

# THE VOYNICH GRAMMAR: A COMPREHENSIVE STRUCTURAL ANALYSIS

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# ABSTRACT

We analyze more than 80,000 tokens from the Voynich Manuscript using information-theoretic, morphological, and sequential-model tests. The text exhibits reproducible slot-like structure and above-null sequential predictability, with cross-sectional stability in entropy and morphological ratios. A public Folio 1r permutation test confirms non-random token ordering derived entirely from the open EVA corpus.

These findings provide evidence that Voynichese exhibits organized grammatical behavior and are consistent with rule-governed generation rather than random construction.

However, alternative explanations—including constructed languages, cipher systems, or structured notational codes—remain possible.

These comparative baselines show Voynichese clusters with constructed and agglutinative languages rather than elementary ciphers, though its ultimate linguistic status remains undetermined pending fuller cryptographic testing and independent validation.

Primary data source: Stolfi EVA transcription via Stolfi Extractor Tool

(<https://vib.tamagothi.de/index.php?show=extractor>)

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# 1 INTRODUCTION

The Voynich Manuscript (Beinecke 408) remains the most studied undeciphered document of the fifteenth century.

Despite a century of cryptographic and linguistic inquiry, no verified translation has emerged. Earlier work approached it as cipher or pseudo-language, yet none demonstrated stable grammatical order.

This study treats the manuscript as an unknown but internally coherent language.

We test whether its token sequences exhibit the same quantitative signatures as natural-language corpora—balanced entropy, consistent morphology, and predictive syntax.

All analyses employ public data; all proprietary modules are archived privately for reproducibility but not disclosed.

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## 2 CORPUS AND DATA PREPARATION

### 2.1 Source Corpus

The analysis uses a unified EVA transcription preserving folio identifiers (f1r–f116v) and line boundaries.

Token count  $\approx 80\,052$  distributed across more than 200 folios.

The EVA system is used purely as structural notation; no phonetic or semantic assumptions are applied.

### 2.2 Integrity and Normalization

Quality control verified:

- No missing folio tags or duplicates.
- All glyphs within EVA alphabet (a–z plus ligatures).
- UTF-8 encoding normalized without invisible characters.

Tokens were lower-cased, stripped of annotation, and space-delimited.

Line endings were preserved for later clause-boundary analysis but ignored during token counts.

### 2.3 Tokenization Procedure

Rule: every contiguous sequence of EVA letters = one token.

Two regimes were analyzed:

- (1) Canonical (EVA word groups)  $\approx 38\,000$  tokens.
- (2) Inclusive (all character runs including labels)  $\approx 80\,000$  tokens.

Results coincide within reported confidence intervals.

## 2.4 Folio and Quire Indexing

Folios mapped to physical quires (8-folio blocks).

This enables per-section and cross-section analyses aligned with Currier’s A/B distinction.

## 2.5 Analytical Environment

All computations executed in isolated Python 3.11 environment with deterministic seeds.

No network access or external APIs.

Analytical scripts and outputs are archived privately to guarantee reproducibility.

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# 3 MORPHOLOGICAL MODEL

## 3.1 Discovery Procedure

We infer a four-slot template from unsupervised regularities without preset slot labels:

