

# Estimating sound similarities

Michael Cysouw, Jelena Prokić, Steve Moran

# Sound Similarities

- Manually specified  
(Kondrak 2002; Heeringa 2004)
- Hidden Markov Models  
(Bhargava & Kondrak 2009)
- Regular multi-alignment  
(Prokić 2010; Steiner, Stadler & Cysouw 2011)
- Bayesian inference  
(Prokić 2010)
- Investigating almost identical words  
(Holman, Brown & Wichmann 2011)

# Graphemic Normalization

- Widespread idea:  
“Convert everything into IPA”
- IPA is just another orthography !  
(only approximation of sound)
- Still: sound-based normalization is practical  
(but there are strong differences !)
- But: can we do without ?

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# Estimating symbol similarities

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# Graphemic parsing

- **Unicode normalization**

Ō vs. o ~ ´

- **Orthographic parse**

(separate orthographic units as used in the source: “graphemes”)

- **Orthographic normalization**

(research specific!)

# Graphemic parsing

- **Code points** (7) t s<sup>h</sup> o ~ ´ :
- **Characters** (4) t s<sup>h</sup> Ń :
- **Graphemes** (2) ts<sup>h</sup> Ń:

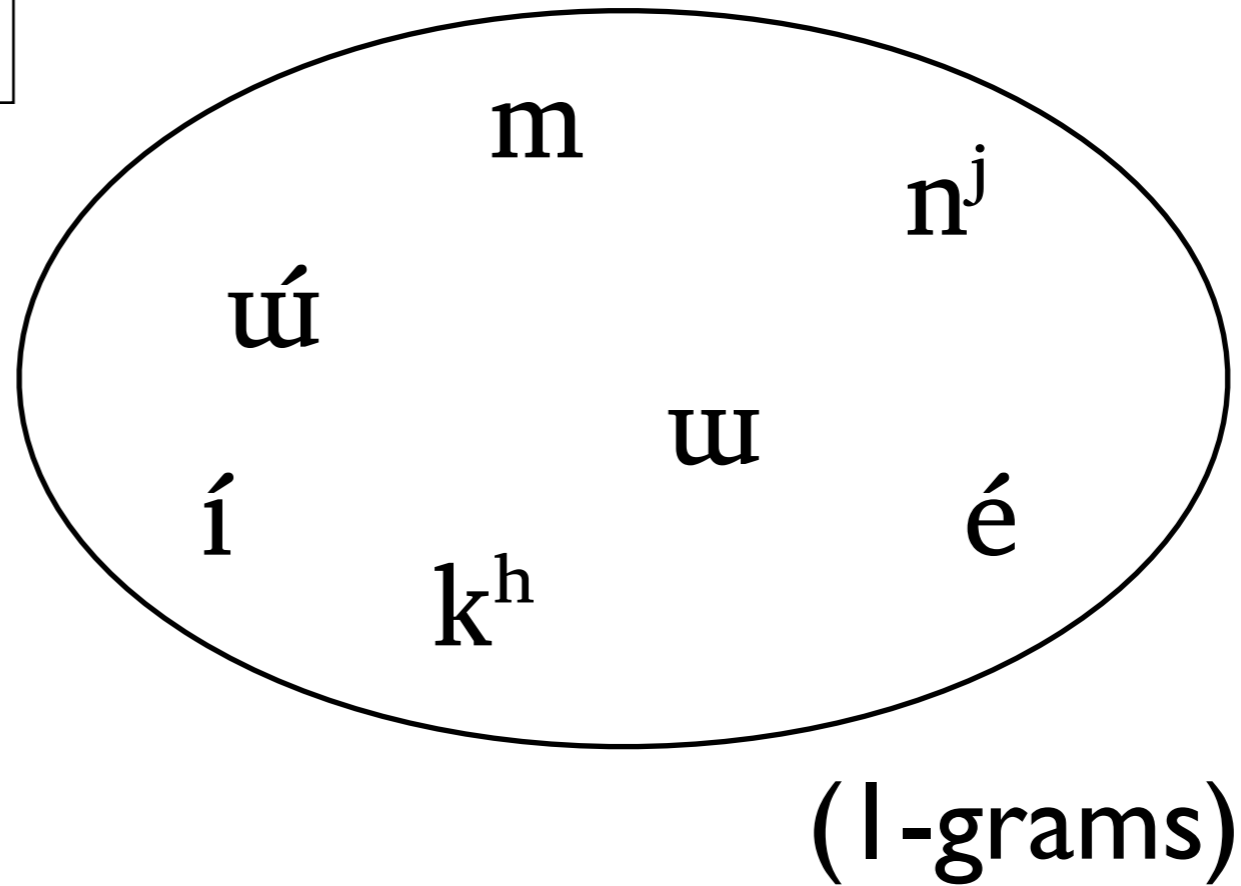
# Cross-script mapping

E	R	freq	dice
r	р	184	0.88874745
n	н	115	0.8461936
l	л	104	0.79646295
s	с	114	0.7927922
t	т	165	0.7701921
m	м	47	0.7699933
o	о	184	0.7510106
k	ть	21	0.74458015
p	п	50	0.7388723
i	и	102	0.7034591
a	а	221	0.6866478
u	у	40	0.6449104
c	к	77	0.6251676
e	е	219	0.59066784
b	б	32	0.525643
w	в	46	0.46787763
d	д	42	0.381996
⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮



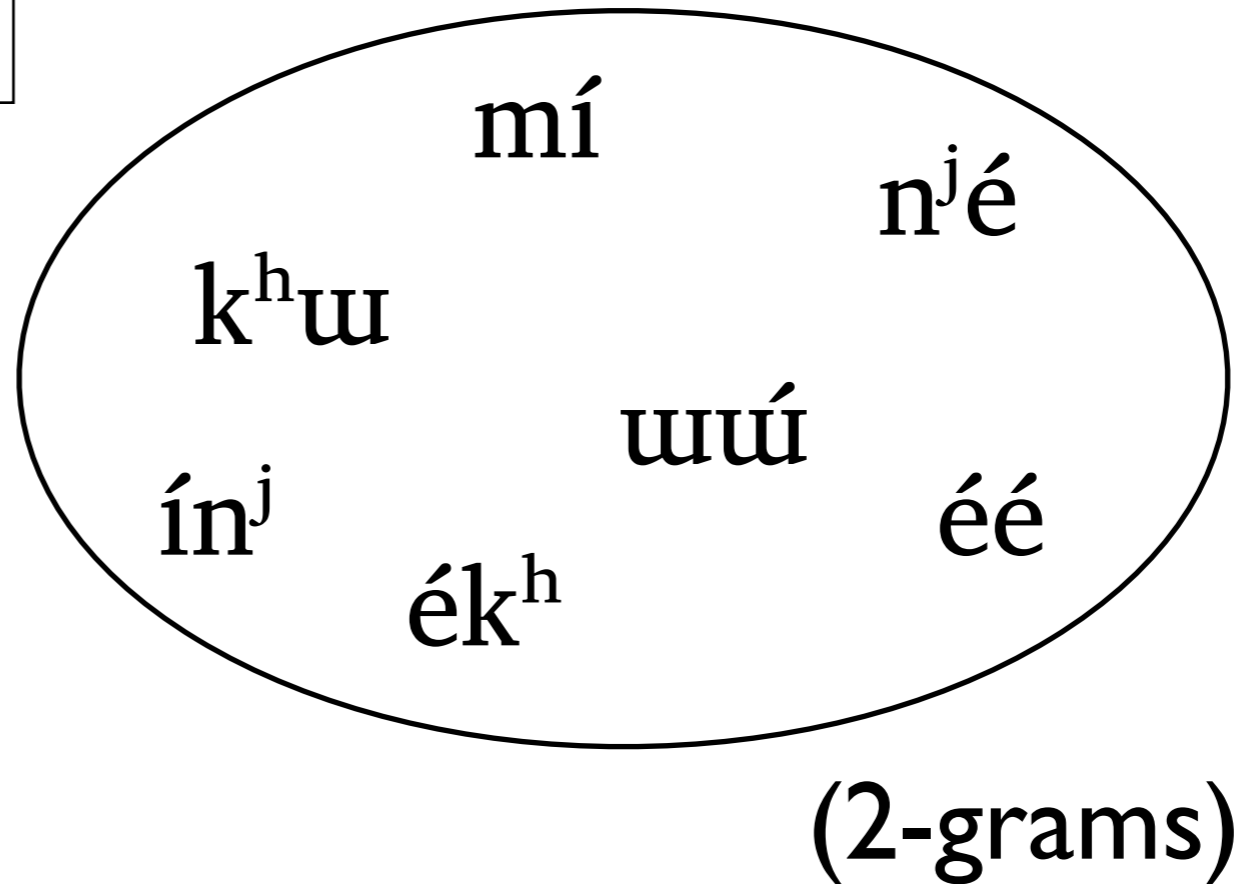
# ‘bag of symbol’ approach

mín<sup>j</sup>éék<sup>h</sup>uú



# ‘bag of symbol’ approach

mín<sup>j</sup>éék<sup>h</sup>wú



# Cross-script mapping

- Ignore linear structure of words  
“bag of symbols” approach
- Use parallel wordlist to estimate co-occurrences of n-grams
- N-grams that have a high probability of co-occurrence in parallel meaning are interesting for historical linguistics

**Chocó†**

DR hiwá hã  
 CT huwá hã  
 CM húa hã  
 TD húa hã  
 EP húa hã  
 BA húa hã  
 WM hua hã

**Chibcha**

IK gúnni  
 KO káu-xaldə  
 DM gúla  
 CL háttakra?  
 TN átkara  
 BI ʔakdurə, ʔaxdurə

**Barbacoa**

PA kuse  
 GU tasik  
 TR 'kwal  
 AW tʃti  
 TP tɛde  
 CH tʃaapa

**Kamsá**

KS kukuá-tɕe

**Quechua**

IN máki

**Arawak**

WY wahápi†  
 AC -káahi  
 CR no-kapi  
 PP wa-káapi  
 YC wa-játeʔela  
