

Meeting 19.5: Sanskrit prosody

Examining some basic meters

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Light and heavy syllables

- Indigenous vs. western method of splitting syllables
 - Comes out to the same syllable count and quantity
- Long vowel?
 - Heavy syllable
- Consonant at end (western)? Cluster beginning next (Indian)?
 - Heavy syllable
- Generally: Heavy (-) twice as long as light (˘)

Indo-European metrical tradition

- Quantitative (but not in all branches)
- Diiambic cadenza

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Evolution of Greek hexameter:

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Common meters

Gāyatrá and anuṣṭúbh:

XXXX~--~

Epic anuṣṭúbh:

XXXX~--- | XXXX~--~

Examples of triṣṭúbh (catalexis of jágatī):

XXXX · ~~~---

XXXXX · ~~~---

Common meters

Poëm from today:

Kurmahe padya-sam-ramb^ham Nik^{hil}'-Āgni-pra-cālitam
Pālikā-śabda-vidy'-āug^{ha}-pālitam vi-jayiṣyate.
Ketu-Praṇava-b^hūyiṣṭam kurmahe kāvya-sam-graham
śatam samāś calet prāyo Vid^hinā vihitam param.