

* श्री *

Prakrit

Spring Quarter 2018



Prakrit Meter

Gāhā





Gābā



NAME: *Gābā* (Prakrit)

Gāthā (Sanskrit)

Āryā (Sanskrit)

STRUCTURE:

1. One line of *30 moras*, organized into 7 and a half *groups*.
2. Another line of *27 moras*, also organized into 7 and a half *groups* (one of the groups being smaller than the others).



Gāhā



It is the most common meter in Prakrit literature and the archetype of a number of closely-related meters, like the *khandaam* (*skandhakam*).

It is also quite common in Sanskrit literature, although it appears to have been “borrowed” from Prakrit.



Gābā



Since its basic unit of counting is the *mora* or *mātrā*, it belongs to the larger category of *mātrika* meters, which are generally called *jātīḥ*.

This is in contrast to syllable-counting (*vārṇika*) meters, which are generally called *vṛttam*, and which predominate in Sanskrit.



Examples



Gāhā: Sattasai 249

*ajja maē gamtavvam ghañamdbaārē vi tassa subaassa
ajjā ḥimīliacchī paaparivāḍim gharē kūnai*



Units of Structure

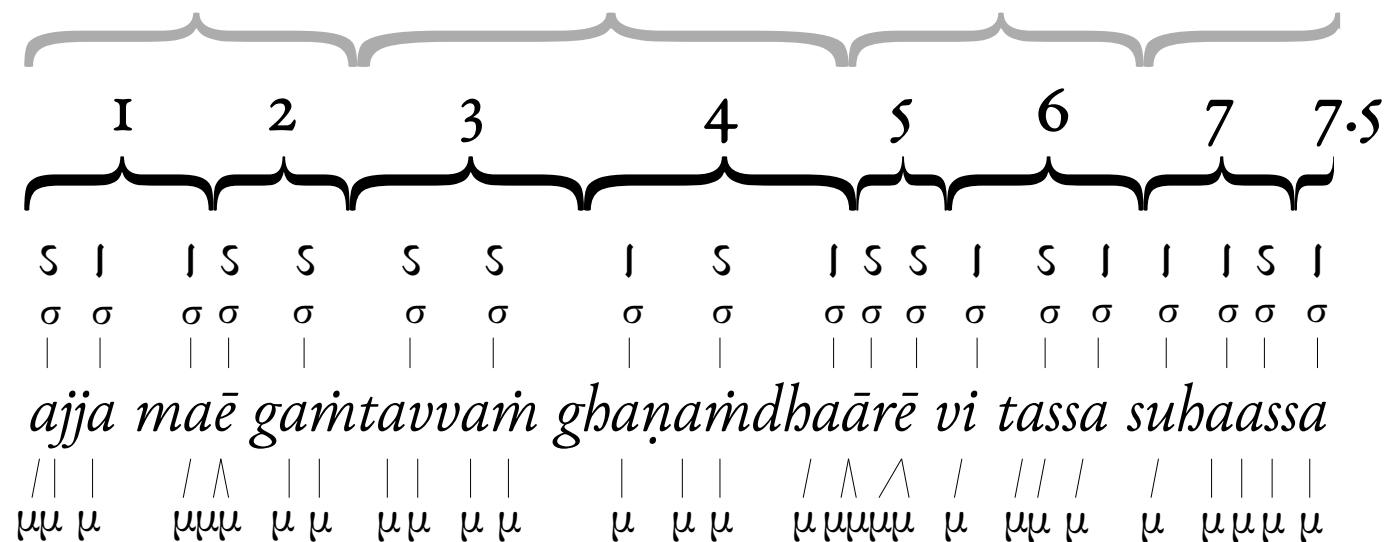


LINE

GROUPS

SYLLABLES

MORAS





Units of Structure



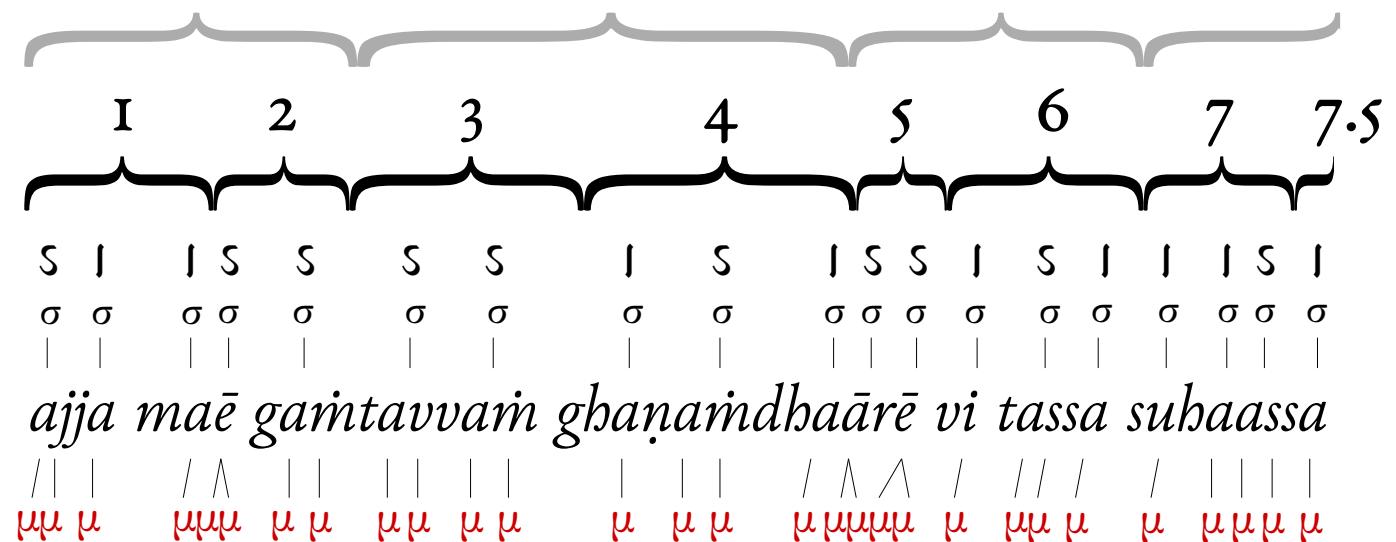
LINE

GROUPS

SYLLABLES

MORAS

mātrāḥ





Units of Structure



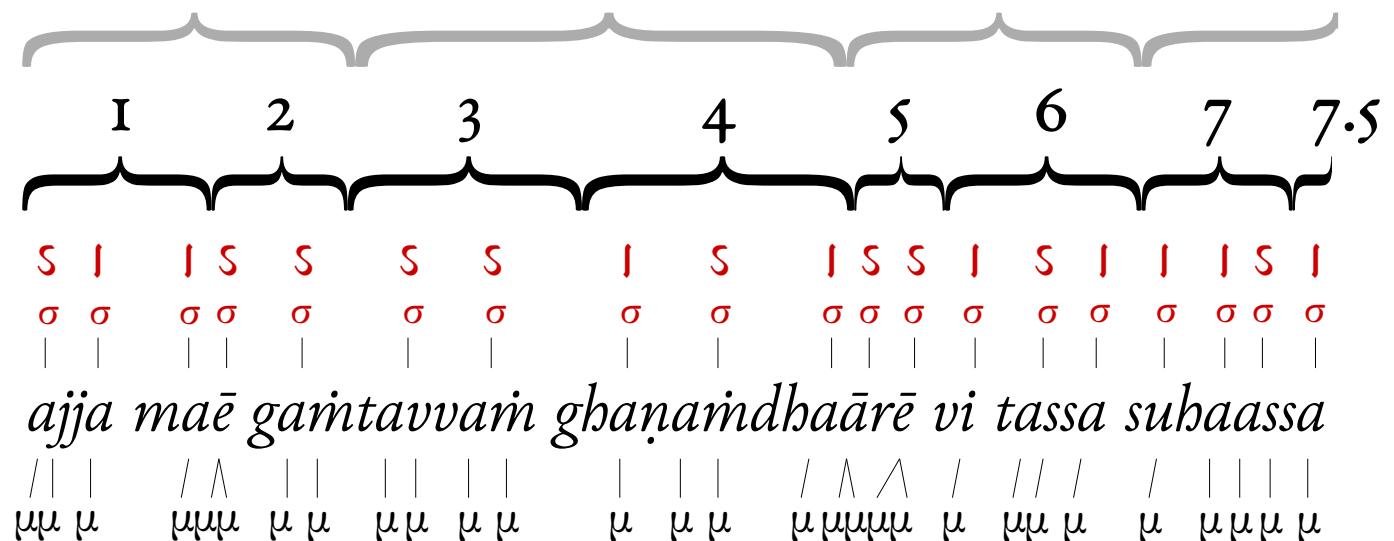
LINE

GROUPS

SYLLABLES

akṣarāṇi, varṇāḥ

MORAS





Units of Structure



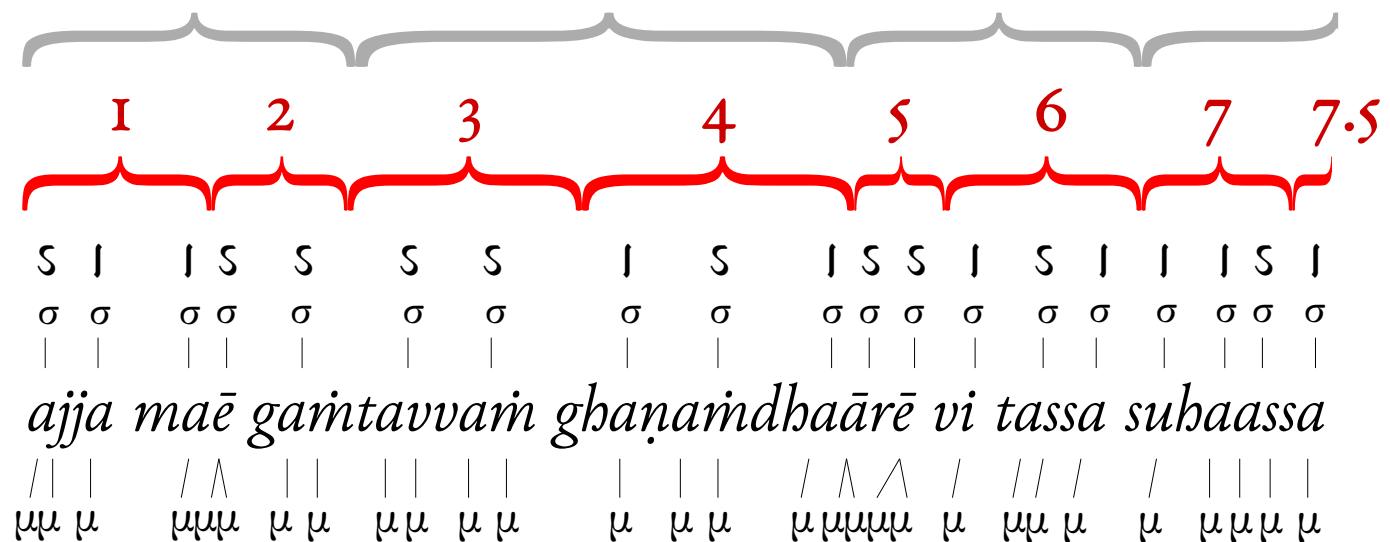
LINE

GROUPS

ganāḥ

SYLLABLES

MORAS





Units of Structure

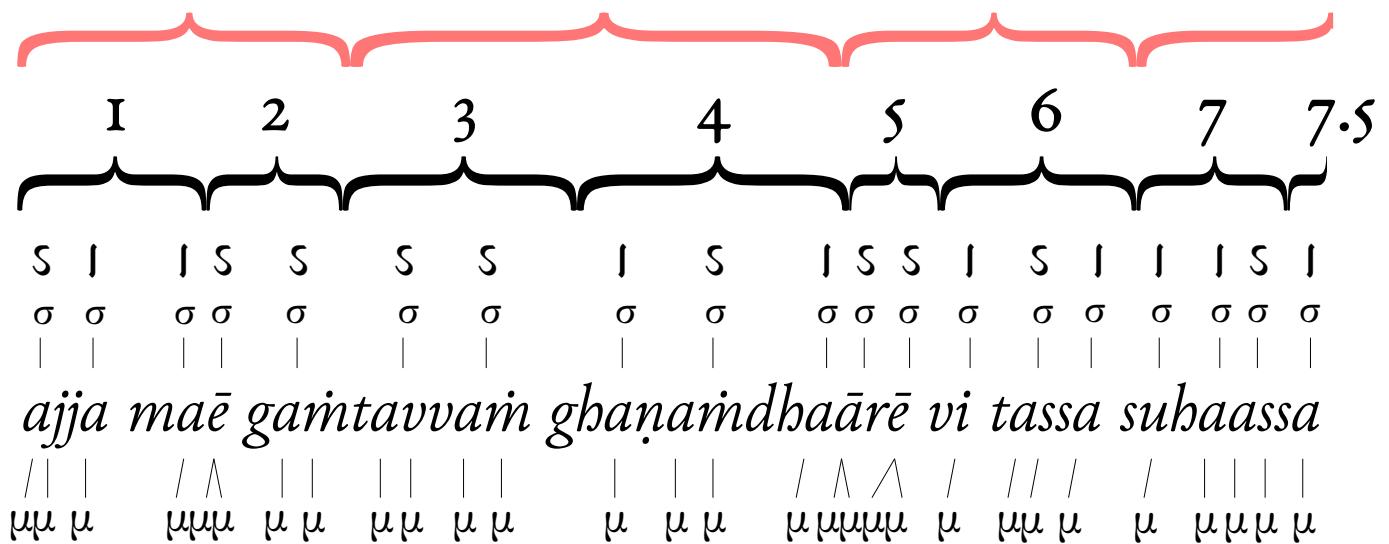


LINE

GROUPS

SYLLABLES

MORAS





Units of Structure



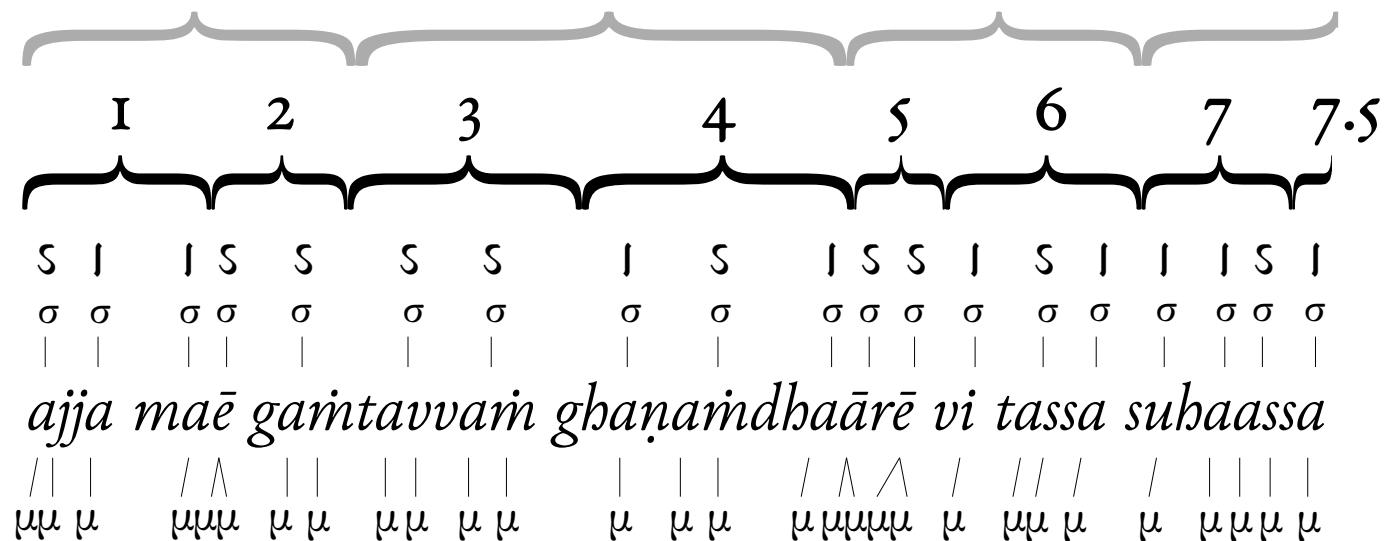
LINE

pādayugam

GROUPS

SYLLABLES

MORAS





Gābā



GROUPS (*gaṇāḥ*)