 TO paséwa†  
 CA kaapi†  
 BN -káapi  
 RE -ké

**Tucano**

TC ɔbó-kā  
 WN wā'bō bā'kā  
 PY ɔ'bō-kā  
 WA á'bó  
 BR ā'bō  
 TY wā'bó-pābā  
 YR 'wābō  
 DE bōhō'tóō  
 SR bō'hó  
 TA wā'bó  
 CP wā'bó  
 MA ābō  
 BS ābō  
 TM pita-'ka  
 CU pi'rí  
 KG 'hĩthi  
 SI ʔi'ti sa'da†  
 SE 'hĩ'ti  
 OR hĩti

**Carib**

CJ ee'nʃari  
 YK óma

**Guahibo**

PL pe-kóbe  
 GH pe-kóbe:  
 CI pé-kobe, pe-kóbe  
 JT pe-kó  
 GY peh keʔé

**Sáliba-Piaroa**

SL

**Macú-Puinave**

PU mo lap  
 NK teiʔ³  
 KK tejʔ²-ja⁴  
 JU depũj

**Witoto**

MR ono-ɕɯɯ, onouɯ  
 MN ónouɯ  
 NP ónouɯ  
 OC oŋóō(po)  
 MU úse  
 BO (mé)-ʔóxtshíí  
 MÑ óhtshíí, íʔóhtshíí

	<b>Bora</b>	<b>Muinane</b>
down	tʃin <sup>j</sup> e, paári	báari, gíino
bee	íimúʔóexp <sup>h</sup> i, téʔts <sup>h</sup> ipa	nîibiri, mîibiriʔi
sharp	ts <sup>h</sup> úʔxiβáne	sîixéβano
...	...	...

