

A Simpler CAP Affix

The following is a brief explanation of the tentative CAP table I posted on Twitter. Compared to Ithkuil's C_a affix, which encodes five morphological categories into a single synthetic affix, the redesign proposed here simplifies the C_a slot by removing Essence and Extension from it, so that it only encodes Configuration, Affiliation and Perspective, hence „CAP“. (Essence and Extension move to a different slot).

While Ithkuil's C_a affix consists of twelve tables for a grand total of 1728 values, the proposed CAP affix only requires a single four-by-eight table of 32 values plus one very simple rule in order to encode all 144 of the possible CAP combinations. In addition to being less numerous, the affixes in the table also follow a pattern that should result in a noticeable increase in their learnability.

Proposed CAP affix table v0.33 encoding Configuration, Affiliation, Perspective

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UNI  DPX  DCT  AGG  SEG  CPN  COH  CST  MLT
MONADIC | -l-  -ll-  - m-  -ph-  - f-  -pf-  -p' -  -' p-  -fp-
UNBOUNDED | -t-  -tt-  - d-  -th-  - l-  -tl-  -t' -  -' t-  -lt-
NOMIC   | -ṭ-  -ṭṭ-  - ḍ-  -kh-  - s-  -tṭ-  -ṭk-  -' ṭ-  -ṭt-
ABSTRACT | -c-  -cc-  - ž-  -ch-  - š-  - č-  -č' -  -' s-  -st-

Affiliation:
CONSOLIDATIVE | ø_
ASSOCIATIVE  | r_
VARIATIVE    | l_
COALESCENT   | ṅ/m_/n_ (m_ labial and n_ alveolar/dental)

CAP Affixes
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v0.33

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We will take -l- (UNIPLEX/CONSOLIDATIVE/MONADIC) as the base (unmarked) form, and then apply the phonological patterns listed below to get to each of the remaining Configurations. The forms of the UNBOUNDED (-t-), NOMIC (-ṭ-) and ABSTRACT (-c-) were brought over from Ithkuil, because there is already a high degree of familiarity with these basic forms. Now, for the patterns:

Deriving Configuration

UNIPLEX	Do nothing
DUPLEX	Gemination („double“ the consonant. This is symbolic for the meaning of the DUPLEX)
DISCRETE	Add voicing
AGGREGATIVE	Add aspiration
SEGMENTATIVE	Fricative of same or nearest to same point of articulation

COMPONENTIAL	Affricate of same or nearest to same point of articulation
COHERENT	Ejective version
COMPOSITE	Preceded by glottal stop
MULTIFORM	Reverse of affricate (see above)

Note that the MONADIC follows a p-pattern (it conjugates as if the base form were **-p-**), except that the UNIPLEX/CONSOLIDATIVE/MONADIC is **-l-** (for reasons of familiarity and because **-l-** makes for a much nicer default than **-p-**), the DUPLEX is **-ll-** and the DISCRETE uses **-m-** rather than the expected **-b-**.

Now, to encode Affiliation, all we have to do is prepend one of four possible values to the above affixes:

Deriving Affiliation

CONSOLIDATIVE	∅
ASSOCIATIVE	r-
VARIATIVE	l-
COALESCENT	ñ-/m-/n- (m- + labial, n- + alveolar/dental)

(Note: The UNIPLEX and DUPLEX/MONADIC return to the **-p-** pattern when in the VARIATIVE. Therefore, the UNIPLEX and DUPLEX/VARIATIVE/MONADIC forms are **-lp-** and **-lpp-** respectively.)

The resulting 144 CAP affix values are thus as follows:

		UNI	DPX	DCT	AGG	SEG	CPN	COH	CST	MLT	
CSL	M	-l-	-ll-	-m-	-ph-	-f-	-pf-	-p'-	-'p-	-fp-	
	U	-t-	-tt-	-d-	-th-	-ɟ-	-tɟ-	-t'-	-'t-	-ɟt-	
	N	-ɕ-	-ɕɕ-	-ɖ-	-kh-	-s-	-tɕ-	-ɕk-	-'ɕ-	-'s-	-st-
	A	-c-	-cc-	-z-	-ch-	-š-	-č-	-č'-	-'s-	-st-	
ASO	M	-rl-	-rll-	-rm-	-rph-	-rf-	-rpf-	-rp'-	-'rp-	-rfp-	
	U	-rt-	-rtt-	-rd-	-rth-	-rɟ-	-rtɟ-	-rt'-	-'rt-	-rɟt-	
	N	-rɕ-	-rɕɕ-	-rɖ-	-rkh-	-rs-	-rtɕ-	-rɕk-	-'rɕ-	-'rs-	-rst-
	A	-rc-	-rcc-	-rz-	-rch-	-rš-	-rč-	-rč'-	-'rs-	-rst-	
VAR	M	-lp-	-lpp-	-lm-	-lph-	-lf-	-lpf-	-lp'-	-'lp-	-lfp-	
	U	-lt-	-ltt-	-ld-	-lth-	-lɟ-	-ltɟ-	-lt'-	-'lt-	-lɟt-	
	N	-lɕ-	-lɕɕ-	-lɖ-	-lkh-	-ls-	-ltɕ-	-lɕk-	-'lɕ-	-'ls-	-lst-
	A	-lc-	-lcc-	-lz-	-lch-	-lš-	-lč-	-lč'-	-'ls-	-lst-	
COA	M	-nl-	-nnl-	-ñm-	-mph-	-nf-	-mpf-	-mp'-	-'mp-	-nfp-	
	U	-nt-	-nnt-	-nd-	-nth-	-nɟ-	-ntɟ-	-nt'-	-'nt-	-nɟt-	
	N	-nɕ-	-nɕɕ-	-nɖ-	-nkh-	-ns-	-ntɕ-	-nɕk-	-'nɕ-	-'ns-	-nst-
	A	-nc-	-ncc-	-nz-	-nch-	-nš-	-nč-	-nč'-	-'ns-	-nst-	