The most important level of structure for the *gābā*, which is why it and related meters are referred to as *gaṇacchandah* (“group-counting meters”).



Gābā



GROUPS (*gaṇāḥ*)

Any group of syllables that adds up to *four moras* (*mātrās*) in total.

μ μ μ μ

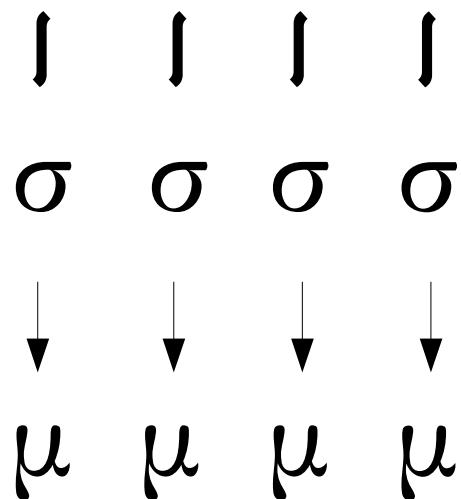


Gābā



GROUPS (*gaṇāḥ*)

Any group of syllables that adds up to *four moras* (*mātrās*) in total.



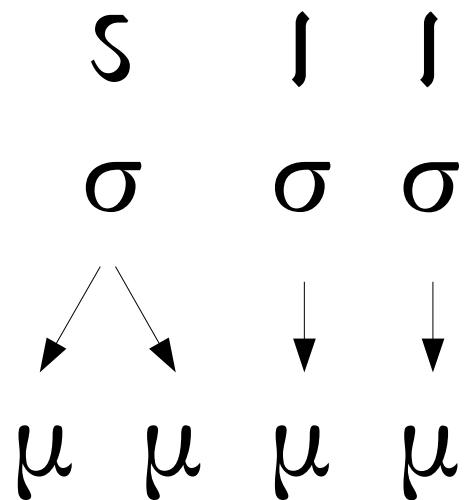


Gābā



GROUPS (*gaṇāḥ*)

Any group of syllables that adds up to *four moras* (*mātrās*) in total.



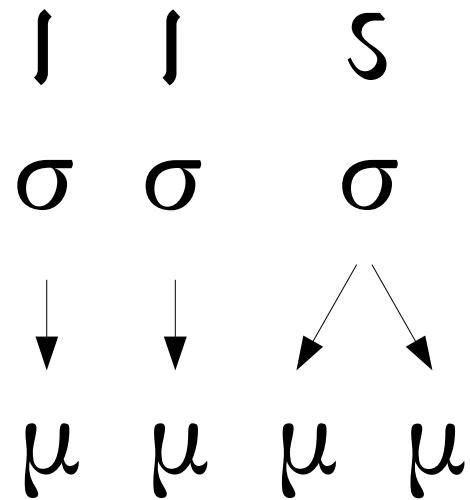


Gābā



GROUPS (*gaṇāḥ*)

Any group of syllables that adds up to *four moras* (*mātrās*) in total.



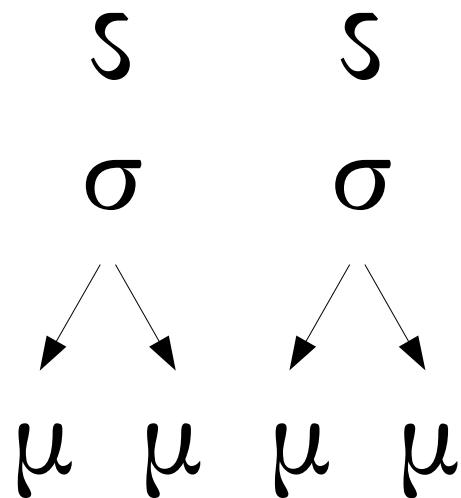


Gābā



GROUPS (*gaṇāḥ*)

Any group of syllables that adds up to *four moras* (*mātrās*) in total.



