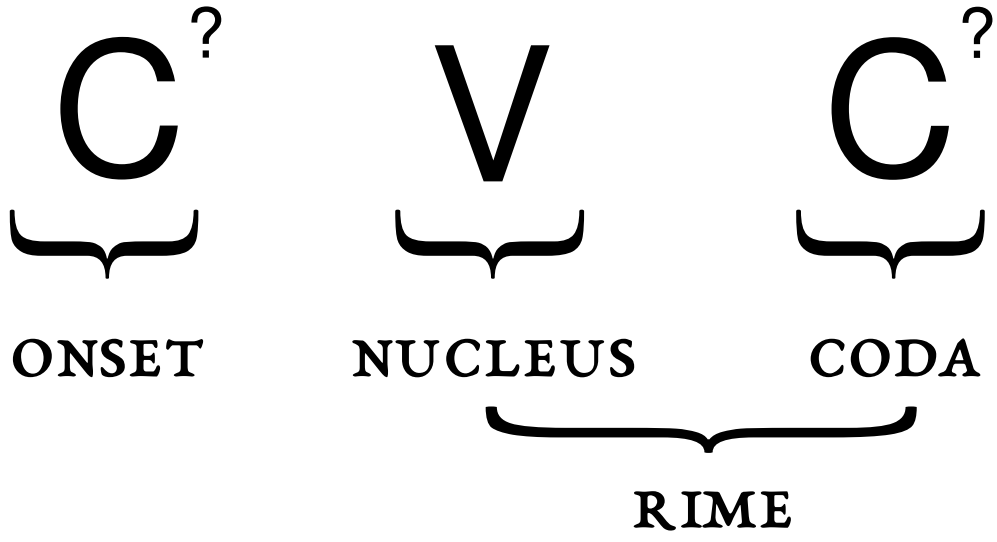
1. The Syllable (σ) in Prakrit



EXAMPLES

taṁ

maṁ

In Prakrit, *one* consonant at most may occur both in onset and in the coda.

1a. Parsing Syllables

ajjaṁ gao tti gaṇirīē

1a. Parsing Syllables

1. Each vowel gets its own syllable.

1a. Parsing Syllables

2. Fill onsets before codas:

Single (non-conjunct) consonants are always onsets.

ajjaṁ gao tti gaṇirīē

1a. Parsing Syllables

2. Fill onsets before codas:

In conjunct consonants, assign the *rightmost* conjunct to an onset, and then the *leftmost* conjunct to a coda.

ajjaṁ gao tti gaṇirīē

1a. Parsing Syllables

2. Fill onsets before codas:

In conjunct consonants, assign the *rightmost* conjunct to an onset, and then the *leftmost* conjunct to a coda.

σ σ σ σ σ σ σ σσ

ajjaṁ gao tti gaṇirīē

2. Syllable Weight

Syllables have a property of *weight* that is a function of the number of *moras (μ)* in the syllable.

2. Syllable Weight

Both vowels and consonants can contribute *moras* to the syllable.

Among consonants, only *coda* consonants contribute moras in Prakrit.

(Onset consonants contribute *zero* moras.)

2. Syllable Weight

The number of *moras* contributed by a vowel is determined by its length:

Short vowels contribute **one** mora, and *long vowels* **two.**

(Long diphthongs like *ai* and *au* would contribute three, but they do not occur in Prakrit, precisely because they are *trimoraic*.)

2. Syllable Weight

Each *coda consonant* contributes **one** mora to the weight of the syllable.

(In Prakrit, there is never more than one coda consonant.)

2. Syllable Weight

Syllables with **one** mora are called **light** (*lahu-*), and those with **two** are called **heavy** (*garua-*).

(In Prakrit, a syllable never has more than two moras.)

