

* श्री *

Prakrit

Spring Quarter 2018



Prakrit Meter

Gāhā





Gāhā



NAME: *Gāhā* (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.



Gāhā



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

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



Examples



Gāhā: Sattasāi 249

ajja maē gaṃtavvaṃ ghaṇaṃdhaārē vi tassa suhaassa

ajjā ṇimīliacchī paaparivāḍim gharē kuṇāi



Units of Structure

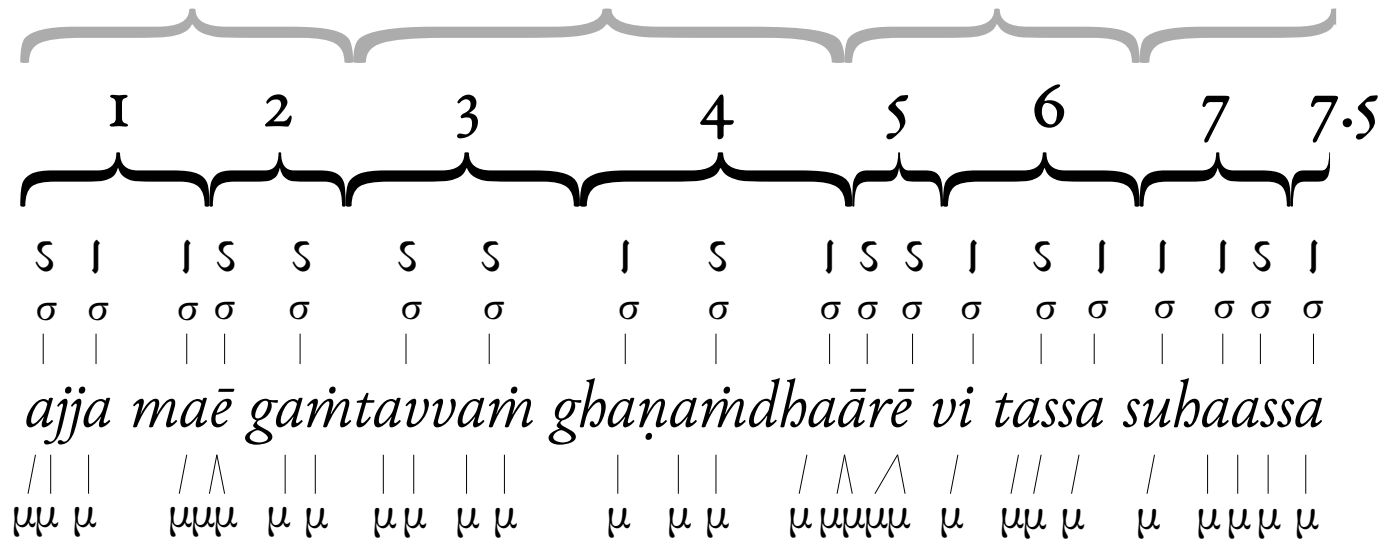


LINE

GROUPS

SYLLABLES

MORAS





Units of Structure



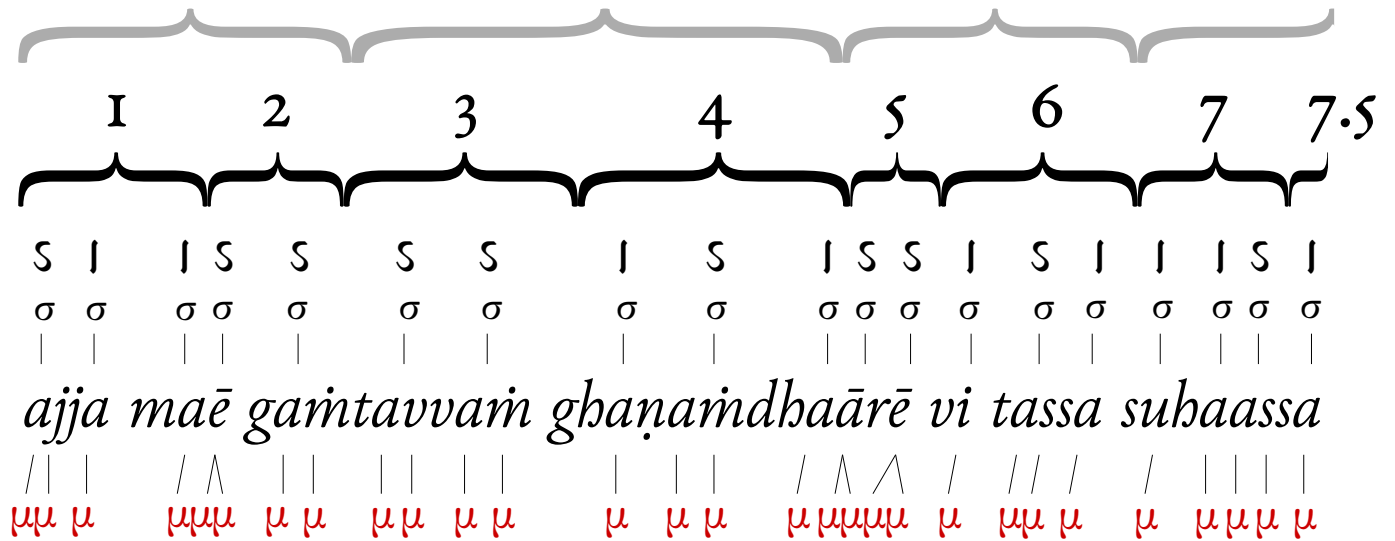
LINE

GROUPS

SYLLABLES

MORAS

