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Latin Word Formation Paradigms

New Developments to the Word Formation Latin Lexicon (WFL)

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Word Formation, Grammar and Lexicology in a Multilingual Context

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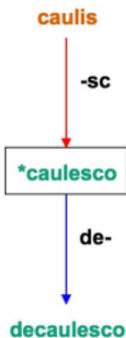
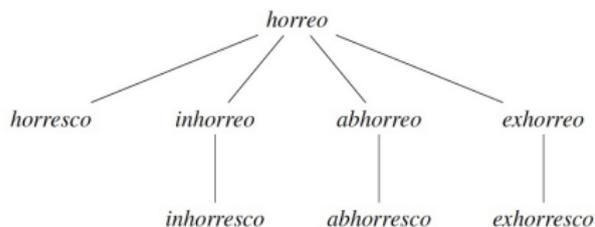
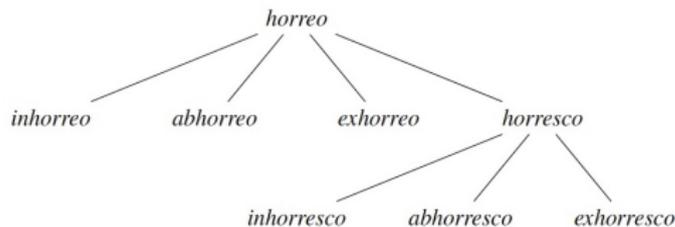


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WFL: Word formation-based lexicon for Classical Latin

- ▶ WFRs are modelled as directed one-to-many input-output relations between lemmas
- ▶ relationships between lemmas of the same “word formation family” are represented as the edges in a tree-graph
- ▶ node is a lemma, and an edge is the WFR used to derive the output lemma from the input one, together with any affix
- ▶ Compounding is also shown as an intersection between word formation families.

But: derivational trees are not completely satisfactory in representing the full range of relationships included within a word formation family.



- ▶ Not limited to base-derivative pairs (Jackendoff, 1975) => Non linear derivations
- ▶ No need for directionality (Jackendoff, 1975) => Diachronic discrepancies
- ▶ Potentiality (Štekauer: 2014)
- ▶ Availability of slots more important than the form filling them (Bauer, 1996)
- ▶ Regularity and predictability (Bauer, 1996) Analogy
- ▶ The appeal of a derivational paradigm is the possibility of stacking recurring word formations into a model, carrying descriptive and predictive powers
- ▶ BUT... not many examples of fuller paradigms

Our main goal is to enclose as much of a derivational family as possible within the derivational paradigm itself. But what should the paradigm look like? Requirements for informative derivational paradigms should be:

- ▶ No directionality: necessary to accommodate those lexemes for which the derivational process is not of the simplex (or simpler) > complex type
- ▶ The CELL has a central role in the paradigm (predictability and regularity)
- ▶ Each cell must be described in both its morphological characteristics and its semantic features, due to the underlying role of semantics in accounting for derivational processes

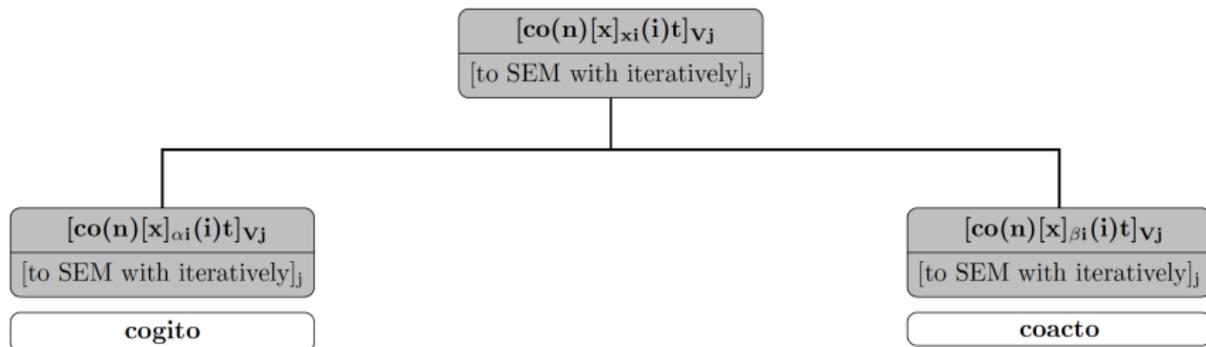
TABLES are

- ▶ Easy to read
- ▶ Basis for the traditional depiction of the inflectional paradigm
- ▶ Memorable
- ▶ Easier to consult
- ▶ Highlight the importance of the 'cell' into the paradigm