Bora	Muinane	Bora	Muinane	Bora	Muinane
#k	#k <sup>h</sup>	#i	#i	#n	#n
ki	k <sup>h</sup> u	#a	#a	#m	#m
se	ts <sup>h</sup> i	di	ti	mɨ	mu
xe	xɨ	du	to	nɨ	nu
ga	k <sup>w</sup> a	#d	#t	us	ts <sup>h</sup> i
ba	pa	#s	#ts <sup>h</sup>	#t	#t <sup>h</sup>
#b	#p	gi	tʃi	ig	uk <sup>w</sup>
e#	i#	ni	ni	#∅	#p <sup>h</sup>

# Using bigram matching

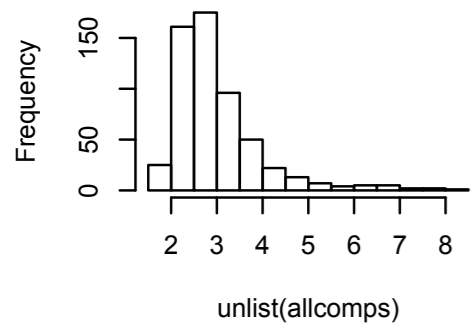
- Bora 'two':  $mín^j éék^h wú$
- Muinane 'two':  $míínokı̄$

	#m	mi	ii	in	no	ok	k†	†#
#m	22	3	2	2	2	2	2	2
mi	4	12	2	2	5	1	1	1
in <sup>j</sup>	2	1	5	9	3	1	1	2
n <sup>j</sup> e	1	1	5	5	4	1	1	2
ee	3	3	3	3	6	2	2	2
ek <sup>h</sup>	1	2	1	1	4	2	3	2
k <sup>h</sup> ω	2	2	2	2	2	1	23	2
ωω	2	2	3	3	2	2	4	4
ω#	2	2	3	2	3	1	3	4

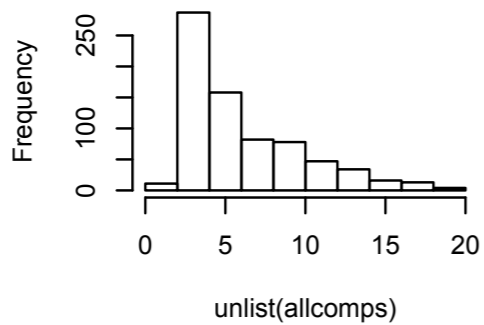


	#m	mi	ii	in	no	ok	k†	†#
#m	22	3	2	2	2	2	2	2
mi	4	12	2	2	5	1	1	1
in <sup>j</sup>	2	1	5	9	3	1	1	2
n <sup>j</sup> e	1	1	5	5	4	1	1	2
ee	3	3	3	3	6	2	2	2
ek <sup>h</sup>	1	2	1	1	4	2	3	2
k <sup>h</sup> ω	2	2	2	2	2	1	23	2
ωω	2	2	3	3	2	2	4	4
ω#	2	2	3	2	3	1	3	4

