

# Mandarin Chinese notes

Jinyuan Wu

October 10, 2022

# Chapter 1

## Overview

## Chapter 2

# Prosody and the writing system

## Chapter 3

# Parts of speech

## Chapter 4

# Nominal derivation

## Chapter 5

# The structure of noun phrase

## Chapter 6

# Verb morphology

Mandarin is generally regarded as a prototypical analytic language, without traditionally acknowledged verb inflections. Indeed it will be wired to posit something like a paradigm in Mandarin, but it doesn't mean there is no such thing as verbal suffixes that are active in the morphosyntax (instead of largely historical derivations).

## Chapter 7

# Verb and arguments



## Chapter 8

# Valency changing

There are two ways of valency changing in Mandarin. The first is via a coverb construction, as in the disposal constructions (§ 8.1), TODO The second is *doing nothing* to the verb and relying on the unusual semantic roles of clausal complements to inform the listener about the valency changing, as in TODO: ref. Since there is no morphological marking, constructions of this type are often recognized as topic-comment structures, in which the “topic” – which is the subject under closer investigation – is said to be freely occupied by any argument in the clause, though this claim can be falsified by detailed syntactic tests (Box 9.1).

### 8.1 The disposal constructions

## Chapter 9

# Clause structure

### 9.1 The topic-comment structure

Box 9.1: Distinguishing topics from subjects

TODO: ref

### 9.2 Sentence final particles

## Chapter 10

# Complement clauses

## Chapter 11

# Clause linking