GEORG-AUGUST-UNIVERSITÄT
GÖTTINGEN

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Tocharian

Phonology – Part 3

Roadmap

- 2. Phonology
- 2.2. Syllables

2.2. Syllables in Tocharian

- Syllables play a role in Tocharian meter.
- Tocharian meter is purely syllable counting.
- Stress and/or syllable weight are disregarded.

- Verses are subdivided into stanzas.
- Stanzas are subdivided into lines (pāda).
- Lines have a fixed number of syllables.
- Lines are subdivided into cola.

- The following TB example is taken from CEToM THT 107 b4

Example: Tocharian meter

teṃ	epiṅkte	bodhisatve	nairaṃñjaṃne
in the meanwhile		Bodhisattva.NOM.SG	NAME.LOC.SG
kārpa	**nāṣṣa**	**lyyāsa** **wrenta**	**po** **laikāte**
descend.3SG.PRT.ACT	bathe.3SG.PRT.ACT	limbs.ACC.PL rags.ACC.PL	all.ACC.PL wash.3SG.PRT.MID
ñakti	**arjuṃ**	**stām** **nemar=neś**	**cau** **eṅksate**
god.NOM.PL	NAME.NOM.SG	tree.ACC.SG bend.3PL.PRT.ACT=him	this.OBL.SG seize.3SG.PRT.MID
nairañjaṃnmeṃ		**laiś** **wässāte**	**kaṣār** **wassi**
NAME.ABL.SG		go.3SG.PRT.ACT don.3SG.PRT.MID	robe.ACC.SG clothes.ACC.SG

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Syllables in Tocharian

- The example is the very common type 4x12 (4/4/4).
- Other common types are:
  - 4x12 (5/4/3)
  - 4x14 (4/3/4/3)
  - 4x15 (4/3/3/5)
  - 4x17 (6/6/5)
  - 4x18 (4/3/4/3/4)
  - 4x25 (5/5/8/7)