

# A Gripping Language



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

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# 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

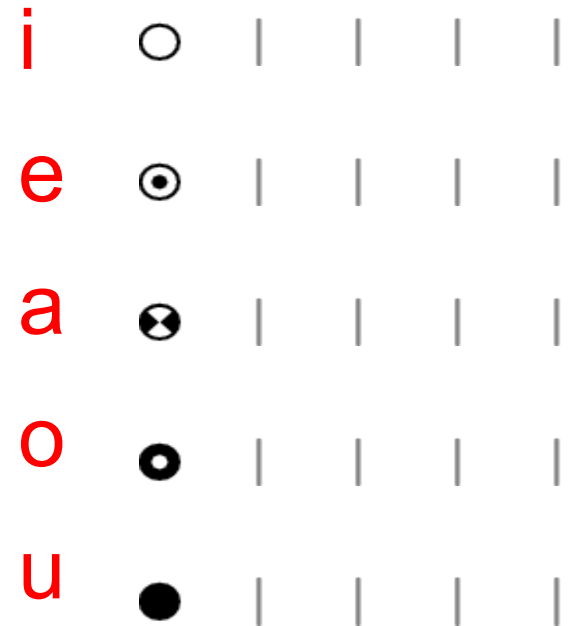
# Articulations: Thumb presses

Dom

- tip
- 2<sup>nd</sup> knuckle
- 1<sup>st</sup> knuckle
- metacarpal
- wrist

Sub

- 2<sup>nd</sup> phalanx
- 2<sup>nd</sup> knuckle
- 1<sup>st</sup> phalanx
- 1<sup>st</sup> knuckle
- webbing





# Articulations: Thumb rubs

Dom

Sub

• 1<sup>st</sup> → 2<sup>nd</sup> knuckle

• 1<sup>st</sup> → 2<sup>nd</sup> phalanx

á/aj



• 2<sup>nd</sup> → 1<sup>st</sup> knuckle

• 2<sup>nd</sup> → 1<sup>st</sup> phalanx

è/ew



• wrist → metacarpal

• metacarpal → 1<sup>st</sup> phalanx

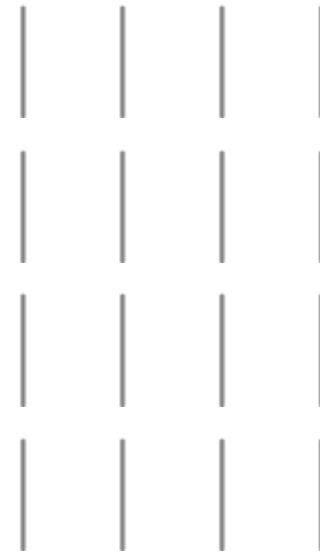
ó/oj



• metacarpal → wrist

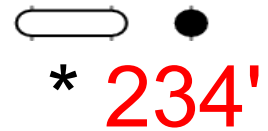
• 1<sup>st</sup> phalanx → metacarpal

à/aw



# Chords

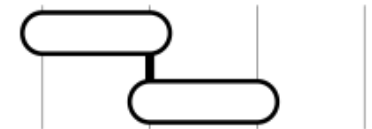
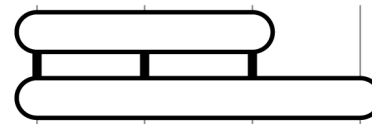
- *chord* = fingers only
  - chord + thumb = *thumbchord*
  - 1 unit of time = *beat* ( $\approx$  1 phoneme)
- same knuckledness
- all pressed fingers adjacent (only runs)



# Ligatures

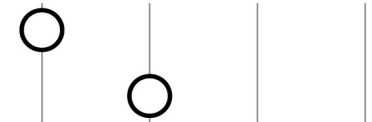
- hold some finger(s)

-  $234 \rightarrow 2345$



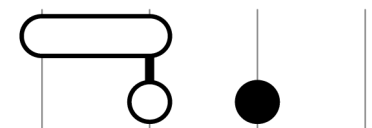
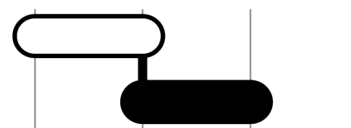
- must have held-over fingers

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



- 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

# Long English code example

- just a coding example!  
(the griplang has its own lexicon)

“Two roads diverged in a yellow wood”

t u r\owd z d Iv r\(d S) d

34oj 4'aw34'5' 34'i24'4'34'25.34'

In @ j El ow w u d ...

i4 u 25'e3'aw 2'o34'...

(we lied a little: 2'3'4' is written 24'; . are for disambiguation)