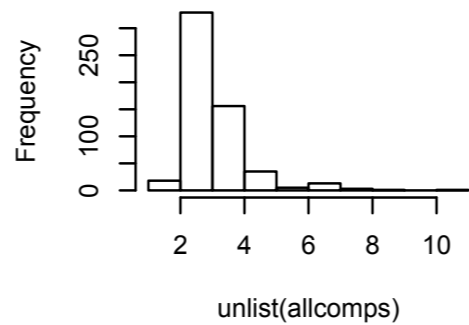
**miraña - witoto murui**



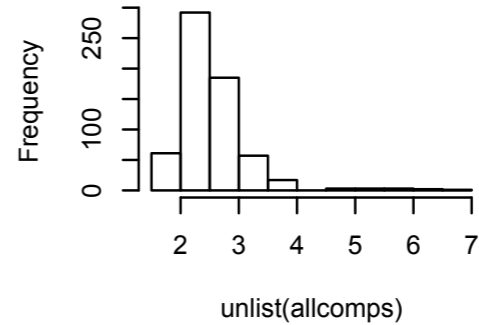
**miraña - muinane**



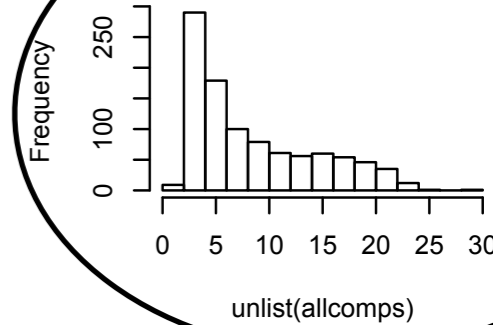
**miraña - witoto nipode**



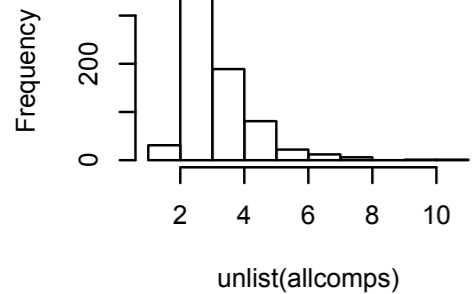
**miraña - ocaina**



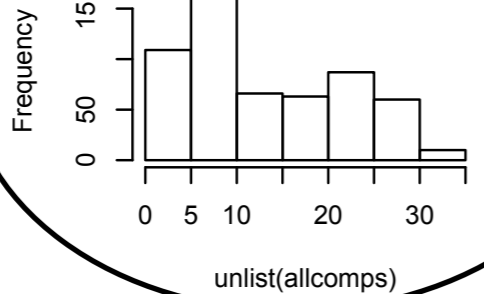
**miraña - bora**



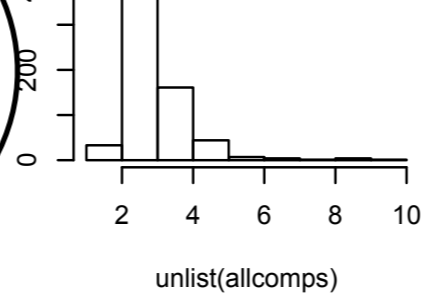
**witoto murui - muinane**



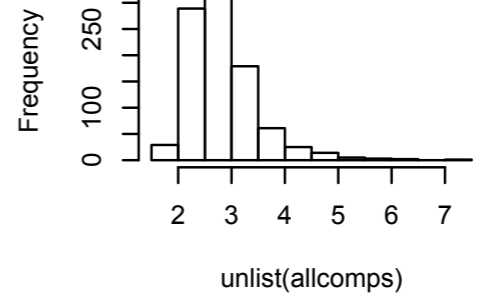
**witoto murui - witoto nipode**



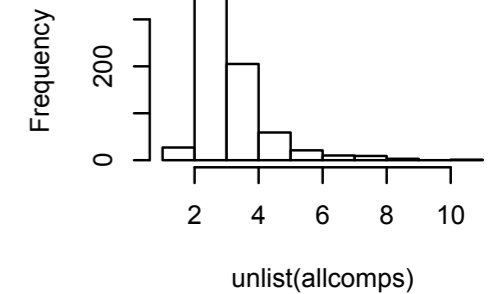
**witoto murui - ocaina**



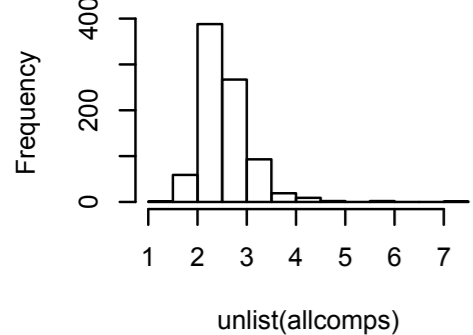
**witoto murui - bora**



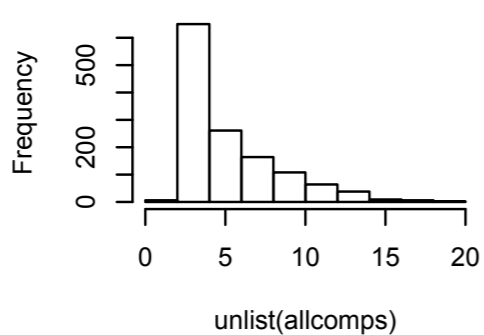
**muinane - witoto nipode**



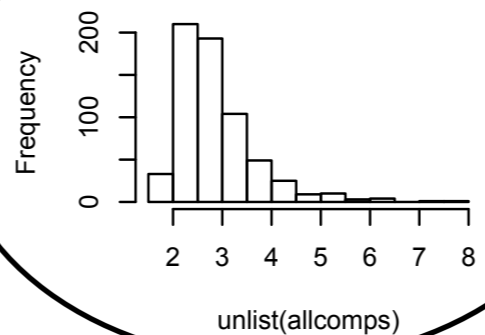
**muinane - ocaina**



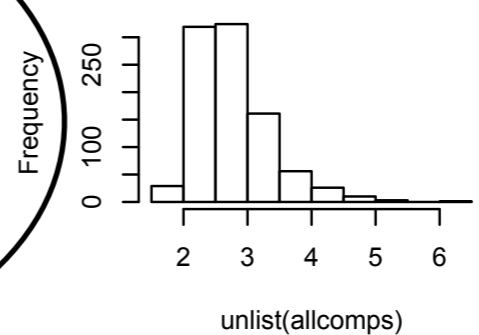
**muinane - bora**



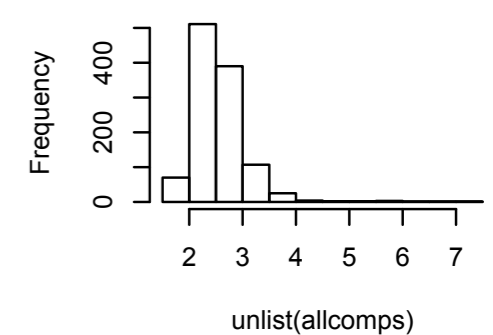
