

# In how many ways can you be morphomic? Laz person marking

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# Introduction

- Laz has an intricate person marking system, with a variety of aspects calling for a purely morphological ('morphomic') analysis.
- Most notably, plain vs. inverse constructions:

(1) *me-g-o-x-e-n*  
PV-CPL.2-VAL\_ O-sit-TH-SBJ.3SG  
'it sits on you (sg)'

(2) *g-i-dzir-u-n*  
SBJ.2-VAL\_ U-see-TH-CPL.3SG  
'you (sg) have seen him'

- Goals:
  - Provide a detailed description of the system
  - Motivate the use of **morphomic features**, as a way of reducing the plain vs. inverse distinction to a morphological reversal
  - Explicit formal analysis in terms of Paradigm Function Morphology

# The language Laz

- Belongs to the South Caucasian language family, which also includes Georgian, Mingrelian and Svan
- Spoken in North-East Turkey and South-West Georgia



- Approximately 250,000 speakers (Feurstein 1983).
  - Endangered : speakers under the age of ca. 25 do not speak Laz.
  - Four dialect areas. The data presented here are from the dialect of Arhavi. They are taken from published sources and from René Lacroix's fieldwork.
- 👉 A preliminary analysis of person marking in Arhavi Laz is provided in Lacroix (2009).

## The structure of the finite verb

- As other South Caucasian languages, Laz has an intricate conjugation system
- Lacroix (2009): 11 derivational and/or inflectional position classes

preverbs	preverbs	person marking	valency/aspect	root	causative	causative	thematic suffix	TAM	TAM	person marking	TAM/evidentiality
-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<i>ko-</i>	<i>go-</i>	<i>m-</i>	<i>o-</i>	<i>k'untsx</i>	<i>-in</i>		<i>-am</i>	<i>-t'</i>	<i>-i</i>	<i>-t</i>	<i>-doe</i>
PV	PV	CPL.1	VAL1	wake_up	CAUS		TH	PST.IPFV	PST	SBJ.12PL	EVD
‘you(pl.) were waking me up, I’m told’											

- Some position classes host both derivational and inflectional affixes
- In this talk we will only be concerned with the person markers in red

# Outline

## ① Data

Two constructions for verbs

Person markers in the plain construction

Person markers in the inverse construction

## ② A PFM analysis

Syncretism as morphological mismatch

Accounting for inversion

Morphomic features

## ③ Conclusions

## ④ Appendix

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## The plain construction: case marking

- Monovalent verbs take an ergative or absolutive subject

(3) *K'oči-k čind-um-s*  
man-ERG sneeze-TH-SBJ.3SG  
'The man sneezes.'  
(field data)

- Divalent verbs may take:

- An ergative subject and an absolutive complement
- An ergative subject and a dative complement
- An absolutive subject and a dative complement

(4) a. *Bere-k otsxodž me-tk'oč-u*  
child-ERG comb[ABS] PV-throw-AOR.SBJ.3SG  
'The boy threw the comb.'  
(Dumézil 1937, text 1)

b. *Bere-k bozo-s mend-o-tsk'e-s*  
child-ERG girl-DAT PV-VAL\_O-look\_at-SBJ.3SG  
'The boy looks at the girl.'  
(field data)

c. *Ha t'urva-s čkar mč'adži var n-o-xed-asen*  
DEM bag-DAT no fly[ABS] NEG PV-VAL\_O-sit-FUT.SBJ.3SG  
'No fly will sit on this bag.'  
(Dumézil 1967, text XXXV)

## The inverse construction: case marking

- Monovalent verbs take a dative subject

(5) *Bozo-s a-škurin-u*  
girl-DAT VAL\_A-get\_afraid-AOR.SBJ.3SG  
'The girl got afraid.' (Žghent'i 1938, text 50)

- Divalent verbs take a dative subject and an absolutive complement

(6) *K'oči-s čxomi va a-č'op-u*  
man-DAT fish[ABS] NEG VAL\_A-take-AOR.SBJ.3SG  
'The man could not catch fish.' (field data)



## Distribution of the two constructions

Most verbal lexemes are **congruent**:

- If the form is -PERFECT, the plain construction is used.
- If the form is +PERFECT, the inverse construction is used.

TAM	1PL>3SG form of <i>dzir</i> 'see'
present	<b>bdziromt</b>
past imperfective	<b>bdziromt</b> 'it
aurist	<b>bdzirit</b>
future	<b>bdzirat</b> <b>en</b>
present perfect	<b>midzirunan</b>
past perfect	<b>midzirut</b> ' <b>es</b>
subjunctive	<b>bdziromt</b> ' <b>at</b>
optative	<b>bdzirat</b>
past optative	<b>bdzirat</b> 'it

## Distribution of the two constructions

A few basic verbs are non-congruent: they use the inverse construction for –PERFECT forms (instead of the expected plain construction)

- (7) *k'oči-s a-škuin-u*  
man-DAT VAL\_A-fear-AOR.CPL.3SG  
'The man was scared.' (field data)

In addition, the potential derivation creates new non-congruent verbs

- (8) *k'oči-s čxomi va a-č'op-u*  
man-DAT fish NEG VAL\_A-take-AOR.CPL.3SG  
'The man could not catch fish.' (field data)

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**Person markers in the plain construction**

Person markers in the inverse construction

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## Person markers in the plain construction

- Verbs agree with both subjects and (direct or indirect) complements.

(9) *m-dzir-om-an*

CPL.1-see-TH-3SG>PL

'He sees us.'

- Monovalent verbs in the plain construction use of a first set of affixes

1SG **bl**alum

2SG lalum

3SG lalums**s**

1PL **bl**alum**t**

2PL lalum**t**

3PL lalum**an**

Present of *lal* 'bark'

☞ From now on we will refer to these affixes as **set 1 markers**

## Person marking on divalent verbs

- Divalent verbs use the **same set of subject person markers** as monovalent verbs.
- A **second set of affixes** serve as complement person markers.