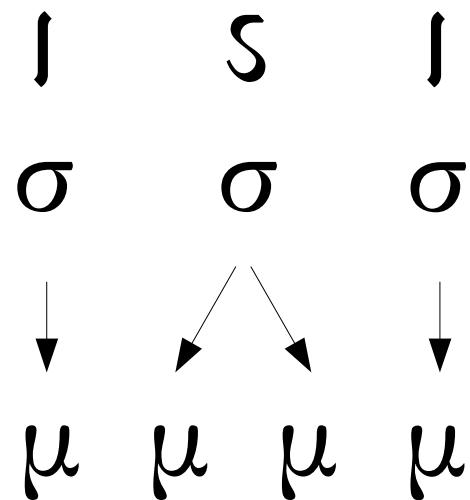


Gābā



GROUPS (*gaṇāḥ*)

Any group of syllables that adds up to *four moras* (*mātrās*) in total.





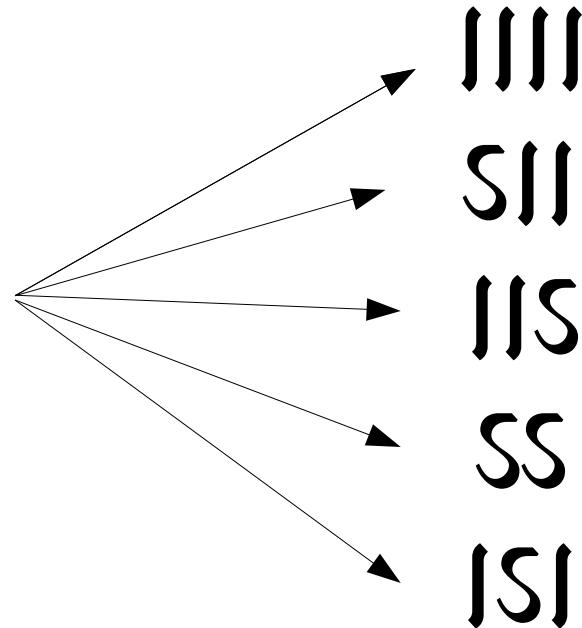
Gābā



GROUPS (*gaṇāḥ*)

Any group of syllables that adds up to *four moras* (*mātrās*) in total.

caturmātrah gaṇah





Gābā

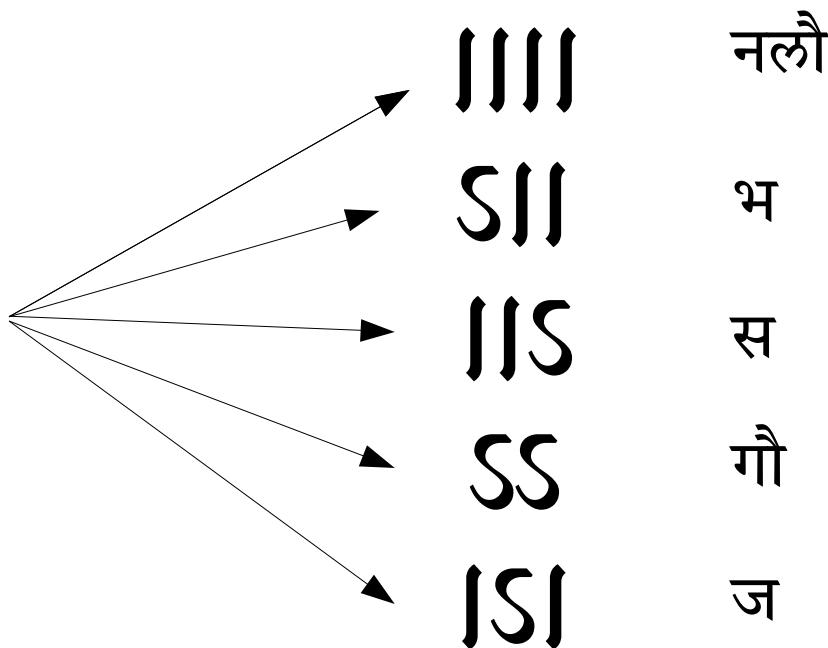


GROUPS (*gaṇāḥ*)

Any group of syllables that adds up to *four moras* (*mātrās*) in total.

trika names

caturmātrab gaṇah





Gābā



GROUPS (*gaṇāḥ*)

Groups can be classified as *syncopated* or *unsyncopated* depending on the location of the stress.

UNSYNCOPATED $\begin{bmatrix} \mu & \mu \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mu & \mu \end{bmatrix}$

× ×



Gābā



GROUPS (*gaṇāḥ*)

Groups can be classified as *syncopated* or *unsyncopated* depending on the location of the stress.

S S
| | S
S | |

UNSYNCOPATED [μ μ][μ μ]
 x x



Gābā



GROUPS (*gaṇāḥ*)

Groups can be classified as *syncopated* or *unsyncopated* depending on the location of the stress.

SYNCOPATED

$$\mu \left[\begin{matrix} \mu & \mu \end{matrix} \right] \mu$$

×



Gābā



GROUPS (*gaṇāḥ*)

Groups can be classified as *syncopated* or *unsyncopated* depending on the location of the stress.

SYNCOPATED

| S |
μ [μ μ] μ
 x



Gāhā



GROUPS (*gaṇāḥ*)

Four light syllables can be parsed either way, and hence the location of a word boundary (*yatib*) is important.

UNSYNCOPATED

The diagram consists of four identical units arranged horizontally. Each unit features a vertical arrow pointing downwards from the top to the bottom. Below each arrow is a bracket that spans the width of the arrow. The first and third units have a small 'x' mark at the bottom of their brackets, while the second and fourth units have a small 'x' mark at the top of their brackets.



Gāhā



GROUPS (*gaṇāḥ*)

Four light syllables can be parsed either way, and hence the location of a word boundary (*yatiḥ*) is important.

UNSYNCOPATED

The diagram consists of two rows of symbols. The top row contains four pairs of vertical bars: the first pair is open at the top, the second is closed at the top with a vertical dotted line, the third is open at the top, and the fourth is closed at the top with a vertical dotted line. The bottom row contains four pairs of brackets: the first pair is square brackets [μ μ], the second is curly brackets {μ μ}, the third is square brackets [μ μ] with an 'x' below the bottom bracket, and the fourth is curly brackets {μ μ} with an 'x' below the bottom bracket.

