

A Gripping Language



**Please sit next to
someone you like.**
This will be a “hands on”
presentation.

Alex Fink 000024@gmail.com

Sai Emrys conlangs@saizai.com

Who are we?

Sai Emrys

engelanger

cog neuro geek

organizer

sometimes bearded

speaks Russian

cat-like

partner to that guy→

Alex Fink

artlanger

tropical math geek

organized

Latvian

can reconstruct it from PIE

likes cats

←partner to that guy

(thanks, LCC2!)

What is the gripping language?

- for exactly 2 people
- touch-mediated
- covert
- metaconversational
- concise
- optimized for the medium

Which is your *on* hand?

- Step 1: Interlace your hands
 - Which hand's thumb is on top?
- Step 2: Try it the other way too (just for kicks)
 - Awkward, eh?
- Your *on* hand is the one which is more comfortable with its thumb on top.
- Your *off* hand is the other one.

Hand Dominance

- Don't worry, this is PG ;-)
- Interlace your fingers with your partner's hand.
- If you and your partner have **different** *on-*handedness, then one of you will feel awkward.
- The person whose thumb is on top is *dom*. The other is *sub*.
 - Just in this particular grip...

Articulations: Global motions

- upwards torsion { | | | | ∩
- downwards torsion } | | | | ∪
- thumb-out yaw < | | | | <
- pinky-out yaw > | | | | >

Start from horizontal, thumbs-up position

All are anti-symmetric

Articulations: Finger presses

- 4 fingers

• gap 2 3 4 5 ○ | | |

• or knuckle 2' 3' 4' 5' | | ● |

- knuckle → microtorsion

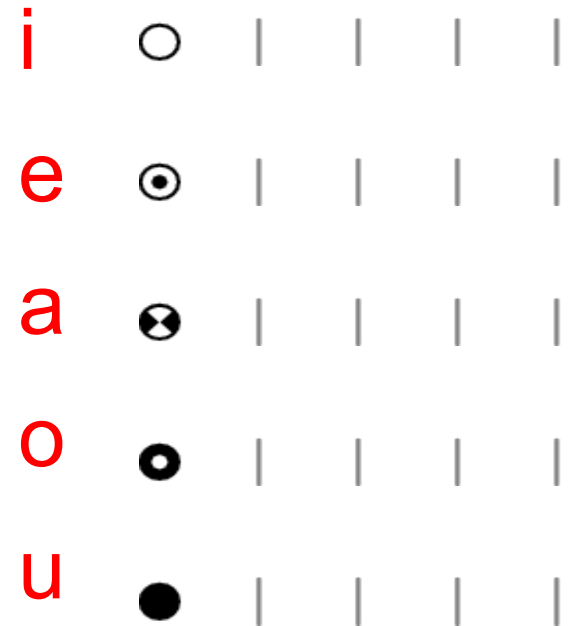
Articulations: Thumb presses

Dom

- tip
- 2nd knuckle
- 1st knuckle
- metacarpal
- wrist

Sub

- 2nd phalanx
- 2nd knuckle
- 1st phalanx
- 1st knuckle
- webbing



Articulations: Thumb rubs

Dom

Sub

• 1st→2nd knuckle

• 1st → 2nd phalanx

á/aj



• 2nd → 1st knuckle

• 2nd → 1st phalanx

è/ew



• wrist→metacarpal

• metacarpal→1st phalanx

ó/oj



• metacarpal→wrist

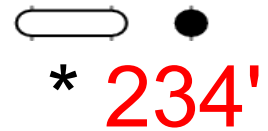
• 1st phalanx→metacarpal

à/aw



Chords

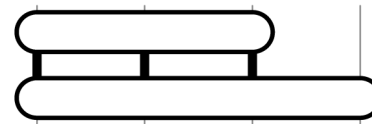
- *chord* = fingers only
 - chord + thumb = *thumbchord*
 - 1 unit of time = *beat* (\approx 1 phoneme)
- same knuckledness
- all pressed fingers adjacent (only runs)



Ligatures

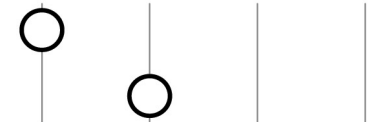
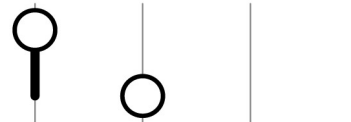
- hold some finger(s)

- $234 \rightarrow 2345$



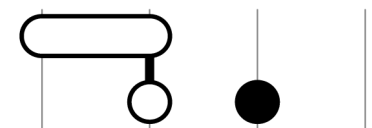
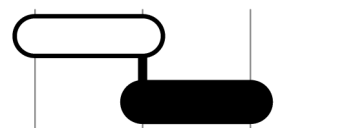
- must have held-over fingers

- $* 2 \rightarrow 3 = /2\ 3/$



- must keep knuckledness

- $* 23 \rightarrow 34'$, $* 23 \rightarrow 3'4'$



- ends in neutral position (\emptyset)

- all words are a single ligature (for now?)

Simple x Simple = Lots

- 21 basic articulations
 - 4 globals
 - 8 finger presses
 - 5 thumb presses
 - 4 thumb rub
- 129 one-beat words
 - 4 globals, 125 thumbchords (20 simple chords)
- > 5000 two-beat ligatures
 - ~8-14k depending how you count rubs

English code

begin / end <

i		ʊ, u		p		f		m	
ɪ		ə, ʌ		b		v		w	
eɪ		oʊ				θ } ð }		l	
ɛ		ɑ, ɒ		t		s		n	
	æ	⊗		d		z		ɹ	
aɪ		aʊ		tʃ = t + ʃ		ʃ } ʒ }		j	
ɔɪ				k		h		ŋ	
				g					

Thanks

Feel The Pain by AF Grant

<http://www.getangry.com/art/gallery1/strangle.htm>

Parker Glynn-Adey