		COMPLEMENT					
		1SG	2SG	3SG	1PL	2PL	3PL
SUBJECT	1SG	—	gdzirom	bdzirom	—	gdziromt	bdzirom
	2SG	mdzirom	—	dzirom	mdziromt	—	dzirom
	3SG	mdziroms	gdziroms	dziroms	mdziroman	gdziroman	dziroms
	1PL	—	gdziromt	bdziromt	—	gdziromt	bdziromt
	2PL	mdziromt	—	dziromt	mdziromt	—	dziromt
	3PL	mdziroman	gdziroman	dziroman	mdziroman	gdziroman	dziroman

Present of *dzir* 'see'

**NB:** some affixes are cumulative Set 1 / Set 2 markers. Deciding what is cumulative and what is not depends on theoretical decisions

## Allomorphy in person suffixes

- *-an* alternates with two other suffixes:
  - *-an* is used with class I verbs in the indicative present
  - *-nan* is used with class II and class III verbs in the indicative present
  - *-n* is used elsewhere

		COMPLEMENT					
		1SG	2SG	3SG	1PL	2PL	3PL
SUBJECT	1SG	—	gdzirom	bdzirom	—	gdziromt	bdzirom
	2SG	mdzirom	—	dzirom	mdziromt	—	dzirom
	3SG	mdziroms	gdziroms	dziroms	mdziroman	gdziroman	dziroms
	1PL	—	gdziromt	bdziromt	—	gdziromt	bdziromt
	2PL	mdziromt	—	dziromt	mdziromt	—	dziromt
	3PL	mdziroman	gdziroman	dziroman	mdziroman	gdziroman	dziroman

Present of *dzir* 'see'

		COMPLEMENT					
		1SG	2SG	3SG	1PL	2PL	3PL
SUBJECT	1SG	—	megoxe	meboxe	—	megoxet	meboxe
	2SG	memoxe	—	noxex	memoxet	—	noxex
	3SG	memoxen	megoxen	noxen	memoxenan	megoxenan	noxen
	1PL	—	megoxet	meboxet	—	megoxet	meboxet
	2PL	memoxet	—	noxet	memoxet	—	noxet
	3PL	memoxenan	megoxenan	noxenan	memoxenan	megoxenan	noxenan

Present of *meox* 'sit'

## Allomorphy in person suffixes

- *-an* alternates with two other suffixes:
  - *-an* is used with class I verbs in the indicative present
  - *-nan* is used with class II and class III verbs in the indicative present
  - *-n* is used elsewhere

		COMPLEMENT					
		1SG	2SG	3SG	1PL	2PL	3PL
SUBJECT	1SG	—	gdzirom	bdzirom	—	gdziromt	bdzirom
	2SG	mdzirom	—	dzirom	mdziromt	—	dzirom
	3SG	mdziroms	gdziroms	dziroms	mdziroman	gdziroman	dziroms
	1PL	—	gdziromt	bdziromt	—	gdziromt	bdziromt
	2PL	mdziromt	—	dziromt	mdziromt	—	dziromt
	3PL	mdziroman	gdziroman	dziroman	mdziroman	gdziroman	dziroman

Present of *dzir* 'see'

		COMPLEMENT					
		1SG	2SG	3SG	1PL	2PL	3PL
SUBJECT	1SG	—	gdzira	bdzira	—	gdzirat	bdzira
	2SG	mdzira	—	dzira	mdzirat	—	dzira
	3SG	mdziras	gdziras	dziras	mdziran	gdziran	dziras
	1PL	—	gdzirat	bdzirat	—	gdzirat	bdzirat
	2PL	mdzirat	—	dzirat	mdzirat	—	dzirat
	3PL	mdziran	gdziran	dziran	mdziran	gdziran	dziran

Optative of *dzir* 'see'

## Allomorphy in person suffixes

- s alternates with another suffix:
  - n* is used with class III verbs in the indicative present
  - s is used elsewhere

		COMPLEMENT					
		1SG	2SG	3SG	1PL	2PL	3PL
SUBJECT	1SG	—	gdzirom	bdzirom	—	gdziromt	bdzirom
	2SG	mdzirom	—	dzirom	mdziromt	—	dzirom
	3SG	mdziroms	gdziroms	dziroms	mdziroman	gdziroman	dziroms
	1PL	—	gdziromt	bdziromt	—	gdziromt	bdziromt
	2PL	mdziromt	—	dziromt	mdziromt	—	dziromt
	3PL	mdziroman	gdziroman	dziroman	mdziroman	gdziroman	dziroman

Present of *dzir* 'see'

		COMPLEMENT					
		1SG	2SG	3SG	1PL	2PL	3PL
SUBJECT	1SG	—	megoxe	meboxe	—	megoxet	meboxe
	2SG	memoxe	—	noxex	memoxet	—	noxex
	3SG	memoxen	megoxen	noxen	memoxenan	megoxenan	noxen
	1PL	—	megoxet	meboxet	—	megoxet	meboxet
	2PL	memoxet	—	noxet	memoxet	—	noxet
	3PL	memoxenan	megoxenan	noxenan	memoxenan	megoxenan	noxenan

Present of *meox* 'sit'



## Allomorphy in person suffixes

- In the future, full set of suffixes cumulating tense and person marking

		COMPLEMENT					
		1SG	2SG	3SG	1PL	2PL	3PL
SUBJECT	1SG	—	gdzirom	bdzirom	—	gdziromt	bdzirom
	2SG	mdzirom	—	dzirom	mdziromt	—	dzirom
	3SG	mdziroms	gdziroms	dziroms	mdziroman	gdziroman	dziroms
	1PL	—	gdziromt	bdziromt	—	gdziromt	bdziromt
	2PL	mdziromt	—	dziromt	mdziromt	—	dziromt
	3PL	mdziroman	gdziroman	dziroman	mdziroman	gdziroman	dziroman