SYNCOPATED

$$\mu \begin{bmatrix} \mu & \mu \end{bmatrix} \mu$$



Gābā



GROUPS (*gaṇāḥ*)

UNSYNCOPATED SYNCOPATED

carāṇah SII

ISI *narēndrah*

karaḥ IIS

I,III *viprah*

karnah SS

viprah IIII



Gābā



The basic principle of the *gābā* family of meters is an alternation between unsyncopated and syncopated groups of syllables.

(But this is not totally obvious from the rules.)



Gābā



The last “half group” is always a single syllable, because any syllable at the end of the line is counted as heavy, and therefore as two moras (half of a four-mora group).

(This is a metrical phenomenon called *catalexis*.)



Gābā



Heavy syllables *never* straddle the boundary
between groups.



Gābā



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	7.5
SS	S						
SII	I						
IIS							
III							
ISI							

First Line



Gābā



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	7.5
SS	SS	SS	SS	SS	SS	SS	S
SII	SII	SII	SII	SII	SII	SII	I
IIS	IIS	IIS	IIS	IIS	IIS	IIS	
III	III	III	III	III	III	III	
ISI	ISI	ISI	ISI	ISI	ISI	ISI	

First Line



Gābā



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	7.5
SS	SS	SS	SS	SS	SS	SS	S
SII	SII	SII	SII	SII	SII	SII	I
IIS	IIS	IIS	IIS	IIS	IIS	IIS	
III	III	III	III	III	I, III	III	
ISI	ISI	ISI	ISI	ISI	ISI	ISI	

First Line



Gābā



U	S/U	U	S/U	U	S	U	
I	2	3	4	5	6	7	7.5
SS	SS	SS	SS	SS	SS	SS	S
SII	SII	SII	SII	SII	SII	SII	I
IIS	IIS	IIS	IIS	IIS	IIS	IIS	
III	III	III	III	III	I, III	III	
ISI	ISI	ISI	ISI	ISI	ISI	ISI	

First Line



Gābā



U	S/U	U	S/U	U	S	U	
I	2	3	4	5	6	7	7.5
SS	SS	SS	SS	SS	I	SS	S
SII	SII	SII	SII	SII		SII	I
IIS	IIS	IIS	IIS	IIS		IIS	
III	III	III	III	III		III	
ISI	ISI	ISI	ISI	ISI		ISI	

Second Line



Example



*ajja maē gamtavvam ghañamdhārē vi tassa suhaassa
ajjā ḥimiliacchī paaparivāḍim gharē kūnai*

“I have to make it to him tonight
however thick the darkness may be.”
With her eyes closed
the girl plans her steps carefully
at home.



