



НАЦИОНАЛЬНЫЙ ИССЛЕДОВАТЕЛЬСКИЙ
УНИВЕРСИТЕТ

Morphological modelling

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- Morphology: What is it? Why should we care?
- Modelling morphology: With finite-state machines
- Development: Some development tips

Morphology

Morphology is:

« the branch of linguistics that studies patterns of word formation within and across languages, and attempts to formulate rules that model the knowledge of the speakers of those languages. »

This is a big field, here we are interested in practical models.

English or Chinese:

- A full form list is a possibility
- Few or no inflectional forms
 - e.g. 5 forms per English verb {see, sees, saw, seen, seeing}

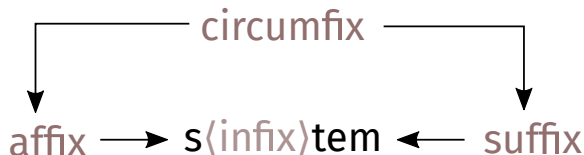
Other languages:

- Difficult or impossible to enumerate all forms
- Very productive inflection and derivation
 - Russian verbs: over 150 forms (maximally)
 - Turkish verbs: thousands of forms



A morphological lexicon consists of entries:

- Lemma: The citation form of a word (cf. headword)
- Stem: The part of a word affixes attach to
- Paradigm: A description of how the word inflects:



Add additional meaning or change the meaning of a lexical stem:

- **Suffixes:** *hus* 'house' — *huset* 'the house'
- **Prefixes:** *kjent* 'known' — *ukjent* 'unknown'
- **Infixes:** *opstaan* 'stand' — *opgestaan* 'stood'
- **Circumfixes:** *nagy* 'big' — *legnagyobb* 'biggest'

- **Inflection:** Inflectional morphemes carry grammatical information, such as number, case, tense, etc., but do not change the word category
- **Derivation:** Derivational morphemes change the basic semantic meaning of a word, and can also change word category.
- **Compounding:** A process where two or more words are joined together to form one, typically of the same category or supertype.
- **Clitics:** Syntactically independent word that functions phonologically as an affix of another word.
- **Incorporation:** Where a nominal (e.g. direct object) or adverbial is included into a verb form.

Examples of inflection categories:

- **Case:**

дом-у 'house-LOC', *ev-de* 'house-LOC', *talo-ssa* 'house-INE'

- **Possession:**

ev-im 'house-1SG', *talo-ni* 'house-1SG'

- **Number:**

дом-а 'house-PL', *ev-ler* 'house-PL', *talo-t* 'house-PL'

- **Tense, aspect, mood:**

говори-ла 'say-PAST.F', *söyle-di* 'say-PAST', *puhu-i* 'say-PAST'

- **Comparison:**

больш-е 'big-COMP', *нысăк-рах* 'big-COMP', *iso-mpi* 'big-COMP'

In general: Change in meaning is regular.

Examples of derivational affixes:

- **Actor:** *diş-çi* /tooth-er/ 'dentist'
- **State:** *boş-luk* 'emptiness', *nyctm-oma* 'emptiness'
- **Diminutive:** *dog-gie*, *kedi-cik* /cat-DIM/ 'kitten'

Can often be stacked:

- *temizlikçi* /temiz-lik-çi/ clean-ness-er = cleaner
- *поверхностный* /по-верх-ность-ный/ on-surface-ness-ly = superficial

Change in meaning may be irregular, compare:

- *cooker* /cook-er/ 'machine that cooks'
- *cleaner* /clean-er/ 'person who cleans'
- *looker* /look-er/ 'person that looks good'

May be limited to particular stems.

New words are formed from morphologically/syntactically independent words:

- This may be indicated in the writing system or not.
 - infrastruktuurontwikkelingsplan, or
 - infrastructure development plan
- tri-noun compounds, but different orthographical treatment

Note: a given compound word may be split different ways, or a given word may appear as a compound, but not be one:

- Freitag = Friday (not “Frei” + “tag” = free day)
- kulturforskeren = the ethnographer, and not
 - kultur+forskeren = “culture researcher”
 - kultur+forske+ren = “culture research clean”

Clitics are syntactically separate words that are phonologically conditioned by another unit (word, phrase).

- **Pronominal:**

- Spanish: *me lo das* me it you.give 'You give it to me'
- Spanish: *dámelo!* give-me-it 'Give it to me!'

- **Verb forms:**

- Serbo-Croatian: *govorit ću* vs. *govoriću* 'I will speak'
- English: *I'm* 'I am', *gonna* 'going to'

- **Other:**

- Question words (e.g. Finnish *onko?* is-QST? 'Is there?')
- Tense markers (e.g. Kurdish *-ê*)

- **Consider:**

- *нравиться* and *собирать, собираться*

Should these be tokenised prior to analysis?

