

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

— — — | — — —

Evolution of Greek hexameter:

— — — | — — —

Common meters

Gāyatrā and anuṣṭubh:

XXXX◡◡◡

Epic anuṣṭubh:

XXXX◡--- | XXXX◡◡◡

Examples of triṣṭubh (catalexis of jāgati):

XXXX • ◡---◡◡

XXXXX • ◡---◡◡

Common meters

Poëm from today:

Kurmahe padya-saṁ-ramb^haṁ Nik^hil'-Āgni-pra-cālitam

Pālikā-śabda-vidy'-āug^ha-pālitam vi-jaiṣyate.

Ketu-Praṇava-b^hūyiṣṭam kurmahe kāvya-saṁ-graham

śataṁ samāś calet prāyo Vid^hinā vihitam param.