



# Indo-European Nasal Infixation and the Mirror Alignment Principle

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# Roadmap

- ▶ Introduction
- ▶ Infixation in Indo-European
- ▶ A MAP analysis of PIE infixation
- ▶ Morphosyntax of the PIE nasal infix
- ▶ Conclusions & discussion



## The puzzle of the PIE nasal infix

(1) PIE  $*yu\langle né \rangle g-ti$  'yokes' ( $\Leftarrow * \sqrt{yewg}$  'yoke')

- The PIE nasal infix  $*-né-$  in (1) poses a puzzle with (at least) two distinct pieces:
  - (i) **Morphophonological:** How do we explain the (unique) **infixal positioning** of nasal infix?
  - (ii) **Morphosyntactic:** How do we explain the **disparate attested functions** of the nasal infix?



## The puzzle of the PIE nasal infix

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  - (ii) **Morphosyntactic:** How do we explain the **disparate attested functions** of the nasal infix?
- Our analysis provides an integrated solution to both questions:
  - Using Zukoff’s (2023) “Mirror Alignment Principle,” we derive its unique infixal positioning **from** its unique morphosyntactic properties.



## Verbal stem formation in PIE

## (2) Fundamental aspectual opposition in PIE verb

	Root	Present		Aorist
a.	* $\sqrt{g^{wh}en}$ 'smash, kill'	* $g^{wh}én-ti$ (simplex) > Skt. <i>hán-ti</i> 'kill:PRS-3SG'	$\Rightarrow$	* $\underline{g^{wh}é}g^{wh}n\bar{e}-t$ (derived) > Gk. <i>é-pephne-Ø</i> 'PTC-kill:AOR-3SG'
b.	* $\sqrt{g^{w}em}$ 'come'	* $g^{w}m\bar{-}ské-ti$ (derived) > Skt. <i>gá-ccha-ti</i> 'come-PRS-3SG'	$\Leftarrow$	* $g^{w}ém-t$ (simplex) > Skt. <i>á-gan-Ø</i> 'PTC-come:AOR-3SG'

- Traditionally, the PIE verbal system is thought to be organized around an aspectual opposition between “Present” and “Aorist” stems.
- Each verbal root forms a simplex stem that is aspectually either (2a) Present or (2b) Aorist.
- Verbal stems of the opposite aspectual value are derived via (overt) affixation.



## Present stem formation in PIE

### (3) Present stem-building affixes

	Affix	Aorist root	Derived Present stem	
a.	*-ské	*√prek 'ask'	*pṛk-ské-ti 'ask-PRS-3SG'	> Lat. <i>po-sci-t</i> , Skt. <i>pṛ-cchá-ti</i>
b.	*'-e	*√deyk 'show'	*déyk-e-ti 'show-PRS.3SG'	> Lat. <i>dīc-i-t</i> , Goth. <i>ga-teih-i-þ</i>
c.	*-yé	*√mer 'die'	*mṛ-yé-tor 'die-PRS-3SG'	> Skt. <i>mri-yá-te</i> , Lat. <i>mor-i-tur</i>
d.	* <u>RED-</u>	*√deh <sub>3</sub> 'give'	* <u>dé</u> -deh <sub>3</sub> -ti 'PRS-give-3SG'	> Gk. <u>dí</u> -dō-si, Skt. <u>dá</u> -dā-ti
e.	*-né-	*√yewg 'yoke'	*yu⟨né⟩g-ti 'yoke:PRS-3SG'	> Lat. <i>iu⟨n⟩gi-t</i> , Skt. <i>yu⟨ná⟩k-ti</i>

- Many Present stem-building suffixes are reconstructible for PIE, e.g., (3a–c).
- However, only one prefix (3d) and one ⟨infix⟩ (3e) are reconstructible.



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e. *-né-	*√yewg 'yoke'	*yu⟨né⟩g-ti 'yoke:PRS-3SG'	> Lat. <i>iu⟨n⟩gi-t</i> , Skt. <i>yu⟨ná⟩k-ti</i>

- Lone prefix in (3d) is a reduplicant, which is independently reconstructible in various verbal stem formations (Keydana 2006, Zukoff 2017, i.a.) and in certain nouns (Lundquist & Yates 2018), hence not unusual here.



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- Lone prefix in (3d) is a reduplicant, which is independently reconstructible in various verbal stem formations (Keydana 2006, Zukoff 2017, i.a.) and in certain nouns (Lundquist & Yates 2018), hence not unusual here.
- But ⟨infix⟩ in (3e) is **unique** in PIE morphology.