Example



I
S I I

ajja maē gamtavvam ghañamdhārē vi tassa subaassa



Example

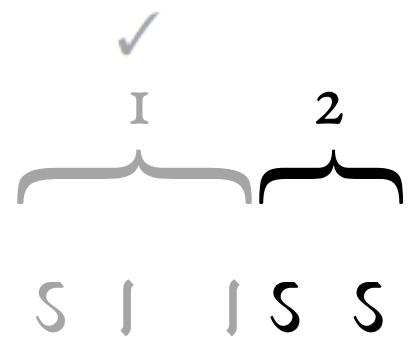


✓
I
S I I

ajja maē gamtavvam ghañamdhārē vi tassa subaassa



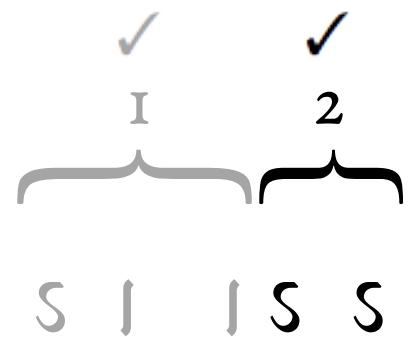
Example



ajja maē gamtavvam ghañamdhārē vi tassa subaassa



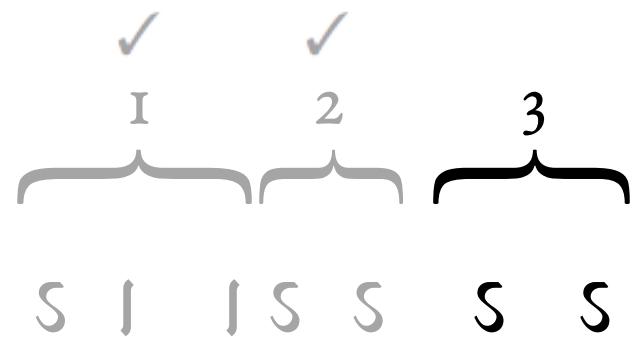
Example



ajja maē gamtavvam̄ ghañamdhārē vi tassa subaassa



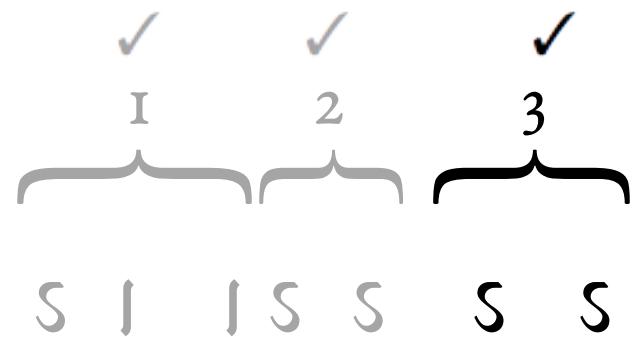
Example



ajja maē gamtavvam ghañamdhārē vi tassa subaassa



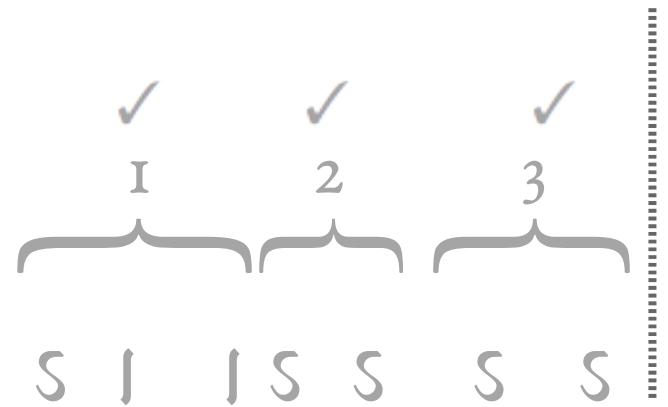
Example



ajja maē gamtavvam̄ ghañamdhārē vi tassa subaasssa