Present of *dzir* 'see'

		COMPLEMENT					
		1SG	2SG	3SG	1PL	2PL	3PL
SUBJECT	1SG	—	gdzirare	bdzirare	—	gdziraten	bdzirare
	2SG	mdzirare	—	dzirare	mdziraten	—	dzirare
	3SG	mdzirasen	gdzirasen	dzirasen	mdziranoren	gdziranoren	dzirasen
	1PL	—	gdziraten	bdziraten	—	gdziraten	bdziraten
	2PL	mdziraten	—	dziraten	mdziraten	—	dziraten
	3PL	m-dziranoren	gdziranoren	dziranoren	mdziranoren	gdziranoren	mdziranoren

Future of *dzir* 'see'

## Portmanteau suffixes in the past

- In the past, two portmanteau suffixes corresponding to *-nan* and *-n*

		COMPLEMENT					
		1SG	2SG	3SG	1PL	2PL	3PL
SUBJECT	1SG	—	gdzirom	bdzirom	—	gdziromt	bdzirom
	2SG	mdzirom	—	dzirom	mdziromt	—	dzirom
	3SG	mdziroms	gdziroms	dziroms	mdziroman	gdziroman	dziroms
	1PL	—	gdziromt	bdziromt	—	gdziromt	bdziromt
	2PL	mdziromt	—	dziromt	mdziromt	—	dziromt
	3PL	mdziroman	gdziroman	dziroman	mdziroman	gdziroman	dziroman

Present of *dzir* 'see'

		COMPLEMENT					
		1SG	2SG	3SG	1PL	2PL	3PL
SUBJECT	1SG	—	gdziri	bdziri	—	gdzirit	bdziri
	2SG	mdziri	—	dziri	mdzirit	—	dziri
	3SG	mdzir <u>u</u>	gdzir <u>u</u>	dzir <u>u</u>	mdzir <u>es</u>	gdzir <u>es</u>	dzir <u>u</u>
	1PL	—	gdzirit	bdzirit	—	gdzirit	bdzirit
	2PL	mdzirit	—	dzirit	mdzirit	—	dzirit
	3PL	m-dzir <u>es</u>	gdzir <u>es</u>	dzir <u>es</u>	mdzir <u>es</u>	gdzir <u>es</u>	dzir <u>es</u>

Aorist of *dzir* 'see'

## Summary: suffix allomorphy

- Alternate person suffixes always occur in the same 4 zones of the paradigm
- Two orthogonal dimensions of classification for suffixes: person marking, TAM+class

		COMPLEMENT					
		1SG	2SG	3SG	1PL	2PL	3PL
SUBJECT	1SG		A		D		A
	2SG						
	3SG		C		B		C
	1PL		D				
	2PL						
	3PL		B				

A: { *are* in the future  
 $\emptyset$  elsewhere

B: { *anoren* in the future  
 portmanteau *es* in the past  
*nan* in the present, classes II and III  
*an* in the present, class I  
*n* elsewhere

C: { *asen* in the future  
 portmanteau *u* in the past  
*n* in the present, class III  
*s* elsewhere

D: { *aten* in the future  
*t* elsewhere

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## Person markers in the inverse construction

- As in the plain construction, verbs agree with both subjects and complements.

(10) *b-u-dzir-u-t*  
3>1-SUBJ.3.VAL\_U-see-TH-CPL.PL  
'He has seen us'

- Monovalent verbs recycle Set 2 person markers from the plain construction

1SG **maškurinen**

2SG **gaškurinen**

3SG **aškurinen**

1PL **maškurinenan**

2PL **gaškurinenan**

3PL **aškurinenan**

Present of *aškurin* 'get afraid'

## Person marking on divalent verbs

- Set 2 markers register subject agreement, set 1 markers complement agreement

### plain construction

1SG	—	megoxe	meboxe	—	megoxet	meboxe
2SG	memoxe	—	noxex	memoxet	—	noxex
3SG	memoxen	megoxen	noxen	memoxenan	megoxenan	noxen
1PL	—	megoxet	meboxet	—	megoxet	meboxet
2PL	memoxet	—	noxet	memoxet	—	noxet
3PL	memoxenan	megoxenan	noxenan	memoxenan	megoxenan	noxenan

### inverse construction

1SG	—	midziu	midziun	—	midziut	midziun
2SG	gidziu	—	gidziun	gidziut	—	gidziun
3SG	budziu	udziu	udziun	budziut	udziut	udziun
1PL	—	midziut	midziunan	—	midzi-ut	midziunan
2PL	gidziut	—	gidziunan	gidziut	—	gidziunan
3PL	budziu	udziu	udziunan	budziut	udziut	udziunan

## Comparing the two constructions

- Observation: the table is symmetrical, except for the greyed out area
- ☞ This is almost a morphological reversal (Baerman 2007)

### plain construction

	1SG	2SG	3SG	1PL	2PL	3PL
1SG	—	g-∅	b-∅	—	g-t	b-∅
2SG	m-∅	—	∅-∅	m-t	—	∅-∅
3SG	m-n	g-n	∅-n	m-nan	g-nan	∅-n
1PL	—	g-t	b-t	—	g-t	b-t
2PL	m-t	—	∅-t	m-t	—	∅-t
3PL	m-nan	g-nan	∅-nan	m-nan	g-nan	∅-nan

### inverse construction

1SG	—	m-∅	m-n	—	m-t	m-n
2SG	g-∅	—	g-n	g-t	—	g-n
3SG	b-∅	∅-∅	∅-n	b-t	-t	∅-n
1PL	—	m-t	m-nan	—	m-t	m-nan
2PL	g-t	—	g-nan	g-t	—	g-nan
3PL	b-∅	∅-∅	∅-nan	b-t	∅-t	∅-nan

