Ling 596 Morphology

Spring 2005
Monday, Wednesday 5:30–6:45
Room BA-412
http://rohan.sdsu.edu/~malouf/ling596.html

This course offers an introduction to the theoretical principles of word structure. Topics to be covered include inflection, derivation, and compounding; the organization of the lexicon; the structure of inflectional paradigms; morphophonological and morphosyntactic alternations; and computational applications. After successful completion of this course, students will be able to describe and analyze the structure of words and recognize different types of word structure, to apply current theories of word structure to new examples, to recognize the role of morphological data for the construction of linguistic theory, and to construct and apply computational models of words structure.

Prerequisite: Ling 420/520 (or permission of instructor)

Instructor:

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Requirements:

The final grade will be based on homework assignments (30%), a take-home midterm exam (30%), and a final project (40%). Through the term, there will be occasional homework assignments to practice the techniques learned in class. Working in groups is encouraged, but please include the names of all coworkers on the assignment. The mid-term and final, though, should be done individually.

For undergraduates, the final project will be a take-home exam, like the mid-term. For graduate students, the final project should be either a substantial research paper (10–12 pages) on some theoretically interesting morphological phenomenon, or a computational implementation of a complex morphological problem.
Readings

The required textbook for this course is:


This book is available in the campus bookstore and at Amazon, etc. Computational linguistics students who want more in depth material on how some of the analyses we will be looking at can be implemented should get ahold of:


This book isn’t in the bookstore, but should be available from the publisher or through the usual on-line sources. More information can be found on the author’s website:

http://www.fsmbook.com

Additional readings will be made available in class or via the “Resources” section of the course web page.

Proposed schedule:

Week 1–2  Introduction, basic concepts
Week 3  Rules in the lexicon
Week 4  Inflection and derivation
Week 5  Morphological structure (heads, compounding)
Week 6–7  Inflectional paradigms
Week 8  Midterm review and exam
Week 9–10  Word-based rules (blends, clitics, lexicalism)
Week 10–12  Morphophonology (alternations, level ordering)
Week 12–13  Computational applications (two level rules)
Week 13  Morphosyntax (valence alternations)
Week 14  Productivity and frequency
Week 15  Wrap-up and review