mātrāḥ





Units of Structure



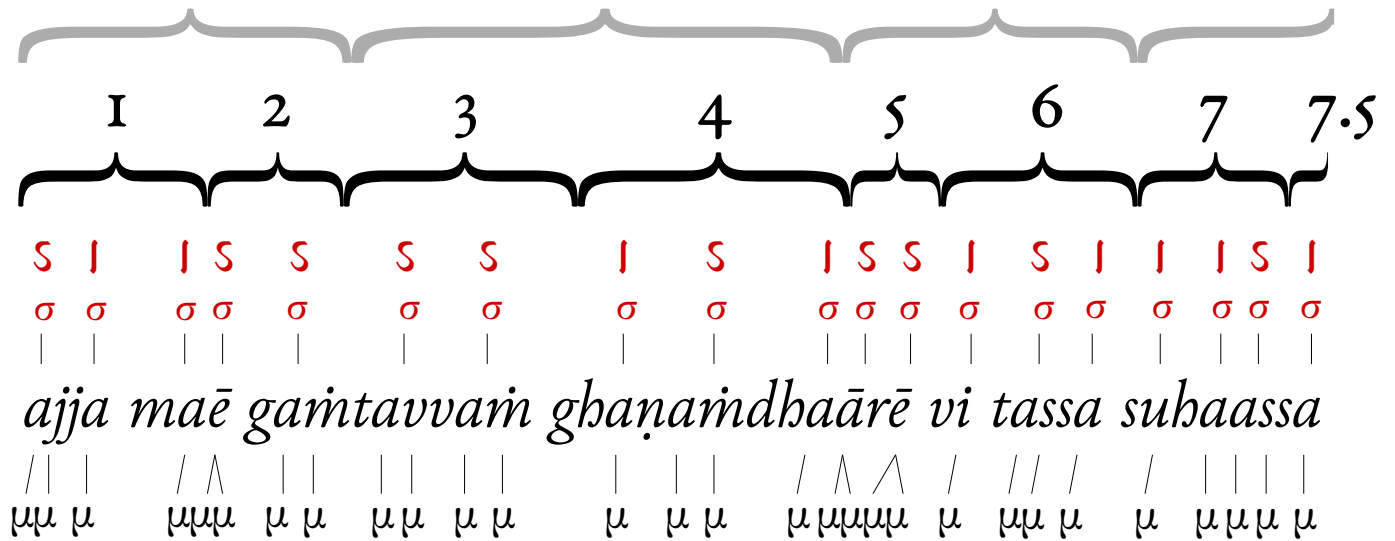
LINE

GROUPS

SYLLABLES

akṣarāṇi, varṇāḥ

MORAS





Units of Structure



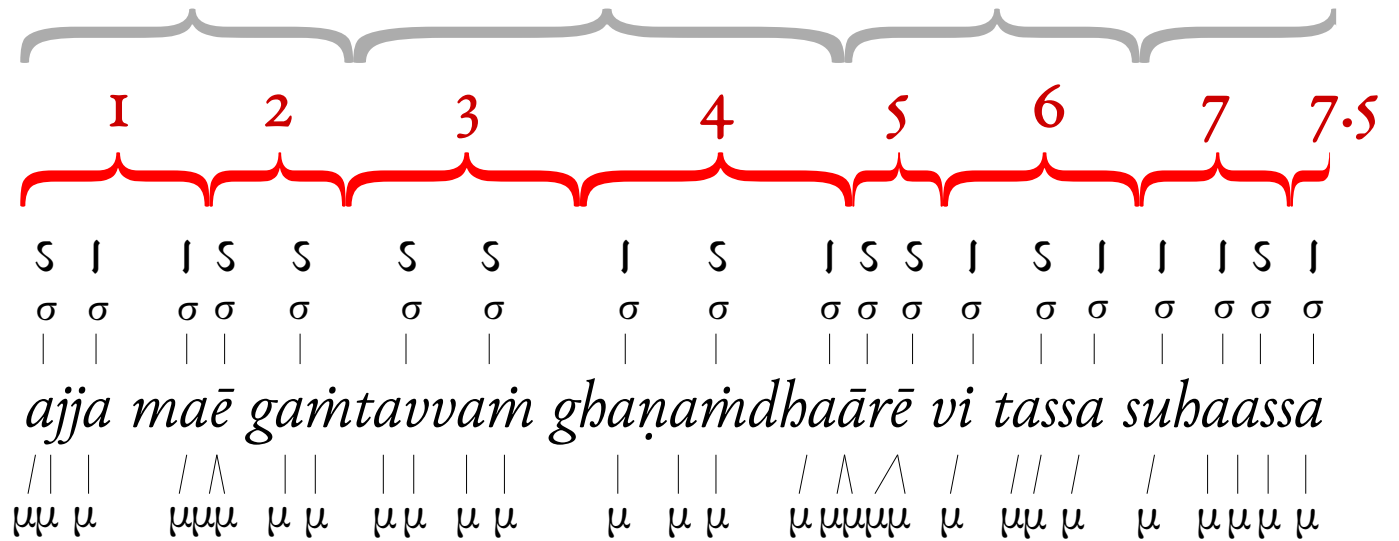
LINE

GROUPS

gaṇāḥ

SYLLABLES

MORAS





Units of Structure

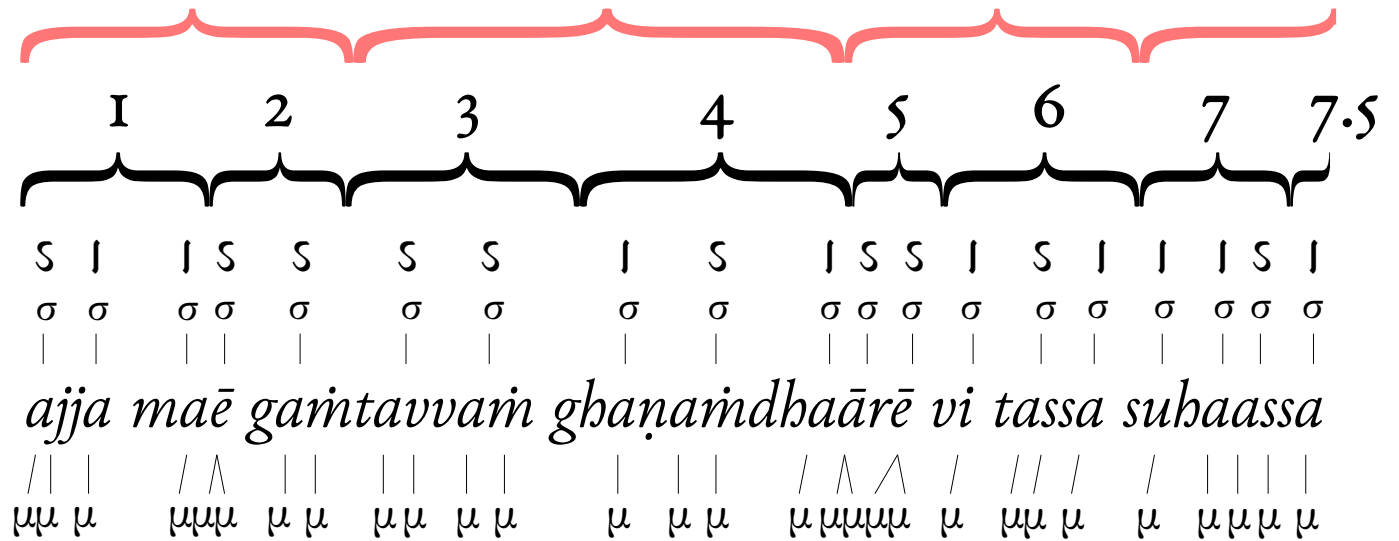


LINE

GROUPS

SYLLABLES

MORAS





Units of Structure



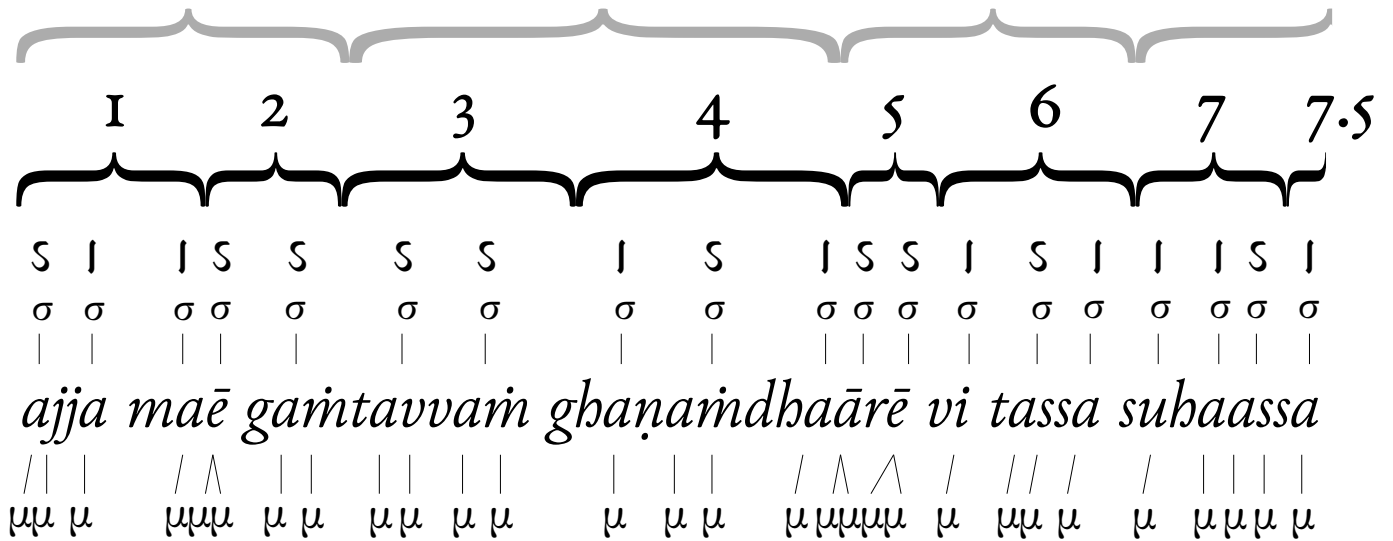
LINE

pādayugam

GROUPS

SYLLABLES

MORAS





Gāhā



GROUPS (*gaṇāḥ*)

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



Gāhā



GROUPS (*gaṇāḥ*)

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