2. Syllable Weight

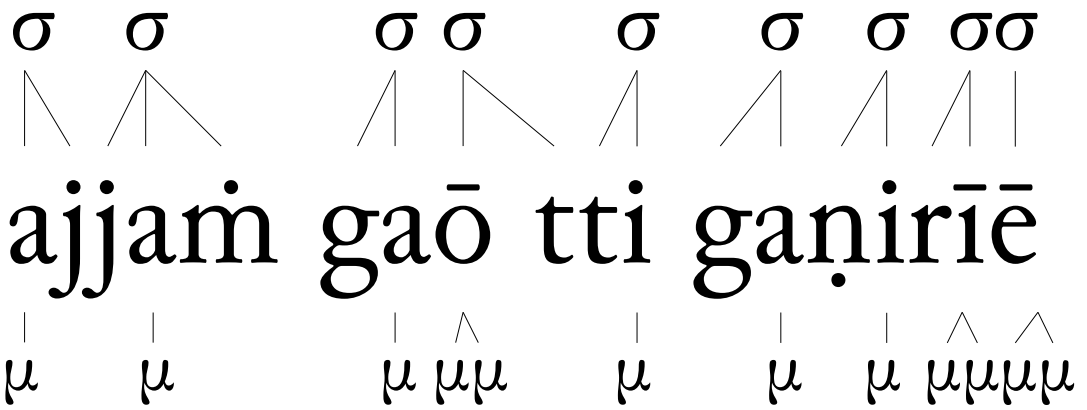
C$^{?}$V (e.g.: *khu*) → **Light**

C$^{?}$VC (e.g.: *taṁ*) → **Heavy**

C$^{?}$V̄ (e.g.: *sō*) → **Heavy**

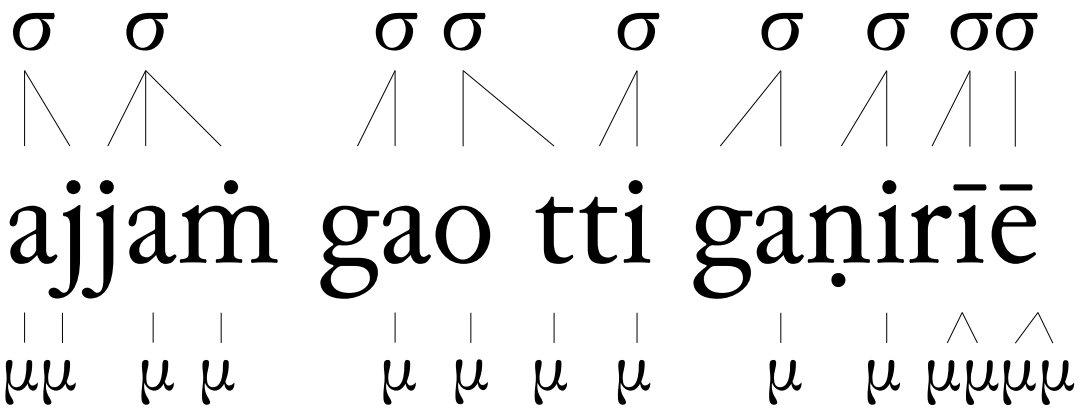
2a. Parsing Syllables by Weight

1. Assign *moras*.



2a. Parsing Syllables by Weight

1. Assign *moras*.



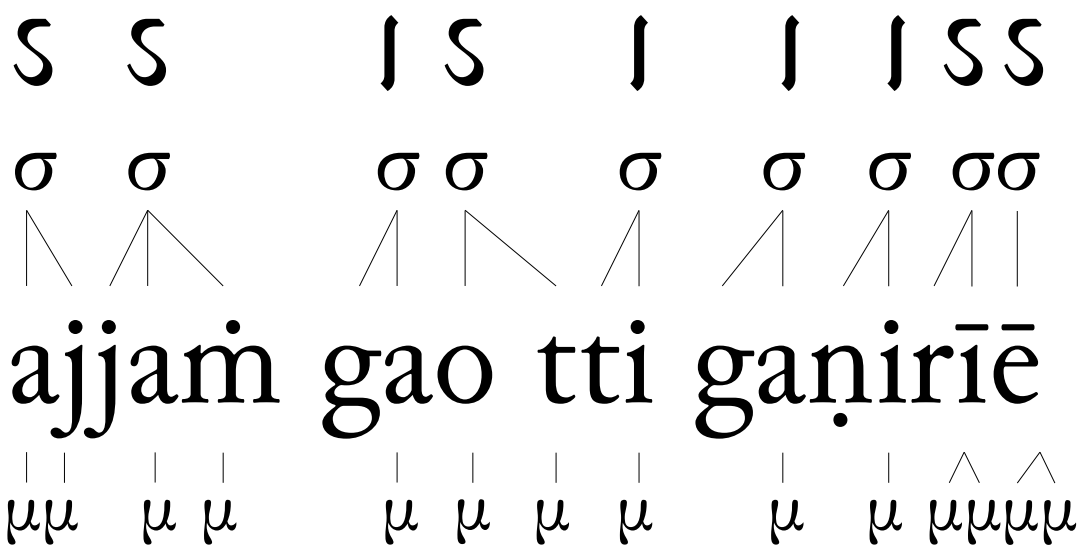
2a. Parsing Syllables by Weight

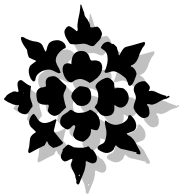
1. Count.

Symbols

ʃ = *light*

ʂ = *heavy*





समाप्तम्