

(N) Pseudorandom Numbers (1/3) [15 Points]

Dinka is a Nilotc dialect cluster with about 1.3 million native speakers, mostly ethnic Dinka people in South Sudan. There are several main varieties, but this problem focuses on the Agar dialect.

When linguists first studied the language, they believed that the singular and plural forms of Dinka nouns were completely unpredictable. More recently, however, studying the way that verbs conjugate in Dinka allowed linguists to find patterns in the singular and plural forms. This has allowed many nouns to be grouped according to common patterns, although many remain unexplained.

Below are 22 Dinka nouns, in both singular and plural forms, each of which follow one of the common patterns. The translations have been provided only for interest: they have no bearing on the solution to the problem.

Notes: **ɛ** is the vowel in “bed”, and **ɔ** is the vowel in “bought”. Dinka has three vowel lengths: short (e.g., **a**), medium (e.g., **aa**), long (e.g., **aaa**); as well as three tones, high (e.g., **á**), low (e.g., **à**), falling (e.g., **â**). **j** and **w** are semivowels, pronounced like the first sounds in “yes” and “with” respectively. **t**, **d**, **n**, **tʃ** and **nj** are consonants; how consonants are pronounced is not relevant for this problem. While it is not strictly necessary for solving the problem, it may be helpful to know that vowels can be classified by (among other things) *height*, i.e., how high or low the tongue is in the mouth during their pronunciation. In this problem, **i** and **u** are high, **e** and **o** are high-mid, **ɛ** and **ɔ** are low-mid, and **a** is low.

| Singular | Plural | Translation |
|----------|--------|---------------------|
| láj | lääj | <i>animal</i> |
| gâaar | géer | <i>ankle bell</i> |
| ŋàaar | ŋóor | <i>bean</i> |
| dít | djëet | <i>bird</i> |
| àjwàccøj | àjóoŋ | <i>blacksmith</i> |
| đàaŋ | đêeŋ | <i>bow, gun</i> |
| gól | gàal | <i>cowdung fire</i> |
| twóčøj | tónj | <i>egg</i> |
| màac | mêec | <i>fire</i> |
| rúp | rwòop | <i>forest</i> |
| àdjéel | àdil | <i>gazelle</i> |

| Singular | Plural | Translation |
|----------|--------|-----------------------|
| bôook | bóok | <i>hide</i> |
| ròok | rôok | <i>kidney</i> |
| ŋòök | ŋòök | <i>louse</i> |
| àgâaaj | àgééñ | <i>monitor lizard</i> |
| àgôók | àgôók | <i>monkey</i> |
| dél | dèel | <i>path</i> |
| wáal | wál | <i>plant</i> |
| nêeel | néel | <i>python</i> |
| dèeñ | déeñ | <i>rain</i> |
| àmàaal | àmééł | <i>sheep</i> |
| àtwòoor | àtúur | <i>slime</i> |

Here are some forms of 4 Dinka verbs.

| Root | 1 st person | 3 rd person | Translation |
|------|------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| nòŋ | nàaŋ | nòɔŋ | <i>to have</i> |
| kùc | kwòoc | kùuc | <i>to not know</i> |
| màat | màaat | mèεεt | <i>to smoke</i> |
| lòɔk | làaak | lòɔɔk | <i>to wash</i> |



(N) Pseudorandom Numbers (2/3)

N1. Some singular or plural forms of Dinka nouns are given below. Only two of them follow one of the common patterns demonstrated above. Circle the letters ((a)-(f)) of those two forms.

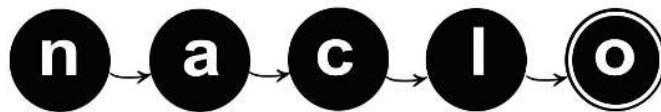
| | Singular | Plural | Translation |
|-----|--------------|-------------|----------------------|
| (a) | àdèen | | <i>beautiful one</i> |
| (b) | mìiit | | <i>firefly</i> |
| (c) | wèeet | | <i>metal</i> |
| (d) | | tôoj | <i>pot</i> |
| (e) | | jâak | <i>evil spirit</i> |
| (f) | | tûuŋ | <i>horn</i> |

N2. Assuming that the following verbs conform to one of the common patterns, fill in the blanks in the table below.

| Root | 1 st person | 3 rd person | Translation |
|------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| (a) | lワccoj | (b) | <i>to be different</i> |
| (c) | (d) | cèem | <i>to eat</i> |
| pèec | pèeεc | (e) | <i>to loot</i> |
| wìc | (f) | wìic | <i>to need</i> |
| (g) | (h) | bòok | <i>to throw at</i> |

N3. Below are the singular or plural forms of 10 more Dinka nouns. Assuming that they conform to one of the common patterns, fill in (a)-(j) to predict the missing forms. If there is more than one possible prediction, give them all.

| Singular | Plural | Translation | Singular | Plural | Translation |
|--------------|-------------|-----------------------|--------------|-------------|---------------------|
| (a) | rím | <i>blood</i> | kók | (f) | <i>hole in tree</i> |
| (b) | wíil | <i>bristle</i> | ràaan | (g) | <i>person</i> |
| ànâaar | (c) | <i>buffalo</i> | (h) | léek | <i>pestle</i> |
| rèeεc | (d) | <i>fish</i> | ról | (i) | <i>voice</i> |
| (e) | kàal | <i>hole in ground</i> | jìit | (j) | <i>well</i> |



(N) Pseudorandom Numbers (3/3)

N4. Explain what you have observed about Dinka nouns and verbs from the data in this problem.