μ μ μ μ

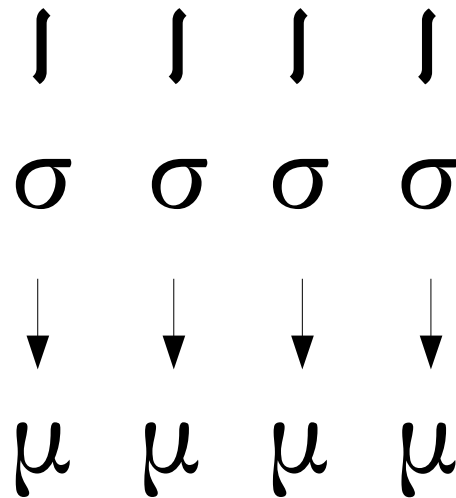


Gāhā



GROUPS (*gaṇāḥ*)

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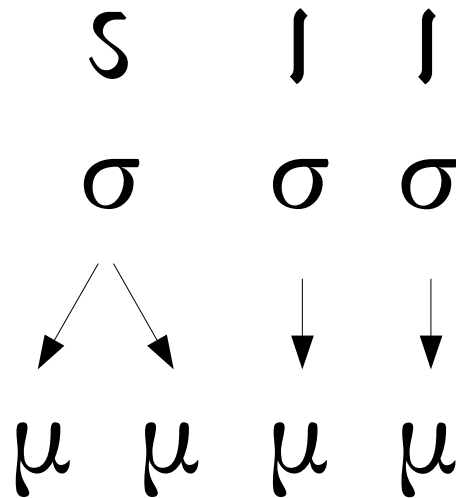


Gāhā



GROUPS (*gaṇāḥ*)

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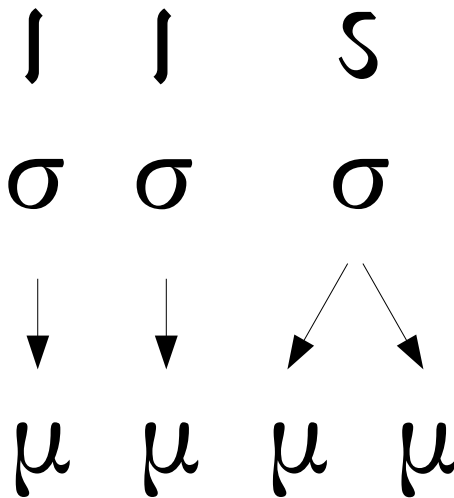


Gāhā



GROUPS (*gaṇāḥ*)

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



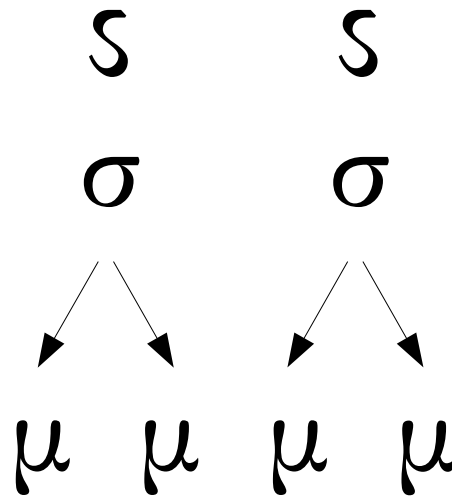


Gāhā



GROUPS (*gaṇāḥ*)

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



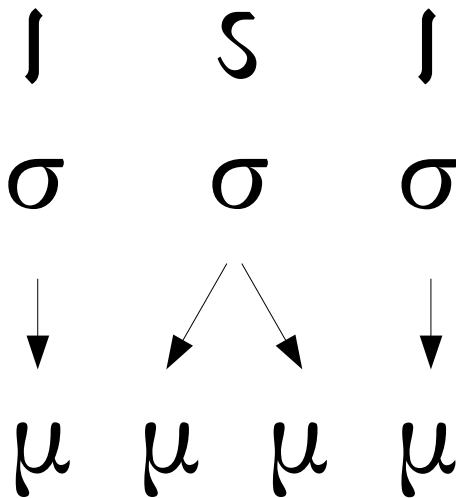


Gāhā



GROUPS (*gaṇāḥ*)