It is necessary to find the correct way of labelling the cell

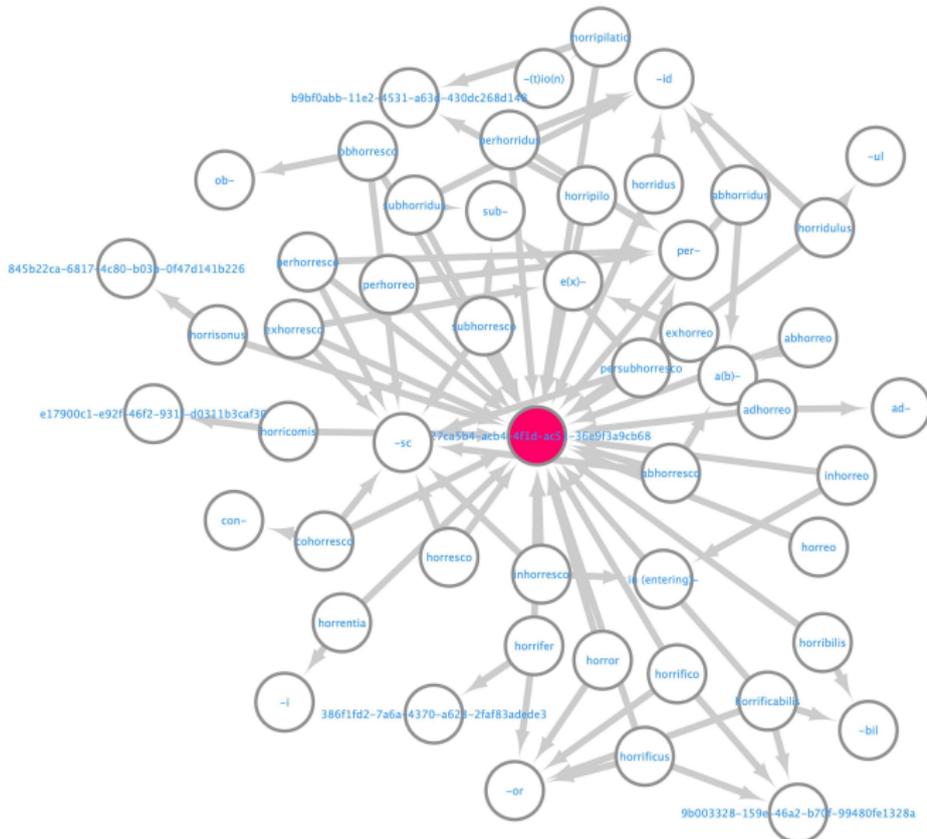
- ▶ The label must contain all of the information needed to free it from position, direction and design
- ▶ The label needs to be generic enough to describe the relationship between the combination of the lexeme's parts but
- ▶ Specialised enough to specify the nature of their meaning
- ▶ Drawn and theorised from recurrent patterns already existing in a language
- ▶ A placeholder for new words to be created at any time during its development

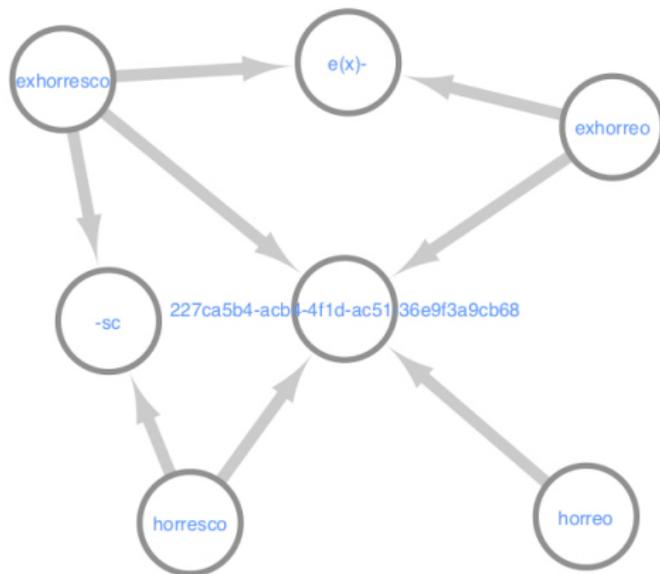
Most unassuming, declarative way of describing the cells.

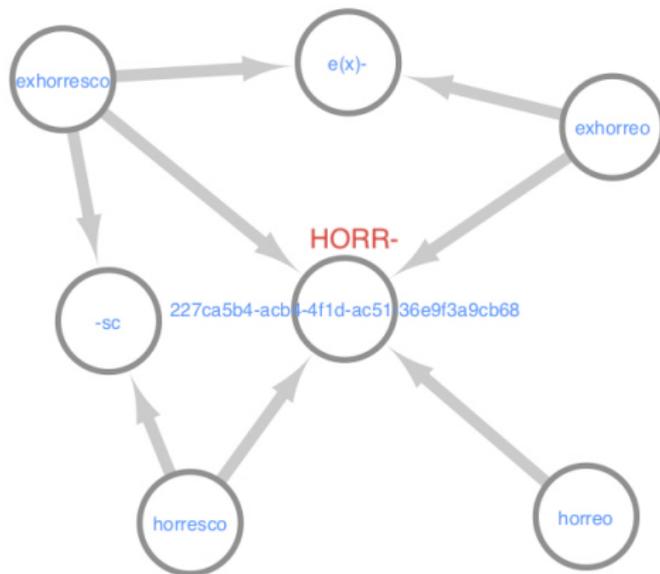


In the Ontology there are 3 types of nodes:

1. affixes
2. lemmas
3. bases







Conclusions:

- ▶ WP models have a better way of demonstrating derivational relationships between words
- ▶ This applies even to "dead" languages such as Latin
- ▶ A definitive way of representing derivational paradigms is still to be found and we tried to add our two pennies to the discussion

Future plans:

- ▶ Draw a stable "core" derivational paradigm from existing data
- ▶ Find a way of defining and naming all "base" nodes
- ▶ Test the system on other languages

Credits and acknowledgements

Thanks to...



- ▶ Marco Passarotti (you know him)
- ▶ Marco Budassi (for WP and the horresco issue)
- ▶ Marco Pappalepore (for extracting triples from the old WFL)
- ▶ Francesco Mambrini (for creating the ontology behind the new WFL)

Thanks!

Get in touch



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