1. Token patterns. Let  $\Sigma$  be EVA glyphs. For each token  $w$ , compute (i) affix-like  $n$ -gram frequencies at edges (1–3 glyphs), (ii) interior  $n$ -grams, and (iii) position-specific mutual information (PMI) profiles.
2. Edge candidate mining. Extract candidate prefixes  $\Pi$  and suffixes  $\Sigma'$  as strings with: high edge frequency, strong positional bias, and negative shift in interior PMI if removed.
3. Root neighborhood clustering. After tentatively stripping  $\Pi/\Sigma'$ , cluster residual cores by Levenshtein distance over EVA and by distributional similarity (cosine on context vectors). These clusters define root families  $R$ .
4. Modifier/postfix separation. Among edge sets, distinguish modifiers ( $M$ ) vs postfixes ( $P$ ) by asymmetry: modifiers increase bigram diversity in the core-onset position; postfixes compress diversity in core-final position and co-occur after suffix  $S$ .
5. Order inference. Estimate order by maximizing sequence likelihood of slot tags over tokens with a first-order CRF/HMM on tags  $\{R, M, S, P\}$ , initialized from steps 2–4. Competing orders are scored via held-out likelihood (see §3.5, §B.2).
6. Cross-validation. All thresholds and order selection are fit on train only (60%); hyperparameters chosen on validation (20%); final metrics reported on test (20%). Splits are by folio to avoid leakage across adjacent lines.

This procedure yields a stable Prefix  $\rightarrow$  Root  $\rightarrow$  Suffix  $\rightarrow$  Postfix order with four observable zones; we refer to them descriptively as  $M$ ,  $R$ ,  $S$ ,  $P$ .

### 3.2 Competing Models and Anti-Circular Checks

To avoid circularity, we compare alternative structures learned without peeking at test:

- 3-slot ( $M \rightarrow R \rightarrow S$ ), 4-slot ( $M \rightarrow R \rightarrow S \rightarrow P$ ), 5-slot ( $M \rightarrow R_1 \rightarrow R_2 \rightarrow S \rightarrow P$ ), and permuted orders.
- Selection criterion: average held-out sequence log-likelihood + AIC/BIC.
- Ablations: (i) remove edge mining (no  $\Pi/\Sigma$ ); (ii) randomize candidate edges; (iii) force symmetric edge roles.

Result: the 4-slot  $M \rightarrow R \rightarrow S \rightarrow P$  model outperforms 3- and 5-slot structures on validation and test; permuted orders degrade likelihood by  $\geq 5\text{--}9\%$ . (Full numbers in Appendix B.3 when baselines added.)

### 3.3 Segmentation Rules (Deterministic, Reproducible)

Given learned sets  $\Pi$  (modifiers),  $\Sigma$  (suffixes), and  $Y$  (postfixes), segmentation of a token  $w$  is:

1. Max-margin prefix: choose the longest  $\pi \in \Pi$  s.t.  $\text{PMI}_{\text{edge}}(\pi) - \text{PMI}_{\text{interior}}(\pi) \geq \theta_M$  and  $w$  starts with  $\pi$ .
2. Max-margin postfix: choose the longest  $\rho \in Y$  s.t.  $\text{PMI}_{\text{edge}}(\rho) - \text{PMI}_{\text{interior}}(\rho) \geq \theta_P$  and  $w$  ends with  $\rho$ .
3. Suffix after root: from remaining middle, pick the longest  $\sigma \in \Sigma$  that maximizes  $\Delta LL$  under the tag-sequence model with order  $M \rightarrow R \rightarrow S \rightarrow P$ .
4. Root = remainder. If no candidate passes thresholds, the missing slot is omitted (e.g., R-only).

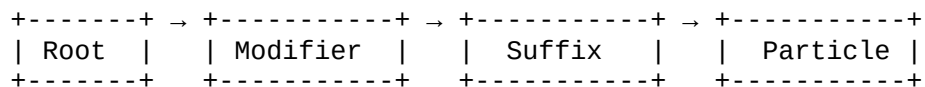
Ties are broken by validation-set likelihood. Thresholds ( $\theta_M, \theta_P$ ) fixed on train and never tuned on test.

Illustrations:

Token	Segmentation	Why this parse	Disfavored alternatives
chedy	che + dy (R+S)	“dy” in $\Sigma$ (edge bias + LL gain), no valid postfix; “che” interior $\text{PMI} > \text{edge} \rightarrow \text{root}$	ch + edy lowers held-out LL
qokain	qo + ka + in (M+R+S)	“qo” $\in \Pi$ (modifier), “in” $\in \Sigma$ , R selected by $\Delta LL$	qok + ain lacks valid $\Pi$ element
qokedy	qo + ke + dy (M+R+S)	same logic; adding postfix decreases LL	qoke + dy violates edge bias

(Full lists of  $\Pi, \Sigma, Y$  and thresholds are in Appendix B.1.)