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**plain construction**

	1SG	2SG	3SG	1PL	2PL	3PL
1SG	—	g-∅	b-∅	—	g-t	b-∅
2SG	m-∅	—	∅-∅	m-t	—	∅-∅
3SG	m-n	g-n	∅-n	m-nan	g-nan	∅-n
1PL	—	g-t	b-t	—	g-t	b-t
2PL	m-t	—	∅-t	m-t	—	∅-t
3PL	m-nan	g-nan	∅-nan	m-nan	g-nan	∅-nan

**inverse construction**

	1SG	2SG	3SG	1PL	2PL	3PL
1SG	—	m-∅	m-n	—	m-t	m-n
2SG	g-∅	—	g-n	g-t	—	g-n
3SG	b-∅	∅-∅	∅-n	b-t	-t	∅-n
1PL	—	m-t	m-nan	—	m-t	m-nan
2PL	g-t	—	g-nan	g-t	—	g-nan
3PL	b-∅	∅-∅	∅-nan	b-t	∅-t	∅-nan



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		plain construction					
		1SG	2SG	3SG	1PL	2PL	3PL
1SG	—	g-∅	b-∅	—	—	g-t	b-∅
2SG	m-∅	—	∅-∅	(m-t)	—	—	∅-∅
3SG	m-n	g-n	∅-n	m-nan	g-nan	—	∅-n
1PL	—	g-t	b-t	—	g-t	—	b-t
2PL	m-t	—	∅-t	m-t	—	—	∅-t
3PL	m-nan	g-nan	∅-nan	m-nan	g-nan	—	∅-nan
		inverse construction					
		1SG	2SG	3SG	1PL	2PL	3PL
1SG	—	m-∅	m-n	—	—	m-t	m-n
2SG	g-∅	—	g-n	g-t	—	—	g-n
3SG	b-∅	∅-∅	∅-n	b-t	-t	—	∅-n
1PL	—	(m-t)	m-nan	—	m-t	—	m-nan
2PL	g-t	—	g-nan	g-t	—	—	g-nan
3PL	b-∅	∅-∅	∅-nan	b-t	∅-t	—	∅-nan

## Comparing the two constructions

- Observation: the table is symmetrical, except for the greyed out area
- ☞ This is almost a morphological reversal (Baerman 2007)

		plain construction					
	1SG	2SG	3SG	1PL	2PL	3PL	
1SG	—	g-∅	b-∅	—	g-t	b-∅	
2SG	m-∅	—	∅-∅	(m-t)	—	∅-∅	
3SG	m-n	g-n	∅-n	(m-nan)	g-nan	∅-n	
1PL	—	g-t	b-t	—	g-t	b-t	
2PL	m-t	—	∅-t	m-t	—	∅-t	
3PL	m-nan	g-nan	∅-nan	m-nan	g-nan	∅-nan	
		inverse construction					
	1SG	2SG	3SG	1PL	2PL	3PL	
1SG	—	m-∅	m-n	—	m-t	m-n	
2SG	g-∅	—	g-n	g-t	—	g-n	
3SG	b-∅	∅-∅	∅-n	b-t	-t	∅-n	
1PL	—	(m-t)	(m-nan)	—	m-t	m-nan	
2PL	g-t	—	g-nan	g-t	—	g-nan	
3PL	b-∅	∅-∅	∅-nan	b-t	∅-t	∅-nan	

## Comparing the two constructions

- Observation: the table is symmetrical, except for the greyed out area
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	plain construction					
	1SG	2SG	3SG	1PL	2PL	3PL
1SG	—	g-∅	b-∅	—	g-t	b-∅
2SG	m-∅	—	∅-∅	(m-t)	—	∅-∅
3SG	m-n	g-n	∅-n	(m-nan)	g-nan	(∅-n)
1PL	—	g-t	b-t	—	g-t	b-t
2PL	m-t	—	∅-t	m-t	—	∅-t
3PL	m-nan	g-nan	∅-nan	m-nan	g-nan	∅-nan
	inverse construction					
1SG	—	m-∅	m-n	—	m-t	m-n
2SG	g-∅	—	g-n	g-t	—	g-n
3SG	b-∅	∅-∅	∅-n	b-t	-t	∅-n
1PL	—	(m-t)	(m-nan)	—	m-t	m-nan
2PL	g-t	—	g-nan	g-t	—	g-nan
3PL	b-∅	∅-∅	(∅-nan)	b-t	∅-t	∅-nan

## Comparing the two constructions

- Systematic syncretism between 3SG and 3PL complements
- Both look like SG forms
- Analysis: no number agreement; remove a column

### plain construction

	1SG	2SG	3SG	1PL	2PL	3PL
1SG	—	g- $\emptyset$	b- $\emptyset$	—	g-t	b- $\emptyset$
2SG	m- $\emptyset$	—	$\emptyset$ - $\emptyset$	m-t	—	$\emptyset$ - $\emptyset$
3SG	m-n	g-n	$\emptyset$ -n	m-nan	g-nan	$\emptyset$ -n
1PL	—	g-t	b-t	—	g-t	b-t
2PL	m-t	—	$\emptyset$ -t	m-t	—	$\emptyset$ -t
3PL	m-nan	g-nan	$\emptyset$ -nan	m-nan	g-nan	$\emptyset$ -nan

### inverse construction

1SG	—	m- $\emptyset$	m-n	—	m-t	m-n
2SG	g- $\emptyset$	—	g-n	g-t	—	g-n
3SG	b- $\emptyset$	$\emptyset$ - $\emptyset$	$\emptyset$ -n	b-t	-t	$\emptyset$ -n
1PL	—	m-t	m-nan	—	m-t	m-nan
2PL	g-t	—	g-nan	g-t	—	g-nan
3PL	b- $\emptyset$	$\emptyset$ - $\emptyset$	$\emptyset$ -nan	b-t	$\emptyset$ -t	$\emptyset$ -nan

## Comparing the two constructions

- Systematic syncretism between 3SG and 3PL complements
- Both look like SG forms
- Analysis: no number agreement; remove a column