# Roadmap

- ▶ Introduction
- ▶ Infixation in Indo-European
  - Phonology of PIE nasal-infix stems
  - Function(s) of the PIE nasal infix
- ▶ A MAP analysis of PIE infixation
- ▶ Morphosyntax of the PIE nasal infix
- ▶ Conclusions & discussion



## Infix stem formation in PIE

## (4) Phonology of PIE nasal infix stems

---

a.  $*\sqrt{yewg}$  'yoke'  $\Rightarrow$   $*yu\langle né \rangle g-ti$  'yoke:PRS-3SG' > Skt.  $yu\langle ná \rangle k-ti$ , Lat.  $iu\langle n \rangle g-it$

---

b.  $*\sqrt{leyk^w}$  'leave'  $\Rightarrow$   $*li\langle né \rangle k^w-ti$  'leave:PRS-3SG' > Skt.  $ri\langle ná \rangle k-ti$ , Lat.  $li\langle n \rangle qu-it$

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c.  $*\sqrt{klew}$  'hear'  $\Rightarrow$   $*k_l\langle né \rangle w-ti$  'hear:PRS-3SG' > Skt.  $śr\langle n_ó \rangle -ti$

---

- Infix combines esp. with roots that contain a (4a–b) post- or (4c) pre-nuclear sonorant.
  - Root  $*e$  is deleted and the adjacent sonorant consonant becomes syllabic.
  - The  $\langle \text{infix} \rangle$  surfaces immediately before the final consonant of the root.
  - Schematically,  $*\sqrt{CReC}$ ,  $*\sqrt{CeRC} \Rightarrow *CR\langle -né- \rangle C$ , where R is a sonorant consonant.



## Infix stem formation in PIE

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			$*yu\langle n \rangle g-énti$	'yoke:PRS-3PL'	> Skt. $yu\langle ñ \rangle j-ánti$ , Lat. $iu\langle n \rangle g-unt$
b.	$\sqrt{leyk^w}$ 'leave'	$\Rightarrow$	$*li\langle né \rangle k^w-ti$	'leave:PRS-3SG'	> Skt. $ri\langle ná \rangle k-ti$ , Lat. $li\langle n \rangle qu-it$
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c.	$\sqrt{klew}$ 'hear'	$\Rightarrow$	$*k_l\langle né \rangle w-ti$	'hear:PRS-3SG'	> Skt. $śr\langle ñ ó \rangle -ti$
			$*k_l\langle n \rangle w-énti$	'hear:PRS-3PL'	> Skt. $śr\langle ñ \rangle v-ánti$

- Nasal infix alternates intraparadigmatically.
  - $*-né-$  when stressed.
  - $*-n-$  before stress-attracting inflectional endings.



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- Nasal infix alternates intraparadigmatically.
  - $*-né-$  when stressed.
  - $*-n-$  before stress-attracting inflectional endings.
- Alternations preserved in Sanskrit, elsewhere (e.g., Latin) one allomorph was generalized.



## Nasal infix as Present stem formant

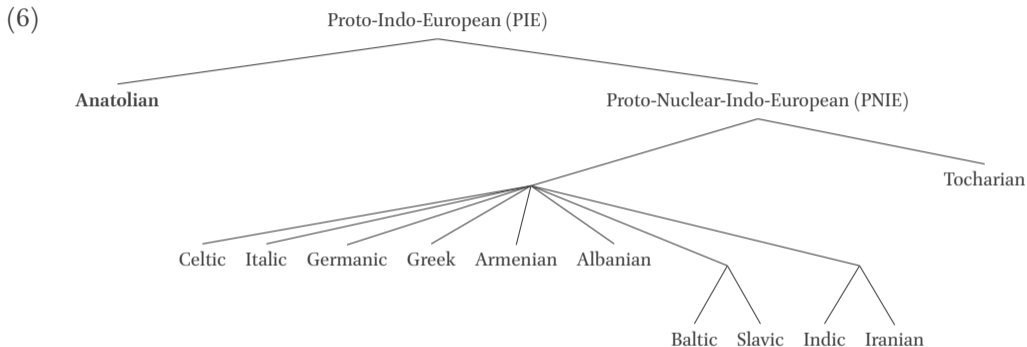
## (5) Nasal infix in present stem formation:

Aorist root	Nasal-infix Present	IE Present
a. $\sqrt{yewg}$ 'yoke'	$*yu\langle né \rangle g-ti$ 'yoke:PRS-3SG'	> Skt. $yu\langle ná \rangle k-ti$ , Lat. $iu\langle n \rangle g-it$
b. $\sqrt{leyk^w}$ 'leave'	$*li\langle né \rangle k^w-ti$ 'leave:PRS-3SG'	> Skt. $ri\langle ná \rangle k-ti$ , Lat. $li\langle n \rangle qu-it$ ; Gk. $lí\langle m \rangle panei$
c. $\sqrt{demh_2}$ 'tame'	$*dṃ\langle né \rangle h_2-ti$ 'tame:PRS-3SG'	> Gk. $dám\langle nē \rangle -si$ , OIr. $-dam\langle na \rangle i-d$
d. $\sqrt{pleh_1}$ 'fill'	$*pl\langle né \rangle h_1-ti$ 'fill:PRS-3SG'	> Skt. $pr\langle ṇá \rangle -ti$ ; Arm. $l\langle n \rangle ow-ē$

- Multiple IE branches support reconstructing nasal infix as **Present stem-forming affix**.
- Present stems (never Aorist) in Vedic Sanskrit and Ancient Greek are commonly formed with  $*-né-$  and its outgrowths (e.g.,  $*-néw << *-né-w$ ).
- Nasal infix almost exclusively forms Present stems in Latin, Old Irish, and Classical Armenian (vs. "Perfect," "Preterite," Aorist).



## Nasal infix in Anatolian



- Nasal infix functions differently in Hittite and other Anatolian languages.
- **Anatolian** branch was first to split off from the rest of IE languages.