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





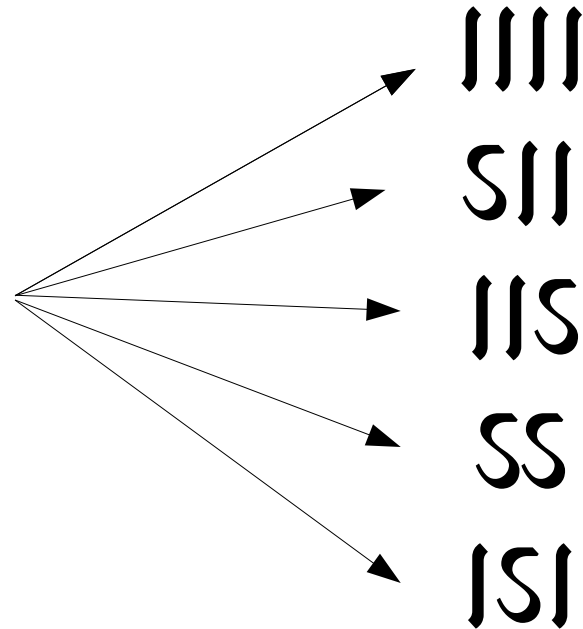
Gāhā



GROUPS (*gaṇāḥ*)

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

caturmātraḥ gaṇāḥ





Gāhā

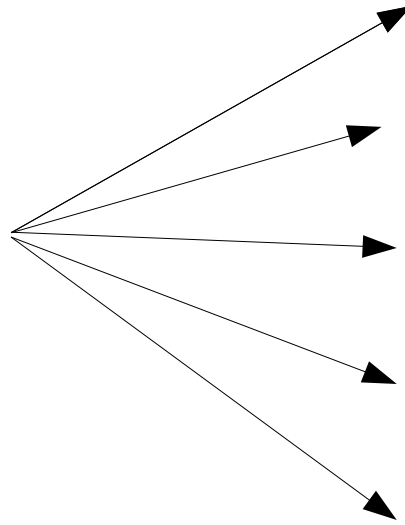


GROUPS (*gaṇāḥ*)

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

trika names

caturmātraḥ gaṇāḥ



IIII

नलौ

SII

भ

IIS

स

SS

गौ

ISI

ज



Gāhā



GROUPS (*gaṇāḥ*)

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

UNSYNCOPATED $\left[\underset{\times}{\mu} \quad \mu \right] \left[\underset{\times}{\mu} \quad \mu \right]$



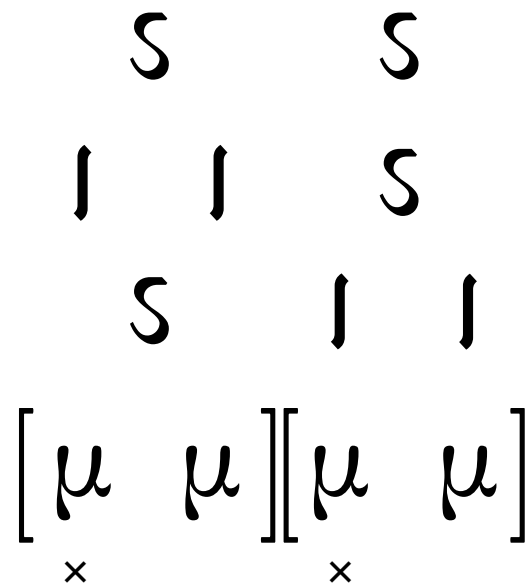
Gāhā



GROUPS (*gaṇāḥ*)

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

UNSYNCOPATED





Gāhā



GROUPS (*gaṇāḥ*)

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

SYNCOPATED

$\mu \left[\underset{\times}{\mu} \quad \mu \right] \mu$



Gāhā



GROUPS (*gaṇāḥ*)

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

SYNCOATED

 | s |
μ [μ μ] μ
 ×

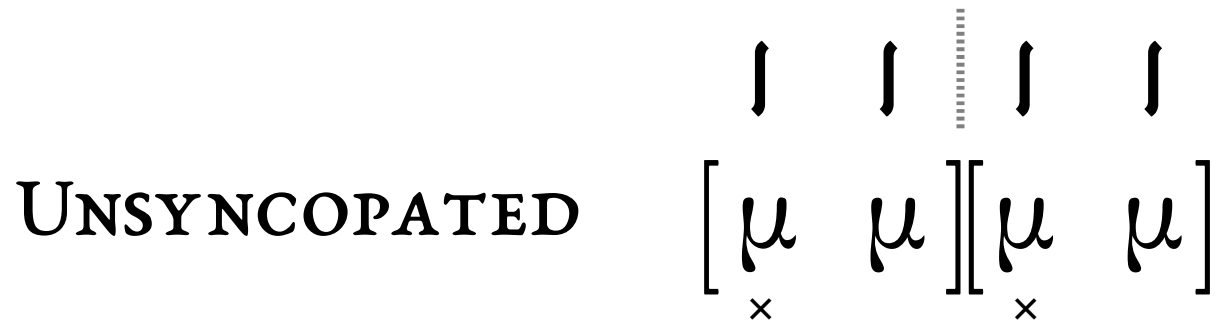


Gāhā



GROUPS (*gaṇāḥ*)

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



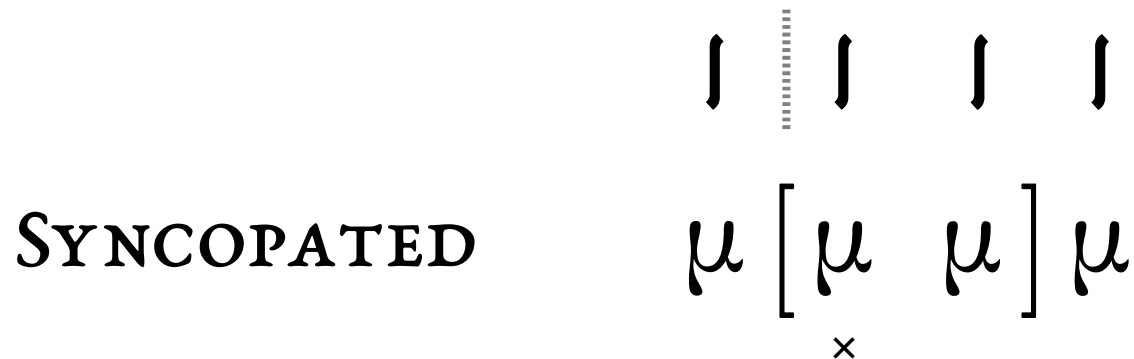
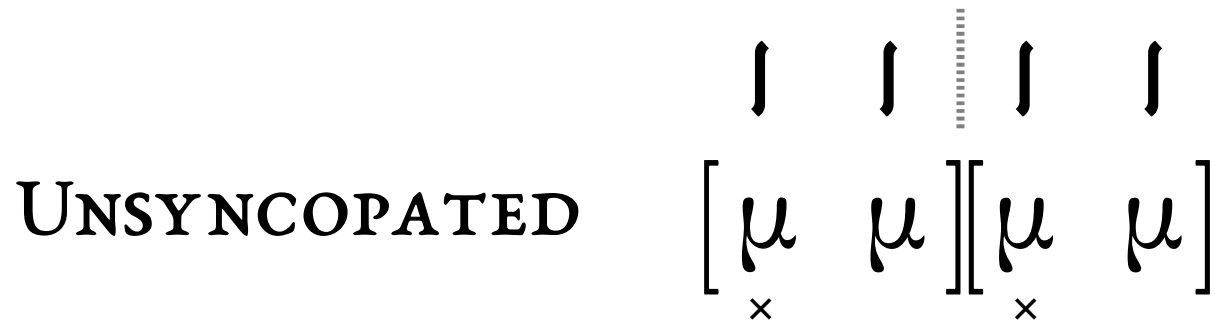


