Inflection, p. 1

Inflectional morphology expresses morphosyntactic properties of lexemes. For each lexical category (part of speech) there is a certain set of available properties; the forms specify the properties.

The most straightforward way to model this is in terms of **features** and their **values**. For example, the Hebrew form נרקוד *nirkod* expresses a particular set of properties associated with the lexeme RAKAD: the feature TENSE with the value FUTURE, the feature PERSON with the value 1, and the feature NUMBER with the value PLURAL.

The textbook uses different terminology: *inflectional dimension* instead of *feature*, and *inflectional category* instead of *value*. The term feature is also sometimes used for a feature-value combination, such as the phrase "the past tense feature".

The inflectional properties of a word can be represented as a **feature-value** (or **attribute-value**) representation:

$$nirkod \qquad \text{RAKAD} \begin{bmatrix} \text{TENSE} & \text{FUT} \\ \text{PERS} & 1 \\ \text{NUM} & \text{PL} \end{bmatrix}$$

This can also be written horizontally, and even abbreviated:

$$\langle \text{RAKAD}, [\text{TENSE FUT, PERS 1, NUM PL}] \rangle$$

$$nirkod_{\text{1Pl.Fut}}$$

A **paradigm** is a chart showing all the features and feature values for a particular lexeme.
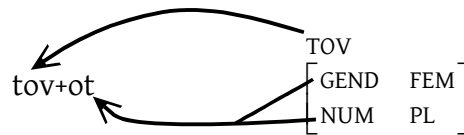
The expression of inflectional properties is called **exponence**. In the simplest case, there is a one-to-one relationship between properties and exponents. Note the word זכרונות.

$$zixron\text{+}ot \qquad \text{ZIKARON} \begin{bmatrix} \text{NUM} & \text{PL} \end{bmatrix}$$

Zixron is the stem, and the suffix *-ot* is the **exponent** of the [NUM PL] feature.

Not everything is that simple, though. Consider the adjective טובות.

Inflection, p. 2

$$\text{tov+ot} \quad \begin{matrix} \text{TOV} \\ \begin{bmatrix} \text{GEND} & \text{FEM} \\ \text{NUM} & \text{PL} \end{bmatrix} \end{matrix}$$
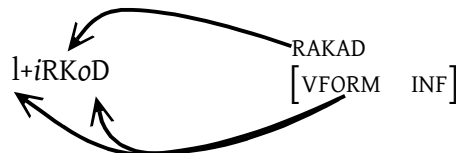
Here, the single morpheme *-ot* expresses two features. This kind of exponence is called **cumulative exponence**, or **cumulation**. There is no intrinsic reason for cumulation; notice, for example, that the equivalent in Spanish involves simple one-to-one exponence.

$$\text{buen+a+s} \quad \begin{matrix} \text{BUENO} \\ \begin{bmatrix} \text{GEND} & \text{FEM} \\ \text{NUM} & \text{PL} \end{bmatrix} \end{matrix}$$
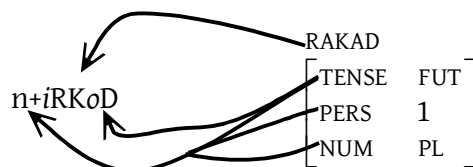
But cumulation, the expression of more than one inflectional property by one morphological form, is quite common.

The opposite of cumulation—the use of more than one morphological form for a single inflectional property—also exists. As an example, consider רקודל. (Since the *rkd* and *i-o* are discontinuous morphemes, we are using a makeshift representation.)

$$\text{l+}i\text{RK}o\text{D} \quad \begin{matrix} \text{RAKAD} \\ \begin{bmatrix} \text{VFORM} & \text{INF} \end{bmatrix} \end{matrix}$$

The infinitive feature is expressed by a combination of the *i-o* transfix and the *l* prefix. This is called **extended exponence**. As another example of extended exponence, consider the English *sold*: the past tense here is expressed both by the vowel change and by the suffix.

Now let's return to our original example. Notice the relation between features and expression:

$$\text{n+}i\text{RK}o\text{D} \quad \begin{matrix} \text{RAKAD} \\ \begin{bmatrix} \text{TENSE} & \text{FUT} \\ \text{PERS} & 1 \\ \text{NUM} & \text{PL} \end{bmatrix} \end{matrix}$$

This word involves both cumulation (the prefix *n-* expresses all three features) and extended exponence (the future tense feature is expressed both by *n-* and by *i-o*).

Inflection, p. 3

Languages whose morphology is organized around simple exponence (and simple concatenative morphology and fairly transparent allomorphy) are called **agglutinating** (or **agglutinative**) languages. Languages with cumulation and extended exponence are called **fusional** or **flectional** languages. Note the Case/number paradigms of a typical agglutinating language (Hungarian) and a typical fusional language (Latin).

Hungarian
KÖNYV 'book'

	singular	plural
Nominative	könyv	könyvek
Accusative	könyvet	könyveket
Dative	könyvnek	könyveknek
Inessive (Locative)	könyvben	könyvekben
Adessive (Locative)	könyvnél	könyveknél
Ablative	könyvtől	könyvektől
etc.		

Latin
MURUS 'wall'

	singular	plural
Nominative	murus	murī
Genitive	murī	murōrum
Dative	murō	murīs
Accusative	murum	murōs
Ablative	murō	murīs
Vocative	mure	murī