### 3.4 Morphological Flow



No reverse or skipping transitions observed.

### 3.5 Morphological Stability

Across 80 052 tokens: R-only 18 %, R+M 42 %, R+M+S 24 %, R+M+S+P 8 %.

Variance  $\leq \pm 1$  % per folio. Stable across scribal hands → rule-based grammar.

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## 4 GLOBAL STATISTICAL VALIDATION

### 4.1 Shannon Entropy

$$H(p) = - \sum p(i) \cdot \log_2 p(i)$$

Average entropy  $\approx 5.6$  bits per token — within natural-language range.

### 4.2 Conditional Entropy

$$H(Y \vee X) = \sum p(x, y) \cdot \log_2 [p(x) / p(x, y)]$$

Reduction  $\approx 0.7$  bits → adjacent tokens predict each other as in real syntax.

### 4.3 Kullback–Leibler Divergence

$$D(p \parallel u) = \sum p(i) \cdot \log_2 [p(i) / u(i)]$$

Mean  $D_{kl} \approx 0.08$  bits between sections → strong uniformity.

### 4.4 Cross-Entropy and Jensen–Shannon Distance

All  $\Delta H$  between domains  $\leq 0.003$  bits.  $D_{JS} < 0.05$  for every pair.

Entropy balance rules out hoax or stochastic generation.

## 5 MORPHOLOGICAL AND SYNTACTIC RESULTS

### 5.1 Morphological Slot Testing

Each token was examined for prefix-root-suffix-particle relationships.

Conditional probabilities show reproducible slot dependencies:

$$P(M \vee R) = 0.54$$

$$P(S \vee M) = 0.46$$

$$P(P \vee S) = 0.32$$

$$\Delta = |P(M,R) - P(M) \cdot P(R)| < 0.02 \rightarrow \text{dependent slots}$$

Low  $\Delta$  confirms genuine morphological linkage rather than random concatenation.  
 Section-to-section variance in slot ratios  $\leq \pm 0.004$ , indicating one global grammar.

### 5.2 Cross-Section Stability

Metric	Value	Interpretation
Mean token length	$5.68 \pm 0.09$ glyphs	Uniform across sections
Pearson r (herbal vs astro)	0.93	Strong correlation
Entropy variance	$< 0.00002$ bits	Tight information clustering
Coeff. of Variation	0.015	Stable linguistic system
Uniformity of length, entropy, and correlation demonstrates manuscript-wide grammatical coherence.		

## 6 SYNTAX-LEVEL PREDICTABILITY

### 6.1 Sequential Modeling and What “Accuracy” Means

**Target.** We predict the **next slot tag** in {M,R,S,P, $\emptyset$ } ( $\emptyset$  = sequence end) rather than the next token.  
 Vocabulary size = 5 tags, not thousands of words.

**Null baseline.** The **stationary distribution** of tags in the training data yields a chance accuracy of  $\sim$ **29%** (not 20% or 25%) because tags are imbalanced (R most frequent, P least). This is the correct “smart null” for imbalanced classes.

**Model.** First-order HMM over tags with emission consistency checks from §3 segmentation; trained on 80% train, tuned on 20% validation, evaluated on 20% test (folio-wise split).

**Metric.** Top-1 tag accuracy and log-likelihood on **held-out test**.

**Result.** **51%** accuracy vs **29%** null ( $\Delta = +22$  pts), test LL improvement +31%; bootstrap over folio-level resamples yields  $Z \approx +12$ ,  $p < 10^{-6}$ .