Gāhā



GROUPS (*gaṇāḥ*)

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





Gāhā



GROUPS (*gaṇāḥ*)

UNSYNCOATED

SYNCOATED

caranāḥ

SII

ISI

narēndraḥ

karaḥ

IIS

I,III

vipraḥ

karnāḥ

SS

vipraḥ

IIII



Gāhā



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

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



Gāhā



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*.)



Gāhā



Heavy syllables *never* straddle the boundary
between groups.



Gāhā



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	
IIII	IIII	IIII	IIII	IIII	IIII	IIII	
ISI	ISI	ISI	ISI	ISI	ISI	ISI	

First Line



Gāhā



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	
IIII	IIII	IIII	IIII	IIII	IIII	IIII	
ISI	ISI	ISI	ISI	ISI	ISI	ISI	

First Line



Gāhā



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	
IIII	IIII	IIII	IIII	IIII	I,IIII	IIII	
ISI	ISI	ISI	ISI	ISI	ISI	ISI	

First Line



Gāhā



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	
IIII	IIII	IIII	IIII	IIII	I,III	IIII	
ISI	ISI	ISI	ISI	ISI	ISI	ISI	

First Line



Gāhā



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	
IIII	IIII	IIII	IIII	IIII		IIII	
ISI	ISI	ISI	ISI	ISI		ISI	

Second Line



Example



*ajja maē gamtavvaṃ ghaṇaṃdhaārē vi tassa suhaassa
ajjā nimīliacchī paaparivāḍiṃ gharē kuṇai*

“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 gaṁtavvaṁ ghaṇaṁdhaārē vi tassa suhaassa