**witoto nipode - ocaina**



**witoto nipode - bora**



**ocaina - bora**



	<b>Ocaina</b>	<b>Witoto Murui</b>
HAND	oṅõõ	onodʒw
WE	xoxo	koko
HOUSE	φoo	φο
DOG	hõʔxo	hwko
JAGUAR	hõʔxo	hwko
FATHER	mõõ	moo
HUMMINGBIRD	φαʔtíʔtʲo	φιθido
TREE	amũwĩṅa	amena
STICK	amũwĩṅa	amena
WHO	bõ	bu
SLEEP	wĩwĩnõ	wɩnw
AGOUTI	φwĩwĩtʲo	φwido
THIS	bĩĩ	bie
THIS	baʔi	bie
NAME	maamũw	mamekw
DAY	mooṅa	aremona
BOW	tsipóxatʲa	θwkuira
HEAR	xaaxa	kakade
DAY	moṅamó	aremona

	<b>Ocaina</b>	<b>Witoto Murui</b>
GREASE	φahĩĩ	φare
YOU (PLURAL)	mõʔ	omow
THIS	bw	bie
ARROW	owdʲáátʲa	dukɩraθw
SPEAR	owdʲáátʲa	dukɩraθw
LIP	φαʔóóʔko	φue igow
GREEN	moxóóso	mokorede
I	xõ	kue
ONE	tʲa	dahe
WE	xo	kaw
TOOTH	aʔtiiʔtʲo	iθido
MOUTH	φooow	φue
BELLY	gááho	hebe
FATHER	mõõhõ	moo
YOU (PLURAL)	mõʔxo	omwko
SWAMP	xonwĩwĩβaga	kɩnere
RAT	mɩṅõõko	mĩṅwe
PATH, TRAIL	naahõ	nawθo
OWL	mõõṅõhõ	monuiθw