## Nasal infix in Anatolian

### (7) Transitivity alternations in Hittite:

	Simplex stem/intransitive	⇒	Infix stem/transitive
a.	<i>ḫark-zi</i> 'die-3SG'		<i>ḫar⟨ni⟩k-zi</i> 'destroy-3SG'
b.	<i>ištark-zi</i> 'get.sick-3SG'		<i>ištar⟨ni⟩k-zi</i> 'make.sick-3SG'

- Anatolian languages lack Present/Aorist aspectual stem contrast.
- Nasal ⟨infix⟩ mediates transitivity alternations in Hittite.



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- ★ Anatolian data raises the possibility that the nasal infix was not (always) just a Present stem formant.





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  - The Mirror (Alignment) Principle
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## The Mirror Alignment Principle (MAP)

- Zukoff 2023 introduces the Mirror Alignment Principle (below) as a reliable means of implementing Baker's (1985) **Mirror Principle** generalization:

### Mirror Principle

Morphological derivations reflect syntactic derivations (and vice versa).

- In other words, linear order of morphemes ( $\approx$  *morphological derivations*) very strongly tends to align with hierarchical morphosyntactic structure/constituency ( $\approx$  *syntactic derivations*).
- The Mirror Alignment Principle is an interface algorithm that captures the Mirror Principle, but will also accommodate seeming exceptions.
  - It relates morphosyntactic structure to morphophonological derivation as follows:

### Mirror Alignment Principle (MAP)

If a terminal node  $\alpha$  asymmetrically c-commands a terminal node  $\beta$ , then the alignment constraint referencing  $\alpha$  dominates the alignment constraint referencing  $\beta$ .



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- In the MAP framework, morpheme order is computed in a parallel Optimality Theoretic (Prince & Smolensky 1993/2004) phonological derivation.
  - Competition between morpheme-specific instances of gradient alignment constraints (McCarthy & Prince 1993) is resolved through ranking, dictated by the MAP.
- The schema for these alignment constraints is given in (8):
  - (8) a. **ALIGN-x-L:** Assign one violation \* for each segment that intervenes between the left edge of the word and the left edge of the morpheme that expones  $x$ .
  - b. **ALIGN-x-R:** Assign one violation \* for each segment that intervenes between the right edge of the word and the right edge of the morpheme that expones  $x$ .



## MAP analysis of PIE infixation

- Zukoff 2023 motivates the MAP in part through an analysis of prefix/infix alternations in Arabic's verbal system, focusing on reflexives and causatives.
- According to Zukoff's analysis, the Arabic morphological system is organized as follows:
  - An infix is the **first** morphosyntactic head to combine with Root
  - A prefix/suffix is **separated** from the Root by at least one intervening morphosyntactic head



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    - An infix is the **first** morphosyntactic head to combine with Root
    - A prefix/suffix is **separated** from the Root by at least one intervening morphosyntactic head
  - Applying this to the PIE aspectual system:
    - The nasal infix combines directly with Root
    - Aspectual prefixes/suffixes (i.e., other Present/Aorist stem forming affixes) are separated from the Root by another head (possibly a null  $\nu$ )
- ⇒ The alignment rankings that follow from these structures via the MAP will derive the ordering differences between the nasal infix and the other aspectual affixes.

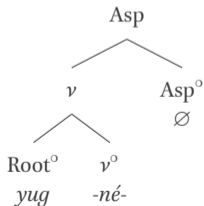


## MAP analysis of PIE infixation

- Accordingly, we propose the morphosyntactic structures in (9) and (10) for PIE:
  - The nasal infix is of category  $\nu$ , and merges directly with Root (9).
    - $\nu$  has a transitive–causative function.
  - Other aspectual affixes, like *\*-ské*, are of category Aspect, and merge higher in the tree (10).
  - \* We will motivate the labels on the morphosyntactic terminals in the following section.

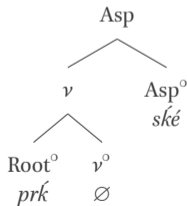
### (9) Nasal infix structure

*\*yu<né>g-ti* ‘yoke:PRS-3SG’



### (10) Aspectual suffix structure

*\*prk-ské-ti* ‘ask-PRS-3SG’



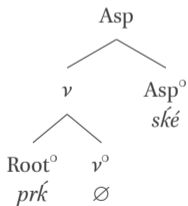


## MAP analysis of PIE infixation

- For the true aspectual suffixes like *\*-ské*, the MAP will rank their alignment constraint above the Root's alignment constraint (11).
  - This is because  $\text{Aspect}^\circ$  asymmetrically c-commands  $\text{Root}^\circ$ , due to the intervening (null)  $\nu$ .

(10) Aspectual suffix structure

*\*prk-ské-ti* 'ask-PRS-3SG'



(11) MAP ranking for *\*-ské*:

$\text{ALIGN-ské-R} \gg \text{ALIGN-ROOT-R}$

⇒ This ranking will yield **suffixation**, as we will show immediately below.