Example

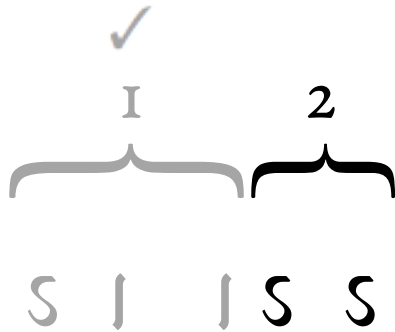


✓
I
┌───┐
S I I

ajja maē gamtavvaṃ ghaṇaṃdhaārē vi tassa suhaassa



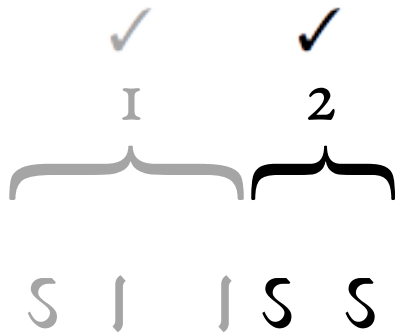
Example



ajja maē gaṃtavvaṃ ghaṇaṃdhaārē vi tassa suhaassa



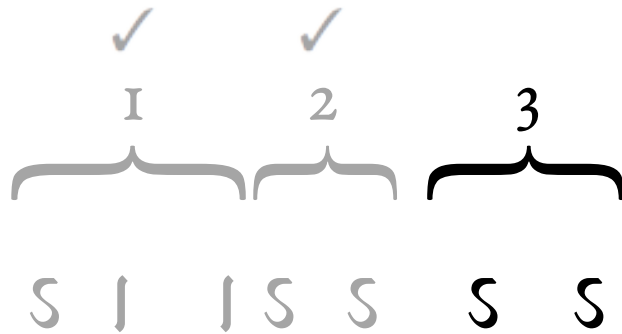
Example



ajja maē gaṃtavvaṃ ghaṇaṃdhaārē vi tassa suhaassa



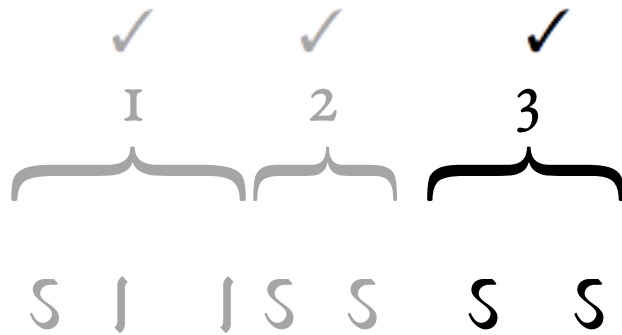
Example



ajja maē gaṃtavvaṃ ghaṇaṃdhaārē vi tassa suhaassa



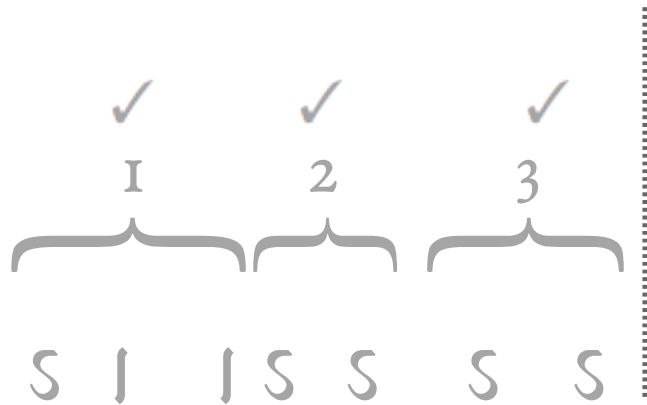
Example



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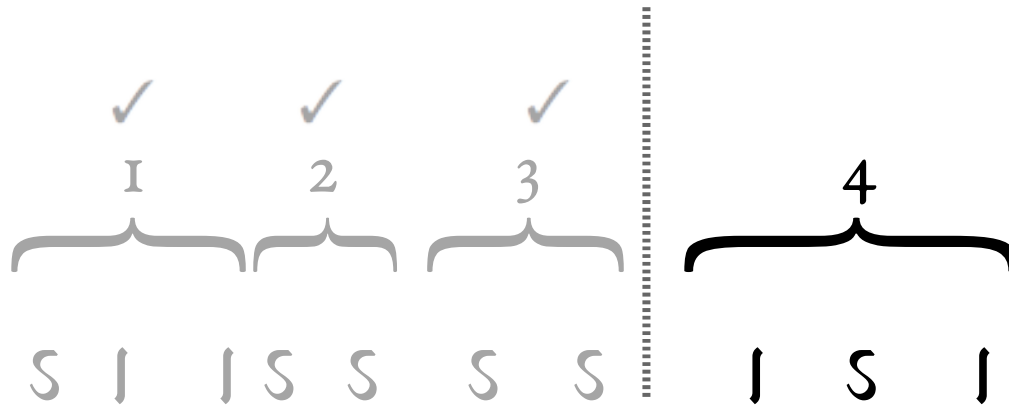
Example