### plain construction

	1SG	2SG	3SG	1PL	2PL	3PL
1SG	—	g- $\emptyset$	b- $\emptyset$	—	g-t	b- $\emptyset$
2SG	m- $\emptyset$	—	$\emptyset$ - $\emptyset$	m-t	—	$\emptyset$ - $\emptyset$
3SG	m-( $\bar{n}$ )	g-( $\bar{n}$ )	$\emptyset$ -( $\bar{n}$ )	m-nan	g-nan	$\emptyset$ -( $\bar{n}$ )
1PL	—	g-t	b-t	—	g-t	b-t
2PL	m-t	—	$\emptyset$ -t	m-t	—	$\emptyset$ -t
3PL	m-nan	g-nan	$\emptyset$ -nan	m-nan	g-nan	$\emptyset$ -nan

### inverse construction

1SG	—	m- $\emptyset$	m-n	—	m-t	m-n
2SG	g- $\emptyset$	—	g-n	g-t	—	g-n
3SG	b- $\emptyset$	$\emptyset$ - $\emptyset$	$\emptyset$ -n	b-t	-t	$\emptyset$ -n
1PL	—	m-t	m-nan	—	m-t	m-nan
2PL	g-t	—	g-nan	g-t	—	g-nan
3PL	b- $\emptyset$	$\emptyset$ - $\emptyset$	$\emptyset$ -nan	b-t	$\emptyset$ -t	$\emptyset$ -nan

## Comparing the two constructions

- Systematic syncretism between 3SG and 3PL complements
- Both look like SG forms
- **Analysis: no number agreement; remove a column**

### plain construction

	1SG	2SG	3SG	1PL	2PL
1SG	—	g- $\emptyset$	b- $\emptyset$	—	g-t
2SG	m- $\emptyset$	—	$\emptyset$ - $\emptyset$	m-t	—
3SG	m-n	g-n	$\emptyset$ -n	m-nan	g-nan
1PL	—	g-t	b-t	—	g-t
2PL	m-t	—	$\emptyset$ -t	m-t	—
3PL	m-nan	g-nan	$\emptyset$ -nan	m-nan	g-nan

### inverse construction

1SG	—	m- $\emptyset$	m-n	—	m-t
2SG	g- $\emptyset$	—	g-n	g-t	—
3SG	b- $\emptyset$	$\emptyset$ - $\emptyset$	$\emptyset$ -n	b-t	-t
1PL	—	m-t	m-nan	—	m-t
2PL	g-t	—	g-nan	g-t	—
3PL	b- $\emptyset$	$\emptyset$ - $\emptyset$	$\emptyset$ -nan	b-t	$\emptyset$ -t

# Outline

## ① Data

Two constructions for verbs

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Person markers in the inverse construction

## ② A PFM analysis

Syncretism as morphological mismatch

Accounting for inversion

Morphomic features

## ③ Conclusions

## ④ Appendix

# The argument

- We want to account for:
  - Plain vs. inverse opposition
  - Systematic syncretism between 3PL and 3SG complement agreement affixes
- The problem is reminiscent of the Georgian situation for which numerous analyses have been proposed (e.g. Harris, 1981; Anderson, 1984, 1986, 1992; Halle & Marantz, 1993; Stump, 2001; Stewart 2001), but:
  - None of these is fully satisfactory
  - The Laz facts are different (in effect, more clear)
- Proposed solution:
  - The syncretism pattern is an instance of a systematic morphological mismatch.
  - Given this, inversion is a simple, full reversal.
- Theoretical claim:
  - This type of morphological mismatch is best captured by positing **morphomic features**
  - ☞ Avoids the overhead of the **paradigm linkage** approach (Stump, 2006)
  - ☞ Allows for a simple account of the celebrated prefix choice problem



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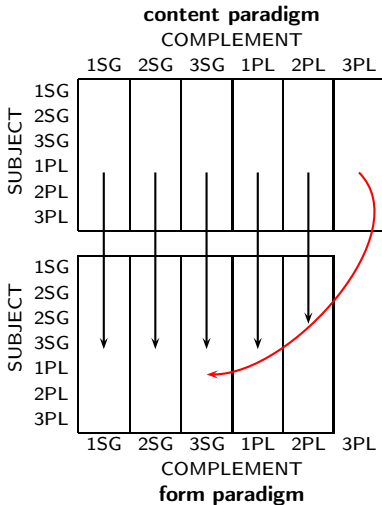
Morphomic features

## 3 Conclusions

## 4 Appendix

## A morphological mismatch

- Suppose we adopt Stump's (2006) distinction between the **content paradigm** and the **form paradigm** of a lexeme.
  - Then the Laz systematic syncretism can be seen as a mismatch: **content cells** with features {CPL 3*p*} correspond to **form cells** with features {CPL 3*sg*}
- ☞ Different from deponency: systematic, 'copy and paste' (Corbett, 2007)



## Rules for prefixes (form paradigm)

- The following rules generate appropriate prefixes for the plain construction of divalent verbs.
  - $X_{\text{verb}, \sigma} : \{\text{CPL } 1\} \rightarrow mX$
  - $X_{\text{verb}, \sigma} : \{\text{CPL } 2\} \rightarrow gX$
  - $X_{\text{verb}, \sigma} : \{\text{SBJ } 1, \text{CPL } 3\} \rightarrow bX$

		COMPLEMENT				
		1SG	2SG	3SG	1PL	2PL
SUBJECT	1SG	—	gdzirom	bdzirom	—	gdziromt
	2SG	mdzirom	—	dzirom	mdziromt	—
	3SG	mdziroms	gdziroms	dziroms	mdziroman	gdziroman
	1PL	—	gdziromt	bdziromt	—	gdziromt
	2PL	mdziromt	—	dziromt	mdziromt	—
	3PL	mdziroman	gdziroman	dziroman	mdziroman	gdziroman