Гақорапэнратлэн Сыкwaңақай рэмкык
“Cikwaṇaqaj chased after the reindeer in the other encampment.”

га-қора-пэнр-ат-лэн	Сыкwaңақай	рэмк-ык
PERF-reindeer-chase-s3SG	Cikwaṇaqaj	folk-LOC

- Syntactically/pragmatically determined (not lexically!)
- Can be valency changing, e.g.
 - DOBJ + V.TR → V.INTR



- Analytic—Synthetic:
 - Morphemes per word
- Agglutinative—Fusional:
 - Meanings per morpheme / ease of segmentation

Modelling

Analysis:

студента \rightarrow {студент<n><m><aa><sg><gen>,
студент<n><m><aa><sg><acc> }

Generation:

студент<n><m><aa><sg><gen> \rightarrow студента

How morphemes can be combined:

- студентом, играющийся, played, evlerde
- *омстудент, *ющийсяигра, *edplay, *deevler

We'll be using the `lexc` formalism for modelling this.

The changes that happen when morphemes are combined:

- **Deletion:** работа + ы → работы
- **Epenthesis:** fox + s → foxes
- **Fleeting vowel:** огонёк + ом → огоньком
- **Assimilation:** baş + da → başta
- ...

Several changes can take place at once:

- $\theta r + \gamma \rightarrow \theta\theta$ 'house.3SG'
- Deletion of 'r' and assimilation of ' γ '

We'll be using the `twol` formalism for modelling this.

Let's take the Turkish words *ev* 'house', *kız* 'girl':

	Singular	Plural
Nominative	ev, kız	ev-ler, kız-lar
Accusative	ev-i, kız-ı	ev-ler-i, kız-lar-ı
Genitive	ev-in, kız-ın	ev-ler-in, kız-lar-ın
Dative	ev-e, kız-a	ev-ler-e, kız-lar-a
Locative	ev-de, kız-da	ev-ler-de, kız-lar-da
Ablative	ev-den, kız-dan	ev-ler-den, kız-lar-dan

Suffixes are different according to **front** and **back** vowels.

We can represent these as a finite-state automaton:



Where the labels would mean:

- **front-stem**: the front stems (e.g. *ev*)
- **back-stem**: the back stems (e.g. *kız*)
- **front-suffix**: the front suffixes (e.g. *-de*)
- **back-suffix**: the back suffixes (e.g. *-da*)

Multichar_Symbols

%<n%> %<nom%> %<loc%>

LEXICON Root

front-stem ;

back-stem ;

LEXICON front-suffix

%<n%>%<nom%>: # ;

%<n%>%<loc%>:de # ;

LEXICON back-suffix

%<n%>%<nom%>: # ;

%<n%>%<loc%>:da # ;

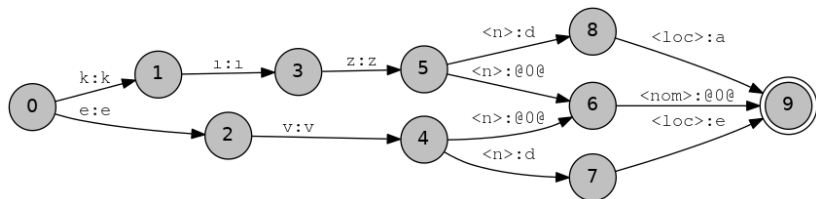
LEXICON front-stem

ev:ev front-suffix ; ! "house"

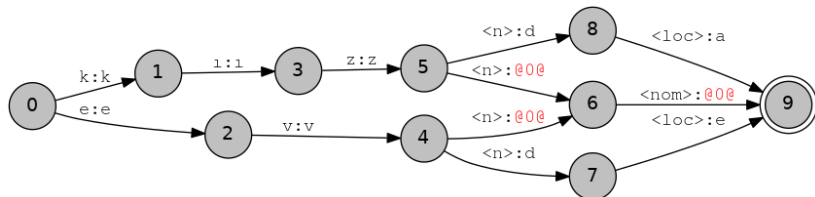
LEXICON back-stem

k1z:k1z back-suffix ; ! "girl"

- **Tags:** Symbols that show grammatical information
- **Continuation class:** Sets of morphemes
- **Next continuation:** Shows where to go next
- **#:** End of string
- **Comment string:** Indicated with !



