

# Linguistics 5901

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## Homework #7 - Yet More Comparative Reconstruction

A. The following are some cognate forms from three related languages, Sanskrit, Old Persian, and Avestan. Concentrating just on the correspondences involving voiceless stops of Sanskrit, and taking them to be representative of the general distribution of these sounds, state what these regular correspondences are among the three languages below and where appropriate, reconstruct the Proto-Indo-Iranian segments and the sound changes that gave rise to these correspondences. Finally, to the extent possible, determine the relative chronology of the sound changes you posit and state any crucial orderings among them.

Note that as you do your reconstructions and make your decisions, you should provide some justification for why you are doing what you are doing. It is not enough to just write down some symbols on a page.

The forms have been lightly "edited" to simplify the presentation somewhat.

Note that < r > = a syllabic r; < S > = a tense dental fricative distinct from [s]; a dot under a consonant indicates that it is retroflexed (pronounced with the tongue curled upwards); all other symbols have their conventional values.

<u>Sanskrit</u>	<u>Old Persian</u>	<u>Avestan</u>	<u>Gloss</u>
wṛka	warka	wṛka	'wolf'
tanu	tantu	tantu	'body'
puru	puru	-----	'much'
śata	θata	sata	'100'
b <sup>h</sup> arati	barati	barati	's/he carries'
ksap	xšap	xšap	'might'
pra	fra	fra	'forth'
rṣti	aršti	aršti	'spear'
čitra	čiSa	čiθra	'bright'
kāma	kāma	kāma	'desire'
kratwā	xraθwā	xraθwā	'with power' (instrumental singular)
b <sup>h</sup> akta	-----	baxta	'god'
putra	puSa	puθra	'son'
gāt <sup>h</sup> wā	gāθwā	gāθwā	'with a course (instrumental singular)
b <sup>h</sup> aratu	baratu	baratu	'let him/her carry'

B. What complication(s), if any, do the following forms pose for your solution?

gātu	gāθu	gātu	'course (nominative singular)
kratu	xraθu	xraθu	'power' (nominative singular)