Present of *dzir* 'see'

## Rules for suffixes (form paradigm)

- Remember: all subparadigms have the exact same structure
- To highlight the structural unity, we organize rules in **gangs**, modelled as unordered rule blocks (Stump 2001, chap. 5)

		COMPLEMENT					
		1SG	2SG	3SG	1PL	2PL	3PL
SUBJECT	1SG	A		D			A
	2SG	A		D			A
	3SG	C		B			B
	1PL	D					D
	2PL	D					D
	3PL	B					B

$X_{\text{verb}, \sigma : \{\}} \rightarrow \langle X, \sigma \rangle : A$

$X_{\text{verb}, \sigma : \{\text{SBJ } 3\}} \rightarrow \langle X, \sigma \rangle : B$

$X_{\text{verb}, \sigma : \{\text{SBJ } 3\text{sg}, \text{CPL } \text{sg}\}} \rightarrow \langle X, \sigma \rangle : C$

$X_{\text{verb}, \sigma : \{\text{SBJ } 12\text{pl}\}} \rightarrow \langle X, \sigma \rangle : D$

$X_{\text{verb}, \sigma : \{\text{SBJ } 12\text{sg}, \text{CPL } 12\text{pl}\}} \rightarrow \langle X, \sigma \rangle : D$

$A : \left\{ \begin{array}{l} X_{\text{verb}, \sigma : \{\text{TNS } \text{fut}\}} \rightarrow X\text{are} \\ \text{Identity function default} \end{array} \right.$

$B : \left\{ \begin{array}{l} X_{\text{verb}, \sigma : \{\text{TNS } \text{fut}\}} \rightarrow X\text{anoren} \\ X_{\text{verb}, \sigma : \{\text{TNS } \text{prs}\}} \rightarrow X\text{nan} \\ X_{\text{I}, \sigma : \{\text{TNS } \text{prs}\}} \rightarrow X\text{an} \\ X_{\text{verb}, \sigma : \{\}} \rightarrow X\text{n} \end{array} \right.$

$C : \left\{ \begin{array}{l} X_{\text{verb}, \sigma : \{\text{TNS } \text{fut}\}} \rightarrow X\text{asen} \\ X_{\text{III}, \sigma : \{\text{TNS } \text{prs}\}} \rightarrow X\text{n} \\ X_{\text{verb}, \sigma : \{\}} \rightarrow X\text{s} \end{array} \right.$

$D : \left\{ \begin{array}{l} X_{\text{verb}, \sigma : \{\text{TNS } \text{fut}\}} \rightarrow X\text{aten} \\ X_{\text{verb}, \sigma : \{\}} \rightarrow X\text{t} \end{array} \right.$

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## Hidden forms in the form paradigm

- The rules given thus far generate forms for the {CPL 3sg} column in the form paradigm
- ☞ In fact, special measures would need to be taken to prevent these forms from being generated
- These forms never show up in the content paradigm in the plain construction

### plain construction (form paradigm)

	1SG	2SG	3SG	1PL	2PL	3PL
1SG	—	g-∅	b-∅	—	g-t	b-∅
2SG	m-∅	—	∅-∅	m-t	—	∅-∅
3SG	m-n	g-n	∅-n	m-nan	g-nan	∅-nan
1PL	—	g-t	b-t	—	g-t	b-t
2PL	m-t	—	∅-t	m-t	—	∅-t
3PL	m-nan	g-nan	∅-nan	m-nan	g-nan	∅-nan

## Plain vs. inverse in the form paradigm

- ☞ In terms of the form paradigm, the inverse construction is an **exact** reversal of the plain construction.

plain construction (form paradigm)							3PL
1SG	2SG	3SG	1PL	2PL			
1SG	—	g-∅	b-∅	—	g-t		b-∅
2SG	m-∅	—	∅-∅	(m-t)	—		∅-∅
3SG	m-n	g-n	∅-n	(m-nan)	g-nan		(∅-nan)
1PL	—	g-t	b-t	—	g-t		b-t
2PL	m-t	—	∅-t	m-t	—		∅-t
3PL	m-nan	g-nan	∅-nan	m-nan	g-nan		∅-nan
inverse construction (form paradigm)							
1SG	2SG	3SG	1PL	2PL			
1SG	—	m-∅	m-n	—	m-t		m-nan
2SG	g-∅	—	g-n	g-t	—		g-nan
3SG	b-∅	∅-∅	∅-n	b-t	-t		∅-nan
1PL	—	(m-t)	(m-nan)	—	m-t		m-nan
2PL	g-t	—	g-nan	g-t	—		g-nan
3PL	b-∅	∅-∅	(∅-nan)	b-t	∅-t		∅-nan

## Interim conclusion

- Conclusion:

**If** the systematic directional syncretism from {CPL 3*p*} to {CPL 3*sg*} is modelled as a morphological mismatch,

**Then** inversion is a true morphological reversal (in the form paradigm)

☞ Inversion can be modelled by a portmanteau rule of referral (all rule blocks):

$$X_{\text{verb}, \sigma} : \{\text{INV } +, \text{SBJ } \varphi, \text{CPL } \psi\} \longrightarrow \langle X, \sigma / \{\text{INV } -, \text{SBJ } \psi, \text{CPL } \varphi\} : \text{all blocks} \rangle$$



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# Modelling morphological mismatches

- Remaining problem: how are we to model morphological mismatches?
- One solution: paradigm linkage (Stump, 2006; Hippisley, 2007)
- Here we propose an alternative approach we believe to be:
  - formally simpler
  - conceptually more clear
  - preferable in the case at hand
- No time for defending our case in general; we will just present our analysis of Laz

# Morphomic features

- Assume a version of PFM as outlined in Stump 2001.
- We assume a single paradigm, structured by a single set of features, where:
  - Most features are relevant both to the interface with synsem and to the statement of realization rules; those we call **morphosyntactic**
  - Some features are relevant only to the interface with synsem: those we call **pure content features**
  - Some features are relevant only to the statement of realization rules; those we call **morphomic**
- Although there is a conceptual distinction between morphosyntactic, pure-content, and morphomic features, there is no **formal** distinction between the three.