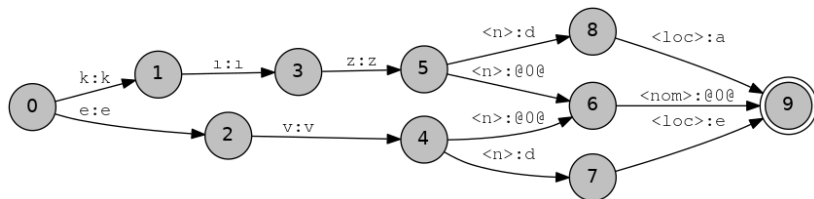
- Q = Set of N states = $\{0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9\}$
- Σ = Input alphabet = $\{a, d, e, k, l, v, z, \epsilon\}$
- Δ = Output alphabet = $\{e, k, l, v, z, \langle n \rangle, \langle nom \rangle, \langle loc \rangle\}$
- $q_0 \in Q$ = A single start state = 0
- $F \subseteq Q$ = A set of final states = $\{9\}$
- $\delta(q, w)$ = A transition function from a state $q \in Q$ and a string $w \in \Sigma^*$ to a set of states in Q



Sometimes we need to input or output a symbol without reading or writing an actual symbol.

- e.g. the $\epsilon \rightarrow \langle n \rangle$ transition.
- This is commonly encoded as @0@ and written as ϵ .

Epsilon closure:



Cur. state(s)	In. sym.	Out. state(s)	Out. sym	Out. string(s)
0	ε	0	–	–
0	k	1	k	k
1	ε	1	–	k
1	l	3	l	kl
3	ε	3	–	kl
3	z	5	z	kız
5	ε	6	<n>	kız<n>
6	ε	9	<nom>	kız<n><nom>

We can simplify the morphotactics by using **archiphonemes**:

- Archiphonemes stand in for underspecified surface symbols
- e.g. underlying **%{A%}** can be surface *a* or *e*

Example:

Multichar_Symbols

```
%<n%> %<nom%> %<loc%> %{A%}
```

LEXICON Root

```
stems ;
```

LEXICON suffix

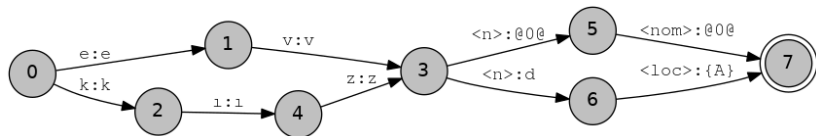
```
%<n%>%<nom%>: # ;
```

```
%<n%>%<loc%>:d%{A%} # ;
```

LEXICON stems

```
ev:ev suffix ; ! "house"
```

```
kız:kız suffix ; ! "girl"
```



- 50% reduction in code length (15 lines → 10 lines)
- 20% reduction in number of states (9 states → 7 states)

It is helpful to think about the transducer as a number of tapes:

Lexical	k	1	z	0	<n>	<nom>
Morphotactic	k	1	z	>	d	{A}
Surface	k	1	z	0	d	a

Objective: Produce a mapping between these tapes

evd{A}:evde		
evd{A}:evda	[apply rules]	evd{A}:evde
k1zd{A}:k1zde	→	k1zd{A}:k1zda
k1zd{A}:k1zda		

- First expand all possible forms
- Rules are constraints on possible symbol pairs
- Each rule is an automaton which accepts or rejects a string

Alphabet

```
a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t u v  
w x y z ü ö ş ç ı %{A%}:a %{A%}:e ;
```

Sets

```
Back = a ı o u ;
```

```
Cns = b c d f g h j k l m n p q r s t v w x y z ş ç ;
```

Rules

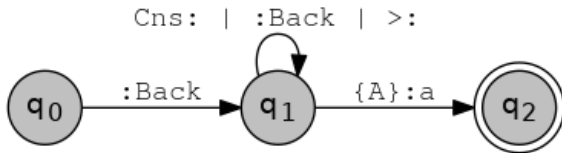
Three main sections:

- **Alphabet:** Valid symbol pairs, n.b. $a = a : a$, etc.
- **Sets:** Groups of symbols to be used in rules
- **Rules:** Constraints

"Vowel harmony for archiphoneme {A}"

$\% \{A\} : a \Leftrightarrow : \text{Back} [\text{Cns} : | : \text{Back} | \% > :]^* _ ;$

- **Symbol pair:** The symbol pair to constrain
- **Rule operator:** The type of constraint
- **Rule context:** The context where the rule should apply
- **Rule centre:** Where the symbol pair is found in the context



	<i>Positive Reading</i>	<i>Negative Reading</i>
$a:b \Leftrightarrow l_r$;	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If the symbol pair $a:b$ appears, it must be in the context l_r. 2. If lexical a appears in the context l_r, then it must be realized on the surface as b. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If the symbol pair $a:b$ appears outside the context l_r, FAIL. 2. If lexical a appears in the context l_r and is realized as anything other than b, FAIL.
$a:b \Rightarrow l_r$;	If the symbol pair $a:b$ appears, it must be in the context l_r .	If the symbol pair $a:b$ appears outside the context l_r , FAIL.
$a:b \Leftarrow l_r$;	If lexical a appears in the context l_r , it must be realized on the surface as b .	If lexical a appears in the context l_r and is realized as anything other than b , FAIL.
$a:b / \Leftarrow l_r$;	Lexical a is never realized as b in the context l_r .	If lexical a is realized as b in the context l_r , FAIL.