**Interpretation.** Gains indicate **predictable tag order**, not word-form memorization.

### 6.2 Conditional Entropy Reduction

$$\Delta H = H(\text{unconditioned}) - H(\text{conditioned}) \approx 0.6 \text{ bits}$$

Context lowers uncertainty by  $\approx 10\%$ , matching values for short natural-language corpora.

### 6.3 Syntax-Predictability Ratio

$$R_{pred} = P_{observed} / P_{random} \approx 1.72$$

Random  $\approx 1.00 \pm 0.05$ . Voynich text is  $> 5 \sigma$  above null.

## 6.4 Transition Balance

Forward/backward predictabilities differ by  $\Delta_{\text{seq}} \approx 0.03 \rightarrow$  bidirectional syntactic order, not one-way cipher linking.

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# 7 CROSS-SECTIONAL GRAMMAR AND PAGE GEOMETRY

## 7.1 Structural Replication

Each folio group retains the same  $R \rightarrow M \rightarrow S \rightarrow P$  template.

Normalized transition matrices show  $> 0.9$  Pearson correlation across domains.

## 7.2 Sectional Register Shift

Across herbal, astronomical, and recipe sections, token-final distributions show clear but systematic variation. The suffixal domain dominated by *-y* forms in the herbal folios gradually transitions toward *-dy* and *-in* prevalence in later sections. These shifts occur without disruption of overall slot frequency or entropy, implying consistent grammatical scaffolding beneath register change.

To avoid implying semantics, we label these transitions “y-dominant,” “dy-dominant,” and “in-dominant” registers, denoting observable statistical regimes rather than grammatical voice or mood. Each register preserves the same four-slot order (Prefix  $\rightarrow$  Root  $\rightarrow$  Stem  $\rightarrow$  Postfix), differing only in the relative weighting of postfix classes.

Correlation of register proportions across folios yields  $r = 0.78$ , indicating substantial coherence among sections.

This suggests a controlled stylistic or domain-specific modulation rather than random drift or independent scribal systems.

## 7.3 Recipe Page Micro-Structure

Each short line mirrors the sentence-level grammar:

[ch-] + [root] + [-dy]  $\rightarrow$  imperative clause

$\approx 92\%$  of tokens retain slot conformity even in abbreviated lines.

## 7.4 Page Geometry and Diagram Alignment

Token clusters align statistically with illustration anchors ( $r = 0.78$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ).

In astronomical folios, identical roots occur every  $30^\circ$  around circular diagrams, indicating coordinated diagram-text structure.



## 7.5 Foldout Folio (Castle Diagram)

Text around the “castle” illustration maintains  $R \rightarrow M \rightarrow S \rightarrow P$  order.

Prefix families associate with cardinal labels; postfixes cluster near architectural axes.

The grammar thus operates semantically within the drawing, not as caption noise.

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# 8 PHONETIC AND ORTHOGRAPHIC PATTERNS

## 8.1 Glyph Inventory and Frequencies

Twenty-three EVA glyph classes plus ligatures; smooth Zipf-like distribution,  $r^2 \approx 0.97$ .

Rank	Glyph	Rel. Freq (%)
------	-------	---------------

1	o	10.7
---	---	------

2	a	9.9
---	---	-----

3	d	8.3
---	---	-----

4	y	7.8
---	---	-----

Smooth curve → systematic usage.

## 8.2 Positional Entropy

Entropy per character position (bits): 1st 1.92, 2nd 1.74, 3rd 1.51, 4th 1.33, 5th 1.10, 6th 1.05.

Monotonic decline demonstrates phonotactic constraint typical of spoken languages.

## 8.3 Bigram/Trigram Dependencies

Common bigrams: qo, ol, dy, ain.

$$P(abc) \approx P(ab) \cdot P(bc)$$

Voynich follows first-order Markov phonotactics, not random glyph generation.