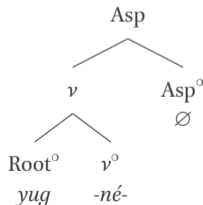


## MAP analysis of PIE infixation

- For the nasal infix, on the other hand, the MAP will *not establish a ranking* of its alignment constraint w.r.t. the Root's alignment constraint.
  - This is because  $v^\circ$  *does not* asymmetrically c-command  $\text{Root}^\circ$ .
- In this situation, a (language-specific) default ranking is determinative (cf. Zukoff 2023).
- PIE's default ranking is shown in (12). This leads to the specific ranking in (13).

(9) Nasal infix structure

\**yu*⟨*né*⟩*g-ti* 'yoke:PRS-3SG'



(12) PIE default ranking:

In the absence of a MAP determined ranking, ALIGN-ROOT *outranks* all other alignment constraints.

(13) “Default” ranking for \**-né*:

ALIGN-ROOT-R  $\gg$  ALIGN-*né*-R

$\Rightarrow$  This ranking will yield **infixation**, as we will show immediately below.





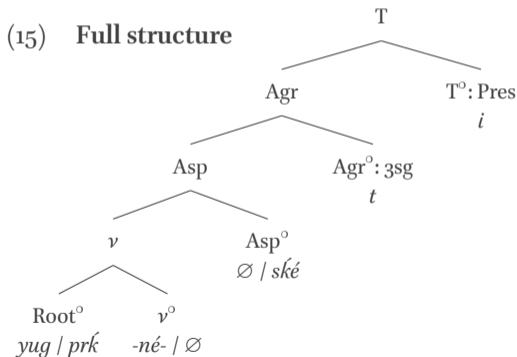
## MAP analysis of PIE infixation

- In PIE, the relevant affixes are all right-oriented:
    - This is self-evidently true of the Aspectual suffixes.
    - It is also true of the infix, which tucks in behind the rightmost/final consonant of the Root.
  - This means that each alignment constraint must be an **ALIGN-*x*-R** constraint (14).
    - This includes the **ALIGN-ROOT** constraint, whose right-orientation will be significant for the analysis.
- (14)
- a. **ALIGN-*né*-R**: Assign one violation \* for each segment that intervenes between the right edge of the word and the right edge of \*-*né*-.
  - b. **ALIGN-*ské*-R**: Assign one violation \* for each segment that intervenes between the right edge of the word and the right edge of \*-*ské*-.
  - c. **ALIGN-ROOT-R**: Assign one violation \* for each segment that intervenes between the right edge of the word and the right edge of the Root.

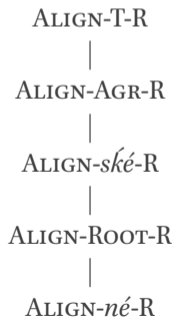


# MAP analysis of PIE infixation

- We use whole word forms for our tableaux, namely 3SG.PRS forms (ending in *\*-t-i*).
- The full morphosyntactic structure for PIE verbs is as in (15).
- The MAP + default ranking yields the total alignment ranking in (16).



(16) Alignment ranking for full structure





# MAP analysis of PIE infixation

- The ranking from (16) generates infixation of *\*-né-* if *ALIGN-né-R*  $\ggg$  *CNTG-ROOT* (17).
- This is demonstrated in the tableau in (27).

(17) **CONTIGUITY-ROOT:** Assign one \* for each string that intervenes inside of the Root.

(18) Derivation of Infixation: *\*yu⟨né⟩g-t-i*

<i>yug, né, t, i</i>	ALIGN-T-R	ALIGN-AGR-R	ALIGN-ROOT-R	ALIGN- <i>né</i> -R	CNTG-ROOT
a. <i>yug-t-i-né</i>	*!*	***	****		
b. <i>yug-t-né-y</i>		**!*	****	*	
c. <i>yug-né-t-i</i>		*	***!*	**	
d. ☞ <i>yu⟨né⟩g-t-i</i>		*	**	***	*
e. <i>i⟨né⟩wg-t-i</i>		*	**	****!	*
f. <i>né-yug-t-i</i>		*	**	****!*	



# MAP analysis of PIE infixation

- The high ranking of ALIGN-T-R and ALIGN-AGR-R ensures that *\*-né-* cannot be further to the right than T (*\*-i*) and Agr (*\*-t*), respectively.
- This rules out candidates like (27a,b) where *\*-né-* has migrated further to the right.

(18) Derivation of Infixation: *\*yu⟨né⟩g-t-i*

<i>yug, né, t, i</i>	ALIGN-T-R	ALIGN-AGR-R	ALIGN-ROOT-R	ALIGN- <i>né</i> -R	CNTG-ROOT
a. <i>yug-t-i-né</i>	*!*	***	****		
b. <i>yug-t-né-y</i>		**!*	****	*	
c. <i>yug-né-t-i</i>		*	***!*	**	
d. <i>yu⟨né⟩g-t-i</i>		*	**	***	*
e. <i>i⟨né⟩wg-t-i</i>		*	**	****!	*
f. <i>né-yug-t-i</i>		*	**	****!*	



## MAP analysis of PIE infixation

- The ranking  $\text{ALIGN-ROOT-R} \gg \text{ALIGN-}né\text{-R}$  explains why it is better to have the Root's right edge closer to the right (27d) than it is to have  $*-né$ 's right edge closer to the right (27c).
  - This ranking followed from  $*-né$ 's low structural position via the interplay between the MAP and the language's default preference for Root-alignment.