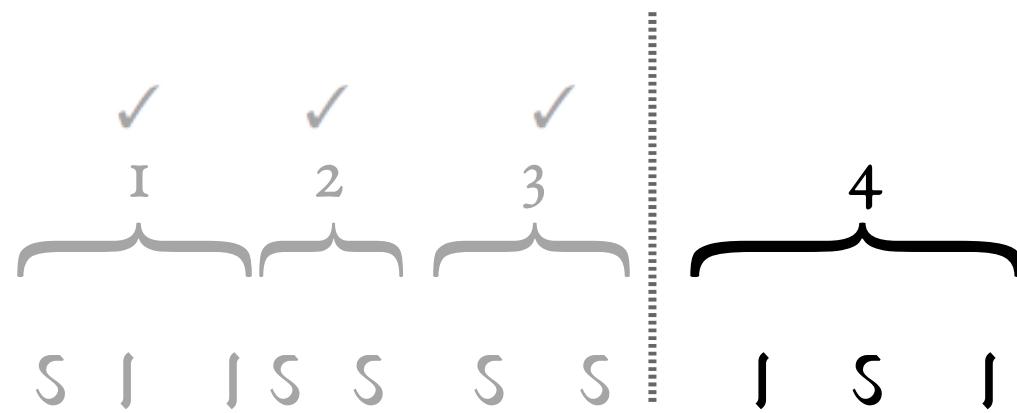
Example



ajja maē gamtavvam̄ ghañamdhārē vi tassa subaassa



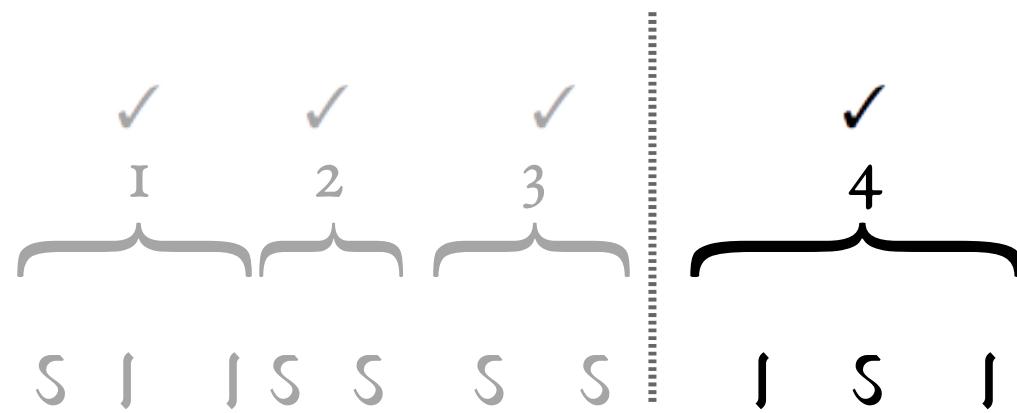
Example



ajja maē gamtavvam̄ ghañamdhārē vi tassa subaassa



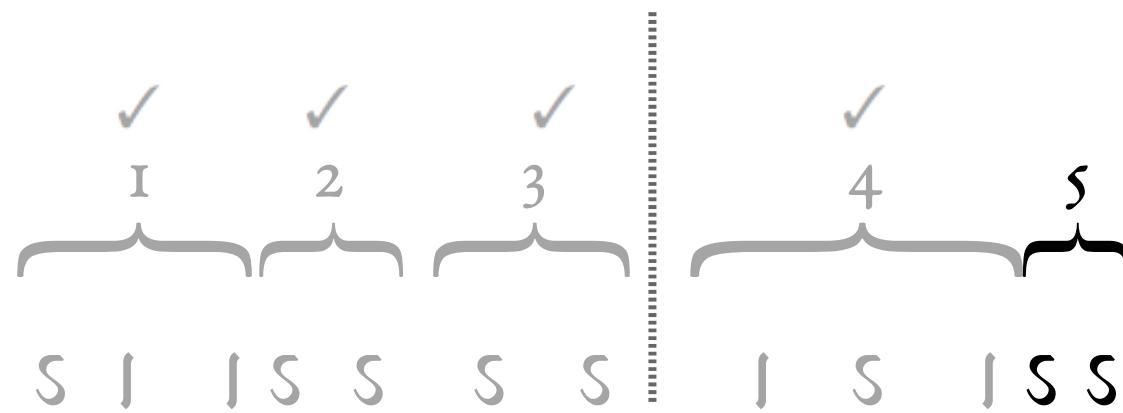
Example



ajja maē gamtavvam̄ ghañamdhārē vi tassa subaassa



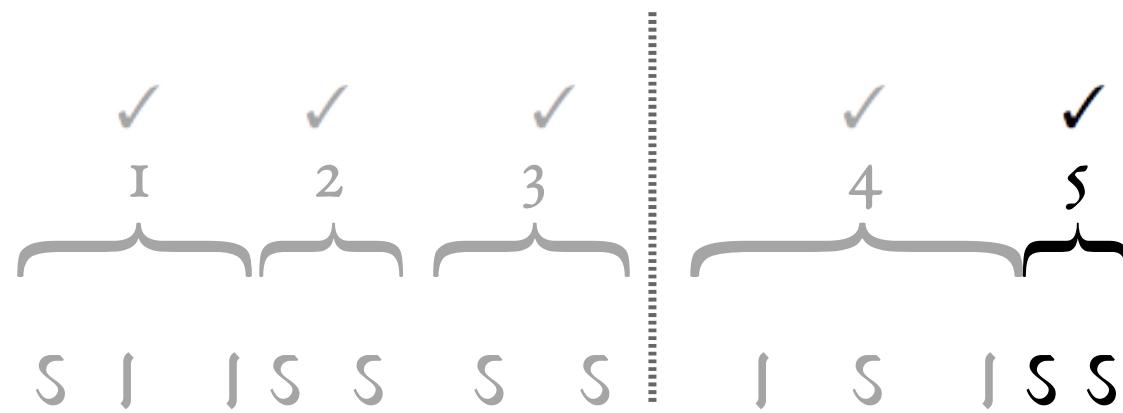
Example



ajja maē gamtavvam̄ ghañamdhārē vi tassa subaassa



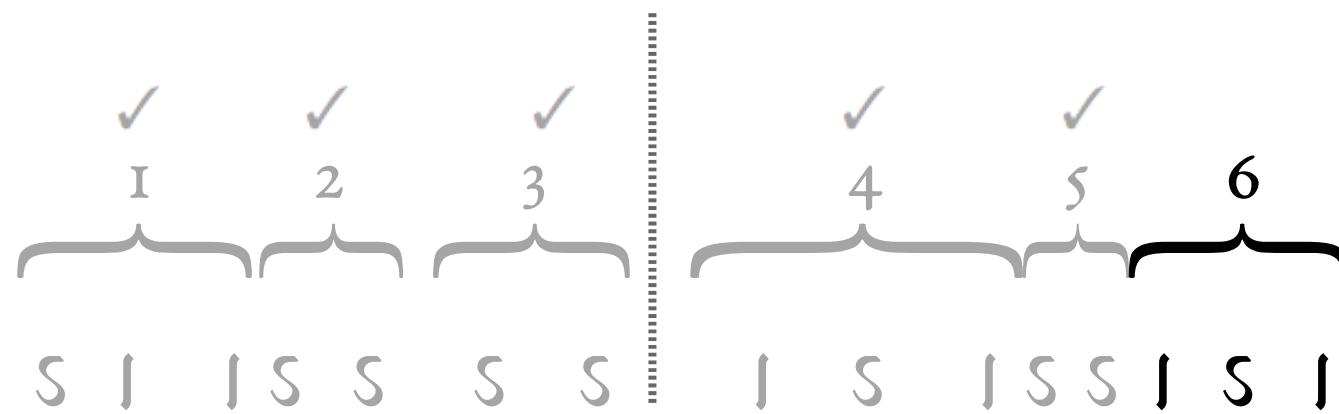
Example



ajja maē gamtavvam̄ ghañamdhārē vi tassa subaassa



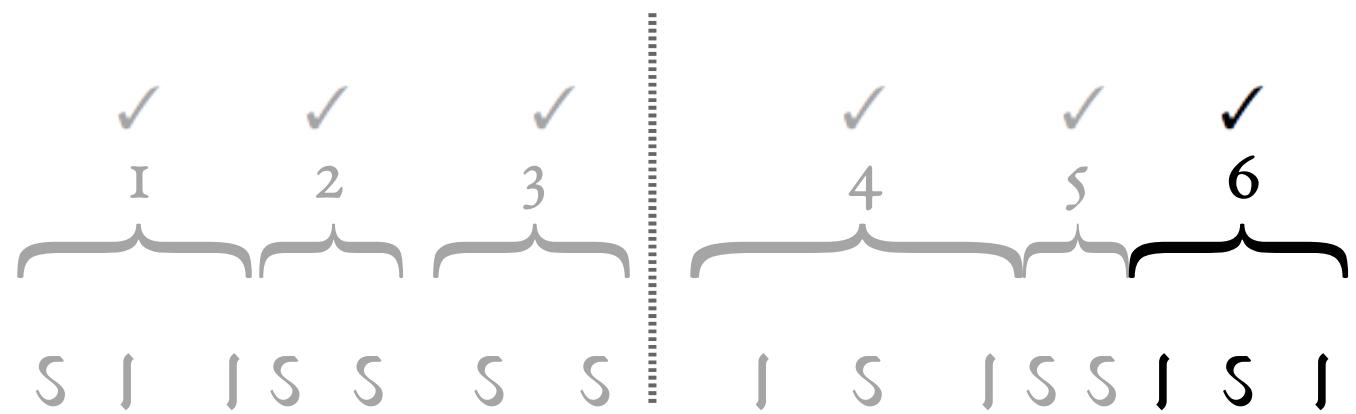
Example



ajja maē gamtavvam ghañamdhārē vi tassa subaassa