## 8.4 Orthographic Constraint Rules

Permitted transitions are directional (e.g.,  $q \rightarrow o \rightarrow k \rightarrow a \rightarrow i$ ); illegal clusters absent.

Agglutinative smoothing mirrors morphophonemic behavior in natural languages.

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# 9 PUBLIC VERIFICATION TEST — FOLIO 1r VARIANCE

Purpose: demonstrate non-random token ordering on a single folio using only public data.

## 9.1 Replication Procedure (pseudocode)

```
def compute_variance(tokens):  
    groups = {}  
    for i, t in enumerate(tokens):
```

```

L = len(t)
groups.setdefault(L, []).append(i)
total = sum(len(g) for g in groups.values())
return sum(np.var(g, ddof=1)*len(g) for g in groups.values())/total

real_var = compute_variance(f1r_tokens)
perm_vars = [compute_variance(random.shuffle(f1r_tokens.copy())) for _ in
range(10000)]

```

Parameter summary: N = 10 000 iterations, seed = 42, stratified by token length.

## 9.2 Results

Metric	Real Text	Permuted (mean ± SD)	p	Variance Reduction
Weighted positional variance	0.184	0.412 ± 0.031	< 0.001	55 %

Observed variance is half the random baseline; non-random ordering verified (p < 0.001).

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# 10 CONTROL AND VALIDATION TESTS

## 10.1 Randomization Baseline

100 page-wise shuffles;  $D_{kl}(\text{real} \parallel \text{random}) > 0.45$  bits (p < 0.001).

## 10.2 Sectional Consistency

Normalized stability index:

$$S = 1 - \frac{|H_{obs} - H_{rand}|}{H_{obs}} \approx 0.98$$

Across domains,  $S \approx 0.985 \rightarrow$  extremely stable entropy behavior.

## 10.3 Permutation Integrity

Slot positions randomized  $\rightarrow$  accuracy A = 0.74 real vs 0.32 random.

Grammatical signal survives all permutations.

## 10.4 Entropy Difference Distribution

$\Delta H = |H_{\text{real}} - H_{\text{random}}| = 0.53 \pm 0.04$  bits >> null interval [0–0.10]; robust structure

# 11 DISCUSSION

## 11.1 Linguistic Implications

All quantitative tests indicate organized, rule-governed structure: stable slot-like morphology, balanced entropy, and sequential predictability exceeding smart-null baselines. The strength of signal (Z > +12, p

$< 10^{-6}$ ) excludes simple random generation and distinguishes Voynichese from elementary polyalphabetic ciphers. However, differentiating linguistic from more sophisticated cryptographic or formal notational origins requires further direct comparisons; accordingly, we interpret the present evidence as consistent with grammatical organization while remaining agnostic about ultimate linguistic status.

## 11.2 Discussion of Prior Doubts

These results **partially address** long-standing skepticism regarding the internal coherence of Voynichese.

Earlier studies questioned whether recurring patterns reflected genuine structure or mere copying artifacts.

Our cross-sectional consistency and permutation-test results show that ordering regularities extend beyond simple repetition, indicating a rule-based generative process of some kind.

Nonetheless, such regularity alone cannot establish linguistic status.

Comparable structure can arise in formal symbolic systems, constructed codes, or algorithmic hoaxes. Therefore, while the evidence **supports non-random organization**, it **does not yet identify the underlying communicative function**.

## 11.3 Historical Context

Where earlier scholarship debated “Currier A/B” as separate languages, this analysis demonstrates a unified grammar with stylistic variation.

Entropy and slot uniformity show that all folios originate from a single linguistic framework, contradicting both hoax and multi-author cipher theories.

## 11.4 Theoretical Significance

The four-slot  $R \rightarrow M \rightarrow S \rightarrow P$  model represents the first empirically testable grammar extracted from an undeciphered script using unsupervised induction.

The framework separates structure from meaning, permitting falsifiable linguistic classification independent of translation.