(18) Derivation of Infixation:  $*yu\langle né \rangle g-t-i$

<i>yug, né, t, i</i>	ALIGN-T-R	ALIGN-AGR-R	ALIGN-ROOT-R	ALIGN- <i>né</i> -R	CNTG-ROOT
a. <i>yug-t-i-né</i>	*!*	***	****		
b. <i>yug-t-né-y</i>		**!*	****	*	
c. <i>yug-né-t-i</i>		*	***!*	**	
d. $*yu\langle né \rangle g-t-i$		*	**	***	*
e. <i>i\langle né \rangle wg-t-i</i>		*	**	****!	*
f. <i>né-yug-t-i</i>		*	**	****!*	



## MAP analysis of PIE infixation

- The gradient definition of the alignment constraints explains why *-né-* tucks in immediately before the root-final consonant (27d):
  - Retracting any further (27e,f) induces gratuitous violations of *ALIGN-né-R*.
- In order for (27d)  $\succ$  (27f) (the prefixation candidate): *ALIGN-né-R*  $\gg$  *CNTG-ROOT*.
  - This is because infixation induces a violation of *CNTG-ROOT*.

(18) Derivation of Infixation:  $*yu\langle né \rangle g-t-i$

<i>yug, né, t, i</i>	<i>ALIGN-T-R</i>	<i>ALIGN-AGR-R</i>	<i>ALIGN-ROOT-R</i>	<i>ALIGN-né-R</i>	<i>CNTG-ROOT</i>
a. <i>yug-t-i-né</i>	*!*	***	****		
b. <i>yug-t-né-y</i>		**!*	****	*	
c. <i>yug-né-t-i</i>		*	***!*	**	
d. $\text{☞}$ <i>yu\langle né \rangle g-t-i</i>		*	**	***	*
e. <i>i\langle né \rangle wg-t-i</i>		*	**	****!	*
f. <i>né-yug-t-i</i>		*	**	****!*	



## MAP analysis of PIE infixation

- Because *\*-ské* (and the other Aspectual affixes) are merged higher in the tree, the MAP ranks their alignment constraints above ALIGN-ROOT-R.
- This results in their realization as suffixes following the root: (19c)  $\succ$  (19d).

(19) Derivation of Suffixation of *\*-ské* (and other Aspectual affixes): *\*prk-ské-t-i*

<i>prk, ské, t, i</i>	ALIGN-T-R	ALIGN-AGR-R	ALIGN- <i>ské</i> -R	ALIGN-ROOT-R	CNTG-ROOT
a. <i>prk-t-i-ské</i>	*!***	****		*****	
b. <i>prk-t-ské-y</i>		**!*	*	*****	
c. <i>prk-ské-t-i</i>		*	**	*****	
d. <i>pr&lt;ské&gt;k-t-i</i>		*	***!	**	*
e. <i>p&lt;ské&gt;rk-t-i</i>		*	***!*	**	*
f. <i>ské-prk-t-i</i>		*	****!*	**	



# Roadmap

- ▶ Introduction
- ▶ Infixation in Indo-European
- ▶ A MAP analysis of PIE infixation
- ▶ Morphosyntax of the PIE nasal infix
  - The nasal infix as a  $\nu$  head
  - Cooccurrence of nasal infix and aspectual suffixes
  - MAP & the diachrony of the PIE nasal infix
- ▶ Conclusions & discussion





## Predictions of the MAP analysis

- This analysis makes specific predictions about the morphosyntactic properties of the nasal infix and other IE Present-stem forming affixes.
  - (i) The nasal infix is the exponent of a different morphosyntactic category than the others.
  - (ii) Other Present markers are exponents of something that merges higher in the tree.



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  - If (i) is true, distinct morphosyntactic behaviors of the two classes should be detectable.
  - If (ii) is true, then the nasal infix should be able to co-occur with other Aspectual suffixes.
- ↓ Looking across the Indo-European languages, we find that both predictions are borne out.

The nasal infix as a  $\nu$  head

## (20) Transitivity alternations in PIE verbal stems:

Simplex stem/intransitive	$\Rightarrow$	Infix stem/causative
a. $*h_3érg-t$ 'perished' > Hitt. <i>ḫark-ta</i> 'perished'	$\Rightarrow$	$*h_3r\langle né \rangle g-ti$ 'makes perish' > Hitt. <i>ḫar\langle ni \rangle k-zi</i> 'destroys' (cf. Arm. <i>harkan-ē</i> 'hits, kills')
b. $*(s)térǵ^h-t$ 'got sick' > Hitt. <i>ištark-ta</i> 'got sick'	$\Rightarrow$	$*(s)tr\langle né \rangle ǵ^h-ti$ 'makes sick' > Hitt. <i>ištar\langle ni \rangle k-zi</i> 'makes sick' (cf. Skt. <i>tr\langle né \rangle dhu</i> 'let him smash')
c. $*p_l h_1-tó$ 'became full' > Gk. <i>plē-to</i> 'became full'	$\Rightarrow$	$*p_l \langle né \rangle h_1-ti$ 'fills' > Skt. <i>pr\langle nā \rangle -ti</i> 'fills'

- Anatolian data in (20) support reconstruction of nasal infix as a **transitivizer** of intransitive simplex verbal stems (Meiser 1993; cf. Clackson 2007; Lundquist & Yates 2018).
- Traces of this function detectable via comparison of other IE languages, e.g., (20c).