ajja maē gaṁtavvaṁ ghaṇaṁdhaārē vi tassa suhaassa



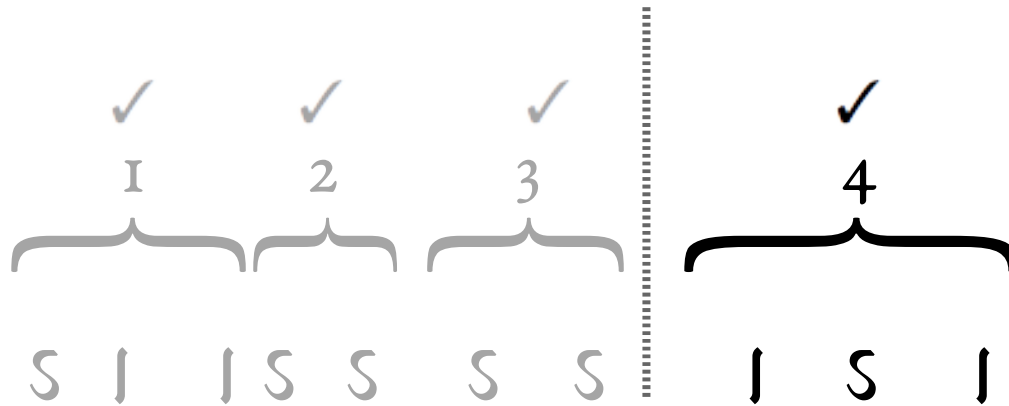
Example



ajja maē gaṁtavvaṁ ghaṇaṁdhaārē vi tassa suhaassa



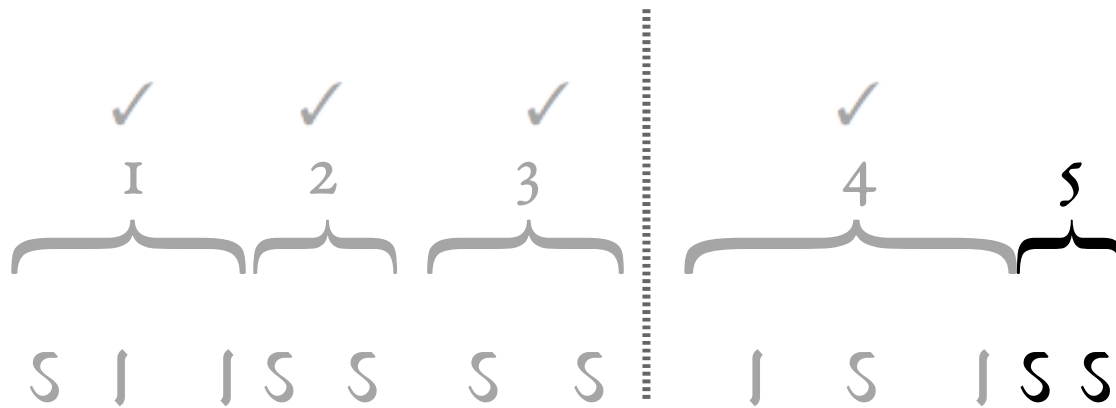
Example



ajja maē gaṁtavvaṁ ghaṇaṁdhaārē vi tassa suhaassa



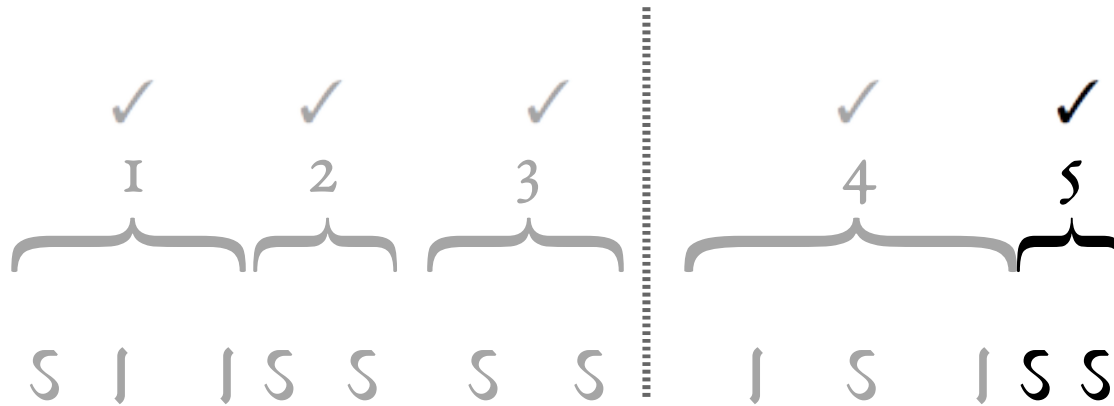
Example



ajja maē gaṃtavvaṃ ghaṇaṃdhaārē vi tassa suhaassa



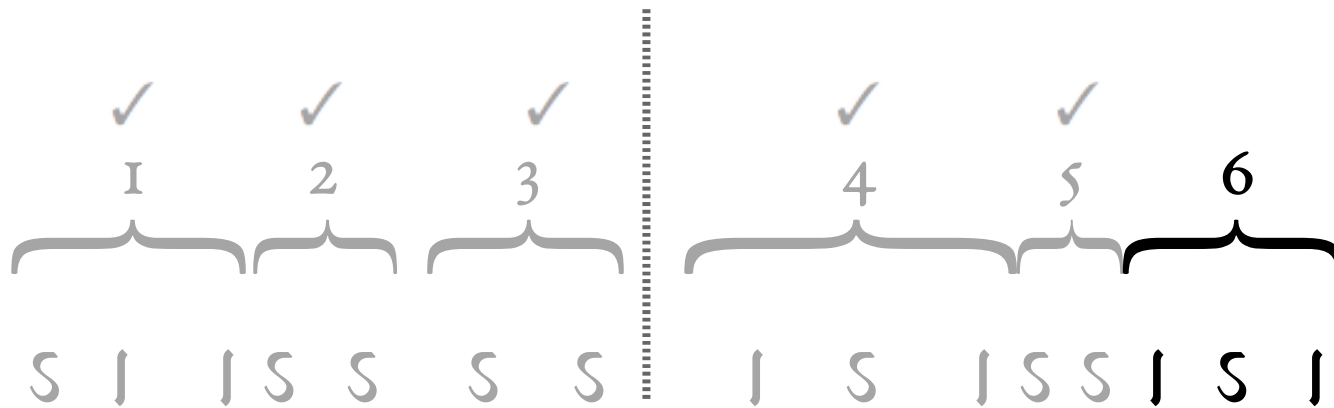
Example



ajja maē gaṁtavvaṁ ghaṇaṁdhaārē vi tassa suhaassa



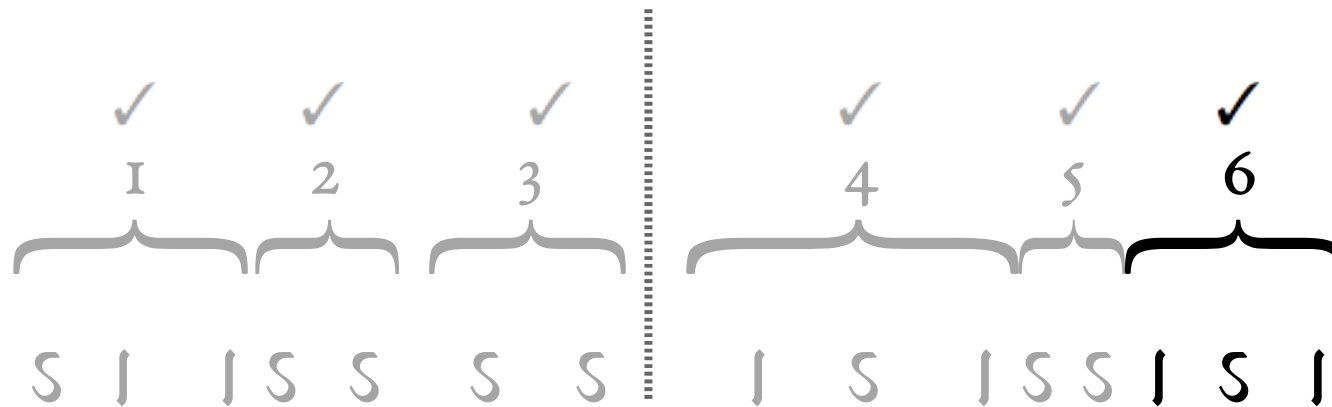
Example



ajja maē gaṃtavvaṃ ghaṇaṃdhaārē vi tassa suhaassa



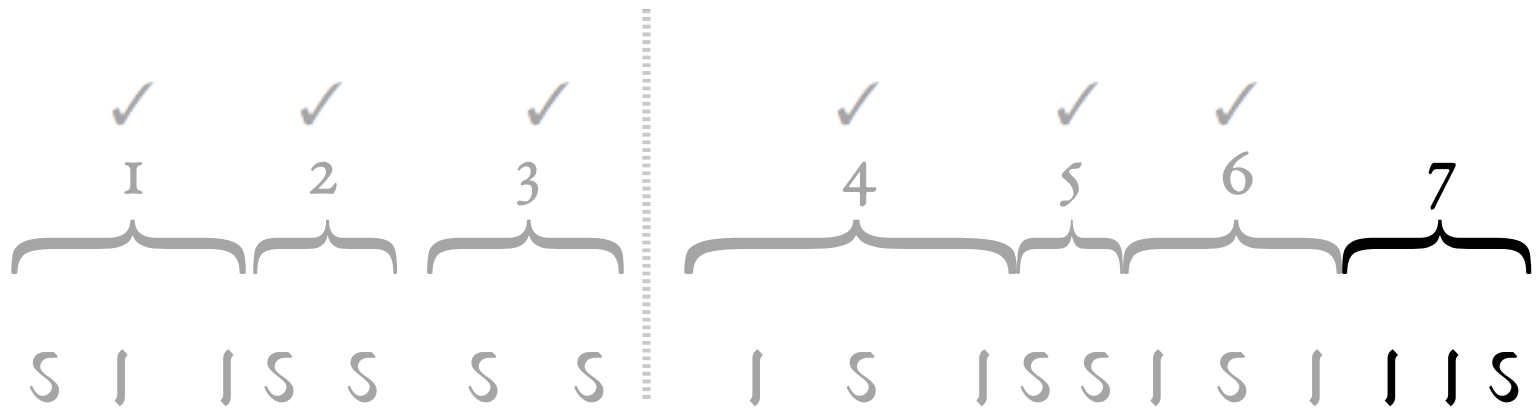