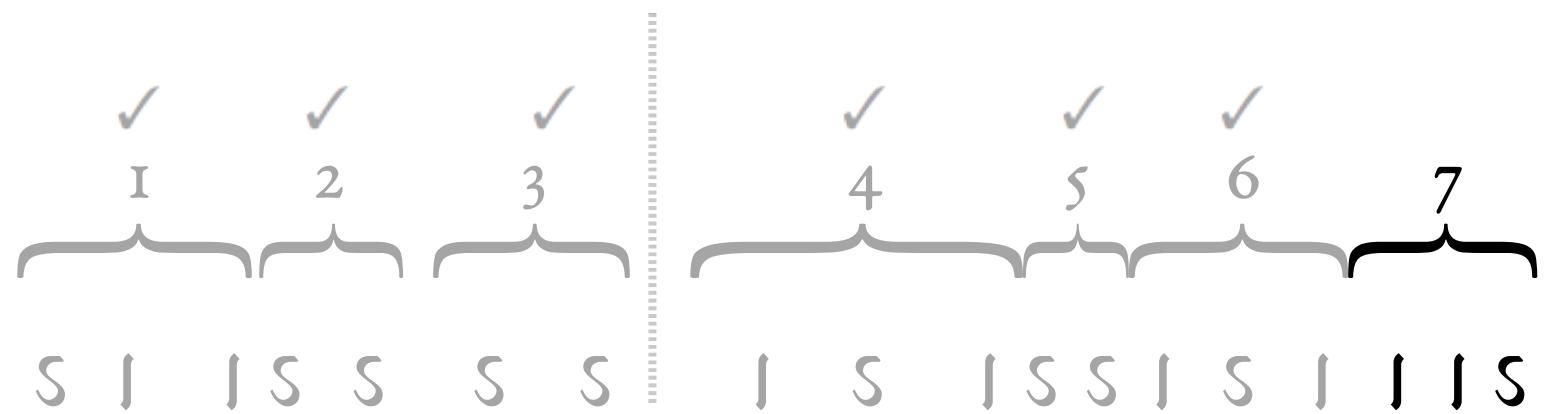
Example



ajja maē gamtavvam̄ ghañamdhārē vi tassa subaassa



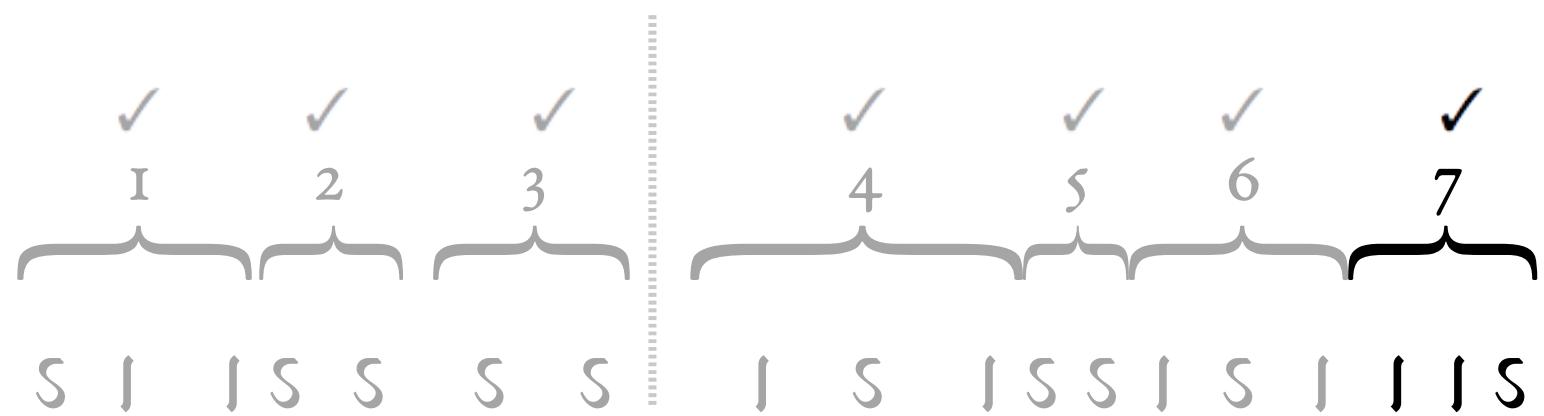
Example



ajja maē gamtavvam ghañamdhārē vi tassa subaassa



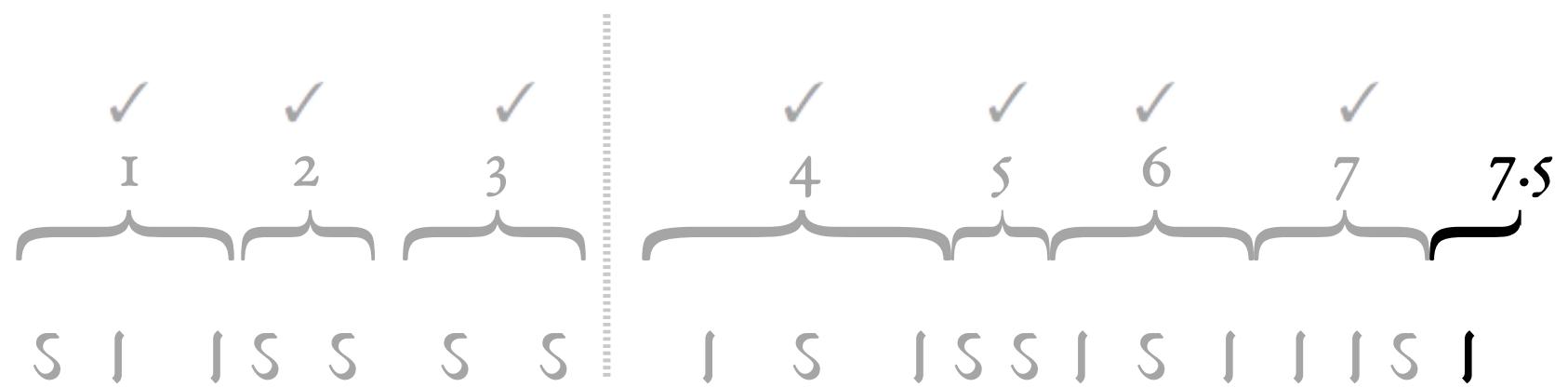
Example



ajja maē gamtavvam ghañamdhārē vi tassa subaassa



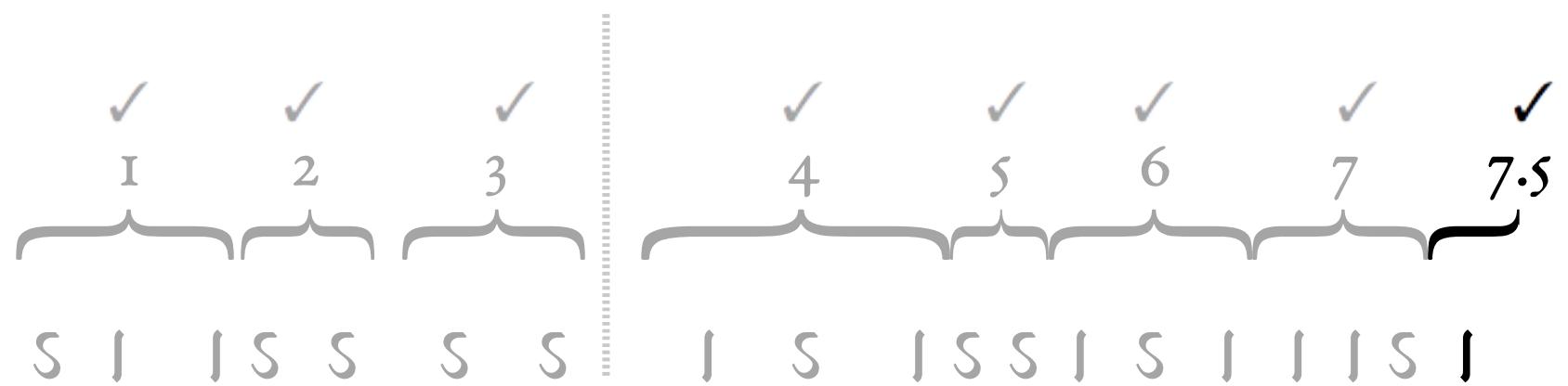
Example



ajja maē gamtavvam ghañamdhārē vi tassa subaassa



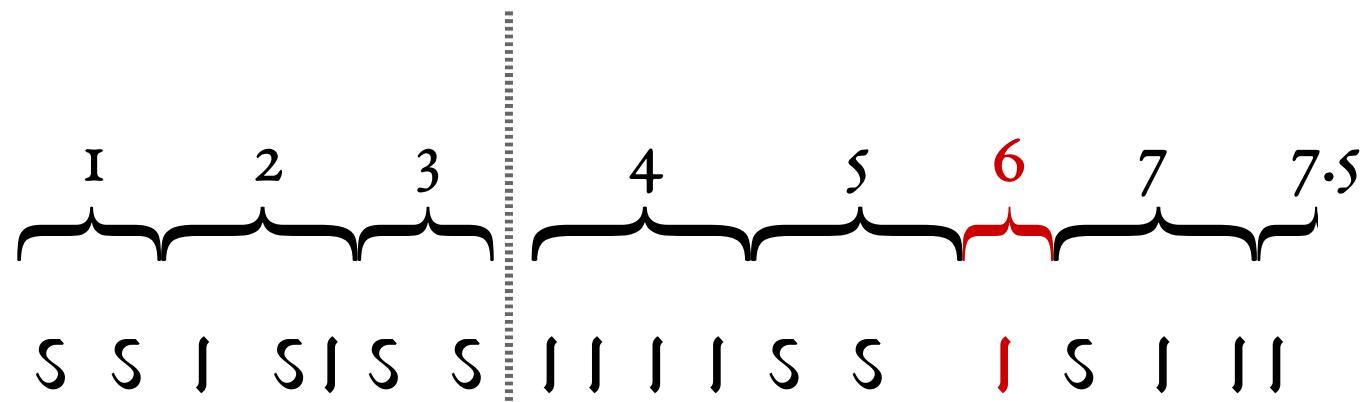
Example



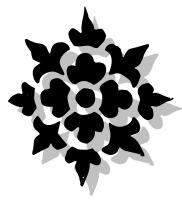
ajja maē gamtavvam̄ ghañamdhārē vi tassa subaassa



Example



ajjā ḡimīliacchī paaparivāḍim gharē kūnai



ਸਮਾਂ