# The nasal infix as a $\nu$ head

## (21) Nasal infix in deadjectival derivation:

	Adjectival root	$\Rightarrow$	Nasal-infix/causative
a.	* $\sqrt{sewh_3}$ 'full' > Hitt. <i>šuw-uš</i> 'full'		* <i>su</i> $\langle$ <i>né</i> $\rangle$ <i>h_3-ti</i> 'fills' > Pal. <i>šū</i> $\langle$ <i>na</i> $\rangle$ - <i>t</i> 'filled'
b.	* $\sqrt{pewh_x}$ 'pure' > Lat. <i>pū-rus</i> 'pure', Mlr. <i>ú-r</i> 'fresh'		* <i>pu</i> $\langle$ <i>né</i> $\rangle$ <i>h_x-ti</i> 'purifies' > Skt. <i>pu</i> $\langle$ <i>ná</i> $\rangle$ - <i>ti</i> 'purifies'
c.	* $\sqrt{preyh_x}$ 'dear' > Skt. <i>priy-ás</i> , Av. <i>frii-ah</i> 'dear; own'		* <i>pri</i> $\langle$ <i>né</i> $\rangle$ <i>h_x-ti</i> 'endears' > Skt. <i>pri</i> $\langle$ <i>nā</i> $\rangle$ - <i>ti</i> 'pleases'

- Nasal infix exhibits similar function in derivation from adjectival roots, which is attested both in (21a) Anatolian and (21b–c) elsewhere in IE.
  - Adjectival roots lack simplex verbal stems (viz., unattested in IE).
  - (Present) stems formed from these roots by infixation have **causative** meaning.

The nasal infix as a  $\nu$  head(22) Summary: nasal infix as transitivizer:

a.	$*p_l h_1-tó$	‘became full’	$*p_l \langle né \rangle h_1-ti$	‘fills’	(= (20c))
	> Gk. <i>plē-to</i> ‘became full’		> Skt. <i>pr⟨ṇā⟩-ti</i> ‘fills’		
b.	$*\sqrt{pew}h_x$	‘pure’	$*pu \langle né \rangle h_x-ti$	‘purifies’	(= (21b))
	> Lat. <i>pū-rus</i> ‘pure’, Mir. <i>ú-r</i> ‘fresh’		> Skt. <i>pu⟨nā⟩-ti</i> ‘purifies’		

- Neither behavior in (22) is accounted for if nasal ⟨infix⟩ is just a Present formant.
- Meiser (1993) therefore argues that the transitivizing function of nasal infix is “original” and that its use as a Present stem formant was a later innovation (cf. Zasada 2023).



## The nasal infix as a $\nu$ head

(22) **Summary: nasal infix as transitivizer:**

a.	* $p_l h_1$ -tó ‘became full’ > Gk. <i>plê-to</i> ‘became full’	* $p_l \langle né \rangle h_1$ -ti ‘fills’ (= (20c)) > Skt. <i>pr⟨ṇā⟩-ti</i> ‘fills’
b.	* $\sqrt{pew} h_x$ ‘pure’ > Lat. <i>pū-rus</i> ‘pure’, Mir. <i>ú-r</i> ‘fresh’	* $pu \langle né \rangle h_x$ -ti ‘purifies’ (= (21b)) > Skt. <i>pu⟨nā⟩-ti</i> ‘purifies’

- Neither behavior in (22) is accounted for if nasal ⟨infix⟩ is **just** a Present formant.
- Meiser (1993) therefore argues that the transitivizing function of nasal infix is “original” and that its use as a Present stem formant was a later innovation (cf. Zasada 2023).  
⇒ Nasal infix was “originally” an exponent of  $\nu$ .





## Cooccurrence with Aspect markers

(23) Cooccurrence of \*-né- and \*-ské in Hittite verbal stems:

---

- a. *ḫar*⟨*ni*⟩*k-zi* ‘destroy-3SG’      ⇒      *ḫar*⟨*nin*⟩*ki-ške-zzi* ‘destroy-IPFV-3SG’  
b. *šar*⟨*ni*⟩*k-zi* ‘compensate-3SG’      ⇒      *šar*⟨*nin*⟩*ki-ške-zzi* ‘compensate-IPFV-3SG’
- 

- If nasal infix expones  $\nu$ , it should be able to cooccur with Aspectual suffixes.
- In Hittite the nasal ⟨infix⟩ cooccurs with *-ške* (< PIE \*-ské) in the formation of “imperfective” stems, e.g., (23) (cf. Hoffner & Melchert 2008).



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- In Hittite *-ške* is not a Present stem formant, since no Present/Aorist aspectual stem contrast exists in Anatolian.
- *-ške* is rather a modifier of lexical (/“situation”) aspect in Hittite (pluractional marker per Inglese & Mattioli 2020; cf. Dressler 1968).