Example



ajja maē gaṃtavvaṃ ghaṇaṃdhaārē vi tassa suhaassa



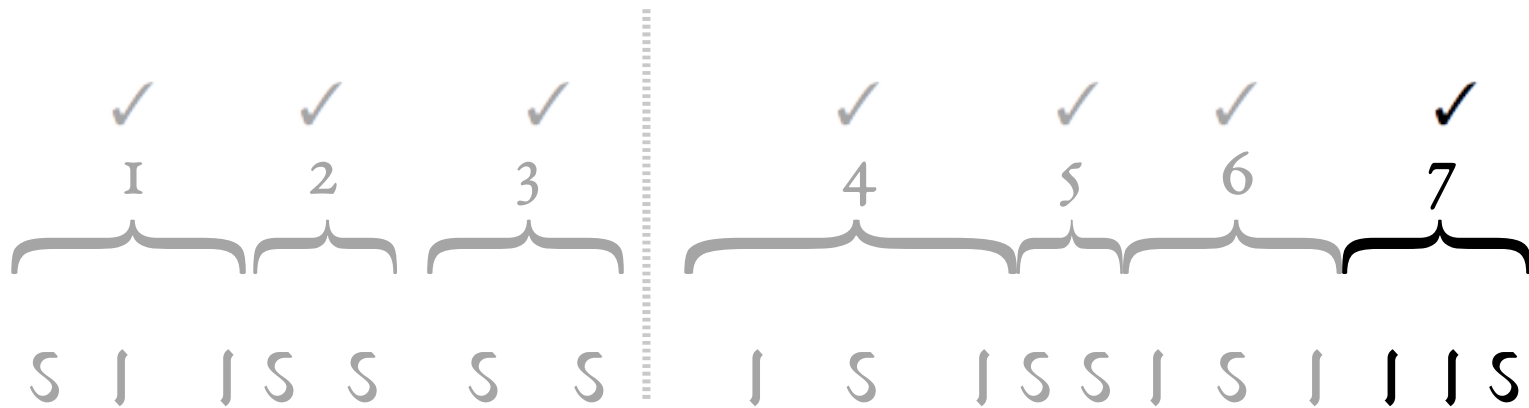
Example



ajja maē gaṃtavvaṃ ghaṇaṃdhaārē vi tassa suhaassa



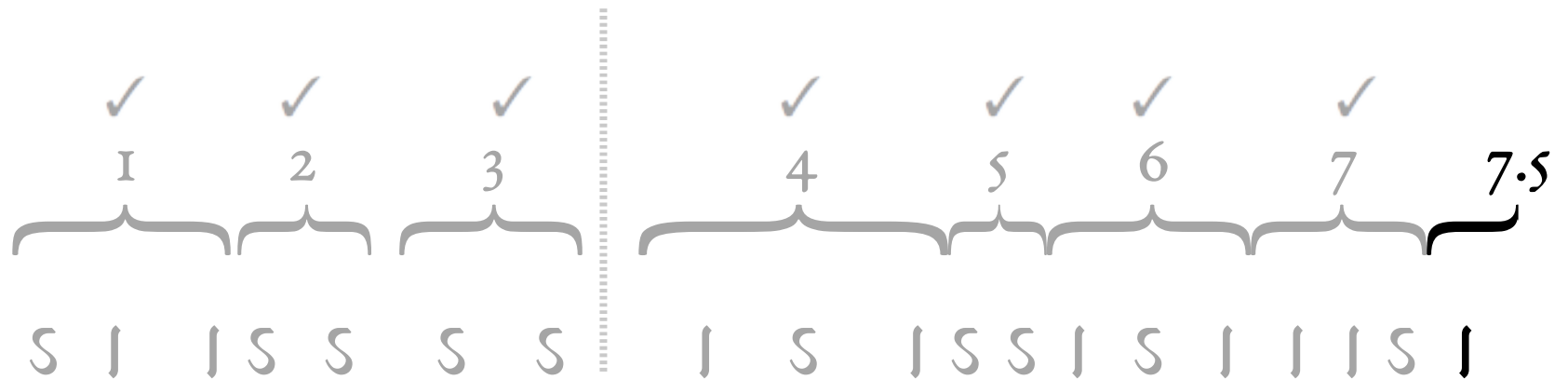
Example



ajja maē gaṁtavvaṁ ghaṇaṁdhaārē vi tassa suhaassa



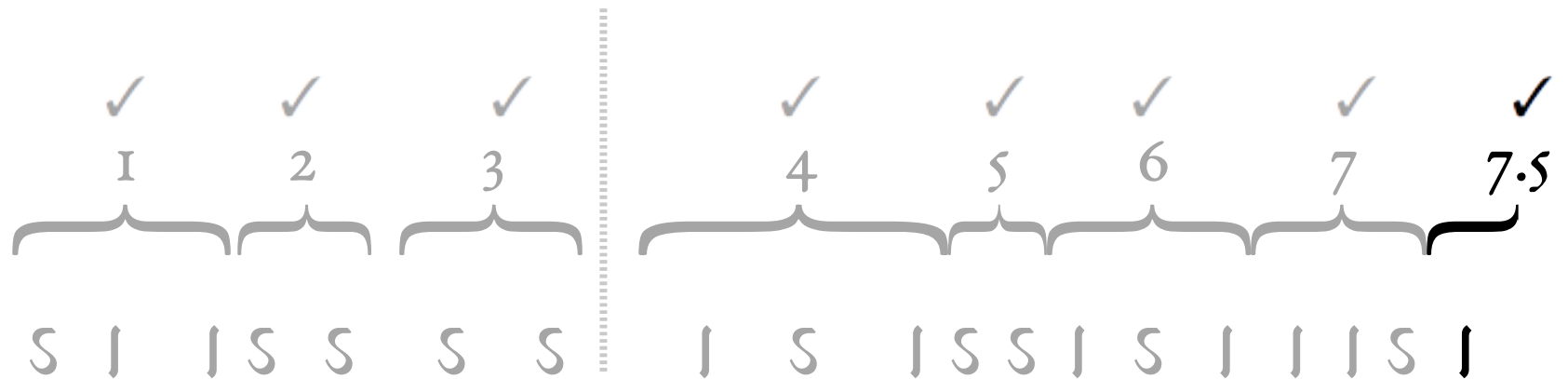
Example



ajja maē gaṁtavvaṁ ghaṇaṁdhaārē vi tassa suhaassa



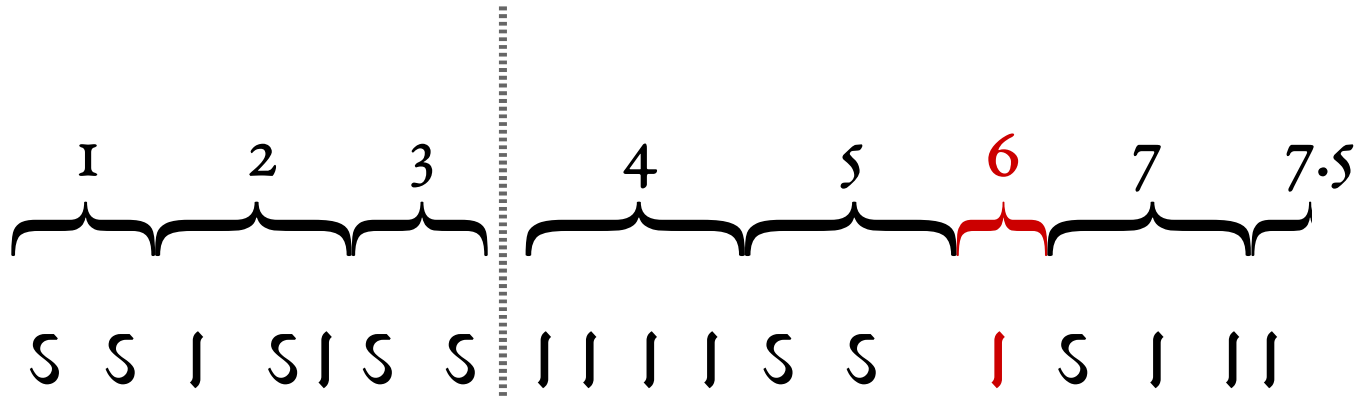
Example



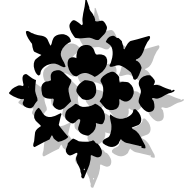
ajja maē gamtavvaṃ ghaṇaṃdhaārē vi tassa suhaassa



Example



ajjā nimīliacchī paaparivāḍim̐ gharē kuṇai



समत्तं