Table 1.1: **twolc** Rule Operator Semantics

Sometimes several rules can apply to the same form:

	Singular	Plural
Nominative	ev, kız, baş	evler, kızlar, başlar
Accusative	evi, kızı, başı	evleri, kızları, başları
Genitive	evin, kızın, başın	evlerin, kızların, başların
Dative	eve, kıza, başa	evlere, kızlara, başlara
Locative	evde, kızda, başta	evlerde, kızlarda, başlarda
Ablative	evden, kızdan, baştan	evlerden, kızlardan, başlardan

The suffix *-da* can be *-ta/-te*, e.g. *başta* 'head-LOC' not **başda*.

- This calls for another archiphoneme! $\% \{ D\% \} \rightarrow \{ d, t \}$

Multichar_Symbols

%<n%> %<nom%> %<loc%> %{A%} %{D%}

LEXICON Root

stems ;

LEXICON suffix

%<n%>%<nom%>: # ;

%<n%>%<loc%>:%{D%}%{A%} # ;

LEXICON stems

ev:ev suffix ; ! "house"

kız:kız suffix ; ! "girl"

baş:baş suffix ; ! "head"

Input

ev{D}{A}
kız{D}{A}
baş{D}{A}

Expand

ev{D}{A}:evda
ev{D}{A}:evde
ev{D}{A}:evta
ev{D}{A}:evte
kız{D}{A}:kızda
kız{D}{A}:kızde
kız{D}{A}:kızta
kız{D}{A}:kızte
baş{D}{A}:başda
baş{D}{A}:başde
baş{D}{A}:başta
baş{D}{A}:başte

Apply rules

ev{D}{A}:evde
kız{D}{A}:kızda
baş{D}{A}:başta

"Vowel harmony for archiphoneme {A}"

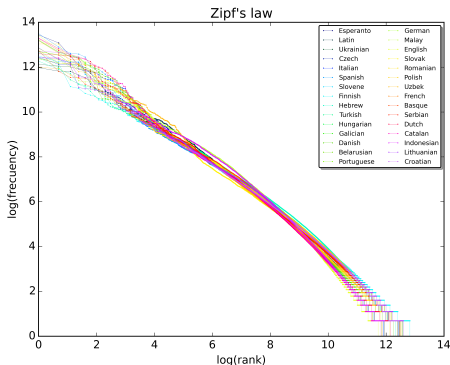
`%{A%}:a <=> :Back [Cns: | :Back | %>:]* _ ;`

"Devoicing of {D}"

`%{D%}:t <=> :Unvoiced %>: _ ;`

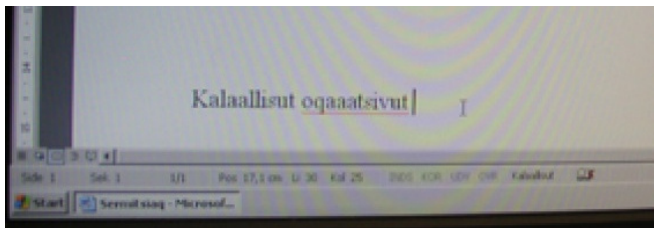
- Rules are applied in parallel
- Every pair must be accepted by all rules

Development



Take **frequency** into account, in adding:

- Stems
- Morphemes
- Phonological rules



- **Spellcheckers:** For morphologically-rich languages that have little data, FSTs are the only choice.
- **Online dictionaries:** For languages where it is non-trivial to determine the headword from a surface form, an FST can be a real aid
 - for learners and for newly literate speakers
- **Improve parsing:** For languages with limited data for training a parser, an FST can significantly improve performance.

- **Templatic morphology:**

- Semitic languages like Maltese, Hebrew and Arabic use templates to form surface forms, e.g. Maltese *k-t-b* could be *ktieb* 'book' or *kotba* 'books'
- The FSMBook¹ has examples of how to treat these

- **Machine learning approaches:**

- Recent advances in morphological generation (SIGMORPHON)²
- Morphological analysis way behind

- **Rewrite rules:**

- Some prefer to write phonological rules as a cascade of rules
- Computationally equivalent
- See FSMBook for further details

- **Weighting:**

- Refer to the practical

¹Beesley and Karttunen (2003) *Finite-State Morphology* (Chicago: CLSI)

²<https://sigmorphon.github.io/sharedtasks/>

Go through the following practical:

https://ftyers.github.io/2017-КЛ_МКЛ/hfst.html

This will take you through all of the main steps to build a transducer.