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- *-ške* is rather a modifier of lexical (/“situation”) aspect in Hittite (pluractional marker per Inglese & Mattioli 2020; cf. Dressler 1968).
  - ⇒ *-ške* expones an inner Aspect head above ⟨infix⟩ in *v* (cf. Yates & Gluckman 2020).
  - ⇒ This may have been the “original” function of PIE *\*-ské-*.

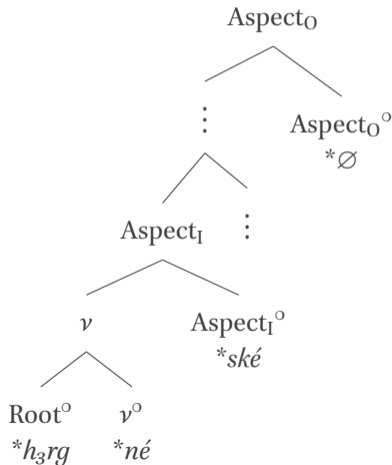


## Diachrony of the PIE nasal infix

(24) Structure of PIE  $*h_3r\langle né\rangle g-ské-ti$  ‘perish:TR-IPFV-3SG’ (> Hitt.  $har\langle nin\rangle ki-ške-zzi$ ):

• **Proposal:** Anatolian best reflects PIE verbal system.

- No stem-based Present–Aorist aspectual contrast.
- Nasal infix  $*-né-$  is a **transitivizer** that expones  $\nu$ .
- $*-ské$  (and other eventual Present stem markers) is a **lexical aspect** marker that expones an ‘inner’ aspectual category  $\text{Aspect}_I$  above  $\nu$ , but within the verbal domain.
- Morpheme ordering is correctly predicted by MAP: infixation of  $*-né-$ , suffixation of  $*-ské$ .

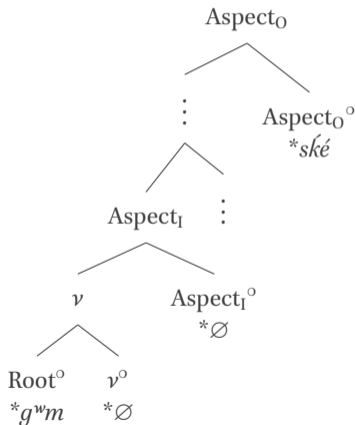




## Diachrony of the PIE nasal infix

(25) Structure of PNIE  $*g^w m\text{-}sk\acute{e}\text{-}ti$  ‘come-PRS-3SG’ (> Skt. *gá-ccha-ti*):

- **Proposal:** Present–Aorist aspectual contrast emerges in PNIE (i.e., after the departure of Anatolian; cf. Strunk 1994).
  - $*\text{-}sk\acute{e}$  (and  $*\text{-}e$ ,  $*\text{-}y\acute{e}$ ) reanalyzed as a **Present stem formant** that expones an ‘outer’ aspectual category  $\text{Aspect}_0$  associated with grammatical (/“viewpoint”) aspect.
  - Nasal ⟨infix⟩ gets dragged into this system: reanalyzed as a Present stem formant, but continues to merge in  $\nu^0$  as a morphological archaism, combining with  $*\text{-}\emptyset$  in  $\text{Asp}_0^0$ .
  - MAP continues to predict infixation of  $*\text{-}n\acute{e}\text{-}$ .

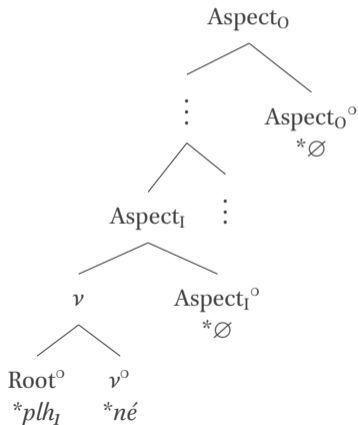




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  - Nasal ⟨infix⟩ gets dragged into this system: reanalyzed as a Present stem formant, but continues to merge in  $\nu^\circ$  as a morphological archaism, combining with  $*\text{-}\emptyset$  in  $\text{Asp}_0^\circ$ .
  - MAP continues to predict infixation of  $*\text{-né}$ .





## Extending the analysis

(26) PNIE Present stems with suffix *\*-éye-*:

- 
- |    |                        |   |                       |   |
|----|------------------------|---|-----------------------|---|
| a. | <i>*√wes</i> ‘clothe’  | ⇒ | <i>*w⟨o⟩s-éye-ti</i>  | > Hitt. <i>wašš-e-zzi</i> ‘clothes’, Ved. <i>vās-áya-ti</i> ‘clothes’       |
| b. | <i>*√lewkw</i> ‘light’ | ⇒ | <i>*l⟨o⟩wk-éye-ti</i> | > Hitt. <i>lukk-e-zzi</i> ‘lights up’, Ved. <i>roc-áya-ti</i> ‘makes shine’ |
- 
- |    |                                  |   |                                |   |
|----|----------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|---|
| c. | <i>*√wyeh<sub>1</sub></i> ‘wrap’ | ⇒ | <i>*wih<sub>1</sub>-éye-ti</i> | > Ved. <i>vy-áya-ti</i> ‘wraps (around)’, Lat. <i>vi-e-t</i> ‘plaits’ |
|----|----------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|---|
- 

The MAP also permits analysis of R(*o*)-*éye*-type causative(-iterative)s like (28a–b).