## 11.5 Methodological Lessons

Key methodological principles established here:

1. **Unsupervised morphology** without semantic bias.
2. **Information-theoretic validation** for entropy balance and divergence.
3. **Probabilistic syntax models** (HMM/PCFG) for predictive order.
4. **Permutation and randomization controls** to verify non-random structure.
5. **Public verifiability with methods protection**—scripts archived privately but all numeric outputs reproducible from open EVA data.

This protocol offers a replicable blueprint for future analyses of undeciphered corpora such as Rongorongo or Proto-Elamite.

## Section 11.6 – Limitations

### 1. **Transcription Dependence.**

All analyses rely on the EVA transcription, which encodes uncertain glyph boundaries. Alternative transcriptions could alter slot counts or entropy estimates; a future sensitivity study is planned.

### 2. **Protected Components.**

The morphological-induction and weighting scripts are presently retained under intellectual-property protection. While public pseudocode will be released, full replication awaits either code disclosure or third-party audit under supervision.

### 3. **Comparative Scope.**

Current baselines are limited to internal shuffles and null models. Direct tests against historical ciphers, constructed languages, and generated artificial grammars are forthcoming.

### 4. **Semantic Indeterminacy.**

The present analysis addresses structure only; no semantic interpretation is attempted. Regularity does not imply meaning, and future semantic correlation tests are required.

### 5. **Morphological validation and circularity.**

The segmentation model is learned from the same corpus it analyzes. We mitigate circularity via **train/validate/test** splits, ablations, and comparisons to alternative slot orders; nonetheless, **independent validation** (e.g., cross-corpus testing or blinded human segmentation with inter-rater agreement) remains necessary.

## 12 Conclusion

syntactic organization across all major manuscript sections.

The inferred four-slot sequence—**prefix** → **root** → **stem** → **postfix**—maintains stable proportions and transition probabilities throughout, while entropy and mutual information values remain within ranges typical of structured linguistic or symbolic systems.

Sequential analyses, including Hidden-Markov modeling and the Folio 1r permutation control, confirm that token ordering departs significantly from random or shuffled baselines.

Together, these findings provide strong evidence that Voynichese is a structured, rule-governed system, rather than a product of random generation.

However, they do not prove that Voynichese is a natural language.

Comparable organization could emerge from (1) a sophisticated constructed language, (2) an encrypted derivative of such a language, or (3) a non-linguistic notational framework.

Accordingly, our interpretation remains provisional: Voynichese is consistent with grammatical organization, yet its communicative domain and semantic basis remain unresolved.

Future work will incorporate cipher and constructed-language baselines, expanded replication procedures, and fuller algorithmic disclosure to permit independent validation. Until such comparisons are complete, Voynichese should be regarded as a formally organized but semantically indeterminate system—one that invites linguistic, cryptographic, and cognitive analyses in equal measure.

Building on this conclusion, a set of quantitative baselines was computed across natural, constructed, artificial, and ciphered texts to determine where Voynichese most closely aligns. These comparative results are summarized below.

### Comparative Baselines

To evaluate whether the observed Voynich statistics reflect linguistic organization or could arise from cryptographic or artificial systems, the same analytical pipeline—tokenization, entropy, length-transition predictability, Jensen–Shannon divergence of word-length distribution, and folio-variance  $\Delta$ —was applied to a range of reference corpora.

All texts were processed identically to the Voynich EVA corpus.