## Back to laz

- We assume a list-valued ARG-ST feature, which encodes morphosyntactic properties of arguments, in order of relative obliqueness. This is a **pure content** feature.
- We assume two **morphomic** features SET1 and SET2 which mediate the relation between ARG-ST values and rules of realization.
- Feature Cooccurrence Restrictions constrain the relation between the two series of features

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{ARG-ST } \langle \varphi, \dots \rangle \Rightarrow \text{SET1 } \varphi \\ \text{ARG-ST } \langle \varphi, \{\text{PER } \tau\}, \dots \rangle \Rightarrow \text{SET2 } \{\text{PER } \tau\} \\ \text{ARG-ST } \langle \varphi, \{\text{PER } 3\}, \dots \rangle \Rightarrow \text{SET2 } \{\text{NB } sg\} \\ \neg \text{ARG-ST } \langle \varphi, \{\text{PER } 3\}, \dots \rangle \Rightarrow (\text{ARG-ST } \langle \varphi, \{\text{NB } pl\}, \dots \rangle \Leftrightarrow \text{SET2 } \{\text{NB } pl\}) \end{array} \right.$$

- The FCRs implement exactly the content of the morphosyntactic mismatch: *3pl* complements on the content size correspond to a *3sg* SET2 value.
- All previously mentioned rules of realization are kept as is, just substituting SET1 to SBJ and SET2 to CPL.

👉 No formal innovation is needed.

## Updated rules

- No modification of the system of realization rules, except attribute names

Prefixes  $X_{\text{verb},\sigma} : \{\text{SET2 } 1\} \rightarrow \text{mX}$

$X_{\text{verb},\sigma} : \{\text{SET2 } 2\} \rightarrow \text{gX}$

$X_{\text{verb},\sigma} : \{\text{SET1 } 1, \text{SET2 } 3\} \rightarrow \text{bX}$

Suffixes  $X_{\text{verb},\sigma} : \{\} \rightarrow \langle X, \sigma \rangle : A$

$X_{\text{verb},\sigma} : \{\text{SET1 } 3\} \rightarrow \langle X, \sigma \rangle : B$

$X_{\text{verb},\sigma} : \{\text{SET1 } 3\text{sg}, \text{SET2 } \text{sg}\} \rightarrow \langle X, \sigma \rangle : C$

$X_{\text{verb},\sigma} : \{\text{SET1 } 12\text{pl}\} \rightarrow \langle X, \sigma \rangle : D$

$X_{\text{verb},\sigma} : \{\text{SET1 } 12\text{sg}, \text{SET2 } 12\text{pl}\} \rightarrow \langle X, \sigma \rangle : D$

$A : \left\{ \begin{array}{l} X_{\text{verb},\sigma} : \{\text{TNS } \text{fut}\} \rightarrow X_{\text{are}} \end{array} \right.$

$B : \left\{ \begin{array}{l} X_{\text{verb},\sigma} : \{\text{TNS } \text{fut}\} \rightarrow X_{\text{anoren}} \\ X_{\text{verb},\sigma} : \{\text{TNS } \text{prs}\} \rightarrow X_{\text{nan}} \end{array} \right.$

$X_1, \sigma : \{\text{TNS } \text{prs}\} \rightarrow X_{\text{an}}$

$X_{\text{verb},\sigma} : \{\} \rightarrow X_{\text{n}}$

$C : \left\{ \begin{array}{l} X_{\text{verb},\sigma} : \{\text{TNS } \text{fut}\} \rightarrow X_{\text{asen}} \\ X_{\text{III},\sigma} : \{\text{TNS } \text{prs}\} \rightarrow X_{\text{n}} \end{array} \right.$

$X_{\text{verb},\sigma} : \{\} \rightarrow X_{\text{s}}$

$D : \left\{ \begin{array}{l} X_{\text{verb},\sigma} : \{\text{TNS } \text{fut}\} \rightarrow X_{\text{aten}} \\ X_{\text{verb},\sigma} : \{\} \rightarrow X_{\text{t}} \end{array} \right.$

Inversion  $X_{\text{verb},\sigma} : \{\text{INV } +, \text{SET1 } \varphi, \text{SET2 } \psi\} \rightarrow$

$\langle X, \sigma / \{\text{INV } -, \text{SET2 } \psi, \text{SET1 } \varphi\} \rangle : \text{all blocks}$

# Sample analyses, 1

To be realized:

$\langle \text{DZIR}, \{ \text{PRF } -, \text{TNS } \textit{prs}, \text{ARG-ST } \langle 1\textit{pl}, 3\textit{pl} \rangle \} \rangle$

Consequences of FCRs:

$\langle \text{DZIR}, \{ \text{INV } -, \text{SET1 } 1\textit{pl}, \text{SET2 } 3\textit{sg}, \dots \} \rangle$

Applicable prefix rules:

$X_{\text{verb}}, \sigma : \{ \text{SET1 } 1, \text{SET2 } 3 \} \rightarrow \text{bX}$

Applicable suffix rules:

$X_{\text{verb}}, \sigma : \{ \} \rightarrow \langle X, \sigma \rangle : A$

$X_{\text{verb}}, \sigma : \{ \text{SET1 } 12\textit{pl} \} \rightarrow \langle X, \sigma \rangle : D$

Referred to:

$X_{\text{verb}}, \sigma : \{ \} \rightarrow X\text{t}$

Final form: **bdziromt**

To be realized:

$\langle \text{DZIR}, \{ \text{PRF } -, \text{TNS } \textit{prs}, \text{ARG-ST } \langle 3\textit{sg}, 3\textit{pl} \rangle \} \rangle$

Consequences of FCRs:

$\langle \text{DZIR}, \{ \text{INV } -, \text{SET1 } 3\textit{sg}, \text{SET2 } 3\textit{sg}, \dots \} \rangle$

Applicable prefix rules:

*none*

Applicable suffix rules:

$X_{\text{verb}}, \sigma : \{ \} \rightarrow \langle X, \sigma \rangle : A$

$X_{\text{verb}}, \sigma : \{ \text{SET1 } 3 \} \rightarrow \langle X, \sigma \rangle : B$

$X_{\text{verb}}, \sigma : \{ \text{SET1 } 3\textit{sg}, \text{SET2 } \textit{sg} \} \rightarrow \langle X, \sigma \rangle : C$

Referred to:

$X, \sigma : \{ \} \rightarrow X\text{s}$

Final form: **dziroms**

## Sample analyses, 2

**To be realized:**

$\langle \text{DZIR}, \{ \text{PRF } +, \text{TNS } \textit{prs}, \text{ARG-ST } \langle 3\textit{pl}, 3\textit{sg} \rangle \} \rangle$

**Consequences of FCRs:**

$\langle \text{DZIR}, \{ \text{INV } +, \text{SET1 } 3\textit{pl}, \text{SET2 } 3\textit{sg}, \dots \} \rangle$

**Referred to (by inversion):**

$\langle \text{DZIR}, \{ \text{INV } -, \text{SET1 } 3\textit{sg}, \text{SET2 } 3\textit{pl}, \dots \} \rangle$

**Applicable prefix rules:**

*none*

**Applicable suffix rules:**

$X_{\text{verb}}, \sigma : \{ \} \rightarrow \langle X, \sigma \rangle : A$

$X_{\text{verb}}, \sigma : \{ \text{SET1 } 3 \} \rightarrow \langle X, \sigma \rangle : B$

**Referred to:**

$X_{\text{verb}}, \sigma : \{ \text{TNS } \textit{prs} \} \rightarrow X_{\text{nan}}$

**Final form:** udziunan

## Advantage 1: FCRs

- Any purely morphological property can be modelled using morphomic features; in particular, inflection class information.
- This allows for a straightforward account of the fact that different inflection classes may correspond to different paradigm shapes.
- A case in point: in Laz,
  - congruent lexemes are plain when not perfect, inverted when perfect  
☞ CONGRUENT +  $\Rightarrow$  (INV +  $\Leftrightarrow$  PRF +)
  - noncongruent lexemes are inverted even when not perfect  
☞ CONGRUENT -  $\Rightarrow$  INV +



## Advantage 2: prefixes

- The analysis of person prefixes poses the same problems in Laz as in Georgian (e.g. Anderson 1992):
  - **m** is used whenever there is a 1st person complement
  - **g** is used whenever there is a 2nd person complement agreement
  - **b** is used:
    - With monovalent verbs having a 1st person subject
    - With divalent verbs having a 1st person subject and a 3rd person complement
- ☞ **b** is generally taken to be a 1st person subject agreement prefix
- ⇒ extrinsic rule ordering (Anderson 1992, Halle & Marantz 1993), multiple modes of rule application (Stump, 2001), etc.
- Under our assumptions, this is not necessary
- Assume a second morphological mismatch: monovalents have no complement, but they inflect as if they had a 3sg complement.
- Technically: ARG-ST  $\langle \varphi \rangle \Rightarrow$  SET2 {PER 3, NB sg}
- Then nothing new is needed:
  - $X_{\text{verb}, \sigma} : \{\text{SET2 } 1\} \rightarrow \mathbf{mX}$
  - $X_{\text{verb}, \sigma} : \{\text{SET2 } 2\} \rightarrow \mathbf{gX}$
  - $X_{\text{verb}, \sigma} : \{\text{SET1 } 1, \text{SET2 } 3\} \rightarrow \mathbf{bX}$

# Conclusions

- Beautiful data set—see Lacroix 2009 for a much more detailed presentation
- The generalizations
  - Systematic syncretism + plain/inverse opposition
  - The plain/inverse opposition can be seen as a morphological reversal  
if the syncretism is seen as a morphological mismatch
- Theoretical claims
  - Morphological mismatches can/should be modelled using morphomic features
  - This is a new use of morphomic (a.k.a morphological) features
    - can not be reduced to morphosyntactic features with multiple interpretations (Stump 2005)
    - different from their use in the modelling of symmetrical (Baerman, *et al.* 2005)

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## Laz vs. Georgian

		COMPLEMENT					
		1SG	2SG	3SG	1PL	2PL	3PL
SUBJECT	1SG	—	gdzirom	bdzirom	—	gdziromt	bdzirom
	2SG	mdzirom	—	dzirom	mdziromt	—	dzirom
	3SG	mdziroms	gdziroms	dziroms	mdziroman	gdziroman	dziroms
	1PL	—	gdziromt	bdziromt	—	gdziromt	bdziromt
	2PL	mdziromt	—	dziromt	mdziromt	—	dziromt
	3PL	mdziroman	gdziroman	dziroman	mdziroman	gdziroman	dziroman

Present of *dzir* 'see' in Laz

		COMPLEMENT					
		1SG	2SG	3SG	1PL	2PL	3PL
SUBJECT	1SG	—	mogk'lav	movk'lav	—	mogk'lavt	movk'lav
	2SG	momk'lav	—	mok'lav	mogvk'lav	—	mok'lav
	3SG	momk'lavs	mogk'lavs	mok'lavs	mogvk'lavs	mogk'lavt	mok'lavs
	1PL	—	mogk'lavt	movk'lavt	—	mogk'lavt	movk'lavt
	2PL	momk'lavt	—	mok'lavt	mogvk'lavt	—	mok'lavt
	3PL	momk'laven	mogk'laven	mok'laven	mogvk'laven	mogk'laven	mok'laven

Future of Georgian *mo-k'lav* 'kill' (Aronson 1990: 171)