- *\*-éye* expones Aspect<sub>O</sub>, just like in non-causative zero-graded *\*-éye*-Presents like (28c).  
⇒ MAP predicts suffixation of *\*-éye*.
- The *o*-grade expones *ν*, the same transitivizing category as *\*-ne*.  
⇒ MAP predicts infixation of *\*-o-* into zero-grade root.



# Roadmap

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## Summary

- Previous scholars have suspected that the PIE nasal infix *\*-né-* was “originally” transitivizing on the basis of **functional** evidence in Anatolian and NIE.



## Summary

- Previous scholars have suspected that the PIE nasal infix *\*-né-* was “originally” transitivity on the basis of **functional** evidence in Anatolian and NIE.
- Our MAP-based analysis provides **phonological** evidence in support of this view, deriving its (almost) uniquely infixal position from its (almost) unique morphosyntactic properties.
  - The nasal infix was “originally” a transitivity  $\nu$ , while *\*-ské-* and other PNIE Present-forming affixes were Aspect markers.
  - This lower structural position was responsible for it surfacing as an infix rather than a prefix or suffix, like the true Aspect markers.
  - The same analysis can potentially be extended to R(*o*)-*éye*-type causatives, where *\*-o-* is infixal because it expones  $\nu$ .



## Summary

- Previous scholars have suspected that the PIE nasal infix *\*-né-* was “originally” transitivizing on the basis of **functional** evidence in Anatolian and NIE.
- Our MAP-based analysis provides **phonological** evidence in support of this view, deriving its (almost) uniquely infixal position from its (almost) unique morphosyntactic properties.
- This analysis renews the question of the diachrony of the Present/Aorist stem-based aspectual contrast, whose emergence we situate in PNIE.
  - Straightforwardly accounts for behavior of *\*-ne-* and *\*-ské* in Anatolian as a PIE archaism.
  - Explains the dual functions of *\*-ne-* (i.e., transitivizing + Present) as the result of PNIE reanalysis.



## Conclusion

# Thank you!

- Special thanks to the members of the:
  - UCLA Phonology Seminar
  - UCLA PIES Graduate Seminar
  - Indo-European & Modern Linguistic Theory research group
- As well as to:
  - Michelle Yuan
  - Ryan Sandell
  - John Clayton
  - and the audience of NELS 55



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# Roadmap

- ▶ Appendix – Analyzing  $R(o)$ -*éye*- causatives







## Deriving the causative(-iterative) \*R(o)-éye

(27) Derivation of *o*-grade ‘infixation’: \*w⟨o⟩s-éye-t-i

<i>us, o, éye, t, i</i>	ALIGN-éye-R	ALIGN-ROOT-R	ALIGN- <i>o</i> -R	CNTG-ROOT
a. <i>us-o-éye-t-i</i>	**	*****!	*****	
b. <del>us</del> *w⟨o⟩s-éye-t-i	**	*****	*****	*
c. <i>o-ws-éye-t-i</i>	**	*****	*****!	

- Suffixation \**us-o-éye-t-i* is eliminated by ALIGN-ROOT-R ≫ ALIGN-*o*-R.
- Prefixation \**o-ws-éye-t-i* is eliminated by ALIGN-*o*-R ≫ CNTG-ROOT.
  - \**o*-prefixation may also be eliminated by \*NOONSET.
- We need to work harder to derive a R(*o*)-éye-causative from a \*√CeRC-shape root.
  - If we assume that the *e*-grade is underlying, such that *o*- and zero-grade forms incur a CNTG-ROOT violation, then CNTG-ROOT ≫ ALIGN-*o*-R correctly yields *o*-grade \*√C⟨o⟩RC.



## Cooccurrence of PIE \*-éye- and \*-ské-

(28) PIE verbal stems with suffix \*-éye-:

- 
- a. \* $\sqrt{wes}$  ‘clothe’  $\Rightarrow$  \* $w\langle o \rangle s\text{-éye-ti}$  > Hitt. *wašš-e-zzi* ‘clothes’, Ved. *vās-áya-ti* ‘clothes’  
 $\Rightarrow$  \* $w\langle o \rangle s\text{-éye-ské-si}$  > Hitt. *wašš-i-ske-ši* ‘clothe:IPFV’
- b. \* $\sqrt{lewkw}$  ‘light’  $\Rightarrow$  \* $l\langle o \rangle wk\text{-éye-ti}$  > Hitt. *lukk-e-zzi* ‘lights up’, Ved. *roc-áya-ti* ‘makes shine’  
 $\Rightarrow$  \* $l\langle o \rangle wk\text{-éye-ské-ti}$  > Hitt. *lukk-i-ske[-* ‘cause to light up:IPFV’
- 

- Hittite reflexes \*R(o)-éye-type causatives can be further suffixed with -ške- (< \*-ské).
- If this cooccurrence is reconstructible for PIE, then \*-éye- could expone a Voice or Caus head between  $v^{\circ}$  and Aspect<sub>I</sub><sup>o</sup>.
  - \*R(o) would stay in  $v^{\circ}$  in PNIE, but \*-éye- would be reanalyzed into Asp<sub>O</sub><sup>o</sup>.