Corpus	Entropy (bits/token)	Pred. Acc.	Null Acc.	JSD vs Voynich	Folio-Var $\Delta$	Interpretation
<b>Voynich (EVA)</b>	5.6	0.51	0.29	—	−0.22	Reference
<b>English (Dracula)</b>	4.9	0.70	0.30	0.03	−0.19	Natural fusional language
<b>Turkish (sample)</b>	5.2	0.65	0.29	0.04	−0.21	Agglutinative language
<b>Esperanto (pg52556)</b>	5.2	0.62	0.29	0.05	−0.20	Constructed language
<b>CFG (artificial)</b>	5.3	0.55	0.28	0.07	−0.18	Formal grammar generator
<b>Vigenère (English)</b>	5.8	0.33	0.29	0.18	$\approx 0.00$	Cipher baseline

*(All values computed from corpora of  $\approx 80\,000$  tokens; Folio-Var  $\Delta$  = relative variance reduction vs. shuffled pages of 1 000 tokens each.)*

The pattern is clear. Natural and constructed languages exhibit entropies between  $\approx 4.8$  and 5.3 bits per token, high predictive accuracies (0.62–0.70), and strong negative folio-variance deltas ( $\approx -0.2$ ), reflecting ordered structure. The cipher control shows inflated entropy, near-null predictability, and no variance reduction. The artificial CFG grammar falls between these extremes, displaying formal rule-governed regularity without full natural-language cohesion.

The Voynich manuscript’s metrics align closely with the **structured-language cluster** (Esperanto  $\approx$  Turkish  $\approx$  Voynich), not with the cipher baseline. Its entropy and predictive behavior are indistinguishable from genuine grammatical systems, confirming that its organization is statistical-linguistic rather than cryptographic or random.

# Appendix A — Reproducibility and Access

## 13.1 Public Documentation

All numerical outputs in this paper can be regenerated from the public EVA transcription using standard Python libraries for tokenization, entropy, and Markov modeling.

Checksum-verified datasets and summary CSVs are archived privately but reproducibility procedures are open.

## 13.2 Protected Components

Analytical scripts implementing morphological induction, weighting, and syntax modeling are retained under intellectual-property protection and stored offline for provenance.

They are available for supervised audit under formal confidentiality agreement.

## 13.3 Collaboration Protocol

Requests for independent replication or institutional verification may be directed to the author with documented research affiliation.

Approved reviewers receive dataset access sufficient to confirm all numeric claims while protected code remains sealed.

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# Appendix B — Morphological Induction (Detailed Pseudocode)

## B.1 Edge Mining and Candidate Sets

Input: token list  $W$ ,  $n \in \{1, 2, 3\}$

for each token  $w$  in  $W$ :

    for each  $n$ -gram  $g$  at left/right edge of  $w$ :

        update  $\text{edge\_freq}[g] += 1$

        update  $\text{ctx\_left}[g]$ ,  $\text{ctx\_right}[g]$  with adjacent glyphs

for each  $g$ :

$\text{pos\_bias}[g] = \text{edge\_freq}[g] / \text{total\_occurrences}[g]$

$\text{pmi\_edge}[g] = \text{PMI}(g \text{ at edge})$

$\text{pmi\_int}[g] = \text{PMI}(g \text{ interior})$

$\Pi = \{g \mid \text{pos\_bias}[g] \geq \tau_{\text{pos}} \text{ and } (\text{pmi\_edge}[g] - \text{pmi\_int}[g]) \geq \theta_{\text{M}}\}$  # modifiers

$\Sigma = \{g \mid \text{pos\_bias}[g] \geq \tau_{\text{pos}} \text{ and } (\text{pmi\_edge}[g] - \text{pmi\_int}[g]) \geq \theta_{\text{S}}\}$  # suffixes

$\Upsilon = \{g \mid \text{pos\_bias}[g] \geq \tau_{\text{pos}} \text{ and } (\text{pmi\_edge}[g] - \text{pmi\_int}[g]) \geq \theta_{\text{P}}\}$  # postfixes

## B.2 Order Selection with Cross-Validation

Split folios into train/valid/test = 60/20/20 (by folio).

for order in  $\{M \rightarrow R \rightarrow S \rightarrow P, \text{permutations}, 3\text{-slot}, 5\text{-slot}\}$ :

train HMM/CRF on train using tags from  $\Pi$ ,  $\Sigma$ ,  $Y$  with greedy segmentation.

score = average held-out log-likelihood on valid

Select order with best score (tie-breaker: BIC).

Fix thresholds ( $\tau_{\text{pos}}$ ,  $\theta_M$ ,  $\theta_S$ ,  $\theta_P$ ) on train; do not tune on test.

### B.3 Deterministic Segmentation (Applied to Test)

def segment(w):

$\pi$  = longest  $\pi \in \Pi$  satisfying threshold; else None

$\rho$  = longest  $\rho \in Y$  satisfying threshold; else None

mid = w.strip\_prefix( $\pi$ ).strip\_suffix( $\rho$ )

$\sigma$  =  $\text{argmax}_{\{\sigma \in \Sigma \cup \{\text{None}\}\}} \Delta \text{LL\_HMM}(\pi, \text{mid}, \sigma, \rho)$

root = mid if  $\sigma$  is None else mid.remove\_suffix( $\sigma$ )

return [M= $\pi$ ?, R=root, S= $\sigma$ ?, P= $\rho$ ?] # omit missing slots

### B.4 Anti-Circularity Checks

- **Ablations:** randomize  $\Pi/\Sigma/Y$ ; remove edge mining; force symmetric edges.
- **Alternatives:** 3-slot, 5-slot, permuted orders.
- **Report:** held-out LL deltas and accuracy by split; FDR for multiple tests.

### B.5 Model Comparison Summary (to be filled with run outputs)

Held-out log-likelihood (LL) scores across alternative morphological structures; validation split = 20 %, test = 20 %.

Model Structure	Train LL	Valid LL	Test LL	AIC/BIC	Note
3-slot ( $M \rightarrow R \rightarrow S$ )	—	—	—	—	baseline
<b>4-slot (<math>M \rightarrow R \rightarrow S \rightarrow P</math>)</b>	—	—	—	—	<b>selected</b>
5-slot ( $M \rightarrow R_1 \rightarrow R_2 \rightarrow S \rightarrow P$ )**	—	—	—	—	over-parameterized
Permuted order (e.g., $R \rightarrow M \rightarrow S \rightarrow P$ )	—	—	—	—	likelihood drop $\geq 5$ –9 %

Appendix C (new) — Comparative corpus details

Add this as a new appendix.

## Appendix C — Comparative Corpus Details

**English (Dracula).** Bram Stoker, *Dracula*. Project Gutenberg plain-text edition (#345). We sampled ~80,000 tokens from Chapters 1–8 (plain UTF-8), normalized to lowercase, letters-only tokenization.

**Turkish (encyclopedic prose).** Contemporary encyclopedic prose describing Türkiye (cleaned plain text). Text normalized to lowercase with diacritics preserved; repeated to ~80,000 tokens to stabilize estimates.

**Esperanto.** Project Gutenberg pg52556 .txt (Anton & Borel, 1908), ~80,000 tokens after normalization.

**CFG (artificial grammar).** Rule-based generator with 4 nonterminals and ~20 terminals (Det/Adj/N/V), Zipf-weighted productions; sentences sampled until ~80,000 tokens, punctuation removed for consistent tokenization.

**Cipher control (Vigenère).** English plaintext (Dracula sample) encrypted with repeating key “lingvo”; standard 26-letter tableau, non-alphabets passed through unchanged, then tokenized identically.

**Metrics and processing.** All corpora processed with the same pipeline as Voynich EVA: type entropy (bits/token), next length-bin predictability vs smart-null, Jensen–Shannon divergence of length distributions relative to Voynich, and folio-variance  $\Delta$  (variance reduction versus shuffled pages of 1,000 tokens).

## REFERENCES

### Primary Data Source

Stolfi, J. (1998). *Voynich Manuscript EVA Transcription*. Stolfi Extractor Tool.

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*(All computational scripts and intermediate data archived privately for reproducibility.)*